



# Hypergraph Transversals, Monotone Boolean Formula Dualization, and SAT

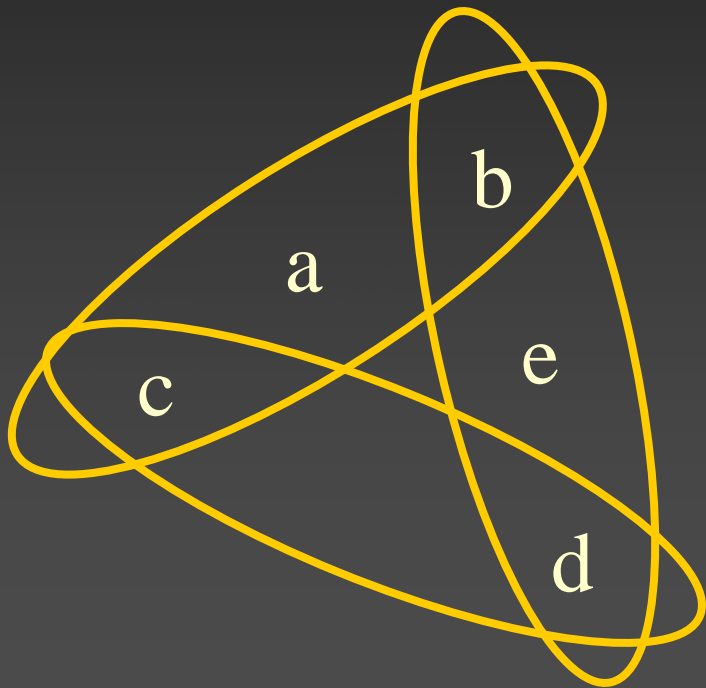
Georg Gottlob

University of Oxford & TU Wien

Reports on joint work with Thomas Eiter,  
Katz Makino, and Enrico Malizia

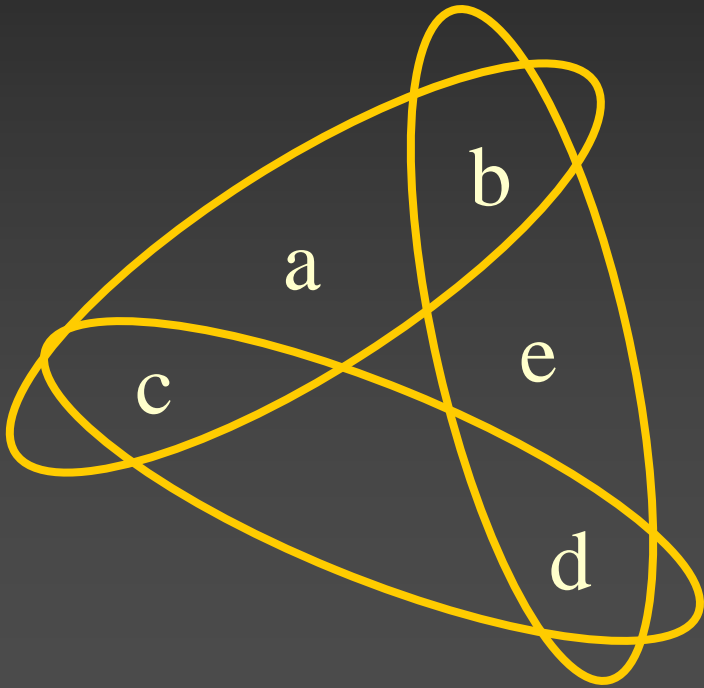
# Hypergraphs & Transversals

Hypergraph:  $H = (\text{Vertices}, \text{HyperEdges}) = (V(H), E(H)) \cong E(H)$



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TRANSVERSAL = HITTING SET

$\{d, a, e\}$

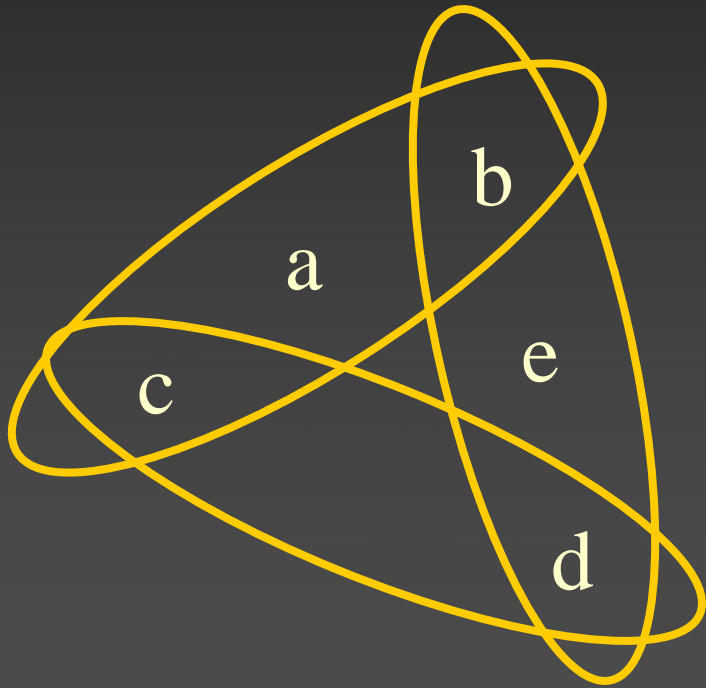
$\{d, a\}$

$\{b, c\}$

...

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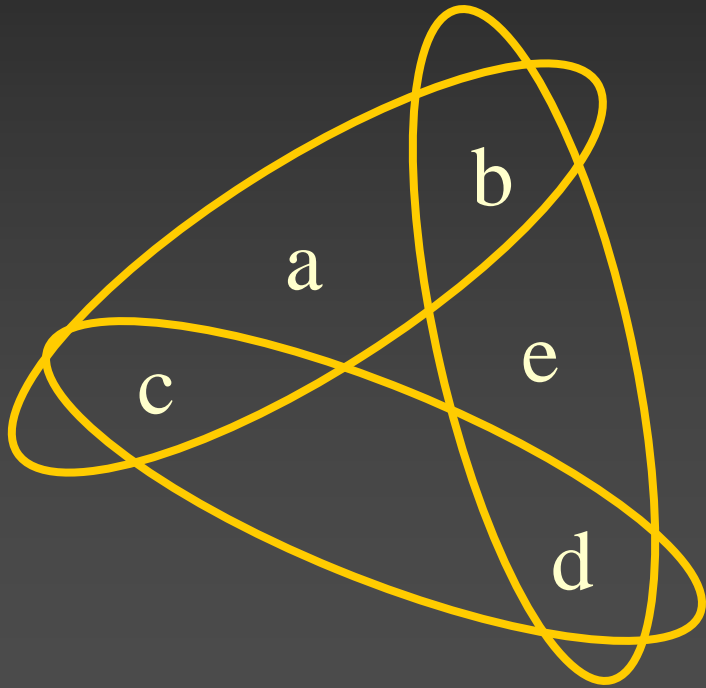
$\{b, c\}$

} MINIMAL  
Transversals

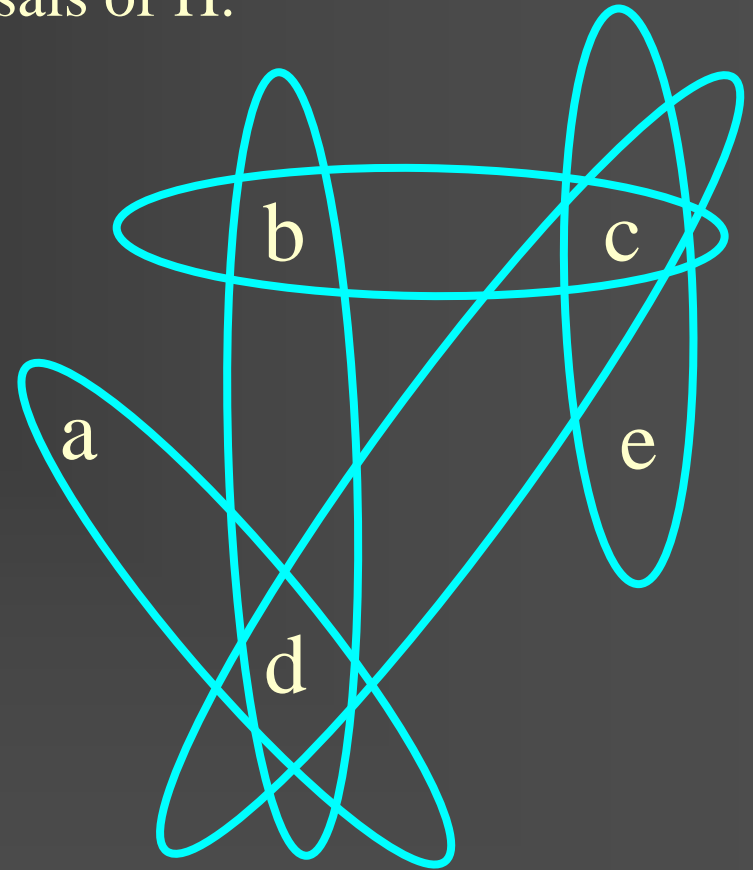
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# Transversal Hypergraph $\text{Tr}(H)$

$\text{Tr}(H)$  consists of all minimal transversals of  $H$ .



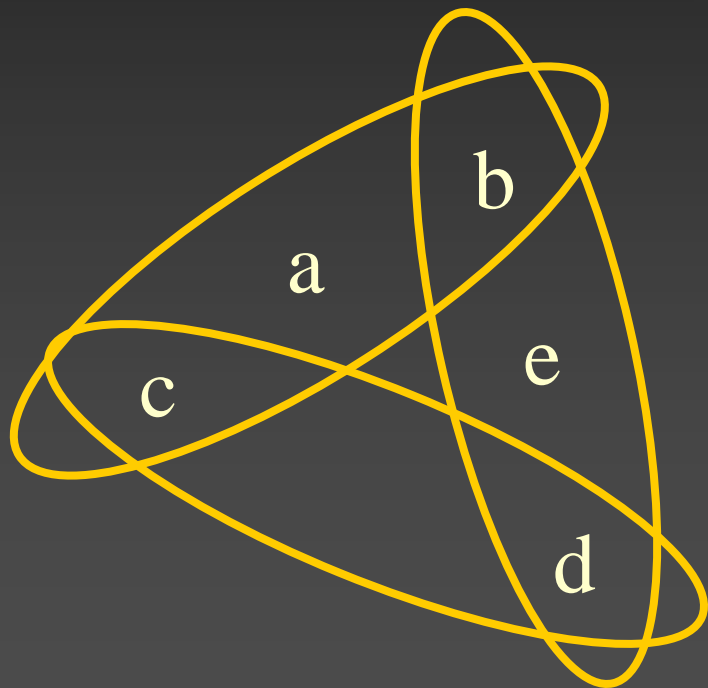
$H$



$G = \text{Tr}(H)$

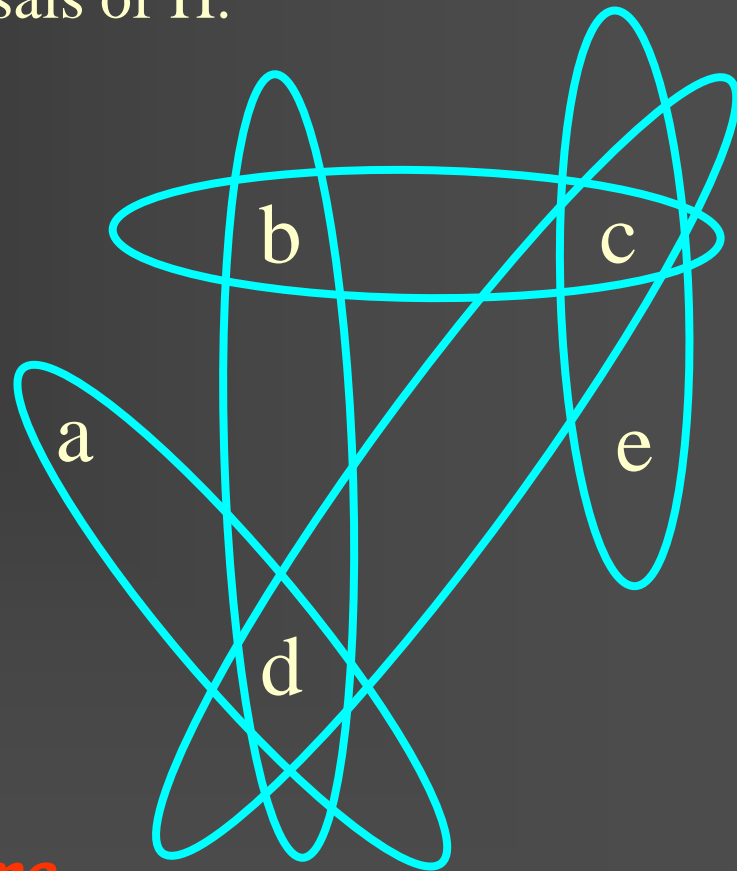
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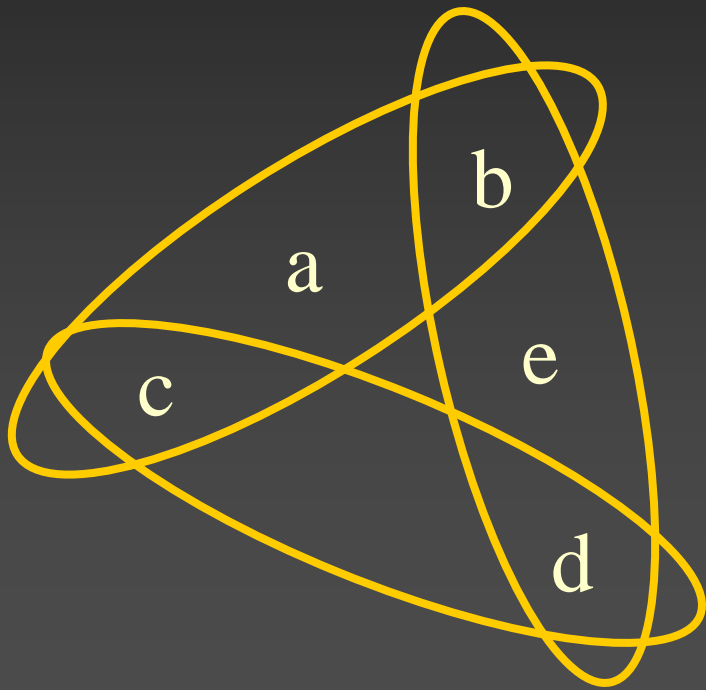
*We assume  
simple  
hypergraphs!*



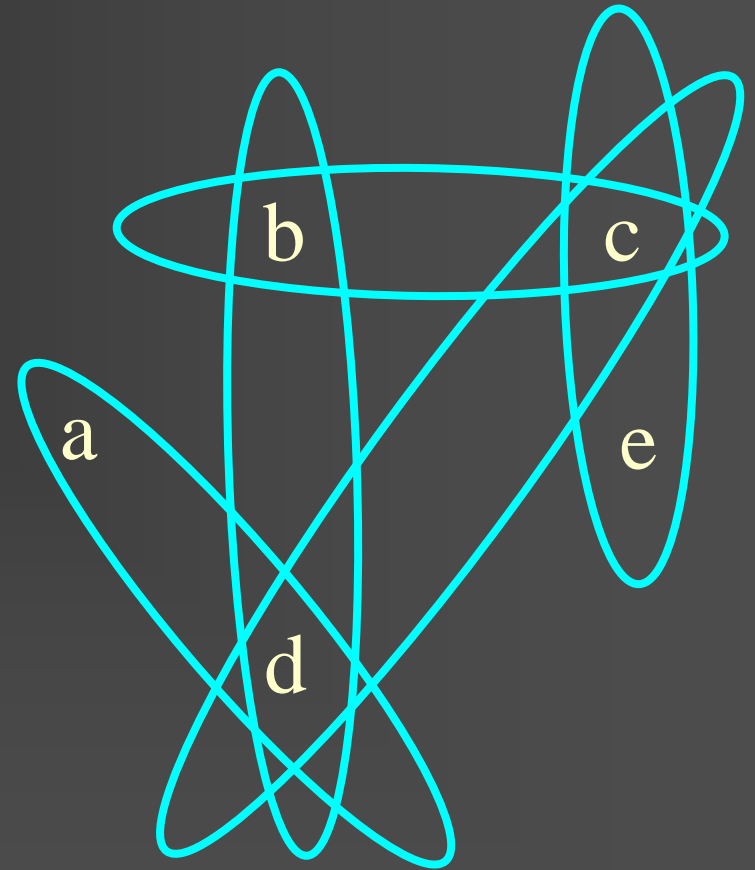
$\text{Tr}(H)$

# Transversal Hypergraph: Symmetric Concept

$$G = \text{Tr}(H) \rightarrow H = \text{Tr}(G)$$



$H = \text{Tr}(G)$



$G$

# Tr(H) may be exponentially large!

$a_1$   $b_1$

$a_2$   $b_2$

$a_3$   $b_3$

⋮

$a_n$   $b_n$

H

Tr(H) consists of the  $2^n$  hyperedges

$X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$

where  $X_i = a_i$  or  $X_i = b_i$ .



