

*Enablers and Inhibitors in Causal Justifications of Logic Programs**

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Abstract

To appear in Theory and Practice of Logic Programming (TPLP). In this paper we propose an extension of logic programming (LP) where each default literal derived from the well-founded model is associated to a justification represented as an algebraic expression. This expression contains both causal explanations (in the form of proof graphs built with rule labels) and terms under the scope of negation that stand for conditions that enable or disable the application of causal rules. Using some examples, we discuss how these new conditions, we respectively call *enablers* and *inhibitors*, are intimately related to default negation and have an essentially different nature from regular cause-effect relations. The most important result is a formal comparison to the recent algebraic approaches for justifications in LP: *Why-not Provenance* (WnP) and *Causal Graphs* (CG). We show that the current approach extends both WnP and CG justifications under the Well-Founded Semantics and, as a byproduct, we also establish a formal relation between these two approaches.

KEYWORDS: causal justifications, well-founded semantics, stable models, answer set programming.

1 Introduction

The strong connection between Non-Monotonic Reasoning (NMR) and Logic Programming (LP) semantics for default negation has made possible that LP tools became nowadays an important paradigm for Knowledge Representation (KR) and problem-solving in Artificial Intelligence (AI). In particular, *Answer Set Programming* (ASP) (?; ?) has established as a preeminent LP paradigm for practical NMR with applications in diverse areas of AI including planning, reasoning about actions, diagnosis, abduction and beyond. The ASP paradigm is based on the *stable models semantics* (?) and is also closely related to the other mainly accepted interpretation for default negation, *well-founded semantics* (WFS) (?). One interesting difference between these two LP semantics and classical models (or even other NMR approaches) is that true atoms in LP must be founded or justified by a given derivation. These *justifications* are not provided in the semantics itself, but can be syntactically built in some way in terms of the program rules, as studied in several approaches (?; ?; ?; ?; ?; ?; ?).

Rather than manipulating justifications as mere syntactic objects, two recent approaches have

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considered extended multi-valued semantics for LP where justifications are treated as *algebraic* constructions: *Why-not Provenance* (WnP) (?) and *Causal Graphs* (CG) (?). Although these two approaches present formal similarities, they start from different understandings of the idea of justification. On the one hand, WnP answers the query “why literal L might hold” by providing conjunctions of *hypothetical modifications* on the program that would allow deriving L . These modifications include rule labels, expressions like $\text{not}(A)$ with A an atom, or negations ‘ \neg ’ of the two previous cases. As an example, a justification for L like $r_1 \wedge \text{not}(p) \wedge \neg r_2 \wedge \neg \text{not}(q)$ means that the presence of rule r_1 and the absence of atom p would allow deriving L (hypothetically) if both rule r_2 were removed and atom q were added to the program. If we want to explain why L *actually* holds, we have to restrict to justifications without ‘ \neg ’, that is, those without program modifications (which will be the focus of this paper).

On the other hand, CG-justifications start from identifying program rules as *causal laws* so that, for instance, $(p \leftarrow q)$ can be read as “event q causes effect p .” Under this viewpoint, (positive) rules offer a natural way for capturing the concept of *causal production*, i.e. a continuous chain of events that has helped to cause or produce an effect (?; ?). The explanation of a true atom is made in terms of graphs formed by rule labels that reflect the ordered rule applications required for deriving that atom. These graphs are obtained by algebraic operations exclusively applied on the positive part of the program. Default negation in CG is understood as absence of cause and, consequently, a false atom has *no justification*.

The explanation of an atom A in CG is more detailed than in WnP, since the former contains graphs that correspond to all relevant proofs of A whereas in WnP we just get conjunctions that do not reflect any particular ordering among rule applications. However, as explained before, CG does not capture the effect of default negation in a given derivation and, sometimes, this information is very valuable, especially if we want to answer questions of the form “why not.”

As in the previous paper on CG (?), our final goal is to achieve an elaboration tolerant representation of causality that allows reasoning about cause-effect relations. Under this perspective, although WnP is more oriented to program debugging, its possibility of dealing with hypothetical reasoning of the form “why not” would be an interesting feature to deal with counterfactuals, since several approaches to causality (see Section ??) are based on this concept. To understand the kind of problems we are interested in, consider the following example. A drug d in James Bond’s drink causes his paralysis p provided that he was not given an antidote a that day. We know that Bond’s enemy, Dr. No, poured the drug:

$$p \leftarrow d, \text{not } a \quad (1)$$

$$d \quad (2)$$

In this case it is obvious that d causes p , whereas the absence of a just *enables* the application of the rule. Now, suppose we are said that Bond is daily administered an antidote by the MI6, unless it is a holiday h :

$$a \leftarrow \text{not } h \quad (3)$$

Adding this rule makes a become an *inhibitor* of p , as it prevents d to cause p by rule (??). But suppose now that we are in a holiday, that is, fact h is added to the program (??)-(??). Then, the inhibitor a is *disabled* and d causes p again. However, we do not consider that the holiday h is a (productive) cause for Bond’s paralysis p although, indeed, the latter counterfactually depends on the former: “had not been a holiday h , Bond would have not been paralysed.” We will say that the fact h , which disables inhibitor a , is an *enabler* of p , as it allows applying rule (??).

In this work we propose dealing with these concepts of enablers and inhibitors by augmenting CG justifications with a new negation operator ‘ \sim ’ in the CG causal algebra. We show that this new approach, which we call *Extended Causal Justifications* (ECJ), captures WnP justifications under the Well-founded Semantics, establishing a formal relation between WnP and CG as a byproduct.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. The next section defines the new approach. Sections ?? and ?? explain the formal relations to CG and WnP through a running example. Section ?? studies several examples of causal scenarios from the literature and finally, Section ?? concludes the paper. Appendix ?? contains an auxiliary figure depicting some common algebraic properties and Appendix ?? contains the formal proofs of theorems from the previous sections.

2 Extended Causal Justifications (ECJ)

A *signature* is a pair $\langle At, Lb \rangle$ of sets that respectively represent *atoms* (or *propositions*) and *labels*. Intuitively, each atom in At will be assigned justifications built with rule labels from Lb . In principle, the intersection $At \cap Lb$ does not need to be empty: we may sometimes find it convenient to label a rule using an atom name (normally, the head atom). Justifications will be expressions that combine four different algebraic operators: a product ‘ $*$ ’ representing conjunction or joint causation; a sum ‘ $+$ ’ representing alternative causes; a non-commutative product ‘ \cdot ’ that captures the sequential order that follows from rule applications; and a non-classical negation ‘ \sim ’ which will precede inhibitors (negated labels) and enablers (doubly negated labels).

Definition 1 (Terms)

Given a set of labels Lb , a *term*, t is recursively defined as one of the following expressions $t ::= l \mid \prod S \mid \sum S \mid t_1 \cdot t_2 \mid \sim t_1$ where $l \in Lb$, t_1, t_2 are in their turn terms and S is a (possibly empty and possibly infinite) set of terms. A term is *elementary* if it has the form l , $\sim l$ or $\sim \sim l$ with $l \in Lb$ being a label. \square

When $S = \{t_1, \dots, t_n\}$ is finite we simply write $\prod S$ as $t_1 * \dots * t_n$ and $\sum S$ as $t_1 + \dots + t_n$. Moreover, when $S = \emptyset$, we denote $\prod S$ by 1 and $\sum S$ by 0, as usual, and these will be the identities of the product ‘ $*$ ’ and the addition ‘ $+$ ’, respectively. We assume that ‘ \cdot ’ has higher priority than ‘ $*$ ’ and, in turn, ‘ $*$ ’ has higher priority than ‘ $+$ ’.

Definition 2 (Values)

A *causal value* is each equivalence class of terms under axioms for a completely distributive (complete) lattice with meet ‘ $*$ ’ and join ‘ $+$ ’ plus the axioms of Figures ?? and ??. The set of (causal) values is denoted by \mathbf{V}_{Lb} . \square

Note that $\langle \mathbf{V}_{Lb}, +, *, \sim, 0, 1 \rangle$ is a completely distributive Stone algebra (a pseudo-complemented, completely distributive, complete lattice which satisfies the weak excluded middle axiom) whose meet and join are, as usual, the product ‘ $*$ ’ and the addition ‘ $+$ ’. Informally speaking, this means that these two operators satisfy the properties of a Boolean algebra but without negation.

Note also that all three operations, ‘ $*$ ’, ‘ $+$ ’ and ‘ \cdot ’ are associative. Product ‘ $*$ ’ and addition ‘ $+$ ’ are also commutative, and they hold the usual absorption and distributive laws with respect to infinite sums and products of a completely distributive lattice.

The axioms for ‘ \cdot ’ in Figure ?? are directly extracted from the CG algebraic structure. For a more detailed explanation on their induced behaviour see (?). The new contribution in this paper with respect to the CG algebra is the introduction of the ‘ \sim ’ operator whose meaning is captured

<i>Associativity</i>	<i>Absorption</i>	<i>Identity</i>	<i>Annihilator</i>
$t \cdot (u \cdot w) = (t \cdot u) \cdot w$	$t = t + u \cdot t \cdot w$ $u \cdot t \cdot w = t * u \cdot t \cdot w$	$t = 1 \cdot t$ $t = t \cdot 1$	$0 = t \cdot 0$ $0 = 0 \cdot t$
<i>Idempotency</i>	<i>Addition distributivity</i>	<i>Product distributivity</i>	
$x \cdot x = x$	$t \cdot (u+w) = (t \cdot u) + (t \cdot w)$ $(t+u) \cdot w = (t \cdot w) + (u \cdot w)$	$c \cdot d \cdot e = (c \cdot d) * (d \cdot e)$ with $d \neq 1$ $c \cdot (d * e) = (c \cdot d) * (c \cdot e)$ $(c * d) \cdot e = (c \cdot e) * (d \cdot e)$	

Fig. 1. Properties of the ‘ \cdot ’ operator (c, d, e are terms without ‘ $+$ ’ and x is an elementary term).
Distributivity is also satisfied over infinite sums and products.

<i>Pseudo-complement</i>	<i>De Morgan</i>	<i>Weak excl. middle</i>	<i>appl. negation</i>
$t * \sim t = 0$ $\sim \sim \sim t = \sim t$	$\sim(t+u) = (\sim t * \sim u)$ $\sim(t * u) = (\sim t + \sim u)$	$\sim t + \sim \sim t = 1$	$\sim(t \cdot u) = \sim(t * u)$

Fig. 2. Properties of the ‘ \sim ’ operator.

by the axioms in Figure ???. As we can see, this operator satisfies De Morgan laws and acts as a complement for the product $t * \sim t = 0$. However, it diverges from a classical Boolean negation in some aspects. In the general case, the axioms $\sim \sim t = t$ (double negation) and $t + \sim t = 1$ (excluded middle) are not valid. Instead¹, we can replace a triple negation $\sim \sim \sim t$ by $\sim t$, and we have a weak version of the excluded middle axiom $\sim t + \sim \sim t = 1$. The negation of an application is defined as the negation of the product $\sim(t \cdot u) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sim(t * u)$ which, in turn, is equivalent to $\sim(u * t)$, since $*$ is commutative. In other words, under negation, the rule application ordering is disregarded. It is not difficult to see that we can apply the axioms of negation to reach an equivalent expression that avoids its application to other operators. We say that a term is in *negation normal form* (NNF) if no other operator is in the scope of negation ‘ \sim ’. Moreover, an NNF term is in *disjunctive normal form* (DNF) if: (1) no sum is in the scope of another operator; (2) only elementary terms are in the scope of application; and (3) every product is transitively closed, that is, of the form of $a \cdot b * b \cdot c * a \cdot c$. Without loss of generality, we assume from now that all functions defined over causal terms are applied over their DNF form, although, we will usually write them in NNF for short.

The lattice order relation is defined as usual in the following way:

$$t \leq u \quad \text{iff} \quad (t * u = t) \quad \text{iff} \quad (t + u = u)$$

Consequently 1 and 0 are respectively the top and bottom elements with respect to relation \leq .

Definition 3 (Labelled logic program)

Given a signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$, a *(labelled logic) program* P is a set of rules of the form:

$$r_i : H \leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_m, \text{not} C_1, \dots, \text{not} C_n \quad (4)$$

where $r_i \in Lb$ is a label or $r_i = 1$, H (the *head* of the rule) is an atom, and B_i ’s and C_i ’s (the *body* of the rule) are either atoms or terms. \square

¹ This behaviour coincides indeed with the properties for default negation obtained in Equilibrium Logic (?) or the equivalent General Theory of Stable Models (?).

When $n = 0$ we say that the rule is positive, furthermore, if in addition $m = 0$ we say that the rule is a *fact* and omit the symbol ' \leftarrow .' When $r_i \in Lb$ we say that the rule is labelled; otherwise $r_i = 1$ and we omit both r_i and ' $:$ '. By these conventions, for instance, an unlabelled fact A is actually an abbreviation of $(1 : A \leftarrow)$. A program P is *positive* when all its rules are positive, i.e. it contains no default negation. It is *uniquely labelled* when each rule has a different label or no label at all. In this paper, we will assume that programs are uniquely labelled. Furthermore, for the sake of clarity, we also assume that, for every atom $A \in At$, there is an homonymous label $A \in Lb$, and that each fact A in the program actually stands for the labelled rule $(A : A \leftarrow)$. For instance, following these conventions, a possible labelled version for the James Bond's program could be program P_1 below:

$$\begin{array}{ll} r_1 : p \leftarrow d, \text{not } a & d \\ r_2 : a \leftarrow \text{not } h & h \end{array}$$

where facts d and h stand for rules $(d : d \leftarrow)$ and $(h : h \leftarrow)$, respectively.

An *ECJ-interpretation* is a mapping $I : At \rightarrow \mathbf{V}_{Lb}$ assigning a value to each atom. For interpretations I and J we say that $I \leq J$ when $I(A) \leq J(A)$ for each atom $A \in At$. Hence, there is a \leq -bottom interpretation $\mathbf{0}$ (resp. a \leq -top interpretation $\mathbf{1}$) that stands for the interpretation mapping each atom A to 0 (resp. 1). The value assigned to a negative literal $\text{not } A$ by an interpretation I , denoted as $I(\text{not } A)$, is defined as $I(\text{not } A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sim I(A)$, as expected. Similarly, for a term t , $I(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [t]$ is the equivalence class of t .

Definition 4 (Model)

An interpretation I satisfies a rule like (??) iff

$$(I(B_1) * \dots * I(B_m) * I(\text{not } C_1) * \dots * I(\text{not } C_n)) \cdot r_i \leq I(H) \quad (5)$$

and I is a (causal) model of P , written $I \models P$, iff I satisfies all rules in P . \square

As usual in LP, for positive programs, we may define a direct consequence operator T_P s.t.

$$T_P(I)(H) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum \{ (I(B_1) * \dots * I(B_n)) \cdot r_i \mid (r_i : H \leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_n) \in P \}$$

for any interpretation I and atom $H \in At$. We also define $T_P \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} T_P(T_P \uparrow^{\alpha-1} (\mathbf{0}))$ for any successor ordinal α and

$$T_P \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{\beta < \alpha} T_P \uparrow^\beta (\mathbf{0})$$

for any limit ordinal alpha. As usual, ω denotes the smallest infinite limit ordinal. Note that 0 is considered a limit ordinal and, thus, $T_P \uparrow^0 (\mathbf{0}) = \sum_{\beta < 0} T_P \uparrow^\beta (\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$.

Theorem 1

Let P be a (possibly infinite) positive logic program. Then, (i) the least fixpoint of the T_P operator, denoted by $\text{lfp}(T_P)$, satisfies $\text{lfp}(T_P) = T_P \uparrow^\omega (\mathbf{0})$ and it is the least model of P , (ii) furthermore, if P is positive and has n rules, then $\text{lfp}(T_P) = T_P \uparrow^\omega (\mathbf{0}) = T_P \uparrow^n (\mathbf{0})$. \square

Theorem ?? asserts that, as usual, positive programs have a \leq -least causal model. As we will see later, this least model coincides with the traditional least model (of the program without labels) when one just focuses on the set of true atoms, disregarding the justifications explaining why they are true. For programs with negation we define the following reduct.

Definition 5 (Reduct)

Given a program P and an interpretation I we denote by P^I the positive program containing a rule of the form

$$r_i : H \leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_m, I(\text{not } C_1), \dots, I(\text{not } C_n) \quad (6)$$

for each rule of the form (??) in P . \square

Program P^I is positive and, from Theorem ??, it has a *least causal model*. By $\Gamma_P(I)$ we denote the least model of program P^I . The operator Γ_P is anti-monotonic and, consequently, Γ_P^2 is monotonic (Proposition ?? in the appendix) so that, by Knaster-Tarski's theorem, it has a least fixpoint \mathbb{L}_P and a greatest fixpoint $\mathbb{U}_P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Gamma_P(\mathbb{L}_P)$. These two fixpoints respectively correspond to the justifications for true and for non-false atoms in the (standard) well-founded model (WFM), we denote as W_P .

