Comments for: *Two Cheers for Akrasia* by Kevin Dorst

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Probabilistic Frames

- W is a set of **possible worlds**.

- P is a function mapping world w to $P_{w,}$ the **uniquely rational** credence function at w.

  (Samet, 1997)

Probabilistic Frames

We want to talk about what credences you *ought* to have:

$$[P(p) = t] := \{w : P_w(p) = t\}$$

In English: `one (you) ought now to be *t*-confident of *p*.'

Probabilistic Frames

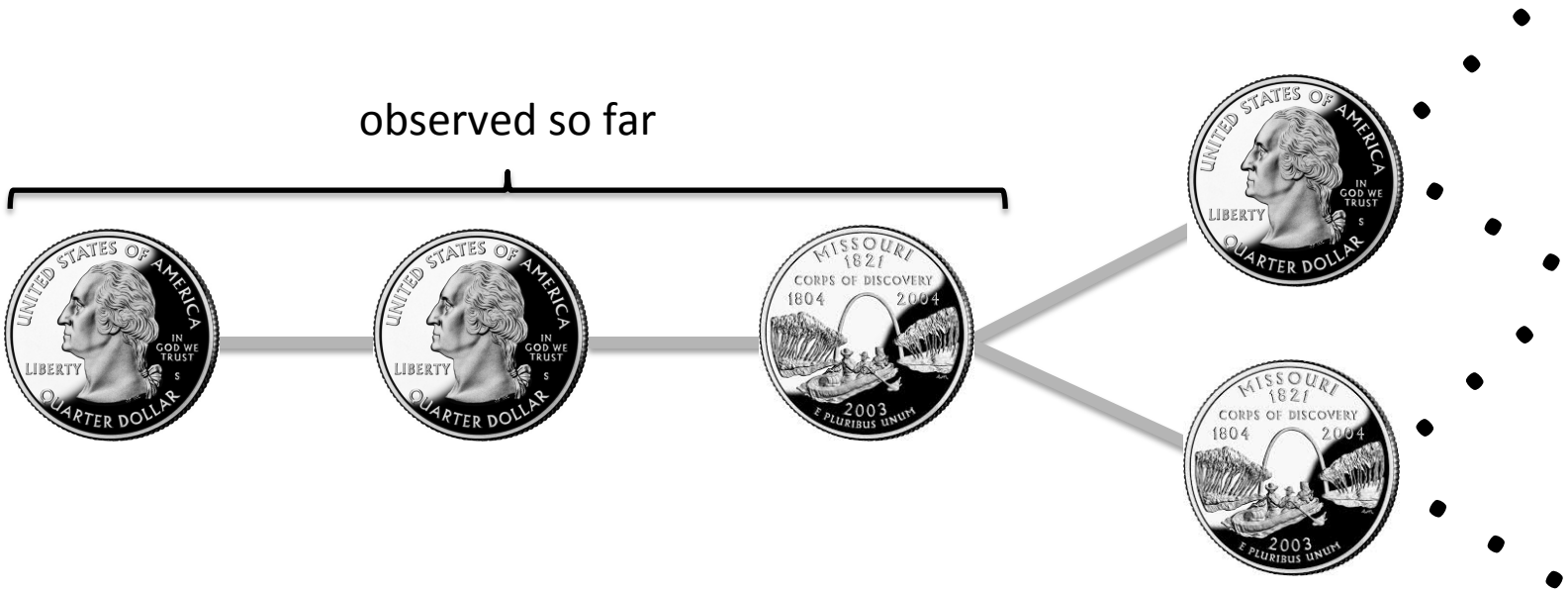
For this setup to make sense it must be that the total evidence is a function of the world.

Let E_w be the set of worlds compatible with the total evidence in w.

Standard Statistical Setup: Sequential Binary Experiment

Worlds = infinite sequences of coin flips.

