

Week 11

- Possible worlds, modals, conditionals

Next:

- Displacement in time: tense and aspect

– Reading for next week: Ogihara 2007: 392–410 on Luminus; von Stechow & Heim 69–78

Exercise: Choose one of the sentences with a modal below and calculate its denotation using the denotations for modal forces and modal bases from the lecture.

- (1) We can't see outside. It **might** be raining right now.
- (2) John lives alone and I see that the lights are on in his house. John **must** be home.
- (3) In America, you **can** chew gum wherever you want.
- (4) John lives with roommates and I see that their lights are on. John **may** be home.
- (5) You **must** come to class on time.

(Assume the subject is reconstructed in its VP-internal position, and just start by assuming a denotation for the entire VP.)