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24.973 Advanced Semantics
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Homework 1

- (1) $[[\text{believe}]]^w = \lambda p \lambda x. B(x)(w) = p$
→ Prove that $\lceil \text{John believes it's raining and John believes it's windy} \rceil$ is a contradiction
- (2) $[[\text{believe}]]^w = \lambda p \lambda x. B(x)(w) \cap p \neq \{ \}$
→ Igor's comment...

Class 17.02

- (3) Three separate issues
- existence presupposition
→ "Frege is famous" / "Frege is smoking"
 - intersective vs. restrictive adjectives
→ "pink elephant" / "small elephant"
 - subject position vs. predicate position
→ "John thinks the man is a woman"

Class 18.02

- (4) $\lceil \text{modal } p \rceil$ talks about the actual world
 $\lceil \text{John must leave} \rceil = \text{the actual world } w_0 \text{ is such that the Ashdown regulations as written in } w_0 \text{ implies that John leaves}$
- (5) $[[\text{must } p]]^w = 1 \text{ iff } w \text{ is such that } \text{BLACK_BOX}(w) \subseteq p$
 $[[\text{may } p]]^w = 1 \text{ iff } w \text{ is such that } \text{BLACK_BOX}(w) \cap p \neq \{ \}$
→ the context supplies the content of BLACK_BOX
- (6) context & assignment function
 $[[[\text{must } f] \text{ John leave}]]^{w,g} = 1 \text{ iff } w \text{ is such that } [[f]]^{w,g}(w) \subseteq [\lambda w'. [[\text{John leave}]]^{w'}]$
- (7) What we know when we speak
- the content of g
 - the intension of $\lceil \text{must} \rceil$, $\lceil \text{John} \rceil$, $\lceil \text{leave} \rceil$
- (8) context = subpart of the real world
what's wrong with the following?
 $[[[\text{must } p] q]]^w = 1 \text{ iff } w \text{ is such that } p = \{ \dots \} \text{ and } p \rightarrow q$
- (9) $[[\text{John might have to leave}]]^{w,g} = 1 \text{ iff } \dots$