Abstract Argumentation with Focus on Argument Claims - An Overview









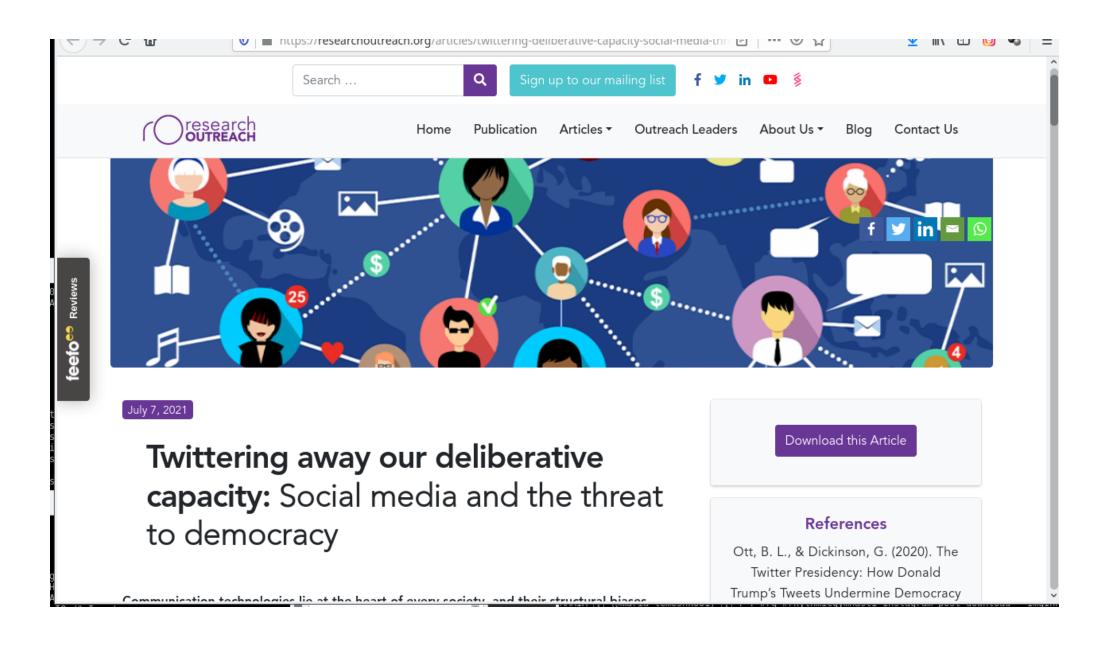
Michael Bernreiter Wolfgang Dvořák

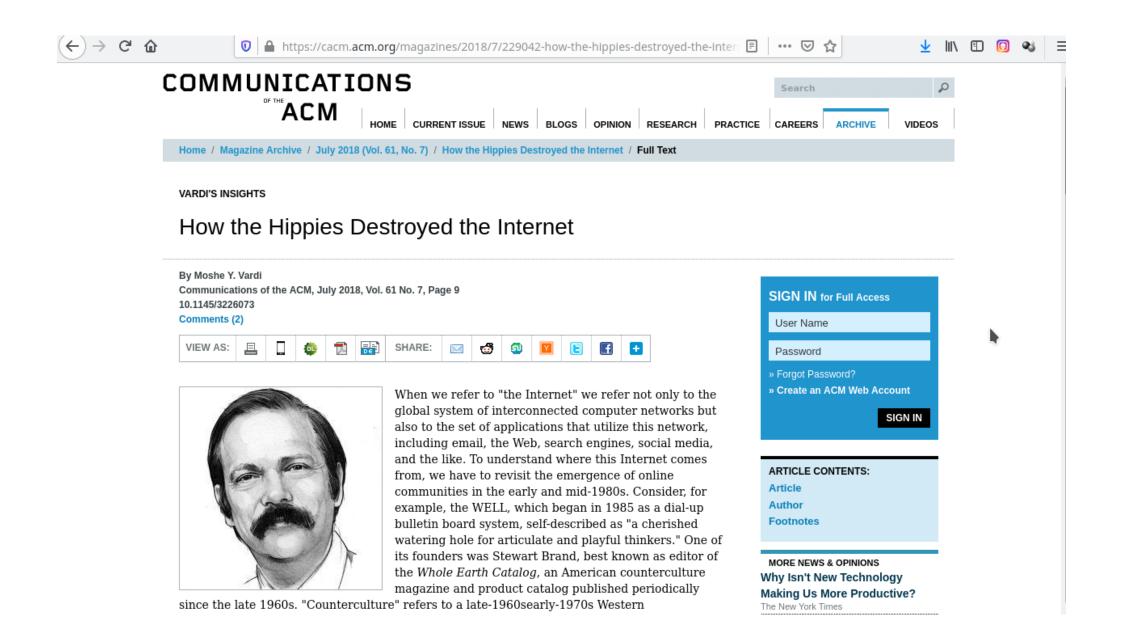
Anna Rapberger

Stefan Woltran

LPNMR 2022: 16th International Conference on Logic Programming and Non-monotonic Reasoning Genova Nervi, 9.9.2022







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DIGHUM

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Vienna, May 2019

"The system is failing" – stated by the founder of the Web, Tim Berners-Lee – emphasizes that while digitalization opens unprecedented opportunities, it also raises serious concerns: the monopolization of the Web, the rise of extremist opinions and behavior orchestrated by social media, the formation of filter bubbles and echo chambers as islands of disjoint truths, the loss of privacy, and the spread of digital surveillance. Digital technologies are disrupting societies and questioning our understanding of what it means to be human. The stakes are high and the challenge of building a just and democratic society with humans at the center of technological progress needs to be addressed with determination as well as scientific ingenuity. Technological innovation demands social innovation, and social innovation requires broad societal engagement.

