

## Re: syllogism

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**From:** Lester Zick ([lesterDELzick\\_at\\_worldnet.att.net](mailto:lesterDELzick_at_worldnet.att.net))

**Date:** 10/11/04

Date: Mon, 11 Oct 2004 15:34:55 GMT

On Mon, 11 Oct 2004 15:15:15 GMT, patty <pattyNO@SPAMicyberspace.net> in comp.ai.philosophy wrote:

>patty wrote:

>> David Longley wrote:

>>

>

>>> *The law of extensionality is what's missing in this discussion, and I*

>>> *suspect Patty of a little obfuscation or at least a little foggy writing*

>>> *here as I suspect she does know the intensional nature of properties.*

>>>

>>

>> *Well one thing i know for sure is that if i use the word "property" i*

>> *will get a lecture from Longley. Thing is that if an investigator takes*

>> *some measurements on individuals and records them in a database, the*

>> *records in the database will be the same whether she thinks of them as*

>> *properties or classes. The triple "X memberOf ClassP" codes the same*

>> *information as the triple "X hasProperty P". I think this is a tempest*

>> *in a tea pot.*

>>

>> patty

>>

>

>*I would like to register my objection above to Quine's avoidance of*

>*properties below. However there is another objection that should also*

>*be noted. When an engineer designs a mechanism to classify objects, she*

>*does not design from a exemplar of the extension of the class; no she*

>*will design the mechanism from the \*intension\* of the class. She will*

>*of course test the mechanism against a subclass by extension – but that*

>*is beside the point. What is the logical distinction between a property*

>*and the intension of a class? None, right? There is no mistake in*

>*recognizing properties of objects and defining classes by intension – in*

>*fact it is unavoidable. Perhaps someone can put me out of my misery and*

>*explain the point of the Longley\Quine tirade against "property" below.*

Or perhaps someone could put you out of your misery without having to delve into the nonsense below as the citation is merely a collection of arbitrarily prejudicial non sequiturs which can hardly be read,

much less analyzed, with a straight face. A property is the same as a predicate in my own rather lamentably literal estimation.

>> ---- Quine's lecture included below ----  
>>  
>>> *'The notion of a property is one of various notions,  
>>> called INTENSIONAL, that depend thus on the nebulous  
>>> notion of meaning. Other examples are necessity,  
>>> possibility, and idioms of propositional attitude such  
>>> as belief, hope, regret.'*  
>>>  
>>> *Quine (1985)  
>>> The Time of My Life  
>>> Quine does a nice comparison of properties vs classes in Quiddities:  
>>>  
>>> 'If it makes sense to speak of properties, it should  
>>> make clear sense to speak of sameness and differences of  
>>> properties; but it does not. If a thing has this  
>>> property and not that, then certainly this property and  
>>> that are different properties. But what if everything  
>>> that has this property has that one as well, and vice  
>>> versa? Should we say that they are the same property? If  
>>> so, well and good; no problem. But people do not take  
>>> that line. I am told that every creature with a heart  
>>> has kidneys, and vice versa; but who will say that the  
>>> property of having a heart is the same as that of having  
>>> kidneys?  
>>>  
>>> In short, coextensiveness of properties is not seen as  
>>> sufficient for their identity. What then is? If an  
>>> answer is given, it is apt to be that they are identical  
>>> if they do not just happen to be coextensive, but are  
>>> necessarily coextensive. But NECESSITY, q.v., is too  
>>> hazy a notion to rest with.  
>>>  
>>> We have been able to go on blithely all these years  
>>> without making sense of identity between properties,  
>>> simply because the utility of the notion of property  
>>> does not hinge on identifying or distinguishing them.  
>>> That being the case, why not clean up our act by just  
>>> declaring coextensive properties identical? Only because  
>>> it would be a disturbing breach of usage, as seen in the  
>>> case of the heart and kidneys. To ease that shock, we  
>>> change the word; we speak no longer of properties, but  
>>> of CLASSES.....  
>>>  
>>> We must acquiesce in ordinary language for ordinary  
>>> purposes, and the word 'property' is of a piece with it.  
>>> But also the notion of property or its reasonable  
>>> facsimile that takes over, since these contexts never  
>>> hinge on distinguishing coextensive properties. One*

