

# Approximate Unification with Fuzzy Relations: A Survey

## Bachelor Thesis

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# Introduction

- Process of solving satisfiability problems:
  - Given: A set of identities  $E$  and two terms  $s$  and  $t$
  - Find: A substitution  $\sigma$  with  $\sigma(s) \approx_E \sigma(t)$
- In syntactic unification:  $E = \emptyset$ 
  - Given: Two terms  $s$  and  $t$
  - Find: A substitution  $\sigma$  with  $\sigma(s) = \sigma(t)$
- Basis of logic programming
- Used in program transformation
- etc.

# Introduction

## Classic Unification

- Introduced by Robinson in 1965
- In the thesis the focus is on the rule-based algorithm
- (Pseudocode included only for reference)
- $\mathcal{Var}(t)$  denotes the set of variables present in term  $t$

# Introduction

## Algorithm

- **Classic-Trivial:** (C-Tri)  
 $\{s =^? s\} \uplus P'; \sigma \Rightarrow P'; \sigma$ , where  $s$  can be a variable or a constant.
- **Classic-Decomposition:** (C-Dec)  
 $\{f(s_1, \dots, s_n) =^? f(t_1, \dots, t_n)\} \uplus P'; \sigma \Rightarrow \{s_1 =^? t_1, \dots, s_n =^? t_n\} \cup P'; \sigma$ ,  
where  $n \geq 0$ .
- **Classic-Symbol Clash:** (C-SC)  
 $\{f(s_1, \dots, s_n) =^? g(t_1, \dots, t_n)\} \uplus P'; \sigma \Rightarrow \perp$ , if  $f \neq g$ .

# Introduction

## Algorithm

- **Classic-Orient:** (C-Or)  
 $\{t =^? x\} \uplus P'; \sigma \Rightarrow \{x =^? t\} \cup P'; \sigma$ , if  $t \notin \mathcal{V}$ .
- **Classic-Occurs Check:** (C-OC)  
 $\{x =^? t\} \cup P'; \sigma \Rightarrow \perp$ , if  $x \in \mathcal{Var}(t)$  but  $x \neq t$ .
- **Classic-Variable Elimination:** (C-VE)  
 $\{x =^? t\} \cup P'; \sigma \Rightarrow P'\{x \mapsto t\}; \sigma\{x \mapsto t\} \cup \{x \mapsto t\}$ , if  $x \notin \mathcal{Var}(t)$ .

## Example

- We want to unify  $p(f(x), y)$  and  $p(f(a), g(a))$ .
- Applying the algorithm gives:  
 $\{p(f(x), y) =? p(f(a), g(a))\}; \emptyset \Rightarrow_{\text{C-Dec}}$   
 $\{f(x) =? f(a), y =? g(a)\}; \emptyset \Rightarrow_{\text{C-VE}}$   
 $\{f(x) =? f(a)\}; \{y \mapsto g(a)\} \Rightarrow_{\text{C-Dec}}$   
 $\{x =? a\}; \{y \mapsto g(a)\} \Rightarrow_{\text{C-VE}}$   
 $\emptyset; \{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto g(a)\}.$
- Substitution  $\sigma = \{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto g(a)\}$  is a solution

# Motivation

- With different symbols classical algorithm fails (eg.  $p(x)$  with  $q(a)$ )
- Or different arities
- But we want to be able to unify such terms as well
- What to do?
- Introduce a fuzzy relation between the two symbols
- We need to define the notions of proximity and similarity for them

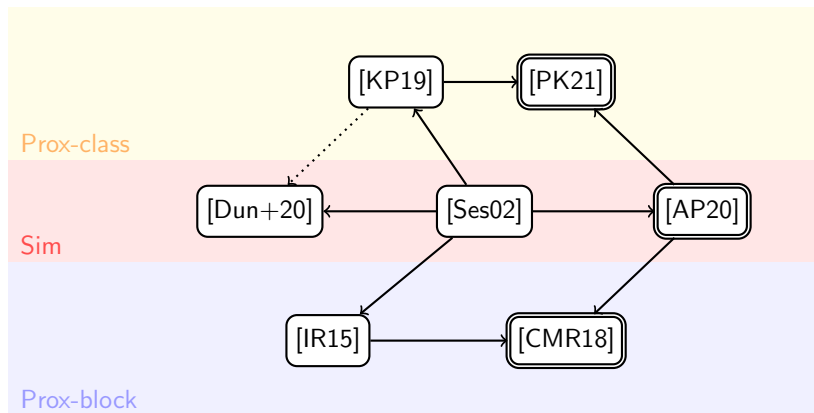
# Motivation

Two kinds of signatures, depending how fuzzy relations are defined on the set of function symbols:

- More special: basic fuzzy signatures. Proximal/similar function symbols can have different names, but not different arities.
- More general: fully fuzzy signatures. Proximal/similar function symbols can have different names and different arities.



# Approximate Unification



# General Preliminaries

- We need to know what proximity and similarity relations are:

## Definition

A proximity relation  $\mathfrak{P} : \mathcal{U} \times \mathcal{U} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is a fuzzy subset of  $\mathcal{U} \times \mathcal{U}$ , where  $\mathcal{U}$  is a domain, that satisfies the following:

- ❶  $\mathfrak{P}$  is reflexive (i.e.  $\mathfrak{P}(x, x) = 1$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{U}$ );
- ❷  $\mathfrak{P}$  is symmetric (i.e.  $\mathfrak{P}(x, y) = \mathfrak{P}(y, x)$  for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{U}$ ).

