

PARACONSISTENT RESOLUTION

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Abstract

Digraphs provide an alternative syntax for propositional logic, with digraph kernels corresponding to classical models. Semikernels generalize kernels and we identify a subset of well-behaved semikernels that provides nontrivial models for inconsistent theories, specializing to the classical semantics for the consistent ones. Direct (instead of refutational) reasoning with classical resolution is sound and complete for this semantics, when augmented with a specific weakening which, in particular, excludes *Ex Falso*. Dropping all forms of weakening yields reasoning which also avoids typical fallacies of relevance.

1 Introduction

Numerous approaches to paraconsistency seem to agree on one thing: modifications of the classical logic, made to avoid explosion in the face of inconsistency, should be as limited as possible. We provide a paraconsistent semantics and reasoning system satisfying this objective in an unusually strong sense: models and consequences of consistent theories are exactly their classical models and consequences, while reasoning applies only classical resolution. Following [7, 5], we give an equivalent formulation of propositional syntax as digraphs and of classical semantics as digraph kernels, which are generalized to semikernels. Semikernels underlie a uniform, general concept of a model, which gives classical models for consistent theories as a special case. For each theory, this general concept yields a unique set of atoms involved into inconsistency, which is empty when the theory is consistent.

The new semantics is the main contribution of the paper. Its significance is supported by the fact that classical resolution provides sound and complete reasoning. Paraconsistency of direct (instead of refutational) resolution was applied in [19] to infinitary logic. However, that work lacked the semantic counterpart which is now provided. Direct resolution, applied here to finitary (usual) propositional logic, deviates from refutational resolution primarily by the exclusion of *Ex Falso*. The graph syntax we use, expressed in the language of clauses, makes *Ex Falso* a special case of weakening. An appropriate adjustment of weakening prevents then explosion from a contradiction, allowing for its unrestricted applicability when the theory is consistent.

Section 2 presents the background from [5, 19], explaining the applicability of digraphs as propositional syntax, their kernels as classical models, and semikernels as a generalization of kernels. Section 3 presents the main contribution: a semantics defined in terms of well-behaved semikernels, assigning a nonempty set of models to every theory and specializing to the classical semantics for consistent theories. The main theorem 3.4 shows that every inconsistent theory has a unique set of bad atoms, contributing to inconsistency. The consequence relation also specializes to the classical consequence for consistent theories. Unlike most formalisms, but in agreement with the natural tendency of informal discourse, it disregards inconsistent parts of statements whenever it is possible to extract from them also meaningful elements, to which truth-values can be consistently assigned. Section 4 shows soundness and completeness of resolution with appropriate weakening rules. Section 5 identifies elements of relevance reasoning and their semantics, arising when resolution is used without any form of weakening. Section 6 argues briefly for the main features of our approach in comparison to the more established treatments of paraconsistency.

2 Digraphs as propositional syntax

A propositional formula is in graph normal form, GNF, when it has the form

$$x \leftrightarrow \bigwedge_{i \in [n_x]} \neg y_i, \quad (2.1)$$

where all x, y_i are atoms (propositional variables), $n_x \in \omega$ and $[n] = \{1, \dots, n\}$. When $n_x = 0$, the corresponding formula is x . A theory is in GNF if all formulas are in GNF, and every atom of the theory occurs exactly once

unnegated, i.e., on the left of \leftrightarrow .¹ As an example we will use the formalization Δ , to the right, of the discourse to the left. The statement (a) requires introduction of a fresh atom a' , to conform to GNF:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{(a) This statement is not false.} & a' \leftrightarrow \neg a \\
 \text{(b) The previous and the next statement are false.} & a \leftrightarrow \neg a' \\
 \text{(c) The next statement is false.} & b \leftrightarrow \neg a \wedge \neg c \\
 \text{(d) The next statement is false.} & c \leftrightarrow \neg d \\
 \text{(e) Statement (c) is false.} & d \leftrightarrow \neg e \\
 & e \leftrightarrow \neg c
 \end{array} \tag{2.2}$$

GNF is indeed a normal form: every theory in (infinitary) propositional logic has an equisatisfiable one in GNF, [5] (new variables are typically needed to obtain GNF, as a' above). The classical semantics is defined in the usual way.

GNF allows a natural reading of its equivalences as propositional instances of T-schema, expressing that the atom x is true if and only if what it says, $\bigwedge_{i \in [n_x]} \neg y_i$, is true. Taken in this light, a theory in GNF represents a collection of T-schemata for the actual statements with possible, also indirect, self-references. We therefore call a theory in GNF a *discourse* and define *paradox* as an inconsistent discourse. Plausibility of this definition, implicit in [7], was argued and exemplified in [9, 19] and is witnessed by the increasing popularity of the corresponding graph representation in the analysis of paradoxes, [4, 7, 9, 12, 17, 19].²

Theories in GNF and graphs are easily transformed into each other. A graph (meaning here “directed graph”, unless qualified otherwise) is a pair $G = \langle G, A_G \rangle$ with $A_G \subseteq G \times G$. (Overloading the notation G , for a graph and its set of vertices, should not cause any confusion.) We denote $A_G(x) = \{y \in G \mid A_G(x, y)\}$, $A_G^-(x) = \{y \in G \mid x \in A_G(y)\}$, and extend pointwise such notation to sets, i.e., $A_G^-(X) = \bigcup_{x \in X} A_G^-(x)$, etc. A_G^*/A_G^* denote reflexive, transitive closure of A_G/A_G^- .

A GNF theory Γ determines a graph G with all atoms as vertices and edges from every x on the left side of its GNF formula to each y_i on its right

¹The formula $a \leftrightarrow \neg b$ is in GNF but the theory $\{a \leftrightarrow \neg b\}$ is not, due to the loose b . Such cases can be treated as abbreviations, here, with a fresh atom b' and two additional formulas $b \leftrightarrow \neg b'$ and $b' \leftrightarrow \neg b$.

²GNF finds also another application in argumentation theory in its AI-variant following [8]. In that context, our notion of the (maximal) consistent subdiscourse amounts to a new semantics based on admissible sets, whereby the acceptable extensions are the stable sets of the maximally consistent subdiscourse of the original digraph (argumentation framework).

side, i.e., $A_G = \{\langle x, y_i \rangle \mid x \in G, i \in [n_x]\}$. The graph for Δ from (2.2) is:

$$\mathbf{D} : a' \rightleftarrows a \leftarrow b \rightarrow c \overset{\curvearrowright}{\rightarrow} d \rightarrow e. \quad (2.3)$$

Conversely, the theory of a graph $\langle G, A \rangle$ is $\mathcal{T}(G) = \{x \leftrightarrow \bigwedge_{y \in A(x)} \neg y \mid x \in G\}$. (When x is a *sink*, $A(x) = \emptyset$, this becomes $x \leftrightarrow \top$, i.e., x is included in $\mathcal{T}(G)$.) The two are inverses, so we ignore usually the distinction between theories (in GNF) and graphs, viewing them as alternative presentations.

The equivalence of graphs and GNF theories is not only a syntactic transformation. The classical models of GNF theories can be defined equivalently as kernels of the corresponding graphs, [7, 5]. A *kernel* of a graph G is a subset $K \subseteq G$ which is independent (no edges between vertices in K) and absorbing its complement (every $y \in G \setminus K$ has an edge to some $x \in K$), i.e., such that $A_G^-(K) = G \setminus K$. $Ker(G)$ denotes kernels of G .

A kernel of a graph can be defined equivalently as a 2-partition $\alpha = \langle \alpha^1, \alpha^0 \rangle$ of the vertices G , such that $\forall x \in G$:

$$\begin{aligned} (a) \quad x \in \alpha^1 &\Leftrightarrow \forall y \in A_G(x) : y \in \alpha^0 \\ (b) \quad x \in \alpha^0 &\Leftrightarrow \exists y \in A_G(x) : y \in \alpha^1. \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

A 2-partition α satisfies (2.4) iff $\alpha^1 \in Ker(G)$. On the other hand, satisfaction of (2.4) at every $x \in G$ is equivalent to the satisfaction of the respective GNF theory $\Gamma = \mathcal{T}(G)$. So, for corresponding graph G and theory Γ , we identify also kernels of the former and models of the latter. In short, graphs provide syntax for propositional logic, while their kernels provide its classical semantics.

$CMod(\Gamma)$ denotes classical models of Γ , each represented as a partition $\alpha = \langle \alpha^1, \alpha^0 \rangle$ of G , where α^1/α^0 are atoms assigned $\mathbf{1}/\mathbf{0}$. The classical satisfaction, \models_c , is obtained by the standard extension to complex formulas of the basis for atoms $a \in G$: $\langle \alpha^1, \alpha^0 \rangle \models_c a$ iff $a \in \alpha^1$ and $\langle \alpha^1, \alpha^0 \rangle \models_c \neg a$ iff $a \in \alpha^0$. C is a classical consequence of Γ , $\Gamma \models_c C$ if $\forall \alpha \in CMod(\Gamma) : \alpha \models_c C$.

The exact correspondence between kernels of G and classical models of the respective theory Γ is as follows:³

$$CMod(\Gamma) = \{\langle \alpha^1, \alpha^0 \rangle \in \mathcal{P}(G) \times \mathcal{P}(G) \mid \alpha^1 \in Ker(G), \alpha^0 = A_G^-(\alpha^1)\}. \quad (2.5)$$

³Sufficient conditions for absence of paradox, expressed in terms of the properties of the graph representing the discourse, can be thus imported from kernel theory, as illustrated in [9]. They confirm that the liar, as a minimal odd cycle, is the paradigmatic pattern of a finitary paradox: a finitely branching graph without odd cycles has a kernel. For the infinitary case, it is natural to conjecture that one also has to exclude some form of a Yablo pattern. Such a generalization is proposed in [20] and, in an equivalent formulation, in [4]. The proof of its special case in [20] demonstrates the difficulty of the problem.

