



Comparing Semantics of Strategic Ability

Nils Bulling¹
(joint work with Wojtek Jamroga²)

¹TU Clausthal

²University of Luxembourg

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1. Introduction

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Motivation

- We study: **Relationship** between standard variants of the **alternating-time temporal logics**.
 - perfect recall / no memory
 - perfect / imperfect information
 - objective / subjective ability
- Focus is on the **logics**; i.e., on the level of **valid sentences**.
- Validities capture **general properties of games**.
- **Same logics** induce **same kind of ability in games**.

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- **Same logics** induce **same kind of ability in games**.
- First step towards devising (practical) **algorithms** for **satisfiability checking**.

2. Reasoning about Strategic Ability

2 Reasoning about Strategic Ability

- Temporal Logic
- Strategic Logic
- Imperfect Information

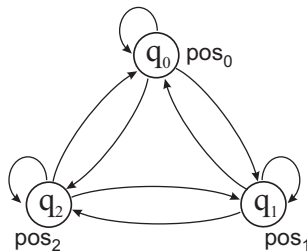
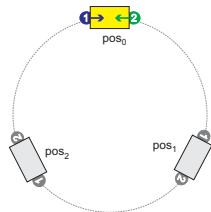


2.1 Temporal Logic

Temporal Logic and Reactive Systems

LTL: Modelling linear time

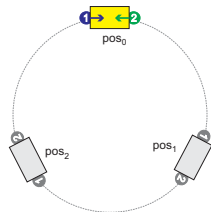
- computation: $q_0q_1q_2^\omega$
- “Some property p holds in some future state”



Temporal Logic and Reactive Systems

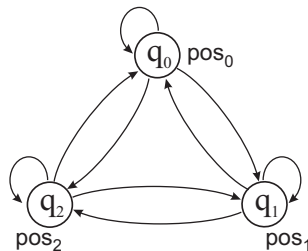
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Example properties:

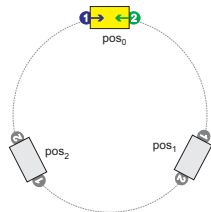
- Always
- Eventual
- Infinitely often



Temporal Logic and Reactive Systems

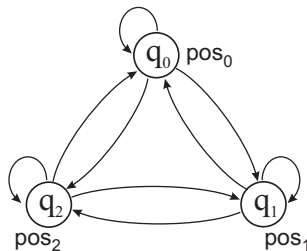
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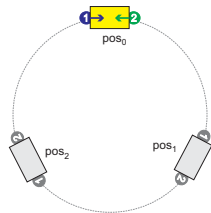
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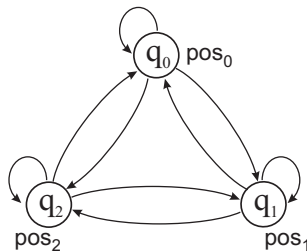
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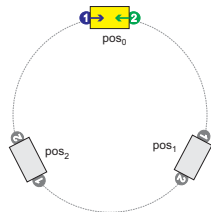
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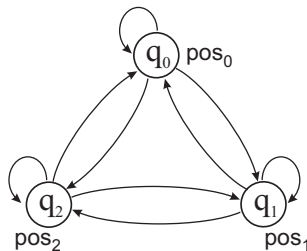
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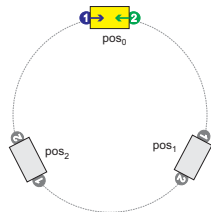
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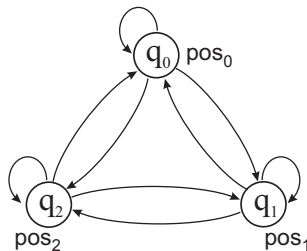
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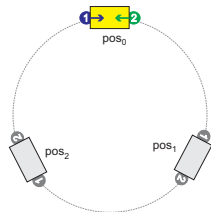
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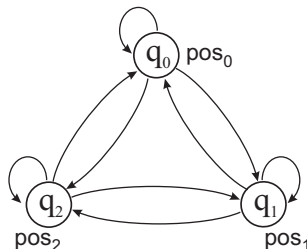
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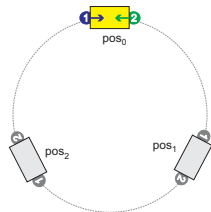
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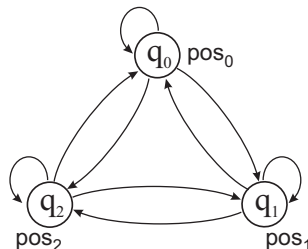
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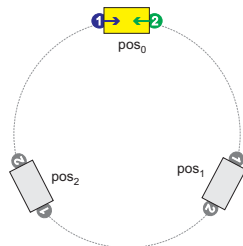


2.2 Strategic Logic

Strategic Logic and Multi-Agent Systems

Agents:

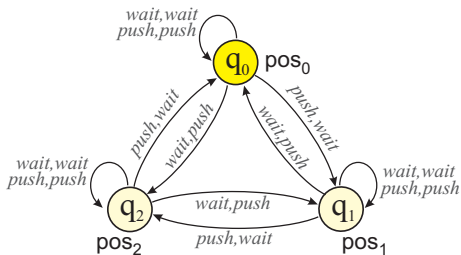
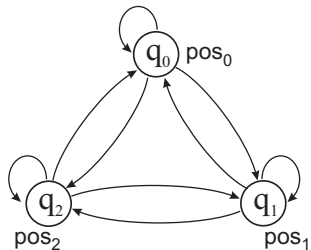
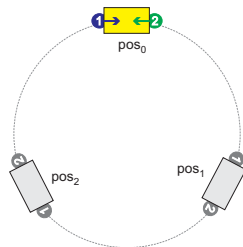
- execute actions
- cooperate



