

# Bounded Treewidth in Non-Monotonic Reasoning<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Joint work with G. Gottlob, M. Jakl, S. Rümmele, F. Wei, and S. Woltran

to the memory of Marko Samer



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Foundation of most of the work reported here:



Marko Samer, Stefan Szeider:

Algorithms for propositional model counting.  
J. Discrete Algorithms 8(1): 50-64 (2010)

# Outline

1. Motivation
2. Treewidth of Finite Structures
3. Tractable Reasoning via Courcelle's Theorem
4. FPT-Algorithms via Dynamic Programming
5. Conclusion

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# Motivation

## Complexity in non-monotonic reasoning

- Most forms of non-monotonic reasoning are intractable (even on the second or third level of the polynomial hierarchy)
- Examples: propositional abduction, closed world reasoning, answer set programming, belief revision
- treewidth as a key to fixed-parameter tractability: Courcelle's Theorem and extensions
- theoretical tractability vs. efficient computation
- efficient algorithms via dynamic programming

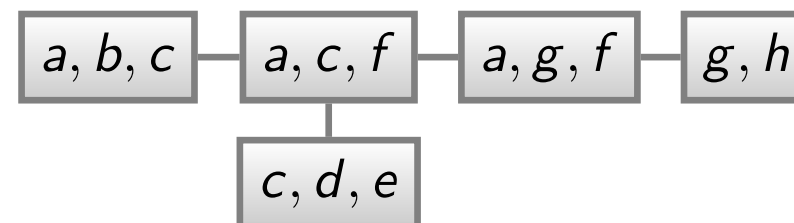
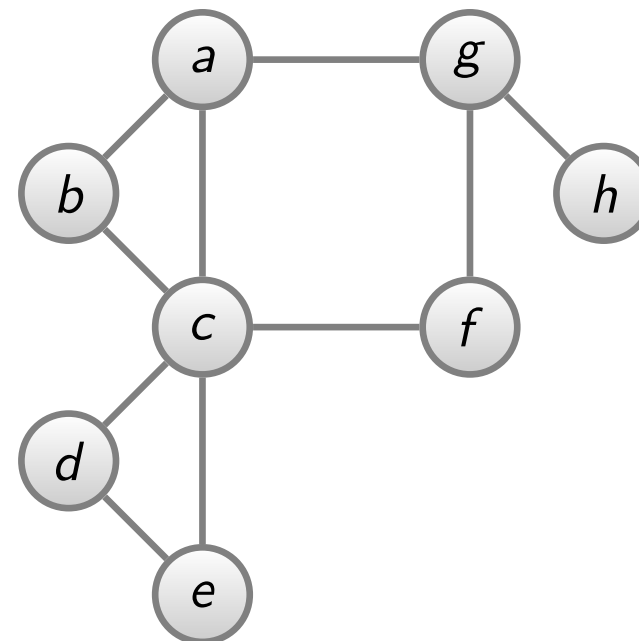
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# Tree Decomposition

## Tree Decomposition of a Graph

- 1 Tree with a vertex set (= “bag”) associated with every node.
- 2 For every edge  $(v, w)$ : there is a bag containing both  $v$  and  $w$ .
- 3 For every  $v$ : the nodes that contain  $v$  form a connected subtree.

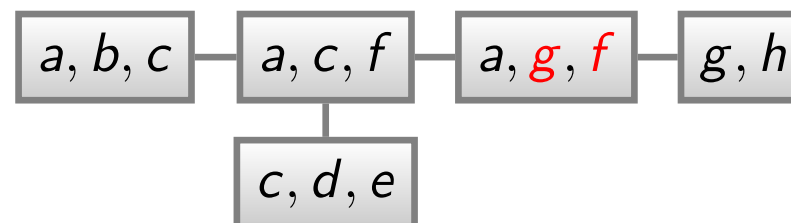
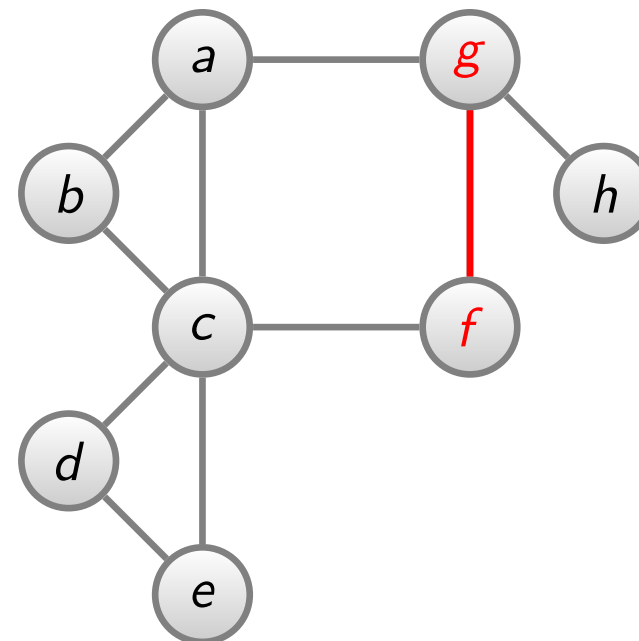




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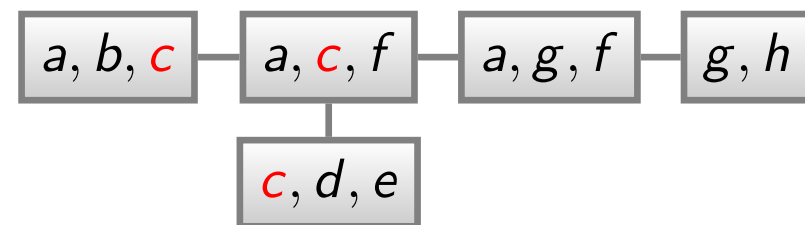
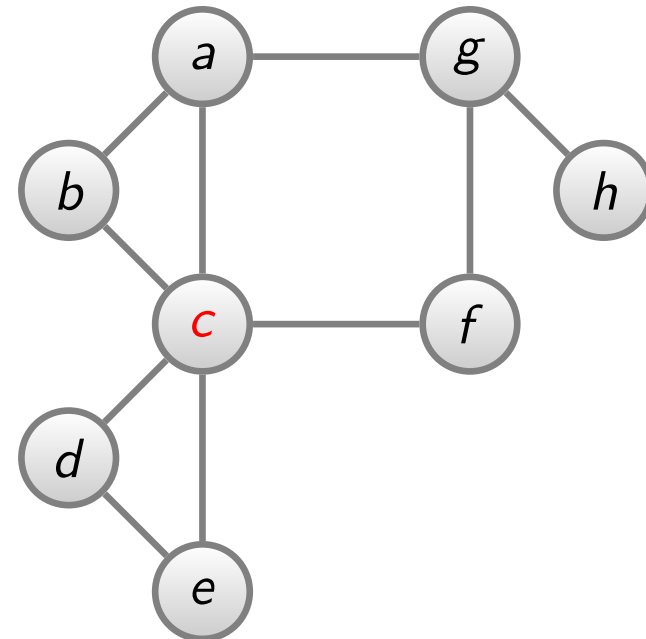
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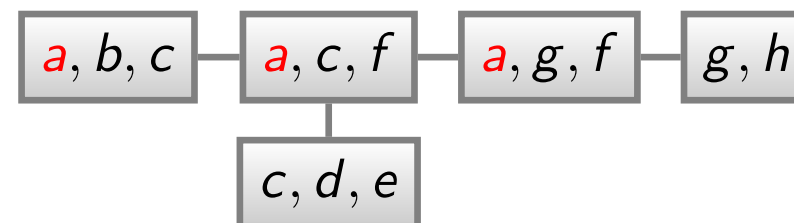
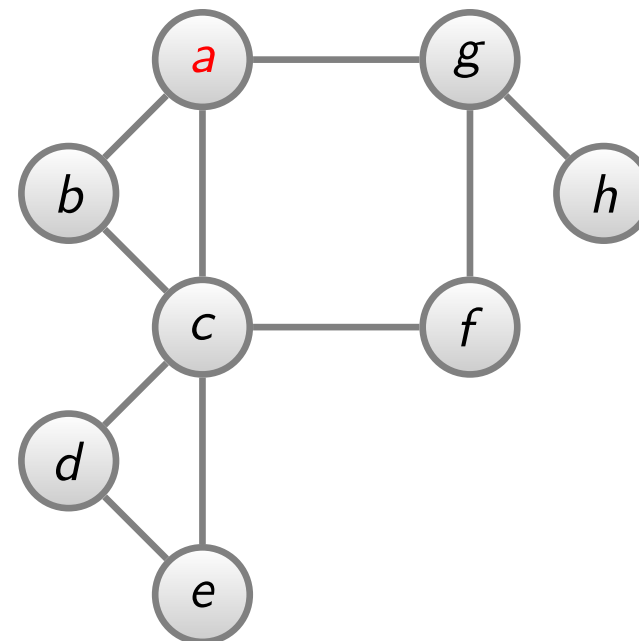
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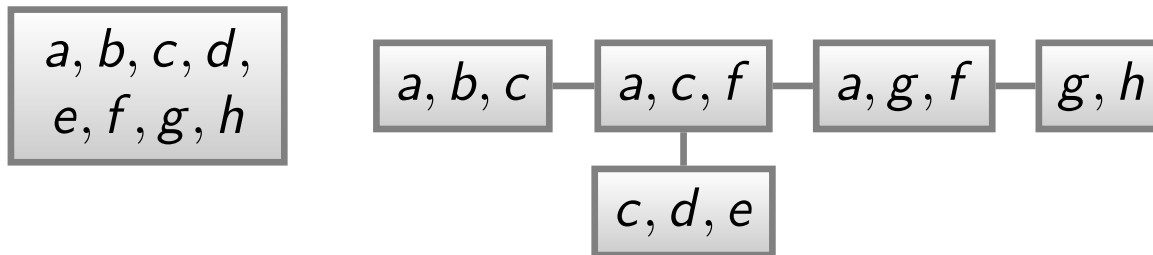
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## Tree Decomposition of a Structure