# Two important problems:

*Problem:* TRANS-HYP (aka TRANSVERSAL)

*Instance:* Hypergraphs  $G, H$

*Question:* Is  $G = \text{Tr}(H)$  ?

*Problem:* TRANS-ENUM (Transversal Enumeration)

*Instance:* Hypergraph  $H$

*Output:*  $\text{Tr}(H)$  ?

TRANSVERSAL-complete and TRANS-ENUM-complete problems

# Applications

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- Satisfiability checking
  - Switching theory: Boolean formula dualization
  - Data mining
  - FD & Armstrong relation generation
  - Key detection
  - FCA: Pseudo-Intent identification/generation
  - Knowledge approximation
  - Machine learning
  - Quorum determination in distributed DBs
  - Model-based diagnosis (Ray Reiter Approach)
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# Transversals and Logic

## Satisfiability

Monotone Satisfiability MSAT (NP-complete)

$$F = (p \vee q \vee r) \wedge (q \vee s \vee t) \wedge (r \vee t) \wedge (\neg q \vee \neg r) \\ \wedge (\neg r \vee \neg s) \wedge (\neg q \vee \neg t) \wedge (\neg p \vee \neg t) \wedge (\neg r \vee \neg t) \wedge (\neg u)$$

# Transversals and Logic

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**LEMMA:** MSAT instance  $F$  unsatisfiable iff  
 $\text{Tr}(\text{positive clauses}) \triangleright [\text{negative clauses}]$

This means that every possible truth value assignment to the positive clauses is contradicted by some negative clause by covering its atoms.

# IMSAT: Intersecting MSAT

IMSAT: Monotone Satisfiability MSAT where each positive clause and each negative clause have at least one common atom

$$F = (p \vee q \vee r) \wedge (q \vee s \vee t) \wedge (r \vee t) \wedge (\neg q \vee \neg r) \\ \wedge (\neg r \vee \neg s) \wedge (\neg q \vee \neg t) \wedge (\neg p \vee \neg t) \wedge (\neg r \vee \neg t)$$

**THEOREM:** IMSAT instance  $F$  unsatisfiable iff  
 $\text{Tr}(\text{positive clauses}) = [\text{negative clauses}]$

**CORR.:** IMSAT is co-TRANS-HYP -complete.

# SIMSAT: Symmetric IMSAT

SIMSAT: IMSAT where the negative clauses are obtained from the positive clauses by negating all atoms.

$$F = (p \vee q \vee r) \wedge (q \vee s \vee t) \wedge (r \vee t) \wedge \\ (\neg p \vee \neg q \vee \neg r) \wedge (\neg q \vee \neg s \vee \neg t) \wedge (\neg r \vee \neg t)$$

**THEOREM:** SIMSAT is co-TRANS-HYP-complete.

(reduction from SELF-TRANSVERSALITY)

# Duality of monotone CNFs

DUAL: Given two monotone prime CNFs  $F, G$   
are  $F$  and  $G$  dual?

$$F = (p \vee q \vee r) \wedge (q \vee s \vee t) \wedge (r \vee t)$$

$$G = (r \vee s) \wedge (q \vee t) \wedge (p \vee t) \wedge (r \vee t)$$

$F, G$  dual: dual output on dual truth value assignments.

**THEOREM:** DUAL is TRANS-HYP-complete,  
so is SELF-DUALITY.

DUALIZATION: Compute the dual.

Important in circuit design, etc.



# Monotone CNF/DNF equivalence

**MCNF/MDNF:** Given a monotone prime CNF  $F$  and a monotone prime DNF  $G$ , is  $F \equiv G$  ?

$$F = (p \vee q \vee r) \wedge (q \vee s \vee t) \wedge (r \vee t)$$

$$G = (r \wedge s) \vee (q \wedge t) \vee (p \wedge t) \vee (r \wedge t)$$

**THEOREM:** MCNF/MDNF TRANS-HYP-complete.

**DNF-COMPUTATION:** Compute the prime DNF from monotone prime CNF  $F$

# Transversals in AI

## Theory Revision

Knowledge in Flux

Principle of Minimal Change

Syntactic approach: “Set of Theories Method”

[Fagin&Ullman&Vardi 83; Ginsberg 86]

Theory  $T$ , new knowledge  $p$ , (inconsistent with  $T$ ),  
incorporate  $p$  into  $T$ .

Revised theory:  $T \circ p$

$T$ : set of sentences (propositional formulas)

$p$ : propositional update formula

/

$W(T;p) := \{T' \subseteq T \mid T' \models \neg p, T' \text{ maximal} \}$

$T \circ p := (\text{disjunction of all theories in } W(T;p)) \wedge p$

# Simple Example:

$$T = \{a, b, a \wedge b \Rightarrow c\} \quad p = \neg c$$

$$W(T;p) = \{ \{a, b\}, \{a, a \wedge b \Rightarrow c\}, \{b, a \wedge b \Rightarrow c\} \}$$

$$\begin{aligned} T \circ p &= [(a \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge (a \wedge b \Rightarrow c)) \vee (b \wedge (a \wedge b \Rightarrow c))] \wedge \neg c \\ &\Leftrightarrow [(a \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge (b \Rightarrow c)) \vee (b \wedge (a \Rightarrow c))] \wedge \neg c \\ &\Leftrightarrow (a \vee b) \wedge \neg c \end{aligned}$$

**THEOREM:** For Horn Theories  $T$ , computing  $W(T,p)$  from  $T$  is TRANS-ENUM-Complete

# Data Mining

	CREAM	SUGAR	MILK	HONEY	COFFEE
Client 1	1	0	0	0	1
Client 2	0	0	1	1	0
Client 3	1	1	1	0	1
Client 4	1	1	0	1	1
Client 5	1	1	0	1	0
Client 6	0	0	1	0	1

$N=6$  rows, Frequency threshold = 0.5, infrequency threshold:  $1/6$

Maximal frequent sets: {CREAM,COFFEE}, {CREAM, SUGAR}

Minimal infrequent sets: {CREAM, MILK}, {SUGAR,MILK}

# Complexity of Data Mining

**THEOREM:** Additional maximal frequent set (minimal unfrequent set) is co-TRANS-HYP-complete.

**THEOREM:** Computing maximal frequent sets (minimal unfrequent sets) is TRANS-ENUM-complete.

# Association Rule Discovery, Functional Dependency generation

PART#	NAME	STORE	QUANTITY
13	bolt	A	250
14	hammer	A	30
16	bolt	A	35
13	bolt	B	233
14	hammer	B	20
16	bolt	B	35
13	bolt	C	14
14	hammer	C	250
16	bolt	C	31

Functional Dependencies:

**PART# → NAME**  
**PART#,STORE → QUANTITY**

# Complexity of FD generation

**THEOREM:** Given a relation  $R$  and a set of FDs  $F$ , determining if  $F$  characterizes  $R$  i.e., if  $F^+ = \text{FD}(R)$ , is TRANS-HYP hard.

[G.&Libkin, 89]

The precise complexity is open!

**THEOREM:** IF each FD in  $F$  has a key as LHS, then the problem is TRANS-HYP-complete.

[Eiter&G., 95]

**THEOREM:** Generating FD-covers or Armstrong Relations is TRANS-ENUM-hard/cplt..



# Analyze large data tables: Generate all keys

28	29	31	36	36	43	49	54	58	64	66	68	68	77	84	89	97	97	97	105
33	36	39	48	53	58	61	62	62	69	78	71	71	77	90	91	103	105	108	110
33	44	51	56	62	63	67	69	74	81	86	91	96	96	104	110	110	110	118	125
41	44	52	59	71	75	83	92	100	107	114	122	122	124	132	133	140	141	145	146
43	49	54	59	72	79	83	101	104	115	122	124	124	124	140	140	140	142	151	154
45	52	55	62	72	80	92	104	111	122	130	132	132	136	149	156	160	165	171	179
51	60	68	73	81	86	94	110	115	129	138	141	145	149	157	163	169	178	185	191
51	61	74	83	92	95	95	111	120	129	138	143	146	155	159	171	180	188	195	201
56	67	81	89	94	98	98	119	123	133	147	149	149	164	167	174	183	188	205	211
62	69	85	95	97	101	105	119	131	139	152	152	160	165	171	178	190	195	212	215
71	72	90	95	106	111	116	121	131	144	155	160	163	173	180	186	197	199	220	221
75	87	99	104	108	115	123	130	140	144	161	166	174	177	189	192	205	209	225	230
84	94	103	106	117	120	129	133	145	153	165	173	175	178	196	199	209	209	231	235
91	96	105	108	120	128	137	141	151	154	169	182	187	192	201	209	214	220	233	237
95	100	109	110	123	137	139	141	159	161	174	184	188	201	205	213	218	228	233	241
101	107	115	119	130	146	155	155	168	173	178	187	190	202	209	221	226	230	237	249
109	109	115	125	131	148	156	164	173	180	190	196	204	212	217	222	232	240	249	253
113	117	124	126	138	151	157	167	181	183	194	204	213	219	223	231	236	242	250	253
115	123	131	138	142	152	160	167	184	190	197	210	215	224	225	238	244	246	256	258
118	126	131	138	149	161	170	175	184	193	205	217	217	225	234	240	249	257	265	267

# Key Identification/ Generation

**THEOREM:** For relation  $R$  and a set of keys, deciding whether there is an additional key is co-TRANS-HYP-complete.

**THEOREM:** Generating the set of all keys for a relation is TRANS-ENUM-complete.

# Machine Learning

## THEOREM:

Learning a monotone Boolean function  $f$  on  $n$  variables by determining  $DNF(f)$  and  $CNF(f)$  using membership queries is feasible in polynomial time in  $n + |DNF(f)| + |CNF(f)|$  iff  $TRANS-HYP \in PTIME$

[Gunopulos, Khardon, Mannila Toivonen PODS'97]

[Domingo, Mishra, Pitt ML'99]

# Knowledge Approximation

Given a propositional theory  $T$ ,

Horn Envelope of  $T$ : The Horn theory  $E(T)$  such that

$$T \models E(T),$$

and for no Horn theory  $T' \not\equiv T$ ,  $T \models T' \models E(T)$ .

$E(T)$  unique!

Thus:  $E(T)$ : strongest Horn Theory approximating  $T$

Efficient sound Reasoning with  $E(T)$ :

$$E(T) \models \varphi \quad \rightarrow \quad T \models \varphi \quad \text{Knowledge Compilation}$$

## Simple Example:

$$T = (\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b} \wedge \mathbf{c}) \vee (\mathbf{a} \wedge \neg \mathbf{b} \wedge \neg \mathbf{c}) \vee (\neg \mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b} \wedge \mathbf{c})$$

(Note: here T is given in DNF as disjunction of its models)

$$\mathbf{E}(T) = (\mathbf{b} \Rightarrow \mathbf{c}) \wedge (\mathbf{c} \Rightarrow \mathbf{b})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Models of } \mathbf{E}(T): \quad \mathbf{E}(T) \equiv & (\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b} \wedge \mathbf{c}) \vee \\ & (\mathbf{a} \wedge \neg \mathbf{b} \wedge \neg \mathbf{c}) \vee \\ & (\neg \mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b} \wedge \mathbf{c}) \vee \\ & (\neg \mathbf{a} \wedge \neg \mathbf{b} \wedge \neg \mathbf{c}) \end{aligned}$$

**THEOREM:** The problem of computing a Horn envelope from the models of  $T$  is TRANS-ENUM-complete.

[Kavvadias, Papadimitriou & Sideri 93]

# Structural Complexity -- Progress

**THEOREM [Fredman, Khachiyan 96]**  
**TRANS-HYP is in  $\text{DTIME}(n^{o(\log n)})$**

Observation:  $G = \text{Tr}(H) \rightarrow \exists S \in G \cup H : |S| \leq \log n$

It follows that some vertex  $a$  of the small edge  $S$  occurs rather frequently in the other hypergraph!

Use this vertex for a smart *divide-and-conquer* algorithm.

Input volume:  $v = |G| * |H|$

# Complexity? Open for many years!

*Problem:* TRANSVERSAL

*Instance:* Hypergraphs  $G, H$

*Question:* Is  $G = \text{Tr}(H)$  ?

*Obviously in co-NP*



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*Question:* Is  $G = \text{Tr}(H)$  ? *Obviously in co-NP*

*Problem:* TRANS-ENUM (Transversal Enumeration)

*Instance:* Hypergraph  $H$

*Output:*  $\text{Tr}(H)$  ?

$\text{TRANSVERSAL} \in \text{PTIME} \Leftrightarrow \text{TRANS-ENUM} \in \text{Total-PTIME}$

[Bioch & Ibaraki 95]

# Complexity of TRANS-HYP

*Problem:* TRANS-HYP

*Instance:* Hypergraphs  $G, H$

*Question:* Is  $G = \text{Tr}(H)$  ?

TRANS-HYP obviously in co-NP.

TRANS-HYP in **DTIME**( $n^{\log n}$ ) [Fredman&Khachiyan 96]

Interesting polynomial subclasses are known  
(Some will be discussed here)

# Complexity Results

## Concrete: Tractable Cases

[Eiter & G., SIAM J. Comput., 24(6), 1995]

[Eiter, G., Makino STOC'02;

full paper: SIAM J. Comput. 32(2): 2003 ]

## Structural: Limited nondeterminism

[G., Malizia LICS'14];

Full paper: SIAM J. Comput. 47(2) (2018)]

# New tractable cases / Algorithm

Let  $H = \{E_1, E_2, \dots, E_m\}$

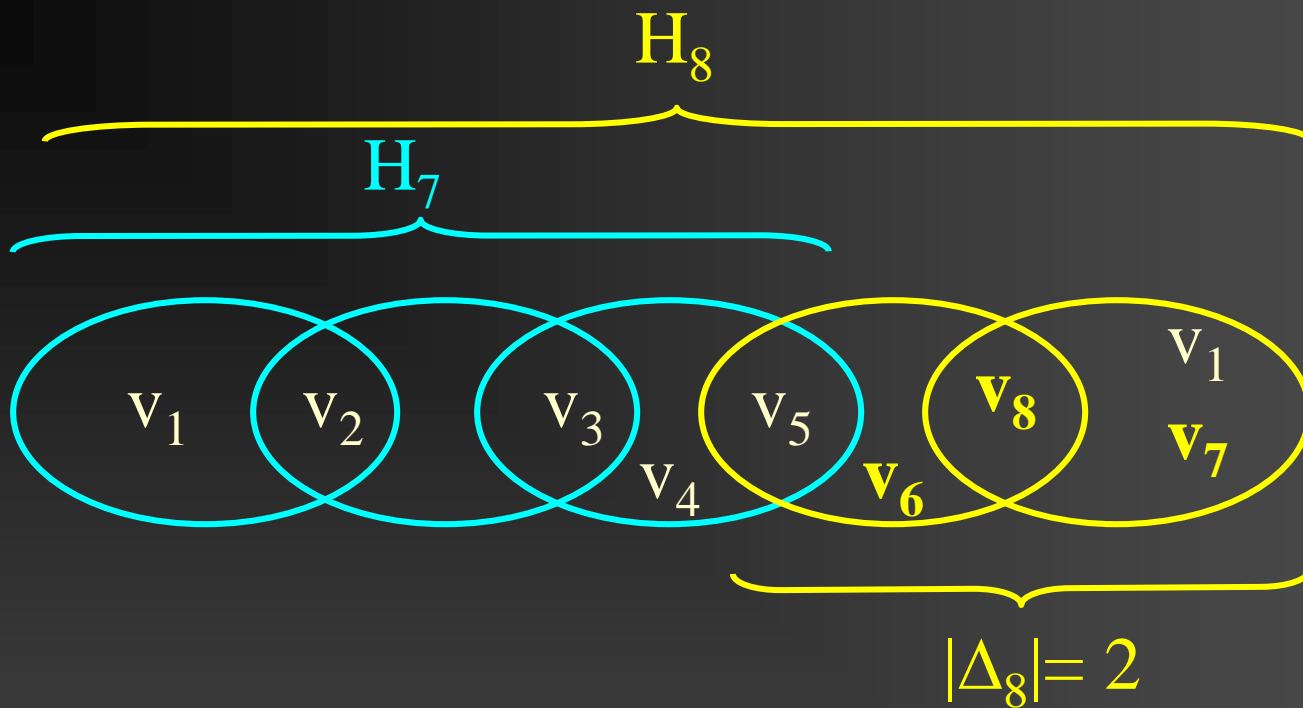
Fix an ordering  $<$  on the vertices of a hypergraph  $H$ :

$$v_1 < v_2 < v_3 < \dots < v_n$$

Define  $H_i = \{E \in H \mid E \subseteq \{v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots, v_i\}\}$

Note that  $H_0 = \{\}$  and  $H_n = H$

Define  $\Delta_i = H_i - H_{i-1}$



$\Delta_i$ : hyperedges contained in  $H_i$  but not in  $H_{i-1}$

Each transversal of  $H_i$  can be extended to one of  $H_{i+1}$

Moreover,  $\text{tr}(H_{i+1}) \subseteq [ \text{tr}(H_i) + \text{tr}(\Delta_{i+1}) ]$

→ For small  $\Delta$ , polytime incremental transversal computation

# k-degenerate hypergraphs

Hypergraph  $H = (V, E)$ , is k-degenerate

if there exists an ordering “ $<$ ” on  $V$  such that

$$\forall i \leq |V|, |\Delta_i| \leq k.$$

k-degeneracy can be tested in polynomial time.

