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Non-Determinism and the Dynamics of Knowledge

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Abstract

In this paper we attempt to shed light on the concept of an *agent's knowledge after a non-deterministic action* is executed. We start by making a comparison between notions of non-deterministic choice, and between notions of sequential composition, of settings with dynamic and/or epistemic character; namely Propositional Dynamic Logic (PDL), Dynamic Epistemic Logic (DEL), and the more recent logic of Semi-Public Environments (SPE). These logics represent two different approaches for defining the aforementioned actions, and in order to provide unified frameworks that encompass both, we define the logics DELVO (DEL+Vision+Ontic change) and PDLVE (PDL+Vision+Epistemic operators). DELVO is given a sound and complete axiomatisation.

1 Introduction

The paper focuses on the dynamics of knowledge in environments where agents are aware of (possibly non-deterministic) actions that are executed, but data is distributed privately: Semi-Public Environments as they are called, more recently in [Grossi *et al.*, 2016] and earlier in [van der Hoek *et al.*, 2011]. By data being distributed privately we mean that the agents may or may not have constant, real-time knowledge, of the value of the variables involved. The paper sets out to investigate how non-deterministic choice in this type of environments affects the knowledge of an agent after an action is executed.

Non-deterministic choice is a central action composition operator for most logics of action. In this paper our starting points will be Propositional Dynamic Logic (PDL, [Harel *et al.*, 2000]), Dynamic Epistemic Logic with Action Models (DEL, [van Ditmarsch *et al.*, 2007], [Baltag and Moss, 2004; Baltag *et al.*, 1998]) and the aforementioned logic for Semi-Public Environments (SPE, [Grossi *et al.*, 2016]). For the presentation to follow, the reader is assumed to be familiar with DEL. In DEL and PDL, for any actions a and b of the respective language, we have the validity

$$([a]\varphi \wedge [b]\varphi) \leftrightarrow [a \cup b]\varphi. \quad (1)$$

If φ expresses knowledge, e.g. is $K_i\psi$, the scheme expresses a strong relation between knowledge and non-determinism: an agent knows ψ after non-deterministically executing a or

b , if and only if he knows ψ after executing just a and after executing just b . In DEL, an instance of (1) is

$$[x!](K_i x \vee K_i y) \wedge [y!](K_i x \vee K_i y) \leftrightarrow [x! \cup y!](K_i x \vee K_i y).$$

This property makes perfect sense; after being announced that x , or being announced that y , the agent at least knows one of the two to be true. Another interesting instance of (1), however, should arguably fail. That is what happens in SPE, where the following formula is *not* valid (let $Kw_i x$ be shorthand for $K_i x \vee K_i \neg x$, and $x := \perp$ (respectively, \top) stands for the action of setting variable x to false (respectively, true):

$$[x := \perp]Kw_i x \wedge [x := \top]Kw_i x \leftrightarrow [x := \top \cup x := \perp]Kw_i x.$$

The failure of (1) in SPE also has an intuitive appeal: some part of a non-deterministic action is executed, but which part is actually performed is not necessarily revealed to the agent.

So, in contrast to what happens in DEL (or PDL extended with epistemic operators), it is *not* the case that if the agent knows ψ after executing a and after executing b , that he necessarily knows ψ after the execution of the non-deterministic choice between them.

A similar analysis applies to sequential composition. In the same fashion as before, we have the validity that essentially defines sequential composition in PDL:

$$[a; b]\varphi \leftrightarrow [a][b]\varphi. \quad (2)$$

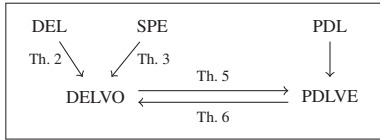
And in DEL, we have that formula $[x!; y!]K_i(x \wedge y) \leftrightarrow [x!][y!]K_i(x \wedge y)$ is a validity, for x, y being atoms. This is again intuitive: announcing $x \wedge y$ ought to be the same as announcing x and then announcing y . But also this schema is not valid in SPE; we very briefly refer to an example from [Grossi *et al.*, 2016] below. In its perspective the failure of (2) should not come as a surprise.

Example 1 The agent can see only variable x , and we execute the action where we non-deterministically toggle the values of x and y , or just y . After this action, we also non-deterministically toggle the value of x , or of y .

In both steps the agent can distinguish between the two possible actions; one changes x , the other does not. Consider that the agent has the opportunity to observe the impact of the first action, before the second starts, and then the impact of the second. As a result, he can distinguish between any of the four total alternatives (where both x and y , or just x , or just y , or nothing, was changed; for later use let us denote the four individual actions with v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 respectively). But

what if the agent has no opportunity to observe what happened in-between? Then he can only observe what happened at the very end, and in our example, he will not be able to distinguish between all possibilities, particularly those with same truth value for x , but different for y .

The paper introduces and studies a logic that integrates both the above approaches to choice and composition, defining two novel action operators which we call *opaque* choice and composition. The proposed logic is a generalisation of both SPE and DEL and is called DELVO: DEL plus *vision* plus *ontic change*, which are features of SPE. Logic DELVO is then compared with an extension of PDL with vision and epistemic modalities we also introduce (called PDLVE). This logic can be considered the natural ‘abstraction’ of DELVO in PDL style, in the sense that the actions involved will be arbitrary connections between possible worlds (as opposed to the other dynamic logic, DL-PA [Balbiani *et al.*, 2013], that uses assignments). The relationship between DELVO and PDLVE is studied in detail. The drawing below recapitulates the relations among the investigated logics.



