

**Abstract:** A recent paper by Marc Lange, “Laws and Their Stability,” (*Synthese*, 2005, v.144 pp 415-432) presents an interesting thesis – that certain sets, such as the logical or physical necessities, are “stable under counterfactual suppositions” when a certain logical relation holds between each sentence in the set, and every sentence excluded from the set. Sets which include some accidental truths, or an incomplete collection of necessities, will be unstable.

I will argue that Lange's definition, and his arguments employing it, encounter several difficulties, including a form of circularity. Examples taken from the recent history of science suggest that while practical reasoning may depend on a clear relation between laws and counterfactuals, theoretical reasoning requires a more flexible attitude toward laws.