

# Justification Logic

Thomas Studer

Institute of Computer Science  
University of Bern, Switzerland

Various Aspects of Modality  
Isfahan  
May, 2016

Modal logic adds a new connective  $\Box$  to the language of logic.

## Two traditions:

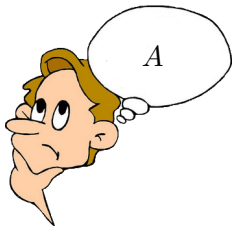
Epistemic logic:

$\Box A$  means  $A$  is known / believed

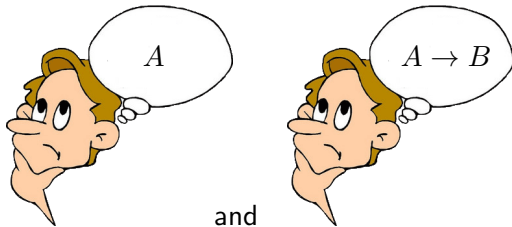
Proof theory:

$\Box A$  means  $A$  is provable in system  $S$

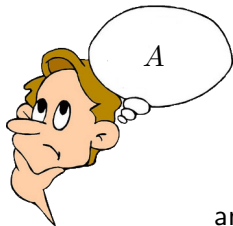
# Modal Logic: How It Works



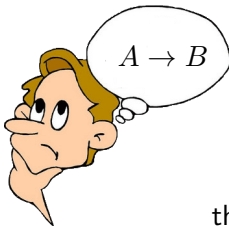
# Modal Logic: How It Works



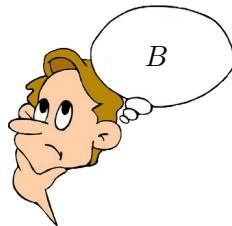
# Modal Logic: How It Works



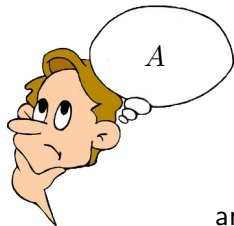
and



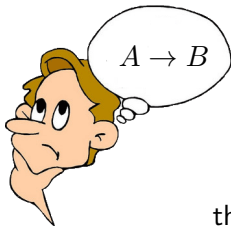
thus



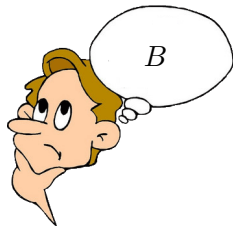
# Modal Logic: How It Works



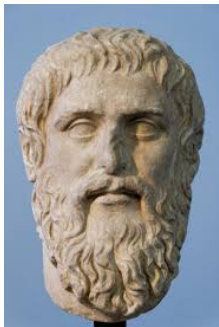
and



thus



$$\Box A \wedge \Box(A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow \Box B$$



**Plato:**

**Knowledge is justified true belief**

True belief is modeled by  $\Box A \rightarrow A$  but

where are the justifications in modal logic?

# Problems: Proof-Theoretic Tradition

$\Box \perp \rightarrow \perp$  is an axiom, which means

$\neg \Box \perp$  is provable. Hence, by necessitation

$\Box \neg \Box \perp$  is provable.



# Problems: Proof-Theoretic Tradition

$\Box \perp \rightarrow \perp$  is an axiom, which means  
 $\neg \Box \perp$  is provable. Hence, by necessitation  
 $\Box \neg \Box \perp$  is provable.

$\Box \perp$  means  $S$  proves  $\perp$ .  
 $\neg \Box \perp$  means  $S$  does not prove  $\perp$ , that is  
 $\neg \Box \perp$  means  $S$  is consistent.  
 $\Box \neg \Box \perp$  means  $S$  proves that  $S$  is consistent.

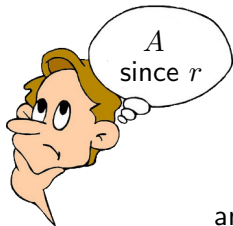
# Problems: Proof-Theoretic Tradition

$\Box \perp \rightarrow \perp$  is an axiom, which means  
 $\neg \Box \perp$  is provable. Hence, by necessitation  
 $\Box \neg \Box \perp$  is provable.

