1 What is this?

This document is a first approximation at using Erving Goffman’s work on stigma, mainly *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity* [1] in a computational setting. To this end, turning rules of stigma into logic will be explored. The concepts will be introduced in the order they appear in *Stigma*. Each concept will be briefly defined in text then in logic.

2 Stigma and Social Identity

**Stigma** (1,5) An undesired difference from what is expected or anticipated. Evidence of disgrace. Originated as a physical branding of deviants in ancient Greece.

Stigma is true or false if the person does or does not have a stigma.

**Normal** (5) An individual without stigmata. A “normal person.”

\[ \neg \text{stigma} \Rightarrow \text{normal} \]

**Social Identity** (2) The categorization of an individual based on phenomenological cues and social norms.

Social Identity not a concept used directly in this logical system; it forms a conceptual foundation for actual and virtual social identity.

**Actual Social Identity** (2) Category and attributes a person can be proved to possess. Ground truth with respect to thinking of normals.

\[ \neg \text{stigma} \Rightarrow \text{ActualSI} \]

To make sense of these true/false values, when social identities are true, they correspond to a normal. If they are false, they correspond to a stigma (actual or otherwise).

**Courtesy Stigma** (29) A normal taking on a stigma in order to be respected by or to get into a social group of persons with stigmata.

\[ \text{normal} \land (\text{CourtesyStigmaIntent}) \Rightarrow \text{CourtesyStigma} \]

Courtesy stigma requires the intent of the person to take on a stigma. Some motivation must exist for a person to willing take up a courtesy stigma.
**Virtual Social Identity** (2) Category and attributes others place on an individual. How the individual is perceived in a situation; it is possible for the actual and virtual social identities to be the same.

\[-\text{CourtesyStigma} \land \neg \text{stigma} \land \neg \text{discredited} \Rightarrow \text{VirtualSI}\]

**Discredited** (4) A person whose stigma is readily noticeable and recognized.

\[\text{stigma} \land \neg \text{VirtualSI} \Rightarrow \text{Discredited}\]

### 2.1 Discussion

Consider if a normal who has a virtual social identity of a normal who has either a courtesy stigma or a stigma to a lesser degree via stigma contamination. Is this person discreditable? If not, when do these assumed stigmas become stigmas that are “real” enough to be a stigma capable of making the person discreditable?

### 3 Information Control and Personal Identity

### 4 Group Alignment and Ego Identity

### 5 The Self and Its Other

### 6 Deviations and Deviance

**References**