Conditionals, Support and Connexivity
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In natural language, conditionals are frequently used for giving explanations. The antecedent of a conditional is typically understood as being connected to, being relevant for, providing evidential support for or making a difference to the conditional's consequent. This aspect has not been reflected in the logics that are usually offered for the reasoning with conditionals: neither in the logic of the material conditional or the strict conditional, nor in the plethora of logics for suppositional conditionals that have been produced over the past 50 years. In this course I survey some recent attempts to come to terms with the problem of encoding evidential support or relevance in the logic of conditionals. We will have a look at models in a qualitative-modal and in a quantitative-probabilistic setting. We will discuss the resulting logical properties and related inferentialist and connexivist ideas. Focussing on some particular examples, we will see that no perfect match between the two kinds of settings has been achieved yet.