



# Strukturalna poprawność argumentu.

**Marcin Selinger**

Uniwersytet Wrocławski

Katedra Logiki i Metodologii Nauk

[marcisel@uni.wroc.pl](mailto:marcisel@uni.wroc.pl)



## **Table of contents:**

1. Definition of argument and further notions.
2. Operations on arguments.
3. Structural correctness of arguments.



# 1. Definition of argument and further notions.

## References:

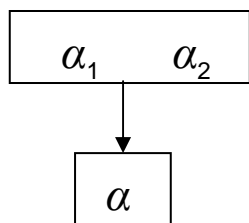
[1973] S. N. Thomas (second edition, 1986),  
*Practical reasoning in natural language.*

[2001] K. Szymanek,  
*Sztuka argumentacji. Słownik terminologiczny.*

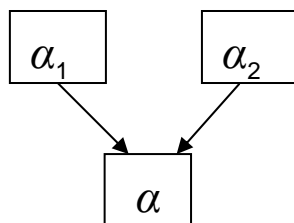
[2003] K. Szymanek, K. A. Wieczorek, A. Wójcik,  
*Sztuka argumentacji. Ćwiczenia w badaniu argumentów.*

[2006] M. Tokarz, *Argumentacja, perswazja, manipulacja.*

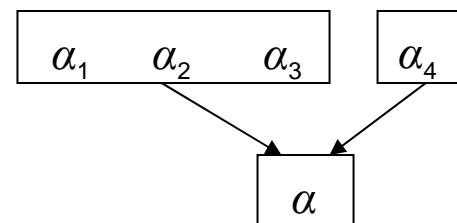
- Argument = konkluzja + przesłanki.
- Przesłanki mogą wspierać konkluzję:



- łącznie  
(zespolowo,  
szeregowo)

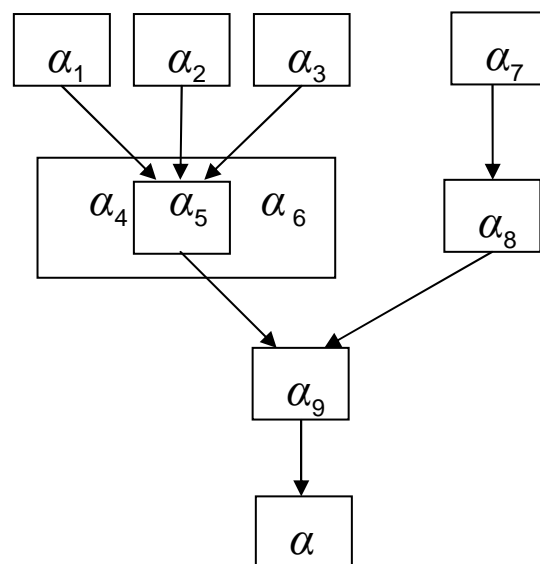


- rozłącznie  
(rozdzielnie,  
równolegle)



- w sposób  
mieszany

- Czasami przesłanki wspierają inne przesłanki:



- Let  $\mathbf{S}$  be a set of sentences of a given language.
- Let  $\mathbf{A} = \langle A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n_{\mathbf{A}}} \rangle$  be a finite sequence of non-empty, finite relations defined on the set  $P_{\text{fin}}(\mathbf{S}) \times \mathbf{S}$ .

Thus  $A_m = \{ \langle P_m^1, \alpha_m^1 \rangle, \langle P_m^2, \alpha_m^2 \rangle, \dots, \langle P_m^{i_m}, \alpha_m^{i_m} \rangle \}$  for  $m \leq n_{\mathbf{A}}$ .

### Def. 1.

$\mathbf{A}$  is *an argument* iff the following conditions hold:

- (i)  $\alpha_1^1 = \alpha_1^2 = \dots = \alpha_1^{i_1}$  (i.e. for  $m = 1$ );
- (ii)  $\forall j \leq i_m \exists k \alpha_m^j \in P_{m-1}^k$  for  $2 \leq m \leq n_{\mathbf{A}}$ .

## Further definitions.

- Assume that  $\mathbf{A} = \langle A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n_A} \rangle$  is an argument.

### Def. 2.

**The final conclusion** of  $\mathbf{A}$  is the sentence:

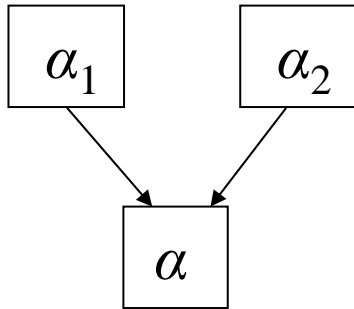
$$\alpha_1^1 = \alpha_1^2 = \dots = \alpha_1^{i_1}$$

### Def. 3.

A sentence is **a premise** of  $\mathbf{A}$  iff it is an element of a set belonging to the domain of some of relations:

$$A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n_A}.$$

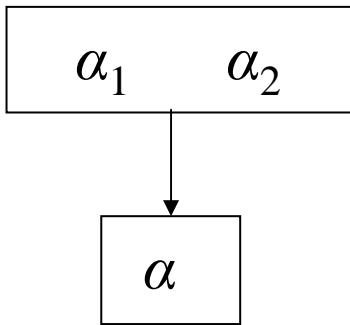
# Examples



$\langle \{ \langle \{ \alpha_1 \}, \alpha \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_2 \}, \alpha \rangle \} \rangle$

**convergent argument**

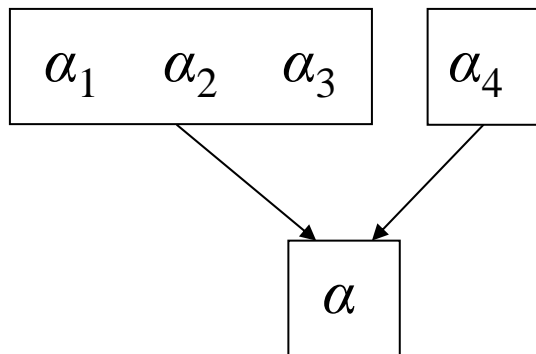
---



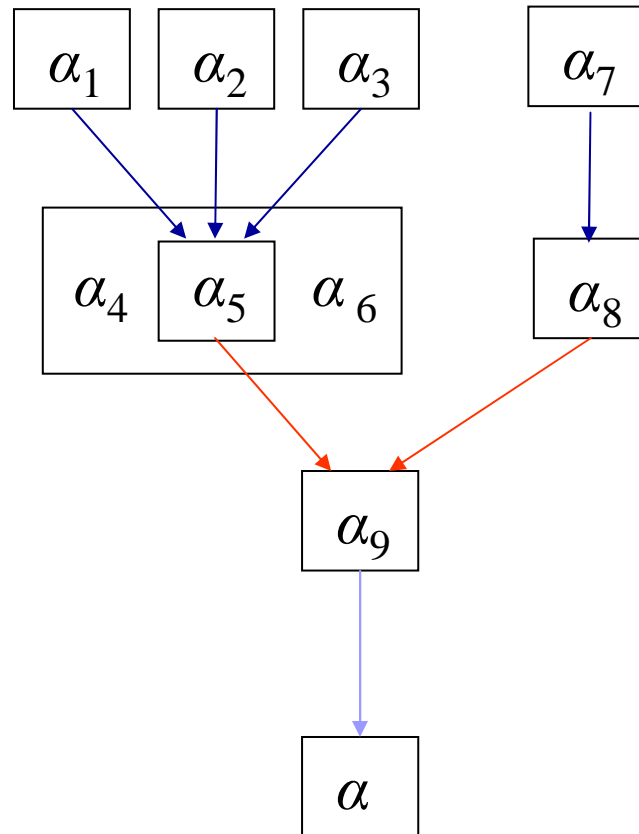
$\langle \{ \langle \{ \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \}, \alpha \rangle \} \rangle$

**linked argument**

---

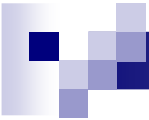


$\langle \{ \langle \{ \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3 \}, \alpha \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_4 \}, \alpha \rangle \} \rangle$



$\langle \langle \{ \alpha_9 \}, \alpha \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_6 \}, \alpha_9 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_8 \}, \alpha_9 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_1 \}, \alpha_5 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_2 \}, \alpha_5 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_3 \}, \alpha_5 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_7 \}, \alpha_8 \rangle \rangle \rangle$ .




$$\mathbf{A} = \langle A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n_A} \rangle$$

---

**Def. 4.**

***The final argument*** of  $\mathbf{A}$  is the one-element sequence  $\langle A_1 \rangle$ .

**Def. 5.**

***The m-th level*** of  $\mathbf{A}$  is the relation  $A_m$  (for  $m \leq n_A$ ).

**Def. 6.**

An argument  $\langle \{ \langle P, \beta \rangle \} \rangle$  is ***an atomic argument*** of  $\mathbf{A}$  iff there exists  $m \leq n_A$  such that  $\langle P, \beta \rangle \in A_m$ .



**Def. 7.**

An argument is ***direct*** iff  
it consists of one level only.