>>> *instance among many of the use of classes in mathematics*  
>>> *is seen under DEFINITION, in the definition of number.*  
>>>  
>>> *For science it is classes SI, properties NO.'*  
>>>  
>>> *W. V. O. Quine (1987)*  
>>> *Classes versus Properties*  
>>> *QUIDDITIES:*  
>>>  
>>> *See "Fragments..." for more details, but the following should give the*  
>>> *basic idea:*  
>>>  
>>> *'The new logic is distinguished from the old not only by the*  
>>> *form in which it is presented but chiefly also by the*  
>>> *increase of its range....The only form of statements*  
>>> *(sentences) in the old logic was the predicative form:*  
>>> *"Socrates is a man," "All (or some) Greeks are men." A*  
>>> *predicate-concept or property is attributed to a subject-*  
>>> *concept. Leibniz had already put forward the demand that*  
>>> *logic should consider sentences of relational form. In a*  
>>> *relational sentence such as, for example, "a is greater than*  
>>> *b," a relation is attributed to two or more objects, (or, as*  
>>> *it might be put, to several subject-concepts). Leibniz's idea*  
>>> *of a theory of relations has been worked out in the new*  
>>> *logic. The old logic conceived relational sentences as*  
>>> *sentences of predicative form. However, many inferences*  
>>> *involving relational sentences thereby become impossible. To*  
>>> *be sure, one can interpret the sentence "a is greater than b"*  
>>> *in such a way that the predicate "greater than b" is*  
>>> *attributed to the subject a. But the predicate then becomes a*  
>>> *unity; one cannot extract b by any rule of inference.*  
>>> *Consequently, the sentence "b is smaller than a" cannot be*  
>>> *inferred from this sentence. In the new logic, this inference*  
>>> *takes place in the following way: The relation "smaller than"*  
>>> *is defined as the "converse" of the relation "greater than."*  
>>> *The inference in question then rests on the universal*  
>>> *proposition: If a relation holds between x and y, its*  
>>> *converse holds between y and x. A further example of a*  
>>> *statement that cannot be proved in the old logic: "Wherever*  
>>> *there is a victor someone is vanquished." In the new logic,*  
>>> *this follows from the logical proposition: If a relation has*  
>>> *a referent, it also has a relatum. Relational statements are*  
>>> *especially indispensable for the mathematical sciences. Let*  
>>> *us consider as an example the geometrical concept of the*  
>>> *three-place relation "between" (on an open straight line).*  
>>> *The geometrical axioms "If a lies between b and c, b does not*  
>>> *lie between c and a" can be expressed only in the new logic.*  
>>> *According to the predicative view, in the first case we would*  
>>> *have the predicates "lying between b and c" and "lying*  
>>> *between c and a". If these are left unanalyzed, there is no*  
>>> *way of showing how the first is transformed into the second.*

>>> *If one takes the objects b and c out of the predicate, the statement "a lies between b and c" no longer serves to characterise only one object, but three. It is therefore a three-place relational statement....*

>>>

>>> *Restriction to predicate-sentences has had disastrous effects on subjects outside logic. Perhaps Russell is right when he made this logical failing responsible for certain metaphysical errors....Above all, we may well assume that this logical error is responsible for the concept of absolute space. Because the fundamental form of a proposition had to be predicative, it could only consist in the specification of the position of a body. Since Leibniz had recognized the possibility of relational sentences, he was able to arrive at a correct conception of space: the elementary fact is not position of a body but its positional relations relative to other bodies. He upheld the view on epistemological grounds: there is no way of determining the absolute position of a body, but only its positional relations. His campaign in favor of the relativistic view of space, as against the absolutistic views of the followers of Newton, had as little success as his program for logic.*

>>>

>>> *Only after two hundred years were his ideas on both subjects taken up and carried through: in logic with the theory of relations (De Morgan 1858; Pierce 1870), in physics with the theory of relativity (anticipatory ideas in Mach 1883; Einstein 1905).'*

>>>

>>> *R. Carnap*

>>> *The Old and the New Logic (1930)*

>>> *In A.J. Ayer (ed) Logical Positivism (1959)*

>>>

>>> *'.. consists in characterizing the predicates by their extension instead of according to their content. To each predicate corresponds a certain "class" of objects, consisting of all objects for which the predicate holds. The case of a class containing no object is of course not excluded here. Classes are now to be taken as the entities dealt with by the calculus, which in this interpretation will be called the calculus of classes.*

