

Introduction to the Logic of Conditionals

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What are conditional sentences?

If P then Q

- (1) If it's a square, then it's rectangle.
- (2) If you strike the match, it will light.
- (3) If you had struck the match, it would have lit.

Role of conditionals in **mathematical**, **practical** and **causal** reasoning.

Antecedent and consequent

(4) If P then Q

P: **antecedent**, protasis

Q: **consequent**, apodosis

Conditionals without "if...then..."

► **Imperative** (Bhatt and Pancheva 2005)

- (5) a. Kiss my dog and you'll get fleas.
b. If p , q .
- (6) a. Kiss my dog or you'll get fleas.
b. If $\neg p$, q .

► **No...No...** (Lewis 1972)

- (7) a. No Hitler, no A-bomb
b. If there had been no Hitler, there would have been no A-bomb.

► **Unless**

- (8) a. Unless you talk to Vito, you will be in trouble.
b. If you don't talk to Vito, you will be in trouble.

How to analyze conditional sentences?

Main options we shall discuss in this course:

- ▶ Conditionals as **truth-functional** binary connectives: material conditional
- ▶ Conditionals as **non-truth-functional**, but truth-conditional binary connectives: Stalnaker-Lewis
- ▶ Conditionals as truth-conditional **quantifier restrictors** (\neq binary connectives): Kratzer
- ▶ Conditionals as **non-truth-conditional** binary connectives: Edgington,...

Indicative vs. Subjunctive conditionals

- ▶ Another issue:

(9) If Oswald did not kill Kennedy, someone else did.

(10) If Oswald had not killed Kennedy, someone else would have.

- ▶ See Lecture 5

Roadmap

1. **Lecture 1:** Stalnaker-Lewis semantics
2. **Lecture 2:** Conditionals as restrictors
3. **Lecture 3:** Conditionals and rational belief change
4. **Lecture 4:** Triviality results and their implications
5. **Lecture 5:** indicative vs subjunctive

Where to look for Stalnaker (1968), Gibbard (1980), Kratzer (1991):

http://paulegre.free.fr/Teaching/ESSLLI_2008/stalnaker.pdf

http://paulegre.free.fr/Teaching/ESSLLI_2008/gibbard.pdf

http://paulegre.free.fr/Teaching/ESSLLI_2008/Kratzer1991.pdf

1. The Stalnaker-Lewis analysis of conditionals

The Material Conditional

The material conditional

- ▶ **Sextus Empiricus, *Adv. Math.*, VIII**: Philo used to say that the conditional is true when it does not start with the true to end with the false; therefore, there are for this conditional three ways of being true, and one of being false
- ▶ **Frege to Husserl 1906**: Let us suppose that the letters 'A' and 'B' denote proper propositions. Then there are not only cases in which A is true and cases in which A is false; but either A is true, or A is false; *tertium non datur*. The same holds of B. We therefore have four combinations:

A is true and B is true

A is true and B is false

A is false and B is true

A is false and B is false

Of those the first, third and fourth are **compatible** with the proposition "if A then B", but not the second.

The truth-functional analysis

$\llbracket \phi \rrbracket$	$\llbracket \psi \rrbracket$	$\llbracket (\phi \rightarrow \psi) \rrbracket$
1	1	1
1	0	0
0	1	1
0	0	1

- ▶ $\llbracket \phi \rightarrow \psi \rrbracket = 0$ iff $\llbracket \phi \rrbracket = 1$ and $\llbracket \psi \rrbracket = 0$
- ▶ $\llbracket \rightarrow \rrbracket = \text{cond} : \{0, 1\} \times \{0, 1\} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$
 $\text{cond}(x, y) = 0$ iff $x = 1$ and $y = 0$
- ▶ $\llbracket \phi \rightarrow \psi \rrbracket = \llbracket \neg(\phi \wedge \neg\psi) \rrbracket$

