

Commitment and States of Mind with Mood and Modality

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Abstract

This paper develops an account of mood selection with attitude predicates in French. I start by examining the “contextual commitment” account of mood developed by Paul Portner and Aynat Rubinstein (P&R). I raise empirical and theoretical challenges for P&R’s analysis of contextual commitment and its role in P&R’s explanations of mood selection. There are indicative-selecting verbs that are felicitous in contexts where there isn’t contextual commitment (in P&R’s sense); and there are subjunctive-selecting verbs that involve no less contextual commitment (in P&R’s sense) than certain indicative-selecting verbs. I develop an alternative commitment-based account of mood selection in French. The general approach, which I call a *state-of-mind approach*, is to analyze mood in terms of a relation between a predicate’s modal backgrounds and a relevant overall state of mind. I propose that indicative mood in French presupposes that the informational-evaluative state determined by the predicate’s modal backgrounds is included in the informational-evaluative state characterizing the event described by the predicate. This account provides an improved explanation of various core mood-selection phenomena systematized by P&R. These phenomena include subjunctive-selection with emotive factives, indicative-selection with fiction verbs, indicative-selection with *espérer* ‘hope’ versus subjunctive-selection with *vouloir* ‘want’, and indicative-selection with commissives versus subjunctive-selection with directives. The mood-selection properties of these predicates are derived from the proposed account of mood, independently attested features of the predicates’ semantics, and general principles of interpretation.

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1 Introduction

This paper examines the semantics and pragmatics of verbal mood selection. I focus on the factors affecting the selection of indicative versus subjunctive mood in the complements of attitude verbs and speech-act verbs in French, as in (1)–(2).¹

- (1) *Indicative-selecting verb:*
- a. Alice croit que Blanche est végétarienne.
Alice thinks that Blanche is.IND vegetarian
 - b. *Alice croit que Blanche soit végétarienne.
Alice thinks that Blanche is.SBJV vegetarian
- (2) *Subjunctive-selecting verb:*
- a. *Alice veut que Blanche est végétarienne.
Alice wants that Blanche is.IND vegetarian
 - b. Alice veut que Blanche soit végétarienne.
Alice wants that Blanche is.SBJV vegetarian

A common approach is to explain the contrast between indicative- and subjunctive-selecting predicates in terms of a notion of commitment.² Attitude ascriptions with indicative complements express judgments of truth, whether according to the attitude subject or the speaker (BOLINGER 1968, NOONAN 1985, PALMER 1986, FARKAS 1992, 2003, GIANNAKIDOU 1999, SCHLENKER 2005, MARQUES 2009, SIEGEL 2009, SMIRNOVA 2011, ANAND & HACQUARD 2013); they describe attitudes that are “prototypically factive” (PORTNER 1997). Attitude ascriptions with subjunctive complements lack such a commitment (SCHLENKER 2005, SIEGEL 2009): they evaluate the complement, not by assessing its truth, but by comparing it to a set of alternatives (FARKAS 1992, 2003, GIANNAKIDOU 1999, GIORGI & PIANESI 1997, VILLALTA 2000, 2008, MARQUES 2009, ANAND & HACQUARD 2013); they describe “non-representational” attitudes (BOLINGER 1968), like preferences.

Details of implementation aside, treating mood selection in terms of commitment to the embedded proposition captures many examples well. It captures the selection of the indicative with predicates of acceptance (*croire* ‘believe’, *savoir* ‘know’) and assertion (*dire* ‘say’), as in (1) and (3). And it captures the selection of the subjunctive with desideratives such as *vouloir* ‘want’ and directives (*ordonner* ‘order’), as in (2) and (4).

¹I will often use ‘attitude verb’ broadly to include verbs describing mental states and speech acts.

²I generally use italics for mentioning French expressions, single quotes for mentioning English expressions, and underlining for emphasis.

- (3) Alice a dit que Blanche est/*soit végétarienne.
Alice said that Blanche is.IND/*is.SBJV vegetarian
- (4) Alice a ordonné que Blanche soit/*est végétarienne.
Alice ordered that Blanche is.SBJV/*is.IND vegetarian

But there are well-known puzzle cases. PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2012 provides a crucial advance in systematizing these cases and diagnosing the challenges raised for previous theories: Notably, first, uses of emotive factives (‘regret’, ‘be happy’) imply commitment to the embedded proposition, at least by the attitude subject if not also by the speaker. Yet emotive factives contrast with non-emotive factives in typically requiring subjunctive in French, as reflected in (5)–(6):

- (5) Alice est heureuse que Blanche soit/*est végétarienne.
Alice is happy that Blanche is.SBJV/*is.IND vegetarian
- (6) Alice sait que Blanche est/*soit végétarienne.
Alice knows that Blanche is.IND/*is.SBJV vegetarian

On the flip side, fiction verbs (‘imagine’, ‘dream’) needn’t imply any doxastic commitment, and yet they select indicative, as in (7) with *rêver* ‘dream’.

- (7) Alice a rêvé que Blanche était/*fût végétarienne.
Alice dreamed that Blanche was.IND/*was.SBJV vegetarian

Further, although many desire verbs select subjunctive, as in (2) with *vouloir*, others such as *espérer* ‘hope’ select indicative:

- (8) Alice espère que Blanche est/*soit végétarienne.
Alice hopes that Blanche is.IND/*is.SBJV vegetarian

And whereas directives select subjunctive, as in (4) with *ordonner*, commissives select indicative, as in (9) with *promettre* ‘promise’.

- (9) Alice promet que Blanche est/*soit végétarienne.
Alice promises that Blanche is.IND/*is.SBJV vegetarian

Portner & Rubinstein appeal to the contrasts in mood selection among desideratives and between commissives vs. directives in arguing against what they call the “proto-standard analysis of mood” — roughly, the view that subjunctive-selecting verbs are precisely those verbs with a comparative semantics. Whatever might distinguish ‘hope’/‘promise’, on the one hand, and ‘want’/‘order’, on the other, it seems unlikely to

be that the latter have a semantics involving an evaluative comparison of alternatives while the former do not.

In sum, we have the following mood-selection puzzles to explain (PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2012):

- subjunctive-selection with emotive factives,
- indicative-selection with fiction verbs,
- indicative-selection with *espérer*, vs. subjunctive-selection with *vouloir*,
- indicative-selection with commissives, vs. subjunctive-selection with directives.

Why do some attitude verbs implying doxastic commitment select indicative, while others select subjunctive? Why do desire verbs like *vouloir* select subjunctive, while *espérer* and fiction verbs select indicative? Why does reporting obligations created with directives require subjunctive, while reporting obligations created with promises requires indicative?

Much progress has been made on these questions. The “commitment-based” approach to mood is in fact a family of approaches. The central aims of this paper are twofold: first, to raise challenges for Portner & Rubinstein’s (2012) “contextual commitment” account of mood and diagnosis of mood-selection puzzles such as those above; second, more constructively, to introduce a novel strategy for exploiting a notion of commitment in an account of verbal mood, and to begin developing the strategy by applying it to mood selection in French. The proposed *state-of-mind approach* provides an improved treatment of the above puzzle cases.

An overview of the paper is as follows. I start by examining Portner & Rubinstein’s (P&R’s) contextual commitment account of verbal mood (§2). P&R’s discussion provides a crucial contribution to our understanding of the semantics and pragmatics of mood and modality. A key innovation is to analyze mood selection in terms of a relation between the commitments of the participants in the reported attitude/speech event and the parameters used in the modal evaluation of the clause. Mood selection is explained, not in terms of commitment to the truth of the verb’s complement, but in terms of commitment to the verb’s modal backgrounds — i.e., to the beliefs, preferences, obligations, etc. which figure in the verb’s semantics. Indicative-selecting attitude verbs, on P&R’s view, presuppose that all “relevant individuals are prepared to defend the modal background of the attitude as being reasonable and appropriate” (2012: 462). This view makes room for indicative-selecting verbs such as *espérer* or *promettre* with a preference-based comparative semantics. Very roughly: *espérer* ‘hope’, unlike *vouloir* ‘want’, presupposes that the subject is committed to the relevant desires (and beliefs); and commissives, unlike directives, presuppose that the subject and object are both committed to the obli-

gation — hence indicative-selection with *espérer* and *promettre*, and subjunctive-selection with *vouloir* and *ordonner*. Or so P&R argue.

§3 argues that P&R’s analysis of contextual commitment and explanations of mood selection, are problematic. There are indicative-selecting predicates that are felicitous in contexts where there isn’t contextual commitment (in P&R’s sense); and there are subjunctive-selecting predicates that involve no less contextual commitment (in P&R’s sense) than certain indicative-selecting predicates. It isn’t commitment to the contents of modal backgrounds — commitment to the reasonableness of the information or priorities — that explains differences in mood selection.

§4 develops an alternative commitment-based account of verbal mood. With P&R, I analyze mood in terms of a relation involving the embedding verb’s modal backgrounds and a notion of commitment. P&R’s strategy is to offer a qualitative notion of commitment and explain mood selection in terms of whether the relevant individuals are “committed,” in the qualitatively defined sense, to the predicate’s modal backgrounds. In contrast I suggest that we understand mood selection in terms of whether the formal relation between the verb’s modal parameters and a relevant state of mind represents a relation of commitment. Mood is analyzed directly in terms of a relation between a predicate’s modal backgrounds and an overall state of mind. I call the general approach a state-of-mind approach to verbal mood.

I propose that indicative mood in French presupposes that the predicate’s modal backgrounds are “live” (in a manner to be made precise) from the perspective of the state of mind characterizing the event described by the predicate. States of mind can include doxastic and practical aspects (e.g. beliefs, preferences). Indicative-selecting predicates “presuppose commitment” in the sense of presupposing that the modal state with respect to which the complement is evaluated is implied by the informational-evaluative state characterizing the local attitude/discourse event. These ideas are given a precise formal implementation. Enriching our understanding of states of mind, and refining our treatments of context and content accordingly, helps provide an improved explanation of our mood-selection puzzles. Patterns of mood selection are derived from the proposed account of mood, independently attested features of the verbs’ semantics, and general principles of interpretation.

Roadmap: §2 explains P&R’s contextual commitment account of mood, and how it improves on existing accounts. §3 raises empirical and conceptual challenges for P&R’s account, as outlined above. §4 develops the alternative state-of-mind account of verbal mood selection, and applies the account to the relevant puzzle cases. §5 compares the positive §4-account to certain others in the literature. §6 concludes.

Two remarks on the scope of the paper: First, I focus only on mood marking in French; specifically, on mood marking in complement clauses of attitude verbs;

and, more specifically, on cases of mood selection, in which a particular mood is required in the complement clause. There are interesting questions about cross-linguistic variations in verbal mood, about mood marking in other linguistic contexts (e.g., root clauses, relative clauses, adjuncts), and about interpretive effects of using indicative vs. subjunctive with predicates that can embed either mood. I leave it to future research to investigate how the account in this paper may be extended to mood marking in other languages and linguistic environments.

Second, an important contribution of P&R's discussion is to introduce data with modal adjectives (*possible*, *probable*, *nécessaire*) into the theory of mood. I largely set these adjectives aside. Ongoing contextualism/relativism/expressivism debates and debates about graded modality highlight independently contentious issues regarding how the relevant modal parameters are to be represented in the formal semantics, how the context-sensitivity of epistemic normative/evaluative readings is to be implemented, and how the modal backgrounds are determined as a function of context.³ Focusing on attitude and speech-act verbs, whose modal backgrounds are lexically specified as a function of individual arguments, allows us to abstract away from confounding issues regarding the context-sensitivity and modal backgrounds of P&R's modal adjectives. The verbs under consideration highlight the central mood-selection issues and the core challenges for previous theories such as P&R's. I return to modal adjectives in §4.4.

2 Portner & Rubinstein's contextual commitment account of mood

This section examines Portner & Rubinstein's (P&R's) contextual commitment account of verbal mood. I begin with relevant formal background.

Following much semantically-oriented work on mood, P&R use a broadly Kratzerian (1981, 1991) framework in giving the semantics of attitude predicates. Modal expressions are interpreted with respect to two modal backgrounds, or functions from worlds to sets of propositions. Given an evaluation world w , these modal backgrounds determine a modal base $f(w)$ that represents a body of information, and an ordering source $g(w)$ that represents a body of priorities (norms, values, goals, etc.). What modal backgrounds are supplied may depend on context, as with many modal auxiliaries, or be determined by the lexical semantics, as with attitude verbs.

³See e.g. STEPHENSON 2007, YALCIN 2007, VON FINTEL & GILLIES 2010, LASSITER 2011, 2014, KRATZER 2012, MACFARLANE 2014, SILK 2016, 2017, 2018, SWANSON 2016.

For instance, a doxastic attitude verb such as *croire* ‘believe’ takes a modal base that represents the subject’s beliefs. (With attitude verbs, the modal backgrounds may take an individual argument in addition to a world argument. I often include only a world argument when talking about modal bases and ordering sources in general (as in the next sentence). For ease of exposition I sometimes use ‘modal base’ for the modal background f , sometimes for the set of propositions $f(w)$, sometimes for the set of worlds $\cap f(w)$ in which these propositions are true (likewise for ordering sources); context should disambiguate.)

