

# Prospects for classical theory of definite descriptions

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How does it work for DD?



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However, it can be argued that Russellian approach is not classical.



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The first extension is incomplete and the second is equivalent to Fregean theory of DD (the chosen object theory) and in fact redundant.

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$$\text{RAE}' \exists y (y = \iota x \varphi(x)) \leftrightarrow \exists y \forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y)$$

RA implies HA (LA).

HA (LA) implies RAE'.

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$$\text{RA } \psi(\iota x \varphi(x)) \leftrightarrow \exists y (\forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y) \wedge \psi(y))$$

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In case on NFFOLI HA implies RA.

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$RA^{\leftarrow}$  implies SIA (RoA, RoAW, KMA).

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HA implies RoA.

In particular  $HA^{\rightarrow}$  implies RoAW (so in fact RoA, KMA, SIA).

# Application to DD:



They are not independent:

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DCA  $\neg\exists_1 x\varphi(x) \rightarrow \iota x\varphi(x) = \iota x(x \neq x)$  or ID

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FA is equivalent to DCA + SIA (KMA, RoA, RoAW).

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$$1. A(\iota x(Bx \wedge \neg Bx)) \vee \neg A(\iota x(Bx \wedge \neg Bx)) \rightarrow \exists y(\forall x(Bx \wedge \neg Bx \leftrightarrow x = y) \wedge (Ay \vee \neg Ay))$$

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The way out: restrict RA (or at least  $RA^{\rightarrow}$ ) to atomic formulae.  
Note that in this case it does not hold and that RA implies RAE'  
and RA implies RAE only if we treat  $E$  as atomic predicate.

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The way out: restrict HA to  $HA^{\leftarrow}$  or to  $t$  a variable (at least for  $HA^{\rightarrow}$ ) or, in case  $E$  is a primitive predicate, use:

$$HAE \quad Et \rightarrow (t = \iota x\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = t))$$

not equivalent to LA in CFOLI (although equivalent to LA in FFOLI).



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| 1. $\exists_1 y (y = \iota x \varphi(x))$                  | CFOLI thesis           |
| 2. $E \iota y (y = \iota x \varphi(x))$                    | 1, $RAE^{\leftarrow}$  |
| 3. $\iota y (y = \iota x \varphi(x)) = \iota x \varphi(x)$ | SIAW                   |
| 4. $E \iota x \varphi(x)$                                  | 2, 3, LL               |
| 5. $\exists_1 x \varphi(x)$                                | 4, $RAE^{\rightarrow}$ |

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or

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which gives a Fregean logic with the chosen object; let's use a special constant  $i$  for it instead of  $\iota x (x \neq x)$ .

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The first accepts  $RAE'^{\leftarrow}$ , the second  $RAE'^{\rightarrow}$ .



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We have:  $RAE^{\leftarrow}$  is equivalent to  $\forall x Ex$  and implies  $Ei$

## Ways out (in CFOLI) - option 2:

Since it holds that  $\forall x(Ex \vee \neg Ex)$  we have in particular  $Ei \vee \neg Ei$

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Hence  $\forall x Ex$  is a thesis and moreover it implies that  $Ei$  is a thesis too.

In fact it leads to rejection of  $RAE^{\rightarrow}$  by the following counterexample:  $Eix(x \neq x)$  and  $\neg \exists_1 x(x \neq x)$ .



# Application to DD:

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Note that  $\neg Ei$  implies  $\exists x\neg Ex$ . Hence option 2b introduces a kind of Meinongianism; there are objects (in the domain of quantification) which do not exist; at least one such object –  $i$ .

Ways out (in CFOLI) - option 2:

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It holds that it is equivalent to  $\neg Ei$ .

Note that  $\neg Ei$  implies  $\exists x\neg Ex$ . Hence option 2b introduces a kind of Meinongianism; there are objects (in the domain of quantification) which do not exist; at least one such object –  $i$ .

Moreover, this option leads to rejection of  $RAE^{\leftarrow}$  by the following counterexample:  $\exists_1 y(y = i)$  and  $\neg E\iota y(y = i)$ .

# Alternative formalisation:

Formal account of Fregean theory:

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## Formal account of Fregean theory:

In the framework of Tableaux a system of Bencivenga, Lambert and van Fraassen:



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In the framework of Tableaux a system of Bencivenga, Lambert and van Fraasen:

$$\frac{\exists y(\forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y) \wedge \psi(y)), \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \quad \neg\exists y\forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y) \wedge \psi(\iota x x \neq x), \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}{\psi(\iota x \varphi), \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}$$

where  $\psi(\iota x \varphi)$  is a predicate or negated predicate with  $\iota x \varphi$  as an argument.