For instance, in our running example, $\mathbb{L}_{P_{??}}(d) = \Gamma_{P_{??}}^2 \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(d) = d$ for $1 \leq \alpha$ points out that atom d is true because of fact d . Similarly, $\mathbb{L}_{P_{??}}(h) = h$ and $\mathbb{L}_{P_{??}}(a) = \sim h \cdot r_2$ reveals that atom h is true because of fact h , and that atom a is not true because fact h has inhibited rule r_2 .

Furthermore,

$$\mathbb{L}_{P_{??}}(p) = \Gamma_{P_{??}}^2 \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(p) = (\sim(\sim h \cdot r_2) * d) \cdot r_1 = (\sim \sim h * d) \cdot r_1 + (\sim r_2 * d) \cdot r_1$$

for $2 \leq \alpha$. That is, Bond has been paralysed because fact h has enabled drug d to cause the paralysis by means of rule r_1 . This corresponds to the justification $(\sim \sim h * d) \cdot r_1$. Notice how the real cause d is a positive label (not in the scope of negation) whereas the enabler h is in the scope of a double negation $\sim \sim h$. Justification $(\sim r_2 * d) \cdot r_1$ means that $d \cdot r_1$ would have been sufficient to cause p , had not been present r_2 . This example is also useful for illustrating the importance of axiom *appl. negation*. By directly evaluating the body of rule r_1 , we have seen that $\Gamma_{P_{??}}^2 \uparrow^2(\mathbf{0})(p) = (\sim(\sim h \cdot r_2) * d) \cdot r_1$. Then, axiom *appl. negation* allows us to break the dependence between $\sim h$ and r_2 into enablers and inhibitors: $\sim(\sim h \cdot r_2) = \sim(\sim h * r_2) = \sim \sim h + \sim r_2$ and, applying distributivity, we obtain one enabled justification, $(\sim \sim h * d) \cdot r_1$, and one disabled one, $(\sim r_2 * d) \cdot r_1$.

In our previous example, the least and greatest fixpoint coincided $\mathbb{L}_{P_{??}} = \mathbb{U}_{P_{??}} = \Gamma_{P_{??}}^2 \uparrow^2(\mathbf{0})$. To illustrate the case where this does not hold consider, for instance, the program P_2 formed by the following negative cycle:

$$r_1 : a \leftarrow \text{not } b \qquad r_2 : b \leftarrow \text{not } a$$

In this case, the least fixpoint of Γ_P^2 assigns $\mathbb{L}_{P_2}(a) = \sim r_2 \cdot r_1$ and $\mathbb{L}_{P_2}(b) = \sim r_1 \cdot r_2$, while, in its turn, the greatest fixpoint of Γ_P^2 corresponds to $\mathbb{U}_{P_2}(a) = r_1$ and $\mathbb{U}_{P_2}(b) = r_2$. If we focus on atom a , we can observe that it is not concluded to be true, since the least fixpoint \mathbb{L}_P has only provided one disabled justification $\sim r_2 \cdot r_1$ meaning that r_2 is acting as a disabler for a . But, on the other hand, a cannot be false either since the greatest fixpoint provides an enabled justification r_1 for being non-false (remember that \mathbb{U}_P provides justifications for non-false atoms). As a result, we get that a is left undefined because r_2 prevents it to become true while r_1 can still be used to conclude that it is not false.

To capture these intuitions, we provide some definitions. A *query literal (q-literal)* L is either an atom A , its default negation '*not* A ' or the expression '*undef* A ' meaning that A is undefined.

Definition 6 (Causal well-founded model)

Given a program P , its *causal well-founded model* \mathbb{W}_P is a mapping from q-literals to values s.t.

$$\mathbb{W}_P(A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{L}_P(A) \quad \mathbb{W}_P(\text{not}A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sim \mathbb{U}_P(A) \quad \mathbb{W}_P(\text{undef}A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sim \mathbb{W}_P(A) * \sim \mathbb{W}_P(\text{not}A) \quad \square$$

Let l be a label occurrence in a term t in the scope of $n \geq 0$ negations. We say that l is an *odd* or an *even* occurrence if n is odd or even, respectively. We further say that l is a *strictly even* occurrence if it is even and $n > 0$.

Definition 7 (Justification)

Given a program P and a q-literal L we say that a term E with no sums is a (*sufficient causal*) *justification* for L iff $E \leq \mathbb{W}_P(L)$. Odd (resp. strictly even) labels² in E are called *inhibitors* (resp. *enablers*) of E . A justification is said to be *inhibited* if it contains some inhibitor and it is said to be *enabled* otherwise. \square

True atoms will have at least one enabled justification, whereas false atoms only contain disabled justifications. As an example of a query for a plain atom A , take the already seen explanation for p in Bond's example program $P_{??}$: $\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(p) = \mathbb{L}_{P_{??}}(p) = (\sim \sim h * d) \cdot r_1 + (\sim r_2 * d) \cdot r_1$. We have here two justifications for atom p , let us call them $E_1 = (\sim \sim h * d) \cdot r_1$ and $E_2 = (\sim r_2 * d) \cdot r_1$. Justification E_1 is enabled because it contains no inhibitors (in fact, E_1 is the unique real support for p). Moreover, h is an enabler in E_1 because it is strictly even (it is in the scope of double negation) whereas d is a productive cause, since it is not in the scope of any negation. On the contrary, E_2 is disabled because it contains the inhibitor r_2 (it occurs in the scope of one negation). Intuitively, r_2 has prevented $d \cdot r_1$ to become a justification of p . On the other hand, for atom a we had $\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(a) = \sim h \cdot r_2$ that only contains an inhibited justification (being h the inhibitor), and so, atom a is not true. Now, if we query about the negative q-literal $\text{not}a$, we obtain $\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(\text{not}a) = \sim \mathbb{U}_{P_{??}}(a)$ which in this case happens to be $\sim \mathbb{L}_{P_{??}}(a) = \sim(\sim h \cdot r_2) = \sim \sim h + \sim r_2$. That is, q-literal $\text{not}a$ holds, being enabled by h . Moreover, $\sim r_2$ points out that removing r_2 would suffice to cause $\text{not}a$ too. It is easy to see that the explanations we can get for q-literals $\text{not}A$ or $\text{undef}A$ will have all their labels in the scope of negation (either as inhibitors or as enablers).

To illustrate a query for $\text{undef}A$, let us return to program $P_{??}$ whose standard well-founded model left both a and b undefined. Given the values we obtained in the least and greatest fixpoints, the causal WFM will assign $\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(a) = \sim r_2 \cdot r_1$ and $\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(b) = \sim r_1 \cdot r_2$, that is, r_2 prevents r_1 to cause a and r_1 prevents r_2 to cause b . Furthermore, the values assigned to their respective negations, $\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(\text{not}a) = \sim r_1$ and $\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(\text{not}b) = \sim r_2$, point out that atoms a and b are not false because rules r_1 and r_2 have respectively prevented them to be so. Finally, we obtain that $\text{undef}a$ is true because

$$\mathbb{W}_P(\text{undef}a) = \sim \mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(a) * \sim \mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(\text{not}a) = (\sim \sim r_2 + \sim r_1) * \sim \sim r_1 = \sim \sim r_2 * \sim \sim r_1$$

that is, rules r_1 and r_2 together have made a undefined. Similarly, b is also undefined because of rules r_1 and r_2 , $\mathbb{W}_P(\text{undef}b) = \sim \sim r_1 * \sim \sim r_2$.

The next theorem shows that the literals satisfied by the standard WFM are precisely those ones containing at least one enabled justification in the causal WFM.

² We just mention labels, and not their occurrences because terms are in NNF and E contains no sums. Thus, having odd and even occurrences of a same label at a same time would mean that $E = 0$.

Theorem 2

Let P be a labelled logic program over a signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$ where Lb is a finite set of labels and let W_P its (standard) well-founded model. A q-literal L holds with respect to W_P if and only if there is some enabled justification E of L , that is, $E \leq \mathbb{W}_P(L)$ and E does not contain odd negative labels. \square

Back to our example program $P_{??}$, as we had seen, atom p had a unique enabled justification $E_1 = (\sim\sim h * d) \cdot r_1$. The same happens for atoms d and h whose respective justifications are just their own atom labels. Therefore, these three atoms hold in the standard WFM, $W_{P_{??}}$. On the contrary, as we discussed before, the only justification for a , $\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(a) = \sim h \cdot r_2$, is inhibited by h , and thus, a does not hold in $W_{P_{??}}$. The interest of an inhibited justification for a literal is to point out “potential” causes that have been prevented by some abnormal situation. In our case, the presence of $\sim h$ in $\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(a) = \sim h \cdot r_2$ points out that an exception h has prevented r_2 to cause a . When the exception is removed, the inhibited justification (after removing the inhibitors) becomes an enabled justification.

In our running example, if we consider a program P_3 obtained by removing the fact h from $P_{??}$, then $\mathbb{W}_{P_3}(a) = r_2$ points out that a has been caused by rule r_2 in this new scenario. This intuition about inhibited justifications is formalized as follows.

Definition 8

Given a term t in DNF, by $\rho_x : \mathbf{V}_{Lb}^{CG} \rightarrow \mathbf{V}_{Lb}^{CG}$, we denote the function that removes the elementary term x from t as follows:

$$\rho_x(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \rho_x(u) \otimes \rho_x(w) & \text{if } t = u \otimes w \text{ with } \otimes \in \{+, *, \cdot\} \\ 1 & \text{if } \sim\sim t \text{ is equivalent to } \sim\sim x \\ 0 & \text{if } t \text{ is equivalent to } \sim x \end{cases}$$

Note that we have assumed that t is in DNF. Otherwise, $\rho_x(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \rho_x(u)$ where u is an equivalent term in DNF. \square

Theorem 3

Let P be a program over a signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$ where Lb is a finite set of labels. Let Q be the result of removing from P all rules labelled by some $r_i \in Lb$. Then, the result of removing r_i from the justifications of some atom A with respect to program P are justifications of A with respect to Q , that is, $\rho_{\sim r_i}(\mathbb{W}_P(A)) \leq \mathbb{W}_Q(A)$.

3 Relation to Causal Graph Justifications

We discuss now the relation between ECJ and CG approaches. Intuitively, ECJ extends CG causal terms by the introduction of the new negation operator ‘ \sim ’. Semantically, however, there are more differences than a simple syntactic extension. A first minor difference is that ECJ is defined in terms of a WFM, whereas CG defines (possibly) several causal stable models. In the case of stratified programs, this difference is irrelevant, since the WFM is complete and coincides with the unique stable model. A second, more important difference is that CG exclusively considers productive causes in the justifications, disregarding additional information like the inhibitors or enablers from ECJ. As a result, a false atom in CG has *no justification* – its causal value is 0 because there was no way to derive the atom. For instance, in program $P_{??}$, the only CG stable

model I just makes $I(a) = 0$ and we lose the inhibited justification $\sim h \cdot r_2$ (default r_2 could not be applied). True atoms like p also lose any information about enablers: $I(p) = d \cdot r_1$ and nothing is said about $\sim \sim h$. Another consequence of the CG orientation is that negative literals $notA$ are never assigned a cause (different from 0 or 1), since they cannot be “derived” or produced by rules. In the example, we simply get $I(not a) = 1$ and $I(not p) = 0$.

To further illustrate the similarities and differences between ECJ and CG, consider the following program P_4 capturing a variation of the Yale Shooting Scenario.

$$\begin{array}{llll} d_{t+1} : dead_{t+1} & \leftarrow shoot_t, loaded_t, not ab_t & \overline{loaded}_0 & load_1 \\ l_{t+1} : loaded_{t+1} & \leftarrow load_t & \overline{dead}_0 & water_3 \\ a_{t+1} : ab_{t+1} & \leftarrow water_t & \overline{ab}_0 & shoot_8 \end{array}$$

plus the following rules corresponding inertia axioms

$$F_{t+1} \leftarrow F_t, not \overline{F}_{t+1} \quad \overline{F}_{t+1} \leftarrow \overline{F}_t, not F_{t+1}$$

for $F \in \{loaded, ab, dead\}$. Atoms of the form \overline{A} represent the strong negation of A and we disregard models satisfying both A and \overline{A} . Atom $dead_9$ does not hold in the standard WFM of $P_{??}$, and so there is no CG-justification for it. Note here the importance of default reasoning. On the one hand, the default flow of events is that the turkey, Fred, continues to be alive when nothing threatens him. Hence, we do not need a cause to explain why Fred is alive. On the other hand, shooting a loaded gun would normally kill Fred, being this a cause of its death. But, in this example, another exceptional situation – $water$ spilled out – has *inhibited* this existing threat and allowed the world to flow as if nothing had happened (that is, following its default behaviour).

In the CG-approach, $dead_9$ is simply false by default and no justification is provided. However, a gun shooter could be “disappointed” since another conflicting default (shooting a loaded gun *normally* kills) has not worked. Thus, an expected answer for the shooter’s question “why *not* $dead_9$?” is that $water_3$ broke the default, disabling d_9 . In fact, ECJ yields the following inhibited justification for $dead_9$:

$$\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(dead_9) = (\sim water_3 * shoot_8 * load_1 \cdot l_2) \cdot d_9 \quad (7)$$

meaning that $dead_9$ could not be derived because inhibitor $water_3$ prevented the application of rule d_9 to cause the death of Fred. Note that inertia rules are not labelled, which, as mentioned before, is syntactic sugar for rules with label 1. Since 1 is the identity of product and application, this has the effect of not being traced in the justifications. Note also that, according to Theorem ??, if we remove fact $water_3$ (the inhibitor) from $P_{??}$ leading to a new program P_5 , then we get:

$$\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(dead_9) = (shoot_8 * load_1 \cdot l_2) \cdot d_9 \quad (8)$$

which is nothing else but the result of removing $\sim water_3$ from (??). In fact, the only CG stable model of $P_{??}$ makes this same assignment (??) which also corresponds to the causal graph depicted in Figure ??. In the general case, CG-justifications intuitively correspond to enabled justifications after forgetting all the enablers. Formally, however, there is one more difference in the definition of causal values: CG causal values are defined as ideals for the poset of a type of graphs formed by rule labels.

Definition 9 (Causal graph)

Given some set Lb of (rule) labels, a *causal graph* (*c-graph*) $G \subseteq Lb \times Lb$ is a reflexively and

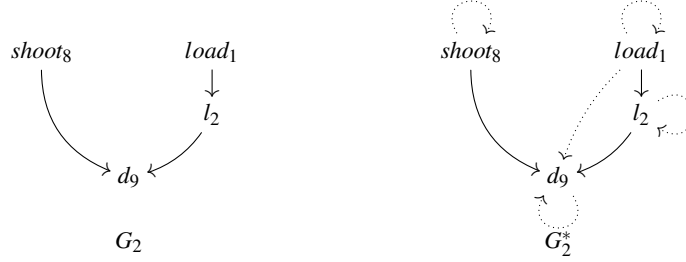


Fig. 3. G_2 is the cause of $dead_9$ in program P_2 , while G_2^* is its associated causal graphs, that is, its reflexive and transitive closure.

transitively closed set of edges. By \mathbf{G}_{Lb} , we denote the set of causal graphs. Given two c-graphs G and G' , we write $G \leq G'$ when $G \supseteq G'$. \square

Intuitively, causal graphs, like G_2 in Figure ??, are directed graphs representing the causal structure that has produced some event. Furthermore, $G \leq G'$ means that G contains enough information to yield the same effect as G' , but perhaps more than needed (this explains $G \supseteq G'$). For this reason, we sometimes read $G \leq G'$ as “ G' is *stronger* than G .” Causes will be \leq -maximal (or \subseteq -minimal) causal graphs. Formally, including reflexive and transitive edges allows to capture this intuitive relation simply by the subgraph relation. Note that, since causal graphs are reflexively closed, every vertex has at least one edge (the reflexive one) and, thus, we can omit the set of vertices. Besides, for the sake of clarity, we only depict the minimum set of edges necessary for defining a causal graph (transitive and reflexive reduction). For instance, graph G_2 in Figure ?? is the transitive and reflexive reduction of the causal graph G_2^* .

Definition 10 (CG Values in ?)

Given a set of labels Lb , a *CG causal value* is any ideal (or lower-set) for the poset $\langle \mathbf{G}_{Lb}, \leq \rangle$. By \mathbf{I}_{Lb}^{CG} , we denote the set of CG causal values. Product ‘ \cdot ’, sums ‘ $+$ ’ and the \leq -order relation are defined as the set intersection, union and the subset relation, respectively. Application is given by $U \cdot U' \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ G'' \leq G \cdot G' \mid G \in U \text{ and } G' \in U' \}$. \square

It has been shown in (?) that CG values can be alternatively characterised as a free algebra generated by rule labels under the axioms of a complete distributive lattice plus the axioms of Figure ??.

