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Semantics for control

I survey some of the recent literature on the semantics of control, in particular Stephenson (2010) and Pearson (2012/3). Much of the discussion turns around 1. the obligatory de se reading of control infinitives and 2. so-called partial control (Landau 2000) where the controller is a member of a plurality in the controllee position. Partial control is acceptable, though maybe marginal, with some predicates (1), but unacceptable with others (2).

1a. The chair wanted to gather at six.
   b. The chair preferred to gather at six.
   c. The chair agreed to gather at six.
2a. *The chair tried to gather at six.
   b. *The chair began to gather at six.
   c. *The chair managed to gather at six.

Partial control has been argued to be a decisive counter-argument to the property theory of control. Against this, Pearson (2012/13) tries to offer a property-based theory of partial control, but I argue that the attempt fails. Finally, I will offer some preliminary thoughts about how a semantics for control (including partial control) could be dealt on a propositional analysis of control within partial compositional DRT, perhaps (if there is time) drawing on insights from Maier 2009.