

Going from X to Y

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Joint work with Danny Bobrow, Lucas Champollion, Cleo Condoravdi and Liz Coppock.

In this talk we look at what can be inferred from the combination of the prepositions 'from' and 'to' with various verb classes and types of theme arguments.

We consider sentences such as

Cleo went from San Francisco to Austin.

The road goes from San Francisco to Austin.

The fog covers the Bay Area from San Francisco to San Jose.

In the summer, the temperature ranges from 20 to 30 degrees.

The crack widened from the window to the door.

and try to tease out the similarities and dissimilarities between these cases. We argue that in most cases the semantics of from-to is a function from either a temporal or a spatial domain and a range that can be either spatial or scalar (temperatures and the like).

This work on inferences about the location of entities in time and space and scalar properties is part of the elaboration of an Abstract Knowledge Representation that is the interface between linguistic analysis and reasoning.