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ESCUELA DE CIENCIAS
INFORMÁTICAS



DEPARTAMENTO
DE COMPUTACIÓN

Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales - UNS

Bipolar Abstract Argumentation

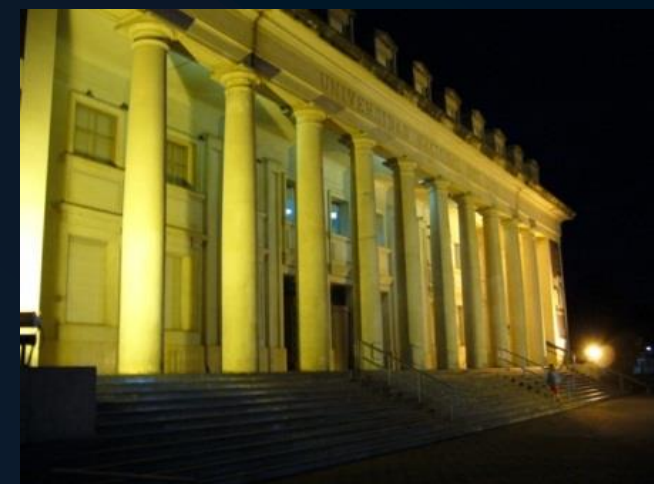
- Guillermo R. Simari



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Bipolar Argumentation Frameworks

Mostly following Cayrol and Lagasquie-Schiex (2005, 2007, 2009, 2010)

A Cohen, S Gottifredi, A J García, G R Simari: A Survey of Different Approaches to Support in Argumentation Systems. Knowledge Eng. Review 29(5): 513-550 (2014)

Abstraction is a double-edged sword

Fundamentally, Computer Science is a science of abstraction —creating the right model for thinking about a problem and devising the appropriate mechanizable techniques to solve it.

...

However, abstraction in the sense we use it implies simplification, the replacement of a complex and detailed real-world situation by an understandable model within which we can solve a problem. That is, we "abstract away" the details whose effect on the solution to a problem is minimal or non-existent, thereby creating a model that lets us deal with the essence of the problem.

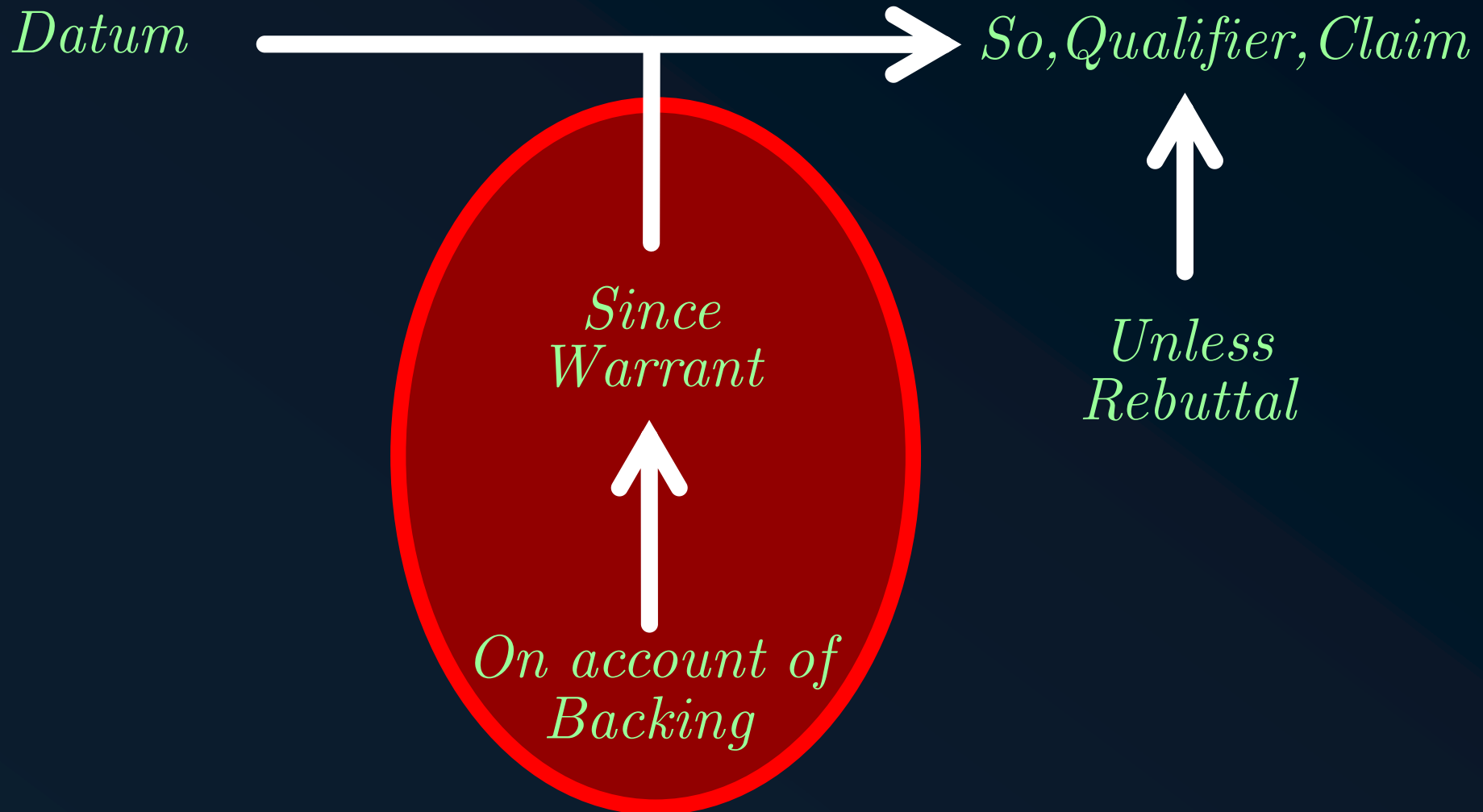
A. Aho, J. Ullman, Foundations of Computer Science (1995)

*Abstraction is a tool for collective thought.
It results in more cohesive APIs & tooling
across projects because people are thinking
& collaborating about things with a similar
language.*

Merrick Christensen

<https://www.merrickchristensen.com/articles/abstraction/>

Toulmin's General Model of Layout of Arguments



An Example

The following exchange of arguments happens during a meeting of the editorial board of a newspaper:

\mathcal{I} information I concerning person P should be published.

\mathcal{P} information I is private; so, P denies publication.

\mathcal{M} P is the new prime minister; so, all related to P is public.

\mathcal{S} I is an important information concerning P 's son.

Some conflicts appear during the above discussion:

- There is conflict between arguments \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{I} , and between arguments \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{P} .*
- But, the relation between \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{S} clearly is not a conflict; also, \mathcal{S} provides information related to \mathcal{P} .*

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\mathcal{S}

\mathcal{P}

\mathcal{I}

\mathcal{M}

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$\mathcal{S} \quad \mathcal{P} \rightleftharpoons \mathcal{I}$

\mathcal{M}

An Example

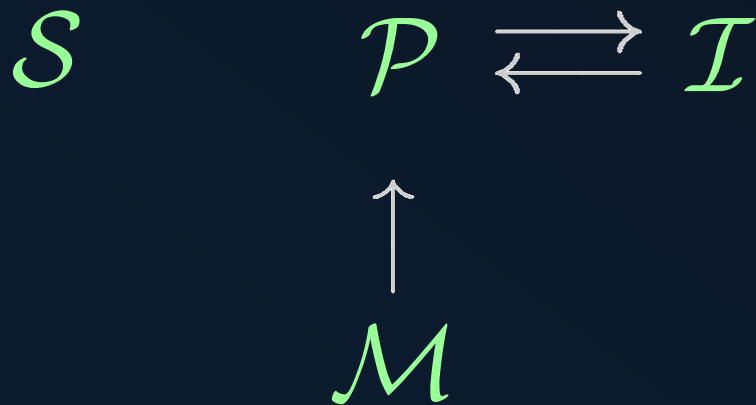
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An Example

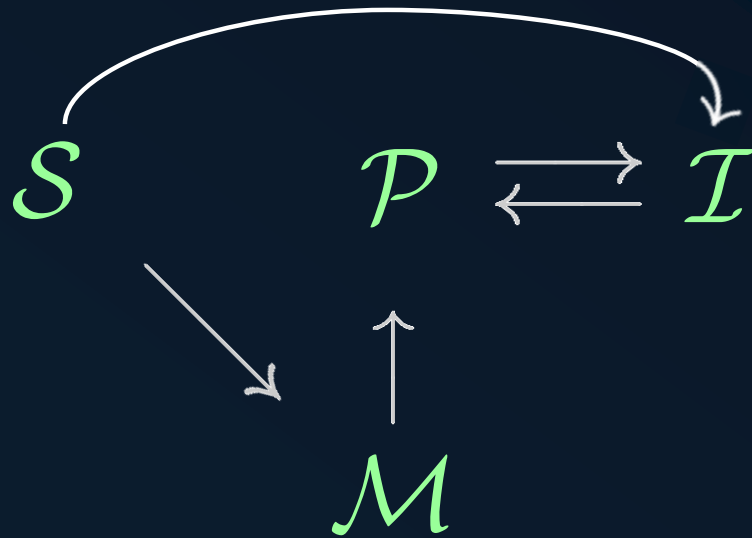
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An Example

