

# METAL-Austin Monthly Report

February 1990

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The following is a summary of METAL and METAL-related activities for the Austin METAL group during the month of February 1990.

## Software

Jennifer Oppenheim rewrote functions for building both the METAL and SMETAL worlds to make the utilities world part of the METAL world, rather than a separate, underlying world. The SMETAL world is an experimental METAL world used by the semantics project in their work. She also incorporated software brought to Austin by Tommy Loomis in January and restructured the SMETAL world so that it uses the latest METAL software from the same source as the METAL world, but uses its own grammar and lexicon. Further, Jennifer started reworking some of the English-German verb tests in the Intercoder to make these tests uniform with the comparable tests in the German-English component.

## Lexicon

Robert Boone continued his work adding missing NSTs to the transfer lexicon.

Susan Chapman worked primarily on reviewing ARGS on English VSTs. This job involves two major tasks: (1) rechecking the existing general coding for accuracy, particularly in light of recent decisions about English ARGS coding, and (2) revising the coding for the P0 and P1 TYPE hierarchies. Once her work is completed we will implement new hierarchies.

Lesley Jezierny continued her thorough coding of the *r*, *s*, and *t* VST transfer entries. This work will be completed in early March.

## Grammar

Robert Khan continued his work with compounds and derivational morphology.

Jocelyn Liu was on vacation for the entire month of February.

Ana Santisteban concentrated on two topics: (1) comparatives and other degree-denoting expressions and (2) parentheticals. In parentheticals she implemented Gregor Thurmair's suggestion that parentheticals be treated separately from quoted strings. Information about the constituent dominated by PAR is captured in the feature PAR-CAT which has the following possible values: ADJP, ADVP, AUX, CLS, CLS-REL, CLS-SUB, NP, NUM, PP, V, and VP.

Michael Wiesner divided his time between work on the synthesis module for English-German and on the lexicon. In his synthesis work he wrote GEN-UPDATE-SUBCLS-VALUE, a new procedure which uses the target language Kind of Clause (KCLS) value from XFR-MAP to compute new target language SUBCLS and PF values for sub-clause nodes. He also finished creating the series of TAR-\* procedures which are used for the generation of German at all levels. Michael also worked on issues of compound and sub-clause generation. In his lexicon work he merged and cleaned up the AST transfer entries which we received from Munich.

I divided my time between tasks related to the discussions with Caterpillar, Inc., and an evaluation of the system with a view to future work. My work with respect to Caterpillar included technical work for the visit on 5 February (see below) and for explicating the capabilities of the system afterwards, in addition to working as liaison between Siemens AG and Caterpillar, Inc. The system evaluation involved testing various parts of the grammar and planning for our work between now and the next deadline (in June or July).

Four representatives of Caterpillar, Inc., visited the LRC on 5 February 1990 for a demonstration of and discussions about METAL. As reported in the last monthly report, Caterpillar is interested in METAL as a possible source for MT as a part of their projected automated document system. The visit went very well.

On 13 February Ana Santisteban represented the LRC at a meeting on the National Security Agency's Spanish Text Understanding Program in Baltimore.