

# Cautious distributed belief

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# Introduction

## Outline:

- Introduction and motivation
- Definitions and example
- Some results
- Expressivity and bisimulation
- Conclusion

# The idea

- Epistemic logic and distributed knowledge
- Distributed belief and inconsistent information
- Restricting the information combination?
- Evidence logics<sup>1</sup>: quantifying over maximal consistent evidence sets.
- “Cautious” distributed belief: quantifying over maximal consistent groups.

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<sup>1</sup>Johan van Benthem and Eric Pacuit. “Dynamic Logics of Evidence-Based Beliefs”. In: *Studia Logica* 99.1 (2011), pp. 61–92. ISSN: 00393215, 15728730. DOI: [10.1007/s11225-011-9347-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11225-011-9347-x).

## Related work

- Explicit beliefs and (consistent) distributed belief.<sup>2</sup>
- Distributed belief fusion.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Andreas Herzig et al. “A Logic of Explicit and Implicit Distributed Belief”. In: [ECAI 2020 - 24th European Conference on Artificial Intelligence](#). Vol. 325. *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence and Applications*. IOS Press, 2020, pp. 753–760. DOI: 10.3233/FAIA200163.

<sup>3</sup>Churn-Jung Lian. “A conservative approach to distributed belief fusion”. In: [Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Information Fusion](#). Vol. 1. 2000, MOD4/3–MOD410 vol.1. DOI: 10.1109/IFIC.2000.862649. 

# Definitions

## The models

- $A = \{a, b, \dots\}$ ,  $P = \{p, q, \dots\}$ .
- Belief model: tuple  $\mathcal{M} = \langle W, R, \nu \rangle$ ,  
Pointed belief model: pair  $(\mathcal{M}, s)$ .
- Conjecture set:  $C_a(s) := \{s' \in W \mid sR_a s'\}$  (for  $a \in A$ ).
- Combined conjecture set:  $C_G(s) := \bigcap_{a \in G} C_a(s)$  (for  $G \subseteq A$ ).

## Individual belief and standard distributed belief

$$\mathcal{M}, s \models B_a \varphi \quad \text{iff} \quad \forall s' \in C_a(s): \mathcal{M}, s' \models \varphi,$$

$$\mathcal{M}, s \models D_G \varphi \quad \text{iff} \quad \forall s' \in C_G(s): \mathcal{M}, s' \models \varphi,$$

# Definitions

## Maximal consistency

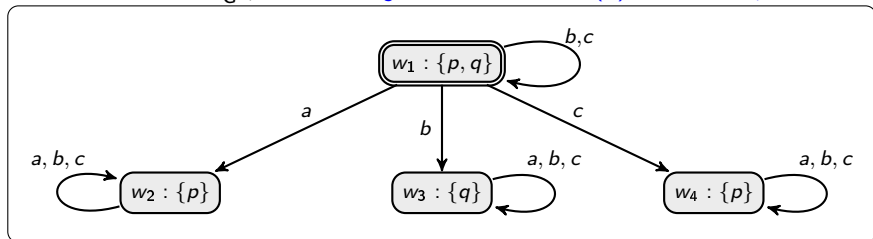
- Consistency (relative to a world): a group  $G \subseteq A$  is consistent at the world  $s$  if and only if  $C_G(s) \neq \emptyset$ .
- Maximal consistency: a non-empty subgroup  $G'$  of  $G \subseteq A$  is maximal consistent w.r.t  $G$  at  $s$  if and only if it is consistent and for every  $G' \subset H \subseteq G$ ,  $H$  is inconsistent. In symbols:  $G' \subseteq_s^{\max} G$ .

