

# Duty to Warn in Strategic Games

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## ABSTRACT

The paper investigates the second-order blameworthiness or duty to warn modality “one coalition knew how another coalition could have prevented an outcome”. The main technical result is a sound and complete logical system that describes the interplay between the distributed knowledge and the duty to warn modalities.

## KEYWORDS

epistemic logic; blameworthiness; responsibility completeness

## 1 INTRODUCTION

On October 27, 1969, Prosenjit Poddar, an Indian graduate student from the University of California, Berkeley, came to the parents’ house of Tatiana Tarasoff, an undergraduate student who recently immigrated from Russia. After a brief conversation, he pulled out a gun and unloaded it into her torso, then stabbed her eight times with a 13-inch butcher knife, walked into the house and called the police. Tarasoff was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital [2].

In this paper we study the notion of blameworthiness. This notion is usually defined through the principle of alternative possibilities: an agent (or a coalition of agents) is blamable for  $\varphi$  if  $\varphi$  is true and the agent had a strategy to prevent it [8, 19]. This definition is also referred to as the counterfactual definition of blameworthiness [5]. In our case, Poddar is blamable for the death of Tatiana because he could have taken actions (to refrain from shooting and stabbing her) that would have prevented her death. He was found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced to five years [2]. The principle of alternative possibilities, sometimes referred to as “counterfactual possibility” [5], is also used to define causality [3, 9, 10]. A sound and complete axiomatization of modality “statement  $\varphi$  is true and coalition  $C$  had a strategy to prevent  $\varphi$ ” is proposed in [15]. In related works, Xu [20] and Broersen, Herzig, and Troquard [4] axiomatized modality “took actions that unavoidably resulted in  $\varphi$ ” in the cases of single agents and coalitions respectively.

According to the principle of alternative possibilities, Poddar is not the only one who is blamable for Tatiana’s death. Indeed, Tatiana’s parents could have asked for a temporary police protection, hired a private bodyguard, or taken Tatiana on a long vacation outside of California. Each of these actions is likely to prevent Tatiana’s death. Thus, by applying the principle of alternative possibilities directly, we have to conclude that her parents should be blamed for Tatiana’s death. However, the police is unlikely to provide lifetime protection; the parents’ resources can only be used to hire a

bodyguard for a limited period time; and any vacation will have to end. These measures would only work if they knew an approximate time of a likely attack on their daughter. Without this crucial information, they had a strategy to prevent her death, but they did not know what this strategy was. If an agent has a strategy to achieve a certain outcome, knows that it has a strategy, and knows what this strategy is, then we say that the agent has a *know-how strategy*. Axiomatic systems for know-how strategies have been studied before [1, 7, 11, 13, 14, 16]. In a setting with imperfect information, it is natural to modify the principle of alternative possibilities to require an agent or a coalition to have a know-how strategy to prevent. In our case, parents had many different strategies that included taking vacations in different months. They did not know that a vacation in October would have prevented Tatiana’s death. Thus, they cannot be blamed for her death according to the modified version of the principle of alternative possibilities. We write this as  $\neg B_{\text{parents}}(\text{“Tatiana is killed”})$ .

Although Tatiana’s parents did not know how to prevent her death, Dr. Lawrence Moore did. He was a psychiatrist who treated Poddar at the University of California mental clinic. Poddar told Moore how he met Tatiana at the University international student house, how they started to date and how depressed Poddar became when Tatiana lost romantic interest in him. Less than two months before the tragedy, Poddar shared with the doctor his intention to buy a gun and to murder Tatiana. Dr. Moore reported this information to the University campus police. Since the University knew that Poddar was at the peak of his depression, they could estimate the possible timing of the attack. Thus, the University knew what actions the parents could take to prevent the tragedy. In general, if a coalition  $C$  knows how a coalition  $D$  can achieve a certain outcome, then coalition  $D$  has a *second-order know-how strategy* to achieve the outcome. This class of strategies and a complete logical system that describes its properties were proposed in [12]. We write  $B_C^D\varphi$  if  $\varphi$  is true and coalition  $C$  knew how coalition  $D$  could have prevented  $\varphi$ . In our case,  $B_{\text{university}}^{\text{parents}}(\text{“Tatiana is killed”})$ .

After Tatiana’s death, her parents sued the University. In 1976 the California Supreme Court ruled that “When a therapist determines, or pursuant to the standards of his profession should determine, that his patient presents a serious danger of violence to another, he incurs an obligation to use reasonable care to protect the intended victim against such danger. The discharge of this duty may require the therapist to take one or more of various steps, depending upon the nature of the case. Thus it may call for him to warn the intended victim or others likely to apprise the victim of the danger, to notify the police, or to take whatever other steps are reasonably necessary under the circumstances.” [18]. In other words, the California Supreme Court ruled that in this case the duty to warn is not only a moral obligation but a legal one as well. In

this paper we propose a sound and complete logical system that describes the interplay between the distributed knowledge modality  $K_C$  and the second-order blameworthiness or *duty to warn* modality  $B_C^D$ . The (first-order) blameworthiness modality  $B_C\varphi$  mentioned earlier could be viewed as an abbreviation for  $B_C^C\varphi$ . For example,  $B_{\text{Poddar}}$  (“Tatiana is killed”) because Poddar knew how he himself could prevent Tatiana’s death.

The paper is organized as follows. In the next section we introduce and discuss the formal syntax and semantics of our logical system. In Section 3 we list axioms and compare them to those in the related logical systems. Section 4 gives examples of formal proofs in our system. Section 5 and Section 6 contain the proofs of the soundness and the completeness, respectively. Section 7 concludes.

## 2 SYNTAX AND SEMANTICS

In this section we introduce the formal syntax and semantics of our logical system. We assume a fixed set of propositional variables and a fixed set of agents  $\mathcal{A}$ . By a coalition we mean any subset of  $\mathcal{A}$ . The language  $\Phi$  of our logical system is defined by grammar:

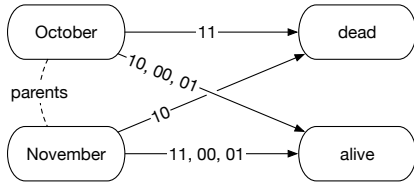
$$\varphi := p \mid \neg\varphi \mid \varphi \rightarrow \varphi \mid K_C\varphi \mid B_C^D\varphi,$$

where  $C$  and  $D$  are arbitrary coalitions. Boolean connectives  $\perp$ ,  $\wedge$ , and  $\vee$  are defined through  $\neg$  and  $\rightarrow$  in the usual way. By  $\overline{K}_C\varphi$  we denote the formula  $\neg K_C\neg\varphi$  and by  $X^Y$  the set of all functions from set  $Y$  to set  $X$ .

*Definition 2.1.* A game is a tuple  $(I, \{\sim_a\}_{a \in \mathcal{A}}, \Delta, \Omega, P, \pi)$ , where

- (1)  $I$  is a set of “initial states”,
- (2)  $\sim_a$  is an “indistinguishability” equivalence relation on the set of initial states  $I$ , for each agent  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ ,
- (3)  $\Delta$  is a set of “actions”,
- (4)  $\Omega$  is a set of “outcomes”,
- (5) a set of “plays”  $P$  is an arbitrary set of tuples  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega)$  such that  $\alpha \in I$ ,  $\delta \in \Delta^{\mathcal{A}}$ , and  $\omega \in \Omega$ . Furthermore, we assume that for each initial state  $\alpha \in I$  and each function  $\delta \in \Delta^{\mathcal{A}}$ , there is at least one outcome  $\omega \in \Omega$  such that  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \in P$ ,
- (6)  $\pi(p) \subseteq P$  for each propositional variable  $p$ .

By a complete (action) profile we mean any function  $\delta \in \Delta^{\mathcal{A}}$  that maps agents in  $\mathcal{A}$  into actions in  $\Delta$ . By an (action) profile of a coalition  $C$  we mean any function from set  $\Delta^C$ .



