

Philosophy Critical Thinking - Exam

Unit 4

HYPOTHECICAL SYLLOGISM

- EX: if you live in montreal, then you live in Quebec.
if you live in quebec, then you live in Canada.
Therefore, if you live in Montreal, then you live in canada.

IF p THEN q

IF q THEN r

THEREFORE, IF p THEN r

- Can be called a chain argument
- EX: If it rains, then we stay inside.
if we stay inside, then we watch a movie.
Therefore, if it is raining, then we watch a movie

Reconstructing Arguments

Identifying →

- The premises
- The conclusion
- The relationship between them

Difficulties

Premises and conclusion are not usually neatly labeled.

Premises and conclusions are not always signled by premises and conclusion indicators

Arguments are often embedded in extraneous material

Reconstructing the Argument: Guidelines

The specific words in the reconstruction need not be the actual words used by the author

It may be necessary to revise the words used to clarify the meaning or remove ambiguity

Do not violate the authors intent or the principle of charity.

EXAMPLES

(P1) All students who miss a test because of illness and who can supply a note from a doctor may write the make-up test.

(MP2) You missed the test because of illness.

(MP3) You can supply a note from a doctor.

(C) Therefore, you may write the make-up test.

— Supply Information

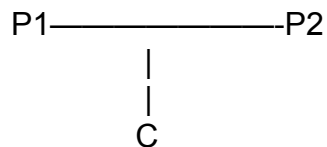
- [Because all men are mortal] (P1), Socrates is mortal. (C)
- **MP2: Socrates is a man.**
 - (supplies information)

T arguments are:

p1; all men are mortal

p2; socrates is a man

c; socrates is mortal



P1: All who are mortal must face death.

P2: All men are mortal.

P3: Socrates is a man.

C: Socrates must face death.

1. *it is logically strong; its premises, if true support the conclusion*
2. *and it has true premises*
 - *the premises must be ACCEPTABLE*
 - *each individual premise should be RELEVANT to the conclusion*
 - *The premises, considered collectively, must provide ADEQUATE support for the conclusion*

To wrap up they must be

1. *Acceptable*
2. *Relevant*
3. *Adequate*

FALLACIES

— *A fallacy is an error or weakness that detracts from the soundness of an argument*

Assessing truth claims

- *(6.7.3; Equivocation - self test 1 questions 2, 7, 9)*

sound arguments must have premises which are true or given the context acceptable

1. *Verification; the process of determining whether or not a truth-claim is true*
2. *if we can show a truth claim is true it has been verified*
3. *if we can show it is false it has been falsified*
4. *if we can do neither, the truth of the claim remains undetermined*

The method of verification

- *depends on the type of truth claim*
 - types of truth claims*

a. *Empirical or A Posteriori*

b. *Non-Empirical or A priori*

a. —> **EMPIRICAL TRUTH CLAIMS**

- *Can in principle be checked using one of the five senses*

- *A posteriori*= after the use of the senses
- *Ex: Duches has golden fur.*

These are empirical because they **rely indirectly**, on empirical **facts**

- *Ex: Emily had black and white fur*

b. —> NON-EMPIRICAL TRUTH CLAIMS

- *Not observable in principle*
- *cannot, in principle, be checked using one of the five senses*
- *A Priori = Before the use of the senses*

Examples

- *statements which are:*

1. *Aesthetic: Homer is the greatest poet in the history of the west*
2. *Ethical: You should be kind to animals and children*
3. *About the divine: God is eternal infinite and unchanging*

“it is right and seemly that now, when we are lamenting the dead, a tribute should be paid to their memory.”

- *This statement is non-empirical because it is an ethical statement about what should be done that cannot, in principle, be checked using one of the five senses*

Some particular Fallacies

- *Fallacies concerning the acceptability of premises*

- *These fallacies violate the criterion of acceptability*

Begging the question

An argument begs the question when its premises presuppose, directly or indirectly, the truth of the conclusion

Explanation: The foundation of the premises of an argument is to support the conclusion.

If we have to accept the truth of the conclusion in order to accept the premises, the premises have failed to do their job.

Other names

petitio principii (latin for begging the question)

circular reasoning

Just as water cannot flow from the bottom to the top in a tower

So too, truth cannot flow from conclusion to premises in an argument

For example God exist. We know that God exists because the bible says so, and we should believe what the bible says because God wrote it

- P1: The Bible says that God exists.
- P2: The Bible is true because God wrote it. *(God could not write the Bible unless he exists. This premise, therefore, presupposes that the conclusion is true.)*
- C: Therefore, God exists.