This manifesto is a call to deliberate and to act on current and future technological development. We encourage our academic communities, as well as industrial leaders, politicians, policy makers, and professional societies all around the globe, to actively participate in policy formation. Our demands are the result of an emerging process that unites scientists and practitioners across fields and topics, brought together by concerns and hopes for the future. We are aware of our joint responsibility for the current situation and the future – both as professionals and citizens.

Today, we experience the co-evolution of technology and humankind. The flood of data, algorithms, and computational power is disrupting the very fabric of society by changing human interactions, societal institutions, economies, and political structures. Science and the humanities are not exempt. This disruption simultaneously creates and threatens jobs, produces and destroys wealth, and improves and damages our ecology. It shifts power structures, thereby blurring the human and the machine.

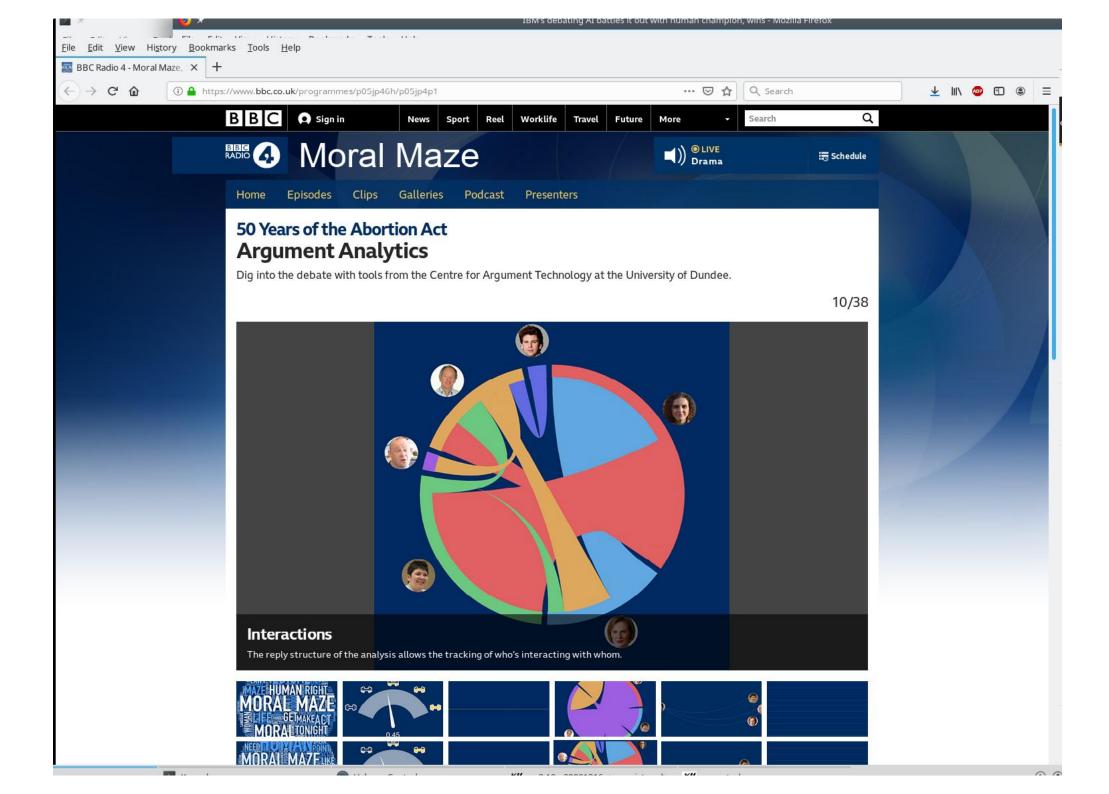
The quest is for enlightenment and humanism. The capability to automate human cognitive activities is a revolutionary aspect of computer science / informatics. For many tasks, machines surpass already what humans can accomplish in speed, precision, and even analytic deduction. The time is right to bring together humanistic ideals with critical thoughts about technological progress. We therefore link this manifesto to the intellectual tradition of humanism and similar movements striving for an enlightened humanity.

Like all technologies, digital technologies do not emerge from nowhere. They are shaped by implicit and explicit choices and thus incorporate a set of values, norms, economic interests, and assumptions about how the world around us is or should be. Many of these choices remain hidden in software programs implementing algorithms that remain invisible. In line with the renowned Vienna Circle and its contributions to modern thinking, we want to espouse critical rational reasoning and the interdisciplinarity needed to shape the future.

We must shape technologies in accordance with human values and peeds instead of allowing technologies to shape humans. Our teck is Konsole



🥹 Vienna Manifesto on Digital Huma... 👔 Konsole



A First Definition

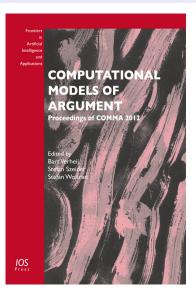
Argumentation is the study of processes "concerned with how assertions are proposed, discussed, and resolved in the context of issues upon which several diverging opinions may be held".

[Bench-Capon & Dunne: Argumentation in AI. Artif. Intell. 171:619-641, 2007]

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- Tasks: Decision Support/Making, Persuasion, Dialogues, Negotiation, Dialectical Reasoning, ...
- Challenges: inconsistency, inherently dynamic, empathy, strategic thinking, ...