Definition 11 (CG Values in ?)

Given a set of labels Lb , a *CG term* is a term without negation ‘ \sim ’. *CG causal values* are the equivalence classes of CG terms for a completely distributive (complete) lattice with meet ‘ \cdot ’ and join ‘ $+$ ’ plus the axioms of Figure ?? . By \mathbf{V}_{Lb}^{CG} , we denote the set of CG causal values. \square

Theorem 4 (Causal values isomorphism from ?)

The function $term : \mathbf{I}_{Lb}^{CG} \longrightarrow \mathbf{V}_{Lb}^{CG}$ given by

$$term(U) \mapsto \sum_{G \in U} \prod_{(v_1, v_2) \in G} v_1 \cdot v_2$$

is an isomorphism between algebras $\langle \mathbf{I}_{Lb}^{CG}, +, \cdot, \cdot, \mathbf{G}_{Lb}, \emptyset \rangle$ and $\langle \mathbf{V}_{Lb}^{CG}, +, \cdot, \cdot, 1, 0 \rangle$. \square

Theorem ?? states that CG causal values can be equivalently described either as ideals of causal graphs or as elements of an algebra of terms. Furthermore, by abuse of notation, by G

we also denote the ideal whose maximum element is G , corresponding to $term(G)$ as well. For instance, for the causal graph G_2 in Figure ??, it follows $G_2 = term(G_2) = term(\downarrow G_2)$ with $\downarrow G_2$ the ideal whose maximum element is G_2 . Moreover, from the equivalences in Figure ??, it also follows that

$$\begin{aligned} G_2 &= shoot_8 \cdot d_9 * load_1 \cdot l_2 * l_2 \cdot d_9 * \alpha \\ &= shoot_8 \cdot d_9 * load_1 \cdot l_2 * l_2 \cdot d_9 \\ &= shoot_8 \cdot d_9 * load_1 \cdot l_2 \cdot d_9 \\ &= (shoot_8 * load_1 \cdot l_2) \cdot d_9 \end{aligned}$$

where $\alpha = load_1 \cdot d_9 * shoot_8 \cdot shoot_8 * d_9 \cdot d_9 * load_1 \cdot load_1 * l_2 \cdot l_2 * d_9 \cdot d_9$ is a term that, as we can see, can be ruled out and corresponds to the transitive and reflexive dotted edges in G_2^* . That is, justification (??) associated to atom $dead_9$ by the causal well-founded model of program $P_?$ actually corresponds to causal graph G_2 .

Theorem ?? also formalises the intuition that opens this section: ECJ extends CG causal terms by the introduction of the new negation operator ‘ \sim ’. We formalise next the correspondence between CG and ECJ justifications.

Definition 12 (CG mapping)

We define a mapping $\lambda^c : \mathbf{V}_{Lb} \longrightarrow \mathbf{V}_{Lb}^{CG}$ from ECJ values into CG values in the following recursive way:

$$\lambda^c(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \lambda^c(u) \otimes \lambda^c(w) & \text{if } t = u \otimes v \text{ with } \otimes \in \{+, *, \cdot\} \\ 1 & \text{if } t = \sim \sim l \text{ with } l \in Lb \\ 0 & \text{if } t = \sim l \text{ with } l \in Lb \\ l & \text{if } t = l \text{ with } l \in Lb \end{cases}$$

Note that we have assumed that t is in DNF. Otherwise, $\lambda^c(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda^c(u)$ where u is an equivalent term in DNF. \square

Function λ^c maps every negated label $\sim l$ to 0 (which is the annihilator of both product ‘ $*$ ’ and application ‘ \cdot ’ and the identity of addition ‘ $+$ ’). Hence λ^c removes all the inhibited justifications. Furthermore λ^c maps every doubly negated label $\sim \sim l$ to 1 (which is the identity of both product ‘ $*$ ’ and application ‘ \cdot ’). Therefore λ^c removes all the enablers (i.e. doubly negated labels $\sim \sim l$) for the remaining (i.e. enabled) justifications.

A CG interpretation is a mapping $\tilde{I} : At \longrightarrow \mathbf{V}_{Lb}^{CG}$. The value assigned to a negative literal $not A$ by a CG interpretation \tilde{I} , denoted as $\tilde{I}(not A)$, is defined as: $\tilde{I}(not A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 1$ if $\tilde{I}(A) = 0$; $\tilde{I}(not A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 0$ otherwise. A CG interpretation \tilde{I} is a CG model of rule like (??) iff

$$(\tilde{I}(B_1) * \dots * \tilde{I}(B_m) * \tilde{I}(not C_1) * \dots * \tilde{I}(not C_n)) \cdot r_i \leq \tilde{I}(H) \quad (9)$$

Notice that the value assigned to a negative literal by CG and ECJ interpretations is different. According to (?), a CG interpretation \tilde{I} is a *CG stable model* of a program P iff \tilde{I} is the least model of the program $P^{\tilde{I}}$. In the following, we provide an ECJ based characterisation of the CG stable models that will allow us to relate both approaches. By $\lambda^c(I)$ we will denote a CG interpretation \tilde{I} s.t. $\tilde{I}(A) = \lambda^c(I(A))$ for every atom A .

Definition 13 (CG stable models)

Given a program P , a CG interpretation \tilde{I} is a *CG stable model* of P iff there exists a fixpoint I of the operator Γ_P^2 , i.e. $\Gamma_P(\Gamma_P(I)) = I$, such that $\tilde{I} = \lambda^c(I) = \lambda^c(\Gamma_P(I))$. \square

Theorem 5

Let P be a program over a signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$ where Lb is a finite set of labels. Then, the CG stable models (Definition ??) are exactly the causal values and causal stable models defined in (?). \square

Theorem ?? shows that Definition ?? is an alternative definition of CG causal stable models. Furthermore, it settles that every causal model corresponds to some fixpoint of the operator Γ_P^2 . Therefore, for every enabled justification there is a corresponding CG-justification common to all stable models. In order to formalise this idea we just take the definition of causal explanation from (?).

Definition 14 (CG-justification)

Given an interpretation I we say that a c-graph G is a (*sufficient*) *CG-justification* for an atom A iff $term(G) \leq \tilde{I}(A)$. \square

Since $term(\cdot)$ is a one-to-one correspondence, we can define its inverse $graph(v) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} term^{-1}(v)$ for all $v \in \mathbf{V}_{Lb}^{CG}$.

Theorem 6

Let P be a program over a signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$ where Lb is a finite set of labels. For any enabled justification E of some atom A w.r.t. \mathbb{W}_P , i.e. $E \leq \mathbb{W}_P(A)$, there is a CG-justification $G \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} graph(\lambda^c(E))$ of A with respect to any stable model \tilde{I} of P . \square

As happens between the (standard) well-founded and stable model semantics, the converse of Theorem ?? does not hold in general. That is, we may get a justification that is common to all CG-stable models but does not occur in the ECJ well-founded model. For instance, let P_6 be the program consisting on the following rules:

$$r_1 : a \leftarrow not b \quad r_2 : b \leftarrow not a, not c \quad c \quad r_3 : c \leftarrow a \quad r_4 : d \leftarrow b, not d$$

The (standard) WFM of program $P_{??}$ is two-valued and corresponds to the unique (standard) stable model $\{a, c\}$. Furthermore, there are two causal explanations of c with respect to this unique stable model: the fact c and the pair of rules $r_1 \cdot r_3$. Note that when c is removed $\{a, c\}$ is still the unique stable model, but all atoms are undefined in the WFM. Hence, $r_1 \cdot r_3$ is a justification with respect to the unique stable model of the program, but not with respect to its WFM.

4 Relation to Why-not Provenance

An evident similarity between ECJ and WnP approaches is the use of an alternating fixpoint operator (?) which has been actually borrowed from WnP. However, there are some slight differences. A first one is that we have incorporated from CG the non-commutative operator ‘ \cdot ’ which allows capturing not only which rules justify a given atom, but also the dependencies among these rules. The second is the use of a *non-classical* negation ‘ \sim ’ that is crucial to distinguish between productive causes and enablers. This distinction cannot be represented with the classical negation ‘ \neg ’ in WnP since double negation can always be removed. Apart from the interpretation of negation in both formalisms, there are other differences too. As an example, let us compare

the justifications we obtain for $dead_9$ in program $P_{??}$. While for ECJ we obtained (??) (or graph G_2 in Figure ??), the corresponding WnP justification has the form:

$$l_2 \wedge d_9 \wedge load_1 \wedge shoot_8 \wedge not(ab_1) \wedge not(ab_2) \wedge \dots \wedge not(ab_7) \wedge not(water_0) \wedge \dots \wedge not(water_6) \quad (10)$$

A first observation is that the subexpression $l_2 \wedge d_9 \wedge load_1 \wedge shoot_8$ constitutes, informally speaking, a “flattening” of (??) (or graph G_2) where the ordering among rules has been lost. We get, however, new labels of the form $not(A)$ meaning that atom A is required not to be a program fact, something that is not present in CG-justifications. For instance, (??) points out that $water$ can not be spilt on the gun along situations $0, \dots, 7$. Although this information can be useful for debugging (the original purpose of WnP) its inclusion in a causal explanation is obviously inconvenient from a Knowledge Representation perspective, since it explicitly *enumerates all the defaults* that were applied (no water was spilt at any situation) something that may easily blow up the (causally) irrelevant information in a justification.

An analogous effect happens with the enumeration of exceptions to defaults, like inertia. Take program P_7 obtained from $P_{??}$ by removing all the performed actions, i.e., facts $load_1$, $water_3$, and $shoot_7$. As expected, Fred will be alive, \overline{dead}_t , at any situation t by inertia. ECJ will assign no cause for $dead_t$, not even any inhibited one, i.e. $\mathbb{W}_P(\overline{dead}_t) = 1$ and $\mathbb{W}_P(dead_t) = 0$ for any t . The absence of labels in $\mathbb{W}_P(\overline{dead}_t) = 1$ is, of course, due to the fact that inertia axioms are not labelled, as they naturally represent a default and not a causal law. Still, even if inertia were labelled, say, with in_k per each situation k , we would obtain a *unique cause* for $\mathbb{W}_P(\overline{dead}_t) = in_1 \cdot \dots \cdot in_t$ for any $t > 0$ while maintaining no cause for $\mathbb{W}_P(dead_t) = 0$. However, the number of minimal WnP justifications of $dead_t$ grows quadratically, as it collects *all the plans* for killing Fred in t steps loading and shooting once. For instance, among others, all the following:

$$\begin{aligned} & d_9 \wedge \neg not(load_0) \wedge r_2 \wedge \neg not(shoot_1) \wedge not(water_0) \wedge not(ab_1) \\ & d_9 \wedge \neg not(load_0) \wedge r_2 \wedge \neg not(shoot_2) \wedge not(water_0) \wedge not(water_1) \wedge not(ab_1) \wedge not(ab_2) \\ & d_9 \wedge \neg not(load_1) \wedge r_2 \wedge \neg not(shoot_3) \wedge not(water_0) \wedge \\ & \quad \wedge not(water_1) \wedge not(water_2) \wedge not(ab_1) \wedge not(ab_2) \wedge not(ab_3) \\ & \dots \end{aligned}$$

are WnP-justifications for $dead_9$. The intuitive meaning of expressions of the form $\neg not(A)$ is that $dead_9$ can be justified by adding A as a fact to the program. For instance, the first conjunction means that it is possible to justify $dead_9$ by adding the facts $load_0$ and $shoot_1$ and not adding the fact $water_0$. We will call these justifications, which contain a subterm of the form $\neg not(A)$, *hypothetical* in the sense that they involve some hypothetical program modification.

Definition 15 (Provenance values)

Given a set of labels Lb , a *provenance term* t is recursively defined as one of the following expressions $t ::= l \mid \prod S \mid \sum S \mid \neg t_1$ where $l \in Lb$, t_1 is in its turn a provenance term and S is a (possibly empty and possible infinite) set of provenance terms. *Provenance values* are the equivalence classes of provenance terms under the equivalences of the Boolean algebra. We denote by \mathbf{B}_{Lb} the set of provenance values over Lb . \square

Informally speaking, with respect to ECJ, we have removed the application ‘ \cdot ’ operator, whereas product ‘ \ast ’ and addition ‘ $+$ ’ hold the same equivalences as in Definition ?? and negation ‘ \sim ’ has been replaced by ‘ \neg ’ from Boolean algebra. Thus, ‘ \neg ’ is classical and satisfies all the axioms

of ‘ \sim ’ plus $\neg\neg t = t$. Note also that, in the examples, we have followed the convention from (?) of using the symbols ‘ \wedge ’ and \vee to respectively represent meet and join. However, in formal definitions, we will keep respectively using ‘ $*$ ’ and ‘ $+$ ’ for that purpose. We define a mapping $\lambda^P : \mathbf{V}_{Lb} \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}_{Lb}$ in the following recursive way:

$$\lambda^P(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \lambda^P(u) \otimes \lambda^P(w) & \text{if } t = u \otimes v \text{ with } \otimes \in \{+, *\} \\ \lambda^P(u) * \lambda^P(w) & \text{if } t = u \cdot v \\ \neg \lambda^P(u) & \text{if } t = \sim u \\ l & \text{if } t = l \text{ with } l \in Lb \end{cases}$$

Definition 16 (Provenance)

Given a program P , the why-not provenance program $\mathfrak{P}(P) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P \cup P'$ where P' contains a labelled fact of the form $(\sim \text{not}(A) : A)$ for each atom $A \in At$ not occurring in P as a fact. We will write \mathfrak{P} instead of $\mathfrak{P}(P)$ when the program P is clear by the context. We denote by $Why_P(L) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda^P(\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}}(L))$ the why-not provenance of a q-literal L . We also say that a justification is hypothetical when $\text{not}(A)$ occurs oddly negated in it, non-hypothetical otherwise. \square

Theorem 7

Let P be program over a finite signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$. Then, the provenance of a literal according to Definition ?? is equivalent to the provenance defined by (?). \square

Theorem 8

Let P be program over a finite signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$. \mathbb{W}_P is the result of removing all non-hypothetical justification from $\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}}$ and each occurrence of the form $\sim \sim \text{not}(A)$ for the remaining ones, that is, $\mathbb{W}_P = \rho(\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}})$ where ρ is the result of removing every label of the form $\text{not}(A)$, that is ρ is the composition of $\rho_{\text{not}(A_1)} \circ \rho_{\text{not}(A_2)} \circ \dots \circ \rho_{\text{not}(A_n)}$ with $At = \{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$. \square

On the one hand, Theorem ?? shows that the provenance of a literal can be obtained by replacing the negation ‘ \sim ’ by ‘ \neg ’ and ‘ \cdot ’ by ‘ $*$ ’ in the causal WFM of the augmented program \mathfrak{P} . On the other hand, Theorem ?? asserts that non-hypothetical justifications of a program and its augmented one coincide when subterms of the form $\sim \sim \text{not}(A)$ are removed from justifications of the latter. Consequently, we can establish the following correspondence between the ECJ justifications and the non-hypothetical WnP justifications.

Theorem 9

Let P be program over a finite signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$. Then, the ECJ justifications of some atom A (after replacing ‘ \cdot ’ by ‘ $*$ ’ and ‘ \sim ’ by ‘ \neg ’) correspond to the WnP justifications of A (after removing every label of the form $\text{not}(B)$ with $B \in At$), that is, $\lambda^P(\mathbb{W}_P)(A) = \rho(Why_P)(A)$ where ρ is the result of removing every label of the form $\text{not}(A)$ as in Theorem ??). \square

Theorem ?? establishes a correspondence between non-hypothetical WnP-justifications and (flattened) ECJ justifications. In our running example, (??) is the unique causal justification of $dead_9$, while (??) (below) is its unique non-hypothetical WnP justification.

$$\begin{aligned} & \neg water_3 \wedge shoot_8 \wedge load_1 \wedge l_2 \wedge d_9 \wedge \\ & \wedge \text{not}(dead_1) \wedge \dots \wedge \text{not}(dead_9) \wedge \text{not}(ab_1) \wedge \dots \wedge \text{not}(ab_8) \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

It is easy to see that, by applying λ^p to (??) we obtain

$$\lambda^p((\sim water_3 * shoot_8 * load_1 \cdot l_2) \cdot d_9) = \neg water_3 \wedge shoot_8 \wedge load_1 \wedge l_2 \wedge d_9 \quad (12)$$

which is just the result of removing all labels of the form ‘ $not(A)$ ’ from (??). The correspondence between the ECJ justification (??) and the WnP justification (??) for program $P_{??}$ can be easily checked in a similar way.

