

## Cheryl's Birthday Puzzle - worked out example

### Definitions

Consider the following three public announcements made by Albert and Bernard.

Albert: "I don't know when Cheryl's birthday is, but I know that you (Bernard) don't know either."

$$\varphi_1 = \neg(K_A(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \vee \dots \vee K_A(m_8 \wedge d_{17})) \wedge K_A \neg(K_B(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \vee \dots \vee K_B(m_8 \wedge d_{17}))$$

(For all possible dates given by Cheryl.)

Bernard: "At first I didn't know when Cheryl's birthday is, but now I know."

The first part of the statement does not give new information, so we only consider "I know now"

$$\varphi_2 = K_B(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \vee \dots \vee K_B(m_8 \wedge d_{17})$$

(For all possible dates given by Cheryl.)

Albert: "Now I also know when Cheryl's birthday is."

$$\varphi_3 = K_A(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \vee \dots \vee K_A(m_8 \wedge d_{17})$$

(For all possible dates given by Cheryl.)

(With this definition,  $\varphi_1$  can also be written as  $\varphi_1 = \neg\varphi_3 \wedge K_A\neg\varphi_2$ .)

We define model  $M$  as the model after Cheryl's gave all the possible dates and told Albert the month and told Bernard the day, see Figure 1.

We define the reduced model  $M_1 = M|\varphi_1$ , see Figure 2.

Reduced model  $M_2 = M_1|\varphi_2$ , see Figure 3.

Reduced model  $M_3 = M_2|\varphi_3$ , see Figure 4.

The true state of Cheryl's Birthday is July 16, which Albert and Bernard don't know. Call this state  $(16, July)$ .

