A Multi-phase Backtracking Approach to Solving Scope-Resolved MRS

Eric Zinda

Demo

An Example World: A File System

- Individuals are files and folders
- Folders can contain files or other folders
- A user is in a “current folder”
- Individuals can be copied or deleted

What Might Be Said?

- Propositions and Yes/No Questions
  - Files are large.
  - Is a file in this folder not large?
- WH-Questions
  - Which files are in this folder?
  - What folder am I in?
- Commands
  - Delete <file>.
  - Copy <file> in <folder>.

How To Process and Respond?

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- Propositions and Yes/No Questions: “Files are large”
  - True: “Yes, I agree!”
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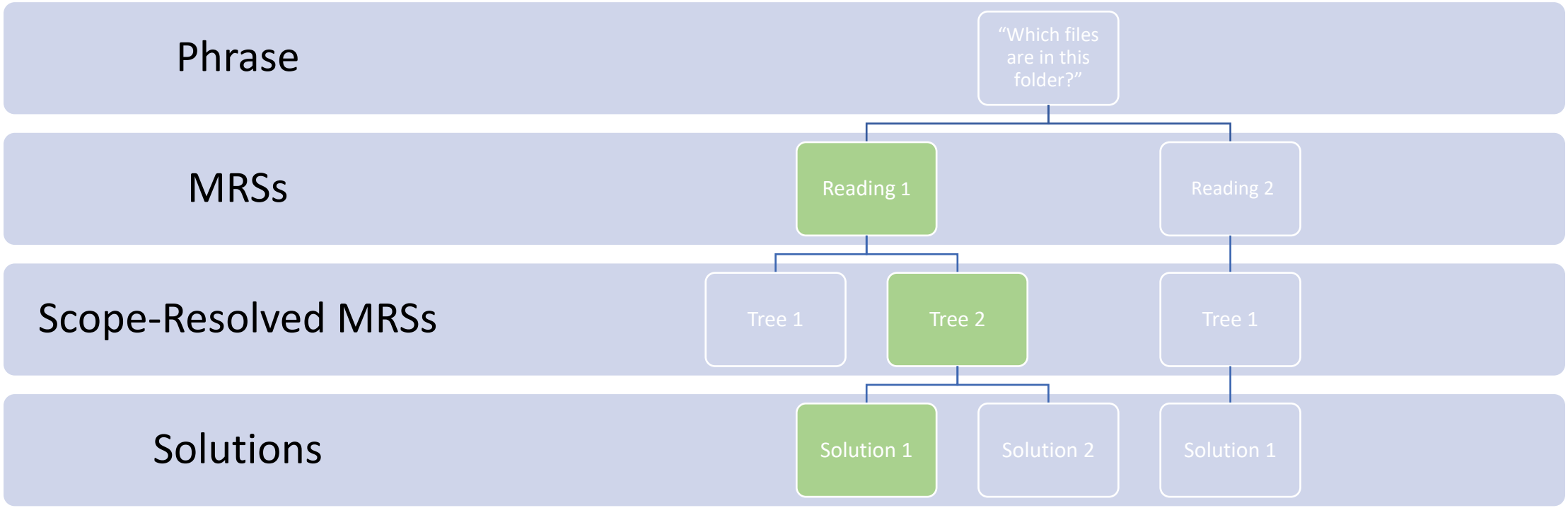
  - Find the variable scoped by which_q(x, RSTR, BODY)
  - Print the values of x from the (arbitrarily first) solution

How To Process and Respond?

- For all phrases: find a solution to a scope-resolved MRS
- Propositions and Yes/No Questions: “Files are large”
  - True: “Yes, I agree!”
  - False: “No, that isn’t true”
- WH-Questions: “Which files are in this folder?”
  - Find the variable scoped by which_q(x, RSTR, BODY)
  - Print the values of x from the (arbitrarily first) solution
- Commands: “Delete <file>”
  - Perform operations* generated from the (arbitrarily first) solution

  * “operations” are extra data added to state by action verbs

Choosing the “Right” Solution

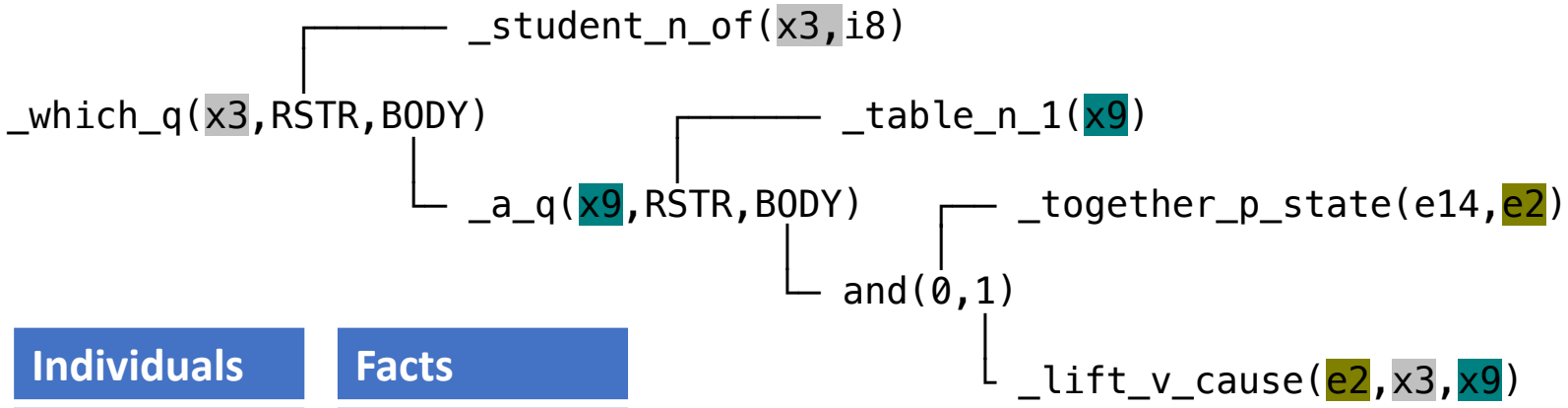


Heuristic: Respond using first solution that is found
… If no solution, respond with first failure

Solutions to Scope-Resolved MRS

"Which students are lifting a table together?"

- X variables always contain sets
- E variables are always a dictionary (name/value pairs)
- Scopal arguments form the shape of the tree



Individuals
Amir
Wan
table1

Facts
Amir and Wan are lifting table1 at the same time

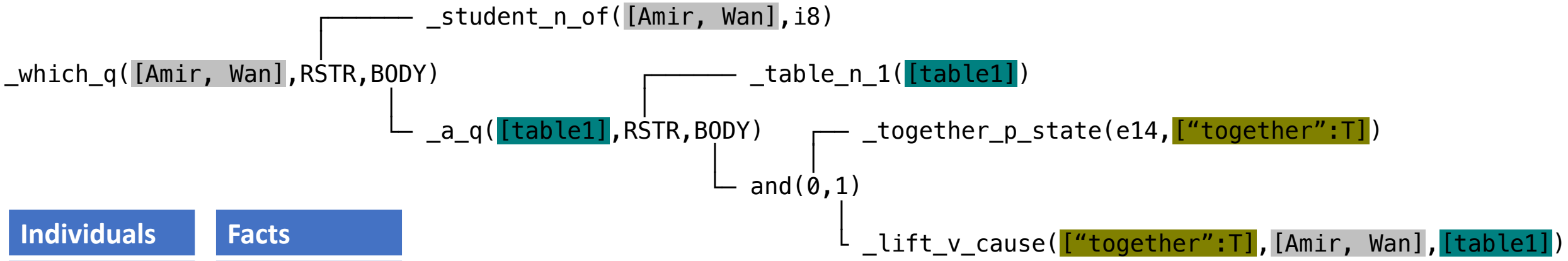
```
x3  [ x PERS: 3 NUM: pl IND: + ]
x9  [ x PERS: 3 NUM: sg IND: + ]
E2  [ e SF: ques TENSE: pres
       MOOD: indicative PROG: + PERF: – ]
```

Solutions to Scope-Resolved MRS

"Which students are lifting a table together?"

- X variables always contain sets
- E variables are always a dictionary (name/value pairs)
- Scopal arguments form the shape of the tree

Solution	
x3	[Amir, Wan]
x9	[table1]
e14	["together":T]



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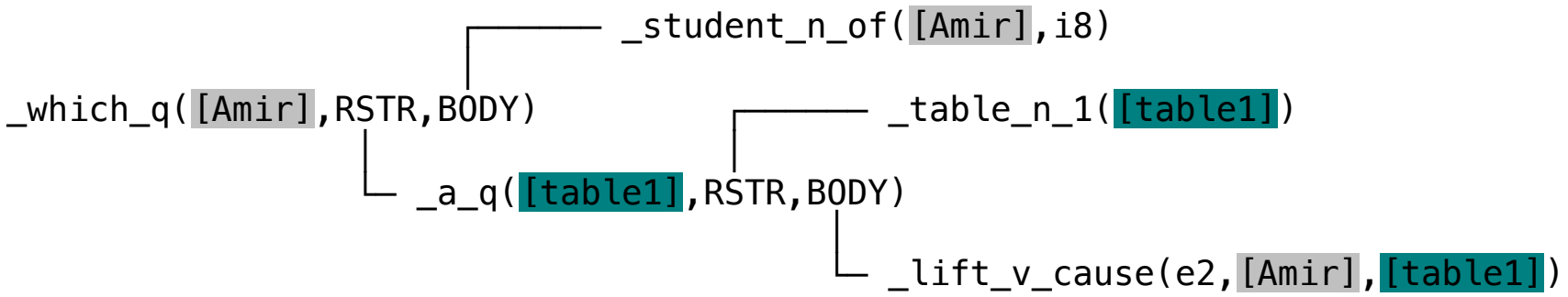

Solution	
x3	[Amir]
x9	[table1]

Individuals
Amir
Wan
table1

Facts
Amir and Wan are lifting table1 at the same time

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Solutions to Scope-Resolved MRS:

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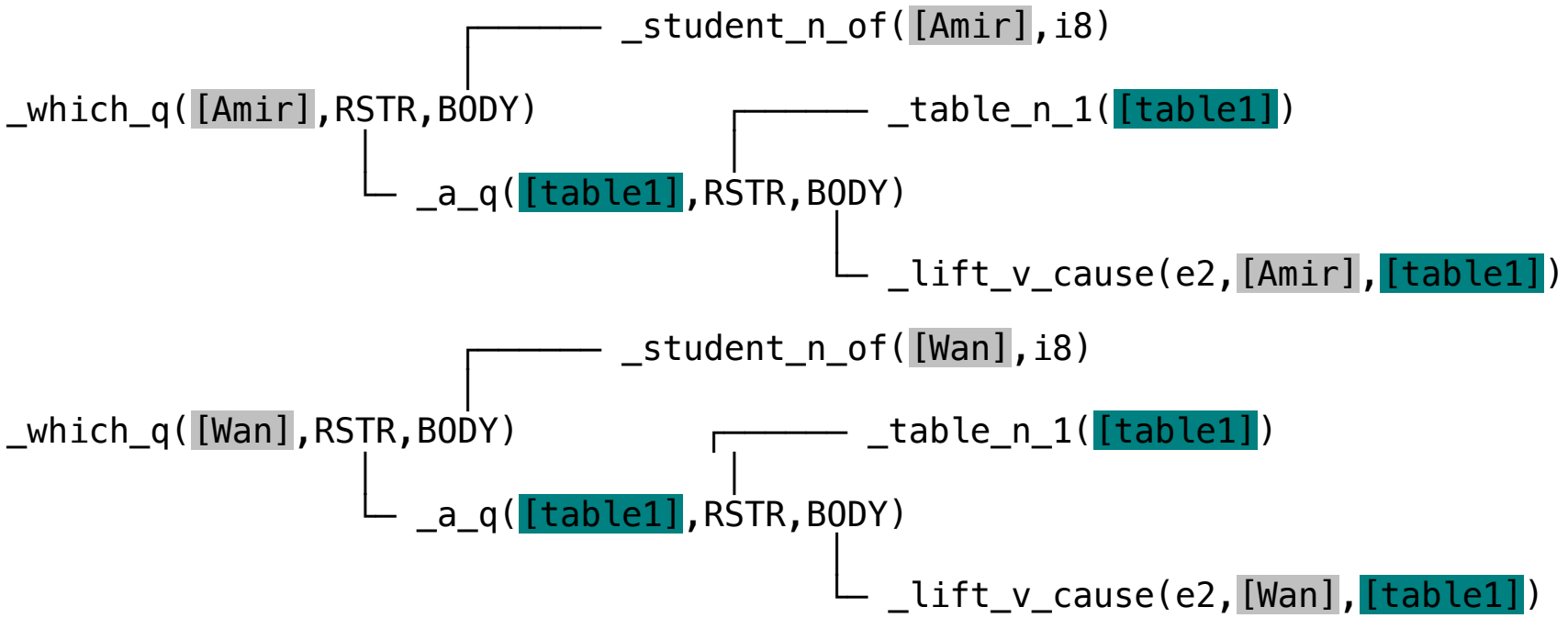

Solution Group

Solution	
x3	[Amir]
x9	[table1]

Solution 2	
x3	[Wan]
x9	[table1]