Hypothetical justifications are not directly captured by ECJ, but can be obtained using the augmented program \mathfrak{P} as stated by Theorem ?? . As a byproduct we establish a formal relation between WnP and CG.

Theorem 10

Let P be a program over a finite signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$. Then, every non-hypothetical and enabled WnP-justification D of some atom A (after removing every label of the form $not(B)$ with $B \in At$) is a justification with respect to every CG stable model \tilde{I} (after replacing “ \cdot ” by “ $*$ ” and “ \sim ” by “ \neg ”), that is $D \leq Why_P(A)$ implies $\rho(D) \leq \lambda^p(\tilde{I})(A)$ where ρ is the result of removing every label of the form $not(B)$ as in Theorem ?? . \square

Note that, as happened between the ECJ and CG justifications, the converse of Theorem ?? does not hold in general due to the well-founded vs stable model difference in their definitions. As an example, the explanation for atom c at program $P_{??}$ has a unique WnP justification c as opposed to the two CG justifications, c and $r_1 \cdot r_3$.

5 Contributory causes

Intuitively, a *contributory cause* is an event that has helped to produce some effect. For instance, in program $P_{??}$, it is easy to identify both actions, $load_1$ and $shoot_8$, as events that have helped to produce $dead_9$ and, thus, they are both contributory causes of Fred’s death. We may define the above informal concept of contributory cause as: any non-negated label l that occurs in a maximal enabled justification of some atom A . Similarly, a *contributory enabler* can be defined as a doubly negated label $\sim\sim l$ that occurs in a maximal enabled justification of some atom A . These definitions correctly identify $load_1$ and $shoot_8$ as contributory causes of $dead_9$ in program $P_{??}$ and d as a contributory cause of p in program $P_{??}$. Fact h is considered a contributory enabler of p . These definitions will also suffice for dealing with what Hall (?) calls *trouble cases: non-existent threats, short-circuits, late-preemption and switching examples*.

It is worth to mention that, in the philosophic and AI literature, the concept of contributory cause is usually discussed in the broader sense of *actual causation* which tries to provide an *unique everyday-concept* of causation. Pearl (?) studied actual and contributory causes relying on *causal networks*. In this approach, it is possible to conclude cause-effect relations like “ A has been an actual (resp. contributory) cause of B ” from the behaviour of structural equations by applying, under some *contingency* (an alternative model in which some values are fixed) the *counterfactual dependence* interpretation from (?): “had A not happened, B would not have happened.” Consider the following example which illustrates the difference between contributory and actual causes under this approach.

Example 1 (Firing Squad)

Suzy and Billy form a two-man firing squad that responds to the order of the captain. The shot of any of the two riflemen would kill the prisoner. Indeed, the captain gives the order, both riflemen shoot together and the prisoner dies. \square

On the one hand, the captain is an actual cause of the prisoner’s death: “had the captain not given the order, the riflemen would not have shot and the prisoner would not have died.” On the other hand, each rifleman alone is not an actual cause: “had one rifleman not shot, the prisoner would have died anyway because of the other rifleman.” However, each rifleman’s shot is a contributory cause because, under the contingency where the other rifleman does not shoot, the prisoner’s death manifests counterfactual dependence on the first rifleman’s shot. Later approaches like (?; ?; ?; ?) have not made this distinction and consider the captain and the two riflemen as actual causes of the prisoner’s death, while (?) considers the captain and the conjunction of both riflemen’s shoots, but not each of them alone, as actual causes. We will focus here on representing the above concept of contributory cause and leave to the reader whether this agrees with the concept of cause in the every-day discourse or not.

As has been slightly discussed in the introduction, Hall (?; ?), has emphasized the difference between two types of causal relations: *dependence* and *production*. The former relies on the idea that “counterfactual dependence between wholly distinct events is sufficient for causation.” The latter is characterised by being *transitive*, *intrinsic* (two processes following the same laws must be both or neither causal) and *local* (causes must be connected to their effects via sequences of causal intermediates).

These two concepts can be illustrated in Bond’s example by observing the difference between pouring the drug (atom d), which is a cause under both understandings, and being a holiday (atom h), which is not considered a cause under the production viewpoint, although it is considered a cause under the dependence one.

In this sense, all the above approaches to actual causation, but (?), can be classified in the dependence category. ECJ and CG do not consider h a productive cause of d because the *default* (or *normal*) behaviour of rule (??) is that “ d causes p .” This default criterion is also shared by (?; ?; ?; ?). Note that, ECJ (but not CG) captures the fact that d counterfactually depends on h , as it considers it an enabler. In (?), the author relies on intrinsicness for rejecting h as a productive cause of d : any causal structure (justification) including h and p would have to include the absence of the antidote (atom a), and it would be enough that Bond had taken the antidote by another reason to break the counterfactual dependence between h and p . By applying the above contributory cause definition to the WnP justification $h \wedge d \wedge r_1$ of Bond’s paralysis (atom p) in program $P_{??}$, we can easily identify that h is being considered a cause in WnP, thus, a causal interpretation of WnP clearly follows the dependence-based viewpoint. On the other hand, the unique CG justification $d \cdot r_1$ only considers d as a cause, which illustrates the fact that CG is mostly related to the concept of production. ECJ combines both understandings, and what is a cause under the dependence viewpoint is either an enabler or a cause under the production viewpoint.

In order to illustrate how ECJ can be used for representing the so-called *non-existent threat* scenarios, consider a variation of Bond’s example where today is not a holiday and, thus, Bond takes the antidote. The poured drug d is a threat to Bond’s safety, represented as s , but that threat is prevented by the antidote. We may represent this scenario by program P_8 below:

$$\begin{array}{ll} r_1 : p \leftarrow d, \text{not } a & a \\ r_2 : a \leftarrow \text{not } h & d \\ r_3 : s \leftarrow \text{not } p & \end{array}$$

The causal WFM of program $P_{??}$ assigns

$$\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(s) = \sim\sim r_2 \cdot r_3 + \sim d \cdot r_3 + \sim r_1 \cdot r_3$$

which recognises rule r_2 (taking the antidote) as a contributory enabler of Bond's safety. The difficulty in this kind of scenarios consists in avoiding the wrong recognition of r_2 as an enabler when the threat d does not exist. If we remove fact d from $P_{??}$ to get the new program P_9 then we obtain that $\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(d) = 0$ and, consequently, $\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(s) = r_3$. Intuitively, in the absence of any threat, Bond is just safe because that is his default behaviour as stated by rule r_3 .

Short-circuit examples consist in avoiding the wrong recognition of an event as a contributory enabler that provokes a threat that eventually prevents itself. Consider the program P_{10} below:

$$\begin{aligned} r_1 : p &\leftarrow a, \text{not } f & a \\ r_2 : f &\leftarrow c, \text{not } b & c \\ r_3 : b &\leftarrow c \end{aligned}$$

Here, c is a threat to p , since it may cause f through rule r_2 . However, c eventually prevents r_2 , since it also causes b through rule r_3 . The causal WFM of program $P_{??}$ assigns

$$\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(p) = (a * \sim\sim r_3) \cdot r_1 + (a * \sim r_2) \cdot r_1 + (a * \sim c) \cdot r_1$$

which correctly avoids considering c as a contributory enabler of p and recognises r_3 as the enabler of p . Note that c is actually considered an inhibitor due to justification $(a * \sim c) \cdot r_1$ pointing out that, had c not happened, then $a \cdot r_1$ would have been an enabled justification. But then, $(a * \sim\sim r_3) \cdot r_1$ would stop being a justification since $(a * \sim\sim r_3) \cdot r_1 + a \cdot r_1 = a \cdot r_1$.

To illustrate *late-preemption* consider the following example from (?).

Example 2 (Rock Throwers)

Billy and Suzy throw rocks at a bottle. Suzy throws first and her rock arrives first. The bottle shattered. When Billy's rock gets to where the bottle used to be, there is nothing there but flying shards of glass. Who has caused the bottle to shatter? \square

The key of this example is to recognise that Suzy, and not Billy, has caused the shattering. The usual way of representing this scenario in the actual causation literature is by introducing two new fluents *hit_suzy* and *hit_billy* in the following way (?; ?; ?; ?):

$$\text{hit_suzy} \leftarrow \text{throw_suzy} \tag{13}$$

$$\text{hit_billy} \leftarrow \text{throw_billy}, \neg \text{hit_suzy} \tag{14}$$

$$\text{shattered} \leftarrow \text{hit_suzy} \tag{15}$$

$$\text{shattered} \leftarrow \text{hit_billy} \tag{16}$$

It is easy to see that such a representation mixes, in law (??), both the description of the world and the narrative fact asserting that Suzy threw first. This may easily lead to a problem of elaboration tolerance. For instance, if we have N shooters and they shoot sequentially we would have to modify the equations for all of them in an adequate way, so that the last shooter's equation would have the negation of the preceding $N-1$ and so on. Moreover, all these equations would have to be *reformulated* if we simply change the shooting order. On the other hand, we may represent this scenario by a program P_{11} consisting of the following rules

$$\begin{aligned} s_{t+1} : \quad & \frac{\text{shattered}_{t+1} \leftarrow \text{throw}(A)_t, \text{not } \text{shattered}_t}{\text{shattered}_0} & \text{throw}(\text{suzy})_0 \\ & & \text{throw}(\text{billy})_1 \end{aligned}$$

with $A \in \{suzy, billy\}$, plus the following rules corresponding to the inertia axioms

$$\begin{aligned} shattered_{t+1} &\leftarrow shattered_t, \overline{not\ shattered}_{t+1} \\ \overline{shattered}_{t+1} &\leftarrow \overline{shattered}_t, not\ shattered_{t+1} \end{aligned}$$

Atom $shattered_2$ holds in the standard WFM of $P_{??}$ and its justification corresponds to

$$throw(suzy)_0 \cdot s_1 + (\sim throw(suzy) * throw(billy)_1) \cdot s_2 + (\sim s_1 * throw(billy)_1) \cdot s_2$$

On the one hand, the first addend points out that fact $throw(suzy)_0$ has caused $shattered_2$ by means of rule s_1 . On the other hand, the second addend indicates that $throw(billy)_1$ has not caused it because Suzy's throw has prevented it. Finally, the third addend means that $throw(billy)_1$ would have caused the shattering if it were not for rule s_1 . This example shows how our semantics is able to recognise that it was Suzy, and not Billy, who caused the bottle shattering. Furthermore, it also explains that Billy did not cause it because Suzy did it first.

Finally, consider the following example from (?).

Example 3 (The Engineer)

An engineer is standing by a switch in the railroad tracks. A train approaches in the distance. She flips the switch, so that the train travels down the right-hand track, instead of the left. Since the tracks reconverge up ahead, the train arrives at its destination all the same; let us further suppose that the time and manner of its arrival are exactly as they would have been, had she not flipped the switch. \square

This has been a controversial example. In (?), the author has argued that the switch should be considered a cause of the arrival because *switch* has contributed to the fact that the train has travelled down the right-hand track. In a similar manner, it seems clear that the train travelling down the right-hand track has contributed to the train arrival. If causality is considered to be a transitive relation, as (?) does, the immediate consequence of the above reasoning is that flipping the *switch* has contributed to the train *arrival*. In (?) he argues otherwise and points out that commonsense tells that the *switch* is not a cause of the *arrival*. (?) had considered *switch* a cause of *arrival* depending on whether the train travelling down the tracks is represented by one or two variables in the model. Although our understanding of causality is closer to the one expressed in (?), it is not the aim of this work to go more in depth in this discussion, but to show instead how both understandings can be represented in ECJ. Consider the following program P_{12}

$$\begin{array}{ll} r_1 : arrival \leftarrow right & \overline{switch} \leftarrow not\ switch \\ r_2 : arrival \leftarrow left & switch \leftarrow not\ \overline{switch} \\ r_3 : right \leftarrow train, \overline{not\ switch} & train \\ r_4 : left \leftarrow train, not\ switch & switch \end{array}$$

where \overline{switch} represents the strong negation of *switch*. The two unlabelled rules capture the idea that the switch behaves classically, that is, it must be activated or not. The literal $\overline{not\ switch}$ in the body of rule r_3 points out that the *switch* position is an enabler and not a cause of the track taken by the train. This representation can be arguable, but the way in which the rule has been written would be expressing that if a train is coming, then a train will cross the right track by default unless \overline{switch} prevents it. In that sense, the only productive cause for *right* (a train in the right track) is *train* (a train is coming) whereas the switch position just enables the causal rule to be applied. A similar default r_4 is built for the left track, flipping the roles of *switch* and \overline{switch} .

The causal WFM of program $P_{??}$ corresponds to

$$\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(arrival) = (train * \sim\sim switch) \cdot r_3 \cdot r_1 + (train * \sim switch) \cdot r_4 \cdot r_2$$

It is easy to see that *switch* is a doubly-negated label occurring in the maximal enabled justification $E_1 = (train * \sim\sim switch) \cdot r_3 \cdot r_1$ and, thus, we may identify it as a contributory enabler of *arrival*, but not its productive cause. On the other hand, by looking at the inhibited justification $E_2 = (train * \sim switch) \cdot r_4 \cdot r_2$, we observe that *switch* is also preventing rules r_4 and r_2 to produce the same effect, *arrival*, that is helping to produce in E_1 .

If we want to ignore the way in which the train arrives, one natural possibility is using the same label for all the rules for atom *arrival*, reflecting in this way that we do not want to trace whether r_1 or r_2 has been actually used. Suppose we label r_2 with r_1 instead, leading to the new program P_{13}

$$\begin{array}{ll} r_1 : arrival \leftarrow right & \overline{switch} \leftarrow not\ switch \\ r_1 : arrival \leftarrow left & switch \leftarrow not\ \overline{switch} \\ r_3 : right \leftarrow train, \overline{not\ switch} & train \\ r_3 : left \leftarrow train, not\ switch & switch \end{array}$$

whose causal WFM corresponds to

$$\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(arrival) = (train * \sim\sim switch) \cdot r_3 \cdot r_1 + (train * \sim switch) \cdot r_3 \cdot r_1 = train \cdot r_3 \cdot r_1$$

As we can see, this justification does not consider *switch* at all as a cause of the arrival (nor even a contributory enabler, as before). In other words, *switch* is *irrelevant* for the train *arrival*, which probably coincides with the most common intuition.

However, we do not find this solution fully convincing yet, because the explanation we obtain for *right*, $\mathbb{W}_{P_{??}}(right) = (train * \sim\sim switch) \cdot r_3$ is showing that *switch* is just acting as an enabler, as we commented before. If we wanted to represent *switch* as a contributory cause of *right*, we would have more difficulties to simultaneously keep *switch* irrelevant in the explanation of *arrival*. One possibility we plan to explore in the future is allowing the declaration of a given atom or fluent, like our *switch*, as *classical* so that we include both, the the rule:

$$switch \leftarrow not\ not\ switch$$

in the logic program³ and the axiom $\sim\sim switch = switch$ in the algebra. The latter immediately implies $switch + \sim switch = 1$ (due to the weak excluded middle axiom).

Then, $P_{??}$ could be simply expressed as

$$\begin{array}{ll} r_1 : arrival \leftarrow right & train \\ r_1 : arrival \leftarrow left & switch \\ r_3 : right \leftarrow train, switch & \\ r_3 : left \leftarrow train, not\ switch & \end{array}$$

and the justification of *right* and *left* would become

$$\mathbb{W}_P(right) = (train * switch) \cdot r_3 \quad \mathbb{W}_P(left) = (train * \sim switch) \cdot r_3$$

³ This implication actually corresponds to a *choice rule* $0\{switch\}1$, commonly used in Answer Set Programming.

pointing out that *switch* is a cause (resp. an inhibitor) of the train travelling down the right (resp. left) track. Then, the justification of arrival would be

$$\mathbb{W}_P(\text{arrival}) = (\text{train} * \text{switch}) \cdot r_3 \cdot r_1 + (\text{train} * \sim \text{switch}) \cdot r_3 \cdot r_1 = \text{train} \cdot r_3 \cdot r_1$$

We leave the study of this possibility for a future deeper analysis.

6 Conclusions and other related work

In this paper we have introduced a unifying approach that combines causal production with enablers and inhibitors. We formally capture inhibited justifications by introducing a “non-classical” negation ‘ \sim ’ in the algebra of causal graphs (CG). An inhibited justification is nothing else but an expression containing some negated label. We have also distinguished productive causes from enabling conditions (counterfactual dependences that are not productive causes) by using a double negation ‘ $\sim\sim$ ’ for the latter. The existence of enabled justifications is a sufficient and necessary condition for the truth of a literal. Furthermore, our justifications capture, under the Well-Founded Semantics, both Causal Graph and Why-not Provenance justifications. As a byproduct we established a formal relation between these two approaches.