An appropriate ordering  $<$  can be computed in polynomial time.

**THEOREM:** The transversals of a  $k$ -degenerate hypergraph can be computed in incremental polynomial time.

**COROLL.:** TRANS-HYP is in PTIME for all classes of instances  $(H,G)$  where  $H$  or  $G$  is  $k$ -degenerate.

# New tractable classes

## THEOREM

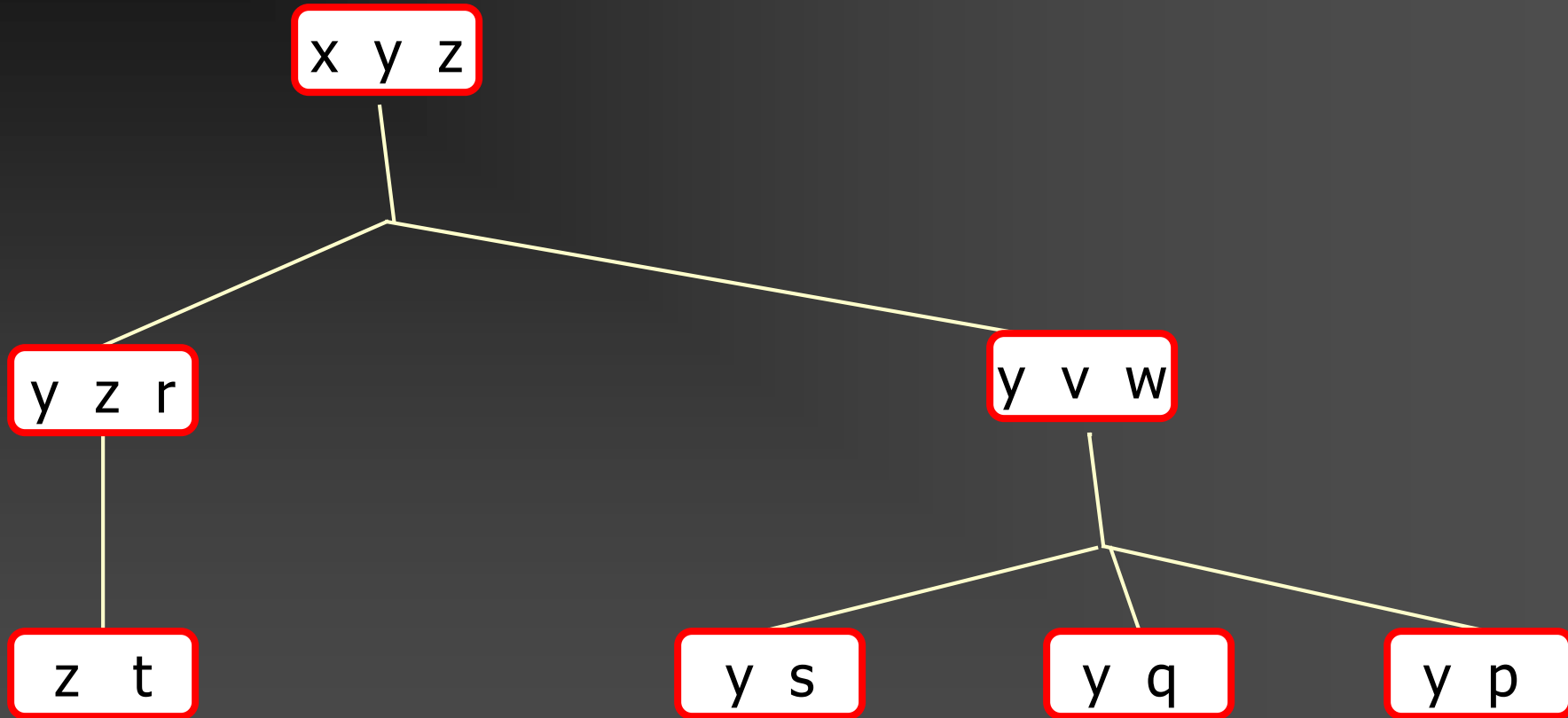
HYP-TRANS and TRANS-ENUM are solvable in PTIME for the following hypergraph classes:

- Read- $k$  hypergraphs ( $k$ -degenerate)
- $\alpha$ -acyclic hypergraphs (1-degenerate)
- Hypergraphs of treewidth  $k$  ( $2^k$ -degenerate)

Treewidth of  $H$  : treewidth of incidence graph of  $H$ .

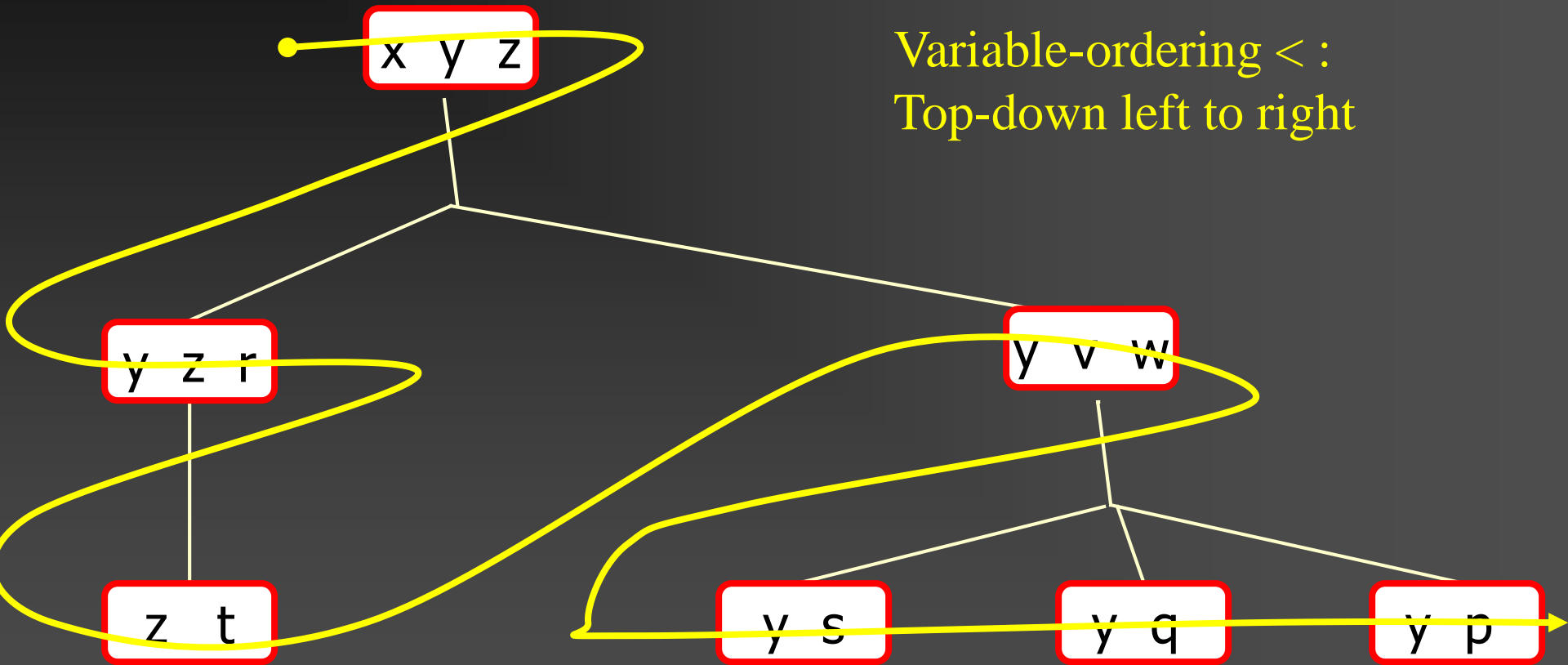


# Acyclic hypergraph: Join Tree



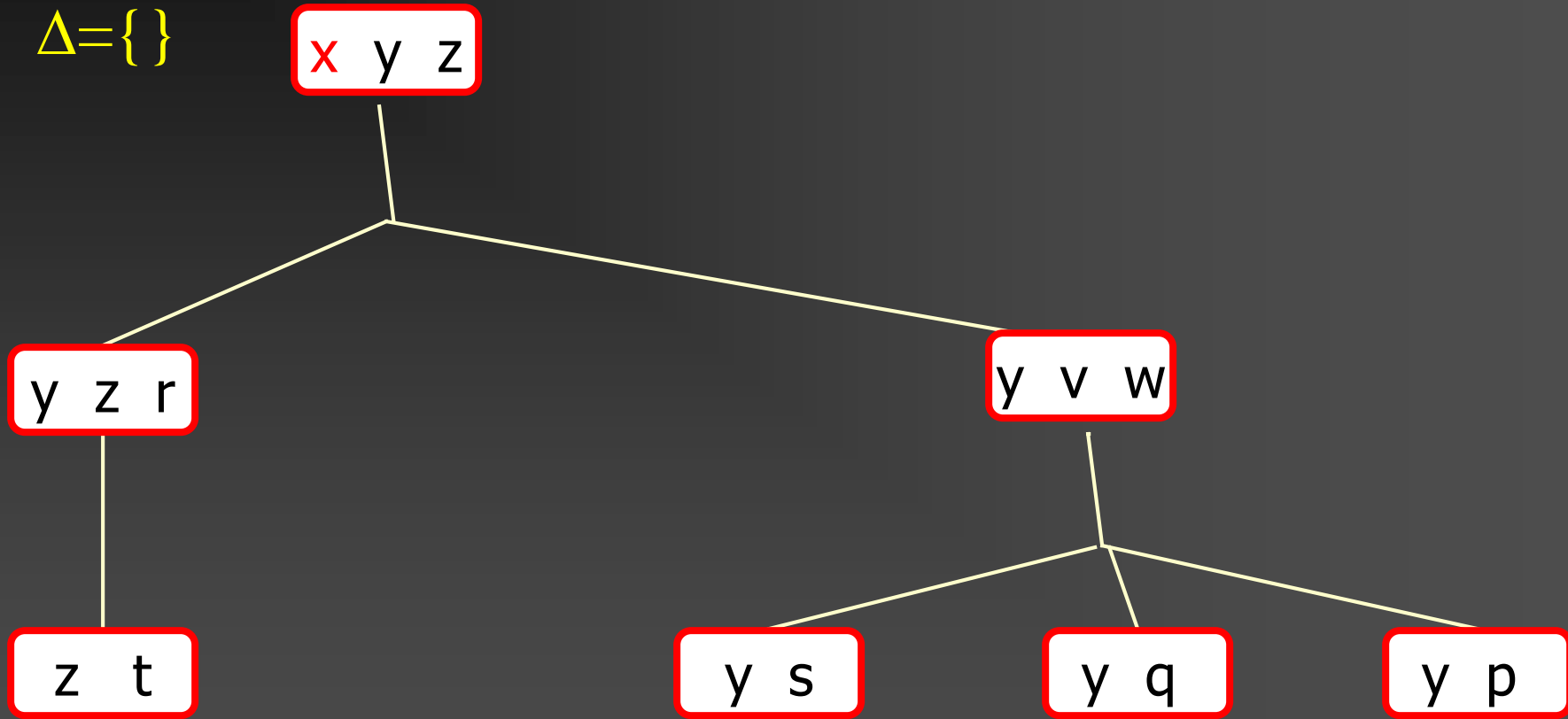
We assume w.l.o.g. a simple hypergraph.

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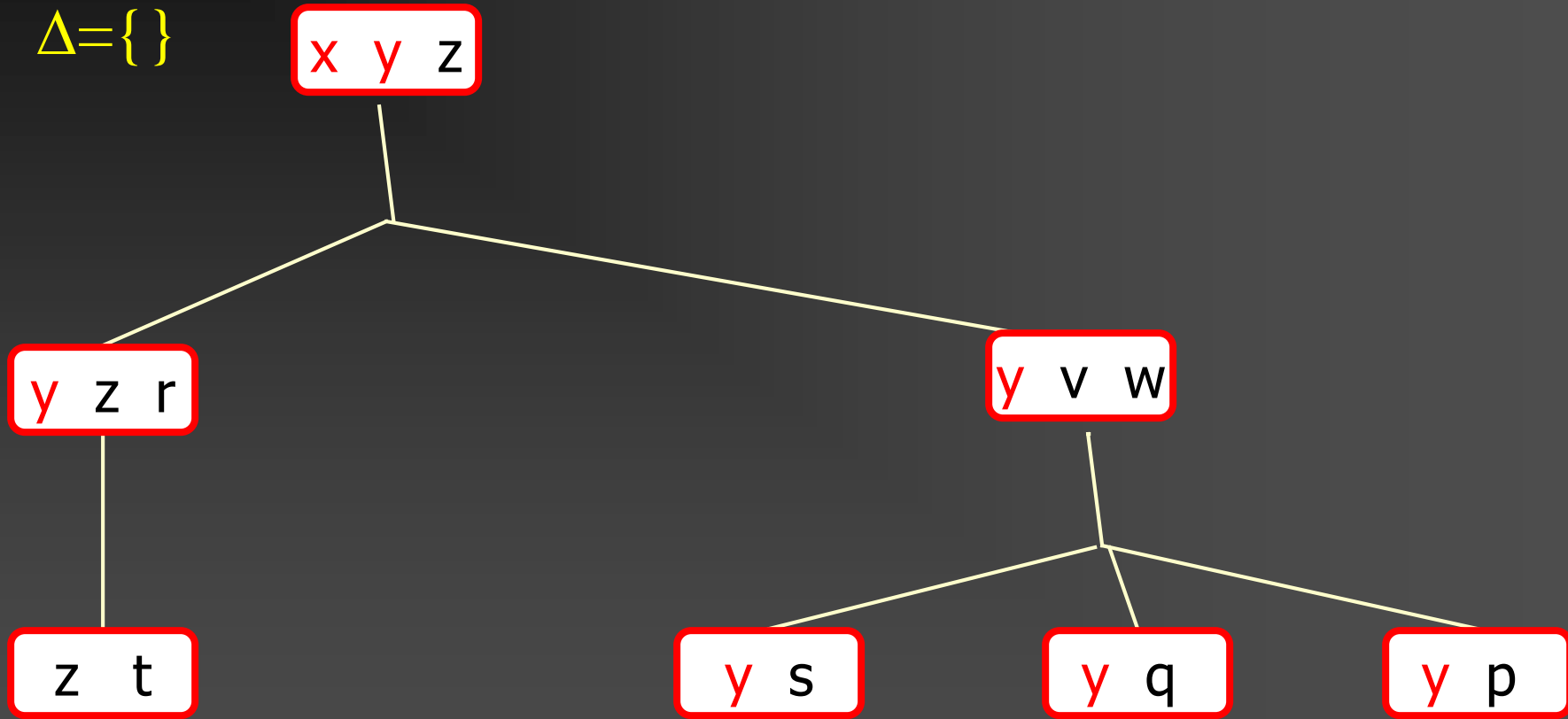


