

Means-end Relations and a Measure of Efficacy

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Outline

- 1 Means-end relations
 - Interest I: Practical syllogisms
 - Interest II: Functional ascriptions
 - Propositional Dynamic Logic

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- 2 Efficacy via fuzzy logic
 - Reliability as a fuzzy operator
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Means-end relations in practical syllogisms

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This premise is a *means-end relation*.

An example from von Wright



I want to make the hut habitable.

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I want to make the hut habitable.

Unless I heat the hut, it will not be habitable.

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I want to make the hut habitable.
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But *necessary* means-end relations are a bit tricky.

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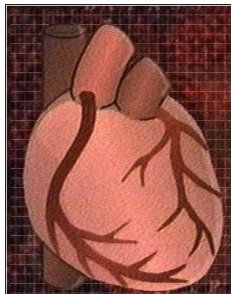
I want to make the hut habitable.

If I heat the hut, it will be habitable.

Therefore, I have reason to heat the hut.

An alternative with a sufficient means-end relation.

Functional ascriptions



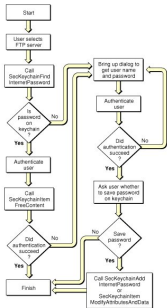
- “The function of the heart is to pump blood.”

Functional ascriptions



- “The function of the heart is to pump blood.”
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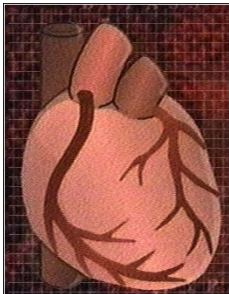
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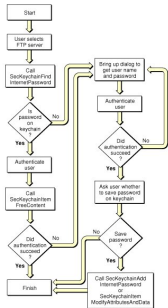
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 - distinct from theory of practical reasoning

Initial analysis of means-end relations

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- **Objects as means?**

PDL syntax

Propositional Dynamic Logic is a logic of actions.

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Intuitions:

- $[\alpha]\varphi$: after doing α , φ will hold.

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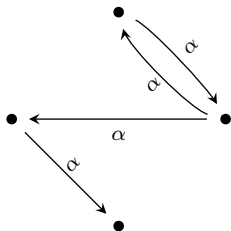
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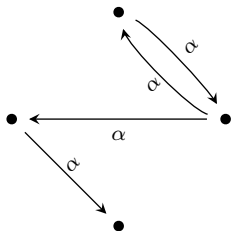
- $[\alpha]\varphi$: after doing α , φ *will* hold.
- $\langle \alpha \rangle \varphi$: after doing α , φ *might* hold.

PDL semantics



Possible world semantics with transition systems for each action α .

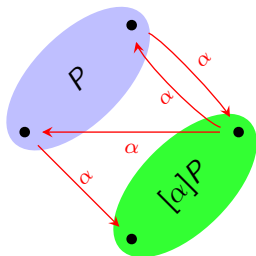
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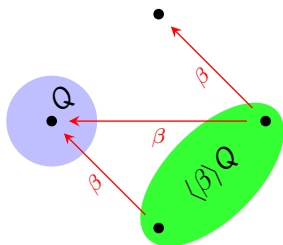


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$w \models \langle \alpha \rangle \varphi$ iff $\exists w \xrightarrow{\alpha} w' . w' \models \varphi$.

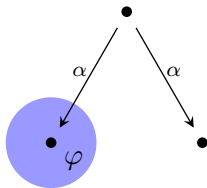
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A means is an action α that can realize one's end φ .

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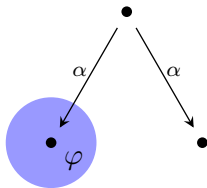


Weak: α might realize φ .

