
This second edition corrects "only a few errors and misprints" in the original text and adds the following: a one-page preface, three pages of "addenda et corrigenda", a fifteen page appendix entitled "Sept Ans Apres," and five pages of additional references. Even the pagination and the index of the original are kept intact. Someone who already owns the first edition might well question the wisdom of spending $89.00 for twenty-five new pages. For someone who does not already have the first edition, however, this is still the most wide-ranging, up to date and readable survey of tense logic available.

The review of the first edition noted a willingness to examine a large number and variety of ideas and a refreshing tolerance of competing research programs. In the eight years between editions these attitudes seems to have imbued the field. The new appendix chronicles further work on the technical questions raised in the first edition and sketches some new directions that the study of tense and time has taken within the linguistics and computer science communities. The price for all this diversity and tolerance seems to be that the field lacks the focus that it once had. One does not get a sense, reading the appendix, of milestone results or outstanding open problems. Indeed the work that is being done is motivated by widely divergent considerations: the search for systems in which to represent reasoning about the behavior of computer programs, the enterprise of formalizing "common-sense" physics, the traditional semantics (i.e., contribution to sentential truth value) of tense and aspect, the cognitive science (i.e., contribution to sentential processing) of tense and aspect, and still, to some extent, the older concerns of representing arguments in which time and tense play a role and analyzing philosophical puzzles about time. The main unifying theme that the author suggests for current work is "ontological pluralism". We have learned that it is not productive to insist on the priority of instants or periods or events or any other temporal ontologies. Instead we now quite properly study all of these and investigate the relations among them. In the text of the
book, the treatments of period- and point-based views of time are largely segregated in separate chapters and the brief discussions of their relations is primarily concerned with reductions in each direction. Recently at least one author seems to have taken van Benthem's pluralism even more seriously. (Alexander Bochman's, 'Concerted Instant-Interval Temporal Semantics', parts I and II, Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic, vol 31 numbers 3 and 4, 1990 considers models which encompass periods, points, and certain relations among them).

"Sept Ans Apres" is a thematic essay, and one will find few precise statements of new results and even fewer details of arguments for those results. Together with the bibliography, however, it does provide a valuable guide to the recent literature. In addition to the Bochman papers, one might wish to add the survey papers by Burgess and R. Thomason in Handbook of Philosophical Logic, vol II, Kluwer (1984) and van Benthem's own survey in Handbook of Logic in Artificial Intelligence and Logic Programming Oxford (forthcoming). Of the six open problems mentioned in the review of the first edition, only the fourth is reported as having been solved: Hendrik Lenstra has found a homogeneous finite order that is not symmetric. The first edition had relatively few typos and misprints and most of those seem to have been corrected. One of the misprints noted in the review of the first edition has not been corrected: the first occurrence of "M" on page 151 should be "M".

Steven T. Kuhn
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