

A Fibred Tableau Calculus for BDI Logics

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Abstract. In [12,16] we showed how to combine propositional BDI logics using Gabbay's *fibring* methodology. In this paper we extend the above mentioned works by providing a tableau-based decision procedure for the combined/fibred logics. To achieve this end we first outline with an example two types of tableau systems, (*graph & path*), and discuss why both are inadequate in the case of fibring. Having done that we show how to uniformly construct a tableau calculus for the combined logic using Governatori's labelled tableau system **KEM**.

Keywords: Modal and Epistemic Logics for Agent Modelling, Modal Tableaux.

1 Introduction

BDI logics are normal¹ multimodal logics used to formalise the internal mental attitudes of an agent such as beliefs, desires, goals and intentions. Multimodal logics generalise modal logics allowing more than one modal operator to appear in formulae, i.e., a modal operator is named by means of a label, for instance \Box_i which identifies it. Hence a formula like $\Box_i\varphi$ could be interpreted as *φ is believed by the agent i or φ is a goal for agent i etc.* representing respectively the belief and goal of an agent. In addition to the above representation, the traditional BDI logics [17] impose constraints between beliefs, desires and intentions in the form of *interaction axioms* like, $\text{INT}(\varphi) \rightarrow \text{DES}(\varphi)$, $\text{DES}(\varphi) \rightarrow \text{BEL}(\varphi)$, denoting intentions being stronger than desires and desires being stronger than beliefs. Moreover the interaction axioms are *non-homogeneous* in the sense that every modal operator is not restricted to the same system, i.e., the underlying axiom systems for DES is **K** and **D** of modal logic whereas that of BEL is **KD45**. Hence the basic BDI logic \mathbb{L} can be seen as a combination of different component logics plus the two interaction axioms as given below

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{L} \equiv & (\otimes_{i=1}^n \mathbf{KD45}_{\text{BEL}_i}) \otimes (\otimes_{i=1}^n \mathbf{KD}_{\text{DES}_i}) \otimes (\otimes_{i=1}^n \mathbf{KD}_{\text{INT}_i}) \\ & + \{ \text{INT}_i\varphi \rightarrow \text{DES}_i\varphi \} + \{ \text{DES}_i\varphi \rightarrow \text{BEL}_i\varphi \} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Any BDI theory, or for that matter any fully-fledged Multi-Agent-System (MAS) theory, modelling rational agents consists of a combined system of logic of beliefs, desires, goals and intentions as mentioned above. They are basically well understood standard modal logics *combined together* to model different facets of the agents. A number

¹ General modal systems with an arbitrary set of normal modal operators all characterised by the axiom **K**: $\Box(\varphi \rightarrow \psi) \rightarrow (\Box\varphi \rightarrow \Box\psi)$ and the necessitation rule. i.e., $\vdash \varphi / \vdash \Box\varphi$.

of researchers have provided such combined systems for different reasons and different applications. However, investigations into a general methodology for combining the different logics involved has been mainly neglected to a large extent. Recently [12,16] it has been shown that *fibring/dovetailing* [8] can be adopted as a semantic methodology to characterise BDI logics. But in that work they did not provide any decision procedure for the fibred BDI logics. In this paper we extend our previous work so as to provide a tableau decision procedure for the fibred logic which in turn is based on the labelled tableau system **KEM** [10,9,1].

The key feature of our tableau system is that it is neither based on resolution nor on standard sequent/tableau techniques. It combines linear tableau expansion rules with natural deduction rules and an analytic version of the cut rule. The tableau rules are supplemented with a powerful and flexible label algebra that allows the system to deal with a large class of intensional logics admitting possible world semantics (non-normal modal logic [11], multi-modal logics [10] and conditional logics [2]). The label algebra is intended to simulate the possible world semantics and it has a very strong relationship with fibring [9].

As far as the field of *combining logics* is concerned, it has been an active research area since some time now and powerful results about the preservation of important properties of the logics being combined has been obtained [13,5,4,20,21]. Also, investigations related to using fibring as a combining technique in various domains has produced a wealth of results as found in works like [8,18,22,19,6]. The novelty of combining logics is the aim to develop *general techniques* that allow us to produce combinations of *existing* and well understood logics. Such general techniques are needed for formalising complex systems in a systematic way. Such a methodology can help decompose the problem of designing a complex system into developing components (logics) and combining them.

The advantages of using fibring as a semantic methodology for combining BDI logics as compared to other combining techniques like *fusion*² is that the later has the problem of not being able to express interaction axioms, much needed for MAS theories. Fibring is more powerful because of the possibility of adding conditions on the fibring function. These conditions could encode interactions between the two classes of models that are being combined and therefore could represent interaction axioms between the two logics. One such result was shown in [12]. Moreover, fibring does not require the logics to be normal. The drawbacks of other combining techniques like *embedding* and *independent combination* when compared to fibring (in the case of BDI logics) has been discussed at length in [15].

The paper is structured as follows. The next section provides a brief introduction to the technique of fibring. Section 3 outlines the path-based and graph-based tableau procedures. Section 4 describes the **KEM** tableau system. The paper concludes with some final remarks.

² Normal bimodal and polymodal logics without any interaction axioms are well studied as *fusions* of normal monomodal logics [13,20].

2 Fibring BDI Logics

Consider the basic BDI logic \mathbb{L} given in (1) which is defined from three component logics, viz., $\mathbf{KD45}_n$ for belief, and \mathbf{KD}_n for desires and intentions. For sake of clarity, consider two of the component logics, $\nabla_1(\mathbf{KD45})$ and $\nabla_2(\mathbf{KD})$ and their corresponding languages $\mathcal{L}_{\nabla_1}, \mathcal{L}_{\nabla_2}$ built from the respective sets \mathcal{Q}_1 and \mathcal{Q}_2 of atoms having classes of models $\mathfrak{M}_{\nabla_1}, \mathfrak{M}_{\nabla_2}$ and satisfaction relations \models_1 and \models_2 . Hence we are dealing with two different systems S_1 and S_2 characterised, respectively, by the class of Kripke models \mathcal{K}_1 and \mathcal{K}_2 . For instance, we know how to evaluate $\Box_1\varphi$ ($\text{BEL}(\varphi)$) in \mathcal{K}_1 ($\mathbf{KD45}$) and $\Box_2\varphi$ ($\text{DES}(\varphi)$) in \mathcal{K}_2 (\mathbf{KD}). We need a method for evaluating \Box_1 (resp. \Box_2) with respect to \mathcal{K}_2 (resp. \mathcal{K}_1). In order to do so, we are to link (fibre), via a *fibring* function the model for ∇_1 with a model for ∇_2 and build a fibred model of the combination. The fibring function can evaluate (give a yes/no) answer with respect to a modality in S_2 , being in S_1 and vice versa. The interpretation of a formula φ of the combined language in the fibred model at a state w can be given as

$$w \models \varphi \text{ if and only if } \mathfrak{F}(w) \models^* \varphi$$

where \mathfrak{F} is a fibring function that maps a world to a model *suitable for interpreting* φ and \models^* is the corresponding satisfaction relation (\models_1 for ∇_1 or \models_2 for ∇_2).