We have also shown how several standard examples from the literature on actual causation can be represented in our formalism and illustrated how this representation is suitable for domains which include dynamic defaults – those whose behaviour are not predetermined, but rely on some program condition – as for instance the inertia axioms. As pointed out by (?), causal knowledge can be structured by a combination of *inertial laws* – how the world would evolve if nothing intervened – and *deviations* from these inertial laws.

In addition to the literature on actual causes cited in Section ??, our work also relates to papers on reasoning about actions and change (?; ?; ?). These works have been traditionally focused on using causal inference to solve representational problems (such as, the frame, ramification and qualification problems) without paying much attention to the derivation of cause-effect relations. Focusing on LP, our work obviously relates to explanations obtained from ASP debugging approaches (?; ?; ?; ?; ?; ?; ?). The most important difference of these works with respect to ECJ, and also WnP and CG, is that the last three provide fully algebraic semantics in which justifications are embedded into program models. A formal relation between (?) and WnP was established in (?) and so, using Theorems ?? and ??, it can be directly extended to ECJ, but at the cost of flattening the graph information (i.e. losing the order among rules).

Interesting issues for future study are incorporating enabled and inhibited justifications to the stable model semantics and replacing the syntactic definition in favour of a logical treatment of default negation, as done for instance with the Equilibrium Logic (?) characterisation of stable models. Other natural steps would be the consideration of syntactic operators, for capturing more specific knowledge about causal information as done in (?) capturing sufficient causes in the CG approach, and also the representation of non-deterministic causal laws, by means of disjunctive programs or the incorporation of probabilistic knowledge.

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Appendix A. Auxiliary figures

Associativity	Commutativity	Absorption	
$t + (u+w) = (t+u) + w$	$t + u = u + t$	$t = t + (t*u)$	
$t * (u*w) = (t*u) * w$	$t * u = u * t$	$t = t * (t+u)$	
Distributive	Identity	Idempotency	Annihilator
$t + (u*w) = (t+u) * (t+w)$	$t = t + 0$	$t = t + t$	$1 = 1 + t$
$t * (u+w) = (t*u) + (t*w)$	$t = t * 1$	$t = t * t$	$0 = 0 * t$

Fig. A 1. Sum and product satisfy the properties of a completely distributive lattice.

Appendix B. Proofs of Theorems and Implicit Results

In the following, by abuse of notation, for every function $f : \mathbf{V}_{Lb} \rightarrow \mathbf{V}_{Lb}$, we will also denote by f a function over the set of interpretations such that $f(I)(A) = f(I(A))$ for every atom $A \in At$. We have organized the proofs into different subsections.

Appendix B.1. Proofs of Propositions ?? to ??

Proposition 1

Negation ' \sim ' is anti-monotonic. That is $t \leq u$ holds if and only if $\sim t \geq \sim u$ for any given two causal terms t and u . □

Proof. By definition $t \leq u$ iff $t * u = t$. Furthermore, by De Morgan laws, $\sim(t * u) = \sim t + \sim u$ and, thus, $\sim(t * u) = \sim t$ iff $\sim t + \sim u = \sim t$. Finally, just note that $\sim t + \sim u = \sim t$ iff $\sim t \geq \sim u$. Hence, $t \leq u$ holds iff $\sim t \geq \sim u$. □

Proposition 2

The map $t \mapsto \sim \sim t$ is a closure. That is, it is monotonic, idempotent and it holds that $t \leq \sim \sim t$ for any given causal term t . □

Proof. To show that $t \mapsto \sim \sim t$ is monotonic just note that $t \mapsto \sim t$ is antimonotonic (Proposition ??) and then $t \leq u$ iff $\sim t \geq \sim u$ iff $\sim \sim t \leq \sim \sim u$. Furthermore, $\sim \sim(\sim \sim t) = \sim(\sim \sim \sim t) = \sim \sim t$,

that is, $t \mapsto \sim\sim t$ is idempotent. Finally, note that, by definition, $t \leq \sim\sim t$ iff $t * \sim\sim t = t$ and

$$\begin{aligned}
t * \sim\sim t &= t * \sim\sim t + 0 && \text{(identity)} \\
&= t * \sim\sim t + t * \sim t && \text{(pseudo-complement)} \\
&= (t * \sim\sim t + t) * (t * \sim\sim t + \sim t) && \text{(distributivity)} \\
&= (t + t) * (\sim\sim t + t) * (t + \sim t) * (\sim\sim t + \sim t) && \text{(distributivity)} \\
&= t * (\sim\sim t + t) * (t + \sim t) * (\sim\sim t + \sim t) && \text{(idempotency)} \\
&= t * (t + \sim t) * (\sim\sim t + t) * 1 && \text{(w. excluded middle)} \\
&= t * (t + \sim t) * (\sim\sim t + t) && \text{(identity)} \\
&= t * (\sim\sim t + t) && \text{(absorption)} \\
&= t && \text{(absorption)}
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, $t \mapsto \sim\sim t$ is a closure. \square

Proposition 3

Given any term t , it can be rewritten as an equivalent term u in negation and disjunctive normal forms. \square

Proof. This is a trivial proof by structural induction using the DeMorgan laws and negation of application axiom. Furthermore, using the axiom $\sim\sim t = t$ no more than two nested negations are required. Furthermore, it is easy to see that by applying distributivity of “ \cdot ” and “ $*$ ” over “ $+$,” every term can be equivalently represented as a term “ $+$ ” is not in the scope of any other operation. Moreover, applying distributivity of “ \cdot ” over “ $*$ ” every such term can be represented as one in every application subterm is elementary. \square

Lemma B.1

Let t be a join irreducible causal value. Then, either $t * \sim\sim u = 0$ or $t * \sim\sim u$ is join irreducible for every causal value $u \in \mathbf{V}_{Lb}$. \square

Proof. Suppose that $t * u$ is not join irreducible and let $W \subseteq \mathbf{V}_{Lb}$ a set of causal values such that $w \neq t * \sim\sim u$ for every $w \in W$ and $t * \sim\sim u = \sum_{w \in W} w$. Since $t * \sim\sim u = \sum_{w \in W} w$, it follows that $w \leq t * \sim\sim u$ for every $w \in W$ and, since $w \neq t * \sim\sim u$, it follows that $w < t * \sim\sim u$ for every $w \in W$. Furthermore, $t * \sim\sim u + t * \sim u = t * (\sim\sim u + \sim u) = t$.

Since t is join irreducible, it follows that either $t = t * \sim\sim u$ or $t = t * \sim u$. If $t = t * \sim u$, then $t * \sim\sim u = (t * \sim u) * \sim\sim u = 0$. Otherwise, $t = t * \sim\sim u$ and t is join irreducible by hypothesis. \square

Lemma B.2

Let t be a term. Then $\lambda^p(\sim t) = \neg \lambda^p(t)$. \square

Proof. We proceed by structural induction assuming that t is in negated normal form. In case that $t = a$ is elementary, it follows that $\lambda^p(\sim a) = \neg a = \neg \lambda^p(a)$. In case that $t = \sim a$ with a elementary, $\lambda^p(\sim t) = \lambda^p(\sim\sim a)$ and $\lambda^p(\sim\sim a) = a = \neg \neg a = \neg \lambda^p(\sim a) = \lambda^p(t)$. In case that $t = \sim\sim a$, with a elementary, $\lambda^p(\sim t) = \lambda^p(\sim\sim\sim a)$ and

$$\lambda^p(\sim\sim\sim a) = \lambda^p(\sim a) = \neg a = \neg \lambda^p(\sim\sim a) = \neg \lambda^p(t)$$

In case that $t = u + v$. Then

$$\lambda^P(\sim t) = \lambda^P(\sim u * \sim v) = \lambda^P(\sim u) \wedge \lambda^P(\sim v)$$

By induction hypothesis $\lambda^P(\sim u) = \neg\lambda^P(u)$ and $\lambda^P(\sim v) = \neg\lambda^P(v)$ and, therefore, it holds that $\lambda^P(\sim t) = \neg\lambda^P(u) \wedge \neg\lambda^P(v)$. Thus, $\neg\lambda^P(t) = \neg(\lambda^P(u) \vee \lambda^P(v)) = \neg\lambda^P(u) \wedge \neg\lambda^P(v) = \lambda^P(\sim t)$.

In case that $t = u \otimes v$ with $\otimes \in \{*, \cdot\}$. Then $\lambda^P(\sim t) = \lambda^P(\sim u + \sim v) = \lambda^P(\sim u) \vee \lambda^P(\sim v)$ and by induction hypothesis $\lambda^P(\sim u) = \neg\lambda^P(u)$ and $\lambda^P(\sim v) = \neg\lambda^P(v)$. Consequently it holds that $\lambda^P(\sim t) = \neg\lambda^P(t)$. \square

Lemma B.3

Let t be a term and ϕ a provenance term. If $\phi \leq \lambda^P(t)$, then $\lambda^P(\sim t) \leq \neg\phi$ and if $\lambda^P(t) \leq \phi$, then $\neg\phi \leq \lambda^P(\sim t)$. \square

Proof. If $\phi \leq \lambda^P(t)$, then $\phi = \lambda^P(t) * \phi$ and then $\neg\phi = \neg\lambda^P(t) + \neg\phi$ and, by Lemma ??, it follows that $\neg\phi = \lambda^P(\sim t) + \neg\phi$. Hence $\lambda^P(\sim t) \leq \neg\phi$. Furthermore if $\lambda^P(t) \leq \phi$, then $\phi = \lambda^P(t) + \phi$ and then $\neg\phi = \neg\lambda^P(t) * \neg\phi$ and, by Lemma ??, it follows that $\neg\phi = \lambda^P(\sim t) * \neg\phi$. Hence $\neg\phi \leq \lambda^P(\sim t)$. \square

Appendix B.2. Proof of Theorem ??

The proof of Theorem ?? will rely on the definition of the following direct consequence operator

$$\tilde{T}_P(\tilde{I})(H) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum \{ (\tilde{I}(B_1) * \dots * \tilde{I}(B_n)) \cdot r_i \mid (r_i : H \leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_n) \in P \}$$

for any CG interpretation \tilde{I} and atom $H \in At$. Note that the definition of this direct consequence operator \tilde{T}_P is analogous to the T_P operator, but the domain and image of \tilde{T}_P are the set of CG interpretations while the domain and image of T_P are the set of ECJ interpretations.

Theorem 11 (Theorem 2 from ?)

Let P be a (possibly infinite) positive logic program with n causal rules. Then, (i) $\text{lfp}(\tilde{T}_P)$ is the least model of P , and (ii) $\text{lfp}(\tilde{T}_P) = \tilde{T}_P \uparrow^\omega(\mathbf{0}) = \tilde{T}_P \uparrow^n(\mathbf{0})$. \square

Proof of Theorem ??. Assume that every term occurring in P is NNF and let Q be the program obtained by renaming in P each occurrence of $\sim l$ as l' and each occurrence of $\sim\sim l$ as l'' with l' and l'' new symbols. Note that this renaming implies that $\sim l$ and $\sim\sim l$ are treated as completely independent symbols from l and, thus, all equalities among terms derived from program Q are also satisfied by P , although the converse does not hold. Note also that, since \sim does not occur in Q , this is also a CG program. From Theorem ??, $\text{lfp}(\tilde{T}_Q) = \tilde{T}_Q \uparrow^\omega(\mathbf{0})$ is the least model of Q . By renaming back l' and l'' as $\sim l$ and $\sim\sim l$ in $\tilde{T}_Q \uparrow^k(\mathbf{0})$ we obtain $T_P \uparrow^k(\mathbf{0})$ for any k . Hence, $\text{lfp}(T_P) = T_P \uparrow^\omega(\mathbf{0})$ is the least model of P . Statement (ii) is proved in the same manner. \square

Appendix B.3. Proof of Proposition ??

Lemma B.4

Let P_1 and P_2 be two programs and let U_1 and U_2 be two interpretations such that $P_1 \supseteq P_2$ and $U_1 \leq U_2$. Let also I_1 and I_2 be the least models of $P_1^{U_1}$ and $P_2^{U_2}$, respectively. Then $I_1 \geq I_2$. \square

Proof. First, for any rule r_i and pair of interpretations J_1 and J_2 such that $J_1 \geq J_2$,

$$J_1(\text{body}^+(r_i^{U_1})) \geq J_2(\text{body}^+(r_i^{U_2}))$$

Furthermore, since $U_1 \leq U_2$, by Proposition ??, it follows

$$U_1(\text{body}^-(r_i^{U_1})) \geq U_2(\text{body}^-(r_i^{U_2}))$$

and, since by Definition ?? $J_j(\text{body}^-(r_i^{U_1})) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} U_j(\text{body}^-(r_i^{U_1}))$, it follows that

$$J_1(\text{body}^-(r_i^{U_1})) \geq J_2(\text{body}^-(r_i^{U_2}))$$

Hence, we obtain that $J_1(\text{body}(r_i^{U_1})) \geq J_2(\text{body}(r_i^{U_2}))$.

Since $P_1 \supseteq P_2$, it follows that every rule $r_i \in P_2$ is in P_1 as well. Thus, $T_{P_1^{U_1}}(J_1)(H) \geq T_{P_2^{U_2}}(J_2)(H)$ for every atom H . Furthermore, since

$$T_{P_1^{U_1}} \uparrow^0 (\mathbf{0})(H) = T_{P_2^{U_2}} \uparrow^0 (\mathbf{0})(H) = 0$$

it follows $T_{P_1^{U_1}} \uparrow^i (\mathbf{0})(H) \geq T_{P_2^{U_2}} \uparrow^i (\mathbf{0})(H)$ for all $0 \leq i$. Finally,

$$T_{P_j^{U_j}} \uparrow^\omega (\mathbf{0})(H) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{i \leq \omega} T_{P_j^{U_j}} \uparrow^i (\mathbf{0})(H) = 0$$

and hence $T_{P_1^{U_1}} \uparrow^\omega (\mathbf{0})(H) \geq T_{P_2^{U_2}} \uparrow^\omega (\mathbf{0})(H)$. By Theorem ??, these are respectively the least models of $P_1^{U_1}$ and $P_2^{U_2}$. That is $I_1 \geq I_2$. \square

Proposition 4

Γ_P operator is anti-monotonic and operator Γ_P^2 is monotonic. That is, $\Gamma_P(U_1) \geq \Gamma_P(U_2)$ and $\Gamma_P^2(U_1) \leq \Gamma_P^2(U_2)$ for any pair of interpretations U_1 and U_2 such that $U_1 \leq U_2$. \square

Proof. Since $U_1 \leq U_2$, by Lemma ??, it follows $I_1 \geq I_2$ with I_1 and I_2 being respectively the least models of P^{U_1} and P^{U_2} . Then, $\Gamma_P(U_1) = I_1$ and $\Gamma_P(U_2) = I_2$ and, thus, $\Gamma_P(U_1) \geq \Gamma_P(U_2)$. Since Γ_P is anti-monotonic it follows that Γ_P^2 is monotonic. \square

Appendix B.4. Proof of Theorem ??

The proof of Theorem ?? will rely on the relation between ECJ justifications and non-hypothetical WnP justifications established by Theorem ?? and it can be found below the proof of that theorem in page ??.

Appendix B.5. Proof of Theorem ??*Definition 17*

A term $t \in \mathbf{V}_{Lb}$ is *join irreducible* iff $t = \sum_{u \in U} u$ implies that $u = t$ for some $u \in U$ and it is *join prime* iff $t \leq \sum_{u \in U} u$ implies that $u \leq t$ for some $u \in U$. \square

Proposition 5

The following results hold:

1. A term is join irreducible iff is join prime.
2. If Lb is finite, then every term t can be represented as a unique finite sum of pairwise incomparable join irreducible terms. \square

Proof. The first result directly follows from Theorem 1 in (?, page 65). Furthermore, from Theorem 2 in (?, page 66), in every distributive lattice satisfying the descending chain condition, any element can be represented as a unique finite sum of pairwise incomparable join irreducible elements and it is clear that every finite lattice satisfies the descending chain condition. \square

Lemma B.5

Let P be a positive program over a signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$ where Lb is a finite set of labels and Q be the result of removing all rules labelled by some label $l \in Lb$. Let I and J be two interpretations such that J such that $\rho_{\sim l}(I) \geq J$. Then, $\rho_{\sim l}(\Gamma_P(I)) \leq \Gamma_Q(J)$. \square

Proof. By definition $\Gamma_P(I)$ and $\Gamma_Q(J)$ are the least models of programs P^I and Q^J , respectively. Furthermore, from Theorem ??, the least model of any program P is the least fixpoint of the T_P operator, that is, $\Gamma_X(Y) = T_{X^Y} \uparrow^\omega (\mathbf{0})$ with $X \in \{P, Q\}$ and $X^Y \in \{P^I, P^J\}$. Then, the proof follows by induction assuming that $u \leq T_{Q^J} \uparrow^\beta (\mathbf{0})(H)$ implies $\rho_{\sim l}(u) \leq T_{Q^J} \uparrow^\beta (\mathbf{0})(H)$ for any join irreducible u , atom H and every ordinal $\beta < \alpha$.

