CS674, Spring 2002
Lecture Handout, 3/25/02

Some examples of semantic ambiguity without syntactic ambiguity.

1. Word sense ambiguity: "We ran to the bank".

2. Quantifier scope ambiguity.
2**(a)** "Send a house-warming gift to every tenant".
2**(b)** "We all went out and saw a movie".
2**(c)** "We all went out and had a cookie".
2**(d)** "Everybody loves somebody sometime" [Lane and Taylor]

3. De re vs. de dicto: "John believes a Duke fan was upset".

4. Referential opacity.
4**(a)** "Alice believes Bob Constable is behind all this".
4**(b)** "Alice believes the Dean of CIS is behind all this".