

On representing semantic maps

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Problems with terminology

◀ **Terminological proliferation**

- one function, many terms

◀ **Terminological imprecision**

- one term which has a precise meaning but which is used differently (or more widely) in actual fact

Terminological proliferation

- * deontic modality
- * root modality
- * dynamic modality
- * agent-oriented modality
- * participant-oriented modality
- * non-epistemic modality

Terminological imprecision

* **Optative mood**

- * “the wish or hope of the speaker expressed in a main clause” (Bybee et al. 1994:179)
- * “The morpheme labeled optative [in Athabaskan] is used to express wishes and desires, incorporating notions of volition, necessity, desirability, and futurity.” (Rice 2000:249)

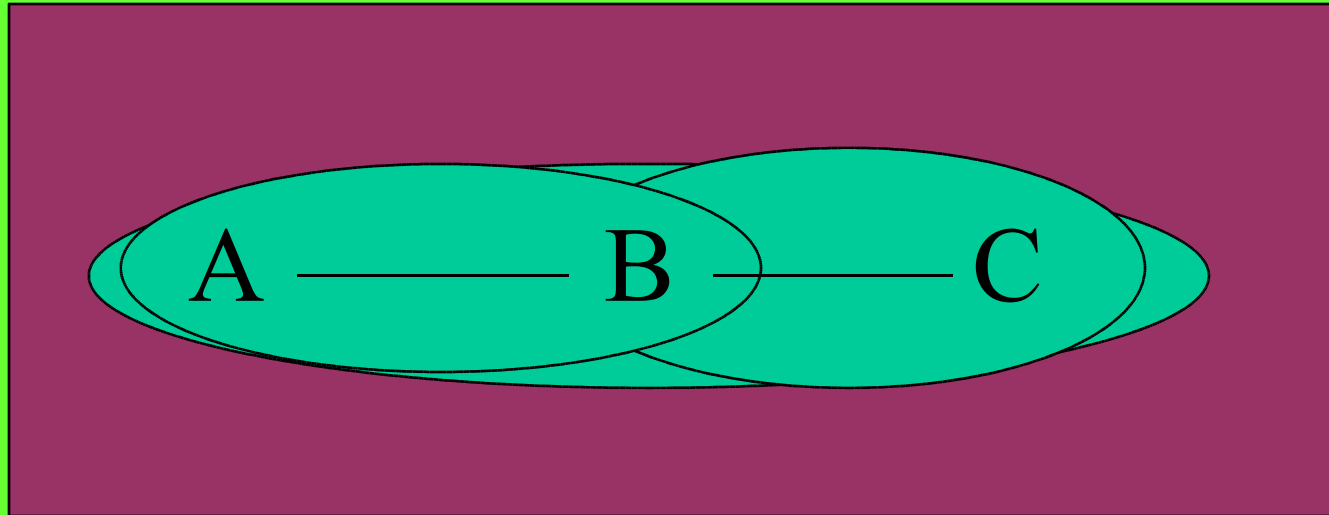
Semantic maps

- ▲ Visual representation of the semantic range of linguistic elements
- ▲ Used in typology for cross-linguistic and diachronic purposes
- ▲ Useful to circumvent terminological problems

Composition

- ◆ **A domain**
- ◆ **functions** of that domain
- ◆ means of connecting functions
- ◆ **linguistic elements**