Whereas modal bases must be consistent and include the evaluation world, i.e. $\forall w: w \in \cap f(w)$, ordering sources needn’t have either of these properties. A modal’s ordering source $g(w)$ can be used to generate a preorder on the set of worlds in the modal base $(\cap f(w), \lesssim_{g(w)})$, or on a set of alternative propositions $(C, \leq_{g(w)})$.⁴ What P&R call the “proto-standard analysis of mood” treats subjunctive-selecting predicates as those which take a non-empty ordering source, leading to a comparative semantics — as reflected in the first-pass semantics for *vouloir* ‘want’ in (10), in contrast to the semantics for *croire* ‘believe’ in (11).

$$(10) \quad \llbracket x \text{ vouloir } p \rrbracket^w = 1 \text{ iff } p <_{DES_{x,w}} \neg p$$

$$(11) \quad \llbracket x \text{ croire } p \rrbracket^w = 1 \text{ iff } \cap DOX_{x,w} \subseteq p$$

As P&R observe, indicative-taking verbs such as *espérer* ‘hope’ and *promettre* ‘promise’ pose a challenge for such a view. *Espérer* would presumably be like *vouloir* ‘want’ in taking a bouletic ordering source *DES* that represents the subject’s desires; and *promettre* would presumably be like *ordonner* ‘order’ in taking a deontic ordering source *OBL* that represents the subject’s obligations. A defender of the proto-standard theory might respond by treating *DES/OBL* as modal bases with indicative-taking verbs, presupposing that the relevant desires/obligations are consistent. This would lead to a non-comparative semantics like (12) for *espérer*. Yet saying this undermines the predictiveness of the account. As P&R note, any non-comparative semantics can be reformulated in a comparative way, as in (13) for *croire*, letting $DOX_{x,w}$ be a premise set that represents the ideal of approximating x ’s doxastic state of mind (cf. BITTNER 2011).

⁴The preorder on worlds $\lesssim_{g(w)}$ can be generated from the premise set $g(w)$ in the usual way: for any worlds u, v , $u \lesssim_{g(w)} v := \forall p \in g(w): v \in p \Rightarrow u \in p$. How the ordering on propositions is generated won’t be important for our purposes (see, e.g., KRATZER 1981, 1991, 2012, LASSITER 2014). One might read ‘ $p <_{g(w)} \neg p$ ’ as saying that for every $\neg p$ -world in $\cap f(w)$, there is a p -world in $\cap f(w)$ that satisfies a (possibly improper) superset of propositions in $g(w)$, and not vice versa.

- (12) $\llbracket x \text{ espérer } p \rrbracket^w = 1$ iff $\bigcap DES_{x,w} \subseteq p$
- (13) $\llbracket x \text{ croire } p \rrbracket^w = 1$ iff $p <_{DOX_{x,w}} \neg p$
 (cf. PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2012: 468–469)

Indeed, minimality semantics are commonplace in literatures on belief change and updating (cf. MAKINSON 1993). Absent an independent account of what type of modal background a body of desires, beliefs, obligations, etc. provides in different cases, appealing to a comparative semantics is insufficiently explanatory.

To avoid this problem P&R treat mood selection in terms of commitment to the modal backgrounds associated with the attitude predicate. P&R define the relevant notion of commitment as follows, drawing on RUBINSTEIN 2012 (see also RUBINSTEIN 2014, PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2016). (P&R follow HACQUARD 2006 in treating modal backgrounds as relativized to events, as opposed to worlds; more on this in §4.)

- (14) *Commitment to modal backgrounds (P&R)*
 An individual a is COMMITTED TO a modal background h in event e iff a is disposed/prepared in e to argue for $h(e)$ in a conversationally appropriate way (e.g., by arguing that it is rational/proper/sensible/wise) in any relevant conversation c .

(PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2012: ex. 40)

One is “committed to a modal background” (modal base, ordering source), in P&R’s sense, iff one treats its content (2012: 475) — the information, preferences, etc. — as “reasonable” and is “willing to defend it” (2012: 471). What distinguishes indicative from subjunctive mood, on P&R’s account, is a presupposition of contextual commitment: Indicative presupposes that every individual argument of the predicate is committed (in the sense of (14)) to every modal background associated with the predicate.⁵ Subjunctive lacks such a presupposition; it has no semantic effect.

P&R argue that the defined qualitative notion of commitment explains the contrasting mood-selection properties of otherwise notionally similar predicates: in each case, P&R’s diagnosis is that the indicative-selecting predicate presupposes contextual commitment, and the analogous subjunctive-selecting predicate does not. Take *espérer* ‘hope’ and *vouloir* ‘want’. P&R note that the speaker in (15) can report

⁵Note that what the commitment condition requires is (i) a disposition to argue (not necessarily actual argument), (ii) that the disposition holds in *in e* (the reported event described by the predicate, not necessarily the speech/evaluation event), and (iii) that this disposition in e is to argue in any relevant c (cf. PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2012: 478). We will return to these components.

the king's desire using 'want' but not 'hope'. (For expository purposes I sometimes use the English expression for the item crosslinguistically.)⁶

(15) [Context: The king is being bothered by an uppity bishop and makes his annoyance known to some knights. These knights go and kill the bishop, and when the king hears about it, he is angry because it makes him look bad with the church. The knights respond with (a) or (b).]

- a. Mais vous vouliez qu'il soit tué!
but you wanted that he be.SBJV killed
'But you wanted him to be killed!'
- b. ??Mais vous espérez qu'il serait/est tué!
but you hoped that he be.COND.IND/is.IND killed
??'But you hoped for him to be killed!'

(PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2012: ex. 25)

Contextual commitment provides a diagnosis: The 'hope'-ascription presupposes that the subject (=the king) is committed to his desire for the bishop to be killed. Using 'hope' is anomalous insofar as the king isn't prepared to defend this desire as reasonable in the conversation. By using 'want' the speaker can report the king's desire without implying that the king is committed to it. So, since *espérer* 'hope' presupposes contextual commitment, it selects indicative; since *vouloir* 'want' doesn't, it selects subjunctive.

Similarly, P&R claim that although 'promise' and 'order' both report creations of obligations, they differ with respect to contextual commitment. With promising, "the promiser and promisee must see the thing promised as preferable"; yet with ordering, "the person ordered need not think what they are ordered to do is preferable" (2012: 473). Consider (16)–(17).

(16) Marie a promis à Bill qu'elle amènerait le dessert à la
Marie has promised to Bill that she bring.COND.IND the dessert to the
fête.

party
'Mary promised Bill to bring dessert to the party.'

(17) Marie a demandé à Bill qu'il amène le dessert à la fête.
Marie has demanded to Bill that he bring.SBJV the dessert to the party

'Mary ordered Bill to bring dessert to the party.'

(PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2012: exs. 29–30)

⁶I assume with P&R, following IATRIDOU 2000, that conditional mood is a form of the indicative.

In promising Bill that she will bring dessert, Mary “proposes to bind [herself] with a priority, and [Bill] has no grounds for disputing this” (2012: 473). Hence in promise reports such as (16) there is contextual commitment to the priority — both subject and object are prepared to defend it — and *promettre* selects indicative. By contrast, if Mary orders Bill to bring dessert, “the priority [of Bill’s bringing dessert] may be controversial, ...and [Bill] may dispute it” (2012: 473). Hence in order reports such as (17) there needn’t be contextual commitment to the priority — the object needn’t be prepared to defend it — and *ordonner* selects subjunctive.

(This last move is too quick: What about uses of *ordonner* where the object judges that what is ordered of him/her is appropriate? Or uses of *vouloir* where the subject is prepared to defend her desires as reasonable? P&R explain the fact that indicative still cannot be used in such contexts by positing that, because the contextual commitment condition isn’t in general satisfied, the lexical items have become grammatically associated with subjunctive (2012: 481). We will return to this issue throughout the following sections.)

3 Challenges

This section raises challenges for P&R’s contextual commitment account of mood. For clarity let’s use ‘commitment_{PR}’ for commitment in P&R’s sense, as analyzed in (14): *a* is committed_{PR} to a modal background *h* in *e* iff for all propositions $p \in h(e)$, *a* is prepared to defend that *p* is “reasonable” or “rational/proper/sensible/wise” in any relevant conversation. Likewise let us say that *a* is committed_{PR} to a given proposition *p* in *e* iff *a* is prepared to defend that *p* is reasonable, etc. in any relevant conversation (i.e., iff for some *h* such that $p \in h(e)$, *a* is committed_{PR} to *h* in *e*, as for the trivial case where $h(e) = \{p\}$). The general concern is that this intuitive notion of commitment isn’t fit to explain the full range of data. Contextual commitment_{PR} fails to delineate the classes of indicative- and subjunctive-selecting predicates.

3.1 Desideratives and doxastics

P&R offer the following additional contrasts between ‘hope’ and ‘want’:

- (18) a. He doesn’t fully realize it yet, but Ron wants to date Hermione.
b. ??He doesn’t fully realize it yet, but Ron hopes to date Hermione.
- (19) a. I want to marry Alice and I want to marry Sue.

b. ??I hope to marry Alice and I hope to marry Sue.

(PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2012: EXS. 26–27)

P&R cite (18)–(19) as evidence against accounts which claim that what distinguishes ‘hope’ from ‘want’ is that ‘hope’ requires that the subject believe the complement to be possible: using ‘hope’ in (18b)/(19b) is infelicitous even though the subject believes the complement is possible. Instead P&R claim that using ‘hope’ is infelicitous because the subject isn’t committed_{PR} to the relevant preferences: (18b) is infelicitous since “commitment to a preference, in the relevant sense, requires being aware of it,” and (19b) is infelicitous “since it is impossible to be committed to inconsistent preferences” (2012: 471–472). These explanations are problematic.

Consider (19). *Pace* P&R, it is possible to be committed, in the sense of their account in (14), to conflicting preferences. Commitment_{PR} to conflicting preferences simply requires that the subject be prepared to defend each preference as “reasonable and appropriate” (2012: 462) in any relevant conversation. One can imagine our torn lover in (19) saying, “It would be reasonable for me to marry Alice. We have such deep conversations, and we’ve been through so much together. Yet it’s Sue that I can’t stop thinking about. It would reasonable for me to marry her, too. I adore each of them, and I’m sure I would be happy either way. What to do!” Such a state of mind might incur a practical conflict. But it isn’t impossible.

Note the contrast with belief. Even if it is possible to have inconsistent beliefs, it is impossible to have inconsistent beliefs which are all correct, i.e. true (STALNAKER 1984). Correctness for preferences, however, isn’t truth but desirability; roughly put, a preference is correct if its content is genuinely valuable or worth satisfying (e.g., GIBBARD 1990, 2005, PILLER 2006). As dilemmas with incomparable preferences (values, norms, etc.) highlight, accepting inconsistent priorities might not only be possible but correct (GOWANS 1987, SINNOTT-ARMSTRONG 1988, GOBLE 2013).

P&R’s treatment of (18b) raises problems for their treatment of *croire* ‘believe’. *Croire* is like *espérer* in selecting indicative. However, examples analogous to (18b) with ‘believe’ can be felicitous. (20) reports Bert’s implicit beliefs about women.⁷

(20) [Context: Bert consciously judges that women are equally capable as men in the workplace, but he is also implicitly biased against women. A psychologist examining Bert’s results in an implicit attitudes experiment says:]

Bert doesn’t fully realize it yet, but he thinks that women are less capable

⁷Cf.: “What is happening here, I think, is that he’s [my husband is] revealing what he doesn’t realize he believes: that I’m only doing what I should be doing anyway, whereas he is doing something special, something that isn’t really his job to do.” (www.swistle.com/2006/09)

than men in the workplace, and that their proper place is in the home.

Reporting Bert's implicit attitudes with 'believe' is felicitous even though Bert isn't aware of them and isn't disposed to defend them — indeed, even though Bert is disposed to sincerely deny them. It is interesting that in Williamson's classic discussions of failures of transparency, his paradigm cases are precisely belief and hope:

[O]ne is sometimes in no position to know whether one is in the mental state of hoping *p*. I believe that I do not hope for a particular result to a match; I am conscious of nothing but indifference; then my disappointment at one outcome reveals my hope for another... [Transparency] fails for the state of believing *p*, for the difference between believing *p* and merely fancying *p* depends in part on one's dispositions to practical reasoning and action manifested only in counterfactual circumstances, and one is not always in a position to know what those dispositions are. (WILLIAMSON 2000: 24)

Williamson's hope isn't prepared to defend the preferability of such-and-such team's winning in any relevant conversation; for all he would say, he is indifferent. Examples like (18b) with 'hope' improve insofar as context makes clear one's grounds for attributing the implicit attitudes to the subject, as in (21)–(22).

(21) TW hoped the Giants would win, but he didn't fully realize it at the time.

(22) [Context: Same as (20)]

Bert doesn't fully realize it yet, but he hopes his wife doesn't end up getting the job, so that she can stay home with the kids.

P&R might respond that cases of implicit attitudes, failures of transparency, etc. are exceptional enough as to be ignored by the language faculty. At minimum the felicity of the sorts of examples in (20)–(22) poses a challenge to the explanatoriness of accounting for indicative-selection in terms of commitment_{PR} to modal backgrounds (more on which below).

P&R distinguish 'want' and 'hope' partly in terms of the kinds of preferences they describe. 'Want' describes "visceral" or "glandular" preferences; 'hope' describes "intellectual" preferences (2012: 471). Since "one cannot help one's glandular-buletic preferences..., there's no guarantee they will be defensible" (2012: 479) — hence subjunctive-selection with *vouloir*. These remarks are in tension with P&R's explanation of indicative-selection with *croire*. Belief is also often not up to us. Consider your present occurrent belief that you are reading a paper. Here is Plantinga:

You ask me what I had for breakfast: I find myself believing that what I had for breakfast was a grapefruit. I am appeared to redly; I find myself with the belief that I am perceiving something red... In each of these cases (as in general), I have little or no direct or conscious control. (PLANTINGA 1993: 177)

Debates in philosophy and psychology have concerned whether any beliefs are *voluntary* (ALSTON 1988, BENNETT 1990, a.m.o.).

P&R might reply that that even if we “cannot help” having many of our beliefs, we are still typically prepared to defend them. Examples such as (23)–(24) are perhaps the exception rather than the rule.

- (23) [Context: Same as (20)]
Bert thinks that women are less capable than men in the workplace, but he would deny it if you asked him.
- (24) *Fideist*: I believe that God exists. I have no arguments; indeed my belief may even be contrary to reason. But I can't help but believe, any more than you can help believing that you are reading this example.

Likewise for (25) with ‘hope’.

- (25) TW hopes the Giants will win, but he would deny it if you asked him.