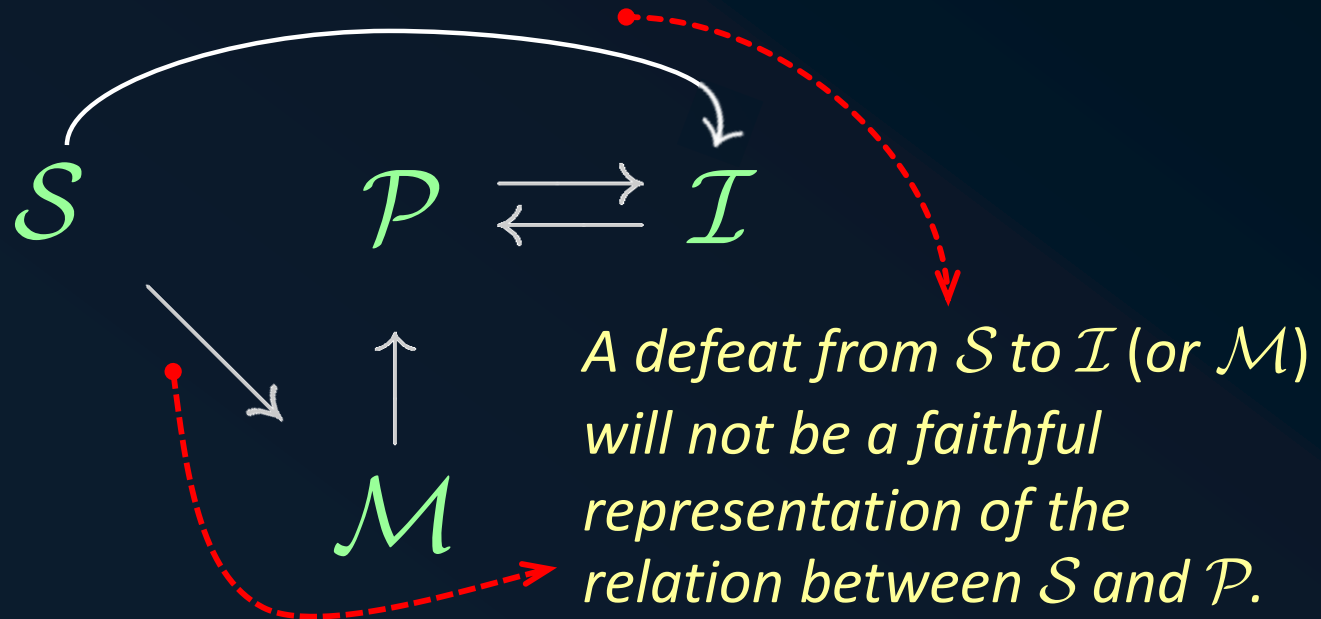
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*A defeat from \mathcal{S} to \mathcal{I} (or \mathcal{M})
will not be a faithful
representation of the
relation between \mathcal{S} and \mathcal{P} .*

Support in Argumentation

- ➡ *The goal is not to change the existing arguments or introduce defeats that do not **quite** exist; an alternative is to consider a **new** and **independent relation** defined over the set of arguments.*
- ➡ *The objective is to provide tools to attempt to represent all the types of interactions between the arguments.*
- ➡ *A relation of **support** will provide the required representational elements without losing the abstract flavor of the classic argumentation frameworks.*

About Support in Argumentation

Deductive Support:

Captures the intuition that if \mathcal{A} supports \mathcal{B} then the acceptance of \mathcal{A} implies the acceptance of \mathcal{B} , and as a reflection the non-acceptance of \mathcal{B} implies the non-acceptance of \mathcal{A} .

$\mathcal{A} \implies \mathcal{B}$, then \mathcal{B} is accepted, and

\mathcal{B} is not accepted, then \mathcal{A} is not accepted

About Support in Argumentation

Necessary Support:

Reflects the intuition that if A supports B then the acceptance of A is necessary to get the acceptance of B , or equivalently the acceptance of B implies the acceptance of A .

About Support in Argumentation

Evidential Support: *Permits to distinguish between prima-facie and standard arguments; prima-facie arguments do not require any support from other arguments, whereas standard arguments must be supported by at least one prima-facie argument.*

*Bipolar
Argumentation
Frameworks
(BAFs)*

Bipolar Argumentation Frameworks

A *Bipolar Argumentation Framework* (BAF) is a triple:

$$\langle A, \mathbb{R}_d, \mathbb{R}_s \rangle$$

$$\mathbb{R}_s \subseteq A \times A$$

is a support relation between arguments

$$\mathbb{R}_d \subseteq A \times A$$

is a defeat relation between arguments



is a finite, non-empty set of arguments

Example (contd.)

\mathcal{I} information I concerning person P should be published.

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\mathcal{M} P is the new prime minister so, everything related to P is public.

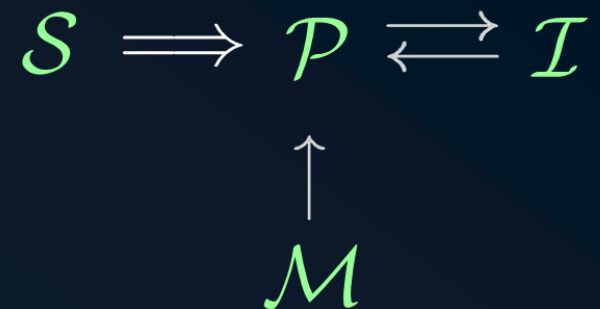
The BAF in the figure can be put in terms of the previous definition as

$BAF = \langle \mathbb{A}, \mathbb{R}_d, \mathbb{R}_s \rangle$ where:

$$\mathbb{A} = \{\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{S}\}$$

$$\mathbb{R}_d = \{(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{I}), (\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{P}), (\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{P})\}$$

$$\mathbb{R}_s = \{(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{P})\}$$



Bipolar Interaction Graph

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \mathcal{B} & \Longrightarrow & \mathcal{C} & \Longrightarrow & \mathcal{E} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{F} \Longleftarrow \mathcal{H} \\
 \uparrow & & \Downarrow & & & & \Uparrow \Downarrow \\
 \mathcal{A} & & \mathcal{D} & \Longleftarrow & & & \mathcal{G}
 \end{array}$$

Example

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \mathcal{B} & \Rightarrow & \mathcal{C} & \Rightarrow & \mathcal{E} & \xrightarrow{\text{yellow}} & \mathcal{F} \Leftarrow \mathcal{H} \\
 \uparrow & & \Downarrow & & & & \Uparrow \downarrow \\
 \mathcal{A} & & \mathcal{D} & \Leftarrow & & & \mathcal{G}
 \end{array}$$

Example

Supported and Secondary Defeats

Definition: Let $BAF = \langle \mathbb{A}, \mathbb{R}_d, \mathbb{R}_s \rangle$ be a Bipolar Argumentation Framework and $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \in \mathbb{A}$

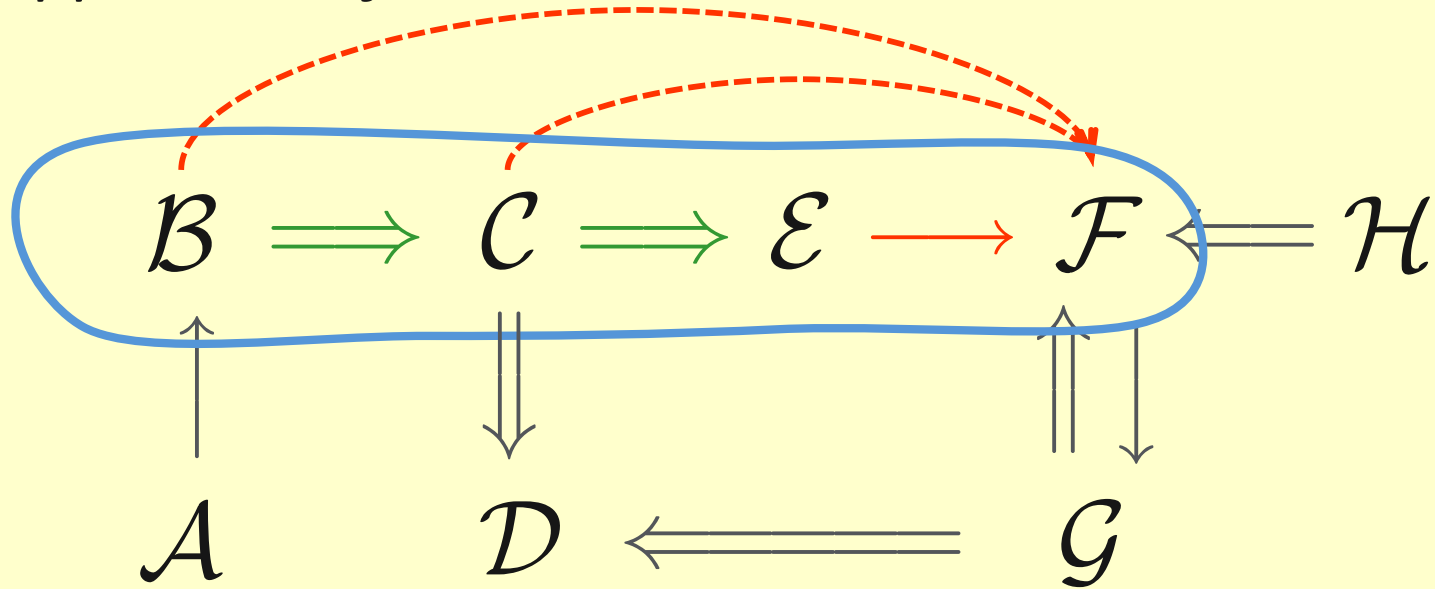
— *A **supported defeat** from \mathcal{A} to \mathcal{B} is a sequence*