Binary Boolean functions

		f_1	f_2	f_3	f_4	f_5	f_6	f_7	f_8	f_9	f_{10}	f_{11}	f_{12}	f_{13}	f_{14}	f_{15}	f_{16}
1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
p	q	\perp	\uparrow	\neq	\rightarrow	\wedge	$\neg p$	$\neg q$	\leftrightarrow	\leftrightarrow	q	p	$ $	\rightarrow	\leftarrow	\vee	\top

- ▶ Assuming a **two-valued logic**, and the conditional to be a **binary connective**: no other boolean function is a better candidate to capture the conditional's truth-conditions
- ▶ At least: the material conditional captures the **falsity conditions** of the indicative conditional of natural language.

Propositional validity

- ▶ ϕ is a **tautology** or **logical truth** iff $\llbracket \phi \rrbracket = 1$ for all assignment of truth-value to the propositional atoms of ϕ . ($\models \phi$)
- ▶ ϕ is a **logical consequence** of a set Γ of formulae iff every assignment of truth-value that makes all the formulae of Γ true makes ϕ true. ($\Gamma \models \phi$)

"Good" validities

- ▶ $\phi \rightarrow \psi, \phi \models \psi$ (modus ponens)
- ▶ $\phi \rightarrow \psi, \neg\psi \models \neg\phi$ (modus tollens)
- ▶ $(\phi \vee \psi) \models \neg\phi \rightarrow \psi$ (Stalnaker's "direct argument"; aka disjunctive syllogism)
- ▶ $\models (((\phi \wedge \psi) \rightarrow \chi) \leftrightarrow (\phi \rightarrow (\psi \rightarrow \chi)))$ (import-export)
- ▶ $\models [(\phi \vee \psi) \rightarrow \chi] \leftrightarrow [(\phi \rightarrow \chi) \wedge (\psi \rightarrow \chi)]$ (simplification of disjunctive antecedents)

"Bad" validities

- ▶ $\neg\phi \models (\phi \rightarrow \psi)$ (falsity of the antecedent)
- ▶ $\phi \models (\psi \rightarrow \phi)$ (truth of the consequent)
- ▶ $(\phi \rightarrow \psi) \models (\neg\psi \rightarrow \neg\phi)$ (contraposition)
- ▶ $(\phi \rightarrow \psi), (\psi \rightarrow \chi) \models (\phi \rightarrow \chi)$ (transitivity)
- ▶ $(\phi \rightarrow \psi) \models ((\phi \wedge \chi) \rightarrow \psi)$ (antecedent strengthening)
- ▶ $\models \neg(\phi \rightarrow \psi) \leftrightarrow (\phi \wedge \neg\psi)$ (negation)

Why "bad" validities?

Undesirable validities w.r.t. natural language and ordinary reasoning:

- ▶ "Paradoxes of material implications" (Lewis). The paradox of the **truth of the antecedent**:

- (11) a. John will teach his class at 10am.
 b. ??Therefore, if John dies at 9am, John will teach his class at 10am.
- (12) a. John missed the only train to Paris this morning and had to stay in London.
 b. ??So, if John was in Paris this morning, John missed the only train to Paris this morning and had to stay in London.

Contraposition, Strengthening, Transitivity

- (13) a. If Goethe had lived past 1832, he would not be alive today.
b. ??If Goethe was alive today, he would not have lived past 1832.
- (14) a. If John adds sugar in his coffee, he will find it better.
b. ??If John adds sugar and salt in his coffee, he will find it better.
- (15) a. If I quit my job, I won't be able to afford my apartment. If I win a million, I will quit my job.
b. ??If I win a million, I won't be able to afford my apartment. (Kaufmann 2005)

Qualms about non-monotonicity

- ▶ Does order matter? (von Fintel 1999)

(16) If I win a million, I will quit my job. ??If I quit my job, I won't be able to afford my apartment.

(17) If the US got rid of its nuclear weapons, there would be war. But if the US and all nuclear powers got rid of their weapons, there would be peace.