- 1 Tree with a **set of domain elements** (= “bag”) associated with every node.
- 2 **For every tuple  $(a_1, \dots, a_k)$  in any relation  $R_i$ : there is a bag containing  $\{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$ .**
- 3 For every  $a$ : the nodes that contain  $a$  form a connected subtree.

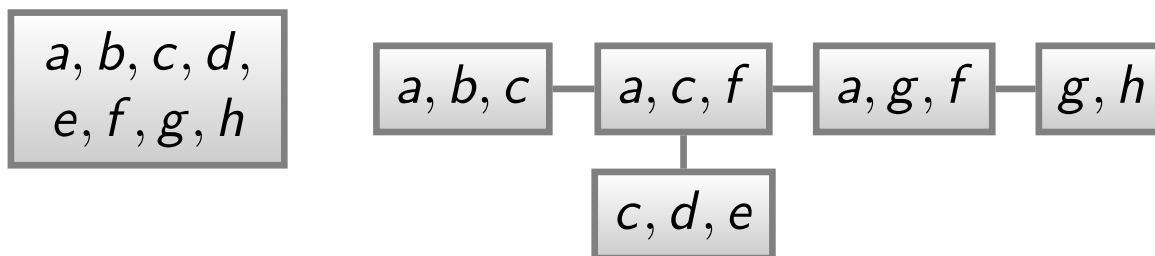
# Treewidth

- The **width** of a tree decomposition  $\langle T, \chi(t)_{t \in T} \rangle$  is  $\max(\{|\chi(t)| \mid t \in T\}) - 1$ , i.e., **max bag size**  $- 1$ .
- The **treewidth**  $tw(\mathcal{G})$  is the minimum width over all tree decompositions of  $\mathcal{G}$ .



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- (Bodlaender, 1996) For fixed  $k$ , it is feasible in linear time
  - to decide if a given graph/structure has treewidth  $\leq k$
  - if so, to compute a tree decomposition of width  $\leq k$ .

# Treewidth of a Propositional Formula in CNF

## Represent a CNF formula as a finite structure

Given a propositional formula  $F$  in CNF, represent  $F$  by a finite structure  $A(F)$  over the signature  $\tau$  with  $\tau = \{cl, var, pos, neg\}$ , where

- $cl(c), var(x)$   
means that  $c$  is a clause (resp.  $x$  is a variable) in  $F$ .
- $pos(x, c), neg(x, c)$   
means that  $x$  occurs unnegated (resp. negated) in the clause  $c$ .

## Treewidth of a CNF formula

We define  $tw(F) := tw(A(F))$ .



# Treewidth of CNF

## Example

Given a propositional formula  $F$  in CNF

$$(x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee x_4),$$

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$A(F)$  contains the following atoms:

- $cl(c_1), cl(c_2),$
- $var(x_1), var(x_2), var(x_3), var(x_4),$
- $pos(x_1, c_1), pos(x_3, c_1), pos(x_2, c_2), pos(x_4, c_2),$
- $neg(x_2, c_1), neg(x_3, c_2).$

# Tree Decomposition

$A(F)$

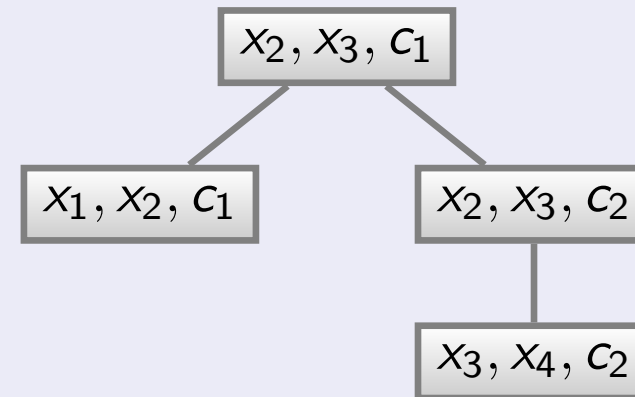
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Tree Decomposition of  $A(F)$

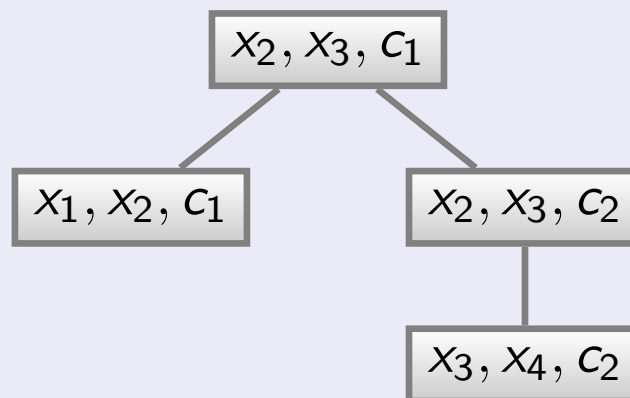


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Tree Decomposition of  $A(F)$



**Remark.** We have  $tw(F) := tw(A(F)) = 2$ .

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# Monadic-Second Order Logic (MSO)

## Definition of MSO

Monadic Second Order logic (MSO) extends First Order logic (FO) by the use of **set variables** (usually denoted by upper case letters), which range over sets of domain elements.

In contrast, the **individual variables** (which are usually denoted by lower case letters) range over single domain elements.

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**Atomic formulae in an MSO-formula  $\varphi$**  over a  $\tau$ -structure:

- atoms with some predicate symbol from  $\tau$ ,
- atoms whose predicate symbol is a monadic second order variable (i.e., a set variable), or
- equality atoms.



# Monadic-Second Order Logic (MSO)

## Expressive Power of MSO

Many interesting (intractable) properties of finite structures are expressible in MSO, e.g.:

- Graph problems, database design problems, etc.
- **KR and Reasoning**: SAT, propositional abduction, belief revision, closed world reasoning, answer set programming, etc.

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## Theorem (Courcelle, 1990)

*Any property of finite structures, which is expressible by an MSO sentence, can be decided in linear time (data complexity) if the structures have bounded treewidth.*

# MSO-Example 1: SAT-Problem

## MSO-Encoding of the SAT-Problem

*Idea.* Let  $F$  be a propositional formula in CNF; an interpretation of  $F$  can be represented as a set  $X$  of variables (i.e., the variables which are true).

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MSO encoding of the **SAT-Problem**:

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## MSO-Example 2: Propositional Abduction

### Definition

A **propositional abduction problem** (PAP) is a quadruple  $\mathcal{P} = \langle V, H, M, \mathcal{C} \rangle$  consisting of

- a finite set of propositional *variables*  $V$ ,
- a *theory*  $\mathcal{C}$ , which is a consistent set of clauses over the variables  $V$ ,
- a set of *hypotheses*  $H \subseteq V$ ,
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A set  $S$  satisfying  $S \subseteq H$  is a **solution** iff

- $\mathcal{C} \cup S$  is consistent (i.e., satisfiable)
- and  $\mathcal{C} \cup S \models M$  holds.

# MSO-Example 2: Propositional Abduction

## Abduction in System Diagnosis

A diagnosis problem can be represented by a propositional abduction problem  $\mathcal{P} = \langle V, H, M, \mathcal{C} \rangle$  as follows:

- The clausal theory  $\mathcal{C}$  is the **system description**.
- The hypotheses  $H \subseteq V$  describe the possibly **faulty system components**.
- The manifestations  $M \subseteq V$  are the **observed symptoms** (describing some malfunction of the system).
- The solutions  $S \in \text{Sol}(\mathcal{P})$  are the possible **explanations** of the malfunction.



# MSO-Example 2: Propositional Abduction

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**Remark.** These problems are  $\Sigma_2 P$ -complete (Solvability and Relevance) resp.  $\Pi_2 P$ -complete (Necessity).

