Argumentation-Based Models of Agent Reasoning and Communication

Sanjay Modgil

Department of Informatics, King's College London

Outline

- Logic and Argumentation
  - Dung's Theory of Argumentation
  - The Added Value of Argumentation
  - Rationality Postulates for Logic-based Argumentation
- Argumentation Based Dialogue
  - Argument Game Proof Theories
  - Generalisation to Dialogue
  - Schemes, Critical Questions and MAS applications

Outline

- Logic and Argumentation
  - Dung's Theory of Argumentation
  - The Added Value of Argumentation
  - Rationality Postulates for Logic-based Argumentation
- Argumentation Based Dialogue
  - Argument Game Proof Theories
  - Generalisation to Dialogue
  - Schemes, Critical Questions and MAS applications

Abstract Argumentation Theory and non-monotonic reasoning

Dung's Abstract Argumentation Theory *

- A *Dung argumentation framework* ***AF*** is a directed graph

$$(\mathcal{A}rgs, \mathcal{A}tt)$$

Where the nodes $\mathcal{A}rgs$ denote arguments and $\mathcal{A}tt$ is a conflict based binary attack relation between arguments

- Given a logic $\mathcal{L}$ define :
  1) What constitutes an argument
  2) What constitutes an attack between two arguments
  3) Given a set of wff Δ in $\mathcal{L}$ construct all the arguments and relate them by the attacks in an *AF* (i.e., instantiate *AF*)

* P. M. Dung. On the acceptability of arguments and its fundamental role in nonmonotonic reasoning, logic programming and *n*-person games. *Artificial Intelligence*, 77:321–357, 1995

Logic Programming Instantiation of a Dung Argumentation Framework

Δ = {q :- p, not s ;
s :- not g ;
g :- m
p ;
m }

- Given a set of wff in some logic $\mathcal{L}$ define :

  1) What constitutes an argument

  X = [q :- p, not s ; p]
  Y = [s :- not g]
  Z = [g :- m ; m]

  q is the **claim** of argument X
  s is the **claim** of argument Y
  g is the **claim** of argument Z

Logic Programming Instantiation of a Dung Argumentation Framework

Δ = {q :- p, not s ;
s :- not g ;
g :- m
p ;
m }

- Given a set of wff in some logic $\mathcal{L}$ define :

  2) What constitutes an attack

X = [q :- p, not s ; p] and Y = [s :- not g] and Z = [g :- m ; m]

(Y,X) I $\mathcal{A}tt$

Logic Programming Instantiation of a Dung Argumentation Framework

Δ = {q :- p, not s ;
s :- not g ;
g :- m
p ;
m }

- Given a set of wff in some logic $\mathcal{L}$ define :

  2) What constitutes an attack

X = [q :- p, not s ; p] and Y = [s :- not g] and Z = [g :- m ; m]

(Y,X) I $\mathcal{A}tt$, (Z,Y) I $\mathcal{A}tt$

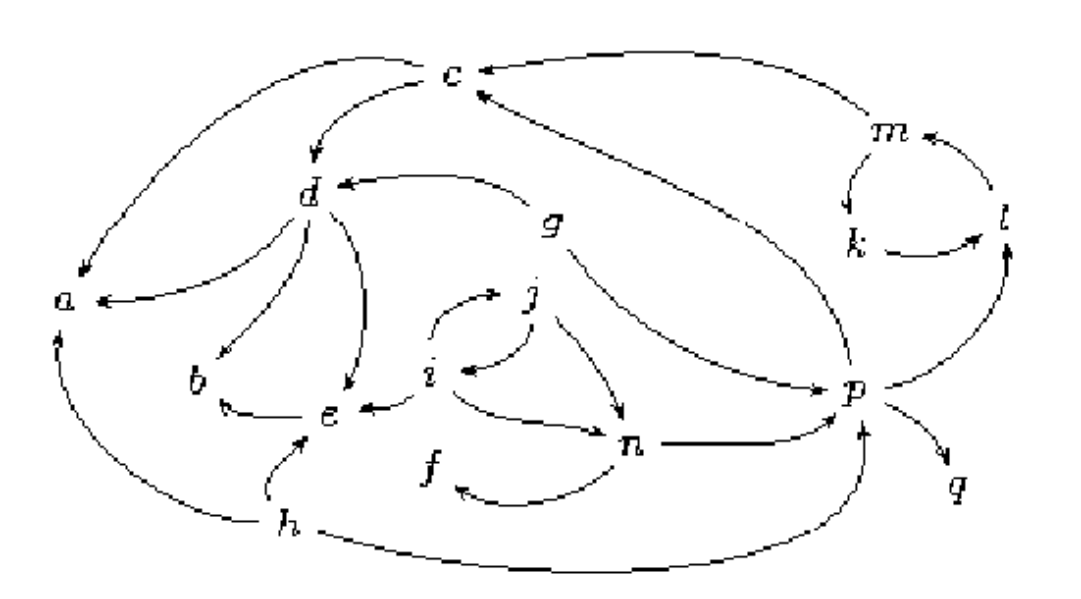
Logic Programming Instantiation of a Dung Argumentation Framework

$(\mathcal{A}rgs, \mathcal{A}tt) =$

$$Z \longrightarrow Y \longrightarrow X$$

Argument Evaluation

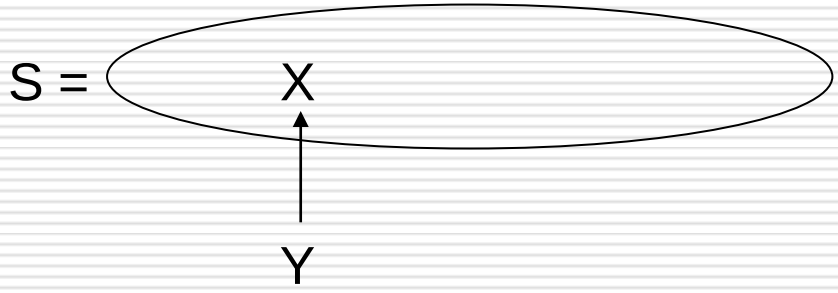
- AF = ($\mathcal{A}rgs, \mathcal{A}tt$)



- What are the justified / rejected / undecided arguments ?

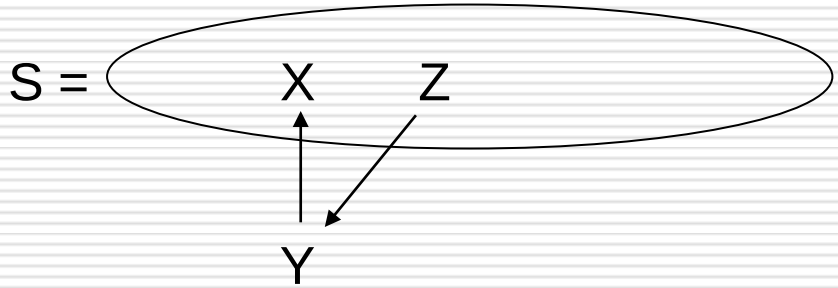
Dung's calculus of opposition

- Evaluation based on intuitive notion of reinstatement / defence



Dung's calculus of opposition

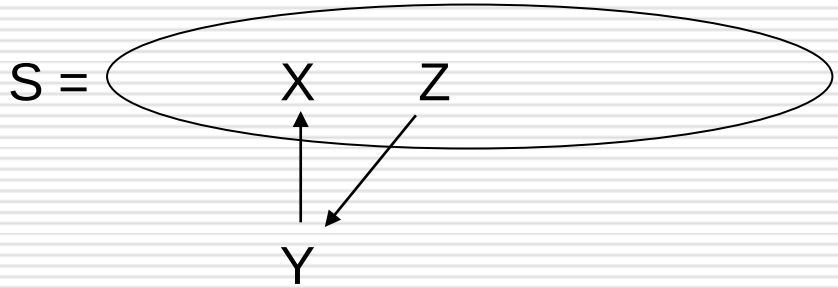
- Evaluation based on intuitive notion of reinstatement / defence



- Z defends/reinstates X (X is acceptable w.r.t. S)

Dung's calculus of opposition

- Evaluation based on intuitive notion of reinstatement / defence

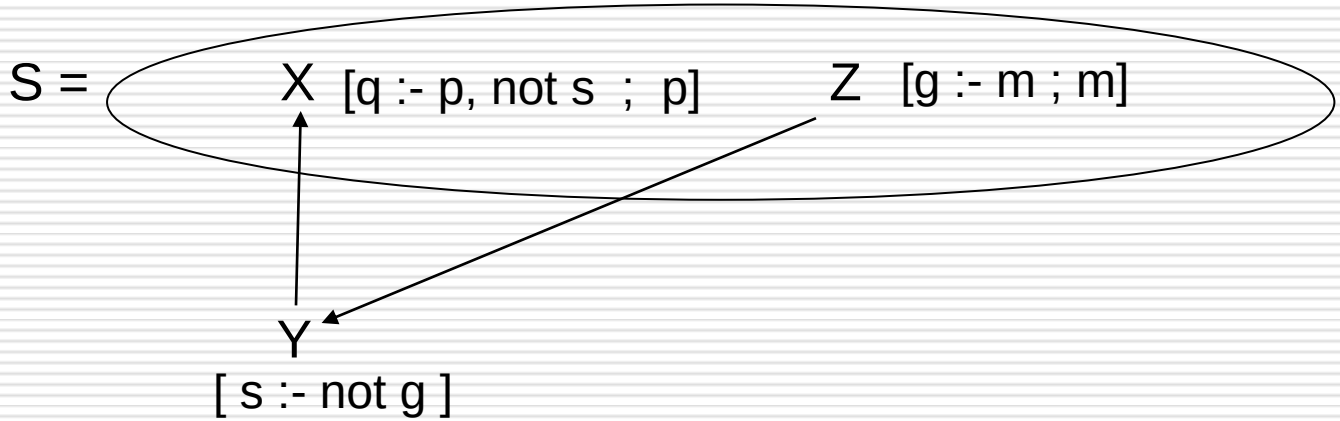


- Z defends/reinstates X (X is acceptable w.r.t. S)

- If S is conflict free (contains no two arguments that attack), and all arguments in S are acceptable w.r.t. S, then S is admissible

Dung's calculus of opposition

- Evaluation based on intuitive notion of reinstatement / defence



- The set S of arguments is admissible since it is conflict free and all its contained arguments are defended against attacks

Dung semantics

Let S be admissible:

- *S* is a ***complete*** extension iff every argument acceptable w.r.t. S is in S

- *S* is the ***grounded*** extension iff it is the smallest ***complete*** extension

- *S* is a ***preferred*** extension iff it is a maximal ***complete*** extension

- *S* is a ***stable*** extension iff every argument not in *S* is attacked by an argument in *S*

Other semantics defined in the literature *

- Semi-stable semantics
- Ideal Semantics
- etc

* P. Baroni and M.Giacomin. Semantics of Abstract Argument Systems. *Argumentation in Artificial Intelligence* (eds. I.Rahwan and G.Simari) 25-45, Springer,2009

Example 1

Is $\emptyset$ admissible ?