Individuals
Amir
Wan
table1

Facts
Amir and Wan are lifting table1 at the same time

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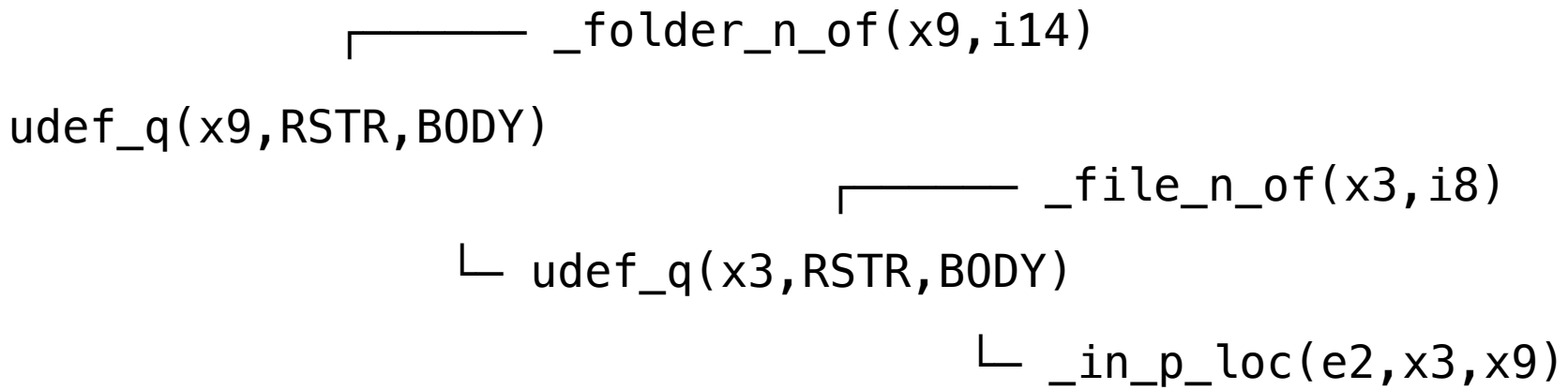
Finding Solutions to Scope-Resolved MRS:
A Multi-phase Backtracking Approach



- Do a depth-first traversal of the tree
- Quantifiers try every individual in their scoped variable iteratively

Finding Solutions to Scope-Resolved MRS:
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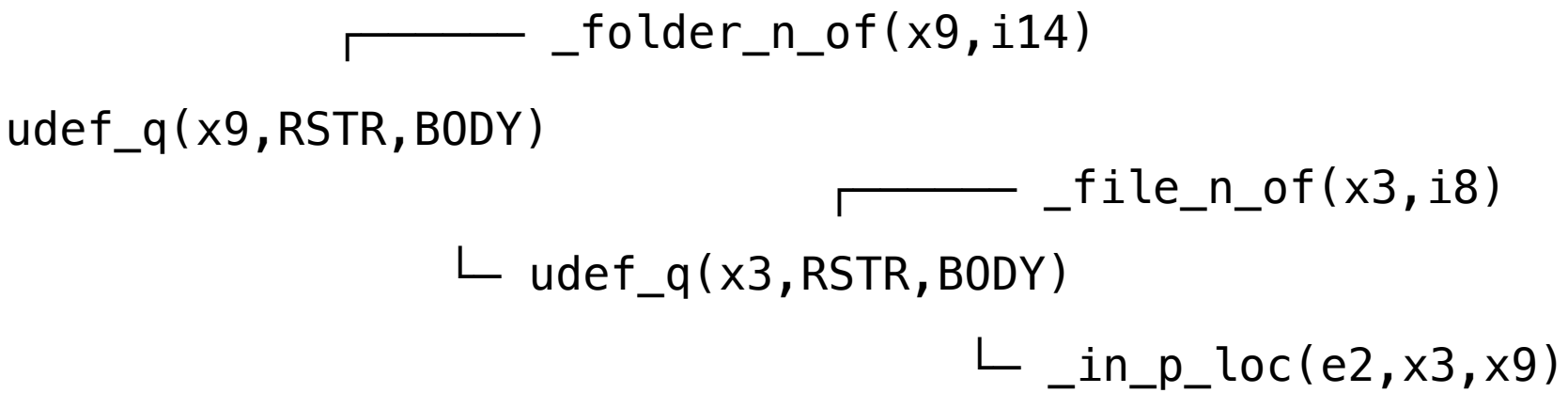

- Do a depth-first traversal of the tree
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- Failures backtrack to the nearest quantifier and retry next individual

Finding Solutions to Scope-Resolved MRS:
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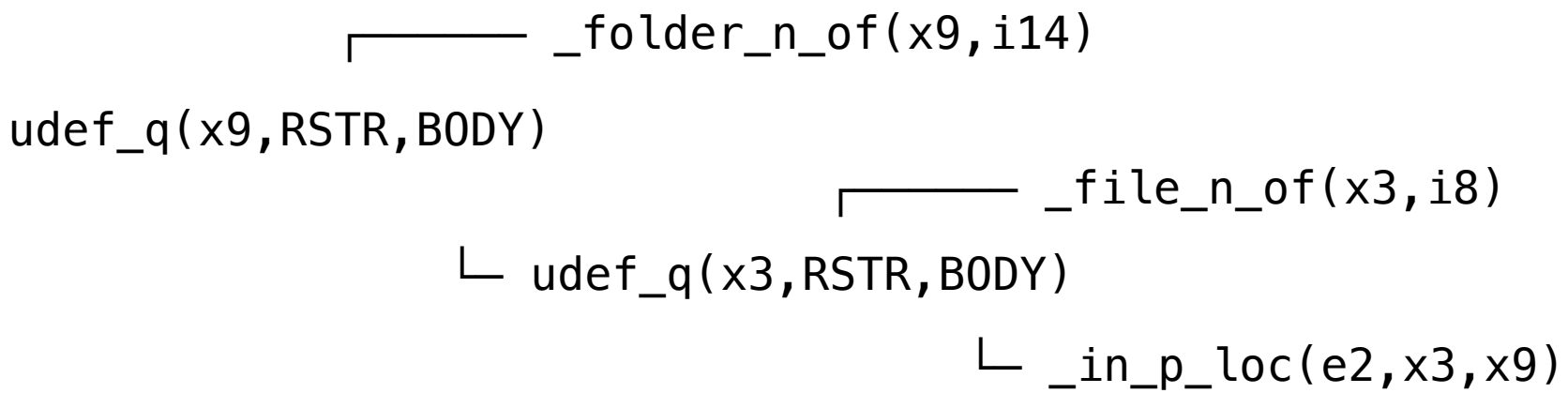

- Do a depth-first traversal of the tree
- Quantifiers try every individual in their scoped variable iteratively
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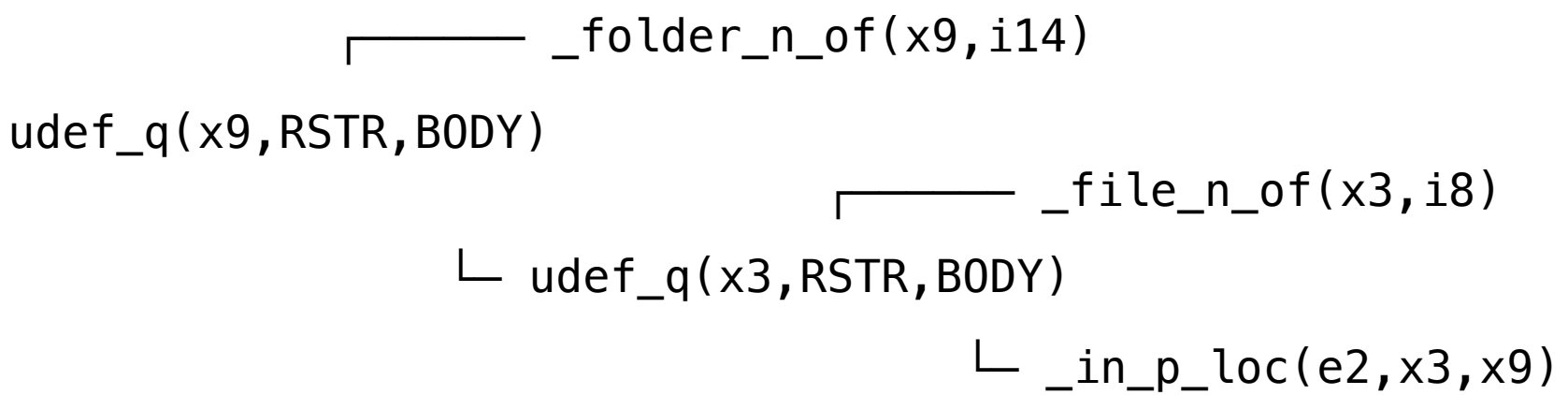
- When all predications are true, we have a solution

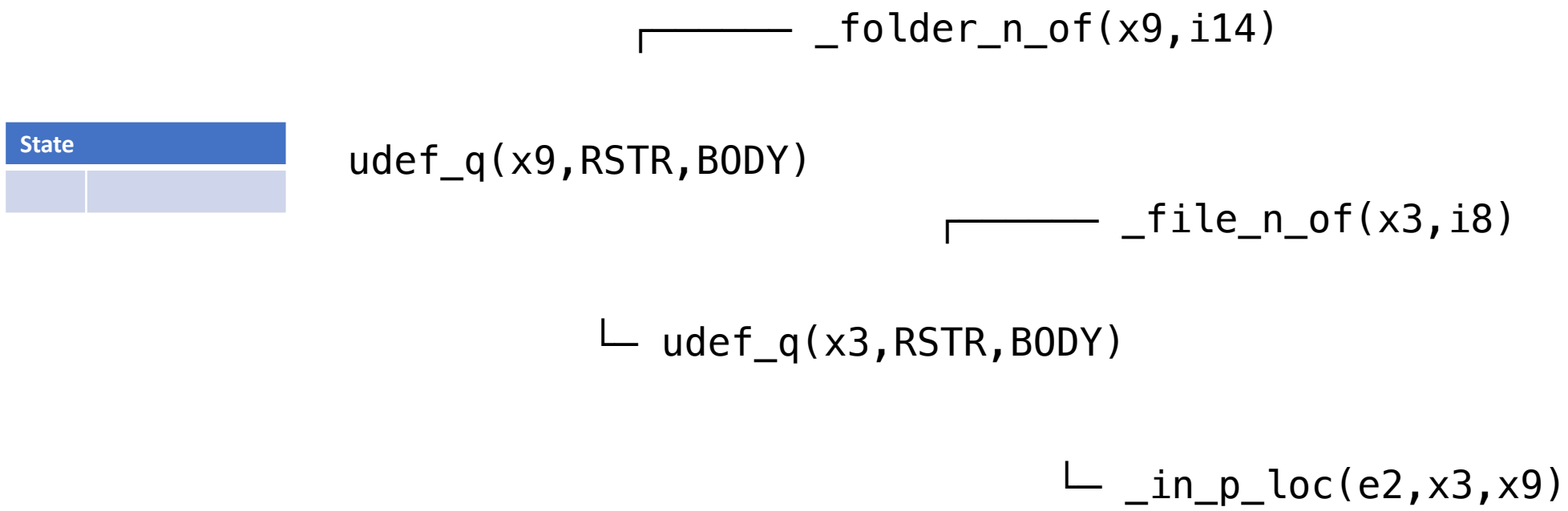
Finding Solutions to Scope-Resolved MRS:
A Multi-phase Backtracking Approach



- Do a depth-first traversal of the tree
- Quantifiers try every individual in their scoped variable iteratively
- Failures backtrack to the nearest quantifier and retry next individual
- When all predications are true: a **solution**
- Global semantics (like plural counting) done in a second phase: a **solution group**

**many optimizations are available, but this is the base model*

Solving a Scope-Resolved MRS: Phase 1

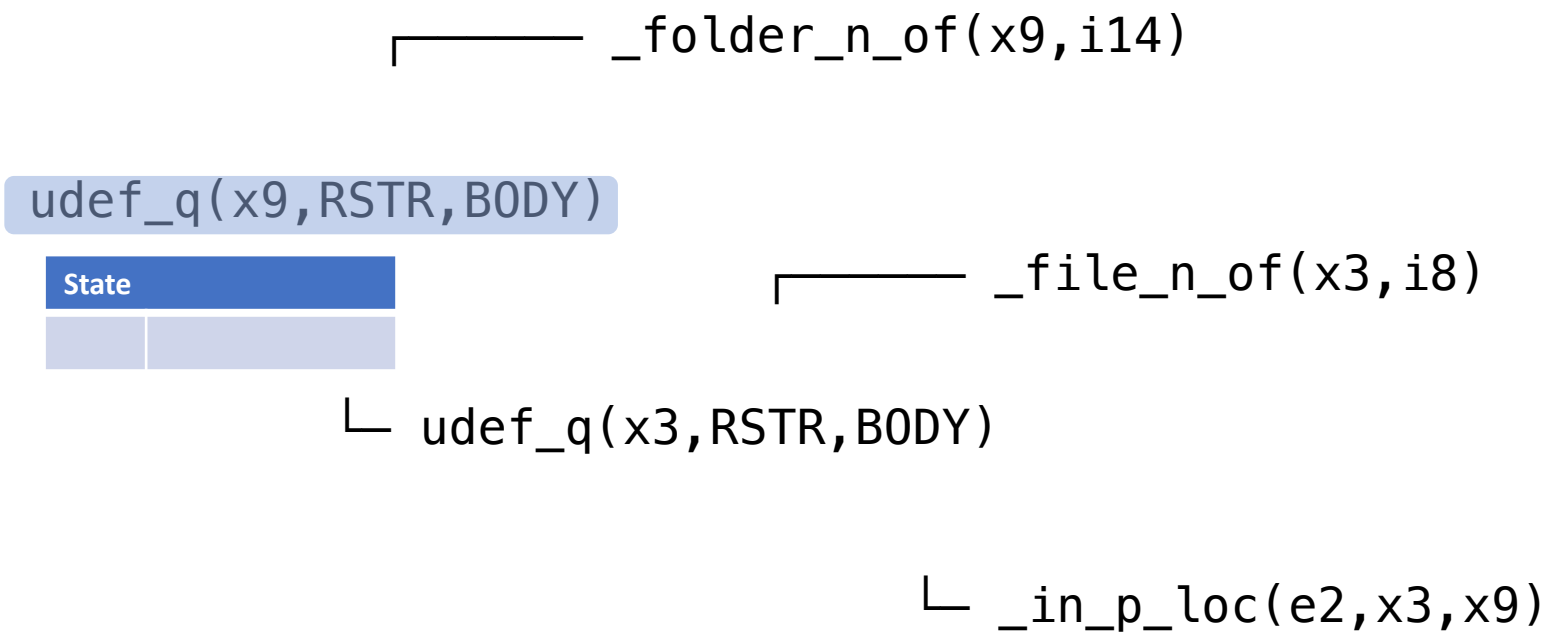


State	

All Individuals	Facts
mydocuments	mydocuments contains File1.txt and File2.txt
File1.txt	
File2.txt	

x3 [x PERS: 3 NUM: pl IND: +]
x9 [x PERS: 3 NUM: sg IND: +]

