

# Justification with Propositional Nominals

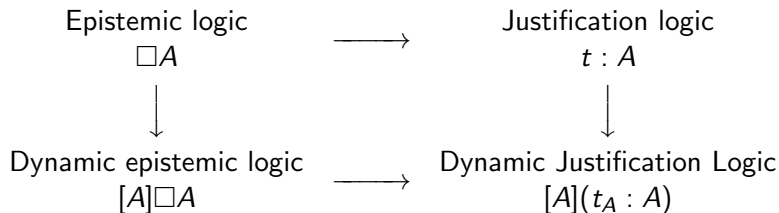
## A Stepping Stone Towards Dynamic Justification Logic

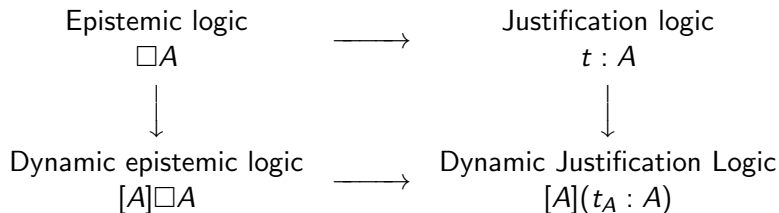
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# Motivation





Logic  $JUP_{CS}$  by R. Kuznets and T. Studer (2013) provides:

- Belief expansion
- Minimal change
- Evidential Ramsey Axiom

## Definition 1 (Language of JUP).

- Evidence terms

$$\text{Tm} := c_i \mid x_i \mid \text{up}(A) \mid t \cdot_A s$$

where  $t, s \in \text{Tm}$ ,  $A \in \text{Fm}$

- Formulas

$$\text{Fm} := P_i \mid \neg A \mid A \rightarrow B \mid t : A \mid [\Gamma]A$$

where  $A, B \in \text{Fm}$ ,  $t \in \text{Tm}$ ,  $\Gamma$  is a finite set of formulas

$t : A$  = “A is believed for reason t”

$[\Gamma]A$  = “A holds after an update with all formulas in  $\Gamma$ ”

Terms of the form  $up(A)$  represent special evidence that becomes valid only after an update that contains  $A$ :

- $\vdash \neg up(A) : B$  for any  $A, B$
- $\vdash [\Gamma](up(A) : A)$ , if  $A \in \Gamma$

# The logic $JUP_{CS}$ : Updates and evidence

Terms of the form  $up(A)$  represent special evidence that becomes valid only after an update that contains  $A$ :

- $\vdash \neg up(A) : B$  for any  $A, B$
- $\vdash [\Gamma](up(A) : A)$ , if  $A \in \Gamma$

We have the principles of persistence and minimal change:

- $\vdash t : A \rightarrow [\Gamma]t : A$
- $\vdash [\Gamma]t : A \rightarrow t : A$  if  $t$  does not contain  $up(A)$  for  $A \in \Gamma$

# Semantics for $JUP_{CS}$ : Evidence relation

Semantics for  $JUP_{CS}$  use **generated models**, a class of basic modular models.

**Definition 2 (Evidence closure).**

Let **basis**  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq ATm \times Fm$

Then, for  $X \subseteq Tm \times Fm$ ,  $cl_{\mathcal{B}}(X)$  is defined by:

- If  $(t, A) \in \mathcal{B}$ , then  $(t, A) \in cl_{\mathcal{B}}(X)$
- If  $(s, A) \in X$  and  $(t, A \rightarrow B) \in X$ , then  $(t \cdot_A s, B) \in cl_{\mathcal{B}}(X)$

**Definition 3 (Evidence relation).**

For any  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq ATm \times Fm$ , the *minimal evidence relation*  $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B})$  is the least fixed point of  $cl_{\mathcal{B}}$ .

Definition 4 (Model, CS-model, initial model).