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### MSO-Encoding of the main Abduction problems

Let a PAP  $\mathcal{P} = \langle V, H, M, \mathcal{C} \rangle$  be represented as a  $\tau$ -structure with  $\tau = \{cl, var, pos, neg, H, M\}$ , where the predicates  $cl, var, pos, neg$  represent the clause set  $\mathcal{C}$  and the unary predicates  $H$  and  $M$  identify the hypotheses and manifestations.

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MSO encoding of  $Sol(S)$ , i.e., “ $S$  is a solution of  $\mathcal{P}$ ”:

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# Further Results

## Closed World Reasoning

- **Closed world assumption:** assume negative information if the positive information is not explicitly given by a theory  $T$ .
- Several forms of closed world assumption: CWA (Closed World Assumption), GCWA (Generalized CWA), EGCWA (Extended GCWA), CCWA (Careful CWA), and ECWA (Extended CWA).

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## Formal Definition of CWR

- $CWA(T) = T \cup \{\neg K \mid K \text{ positive literal s.t. } T \not\models K\}$
- $GCWA(T) = T \cup \{\neg K \mid K \text{ pos. literal and } \forall X \in MM(T): X \not\models K\}$
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- $EGCWA(T) \models F$  iff  $\forall X \in MM(T): X \models F$
- CCWA, ECWA: like GCWA and EGCWA but distinguishing 3 kinds of variables (to be minimized, fixed, varying).

# Further Results

## Answer-set programming

- disjunctive datalog programs with negation in the body
- stable model semantics (defined via Gelfond-Lifschitz reduct)
- Gelfond-Lifschitz reduct and stable models can be defined in MSO
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### Belief Revision

- incorporate new information  $B$  into belief base  $A$
- keep only those models of  $B$  with *minimal* symmetric set difference from any of the models of  $A$ .
- Satoh's revision operator: subset-minimality
- MSO-definable decision problems: cautious/brave reasoning

# Extended MSO

## Extension of Courcelle's Theorem

- Extended MSO: weight functions, cardinality, sum, min, max, etc.
- (Arnborg/Lagergren/Seese, 1991) **Linear extended MSO extremum problems** over finite structures can be decided in linear time (data complexity) if the structures have bounded treewidth.

## Extended MSO-Encodings

- **Propositional Abduction**: restriction to solutions of minimal cardinality or minimal weight
- **Belief revision**: Dalal's revision operator: cardinality-minimality

# Theoretical Tractability vs. Efficient Computation

## Algorithms via Courcelle's Theorem

In principle, Courcelle's theorem can be used to effectively generate a concrete algorithm from an MSO description, see e.g. (Arnborg/Lagergren/Seese, 1991), (Flum/Frick/Grohe, 2002).

- 1** Translate the MSO evaluation problem over finite structures into an equivalent MSO evaluation problem over colored binary trees.
- 2** Solve this problem via the correspondence between MSO over trees and finite tree automata (FTA), see (Thatcher/Wright, 1968), (Doner, 1970).

# Theoretical Tractability vs. Efficient Computation

## Problem with this approach

- “State explosion” of the FTA even for relatively simple MSO formulae *on trees*.
- MSO formula over colored binary trees is significantly more complex than the original formula for the structure with bounded treewidth.

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## Conclusion: (Grohe 1999), similarly (Niedermeier, 2006)

- Main benefit of Courcelle's Theorem: “a simple way to recognize a property as being linear time computable”.
- Algorithms are “useless for practical applications”.

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# Nice Tree Decompositions

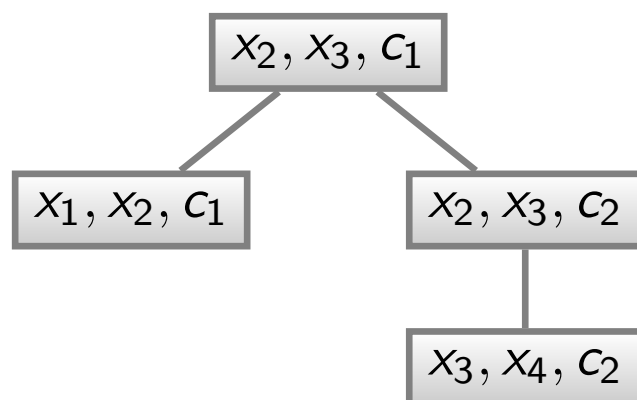
A tree decomposition  $\mathcal{T}$  is called *nice* if