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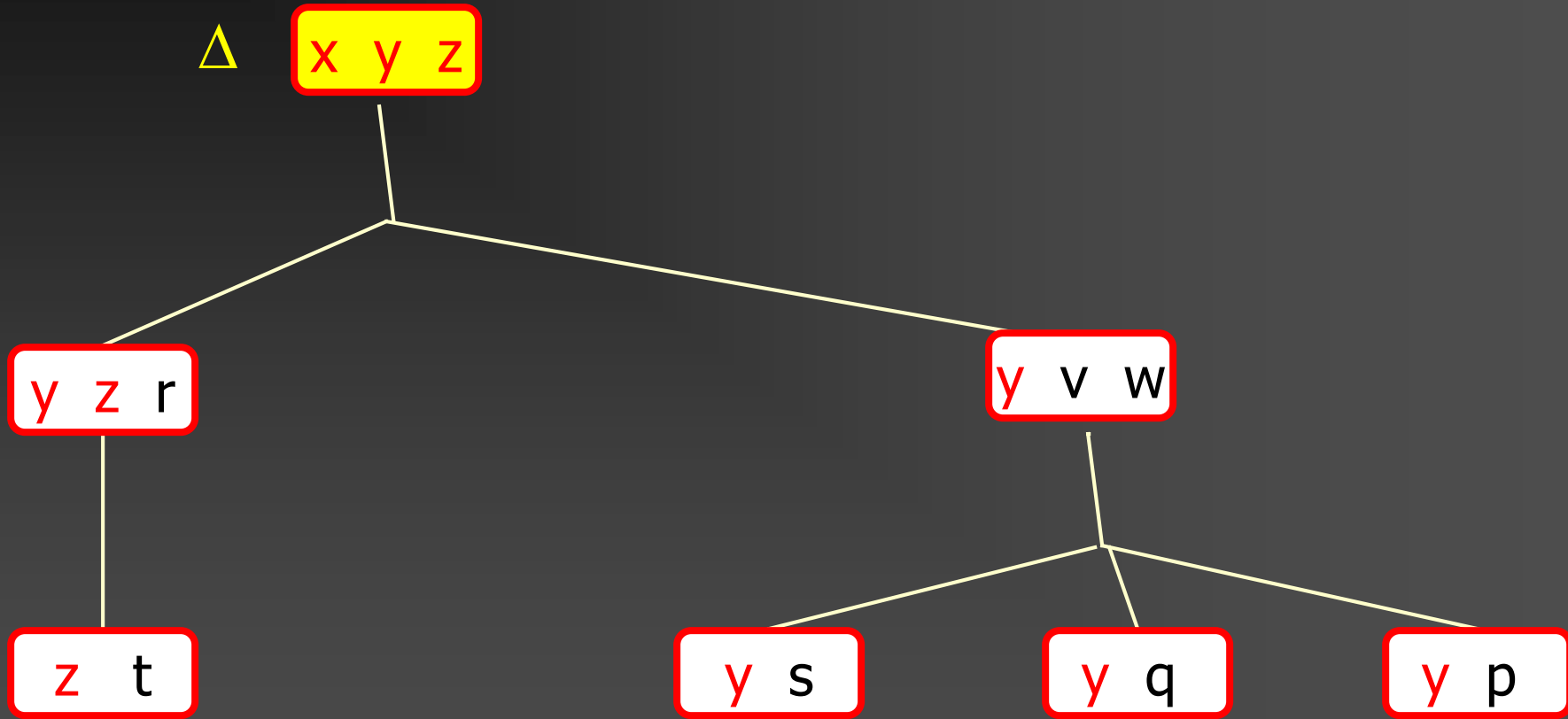
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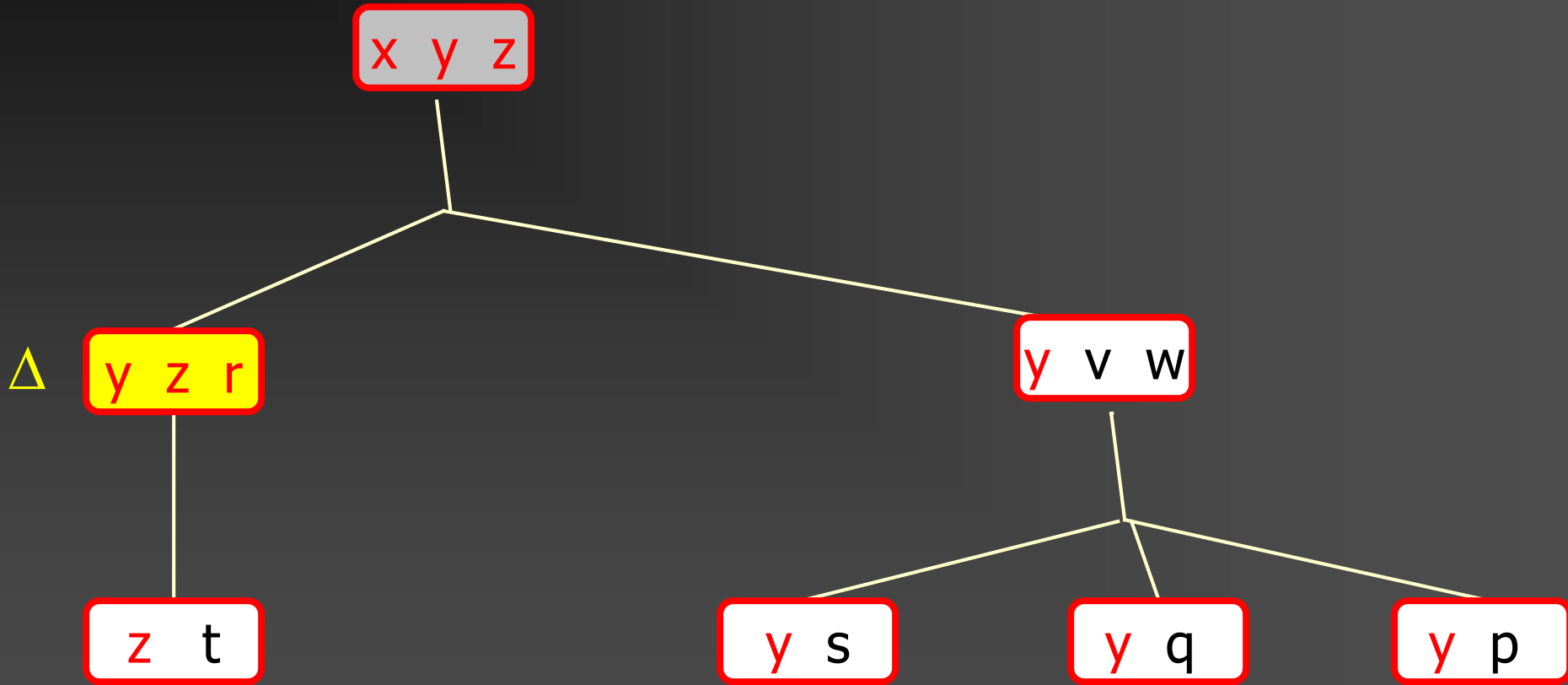
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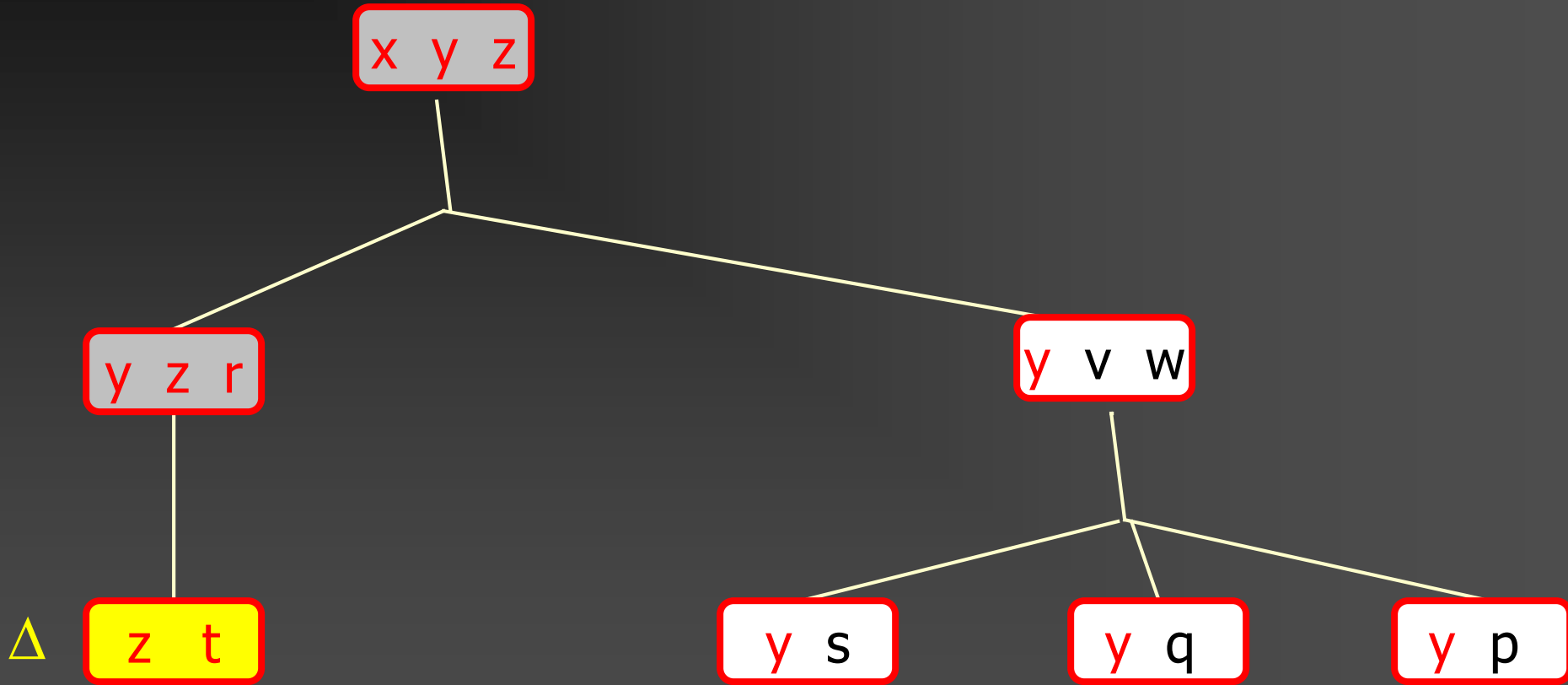
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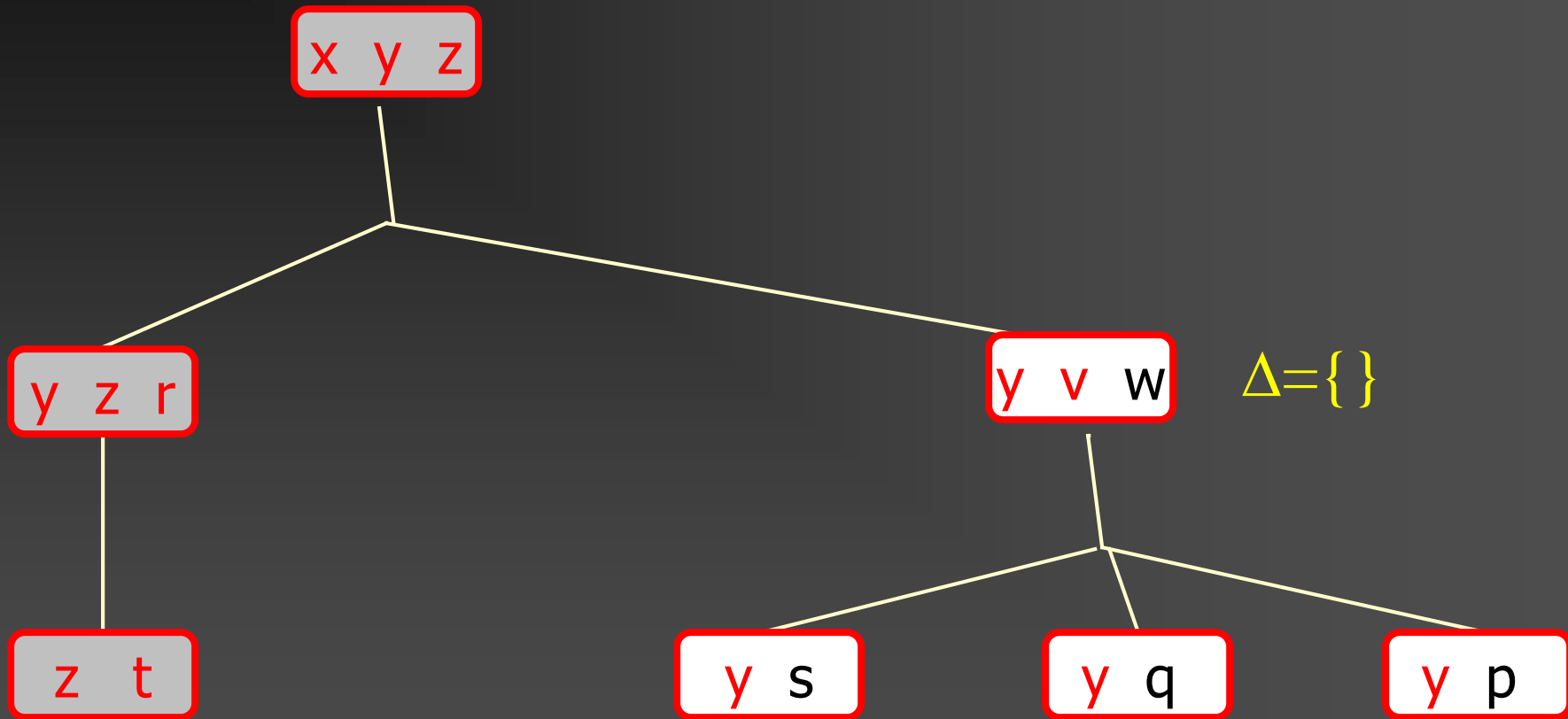
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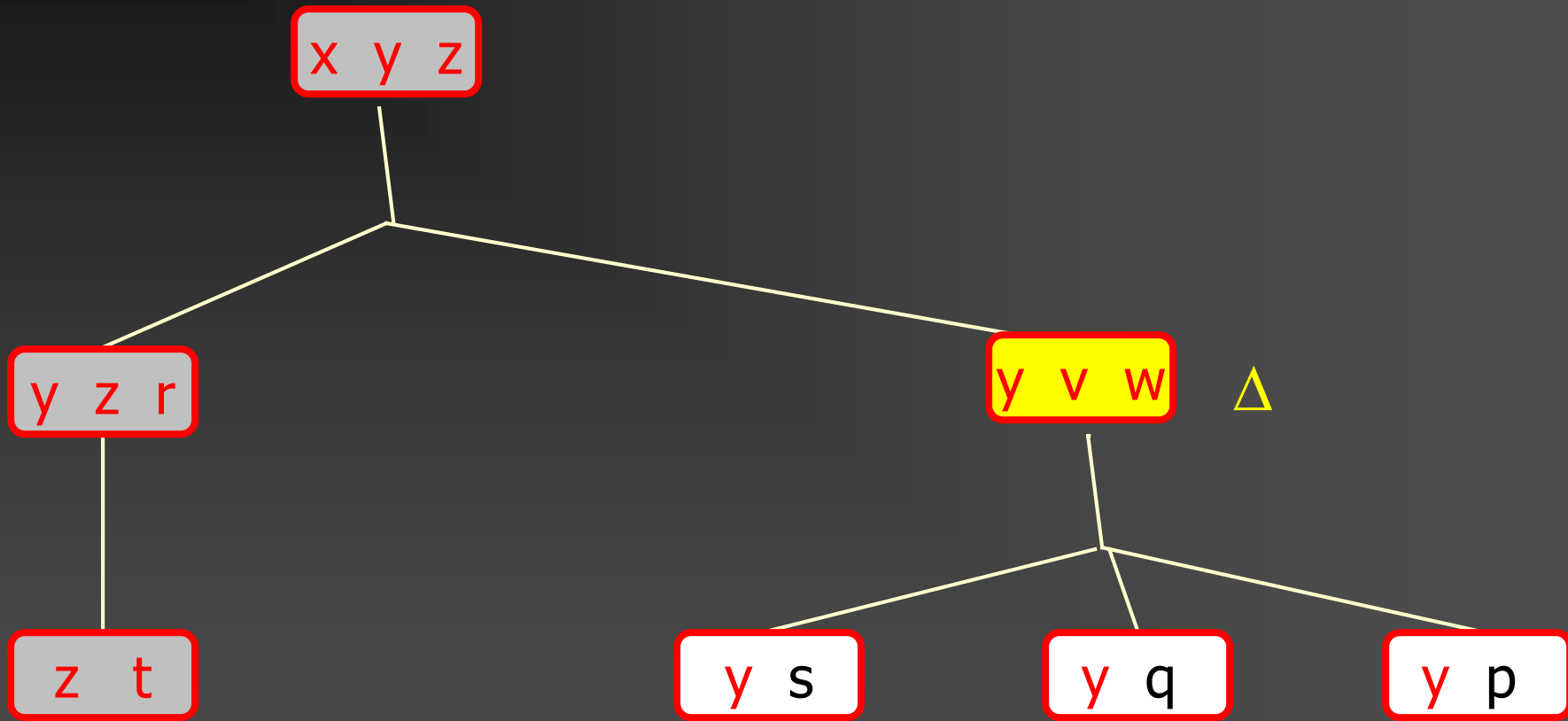


