

On Propositional Model Counting and Enumeration and Automated Model Building in Predicate Logic

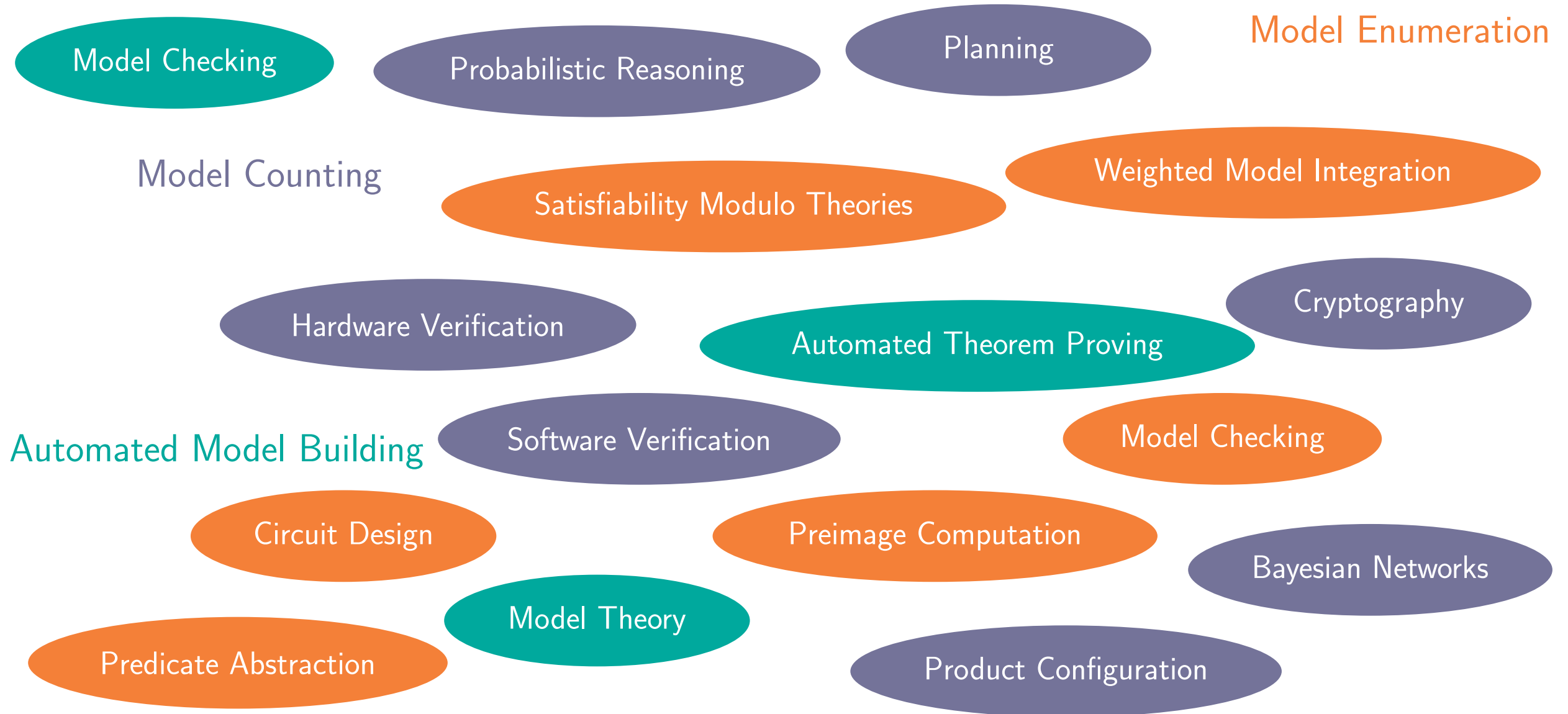
Sibylle Möhle

Theoretical Computer Science Group
University of Regensburg

EuroProofNet Workshop on Program Verification

September 17, 2025

Where Do These Things Come Into Play?

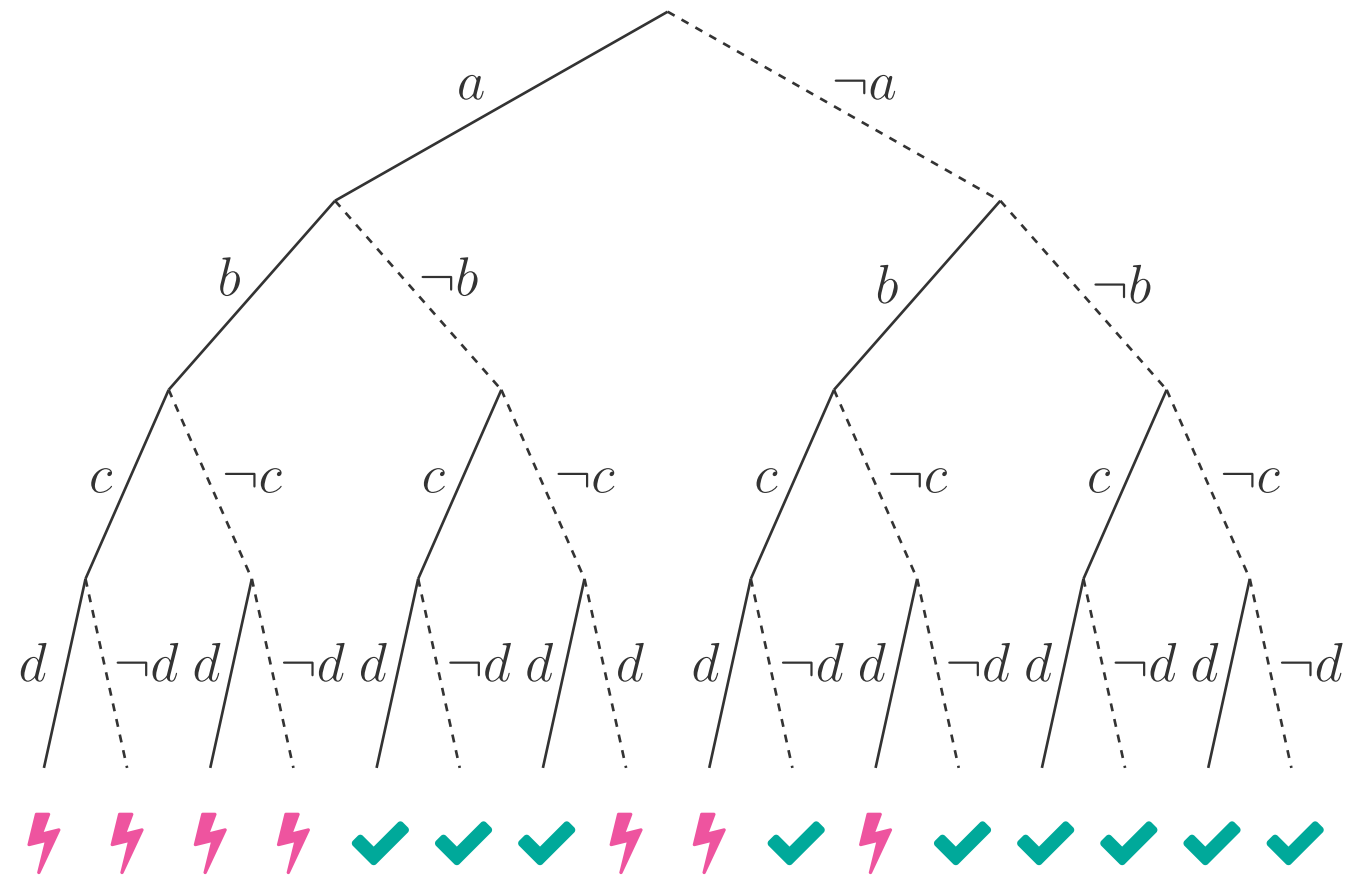


Counting and Enumerating Propositional Models

Challenge: Search Space Need be Explored Exhaustively

$$F = (\neg a \vee \neg b) \wedge (a \vee \neg b \vee \neg d) \wedge (\neg a \vee b \vee c \vee d)$$

n	$2^{ n }$ assignments
1	2
2	4
10	1'024
100	$\approx 1.27 \cdot 10^{30}$
1000	$\approx 1.07 \cdot 10^{301}$



State-Of-The-Art Solution for Model Counting: Component-Based Reasoning

$$F = \underbrace{(a \vee b)}_{\mathcal{C}_1} \wedge \underbrace{(c \vee d)}_{\mathcal{C}_2}$$

\Downarrow

$$\#F = 9 = \#\mathcal{C}_1 \cdot \#\mathcal{C}_2$$

- R.J. Bayardo, J.D. Pehoushek. *Counting Models Using Connected Components*". AAAI'00.
T. Sang et al. *Combining Component Caching and Clause Learning for Effective Model Counting*. SAT'04.
M. Thurley. *sharpSAT—Counting Models with Advanced Component Caching and Implicit BCP*. SAT'06.
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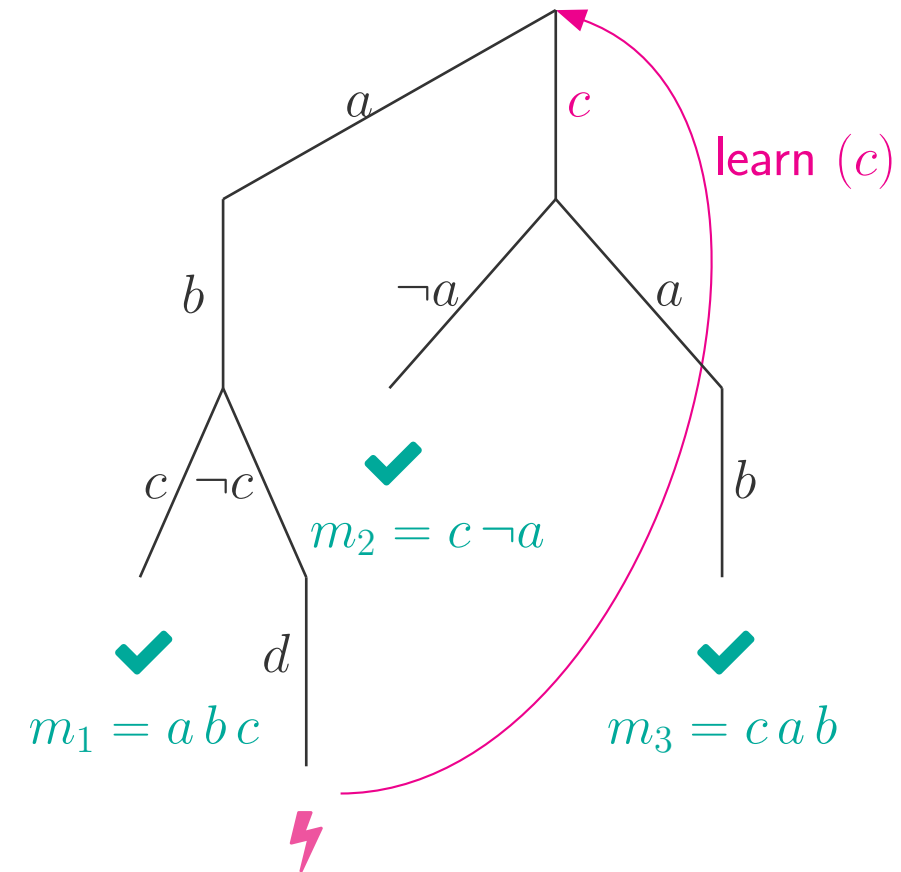
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👍 reduces work in individual computation