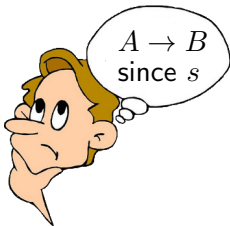
$\Box \perp$  means  $S$  proves  $\perp$ .  
 $\neg \Box \perp$  means  $S$  does not prove  $\perp$ , that is  
 $\neg \Box \perp$  means  $S$  is consistent.  
 $\Box \neg \Box \perp$  means  $S$  proves that  $S$  is consistent.

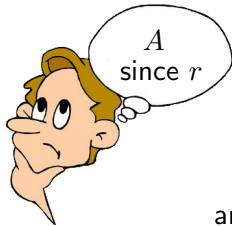
Gödel: if  $S$  has a certain strength, it cannot prove its own consistency.



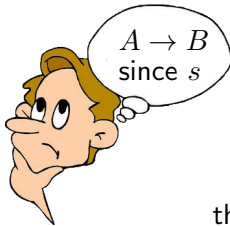


and

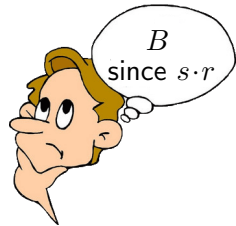


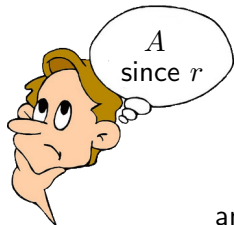


and

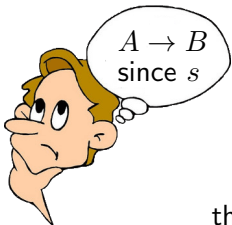


thus

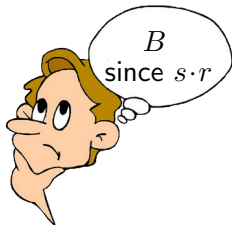




and



thus



$$r:A \quad \wedge \quad s:(A \rightarrow B) \quad \rightarrow \quad s \cdot r:B$$

# Syntax of the Logic of Proofs

## Logic

The logic of proofs  $LP_{CS}$  is the justification counterpart of the modal logic S4.

## Justification terms $T_m$

$$t ::= x \mid c \mid (t \cdot t) \mid (t + t) \mid !t$$

## Formulas $\mathcal{L}_j$

$$A ::= p \mid \neg A \mid (A \rightarrow A) \mid t:A$$

- all propositional tautologies
- $t:(A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow (s:A \rightarrow (t \cdot s):B)$  (J)
- $t:A \rightarrow (t + s):A, \quad s:A \rightarrow (t + s):A$  (+)
- $t:A \rightarrow A$  (jt)
- $t:A \rightarrow !t:t:A$  (j4)



## Constant specification

A constant specification CS is any subset

$$CS \subseteq \{(c, A) \mid c \text{ is a constant and } A \text{ is an axiom}\}.$$

The deductive system  $LP_{CS}$  consists of the above axioms and the rules of modus ponens and axiom necessitation.

$$\frac{A \quad A \rightarrow B}{B}$$

$$\frac{(c, A) \in CS}{c:A}$$

## Definition

A constant specification CS for LP is called *axiomatically appropriate* if for each axiom  $F$  of LP, there is a constant  $c$  such that  $(c, F) \in CS$ .

## Lemma (Constructive Necessitation)

Let CS be an axiomatically appropriate constant specification. For any formula  $A$ , if

$$LP_{CS} \vdash A,$$

then

$$LP_{CS} \vdash t:A$$

for some term  $t$ .

## Definition (Forgetful projection)

The mapping  $\circ$  from justified formulas to modal formulas is defined as follows

- 1  $P^\circ := P$  for  $P$  atomic;
- 2  $(\neg A)^\circ := \neg A^\circ$ ;
- 3  $(A \rightarrow B)^\circ := A^\circ \rightarrow B^\circ$ ;
- 4  $(t:A)^\circ := \Box A^\circ$ .

## Lemma (Forgetful projection)

For any constant specification  $CS$  and any formula  $F$  we have

$$LP_{CS} \vdash F \quad \text{implies} \quad S4 \vdash F^\circ .$$

## Definition (Realization)

A *realization* is a mapping  $r$  from modal formulas to justified formulas such that  $(r(A))^{\circ} = A$ .

