

# Characterizing $\Phi$ -accessible Programs

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November 22, 2001

## Abstract

We characterize programs with a total Fitting semantics, recovering from some mistakes in [Hit01].

Notation and terminology is that of [Hit01].

### *Acknowledgement*

Roland Heinze found the problem with the original definition, see Remark 0.4.

**0.1 Theorem** Let  $P$  be a normal logic program. The following conditions are equivalent.

- 1)  $P$  has a total Fitting semantics.
- 2) There exists a model  $I$  and a level mapping  $l$  such that  $I$  is a supported model of  $P$  and each  $A \in B_P$  satisfies either (i) or (ii).
  - (i) There exists a clause  $A \leftarrow L_1, \dots, L_n$  in  $\text{ground}(P)$  with head  $A$  such that  $I \models L_1 \wedge \dots \wedge L_n$ , and  $l(A) > l(L_i)$  for all  $i$ .
  - (ii) For each clause  $A \leftarrow L_1, \dots, L_n$  in  $\text{ground}(P)$  with head  $A$  there exists  $i$  such that  $I \not\models L_i$  and  $l(A) > l(L_i)$ .
- 3) There exists a model  $I$  and a level mapping  $l$  such that  $I$  is a model of  $P$  and each  $A \in B_P$  satisfies either (i) from 2) above or (iii).
  - (iii)  $I \not\models A$  and for each clause  $A \leftarrow L_1, \dots, L_n$  in  $\text{ground}(P)$  with head  $A$  there exists  $i$  such that  $I \not\models L_i$  and  $l(A) > l(L_i)$ .

Furthermore,  $I$  is the unique supported model of  $P$ .

**Proof:** 3)  $\Rightarrow$  2). Suppose 3) holds. We show that  $I$  is supported. So let  $A \in I$ . Then (iii) can not hold. So (i) holds by condition 3). Hence there exists a clause in  $\text{ground}(P)$  with head  $A$  whose body is true under  $I$ . So  $I$  is supported. Furthermore, if  $A \in I$ , then (i) holds. If  $A \notin I$ , then (i) can not hold since  $I$  is a model for  $P$ . Hence (iii) holds by condition 3). Consequently, (ii) holds in this case.

2)  $\Rightarrow$  3). Suppose  $A$  does not satisfy (i). Then it satisfies (ii). Since  $I$  is supported, we must have  $A \notin I$  which shows (iii).

1)  $\Leftrightarrow$  2). This is exactly the proof of Theorem 6.5.3 in [Hit01]. We replicate it here.

1)  $\Rightarrow$  2). Suppose  $P$  satisfies condition 1). For each  $A \in B_P$ , let  $l_P(A)$  denote the least ordinal  $\beta$  such that  $A$  is not undefined in  $\Phi_P \uparrow (\beta + 1)$ . Let  $\alpha$  be its closure ordinal wrt.  $\Phi_P$  and let  $M_P = \Phi_P \uparrow \alpha^+$  be its unique supported (two-valued) model. We distinguish two cases (a) and (b).

(a) Let  $A \in M_P$  and  $l_P(A) = \beta$ . By definition of  $l_P$  and  $\Phi_P$  there exists a clause  $A \leftarrow L_1, \dots, L_n$  in  $\text{ground}(P)$  such that the  $L_1, \dots, L_n$  are true in  $\Phi \uparrow \beta$ , and hence are also true in  $M_P$ . Again by definition of  $l_P$  we obtain  $l_P(A) > l_P(L_i)$  for all  $i$ .

(b) Let  $A \notin M_P$  and  $l_P(A) = \beta$ . By definition of  $l_P$  and  $\Phi_P$  we obtain that for any clause  $A \leftarrow L_1, \dots, L_n$  in  $\text{ground}(P)$  we must have that  $L_1 \wedge \dots \wedge L_n$  is false in  $\Phi_P \uparrow \beta$ . So there must be some  $i$  such that  $L_i$  is false in  $\Phi_P \uparrow \beta$  and  $l(L_i) < \beta$  by definition of  $l_P$ , and hence  $l_P(A) > l_P(L_i)$ .

Thus,  $P$  satisfies condition 2) with  $I = M_P$  and  $l = l_P$ .

2)  $\Rightarrow$  1) Assume  $P$  satisfies condition 2). We show by induction on  $\beta$  that any  $A \in B_P$  with  $l(A) = \beta$  is not undefined in  $\Phi_P \uparrow (\beta + 1)$  and, furthermore, that  $I$  and  $\Phi_P \uparrow (\beta + 1)$  agree on  $A$ .

If  $l(A) = 0$ , then  $A$  must be the head of a unit clause or does not appear in any head. In the first case,  $A$  is true in  $\Phi_P \uparrow 1$ , and in the second case,  $A$  is false in  $\Phi_P \uparrow 1$ . Note that in the first case  $A$  is also true in  $I$  since condition (i) applies and  $I$  is a model of  $P$ . Also, in the second case,  $A$  is also false in  $I$  since condition (ii) applies and  $I$  is supported.

Now let  $l(A) = \beta$ . If there is no clause in  $\text{ground}(P)$  with head  $A$ , then  $A$  is false in  $\Phi_P \uparrow 1 \leq \Phi_P \uparrow (\beta + 1)$  and also false in  $I$  since condition (ii) applies and  $I$  is supported. So assume there is a clause in  $\text{ground}(P)$  with head  $A$ . By hypothesis, either condition (i) or condition (ii) applies.

