



Logical foundations of databases

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Recap

- **Relational model** (tables)
- **Relational Algebra** (union, product, difference, selection, projection)
- **SQL** (SELECT ... FROM ... WHERE ...)
- **RA \approx basic SQL**
- **First-order logic** (syntax, semantics)
- **Expressiveness: FO $=^*$ RA**

Formulas as queries

FO can serve as a **declarative** query language on relational databases :
we express the properties of the answer

Tables = Relations
Rows = Tuples
Queries = Formulas

[E.F. Codd 1972]

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RA =* FO
How = What

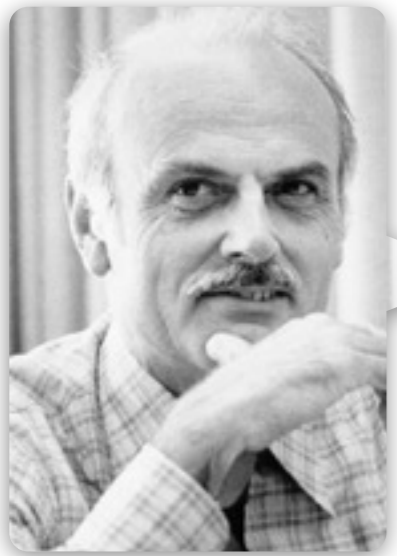
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How = What



RA and FO logic have **roughly*** the same expressive power!

[E.F. Codd 1972]

*FO without functions, with equality, on finite domains, ...

Formulas as queries

RA \subseteq FO

- $R_1 \times R_2 \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad R_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) \wedge R_2(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_m)$
- $R_1 \cup R_2 \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad R_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) \vee R_2(x_1, \dots, x_n)$
- $\sigma_{\{i_1=j_1, \dots, i_n=j_n\}}(R) \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad R(x_1, \dots, x_m) \wedge (x_{i_1} = x_{j_1}) \wedge \dots \wedge (x_{i_n} = x_{j_n})$
- $\pi_{\{i_1, \dots, i_n\}}(R) \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \exists(\{x_1, \dots, x_m\} \setminus \{x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_n}\}). R(x_1, \dots, x_m)$
- $R_1 \setminus R_2 \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad R_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) \wedge \neg R_2(x_1, \dots, x_n)$
- ...

Formulas as queries

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FO^{act}

=

FO restricted
to active domain

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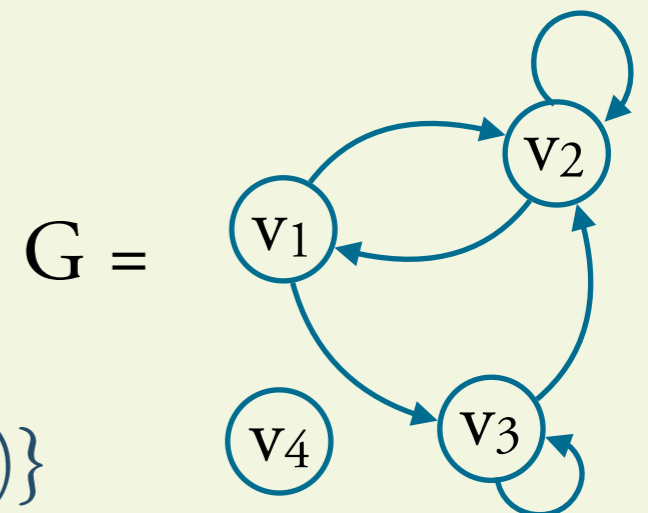
FO restricted
to active domain

$$\phi_1(x) = \forall y E(y,x)$$

$$\phi_1(G) = \{v_2\}$$

$$\phi_2(x,y) = \neg E(x,y)$$

$$\phi_2(G) = \{(v_1,v_1), (v_3,v_1), (v_2,v_3)\}$$



First-order logic restricted to active domain

Formal Semantics of FO^{act}

$G \models_{\alpha} \exists x \phi$ iff for some $v \in \text{ACT}(\mathbf{G})$ and $\alpha' = \alpha \cup \{x \mapsto v\}$ we have $G \models_{\alpha'} \phi$

$G \models_{\alpha} \forall x \phi$ iff for every $v \in \text{ACT}(\mathbf{G})$ and $\alpha' = \alpha \cup \{x \mapsto v\}$ we have $G \models_{\alpha'} \phi$

$G \models_{\alpha} \phi \wedge \psi$ iff $G \models_{\alpha} \phi$ and $G \models_{\alpha} \psi$

$G \models_{\alpha} \neg \phi$ iff it is not true that $G \models_{\alpha} \phi$

$G \models_{\alpha} x=y$ iff $\alpha(x)=\alpha(y)$

$G \models_{\alpha} E(x,y)$ iff $(\alpha(x),\alpha(y)) \in E$

$\text{ACT}(\mathbf{G}) = \{v \mid \text{for some } v': (v,v') \in E \text{ or } (v',v) \in E\}$

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- Assume:
1. ϕ in normal form: $(\exists^* (\neg\exists)^*)^*$ + quantifier-free $\psi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$
 2. ϕ has n variables

$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \neg \exists x_3 \exists x_4 . (E(x_1, x_3) \wedge \neg E(x_4, x_2)) \vee (x_1 = x_3)$$

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Adom = RA expression for active domain = “ $\pi_1(E) \cup \pi_2(E)$ ”

- $(R(x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_t}))^+ \rightsquigarrow R$
- $(x_i = x_j)^+ \rightsquigarrow \sigma_{\{i=j\}}(\text{Adom} \times \dots \times \text{Adom})$
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Translation

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Adom = RA expression for active domain $\pi_1(L) \cup \pi_2(L)$

$$\pi_{\{1, \dots, n\}}(\sigma_{\{i_1=n+1, \dots, i_t=n+t\}}(\text{Adom}^n \times R))$$

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$$A \cap B = ((A \cup B) \setminus (A \setminus B)) \setminus (B \setminus A)$$

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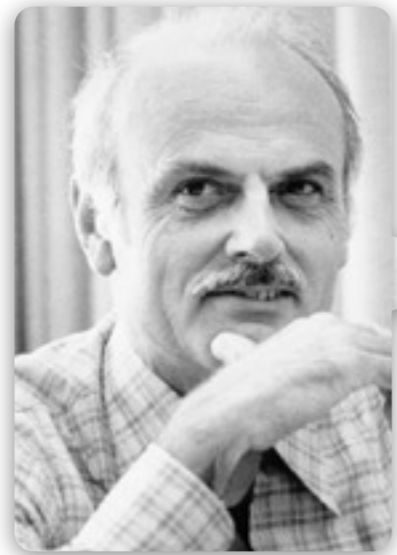
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Translation

Corollary



FO^{act} is equivalent to RA

Question 1: How is $\pi_2(\sigma_{1=3}(R_1 \times R_2))$ expressed in FO?

Remember: R_1, R_2 are binary

Question 2: How is $\exists y, z . (R_1(x, y) \wedge R_1(y, z) \wedge x \neq z)$ expressed in RA?

Remember: The signature is the same as before (R_1, R_2 binary)

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Answer: $\pi_1(\sigma_{\{2=3, 1 \neq 4\}}(R_1 \times R_1))$



Logic

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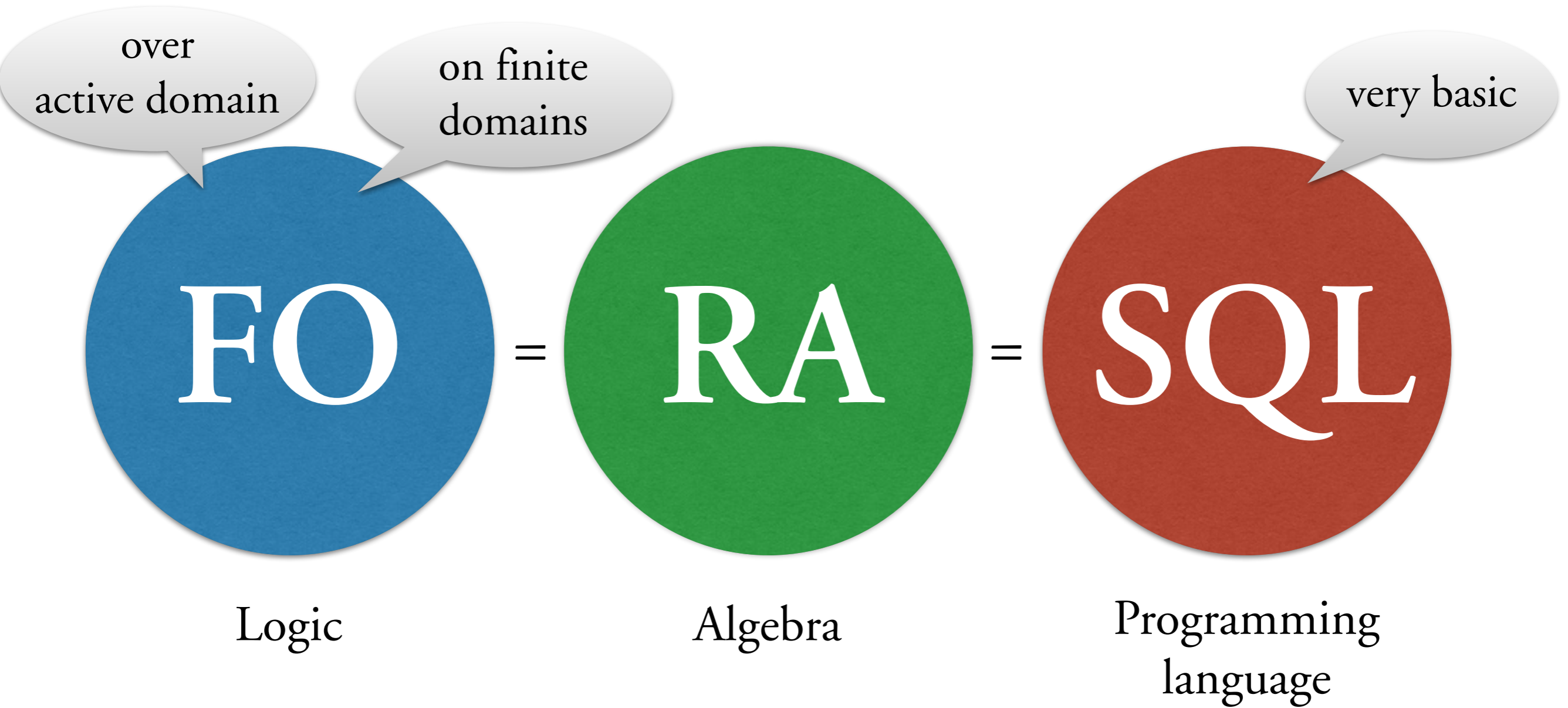


Algebra

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Programming
language



Algorithmic problems for query languages

Evaluation problem: Given a query Q , a database instance db , and a tuple t , is $t \in Q(db)$?

→ How hard is it to retrieve data?