# General Preliminaries

## Definition

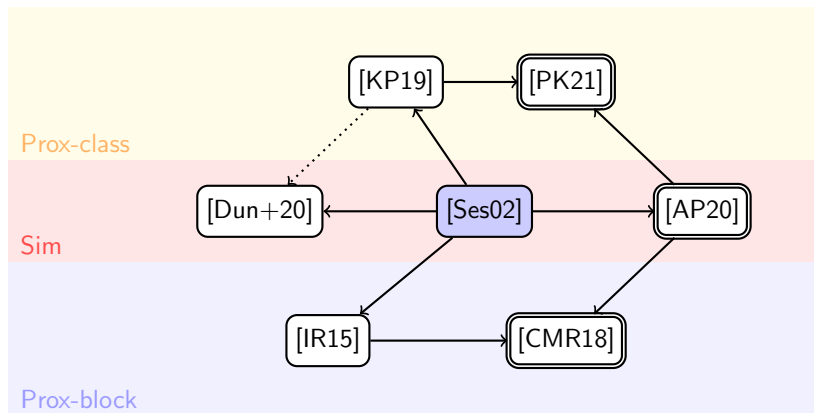
A similarity relation  $\mathfrak{S} : \mathcal{U} \times \mathcal{U} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is a proximity relation that also has the transitivity regarding a t-norm (in our case the minimum t-norm) as one of its properties (i.e.  $\mathfrak{S}(x, z) \geq \mathfrak{S}(x, y) \wedge \mathfrak{S}(y, z)$  for all  $x, y, z \in \mathcal{U}$ ).

- We also need the notion of the  $\lambda$ -cut:

## Definition

Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be a domain and  $\mathfrak{F}$  be a relation on  $\mathcal{U}$  (can be either a proximity or a similarity relation). We define the  $\lambda$ -cut of  $\mathfrak{F}$ , for any  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ , as the relation  $\simeq_{\mathfrak{F}, \lambda}$  with:  $x \simeq_{\mathfrak{F}, \lambda} y \Leftrightarrow \mathfrak{F}(x, y) \geq \lambda$  for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{U}$ .

# Similarity Unification



# Similarity Unification - Basic Case

- We now use the system  $P; \alpha; \sigma$ , where  $\alpha$  denotes the similarity degree
- Trivial, Orient, Occurs Check, Variable Elimination remain the same
- Only changes occur in Decomposition and Symbol Clash:

- **Similarity-Symbol Clash: (S-SC)**

$$\{f(s_1, \dots, s_n) \simeq_{\mathfrak{G}, \lambda}^? g(t_1, \dots, t_m)\} \uplus P'; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow \perp, \text{ if } \mathfrak{G}(f, g) < \lambda.$$

- **Similarity-Decomposition: (S-Dec)**

$$\{f(s_1, \dots, s_n) \simeq_{\mathfrak{G}, \lambda}^? g(t_1, \dots, t_n)\} \uplus P'; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow$$

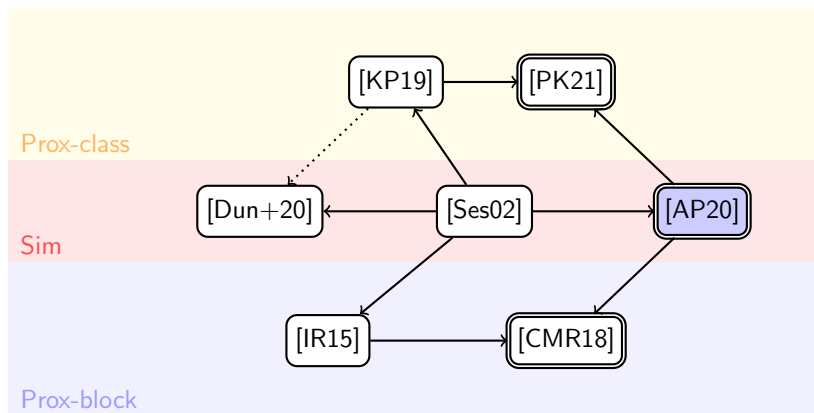
$$\{s_1 \simeq_{\mathfrak{G}, \lambda}^? t_1, \dots, s_n \simeq_{\mathfrak{G}, \lambda}^? t_n\} \cup P'; \alpha \wedge \mathfrak{G}(f, g); \sigma, \text{ if } \mathfrak{G}(f, g) \geq \lambda,$$

where  $n \geq 0$ .

## Example

- The following similarity relation is given:  
 $\mathfrak{S}(f, g) = 0.6$ ,  $\mathfrak{S}(p, q) = 0.7$ ,  $\mathfrak{S}(a, b) = \mathfrak{S}(b, c) = 0.4$  and  
 $\mathfrak{S}(a, c) = 0.8$ , the cut value  $\lambda = 0.2$  and the terms that need to be unified are  $f(x, p(y), b)$  and  $g(a, q(c), y)$ .
- Applying the algorithm gives:  
 $\{f(x, p(y), b) \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} g(a, q(c), y)\}; 1; id \Rightarrow_{S\text{-Dec}}$   
 $\{x \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} a, p(y) \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} q(c), b \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} y\}; 0.6; id \Rightarrow_{S\text{-VE}}$   
 $\{p(y) \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} q(c), b \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} y\}; 0.6; \{x \mapsto a\} \Rightarrow_{S\text{-Or}}$   
 $\{p(y) \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} q(c), y \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} b\}; 0.6; \{x \mapsto a\} \Rightarrow_{S\text{-VE}}$   
 $\{p(b) \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} q(c)\}; 0.6; \{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto b\} \Rightarrow_{S\text{-Dec}}$   
 $\{b \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} c\}; 0.6; \{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto b\} \Rightarrow_{S\text{-Dec}}$   
 $\emptyset; 0.5; \{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto b\}$
- Substitution  $\sigma = \{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto b\}$  is a solution with degree  $\alpha = 0.5$ .