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Challenge: Avoid Finding Models Multiple Times in CDCL With Backjumping

$$F = (\neg a \vee b) \wedge (c \vee d) \wedge (c \vee \neg d) \wedge (c)$$



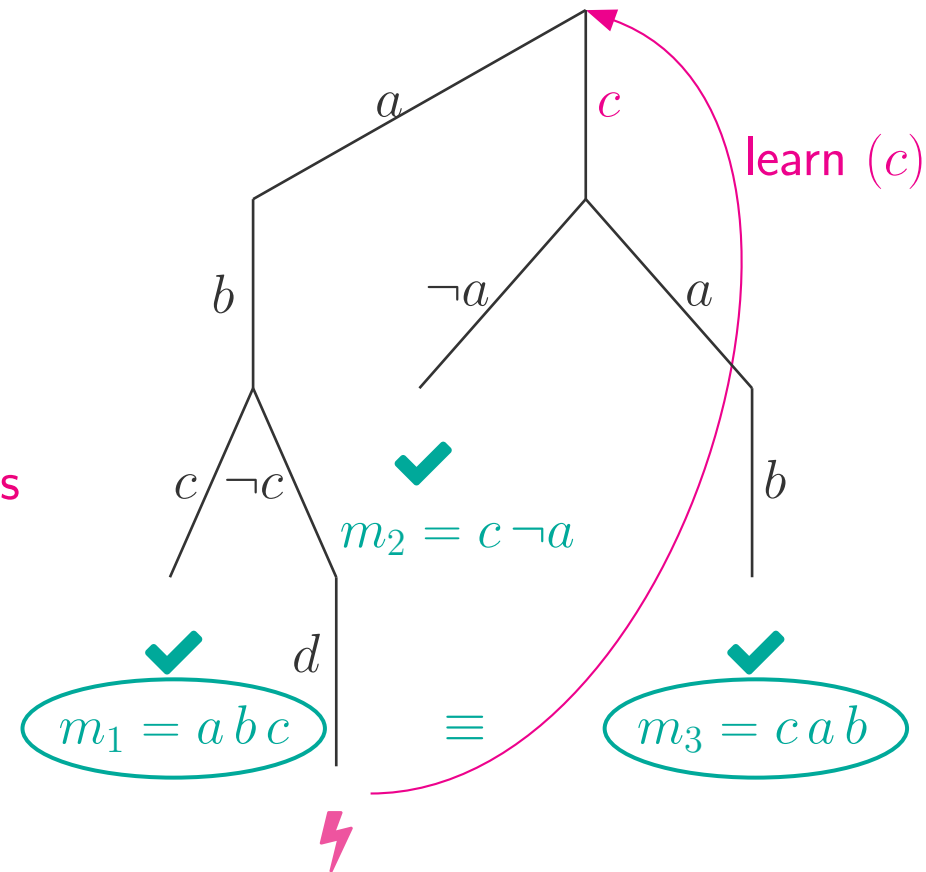
J.P. Marques-Silva, K.A. Sakallah. *GRASP—A New Search Algorithm for Satisfiability*. ICCAD'96.
J.P. Marques-Silva, K.A. Sakallah. *GRASP: A Search Algorithm for Propositional Satisfiability*. IEEE Trans Comput, 1999.
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👍 learn from conflicts

🗨️ might find redundant models

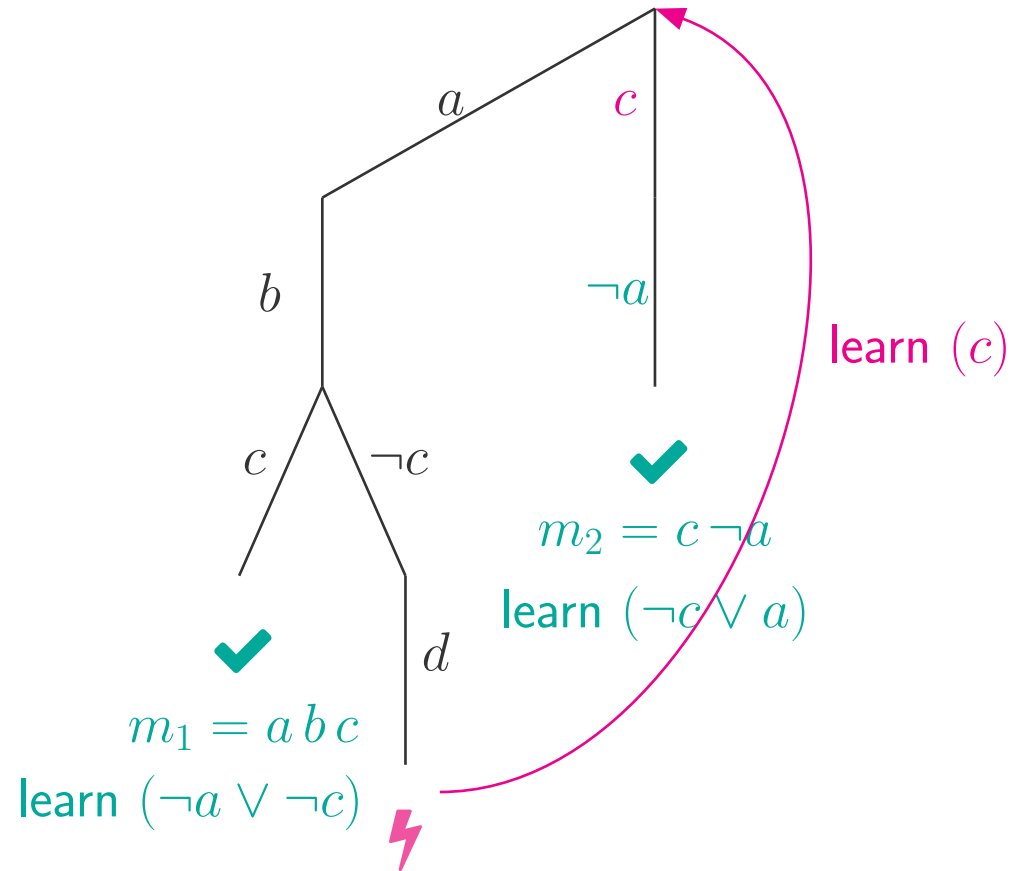


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State-Of-The-Art Solution: Blocking Clauses and DPLL-Style Backtracking

Blocking clauses

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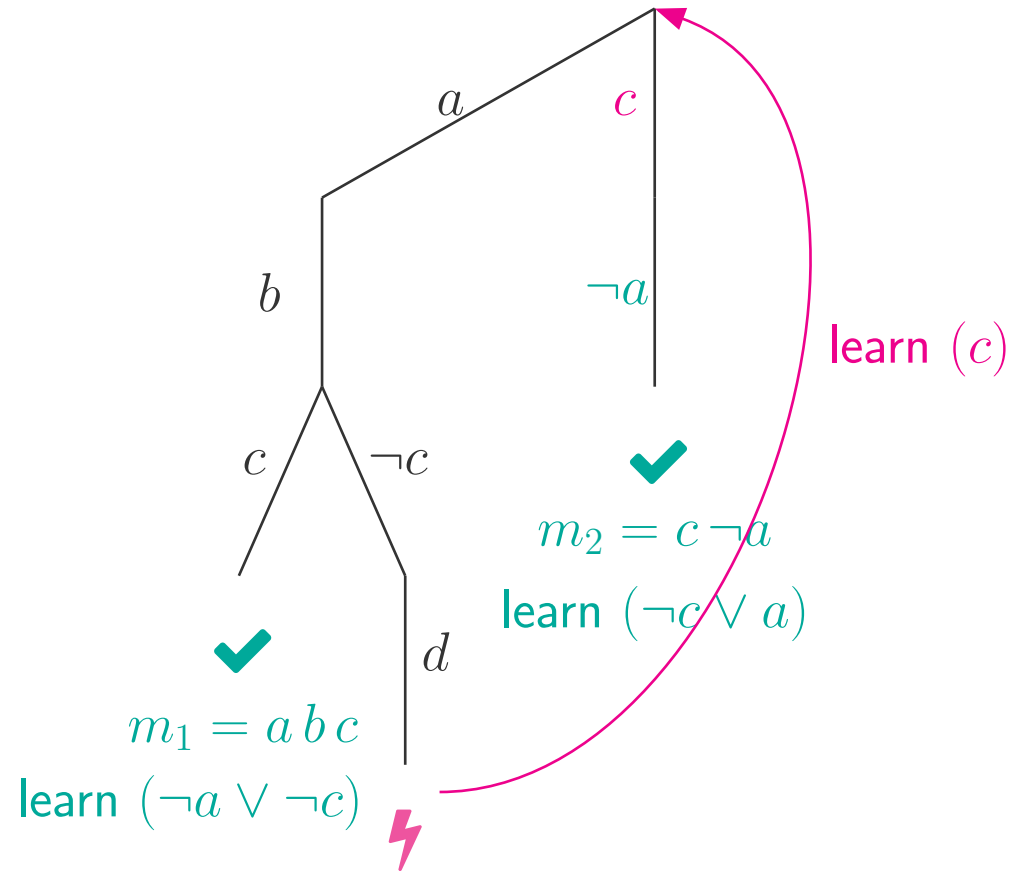


- K.L. McMillan. *Applying SAT Methods in Unbounded Symbolic Model Checking*. CAV'02.
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S. Möhle, R. Sebastiani, A. Biere. *Four Flavors of Entailment*. SAT'20.