Example 1. Let ∇_1, ∇_2 be two modal logics as given above and let $\varphi = \Box_1\Diamond_2p_0$ be a formula on a world w_0 of the fibred semantics. φ belongs to the language $\mathcal{L}_{(1,2)}$ as the outer connective (\Box_1) belongs to the language \mathcal{L}_1 and the inner connective (\Diamond_2) belongs to the language \mathcal{L}_2 .

By the standard definition we start evaluating \Box_1 of $\Box_1\Diamond_2$ at w_0 . Hence according to the standard definition we have to check whether \Diamond_2p_0 is true at every w_1 accessible from w_0 since from the point of view of \mathcal{L}_1 this formula has the form \Box_1p (where $p = \Diamond_2p_0$ is atomic). But at w_1 we cannot interpret the operator \Diamond_2 , because we are in a model of ∇_1 , not of ∇_2 . In order to do this evaluation we need the fibring function \mathfrak{F} which at w_1 points to a world v_0 , a world in a model suitable to interpret formulae from ∇_2 . (Fig.1). Now all we have to check is whether \Diamond_2p_0 is true at v_0 in this last model and this can be done in the usual way. Hence the fibred semantics for the combined language $\mathcal{L}_{(1,2)}$ has models of the form $(\mathcal{F}_1, w_1, v_1, \mathfrak{F}_1)$, where $\mathcal{F}_1 = (W_1, R_1)$ is a frame, and \mathfrak{F}_1 is the fibring function which associates a model \mathfrak{M}_w^2 from \mathcal{L}_2 with w in \mathcal{L}_1 i.e. $\mathfrak{F}_1(w) = \mathfrak{M}_w^2$.

2.1 Fibring BDI Logics

Let \mathbf{I} be a set of labels representing the modal operators for the intentional states (belief, goal, intention) for a set of agents, and $\nabla_i, i \in \mathbf{I}$ be modal logics whose respective modalities are $\Box_i, i \in \mathbf{I}$.

Definition 1 [8] *A fibred model is a structure $(W, S, R, \mathbf{a}, v, \tau, \mathbf{F})$ where*

- W is a set of possible worlds;
- S is a function giving for each w a set of possible worlds, $S^w \subseteq W$;

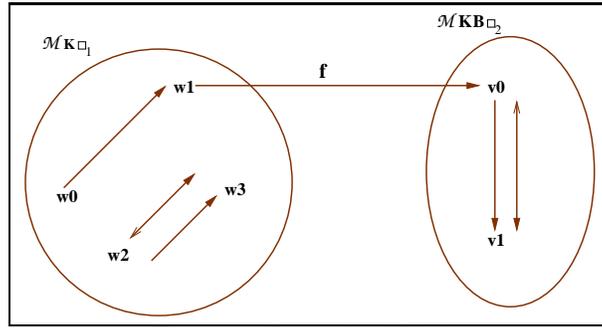


Fig. 1. An Example of Fibring

- R is a function giving for each w , a relation $R^w \subseteq S^w \times S^w$;
- \mathbf{a} is a function giving the actual world \mathbf{a}^w of the model labelled by w ;
- \mathbf{v} is an assignment function $\mathbf{v}^w(q_0) \subseteq S^w$, for each atomic q_0 ;
- τ is the semantical identifying function $\tau : W \rightarrow \mathbf{I}$. $\tau(w) = i$ means that the model $(S^w, R^w, \mathbf{a}^w, \mathbf{v}^w)$ is a model in \mathcal{X}_i , we use W_i to denote the set of worlds of type i ;
- \mathbf{F} , is the set of fibring functions $\mathfrak{F} : \mathbf{I} \times W \mapsto W$. A fibring function \mathfrak{F} is a function giving for each i and each $w \in W$ another point (actual world) in W as follows:

$$\mathfrak{F}_i(w) = \begin{cases} w & \text{if } w \in S^{\mathfrak{M}} \text{ and } \mathfrak{M} \in \mathcal{X}_i \\ \text{a value in } W_i, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

such that if $w \neq w'$ then $\mathfrak{F}_i(w) \neq \mathfrak{F}_i(w')$. It should be noted that fibring happens when $\tau(w) \neq i$. Satisfaction is defined as follows with the usual truth tables for boolean connectives:

$$\begin{aligned} w \models q_0 & \text{ iff } \mathbf{v}(w, q_0) = 1, \text{ where } q_0 \text{ is an atom} \\ w \models \Box_i \varphi & \text{ iff } \begin{cases} w \in \mathfrak{M} \text{ and } \mathfrak{M} \in \mathcal{X}_i \text{ and } \forall w' (wRw' \rightarrow w' \models \varphi), \text{ or} \\ w \in \mathfrak{M}, \text{ and } \mathfrak{M} \notin \mathcal{X}_i \text{ and } \forall \mathfrak{F} \in \mathbf{F}, \mathfrak{F}_i(w) \models \Box_i \varphi. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

We say the model satisfies φ iff $w_0 \models \varphi$.

A fibred model for $\nabla_{\mathbf{I}}^{\mathfrak{F}}$ can be generated from fibring the semantics for the modal logics $\nabla_i, i \in \mathbf{I}$. The detailed construction is given in [16]. Also, to accommodate the interaction axioms specific constraints need to be given on the fibring function. In [12] we outline the specific conditions required on the fibring function to accommodate axiom schemas of the type $G^{a,b,c,d}$.³ We do not want to get into the details here as the main theme of this paper is with regard to tableaux decision procedures for fibred logics.

What we want to point out here, however, is that the fibring construction given in [12,16] works for normal (multi-)modal logics as well as non-normal modal logics.