2 Preliminaries

Throughout the paper, we will be dealing with a finite set $Ag = \{1, \dots, m\}$ of agents, and a countable set of propositional variables $\mathcal{V}ar = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$. A valuation $\theta : \mathcal{V}ar \rightarrow \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$ assigns a truth value to each variable $x \in \mathcal{V}ar$. The set of all valuations is denoted by Θ . Given a relation $R \subseteq A \times A$, R^\sim is its reflexive, symmetric, and transitive closure. For $S \subseteq A$, $R(S) = \{w \in A \mid \exists v \in S \text{ s.t. } vRw\}$.

Let us next give a summary of the notation for the different classes of models we will be using, given that several logics are involved in this study.

	DEL	SPE	DELVO	PDL	PDLVE
Static Models	\mathcal{EM}	\mathcal{EMV}	\mathcal{EMV}	\mathcal{DM}	\mathcal{DEM}
Dynamic Models	\mathbf{AM}	\mathbf{PM}	\mathbf{AMT}	—	—

A model M from any of the above classes, has a set of worlds/points W . We then have *single-pointed models* to be pairs of the form (M, w) , for $w \in W$, and *multi-pointed models* to be pairs of the form (M, S) , for $S \subseteq W$. We will use the prefix σ or μ , and the name of a class in brackets, to denote the corresponding classes of single-pointed and multi-pointed models (e.g., $\mu(\mathbf{AM})$ stands for multi-pointed action models). To justify the abbreviations: \mathcal{EM} stands for Epistemic Models, \mathcal{EMV} for the Epistemic Models with Vision, \mathcal{DM} for Dynamic Models and \mathcal{DEM} for Dynamic Epistemic Models, \mathbf{AM} for Action Models, \mathbf{AMT} for Action Models with Toggle sets, \mathbf{PM} for Program Models.

We recapitulate the basic notions of DEL, we refer the reader to [van Ditmarsch *et al.*, 2007, Ch. 6] for a comprehensive exposition. Let \mathcal{L} be a logical language for given parameters Ag and $\mathcal{V}ar$. An **action model** M is a tuple (W, R, pre) such that W is a finite set, $R : Ag \rightarrow 2^{(W \times W)}$ assigns an equivalence relation to each agent $i \in Ag$, and $\text{pre} : W \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$. We will denote the class of action models for \mathcal{L}_{DEL} with \mathbf{AM} . Language \mathcal{L}_{DEL}

is given by syntax $\varphi ::= x \mid \neg\varphi \mid \varphi \wedge \varphi \mid K_i\varphi \mid [a]\varphi$, where $x \in \mathcal{V}ar, i \in Ag$ and $a ::= (M, w) \mid (a \cup a)$ where $w \in W$. An **epistemic model** for \mathcal{L}_{DEL} is $M = \langle W, R, f \rangle$, where W is a (possibly empty) set, the set of *states*; $f : W \rightarrow \Theta$ assigns a valuation θ to each state in W ; $R : Ag \rightarrow 2^{(W \times W)}$ assigns an equivalence relation to each agent $i \in Ag$. \mathcal{EM} denotes the class of epistemic models. The model resulting from the application of an action model M to an epistemic model M , referred to here as **model product**, is the model $M \otimes M = \langle W', R', f' \rangle$ such that $W' = \{(w, w) \in W \times W \mid M, w \models \text{pre}(w)\}$, $(w, w)R'(u, u)$ iff wRu and wRu . and $f'(w, w) = f(w)$. Actions of DEL are defined by syntax $a ::= (M, w) \mid a \cup a$. Finally, for each action a , we have the **induced relation** $\llbracket a \rrbracket$: for $M, w \in \sigma(\mathbf{AM})$ we have $(M, w) \llbracket a \rrbracket (M', w')$ iff $M, w \models \text{pre}(w)$ and $(M', w') = (M \otimes M, (w, w))$, while $\llbracket a \cup b \rrbracket = \llbracket a \rrbracket \cup \llbracket b \rrbracket$. We have $M, w \models [a]\varphi$ iff for all $M', w' \in \llbracket a \rrbracket(M, w)$ we have $M', w' \models \varphi$. The rest of the truth definitions are as usual.

Let us denote the actions of DEL with $\mathcal{L}_1^{\text{Act}}$. In the remainder of the section we define an equivalent presentation of DEL based on multi-pointed action models. This allows us to have a unified model structure to handle all actions of $\mathcal{L}_1^{\text{Act}}$, which facilitates later comparison with SPE. So let us consider the language $\mathcal{L}_2^{\text{Act}}$ where actions are only multi-pointed action models, that is, $a ::= M, S$ where $M, S \in \mu(\mathbf{AM})$; and the language of DEL using $\mathcal{L}_2^{\text{Act}}$ denoted by $\mathcal{L}'_{\text{DEL}}$. Now the induced relation is defined as $\llbracket M, S \rrbracket(M, w) = \{M \otimes M, (w, w) \mid w \in S\}$.

In what follows, “ \sqcup ” denotes the disjoint union of two action models, whose sets of worlds are, for simplicity, already assumed to be disjoint.

Definition 1 (Translation to $\mu(\mathbf{AM})$) We define function $t : \mathcal{L}_1^{\text{Act}} \mapsto \mathcal{L}_2^{\text{Act}} = \mu(\mathbf{AM})$ as follows: If $M, w \in \sigma(\mathbf{AM})$, then $t(M, w) = M, \{w\}$. If $a, b \in \mathcal{L}_1^{\text{Act}}$ and $t(a) = M_a, S_a$, $t(b) = M_b, S_b$, then $t(a \cup b) = M_a \sqcup M_b, S_a \sqcup S_b$.

The fact that this translation is truth-preserving is formally stated in the following Theorem.