## Definition

We say a justification logic  $LP_{CS}$  *realizes* S4 if there is a realization  $r$  such that for any formula  $A$  we have

$$S4 \vdash A \quad \text{implies} \quad LP_{CS} \vdash r(A) .$$

## Definition (Schematic CS)

We say that a constant specification is *schematic* if it satisfies the following: for each constant  $c$ , the set of axioms  $\{A \mid (c, A) \in \text{CS}\}$  consists of all instances of one or several (possibly zero) axiom schemes of LP.

## Theorem (Realization)

*Let CS be an axiomatically appropriate and schematic constant specification. There exists a realization  $r$  such that for all formulas  $A$*

$$\text{S4} \vdash A \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \text{LP}_{\text{CS}} \vdash r(A) .$$

## Definition (Self-referential CS)

A constant specification CS is called *self-referential* if  $(c, A) \in \text{CS}$  for some axiom  $A$  that contains at least one occurrence of the constant  $c$ .

S4 and  $\text{LP}_{\text{CS}}$  describe self-referential knowledge. That means if  $\text{LP}_{\text{CS}}$  realizes S4 for some constant specification CS, then that constant specification must be self-referential.

## Lemma

Consider the S4-theorem  $G := \neg \Box((P \rightarrow \Box P) \rightarrow \perp)$  and let  $F$  be any realization of  $G$ .

If  $\text{LP}_{\text{CS}} \vdash F$ , then CS must be self-referential.

Originally,  $LP_{CS}$  was developed to provide classical provability semantics for intuitionistic logic.

**Arithmetical Semantics for  $LP_{CS}$ :** Justification terms are interpreted as proofs in Peano arithmetic and operations on terms correspond to computable operations on proofs in PA.

Int  $\xrightarrow{\text{Gödel}}$  S4  $\xrightarrow{\text{Realization}}$  JL  $\xrightarrow{\text{Arithm. sem.}}$  CL + proofs

## Definition (Basic Evaluation)

A *basic evaluation*  $*$  for  $\text{LP}_{\text{CS}}$  is a function:

$*$  :  $\text{Prop} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  and  $*$  :  $\text{Tm} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{L}_j)$ , such that

- 1  $F \in (s \cdot t)^*$  if  $(G \rightarrow F) \in s^*$  and  $G \in t^*$  for some  $G$
- 2  $F \in (s + t)^*$  if  $F \in s^*$  or  $F \in t^*$
- 3  $F \in t^*$  if  $(t, F) \in \text{CS}$
- 4  $s:F \in (!s)^*$  if  $F \in s^*$



## Definition (Quasimodel)

A *quasimodel* is a tuple  $\mathcal{M} = (W, R, *)$  where  $W \neq \emptyset$ ,  $R \subseteq W \times W$ , and the *evaluation*  $*$  maps each world  $w \in W$  to a basic evaluation  $*_w$ .

## Definition (Truth in quasimodels)

$\mathcal{M}, w \Vdash p$  if and only if  $p_w^* = 1$  for  $p \in \text{Prop}$ ;

$\mathcal{M}, w \Vdash F \rightarrow G$  if and only if  $\mathcal{M}, w \not\Vdash F$  or  $\mathcal{M}, w \Vdash G$ ;

$\mathcal{M}, w \Vdash \neg F$  if and only if  $\mathcal{M}, w \not\Vdash F$ ;

$\mathcal{M}, w \Vdash t:F$  if and only if  $F \in t_w^*$ .

Given  $\mathcal{M} = (W, R, *)$  and  $w \in W$ , we define

$$\Box_w := \{F \in \mathcal{L}_j \mid \mathcal{M}, v \Vdash F \text{ whenever } R(w, v)\} .$$

## Definition (Modular Model)

A *modular model*  $\mathcal{M} = (W, R, *)$  is a quasimodel with

- 1  $t_w^* \subseteq \Box_w$  for all  $t \in \text{Tm}$  and  $w \in W$ ; (JYB)
- 2  $R$  is reflexive;
- 3  $R$  is transitive.