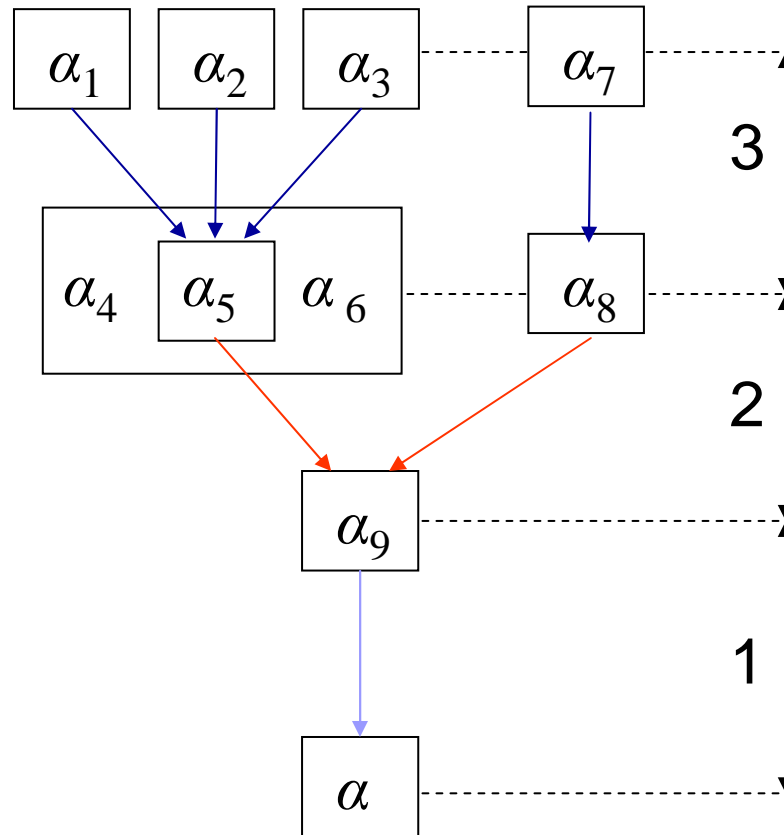
**Def. 8.**

A sentence is ***an intermediate conclusion*** of  $\mathbf{A}$  iff  
it belongs to the counterdomain of some of its levels,  
which are higher than 1.

**Def. 9.**

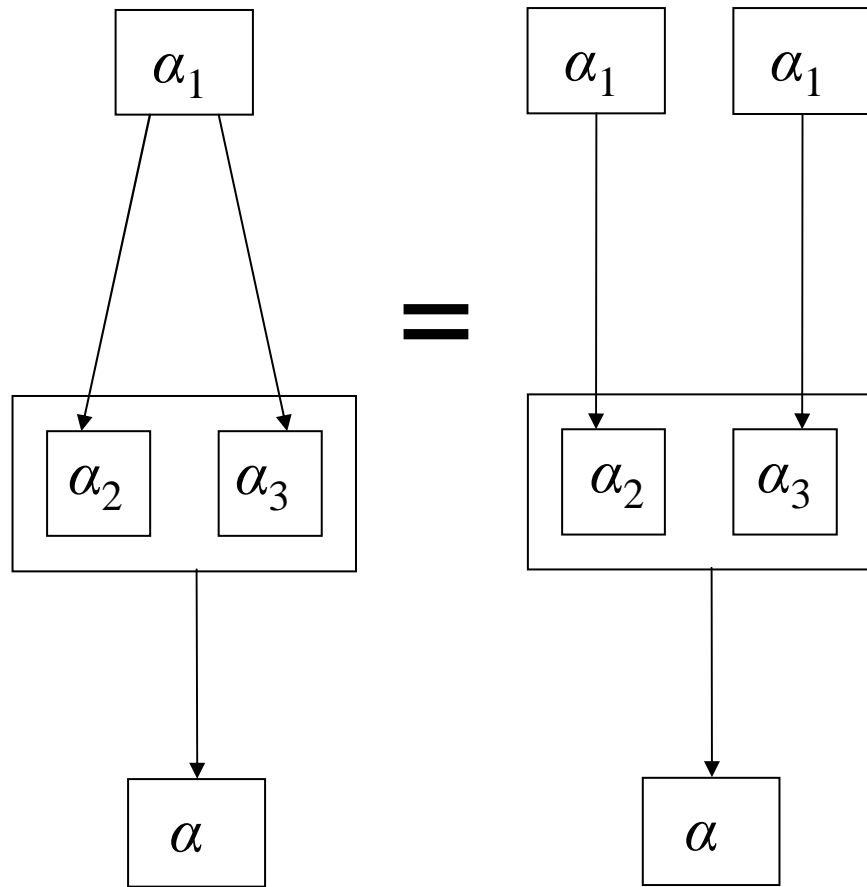
A sentence is ***a first premise*** of  $\mathbf{A}$  iff  
— it belongs to an element of the domain of  $A_{n_{\mathbf{A}}}$ .  
or  
— it belongs to an element of the domain of  $A_m$  (for  $m < n_{\mathbf{A}}$ ),  
but it does not belong to the counterdomain of  $A_{m+1}$ .

# Examples

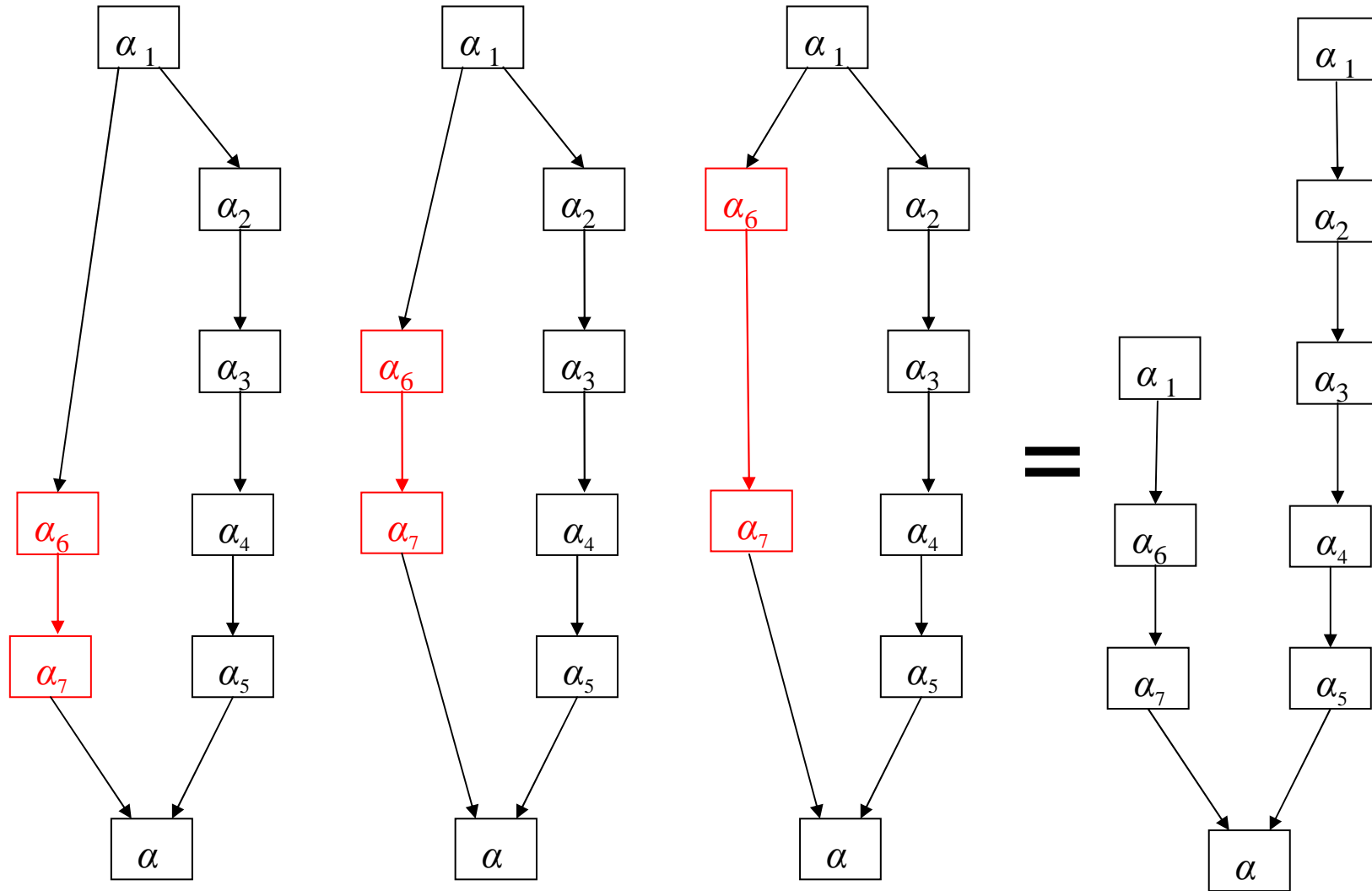
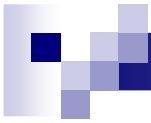


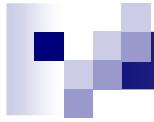
- final argument
- level of argument
- atomic argument
- direct argument
- intermediate conclusion
- first premise

$\langle \langle \{ \alpha_9 \}, \alpha \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_6 \}, \alpha_9 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_8 \}, \alpha_9 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_1 \}, \alpha_5 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_2 \}, \alpha_5 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_3 \}, \alpha_5 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_7 \}, \alpha_8 \rangle \rangle \rangle$ .



