A Logic of East and West for Intervals

Zekai Li ⊠**®**

School of Computer Science, University of Nottingham Ningbo China, China

Amin Farjudian \boxdot

School of Mathematics, University of Birmingham, UK

Heshan Du ⊠[●]

School of Computer Science, University of Nottingham Ningbo China, China

Abstract

This paper proposes a logic of east and west for intervals (*LEWI*), which extends the logic of east and west for points. For intervals in 1D Euclidean space, the logic *LEWI* formalises the qualitative direction relations "east", "west", "definitely east", "definitely west", "partially east", "partially west", etc. To cope with imprecision in geometry representations, the logic *LEWI* is parameterized by a margin of error $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ and a level of indeterminacy in directions $\tau \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$. For every τ , we provide an axiomatisation of the logic *LEWI*, and prove that it is sound and complete with respect to 1D Euclidean space.

2012 ACM Subject Classification Theory of computation → Automated reasoning

Keywords and phrases Qualitative Spatial Logic, Soundness, Completeness

Digital Object Identifier [10.4230/LIPIcs.COSIT.2024.17](https://doi.org/10.4230/LIPIcs.COSIT.2024.17)

Category Short Paper

1 Introduction

This work is motivated by the problem of matching spatial objects represented in different geospatial datasets, and checking the consistency of *SameAs* matching relations. For objects *a* and *b* in different datasets, *SameAs*(*a, b*) holds if *a* and *b* refer to the same real world object. With the development of semantic web and linked data, many instance matching methods [\[6,](#page-7-0) [7,](#page-7-1) [11\]](#page-7-2) have been developed to automatically generate *SameAs* matching relations. The geospatial datasets and automatically generated *SameAs* matching relations may contain errors. It is desirable to formalise the relations between spatial objects and use automated reasoning to detect contradictions in *SameAs* matching relations.

A logic of east and west for points (*LEW*) has been introduced to represent and reason about the direction relations between spatial objects, which can be used to check *SameAs* matching relations [\[5\]](#page-7-3). Intuitively, if in one dataset, a spatial object *a* is definitely to the east of a spatial object *b*, then in another dataset, the spatial object corresponding to *a* cannot be definitely to the west of the spatial object corresponding to *b*. In *LEW*, a spatial object is interpreted as a single point in 1D Euclidean space R. In geospatial datasets, however, many spatial objects are represented using polygons. Instead of abstracting a polygon as a single point, it is more accurate to use the axis-aligned minimal bounding box of a polygon, which can be projected to a closed interval in 1D Euclidean space, as shown in Figure [1.](#page-1-0) Therefore, we extend *LEW* to a logic of East and West for Intervals (*LEWI*) which represents and reasons about the qualitative direction relations between closed intervals.

Allen's calculus [\[1\]](#page-7-4) has been widely used to represent relations between intervals in both spatial and temporal domains. It defines 13 basic relations between intervals, such as "before", "after", "overlaps", etc. Similar to Allen's calculus, *LEWI* also defines relations between intervals based on their endpoints. However, in order to tolerate slight differences

© Zekai Li, Amin Farjudian, and Heshan Du; licensed under Creative Commons License CC-BY 4.0

16th International Conference on Spatial Information Theory (COSIT 2024).

Editors: Benjamin Adams, Amy Griffin, Simon Scheider, and Grant McKenzie; Article No. 17; pp. 17:1–17:8

[Leibniz International Proceedings in Informatics](https://www.dagstuhl.de/lipics/)

[Schloss Dagstuhl – Leibniz-Zentrum für Informatik, Dagstuhl Publishing, Germany](https://www.dagstuhl.de)

Figure 1 Projection of Polygons onto Closed Intervals.

in geometric representations in different geospatial datasets, following *LEW*, *LEWI* uses a parameter $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ to denote the margin of error and a parameter $\tau \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$ to denote the level of indeterminacy in directions.

There are two approaches commonly used to formalise and reason about qualitative spatial or temporal relations, which are referred to as the *relation-algebraic* approach and the *logic-axiomatic approach* [\[5\]](#page-7-3). In the relation-algebraic approach, relation algebra is used to represent relations and operations over the relations. There are several qualitative spatial or temporal calculi using this approach, including the point calculus [\[12\]](#page-7-5), Allen's calculus [\[1\]](#page-7-4), the rectangle algebra [\[2\]](#page-7-6), and the cardinal direction relations between regions [\[9,](#page-7-7) [10\]](#page-7-8). In the logic-axiomatic approach, the syntax and semantics of a logic are used to denote the symbols and meanings of relations, respectively. Following the *LEW* [\[5\]](#page-7-3), the current work also uses the logic-axiomatic approach and investigates the axiomatisations of *LEWI*.