# Similarity Unification



# Similarity Unification - Fully Fuzzy Case

- Take into consideration arity mismatch
- For each pair of functors  $f, g$  with arities  $m$ , respectively  $n$ , where  $0 \leq m \leq n$  there exists an injective mapping  $\rho_{fg} : \{1, 2, \dots, m\} \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$
- The mapping associates each of the  $m$  argument positions of  $f$  with a unique position among the  $n$  arguments of  $g$
- It should also hold:
  - 1)  $\rho_{ff} =$  the identity function (i.e  $1 \mapsto 1, 2 \mapsto 2$ , etc.);
  - 2)  $\rho_{fg} \circ \rho_{gf} =$  the identity function, if  $f$  and  $g$  have the same arity;
  - 3) for three terms  $f, g$  and  $h$  with arities  $m, n$  and respectively  $l$ , with  $0 \leq m \leq n \leq l$ :  $\rho_{fh} = \rho_{gh} \circ \rho_{fg}$ .
- Meaning it should be consistent
- (Functor meaning either function or predicate symbols)



# Similarity Unification - Fully Fuzzy Case

- We use again the system  $P; \alpha; \sigma$
- Trivial, Symbol Clash, Orient, Occurs Check, Variable Elimination remain the same
- Only changes occur in Decomposition and Symbol Clash
- Introduce a new rule: Equation Orient

# Algorithm

- **Fully Fuzzy Similarity-Symbol Clash: (FFS-SC)**

$$\{f(s_1, \dots, s_m) \simeq_{\mathfrak{G}, \lambda}^? g(t_1, \dots, t_n)\} \uplus P'; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow \perp, \text{ if } \mathfrak{G}(f, g) < \lambda.$$

- **Fully Fuzzy Similarity-Decomposition: (FFS-Dec)**

$$\{f(s_1, \dots, s_m) \simeq_{\mathfrak{G}, \lambda}^? g(t_1, \dots, t_n)\} \uplus P'; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow$$

$$\{s_1 \simeq_{\mathfrak{G}, \lambda}^? t_{\rho_{fg}(1)}, \dots, s_m \simeq_{\mathfrak{G}, \lambda}^? t_{\rho_{fg}(m)}\} \cup P'; \alpha \wedge \mathfrak{G}(f, g); \sigma, \text{ if } \mathfrak{G}(f, g) \geq \lambda, \text{ where } n \geq m \geq 0 \text{ with respect to the mapping } \rho.$$

- **Fully Fuzzy Similarity-Equation Orient: (FFS-EO)**

$$\{g(t_1, \dots, t_n) \simeq_{\mathfrak{G}, \lambda}^? f(s_1, \dots, s_m)\} \uplus P'; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow$$

$$\{f(s_1, \dots, s_m) \simeq_{\mathfrak{G}, \lambda}^? g(t_1, \dots, t_n)\} \cup P'; \alpha; \sigma, \text{ if } n > m \geq 0.$$

## Example

- The following similarity relation is given:  
 $\mathfrak{S}(p, q) = 0.7$ ,  $\mathfrak{S}(h, g) = 0.3$ ,  $\mathfrak{S}(c, d) = 0.5$  with cut value  $\lambda = 0.2$ ,  
the mapping  $\rho_{qp} = \{1 \mapsto 1, 2 \mapsto 3\}$ ,  $\rho_{gh} = \{1 \mapsto 2\}$  and the terms  
that need to be unified are  $p(h(x, y), a, y)$  and  $q(g(c), d)$ .
- Applying the algorithm gives:  
 $\{p(h(x, y), a, y) \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} q(g(c), d)\}; 1; id \Rightarrow_{\text{FFS-EO}}$   
 $\{q(g(c), d) \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} p(h(x, y), a, y)\}; 1; id \Rightarrow_{\text{FFS-Dec}}$   
 $\{g(c) \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} h(x, y), d \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} y\}; 0.7; id \Rightarrow_{\text{FFS-Or}}$   
 $\{g(c) \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} h(x, y), y \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} d\}; 0.7; id \Rightarrow_{\text{FFS-VE}}$   
 $\{g(c) \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} h(x, d)\}; 0.7; \{y \mapsto d\} \Rightarrow_{\text{FFS-Dec}}$   
 $\{c \simeq_{\mathfrak{S}, 0.2} d\}; 0.3; \{y \mapsto d\} \Rightarrow_{\text{FFS-Dec}}$   
 $\emptyset; 0.3; \{y \mapsto d\}$
- Substitution  $\sigma = \{y \mapsto d\}$  is a solution with degree  $\alpha = 0.3$

# Block- and Class-based Approach for Proximity

- Looking at proximity relations as undirected graphs, one can talk about cliques and neighborhoods in them.
- One distinguishes between block- and class-based approaches towards solving symbolic constraints for proximity relations.

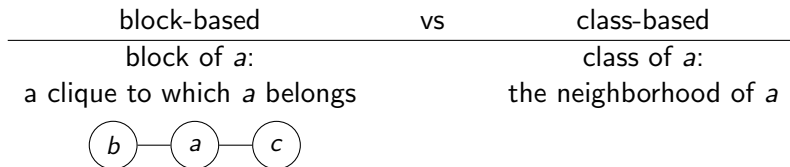
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block-based	vs	class-based
block of $a$ :		class of $a$ :
a clique to which $a$ belongs		the neighborhood of $a$