(18) If the US and all nuclear powers got rid of their nuclear weapons there would be peace; ?? but if the US got rid of its nuclear weapons, there would be war.

- ▶ Non-monotony seems less consistent when conjuncts are reversed.

Negation of a conditional

- (19) a. It is not true that if God exists, criminals will go to heaven.
 b. (??) Hence God exists, and criminals won't go to heaven.

The expected understanding of negation is rather:

- (20) If God exists, criminals won't go to heaven.
(21) $\neg(\text{if } p \text{ then } q) = \text{if } p \text{ then } \neg q$

Several diagnoses

- ▶ The examples raise a problem for the **pragmatics** of conditionals, and do not call for a revision of the semantics. (Quine 1950 on indicative conditionals, Grice 1968, Lewis 1973).
- ▶ The examples call for a revision of the **semantics** of conditionals (Quine 1950 on counterfactual conditionals, Stalnaker 1968, Lewis 1973)

Limits of truth-functionality

Whatever the proper analysis of the contrafactual conditional may be, we may be sure in advance that it cannot be truth-functional; for, obviously ordinary usage demands that some contrafactual conditionals with false antecedents and false consequents be true and that other contrafactual conditionals with false antecedents and false consequents be false (Quine 1950)

- (22) If I weighed more than 150 kg, I would weigh more than 100 kg.
- (23) If I weighed more than 150 kg, I would weigh less than 25 kg.

Suppose I weigh 70 kg. Then the antecedent and consequent of both conditionals are presently false (put in present tense), yet the first is true, the second false.

Strict conditionals

Motivation: take "if P then Q" to mean "necessarily, if P then Q"
(C.I. Lewis)

- ▶ $\phi := p \mid \neg\phi \mid \phi \wedge \phi \mid \phi \vee \phi \mid \phi \rightarrow \phi \mid \Box\phi$
- ▶ Abbreviation: $\phi \leftrightarrow \psi := \Box(\phi \rightarrow \psi)$
- ▶ Semantics: Kripke model $M = \langle W, R, I \rangle$.
 - (i) $M, w \models p$ iff $w \in I(p)$
 - (ii) $M, w \models \neg\phi$ iff $M, w \not\models \phi$
 - (iii) $M, w \models (\phi \wedge \psi)$ iff $M, w \models \phi$ and $M, w \models \psi$
 $M, w \models (\phi \vee \psi)$ iff $M, w \models \phi$ or $M, w \models \psi$
 $M, w \models (\phi \rightarrow \psi)$ iff $M, w \not\models \phi$ or $M, w \models \psi$
 - (iv) $M, w \models \Box\phi$ iff for all v s.t. vRw , $M, v \models \phi$
- ▶ Validity: $\models \phi$ iff for every M and every w in M , $M, w \models \phi$.

Consequences

- ▶ The strict conditional “solves” the paradoxes of material implication. In particular: $\not\models (p \leftrightarrow (q \leftrightarrow p))$. Why? Construct model for $\diamond(p \wedge \diamond(q \wedge \neg p))$.
- ▶ However, the strict conditional is **still monotonic**:

$$(24) \quad \Box(p \rightarrow q) \models \Box(\neg q \rightarrow \neg p)$$

$$(25) \quad \Box(p \rightarrow q) \models \Box(p \wedge r \rightarrow q)$$

$$(26) \quad \Box(p \rightarrow q), \Box(q \rightarrow r) \models \Box(p \rightarrow r)$$

Conclusion: must do better.

Stalnaker's logic

Stalnaker's analysis: background

How do we evaluate a conditional statement?

