Exclusification in conditional antecedents

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Exclusification in conditional antecedents

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Hurford's constraint

1. If switch B was up, or switches A and B were up, the light would be on.
2. # If John were from Paris or France, he would speak French.

(2) violates Hurford's constraint
- Typically explained in terms of redundancy (Simons, 2001; Katzir and Singh, 2013; Meyer, 2013, 2014; Cardelli et al., 2017)

Why does (1) not violate Hurford's constraint?

Exclusification

(3) \( \text{exh}(P, alt) = P \land \forall Q \in \text{alt} : \neg (P \rightarrow Q) \rightarrow \neg Q \)
(4) \( \text{alt}(B \lor (A \land B)) = (A, B) \)
(5) \( \text{exh}(B) \lor \text{exh}(A \land B) = (B \land \neg A) \lor (A \land B) \)

1. If switch B was up, or switches A and B were up, the light would be on.
2. If switch B was up but not A, the light would be on.

References

- Truthmaker semantics (Fine, 2012)
- Alternative semantics (Alonso-Ovalle, 2009): \( (B \lor (A \land B)) \neq (B, A \land B) \)
- Inquisitive semantics (Ciardelli et al., 2018): \( (B \lor (A \land B)) \neq (B) \)
- Possible worlds (Stalnaker, 1968; Lewis, 1973): \( (B \lor (A \land B)) = \{B\} \)

Semantic frameworks

- Truthmaker semantics (Fine, 2012)
- Alternative semantics (Alonso-Ovalle, 2009): \( (B \lor (A \land B)) \neq (B, A \land B) \)
- Inquisitive semantics (Ciardelli et al., 2018): \( (B \lor (A \land B)) \neq (B) \)
- Possible worlds (Stalnaker, 1968; Lewis, 1973): \( (B \lor (A \land B)) = \{B\} \)

Counterfactual exhaustification

If switch B was up, or switches A and B were up, the light would be on.