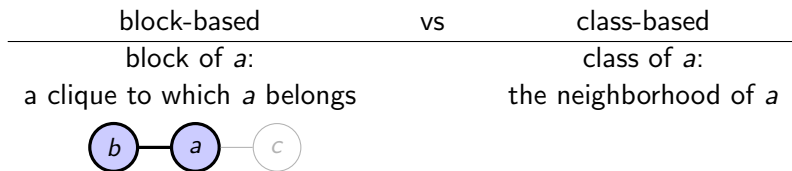
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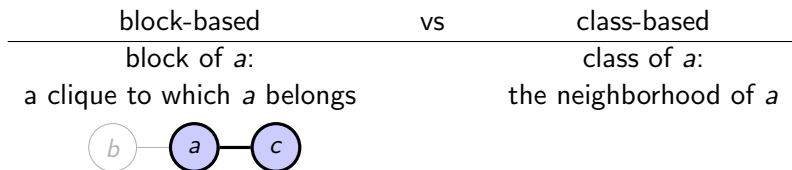
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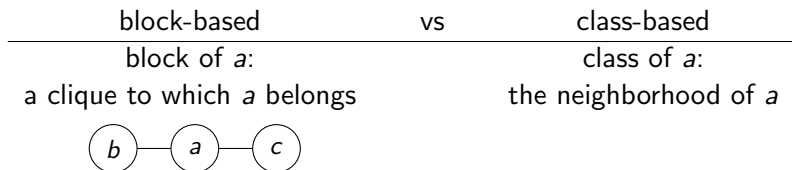
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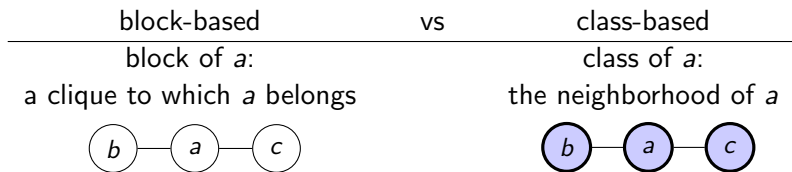
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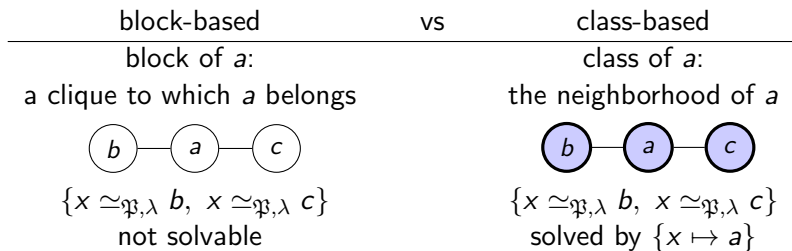
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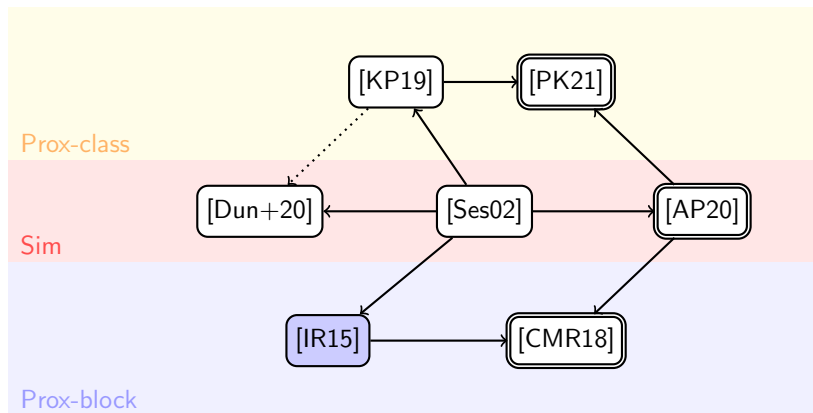


# Block- and Class-based Approach for Proximity

- Looking at proximity relations as undirected graphs, one can talk about cliques and neighborhoods in them.
- One distinguishes between block- and class-based approaches towards solving symbolic constraints for proximity relations.



# Proximity Unification



# Proximity Unification - Block-Based Basic Case

- Before the rule-based algorithm some notions need to be introduced

## Definition

Given a proximity relation  $\mathfrak{P}$  on a domain  $\mathcal{U}$ , a proximity block of level  $\lambda$  ( $\lambda$ -block), denoted as  $\mathcal{B}_i^\lambda$  (where  $i$  is the index of the block), is a subset of  $\mathcal{U}$  such that  $\simeq_{\mathfrak{P},\lambda} \upharpoonright_{\mathcal{B}_i^\lambda}$  is total and maximal.

- Maximal in this case means that the elements of the proximity block are not contained in another set that restricts  $\simeq_{\mathfrak{P},\lambda}$  to form a total relation.

# Proximity Unification - Block-Based Basic Case

## Definition

Let  $\mathcal{S} := \mathcal{C} \uplus \mathcal{F} \uplus \mathcal{P}$  be the union set of constants, function symbols and predicate symbols of  $\mathcal{L}$ . Then we define a proximity constraint  $a \approx b$  as an unordered pair of elements  $a, b \in \mathcal{S}$ .

- The following definition will also be needed

## Definition

Given a proximity relation  $\mathfrak{P}$ , a cut value  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$  and a set  $C$  of proximity constraints, the function  $\text{Sat}$  looks at all the constraints  $a \approx b$  in this set  $C$ , and takes the value  $\text{fail}$  if and only if it finds  $a \approx b$  in  $C$  with  $\mathfrak{P}(a, b) < \lambda$ . Otherwise  $\text{Sat}(C)$  returns success.

# Algorithm

- We use the system  $P; C; \alpha; \sigma$ , where  $C$  is the set of proximity constraints
- Trivial, Orient, Variable Elimination and Occurs Check remain the same
- Decomposition changes into 2 rules
- Symbol Clash changes

# Algorithm

- **Block-Based Proximity-Decomposition1:** (BBP-Dec1)

$$\{f(s_1, \dots, s_n) \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? f(t_1, \dots, t_n)\} \uplus P'; C; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow \\ \{s_1 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? t_1, \dots, s_n \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? t_n\} \cup P'; C; \alpha; \sigma, \text{ where } n \geq 0.$$

- **Block-Based Proximity-Decomposition2:** (BBP-Dec2)

$$\{f(s_1, \dots, s_n) \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? g(t_1, \dots, t_n)\} \uplus P'; C; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow \\ \{s_1 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? t_1, \dots, s_n \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? t_n\} \cup P'; C \cup \{f \approx g\}; \alpha \wedge \mathfrak{P}(f, g); \sigma, \\ \text{if } \mathfrak{P}(f, g) \geq \lambda, \text{ Sat}(C \cup \{f \approx g\}) \neq \text{fail}, \text{ where } n \geq 0.$$

- **Block-Based Proximity-Symbol Clash:** (BBP-SC)

$$\{f(s_1, \dots, s_n) \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? g(t_1, \dots, t_m)\} \uplus P'; C; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow \perp, \text{ if } \\ n \neq m, \mathfrak{P}(f, g) < \lambda \text{ or } \text{Sat}(C \cup \{f \approx g\}) = \text{fail}.$$