**Figure 1: Poddar’s actions: not attack (0) or attack (1). Parents’ actions: take vacation in October (0) or November (1).**

Figure 1 depicts a diagram of the game for the Tarasoff case. It shows two possible initial states: October and November that represent two possible months with the peak of Poddar’s depression. The actual initial state was October, which was known to the University, but not to Tatiana’s parents. In other words, the University could distinguish these two states, but the parents could not. We show

the indistinguishability relation by dashed lines. At the peak of his depression, agent Poddar might decide not to attack Tatiana (action 0) or to attack her (action 1). Parents, whom we represent by a single agent for the sake of simplicity, might decide to take vacation in October (action 0) or November (action 1). Thus, in our example,  $\Delta = \{0, 1\}$ . Set  $\Omega$  consists of outcomes *dead* and *alive*. Recall that a complete action profile is a function from agents into actions. Since in our case there are only two agents (Poddar and parents), we write action profiles as  $xy$  where  $x \in \{0, 1\}$  is an action of Poddar and  $y \in \{0, 1\}$  is an action of the parents. The plays of the game are all possible valid combinations of an initial state, a complete action profile, and an outcome. The plays are represented in the diagram by directed edges. For example, the directed edge from initial state October to outcome *dead* is labeled with action profile 11. This means that (October, 11, *dead*)  $\in P$ . In other words, if the peak of depression is in October, Poddar decides to attack (1), and the parents take vacation in November (1), then Tatiana is dead. Multiple labels on the same edge of the diagram represent multiple plays with the same initial state and the same outcome.

Function  $\pi$  specifies the meaning of propositional variables. Namely,  $\pi(p)$  is the set of all plays for which proposition  $p$  is true.

Next is the core definition of this paper. Its item 5 formally defines the semantics of modality  $B_C^D$ . Traditionally, in modal logic the satisfiability  $\Vdash$  is defined as a relation between a state and a formula. This approach is problematic in the case of the blameworthiness modality because this modality refers to two different states:  $B_C^D\varphi$  if statement  $\varphi$  is true in *the current* state and coalition  $C$  knew how coalition  $D$  could have prevented  $\varphi$  in *the previous* state. In other words, the meaning of formula  $B_C^D\varphi$  depends not only on the current state, but on the previous one as well. We resolve this issue by defining the satisfiability as a relation between a *play* and a formula, where a play is a triple consisting of the previous state  $\alpha$ , the complete action profile  $\delta$ , and an outcome (state)  $\omega$ . We distinguish initial states from outcomes to make the presentation more elegant. Otherwise, this distinction is not significant.

We write  $\omega \sim_C \omega'$  if  $\omega \sim_a \omega'$  for each agent  $a \in C$ . We also write  $f =_X g$  if  $f(x) = g(x)$  for each element  $x \in X$ .

*Definition 2.2.* For any game  $(I, \{\sim_a\}_{a \in \mathcal{A}}, \Delta, \Omega, P, \pi)$ , any formula  $\varphi \in \Phi$ , and any play  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \in P$ , the satisfiability relation  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \varphi$  is defined recursively as follows:

- (1)  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash p$  if  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \in \pi(p)$ ,
- (2)  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \neg\varphi$  if  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \not\Vdash \varphi$ ,
- (3)  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \varphi \rightarrow \psi$  if  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \not\Vdash \varphi$  or  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \psi$ ,
- (4)  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash K_C\varphi$  if  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash \varphi$  for each  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$  such that  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$ ,
- (5)  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash B_C^D\varphi$  if  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \varphi$  and there is a profile  $s \in \Delta^D$  such that for each play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$ , if  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$  and  $s =_D \delta'$ , then  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \not\Vdash \varphi$ .

Going back to our running example,

$$(\text{October}, 11, \text{dead}) \Vdash B_{\text{university}}^{\text{parents}}(\text{“Tatiana is killed”})$$

because (October, 11, *dead*)  $\Vdash$  “Tatiana is killed” and

$$(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \not\Vdash (\text{“Tatiana is killed”})$$

for each play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$  such that  $\alpha' \sim_{\text{university}} \text{October}$  and  $\delta'(\text{parents}) = 0$ .

Because the satisfiability is defined as a relation between plays and formulae, one can potentially talk about two forms of knowledge *about a play* in our system: *a priori* knowledge in the initial state and *a posteriori* knowledge in the outcome. The knowledge captured by the modality  $K$  as well as the knowledge implicitly referred to by the modality  $B$ , see item (5) of Definition 2.2, is *a priori* knowledge about a play. In order to define a posteriori knowledge in our setting, one would need to add an indistinguishability relation on outcomes to Definition 2.1. We do not consider a posteriori knowledge because one should not be blamed for something that the person only knows how to prevent *post-factum*.

Since we define the second-order blameworthiness using distributed knowledge, if a coalition  $C$  is blamable for not warning coalition  $D$ , then any superset  $C' \supseteq C$  could be blamed for not warning  $D$ . One might argue that the definition of blameworthiness modality  $B_C^D$  should include a minimality condition on the coalition  $C$ . We do not include this condition in item (5) of Definition 2.2, because there are several different ways to phrase the minimality, all of which could be expressed through our basic modality  $B_C^D$ .

First of all, we can say that  $C$  is the minimal coalition among those coalitions that knew how  $D$  could have prevented  $\varphi$ . Let us denote this modality by  $[1]_C^D\varphi$ . It can be expressed through  $B_C^D$  as:

$$[1]_C^D\varphi \equiv B_C^D\varphi \wedge \neg \bigvee_{E \subsetneq C} B_E^D\varphi.$$

Second, we can say that  $C$  is the minimal coalition that knew how *somebody* could have prevented  $\varphi$ :

$$[2]_C^D\varphi \equiv B_C^D\varphi \wedge \neg \bigvee_{E \subsetneq C} \bigvee_{F \subseteq \mathcal{A}} B_E^F\varphi.$$

Third, we can say that  $C$  is the minimal coalition that knew how *the smallest* coalition  $D$  could have prevented  $\varphi$ :

$$[3]_C^D\varphi \equiv B_C^D\varphi \wedge \neg \bigvee_{E \subseteq \mathcal{A}} \bigvee_{F \subsetneq D} B_E^F\varphi \wedge \neg \bigvee_{E \subsetneq C} B_E^D\varphi.$$

Finally, we can say that  $C$  is the minimal coalition that knew how *some smallest* coalition could have prevented  $\varphi$ :

$$[4]_C\varphi \equiv \bigvee_{D \subseteq \mathcal{A}} \left( B_C^D\varphi \wedge \neg \bigvee_{E \subseteq \mathcal{A}} \bigvee_{F \subsetneq D} B_E^F\varphi \wedge \neg \bigvee_{E \subsetneq C} B_E^D\varphi \right).$$

The choice of the minimality condition depends on the specific situation. Instead of making a choice between several possible alternatives, in this paper we study the basic blameworthiness modality without a minimality condition through which modalities  $[1]_C^D\varphi$ ,  $[2]_C^D\varphi$ ,  $[3]_C^D\varphi$ ,  $[4]_C\varphi$ , and possibly others could be defined.

### 3 AXIOMS

In addition to the propositional tautologies in language  $\Phi$ , our logical system contains the following axioms:

- (1) Truth:  $K_C\varphi \rightarrow \varphi$  and  $B_C^D\varphi \rightarrow \varphi$ ,
- (2) Distributivity:  $K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \psi) \rightarrow (K_C\varphi \rightarrow K_C\psi)$ ,
- (3) Negative Introspection:  $\neg K_C\varphi \rightarrow K_C\neg K_C\varphi$ ,
- (4) Monotonicity:  $K_C\varphi \rightarrow K_E^D\varphi$  and  $B_C^D\varphi \rightarrow B_E^F\varphi$ ,  
where  $C \subseteq E$  and  $D \subseteq F$ ,
- (5) None to Act:  $\neg B_C^\emptyset\varphi$ ,

(6) Joint Responsibility: if  $D \cap F = \emptyset$ , then

$$\bar{K}_C B_C^D\varphi \wedge \bar{K}_E B_E^F\psi \rightarrow (\varphi \vee \psi \rightarrow B_{C \cup E}^{D \cup F}(\varphi \vee \psi)),$$

(7) Strict Conditional:  $K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \psi) \rightarrow (B_C^D\psi \rightarrow (\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D\varphi))$ ,

(8) Introspection of Blameworthiness:  $B_C^D\varphi \rightarrow K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D\varphi)$ .

