

# SAT with Theories for System Security Verification

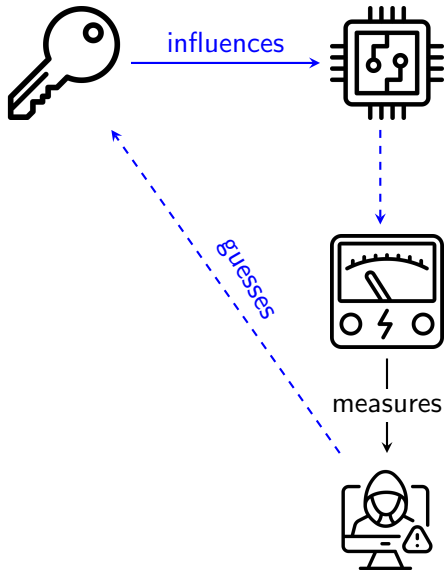
PhD Proficiency Presentation

Robin Coutelier

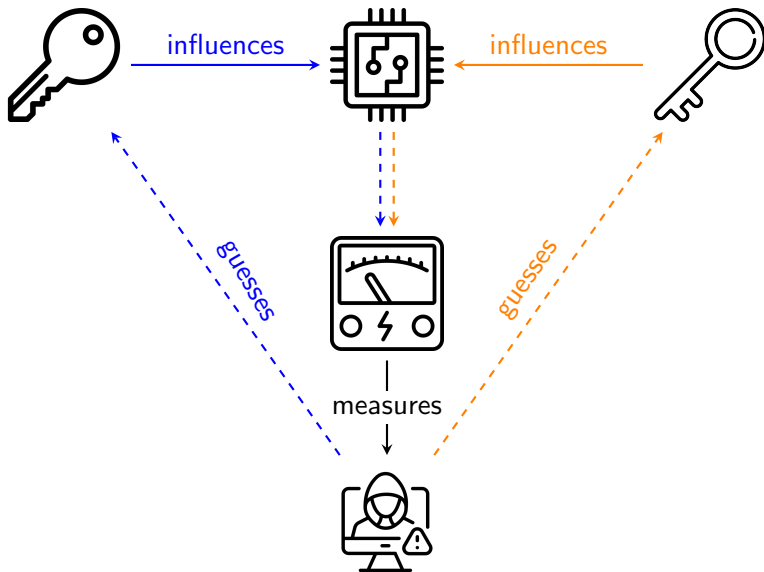
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June 17th 2025

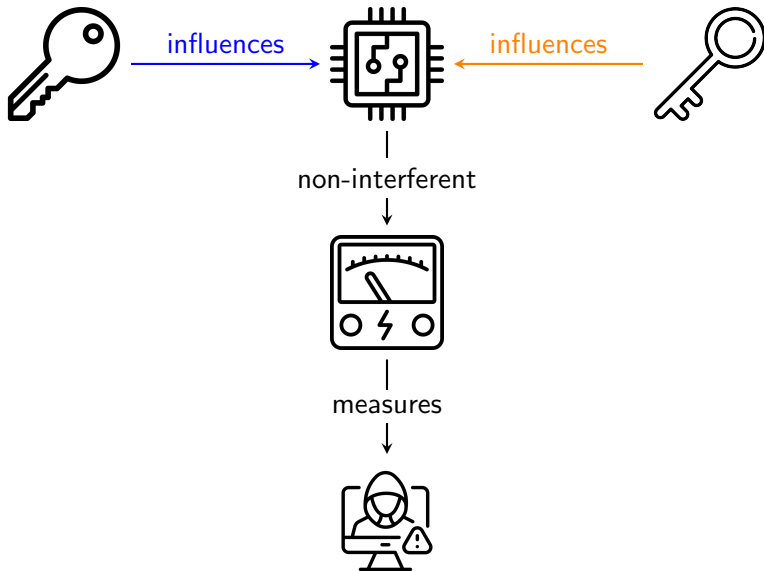
# Side-Channel Attacks



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# Shares for Secret Masking

## Secret Masking

Let  $s$  be a secret, we split the secret into  $n$  shares  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n$  such that:

$$s = s_1 \oplus s_2 \oplus \dots \oplus s_n$$

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$s$	$s_1$	$\mu\mathbf{P}$
0	0	$0W$
1	1	$1W$

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$s$	$s_1$	$s_2$	$\mu\mathbf{P}$	$\mu^2\mathbf{P}$
0	0	0	$1W$	$1W^2$
0	1	1		
1	0	1	$1W$	$0W^2$
1	1	0		

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$s$	$s_1$	$s_2$	$s_3$	$\mu\mathbf{P}$	$\mu^2\mathbf{P}$	$\mu^3\mathbf{P}$
0	0	0	0	$1.5W$	$0.75W^2$	$-0.75W^3$
0	1	1	0			
0	1	0	1			
0	0	1	1			
1	0	0	1	$1.5W$	$0.75W^2$	$0.75W^3$
1	1	1	1			
1	0	1	0			
1	1	0	0			



# Probe-Isolating Non-Interference

## Abstract Goal

$$\forall s, s'. P(\text{power}|s) \sim P(\text{power}|s')$$

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Can the attacker obtain information about the secret  $s$ ?

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## Practical Goal

$$\bigwedge_{W \in \mathcal{C}} \forall w, s, s'. \text{probe}(W) \Rightarrow P(W = w|S = s) = P(W = w|S = s')$$

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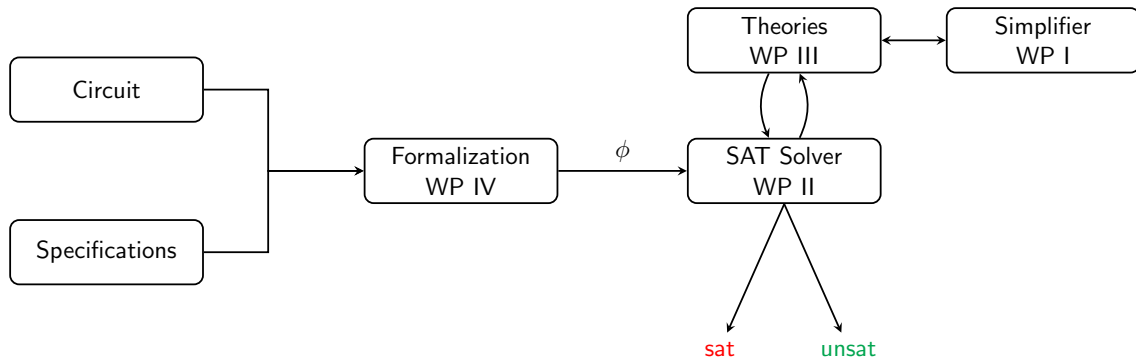
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Can the attacker obtain information about the secret  $s$ ?