Sample map



X

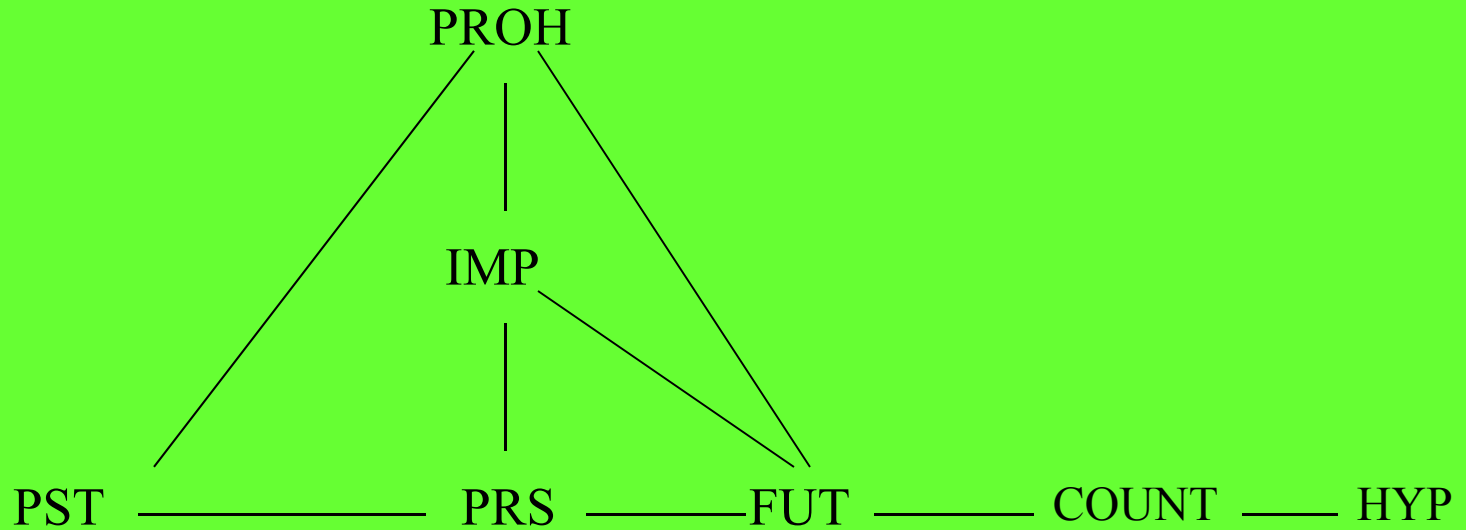
Realis and Irrealis

- ▶ Linguistic marking of real and unreal events
- ▶ Held to be a fundamental property of language and cognition
- ▶ Little consistency in marking of irrealis cross-linguistically (cf. Bybee 1998)

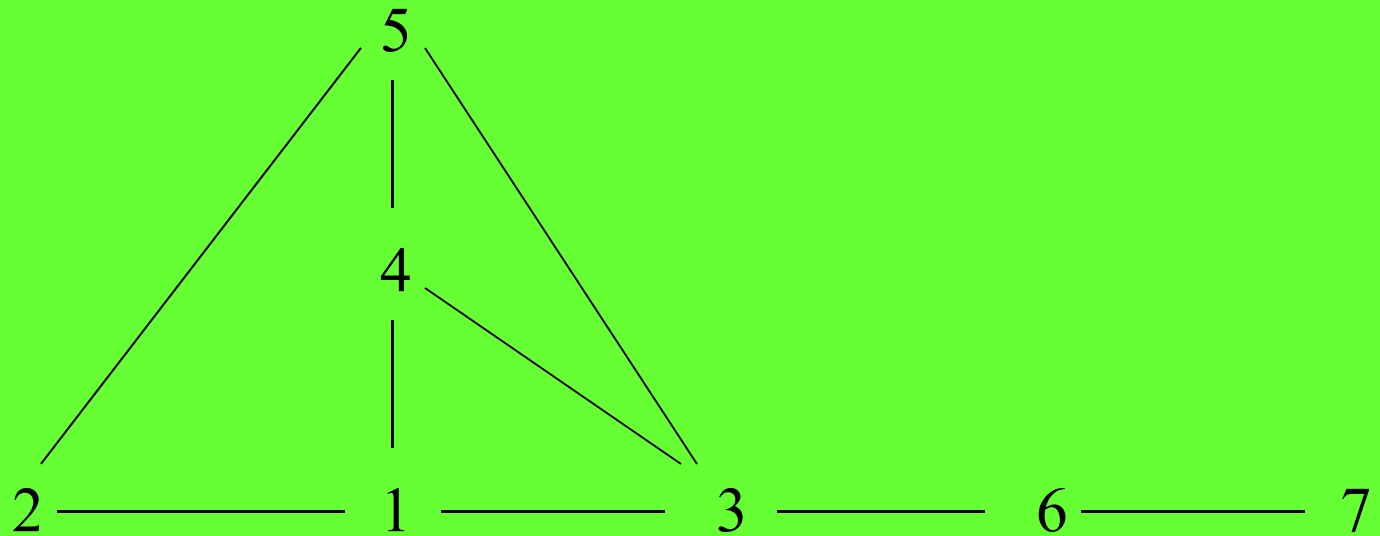
Irrealis in New Guinea

- Based on Bugenhagen (1994)
- data from seven languages
- seven functions are mapped