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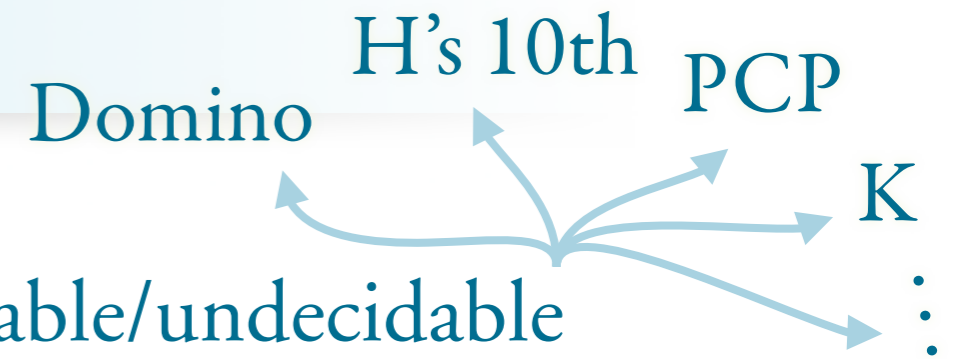
→ Can we safely replace a query with another? (Query optimization)

Complexity theory

What can be **mechanized**? \leadsto decidable/undecidable

How **hard** is it to mechanise? \leadsto complexity classes

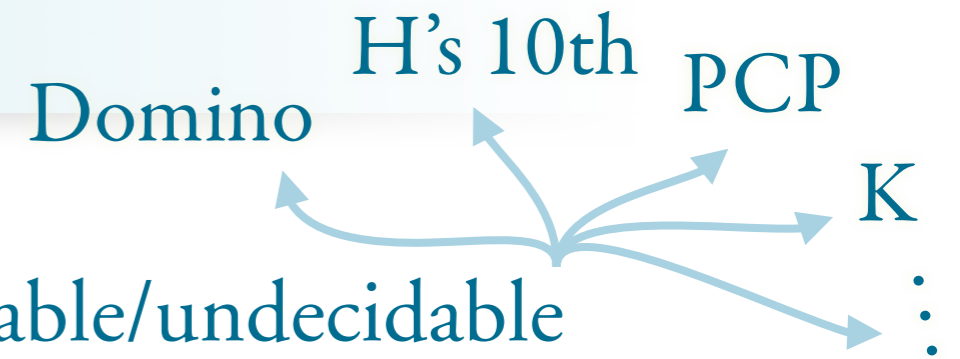
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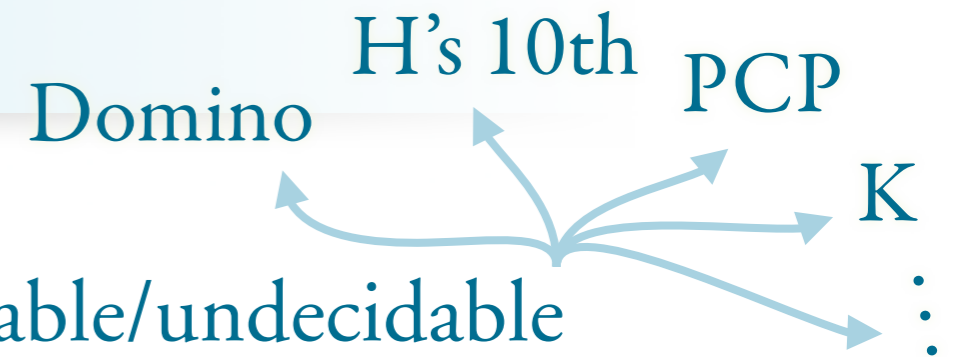
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.....▶ usage of resources:

- time
- memory

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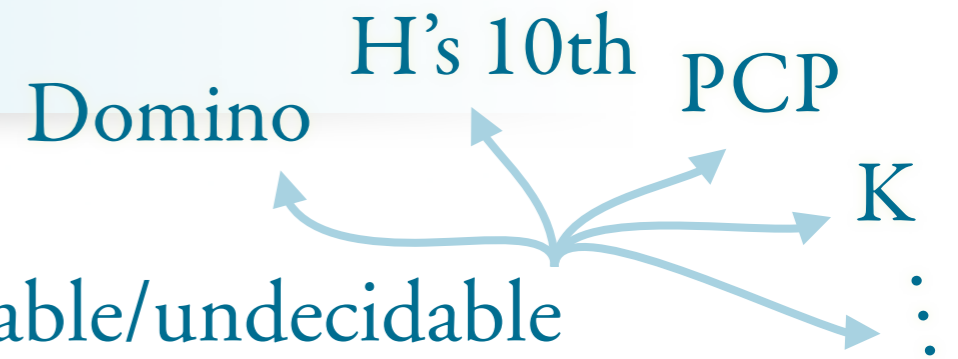
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Algorithm **Alg** is **TIME**-bounded

by a function $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ if

Alg(*input*) uses less than $f(|input|)$ units of TIME.

Complexity theory



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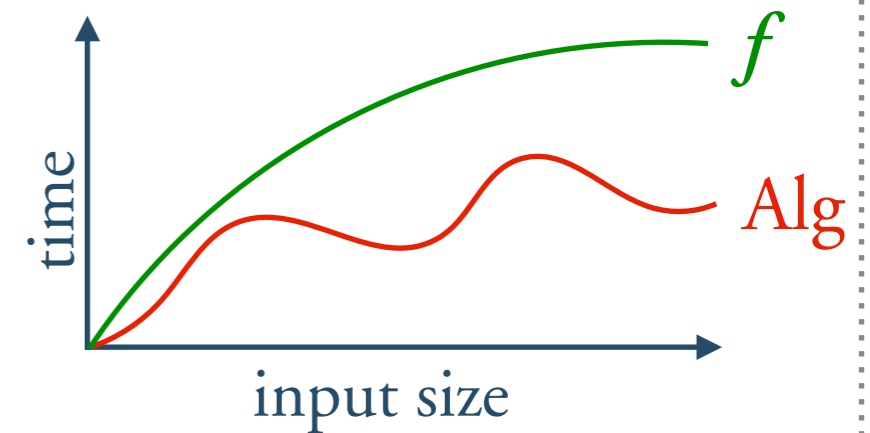
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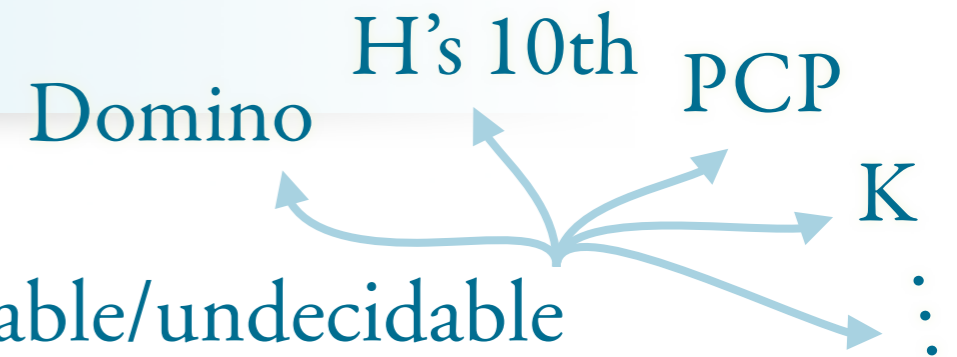
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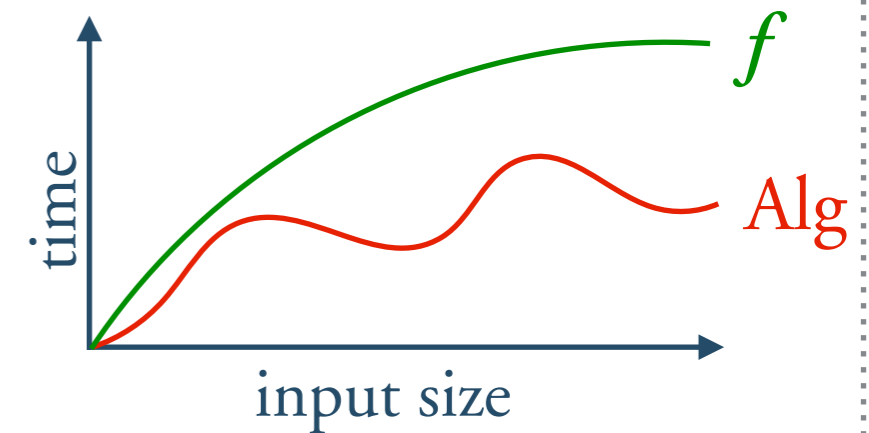
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SPACE

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Complexity theory



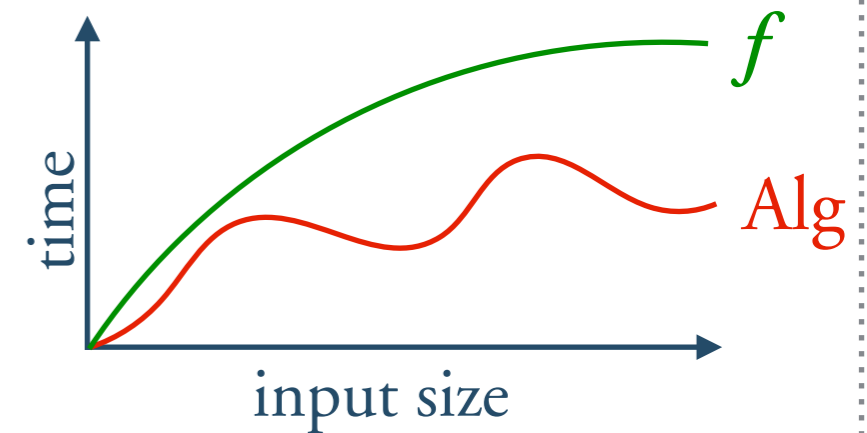
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$\text{LOGSPACE} \subseteq \text{PTIME} \subseteq \text{PSPACE} \subseteq \text{EXPTIME} \subseteq \dots$

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\curvearrowright TIME-bounded by a polynomial

LOGSPACE \subseteq PTIME \subseteq PSPACE \subseteq EXPTIME $\subseteq \dots$

\curvearrowright SPACE-bounded by a polynomial

\curvearrowright SPACE-bounded by $\log(n)$

Algorithmic problems for FO

Evaluation problem: Given a FO formula $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$, a graph G , and a binding α , does $G \models_{\alpha} \phi$?

Satisfiability problem: Given a FO formula ϕ , is there a graph G and binding α , such that $G \models_{\alpha} \phi$?

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DECIDABLE \rightsquigarrow foundations of the database industry

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 **UNDECIDABLE** \rightsquigarrow by reduction to the satisfiability problem

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Proof: By reduction from the Domino (aka Tiling) problem.

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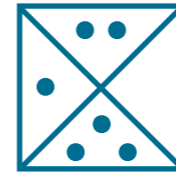
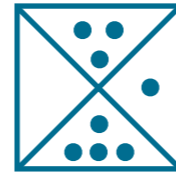
Proof: By reduction from the Domino (aka Tiling) problem.

Reduction from P to P' : Algorithm that solves P using a $O(1)$ procedure
“ $P'(x)$ ”
that returns the truth value of $P'(x)$.

The (undecidable) Domino problem

Domino

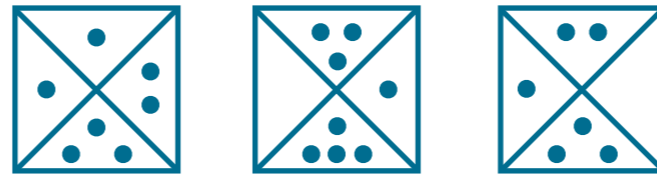
Input: 4-sided dominos:



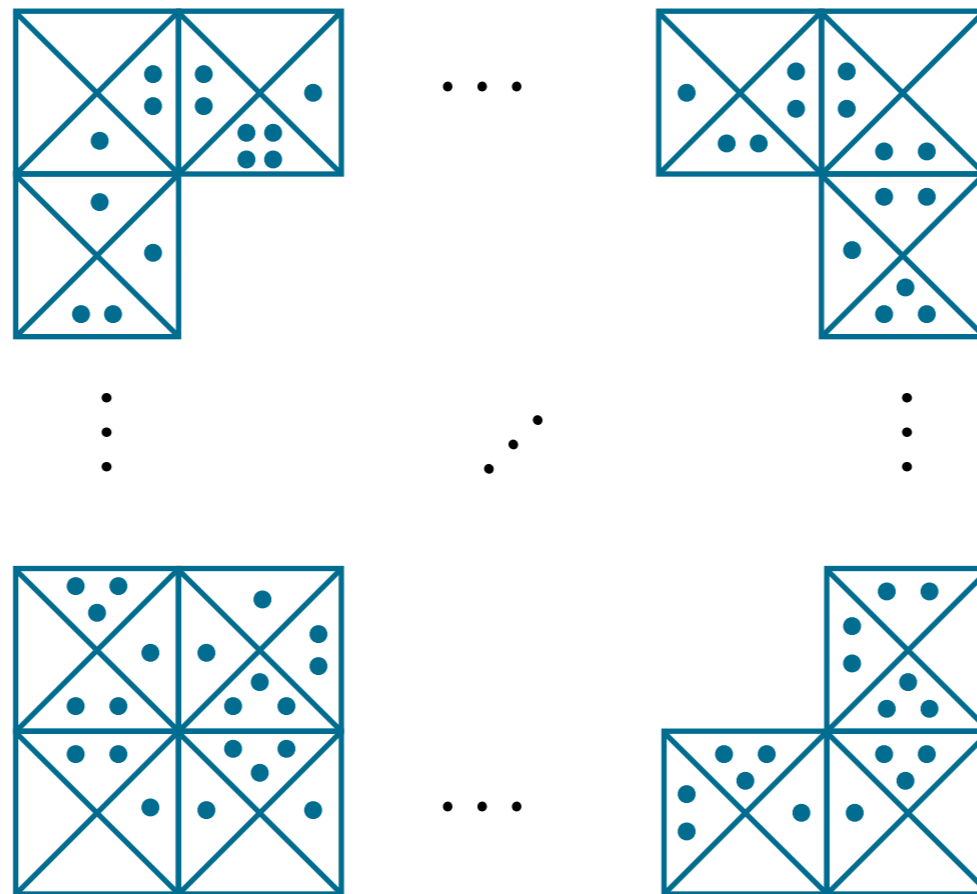
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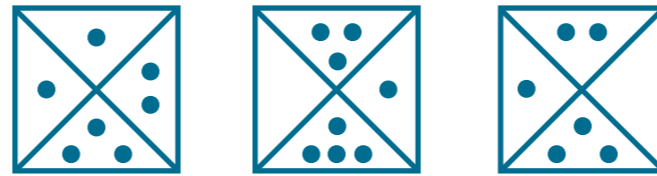
Output: Is it possible to form a white-bordered rectangle? (of any size)