Evidential states = cones of possible extensions of finite sequences:



Higher-order Uncertainty

Kevin argues that the following situation is rationally permissible:

- $P_w \neq P_{w'}$ and
- $P_w(w') > 0.$

Evidential Internalism

- **Internalism:** If E is your total evidence, then it entails that it is your total evidence:

$$E_w \subseteq \{w' : E_w = E_{w'}\}.$$

- **Externalism**: Sometimes your total evidence does not entail that it is your total evidence.

Gallow (2017)

The Internalist Argues against HoU

1. If $P_w \neq P_{w'}$ then $E_w \neq E_{w'}$.

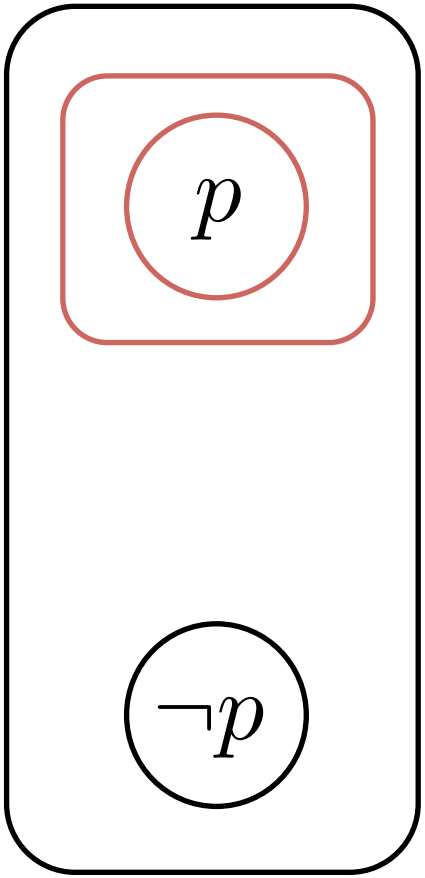
2. If $E_w \neq E_{w'}$ then $\{w'\} \cap E_w = \varnothing$ (Internalism).

Ccl. $P_w(w') = 0$.

Dorst denies Evidential Internalism

Kevin argues for higher-order uncertainty by producing examples in which evidential internalism seems to fail.

Bianca the Biologist



If the sample is poisonous, Bianca will eventually verify that it is.

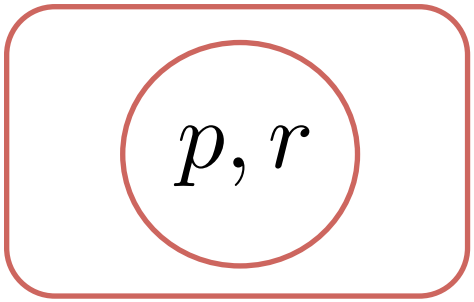
If the sample is safe, she will never be able to verify that it is safe.

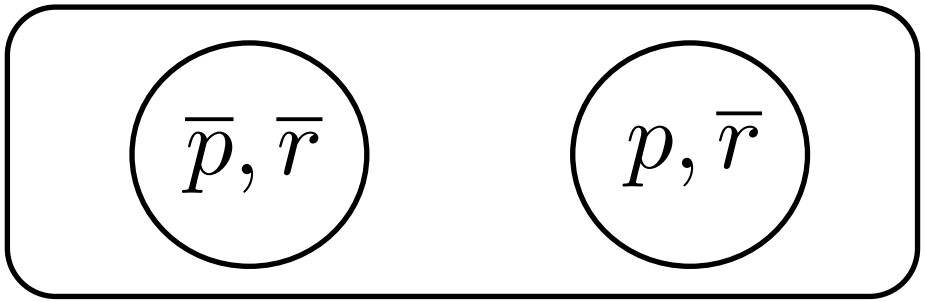
The Internalist Response

If total evidence is a feature of the world, then so is what evidence you have managed to figure out by now.