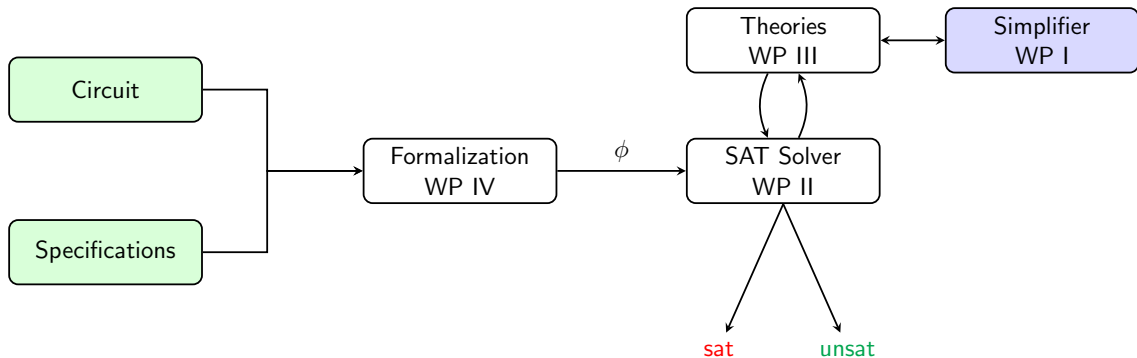
## Practical Goal (simplified)

$$\bigwedge_{W \in \mathcal{C}} \forall w, s_1, \dots, s_n. \text{probe}(W) \Rightarrow \bigvee_{i=1}^n P(W = w | S_i = s_i) = P(W = w)$$

# Verification Pipeline for PINI



# WP I: Simplifier



# WP I: SAT Solving for Variants of Subsumption

published at FMSD 2024 [CRR<sup>+</sup>24]

## Research Question

*How to simplify the search space efficiently?*

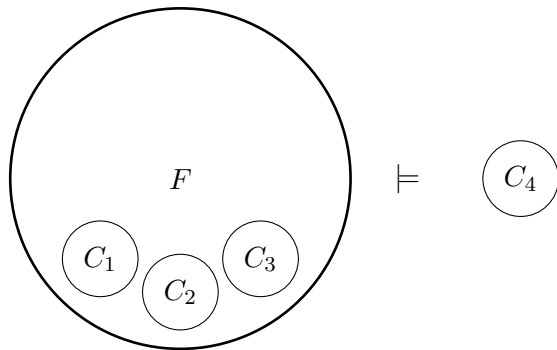
## Subsumption and Subsumption Resolution

Subsumption removes redundant clauses from the search space.

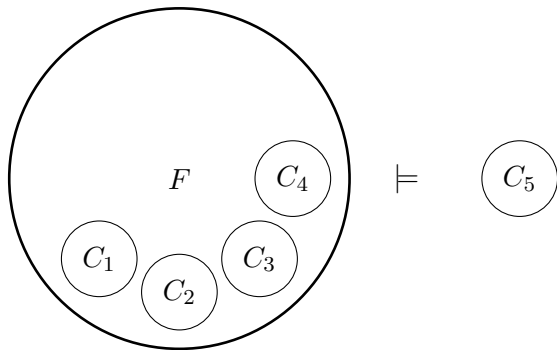
Subsumption Resolution (SR) removes a redundant literal from a clause.



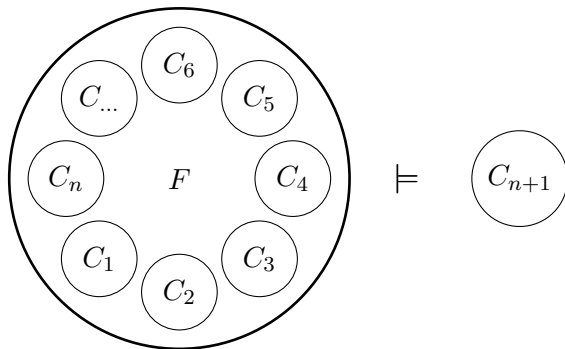
## WP I: Saturation in FOL Theorem Proving



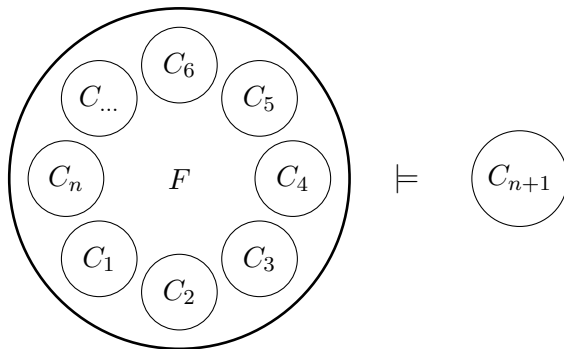
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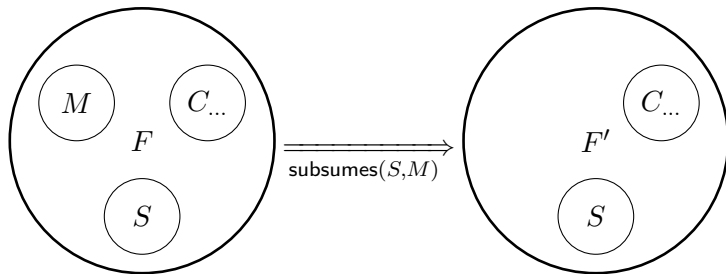


## WP I: Saturation in FOL Theorem Proving

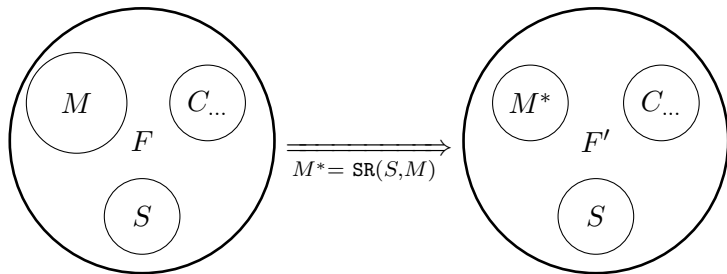


Out of memory!