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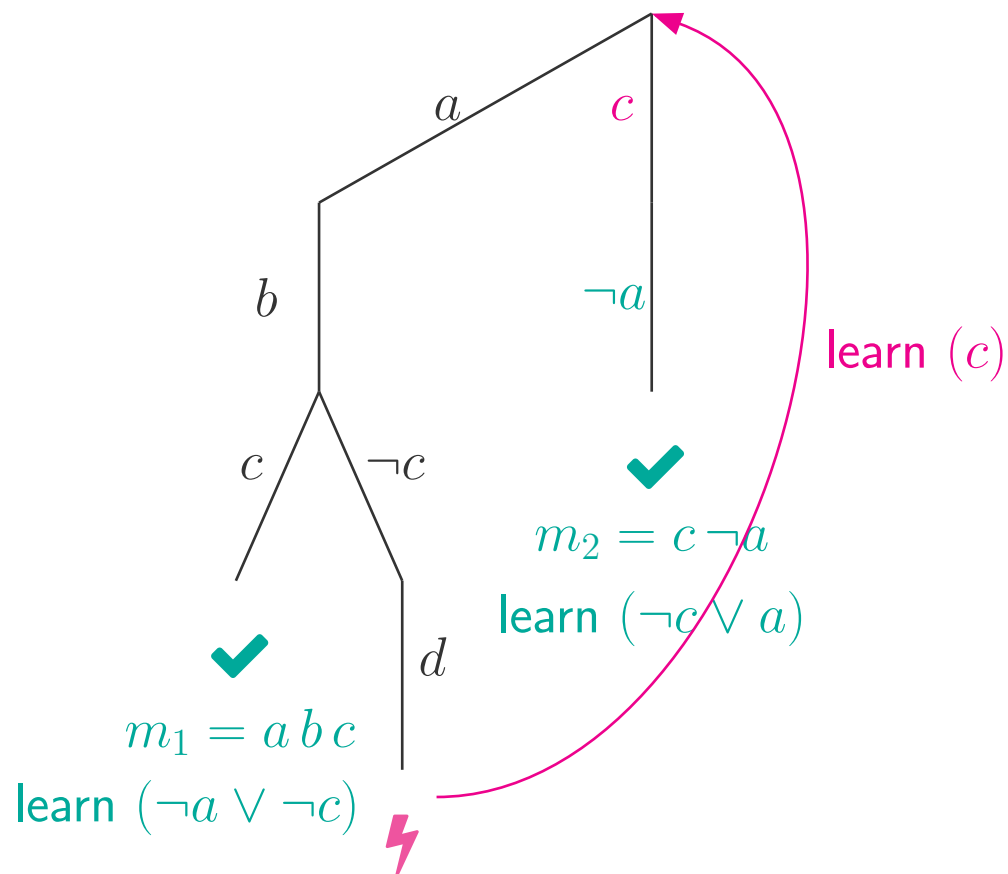


- 👍 finds no redundant models
- 👍 learns from conflicts
- 🗨 blocking clauses must be kept \Rightarrow formula blowup

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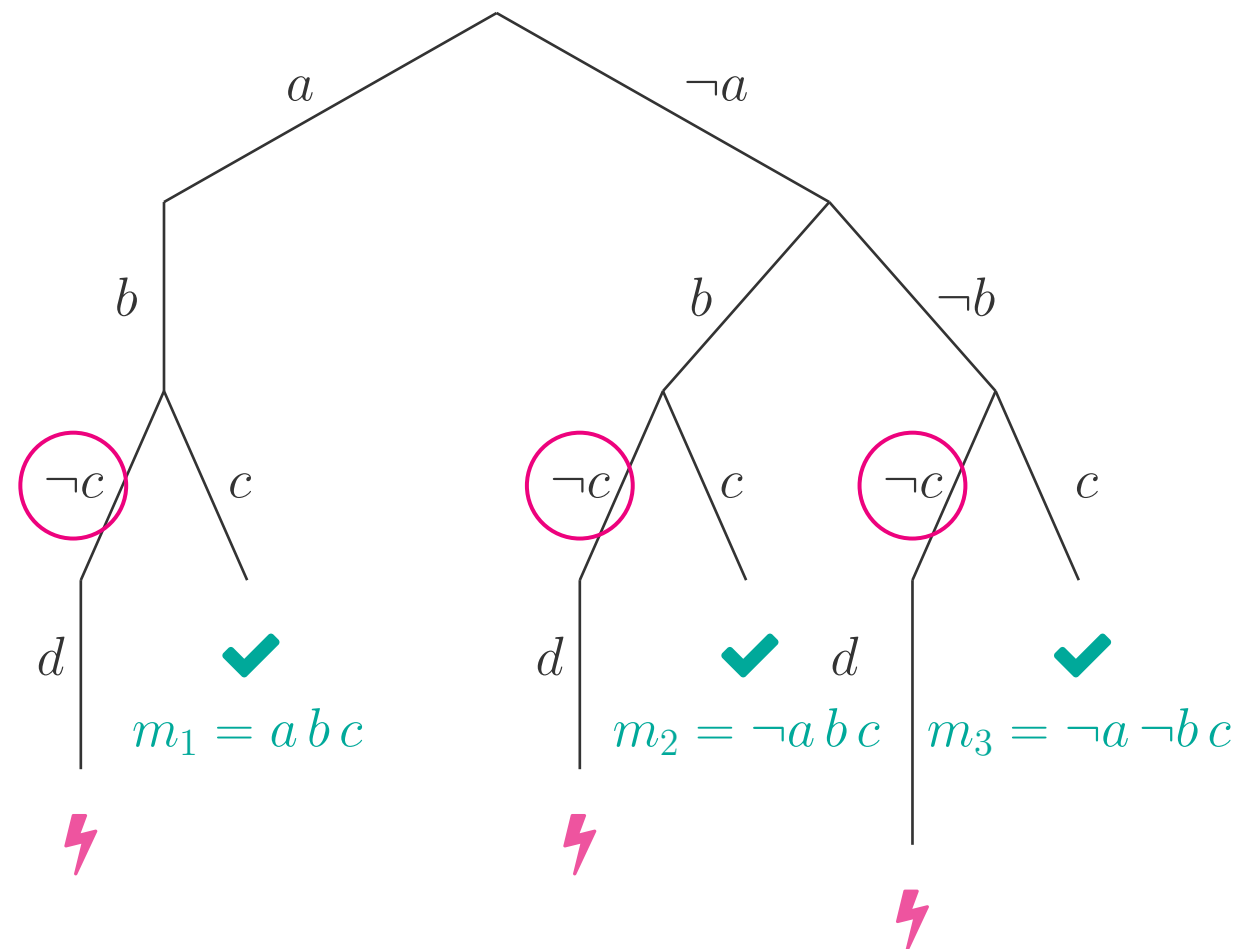


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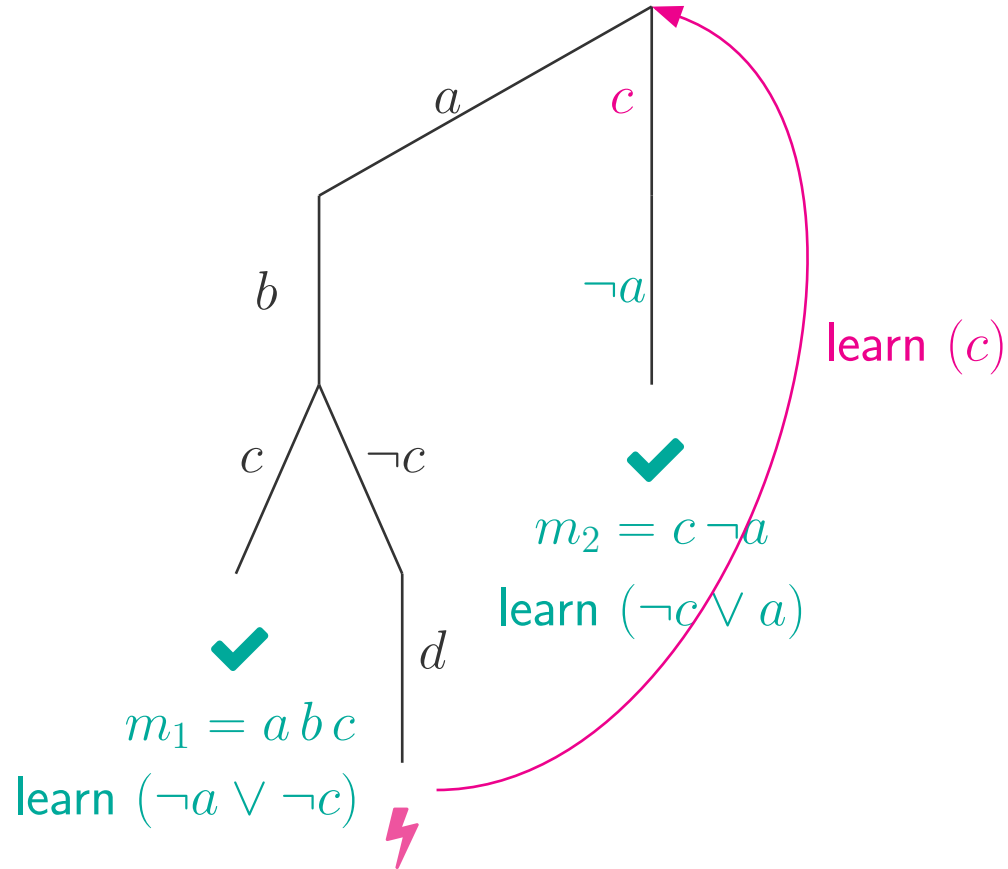
Chronological backtracking