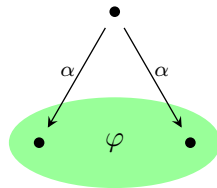
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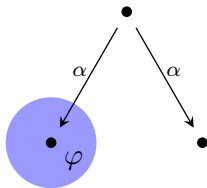


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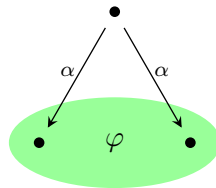
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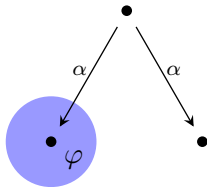
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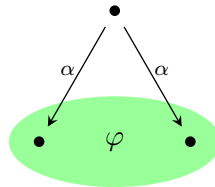
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α can be done.

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Means distinguished by efficacy

Different means to a common end have different degrees of reliability.

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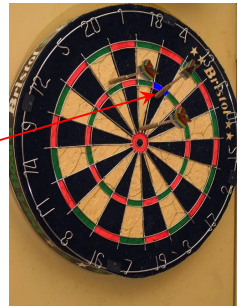
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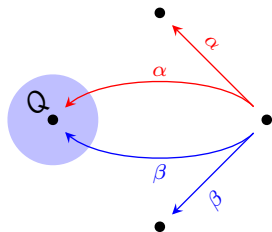
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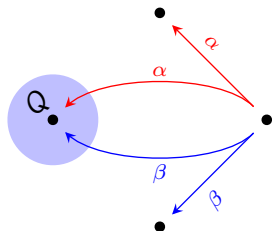
Efficacy: The degree of reliability of a means to an end.

From non-determinism to probabilities



Efficacy is a measure of likelihoods.

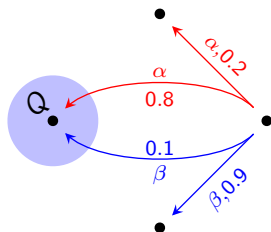
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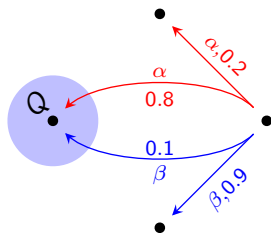
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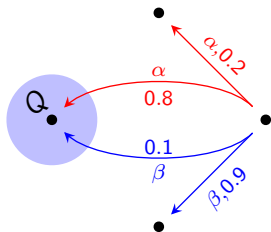


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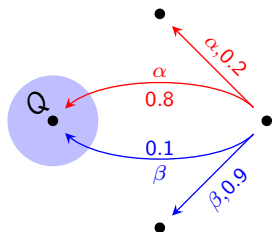
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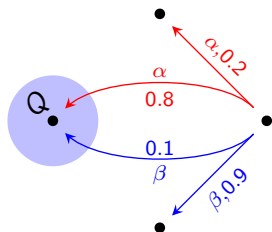
Write: $P(w \xrightarrow{\alpha} w') = x.$

From non-determinism to probabilities



Syntactic fix?

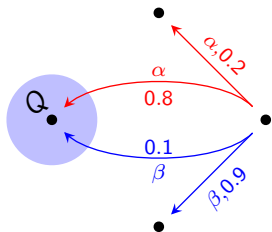
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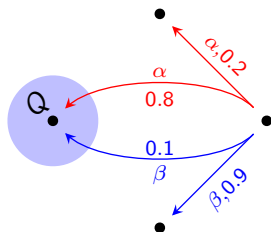
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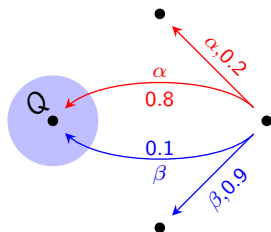
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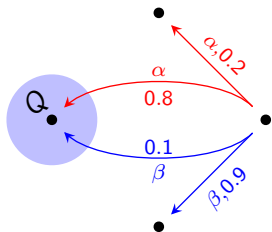
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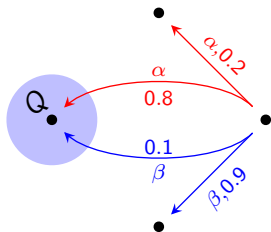
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 - **Truth functional.**