Solving a Scope-Resolved MRS: Phase 1



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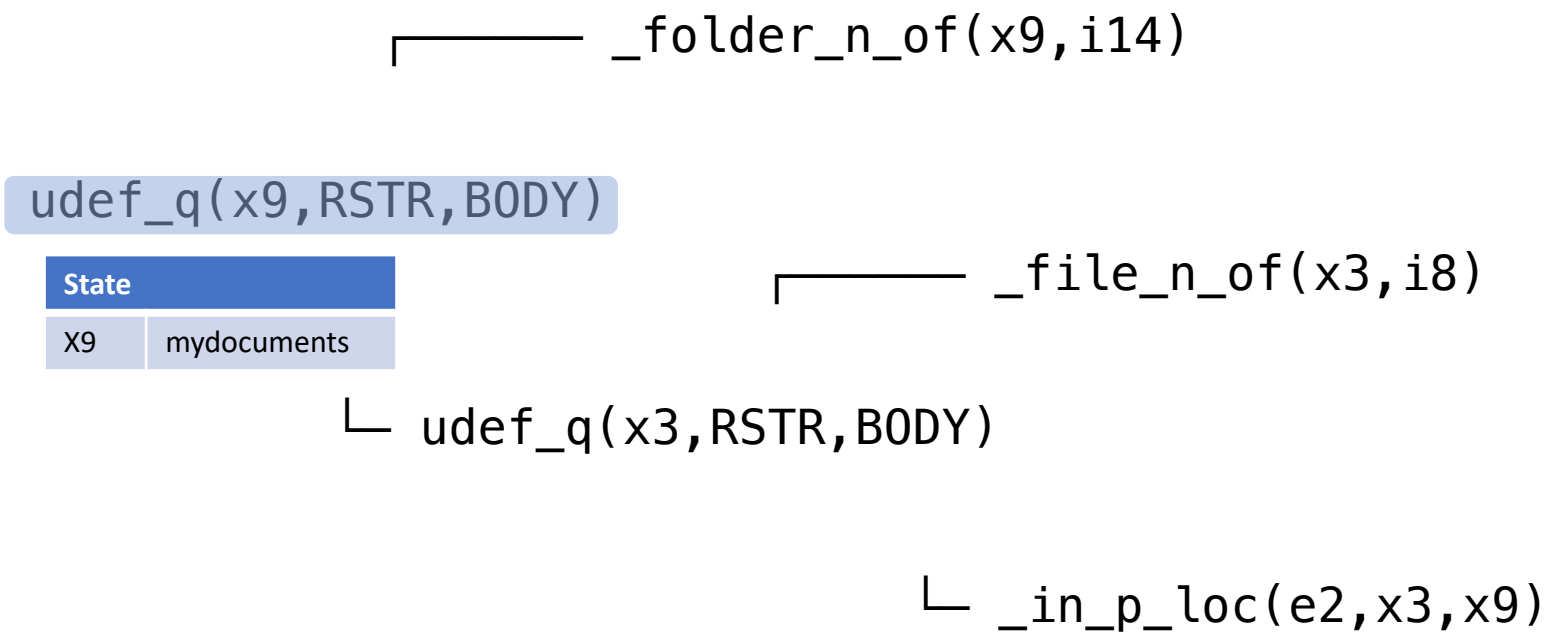

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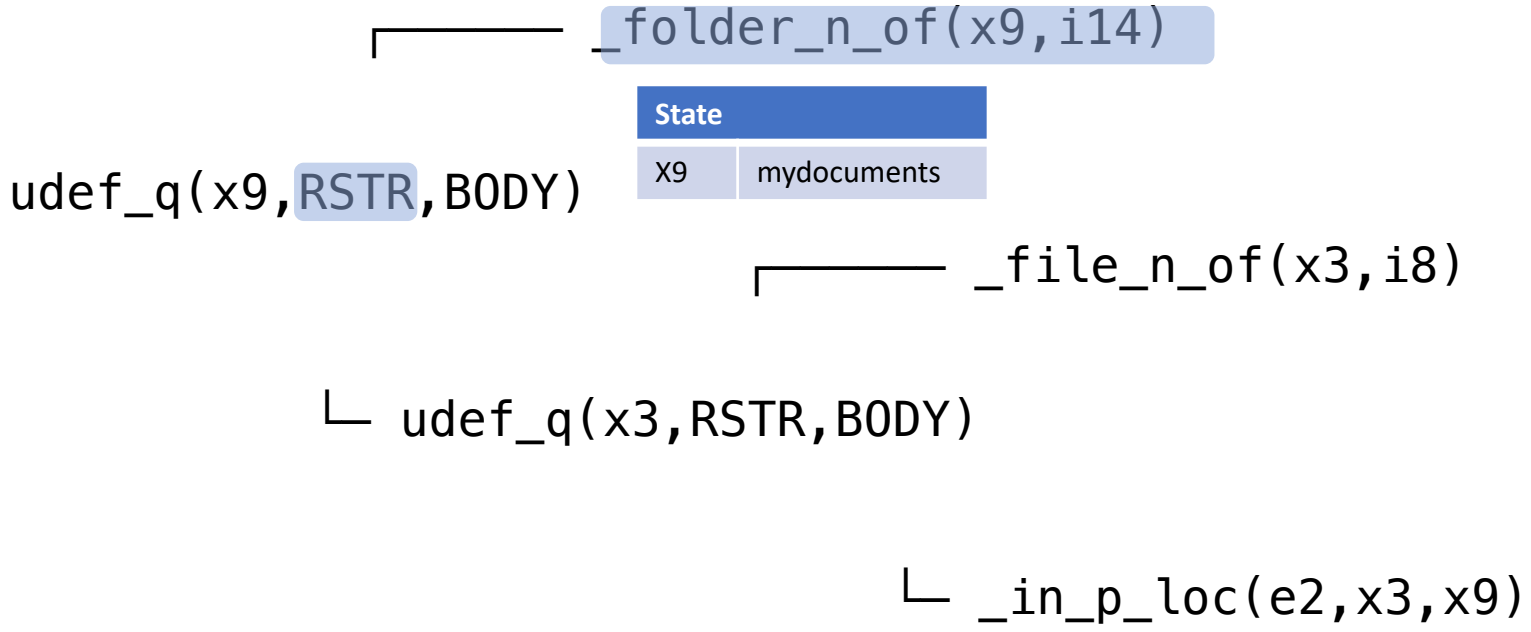

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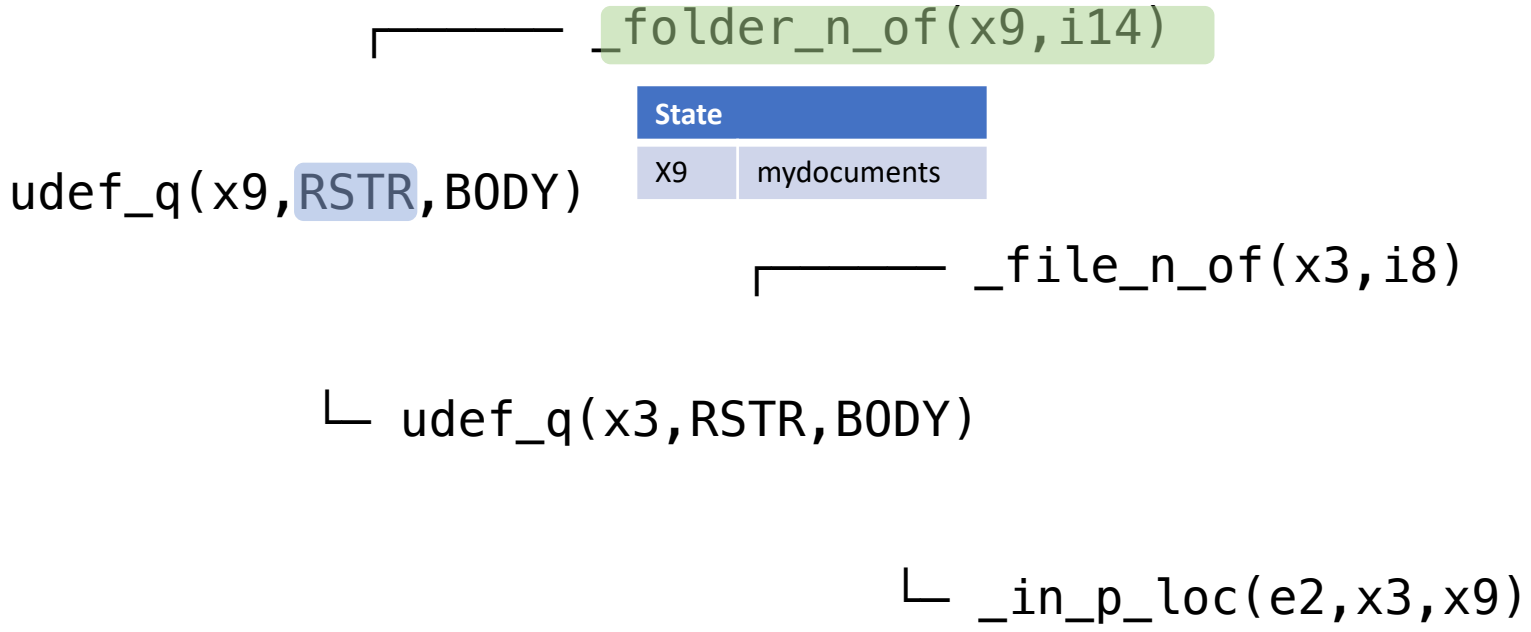

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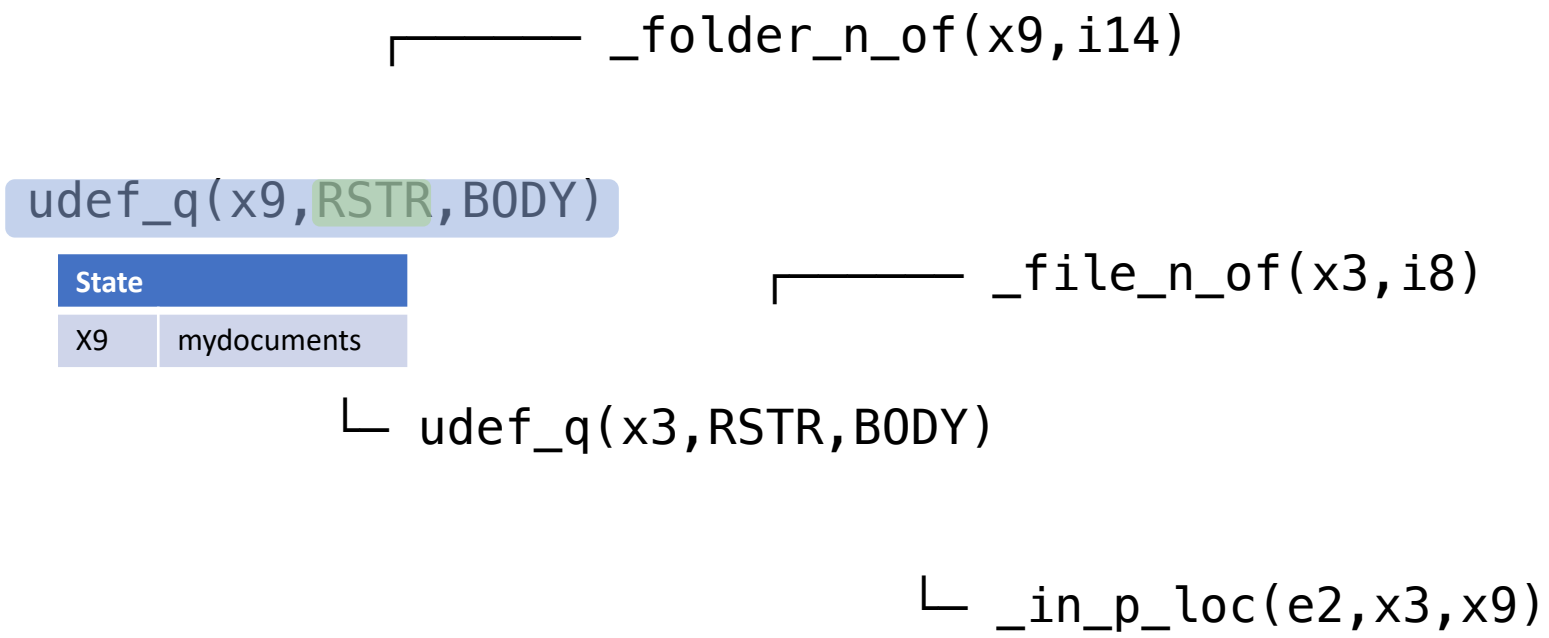

