



# Foundations of logic programming semantics: an operator-based perspective

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# Logic Programming

- Specific, powerful family of languages for knowledge representation (problems up to second level of polynomial hierarchy).
- Efficient, user-friendly solvers (clingo<sup>1</sup>, DLV) and tools.<sup>2</sup>
- Hallmark of the **declarative** programming approach: describe a problem (without having to describe how to find solutions).

```
node(1..6).  
edge(1,2;1,3;1,4;2,4;2,5;2,6;3,1;3,4;3,5;4,1).  
col(r). col(g). col(b).
```

```
{ color(X,C) : col(C) } =1 :- node(X).  
:- edge(X,Y), color(X,C), color(Y,C).
```

<sup>1</sup><https://potassco.org/clingo/run/>

<sup>2</sup><https://potassco.org/related/> and their weekly seminar.

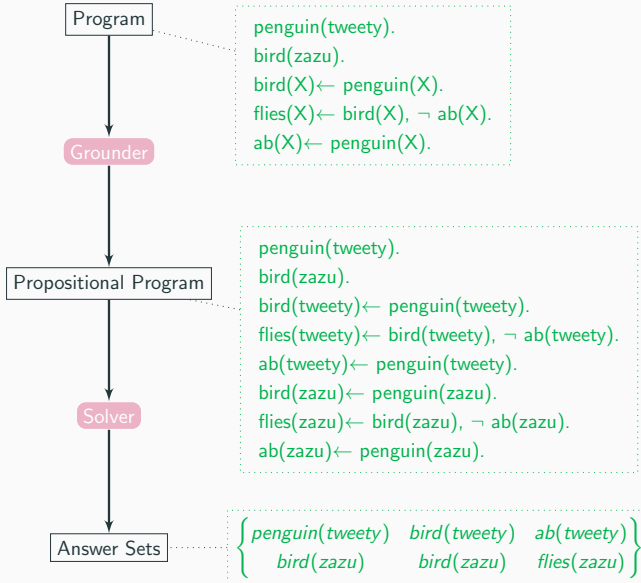
## Example Applications: Student Projects

- Puzzles and games:
  - Rush hour
  - Rubics
  - Futoshiki
  - Kakurasu
  - IQ Puzzler Pro
- Generating healthy diets.
- Procedural content generation.
- Parsing grammatical structure of Latin.
- Minimum Sum Partition Problem.

# Example Applications: Knowledge Representation

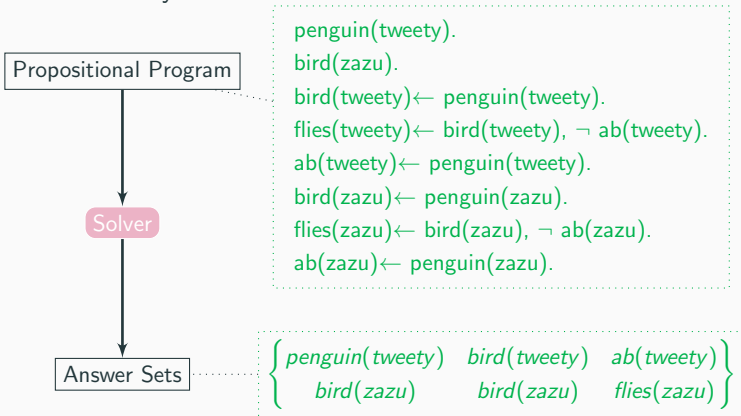
- Solvers or reasoners for:
  - Formal argumentation [DRWW20]
  - AGM Belief Revision [AP17, BNBPW04]
  - Boolean networks [KB19]
  - Ordered disjunction [BNS02]
  - Description Logics [Swi04]
- Inconsistency Measures [KT21]
- Linear temporal logic [KCG23]
- Logic programming (!?) [KRSW23]
- Axiom pinpointing in ontologies [HMP<sup>+</sup>23]
- ...

# The ASP-workflow



# The ASP-workflow

Focus of today:



What are answer sets and what is so special about them?

# Goals and Structure

- Provide a gentle introduction to the semantics of logic programming:
  - Supported models
  - Kripke-Kleene models
  - Stable models
  - Well-founded model
- Illustrate the operator-based approach to KR with a paradigmatic example.
  - Basic constructions of approximation fixpoint theory (for logic programs).
  - From logic programming to operators.
- Tutorial and invitation to AFT.

## Almost nothing of this is my work

- Operator-based approach has driven logic programming since its inception [VGRS91, Fit06].
- Studied algebraically by Denecker, Marek and Truszczyński [DMT00].
- I extended and worked in this algebraic framework with Ofer Arieli and Bart Bogaerts, .



# Goals and Structure

Syntax of Logic Programs

Semantics of Positive Programs

Semantics of Normal Logic Programs

Stable Semantics

Approximation Fixpoint Theory

Operator-Based Studies: Modularity

Round up

# Syntax of Logic Programs

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# Syntax of Logic Programs

Set of atoms  $\mathcal{A} = \{a, b, c, p, q, r, a_1, a_2, \dots\}$

$$a \leftarrow b_1, \dots, b_n, \neg c_1, \dots, \neg c_m$$

- Program is a set of rules.
- Rule is positive if  $m = 0$ .
- Program is positive if all the rules are positive.

# Semantics of Positive Programs

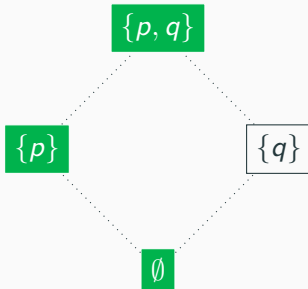
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# What are the semantics of logic programs?

$$p \leftarrow q.$$

Classical models?  $\emptyset, \{p\}, \{p, q\}$ .

Notice: a formula follows from every classical model if it follows from the minimal model  $\emptyset$ .



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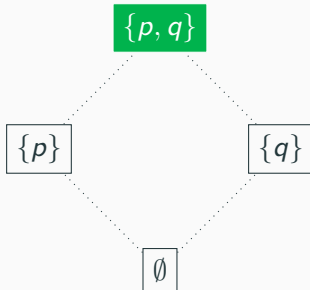
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# $T_{\mathcal{P}}$ -operator

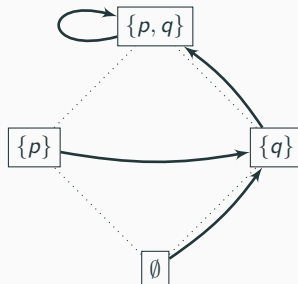
$$T_{\mathcal{P}} : \wp(\mathcal{AP}) \mapsto \wp(\mathcal{AP})$$

$$T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbf{x}) = \{a \mid a \leftarrow b_1, \dots, b_n \in \mathcal{P} \text{ and } b_1, \dots, b_n \in \mathbf{x}\}$$

## Example

$$\mathcal{P} = \{p \leftarrow q., \quad q \leftarrow .\}$$

$x$	$\emptyset$	$\{p\}$	$\{q\}$	$\{p, q\}$
$T_{\mathcal{P}}(x)$	$\{q\}$	$\{q\}$	$\{p, q\}$	$\{p, q\}$



# Models and Fixpoints

## Definition

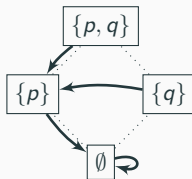
$x$  is a *post-fixpoint* of  $T_{\mathcal{P}}$  if  $T_{\mathcal{P}}(x) \subseteq x$ .

*Intuition:* everything I can derive from  $x$  using  $\mathcal{P}$  is in  $x$ .

*Models* of  $\mathcal{P}$ .

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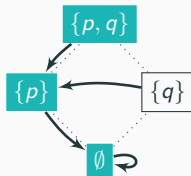
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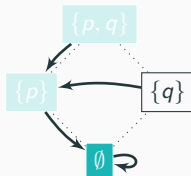
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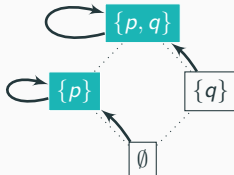
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# Models and Fixpoints

- For positive programs,  $T_{\mathcal{P}}$  has a unique **least fixpoint**  $x$ .
- It is also the least pre-fixpoint.
- We can compute it by iterating  $T_{\mathcal{P}}$  starting from  $\emptyset$ :  
$$T_{\mathcal{P}}(\dots T_{\mathcal{P}}(\emptyset) \dots) = \bigcup_{i \geq 0} T_{\mathcal{P}}^i(\emptyset)$$
  
And this is possible in polynomial time.