>>>

>>> *D. Hilbert & W. Ackermann (1950)*

>>> *The Principles of Mathematical Logic p.46*

>>>

>>>

>>> *'We think of a science as comprising those truths which are expressible in terms of 'and', 'not', quantifiers, variables, and certain predicates appropriate to the science in question....To specify a science, within the described mold, we still have to say what the predicates are to be, and what*

>>> *the domain of objects is to be over which the variables of  
>>> quantification range.'*  
>>>  
>>> *W.V.O. Quine (1954)*  
>>> *The Scope and Language of Science*  
>>> *The Ways of Paradox and other essays p.242*  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> *"Thus we have arrived at something fundamental: our  
>>> conventions regarding the use of the words "not" and "or" is  
>>> such that in asserting the two propositions "object A is  
>>> either red or blue" and "object A is not red," I have  
>>> implicitly already asserted "object A is blue." This is the  
>>> essence of so-called \*logical deduction\*. It is not then, in  
>>> any way based on real connections between states of affairs,  
>>> which we apprehend in thought. On the contrary, it has  
>>> nothing at all to do with the nature of things, but drives  
>>> from our manner of speaking about things. A person who  
>>> refused to recognize logical deduction would not thereby  
>>> manifest a different belief from mine about the behaviour of  
>>> things, but he would refuse to speak about things according  
>>> to the same rules as I do. I could not convince him, but I  
>>> could refuse to speak with him any longer, just as I should  
>>> refuse to play chess with a partner who insisted on moving  
>>> the bishop orthogonally.*  
>>>  
>>> *What logical deduction accomplishes, then, is this: it makes  
>>> us aware of all that we have implicitly asserted – on the  
>>> basis of conventions regarding the use of language – in  
>>> asserting a system of propositions, just as, in the above  
>>> example, "object A is blue" is implicitly asserted by the  
>>> assertion of the two propositions "object A is red or blue"  
>>> and "object A is not red."*  
>>>  
>>> *In saying this we have already suggested the answer to the  
>>> question, which naturally must have forced itself on the mind  
>>> of every reader who has followed our argument: if it is  
>>> really the case that the propositions of logic are  
>>> tautologies, that they say nothing about objects, what  
>>> purpose does logic serve?*  
>>>  
>>> *..logical propositions, though being purely tautologous, and  
>>> logical deductions, though being nothing but tautological  
>>> transformations, have significance for us because we are not  
>>> omniscient. Our language is so constituted that in asserting  
>>> such and such propositions we implicitly assert such and such  
>>> other propositions – but we do not see immediately all that  
>>> we have implicitly asserted in this manner. It is only  
>>> logical deduction which makes us conscious of it.*  
>>>  
>>> *If I have succeeded in clarifying somewhat the role of logic,*

>>> *I may now be brief about the role of mathematics. The  
>>> propositions of mathematics are of exactly the same kind as  
>>> the propositions of logic: they are tautologous, they say  
>>> nothing at all about the objects we want to speak about, but  
>>> concern only the manner in which we want to speak of  
>>> them.... We become aware of meaning the same by "2+3" and by  
>>> "5", by going back to the meanings of "2," "3," "5," "+," and  
>>> making tautological transformations until we just see that  
>>> "2+3" means the same as "5". It is such successive  
>>> tautological transformation that is meant by "calculating";  
>>> the operations of addition and multiplication which are  
>>> learned in school are directives for such tautological  
>>> transformation; every mathematical proof is a succession of  
>>> such tautological transformations. Their utility, again, is  
>>> due to the fact that, for example, we do not by any means see  
>>> immediately that we mean by "24 x 31" the same as by "744";  
>>> but if we calculate the product "24 x 31", then we transform  
>>> it step by step, in such a way that in each individual  
>>> transformation we recognize that on the basis of the  
>>> conventions regarding the use of the signs involved (in this  
>>> case numerals and the signs "+" and "x") what we mean after  
>>> the transformation is still the same as what we meant before  
>>> it, until finally we became consciously aware of meaning the  
>>> same by "744" and by "24 x 31."*

