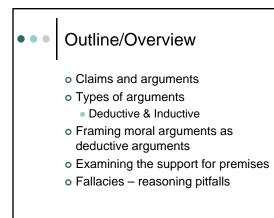


Chapter 3 Evaluating Moral Arguments

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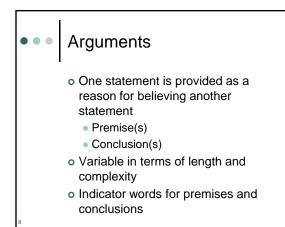


#### • • • Claims and Arguments

- Claim an assertion we make about the truth or falsehood of some state of affairs
  - either true or false
  - can be accepted, rejected, or essentially ignored

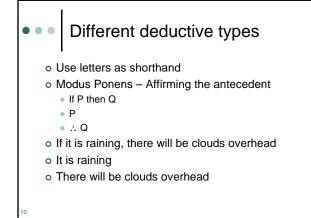
# •••• Which of the following are claims?

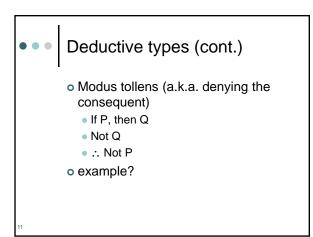
- 1. A mile is 5280 feet.
- 2. Get out of here!
- 3. The moon is made of green cheese.
- 4. Animals should not be killed for food.
- 5. Do animals like living on farms?
- 6. The war in Iraq was a terrible decision.

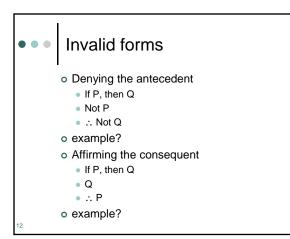


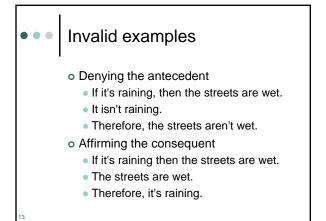
## • • • Types of arguments

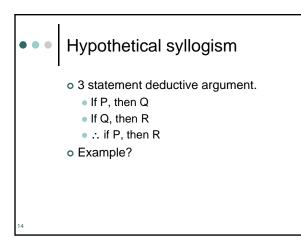
- Deductive gives logically conclusive support to the conclusions that are reached.
  - Form vs. content
  - Sound argument valid + true premises
- Inductive supports conclusions in a probabilistic fashion.
  - Confidence in evidence
  - Cogent argument strong argument + true premises

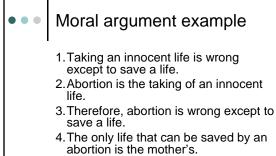








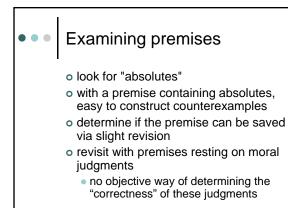




5. Therefore, abortion is wrong except to save the life of the mother.

# ••• Rules for framing deductive arguments

- 1. Premises that can be used with valid deductive rules.
- 2. Premises must be general.
- 3. Must add sufficient premises to make the arguments valid.
- 4. Charity we must use plausible premises.
- 5. Premises must be faithful to the beliefs of those advancing the argument.
- 6. Must not be "begging the question."
- 7. Must not equivocate.



### ••• Fallacies

- Ad Hominem Argument (Appeal to the person)
  An attack on the opponent rather than the opponent's argument
- Red Herring (Appeal to emotion)
  - An irrelevant issue introduced to distract attention from the issue at hand
- o Straw Man
  - A distortion of an opponent's actual position to make it easier to attack
- o Others? Examples?
- Hand waving/Post hoc, ergo propter hoc