**Definition 1 (Cautious distributed belief)** Let  $(\mathcal{M}, s)$  be a pointed belief model with  $\mathcal{M} = \langle W, R, v \rangle$ ; take  $a \in A$  and a non-empty  $G \subseteq A$ . Then,

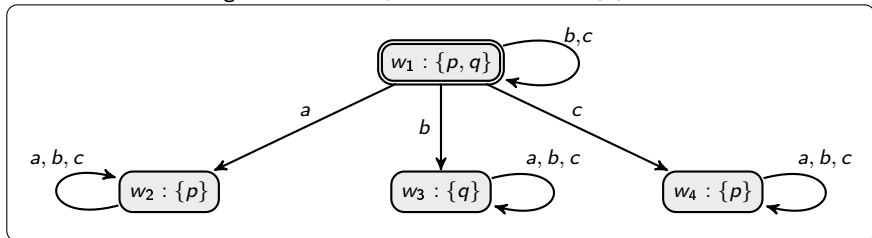
$$\mathcal{M}, s \models D_G^\forall \varphi \quad \text{iff} \quad \forall G' \subseteq_s^{\max} G, \forall s' \in C_{G'}(s): \mathcal{M}, s' \models \varphi. \quad \blacktriangleleft$$

- $R_G^\forall ss'$  iff  $\exists G' \subseteq_s^{\max} G$  such that  $s' \in C_{G'}(s)$ .

$\mathcal{M}, s \models D_G^\forall \varphi$  iff  $\forall G' \subseteq_s^{\max} G, \forall s' \in C_{G'}(s): \mathcal{M}, s' \models \varphi$ .



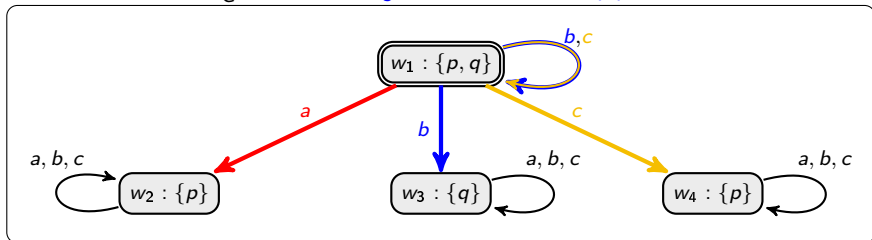
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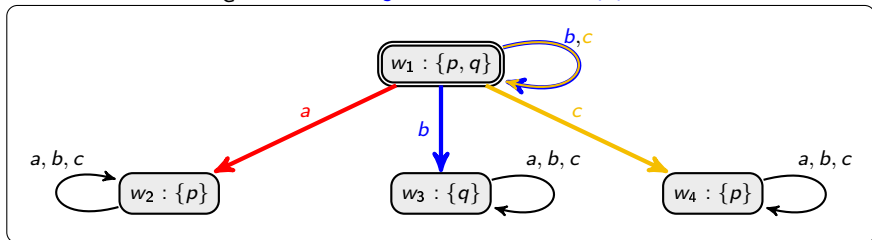
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$G = \{a, b, c\}$ :

$C_a(w_1) = \{w_2\}$ ,  $C_b(w_1) = \{w_1, w_3\}$ ,  $C_c(w_1) = \{w_1, w_4\}$

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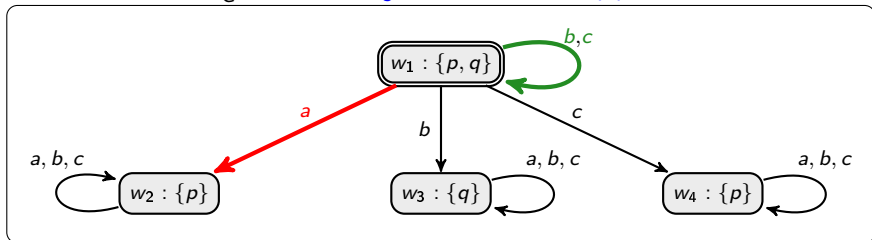


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- $\mathcal{M}, w_1 \models B_{ap} \wedge B_{a\neg q}$ ,  $\mathcal{M}, w_1 \models B_b q$ ,  $\mathcal{M}, w_1 \models B_c p$ .