A **model** is a pair  $\mathcal{M} = (\nu, \mathcal{B})$ , where  $\nu \subseteq \text{Prop}$ ,  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \text{ATm} \times \text{Fm}$ .

$\mathcal{M}$  is a **CS-model** if  $CS \subseteq \mathcal{B}$  for constant specification  $CS$ .

$\mathcal{M}$  is an **initial model** if  $(\text{up}(A), B) \notin \mathcal{B}$  for any formulas  $A, B$ .

Definition 5 (Updated model).

For a finite set of formulas  $\Gamma$ , let  $\mathcal{U}_\Gamma := \{(\text{up}(A), A) \mid A \in \Gamma\}$ .

For a model  $\mathcal{M} = (\nu, \mathcal{B})$ , the **updated model**  $\mathcal{M}^\Gamma$  is  $(\nu, \mathcal{B} \cup \mathcal{U}_\Gamma)$ .



## Definition 6 (Truth in model).

For a model  $\mathcal{M} = (\nu, \mathcal{B})$ , relation  $\mathcal{M} \Vdash A$  is defined by:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{M} \Vdash P & \text{ iff } P \in \nu \\ \mathcal{M} \Vdash \neg A & \text{ iff } \mathcal{M} \not\Vdash A \\ \mathcal{M} \Vdash A \rightarrow B & \text{ iff } \mathcal{M} \not\Vdash A \text{ or } \mathcal{M} \Vdash B \\ \mathcal{M} \Vdash t : A & \text{ iff } (t, A) \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B}) \\ \mathcal{M} \Vdash [\Gamma]A & \text{ iff } \mathcal{M}^\Gamma \Vdash A\end{aligned}$$

## Definition 7 (Validity).

A formula  $A$  is **valid with respect to constant specification CS** if  $\mathcal{M} \Vdash A$  for all initial CS-models  $\mathcal{M}$ .

Theorem 8 (Soundness).

$$\text{JUP}_{\text{CS}} \vdash A \quad \Rightarrow \quad A \text{ is valid with respect to CS}$$

Theorem 9 (Completeness).

$$A \text{ is valid with respect to CS} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{JUP}_{\text{CS}} \vdash A$$

And several other nice properties such as the principle of minimal change, an evidential analog of Ramsey axiom, and AGM postulates for expansion.

Keeping track of the formula used in application ( $t \cdot_A s : B$ ) allows to have equivalences in axioms (App), (MC.2), which in turn allows to keep the basis of models atomic and simplifies the completeness proof.

$$t : (A \rightarrow B) \wedge s : A \leftrightarrow t \cdot_A s : B \quad (\text{App})$$

$$[\Gamma] t \cdot_A s : B \leftrightarrow [\Gamma] t : (A \rightarrow B) \wedge [\Gamma] s : A \quad (\text{MC.2})$$

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However, it is unnatural for justification logic. So, a possible direction for research is to try and get rid of it.

## Modification: No subscript

Inability to decompose evidence terms leads to models with non-atomic bases:

$$\mathcal{M} = (v, \mathcal{B}), \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathbf{Tm} \times \mathbf{Fm}$$

Naively modified axioms are insufficient to preserve soundness and completeness.

So the task is to modify the axiom system and the class of models to obtain “good” soundness and completeness results.

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Our goal is to obtain an axiomatization that both captures the essence of  $\text{up}(A)$  terms and has simple models, ideally — atomic models.



# Capturing the updates: Nominals

Let's look back at the  $JUP_{CS}$  and its update terms:

$$JUP_{CS} \vdash \neg up(A) : B$$

$$JUP_{CS} \vdash \neg[A]up(A) : B$$

$$JUP_{CS} \vdash \neg[C]up(A) : B$$

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After some updates, there is a finite set of formulas  $\Gamma$  such that for  $A \in \Gamma$ ,  $\mathcal{M}' \Vdash up(A) : A$  and  $\mathcal{M}' \Vdash \neg up(A) : B$  for  $B \neq A$ .

