

## Too Many Alternatives: density, symmetry and other predicaments

In a recent paper Martin Hackl and I have argued that apparent irregularities in the behavior of degree constructions can be explained if degree domains are always dense (and a very specific modularity assumption is made). Among other things, we show that density can account for certain constraints on scalar implicatures and question formation. If density is assumed, violations of the constraints can be analyzed as logical contradictions resulting from an attempt to exclude too many alternatives.

In this talk, I would like to discuss a particular failure of our account. Specifically, the core generalization we defend is attested in areas for which an account in terms of density is not available. Nevertheless, I would like to suggest that the account might still be right. Density is a special case in which attempts to exclude alternatives might fail, but other cases are predicted as well. The broader generalization pertains to all cases in which a set of alternative sentences,  $Q$ , has too many members for exhaustivity to apply; in all such cases, the pattern we identified is predicted.