

SAT-Based Invariant Inference and Its Relation to Concept Learning

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Supervised Verification of Infinite-State Systems



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Neil Immerman



Mooly Sagiv



CERTORA



James R. Wilcox



SAT-Based Invariant Inference

- predicate abstraction
[CAV'97, POPL'02]
- symbolic abstraction
[VMCAI'04,'16]
- interpolation
[CAV'03, TACAS'06]
- IC3/PDR
[VMCAI'11, FMCAD'11]
- abduction
[OOPSLA'13]
- SyGuS
[FMCAD'13,...]
- ICE learning
[CAV'14, POPL'15]
- ...

Why do they succeed?

Why do they fail?

(How can we make them
better?)

Goal

Understand SAT-based invariant inference
from the perspective of exact learning with queries

[POPL'20] Complexity and information in invariant inference. Feldman, Immerman, Sagiv, Shoham

[POPL'21] Learning the boundary of inductive invariants. Feldman, Sagiv, Shoham, Wilcox

[POPL'22] Property-directed reachability as abstract interpretation in the monotone theory. Feldman, Sagiv, Shoham, Wilcox

[SAS'22] Invariant Inference With Provable Complexity From the Monotone Theory. Feldman, Shoham

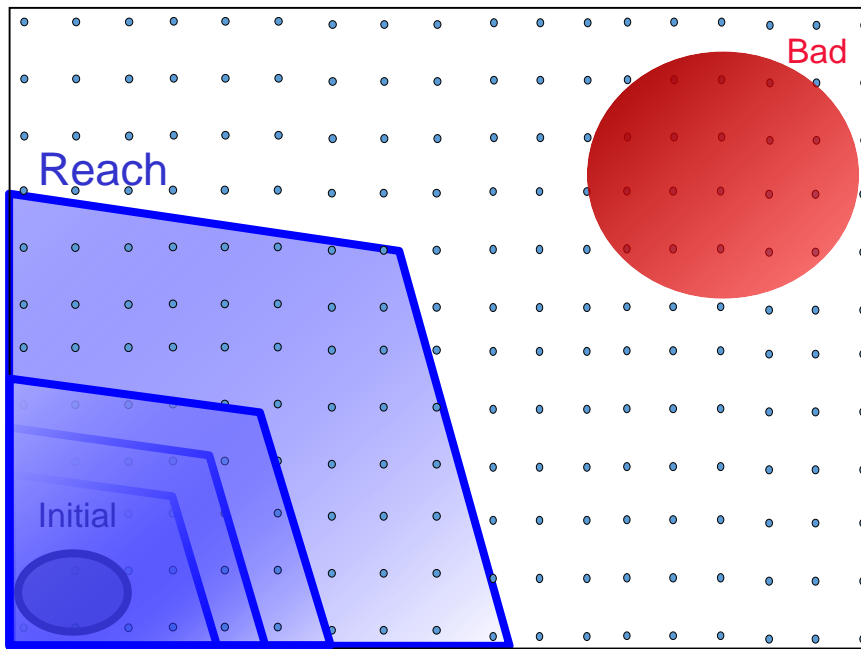
Safety of Transition Systems

(Un)reachability problem: no bad state is reachable from the initial states

$$\underline{\text{Init:}} \\ (x_1, \dots, x_n) := 0 \dots 0$$

$$\underline{\text{Bad:}} \\ (x_1, \dots, x_n) = 1 \dots 1$$

$$\underline{\delta:} \\ y_1, \dots, y_n := * \\ x_1, \dots, x_n := (x_1, \dots, x_n) + \\ 2 \cdot (y_1, \dots, y_n) \pmod{2^n}$$



Inductive Invariants

(Un)reachability problem: no bad state is reachable from the initial states

Init:

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) := 0 \dots 0$$

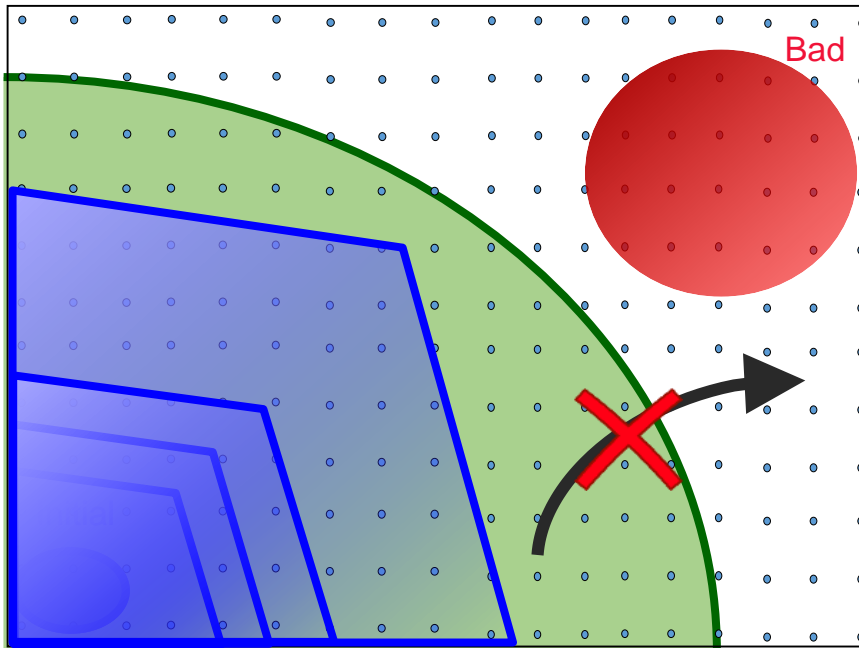
Bad:

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δ :

$$y_1, \dots, y_n := *$$

$$x_1, \dots, x_n := (x_1, \dots, x_n) + 2 \cdot (y_1, \dots, y_n) \pmod{2^n}$$



Initiation: $\text{Init} \subseteq I$

Safety: $I \cap \text{Bad} = \emptyset$

Consecution: $\{I\} \delta \{I\}$

Inductive Invariants

(Un)reachability problem: no bad state is reachable from the initial states

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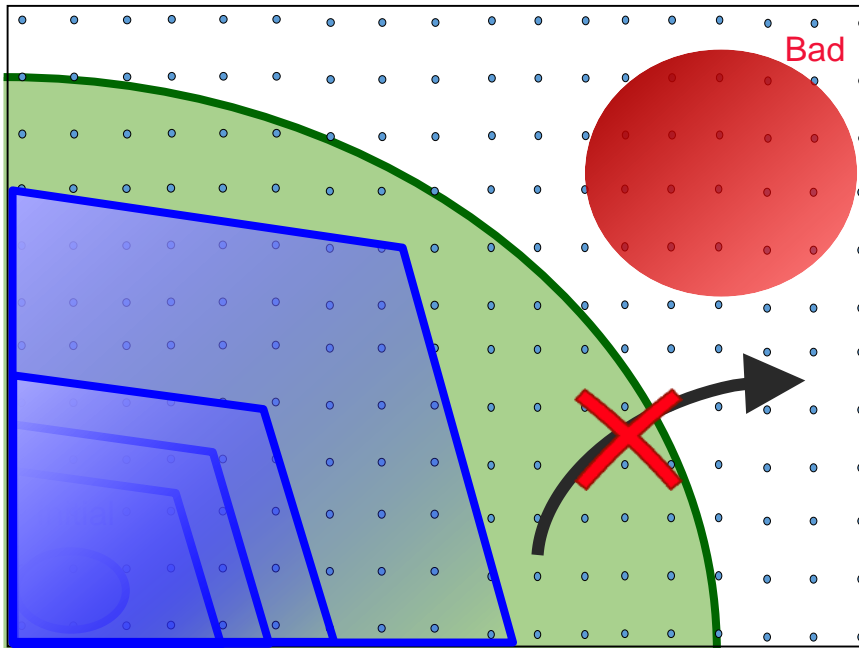
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δ :