## WP I: Subsumption - Intuition



## WP I: Subsumption Resolution - Intuition



# WP I: Two Encodings

## Direct Encoding $\mathcal{E}_{\text{SR}}^d(\Pi)$

**positive compatibility**  $\bigwedge_i \bigwedge_j (b_{i,j}^+ \Rightarrow \Sigma_{i,j}^+ \subseteq \sigma)$

**negative compatibility**  $\bigwedge_i \bigwedge_j (b_{i,j}^- \Rightarrow \Sigma_{i,j}^- \subseteq \sigma)$

**existence**  $\bigvee_i \bigvee_j b_{i,j}^-$

**uniqueness**  $\bigwedge_j \bigwedge_i \bigwedge_{i' \geq i} \bigwedge_{j' > j} \neg b_{i,j}^- \vee \neg b_{i',j'}$

**completeness**  $\bigwedge_i \bigvee_j b_{i,j}^+ \vee b_{i,j}^-$

**coherence**  $\bigwedge_j \bigwedge_i \bigwedge_{i'} \neg b_{i,j}^+ \vee \neg b_{i',j}$

### Complexities

$\mathcal{E}_{\text{SR}}^d(\Pi)$  has  $O(|\Pi|)$  variables and  $O(|\Pi|^2)$  clauses.

## Indirect Encoding $\mathcal{E}_{\text{SR}}^i(\Pi)$

**positive compatibility**  $\bigwedge_i \bigwedge_j (b_{i,j}^+ \Rightarrow \Sigma_{i,j}^+ \subseteq \sigma)$

**negative compatibility**  $\bigwedge_i \bigwedge_j (b_{i,j}^- \Rightarrow \Sigma_{i,j}^- \subseteq \sigma)$

**structurality**  $\bigwedge_j \left[ \neg c_j \vee \bigvee_i b_{i,j}^- \right] \wedge \bigwedge_j \bigwedge_i (c_j \vee \neg b_{i,j}^-)$

**revised existence**  $\bigvee_j c_j$

**revised uniqueness**  $AMO(\{c_j, j = 1, \dots, |M|\})$

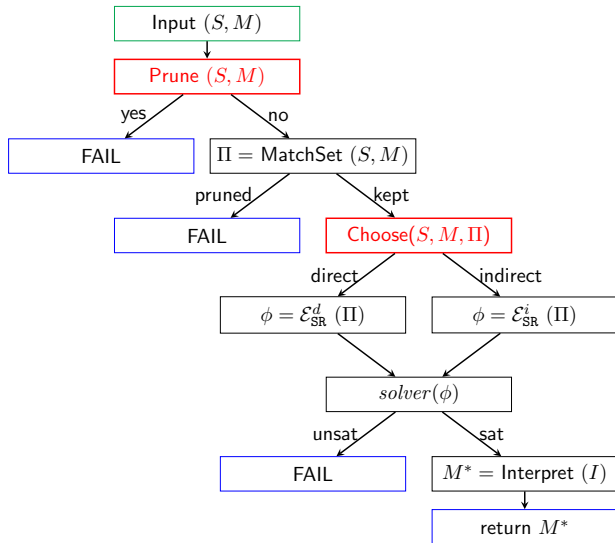
**completeness**  $\bigwedge_i \bigvee_j b_{i,j}^+ \vee b_{i,j}^-$

**revised coherence**  $\bigwedge_j \bigwedge_i (\neg c_j \vee \neg b_{i,j}^+)$

### Complexities

$\mathcal{E}_{\text{SR}}^i(\Pi)$  has  $O(|\Pi| + |M|)$  variables and  $O(|\Pi|)$  clauses.

# WP I: SAT-Based Subsumption Resolution





## WP I: Improvements since CADE 2023

Prover	Average	Std. Dev.	Boost
VAMPIRE <sub>M</sub>	42.63 $\mu s$	1609.06 $\mu s$	1.00
VAMPIRE <sub>I</sub> <sup>*</sup>	34.55 $\mu s$	250.25 $\mu s$	1.23

Table: Without Optimization (CADE 2023 [CKRR23])

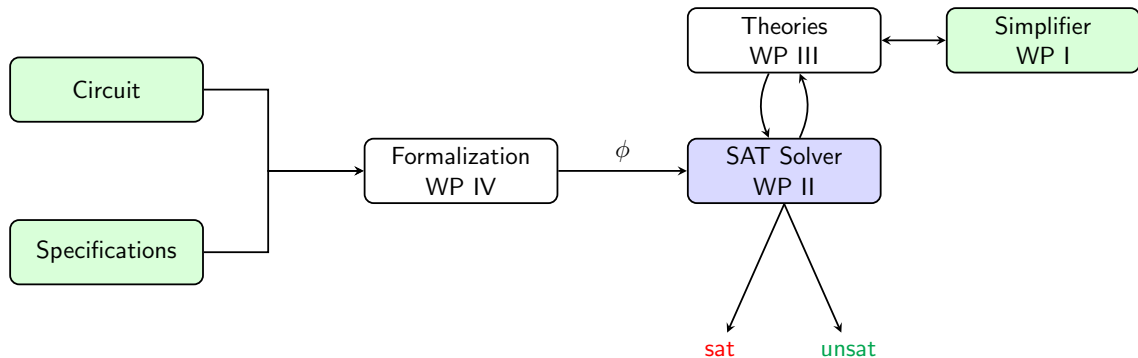
Prover	Average	Std. Dev.	Boost
VAMPIRE <sub>M</sub>	33.63 $\mu s$	1839.25 $\mu s$	1.00
VAMPIRE <sub>H</sub> <sup>*</sup>	24.73 $\mu s$	190.69 $\mu s$	1.36

Table: With Optimization (FMSSD 2024 [CRR<sup>+</sup>24])

## WP I: Performance on TPTP

Prover	Total Solved	Gain/Loss
VAMPIRE <sub>M</sub>	10 728	baseline
VAMPIRE <sub>D</sub> <sup>*</sup>	10 791	(+94, -31)
VAMPIRE <sub>I</sub> <sup>*</sup>	10 785	(+92, -35)
VAMPIRE <sub>H</sub> <sup>*</sup>	10 794	(+97, -31)

