

RELEVANT S IS UNDECIDABLE

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LICS '24

Plan for the talk

- Relevant **S**: What is it and why is it(s decision problem) interesting?
- Proof technique: undecidability through tiling
- A simpler, yet illustrative proof: no FMP

Defining Relevant S

Definition (language and semantics)

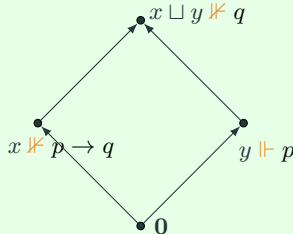
The **language** is given by

$$\varphi ::= p \mid \varphi \wedge \varphi \mid \varphi \vee \varphi \mid \varphi \rightarrow \varphi.$$

and the **semantics** of ' \rightarrow ' is:

$$x \Vdash \varphi \rightarrow \psi \quad \text{iff} \quad \forall y: y \Vdash \varphi \Rightarrow x \sqcup y \Vdash \psi$$

Example



Definition (frames and validity)

A **frame** $\mathfrak{F} = (S, \sqcup, \mathbf{0})$ is a semilattice (S, \sqcup) with least element $\mathbf{0} \in S$; i.e.,

- *Commutative*: $x \sqcup y = y \sqcup x$,
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- *Identity (least element)*: $x \sqcup \mathbf{0} = x$.

Equivalently, it is a **partial order** with all **binary joins** and a **least element**. Finally, a formula φ is **valid** iff $\mathfrak{M}, \mathbf{0} \Vdash \varphi$ for all models \mathfrak{M} .

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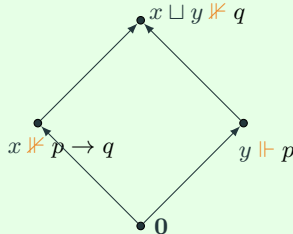
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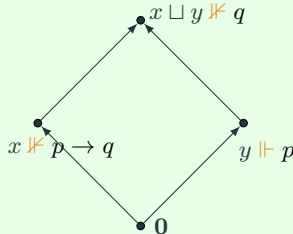
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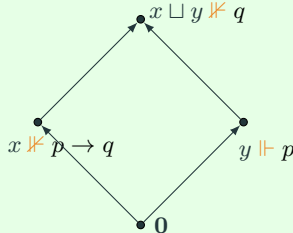
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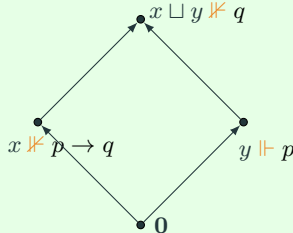
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Problem of concern: *Is S's validity problem*
decidable?

But first: **why** is this interesting?

Motivation

Setting

- **S** was introduced by Urquhart (1972, 1973).
- It's a close relative of **R** and its positive reduct $\mathbf{R}^+ = \mathbf{R}_{\{\wedge, \vee, \rightarrow\}}$.
 - In fact, $\mathbf{S}_{\{\wedge, \rightarrow\}} = \mathbf{R}_{\{\wedge, \rightarrow\}}$.
- Relevant logics are substructural logics, thus sharing close affinities with, e.g., linear logic.
 - For instance, \mathbf{R}^+ is positive linear logic + distribution of additive connectives + contraction.
 - As a rule of thumb: linear logics + contraction = relevant logics.

Why is **S**'s decision problem interesting?

- If we restrict to hereditary valuations, we obtain positive intuitionistic logic, which is **decidable**.
- Omitting disjunction, the logic $\mathbf{S}_{\{\wedge, \rightarrow\}}$ is **decidable**.
- **S** is closely connected to positive relevant \mathbf{R}^+ , which is **undecidable**.
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Overarching theme: Understanding the decidability/undecidability boundary in the realm of substructural logics.

Proof method: tiling

- A (Wang) tile is a square with colors on each side.
- The tiling problem: given any finite set of tiles \mathcal{W} , determine whether each point in the quadrant \mathbb{N}^2 can be assigned a tile from \mathcal{W} such that neighboring tiles share matching colors on connecting sides.
- The tiling problem was introduced by Wang (1963) and proven undecidable by Berger (1966).

