

# Towards an analysis of *sorgfältig*

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## 1 Point of departure

- 2 Act-trees, Action-plans, and Cascades
  - Act trees
  - (Intentional action and) Action-plans

- 3 Action-plan for *sorgfältig*
  - The intentional, controlling agent
  - The good result
  - The suitable method
  - Back to the action-plan

## 4 Outlook

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- The German modifier *sorgfältig* is assumed to be related to the agent participant in an event (cf. Schäfer 2013, Hansson 2007, Bartsch 1976). The exact relation to the agent, however, remains rather unclear.
- At the same time *sorgfältig* is also a manner adverb and as such specifies the manner of the event it modifies (cf. again Schäfer 2013, Hansson 2007). What exactly is specified by the modifier, or which kinds of manners it could refer to remains vague.

Compared to adverbial adjectives like *absichtlich* and *laut*, the *sorgfältig*-type modifiers impose a special relation between an event and its agent.

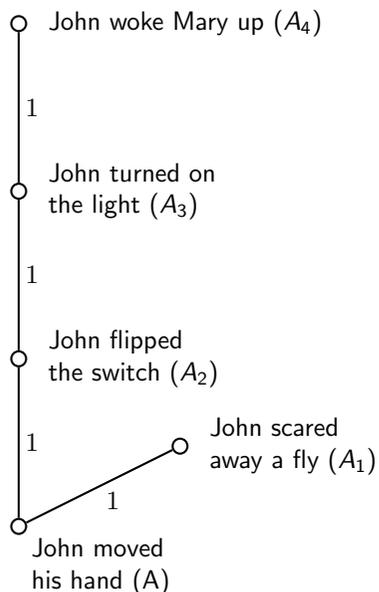
- *Absichtlich* (“intentional”) is a mental-attitude adverbial and as such it describes the attitude of an agent towards an action (cf. Schäfer 2013 a.o.).
- *Laut* (“loud”) is a manner adverbial and specifies an aspect of the event it modifies (cf. Schäfer 2013 a.o.).
- *Sorgfältig* combines aspects of both kinds of modifiers: it states something about the agent and about the manner.

- The proposal indicates that three components are affected by *sorgfältig*
  - the agent has to act intentionally and has to have control over the action
  - the agent has to have a desire he wants to realize (the purpose)
  - the agent has to have some beliefs about suitable methods to realize his desire
- The desire and the beliefs of the agent are captured by Goldman's *action-plans*, which the author uses as a tool for explaining intentional action.
- The necessity of a controlling agent is coming from the verb.

## PROPOSAL:

We propose that the modifier presupposes the participation of an agent with a suitable action-plan and capable of controlling the action. The action-plan includes information about the purpose of the action and the intended way of realization.

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- Following Goldman (1970) *act-trees* are graphical representations of the level-generational relations between act-tokens of different act-types.
- *Level-generation* is defined as “a relation holding between ordered pairs of act-tokens of the same agent” (Goldman 1970:21).
- Different types of level-generation are distinguished: *causal*, *conventional*, *simple*, and *augmentation* generation (Goldman 1970).

Goldman (1970) defines *action-plans* as a combination of *action-wants* and *projected act-trees*.

- *Action-wants* are wants directed towards a certain action (An agent want to perform a certain act) (Goldman 1970:49ff)
- *Projected act-trees* “represent hypothetical acts that the agent, or some other person, believes would be performed if S were to perform a certain basic act” (Goldman 1970:56).
- Wants and beliefs cause acts (Goldman 1970:55).
- If the acts on the act-tree are performed as given by the action-plan, then they are intentional.