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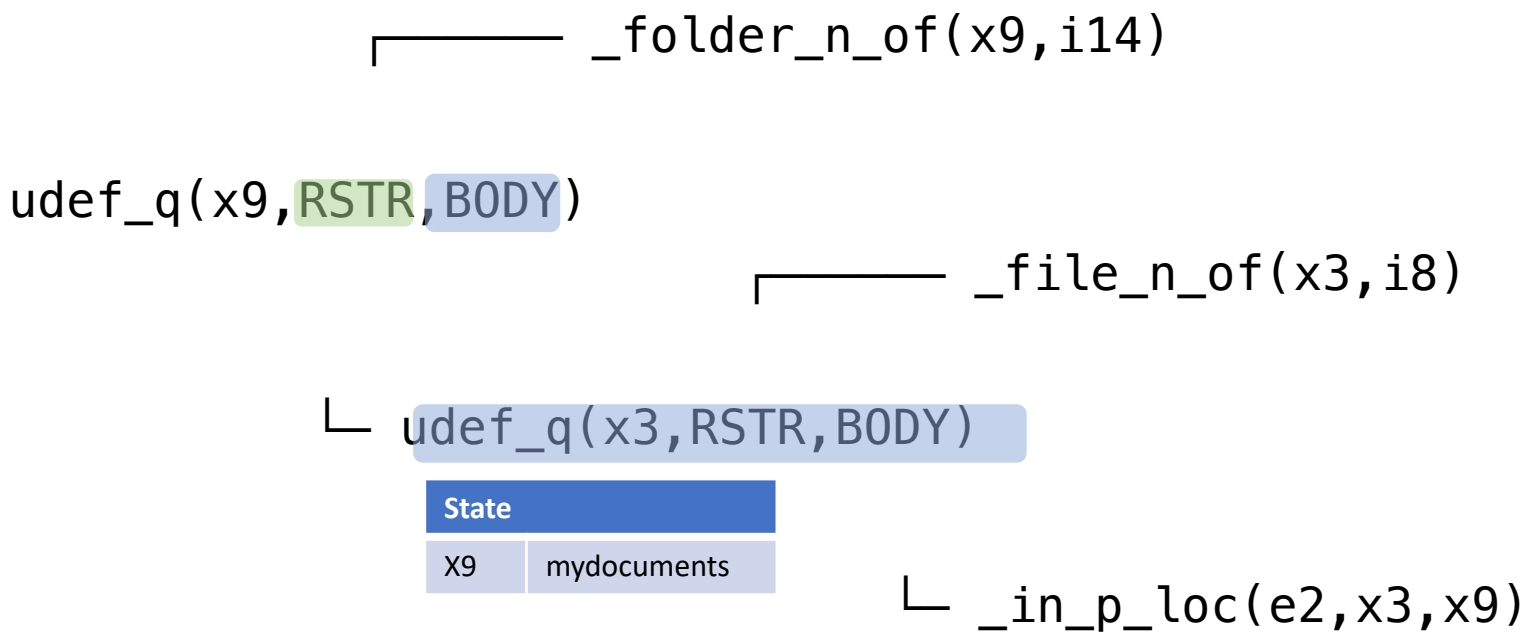

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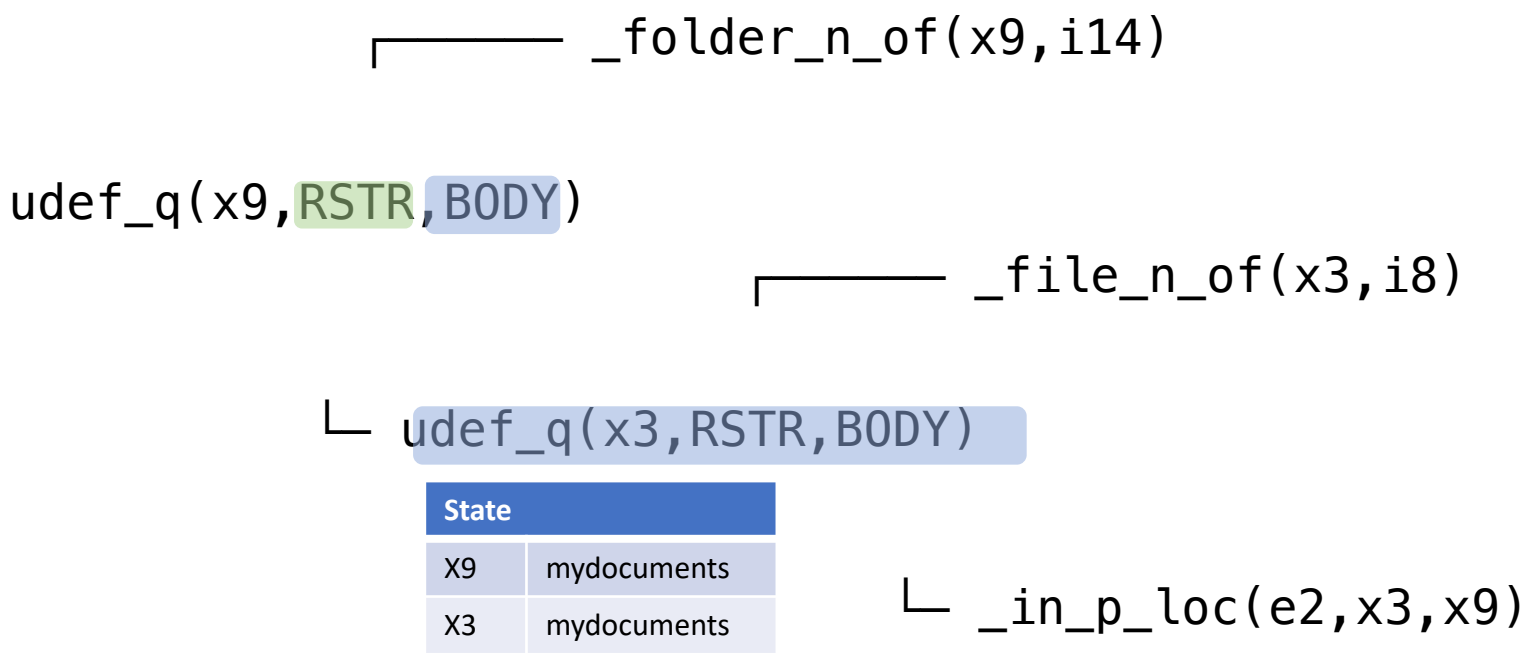

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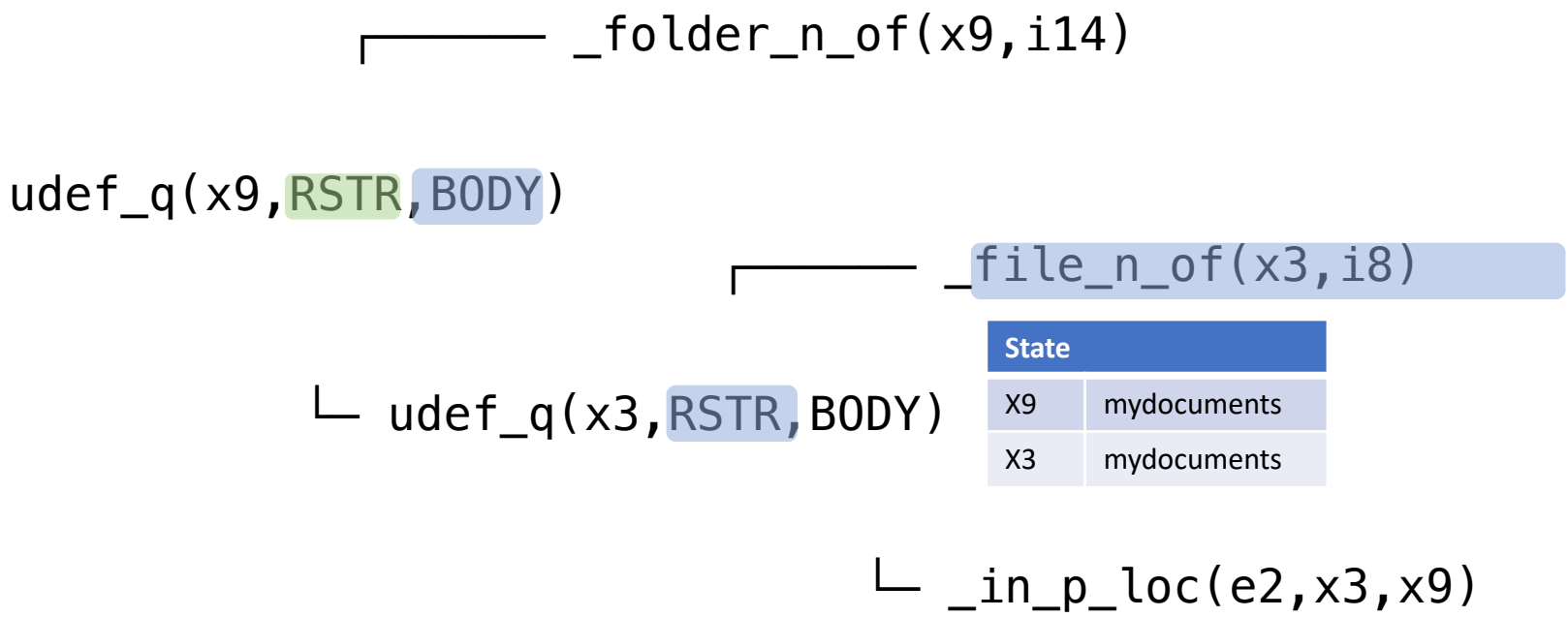

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X3	mydocuments

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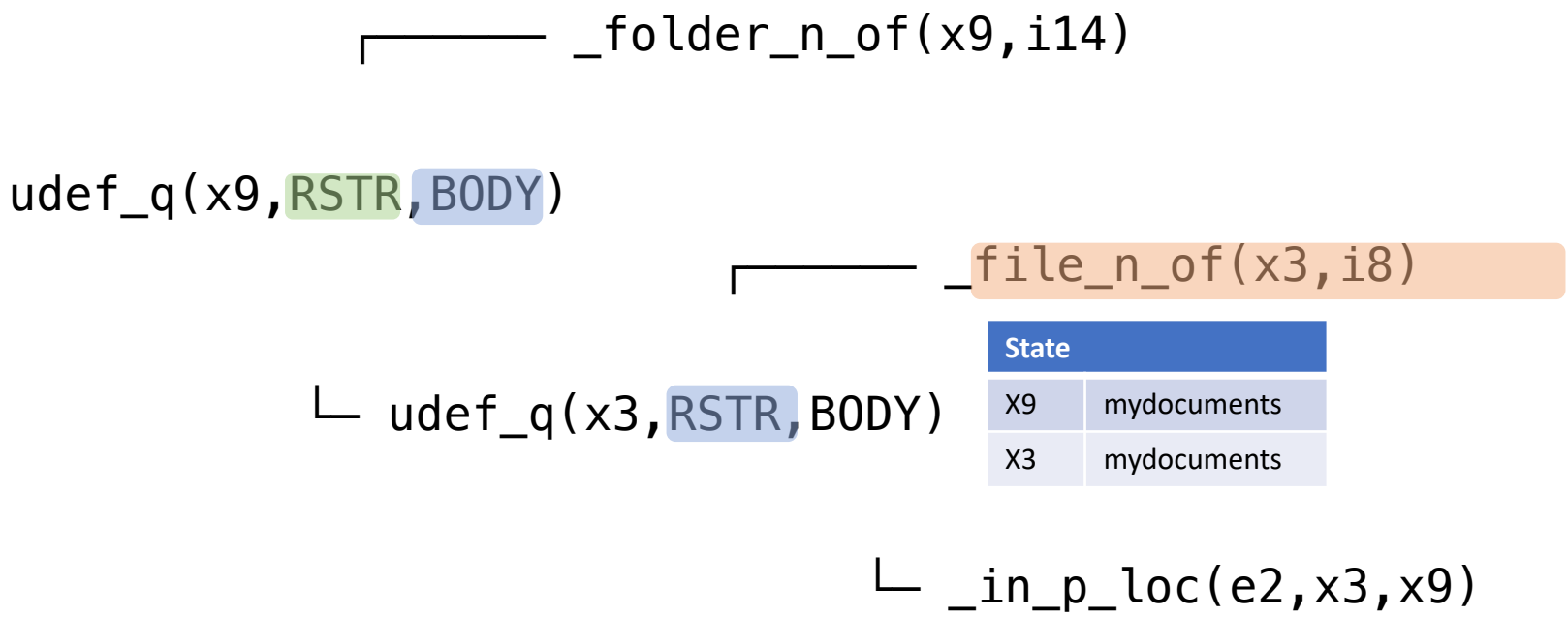