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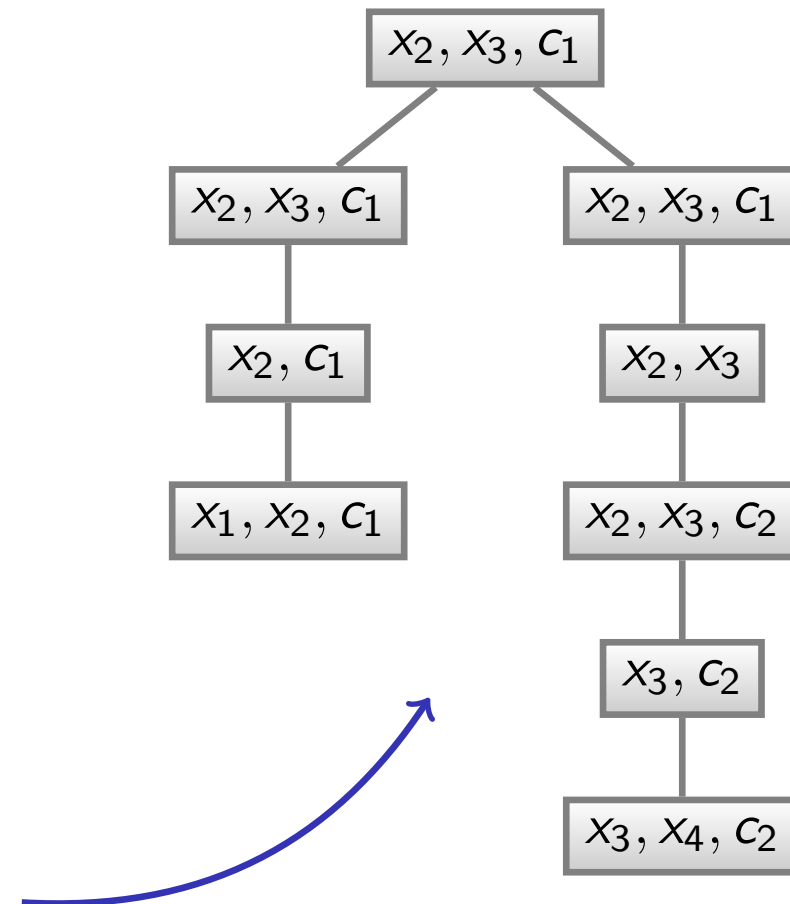
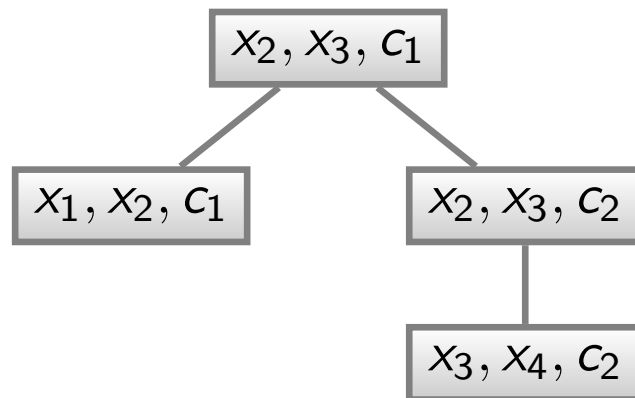
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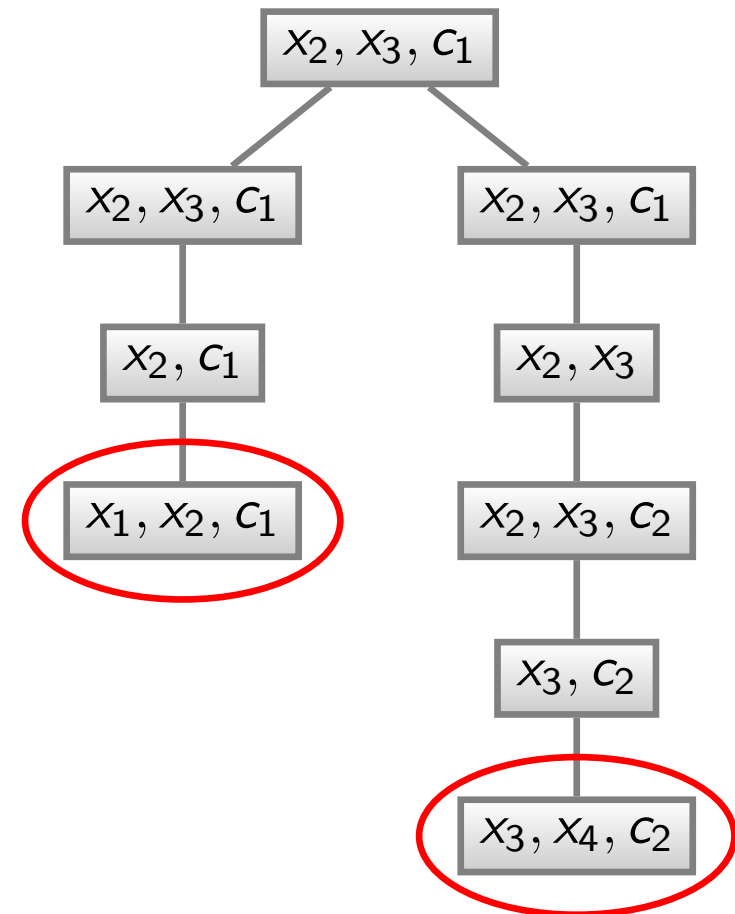
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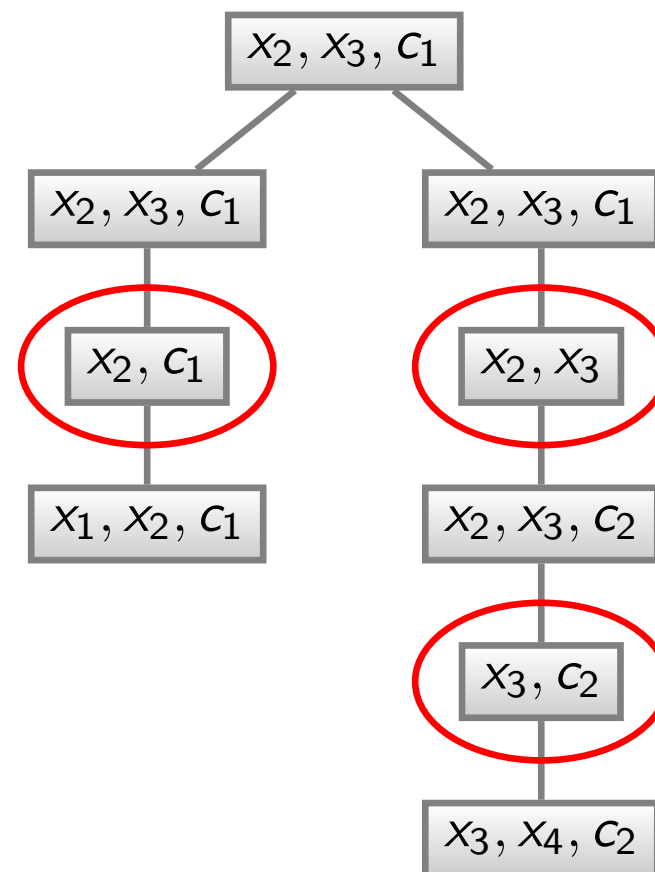
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- Forget nodes (variable or clause).
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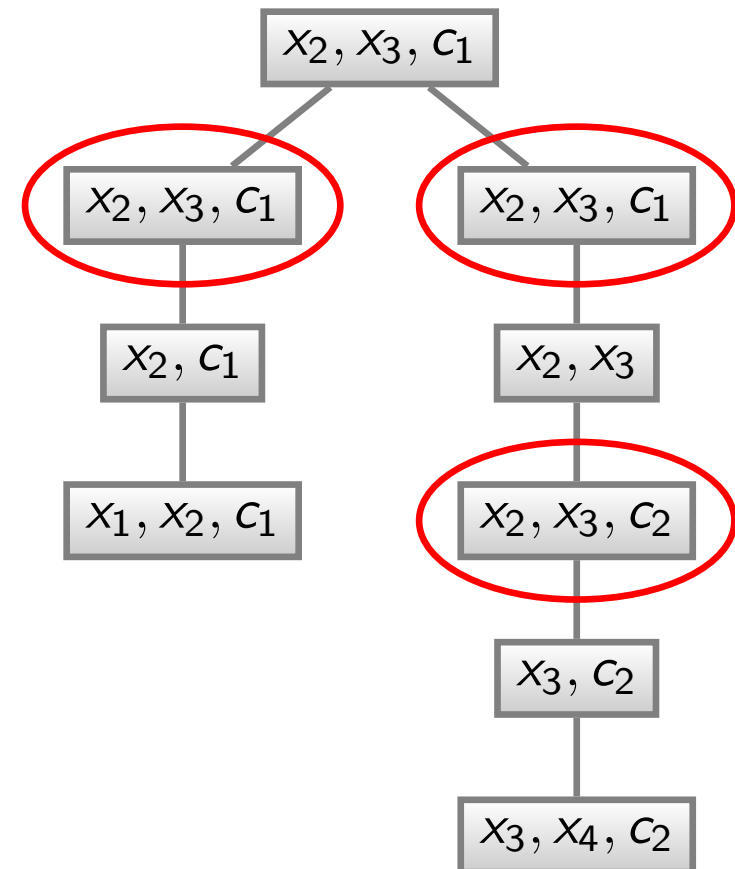
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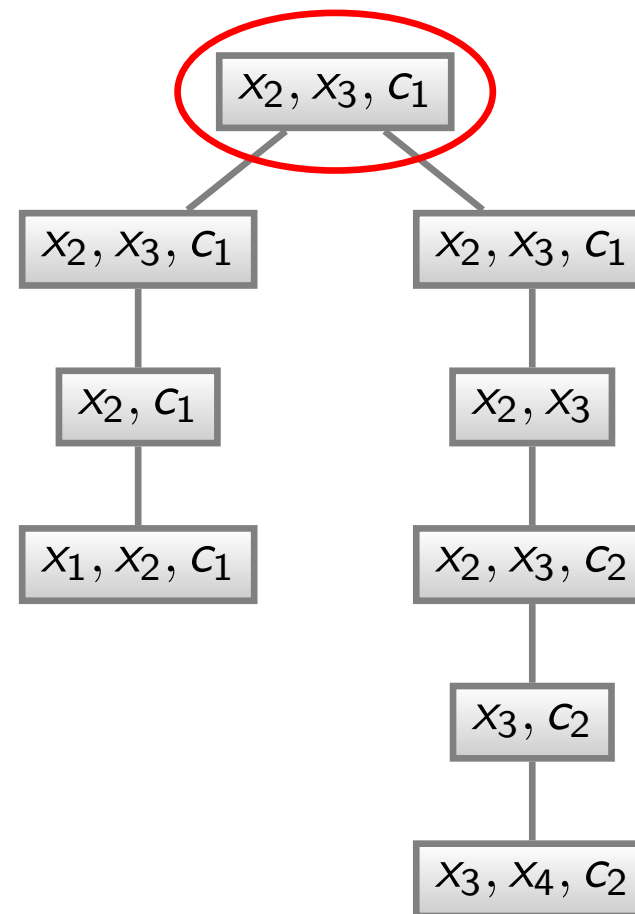
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- Introduce nodes (variable or clause).
- **Branch nodes.**



# #SAT-Algorithm (Samer/Szeider, 2010)

## Notation

- $F$  ... CNF formula.
- $(T, \chi, r)$  ... Nice tree decomposition of  $F$ .
- $\chi_V, \chi_C$  ...  $\chi$  restricted to variables/clauses.
- $T_t$  ... Subtree of  $T$  rooted at node  $t$ .
- $V_t, C_t$  ... Variables/Clauses in the bags of  $T_t$ .

## Data Structure

For each truth assignment  $\alpha : \chi_V(t) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  and subset  $A \subseteq \chi_C(t)$  let  $N(t, \alpha, A)$  be the set of truth assignments  $\tau : V_t \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ , s.t.

- $\tau(x) = \alpha(x)$  for all  $x \in \chi_V(t)$ .
- $A$  is exactly the set of clauses in  $C_t$  that are not satisfied by  $\tau$ .