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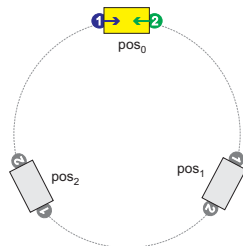
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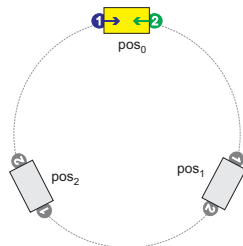
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“Group A has a strategy to **guarantee** γ ”

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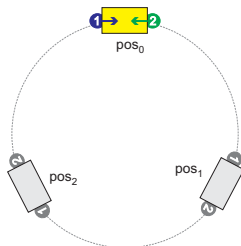
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- $\varphi ::= p \mid \neg \varphi \mid \varphi \wedge \varphi \mid \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \bigcirc \varphi \mid \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \square \varphi \mid \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \varphi \mathcal{U} \varphi$

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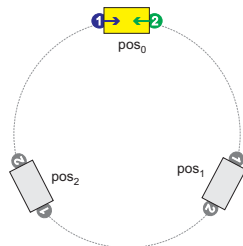
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- $\mathfrak{M}, q_0 \models \langle\langle 1 \rangle\rangle \square \neg \text{pos}_1$
- $\mathfrak{M}, q_0 \not\models \langle\langle 1 \rangle\rangle \diamond \text{pos}_1$

- Expressivity: $\mathcal{L}_{ATL} \subsetneq \mathcal{L}_{ATL^*}$
- Temporal logic meets **game theory**
- Enforcement is understood in the game-theoretical sense:
There is a **winning strategy**.

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Definition 1 (Language \mathcal{L}_{ATL^*} [?])

The **language** \mathcal{L}_{ATL^*} is given by all formulae generated by the following grammar:

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi &::= p \mid \neg\varphi \mid \varphi \wedge \varphi \mid \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle\gamma \quad \text{where} \\ \gamma &::= \varphi \mid \neg\gamma \mid \gamma \wedge \gamma \mid \gamma \mathcal{U} \gamma \mid \bigcirc\gamma, \end{aligned}$$

$A \subseteq \text{Agt}$, and $p \in \Pi$. Formulae φ (resp. γ) are called **state** (resp. **path**) formulae.

Definition 2 (Language $\mathcal{L}_{ATL}[\text{?}]$)

The **language** \mathcal{L}_{ATL} is given by all formulae generated by the following grammar:

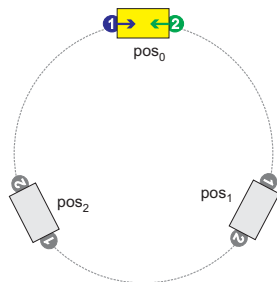
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where $A \subseteq \text{Agt}$ and $p \in \Pi$.

Note: Every \mathcal{L}_{ATL} -**formula** is also a \mathcal{L}_{ATL^*} -**formula**!

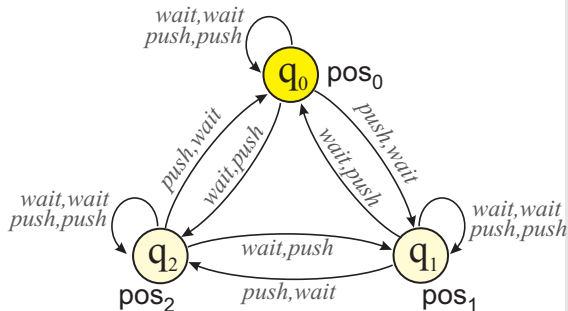
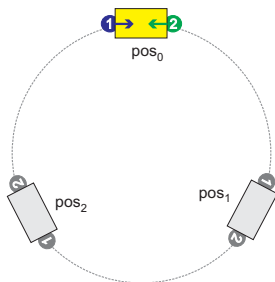
ATL Models: Concurrent Game Structures

- **Agents, actions, transitions**, atomic propositions
- Atomic propositions + **interpretation**
- **Actions are abstract**



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Perfect Information Strategies

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Definition 3 (*IR*- and *Ir*-strategies)

- A **perfect information perfect recall strategy** for agent a (*IR*-strategy for short) is a function

$$s_a : Q^+ \rightarrow Act \text{ such that } s_a(q_0q_1 \dots q_n) \in d_a(q_n).$$

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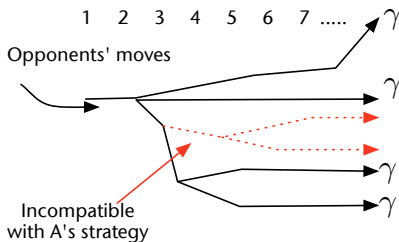
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- A **perfect information memoryless strategy** for agent a (*Ir*-strategy for short) is a function

$$s_a : Q \rightarrow Act \text{ where } s_a(q) \in d_a(q).$$

Outcome $out(q, s_A)$: set of all **paths/executions** possible if **A** follow s_A .

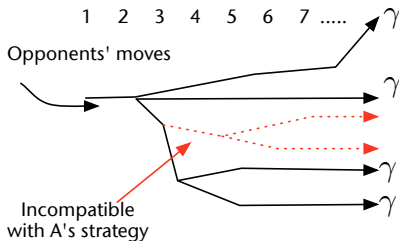


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Semantics of ATL*

$\mathfrak{M}, q \models \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \gamma$ iff

- there is a collective strategy s_A such that,
- for every path $\lambda \in out(q, s_A)$,
- we have that $\mathfrak{M}, \lambda \models \gamma$.



Definition 4 (Perfect information semantics)

$\mathfrak{M}, q \models_{\text{Ix}} \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \Phi$ iff there is a collective **Ix-strategy** s_A such that, for each path $\lambda \in \text{out}(q, s_A)$, we have $\mathfrak{M}, \lambda \models_{\text{Ix}} \Phi$.