Is $\emptyset$ complete ?

Is {A} admissible ?

Is {A} complete ?

Is {A,D} admissible ?

Is {A,D} complete ?

$$A \longrightarrow C \longrightarrow D$$

What are the grounded, preferred and stable extensions?

Example 2

Is $\emptyset$ admissible ?

Is $\emptyset$ complete ?

Is {A} admissible ?

Is {A} complete ?

Is {C} admissible ?

Is {C} complete ?

$A \longleftrightarrow C$

Is {A,C} admissible ?

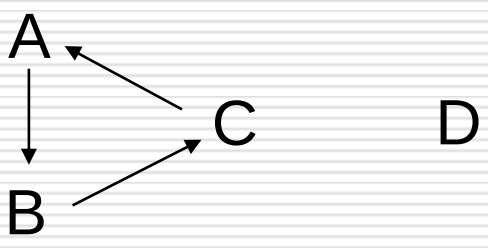
What are the grounded, preferred and stable extensions?

Example 3

Is $\emptyset$ admissible ?

Is {A} admissible ?

Is {A,B} admissible ?



What are the grounded, preferred and stable extensions?

Labelling Approach to Evaluating Extensions *

Given an AF = ($\mathcal{A}rgs$,$\mathcal{A}tt$)

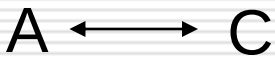
- X $\in$ $\mathcal{A}rgs$ is IN iff (Y,X) $\in$ $\mathcal{A}tt$ $\rightarrow$ Y is OUT
- X $\in$ $\mathcal{A}rgs$ is OUT iff $\exists$(Y,X) $\in$ $\mathcal{A}tt$ such that Y is IN
- X $\in$ $\mathcal{A}rgs$ is UNDEC iff $\exists$(Y,X) $\in$ $\mathcal{A}tt$ such that Y is UNDEC and $\neg\exists$(Y,X) $\in$ $\mathcal{A}tt$ such that Y is IN

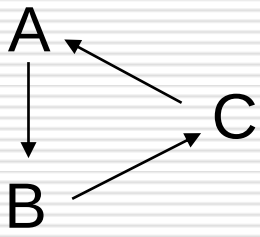
Each framework can have many legal labellings

Legal labelling ***minimising*** IN is grounded

Legal labelling ***maximising*** IN is preferred

Legal labelling UNDEC = $\emptyset$ is stable

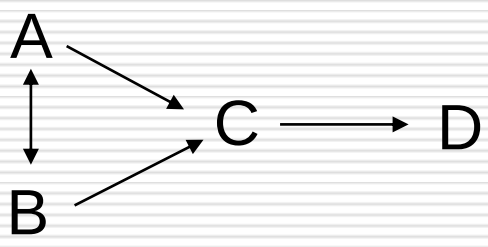




* S. Modgil and M.Caminada. Proof Theories and Algorithms for Abstract Argument Frameworks. *Argumentation in Artificial Intelligence* (eds. I.Rahwan and G.Simari) 105-132, Springer,2009

Example 4

What are the preferred extensions ? What **is** the grounded extension ?



{A,D} and {B,D} are preferred extensions

$\varnothing$ is grounded extension

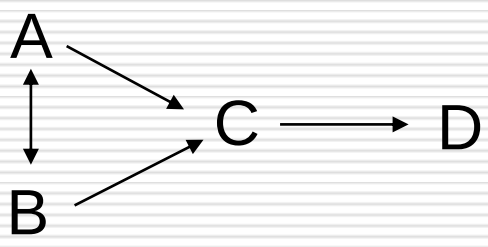
Properties of Extensions

- Many properties of extensions have been studied, e.g.:
- Each AF has a single grounded extension that is the intersection of all complete extensions
- Each stable extension is preferred, but not vice versa
- If X is acceptable w.r.t. an admissible extension E, then $E \cup X$ is admissible (Fundamental Lemma)

The Justified Arguments of a Framework

X is ***sceptically justified*** under semantics E if X is in ***all*** E extensions

X is ***credulously justified*** under semantics E if X is in ***at least one*** E extension



{A,D} and {B,D} are preferred extensions

➔ D is justified

∅ is grounded extension

➔ no argument is justified

Argumentation-based Non-monotonic inference relation

- Abstract ($\mathcal{A}rgs, \mathcal{A}tt$) defined by set of wff Δ in logic $\mathcal{L}$
- $\Delta \mid\!\sim_{AF} \alpha$ iff α is the claim of a sceptically justified argument in Args

- Logic programming, default logic, auto-epistemic logic, defeasible logic, … all shown to conform to Dung's semantics (alternative to model theoretic semantics ? Dialectical Semantics !)

e.g.

$\Delta \mid\!\sim_{LP} \alpha$ under *well founded* semantics iff $\Delta \mid\!\sim_{AF} \alpha$ under grounded semantics

Argumentation-based characterisation of non-monotonic inference in logic programming

- Abstract ($\mathcal{A}rgs, \mathcal{A}tt$) defined by set of wff Δ in logic $\mathcal{L}$
- $\Delta \mid\!\sim_{AF} \alpha$ iff α is the claim of a sceptically justified argument in Args

- $\Delta \mid\!\sim_{LP} \alpha$ under *well founded* semantics iff $\Delta \mid\!\sim_{AF} \alpha$ under grounded semantics

X = [q :- p, not s ; p] $\longleftarrow$ Y = [s :- not g] $\longleftarrow$ Z = [g :- m ; m]

Grounded extension is {X , Z} and so $\Delta \mid\!\sim_{AF}$ q , g

corresponding to $\Delta \mid\!\sim_{LP}$ q , g

Argumentation-based Non-monotonic inference relation

- Abstract ($\mathcal{A}rgs, \mathcal{A}tt$) defined by set of wff Δ in logic $\mathcal{L}$
- $\Delta \mid\!\sim_{AF} \alpha$ iff α is the claim of a sceptically justified argument in Args

- Define arguments and attacks from a possibly inconsistent set Δ of wff in a **monotonic** logic $\mathcal{L}$.
  Yields non-monotonic inference relation $\Delta \mid\!\sim_{AF} \alpha$ thus resolving inconsistencies in underlying Δ

Classical Logic-based Argumentation *

- Define arguments and attacks from a possibly inconsistent set Δ of propositional classical wff

- A *ClArg* argument is a pair (Γ,α) such that

1) $\Gamma \vdash_{CL} \alpha$
2) Γ is consistent
3) No proper subset of Γ entails α

- (Γ,α) attacks (Σ,β) if $\alpha \equiv \neg \delta$ for some $\delta \in \Sigma$

* P. Besnard and A.Hunter. *Elements of Argumentation,* MIT Press,2008

Classical Logic Argumentation : An Example

- Framework defined by $\Delta = (p , q , p \rightarrow \neg q)$

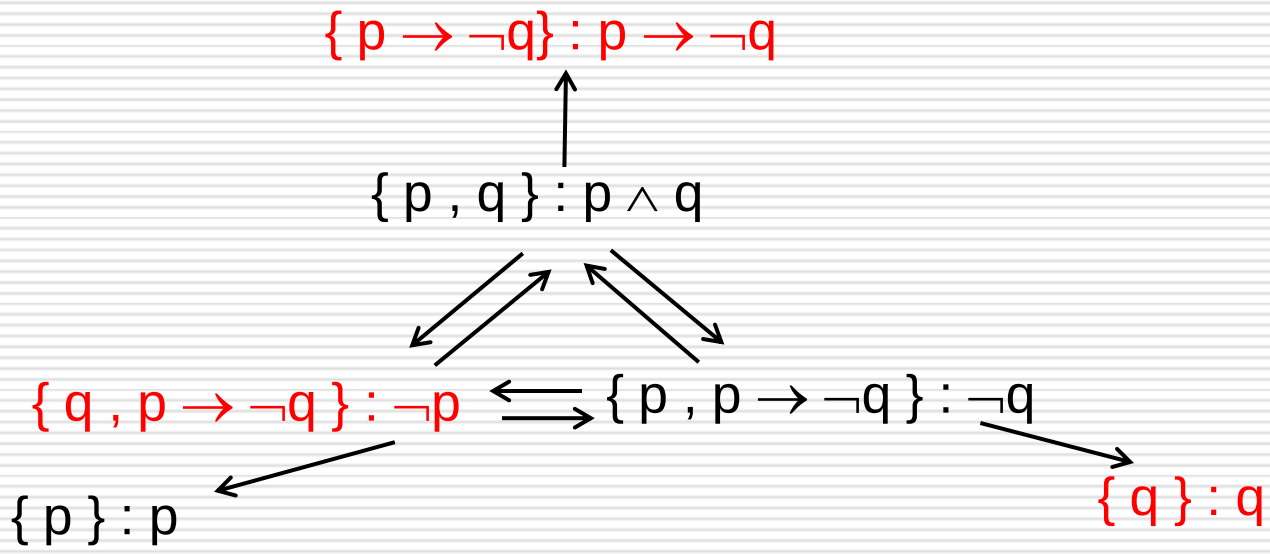
$$\{ p \rightarrow \neg q\} : p \rightarrow \neg q$$