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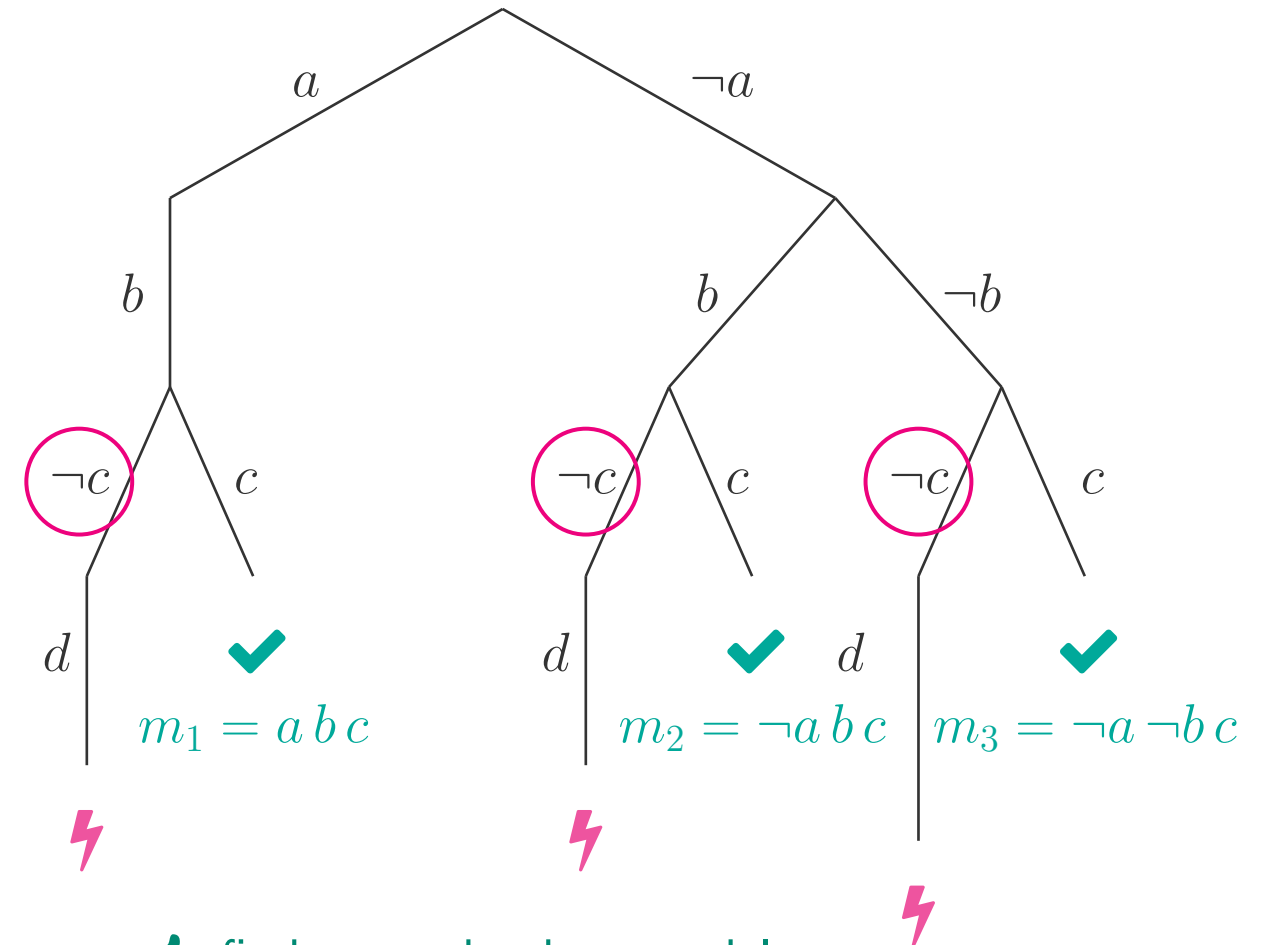
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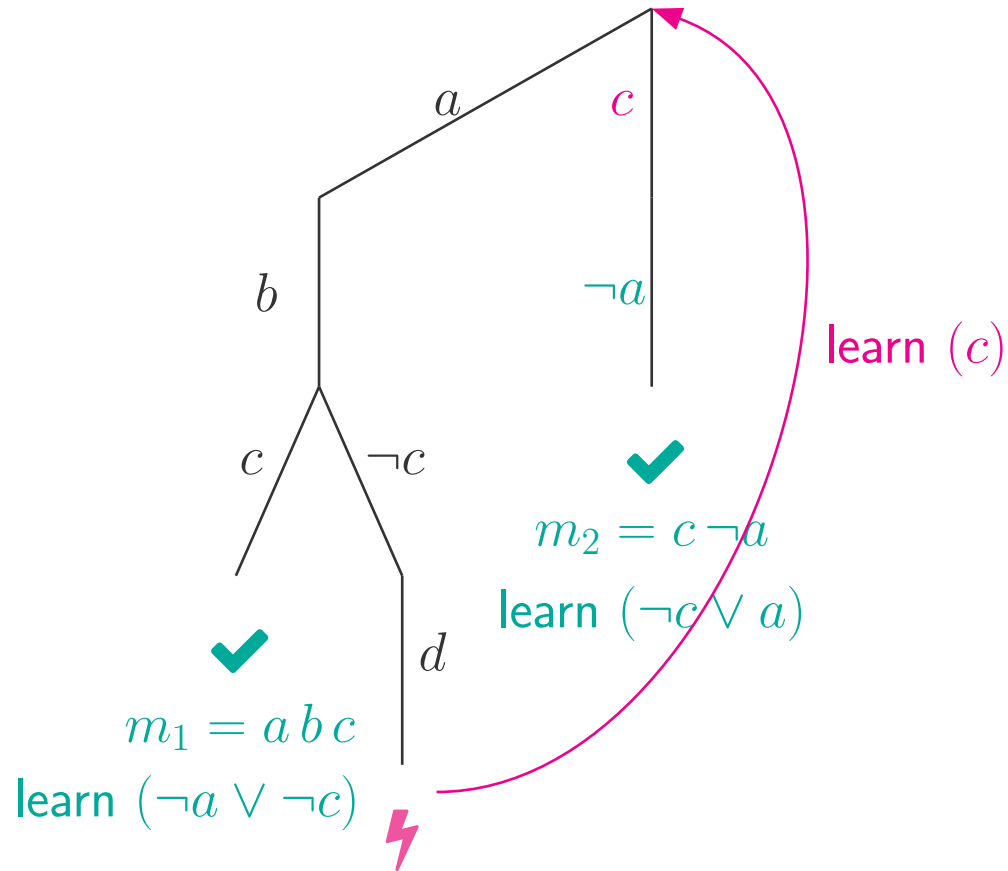
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A. Nadel, V. Ryvchin, *Chronological Backtracking*. SAT'18.

S. Möhle, A. Biere, *Backing Backtracking*. SAT'19.

S. Möhle, A. Biere. *Combining Conflict-Driven Clause Learning and Chronological Backtracking for Propositional Model Counting*. GCAI'19.

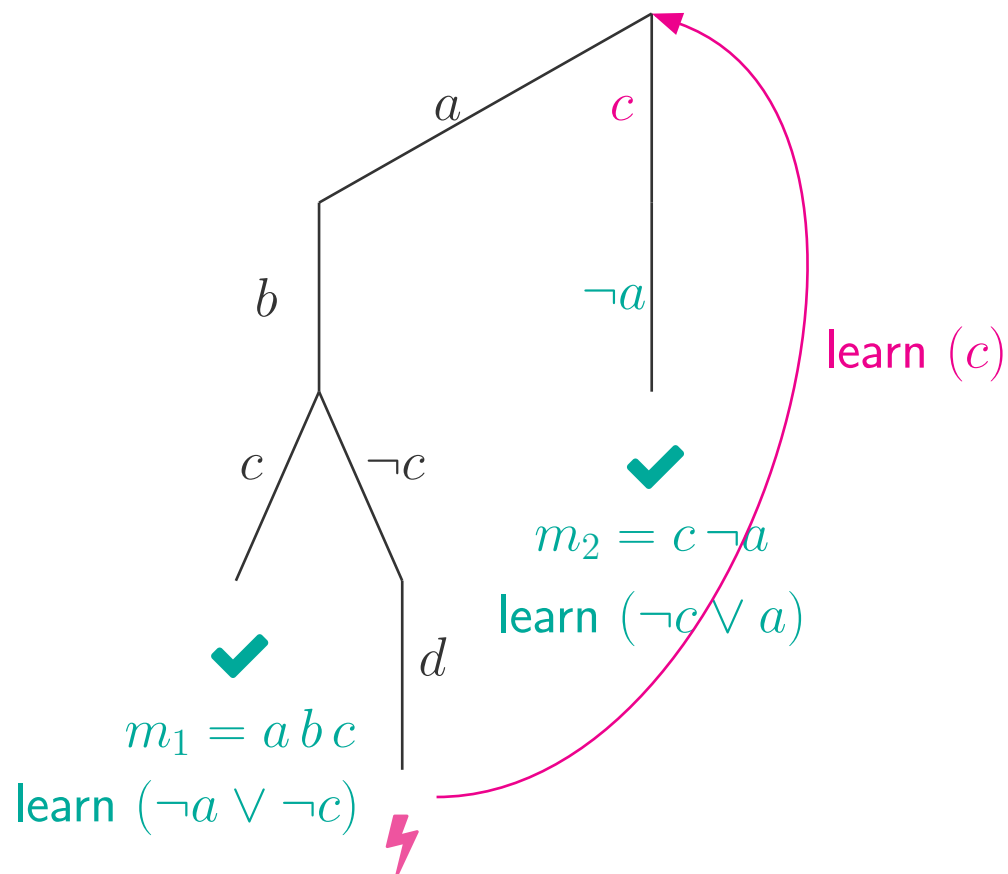
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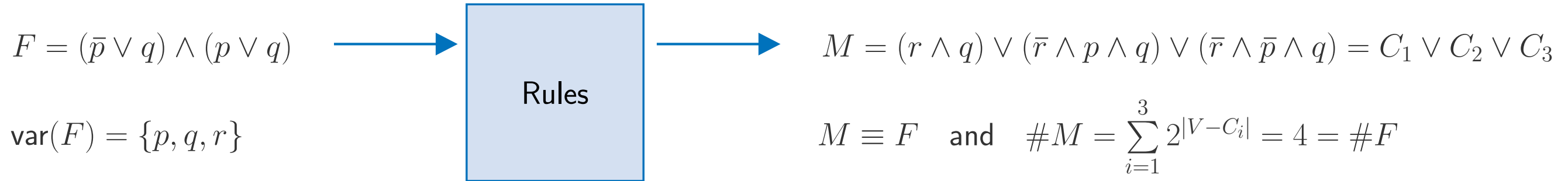
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Counting and Enumerating Propositional Models Using Chronological CDCL



Generalizing,

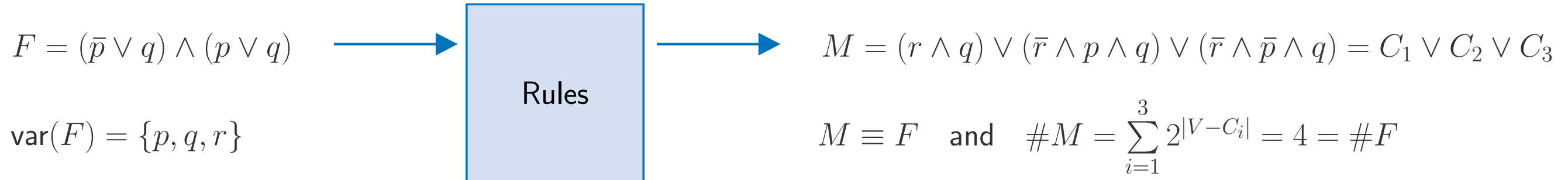
$$\#F = \sum_{C \in M} 2^{|V-C|} \text{ and } F \equiv \bigvee_{C \in M} C$$

and

M is a Disjoint-Sum-of-Products (DSOP) representation of F

- M is a disjunction of conjunctions of literals (cubes)
- The cubes in M are pairwise contradicting
- M is logically equivalent to F
- M is not unique