Note that $T_{Q^J} \uparrow^0 (\mathbf{0})(H) = 0 = \rho_{\sim l}(0) = T_{P^I} \uparrow^0 (\mathbf{0})(A)$ for any atom H and, thus, the statement holds vacuous.

If α is a successor ordinal, since $u \leq T_{P^I} \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})(H)$, there is a rule in P of the form (??) such that

$$u \leq (u_{B_1} * \dots * u_{B_m} * u_{C_1} * \dots * u_{C_n}) \cdot r_i$$

where $u_{B_j} \leq T_{P^I} \uparrow^{\alpha-1} (\mathbf{0})(B_j)$ and $u_{C_j} \leq \sim I(C_j)$ for each positive literal B_j and each negative literal *not* C_j in the body of rule r_i . Then,

1. By induction hypothesis, it follows that $\rho_{\sim l}(u_{B_j}) \leq T_{Q^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1} (\mathbf{0})(B_j)$, and
2. from $\rho_{\sim l}(I(H)) \geq J(H)$, it follows that $u_{C_j} \leq \sim I(C_j)$ implies $\rho_{\sim l}(u_{C_j}) \leq \sim J(C_j)$.

Furthermore, if $r_i \neq l$, then $r_i \in Q$ and, thus,

$$\rho_{\sim l}(u) \leq (\rho_{\sim l}(u_{B_1}) * \dots * \rho_{\sim l}(u_{B_m}) * \rho_{\sim l}(u_{C_1}) * \dots * \rho_{\sim l}(u_{C_n})) \cdot r_i \leq T_{Q^J} \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})(H)$$

If otherwise $r_i = l$, then $\rho_{\sim l}(u) = 0 \leq T_{Q^J} \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})(H)$.

In case that α is a limit ordinal, $u \leq T_{P^I} \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})$ iff $u \leq T_{P^I} \uparrow^\beta (\mathbf{0})$ for some $\beta < \alpha$ and any join irreducible u . Hence, by induction hypothesis, it follows that $\rho_{\sim l}(u) \leq T_{Q^J} \uparrow^\beta (\mathbf{0}) \leq T_{Q^J} \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})$ and, thus, $\rho_{\sim l}(T_{P^I} \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})) \leq T_{Q^J} \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})$. \square

Proof of Theorem ??. In the sake of simplicity, we just write ρ instead of $\rho_{\sim r_i}$. Note that, by definition, for any atom H , it follows that $\mathbb{W}_X(H) = \mathbb{L}_X(H)$ with $X \in \{P, Q\}$. The proof follows by induction in the number of steps of the Γ^2 operator assuming as induction hypothesis that $\Gamma_Q^2 \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0}) \leq \rho(\Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0}))$ for every $\beta < \alpha$. Note that $\Gamma_Q^2 \uparrow^0(\mathbf{0})(H) = 0 \leq \rho(\Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^0(\mathbf{0}))(H)$ and, thus, the statement trivially holds for $\alpha = 0$.

In case that α is a successor ordinal, by induction hypothesis, it follows that

$$\Gamma_Q^2 \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0}) \leq \rho(\Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0}))$$

and, from Lemma ??, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_Q(\Gamma_Q^2 \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})) &\geq \rho(\Gamma_P(\Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0}))) \\ \Gamma_Q^2(\Gamma_Q^2 \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(H)) &\leq \rho(\Gamma_P^2(\Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0}))) \end{aligned}$$

That is, $\Gamma_Q^2 \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0}) \leq \rho(\Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0}))$.

Finally, in case that α is a limit ordinal, every join irreducible u satisfies $u \leq \Gamma_Q^2 \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0}) = \sum_{\beta < \alpha} \Gamma_Q^2 \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0})$ iff $u \leq \Gamma_Q^2 \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0})$ for some $\beta < \alpha$ and, thus, by induction hypothesis $\rho(u) \leq \Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0}) \leq \Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})$. Consequently, $\Gamma_Q^2 \uparrow^\infty(\mathbf{0}) \leq \rho(\Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\infty(\mathbf{0}))$ and $\mathbb{W}_Q(A) \leq \rho(\mathbb{W}_P(A))$ for any atom A . \square

Appendix B.6. Proof of Theorem ??

By $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I})$ we denote the least model of a program $P^{\tilde{I}}$. Note that the relation between $\tilde{\Gamma}_P$ and Γ_P is similar to the relation between \tilde{T}_P and T_P : the $\tilde{\Gamma}_P$ operator is a function in the set of CG interpretations while Γ_P is a function in the set of ECJ interpretations. Note also that the evaluation of negated literals with respect to CG and ECJ interpretations and, thus, the reducts $P^{\tilde{I}}$ and P^I may be different even if $\tilde{I}(A) = I(A)$ for every atom A .

Lemma B.6

Let P be a labelled logic program, \tilde{I} and J be respectively an CG and a ECJ interpretation such that $\tilde{I} \geq \lambda^c(J)$. Then $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I}) \leq \lambda^c(\Gamma_P(J))$. \square

Proof. By definition $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I})$ and $\Gamma_P(J)$ are respectively the least model of the programs $P^{\tilde{I}}$ and P^J . Furthermore, from Theorem ?? the least model of any program P is the least fixpoint of the T_P operator, that is, $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I}) = \tilde{T}_{P^{\tilde{I}}} \uparrow^\omega(\mathbf{0})$ and $\Gamma_P(J) = T_{P^J} \uparrow^\omega(\mathbf{0})$. In case that $\alpha = 0$, it follows that $\tilde{T}_{P^{\tilde{I}}} \uparrow^0(\mathbf{0})(H) = 0 \leq \lambda^c(T_{P^J} \uparrow^0(\mathbf{0}))(H)$ for every atom H . We assume as induction hypothesis that $\tilde{T}_{P^{\tilde{I}}} \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0}) \leq \lambda^c(T_{P^J} \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0}))$ for all $\beta < \alpha$.

In case that α is a successor ordinal, $E \leq \tilde{T}_{P^{\tilde{I}}} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H) = \tilde{T}_{P^{\tilde{I}}}(\tilde{T}_{P^{\tilde{I}}} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0}))(H)$ if and only if there is a rule R^I in P^I of the form

$$r_i : H \leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_m,$$

which is the reduct of a rule R of the form (??) in P and that satisfies $E \leq (E_{B_1} * \dots * E_{B_m}) \cdot r_i$ with each $E_{B_j} \leq \tilde{T}_{P^{\tilde{I}}} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_j)$ and $\tilde{I}(C_j) = 0$ for all B_j and C_j in $\text{body}(R)$. Hence there is a rule in P^J of the form

$$r_i : H \leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_m, J(\text{not } C_1), \dots, J(\text{not } C_n)$$

and, by induction hypothesis, $E_{B_j} \leq \lambda^c(T_{P^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_j))$ for all B_j . Furthermore, by definition

$$(T_{P^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_1) * \dots * T_{P^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_m) * J(\text{not } C_1) * \dots * J(\text{not } C_m)) \cdot r_i \leq T_{P^J} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H)$$

From the fact that $\tilde{I}(C_j) = 0$ and the lemma's hypothesis $\tilde{I} \geq \lambda^c(J)$, it follows that $0 \geq \lambda^c(J(C_j))$ and, thus, $1 \leq \lambda^c(\sim J(C_j)) = \lambda^c(J(\text{not } C_j))$. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda^c((T_{P^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_1) * \dots * T_{P^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_m) * J(\text{not } C_1) * \dots * J(\text{not } C_m)) \cdot r_i) &= \\ &= \lambda^c((T_{P^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_1) * \dots * T_{P^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_m)) * \lambda^c(J(\text{not } C_1)) * \dots * \lambda^c(J(\text{not } C_m))) \cdot r_i \\ &= \lambda^c((T_{P^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_1) * \dots * T_{P^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_m)) * 1 * \dots * 1) \cdot r_i \\ &= \lambda^c((T_{P^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_1) * \dots * T_{P^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_m))) \cdot r_i \end{aligned}$$

and, thus,

$$\lambda^c((T_{P^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_1) * \dots * T_{P^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_m))) \cdot r_i \leq \lambda^c(T_{P^J} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H))$$

Since $E_{B_j} \leq \lambda^c(T_{P^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_j))$ for all B_j , it follows that

$$E \leq (E_{B_1} * \dots * E_{B_m}) \cdot r_i \leq \lambda^c(T_{P^J} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H))$$

Finally, in case that α is a limit ordinal, it follows from Theorem ?? that $\alpha = \omega$. Furthermore, since \tilde{I} is a CG interpretation, it follows that $P^{\tilde{I}}$ is a CG program and, thus, $E \leq T_{P^{\tilde{I}}} \uparrow^\omega(\mathbf{0})$ iff $E \leq T_{P^{\tilde{I}}} \uparrow^n(\mathbf{0})$ for some $n < \omega$ (see ?). Hence, by induction hypothesis, it follows that $E \leq T_{P^J} \uparrow^n(\mathbf{0}) \leq T_{P^J} \uparrow^\omega(\mathbf{0})$. \square

Lemma B.7

Let P be a labelled logic program over a signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$ where Lb is a finite set of labels, \tilde{I} and J respectively be a CG and a ECJ interpretation such that $\tilde{I} \leq \lambda^c(J)$. Then $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I}) \geq \lambda^c(\Gamma_P(J))$. \square

Proof. Since Lb is finite, it follows that \mathbf{V}_{Lb} is also finite. Furthermore, since \mathbf{V}_{Lb} is a finite distributive lattice, every element $t \in \mathbf{V}_{Lb}$ can be represented as a unique sum of join irreducible elements (Proposition ??).

Assume as induction hypothesis that $u \leq T_{P^J} \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0})(H)$ implies $\lambda^c(u) \leq \tilde{T}_{P^J} \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0})(H)$ for every join irreducible u , atom $H \in At$ and ordinal $\beta < \alpha$.

In case that α is a successor ordinal. For any join irreducible justification $u \leq T_{P^J} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H)$ there is a rule R^J in P^J of the form (??) and there are join irreducible terms $u_{B_j} \leq T_{P^J} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_j)$ and $u_{C_j} \leq \sim J(C_j)$ for all B_j and C_j such that

$$u \leq (u_{B_1} * \dots * u_{B_m} * u_{C_1} * \dots * u_{C_n}) \cdot r_i$$

If u_{C_j} contains an oddly negated label for some C_j , then $\lambda^c(u_{C_j}) = 0$ and it consequently follows that $\lambda^c(u) = 0 \leq \tilde{T}_{P^J} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H)$. Thus, we assume that u_{C_j} only contains evenly negated labels for any C_j . Note that, since $u_{C_j} \leq \sim J(C_j)$, then u_{C_j} cannot contain any non-negated label, that is, all occurrences of labels in u_{C_j} are strictly evenly negated and, thus, every term $u'_{C_j} \leq J(C_j)$ must contain some oddly negated label. Hence, $\tilde{I}(C_j) \leq \lambda^c(J(C_j)) = 0$ for any C_j and there is a rule R^I in Q^I of the form

$$r_i : H \leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_m$$

By induction hypothesis, $u_{B_j} \leq T_{P^j} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_j)$ implies $\lambda^c(u_{B_j}) \leq \tilde{T}_{P^j} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_j)$ and, consequently, $\lambda^c(u) \leq \tilde{T}_{P^j} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H)$.

Since $T_{P^j} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H) = \sum_{u \in U_H} u$ where every $u \in U_H$ is join irreducible and every $u \in U_H$ satisfies $u \leq T_{P^j} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H)$, it follows that $\lambda^c(u) \leq \tilde{T}_{P^j} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H)$ and, thus, $\sum_{u \in U_H} \lambda^c(u) \leq \tilde{T}_{P^j} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H)$. Note that, by definition, $\lambda^c(\sum_{u \in U_H} u) = \sum_{u \in U_H} \lambda^c(u)$ and, thus,

$$\lambda^c(T_{P^j} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H)) = \lambda^c\left(\sum_{u \in U_H} u\right) \leq \tilde{T}_{P^j} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H)$$

In case that α is a limit ordinal, it follows $u \leq T_{P^j} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H)$ iff $u \leq T_{P^j} \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0})(H)$ for some $\beta < \omega$ and, by induction hypothesis, it follows that $\lambda^c(u) \leq \tilde{T}_{P^j} \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0})(H) \leq \tilde{T}_{P^j} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H)$ and, thus, $\tilde{T}_{P^j} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0}) \geq \lambda^c(T_{P^j} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0}))$.

Finally, by definition $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I})$ and $\Gamma_P(J)$ are respectively the least models of $P^{\tilde{I}}$ and P^J and, from Theorem ??, these are precisely $\tilde{T}_{P^{\tilde{I}}} \uparrow^\omega(\mathbf{0})$ and $T_{P^J} \uparrow^\omega(\mathbf{0})$. Hence, $\tilde{T}_{P^{\tilde{I}}} \uparrow^\omega(\mathbf{0}) \geq \lambda^c(T_{P^J} \uparrow^\omega(\mathbf{0}))$ implies $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I}) \geq \lambda^c(\Gamma_P(J))$. \square

Proposition 6

Given a program P over a signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$ where Lb is a finite set of labels, any ECJ interpretation I satisfies $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\lambda^c(I)) = \lambda^c(\Gamma_P(I))$. \square

Proof of Proposition ??. Let \tilde{I} be a CG interpretation such that $I(H) = \tilde{I}(H)$ for every atom H . Then, it follows that $\tilde{I} = \lambda^c(I)$. Hence, from Lemmas ?? and ??, it respectively follows that $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I}) \leq \lambda^c(\Gamma_P(I))$ and $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I}) \geq \lambda^c(\Gamma_P(I))$. Then, $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I}) = \tilde{\Gamma}_P(\lambda^c(I)) = \lambda^c(\Gamma_P(I))$. \square

Proof of Theorem ??. According to (?), a CG interpretation \tilde{I} is a CG stable model of P iff \tilde{I} is the least model of the program $P^{\tilde{I}}$. Then, the CG stable models are just the fixpoints of the $\tilde{\Gamma}_P$ operator.

Let \tilde{I} be a CG stable model according to (?), let I be a ECJ interpretation such that $I(H) = \tilde{I}(H)$ for every atom $H \in At$ and let $J \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\infty(I)$ be the least fixpoint of Γ_P^2 iterating from I . Since $I(H) = \tilde{I}(H)$ for every atom $H \in At$, it follows that $\tilde{I} = \lambda^c(I)$ and, by definition of CG stable model, it follows that $\tilde{I} = \tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I})$. Thus, from Proposition ??, it follows that $\tilde{I} = \lambda^c(\Gamma_P(I))$. Applying $\tilde{\Gamma}_P$ to both sides of this equality, we obtain that $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I}) = \tilde{\Gamma}_P(\lambda^c(\Gamma_P(I)))$. From Proposition ?? again, it follows that $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\lambda^c(\Gamma_P(I))) = \lambda^c(\Gamma_P(\Gamma_P(I))) = \lambda^c(\Gamma_P^2(I))$ and, thus, $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I}) = \lambda^c(\Gamma_P^2(I))$. Furthermore, since $\tilde{I} = \tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I})$, it follows that $\tilde{I} = \lambda^c(\Gamma_P^2(I))$. Inductively applying this argument, it follows that $\tilde{I} = \lambda^c(\Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\alpha(I))$ for any successor ordinal α . Moreover, for a limit ordinal α ,

$$\lambda^c(\Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\alpha(I)) = \lambda^c\left(\sum_{\beta < \alpha} \Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\beta(I)\right) = \sum_{\beta < \alpha} \lambda^c(\Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\beta(I)) = \tilde{I}$$

Then, since we have defined $J = \Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\infty(I)$, it follows that $\tilde{I} = \lambda^c(J) = \lambda^c(I)$ and, since we also have that $\tilde{I} = \lambda^c(\Gamma_P(I))$, we obtain that $\lambda^c(I) = \lambda^c(\Gamma_P(I))$.

The other way around. Let I be a fixpoint of Γ_P^2 such that $\lambda^c(I) = \lambda^c(\Gamma_P(I))$ and let $\tilde{I} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda^c(I)$. In the same way as above, it follows that $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I}) = \lambda^c(\Gamma_P(I)) = \lambda^c(I) = \tilde{I}$. That is, $\tilde{\Gamma}_P(\tilde{I}) = \tilde{I}$ and so that \tilde{I} is a causal stable model of P according to (?). \square

Appendix B.7. Proof of Theorem ??

