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Conditionals with and without then

The semantics of *if* has received a great deal more attention than that of its occasional partner *then*. But *then* is semantically not uninteresting. (1a) can mean that the speaker will be fine because she gets up at 7 rather than later, or that she'll be fine despite getting up at 7 rather than earlier. (1b), however, only has the 'because' reading (cf. Davis 1983 'weak'/'strong'):

- (1) a. If I get up at 7, I'll be fine time-wise. because/despite
b. If I get up at 7, then I'll be fine time-wise. because

I argue in this talk that the interpretive effect of *then* in *if...then* can be explained in terms of *then* behaving as if it were focused when it is syntactically optional. This is argued to offer a more explanatory account than analyses that have attributed the effect to the interpretation of *then* itself (e.g. Iatridou 1994, von Stechow 1994, Biezma 2014).