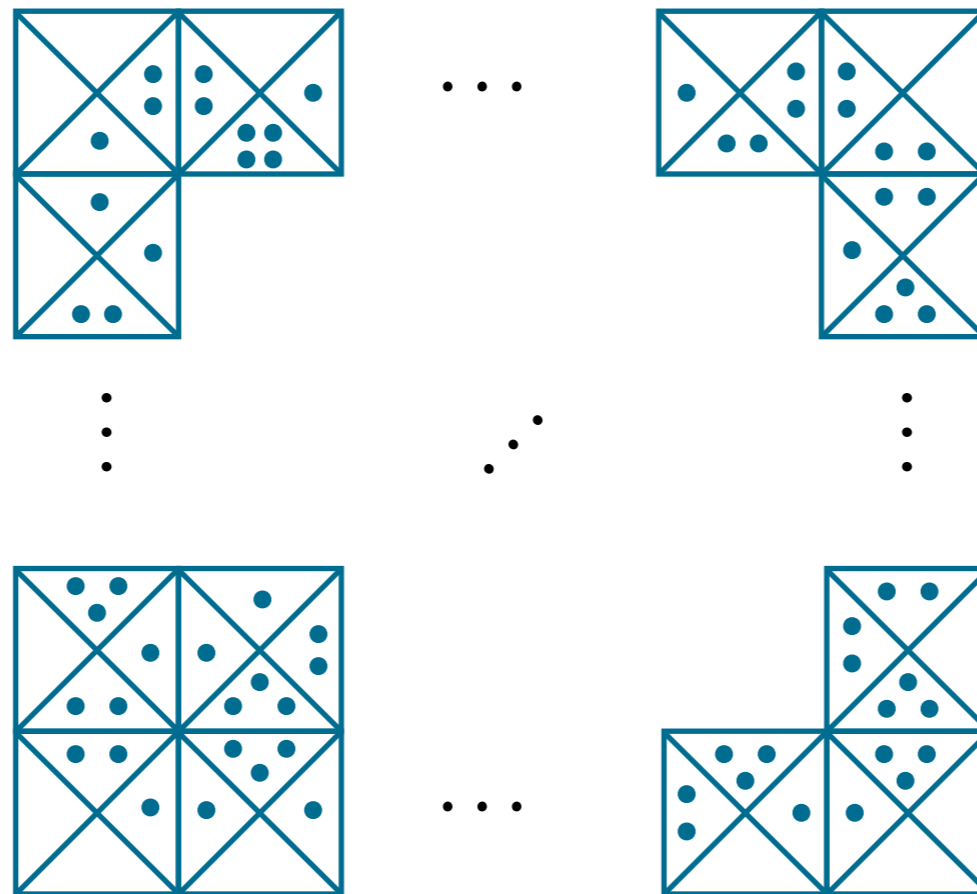
The (undecidable) Domino problem

Domino

Input: 4-sided dominos:



Output: Is it possible to form a white-bordered rectangle? (of any size)

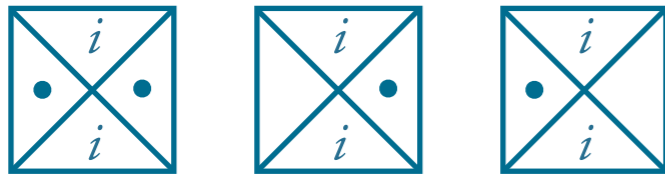


Rules: sides must match,
you can't rotate the dominos, but you can 'clone' them.

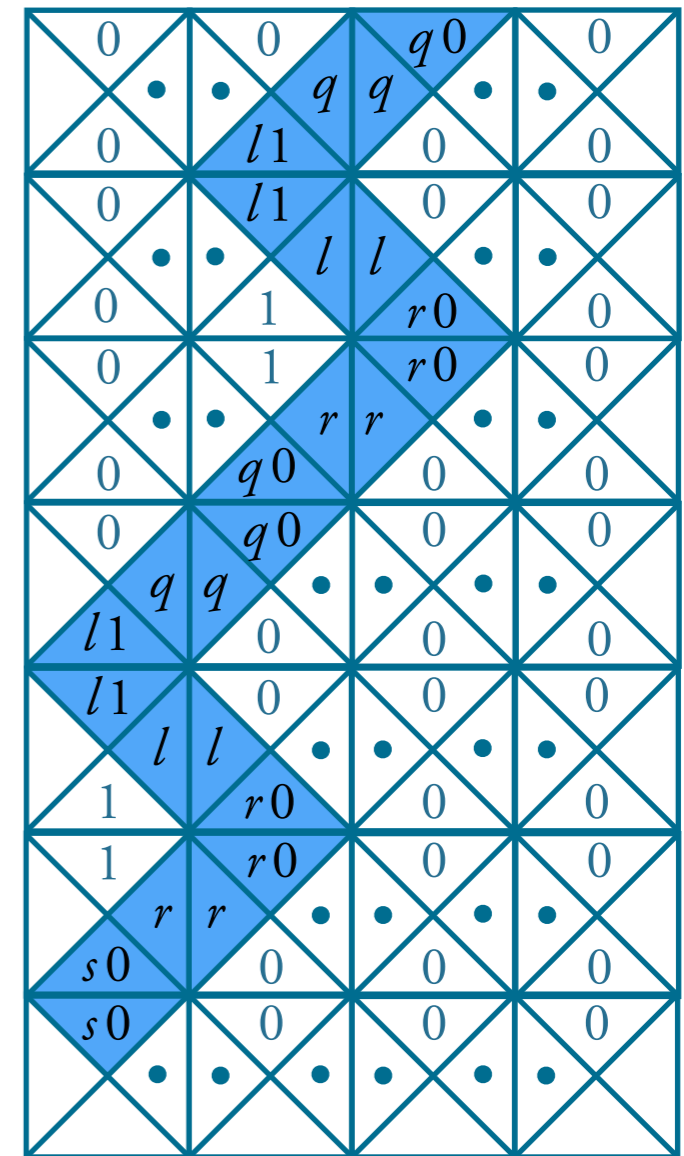
The (undecidable) Domino problem

Domino - Why is it undecidable?

It can easily encode *halting* computations of Turing machines:



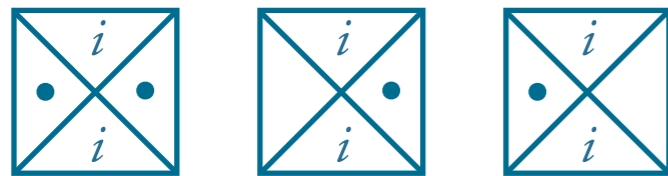
(head is elsewhere,
symbol is not modified)



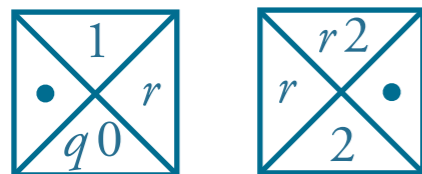
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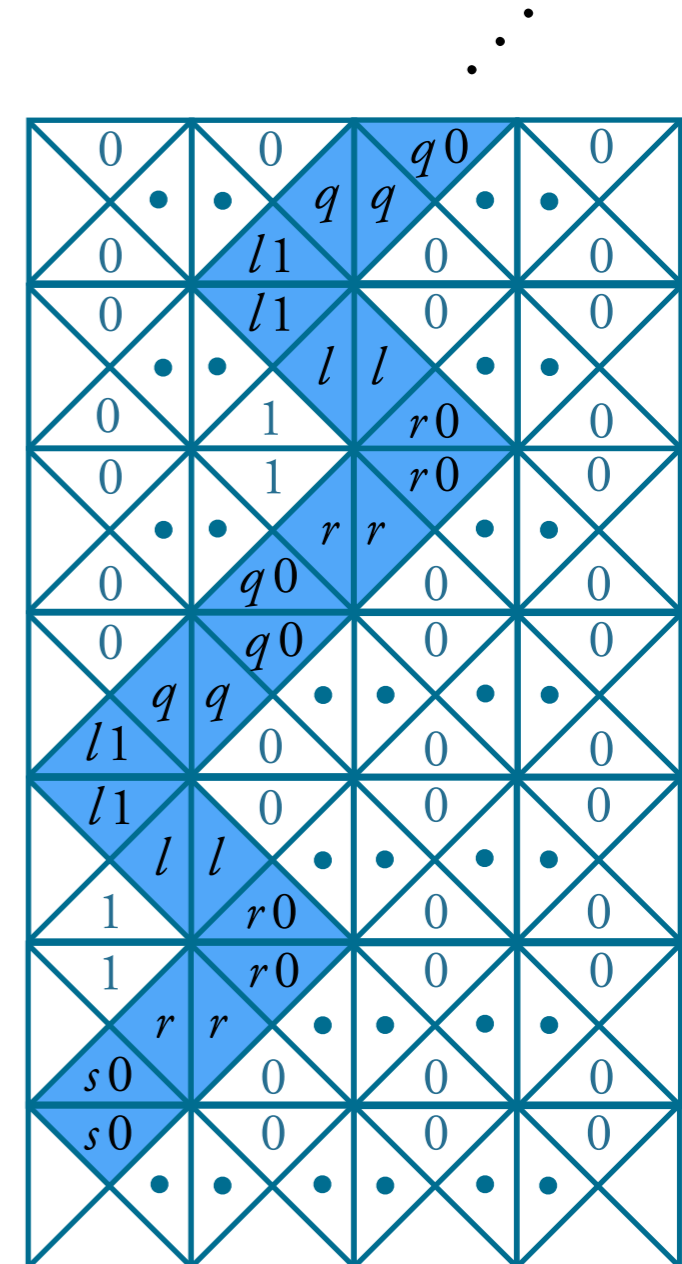
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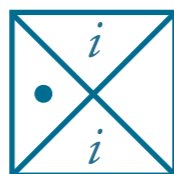
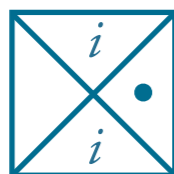
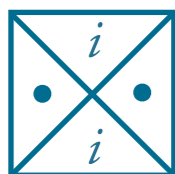
(head is here, symbol is
rewritten, head moves right)



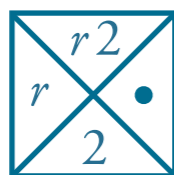
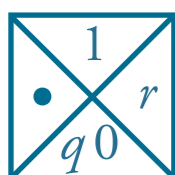
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Domino - Why is it undecidable?