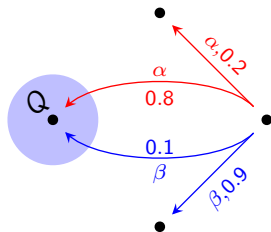
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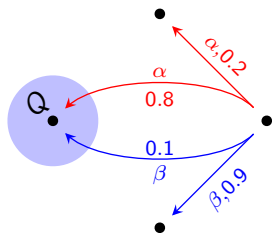
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- Fuzzy PDL.

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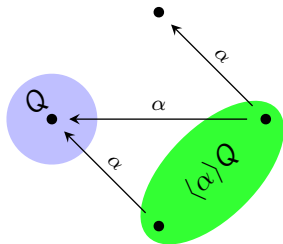
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Truth degree of “Probably φ ” = $P(\varphi)$.

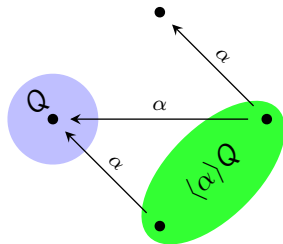
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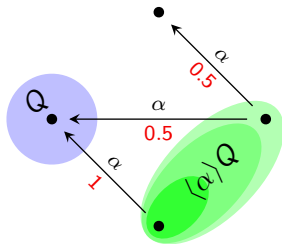


In PDL:

$\langle \alpha \rangle \varphi \Leftrightarrow \alpha$ will possibly realize φ

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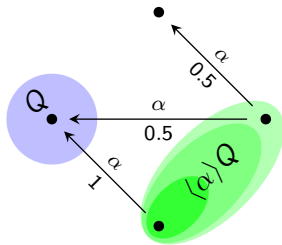
$\langle \alpha \rangle \varphi \Leftrightarrow \alpha$ will possibly realize φ

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Reliability as a fuzzy proposition

“Reliably”, like “Probably”, is a vague operator.



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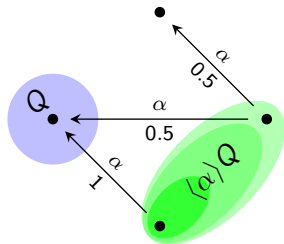
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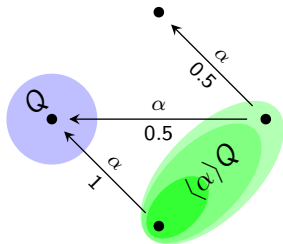
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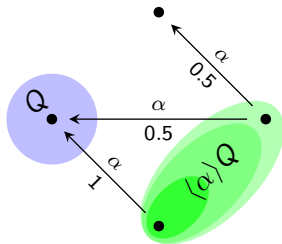
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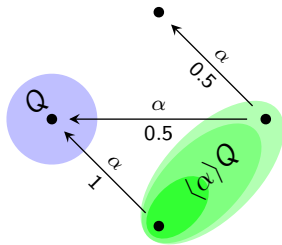
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- **Elegant treatment of complex ends, like $\langle \alpha \rangle \varphi \wedge \langle \beta \rangle \psi$.**

Fuzzy ends

An accidental advantage

Weapons are for causing harm.

Fuzzy ends

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Examples: slingshot, nuke

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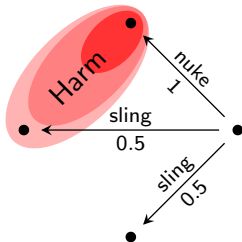
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An accidental advantage



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Fuzzy PDL allows for fuzzy ends.

A nuke is more effective in causing harm than a slingshot.

(Duh.)

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The semantics of fuzzy PDL

On formulas

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I wish.

Logical properties

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But not with these semantics.

Ongoing work...

Concluding remarks

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Thank you.

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Proposal: Interpret PDL as fuzzy logic.