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$\mathfrak{M}, \lambda \models_{\text{Ix}} \diamond \varphi$ iff $\mathfrak{M}, \lambda[i, \infty] \models_{\text{Ix}} \varphi$ for **some** $i \geq 0$;

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$\mathfrak{M}, q \models_{\text{IX}} \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \Phi$ iff there is a collective **IX-strategy** s_A such that, for each path $\lambda \in \text{out}(q, s_A)$, we have $\mathfrak{M}, \lambda \models_{\text{IX}} \Phi$.

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$\mathfrak{M}, \lambda \models_{\text{IX}} \square \varphi$ iff $\mathfrak{M}, \lambda[i, \infty] \models_{\text{IX}} \varphi$ for **all** $i \geq 0$;

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$\mathfrak{M}, \lambda \models_{\text{Ix}} \varphi \mathcal{U} \psi$ iff $\mathfrak{M}, \lambda[i, \infty] \models_{\text{Ix}} \psi$ for **some** $i \geq 0$, and $\mathfrak{M}, \lambda[j, \infty] \models_{\text{Ix}} \varphi$ **forall** $0 \leq j \leq i$.

Definition 4 (Perfect information semantics)

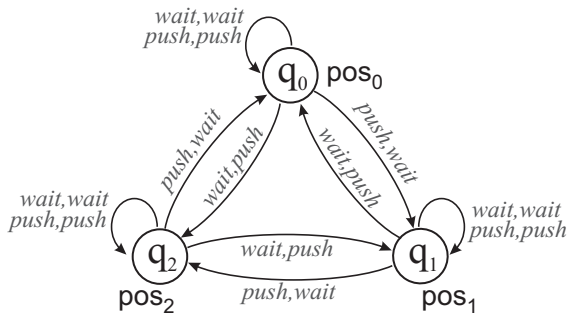
$\mathfrak{M}, q \models_{Ix} p$	iff p is in $\pi(q)$;
$\mathfrak{M}, q \models_{Ix} \varphi \wedge \psi$	iff $\mathfrak{M}, q \models_{Ix} \varphi$ and $\mathfrak{M}, q \models_{Ix} \psi$;
$\mathfrak{M}, q \models_{Ix} \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \Phi$	iff there is a collective Ix-strategy s_A such that, for each path $\lambda \in out(q, s_A)$, we have $\mathfrak{M}, \lambda \models_{Ix} \Phi$.
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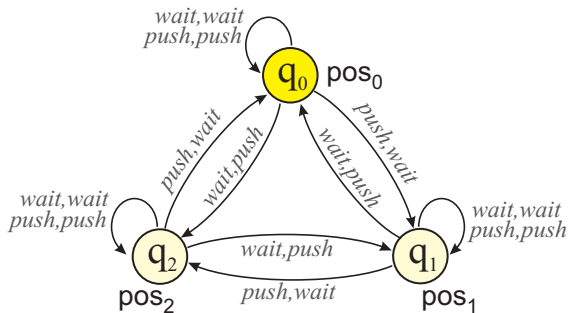
Note that temporal formulae and the Boolean connectives are handled as before.

Example: Robots and Carriage



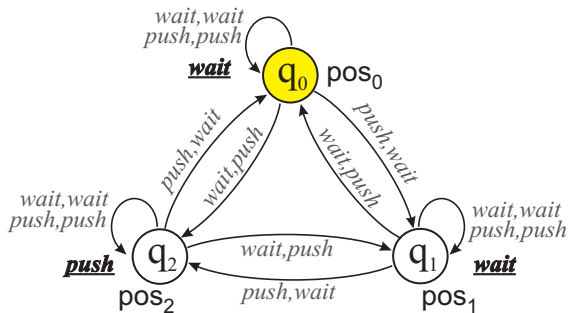
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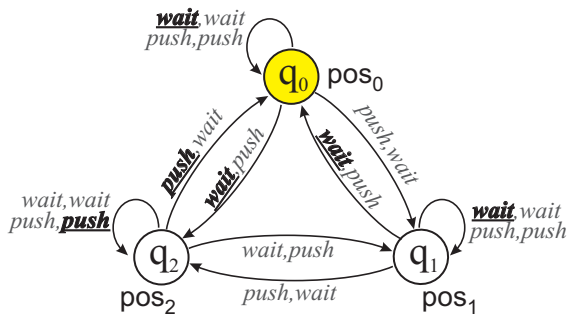
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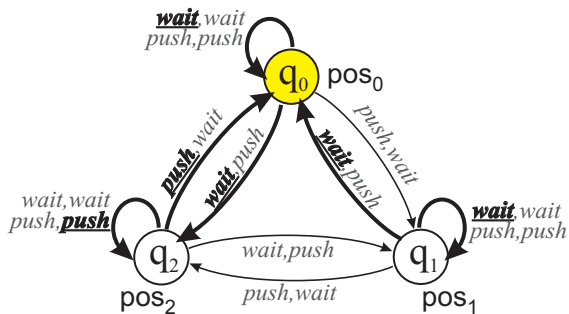
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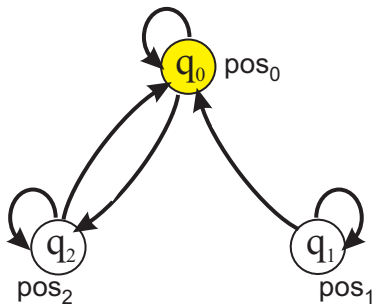
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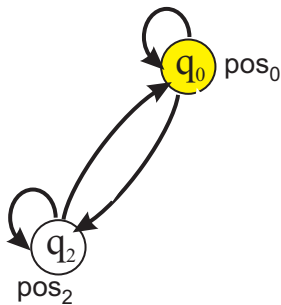
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Definition 5 (ATL_{Ix} , ATL_{Ix}^* , ATL , ATL^*)

We define the following **logics**:

- ATL_{Ix} is the set of valid sentences over $(\mathcal{L}_{ATL}, \models_{Ix})$
- ATL_{Ix}^* is the set of valid sentences over $(\mathcal{L}_{ATL^*}, \models_{Ix})$

where $x \in \{r, R\}$, respectively.

