INFORMAL VALIDITY AND INTENDED MODELS IN MODAL LOGIC

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I will explain a notion of informal validity for modal logic closely related to Tarski's explication of logical truth. Questions of completeness with respect to informal validity will be discussed for propositional and first-order modal logic. A constraint in terms of informal validity will be proposed on intended models of modal logic in a standard 'possible worlds' sense. I will argue that the constraint can be met only if the Barcan formula is informally valid, and discuss the philosophical implications of this result.