Bianca the Biologist

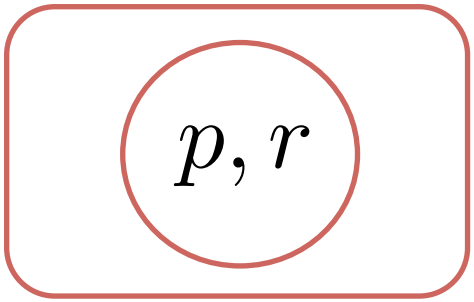
Whether or not Bianca has realized that the sample is poisonous is now a feature of the world.

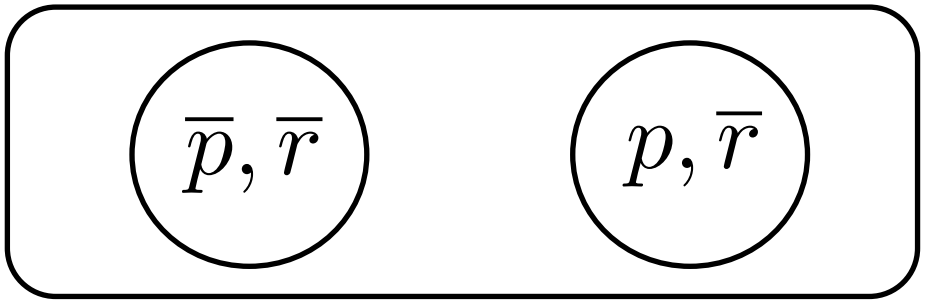




Bianca the Biologist

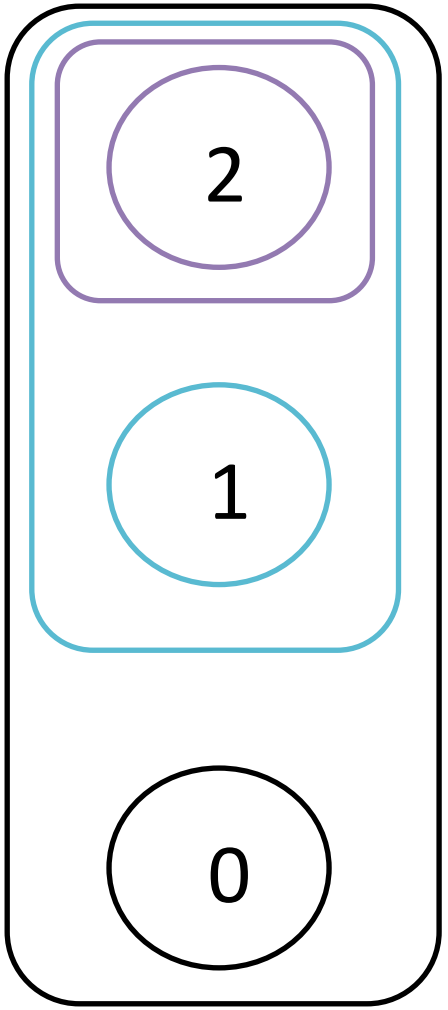
Total evidence now satisfies evidential internalism.