3 Multimodal Tableaux

In the previous sections we showed that BDI logics are normal multimodal logics with a set of interaction axioms and introduced general techniques like fibring to explain

³ $G^{a,b,c,d} \diamond_a \Box_b \varphi \rightarrow \Box_c \diamond_d \varphi$.

such combined systems. In this section, before getting into the details related to the constructs needed for a tableau calculus for a fibred/combined logic, we outline with an example two types of tableau systems (*graph & path*) that can be used to reason about the knowledge/beliefs of BDI agents in a multi-agent setting. We discuss why both types are inadequate in the case of fibring. Having done that, in the next section, we describe how to uniformly construct a sound and complete tableau calculus for the combined logic from calculi for the component logics.

Example 2. (The Friends Puzzle) [3] Consider the agents Peter, John and Wendy with modalities \Box_p, \Box_j , and \Box_w . John and Peter have an appointment. Suppose that Peter knows the time of appointment. Peter knows that John knows the place of their appointment. Wendy knows that if Peter knows the time of appointment, then John knows that too (since John and Peter are friends). Peter knows that if John knows the place and the time of their appointment, then John knows that he has an appointment. Peter and John satisfy the axioms T and 4. Also, if Wendy knows something then Peter knows the same thing (suppose Wendy is Peter's wife) and if Peter knows that John knows something then John knows that Peter knows the same thing.

The Knowledge/belief base for Example 2 can be formally given as follows;

1. $\Box_p \text{time}$	$A_1 \quad T_p : \Box_p \varphi \rightarrow \varphi$
2. $\Box_p \Box_j \text{place}$	$A_2 \quad 4_p : \Box_p \varphi \rightarrow \Box_p \Box_p \varphi$
3. $\Box_w (\Box_p \text{time} \rightarrow \Box_j \text{time})$	$A_3 \quad T_j : \Box_j \varphi \rightarrow \varphi$
4. $\Box_p \Box_j (\text{place} \wedge \text{time} \rightarrow \text{appointment})$	$A_4 \quad 4_j : \Box_j \varphi \rightarrow \Box_j \Box_j \varphi$
	$A_5 \quad I_{wp} : \Box_w \varphi \rightarrow \Box_p \varphi$
	$A_6 \quad S_{pj} : \Box_p \Box_j \varphi \rightarrow \Box_j \Box_p \varphi$

Fig. 2. Knowledge base related to the Friend's puzzle.

So we have a modal language consisting of three modalities \Box_p, \Box_j and \Box_w denoting respectively the agents Peter, John and Wendy and characterised by the set $A = \{A_i \mid i = 1, \dots, 6\}$ of interaction axioms. Suppose now that one wants to show that each of the friends knows that the other one knows that he has an appointment, i.e, one wants to prove

$$\Box_j \Box_p \text{appointment} \wedge \Box_p \Box_j \text{appointment} \quad (2)$$

is a theorem of the knowledge-base. The tableaux rules for a logic corresponding to the Friends puzzle are given in Fig.3 [14], and the tableaux proof for (2) is given in Fig.4 [14]. The tableaux in Fig.4. is a prefixed tableau [7] where the accessibility relations are encoded in the structure of the name of the worlds. Such a representation is often termed as a *path* representation. We show the proof of the first conjunct and the proof runs as follows. Item 1 is the negation of the formula to be proved; 2, 3, 4 and 5 are from Example 2; 6 is from 1 by a \Diamond -rule; 7 is from 6 by an S_{pj} -rule; 8 is from 7 by a \Diamond -rule; 9 is from 8 by a \Diamond -rule; 10 is from 5 by a \Box -rule; 11 is from 10 by a \Box -rule. 12 and 24 are from 11 by a \vee -rule; 13 and 16 are from 12 by a \vee -rule; 14 is from 3 by a \Box -rule; 15 is from 14 by a \Box -rule; the branch closes by 13 and 15; 17 is from 4 by an I_{wp} -rule; 18 and 22 are from 17 by a \vee -rule; 19 is from 18 by a \Diamond -rule; 20 is from 2 by a 4_p -rule; 21 is from 20 by a \Box -rule; the branch closes by 19 and 21; 23 is from 22 by a \Box -rule; the branch closes by 16 and 23; by 9 and 24 the remaining branch too closes.

\wedge -rules	$\frac{\sigma \varphi \wedge \psi}{\sigma \varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma \neg(\varphi \vee \psi)}{\sigma \neg\varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma \neg(\varphi \rightarrow \psi)}{\sigma \varphi}$	For any prefix σ
\vee -rules	$\frac{\sigma \varphi \vee \psi}{\sigma \varphi \mid \sigma \psi}$	$\frac{\sigma \neg(\varphi \wedge \psi)}{\sigma \neg\varphi \mid \sigma \neg\psi}$	$\frac{\sigma \varphi \rightarrow \psi}{\sigma \neg\varphi \mid \sigma \neg\psi}$	For any prefix σ
$\neg\neg$ -rules	$\frac{\sigma \neg\neg\varphi}{\sigma \varphi}$			For any prefix σ
\diamond -rules	$\frac{\sigma \diamond_i \varphi}{\sigma.n_i \varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma \neg\Box_i \varphi}{\sigma.n_i \neg\varphi}$		if the prefix $\sigma.n_i$ is new to the branch ($i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$)
\Box -rules	$\frac{\sigma \Box_i \varphi}{\sigma.n_i \varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma \neg\diamond_i \varphi}{\sigma.n_i \neg\varphi}$		If the prefix $\sigma.n_i$ already occurs on the branch ($i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$)
T_p rules:	$\frac{\sigma \Box_p \varphi}{\sigma \varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma \neg\diamond_p \varphi}{\sigma \neg\varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma \varphi}{\sigma \diamond_p \varphi}$	
T_j rules:	$\frac{\sigma \Box_j \varphi}{\sigma \varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma \neg\diamond_j \varphi}{\sigma \neg\varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma \varphi}{\sigma \diamond_j \varphi}$	
4_p rules:	$\frac{\sigma \Box_p \varphi}{\sigma.n_p^* \Box_p \varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma \neg\diamond_p \varphi}{\sigma.n_p^* \neg\varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma \diamond_p \varphi}{\sigma \diamond_p \neg\varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma.n_p \neg\Box_p \varphi}{\sigma \diamond_p \neg\varphi}$
4_j rules:	$\frac{\sigma \Box_j \varphi}{\sigma.n_j^* \Box_j \varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma \neg\diamond_j \varphi}{\sigma.n_j^* \neg\varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma \diamond_j \varphi}{\sigma \diamond_j \neg\varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma.n_j \neg\Box_j \varphi}{\sigma \diamond_j \neg\varphi}$
I_{wp} rules:	$\frac{\sigma \Box_w \varphi}{\sigma.n_p^* \varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma \neg\diamond_w \varphi}{\sigma.n_p^* \neg\varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma.n_p \varphi}{\sigma \diamond_w \varphi}$	
S_{pj} rules:	$\frac{\sigma \Box_p \Box_j \varphi}{\sigma.n_j^* \Box_p \varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma \neg\diamond_p \diamond_j \varphi}{\sigma.n_j^* \neg\varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma.n_j \diamond_p \varphi}{\sigma \diamond_p \diamond_j \varphi}$	$\frac{\sigma.n_j \neg\Box_p \varphi}{\sigma \diamond_p \diamond_j \neg\varphi}$
	(*) prefix already occurs on the branch			

Fig. 3. Tableau rules corresponding to the Friend's Puzzle.