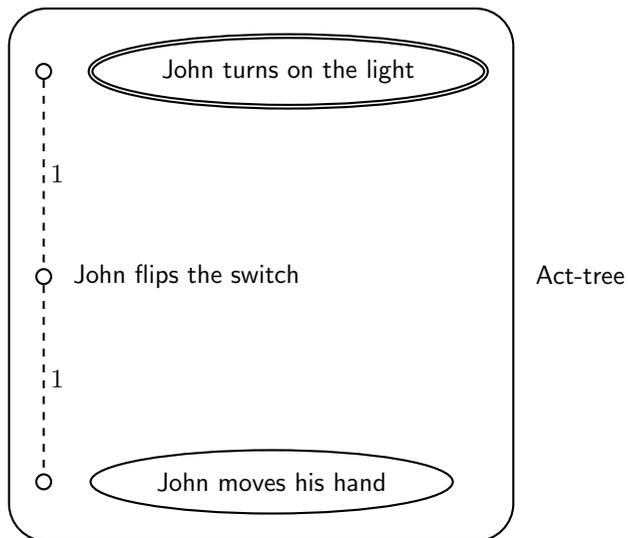


Figure: Example of a projected act-tree

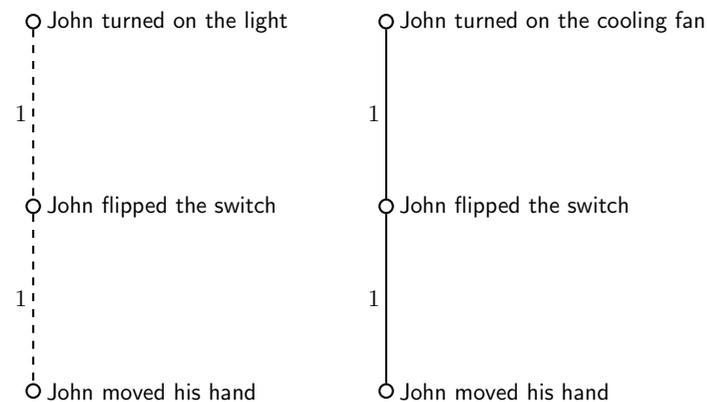
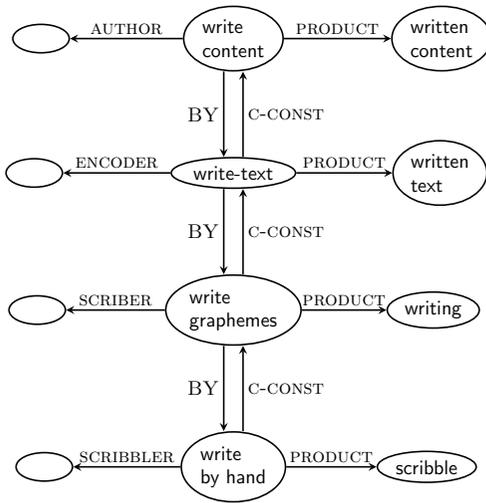


Figure: Projected act-tree (left) and an Act-tree (right) which do not replicate each other completely



- Cascades are based on Goldman's (1970) *act-trees*
- It is a structure produced by *level-generation*
- There are two kinds of relations in a cascade:
  - Upward relation: c-const (constitution under circumstances)
  - Downward relations: IN and BY
    - IN: If  $A=IN(A')$  then A is A', and A' is the implementation of A
    - BY: If  $A=BY(A')$ , then A' is the effect of A, and A' is caused by A



Figure: A "careful" projected act-tree

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- *sorgfältig* and agentive verbs

- (1) *John hat die Veranstaltung sorgfältig vorbereitet.*  
John has the event careful prepared  
'John prepared the event carefully.'
- (2) *#Der Stein hat die Veranstaltung sorgfältig vorbereitet.*  
The stone has the event careful prepared  
'The stone prepared the event carefully.'

- *sorgfältig* in coordination with *un/absichtlich*

- (5) *Die Verzierungen der Kajüte seien sorgfältig und absichtlich aufgestellt worden. (see Google)*  
The ornaments the cabin are carefully and on purpose positioned been  
'The ornaments of the cabin were positioned carefully and intentionally.'
- (6) *Die Verzierung der Kajüte seien sorgfältig und # unabsichtlich aufgestellt worden.*  
The ornaments the cabin are carefully and unintentionally positioned been  
'The ornaments of the cabin were positioned carefully and unintentionally.'

We seem to need an agent with an action-plan,

- *sorgfältig* and verbs which indicate the absence of control and unaccusative verbs

- (3) *#John hat sich sorgfältig verlaufen.*  
John has himself careful get-lost  
'John got lost carefully.'
- (4) *#Er rutschte sorgfältig aus.*  
He slipped carefully PART  
'He slipped carefully.'

- What to do when the agent is not as supposed to be or is missing?  
Reinterpret?!

