Apologetics: Other Syllogisms

Presented by Eric Douma

Other Types of Syllogisms

➤ <u>Three Types of Syllogisms</u>:
1. Categorical: "This is that"
2. Hypothetical: "If this, then that"
3. Disjunctive: "Either this or that"

➤ <u>Hypothetical Syllogisms</u>
1. Modus Ponens = Affirming the Antecedent
2. Modus Tollens = Denying the Consequent

Example: <u>If Jesus is God</u>, then we should worship Him.
　　　　　Jesus is God.
　　　　　Therefore, we should worship Him.

Hypothetical Syllogisms

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Symbolic Language:
　　1.　G ⟶ W
　　2.　G
　　3.　∴ W

<u>Modus Tollens = Denying the Consequent</u>
If humans are perfect, then they do not need a Savior.
They do not (not) need a Savior.
Therefore, humans are not perfect.

Hypothetical Syllogisms

<u>Modus Tollens = Denying the Consequent</u>

If humans are perfect, then they do not need a Savior.

They do not (not) need a Savior.

Therefore, humans are not perfect.

1.   P ⟶ - S
2.   - - S
3. ∴   - P

      If Bill is at work, then he will not be at the beach.

<u>Hypothetical Syllogism Fallacies</u>

➢ Denying the Antecedent   "If…."
➢ Affirming the Consequent   "then…."

Hypothetical Fallacies

➢ Example: Denying the Antecedent
1. If Jesus is not human, then He is God.
2. Jesus is not (not) human.
3. Therefore, Jesus is not God.

➢ Example: Affirming the Consequent
1. If reincarnation is true, then past- life regression therapy will work.
2. Past-life regression therapy works.
3. Therefore, reincarnation is true.

Hypothetical Syllogism Examples

1. If God exists, then mankind has meaning in life.
2. Mankind has meaning in life.
3. Therefore, God exists.

1. If the Bible is the Word of God, then it is inerrant.
2. The Bible is the Word of God.
3. It is inerrant.

1. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then we are lost in our sin.
2. It is not the case that Christ did not rise from the dead.
3. We are not lost in our sins.

Hypothetical Syllogism Examples

1. If evolution is true, then the second law of thermodynamics is wrong.
2. But the second law of thermodynamics is not wrong.
3. Evolution is not true.

Exegetical Insight Using Logic

Deuteronomy 18:15-19 God will raise up a prophet like Moses.

Deuteronomy 34:10 There has not yet been a prophet like Moses.

If God has not yet raised up a prophet like Moses, then we should still expect a prophet like Moses.

1. If Y then M   (Y⟶ M)
2. Y   (Y)
3. Therefore M   (.˙.   M)

John 7:40 Some of the people therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, "This certainly is the Prophet."

Bi-conditional

- 2nd Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, (then) he is a new creature…
- Bill is a new creature.
- Therefore, Bill is in Christ.

Fallacy! People often make assertions about radical life changing events through various religious experiences.

- Bi-conditional allows for the affirming or the denial of either the antecedent or the consequent.
- If and only if anyone is in Christ, (then) he is a new creature.

Disjunctive Syllogisms

➢ Either Jesus is the way of salvation, or *there are other ways.*

There are no other ways of salvation. (John 14:6)

(Acts 4:12)

Therefore, Jesus is the only way of salvation.

❖ Disjunctive Syllogisms must have one alternant denied.

❖ Affirming either alternate leads to a fallacy because it does not negate the possibility of both alternants being true.

Disjunctive Syllogism Examples

• <u>Deuteronomy 30:15-19</u> Moses says:

Either follow the LORD and live, or worship other gods and die.

• <u>Three Alternant Example</u>:

1. God is either uncaused, <u>self caused</u>, or <u>caused by another.</u>

2. Nothing can self-create itself.

3. God can't be caused by another because He is the first cause.

4. Therefore, God is uncaused – "I Am"

Disjunctive Fallacies

How not to do it!

Bertrand Russell:

1. Life was caused by either evolution or by God.

2. Life was caused by evolution.

3. Therefore, God is not necessary.

❖ INVALID! Russell affirmed an alternant which is a formal fallacy. It does not account for the possibility of both alternants being true.

❖ Note: Remember that we are merely checking for formal validity, not soundness. Soundness requires that the premises are true as well.

Disjunctive Syllogism Examples

1. Either God exists, or He doesn't exist.
2. It is not the case that He doesn't exist.
3. God exists.

1. Either God exists or evil exists.
2. Evil exists.
3. God doesn't exist.

1. Either the law of entropy is not true, or the universe had a beginning
2. The law of entropy is not 'not true.'
3. The universe had a beginning.

