

Some Puzzles on Modality and Tense  
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This talk examines the hypothesis, which has been advanced by Mondadori and Condoravdi, that the modality in counterfactual uses of “might” and “could” in sentences such as “he might have won, but unfortunately didn’t” is a metaphysical modality which is characterized in terms of branching time. I will present a number of counterexamples to the metaphysical analysis, together with more conceptual objections. Further, I’ll argue that the truth of such sentences is context-dependent in a way which the branching-time analysis does not explain. My own analysis uses modal bases which are in some cases circumstantial, and in some cases epistemic.