What is a Context?

Pat Hayes
Beckman Institute

I'm going to suggest that there are different notions of "context" and try to distinguish some, and give arguments why they need to be kept separate: roughly, one would expect their logical properties to be different, so conflating them results in confusion (or unacceptably weak logics). The three main kinds are

1. context as a collection of presuppositions
2. context as something surrounding an act of communication
3. context as a set of ontological assumptions.