$\langle \{ \langle \{ \alpha_2, \alpha_3 \}, \alpha \rangle \}, \{ \langle \{ \alpha_1 \}, \alpha_2 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_1 \}, \alpha_3 \rangle \} \rangle$





## Def. 10

***The domain*** of  $\mathbf{A}$  is the set of all the premises of  $\mathbf{A}$ .

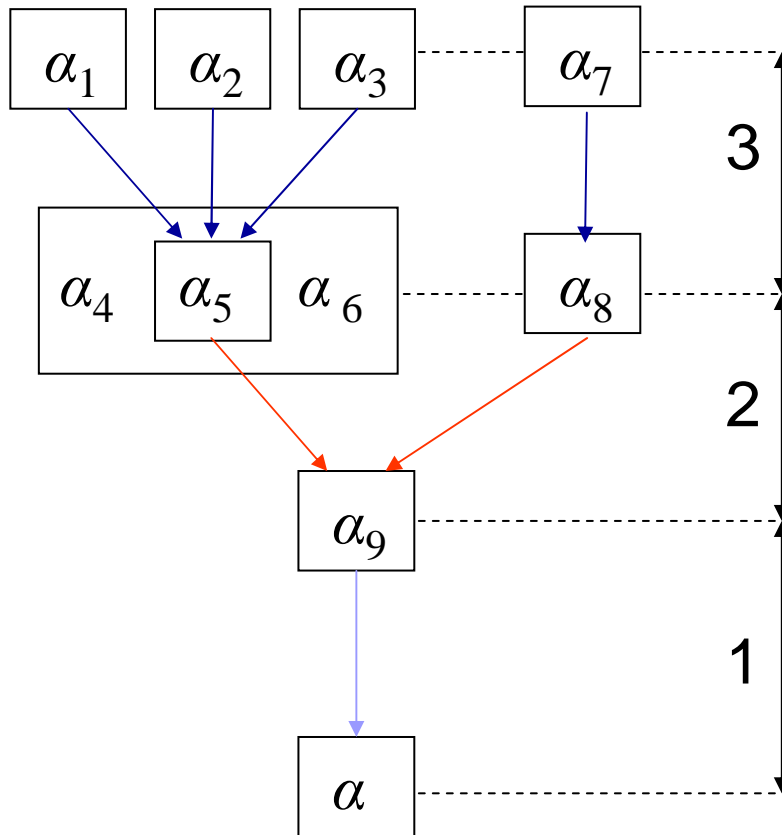
## Def. 11

***The counterdomain*** of  $\mathbf{A}$  is the set of all the conclusions of  $\mathbf{A}$ .  
*i.e.* the set of intermediate conclusions  $\cup$  {final conclusion}

## Def. 12

***The range*** of  $\mathbf{A}$  is the sum of the domain and counterdomain of  $\mathbf{A}$ .

# Example



Domain:

$\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_6, \alpha_7, \alpha_8, \alpha_9\}$

Counterdomain:

$\{\alpha, \alpha_5, \alpha_8, \alpha_9\}$

Range:

$\{\alpha, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_6, \alpha_7, \alpha_8, \alpha_9\}$

$\langle \langle \{ \alpha_9 \}, \alpha \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_6 \}, \alpha_9 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_8 \}, \alpha_9 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_1 \}, \alpha_5 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_2 \}, \alpha_5 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_3 \}, \alpha_5 \rangle, \langle \{ \alpha_7 \}, \alpha_8 \rangle \rangle \rangle.$



### Def. 13

A sentence  $\delta$  **directly supports** a sentence  $\delta'$  **in  $\mathbf{A}$**  iff there exists an atomic argument of  $\mathbf{A}$ , such that  $\delta'$  belongs to its domain, and  $\delta$  belongs to its counterdomain.

### Def. 14

A sentence  $\delta_n$  **indirectly supports** a sentence  $\delta_1$  **in  $\mathbf{A}$**  iff there exists a sequence of sentences  $\langle \delta_1, \delta_2, \dots, \delta_n \rangle$ , where  $n \geq 3$ , such that each of its elements (except for  $\delta_1$ ) directly supports (in  $\mathbf{A}$ ) the preceding element.

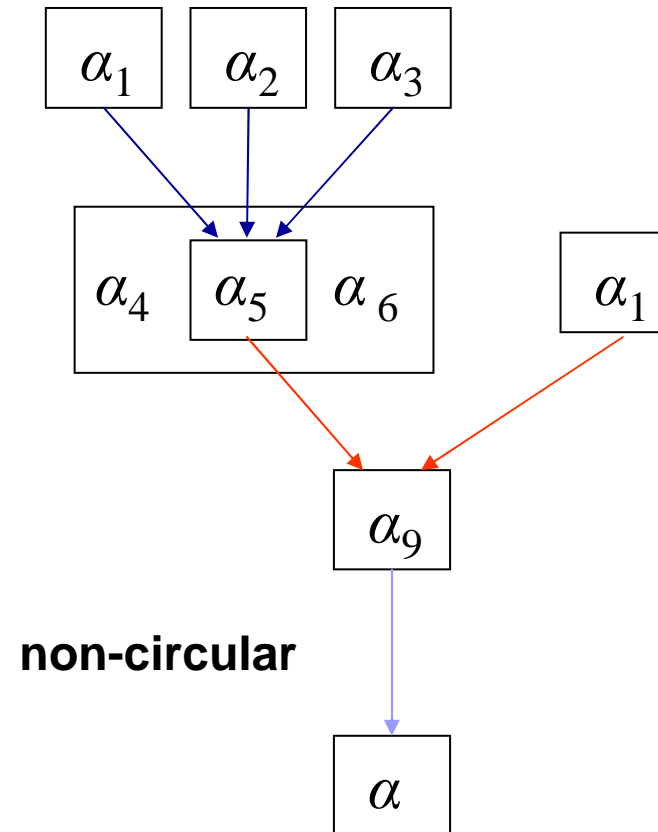
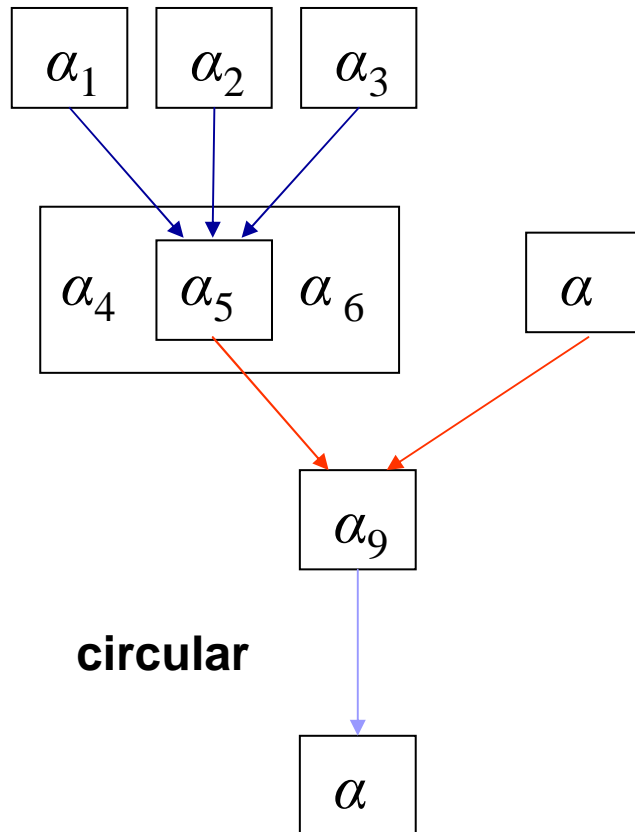
### Def. 15

A sentence  $\delta$  **supports** a sentence  $\delta'$  **in  $\mathbf{A}$**  iff  $\delta$  directly or indirectly supports  $\delta'$  in  $\mathbf{A}$ .



## Def. 16

An argument is ***circular*** iff its range contains a sentence, which supports itself (in this argument).



- Assume that  $\mathbf{A} = \langle A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n_A} \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{B} = \langle B_1, B_2, \dots, B_{n_B} \rangle$  are arguments.

