

## A view on sentence meaning

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The meaning of a sentence, if any, is not among those concepts that linguists easily agree upon. Its proper nature won't even inspire many of us. Today's *large language model*-bots seem to handle sentential meaning as an emerging, rather than as a fundamental, property of phrases in a language. This state of affairs leaves unexplained, however, that language users when exchanging sentences silently agree upon something before they start debating their impact, validity or ethics.

Let us call that something a *proposition* and identify it with what two sentences in different languages minimally have in common to qualify as each other's translations. In no way are propositions similar to sentences. They are different entities covered, evoked or disclosed by them.

In this talk, I will present a strategy in order to *compute* a graphic representation of a proposition and to *compute* a sentence associated with that graphic representation. I'll argue that this *semantic donut* and its likes elucidate important linguistic properties of propositions, as they offer a clear view on the logical-semantic structure of sentences. Sentences remain informative when underspecified, and therefore can be useful to crowd-source semantic annotations for future language models.

