

# Paradoxes and Self-Reference

Floris T. van Vugt<sup>1</sup>  
floris.van.vugt@ens.fr

June 8, 2008

---

<sup>1</sup>Research project supervised by Denis Bonnay, Département d'Études Cognitives, ENS Paris, denis.bonnay@ens.fr

# Truth

## One

“Ekam sat vipraha bahudha vadanti” (*Rig Veda* I.64.46)

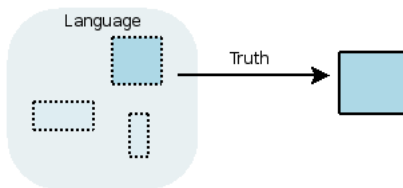
*Truth is one, the wise call it by many names.*

# Truth

## One

“Ekam sat vipraha bahudha vadanti” (*Rig Veda* I.64.46)

*Truth is one, the wise call it by many names.*



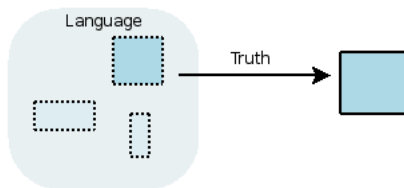
Truth models relationship between language and external world.

# Truth

## One

“Ekam sat vipraha bahudha vadanti” (*Rig Veda* I.64.46)

*Truth is one, the wise call it by many names.*



Truth models relationship between language and external world.

## Concept of “truth”

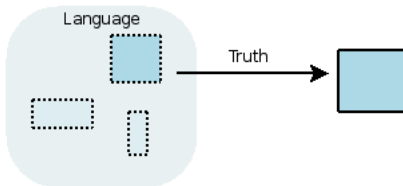
- Intuitively clear

# Truth

## One

“Ekam sat vipraha bahudha vadanti” (*Rig Veda* I.64.46)

*Truth is one, the wise call it by many names.*



Truth models relationship between language and external world.

## Concept of “truth”

- Intuitively clear, yet
- Immediately problematic

# Paradox and the concept of truth

## Truth-predicate

A predicate  $\text{Tr}$  that applies to any sentence  $\phi$ , such that  
(*T-equivalence*)

$$\text{Tr}[\phi] \text{ if and only if } \phi$$

e.g. “[snow is white] is true” iff snow is white.

# Paradox and the concept of truth

## Truth-predicate

A predicate  $\text{Tr}$  that applies to any sentence  $\phi$ , such that  
(*T-equivalence*)

$$\text{Tr}[\phi] \text{ if and only if } \phi$$

e.g. “[snow is white] is true” iff snow is white.

## Liar sentence

This sentence is not true.

i.e.  $\lambda = \neg \text{Tr}[\lambda]$

# Paradox and the concept of truth

## Truth-predicate

A predicate  $\text{Tr}$  that applies to any sentence  $\phi$ , such that  
(*T-equivalence*)

$$\text{Tr}[\phi] \text{ if and only if } \phi$$

e.g. “[snow is white] is true” iff snow is white.

## Liar sentence

This sentence is not true.

i.e.  $\lambda = \neg \text{Tr}[\lambda]$

Is it true or false?



# Paradox and the concept of truth

## Truth-predicate

A predicate  $\text{Tr}$  that applies to any sentence  $\phi$ , such that  
(*T-equivalence*)

$$\text{Tr}[\phi] \text{ if and only if } \phi$$

e.g. “[snow is white] is true” iff snow is white.

## Liar sentence

This sentence is not true.

i.e.  $\lambda = \neg \text{Tr}[\lambda]$

Is it true or false?

- $\text{Tr}[\lambda] \rightarrow \lambda \rightarrow \neg \text{Tr}[\lambda]$
- $\neg \text{Tr}[\lambda] \rightarrow \neg \lambda \leftrightarrow \text{Tr}[\lambda]$

# Groundedness informally

## Reference

- Reference to empirical facts

# Groundedness informally

## Reference

- Reference to empirical facts
  - “Snow is white” → empirical world.