Theorem 1 For all $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{DEL}}$ let $t(\varphi)$ denote the formula that is φ but for each action a all its occurrences in φ are replaced by $t(a)$. For all $M, w \in \sigma(\mathcal{EM})$ and $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{DEL}}$, we have $M, w \models \varphi$ iff $M, w \models t(\varphi)$.

3 The Logic DELVO

The first traditional setting on which we would like to expand and incorporate both alternative versions of choice and composition mentioned in the introductory section is DEL. The difference in behaviour we have observed relies on vision—that is, what agents can observe—and ontic change—that is, the ‘factual’ differences among points of evaluation in the model. It thus seems reasonable to introduce a DEL-style logic, with epistemic models enriched with vision, and action models that allow for ontic change.

Definition 2 (Toggling values) Let $\theta \in \Theta$ and $S \subseteq \mathcal{V}ar$. The toggling of values for the variables in S in θ , notation $\ddagger(S)(\theta)$, is the atomic valuation (member of Θ) defined as $\ddagger(S)(\theta)(x) = \text{not } \theta(x)$ if $x \in S$, otherwise $\ddagger(S)(\theta)(x) = \theta(x)$. Given two sets of variables S_1 and S_2 , we denote their symmetric difference by $S_1 \Delta S_2$, i.e., $S_1 \Delta S_2 = (S_1 \cup S_2) \setminus (S_1 \cap S_2)$.

Definition 3 (DELVO Action Models) A (DELVO) action model is a tuple $M = \langle W, R, \text{pre}, \text{tgl} \rangle$, where $W \neq \emptyset$ is finite, $R : Ag \rightarrow 2^{(W \times W)}$ assigns an equivalence relation to each agent $i \in Ag$, $\text{pre} : W \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$, $\text{tgl} : W \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\text{Var})$ and each $\text{tgl}(w)$ is finite. A pair (M, S) , where M is an action model and $\emptyset \subset S \subseteq W$, is called a (Multi-)Pointed Action Model. When clear from context, instead of $M, \{w\}$ we may also write M, w . The class of all action models is denoted by **AMT**.

In comparison with the standard manifestation of post-condition effects in DEL, which uses assignments (see for example [van Benthem *et al.*, 2006]), our action models use toggle sets, as in [Grossi *et al.*, 2016]. The reason is that it allows for a more elegant handling of the notion of vision, since the agent successfully resolves uncertainty based on the *difference in ontic changes* caused by the actions. The two formulations are technically equivalent: one can simulate ‘assignments’ to variables using toggle sets [Grossi *et al.*, 2016]. Pairs (M, S) now are essentially the multi-pointed action models of DEL, but with each point w carrying additional information about a finite toggle set $\text{tgl}(w)$. Finally the **syntax** of formulas $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{DELVO}}$ is:

$$\varphi ::= \top \mid x \mid V_i x \mid \neg \varphi \mid \varphi \wedge \varphi \mid [M, S]\varphi \mid K_i \varphi$$

where $x \in \text{Var}$, $i \in Ag$, $(M, S) \in \mu(\mathbf{AMT})$.

Definition 4 (DELVO models) An epistemic model (with vision) M for $\mathcal{L}_{\text{DELVO}}$ is a tuple $M = \langle W, R, V, f \rangle$ where $\langle W, R, f \rangle \in \mathcal{EM}$, $V : Ag \rightarrow 2^{\text{Var}}$, and

- $wR_i u$ implies $(f(w) \Delta f(u)) \cap V(i) = \emptyset$.

\mathcal{EMV} denotes the class of epistemic models with vision. The set of all vision functions V is denoted by \mathcal{Vis} .

So the models of DELVO are standard epistemic models enhanced with a vision function recording information about which propositional variables each agent observes. If an agent considers two worlds indistinguishable, then it must be the case that he cannot *observe* a difference in their valuation.

There exists the possibility that the indistinguishability relation of an action model is not compatible with the vision function of an epistemic model. The way we address these cases when trying to calculate a model product, is by ‘rewiring’ the action models to be ‘in sync’ with the agents’ vision, but without them hiding any information at all, or giving information not acquired by vision.

Definition 5 Let $V \in \mathcal{Vis}$ and $M \in \mathbf{AMT}$. We define the action model $M^V = \langle W^V, R^V, \text{pre}^V, \text{tgl}^V \rangle$ as follows:

- $W^V = W$; $\text{pre}^V = \text{pre}$; $\text{tgl}^V = \text{tgl}$;
- $wR_i^V u$ iff $(wR_i u \text{ and } (\text{tgl}(w) \Delta \text{tgl}(u)) \cap V(i) = \emptyset)$.

Now that we have everything else in place, we proceed to define the semantics of formulas and actions in DELVO.

Definition 6 Let $M = \langle W, R, V, f \rangle \in \mathcal{EMV}$. The truth conditions are as for DEL, plus $(M, w) \models V_i x$ iff $x \in V(i)$.

Relation $\|M, S\| \subseteq \sigma(\mathcal{EMV}) \times \sigma(\mathcal{EMV})$ is defined again as in DEL: $\|M, S\|(M, w) = \{M \otimes M, (w, w) \mid w \in S\}$, while $(M \otimes M)$ is now the epistemic model $M' = \langle W', R', V', f' \rangle$ defined as:

- $W' = \{(w, w) \mid w \in W, w \in W \ \& \ (M, w) \models \text{pre}(w)\}$;
- $(w, w)R'_i(u, u)$ iff $wR_i u$ and $wR_i^V u$;

- $V' = V$, $f'((w, w)) = \dagger(\text{tgl}(w))(f(w))$.