This paper is structured as follows. Section [2](#page-1-1) introduces the logic of east and west for intervals (*LEWI*). Section [3](#page-3-0) presents an axiomatisations of *LEWI* for every $\tau \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$. The soundness and completeness of the axiomatisations are proved in Section [4.](#page-4-0) Section [5](#page-7-9) provides a conclusion.

2 A Logic of East and West for Intervals

We introduce a logic of east and west for closed intervals (*LEWI*) in 1D Euclidean space. *LEWI* is an extension of the logic of east and west for points (*LEW*) [\[5\]](#page-7-3). *LEWI* includes eight primitive direction relations: east (E) , west (W) , definitely east (dE) , definitely west (dW) , partially east (pE) , partially west (pW) , partially definitely east (pdE) , and partially definitely west (*pdW*).

▶ **Definition 1** (The Language of *LEWI*)**.** *Let Ind be a set of individual names. The language L*(*LEWI,Ind*) *(we omit Ind for brevity below) is defined as:*

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}\n\phi, \; \psi & := & E(a, b) \mid W(a, b) \mid dE(a, b) \mid dW(a, b) \mid \\
& pE(a, b) \mid pW(a, b) \mid pdE(a, b) \mid pdW(a, b) \mid \neg \phi \mid \phi \land \psi\n\end{array}
$$

where a,b are in Ind, $\phi \lor \psi =_{def} \neg(\neg \phi \land \neg \psi)$, $\phi \rightarrow \psi =_{def} \neg \phi \lor \psi$, $\phi \leftrightarrow \psi =_{def} (\phi \rightarrow$ ψ) \wedge ($\psi \rightarrow \phi$), and $\bot =_{def} \phi \wedge \neg \phi$.

The lower case letters (e.g., *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*), sometimes with subscripts or superscripts, are always used to represent individual names in *Ind*. The language of *LEWI* is a subset of the language of first-order logic [\[4\]](#page-7-10). The primitives *E*, *W*, *dE*, and *dW* also appear in the language of *LEW* [\[5\]](#page-7-3), while the other relations do not.

We interpret $L(LEWI)$ over models based on 1D Euclidean space, where each individual name is interpreted as a closed interval, rather than a single point.

Z. Li, A. Farjudian, and H. Du 17:3

 \triangleright **Definition 2** (1D Euclidean τ -model). *A* 1D Euclidean τ -model *M is a structure* ($\mathcal{I}, \sigma, \tau$), *where* I *is an interpretation function which maps each individual name* $a \in Ind$ *to a closed interval* $[a, \overline{a}] \subset \mathbb{R}$ *with* $a \leq \overline{a}$ *. The parameter* $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ *is a margin of error, and* $\tau \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$ *refers to the level of indeterminacy in directions.*

 \triangleright **Definition 3** (Truth definition). Let M be a 1D Euclidean τ -model ($\mathcal{I}, \sigma, \tau$). For any formula ϕ *in* $L(LEWI)$ *, we write* $M \models_{LEWI} \phi$ *to denote that* ϕ *is true in* M *. We define* $M \models_{LEWI} \phi$ *by structural induction as follows:*

 $M \models_{LEWI} W(a, b)$ iff $\forall p_a \in \mathcal{I}(a)$ $\forall p_b \in \mathcal{I}(b)$ $(p_a - p_b < -\sigma)$ iff $\overline{a} - \underline{b} < -\sigma$; $M \models_{LEWI} E(a, b)$ iff $\forall p_a \in I(a) \forall p_b \in I(b)$ $(p_a - p_b > \sigma)$ iff $\underline{a} - \overline{b} > \sigma$; $M \models_{LEWI} dW(a, b)$ iff $\forall p_a \in \mathcal{I}(a)$ $\forall p_b \in \mathcal{I}(b)$ $(p_a - p_b < -\tau\sigma)$ iff $\overline{a} - \underline{b} < -\tau\sigma$; $M \models_{LEWI} dE(a, b)$ iff $\forall p_a \in \mathcal{I}(a)$ $\forall p_b \in \mathcal{I}(b)$ $(p_a - p_b > \tau \sigma)$ iff $\underline{a} - \overline{b} > \tau \sigma$; $M \models_{LEWI} pW(a, b)$ iff $\exists p_a \in \mathcal{I}(a) \,\forall p_b \in \mathcal{I}(b)$ $(p_a - p_b < -\sigma)$ iff $\underline{a} - \underline{b} < -\sigma$; $M \models_{LEWI} pE(a, b)$ iff $\exists p_a \in \mathcal{I}(a) \,\forall p_b \in \mathcal{I}(b)$ $(p_a - p_b > \sigma)$ iff $\overline{a} - \overline{b} > \sigma$; $M \models_{LEWI} pdW(a, b)$ iff $\exists p_a \in \mathcal{I}(a) \forall p_b \in \mathcal{I}(b)$ $(p_a - p_b < -\tau\sigma)$ iff $\underline{a} - \underline{b} < -\tau\sigma$; $M \models_{LEWI} p dE(a, b)$ iff $\exists p_a \in \mathcal{I}(a) \,\forall p_b \in \mathcal{I}(b)$ $(p_a - p_b > \tau \sigma)$ iff $\overline{a} - \overline{b} > \tau \sigma$; $M \models_{LEWI} \neg \phi$ *iff* $M \not\models_{LEWI} \phi$; $M \models_{\text{LEMI}} \phi \land \psi \text{ iff } M \models_{\text{LEMI}} \phi \text{ and } M \models_{\text{LEMI}} \psi,$ *where* $a, b \in Ind$, $\mathcal{I}(a) = [a, \overline{a}],$ $\mathcal{I}(b) = [b, \overline{b}],$ and ϕ and ψ are formulae in $L(LEWI)$.