In a similar manner the tableaux proof for (2) using a *graph* representation where the accessibility relations are represented by means of an explicit and separate graph of named nodes is given in Fig.6. Each node is associated with a set of prefixed formulae and choice allows any inclusion axiom to be interpreted as a *rewriting rule* into the path structure of the graph. The proof uses the rules given in Fig.5. which is often referred to as the Smullyan-Fitting uniform notation. We will be using this notation in the next section for our **KEM** tableaux system. The proof for (2) as given in [3] runs as follows. Steps 1-4 are from Fig.2 and 5 is the first conjunct of (2). Using π -rule we get items 6 and 7 (from 5) and 8 and 9 (from 6). We get 10 from 7 using axiom A_6 in Fig.2 and ρ -rule in Fig.5. Similarly 11 is from 9 via A_6 and ρ -rule. By making use of the ν -rule in Fig.5 we get 12 (from 4 and 10) and 13 (from 12 and 11). 14a and 14b are from 13 using β -rule ("a" and "b" denote the two branches created by the application of β -rule). Branch "a" (14a) closes with 8. Applying β -rule again we get 15ba and 15bb from 14b ("ba" and "bb" denote the two branches created by the application of β -rule). Applying ν -rule we get 16ba (from 3 and 10) and 17ba (from 16ba and 11). Branch "ba" closes because of 15ba and 17ba. We get 16bb from 10 via axiom A_5 in Fig.2 and π -rule in Fig.5. Similarly from 2 and 16bb by using ν -rule we get 17bb. We get 18bba and 18bbb

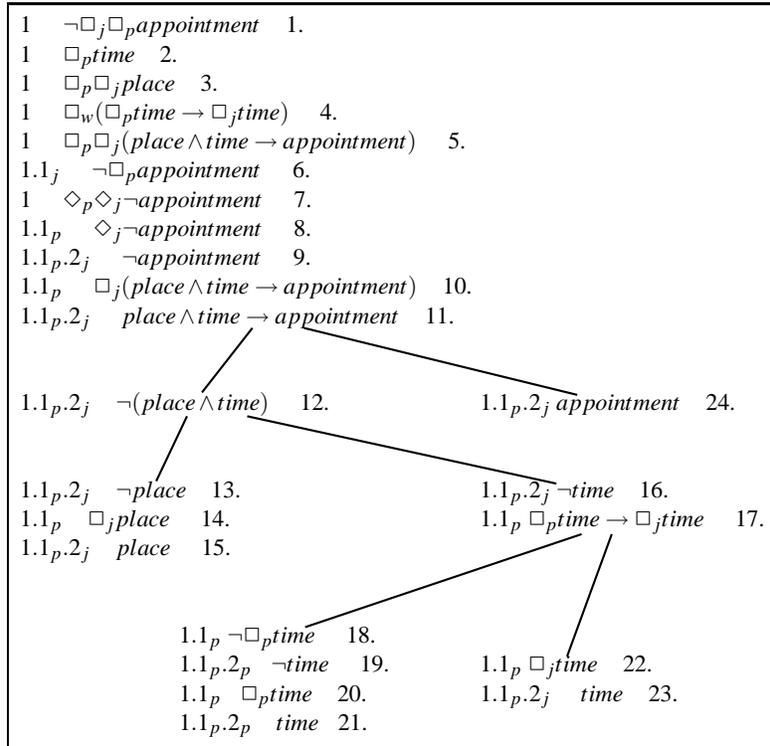


Fig. 4. Proof of $\Box_j \Box_p \text{appointment}$ using *path* representation

from 17bb by applying the β -rule ("bba" and "bbb" denote the branches created by the β -rule). By using ν -rule we get 19bba (from 18bba and 11). Branch "bba" (19bba) closes with 15bb. From 18bbb using π -rule we get 19bbb and 20bbb. From 10 and 20bbb via axiom A_2 (in Fig.2) and ρ -rule (in Fig.5) we get 21bbb. By applying ν -rule to 1 and 21bbb we get 22bbb as a result of which the branch "bbb" closes (22bbb and 19bbb).

It should be noted that axiom schemas like A_1, \dots, A_6 of Example 2 given in Fig. 2 belong to the class of axioms called *inclusion axioms*. In particular they belong to axiom sets of the form, $\Box_{i_1} \dots \Box_{i_n} \rightarrow \Box_{i'_1} \dots \Box_{i'_m}$ ($i_n > 0, i'_m \geq 0$), which in turn characterise the class of *normal modal logics* called *inclusion modal logics*. As shown in [3], for each axiom schema of the above type the corresponding *inclusion* property on the *accessibility relation* can be given as

$$R_{i_1} \circ R_{i_2} \circ \dots \circ R_{i_n} \supseteq R_{i'_1} \circ R_{i'_2} \circ \dots \circ R_{i'_m} \quad (3)$$

where " \circ " denotes the relation composition $R_{i_1} \circ R_{i_2} = \{(w, w'') \in W \times W \mid \exists w' \in W \text{ such that } (w, w') \in R_{i_1} \text{ and } (w', w'') \in R_{i_2}\}$. This inclusion property is used to rewrite items 7. ($w_0 R_{\text{john}} w_1$) and 9. ($w_1 R_{\text{peter}} w_2$) of the proof given in Fig.6 so as to derive a new path ($w_0 R_{\text{peter}} w_3$) and ($w_3 R_{\text{john}} w_2$) as in items 10. and 11. The corresponding tableaux rule for this property is given as ρ -rule (5) in Fig.5. Also, the type of interaction axiom schemas of Example 2 involves the interaction between the *same mental*

