

# MODAL INFORMATION LOGICS

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Annual VvL Seminar, Utrecht University, Master's Thesis Award Presentation  
Supervised by **Johan van Benthem** and **Nick Bezhanishvili**

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University of Amsterdam

- Introducing the logics
- Stating the problems
- Outlining the strategy
- Solving the problems using the strategy

# Defining (the basic) modal information logics (MILs)

## Definition (language and semantics)

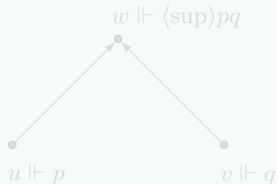
The **language** is given by

$$\varphi ::= \perp \mid p \mid \neg\varphi \mid \varphi \vee \psi \mid \langle \text{sup} \rangle \varphi \psi,$$

and the **semantics** of ' $\langle \text{sup} \rangle$ ' is:

$$w \Vdash \langle \text{sup} \rangle \varphi \psi \quad \text{iff} \quad \exists u, v (u \Vdash \varphi; v \Vdash \psi; \\ w = \text{sup}\{u, v\})$$

## Example



## Definition (frames and logics)

Three classes of **frames**  $(W, \leq)$ , namely those where

(Pre)  $(W, \leq)$  is a preorder (refl., tr.);

(Pos)  $(W, \leq)$  is a poset (anti-sym. preorder); and

(Sem)  $(W, \leq)$  is a join-semilattice (poset w. all bin. joins)

Resulting in the **logics**  $MIL_{Pre}$ ,  $MIL_{Pos}$ ,  $MIL_{Sem}$ , respectively.

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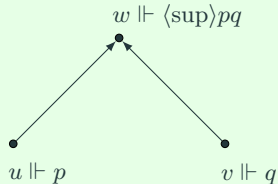
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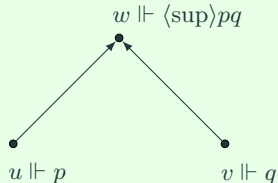
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## Why MILs?

- Connect with other logics (e.g., truthmaker semantics).
- Introduced to model a **theory of information** (by van Benthem (1996)).
- Modestly extend **S4** [ $MIL_{Pre}$ ,  $MIL_{Pos}$ ].

## What in particular?

Guided by two central problems (posed in van Benthem (2017, 2019)), namely

- (A) axiomatizing  $MIL_{Pre}$  and  $MIL_{Pos}$ ; and
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## Initial study ( $MIL_{Pre}$ and $MIL_{Pos}$ )

### Proposition

MILs lack the finite model property (FMP) w.r.t. their classes of definition.

How we solve (A), and then (D) using (A):

- (1) We **axiomatize**  $MIL_{Pre}$  (and deduce  $MIL_{Pre} = MIL_{Pos}$ ).
- (2) Use the axiomatization to find **another class** of structures  $\mathcal{C}$  for which  $\text{Log}(\mathcal{C}) = MIL_{Pre}$ .
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# (1): axiomatizing $MIL_{Pre}$

## Axiomatization (soundness and completeness)

$MIL_{Pre}$  is (sound and complete w.r.t.) the least normal modal logic with axioms:

$$(Re.) \quad p \wedge q \rightarrow \langle \text{sup} \rangle pq$$

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## Proof idea

Soundness ✓

For completeness, let  $\Gamma \supseteq \Gamma_0$  be an MCS extending some consistent  $\Gamma_0$ . We construct a satisfying model using the **step-by-step** method:

(Base) Singleton frame  $\mathbb{F}_0 := (\{x_0\}, \{(x_0, x_0)\})$  and 'labeling'  $l_0(x_0) = \Gamma$ .

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- If  $x \in \mathbb{F}_n$  and  $\neg \langle \text{sup} \rangle \psi \psi' \in l_n(x)$  but  $x = \text{sup}_n \{y, z\}$  s.t.