The Truth, the Distributivity, the Negative Introspection, and the Monotonicity axioms for modality  $K$  are the standard axioms from the epistemic logic S5 for distributed knowledge [6]. The Truth axiom for modality  $B$  states that a coalition can only be blamed for something that has actually happened. The Monotonicity axiom for modality  $B$  captures the fact that both distributed knowledge and coalition power are monotonic.

The None to Act axiom is true because the empty coalition has only one action profile. Thus, if the empty coalition can prevent  $\varphi$ , then  $\varphi$  would have to be false on the current play. This axiom is similar to the None to Blame axiom  $\neg B_\emptyset\varphi$  in [15].

The Joint Responsibility axiom shows how the blame of two separate coalitions can be combined into the blame of their union. This axiom is closely related to Marc Pauly [17] Cooperation axiom, which is also used in coalitional modal logics of know-how [1, 11, 13, 14] and second-order know-how [12]. We formally prove the soundness of this axiom in Lemma 5.1.

Strict conditional  $K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \psi)$  states that formula  $\varphi$  is known to  $C$  to imply  $\psi$ . By contraposition, coalition  $C$  knows that if  $\psi$  is prevented, then  $\varphi$  is also prevented. The Strict Conditional axiom states that if  $C$  could be second-order blamed for  $\psi$ , then it should also be second-order blamed for  $\varphi$  as long as  $\varphi$  is true. A similar axiom is present in [15].

Finally, the Introspection of Blameworthiness axiom says that if coalition  $C$  is second-order blamed for  $\varphi$ , then  $C$  knows that it is second-order blamed for  $\varphi$  as long as  $\varphi$  is true. A similar Strategic Introspection axiom for second-order know-how modality is present in [12].

We write  $\vdash \varphi$  if formula  $\varphi$  is provable from the axioms of our system using the Modus Ponens and the Necessitation inference rules:

$$\frac{\varphi, \varphi \rightarrow \psi}{\psi}, \quad \frac{\varphi}{K_C\varphi}.$$

We write  $X \vdash \varphi$  if formula  $\varphi$  is provable from the theorems of our logical system and an additional set of axioms  $X$  using only the Modus Ponens inference rule.

LEMMA 3.1. *If  $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n \vdash \psi$ , then  $K_C\varphi_1, \dots, K_C\varphi_n \vdash K_C\psi$ .*

PROOF. By the deduction lemma applied  $n$  times, assumption  $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n \vdash \psi$  implies that  $\vdash \varphi_1 \rightarrow (\varphi_2 \rightarrow \dots (\varphi_n \rightarrow \psi) \dots)$ . Thus, by the Necessitation inference rule,

$$\vdash K_C(\varphi_1 \rightarrow (\varphi_2 \rightarrow \dots (\varphi_n \rightarrow \psi) \dots)).$$

Hence, by the Distributivity axiom and the Modus Ponens rule,

$$\vdash K_C\varphi_1 \rightarrow K_C(\varphi_2 \rightarrow \dots (\varphi_n \rightarrow \psi) \dots).$$

Then, again by the Modus Ponens rule,

$$K_C\varphi_1 \vdash K_C(\varphi_2 \rightarrow \dots (\varphi_n \rightarrow \psi) \dots).$$

Therefore,  $K_C\varphi_1, \dots, K_C\varphi_n \vdash K_C\psi$  by applying the previous steps  $(n - 1)$  more times.  $\square$

The next lemma capture a well-known property of S5 modality. Its proof could be found, for example, in [12].

LEMMA 3.2 (POSITIVE INTROSPECTION).  $\vdash K_C \varphi \rightarrow K_C K_C \varphi$ .

#### 4 EXAMPLES OF DERIVATIONS

The soundness of our logical system is established in the next section. Here we prove several lemmas about our formal system that will be used later in the proof of the completeness.

LEMMA 4.1.  $\vdash \bar{K}_C B_C^D \varphi \rightarrow (\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi)$ .

PROOF. Note that  $\vdash B_C^D \varphi \rightarrow K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi)$  by the Introspection of Blameworthiness axiom. Thus,  $\vdash \neg K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi) \rightarrow \neg B_C^D \varphi$ , by the law of contrapositive. Then,  $\vdash K_C(\neg K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi) \rightarrow \neg B_C^D \varphi)$  by the Necessitation inference rule. Hence, by the Distributivity axiom and the Modus Ponens inference rule,

$$\vdash K_C \neg K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi) \rightarrow K_C \neg B_C^D \varphi.$$

At the same time, by the Negative Introspection axiom:

$$\vdash \neg K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi) \rightarrow K_C \neg K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi).$$

Then, by the laws of propositional reasoning,

$$\vdash \neg K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi) \rightarrow K_C \neg B_C^D \varphi.$$

Thus, by the law of contrapositive,

$$\vdash \neg K_C \neg B_C^D \varphi \rightarrow K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi).$$

Since  $K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi) \rightarrow (\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi)$  is an instance of the Truth axiom, by propositional reasoning,

$$\vdash \neg K_C \neg B_C^D \varphi \rightarrow (\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi).$$

Therefore,  $\vdash \bar{K}_C B_C^D \varphi \rightarrow (\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi)$  by the definition of  $\bar{K}_C$ .  $\square$

LEMMA 4.2. *If  $\vdash \varphi \leftrightarrow \psi$ , then  $\vdash B_C^D \varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \psi$ .*

PROOF. By the Strict Conditional axiom,

$$\vdash K_C(\psi \rightarrow \varphi) \rightarrow (B_C^D \varphi \rightarrow (B_C^D \psi)).$$

Assumption  $\vdash \varphi \leftrightarrow \psi$  implies  $\vdash \psi \rightarrow \varphi$  by the laws of propositional reasoning. Hence,  $\vdash K_C(\psi \rightarrow \varphi)$  by the Necessitation inference rule. Thus, by the Modus Ponens rule,  $\vdash B_C^D \varphi \rightarrow (B_C^D \psi)$ . Then, by the laws of propositional reasoning,

$$\vdash (B_C^D \varphi \rightarrow \psi) \rightarrow (B_C^D \varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \psi). \quad (1)$$

Observe that  $\vdash B_C^D \varphi \rightarrow \varphi$  by the Truth axiom. Also,  $\vdash \varphi \leftrightarrow \psi$  by the assumption of the lemma. Then, by the laws of propositional reasoning,  $\vdash B_C^D \varphi \rightarrow \psi$ . Therefore,  $\vdash B_C^D \varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \psi$  by the Modus Ponens inference rule from statement (1).  $\square$

LEMMA 4.3.  $\varphi \vdash \bar{K}_C \varphi$ .

PROOF. By the Truth axioms,  $\vdash K_C \neg \varphi \rightarrow \neg \varphi$ . Hence, by the law of contrapositive,  $\vdash \varphi \rightarrow \neg K_C \neg \varphi$ . Thus,  $\vdash \varphi \rightarrow \bar{K}_C \varphi$  by the definition of the modality  $\bar{K}_C$ . Therefore,  $\varphi \vdash \bar{K}_C \varphi$  by the Modus Ponens inference rule.  $\square$

The next lemma generalizes the Joint Responsibility axiom from two coalitions to multiple coalitions.

LEMMA 4.4. *For any integer  $n \geq 0$ ,*

$$\{\bar{K}_{E_i} B_{E_i}^{F_i} \chi_i\}_{i=1}^n, \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n \vdash B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_n}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_n} (\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n),$$

where sets  $F_1, \dots, F_n$  are pairwise disjoint.

PROOF. We prove the lemma by induction on  $n$ . If  $n = 0$ , then disjunction  $\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n$  is Boolean constant false  $\perp$ . Hence, the statement of the lemma,  $\perp \vdash B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_n}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_n} \perp$ , is provable in the propositional logic.