**Def. 17** ( $\mathbf{B} \subseteq \mathbf{A}$ )

$\mathbf{B}$  is a *subargument* of  $\mathbf{A}$  iff the following conditions hold:

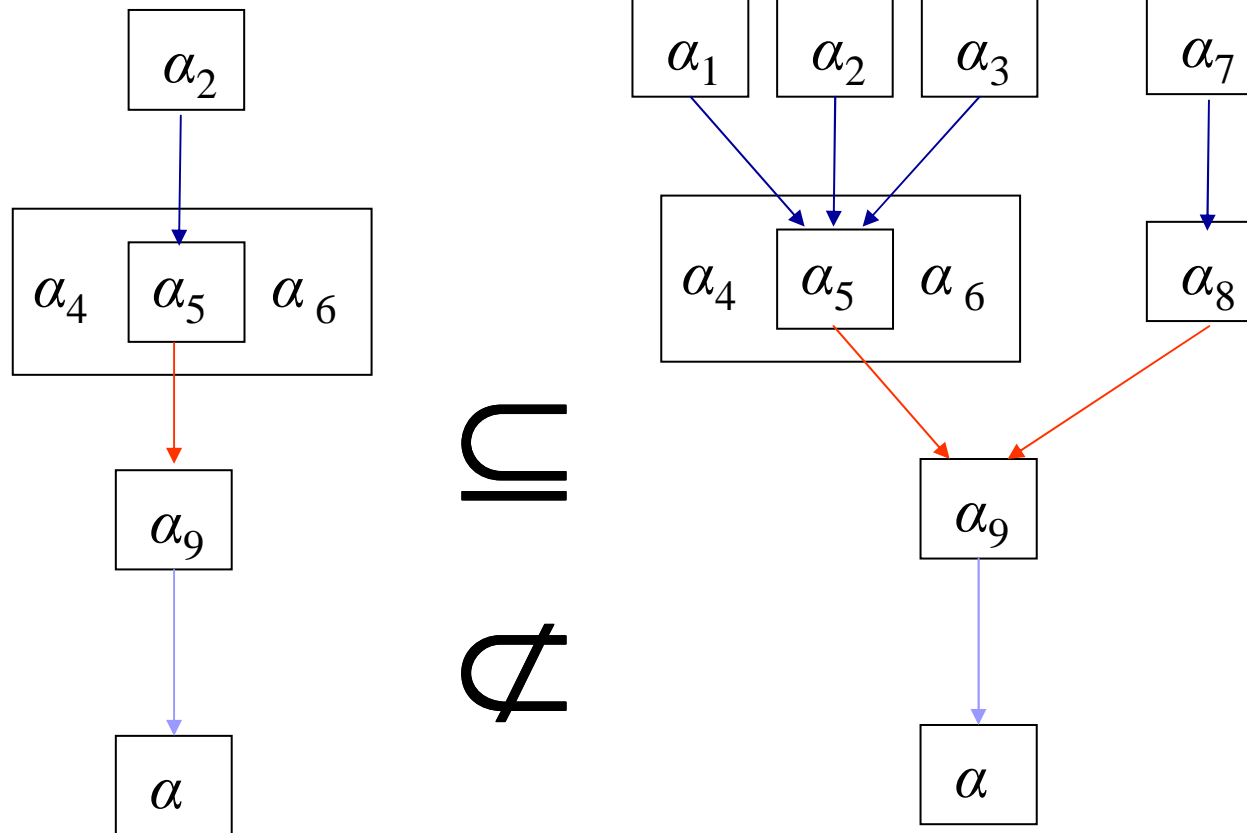
- (i)  $n_B \leq n_A$ ;
- (ii)  $\exists k \leq n_A - n_B + 1$  ( $B_1 \subseteq A_k, B_2 \subseteq A_{k+1}, \dots, B_{n_B} \subseteq A_{k+n_B-1}$ ).

**Def. 18** ( $\mathbf{B} \subset \mathbf{A}$ )

$\mathbf{B}$  is an *internal subargument* of  $\mathbf{A}$  iff the following conditions hold:

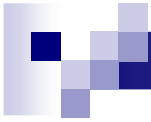
- (i)  $n_B < n_A$ ;
- (ii)  $\exists k \leq n_A - n_B + 1$  ( $k > 1$  and  $B_1 \subseteq A_k, B_2 \subseteq A_{k+1}, \dots, B_{n_B} \subseteq A_{k+n_B-1}$ ).

# Example



**Remark 1:**  $\mathbf{A} \subseteq \mathbf{A}$ , for all  $\mathbf{A}$ .

**Remark 2:** " $\mathbf{B} \subset \mathbf{A}$ " doesn't mean " $\mathbf{B} \subseteq \mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{A}$ ".

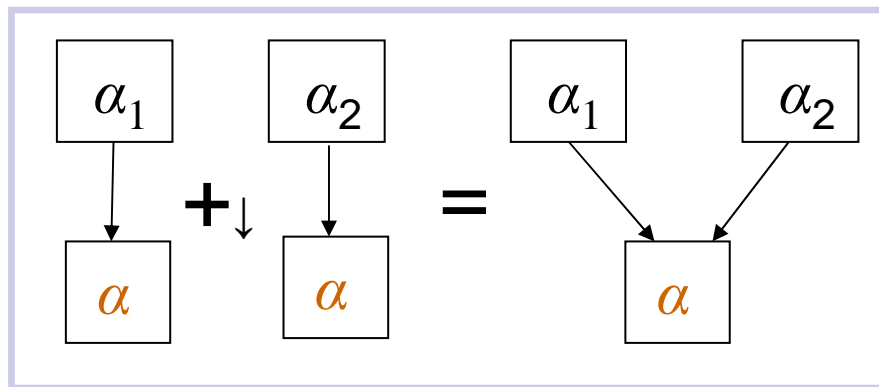


## 2. Operations on arguments.

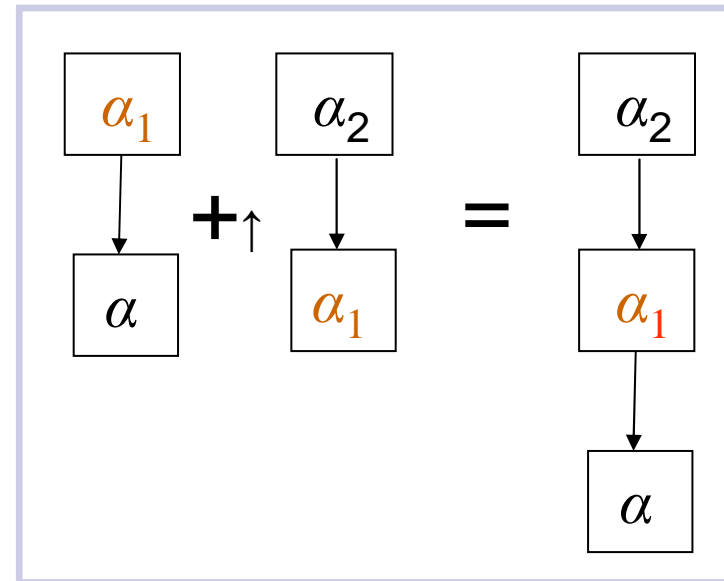
- Addition.
- Maximal subarguments.
- Subtraction.

# Addition of arguments

"conclusional"



"premisal"



- Assume that  $\mathbf{A} = \langle A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n_A} \rangle$ ,  $\mathbf{B} = \langle B_1, B_2, \dots, B_{n_B} \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{C} = \langle C_1, C_2, \dots, C_{n_C} \rangle$  are arguments.
- Assume that  $1 \leq m \leq n_A$ .

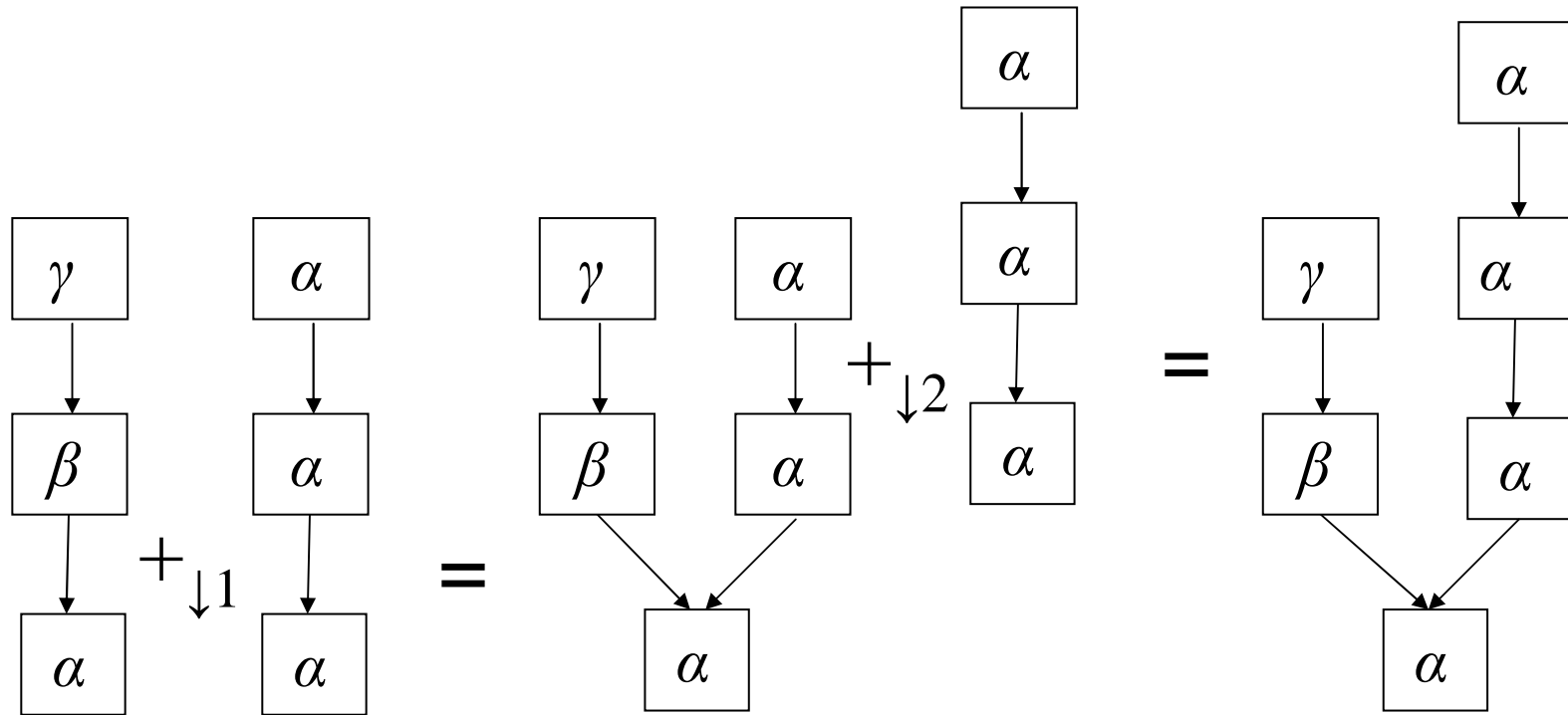
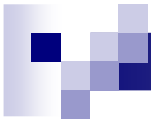
## Def. 19

$$\mathbf{A} +_{\downarrow m} \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{C} \text{ iff}$$

