

Learning Conditional and Causal Information from Stalnaker Conditionals

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(Douven, 2012) dismisses Stalnaker conditionals as a tool to model the learning of conditional information. We show that the learning of conditional information may be modeled by (Lewis, 1976)' imaging on (Stalnaker, 1968)'s conditionals. The basic idea is to take the learned meaning of the Stalnaker conditional(s) as constraint on the similarity order between worlds into account. We show that this account models the three examples, which Douven takes as benchmark, in accordance with the prescribed intuitions. Additionally, we generalise Lewis' imaging method to what we name 'Je_rey imaging' such that the proposed account covers the learning of uncertain conditional information as well. We apply the generalisation to model (Van Fraassen, 1981)'s Judy Benjamin Problem. We conclude that Douven's dismissal is unjustified.

Keywords. Learning Conditional Information, Stalnaker Conditional, Stalnaker Semantics, Imaging, Douven's Examples, Judy Benjamin Problem.

References

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