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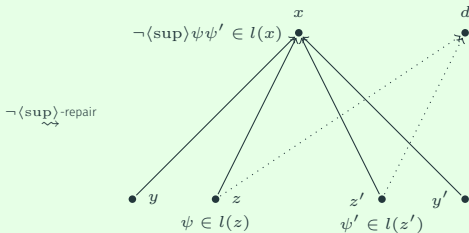
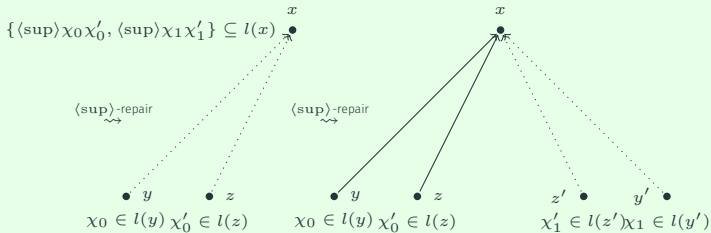
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# Completeness of $MIL_{Pre}$ (cont.)

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## About the proof

Soundness: routine.

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## (2) and (3): 'decidability via completeness'

(2) Find another class  $\mathcal{C}$  for which  $\text{Log}(\mathcal{C}) = \text{MIL}_{\text{Pre}}$ :

- (i) Nothing in the ax. of  $\text{MIL}_{\text{Pre}}$  necessitating ' $\langle \text{sup} \rangle$ ' to be interpreted using a **supremum** relation.
- (ii) Canon. re-interpretation:

$$\mathcal{C} := \{(W, C) \mid (W, C) \models (\text{Re.}) \wedge (\text{Co.}) \wedge (4) \wedge (\text{Dk.})\},$$

where  $C \subseteq W^3$  is an **arbitrary** relation.

- (iii) Then  $\text{Log}(\mathcal{C}) = \text{MIL}_{\text{Pre}}$ .

(3) Decidability through FMP on  $\mathcal{C}$ :

- (i) On  $\mathcal{C}$ , we get the FMP through filtration.
- (ii) And this implies decidability.

Thus, we have solved both (A) and (D).

**Gen. takeaway:** *When dealing with 'semantically introduced' logics, not having the FMP (w.r.t. the class of definition) might not be very telling.*

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(2) Find another class  $\mathcal{C}$  for which  $\text{Log}(\mathcal{C}) = \text{MIL}_{\text{Pre}}$ :

- (i) Nothing in the ax. of  $\text{MIL}_{\text{Pre}}$  necessitating ' $\langle \text{sup} \rangle$ ' to be interpreted using a **supremum** relation.
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$$\mathcal{C} := \{(W, C) \mid (W, C) \Vdash (\text{Re.}) \wedge (\text{Co.}) \wedge (4) \wedge (\text{Dk.})\},$$

where  $C \subseteq W^3$  is an **arbitrary** relation.

(iii) Then  $\text{Log}(\mathcal{C}) = \text{MIL}_{\text{Pre}}$ .

(3) Decidability through FMP on  $\mathcal{C}$ :

- (i) On  $\mathcal{C}$ , we get the FMP through filtration.
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How about join-semilattices (i.e.,  $MIL_{Sem}$ )?

# Axiomatizing $MIL_{Sem}$

Three ways to completeness (some intuitions for our proof):

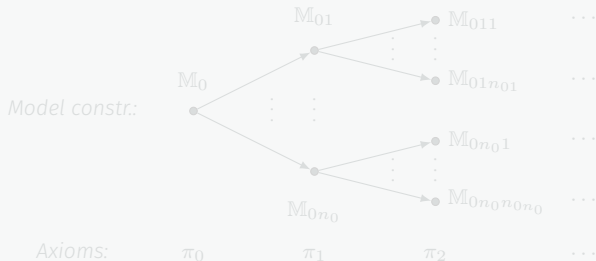
Henkin (e.g., K)

$M$   
•

Standard step-by-step (e.g.,  $MIL_{Pre}$ )