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▶ Show full argument

Show full argument

Show full argument

Show full argument

▶ Show full argument

debate

So this is

arguments. ...

the

https://www.debate.org/debates/Nuclear-Power/1/ score -

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https://www.debate.org/debates/Nuclear-Power/5/ score -

https://www.debate.org/debates/Nuclear-power./1/ score -

https://www.debate.org/debates/Nuclear-power./1/ score -

Unfortunately, my opponent accidentally forfeited his...

Thanks to Smooosh for this debate. I will now present my ...

Thanks, bsh1! I apologize in advance for my delay. I have ...

Thanks for accepting the LonelyMoutain. I will be ...

▶ Show full argument

Thanks for accepting the LonelyMoutain. I will be presenting my arguments in this round. Good luck! This is the first time I did this topic, and I'm making this debate just to see if the

https://www.debate.org/debates/Nuclear-Power/7/ score -

Sorry for the incoherent nature of the opening statement...

Show full argument

Sorry for the incoherent nature of the opening statement i should have defined it as a look at large scale nuclear power station, as my primary example of nuclear power. In response to

https://www.debate.org/debates/Nuclear-Power/1/ score -

The primary intention of my argument, will be to convince...

▶ Show full argument

The primary intention of my argument, will be to convince the reader that nuclear energy is becoming obsolete. I hope to put nuclear energy in the same category as fossil fuels, and perhaps ...

https://www.debate.org/debates/Nuclear-Power/8/ score -

Thank You Mr President for an insightful look into the ...

Show full argument

Thank You Mr President for an insightful look into the "bennefits" of nuclear power. Now onto my rebuttal! Nuclear power is safe? I would have to consider the claim by my opponent that ...

https://www.debate.org/debates/Nuclear-Power/8/ score -

I would like to argue that Nuclear power as a technology

Show full argument I would like to argue that Nuclear power as a technology, which have been largely underated due to events such as Chernobyl, is detrimental to the environment more so than the danger radioactive ...

https://www.debate.org/debates/Nuclear-Power/1/ score -

For once, this is not impossible to accept. If you want ...

▶ Show full argument

Konsole

For once, this is not impossible to accept. If you want to accept, you can right now. I'm

XV xv 3.10a-20081216 <unregistered> XV xv controls

Thank you to my opponent spaceman for this debate. I will ...

Thanks for starting the debate off, TBR. I agree that we...

Show full argument

Thank you to my opponent spaceman for this debate. I will be debating the Con position of....well, I'm not quite sure. I'm going to use this round to untangle Pro's opening atatamant as

I will agree to my opponents wishes and confine my arguments to the subject of large scale

nuclear power facilities, but am still unclear as to his overall resolution. Even taking this ...

Thanks to Smooosh for this debate. I will now present my case.I. IntroPro is implicitly using

a cost-benefit analysis framework to analyze the arguments in this debate by appealing to

Thanks, bsh1! I apologize in advance for my delay. I have been extremely busy over this

Unfortunately, my opponent accidentally forfeited his final round. Yes, there's still Round 4,

but TBR and I agreed before the debate that he'd pass in Round 4, since he started the

Thanks for starting the debate off, TBR. I agree that we face some difficult energy

challenges, especially given the problem of climate change and looming carbon constraints.

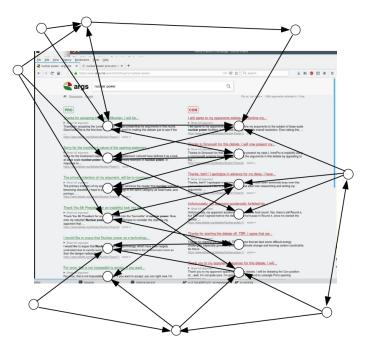
past weekend and I like to put a lot of time and effort into researching and writing my

Convincing? Not yet ...

- Further arguments might be needed to obtain a full picture
- Relation between arguments needs to be drawn on solid logical grounds
- Ultimately, this leads to a network of arguments instead of a simple list of pro and cons.

Convincing? Not yet ...

- Further arguments might be needed to obtain a full picture
- Relation between arguments needs to be drawn on solid logical grounds
- Ultimately, this leads to a network of arguments instead of a simple list of pro and cons.
- Desiderata:
- Evaluation: which arguments are jointly acceptable?
- Short response times
- Good visualisation required (avoid bias)



Outline

- Vision: Informed Citizens in a Web of Arguments
- The Gold Standard: Dung's Argumentation Frameworks
- Beyond Dung: Acceptance Problems from a Claim-Centric View
 - Argumentation and LP Revisited
 - Complexity
 - Preferences



On the acceptability of arguments and its fundamental role in nonmonotonic reasoning, logic programming and n-person games. Artif. Intell. 77(2):321-358, 1995.



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"The purpose of this paper is to study the fundamental mechanism, humans use in argumentation, and to explore ways to implement this mechanism on computers."