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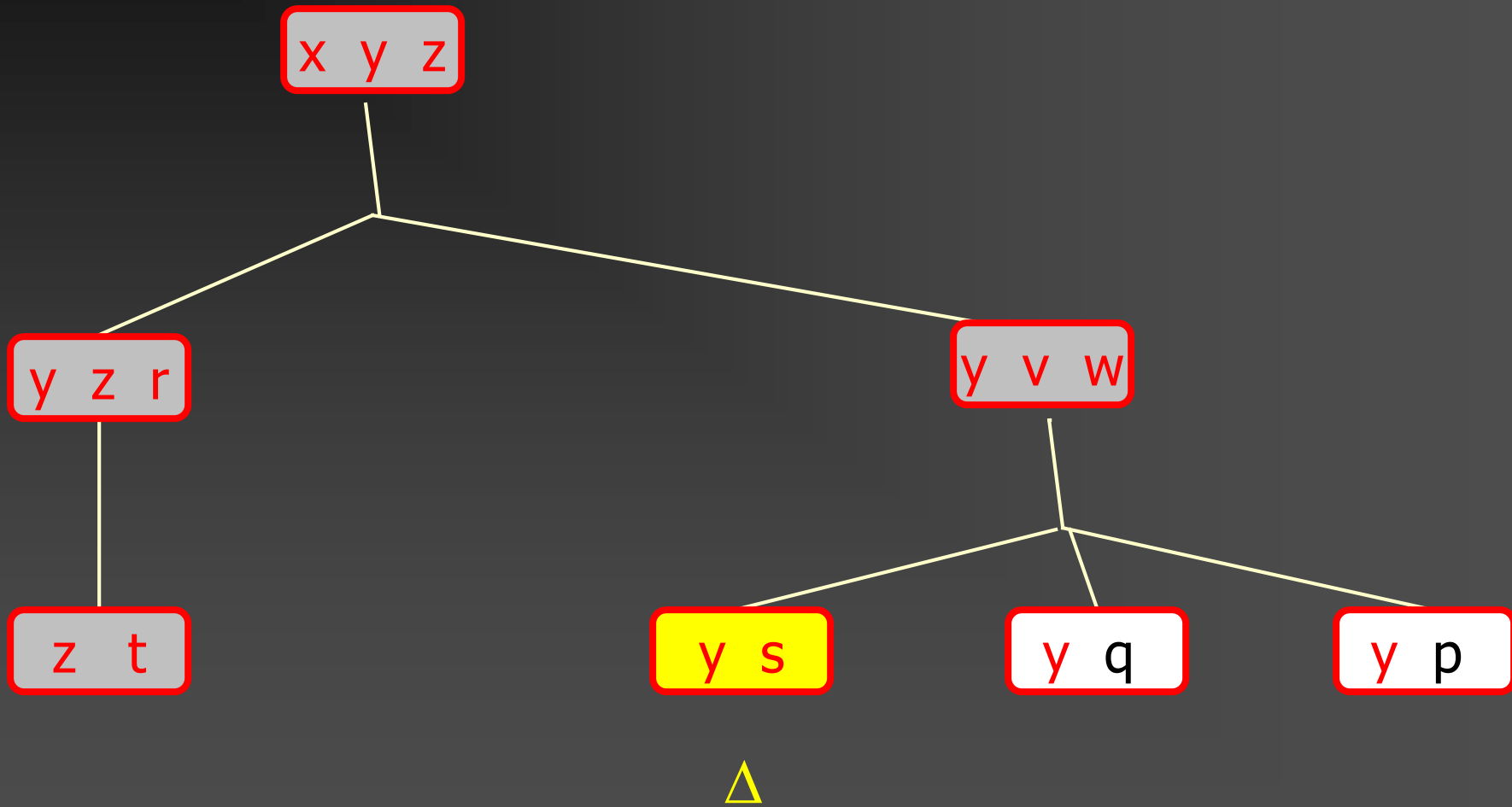




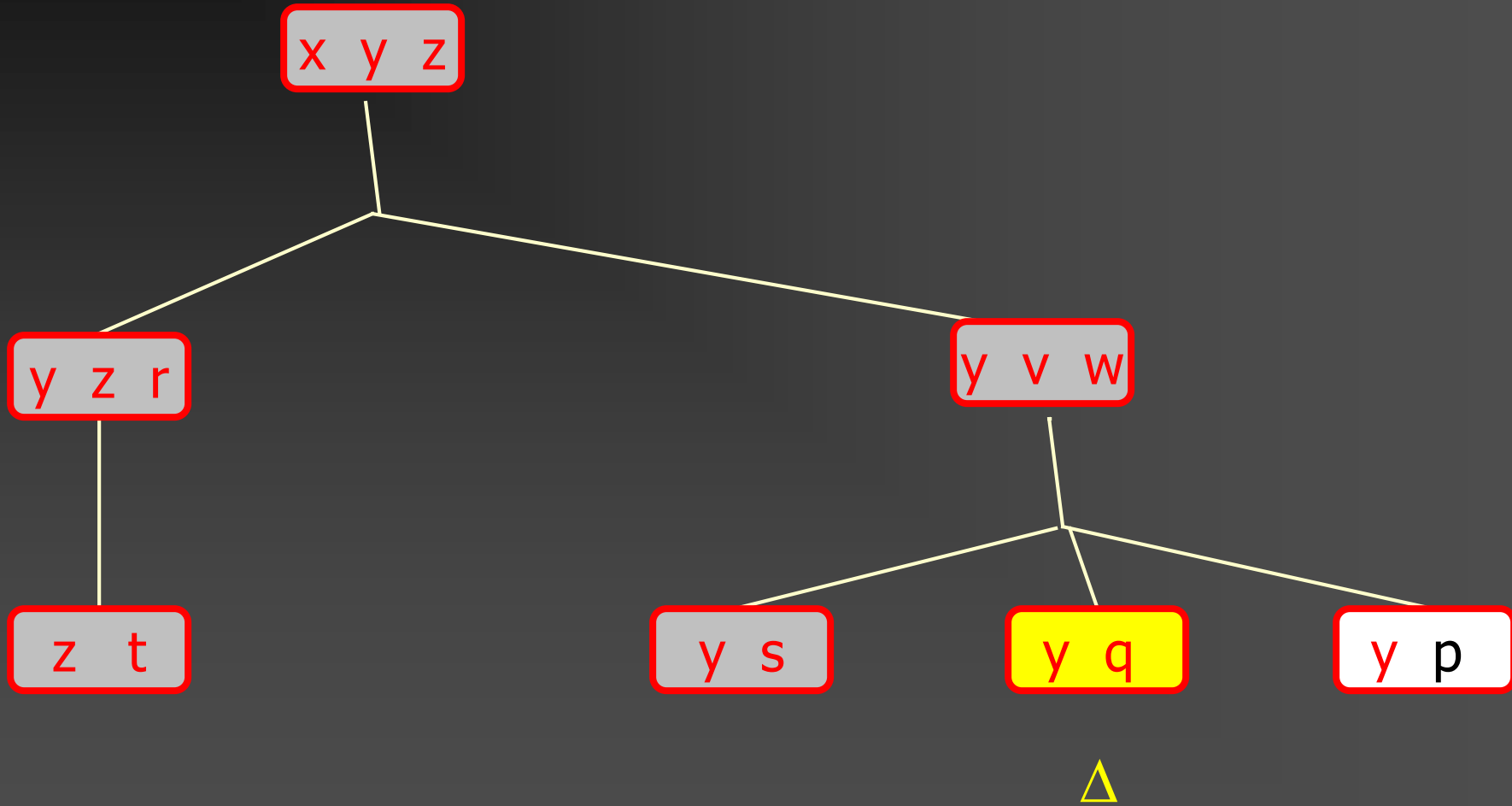
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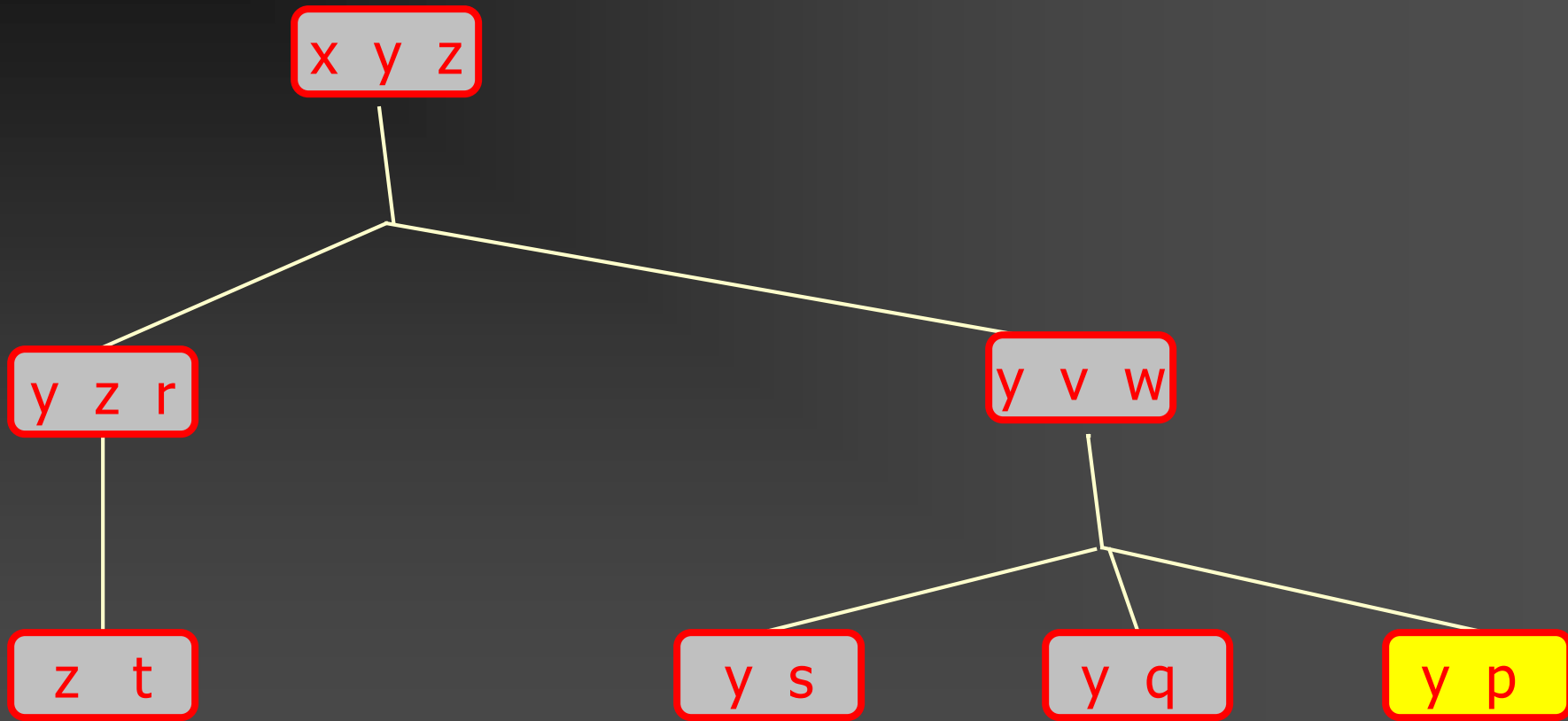
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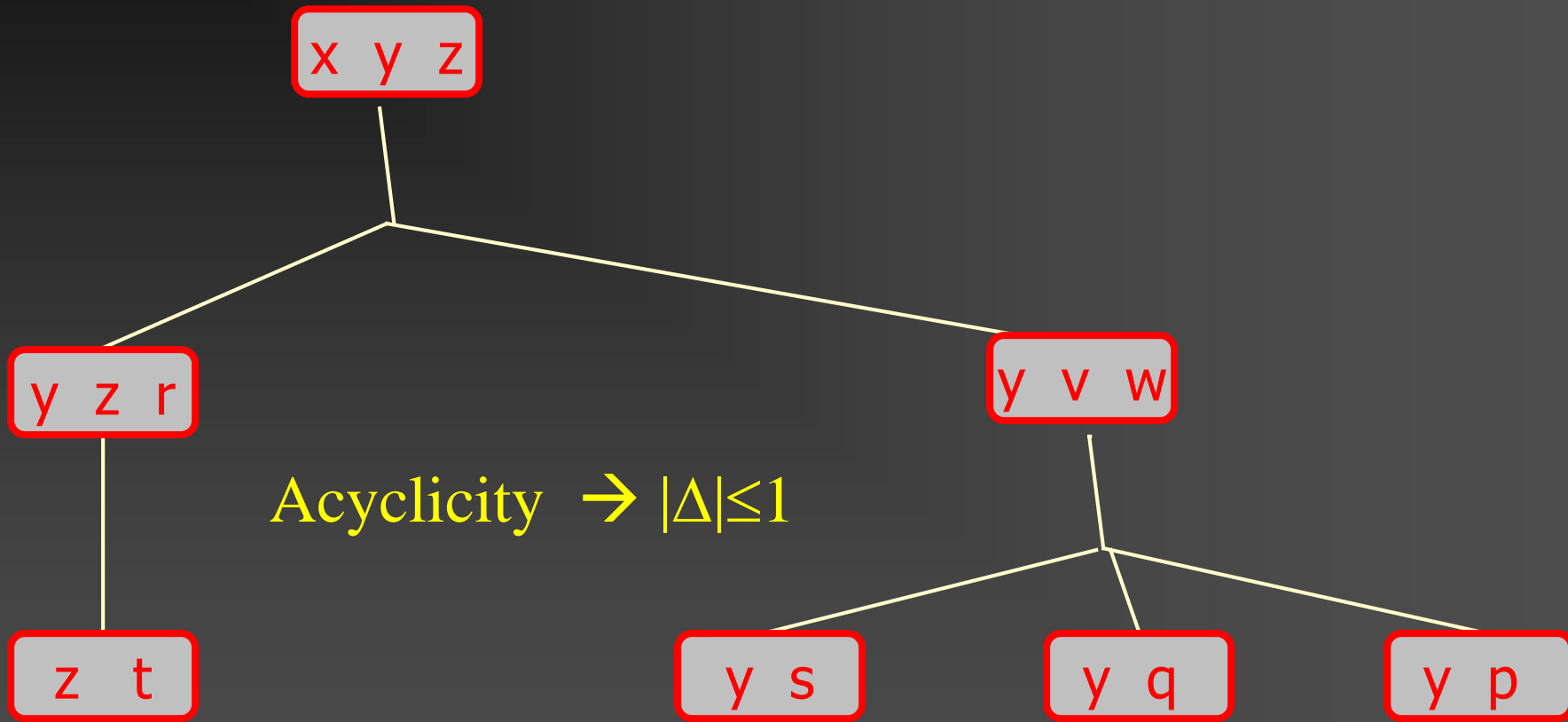
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# Acyclic hypergraph: Join Tree



Every acyclic (simple) hypergraph is 1-degenerate.