- ▶ *First, add the antecedent hypothetically to your stock of beliefs; second, make whatever adjustments are required to maintain consistency (without modifying the hypothetical belief in the antecedent; finally, consider whether or not the consequent is then true. (Stalnaker 1968)*
- ▶ *Consider a possible world in which A is true, and which otherwise differs minimally from the actual world. "If A then B " is true (false) just in case B is true (false) in that possible world. (Stalnaker 1968)*

Stalnaker's logic

- ▶ $\phi := p \mid \neg\phi \mid \phi \wedge \phi \mid \phi \vee \phi \mid \phi \rightarrow \phi \mid \phi > \phi$
- ▶ Stalnaker-Thomason model: $M = \langle W, R, I, f, \lambda \rangle$, where $\langle W, R, I \rangle$ is **reflexive** Kripke model, λ **absurd world** (inaccessible from and with no access to any world), and $f : \wp(W) \times W \rightarrow W$ is a **selection function** satisfying:

- (cl1) $f(\llbracket \phi \rrbracket, w) \in \llbracket \phi \rrbracket$
- (cl2) $f(\llbracket \phi \rrbracket, w) = \lambda$ only if there is no w' s.t. wRw' and $w' \in \llbracket \phi \rrbracket$
- (cl3) if $w \in \llbracket \phi \rrbracket$, then $f(\llbracket \phi \rrbracket, w) = w$
- (cl4) if $f(\llbracket \phi_2 \rrbracket, w) \in \llbracket \phi_1 \rrbracket$ and $f(\llbracket \phi_1 \rrbracket, w) \in \llbracket \phi_2 \rrbracket$, then $f(\llbracket \phi_2 \rrbracket, w) = f(\llbracket \phi_1 \rrbracket, w)$
- (cl5*) if $f(\llbracket \phi \rrbracket, w) \neq \lambda$, then $f(\llbracket \phi \rrbracket, w) \in R(w)$

Semantics

- (i) $M, w \models p$ iff $w \in I(p)$
 - (ii) $M, w \models \neg\phi$ iff $M, w \not\models \phi$
 - (iii) $M, w \models (\phi \wedge \psi)$ iff $M, w \models \phi$ and $M, w \models \psi$
 $M, w \models (\phi \vee \psi)$ iff $M, w \models \phi$ or $M, w \models \psi$
 $M, w \models (\phi \rightarrow \psi)$ iff $M, w \not\models \phi$ or $M, w \models \psi$
 - (iv) $M, w \models (\phi > \psi)$ iff $M, f(\llbracket \phi \rrbracket, w) \models \psi$
- For every formula ϕ : $M, \lambda \models \phi$.

Looking at the clauses

- ▶ cl1 ensures that $\phi > \phi$, cl3 that no adjustment is necessary when the antecedent already holds at a world.
- ▶ cl2 and cl5*: selected world is absurd when antecedent is impossible.
- ▶ cl4: coherence on the ordering induced by the selection function.

Axiomatics

Stalnaker's C2

$$\Box\phi =_{df} (\neg\phi > \phi)$$

$$\Diamond\phi =_{df} \neg(\phi > \neg\phi)$$

$$(\phi <> \psi) =_{df} ((\phi > \psi) \wedge (\psi > \phi))$$

(PROP) All tautological validities

(K) $(\Box\phi \wedge \Box(\phi \rightarrow \psi)) \rightarrow \Box\psi$

(MP) From ϕ and $(\phi \rightarrow \psi)$ infer ψ

(RN) From ϕ infer $\Box\phi$

(a3) $\Box(\phi \rightarrow \psi) \rightarrow (\phi > \psi)$

(a4) $\Diamond\phi \rightarrow ((\phi > \psi) \rightarrow \neg(\phi > \neg\psi))$

(a5) $(\phi > (\psi \vee \chi)) \rightarrow ((\phi > \psi) \vee (\phi > \chi))$

(a6) $((\phi > \psi) \rightarrow (\phi \rightarrow \psi))$

(a7) $((\phi <> \psi) \rightarrow ((\phi > \chi) \rightarrow (\psi > \chi)))$

Important consequence

- ▶ $\models (\phi \leftrightarrow \psi) \rightarrow (\phi > \psi) \rightarrow (\phi \rightarrow \psi)$
- ▶ Stalnaker's conditional is **intermediate** between the strict and the material conditional (a “variably strict conditional”, in Lewis's terms).