The truth definitions of eight primitive relations are shown in Figure [2.](#page-2-0) For a formula ϕ , if there exists a 1D Euclidean τ -model *M* such that ϕ is true in *M* (i.e., $M \models_{LEWI} \phi$), then *ϕ* is said to be *τ* -satisfiable; if *ϕ* is true in every 1D Euclidean *τ* -model *M* (equivalently, if the negation of ϕ is not τ -satisfiable), then ϕ is said to be τ -valid and written as $\models_{LEWI}\phi$. For every $\tau \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$, *LEWI* is the set of all τ -valid formulas in *L*(*LEWI*).

By Definition [3,](#page-2-1) as $pW(a, b)$ is not equivalent to $pE(b, a)$ and $p dW(a, b)$ is not equivalent to $pdE(b, a)$, the following inverse relations are introduced as syntactic sugar. These inverse relations are used in following sections for clearer expression of the axiomatisations.

- ▶ **Definition 4** (Inverse Relation)**.** *The inverse relations are defined as follows:*
- *partially west inverse:* $pWi(a, b) =_{def} pW(b, a)$ $\overline{}$
- *partially definitely west inverse:* $pdWi(a, b) =_{def} pdW(b, a)$ $\overline{}$
- *partially east inverse:* $pE(i, a, b) =_{def} pE(b, a)$ $\overline{}$
- *partially definitely east inverse:* $pdE(i, a, b) =_{def} pdE(b, a)$

17:4 A Logic of East and West for Intervals

3 Axiomatisations

We present, for every $\tau \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$, a calculus $LEWI^{\tau}$, which will be shown (in Section [4\)](#page-4-0) to be sound and complete for *LEWI*. Here *a* and *b*, sometimes with subscripts, are *meta* variables which may be instantiated by any individual name in *Ind*. An instance of an axiom is a formula in *L*(*LEWI*) obtained by instantiating every meta variable in the axiom by an individual name in *Ind*. For example, by Axiom 3, for every pair of individual names *a, b* in *Ind*, the formula $W(a, b) \leftrightarrow E(b, a)$ is an instance of Axiom 3 and it is τ -valid. AS 11 is an axiom schema, where *n* is the number of conjuncts in the antecedent of the axiom, and $number(\alpha)$ is the number of occurrences of α in $\{R_1, \ldots, R_n\}$. It is worth noting that $number(\alpha)$ is a meta-language notation, not in $L(LEWI)$.