## WP II: SAT Solving



# WP II: Lazy Reimplication in Chronological Backtracking

published at SAT 2024 [CFK24]

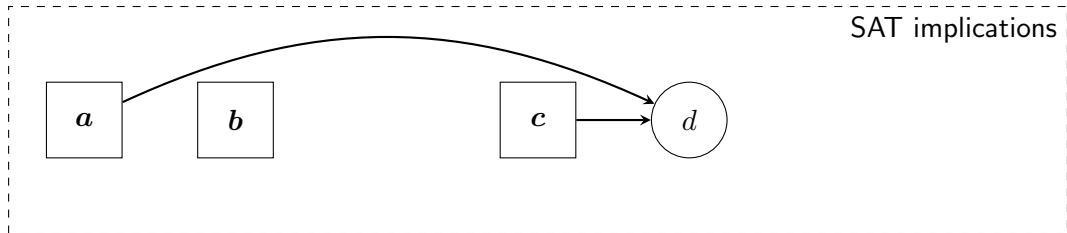
## Research Question

*How to reduce the number of theory propagations?*

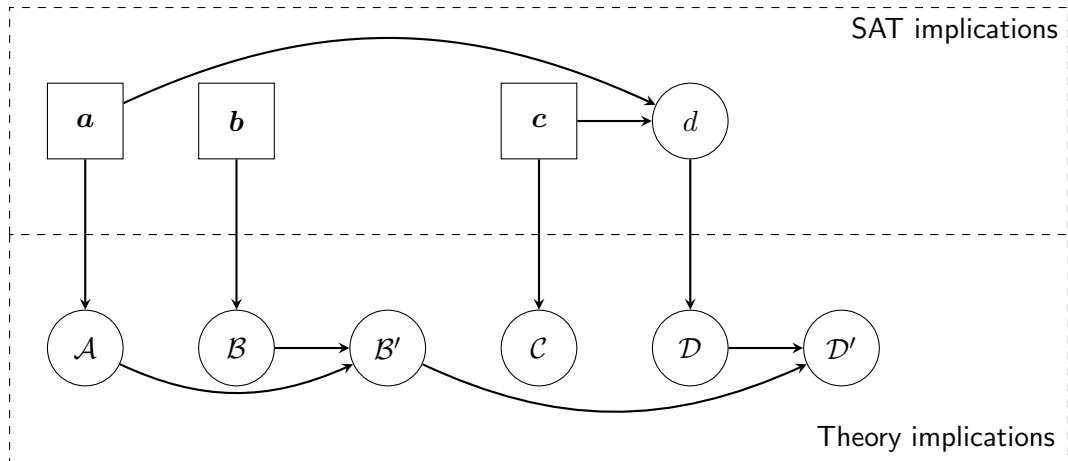
## Motivation

- Chronological Backtracking is complicated and not well understood.
- Reimplication is a necessary but expensive operation.
- Theory propagations can be expensive.

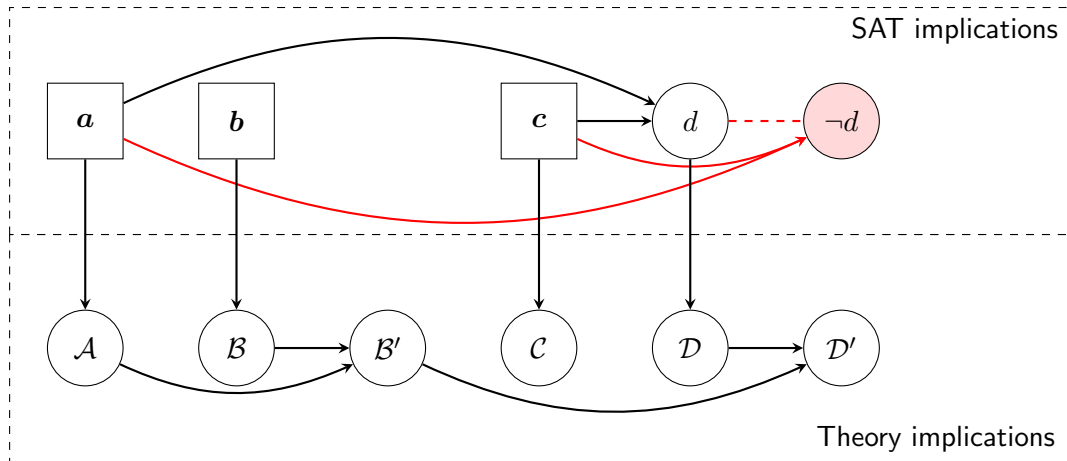
## WP II: SAT and Theories (NCB)



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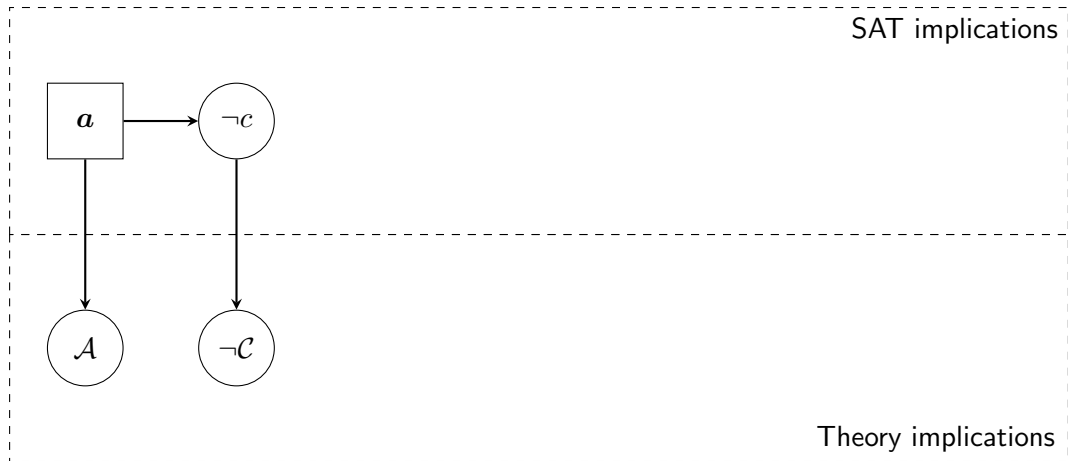