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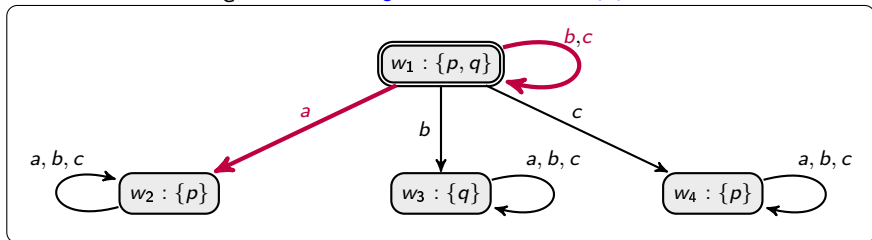
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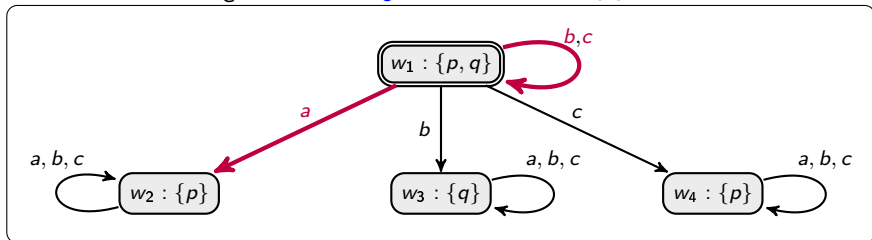
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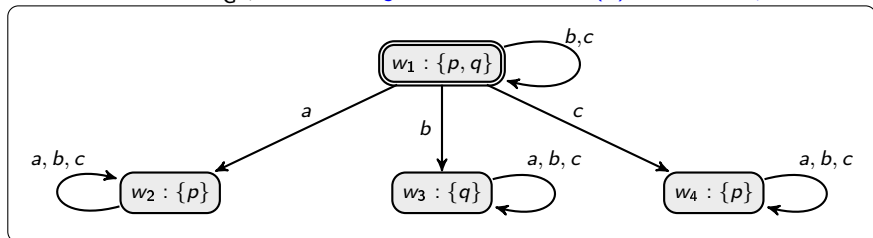
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- $\mathcal{M}, w_1 \models D_G^\forall p$ ,  $\mathcal{M}, w_1 \models \neg D_G^\forall q$

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- $\mathcal{M}, w_1 \models D_G^\forall p$ ,  $\mathcal{M}, w_1 \models \neg D_G^\forall q$
- $\mathcal{M}, w_1 \models D_G p \wedge D_G q$ , but also  $\mathcal{M}, w_1 \models D_G \perp$ .

# Some results

- Consistent if some agent is consistent:

$$\models D_G^{\forall} \perp \leftrightarrow \bigwedge_{a \in G} B_a \perp$$

- Equivalent to standard distributed belief on the class of reflexive models (**T**):

$$\mathbf{T} \models D_G^{\forall} \varphi \leftrightarrow D_G \varphi.$$

- Inheriting relational properties from individual relations (section 3).
- Standard distributed belief is strictly more expressive than cautious distributed belief (section 4).

# Cautious and standard distributed belief

- $\mathcal{L}_D$  vs  $\mathcal{L}_{D^\forall}$ .
- Cautious distributed belief definable using standard distributed belief:

$$\models D_G^\forall \varphi \leftrightarrow \bigwedge_{G' \subseteq G} \left( (\neg D_{G'} \perp \wedge \bigwedge_{G' \subset H \subseteq G} D_H \perp) \rightarrow D_{G'} \varphi \right).$$

Thus,  $\mathcal{L}_{D^\forall} \preceq \mathcal{L}_D$ .

- $\mathcal{L}_D \preceq \mathcal{L}_{D^\forall}$ ?
- Bisimulation to capture modal equivalence for  $\mathcal{L}_{D^\forall}$ .

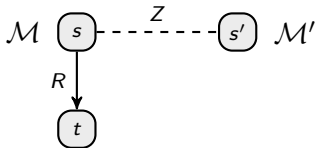


# Cautious collective bisimulation

- Bisimulation: standard notion to semantically capture modal equivalence.
- Relation  $Z$  between (points in) models, satisfying conditions **Atom**, **Forth** and **Back**.