Proof of Theorem ??. Let \tilde{I} be a causal stable model of P and I be the correspondent fixpoint of Γ_P^2 with $\tilde{I} = \lambda^c(I)$. Since E is a enabled justification of A , i.e. $E \leq \mathbb{W}_P(A)$, then $E \leq \mathbb{L}_P(A)$ with \mathbb{L}_P the least fixpoint of Γ_P^2 . Since, I is a fixpoint of Γ_P^2 , it follows that $E \leq \mathbb{L}_P(A) \leq I(A)$ and, thus, $\lambda^c(E) \leq \lambda^c(I(A)) = \tilde{I}(A)$. Then $G \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{graph}(\lambda^c(E))$ is, by definition, a causal explanation of the atom A .

Appendix B.8. Proof of Theorem ??

The proof of Theorem ?? will need the following definition.

Definition 18

Given a program P , a *WnP interpretation* is a mapping $\mathcal{J} : At \rightarrow \mathbf{B}_{Lb}$ assigning a Boolean formula to each atom. The evaluation of a negated literal $\text{not}A$ with respect to a WnP interpretation is given by $\mathcal{J}(\text{not}A) = \neg\mathcal{J}(A)$. An interpretation \mathcal{J} is a WnP model of rule like (??) iff

$$\mathcal{J}(B_1) * \dots * \mathcal{J}(B_m) * \mathcal{J}(\text{not}C_1) * \dots * \mathcal{J}(\text{not}C_n) * r_i \leq \mathcal{J}(H)$$

The operator $\mathfrak{G}_P(\mathcal{J})$ maps a WnP interpretation \mathcal{J} to the least model of the program $P^{\mathcal{J}}$. \square

Note that the only differences in the model evaluation between ECJ and WnP comes from the valuation of negative literals and the use of ‘*’ instead of ‘.’ for keeping track of rule application. Besides, we will also use the following facts whose proof is addressed in an appendix.

Definition 19

Given a positive program P , we define a direct consequence operator \mathfrak{T}_P such that

$$\mathfrak{T}_P(\mathcal{J})(H) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum \{ \mathcal{J}(B_1) * \dots * \mathcal{J}(B_n) * r_i \mid (r_i : H \leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_n) \in P \}$$

for any WnP interpretation \mathcal{J} and atom $H \in At$. \square

Definition 20 (From ?)

Given a program P , its why-not program is given by $\mathcal{P} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P \cup P'$ here P' contains a labelled fact of the form

$$\neg \text{not}(A) : A$$

for each atom $A \in At$ not occurring in P as a fact. The why-not provenance information under the well-founded semantics is defined as follows: $\text{Why}_{\mathcal{P}}(H) = [\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{P}}(H)]$; $\text{Why}_{\mathcal{P}}(H) = [\neg \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{P}}(H)]$; and $\text{Why}_{\mathcal{P}}(\text{undef } A) = [\neg \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{P}}(H) \wedge \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{Q}}(H)]$ where $\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{P}}$ and $\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{Q}} = \mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{P}})$ be the least and greatest fixpoints of $\mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{P}}^2$, respectively. \square

Lemma B.8

Let P be a labelled logic program over a signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$ where Lb is a finite set of labels and let I and \mathcal{J} be respectively a ECJ and a WnP interpretation such that $\lambda^P(I) \geq \mathcal{J}$. Then, $\lambda^P(\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(I)) \leq \mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{J})$.

Proof. By definition $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(I)$ and $\mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{J})$ are the least model of the programs \mathfrak{P}^I and $\mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{J}}$, respectively. Furthermore, the least model of programs \mathfrak{P}^I and $\mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{J}}$ are the least fixpoint of the $T_{\mathfrak{P}^I}$ and $\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{J}}}$ operators, that is, $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(I) = T_{\mathfrak{P}^I} \uparrow^{\omega}(\mathbf{0})$ and $\mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{J}) = \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{J}}} \uparrow^{\omega}(\perp)$.

In case that $\alpha = 0$, it follows that $\lambda^p(T_{\mathfrak{P}^I} \uparrow^0(\mathbf{0})(H)) = \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{J}} \uparrow^0(\perp)(H) = 0$ for every atom H . We assume as induction hypothesis that $\lambda^p(T_{\mathfrak{P}^I} \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0})) \leq \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{J}} \uparrow^\beta(\perp)$ for all $\beta < \alpha$.

In case that α is a successor ordinal. Assume that $u \leq T_{\mathfrak{P}^I} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(H)$ for some join irreducible u and atom H . Then there is a rule $r_i \in P$ of the form (??) and

$$u \leq (u_{B_1} * \dots * u_{B_1} * u_{C_1} * \dots * u_{C_1}) \cdot r_i$$

where $u_{B_j} \leq T_{\mathfrak{P}^I} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_j)$ and $u_{C_j} \leq \sim I(C_j)$. Hence, by induction hypothesis, it follows that $\lambda^p(u_{B_j}) \leq \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{J}} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\perp)(B_j)$ and, since $u_{C_j} \leq \sim I(C_j)$, it also follows that $\lambda^p(u_{C_j}) \leq \neg \mathfrak{J}(C_j)$ for all C_j . Consequently, we have that $\lambda^p(u) \leq \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{J}} \uparrow^\alpha(\perp)(H)$.

In case that α is a limit ordinal, $u \leq T_{\mathfrak{P}^I} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})$ iff $u \leq T_{\mathfrak{P}^I} \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0})$ for some $\beta < \alpha$ and all join irreducible u . Hence, by induction hypothesis, it follows that $\lambda^p(u) \leq T_{\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{J}} \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0}) \leq T_{\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{J}} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})$ and, thus, $\lambda^p(T_{\mathfrak{P}^I} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})) \leq \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{J}} \uparrow^\alpha(\perp)$. \square

Lemma B.9

Let P be a labelled logic program over a signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$ where Lb is a finite set of labels and let I and \mathfrak{J} be respectively a ECJ and a WnP interpretation such that $\lambda^p(I) \leq \mathfrak{J}$. Therefore, $\lambda^p(\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(I)) \geq \mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{J}}(\mathfrak{J})$. \square

Proof. The proof is similar to the proof of Lemma ?? and we just show the case in which α is a successor ordinal.

Assume that $u \leq \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{J}} \uparrow^\alpha(\perp)(H)$ for some join irreducible u and atom H . Hence, there is some rule $r_i \in P$ of the form (??) and

$$u \leq u_{B_1} * \dots * u_{B_m} * u_{C_1} * \dots * u_{C_n} * r_i$$

where $u_{B_j} \leq \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{J}} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\perp)(B_j)$ for each B_j and $u_{C_j} \leq \neg \mathfrak{J}(C_j)$ for each C_j . By induction hypothesis, $u_{B_j} \leq \lambda^p(T_{\mathfrak{P}^I} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0}))(B_j)$ for all B_j . Furthermore, since $\lambda^p(I) \leq \mathfrak{J}$ it follows, from Lemma ??, that $\lambda^p(\sim I) \geq \neg \mathfrak{J}$ and, since $u_{C_j} \leq \neg \mathfrak{J}(C_j)$, it also follows that $u_{C_j} \leq \lambda^p(\sim I(C_j))$. Hence,

$$\lambda(u) \leq (\lambda^p(u_{B_1}) * \dots * \lambda^p(u_{B_m}) * \lambda^p(u_{C_1}) * \dots * \lambda^p(u_{C_n})) * r_i \leq \lambda^p(T_{\mathfrak{P}^I} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H))$$

Thus, $\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{J}} \uparrow^\alpha(\perp)(B_j) \leq \lambda^p(T_{\mathfrak{P}^I} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(B_j))$. \square

Note that the image of λ^p is a boolean algebra and the set of causal values corresponding to negated terms $\{ \sim t \mid t \in \mathbf{V}_{Lb} \}$ are also a boolean algebra. Consequently, we define a function $\lambda^q(t) = \sim \sim t$ which is analogous to λ^p but whose image is in \mathbf{V}_{Lb} .

Lemma B.10

Let P be a labelled logic program and let I be an ECJ interpretation. Then, $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(I) = \Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(\lambda^q(I))$ and $\lambda^p(t) = \lambda^p(\lambda^q(t))$. \square

Proof. For $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(I) = \Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(\lambda^q(I))$. Since $\lambda^q(t) = \sim \sim t$ and $\sim \sim \sim t = \sim t$, it follows that $\lambda^q(\sim I) = \sim \sim \sim I = \sim I$ and, thus, $\mathfrak{P}^I = \mathfrak{P}^{\lambda^q(I)}$. Since by definition $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(I)$ and $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(\lambda^q(I))$ are respectively the least models of programs \mathfrak{P}^I and $\mathfrak{P}^{\lambda^q(I)}$ it is clear that $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(I) = \Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(\lambda^q(I))$.

For $\lambda^p(t) = \lambda^p(\lambda^q(t))$, just note $\lambda^p(\lambda^q(t)) = \lambda^p(\sim \sim t) = \neg \neg \lambda^p(t) = \lambda^p(t)$. \square

Proposition 7

Let P be a program over a signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$ where Lb is a finite set of labels. Then, any causal interpretation I satisfies:

- (i). $\mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}}(\lambda^P(I)) = \lambda^P(\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(I))$,
- (ii). $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(\lambda^Q(I)) = \Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(I)$ and
- (iii). $\lambda^P(t) = \lambda^P(\lambda^Q(t))$. □

Proof. (i) From Lemmas ?? and ??, it respectively follows that $\lambda^P(\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(I)) \leq \mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}}(\lambda^P(I))$ and that $\lambda^P(\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(I)) \geq \mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}}(\lambda^P(I))$. Then, $\mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}}(\lambda^P(I)) = \lambda^P(\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(I))$. (ii) and (iii) follow from Lemma ??. □

Proof of Theorem ??. Note that $Why_{\mathcal{D}}(A) = \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}}(A)$ and that, by λ^P definition, it follows that $\lambda^P(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$ and thus, from Proposition ?? (i), it follows that $\mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}}(\perp) = \mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}}(\lambda^P(\mathbf{0})) = \lambda^P(\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(\mathbf{0}))$ and

$$\mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}}(\perp) = \mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}}(\lambda^P(\mathbf{0})) = \lambda^P(\Gamma_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathbf{0})) = \lambda^P(\lambda^Q(\Gamma_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathbf{0})))$$

Hence, from Proposition ??, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}}^2(\perp) &= \mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}}(\perp)) = \mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}}(\lambda^P(\lambda^Q(\Gamma_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathbf{0})))) \\ &= \lambda^P(\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(\lambda^Q(\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(\mathbf{0})))) = \lambda^P(\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(\mathbf{0}))) = \lambda^P(\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}^2(\mathbf{0})) \end{aligned}$$

Inductively applying this reasoning it follows that $\mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}}^{2\uparrow\infty}(\mathbf{0}) = \lambda^P(\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}^{2\uparrow\infty}(\mathbf{0}))$ which, by Knaster-Tarski theorem are the least fixpoints of the operators, that is, $\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}} = \lambda^P(\mathbb{L}_{\mathfrak{P}})$ and, consequently, $Why_{\mathcal{D}}(A) = \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}}(A) = \lambda^P(\mathbb{L}_{\mathfrak{P}}(A)) = \lambda^P(\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}}(A)) = Why_P(A)$. Similarly, by definition, it follows that $Why_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{not}A) = \neg\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}}(A)$ where $\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}}$ is the greatest fixpoint of the operator $\mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}}^2$. Thus,

$$Why_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{not}A) = \neg\mathfrak{G}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}}) = \lambda^P(\sim\Gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(\mathbb{L}_{\mathfrak{P}})) = \lambda^P(\sim\mathbb{U}_{\mathfrak{P}}(A)) = \lambda^P(\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}}(\text{not}A))$$

Finally, $Why_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{undef}A) = \neg\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}}(A) * \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{D}}(A)$ and, thus

$$\begin{aligned} Why_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{undef}A) &= \lambda^P(\sim\mathbb{L}_{\mathfrak{P}}(A)) * \lambda^P(\sim\sim\mathbb{U}_{\mathfrak{P}}(A)) \\ &= \lambda^P(\sim\mathbb{L}_{\mathfrak{P}}(A) * \sim\sim\mathbb{U}_{\mathfrak{P}}(A)) \\ &= \lambda^P(\sim\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}}(A) * \sim\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}}(\text{not}A)) = \lambda^P(\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}}(\text{undef}A)) \end{aligned}$$

and, thus, $Why_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{undef}A) = \lambda^P(\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}}(\text{undef}A)) = Why_P(\text{not}A)$. □

Appendix B.9. Proof of Theorem ??*Lemma B.11*

Let P be a labelled logic program over a signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$ where Lb is a finite set of labels and no rule is a labelled by $\text{not}(A)$ nor $\sim\sim\text{not}(A)$. Let Q be the result of removing all rules labelled by $\sim\text{not}(A)$ for some atom A . Let I and J be two interpretations such that $J = \rho_{\text{not}(A)}(I)$. Then, $\Gamma_Q(J) = \rho_{\text{not}(A)}(\Gamma_P(I))$. □

Proof. In the sake of simplicity, we just write ρ instead of $\rho_{\text{not}(A)}$. By definition $\Gamma_P(I)$ and $\Gamma_Q(J)$ are respectively the least model of P^I and Q^J . The proof follows then by induction on the steps of the T_P operator assuming that $\rho(T_{P^I} \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0})) = T_{Q^J} \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0})$ for all $\beta < \alpha$.

Note that, $T_X \uparrow^0 (\mathbf{0})(H) = 0$ for any program X and atom H and, thus, the statement trivially holds.

In case that α is a successor ordinal. Let $u \in \mathbf{V}_{Lb}$ be a join irreducible causal value such that $u \leq T_{Pl} \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})(H)$. Then, there is a rule in P of the form (??) such that

$$u \leq (u_{B_1} * \dots * u_{B_m} * u_{C_1} * \dots * u_{C_n}) \cdot r_i$$

where $u_{B_j} \leq T_{Pl} \uparrow^{\alpha-1} (\mathbf{0})(B_j)$ and $u_{C_j} \leq \sim I(C_j)$ for each positive literal B_j and each negative literal $not C_j$ in the body of rule r_i .

If $r_i = \sim not(A)$, then $\rho(u) = 0 \leq T_Q \uparrow^{\alpha-1} (\mathbf{0})(H)$. Otherwise,

1. By induction hypothesis, it follows that $\rho(u_{B_j}) \leq T_Q \uparrow^{\alpha-1} (\mathbf{0})(B_j)$, and
2. from $J(H) = \rho(I(H))$ and $u_{C_j} \leq \sim I(C_j)$, it follows that $\rho(u_{C_j}) \leq \sim J(C_j)$.

Furthermore, no rule in the program P is labelled with $not(A)$ nor $\sim \sim not(A)$ and, thus, $r_i \neq not(A)$ and $r_i \neq \sim \sim not(A)$. Hence, $\rho(u) \leq T_Q \uparrow^{\alpha-1} (\mathbf{0})(H)$.

The other way around is similar. Since $u \leq T_{Q'} \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})(H)$ there is a rule in Q of the form (??) such that

$$u \leq (u_{B_1} * \dots * u_{B_m} * u_{C_1} * \dots * u_{C_n}) \cdot r_i$$

and $u_{B_j} \leq T_{Q'} \uparrow^{\alpha-1} (\mathbf{0})(B_j)$ and $u_{C_j} \leq \sim J(C_j)$ for each positive literal B_j and each negative literal $not C_j$ in the body of rule r_i . By induction hypothesis, $u_{B_j} \leq \rho(T_{Pl} \uparrow^{\alpha-1} (\mathbf{0})(B_j))$ for each B_j with $1 \leq j \leq m$ and, since $J(H) = \rho(I(H))$ and $u_{C_j} \leq \sim J(C_j)$, it follows that $u_{C_j} \leq \rho(\sim I(C_j))$. Then, $u \leq \rho(T_{Pl} \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})(H))$.

In case that α is a limit ordinal $T_X \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0}) = \sum_{\beta < \alpha} T_X \uparrow^\beta (\mathbf{0})(H)$ and, thus, $u \leq T_X \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})$ if and only if $u \leq T_X \uparrow^\beta (\mathbf{0})(H)$ with $\beta < \alpha$. By induction hypothesis, $\rho(T_{Pl} \uparrow^\beta (\mathbf{0})(H)) = T_{Q'} \uparrow^\beta (\mathbf{0})(H)$ and, thus, $u \leq \rho(T_{Pl} \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0}))$ if and only if $u \leq T_{Q'} \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})$. Hence, $\rho(T_{Pl} \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})) = T_{Q'} \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})$ and, consequently, $\Gamma_Q(J) = \rho(\Gamma_P(I))$. \square

Proposition 8

Let P be a labelled logic program over a signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$ where Lb is a finite set of labels where no rule is a labelled by $not(A)$ nor $\sim \sim not(A)$. Let Q be the result of removing all rules labelled by $\sim not(A)$ for some atom A . Then, $\mathbb{L}_Q = \rho_{not(A)}(\mathbb{L}_P)$ and $\mathbb{U}_Q = \rho_{not(A)}(\mathbb{U}_P)$. \square

Proof. Note that $\mathbb{L}_X = \Gamma_X^2 \uparrow^\infty (\mathbf{0})$ with $X \in \{P, Q\}$. Furthermore, by definition, it follows that $\Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^0 (\mathbf{0}) = \Gamma_Q^2 \uparrow^0 (\mathbf{0}) = 0$. Then, assume as induction hypothesis that $\Gamma_Q^2 \uparrow^\beta (\mathbf{0}) = \rho(\Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\beta (\mathbf{0}))$ for all $\beta < \alpha$. When α is a successor ordinal, by definition $\Gamma_X^2 \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0}) = \Gamma_X^2(\Gamma_X^2 \uparrow^{\alpha-1} (\mathbf{0})) = \Gamma_X(\Gamma_X(\Gamma_X^2 \uparrow^{\alpha-1} (\mathbf{0})))$ with $X \in \{P, Q\}$ and, thus, the statement follows from Lemma ??.