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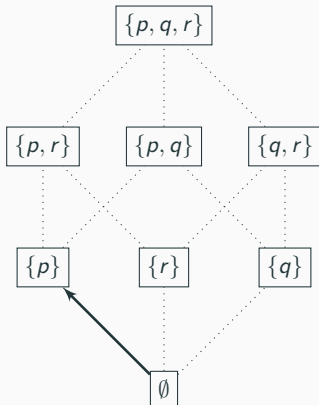
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Underlying result: A  $\subseteq$ -monotonic operator over a complete lattice admits a least fixpoint.



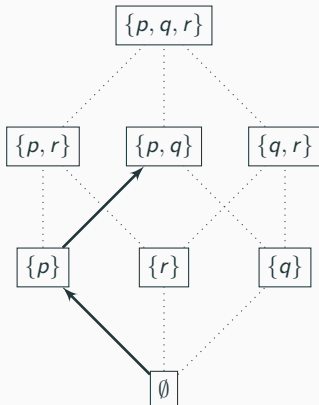
# Least fixpoint computation

$$\mathcal{P} = \{ \textcolor{brown}{p} \leftarrow . \quad q \leftarrow p. \quad r \leftarrow p, q. \}$$



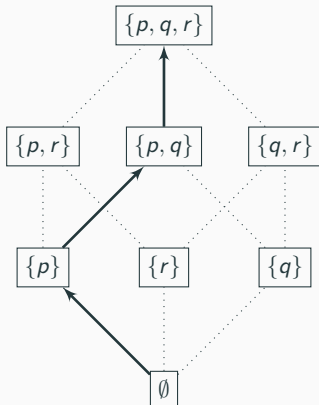
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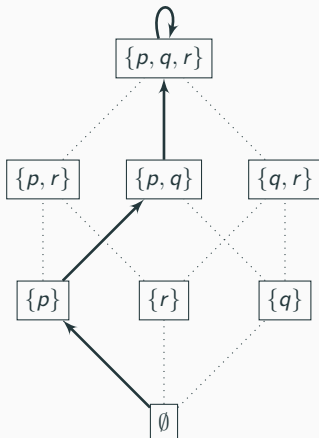
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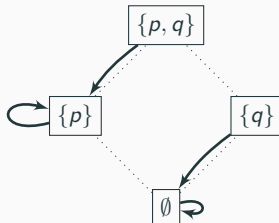
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## Least fixpoint $\neq$ unique fixpoint

**Example** ( $\mathcal{P} = \{p \leftarrow p.\}$ )



# Semantics of Normal Logic Programs

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$$p \leftarrow \neg q$$

How to extend our operator?

# Enters Negation

$$p \leftarrow \neg q$$

How to extend our operator?

Easy:

$$T_{\mathcal{P}}(x) = \{a \mid a \leftarrow b_1, \dots, b_n, \neg c_1, \dots, \neg c_m \in \mathcal{P}, \text{ and} \\ b_1, \dots, b_n \in x, \text{ and } c_1, \dots, c_m \notin x\}$$



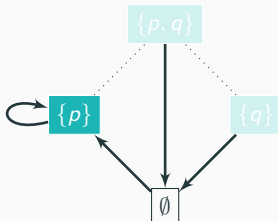
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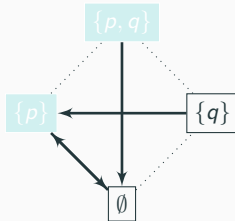
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Great, thanks for your attention

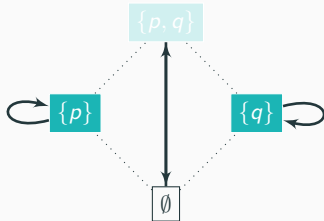
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$$\mathcal{P} = \{p \leftarrow \neg p\}$$



## No unique fixpoint

$$\mathcal{P} = \{p \leftarrow \neg q; q \leftarrow \neg p\}$$



## Problems with negation

- There might not be a fixpoint.
- There might be multiple minimal fixpoints.
- We don't know how to find fixpoints.

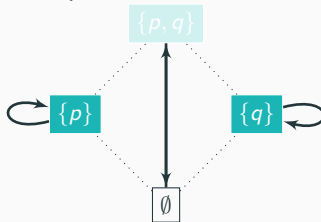
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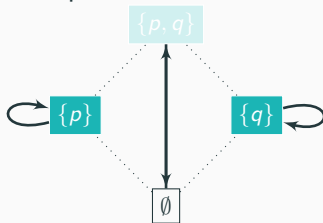
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**Solution:** approximations of operators that are  $\leq_i$ -monotonic.



November 2-4, 2024, Hanoi, Vietnam

Co-located with KR 2024

- <https://nmr.krportal.org/2024>
- Submissions can be:
  - New material
  - Previously published papers
- Paper submission deadline: **July 12th, 2024**

# Approximations

- Pairs of sets of atoms  $(x, y)$ .
  - $x$  contains all atoms that are definitely true.
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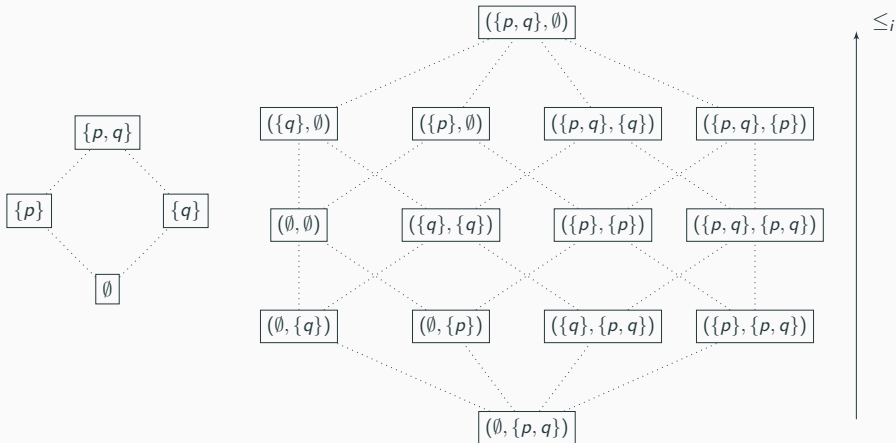
## Example

$(\{p\}, \{p, q\})$ :  $p$  is true and  $q$  can be true.

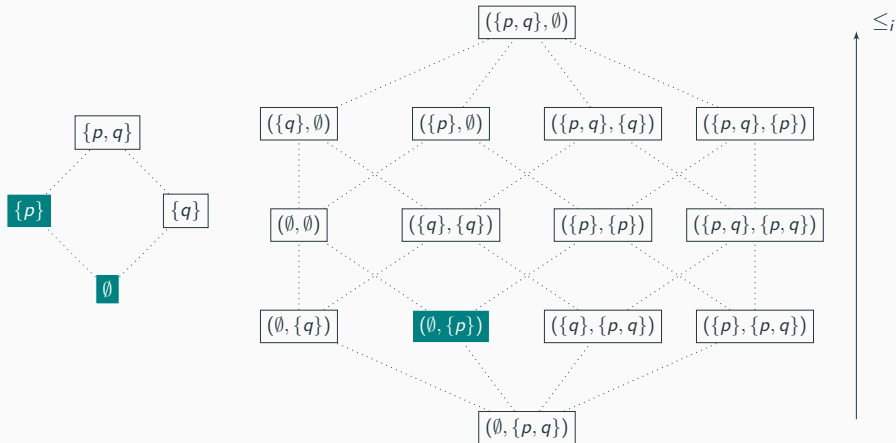
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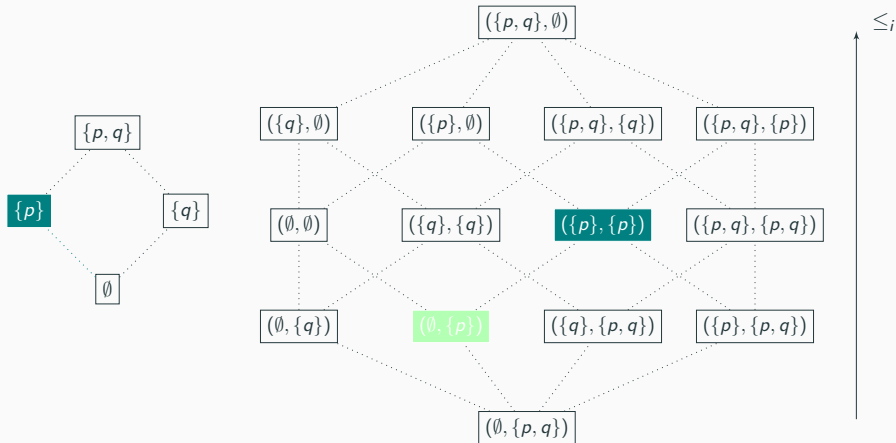
# Graphical Depiction