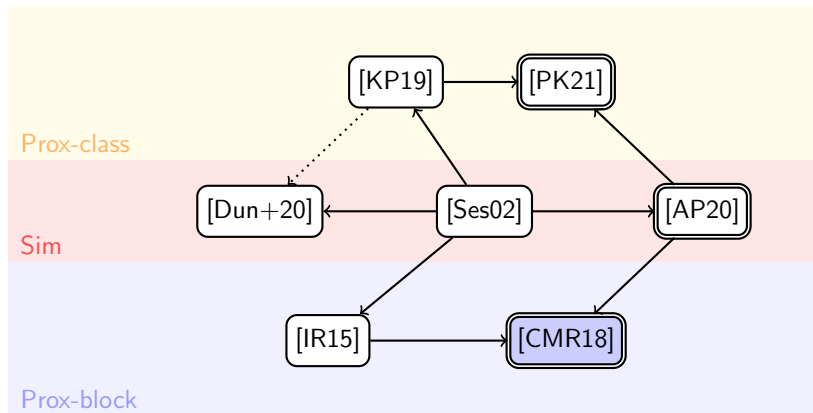
## Example

- The following proximity relation is given:  
 $\mathfrak{P}(f, g) = 0.5, \mathfrak{P}(a, c) = 0.2, \mathfrak{P}(b, d) = 0.3, \mathfrak{P}(p, q) = 0.6$ , the cut value  $\lambda = 0.4$  and the terms that need to be unified  $f(x, p(x), b, y)$  respectively  $g(a, q(c), d, p(d))$ .
- Applying the algorithm gives:  
 $\{f(x, p(x), b, y) \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.4} g(a, q(c), d, p(d))\}; \emptyset; 1; id \Rightarrow_{\text{BBP-Dec}}$   
 $\{x \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.4} a, p(x) \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.4} q(c), b \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.4} d,$   
 $y \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.4} p(d)\}; 0.5; id \Rightarrow_{\text{BBP-VE}}$   
 $\{p(a) \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.4} q(c), b \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.4} d, y \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.4} p(d)\}; \{f \approx g\};$   
 $0.5; \{x \mapsto a\} \Rightarrow_{\text{BBP-Dec}}$   
 $\{a \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.4} c, b \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.4} d, y \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.4} p(d)\}; \{f \approx g, p \approx q\};$   
 $0.5; \{x \mapsto a\} \Rightarrow_{\text{BBP-Dec}}$   
 $\{b \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.4} d, y \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.4} p(d)\}; \{f \approx g, p \approx q, a \approx c\}; 0.5; \{x \mapsto a\}.$

# Example

- $\{b \simeq_{\mathfrak{P},0.4} d, y \simeq_{\mathfrak{P},0.4} p(d)\}; \{f \approx g, p \approx q, a \approx c\}; 0.5; \{x \mapsto a\}$   
 $\Rightarrow_{\text{BBP-Dec}}$   
 $\{y \simeq_{\mathfrak{P},0.4} p(d)\}; \{f \approx g, p \approx q, a \approx c, b \approx d\}; 0.5; \{x \mapsto a\} \Rightarrow_{\text{BBP-VE}}$   
 $\emptyset; 0.5; \{f \approx g, p \approx q, a \approx c, b \approx d\}; \{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto p(d)\}.$
- Substitution  $\sigma = \{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto p(d)\}$  is a solution with degree  $\alpha = 0.5$  and constraints set  $C = \{f \approx g, p \approx q, a \approx c, b \approx d\}.$

# Proximity Unification



# Proximity Unification - Block-Based Fully Fuzzy Case

- Algorithm only takes into consideration the case where the terms to be unified contain only constants
- Solution after applying the algorithm would then remain *id*
- Only the degree changes

## Definition

- 1 Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be a set containing  $S_1, \dots, S_k$  (which are named "sorts").
- 2 We denote  $X_{S_i}, Y_{S_i}$  the sets containing all constants of sort  $S_i$  from the terms that we want to unify (named "sort sets").
- 3 The degree between  $X_{S_i}$  and  $Y_{S_i}$  is the maximal degree between the constants from  $X_{S_i}$  and  $Y_{S_i}$  via a proximity relation  $\mathfrak{P}$ .

# Algorithm

- We use the system  $P; \alpha; \sigma$
- Trivial, Occurs Check and Orient remain the same
- We don't have the Variable Elimination rule anymore
- Decomposition and Symbol Clash split into 2 rules
- New rule is added: Equation Elimination

# Algorithm

- **Fully Fuzzy Block-Based Proximity-Decomposition1:**

(FFBBP-Dec1)

$$\{f(s_1, \dots, s_n) \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? g(t_1, \dots, t_n)\} \uplus P'; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow$$

$$\{X_{S_1} \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? Y_{S_1}, \dots, X_{S_k} \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? Y_{S_k}\} \cup P'; \alpha \wedge \mathfrak{P}(f, g); \sigma, \text{ where } n \geq 0, \\ k \geq 0 \text{ and } \mathfrak{P}(f, g) \geq \lambda.$$

Also each  $X_s$  and  $Y_s$  contain the arguments of  $f$  respectively  $g$  that belong to their respective sort  $s$ .

- **Fully Fuzzy Block-Based Proximity-Decomposition2:**

(FFBBP-Dec2)

$$\{X_{S_i} \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? Y_{S_i}\} \uplus P'; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow P'; \alpha \wedge \mathfrak{P}(X_{S_i}, Y_{S_i}); \sigma \text{ if}$$

$$\mathfrak{P}(X_{S_i}, Y_{S_i}) \geq \lambda, \text{ where } n \geq 0, i \geq 0.$$

# Algorithm

- **Fully Fuzzy Block-Based Proximity-Symbol Clash1:**

(FFBBP-SC1)

$\{f(s_1, \dots, s_n) \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? g(t_1, \dots, t_m)\} \uplus P; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow \perp$ , if  $\mathfrak{P}(f, g) < \lambda$ .

- **Fully Fuzzy Block-Based Proximity-Symbol Clash2:**

(FFBBP-SC2)

$\{X_{S_i} \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? Y_{S_i}\} \uplus P; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow \perp$ , if  $\mathfrak{P}(X_{S_i}, Y_{S_i}) < \lambda$ .

