

Some Pathologies of Common Knowledge

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Abstract

Common knowledge of rationality (CKR) is not in general a legitimate epistemic condition. In some cases rationality implies that CKR is false, so CKR is inconsistent. In other cases, CKR implies social irrationality. Thus unless CKR can be justified in a particular situation by a consistent set of more basic epistemic principles, CKR cannot be assumed. The failure of CKR is related to some well-known antinomies of modal logics.