$$\uparrow$$

$$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q$$

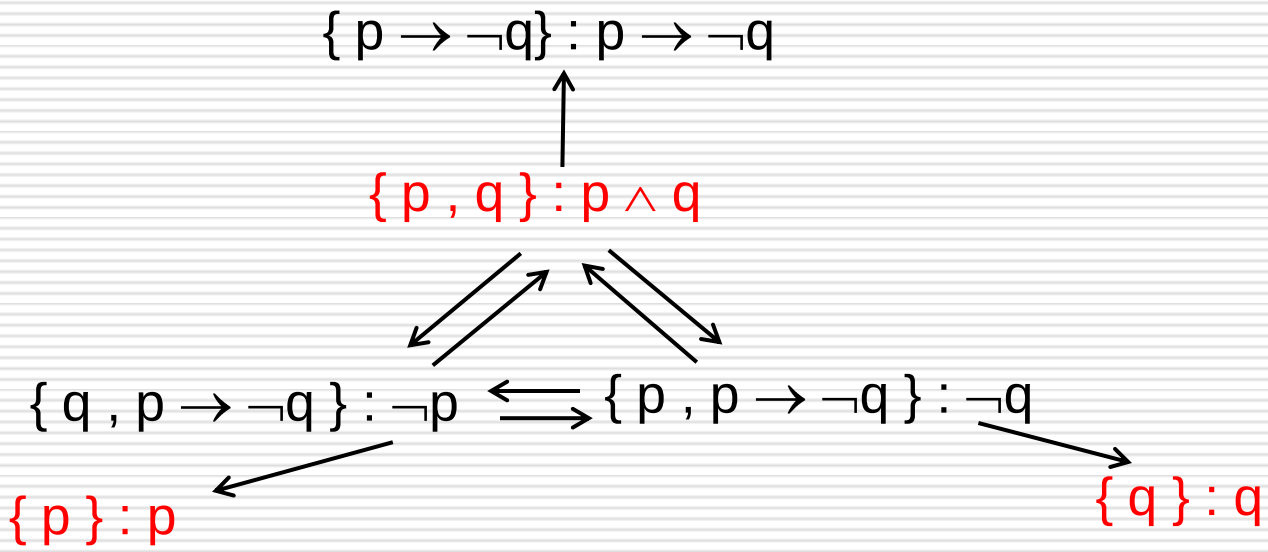
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p & \rightleftarrows & \{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q \\ \swarrow & & \searrow \\ \{ p \} : p & & \{ q \} : q \end{array}$$

Classical Logic Argumentation : An Example



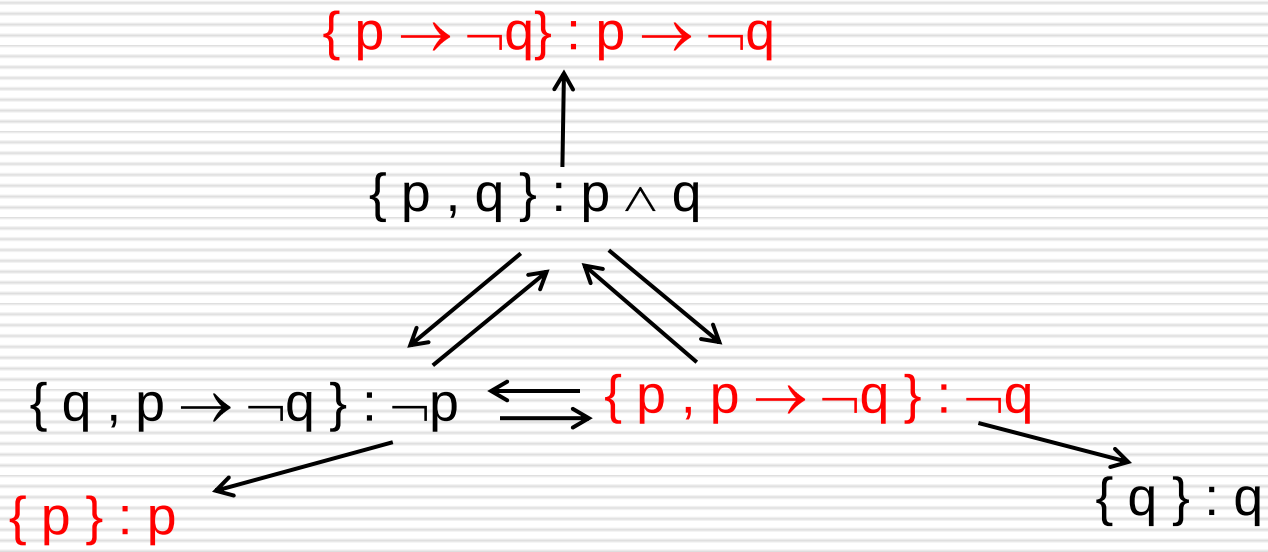
stable extension 1

Classical Logic Argumentation : An Example



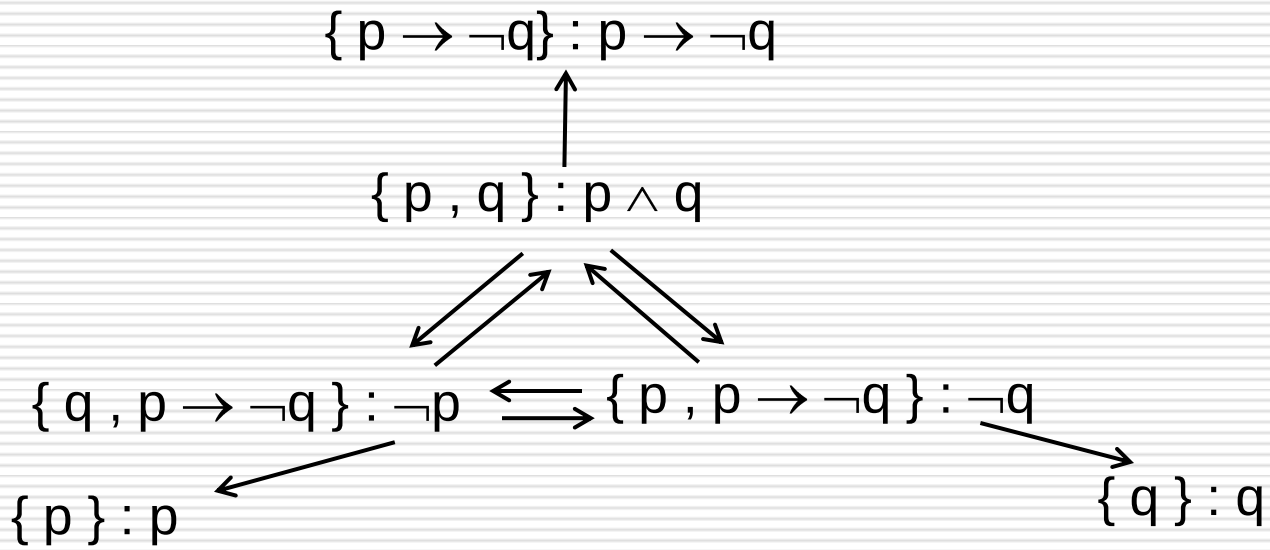
stable extension 2

Classical Logic Argumentation : An Example



stable extension 3

Classical Logic Argumentation : An Example



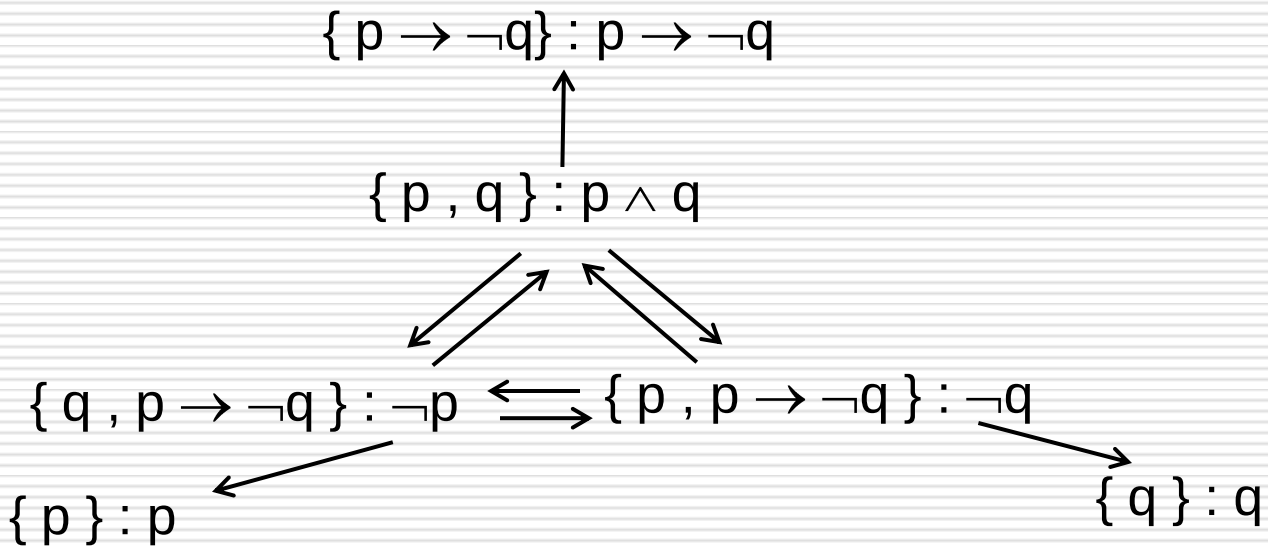
- 3 preferred/stable extensions corresponding to three max consistent subsets of { p , q , p → ¬ q } !