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After some updates, there is a finite set of formulas  $\Gamma$  such that for  $A \in \Gamma$ ,  $\mathcal{M}' \Vdash up(A) : A$  and  $\mathcal{M}' \Vdash \neg up(A) : B$  for  $B \neq A$ .

We want to capture this property — a term that justifies one and only one formula — with an extension to terms, **nominals**.

# Justification with (Propositional) Nominals

Justification Logic  
(with Nominals)  $\longrightarrow$  Dynamic Justification Logic  
(with Updates)

Definition 10 (Language of  $JN_V$ ).

- Evidence terms

$$Tm := c_i \mid x_i \mid n_P \mid t \cdot s$$

where  $P \in V \subseteq \text{Prop}$ ,  $V$  is finite

Essence of nominals: they prove exactly one formula.

$$\vdash n_P : F \iff F = P$$

## Definition 11 (Logic $JN_V$ ).

All propositional tautologies. (Taut)

$t : (F \rightarrow G) \wedge s : F \rightarrow t \cdot s : G$  (App)

$n_P : P \quad P \in V$  ( $N_+$ )

$\neg n_P : F \quad P \neq F$  ( $N_-$ )

$\neg t : F \quad \text{for all } t \text{ with } n_P \cdot s \in \text{sub}(t)$  ( $N_\triangleleft$ )

$t \cdot n_P : F \rightarrow t : (P \rightarrow F)$  ( $N_\triangleright$ )

$t : F \wedge s : P \rightarrow \langle i, P, s \rangle t : F$  ( $N_\sigma$ )

$$\frac{F \quad F \rightarrow G}{G} \text{ (MP)} \quad \frac{(c, F) \in \text{CS}}{c : F} \text{ (AN)}$$

## Definition 12 (Evidence closure).

Let **basis**  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathbf{Tm} \times \mathbf{Fm}$

Then, for  $X \subseteq \mathbf{Tm} \times \mathbf{Fm}$ ,  $\text{cl}_{\mathcal{B}}(X)$  is defined by:

- If  $(t, F) \in \mathcal{B}$ , then  $(t, F) \in \text{cl}_{\mathcal{B}}(X)$
- If  $(s, F) \in X$  and  $(t, F \rightarrow G) \in X$ , then  $(t \cdot s, G) \in \text{cl}_{\mathcal{B}}(X)$
- If  $(t, F) \in X$  and  $(s, P) \in X$  for  $P \in V$ , then  $(\langle i, P, s \rangle t, F) \in \text{cl}_{\mathcal{B}}(X)$

## Definition 13 (Evidence relation).

For any  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathbf{Tm} \times \mathbf{Fm}$ , the *minimal evidence relation*  $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B})$  is the least fixed point of  $\text{cl}_{\mathcal{B}}$ .

Definition 14 (Model, CS-model).

A **model** is a pair  $\mathcal{M} = (v, \mathcal{B})$ , where  $v \subseteq \text{Prop}$ ,  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \text{Tm} \times \text{Fm}$ .  
 $\mathcal{M}$  is a **CS-model** if  $\text{CS} \subseteq \mathcal{B}$  for constant specification CS.

Definition 15 (Truth in model).

For a model  $\mathcal{M} = (v, \mathcal{B})$ , relation  $\mathcal{M} \Vdash A$  is defined by:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{M} \Vdash P & \text{ iff } P \in v \\ \mathcal{M} \Vdash \neg A & \text{ iff } \mathcal{M} \not\Vdash A \\ \mathcal{M} \Vdash A \rightarrow B & \text{ iff } \mathcal{M} \not\Vdash A \text{ or } \mathcal{M} \Vdash B \\ \mathcal{M} \Vdash t : A & \text{ iff } (t, A) \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B})\end{aligned}$$

