



## Syllogistic Reasoning and Natural Logic

Fabian Battaglini and Jan van Eijck  
(Utrecht institute of Linguistics & CWI, Amsterdam)

We analyse the fine structure of syllogistic reasoning in terms of applications of the rules of monotonicity, symmetry, and existential import (van Eijck 2005b), and we develop a version of natural logic for a fragment of natural language in terms of these rules (van Eijck 2005a). We will attempt to connect up to concrete examples of how monotonicity can explain various aspects of human reasoning competence and performance. In particular, we will argue that our account can explain (1) the difficulty of some syllogistic tasks; (2) the figural effect, namely the fact that people have a tendency to produce a conclusion whose terms (subject and predicate) reproduce the role which they have in the premises.

The talk will be presented by Fabian Battaglini.

van Eijck, J. (2005a). Natural logic for natural language. Technical report. Amsterdam: CWI.

<http://homepages.cwi.nl/~jve/papers/05/nlnl/NLNL.pdf>

van Eijck, J. (2005b). Syllogistics = Monotonicity + symmetry + existential import. Technical report. Amsterdam: CWI.

<http://homepages.cwi.nl/~jve/papers/05/syllogistic/Syllogistic.pdf>