In case that α is a limit ordinal $\Gamma_X^2 \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0}) = \sum_{\beta < \alpha} \Gamma_X^2 \uparrow^\beta (\mathbf{0})$. Then, for every join irreducible u it follows that $u \leq \Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})$ if and only if $u \leq \Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\beta (\mathbf{0})$ for some $\beta < \alpha$ (by induction hypothesis) iff $\rho(u) \leq \Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\beta (\mathbf{0})$ iff $\rho(u) \leq \Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0})$. Hence, $\Gamma_Q^2 \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0}) = \rho(\Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\alpha (\mathbf{0}))$ and, consequently, $\mathbb{L}_Q = \rho(\mathbb{L}_P)$

Finally, note that $\mathbb{U}_X = \Gamma_X(\mathbb{L}_X)$ with $X \in \{P, Q\}$ and, thus, the statement follows directly from Lemma ??.

Proof of Theorem ??. By definition, program P is the result of removing all rules labelled with $\sim not(A)$ in \mathfrak{P} . In case that L is some atom H , by definition, it follows that $\mathbb{W}_P(H) = \mathbb{L}_P(H)$ and $\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}}(H) = \mathbb{L}_{\mathfrak{P}}(H)$ and, from Proposition ??, it follows that $\mathbb{L}_P = \rho(\mathbb{L}_{\mathfrak{P}})$ and, thus $\mathbb{W}_P = \rho(\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}})$.

Similarly, in case that L is a negative literal ($L = not H$), then $\mathbb{W}_P(H) = \sim \mathbb{U}_P(H)$ and $\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}}(H) = \sim \mathbb{U}_{\mathfrak{P}}(H)$ and, from Proposition ??, it follows that $\mathbb{U}_P = \rho(\mathbb{U}_{\mathfrak{P}})$. Just note that $\rho_x(\sim u) = \sim \rho_x(u)$ for any elementary term x and any value u . Hence, $\mathbb{U}_P = \rho(\mathbb{U}_{\mathfrak{P}})$ implies that $\sim \mathbb{U}_P = \rho(\sim \mathbb{U}_{\mathfrak{P}})$ and, consequently, $\mathbb{W}_P = \rho(\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}})$.

In case that L is an undefined literal ($L = undef H$), by definition, it follows that $\mathbb{W}_P(H) = \sim \mathbb{W}_P(H) * \sim \mathbb{W}_P(not H) = \sim \mathbb{L}_P(H) * \sim \sim \mathbb{U}_P(H)$ and $\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}}(H) = \sim \mathbb{L}_{\mathfrak{P}}(H) * \sim \sim \mathbb{U}_{\mathfrak{P}}(H)$ and the result follows as before from Proposition ??.

Appendix B.10. Proof of Theorem ??

Proof of Theorem ??. Note that $\rho(\lambda^P(u)) = \lambda^P(\rho(u))$ for any causal value $u \in \mathbf{V}_{Lb}$. By definition $Why_P(L) = \lambda^P(\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}}(L))$ and, thus

$$\rho(Why_P(L)) = \rho(\lambda^P(\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}}(L))) = \lambda^P(\rho(\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}}(L)))$$

From Theorem ??, it follows that $\mathbb{W}_P = \rho(\mathbb{W}_{\mathfrak{P}})$ and, thus, $\rho(Why_P(L)) = \lambda^P(\mathbb{W}_P(L))$.

Appendix B.11. Proof of Theorem ??

The proof of Theorem ?? will rely on the relation between ECJ justifications and non-hypothetical WnP justifications established by Theorem ?? plus the following result from (?). First, we need some notation. Given a conjunction of labels D , by $Remove(D)$ we denote the set of negated labels in D , by $Keep(D)$ the set of positive labels, by $AddFacts(D)$ the set of facts A such that $\sim not(A)$ occurs in D and by $NoFacts(D)$ the set of facts A such that $not(A)$ occurs in D .

Theorem 12 (Theorem 3 from ?)

Given a labelled logic program P , let N be a set of facts not in program P and R be a subset of rules of P . A literal L belongs to the WFM of $(P \setminus R) \cup N$ iff there is a conjunction of literals $D \models Why_P(L)$, such that $Remove(D) \subseteq R$, $Keep(D) \cap R = \emptyset$, $AddFacts(D) \subseteq N$, and $NoFacts(D) \cap N = \emptyset$.

Definition 21

Given a positive program P , we define a direct consequence operator \hat{T}_P such that

$$\hat{T}_P(\hat{I})(H) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum \{ \hat{I}(B_1) * \dots * \hat{I}(B_n) \mid (r_i : H \leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_n) \in P \}$$

for any standard interpretation interpretation \hat{I} and atom $H \in At$.

Lemma B.12

Let P be a labelled logic program over a signature $\langle At, Lb \rangle$ where Lb is a finite set of labels and let I and \hat{I} be respectively a ECJ and a standard interpretation satisfying that there is some enable justification $E \leq \sim I(H)$ for every atom H such that $\hat{I}(H) = 0$. Then, every atom H satisfies $\hat{T}_P(\hat{I})(H) = 1$ iff there is some enabled justification $E \leq \Gamma_P(I)(H)$.

Proof. By definition $\Gamma_P(I)$ and $\hat{\Gamma}_P(\hat{I})$ are the least model of the programs P^I and $P^{\hat{I}}$, respectively. Furthermore, the least model of programs P^I and $P^{\hat{I}}$ are the least fixpoint of the T_P and \hat{T}_P operators, that is, $\Gamma_P(I) = T_{P^I} \uparrow^\omega(\mathbf{0})$ and $\hat{\Gamma}_P(\hat{I}) = \hat{T}_{P^{\hat{I}}} \uparrow^\omega(\mathbf{0})$. In case that $\alpha = 0$, it follows that $\hat{T}_{P^{\hat{I}}} \uparrow^0(\mathbf{0})(H)$ for every atom H and, thus, the statement holds vacuously. We assume as induction hypothesis that for every atom H and ordinal $\beta < \alpha$ such that $\hat{T}_{P^{\hat{I}}} \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0})(H) = 1$, there is some enabled justification $E \leq T_{P^I} \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0})(H)$.

In case that α is a successor ordinal. If $\hat{T}_{P^{\hat{I}}} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(H) = 1$, then there is a rule $r_i \in P$ of the form (??) such that $\hat{T}_{P^{\hat{I}}} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_j) = 1$ and $I(C_j) = 0$. On the one hand, by induction hypothesis, it follows that there is some enabled justification $E_{B_j} \leq T_{P^I} \uparrow^{\alpha-1}(\mathbf{0})(B_j)$ and, by hypothesis, there is some enabled justification $E_{C_j} \leq \sim I(C_j)$. Hence,

$$E \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (E_{B_1} * \dots * E_{B_m} * E_{C_1} * \dots * E_{C_n}) \cdot r_i$$

is an enabled justification $E \leq T_{P^I} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H)$.

The other way around, let E be some join irreducible justification. If $E \leq T_{P^I} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(H)$, then there is a rule $r_i \in P$ of the form (??) such that

$$E \leq (E_{B_1} * \dots * E_{B_m} * E_{C_1} * \dots * E_{C_n}) \cdot r_i$$

where $E_{B_j} \leq T_{P^I} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(B_j)$ and $E_{C_j} \leq \sim I(C_j)$ are enabled justifications. Hence, it follows that $\hat{T}_{P^{\hat{I}}} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0})(B_j) = 1$ and $\hat{I}(C_j) = 0$.

In case that α is a limit ordinal, $\hat{T}_{P^{\hat{I}}} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0}) = 1$ iff $\hat{T}_{P^{\hat{I}}} \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0}) = 1$ for some $\beta < \alpha$ iff there is a join irreducible enabled justification $E \leq T_{P^I} \uparrow^\beta(\mathbf{0}) \leq \lambda^P(T_{P^I} \uparrow^\alpha(\mathbf{0}))$. \square

Proof of Theorem ??. Let $E \leq \mathbb{W}_P(L)$ be an enabled justification of $L \in \{A, \text{not } A, \text{undef } A\}$. From Theorem ??, it follows that $\lambda^P(E) \leq \lambda^P(\mathbb{W}_P(L)) = \rho(\text{Why}_P(L))$, that is, $\lambda^P(E) \leq \rho(\text{Why}_P(L))$. Note that the minimum causal value t such that $\rho(t) = \rho(\text{Why}_P(L))$ is $\text{Why}_P(L) \wedge \bigwedge_{A \in At} \text{not}(A)$ and, thus, $D \leq \text{Why}_P(L)$ where D is defined by $D = \lambda^P(E) \wedge \bigwedge_{A \in At} \text{not}(A)$. Furthermore, since E is an enabled justification, $\lambda^P(E)$ is a positive conjunction and, thus, so it is D . Hence, there is a positive conjunction D such that $D \leq \text{Why}_P(L)$ and, from Theorem ??, it follows that L holds with respect to the standard WFM of P .

The other way around. If $L = A$ is an atom, then L holds with respect to the standard WFM iff $\text{lfp}(\hat{\Gamma}_P^2)(L) = 1$. Furthermore, $\hat{\Gamma}_P^2 \uparrow^0(\mathbf{0})(H) = \Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^0(\mathbf{0}) = 0$ for any atom H and, thus, there is an enabled justification $E \leq \sim \Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^0(\mathbf{0}) = \sim 0 = 1$ for any atom H . Then, from Lemma ??, for any atom H , there is an enabled justification $E \leq \Gamma_P(\Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^0(\mathbf{0}))(H)$ iff $\hat{\Gamma}_P(\hat{\Gamma}_P^2 \uparrow^0(\mathbf{0}))(H) = 1$. Applying this result again, it follows that $E \leq \Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^1(\mathbf{0})(H) = \Gamma_P^2(\Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^0(\mathbf{0}))(H)$ if and only if $\hat{\Gamma}_P^2 \uparrow^1(\mathbf{0})(H) = \hat{\Gamma}_P^2(\hat{\Gamma}_P^2 \uparrow^0(\mathbf{0}))(H) = 1$. Inductively applying this reasoning it follows that $\hat{\Gamma}_P^2 \uparrow^\infty(\mathbf{0})(H) = 1$ iff there is an enabled justification $E \leq \Gamma_P^2 \uparrow^\infty(\mathbf{0})(H)$ which, by Knaster-Tarski theorem are the least fixpoints respectively of the $\hat{\Gamma}_P$ and Γ_P operators.

Similarly, if $L = \text{not } A$, then L holds with respect to the standard WFM if and only if $\text{gfp}(\hat{\Gamma}_P^2)(L) = \hat{\Gamma}_P(\text{lfp}(\hat{\Gamma}_P^2))(L) = 0$ iff there is not any enabled justification $E \leq \Gamma_P(\text{lfp}(\Gamma_P^2))(L) = \text{gfp}(\Gamma_P^2)(L)$ iff there is an enabled justification $E \leq \mathbb{W}_P(L) = \sim \text{gfp}(\Gamma_P^2)(L)$.

Finally, if $L = \text{undef } A$, then L holds with respect to the standard WFM iff $\text{lfp}(\hat{\Gamma}_P^2)(L) = 0$ and $\text{gfp}(\hat{\Gamma}_P^2)(L) = 1$ if and only if there is not any enabled justification $E \leq \mathbb{W}_P(L)$ and there is not

any enabled justification $E \leq \mathbb{W}_P(\text{not}L)$ iff there is some enabled justification $E \leq \sim\mathbb{W}_P(L)$ and there is some enabled justification $E \leq \sim\mathbb{W}_P(\text{not}L)$ iff there is some enabled justification $\mathbb{W}_P(\text{undef}A) = \sim\mathbb{W}_P(A) * \sim\mathbb{W}_P(\text{not}A)$. \square

Appendix B.12. Proof of Theorem ??

Lemma B.13

Let t and u be two causal terms such that no-sums occur in t and $t \leq u$. Then, $\rho_x(t) \leq \rho_x(u)$. \square

Proof. By definition $t \leq u$ if and only if $t = t * u$. Then, $\rho_x(t) = \rho_x(t * u) = \rho_x(t) * \rho_x(u)$ and, thus it follows that $\rho_x(t) \leq \rho_x(u)$. \square

Lemma B.14

Let t be a causal term. Then, $\lambda^c(\lambda^P(t)) \leq \lambda^P(\lambda^c(t))$. \square

Proof. If $t \in Lb$ is a label, then $\lambda^c(t) = t$ and $\lambda^P(t) = t$ and, thus, $\lambda^c(\lambda^P(t)) = t \leq t = \lambda^P(\lambda^c(t))$. If $t = \sim l$ with $l \in Lb$ a label, then $\lambda^c(t) = 0$ and $\lambda^P(t) = \neg l$ and, thus, $\lambda^c(\lambda^P(t)) = 0 \leq 0 = \lambda^P(\lambda^c(t))$. If $t = \sim\sim l$ with $l \in Lb$ a label, then $\lambda^c(t) = 1$ and $\lambda^P(t) = l$ and, thus, $\lambda^c(\lambda^P(t)) = 1 \leq 1 = \lambda^P(\lambda^c(t))$.

Assume as induction hypothesis that $\lambda^c(\lambda^P(u)) \leq \lambda^P(\lambda^c(u))$ for every subterm u of t . If $t = u_1 \cdot u_2$, then

$$\lambda^c(\lambda^P(u_1 \cdot u_2)) = \lambda^c(\lambda^P(u_1) * \lambda^P(u_2)) \leq \lambda^P(\lambda^c(u_1) * \lambda^P(\lambda^c(u_2))) = \lambda^P(\lambda^c(u_1 \cdot u_2))$$

Similarly, if $t = \sum_{u \in U} u$, then

$$\lambda^c(\lambda^P(\sum_{u \in U} u)) = \sum_{u \in U} \lambda^c(\lambda^P(u)) \leq \sum_{u \in U} \lambda^P(\lambda^c(u)) = \lambda^P(\lambda^c(\sum_{u \in U} u))$$

and if $t = \prod_{u \in U} u$, then

$$\lambda^c(\lambda^P(\prod_{u \in U} u)) = \prod_{u \in U} \lambda^c(\lambda^P(u)) \leq \prod_{u \in U} \lambda^P(\lambda^c(u)) = \lambda^P(\lambda^c(\prod_{u \in U} u))$$

\square

Proof of Theorem ??. From Theorem ??, it follows that $\rho(\text{Why}_P(A)) = \lambda^P(\mathbb{W}_P(A))$. Furthermore, since $D \leq \text{Why}_P(A)$, from Lemma ??, it follows that

$$\rho(D) \leq \rho(\text{Why}_P(A)) = \lambda^P(\mathbb{W}_P(A)) = \lambda^P(\mathbb{L}_P(A))$$

and, thus, $\lambda^c(\rho(D)) \leq \lambda^c(\lambda^P(\mathbb{L}_P(A)))$. Let \tilde{I} be any CG stable model. Then, since $\tilde{I} = \lambda^c(I)$ for some fixpoint I of Γ_P^2 , it follows that $\lambda^c(\mathbb{L}_P) \leq \tilde{I}$ and, thus, $\lambda^P(\lambda^c(\mathbb{L}_P)) \leq \lambda^P(\tilde{I})$. Furthermore, from Lemma ??, it follows that $\lambda^c(\lambda^P(\mathbb{L}_P)) \leq \lambda^P(\lambda^c(\mathbb{L}_P))$ and, thus

$$\lambda^c(\rho(D)) \leq \lambda^c(\lambda^P(\mathbb{L}_P(A))) \leq \lambda^P(\lambda^c(\mathbb{L}_P(A))) \leq \lambda^P(\tilde{I}(A))$$

Note that, since D is non-hypothetical and enabled, it does not contain negated labels and, thus, $\lambda^c(\rho(D)) = \rho(D)$. Consequently, $\rho(D) \leq \lambda^P(\tilde{I}(A))$. \square