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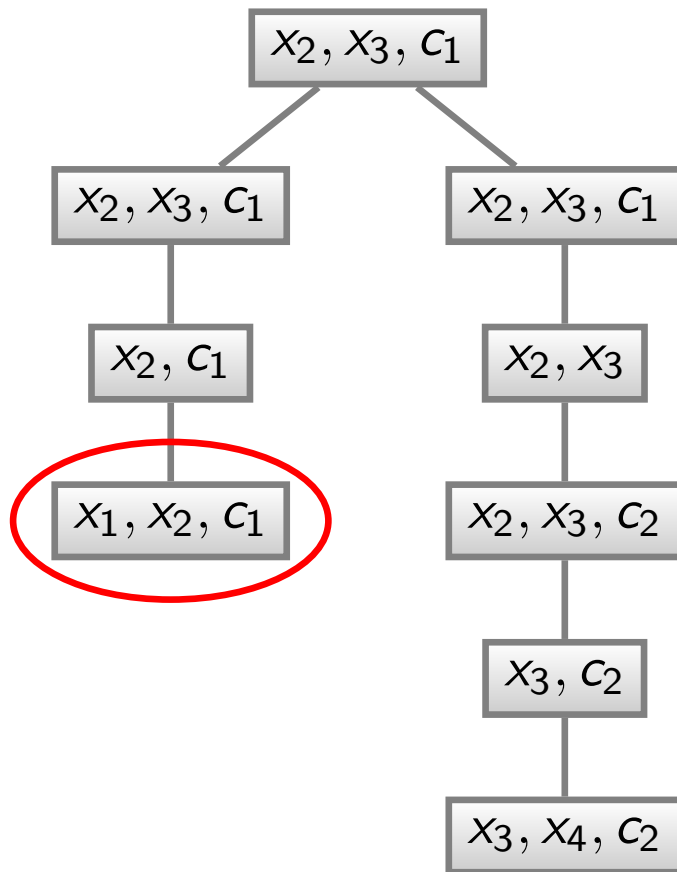
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Let  $n(t, \alpha, A) = |N(t, \alpha, A)|$ .

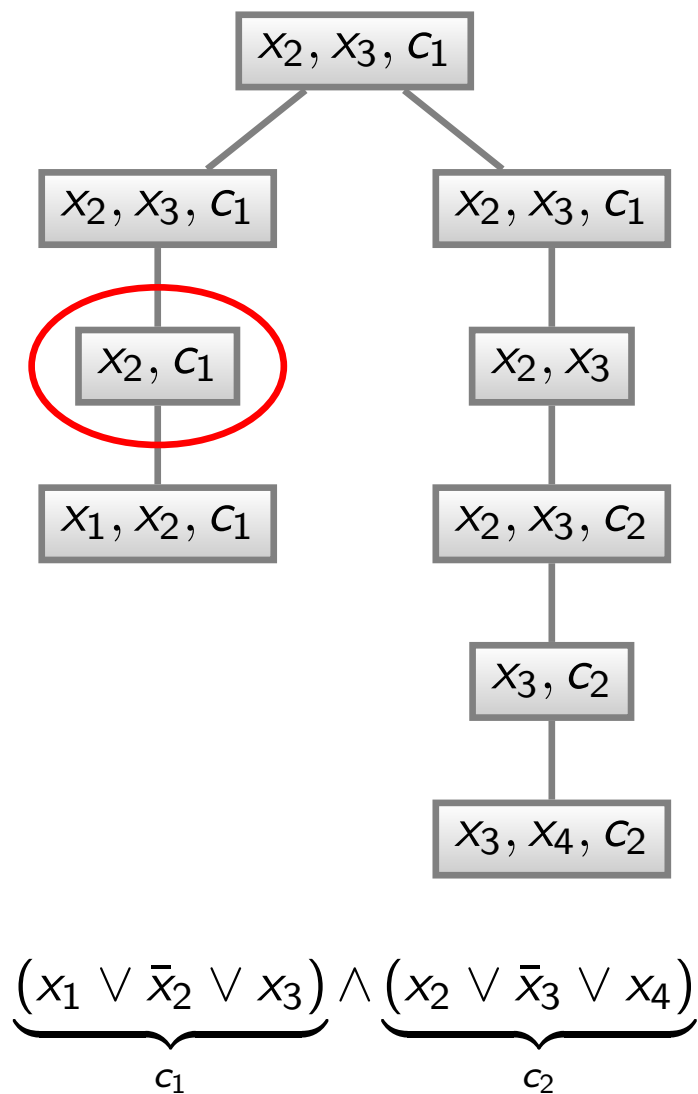
# Example



$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	1
$x_1$	-	1
$x_2$	$c_1$	1
$x_1, x_2$	-	1

$$\underbrace{(x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3)}_{c_1} \wedge \underbrace{(x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee x_4)}_{c_2}$$

# Example

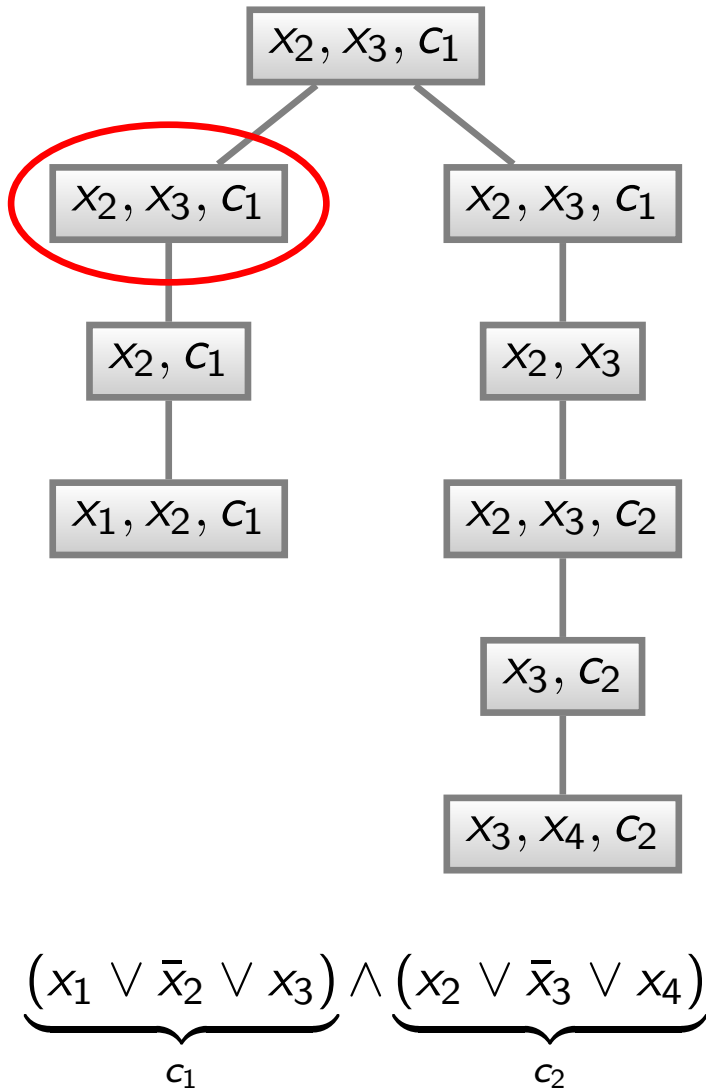


$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	1
$x_1$	-	1
$x_2$	$c_1$	1
$x_1, x_2$	-	1



$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	2
$x_2$	$c_1$	1
$x_2$	-	1

# Example

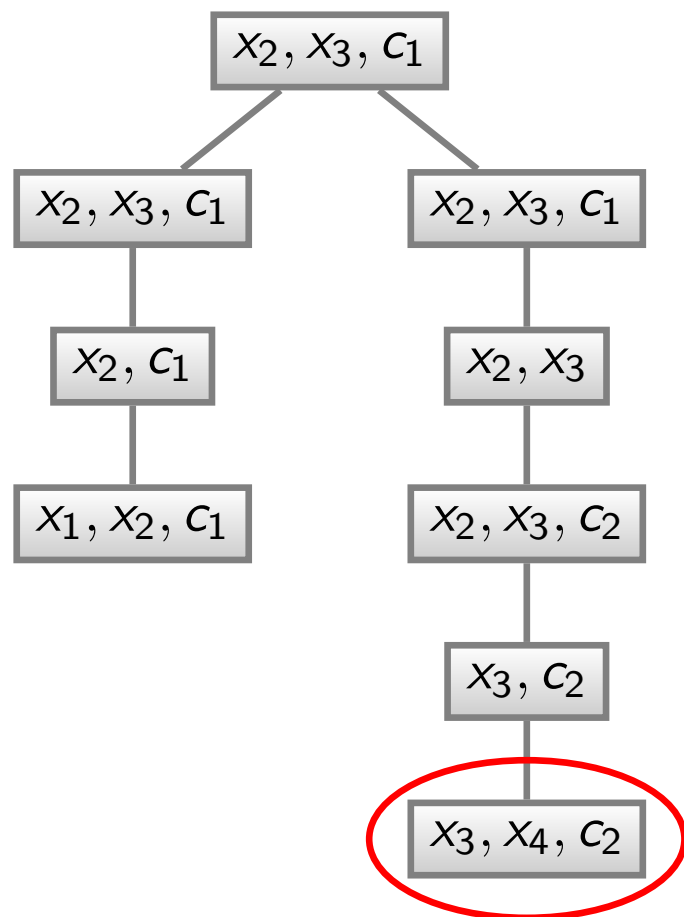


$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	2
$x_2$	$c_1$	1
$x_2$	-	1



$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	2
$x_2$	$c_1$	1
$x_2$	-	1
$x_3$	-	2
$x_2, x_3$	-	2