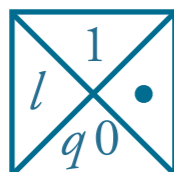
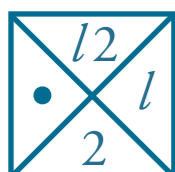
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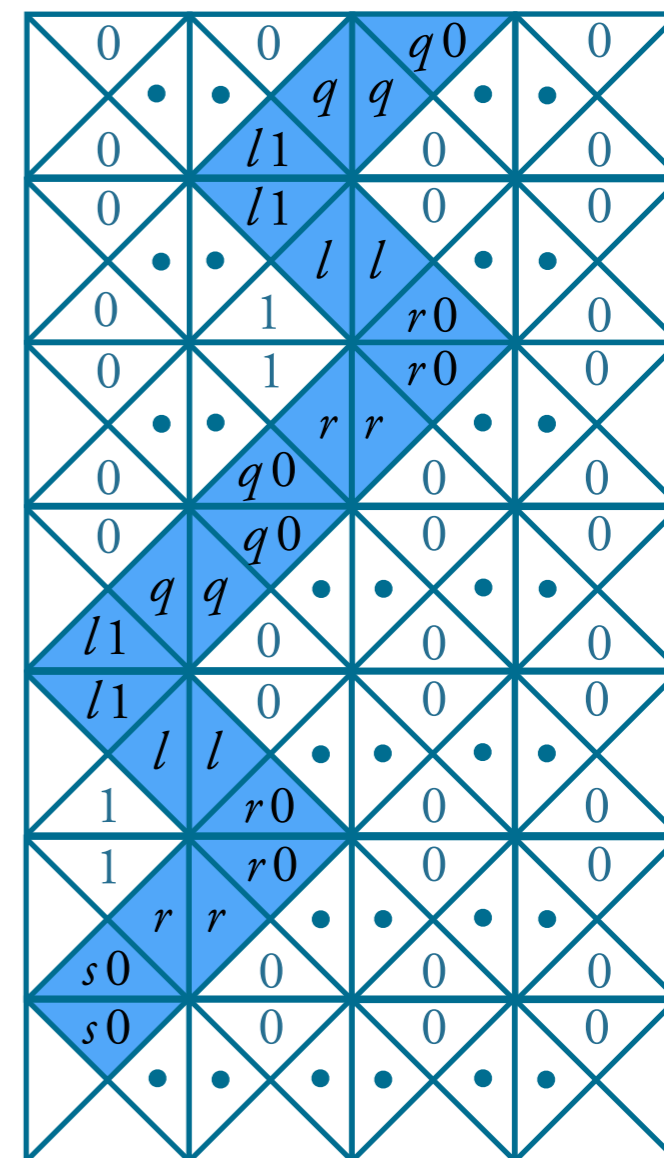
(head is elsewhere,
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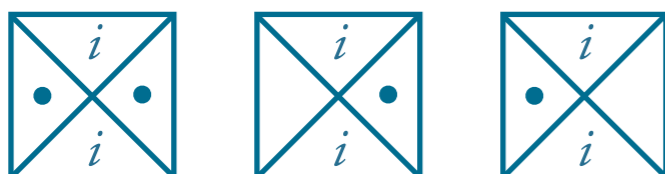
(head is here, symbol is
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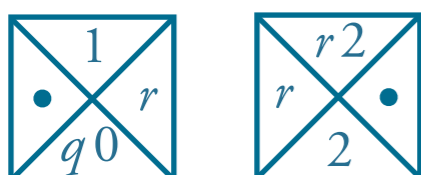
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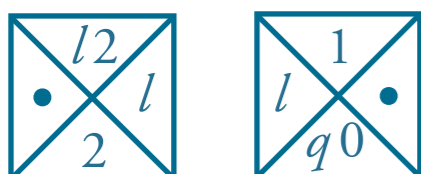
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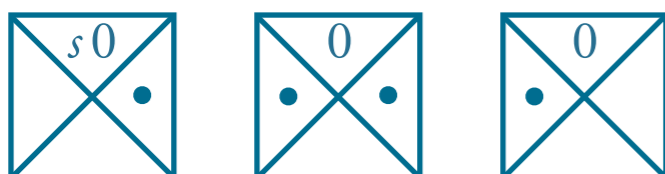
(head is elsewhere,
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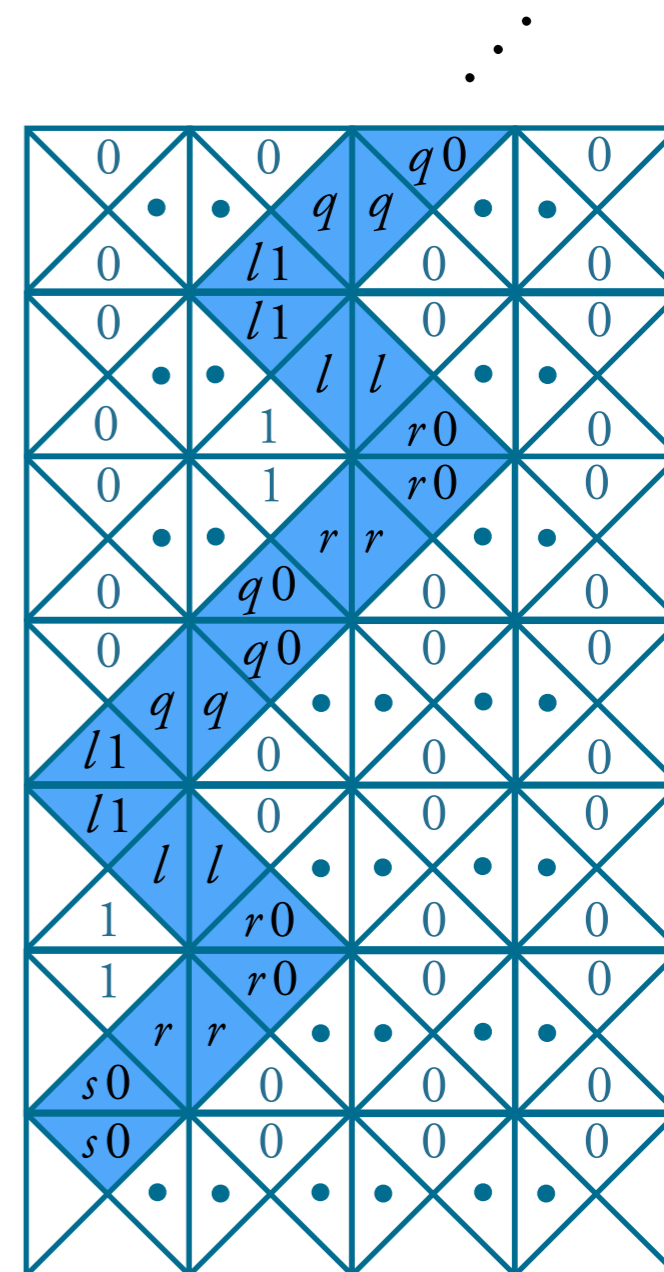
(head is here, symbol is
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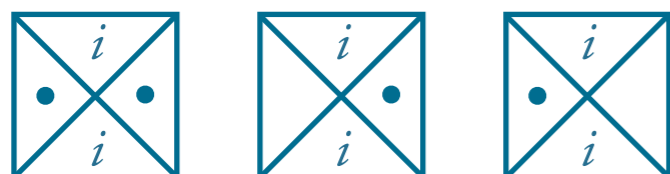
(initial configuration)



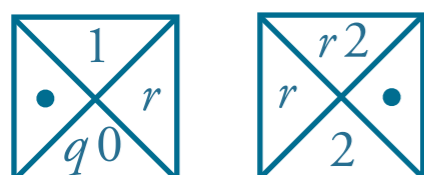
The (undecidable) Domino problem

Domino - Why is it undecidable?

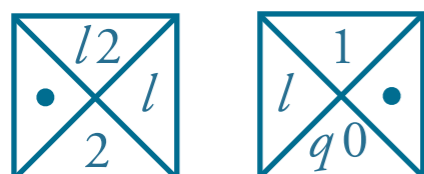
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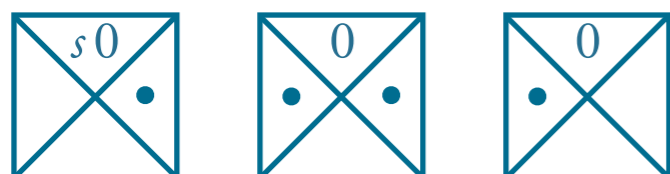
(head is elsewhere,
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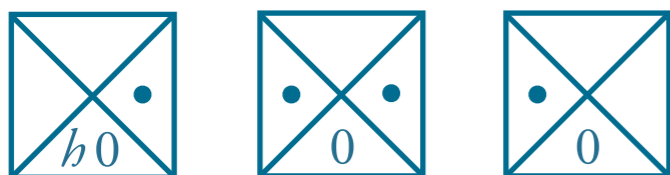
(head is here, symbol is
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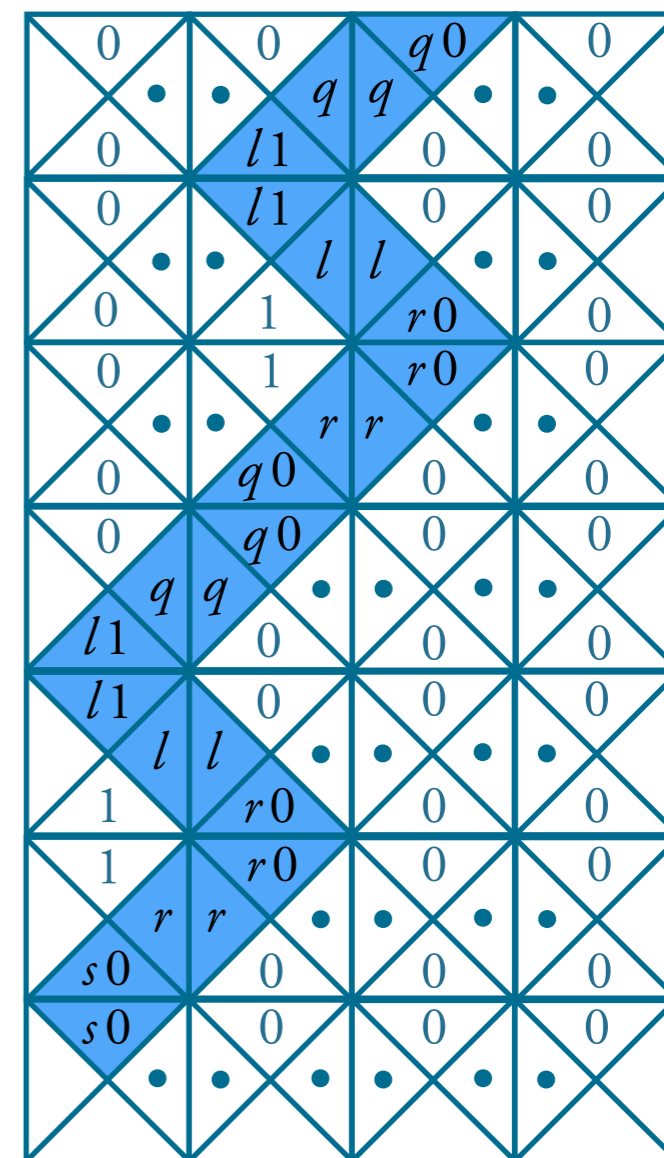


(initial configuration)



(halting configuration)

...

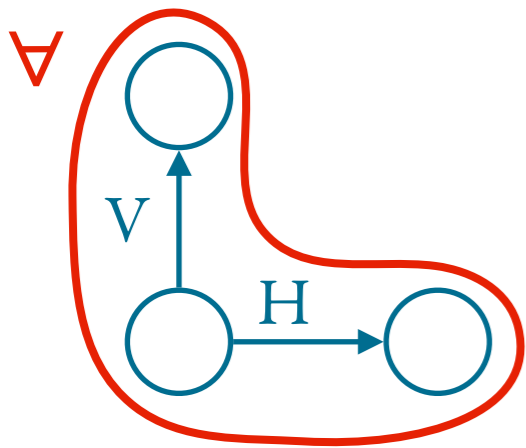


Domino $\dashv\vdash$ Sat-FO (domino has a solution iff ϕ satisfiable)

1. **There is a grid:** $H(,)$ and $V(,)$ are relations representing bijections such that...

