

## Desire reports and conditionals

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Heim (1992) proposes a semantics of desire reports (based on an idea that she attributes to Stalnaker (1984)) which “sees a hidden conditional in every desire report.” Since her proposal doesn’t share many of the short-comings of a Hintikka-semantics of desire reports, it has subsequently been adopted by many authors. Interestingly, the idea of hidden conditionals – “[a]n important feature of this analysis” (Heim, 1992) – has either been marginalized, e.g., Portner & Rubinstein (2020); Giannakidou & Mari (2021), or explicitly rejected, e.g., Levinson (2003); Villalta (2008); Lassiter (2011, 2017).

The connection between desire reports and conditionals has recently received new attention: von Fintel & Iatridou (2017, 2020) observe that in many languages the morphology that is used to mark a conditional as counterfactual features prominently in reports of “unattainable wishes” (von Fintel & Iatridou, 2020). What is puzzling about this “X-marking” (von Fintel & Iatridou, 2020) in desire reports is that the X-marking is only used to mark the object of desire as counterfactual but not the wish itself.

In this talk I will review the data from von Fintel & Iatridou (2017, 2020) and present new data that suggest that the conspiracy between desire reports and conditionals is much broader than von Fintel & Iatridou (2017, 2020) assume and goes beyond X-marking. I will argue that a central notion that may help to make sense of the data is the notion of “complement fulfilling conditionals” introduced by Williams (1974) and discussed in detail in Pesetsky (1991). The connection back to Heim (1992) is that the most promising way to make sense of “complement fulfilling conditionals” from a semantic point of view is on a Neo-Heimian analysis as sketched in Sode (2018, 2021).

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