LECTURE 14: WITTGENSTEIN'S TRACTATUS

1. Who was Ludwig Wittgenstein?

2. Logical analysis

   §2.0201 "Every statement about complexes can be analysed into a statement about their constituent parts, and into those propositions which completely describe the complexes."

3. Metaphysical atomism

   §2.0232 "Objects are colourless."

   (a) Facts = configurations of metaphysical simples

   (b) Metaphysical simples aren't contingent
       §2.023 "This fixed form consists of the objects."
       §2.014 "Objects contain the possibility of all states of affairs."

4. A logically perfect language

   (a) One name for each metaphysical simple

   (b) Every proposition is a truth functional combination of atomic propositions
       §5.3 "All propositions are results of truth-operations on the elementary propositions."

       i. Uniqueness of construction
       ii. The truth value of a proposition is determined by the truth value of atomic propositions
           §2.04 "The totality of existent atomic facts is the world."
       iii. Tautologies, contradictions, contingencies
           §4.461 "Tautology and contradiction are without sense."
           §4.463 "Tautology leaves to reality the whole infinite logical space; contradiction fills the whole logical space and leaves no point to reality. Neither of them, therefore, can in any way determine reality."
       iv. Elementary sentences are mutually independent
           §1.21 "Any [fact] can either be the case or not be the case, and everything else remain the same."
           §2.061 "Atomic facts are independent of one another."
           §5.134 "From an elementary proposition no other can be inferred."
           §5.135 "In no way can an inference be made from the existence of one state of affairs to the existence of another entirely different from it."
           – the color-exclusion problem

5. The meaning-theoretic argument for metaphysical atomism (§2.02)

6. Necessity and possibility

    (a) All necessity is logical necessity
        – implication: no causal connections
        – implication: no non-vacuous necessary truths