FREE VARIABLES William Bricken March 1989

I totally agree about the Theory of Freedom as Everything. There are two things of interest: symbols and meaning. In any formal approach, symbol operations can be trivialized (often by finding the "right" data structure). The data structure is where we are forced to hang meaning. And the only technique we have is free variables, on which we hang "I don't know". Bound variables fall into symbol manipulation which make them constants, configurations of constants reduce (by definition) to an object, and we either *know* that object, rendering meaning unambiguous, or we don't, in which case the symbol structure remaining is declared to be Free!

Since recognized object symbols require a simple dereferencing *act* to cross the Semantic Barrier, we know immediately that recognizable identifiers are imaginary (jeez, the real thing to which the symbol points is right in front of our noses). By elimination, since we trust that symbols have some reality, Free Variables are Real.

Variable-binding actions are those that cross (get it, huh?) the Semantic Barrier. The crossing is from real to imaginary (symbolic). Once bound, the symbol is our toy. We invent games and sets of rules. We manipulate and solve. If the game is to be useful, we look at where we stop, carrying the meaning of our play into Reality once again.

 $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow \neg A$

is a symbolic illusion, caused by our logic hanging meaning prematurely (on T and F, rather than the big D).

makes it clear something is amiss. We can notice a duplicate (A) at level two, and rewrite

which isolates the junk symbols

$$((B)((B))) \implies ((B) B) \implies (() B) \implies (()) \implies (()$$

Alternatively, we can notice the junk directly, the symbol B at level two and (B) at the same level, and in the same context, (A).

Long live Freedom and Ambiguity! Unleash bindings! Give up certainty!

Bound * Unbound = a small constant