If condition (i) applies, then there is a clause  $A \leftarrow L_1, \dots, L_n$  in  $\text{ground}(P)$  such that  $l(L_1), \dots, l(L_n) < l(A)$  and therefore, by the induction hypothesis, the  $L_1, \dots, L_n$  are not undefined in  $\Phi_P \uparrow \beta$  and  $I$  agrees with  $\Phi_P \uparrow \beta$  on them. Now, since  $I$  is a model of  $P$  and  $I \models L_1, \dots, L_n$ , we obtain that  $A$  is true in  $I$  and by definition of  $\Phi_P$  also in  $\Phi_P \uparrow (\beta + 1)$ .

If condition (ii) applies, then for each clause  $A \leftarrow L_1, \dots, L_n$  in  $\text{ground}(P)$  there is some  $i$  such that  $l(A) > l(L_i)$  and  $L_i$  is false in  $I$ . Hence we obtain that  $L_i$  is false in both  $\Phi_P \uparrow \beta$  and  $I$  by the induction hypothesis and it follows that  $A$  is false in  $\Phi_P \uparrow (\beta + 1)$  by definition of  $\Phi_P$  and also false in  $I$  since  $I$  is supported.

By 2),  $I$  is supported. By 1),  $P$  has a unique supported model. Hence  $I$  is the unique supported model of  $P$ . ■

The following definition replaces the respective part of [Hit01, Definition 5.0.2].

**0.2 Definition** A normal logic program is called  $\Phi$ -*accessible* if it satisfies one of the equiv-

alent conditions from Theorem 0.1.

**0.3 Remark** The following condition is *not* equivalent to  $\Phi$ -accessibility: There exists a model  $I$  and a level mapping  $l$  such that  $I$  is a model of  $P$  whose restriction to the predicate symbols in  $\text{Neg}_P^*$  is a supported model of  $P^-$ , and each  $A \in B_P$  satisfies either (i) or (ii) from 2) above.

**Proof:** The following program is a counterexample:

$$\begin{aligned} p &\leftarrow q \\ q &\leftarrow r \\ q &\leftarrow p \end{aligned}$$

It satisfies the above conditions for the model  $I = \{p, q, r\}$  and the level mapping  $l(p) = 2 > l(q) = 1 > l(r) = 0$ . The program has no total Fitting semantics. ■

**0.4 Remark (Heinze)** The following condition is *not* equivalent to  $\Phi$ -accessibility: There exists a model  $I$  and a level mapping  $l$  such that  $I$  is a model of  $P$  and each  $A \in B_P$  satisfies either (i) from 2) above or (iv).

- (iv) For each clause  $A \leftarrow L_1, \dots, L_n$  in  $\text{ground}(P)$  with head  $A$  there exists  $i$  such that  $I \not\models L_i$ ,  $I \not\models A$  and  $l(A) > l(L_i)$ .

**Proof:** The following program is a counterexample.

$$p \leftarrow \neg p, \neg q$$

It satisfies the above conditions for the model  $I = \{q\}$  and the level mapping  $l(p) = 1 > l(q) = 0$ . The program has no total Fitting semantics.

Note that the program from Remark 0.3 also serves as a counterexample. ■

We note that the proof of [Hit01, Proposition 5.5.3] can be carried over using that  $I$  is supported. We repeat it for convenience.

**0.5 Proposition** Let  $P$  be  $\Phi$ -accessible. Then  $T_P$  is strictly contracting with respect to  $\varrho$ .

**Proof:** Let  $J, K \in I_P$  and assume that  $\varrho(J, K) = 2^{-\alpha}$ . Then  $J, K, I$  agree on all ground atoms of level less than  $\alpha$ . We show that  $T_P(J)$  and  $I$  agree on all ground atoms of level less than or equal to  $\alpha$ . A similar argument shows that  $T_P(K)$  and  $I$  agree on all ground atoms of level less than or equal to  $\alpha$ , and this suffices.

Let  $A \in T_P(J)$  with  $l(A) \leq \alpha$ . Then there must be a clause  $A \leftarrow L_1, \dots, L_n$  in  $\text{ground}(P)$  such that  $J \models L_1 \wedge \dots \wedge L_n$ . Since  $I$  and  $J$  agree on all ground atoms of level less than  $\alpha$ , condition (ii) from Theorem 0.1 2) cannot hold, because if  $I \not\models L_i$  with  $l(A) > l(L_i)$ , then  $J \not\models L_i$  and consequently  $J \not\models L_1 \wedge \dots \wedge L_n$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore, condition (i) of Theorem 0.1 2) holds and so  $A \in T_P(I)$ . Since  $I$  is supported and  $T_P(I) = I$  we conclude  $A \in I$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $A \in I$ . Since  $I = T_P(I)$ , there must be a clause  $A \leftarrow L_1, \dots, L_n$  in  $\text{ground}(P)$  such that  $I \models L_1 \wedge \dots \wedge L_n$ . Thus, condition (i) of Theorem 0.1 2) must hold, and so we can assume that  $A \leftarrow L_1, \dots, L_n$  also satisfies  $l(A) > l(L_i)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Since  $I$  and  $J$  agree on all ground atoms of level less than  $\alpha$ , we have  $J \models L_1 \wedge \dots \wedge L_n$  and hence  $A \in T_P(J)$  as required. ■

Finally, we note that the proof of [Hit01, Theorem 8.2.2] is unaffected.

## References

- [Hit01] P. Hitzler. *Generalized Metrics and Topology in Logic Programming Semantics*. PhD thesis, Department of Mathematics, National University of Ireland, University College Cork, 2001.