# Negative result: Hypertree width

[G., Leone, Scarcello 99]

Hypertreewidth 2  $\not\Rightarrow$  bounded degeneracy

**THEOREM:** TRANS-ENUM remains TRANS-ENUM-hard even if  $H$  has hypertreewidth 2.

Take an arbitrary hypergraph  $H$ :

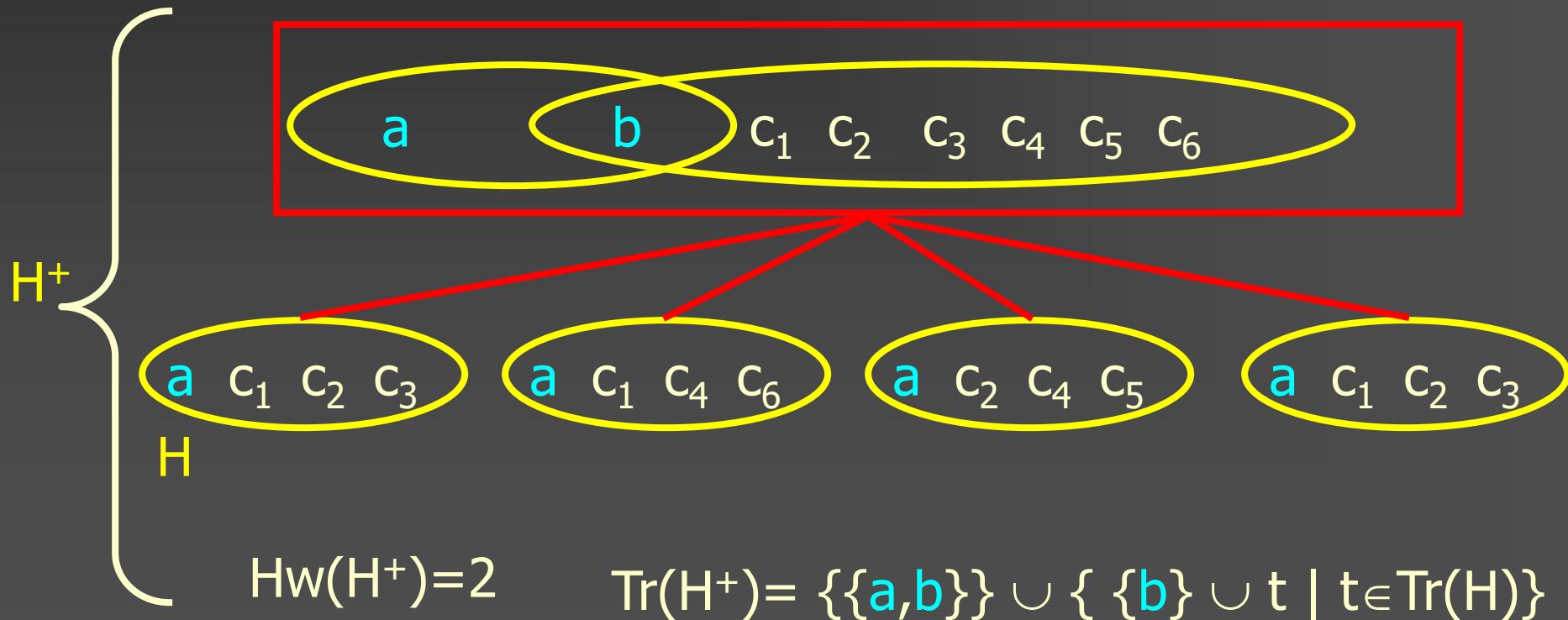


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TRANS-HYP in **DTIME**( $n^{\log n}$ ) [Fredman&Khachiyan 96]



# More Recent Complexity Results

## Structural: Upper bounds

in  $GC(\log^2 n, PTIME)$

{ [Eiter, G., Makino STOC'02 ]  
[Kavvadias, Stavropoulos. IPL 2003]

in  $LOG^2SPACE$

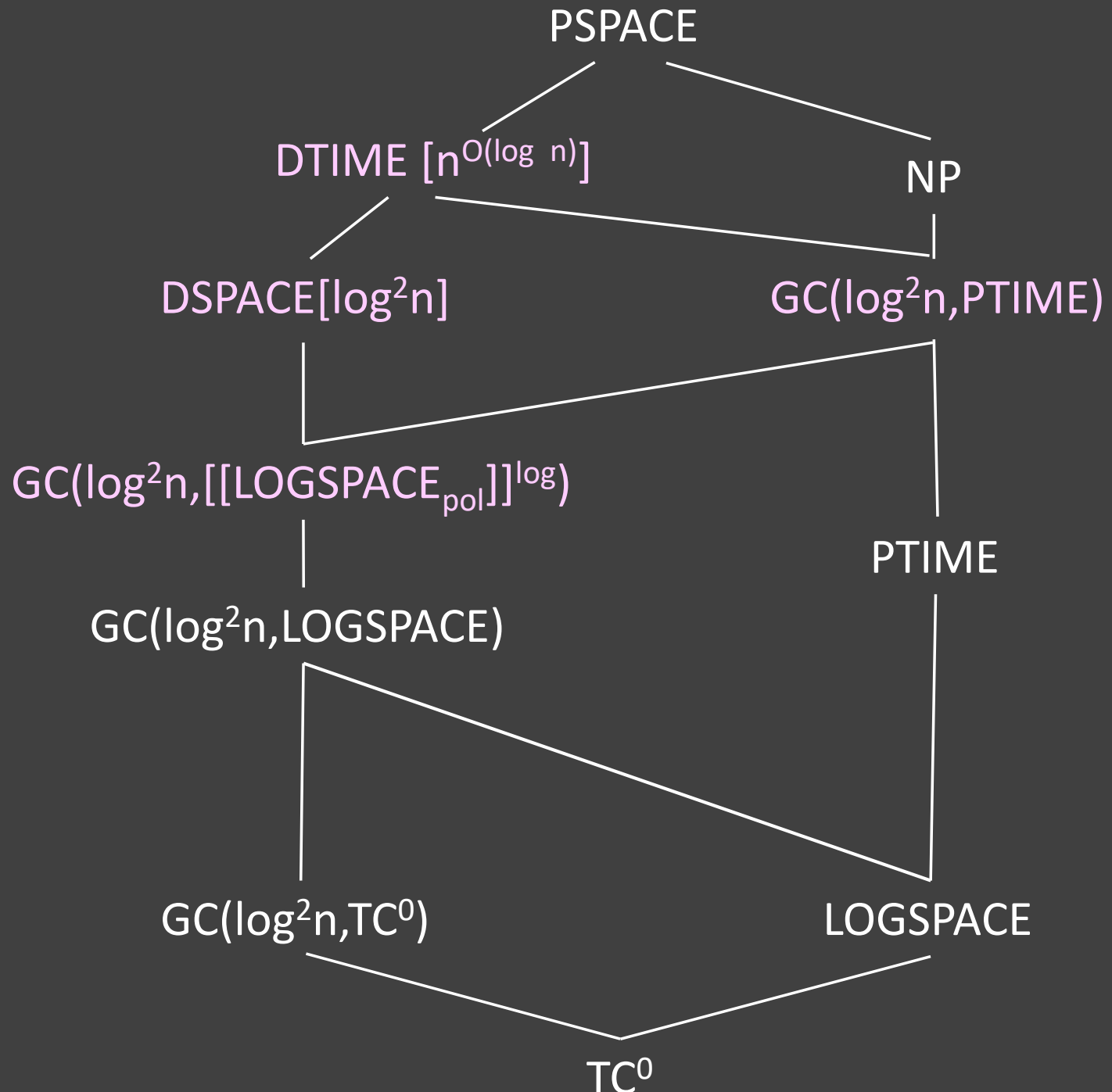
[G. PODS'13 ]

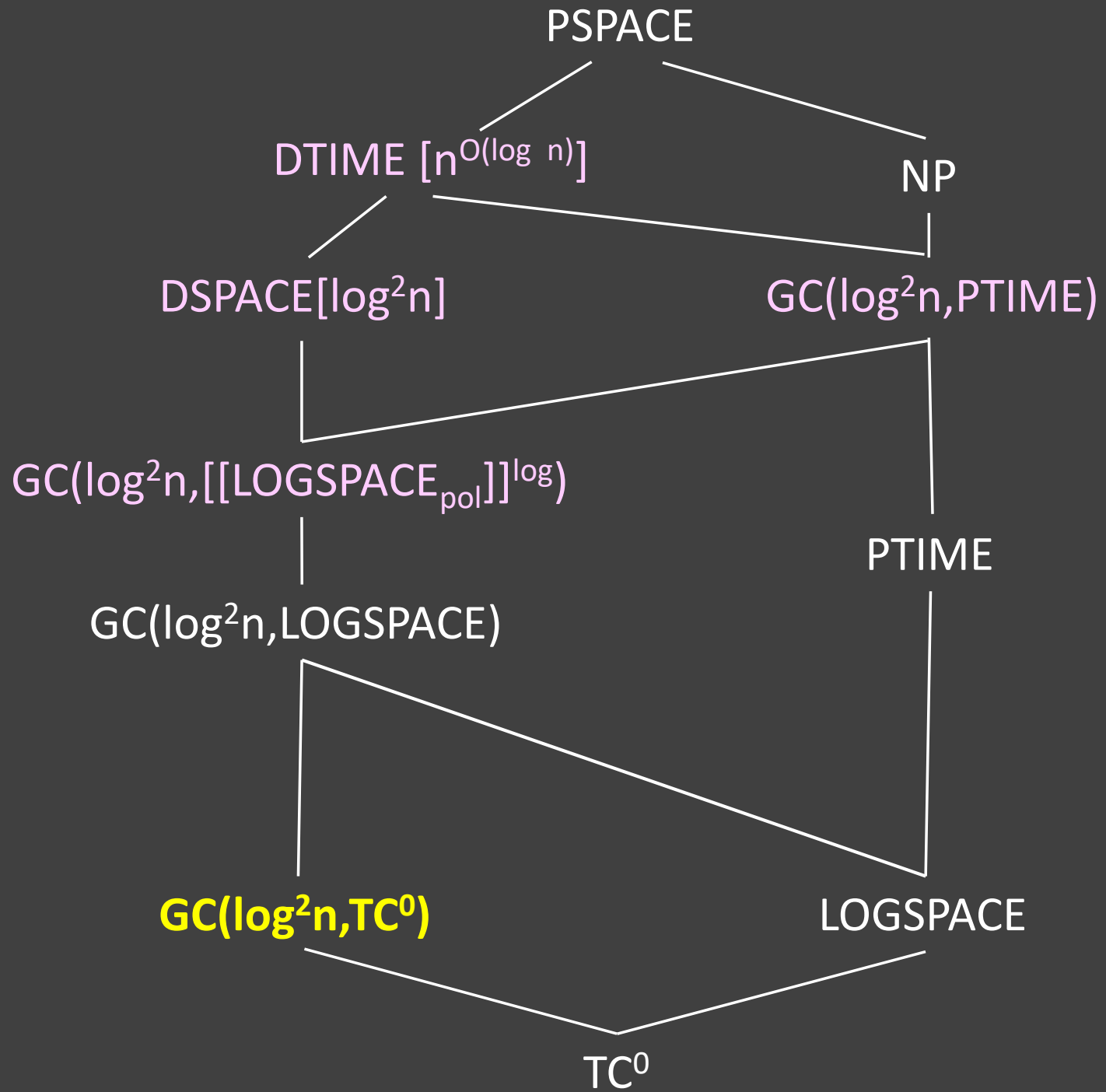
actually in  $LOG^2SPACE \cap GC(\log^2(n), PTIME)$

[G., Malizia LICS'14 ]

Main result:

**THEOREM:** co-TRANS-HYP is in  $GC(\log^2 n, TC^0)$





# The basic self-reduction

The basic recursion scheme.

Let  $G$  and  $H$  be two hypergraphs over vertex set  $V$ , then

$$\text{Tr}(G \cup H) = [\text{Tr}(G) \oplus \text{Tr}(H)]_{\min}$$

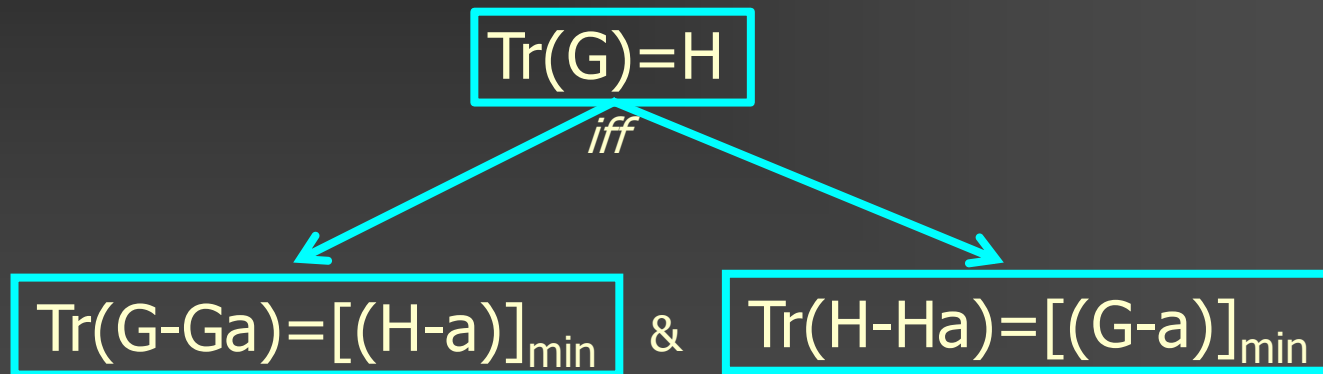
Let  $a \in V$ , then

$G_a :=$  hypergraph formed by all hyperedges of  $G$  that contain  $a$

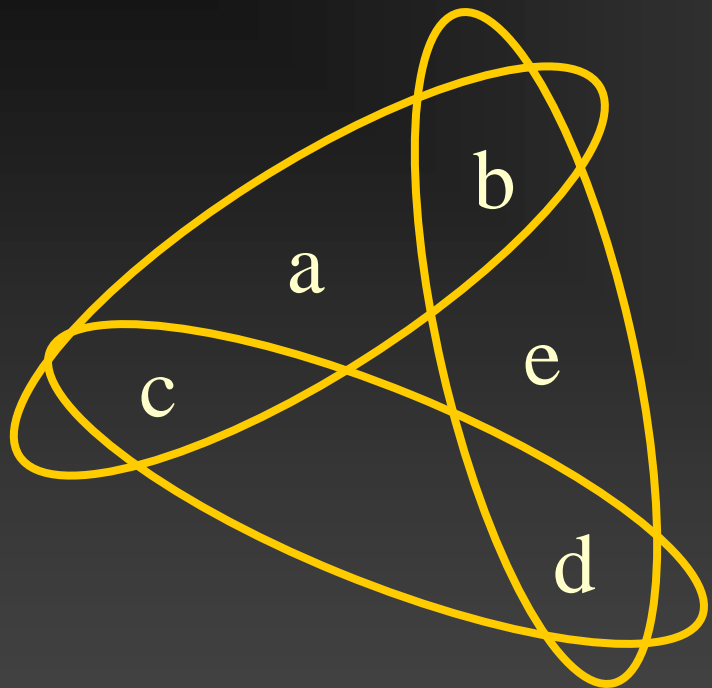
$G-a := \{ e-\{a\} \mid e \in \text{edges}(G) \}$

# The Basic Self-Reduction

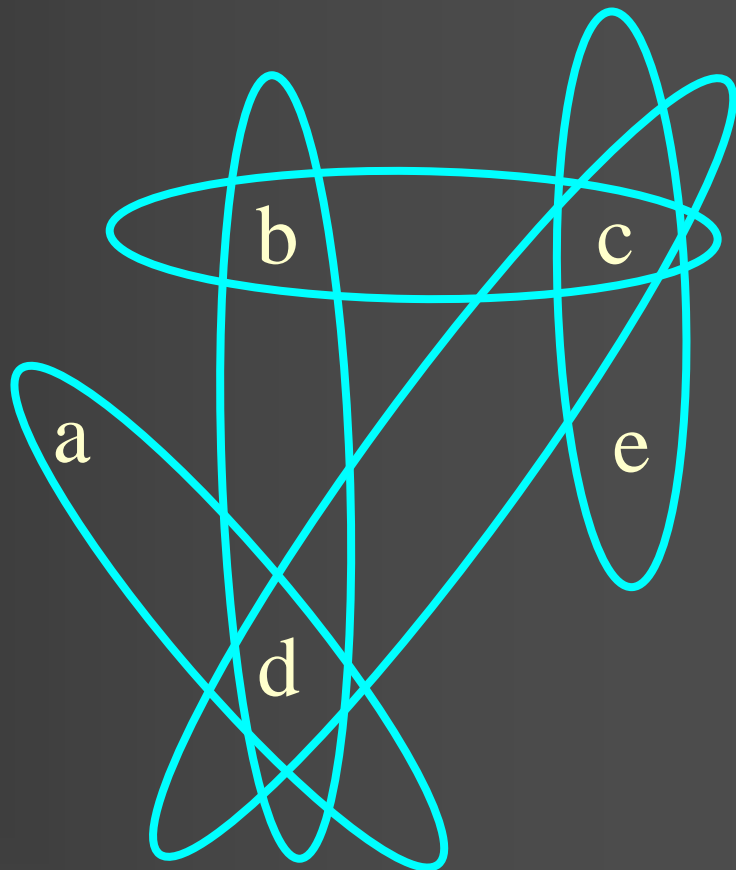
Let  $E, E'$  be sets of edges over vertex set  $V$ , and let  $a \in V$ .