(1) $\frac{w : \alpha}{w : \alpha_1}$ α -rule																															
(2) $\frac{w : \beta}{w : \beta_1 \mid w : \beta_2}$ β -rule																															
(3) $\frac{w : v_i \quad w\rho_i w'}{w' : v_i^0}$ v -rule	where $w\rho_i w'$ is available on the branch																														
(4) $\frac{w : \pi_i}{w' : \pi_i^0}$ π -rule	where w' is new on the branch																														
(5) $\frac{w\rho_{s_1} w_1 \dots w_{m-1} \rho_{s_m} w'}{w\rho_{i_1} w'_1}$ ρ -rule	where w'_1, \dots, w'_{n-1} are new on the branch and $\Box_{i_1} \dots \Box_{i_n} \varphi \rightarrow \Box_{i'_1} \dots \Box_{i'_m} \varphi \in A$																														
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(c) \Box -formulae	(d) \Diamond -formulae																														

Fig. 5. Tableaux rules based on uniform notation for propositional inclusion modal logics. [3].

attitude of different agents. There is also another type where there is interaction between *different mental attitudes of the same agent.* The BDI interaction axioms given in (1) is of the later type. In the coming sections we will show that the **KEM** tableau can deal with both types of interaction axioms.

As pointed out in [3], the main difference between the two types of tableaux, (graph and path), is in the use of v -rule. In the case of *path* representation one needs to use a specific v -rule for each logic as can be seen from Fig.3. These rules code the properties of the accessibility relations so as to express complex relations between prefixes depending on the logic. Whereas in the case of *graph* representation the accessibility relations are given explicitly. Also, it has been pointed out in [3] that the approach based on path representation can be used only for some subclasses of inclusion axioms and therefore difficult to extend the approach to the whole class of multi-modal systems.

4 Labelled Tableau for Fibred BDI Logic

In this section we show how to adapt **KEM**, a labelled modal tableaux system, to deal with the fibred combination of BDI logics. In labelled tableaux systems, the object language is supplemented by labels meant to represent semantic structures (possible worlds in the case of modal logics). Thus the formulas of a labelled tableaux system are expressions of the form $A : i$, where A is a formula of the logic and i is a label. The intuitive interpretation of $A : i$ is that A is true at (the possible world(s) denoted by) i .

1. $w_0 : \mathbf{T}\Box_p time$	14b. $w_2 : \mathbf{F}(place \wedge time)$
2. $w_0 : \mathbf{T}\Box_w(\Box_p time \rightarrow \Box_j time)$	15ba. $w_2 : \mathbf{F} place$
3. $w_0 : \mathbf{T}\Box_p \Box_j place$	16ba. $w_3 : \mathbf{T}\Box_j place$
4. $w_0 : \mathbf{T}\Box_p \Box_j (place \wedge time \rightarrow appointment)$	17ba. $w_2 : \mathbf{T} place$
5. $w_0 : \mathbf{F}\Box_j \Box_p appointment$	\times
6. $w_1 : \mathbf{F}\Box_p appointment$	15bb. $w_2 : \mathbf{F} time$
7. $w_0 R_{john} w_1$	16bb. $w R_{wife} w_3$
8. $w_2 : \mathbf{F} appointment$	17bb. $w_3 : \mathbf{T}(\Box_p time \rightarrow \Box_j time)$
9. $w_1 R_{peter} w_2$	18bba. $w_3 : \mathbf{T}\Box_j time$
10. $w_0 R_{peter} w_3$	19bba. $w_2 : \mathbf{T} time$
11. $w_3 R_{john} w_2$	\times
12. $w_3 : \mathbf{T}\Box_j (place \wedge time \rightarrow appointment)$	18bbb. $w_3 : \mathbf{F}\Box_p time$
13. $w_2 : \mathbf{T}(place \wedge time \rightarrow appointment)$	19bbb. $w_4 : \mathbf{F} time$
14a. $w_2 : \mathbf{T} appointment$	20bbb. $w_3 R_{peter} w_4$
\times	21bbb. $w_0 R_{peter} w_4$
	22bbb. $w_4 : \mathbf{T} time$
	\times

Fig. 6. Proof of $\Box_j \Box_p$ using *graph* representation.

KEM's inferential engine is based on a combination of standard tableaux linear expansion rules and natural deduction rules supplemented by an analytic version of the cut rule. In addition it utilises a sophisticated but powerful label formalism that enables the logic to deal with a large class of modal and non-classical logics. Furthermore the label mechanism corresponds to fibring and thus it is possible to define tableaux systems for multi-modal logic by a seamless combination of the (sub)tableaux systems for the component logics of the combination.

It is not possible in this paper to give a full presentation of **KEM** for fully fledged BDI logic supplemented with the interaction axioms given in Example 2. (for a comprehensive presentation see [9]). Accordingly we will limit ourselves to a single modal operator for each agent and we will show how to characterise the axioms and the interaction of example 2.

4.1 Label Formalism

KEM uses *Labelled Formulas* (*L*-formulas for short), where an *L*-formula is an expression of the form $A : i$, where A is a wff of the logic, and i is a label. For fibred BDI logic (from now on **FBL**) we need to have labels for various modalities (belief, desire, intention) for each agent. However, as we have just explained we will consider only one modality and thus will have only labels for the agents.

The set of atomic labels, \mathfrak{S}_1 , is then given as

$$\mathfrak{S}_1 = \bigcup_{i \in \text{Agt}} \Phi^i,$$

where *Agt* is the set of agents. Every Φ^i is partitioned into (non-empty) sets of variables and constants: $\Phi^i = \Phi_V^i \cup \Phi_C^i$ where $\Phi_V^i = \{W_1^i, W_2^i, \dots\}$ and $\Phi_C^i = \{w_1^i, w_2^i, \dots\}$. Φ_C and Φ_V denote the set of constants and the set of variables. We also add a set of auxiliary unindexed atomic labels $\Phi^A = \Phi_V^A = \{W_1, W_2, \dots\} \cup \Phi_C^A = \{w_1, w_2, \dots\}$, that will be used in unifications and proofs.

Definition 1 (labels) A label $u \in \mathfrak{S}$ is either (i) an element of the set Φ_C , or (ii) an element of the set Φ_V , or (iii) a path term (u', u) where (iiia) $u' \in \Phi_C \cup \Phi_V$ and (iiib) $u \in \Phi_C$ or $u = (v', v)$ where (v', v) is a label.

As an intuitive explanation, we may think of a label $u \in \Phi_C$ as denoting a world (a *given* one), and a label $u \in \Phi_V$ as denoting a set of worlds (*any* world) in some Kripke model. A label $u = (v', v)$ may be viewed as representing a path from v to a (set of) world(s) v' accessible from v (the world(s) denoted by v).