PL A finite sound and complete axiomatisation of classical propositional logic

Axiom $1 \neg p W(a, a)$ **Axiom 2** $\neg pE(a, a)$ **Axiom 3** $W(a, b) \leftrightarrow E(b, a)$ **Axiom 4** $dW(a, b) \leftrightarrow dE(b, a)$ **Axiom 5** $W(a, b) \rightarrow pW(a, b)$ **Axiom 6** $E(a, b) \rightarrow pE(a, b)$ **Axiom 7** $dW(a, b) \rightarrow pdW(a, b)$ **Axiom 8** $dE(a, b) \rightarrow pdE(a, b)$ **Axiom 9** $pdW(a, b) \rightarrow pW(a, b)$ **Axiom 10** $pdE(a, b) \rightarrow pE(a, b)$ **AS 11** For all $n \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$, if for every *i* in $\{1, \ldots, n\}$, R_i is in $\{W, dW, \neg E, \neg dE, pW, pdW, \neg pE,$ $\neg p dE, p E i, p d E i, \neg p W i, \neg p d W i$, and for every R_i in $\{\neg p E, \neg p d E, p E i, p d E i, \neg E, \neg d E\}$, R_{i+1} is in $\{\neg pE, \neg pdE, pE_i, pdE_i, W, dW\}$ with $R_{n+1} =_{def} R_1$, and $number(W)$ + $number(pW) + number(pEi) + \tau * (number(dW) + number(pdW) + number(pdEi)) \ge$ $number(\neg E) + number(\neg pE) + number(\neg pWi) + \tau * (number(\neg dE) + number(\neg pdE) +$ $number(\neg pdWi)$, then $R_1(a_0, a_1) \wedge \cdots \wedge R_n(a_{n-1}, a_0) \rightarrow \bot$ is an axiom. **MP** Modus ponens: ϕ , $\phi \rightarrow \psi + \psi$

The notion of τ -derivability $\Gamma \vdash_{LEWI^{\tau}} \phi$ in the $LEWI^{\tau}$ calculus is standard. A formula $ϕ$ in *L*(*LEWI*) is called *τ*-derivable if \vdash _{*LEWI^{<i>τ*}} $ϕ$. Γ is said to be *τ*-inconsistent if for some</sub> formula *ϕ*, both *ϕ* and ¬*ϕ* are *τ* -derivable (otherwise, it is said to be *τ* -consistent).

In AS 11, for every *i* in $\{1, \ldots, n\}$, by Definition [3,](#page-2-1) the truth condition of $W(a_{i-1}, a_i)$ or $dW(a_{i-1}, a_i)$ is an inequality between $\overline{a_{i-1}}$ and $\overline{a_i}$, the truth condition of $\neg E(a_{i-1}, a_i)$ or $\neg dE(a_{i-1}, a_i)$ is an inequality between a_{i-1} and $\overline{a_i}$, the truth condition of $pW(a_{i-1}, a_i)$, $p dW(a_{i-1}, a_i)$, $\neg p Wi(a_{i-1}, a_i)$, or $\neg p dWi(a_{i-1}, a_i)$ is an inequality between a_{i-1} and a_i , the truth condition of $pEi(a_{i-1},a_i)$, $pdEi(a_{i-1},a_i)$, $\neg pE(a_{i-1},a_i)$, $\neg pdE(a_{i-1},a_i)$ is an inequality between $\overline{a_{i-1}}$ and $\overline{a_i}$, where $a_n = a_0$. In addition, for every *i* in 1, ..., *n*, by Definition [2,](#page-1-2) an inequality exists between a_i and $\overline{a_i}$ (i.e., $a_i - \overline{a_i} \leq 0$). For every $R_i \in$ ${\lbrace \neg pE, \neg pE, pEi, pEi, \neg E, \neg dE \rbrace}$, the truth condition of $R_i(a_{i-1}, a_i)$ is an inequality with $\overline{a_i}$ as its second variable, hence, AS 11 requires that R_{i+1} is in $\{\neg pE, \neg pdE, pEi, pdEi, W, dW\}$ so that the truth condition of $R_{i+1}(a_i, a_{i+1})$ is an inequality with $\overline{a_i}$ as its first variable.

For every $\tau \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$, according to AS 11, if each of the relations pW, dW , $\neg p dE$, and $\neg pWi$ presents exactly once, then $pW(a_0, a_1) \wedge \neg p dE(a_1, a_2) \wedge dW(a_2, a_3) \wedge \neg p W i(a_3, a_0) \rightarrow \bot$ is an axiom, as shown in Figure [3.](#page-4-1)

Z. Li, A. Farjudian, and H. Du 17:5

Notably, $pW(a_0, a_1) \wedge \neg p \in (a_1, a_2) \wedge dW(a_2, a_3) \wedge \neg p \in (a_3, a_0) \rightarrow \bot$ is not an axiom in AS 11, since the relation after $\neg pE$ is pW that is not in $\{\neg pE, \neg pdE, pE_i, pdE_i, W, dW\}$, as shown in Figure [4.](#page-4-1)

Figure 3 an example axiom in AS 11.

Figure 4 a counterexample of AS 11.

4 Soundness and Completeness

In this section, we prove that the $LEWI^{\tau}$ calculus is sound and complete, i.e., every derivable formula is valid and every valid formula is derivable:

Theorem 5. For every $\tau \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$, the LEWI^{τ} calculus is sound and complete for 1D *Euclidean τ -models.*

Soundness. For all $\tau \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$, to prove the soundness of the *LEWI*^{τ} calculus, we show that every τ -derivable formula ϕ in $L(LEWI)$ is τ -valid. This can be carried out by a straightforward induction on the length of the derivation of *ϕ*. By Definition [3,](#page-2-1) every axiom is *τ* -valid; and modus ponens preserves validity.