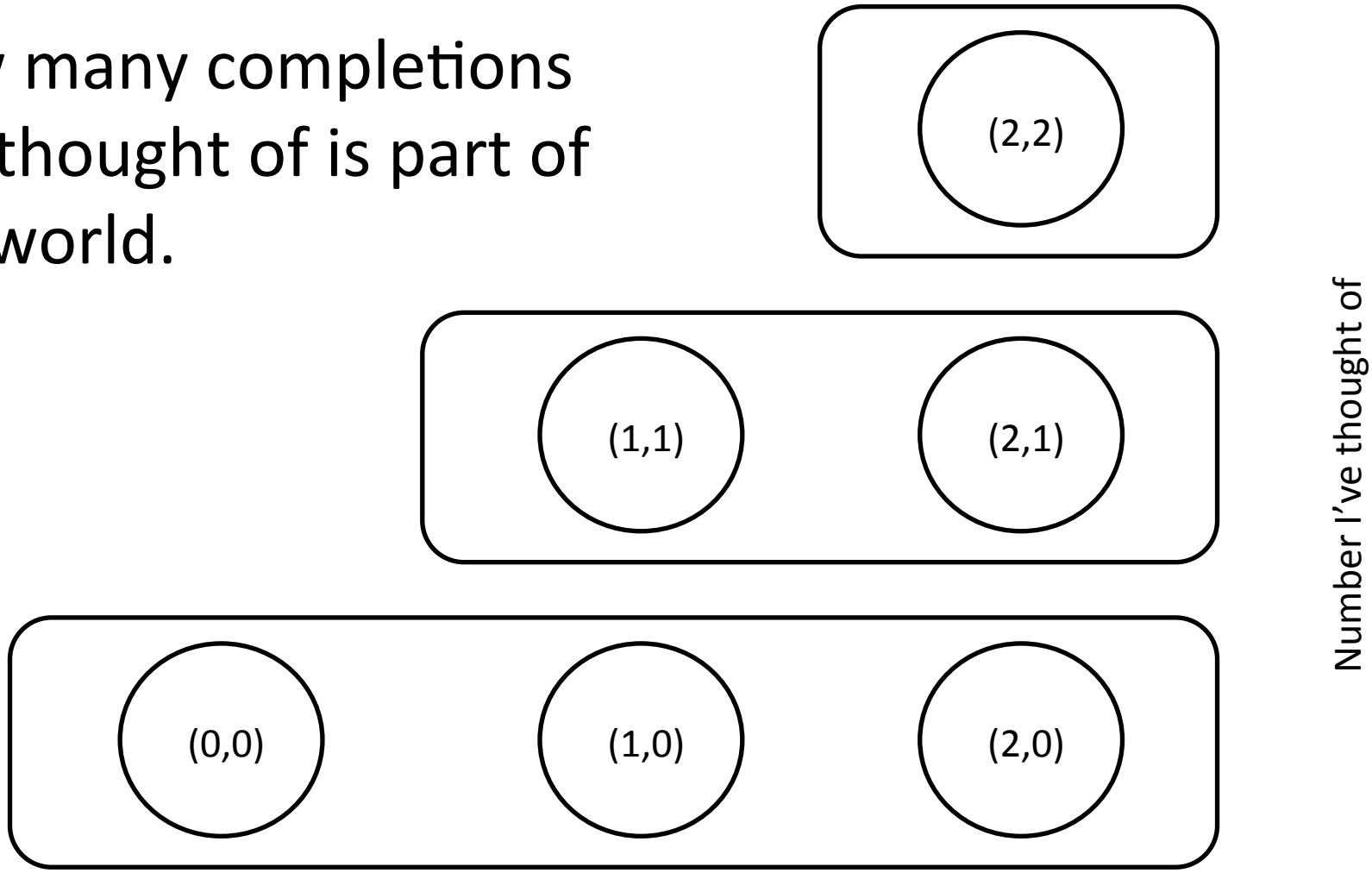
Word Completion

Suppose there are at 0-2 possible completions of the word fragment.



