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Testimony

PHIL 101

Self, World, & God

Fall 2009

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TWO-STEP INFERENCE

- Evidence and explanation
- Evidence for a step in a bigger inference
- Samples—statistical significance—cause

e_1 . Sample has some properties: A & B

=====

t_0 . A and B are correlated (statistically significant) in the population

=====

t^*_0 . A caused B in the population

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TESTIMONY

- Dictionary - "a declaration or statement (especially one made under oath)"
- Courtrooms
- Religious
- Evidence based on the word of others

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THE WORD OF OTHERS

- Where does most of our knowledge come from?
- The whole purpose of human communication
- What time is it?
- "It's a quarter after two"
- The two-step inference

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VERACITY & ITTBE

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e₁. Statement - "It's a quarter after two"

e₂. Context - response to a question

L

e₃. Relevant biography - stranger on the street

=====

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t₀. Said it because he believes it

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RIVALS

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• Rivals:

I

t₁. Said it for some other reason

t₂. Said it because it was false

L

• Rank ordering

t₀. Said it because he believed it was a quarter after two

1

t₁. Said it for some other reason

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t₂. Said it because it was false

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COMPETENCE

- Sincerity is not enough
- Does the he know what he talking about?
- Questions of access to information
- Questions of perceptual bias
- The second inference

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COMPETENCE & ITTBE

- e₁. Statement - "It's ... "
- e₂. Context - response to a question
- e₃. Relevant biography - stranger on the street
- e₄. Said it because he believes it
- =====
- t*₀. He believes that it's a quarter past two because it really is a quarter past two.

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RIVALS

H

• Rivals:

I

t^*_1 . Believes it because his watch had stopped

L

t^*_2 . Believed it because he was late for an appointment and was unconsciously compensating when he read his watch

• Rank ordering

1

t^*_0 .

0

t^*_1 .

1

t^*_2 .

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VERACITY & ITTBE

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e_1 . Statement - "Tim has great potential ..."

L

e_2 . Context - letter of recommendation

e_3 . Relevant biography - colleague in philosophy

1

=====

0

t_0 . Said it because he believes it

1

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RIVALS

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- Rivals:

I

t₁. Said it to get rid of Tim

L

t₂. Said it because Tim paid him

t₃. Said it because he's mad at the university
Tim has applied to

1

- Rank ordering - no reason to endorse any of the rivals

0

- Charity and presuppositions of communication

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COMPETENCE

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- Sincerity is not enough

L

- Does he know what he's talking about?

• Questions of access to information - Johnson is a philosopher

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- Questions of perceptual bias

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- The second inference

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COMPETENCE & ITTBE

- e₁. Statement - "Tim has ..."
 - e₂. Context - Letter of recommendation
 - e₃. Relevant biography - philosophy professor
 - e₄. Said it because he believes it
- =====
- t*₀. He believes that Tim has great potential because Tim does have great potential

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RIVALS

- Rivals:
 - t*₁. Believes it because of his lack of knowledge about research standards in psychology
 - t*₂. Believes it because they share the same eccentric views about philosophy of mind
- Rank ordering
 - t*₀ ... t*₁ ... t*₂

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