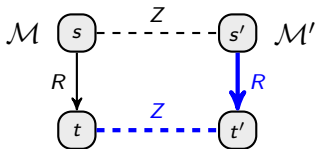
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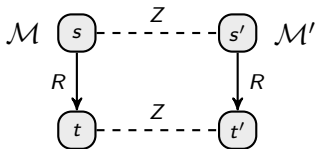
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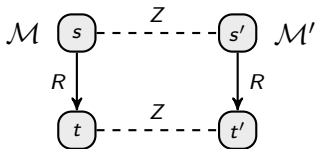
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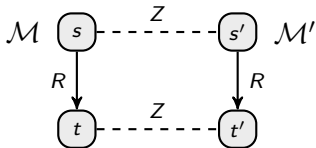
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- Collective cautious bisimilarity:  
**Forth** If  $Zss'$ , then  $\forall G \subseteq A, \forall t \in D(\mathcal{M})$ :  
 $sR_G^\forall t \Rightarrow \exists t': s'R_G^\forall t'$  and  $Ztt'$ .

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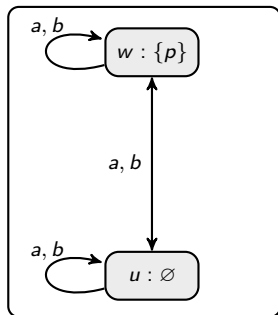
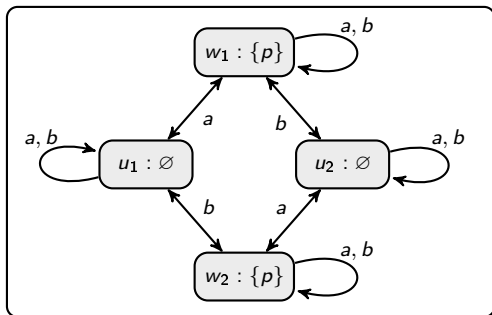


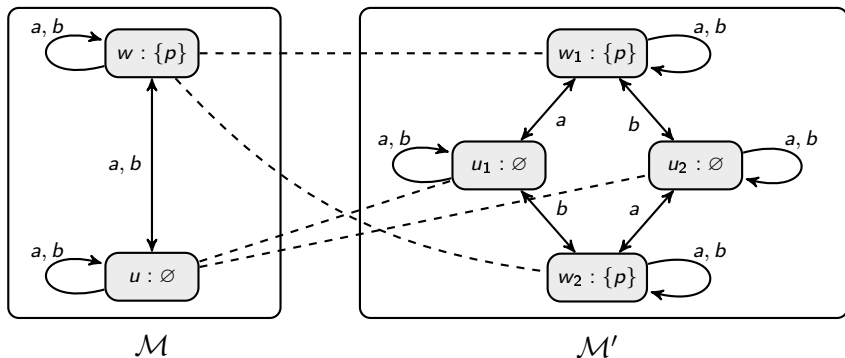
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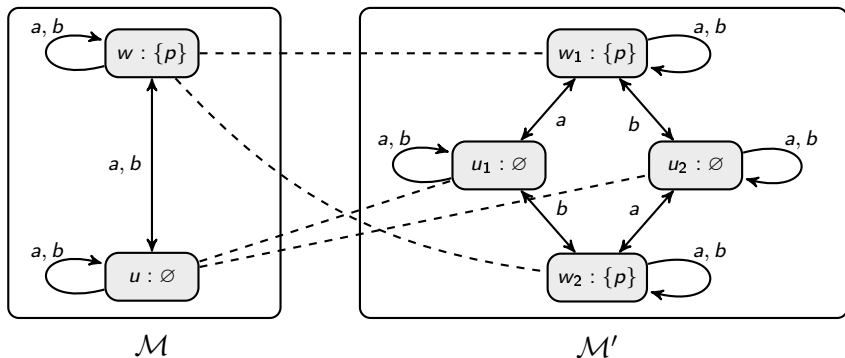
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$\exists H \subseteq_s^{\max} G : t \in C_H(s) \Rightarrow \exists H' \subseteq_{s'}^{\max} G, \exists t' \in C_{H'}(s')$  and  $Ztt'$ .