- **Fully Fuzzy Block-Based Proximity-Equation Elimination:**

(FFBBP-EE)

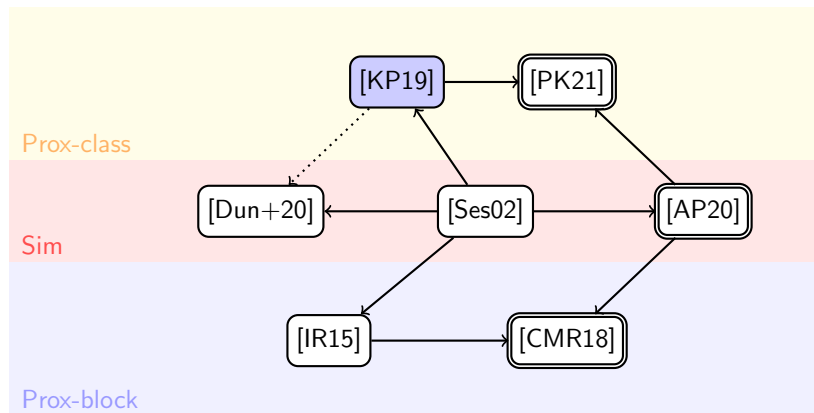
$\{X_{S_i} \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? Y_{S_i}\} \cup P'; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow P'; \alpha; \sigma$ , if  $X_{S_i} = \emptyset$  and/or  $Y_{S_i} = \emptyset$ .

## Example

- The following proximity relation is given:  
 $\mathfrak{P}(f, g) = 0.6, \mathfrak{P}(a, b) = 0.4, \mathfrak{P}(b, c) = 0.3, \mathfrak{P}(a, c) = 0.3$ , the cut value  $\lambda = 0.2$ , the set of sorts  $\mathcal{S} = \{S_1, S_2, S_3\}$ , with  $S_1 = \{a, b\}, S_2 = \{c\}, S_3 = \{d\}$  and the terms that need to be unified  $f(a, c, b)$  respectively  $g(d, a)$ .
- Applying the algorithm gives:  
 $\{f(a, c, b) \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2} g(d, a)\}; 1; id \Rightarrow_{\text{FFBBP-Dec1}}$   
 $\{X_{S_1} \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? Y_{S_1}, X_{S_2} \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? Y_{S_2}, X_{S_3} \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? Y_{S_3}\}; 0.6; id$ , where  
 $X_{S_1} = \{a, b\}, X_{S_2} = \{c\}, X_{S_3} = \emptyset, Y_{S_1} = \{a\}, Y_{S_2} = \emptyset$  and  
 $Y_{S_3} = \{d\} \Rightarrow_{\text{FFBBP-EE}}$   
 $\{X_{S_1} \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? Y_{S_1}, X_{S_2} \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? Y_{S_2}\}; 0.6; id \Rightarrow_{\text{FFBBP-EE}}$   
 $\{X_{S_1} \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? Y_{S_1}\}; 0.6; id \Rightarrow_{\text{FFBBP-Dec2}}$   
 $\emptyset; 0.6; id$
- Substitution  $\sigma = id$  is a solution with degree  $\alpha = 0.6$ .



# Proximity Unification



# Proximity Unification - Class-Based Basic Case

We use now proximity classes:

## Definition

We have a proximity relation  $\mathfrak{P}$  on a set  $S$  and a cut-value  $\lambda \in (0, 1]$ . Then we define the proximity class of level  $\lambda$  of  $s \in S$  (denoted as  $\mathbf{pc}(s, \mathfrak{P})$ ), as the set:  $\mathbf{pc}(s, \mathfrak{P}) := \{t \in S \mid \mathfrak{P}(s, t) \geq \lambda\}$ .

We also need the notion of extended terms:

## Definition

An extended term is a term that includes, besides variables and function symbols, finite sets of function symbols, whose elements have the same arity. We denote them in bold:  $\mathbf{t}$  for eg.

# Proximity Unification - Class-Based Basic Case

- Ⓐ We consider now the countable set  $\mathcal{N}$  the set of names. Names are symbols with associated arity (like function symbols). We assume that  $\mathcal{N} \cap \mathcal{F} = \emptyset, \mathcal{N} \cap \mathcal{V} = \emptyset$ . They are denoted as  $N, M, K$ .
- Ⓑ Now a neighborhood is either a name or a finite subset of  $\mathcal{F}$ , where all elements have the same arity. We denote it as **Nb**.
- Ⓒ We denote  $\Phi$  as a name-neighborhood mapping, which is a finite mapping from names to non-name neighborhoods.
- Ⓓ A neighborhood equation is a pair of neighborhoods that needs to be solved, i.e.  $\mathbf{F} =? \mathbf{G}$ .
- Ⓔ A neighborhood constraint is a finite set of neighborhood equations.
- Ⓜ We say that  $\{x \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda} \mathbf{t}\} \uplus P$  contains an occurrence cycle for the variable  $x$ , if  $\mathbf{t} \notin \mathcal{V}$  and there exist  $(x_0, \mathbf{t}_0), (x_1, \mathbf{t}_1), \dots, (x_n, \mathbf{t}_n)$  such that  $x_0 = x, \mathbf{t}_0 = \mathbf{t}$ , for each  $0 \leq i \leq n$   $P$  contains an equation  $x_i \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda} \mathbf{t}_i$  or  $\mathbf{t}_i \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda} x_i$ , and  $x_{i+1} \in \mathcal{V}(\mathbf{t}_i)$ , where  $x_{n+1} = x_0$ .

# Pre-Unification Algorithm

- Use the system  $P; C; \alpha; \sigma$ , where  $C$  is the set of proximity constraints that need to be solved
- First apply the pre-unification algorithm to get  $\sigma$
- Then apply constraint solving algorithm to computed  $C$  to get  $\Phi$
- The solution will be then  $\Phi(\sigma)$
- Trivial, Orient and Occurs Check remain the same
- Decomposition and Variable Elimination change
- Symbol Clash transforms to Clash