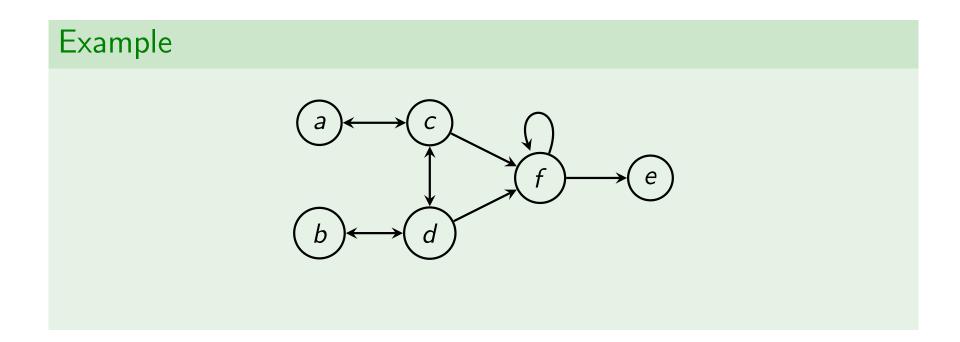
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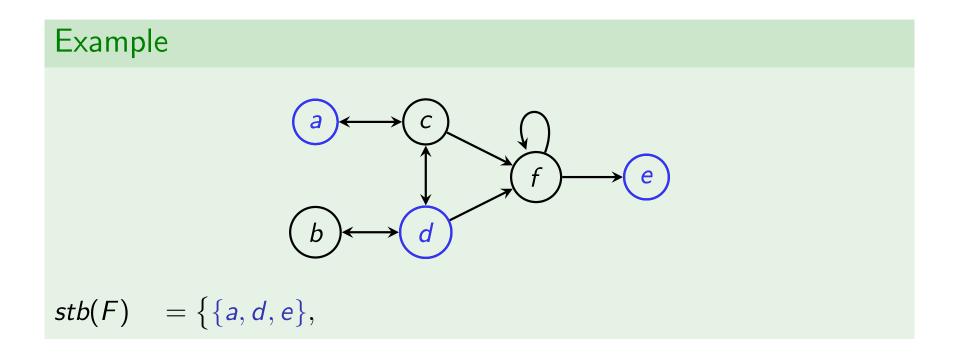
- "The purpose of this paper is to study the fundamental mechanism, humans use in argumentation, and to explore ways to implement this mechanism on computers."
- "The idea of argumentational reasoning is that a statement is believable if it can be argued successfully against <u>attacking</u> arguments."

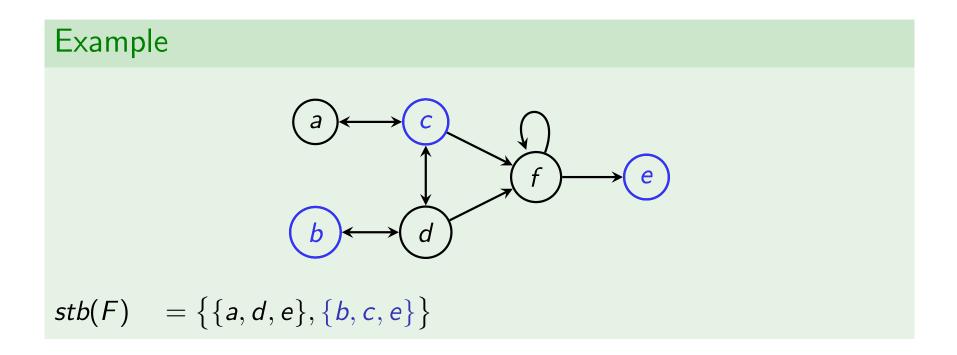


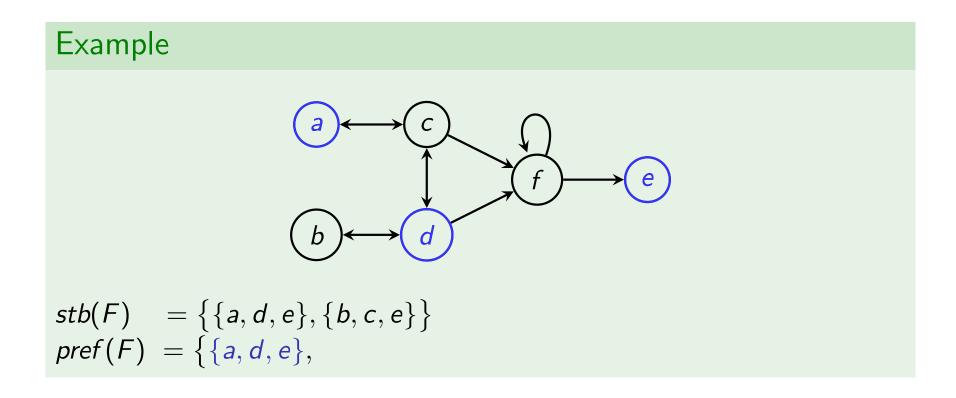
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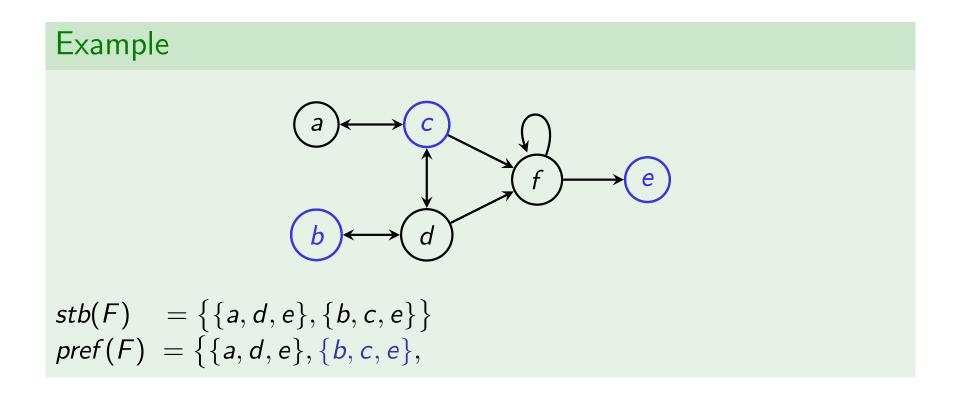
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- "The idea of argumentational reasoning is that a statement is believable if it can be argued successfully against <u>attacking</u> arguments."
- "[...] a formal, <u>abstract</u> but simple theory of argumentation is developed to capture the notion of <u>acceptability</u> of arguments."