- either the final conclusion of  $\mathbf{B}$  is not contained in the counterdomain of  $A_m$  and  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{C}$ .
- or the final conclusion of  $\mathbf{B}$  is contained in the counterdomain of  $A_m$  and the following conditions hold:
  - (i)  $n_{\mathbf{C}} = \max \{n_{\mathbf{A}}, m + n_{\mathbf{B}} - 1\}$ ;
  - (ii)  $C_i = A_i$ , if  $1 \leq i < m$  (for  $m \geq 2$ ) or  $i > m + n_{\mathbf{B}}$ ;
  - (iii)  $C_i = A_i \cup B_{i-m+1}$ , if  $m \leq i \leq n_{\mathbf{A}}$ ;
  - (iv)  $C_i = B_{i-m+1}$ , if  $n_{\mathbf{A}} < i \leq n_{\mathbf{C}}$ .

## Def. 20

$$\mathbf{A} +_{\downarrow} \mathbf{B} = (\dots((\mathbf{A} +_{\downarrow n_{\mathbf{A}}} \mathbf{B}) +_{\downarrow n_{\mathbf{A}}-1} \mathbf{B}) +_{\downarrow n_{\mathbf{A}}-2} \dots) +_{\downarrow 1} \mathbf{B}$$



## Def. 21

$$\mathbf{A} +_{\uparrow m} \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{C} \text{ iff}$$

- either the final conclusion of  $\mathbf{B}$  is not contained in any element of the domain of  $A_m$  and  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{C}$
- or the final conclusion of  $\mathbf{B}$  is contained in some element of the domain of  $A_m$  and the following conditions hold:
  - (i)  $n_{\mathbf{C}} = \max \{n_{\mathbf{A}}, m + n_{\mathbf{B}}\}$ ;
  - (ii)  $C_i = A_i$ , if  $1 \leq i \leq m$  (for  $m \geq 2$ ) or  $i > m + n_{\mathbf{B}}$ ;
  - (iii)  $C_i = A_i \cup B_{i-m}$ , if  $m < i \leq n_{\mathbf{A}}$ ;
  - (iv)  $C_i = B_{i-m}$ , if  $n_{\mathbf{A}} < i \leq n_{\mathbf{C}}$ .

## Def. 22

$$\mathbf{A} +_{\uparrow} \mathbf{B} = (\dots((\mathbf{A} +_{\uparrow n_{\mathbf{A}}} \mathbf{B}) +_{\uparrow n_{\mathbf{A}-1}} \mathbf{B}) +_{\uparrow n_{\mathbf{A}-2}} \dots) +_{\uparrow 1} \mathbf{B}$$





**Remark 1:** Let  $m > 1$ . Then  $\mathbf{A} +_{\downarrow m} \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A} +_{\uparrow m-1} \mathbf{B}$  iff

- the final conclusion of  $\mathbf{B}$  is contained in the counterdomain of  $A_m$

or

- the final conclusion of  $\mathbf{B}$  is not contained in any element of the domain of  $A_{m-1}$ .

(i.e. the above equation holds iff the final conclusion of  $\mathbf{B}$  is not any of the first premises on the level  $m-1$  of  $\mathbf{A}$ )

**Remark 2:** The operations of addition are neither commutative nor associative, but if  $\mathbf{A}$ ,  $\mathbf{B}$  (and  $\mathbf{C}$ ) have identical final conclusions, then the following equations hold:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} +_{\downarrow 1} \mathbf{B} &= \mathbf{B} +_{\downarrow 1} \mathbf{A}; \\ (\mathbf{A} +_{\downarrow 1} \mathbf{B}) +_{\downarrow 1} \mathbf{C} &= \mathbf{A} +_{\downarrow 1} (\mathbf{B} +_{\downarrow 1} \mathbf{C}). \end{aligned}$$



**Def. 23**

$$\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} = (\mathbf{A} +_{\uparrow} \mathbf{B}) +_{\downarrow 1} \mathbf{B}$$

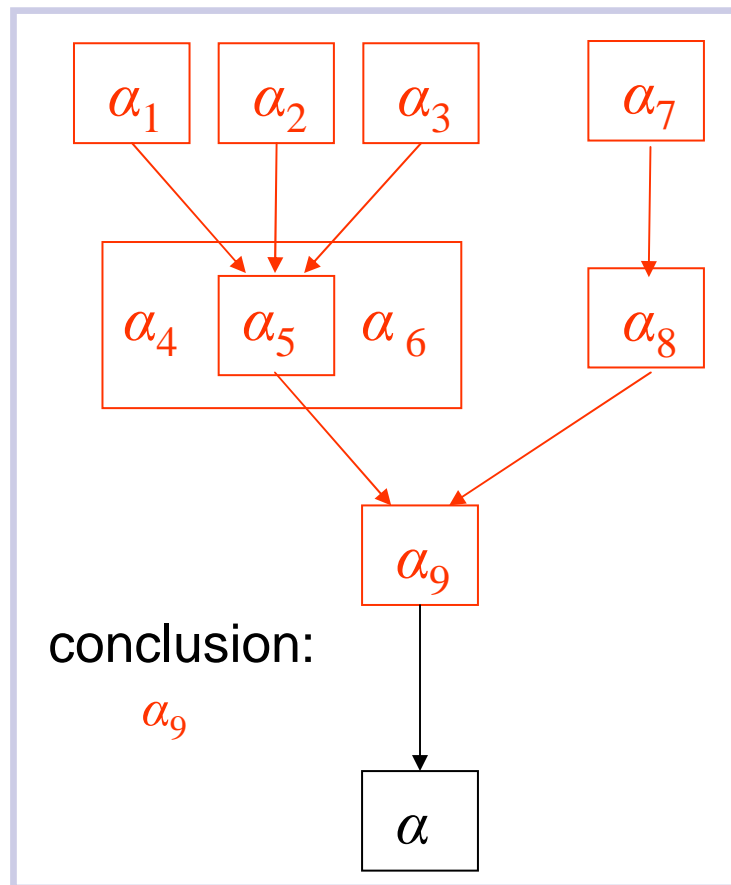
**Remark 1:** If the final conclusion of  $\mathbf{B}$  is not in the range of  $\mathbf{A}$ , then:

$$\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A} .$$

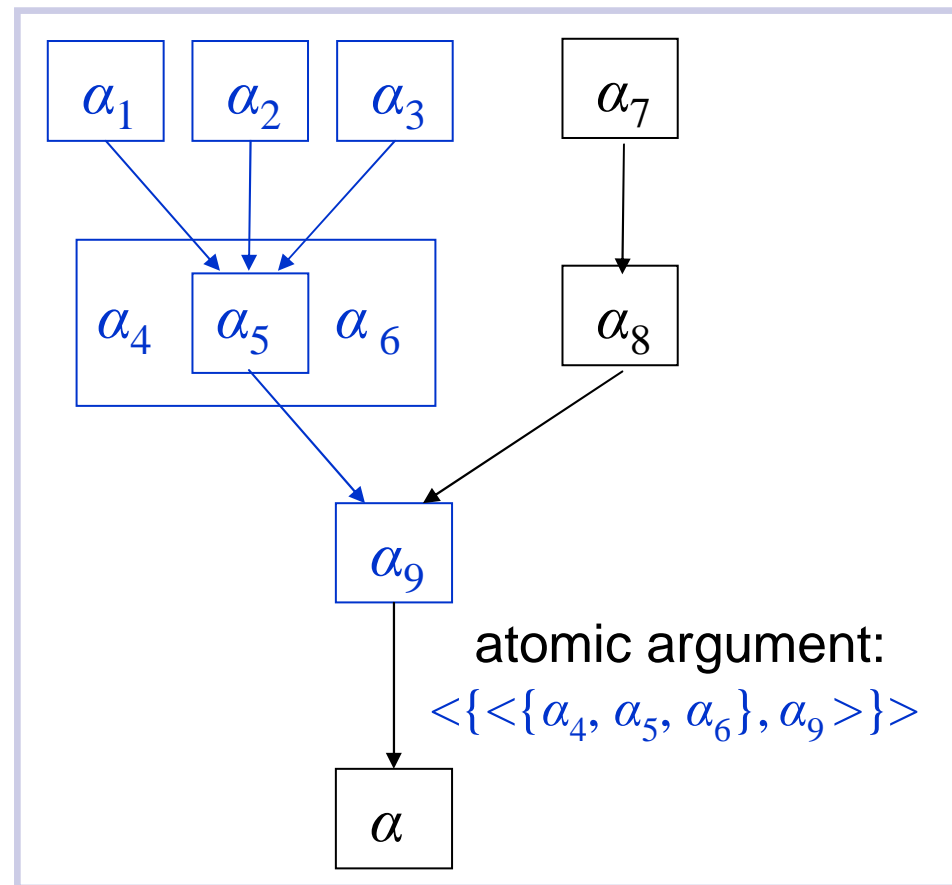
**Remark 2:** If  $\mathbf{A}$  is not circular, then  $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}$ .

