# Public Announcement Logic with Misinterpretations

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# Misinterpretations: Ambiguity

Two agents, Ann and Bob, are betting on a coin flip. They use a Dutch 1 euro coin.







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On the one hand, Ann, who is familiar with euro coins, correctly interprets the sentence that the coin lands heads (H) as H and the sentence that the coin lands tails (T) as T. On the other hand, Bob, who has never seen a euro coin before, misinterprets the sentences H and T, by interpreting Has T and T as H.

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After observing that the coin lands on its heads, Ann believes that H is true, while Bob believes that T is true.

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# The Unfamiliar Coin: via an Action model



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# The Unfamiliar Coin: via an Action model



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# The Unfamiliar Coin: Our Approach



- A syntactical approach to model misinterpretations.
- Agent-relative interpretation functions  $\lambda_i$ :

$$\lambda_{Ann}(H)=H$$
 but  $\lambda_{Bob}(H)=T$ 

# Formal Definitions: Syntax

- At: a CI set of atomic propositions
- Lit = At  $\cup \{\overline{p} \mid p \in At\}$
- $\bullet$  The propositional language  $\mathcal{L}_0$  for At:

$$\alpha ::= p \mid \overline{p} \mid \bot \mid \top \mid (\alpha \land \alpha) \mid (\alpha \lor \alpha)$$

where  $p, \overline{p} \in \text{Lit}$ .

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# Formal Definitions: Agent-relative interpretation $\lambda_i$

• Given a set of agents G, for all  $i \in G$ ,

$$\lambda_i : \mathsf{Lit} \to \mathcal{L} \cup \{\mathsf{I}\}$$

with  $I \notin At$  being a special symbol for 'ignored', and  $\lambda_i(p) = p$  iff  $\lambda_i(\overline{p}) = \overline{p}$  and  $\lambda_i(p) = I$  iff  $\lambda_i(\overline{p}) = I$ .

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• Lifting  $\lambda_i$  to all formulas of  $\mathcal{L}_0$ :

$$\begin{split} \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(p) &= \lambda_{i}(p) \\ \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\overline{p}) &= \lambda_{i}(\overline{p}) \end{split} \qquad \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\varphi \wedge \psi) = \begin{cases} \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\varphi) & \text{if } \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\psi) = 1 \\ \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\psi) & \text{if } \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\varphi) = 1 \\ \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\varphi) \wedge \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\psi) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(-1) &= \lambda_{i}(-1) \\ \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(-1) &= \lambda_{i}(-1) \end{cases} \qquad \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\varphi \vee \psi) = \begin{cases} \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\varphi) & \text{if } \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\psi) = 1 \\ \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\psi) & \text{if } \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\varphi) = 1 \\ \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\psi) & \text{if } \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\varphi) = 1 \\ \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\varphi) \vee \tilde{\lambda}_{i}(\psi) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{split}$$

# Formal Definitions: Model & Announcement Dynamics

Model

 $\langle W, (R_i)_{i \in \mathsf{G}}, (\lambda_i)_{i \in \mathsf{G}}, V \rangle$ 

where  $R_i$  is serial, transitive and Euclidean.



# Formal Definitions: Model & Announcement Dynamics

Model

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where  $R_i$  is serial, transitive and Euclidean.

• 
$$\mathcal{M}, w \models [\alpha]_i \varphi$$
 iff if  $\mathcal{M}, w \models \alpha$ , then  $\mathcal{M}^{[\alpha]_i}, v \models \varphi$ 

—Update on  $R_i$ 

If  $\lambda_i(\alpha) \neq I$ , then:  $R_i^{[\alpha]_i} = R \cap \{(w, v) \mid (M, w \models \lambda_i(\alpha) \text{ or } M, w \models \alpha) \text{ and } M, v \models \lambda_i(\alpha)\}$ otherwise,  $R_i^{[\alpha]_i} = R$ .

# The Unfamiliar Coin



 $\lambda_{Bob}(H) = T$ 

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# The Unfamiliar Coin



# Misinterpretations: Lack of Inquisitive Interest

[From A. Baltag, R. Boddy, and S. Smets. Group knowledge in interrogative epistemology, 2018. *Modified*]

Ann the logician and Bob the philosopher are the two member of a hiring committee for an academic position. They are looking at the writing samples respectively written by two candidates, Chloe and Dan.

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Ann the logician and Bob the philosopher are the two member of a hiring committee for an academic position. They are looking at the writing samples respectively written by two candidates, Chloe and Dan. The writing samples (objectively) indicate that:

Chloe is the better logician, and Dan is the better philosopher.

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Chloe is the better logician, and Dan is the better philosopher.

On the one hand, Ann who is not interested in the candidates' competency in philosophy comes to believe that Chloe is the better candidate. On the other hand, Bob who is not interested in the candidates' competency in logic comes to believe that Dan is the better candidate.

# The Curse of Committee Modified



# The Curse of Committee Modified



# Formal Definitions: Correction Dynamics

•  $\mathcal{M}, w \models [\alpha!]_i \varphi$  iff if  $\mathcal{M}, w \models \alpha$ , then  $\mathcal{M}^{[\alpha!]_i}, v \models \varphi$ 

—Update on  $\lambda_i$ 

Define 
$$\lambda_i^{[\alpha!]_i}$$
: Lit  $\to \mathcal{L}$  as follows:  
— for all  $p \in At$ , if  $p$  or  $\overline{p}$  appears in  $\alpha$ , then  
 $\lambda_i^{[\alpha!]_i}(p) = p$  and  $\lambda_i^{[\alpha!]_i}(\overline{p}) = \overline{p}$   
—  $\lambda_i^{[\alpha!]_i}(x) = x$  otherwise.