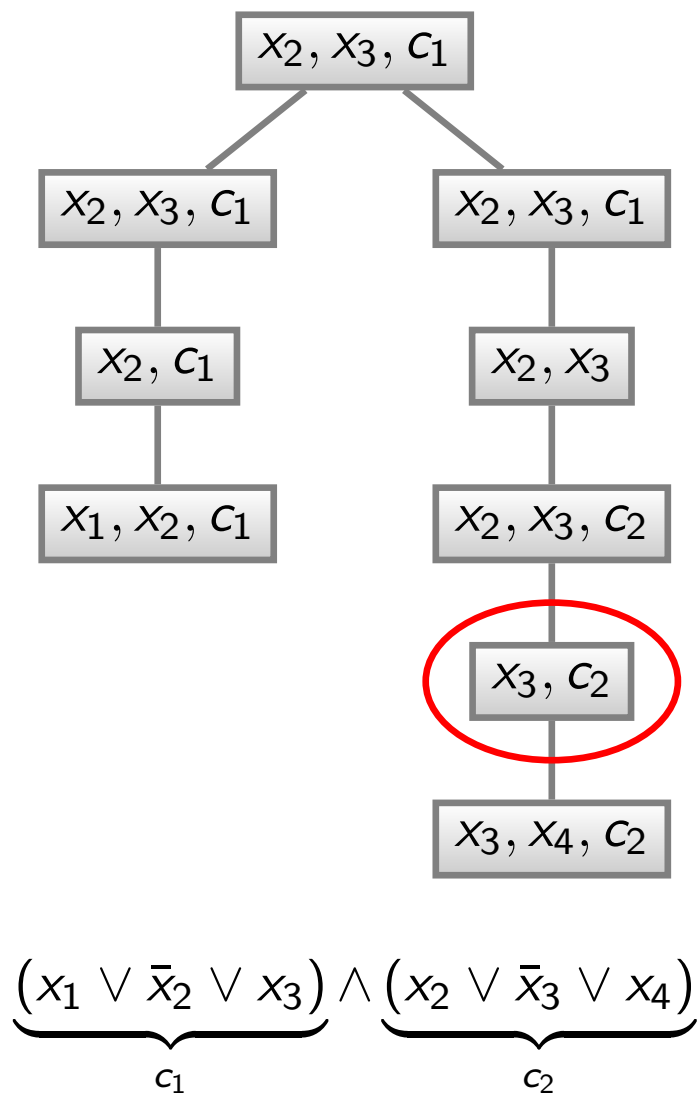
# Example



$$\underbrace{(x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3)}_{c_1} \wedge \underbrace{(x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee x_4)}_{c_2}$$

$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	1
$x_3$	$c_2$	1
$x_4$	-	1
$x_3, x_4$	-	1

# Example

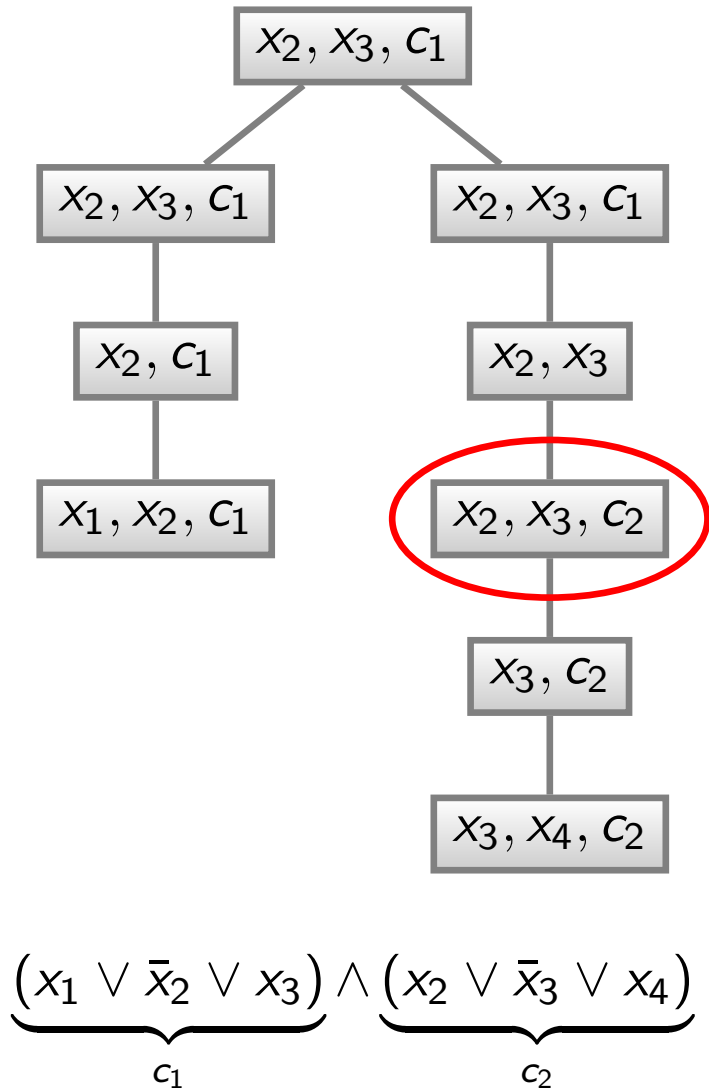


$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	1
$x_3$	$c_2$	1
$x_4$	-	1
$x_3, x_4$	-	1



$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	2
$x_3$	$c_2$	1
$x_3$	-	1

# Example

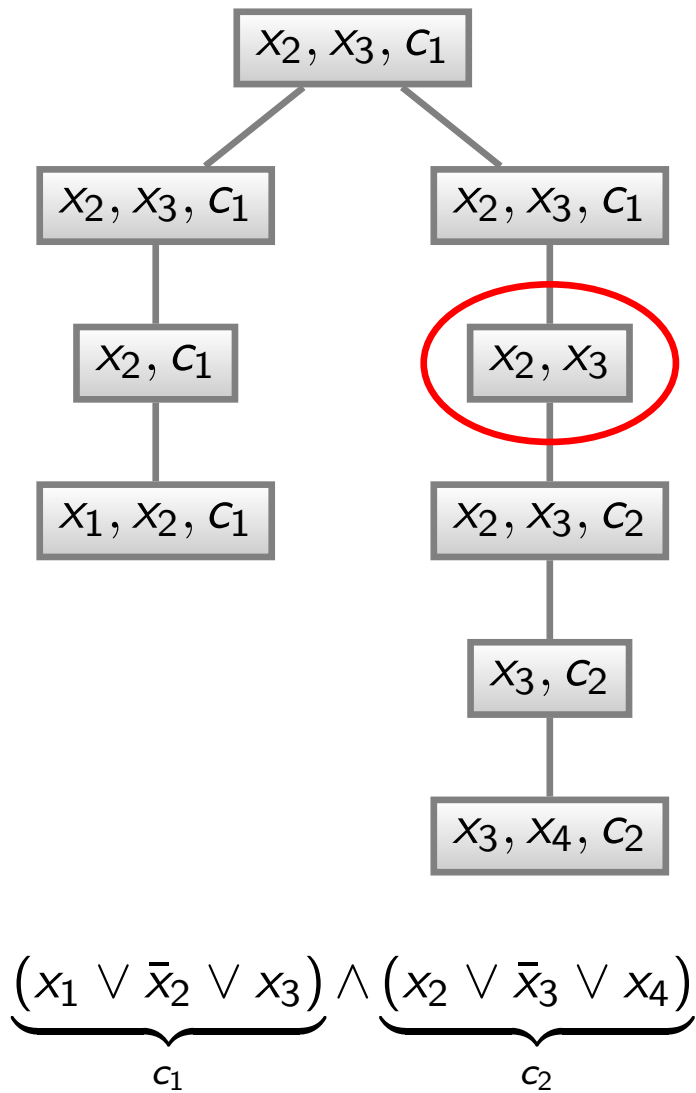


$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	2
$x_3$	$c_2$	1
$x_3$	-	1



$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	2
$x_2$	-	2
$x_3$	$c_2$	1
$x_3$	-	1
$x_2, x_3$	-	2