We conclude the section thus far by introducing a notion of bisimulation between DELVO models [Blackburn *et al.*, 2001].

Definition 7 Let $M, M' \in \mathcal{EMV}$. A non-empty relation $Z \subseteq W \times W'$ is a bisimulation iff for all $(w, w') \in Z$ and $i \in Ag$:

Atoms For all $x \in \text{Var}$, $x \in f(w)$ iff $x \in f'(w')$, and $x \in V(i)$ iff $x \in V'(i)$; **Forth** For all $v \in W$, if $wR_i v$ then there is a $v' \in W'$ such that $w'R'_i v'$ and $(v, v') \in Z$; **Back** For all $v' \in W'$, if $w'R'_i v'$ then there is a $v \in W$ such that $wR_i v$ and $(v, v') \in Z$. Two multi-pointed action models (M, S) and (M', S') are bisimilar (written $(M, S) \Leftrightarrow (M', S')$) iff there is a bisimulation Z between M and M' , such that for any $w \in S$, there is a $w' \in S'$ with $(w, w') \in Z$, and vice versa.

Axiomatisation The axiomatisation for DELVO is comprised of the axioms and rules for logic $s5$, axioms for vision $V_i x \rightarrow (K_i x \vee K_i \neg x)$ and $V_i x \rightarrow K_j V_i x$, and reduction axioms that allow any formula that includes dynamic modalities to be reduced to one that does not. These reduction axioms are identical to those of SPE [Grossi *et al.*, 2016], except the slightly changed reduction action for knowledge: $[M, w]K_i \varphi \leftrightarrow (\text{pre}(w) \rightarrow \bigwedge_{V \in \mathcal{Vis}^M} (\chi_V \rightarrow \bigwedge_{wR_i^V u} K_i [M^V, u]\varphi))$, with χ_V being a characteristic formula of vision function V over the variables that appear in M . Soundness is derived easily from the definitions, and completeness is proven along the lines of DEL and SPE via the standard reduction technique; completeness is then further reduced to that of logic $s5+v$, that is, the multi-agent epistemic logic $s5_n$ [Fagin *et al.*, 1995], with the two additional axioms for vision.

Opaque Choice and Composition The logic DELVO provides us with a setting in which to properly capture not only the traditional forms of choice and composition (cf. Theorem 1) but also their *opaque* variants—opaque choice and composition—we motivated in the introductory section.

Let the set of actions Act be defined inductively as: $Act \ni a ::= \varphi! \mid \varphi? \mid \dagger x \mid a \cup a \mid a \uplus_T a \mid a ; a ; a$, where $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}$, $x \in \text{Var}$ and $T \subseteq Ag$.

The constructs \uplus_T and $;$ denote the opaque variants of the standard \cup and $;$. For $T = Ag$ we write \uplus omitting the subscript. Each of the above actions we recursively define in terms of suitable DELVO action models. By writing action “ a ” in a formula we will mean the multi-pointed action model that corresponds to a .

Definition 8

1. (Announcement) Let $M_{\varphi!} = \langle W, R, \text{pre}, \text{tgl} \rangle$, where $W = \{e\}$, $R_i = \{(e, e)\}$, $\text{pre}(e) = \varphi$ and $\text{tgl}(e) = \{\}$. The multi-pointed action model for $\varphi!$ is $M_{\varphi!}, \{e\}$.
2. (Toggle) Let $M_{\dagger x} = \langle W, R, \text{pre}, \text{tgl} \rangle$, where $W = \{t\}$, $R_i = \{(t, t)\}$, $\text{pre}(t) = \top$ and $\text{tgl}(t) = \{x\}$. The multi-pointed action model for $\dagger x$ is $M_{\dagger x}, \{t\}$.
3. (Test) Let $M_{\varphi?} = \langle W, R, \text{pre}, \text{tgl} \rangle$, where $W = \{w, v\}$, $R_i = W \times W$, $\text{pre}(w) = \varphi$, $\text{pre}(v) = \neg \varphi$ and $\text{tgl}(w) = \text{tgl}(v) = \{\}$. The multi-pointed action model for $\varphi?$ is $M_{\varphi?}, \{w\}$.

In order to define test as a multi-pointed action model, we have based ourselves on the archetype that the test relation

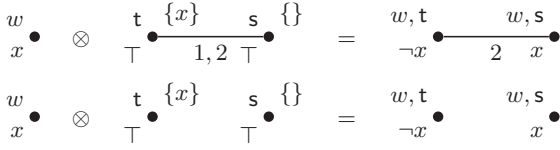


Figure 1: Epistemic model M (left) for which $x \in V(1), x \notin V(2)$, action models $(\dagger x \cup \top!)$ (top) and $(\dagger x \cup \top!)$ (bottom), and the resulting model products (right).

represents, in PDL models. Specifically, given a PDL model M , then $\llbracket \varphi? \rrbracket = \{(w, w) \in M \times M \mid M, w \models \varphi\}$. The relation induced by action models (in our case Def. 6) is not between worlds of the same model, but between the original epistemic model, and the model product. The reader can check that with the action model for test in Definition 8, we have, given $M, w \in \sigma(\mathcal{EMV})$, if $M, w \not\models \varphi$ then $\llbracket \varphi? \rrbracket(M, w) = \emptyset$, and if $M, w \models \varphi$ then $\llbracket \varphi? \rrbracket(M, w) = M \otimes M_{\varphi?}, (w, w)$, and M, w is isomorphic to $M \otimes M_{\varphi?}, (w, w)$.

The action model for standard non-deterministic choice is a disjoint union of action models, as in DEL (Def. 1).