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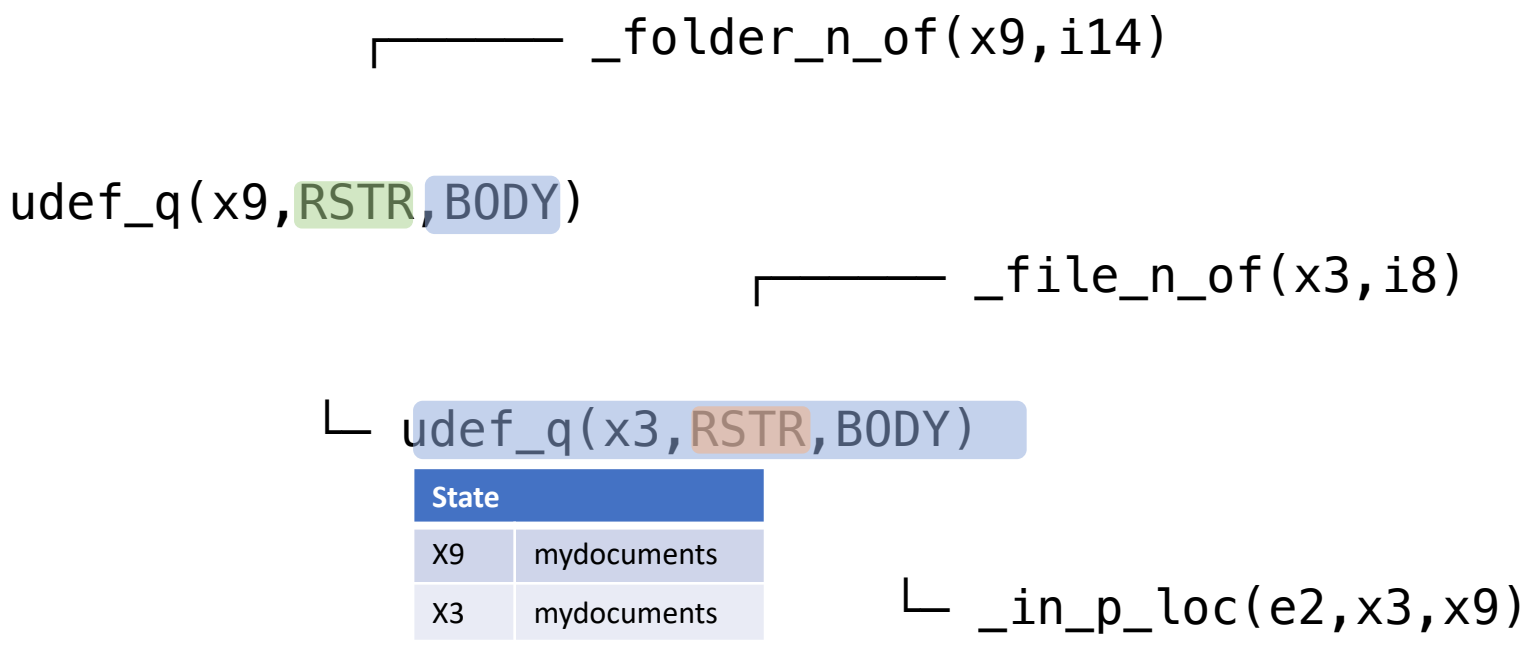

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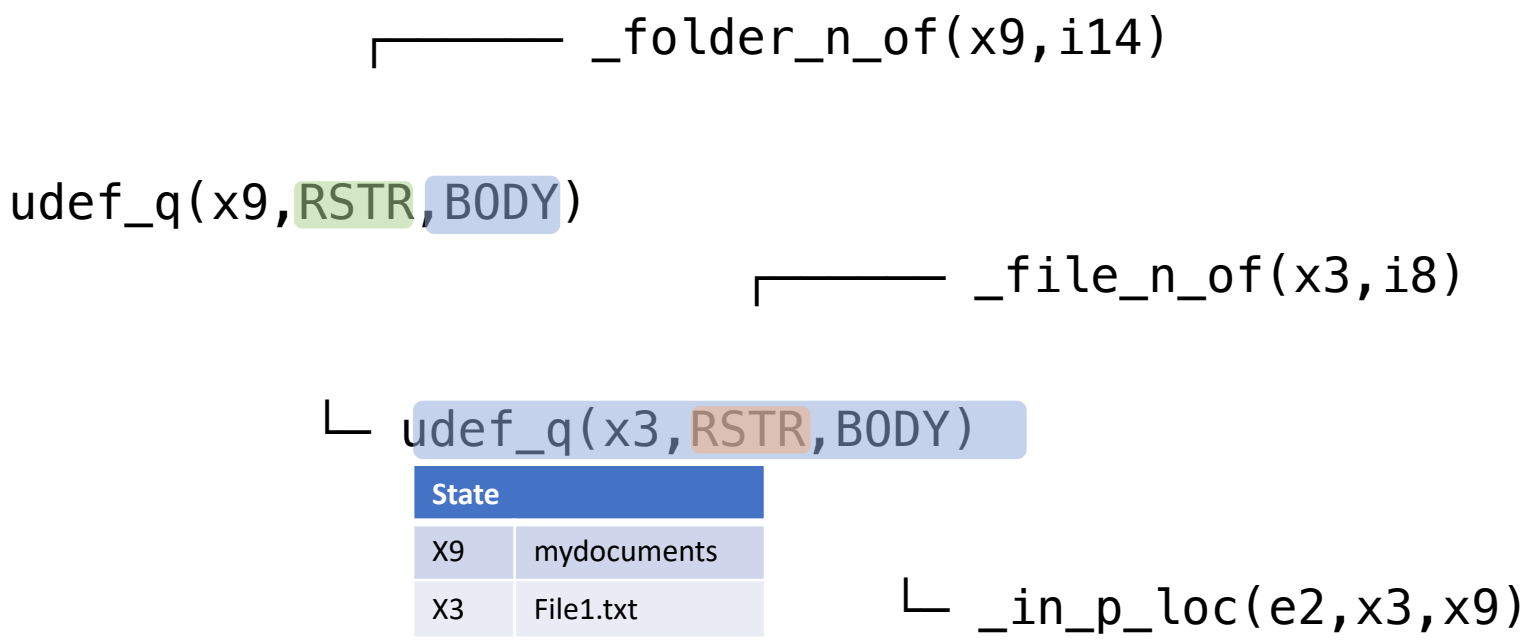

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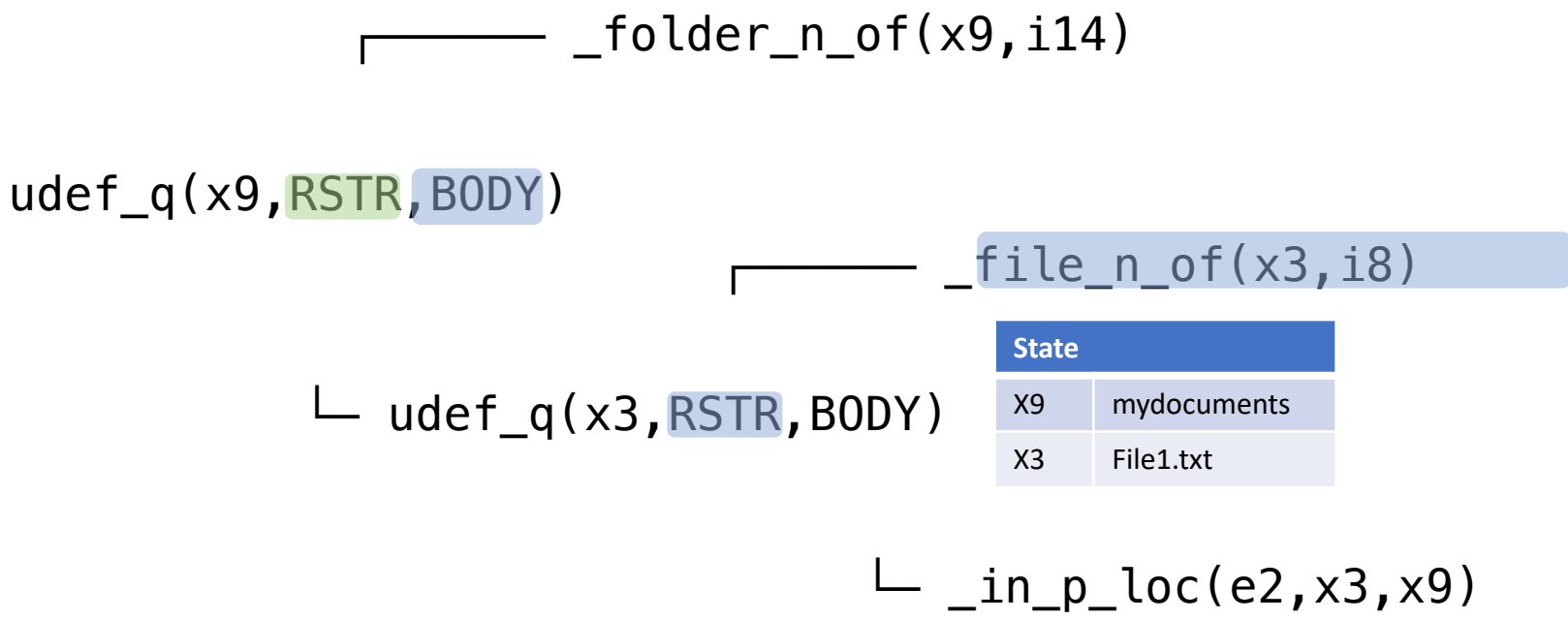

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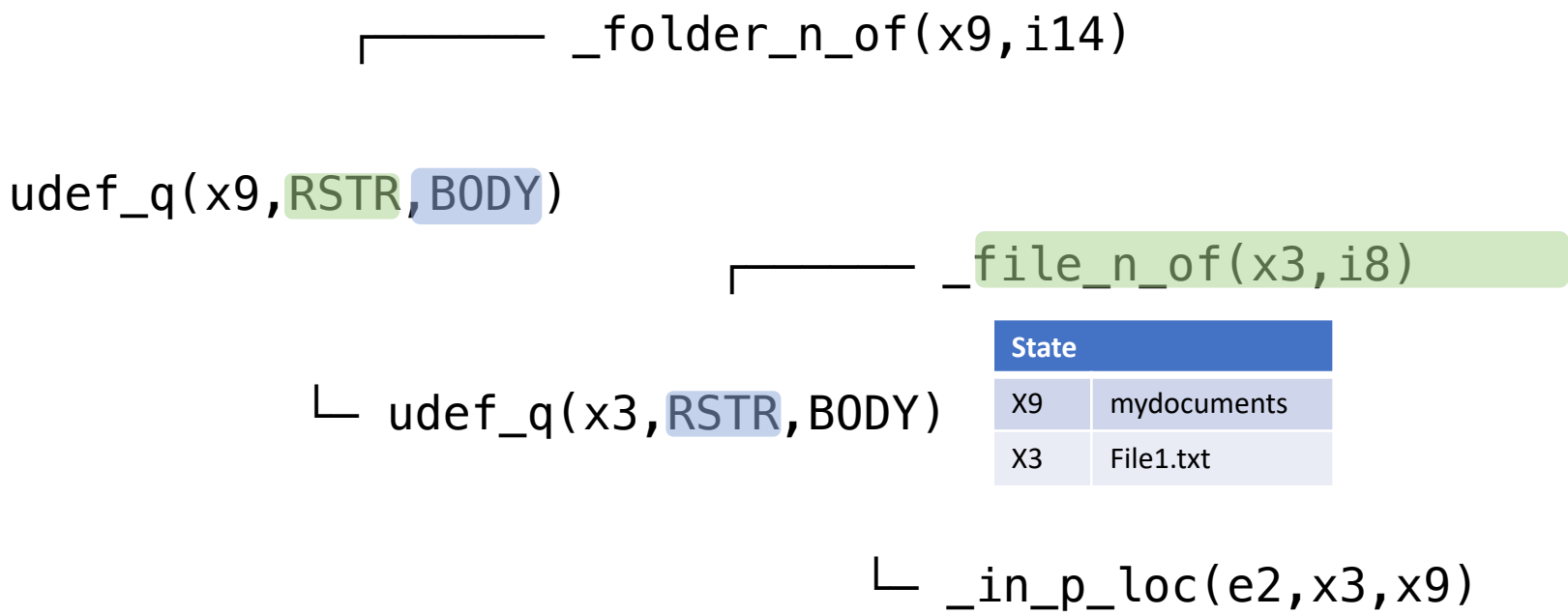