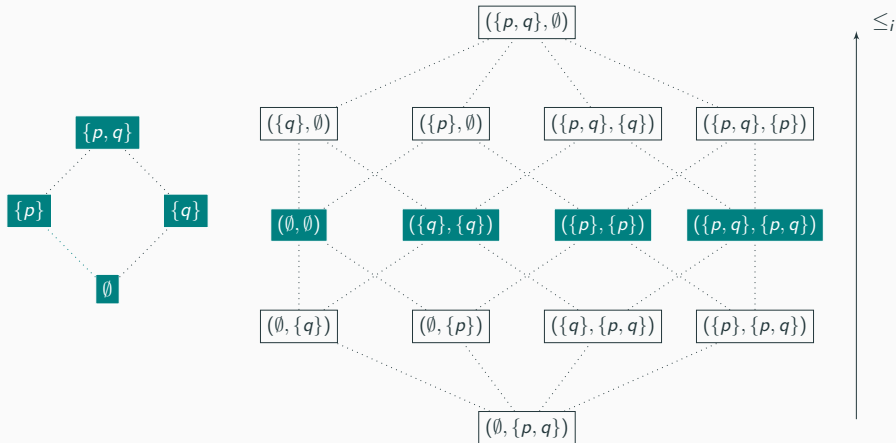
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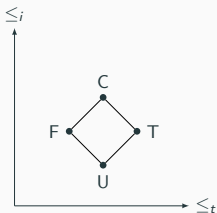


# Graphical Depiction





# Approximations as Four-Valued Interpretations



- $\neg F = T, \neg T = F, \neg U = U$  and  $\neg C = C$
- $(x, y)(p) = \begin{cases} T & \text{if } p \in x \text{ and } p \in y, \\ U & \text{if } p \notin x \text{ and } p \in y, \\ F & \text{if } p \notin x \text{ and } p \notin y, \\ C & \text{if } p \in x \text{ and } p \notin y. \end{cases}$
- $(x, y)(\neg \phi) = \neg(x, y)(\phi),$
- $(x, y)(\psi \wedge \phi) = \text{lub}_{\leq_t} \{(x, y)(\phi), (x, y)(\psi)\},$
- $(x, y)(\psi \vee \phi) = \text{glb}_{\leq_t} \{(x, y)(\phi), (x, y)(\psi)\}.$

## Example

$(\{p\}, \{p, q\})(p) = T \quad (\{p\}, \{p, q\})(q) = U \quad (\{p\}, \{p, q\})(r) = F.$

$(\{p\}, \{p, q\})(\neg p) = F \quad (\{p\}, \{p, q\})(\neg q) = U$

$(\{p\}, \{p, q\})(p \wedge q) = U \quad (\{p\}, \{p, q\})(q \vee r) = U$

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$$\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l(x, y) = \{a \in \mathcal{A} \mid a \leftarrow b_1, \dots, b_n, \neg c_1, \dots, \neg c_m \in \mathcal{P}, \\ b_1, \dots, b_n \in x \text{ and } c_1, \dots, c_m \notin y\}$$

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**Example**  $(\{p \leftarrow p, \neg q\})$

$$\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l(\{p\}, \{p, q\}) = \emptyset$$

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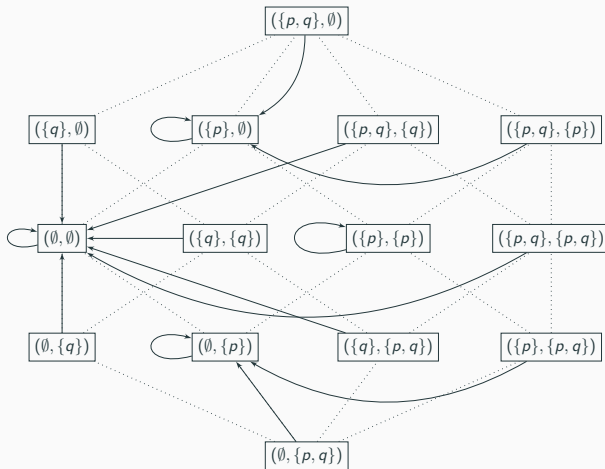
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## Properties of $\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}$

- $\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}$  approximates  $T_{\mathcal{P}}$ :

$\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}(x, x) = (T_{\mathcal{P}}(x), T_{\mathcal{P}}(x))$  for any  $x \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ .

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We say  $\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}$  is an approximation operator. It is also symmetric, in the sense that  $\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}(x, y) = (\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l(x, y), \mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l(y, x))$ .

The  $\leq_i$ -monotonicity is our *indulgentia* back into Tarski's heaven:

## Proposition

$\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}$  has a least fixpoint, obtainable as  $\bigsqcup_{i \geq 0} \mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^i(\emptyset, \mathcal{A})$ <sup>3</sup>.

---

<sup>3</sup> $(x_1, y_1) \sqcup (x_2, y_2) = (x_1 \cup x_2, y_1 \cap y_2)$ .

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For any fixpoint of  $x = T_{\mathcal{P}}(x)$ ,  $\bigsqcup_{i \geq 0} \mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^i(\emptyset, \mathcal{A}) \leq_i (x, x)$ .

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$\bigsqcup_{i \geq 0} \mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^i(\emptyset, \mathcal{A})$  is consistent (i.e. where  $\bigsqcup_{i \geq 0} \mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^i(\emptyset, \mathcal{A}) = (x, y)$ ,  $x \subseteq y$ ).

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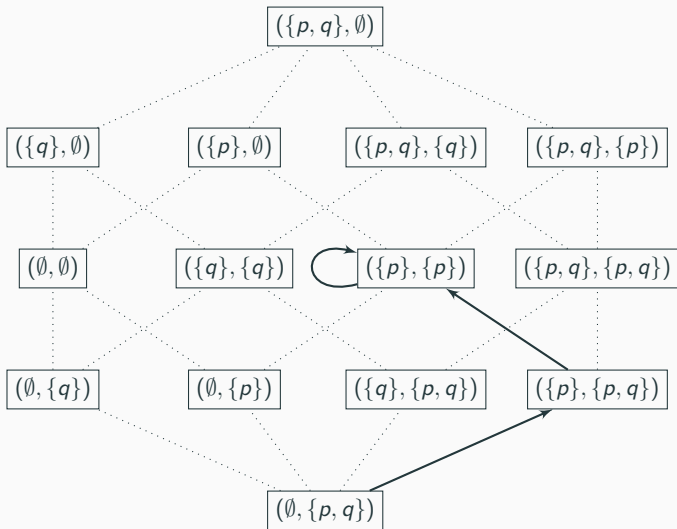
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If  $(x, y) = \mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}(x, y)$  then we call it a **partial supported model**.

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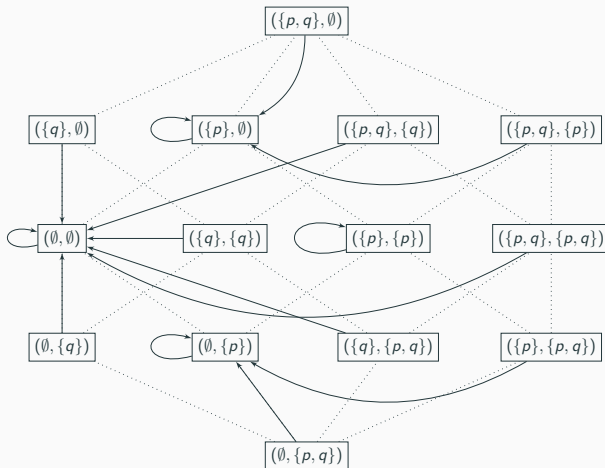
<sup>3</sup> $(x_1, y_1) \sqcup (x_2, y_2) = (x_1 \cup x_2, y_1 \cap y_2)$ .

