

# HOMework #9

## CS262Z

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The following are descriptions of four scenarios where the question of identifying the actual cause of death was considered important. Formulate each scenario as a causal world  $\langle M, u \rangle$ , and identify, in each scenario, EVERY event that qualifies as "an actual cause of death" **according to the beam test**.

**Case 1:** R. v. Jordan (1957) 40 Cr. App. R. 152 (Contributed by Jos Lehman). A man was stabbed in his stomach during a fight, receiving a severe wound perforating the gut. He was taken to hospital and there, as protection against infection, was given two doses of antibiotic, although, after the first dose, there were symptoms that he was intolerant of this drug. As a result of this and other mistaken treatment, he developed pneumonia and died, though the stab wound was healed at the time of his death.

**Case 2:** Consider a 2-man firing squad. Rifleman-A is instructed to shoot (and kill) before noon. Rifleman-B is instructed to shoot (and kill) iff A does not shoot by noon. A shoots before noon and the prisoner dies.

**Case 3:** Same as Case 2, with the last sentence reading: A does not shoot. B shoots at noon and kills.

**Question:** Was A's non-action a cause of death?

**Case 4:** The captain C of the firing squad is facing a decision, to signal or not to signal. A is instructed to shoot iff the captain signals, and B is instructed to shoot iff the CAPTAIN does not signal by noon.

**Scenario:** The captain does not signal, A does not shoot, B shoots at noon and the prisoner is dead.

**Question:** Was C's non-signal a cause of death?