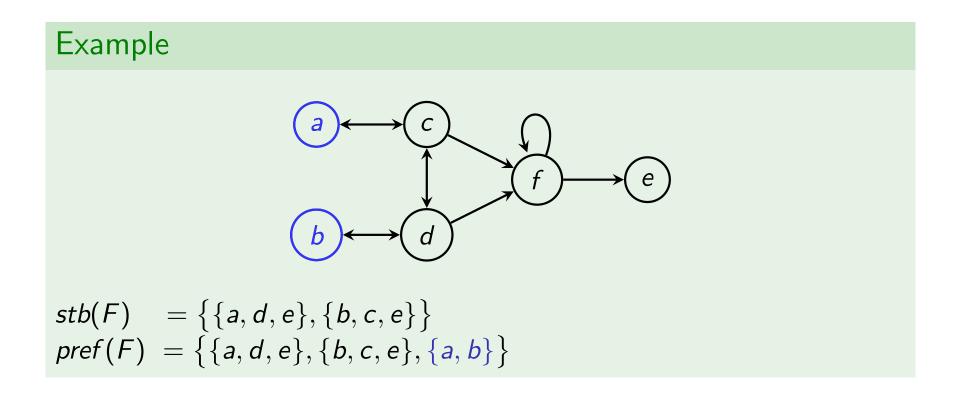












Complexity Results – Dung AFs

Basic Decision Problems:

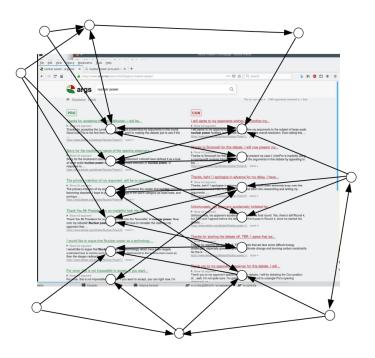
- Cred_{σ}: is an argument contained in some σ -extension?
- Skept_{σ}: is an argument contained in all σ -extensions?
- Ver_{σ} : is a set of arguments a σ -extension?

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Basic Decision Problems:

- Cred_{σ}: is an argument contained in some σ -extension?
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σ	$Cred_{\sigma}$	Skept_{σ}	Ver_{σ}
cf	in P	trivial	in P
naive	in P	in P	in P
grd	P-c	P-c	P-c
stb	NP-c	coNP-c	in P
adm	NP-c	trivial	in P
сотр	NP-c	P-c	in P
pref	NP-c	П ₂ ^P -с	coNP-c
sem	Σ_2^P -c	П ₂ ^P -с	coNP-c
stage	Σ_2^P -c	Π_2^P -c	coNP-c

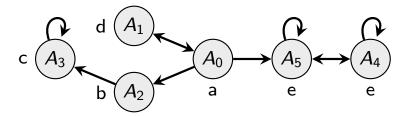


We observe a certain gap:

- Due to the abstraction, reasoning is solely based on argument names, rather than on their claims
- in fact, several arguments might have the same claim
- thus, checking whether a claim is supported by every possible extension is a different problem compared to checking whether an argument is contained in every possible extension
- we propose a shift from an argument-centric view to a claim-centric view

On the Relation of Logic Programming and Argumentation

 $r_0: a \leftarrow \text{not } d$ $r_1: d \leftarrow \text{not } a$ $r_2: b \leftarrow \text{not } a$ $r_3: c \leftarrow \text{not } c, \text{not } b$ $r_4: e \leftarrow \text{not } e$ $r_5: e \leftarrow \text{not } a, \text{not } e$ Logic Program P



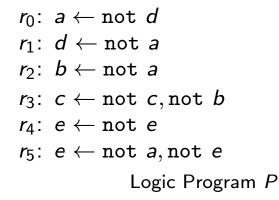
Resulting AF F (with claims)

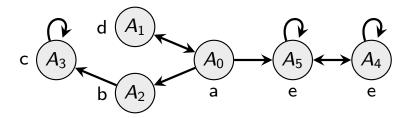
Translation from Logic Programs (LPs) to AFs (Caminada et al., 2015)

• Rule r_i corresponds to argument A_i , head of r_i gives claim of A_i

• A_i with claim c attacks A_j if not c appears in body of rule r_j

On the Relation of Logic Programming and Argumentation





Resulting AF F (with claims)

Translation from Logic Programs (LPs) to AFs (Caminada et al., 2015)

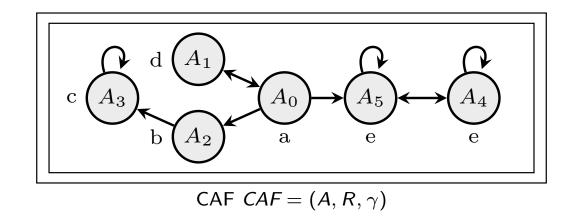
• Rule r_i corresponds to argument A_i , head of r_i gives claim of A_i

- A_i with claim c attacks A_j if not c appears in body of rule r_j
 - Many LP semantics expressible as AF semantics (e.g., stable semantics)
 - However, not every LP semantics is expressible as AF semantics as already observed by Caminada et al. (e.g., L-stable model semantics)

Argumentation Frameworks with Claims

Definition

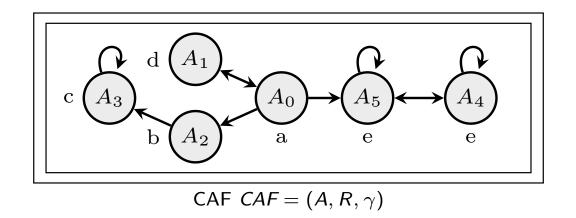
A Claim-augmented Argumentation Framework (CAF) is a triple (A, R, γ) where (A, R) is an AF and $\gamma : A \to C$ maps arguments to claims.