**Example:**  $\mathcal{P} = \{p \leftarrow; q \leftarrow \neg p\}$



# The Approximation Operator $\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}$ (for $\mathcal{P} = \{p \leftarrow p, \neg q\}$ )

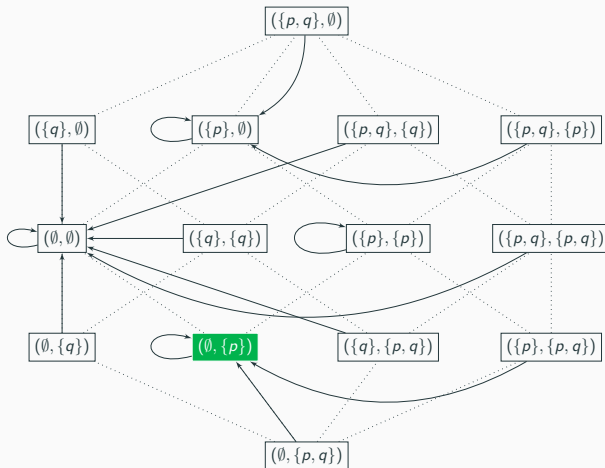
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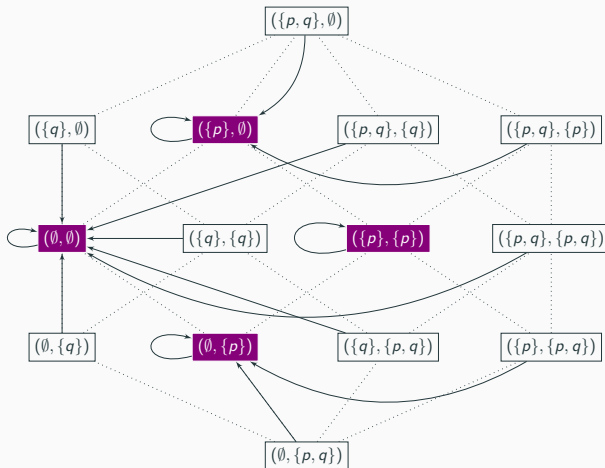
Kripke-Kleene Fixpoint



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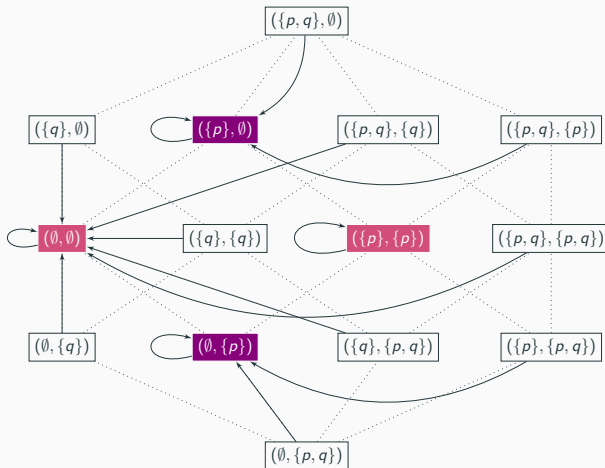
Partial Supported models



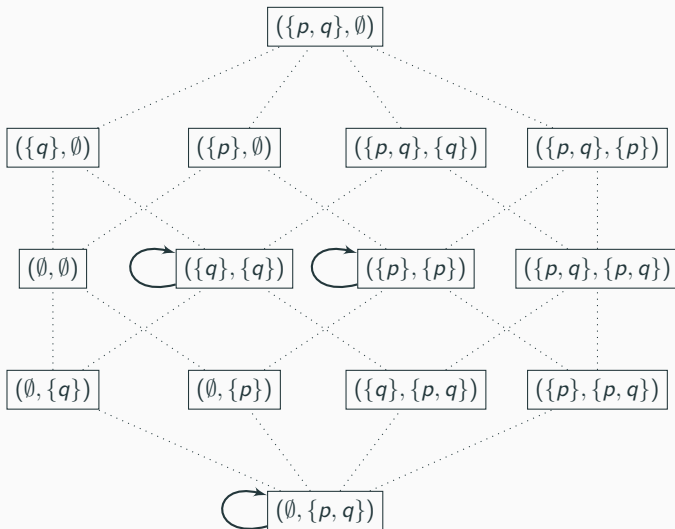
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Supported models

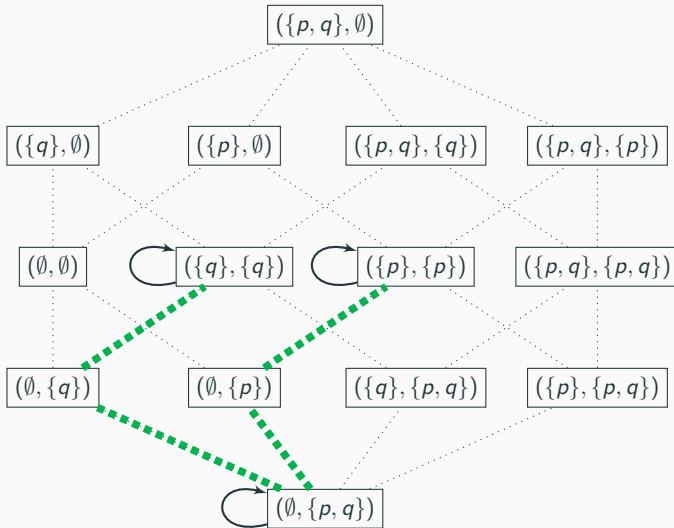


**Example:**  $\mathcal{P} = \{p \leftarrow \neg q; q \leftarrow \neg p\}$





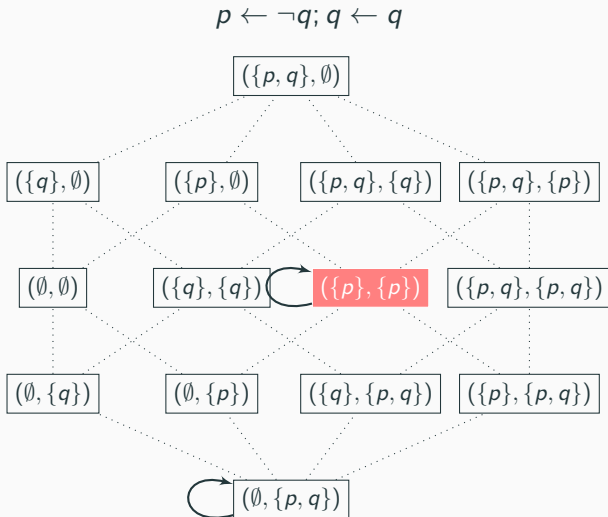
**Example:**  $\mathcal{P} = \{p \leftarrow \neg q; q \leftarrow \neg p\}$



# Stable Semantics

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## Example: Kripke-Kleene is rather weak



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$$\mathcal{P} = \{p \leftarrow \neg q; q \leftarrow q\}$$

Construction of the Kripke-Kleene fixpoint:

- $\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}(\emptyset, \{p, q\}) = (\emptyset, \{p, q\})$ .
- Fixpoint reached.

Can't get rid of the self-supporting atom  $q$  in the upper bound.