# Example



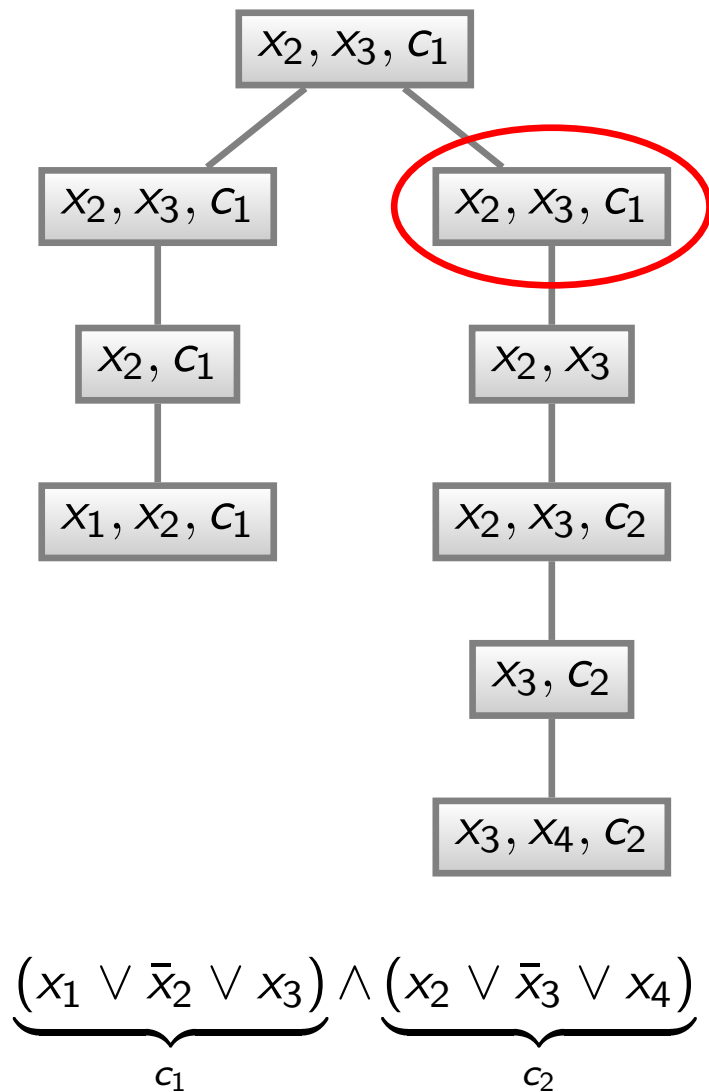
$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	2
$x_2$	-	2
$x_3$	$c_2$	1
$x_3$	-	1
$x_2, x_3$	-	2



$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	2
$x_2$	-	2
$x_3$	-	1
$x_2, x_3$	-	2



# Example

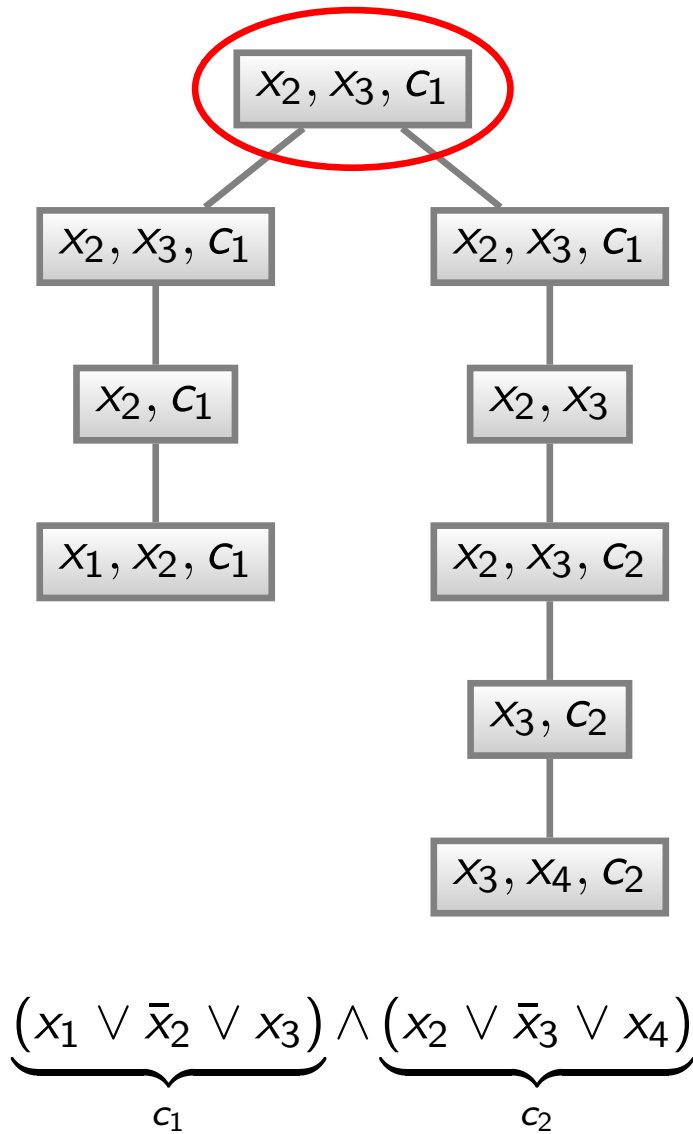


$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	2
$x_2$	-	2
$x_3$	-	1
$x_2, x_3$	-	2



$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	2
$x_2$	$c_1$	2
$x_3$	-	1
$x_2, x_3$	-	2

# Example



$\alpha$	$A$	$n$	$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	2	-	-	2
$x_2$	$c_1$	1	$x_2$	$c_1$	2
$x_2$	-	1	$x_3$	-	1
$x_3$	-	2	$x_2, x_3$	-	2
$x_2, x_3$	-	2			

Blue arrows point from the two tables above to this table.

$\alpha$	$A$	$n$
-	-	4
$x_2$	$c_1$	2
$x_2$	-	2
$x_3$	-	2
$x_2, x_3$	-	4

## Leaf and Join Nodes

### Lemma

Let  $t$  be a *leaf node*. Then, for each truth assignment  $\alpha : \chi_V(t) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  and set  $A \subseteq \chi_C(t)$ , we have

$$n(t, \alpha, A) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A = \{c \in \chi_C(t) : \alpha \text{ does not satisfy } c\}; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

### Lemma

Let  $t$  be a *join node* of  $T$  with children  $t_1, t_2$ . Then, for each truth assignment  $\alpha : \chi_V(t) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  and set  $A \subseteq \chi_C(t)$ , we have

$$n(t, \alpha, A) = \sum_{A_1, A_2 \subseteq \chi_C(t), A_1 \cap A_2 = A} n(t_1, \alpha, A_1) \cdot n(t_2, \alpha, A_2).$$

# Variable Introduce Nodes

## Lemma

Let  $t$  be a *variable introduce node* with child  $t'$  and  $\chi(t) = \chi(t') \cup \{x\}$  for a variable  $x$ . Then, for each truth assignment  $\alpha : \chi_V(t) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  and set  $A \subseteq \chi_C(t)$ , we have

$$n(t, \alpha_{x=0}, A) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \neg x \in c \text{ for some } c \in A; \\ \sum_{B' \subseteq \bar{B}} n(t', \alpha, A \cup B') & \text{otherwise;} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{where } \bar{B} = \{c \in \chi_C(t) : \neg x \in c\};$$

$$n(t, \alpha_{x=1}, A) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \in c \text{ for some } c \in A; \\ \sum_{B' \subseteq B} n(t', \alpha, A \cup B') & \text{otherwise;} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{where } B = \{c \in \chi_C(t) : x \in c\}.$$

# Clause Introduce Nodes

## Lemma

Let  $t$  be a *clause introduce node* with child  $t'$  and  $\chi(t) = \chi(t') \cup \{c\}$  for a clause  $c$ . Then, for each truth assignment  $\alpha : \chi_V(t) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  and set  $A \subseteq \chi_C(t)$ , we have

$$n(t, \alpha, A) = \begin{cases} n(t', \alpha, A) & \text{if } c \notin A \text{ and } \alpha \text{ satisfies } c; \\ n(t', \alpha, A \setminus \{c\}) & \text{if } c \in A \text{ and } \alpha \text{ does not satisfy } c; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

# Forget Nodes

## Lemma

Let  $t$  be a *variable forget node* with child  $t'$  and  $\chi(t) = \chi(t') \setminus \{x\}$ . Then, for each truth assignment  $\alpha : \chi_V(t) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  and set  $A \subseteq \chi_C(t)$ , we have

$$n(t, \alpha, A) = n(t', \alpha_{x=0}, A) + n(t', \alpha_{x=1}, A).$$

## Lemma

Let  $t$  be a *clause forget node* with child  $t'$  and  $\chi(t) = \chi(t') \setminus \{c\}$ . Then, for each truth assignment  $\alpha : \chi_V(t) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  and set  $A \subseteq \chi_C(t)$ , we have

$$n(t, \alpha, A) = n(t', \alpha, A).$$

# Summary

## Data Structure

In this dynamic programming algorithm, we have to maintain the following data structure at each node  $t$  in the tree decomposition  $T$ :  $(\alpha, A, n)$ , where  $\alpha : \chi_V(t) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ ,  $A \subseteq \chi_C(t)$ , and  $n$  is an integer.

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**Alternative view:** represent  $(\alpha, A)$  as a **subset of  $\chi(t)$** . Hence, if  $T$  has width  $\leq w - 1$ , we have to store a table of size  $O(w2^w)$  at each node.