$$\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_1 \mathbb{R}_1 \dots \mathbb{R}_{n-1} \mathcal{A}_n = \mathcal{B}, \quad n \geq 3,$$

such that $\mathbb{R}_i = \mathbb{R}_s$ for $1 \leq i \leq n-2$, and $\mathbb{R}_{n-1} = \mathbb{R}_d$, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{A}_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}_2 \Rightarrow \dots \mathcal{A}_{n-1} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_n = \mathcal{B}$$

Supported defeat



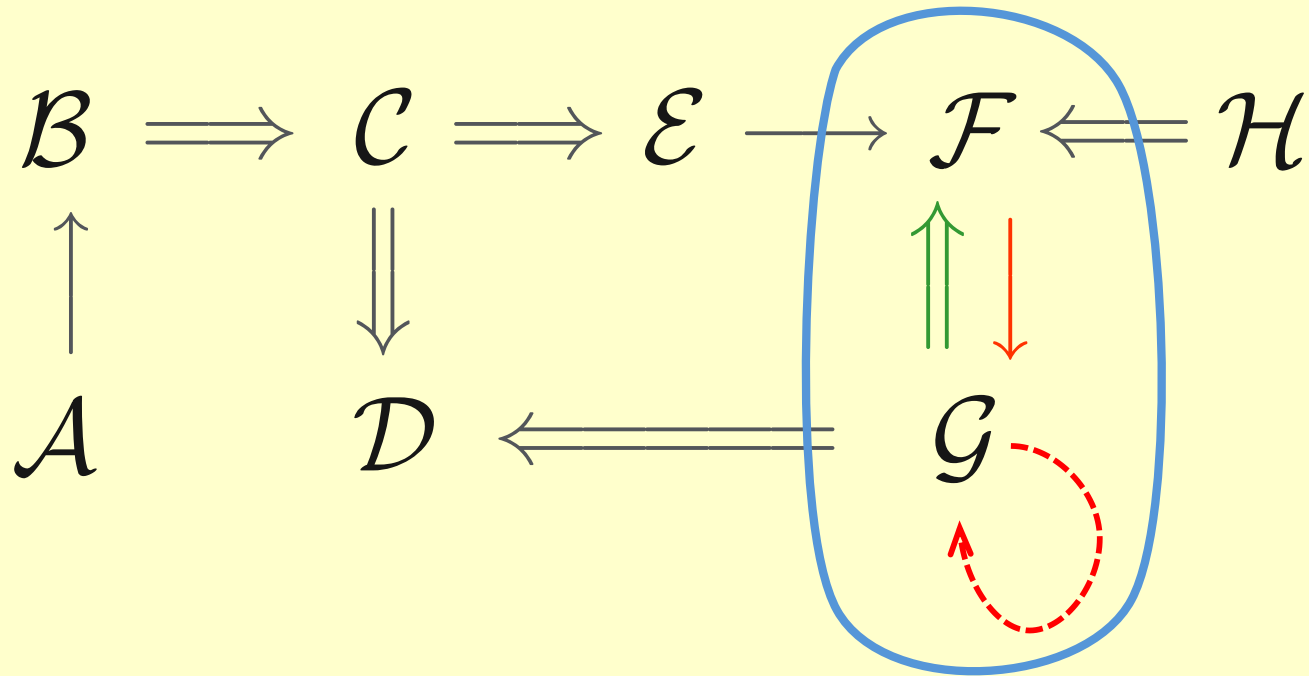
$$\mathcal{B} \Rightarrow \mathcal{C} \Rightarrow \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$$

$$\mathcal{C} \Rightarrow \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$$

$$\mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$$

A *supported defeat* from \mathcal{A} to \mathcal{B} is a sequence $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_1 \mathcal{R}_1 \dots \mathcal{R}_{n-1} \mathcal{A}_n = \mathcal{B}$, $n \geq 3$, such that $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathbb{R}_s$ for $1 \leq i \leq n-2$, and $\mathcal{R}_{n-1} = \mathbb{R}_d$.

Supported defeat



$$\mathcal{G} \Rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$$

$$\mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$$

A *supported defeat* from \mathcal{A} to \mathcal{B} is a sequence $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_1 \ R_1 \dots R_{n-1} \ \mathcal{A}_n = \mathcal{B}$, $n \geq 3$, such that $R_i = \mathbb{R}_s$ for $1 \leq i \leq n-2$, and $R_{n-1} = \mathbb{R}_d$.

Supported and Secondary Defeats

Definition: Let $BAF = \langle \mathbb{A}, \mathbb{R}_d, \mathbb{R}_s \rangle$ be a Bipolar Argumentation Framework and $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \in \mathbb{A}$

– *A **supported defeat** from \mathcal{A} to \mathcal{B} is a sequence*

$$\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_1 \mathbb{R}_1 \dots \mathbb{R}_{n-1} \mathcal{A}_n = \mathcal{B}, \quad n \geq 3,$$

such that $\mathbb{R}_i = \mathbb{R}_s$ for $1 \leq i \leq n-2$, and $\mathbb{R}_{n-1} = \mathbb{R}_d$, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{A}_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}_2 \Rightarrow \dots \mathcal{A}_{n-1} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_n = \mathcal{B}$$

– *A **secondary defeat** from \mathcal{A} to \mathcal{B} is a sequence*

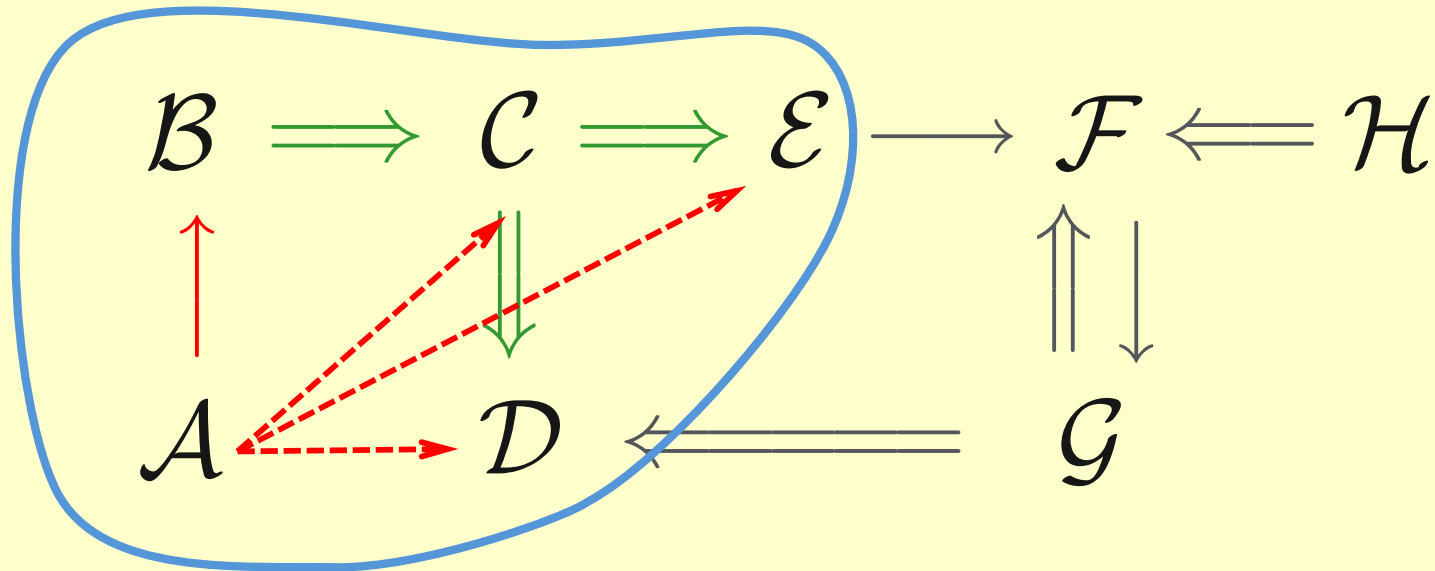
$$\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_1 \mathbb{R}_1 \dots \mathbb{R}_{n-1} \mathcal{A}_n = \mathcal{B}, \quad n \geq 3,$$

such that $\mathbb{R}_1 = \mathbb{R}_d$ and $\mathbb{R}_i = \mathbb{R}_s$ for $2 \leq i \leq n-1$, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{A}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_2 \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}_n = \mathcal{B}$$