Argumentation Frameworks with Claims

Definition

A Claim-augmented Argumentation Framework (CAF) is a triple (A, R, γ) where (A, R) is an AF and $\gamma : A \to C$ maps arguments to claims.



Definition

A CAF (A, R, γ) is called well-formed if, for any a, b with $\gamma(a) = \gamma(b)$, $\{c \mid (a, c) \in R\} = \{c \mid (b, c) \in R\}.$

Definition

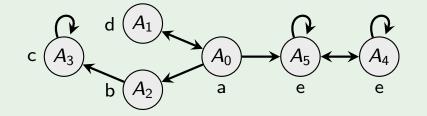
For a semantics σ , we define the inherited variant as follows:

$$\sigma_{c}((A, R, \gamma)) = \{\gamma(S) \mid S \in \sigma((A, R))\}.$$

(Given a set $S \subseteq A$ of arguments and $\gamma : A \rightarrow C$, let $\gamma(S) = \{\gamma(a) \mid a \in S\}$.)

Example (Semi-stable semantics)

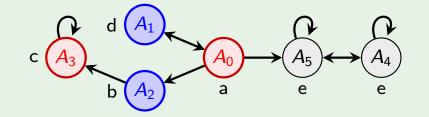
For AF (A, R), $S \subseteq A$, S^+ denotes the set of arguments attacked by S. S is **semi-stable** if S is conflict-free & defends itself (admissible) and there is no admissible set T with $S \cup S^+ \subset T \cup T^+$ (subset-maximal range)



Semi-stable extensions of (A, R): $sem((A, R)) = \{\{A_1, A_2\},\$

Example (Semi-stable semantics)

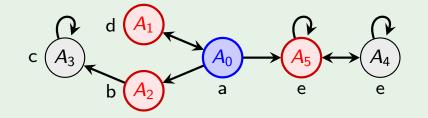
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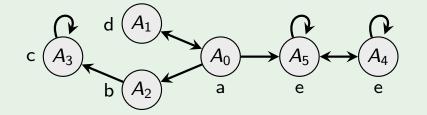
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Semi-stable extensions of (A, R): $sem((A, R)) = \{\{A_1, A_2\}, \{A_0\}\}$

• inherited semi-stable extensions: $sem_c(CAF) = \{\{b, d\}, \{a\}\}$

Claim-Level Semantics for CAFs (I)

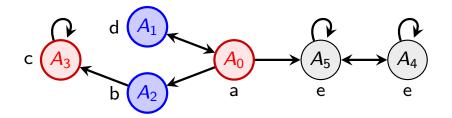
- **Idea:** Maximization on claim-level instead of argument-level
 - simple for, e.g., preferred semantics.
- Problem: Semi-stable requires maximization of range
 We introduce claim-defeat in order to maximize range of claim-sets

Claim-Level Semantics for CAFs (I)

- Idea: Maximization on claim-level instead of argument-level
 - simple for, e.g., preferred semantics.
- Problem: Semi-stable requires maximization of range \hookrightarrow We introduce claim-defeat in order to maximize range of claim-sets

Definition (Defeat of claims)

Let $CAF = (A, R, \gamma)$. $E \subseteq A$ defeats $c \in \gamma(A)$ if E attacks every $a \in A$ with $\gamma(a) = c$. $dis_{CAF}(E)$ denotes the set of all defeated claims of E.

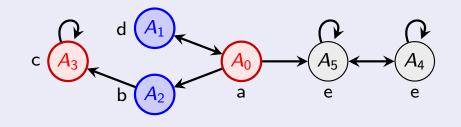


- defeated claims of {b, d}: a, c
 range of {b, d}: {a, b, c, d}

Claim-Level Semantics for CAFs (II)

Definition (cl-semi-stable semantics)

Let $CAF = (A, R, \gamma)$. $S \subseteq \gamma(A)$ is a cl-semi-stable claim-set if there is an admissible set of arguments $E \subseteq A$ with $\gamma(E) = S$ such that there is no admissible set of arguments $G \subseteq A$ with $S \cup dis_{CAF}(E) \subset \gamma(G) \cup dis_{CAF}(G)$.

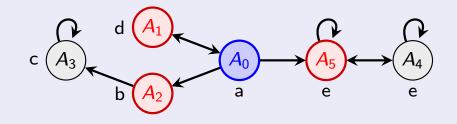


• range of {*b*, *d*}: {*a*, *b*, *c*, *d*}

Claim-Level Semantics for CAFs (II)

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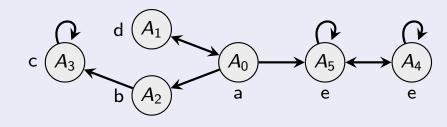


- range of $\{b, d\}$: $\{a, b, c, d\}$
- range of {a}: {a, b, d}

Claim-Level Semantics for CAFs (II)

Definition (cl-semi-stable semantics)

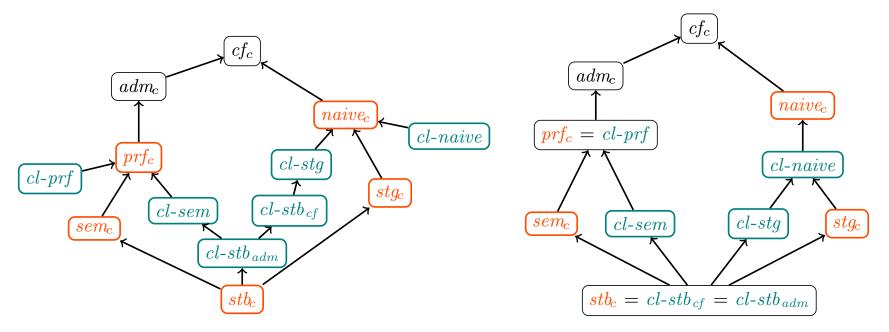
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- range of $\{b, d\}$: $\{a, b, c, d\}$
- range of {*a*}: {*a*, *b*, *d*}

■ Range of $\{a\}$ is not subset-maximal \hookrightarrow Unique cl-semi-stable claim-set of *CAF* is $\{b, d\}$.