## Definition 16 (Intermediate model).

A model  $\mathcal{M} = (\mathbf{v}, \mathcal{B})$  is called **intermediate** if the following conditions on  $\mathcal{B}$  hold:

$$(R.1) \quad (n_P, F) \in \mathcal{B} \Leftrightarrow F = P \text{ (for } P \in \mathbf{V})$$

$$(R.2) \quad n_P \cdot s \notin \text{sub}(t) \text{ for all } (t, F) \in \mathcal{B}$$

$$(R.3) \quad (t \cdot n_P, F) \notin \mathcal{B}$$

A formula  $F$  is called **valid w.r.t. intermediate CS-models** iff  $\mathcal{M} \Vdash F$  for all intermediate CS-models  $\mathcal{M}$  (notation:  $\Vdash_i F$ ).



## Theorem 17 (Soundness).

$$\text{JN}_V \vdash F \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Vdash_i F$$

## Proof highlights.

Proof proceeds by induction on the derivation.

- Cases for (App) and (N<sub>σ</sub>) follow from l.f.p. properties of  $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B})$ .
- $\mathcal{M} \Vdash t : F \Leftrightarrow (t, F) \in \mathcal{B}$  for atomic  $t$ .  
This covers cases for (N<sub>+</sub>) and (N<sub>-</sub>), and used in other branches.
- The property  $(n_P \cdot s) \notin \text{sub}(t)$  is preserved by substitution.  
This is used to prove the case for (N<sub>◁</sub>)
- (N<sub>▷</sub>) is the most complex case due to substitutions.



## Definition 18 (Induced model).

For a **maximal consistent set** of formulas  $\Phi$ , its **induced model**  $\mathcal{M}_\Phi = (\nu_\Phi, \mathcal{B}_\Phi)$  is defined by:

- $\nu_\Phi := \Phi \cap \text{Prop}$
- $\mathcal{B}_\Phi := \{(t, F) \mid t : F \in \Phi, t \neq s \cdot n_P \text{ for any } s, P\}$

## Lemma 19.

*For any maximal consistent set,  $\mathcal{M}_\Phi$  is an intermediate model.*

## Lemma 20 (Canonical evidence).

$$(t, F) \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B}_\Phi) \iff t : F \in \Phi$$

The direction from right to left notably uses  $(N_{\triangleright})$ .

Lemma 21 (Truth lemma).

$$\mathcal{M}_\Phi \Vdash F \iff F \in \Phi$$

Theorem 22 (Completeness).

$$\Vdash_i F \Rightarrow \text{JN}_V \vdash F$$

## Definition 23 (Atomic model).

A model  $\mathcal{M}_a = (v, \mathcal{B}_a)$  is called **atomic** if it satisfies (R.1) and  $\mathcal{B}_a \subseteq \text{ATm} \times \text{Fm}$ .

A formula  $F$  is called **valid w.r.t. atomic CS-models** iff  $\mathcal{M} \Vdash F$  for all atomic CS-models  $\mathcal{M}$  (notation:  $\Vdash_a F$ ).

## Remark.

*An atomic model is also an intermediate model.*

## Definition 24 (Finite model).

A model  $\mathcal{M}_f = (v_f, \mathcal{B}_f)$  is called **finite** if both  $v_f$  and  $\mathcal{B}_f$  are finite.

The plan is to show that  $JN_V$  is sound and complete w.r.t. atomic CS-models.

This will not be shown directly; instead, we use the soundness and completeness w.r.t. intermediate CS-models, followed by a procedure to “atomize” any model satisfying a given formula.

## Definition 25 (Term complexity).

We define the **complexity** of a term  $\text{cmp}(t)$  as the number of applications in it.