Definition 9 (Opaque Non-det. Choice) Let $a, b \in Act$. The action model for $a \uplus_T b$ is $M_{a \uplus_T b}, S_{a \uplus_T b} = \langle W', R', \text{pre}', \text{tgl}' \rangle, S'$ where, if $M_{a \cup b}, S_{a \cup b} = \langle W, R, \text{pre}, \text{tgl} \rangle, S$:

- $W' = W; \text{pre}' = \text{pre}; \text{tgl}' = \text{tgl}; S' = S$
- For $i \in T, R'_i = (R_i \cup (S' \times S')) \sim$. For $i \notin T, R'_i = R_i$.

The intuition behind opaque choice compared to standard choice, is that, for agents in T , it ‘overrides’ any information gained by the distinction between points in S . It can be read as “non-deterministically execute one of the action points in S , but, after execution you will only be able to tell between them if your vision allows it”. To do this, we simply take the action model of the standard non-deterministic choice, and then connect, for the agents in T , the worlds in S . As mentioned earlier, an agent’s uncertainty is bound by the information it acquires by vision (recall $M \otimes M$ in Def. 6).

Example 2 Consider the epistemic model M with a single world w with $x \in V(1), x \notin V(2)$. In Figure 1 we compare the action models $(\dagger x \cup \top!)$ and $(\dagger x \uplus \top!)$, along with the resulting model products. Note that for opaque choice, $M, w \models [(\dagger x \uplus \top!)] \neg Kw_2x$ while for standard choice $M, w \models [(\dagger x \cup \top!)] Kw_2x$. And for agent 1 that ‘sees’ x we have $M, w \models [(\dagger x \uplus \top!)] Kw_1x \wedge [(\dagger x \cup \top!)] Kw_1x$.

This example demonstrates that *both* directions of validity (1) fail for opaque choice. Indeed, we have $M, w \models [(\dagger x)] Kw_2x \wedge [\top!] Kw_2x$ but $M, w \not\models \neg [(\dagger x \uplus \top!)] Kw_2x$, and similarly $M, w \models [(\dagger x \uplus \top!)] \neg Kw_2x$ but $M, w \not\models \neg [(\dagger x)] \neg Kw_2x$. The uncertainty of the agent described by the intuition above and portrayed by this example can be described more generally by the following formula: let $(M, w), (M', w') \in \mu(\mathbf{AMT})$ and V be the vision function for which agent i can see none of the variables in $\text{tgl}(w) \Delta \text{tgl}(w')$. Then we have:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \chi_V \wedge [M, w]x \wedge [M', w'] \neg x \\ \wedge (\text{pre}(w) \leftrightarrow \text{pre}(w')) \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow [M, w \uplus M', w'] \neg Kw_i x$$

We now move on to the subject of sequential composition, which poses some more difficulties. It becomes evident that it is not possible to define regular composition only as a function

of the models M_a, M_b , without vision as a parameter; this is in contrast with the action models and the other constructs defined so far. As proof recall the actions of Example 1: if $V(i) = \emptyset$ then $v_j R_i v_k$ for $1 \leq j, k \leq 4$ in the action model, and for the resulting worlds also $(w, v_j) R_i (w, v_k)$. If we set $V(i) = \{x\}$ then the action model would be the same but it should not be the case e.g. that $(w, v_2) R_i (w, v_3)$. We are therefore led to the following definition.

Definition 10 (Composition) Let $V \in Vis, M_a = \langle W_a, R_a, \text{pre}_a, \text{tgl}_a \rangle, S_a$ and $M_b = \langle W_b, R_b, \text{pre}_b, \text{tgl}_b \rangle, S_b$. Their composition w.r.t. V is the pointed action model $M_{a;b}^V, S_{a;b}^V = \langle W, R, \text{pre}, \text{tgl} \rangle, S$ where: $W = W_a \times W_b, S = S_a \times S_b$,

- $(w, w') R_i (v, v')$ iff $w R_{a_i}^V v \ \& \ w' R_{b_i}^V v'$;
- $\text{pre}(w, v) = \langle M_a, w \rangle \text{pre}_b(v), \text{tgl}(w, v) = \text{tgl}_a(w) \Delta \text{tgl}_b(v)$

We need not advocate the correctness of the definition regarding $W, \text{pre}, \text{tgl}$, and S , as they are what is expected for the composition of two action models in DEL as well as SPE. Vision influences only the accessibility relation R , and regarding that we need only note that it is again the one normally expected, with the exception that the agent has the opportunity to apply his vision after execution of actions a and b . Hence $R_{a_i}^V$ is used (Def. 5) and not R_{a_i} . Finally, let us point out that with this definition a vision function V is linked to an action model directly, and an epistemic model M may have a vision function $V' \neq V$. In that case, a formula using such an action model cannot be interpreted in M .

We do not run into the same kind of problem with opaque composition as it uses the same idea behind opaque choice: it disregards previous connections (or more precisely, the lack thereof) in the model. Intuitively speaking, the agent is absent while actions a and then b are executed, ‘missing’ any announcements made and also the opportunity to apply his vision as changes occur to the variables.

Definition 11 (Opaque Composition) Let $a, b \in A$. The pointed action model for $a; b$ is $M_{a;b}, S_{a;b} = \langle W, R, \text{pre}, \text{tgl} \rangle, S$ defined as in Definition 10 but $R_i = W \times W$.

We can now see how to falsify property (2) from the introduction. Consider again the epistemic model of Example 2. Action model for $(\dagger x \cup \top!); \top!$ is the action model of $(\dagger x \uplus \top!)$, found in the first row of Figure 1, while in the second row we have the action model of $(\dagger x \cup \top!)$ and the resulting epistemic model. Applying action $\top!$ does not change anything, and so $M, w \models \neg [(\dagger x \cup \top!); \top!] Kw_2x$, while $M, w \models [(\dagger x \cup \top!)] [\top!] Kw_2x$.