- No argument is in every extension (sceptically justified)

Argumentation-based Non-monotonic inference relation

- Abstract ($\mathcal{A}rgs, \mathcal{A}tt$) defined by set of wff Δ in logic $\mathcal{L}$
- $\Delta \mid\!\sim_{AF} \alpha$ iff α is the claim of a sceptically justified argument in Args

Classical Logic Argumentation : An Example



- 3 preferred/stable extensions corresponding to three max consistent subsets of $\{ p , q , p \rightarrow \neg q \}$!
- So AF inference relation does not arbitrate between conflicting conclusions !
- When instantiating with monotonic logic what does argumentation do for you unless you have some way of arbitrating between conflicts ?

Preferences and Argumentation *

- One solution is to use preferences over arguments to arbitrate
- Partial ordering ≤ (preference relation) over arguments

$$(\mathcal{A}rgs, \mathcal{A}tt, \leq)$$

- If X attacks Y and Y strictly preferred to X (X < Y) then X cannot be moved as a successful attack (defeat) on Y
- So based on ≤ and $\mathcal{A}tt$ define a defeat relation $\mathcal{D}ef$ over $\mathcal{A}rgs$
- Extensions and justified arguments defined by $(\mathcal{A}rgs, \mathcal{D}ef)$

* L Amgoud, C Cayrol. A reasoning model based on the production of acceptable arguments. *Annals of Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence* 34 (1-3), 197-215

Preferences and Argumentation

$$\{ p \rightarrow \neg q \} : p \rightarrow \neg q$$

$$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q$$

$$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \quad \rightleftarrows \quad \{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q$$

$$\{ p \} : p \qquad\qquad \{ q \} : q$$

$$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \ < \ \{ p \} : p$$

$$\{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q \ < \ \{ q \} : q$$

Preferences and Argumentation

$\{ p \rightarrow \neg q \} : p \rightarrow \neg q$

$\uparrow$

$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q$

$\swarrow \quad \searrow$

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \rightleftarrows \{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q$

$\{ p \} : p$ $\qquad$ $\{ q \} : q$

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \; < \; \{ p \} : p$

$\{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q \; < \; \{ q \} : q$

Single stable extension of $(\mathcal{Args}, \mathcal{Def}) = \{ \{p\} : p , \{q\} : q , \{p,q\} : p \wedge q \}$

Argumentation-based Non-monotonic inference relation

- $\Delta \mid\!\sim_{AF} \alpha$ iff α is the claim of a sceptically justified argument in Args

$\Delta \mid\!\sim_{LP} \alpha$ under *well founded* semantics iff $\Delta \mid\!\sim_{AF} \alpha$ under grounded semantics

- Is there a non-monotonic inference relation that corresponds to the argumentation inference relation defined by classical logic argumentation with preferences ?

Argumentation based characterisation of Brewka's Non-monotonic ***Preferred Subtheories*** *

- Totally ordered set of propositional classical wff inducing a stratification:

$$\begin{array}{c} T_1 \\ \hline T_2 \\ \hline \vdots \\ \hline T_n \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} p\ ,\ q \\ \hline \neg p\ ,\ s,\ \neg s \\ \hline \end{array}$$

- Start with maximal consistent subset of T_1 then maximally consistently extend with formulae in T_2 then ... all the way to T_n
- ➔ many preferred subtheories – classical closure of formulae in intersection are non-monotonic inferences ($\mid\!\sim_{ps}$)

* G. Brewka. Preferred subtheories: an extended logical framework for default reasoning. In *Proc. 11th International Joint Conference on Artificial intelligence*, 1043–1048, 1989.

Argumentation based characterisation of Brewka's Non-monotonic ***Preferred Subtheories*** *

- Totally ordered set of propositional classical wff inducing a stratification:

$$\begin{array}{c} T_1 \\ \hline T_2 \\ \hline \vdots \\ \hline T_n \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} p\ ,\ q \\ \hline \neg p\ ,\ s,\ \neg s \\ \hline \end{array}$$

- Start with maximal consistent subset of T_1 then maximally consistently extend with formulae in T_2 then ... all the way to T_n
- ➔ many preferred subtheories – classical closure of formulae in intersection are non-monotonic inferences ($\mid\!\sim_{ps}$)
- E.g., {p,q,s} and {p,q,¬s} $\qquad \mid\!\sim_{ps} = Cn(p,q)$

Argumentation based characterisation of Brewka's Preferred Subtheories

- Build classical logic arguments from $\{T_1, \ldots, T_n\}$
- $X < Y$ if there is premise in X that is strictly ordered below all premises in Y according to total ordering

  e.g. $T_1 = \{ p , q \}$, $T_2 = \{ p \rightarrow \neg q \}$

  $\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \;\; < \;\; \{ p \} : p \qquad \{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q \;\; < \;\; \{ q \} : q$
- Evaluate justified arguments under stable semantics using argument preference ordering to determine defeats

* S. Modgil, H. Prakken. A General Account of Argumentation and Preferences. *Artificial Intelligence* 195(0), 361 - 397, 2013.

Preferences and Argumentation

$\{ p \rightarrow \neg q \} : p \rightarrow \neg q$

$\uparrow$

$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q$

$\swarrow \quad \searrow$

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \rightleftarrows \{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q$

$\{ p \} : p$ $\qquad$ $\{ q \} : q$

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \ < \ \{ p \} : p$

$\{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q \ < \ \{ q \} : q$

Single stable extension of $(\mathcal{Args}, \mathcal{Def}) = \{ \ \{p\} : p , \{q\} : q , \{p,q\} : p \wedge q \}$

Argumentation based characterisation of Brewka's Preferred Subtheories

- Build classical logic arguments from $\{T_1, \ldots, T_n\}$
- $X < Y$ if there is premise in X that is strictly ordered below all premises in Y according to total ordering

  e.g. $T_1 = \{ p , q \}$, $T_2 = \{ p \rightarrow \neg q \}$

  $\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \;\; < \;\; \{ p \} : p \qquad \{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q \;\; < \;\; \{ q \} : q$
- Evaluate justified arguments under stable semantics using argument preference ordering to determine defeats
- We * show that $\vdash_{ps} = \vdash_{AF}$

* S. Modgil, H. Prakken. A General Account of Argumentation and Preferences. *Artificial Intelligence* 195(0), 361 - 397, 2013.

Preferences and Argumentation

$\{ p \rightarrow \neg q \} : p \rightarrow \neg q$

$\uparrow$

$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q$

$\swarrow \quad \searrow$

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \rightleftarrows \{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q$

$\{ p \} : p$ $\qquad$ $\{ q \} : q$

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \ < \ \{ p \} : p$

$\{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q \ < \ \{ q \} : q$

$\mid\!\sim_{AF} = Cn(p,q)$

Single stable extension of $(\mathcal{Args}, \mathcal{Def}) = \{ \{p\} : p , \{q\} : q , \{p,q\} : p \wedge q \}$

More on Abstract Argumentation

- So far we have seen how argumentation can define an inference relation over set of instantiating formulae

- Other works in which argumentation used for decision making (e.g., L. Amgoud, H. Prade. ***Using arguments for making and explaining decisions***. In: *Artificial Intelligence* (AIJ). V.173, pp. 413-436, 2009)

  - arguments for beliefs (epistemic) and decision options (practical) and evaluation makes use of decision principles

- Extensions of abstract argumentation, e.g.,

  - values associated with arguments and ordering over values used to arbitrate amongst arguments (TJM Bench-Capon. ***Persuasion in practical argument using value-based argumentation frameworks*** .Journal of Logic and Computation 13 (3), 429-448)

  - AFs extended with arguments that attack attacks, so integrating argumentation-based reasoning about preferences (S.Modgil. Reasoning about preferences in Argumentation Frameworks. In: Artificial Intelligence (AIJ). V.173, 9-10, 2009.)

The Added Value of Argumentation

Abstract Argumentation

$$(\mathcal{A}rgs, \mathcal{A}tt) \mid\!\sim \alpha$$

$$\Updownarrow$$

$$\Delta \vdash_{nml} \alpha$$

E.g. Logic Programming, Default Logic ...

$$(\mathcal{A}rgs, \mathcal{D}ef) \mid\!\sim \alpha$$

$$\Updownarrow$$

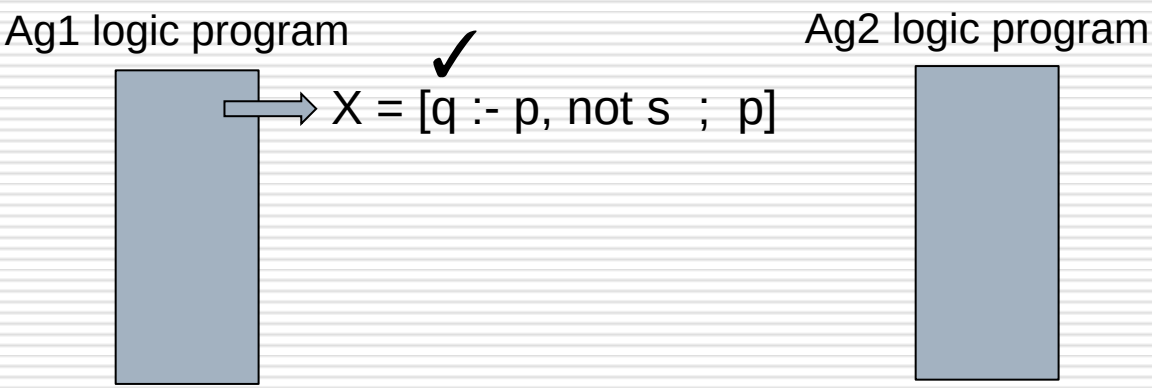
$$\Delta \vdash_{nml} \alpha$$

E.g. Preferred Subtheories

- So what accounts for the popularity of argumentation. Who cares and why ?