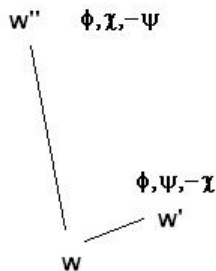
Invalidities

None of the "bad" validities comes out valid in Stalnaker's logic

- ▶ (FA) $\neg\phi \not\equiv (\phi > \psi)$
- ▶ (TC) $\phi \not\equiv (\psi > \phi)$
- ▶ (C) $(\phi > \psi) \not\equiv (\neg\psi > \neg\phi)$
- ▶ (S) $(\phi > \psi) \not\equiv ((\phi \wedge \chi) > \psi)$
- ▶ (T) $(\phi > \psi), (\psi > \chi) \not\equiv (\phi > \chi)$

Example: monotonicity failure

- ▶ $(\phi > \psi) \not\models ((\phi \wedge \chi) > \psi)$.
- ▶ Take $w' = f(\llbracket \phi \rrbracket, w)$, such that $w' \models \psi$, and $w'' = f(\llbracket \phi \wedge \chi \rrbracket, w)$, such that $w'' \not\models \psi$.



Weak monotonicity

Monotonicity is lost, but a weakened form is preserved:

$$(CV) \quad (((\phi > \psi) \wedge \neg(\phi > \neg\chi)) \rightarrow ((\phi \wedge \chi) > \psi))$$

Positive properties

- ▶ **Negation:** $\Diamond\phi \models \neg(\phi > \psi) \leftrightarrow (\phi > \neg\psi)$
- ▶ **Conditional excluded middle:** $(\phi > \psi) \vee (\phi > \neg\psi)$
- ▶ **Modus ponens:** $\phi, (\phi > \psi) \models \psi$

Lewis's logic

Lewis's objections

D. Lewis objects to two aspects of Stalnaker's system:

- ▶ **Uniqueness assumption**: for every world w , there is at most one closest ϕ -world to w .
- ▶ **Limit assumption**: for every world w , there is at least one closest ϕ -world to w .

The Uniqueness Assumption

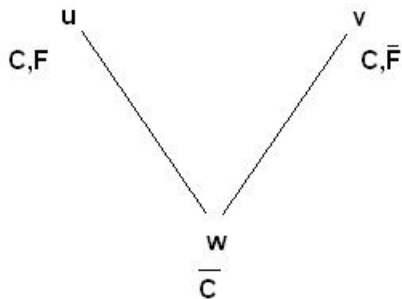
Conditional excluded middle

(27) (CEM) $(\phi > \psi) \vee (\psi > \neg\psi)$

- (28) a. If Bizet and Verdi were compatriots, they would be French.
 b. If Bizet and Verdi were compatriots, they would be Italian. (Quine 1950)

- ▶ Intuition: neither of these need be true.
- ▶ Way out: let the selection function select **a set** of closest worlds. $f(\llbracket \phi \rrbracket, w) \in \wp(W)$
- ▶ $M, w \models \phi > \psi$ iff the closest ϕ -worlds to w satisfy ψ .

Figure



Plural choice functions

Lewis 1972, Schlenker 2004

- ▶ “if-clauses as **plural definite descriptions**” of worlds
- ▶ “the extension to plural choice functions allows us to leave out the requirement that similarity or salience should always be so fine-grained as to yield a single “most salient” individual or a single “most salient” similar world”

The limit assumption

Suppose a line is 1 cm long. Take: "if this line were more than 1 cm long,...". According to Lewis, there need be no closest length to 1cm.

- ▶ **Lewis's semantics (informally):** $M, w \models \phi \Box \rightarrow \psi$ iff some accessible $\phi\psi$ -world is closer to w than any $\phi\neg\psi$ -world, if there are any accessible ϕ -worlds.