Counting and Enumerating Propositional Models Using Chronological CDCL



Generalizing,

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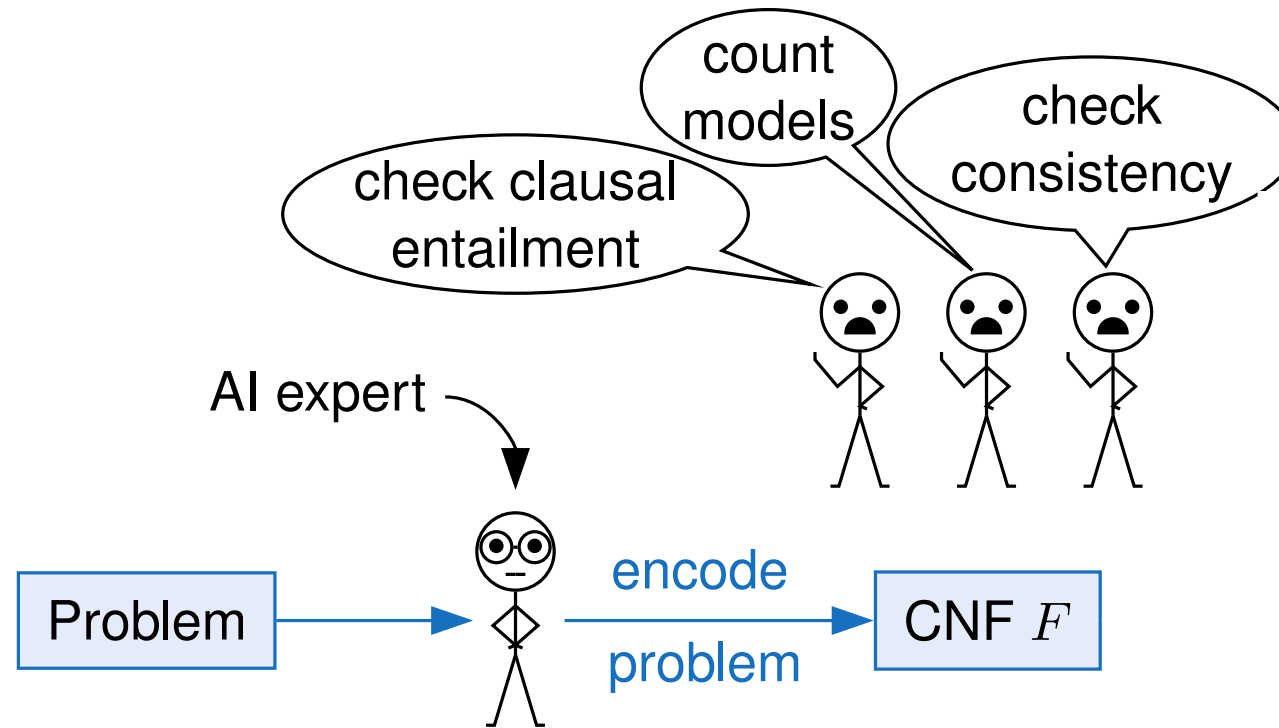
and

M is a Disjoint-Sum-of-Products (DSOP) representation of F ← we did some kind of knowledge compilation, right?

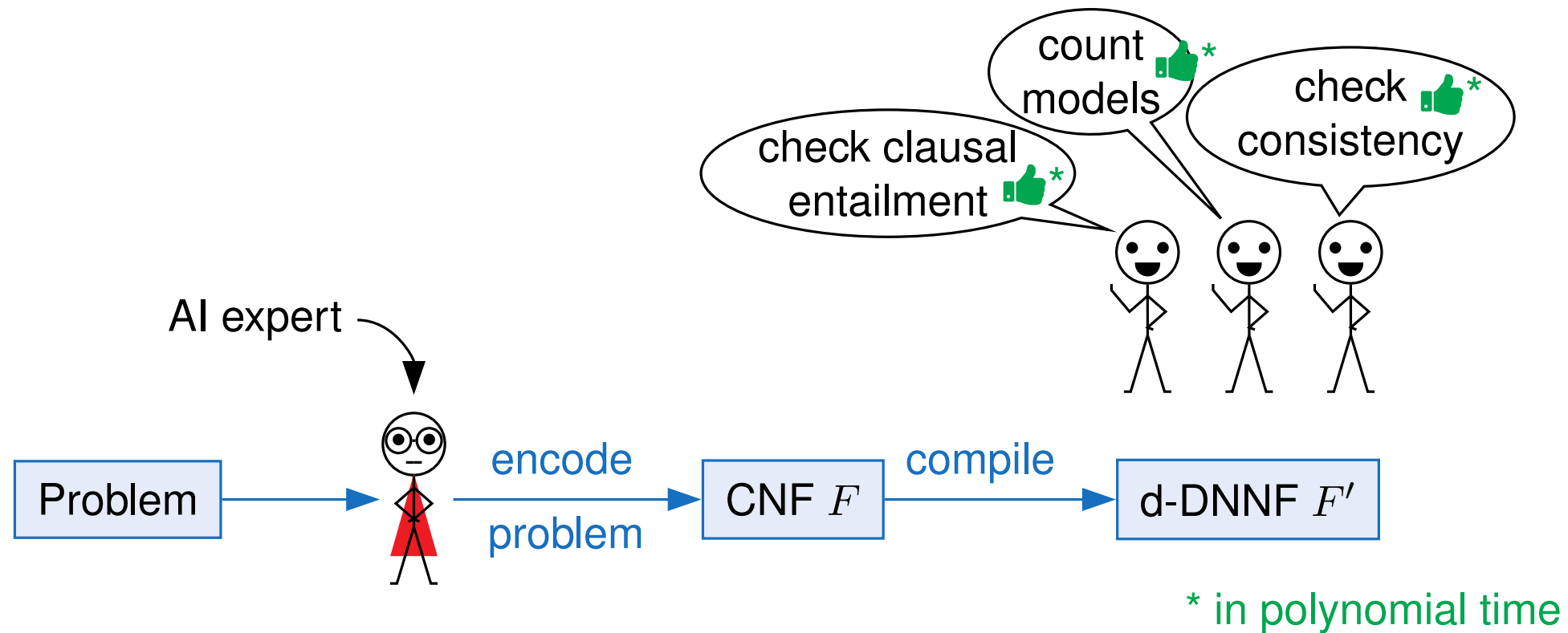
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Why Is Knowledge Compilation Interesting, Again?

What's the Problem with Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF)?



What's the Problem with Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF)?



Deterministic Decomposable Negation Normal Form (d-DNNF)

d-DNNF: $F = (a \wedge (b \vee (\neg b \wedge c)) \wedge d) \vee (\neg a \wedge b)$

- negations in front of variables
- for all conjunctions: conjuncts do not share variables
- for all disjunctions: disjuncts are pairwise contradicting

Model Counting in d-DNNF

$$(1) \quad F = G \wedge H \implies \#F = \#G \cdot \#H \quad \text{provided } \text{var}(G) \cup \text{var}(H) = \text{var}(F) \text{ and } \text{var}(G) \cap \text{var}(H) = \emptyset$$

$$(2) \quad F = C \vee D \implies \#F = 2^{|\text{var}(F)| - |\text{var}(C)|} + 2^{|\text{var}(F)| - |\text{var}(D)|} \quad \text{provided } C \wedge D \equiv \perp$$

Model Counting in d-DNNF

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$$F = \underline{(a \wedge (b \vee (\neg b \wedge c))) \wedge d} \vee \underline{(\neg a \wedge b)} \quad (2)$$

$$\#F = \#(\underline{a \wedge (b \vee (\neg b \wedge c)) \wedge d}) \cdot 2^0 + \#(\underline{\neg a \wedge b}) \cdot 2^2 \quad (1)$$

$$= [\#(a) \cdot \#(\underline{b \vee (\neg b \wedge c)}) \cdot \#(d)] \cdot 2^0 + [\#(\neg a) \cdot \#(b)] \cdot 2^2 \quad (2)$$

$$= [1 \cdot [\#(b) \cdot 2^1 + \#(\underline{\neg b \wedge c})] \cdot 2^0] + [1 \cdot 1] \cdot 2^2 \quad (1)$$

$$= [1 \cdot [1 \cdot 2^1 + [\#(\neg b) \cdot \#(c)] \cdot 2^0] + 2^2$$

$$= [1 \cdot [1 \cdot 2^1 + [1 \cdot 1] \cdot 2^0] + 2^2] = 7$$

CNF vs. d-DNNF — the Model Counting Case

CNF: $F = (\neg a \vee b \vee c) \wedge (\neg a \vee d) \wedge (a \vee b)$

d-DNNF: $F' = (a \wedge (b \vee (\neg b \wedge c)) \wedge d) \vee (\neg a \wedge b)$

CNF vs. d-DNNF — the Model Counting Case

CNF: $F = (\neg a \vee b \vee c) \wedge (\neg a \vee d) \wedge (a \vee b)$

$\#F = ?$ not that easy

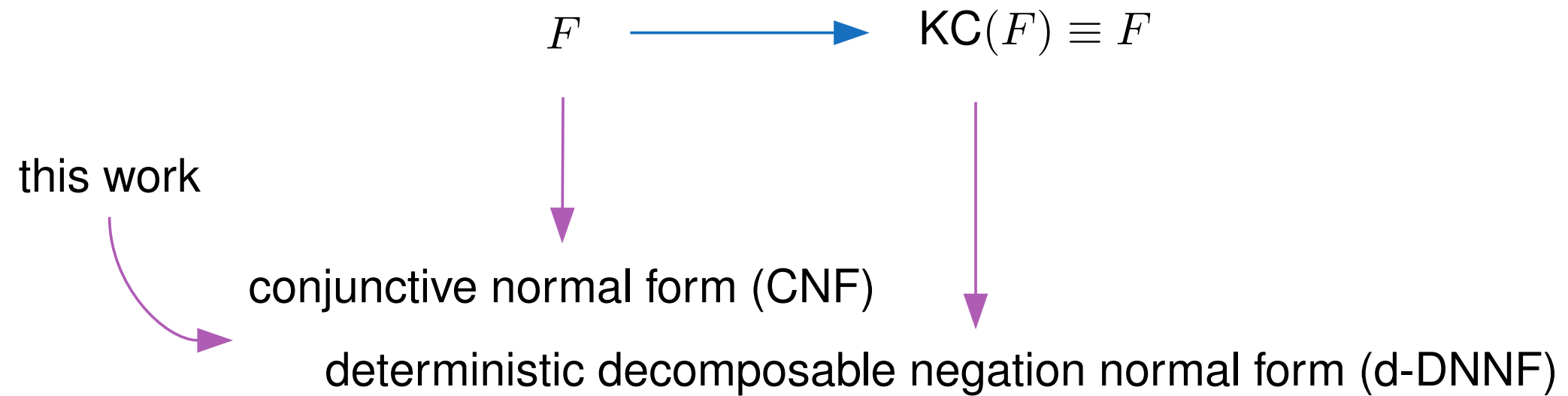
d-DNNF: $F' = (a \wedge (b \vee (\neg b \wedge c)) \wedge d) \vee (\neg a \wedge b)$

$\#F' = (1 \cdot (1 \cdot 2^1 + 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 2^0) \cdot 1) \cdot 2^0 + (1 \cdot 1) \cdot 2^2 = 7$

The Task: Knowledge Compilation

$$F \longrightarrow \text{KC}(F) \equiv F$$

The Task: CNF-to-d-DNNF Compilation



Automated Model Building

What do Knowledge Compilation and Automated Model Building Have in Common?

Knowledge compilation:

Translate a logical formula into another language *in which some tasks of interest are executable efficiently*.

Automated model building:

Find and finitely represent typically infinite models of a formula *facilitating their computational processing*.



The focus is on a convenient representation.

Automated Model Building Postulates

Let Σ be a vocabulary and F be a formula over Σ . Then a model representation formalism should ideally meet the following postulates:

- **Uniqueness.** Each model representation M specifies a single interpretation over Σ .
- **Atom Test.** There exists a fast procedure to evaluate arbitrary ground atoms over the signature Σ in M .
- **Formula Evaluation.** There exists an algorithm deciding the truth value of an arbitrary formula over Σ in M .
- **Equivalence Test.** There exists an algorithm deciding whether two representations M and M' over Σ describe the same interpretation.