$$(M, (16, July)) \models m_7 \wedge d_{16} \tag{1}$$

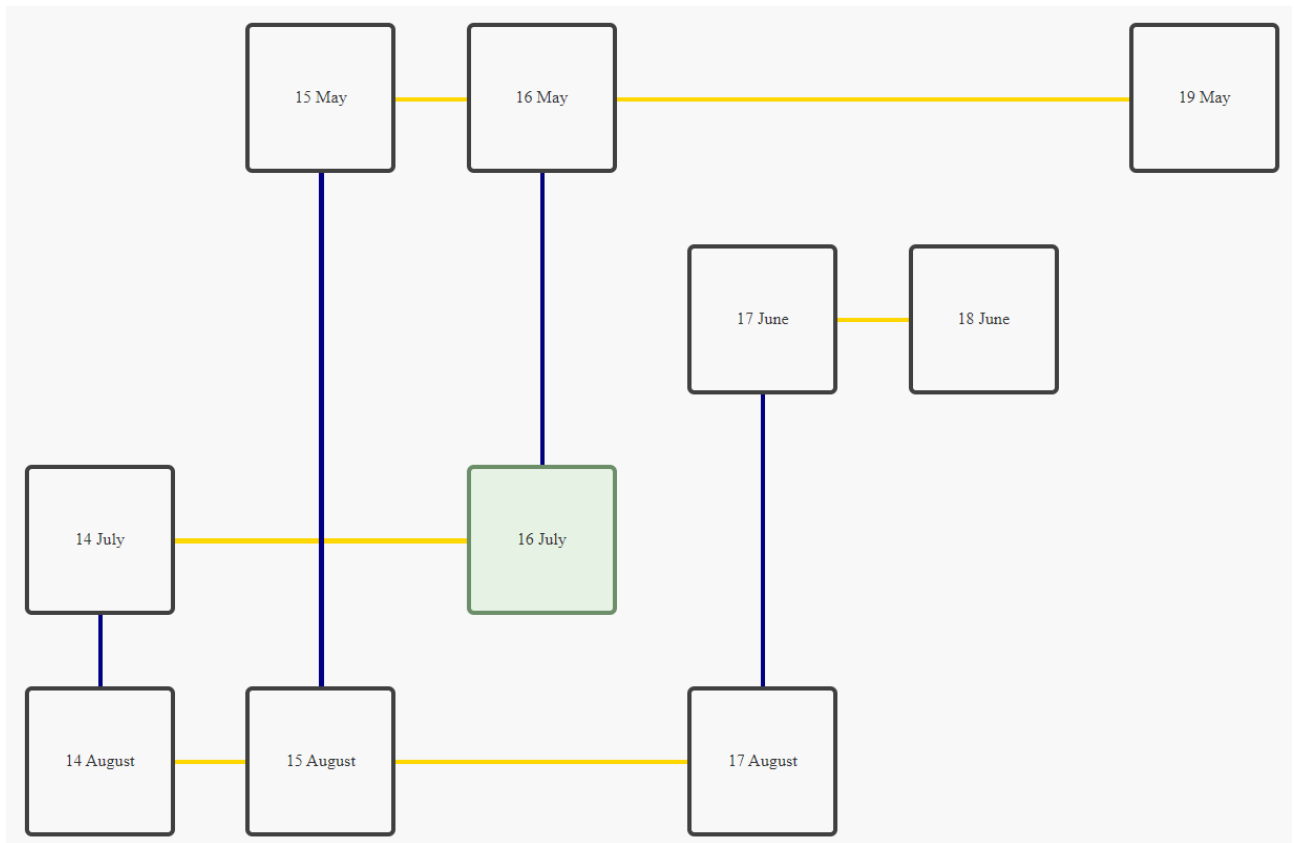


Figure 1: Model  $M$ . Reflexive and further transitive relations not shown. **Albert's** relations are shown in orange, **Bernard's** relations are shown in blue.