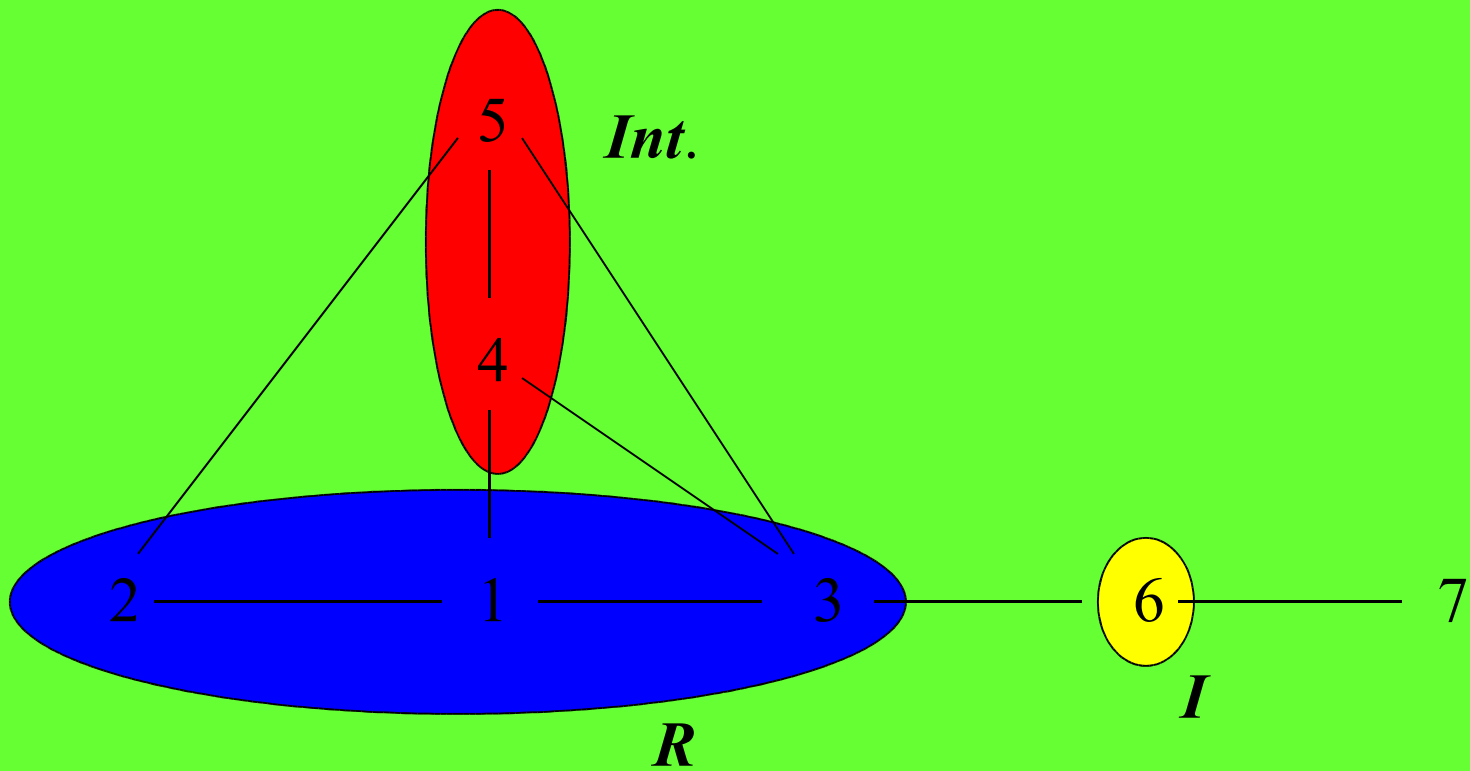
Semantic map for Realis - Irrealis



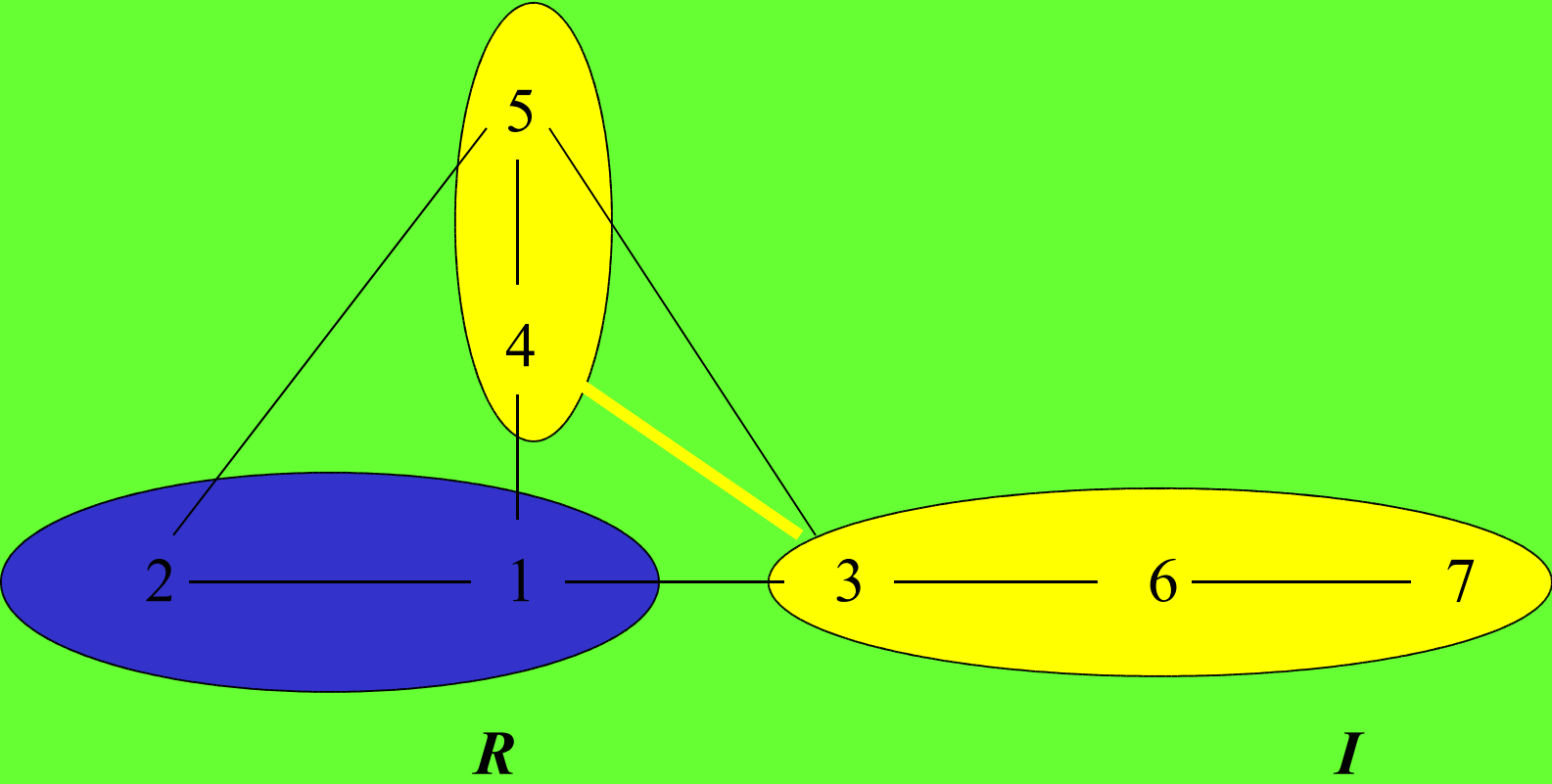