Next, assume that  $n = 1$ . Then, from Lemma 4.1 using Modus Ponens rule twice, we get  $\bar{K}_{E_1} B_{E_1}^{F_1} \chi_1, \chi_1 \vdash B_{E_1}^{F_1} \chi_1$ .

Assume now that  $n \geq 2$ . By the Joint Responsibility axiom and the Modus Ponens inference rule,

$$\bar{K}_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_{n-1}} B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_{n-1}}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_{n-1}} (\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1}), \bar{K}_{E_n} B_{E_n}^{F_n} \chi_n,$$

$$\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1} \vee \chi_n \vdash B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_{n-1} \cup E_n}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_{n-1} \cup F_n} (\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1} \vee \chi_n).$$

Hence, by Lemma 4.3,

$$B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_{n-1}}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_{n-1}} (\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1}), \bar{K}_{E_n} B_{E_n}^{F_n} \chi_n, \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1} \vee \chi_n \\ \vdash B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_{n-1} \cup E_n}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_{n-1} \cup F_n} (\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1} \vee \chi_n).$$

At the same time, by the induction hypothesis,

$$\{\bar{K}_{E_i} B_{E_i}^{F_i} \chi_i\}_{i=1}^{n-1}, \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1} \vdash B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_{n-1}}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_{n-1}} (\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1}).$$

Thus,

$$\{\bar{K}_{E_i} B_{E_i}^{F_i} \chi_i\}_{i=1}^n, \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1}, \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1} \vee \chi_n \\ \vdash B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_{n-1} \cup E_n}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_{n-1} \cup F_n} (\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1} \vee \chi_n).$$

Note that  $\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1} \vdash \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1} \vee \chi_n$  is provable in the propositional logic. Thus,

$$\{\bar{K}_{E_i} B_{E_i}^{F_i} \chi_i\}_{i=1}^n, \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1} \\ \vdash B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_{n-1} \cup E_n}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_{n-1} \cup F_n} (\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1} \vee \chi_n). \quad (2)$$

Similarly, by the Joint Responsibility axiom and the Modus Ponens inference rule,

$$\bar{K}_{E_1} B_{E_1}^{F_1} \chi_1, \bar{K}_{E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_n} B_{E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_n}^{F_2 \cup \dots \cup F_n} (\chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n),$$

$$\chi_1 \vee (\chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n) \vdash B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_{n-1} \cup E_n}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_{n-1} \cup F_n} (\chi_1 \vee (\chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n)).$$

Because formula  $\chi_1 \vee (\chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n) \leftrightarrow \chi_1 \vee \chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n$  is provable in the propositional logic, by Lemma 4.2,

$$\bar{K}_{E_1} B_{E_1}^{F_1} \chi_1, \bar{K}_{E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_n} B_{E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_n}^{F_2 \cup \dots \cup F_n} (\chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n),$$

$$\chi_1 \vee \chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n \vdash B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_{n-1} \cup E_n}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_{n-1} \cup F_n} (\chi_1 \vee \chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n).$$

Hence, by Lemma 4.3,

$$\bar{K}_{E_1} B_{E_1}^{F_1} \chi_1, B_{E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_n}^{F_2 \cup \dots \cup F_n} (\chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n), \chi_1 \vee \chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n \\ \vdash B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_{n-1} \cup E_n}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_{n-1} \cup F_n} (\chi_1 \vee \chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n).$$

At the same time, by the induction hypothesis,

$$\{\bar{K}_{E_i} B_{E_i}^{F_i} \chi_i\}_{i=2}^n, \chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n \vdash B_{E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_n}^{F_2 \cup \dots \cup F_n} (\chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n).$$

Thus,

$$\{\bar{K}_{E_i} B_{E_i}^{F_i} \chi_i\}_{i=1}^n, \chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n, \chi_1 \vee \chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n \\ \vdash B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_{n-1} \cup E_n}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_{n-1} \cup F_n} (\chi_1 \vee \chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n).$$

Note that  $\chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n \vdash \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1} \vee \chi_n$  is provable in the propositional logic. Thus,

$$\{\bar{K}_{E_i} B_{E_i}^{F_i} \chi_i\}_{i=1}^n, \chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n \\ \vdash B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_{n-1} \cup E_n}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_{n-1} \cup F_n} (\chi_1 \vee \chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n). \quad (3)$$

Finally, note that the following statement is provable in the propositional logic for  $n \geq 2$ ,

$$\vdash \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n \rightarrow (\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_{n-1}) \vee (\chi_2 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n).$$

Therefore, from statement (2) and statement (3),

$$\{\overline{K}_{E_i} B_{E_i}^{F_i} \chi_i\}_{i=1}^n, \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n \vdash B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_n}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_n} (\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n).$$

by the laws of propositional reasoning.  $\square$

Our last example rephrases Lemma 4.4 into the form which is used in the proof of the completeness.

LEMMA 4.5. *For any  $n \geq 0$ , any sets  $E_1, \dots, E_n \subseteq C$ , and any pairwise disjoint sets  $F_1, \dots, F_n \subseteq D$ ,*

$$\{\overline{K}_{E_i} B_{E_i}^{F_i} \chi_i\}_{i=1}^n, K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n) \vdash K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi).$$

PROOF. Let  $X = \{\overline{K}_{E_i} B_{E_i}^{F_i} \chi_i\}_{i=1}^n$ . Then, by Lemma 4.4,

$$X, \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n \vdash B_{E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_n}^{F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_n} (\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n).$$

Hence, by the Monotonicity axiom,

$$X, \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n \vdash B_C^D (\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n).$$

Thus,  $X, \varphi, \varphi \rightarrow \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n \vdash B_C^D (\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n)$

by the Modus Ponens inference rule. Hence, by the Truth axiom,

$$X, \varphi, K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n) \vdash B_C^D (\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n).$$

The following formula is an instance of the Strict Conditional axiom  $K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n) \rightarrow (B_C^D (\chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n) \rightarrow (\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi))$ . Thus, by the Modus Ponens applied twice,

$$X, \varphi, K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n) \vdash \varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi.$$

Then,  $X, \varphi, K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n) \vdash B_C^D \varphi$  by the Modus Ponens.

Thus,  $X, K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n) \vdash \varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi$  by the deduction lemma. Hence,

$$\{K_C \overline{K}_{E_i} B_{E_i}^{F_i} \chi_i\}_{i=1}^n, K_C K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n) \vdash K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi)$$

by Lemma 3.1 and the definition of set  $X$ . Then,

$$\{K_{E_i} \overline{K}_{E_i} B_{E_i}^{F_i} \chi_i\}_{i=1}^n, K_C K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n) \vdash K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi)$$

by the Monotonicity axiom, the Modus Ponens inference rule, and the assumption  $E_1, \dots, E_n \subseteq C$ . Thus,

$$\{\overline{K}_{E_i} B_{E_i}^{F_i} \chi_i\}_{i=1}^n, K_C K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n) \vdash K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi)$$

by the definition of modality  $\overline{K}$ , the Negative Introspection axiom, and the Modus Ponens rule. Therefore, by Lemma 3.2 and the Modus Ponens inference rule, the statement of the lemma is true.  $\square$

## 5 SOUNDNESS

The soundness of the Truth, the Distributivity, the Negative Introspection, the Monotonicity, and the None to Blame axioms is straightforward. Below we prove the soundness of the Joint Responsibility, the Strict Conditional, and the Introspection of Blame-worthiness axioms as separate lemmas.