We define the **basis complexity** of a basis  $\mathcal{B}$  as

$$\text{cmp}(\mathcal{B}) := \sum_{(t,F) \in \mathcal{B}} \text{cmp}(t), \text{ or } \infty \text{ if this sum is not finite.}$$

## Lemma 26 (Term complexity properties).

*Term complexity has the following properties:*

- 1  $t \in \text{ATM} \Leftrightarrow \text{cmp}(t) = 0$
- 2  $\text{cmp}(\sigma t) \geq \text{cmp}(t)$  for any term  $t$  and any basic substitution  $\sigma$

## Definition 27 (Relevant evidence and propositional valuation).

For a formula  $F$ , we define

- **relevant evidence**  $\mathcal{E}_F := \{(t, G) \mid t : G \in \text{subf}(F)\}$
- **relevant propositional valuation**  $\mathbf{v}_F := \{P \mid P \in \text{subf}(F)\}$

We use “shallow” subformulas:  $\text{subf}(t : F) = \{t : F\}$ .

## Lemma 28.

If two models  $\mathcal{M} = (\mathbf{v}, \mathcal{B})$  and  $\mathcal{M}' = (\mathbf{v}', \mathcal{B}')$

- 1 agree on relevant propositional valuation for  $F$ , i.e.  $\mathbf{v} \cap \mathbf{v}_F = \mathbf{v}' \cap \mathbf{v}_F$ , and
- 2 agree on relevant evidence for  $F$ , i.e.  $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B}) \cap \mathcal{E}_F = \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B}') \cap \mathcal{E}_F$ ,

then they agree on the valuation of  $F$ :  $\mathcal{M} \Vdash F \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{M}' \Vdash F$ .

# Atomization: Overview

The idea of atomization is the following procedure:

- 1 Start with an arbitrary intermediate CS-model  $\mathcal{M}$  that satisfies a formula  $F$ .  
Then, while maintaining satisfaction of  $F$ , perform the following steps:
- 2 Reduce  $\mathcal{M}$  to a finite intermediate model  $\mathcal{M}_0$  (potentially without full CS).
- 3 Step by step remove applications from the basis:  
 $\mathcal{M}_i \mapsto \mathcal{M}_{i+1}$ , until there are none left. The result is a finite atomic model.
- 4 Take the final model  $\mathcal{M}_n$  and add back the whole CS, making it an atomic CS-model.

This entails soundness and completeness w.r.t. atomic CS-models.



To be able to add back CS without disrupting satisfaction of  $F$ , we require the following restriction on CS:

**Definition 29 (Locally finite CS).**

We call a constant specification CS **locally finite** if for every term constant  $c$ ,  $\{(c, F) \mid (c, F) \in \text{CS}\}$  is finite.

This still allows for “strong enough” constant specifications: one can have, for example, axiomatically appropriate locally finite CS.

The following will assume a locally finite constant specification CS.

## Lemma 30.

*For any basis  $\mathcal{B}$  and any  $(t, F)$  such that  $(t, F) \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B})$ , there is a finite subset  $\mathcal{B}_{(t,F)} \subseteq \mathcal{B}$  such that  $(t, F) \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B}_{(t,F)})$ .*

Assume that we have an intermediate CS-model  $\mathcal{M} = (v, \mathcal{B})$  and a formula  $F$  such that  $\mathcal{M} \Vdash F$ .

First, take all relevant evidence from  $\mathcal{M}$ :  $\mathcal{E}' := \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B}) \cap \mathcal{E}_F$ . This set is finite. Then, for each  $(t, G) \in \mathcal{E}'$  take the finite subset of the basis from the above lemma:  $\mathcal{B}_{(t,G)}$ .

Merge them together, the result being a finite set:

$$\mathcal{B}' := \bigcup_{(t,G) \in \mathcal{E}'} \mathcal{B}_{(t,G)}$$

# Atomization: Obtaining a finite model

Finally, add CS restricted to constants that occur in terms of  $\mathcal{B}'$ :

$$\mathcal{B}_0 := \mathcal{B}' \cup \left( \bigcup_{(t,G) \in \mathcal{B}'} \{(c, G) \mid (c, G) \in \text{CS}, c \in \text{sub}(t)\} \right)$$

This is again finite for a locally finite CS.