>>>  
>>> *..at first glance it is difficult to believe that the whole  
>>> of mathematics, with its theorems that it cost such labour to  
>>> establish, with its results that so often surprise us, should  
>>> admit of being resolved into tautologies. But there is just  
>>> one little point which this argument overlooks: it overlooks  
>>> the fact that we are not omniscient. An omniscient being,  
>>> indeed, would at once know everything that is implicitly  
>>> contained in the assertion of a few propositions. IT would  
>>> know immediately that on the basis of the conventions  
>>> concerning the use of the numerals and the multiplication  
>>> sign, "24 x 31" is synonymous with "744". An omniscient being  
>>> has no need for logic and mathematics. We ourselves, however,  
>>> first have to make ourselves conscious of this by successive  
>>> tautological transformations, and hence it may prove quite  
>>> surprising to us that in asserting a few propositions we have  
>>> implicitly also asserted a proposition which seemingly is  
>>> entirely different from them, or that we do mean the same by  
>>> two complexes of symbols which are externally altogether  
>>> different.'*

>>>  
>>> *H Hahn (1933)  
>>> Logic, Mathematics and Knowledge of Nature  
>>> In Ayer (Ed) Logical Positivism (1959)*  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>

>>> *'At first the problem of mind was ontological and linguistic.*  
>>> *With the passing of mind as substance, there remained a*  
>>> *twofold problem of mentalistic language: syntactic and*  
>>> *semantic. The distinctive syntactic trait of mentalistic*  
>>> *discourse was the content clause 'that p'. This obstructed*  
>>> *extensionality: that is, the substitutivity of identity and*  
>>> *more generally the interchangeability of all coextensive*  
>>> *terms and clauses salva veritate. It obstructed classical*  
>>> *predicate logic as a universal theoretical framework. Now*  
>>> *this quarter of the mind problem is in a fair way to*  
>>> *dissolution. Quotational treatment of propositional attitudes*  
>>> *de dicto delivers them to the extensional domain of predicate*  
>>> *logic, thanks to the reduction of quotation to spelling.*  
>>> *Propositional attitudes de re, on the other hand, we*  
>>> *downgraded.*  
>>>  
>>> *So we see the attitudes de dicto reconciled syntactically*  
>>> *with extensional logic. A single language, regimented in*  
>>> *predicate logic, can take them in stride along with natural*  
>>> *science. The residual oddity of these mentalistic predicates*  
>>> *de dicto is purely semantic: they do not interlock*  
>>> *productively with the self-sufficient concepts and causal*  
>>> *laws of natural science.*  
>>>  
>>> *Still the mentalistic predicates, for all their vagueness,*  
>>> *have long interacted with one another, engendering age-old*  
>>> *strategies for predicting and explaining human action. They*  
>>> *complement natural science in their incommensurable way, and*  
>>> *are indispensable both to the social sciences and our*  
>>> *everyday dealings. Read Dennett and Davidson.'*  
>>>  
>>> *W. V. O. Quine (1992)*  
>>> *Intension*  
>>> *The Pursuit of Truth p.72-73*  
>>>  
>>> *Note - "incommensurable way" - this is the part of "the double standard"*  
>>> *of anomalous monism (and research) that few really grasp the*  
>>> *significance of - hence my frequent references to "Two Dogmas of*  
>>> *Empiricism".*  
>>>  
>>> *I thought the following worth repeating too:*  
>>>  
>>> *'The first-order predicate calculus is an extensional logic*  
>>> *in which Leibniz's Law is taken as an axiomatic principle.*  
>>> *Such a logic cannot admit 'intensional' or 'referentially*  
>>> *opaque' predicates whose defining characteristic is that they*  
>>> *flout that principle.'*  
>>>  
>>> *U. T. Place (1987)*  
>>> *Skinner Re-Skinned P. 244*  
>>> *In B.F. Skinner Consensus and Controversy*

sci.logic: Re: syllogism

>>> *Eds. S. Modgil & C. Modgil*

>>>

>>> *But I bet none of this will make any difference to what is posted by*

>>> *most folk here. It has all been posted in the past, as has much else*

>>> *besides but they insist on having it rehashed. Here's just one example:*

>>>

>>> <<http://groups.google.com/groups?selm=spr961206123219-4437@kauri.vuw.ac.n>

>>> z>

>>>

>>> *What does this tell one other than that people have very short memories*

>>> *and aren't really here for much more than post to post verbal jousting?*

>>> <g>

>>>

>>> *Kind regards,*

Regards – Lester