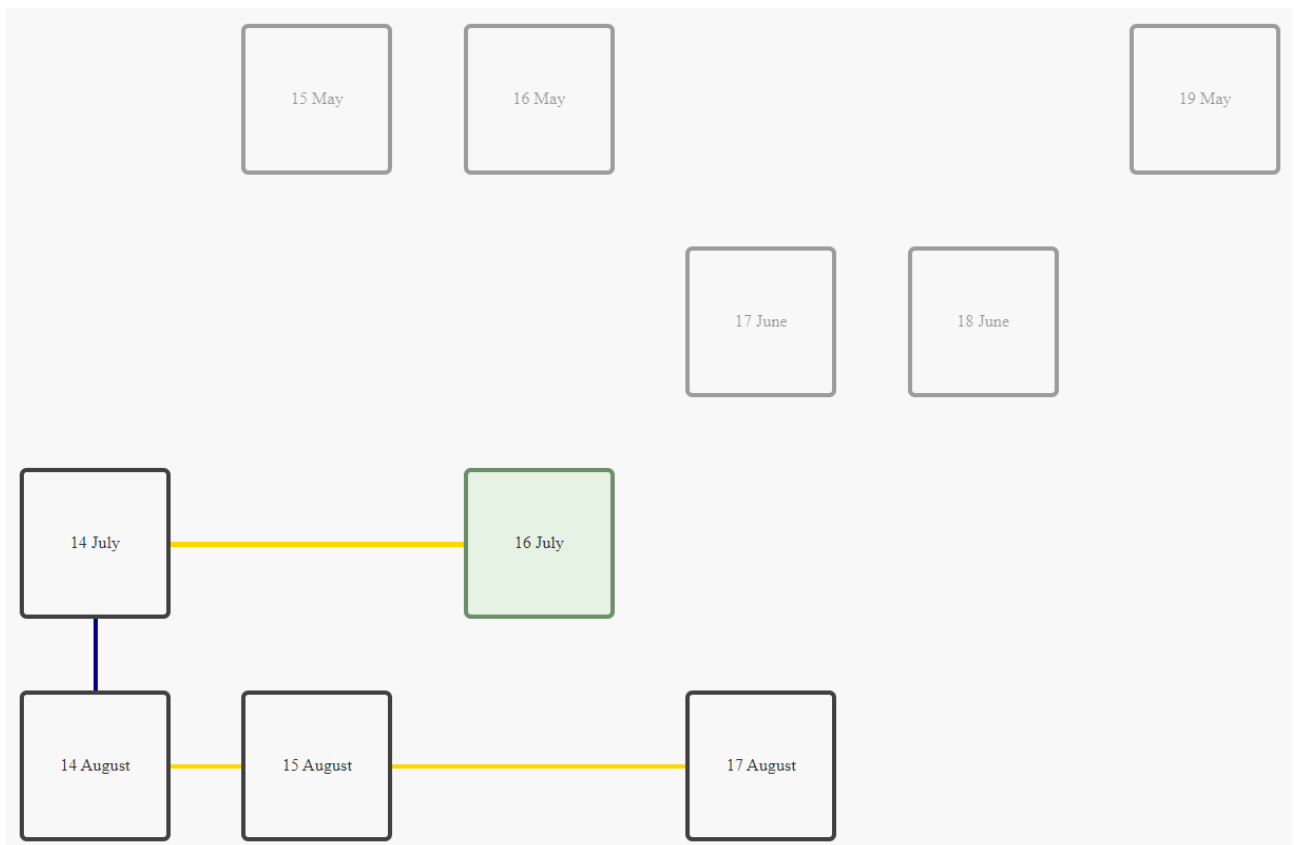


Figure 2: Reduced model  $M_1$ . Grayed-out states are not included.

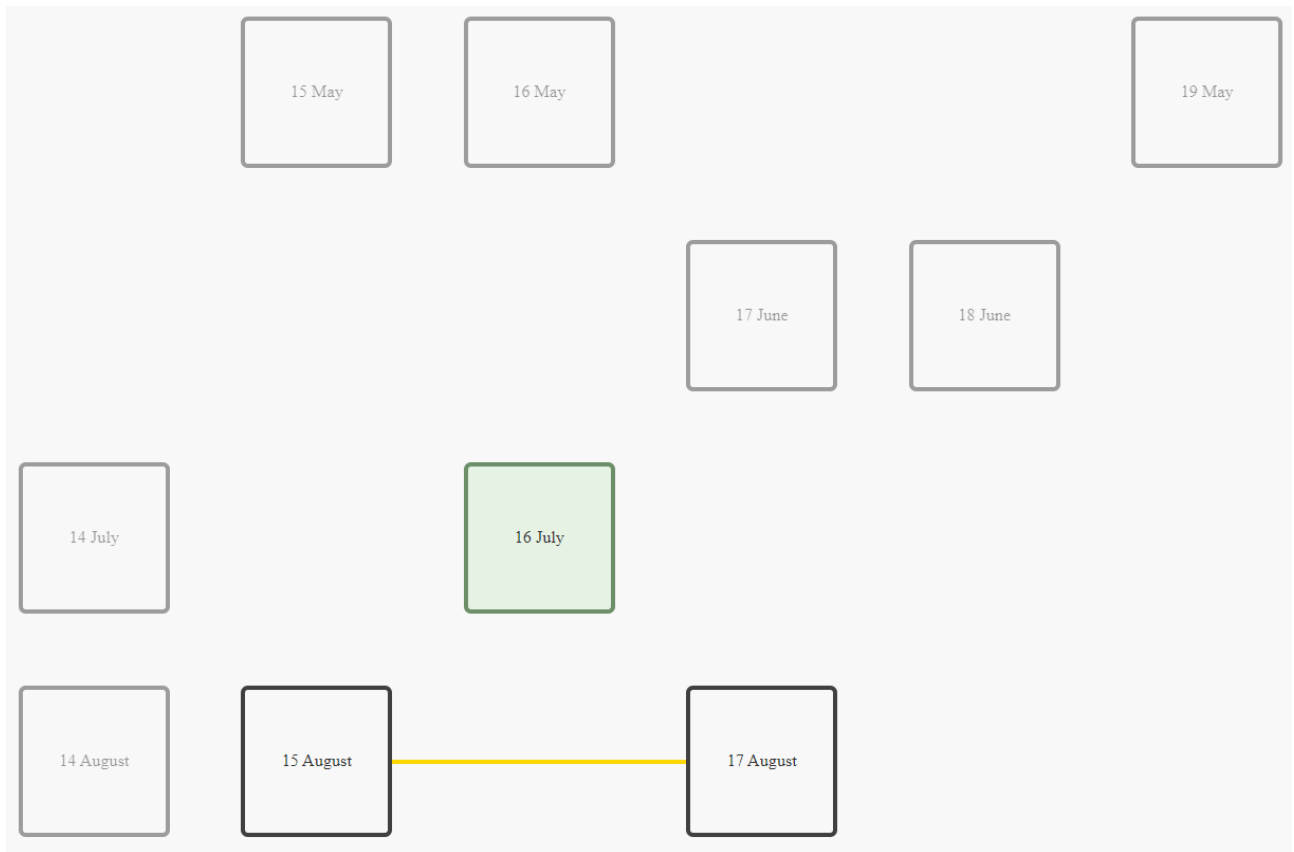


Figure 3: Reduced model  $M_2$ .