Relation to DEL and SPE Not coincidentally, the class of DELVO (static) models—i.e. epistemic models with vision—is exactly the class of models of SPE, and subsumes the class of standard epistemic models (without vision, that is, where vision is empty), which are the models of DEL. In this section we define the relevant translations among these classes of models and state, without proof, and state the two truth-preserving embeddings.

Definition 12 We define function $h : \mathcal{EM} \rightarrow \mathcal{EMV}$ as follows: Let $M = \langle W, R, f \rangle \in \mathcal{EM}$. Then $h(M) = \langle W, R, V, f \rangle$, where V is such that for all $i \in \mathcal{AG}, V(i) = \emptyset$.

Definition 13 Let $M, S = \langle W, R, \text{pre} \rangle, S$. We define $g : \mu(\mathbf{AM}) \rightarrow \mu(\mathbf{AMT})$ as $g(M, S) = \langle W, R, \text{pre}, \text{tgl} \rangle, S$, where tgl is the function such that for all $w \in W$, $\text{tgl}(w) = \emptyset$.

Theorem 2 For all $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}'_{DEL}$ let $g(\varphi)$ denote the formula that is φ but for each action a all its occurrences in φ are replaced by $g(a)$. Let $M, w \in \sigma(\mathcal{EM})$ and $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}'_{DEL}$. We have $M, w \models \varphi$ iff $h(M), w \models g(\varphi)$.

We work similarly for SPE ; its models are exactly those of DELVO , and its action models can be seen as a special case of DELVO action models.

Definition 14 We define function $g : \sigma(\mathbf{PM}) \mapsto \mu(\mathbf{AMT})$ as follows: Let $M = \{w_1 = (\varphi_1, X_1), \dots, w_n = (\varphi_n, X_n)\} \in \mathbf{PM}$ and $w \in M$. Then $g(M, w) = \langle W, R, \text{pre}, \text{tgl} \rangle, \{w\}$ where $W = \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$, $\text{pre}(w_i) = \varphi_i$, $\text{tgl}(w_i) = X_i$ and $R_j = W \times W$.

Theorem 3 For all $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{SPE}$ let $g(\varphi)$ denote the formula that is φ but for each action M, w all its occurrences in φ are replaced by $g(M, w)$. Let $M, w \in \sigma(\mathcal{EMV})$ and $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{SPE}$. We have $M, w \models \varphi$ iff $M, w \models g(\varphi)$.

4 The Logic PDLVE

We now attempt a generalisation of opaque choice and composition to a more abstract PDL-like setting. For DELVO , a large part of the intuitions and formal techniques stem from the use of action models. The latter do not exist in PDL and it is interesting to examine how it would be possible to circumvent their use. Furthermore, actions of PDL are strictly more general; to see this consider that an atomic PDL action can connect a finite component of worlds to an infinite one - this cannot be achieved by any $\llbracket M, w \rrbracket$ as action models are finite. Therefore with PDLVE we attempt not only to represent the opaque constructs in the PDL paradigm, but also extent their use to a richer class of actions.

In addition to sets Ag and \mathcal{Var} , let also a countable set of atomic actions $Atom = \{a_1, a_2, \dots\}$ be given.

The language of PDLVE is defined by the following **syntax**:

$$\varphi ::= \top \mid x \mid V_i x \mid \neg \varphi \mid \varphi \wedge \varphi \mid [a]\varphi \mid K_i \varphi$$

where $a ::= \pi \in Atom \mid a \cup a \mid a \uplus a \mid a; a \mid a;$ and $x \in \mathcal{Var}$, $i \in Ag$. We avoid the generalisation for $T \subseteq Ag$ consciously, so as to not further encumber notation.

To capture opaque choice in PDLVE we rely on the basic intuition behind it. Given actions a, b , and world w , “either a or b is executed at w , but the agent does not know which, unless his vision allows him to do that”. Based on the above, we first give an auxiliary definition: given $M \in \mathcal{EMV}$ and relations for $a, b \in Act$, this definition describes a representation of the epistemic model that should be the image of $a \uplus b$.

So let $M = \langle W, R, V, f \rangle \in \mathcal{EMV}$. For $S \subseteq W$ let $N(S)$ denote the *epistemic* submodel generated by S , and $N_w(S)$ the worlds of that model. We remind that for $E \subseteq W \times W$, $E(S) = \{w \in W \mid \exists v \in S \text{ s.t. } vEw\}$.

Definition 15 Let $M = \langle W, R, V, f \rangle \in \mathcal{EMV}$, and $E \subseteq W \times W$. Let $M' = N(E(W)) = \langle W', R', V', f' \rangle$. Finally let E be injective and $E(W) = W'$. We then define $g(M, E) = \langle W'', R'', V'', f'' \rangle$ such that: $W'' = W', V'' = V', f'' = f'$,

- for $u \in E(w), z \in E(v)$, we have $uR''z$ iff wRv and $((f(w) \Delta f''(u)) \Delta (f(v) \Delta f''(z))) \cap V(i) = \emptyset$

In words, given a model M and an injective relation E (that is later to play the role of choice or composition between two actions), we first get the epistemic submodel generated by worlds that are an image through E , namely M' . Note also that E is such that its co-domain is exactly the set of worlds of M' . Then we ‘tinker’ M' to get the model $g(M, E)$, that is the same as M' but the agents cannot distinguish between worlds that are images through E ($uR''z$), if and only if the origin worlds were indistinguishable to begin with (wRv) and their vision does not help them notice a difference in the changes caused among the possible executions; that is, $((f(w) \Delta f''(u)) \Delta (f(v) \Delta f''(z))) \cap V(i) = \emptyset$.

