Normalcy versus *sine qua non* Conditions: A new theory of the progressive aspect

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In order to cope with the imperfective paradox, the standard modal theories of the progressive make two related assumptions. The first assumption is that the event interrupted in the actual world must get completed in a counterfactual world (or worlds), and the second is that some variant of normalcy should be used to single out the relevant counterfactual continuations. Recently, Bonomi (1999), Gendler Szabó (2004, 2008) and Wulf (2009) have discussed various counterexamples to these assumptions. In the talk I will argue that the counter-arguments provide compelling evidence that the truth-conditions of the progressive are weaker than is assumed by the standard approach, and that the normalcy asssumption should be replaced by reference to the conditions that are necessary for the completion of the event.