

Homework 1

LING495

Robin Clark

Fall, 2019

Due: Thursday, September 26, 2019

Hand in electronically to Alexandros: akalom@sas.upenn.edu

No late homeworks!

Part I: Work the following problems in Schechter & Gintis:

- **1.14.2 Battle of the Chain Stores.** pp. 28-29
- **1.14.4 The White House Tapes.** pp. 30-32
- **1.14.5 Three Pirates.** p. 32

In each case, step through your reasoning by drawing trees and showing the elimination of actions that are not best responses.

Part II: Grice's maxims tend to contain many redundancies; this is the basis for the many attempts to reduce the number of maxims by finding a set without redundancies. Let's not worry about that! Instead let's consider an instance. We showed that we could derive scalar implicatures (*some of the students fell asleep in class* implicates *not all of the students fell asleep in class*) using only the Maxims of Quantity. Show that we could have derived the implicature using a different combination of Maxims.

Note: To do this, consider the viewpoint of the hearer and reason along the following lines: “The speaker said ‘some of the students fell asleep in class’. I assume she is being cooperative. Saying something stronger would violate Maxim X because blah, blah, blah and thus be uncooperative.”