*A **direct defeat** $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is also a **supported defeat**.*

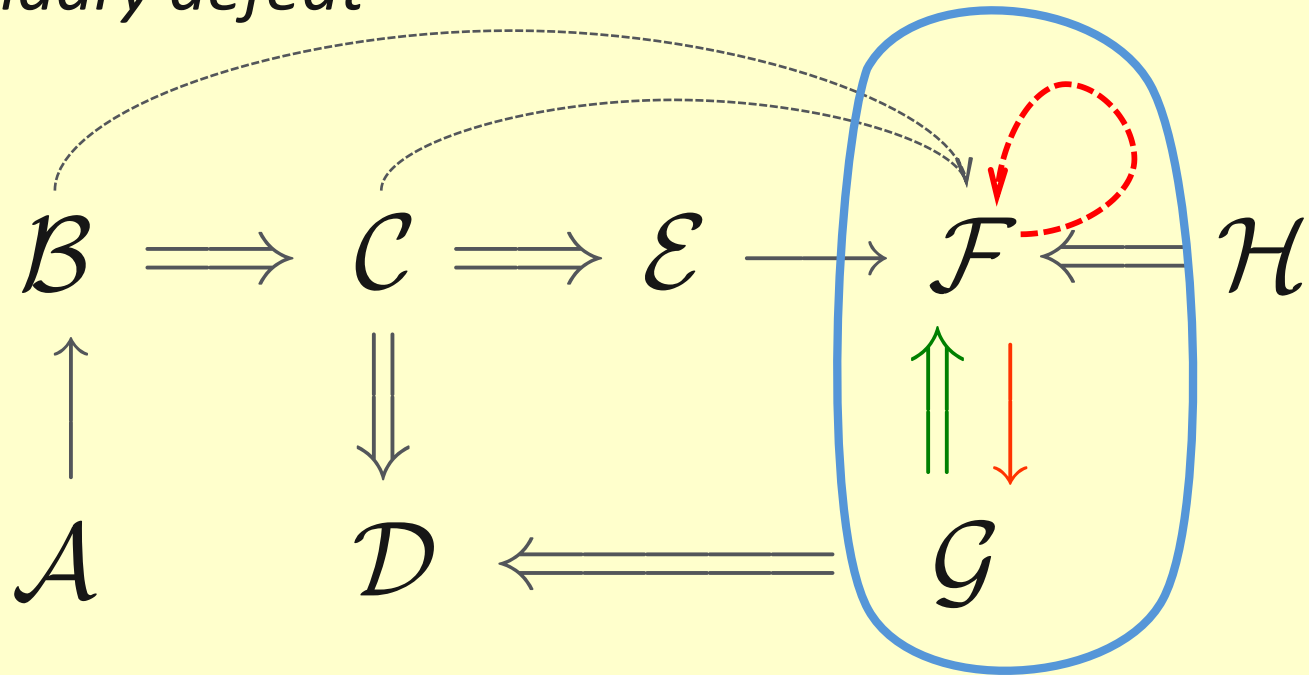
Secondary defeat



$\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B} \Rightarrow \mathcal{C} \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ and $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B} \Rightarrow \mathcal{C} \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}$

A *secondary defeat* from \mathcal{A} to \mathcal{B} is a sequence $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_1 \mathcal{R}_1 \dots \mathcal{R}_{n-1} \mathcal{A}_n = \mathcal{B}$, $n \geq 3$, such that $\mathcal{R}_1 = \mathbb{R}_d$ and $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathbb{R}_s$ for $2 \leq i \leq n-1$.

Secondary defeat



$$\mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{G} \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$$

A *secondary defeat* from \mathcal{A} to \mathcal{B} is a sequence $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_1 \ R_1 \ \dots \ R_{n-1} \ \mathcal{A}_n = \mathcal{B}$, $n \geq 3$, such that $R_1 = \mathbb{R}_d$ and $R_i = \mathbb{R}_s$ for $2 \leq i \leq n-1$.

Supported and Secondary Defeats

Definition: Let $BAF = \langle \mathbb{A}, \mathbb{R}_d, \mathbb{R}_s \rangle$ be a Bipolar Argumentation Framework and $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \in \mathbb{A}$

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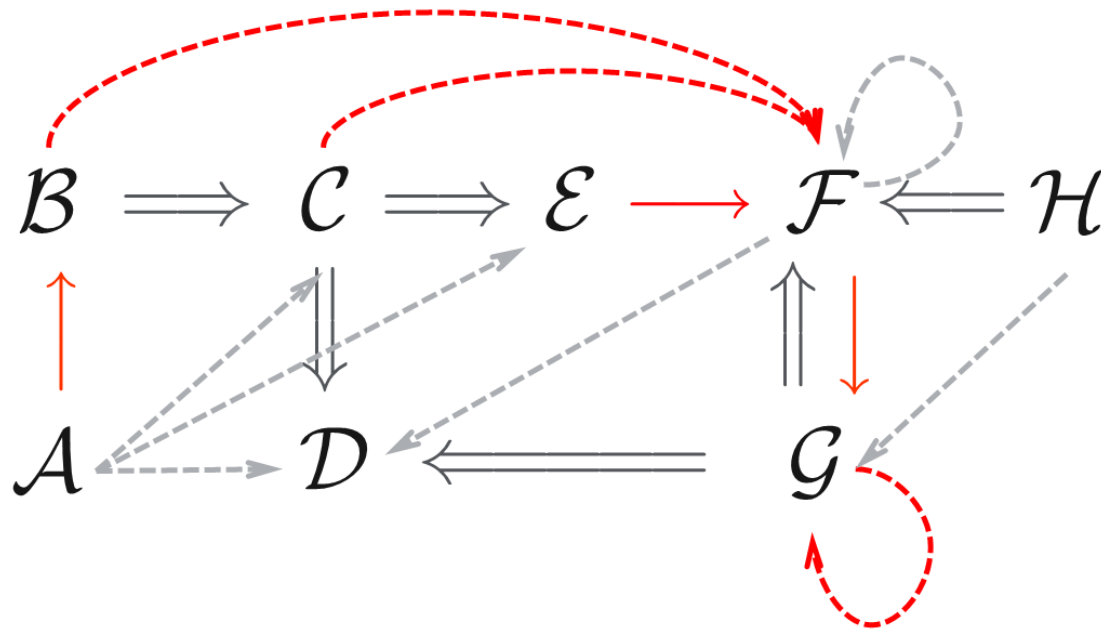
such that $\mathbb{R}_1 = \mathbb{R}_d$ and $\mathbb{R}_i = \mathbb{R}_s$ for $2 \leq i \leq n-1$, i.e.,

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*A **direct defeat** $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is also a **supported defeat**.*

