

An Introduction to
PHILOSOPHY



WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

Ironically, “philosophy” is difficult to define.
However, if you encounter....

smart people saying crazy things
or

crazy people saying smart things

... they’re probably philosophizing.

THE MAJOR DIVISIONS OF PHILOSOPHY

DIVISION	ΔΕΦΙΝΙΤΙΩΝ	ΚΣΨ ΘΛΙΣΤΙΩΝ
Logic	The basic rules of reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What make an argument “good”?
Epistemology	Philosophy of knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is knowledge?• How do cognizers acquire knowledge?
Metaphysics	Philosophy of being	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does it mean to exist?• What sorts of things exist?
Ethics	Philosophy of right and wrong	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Which acts are moral actors obliged to do?• Which acts are moral actors prohibited to do?• Which acts are moral actors permitted to do?

LOGIC



LOGICAL AXIOMS

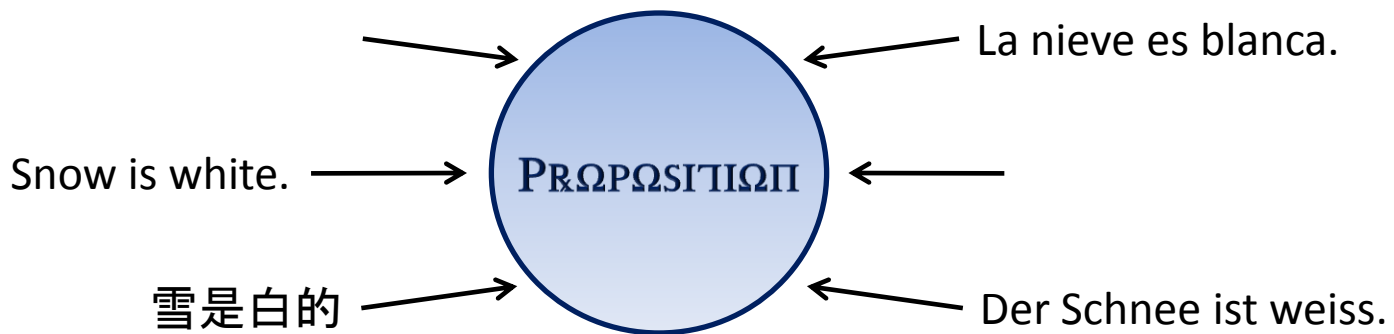
† The law of non-contradiction

- *Metaphysical formulation:* Something cannot be both A and non-A.
- *Epistemic formulation:* A claim cannot be both true and false.
- *Logical formulation:*
 - $\neg\Diamond(p \wedge \neg p)$
 - $\Box(p \vee \neg p)$

THE LAW OF NON-CONTRADICTION

† *Claims and propositions*: Propositions are...

- ... non-grammatical...
- ... truth-valued entities...
- ... which are grammatically expressed by indicative statements (or claims).



THE LAW OF NON-CONTRADICTION

† *Contradictories*: The contradictory of any proposition p is $\neg p$, where “ \neg ” represents negation.

PROPOSITION

“Giraffes are indigenous to Iowa.”

CONTRADICTORY

“It is not the case that giraffes are indigenous to Iowa.”

or

“Giraffes are not indigenous to Iowa.”

TYPES OF LOGIC

† Sentential logic

- The logic of propositions

† First-order predicate logic

† Modal logic

- The logic of modalities

CONJUNCTS

Grass is green and the sky is blue.



(Grass is green) and (the sky is blue).



p and q



$p \wedge q$

DISJUNCTS

You must have a valid driver's license or passport.



(You must have a valid driver's license)

or

(You must have a valid passport).



p or q



$p \vee q$

CONDITIONAL STATEMENTS

If Godzilla is in Japan then Godzilla is in Asia.



If (Godzilla is in Japan) then (Godzilla is in Asia).



If p then q



$p \rightarrow q$



CONDITIONAL STATEMENTS

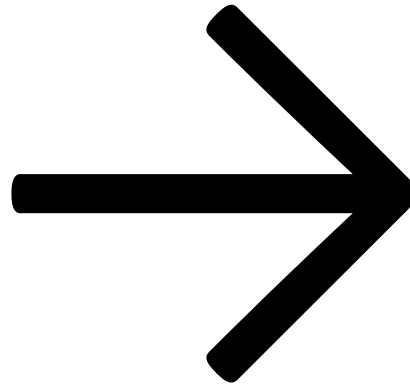
“If p then q .”

p **→** q
“ P implies q .”

CONDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ANTECEDENT

p



CONSEQUENT

q

CONNECTIVE

BICONDITIONAL STATEMENTS

The water is frozen if and only if it is below 0° Celsius.



(The water is frozen)

if and only if

(The water is below 0° Celsius).



p iff q



$p \leftrightarrow q$

BICONDITIONAL STATEMENTS

“ P implies q .”

and

“ Q implies p .”

DEDUCTIVE ARGUMENTS

† A sound argument is...

- ... logically valid and...
- ... contains true premises which are...
- ... more plausible than their contradictories.