Theorem 6

For \mathcal{L}_{ATL} , the **perfect recall semantics** is **equivalent** to the **memoryless semantics** under perfect information, i.e.,

$$\mathfrak{M}, q \models_{IR} \varphi \text{ iff } \mathfrak{M}, q \models_{Ir} \varphi.$$

That is

$$ATL = ATL_{Ir} = ATL_{IR}.$$

Both semantics are different for \mathcal{L}_{ATL^*} ; that is, $ATL_{Ir}^* \neq ATL_{IR}^*$.

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For \mathcal{L}_{ATL} , the **perfect recall semantics is equivalent to the memoryless semantics** under perfect information, i.e.,

$$\mathfrak{M}, q \models_{IR} \varphi \text{ iff } \mathfrak{M}, q \models_{Ir} \varphi.$$

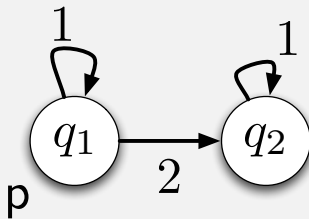
That is

$$ATL = ATL_{Ir} = ATL_{IR}.$$

Both semantics are different for \mathcal{L}_{ATL^*} ; that is, $ATL_{Ir}^* \neq ATL_{IR}^*$.

The property has been first observed in [?] but it follows from [?] in a straightforward way.

Example 7 ($ATL_{IR}^* \neq ATL_{lr}^*$)



$$\varphi = \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle (\bigcirc p \wedge \bigcirc \bigcirc \neg p)$$



2.3 Imperfect Information



Imperfect information

How can we reason about agents/extensive games with
imperfect information?

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We combine **ATL*** and **epistemic logic**.

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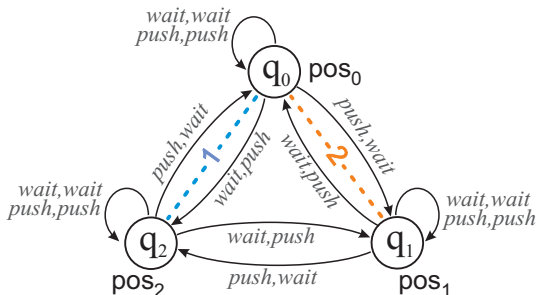
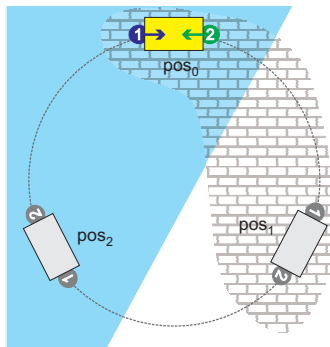
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- A **concurrent epistemic game structure** (CEGS) is a CGS enriched with indistinguishability relations.
- We interpret $\langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \gamma$ epistemically ($\rightsquigarrow \models_{iR}$ and \models_{ir}): Group **A** **knows** that they can enforce γ .

Example: Robots and Carriage

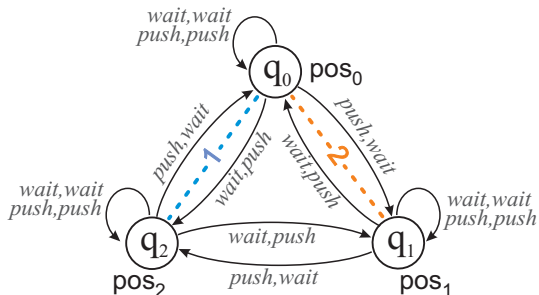
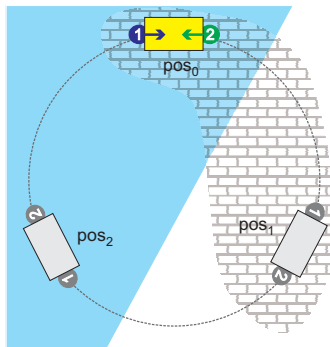


What about $\langle\langle \text{Agt} \rangle\rangle \bigcirc \text{pos}_1$ in q_0 ?

$\mathcal{M}, q_0 \quad \text{Ir} \langle\langle \text{Agt} \rangle\rangle \bigcirc \text{pos}_1$

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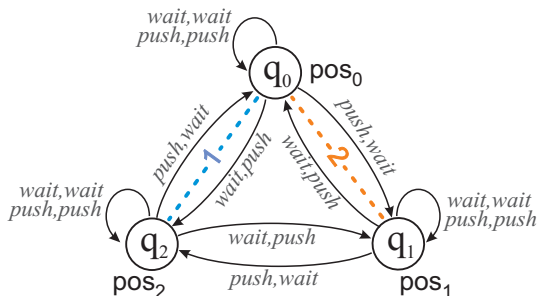
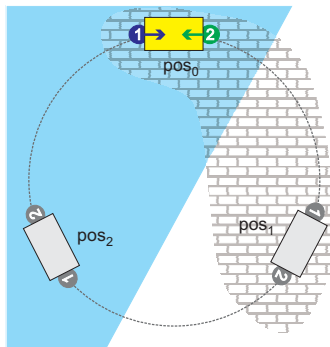