# Groundedness informally

## Reference

- Reference to empirical facts
  - “Snow is white” → empirical world.
  - “[Snow is white] is true” → “Snow is white” → empirical world

# Groundedness informally

## Reference

- Reference to empirical facts
  - “Snow is white” → empirical world.
  - “[Snow is white] is true” → “Snow is white” → empirical world
- Self-reference

# Groundedness informally

## Reference

- Reference to empirical facts
  - “Snow is white” → empirical world.
  - “[Snow is white] is true” → “Snow is white” → empirical world
- Self-reference
  - $\lambda \rightarrow \lambda \rightarrow \lambda \rightarrow \dots$

# Groundedness informally

## Reference

- Reference to empirical facts
  - “Snow is white” → empirical world.
  - “[Snow is white] is true” → “Snow is white” → empirical world
- Self-reference
  - $\lambda \rightarrow \lambda \rightarrow \lambda \rightarrow \dots$

## Groundedness

Referring (in)directly to non-semantic states of affairs.

# Kripke's definition of truth

## Kripke

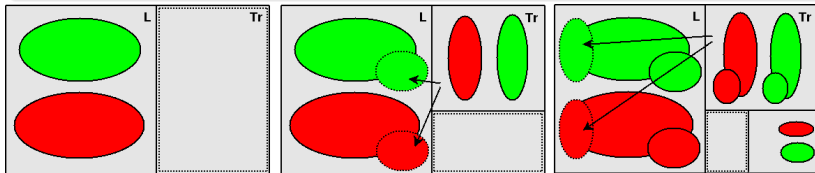
- In *three-valued* logic: step-by-step filling in the extension and anti-extension of the Tr predicate, until saturation is reached.



# Kripke's definition of truth

## Kripke

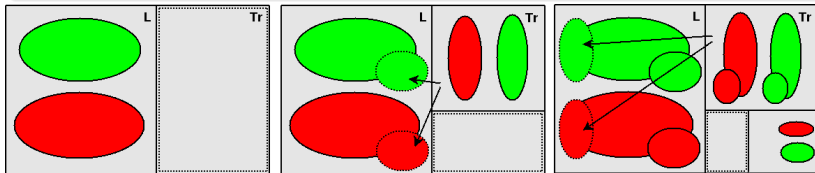
- In *three-valued logic*: step-by-step filling in the extension and anti-extension of the Tr predicate, until saturation is reached.



# Kripke's definition of truth

## Kripke

- In *three-valued logic*: step-by-step filling in the extension and anti-extension of the Tr predicate, until saturation is reached.

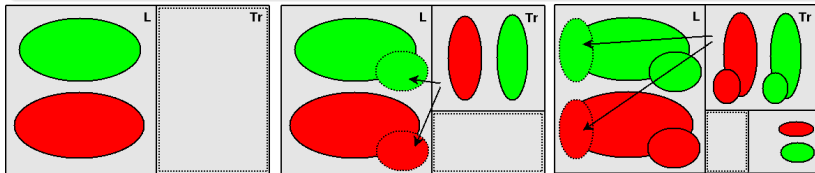


*Grounded*: eventually attributed **true** or **false**

# Kripke's definition of truth

## Kripke

- In *three-valued* logic: step-by-step filling in the extension and anti-extension of the Tr predicate, until saturation is reached.
- All T-equivalences hold, but  $\text{Val}(\lambda) = n$ .



*Grounded:* eventually attributed **true** or **false**

# Leitgeb's definition of dependence

- $2 + 2 = 4$  depends on  $\emptyset$  (and supersets)

# Leitgeb's definition of dependence

- $2 + 2 = 4$  depends on  $\emptyset$  (and supersets)
- $\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]$  depends on  $\{2 + 2 = 4\}$  (idem)

# Leitgeb's definition of dependence

- $2 + 2 = 4$  depends on  $\emptyset$  (and supersets)
- $\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]$  depends on  $\{2 + 2 = 4\}$  (idem)
- $\text{Tr}[\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]]$  depends on  $\{\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]\}$

# Leitgeb's definition of dependence

- $2 + 2 = 4$  depends on  $\emptyset$  (and supersets)
- $\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]$  depends on  $\{2 + 2 = 4\}$  (idem)
- $\text{Tr}[\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]]$  depends on  $\{\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]\}$

$\phi$  depends on a set of sentences

- $\phi$  is *sensitive* only to those sentences being true or not.

# Leitgeb's definition of dependence

- $2 + 2 = 4$  depends on  $\emptyset$  (and supersets)
- $\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]$  depends on  $\{2 + 2 = 4\}$  (idem)
- $\text{Tr}[\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]]$  depends on  $\{\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]\}$
- $\lambda = \neg\text{Tr}[\lambda]$  depends on  $\lambda$  (itself!)

$\phi$  depends on a set of sentences

- $\phi$  is *sensitive* only to those sentences being true or not.



