

Why Predicate Abstracts (And How)

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Bertrand Russell (eventually) realized that definite descriptions need their scopes made explicit. In modal logics, which can have also have non-rigid constants, this is especially the case. Machinery for all this exists, predicate abstraction is one version, but it is not as well-known as it should be. I will present syntax and semantics suitable for this. Time won't permit discussion of corresponding tableau systems. But there should be enough material to get across the general need for predicate abstracts, and the general ideas of how they behave.