Similarity models

- ▶ **Similarity models:** $M = \langle W, R, I, \{\leq_w\}_{w \in W} \rangle$, where \leq_w is a **centered total pre-order** on worlds.
- ▶ centered total pre-order: transitive; total= $u \leq_w v \vee v \leq_w u$;
centered: $i \leq_w w \Rightarrow i = w$
- ▶ **The semantics (formally):** $M, w \models (\phi \Box \rightarrow \psi)$ iff if $\llbracket \phi \rrbracket \cap R(w) \neq \emptyset$, then there is a $v \in R(w) \cap \llbracket (\phi \wedge \psi) \rrbracket$ such that there is no u such that $u \leq_w v$ and $u \in \llbracket (\phi \wedge \neg \psi) \rrbracket$.

Comparative possibility

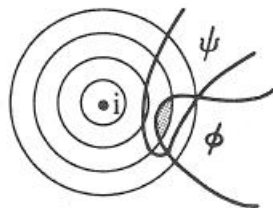
- ▶ Binary modality: $\phi \prec \psi$:= "it is more possible that ϕ than ψ ".
- ▶ $M, w \models (\phi \prec \psi)$ iff there exists $v \in R(w) \cap \llbracket \phi \rrbracket$ such that there is no u such that $u \leq_w v$ et $u \in \llbracket \psi \rrbracket$.
- ▶ $(\phi \Box \rightarrow \psi) =_{df} (\Diamond \phi \rightarrow ((\phi \wedge \psi) \prec (\phi \wedge \neg \psi)))$

Similarity and Spheres

- ▶ A **sphere** around w is a set S of accessible worlds from w such that if $v \in S$, then for all u such that $u \leq_w v$, $u \in S$.
- ▶ $M, w \models (\phi \Box \rightarrow \psi)$ iff either there is no sphere S around w s.t. $\llbracket \phi \rrbracket \cap S \neq \emptyset$, or there is a sphere S around w s.t. $\llbracket \phi \rrbracket \cap S \neq \emptyset$ and for all $v \in S$, $M, v \models (\phi \rightarrow \psi)$.

Example

(B) NON-VACUOUS TRUTH



$$\phi \Box \rightarrow \psi$$

$$\sim (\phi \Box \rightarrow \sim \psi)$$

More: Girard 2006 on onions (=sphere systems)

Axiomatics

Lewis's VC

$$(\phi \preceq \psi) =_{df} \neg(\psi \prec \phi)$$

$$\diamond\phi =_{df} (\phi \prec \perp)$$

$$\Box\phi =_{df} \neg(\diamond\neg\phi)$$

$$(\phi \Box\rightarrow \psi) =_{df} ((\diamond\phi \rightarrow ((\phi \wedge \psi) \prec (\phi \wedge \neg\psi)))$$

(PROP) All tautological schemata

(MP) From ϕ and $(\phi \rightarrow \psi)$ infer ψ

$((\phi \preceq \psi \preceq \chi) \rightarrow (\phi \preceq \chi))$ (transitivity)

$(\phi \preceq \psi) \vee (\psi \preceq \phi)$ (totality)

$((\phi \preceq (\phi \vee \psi)) \vee (\psi \preceq (\phi \vee \psi)))$ (coherence)

(C) $((\phi \wedge \neg\psi) \rightarrow (\phi \prec \psi))$ (centering)

From $(\phi \rightarrow \psi)$ infer $(\psi \preceq \phi)$

Correspondence Lewis-Stalnaker

- ▶ Conditional Excluded Middle:
 $VC+ ((\phi \Box \rightarrow \psi) \vee (\phi \Box \rightarrow \neg \psi)) = C2$
- ▶ No Uniqueness $\Rightarrow \not\equiv_{Lewis} CEM$
- ▶ No Limit $\Rightarrow \not\equiv_{Lewis} CEM$
- ▶ Uniqueness + Limit $\Rightarrow CEM$
- ▶ **Warning:** Uniqueness alone $\not\Rightarrow CEM$
 Model: let $W = [0, 1]$, let $V(p) = W$, let
 $V(q) = \{(\frac{1}{2})^n; n \geq 0\}$, let $u \leq_w v$ iff $u \leq v$.
 $0 \not\equiv (p \Box \rightarrow q) \vee (p \Box \rightarrow \neg q)$.