# Leitgeb's definition of dependence

- $2 + 2 = 4$  depends on  $\emptyset$  (and supersets)
- $\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]$  depends on  $\{2 + 2 = 4\}$  (idem)
- $\text{Tr}[\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]]$  depends on  $\{\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]\}$
- $\lambda = \neg\text{Tr}[\lambda]$  depends on  $\lambda$  (itself!)

$\phi$  depends on a set of sentences

- $\phi$  is *sensitive* only to those sentences being true or not.

Leitgeb's definition of groundedness

- In *two-valued* logic, starting with empty set of sentences, step-by-step increase the set with all sentences that *depend* on it, until saturation is reached  $\Leftarrow$  *grounded* sentences.

# Leitgeb's definition of dependence

- $2 + 2 = 4$  depends on  $\emptyset$  (and supersets)
- $\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]$  depends on  $\{2 + 2 = 4\}$  (idem)
- $\text{Tr}[\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]]$  depends on  $\{\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4]\}$
- $\lambda = \neg\text{Tr}[\lambda]$  depends on  $\lambda$  (itself!)

## $\phi$ depends on a set of sentences

- $\phi$  is *sensitive* only to those sentences being true or not.

## Leitgeb's definition of groundedness

- In *two-valued* logic, starting with empty set of sentences, step-by-step increase the set with all sentences that *depend* on it, until saturation is reached  $\Leftarrow$  *grounded* sentences.
- T-equivalences are required to hold only for grounded sentences.

## Main question: comparison of “groundedness”

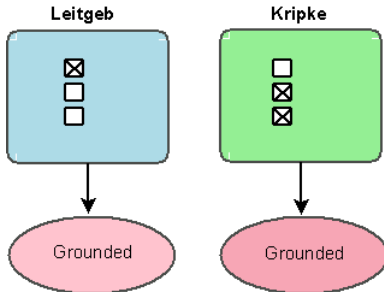
- Kripke and Leitgeb: constructions very similar, but not the same set of grounded sentences.

# Main question: comparison of “groundedness”

- Kripke and Leitgeb: constructions very similar, but not the same set of grounded sentences.

## Hypothesis

There is one notion of groundedness, but Kripke and Leitgeb’s *parameter settings* differ.



# I: Classical or three-valued logic

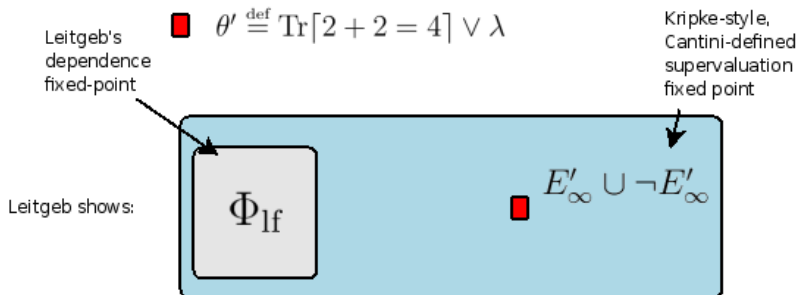
- **Problem**  $\text{Tr}[\lambda] \vee \neg\text{Tr}[\lambda]$

# I: Classical or three-valued logic

- **Problem**  $\text{Tr}[\lambda] \vee \neg\text{Tr}[\lambda]$
- **Solution** Cantini's classical reformulation of Kripke

# I: Classical or three-valued logic

- **Problem**  $\text{Tr}[\lambda] \vee \neg \text{Tr}[\lambda]$
- **Solution** Cantini's classical reformulation of Kripke



## II: Conditional dependence

- **Problem**  $\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4] \vee \lambda$



## II: Conditional dependence

- **Problem**  $\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4] \vee \lambda$
- **Solution** (Leitgeb) presuppose certain truths.

# II: Conditional dependence

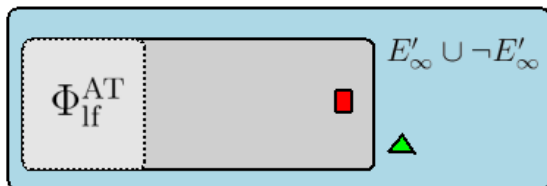
- **Problem**  $\text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4] \vee \lambda$
- **Solution** (Leitgeb) presuppose certain truths.