- (7) *?Die Ankündigung hat die Veranstaltung sorgfältig vorbereitet.*  
The announcement has the event careful prepared  
'The announcement prepared the event carefully.'
- (8) *Alles sieht so aus wie ich es heute morgen verlassen habe, das Bett ist gemacht und der Kapuzenpullover den er mir gegeben hat hängt sorgfältig über dem Bettpfosten. (Google)*  
Everything looks such PART as I it today morning left have, the bed is done and the hoodie that he me gegeben hat hängt sorgfältig über dem Bettpfosten. (Google)  
gave had hangs carefully above the bedpost  
'Everything looks like I left it this morning. The bed is made and the hoodie that he gave me is hanging carefully on the bed post.'

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- *sorgfältig* and the connector *daher*
- (11) *Wir haben sorgfältig gearbeitet, daher haben wir gute Ergebnisse.*  
 We have carefully worked, therefore have we good results  
 'We worked carefully, therefore our results are good.'
- (12) ??*Wir haben sorgfältig gearbeitet, daher haben wir schlechte Ergebnisse.*  
 We have carefully worked, therefore have we bad results  
 'We worked carefully, therefore our results are bad.'

- *sorgfältig* and result nominalizations
- (9) *Er hat die Bestandteile sorgfältig aufgelistet.*  
 He has the components careful listed  
 'He listed the components carefully.'
- (10) *Er hat eine sorgfältige Auflistung aller Bestandteile erstellt.*  
 He has one careful listing all components made  
 'He made a careful listing of all components.'

- Excusing the agent
- (13) *Er hat das Zimmer sorgfältig gereinigt, trotzdem waren noch Spinnweben an der Decke.*  
 He has the room carefully cleaned, nevertheless were still spider-webs on the ceiling  
 'He cleaned the room carefully but nevertheless there still were spider webs on the ceiling.'

A result with a "good" (high) quality is intended (expected) depending on the abilities and possibilities of the agent

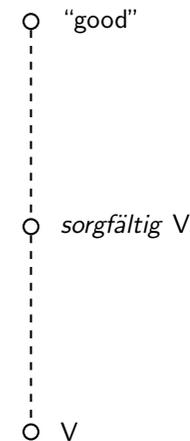
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- The *sorgfältig* way of doing things

- (14) *Er hat das Buch durchgelesen, indem er jede zweite Seite gelesen hat.*  
 He has the book read through by he every second page  
*gelesen hat.*  
 read had  
 'He read through the book by reading every second page.'
- (15) *#Er hat das Buch sorgfältig durchgelesen, indem er jede zweite Seite gelesen hat.*  
 He has the book carefully read through by he every second  
*Seite gelesen hat.*  
 page read had  
 'He read through the book carefully by reading every second page.'

The method of realization of the action is restricted



- Result: to do something well with respect to a purpose; to reach a “good” result, where result is used in a wide sense
- The action in question
- The method of realization of the action

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The *sorgfältig*-type of modifiers seem to be connected to certain expectation concerning the intended result of the action or to the absence of such an expectation:

Modifier	Result
<i>sorgfältig</i>	"good"
<i>vorsichtig</i>	"no unwanted by-effects, consequences"
<i>heimlich</i>	"unnoticed"
<i>schlampig</i>	"bad"

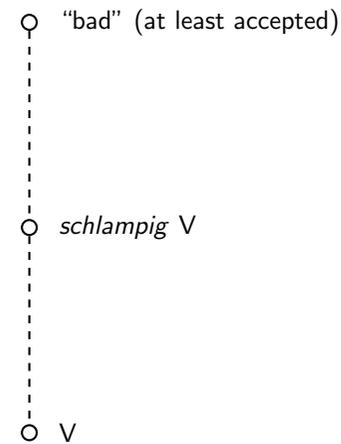


Figure: A "sloppy" projected act-tree

- Result: quality not of importance for the agent, who at least accepts that the result could be "bad" (result is used in a wide sense)
- The action in question
- The method of realization of the action

Comparing 'positive' and 'negative' representatives of the *sorgfältig*-type of modifiers, the following assumptions emerge:

The use of 'positive' *sorgfältig*-type modifiers indicate that the quality of the result is intended.

The use of 'negative' *sorgfältig*-type modifiers indicate that the agent is indifferent to the quality of the result and accepts the possibility of a "bad" result.

Thank you!

## References



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