

**Nonmonotonic consequence relations**

**Question 1** Look again at the earlier exercise sheet *Consequence relations*. Solutions to those exercises were handed out. Many of those questions did not assume that the consequence relations referred to were monotonic.

**Question 2**

Show that the following hold for any supraclassical cumulative operator  $Cn$ .

( $Cn$  is cumulative when  $A \subseteq B \subseteq Cn(A)$  implies  $Cn(B) = Cn(A)$ .)

- i)  $Th(Cn(A)) = Cn(A)$
- ii) If  $B \subseteq Cn(A)$  then  $Th(B) \subseteq Cn(A)$ .  
(Or equivalently, if  $B \subseteq Cn(A)$  and  $C \subseteq Th(B)$  then  $C \subseteq Cn(A)$ .)
- iii) If  $\{canary, \neg(yellow \wedge blue)\} \sim yellow$  then  $\{canary, \neg(yellow \wedge blue)\} \sim \neg blue$   
(where  $A \sim \alpha$  iff  $\alpha \in Cn(A)$ ).

PS: Make sure you understand why part (ii) can say 'Or equivalently ...'.

**Question 3** Check that the following set of default rules

$$\frac{a:}{c} \quad \frac{: \neg b}{a} \quad \frac{c: \neg a}{b}$$

provides an example to show that cautious monotony does not hold for (sceptical, cautious) Reiter default logic.

In other words: suppose  $(D, W)$  is a Reiter default theory.

Let  $Cn_D$  be the consequence operator corresponding to the 'sceptical' or 'cautious' consequences of  $W$  under the default rules  $D$ : that is,  $\alpha$  is in  $Cn_D(W)$  iff  $\alpha$  is in the intersection of all the extensions of the default theory  $(D, W)$ .

Let  $W \sim_D \alpha$  be shorthand for  $\alpha \in Cn_D(W)$ .

Now suppose  $D$  is the set of default rules above. Find formulas  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  (and a set of formulas  $W$ ) such that  $W \sim_D \alpha$  and  $W \sim_D \beta$  but  $W \cup \{\beta\} \not\sim_D \alpha$ .

(Construct the extensions.)

Because of the relationship between logic programs and Reiter default theories, you can, if you prefer, consider the following logic program instead:

```
a ← not b
c ← a
b ← c, not a
```

**Question 4**

Let  $Cn_D(W)$  and  $W \sim_D \alpha$  be as in the previous question.

Show each of the following, for any sets of formulas  $A$  and  $B$ :

- i)  $A \subseteq Cn_D(A)$
- ii) When  $A \subseteq B \subseteq Cn_D(A)$ , if  $E$  is an extension of  $(D, A)$  then  $E$  is an extension of  $(D, B)$ .
- iii) From part (ii), it follows that  $Cn_D$  satisfies the following property 'cumulative transitivity':

$$\text{If } A \subseteq B \subseteq Cn_D(A) \text{ then } Cn_D(B) \subseteq Cn_D(A)$$

(Part(i) is very easy. Part (ii) is quite hard, but not if you keep a clear head. Part (iii) follows from part (ii) quite easily.)

## Nonmonotonic consequence relations

## SOLUTIONS

**Question 1** (Handed out with earlier sheet)

**Question 2**

i) One half:  $\text{Cn}(A) \subseteq \text{Th}(\text{Cn}(A))$  (inclusion Th).

For the other half:

$\text{Cn}$  is cumulative (given) so  $A \subseteq \text{Cn}(A) \subseteq \text{Cn}(A)$  implies  $\text{Cn}(\text{Cn}(A)) \subseteq \text{Cn}(A)$ .

$\text{Cn}$  is supraclassical (given) so we have:

$\text{Th}(\text{Cn}(A)) \subseteq \text{Cn}(\text{Cn}(A)) \subseteq \text{Cn}(A)$ .

ii)  $B \subseteq \text{Cn}(A) \Rightarrow \text{Th}(B) \subseteq \text{Th}(\text{Cn}(A))$  (Th monot.)

$\text{Th}(\text{Cn}(A)) \subseteq \text{Cn}(A)$  (proved above).

So:  $B \subseteq \text{Cn}(A) \Rightarrow \text{Th}(B) \subseteq \text{Th}(\text{Cn}(A)) \subseteq \text{Cn}(A)$ .

PS:  $B \subseteq \text{Cn}(A) \Rightarrow \text{Th}(B) \subseteq \text{Cn}(A)$  is equivalently stated as

if  $B \subseteq \text{Cn}(A)$  and  $C \subseteq \text{Th}(B)$  then  $C \subseteq \text{Cn}(A)$

You might find this easier to read when written like this:

$$A \vdash B \text{ and } B \vdash C \text{ implies } A \vdash C$$

There is nothing deep here.

'If  $P$  and  $Q$  then  $R$ ' is equivalent to 'if  $P$  then (if  $Q$  then  $R$ )'.