Semantic map for Realis - Irrealis



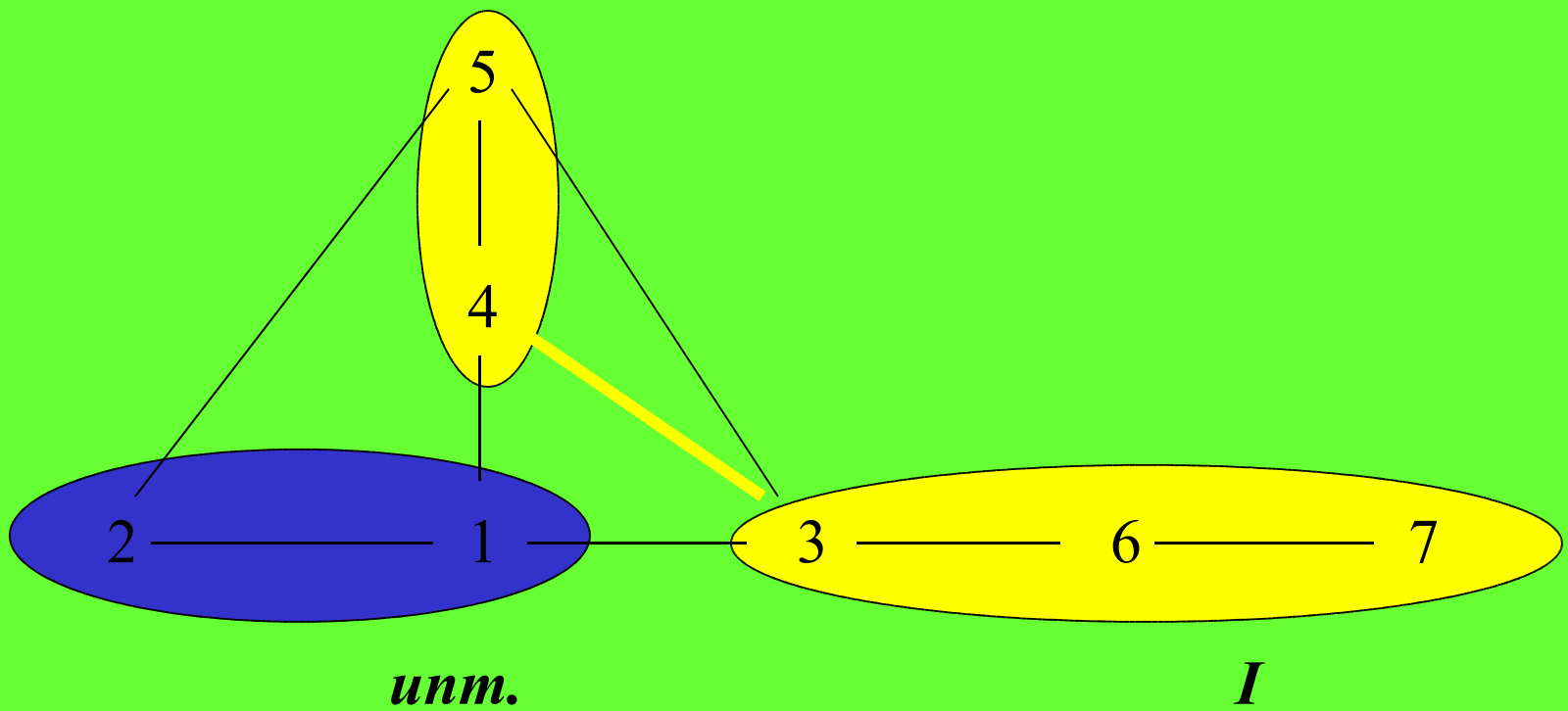