We can now define the class of PDLVE models (denoted by \mathcal{DEM}). For brevity, let $*$ denote either regular choice or composition, and \otimes their opaque variant. Also let $(g(M, E), E(w)) = g(M, w, E)$.

Definition 16 (PDLVE Models) Let $M = \langle W, R, E, V, f \rangle$ where $\langle W, R, V, f \rangle \in \mathcal{EMV}$ (Def. 4) and E is a family of relations $E_a \subseteq W \times W$, where a is either atomic or of the form “ $b \uplus c$ ” or “ $b; c$ ”. Furthermore, E is such that:

- for $a = b \otimes c$, if E_{b*c} is an injection and $E_{b*c}(W) = N_w(E_{b*c}(W))$, then $N(E_a(w)), E_a(w) \xleftrightarrow{\varphi} g(M, w, E_{b*c})$, otherwise $E_a = \emptyset$;

We interpret formulas at pointed dynamic models as usual. And regarding standard choice and composition we define $E_{a \cup b} = E_a \cup E_b$ and $E_{a;b} = E_b \circ E_a$, again as normal.

In contrast to what happens with relations $E_{a \cup b}$ and $E_{a;b}$, relations $E_{a \uplus b}$ and $E_{a; b}$ are not necessarily expressed only in terms of the source world w , $E_a(w)$, or $E_b(w)$. Different worlds whose names we cannot dictate beforehand may be involved. What we do is therefore require that these worlds are ‘correct’, in the sense that they are bisimilar to the corresponding set of worlds in the model that would be the representation (Def. 15) of opaque choice or opaque composition.

Is this representation we have chosen a correct one? The next theorem shows that at least as far as a special subset of DELVO actions is concerned, this is indeed the case. Let, for $M \in \mathcal{EMV}$, $P_M = \{M, w \mid w \in M\}$.

Theorem 4 Let $M, w \in \sigma(\mathcal{EMV})$ and $(M_a, S_a), (M_b, S_b) \in \mu(\mathbf{AMT})$ such that M_a, M_b are disjoint, $\llbracket M_{a*b}, S_{a*b} \rrbracket(P_M) = P_{M \otimes M_{a*b}}$. Let $M' = M \cup (M \otimes M_{a*b})$. Define $wE_a v$ iff $(M, w) \llbracket M_a, S_a \rrbracket (M \otimes M_{a*b}, v)$ and similarly for b . Also let $M'' = M' \sqcup g(M', E_{a*b})$. Assume that for the disjoint union, every $w \in g(M', E_{a*b})$ was renamed to w' . Finally, for $w \in M''$ let $E_{a \otimes b}(w) = \{v' \mid v \in E_{a*b}(w)\}$. Then $\llbracket M_{a \otimes b}, S_{a \otimes b} \rrbracket (M, w) \xleftrightarrow{\varphi} M'', E_{a \otimes b}(w)$.

Relation to DELVO We now have two logics for describing knowledge, and epistemic & ontic change. A natural question is whether the actions of PDLVE are more general than those of DELVO . We find that, under mild restrictions, they are not.

As one would expect, the transition from DELVO to PDLVE can be done simply enough. After all DELVO can be reduced to SS+V , and epistemic models with vision are part of PDLVE models. To evaluate a given DELVO formula φ in a model $M, w \in \sigma(\mathcal{EMV})$, one would have to potentially evaluate subformulas of φ in M and in the respective model products.

The idea for the transition from DELVO to PDLVE, is to define a single PDLVE model by putting together all such models.

Definition 17 Let $M \in \sigma(\mathcal{EMV})$ and $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{DELVO}$ (M may be omitted when clear from context) by induction on the complexity of φ as follows: $T_1(\top) = T_1(x) = T_1(\forall_i x) = \{M\}$, $T_1(\neg\varphi) = T_1(K_i\varphi) = T_1(\varphi)$, $T_1(\varphi \wedge \psi) = T_1(\varphi) \cup T_1(\psi)$, $T_1([M, S]\varphi) = \{N \otimes M \mid N \in T_1(\varphi)\}$.

We then define $T_2^M(\varphi) = \{M' \in \mathcal{EMV} \mid \exists n \geq 0 \text{ and } M_1, \dots, M_n \in \mu(\mathbf{AMT}) \text{ s.t. } M' \otimes M_1 \cdots \otimes M_n \in T_1(\varphi)\}$

$T_2^M(\varphi)$ therefore contains a tree with all the models involved in the process of evaluating φ in some $w \in M$. This idea is not new, see e.g. [van Benthem and Pacuit, 2006].

Theorem 5 Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{DELVO}$ and $M, w \in \sigma(\mathcal{EMV})$. Let $T_3^M(\varphi) = \langle W, R, E, V, f \rangle$ such that $\langle W, R, V, f \rangle = \bigsqcup T_2^M(\varphi)$ and regarding E , for all multi-pointed action models M_i, S_i that appear in φ it holds that, for $w \in M$ and $w' \in M'$, $wE_{a_i}v'$ iff $(M, w) \parallel [M_i, S_i] (M', w')$. Finally let $T_4^M(\varphi)$ be a model that has $T_3^M(\varphi)$ as a submodel but contains appropriate definitions for opaque choice and composition, so that $T_4^M(\varphi) \in \mathcal{DEM}$. Let $t : \mathcal{L}_{DELVO} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{PDLVE}$ be a function such that $t(\varphi)$ is φ , but for all action models M_i, S_i that appear in φ , all its occurrences are replaced with a_i . Then it holds that $M, w \models \varphi$ iff $T_4^M(\varphi), w \models t(\varphi)$.

