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On Bolzano's concept of consequence

Though Tarski is generally credited with formulating the first satisfactory semantic definition of logical consequence, it is widely recognised that he was anticipated in this by Bernard Bolzano, who gave a similar definition in his *Theory of Science* of 1837. Some have claimed that Bolzano's definition is essentially equivalent to the substitutional definition Tarski considered, then rejected, in his well-known paper of 1936, and thus differs from Tarski's final definition mainly in that it is framed in terms of truth-making substitutions rather than in terms of the satisfaction of sentential functions. But there are other important differences between the two definitions, several of which do not appear to have been noticed by historians. In my talk, I will point out some of the unique features of the relation Bolzano defines and argue that on account of these, his consequence relation is not a mere historical curiosity, but an object of interest in its own right.