For any label $u = (v', v)$ we shall call v' the *head* of u , v the *body* of u , and denote them by $h(u)$ and $b(u)$ respectively. Notice that these notions are recursive (they correspond to projection functions): if $b(u)$ denotes the body of u , then $b(b(u))$ will denote the body of $b(u)$, and so on. We call each of $b(u)$, $b(b(u))$, etc., a *segment* of u . The length of a label u , $\ell(u)$, is the number of atomic labels in it. $s^n(u)$ will denote the segment of u of length n and we shall use $h^n(u)$ as an abbreviation for $h(s^n(u))$. Notice that $h(u) = h^{\ell(u)}(u)$. Let u be a label and u' an atomic label. We use $(u'; u)$ as a notation for the label (u', u) if $u' \neq h(u)$, or for u otherwise. For any label u , $\ell(u) > n$, we define the *counter-segment- n* of u , as follows (for $n < k < \ell(u)$):

$$c^n(u) = h(u) \times (\dots \times (h^k(u) \times (\dots \times (h^{n+1}(u), w_0))))$$

where w_0 is a dummy label, i.e., a label not appearing in u (the context in which such a notion occurs will tell us what w_0 stands for). The counter-segment- n defines what remains of a given label after having identified the segment of length n with a ‘dummy’ label w_0 . The appropriate dummy label will be specified in the applications where such a notion is used. However, it can be viewed also as an independent atomic label. In the context of fibring w_0 can be thought of as denoting the actual world obtained via the fibring function from the world denoted by $s^n(u)$.

So far we have provided definitions about the structure of the labels without regard to the elements they are made of. The following definitions will be concerned with the type of world symbols occurring in a label.

We say that a label u is *i -preferred* iff $h(u) \in \Phi^i$; a label u is *i -pure* iff each segment of u of length $n > 1$ is *i -preferred*.

4.2 Label Unifications

The basic mechanism of **KEM** is its logic dependent label unification. In the same way as each modal logic is characterised by a combination of modal axioms (or semantic conditions on the model), **KEM** defines a unification for each modality and axiom/semantic condition and then combines them in a recursive and modular way. In particular we use what we call unification to determine whether the denotation of two labels have a non empty intersection, or in other terms whether two labels can be mapped to the same possible world in the possible worlds semantics.

The second key issue is the ability to split labels and to work with parts of labels. The mechanism permits the encapsulation of operations on sub-labels. This is an important feature that, in the present context, allows us to correlate unifications and fibring functions. Given the modularity of the approach the first step of the construction is to

define unifications (pattern matching for labels) corresponding to the single modality in the logic we want to study.

Every unification is built from a basic unification defined in terms of a substitution $\rho : \mathfrak{S}_1 \mapsto \mathfrak{S}$ such that:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho &: \mathbf{1}_{\Phi_C} \\ \Phi_V^i &\mapsto \mathfrak{S}^i \text{ for every } i \in \text{Agt} \\ \Phi_V^A &\mapsto \mathfrak{S} \end{aligned}$$

Accordingly we have that two atomic (“world”) labels u and v σ -unify iff there is a substitution ρ such that $\rho(u) = \rho(v)$. We shall use $[u; v]\sigma$ both to indicate that there is a substitution ρ for u and v , and the result of the substitution. The σ -unification is extended to the case of composite labels (path labels) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} [i; j]\sigma = k \text{ iff } \exists \rho : h(k) = \rho(h(i)) = \rho(h(j)) \text{ and} \\ b(k) = [b(i); b(j)]\sigma \end{aligned}$$

Clearly σ is symmetric, i.e., $[u; v]\sigma$ iff $[v; u]\sigma$. Moreover this definition offers a flexible and powerful mechanism: it allows for an independent computation of the elements of the result of the unification, and variables can be freely renamed without affecting the result of a unification.

We are now ready to introduce the unifications corresponding to the modal operators at hand, i.e., \Box_w , \Box_j and \Box_p . We can capture the relationship between \Box_w and \Box_p by extending the substitution ρ by allowing a variable of type w to be mapped to labels of the same type and of type p .

$$\rho^w(W^w) \in \mathfrak{S}^w \cup \mathfrak{S}^p$$

Then the unification σ^w is obtained from the basic unification σ by replacing ρ with the extended substitution ρ^w . This procedure must be applied to all pairs of modalities \Box_1, \Box_2 related by the interaction axiom $\Box_1 \varphi \rightarrow \Box_2 \varphi$.

For the unifications for \Box_p and \Box_j (σ^p and σ^j) we assume that the labels involved are i -pure. First we notice that these two modal operators are **S4** modalities thus we have to use the unification for this logic.

$$[u; v]\sigma^{S4} = \begin{cases} [u; v]\sigma^D & \text{if } \ell(u) = \ell(v) \\ [u; v]\sigma^T & \text{if } \ell(u) < \ell(v), h(u) \in \Phi_C \\ [u; v]\sigma^4 & \text{if } \ell(u) < \ell(v), h(u) \in \Phi_V \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

It is worth noting that the conditions on axiom unifications are needed in order to provide a deterministic unification procedure. The σ^T and σ^4 are defined as follows:

$$[u; v]\sigma^T = \begin{cases} [s^{\ell(v)}(u); v]\sigma & \text{if } \ell(u) > \ell(v), \text{ and} \\ & \forall n \geq \ell(v), [h^n(u); h(v)]\sigma = [h(u); h(v)]\sigma \\ [u; s^{\ell(u)}(v)]\sigma & \text{if } \ell(u) > \ell(v), \text{ and} \\ & \forall n \geq \ell(u), [h(u); h^n(v)]\sigma = [h(u); h(v)]\sigma \end{cases}$$

The above unification allows us to unify to labels such that the segment of the longest with the length of the other label and the other label unify, provided that all remaining

elements of the longest have a common unification with the head of the shortest. This means that after a given point the head of the shortest is always included in its extension, and thus it is accessible from itself, and consequently we have reflexivity.

$$[u; v]\sigma^4 = \begin{cases} c^{\ell(u)}(v) & \text{if } \ell(v) > \ell(u), h(u) \in \Phi_V \text{ and} \\ & w_0 = [u; s^{\ell(u)}(v)]\sigma \\ c^{\ell(v)}(u) & \text{if } \ell(u) > \ell(v), h(v) \in \Phi_V \text{ and} \\ & w_0 = [s^{\ell(v)}(u); v]\sigma \end{cases}$$

In this case we have that the shortest label unifies with the segment with the same length of the longest and that the head of the shortest is variable. A variable stands for all worlds accessible from the predecessor of it. Thus, given transitivity every element extending the segment with length of the shortest is accessible from this point.