# The Fregean Approach:

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Kalish and Montague formalisation:

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## Kalish and Montague formalisation:

Two rules based on PD (SIA) and ID (DCA) added to ND-CFOLI:

$$\exists y \forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y) \vdash \varphi(ix\varphi)$$

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where  $i$  is a name of fixed denotation for all improper DD.

FA (as well as EXT and AV) are derivable.

Alternatively (and equivalently) they characterised the Fregean system axiomatically by means of:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall y (\forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y) \rightarrow \iota x \varphi = y) \\ \neg \exists y \forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y) \rightarrow \iota x \varphi = i \end{aligned}$$

Rules for identity:

Rules for identity:

SC for CFOL +

$$(\Rightarrow\Rightarrow) \frac{t = t, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}$$

$$(\Rightarrow=) \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \varphi[x/t_1] \quad \Pi \Rightarrow \Sigma, t_1 = t_2}{\Gamma, \Pi \Rightarrow \Delta, \Sigma, \varphi[x/t_2]}$$

for  $\varphi$  atomic



Rules for descriptions:

## Rules for descriptions:

$$(\Rightarrow i)^1 \frac{\varphi[x/a], \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, t = a \quad t = a, \Pi \Rightarrow \Sigma, \varphi[x/a]}{\Gamma, \Pi \Rightarrow \Delta, \Sigma, t = i x \varphi}$$

1. where  $a$  is not in  $\Gamma, \Delta, \Pi, \Sigma, \varphi$  and  $t$  is not  $i$ .

$$(\Rightarrow i1)^2 \frac{\varphi[x/a], \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta,}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, i = i x \varphi}$$

2. where  $a$  is not in  $\Gamma, \Delta, \varphi$ .

$$(\Rightarrow i2) \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \varphi[x/t_1] \quad \Gamma_2 \Rightarrow \Delta_2, \varphi[x/t_2] \quad t_1 = t_2, \Pi \Rightarrow \Sigma}{\Gamma, \Pi \Rightarrow \Delta, \Sigma, i = i x \varphi}$$

Equivalence with KM:

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Theorem

*If  $\Gamma \vdash \varphi$  in KM system, then  $\vdash \Gamma \Rightarrow \varphi$ .*

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and

Theorem

*If  $\vdash \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash \forall \Delta$  in KM system.*

Equivalence with KM:

## Equivalence with KM:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\varphi(b) \Rightarrow \varphi(b)}{\varphi(b) \Rightarrow \underline{\varphi(b), a = b}} \quad \frac{a = b \Rightarrow a = b}{\underline{\varphi(b), a = b} \Rightarrow a = b} \quad \frac{a = b \Rightarrow a = b}{a = b \Rightarrow \underline{\varphi(b), a = b}} \quad \frac{\varphi(b) \Rightarrow \varphi(b)}{\underline{\varphi(b), a = b} \Rightarrow \varphi(b)} \quad (W) \\
 \hline
 \frac{\varphi(b) \leftrightarrow a = b, \varphi(b) \Rightarrow a = b}{\forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow a = x), \underline{\varphi(b) \Rightarrow a = b}} \quad \frac{\varphi(b) \leftrightarrow a = b, a = b \Rightarrow \varphi(b)}{\forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow a = x), \underline{a = b} \Rightarrow \underline{\varphi(b)}} \quad (\forall \Rightarrow) \\
 \hline
 \frac{\forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow a = x) \Rightarrow a = \iota x \varphi(x)}{\Rightarrow \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow a = x) \rightarrow a = \iota x \varphi(x)} \quad (\Rightarrow \rightarrow) \\
 \hline
 \Rightarrow \forall y(\forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow y = x) \rightarrow y = \iota x \varphi(x)) \quad (\Rightarrow \forall)
 \end{array}$$

( $\leftrightarrow \Rightarrow$ )

where  $a$  is new.

Equivalence with KM:



## Equivalence with KM:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 (\Rightarrow i2) \frac{\varphi(a) \Rightarrow \underline{\varphi(a)} \quad \varphi(b) \Rightarrow \underline{\varphi(b)} \quad \underline{a = b} \Rightarrow a = b}{\varphi(a), \underline{\varphi(b)} \Rightarrow \underline{a = b}, i = \iota x \varphi(x)} \quad \varphi(a), \underline{a = b} \Rightarrow \underline{\varphi(b)} \\
 (\Rightarrow \leftrightarrow) \frac{\varphi(a), \underline{\varphi(b)} \Rightarrow \underline{a = b}, i = \iota x \varphi(x)}{\varphi(a) \Rightarrow \underline{\varphi(b)} \leftrightarrow \underline{a = b}, i = \iota x \varphi(x)} \\
 (\Rightarrow \forall) \frac{\varphi(a) \Rightarrow \underline{\varphi(b)} \leftrightarrow \underline{a = b}, i = \iota x \varphi(x)}{\varphi(a) \Rightarrow \underline{\forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow a = x)}, i = \iota x \varphi(x)} \\
 (\Rightarrow \exists) \frac{\varphi(a) \Rightarrow \underline{\forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow a = x)}, i = \iota x \varphi(x)}{\varphi(a) \Rightarrow \underline{\exists y \forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow y = x)}, i = \iota x \varphi(x)} \\
 (\Rightarrow i1) \frac{\varphi(a) \Rightarrow \underline{\exists y \forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow y = x)}, i = \iota x \varphi(x)}{\Rightarrow \underline{\exists y \forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow y = x)}, i = \iota x \varphi(x), \underline{i = \iota x \varphi(x)}} \\
 (\Rightarrow C) \frac{\Rightarrow \underline{\exists y \forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow y = x)}, i = \iota x \varphi(x)}{\Rightarrow \underline{\exists y \forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow y = x)}, i = \iota x \varphi(x)} \\
 (\neg \Rightarrow) \frac{\Rightarrow \underline{\exists y \forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow y = x)}, i = \iota x \varphi(x)}{\neg \underline{\exists y \forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow y = x)} \Rightarrow \underline{i = \iota x \varphi(x)}} \\
 (\Rightarrow \rightarrow) \frac{\Rightarrow \underline{\exists y \forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow y = x)}, i = \iota x \varphi(x)}{\Rightarrow \underline{\neg \exists y \forall x (\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow y = x)} \rightarrow \underline{i = \iota x \varphi(x)}}
 \end{array}$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are new; rightmost sequent by  $(\Rightarrow =)$

Equivalence with KM:

## Equivalence with KM:

Derivability of  $(\Rightarrow \iota)$ :

$$\begin{array}{c}
 (\Rightarrow \leftrightarrow) \frac{\frac{\varphi(a), \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \underline{t = a} \quad \underline{t = a}, \Pi \Rightarrow \Sigma, \varphi(a)}{\Gamma, \Pi \Rightarrow \Delta, \Sigma, \varphi(a) \leftrightarrow t = a}}{(\Rightarrow \forall) \frac{\Gamma, \Pi \Rightarrow \Delta, \Sigma, \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow t = x)}{(\text{Cut}) \frac{\Gamma, \Pi \Rightarrow \Delta, \Sigma, \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow t = x) \quad \underline{\forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow t = x)} \Rightarrow t = \iota x \varphi(x)}}{\Gamma, \Pi \Rightarrow \Delta, \Sigma, t = \iota x \varphi(x)}}}
 \end{array}$$

where  $a$  is new.

## Equivalence with KM:

## Equivalence with KM:

$(\Rightarrow i1)$ :

$$\begin{array}{c}
 (W) \frac{a = a \Rightarrow a = a}{a = a \Rightarrow \underline{a = a, \varphi(a)}} \quad \frac{\varphi(a), \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}{\underline{\varphi(a), a = a, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}} \\
 (\Leftrightarrow \Rightarrow) \frac{}{\underline{\varphi(a) \leftrightarrow a = a, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}} \\
 (\forall \Rightarrow) \frac{}{\underline{\forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow a = x), \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}} \\
 (\exists \Rightarrow) \frac{}{\underline{\exists y \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow y = x), \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}} \\
 (\Rightarrow \neg) \frac{}{\underline{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \neg \exists y \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow y = x)}} \quad \frac{}{\underline{\neg \exists y \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow y = x) \Rightarrow i = \iota x \varphi(x)}} \\
 (Cut) \frac{}{\underline{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, i = \iota x \varphi(x)}}
 \end{array}$$

where  $a$  is new.

Equivalence with KM:

## Equivalence with KM:

For derivability of  $(\Rightarrow i2)$  first prove:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 (\Rightarrow \wedge) \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \varphi(t_1) \quad \Pi \Rightarrow \Sigma, \varphi(t_2)}{\Gamma, \Pi \Rightarrow \Delta, \Sigma, \varphi(t_1) \wedge \varphi(t_2)} \quad \frac{t_1 = t_2, \Lambda \Rightarrow \Theta}{\Lambda \Rightarrow \Theta, t_1 \neq t_2} (\Rightarrow \neg) \\
 (\Rightarrow \wedge) \frac{(\Rightarrow \wedge) \frac{\Gamma, \Pi \Rightarrow \Delta, \Sigma, \varphi(t_1) \wedge \varphi(t_2)}{\Gamma, \Pi, \Lambda \Rightarrow \Delta, \Sigma, \Theta, \varphi(t_1) \wedge \varphi(t_2) \wedge t_1 \neq t_2}}{(\Rightarrow \exists) \frac{\Gamma, \Pi, \Lambda \Rightarrow \Delta, \Sigma, \Theta, \exists x, y (\varphi(x) \wedge \varphi(y) \wedge x \neq y)}}
 \end{array}$$