Example; Voluntary euthanasia is justified because people ought to have the right to decide to live or die

- Voluntary euthanasia is justified (C) because [people ought to have the right to decide to live or die] (P1)
- The premises simply rephrase the conclusion.

Inconsistency

- An argument contains a contradiction either in the premises or between the premises and the conclusion

ex;

A craftsman selling weapons in the *agora* might argue:

- You should buy my goods because they are they very best. Look! **This spear is so sharp that it can pierce through anything!** And look! **This shield is so strong that nothing can destroy it!**

False Dichotomy

Types of alternatives:

- exhaustive / non-exhaustive
- exclusive / non-exclusive

Exhaustive alternatives cover all the possibilities

him; can i have apple pie?

waitress; no we only have caremel and blueberry pie

Exhaustive Dichotomy

- These two kinds of cake are the only choices on this menu. They exhaust all of the possibilities.

NON-Exhaustive Dichotomy

in the world of pets, the choice between a dog or a cat is non-exhaustive

- your pet could be a... Farret

Alternatives; Exclusives

The choice of one alternative rules out the other

example;

- Passing or failing the course —————>> The one excludes the other

- having a job or being a student
- You can do both, so the choice of one alternative does not rule out the other

DICHOTOMIES

EXHAUSTIVE DICHOTOMY

Exhaustive alternatives cover all the possibilities.

EXCLUSIVE DICHOTOMY

The choice of one alternative rules out the other

COMPARISON —>

Exhaustive but not Exclusive

Exclusive but not Exhaustive

Exclusive and Exhaustive

“Mom we need a new TV”

The comparison?

- When it comes to buying a new tv
- the choice between black and white and colour is exhaustive as in the terms of having the colour option
- but not exclusive:
- You could buy one or the other, or both.

comparison: Exclusive but not exhaustive

- When it comes to SIZE
- big or small: exclusive, but not exhaustive

- because you cannot be both big and small
- but can be medium sized

Exhaustive and exclusive

- These are the only alternatives
- the choice of one rules out the other

First fallacy of false dichotomy

- Premises of an argument present us with a choice between alternatives and assumes they are exhaustive when they are not.
 - In this war, you are either for us or against us. You are not for us, so you must be against us.

We could remain neutral.

- **Glaucon Jones brother is either a child or an adult. he is not a child. Therefore he is an adult**

He could be a teenager.

Second fallacy of false Dichotomy

- Premises of an argument present us with a choice between alternatives and assumes they are exclusive when they are not

Socrates smith is an excellent athlete. Therefore, he is not a good student

He could be both

Unit 6 - cpt 7

The premises must be

- 1. acceptable**
- 2. Relevant**
- 3. Adequate**

If the premises of an argument are Relevant to the conclusion, they must make it more likely, if they are true, that the conclusion is true

example;

Socrates is not guilty of corrupting the youth because;

relevant: He demonstrates that justice is intrinsically good

irrelevant: He is my best friend

Kinds of irrelevant premises

- Many appeals to irrelevant premises appeal to factors that, while psychologically persuasive, are logically irrelevant to the truth of the conclusion. That is, even if they are true, they do not make it more likely that the conclusion is true

Fallacies of relevance

Appeal to pity

- The speaker or writer appeals to our emotions of pity or sympathy when they are logically irrelevant to the truth of the proposition in question
- example: Socrates is not guilty. think of how Xanthippe will suffer if he is convicted!
- Xanthippes suffering is not logically relevant to whether Socrates is, in fact guilty

Appeal to the force

- The speaker or writer threatens the use of FORCE (physical or other kinds of pressure such as economic pressure or emotional blackmail) as a reason for accepting that a proposition is true.
- example: Our political views are right and you should agree with them if you want to keep your job

Appeal to popularity

- the speaker or writer argues that a proposition is true because it is popular or widely held
- example: Cephalus is right about justice because he is stating what everyone believes

Appeals to authority

So-and-so says X

Therefore, X is true (or probably true)

example: Workers must not be rulers because Socrates says so

When are appeals to authority relevant?

two conditions:

1. It is difficult or impossible in the matter in question to obtain the information we lack
2. The authority is entitled to an authoritative status on the matter in question.
Example: A Medical diagnosis

Ad Hominem

- argumentative ad Hominem
- Argument against the man

Rejecting a proposition on the grounds of the personal characteristics of the person when they are logically irrelevant to the truth of that proposition

EXAMPLE:

Aquinas says: I think that intelligent design is true

Darwin: No, I can't agree with you Tom, because you're too religious

Appeal to personal Qualities: When are they Logically Relevant?

