

Philosophy 101

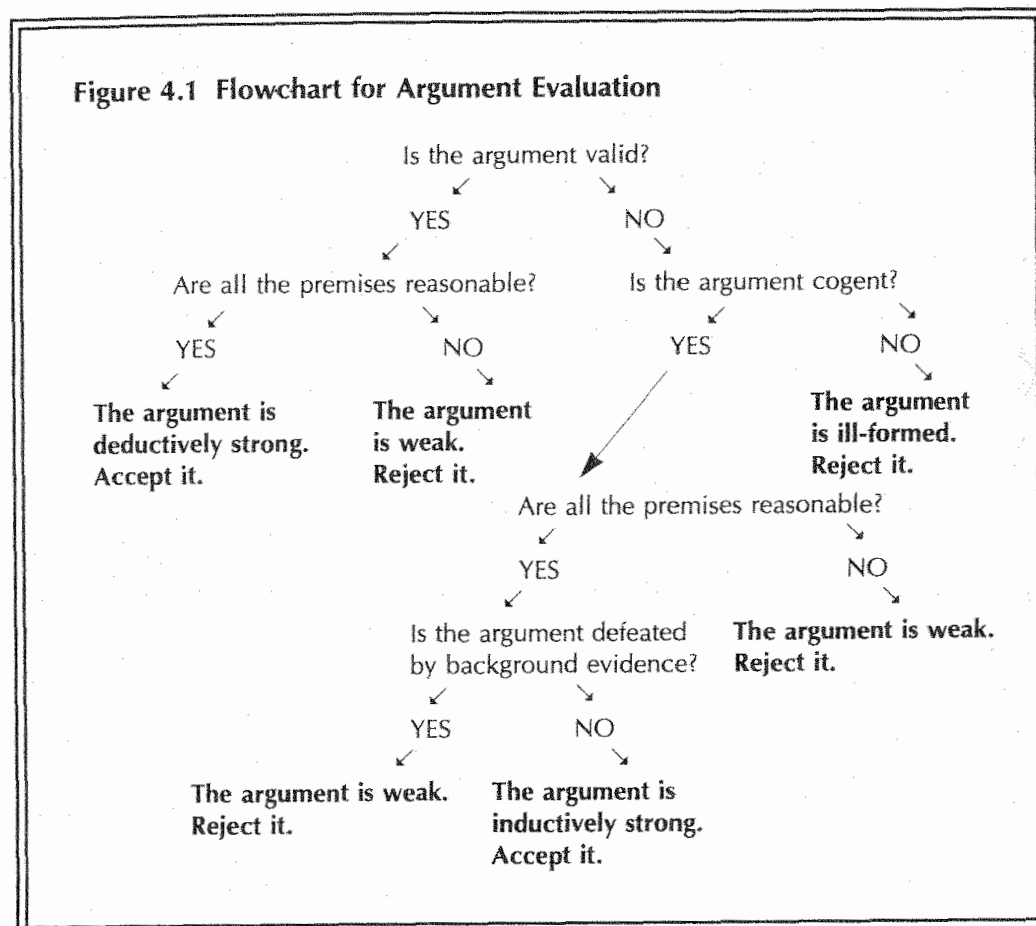
(3/3/11)

- **HW #3 due Today (end of class)**
- **HW #4 to be assigned next Thursday**
 - **Assigned a week later due to spring break**
- **Quiz #3 next Thursday (on chapter 3)**
 - **More on quiz #3 next week**
- **Chapter 4 — Strong Arguments**
 - **Today: questions & examples from chapter 4**
- **Next week: Chapter 5**
 - **Reconstructing Arguments**

“The Curve” (so far)

- First, I should point out that *all* grades are stored in the **sakai** site for the course (which you should now have access to).
- Secondly, I want to report the (rough) “curves” for homework assignments and quizzes — up to this point:
 - HW #1: A [92–100], B [85–92], C <85
 - HW #2: A [90–100], B [80–90], C [70–80]
 - Quiz #1: A [85–100], B [70–85], C [60–70]
 - Quiz #2: A [87–100], B [70–87], C [60–70]
- It is still early-on, but this should give you at least a *rough* sense of how you’re doing on the HW’s & quizzes, so far...

Chapter 4: Strong Arguments — Flow Chart



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• More Questions about Argument Strength

1. Why *doesn't* the definition of deductive strength include a “no defeater” clause?
2. Make up examples of arguments that fit the following descriptions. Your examples should be clear and simple, not highly controversial and overly complicated. Write the arguments out in standard form and state their patterns.
 - a. An argument that is inductively strong for many ordinary people now but was weak for ordinary people years ago.
 - b. An argument that is inductively weak for many ordinary people now but was strong for ordinary people years ago.
3. Are *all* deductively strong arguments stronger than *all* inductively strong arguments?
 - That is, can an inductively strong argument (A1) be stronger (for a person) than a deductively strong argument (A2) is?
 - If so, Can you give an example pair <A1,A2>?
 - **[Hint:** both deductive and inductive strength depend on *how well one's total evidence supports the premises.*]

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• More Questions about Argument Strength

1. Evaluate the following argument:

1. Blue is Blythe's favorite color.
2. Violets are blue.
3. Roses are red.
4. Blythe likes violets more than she likes roses.

2. Evaluate the following argument:

1. All bachelors are unmarried men.
2. All unmarried men live alone.
3. All bachelors live alone.

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More Questions about Argument Strength

• Evaluate the following argument:

1. A person with \$1,000,000,000 is rich.
2. For any number of dollars, X , if a person with X dollars is rich, then a person with X dollars – \$.01 is rich.
3. A person with \$99,999,999.99 is rich. (1), (2)
4. A person with \$99,999,999.98 is rich. (3), (2)
5. A person with \$99,999,999.97 is rich. (4), (2)
- ...
- 100,000,000,001. A person with \$.01 is rich. (100,000,000,000), (2)
- 100,000,000,002. A person with \$.00 is rich. (100,000,000,001), (2)

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More Questions about Argument Strength

1. Evaluate the following argument:

1. All professional athletes are male.
2. Bob Dylan is a professional athlete.
3. Bob Dylan is male. (1), (2)

2. Evaluate the following argument:

1. People differ at the time they are created in many ways, including genetic factors that contribute to size, strength, and intelligence. (EP)
2. If (1) is true, then it is not true that all people are created equal. (IP)
3. It is not true that all people are created equal. (1), (2)
4. If it is not true that all people are created equal, then the fundamental claim of the Declaration of Independence is false. (EP)
5. The fundamental claim of the Declaration of Independence is false. (3), (4)

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More Questions about Argument Strength

• Evaluate the following argument:

- (1) In order to walk 1 mile, one must first walk $1/2$ mile.
- (2) In order to walk $1/2$ mi., one must first walk $1/4$ mi.
- ...
- (n) In order to walk $1/n$ mi., one must first walk $1/2n$ mi.
- ... and so on (*ad infinitum*)...
- (4) So, in order to walk 1 mile, one must traverse an infinite number of smaller and smaller intervals within that mile.
- (5) It is impossible to traverse an infinite number of smaller and smaller intervals (within a mile) in a finite amount of time.
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- (6) So, it is impossible to walk 1 foot in a finite amount of time.