Homework 11
Due Monday, 04/24/06

As before your homework is due at the beginning of class. There will be a penalty of 10% for a homework up to 24 hours late, 20% for up to 48 hours late, 40% for up to 72 hours late, etc.

1. In class we discussed different techniques for handling semantic ambiguity. These included Montague’s techniques involving separate parse trees, Cooper Storage, Keller Storage, and Hole Semantics. All worked reasonably for sentences like “Every girl pets a dog”, though Cooper Storage was inadequate for nested noun phrases.

Negations also give rise to ambiguity. Consider the statement “Jane did not pet a dog”. This can either mean that Jane did not pet any dog at all or it could mean that there is a particular dog that Jane did not pet.

I would like you to illustrate how the different semantics approaches handle this ambiguity. Please illustrate how Montague’s original techniques and how Cooper storage would handle this problem. Keller storage is essentially equivalent for this case, so you need not bother with it. Doing Hole Semantics is optional, but will result in a 50% extra credit bonus if you do it.

Please note that in lecture 29, we worked out the semantics of “Ann does not pet Rover”. No doubt you will find that helpful in working out this problem.