MODAL LOGIC, CONCEIVED AS SEMEIOTIC

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Abstract

What sorts of things are supposed to be there in the universes of discourse of Peirce’s modal logic (that is, gamma part of existential graphs with lines of identities)? Do they exist? Peirce suggests a diagrammatic version of quantification in which the extremities of lines of identity range over individuals that are in principle identifiable. In addition to quantification, the lines serve as such identifying devices. Qualities that are there in the phaneron are not occurrences and have no manifest duration. They give rise to assertions with ‘non-propositional’ content. Thus with gamma Peirce is quantifying over ‘might-bes’, and feasible modal logics need to take such possible objects as constitutive of their real domain. This comes close to the modern, model-theoretic idea of the semantics of certain quantified modal logics.

Key words:

Peirce, modal logic, gamma graphs, Phaneron, qualities, real generals, universe of discourse, semantics, model theory.