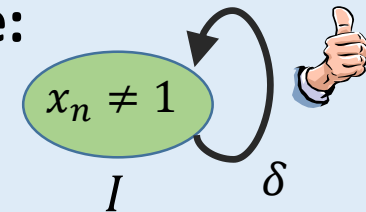
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$$x_1, \dots, x_n := (x_1, \dots, x_n) + 2 \cdot (y_1, \dots, y_n) \pmod{2^n}$$



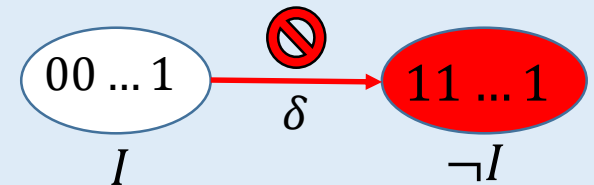
$$I: x_n \neq 1$$

Inductive:



$$I: (x_1, \dots, x_n) \neq 1 \dots 1$$

Not inductive:

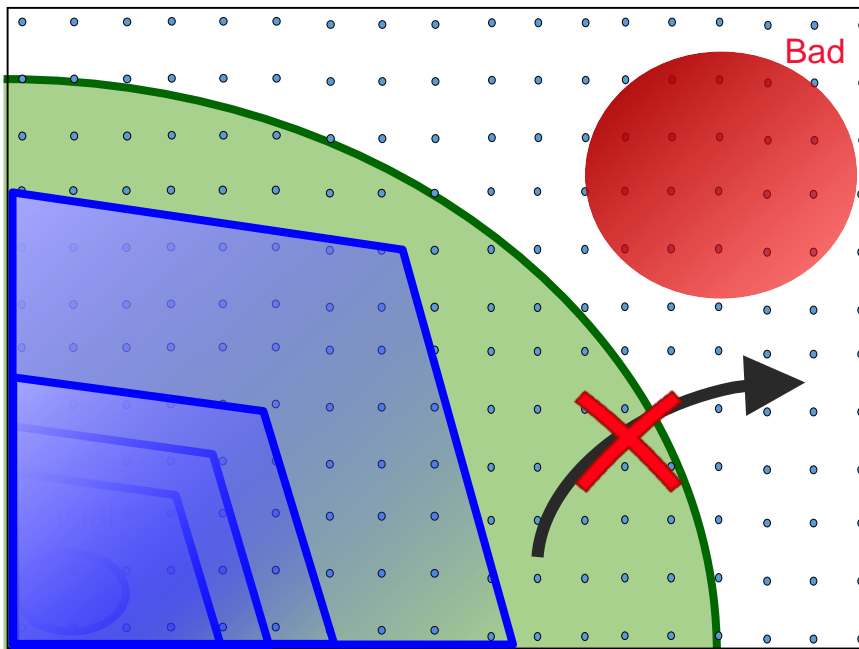


Invariant Inference

Goal: Find inductive invariants automatically

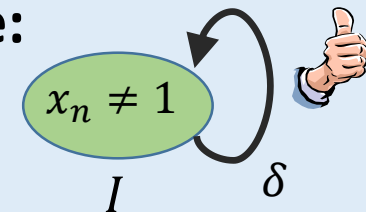
Bad:
 $(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 1 \dots 1$

$2 \cdot (y_1, \dots, y_n) \pmod{2^n}$



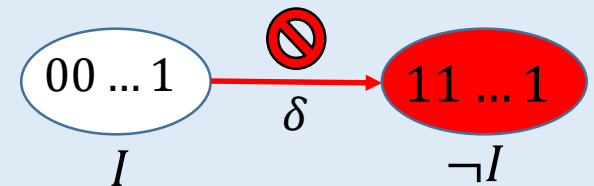
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Inductive:



$I: (x_1, \dots, x_n) \neq 1 \dots 1$

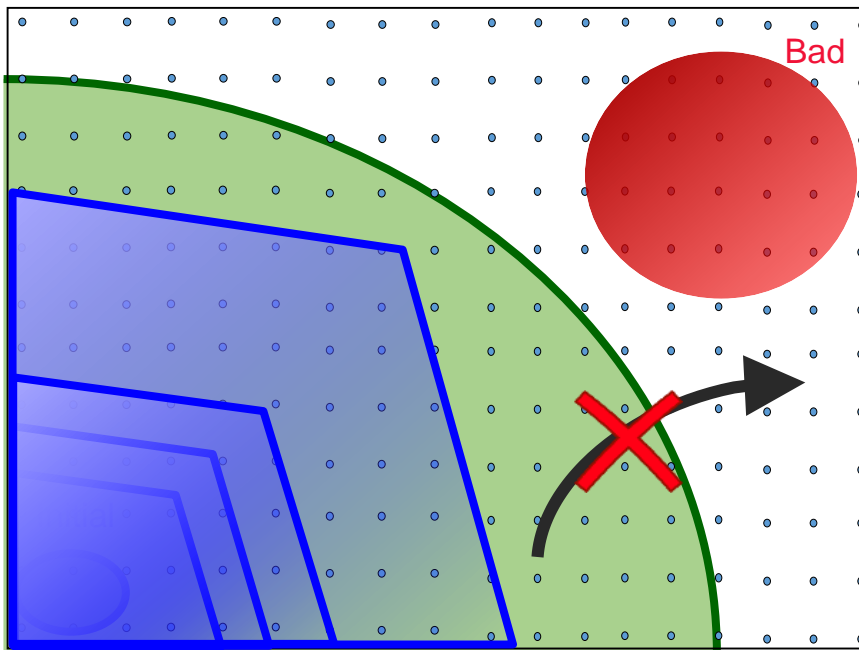
Not inductive:



SAT-based Invariant Inference

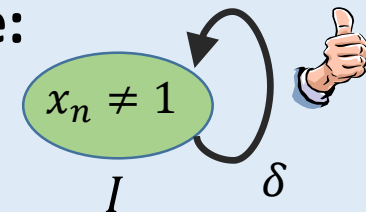
Goal: Find inductive invariants automatically

Means: Employ a SAT solver



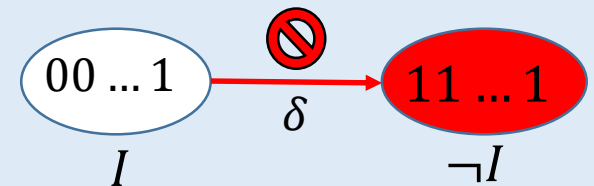
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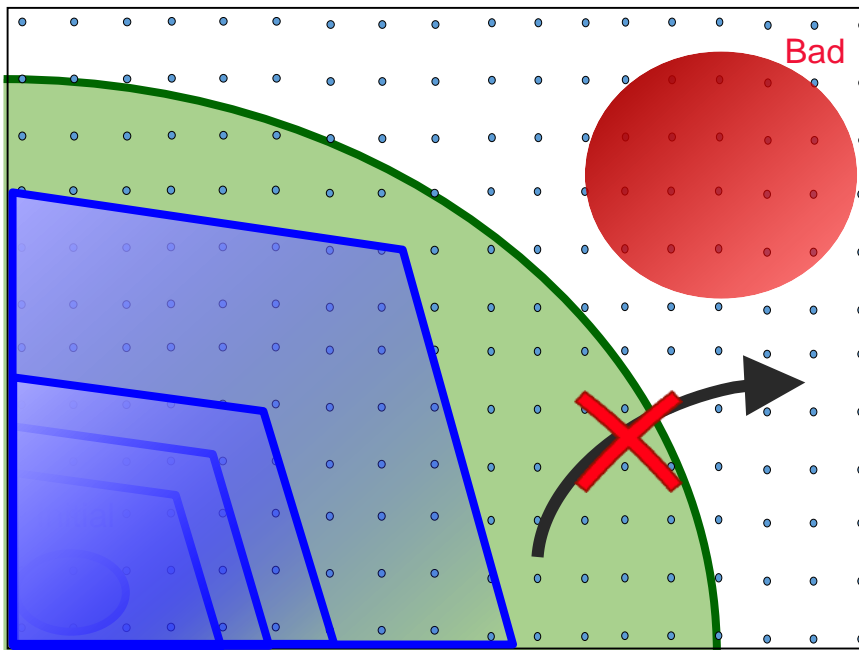
Not inductive:



SAT-based Invariant Inference

Goal: Find inductive invariants automatically

Means: Employ a SAT solver



Init, Bad: formulas over V

δ : formula over V, V'

SAT query Examples:

Initiation: **Init** \wedge \neg **I** unsat?

Safety: **I** \wedge **Bad** unsat?

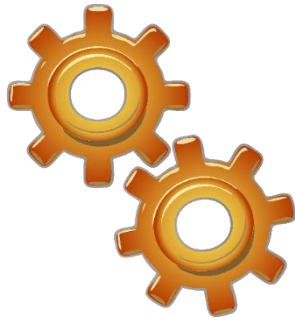
Cons.: **I** \wedge **δ** \wedge \neg **I'** unsat?

* $I' = I[V \mapsto V']$

Exact Concept Learning with Equivalence & Membership Queries

Goal: learn an unknown concept φ

learning algorithm



is it ψ_1 ?

✓ / ✗+counterexample

is it ψ_2 ?

✓ / ✗+counterexample

does $\sigma_3 \models$?

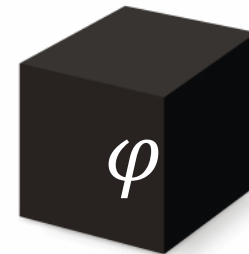
✓ / ✗

...

Membership

Equivalence

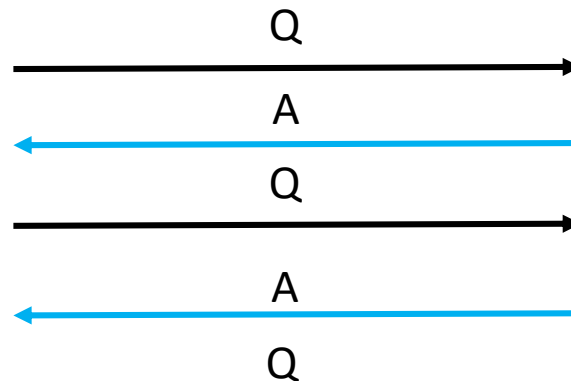
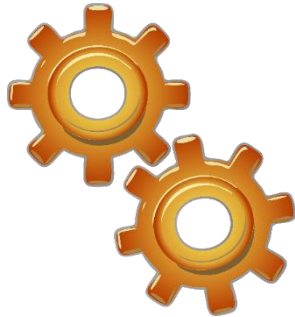
oracle



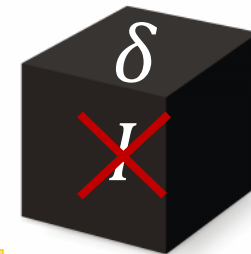
SAT-Based Invariant Inference as Inference with Queries

Goal: infer an unknown **inductive invariant** I

learning algorithm \mapsto
inference algorithm



oracle \mapsto
SAT-solver

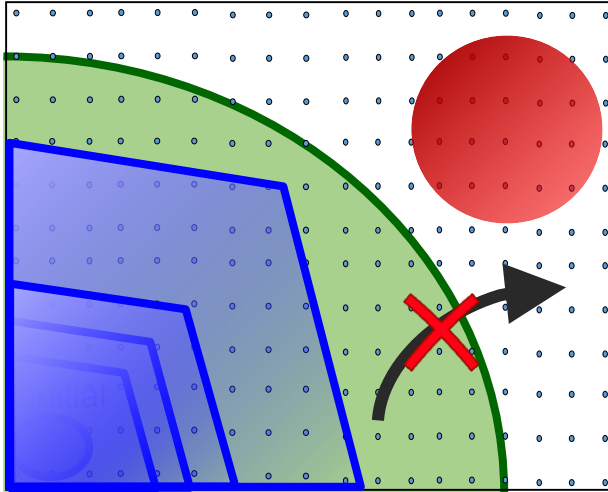


Which SAT queries?