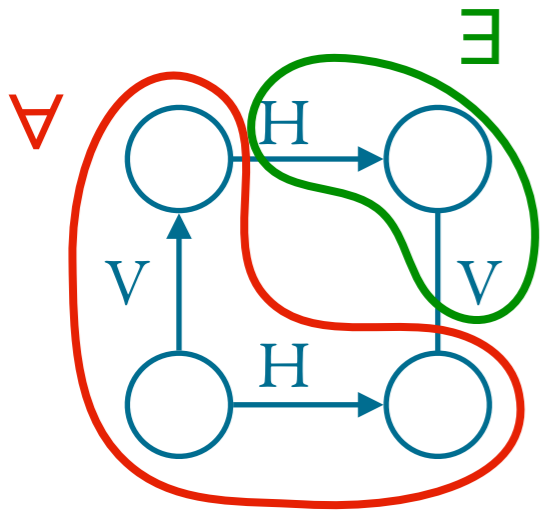
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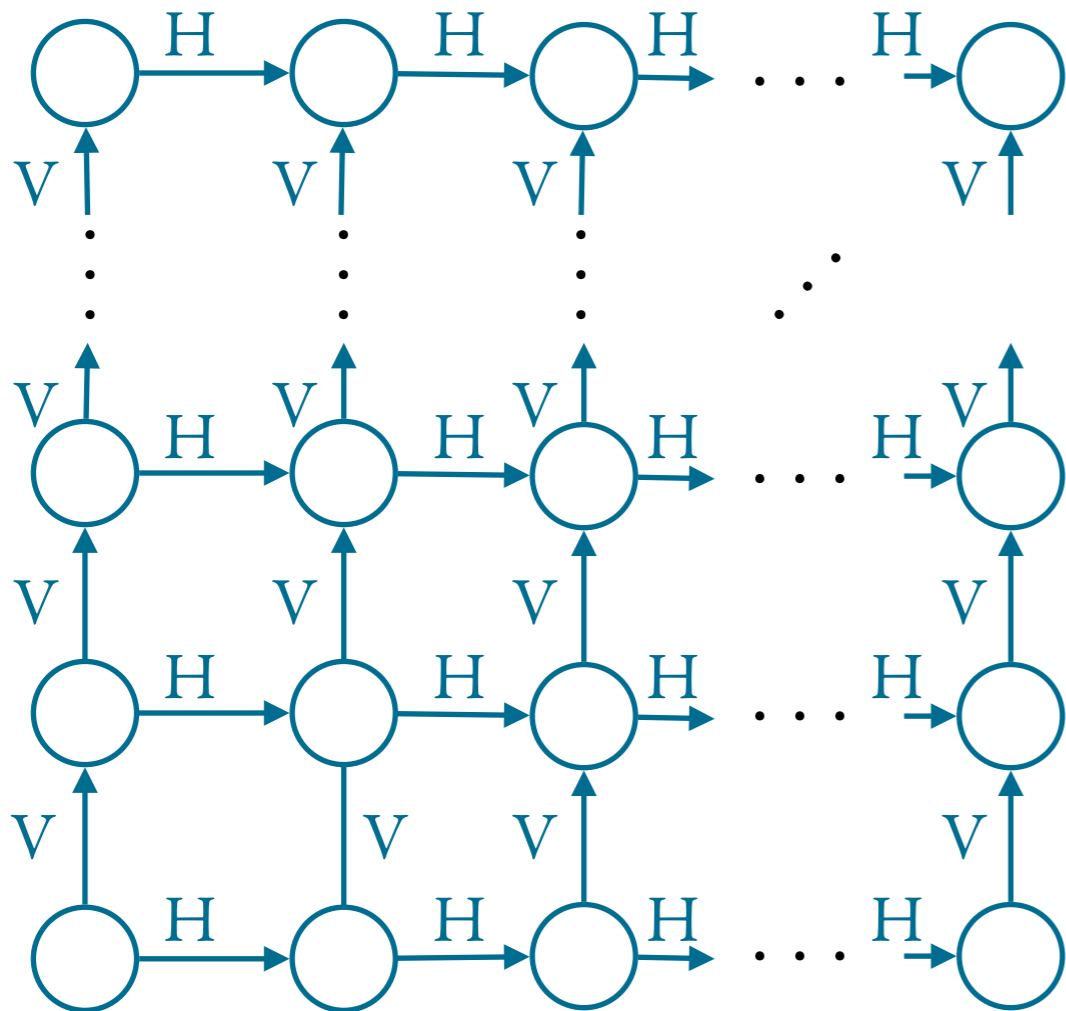
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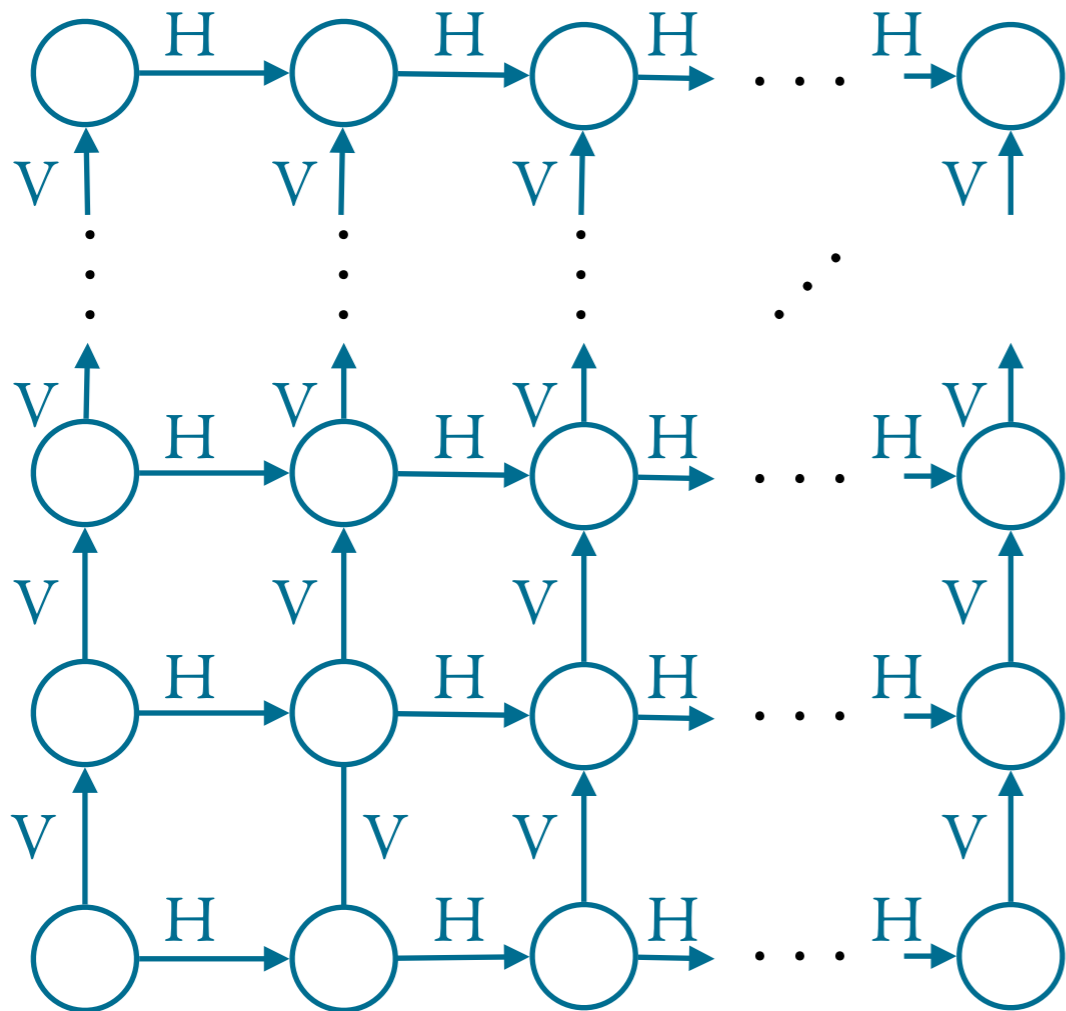
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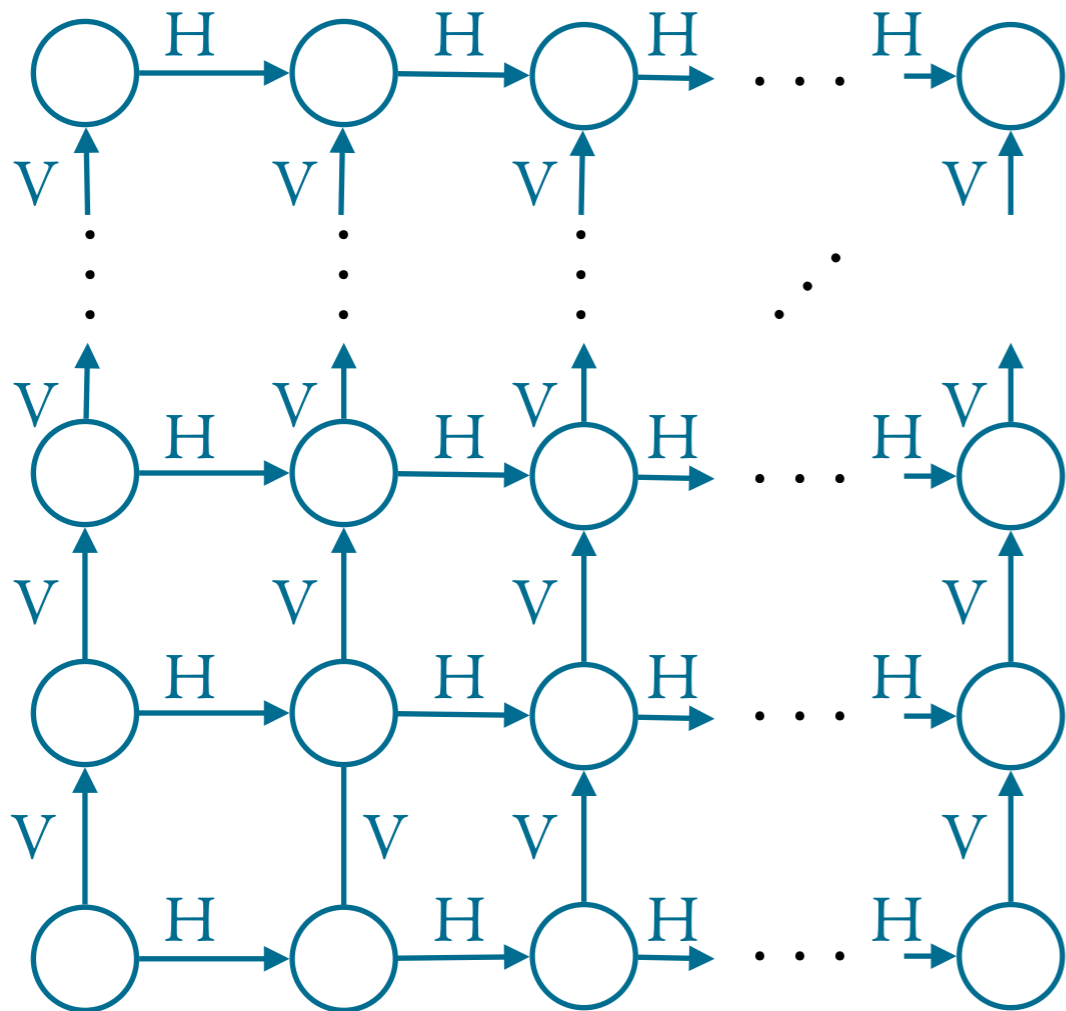
2. Assign one domino to each node:
a unary relation

$$D_{\square}(\mathbf{x})$$

for each domino \square

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$$D_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array}}(x)$$

