

## **Subextraction from nominals in Mereological Syntax**

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There are well known issues with Merge-based syntactic structure building. One is that it requires a separate theory of labelling (Chomsky 2013), and another is that it leads to the copies-repetition problem (Collins and Groat 2022). Both of these problems (and others) stem, I suggest, from taking binary set formation as the core structure building operator, and sets as the correct model for syntactic objects. I propose an alternative: the core structure building operator is one that makes one object part of another (which I call Subjoin), and the correct model for syntactic objects is mereological, not set-theoretic. I draw out a number of consequences of this perspective, especially for issues of locality, and illustrate how it is an improvement on phase theoretic models through an exploration of subextraction phenomena, especially, but not exclusively, those involving nominals.