*Davis-Putnam-like recursion scheme*

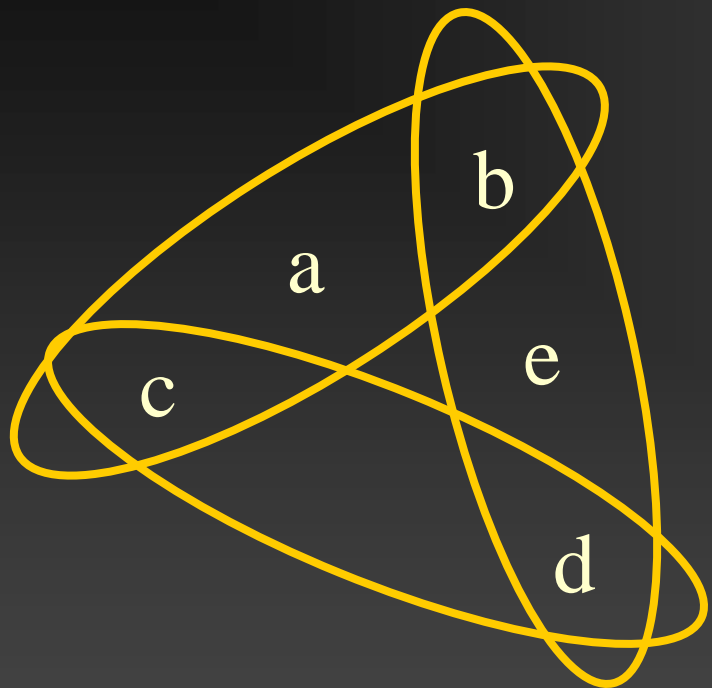


G

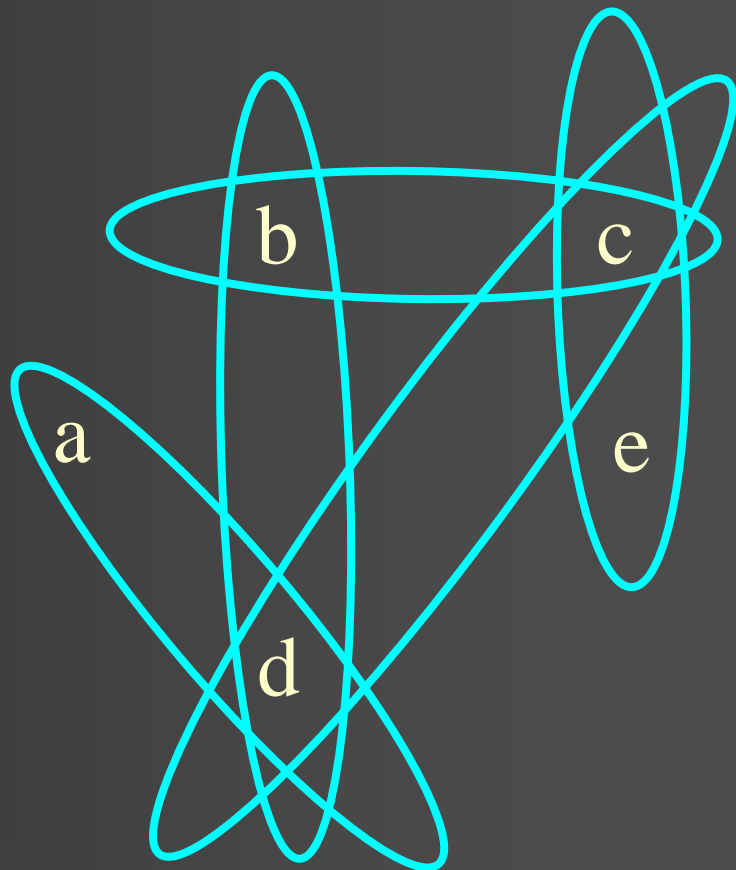


H

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (c \vee a \vee b) \wedge (b \vee e \vee d) \wedge (c \vee d) \wedge \\
 & (\neg c \vee \neg d) \wedge (\neg a \vee \neg d) \wedge (\neg b \vee \neg d) \wedge (\neg b \vee \neg c) \wedge (\neg c \vee \neg e)
 \end{aligned}$$



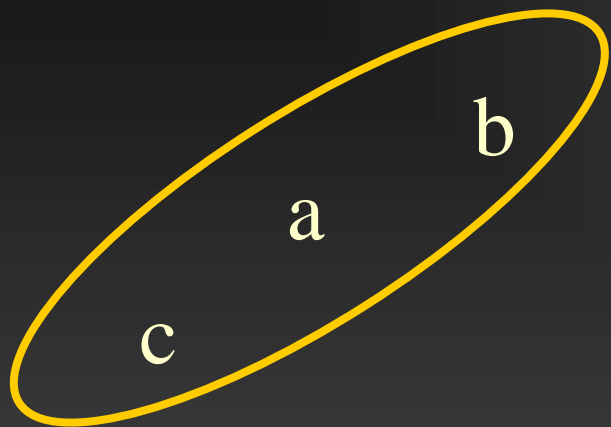
G



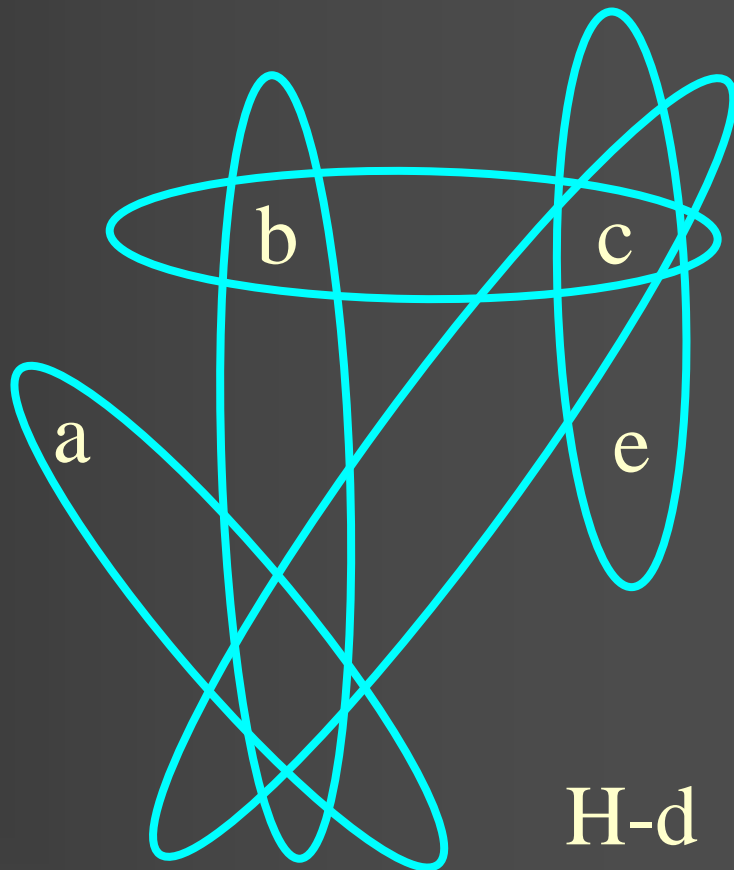
H

d=true

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (c \vee a \vee b) \wedge (b \vee e \vee d) \wedge (c \vee d) \wedge \\
 & (\neg c \vee \neg d) \wedge (\neg a \vee \neg d) \wedge (\neg b \vee \neg d) \wedge (\neg b \vee \neg c) \wedge (\neg c \vee \neg e)
 \end{aligned}$$



G-Gd



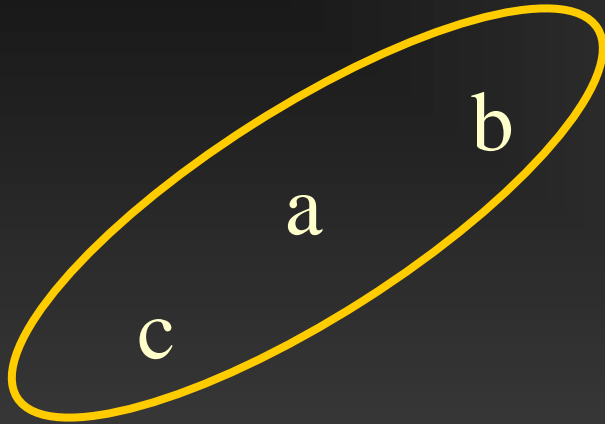
H-d

d=true

$(c \vee a \vee b) \wedge (\underline{b \vee e \vee d}) \wedge (\underline{c \vee d}) \wedge$

$(\neg c \vee \neg \underline{d}) \wedge (\neg a \vee \neg \underline{d}) \wedge (\neg b \vee \neg \underline{d}) \wedge (\neg b \vee \neg c) \wedge (\neg c \vee \neg e)$



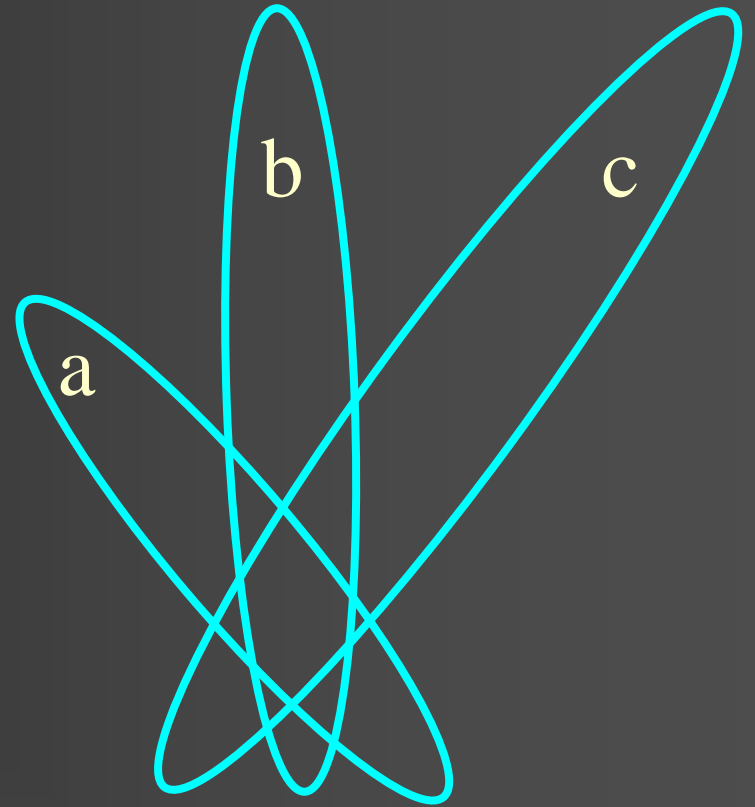


G-Gd

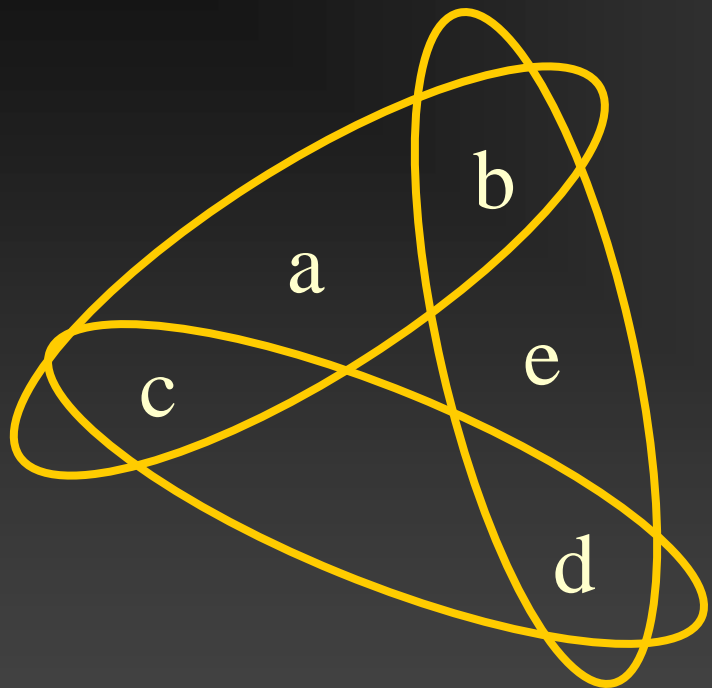
d=true

$$(c \vee a \vee b) \wedge (b \vee \cancel{c \vee d}) \wedge (\cancel{c \vee d}) \wedge$$

$$(\neg c \vee \neg \cancel{d}) \wedge (\neg a \vee \neg \cancel{d}) \wedge (\neg b \vee \neg \cancel{d}) \wedge (\neg \cancel{b \vee c}) \wedge (\neg \cancel{c \vee e})$$



[H-d]<sub>min</sub>

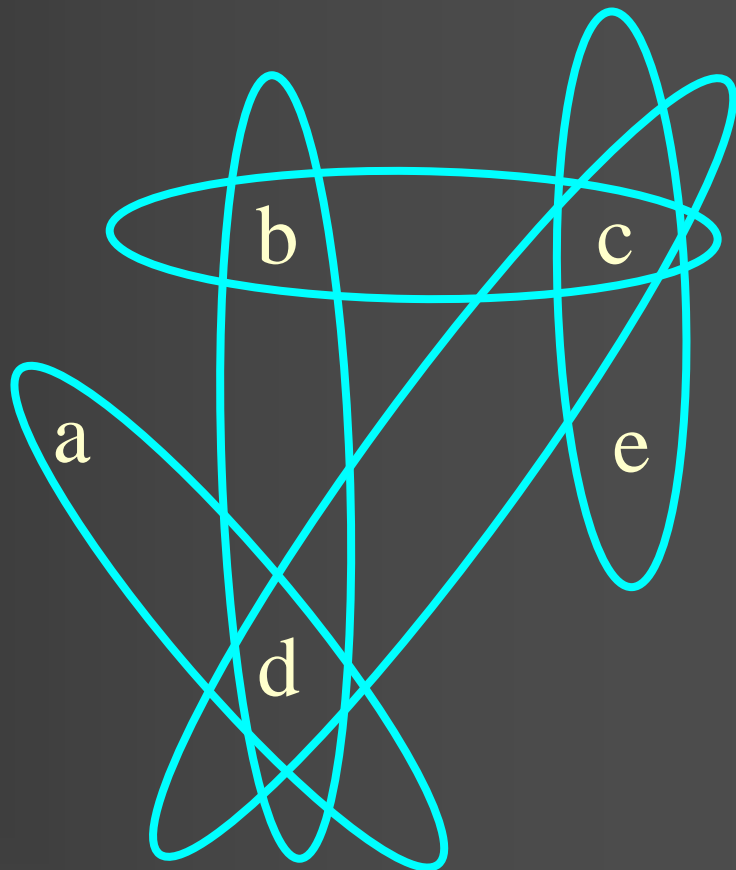


G

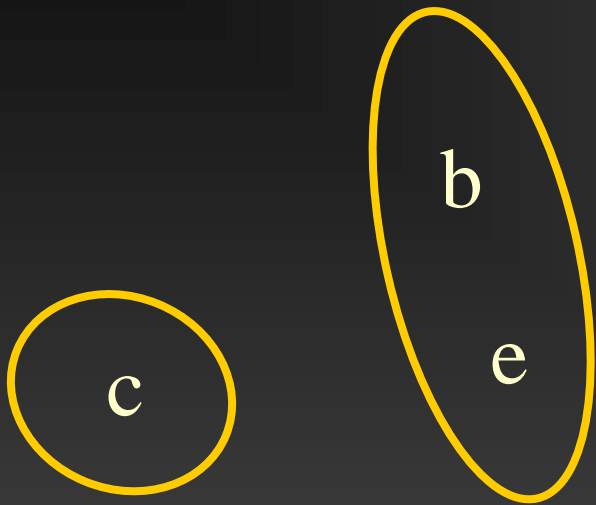
d=false

$$(c \vee a \vee b) \wedge (b \vee e \vee d) \wedge (c \vee d) \wedge$$

$$(\neg c \vee \neg d) \wedge (\neg a \vee \neg d) \wedge (\neg b \vee \neg d) \wedge (\neg b \vee \neg c) \wedge (\neg c \vee \neg e)$$



H

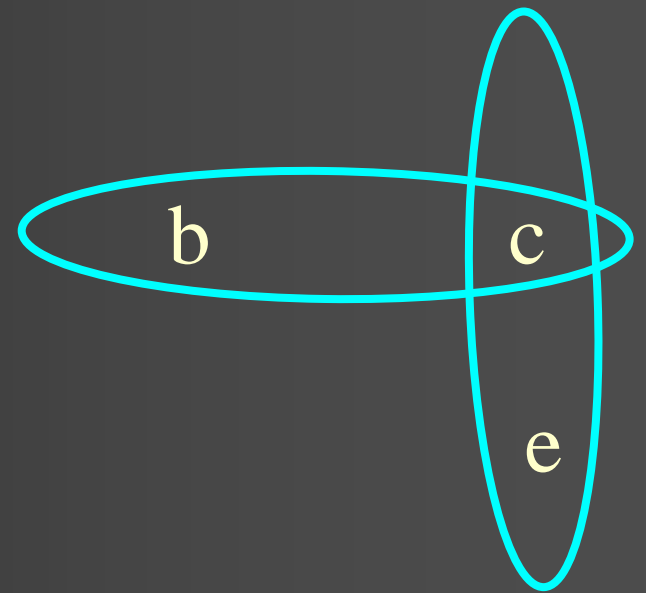


$[G-d]_{\min}$

$d = \text{false}$

$$(\mathbf{c} \vee \mathbf{a} \vee \mathbf{b}) \wedge (\mathbf{b} \vee \mathbf{e} \vee \mathbf{d}) \wedge (\mathbf{c} \vee \mathbf{d}) \wedge$$

$$(\neg \mathbf{c} \vee \neg \mathbf{d}) \wedge (\neg \mathbf{a} \vee \neg \mathbf{d}) \wedge (\neg \mathbf{b} \vee \neg \mathbf{d}) \wedge (\neg \mathbf{b} \vee \neg \mathbf{c}) \wedge (\neg \mathbf{c} \vee \neg \mathbf{e})$$



H-Hd

# Useful Facts and Notions:

**LEMMA** [Boros et al.]: Let  $G$  be a hypergraph and  $t$  a minimal transversal of  $G$ . For each  $v \in t$ , there exists an edge  $e$  of  $G$ , called *critical*, such that  $e \cap t = \{v\}$ .

