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Title: What is manner modification?

Abstract: The literature on adverb semantics traditionally and commonly uses a category of “manner adverb” but to date has not been able to offer a clear semantic definition. In this talk, we first discuss the question of which grammatical and semantic effects there really are that can force us to set up a category of manner modifier that goes beyond an intuitive notional classification. We go on to consider what frame theory can contribute towards defining what “the manner of an event” is, and towards delimiting the set of modifiers that fall under “manner modifiers”. To this end, we especially examine the differences in the frame representations of circumstantial, localizing and intentional modification as compared to the intuitions about what a manner modifier would be.