Sinaugoro



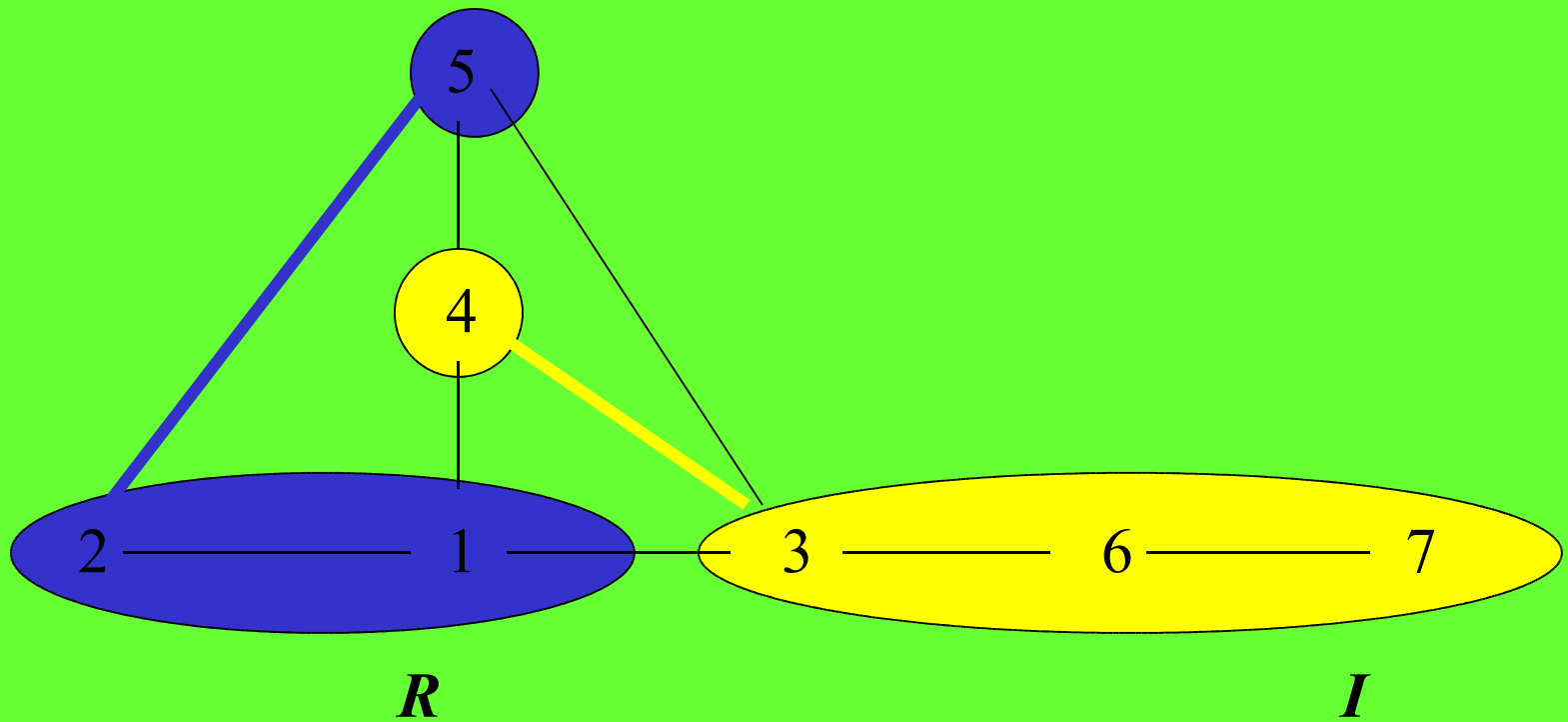
Manam



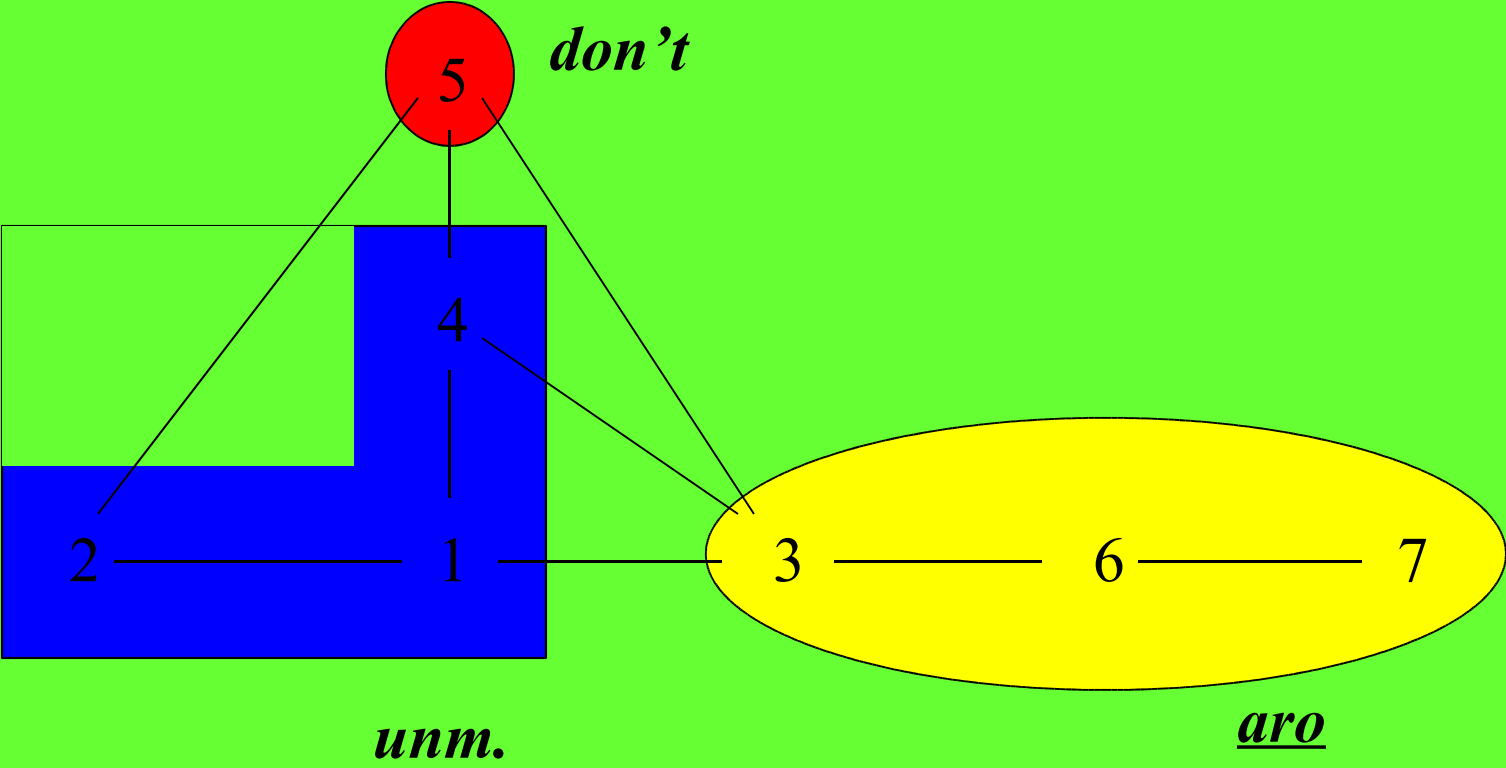