† A sound argument

(SA1) All humans are mortal. ✓ TRUE

(SA2) Socrates is a human. ✓ TRUE

(SA3) Therefore, Socrates is mortal. ↪ VALID

DEDUCTIVE ARGUMENTS

† An unsound argument (invalid inference)

(UA₁1) All men are humans. ✓ TRUE

(UA₁2) Socrates is a human. ✓ TRUE

(UA₁3) Therefore, Socrates is a man. ↘ INVALID

† Another unsound argument (false premise)

(UA₂1) All humans are men. ✗ FALSE

(UA₂2) Socrates is a human. ✓ TRUE

(UA₂3) Therefore, Socrates is a man. ↘ VALID

MODUS PONENS

1. If Bruce Banner is angry then he has transformed into the Hulk.
2. Bruce Banner is angry.
3. Therefore, Bruce Banner has transformed into the Hulk.

(MP1) $p \rightarrow q$

(MP2) p

(MP3) $\therefore q$

VALID



MODUS TOLLENS

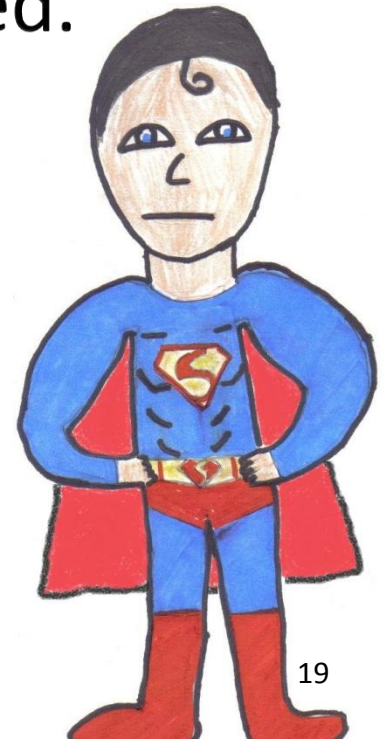
1. If Clark Kent is farsighted then he needs glasses.
2. Clark Kent does not need glasses.
3. Therefore, Clark Kent is not farsighted.

(MT1) $p \rightarrow q$

(MT2) $\neg q$

(MT3) $\therefore \neg p$

VALID



DENYING THE ANTECEDENT

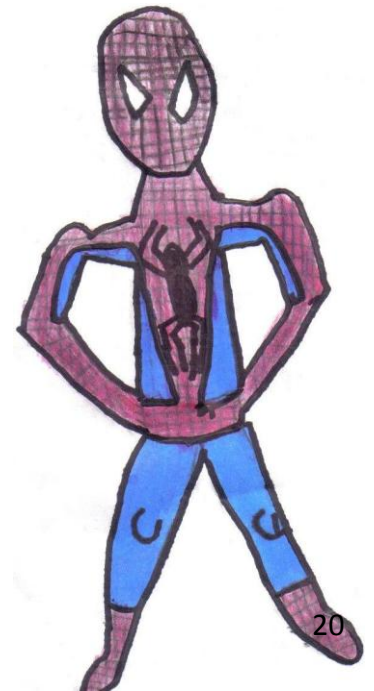
1. If Peter Parker has x-ray vision then he is superhuman.
2. Peter Parker does not have x-ray vision.
3. Therefore, Peter Parker is not superhuman.

(DA1) $p \rightarrow q$

(DA2) $\neg p$

(DA3) $\therefore \neg q$

INVALID



AFFIRMING THE CONSEQUENT

1. If Bruce Wayne owns LexCorp then he is rich.
2. Bruce Wayne is rich.
3. Therefore, Bruce Wayne owns LexCorp.

(AC1) $p \rightarrow q$

(AC2) q

(AC3) $\therefore p$

INVALID



MODAL LOGIC

ΜΩΔΣ	ΔΣΦΙΝΙΤΙΩΠ	ΣΧΛΜΠΛΣ	ΦΩΡΜΛ
Necessity	Necessary propositions cannot be false.	“Two plus two equals five.”	$\Box p$
Possibility	Possible propositions can be either true or false.	“Crows are white.”	$\Diamond p$
Impossibility	Impossible propositions cannot be true.	“Circles have four sides.”	$\neg \Diamond p$

ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΛΟΓΙΑ

WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE?

† An item of knowledge is a...

- ... justified,
- ... true,
- ... belief.

† The Gettier problem

- JTB is “bull.”
- There is a fourth condition for knowledge.

THEORIES OF KNOWLEDGE

ΒΙΣΦ

ΔΣΦΠΠΙΩΠ

Foundationalism

Coherentism

Pragmatism

ΜΕΤΑΦΥΣΙΚΣ

SPECIAL METAPHYSICS: FREE WILL

ΒΙΣΦ	ΔΣΦΠΠΤΩΠ
Libertarianism	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Free will is the ability to chose between and undertake one of two (or more) incompatible courses of action.2. There are free will agents.
Indeterminism	There is more than one physically possible future.
Determinism	There is only one physically possible future.
Compatibilism	Determinism is compatible with the existence of free will agents.
Incompatibilism	Determinism is incompatible with the existence of free will agents.

A STATEMENT OF INCOMPATIBILISM

“If determinism is true, then our acts are the consequences of the laws of nature and events in the remote past. But it is not up to us what the laws of nature are. Therefore, the consequences of these things (including our present acts) are not up to us.”

Peter Van Inwagen
An Essay on Free Will

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