Completeness. For the rest of this section, we focus on the proof of completeness. As is common in mathematical logic (see also [\[5,](#page-7-3) Section 4.2]) we prove the following equivalent statement: *for every* $\tau \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$, *if a finite set of* $L(LEWI)$ *formulae* Σ *is* τ -consistent, then *there is a 1D Euclidean τ -model satisfying it*. For the proof, we use some basic concepts from graph theory and linear inequalities.

We represent a graph *G* by the pair (V, E) , in which *V* and *E* denote the sets of vertices and edges, respectively. We consider *basic* linear inequalities, i.e., those that take the form $x - y \leq c$ or $x - y < c$, where *x* and *y* are variables, and *c* is a real number constant. For a set *S* of basic linear inequalities, we construct a graph $G = (V, E)$, in which *V* is the set of variables appearing in *S*, and for each basic inequality $(x - y) \sim c$ in *S*, we add to *E* an edge from *x* to *y* and label it with the inequality $(x - y) \sim c$, where \sim is \lt or \leq . A path $P = v_1, \ldots, v_n$ through *G* is said to be a loop (or cycle) if $v_1 = v_n$. A loop is called simple if its intermediate vertices are all distinct.

 \triangleright **Definition 6** (infeasible loop). Assume that $P = v_1, \ldots, v_n$ is a simple loop, in which for all $1 \leq i \leq n$, $(v_i - v_{i+1}) \sim c_i$, $(v_n - v_1) \sim c_n$, where $\sim is \leq or \leq$, and c_1, \ldots, c_n are real *numbers.* If every ∼ *is* \leq , then P *is said to be infeasible iff* ($\sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} c_i$) < 0*; otherwise*, P *is called infeasible iff* $(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} c_i) \leq 0$.

 \triangleright **Theorem 7** ([\[5,](#page-7-3) [8\]](#page-7-11)). Let G be the graph constructed for a set S of linear inequalities of the *form* $(x - y) \sim c$ *, where x, y* are real variables, $\sim is \leq or <$, and *c is a real number. Then, S is satisfiable iff G has no infeasible simple loop.*

 \triangleright **Definition 8** (τ - σ -translation). The " τ - σ -translation" function $tr(\tau, \sigma)$ is defined as follows:

- $= tr(\tau, \sigma)(W(a, b)) = (\overline{a} \underline{b} < -\sigma);$
- $tr(\tau, \sigma)(E(a, b)) = (\overline{b} a < -\sigma);$
- $= tr(\tau, \sigma)(dW(a, b)) = (\overline{a} \underline{b} < -\tau\sigma);$ $tr(\tau, \sigma)(dE(a, b)) = (\overline{b} - \underline{a} < -\tau\sigma);$
- $tr(\tau, \sigma)(pW(a, b)) = (a b < -\sigma);$
- $tr(\tau, \sigma)(pE(a, b)) = (\overline{b} \overline{a} < -\sigma);$
- $tr(\tau, \sigma)(pdW(a, b)) = (a b < -\tau\sigma);$
- $tr(\tau, \sigma)(pdE(a, b)) = (\overline{b} \overline{a} < -\tau\sigma);$
- $tr(\tau, \sigma)(\neg \phi) = \neg(tr(\tau, \sigma)(\phi))$, where $\neg(z_1 z_2 < c) = (z_2 z_1 < -c)$.

Now, we present the proof of completeness of $LEWI^{\tau}$ for every $\tau \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$.

Proof (Theorem [5\)](#page-4-2). Take an arbitrary $\tau \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$. Suppose a finite set of $L(LEWI)$ formulae Σ is *τ*-consistent. Let *names*(Σ) be the set of individual names that appear in Σ . We rewrite the set Σ as a formula ϕ that is the conjunction of all the formulae in Σ . We rewrite ϕ in disjunctive normal form $\phi_1 \vee \cdots \vee \phi_m$, where $m > 0$ and every literal is of one of the forms: *W*(*a, b*), *E*(*a, b*), *dW*(*a, b*), *dE*(*a, b*), *pW*(*a, b*), *pE*(*a, b*), *pdW*(*a, b*), *pdE*(*a, b*), and their negations. To show that there is a 1D Euclidean τ -model satisfying Σ , it is sufficient to show that there exists a disjunct ϕ_i which is τ -satisfiable.