■  $\theta' \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4] \vee \lambda$

▲  $\sigma_\lambda = \text{Tr}[\lambda] \wedge \text{Tr}[\neg\lambda]$

**Conditional  
dependence**

not inclusive  
enough



# III: Consistency

- **Problem**  $\text{Tr}[\lambda] \wedge \text{Tr}[\neg\lambda]$

# III: Consistency


- **Problem**  $\text{Tr}[\lambda] \wedge \text{Tr}[\neg\lambda]$
- **Solution** presuppose consistency of extension of Tr

# III: Consistency

- **Problem**  $\text{Tr}[\lambda] \wedge \text{Tr}[\neg\lambda]$
- **Solution** presuppose consistency of extension of Tr

Conditional  
dependence  
with consistency  
requirement

equals Cantini


$$\Phi_{lf}^{c,AT}$$

# III: Consistency

- **Problem**  $\text{Tr}[\lambda] \wedge \text{Tr}[\neg\lambda]$
- **Solution** presuppose consistency of extension of Tr

Conditional  
dependence  
with consistency  
requirement

equals Cantini



- **Main result** Kripke (+classical) and Leitgeb (+conditional, +consistent) yield same grounded sentences.

# Conclusion

## Overview

# Conclusion

## Overview

- Paradoxes are problematic for the definition of truth



# Conclusion

## Overview

- Paradoxes are problematic for the definition of truth
- Kripke (Cantini) and Leitgeb keep equivalences  $\text{Tr}[\phi] \leftrightarrow \phi$  for “grounded sentences”

# Conclusion

## Overview

- Paradoxes are problematic for the definition of truth
- Kripke (Cantini) and Leitgeb keep equivalences  $\text{Tr}[\phi] \leftrightarrow \phi$  for “grounded sentences”
- *“Grounded is one, Cantini and Leitgeb call it different names.”*

# Conclusion

## Overview

- Paradoxes are problematic for the definition of truth
- Kripke (Cantini) and Leitgeb keep equivalences  $\text{Tr}[\phi] \leftrightarrow \phi$  for “grounded sentences”
- *“Grounded is one, Cantini and Leitgeb call it different names.”*

## Perspectives

- *Aboutness* to generalise “dependence”

## Grazie per l'attenzione

- *Se non è sul web, non esiste.*
- Therefore, you can find the paper online:
  - google “Floris van Vugt”, or
  - <http://vanvugt.cjb.net/>

●  $\iota \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sigma_{2+2=4} = \text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4] \wedge \text{Tr}[2 + 2 \neq 4]$

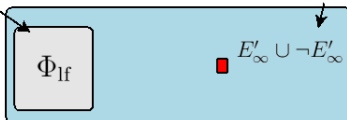
■  $\theta' \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Tr}[2 + 2 = 4] \vee \lambda$

▲  $\sigma_\lambda = \text{Tr}[\lambda] \wedge \text{Tr}[\neg\lambda]$

Leitgeb's  
dependence  
fixed-point

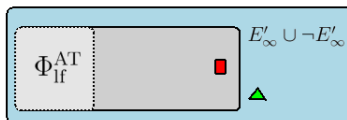
Kripke-style,  
Cantini-defined  
supervaluation  
fixed point

Leitgeb shows:

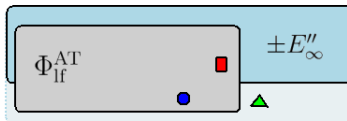


**Conditional  
dependence**

not inclusive  
enough



"inconsistency"  
fix fails



**Conditional  
dependence  
with consistency  
requirement**

equals Cantini



# Dependencies

## Simple dependence

$\phi$  is sensitive only to the  $\Phi$ -sentences being true or not

## Conditionality

$\phi$  is sensitive only to the  $\Phi$ -sentences being true or not, but *presupposing*  $\Sigma$ -sentences are all true.

## Conditional $c$ -dependence

$\phi$  is sensitive only to the  $\Phi$ -sentences being true or not, presupposing

- $\Sigma$ -sentences true, and
- that the extension of  $\text{Tr}$  is consistent.

# Kripke formally I

Given classical  $\mathcal{L}$ ,  $i_{\mathcal{L}}$  interpret  $\mathcal{L}$  into a domain  $D$ .

Suppose  $E \subset D$  (codes of) true  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{Tr}}$ -sentences, and  $A \subset D$  false sentences.

$$i_{\mathcal{L}_{\text{Tr}}(E,A)}(\text{Tr})(d) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } d \in E \\ 0 & \text{if } d \in A \\ \uparrow & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

and Kleene's strong three-valued logic.