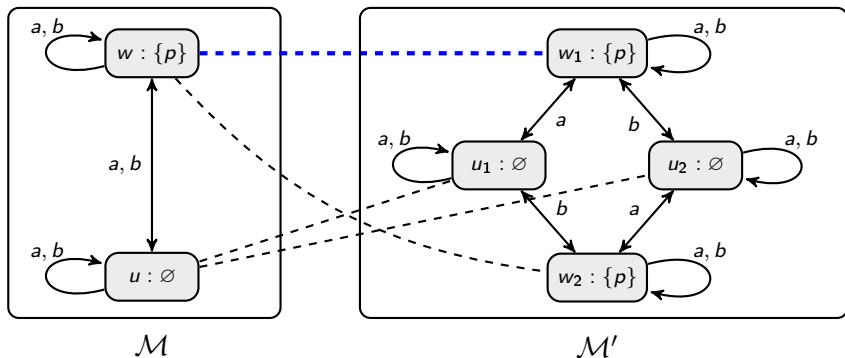
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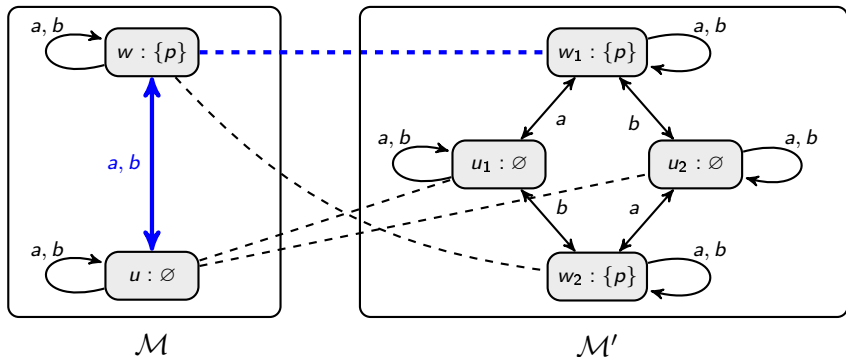




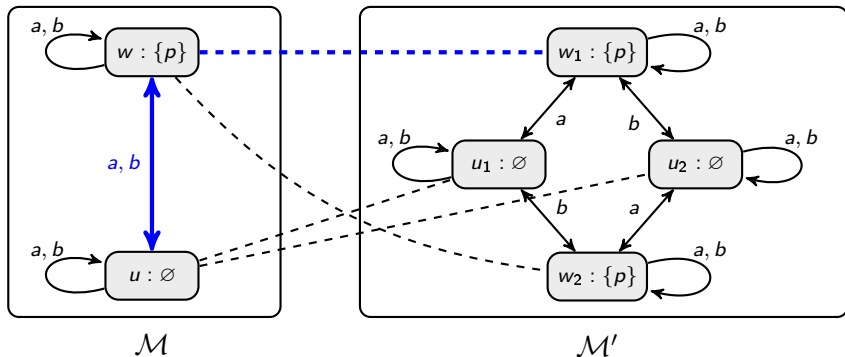
- Forth.** If  $Zss'$ , then  $\forall G \subseteq A, \forall t \in D(\mathcal{M})$ :  
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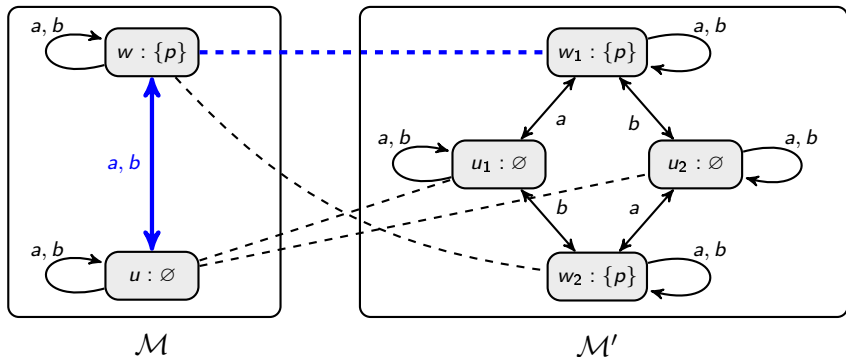
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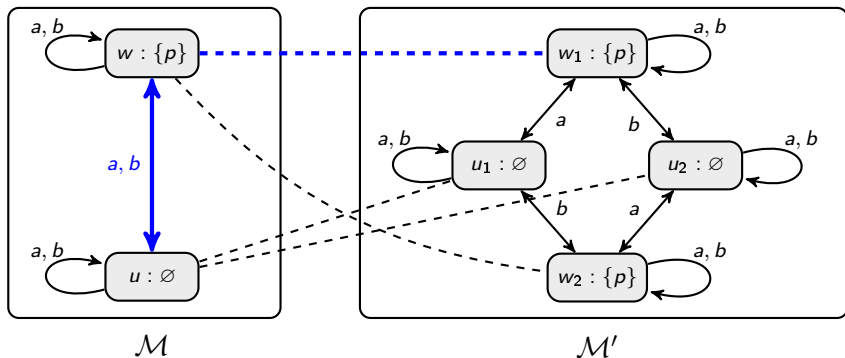
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- $\{a, b\} \subseteq_w^{\max} \{a, b\}$  and  $u \in C_{\{a,b\}}(w)$ .