The exceptionality of such examples might warrant treating *croire* and *espérer* as lexically associated with indicative, and hence as licensing indicative even when the commitment_{PR} presupposition isn't satisfied. Although P&R speculate that grammaticalized mood may only occur with subjunctive-selecting predicates — as mentioned in §2 with *vouloir* and *ordonner* (2012: 481–482) — perhaps P&R might treat *croire* and *espérer* as cases of grammaticalized indicative.

Appealing to grammaticalization in these ways for the paradigm indicative-selecting and subjunctive-selecting predicates threatens the explanatory and predictive power of P&R's commitment-based semantic definition of mood. It is incorrect that the contextual commitment_{PR} presupposition “is guaranteed to be satisfied [with *croire*], in virtue of the nature of believing events,” or that the presupposition “would not typically be satisfied [with *vouloir*], in virtue of the nature of wanting events” (2012: 477). We are typically prepared to defend our preferences as well as our beliefs; conversely, we sometimes have beliefs as well as preferences which we wouldn't defend. Given P&R's contextual commitment account, one could just as easily have speculated (e.g.) that *croire* would be lexically associated with subjunctive: to parrot P&R's

remark quoted above (p. 479), “One cannot help one’s beliefs, and because of this, there’s no guarantee they will be defensible. Nevertheless, we may want to describe them, so a verb like ‘believe’ is essential.” I don’t deny that some degree of grammaticalization is involved in mood selection, or that grammaticalization can be arbitrary (cf. PALMER 1977: 21). The question is whether specific choices in matters of mood selection are best explained in terms of contextual commitment_{PR}.

P&R’s treatment of *espérer* vs. *vouloir* raises questions about mood selection with emotive factives (e.g., *regretter* ‘regret’, *être heureux* ‘be happy’). Uses of emotive factives imply that the subject believes the complement, and thus presumably that the subject is committed_{PR} to the modal base that entails it. Further there doesn’t seem to be anything necessarily “visceral” or “glandular” about the relevant preferences. The attitudes described by emotive factives don’t in general seem any less “intellectual” than those described by *espérer* ‘hope’. Yet emotive factives generally select subjunctive in French. It isn’t obvious how to explain this simply in terms of dispositions to defend modal backgrounds.

3.2 Commissives and directives

P&R explain the contrasting mood-selection properties of *promettre* ‘promise’ and *ordonner* ‘order’ in terms of whether the verb’s object need be committed_{PR} to the deontic ordering source: whereas both promisor and promisee must be committed_{PR} to what is promised, the object of an order needn’t be committed_{PR} to what is ordered; hence *promettre* selects indicative, and *ordonner* selects subjunctive.

Start with P&R’s account of promising. P&R follow Searle in treating it as a necessary condition on promising that the promisee view what is promised as preferable; in order for X to promise Y that Z, Y must find it preferable that Z (2012: 473). Note that in order for the contextual commitment presupposition to be satisfied, it isn’t sufficient that the promisor believe that the promisee would view what is promised as preferable; the promisee, as the object of *promettre*, must actually view what is promised as preferable. That is, an act doesn’t count as a promise unless the promisor and promisee are each committed_{PR} to the priority.⁸

There are well-known difficulties for this view about the nature of promising (e.g. GRANT 1949, HARNISH 1990, LAUER 2013). First, there are cases in which one erroneously believes that the promisee has an interest in what is promised, as in (26).

⁸I use ‘promisor’ and ‘promisee’ both in the successful cases, where the intended promise is made, and in the unsuccessful cases, where the act doesn’t count as a promise.

- (26) Clara promised her dying father that she would spread his ashes over the Seine, not realizing that he actually wanted them spread over the Saône.

Intuitively, Clara didn't merely try or intend to make a promise to her father; she actually did. In promises as threats the promisor even knows that the promisee wouldn't defend the priority, as in (27).

- (27) David promised his sister that he would make her life miserable.

It is precisely in making the promise — in committing to a course of action that his sister disprefers — that David threatens his sister. There may even be cases in which the subject of the promise doesn't view what is promised as preferable, as in (28).

- (28) I promised the terrorist that I would kill the other hostages if he held off his plan for ten minutes. But I knew that the police were on their way, and that it would never come to that. I would never do such a thing.

The subject in (28) isn't "prepared to defend" the preferability of killing the hostages in any conversation.^{9,10}

P&R might reply that examples such as (26)–(28) are exceptional cases of promis-

⁹Native French speakers in an Amazon Mechanical Turk task uniformly translated examples such as (26)–(28) with indicative on the embedded verb, as e.g. in (i) (n. 6). (Likewise for examples such as (20)/(22) with *croire/espérer*.)

- (i) David a promis à sa soeur qu'il rendrait sa vie misérable.
David has promised to his sister that he make.COND.IND her life miserable

¹⁰A reviewer asks whether P&R might address some of the counterexamples by weakening the commitment presupposition to require the individual arguments to have a disposition to defend the relevant propositions in the reported event e , rather than in any relevant conversation c . In (26), although Clara's father wasn't actually prepared to defend the ashes-in-the-Seine priority, Clara assumed when making the promise (in e) that he was; likewise for (28). However, the commitment presupposition is about what the individuals are in fact disposed in the reported event e to do. So the weakened presupposition — that the individuals are disposed in e to defend the propositions $p \in h(e)$ in e — is still violated in contexts like (26)/(28) where the speaker knows that one of the individuals didn't actually have such a disposition in e . Could the presupposition be revised further, to require that every individual argument presuppose in e that every individual argument is (would be?) disposed in e to defend the proposition in e ? No: First, neither revised condition helps with examples such as (27) or non-transparency examples like (20)–(22) from §3.1 (see also the examples below with directives and *permettre*, and (36)–(38) with fiction verbs). Second, the revised conditions incur problems with certain of P&R's core examples. For instance, P&R's explanation of the infelicity of *espérer* 'hope' in (15) turns on the fact that the king isn't prepared in the speech event e^* — an event presumably among the "relevant" conversations — to defend his earlier "visceral" desire for the bishop to be killed.

ing. P&R might posit that insofar as the contextual commitment_{PR} condition is generally satisfied with *promettre* — or at least generally satisfied in paradigm cases of promising — *promettre* has become lexically associated with indicative mood. As with ‘believe’ and ‘hope’ in §3.1, such a move weakens the predictiveness of the account. It might be that in paradigm cases of promising both subject and object are committed_{PR} to what is promised, and so it might not be surprising to find languages such as French that lexicalize indicative with commissives. However, unlike ‘believe’ and ‘hope’, indicative-selection with commissives such as ‘promise’ is cross-linguistically robust. One is left wondering why some languages wouldn’t treat the types of promises in (26)–(27), if not also (28), as relevant to mood selection. The positive account in §4 derives indicative-selection with commissives without assuming that contentious substantive assumptions about the nature of promising have been encoded in the conventional meaning across languages.

Now turn to P&R’s claims about the differences between promising and ordering vis-à-vis contextual commitment_{PR}. There are two issues here which aren’t delineated in P&R’s discussion (2012: 472–473, 480–481): (i) whether, upon performance of the utterance, it need be presupposed that the subject and object are prepared to defend the priority as preferable; and (ii) whether, upon performance of the utterance, the promise or order is “automatically in effect” (2012: 473), i.e. whether the priority is automatically added to the deontic ordering source. Neither way of understanding contextual commitment_{PR} captures the mood-selection contrasts between commissives and directives.

P&R are certainly correct that one can be ordered to do something that one doesn’t think is preferable. So, on the one hand, if P&R take the relevant sense of commitment_{PR} to be as in (i), I agree that ‘order’ doesn’t presuppose contextual commitment_{PR}. However, as illustrated above, neither does ‘promise’.

On the other hand, if P&R take the relevant sense of commitment_{PR} to be as in (ii), it is no longer clear that directives don’t presuppose contextual commitment_{PR}. Following Portner’s seminal work, imperatives are often taken as directly updating the addressee’s To-do List, the set of acts she is contextually committed to performing (PORTNER 2004, 2007; cf. NINAN 2005, PORTNER 2009, CHARLOW 2011). This view is taken to capture the oft-observed anomalousness of sentences such as (29).

- (29) a. Leave! — #even though I know you won’t.
 b. #Mary must leave now, but I know she won’t. (PORTNER 2009: 190)

Feliculously using an imperative commits the addressee to the priority in the sense of committing her to (intending to) satisfy it, at least for purposes of conversa-

tion. In Portner’s and Rubinstein’s broader work, imperatives and strong necessity modals are explicitly treated as presupposing contextual commitment_{PR} (RUBINSTEIN 2012, 2014, PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2016). But if directive verbs report issuances of directives and themselves issue directives in performative uses, it is unclear why they would differ from other directive constructions with respect to contextual commitment_{PR}.

Parallel concerns arise for similar predicates such as *permettre* ‘permit’. On the one hand, ‘permit’ would seem to be like ‘promise’ in that the permitter and permittee typically both regard what is permitted to be of value to the permittee. One usually permits people do things they would want to do, as in (30). Examples such as (31) are typically anomalous.

(30) Elaine’s mother permitted her to go to the party.

(31) #I permit you to go to the library, but I know you don’t want to.

On the other hand, also like ‘promise’, there are cases in which the subject or object of ‘permit’ doesn’t find what is permitted to be preferable, as in (32)–(33).

(32) [Context: Elaine wants to go to the party later, instead of visiting her grandmother like she said she would. Elaine’s mother would prefer that she not go to the party.]

Elaine’s mother permitted her to go to the party, but it was really a test to see if Elaine would choose on her own to visit her grandmother.

(33) She permitted him to stay for dessert, not realizing that he was already full and wanted to leave the table.

What, then, would P&R predict about the mood-selection properties of *permettre*? Would they treat examples like (30) as the norm and predict that *permettre* (grammatically) selects indicative, as with *promettre*? Or would they predict that “Because the commitment condition... is not in general satisfied with” *permettre*, in light of examples like (32)–(33), *permettre* grammatically selects subjunctive, as with *ordonner*? (In fact *permettre* patterns with *ordonner* in selecting subjunctive.)

3.3 Fiction verbs

Fiction verbs (‘dream’, ‘imagine’) generally select indicative across languages; French is no exception. Though P&R don’t discuss indicative-selection with fiction verbs, their remarks on veridicality suggest an explanation in terms of contextual commitment_{PR}:

Thinking about the indicative in terms of contextual commitment captures the persistent intuition in the literature that indicative-selecting attitudes take into account all the relevant things that an attitude holder takes to be true — be it in reality, in the context of a dream, or in a conversation (Farkas 1992; Giannakidou 1994, 1995, 1997, 1999; Quer 2001). An attitude holder would defend all and only those propositions that he or she thinks¹¹ accurately describe the relevant “reality,” and thus there is an overlap between Giannakidou’s notion of veridicality and contextual commitment to epistemic backgrounds. (PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2012: 482)

P&R’s response is too quick.

As we have seen, P&R treat indicative as requiring commitment to the specific content of a modal background; one must be prepared to defend the propositions in the modal base and ordering source as “rational/proper/sensible/wise” (2012: 475, 477–481). It is unclear how the subjects of fiction verbs satisfy this condition. Suppose I imagine a world with unicorns, flying pigs, etc., so that the modal base for ‘imagine’ in (34) includes propositions that there are unicorns, that there are flying pigs, etc.

- (34) J’ai imaginé que les cochons volent.
I imagined that pigs fly.IND

I was not prepared to argue that there are unicorns, that there are flying pigs, etc. “in any relevant conversation.” I might not even have been prepared to do so while I was imagining. Yet these are the propositions that “accurately describe the relevant ‘reality,’” i.e. what I was imagining.

It is worth unpacking these points. P&R’s contextual commitment presupposition requires that “*a* is disposed/prepared in *e* to argue for *h(e)*... in any relevant conversation *c*” (2012: 477). It is important to be clear about the event in which the subject is presupposed to be “disposed/prepared to defend” the modal background, and what the disposition amounts to: one must have a certain disposition in the event *e* described by the predicate; the disposition must be to defend such-and-such propositions in any relevant *c*. In (34)/(35) the presupposition requires that the subject be prepared in the event of imagining/dreaming to defend that pigs fly.

¹¹P&R smuggle in that the subject has a higher-order belief about the content of the modal background. This doesn’t follow from their analysis as stated. See below.

- (35) Alice a rêvé que les cochons volent.
 Alice dreamed that pigs fly.IND

Of course one needn't be prepared to defend that pigs fly in the actual circumstance — an event of, say, sitting at one's desk daydreaming, or lying in bed having an unconscious experience, ill-disposed to do much of anything. One could be in a permanent coma. But note that one needn't have the “disposition to defend” internal to the dream (imagining, etc.) either. We can dream that we don't have dispositions to defend things happening in our dreams, as in (37)–(38), schematized in (36).

- (36) J'ai rêvé/imaginé que p .IND et que je n'étais pas disposé à
 I imagined/dreamed that p .IND and that I was.IND not disposed to
 défendre que p
 defend that p
 a. \approx “there was an event e , it was a dreaming/imagining event, of which
 a was the agent, the content of which included (inter alia) p , and in
 which a wasn't disposed to defend p ”
- (37) I dreamed that there were aliens and I didn't believe that there were and
 would deny it forever.
- (38) *Trump*: I had a terrible nightmare: I dreamed that global warming was real
 but I wouldn't stop denying it, right up until the end when it killed
 us all.

Wilder dreams have been had.