We then also say that  $(v, e)$  is a *critical pair* wrt  $t$ .

Let  $(G, H)$  be a pair of hypergraphs where  $H \subseteq \text{tr}(G)$  and  $G \subseteq \text{tr}(H)$ .

Vertex  $v$  is *frequent* if it occurs in at least half of the edges of  $H$ .

Otherwise  $v$  is *infrequent*.

# Method for Constructing a New Transversal

Let  $(G,H)$  be a pair of hypergraphs over a vertex set  $V$ , where  $H \subseteq \text{tr}(G)$  and  $G \subseteq \text{tr}(H)$ .

Assume there exists a new minimal transversal  $t$  of  $G$ ,  $t \notin H$ .

Successively guess and construct *assignments*  $(IN,EX)$  such that at each step:  $IN \subseteq t$  and  $EX \subseteq V-t$

Initially,  $(IN,EX)=(\{\},\{\})$ , at the end  $(IN,EX)=(t,V-\{t\})$ , which can be easily verified.

We use three types of operations to extend  $(IN,EX)$ :

**INCLUSION, EXCLUSION, COMPLETION.**

After each INCLUSION/EXCLUSION step,  $(G,H)$  is reduced to a smaller instance according to the standard self-reduction.

# EXCLUSION OPERATION

Assume a current instance  $(G,H)$  and a current set  $(IN,EX)$ .

Guess a frequent vertex  $v$  such that  $v \notin t$ .

We will *exclude*  $v$  as follows

Perform:  $(IN,EX) := (IN, EX \cup \{v\})$  and

$$(G,H) := ([G-v]_{\min}, H - Hv)$$

# EXCLUSION OPERATION

Assume a current instance  $(G,H)$  and a current set  $(IN,EX)$ .

Choose a frequent vertex  $v$  to be excluded from  $t$ .

We will *exclude*  $v$  as follows

Perform:  $(IN,EX):=(IN,EX\cup\{v\})$  and

$$(G,H) := ([G-v]_{\min}, H-Hv)$$

*Because  $v$  is frequent, at least half of the edges of  $H$  disappear*



# INCLUSION OPERATION

Assume a current instance  $(G,H)$  and a current set  $(IN,EX)$ .

Guess an infrequent vertex  $v$  to be included in  $t$ .

Choose  $e$  such that  $(v,e)$  is a critical pair.

Include  $v$  and exclude all nodes in  $e-\{v\}$  as they are not in  $t$ .

Perform:  $(IN,EX):=(IN\cup\{v\},EX\cup(e-\{v\}))$  and

$$(G,H) := ([ (G-Gv)-e ]_{\min} , [ (H-H_{e-\{v\}}) -v ]_{\min} )$$



# INCLUSION OPERATION

Assume a current instance  $(G,H)$  and a current set  $(IN,EX)$ .

Guess an infrequent vertex  $v$  such that  $v \in t$ .

Choose  $e$  such that  $(v,e)$  is a critical pair.

Include  $v$  and exclude all nodes in  $e - \{v\}$  as they are not in  $t$ .

Perform:  $(IN,EX) := (IN \cup \{v\}, EX \cup (e - \{v\}))$  and

$$(G,H) := ([ (G - Gv) - e ]_{\min}, [ (H - H_{e - \{v\}}) - v ]_{\min} )$$

*At least half of the edges of  $H$  disappear: given that  $v$  is infrequent,  $e - \{v\}$  intersects more than half of  $H$ 's edges.*

# COMPLETION OPERATION

Assume a current instance  $(G,H)$  and a current set  $(IN,EX)$ .

Assume we have done a sequence of insertion and deletion operations and guess that no further such operation is possible.

$\Rightarrow$  There is thus no frequent vertex in  $V-\{t\}$  and no infrequent vertex in  $\{t\}$  left.

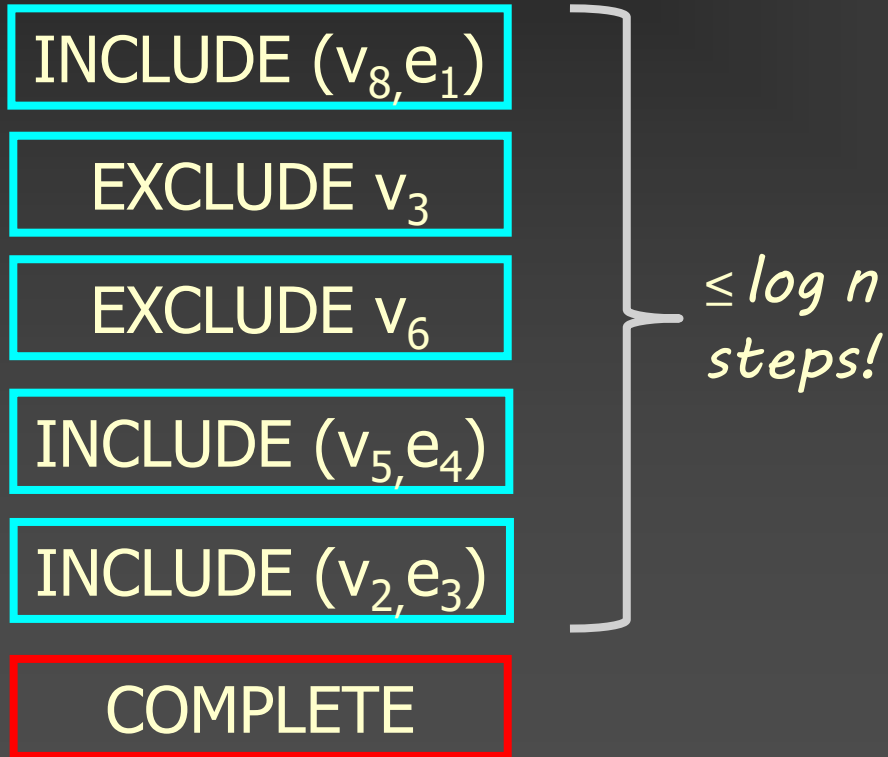
$\Rightarrow$  All remaining frequent vertices are in  $t$  and all remaining infrequent vertices are in  $V-\{t\}$ .

Let  $Freq$  and  $Infr$  denote the frequent/infrequent vertices

PERFORM  $(IN,EX):= (IN\cup Freq, EX\cup Infr) = (t, V-\{t\})$

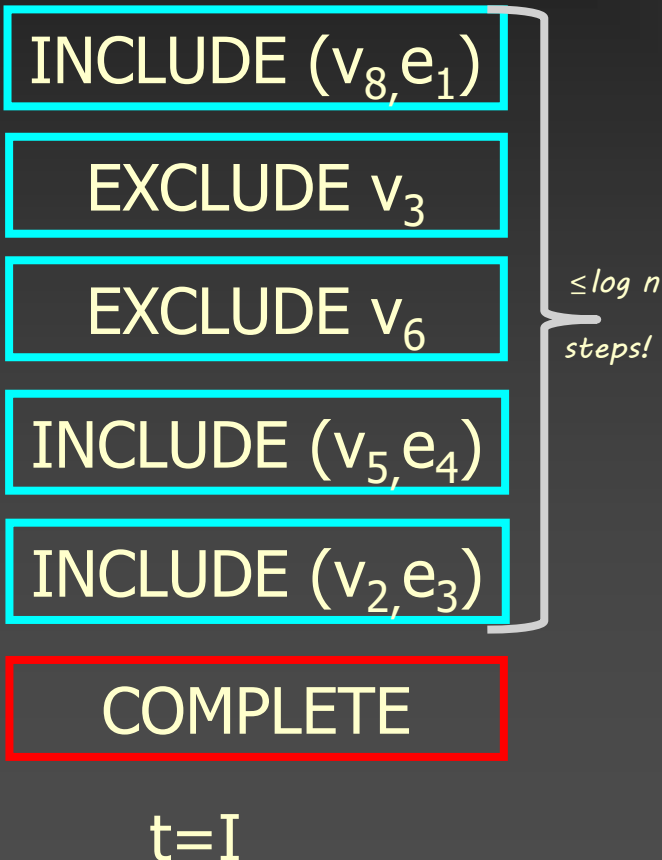
# WITNESSING A NEW TRANSVERSAL

Every new minimal transversal can be witnessed as follows



t=IN

# New Nondeterministic Algorithm



## Nondeterministic Algorithm GUESSTRANS

1. Guess all INCLUDE/EXCLUDE steps simultaneously in form of a pair of relations  $(I^2, E^1)$  having  $\leq \log n$  tuples in total.
2. Compute reduced Hypergraph  $(G^*, H^*)$  at once.
3.  $(I, E) := \text{COMPLETION}(I, E)$
4. Check that  $I$  is indeed a new transversal of  $G$ :
  - (a)  $I$  intersects every edge of  $G$
  - (b)  $I$  does not cover any edge of  $H$
5. If so, output  $I$ .

# Logical Analysis of GUESSTRANS

1. Guess all INCLUDE/EXCLUDE steps simultaneously in form of a pair of relations  $(I^2, E^1)$  having  $\leq \log n$  tuples in total.

$$(\exists^{\leq \log n} I) (\exists^{\leq \log n} E) \phi_{\text{check}}(H, G, I, E)$$

2. Compute reduced Hypergraph  $(G^*, H^*)$  at once.

$$(G^*, H^*) := ( [(G - G_I) - E]_{\min}, [(H - H_E) - I]_{\min} ) \quad \textit{Relational algebra, thus in FO}$$

3.  $(I, E) := \text{COMPLETION}(I, E)$

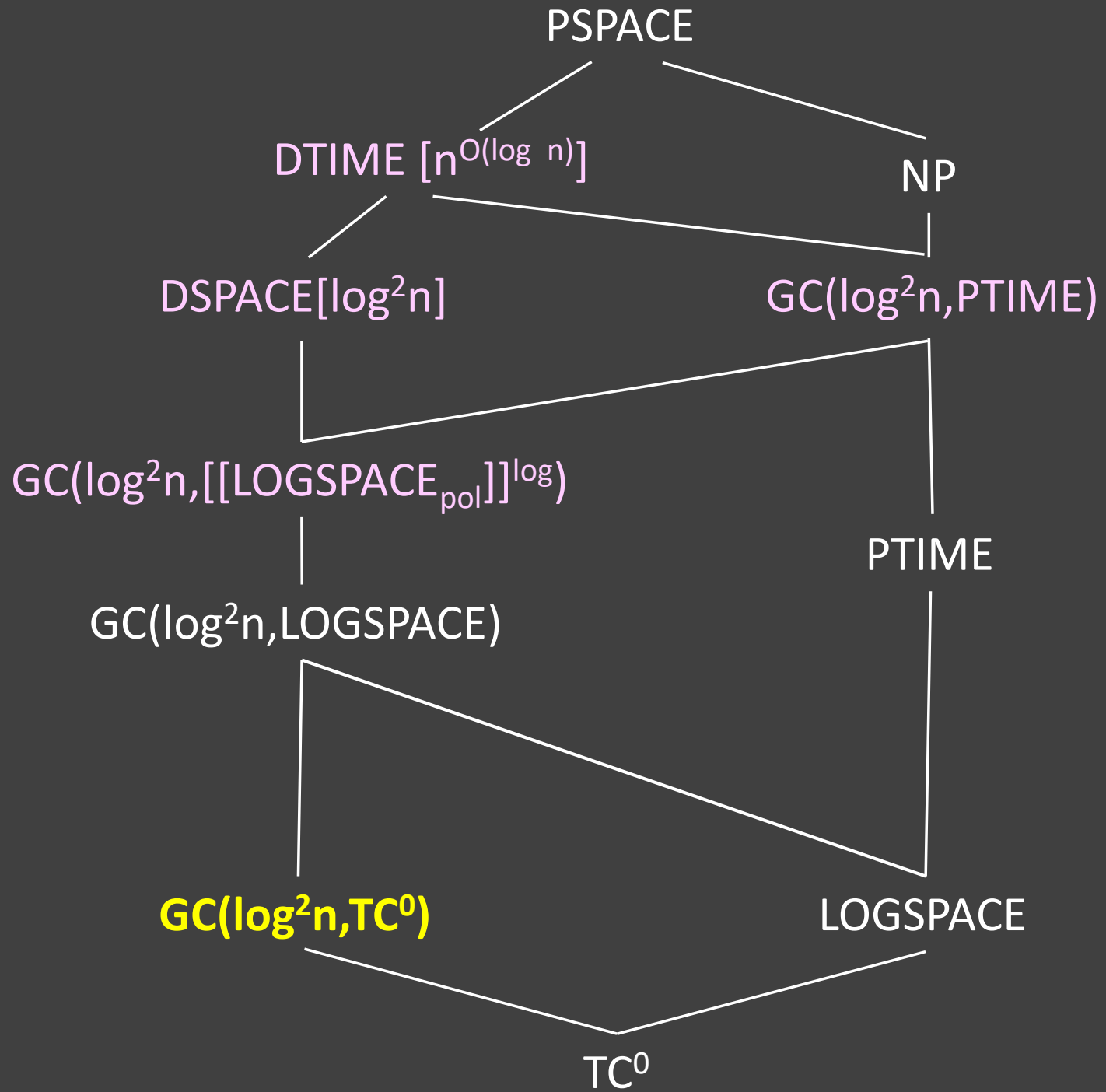
$$(IN, EX) := (IN \cup \text{Freq}, EX \cup \text{Infreq}) \quad \textit{Clearly in FO[COUNT]}$$

4. Check that  $I$  is indeed a new transversal of  $G$ :

(a)  $I$  intersects every edge of  $G$ ; (b)  $I$  does not cover any edge of  $H$ .

*Clearly in FO*

*Summary: Overall problem can be solved in  $\exists^{\leq \log n} (\text{FO[COUNT]})$*



# Conclusion

- New bound for TRANS-HYP
- New structural bound  $\rightarrow$  indications where to dig further
- Evidence that transversal might not be LOGSPACE-hard
- STILL OPEN: TRANS-HYP  $\in$  PTIME ?

co-TRANS-HYP  $\in$  GC( $\log^2 n$ , FO) ?

- Practical usefulness?

We have a very simple guess-and-check algorithm ( $\rightarrow$  SICOMP paper); adding smart pruning and selection heuristics may be rewarding.