The Satisfiability Problem of First-Order Logic

Signature $\Sigma = (\Omega, \Pi)$ where Ω set of function symbols of arity ≥ 0
 Π set of predicate symbols of arity ≥ 0
 \mathcal{X} set of variables

Term $t \in T(\Sigma, \mathcal{X})$ where t is either a $x \in \mathcal{X}$ or $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ with $f \in \Omega$ and $t_1, \dots, t_n \in T(\Sigma, \mathcal{X})$

Ground term $t \in T(\Sigma)$ where t contains no variables

Atom $P(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ where $P \in \Pi$ and $t_1, \dots, t_n \in T(\Sigma, \mathcal{X})$

Literal an atom or its negation

Clause a disjunction of literals

Substitution $\sigma : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow T(\Sigma, \mathcal{X})$ such that $\sigma(x) \neq x$ for only finitely many variables

Unification terms s and t are unifiable if there exists a substitution σ such that $\sigma(s) = \sigma(t)$

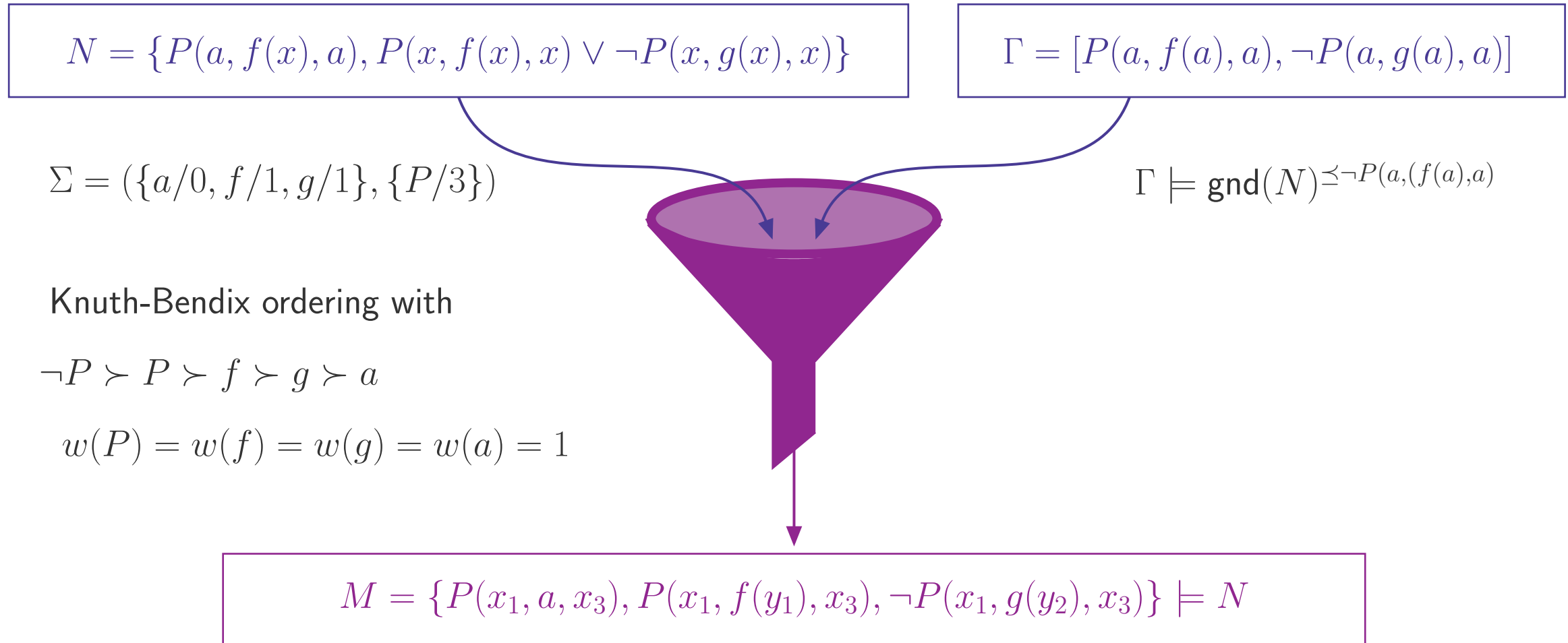
Solving the Satisfiability Problem of First-Order Logic

$$\Sigma = (\{a/0, f/1\}, \{P/1\}) \quad N = \{\underbrace{P(a)}_{C_1}, \underbrace{\neg P(x) \vee P(f(x))}_{C_2}\}$$

1. Propagate $P(a)$ from C_1 : $\Gamma = P(a)$
2. Apply $\sigma = \{x \mapsto a\}$ to C_2 and propagate $P(f(a))$: $\Gamma = P(a) P(f(a))$
3. Apply $\sigma = \{x \mapsto f(a)\}$ to C_2 and propagate $P(f(f(a)))$: $\Gamma = P(a) P(f(a)) P(f(f(a)))$
4. ...

But the infinite model of N could be just represented by $P(x)$...

Representing Interpretations as Set of Literals



Example

Given $N = \{P(a, f(x), a), P(x, f(x), x) \vee P(x, g(x), x)\}$ and a trail $\Gamma = P(a, f(a), a) \neg P(a, g(a), a)$

Wanted: representation of models of $N =$ generalization of Γ

Γ $P(a, f(a), a)$ $\neg P(a, g(a), a)$	Δ
$\mathcal{I} \models \Gamma$ $P(x_1, x_2, x_3)$	$M \models \Delta$

Example

Given $N = \{P(a, f(x), a), P(x, f(x), x) \vee P(x, g(x), x)\}$ and a trail $\Gamma = P(a, f(a), a) \neg P(a, g(a), a)$

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$\mathcal{I} \models \Gamma$	$M \models \Delta$
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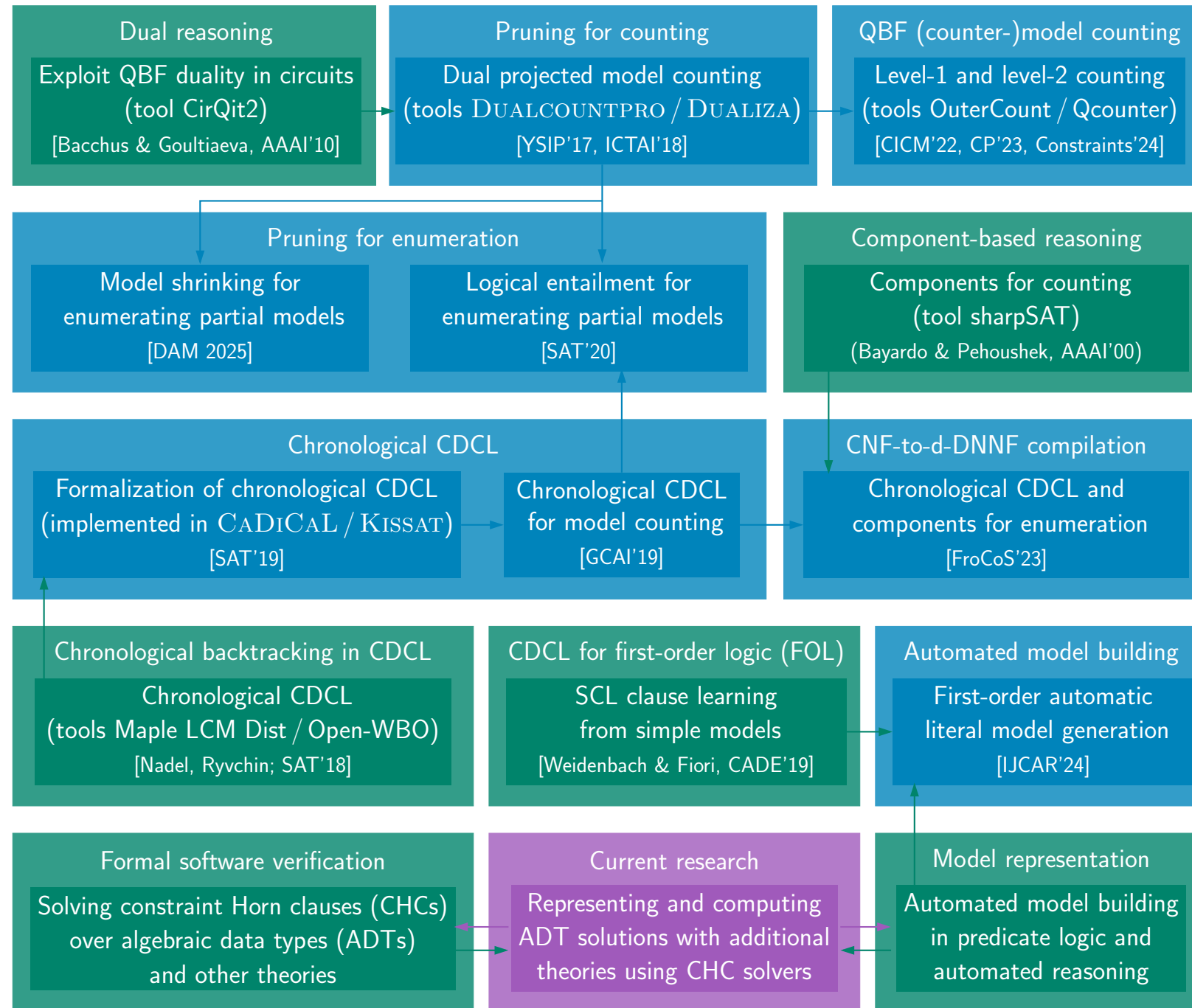
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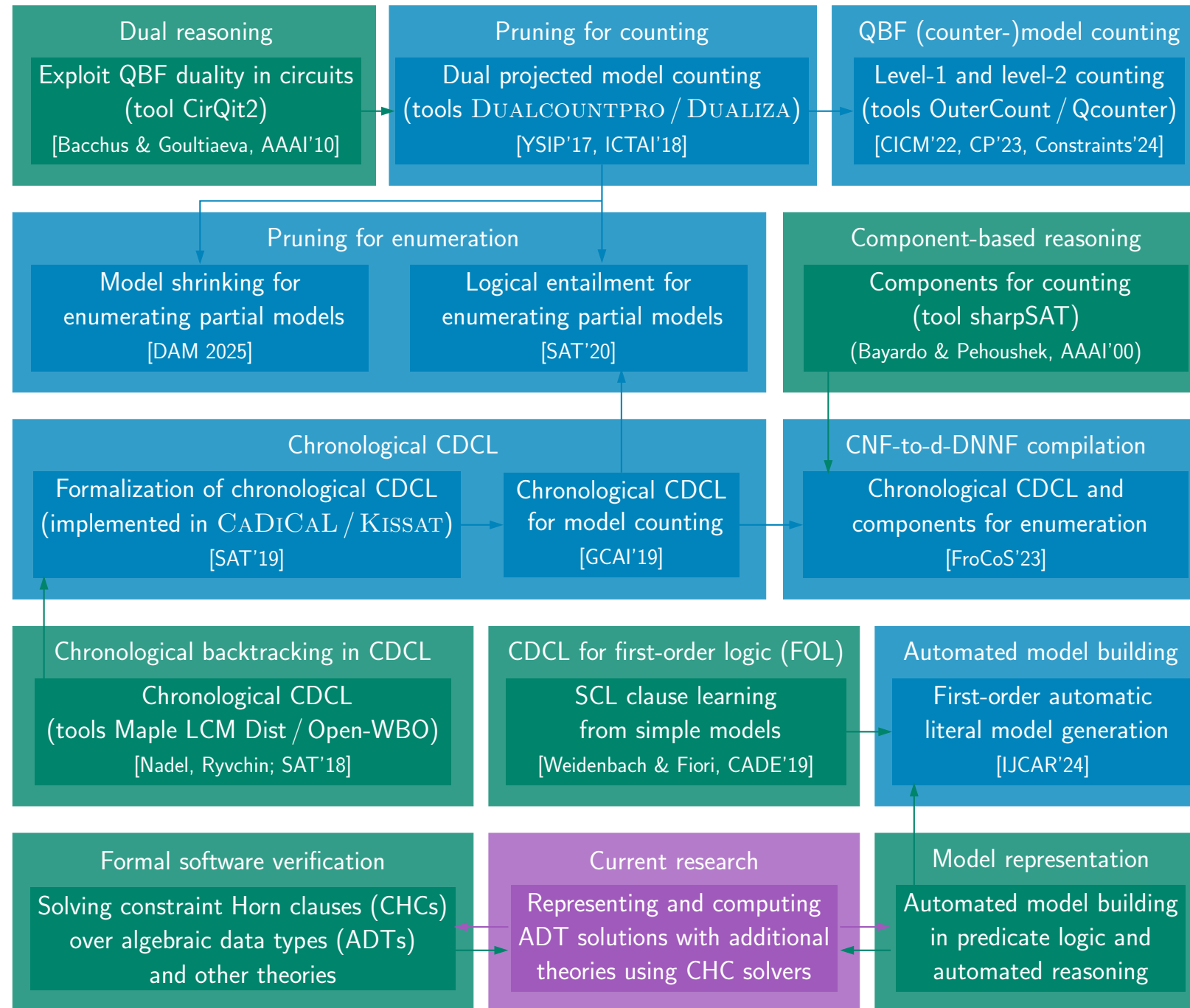
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Γ	Δ $P(a, f(a), a)$ $\neg P(a, g(a), a)$
$\mathcal{I} \models \Gamma$	$M \models \Delta$ $P(x_1, a, x_3)$ $P(x_1, f(y_1), x_3)$ $P(x_1, g(y_2), x_3)$