LEMMA 5.1. *If  $D \cap F = \emptyset$ ,  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \overline{K}_C B_C^D \varphi$ ,  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \overline{K}_E B_E^F \psi$ , and  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \varphi \vee \psi$ , then  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash B_{C \cup E}^{D \cup F} (\varphi \vee \psi)$ .*

PROOF. By Definition 2.2 and the definition of modality  $\overline{K}$ , assumption  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \overline{K}_C B_C^D \varphi$  implies that there is a play  $(\alpha_1, \delta_1, \omega_1)$  such that  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha_1$  and  $(\alpha_1, \delta_1, \omega_1) \Vdash B_C^D \varphi$ . Thus, again by Definition 2.2, there is an action profile  $s_1 \in \Delta^D$  such that for each play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$ , if  $\alpha_1 \sim_C \alpha'$  and  $s_1 =_D \delta'$ , then  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash \varphi$ . Recall that  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha_1$ . Thus, for each play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$ ,

$$\alpha \sim_C \alpha' \wedge s_1 =_D \delta' \rightarrow (\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash \varphi. \quad (4)$$

Similarly, assumption  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \overline{K}_E B_E^F \psi$  implies that there is a profile  $s_2 \in \Delta^F$  such that for each play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$ ,

$$\alpha \sim_E \alpha' \wedge s_2 =_F \delta' \rightarrow (\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash \psi. \quad (5)$$

Let  $s \in \Delta^{D \cup F}$  be the action profile:

$$s(a) = \begin{cases} s_1(a), & \text{if } a \in D, \\ s_2(a), & \text{if } a \in F. \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

Action profile  $s$  is well-defined because  $D \cap F = \emptyset$ . Statements (4), (5), and (6) by Definition 2.2 imply that for each play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$  if  $\alpha \sim_{C \cup E} \alpha'$  and  $s =_{D \cup F} \delta'$ , then  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash \varphi \vee \psi$ . Recall that  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \varphi \vee \psi$ . Therefore,  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash B_{C \cup E}^{D \cup F} (\varphi \vee \psi)$  by Definition 2.2.  $\square$

LEMMA 5.2. *If  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \psi)$ ,  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash B_C^D \psi$ , and  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \varphi$ , then  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash B_C^D \varphi$ .*

PROOF. By Definition 2.2, assumption  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \psi)$  implies that for each play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$  of the game if  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$ , then  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash \varphi \rightarrow \psi$ .

By Definition 2.2, assumption  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash B_C^D \psi$  implies that there is an action profile  $s \in \Delta^D$  such that for each play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$ , if  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$  and  $s =_D \delta'$ , then  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash \psi$ .

Hence, for each play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$ , if  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$  and  $s =_D \delta'$ , then  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash \varphi$ . Therefore,  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash B_C^D \varphi$  by Definition 2.2 and the assumption  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \varphi$  of the lemma.  $\square$

LEMMA 5.3. *If  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash B_C^D \varphi$ , then  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi)$ .*

PROOF. By Definition 2.2, assumption  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash B_C^D \varphi$  implies that there is an action profile  $s \in \Delta^D$  such that for each play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$ , if  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$  and  $s =_D \delta'$ , then  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash \varphi$ .

Let  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$  be a play where  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$  and  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash \varphi$ . By Definition 2.2, it suffices to show that  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash B_C^D \varphi$ .

Consider any play  $(\alpha'', \delta'', \omega'') \in P$  such that  $\alpha' \sim_C \alpha''$  and  $s =_D \delta''$ . Then, since  $\sim_C$  is an equivalence relation, assumptions  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$  and  $\alpha' \sim_C \alpha''$  imply  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha''$ . Thus,  $(\alpha'', \delta'', \omega'') \Vdash \varphi$  by the choice of action profile  $s$ . Therefore,  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash B_C^D \varphi$  by Definition 2.2 and the assumption  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash \varphi$ .  $\square$

## 6 COMPLETENESS

The standard proof of the completeness for individual knowledge modality  $K_a$  defines states as maximal consistent sets [6]. Two such sets are indistinguishable to an agent  $a$  if these sets have the same  $K_a$ -formulae. This construction does *not* work for distributed knowledge because if two sets share  $K_a$ -formulae and  $K_b$ -formulae, they do not necessarily have to share  $K_{a,b}$ -formulae. To overcome this issue, we use the Tree of Knowledge construction, similar to the one in [14]. An important change to this construction proposed

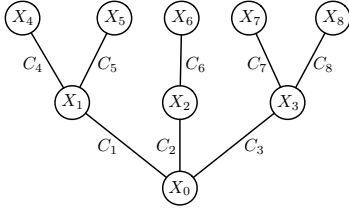
in the current paper is placing elements of a set  $\mathcal{B}$  on the edges of the tree. This change is significant for the proof of Lemma 6.13.

Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be an arbitrary set of cardinality larger than that of the set  $\mathcal{A}$ . Next, for each maximal consistent set of formulae  $X_0$ , we define the canonical game  $G(X_0) = (I, \{\sim_a\}_{a \in \mathcal{A}}, \Delta, \Omega, P, \pi)$ .

**Definition 6.1.** The set of outcomes  $\Omega$  consists of all sequences  $X_0, (C_1, b_1), X_1, (C_2, b_2), \dots, (C_n, b_n), X_n$ , where  $n \geq 0$  and for each  $i \geq 1$ ,  $X_i$  is a maximal consistent subset of  $\Phi$ , (i)  $C_i \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ , (ii)  $b_i \in \mathcal{B}$ , and (iii)  $\{\varphi \mid K_{C_i} \varphi \in X_{i-1}\} \subseteq X_i$ .

If  $x$  is a nonempty sequence  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  and  $y$  is an element, then by  $x :: y$  and  $hd(x)$  we mean sequence  $x_1, \dots, x_n, y$  and element  $x_n$  respectively.

We say that outcomes  $w, u \in \Omega$  are *adjacent* if there are coalition  $C$ , element  $b \in \mathcal{B}$ , and maximal consistent set  $X$  such that  $w = u :: (C, b) :: X$ . The adjacency relation forms a tree structure on set  $\Omega$ , see Figure 2. We call it *the Tree of Knowledge*. We say that edge  $(w, u)$  is *labeled* with each agent in coalition  $C$  and is *marked* with element  $b$ . Although vertices of the tree are sequences, it is convenient to think about the maximal consistent set  $hd(\omega)$ , not a sequence  $\omega$ , being a vertex of the tree.



**Figure 2: A Fragment of the Tree of Knowledge.**

**Definition 6.2.** For any outcome  $\omega \in \Omega$ , let  $Tree(\omega)$  be the set of all  $\omega' \in \Omega$  such that sequence  $\omega$  is a prefix of sequence  $\omega'$ .

Note that  $Tree(\omega)$  is a subtree of the Tree of Knowledge rooted at vertex  $\omega$ , see Figure 2.

**Definition 6.3.** For any two outcomes  $\omega, \omega' \in \Omega$  and any agent  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ , let  $\omega \sim_a \omega'$  if all edges along the unique path between nodes  $\omega$  and  $\omega'$  are labeled with agent  $a$ .

LEMMA 6.4. *Relation  $\sim_a$  is an equivalence relation on  $\Omega$ .*  $\square$

LEMMA 6.5.  $K_C \varphi \in hd(\omega)$  iff  $K_C \varphi \in hd(\omega')$ , if  $\omega \sim_C \omega'$ .

**PROOF.** By Definition 6.3, assumption  $\omega \sim_C \omega'$  implies that all edges along the unique path between nodes  $\omega$  and  $\omega'$  are labeled with all agents of coalition  $C$ . Thus, it suffices to prove the statement of the lemma for any two adjacent vertices along this path. Let  $\omega' = \omega :: (D, b) :: X$ . Note that  $C \subseteq D$  because edge  $(\omega, \omega')$  is labeled with all agents in coalition  $C$ . We start by proving the first part of the lemma.