# Maximal subarguments

determined by  
a conclusion



determined by  
an atomic argument



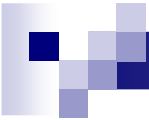
- Assume that  $\mathbf{A} = \langle A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n_A} \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{B} = \langle B_1 \rangle$  are arguments.
- Assume that  $\mathbf{B}$  is an atomic argument in  $\mathbf{A}$ , where  $B_1 \subseteq A_m$  for the level number  $m \leq n_A$ .

### Def. 24

$$\mathbf{C} = \max(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, m) \text{ iff}$$

$\mathbf{C}$  is the longest (e.i. containing the largest number of levels) of the arguments  $\mathbf{C}^* = \langle C^*_1, C^*_2, \dots, C^*_{n_{C^*}} \rangle$ , such that satisfy the following conditions:

- (i)  $n_{C^*} \leq n_A - m + 1$ ;
- (ii)  $C^*_1 = B_1$ ;
- (iii) if  $n_{C^*} \geq 2$ , then for every  $2 \leq i \leq n_{C^*}$ :  
 $C^*_i = \{ \langle P, \delta^* \rangle \in A_{i+m-1} : \delta^* \text{ is contained in some element of the domain of } C^*_{i-1} \}$ .

- 
- Assume that  $\mathbf{A} = \langle A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n_A} \rangle$  is an argument.
  - Assume that  $\delta$  is an element of the counterdomain of  $A_m$  for the level number  $m \leq n_A$ .

### Def. 25

$\mathbf{C} = \max(\mathbf{A}, \delta, m)$  iff

$\mathbf{C}$  is the longest of the arguments  $\mathbf{C}^* = \langle C^*_1, C^*_2, \dots, C^*_{n_{C^*}} \rangle$ , such that satisfy the following conditions:

- (i)  $n_{C^*} \leq n_A - m + 1$ ;
- (ii)  $C^*_1 = \{ \langle P, \delta^* \rangle \in A_m : \delta^* = \delta \}$ ;
- (iii) if  $n_{C^*} \geq 2$ , then for every  $2 \leq i \leq n_{C^*}$ :  
 $C^*_i = \{ \langle P, \delta^* \rangle \in A_{i+m-1} : \delta^* \text{ is contained in some element of the domain of } C^*_{i-1} \}$ .



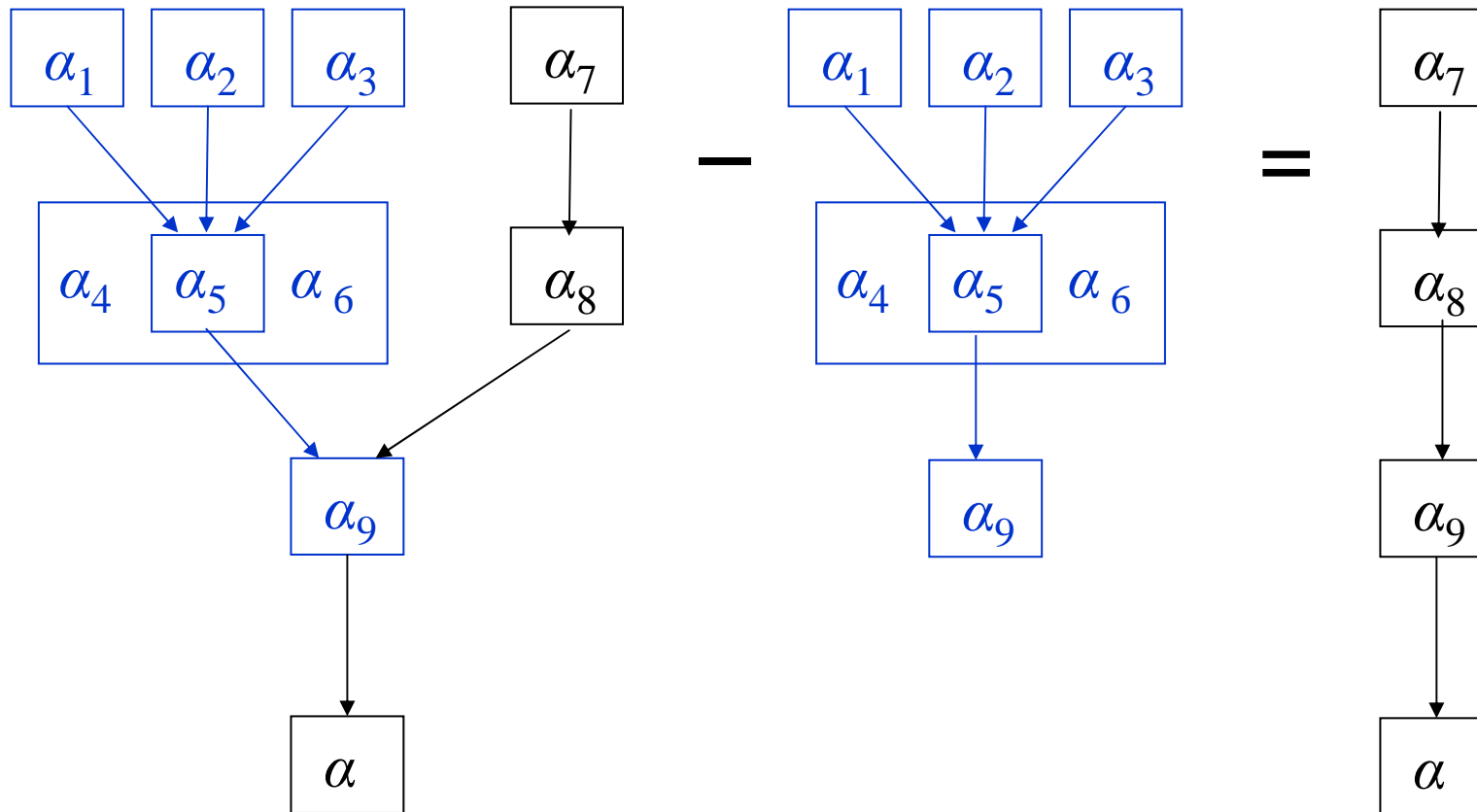
**Remark 1:** If  $\mathbf{B}$  is the final argument of  $\mathbf{A}$ , then  $\max(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, 1) = \mathbf{A}$ .

If  $\delta$  is the final conclusion in  $\mathbf{A}$ , then  $\max(\mathbf{A}, \delta, 1) = \mathbf{A}$ .

**Remark 2:** If  $\{\mathbf{B}^1, \mathbf{B}^2, \dots, \mathbf{B}^k\}$  is the set of all atomic arguments of the  $m$ -th level of  $\mathbf{A}$ , which have the same conclusion  $\delta$ , then:

$$\max(\mathbf{A}, \delta, m) = \max(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}^1, m) +_{\downarrow 1} \max(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}^2, m) +_{\downarrow 1} \dots +_{\downarrow 1} \max(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}^k, m).$$

# Subtraction of arguments



- Assume that  $\mathbf{A} = \langle A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n_A} \rangle$  is an argument, and that  $\mathbf{B} = \langle B_1 \rangle$  is an atomic (non-final) argument in  $\mathbf{A}$  ( $B_1 \subseteq A_m$  for  $m \leq n_A$ ).
- Assume that  $\mathbf{C} = \langle C_1, C_2, \dots, C_{n_C} \rangle = \max(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, m)$ .

### Def. 26

$$\mathbf{A} -_m \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{D} \text{ iff}$$

- (i)  $m - 1 \leq n_D \leq n_A$ ;
- (ii) if  $m \geq 2$ , then  $D_i = A_i$ , for every  $i < m$ ;
- (iii) if  $n_A = n_C + m - 1$ , then:
  - $n_D = \max\{j < n_A : A_j - C_{j-m+1} \neq \emptyset\}$ ;
  - $D_i = A_i - C_{i-m+1}$ , for every  $m \leq i \leq n_D$ ;
- (iv) if  $n_A > n_C + m - 1$ , then:
  - $n_D = n_A$ ;
  - $D_i = A_i - C_{i-m+1}$ , for every  $m \leq i \leq n_C + m - 1$ ;
  - $D_i = A_i$ , for every  $n_C + m - 1 < i \leq n_D$ .