$M_0 \rightarrow M_1 \rightarrow M_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow M_\omega$

'Indeterministic step-by-step' ( $MIL_{Sem}$ )



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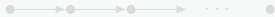
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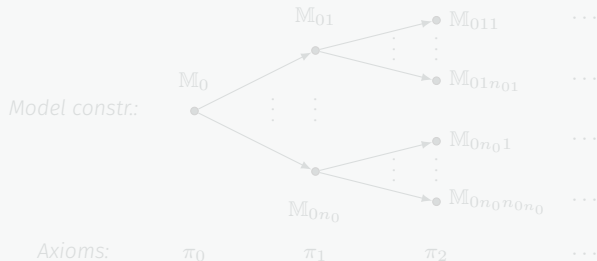


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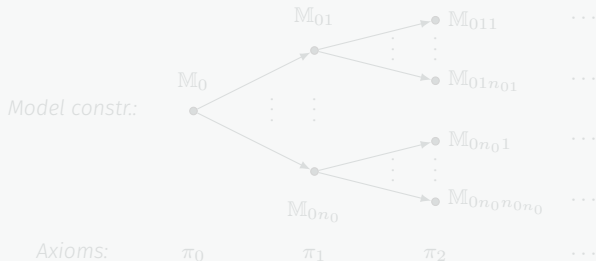
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$M_0$   $M_1$   $M_2$   $\dots$   $M_\omega$   
•  $\rightarrow$  •  $\rightarrow$  •  $\rightarrow$   $\dots$  •

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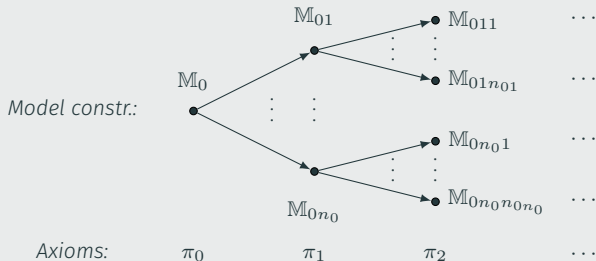
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• → • → • → ... •

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## What the thesis included:

- Surveyed the landscape of MILs on preorders and posets.<sup>1</sup>
- Made crossings with the Lambek Calculus and truthmaker semantics.<sup>2</sup>
- Axiomatized  $MIL_{Sem}$ .





## What came next:

- $MIL_{Sem}$  is not finitely axiomatizable.
- $MIL_{Sem}$  is undecidable (and so are Hyperboolean algebras and more).
- Urquhart's relevance logic **S** is undecidable.

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<sup>1</sup>See SBK (2023b).

<sup>2</sup>See SBK (2023a) (or thesis) for this, including proofs of FMP, decidability (and compactness) of a family of truthmaker logics.

-  Knudstorp, S. B. (2023a). **“Logics of Truthmaker Semantics: Comparison, Compactness and Decidability”**. In: *Synthese* (cit. on p. 41).
-  — (2023b). **“Modal Information Logics: Axiomatizations and Decidability”**. In: *Journal of Philosophical Logic* (cit. on p. 41).
-  Van Benthem, J. (1996). **“Modal Logic as a Theory of Information”**. In: *Logic and Reality. Essays on the Legacy of Arthur Prior*. Ed. by J. Copeland. Clarendon Press, Oxford, pp. 135–168 (cit. on pp. 6–11).
-  — (10/2017). **“Constructive agents”**. In: *Indagationes Mathematicae* 29. DOI: [10.1016/j.indag.2017.10.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.indag.2017.10.004) (cit. on pp. 6–11).



Van Benthem, J. (2019). **“Implicit and Explicit Stances in Logic”**. In: *Journal of Philosophical Logic* 48.3, pp. 571–601. DOI: [10.1007/s10992-018-9485-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10992-018-9485-y) (cit. on pp. 6–11).

Thank you!