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# The Unfamiliar Coin





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## The Unfamiliar Coin



# • $[\varphi]$

The announcement may not be successful.

•  $[\varphi!][\varphi]$ 

The announcement is successful.



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# • $[\varphi]$

The announcement may not be successful.

•  $[\varphi!][\varphi]$ 

The announcement is successful.

# • $[\varphi][\varphi!]$

Would the correction of misinterpretation also correct one's beliefs?

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Ann and Bob are Italian, and most Italians call Beijing *Pechino*. In 2008, Bob was reading the news and learned that Beijing was hosting the Olympics. Not knowing that Beijing is *Pechino*, Bob believed that some small town in China was hosting the Olympics.







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Ann, who realized Bob's misunderstanding, corrected him by pointing out Beijing is *Pechino*. Afterwards, Bob started believing that Beijing, which is the capital of China, was hosting the Olympics.

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# What happened?

#### • **NOT** $\lambda_{Bob}(Beijing) = a \text{ small town } \& \lambda'_{Bob}(Beijing) = Pechino$



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# What happened?

• **NOT**  $\lambda_{Bob}(Beijing) = a \text{ small town } \& \lambda'_{Bob}(Beijing) = Pechino$ 

• RATHER Bob misunderstood the properties of an object 'Beijing'.

• The correction replaced the incorrect properties of 'Beijing' with those of 'Pechino'.

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### Future Direction

#### • Current: agents misinterpret formulas.



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## **Future Direction**

• Current: agents misinterpret formulas.

#### • Future: agents misinterpret objects and/or their properties.



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#### Related Works

- Baltag, A., Boddy, R., Smets, S.: Group knowledge in interrogative epistemology. In: Ditmarsch, H.V., Sandu, G. (eds.) Jaakko Hintikka on Knowledge and Game Theoretical Semantics. Springer (2018)
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- Heifetz, A., Meier, M., Schipper, B.: Interactive unawareness. Journal of Economic Theory 130(1), 78-94 (2006).
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# Thank you!



# Formal Definitions: Syntax

- G: a set of agents
- At: a CI set of atomic propositions
- Lit = At  $\cup \{\overline{p} \mid p \in At\}$
- The propositional language  $\mathcal{L}_0$  for At:

$$\alpha ::= p \mid \overline{p} \mid \bot \mid \top \mid (\alpha \land \alpha) \mid (\alpha \lor \alpha)$$

where  $p, \overline{p} \in Lit$ .

• The language  $\mathcal{L}$ :

 $\varphi ::= \alpha \mid \neg \varphi \mid (\varphi \land \varphi) \mid (\varphi \lor \varphi) \mid B_i \varphi \mid B_i^{\triangleright} \varphi \mid [\alpha]_i \varphi \mid [\alpha!]_i \varphi \mid (\alpha \triangleright_i \varphi)$ 

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where  $i \in G$  and  $\alpha \in Lit$ .

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# Formal Definitions: Model & Semantics

$$\langle W, (R_i)_{i\in\mathsf{G}}, (\lambda_i)_{i\in\mathsf{G}}, V \rangle$$

where  $R_i$  is serial, transitive and Euclidean.

• 
$$\mathcal{M}, w \models p$$
 iff  $w \in V(p)$ 

• 
$$\mathcal{M}, w \models \overline{p}$$
 iff  $w \notin V(p)$ 

- $\mathcal{M}, w \not\models \bot$
- $\mathcal{M}, w \models \top$

• 
$$\mathcal{M}, w \models \neg \varphi$$
 iff  $\mathcal{M}, w \not\models \varphi$ 

- $\bullet \ \mathcal{M}, \textit{\textit{w}} \models \varphi \lor \psi \ \text{iff} \ \mathcal{M}, \textit{\textit{w}} \models \varphi \ \text{or} \ \mathcal{M}, \textit{\textit{w}} \models \psi$
- $\mathcal{M}, w \models \varphi \land \psi$  iff  $\mathcal{M}, w \models \varphi$  and  $\mathcal{M}, w \models \psi$
- $\mathcal{M}, w \models B_i \varphi$  iff for all  $v \in W$ , if  $w \ R_i \ v$ , then  $\mathcal{M}, v \models \varphi$

• 
$$\mathcal{M}, w \models \alpha \triangleright_i \varphi$$
 iff  $\lambda_i(\alpha) = \varphi$ 

# Formal Definitions: Explicit Belief

• 
$$\Lambda_i = \{ \varphi \mid \text{for some } \psi \in \mathcal{L}_0, \lambda_i(\psi) = \varphi \}$$
 [*i*'s awareness set]

- $W_{\lambda_i}^{\perp} = \{ w \mid \exists \varphi \text{ s.t. } \varphi, \neg \varphi \in \Lambda_i^w \}$  [*i*'s  $\lambda$ -impossible worlds] where  $\Lambda_i^w = \{ \varphi \mid \exists \psi \text{ s.t. } M, w \models \psi \text{ and } \lambda_i(\psi) = \varphi \}$
- $W_{\lambda_i} = W \setminus W_{\lambda_i}^{\perp}$  [*i*'s  $\lambda$ -possible world]
- $R_i^{\lambda} = R_i \cap (W_{\lambda_i} \times W_{\lambda_i})$  [Explicit doxastic relation]

•  $M, w \models B_i^{\triangleright} \varphi$  iff  $\exists \alpha \text{ s.t. } \lambda_i(\alpha) = \varphi$  and  $M, v \models \alpha$  for all  $v \in R_i^{\lambda}(w)$ [*i*'s explicit belief]

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