We prove this by contradiction. Suppose that every disjunct ϕ_i is not τ -satisfiable. Take an arbitrary disjunct ϕ_i . We obtain a set of inequalities S_i by translating every literal in a disjunct ϕ_i according to Definition [8](#page-4-3) and adding $\underline{a} - \overline{a} \leq 0$ for every individual name *a* in *names*(Σ). The inequalities in S_i are of the form $(x_a - x_b) \sim c$, where x_a and x_b are real variables, \sim is \leq or \lt , and *c* is a real number. By Theorem [7,](#page-4-4) the formula ϕ_i is not *τ*-satisfiable iff the graph G_i of S_i has an infeasible simple loop *P*. By Definitions [6,](#page-4-5) the sum of the constants around *P* is no greater than zero. There are two cases, as discussed below.

Case 1. The loop *P* contains vertices from at least two distinct individual names. Let us assume that *P* is over a sequence of vertices $v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_{m-1}$, and the linear inequalities in *P* are of the form $(v_0 - v_1) \sim c_1$, $(v_1 - v_2) \sim c_2$, \dots , $(v_{m-1} - v_0) \sim c_m$, where *m* is the length of the loop satisfying $m > 1$ and \sim is \leq or \lt .

By Definition [8,](#page-4-3) each linear inequality in *P* is of one of the following forms: $\bar{a} - \bar{b} < -\sigma$ (from the form $W(a, b)$ or $E(b, a)$), $\overline{a} - \underline{b} < -\tau \sigma$ (from the form $dW(a, b)$ or $dE(b, a)$), *a* − \bar{b} ≤ *σ* (from the form $\neg E(a, b)$ or $\neg W(b, a)$), $\underline{a} - \bar{b}$ ≤ $\tau \sigma$ (from the form $\neg dE(a, b)$ or $\neg dW(b, a)$, $\underline{a} - \underline{b} < -\sigma$ (from the form $pW(a, b)$), $\underline{a} - \underline{b} < -\tau\sigma$ (from the form $pdW(a, b)$), $\underline{a} - \underline{b} \leq \sigma$ (from the form $\neg pW(b, a)$), $\underline{a} - \underline{b} \leq \tau \sigma$ (from the form $\neg pdW(b, a)$), $\overline{a} - \overline{b} \leq \sigma$ (from the form $\neg pE(a, b)$), $\overline{a} - \overline{b} \leq \tau \sigma$ (from the form $\neg p dE(a, b)$), $\overline{a} - \overline{b} \leq -\sigma$ (from the form $pE(b, a)$, $\overline{a} - \overline{b} < -\tau\sigma$ (from the form $pdE(b, a)$) and $\underline{a} - \overline{a} \leq 0$.

We translate the linear inequalities in P back to formulae as follows. We translate every linear inequality of the form $\overline{a} - \underline{b} < -\sigma$ to $W(a, b)$; every $\overline{a} - \underline{b} < -\tau\sigma$ to $dW(a, b)$; every *a* − \bar{b} ≤ *σ* to $\neg E(a, b)$; every $\underline{a} - \overline{b}$ ≤ $\tau \sigma$ to $\neg dE(a, b)$; every $\underline{a} - \underline{b}$ < $-\sigma$ to $pW(a, b)$; every $\underline{a} - \underline{b} < -\tau\sigma$ to $pdW(a, b)$; every $\underline{a} - \underline{b} \leq \sigma$ to $\neg pWi(a, b)$; every $\underline{a} - \underline{b} \leq \tau\sigma$ to $\neg pdWi(a, b)$; every $\overline{a} - \overline{b} \leq \sigma$ to $\neg pE(a, b)$; every $\overline{a} - \overline{b} \leq \tau \sigma$ to $\neg p dE(a, b)$; every $\overline{a} - \overline{b} \leq -\sigma$ to $p E i(a, b)$; and every $\bar{a} - \bar{b} < -\tau\sigma$ to $pdEi(a, b)$. Only the form $\underline{a} - \bar{a} \leq 0$ does not get translated.

