

► GÖRAN SUNDHOLM, *Inference*.

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The term inference is ambiguous between an epistemic act of inference, that is, an act of passage from judgement to judgement, and an inference *scheme* (“blue-print”) for such acts. Furthermore, to the epistemic notion of inference there corresponds an ontological (“alethic”) notion of consequence among propositions.

The lecture investigates the relation between the *rightness* of the act and the *validity* of the schema. Similarly, the related notions of *consequence* and *conditional* will be explored. The distinction between the (logical) *holding* (“in all variations”) of a consequence and the *validity* of the matching inference-scheme is noted and insisted upon. Familiar works of Bolzano, Frege, and Gentzen are considered and given a place in the resulting framework.

The epistemic role of inference is emphasized in an explanation of validity in terms of the epistemic notion of *immediate evidence*, where analogues to Aristotle’s notion of a *perfect syllogism* are noted. Finally, themes from John Austin’s Theory of Speech Acts are brought to bear on the validity of inference, where phenomena pertaining to the communicative roles of sender and receiver, as well as possible connections to Dialogue Theory, are noted.