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## Theorem (Samer/Szeider, 2010)

*The #SAT-problem can be solved in space  $O(w2^w \log(N))$  and time  $O(w4^w N)$ , where  $N$  denotes the number of nodes in a tree decomposition of width  $w - 1$  for an input CNF formula  $F$  (assuming unit cost for arithmetic operations).*

# Summary

## Lessons learned

- The models of a CNF-formula  $F$  can be computed by means of a **single bottom-up traversal** of a tree decomposition  $T$  of  $F$ :
  - assign truth value to the variables in the bags at leaf nodes and
  - extend the truth assignments at the variable introduce nodes.

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  - assign truth value to the variables in the bags at leaf nodes and
  - extend the truth assignments at the variable introduce nodes.
- We cannot afford to store all truth assignments on  $V_t$ .
- It suffices to store the “**projection**” of each truth assignment on  $V_t$  to the variables and clauses in  $\chi(t)$ .
- The resulting data structure is **single-exponential** in the treewidth.
- Each “projection” may represent **many truth assignments** on  $V_t$ : these are **indistinguishable** for the further bottom-up traversal.

# Dynamic Programming in Propositional Abduction

## Definition

A **propositional abduction problem** (PAP) is a quadruple  $\mathcal{P} = \langle V, H, M, \mathcal{C} \rangle$  consisting of

- a finite set of propositional *variables*  $V$ ,
- a *theory*  $\mathcal{C}$ , which is a consistent set of clauses over the variables  $V$ ,
- a set of *hypotheses*  $H \subseteq V$ ,
- and a set of *manifestations*  $M \subseteq V$ .

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A set  $S$  satisfying  $S \subseteq H$  is a **solution** iff

- $\mathcal{C} \cup S$  is consistent (i.e., satisfiable)
- and  $\mathcal{C} \cup S \models M$  holds.

# Dynamic Programming in Propositional Abduction

## Intuition of Computing a Solution

- The clause set  $\mathcal{C}$  has, in general, many models.
- There may exist models of  $\mathcal{C}$  where a manifestation  $m \in M$  is false.
- **Idea of constructing a solution  $S$ :** adding a variable  $h \in H$  to  $S$  means that we discard all models of  $\mathcal{C}$  where  $h$  is false.

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- **Difficulty** (and reason for  $\Sigma_2$ -completeness):
  - $S$  must be “big enough” so that every manifestation  $m \in M$  is true in the remaining models of  $\mathcal{C}$ .
  - $S$  must be “small enough” so that at least one model of  $\mathcal{C}$  is left.

# Dynamic Programming in Propositional Abduction

## Dynamic Programming Algorithm

- In a bottom-up traversal of the tree decomposition  $T$ , at each node  $t \in T$ , consider all subsets  $S \subseteq H_t$ .
- For every such  $S$  do:
  - Consider all possible truth assignments  $I$  for  $\mathcal{C} \cup S$ .
  - Keep track if some manifestation  $m \in M$  is set to false in  $I$ .
- Read off the solutions **at the root node**:
  - $\mathcal{C} \cup S$  has at least one model.
  - In all models of  $\mathcal{C} \cup S$ , no  $m \in M$  is set to false.



# FPT-Algorithm for Propositional Abduction

## Data Structure and Complexity

- Recall from the #SAT-algorithm the idea of **projecting truth assignments** on  $V_t$  onto the bag  $\chi(t)$ .

# FPT-Algorithm for Propositional Abduction

## Data Structure and Complexity

- Recall from the #SAT-algorithm the idea of **projecting truth assignments** on  $V_t$  onto the bag  $\chi(t)$ .
- Data structure required for Abduction at each node  $t \in T$ :
  - Restriction of each set  $S \subseteq H_t$  to  $S \cap \chi(t)$ .
  - Set of projections of all possible truth assignments for  $\mathcal{C} \cup S$ .
  - One bit for each such projection indicating if some  $m \in M_t$  is false in the corresponding truth assignments.
- Formal definition of the data structure:  $2^{\chi(t)} \times 2^{2^{\chi(t)} \times \{0,1\}}$ .
- Complexity of the algorithm: **double-exponential in the treewidth**.

# Dynamic Programming in Closed World Reasoning

## Minimal Models of a CNF-Formula $F$

- In a bottom-up traversal of the tree decomposition  $T$ , at each node  $t \in T$ , consider **all possible truth assignments  $I$  for  $F$** .
- For every truth assignment  $I$ , keep track of **all strictly smaller truth assignments  $I'$** , i.e.: at every variable introduce node, if the new variable  $x$  is set to true in  $I$ , then a new  $I'$  is obtained by setting  $x$  to false (and letting  $I'$  coincide with  $I$  on all other variables).
- Read off the minimal models  $I$  of  $F$  **at the root node**:
  - $I$  is a model of  $F$ , i.e., no clause of  $F$  is false in  $I$ .
  - For all assignments  $I'$ , that are strictly smaller than  $I$ : check that  $I'$  is not a model of  $F$ , i.e., at least one clause of  $F$  is false in  $I$ .

# FPT-Algorithm for Closed World Reasoning

## Data Structure and Complexity

- We again use the idea of **projecting truth assignments** on  $V_t$  onto the bag  $\chi(t)$  for every  $t \in T$ .
- Data structure required for CWR at each node  $t \in T$ :
  - Projection of a truth assignment  $I$  of  $F$ .
  - Set of projections of all possible truth assignments  $I'$  of  $F$ , s.t.  $I'$  is strictly smaller than  $I$ .
- Formal definition of the data structure:  $2^{\chi(t)} \times 2^{2^{\chi(t)}}$ .
- Complexity of the algorithm: **double-exponential in the treewidth**.

# Dynamic Programming in Answer Set Programming

## Definition of Answer Sets

- Definition of the **Gelfond/Lifschitz reduct**  $P^I$ :
  - Delete all rules, s.t. some negative literal in the body is false in  $I$ .
  - In the remaining rules, delete the negative literals from the body.
- Definition of **Answer Sets**  $I$  of  $P$ :
  - $I$  is a model of  $P$ .
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## Dynamic Programming Algorithm

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- For every truth assignment  $I$ , keep track of **all strictly smaller truth assignments**  $I'$  for  $P^I$ .
- Read off the answer sets  $I$  of  $P$  **at the root node**:  
 $I$  is a model of  $P$ , but no  $I'$  strictly smaller than  $I$  is a model of  $P^I$ .

# Dynamic Programming in Belief Revision

## Satoh's Revision Operator

- Let  $A, B$  be propositional formulae in CNF.
- Goal: incorporate new information  $B$  into belief base  $A$ .
- Idea: keep only those models of  $B$  with *subset-minimal* symmetric set difference from any of the models of  $A$ .

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## Dynamic Programming Algorithm

- Keep track of **pairs of truth assignments**  $(I, J)$  for  $A$  resp.  $B$ .
- For every such pair, keep track of **all pairs**  $(I', J')$  with **strictly smaller symmetric set difference**.
- Read off desired models of  $B$  **at the root node**:
  - There exists a pair  $(I, J)$ , s.t.  $I$  is a model of  $A$  and  $J$  a model of  $B$ .
  - For all pairs  $(I', J')$  with strictly smaller symmetric set difference, either  $I'$  is not a model of  $A$  or  $J'$  is not a model of  $B$ .



# Extensions

## Other types of problems

- **Optimization Problems:** during the bottom-up traversal, keep track of the intermediate value of the target function.
- **Counting Problems:** compute the number of solutions in abduction, the number of minimal models, the number of answer sets, etc.

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  - compute the output by **one top-down traversal per solution**, minimal model, answer set, etc.

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- (Special Case) Enumeration Problem defined by a **unary predicate**: For instance, compute all relevant resp. necessary hypotheses in an abduction problem. A **single top-down traversal** suffices.

# Experimental Results

## Implementation

Some of the algorithms presented here have been implemented in **Datalog** (SAT), **C** (propositional abduction), or **Haskell** (answer set programming).

## Experience

- **Datalog**: reasonable performance for instances of low treewidth, FPL-behaviour not achievable by using datalog engine as black box.
- **C**: FPL-behaviour achievable, e.g.: abduction for treewidth 3.
- **Haskell**: almost as fast as C-programme; formal description of dynamic programming algorithm is very close to programme code, e.g.: answer set programming with treewidth  $\leq 7$ .

**Conclusion**: Functional programming language seems to be best suited.

# Outline

1. Motivation
2. Treewidth of Finite Structures
3. Tractable Reasoning via Courcelle's Theorem
4. FPT-Algorithms via Dynamic Programming
5. Conclusion

# Conclusion

## Main Results

- Application of treewidth to non-monotonic reasoning
- Many FPT-results via Courcelle's Theorem
- Efficient computation with dynamic programming algorithms

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## Future Work

- Dynamic programming algorithms for further problems
- Other structural decomposition methods like clique-width
- Further extensions of Courcelle's Theorem