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $K_C \varphi \in hd(\omega)$ . Thus,  $hd(\omega) \vdash K_C K_C \varphi$  by Lemma 3.2. Hence,  $hd(\omega) \vdash K_D K_C \varphi$  by the Monotonicity axiom. Thus,  $K_D K_C \varphi \in hd(\omega)$  because set  $hd(\omega)$  is maximal. Therefore,  $K_C \varphi \in X = hd(\omega')$  by Definition 6.1.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume  $K_C \varphi \notin hd(\omega)$ . Thus,  $\neg K_C \varphi \in hd(\omega)$  by the maximality of the set  $hd(\omega)$ . Hence,  $hd(\omega) \vdash K_C \neg K_C \varphi$  by the Negative Introspection axiom. Then,  $hd(\omega) \vdash K_D \neg K_C \varphi$  by the Monotonicity axiom. Thus,  $K_D \neg K_C \varphi \in hd(\omega)$  by the maximality of set  $hd(\omega)$ . Then,  $\neg K_C \varphi \in X = hd(\omega')$  by Definition 6.1. Therefore,  $K_C \varphi \notin hd(\omega')$  because set  $hd(\omega')$  is consistent.  $\square$

COROLLARY 6.6. *If  $\omega \sim_C \omega'$ , then  $\bar{K}_C \varphi \in hd(\omega)$  iff  $\bar{K}_C \varphi \in hd(\omega')$ .*

The set of the initial states  $I$  of the canonical game is the set of all equivalence classes of  $\Omega$  with respect to relation  $\sim_{\mathcal{A}}$ .

**Definition 6.7.**  $I = \Omega / \sim_{\mathcal{A}}$ .

LEMMA 6.8. *Relation  $\sim_C$  is well-defined on set  $I$ .*

**PROOF.** Consider outcomes  $\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega'_1$ , and  $\omega'_2$  where  $\omega_1 \sim_C \omega_2$ ,  $\omega_1 \sim_{\mathcal{A}} \omega'_1$ , and  $\omega_2 \sim_{\mathcal{A}} \omega'_2$ . It suffices to show  $\omega'_1 \sim_C \omega'_2$ . Indeed, the assumptions  $\omega_1 \sim_{\mathcal{A}} \omega'_1$  and  $\omega_2 \sim_{\mathcal{A}} \omega'_2$  imply  $\omega_1 \sim_C \omega'_1$  and  $\omega_2 \sim_C \omega'_2$ . Thus,  $\omega'_1 \sim_C \omega'_2$  because  $\sim_C$  is an equivalence relation.  $\square$

COROLLARY 6.9.  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$  iff  $\omega \sim_C \omega'$ , for any states  $\alpha, \alpha' \in I$ , any outcomes  $\omega \in \alpha$  and  $\omega' \in \alpha'$ , and any  $C \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ .

In [15], the domain of actions  $\Delta$  of the canonical game is the set  $\Phi$  of all formulae. Informally, if an agent employs action  $\varphi$ , then she *veto*s formula  $\varphi$ . The set  $P$  specifies under which conditions the veto takes place. Here, we modify this construction by requiring the agent, while vetoing formula  $\varphi$ , to specify a coalition  $C$  and an outcome  $\omega$ . The veto will take effect only if coalition  $C$  cannot distinguish the outcome  $\omega$  from the current outcome. One can think about this construction as requiring the veto ballot to be signed by a key only known, distributively, to coalition  $C$ . This way only coalition  $C$  knows how the agent must vote.

**Definition 6.10.**  $\Delta = \{(\varphi, C, \omega) \mid \varphi \in \Phi, C \subseteq \mathcal{A}, \omega \in \Omega\}$ .

**Definition 6.11.** The set  $P \subseteq I \times \Delta^{\mathcal{A}} \times \Omega$  consists of all triples  $(\alpha, \delta, u)$  such that (i)  $u \in \alpha$ , and (ii) for any outcome  $v$  and any formula  $\bar{K}_C B_C^D \psi \in hd(v)$ , if  $\delta(a) = (\psi, C, v)$  for each agent  $a \in D$  and  $u \sim_C v$ , then  $\neg \psi \in hd(u)$ .

**Definition 6.12.**  $\pi(p) = \{(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \in P \mid p \in hd(\omega)\}$ .

This concludes the definition of the canonical game  $G(X_0)$ . In Lemma 6.15, we show that this game satisfies the requirement of item (5) from Definition 2.1. Namely, for each  $\alpha \in I$  and each complete action profile  $\delta \in \Delta^{\mathcal{A}}$ , there is at least one  $\omega \in \Omega$  such that  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \in P$ .

As usual, the completeness follows from the induction (or “truth”) Lemma 6.17. To prove this lemma we first need to establish a few auxiliary properties of game  $G(X_0)$ .

LEMMA 6.13. *For any play  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \in P$  of game  $G(X_0)$ , any formula  $\neg(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi) \in hd(\omega)$ , and any profile  $s \in \Delta^D$ , there is a play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$  such that  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$ ,  $s =_D \delta'$ , and  $\varphi \in hd(\omega')$ .*

**PROOF.** Let the complete action profile  $\delta'$  be defined as:

$$\delta'(a) = \begin{cases} s(a), & \text{if } a \in D, \\ (\perp, \emptyset, \omega), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

Then,  $s =_D \delta'$ . Consider the following set of formulae:

$$\begin{aligned} X &= \{\varphi\} \cup \{\psi \mid K_C \psi \in hd(\omega)\} \\ &\cup \{\neg\chi \mid \bar{K}_E B_E^F \chi \in hd(v), E \subseteq C, F \subseteq D, \\ &\quad \forall a \in F(\delta'(a) = (\chi, E, v)), \omega \sim_E v\}. \end{aligned}$$

CLAIM 1. *Set  $X$  is consistent.*

*Proof of Claim.* Suppose the opposite. Thus, there are formulae  $\bar{K}_{E_1} B_{E_1}^{F_1} \chi_1, \dots, \bar{K}_{E_n} B_{E_n}^{F_n} \chi_n$ , outcomes  $v_1, \dots, v_n \in \Omega$ ,

$$\text{and formulae } K_C \psi_1, \dots, K_C \psi_m \in hd(\omega), \quad (8)$$

$$\text{such that } \bar{K}_{E_i} B_{E_i}^{F_i} \chi_i \in hd(v_i) \forall i \leq n, \quad (9)$$

$$E_1, \dots, E_n \subseteq C, \quad F_1, \dots, F_n \subseteq D, \quad (10)$$

$$\delta'(a) = (\chi_i, E_i, v_i) \forall i \leq n \forall a \in F_i, \quad (11)$$

$$\omega \sim_{E_i} v_i \forall i \leq n, \quad (12)$$

$$\text{and } \psi_1, \dots, \psi_m, \neg\chi_1, \dots, \neg\chi_n \vdash \neg\varphi. \quad (13)$$

Without loss of generality, we assume that formulae  $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_n$  are distinct. Thus, assumption (11) implies that  $F_1, \dots, F_n$  are pairwise disjoint. Assumption (13) implies

$$\psi_1, \dots, \psi_m \vdash \varphi \rightarrow \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n$$

by the propositional reasoning. Then,

$$K_C \psi_1, \dots, K_C \psi_m \vdash K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n)$$

by Lemma 3.1. Hence, by assumption (8),

$$hd(\omega) \vdash K_C(\varphi \rightarrow \chi_1 \vee \dots \vee \chi_n).$$

At the same time,  $\bar{K}_{E_1} B_{E_1}^{F_1} \chi_1, \dots, \bar{K}_{E_n} B_{E_n}^{F_n} \chi_n \in hd(\omega)$  by assumption (9), assumption (12), and Corollary 6.6. Thus,  $hd(\omega) \vdash K_C(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi)$  by Lemma 4.5, assumption (10), and the assumption that sets  $F_1, \dots, F_n$  are pairwise disjoint. Hence, by the Truth axiom,  $hd(\omega) \vdash \varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi$ , which contradicts the assumption  $\neg(\varphi \rightarrow B_C^D \varphi) \in hd(\omega)$  of the lemma because set  $hd(\omega)$  is consistent. Thus,  $X$  is consistent.  $\square$

Let  $X'$  be any maximal consistent extension of set  $X$  and  $\omega'_b$  be the sequence  $\omega :: (C, b) :: X'$  for each element  $b \in \mathcal{B}$ . Then,  $\omega'_b \in \Omega$  for each element  $b \in \mathcal{B}$  by Definition 6.1 and the choice of sets  $X$  and  $X'$ . Also  $\varphi \in X \subseteq hd(\omega'_b)$  for each  $b \in \mathcal{B}$  by the choice of sets  $X$  and  $X'$ .