For the direction ‘‘PDLVE to DELVO’’, the problem we will be trying to solve is, given $M, w \in \sigma(\mathcal{DEM})$ and $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{PDLVE}$, is there a translation t for φ , where actions of PDL have been translated into multi-pointed action models, such that $N(w), w \models t(\varphi)$? Such a translation is impossible to define homogeneously for all models of PDLVE, as action a changes depending on its relation, in each PDLVE model M . So let $M \in \mathcal{DEM}$, and $a \in Act$. Action a is perhaps executable in a number of worlds, and for each such world, the action may have a number of different possible executions. When focusing on the case where a single world w is connected through a with a world v , then the question is: is there a *multi-pointed action model* to transform $N(w), w$ into $N(v), v$?

This question relates to epistemic planning, which is undecidable for the multi-agent case [Aucher and Bolander, 2013], and it has been answered in [van Ditmarsch and Kooi, 2008] for finite ss models (and other models under certain restrictions) and using action models with assignment to achieve ontic change. Our construct will follow the same idea, but we will be focusing on PDLVE models that (i) have finite W , (ii) are an epistemic bisimulation contraction (cf. [Blackburn *et al.*, 2007]), and (iii) for which $wE_{a_i}v$ implies that for all $v' \in N_w(v)$, $f(w)\Delta f(v')$ is finite.

Note that for any $M, w \in \sigma(\mathcal{DEM})$ satisfying (i)-(ii), there exists a characteristic formula $\varphi_w \in \mathcal{L}_{DELVO}$ [Barwise and Moss, 1996], i.e., for $v \in M$ we have $M, v \models \varphi_w$ iff $v = w$.

Definition 18 Let $M, w \in \sigma(\mathcal{DEM})$, satisfying (i)-(iii) and $wE_{a_i}v$. We define $h(M, w, v) = \langle W, R, \text{pre}, \text{tgl} \rangle \in \mathbf{AMT}$ as:

- $W = N_w(v)$, $R = R|_{N_w(v)}$;
- for all $w \in W$, $\text{pre}(w) = \varphi_w$, $\text{tgl}(w) = f(w)\Delta f(w)$.

Back to the more general problem; action a can lead a world w to a multitude of worlds v_i , finite in number. A way to get an equivalent result by using action models, is to put ‘side by

side’, via disjoint union, models $h(M, w, v_i)$. Furthermore, we can have the case where action a is executable in a multitude of worlds w_j , again finite in number. Again, this can be solved by taking the disjoint union of $h(M, w_j, v)$.

Definition 19 Let $M, w \in \sigma(\mathcal{DEM})$, $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{PDLVE}$ and an action that appears in φ . Let M satisfy (i)-(iii). Define:

$$M_a, S_a = \bigsqcup_{w \in M} \bigsqcup_{v \in E_a(w)} h(M, w, v), v.$$

Theorem 6 Let $M, w \in \sigma(\mathcal{DEM})$ as above and $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{PDLVE}$. Let $t : \mathcal{L}_{PDLVE} \mapsto \mathcal{L}_{DELVO}$ be a function such that $t(\varphi)$ is φ , but for all actions ‘‘ a ’’ that appear in φ , all its occurrences are replaced with M_a, S_a . Then it holds that $M, w \models \varphi$ iff $N(w), w \models t(\varphi)$.

5 Conclusion

We pointed to two different ways to understand the interaction between knowledge dynamics and non-determinism, starting from logics DEL, PDL, and SPE. We presented a multi-pointed action model formulation of DEL to express non-deterministic choice. We defined the logic DELVO, which is capable of handling epistemic and ontic change (for DEL-based work that also combines epistemic and ontic change see [van Eijck, 2004a; 2004b], [van Benthem *et al.*, 2006], and [van Ditmarsch and Kooi, 2008]), along with the notion of vision, and allows for a richer set of actions than those of DEL and SPE. Within DELVO, we defined both standard and opaque forms of choice and composition. We also provided a sound and complete axiomatisation for it, and a number of embedding results situating it among its related formalisms.

We also explored a more abstract logic, capable of epistemic and ontic change, with an even richer class of actions: PDLVE. Its semantics are based on PDL models with epistemic relations and vision atoms. Here, our contribution is the definition of opaque non-deterministic choice and composition in this PDL-like setting. Finally, we provided theorems that compare DELVO and PDLVE, thus also investigating the relation between action models, and atomic actions defined arbitrarily.

Several opportunities for future work exist; we briefly mention that for DELVO we would like vision atoms to exist for other formulas as well, not only variables. For PDLVE there is the obvious need for a proof system. Furthermore, two papers that in our opinion are especially relevant are [van Eijck, 2012] and [Charrier *et al.*, 2016]. The former distinguishes between actual use of vision and the capability to use it. In the latter, vision is necessarily common knowledge and the notions of higher order and joint vision are introduced. One may also consider the agents not being aware of the actions being executed or some of the variables [van Ditmarsch *et al.*, 2012]. Another worthwhile endeavour would be a systematic comparison between our framework and the Situation Calculus (cf. [Scherl and Levesque, 2003; van Ditmarsch *et al.*, 2011]) and the standard and opaque variants. The difference between the variants is demonstrated by the difference between MDP and POMDP (see for example [Boutilier *et al.*, 2000; Delgrande and Levesque, 2013] and [Bacchus *et al.*, 1999]).

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