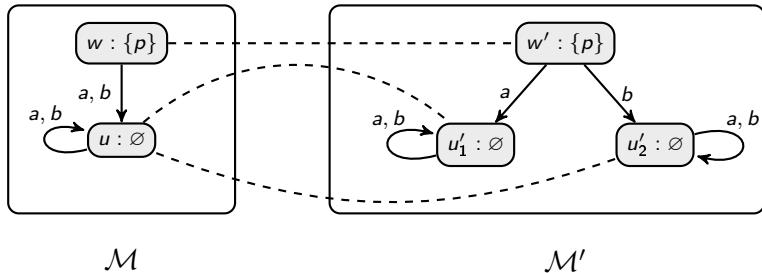
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- However,  $\{a, b\} \subseteq_{w_1}^{\max} \{a, b\}$  (alone), and  $C_{\{a,b\}}(w_1) = \{w_1\}$ .

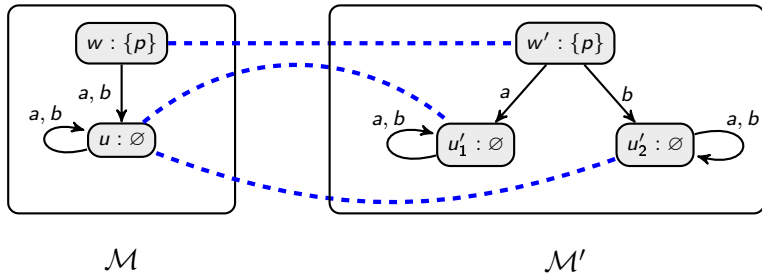


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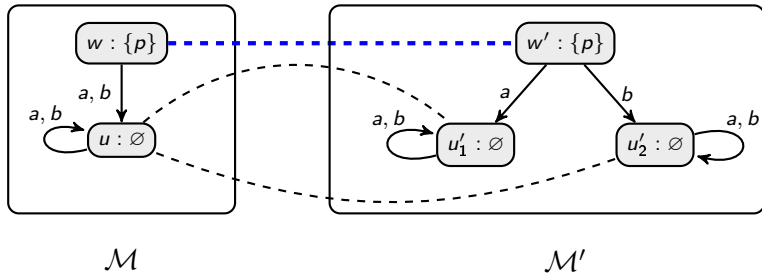


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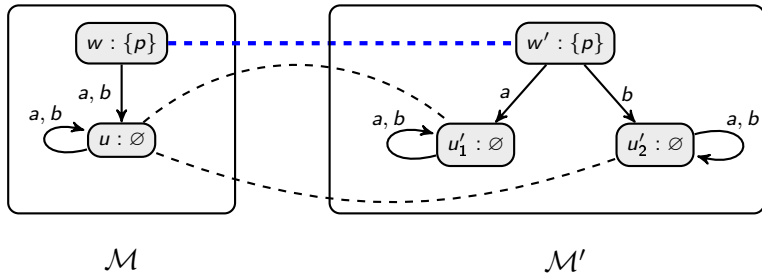