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Assuming that **no atom is certainly true**, construct the smallest **upper bound** possible:

$$\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^u(\emptyset, \emptyset) = \{p\}$$

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As  $\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^u(\emptyset, \cdot)$  is a  $\subseteq$ -monotonic operator, it admits a least fixed point.

$$S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l)(y) = \text{Ifp}(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l(\cdot, y))$$

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**Example** ( $\{p \leftarrow \neg q; q \leftarrow q\}$ )

$S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l)(\{p, q\}) = \emptyset$  since:

$\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l(\emptyset, \{p, q\}) = \emptyset$ : fixpoint reached.



$$S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l)(y) = \text{Ifp}(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l(\cdot, y))$$

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$$S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}})(x, y) = (S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l)(y), S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^u)(x))$$

**Example**  $(\{p \leftarrow \neg q; q \leftarrow q\})$

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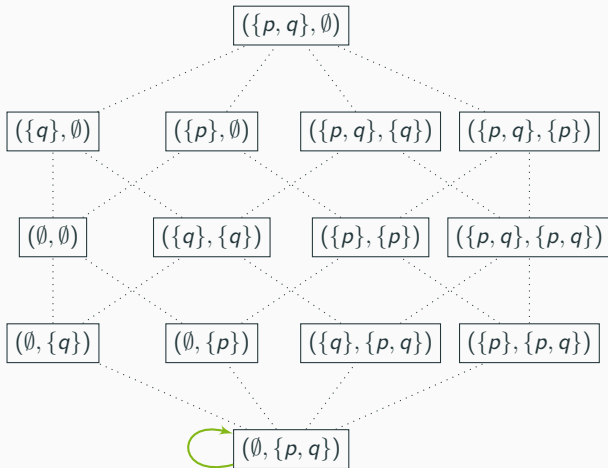
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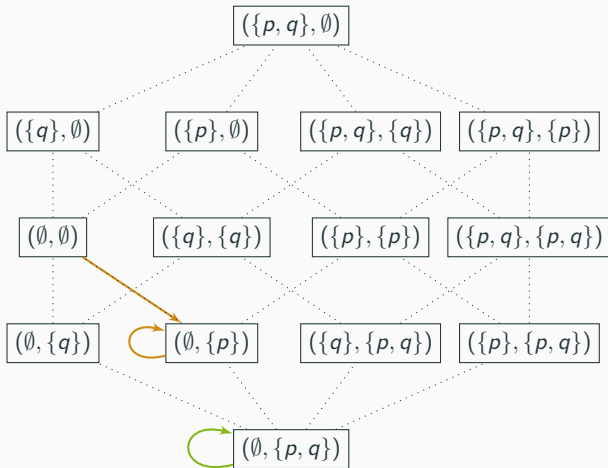
# Stable Operator: Example $\{p \leftarrow \neg q; q \leftarrow q\}$

$$S(\mathcal{IC}_P^I)(\{p, q\}) = \text{Ifp}(\mathcal{IC}_P^I(\cdot, \{p, q\}))$$



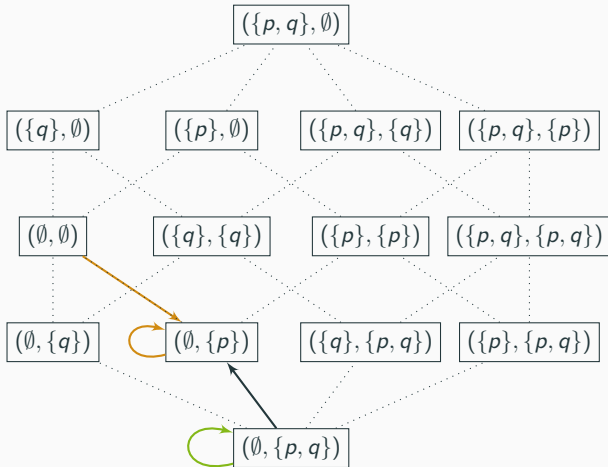
# Stable Operator: Example $\{p \leftarrow \neg q; q \leftarrow q\}$

$$S(IC_P^u)(\emptyset) = \text{Ifp}(IC_P^u(\emptyset, \cdot))$$



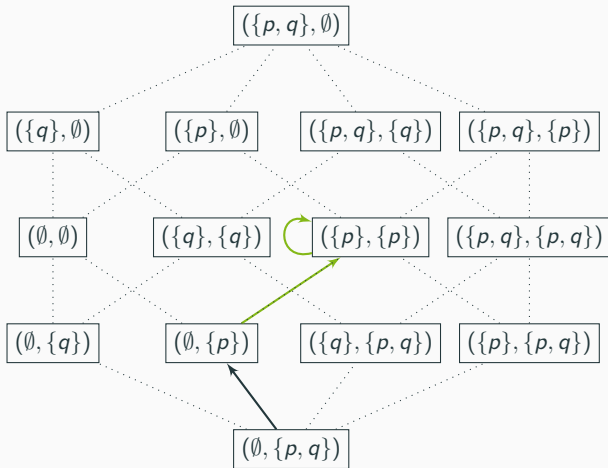
# Stable Operator: Example $\{p \leftarrow \neg q; q \leftarrow q\}$

$$S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}})(\emptyset, \{p, q\}) = (S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l)(\{p, q\}), S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^u)(\emptyset))$$



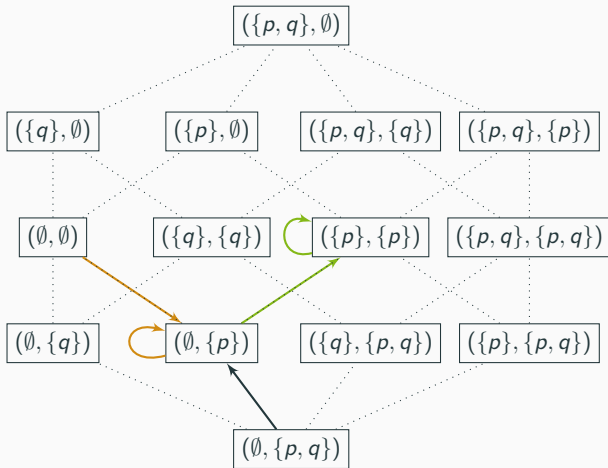
# Stable Operator: Example $\{p \leftarrow \neg q; q \leftarrow q\}$

$$S(\mathcal{IC}_P^I)(\{p\}) = \text{Ifp}(\mathcal{IC}_P^I(\cdot, \{p\}))$$



# Stable Operator: Example $\{p \leftarrow \neg q; q \leftarrow q\}$

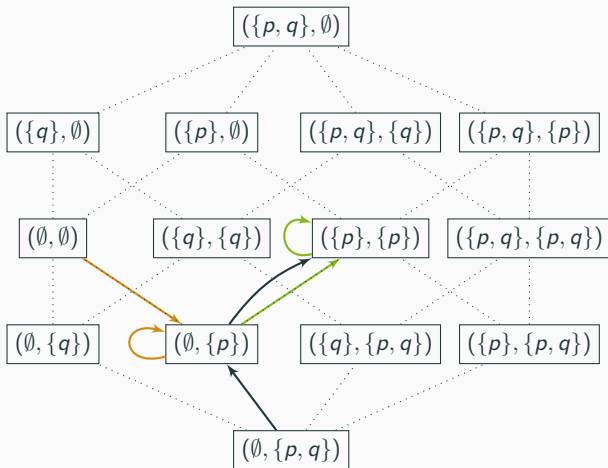
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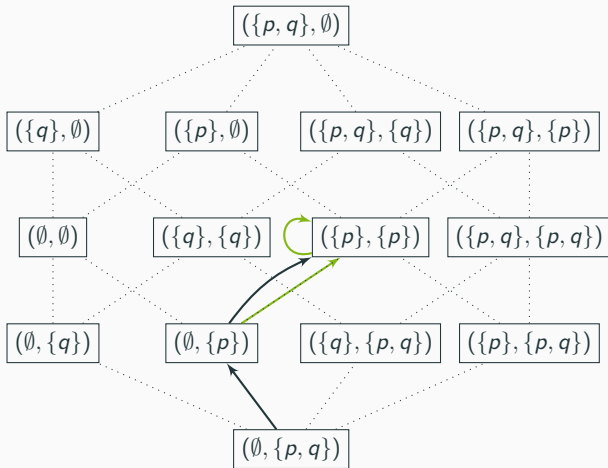
## Stable Operator: Example $\{p \leftarrow \neg q; q \leftarrow q\}$

$$S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}})(\emptyset, \{p\}) = (S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l)(\{p\}), S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^u)(\emptyset))$$