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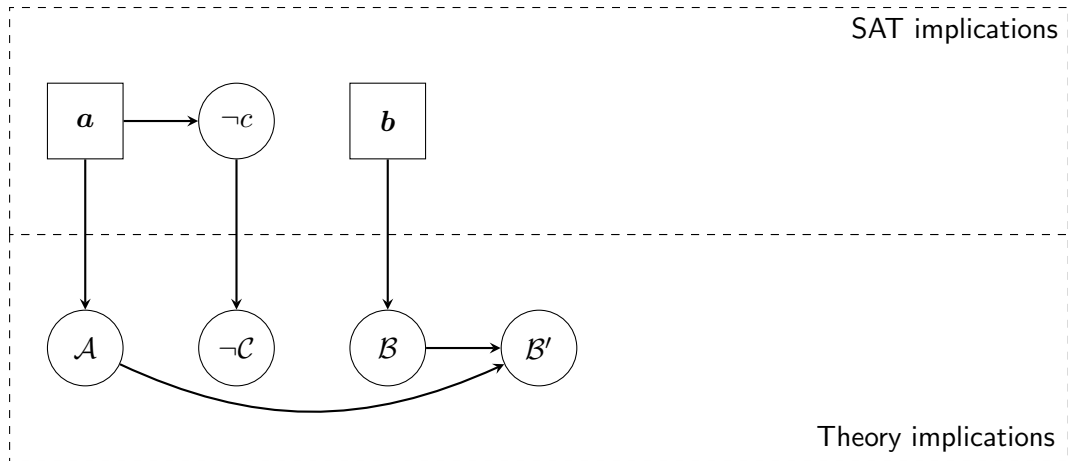




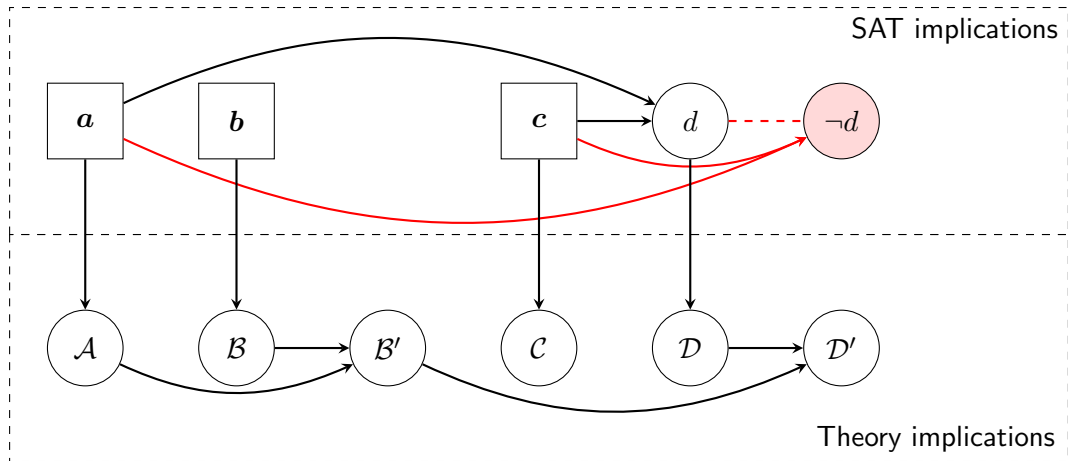
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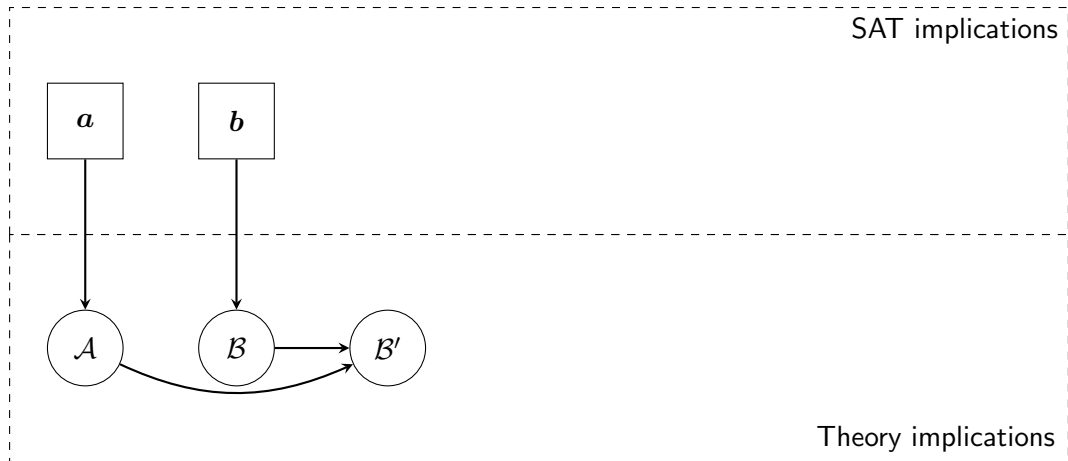
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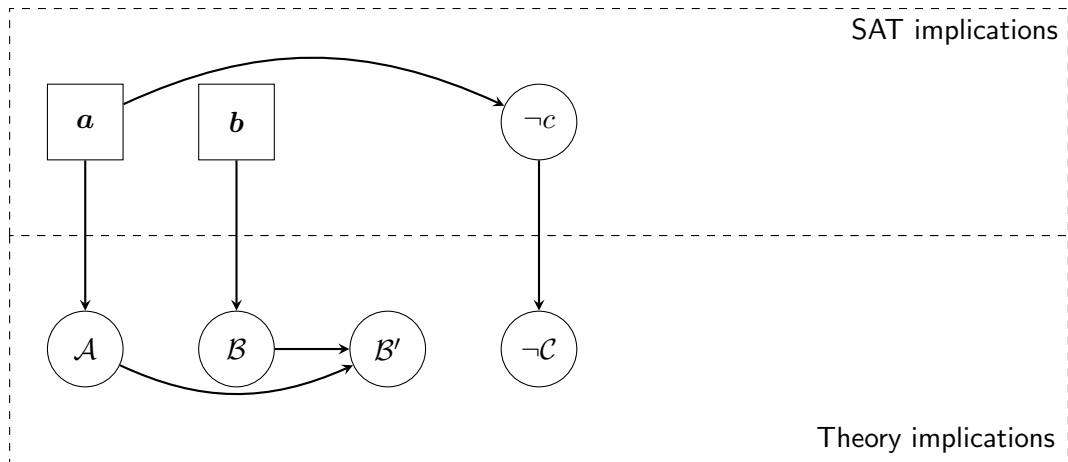
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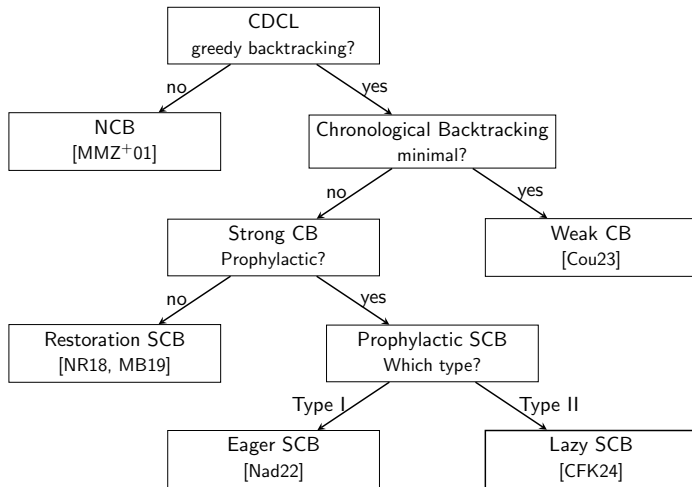