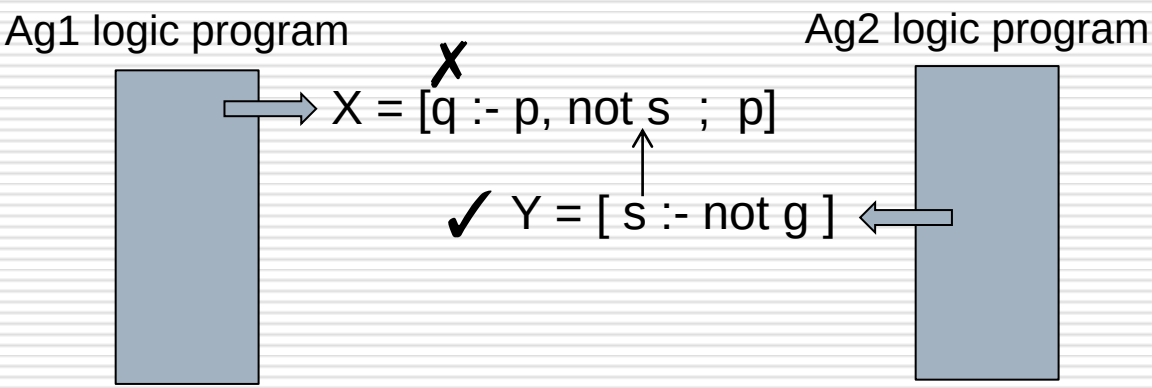
The Added Value (1)

- Basis for defining procedures for ***distributed*** non-monotonic reasoning based on simple, intuitive principle of reinstatement



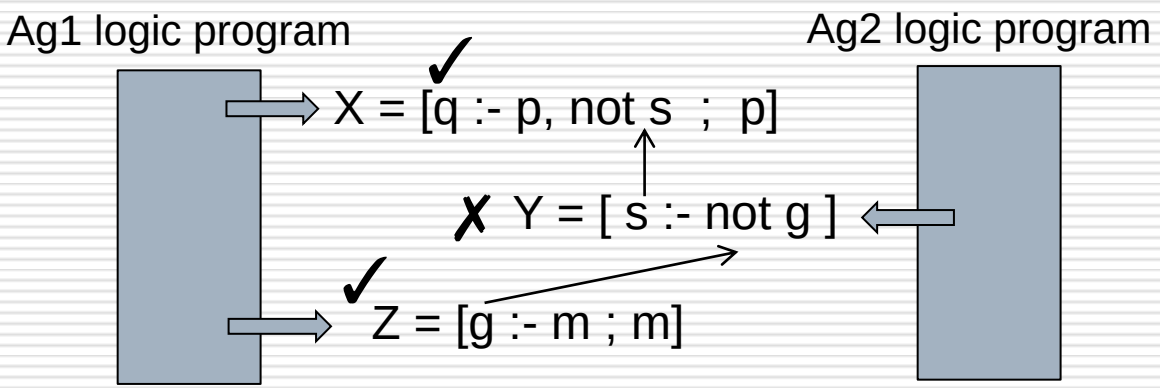
The Added Value (1)

- Basis for defining procedures for distributed non-monotonic reasoning based on simple, intuitive principle of reinstatement



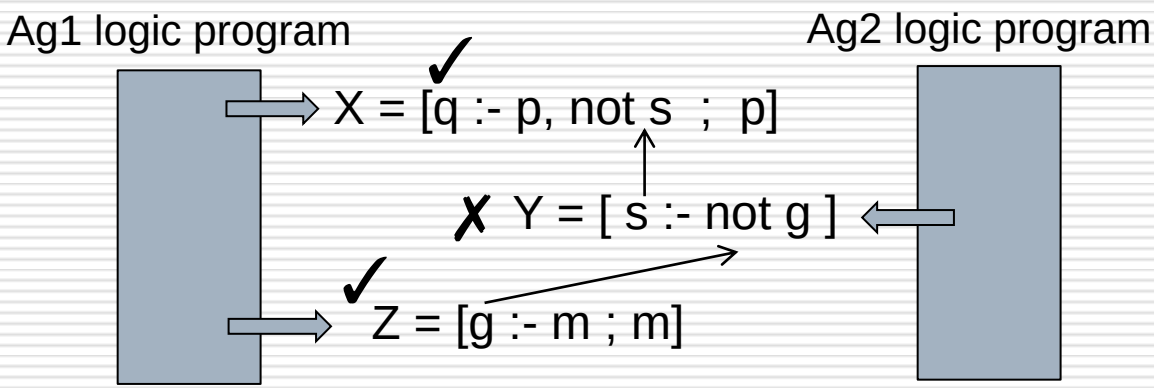
The Added Value (1)

- Basis for defining procedures for distributed non-monotonic reasoning based on simple, intuitive principle of reinstatement



The Added Value (1)

- Basis for defining procedures for distributed non-monotonic reasoning based on simple, intuitive principle of reinstatement



- Argument Game proof theories ➔ basis for dialogues in which agents exchange arguments to persuade, deliberate over a course of action, negotiate …
- Evaluation of exchanged arguments decides dialogue outcome

The Added Value (2)

- Reinstatement principle intuitive and familiar to human modes of reasoning and debate
- Argumentation based characterisations of computational reasoning understandable and accessible to human reasoning [1]
- Abstractions that accommodate computational and human reasoning can provide bridging role so that [2]:

  - Computational reasoning augments human reasoning

  - Human reasoning augments computational reasoning

  - Advancing AI through integrating human and computational reasoning

1. H. Mercier and D. Sperber. Why do humans reason? arguments for an argumentative theory. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 34(2):57–747, 2011.

2. S. Modgil, F. Toni et.al. *The Added Value of Argumentation*. Book chapter in: Agreement Technologies. Springer Verlag, 2013.

The Added Value (2)

- Reinstatement principle intuitive and familiar to human modes of reasoning and debate
- Argumentation based characterisations of computational reasoning understandable and accessible to human reasoning [1]
- Abstractions that accommodate computational and human reasoning can provide bridging role so that [2]:

  - *Computational reasoning rationally informs human reasoning*

  - *Human reasoning augments computational reasoning*

  - *Advancing AI through integrating human and computational reasoning*

1. H. Mercier and D. Sperber. Why do humans reason? arguments for an argumentative theory. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 34(2):57–747, 2011.

2. S. Modgil, F. Toni et.al. *The Added Value of Argumentation*. Book chapter in: Agreement Technologies. Springer Verlag, 2013.

Rationality Postulates

Rationality postulates *

- Given an ($\mathcal{A}rgs, \mathcal{A}tt$) defined by set of wff Δ in logic $\mathcal{L}$ what properties would we rationally expect to hold of arguments contained in a *complete* extension *E* (remember *grounded* = *smallest complete* and *preferred* = *maximal complete*) ?
- ***Consistency*** : the claims of arguments in *E* are mutually consistent
- ***Sub-argument Closure*** : If X is an argument *E* then every sub-argument of X is in E (e.g., [p] is a sub-argument of [q :- p, not s ; p])
- ***Closure under Deductive (Strict) Inference*** : If $\beta_1 \ldots \beta_n$ are claims of arguments in E, and If $\beta_1 \ldots \beta_n$ deductively entail γ then there is an argument in E with claim γ

1. M. Caminada and L.Amgoud. On the evaluation of argumentation formalisms. Artificial Intelligence 171(5-6):286-310 (2007)

Rationality postulates

- We want to specify under what conditions an ($\mathcal{A}rgs$,$\mathcal{A}tt$) defined by set of wff Δ in logic $\mathcal{L}$ satisfies the rationality postulates.

- But we have a dilemma. The abstract AF level is too abstract – we cannot refer to claims of arguments or sub-arguments ...

- On the other hand we don't want to separately specify conditions for each individual logical instantiation (logic programming, classical logic etc) since one would like guidelines for logical instantiations of your choice !