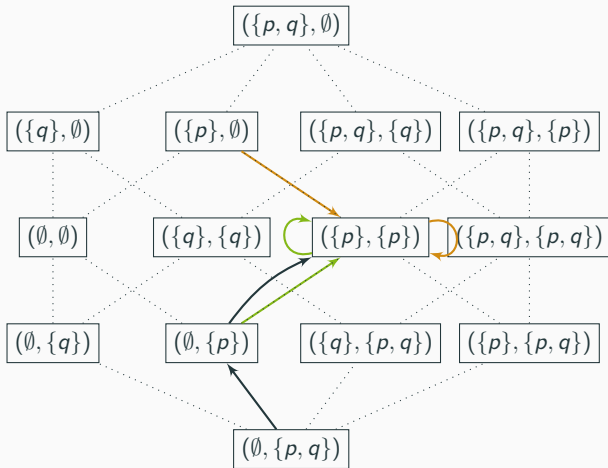
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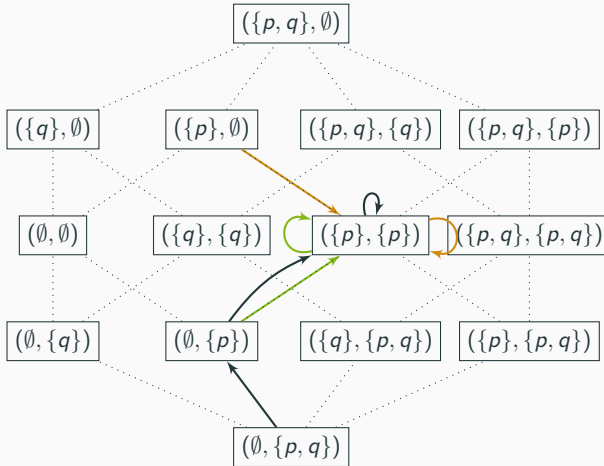
# Stable Operator: Example $\{p \leftarrow \neg q; q \leftarrow q\}$

$$S(IC_P^u)(x) = \text{Ifp}(IC_P^u(\{p\}, \cdot))$$



## Stable Operator: Example $\{p \leftarrow \neg q; q \leftarrow q\}$

$$S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}})(\{\textcolor{red}{p}\}, \{\textcolor{green}{p}\}) = (S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l)(\{\textcolor{red}{p}\}), S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^u)(\{\textcolor{green}{p}\}))$$



# Stable Operator and Well-Founded Model

$$S(IC_{\mathcal{P}}^l)(y) = lfp(IC_{\mathcal{P}}^l(\cdot, y)) \quad S(IC_{\mathcal{P}}^u)(x) = lfp(IC_{\mathcal{P}}^u(x, \cdot))$$

$$S(IC_{\mathcal{P}})(x, y) = (S(IC_{\mathcal{P}}^l)(y), S(IC_{\mathcal{P}}^u)(x))$$

- $S(IC_{\mathcal{P}})$  is a  $\leq_i$ -monotonic operator, so it admits a least fixpoint.  
We call this the **well-founded model**, denoted  $WF(\mathcal{P})$ .

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- The well-founded model is more precise than the Kripke-Kleene fixpoint:  $KK(\mathcal{P}) \leq_i WF(\mathcal{P})$ .

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We call this the **well-founded model**, denoted  $\text{WF}(\mathcal{P})$ .

- The well-founded model is more precise than the Kripke-Kleene fixpoint:  $\text{KK}(\mathcal{P}) \leq_i \text{WF}(\mathcal{P})$ .

- Any fixpoint of  $S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}})$  is a minimal model of  $\mathcal{P}$ .

If  $(x, y) = S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}})(x, y)$ , we call it a **(partial) stable model**.

If  $x = S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}})(x)$ , we call it a **stable model**.

# Stable Operator and Well-Founded Model

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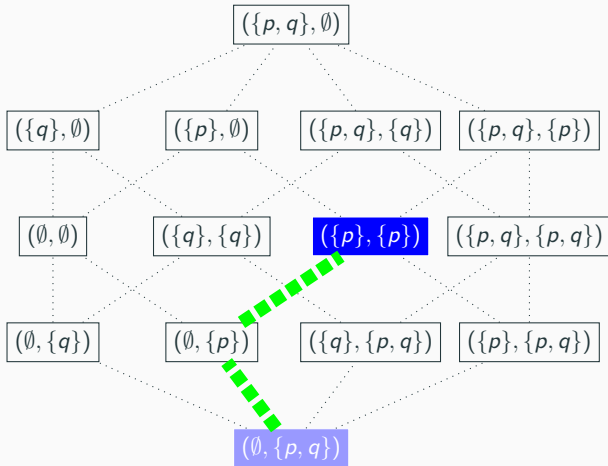
If  $x = S(IC_{\mathcal{P}})(x)$ , we call it a **stable model**.

- If  $T_{\mathcal{P}}$  has a least fixpoint, it coincides with the well-founded model.



# Stable Operator: Example

$$p \leftarrow \neg q; q \leftarrow q$$



## Stable Operator: Example 2

$$\mathcal{P} = \{p \leftarrow \neg q; \quad q \leftarrow \neg p; \quad r \leftarrow r; \quad s \leftarrow \neg r\}$$

- Kripke-Kleene fixpoint:  $(\emptyset, \{p, q, r, s\})$ .
- Well-founded model:  $(\{s\}, \{p, q, s\})$ .
- Stable models:  $(\{p, s\}, \{p, s\}), (\{q, s\}, \{q, s\})$ .

$$\frac{\mathcal{P}}{x} = \{a \leftarrow b_1, \dots, b_n \mid a \leftarrow b_1, \dots, b_n, \neg c_1, \dots, \neg c_m \in \mathcal{P} \\ c_1, \dots, c_n \notin x\}$$

## Definition

$x$  is a *stable model* of  $\mathcal{P}$  if it is a minimal model of  $\frac{\mathcal{P}}{x}$ .

$$\frac{\mathcal{P}}{x} = \{a \leftarrow b_1, \dots, b_n \mid a \leftarrow b_1, \dots, b_n, \neg c_1, \dots, \neg c_m \in \mathcal{P} \\ c_1, \dots, c_n \notin x\}$$

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**Example** ( $\mathcal{P} = \{p \leftarrow \neg p; q \leftarrow \neg p; p \leftarrow \neg q\}$ )

$\frac{\mathcal{P}}{\{q\}} = \{p \leftarrow; q \leftarrow\}$ .  $\{q\}$  is not a minimal model of  $\mathcal{P}$ , thus  $\{q\}$  is not a stable model.

$\frac{\mathcal{P}}{\{p\}} = \{p \leftarrow\}$ .  $\{p\}$  is a minimal model of  $\mathcal{P}$ .  $\{q\}$  is not a minimal model of  $\mathcal{P}$ , thus  $\{p\}$  is a stable model.

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## Definition

$x$  is a *stable model* of  $\mathcal{P}$  if it is a minimal model of  $\frac{\mathcal{P}}{x}$ .

## Proposition

$S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l)(y)$  is the set of minimal models of  $\frac{\mathcal{P}}{y}$ .

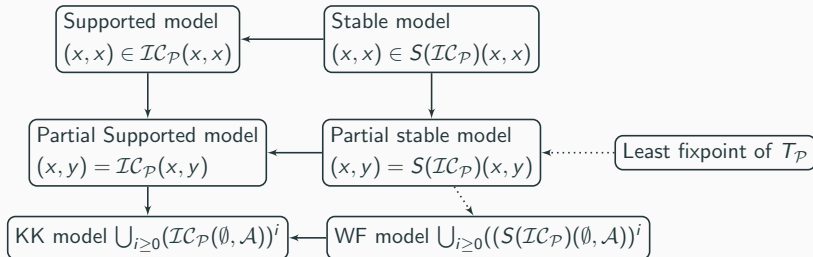
## Proposition

$(x, x) = S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}})(x, x)$  if and only if  $x$  is a stable model of  $\mathcal{P}$  (iff  $x = S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}^l)(x)$ ).

# Approximation Fixpoint Theory

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# Recap



- Operator-based framework
  - Non-monotonic operator  $T_{\mathcal{P}}$ ,
  - a  $\leq_i$ -monotonic approximation operator  $\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}}$ ,
  - and its stable variant  $S(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{P}})$ .
- Allows us to define semantics as fixpoints of these operators, with attractive properties:
  - KK and WF models exist, can be constructively found, and
  - approximate any fixpoint of  $T_{\mathcal{P}}$ .
- This story can be told for a great number of formalisms.

# Lattices, bilattices, operators

Given a **lattice**  $L = \langle \mathcal{L}, \leq \rangle$ .

Interested in **operator**  $O_{\mathcal{L}} : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$  and its fixpoints.

- $(x_1, y_1) \leq_i (x_2, y_2)$  iff  $x_1 \leq x_2$  and  $y_1 \geq y_2$ ,
- $(x_1, y_1) \leq_t (x_2, y_2)$  iff  $x_1 \leq x_2$  and  $y_1 \leq y_2$ .