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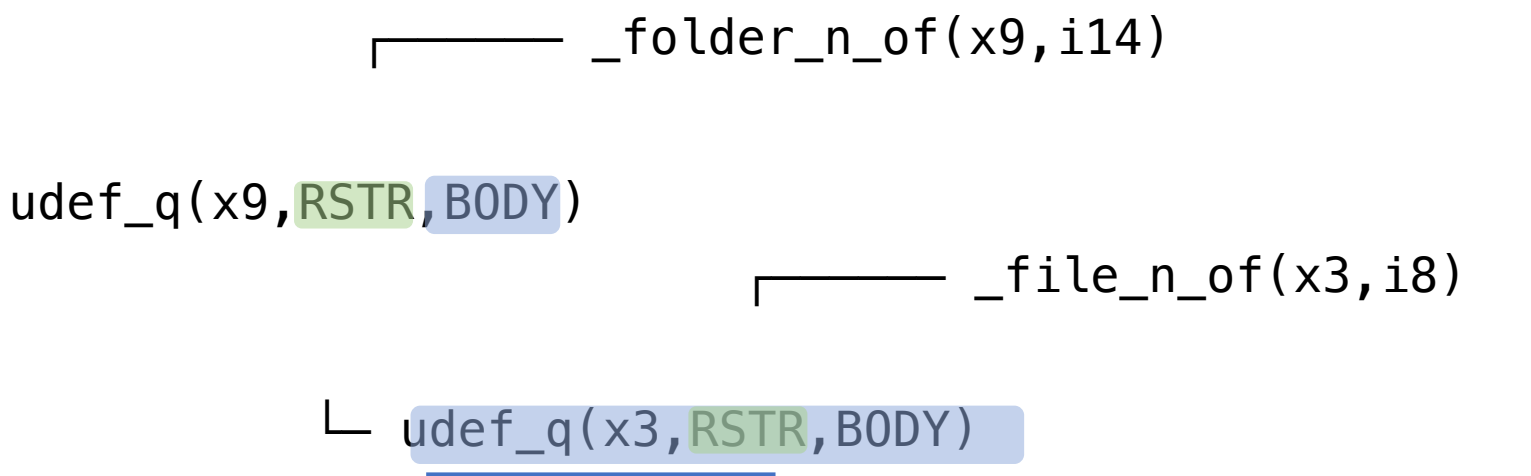
udef_q(x9,RSTR,BODY)



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udef_q(x9,RSTR,BODY)

```
┌──── _folder_n_of(x9,i14)

udef_q(x9,RSTR,BODY)
                    ┌──── _file_n_of(x3,i8)

└─ udef_q(x3,RSTR,BODY)

└─ _in_p_loc(e2,x3,x9)
```

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X9	Mydocuments
X3	File1.txt

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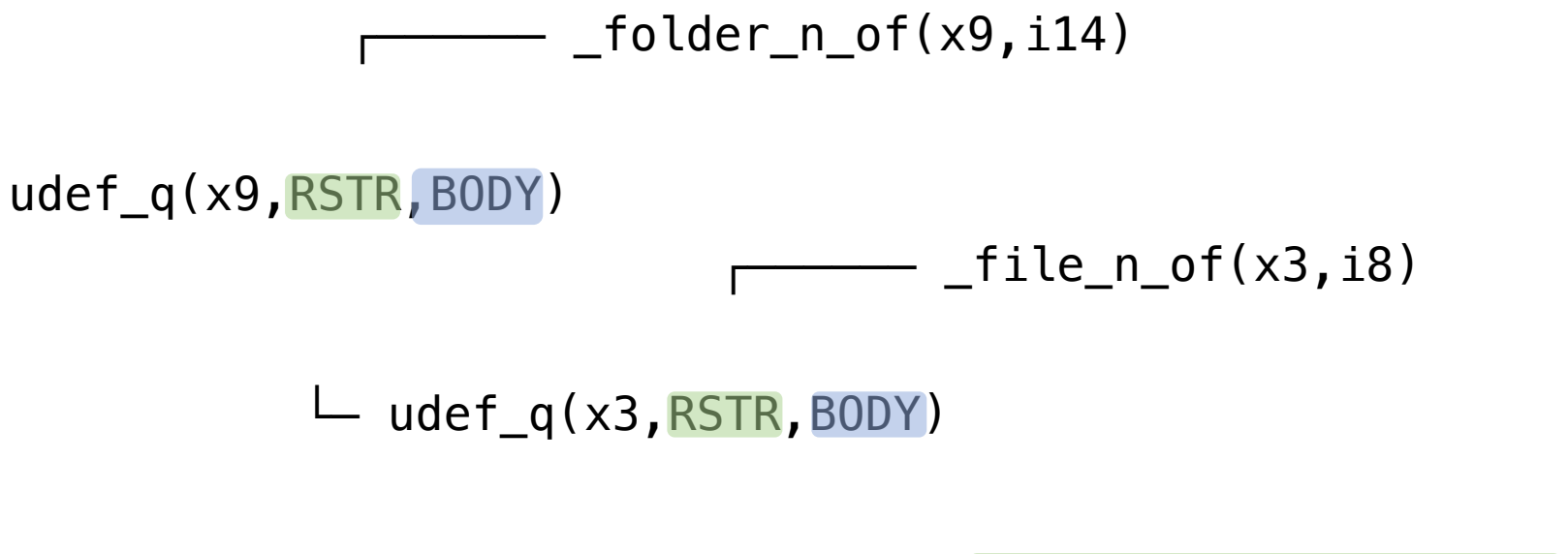

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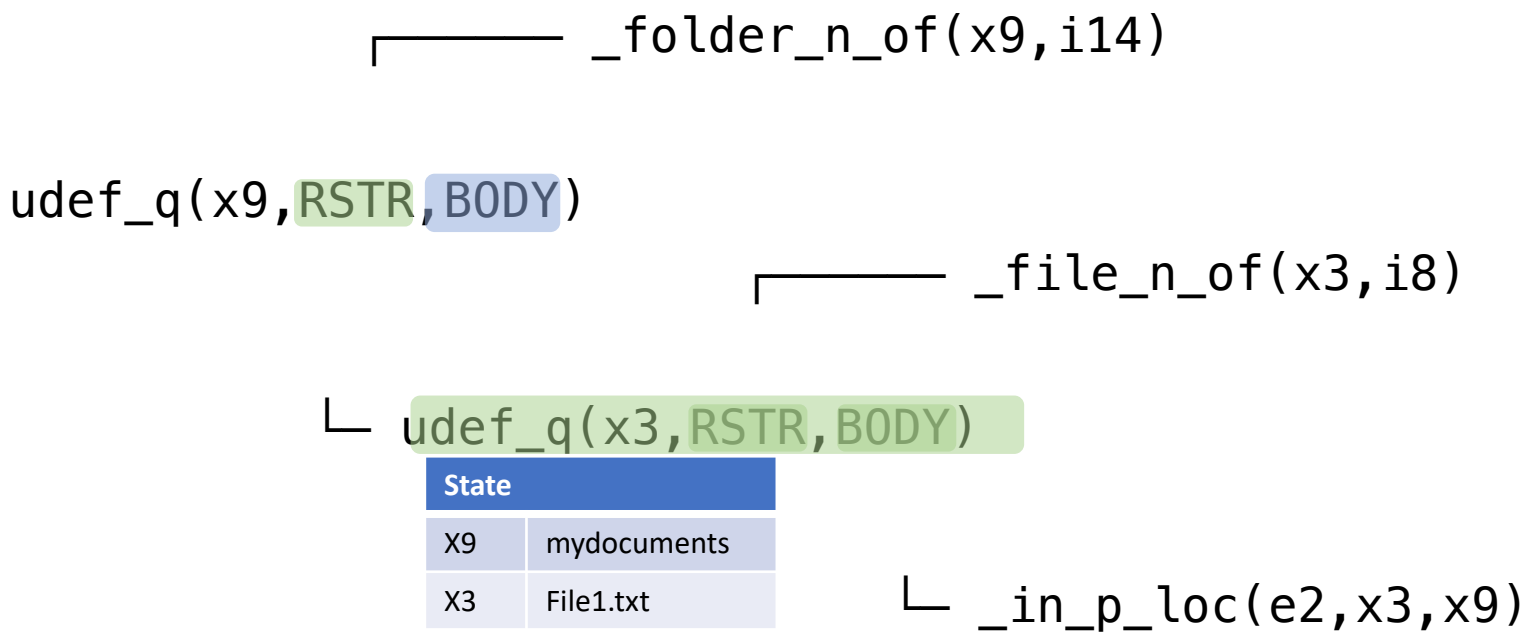

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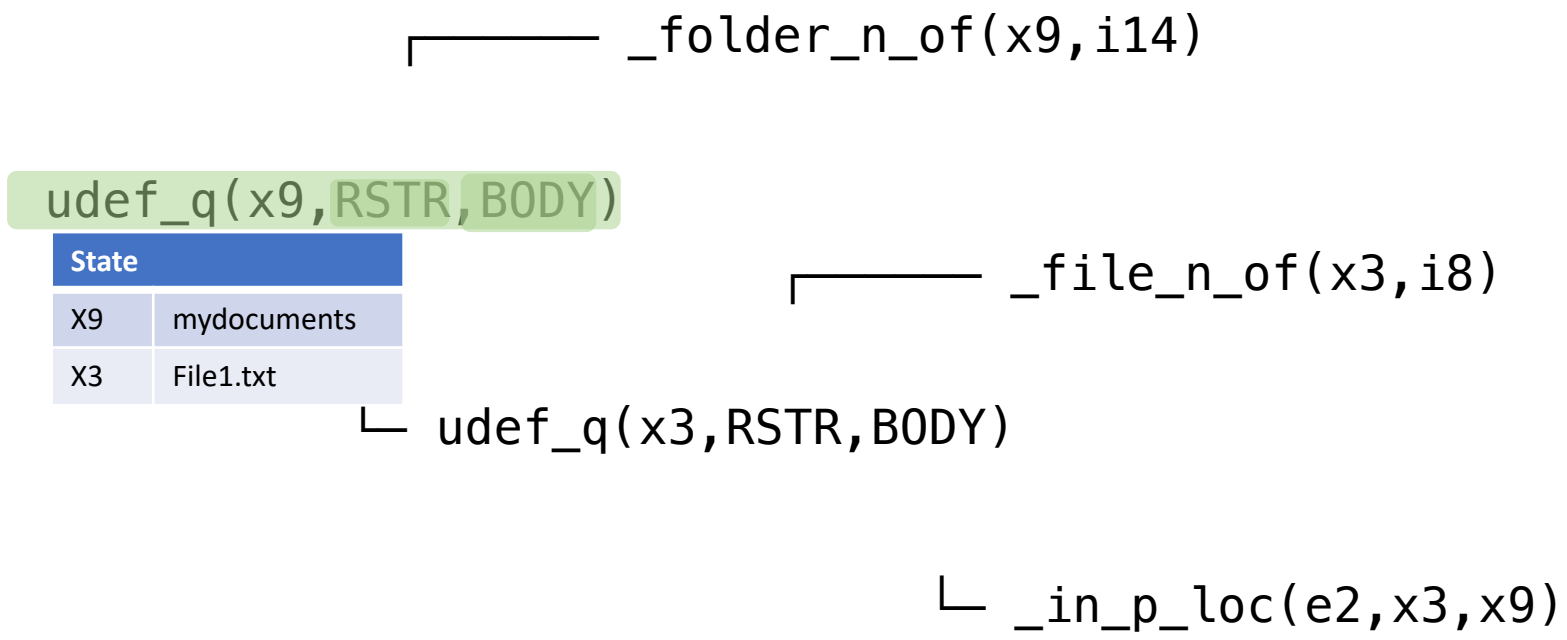

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Solving a Scope-Resolved MRS: Phase 1

Solution 1!

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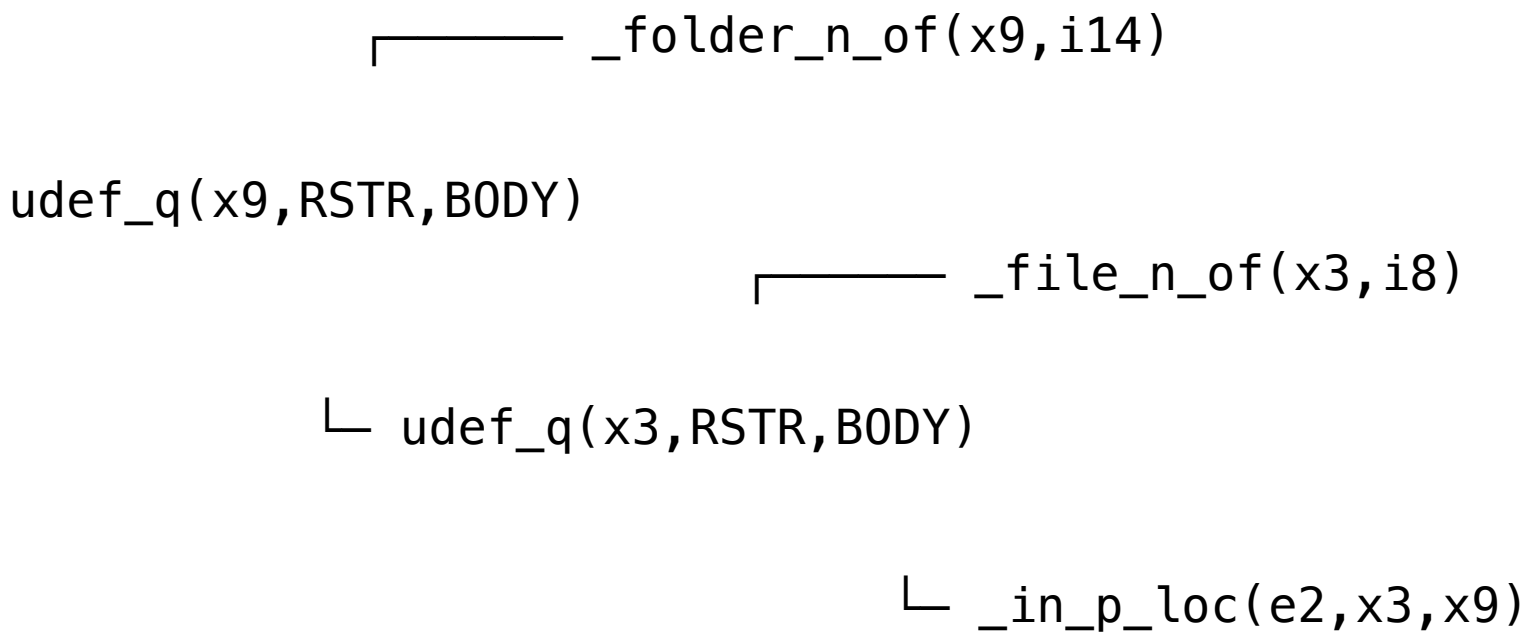