Note that family  $\{Tree(\omega'_b)\}_{b \in \mathcal{B}}$  consists of pair-wise disjoint sets. This family has the same cardinality as set  $\mathcal{B}$ . Let

$$V = \{v \in \Omega \mid \delta'(a) = (\psi, E, v), a \in \mathcal{A}, \psi \in \Phi, E \subseteq \mathcal{A}\}.$$

The cardinality of  $V$  is at most the cardinality of set  $\mathcal{A}$ . By the choice of set  $\mathcal{B}$ , its cardinality is larger than the cardinality of set  $\mathcal{A}$ . Thus, there exists a set  $Tree(\omega'_{b_0})$  in family  $\{Tree(\omega'_b)\}_{b \in \mathcal{B}}$  disjoint with set  $V$ :

$$Tree(\omega'_{b_0}) \cap V = \emptyset. \quad (14)$$

Let  $\omega'$  be the outcome  $\omega'_{b_0}$ .

CLAIM 2. *If  $\omega' \sim_E v$  for some  $v \in V$ , then  $E \subseteq C$ .*

*Proof of Claim.* Consider any agent  $a \in E$ . By Definition 6.3, assumption  $\omega' \sim_E v$  implies that each edge along the unique path connecting vertex  $\omega$  with vertex  $v$  is labeled with agent  $a$ . At the

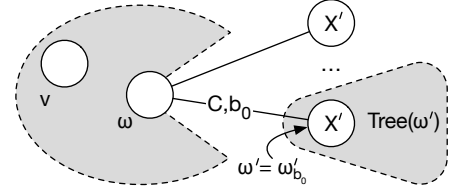


Figure 3: Towards the Proof of Claim 2.

same time,  $v \notin Tree(\omega')$  by statement (14) and because  $\omega' = \omega'_{b_0}$ . Thus, the path between vertex  $\omega'$  and vertex  $v$  must go through vertex  $\omega$ , see Figure 3. Hence, this path must contain edge  $(\omega', \omega)$ . Since all edges along this path are labeled with agent  $a$  and edge  $(\omega', \omega)$  is labeled with agents from set  $C$ , it follows that  $a \in C$ .  $\square$

Let initial state  $\alpha'$  be the equivalence class of outcome  $\omega'$  with respect to the equivalence relation  $\sim_{\mathcal{A}}$ . Note that  $\omega \sim_C \omega'$  by Definition 6.1 because  $\omega' = \omega :: (C, b_0) :: X'$ . Therefore,  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$  by Corollary 6.9.

CLAIM 3.  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$ .

*Proof of Claim.* First, note that  $\omega' \in \alpha'$  because initial state  $\alpha'$  is the equivalence class of outcome  $\omega'$ . Next, consider an outcome  $v \in \Omega$

$$\text{and a formula } \bar{K}_E B_E^F \chi \in hd(v), \quad (15)$$

$$\text{such that } \omega' \sim_E v, \quad (16)$$

$$\text{and } \forall a \in F(\delta'(a) = (\chi, E, v)). \quad (17)$$

By Definition 6.11, it suffices to show that  $\neg\chi \in hd(\omega')$ .

**Case I:**  $F = \emptyset$ . Then,  $\neg B_E^F \chi$  is an instance of the None to Act axiom. Thus,  $\vdash K_E \neg B_E^F \chi$  by the Necessitation inference rule. Hence,  $\neg K_E \neg B_E^F \chi \notin hd(v)$  by the consistency of the set  $hd(v)$ , which contradicts the assumption (15) and the definition of modality  $\bar{K}$ .

**Case II:**  $\emptyset \neq F \subseteq D$ . Thus, there exists an agent  $a \in F$ . Note that  $\delta'(a) = (\chi, E, v)$  by assumption (17). Hence,  $v \in V$  by the definition of set  $V$ . Thus,  $E \subseteq C$  by Claim 2 and assumption (16). Then,  $\neg\chi \in X$  by the definition of set  $X$ , the assumption of the case that  $F \subseteq D$ , assumption (15), assumption (16), and assumption (17). Therefore,  $\neg\chi \in hd(\omega')$  because  $X \subseteq X' = hd(\omega'_{b_0}) = hd(\omega')$  by the choice of set  $X'$ , set of sequences  $\{\omega'_b\}_{b \in \mathcal{B}}$ , and sequence  $\omega'$ .

**Case III:**  $F \not\subseteq D$ . Consider any agent  $a \in F \setminus D$ . Thus,  $\delta'(a) = (\perp, \emptyset, \omega)$  by equation (7). Thus,  $\chi \equiv \perp$  by statement (17) and the assumption  $a \in F$ . Hence, formula  $\neg\chi$  is a tautology. Therefore,  $\neg\chi \in hd(\omega')$  by the maximality of set  $hd(\omega')$ .  $\square$

This concludes the proof of the lemma.  $\square$

LEMMA 6.14. *For any outcome  $\omega \in \Omega$ , there is a state  $\alpha \in I$  and a complete profile  $\delta \in \Delta^{\mathcal{A}}$  such that  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \in P$ .*

**PROOF.** Let initial state  $\alpha$  be the equivalence class of outcome  $\omega$  with respect to the equivalence relation  $\sim_{\mathcal{A}}$ . Thus,  $\omega \in \alpha$ . Let  $\delta$  be the complete profile such that  $\delta(a) = (\perp, \emptyset, \omega)$  for each  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ . To prove  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \in P$ , consider any outcome  $v \in \Omega$ , any formula  $\bar{K}_C B_C^D \chi \in hd(v)$  such that

$$\forall a \in D(\delta(a) = (\chi, C, v)). \quad (18)$$

By Definition 6.11, it suffices to show that  $\neg\chi \in hd(\omega)$ .

**Case I:**  $D = \emptyset$ . Thus,  $\vdash \neg B_C^D \chi$  by the None to Act axiom. Hence,  $\vdash K_C \neg B_C^D \chi$  by the Necessitation rule. Then,  $\neg K_C \neg B_C^D \chi \notin hd(v)$  because set  $hd(v)$  is consistent. Therefore,  $\bar{K}_C B_C^D \chi \notin hd(v)$  by the definition of modality  $\bar{K}$ , which contradicts the choice of  $\bar{K}_C B_C^D \chi$ .

**Case II:**  $D \neq \emptyset$ . Then, there is an agent  $a \in D$ . Thus,  $\delta(a) = (\chi, C, v)$  by statement (18). Hence,  $\chi \equiv \perp$  by the definition of action profile  $\delta$ . Then,  $\neg \chi$  is a tautology. Therefore,  $\neg \chi \in hd(\omega)$  by the maximality of set  $hd(\omega)$ .  $\square$

LEMMA 6.15. *For each  $\alpha \in I$  and each complete action profile  $\delta \in \Delta^{\mathcal{A}}$ , there is at least one outcome  $\omega \in \Omega$  such that  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \in P$ .*

PROOF. By Definition 6.7, initial state  $\alpha$  is an equivalence class. Since each equivalence class is not empty, there must exist an outcome  $\omega_0 \in \Omega$  such that  $\omega_0 \in \alpha$ . By Lemma 6.14, there is an initial state  $\alpha_0 \in I$  and a complete action profile  $\delta_0 \in \Delta^{\mathcal{A}}$  such that  $(\alpha_0, \delta_0, \omega_0) \in P$ . Then,  $\omega_0 \in \alpha_0$  by Definition 6.11. Hence,  $\omega_0$  belongs to both equivalence classes  $\alpha$  and  $\alpha_0$ . Thus,  $\alpha = \alpha_0$ . Therefore,  $(\alpha, \delta_0, \omega_0) \in P$ .  $\square$

LEMMA 6.16. *For any play  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \in P$  and any  $\neg K_C \varphi \in hd(\omega)$ , there is a play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$  such that  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$  and  $\neg \varphi \in hd(\omega')$ .*

PROOF. Consider the set  $X = \{\neg \varphi\} \cup \{\psi \mid K_C \psi \in hd(\omega)\}$ . First, we show that set  $X$  is consistent. Suppose the opposite. Then, there are formulae  $K_C \psi_1, \dots, K_C \psi_n \in hd(\omega)$  such that  $\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n \vdash \varphi$ . Hence,  $K_C \psi_1, \dots, K_C \psi_n \vdash K_C \varphi$  by Lemma 3.1. Thus,  $hd(\omega) \vdash K_C \varphi$  because  $K_C \psi_1, \dots, K_C \psi_n \in hd(\omega)$ . Hence,  $\neg K_C \varphi \notin hd(\omega)$  because set  $hd(\omega)$  is consistent, which contradicts the assumption of the lemma. Therefore, set  $X$  is consistent.