# Lattices, bilattices, operators

Given a **lattice**  $L = \langle \mathcal{L}, \leq \rangle$ .

Interested in **operator**  $O_{\mathcal{L}} : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$  and its fixpoints.

- $(x_1, y_1) \leq_i (x_2, y_2)$  iff  $x_1 \leq x_2$  and  $y_1 \geq y_2$ ,
- $(x_1, y_1) \leq_t (x_2, y_2)$  iff  $x_1 \leq x_2$  and  $y_1 \leq y_2$ .

$\langle \mathcal{L}^2, \leq_i, \leq_t \rangle$  is called a **bilattice**. Approximate  $O_{\mathcal{L}}$  with an **approximation operator**  $\mathcal{O} : \mathcal{L}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{L}^2$ , which is  $\leq_i$ -monotonic and for which  $\mathcal{O}(x, x) = (O_{\mathcal{L}}(x), O_{\mathcal{L}}(x))$  for any  $x \in \mathcal{L}$ .

# Lattices, bilattices, operators

Given a **lattice**  $L = \langle \mathcal{L}, \leq \rangle$ .

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Formalism	Lattice Elements	Order
Logic Programming	Possible worlds	$\subseteq$
Default Logic and AEL	Sets of possible worlds	$\supseteq$
Formal Argumentation	Sets of arguments	$\subseteq$
Weighted ADFs	Weighted worlds	Pointwise comparison
SHACL	Interpretations	Truth order

# Operator-Based Semantics for Dialects of Logic Programming

- ✓ Aggregates in the body:  $p \leftarrow \#sum\{2 : p; q : 1; r : 1\} \geq 2.$
- ✓ Propositional formulas in the body:  $p \leftarrow q \wedge (r \vee (s \wedge \neg t)).$
- ✓ Disjunctions in the head:  $p \vee q \leftarrow q \wedge (r \vee (s \wedge \neg t)).$
- ✓ Choice constructs in the head:  $\#count\{p; q; r\} = 2 \leftarrow \neg r.$
- ✓ DL-based logic programs:  $KC(x) \leftarrow \neg p(X); C \sqsubseteq D.$
- ✓ Higher-order logic programs:  $S(P, Q) \leftarrow; P(X) \leftarrow \neg Q(X).$
- ? Fuzzy logic programs:  $p(X) \leftarrow 0.5 \cdot (q(x) + r(X)).$
- ? Probabilistic logic programs:  $0.3 :: p(X).$
- ? Hex-programs:  $tr(S, P, O) \leftarrow \&RDF[uri](S, P, O).$

# Operator-Based Semantics for other KR-formalisms

- autoepistemic logic [DMT03],
- default logic [DMT03],
- abstract argumentation [SW15],
- abstract dialectical frameworks [SW15],
- weighted abstract dialectical frameworks [Bog19],
- SCHACL [BJ21].

# Operator-Based Studies

Top-Down approach:

- Instead of studying a concept for a specific framework, define and study it for operators over a lattice (and their approximations).
- We can then apply this concept to all formalisms that are or can be captured in AFT.

Examples:

- |                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✓ Stratification [VGD06]           | ✓ Argumentative dialogues [HA20] |
| ✓ Conditional Independence [Hey23] | ?                                |
| ✓ Knowledge Compilation [BVdB15]   | ? Belief dynamics                |
| ✓ Groundedness [BVdB15]            | ? Modular equivalence            |
| ✓ Strong equivalence [Tru06]       | ? Neuro-symbolism                |

## **Operator-Based Studies: Modularity**

---

## Motivating Example

$r : \text{inf}(X) \leftarrow \text{inf}(Y), \text{cnct}(Y, X), \text{not vac}(X).$

## Motivating Example

$r_1 : \text{inf}(b) \leftarrow \text{inf}(a), \text{cnct}(a, b), \text{not vac}(b).$

$r_2 : \text{inf}(c) \leftarrow \text{inf}(d), \text{cnct}(d, c), \text{not vac}(c).$

$r_3 : \text{inf}(a)., r_4 : \text{cnct}(a, b)., r_5 : \text{cnct}(d, c).$

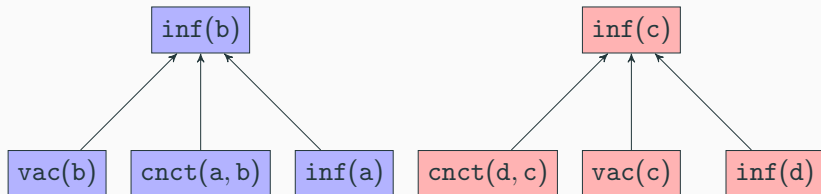


## Motivating Example

$r_1 : \text{inf}(b) \leftarrow \text{inf}(a), \text{cnct}(a, b), \text{not vac}(b).$

$r_2 : \text{inf}(c) \leftarrow \text{inf}(d), \text{cnct}(d, c), \text{not vac}(c).$

$r_3 : \text{inf}(a).$ ,  $r_4 : \text{cnct}(a, b).$ ,  $r_5 : \text{cnct}(d, c).$



## Motivating Example

$r_1 : \text{inf}(b) \leftarrow \text{inf}(a), \text{cnct}(a, b), \text{not vac}(b).$

$r_2 : \text{inf}(c) \leftarrow \text{inf}(a), \text{cnct}(a, c), \text{not vac}(c).$

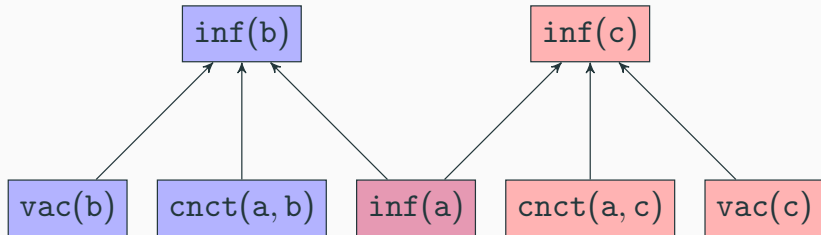
$r_3 : \text{inf}(a)., r_4 : \text{cnct}(a, b)., r_5 : \text{cnct}(a, c).$

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$r_3 : \text{inf}(a)., r_4 : \text{cnct}(a, b)., r_5 : \text{cnct}(a, c).$

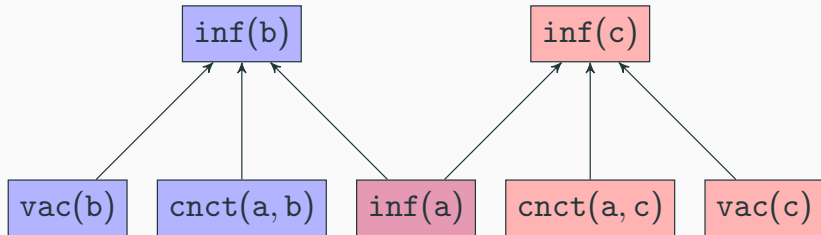


## Motivating Example

$r_1 : \text{inf}(b) \leftarrow \text{inf}(\textcolor{red}{a}), \text{cnct}(a, b), \text{not vac}(b).$

$r_2 : \text{inf}(c) \leftarrow \text{inf}(\textcolor{red}{a}), \text{cnct}(a, c), \text{not vac}(c).$

$r_3 : \text{inf}(\textcolor{red}{a})., r_4 : \text{cnct}(a, b)., r_5 : \text{cnct}(a, c).$



Once we know  $\text{inf}(a)$  (or  $\neg \text{inf}(a)$ ), we obtain two independent subprograms.

# Conditional Independence w.r.t. an operator

## Definition

Let  $O : L_1 \otimes L_2 \otimes L_3 \rightarrow L_1 \otimes L_2 \otimes L_3$  be given.

$L_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp_O L_2 \mid L_3$  if there exist operators

$$O_{1,3} : L_1 \otimes L_3 \rightarrow L_1 \otimes L_3 \text{ and } O_{2,3} : L_2 \otimes L_3 \rightarrow L_2 \otimes L_3$$

s.t. for  $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$ ,  $i \neq j$ , and for every  $x_i \otimes x_3 \in L_i \otimes L_3$  and for every  $x_j \in L_j$  it holds that:

$$O(x_i \otimes x_j \otimes x_3)_{|i,3} = O_{i,3}(x_i \otimes x_3).$$

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$$O(x_i \otimes x_j \otimes x_3)_{|i,3} = O_{i,3}(x_i \otimes x_3).$$

where  $x_i \otimes x_j \otimes x_3_{|i,3} = x_i \otimes x_3$

## Proposition

Let an operator  $O$  s.t.  $L_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp_O L_2 \mid L_3$  be given.