Distinguish (i) commitment_{PR} , i.e. commitment to the specific content of a modal background, and (ii) commitment to thinking that a modal background correctly represents the relevant information or priorities. Could P&R capture indicative-selection with fiction verbs by revising their account and treating the relevant notion of commitment as commitment in the sense of (ii)?¹² No. Even putting aside

¹²Although P&R are explicit in treating commitment_{PR} as commitment to the propositions in the modal base or ordering source, there is an additional complication in cases where one is uncertain about the specific content of a modal background at the evaluation world. Suppose one endorses whatever the Pope demands, but one is unsure what he has actually demanded. One might not be prepared to defend the specific propositions in $g_{\text{pope}}(w)$ as “rational,” etc., yet intuitively one is still committed $_{PR}$ to the modal background representing the Pope's demands. P&R might revise the account of commitment_{PR} to require having corresponding conditional dispositions, e.g. a disposition to defend p given that the Pope said $!p$. Yet this move would undermine their account of the anomalousness of (18b), where they “assum[e] that commitment to a preference, in the relevant sense, requires being aware of it” (2012: 471–472).

examples such as (36)–(38), such a move excludes by linguistic fiat the possibility of non-transparency about one’s attitudes (about the speech acts one is involved in, etc.). We observed various such examples in the preceding sections. One cannot refute Williamson by citing a French grammar. Even if one could, the individual arguments of subjunctive-selecting verbs satisfy the commitment condition in sense-(ii) as well. The subject of *vouloir* in (39) may not be prepared to argue that her “glandular preference” for a cigarette is reasonable; she lacks sense-(i) commitment_{PR}. But she is prepared to argue that an ordering source which includes the proposition that she has a cigarette accurately describes her glandular preferences; she has sense-(ii) commitment.

- (39) [Context: You are at your doctor’s office for a checkup. He tells you what bad shape your lungs are in. If you continue to smoke, you will soon die.]
 O mon Dieu! Avec tout ce stress, je veux/??j’espère vraiment fumer
 O my God with all this stress I want/??hope truly smoke.INF
 une cigarette dès que je sortirai.
 a cigarette from that I leave
 ‘Oh gosh, Doctor, with all this stress I really want/??hope to have a cigarette as soon as I leave!’

(PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2012: ex. 24)

Likewise the subject in (40) may think that it is impossible to build a perpetual motion machine, and thus not be prepared to “argue in favor of all of the propositions which would need to be in the [modal base] in order for [(40)] to be true” (2012: 479). But she may still be prepared to argue that such propositions accurately describe the “reality according to her glandular desire,” or how the world would need to be for a perpetual motion machine to be possible.

- (40) I want/??hope to build a perpetual motion machine.

(PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2012: ex. 28)

Presupposing sense-(ii) commitment in (39)–(40) is nothing more than a general Quality commitment that what one is saying is true.

P&R aren’t alone in having issues with fiction verbs. Indicative-selection with fiction verbs is puzzling from the perspective of traditional accounts of mood in terms of realis/irrealis, since the contents of dreams, imaginings, etc. don’t generally correspond to reality. A common move in the literature is to treat fiction verbs as analogous to other indicative-selecting verbs in representing a “reality,” albeit a fictional one. Giannakidou expresses the idea well:

When I dream or imagine something, as a dreamer, I am fully committed to the fictional reality of my dream... fictional reality replaces the actual one...: *dream* shifts the model of evaluation... to the [model of the dreamer, i.e. the set of worlds compatible with the subject's dream]. All worlds in that space are *p* worlds, since reality no longer plays a role... This suggests that the grammar treats fictional contexts as shifted, non-partitioned states where veridicality holds *as if* in the real world. Hence, dream and fiction verbs are subjectively... veridical. (GIANNAKIDOU 2016: 21–22)

This is unexplanatory. Any modal background characterizes a set of “best worlds” at which a proposition may be true or false.¹³ One’s desires characterize a set of worlds that best satisfy one’s desires, a “desire model” representing “the ideal reality of one’s desires.” Why, then, do natural languages systematically treat “fictional realities,” but not the “ideal realities” of subjects’ desires, as relevantly like actuality? Or treat dreaming, but not wanting, as generally involving a kind of commitment relevantly like the commitment in (say) knowing? An account of the operative notions of “reality” or “commitment” must be provided to explain the relevant similarity between fiction verbs and other indicative-selecting verbs. Intuitive appeals to fictional realities, or commitment “in the context of a dream,” are insufficient.

3.4 Recap

Let’s recap. A key innovation in P&R’s account is to treat mood selection as fundamentally depending on a relation between individuals’ attitudes and the embedding predicate’s modal backgrounds, rather than (e.g.) on attitudes about the truth value of the complement. P&R argue that what distinguishes indicative-selecting verbs in French is that they presuppose contextual commitment_{PR} to the verb’s modal backgrounds: indicative-selecting verbs presuppose that every individual argument of the verb is prepared to defend the reasonableness of the specific propositions in the modal base/ordering source; subjunctive-selecting verbs lack this presupposition. I argued that P&R’s understanding of “contextual commitment to a modal background” doesn’t capture subjunctive-selection with emotive factives, indicative-selection with *croire* or verbs of fiction, or the contrasting mood-selection properties of *espérer* vs. *vouloir* or *promettre* vs. *ordonner*. Pace P&R, it isn’t in “the nature of” believing, hoping, promising, etc. that the subjects/objects need be disposed to defend the information or priorities in question “in any relevant conversation” (2012:

¹³In Kratzerian terms (given the limit assumption): a set of $\lesssim_{g(w)}$ -minimal worlds in $\cap f(w)$.

477). I suggested that P&R might revise their view and treat the relevant indicative-selecting predicates as grammatically associated with indicative, parallel to how P&R ultimately treat certain subjunctive-selecting predicates (e.g. *vouloir*, *ordonner*) as grammatically associated with subjunctive. Yet such moves threaten the explanatory and predictive power of P&R’s semantic analysis of mood in terms of contextual commitment_{PR}, even for the central puzzle cases which the account was designed to explain. The distinction between predicates that do/don’t presuppose contextual commitment_{PR} cuts across the distinction between indicative-selecting/subjunctive-selecting predicates.¹⁴

The commitment-based approach developed in §4 provides a more explanatory account of the core puzzle cases from §§1–3. The proposed analysis of mood derives the relevant mood-selection data without relying on grammaticalized mood or treating contentious substantive assumptions about the nature of promising, etc. as conventionalized in the semantics. Appeals to vague informal notions such as “visceral”/“glandular” vs. “intellectual” attitudes, or commitments “in the context of a dream,” won’t be required.

4 Mood selection and states of mind

This section develops an alternative approach to integrating a notion of commitment in an account of verbal mood. I agree with P&R that mood selection fundamentally depends on a relation between individuals’ attitudes and the predicate’s modal backgrounds; however, I deny that the relation is commitment_{PR} in P&R’s sense. P&R’s general strategy is to explain mood selection in terms of whether the individuals in the attitude event are “committed,” in a qualitatively defined sense, to the predicate’s modal backgrounds. An alternative approach is to explain mood selection in terms of whether the relation between the predicate’s modal backgrounds and a relevant overall state of mind represents a relation of commitment. I call the general approach a state-of-mind approach to verbal mood.

¹⁴P&R suggest in closing that contextual commitment may help explain phenomena beyond mood selection, such as the distinction between weak necessity modals (‘ought’, ‘should’) and strong necessity modals (‘must’, ‘have to’) (2012: 484). RUBINSTEIN 2012 argues that what distinguishes weak vs. strong necessity modals is that strong necessity modals presuppose collective commitment_{PR} to the relevant modal backgrounds, and weak necessity modals presuppose a lack of collective commitment_{PR}. See SILK 2018 for extended critical discussion, and an alternative theory of the weak/strong necessity modal distinction and the interactions with contextual assumptions. It isn’t commitment to the content of modal backgrounds that explains differences in mood selection or modal strength.

To preview: I propose that indicative mood in French presupposes that the predicate’s modal backgrounds are “live” (in a manner to be made precise) from the perspective of the state of mind characterizing the event described by the predicate. Indicative-selecting predicates “presuppose commitment,” not in the sense of presupposing a commitment to the truth of the complement or of presupposing a disposition to defend the reasonableness of the propositions in the predicate’s modal base/ordering source, but in the sense of presupposing that the informational-evaluative state determined by the predicate’s modal backgrounds is a substate of the informational-evaluative state characterizing the local attitude/discourse event. These ideas can be given an elegant formalization. The account captures the core mood-selection puzzles from §1, and provides an improved treatment of the §3-examples which posed challenges for P&R. Patterns of mood selection are derived from the proposed semantics of mood, independently attested features of the verbs’ semantics, and general principles of interpretation.

4.1 Background and analysis

The state-of-mind approach analyzes verbal mood in terms of a relation between a predicate’s modal backgrounds and a representation of an overall state of mind — in French, a representation of the state of mind characterizing the event described by the predicate. How exactly one implements the approach will depend on one’s broader views about the morphosyntax and semantics of the embedding predicates and of the root and embedded clauses, and one’s substantive views about the representation of context and attitude states. Let’s start with the latter.

It’s common to include in a model of context a parameter representing information taken for granted for the purposes of conversation. This background information, or *common ground* (*CG*), delimits the set of live possibilities in the discourse, i.e. the worlds among which the participants intend to distinguish, or *context set* ($CS = \cap CG$) (STALNAKER 1978, 2014, CLARK 1996). In making assertions we winnow down the context set and settle on a more complete picture of the world. Yet conversation doesn’t just involve sharing information. Inquiry is, in part, inquiry about what to do. It is thus also common to include a parameter representing (roughly) the norms or priorities accepted for purposes of conversation (LEWIS 1979, LOCHBAUM 1998, PORTNER 2004, 2007, STARR 2010, CHARLOW 2011, RUBINSTEIN 2012, ZANUTTINI ET AL. 2012). These contextual parameters determine a preordered set (CS, \lesssim_{CP}) — the set of live possibilities *CS* preordered in light of the accepted body of priorities *CP* (n. 4). This represents the *discourse context*, the body

of information and priorities presumed available for communication.¹⁵

Just as concrete discourse contexts can be represented by a body of information and priorities, so too subjects' concrete (content-bearing) attitudes and overall states of mind. For a discourse, the information is CG and the priorities are CP , yielding a preordered set of live possibilities (CS, \lesssim_{CP}) . For an attitude, the representation targets information and priorities characterizing the attitude event — for instance, the subject's propositional beliefs DOX and desires DES , yielding a preordered set of doxastic alternatives $(\cap DOX_{x,w}, \lesssim_{DES_{x,w}})$.

A central insight in Hacquard's (2006, 2010, ANAND & HACQUARD 2014) work on modal and attitude semantics is the linguistic importance of a distinction between content-bearing and non-content-bearing events, and a notion of the content characterizing an event. As Hacquard emphasizes, a distinctive feature of attitude and speech events is that they are conceptualized as having informational content. The present appeal to *states of mind* generalizes these ideas and extends them to the domain of verbal mood. The state of mind characterizing an (attitude, speech) event may include both doxastic and broadly evaluative aspects.

Call a pair of a body of information and body of priorities a *modal state*. Our hypothesis about mood selection in French can then be characterized in terms of a relation between the modal state determined by the predicate's modal backgrounds and the modal state representing the state of mind characterizing the event described by the predicate. To fix ideas I follow P&R in treating mood morphemes in complement clauses as licensed by mood features adjoined to the embedding predicate, as in (41)–(42). Lexical entries for the indicative-licensing feature and subjunctive-licensing feature are given in (44)–(45). Simplified truth conditions for (41) follow in (46). (Like P&R, I follow HACQUARD (2006, 2010) in treating modal backgrounds as relativized to events, and I assume that the predicate's individual arguments are introduced by thematic roles. *SoM* is a partial function from events e to preordered sets of worlds representing the informational-evaluative content of the state of mind characterizing e . More on these points below.)¹⁶

¹⁵I ignore potential additional parameters such as for the Question Under Discussion (ROBERTS 1996, GINZBURG 2012), or explicit representations of interlocutors' individual public commitments (GUNLOGSON 2001, 2008, FARKAS & BRUCE 2010, LAUER 2013, MALAMUD & STEPHENSON 2015).

¹⁶The alternative formulations in (43) aren't strictly speaking equivalent, as the required subset relation among the preorders \lesssim, \lesssim' in (43a) is restricted to worlds in the respective preordered sets. This is to reflect the conceptual point that mood selection is sensitive to a relation between informational-evaluative states. Insofar as one treats the preordered sets of worlds as basic in the representation of such states, it is natural to restrict attention in this way. The presuppositions in (44)/(46) use the ordering semantics formalization in (43a).

- (41) Alice [[[[+*ind*] croit] f] g] que Blanche être-ind végétarienne.
Alice thinks that Blanche be-indic vegetarian
- (42) Alice [[[[+*sbjv*] veut] f] g] que Blanche être-sbjv végétarienne.
Alice thinks that Blanche be-sbjv vegetarian
- (43) *Live modal states (ordering semantics, premise semantics)*
Let F, F', G, G' be sets of propositions; let S, S' be sets of worlds; and let \lesssim, \lesssim' be preorders on worlds.
- $(S, \lesssim) \triangleleft (S', \lesssim')$ (read: the modal state (S, \lesssim) is *live* from the perspective of (S', \lesssim')) iff (S, \lesssim) is a subpreorder of (S', \lesssim') , i.e. iff $S \subseteq S' \wedge (\lesssim \cap S^2) \subseteq (\lesssim' \cap S'^2)$, where $X^2 = \{\langle i, j \rangle : i \in X \wedge j \in X\}$.
 - $(F, G) \triangleleft (F', G')$ iff $F \supseteq F' \wedge G \supseteq G'$.
- (44) $\llbracket [+_{ind}] \rrbracket^w = \lambda P \lambda f \lambda g \lambda p \lambda e : (\cap f(e), \lesssim_{g(e)}) \triangleleft SoM(e) . P(f)(g)(p)(e)$
- (45) $\llbracket [+_{sbjv}] \rrbracket^w = \lambda P \lambda f \lambda g \lambda p \lambda e . P(f)(g)(p)(e)$
- (46) $\llbracket (41) \rrbracket^w$ is defined only if $(\cap f_{bel}(e), \lesssim_{g_{bel}(e)}) \triangleleft SoM(e)$. When defined, $\llbracket (41) \rrbracket^w = 1$ iff $\exists e[e \text{ in } w \wedge bel(e) \wedge exp(e, A) \wedge \text{for every } \lesssim_{g_{bel}(e)}\text{-minimal world } w' \text{ in } \cap f_{bel}(e), \text{ Blanche is vegetarian in } w']$

The subjunctive feature, [+*sbjv*], is semantically vacuous. [+*sbjv*] appears when more contentful mood features, such as [+*ind*], are unavailable; in this sense it serves as a semantic default (PORTNER 1997, SCHLENKER 2005, MARQUES 2009, SIEGEL 2009, PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2012). The indicative feature, [+*ind*], is the semantically marked case. Roughly put, indicative mood in a clause is associated with a presupposition that the modal evaluation of the clause only considers worlds and evaluative relations that aren't excluded by the information and priorities characterizing the local attitude/discourse event. [+*ind*] requires that the modal state determined by the predicate's semantics $(\cap f_P(e), \lesssim_{g_P(e)})$ — the modal state figuring in the compositional semantic evaluation of the complement — be *live* in the sense of being included in, or a substate of, the modal state $SoM(e)$ representing the informational-evaluative content (“state of mind”) of the event described by the predicate. The proposal admits of an elegant formalization: the preordered set $(\cap f_P(e), \lesssim_{g_P(e)})$ must be a subpreorder of $SoM(e)$.