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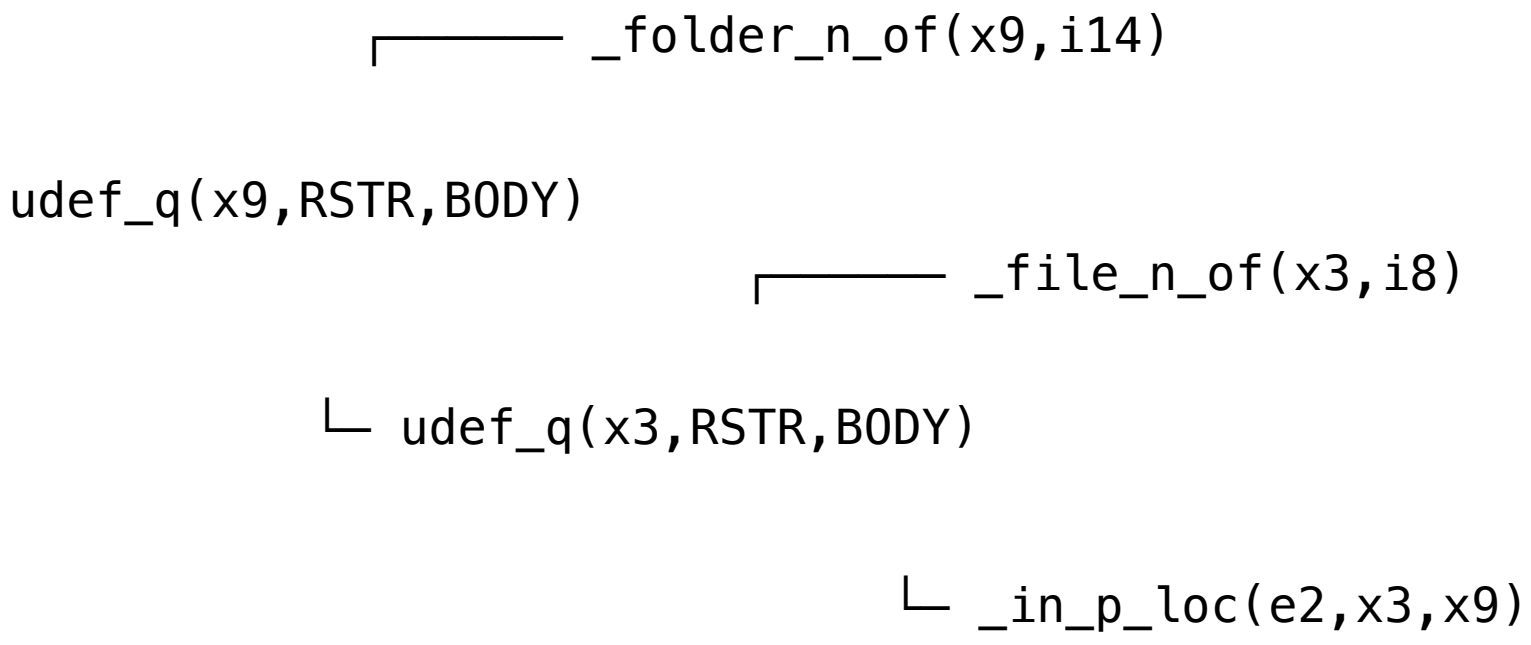

Solution 1!

State	
X9	mydocuments
X3	File1.txt

Solution 2!

State	
X9	mydocuments
X3	File2.txt

All Individuals	Facts
mydocuments	mydocuments contains File1.txt and File2.txt
File1.txt	
File2.txt	

Handling Plurals

- Both files (x3) and folders (x9) are plural
- Plurals, counting and other global (i.e. cross-solution) constraints are handled *after* solutions are found in Phase 2

Phase 2

All Solutions:

	X9	X3
Solution 1	Mydocuments	File1.txt
Solution 2	Mydocuments	File2.txt

Start with the full set of solutions

Phase 2

All Solutions:

	X9	X3
Solution 1	Mydocuments	File1.txt
Solution 2	Mydocuments	File2.txt

Group Being Tested:

	X9	X3
Solution 1	Mydocuments	File1.txt

Examine every combination of solutions to find those that meet constraints

Phase 2

All Solutions:

	X9	X3
Solution 1	Mydocuments	File1.txt
Solution 2	Mydocuments	File2.txt

Group Being Tested:

X9 greater than 1

X3 greater than 1

	X9	X3
Solution 1	Mydocuments	File1.txt

Phase 2

All Solutions:

	X9	X3
Solution 1	Mydocuments	File1.txt
Solution 2	Mydocuments	File2.txt

Group Being Tested:

	X9	X3
Solution 2	Mydocuments	File2.txt

Phase 2

All Solutions:

	X9	X3
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Solution 2	Mydocuments	File2.txt

Group Being Tested:

X9 greater than 1

X3 greater than 1

	X9	X3
Solution 1	Mydocuments	File1.txt
Solution 2	Mydocuments	File2.txt

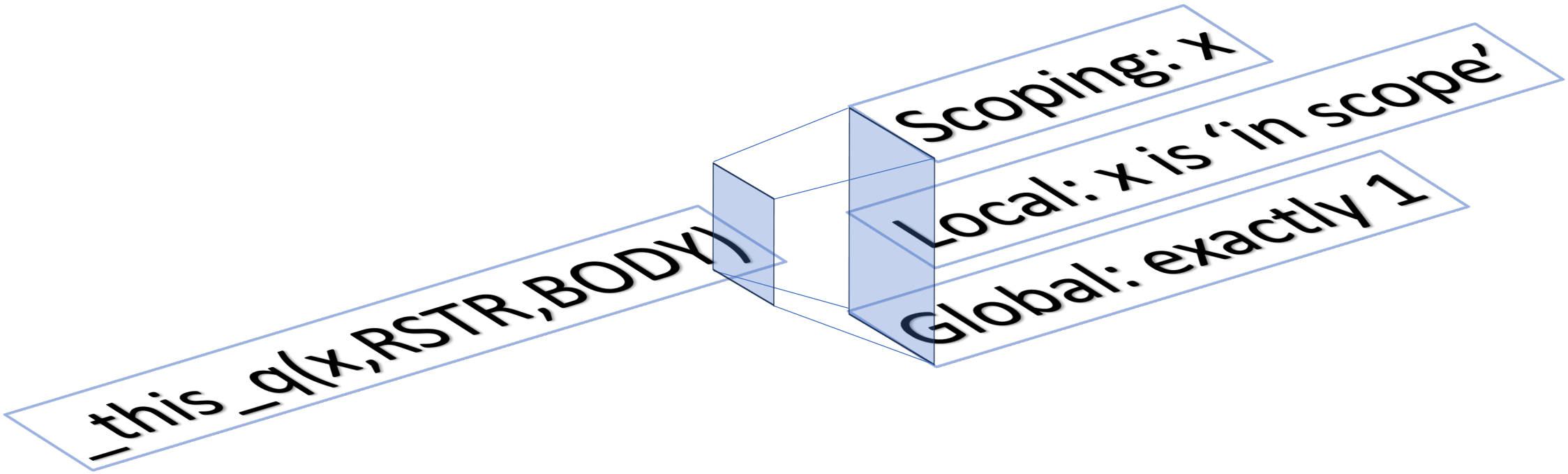
Response to “files are in folders”

- “files are not in folders”
  - … because “folders” is plural and no solution groups have > 1 folder
- Successful Groups
  - Create *solution groups* that meet the constraints
  - Solution groups are the actual solution to the scope-resolved MRS

Predication “Semantic Layers”

_this_q(x,RSTR,BODY)

Predication “Semantic Layers”



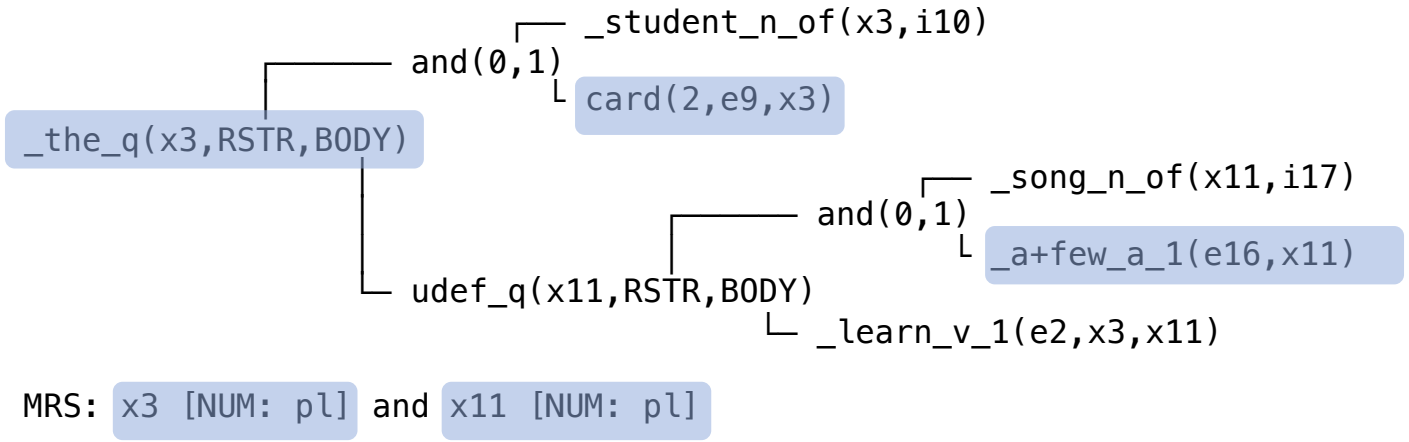
Predication “Semantic Layers”

Predications can contribute any combination of:
scoping, local or global constraints

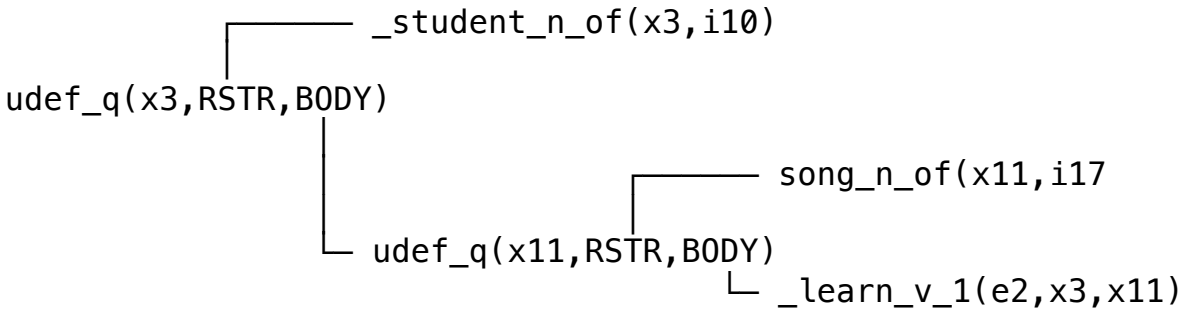
Predicate	Scoping	Local	Global
_large_a_1(e,x)	<none>	True for “large” x	<none>
udef_q(x,RSTR,BODY)	x	<none>	<none>
_a_q(x,RSTR,BODY)	x	<none>	Exactly 1
_the_q(x,RSTR,BODY)* *… one of several meanings	x	<none>	1 or more Where all rstr satisfy the body
_this_q(x,RSTR,BODY)	x	True if x is “in scope”* *… among other meanings	Exactly 1
card(CARG,e,x)	<none>	<none>	At least CARG
a_few_a_1(e,x)	<none>	<none>	Between 3 and 5* *top value is debatable
and_c(x,x1,x2)	<none>	<none>	Exactly N where N is total of x1 and x2

Phase 1: Solve After Removing Global Constraints

“The two students learned a few songs”

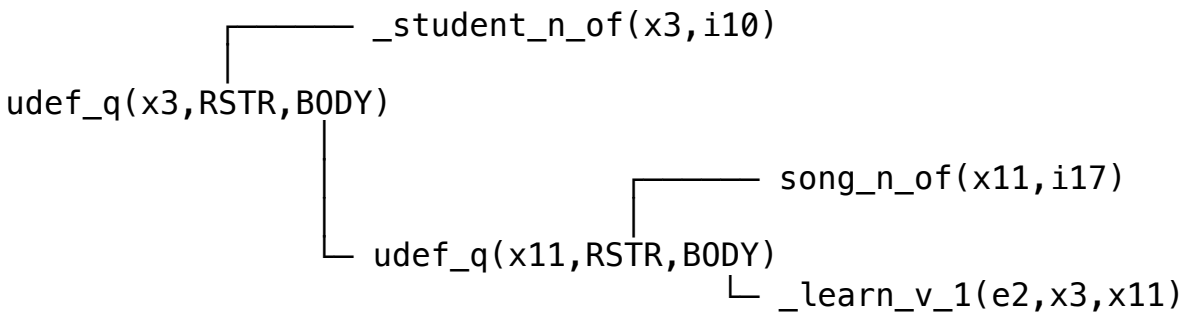


”student(s) learned song(s)”