- In some situations it is legitimate to argue that a person's statements should not be relied upon:

- Because she is untrustworthy
- or
- because he has a strong interest (material, political, etc.) in convincing you

Untrustworthy

Assessing reliability of testimony, for example

- strong interest “of course that dress doesn't make u look fat” “\$\$\$”
- The fallacy of equivocation
- see CT, 6.7.3
 - This fallacy arises when a premise has two interpretations (it is ambiguous) and the sense in which the premise is true is not the sense required by the conclusion
 - I do not have to fear the lion. He is a man eater, but i am a woman

Unit 7 - chpt 8.1, 8.5.1

The criterion of adequacy

- The third criterion of a sound argument: The premises should be adequate to support the conclusion

Deductive validity

— when a deductive argument meets the criterion of adequacy it is deductive valid

Inductive strength

— When a inductive argument meets the criterion of adequacy it is inductively strong

A fallacy adequacy

Post hoc

latin: after this, so because of this

This fallacy occurs when it is argued that something that occurs before some event must be the cause of that event

explanation: causes always precede their effects

But this does not mean that everything that precedes some event must be its cause

Example

rooster 1: I am mighty! I command the sunrise

rooster 2: can you believe it he thinks his crowing makes the sunrise

rooster 3: I know! and just because it rises shortly after he crows

example 2—>

most people who are read the last rites die shortly afterwards. Therefore, priests are going around killing people with magic words

Unit 8

adequacy and deductive reasoning

deductive arguments

definition: in virtue of its logical form, a deductive argument claims that the truth of its premises guarantees the truth of its conclusion

- these arguments consist of strict proof
- all men are mortal, Socrates is a man therefore Socrates is mortal

deductive validity

- validity is the standard of good or correct deductive arguments
- definition; an argument is said to be deductively valid if and only if whenever all the premises are true, the conclusion must also be true
- in other words a deductive validity can not have at the same time true premises and a false conclusion
- Deductive validity and truth: to claim that an argument is deductively valid is to say that, whatever the truth or falsity of the premises are, it could never be the case that at the same time all the premises of that argument were true and its conclusion false

Counter examples

- another way of defining a valid argument is to say that it has no counter examples
- definition: a counterexample to a deductive argument of the same logical form as the argument being tested which has true premises and a false conclusion
- adequacy and counterexamples- finding a counterexample to a deductive argument demonstrates that the argument is invalid because it shows that there are conditions under which the premises of that argument could be true and its conclusion false.
- COUNTEREXAMPLE: all dogs are animals, all cats are animals, therefore all cats are dogs
 - TRUE PREMISES FALSE CONCLUSION

Deductive reasoning

The fallacy of affirming the **conquest**

If you like star Trek, you are lost

you like lost

therefore u like star trek

IF **p** THEN **q** — conquest

|
antecedent
if p then q
q
therefore , p

Because this argument is invalid. a counterexample can be found.

if it is is raining, **then the streets are wet.**
the streets are wet
therefore it is raining

while p1 and p2 might be true, c is false because the streets can be wet for another reason

denying the antecedent

IF **p** THEN q — consequent

|
Antecedent

if p then q
-p
therefore , -q

P1: **if it is raining**, then the streets are wet

P2:**it is not raining**

C: therefore, the streets are not wet

Find two formally invalid argument forms. State the name of each formally invalid argument form.

1) If p then q
p
Therefore, q

3) if p then q
-q
Therefore, -p

2) If p then q
-p
Therefore, -q

4) if p then q
q
Therefore, p

answer: 2. Fallacy of denying the antecedent
4. Fallacy of affirming the consequent



Valid

Modus Ponens: Affirming the Antecedent

If p then q
p
Therefore, q

Modus Tollens: Denying the Consequent

If p then q
-q
Therefore, -p



Invalid

Fallacy of Affirming the Consequent

If p then q
q
Therefore, p

Fallacy of Denying the Antecedent

If p then q
-p
Therefore, -q

p1 and p2 might be true, c is false because the streets can be wet for another reason

UNIT 9

Adequacy and inductive arguments

(One type of inductive argument: Analogical argument by properties)