Conditions (a) and (b) of (2.4) are equivalent for total α (with $\alpha^0 = G \setminus \alpha^1$), but we will also consider more general structures, arising from the notion of a *semikernel*, [14], namely, a subset $S \subseteq G$ satisfying:

$$A_G(S) \stackrel{(a)}{\subseteq} A_G^-(S) \stackrel{(b)}{\subseteq} G \setminus S. \quad (2.6)$$

By (a), each $x \in G$ with an edge from S has an edge back to S and, by (b), S is independent. $SK(G)$ denotes all semikernels of G . A semikernel S is a kernel of the induced subgraph $A_G^-[S] = A_G^-(S) \cup S$. (An *induced* subgraph, or a subgraph *induced by* $H \subseteq G$ is $H = \langle H, A_G \cap (H \times H) \rangle$.)

Example 2.1. Graph **D** from (2.3) possesses no kernel, as can be seen trying to assign values at $\{c, d, e\}$ conforming to (2.4). Its induced subgraph $\{c, d, e\}$ does not even possess a nonempty semikernel, but the whole graph **D** has two, namely, $\alpha^1 = \{a\}$ and $\beta^1 = \{a'\}$.

A semikernel can be defined equivalently as a 3-partition $\alpha = \langle \alpha^1, \alpha^0, \alpha^\perp \rangle$ of G such that $\forall x \in G$:

$$\begin{array}{lll} (a) & x \in \alpha^1 & \Rightarrow \quad \forall y \in A_G(x) : y \in \alpha^0 & A_G(\alpha^1) \subseteq \alpha^0 \\ (b) & x \in \alpha^0 & \Leftrightarrow \quad \exists y \in A_G(x) : y \in \alpha^1 & \alpha^0 = A_G^-(\alpha^1) \\ (c) & x \in \alpha^\perp & \Leftrightarrow \quad x \in G \setminus (\alpha^1 \cup \alpha^0) & \alpha^\perp = G \setminus (\alpha^1 \cup \alpha^0). \end{array} \quad (2.7)$$

A 3-partition α satisfies (2.7) iff α^1 is a semikernel, and α^1 is a kernel iff α^1 is a semikernel and $\alpha^\perp = \emptyset$.

3 Semantics of inconsistency

This section generalizes classical semantics, \models_c based on kernels (2.5), to paraconsistent semantics using semikernels. By the main theorem 3.4, each graph determines such semantics, with a unique subset of atoms which do not contribute to inconsistency. When the theory is consistent this set comprises all atoms, yielding then (2.5) as a special case. We now motivate a generalization of this semantics to arbitrary theories, that is, graphs possessing possibly no kernels.

In the graph **D** from (2.3), the subgraph induced by $\{c, d, e\}$ has no nonempty semikernel, but the subgraph induced by $\{a', a, b\}$ – the meaningful subdiscourse – has two kernels: $\alpha^1 = \{a\}$ and $\beta^1 = \{a', b\}$. The latter does not seem adequate as a model, because it should function in the context of

the whole original theory, and not only after removal of its inconsistent part. In the context of the whole \mathbf{D} , b negates not only a but also c , so to conform to (2.4), or even just (2.7), $b \in \beta^1$ would require $c \in \beta^0$. Choosing α^1 instead, $b \in \alpha^0$ complies with (2.7) since $a \in A_{\mathbf{D}}(b) \cap \alpha^1$.

This suggests semikernels as a semantic basis in the presence of inconsistency: $\alpha^1 \in SK(\mathbf{D})$, while $\beta^1 \notin SK(\mathbf{D})$. A semikernel α^1 makes all $x \in \alpha^1$ fully justified, in the sense that $A_G(x) \subseteq \alpha^0$. This excludes β^1 from possible models. For $x \in \alpha^0$, on the other hand, it suffices that $A_G(x) \cap \alpha^1 \neq \emptyset$, allowing other out-neighbours of x to be arbitrary – possibly paradoxical. Such paradoxical elements form the third part, α^\perp , of the model.

There are, however, too many semikernels. In the graph \mathbf{D} , each among $\{a\}$, $\{a'\}$ and \emptyset (giving $\alpha^1 = \alpha^0 = \emptyset$ and $\alpha^\perp = \mathbf{D}$) is a semikernel. Such a semantics is too liberal and we have to choose semikernels more carefully.

To explain the next condition, it will be helpful to consider two simple examples. “This statement is false and the sun is not a star” is represented by $F_1: \overset{\curvearrowright}{f} \rightarrow s$. Here, f seems false, negating the true statement s . Indeed, F_1 has a unique kernel, $\alpha^1 = \{s\}$, which yields $f \in \alpha^0 = F_1 \setminus \alpha^1$. Now, consider “This statement is false and the sun is a star” – represented by $F_2: \overset{\curvearrowright}{f} \rightarrow y \rightarrow s$. Now f appears to be paradoxical, since F_2 is a contingent liar, ceasing to be paradoxical only if the sun is not a star, which it is. The only semikernel of F_2 , $\alpha^1 = \{s\}$, gives $\alpha^0 = \{y\}$, but this leads to the irresolvability of the paradox “at” f . In short, f is paradoxical because s happens to be true. Hence, also s is involved in the paradox at f , not as a stand-alone atom but as a member of the formula for y , which in turn features in the formula of the contingently paradoxical f .

The paradox “at” f – “referring to” s by denying y – involves s and y as much as it involves self-reference. If we are not prepared to admit this, we should hardly regard F_1 as non-paradoxical, since the problematic self-reference at f is exactly the same in both F_1 and F_2 . If the truth of s prevents paradox in F_1 then, in the same way, it contributes to it in F_2 .

This is not to suggest that “the sun is a star” is paradoxical on its own, only that its token contributes to the paradoxical whole when combined with the contingent liar as in F_2 . Consistency and paradox are genuinely holistic. Or put differently: the token of “the sun is a star” is unproblematic in F_1 , but its token in F_2 *becomes* paradoxical by contributing to the appearance of the paradox: if there were no s , there would be no paradox. When trying to repair this paradox, removing the loop at f is as good as removing s .

The absence of any single culprit among $\{f, y, s\}$ is just as it was with

$\{c, d, e\}$ in (2.2). A non-obvious informal lesson could be: if an inconsistency, occurring “at” some f , depends on some s (in the sense of $s \in A_G^*(f)$), then s is “a part of” this inconsistency. Consequently, we should not rest satisfied with an arbitrary semikernel, like $\{s\} \in SK(F_2)$. Exactly the semikernel we choose (combined with other factors, like the loop at f) can be the reason for the inconsistency, which could be possibly prevented by another choice. A satisfactory semikernel S should not contribute to any inconsistency occurring above it in the graph. Put precisely, a model is not only a semikernel but an A_G^- -closed semikernel, i.e. (recall the notation $A_G^-[S] = A_G^-(S) \cup S$):

$$S \in SK(G) : A_G^-(A_G^-[S]) \subseteq A_G^-[S]. \quad (3.1)$$

This views all $\{f, y, s\}$ as inconsistent (contributing to the inconsistency) in F_2 , making the empty semikernel the only interpretation. For \mathbf{D} from (2.3), the semikernel $\{a'\}$ is rejected, as it is not A_G^- -closed, leaving only $\{a\}$.

The above condition still admits the empty semikernel, even when there are nonempty ones. To avoid this, we add the final condition, namely, of maximality of $A_G^-[S]$:

$$\forall R \subseteq G : R \in SK(G) \wedge R \text{ satisfies (3.1)} \Rightarrow A_G^-[S] \not\subseteq A_G^-[R]. \quad (3.2)$$

This condition can be seen as a minimization of inconsistencies, typical for preferential models, like LP^m , [16], and many other examples. But here most of such minimization is done by the two earlier conditions; this one excludes only specific degenerate cases. We thus obtain the main definition.

Definition 3.1. *Models of a graph G (or its theory Γ) are A_G^- -closed, maximal semikernels:*

$$\begin{aligned} Mod(G) = \{ & S \in SK(G) \mid A_G^-(A_G^-[S]) \subseteq A_G^-[S] \wedge \forall R \subseteq G : \\ & R \in SK(G) \wedge A_G^-(A_G^-[R]) \subseteq A_G^-[R] \Rightarrow A_G^-[S] \not\subseteq A_G^-[R] \}. \end{aligned}$$

The consequence relation \models generalizes \models_c to 3-partitions, arising from any independent $S \subseteq G$: $\alpha_S = \langle \alpha_S^1, \alpha_S^0, \alpha_S^1 \rangle = \langle S, A_G^-(S), G \setminus A_G^-[S] \rangle$. In particular, $\Gamma \models C$, models of G satisfy a formula C iff $\forall S \in Mod(G) : \alpha_S \models C$. As formulas we use clauses, i.e., disjunctions of literals, treated as (finite) sets of literals. Typically, initial uppercase letters $A, B, C \dots$ denote clauses and lowercase $a, b, c \dots$ atoms. Overbars mark the negative literals, so $A\bar{B}$ denotes a clause consisting of a set A of atoms and a set B of negated atoms. (Juxtaposition AB , or Aa , denotes clause A extended with clause B ,

or with literal a .) A clause $A\bar{B}$ is satisfied by a 3-partition α according to the following rule:

$$\langle \alpha^1, \alpha^0, \alpha^\perp \rangle \models A\bar{B} \Leftrightarrow (A \cap \alpha^1 \neq \emptyset) \vee (B \cap \alpha^0 \neq \emptyset) \vee (AB \subseteq \alpha^\perp \neq \emptyset). \quad (3.3)$$

The third disjunct may appear less intuitive than the first two, but we comment it below. When $\alpha^\perp = \emptyset$, this reduces to the classical satisfaction and consequence with respect to $CMod(G)$, cf. (2.5). In the extreme case of a Γ where all atoms are involved in inconsistency, there is only one model $\langle \emptyset, \emptyset, G \rangle$, arising from the empty semikernel, and satisfying every clause (over the atoms G). On the other hand, the empty theory has the empty graph, with only one, empty kernel, giving the only model $\langle \emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset \rangle$, which does not satisfy any formula. This deviation from classical logic is only a question of preference, since for this special case we could define the models in the classical way. However, since our logic is a logic of consequences rather than of tautologies, it appears plausible that nothing follows from saying nothing.