Summary Of Hypothetical And Disjunctive Syllogisms

Valid Deductions:	Fallacies:
<u>Hypothetical Syllogisms</u>	<u>Hypothetical Syllogisms</u>
If…., then….	If…., then….
• Affirm the antecedent	• Denying the antecedent
• Deny the consequent	• Affirming the consequent
<u>Disjunctive Syllogisms</u>	<u>Disjunctive Syllogisms</u>
Either….., or……..	Either….., or………
• Must deny one alternant	• Affirming one alternant

Dilemmas

❖ Dilemmas force people to choose between two options, and therefore makes them realize the consequence of their ideas.

1. $(E \longrightarrow G) \cdot (-E \longrightarrow -L)$
2. $E \vee -E$
3. $\therefore G \vee -L$

Fallacies: Same as hypothetical syllogisms.

1. Denying Antecedent
2. Affirming the Consequent

<u>Pascal's Wager:</u>
If God exists, I have everything to gain.
And if God does not exist, I have nothing to lose.
<u>Either God exists or He does not exist</u>.
Therefore, I have either everything to gain or nothing to lose.

Avoiding Dilemmas

1. <u>Go between the horns</u>.
You come up with a third option not listed in the minor premise.

2. <u>Take the dilemma by the horns</u>
You take issue with the major premise itself. Are both "if –then" propositions really true? Do both consequents really flow from their antecedents?

3. <u>Counter Dilemma</u>
You can offer your own dilemma (ideally using the same terms) and show a different conclusion.

If you trust Christ, then you will go to heaven.
And if you don't trust Christ, then you will go to hell.
<u>But, either you trust in Christ, or you don't</u>.
So either you go to heaven or you go to hell.

Defeating An Atheist's Dilemma

<u>Bertrand Russell</u>:

1. <u>If all things are caused</u>, then so is God since He has being.
2. And If all things are not caused, then neither is the world.
3. So either all things are caused, or all things are not caused.
4. Therefore, either God is caused, or not even the world was caused.

$(A \longrightarrow G) . (-A \longrightarrow -W)$

$A \lor -A$

$G \lor -W$

❖ Let's take this dilemma by the horns and take issue with the major premise.

❖ Russell has misunderstood the law of causality!

Counter Dilemma

If the universe was eternal, then you would not need a creator.
And if the universe was not eternal, then you would need a creator.
Either the universe is eternal, or it is not eternal.
Therefore either you don't need a creator or you need a creator.

$(U \longrightarrow -C) . (-U \longrightarrow C)$

$U \lor -U$

$-C \lor C$

❖ All we have to argue about with atheists is whether or not the universe is eternal!

We Can Prove God Exists!

- Everything is an illusion
- The universe self created itself

The only other options are both logically impossible!

Eternal Creator   Eternal Universe

Something or Someone must be eternal: Ex nihilo nihil fit = out of nothing, nothing comes!

Answers To Home Work From Night Two: "Categorical Syllogisms"

1. All S is M.
2. No M is P.   Valid
3. No S is P

1. The Bible is the Word of God.
2. The Word of God cannot err.   Valid
3. The Bible cannot err.

1. All who have faith in Jesus <u>are saved</u>.   Invalid- illicit major
2. Sharon does not have faith in Jesus.   (major term is dist. in
3. Sharon is <u>not saved</u>.   conclusion, but not in
                                                      the premises.)

Answers From Home Work Night Two

1. Those who obey Christ <u>are believers</u>.   Invalid- illicit major
2. Some Christians do not obey Christ.   (major term dist. in
3. Some Christians <u>are not believers</u>.   conclusion, but not
                                                 in the premises.)

1. Every A is B.
2. Every B <u>is C</u>.   Invalid- illicit minor
3. <u>Every C</u> is A.   (minor term dist. in
                                                 conclusion, but not in
                                                 The premises.)
1. All men <u>are substances</u>.
2. All who are saved <u>are substances</u>.
3. All who are saved are men.   Invalid - undistributed
                                                 middle. (The middle term
                                                 must be dist. at least
                                                 once.)

Answers From Home Work Night Two

1. No P is Q.
2. Some S is P.   Valid
3. Some S is not Q.

1. Some believers are Americans.   Invalid
2. Some church attenders are not American.   Weaker
3. Some believers are church attenders.   Premise,

1. All Bible manuscripts have errors.   Invalid
2. Some errors are certain.   No negative
3. No manuscripts are certain.   Conclusions from
                             two affirmative
                             premises. (also four
                             term fallacy.)