# **Programmatic Truthmaker Semantics**

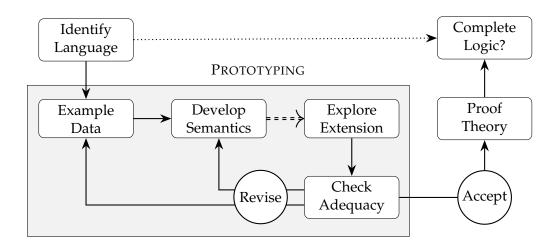
ADVANCES IN TRUTHMAKER SEMANTICS: II Benjamin Brast-McKie & Miguel Buitrago July 29, 2025

#### **Broad Ambitions**

Extend the standard methodology in semantics to:

- Rapidly prototype semantic theories by reducing cognitive load
- Facilitate collaboration and increase accessibility
- Support the maturity of the discipline

## "Standard Methodology"



### **Difficulties**

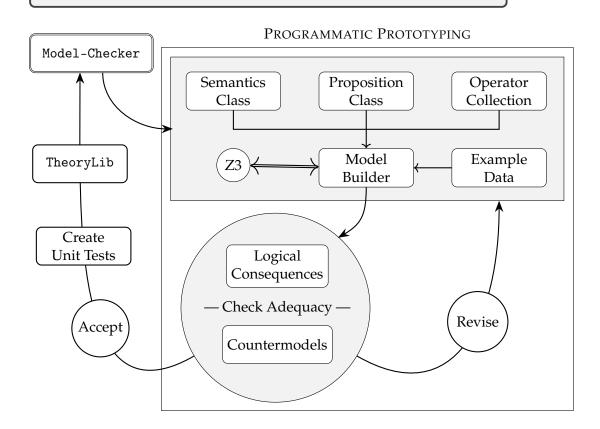
The standard methodology has the following drawbacks:

- Computationally grueling to prototype semantic theories
- Problems of accuracy, redundancy, and memory
- Limits the development of complex semantic theories
- Restricts which language fragments can be studied/combined

### An Extended Methodology

Humans should not be carrying the computational load.

- SAT solvers, SMT solvers, Z3
- Examples: inequalities, bitvectors as states
- Z3 constraints as truth-conditions



## **Conceptual Engineering**

This methodology has the following advantages:

- Efficiently prototype new semantic theories
- Modular semantics, theory of propositions, operators
- Evaluate unified languages with many operators
- Compare rival theories over large data sets

Give it a try at: https://pypi.org/project/model-checker/

### **Bilateral Propositions**

Following Fine (2017a,b,c), a modalized state space is any  $S^{\Diamond} = \langle S, P, \sqsubseteq \rangle$  where  $\langle S, \sqsubseteq \rangle$  is a complete lattice of states,  $P \subseteq S$  is a nonempty subset of possible states, and  $\sqsubseteq$  is the parthood relation satisfying the following constraints:

Nonempty:  $P \neq \emptyset$ .

POSSIBILITY: If  $s \in P$  and  $t \sqsubseteq s$ , then  $t \in P$ .

The world states may then be defined, and a further constraint imposed:

*Compatible:*  $s \circ t := s.t \in P$ .

*World States:*  $W := \{w \in P \mid \forall s \circ w (s \sqsubseteq w)\}.$ 

WORLD SPACE: If  $s \in P$ , then  $s \sqsubseteq w$  for some  $w \in W$ .

A *bilateral proposition* is any ordered tuple  $\langle V, F \rangle \in \mathbb{P}$  where

*Closure:*  $V, F \subseteq S$  are each closed under nonempty fusion.

*Exclusive:* The states in *V* are incompatible with the states in *F*.

*Exhaustive:* Every possible state in *P* is compatible with a state in *V* or *F*.

A model  $\mathcal{M} = \langle S, P, \sqsubseteq, |\cdot| \rangle$  of  $\mathcal{L}$  assigns each  $|p_i| = \langle |p_i|^+, |p_i|^- \rangle \in \mathbb{P}$ .

- $|\neg A| = \langle |A|^-, |A|^+ \rangle$ .
- $|A \wedge B| = \langle |A|^+ \otimes |B|^+, |A|^- \oplus |B|^- \rangle$  where  $X \otimes Y := \{s.t \mid s \in X, t \in Y\}.$
- $|A \vee B| = \langle |A|^+ \oplus |B|^+, |A|^- \otimes |B|^- \rangle$  where  $X \oplus Y := X \cup Y \cup (X \otimes Y)$ .

#### **Minimal Countermodels**

Fine (2012) originally introduced a primitive *imposition relation*  $t \rightarrow_w u$  which indicates that "u is a possible outcome of imposing the change t on the world [state] w", and is subject to the following frame constraints on imposition:

INCLUSION: If  $t \rightarrow_w u$ , then  $t \sqsubseteq u$ .

ACTUALITY: If  $t \sqsubseteq w$ , then  $t \rightarrow_w u$  for some  $u \sqsubseteq w$ .

INCORPORATION: If  $t \rightarrow_w u$  and  $v \sqsubseteq u$ , then  $t.v \rightarrow_w u$ .