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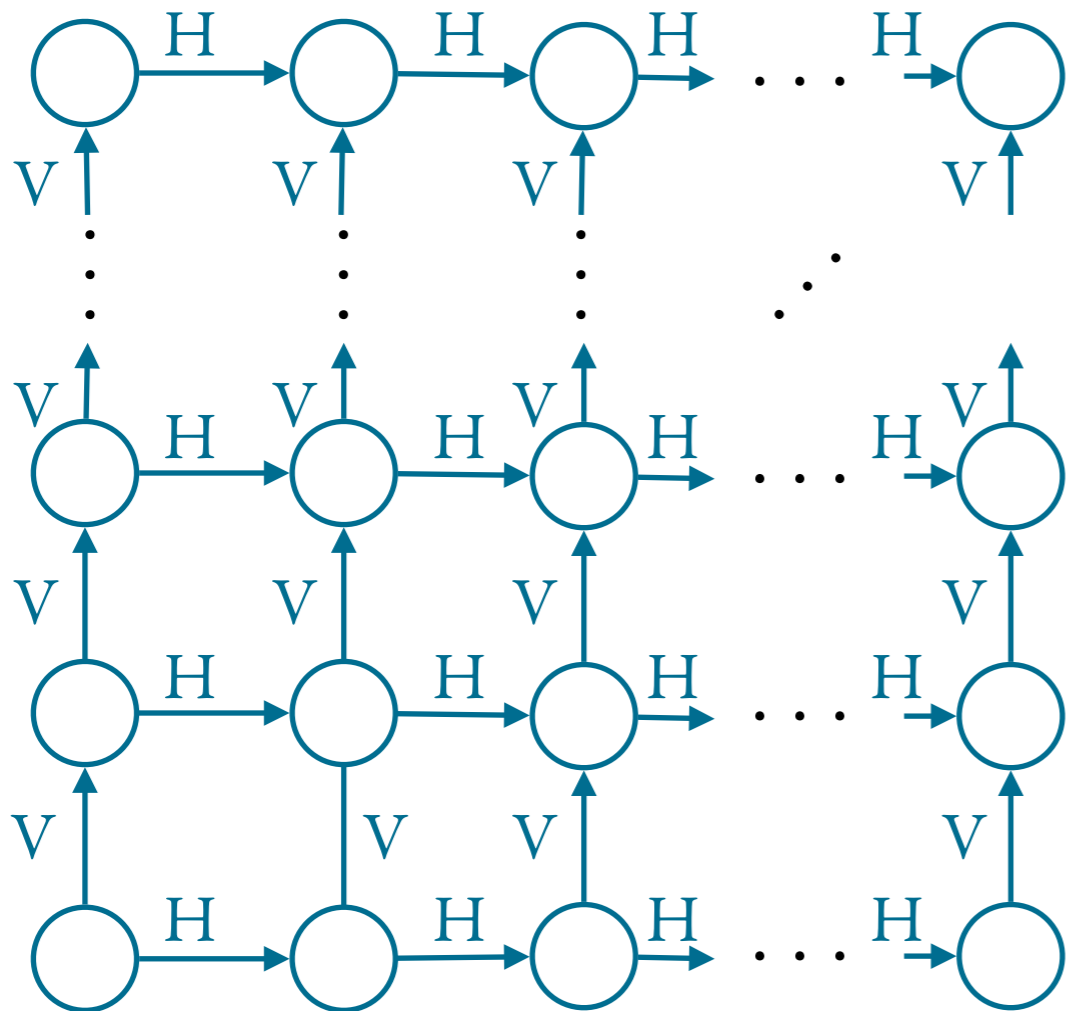
3. Match the sides $\forall x,y$

if $H(x,y)$, then $D_a(x) \wedge D_b(y)$

for some dominos a,b that 'match'
horizontally (Idem vertically)

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for each domino $\boxed{\begin{array}{c} \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \end{array}}$

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4. Borders are white.

Algorithmic problems for FO

Evaluation problem: Given a FO formula $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$, a graph G , and a binding α , does $G \models_{\alpha} \phi$?

DECIDABLE \rightsquigarrow foundations of the database industry

Satisfiability problem: Given a FO formula ϕ , is there a graph G and binding α , such that $G \models_{\alpha} \phi$?

 **UNDECIDABLE** \rightsquigarrow both for \models and \models_{finite}

Equivalence problem: Given FO formulae ϕ, ψ , is
 $G \models_{\alpha} \phi$ iff $G \models_{\alpha} \psi$
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 **UNDECIDABLE** \rightsquigarrow by reduction to the satisfiability problem

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ϕ is satisfiable iff ϕ is not equivalent to \perp

Satisfiability problem undecidable \rightsquigarrow Equivalence problem undecidable

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Algorithmic problems for FO

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Satisfiability problem undecidable \rightsquigarrow Equivalence problem undecidable

Actually, there are reductions in both senses:

$\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ and $\psi(y_1, \dots, y_m)$ are **equivalent** iff

- $n=m$
- $(x_1=y_1) \wedge \dots \wedge (x_n=y_n) \wedge \phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \wedge \neg\psi(y_1, \dots, y_n)$ is unsatisfiable
- $(x_1=y_1) \wedge \dots \wedge (x_n=y_n) \wedge \psi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \wedge \neg\phi(y_1, \dots, y_n)$ is unsatisfiable

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DECIDABLE \rightsquigarrow foundations of the database industry

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Evaluation problem for FO

Input: $\left(\begin{array}{l} \phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ G = (V, E) \\ \alpha = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \longrightarrow V \end{array} \right.$

Output: $G \models_{\alpha} \phi ?$

Evaluation problem for FO

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Encoding of $G = (V, E)$

- each node is coded with a bit string of size $\log(|V|)$,
- edge set is encoded by its tuples, e.g. $(100, 101), (010, 010), \dots$

Cost of coding: $\|G\| = |E| \cdot 2 \cdot \log(|V|) \approx |V|$ (mod a polynomial)

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Encoding of $\alpha = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \longrightarrow V$

- each node is coded with a bit string of size $\log(|V|)$,

Cost of coding: $\|\alpha\| = n \cdot \log(|V|)$

Evaluation problem for FO

Input: $\left(\begin{array}{l} \phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ G = (V, E) \\ \alpha = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \longrightarrow V \end{array} \right.$

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- If $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = E(x_i, x_j)$:
answer YES iff $(\alpha(x_i), \alpha(x_j)) \in E$
- If $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \psi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \wedge \psi'(x_1, \dots, x_n)$:
answer YES iff $G \models_{\alpha} \psi$ and $G \models_{\alpha} \psi'$
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answer YES iff for some $v \in V$ and $\alpha' = \alpha \cup \{y \mapsto v\}$
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Question:

How much space
does it take?

Evaluation problem for FO

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use 4 pointers \rightsquigarrow LOGSPACE

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- If $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \exists y . \psi(x_1, \dots, x_n, y)$:
answer YES iff for some $v \in V$ and $\alpha' = \alpha \cup \{y \mapsto v\}$
we have $G \models_{\alpha'} \psi$. \rightsquigarrow $2 \cdot \log(|G|) + \text{SPACE}(G \models_{\alpha'} \psi)$

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Question:

How much space does it take?

$2 \cdot \log(|G|) + \dots + 2 \cdot \log(|G|) + k \cdot \log(|\alpha| + |G|)$ space
 $\leq |\phi|$ times

Evaluation problem for FO in PSPACE

Input: $\left(\begin{array}{l} \phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ G = (V, E) \\ \alpha = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \longrightarrow V \end{array} \right.$

Output: $G \models_{\alpha} \phi ?$

- If $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = E(x_i, x_j)$:
answer YES iff $(\alpha(x_i), \alpha(x_j)) \in E$ use 4 pointers \rightsquigarrow LOGSPACE
- If $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \psi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \wedge \psi'(x_1, \dots, x_n)$:
answer YES iff $G \models_{\alpha} \psi$ and $G \models_{\alpha} \psi'$ \rightsquigarrow $\text{MAX}(\text{SPACE}(G \models_{\alpha} \psi), \text{SPACE}(G \models_{\alpha} \psi'))$
- If $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \neg \psi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$:
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PSPACE-complete problem: **QBF**
(satisfaction of Quantified Boolean Formulas)

QBF = a boolean formula with quantification over the truth values (T,F)

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Polynomial reduction **QBF** \rightsquigarrow **FO** :

1. Given $\psi \in \text{QBF}$,
let $\psi'(x)$ be the replacement
of each 'p' with 'p=x' in ψ .
2. Note: $\exists x \psi'$ holds in a 2-element
graph iff ψ is QBF-satisfiable
3. Test if $G \models \psi'$ for $G = (\{v, v'\}, \{\})$

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Problem: Usual scenario in database

A **database** of size 10^6

A **query** of size 100

Input:

Problem: Usual scenario in database

A **database** of size 10^6

A **query** of size 100

Input: • query +

Problem: Usual scen

Input: • query +

database

Problem: Usual scenario

Input: • query +

database

But we don't distinguish this in the analysis:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{TIME}(2^{|\text{query}|} + |\text{data}|) \\ & = \\ & \text{TIME}(|\text{query}| + 2^{|\text{data}|}) \end{aligned}$$



Query and data play very **different** roles.

Separation of concerns: How the resources grow with respect to

- the size of the data
- the query size

Combined, Query, and Data complexities

Combined complexity: input size is $|query| + |data|$

Query complexity ($|data|$ fixed): input size is $|query|$

Data complexity ($|query|$ fixed): input size is $|data|$

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$O(2^{|query|} + |data|)$ is
exponential in **combined** complexity
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linear in **data** complexity

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exponential in **combined** complexity
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Question

What is the data, query and combined complexity for the evaluation problem for FO?

Remember: **data** complexity, input size: $|data|$

query complexity, input size: $|query|$

combined complexity, input size: $|data| + |query|$

$|\phi| \cdot 2 \cdot \log(|G|) + k \cdot \log(|\alpha| + |G|)$ space

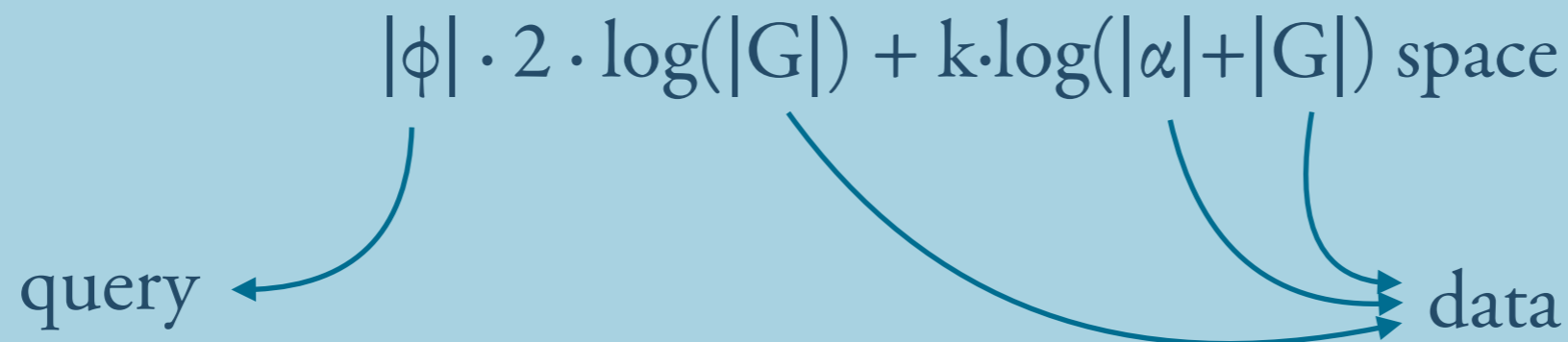
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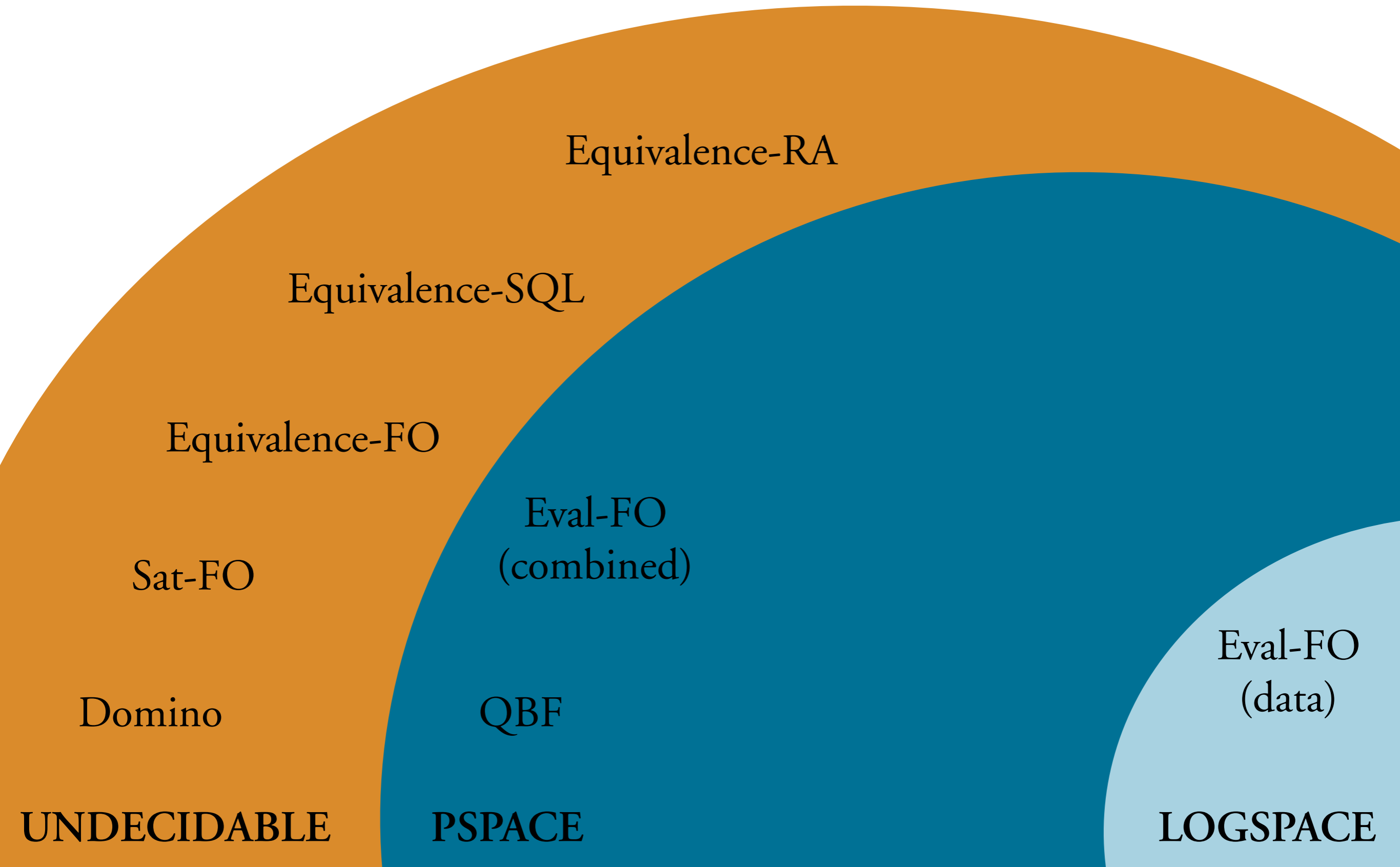
combined complexity, input size: $|data| + |query|$