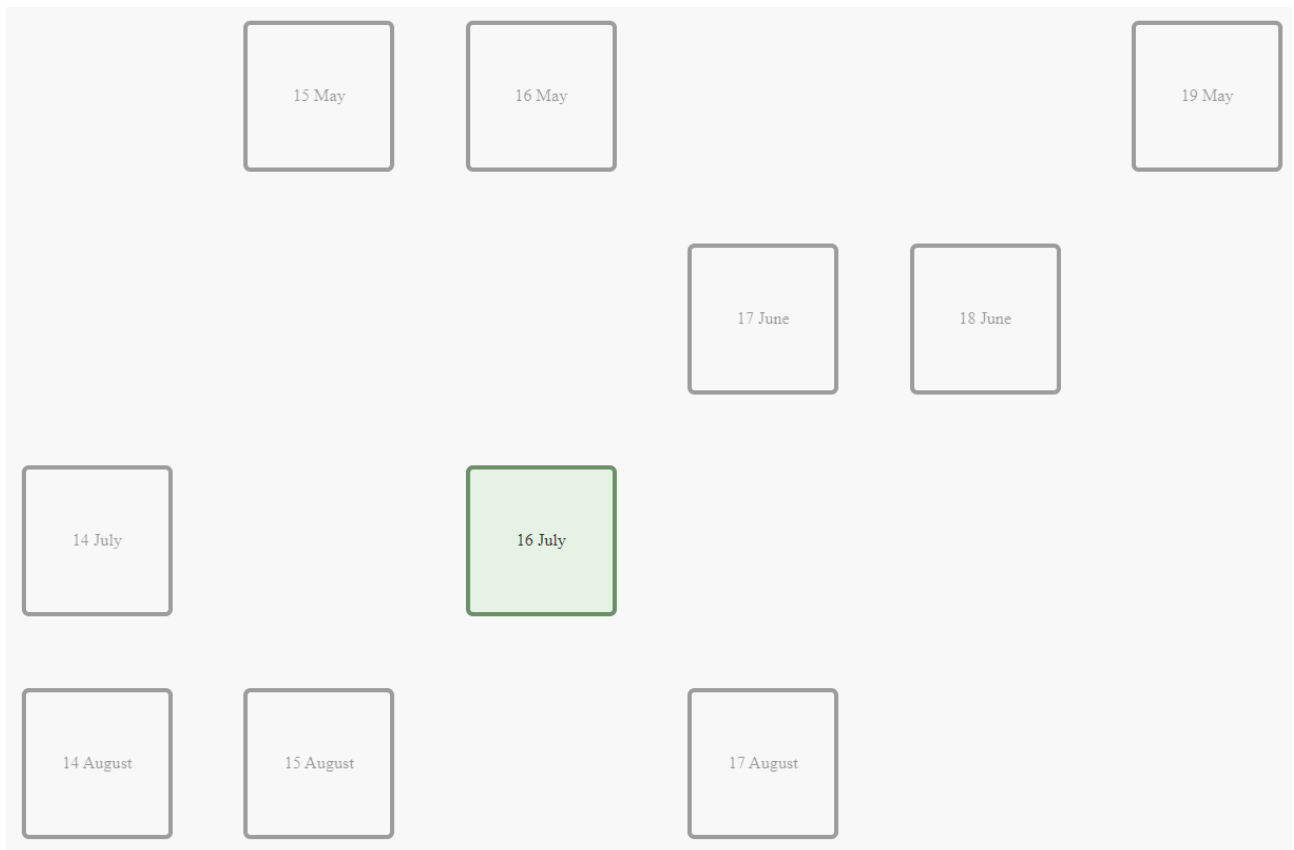


Figure 4: Reduced model  $M_3$ . Only a single state remains.

## Derivation

We want to show that after the public announcements,  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3$ , the exact date of Cheryl's birthday is known to Albert and Bernard.