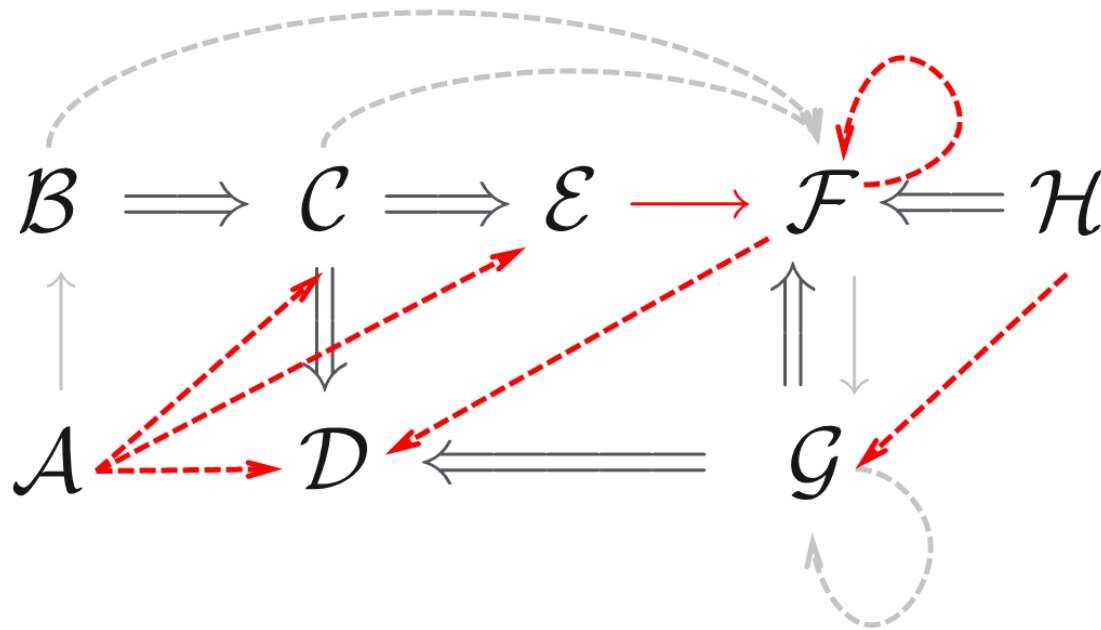
Supported and Secondary Defeats

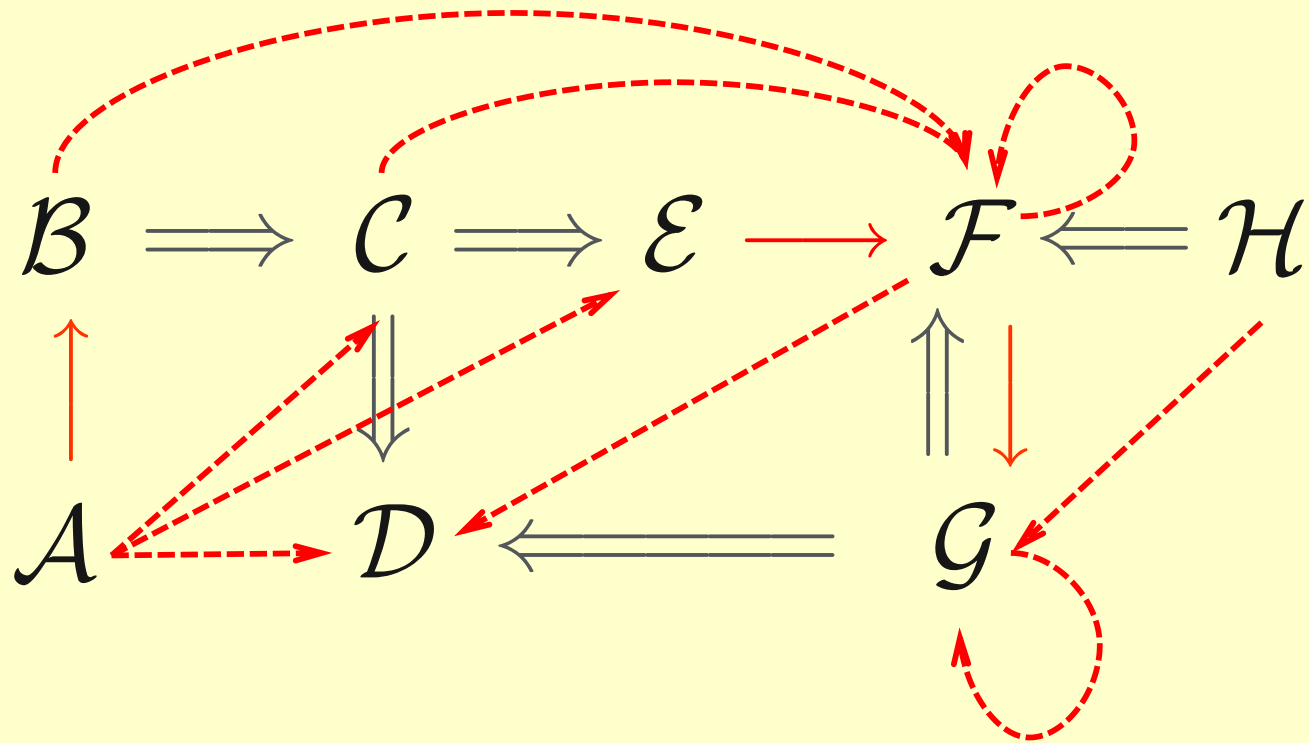
- a path $\mathcal{A}_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}_2 \dots \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}_k \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ in the bipolar interaction graph leads to k supported defeats from each \mathcal{A}_i to \mathcal{B} ($1 \leq i \leq k$); and,



Supported and Secondary Defeats

- a path $\mathcal{A}_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}_2 \dots \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}_k \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ in the bipolar interaction graph leads to k supported defeats from each \mathcal{A}_i to \mathcal{B} ($1 \leq i \leq k$); and,
- a path $\mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}_2 \dots \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}_k$ in the bipolar interaction graph leads to k secondary defeats from \mathcal{B} to each \mathcal{A}_i ($1 \leq i \leq k$).





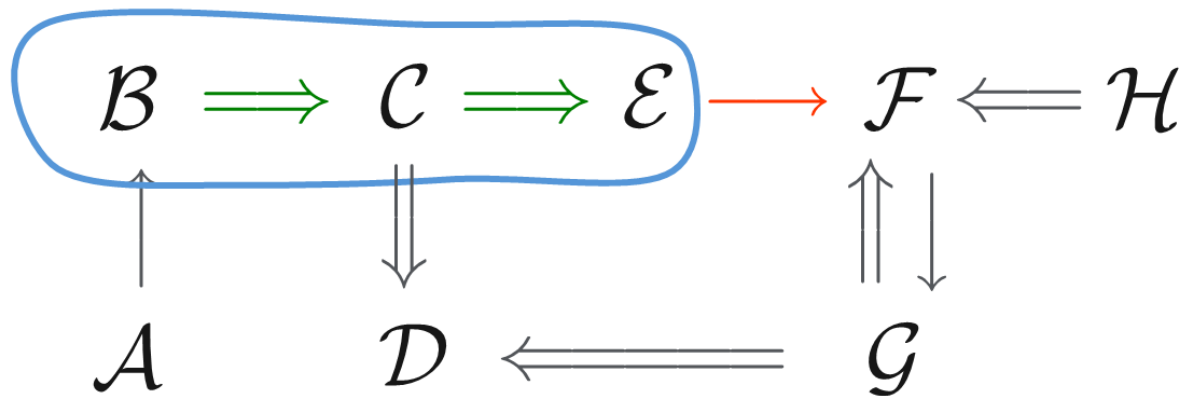
In red all the defeats (supported and secondary) are shown together with the supports in grey.

Handling Conflict

Definition: Let $BAF = \langle \mathbb{A}, \mathbb{R}_d, \mathbb{R}_s \rangle$ be a Bipolar Argumentation Framework and $S \subseteq \mathbb{A}, \mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{A}$, then:

- S **set-defeats** \mathcal{A} iff there exists a supported defeat or a direct defeat for \mathcal{A} from an element of S .

$S = \{ \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{E} \}$ set-defeats \mathcal{F}



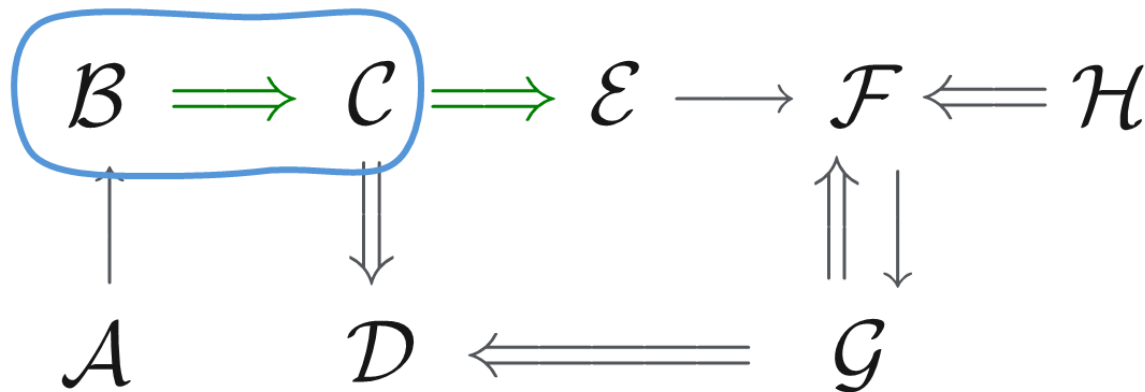
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Handling Conflict

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- S **set-defeats** \mathcal{A} iff there exists a supported defeat or a direct defeat for \mathcal{A} from an element of S .
- S **set-supports** \mathcal{A} iff there exists a sequence of supports for \mathcal{A} from an element of S .

$S = \{ \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C} \}$ set-supports \mathcal{E}



$\mathcal{B} \Rightarrow \mathcal{C} \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}$

Handling Conflict

In AAF, acceptable sets of arguments must be conflict-free (a form of coherence); in BAFs, the notion of coherence can be extended in two different ways:

- Disallowing both direct defeats and the proper supported defeats enforces a kind of internal coherence:*

A set S of arguments that set-defeats one of its elements, is rejected.

- Extending the consistency constraint between support and defeat relations leads to external coherence:*

A set S of arguments which set-defeats and set-supports the same argument, is not accepted.