Then a unification corresponding to axiom A6 from Example is 2.

$$[u; v]\sigma^{S_{p,j}} = \begin{cases} c^{m+n}(v) & \text{if } h(u) \in \Phi_V^j \text{ and } c^n(v) \text{ is } p\text{-pure, and} \\ & h^{\ell(u)-1}(u) \in \Phi_V^p \text{ and } c^n(v) \text{ is } j\text{-pure, and} \\ & w_0 = [s^{\ell(u)-2}(u); s^m(v)]\sigma \\ c^{m+n}(u) & \text{if } h(v) \in \Phi_V^j \text{ and } c^n(u) \text{ is } p\text{-pure, and} \\ & h^{\ell(v)-1}(v) \in \Phi_V^p \text{ and } c^n(u) \text{ is } j\text{-pure and} \\ & w_0 = [s^m(u); s^{\ell(v)-2}(v)]\sigma \end{cases}$$

This unification allows us to unify two labels such that in one we have a sequence of a variable of type p followed by a variable of type j and a label where we have a sequence of labels of type j followed by a sequence of labels of type p .

The unification for \Box_p and \Box_j are just the combination of the three unifications given above. Finally the unification for the logic \mathbf{L} defined by the axioms A1–A6 is obtained from the following recursive unification

$$[u; v]\sigma_L = \begin{cases} [u; v]\sigma^{w,p,j} \\ [c^m(u); c^n(v)]\sigma^{w,p,j} \text{ where } w_0 = [s^m(u); s^n(v)]\sigma_L \end{cases}$$

$\sigma^{w,p,j}$ is the simple combination of the unifications for the three modal operators. Having accounted for the unification we now give the inference rules used in **KEM** proofs.

4.3 Inference Rules

For the inference rules we use the Smullyan-Fitting unifying notation [7].

$$\frac{\alpha : u}{\alpha_1 : u}(\alpha) \quad \frac{\beta : u \quad \beta_i^c : v \quad (i = 1, 2)}{\beta_{3-i} : [u; v]\sigma}(\beta)$$

$$\alpha_2 : u$$

The α -rules are just the familiar linear branch-expansion rules of the tableau method. The β -rules are nothing but natural inference patterns such as Modus Ponens, Modus

Tollens and Disjunctive syllogism generalised to the modal case. In order to apply such rules it is required that the labels of the premises unify and the label of the conclusion is the result of their unification.

$$\frac{v^i : u}{v_0^i : (W_n^i, u)}(v) \qquad \frac{\pi^i : u}{\pi_0^i : (w_n^i, u)}(\pi)$$

where W_n^i is a new label.

The v and π rules are the normal expansion rule for modal operators of labelled tableaux with free variable. The intuition for the v rule is that if $\Box_i A$ is true at u , then A is true at all worlds accessible via R_i from u , and this is the interpretation of the label (W_n^i, u) ; similarly if $\Box_i A$ is false at u (i.e., $\neg \mathbf{B}A$ is true), then there must be a world, let us say w_n^i accessible from u , where $\neg A$ is true. A similar intuition holds when u is not i -preferred, but the only difference is that we have to make use of the fibring function instead of the accessibility relation

$$\frac{}{A : u \quad | \quad \neg A : u} \qquad (PB)$$

The ‘‘Principle of Bivalence’’ represents the semantic counterpart of the cut rule of the sequent calculus (intuitive meaning: a formula A is either true or false in any given world). PB is a zero-premise inference rule, so in its unrestricted version can be applied whenever we like. However, we impose a restriction on its application. PB can be only applied w.r.t. immediate sub-formulas of unanalysed β -formulas, that is β formulas for which we have no immediate sub-formulas with the appropriate labels in the tree.

$$\frac{A : u \quad \neg A : v}{\times} [\text{if } [u; v]\sigma] \qquad (PNC)$$

The *Principle of Non-Contradiction* (PNC) states that two labelled formulas are σ_L -complementary when the two formulas are complementary and their labels σ_L -unify.

4.4 Proof Search

Let $\Gamma = \{X_1, \dots, X_m\}$ be a set of formulas. Then \mathcal{T} is a **KEM-tree** for Γ if there exists a finite sequence $(\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2, \dots, \mathcal{T}_n)$ such that (i) \mathcal{T}_1 is a 1-branch tree consisting of $\{X_1 : t_1, \dots, X_m : t_m\}$; (ii) $\mathcal{T}_n = \mathcal{T}$, and (iii) for each $i < n$, \mathcal{T}_{i+1} results from \mathcal{T}_i by an application of a rule of **KEM**. A branch θ of a **KEM-tree** \mathcal{T} of L -formulas is said to be σ_L -closed if it ends with an application of *PNC*, open otherwise. As usual with tableau methods, a set Γ of formulas is checked for consistency by constructing a **KEM-tree** for Γ . Moreover we say that a formula A is a **KEM-consequence** of a set of formulas $\Gamma = \{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$ ($\Gamma \vdash_{\mathbf{KEM}(L)} A$) if a **KEM-tree** for $\{X_1 : u_1, \dots, X_n : u_n, \neg A : v\}$ is closed using the unification for the logic L , where $v \in \Phi_C^A$, and $u_i \in \Phi_V^A$. The intuition behind this definition is that A is a consequence of Γ when we take Γ as a set of global assumptions [7], i.e., true in every world in a Kripke model.

We now describe a systematic procedure for **KEM**. First we define the following notions. Given a branch θ of a **KEM**-tree, we shall call an L -formula $X : u$ *E-analysed* in θ if either (i) X is of type α and both $\alpha_1 : t$ and $\alpha_2 : u$ occur in θ ; or (ii) X is of type β and one of the following conditions is satisfied: (a) if $\beta_1^C : v$ occurs in θ and $[u; v]\sigma$, then also $\beta_2 : [u; v]\sigma$ occurs in θ , (b) if $\beta_2^C : v$ occurs in θ and $[u; v]\sigma$, then also $\beta_1 : [u; v]\sigma$ occurs in θ ; or (iii) X is of type μ and $\mu_0 : (u', u)$ occurs in θ for some appropriate u' of the right type, not previously occurring in θ , or (iv) X is of type γ and $\gamma_0(x_n) : u$ occurs in θ for some variable x_n not previously occurring in θ or (v) X is of type δ and $\delta_0(c_n) : u$ occurs in θ for some variable c_n not previously occurring in θ .