## Theorem (Soundness and Completeness)

For all formulas  $F \in \mathcal{L}_j$ ,

$$\text{LP}_{\text{CS}} \vdash F \quad \iff \quad \mathcal{M} \Vdash F \text{ for all modular models } \mathcal{M}.$$

In modal logic, decidability is a consequence of the finite model property. For  $LP_{CS}$  the situation is more complicated since CS usually is infinite.

## Theorem

*$LP_{CS}$  is decidable for decidable schematic constant specifications CS.*

A decidable CS is not enough:

## Theorem

*There exists a decidable constant specification CS such that  $LP_{CS}$  is undecidable.*

## Theorem

*Let CS be a schematic constant specification.*

*The problem whether  $LP_{CS} \vdash t:B$  belongs to NP.*

## Theorem

Let  $CS$  be a schematic constant specification.  
The problem whether  $LP_{CS} \vdash t:B$  belongs to  $NP$ .

## Definition

A constant specification is called *schematically injective* if it is schematic and each constant justifies no more than one axiom scheme.

## Theorem

Let  $CS$  be a schematically injective and axiomatically appropriate constant specification.  
The derivability problem for  $LP_{CS}$  is  $\Pi_2^p$ -complete.

Modal logic of knowledge contains the epistemic closure principle in the form of axiom

$$\Box(A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow (\Box A \rightarrow \Box B) ,$$

which yields an unrealistic feature called *logical omniscience* whereby an agent knows all logical consequences of her assumptions.

## Definition

A *proof system* for a logic  $L$  is a binary relation  $E \subset \Sigma^* \times L$  between words in some alphabet, called proofs, and theorems of  $L$  such that

- 1  $E$  is computable in polynomial time and
- 2 for all formulas  $F$ ,  $L \vdash F$  if and only if there exists  $y$  with  $E(y, F)$ .

Knowledge assertion  $A$  is a provable formula of the form

$$\Box B \text{ for S4} \quad \text{or} \quad t:B \text{ for LP}_{CS}$$

with the object of knowledge function  $\text{OK}(A) := B$ .

## Definition (Logical Omniscience Test (LOT))

An proof system  $E$  for an epistemic logic  $L$  is *not logically omniscient*, or *passes LOT*, if there exists a polynomial  $P$  such that for any knowledge assertion  $A$ , there is a proof of  $\text{OK}(A)$  in  $E$  with the size bounded by  $P(\text{size}(A))$ .

Theorem (S4 is logically omniscient)

*There is no proof system for S4 that passes LOT unless  $NP=PSPACE$ .*

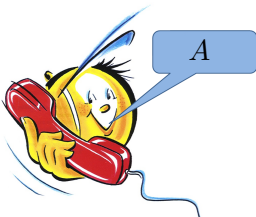
Theorem ( $LP_{CS}$  is not logically omniscient)

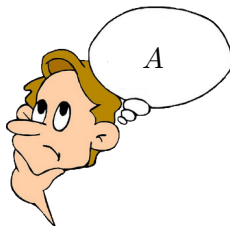
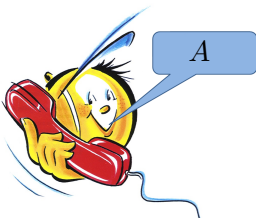
*Let CS be a schematic constant specification. There is a proof system for  $LP_{CS}$  that passes LOT.*