## WP II: SAT and Theories (CB)



# WP II: CDCL Backtracking Variants

published at SAT 2024 [CFK24]



## WP II: New SAT Solver: NapSAT

Table: Implemented variants in solvers

	NCB	WCB	RSCB	ESCB	LSCB
NapSAT	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
CaDiCaL	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Glucose	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓

## WP II: NapSAT Infrastructure

```
/home/robin/programs/NapSAT/build/NapSAT tests/cnf/test-trigger.mli.cnf -i
*****
Display level: 6
Notification number: 51
Last notification message: Conflict : clause 1 detected
Navigation command:
Back to real time
1: v1 true @ 1 by decision    3: v3 true @ 3 by decision    5: v5 undef @ inf by undef
2: v2 true @ 2 by decision    4: v4 true @ 3 by C0          6: v6 undef @ inf by undef

*****
0: w-3 w4                    2: w3 w5                    4: -2 w-5 w-6
1: -1 w-3 w-4                3: w2 w3 -5                 5: w3 w-5 6

*****
trail :
3:   | 3 4
2:  2 |
1:  1 |
0:   |

*****
Display level: 6
Notification number: 52
Last notification message: Backtracking started at level 2
Navigation command: 
```

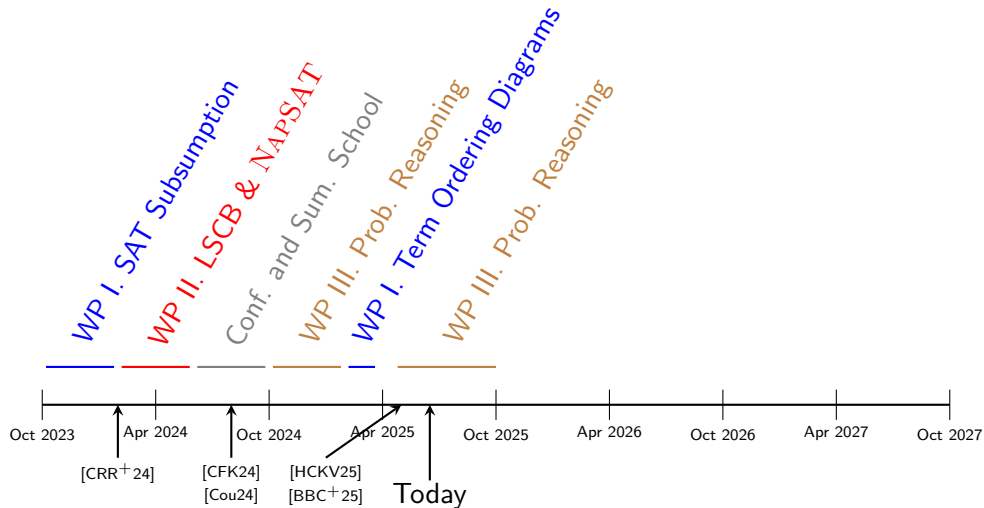


## WP II: Results in CaDiCaL

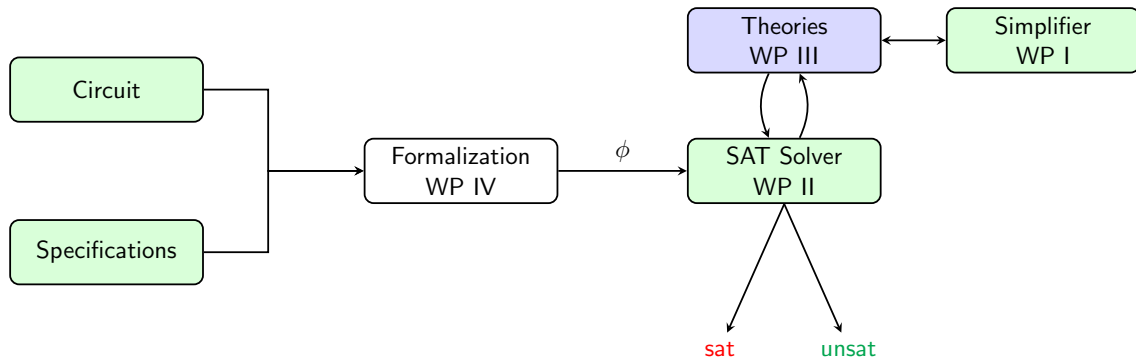
**Table:** Number of solved instances by different variants of strong backtracking on the SC2023 competition, using a 5000 s timeout

CADICAL version	solved	PAR-2 ( $\times 10^3$ )
base-CADICAL= RSCB	<b>248</b>	<b>4.09</b>
LSCB, Analyze-2 and minimization	246	4.16
ESCB	245	4.16
LSCB and Analyze-2	246	4.19
NCB	247	4.19
LSCB and Analyze-1	242	4.24

# Research Timeline



## WP III: Probability Theory



# WP III: Probabilistic Reasoning

## Research Question

*How to reason about probabilistic statements?*

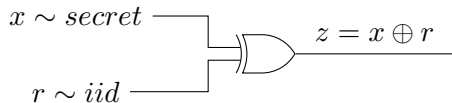
## Language

A probabilistic statement is a polynomial expression over a probability distributions.