# Pre-Unification Algorithm

- **Class-Based Proximity-Decomposition:** (CBP-Dec)  
 $\{\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_n) \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{t}_1, \dots, \mathbf{t}_n)\} \uplus P'; C; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow$   
 $\{\mathbf{s}_1 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? \mathbf{t}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_n \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? \mathbf{t}_n\} \cup P'; \{\mathbf{F} \approx^? \mathbf{G}\} \cup C; \alpha \wedge \mathfrak{P}(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{G}); \sigma,$   
where  $n \geq 0$  and  $\mathfrak{P}(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{G}) \geq \lambda$ .
- **Class-Based Proximity-Clash:** (CBP-C)  
 $\{\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_n) \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{t}_1, \dots, \mathbf{t}_m)\} \uplus P'; C; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow \perp, \text{ if } n \neq m.$
- **Class-Based Proximity-Variable Elimination:** (CBP-VE)  
 $\{x \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? \mathbf{t}\} \cup P'; C; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow$   
 $\{\mathbf{t}' \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? \mathbf{t}\} \cup P' \{x \mapsto \mathbf{t}'\}; C; \alpha; \sigma \{x \mapsto \mathbf{t}'\} \cup \{x \mapsto \mathbf{t}'\},$  where  $\mathbf{t} \notin \mathcal{V}$ ,  
there is no occurrence cycle for  $x$  in  $\{x \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, \lambda}^? \mathbf{t}\}$ , and  $\mathbf{t}'$  is a fresh copy of  $\mathbf{t}$ .
- There is also such an algorithm that solves the constraints obtained from this one.

## Example

- We want to unify  $p(x, y, x)$  and  $q(f(a), g(d), y)$ , with the proximity relation:  $\mathfrak{P}(f, g) = 0.3$ ,  $\mathfrak{P}(a, b) = 0.2$ ,  $\mathfrak{P}(p, q) = 0.7$ ,  $\mathfrak{P}(c, d) = 0.75$ ,  $\mathfrak{P}(b, c) = 0.35$  and the cut value  $\lambda = 0.2$ .

- We use then the pre-unification algorithm first:

$$\{p(x, y, x) \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? q(f(a), g(d), y)\}; \emptyset; 1; id \Rightarrow_{\text{CBP-Dec}}$$

$$\{x \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? f(a), y \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? g(d), x \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? y\}; \{p \approx q\}; 0.7; id \Rightarrow_{\text{CBP-VE}}$$

$$\{N_2 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? a, y \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? g(d), t' \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? y\}; \{p \approx q, N_1 \approx f\};$$

$$0.7; \{x \mapsto t'\}, \text{ where } t' = N_1(N_2) \Rightarrow_{\text{CBP-VE}}$$

$$\{y \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? g(d), t' \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? y\}; \{p \approx q, N_1 \approx f, N_2 \approx a\};$$

$$0.7; \{x \mapsto t'\} \Rightarrow_{\text{CBP-VE}}$$

$$\{N_4 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? d, t' \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? s'\};$$

$$\{p \approx q, N_1 \approx f, N_2 \approx a, N_3 \approx g\}; 0.7; \{x \mapsto t', y \mapsto s'\}, \text{ where } s' = N_3(N_4).$$

## Example

$$\{N_4 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P},0.2}^? d, t' \simeq_{\mathfrak{P},0.2}^? s'\}; \{p \approx q, N_1 \approx f, N_2 \approx a, N_3 \approx g\}; \\ 0.7; \{x \mapsto t', y \mapsto s'\}, \text{ where } s' = N_3(N_4)$$

$\Rightarrow$ CBP-VE

$$\{N_1(N_2) \simeq_{\mathfrak{P},0.2}^? N_3(N_4)\}; \\ \{p \approx q, N_1 \approx f, N_2 \approx a, N_3 \approx g, N_4 \approx d\}; 0.7; \{x \mapsto t', y \mapsto s'\}$$

$\Rightarrow$ CBP-Dec

$$\{N_2 =^? N_4\}; \\ \{p \approx q, N_1 \approx f, N_2 \approx a, N_3 \approx g, N_4 \approx d, N_1 \approx N_3\}; 0.3; \{x \mapsto t', y \mapsto s'\}$$

$\Rightarrow$ CBP-Dec

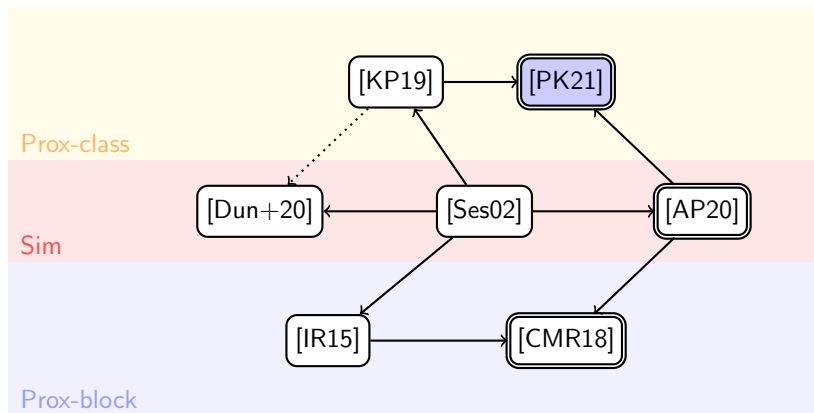
$$\emptyset; \{p \approx q, N_1 \approx f, N_2 \approx a, N_3 \approx g, N_4 \approx d, N_1 \approx N_3, N_2 \approx N_4\}; \\ 0.3; \{x \mapsto N_1(N_2), y \mapsto N_3(N_4)\}.$$

## Example

- Then by applying the constraint solving algorithm on  $\{p \approx q, N_1 \approx f, N_2 \approx a, N_3 \approx g, N_4 \approx d, N_1 \approx N_3, N_2 \approx N_4\}$ , we get the substitution  $\Phi = \{N_1 \mapsto \{f, g\}, N_2 \mapsto \{b\}, N_3 \mapsto \{f, g\}, N_4 \mapsto \{c\}\}$ .
- One of the solutions is then  $\Phi(\sigma) = \{x \mapsto f(b), y \mapsto g(c)\}$ , with degree  $\alpha = 0.3$ .