The representations of concrete discourses and attitude states could be complicated in various ways. For instance, PORTNER (2004, 2007) associates each interlocutor with her own To-do List, and treats the elements of To-do Lists as properties. The evaluative component in representations of discourse and attitudes could also be partitioned into subtypes or treated as a sequence in order to explicitly rep-

resent different types of priorities (norms, values, goals, etc.; cf. PORTNER 2007). The presupposition in (44) could be revised accordingly to require that the preorder determined by the predicate’s modal background g_p be a subset of the relevant coordinate/subtype of the priority-based sequence/partition in $SoM(e)$. Given our purposes I bracket such potential complications. In general, what will be important for mood selection is whether the modal parameter in question bears the appropriate logical relation to the analogous component in the representation of context. In the explanations to follow I assume that the preorders/premise sets represent priorities of the relevant type, and I treat contextual bodies of priorities, like ordering sources, as sets of propositions.

The remainder of the section applies the above analysis to the mood-selection puzzles from §1. Before considering specific applications, a general remark on the theoretical status of “states of mind” and their role in explaining mood data may be helpful. The state-of-mind predicate ‘ SoM ’ is a metalanguage predicate for a relation between events and representations of informational-evaluative states; SoM isn’t something lexically specific like modal backgrounds (cf. Hacquard’s (2006, 2010) metalanguage ‘ CON ’ predicate). So it is misplaced to ask about the state of mind “associated with” specific predicates, like one might ask about the modal backgrounds of ‘want’ vs. ‘hope’, etc. My only assumption is that concrete discourse events and concrete attitude events — the sorts of events described by speech-act predicates and attitude predicates — have information-evaluative content as indicated above: for a discourse event e , $SoM(e)$ may represent the mutually presupposed information and priorities in e , (CS_e, \lesssim_{CP_e}) ; and for an attitude event e , $SoM(e)$ may represent the subject’s doxastic+ affective state in e , e.g. $(\cap DOX_e, \lesssim_{DES_e})$.¹⁷ The goal in what follows is to derive the mood-selection data from (i) this general assumption about the informational-evaluative content of discourse events and attitude events, (ii) independent linguistic evidence about the predicates’ specific modal backgrounds, and (iii) general interpretive principles.

4.2 Applications

This section applies the proposal from §4.1 to the central puzzle cases discussed in §§1–3. I start in §§4.2.1–4.2.4 with attitude predicates (narrowly construed; n. 1); §§4.2.5–4.2.6 turn to speech-act predicates.

¹⁷I use ‘ DOX_e ’ as short for ‘ $DOX(\iota x exp(e, x), w)$ ’, the set of propositions representing the beliefs of the subject/experiencer of e ; likewise for ‘ DES_e ’ and the subject’s desires.

4.2.1 Indicative-selection with *croire*

Croire ‘believe’ takes a doxastic modal base $f_{bel}(e)$ representing the beliefs of the agent of e . *Croire* might take an additional doxastic modal background as ordering source, e.g. reflecting the subject’s attitudes about normality or probabilities. For simplicity we can bracket this potential complication, and treat doxastic ordering sources g_{bel} and preorders \lesssim_{dox} as trivial in representations of context and attitudes. As an attitude verb, *croire* describes an aspect of an attitude event e . The informational-evaluative content of the event — the “state of mind” characterizing it, $SoM(e)$ — is the subject’s overall doxastic-evaluative state of mind. Hence the presupposition of $[+_ind]$ is invariably satisfied, since the predicate’s modal base and ordering source are equivalent to the analogous components in the representation of the subject’s state of mind (see §4.1): $f_{bel}(e) = DOX_e$, and $\lesssim_{g_{bel}(e)} = \lesssim_{dox_e} = \lesssim_{\emptyset}$. Given a principle such as *Maximize Presupposition!* (HEIM 1991),¹⁸ indicative mood is selected.

This account of *croire* avoids the difficulties with P&R’s account discussed in §3.1. Recall, for instance, (20) and (23), reproduced below.

- (47) [Context: Same as (20)]
- a. Bert doesn’t fully realize it yet, but he thinks that women are less capable than men in the workplace, and that their proper place is in the home.
 - b. Bert thinks that women are less capable than men in the workplace, but he would deny it if you asked him.

The indicative presupposition in (44) doesn’t require that the subject be disposed to argue for the propositions in $f_{bel}(e)$. It requires that the modal state figuring in the predicate’s semantics be included in the modal state representing the subject’s state of mind — here, that $\cap f_{bel}(e) \subseteq \cap DOX_e$. Whether the subject is introspectively aware of her state of mind, and how exactly her state of mind is reflected in her (verbal) dispositions, are other matters.

4.2.2 Indicative-selection with fiction verbs

The above account of indicative-selection with *croire* can be extended to fiction verbs. For instance, *rêver* ‘dream’ takes a modal base that represents the content of the subject’s dream. (Like with *croire*, let’s assume the ordering source is empty.) As

¹⁸Roughly: when sentences S and S' are contextual alternatives with the same asserted content and S' has stronger presuppositions, S' ought to be used.

an attitude verb, *rêver* describes an attitude event, namely a dreaming event e . The informational-evaluative content of e , $SoM(e)$, is the content of the dream. Hence the presupposition of $[+_ind]$ is invariably satisfied: like with *croire*, it is trivially the case that $(\cap f_{dream}(e), \lesssim_{g_{dream}(e)}) \trianglelefteq SoM(e)$; the modal states are equivalent. A state-of-mind approach gives precise expression to intuitive appeals to “fictional realities,” or commitments “in the context of a dream,” in previous accounts.

4.2.3 Indicative-selection with *espérer* vs. subjunctive-selection with *vouloir*

Espérer ‘hope’ and *vouloir* ‘want’ are both desire verbs, yet *espérer* selects indicative and *vouloir* selects subjunctive. As attitude verbs they describe aspects of attitude events e . The type of informational-evaluative content of the events is the same: $SoM(e)$ represents the subject’s overall state of mind. The contrast in mood selection between *espérer* and *vouloir* can be derived from the relation between this common element and independently attested differences in the verbs’ semantics.

First schematically: Suppose we have some desire predicate ‘ D ’; its ordering source g_D represents the subject’s desires, and we are inquiring about the relation between its modal base f_D and the subject’s beliefs. It is common in literatures on modal expressions to posit a *diversity condition* on modal bases in order to avoid trivialities in the derivation of truth-conditions (FRANK 1996, CONDORAVDI 2002, WERNER 2003; terminology varies). For present purposes we can treat such a condition as requiring that any non-empty ordering source non-trivially distinguish among worlds in the modal base with respect to the embedded proposition p — formally, that for any $g(e) \neq \emptyset$, there is some p -world u and some $\neg p$ -world v in $\cap f(e)$ such that $u \not\lesssim_{g(e)} v \vee v \not\lesssim_{g(e)} u$. Given the diversity condition, $\cap f_D(e)$ must include some $\neg p$ -worlds, for any use of ‘ D ’ with complement ‘ p ’. There are various ways the satisfaction of this requirement might play out in the lexical semantics and behavior of the predicate. ‘ D ’ might simply take a modal base that represents the subject’s beliefs, i.e. $f_D = DOX$. Sentences ‘ $x D p$ ’ would then imply that x ’s beliefs are compatible with $\neg p$. Alternatively, ‘ D ’ might take a modal base that represents some subset of the subject’s beliefs, so that $\cap f_D(e) \supset \cap DOX_e$. Sentences ‘ $x D p$ ’ then needn’t imply that x takes $\neg p$ to be possible, since the $\neg p$ -worlds in $\cap f_D(e)$ satisfying the diversity condition may be outside x ’s doxastic alternatives, i.e. in $\cap f_D(e) - \cap DOX_e$.

I suggest that ‘hope’ and ‘want, and their cross-linguistic correlates, lexicalize precisely these options. The contrasting mood-selection properties of *espérer* and *vouloir* fall out as a consequence, given (i) our (linguistic) analysis of mood morphemes and (ii) our general (non-linguistic) assumption that the informational-evaluative content of an attitude event represents the subject’s overall state of mind.

Put another way, we can reason as follows: Assume as a working hypothesis that *espérer* and *vouloir* both take ordering sources representing the subject's desires. The predicates' mood-selection properties can be derived from independent linguistic evidence about the predicates' modal bases, given the diversity condition, and the relation between these modal bases and subjects' beliefs. (We will revisit the assumption that both predicates' ordering sources represent the subjects' desires below.)

Start with *vouloir* 'want'. Consider (48) from Heim, reproduced in French in (49).

- (48) (John hired a babysitter because) he wants to go to the movies tonight.
(HEIM 1992: ex. 44)
- (49) Jean a embauché une baby-sitter parce qu'il veut que nous
Jean has hired a babysitter because he wants that we
allions.SBJV au cinéma.
go.SBJV to the movies

As Heim notes, (48) is compatible with John's being certain about whether he will go to the movies tonight. If the modal base for 'want' was identified with the subject's beliefs, every world in $\cap f_{want}(e)$ would be a world in which John goes to the movies. Since 'want' takes a non-trivial ordering source (representing, say, the subject's desires), the diversity condition on modal bases would be violated. The felicity of examples such as (48)/(49) thus indicates that f_{want} cannot be identified with the subject's beliefs. This leads Heim to treat $\cap f_{want}(e)$ as a superset of the subject's doxastic alternatives — specifically, as representing what the subject believes to be the case no matter how she chooses to act (HEIM 1992: 199).¹⁹ So, $\cap f_{want}(e) \not\subseteq \cap DOX_e$. So, the presupposition in (44) is violated — $(\cap f_{want}(e), \lesssim_{g_{want}(e)}) \not\# SoM(e)$ — and the subjunctive-licensing feature [+*sbjv*] must be used with *vouloir*. Subjunctive-selection with *vouloir* can be derived from independently motivated treatments of the predicate's modal backgrounds.

This derivation of subjunctive-selection with *vouloir* captures subjunctive-selection

¹⁹Heim's treatment of the modal base of 'want' may need to be refined to cover cases where one's certainty that *p* is due to beliefs about other events regarded as depending on one's desires, as in (i).

- (i) [Context: You have a genie who has perfect knowledge of your mental states and will ensure that your desires today get satisfied regardless of whether you choose to do anything to satisfy them. You know you're about to become unconscious until tonight. Before doing so, you say:]
I'm calling a babysitter because I want to go to the movies tonight.

To a first approximation, $f_{want}(e)$ might be identified instead with what the subject believes to be the case no matter what she desires. For present purposes we can put such issues about the specific lexical semantics aside. What is important for matters of mood selection is simply that $\cap f_{want}(e) \not\subseteq \cap DOX_e$.

with related expressions of intention, such as *l'intention est que* in (50).

- (50) L'intention est qu'il aille au cinéma.
The intention is that he go.SBJV to the movies.

Like (48), (51) is felicitous even if John is certain that he will go to the movies tonight (assuming he isn't certain that he will go no matter what he chooses to do).

- (51) John intends to go to the movies tonight. (HEIM 1992: 199)

The modal base for expressions of intention $\cap f_{int}(e)$ is like the modal base for 'want' in being a superset of the doxastic alternatives $\cap DOX_e$ (HEIM 1992: 199). This correctly predicts subjunctive-selection with expressions such as *l'intention est que*.

Subjunctive-selection with expressions of intention poses a challenge for P&R's contextual commitment account. It is hard to see why a subject wouldn't be prepared to defend what she intends to do.

The above examples highlight an important contrast between 'want'/'intend' and 'hope'. Whereas (48)–(49) are felicitous even if John is certain about whether he will go to the movies, (52)–(53) with 'hope' are not.

- (52) ??(John hired a babysitter because) he hopes to go to the movies tonight.
(53) ??Jean a embauché une baby-sitter parce qu'il espère que nous allons.IND
Jean hired a babysitter because he hopes that we go.IND
au cinéma.
to the movies

This makes sense on the hypothesis that the modal base for 'hope' is the subject's beliefs. Since 'hope' takes a (bouletic) ordering source the diversity condition requires that there be some $\neg p$ -worlds in the modal base. Treating f_{hope} as DOX correctly predicts that (52)–(53) imply that John is leaving open the possibility that he might do something other than go to the movies later — hence the infelicity in the given context. Indeed we already saw evidence for treating the modal base for 'hope' in this way in §3.3: (54) is anomalous if the subject thinks that building a perpetual motion machine is impossible.

- (54) ??I hope to build a perpetual motion machine.

Treating f_{hope} as DOX reflects the common idea that 'hope'-ascriptions require that the subject believes the complement is possible.