### 3. Structural correctness of arguments.

For **a structurally correct** argument  $\mathbf{A} = \langle A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n_A} \rangle$  it is necessary that the following conditions hold:

(1) For every argument  $\mathbf{B}$ :


if  $\mathbf{B} \subseteq \mathbf{A}$ , then (the counterdomain of  $\mathbf{B}$ ) – (the domain of  $\mathbf{B}$ ) =  
= {the final conclusion of  $\mathbf{B}$ }.

(2) (The domain of  $\mathbf{A}$ ) – (the counterdomain of  $\mathbf{A}$ ) =  
= (the set of all the first premises of  $\mathbf{A}$ ).

(3) For every sentence  $\delta$ :

if there are  $i, j \leq n_A$ , such that the counterdomains of  $A_i$  and  $A_j$  contain  $\delta$ , then  $\max(\mathbf{A}, \delta, i) = \max(\mathbf{A}, \delta, j)$ .

**An open problem:** Are these conditions sufficient?



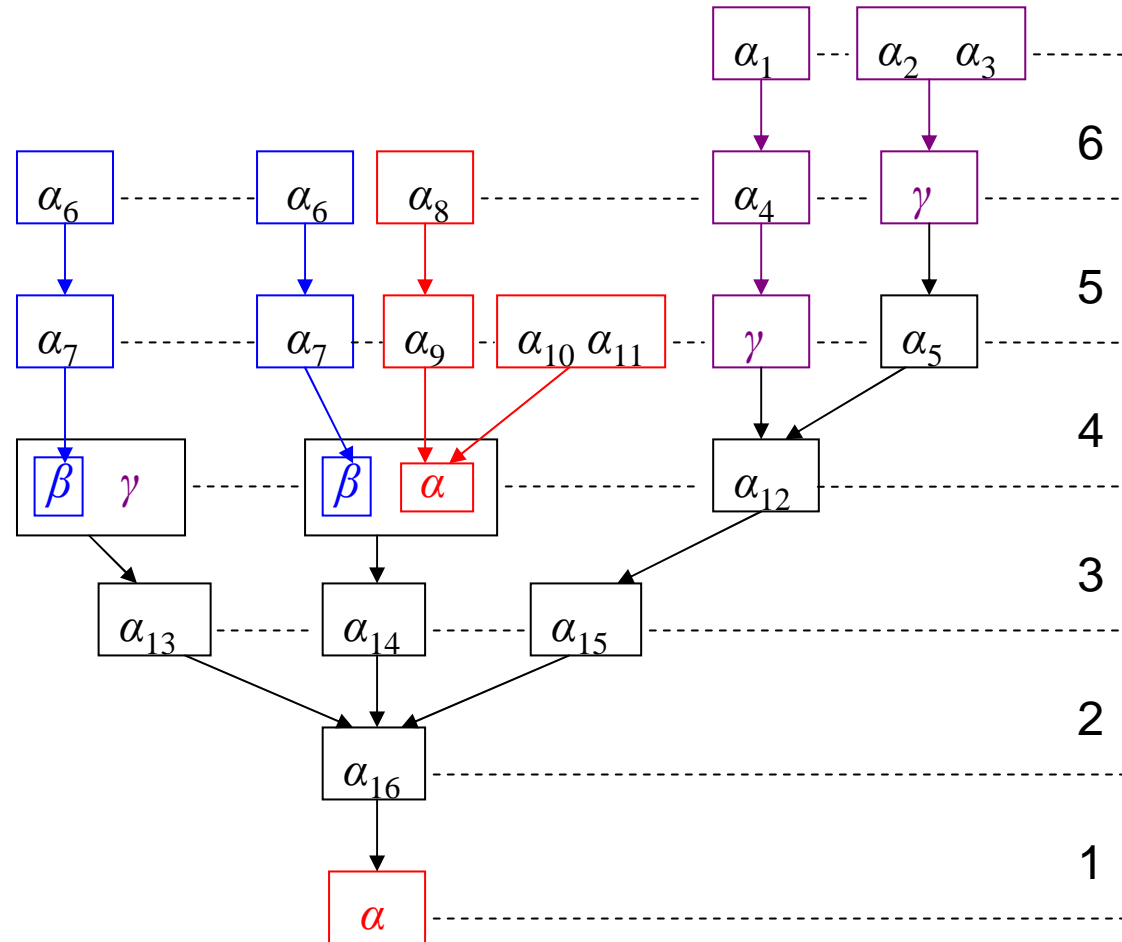
**Remark 1:** The condition **(1)** doesn't hold iff  $\mathbf{A}$  is circular.

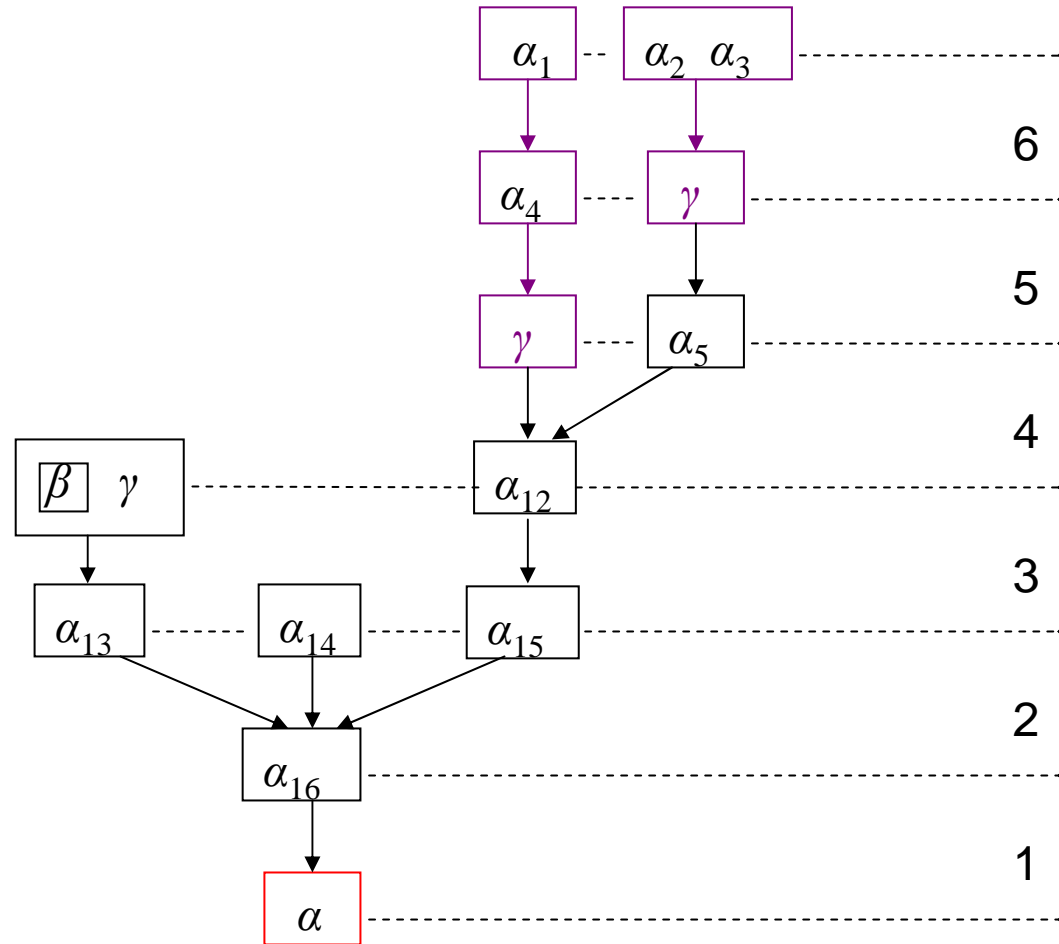
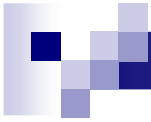
**Remark 2:** The condition **(2)** doesn't hold iff there is a sentence in the domain of  $\mathbf{A}$ , which is one of the first premises and a conclusion (final or intermediate) at the same time.

