

## Context-Sensitivity and Ockham's Many Razors

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Ockham has many razors: simplicity as a theoretical virtue has alternative explications, and its trade-off with other virtues such as fit with data can be done in many different ways. Hence the need to justify one razor rather than others in a way that is context sensitive. But what are the contextual factors, and how should such justifications proceed? I seek a systematic approach. In this talk, I will walk you through some existing piecemeal attempts, scattered in the practices of statistics, econometrics, computer science, and philosophy. Those attempts will then be subsumed under a big picture for context-sensitive justification of Ockham's razors. The big picture is Peircean in nature, incorporating Peirce's emphasis on self-controlled pursuit of truth (or accuracy). But interestingly, it is still lovable by realists and instrumentalists alike, even though they would disagree on what details should be added to the big picture.