1 Pragmatics

In ‘Logic and Conversation’, Grice suggests that one of the maxims falling under the Cooperative Principle might be more important (more “urgent”) than the others. Which maxim is this, and why might it have this status? (2–3 sentence response.)

2 Quantifiers, entailments, and implicatures

A classic Gricean argument is that *most* is semantically consistent with *every* but tends to exclude it pragmatically because of a quality–quantity interaction. (If the speaker of *most* knew that the corresponding *every* statement was true [quality], she would have said so, because it is more informative [quantity].)

This argument depends on the semantic claim that *every* entails *most*. Your task is to support this claim, assuming the following set-theoretic meanings (your argument will carry over immediately to the functional view):

- \( J_{\text{most}} = \{ \langle A, B \rangle : |A \cap B| > |A - B| \} \)
- \( J_{\text{every}} = \{ \langle A, B \rangle : A \subseteq B \} \)

In this context, a determiner meaning \( D_1 \) entails another determiner \( D_2 \) if and only if \( [D_1] \subseteq [D_2] \). Thus, your task is simply to show that \( [\text{every}] \subseteq [\text{most}] \)

Assume throughout that the first argument to the determiner (the set \( A \) in the above) is non-empty.
3 In the south of France

From page 49-50 of 'Logic and conversation':

A is planning with B an itinerary for a holiday in France. Both know that A wants to see his friend C, if to do so would not involve too great a prologation of his journey.

(1) A: Where does C live?
   B: Somewhere in the South of France (Gloss: There is no reason to suppose B is opting out; his answer is, as he well knows, less informative than is required to meet A's needs. This infringement of the first maxim of Quantity can be explained only by the supposition that B is aware that to be more informative would be to say something that infringed the maxim of Quality, ‘Don’t say what you lack evidence for’, so B implicates that he does not know in which town C lives.)

Describe two other reasons, distinct from B “does not know in which town C lives”, for why B might have spoken the way he did. Provide supporting contexts for each, and make connections with the maxims where possible. (Grice's own explanation in (1) is a good example of what we are after.)

4 A surprising indefinite

It's common to knock on the door of a locked public restroom and hear (2a) uttered from inside the restroom. Use Grice's maxims to explain why this response is favored over each of (2b) and (2c). (Be sure to argue that it is superior to each of them separately.) Also: What is odd about (2a) in light of the maxims?

(2) a. “Someone’s in here.”
   b. “X is in here!” (where X is the speaker's name)
   c. “Albania’s chief export is chrome!” (or something else arbitrary in the language of the speech community)