Relations between Semantics



Relations between semantics for CAFs

Relations for well-formed CAFs

An arrow from σ to τ indicates $\sigma(CAF) \subseteq \tau(CAF)$ for every CAF CAF.

Wolfgang Dvorák, Anna Rapberger, Stefan Woltran: Argumentation Semantics under a Claim-centric View: Properties, Expressiveness and Relation to SETAFs. KR 2020: 341-350

Complexity Results – General CAFs

Decision Problems Reformulated:

- Cred_{σ}: is a claim contained in some σ -extension?
- Skept_{σ}: is a claim contained in all σ -extensions?
- Ver_{σ} : is a set of claims a σ -extension?

Complexity Results, Inherited Semantics

σ	$Cred_{\sigma}$	Skept_{σ}	Ver_{σ}
cf	in P	trivial	NP-c
naive	in P	coNP-c	NP-c
grd	P-c	P-c	P-c
stb	NP-c	coNP-c	NP-c
adm	NP-c	trivial	NP-c
сотр	NP-c	P-c	NP-c
pref	NP-c	П ₂ ^P -с	Σ ₂ ^P -c
sem	Σ_2^P -c	П ₂ ^P -с	Σ ₂ ^P -c
stage	Σ_2^P -c	Π_2^P -c	Σ ₂ ^P -c

Results that deviate from the corresponding results for AFs are highlighted in bold-face.

Complexity Results - Exemplary Proof

Theorem

Ver_{stb} is NP-complete.

Complexity Results - Exemplary Proof

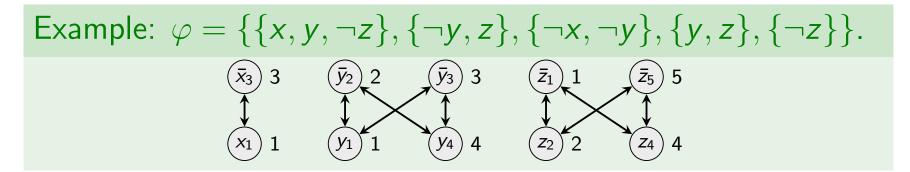
Theorem

*Ver*_{stb} *is NP*-complete.

Proof Sketch (Hardness). We reduce from 3-SAT. Let φ be given as set $CI = \{cI_1, \ldots, cI_m\}$ of clauses over atoms X. We construct a CAF $CAF = (A, R, \gamma)$ with the arguments given by the two sets $V = \{x_i \mid x \in X, x \in cI_i\}$ and $\overline{V} = \{\overline{x}_i \mid x \in X, \neg x \in cI_i\}$:

$$A = V \cup \overline{V}$$
 $R = \{(x_i, \overline{x}_j), (\overline{x}_j, x_i) \mid x_i \in V, \overline{x}_j \in \overline{V}\}$
 $\gamma(x_i) = i \text{ for } x_i \in V \text{ and } \gamma(\overline{x}_i) = i \text{ for } \overline{x}_i \in \overline{V}.$

It holds that φ is satisfiable iff $\{1, \ldots, m\}$ is stable.



Complexity Results, Claim-based Semantics

σ	Cred_{σ}	Skept_{σ}	$V\!er_\sigma$
cl-stb _{adm}	NP-c	coNP-c	NP-c
cl-stb _{cf}	NP-c	coNP-c	NP-c
cl-prf	NP-c	Π_2^P -c	DР- с
cl-naive	in P	П 2 ⁻ с	DP- c
cl-sem	Σ_2^P -c	$\overline{\Pi_2^P}$ -c	Σ ₂ ^P -c
cl-stg	$\Sigma_2^{\overline{P}}$ -c	$\Pi_2^{\overline{P}}$ -c	Σ ₂ ^P -c

Results that deviate from the corresponding AF results are in bold-face; results that deviate from those w.r.t. inherited semantics are underlined.

Complexity Results – Well-formed CAFs

For the important class of well-formed CAFs, complexity drops back on AF level for most cases.

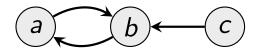
Exceptions:

- Skeptical acceptance for naive semantics remains coNP-complete (for both variants)
- Some deviations for restricted graph classes

Wolfgang Dvorák, Alexander Greßler, Anna Rapberger, Stefan Woltran: The Complexity Landscape of Claim-Augmented Argumentation Frameworks. AAAI 2021: 6296-6303.

• A Preference-based AF^1 is a triple (A, R, \succ) .

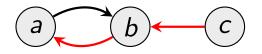
- If $x \succ y$ then x is stronger than y.
- Critical attack: $x \succ y$ but $(y, x) \in R$.