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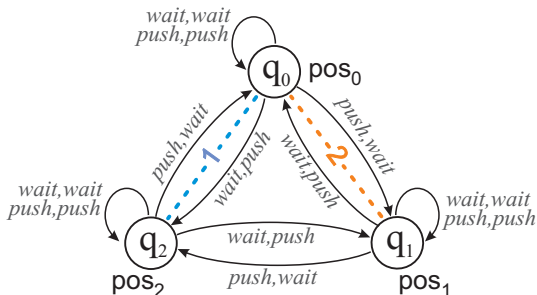
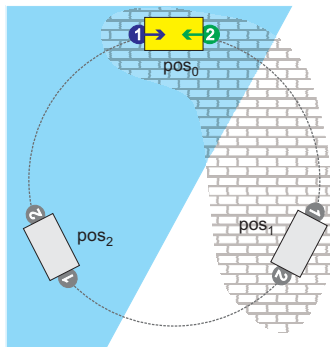


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Strategies should be **executable** \rightsquigarrow **uniform strategies**

Definition 8 (Uniform strategy)

Strategy s_a is **uniform** iff it specifies the **same choices** for indistinguishable situations :

- **Memoryless** strategies:

if $q \sim_a q'$ then $s_a(q) = s_a(q')$.

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A **collective uniform strategy** for A contains a uniform strategy for each agent in A .

Imperfect Information Strategies

Definition 9 (*IR*- and *IR*-strategies)

- Imperfect information perfect recall strategy (*iR*-strategy):

= uniform *IR*-strategy.

Finally, we introduce two variants of ability under incomplete information.

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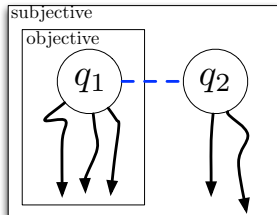
Finally, we introduce **two variants** of **ability** under **incomplete information**.

Objective vs. Subjective Semantics

There are two more characteristics of ability under imperfect information:

- **Objective ability (i_o):** Only paths from the (real) current state are considered:

$$out^{i_o \gamma}(q, s_A) = out(q, s_A) \text{ for } \gamma \in \{r, R\}$$



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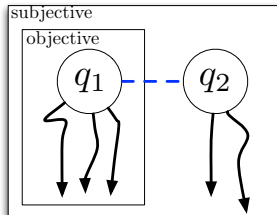
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- **Subjective ability (i_s):** All paths from all indistinguishable states are taken into account:

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Imperfect Information Semantics

Definition 10 (Imperfect information semantics)

$\mathfrak{M}, q \models_{xy} \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \varphi$ iff

- there is a collective **xy-strategy** s_A

where $x \in \{i_o, i_s\}$, $y \in \{r, R\}$ and $\sim_A := \bigcup_{a \in A} \sim_a$.

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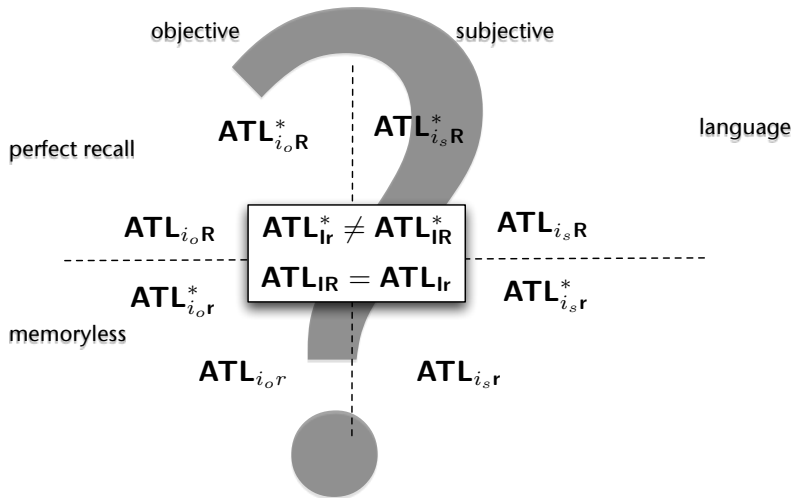
Remark 11

*This definition models that “**everybody** in A knows that φ ”.*

3. Comparing Semantics

- 3 Comparing Semantics
 - Perfect vs. Imperfect Information
 - Perfect vs. Imperfect Recall
 - Subjective vs. Objective Ability

How does the picture look?



Comparing Validities

Recall our motivation:

- **Relationship** between standard **variants of ATL*** on the level of valid sentences
- **Logic = set of validities**
- Validities capture **general properties of games** under consideration
- If two logics over \mathcal{L}_{ATL^*} generate the same valid sentences then the underlying **notions of ability induce the same kind of games**

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- Validities capture **general properties of games** under consideration
- If two logics over \mathcal{L}_{ATL^*} generate the same valid sentences then the underlying **notions of ability induce the same kind of games**
- First step towards devising algorithms for **satisfiability checking**

Semantic Variants of ATL

Memory of agents:

- Perfect recall (R) vs. imperfect recall strategies (r)

Available information:

- Perfect information (I) vs. imperfect information strategies (i)

Success of strategies:

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3.1 Perfect vs. Imperfect Information



Comparing ATL_{ir} vs. ATL_{I_r}

Subjective incomplete information vs. **perfect** information.