Equivalence with KM:



## Equivalence with KM:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 (\Rightarrow W) \frac{\varphi(b) \Rightarrow \varphi(b)}{\varphi(b) \Rightarrow \varphi(b), b = c} \quad \frac{b = c \Rightarrow b = c \quad a = c \Rightarrow a = c}{b = c, a = c \Rightarrow a = b} (\Rightarrow =) \\
 (\leftrightarrow \Rightarrow) \frac{\varphi(b), a = c, \varphi(b) \leftrightarrow b = c \Rightarrow a = b}{\varphi(b), a = c, \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = c) \Rightarrow a = b} (W \Rightarrow) \\
 (W \Rightarrow) \frac{(\forall \Rightarrow) \frac{\varphi(b), a = c, \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = c) \Rightarrow a = b}{\varphi(a), a = c, \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = c) \Rightarrow a = b}}{\varphi(a), a = c, \varphi(b), \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = c) \Rightarrow a = b} \\
 \\
 (\Rightarrow W) \frac{\varphi(a) \Rightarrow \varphi(a)}{\varphi(a) \Rightarrow \varphi(a), a = c} \quad \varphi(a), a = c, \varphi(b), \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = c) \Rightarrow a = b \\
 (\leftrightarrow \Rightarrow) \frac{(\forall \Rightarrow) \frac{\varphi(a), \varphi(b), \varphi(a) \leftrightarrow a = c, \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = c) \Rightarrow a = b}{\varphi(a), \varphi(b), \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = c) \Rightarrow a = b}}{\varphi(a), \varphi(b), \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = c) \Rightarrow a = b} \\
 (C \Rightarrow) \frac{(\exists \Rightarrow) \frac{\varphi(a), \varphi(b), \exists y \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y) \Rightarrow a = b}{\varphi(a), \varphi(b), \exists y \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y) \Rightarrow a = b}}{\varphi(a), \varphi(b), \exists y \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y) \Rightarrow a = b} \\
 (\neg \Rightarrow) \frac{(\wedge \Rightarrow) \frac{\varphi(a) \wedge \varphi(b) \wedge a \neq b, \exists y \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y) \Rightarrow}{\exists x, y(\varphi(x) \wedge \varphi(y) \wedge x \neq y), \exists y \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y) \Rightarrow}}{\exists x, y(\varphi(x) \wedge \varphi(y) \wedge x \neq y) \Rightarrow \neg \exists y \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y)} \\
 (\Rightarrow \neg) \frac{(\exists \Rightarrow) \frac{\varphi(a) \wedge \varphi(b) \wedge a \neq b, \exists y \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y) \Rightarrow}{\exists x, y(\varphi(x) \wedge \varphi(y) \wedge x \neq y), \exists y \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y) \Rightarrow}}{\exists x, y(\varphi(x) \wedge \varphi(y) \wedge x \neq y) \Rightarrow \neg \exists y \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y)}
 \end{array}$$

where  $a, b, c$  new. The conclusion by cut with  $\Gamma, \Pi, \Lambda \Rightarrow \Delta, \Sigma, \Theta, \exists x, y(\varphi(x) \wedge \varphi(y) \wedge x \neq y)$  and  $\neg \exists y \forall x(\varphi(x) \leftrightarrow x = y) \Rightarrow i = \iota x \varphi(x)$ .

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KM system with added  $E$ :

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Fregean extension:  $RAE^{\leftarrow} \exists_1 x \varphi(x) \rightarrow E \iota x \varphi(x)$

$$\frac{\varphi(a), \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, a = b \quad a = b, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \varphi(a)}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, E \iota x \varphi(x)}$$

where  $a$  is not in  $\Gamma, \Delta, \varphi$

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where  $a$  is not in  $\Gamma, \Delta, \varphi$

Meinongian extension:  $RAE^{\rightarrow} E \iota x \varphi(x) \rightarrow \exists_1 x \varphi(x)$

$$\frac{\varphi(a), \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}{E \iota x \varphi(x), \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}$$

where  $a$  is not in  $\Gamma, \Delta, \varphi$

$$\frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \varphi(b) \quad \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \varphi(c) \quad b = c, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}{E \iota x \varphi(x), \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}$$

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