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Take  $\mathcal{M}_0 := (\nu \cap \nu_F, \mathcal{B}_0)$ .

By construction,  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{M}_0$  agree on relevant evidence and propositional valuation for  $F$ ; therefore,  $\mathcal{M}_0 \Vdash F$ .

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By construction,  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{M}_0$  agree on relevant evidence and propositional valuation for  $F$ ; therefore,  $\mathcal{M}_0 \Vdash F$ .

## Lemma 31.

*For any intermediate model  $\mathcal{M}$  and any  $F$  such that  $\mathcal{M} \Vdash F$ , there exists a finite intermediate model  $\mathcal{M}_0$  such that  $\mathcal{M}_0 \Vdash F$ .*

# Atomization: Reducing an application

Suppose we have a finite intermediate model  $\mathcal{M}_i$  that satisfies  $F$  and it's not atomic.

Then there is an evidence pair of the form  $(t \cdot s, G) \in \mathcal{B}_i$ .

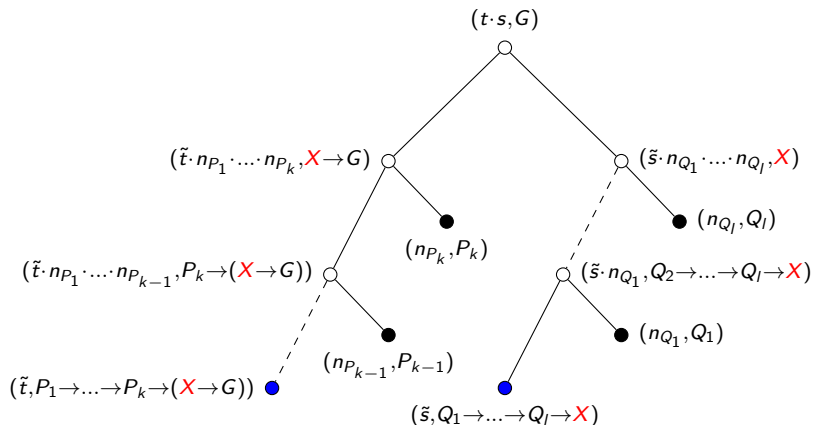
- Neither  $t$  (by (R.2)) nor  $s$  (by (R.3)) can be  $n_P$  for any  $P$ .
- By (R.2),  $t$  can be uniquely represented as  $\tilde{t} \cdot n_{P_1} \cdot \dots \cdot n_{P_k}$ , and similarly for  $s$ .

Since  $\mathcal{B}_i$  is finite, we can select a “fresh” propositional variable  $X$  that does not occur in  $\mathcal{B}_i$ ,  $F$  or  $V$ .

We use it to replace  $(t \cdot s, G)$  with  $(t, X \rightarrow G)$  and  $(s, X)$ .

# Atomization: Reducing an application

Take  $\mathcal{B}_{i+1} := (\mathcal{B}_i \setminus \{(t \cdot s, G)\}) \cup \{ \text{blue dots} \}$



# Atomization: Reducing an application

Collect all the evidence pairs containing  $X$  from the picture into a set  $\mathcal{E}'$ . Then the following can be proven:

$$(r, H) \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B}_{i+1}) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{either } (r, H) \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B}_i), \\ \text{or } (r, H) = (\Sigma(r'), H) \\ \text{for some } (r', H) \in \mathcal{E}', \Sigma \in \mathcal{S}^*(\mathcal{B}_i) \end{array} \right.$$

The second case implies that  $H$  contains  $X$ , and therefore cannot be relevant to  $F$ .

Therefore,  $\mathcal{M}_{i+1} := (v_i, \mathcal{B}_{i+1})$  satisfies  $F$ .



# Atomization: Achieving atomization

Overall number of applications in  $\mathcal{B}_i$  is reduced by at least 1 with each step.