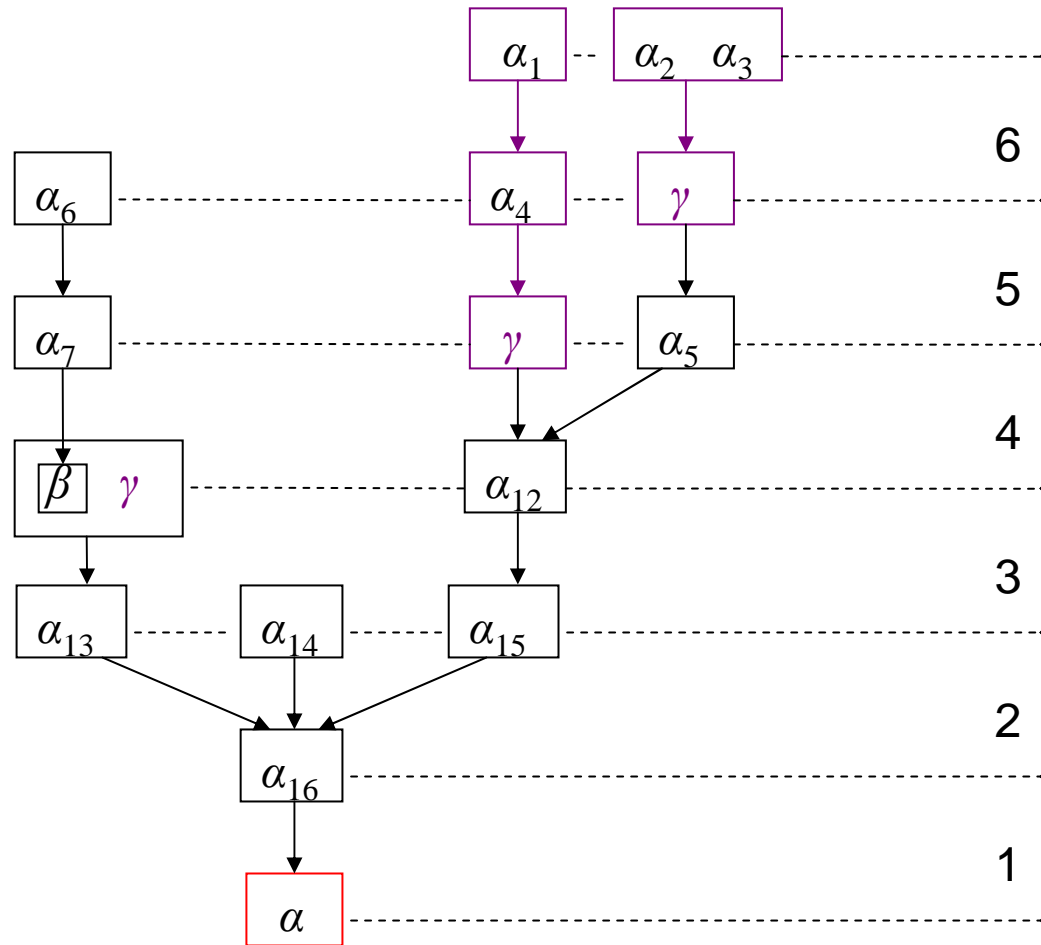
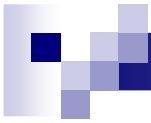
**Remark 3:** The condition **(3)** doesn't hold iff there is a sentence in the domain of  $\mathbf{A}$ , which is supported by different subarguments, when it appears on different levels.

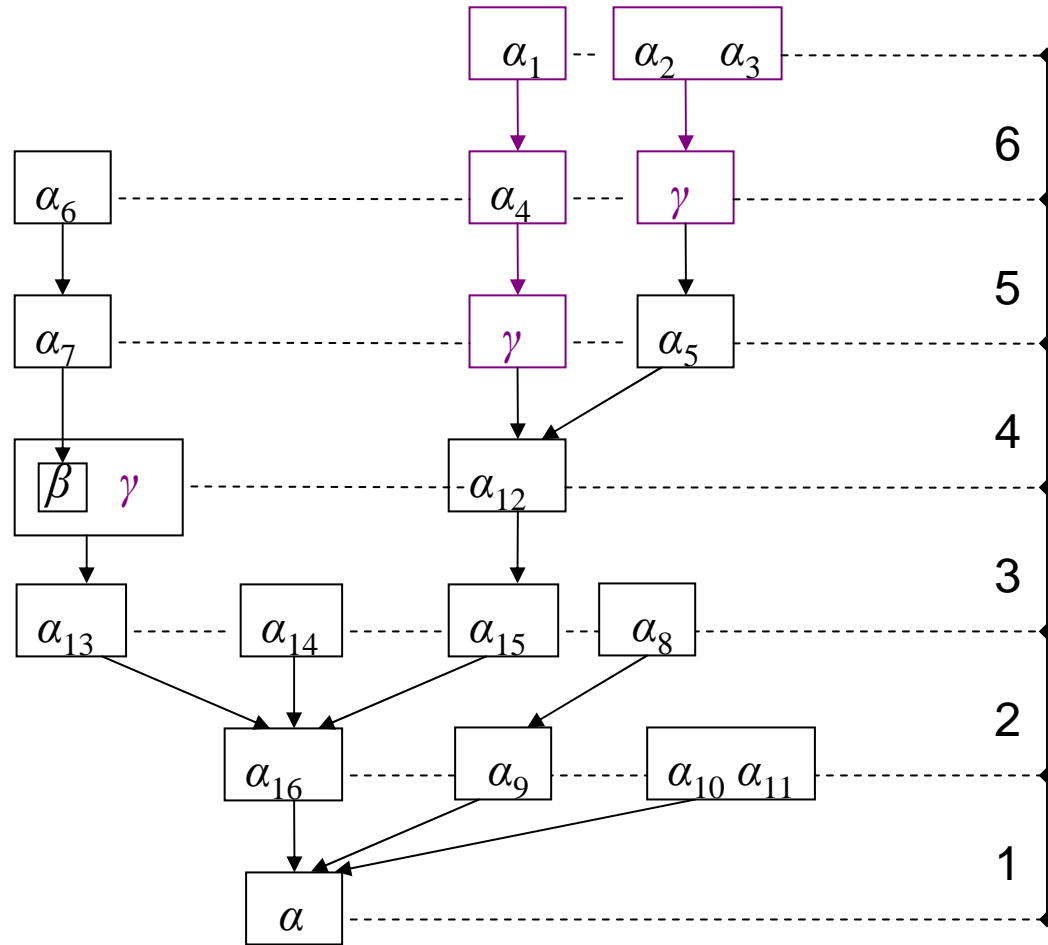
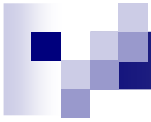
**Remark 4:** If the condition **(1)** doesn't hold, then at least one of the conditions: **(2)** or **(3)** doesn't hold either.  
The converse implication is not true.

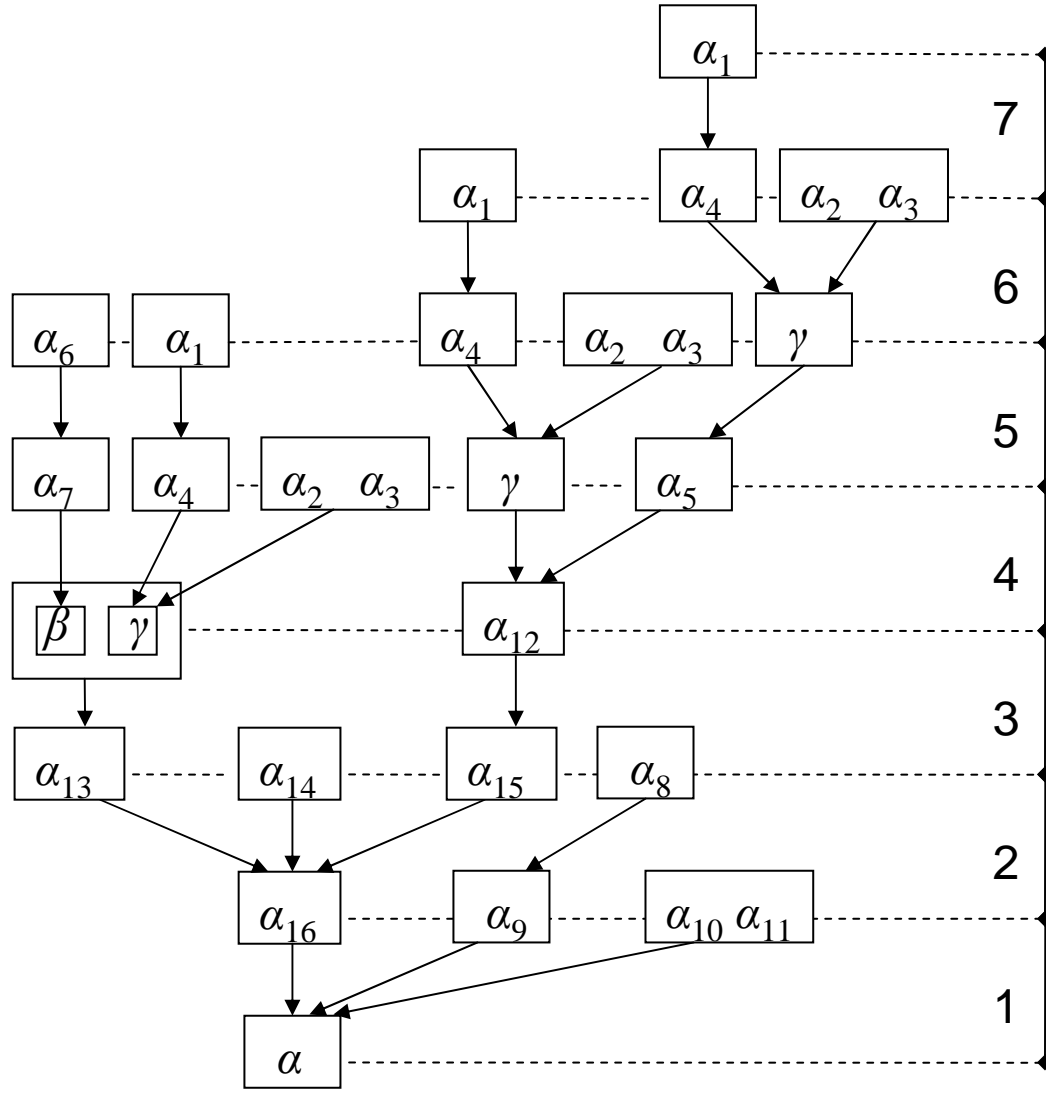
# Example













- Dziękuję za uwagę.