Proposition 12

$$Val(ATL_{isr}) \subsetneq Val(ATL_{I_r})$$

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$$\mathfrak{M}, q_0 \not\models_{isr} (\text{shot} \vee \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \bigcirc \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \diamond \text{shot}) \rightarrow \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \diamond \text{shot}$$

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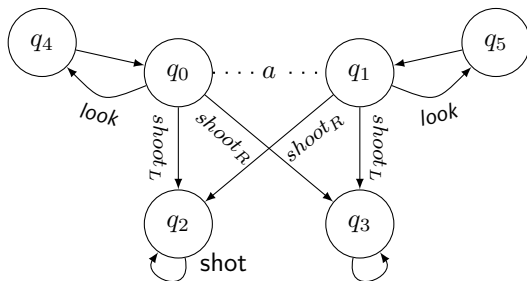
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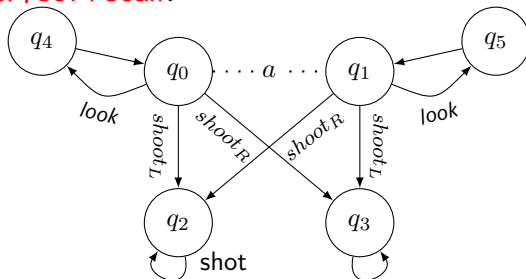
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Objective incomplete information vs. perfect information.

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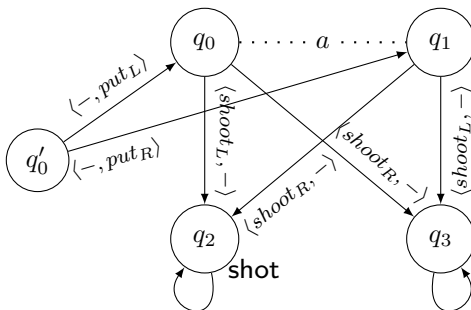
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Objective incomplete information vs. perfect information.

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Comparing ATL_{iR} vs. ATL_{IR}

Objective incomplete information vs. **perfect** information under **perfect recall**.

By the same reasoning as above:

Corollary 14

$$Val(ATL_{iR}) \subsetneq Val(ATL_{IR})$$

Subjective ability and incomplete information vs. perfect information.

Proposition 15

$$Val(ATL_{iS}R) \subsetneq Val(ATL_{IR})$$

Subjective ability and incomplete information vs. perfect information.

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$$Val(ATL_{i_sR}) \subsetneq Val(ATL_{IR})$$

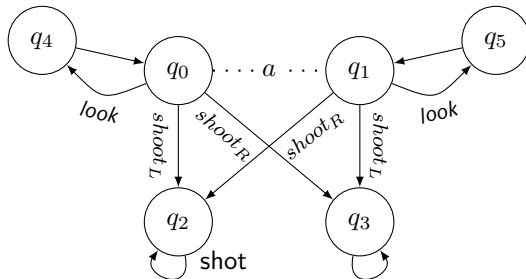
$$\mathfrak{M}, q_4 \not\models_{i_sR} \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \diamond \text{shot} \rightarrow (\text{shot} \vee \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \bigcirc \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \diamond \text{shot})$$

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3.2 Perfect vs. Imperfect Recall

Now we compare **memoryless** and **perfect recall strategies**.

Is one class of strategies more powerful than the other?

Definition 16 (Tree-like CGS)

Let \mathfrak{M} be a CGS and q be a state in it. M is called **tree-like** iff there is a state q (the **root**) such that for every q' there is a **unique finite sequence of states** leading from q to q' .

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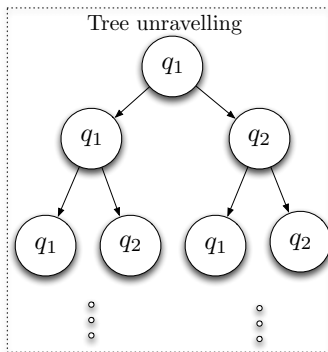
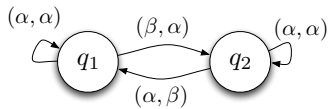
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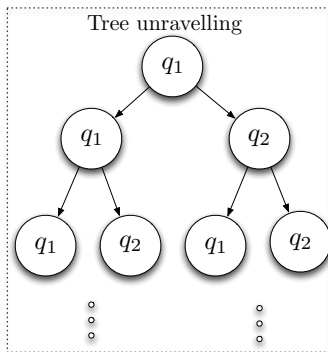
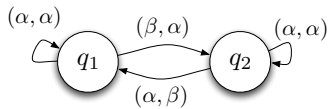
For every **tree-like** CGS \mathfrak{M} , state q in \mathfrak{M} , and \mathcal{L}_{ATL^*} -formula φ , we have: $\mathfrak{M}, q \models_{IR} \varphi$ iff $\mathfrak{M}, q \models_{IR} \varphi$.

Proof idea: The path to a state is unique. No state is visited a second time.

Idea: Fix a state and **unravel the model** to an **infinite tree**.



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Definition 18 (Tree unfolding)

Let $\mathfrak{M} = (Agt, Q, \Pi, \pi, Act, d, o)$ be a CGS and q be a state in it. The **tree-unfolding of \mathfrak{M} starting from state q** denoted $T(\mathfrak{M}, q)$ is defined as $(\mathbb{A}gt, Q', \Pi, \pi', Act, d', o')$ where

- $Q' := \Lambda_{\mathfrak{M}}^{fin}(q)$, (i.e. states correspond to finite histories)
- $d'(a, h) := d(a, last(h))$,
- $o'(h, \vec{\alpha}) := h \circ o(last(h), \vec{\alpha})$, and
- $\pi'(h) := \pi(last(h))$.

We now compare **perfect** vs. **imperfect memory**.