Comparisons and Perspectives

Which semantics is more adequate?

Lewis's semantics is more general than Stalnaker's, but it makes some disputable linguistic predictions.

The limit assumption

- ▶ Suppose Marie is shorter than Albert (5cm shorter).
Suppose there are closer and closer worlds where Mary is taller than she is:

(29) If Marie was taller than she is, she would (still) be shorter than Albert.

Problem: there is a world where Mary is taller (e.g. by 1cm) where she is shorter than Albert, and that is closer to any world where she is taller and as least as tall as Albert.

- ▶ In Stalnaker's system: problem averted since there has to be a closest world where Marie is taller than she is.
- ▶ Lewis's way out: count as equally similar all worlds in which Mary is taller up to 5cm. (weaken centering)
- ▶ "Coarseness may save Lewis from trouble, but it also saves the [plural] Choice Function analysis from Lewis" (Schlenker 2004)

Negation

- ▶ Negation of the conditional is no longer conditional negation of the consequent:

$$(30) \quad \diamond\phi \not\equiv \neg(\phi \Box \rightarrow \psi) \rightarrow (\phi \Box \rightarrow \neg\psi).$$

If for every accessible $\phi\psi$ -world there is a $\phi\neg\psi$ -world at least as close, it does not follow that there is a $\phi\neg\psi$ -world closer than any $\phi\psi$ -world (Bizet case).

Limitations of both systems

Validities lost

Some of the “good” validities are lost in both Stalnaker's and Lewis's system:

- ▶ **Import-Export:** $\not\models (\phi > (\psi > \chi)) \leftrightarrow (\phi \wedge \psi > \chi)$ (both directions)
- ▶ **Simplification of Disjunctive Antecedents:**
 $\not\models (\phi \vee \psi > \chi) \rightarrow (\phi > \chi) \wedge (\psi > \chi)$
- ▶ **Disjunctive Syllogism:** $\phi \vee \psi \not\models \neg\phi > \psi$

Examples from Natural Language

- IE**
- a. If Mary leaves, then if John arrives, it won't be a disaster.
 - b. If Mary leaves and John arrives, it won't be a disaster.
- SDA**
- a. If Mary or John leaves, it will be a disaster.
 - b. If Mary leaves, it will be a disaster, and if John leaves, it will be a disaster.
- DS** The car took left, or it took right. Hence, if it did not take left, it took right.

What can be done?

- ▶ All such failures have been discussed: **IE** (McGee 1989), **SDA** (Alonso-Ovalle 2004, Klinedinst 2006), **DS** (Stalnaker 1975, see Lecture 5).
- ▶ The problem with all schemata: they all drive monotonicity back
- ▶ SDA: suppose $\llbracket \phi' \rrbracket \subset \llbracket \phi \rrbracket$. Then $\phi \vee \phi' \equiv \phi$. If $\phi \vee \phi' > \chi \rightarrow \phi > \chi \wedge \phi' > \chi$, then $\phi > \chi \rightarrow \phi' > \chi$. (Klinedinst 2006).

The case of SDA

Klinedinst (2006: 127): *the problem is that what seems to be wanted is a semantics for conditionals that is both downward monotonic for disjunctive antecedents (at least in the normal case), but non-monotonic for antecedents in general.*

- (31) If John had married Susan or Alice, he would have married Alice.
- (32) If John had taken the green pill or the red pill – I don't remember which, maybe even both –, he wouldn't have gotten sick.