According to (3.3), an α satisfies a clause C either for some “healthy” reasons, when some of its literals are true, or because the clause is “completely nonsensical”, with all atoms involved into inconsistency. In natural discourse, we tend to focus on its meaningful parts, simply ignoring occasional nonsense. A statement “The sun is a planet; or else this (part of this) statement is false.” may be judged nonsensical (as it would be in strong Kleene logic K3, [13], or Priest’s LP, [15], where $\mathbf{0} \vee \perp = \perp$). But if we grant the interlocutor the benefit of doubt and are willing to ignore the partial nonsense, we can also say that it is false, since so is its meaningful part. When, however, unable to discern any sense whatsoever, like in the liar or in (c)-(d)-(e) from (2.2), we “accept” the claim as much as we “accept” its negation. Relation (3.3) can be read as such an acceptance which treats clauses containing healthy literals according to these literals, ignoring the nonsensical part. Faced with a complete nonsense, however, it becomes as confused as we are when, in the face of the liar, we find it equally (im)plausible to accept its “truth” and its “falseness”. This does not imply any semantic dialetheism, since nonsensical atoms, relegated to α^\perp , are excluded from the healthy considerations. (They can be seen as gluts, since both the atom and its negation are provable, but also as gaps, being irrelevant for the value of clauses containing also healthy literals.) A significant point is that this acceptance relation is not used for defining the models, which are chosen using Definition 3.1, but only for determining their consequences. As it happens, the members of $Mod(G)$ do satisfy the graph’s theory according to (3.3), but they need not be all

3-partitions doing this.

Typically, $Mod(G)$ contains nontrivial models also for inconsistent Γ . In fact, these are classical models of the appropriate subgraph. Given an $\alpha^1 \in Mod(G)$, and projecting away the third component from its partition $\langle \alpha^1, A_G^-(\alpha^1), G \setminus A_G^-(\alpha^1) \rangle$, leaves $\langle \alpha^1, A_G^-(\alpha^1) \rangle \in CMod(A_G^-(\alpha^1))$, i.e., $\alpha^1 \in Ker(A_G^-(\alpha^1))$ – a classical model of the theory for the induced subgraph $A_G^-(\alpha^1) = A_G^-(\alpha^1) \cup \alpha^1$. Interestingly, each two of such models $\alpha^1, \beta^1 \in Mod(G)$ classify the same vertices as inconsistent, assigning boolean values to the same subset of G , namely, $A_G^-(\alpha^1) = A_G^-(\beta^1)$.

Proving this will take the rest of this section and requires some preliminary observations. When $S \in SK(G)$, $\alpha_S = \langle S, A_G^-(S), G \setminus A_G^-(S) \rangle$ satisfies conditions (a) and (b) from (2.7), repeated below:

$$\begin{aligned} (a) \quad x \in \alpha^1 &\Rightarrow \forall y \in A_G(x) : y \in \alpha^0 & A_G(\alpha^1) &\subseteq \alpha^0 \\ (b) \quad x \in \alpha^0 &\Leftrightarrow \exists y \in A_G(x) : y \in \alpha^1 & \alpha^0 &= A_G^-(\alpha^1) \\ (c) \quad x \in \alpha^\perp &\Leftrightarrow \forall y \in A_G(x) : y \in \alpha^\perp & \alpha^\perp &= A_G[\alpha^\perp] \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

Condition (c) in (2.7) was a mere definition of $\alpha^\perp = G \setminus (\alpha^1 \cup \alpha^0)$, while here it expresses that S is A_G^- -closed, since its complement α^\perp is A_G -closed. Obviously, $A_G^-(A_G^-[S]) \subseteq (A_G^-[S])$ implies $\alpha_S^\perp \supseteq A_G[\alpha_S^\perp]$. The opposite implication of (c) follows then from (a) and (b), while $\alpha_S^\perp \subseteq A_G[\alpha_S^\perp]$ holds by definition $A_G[X] = X \cup A_G(X)$. (Unlike in (a) and (b), the two formulations in (c) are not equivalent.) Hence for every A_G^- -closed $S \in SK(G)$, α_S satisfies (3.4), and $pSK(G)$ denotes all such 3-partitions.

Conversely, every 3-partition $\alpha \in pSK(G)$ satisfies (2.7), so that $\alpha^1 \in SK(G)$. Such an α satisfies also the following closure property:

$$(i) \quad A_G(\alpha^\perp) \subseteq \alpha^\perp \quad \text{and} \quad (ii) \quad A_G^-(\alpha^1 \cup \alpha^0) \subseteq \alpha^1 \cup \alpha^0 \quad (3.5)$$

Point (i) follows from condition (c) of (3.4) while point (ii) is equivalent to (i), since $\alpha^\perp = G \setminus (\alpha^0 \cup \alpha^1)$. When $\alpha^1 \in SK(G)$, (ii) is the condition (3.1). Thus pSK partitions correspond exactly to A_G^- -closed semikernels, (3.1), so that $Mod(G)$ correspond exactly to *maximal* pSK partitions, namely:

$$\alpha \in mpSK(G) \Leftrightarrow \alpha \in pSK(G) \wedge \forall \beta \in pSK(G) : \alpha^0 \cup \alpha^1 \not\subseteq \beta^0 \cup \beta^1. \quad (3.6)$$

In addition, the following fact is used in the proof of the next, crucial lemma.

Fact 3.2. *For every graph G ,*

1. *If $T \subseteq S \in SK(G)$ then $(S \cap A_G^*(T)) \in SK(G)$.*

2. If $S \in SK(G)$, $T \in SK(G)$ and $A_G^-(S) \subseteq G \setminus T$, then $(S \cup T) \in SK(G)$.

PROOF. 1. For any $x \in A_G(t) \subseteq A_G(T) \subseteq A_G(S) \subseteq A_G^-(S)$, and $s \in S$ with $x \in A_G^-(s)$, we have $s \in A_G^*(t) \subseteq A_G^*(T)$, i.e., $x \in A_G^-(S \cap A_G^*(T))$. This gives the first inclusion below, while the second one follows since $S \in SK(G)$:

$$A_G(S \cap A_G^*(T)) \subseteq A_G^-(S \cap A_G^*(T)) \subseteq G \setminus S \subseteq G \setminus (S \cap A_G^*(T)).$$

2. $A_G(S \cup T) \subseteq A_G(S) \cup A_G(T) \subseteq A_G^-(S) \cup A_G^-(T) = A_G^-(S \cup T)$. For the next inclusion, we note that $A_G^-(S) \subseteq G \setminus T$ implies here also the dual $A_G^-(T) \subseteq G \setminus S$, for if for some $t \in T$, $s \in S : t \in A_G(s)$, then $t \in A_G^-(S)$ since $S \in SK(G)$. Hence

$$A_G^-(S) \cup A_G^-(T) \subseteq ((G \setminus S) \cap (G \setminus T)) \cup ((G \setminus T) \cap (G \setminus S)) = G \setminus (S \cup T). \quad \square$$

Consequently, distinct A_G^- -closed semikernels, disagreeing on at least one paradoxical element, can be combined as in the proof of the following lemma.

Lemma 3.3. *For all graphs G :*

$$\forall \alpha, \beta \in pSK(G) \exists \gamma \in pSK(G) : \beta^1 \cup \beta^0 \not\subseteq \alpha^1 \cup \alpha^0 \Rightarrow \alpha^1 \cup \alpha^0 \subset \gamma^1 \cup \gamma^0.$$

PROOF. For arbitrary $\alpha, \beta \in pSK(G)$ with $\beta^1 \cup \beta^0 \not\subseteq \alpha^1 \cup \alpha^0$, we have that $(\beta^1 \cup \beta^0) \cap \alpha^\perp \neq \emptyset$, so define $Q = \beta^1 \cap \alpha^\perp$ and $R = \beta^0 \cap \alpha^\perp$. We show that $S = \alpha^1 \cup Q$, with $Q \neq \emptyset$, is an A_G^- -closed semikernel, i.e., the desired γ^1 .

- (a) $R \subseteq A_G(Q)$, by $\beta^1 \in SK(G)$ and 3.5.(i) – hence also $Q \neq \emptyset$.
- (b) $A_G^*(Q) \subseteq A_G^*(\alpha^\perp) \subseteq \alpha^\perp$, by 3.5.(i).
- (c) Q is a semikernel, because $\beta^1 \cap A_G^*(Q) \in SK(G)$ by Fact 3.2.(1), while $Q = \beta^1 \cap A_G^*(Q)$ by (b): $\beta^1 \cap \alpha^\perp \subseteq \beta^1 \cap A_G^*(Q) \subseteq \beta^1 \cap \alpha^\perp$.
- (d) $A_G^-(Q) \subseteq G \setminus \alpha^1$, by $Q \subseteq \alpha^\perp$ and $\alpha^1 \in SK(G)$ (so $A_G^-(\alpha^\perp) \cap \alpha^1 = \emptyset$).
- (e) $S \in SK(G)$, by Fact 3.2.(2) (applicable by (c)-(d) above).
- (f) S is A_G^- -closed, i.e., $A_G^-(A_G^-[S]) \subseteq A_G^-[S]$. If $x \in S \subseteq A_G^-[S]$, then trivially $A_G^-(x) \subseteq A_G^-[S]$. If $x \in A_G^-(S)$, we have two cases.
 - (i) $x \in A_G^-(\alpha^1)$. Since α is a pSK partition, (3.4): $A_G^-(x) \cap \alpha^\perp = \emptyset$. Since $G \setminus A_G^-[S] \subseteq \alpha^\perp : A_G^-(x) \subseteq A_G^-[S]$, as desired.
 - (ii) $x \in A_G^-(Q)$. α satisfies (3.4) and β (2.7), so $A_G^-(Q) \subseteq \beta^0 \cap (\alpha^\perp \cup \alpha^0)$.