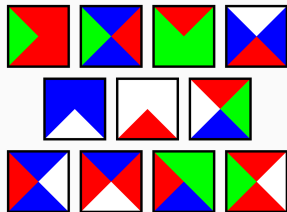


Figure 1: Wang tiles

Figures taken from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wang_tile

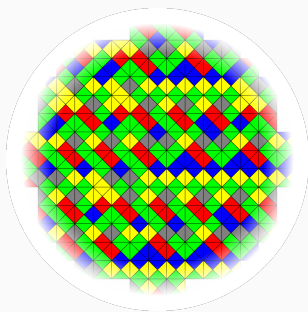


Figure 2: A tiling of the plane

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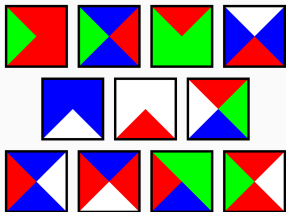


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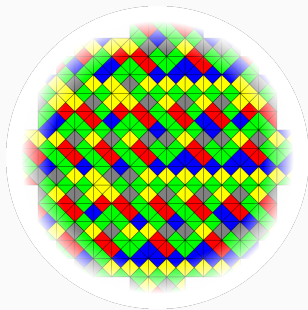


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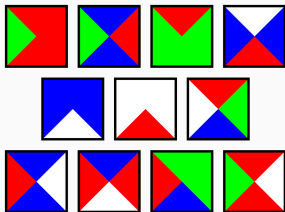


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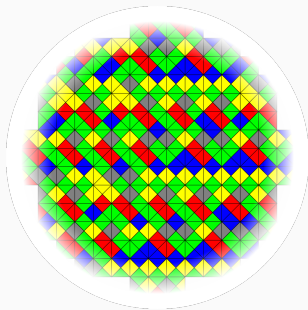


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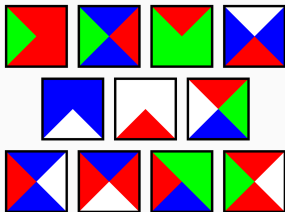


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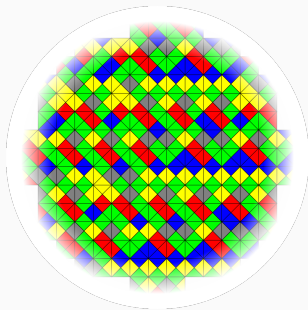


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Main theorem

Theorem

S is undecidable.

Proof idea.

For each finite set of tiles \mathcal{W} , we construct a formula $\psi_{\mathcal{W}}$ such that \mathcal{W} tiles the quadrant if and only if $\psi_{\mathcal{W}}$ is refutable. \square

Guide to Paper, and Summary

Guide to paper: The conference paper also contains a proof that \mathbf{S} lacks the FMP. If interested, I recommend reading this first, as it is considerably simpler than the undecidability proof, yet effectively illustrates some of the same key ideas.

Summary and further work

- \mathbf{S} is undecidable.
 - Proven via tiling
 - Themes of undecidability proof echoed in the simpler no-FMP proof
- Similar ideas recently applied to solve open problems in the area of modal and temporal logics.¹
- Future work includes decision problems in the vicinity of linear logic, separation logic, and relevant logic.
 - For instance, is ‘contraction-free’ \mathbf{S} decidable?

¹including the longstanding open problem of the decidability of hyperboolean modal logic, as posed by Goranko and Vakarelov (1999).

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Thank you!

Proof method: tiling

Theorem

Given any logic whose language contains $\{\wedge, \vee, \rightarrow\}$, if its $\{\wedge, \vee, \rightarrow\}$ -reduct extends **S** and is valid on $(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N}), \cup, \emptyset)$, then it is undecidable. In particular, **S** is undecidable.

Proof idea.

For each finite set of tiles \mathcal{W} , we construct a formula $\psi_{\mathcal{W}}$ such that \mathcal{W} tiles the quadrant if and only if $\psi_{\mathcal{W}}$ is refutable. \square

Lemma

If $\psi_{\mathcal{W}}$ is refutable (in a semilattice), then \mathcal{W} tiles \mathbb{N}^2 .

Lemma

If \mathcal{W} tiles \mathbb{N}^2 , then $\psi_{\mathcal{W}}$ is refutable (in $(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N}), \cup, \emptyset)$).

Relevant S is undecidable: Proof idea

Theorem: S is undecidable.

We cover the no-FMP proof instead, since it is considerably simpler than the undecidability proof, yet effectively illustrates some of the same key ideas.²

Theorem: S lacks the FMP.

Proof. We show that the formula ψ_∞ from the paper only is refuted by infinite models.

¹ Additionally, it addresses an open problem (as recently raised in Weiss 2021)

Refuting model