Example PAF with $a \succ b$ and $b \succ c$

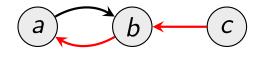
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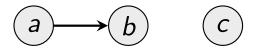


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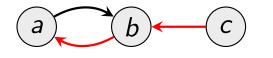


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Example PAF with a \succ b and b \succ c
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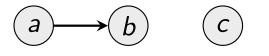


Reduction 1 (deletion)

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Example PAF with $a \succ b$ and $b \succ c$

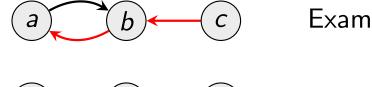


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Reduction 1 (deletion)

Reduction 2 (reversal)

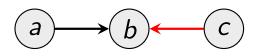
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Example PAF with $a \succ b$ and $b \succ c$



b C Redu



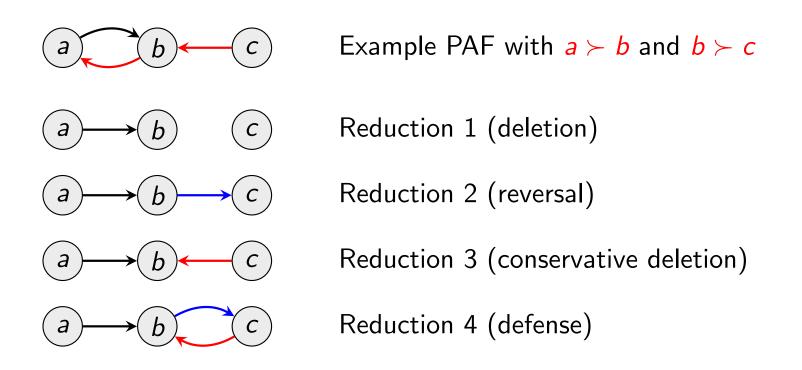
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Reduction 1 (deletion)
```

Reduction 2 (reversal)

Reduction 3 (conservative deletion)

- A Preference-based AF^1 is a triple (A, R, \succ) .
 - If $x \succ y$ then x is stronger than y.
 - Critical attack: $x \succ y$ but $(y, x) \in R$.



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	naive	stb	pref	sem	stage
CAF	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
wfCAF	x	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark

Benefits of well-formedness

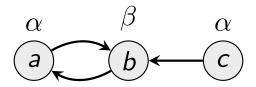
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	naive	stb	pref	sem	stage
CAF	X	Х	Х	Х	Х
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 Complexity of verification ... given a CAF F and a set of claims C, is C a σ-extension of F?

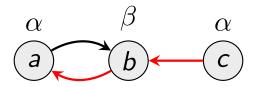
σ	CAF	wfCAF
cf/adm/naive/stb/comp	NP-c	in P
pref / sem / stage	Σ_2^P -c	coNP-c

• A PCAF is a quadruple (A, R, γ, \succ) such that (A, R, γ) is a well-formed CAF and (A, R, \succ) is a PAF.



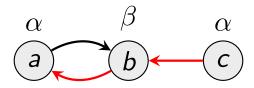
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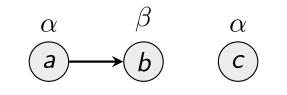
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Example PCAF P with $a \succ b$ and $b \succ c$

• Let $\mathcal{R}_i(P)$ be the result of applying Reduction *i* to a PCAF *P*.



 $\mathcal{R}_1(P)$ for above example PCAF

Four new CAF classes
$$(i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\})$$
:

$$\mathcal{R}_i$$
-**CAF** = { $\mathcal{R}_i(P) \mid P$ is a PCAF}

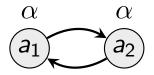
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Four new CAF classes
$$(i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\})$$
:

 \mathcal{R}_i -**CAF** = { $\mathcal{R}_i(P) \mid P$ is a PCAF}

■ Is every CAF in *R_i*-**CAF**? No!

• The following CAF is in none of the four classes:



For all $i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$: wfCAF $\subset \mathcal{R}_i$ -CAF \subset CAF.

Proposition

For all $i \in \{1, 2, 4\}$ and all $j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ such that $i \neq j$ it holds that \mathcal{R}_i -CAF $\not\subseteq \mathcal{R}_j$ -CAF and \mathcal{R}_3 -CAF $\subset \mathcal{R}_i$ -CAF.

I-maximality in PCAFs

Recall: a semantics σ preserves I-maximality if for σ -extensions S, T we have that $S \subseteq T$ implies S = T.

I-maximality in PCAFs

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- Results for PCAFs:

	naive	stb	pref	sem	stage
$\mathcal{R}_{1,2,4}$	X	Х	Х	X	X
\mathcal{R}_3	X	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	X

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$\mathcal{R}_{1,2,4}$	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
\mathcal{R}_3	X	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	X

- Reduction 3 is the most conservative of the reductions:
 - conflicts are never completely deleted;
 - no new attacks are introduced.

Recall the verification problem: given a PCAF P and a set of claims C, is C a σ -extension of P?

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сотр	NP-c	NP-c	in P
pref/sem/stage	Σ_2^P -c	coNP-c	coNP-c

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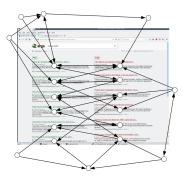
Reductions 2 and 4 do not remove conflicts, but can introduce new attacks.

So far, results only for inherited CAF semantics ...

Michael Bernreiter, Wolfgang Dvorák, Anna Rapberger, Stefan Woltran: The Effect of Preferences in Abstract Argumentation Under a Claim-Centric View. NMR'22.

Summary

Formulated a vision towards a Web of Arguments



- Proposal for a core formalism to evaluate a network of arguments under a claim-centric view (CAFs)
 - Different definition of semantics
 - Complexity issues (verification becomes harder for general CAFs)
 - Effect of preferences