# Proximity Unification



# Proximity Unification - Class-Based Fully Fuzzy Case

- Again take into consideration arity mismatch
- Introduce argument relation  $\rho$
- We use the system  $P; \alpha; \sigma$
- Trivial, Orient and Occurrence Check stay the same
- Decomposition, Symbol Clash and Variable Elimination change

# Algorithm

- **Fully Fuzzy Class-Based Proximity-Decomposition:** (FFCBP-Dec)  
 $\{f(s_1, \dots, s_m) \simeq_{\mathfrak{F}, \lambda}^? g(t_1, \dots, t_n)\} \uplus P'; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow$   
 $\{s_i \simeq_{\mathfrak{F}, \lambda}^? t_j \mid (i, j) \in \rho\} \cup P'; \alpha \wedge \mathfrak{F}(f, g); \sigma$  if  $\mathfrak{F}(f, g) \geq \lambda$ , where  
 $n, m \geq 0$  with respect to the relation  $\rho$ .
- **Fully Fuzzy Class-Based Proximity-Symbol Clash:** (FFCBP-SC)  
 $\{f(s_1, \dots, s_n) \simeq_{\mathfrak{F}, \lambda}^? g(t_1, \dots, t_m)\} \uplus P'; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow \perp$  if  $\mathfrak{F}(f, g) < \lambda$ .
- **Fully Fuzzy Class-Based Proximity-Variable Elimination:**  
(FFSCBP-VE)  
 $\{x \simeq_{\mathfrak{F}, \lambda}^? g(s_1, \dots, s_n)\} \cup P'; \alpha; \sigma \Rightarrow$   
 $P'\theta \cup \{v_i \simeq_{\mathfrak{F}, \lambda}^? s_j \mid (i, j) \in \rho\}; \alpha \wedge \mathfrak{F}(f, g); \sigma\theta \cup \{x \mapsto t\}$ , where  
 $\{x \simeq_{\mathfrak{F}, \lambda}^? g(s_1, \dots, s_n)\}$  does not contain an occurrence cycle for  $x$ ,  
 $\theta = \{x \mapsto f(v_1, \dots, v_m)\}$ , with fresh variables  $v_1, \dots, v_m$ ,  $\mathfrak{F}(f, g) \geq \lambda$ ,  
with respect to  $\rho$  and  $n, m \geq 0$ .

## Example

- The following proximity relation is given:  
 $\mathfrak{P}(f, g) = 0.6$ ,  $\mathfrak{P}(f, h) = 0.7$ ,  $\mathfrak{P}(a, b) = 0.4$ ,  $\mathfrak{P}(b, c) = 0.3$ , the cut value  $\lambda = 0.2$ , the relations  $\rho_{fg} = \{(1, 1), (2, 1)\}$ ,  $\rho_{fh} = \{(1, 1), (2, 2)\}$  and the terms that need to be unified are  $f(x, x)$  and  $f(g(a), h(a, c))$ .

- Applying the algorithm gives:

$$\{f(x, x) \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2} f(g(a), h(a, c))\}; 1; id \Rightarrow \text{FFCBP-Dec}$$

$$\{x \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2} g(a), x \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2} h(a, c)\}; 1; id \Rightarrow \text{FFCBP-VE}$$

$$\{v_1 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? a, v_2 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? a, f(v_1, v_2) \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? h(a, c)\};$$

$$0.6; \{x \mapsto f(v_1, v_2)\} \Rightarrow \text{FFCBP-Dec}$$

$$\{v_1 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? a, v_2 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? a, v_1 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? a, v_2 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? c\};$$

$$0.6; \{x \mapsto f(v_1, v_2)\} \Rightarrow \text{FFCBP-VE}$$

$$\{v_2 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? a, a \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? a, v_2 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? c\};$$

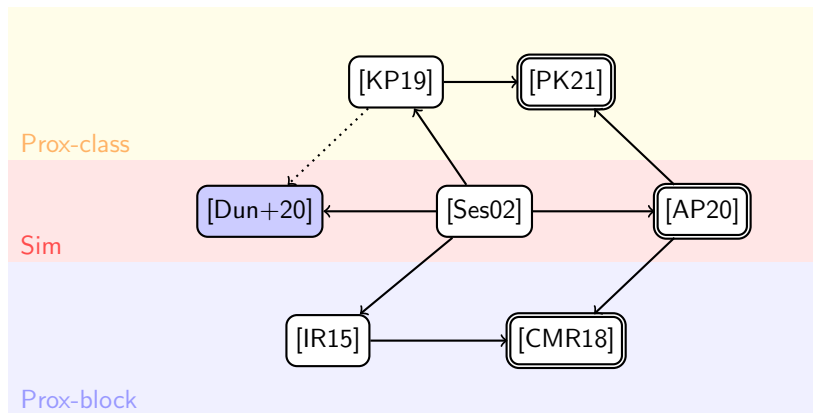
$$0.6; \{x \mapsto f(a, v_2), v_1 \mapsto a\} \Rightarrow \text{FFCBP-Tri}$$

$$\{v_2 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? a, v_2 \simeq_{\mathfrak{P}, 0.2}^? c\}; 0.6; \{x \mapsto f(a, v_2), v_1 \mapsto a\}$$

# Example

- $\{v_2 \simeq_{\mathbb{P}, 0.2}^? a, v_2 \simeq_{\mathbb{P}, 0.2}^? c\}; 0.6; \{x \mapsto f(a, v_2), v_1 \mapsto a\} \Rightarrow_{\text{FFCBP-VE}}$   
 $\{b \simeq_{\mathbb{P}, 0.2}^? c\}; 0.6; \{x \mapsto f(a, b), v_1 \mapsto a, v_2 \mapsto b\} \Rightarrow_{\text{FFCBP-Dec}}$   
 $\emptyset; 0.3; \{x \mapsto f(a, b), v_1 \mapsto a, v_2 \mapsto b\}$
- Substitution  $\sigma = \{x \mapsto f(a, b)\}$  is a solution with degree  $\alpha = 0.3$

# Multiple Similarities Unification



# Multiple Similarities

- Take into consideration the case when there are more similarity relations between objects
- The "relation" between those similarities become a proximity relation
- New algorithm for multiple similarities

# Conclusion

- We saw the respective algorithms on how to deal with different symbols and not fail, using fuzzy relations
- And on how to deal with different arities
- I implemented Sessa's algorithm in Prolog
- ◇ This work showed that it would be interesting to extend fully fuzzy block-based proximity unification by taking variables into consideration
- ◇ It is a potential future work, using CI-unification algorithm