



Figure 1: A simple model.

nml:syn:rel:
fig:simple

syn.1 Relational Models

nml:syn:rel:
sec

The basic concept of semantics for normal modal logics is that of a *relational model*. It consists of a set of worlds, which are related by a binary “accessibility relation,” together with an assignment which determines which **propositional variables** count as “true” at which worlds.

Definition syn.1. A *model* for the basic modal language is a triple $\mathfrak{M} = \langle W, R, V \rangle$, where

1. W is a nonempty set of “worlds,”
2. R is a binary accessibility relation on W , and
3. V is a function assigning to each **propositional variable** p a set $V(p)$ of possible worlds.

When Rww' holds, we say that w' is *accessible from* w . When $w \in V(p)$ we say p is *true at* w .

The great advantage of relational semantics is that models can be represented by means of simple diagrams, such as the one in **Figure 1**. Worlds are represented by nodes, and world w' is accessible from w precisely when there is an arrow from w to w' . Moreover, we label a node (world) by p when $w \in V(p)$, and otherwise by $\neg p$. **Figure 1** represents the model with $W = \{w_1, w_2, w_3\}$, $R = \{\langle w_1, w_2 \rangle, \langle w_1, w_3 \rangle\}$, $V(p) = \{w_1, w_2\}$, and $V(q) = \{w_2\}$.

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Bibliography