In this way, from *P* we obtain a sequence of formulae of the form $R_1(a_0, a_1), \ldots$ $R_n(a_{n-1}, a_0)$, where *n* is the number of distinct individual names involved in *P*. For every integer i such that $1 \leq i \leq n$, R_i is one of W, $dW, \neg E, \neg dE, pW, pdW, \neg pE, \neg pdE, pEi, pdEi$, $\neg pWi$, $\neg pdWi$, and if R_i is in $\{\neg pE, \neg pdE, pEi, pdEi, \neg E, \neg dE\}$, it must be translated from

Z. Li, A. Farjudian, and H. Du 17:7

the form $(\overline{u}-\overline{v}) \sim c_1$ or $(u-\overline{v}) \sim c_1$. Thus, R_{i+1} must be translated from the form $(\overline{v}-\overline{w}) \sim c_2$ or $(\overline{v} - \underline{w}) \sim c_2$, where $R_{n+1} =_{def} R_1$, \sim is \leq or \lt , and c_1 , c_2 are in $\{-\sigma, \sigma, -\tau\sigma, \tau\sigma\}$. Therefore, R_{i+1} is in $\{\neg pE, \neg pdE, pE_i, pdE_i, W, dW\}$. Since the sum of the constants around *P* is non-positive, we have $number(W) + number(pW) + number(pE_i) + \tau * (number(dW) +$ $number(pdW) + number(pdE_i) \geq number(\neg E) + number(\neg pE) + number(\neg pW_i) + \tau *$ $(number(\neg dE) + number(\neg p dE) + number(\neg p dWi)$. By AS 11, we have $R_1(a_0, a_1) \wedge \cdots \wedge R_n$ $R_n(a_{n-1}, a_0) \rightarrow \perp$.

By Definition [8](#page-4-3) and Definition [4,](#page-2-2) for every occurrence of $W(a, b)$ in $R_1(a_0, a_1) \wedge \cdots \wedge$ $R_n(a_{n-1}, a_0)$, the formula $W(a, b)$ or $E(b, a)$ is a conjunct in ϕ_i ; for every occurrence of $dW(a, b)$, the formula $dW(a, b)$ or $dE(b, a)$ is a conjunct in ϕ_i ; for every occurrence of $\neg E(a, b)$, the formula $\neg E(a, b)$ or $\neg W(b, a)$ is a conjunct in ϕ_i ; for every occurrence of $\neg dE(a, b)$, the formula $\neg dE(a, b)$ or $\neg dW(b, a)$ is a conjunct in ϕ_i ; for every occurrence of $pW(a, b)$, the formula $pW(a, b)$ is a conjunct in ϕ_i ; for every occurrence of $pdW(a, b)$, the formula $pdW(a, b)$ is a conjunct in ϕ_i ; for every occurrence of $\neg pE(a, b)$, the formula $\neg pE(a, b)$ is a conjunct in ϕ_i ; for every occurrence of $\neg p dE(a, b)$, the formula $\neg p dE(a, b)$ is a conjunct in ϕ_i ; for every occurrence of $pE_i(a, b)$, the formula $pE(b, a)$ is a conjunct in ϕ_i ; for every occurrence of $pdEi(a, b)$, the formula $pdE(b, a)$ is a conjunct in ϕ_i ; for every occurrence of $\neg pWi(a, b)$, the formula $\neg pW(b, a)$ is a conjunct in ϕ_i ; for every occurrence of $\neg pdWi(a, b)$, the formula $\neg pdW(b, a)$ is a conjunct in ϕ_i . By Axiom 3, we have $W(a, b) \leftrightarrow E(b, a)$. By Axiom 4, we have $dW(a, b) \leftrightarrow dE(b, a)$. Therefore, \perp is τ -derivable from ϕ_i .

Case 2. The vertices in *P* are only from one individual name. Then there are at most two vertices in *P*. If there is only one vertex in *P*, as *P* is a simple infeasible loop, by Definition [8,](#page-4-3) the only one linear inequality in *P* is of one of the following forms: $a - a < -\sigma$ which is translated from $pW(a, a)$, $a - a < -\tau\sigma$ which is translated from $p dW(a, a)$, $\overline{a} - \overline{a} < -\sigma$ which is translated from $pE(a, a)$, and $\overline{a} - \overline{a} < -\tau\sigma$ which is translated from $p dE(a, a)$. By Axiom 1, Axioms 1 and 9, Axiom 2, Axioms 2 and 10, respectively, ⊥ is *τ* -derivable.

If there are two vertices in the loop *P*, as *P* is simple, there are two linear inequalities of the form $(\bar{a} - \bar{a}) \sim c_1$ and $(\bar{a} - \bar{a}) \sim c_2$ in *P*, where \sim is \leq or \lt . By Definition [8,](#page-4-3) the linear inequality of the first form should be of one of the two possible forms: $\bar{a} - a < -\sigma$ which is translated from $W(a, a)$ or $E(a, a)$, or $\overline{a} - a < -\tau\sigma$ which is translated from $dW(a, a)$ or *dE*(*a, a*). By Axioms 5 and 1, Axioms 6 and 2, Axioms 7, 9 and 1, Axioms 8, 10 and 2, respectively, \perp is τ -derivable.