So, examples such as (52)–(54) provide independent support for treating the

modal base $f_{hope}(e)$ as representing the subject's beliefs. Given that the ordering source $g_{hope}(e)$ represents the subject's desires ($=DES_e$), the presupposition of $[+_ind]$ is invariably satisfied: The modal state $(\cap f_{hope}(e), \lesssim_{g_{hope}(e)})$ determined by the predicate's modal backgrounds is live from the perspective of the representation of the subject's state of mind $(\cap DOX_e, \lesssim_{DES_e})$ (§4.1). So *espérer* selects indicative.

This account of indicative-selection with *espérer* and subjunctive-selection with *vouloir* helps capture the conversational contrasts observed in §§2–3. First, recall (15) and (39) from P&R, reproduced in (55)–(56), respectively. (For space purposes I only include the English translations. Below, let *killed* be the proposition that the bishop is killed, and *cig* be the proposition that the subject has a cigarette.)

(55) [Context: Same as (15)]

- a. ??But you hoped for him to be killed!
- b. But you wanted him to be killed!

(56) [Context: Same as (39)]

- a. ??Oh gosh, Doctor, with all this stress I really hope to have a cigarette!
- b. Oh gosh, Doctor, with all this stress I really want to have a cigarette!

(from PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2012: EXS. 24–25)

In typical contexts for (55) it would be assumed that, given the king's authority, if the king wants something done, it gets done (or at least it would be assumed that the king takes himself to have such authority). So, since the king desires to have the bishop killed, it would be assumed — at least for purposes of conversation — that the king believes that the bishop will get killed. So, $\cap f_{hope}(e) \subseteq killed$, violating the diversity condition — hence the infelicity of (55a) with *espérer* 'hope'. Similarly, in (56) the subject is plausibly assuming — at least for purposes of conversation — that she won't in fact have a cigarette when she leaves. So, $\cap f_{hope}(e) \subseteq \neg cig$ — hence the anomalousness of (56a). By contrast, the modal bases $\cap f_{want}(e)$ in the (b)-examples with *vouloir* 'want' can include worlds outside the subject's doxastic alternatives. The modal base in (55b) includes worlds that differ with respect to the bishop's being killed, and the modal base in (56b) includes worlds that differ with respect to the patient's having a cigarette. The diversity condition is satisfied. Given the subjects' desires, the 'want'-ascriptions can thus be felicitous and true.

This diagnosis assimilates the contrasts between (55a)/(56a) and (55b)/(56b) with the contrast between (48)/(49) and (52)/(53); the contrasts are treated as due to differences in modal base. Yet we saw in §§2–3 that P&R treat the infelicity of 'hope' in (55)–(56) in terms of the subject's unwillingness to defend the relevant desire.

The felicity of ‘hope’ in the alternative contexts in (57)–(58) speaks against explaining the contrasts in (55)–(56) in terms of differences in ordering source: the contexts in (55)/(56) and (57)/(58) are equivalent vis-à-vis the relevant ordering source and the subject’s commitments to the relevant desires.

(57) [Context: The king writes in his private journal about how annoyed he is with the bishop. Unbeknownst to the king, the knights stumble across the journal, read the entry about the bishop, and go ahead and kill him. When the king hears about it, he is angry. The knights say:]

But you hoped he would die!

(58) [Context: In your last appointment the doctor told you that if you continued to smoke, you would soon die. At the time you were out of cigarettes, and you weren’t sure whether you would be able to get more after leaving the office. In your next visit, you recount your experience and say:]

With all the stress I really hoped to have a cigarette as soon as I left!

Our above modal-base explanation correctly predicts that the ‘hope’-ascriptions should improve in contexts where the subject isn’t assumed to have a specific belief about the complement, as seen in (57)–(58). That said, the account of mood in §4.1 is compatible with explaining instances of mood selection in terms of properties of the ordering source: the presupposition of $[+_ind]$ is violated if the predicate’s preorder $\lesssim_{g_p(e)}$ includes evaluative relations that aren’t represented in the subject’s priorities of the relevant type (§4.1). Perhaps other examples may call for an ordering-source-based explanation along these lines.

P&R’s example in (19), reproduced in (59), may provide precisely such a case.

- (59) a. ??J’espère épouser Alice, et j’espère épouser Sue.
 ??I hope to marry Alice and I hope to marry Sue.
 b. Je veux épouser Alice, et je veux épouser Sue.
 I want to marry Alice and I want to marry Sue.

Suppose we give *espérer* ‘hope’ the semantics of an ordinary necessity modal — i.e., requiring that the embedded proposition is true at every $\lesssim_{g_{hope}(e)}$ -minimal world in the modal base $\cap f_{hope}(e)$ — parallel to the semantics for *croire* in (46).

- (60) $\llbracket x \text{ espérer } p \rrbracket^w$ is defined only if $(\cap f_{hope}(e), \lesssim_{g_{hope}(e)}) \trianglelefteq SoM(e)$.
 When defined, $\llbracket x \text{ espérer } p \rrbracket^w = 1$ iff $\exists e[e \text{ in } w \wedge hope(e) \wedge exp(e, \llbracket x \rrbracket^w) \wedge$
 for every $\lesssim_{g_{hope}(e)}$ -minimal world w' in $\cap f_{hope}(e)$, $\llbracket p \rrbracket^{w'} = 1$]

On such a semantics, a conjunction of the form ‘ x hopes p and x hopes q ’, for (contextual) contraries p and q , cannot be (non-vacuously) satisfied relative to constant modal backgrounds f_{hope} and g_{hope} . Moreover — and here is the important point — even admitting the possibility of intra-sentential shifts in modal backgrounds, the indicative presupposition precludes the possibility of rendering such conjunctions consistent by interpreting each conjunct relative to different subsets of the subject’s desires. This presupposition requires the ordering source $g_{hope}(e)$ to be a (possibly improper) superset of DES_e . Hence the ordering source in each conjunct of (59a) must represent the contents of both of the conflicting desires; it must include both the proposition that x marries Alice (*alice*) and the proposition that x marries Sue (*sue*). So, given that x cannot marry both Alice and Sue, the *alice*-worlds in the modal base are $\lesssim_{g_{hope}(e)}$ -incomparable to the *sue*-worlds, and (59) cannot be true.

The relevant contrast with *vouloir* in (59b) is that it lacks the proposed indicative constraint on the ordering source. This allows for the possibility of having an ordering source that represents a relevant subset of the subject’s desires. So, even if *vouloir* is given an ordinary semantics of necessity like *espérer*, universally quantifying over a set of minimal accessible worlds, (59b) can still be true: the first conjunct can be true relative to the Alice-relevant-subset of the subject’s desires, say $g_{want}^1(e) = \{alice\}$ (simplifying quite a bit), and the second conjunct can be true relative to the Sue-relevant-subset of the subject’s desires, say $g_{want}^2(e) = \{sue\}$. In effect, the permitted shift in relevant subsets of DES_e allows one to bracket inconsistencies/incomparabilities in the subject’s overall desires. Although the *alice*-worlds in x ’s doxastic alternatives are \lesssim_{DES_e} -incomparable to the *sue*-worlds — i.e. $\langle a, s \rangle \notin \lesssim_{DES_e} \wedge \langle s, a \rangle \notin \lesssim_{DES_e}$ for any *alice*-world a and *sue*-world s in $\cap DOX_e$ — the predicate’s preorder $\lesssim_{g_{want}(e)}$ can relate worlds in ways that are excluded by DES_e . So, (59b) is true insofar as (i) every $\lesssim_{g_{want}^1(e)}$ -minimal relevant world is an *alice*-world, and is $\lesssim_{g_{want}^1(e)}$ -better than any *sue*-world; and (ii) every $\lesssim_{g_{want}^2(e)}$ -minimal relevant world is a *sue*-world, and is $\lesssim_{g_{want}^2(e)}$ -better than any *alice*-world. “Bouletic dilemmas” are coherently expressible with *vouloir* ‘want’ and not with *espérer* ‘hope’.²⁰

²⁰For the sake of argument I assumed above that ‘want’ is given the same sort of necessity semantics as ‘hope’. There may be independent reasons for weakening the truth conditions for ‘want’ in ways that would also allow for the consistency of (59b) (see LASSITER 2011). For instance, consider the truth conditions in (i), adapted from Swanson’s (2011) semantics for the weak necessity modal ‘ought’ (modified to make the limit assumption). (A \lesssim *chain* is a totally preordered subset of a partial preorder \lesssim of a set of worlds; a *maximal* \lesssim chain is a \lesssim chain that isn’t a proper subset of any \lesssim chain.)

(i) $\llbracket x \text{ vouloir } p \rrbracket^w = 1$ iff $\exists e[e \text{ in } w \wedge want(e) \wedge exp(e, \llbracket x \rrbracket^w) \wedge \text{there is some maximal } \lesssim_{g_{want}(e)} \text{ chain } S \text{ such that } \llbracket p \rrbracket^{w'} = 1 \text{ for every } \lesssim_{g_{want}(e)}\text{-minimal world } w' \text{ in } S \cap \cap f_{want}(e)]$

The semantics in (i) treats ‘want’ as quantifying over the “bouletically best” worlds in the modal

4.2.4 Subjunctive-selection with emotive factives

Emotive factives are *prima facie* puzzling from the perspective of a commitment-based approach to mood selection: If emotive factives imply commitment to their complements, why do they generally select subjunctive in French? Whence the contrast between (61) with the emotive factive *être heureux* ‘be happy’, and (62) with the non-emotive factive *savoir* or desiderative *espérer*?

- (61) Alice est heureuse que Blanche soit végétarienne.
Alice is happy that Blanche is.SBJV vegetarian
- (62) Alice sait/espère que Blanche est végétarienne.
Alice knows/hopes that Blanche is.IND vegetarian

The §4.1-account of mood provides a solution: Subjunctive-selection with emotive factives follows from the combination of their factivity implication and the diversity condition on modal bases. The factivity of *être heureux* requires (at least) that the subject believes the embedded proposition p , i.e. that $\cap DOX_e \subseteq p$; (61) implies that Alice believes that Blanche is vegetarian. So, if the modal base was identified with the subject’s beliefs, p would be true throughout the modal base. This would violate the diversity condition, given that the predicate takes a non-trivial (bouletic) ordering source. One isn’t happy about everything one believes to be the case. So, the modal base $\cap f_{happy}(e)$ must include some $\neg p$ -worlds. So, $\cap f_{happy}(e) \not\subseteq \cap DOX_e$, and the presupposition of $[+_ind]$ is violated: $(\cap f_{happy}(e), \lesssim_{g_{happy}(e)})$ isn’t included in $SoM(e)$, the representation of the subject’s state of mind.²¹ Subjunctive-selection

base, given some way of resolving incomparabilities in the subject’s desires. This semantics contrasts with the necessity semantics in (60) which treats ‘hope’ as quantifying over the minimal worlds in the modal base given every way of resolving incomparabilities in the subject’s desires. As Swanson discusses in the case of ‘ought’ and ‘must’, these semantics also predict the consistency of dilemmas expressed with ‘want’ but not with ‘hope’. In effect, what the Swanson-style approach captures via incomparability-based weakening of the truth conditions relative to a constant ordering source, the approach in the main text captures via restrictions (or lack thereof) on ordering sources and potential intra-sentential shifts. It would be interesting to compare these sorts of truth-conditional and (broadly) mood-based approaches to more general phenomena with apparent incomparabilities and inconsistent premise sets. The connections with dilemmas and weak/strong necessity modals, mentioned above, provide fruitful avenues to explore (see also SILK 2012, 2018, RUBINSTEIN 2014).

²¹We can leave open how exactly the modal bases of emotive factives are identified. Following VON FINTEL 1999, a plausible constraint is that $\cap f_E(e)$ properly include $\cap DOX_e$. It’s worth flagging that although emotive factives in French are often treated as requiring subjunctive (e.g., SCHLENKER 2005), some speakers report finding optional uses of indicative to be possible (e.g., FARKAS 2003). I leave open how the account might be modified for the latter dialect or stage of French.

with emotive factives can be derived from the analysis of mood from §4.1 and independently attested features of their semantics.

4.2.5 Indicative-selection with *dire*

Let's turn to applying the §4.1-account to speech-act verbs. The difference in the general pattern of explanation will be in the type of event described: Attitude verbs describe aspects of subjects' concrete states of mind; speech-act verbs describe aspects of concrete discourses. For an attitude event e , the informational-evaluative content of e , $SoM(e)$, represents the subject's overall state of mind; for a discourse event e , the informational-evaluative content of e , $SoM(e)$, represents the state of the discourse, i.e. the mutually presupposed information and priorities (§4.1). As previously, the task is to explain the mood-selection data in terms of this general assumption about discourse events and independently attested features of the verbs' semantics.

Perhaps the most straightforward case is *dire* 'say'. *Dire* takes a modal base $f_{say}(e)$ that represents the individual public presuppositions of the subject x in the reported (possibly single-membered) discourse event e (written CG_{e_x}), i.e. what she publicly treats as true for the purposes of conversation. (Like with *croire*, assume that the ordering source $g_{say}(e)$ and its analogue in the representation of context are empty (§§4.1, 4.2.1).) As a speech-act verb, *dire* describes an aspect of a reported discourse e . The informational-evaluative content of e — the “state of mind” characterizing it, $SoM(e)$ — is the mutually presupposed information and priorities. Since one's individual public presuppositions in a discourse are a superset of the mutual public presuppositions, $CG_{e_x} \supseteq CG_e$, the presupposition of $[+_ind]$ is invariably satisfied: $(\cap f_{say}(e), \lesssim_{g_{say}(e)}) \trianglelefteq SoM(e)$, since $f_{say}(e) \supseteq CG_e$. Hence *dire* selects indicative.

4.2.6 Indicative-selection with *promettre* vs. subjunctive-selection with *ordonner*

Finally, let's consider commissives like *promettre* 'promise', which select indicative, and directives like *ordonner* 'order', which select subjunctive. Commissives and directives are speech-act verbs: they describe aspects of discourse events e ; they report — and in special cases perform — commissive and directive speech acts. So, as above, the content of the events they describe, $SoM(e)$, is in general the presuppositions and priorities of the reported discourse. What should we say about the verbs' specific modal backgrounds, and their relation to these contextual parameters?