Sio



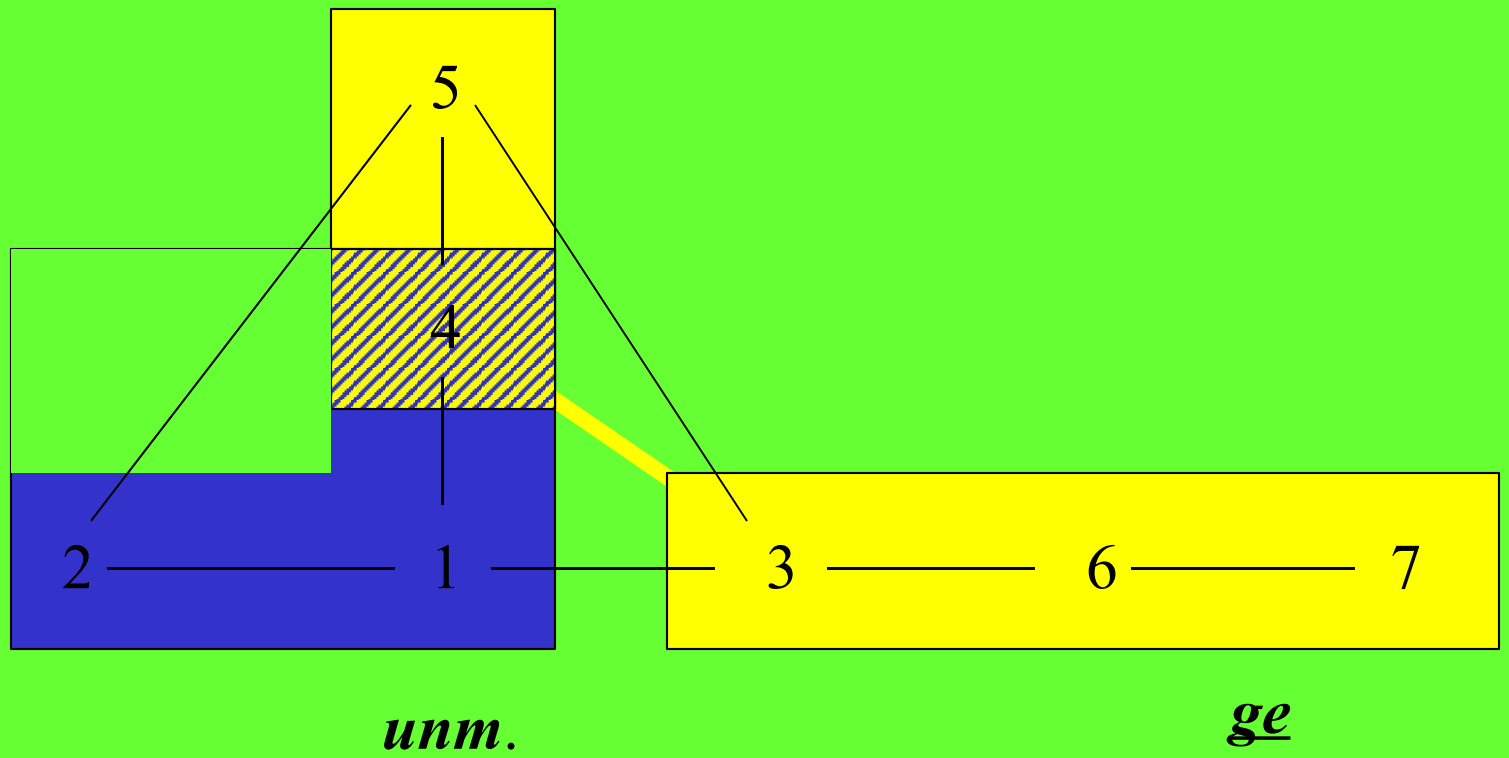
Sursurunga



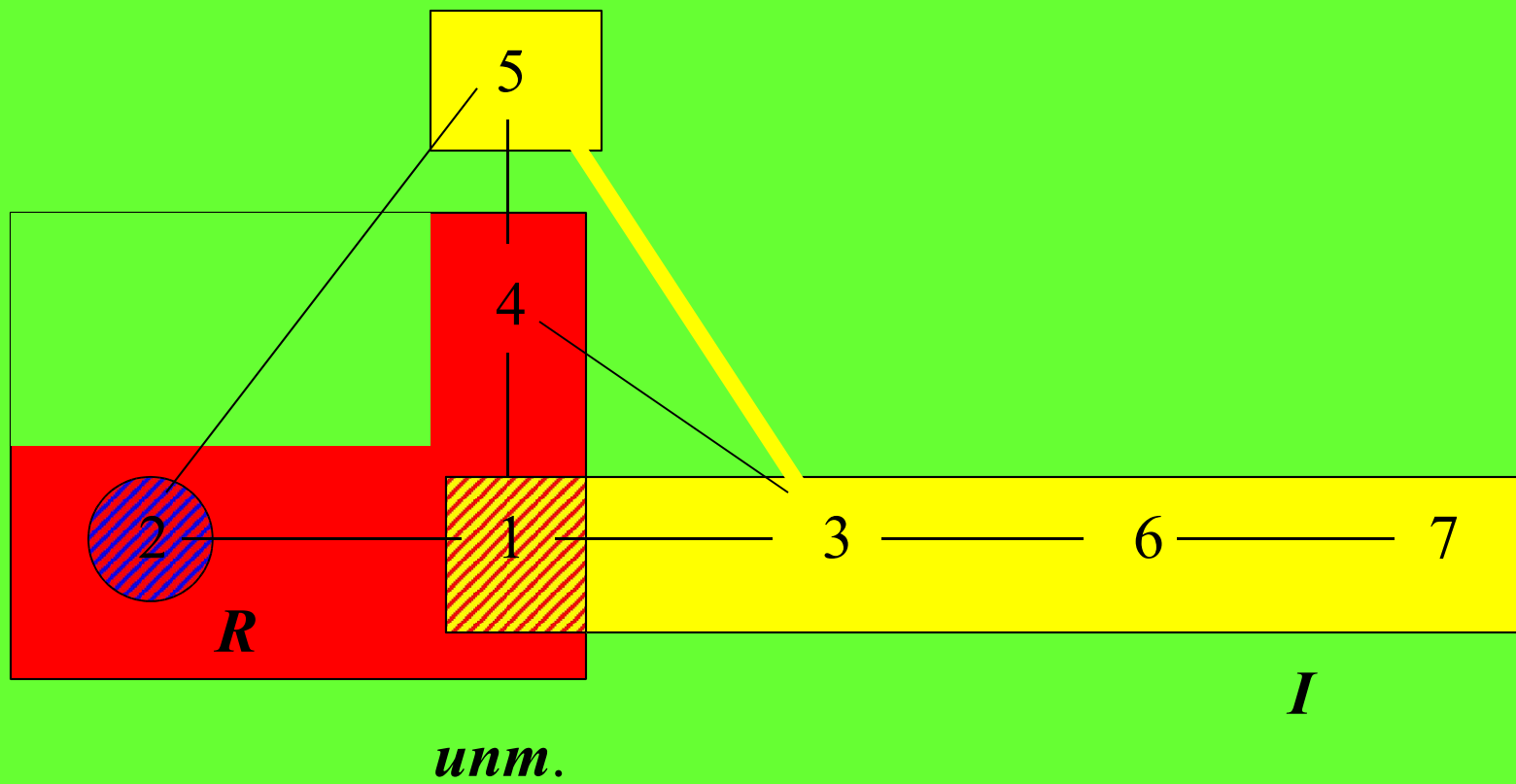
