

Philosophy 101

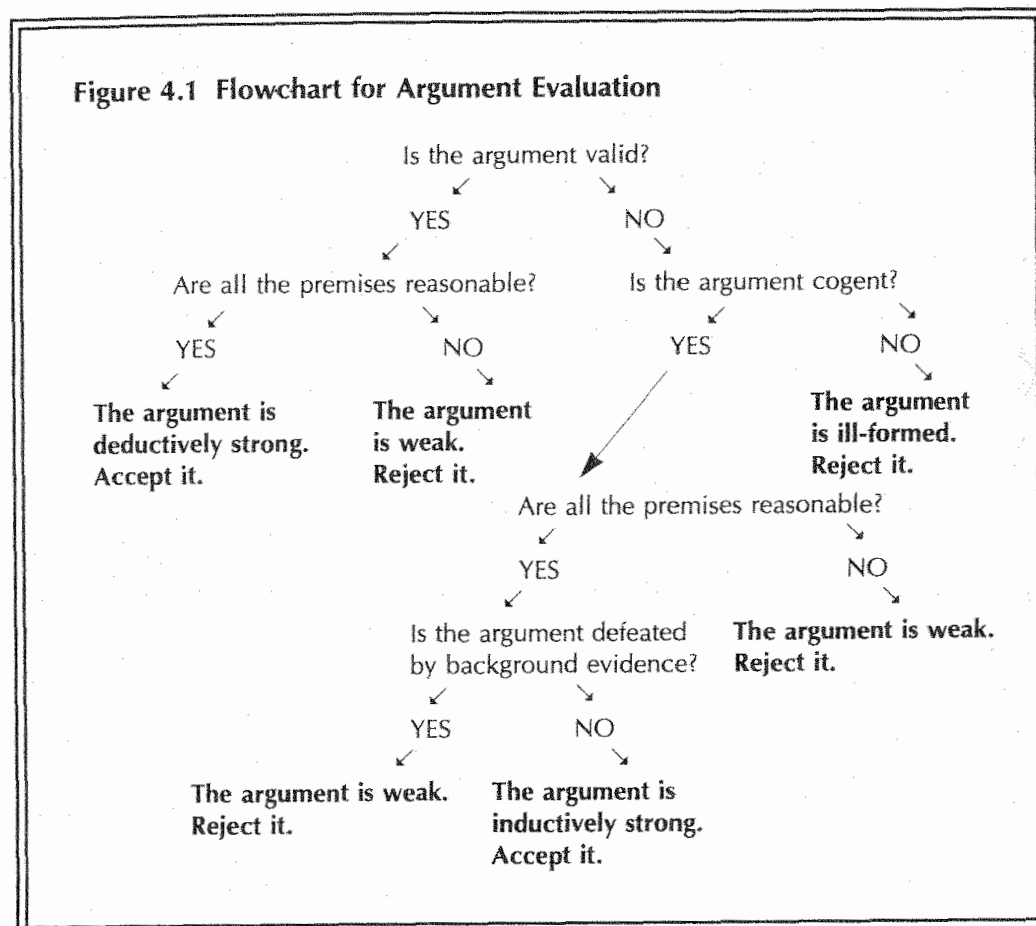
(3/8/11)

- **HW #3 will be returned on Thursday**
- **HW #4 has now been posted (see schedule page)**
 - **It is due on 3/24 (and it's a bit longer than usual)**
- **Quiz #3 on Thursday (just on chapter 3)**
 - **This will cover validity, cogency, etc.**
 - **It will be 22 True/False questions (only)**
- **Chapter 4 — Strong Arguments**
 - **Today: a few more arguments to evaluate**
- **After Spring Break: 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. 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. 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

- 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 1/2 n 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.

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More Questions about Argument Strength

- Evaluate the following argument:

- (A) is valid.
(A) -----
(A) is invalid.

- We will (thankfully) *not* be dealing with “self-referential arguments” in this course (as they can lead to *paradoxes*).

- One more argument to evaluate:

- (1) Most (accepted) scientific theories have turned out to be false.
- (2) Einstein’s theory of relativity is an (accepted) scientific theory.

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- (3) Einstein’s theory of relativity will turn out to be false.