$O(\log(|data|) \cdot |query|)$ space

PSPACE combined and query complexity
LOGSPACE data complexity

Recap



Trading expressiveness for efficiency



Alternation of quantifiers significantly affects complexity
(recall that evaluation of QBF is PSPACE-complete: $\forall x \exists y \forall z \exists w \dots \phi$).

What happens if we disallow \forall and \neg ?

The class NP

LOGSPACE \subseteq PTIME \subseteq PSPACE \subseteq EXPTIME

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NP = Problems whose solutions can be witnessed by a *certificate* to be guessed and checked in *polynomial time* (e.g. a colouring)

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Examples:

- **3-COLORABILITY:** Given a graph G , can we assign a colour from $\{R, G, B\}$ to each node so that adjacent nodes have always different colours ?
- **SAT:** Given a propositional formula, e.g. $(p \vee \neg q \vee r) \wedge (\neg p \vee s) \wedge (\neg s \vee \neg p)$, can we assign a truth value to each variable so that the formula becomes true ?
- **MONEY-CHANGE:** Given an amount of money A and a set of coins $\{B_1, \dots, B_n\}$, can we find a subset $S \subseteq \{B_1, \dots, B_n\}$ such that $\sum S = A$?

The class NP

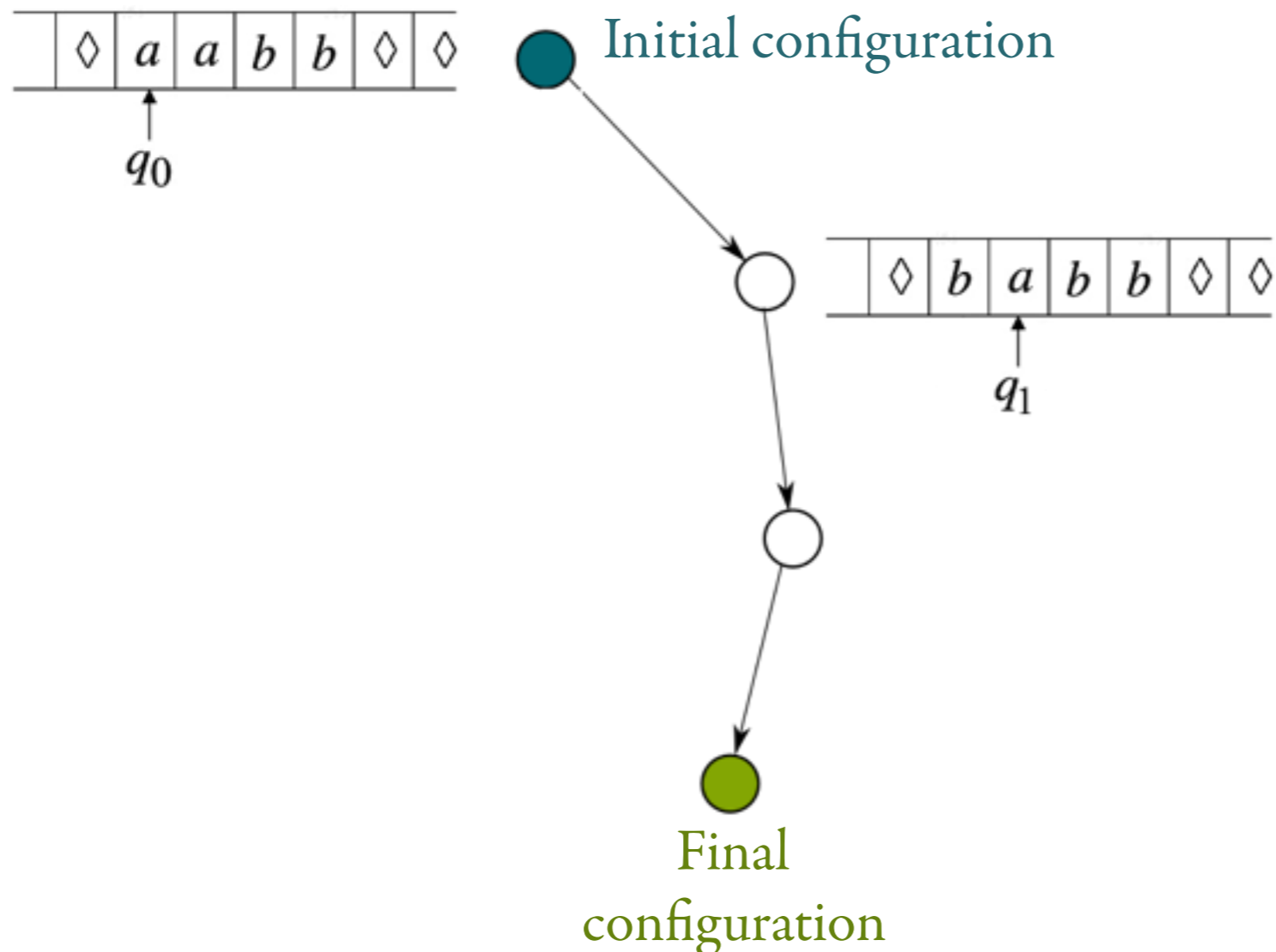
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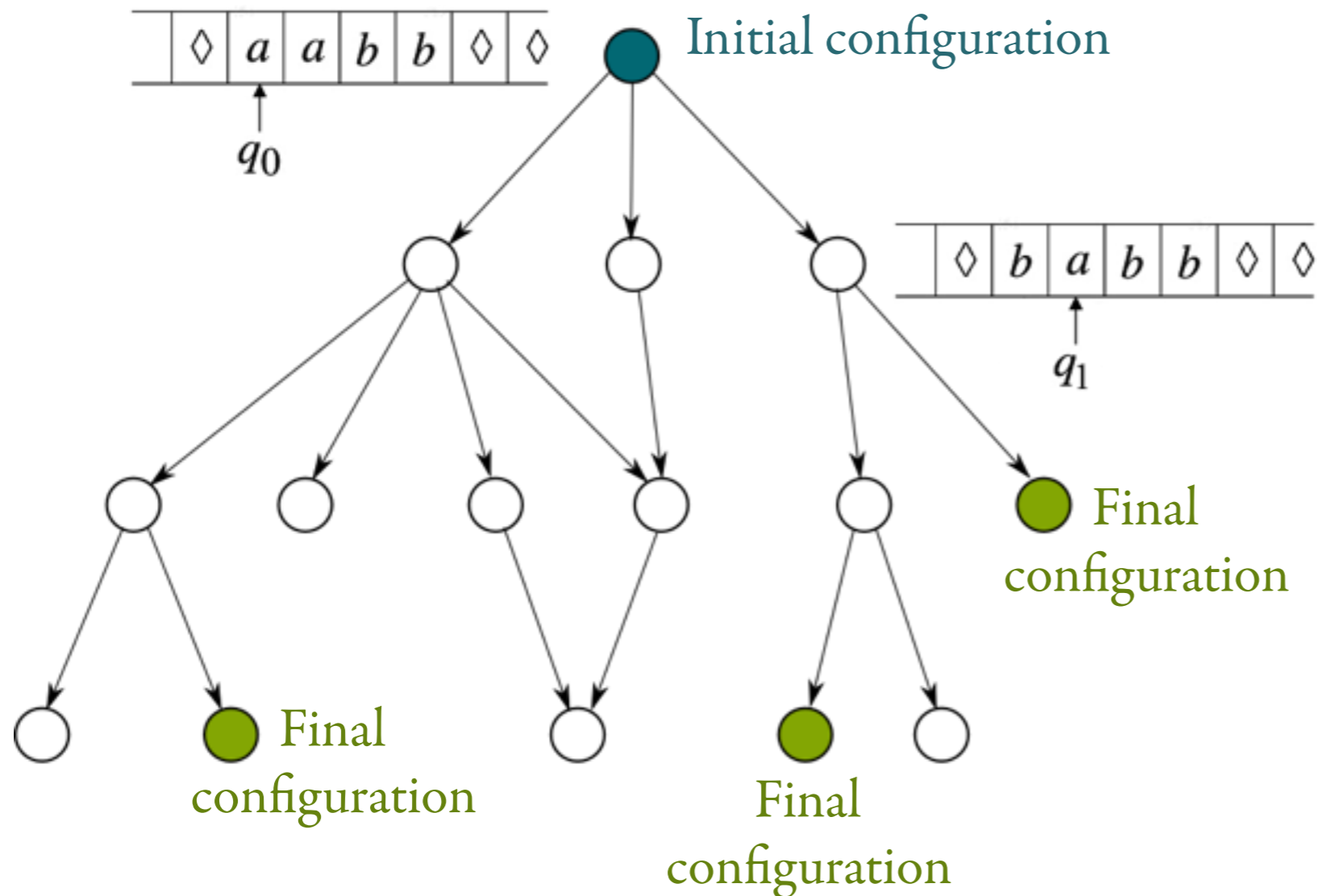
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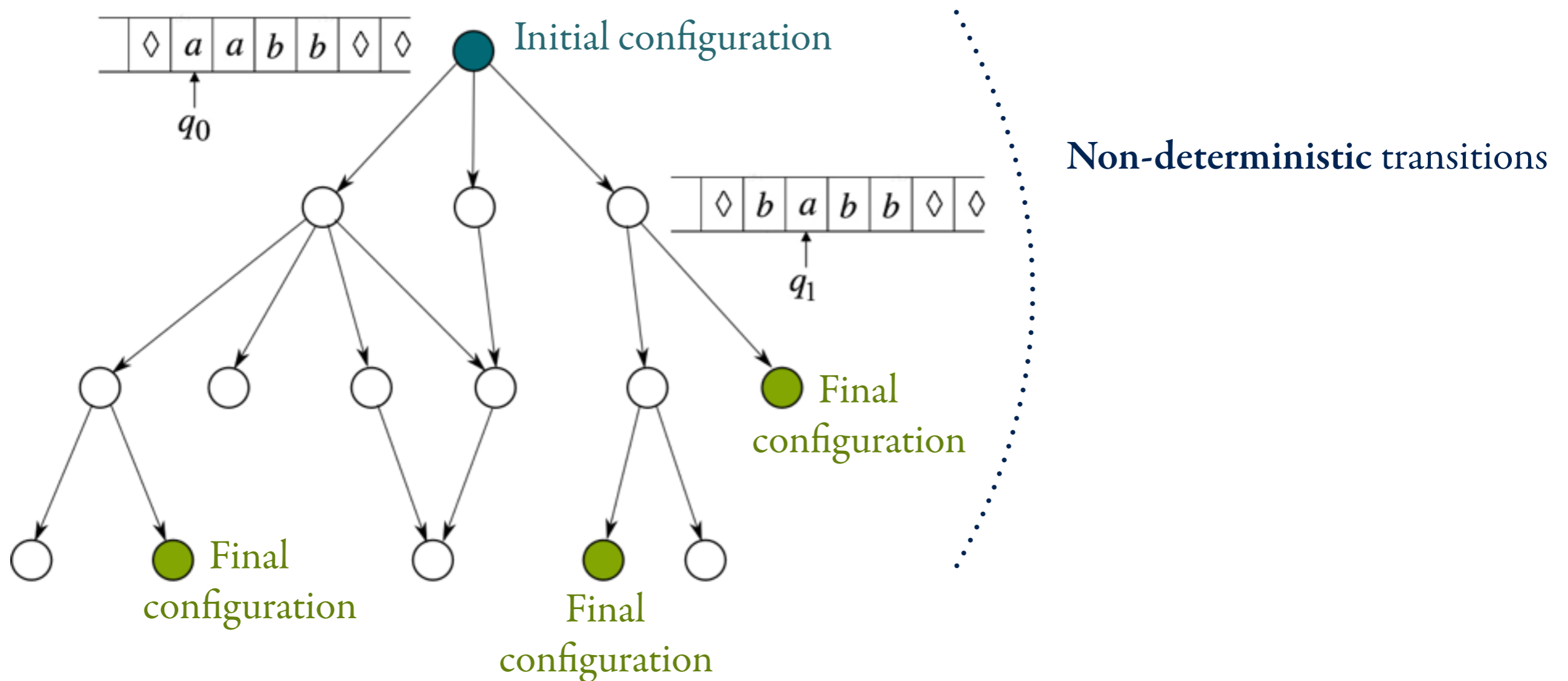
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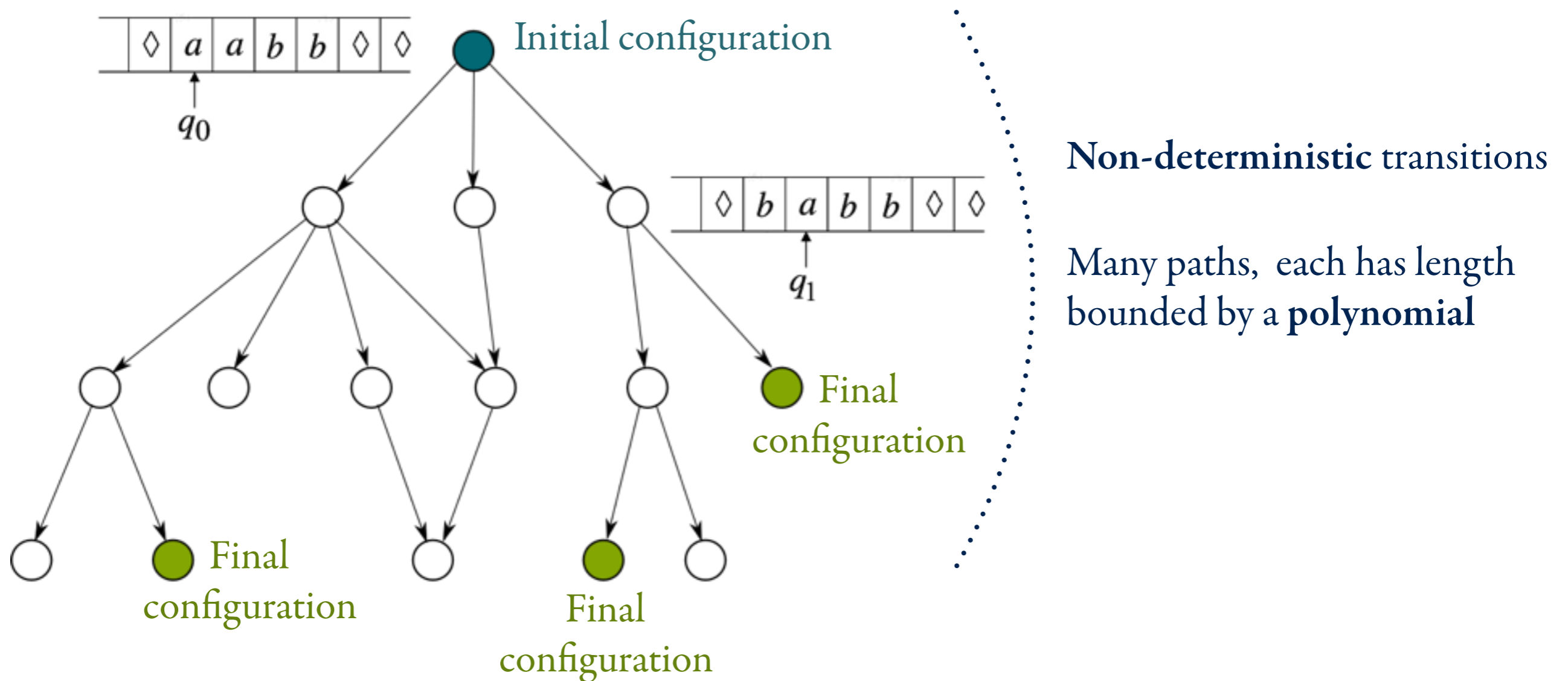
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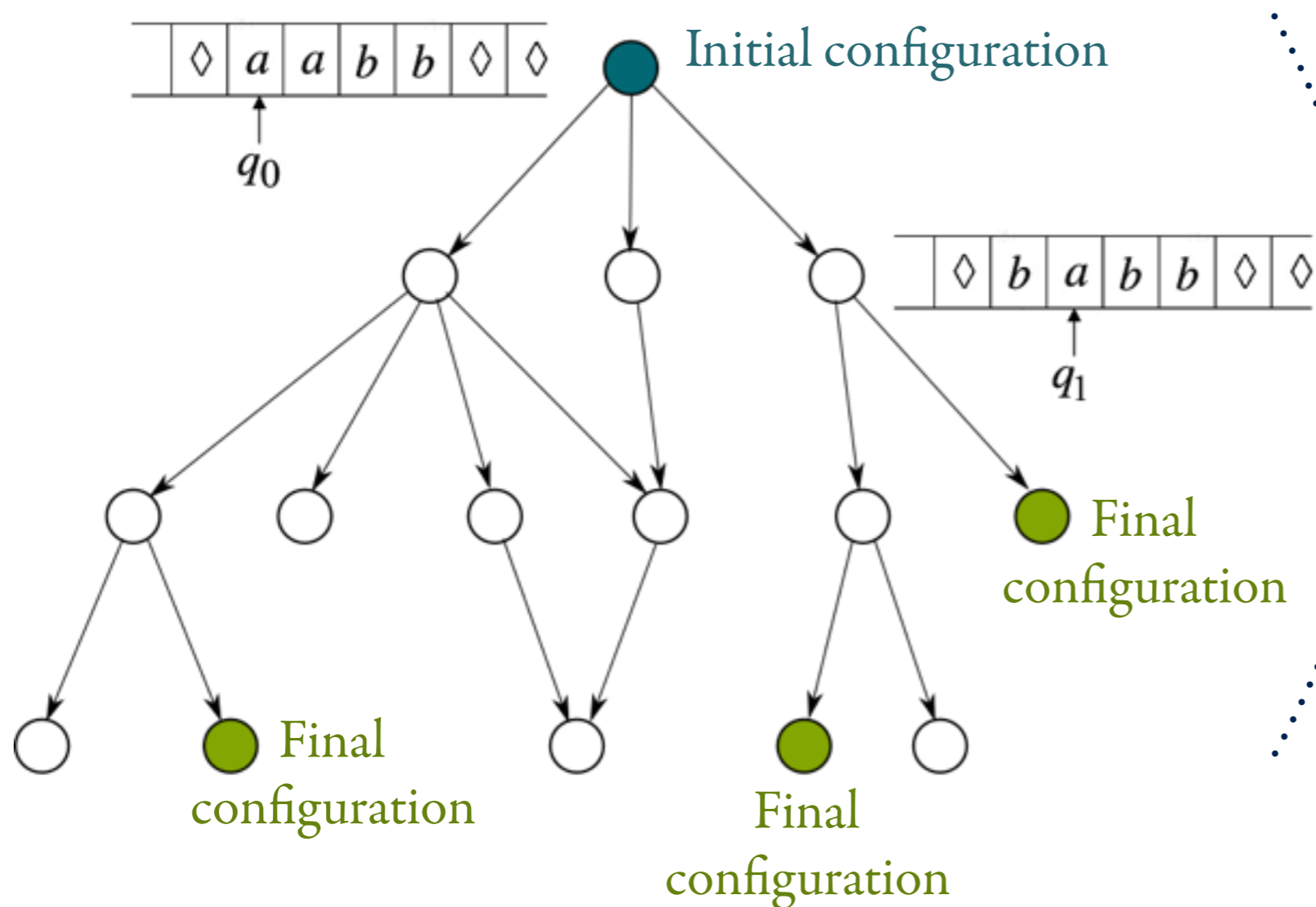
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Non-deterministic transitions