Given  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{Tr}}(E, A)$  we can find

$$J_{(E,A)} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \phi \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{Tr}} \mid \phi \text{ is true under } i_{\mathcal{L}_{\text{Tr}}(E,A)} \} \quad (2)$$

$$J_{(E,A)}^- \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \phi \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{Tr}} \mid \phi \text{ is false under } i_{\mathcal{L}_{\text{Tr}}(E,A)} \} \quad (3)$$

Given  $E \subset \mathcal{L}_{\text{Tr}}$  a “set of negatives” is defined:  $\neg E \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \phi \mid \neg \phi \in E \}$ .  
 Since  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{Tr}}(E, A)$  is a closed language, we find that  $J_{(E,A)}^- = \neg J_{(E,A)}$ .

# Kripke formally II

If we generalise the above procedure we find a sequence  $(E_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathbb{O}_n}$  as follows:

- $E_0 = \emptyset$ ,
- $E_{\alpha+1} = J(E_\alpha, \neg E_\alpha)$  and
- $E_\beta = \bigcup_{\alpha < \beta} E_\alpha$ .

Monotonicity  $\rightarrow$  fixed point  $E_\infty$ .

A sentence  $\phi$  of  $\mathcal{L}_{Tr}$  is defined to be *grounded* if it has a truth value (i.e. true or false) in  $\mathcal{L}_{Tr}(E_\infty, \neg E_\infty)$ . Hence  $\phi$  is grounded iff  $\phi \in E_\infty \cup \neg E_\infty$ .



# Leitgeb formally

If  $\phi \in \mathcal{L}_{Tr}$  then  $\text{Val}_\Psi(\phi)$  denotes the truth value in the standard model of arithmetic enriched with a truth predicate which has extension  $\Psi \subset \mathcal{L}_{Tr}$ .

We define that  $\phi$  *depends* on  $\Phi \subset \mathcal{L}_{Tr}$  iff for all  $\Psi_1, \Psi_2 \subset \mathcal{L}_{Tr}$ , we have that if  $\text{Val}_{\Psi_1}(\phi) \neq \text{Val}_{\Psi_2}(\phi)$  then  $\Psi_1 \cap \Phi \neq \Psi_2 \cap \Phi$ .

Then Leitgeb shows that  $D_\phi \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\Phi \subset \mathcal{L}_{Tr} \mid \phi \text{ depends on } \Phi\}$  is a filter.

Similarly  $D^{-1}(\Phi) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\phi \in \mathcal{L}_{Tr} \mid \phi \text{ depends on } \Phi\}$ . Leitgeb shows  $D^{-1}$  to be monotonic.

We define an ordinal sequence  $(\Phi_\alpha)_{\alpha \in O_n}$  as follows:

- $\Phi_0 = \emptyset$ ,
- $\Phi_{\alpha+1} = D^{-1}(\Phi_\alpha)$  and
- $\Phi_\beta = \bigcup_{\alpha < \beta} \Phi_\alpha$ .

Least fixed point  $\Phi_{lf}$  of *grounded* sentences.

# Cantini

$\text{Val}_\Psi(\phi)$  represents the truth value of the formula  $\phi$  given that the  $\text{Tr}$ -predicate's extension is  $\Psi$ .

A set  $\Psi \subset \mathcal{L}_{\text{Tr}}$  will be considered *consistent* if, whenever  $\psi \in \Psi$ , then  $\neg\psi \notin \Psi$ .

An operator is defined as, for all  $\Phi \subset \mathcal{L}_{\text{Tr}}$ ,

$\text{FV}(\Phi) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\phi \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{Tr}} \mid \forall \Psi \supset \Phi, \text{ s.t. } \Psi \text{ is consistent, } \text{Val}_\Psi(\phi) = 1\}$ ,

Monotonous and consistency-preserving.

A sequence  $(E'_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \text{On}}$  is defined:

- $E'_0 = \emptyset$ ,
- $E'_{\alpha+1} = \text{FV}(E'_\alpha)$  and
- $E'_\beta = \bigcup_{\alpha < \beta} E'_\alpha$ . Its least fixed point is called  $E'_\infty$ .