Then  $x_1 \otimes x_2 \otimes x_3 = O(x_1 \otimes x_2 \otimes x_3)$  iff

$x_1 \otimes x_3 = O_{1,3}(x_1 \otimes x_3)$  and  $x_2 \otimes x_3 = O_{2,3}(x_2 \otimes x_3)$ .

# Search for Fixpoints can be Split

## Proposition

Let an operator  $O$  s.t.  $L_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp_O L_2 \mid L_3$  be given.

Then  $x_1 \otimes x_2 \otimes x_3 = O(x_1 \otimes x_2 \otimes x_3)$  iff

$x_1 \otimes x_3 = O_{1,3}(x_1 \otimes x_3)$  and  $x_2 \otimes x_3 = O_{2,3}(x_2 \otimes x_3)$ .

## Example

$r_1 : \text{inf}(b) \leftarrow \text{inf}(a), \text{cnct}(a, b), \text{not vac}(b).$

$r_2 : \text{inf}(c) \leftarrow \text{inf}(a), \text{cnct}(a, c), \text{not vac}(c).$

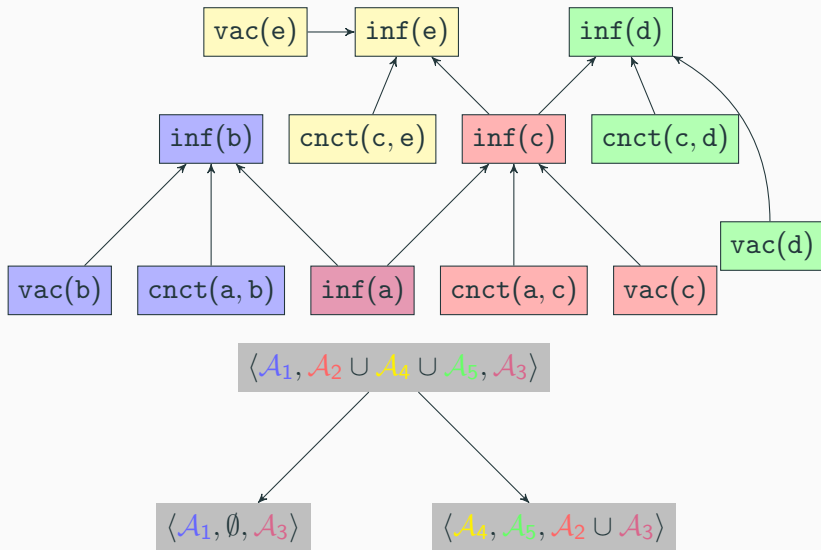
$r_3 : \text{inf}(a)., r_4 : \text{cnct}(a, b)., r_5 : \text{cnct}(a, c).$

We can look for supported models of  $\mathcal{P}$  by looking for supported models of  $\mathcal{P}_1$  and  $\mathcal{P}_2$  and combining them afterwards.

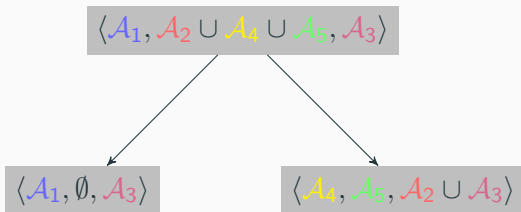




# Reasoning using Modularity

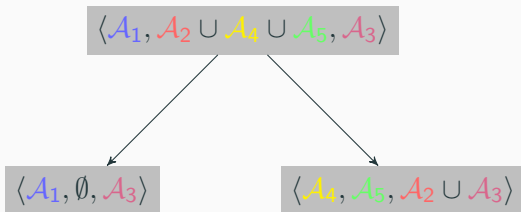


# Reasoning using Modularity



- $WF(\mathcal{P}_1 \cup \mathcal{P}_3) = \{\text{inf}(a), \text{cnct}(a, b), \text{inf}(b)\}$   
Search space size:  $2^4$
- $WF(\mathcal{P}_4 \cup \mathcal{P}_2 \cup \mathcal{P}_3) = \{\text{inf}(a), \text{cnct}(a, c), \text{inf}(c), \text{cnct}(c, e), \text{inf}(e)\}$   
Search space size:  $2^7$
- $WF(\mathcal{P}_5 \cup \mathcal{P}_2 \cup \mathcal{P}_3) = \{\text{inf}(a), \text{cnct}(a, c), \text{inf}(c), \text{cnct}(c, d), \text{inf}(d)\}$   
Search space size:  $2^7$

# Reasoning using Modularity



- $\text{WF}(\mathcal{P}_1 \cup \mathcal{P}_3) = \{\text{inf}(a), \text{cnct}(a, b), \text{inf}(b)\}$   
Search space size:  $2^4$
- $\text{WF}(\mathcal{P}_4 \cup \mathcal{P}_2 \cup \mathcal{P}_3) = \{\text{inf}(a), \text{cnct}(a, c), \text{inf}(c), \text{cnct}(c, e), \text{inf}(e)\}$   
Search space size:  $2^7$
- $\text{WF}(\mathcal{P}_5 \cup \mathcal{P}_2 \cup \mathcal{P}_3) = \{\text{inf}(a), \text{cnct}(a, c), \text{inf}(c), \text{cnct}(c, d), \text{inf}(d)\}$   
Search space size:  $2^7$
- $\text{WF}(\mathcal{P}_1 \cup \mathcal{P}_2 \cup \mathcal{P}_3 \cup \mathcal{P}_4 \cup \mathcal{P}_5) =$   
 $\text{WF}(\mathcal{P}_1 \cup \mathcal{P}_3) \cup \text{WF}(\mathcal{P}_4 \cup \mathcal{P}_2 \cup \mathcal{P}_3) \cup \text{WF}(\mathcal{P}_5 \cup \mathcal{P}_2 \cup \mathcal{P}_3).$   
Original search space size:  $2^{14}$

## Definition

Let an operator  $O$  over the *power set* lattice  $\bigotimes_{i \in I} \mathcal{L}_i$  and CIT  $T = (V, E, \nu)$  be given s.t.  $V_l$  are the leafs of  $T$ . The CIT-partition-size of  $O$  relative to  $(V, E, \nu)$  is defined as

$$\max(\{|\bigotimes_{i \in I_j} \mathcal{L}_i \otimes \bigotimes_{i \in I_3} \mathcal{L}_i| \mid v \in V_l, \nu(v) = \langle l_1, l_2, l_3 \rangle, j = 1, 2\})$$

## Definition

Let an operator  $O$  over the *power set* lattice  $\bigotimes_{i \in I} \mathcal{L}_i$  and CIT  $T = (V, E, \nu)$  be given s.t.  $V_l$  are the leafs of  $T$ . The CIT-partition-size of  $O$  relative to  $(V, E, \nu)$  is defined as

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## Proposition

Let a  $\leq_{\otimes}$ -monotonic operator  $O$  over the product lattice  $\bigotimes_{i \in I} \mathcal{L}_i$  and CIT  $T = (V, E, \nu)$  with CIT-partition-size  $s$  be given. Assume that  $O(x, y)$  can be computed to a call to an NP-oracle. The least fixpoint of  $O$  can be computed in time  $O(f(s))$ .

## Round up

---

# Tutorial on Approximation Fixpoint Theory

Jesse Heyninck and Hannes Straß

part of the KR 2024 tutorial program

- <https://jessehey ninck.github.io/AFTtutorial/>
- Half day workshop
  - Motivation and history: a guided tour through the history of logic programming
  - An abstract view: from logic programming to (general) AFT
  - A second application: (weighted) abstract dialectical frameworks
  - More general insights: complexity, groundedness, modularity



# Summary

- Operators as the core for understanding answer set semantics.
- Paved the road towards approximation fixpoint theory.
- Algebraic theory that allows language independent work on KR.
- Requires some buy-in, but in my view a great bargain.
- Interested in cooperating? Questions on AFT? Come talk to me.



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