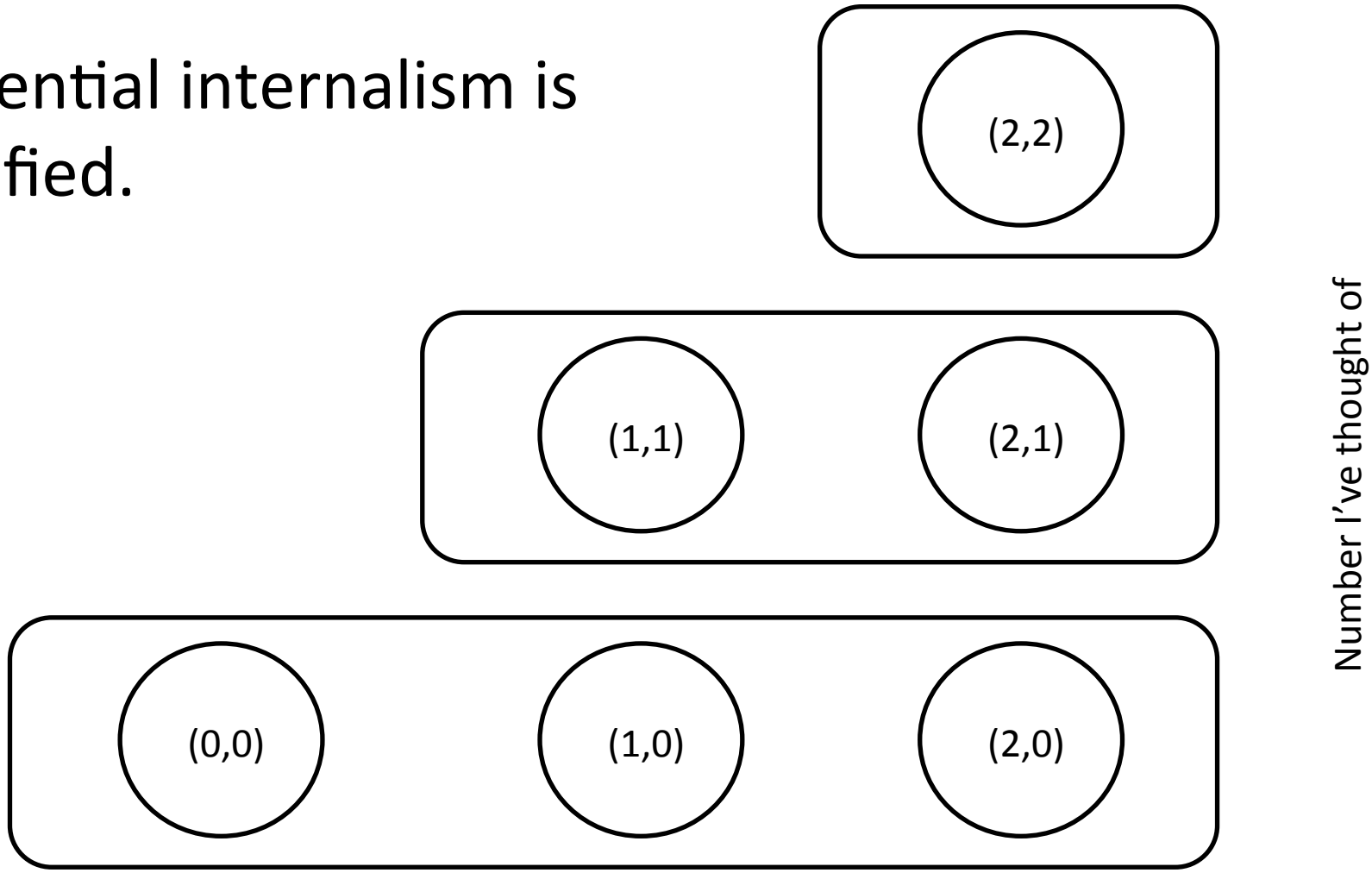
Word Completion

How many completions I've thought of is part of the world.



Word Completion

Evidential internalism is satisfied.



Peer disagreement

The situation Kevin describes could be modeled in two different ways.

Peer disagreement

$P_1 = P_2 = P_3$
$P_i(j) = 1/3$

$me_1 = me_2 = me_3$
$you_1 = you_2 = you_3$

$me_1 = P_1 = you_1$
$me_2 = P_2 \neq you_2$
$me_3 \neq P_3 = you_3$

$me_1 = P_1 = you_1$
$me_2 = P_2 \neq you_2$
$me_3 \neq P_3 = you_3$

In the first situation *Open* and *Uncertain* are satisfied but there is no higher-order uncertainty.