Mangseng



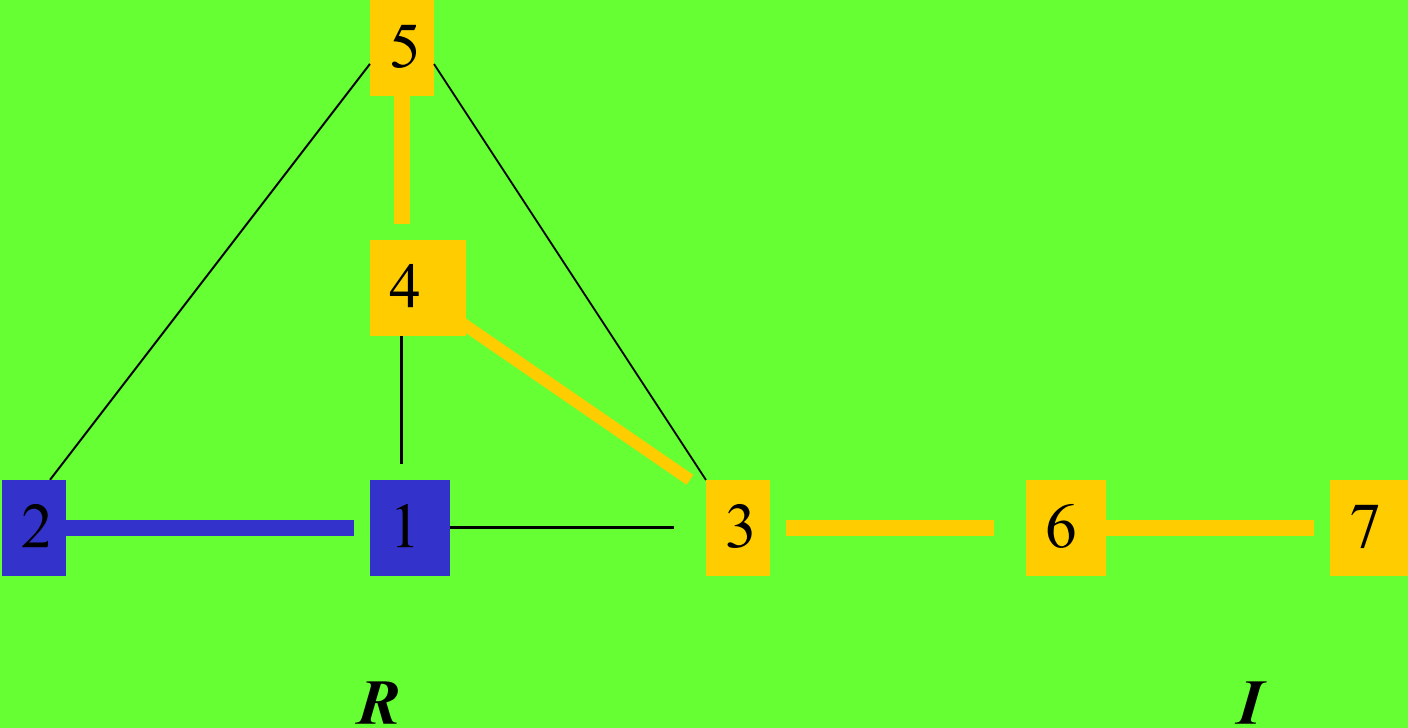
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