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Chemical Possibility and Modal Semantics

Sharlow, Mark (2007) *Chemical Possibility and Modal Semantics*. [Preprint]



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Abstract

In the course of their work, chemists sometimes judge particular chemical processes to be possible or impossible. In this note I examine the semantics of the notion of possibility implicit in these judgments. I argue that standard possible worlds semantics does not allow an adequate analysis of this notion, and I suggest a modification of possible worlds semantics that may overcome this limitation.

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