Phase 1: Solve After Removing Global Constraints

” student(s) learned song(s)”

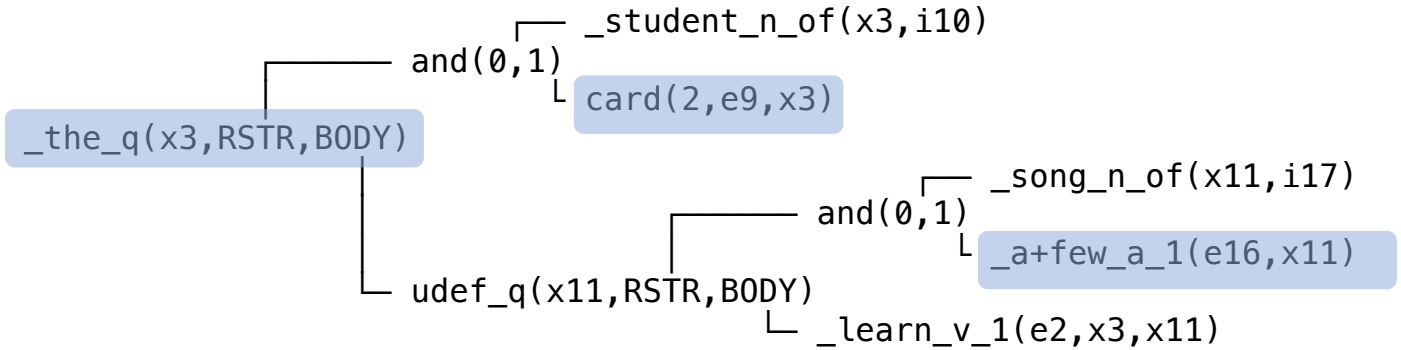


All Solutions:

	X3	X11
Solution 1	Diya	”Words Get in the Way”
Solution 2	Diya	“More than Words”
Solution 3	Wan	“Ten Thousand Words”

Phase 2: Find Global Constraints For Variables

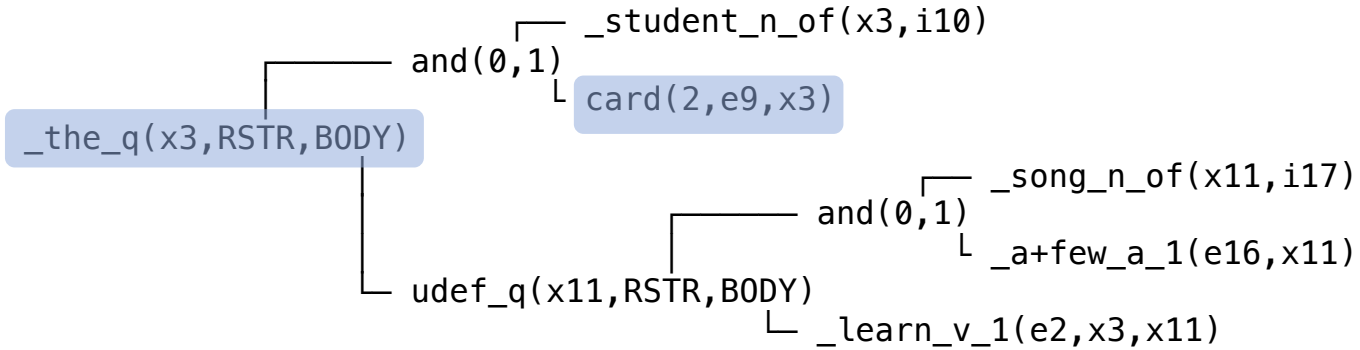
”The two students learned a few songs”



MRS: x3 [NUM: pl] and x11 [NUM: pl]

Phase 2: Find Global Constraints For Variables

”The two students learned a few songs”

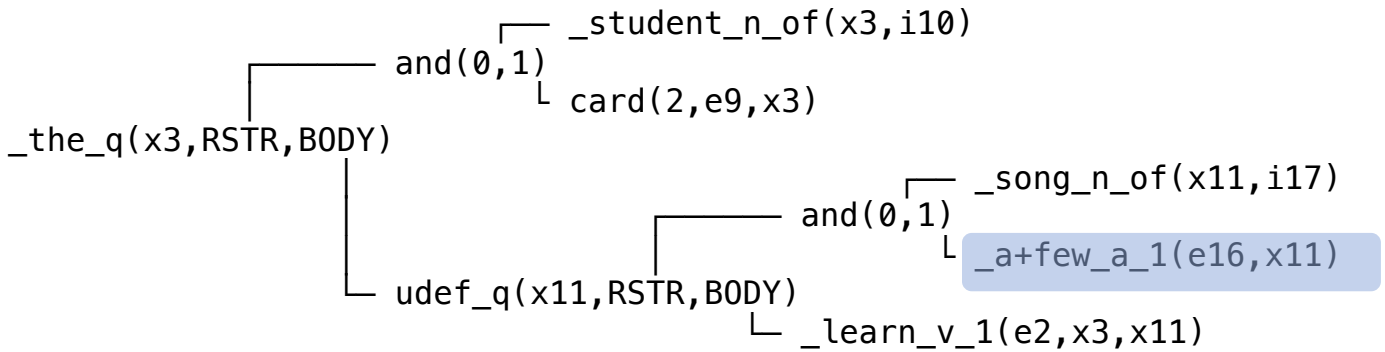


MRS: `x3 [NUM: pl]` and x11 [NUM: pl]

X3 Predications	Constraints
`card(2,e9,x3)`	Min=2, Max=inf
`_the_q(x3,RSTR,BODY)`	Min=1, Max=inf and all_rstr_meet_body
`x3 [NUM: pl]`	Min=2, Max=inf
	Min=2, Max=inf and all_rstr_meet_body

Phase 2: Find Global Constraints For Variables

”The two students learned a few songs”



MRS: x3 [NUM: pl] and x11 [NUM: pl]

X11 Predications	Constraints
_a+few_a_1(e16,x11)	Min=3, Max=5
x11 [NUM: pl]	Min=2, Max=inf
	Min=3, Max=5

Phase 2: Find Solution Groups that Meet Constraints

”The two students learned a few songs”

All Solutions:

	X3	X11
Solution 1	Diya	”Words Get in the Way”
Solution 2	Diya	“More than Words”
Solution 3	Wan	“Ten Thousand Words”

Group Being Tested:

X3: Min=2, Max=inf and all_rstr_meet_body

X11: Min=3, Max=5

	X3	X11
Solution 1	Diya	”Words Get in the Way”

*All other single solution groups fail for the same reason, not shown

Phase 2: Find Solution Groups that Meet Constraints

”The two students learned a few songs”

All Solutions:

	X3	X11
Solution 1	Diya	”Words Get in the Way”
Solution 2	Diya	“More than Words”
Solution 3	Wan	“Ten Thousand Words”

Group Being Tested:

X3: Min=2, Max=inf and all_rstr_meet_body

X11: Min=3, Max=5

	X3	X11
Solution 1	Diya	”Words Get in the Way”
Solution 3	Wan	“Ten Thousand Words”

*All other double solution groups fail for various reasons, not shown

Phase 2: Find Solution Groups that Meet Constraints

”The two students learned a few songs”

All Solutions:

	X3	X11
Solution 1	Diya	”Words Get in the Way”
Solution 2	Diya	“More than Words”
Solution 3	Wan	“Ten Thousand Words”

Group Being Tested:

X3: Min=2, Max=inf and all_rstr_meet_body

X11: Min=3, Max=5

	X3	X11
Solution 1	Diya	”Words Get in the Way”
Solution 2	Diya	“More than Words”
Solution 3	Wan	“Ten Thousand Words”

Collective, Distributive, Cumulative

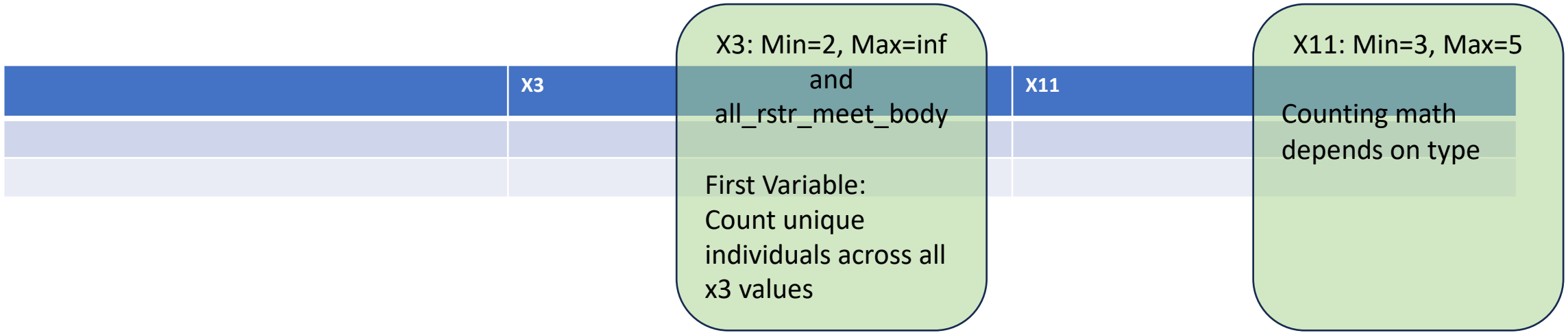
”The two students learned a few songs”

- This solution group is a **cumulative** reading
- Phase 2 checks the constraints for all three types of readings

	X3: Min=2, Max=inf and all_rstr_meet_body	X11: Min=3, Max=5
	X3	**X11**
Solution 1	Diya	”Words Get in the Way”
Solution 2	Diya	“More than Words”
Solution 3	Wan	“Ten Thousand Words”

Collective, Distributive, Cumulative Math

- Variables have an order due to forward and reverse readings
- Count *this* variable per *the previous variable*
- *How* to count depends on type
- First variable always counted the same (since no previous variable)



Distributive: “The two students sang a few songs”

- Students: must be grouped distributively into subgroups:
  - More than one subgroup
  - The total of students across the subgroups must add up to two
- Songs: Each student subgroup must be singing a few songs

	X3	X11
Solution	[Diya]	[”Words Get in the Way”]
Solution	[Diya]	[“More than Words”]
Solution	[Diya]	[“Ten Thousand Words”]
Solution	[Wan]	[“Word Up”]
Solution	[Wan]	[“Paperback Writer”]
Solution	[Wan]	[“Unwritten”]

X3: Min=2, Max=inf and all_rstr_meet_body

First Variable Counting: Count unique individuals across all x3 values

X11: Min=3, Max=5

Distributive Counting: 3-5 x11 *individuals* per x3 *set value*

Collective: “The two students sang a few songs”

- Students must be grouped collectively:
  - Exactly 1 “subgroup” that contains the entire set of students
- Songs : Each student subgroup must be singing a few songs

	X3	X11
Solution	[Diya, Wan]	[”Words Get in the Way”]
Solution	[Diya, Wan]	[“More than Words”]
Solution	[Diya, Wan]	[“Ten Thousand Words”]

X3: Min=2, Max=inf
and
all_rstr_meet_body

First Variable Counting: Count unique individuals across all x3 values

X11: Min=3, Max=5

Collective Counting:
- *exactly one* x3 set
- 3-5 x11 *individuals* for the one x3 *set*

	X3	X11
Solution	[Diya, Wan]	[”Words Get in the Way”, “More than Words”]
Solution	[Diya, Wan]	[“Ten Thousand Words”]

	X3	X11
Solution	[Diya, Wan]	[”Words Get in the Way”, “More than Words”, “Ten Thousand Words”]

Cumulative: “The two students sang a few songs”

- Students: must be grouped distributively into subgroups, which means:
  - More than one subgroup
  - The total of students across the subgroups must add up to two
- Songs: The total of songs across all subgroups must be a few

	X3	X11
Solution	[Diya]	[”Words Get in the Way”]
Solution	[Diya]	[“More than Words”]
Solution	[Wan]	[“Ten Thousand Words”]

	X3	X11
Solution	[Diya]	[”Words Get in the Way”, “More than Words”]
Solution	[Wan]	[“Ten Thousand Words”]

X3: Min=2, Max=inf
and
all_rstr_meet_body

First Variable Counting: Count unique individuals across all x3 values

X11: Min=3, Max=5

Cumulative Counting:
3-5 x11 *individuals* across all x3 subgroups

Summary

- Phase 0: Generate MRS and scope-resolved MRS
- Phase 1: Find solutions using scope-resolved MRS minus global constraints
- Phase 2: Find solution groups using global constraints
- Phase 3: Respond using the first solution group (or error)
  - If no solutions: “<error>”
  - Propositions and Yes/No Questions: “Files are large”
    - “Yes, I agree!”
  - WH-Questions: “Which files are in this folder?”
    - Find the variable scoped by which_q(x, RSTR, BODY)
    - Respond with the values of x from the solution group
  - Commands: “Delete <file>”
    - Perform operations* generated from the solution group

    * “operations” are extra data added to state by action verbs

*optimization: Individual solutions are pulled through the phases in a pipeline

Questions?