If $x \in \alpha^0$ then $A_G^-(x) \subseteq \alpha^1 \cup \alpha^0$, because α satisfies (3.4). Hence $A_G^-(x) \subseteq A_G^-[S]$. If $x \in \beta^0 \cap \alpha^\perp$ then $A_G^-(x) \subseteq (\beta^1 \cup \beta^0) \cap (\alpha^\perp \cup \alpha^0)$. For any $y \in A_G^-(x)$:

$y \in (\beta^1 \cup \beta^0) \cap \alpha^0 \subseteq A_G^-(\alpha^1) \subseteq A_G^-(S)$, or

$y \in \beta^1 \cap \alpha^\perp = Q \subseteq A_G^-[S]$, or

$y \in \beta^0 \cap \alpha^\perp$ – then $\exists z \in \beta^1 : y \in A_G^-(z)$, since $\beta^1 \in SK(G)$. Since $z \in A_G(y)$, so $z \in \alpha^\perp$ by 3.5.(i), which means that $z \in Q$ so that $y \in A_G^-(Q) \subseteq A_G^-(S)$. \square

So, if $\alpha, \beta \in mpSK(G)$ while $\alpha^\perp \neq \beta^\perp$, then $\beta^1 \cup \beta^0 \neq \alpha^1 \cup \alpha^0$, in particular, $\beta^1 \cup \beta^0 \not\subseteq \alpha^1 \cup \alpha^0$ (since \subset would contradict (3.6) for β). There is then $\gamma \in pSK(G) : \alpha^1 \cup \alpha^0 \subset \gamma^1 \cup \gamma^0$, contradicting (3.6) for α . We thus obtain:

Theorem 3.4. *For all graphs G and all $S, R \in Mod(G) : A_G^-[S] = A_G^-[R]$.*

Since every $S \in SK(G)$ is a kernel of the subgraph induced by $A_G^-[S]$, our $Mod(G)$ satisfy quite a strong property: they are namely kernels of one specific subgraph of G , given by $A_G^-[S]$, for any maximal A_G^- -closed semikernel S . When the theory is consistent, $A_G^-[S] = G$ and $Mod(G) = Ker(G)$, i.e., the models are exactly the classical ones.

The induced subgraph $A_G^-[S]$, for any $S \in Mod(G)$, gives the *maximal consistent subdiscourse* of G . Since the graph provides the syntax of a theory, a (typically induced) subgraph corresponds to a kind of subtheory, referred to as a subdiscourse. This concept differs from a subtheory seen as a subset of the formulas. In the graph \mathbf{D} from (2.3), $Mod(\mathbf{D}) \subseteq Ker(H)$, where H is the induced subgraph $a' \rightrightarrows a \leftarrow b$ with the theory $\mathcal{T}(H) = \{b \leftrightarrow \neg a, a \leftrightarrow \neg a', a' \leftrightarrow \neg a\}$. Its formula $b \leftrightarrow \neg a$ does not occur in the original theory $\Delta = \mathcal{T}(\mathbf{D})$ from (2.2), which has instead $b \leftrightarrow \neg a \wedge \neg c$. A subdiscourse, as an induced subgraph, amounts not only to a subset of the formulas but also, for each retained formula, possibly only a subset of the (negated) atoms under the conjunction in its right side.

Definition 3.1 chooses as $Mod(\mathbf{D})$ only $\{a\} \in Ker(H)$, making $a = \mathbf{1}$ and $b = \mathbf{0} = f$. The other kernel $\{a', b\} \in Ker(H)$ is not a semikernel of \mathbf{D} , while the other semikernel $\{a'\}$ of \mathbf{D} is not A_G^- -closed. The exact subset of kernels of H constituting the models of \mathbf{D} can be captured as the classical models $CMod$ from (2.5) – not, however, of H but of its appropriate modification, namely, as the kernels of $a' \rightrightarrows a \leftarrow b \curvearrowright$. The new loop at b keeps track of the edge $b \rightarrow c$, which disappeared in H but prevents b from being $\mathbf{1}$.

After all, in the original \mathbf{D} , b negates c which is not unproblematically $\mathbf{0}$. Theorem 4.8 in the next section shows that models of every discourse are exactly the classical models of such a modification of its maximal consistent subdiscourse.

4 Reasoning

This section shows that the standard resolution rule is adequate for paraconsistent reasoning with our semantics, provided that the rule derives consequences directly and not refutationally. Inconsistency in our semantics is equivalent to the classical inconsistency and coincides with derivability by resolution of the empty clause $\{\}$, as well as of both literals, a and \bar{a} , for some atom a . By Theorem 4.8, both literals are actually provable exactly for the atoms falling outside the maximal consistent subdiscourse. Paraconsistency is reflected by inadmissibility of *Ex Falso*, arising from non-refutational use resolution. Additional weakening rules are needed for full completeness, while completeness of mere resolution is limited to minimal provable clauses. This limitation, disallowing classically sound dilution of some strongest (shortest) provable disjunctions, reflects aspects of relevance, discussed in Section 5.

The system RES consists of the axiom $\vdash a\bar{a}$, for every atom a , and the resolution rule, $\frac{\Gamma \vdash Aa \quad \Gamma \vdash B\bar{a}}{\Gamma \vdash AB}$, where A, B are arbitrary clauses. Clauses are obtained from the two implications of GNF formulas (2.1). For each $x \in G$, they are of two kinds:

OR-clause: $x \vee \bigvee_{i \in [n_x]} y_i$, written as $xy_1y_2\dots y_n$

NAND-clauses: $\neg x \vee \neg y_i$, for every $i \in [n_x]$, denoted $\bar{x}\bar{y}_i$.

In terms of a graph G , its clausal theory $\mathcal{C}(G)$ contains, for every $x \in G$, the OR-clause $A_G[x] = \{x\} \cup A_G(x)$ and for every $y \in A_G(x)$, the NAND-clause $\bar{x}\bar{y}$. For the graph \mathbf{D} from (2.3), its clausal theory is:

$$\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{D}) = \{aa', \bar{a}\bar{a}', bac, \bar{b}\bar{a}, \bar{b}\bar{c}, cd, \bar{c}\bar{d}, de, \bar{d}\bar{e}, ec, \bar{e}\bar{c}\}.$$

For $C \subseteq G$, we emphasize sometimes that both positive and negative literals over C are used denoting $\check{C} = C \cup \{\bar{x} \mid x \in C\}$. For a clause C , C^- denotes the set of unary clauses with its complementary literals.

Of primary interest to us are graphs (GNF theories) but several results hold for arbitrary clausal theories (sets of finite clauses). By “every Γ ” we mean such theories. (For graphs, the axiom schema is not needed, being provable for every vertex with outgoing edges, e.g., in $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{D})$, resolving bac

with $\bar{b}\bar{a}$ and $\bar{b}\bar{c}$ yields $b\bar{b}$, etc.) The following gathers some relevant facts about resolution:

Fact 4.1. *For every Γ over atoms G and a clause $C \subseteq \ddot{G}$:*

1. $\Gamma \vdash C \Rightarrow \Gamma \models_c C$,
2. $CMod(\Gamma) = \emptyset \Leftrightarrow \Gamma \vdash \{\}$,
3. $\Gamma \models_c C \Leftrightarrow \Gamma, C^- \vdash \{\}$,
4. $\Gamma \models_c C \Leftrightarrow \exists B \subseteq C : \Gamma \vdash B$,
5. $\Gamma \vdash \{\} \Leftrightarrow \exists a \in G : \Gamma \vdash a \wedge \Gamma \vdash \bar{a}$ *denoted* $\Gamma \vdash \perp(a)$,
6. *Denoting* $RES(\Gamma) = \{C \mid \Gamma \vdash C\}$:
 $RES(\Gamma, A^-) = RES(\Gamma) \cup A^- \cup \{P \setminus B \mid \Gamma \vdash P \text{ and } B \subseteq A\}$.

For diagnosing inconsistency of Γ , pinpointing the problem to specific atoms is not necessary, and it suffices that $\Gamma \vdash \{\}$, as guaranteed by point 2. This point implies also refutational completeness with respect to all classical consequences, 3. But we consider instead only direct (not refutational) derivability, i.e., we ask if $\Gamma \vdash C$, instead of $\Gamma, C^- \vdash \{\}$. This gives weakened completeness, 4, which could be repaired by adding the weakening rule. But its absence, and the consequent inadmissibility of *Ex Falso*, arise now as virtues rather than vices. They give a paraconsistent ability to contain paradox and reason about the subdiscourse unaffected by it.

As a simple example, for $\Gamma = \{x, \bar{x}, s\}$, we have $\Gamma \vdash \{\}$ but also $\Gamma \not\vdash \bar{s}$. Its graph $-x \overset{\curvearrowright}{\circlearrowleft} s$ justifies this: the liar x is in no way “connected” to s . This is the essence of the phenomenon, which we now describe in more detail.

Example 4.2. The closure of $F_2 : \overset{\curvearrowright}{\circlearrowleft} f \rightarrow y \rightarrow s$, that is, of its clausal theory $\Gamma_2 = \{\bar{f}, fy, ys, \bar{y}\bar{s}, s\}$ contains, besides $\{\}$, all literals.

The clausal theory $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{D}) = \{aa', \bar{a}\bar{a}', bac, \bar{b}\bar{a}, \bar{b}\bar{c}, cd, \bar{c}\bar{d}, de, \bar{d}\bar{e}, ec, \bar{e}\bar{c}\}$ is provably paradoxical, but neither b , a' nor \bar{a} are provable. Its deductive closure contains $\perp(x)$ for each $x \in \{c, d, e\}$ and, besides that, only \bar{b} , a and \bar{a}' . It determines thus the only member of $Mod(\mathbf{D})$.

This is no coincidence – RES derives clauses satisfied by all $Mod(G)$ and, extended with appropriate weakening, exactly these clauses, but proving this will take the rest of this section. First, we register soundness of RES for all 3-partitions.

Fact 4.3. *For every 3-partition α of G , every $a \in G$ and $A, B \subseteq \ddot{G}$:*

1. $\alpha \models a\bar{a}$,
2. if $\alpha \models Aa$ and $\alpha \models B\bar{a}$ then $\alpha \models AB$.

PROOF. Let $\alpha = \langle \alpha^1, \alpha^0, \alpha^\perp \rangle$ be an arbitrary 3-partition of G . Obviously, $\alpha \models a\bar{a}$, for if $a \notin \alpha^1 \cup \alpha^0$, then $a \in \alpha^\perp$. Assume that $\alpha \models Aa$ and $\alpha \models B\bar{a}$. If $AB \subseteq \alpha^\perp$, then $\alpha \models AB$, also when $AB = \{\}$, since then both $\alpha \models a$ and $\alpha \models \bar{a}$, which imply $a \in \alpha^\perp$. Assuming $AB \not\subseteq \alpha^\perp$, either $A \not\subseteq \alpha^\perp$ or $B \not\subseteq \alpha^\perp$. Wlog., assume $A \not\subseteq \alpha^\perp$. If $B \subseteq \alpha^\perp$, then $a \in \alpha^0 \cup \alpha^\perp$ because $\alpha \models B\bar{a}$. Then A contains a literal which witnesses to its truth (positive in α^1 or negative in α^0), and to the truth of the conclusion. If $B \not\subseteq \alpha^\perp$, then either $a \in \alpha^0$, and the conclusion follows as in the previous case, or B contains a literal witnessing to its truth, and to the truth of the conclusion. \square

Consequently, our semantics agrees with the classical one as to which theories count as inconsistent and RES proves inconsistency for exactly these theories:

- (a) $\Gamma \models \{\} \Leftrightarrow \Gamma \models_c \{\}$
- (b) $\Gamma \models \{\} \Leftrightarrow \Gamma \vdash \{\}$.