Let's start with *ordonner*. The ordering source $g_{ord}(e)$ represents the subject's commitments about the obligations imposed on the object by the subject in the reported discourse event e — roughly put, the object's “subject-dependent priorities”

in e . An initial idea might be to treat the modal base $f_{ord}(e)$ as the common ground information in the reported discourse event e . This would capture the anomalousness of directive utterances enjoining p in contexts where p is presupposed:

- (63) [Context: Addressee is sitting down.]
 a. #Sit down!
 b. #I order you to sit down.

On the hypothesis that $f_{ord}(e) = CG_e$, such examples violate the diversity condition since $\cap CG_e \subseteq p$ — hence the infelicity.

However, it won't do simply to identify the predicate's modal base with the reported common ground. As noted in §3.2, directive utterances are anomalous when coupled with denials that they will be satisfied.

- (64) a. Leave! — #even though (I know) you won't.
 b. I order you to leave! — #even though (I know) you won't.
 (cf. PORTNER 2009: 190)

Though obligations can go unfulfilled, discourse participants appear to assume otherwise for purposes of conversation when accepting directive utterances. Indeed directive utterances are compatible with acceptance that they will be satisfied:

- (65) We didn't call for backup because I ordered Alice and Bert to come to the scene.
 (66) [Context: After opening an email from your boss, you say to your project team:]
 The boss regrets that we'll miss the party but he orders us to finish the project tonight.
 (67) I know you will clean the barracks because I order you to.

Identifying $f_{ord}(e)$ with CG_e incorrectly predicts (65)–(67) to violate the diversity condition and hence be infelicitous like (63).

A natural response is to take up the Heim-style strategy for f_{want} from §4.2.3, and treat the modal base $f_{ord}(e)$ as representing what is presupposed to be the case no matter what the subject has ordered the object (cf. n. 19). This captures the felicity of examples such as (65)–(67): In (67), given that the addressee's cleaning the barracks depends at least partly on one's order, both *clean*-worlds and *–clean*-worlds are included in $\cap f_{ord}(e)$, and the diversity condition isn't violated. Ordering p is compatible with a presupposition that p if one's orders constitute the basis for the

presupposition that p . Examples such as (63) are still predicted infelicitous: If the addressee already satisfies p or has committed to satisfying p for independent reasons, then p won't be true independent of one's orders; so, the modal base will imply p , violating diversity. The anomalousness of Bill's order in (68) seems due, in part, to the suggestion that our acceptance that Mary will bring the dessert is to be grounded in his ordering her to do so rather than in Mary's prior commitment.

- (68) *Mary*: I will bring dessert to the party later.
Bill: Yes. I order you to bring dessert.
Mary: I just that said I will! Sheesh.

Given that the presupposition that Mary will bring dessert is independent of Bill's order, $\cap f_{ord}(e) \subseteq dessert$ and diversity is violated.

These observations about the modal base f_{ord} predict subjunctive-selection with *ordonner*. What is presupposed to be the case no matter what has been ordered is a superset of what is presupposed to be the case. So, parallel to the case of *vouloir*, $\cap f_{ord}(e) \not\subseteq \cap CG_e$ and the presupposition of $[+_ind]$ is violated — hence subjunctive-selection with directives such as *ordonner*.

Now turn to commissives. The ordering source $g_{prom}(e)$ consists of the propositions which the subject has committed to the object to being/making true — roughly put, the subject's "subject-dependent priorities" to the object in the reported discourse event e . Above we observed a parallel between *ordonner* 'order' and *vouloir* 'want' in their modal bases and resulting mood-selection properties. An attractive hypothesis is to treat the mood-selection contrast between directives and commissives parallel to the mood-selection contrast between *vouloir* and *espérer*. The modal base $f_{hope}(e)$ is identified with the subject's beliefs DOX_e , a subset of which constitutes the modal base $f_{want}(e)$; so too, the thought goes, the modal base $f_{prom}(e)$ is to be identified with the presuppositions of the reported discourse CG_e , a subset of which constitutes the modal base $f_{ord}(e)$.

Like with directives, making a promise is anomalous when coupled with an assertion or assumption that it won't be satisfied; (69)–(70), like (64), are infelicitous.

- (69) I promise to bring dessert — #even though I won't.
(70) [Context: It's mutually presupposed that there is no way Mary will be able to come to the party later. Mary says:]
#I promise to come to the party later.

Promising p generally presupposes that p is possible. Yet whereas ordering p is com-

patible with presupposing p as long as p 's truth is assumed to depend on one's order, as in (65)–(67), promising p seems to require that p not be presupposed. Although promising p can be coupled with an assertion that p , as in (71)–(72), such examples still seem to suggest that $\neg p$ is a live possibility in the discourse. The function of the promises in (71)–(72) is plausibly to reinforce a commitment to something that may be open to doubt.

- (71) I will bring dessert to the party later. I promise.
 (72) *Sue (to Bill)*: I will bring drinks to the party later. Mary will bring dessert.
Mary: Yes. I promise.

Promising p given a presupposition that p is generally anomalous, even if the presupposition that p depends on what one has promised, as reflected in (73)–(75). Using 'promise' in (74a) is odd, even if it would be generally felicitous for one to presuppose p in light of a future-tense assertion that p , as in (74b). The promise in (75a) is dispreferred as a reminder of something accepted in light of an earlier commitment.²²

- (73) [Context: You are waiting to hear from your friend Sue about whether she will get off work in time to watch your children. After seeing a message from Sue, you say to your partner:]
 ?Sue is glad we won't need a babysitter since she promises to be here by 5.
 (74) [Context: The party is starting soon, and your team can't go until you finish your part of the report. You say:]
 a. ?I'm glad we won't be late since I promise to finish the report in 10 minutes.
 b. I'm glad we won't be late since I'll have the report finished in 10 minutes.
 (75) [Context: Your reliability isn't in question. As a reminder, given a previous commitment that p :]
 a. ?I promise to be home by 5.
 b. I'll see you at 5.

Identifying $f_{prom}(e)$ with the reported common ground CG_e captures this: the diver-

²²The data contrasting orders and promisings are supported by preliminary results from an acceptability judgment task via Amazon Mechanical Turk. 15 participants were asked how natural they found the target sentences, on a scale from 1 ("completely unnatural") to 7 ("completely natural"). Participants reported (65)–(66) with 'order' as natural — for (65) the average rating was 5.67 (SEM = .27); for (66) the average rating was 5.27 (SEM = .38). (73) with 'promise' was reported as relatively marginal, average rating 3.93 (SEM = .56). Thanks to a referee for encouraging me to clarify the data.

sity condition requires that there be some $\neg p$ -worlds in $\cap f_{prom}(e) = \cap CG_e$, which contrasts with the contextual assumption that p — hence the infelicity.

The above examples support treating the modal base f_{prom} as representing the common ground information in the reported discourse. Our evidence with directives that the set of modal-base worlds isn't included in $\cap CG_e$ — the information characterizing the reported event e — doesn't carry over to commissives. The presupposition of $[+_ind]$ is satisfied, and *promettre* selects indicative.

4.3 Selection and grammaticalization

The account developed in this section follows P&R and various others in the literature in providing a semantic analysis of mood. Mood marking is treated in terms of a relation between the semantics of the predicates and mood features in context, rather than simply in terms of the semantics of the predicates (as in e.g. FARKAS 1992, GIANNAKIDOU 1999). Distinguishing the contribution of mood features helps capture cases of mood choice — predicates which can take indicative or subjunctive — without positing distinct lexical entries. Yet it raises a potential worry about explanatoriness in cases of selection. In §3 we saw that P&R treat *vouloir* and *ordonner* as lexically associated with $[+_sbjv]$ in order to explain why the predicates must take subjunctive even in contexts where the contextual commitment_{PR} presupposition, which P&R associate with $[+_ind]$, is satisfied. In light of parallel examples with indicative-selecting predicates — examples where indicative is required even though P&R's posited presupposition of $[+_ind]$ isn't satisfied — I considered that P&R might revise their account by positing grammaticalized indicative as well. Grammaticalizing mood selection more generally in this way weakens the explanatoriness of a semantic analysis of mood based on contextual commitment_{PR}.

The account in §§4.1–4.2 captures the mood-selection properties of the predicates in question without positing lexical association with mood-licensing features. The mood-selection properties of doxastic attitude verbs such as *croire*, fiction verbs, desideratives such as *vouloir* and *espérer*, emotive factives, and various types of speech-act verbs are derived from the proposed analysis of mood in §4.1 along with independently attested features of the predicates' semantics, general assumptions about the informational-evaluative contents of attitude/discourse events, and general principles of interpretation (*Maximize Presupposition!*, diversity condition). This isn't to say that there is no grammaticalization in matters of mood selection. But, other things equal, we should prefer an account which derives the mood-selection properties without stipulating them in the grammar or lexical semantics.

4.4 Modal adjectives

This paper has focused on puzzles of mood selection with speech-act and attitude verbs. An important contribution of P&R's discussion is to introduce data with modal adjectives (*possible*, *probable*, *nécessaire*) into theorizing about mood. Modal adjectives ostensibly afford a fruitful test case for P&R's approach: since what modal backgrounds are relevant for interpreting the adjectives depends on context, pragmatic correlates of mood choice such as commitment of speaker, addressee, etc. might seem more apparent. Yet, as noted in §1, it is precisely because of this contextual dependence that I have set the adjectives aside (see n. 3). Questions about the context-sensitivity and modal backgrounds of epistemic and normative/evaluative readings of modals are fraught. Ongoing contextualism/relativism/expressivism debates highlight independently contentious issues regarding how the apparent context-sensitivity is to be implemented, what modal backgrounds are "relevant" in particular cases, and in some cases what the data even are. Indeed a principal point of contention is what the modal background represents as a function of context — for instance, for certain epistemic readings, whether it represents the speaker's information (evidence, knowledge, etc.), the pooled information of a relevant group, or the discourse common ground. How graded modal expressions are to be analyzed in classic ordering semantics/premise semantics, and if they can be analyzed in the classic framework at all, remains to be seen. Settling on such options would be precisely what is needed for developing and evaluating a state-of-mind account.

That said, it may be useful to outline how the state-of-mind account in this section might be applied to certain modal adjectives. I focus on *nécessaire* 'necessary' and *possible* 'possible', given the additional complications mentioned above regarding the modal backgrounds of gradable epistemic adjectives such as *probable* 'probable'. More thorough investigation of other adjectives, interpretive differences in cases of mood choice, and interactions with broader work on context-sensitivity and modal expressions is needed. Final assessment of the modal adjective data and its role in adjudicating among theories of mood must await future research.

Consider subjunctive-selection with *nécessaire* 'necessary' and *possible* 'possible':

- (76) Il est possible que cet échantillon soit dissout dans l'eau.
it is possible that this sample is.SBJV dissolved in the water
- (77) Il est possible/nécessaire que vous preniez le train A.
it is possible/necessary that you take.SBJV the train A

(cf. PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2012: EXS. 15, 34)

Nécessaire and *possible* take a circumstantial modal base representing a set of circumstances/facts, and in priority-based interpretations an ordering source representing the relevant type of priority. (P&R follow RUBINSTEIN 2012 in treating *nécessaire* as lexically specifying a priority interpretation, often teleological.) The purely circumstantial reading of *possible* in (76) says that the sample's dissolving is possible given the relevant circumstances $f_c(e)$. The teleological readings in (77) say that your taking the A-train is possible/necessary in light of some contextually relevant goals $g_c(e)$ (say, the goals of the individuals in e), given the circumstances $f_c(e)$.

As noted in §4.1, a key feature of Hacquard's (2006, 2009, 2010) developments of the event-relativity of modals is that speech-act/attitude/epistemic predicates are distinguished from other predicates in being conceptualized as describing events with content; events described by root/non-epistemic modals are conceptualized as in general lacking informational content.²³ If this is right, subjunctive-selection for modal adjectives such as *nécessaire* and *possible* taking circumstantial modal bases follows straightaway: *SoM* is a partial function from contentful events. The presupposition of $[+_ind]$, $(\bigcap f_c(e), \lesssim_{g_c(e)}) \trianglelefteq SoM(e)$, isn't satisfied since *SoM*(e) is undefined. Hence subjunctive must be used.

P&R appeal to the modal adjective cases in their arguments against the "proto-standard analysis" of mood. For instance, subjunctive-selection in purely circumstantial readings such as (76) is unexpected if subjunctive-selection is analyzed in terms of taking a non-empty ordering source or having a comparative semantics. Yet P&R themselves ultimately appeal to grammaticalized mood for *possible* (and *probable*) (2012: 477, 480–481). Though P&R don't mention grammaticalization with *nécessaire*, it seems they would need to appeal to grammaticalized subjunctive for *nécessaire* as well. *Nécessaire*, like *possible*, selects subjunctive even if the interlocutors are contextually committed to the circumstantial/priority-based modal backgrounds. Although there are certainly contexts where interlocutors aren't collectively committed to the relevant information/priorities, it is perhaps surprising that such contexts would be conceptualized as prototypical in the use of such adjectives. At minimum one might expect some languages to treat uses of agreement and endorsement as prototypical. Yet modal expressions of necessity/possibility typically select subjunctive across languages. The state-of-mind treatment of subjunctive-selection with *nécessaire* and *possible* outlined above avoids invoking grammaticalized mood. Subjunctive-selection falls out of the proposed account of mood and Hacquard-style treatment of the event-relativity of modal backgrounds.

It's worth noting that a state-of-mind account needn't be hostage to a Hacquard-

²³Though see §6 on this as a possible source of cross-linguistic variation.

inspired treatment of *SoM* as undefined for events as described by circumstantial modal adjectives. Suppose that for such events one treats $SoM(e)$ as representing the set of facts in e . Uses of *nécessaire* ‘necessary’ and *possible* ‘possible’ are compatible with the truth or acceptance of the embedded proposition p ; the truth of p can even be specified as among the relevant facts, as in (78).