Proposition 19

$$Val(ATL_{Ir}^*) \subsetneq Val(ATL_{IR}^*) \quad (\text{Even: } Val(ATL_{Ir}^+) \subsetneq Val(ATL_{IR}^+))$$

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Strict inclusion:

$$\mathfrak{M}, q_0 \not\models_{Ir} \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle (\diamond p_1 \wedge \diamond p_2) \leftrightarrow \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \diamond ((p_1 \wedge \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \diamond p_2) \vee (p_2 \wedge \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \diamond p_1)).$$

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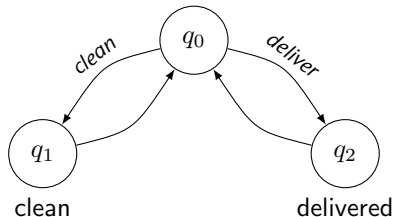
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$p_1 = \text{clean}$

$p_2 = \text{delivered}$



Comparing $ATL_{i_o r}$ vs. $ATL_{i_o R}$

The case of **objective ability** under incomplete information is similar we only have to **take into account epistemic relations** in the tree:

$$h \sim_a^{T_{i_o R}(\mathfrak{M}, q)} h' \text{ iff } h \approx_a^{\mathfrak{M}} h'$$

Again, **memory** does not matter:

Lemma 20

For every **tree-like CEGS** \mathfrak{M} , state q in \mathfrak{M} , and \mathcal{L}_{ATL^*} -formula φ , we have that $\mathfrak{M}, q \models_{i_oR} \varphi$ iff $\mathfrak{M}, q \models_{i_oR} \varphi$.

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The **tree unraveling** preserves **truth**.

Lemma 21

For every node h in $T_{i_o R}(\mathfrak{M}, q_0)$ it holds that

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Objective ability: no memory vs. perfect recall.

Proposition 22

$$Val(ATL_{i_oR}) \subsetneq Val(ATL_{i_oR}).$$

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$$\mathfrak{M}, q_0 \not\models_{i_o,r} \neg\langle\langle\emptyset\rangle\rangle\Diamond\neg(\neg\text{suspicious} \vee \neg\text{angry}) \rightarrow \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle\Box(\neg\text{suspicious} \vee \neg\text{angry})$$

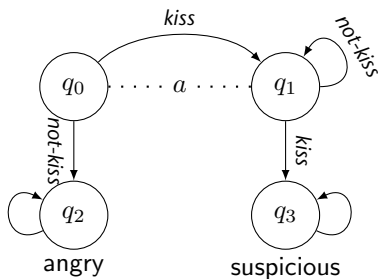
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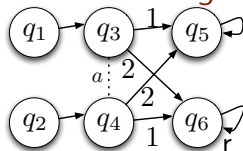
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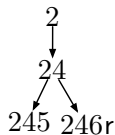
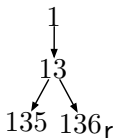
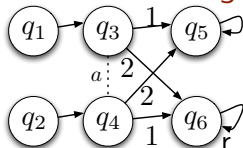
Comparing $ATL_{i_s r}$ vs. $ATL_{i_s R}$

In the case of **subjective ability** under incomplete information we need a more elaborated **tree unraveling**. Consider: $\langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \bigcirc \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \diamond r$



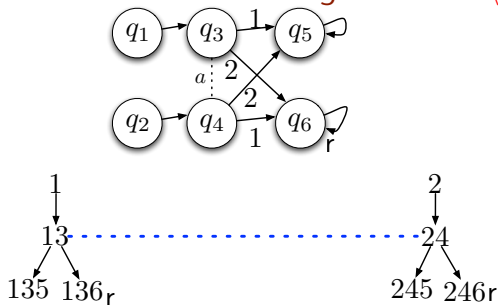
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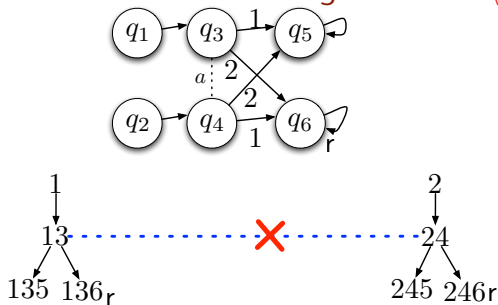
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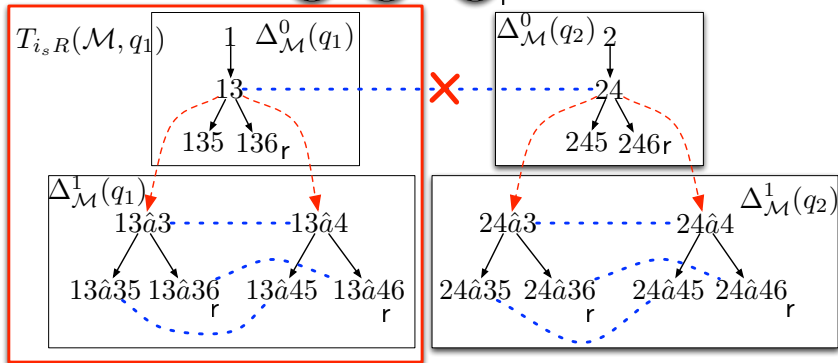
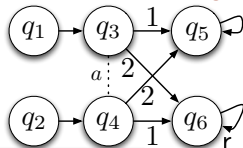
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We have the same results as before.

Memory does not matter in trees:

Lemma 23

For every CEGS \mathfrak{M} , state q in \mathfrak{M} , and ATL^* formula φ , it holds that

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The i_s -tree unraveling **preserves truth**:

Lemma 24

For every node h in $T_{i_s R}(\mathfrak{M}, q_0)$ it holds that

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Proposition 25

$$Val(ATL_{i_s r}) \subsetneq Val(ATL_{i_s R})$$

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Inclusion: $\models_{i_s r} \varphi$ then *Treemodels* $\models_{i_s r} \varphi$ then *Treemodels* $\models_{i_s R} \varphi$
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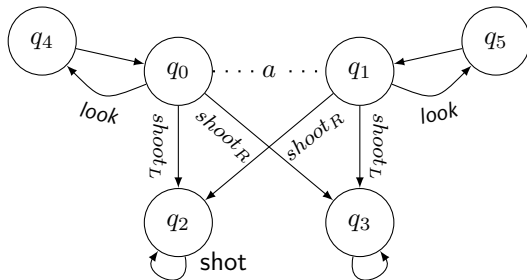
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3.3 Subjective vs. Objective Ability

Proposition 26

$Val(ATL_{i_o,x}) \not\subseteq Val(ATL_{i_s,y})$ for $x, y \in \{r, R\}$.