(a) follows by $\Gamma \models_c \{\} \Leftrightarrow CMod(\Gamma) = \emptyset \stackrel{4.1.2}{\Leftrightarrow} \Gamma \vdash \{\} \stackrel{4.3}{\Leftrightarrow} \Gamma \models \{\}$. Conversely, if $\Gamma \models \{\}$ then for every $\alpha \in Mod(\Gamma) : \alpha^\perp \neq \emptyset$, i.e., $CMod(\Gamma) = \emptyset$, so $\Gamma \models_c \{\}$. Combining (a) with $\Gamma \vdash \{\} \Leftrightarrow \Gamma \models_c \{\}$, Fact 4.1.(2), yields (b).

The rest of this section is concerned primarily with the situations when $\Gamma \vdash \{\}$ and $\exists x \in G : \Gamma \not\vdash \perp(x)$. The constructions and results are general, but they trivialize when one of these conditions is violated. Given an arbitrary Γ , we construct Γ^{ok} – the maximal consistent subdiscourse, with the additional requirement on its border vertices, which refer to the inconsistent elements. (Γ^{ok} is empty if all atoms are inconsistent and coincides with Γ , if none is.) The classical models of Γ^{ok} turn out to be the models of Γ , Theorem 4.8. This leads to the completeness of RES, where every clause satisfied by all $Mod(G)$ has a nonempty provable witness, Corollary 4.9. Augmenting RES with appropriate weakening yields then a strongly complete reasoning system. Some technicalities below, originating from [19], are adjusted to the present context and repeated to make the paper self-contained. The main results, Theorem 4.8 and Corollary 4.9, are new.

For a clausal theory $\Gamma \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\ddot{G})$ and $X \subseteq G$, the operation

$$\Gamma \parallel X = \{C \setminus \ddot{X} \mid C \in \Gamma\} \setminus \{\{\}\}$$

removes all literals over atoms X from all clauses of Γ , removing also the empty clause, if it appears. It satisfies the following important property, relating consequences of Γ to consequences of $\Gamma \parallel X$.

Lemma 4.4. *For each Γ and $A \not\subseteq \ddot{X} : \Gamma \vdash A \Rightarrow \exists B \subseteq A \setminus \ddot{X} : \Gamma \parallel X \vdash B$.*

PROOF. If $\Gamma \parallel X \vdash \{\}$ the claim follows, so we assume that this is not the case and proceed by induction on the length of the proof $\Gamma \vdash A$, with axioms introducing $A \setminus \ddot{X}$ instead of A . A step $\frac{\Gamma \vdash A_1 a \quad \Gamma \vdash A_2 \bar{a}}{\Gamma \vdash A_1 A_2}$, where $A = A_1 A_2$, has by IH the corresponding proofs $\Gamma \parallel X \vdash (A_1 a) \setminus \ddot{X}$ and $\Gamma \parallel X \vdash (A_2 \bar{a}) \setminus \ddot{X}$. If $a \in \ddot{X}$, either of these proofs can serve as the conclusion. Otherwise, conclusion follows by the deduction $\frac{\Gamma \parallel X \vdash (A_1 \setminus \ddot{X}) a \quad \Gamma \parallel X \vdash (A_2 \setminus \ddot{X}) \bar{a}}{\Gamma \parallel X \vdash A_1 A_2 \setminus \ddot{X}}$. \square

Hence, if $\Gamma \vdash C$ and C contains at least one literal not in \ddot{X} , then $\Gamma \parallel X \vdash C'$ for some nonempty $C' \subseteq C$: removing literals from Γ using \parallel , results at most in sharpening the information about the remaining atoms. Let us denote:

$$\begin{aligned} G^\perp &= \{x \in G \mid \Gamma \vdash x \wedge \Gamma \vdash \bar{x}\} \\ \Gamma^{ok} &= \Gamma \parallel G^\perp = \{C \setminus G^\perp \mid C \in \Gamma\} \setminus \{\{\}\} \\ G^{ok} &= G \setminus G^\perp = \bigcup \Gamma^{ok}. \end{aligned}$$

G^\perp contains all provably paradoxical atoms, while its complement G^{ok} could be taken as the atomic extension of the consistency-operator, if we were aiming at a logic of formal inconsistency. As we will see, it coincides with the domain of the maximal consistent subdiscourse, $A_G^-[S]$, for any $S \in Mod(G)$. For now, we only note two things. If an atom x is involved into inconsistency, $\Gamma \vdash \perp(x)$, relying on any further atoms y , i.e., $y \in A_G(x)$, then also these further atoms are involved into inconsistency: G^\perp is A_G -closed, Fact 4.5. The consistent part Γ^{ok} , on the other hand, stays consistent alongside G^\perp and conservative over Γ for the non-paradoxical atoms G^{ok} , as made precise by Fact 4.6.

Fact 4.5. *For every Γ and $x \in G : \Gamma \vdash \perp(x) \Rightarrow \forall y \in A_G(x) : \Gamma \vdash \perp(y)$.*

PROOF. $\Gamma \vdash x$ and the axiom $\bar{x}\bar{y}_i$, for each $y_i \in A_G(x)$, give $\Gamma \vdash \bar{y}_i$. Resolving then $xy_1 \dots y_n$ with \bar{x} and \bar{y}_j , for all $j \neq i$, gives $\Gamma \vdash \bar{y}_i$ for each $y_i \in A_G(x)$. \square

Fact 4.6. For Γ with $G^{ok} \neq \emptyset$:

1. $\forall A \in \Gamma^{ok} : \Gamma \vdash A$, so $\forall C \subseteq \ddot{G}^{ok} : \Gamma^{ok} \vdash C \Rightarrow \Gamma \vdash C$.
2. $\Gamma^{ok} \not\vdash \{\}$.
3. $\forall x \in G^{ok} : \Gamma^{ok} \vdash x \Leftrightarrow \Gamma \vdash x$ and $\Gamma^{ok} \vdash \bar{x} \Leftrightarrow \Gamma \vdash \bar{x}$.
4. $\exists x \in G^{ok} : \Gamma^{ok} \not\vdash \bar{x}$, hence also $\Gamma \not\vdash \bar{x}$.
5. $\forall x \in G^{ok} : \Gamma^{ok} \not\vdash \bar{x} \Rightarrow A_G(x) \subseteq G^{ok}$ (when Γ is a graph).

PROOF. 1. Since for each atom $a \notin G^{ok}$, both $\Gamma \vdash a$ and $\Gamma \vdash \bar{a}$, such atoms can be resolved away from every clause of Γ . Each clause of Γ^{ok} is obtained exactly by such an operation.

2. $\Gamma^{ok} \vdash \{\} \stackrel{4.1.5}{\Rightarrow} \exists x \in G^{ok} : \Gamma^{ok} \vdash x \wedge \Gamma^{ok} \vdash \bar{x} \stackrel{1}{\Rightarrow} \Gamma \vdash x \wedge \Gamma \vdash \bar{x} \Rightarrow x \notin G^{ok}$.
3. Implications to the right follow by point 1, while to the left by Lemma 4.4 and point 2.
4. If $\forall x \in G^{ok} : \Gamma^{ok} \vdash \bar{x}$, then also $\forall y \in G : \Gamma \vdash \bar{y}$, and then $\forall y \in G : \Gamma \vdash y$, contradicting $G^{ok} \neq \emptyset$.
5. If $x \in G^{ok}$ has a $y \in A_G(x) \cap G^\perp$, then $\Gamma \vdash y \Rightarrow \Gamma \vdash \bar{x} \stackrel{3}{\Rightarrow} \Gamma^{ok} \vdash \bar{x}$. \square

When Γ represents a graph G , Γ^{ok} is almost the theory of its induced subgraph G^{ok} , except for a difference at its border $brd(G^{ok}) = \{x \in G^{ok} \mid A_G(x) \not\subseteq G^{ok}\}$. For instance, for our discourse $\mathbf{D} = a' \gneq a \leftarrow b \rightarrow c \overset{\leftarrow}{\rightleftharpoons} d \overset{\rightarrow}{\rightleftharpoons} e$:

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta &= \{aa', \bar{a}\bar{a}', bac, \bar{b}\bar{a}, \bar{b}\bar{c}, cd, \bar{c}\bar{d}, de, \bar{d}\bar{e}, ec, \bar{e}\bar{c}\} \\
\mathbf{D}^\perp &= \{c, d, e\} \\
\mathbf{D}^{ok} &= \{a', a, b\} \text{-- or the induced subgraph } a' \gneq a \leftarrow b \\
\Delta^{ok} &= \{aa', \bar{a}\bar{a}', ba, \bar{b}\bar{a}, \bar{b}\} \\
brd(\mathbf{D}^{ok}) &= \{b\} \\
\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{D}^{ok}) &= \{aa', \bar{a}\bar{a}', ba, \bar{b}\bar{a}\}
\end{aligned}$$

As in this example so generally, border vertices enter as negative literals into $\Gamma^{ok} = \mathcal{C}(G^{ok}) \cup (brd(G^{ok}))^-$, according to Fact 4.6.(5). One can thus view Γ^{ok} as (the theory of) the subgraph induced by G^{ok} , with a loop added at each border vertex. It is consistent, Fact 4.6.(2), so its models are kernels of G^{ok} excluding border vertices:

$$CMod(\Gamma^{ok}) = \{L \in Ker(G^{ok}) \mid brd(G^{ok}) \subseteq A_G^-(L)\}. \quad (4.1)$$

These classical models of Γ^{ok} are actually the models $Mod(\Gamma)$ from Definition 3.1. To show this, we first register a preliminary observation.