- (78) C’est bien que cet échantillon soit dissous parce qu’il est nécessaire
 it’s good that this sample is dissolved because it is necessary
 qu’il soit dissous pour que nous puissions obtenir la subvention.
 that it is.SBJV dissolved for that we can get the grant
 ‘It’s good that this sample dissolves because it’s necessary for it to dissolve
 in order for us to get the grant.’

(cf. PORTNER & RUBINSTEIN 2012: ex. 16)

- (79) Il est possible que nous prenions le train A. Nous allons donc
 it is possible that we take.SBJV the train A we will therefore
 arriver au concert à temps.
 arrive to the concert on time
 ‘It’s possible for us to take the A-train. So, we’ll get to the concert on time.’

To avoid incorrectly predicting that such examples violate the diversity condition, the modal bases $f_c(e)$ for the priority-based readings can be treated as some subset of the set of circumstances in e (say, the set of facts that hold no matter what the priorities are in e ; cf. FRANK 1996). So, $\bigcap f_c(e)$ isn’t included in the informational content characterizing e , $SoM(e)$, and the presupposition of $[+_ind]$ is violated. Subjunctive-selection with purely circumstantial uses such as (76) might then be understood as cases of grammaticalized mood. Many modal adjectives are like *possible* — and unlike attitude/speech-act verbs (or *nécessaire*, if RUBINSTEIN 2012 is right) — in being able to receive both priority-based and non-priority-based interpretations, depending on the context. Given this flexibility it is perhaps not unexpected that in cases where grammaticalization occurs, such adjectives should “generalize to the weakest case” and become lexically associated with the unmarked mood feature, i.e. $[+_sbjv]$.²⁴

²⁴Though not uncontroversial, it’s common in premise semantics for graded modality to treat expressions such as *probable* as taking an ordering source determining the graded interpretation. A treatment of uses of *probable* with subjunctive could then proceed parallel to the alternative treatment of *nécessaire/possible* given above: uses of *probable* are compatible with the truth or acceptance of the embedded proposition, as in (i); so, given the diversity condition, the modal base $\bigcap f_c(e)$ must be a superset of the contextual information $SoM(e)$, violating the presupposition of $[+_ind]$.

5 Literature comparisons

We began in §1 by introducing accounts of mood which give a notion of *commitment* a fundamental explanatory role. §§2–4 focused on critically examining P&R’s specific “contextual commitment” account of mood selection in French and comparing it to the proposed state-of-mind account. Indicative-selecting predicates “presuppose commitment,” according to P&R’s qualitative definition of commitment, in the sense of presupposing (roughly) that every individual argument of the predicate is disposed to defend the propositions in the predicate’s modal base and ordering source as reasonable in any relevant conversation. The strategy of the state-of-mind approach from §4, in contrast, is to explain mood selection in terms of whether the formal relation between the predicate’s modal backgrounds and an overall state of mind represents a relation of commitment: Indicative-selecting predicates in French “presuppose commitment” in the sense of presupposing that the modal state determined by the predicate’s semantics is “live” from the perspective of the modal state representing the (attitude/discourse) event *e* described by the predicate. §§4.2–4.3

- (i) Il est probable que des amendements soient même présentés plus tard aujourd’hui au comité. Quelqu’un décidera s’ils sont recevables ou non, et nous voterons ensuite.
‘It is probable that amendments will be.SBJV introduced even later today in committee. Someone will rule whether they are in order or not, and we will vote.’
(www.noscommunes.ca/DocumentViewer/fr/40-3/chambre/seance-34/debats)

Although *probable* often takes subjunctive, P&R observe that there are contexts where it can take indicative. P&R’s account is less than compelling; apparent differences in interpretation between the uses with subjunctive and indicative are treated by appealing to multiple lexical entries, grammaticalized mood, and an unanalyzed distinction between “subjective opinion” and “objective data” (2012: 474–475, 480). More theoretical worries aside, empirical difficulties include descriptive uses of *probable* with indicative which don’t present the speaker as accepting the relevant information, as in (ii) (from results of a translation task conducted via Amazon Mechanical Turk; as expected, several participants provided alternative versions with subjunctive).

- (ii) [Context: We’re standing before a locked filing cabinet. None of us has had access to the information in it, but we know it contains the police’s evidence about Fischer’s murder and narrows down the set of suspects. We’re betting on the chances that one of us may have killed Fischer according to the information in the filing cabinet. You, who we all know is innocent, say:]
Il est probable que je l’ai fait.
it is probable that I it have.IND did
‘It’s probable that I did it.’ (cf. KRATZER 2012: 98–99)

Though I think there are well-motivated ways of cashing out the apparent difference in interpretation (and without relying on informal notions of subjectivity/objectivity; SILK 2015, 2016), an adequate examination of the issues would take us too far afield. I leave theorizing about a state-of-mind implementation of mood choice with *probable* for future research.

argued that this account provides a more explanatory treatment of the puzzle cases from §§1–3. Now that the positive §4-account is on the table, briefly comparing it to several other broadly commitment-based accounts may help further situate it in the literature. I leave more detailed comparisons and discussion of other types of accounts for future research.

A prominent approach is to analyze mood in terms of epistemic commitment about the complement. To a first approximation, indicative-selecting predicates are treated as implying that the speaker/subject takes the complement to be true (NOONAN 1985, PALMER 1986, FARKAS 1992, GIANNAKIDOU 1999, MARQUES 2009, SIEGEL 2009), or bears some suitably strong epistemic attitude toward the complement (SMIRNOVA 2011). Persistent challenges for these accounts include subjunctive-selection with emotive factives (though see SIEGEL 2009), indicative-selection with fiction verbs and commissives, and indicative-selection with ‘hope’.

Take, for instance, Giannakidou’s appeal to veridicality (see also §3.3). Though a notion of “veridicality” might initially seem to be associated with notions of realism or truth, in Giannakidou’s account it ends up amounting essentially to entailment: indicative-selecting predicates are treated as predicates which entail the truth of their complement in “some epistemic model.”²⁵ The challenge is to provide an independent account of what demarcates the class of epistemic models. What conceptually unifies sets of worlds representing what someone says, believes, or dreams, and what distinguishes them from sets of worlds representing what someone desires or orders? Why is implication by sets of worlds in the former class sufficient for “veridicality,” but implication by sets of worlds in the latter class is not? Why would fiction verbs, which typically don’t describe reality and whose complements typically aren’t regarded as true by the subject, be systematically conceptualized as “veridical,” while directive verbs, which report utterances that are incompatible with denials of their complements, be systematically conceptualized as “non-veridical”?

Understanding indicative-selection in terms of states of mind captures intuitions motivating epistemic-commitment accounts. Bearing a certain epistemic attitude toward the complement is neither necessary nor sufficient for indicative-selection in French. What is important is rather that the modal state determined by the predicate’s semantics be included in the modal state representing the event described by the predicate. This view carves out a role for both doxastic and evaluative commitments in mood selection (like on P&R’s account, though in a different way). And it

²⁵To capture subjunctive-selection with various modal predicates Giannakidou posits that all readings of modals (including epistemic possibility/necessity modals and pure circumstantial modals) take non-empty ordering sources (also 2016, GIANNAKIDOU & MARI 2016). The provisional treatment of subjunctive with certain modal adjectives in §4.4 avoids requiring such a commitment.

allows for — indeed predicts — indicative-selecting predicates which lack doxastic commitment to the complement (e.g., *espérer*), and subjunctive-selecting predicates which imply doxastic commitment (e.g., emotive factives).

Schlenker's (2005) account of mood selection in French bears important similarities to the account developed in §4. On Schlenker's account, indicative mood presupposes that the evaluation world is in the "context set" of a relevant thought event or speech event. The account in §4 follows Schlenker in giving a generalized notion of context a fundamentally explanatory role. However, first, on Schlenker's account the grammar leaves open what event determines the context set relevant for satisfying the indicative presupposition. It might be the event described by the embedding predicate (in which case the relevant context set is the verb's modal base) or the event described by the utterance itself (in which case the relevant context set is the discourse context set). This fails to explain why mood selection in French seems to be systematically determined by the attitudes of the subject rather than the speaker — e.g., why *vouloir*, directives, etc. cannot select indicative even if the speaker is publicly committed to the complement. Second, Schlenker treats mood selection as sensitive to a context set, which is conceptualized as a body of background information for an assertive act. The account in §4 treats mood-selection as sensitive to relevant information and priorities (norms, preferences, etc.). Mood selection is analyzed in terms of representations of overall states of mind and the informational-evaluative contents of events.

P&R present their account as a foil to what they call the "proto-standard" analysis of mood (§2). Accounts in this tradition demarcate subjunctive-selecting predicates as those which take a non-trivial ordering source. As P&R argue, indicative-selecting desideratives such as 'hope' and commissives pose challenges for these accounts. Though the account in §4 doesn't explain mood selection fundamentally in terms of having a comparative semantics, our appeal to a general diversity condition on modal bases suggests that ordering sources may have an indirect effect on mood selection. The diversity condition requires that any non-empty ordering source non-trivially distinguish among worlds in the modal base with respect to the embedded proposition p . For any predicate that takes a non-empty ordering source there must be p -worlds and $\neg p$ -worlds in the modal base $\cap f(e)$. The §4-account predicts (inter alia) that, for any predicate P in French that takes a non-empty ordering source: If P selects indicative, then uses of P are incompatible with assuming that the informational content of the event e described by P (e.g., the subject's beliefs, the reported discourse common ground) implies p . On the flip side, if uses of P necessarily assume that the informational content of the event described by P implies the embedded proposition P , then P selects subjunctive. This captures indicative-selection

with *espérer* ‘hope’ and subjunctive-selection with emotive factives, respectively.

6 Conclusion

This paper has developed an account of mood selection with attitude predicates in French. The guiding idea is to analyze mood in terms of a relation between a predicate’s semantics and an overall state of mind: Indicative mood in French presupposes that the modal evaluation of the clause relies only on worlds and evaluative relations that are live from the perspective of the modal state representing the “state of mind” characterizing the event e described by the embedding predicate P — formally, that the preordered set $(\cap f_P(e), \lesssim_{g_P(e)})$ determined by P ’s semantics is included in the preordered set representing the informational-evaluative content of e , such as a subject’s overall doxastic-affective state or the mutually presupposed information and priorities of a discourse. The aim has been to derive patterns of mood selection from (i) the proposed analysis of mood, (ii) a general assumption about the informational-evaluative content of discourse events and attitude events, (iii) independent linguistic evidence about the predicates’ semantics and specific modal backgrounds, and (iv) general principles of interpretation. I argued that the account captures various core cases of mood selection. These cases include indicative-selection with *croire*, *dire*, and fiction verbs, subjunctive-selection with emotive factives (in contrast to non-emotive factives), indicative-selection with *espérer* versus subjunctive-selection with *vouloir*, and indicative-selection with *promettre* versus subjunctive-selection with *ordonner*. The proposed account captures intuitions motivating certain previous approaches to mood selection, while improving in empirical coverage and explanatory power.

Our discussion has been limited. I only considered a single language: French. And I focused on mood marking in the complements of attitude and speech-act predicates, in particular on cases of mood selection, or predicates which require a particular mood in the complement clause. It is worth investigating how the proposed account may be applied more generally — e.g., to mood marking in main clauses, and mood switching under negation and in questions; to cases of mood choice, and interpretive differences among examples with predicates that optionally take indicative or subjunctive; and to mood selection/choice in other Romance and non-Romance languages. The approach in this paper may provide a framework for addressing such broader issues. Consider, for instance, issues about cross-linguistic variation. The explanatory components in (i)–(iv) above elucidate lines of inquiry for investigating mood cross-linguistically. For instance:

- (i) For different languages: In the presupposition of the indicative feature, which event is *SoM* sensitive to,²⁶ and what is the required logical relation to the predicate's modal backgrounds? Does the indicative presupposition necessarily concern the content of the event described by the local embedding predicate, as in French? Or does it necessarily concern the content of the evaluation/speech event? Or does the semantics of [+*ind*] itself leave the option open? Is the modal state determined by *SoM* specified as including the modal state determined by the predicate's modal backgrounds?
- (ii) How do speakers conceptualize the information-evaluative contents (or lack thereof) of different types of events? Do speakers generally conceptualize the distinction between content-bearing vs. non-content-bearing events in terms of a distinction between attitude/discourse events vs. other events — or, linguistically put, in terms of the distinction between events as described by attitude/speech-act/epistemic predicates vs. events as described by other predicates? Do human conceptual systems generally represent the contents of attitude/discourse events in the same sort of way?
- (iii) Are there interesting cross-linguistic generalizations about the sorts of pairs of modal backgrounds that are lexicalized in attitude/speech-act predicates, and the relation between these lexicalized backgrounds and representations of context and overall states of mind (e.g. desiderative/doxastic predicates with modal backgrounds invoking all vs. a particular subset of the subject's beliefs/desires; speech-act predicates with modal backgrounds invoking individual vs. mutual discourse commitments, or individual commitments of subject vs. object)?
- (iv) What is the cross-linguistic status of interpretive principles such as *Maximize Presupposition!* or non-vacuity conditions such as the diversity condition on modal bases? Are other relevant interpretive principles at play in other languages? Are there interesting cross-linguistic relations between such principles and patterns of optional vs. obligatory indicative, or the determination of predicates' specific modal backgrounds?

Investigating these components and how they interact may bring into relief interesting cross-linguistic generalizations and sources of cross-linguistic variation.

The prospects for the specific account of mood in this paper remain to be seen. I hope our discussion has illustrated the fruitfulness of the general state-of-mind

²⁶Suggestively, and theory-ladenly, put: “Is the presupposition of [+*ind*] required to be locally satisfied (satisfied in the context representing the local state of mind)? Or required to be globally satisfied? Or is how it is satisfied sensitive to contextual (and perhaps lexically specific) factors?”

framework — the proposed semantic approach to mood, pattern of explanation, and treatment of context and content in terms of overall states of mind — for theorizing about issues of mood and modality.

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