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Formula $\Phi_2 \equiv \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \diamond p \rightarrow p \vee \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \bigcirc \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \diamond p$ is **valid** in $Val(ATL_{i_o x})$

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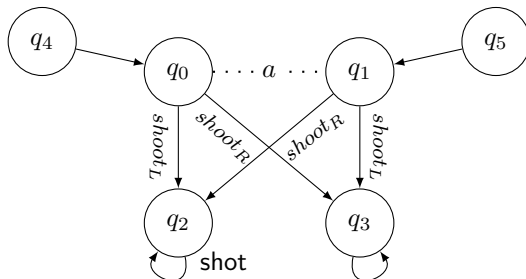
$$\mathfrak{M}, q_4 \not\models_{i_s R} \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \diamond \text{shot} \rightarrow \text{shot} \vee \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \bigcirc \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \diamond \text{shot}$$

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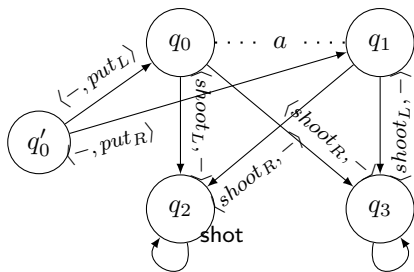
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$\mathfrak{M}, q'_0 \not\models_{i_oy} \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle N \langle\langle c \rangle\rangle \bigcirc \langle\langle a \rangle\rangle \bigcirc p \rightarrow \langle\langle a, c \rangle\rangle \diamond p$



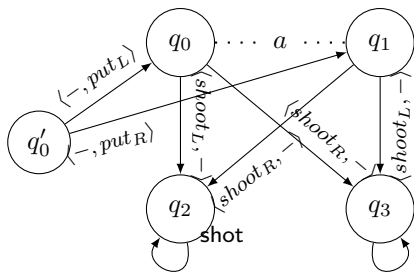
(Plus an agent c with no choices.)

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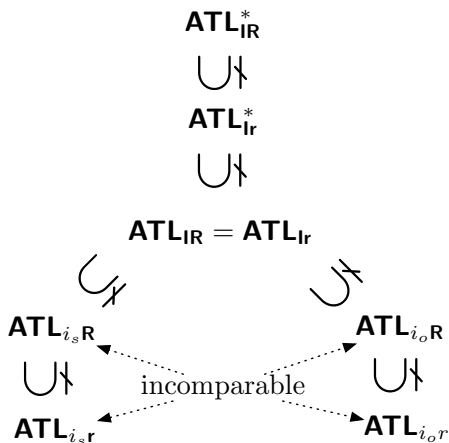
So, we have: $Val(ATL_{i_sy})$ and $Val(ATL_{i_oz})$ are **incomparable** for every $y, z \in \{R, r\}$.

4. Conclusions

4 Conclusions

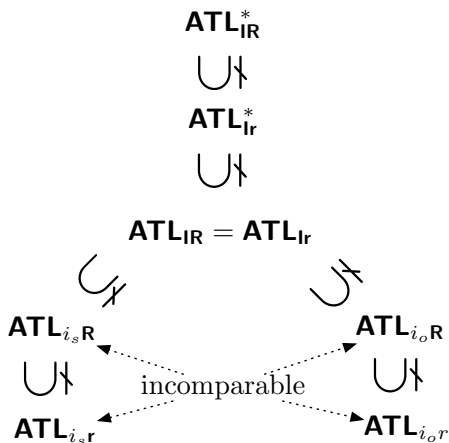
Overview of the Results

- “All” semantic variants are **different** on the level of **general properties**; before our study, it was by no means obvious.



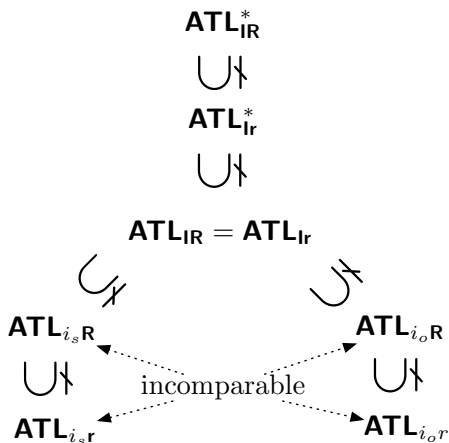
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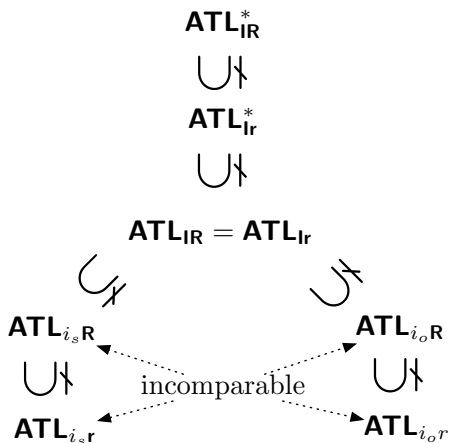
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- Some **proofs** are **nontrivial**



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- “All” semantic variants are **different** on the level of **general properties**; before our study, it was by no means obvious.
- **Strong pattern** of **subsumption** (memory and information)
- Very **natural** when you see it (not obvious before).
- Some **proofs** are **nontrivial**
- In particular: **non-validities** are **interesting**.





Thank you for your attention!

Questions?