Conflict Freeness and Safety

Definition: Let $BAF = \langle \mathbb{A}, \mathbb{R}_d, \mathbb{R}_s \rangle$ be a Bipolar Argumentation Framework and $S \subseteq \mathbb{A}$

- *S is **+conflict-free** iff there is no pair $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \in S$ such that there is a supported or a secondary defeat from \mathcal{A} to \mathcal{B} .*
- *S is **safe** iff there is no $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{A}$ and no pair $\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C} \in S$ such that there is a supported or a secondary defeat from \mathcal{B} to \mathcal{A} , and either there is a sequence of support from \mathcal{C} to \mathcal{A} , or $\mathcal{A} \in S$.*

Alternatively,

- *S is **+conflict-free** iff there is no pair $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \in S$ such that $\{\mathcal{A}\}$ set-defeats \mathcal{B} .*
- *S is **safe** iff there is no $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{A}$ such that S set-defeats \mathcal{A} , and either S set-supports \mathcal{A} or $\mathcal{A} \in S$.*

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- S is **safe** iff there is no $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{A}$ such that S set-defeats \mathcal{A} , and either S set-supports \mathcal{A} or $\mathcal{A} \in S$.

The notion of +conflict-freeness is more restrictive than simple conflict-freeness since +conflict-freeness considers supported and secondary defeats, and supported defeats include direct defeat.

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- S is **safe** iff there is no $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{A}$ such that S set-defeats \mathcal{A} , and either S set-supports \mathcal{A} or $\mathcal{A} \in S$.

Also, it has been shown that **if a set is safe it is also +conflict-free**, although the converse does not hold (example follows); but, **if a set is +conflict-free and closed under the support relation then it is also safe** (closed: if $\mathcal{A} \Rightarrow \mathcal{B}$, and $\mathcal{A} \in S$, then $\mathcal{B} \in S$).

Conflict Freeness and Safety

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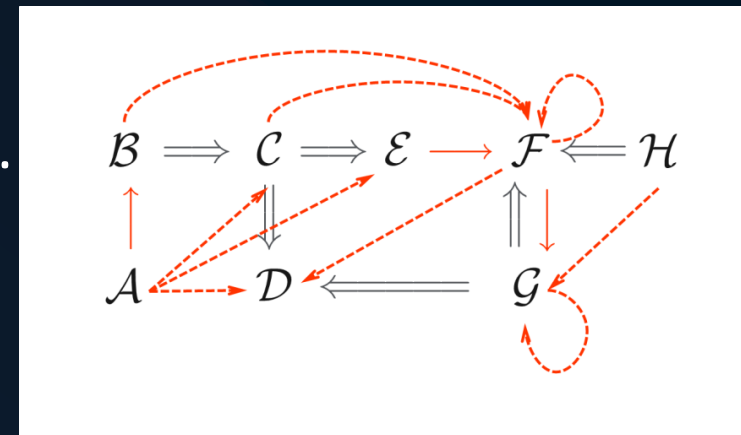
$\{\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F}\}$ is conflict-free and +conflict-free.

$\{\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{C}\}$ is conflict-free but not +conflict-free.

$\{\mathcal{G}\}$ is conflict-free but not +conflict-free.

$\{\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{H}\}$ is +conflict-free but not safe.

$\{\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E}\}$ and $\{\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{H}\}$ are both safe.



Conflict Freeness and Safety

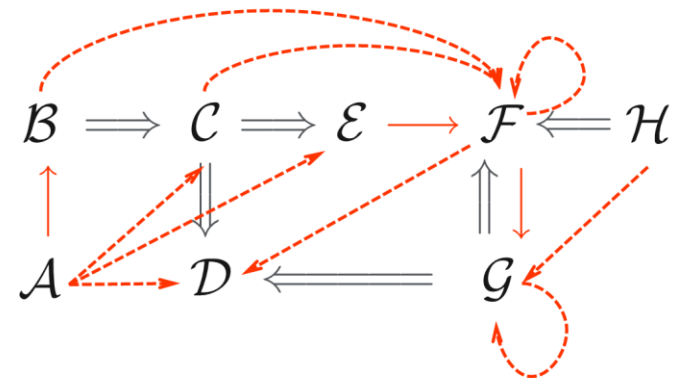
$\{A, C\}$ is conflict-free but not +conflict-free.

$\{G\}$ is conflict-free but not +conflict-free.

$\{A, F\}$ is conflict-free and +conflict-free.



The notion of +conflict-freeness is more restrictive than simple conflict-freeness since considers supported and secondary defeats, and supported defeats include direct defeat.

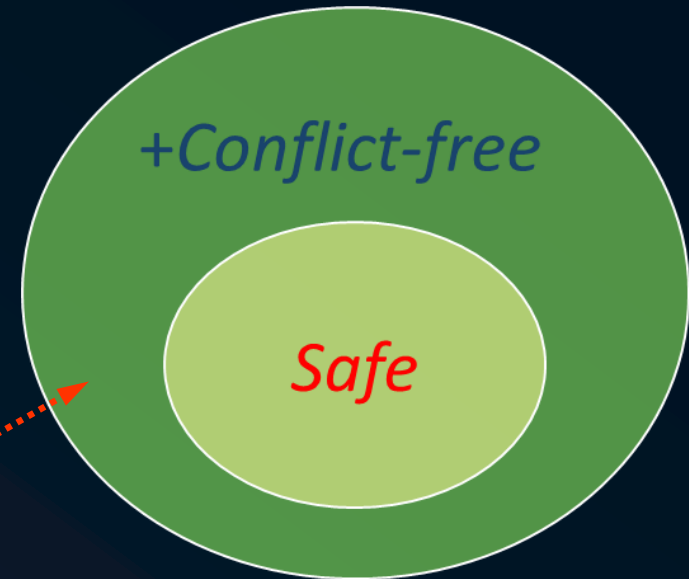


Conflict Freeness and Safety

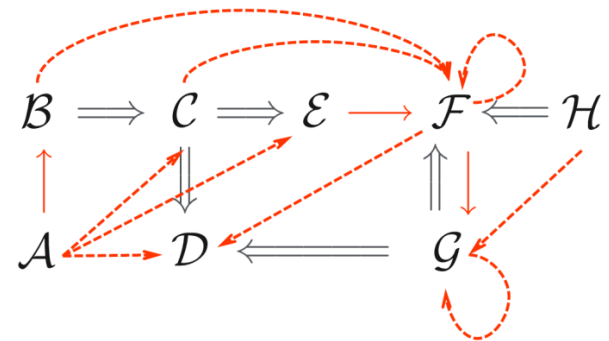
If a set is safe it is also +conflict-free, although the converse does not hold.

If a set is +conflict-free and closed under the support relation then it is also safe.

(closed: if $\mathcal{A} \Rightarrow \mathcal{B}$, and $\mathcal{A} \in S$, then $\mathcal{B} \in S$)



$\{B, C, D, E, H\}$ is +conflict-free but not safe.



BAFs Acceptability Semantics

- ➔ *Various notions of coherence, and two kinds of defeat (direct and supported) are available, we may extend the notion of defense in different ways.*
- ➔ *However, we will restrict to the classical defense, for the following reasons:*
 - *The purpose of this introduction is to present the basic principles central to bipolar frameworks, and*
 - *It has been postulated in the literature that support does not have the same strength as defeat.*
- ➔ *Thus, an argument can be considered as defended if and only if its direct defeaters are directly defeated.*

BAFs Admissibility

- ➔ *Three different definitions for admissibility are possible, and they will be given from most general to most specific.*
- ➔ *First, Dung's definition in the context of BAFs provides the definition of **d-admissibility** ("d" means "in Dung's AAF).*
- ➔ *The consideration of external coherence renders the concept to **s(afe)-admissibility**.*
- ➔ *Finally, external coherence can be strengthened by requiring that an admissible set be closed for \mathbb{R}_s (the support relation), obtaining the definition of **c(losed)-admissibility**.*

BAFs Admissibility

Let us recall that in AFs, $S \subseteq \mathbb{A}$ is said to be **conflict free** iff there are no $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \in S$ such that \mathcal{A} defeats \mathcal{B} , and that $S \subseteq \mathbb{A}$ is said to be **admissible** iff S is conflict free and defends all its elements.

In BAFs a set $S \subseteq \mathbb{A}$ is **+conflict-free** iff there is no pair $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \in S$ such that $\{\mathcal{A}\}$ set-defeats \mathcal{B} , and S is **safe** iff there is no $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{A}$ such that S set-defeats \mathcal{A} , and either S set-supports \mathcal{A} or $\mathcal{A} \in S$.

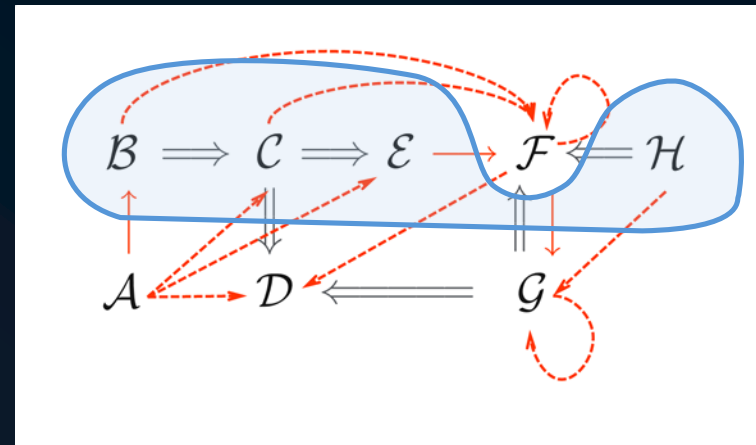
Definition: Let $S \subseteq \mathbb{A}$, then it said that:

- S is **d-admissible** iff S is +conflict-free and defends all its elements.
- S is **s-admissible** iff S is safe and defends all its elements.
- S is **c-admissible** iff S is +conflict-free, closed for \mathbb{R}_s and defends all its elements.