Fact 4.7. $CMod(\Gamma^{ok}) \subseteq SK(G)$.

PROOF. Since each $L \in CMod(\Gamma^{ok})$ is a kernel of G^{ok} , it is obviously independent in G^{ok} and, since G^{ok} is an induced subgraph of G (only with additional loops), so L is independent also in G . Hence $A_G^-(L) \subseteq G \setminus L$.

By soundness of RES, if $a \in L$ then $\Gamma^{ok} \not\models \bar{a}$, which by Fact 4.6.(5) means that $A_G(a) \subseteq G^{ok}$, so that $A_G(a) = A_{G^{ok}}(a) \subseteq A_{G^{ok}}^-(L)$, where the inclusion follows since $L \in Ker(G^{ok})$. Obviously, $A_{G^{ok}}^-(L) \subseteq A_G^-(L)$. Combining the two yields $A_G(L) \subseteq A_G^-(L) \subseteq G \setminus L$, i.e., $L \in SK(G)$. \square

Writing $S \models \Gamma$ or $S \in pSK(G)$, for an $S \in SK(G)$, we mean $\alpha_S \models \Gamma$ or $\alpha_S \in pSK(G)$, for $\alpha_S = \langle S, A_G^-(S), G \setminus A_G^-[S] \rangle$. The bijection in the theorem, $CMod(\Gamma^{ok}) \simeq Mod(G)$, means then $A_{G^{ok}}^-(S) = A_G^-(S)$, for relevant S , and

$$(\supseteq) \forall \langle S, A_G^-(S), G \setminus A_G^-[S] \rangle \in Mod(G) : \langle S, A_G^-(S) \rangle \in CMod(G^{ok}) \text{ and}$$

$$(\subseteq) \forall \langle S, A_{G^{ok}}^-(S) \rangle \in CMod(\Gamma^{ok}) : \langle S, A_G^-(S), G \setminus A_G^-[S] \rangle \in Mod(G).$$

Theorem 4.8. For every theory Γ with graph G : $CMod(\Gamma^{ok}) \simeq Mod(G)$.

PROOF. (\supseteq) . follows using Fact 4.3 but first we show that (1a) if $S \in Mod(G)$ then $S \models \Gamma$. This and (1b) hold actually for every $S \in pSK(G)$:

(1a) $S \in pSK(G) \Rightarrow S \models \Gamma$. For each $y \in A_G(x)$, i.e., $\bar{x}\bar{y}$, we have one of four cases, each yielding $S \models \bar{x}\bar{y}$:

- (i) $y \in S \Rightarrow x \in A_G^-(S)$,
- (ii) $x \in S \Rightarrow y \notin S$ and, since $S \in SK(G)$, $y \in A_G^-(S)$,
- (iii) $x \in A_G^-(S)$ or $y \in A_G^-(S)$,
- (iv) $\{x, y\} \subseteq G \setminus A_G^-[S]$.

For each $A_G[x] = \{x\} \cup Y$, we have one of five cases, each giving $S \models A_G[x]$:

- (i) $\exists y \in Y : y \in S$,
- (ii) $x \in S$,
- (iii) $x \in A_G^-(S) \rightarrow \exists y \in Y : y \in S$,
- (iv) $\exists y \in Y : y \in A_G^-(S)$, since $S \in pSK(G)$, so $x \in A_G^-[S]$ and $S \models A_G[x]$ by (ii) or (iii),
- (v) $A_G[x] \subseteq G \setminus A_G^-[S]$.

(1b) $\forall S \in pSK(G) : \Gamma \vdash \perp(x) \Rightarrow x \notin A_G^-[S]$.

By (1a) $S \in pSK(G) \Rightarrow S \models \Gamma$ so, by soundness Fact 4.3, for any clause $C : \Gamma \vdash C \Rightarrow S \models C$. Hence, $\Gamma \vdash \perp(x) \Rightarrow S \models \perp(x)$, i.e., $x \in G \setminus A_G^-[S]$.

(1c) We show that $S \in Mod(G)$ satisfies (4.1). By Fact 4.6.(2), $\Gamma^{ok} \not\vdash \{\}$ so, by Fact 4.1.(2), there is some $K \in Ker(G^{ok})$, i.e., one with $A_G^-[K] = G^{ok}$. By (2a-b) below, $K \in pSK(G)$; since $S \in mpSK(G)$ (as $S \in Mod(G)$ and (3.6)), so $A_G^-[S] \supseteq A_G^-[K] = G^{ok}$. By (1b), $x \in A_G^-[S] \Rightarrow x \notin G^\perp \Rightarrow x \in G^{ok}$, i.e., $A_G^-[S] \subseteq G^{ok}$, so that $A_G^-[S] = G^{ok}$. By (3.5), $A_G^-(G^{ok}) \subseteq G^{ok}$, so since G^{ok} is induced subgraph of $G : A_{G^{ok}}^-(S) = A_G^-(S)$ and then, since $S \cap A_G^-(S) = \emptyset$ as $S \in SK(G)$, so $A_{G^{ok}}^-(S) = G^{ok} \setminus S$ – showing that $S \in Ker(G^{ok})$.

If $x \in brd(G^{ok})$ then $\Gamma \vdash \bar{x}$, so $S \models \bar{x}$, i.e., $x \notin S$ and, since $S \in Ker(G^{ok}) : x \in G^{ok} \setminus S = A_G^-[S] \setminus S = A_G^-(S)$. Thus $brd(G^{ok}) \subseteq A_G^-(S)$.

(\subseteq). (2a) $CMod(\Gamma^{ok}) \subseteq SK(G)$ is Fact 4.7.

(2b) By Fact 4.5, $\Gamma \vdash \perp(x) \Rightarrow \forall y \in A_G(x) : \Gamma \vdash \perp(y)$, so $A_G(G^\perp) \subseteq G^\perp$. Hence $A_G^-(G \setminus G^\perp) \subseteq (G \setminus G^\perp)$, i.e., $A_G^-(G^{ok}) \subseteq G^{ok}$ and so

$$\begin{aligned} A_G^-(A_G^-[G^{ok}]) &= A_G^-(A_G^-(G^{ok}) \cup G^{ok}) \\ &= A_G^-(A_G^-(G^{ok})) \cup A_G^-(G^{ok}) \subseteq A_G^-(G^{ok}) \cup G^{ok} = A_G^-[G^{ok}]. \end{aligned}$$

(2c) When $S \in Ker(G^{ok})$ then $A_G^-[S] = G^{ok}$ and $S \in pSK(G)$, by (2a-b). If $S \notin mpSK(G)$, i.e., $\exists R \in pSK(G) : A_G^-[R] \not\subseteq A_G^-[S]$, Lemma 3.3 yields a strict extension $A_G^-[Q] \supset A_G^-[S]$. This requires adding some $E \subseteq G^\perp$, but by (1b) no $e \in E$ can belong to any $A_G^-[Q]$ with $Q \in pSK(G)$, since $\Gamma \vdash \perp(e)$. \square

The theorem implies that $\langle \alpha^1, \alpha^0, \alpha^\perp \rangle \in Mod(G)$ iff $\langle \alpha^1, \alpha^0 \rangle \in CMod(\Gamma^{ok})$, giving the middle equality: $G \setminus \alpha^\perp = \alpha^1 \cup \alpha^0 = G^{ok} = G \setminus G^\perp$, which yields:

$$\forall \alpha \in Mod(G) : \alpha^\perp = G^\perp. \quad (4.2)$$

Thus RES proves both a and \bar{a} exactly for the atoms a falling outside the healthy, boolean domain of every model. The following completeness of RES for \models is the counterpart of its classical completeness for \models_c from Fact 4.1.(4).

Corollary 4.9. *For every Γ and clause $A \subseteq \ddot{G}$:*

$$\Gamma \models A \iff A \subseteq G^\perp \neq \emptyset \text{ or } \exists B \neq \{\} : B \subseteq A \cap \ddot{G}^{ok} \wedge \Gamma \vdash B.$$

PROOF. \Rightarrow) Assume that $\Gamma \models A$. If $A \subseteq \ddot{G}^\perp$ then $G^\perp \neq \emptyset$ by (3.3) and we are done. If $A \not\subseteq \ddot{G}^\perp$, i.e., $C = A \setminus \ddot{G}^\perp \neq \emptyset$, then $C \subseteq A \cap \ddot{G}^{ok}$ and, by (3.3), $\Gamma \models C$ (since $\forall \alpha \in Mod(\Gamma) : G^\perp = \alpha^\perp$ by (4.2)). Hence, by Theorem 4.8, $\Gamma^{ok} \models_c C$ which, by Fact 4.1.(4), implies $\exists B \subseteq C : \Gamma^{ok} \vdash B$. By Fact 4.6.(2),

$B \neq \{\}$, while by 4.6.(1), $\Gamma \vdash B$, yielding the conclusion, since $B \subseteq A \cap \ddot{G}^{ok}$.

\Leftarrow) If $A \subseteq G^\perp \neq \emptyset$ then $\Gamma \models A$ directly by (3.3). Otherwise, as $\Gamma \vdash B$ so $\Gamma \models B$ by Fact 4.3. Since $\emptyset \neq B \subseteq A \cap \ddot{G}^{ok}$, so $\Gamma \models A$ by (3.3). \square

Comparison with Fact 4.1.(4) shows that while in classical logic $\{\}$ witnesses to every clause by *Ex Falso*, in our logic *all* consequences of a theory have nonempty provable witnesses: $\Gamma \models \{\}$ iff $G^\perp \neq \emptyset$, i.e., $\exists x : \Gamma \vdash x$ and $\Gamma \vdash \bar{x}$, while $\Gamma \models A \neq \{\}$ is witnessed only by a proof from Γ of either $\perp(a)$, for all $a \in A$, or of some nonempty subclause $B \subseteq A$.