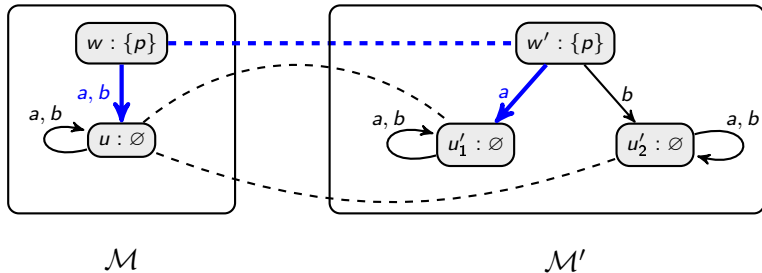




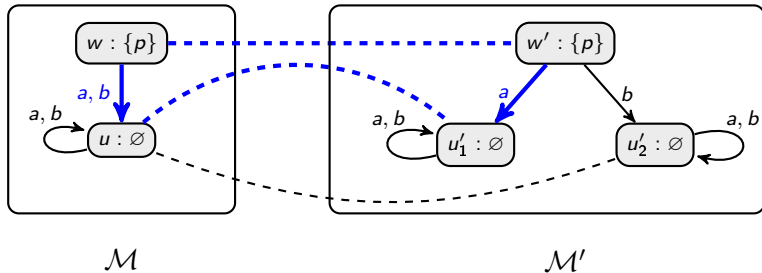
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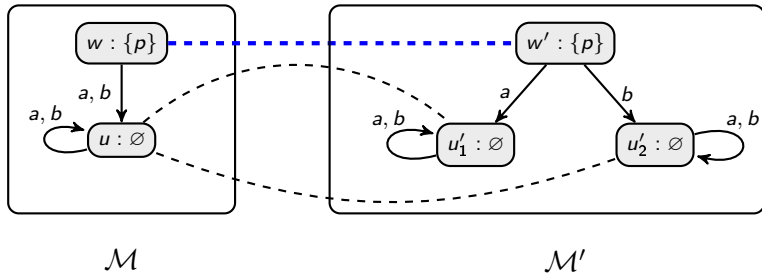
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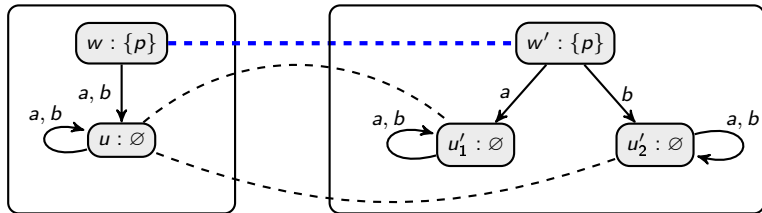
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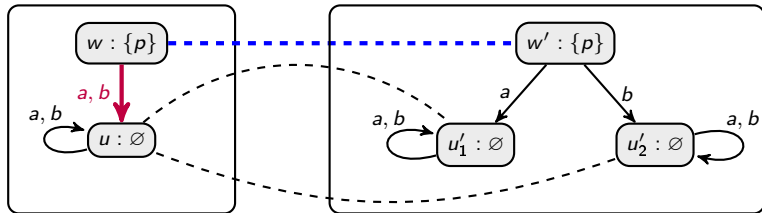
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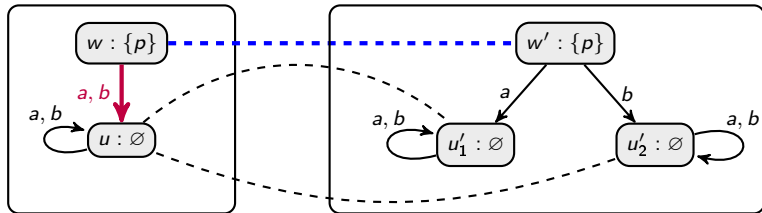
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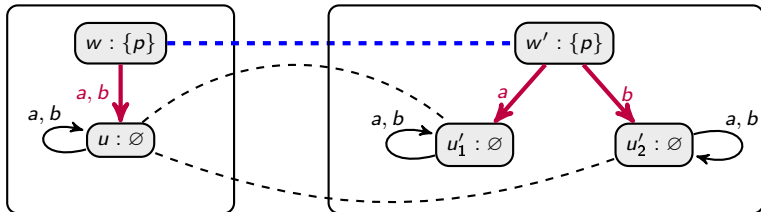
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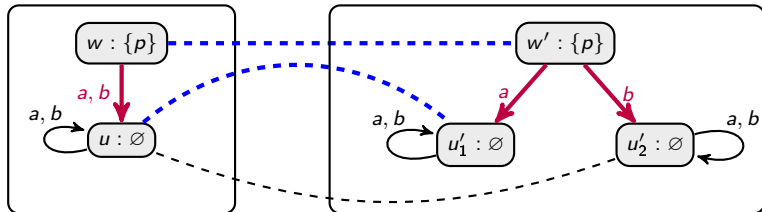
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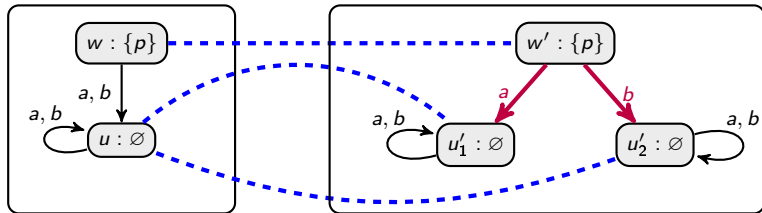