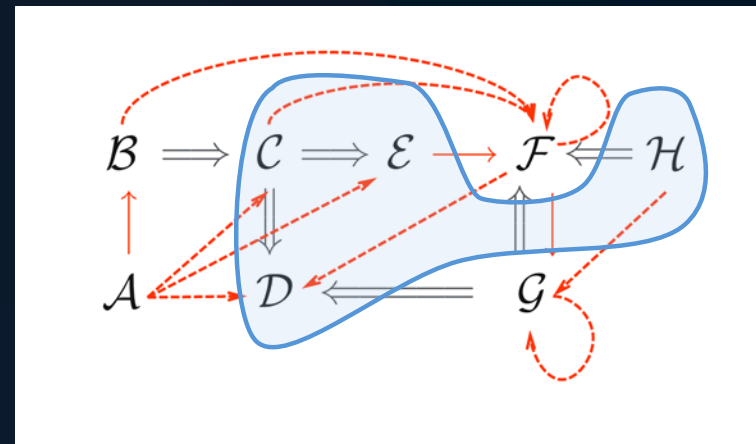
Examples

$S \subseteq \mathbb{A}$, S is *d-admissible* iff S is +conflict-free and defends all its elements.

$\{B, C, D, E, H\}$ is not d-admissible since, although it is +conflict-free, it does not defend B against the direct defeat from A .



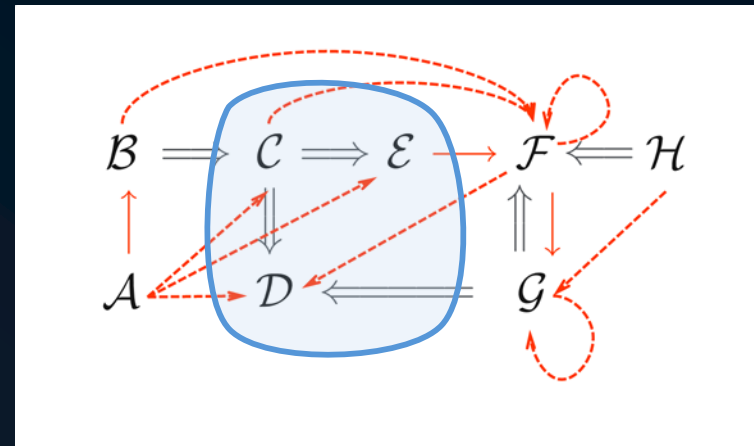
$\{C, D, E, H\}$ is d-admissible



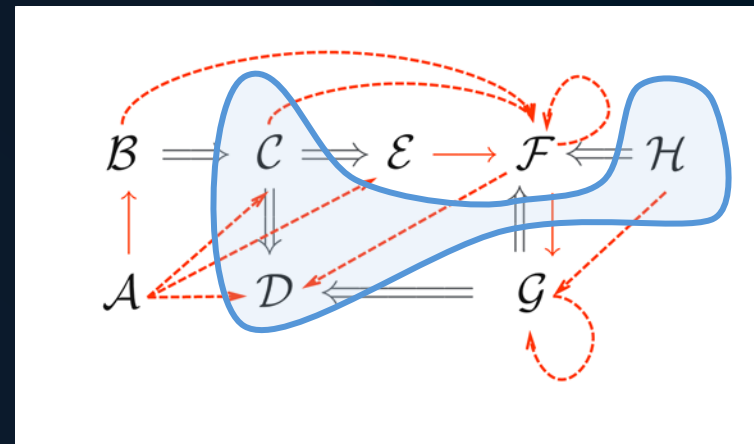
Examples

$S \subseteq \mathbb{A}$, S is **s-admissible** iff S is safe (i.e., there is no $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{A}$ s.t. S set-defeats \mathcal{A} , and either S set-supports \mathcal{A} or $\mathcal{A} \in S$) and defends all its elements.

$\{\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E}\}$ is s-admissible



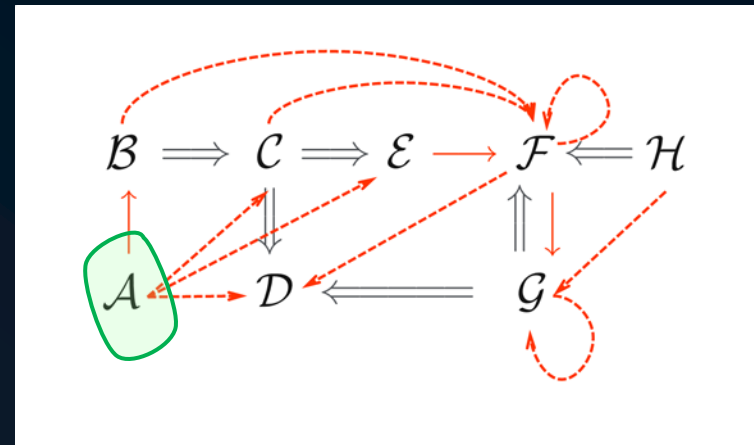
$\{\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{H}\}$ is s-admissible



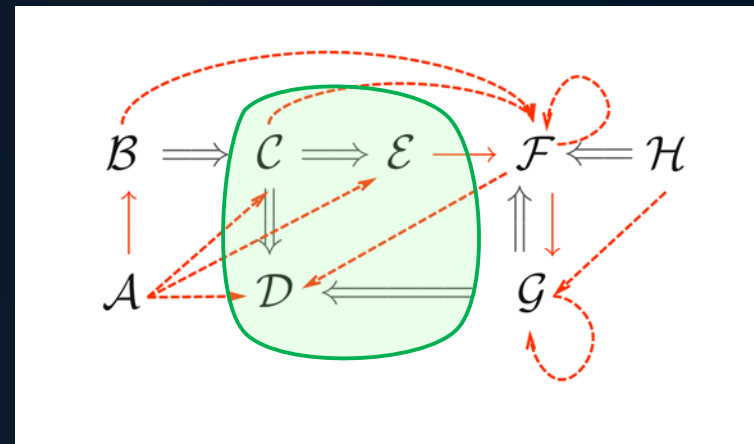
Examples

$S \subseteq \mathbb{A}$, S is **c-admissible** iff S is +conflict-free, closed for \mathbb{R}_s , and defends all its elements.

$\{A\}$ is c-admissible



$\{C, D, E\}$ is c-admissible

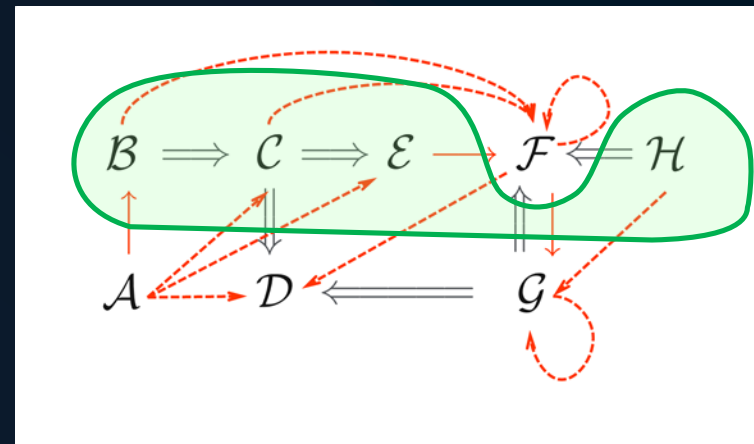


BAFs Acceptability Semantics

*Definition: Let $\langle \mathbb{A}, \mathbb{R}_d, \mathbb{R}_s \rangle$ be a BAF and let $S \subseteq \mathbb{A}$, S is a **d-preferred** (resp. **s-preferred**, **c-preferred**) extension iff S is \subseteq -maximal among the d-admissible (resp. **s-admissible**, **c-admissible**) subsets of \mathbb{A} .*