The implication to the left in Corollary 4.9 specifies more closely the patterns of weakening admissible in our logic. Not only *Ex Falso* is excluded, but weakening has to preserve, so to say, the reason of satisfaction of its premise. The first case (right-to-left implication from the first disjunct in Corollary 4.9) admits weakening the empty clause only by literals involved in inconsistency, disallowing interference of the empty clause in the consistent subdiscourse. The second case ensures that the resulting A contains a healthy $B \subseteq A$, not involving any paradox and witnessing to its satisfaction. Thus, adding to RES either only (cW) or both (aW) and (bW)

$$(aW) \frac{\Gamma \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash B \cup C} B \not\subseteq \ddot{G}^\perp \quad (bW) \frac{\Gamma \vdash \perp(a) \quad \forall a \in A \neq \emptyset}{\Gamma \vdash A} \quad (cW) \frac{\Gamma \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash B \cup C}$$

yields a sound and strongly complete system for classical logic, with (cW), or for our paraconsistent logic, with (aW) and (bW). For consistent Γ , the two coincide, since $G^\perp = \emptyset$ makes (bW) inapplicable, while (aW) becomes exactly (cW), since then every $B \not\subseteq G^\perp$.

The conditions of (aW) and (bW), reflecting the right side of Corollary 4.9, prevent uncontrolled mixing of consistent and inconsistent elements. As an example, consider the usual derivation of Lewis' "paradox", recasting *Ex Falso* using disjunctive syllogism. Assuming $\Gamma \vdash a$ and $\Gamma \vdash \bar{a}$, we have

$$\frac{\frac{\Gamma \vdash a}{\Gamma \vdash ab} (cW) \quad \Gamma \vdash \bar{a}}{\Gamma \vdash b} (DS)$$

The step (DS) is an instance of resolution, but since $\{a\} \subseteq G^\perp$, (aW) can not be applied instead of (cW).

5 A remark on relevance

Rule (aW) is not very effective, requiring to find $b \in B$ for which b or \bar{b} is not provable, while rule (bW) joins nonsensical premises into a nonsensical disjunction. These rules, extending RES to a strongly complete system, provoke also the question: what do we lose by dropping them? RES remains complete in the sense of Corollary 4.9; if $a \vee b$ is a consequence of our theory, we may be able to prove a , but not necessarily $a \vee b$. Is it such a loss? If we know that a is true, it is not particularly enlightening that so is $a \vee b$. In a similar manner, the tautology $\neg a \vee a$ can be diluted to, say,

$$(i) \neg a \vee a \vee \neg b.$$

With implication $x \rightarrow y$ defined as $\neg x \vee y$, (i) represents some fallacies of relevance, typical for material implication, e.g., $a \rightarrow (b \rightarrow a)$ and $\neg a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow \neg b)$, for strict implication, e.g., $b \rightarrow (a \rightarrow a)$ or $b \rightarrow (\neg a \vee a)$, or for the intuitionistic one, $\neg(a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow b$. RES is immune against such fallacies, which arise in the language of clauses from disjunctive weakening. Note that while this rule may be indispensable in various systems of Gentzen or natural deduction, in RES it is not, since here its only contribution is dilution of provable facts. Dropping all forms of weakening, we lose such diluted consequences, but gain relevance, simplifying reasoning at the same time. The following remarks elaborate these gains. Without aiming at a logic of relevance, they only identify its elements in the present setting.

Let us first note that the language of clauses, viewed as sets of literals, identifies, for instance, $a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b)$ and $a \rightarrow b$, representing both as $\bar{a}b$ and enforcing their equivalence. One could see it as an unfortunate equivocation but, with the present semantics, it only eliminates spurious syntax.⁴

The absence of weakening prevents RES from deriving, besides fallacies exemplified above, also some other problematic implications, for instance, $(a \rightarrow b) \wedge (c \rightarrow d) \not\vdash (a \rightarrow d) \vee (c \rightarrow b)$. From the assumption, represented by the clauses $\bar{a}b, \bar{c}d$, nothing follows by resolution, in particular, not the undesired conclusion, $\bar{a}\bar{d}\bar{c}b$, which only weakens either premise.

⁴RES with this language can be seen as a restriction of $RMI_{\bar{+}}$ with the usual sequential syntax, from [1]. The equivalence of $RMI_{\bar{+}}$ and $RMI_{\bar{\sim}}$ shows that the former's disjunction (specializing to ours in the present context) yields in the latter a satisfactory relevant implication, defined by $A \rightarrow B = \neg A \vee B$. To handle subtler aspects of relevant implication, such an extension of the syntax and RES, along with the associated semantic adjustments, might be needed.

RES enjoys a specifically relevant form of deduction theorem. If $\Gamma, x \vdash y$, it does not follow that $\Gamma \vdash x \rightarrow y$, i.e., $\Gamma \vdash \bar{x}y$, without further ado. It may namely happen that $\Gamma \vdash y$ without using x , and $\Gamma \not\vdash \bar{x}y$. By Fact 4.1.(6), however, if the proof $\Gamma, x \vdash y$ requires x , that is, $\Gamma \not\vdash y$, then indeed $\Gamma \vdash \bar{x}y$.

Just as our logic is concerned with consequences of a given theory rather than with tautologies, relevance is judged relatively to the actual context. From some Γ , (i) may be provable and from others it may not be. For instance

- (i1) $\Gamma_1 \vdash cab\bar{b}$ and $\Gamma_1 \vdash \bar{a}ab\bar{b}$, where $G_1 = \dots c \leftarrow a \rightarrow d \rightarrow b \dots$, while
- (i2) $\Gamma_2 \vdash \bar{a}a$ but $\Gamma_2 \not\vdash \bar{a}ab\bar{b}$, where $G_2 = \dots c \leftarrow a \quad d \rightarrow b \dots$,

where “...” indicates a surrounding graph, in which a and d have no incident edges except the indicated ones. The graph syntax makes explicit the reference structure, allowing to read an edge $x \rightarrow y$ as x “referring to” y , by negating y . Reference involves relevance, so that y , negated by x , is relevant for x . The atoms reachable by arbitrary paths from a given x are then indirect references, relevant for x . This form of relevance is thus transitive, but context dependence and the graph syntax justify this fact. In (i1), b is relevant for a , because of their connection through d . Making $b = \mathbf{0}$, forces $a = \mathbf{0}$. This notion, involving only context dependent interaction between some truth-values of b and a , deviates from those attempting to capture some general meaning-connections, for instance, by variable-sharing. The two facts in “Water freezes or temperature is above 0°C” do not share any variable but are connected by the background knowledge. The meaning-connections, already between atomic facts, are defined by the context Γ and reflected by its undiluted consequences. Provability of $\bar{a}ab\bar{b}$ in (i1) suggests such a connection of b and a , while its unprovability in (i2) witnesses its absence.

Relevance is more than reference – often, it is symmetric. In our case, this amounts to following the paths also in the direction opposite to the edges:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| (a) This and the next statement are false. | $a \leftrightarrow \neg a \wedge \neg b$ |  |
| (b) The next statement is false. | $b \leftrightarrow \neg c$ |  |
| (c) The previous statement is false. | $c \leftrightarrow \neg b$ |  |

In the only model, $b = \mathbf{1}$ and $a = c = \mathbf{0}$. But if we remove the loop at a , there will be also another model with $a = c = \mathbf{1}$ and $b = \mathbf{0}$. One could say that the loop at a forces $b = \mathbf{1}$, since otherwise inconsistency would arise. Not only b , to which a refers, is relevant for a , but also a is relevant for b , forcing it to be true. In this sense, all “connections” – paths in the underlying graph

(the undirected graph, obtained by forgetting directions of the edges) – mark potential relevance. It is thus both symmetric and transitive, so its horizon for an atom x is the strong component of the underlying graph, containing x . Indeed, RES proves some clause with literals over atoms x and y if and only if x and y belong to one such component.⁵

Still, this notion of relevance is too weak, as exemplified by the clause $\bar{a}a\bar{b}$ from (i1). Signaling a connection between a and b , it does not impose any dependencies between the truth-values of a , b and the whole clause. Its proof in RES is not a mere dilution of $\bar{a}a$, but the clause itself is such a dilution, which is always true because so is its subclause $\bar{a}a$. The sense of relevance should preclude us from saying such things which, even if true, do not add anything to something which is already said more concisely.

Let us therefore consider a clause C relevant, in a given context Γ , denoted $\Gamma \models_r C$, if $\Gamma \models C$ and for each nonempty $B \subset C : \Gamma \not\models B$. For unhealthy atoms, such relevant clauses are the units a and \bar{a} , and no other relevant clause contains such atoms. This reminds, once more, of the irrelevance of meaningless/inconsistent elements for the healthy part of a discourse. For each 2-partition $C = AB$ of a nonunit clause C (with at least two literals), we can write $\Gamma \models C$ as $\Gamma \models \bigwedge A^- \rightarrow \bigvee B$. If $\Gamma \models_r C$, this implication is not satisfied, so to say, vacuously, by Γ having no models satisfying $\bigwedge A^-$, but by Γ having such models, all satisfying also $\bigvee B$. A relevant C witnesses thus to the influence, which some truth-values of any nonempty proper subclause $A \subset C$ have for its complement $B = C \setminus A$: whenever $\bigwedge A^- = \mathbf{1}$, then $\bigvee B = \mathbf{1}$, and there are cases when $\bigwedge A^- = \mathbf{1}$. This last proviso is the element of relevance. The relation is obviously symmetric: if $\bigwedge A^- \rightarrow \bigvee B$, then also $\bigwedge B^- \rightarrow \bigvee A$.

This is a much stronger notion than mere membership in the same component of the underlying graph. In the example (i1), $\Gamma_1 \not\models_r \bar{a}a\bar{b}$ since $\bar{a}a \subseteq \bar{a}a\bar{b}$, so the fact that $\Gamma_1 \models \bar{a}a\bar{b}$ does not imply relevance in this strong sense. On the other hand, $\Gamma_1 \vdash \bar{a}b$ and $\Gamma_1 \models_r \bar{a}b$, so \bar{a} and b are relevant for each other: Γ_1 has then models with $b = \mathbf{0}$, in which $a = \mathbf{0}$, and models with $a = \mathbf{1}$, in

⁵Distinct strong components have disjoint alphabets, with no axiomatic clauses containing literals from both; hence no provable clause can contain literals from both. Conversely, if there is a path $\langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle$ in the underlying graph, then for each pair x_i, x_{i+1} , $1 \leq i < n$, there is a negative clause $N_i = \bar{x}_i \bar{x}_{i+1}$ and a positive one $P_i = \dots x_i x_{i+1} \dots$. Resolving P_1 with N_2 yields a clause C_3 containing x_1 and \bar{x}_3 . Resolving C_3 with P_3 gives C_4 containing x_1 and x_4 . A clause C_n , obtained after $n - 2$ steps, contains x_1 and either x_n or \bar{x}_n .

which $b = \mathbf{1}$. If $\Gamma_1 \not\models_r \bar{a}b$ then \bar{a} and b would cease to be mutually relevant, since then either $\Gamma_1 \models \bar{a}$ or $\Gamma \models_r b$, irrespectively of each other.