## Goal

Given a set of equalities and disequalities of probabilistic statements, prove that they are consistent, or not.

## WP III: Motivating Example



### Goal

Prove that the output  $z$  is independent of the secret  $x$ .

$$P(z) = P(x) + P(r) - 2P(x, r) \quad (\text{circuit})$$

$$z = x \oplus r \quad (\text{circuit})$$

$$P(z, x) \neq P(z)P(x) \quad (\text{query})$$

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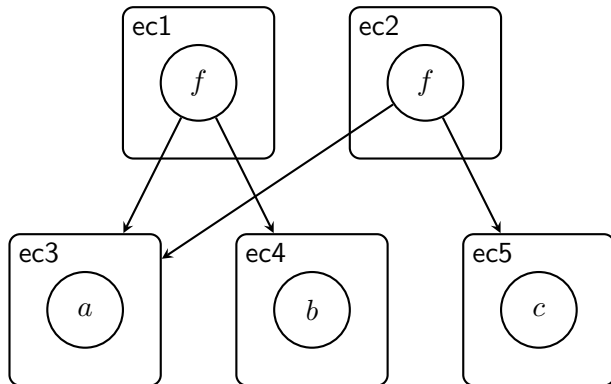
$$z = x \oplus r \quad (\text{circuit})$$

$$P(z, x) \neq P(z)P(x) \quad (\text{query})$$

### What do we need?

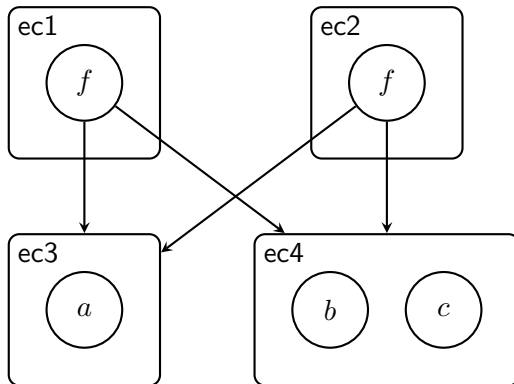
- Probability reasoning
- Equality reasoning
- Non-linear real arithmetic
- Algebraic boolean reasoning

## WP III: Egraphs



Assert :  $b = c$

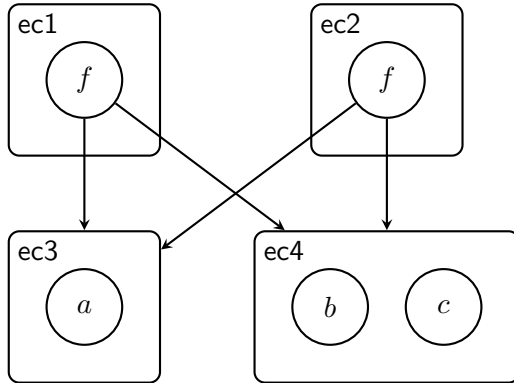
## WP III: Egraphs



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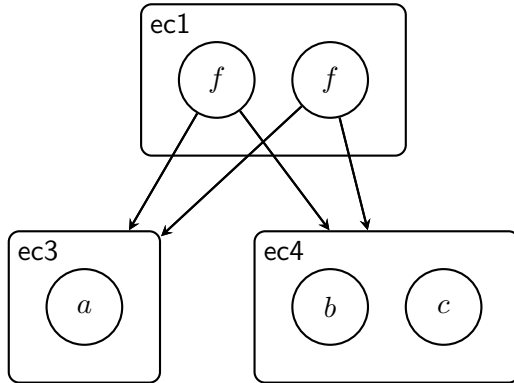


## WP III: Egraphs



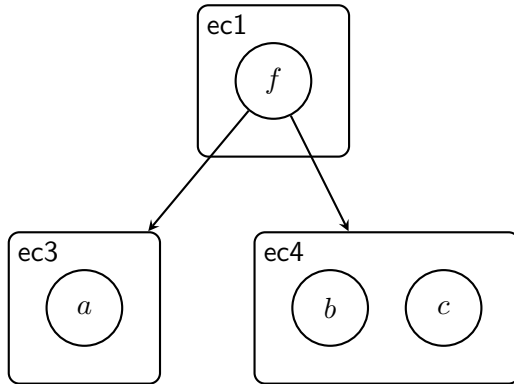
Congruence :  $f(ec3, ec4)$

## WP III: Egraphs



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Congruence :  $f(ec3, ec4)$

## WP III: Why Egraphs?

### Advantages

- Compact set of equalities.
- Studied by SMT and rewriting communities.
- Efficient for congruence closure.

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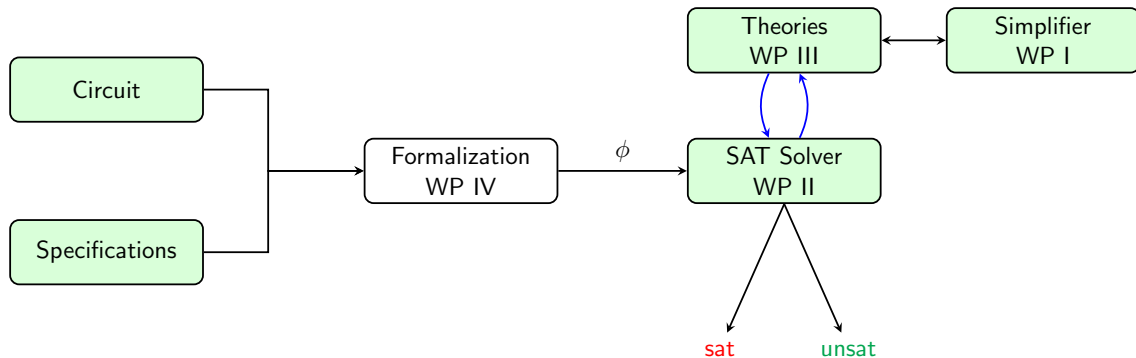
### Advantages

- Compact set of equalities.
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- Efficient for congruence closure.

### Challenges

- Probability calculus is not well understood.
- Combination of theories.
- Polynomials are known to be difficult.
- Complex term introduction.