**** this will only appear on the concepts part not the application part****

Analogical argument by properties

- this is an inductive argument: An inductive argument is an argument form which claims that the truth of premises makes it probable that the conclusion is true
- Analogy: An observed similarity between two things or two types of things
- analogical argument by properties : On the basis of an analogy, we conclude that items that are similar in observed ways are also similar in some further unobserved way
- inductive strength of the analogical argument by properties : Depends on the relevance and number of observed similarities

I am a water bird (property A)

I nest in Canada in the early spring (Property B)

I migrate south in the winter (property C)

We are water birds, too. (property A)

We nest in Canada in the early spring, too. (property B)

Therefore ducks usually migrate south in the winter too!. (property C)

THE REPUBLIC

unit 5

Essentialis definitons

- socrates is seeking a definition of justice that reveals its essential nature or essence
- He is seeking an essentialist definition of justice

Essentialist and reportive definitions

- Reportive definition: reports standard usage
- essentialist definition: usually rooted in standard usage, but then revises it to correctly convey the essential nature of the term being defined

Cephalus' definition

- on one level this is a reportive definition
- As a representative of the tradition Cephalus reports what most people think. His definition is close to standard usage
- When socrates assesses this definition, however he does not assess it simply as a reportive definition
- He does not simply ask if it accurately reports standard usage
- instead socrates wants to know if this definition reveals the true nature and essence of justice
- **he asks if it is a good essentialist definition**

“Justice is telling the truth and paying ur debts.”

—— Cephalus definition of justice

the heart of this definition is giving people and the gods what they are owed or what they deserve

Socrates takes this notion of giving people what they are owed and revises it in the light of what he knows about the classes of kallipolis

Function and virtue

function: The function of something is what it does best or uniquely. (only one of its kind)

virtue: The virtue of a thing is the property or characteristic that enables it to fulfill its function well

Functions of the citizens

- working (meeting necessary and unnecessary desires)
- policing and soldiering
- ruling

Virtues of the citizens

- what will allow the citizens of the kallipolis to fulfill the functions of working, policing and soldiering, and ruling well?
- They will fulfill their functions well if they know their natures and can cultivate and express them fully

Definition of justice as a virtue

“for the money making auxiliary, and a guardian classes each to do its own work in the city ... That's justice

- The city is just if its citizens can know their natures and can cultivate and express them fully.

Intrinsically and instrumentally good

- glaucon earlier gave the example of health as something that is both instrumentally and intrinsically good

- "Virtue seems, then, to be kind of health, fine condition, and well being of the soul, while vice is a disease shameful condition, and weakness."

Unit 5 - republic prt 2

function and virtue

the function of a knife is to: is to cut

not to brush ur hair because this is uniquely or to brush ur dogs teeth its for cutting

the virtue

- the virtue of a thing is the property or characteristic that enables it to fulfill its function well

the virtue of a knife is to fulfill the function of cutting well if it has the virtue of sharpness

PROBABLE EXAM QUESTION

How does socrates move from cephalus reportive definition of justice to his essentialist one? (10 marks)

- ANSWER : a reportive definition reports standard usage
 - An essentialist definition is usually rooted in standard usage, but then revises standard usage to correctly convey the essential nature of the term being defined
 - Cephalus definition of justice is that it is telling the truth and paying ur debts
 - On one level this is a reportive definition
 - as a representative of the tradition, cephalus reports what most people think that is his definition is close to standard usage
 - when socrates assesses this definition, however he does not assess it simply as reportive definition
 - he does not simply ask if it accurately reports standard usage

Thursday, November 24, 2016

- instead socrates wants to know if this definiton reveals the true nature of essence of justice
 - he asks if it is a good essentialist definition
 - The heart of cephalus definitio is giving people and the gods what they are owed what they deserve
 - socrates takes tis notion of giving ppl what they are owed and revises it in the light of what he knows about the classes of kallipolis
 - this involves the concept of function and virtue
 - Function: the function of something is what it does best or uniquely
 - virtue is the virtue of a thing is the property or charcteristic that enables it to fulfill its function well
 - functions of the classes in the kallipolis
 - the functions of the classes of the kallipolis are as follows:
 - working (meeting necessary and unnecessary desires)
 - policing and soldiering
 - Ruling (1 mark)
 - what will allow the citizens of the kallipolis to fufill these functions well?—
 - They will fufill their functions well if they know their natures and can cultivate and express them fully
 - this is the essence of the virtue of justice (1 mark)
-