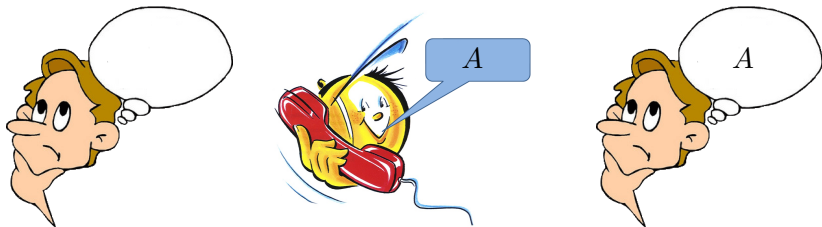




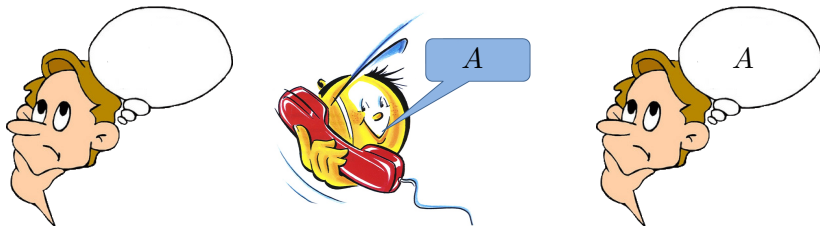








After the announcement of  $A$ , the agent believes  $A$ , i.e.  $[A]\Box A$



After the announcement of  $A$ , the agent believes  $A$ , i.e.  $[A]\Box A$

## Problem

The  $\Box$ -operator does not tell us whether  $A$  is believed because of the announcement or whether  $A$  is believed independent of it.

## Fundamental principle

After the announcement of  $A$ ,  
the announcement itself justifies the agent's belief in  $A$ .

## Fundamental principle

After the announcement of  $A$ ,  
the announcement itself justifies the agent's belief in  $A$ .

For each formula  $A$  we add a new justification term  $up(A)$ .

Some axioms of JUP:

- Success:  $[A] up(A):A$



## Fundamental principle

After the announcement of  $A$ ,  
the announcement itself justifies the agent's belief in  $A$ .

For each formula  $A$  we add a new justification term  $up(A)$ .

Some axioms of JUP:

- Success:  $[A] up(A):A$
- Persistence:  $t:B \rightarrow [A]t:B$ .
- Reduction axioms
- Minimal change
- Iterated updates

## Lemma (Minimal change)

*Let  $t$  be a term that does not contain  $up(A)$  as a subterm. Then*

$$JUP_{CS} \vdash [A]t:B \leftrightarrow t:B .$$

## Lemma (Minimal change)

*Let  $t$  be a term that does not contain  $\text{up}(A)$  as a subterm. Then*

$$JUP_{CS} \vdash [A]t:B \leftrightarrow t:B .$$

## Lemma (Ramsey I)

$$JUP_{CS} \vdash t:(A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow [A](t \cdot \text{up}(A)):B.$$

## Lemma (Ramsey II)

*Let  $CS$  be an axiomatically appropriate constant specification. For each term  $t$  there exists a term  $s$  such that*

$$JUP_{CS} \vdash [A]t:B \rightarrow s:(A \rightarrow B) .$$

Thank you!



Sergei N. Artemov. Explicit provability and constructive semantics. *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic*, 7(1):1-36, 2001.

Sergei [N.] Artemov. The logic of justification. *The Review of Symbolic Logic*, 1(4):477-513, 2008.

Sergei [N.] Artemov and Roman Kuznets. Logical omniscience as infeasibility. *Annals of Pure and Applied Logic*, 165(1):6-25, 2014.

Samuel Bucheli, Roman Kuznets, and Thomas Studer. Realizing public announcements by justifications. *Journal of Computer and System Sciences*, 80(6):1046-1066, 2014.

Melvin Fitting. The logic of proofs, semantically. *Annals of Pure and Applied Logic*, 132(1):1-25, 2005.

Ioannis Kokkinis, Petar Maksimović, Zoran Ognjanović, and Thomas Studer. First steps towards probabilistic justification logic. *Logic Journal of IGPL*, 23(4):662-687, 2015.

Roman Kuznets. Complexity Issues in Justification Logic. PhD thesis, City University of New York, 2008.

Roman Kuznets and Thomas Studer. Justifications, ontology, and conservativity. In T. Bolander, T. Braüner, S. Ghilardi, and L. Moss, editors, *Advances in Modal Logic*, Volume 9, pages 437-458. College Publications, 2012.

Roman Kuznets and Thomas Studer. Update as evidence: Belief expansion. In S. Artemov and A. Nerode, editors, *Logical Foundations of Computer Science 2013*, volume 7734 of LNCS, pages 266-279. Springer, 2013.

Roman Kuznets and Thomas Studer. Weak arithmetical interpretations for the logic of proofs. *Logic Journal of IGPL*, 24(3):424-440, 2016.

Thomas Studer. Decidability for some justification logics with negative introspection. *Journal of Symbolic Logic*, 78(2):388-402, 2013.