Some Context



Some Context



Thank you for your attention 😊

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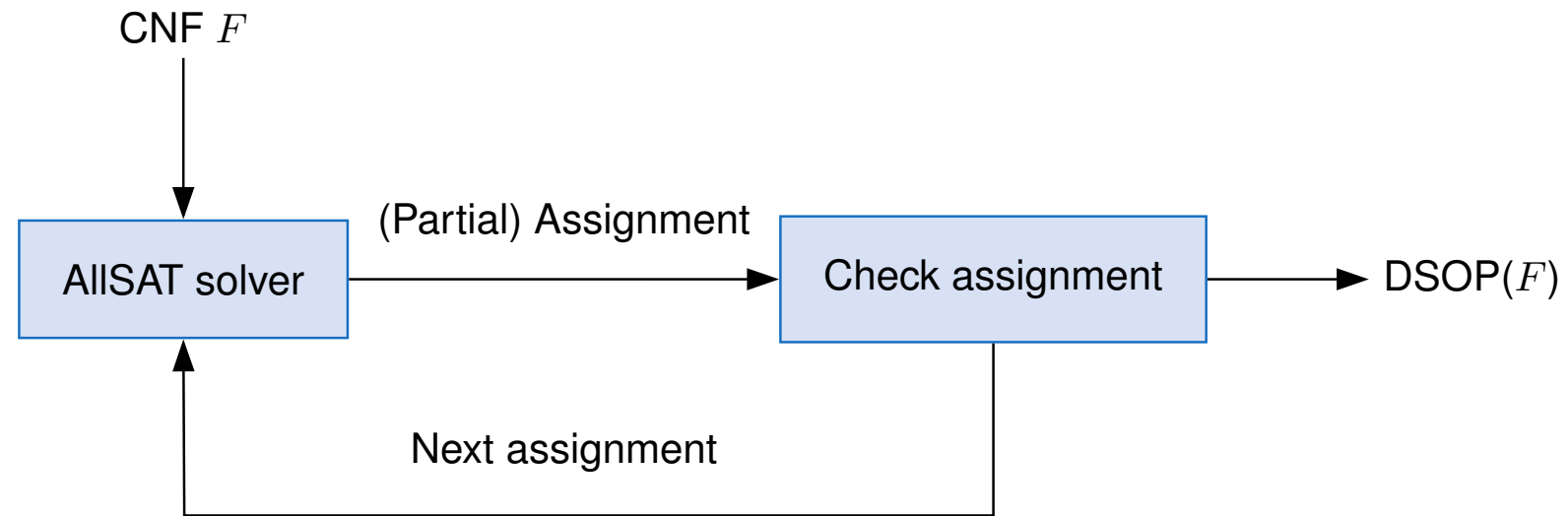
$$\text{DSOP}(F) = (a \wedge b \wedge d) \vee (a \wedge \neg b \wedge c \wedge d) \vee (\neg a \wedge b)$$

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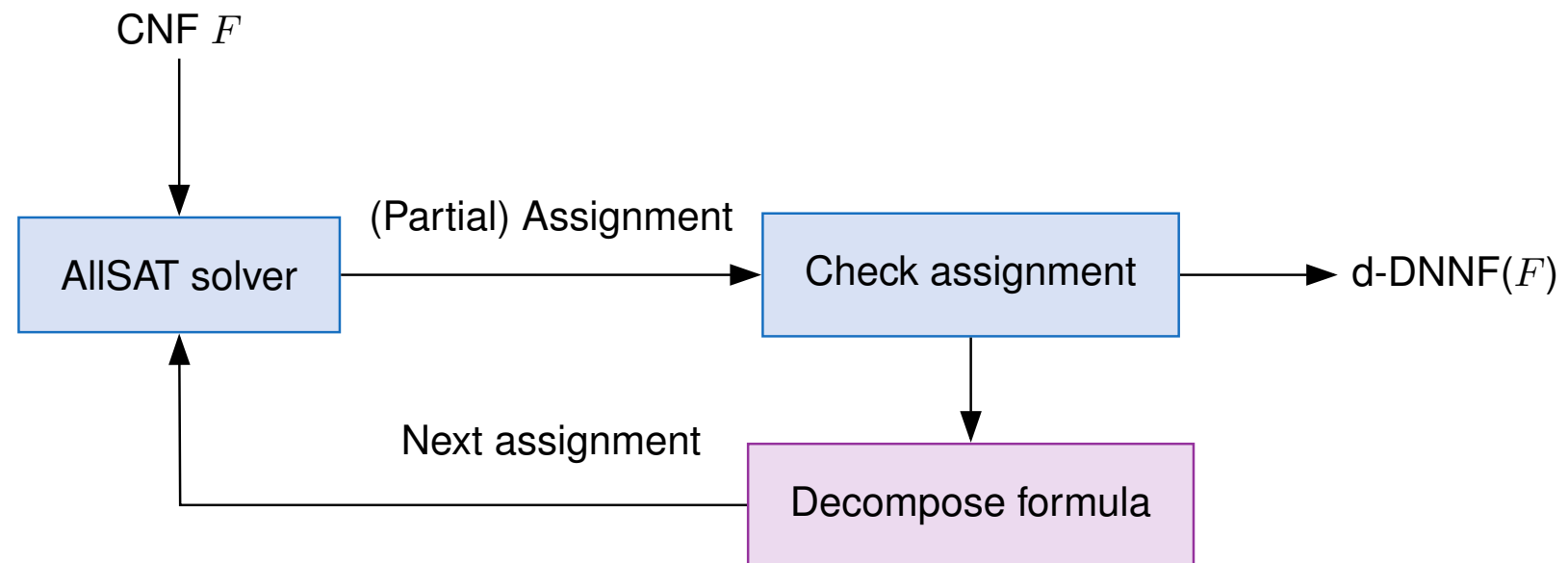
$$\text{d-DNNF}(F) = (a \wedge (b \vee (\neg b \wedge c)) \wedge d) \vee (\neg a \wedge b)$$