We shall call a branch θ of a **KEM**-tree *E-completed* if every L -formula in it is *E-analysed* and it contains no complementary formulas which are not σ_L -complementary. We shall say a branch θ of a **KEM**-tree *completed* if it is *E-completed* and all the L -formulas of type β in it either are analysed or cannot be analysed. We shall call a **KEM**-tree *completed* if every branch is completed.

The following procedure starts from the 1-branch, 1-node tree consisting of $\{X_1 : u, \dots, X_m : v\}$ and applies the inference rules until the resulting **KEM**-tree is either closed or completed.

At each stage of proof search (i) we choose an open non completed branch θ . If θ is not *E-completed*, then (ii) we apply the 1-premise rules until θ becomes *E-completed*. If the resulting branch θ' is neither closed nor completed, then (iii) we apply the 2-premise rules until θ becomes *E-completed*. If the resulting branch θ' is neither closed nor completed, then (iv) we choose an L -formula of type β which is not yet analysed in the branch and apply *PB* so that the resulting *LS*-formulas are $\beta_1 : u'$ and $\beta_1^C : u'$ (or, equivalently $\beta_2 : u'$ and $\beta_2^C : u'$), where $u = u'$ if u is restricted (and already occurring when $h(u) \in \Phi_C$), otherwise u' is obtained from u by instantiating $h(u)$ to a constant not occurring in u ; (v) (“*Modal PB*”) if the branch is not *E-completed* nor closed, because of complementary formulas which are not σ_L -complementary, then we have to see whether a restricted label unifying with both the labels of the complementary formulas occurs previously in the branch; if such a label exists, or can be built using already existing labels and the unification rules, then the branch is closed, (vi) we repeat the procedure in each branch generated by *PB*.

1. $\mathbf{F}\Box_j\Box_p\text{appt}$	w_0	9. $\mathbf{T}(\text{place} \wedge \text{time} \rightarrow \text{appt})$	(W_1^j, W_1^p, w_0)
2. $\mathbf{T}\Box_p\Box_j(\text{place} \wedge \text{time} \rightarrow \text{appt})$	W_0	10. $\mathbf{F}\text{place} \wedge \text{time}$	(w_1^p, w_1^j, w_0)
3. $\mathbf{T}\Box_w(\Box_p\text{time} \rightarrow \Box_j\text{time})$	W_0	11. $\mathbf{T}\Box_p\text{time} \rightarrow \Box_j\text{time}$	(W_1^w, w_0)
4. $\mathbf{T}\Box_p\Box_j\text{place}$	W_0	12. $\mathbf{T}\Box_j\text{place}$	(W_2^p, w_0)
5. $\mathbf{T}\Box_p\text{time}$	W_0	13. $\mathbf{T}\text{place}$	(W_2^j, W_2^p, w_0)
6. $\mathbf{F}\Box_p\text{appt}$	(w_1^j, w_0)	14. $\mathbf{F}\text{time}$	(w_1^p, w_1^j, w_0)
7. $\mathbf{F}\text{appt}$	(w_1^p, w_1^j, w_0)	15. $\mathbf{T}\Box_p\text{time}$	(w_1^j, w_0)
8. $\mathbf{T}\Box_j(\text{place} \wedge \text{time} \rightarrow \text{appt})$	(W_1^p, w_0)	16. $\mathbf{T}\text{time}$	(W_3^p, w_1^j, w_0)
		×	

Fig. 7. Proof of $\Box_j\Box_p$ using **KEM** representation.

Fig.7. shows a **KEM** tableaux proof using the inference rules in section 4.3 and following the proof search mentioned above to solve the first conjunct of (2). The proof goes as follows; 1. is the negation of the formula to be proved. The formulas in 2–5 are

the global assumptions of the scenario and accordingly they must hold in every world of every model for it. Hence we label them with a variable W_0 that can unify with every other label. This is used to derive 12. from 11. and 5. using a β -rule, and for introducing 15.; 6. is from 1., and 7. from 6. by applying π rule. Similarly we get 8. from 2., 9. from 8. using \vee rule. 10. comes from 9. and 7. through the use of modus tollens. Applying \vee rule twice we can derive 11. from 3. as well as 13. from 12. Through propositional reasoning we get 14. from 10. and by a further use of \vee rule on 15. we get 16. (14. and 16.) are complementary formulas indicating a contradiction and this results in a closed tableaux because the labels in 14. and 16. unify, denoting that the contradiction holds *in the same world*.

5 Concluding Remarks

In this paper we have argued that BDI logics can be explained in terms of fibring as combination of simpler modal logics. Then we have outlined three labelled tableaux systems (path, graph and unification). For each of the method we have seen how they can deal with the Friend's puzzle as a way to evaluate their features. The path approach requires the definition of new inference rules for each logic, but then we can use a simple labelling mechanism. However, it is not clear how this approach can be extended to more complex cases of fibring, for example when we consider non-normal modal operators for the mental attitudes of the agents.

The graph approach on the other hand does not require, in general, any new rule, since it uses the semantic structure to propagate formulas to the appropriate labels. It is then suitable for an approach based on fibring, since the relationships between two labels can be given in terms of fibring. However, when the structure of the model is more complicated (for example when the models for the logics are given in terms of neighbourhood models) then the approach might not be applicable since it assumes relationships between labels/worlds in a model and not more complex structures. In addition, the system does not give a decision procedure unless the relationships among labels are restricted to decidable fragments of first-order logic. Thus it is not possible to represent logic that are not first-order definable and the designer of an agent logic has to verify that she is operating within a decidable fragment of first order logic.

KEM, in general similar to the graph approach, does not need logic dependent rules, however, similar to the path approach, it needs logic dependant label unifications. We have seen that the label algebra can be seen as a form of fibring [9], thus simple fibring does not require special attention in **KEM**; therefore it allows for a seamless composition of (sub)tableaux for modal logics. The label algebra contrary to the graph reasoning mechanism is not based on first order logic and thus can deal with complex structure and is not limited to particular fragment. Indeed **KEM** has been proved able to deal with complex label schema for non-normal modal logics in a uniform way [11] as well as other intensional logics such as conditional logics [2]. For these reasons we believe that **KEM** offers a suitable framework for decision procedure for multi-modal logic for multi-agent systems. As we only described the static fragment of BDI logics, (no temporal evolution was considered), the future work is to extend the tableaux framework so as to accomodate temporal modalities.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Australian Research Council (ARC) under Discovery Project No. DP0452628 on “Combining Modal Logics for Dynamic and Multi-Agent Systems”.

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