Show that  $(M, (16, July)) \models \langle \varphi_1 \rangle \langle \varphi_2 \rangle \langle \varphi_3 \rangle \top$  is true.

$$(M, (16, July)) \models \langle \varphi_1 \rangle \langle \varphi_2 \rangle \langle \varphi_3 \rangle \top \quad \Leftrightarrow \text{(Definition of } \langle \varphi_1 \rangle \text{)}$$

$$(M, (16, July)) \models \varphi_1 \text{ and } (M_1, (16, July)) \models \langle \varphi_2 \rangle \langle \varphi_3 \rangle \top$$

Let's first show whether  $(M, (16, July)) \models \varphi_1$  is true.

$$\bullet (M, (16, July)) \models \varphi_1 \quad \Leftrightarrow \text{(Definition of } \varphi_1 \text{)}$$

$$(M, (16, July)) \models \neg(K_A(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \vee \dots \vee K_A(m_8 \wedge d_{17})) \wedge K_A \neg(K_B(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \vee \dots \vee K_B(m_8 \wedge d_{17}))$$

$\Leftrightarrow \text{(Def of } \wedge \text{)}$

$$(M, (16, July)) \models \neg(K_A(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \vee \dots \vee K_A(m_8 \wedge d_{17}))$$

$$\text{and } (M, (16, July)) \models K_A \neg(K_B(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \vee \dots \vee K_B(m_8 \wedge d_{17}))$$

First conjunct:

$$- (M, (16, July)) \models \neg(K_A(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \vee \dots \vee K_A(m_8 \wedge d_{17})) \quad \Leftrightarrow \text{(Definition of } \neg \text{)}$$

$$(M, (16, July)) \not\models K_A(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \vee \dots \vee K_A(m_8 \wedge d_{17}) \quad \Leftrightarrow \text{(Definition of } \vee \text{)}$$

$$(M, (16, July)) \not\models K_A(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \text{ or } \dots \text{ or } (M, (16, July)) \not\models K_A(m_8 \wedge d_{17}) \quad \Leftrightarrow \text{(Def of } K_A \text{)}$$

For all  $t$  with  $(16, July) \sim_A t$ ,  $(M, t) \not\models (m_5 \wedge d_{15})$  or ...

or for all  $u$  with  $(16, July) \sim_A u$ ,  $(M, u) \not\models (m_8 \wedge d_{17})$

$t = u \in \{(14, July), (16, July)\}$ . In the first state only the propositional atoms  $m_7$  and  $d_{14}$  are true. In the second state only the propositional atoms  $m_7$  and  $d_{16}$  are true. Any choice of  $d_i$  is not true in both states at the same time. So this statement is true.

Continuing with the other conjunct:

$$(M, (16, July)) \models K_A \neg(K_B(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \vee \dots \vee K_B(m_8 \wedge d_{17})) \quad \Leftrightarrow \text{(Definition of } K_A \text{)}$$

$$\text{For all } t \text{ with } (16, July) \sim_A t, (M, t) \models \neg(K_B(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \vee \dots \vee K_B(m_8 \wedge d_{17}))$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{(De Morgan law)}$$

$$\text{For all } t \text{ with } (16, July) \sim_A t, (M, t) \models \neg K_B(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \wedge \dots \wedge \neg K_B(m_8 \wedge d_{17})$$

$t \in \{(14, July), (16, July)\}$ , specifying both states:

$$(M, (14, July)) \models \neg K_B(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \wedge \dots \wedge \neg K_B(m_8 \wedge d_{17})$$

$$\text{and } (M, (16, July)) \models \neg K_B(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \wedge \dots \wedge \neg K_B(m_8 \wedge d_{17}) \quad \Leftrightarrow \text{(Definition of } \wedge \text{)}$$

$$(M, (14, July)) \models \neg K_B(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \text{ and } \dots \text{ and } (M, (14, July)) \models \neg K_B(m_8 \wedge d_{17})$$

$$\text{and } (M, (16, July)) \models \neg K_B(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \text{ and } \dots \text{ and } (M, (16, July)) \models \neg K_B(m_8 \wedge d_{17}) \quad \Leftrightarrow \text{(Def } \neg \text{)}$$

$$(M, (14, July)) \not\models K_B(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \text{ and } \dots \text{ and } (M, (14, July)) \not\models K_B(m_8 \wedge d_{17})$$

$$\text{and } (M, (16, July)) \not\models K_B(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \text{ and } \dots \text{ and } (M, (16, July)) \not\models K_B(m_8 \wedge d_{17}) \quad \Leftrightarrow \text{(Def } K_B \text{)}$$

For all  $t$  with  $(14, July) \sim_B t$ ,  $(M, t) \not\models m_5 \wedge d_{15}$  and ...

and for all  $u$  with  $(14, July) \sim_B u$ ,  $(M, u) \not\models m_8 \wedge d_{17}$  and ...

and for all  $v$  with  $(16, July) \sim_B v$ ,  $(M, v) \not\models m_5 \wedge d_{15}$  and ...

and for all  $w$  with  $(16, July) \sim_B w$ ,  $(M, w) \not\models m_8 \wedge d_{17}$ .