CNF-to-d-DNNF Compilation: Main Idea



DSOP = disjoint sum-of-products

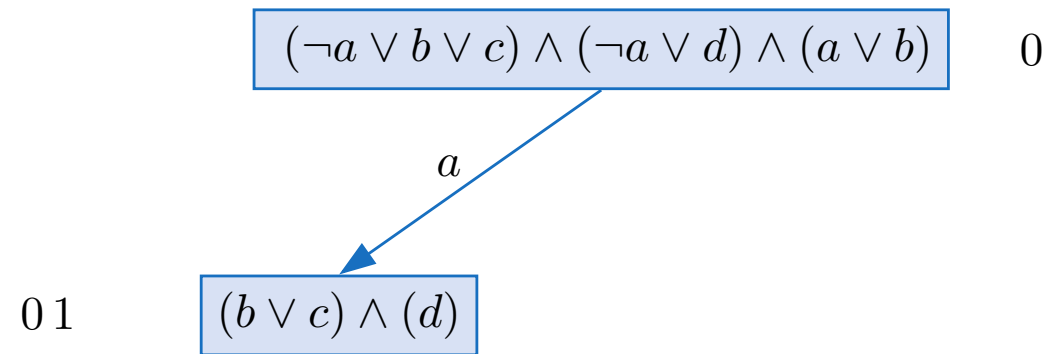
CNF-to-d-DNNF Compilation: Main Idea



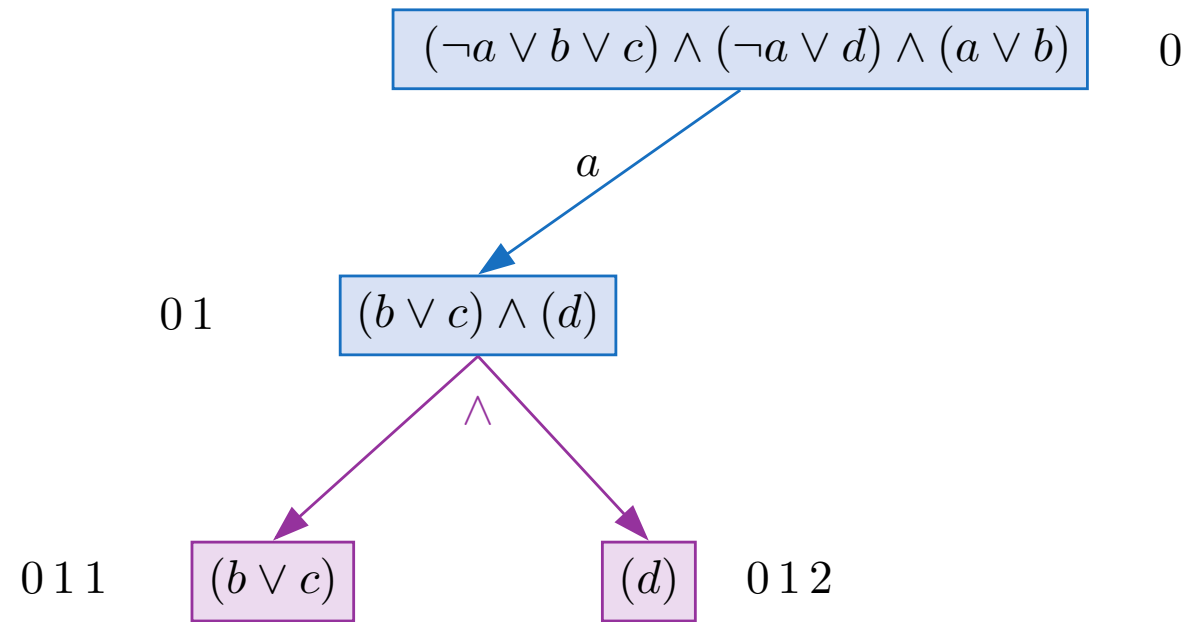
Example

$$(\neg a \vee b \vee c) \wedge (\neg a \vee d) \wedge (a \vee b) \quad 0$$

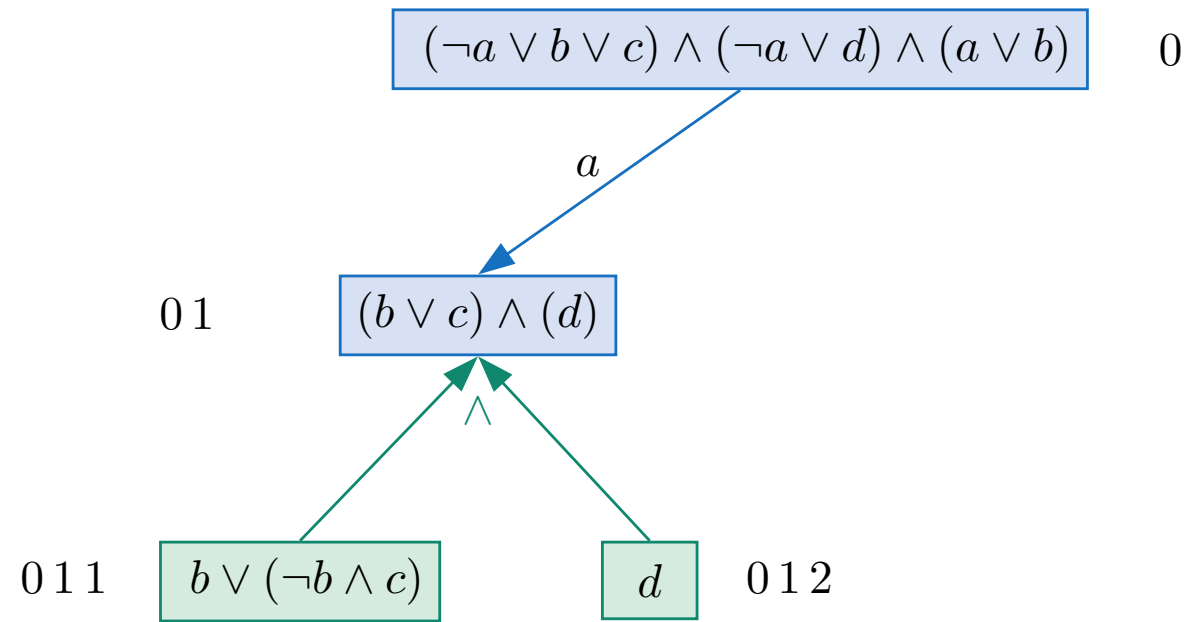
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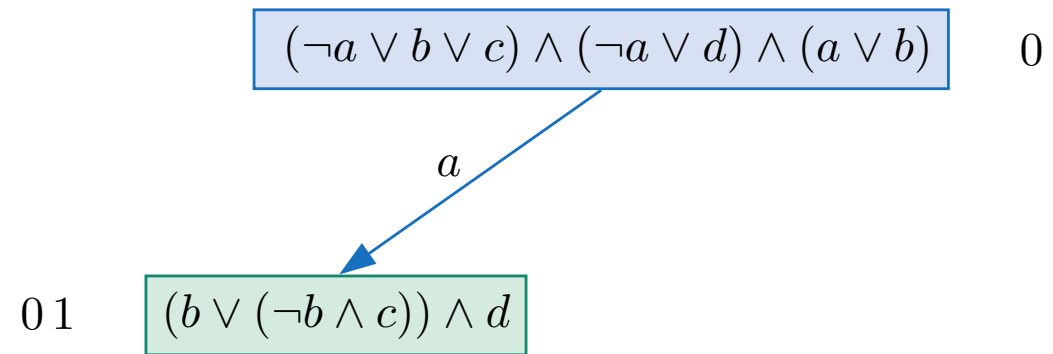
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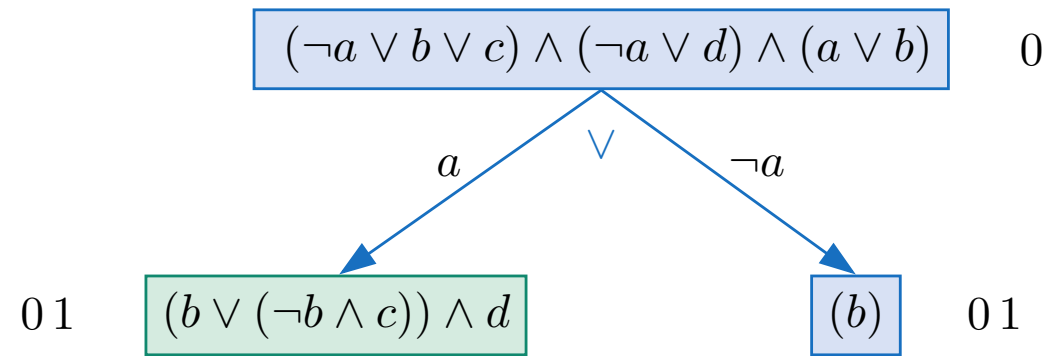
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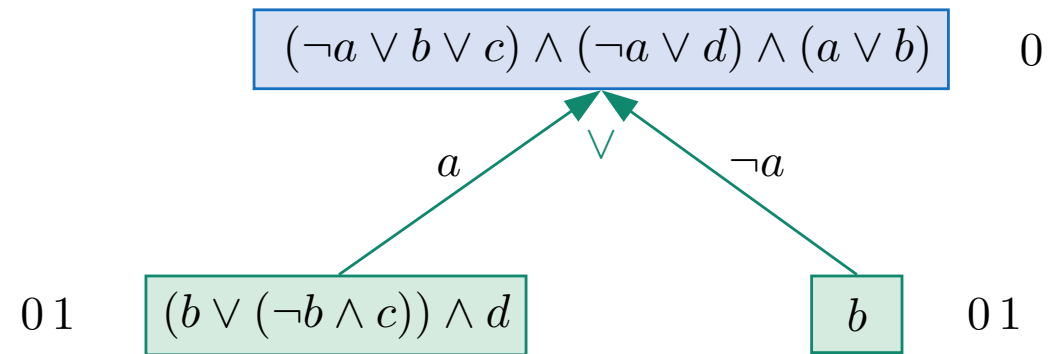
Example



Example



Example



Example

$$(a \wedge (b \vee (\neg b \wedge c)) \wedge d) \vee (\neg a \wedge b) \quad 0$$

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	\cdots	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
I	\cdots	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45	9	38	-23	17	44	-16
δ	\cdots	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	\cdots	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
I	\cdots	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45	9	38	-23	17	44	-16
δ	\cdots	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6

decision literal

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	...	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18	19
I	...	4		5	30	47	15	18		6	-7	-8	45		9	38	-23	17	44	-16
δ	...	3		4	4	4	4	4		5	5	5	5		6	6	6	6	6	6

$\text{block}(I, 4)$

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	...	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
I	...	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45	9	38	-23	17	44	-16
δ	...	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6

$\text{slice}(I, 4)$

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	\cdots	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
I	\cdots	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45	9	38	-23	17	44	-16
δ	\cdots	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6

$$I_{\leq 4}$$

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	\cdots	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
I	\cdots	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45	9	38	-23	17	44	-16
δ	\cdots	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6



Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	...	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
I	...	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45	9	38	-23	17	44	-16
δ	...	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6



conflicting { -47, -17, -44 }

conflict level 6

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	...	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
I	...	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45	9	38	-23	17	44	-16
δ	...	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6
conflicting	{				-47,										-17,	-44	}
learned	{			-30,	-47,		-18,							23			}



jump level 4

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	...	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
I	...	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45	9	38	-23	17	44	-16
δ	...	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6
conflicting	{				-47,										-17,	-44	}
learned	{			-30,	-47,		-18,							23			}

backtrack level 5

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	\dots	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
I	\dots	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45
δ	\dots	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	...	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
I	...	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45
δ	...	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5

τ	...	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
I	...	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45	23
δ	...	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	4

out of order

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	...	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
I	...	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45
δ	...	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5

τ	...	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
I	...	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45	23
δ	...	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	4

$\text{block}(I, 4)$

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	...	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
I	...	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45
δ	...	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5

τ	...	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
I	...	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45	23
δ	...	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	4

$\text{slice}(I, 4)$

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	\dots	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
I	\dots	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45
δ	\dots	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5

τ	\dots	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
I	\dots	4	5	30	47	15	18	6	-7	-8	45	23
δ	\dots	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	4

$$I_{\leq 4}$$

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	\cdots	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
I	\cdots	18	6	-7	-8	45	23	-38	-9	10	-11	13	16	-17	-25	42	12	-41
δ	\cdots	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	6	7	5	4	4	4	4	5	5


Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	...	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
I	...	18	6	-7	-8	45	23	-38	-9	10	-11	13	16	-17	-25	42	12	-41
δ	...	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	6	7	5	4	4	4	4	5	5



conflicting { 17, -42, -12 }

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking



τ	...	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
I	...	18	6	-7	-8	45	23	-38	-9	10	-11	13	16	-17	-25	42	12	-41
δ	...	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	6	7	5	4	4	4	4	5	5



conflicting { 17, -42, -12 }

backtrack level 4

Combining CDCL with Chronological Backtracking

τ	\cdots	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
I	\cdots	18	23	-38	16	-17	-25	42	-12
δ	\cdots	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4