## WP II & III: Combination of SAT and Probability Theory



## WP II & III: Combination of SAT and Probability Theory

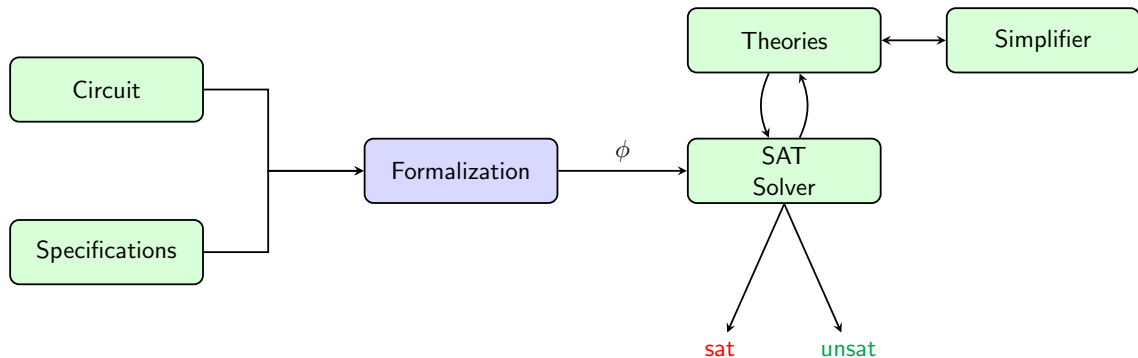
### What the theory should do.

- Provide conflict clauses to the SAT solver (adapted from SMT).
- Backtrack to a previous decision level (more complicated than SMT).
- Provide unsatisfiability proofs (adapted from SMT).

### Challenges

- Many rules in the theory.
- Backtracking is not well understood for rewrite systems.
- Chronological backtracking.

## WP IV: Security Property Verification





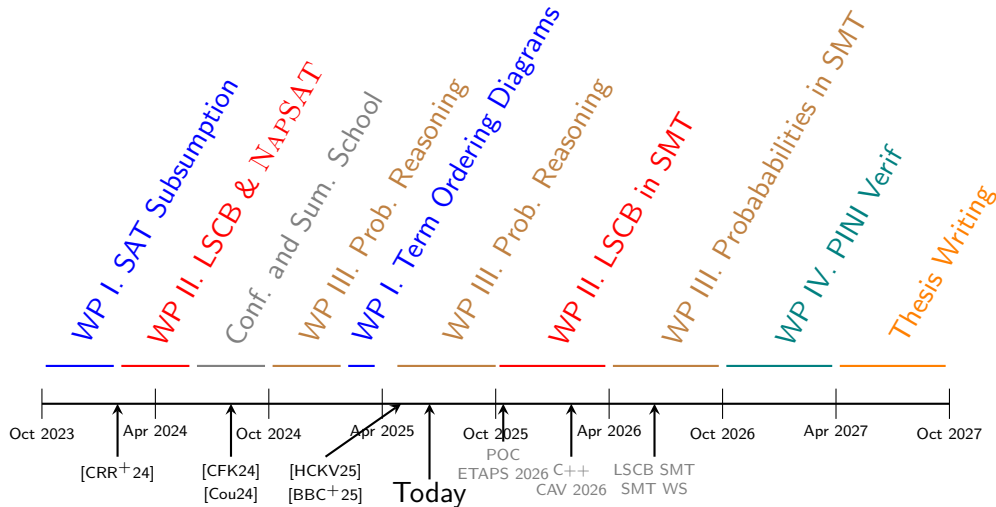
## WP IV: Security Property Verification

### Example Constraint

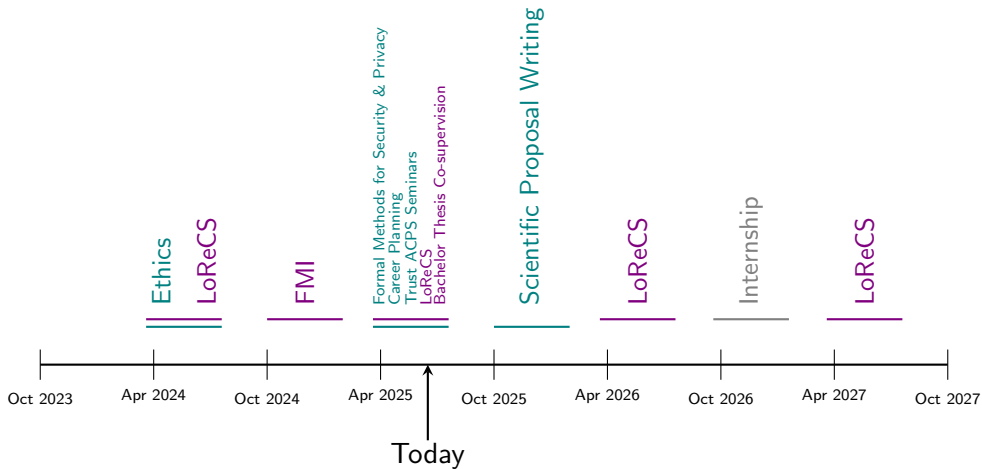
$$\bigwedge_{W \in \mathcal{C}} \forall w, s_1, \dots, s_n. \text{probe}(W) \Rightarrow \bigvee_{i=1}^n P(W = w | S_i = s_i) = P(W = w)$$

$$\text{AtMost}_{W \in \mathcal{C}}(\text{probed}(W), t)$$

# Research Timeline



# Course Timeline



# References I



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To link or not to link? that is a watch list.

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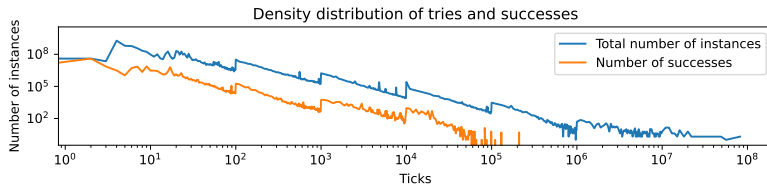
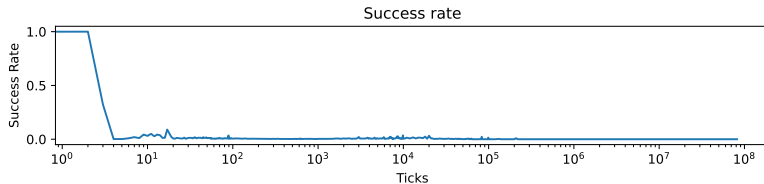
Alexander Nadel and Vadim Ryvchin.

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# Cutting off Difficult Instances?



Success rate of direct SR with respect to difficulty

# Computation Saved