For any sets  $A$  and  $B$ ,  $X \subseteq A \Rightarrow X \subseteq B$  for any  $X$  is equivalent to saying  $A \subseteq B$ .

iii) This just applies the previous part and inclusion of  $\text{Cn}$ .

$\{\text{canary}, \neg(\text{yellow} \wedge \text{blue})\} \vdash \text{yellow}$  (given).

$\{\text{yellow}\} \subseteq \text{Cn}(\{\text{canary}, \neg(\text{yellow} \wedge \text{blue})\})$

$\{\text{canary}, \neg(\text{yellow} \wedge \text{blue})\} \vdash \neg(\text{yellow} \wedge \text{blue})$  (because  $A \subseteq \text{Cn}(A)$ )

$\{\neg(\text{yellow} \wedge \text{blue})\} \subseteq \text{Cn}(\{\text{canary}, \neg(\text{yellow} \wedge \text{blue})\})$ .

So:

$\{\text{yellow}, \neg(\text{yellow} \wedge \text{blue})\} \subseteq \text{Cn}(\{\text{canary}, \neg(\text{yellow} \wedge \text{blue})\})$

Now just apply part (ii):

$\{\neg\text{blue}\} \subseteq \text{Th}(\{\text{yellow}, \neg(\text{yellow} \wedge \text{blue})\})$

So:

$\{\neg\text{blue}\} \subseteq \text{Cn}(\{\text{canary}, \neg(\text{yellow} \wedge \text{blue})\})$

$\{\text{canary}, \neg(\text{yellow} \wedge \text{blue})\} \vdash \neg\text{blue}$ .

**Question 3**

Let  $D = \left\{ \frac{a}{c}, \frac{\neg b}{a}, \frac{c}{b} \right\}$ ,  $W = \emptyset$ .

The default theory  $(D, \emptyset)$  has one extension:  $\text{Th}(\{a, c\})$ .

(And since the extension is unique,  $\emptyset \sim_D c$ .)

$(D, \{c\})$  has two extensions:  $\text{Th}(\{a, c\})$  and  $\text{Th}(\{b, c\})$ .

$a$  which was in the unique extension of  $(D, \emptyset)$  is not in the intersection of these two.

In terms of the logic program: the original program obtained by translating  $(D, \emptyset)$  has one stable model (answer set)  $\{a, c\}$ . (I found this by trying all the possible interpretations. I couldn't see a quicker way to do it.)

Add  $c \leftarrow$ . Now we get two stable models (answer sets):  $\{a, c\}$  and  $\{b, c\}$ .

**Question 4**

Part (i) is easy.  $A$  is a subset of every extension of  $(D, A)$  by definition, so  $A \in \bigcap \text{ext}(D, A)$ .

Part (ii). (Actually the essence of the argument is in Question 6 of the exercise sheet on default logic. Anyway, here it is again.)

Suppose  $A \subseteq B \subseteq \bigcap \text{ext}(D, A)$ . Suppose  $E \in \text{ext}(D, A)$ . Then by definition  $E = \text{Cn}_{DE}(A)$ .

We need to show  $E \in \text{ext}(D, B)$ , i.e.,  $E = \text{Cn}_{DE}(B)$ . Equivalently  $\text{Cn}_{DE}(A) = \text{Cn}_{DE}(B)$ .

We do it in two separate parts.

$\text{Cn}_{DE}$  is monotonic so  $A \subseteq B$  implies  $\text{Cn}_{DE}(A) \subseteq \text{Cn}_{DE}(B)$ .

It just remains to show  $\text{Cn}_{DE}(B) \subseteq \text{Cn}_{DE}(A)$ .

First, notice that  $B \subseteq E$  (because  $B \subseteq \text{Cn}_D(A)$  (assumed) means that  $B$  is a subset of all extensions of  $(D, A)$ , and  $E$  is one such).

$\text{Cn}_{DE}$  is monotonic so we have:

$\text{Cn}_{DE}(B) \subseteq \text{Cn}_{DE}(E) = \text{Cn}_{DE}(\text{Cn}_{DE}(A)) \subseteq \text{Cn}_{DE}(A)$ .

Given part (ii), part (iii) is also easy. Part (ii) is equivalently stated as

$$A \subseteq B \subseteq \text{Cn}_D(A) \Rightarrow \text{ext}(D, A) \subseteq \text{ext}(D, B)$$

So when  $A \subseteq B \subseteq \text{Cn}_D(A)$ ,  $\bigcap \text{ext}(D, B) \subseteq \bigcap \text{ext}(D, A)$ .

Or in words: Suppose  $A \subseteq B \subseteq \text{Cn}_D(A)$ . Suppose  $\alpha \in \text{Cn}_D(B)$ . Then  $\alpha$  is in every extension of  $(D, B)$ .

Now suppose  $E$  is some extension of  $(D, A)$ . Then  $E$  is also an extension of  $(D, B)$  by part(ii). But  $\alpha$  is in all extensions of  $(D, B)$ , so  $\alpha$  is also in  $E$ .