Recall that set  $\mathcal{B}$  has larger cardinality than set  $\mathcal{A}$ . Thus, there is at least one  $b \in \mathcal{B}$ . Let set  $X'$  be any maximal consistent extension of set  $X$  and  $\omega'$  be the sequence  $\omega :: (C, b) :: X'$ . Note that  $\omega' \in \Omega$  by Definition 6.1 and the choice of sets  $X$  and  $X'$ . Also,  $\neg \varphi \in X \subseteq X' = hd(\omega')$  by the choice of sets  $X$  and  $X'$ .

By Lemma 6.14, there is an initial state  $\alpha' \in I$  and a complete action profile  $\delta'$  such that  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$ . Note that  $\omega \sim_C \omega'$  by Definition 6.3 and the choice of sequence  $\omega'$ . Thus,  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$  by Corollary 6.9.  $\square$

LEMMA 6.17.  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \varphi$  iff  $\varphi \in hd(\omega)$ .

PROOF. We prove the lemma by induction on the complexity of formula  $\varphi$ . If  $\varphi$  is a propositional variable, then the lemma follows from Definition 2.2 and Definition 6.12. If formula  $\varphi$  is an implication or a negation, then the required follows from the induction hypothesis and the maximality and the consistency of set  $hd(\omega)$  by Definition 2.2. Assume that formula  $\varphi$  has the form  $K_C \psi$ .

$(\Rightarrow)$  : Let  $K_C \psi \notin hd(\omega)$ . Thus,  $\neg K_C \psi \in hd(\omega)$  by the maximality of set  $hd(\omega)$ . Hence, by Lemma 6.16, there is a play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$  such that  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$  and  $\neg \psi \in hd(\omega')$ . Then,  $\psi \notin hd(\omega')$  by the consistency of set  $hd(\omega')$ . Thus,  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \not\Vdash \psi$  by the induction hypothesis. Therefore,  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \not\Vdash K_C \psi$  by Definition 2.2.

$(\Leftarrow)$  : Let  $K_C \psi \in hd(\omega)$ . Thus,  $\psi \in hd(\omega')$  for any  $\omega' \in \Omega$  such that  $\omega \sim_C \omega'$ , by Lemma 6.5. Hence, by the induction hypothesis,  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash \psi$  for each play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$  such that  $\omega \sim_C \omega'$ . Thus,  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash \psi$  for each  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$  such that  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$ , by Lemma 6.9. Therefore,  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash K_C \psi$  by Definition 2.2.

Assume formula  $\varphi$  has the form  $B_C^D \psi$ .

$(\Rightarrow)$  : Suppose  $B_C^D \psi \notin hd(\omega)$ .

**Case I:**  $\psi \notin hd(\omega)$ . Then,  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \not\Vdash \psi$  by the induction hypothesis. Thus,  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \not\Vdash B_C^D \psi$  by Definition 2.2.

**Case II:**  $\psi \in hd(\omega)$ . Let us show that  $\psi \rightarrow B_C^D \psi \notin hd(\omega)$ . Indeed, if  $\psi \rightarrow B_C^D \psi \in hd(\omega)$ , then  $hd(\omega) \vdash B_C^D \psi$  by the Modus Ponens rule. Thus,  $B_C^D \psi \in hd(\omega)$  by the maximality of set  $hd(\omega)$ , which contradicts the assumption above.

Since set  $hd(\omega)$  is maximal, statement  $\psi \rightarrow B_C^D \psi \notin hd(\omega)$  implies that  $\neg(\psi \rightarrow B_C^D \psi) \in hd(\omega)$ . Hence, by Lemma 6.13, for any action profile  $s \in \Delta^D$ , there is a play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega')$  such that  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$ ,  $s =_D \delta'$ , and  $\psi \in hd(\omega')$ . Thus, by the induction hypothesis, for any action profile  $s \in \Delta^D$ , there is a play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega')$  such that  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$ ,  $s =_D \delta'$ , and  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \Vdash \psi$ . Therefore,  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \not\Vdash B_C^D \psi$  by Definition 2.2.

$(\Leftarrow)$  : Let  $B_C^D \psi \in hd(\omega)$ . Hence,  $hd(\omega) \vdash \psi$  by the Truth axiom. Thus,  $\psi \in hd(\omega)$  by the maximality of the set  $hd(\omega)$ . Then,  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \psi$  by the induction hypothesis.

Next, let  $s \in \Delta^D$  be the action profile of coalition  $D$  such that  $s(a) = (\psi, C, \omega)$  for each agent  $a \in D$ . Consider any play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$  such that  $\alpha \sim_C \alpha'$  and  $s =_D \delta'$ . By Definition 2.2, it suffices to show that  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \not\Vdash \psi$ .

Assumption  $B_C^D \psi \in hd(\omega)$  implies  $hd(\omega) \not\Vdash \neg B_C^D \psi$  because set  $hd(\omega)$  is consistent. Thus,  $hd(\omega) \not\Vdash K_C \neg B_C^D \psi$  by the contraposition of the Truth axiom. Hence,  $\neg K_C \neg B_C^D \psi \in hd(\omega)$  by the maximality of  $hd(\omega)$ . Then,  $\bar{K}_C B_C^D \psi \in hd(\omega)$  by the definition of modality  $\bar{K}$ . Recall that  $s(a) = (\psi, C, \omega)$  for each agent  $a \in D$  by the choice of the action profile  $s$ . Also,  $s =_D \delta'$  by the choice of the play  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega')$ . Hence,  $\delta'(a) = (\psi, C, \omega)$  for each agent  $a \in D$ . Thus,  $\neg \psi \in hd(\omega')$  by Definition 6.11 and because  $\bar{K}_C B_C^D \psi \in hd(\omega)$  and  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \in P$ . Then,  $\psi \notin hd(\omega')$  by the consistency of set  $hd(\omega')$ . Therefore,  $(\alpha', \delta', \omega') \not\Vdash \psi$  by the induction hypothesis.  $\square$

Finally, we are ready to state and to prove the strong completeness of our logical system.

THEOREM 6.18. *If  $X \not\Vdash \varphi$ , then there is a game, and a play  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega)$  of this game such that  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \Vdash \chi$  for each  $\chi \in X$  and  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega) \not\Vdash \varphi$ .*

PROOF. Assume that  $X \not\Vdash \varphi$ . Hence, set  $X \cup \{\neg \varphi\}$  is consistent. Let  $X_0$  be any maximal consistent extension of set  $X \cup \{\neg \varphi\}$  and let game  $(I, \{\sim_a\}_{a \in \mathcal{A}}, \Delta, \Omega, P, \pi)$  be the canonical game  $G(X_0)$ . Also, let  $\omega_0$  be the single-element sequence  $X_0$ . Note that  $\omega_0 \in \Omega$  by Definition 6.1. By Lemma 6.14, there is an initial state  $\alpha \in I$  and a complete action profile  $\delta \in \Delta^{\mathcal{A}}$  such that  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega_0) \in P$ . Hence,  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega_0) \Vdash \chi$  for each  $\chi \in X$  and  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega_0) \Vdash \neg \varphi$  by Lemma 6.17 and the choice of set  $X_0$ . Thus,  $(\alpha, \delta, \omega_0) \not\Vdash \varphi$  by Definition 2.2.  $\square$

## 7 CONCLUSION

In this paper, we proposed a formal definition of the second-order blameworthiness or duty to warn in the setting of strategic games. Our main technical result is a sound and complete logical system that describes the interplay between the second-order blameworthiness and the distributed knowledge modalities.



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