## Lemma 32.

*For every finite intermediate model  $\mathcal{M}_i$  and formula  $F$  such that  $\mathcal{M}_i \Vdash F$ , if  $\text{cmp}(\mathcal{B}_i) > 0$ , there exists a finite intermediate model  $\mathcal{M}_{i+1}$  such that  $\mathcal{M}_{i+1} \Vdash F$  and  $\text{cmp}(\mathcal{B}_{i+1}) < \text{cmp}(\mathcal{B}_i)$*

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Therefore, the process terminates with a (finite) atomic model  $\mathcal{M}_n$  that satisfies  $F$ .

Final step is to merge CS back into the model:

$$\tilde{\mathcal{M}} := (v_n, \mathcal{B}_n \cup \text{CS})$$

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Again, we can prove a clear separation:

$$(r, H) \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B}_n \cup \text{CS}) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{either } (r, H) \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B}_n), \\ \text{or } r \text{ contains a "fresh" } \tilde{c} \end{array} \right.$$

The second case implies that  $(r, H)$  cannot be relevant to  $F$ .

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The second case implies that  $(r, H)$  cannot be relevant to  $F$ .

## Lemma 33.

*For every intermediate CS-model  $\mathcal{M}$  and formula  $F$  such that  $\mathcal{M} \Vdash F$ , there exists an atomic CS-model  $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}$  such that  $\tilde{\mathcal{M}} \Vdash F$ .*

# Atomization: Achieving atomization

$$\tilde{\mathcal{M}} := (v_n, \mathcal{B}_n \cup \text{CS})$$

Again, we can prove a clear separation:

$$(r, H) \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B}_n \cup \text{CS}) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{either } (r, H) \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{B}_n), \\ \text{or } r \text{ contains a "fresh" } \tilde{c}. \end{cases}$$

The second case implies that  $(r, H)$  cannot be relevant to  $F$ .

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## Theorem 34.

*Logic  $\text{JN}_V$  is sound and complete w.r.t. atomic CS-models.*

## $JN_V$ : Where to go from here?

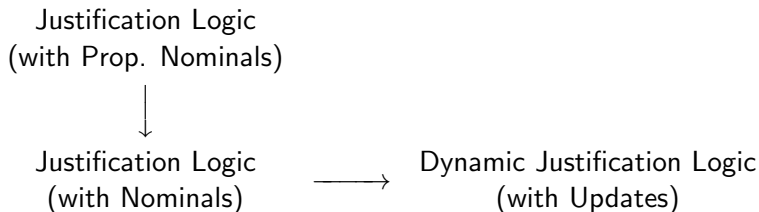
We have the logic  $JN_V$  that emulates the state after some updates with atomic propositional statements. It has the desired class of models and desired restrictions on the language (no subscript).

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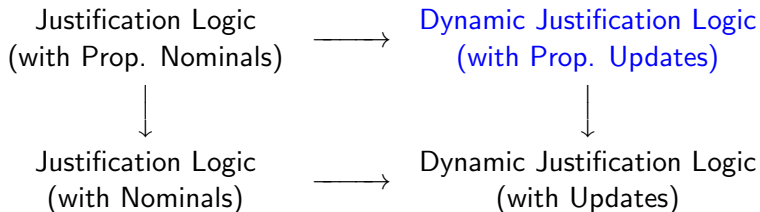




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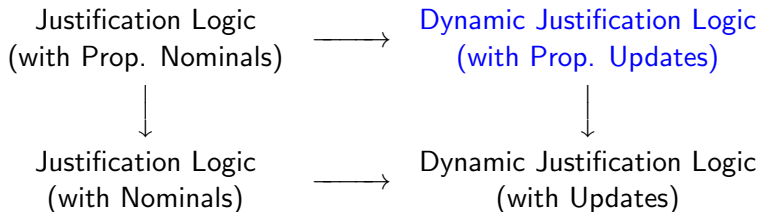
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What next?



Also, perhaps the local finiteness restriction on CS can be relaxed.

Thank you for listening.