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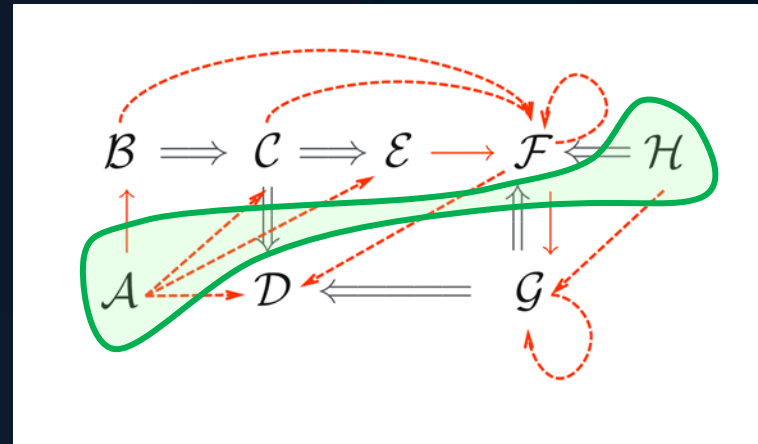
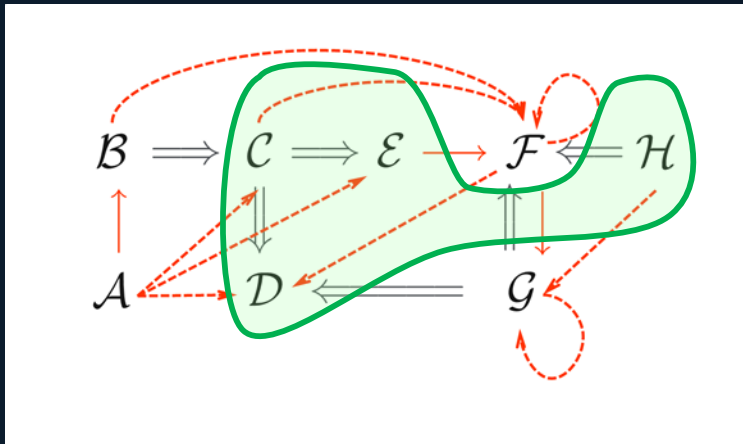
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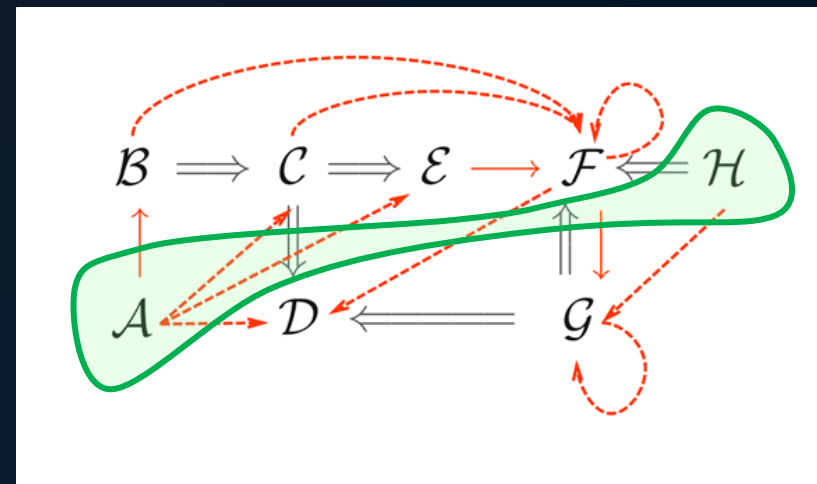
The d-preferred extensions are $\{C, D, E, H\}$ and $\{A, H\}$.

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However, since $\{C, D, E, H\}$ is not safe since $E \rightarrow F$ and $H \Rightarrow F$ the s-preferred extensions are $\{A, H\}$, $\{C, D, E\}$, $\{C, D, H\}$

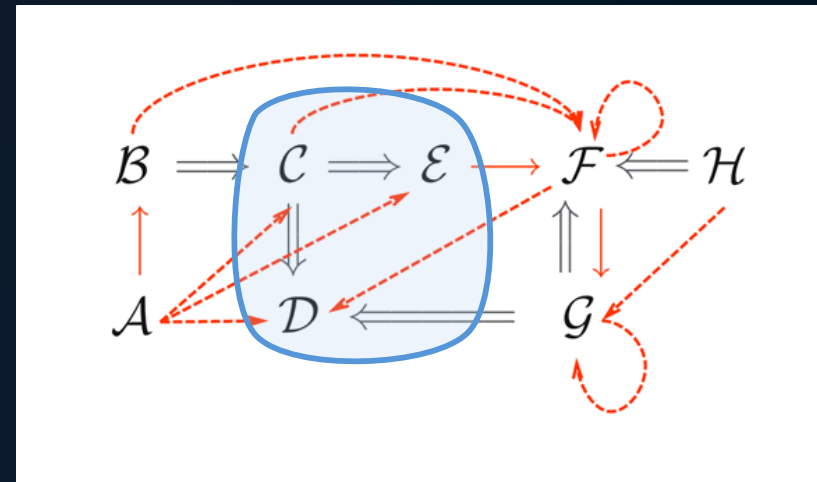


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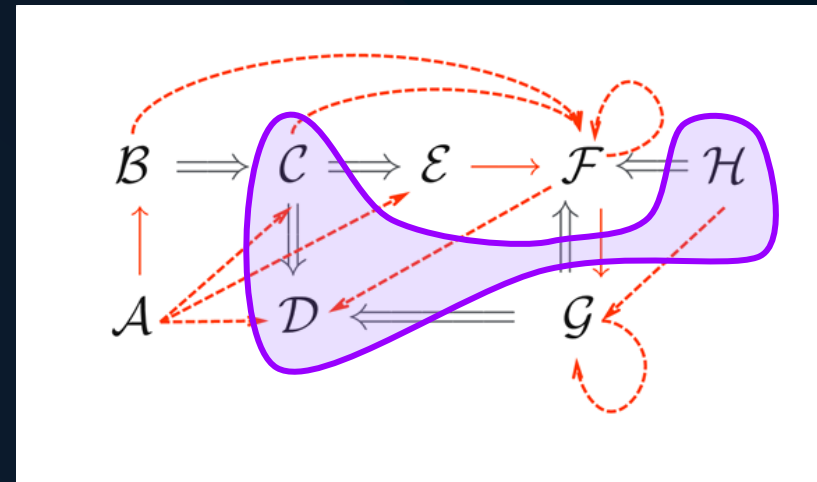


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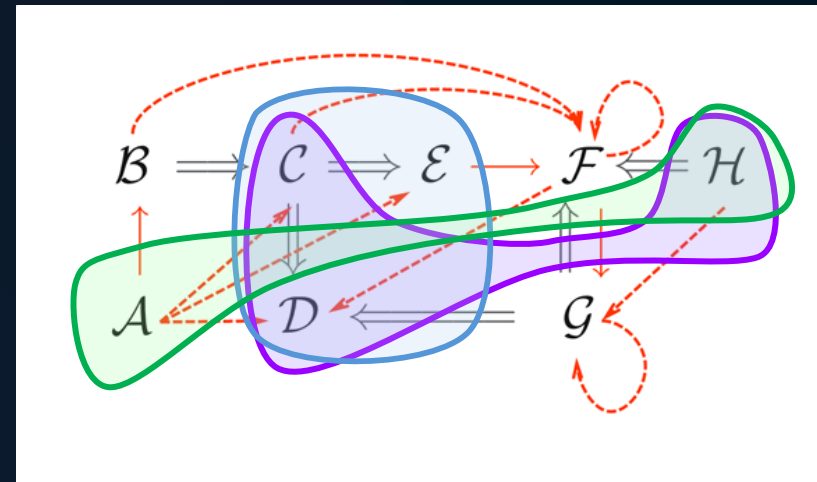


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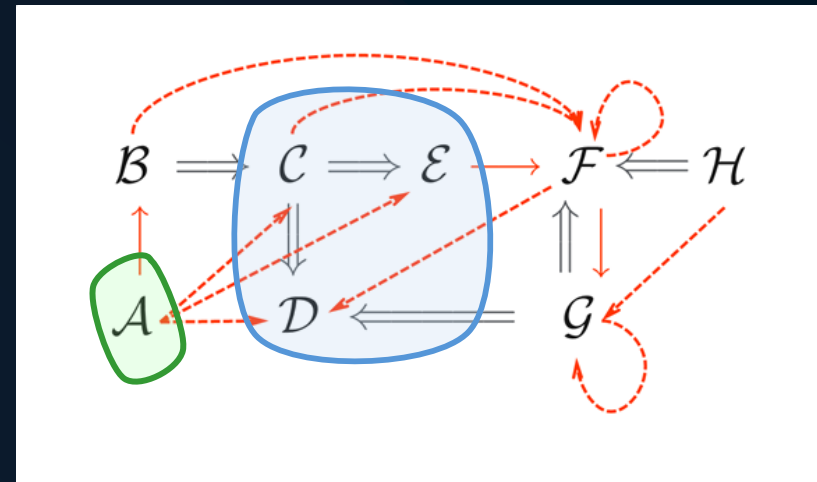


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$\{A, \mathcal{H}\}, \{C, D, \mathcal{H}\}$ are not c-admissible since $\mathcal{H} \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ and \mathcal{F} does not belong to these sets; thus, the c-preferred extensions are $\{A\}$ and $\{C, D, \mathcal{E}\}$.



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Thank you!
Questions?