Klinedinst's proposal: the problem is pragmatic, and concerns our use of disjunction.

Summary: if P then Q

- ▶ **Material Conditional**: “not P and not Q”.
- ▶ **Singular Choice functions**: “the closest P-world is a Q world”.
- ▶ **Plural Choice functions**: “the closest P-worlds are Q-worlds”.
- ▶ **Similarity Ordering**: “some PQ -world is closer than any $P\neg Q$ -world”
- ▶ **Strict Conditional**: all P-worlds are Q worlds.

Comparisons

	Material	Stalnaker	Plural	Lewis	Strict
FA	Y	N	N	N	N
TC	Y	N	N	N	N
S	Y	N	N	N	Y
C	Y	N	N	N	Y
T	Y	N	N	N	Y
CEM	Y	Y	N	N	N
SDA	Y	N	N	N	Y
DS	Y	N	N	N	N
IE	Y	N	N	N	N

Bonus slides

Gibbard on IE

Theorem: Suppose (i), (ii) and (iii) hold: then \Rightarrow and \rightarrow are equivalent.

$$(i) \quad \llbracket (P \Rightarrow (Q \Rightarrow R)) \rrbracket = \llbracket (P \wedge Q) \Rightarrow R \rrbracket$$

$$(ii) \quad \llbracket (P \Rightarrow Q) \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket (P \rightarrow Q) \rrbracket$$

$$(iii) \quad \text{Si } \llbracket P \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket Q \rrbracket, \text{ alors } \llbracket (P \Rightarrow Q) \rrbracket = \top$$

$$\llbracket (P \rightarrow Q) \Rightarrow (P \Rightarrow Q) \rrbracket = \llbracket ((P \rightarrow Q) \wedge P) \Rightarrow Q \rrbracket$$

$$\llbracket (P \rightarrow Q) \wedge P \rrbracket = \llbracket (P \wedge Q) \rrbracket$$

$$\llbracket (P \rightarrow Q) \wedge P \rrbracket \Rightarrow Q \rrbracket = \llbracket (P \wedge Q) \Rightarrow Q \rrbracket$$

$$\llbracket (P \wedge Q) \Rightarrow Q \rrbracket = \top$$

$$\llbracket (P \rightarrow Q) \Rightarrow (P \Rightarrow Q) \rrbracket = \top$$

$$\llbracket (P \rightarrow Q) \Rightarrow (P \Rightarrow Q) \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket (P \rightarrow Q) \rightarrow (P \Rightarrow Q) \rrbracket$$

$$\llbracket (P \rightarrow Q) \rightarrow (P \Rightarrow Q) \rrbracket = \top$$

$$\llbracket (P \rightarrow Q) \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket (P \Rightarrow Q) \rrbracket$$

McGee on IE

If $f(A, w) \neq \lambda$, then:

$M, w \models_A p$ iff $I(\langle f(A, w), p \rangle) = 1$

$M, w \models_A \neg\phi$ iff $M, w \not\models_A \phi$

$M, w \models_A (\phi \wedge \psi)$ iff $M, w \models_A \phi$ et $M, w \models_A \psi$.

$M, w \models_A (\phi \vee \psi)$ iff $M, w \models_A \phi$ or $M, w \models_A \psi$.

$M, w \models_A (B \Rightarrow \phi)$ iff $M, w \models_{(A \wedge B)} \phi$

By def: $M, w \models \phi$ iff $M, w \models_{\top} \phi$

- Predictions:

1) $M, w \models A \Rightarrow \phi$ iff $M, w \models_{\top} A \Rightarrow \phi$ iff $M, w \models_A \phi$.

2) $M, w \models (A \Rightarrow (B \Rightarrow \phi))$ iff $M, w \models_A B \Rightarrow \phi$ iff $M, w \models_{(A \wedge B)} \phi$
iff $M, w \models (A \wedge B) \Rightarrow \phi$.