This relevance relation is not transitive. In $G = \dots d \leftarrow a \rightarrow b \overset{\curvearrowright}{\rightarrow} c \dots \rightarrow e \dots$ (with appropriate assumptions about the undisplayed part, e.g., all ... starting mutually disjoint infinite paths), b is relevant for a , since $\Gamma \models_r \bar{a}\bar{b}$, and c is relevant for b since $\Gamma \models_r \bar{b}\bar{c}$. But c is no longer relevant for a , because any value at c can be accompanied by any value at a . However, $c \vee e$ is relevant for a , since $\Gamma \models_r \bar{a}ce$.

The relevant clauses are exactly the minimal provable ones:⁶

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Min}(\Gamma) &= \{C \mid \Gamma \vdash C \wedge \forall B \subset C : B \neq \{\} \Rightarrow \Gamma \not\vdash B\} \\ &= \{C \mid \Gamma^{ok} \vdash C \wedge \forall B \subset C : \Gamma^{ok} \not\vdash B\} \cup \bigcup \{\{a, \bar{a}\} \mid \Gamma \vdash \perp(a)\}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus each RES provable clause C represents a form of relevance. Even if $C \notin \text{Min}(\Gamma)$, all its atoms belong to one component of the underlying graph, while there is some nonempty $D \subset C$ with $D \in \text{Min}(\Gamma)$, witnessing to the determination – in some occurring cases – of the truth-value of one part of each 2-partition of D by the truth-value of the other.

6 A summary

The presented approach to paraconsistency fits broadly within a tradition going back to Jaśkowski's discussive logic [10, 11], whereby one reasons about inconsistent theories by specifying and reasoning about its consistent parts. Reasoning acquires then a modal character, since there are usually multiple (classically) consistent parts to reason about. One tries to be as discriminating as possible about which parts to consider and how to aggregate information from them, a research program made explicit in [18].

Such a focus on the consistent subtheories is clearly distinct from dialetheism. It does not treat contradictions as (potentially) true, but avoids them whenever possible, even in the presence of overarching inconsistencies. This

⁶First, for each nonunit clause $C \in \text{Min}(\Gamma)$ and nonempty $B \subset C : \Gamma^{ok}, B^- \not\vdash \{\}$. This follows because, by Fact 4.6.(2), $\Gamma^{ok} \not\vdash \{\}$ and then, by Fact 4.1.(6), $\Gamma^{ok}, B^- \not\vdash \{\}$ iff $\forall E \subseteq B : \Gamma^{ok} \not\vdash E$, which holds since $C \in \text{Min}(\Gamma)$. The main claim is trivial for unit clauses. Assuming now a nonunit $AB = C \in \text{Min}(\Gamma)$, the observation above implies existence of a classical model of Γ^{ok} (i.e., a model of Γ), satisfying B^- , so that $\Gamma \not\models B$. Since $\Gamma^{ok} \vdash C$, so $\Gamma \vdash C$ by Fact 4.6.(1), and hence $\Gamma \models C$ by soundness. So $C \in \text{Min}(\Gamma) \Rightarrow \Gamma \models_r C$. Conversely, if for a nonunit $C : \Gamma \models_r C$, then $C \cap \check{G}^\perp = \emptyset$, so that $\Gamma^{ok} \models_c C$. Then $\Gamma^{ok} \vdash B$ for some $B \subseteq C$ by Fact 4.6.(4). But since $\Gamma \not\models B$, for every $B \subset C$ so, by soundness, $\Gamma \not\vdash B$, and hence $\Gamma^{ok} \not\vdash B$ by 4.6.(1), so $\Gamma^{ok} \vdash C$ and $C \in \text{Min}(\Gamma)$.

is often intuitively reasonable, but easily results in unwanted indeterminacy with an *ad hoc* partitioning of the inconsistent whole into consistent parts. In particular, taking subtheories in the standard way as subsets of formulas, existing approaches introduce questionable distinctions between inconsistent theories that seem to say the same thing. For instance, $T = \{p \leftrightarrow \neg q, q \leftrightarrow \neg r, r \leftrightarrow \neg p\}$ will be non-trivially informative, having many consistent subtheories, unlike single contradiction $S = \{(p \leftrightarrow \neg q) \wedge (q \leftrightarrow \neg r) \wedge (r \leftrightarrow \neg p)\}$ which is trivial, having none. This conflicts with the expectation that T and S make essentially the same claims about p, q and r . A similarly unwarranted distinction is drawn between T and the non-informative $T' = \{p \leftrightarrow \neg p\}$. The peculiarity of such a distinction is brought into light by our graph representation, revealing both T and T' as odd cycles of self-negation, equally problematic and for essentially the same reason.

To remedy this situation, our logic does not identify consistent parts of inconsistent theories using the subset relation. Instead, viewing a theory as a directed graph, it relies on its special, maximally consistent subgraph, in the sense of Definition 3.1 and Theorem 3.4. This significant departure from the standard notion of maximal consistency results in a novel approach to paraconsistency. Instead of regaining consistency by removing problematic formulas, we regain it by removing problematic atoms from all formulas. Importantly, the removed atoms are uniquely identified as (provably) involved in an inconsistency.

It might be objected that removing seemingly harmless occurrences of an atom p is not warranted. However, taking the theory seriously as an informative object suggests that if p is involved in an inconsistency somewhere in the theory, its semantic value is in question everywhere. This is not something we should ignore when assessing p , nor should we – in this context – adopt the view that the theory is mistaken and in need of revision. This would amount to disregarding what the theory tells us about p , not reasoning with it. From the vantage point of the theory, the inconsistency involving p is more naturally addressed as a problematic property of p , not a problem with its theory.

The benefit of adopting this perspective is immediate. Not only does it ensure a uniform treatment of inconsistency, regardless of how it is expressed, it also resolves the indeterminacy that characterizes previous work in the Jaśkowskian tradition. Thus Theorem 3.4 demonstrates that Definition 3.1 always picks out models for the same induced subgraph of the original theory, yielding a unique classically consistent part of an inconsis-

tent theory, to which classical reasoning is applicable without any changes. To our knowledge, there is no other approach to paraconsistent logic that enjoys a comparable semantic property.

Connectives absent from the clausal syntax are defined in the classical way. For instance, the axiomatic law of excluded middle is just an equivalent clausal representation of the law of non-contradiction, making the latter equally valid. Viewing the removal of problematic atoms as assigning to them a third semantic value, it is easily verified that these atoms behave truth-functionally – for the classical connectives – as undefined elements in the strong Kleene logic K3 of partial (classical) truth functions (also used dialetheically in Priest’s paraconsistent LP). Hence, while we nominally rely on three-valued models, the deviation from classical logic amounts only to using the third value for handling partiality. A three-valued perspective distorts however the main feature of our logic, namely, that the third value is not freely assigned, as in matrix logics built on many-valued tables, but is always the result of an inconsistency inferred classically for the atom in question.

Such an atom a involved in an inconsistency satisfies $a \vee \neg a$ vacuously, as it were. Our logic regards the assignment of the third value to such a as satisfying, as does LP, but only as a limiting case when a appears in clauses that are completely nonsensical, i.e., involve only nonsensical atoms, (3.3). This enables us to reason explicitly about involvement in inconsistency in the object language, minimally incorporating a key feature associated with logics of formal inconsistency, without any additional non-classical machinery, [6].

An atom a obtains the third value, $\Gamma \models \perp(a)$, iff it is involved in a contradiction so that both $\Gamma \models a$ and $\Gamma \models \neg a$. At first glance, this might be taken as a true contradiction witnessing to dialetheism. However, such an a is not true in the sense of a designated value. Being as much true and false as neither true nor false, it is relegated beyond the border of reasonable discourse, which obeys the law of non-contradiction non-vacuously, unlike such a provably problematic a . Similarly, $\{a, \neg a, \neg b\} \not\models b$ does not imply a model making a , $\neg a$ and $\neg b$ true, only a model where b is not true while a , pushed beyond the border of relevance, loses its impact on meaningful statements. Our logic ignores it altogether, because it has a classical reason to do so.

A significant feature of our logic is that it addresses consequence and not tautologies. The empty theory has no consequences, while tautologies in clausal form comprise only excluded middle and its weakenings. Interesting

clauses can only be derived from other clauses. Consequently, various measures of (maximal para)consistency comparing sets of tautologies seem less (if at all) applicable than those comparing consequence relations, [2].

The specific features of our approach arise primarily from the use of graphs and the definition of satisfaction which is not truth-functional (the third value acts as designated only when assigned to all atoms of the clause). Its unorthodoxy might be considered a drawback, if it did not lead to pleasing consequences. One is the natural and intuitive reading, argued in the text, with graph syntax explicating the alethic reference structure, including possible self-reference of the involved statements. Classical logic (kernel models) arises unchanged as a special case (of the general semikernel models) when the concerned theory is consistent. If it is not, the paradoxical part is uniquely identifiable, making its complementary maximal consistent subdiscourse, when nonempty, a classical model of an appropriate subtheory, Γ^{ok} . Direct classical resolution, working with 2-valued literals, is applicable to our paraconsistent 3-valued logic, avoiding complications of many-valued reasoning, like resolution from [3], and opening a way to proof automation based on classical techniques, admitting classical rules except weakening. The only effect of weakening in clausal syntax is introduction of redundancy, while its extreme case, weakening the empty clause, is *Ex Falso*. The connections between paraconsistent and relevance logics appear thus explicitly: restricted *Ex Falso* (paraconsistency) is a special case of restricted clausal weakening (relevance). This notion of relevance, amounting to interdependence of atoms relatively to the actual theory, rather than syntactic criteria like variable sharing, may deserve further investigation.

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