Abstract Argumentation Framework

↑

Instantiating Logic

The ASPIC+ framework *

Abstract Argumentation Framework

↑

ASPIC +

↑

Instantiating Logic

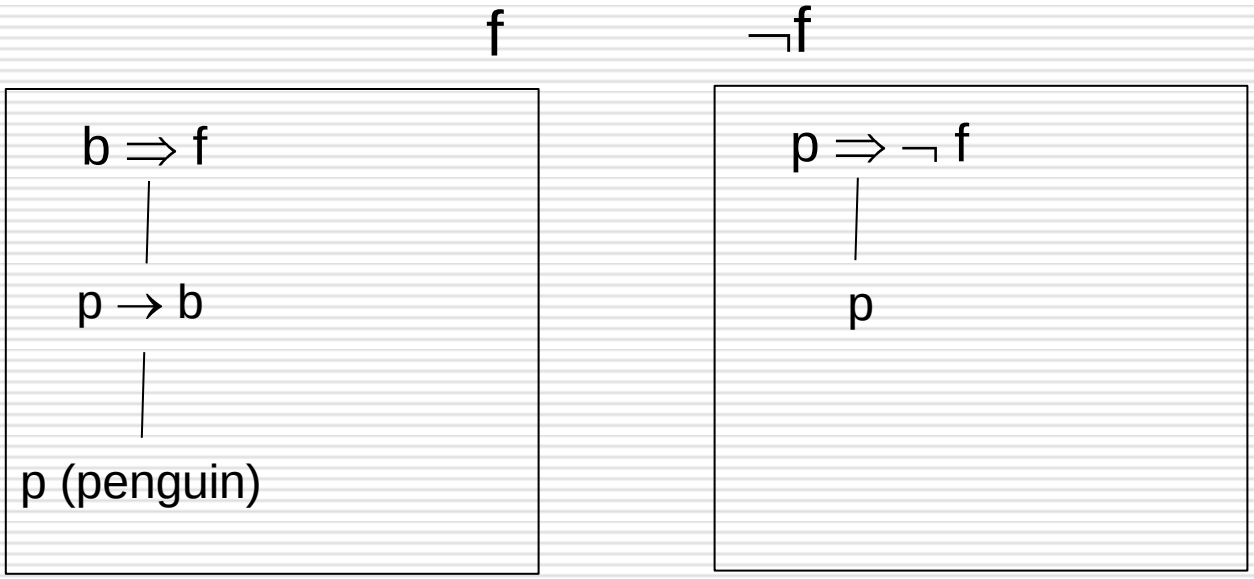
- Abstract level too abstract to study properties of argument extensions, e.g., are claims of arguments in an extension mutually consistent ?
- ASPIC+ framework intermediate in abstraction – allows for broad range of instantiating logics and identifies conditions under which rationality postulates satisfied

* S. Modgil, H. Prakken. *A General Account of Argumentation and Preferences*. In: **Artificial Intelligence (AIJ)** . 195(0), 361 - 397, 2013. .

Overview of ASPIC+

- Arbitrary language and generalised notion of conflict between wff (so that one can model classical negation $\neg$ or negation as failure *not*). You are free to choose a language and declare when two formulae are in conflict
- Arguments are trees built by chaining defeasible rules, strict inference rules and premises. But you are free to choose which defeasible/strict rules and premises
- Preferences over arguments. You are free to choose how preferences are defined
- ASPIC+ identifies under what conditions the choices you make ensure rationality postulates satisfied

ASPIC+ Example Instantiation



$b \Rightarrow f$ is a defeasible inference rule – ‘birds usually fly’

$p \rightarrow b$ is a strict inference rule – ‘penguins are without exception birds’

ASPIC+ Example Conditions for satisfaction of postulates

- If you have a strict inference $\beta_1, \beta_2 \ldots \beta_n \rightarrow \gamma$ then you must also have the strict inference rules

  $\neg \gamma, \beta_2 \ldots \beta_n \rightarrow \neg \beta_1$

  $\beta_1, \neg \gamma, \ldots \beta_n \rightarrow \neg \beta_2$

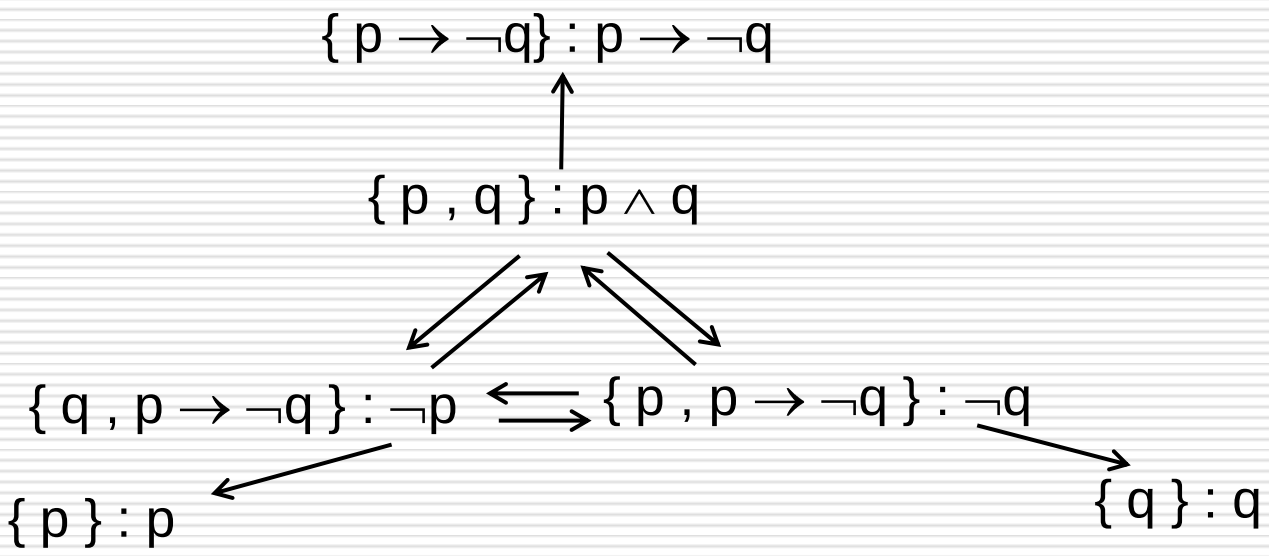
  :

  $\beta_1, \beta_2 \ldots \neg \gamma \rightarrow \neg \beta_n$

- For example, if you have strict inference rule $p \rightarrow b$ then you must also have $\neg p \rightarrow \neg b$

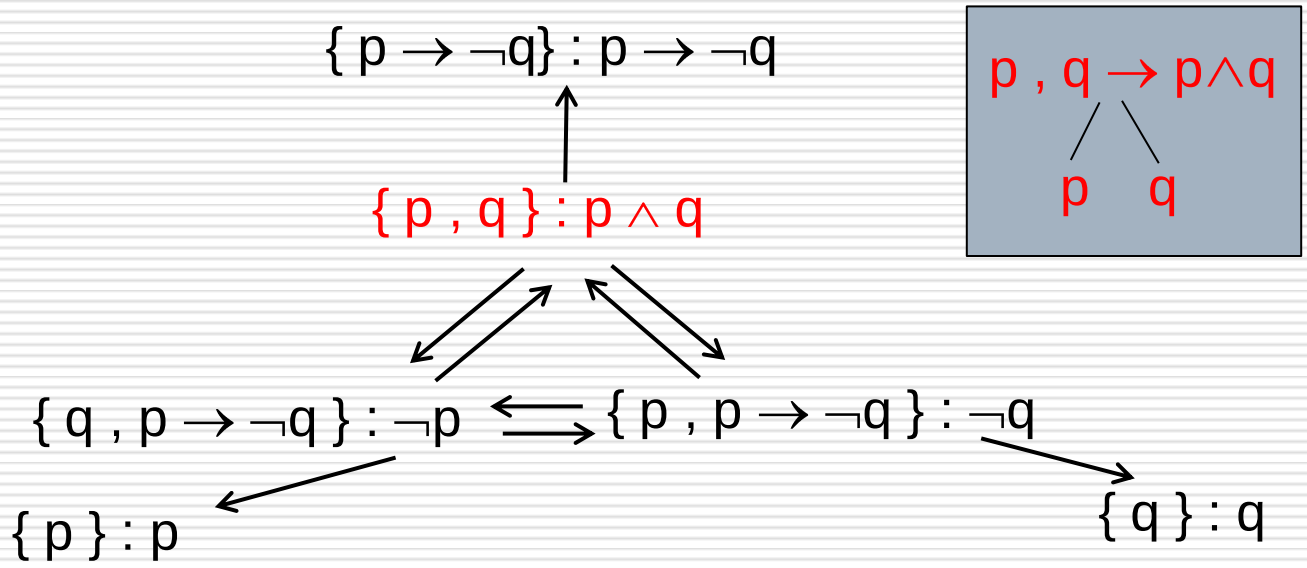
ASPIC+ Example Conditions for satisfaction of postulates

- Attacks can only be directed at the conclusions of defeasible inference rules, and not at the conclusions of strict inference rules



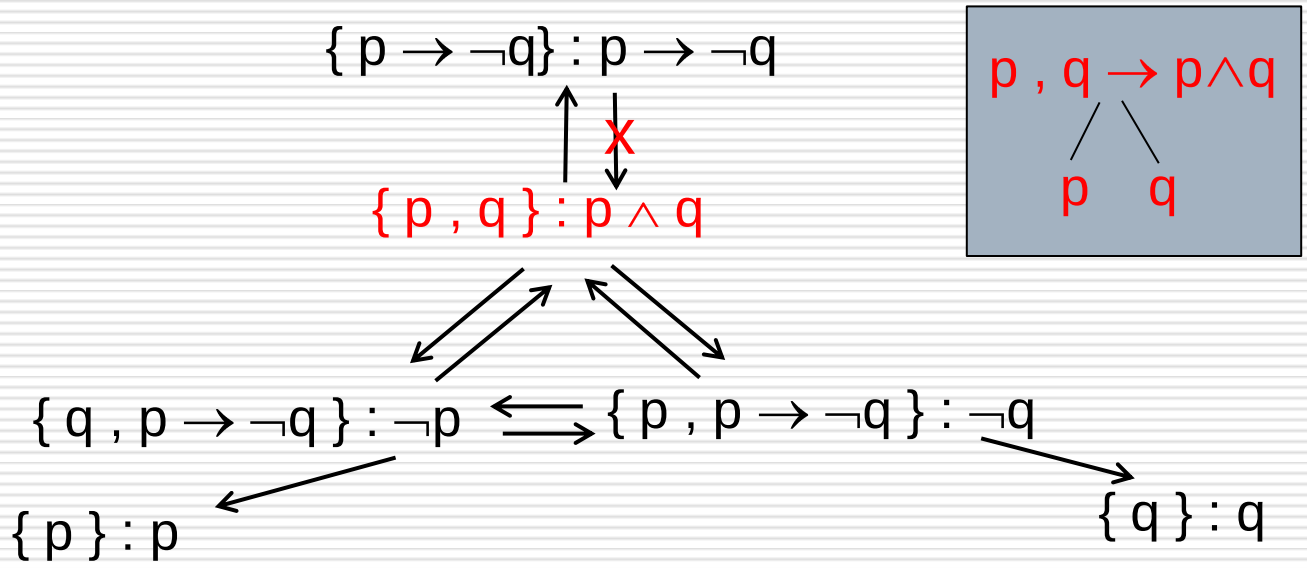
ASPIC+ Example Conditions for satisfaction of postulates