$t = u \in \{(14, July), (14, August)\}$ ,  $v = w \in \{(16, May), (16, July)\}$ . With similar reasoning as before, any choice of propositional atom  $m_i$  is not true in two different states at the same time.

So this statement is true.

Continuing with the other conjunct:

$$(M_1, (16, July)) \models \langle \varphi_2 \rangle \langle \varphi_3 \rangle \top \quad \Leftrightarrow \text{(Definition of } \langle \varphi_2 \rangle \text{)}$$

$(M_1, (16, July)) \models \varphi_2$  and  $(M_2, (16, July)) \models \langle \varphi_3 \rangle \top$

Let's show whether  $(M_1, (16, July)) \models \varphi_2$  is true.

- $(M_1, (16, July)) \models \varphi_2$   $\Leftrightarrow$  (Definition of  $\varphi_2$ )
- $(M_1, (16, July)) \models K_B(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \vee \dots \vee K_B(m_8 \wedge d_{17})$   $\Leftrightarrow$  (Definition of  $\vee$ )
- $(M_1, (16, July)) \models K_B(m_5 \wedge d_{15})$  or ... or  $(M_1, (16, July)) \models K_B(m_8 \wedge d_{17})$   $\Leftrightarrow$  (Def of  $K_B$ )
- For all  $t$  with  $(16, July) \sim_B t$ ,  $(M_1, t) \models (m_5 \wedge d_{15})$  or ...
- or for all  $u$  with  $(16, July) \sim_B u$ ,  $(M_1, u) \models (m_7 \wedge d_{16})$  or ...
- or for all  $v$  with  $(16, July) \sim_B v$ ,  $(M_1, v) \models (m_8 \wedge d_{17})$
- $t = u = v \in \{(16, July)\}$ .  $(M_1, (16, July)) \models (m_7 \wedge d_{16})$  is true by Equation 1.
- Therefore  $(M_1, (16, July)) \models \varphi_2$  is true.

Continuing with the other conjunct:

$(M_2, (16, July)) \models \langle \varphi_3 \rangle \top$   $\Leftrightarrow$  (Definition of  $\langle \varphi_3 \rangle$ )

$(M_2, (16, July)) \models \varphi_3$  and  $(M_3, (16, July)) \models \top$

$(M_3, (16, July)) \models \top$  is true by tautology.

Last part:

- $(M_2, (16, July)) \models \varphi_3$   $\Leftrightarrow$  (Definition of  $\varphi_3$ )
- $(M_2, (16, July)) \models K_A(m_5 \wedge d_{15}) \vee \dots \vee K_A(m_8 \wedge d_{17})$   $\Leftrightarrow$  (Definition of  $\vee$ )
- $(M_2, (16, July)) \models K_A(m_5 \wedge d_{15})$  or ... or  $(M_2, (16, July)) \models K_A(m_8 \wedge d_{17})$   $\Leftrightarrow$  (Definition of  $K_A$ )
- For all  $t$  with  $(16, July) \sim_A t$ ,  $(M_2, t) \models (m_5 \wedge d_{15})$  or ...
- or for all  $u$  with  $(16, July) \sim_A u$ ,  $(M_2, u) \models (m_7 \wedge d_{16})$  or ...
- or for all  $v$  with  $(16, July) \sim_A v$ ,  $(M_2, v) \models (m_8 \wedge d_{17})$
- $t = u = v \in \{(16, July)\}$ .  $(M_2, (16, July)) \models (m_7 \wedge d_{16})$  is true by Equation 1.
- Therefore  $(M, (16, July)) \models \langle \varphi_1 \rangle \langle \varphi_2 \rangle \langle \varphi_3 \rangle \top$  is true.