 $\mathcal{M}$  $\mathcal{M}'$ 

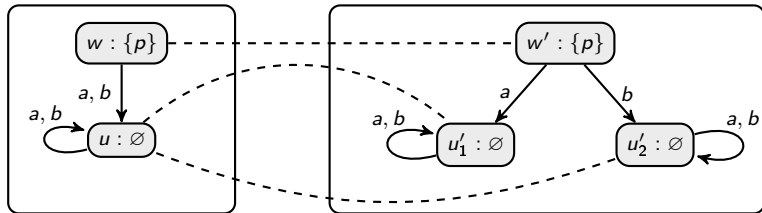
- $(w, w')$ .
- $G = \{a\}$ :  $C_a(w) = \{u\}$ ,  $C_a(w') = \{u'_1\}$  and  $Zuu'_1$ .
- $G = \{a, b\}$ :  $G \subseteq_w^{\max} G$ ,  $C_G(w) = \{u\}$ .  $\{a\} \subseteq_{w'}^{\max} G$  and  $\{b\} \subseteq_w^{\max} G$ .  $C_a(w') \cup C_b(w') = \{u'_1, u'_2\}$ .  
 $Zuu'_1$  and  $Zuu'_2$ .

 $\mathcal{M}$  $\mathcal{M}'$ 

- $(w, w')$ .
- $G = \{a\}$ :  $C_a(w) = \{u\}$ ,  $C_a(w') = \{u_1'\}$  and  $Zuu_1'$ .
- $G = \{a, b\}$ :  $G \subseteq_w^{\max} G$ ,  $C_G(w) = \{u\}$ .  $\{a\} \subseteq_{w'}^{\max} G$  and  $\{b\} \subseteq_{w'}^{\max} G$ .  $C_a(w') \cup C_b(w') = \{u_1', u_2'\}$ .  
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 $\mathcal{M}$  $\mathcal{M}'$ 

- $(w, w')$ .
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- $(w, w')$ .
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- Note:  $\mathcal{M}, w \not\models D_{\{a,b\}} \perp$  and  $\mathcal{M}', w' \models D_{\{a,b\}} \perp$ .

# The difference in expressivity

**Corollary 2**  $\mathcal{L}_D$  is strictly more expressive than  $\mathcal{L}_{D^\forall}$  (symbols:  $\mathcal{L}_{D^\forall} \prec \mathcal{L}_D$ ).

- Adding an inconsistency constant:

$$\mathcal{M}, s \models \asymp_G \quad \text{iff} \quad C_G(s) = \emptyset.$$

- Standard distributed belief is definable in terms of  $\mathcal{L}_{D^\forall, \asymp}$ :

$$\models D_G \varphi \leftrightarrow (\asymp_G \vee D_G^\forall \varphi).$$

**Proposition 7**  $\mathcal{L}_{D^\forall, \asymp}$  and  $\mathcal{L}_D$  are equally expressive (symbols:  $\mathcal{L}_{D^\forall, \asymp} \approx \mathcal{L}_D$ ).

# Summing up

- Introducing cautious distributed belief.
- Comparing with individual and standard distributed belief.
- Relational properties.
- Expressivity and bisimulation.

# Conclusion

Future work:

- Axiomatising  $\mathcal{L}_{D^\forall}$ ?
- “Bold” distributed belief.
- Resolving cautious distributed belief.