- Attacks can only be directed at the conclusions of defeasible inference rules, and not at the conclusions of strict inference rules



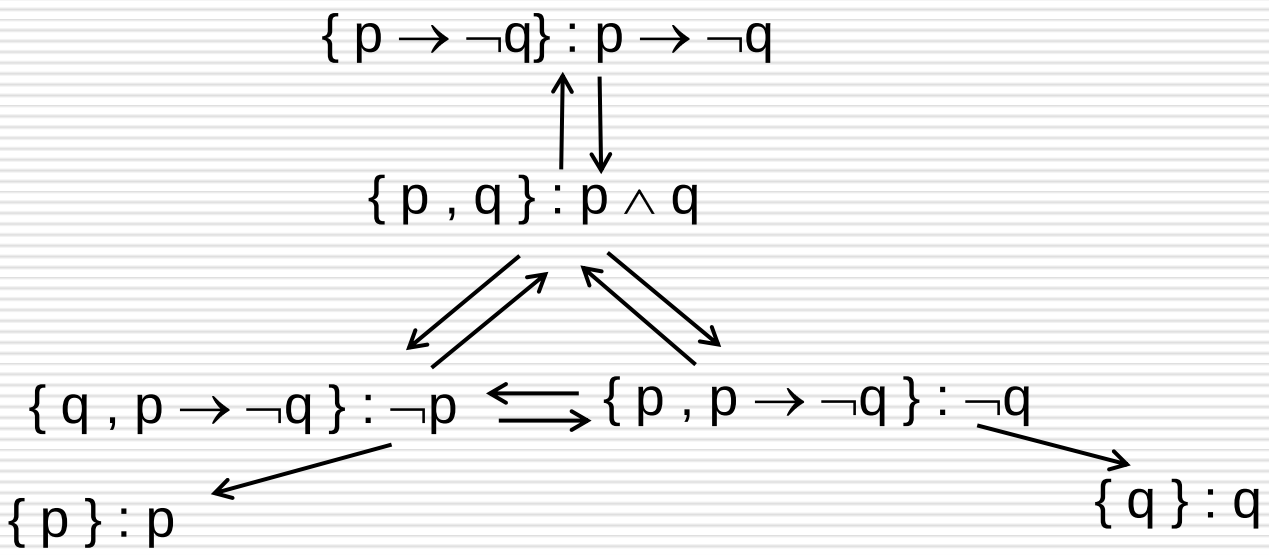
ASPIC+ Example Conditions for satisfaction of postulates

- Attacks can only be directed at the conclusions of defeasible inference rules, and not at the conclusions of strict inference rules



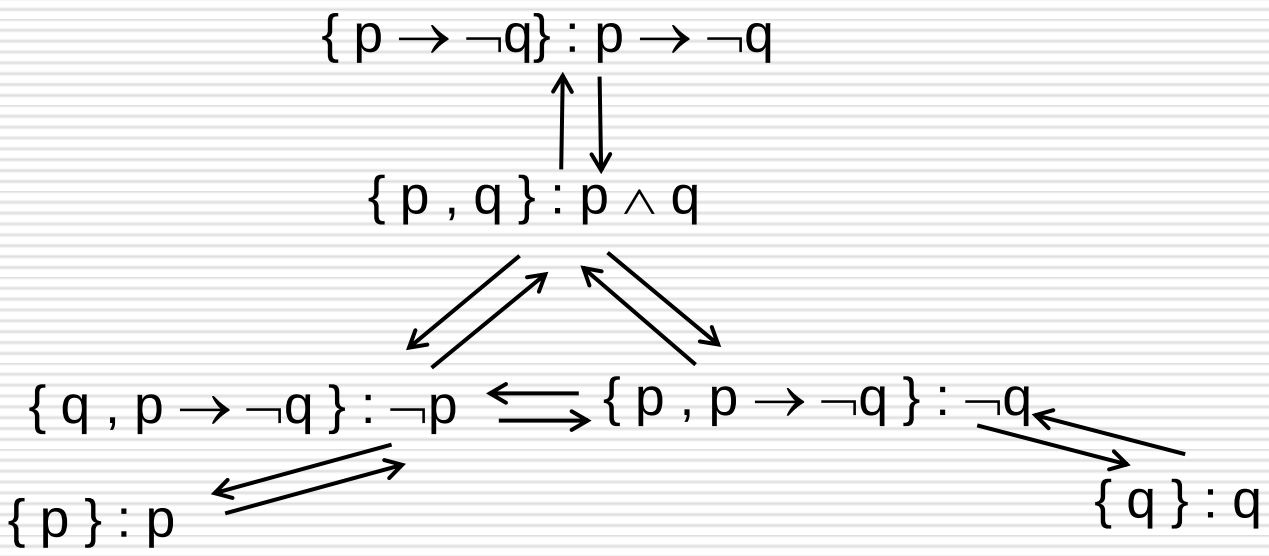
ASPIC+ Example Conditions for satisfaction of postulates

- Suppose we allowed attacks on the conclusions of strict inference rules



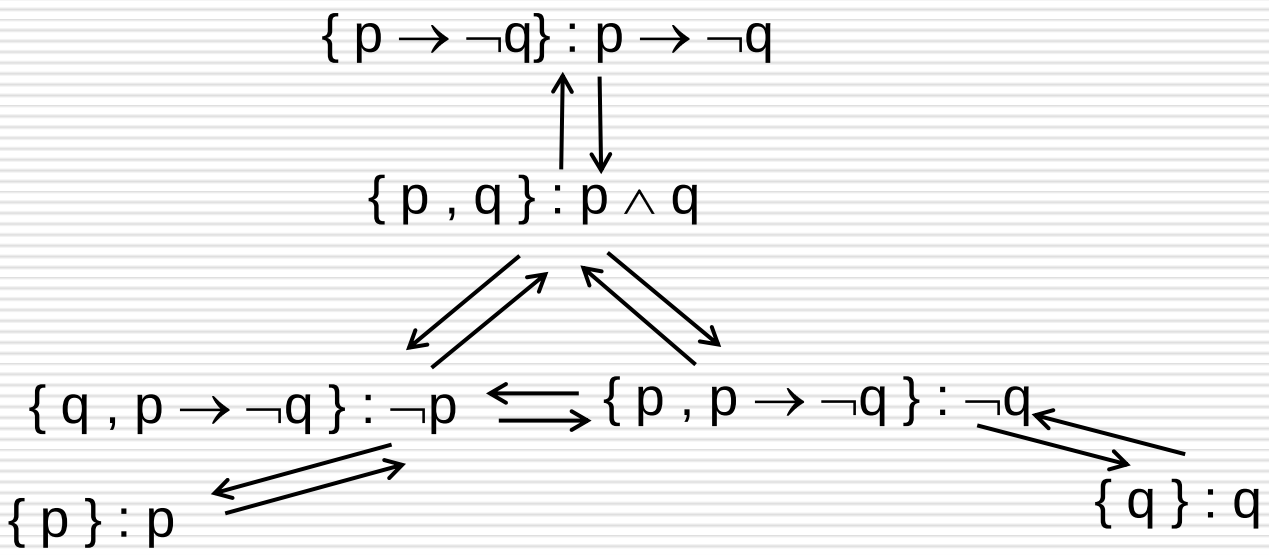
ASPIC+ Example Conditions for satisfaction of postulates

- Suppose we allowed attacks on the conclusions of strict inference rules



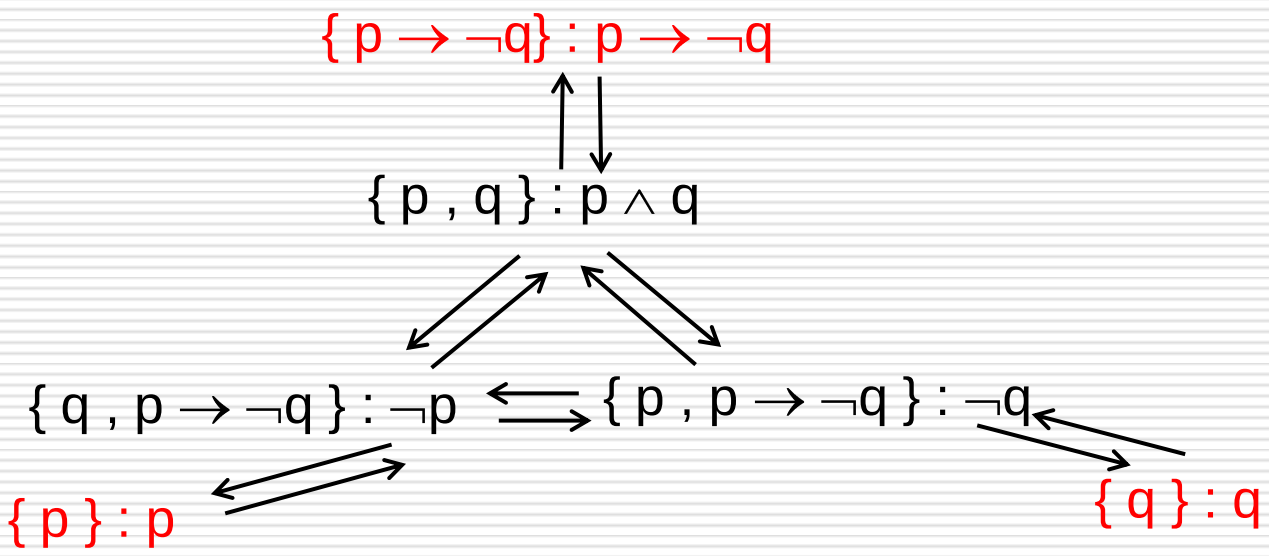
ASPIC+ Example Conditions for satisfaction of postulates

- Can anyone see why consistency would be violated ?