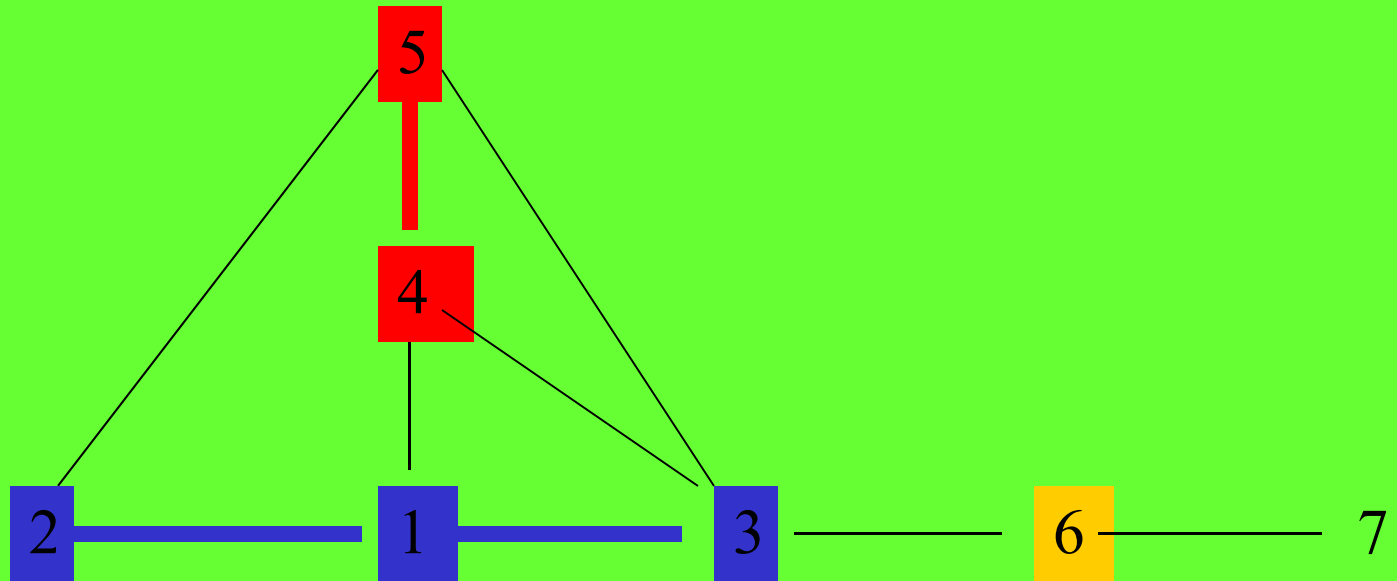
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