# Conditional dependence formally (def. in Leitgeb[2005])

## Conditional dependence

$\phi \text{ dep}_{\Sigma}(\Phi) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{for all } \Psi_1, \Psi_2 \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{Tr}} \text{ s.t. } \Sigma \subset \Psi_1, \Psi_2 \text{ it holds that}$   
 $\text{Val}_{\Psi_1}(\phi) \neq \text{Val}_{\Psi_2}(\phi) \rightarrow \Psi_1 \cap \Phi \neq \Psi_2 \cap \Phi$

- $\Phi_0^{\text{AT}} = \emptyset,$   
 $\Gamma_0^{\text{AT}} = \emptyset,$
- $\Phi_{\alpha+1}^{\text{AT}} = D_{\Gamma_{\alpha}^{\text{AT}}}^{-1}(\Phi_{\alpha}^{\text{AT}}),$   
 $\Gamma_{\alpha+1}^{\text{AT}} = \{\phi \in \Phi_{\alpha+1}^{\text{AT}} \mid \text{Val}_{\Gamma_{\alpha}^{\text{AT}}}(\phi) = 1\},$
- $\Phi_{\beta}^{\text{AT}} = \bigcup_{\alpha < \beta} \Phi_{\alpha}^{\text{AT}},$   
 $\Gamma_{\beta}^{\text{AT}} = \bigcup_{\alpha < \beta} \Gamma_{\alpha}^{\text{AT}},$

Using that for all  $\Phi, \Phi', \Sigma, \Sigma' \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{Tr}}$ , for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \text{On}$ ,

- 1 If  $\Phi \subset \Phi'$  and  $\Sigma \subset \Sigma'$  then  $D_{\Sigma}^{-1}(\Phi) \subset D_{\Sigma'}^{-1}(\Phi')$
- 2 (a)  $\Phi_{\alpha}^{\text{AT}} \subset \Phi_{\alpha+1}^{\text{AT}}$  and (b)  $\Gamma_{\alpha}^{\text{AT}} \subset \Gamma_{\alpha+1}^{\text{AT}}$

So a least fixed point, called  $\Phi_{\text{lf}}^{\text{AT}}$ .

# Conditional c-dependence formally

## Conditional c-dependence

$\phi \text{ cdep}_{\Sigma}(\Phi) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{for all consistent}$

$\Psi_1, \Psi_2 \supset \Sigma : \text{Val}_{\Psi_1}(\phi) \neq \text{Val}_{\Psi_2}(\phi) \rightarrow \Psi_1 \cap \Phi \neq \Psi_2 \cap \Phi.$

- $\Phi_0^{c,AT} = \emptyset,$   
 $\Gamma_0^{c,AT} = \emptyset,$
- $\Phi_{\alpha+1}^{c,AT} = D_{c, \Gamma_{\alpha}^{c,AT}}^{-1}(\Phi_{\alpha}^{c,AT}),$   
 $\Gamma_{\alpha+1}^{c,AT} = \{\phi \in \Phi_{\alpha+1}^{c,AT} \mid \text{Val}_{\Gamma_{\alpha}^{c,AT}}(\phi) = 1\},$
- $\Phi_{\beta}^{c,AT} = \bigcup_{\alpha < \beta} \Phi_{\alpha}^{c,AT},$   
 $\Gamma_{\beta}^{c,AT} = \bigcup_{\alpha < \beta} \Gamma_{\alpha}^{c,AT}$

# Reconciliation proof overview

- For all  $\alpha \in \text{On}$ ,  $\Phi_\alpha^{c, \text{AT}} = \pm \Gamma_\alpha^{c, \text{AT}}$
- Redefinition
  - $\Gamma_0^{c, \text{AT}} = \emptyset$ ,
  - $\Gamma_{\alpha+1}^{c, \text{AT}} = \{\phi \in D_{c, \Gamma_\alpha^{c, \text{AT}}}^{-1}(\pm \Gamma_\alpha^{c, \text{AT}}) \mid \text{Val}_{\Gamma_\alpha^{c, \text{AT}}}(\phi) = 1\} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Delta_c(\Gamma_\alpha^{c, \text{AT}})$ ,
  - $\Gamma_\beta^{c, \text{AT}} = \bigcup_{\alpha < \beta} \Gamma_\alpha^{c, \text{AT}}$ .
- $\phi \text{ cdep}_\Phi(\pm \Phi) \leftrightarrow \phi \in \pm \text{FV}(\Phi)$
- For any consistent  $\Phi \subset \mathcal{L}_{\text{Tr}}$ ,  $\Delta_c(\Phi) = \text{FV}(\Phi)$
- For all  $\alpha \in \text{On}$ ,  $\Phi_\alpha^{c, \text{AT}} = \pm E'_\alpha$  and  $\Gamma_\alpha^{c, \text{AT}} = E'_\alpha$ .