COMPLETENESS: If  $t \rightarrow_w u$ , then u is a world-state.

An abridged semantics for  $\mathcal{L} = \langle \mathbb{L}, \neg, \wedge, \vee, \square \rightarrow \rangle$  may then be stated as:

- $\mathcal{M}$ ,  $w \models p_i$  iff  $s \in |p_i|^+$  for some  $s \sqsubseteq w$ .
- $\mathcal{M}, w \models A \Longrightarrow C \text{ iff } \mathcal{M}, u \models C \text{ whenever } t \in |A|^+ \text{ and } t \to_w u.$

### **Defining Imposition**

*Definition:* The frame constraints admit exceptions to  $\Box A := \top \Box \rightarrow A$ .

State Space: 
$$P = \{a, b, c, b.c\}$$
,  $W = \{a, b.c\}$ ,  $S/P = \{a.b, a.c, a.b.c\}$ 

Imposition: 
$$\rightarrow$$
 = {  $\langle a, a, a \rangle$ ,  $\langle b, b.c, b.c \rangle$ ,  $\langle c, b.c, b.c \rangle$ ,  $\langle \Box, a, a \rangle$ ,  $\langle \Box, b.c, b.c \rangle$ ,  $\langle \Box, b.c, b.c \rangle$  }

*Interpretation:*  $|A| = \langle \{a\}, \{b.c\} \rangle$ 

*Premise:*  $\mathcal{M}$ ,  $a \models \top \Longrightarrow A$  since the set of  $\top$ -alternatives to  $a = \{a\}$ .

*Conclusion:*  $\mathcal{M}$ ,  $a \not\models \Box A$  since  $\mathcal{M}$ ,  $b.c \not\models A$ .

The definition  $\Box A := \top \Box \rightarrow A$  is preserved by the following definition of  $\rightarrow$ , where ' $s \sqsubseteq_t w$ ' reads 's is a *t-compatible part* of w':

*Compatible Part:* 
$$s \sqsubseteq_t w := s \sqsubseteq w \land s \circ t$$
.

*Maximal Compatible Parts:* 
$$w_t := \{s \sqsubseteq_t w \mid \forall r \sqsubseteq_t w (s \sqsubseteq r \rightarrow r = s)\}.$$

*Imposition:* 
$$t \rightarrow_w u := u \in W \land \exists s \in w_t(s.t \sqsubseteq u)$$
.

We may then derive rather than posit the frame constraints on imposition, making the logic for  $\rightarrow$  both stronger and more computable.

#### **Proofs**

**P1** (INCLUSION) If  $t \rightarrow_w u$ , then  $t \sqsubseteq u$ .

*Proof.* Assuming  $t \to_w u$ , it follows that  $u \in W$  where  $s.t \sqsubseteq u$  for some  $s \in w_t$ . Since  $t \sqsubseteq s.t$ , it follows that  $t \sqsubseteq u$  as desired.

**P2** (ACTUALITY) If  $t \subseteq w$  and  $w \in W$ , then  $t \rightarrow_w u$  for some  $u \subseteq w$ .

*Proof.* Assume  $t \sqsubseteq w$  for  $w \in W$ . Thus  $w \in P$  where w.t = w, and so  $w \circ t$ . Since  $w \sqsubseteq w$ , we know  $w \sqsubseteq_t w$ . Let  $r \sqsubseteq_t w$  where  $w \sqsubseteq r$ , and so  $r \sqsubseteq w$ , and so  $w \in w_t$ . Since  $w.t \sqsubseteq w$ , we know  $t \to_w w$ , and so  $t \to_w w$  for some  $u \sqsubseteq w$ .  $\square$ 

**P3** (INCORPORATION) If  $t \rightarrow_w u$  and  $v \sqsubseteq u$ , then  $t.v \rightarrow_w u$ .

*Proof.* Assuming  $t \to_w u$  and  $v \sqsubseteq u$ , we know  $u \in W$  where  $s.t \sqsubseteq u$  for some  $s \in w_t$ . Thus  $s.t.v \sqsubseteq u$  and  $s \sqsubseteq_t w$  where (1):  $r \sqsubseteq s$  whenever  $r \sqsubseteq_t w$  and  $s \sqsubseteq r$ . So  $s \sqsubseteq w$ . Since  $u \in P$ , we also know that  $s \circ t.v$ , and so  $s \sqsubseteq_{t.v} w$ .

Let  $q \sqsubseteq_{t.v} w$  where  $s \sqsubseteq q$ , and so  $q \sqsubseteq w$  where  $q \circ t.v$ , and so  $q.t.v \in P$ . Thus  $q.t \in P$ , and so  $q \circ t$ . It follows that  $q \sqsubseteq_t w$ , and so  $q \sqsubseteq s$  follows from (1). Generalizing on q, we know (2):  $q \sqsubseteq s$  whenever  $q \sqsubseteq_{t.v} w$  and  $s \sqsubseteq q$ .

Having already shown that  $s \sqsubseteq_{t.v} w$ , it follows from (2) that  $s \in w_{t.v}$ . Since  $s.t.v \sqsubseteq u$  for  $u \in W$ , we may conclude that  $t.v \rightarrow_w u$  as desired.