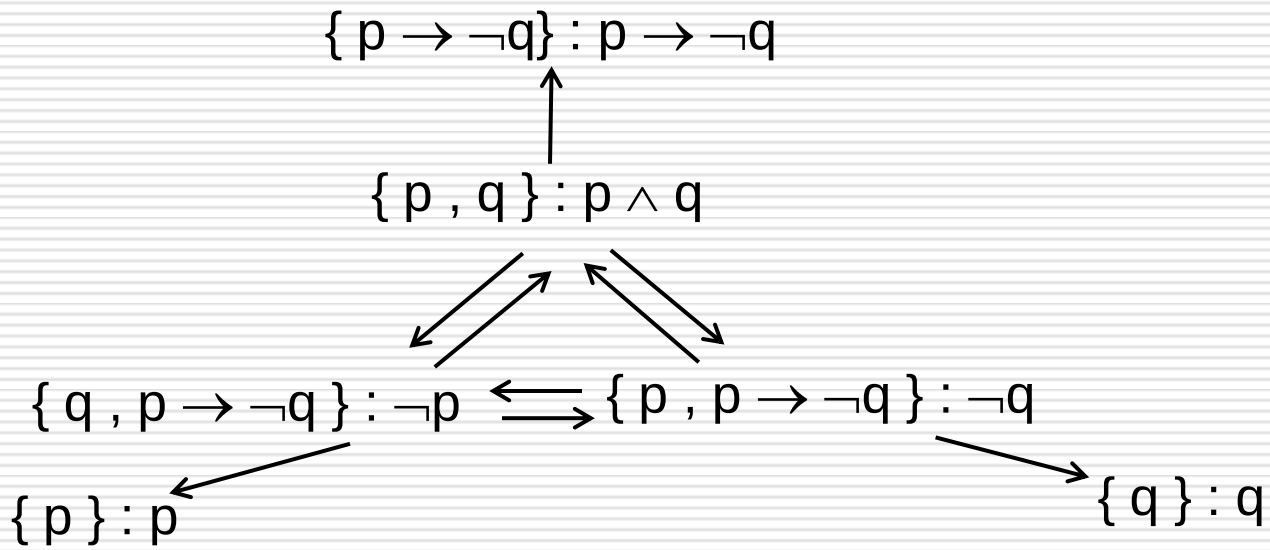


ASPIC+ Example Conditions for satisfaction of postulates

- There is a complete and stable extension containing arguments with mutually inconsistent conclusions



ASPIC+ Example Conditions for satisfaction of postulates



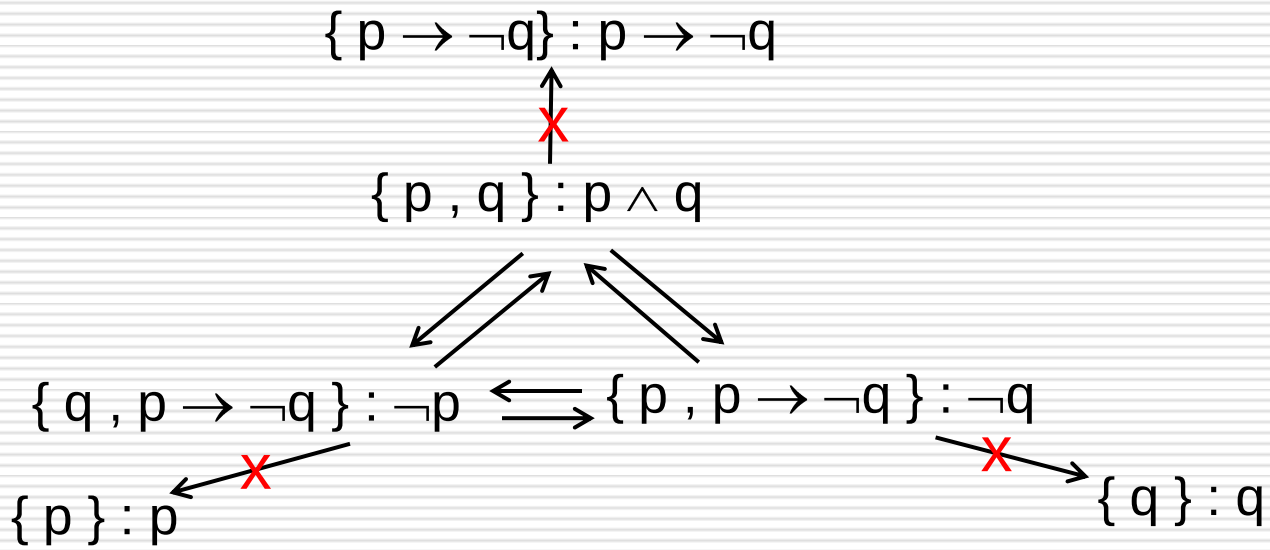
Things can go wrong with preferences. Suppose :

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \; < \; \{ p \} : p$

$\{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q \; < \; \{ q \} : q$

$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q \; < \; \{ p \rightarrow \neg q \} : p \rightarrow \neg q$

ASPIC+ Example Conditions for satisfaction of postulates



Attacks do not succeed as defeats

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \;<\; \{ p \} : p$

$\{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q \;<\; \{ q \} : q$

$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q \;<\; \{ p \rightarrow \neg q \} : p \rightarrow \neg q$

ASPIC+ Example Conditions for satisfaction of postulates

$\{ p \rightarrow \neg q \} : p \rightarrow \neg q$

$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q$

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \rightleftarrows \{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q$

$\{ p \} : p$

$\{ q \} : q$

Stable extension of $(\mathcal{Args}, \mathcal{Def})$ now contains arguments with inconsistent conclusions

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \; < \; \{ p \} : p$

$\{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q \; < \; \{ q \} : q$

$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q \; < \; \{ p \rightarrow \neg q \} : p \rightarrow \neg q$

ASPIC+ Example Conditions for satisfaction of postulates

$\{ p \rightarrow \neg q \} : p \rightarrow \neg q$

$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q$

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \rightleftarrows \{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q$

$\{ p \} : p$

$\{ q \} : q$

But if preference relation satisfies property of being ***reasonable*** then all three strict preferences are not possible (for otherwise it would result in a cycle in <)

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \; < \; \{ p \} : p$

$\{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q \; < \; \{ q \} : q$

$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q \; < \; \{ p \rightarrow \neg q \} : p \rightarrow \neg q$

ASPIC+ Example Conditions for satisfaction of postulates

$\{ p \rightarrow \neg q \} : p \rightarrow \neg q$

$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q$

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \quad \{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q$

$\{ p \} : p$

$\{ q \} : q$

If

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \; < \; \{ p \} : p$

$\{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q \; < \; \{ q \} : q$

then

$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q \; \not< \; \{ p \rightarrow \neg q \} : p \rightarrow \neg q$

ASPIC+ Example Conditions for satisfaction of postulates

$\{ p \rightarrow \neg q \} : p \rightarrow \neg q$

$\uparrow$

$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q$

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \rightleftarrows \{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q$

$\{ p \} : p$ $\qquad$ $\{ q \} : q$

If

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \; < \; \{ p \} : p$

$\{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q \; < \; \{ q \} : q$

then

$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q \; \not< \; \{ p \rightarrow \neg q \} : p \rightarrow \neg q$

ASPIC+ Example Conditions for satisfaction of postulates

$\{ p \rightarrow \neg q \} : p \rightarrow \neg q$

$\uparrow$

$\{ p , q \} : p \wedge q$

$\swarrow \quad \searrow$

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \rightleftarrows \{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q$

$\{ p \} : p$ $\qquad$ $\{ q \} : q$

$\{ q , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg p \ < \ \{ p \} : p$

$\{ p , p \rightarrow \neg q \} : \neg q \ < \ \{ q \} : q$

Single stable extension of $(\mathcal{Args}, \mathcal{Def})$ = { {p} : p , {q} : q , {p,q} : $p \wedge q$ }

More on ASPIC+

- I've glossed over many details, but take home message is:

  ASPIC+ is a general framework that allows for a broad range of possible logical instantiations, and provides guidelines for your choice of inference rules, how you define attacks, how you define preferences etc, so that you can be sure that your logical instantiation of Dung frameworks with preferences satisfies rationality postulates.

- More papers

  S. Modgil, H. Prakken. *The ASPIC+ framework for structured argumentation: a tutorial.* In: **Argument and Computation**, (in press) 2014.

  S. Modgil, H. Prakken. *A General Account of Argumentation and Preferences*. In: **Artificial Intelligence (AIJ)** . 195(0), 361 - 397, 2013.

  H. Prakken. *An abstract framework for argumentation with structured arguments*. In: **Argument and Comput**ation, 1(2):93–124, 2010.

Summary

- Dung's abstract theory of argumentation and example logical instantiations (with preferences)
- Correspondences between non-monotonic inference relation of instantiating logic and inference relation defined by claims of justified arguments
- The added value of argumentation – generalisation to dialogue (distributed reasoning) and familiar principles in everyday reasoning and debate
- Rationality postulates and ASPIC+