Therefore, in each case, \perp is τ -derivable from ϕ_i for arbitrary *i*, hence from ϕ . A contradiction.

By Theorem [5,](#page-4-2) in *L*(*LEWI*), for every $τ ∈ ℕ_{>1}$, a formula is $τ$ -satisfiable iff it is $τ$ consistent. Therefore, a satisfiability checking procedure can check the consistency of a finite set of $L(LEWI)$ formulae. Given a finite set of $L(LEWI)$ formulae Σ , we rewrite Σ in disjunctive normal form $\phi_1 \vee \cdots \vee \phi_m$, where $m \geq 1$ and every literal is of one of the following forms: *E*(*a, b*), *W*(*a, b*), *dE*(*a, b*), *dW*(*a, b*), *pE*(*a, b*), *pW*(*a, b*), *pdE*(*a, b*), *pdW*(*a, b*), and their negations. As such, Σ is τ -satisfiable iff there exists a disjunct ϕ_i , where $1 \leq i \leq m$, such that ϕ_i is τ -satisfiable. From each ϕ_i , where $1 \leq i \leq m$, we obtain a set of linear inequalities S_i by translating every literal in ϕ_i using the τ -*σ*-translation function $tr(\tau, \sigma)$ of Definition [8.](#page-4-3) By Definition [3,](#page-2-1) ϕ_i is τ -satisfiable iff S_i is satisfiable, i.e., iff S_i has a solution in real numbers. Hence, Σ is τ -satisfiable iff S_i is satisfiable, for some $1 \leq i \leq m$. Some solvers (e.g., Z3 satisfiability modulo theories solver [\[3\]](#page-7-12)) can be used to check the satisfiability of each *Sⁱ* .

17:8 A Logic of East and West for Intervals

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we have extended the logic of east and west for points (*LEW*) to a logic of east and west for closed intervals (*LEWI*) in 1D Euclidean space. The logic *LEWI* contains a parameter $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ that represents the margin of error and a parameter $\tau \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$ that denotes the level of indeterminacy. For every $\tau \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$, the $LEWI^{\tau}$ calculus is shown to be sound and complete. As future work, we will develop a reasoner based on *LEWI* and apply it to reason with real-world geospatial datasets.

References

- **1** James F. Allen. Maintaining Knowledge about Temporal Intervals. *Communications of the ACM*, 26(11):832–843, 1983. [doi:10.1145/182.358434](https://doi.org/10.1145/182.358434).
- **2** Philippe Balbiani, Jean-François Condotta, and Luis Fariñas del Cerro. A Model for Reasoning about Bidimensional Temporal Relations. In *Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning (KR)*, pages 124–130, 1998.
- **3** Nikolaj S. Bjørner, Clemens Eisenhofer, and Laura Kovács. Satisfiability modulo custom theories in Z3. In *Proceedings of the 24th International Conference on Verification, Model Checking, and Abstract Interpretation (VMCAI)*, volume 13881 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pages 91–105. Springer, 2023.
- **4** Ronald J. Brachman and Hector J. Levesque. *Knowledge Representation and Reasoning*. Elsevier, 2004.
- **5** Heshan Du, Natasha Alechina, Amin Farjudian, Brian Logan, Can Zhou, and Anthony G Cohn. A logic of east and west. *Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research*, 76:527–565, 2023.
- **6** Jérôme Euzenat and Pavel Shvaiko. *Ontology Matching, Second Edition*. Springer, 2013.
- **7** Nikolaos Karalis, Georgios M. Mandilaras, and Manolis Koubarakis. Extending the YAGO2 knowledge graph with precise geospatial knowledge. In *Proceedings of the 18th International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC)*, volume 11779 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pages 181–197. Springer, 2019.
- **8** Robert E. Shostak. Deciding Linear Inequalities by Computing Loop Residues. *Journal of the ACM*, 28(4):769–779, 1981.
- **9** Spiros Skiadopoulos and Manolis Koubarakis. Composing cardinal direction relations. *Artificial Intelligence*, 152(2):143–171, 2004.
- **10** Spiros Skiadopoulos and Manolis Koubarakis. On the consistency of cardinal direction constraints. *Artificial Intelligence*, 163(1):91–135, 2005.
- **11** Nicolas Tempelmeier and Elena Demidova. Linking openstreetmap with knowledge graphs link discovery for schema-agnostic volunteered geographic information. *Future Gener. Comput. Syst.*, 116:349–364, 2021.
- **12** Marc B. Vilain and Henry A. Kautz. Constraint Propagation Algorithms for Temporal Reasoning. In *Proceedings of the 5th National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, pages 377–382, 1986.