Many paths, each has length bounded by a **polynomial**

A solution exists if there is at least a **successful path**.

Question

Consider: **Positive FO = FO without \forall, \neg**

E.g. $\phi = \exists x \exists y \exists z . (E(x, y) \vee E(y, z)) \wedge (y=z \vee E(x, z))$

What is the complexity of evaluating Positive FO on graphs ?

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What is the complexity of evaluating Positive FO on graphs ?

Solution

This is in NP: Given ϕ and $G=(V, E)$
it suffices to guess a binding $\alpha : \{ x, y, z, \dots \} \rightarrow V$
and then verify that the formula holds.

Conjunctive Queries

Def.

CQ = FO without \forall, \neg, \vee

Eg: $\phi(x, y) = \exists z . (\text{Parent}(x, z) \wedge \text{Parent}(z, y))$

Usual notation: “Grandparent(X,Y) : – Parent(X,Z), Parent(Z,Y)”

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Normal form: “ $\exists x_1, \dots, x_n . \phi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ ”

..... quantifier-free and no equalities!

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It corresponds to positive
“SELECT-FROM-WHERE” SQL queries

Select ...

From ...

Where Z

..... no negation or disjunction

It corresponds to “ π - σ - \times ” RA queries

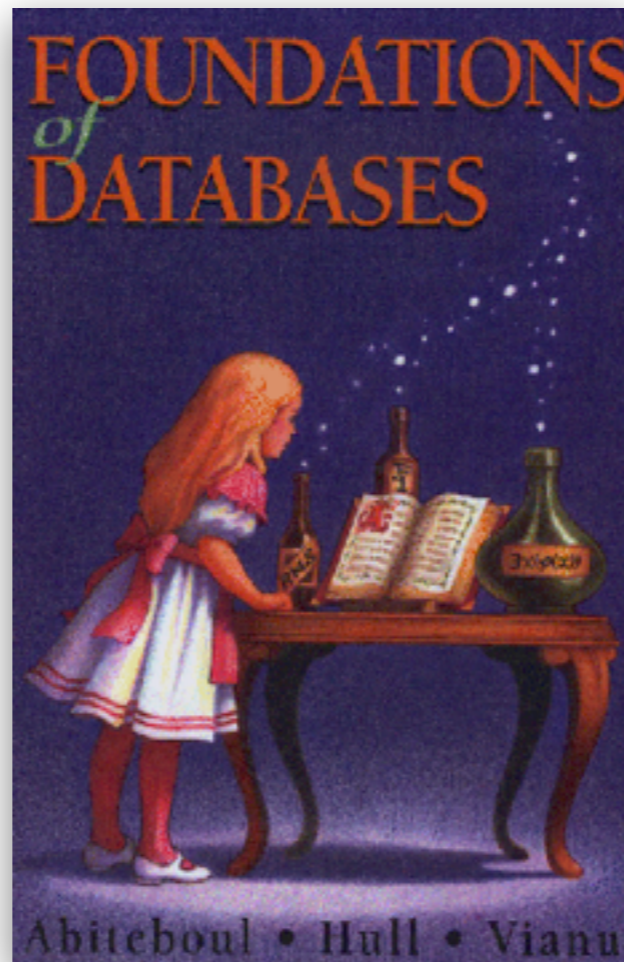
$\pi_X(\sigma_Z(R_1 \times \dots \times R_n))$

..... no negation

Bibliography

Abiteboul, Hull, Vianu, “Foundations of Databases”, Addison-Wesley, 1995.

(freely available at <http://webdam.inria.fr/Alice/>)



Chapters 1, 2, 3