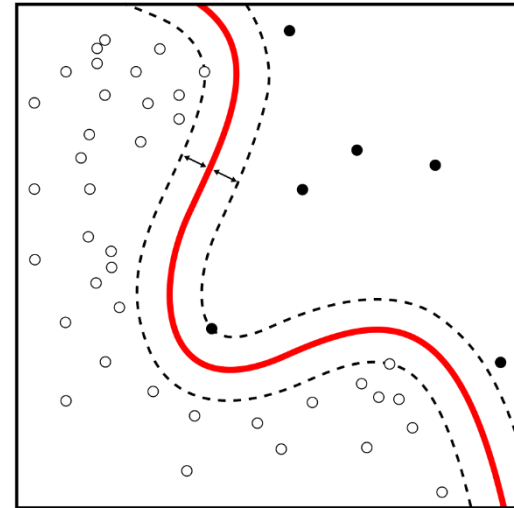
Algorithms cannot access the transition relation directly,
only through SAT queries

This Talk

Invariant Inference



Exact Concept Learning

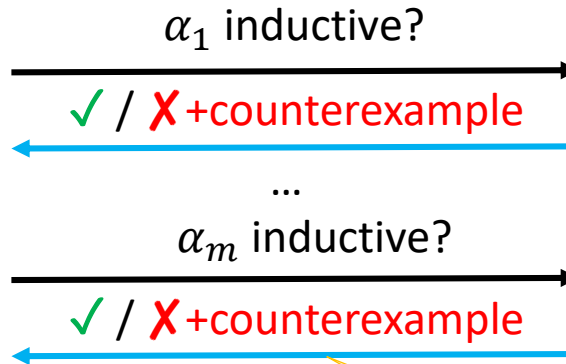
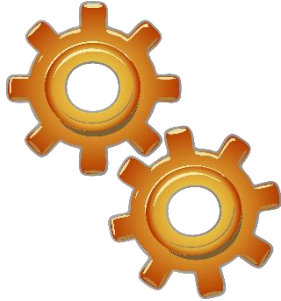


vs.

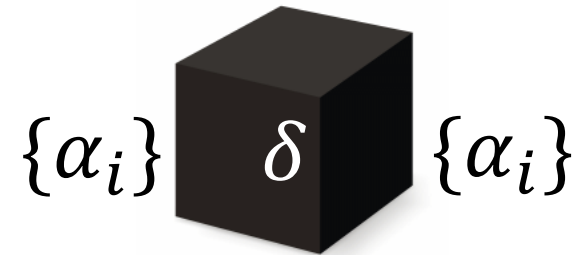
- Query-based learning models for invariant inference
- Complexity lower and upper bounds for each model
- Invariant inference is harder than concept learning
- Complexity results for invariant inference algorithms from concept learning algorithms

Inductiveness-Query Model

inference algorithm



inductiveness-query oracle



$\alpha_i \wedge \delta \wedge \neg \alpha'_i$ unsat?

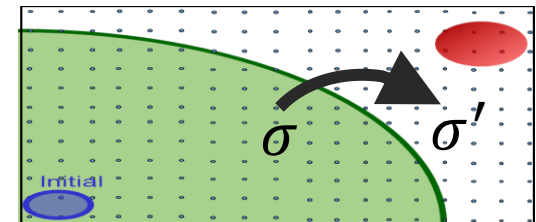
ICE framework - Learn from examples:

Positive : $\sigma \models I$ (e.g., initial)

Negative: $\sigma \not\models I$ (e.g., bad)

Implication: $\sigma \models I$ implies $\sigma' \models I$ (CTI)

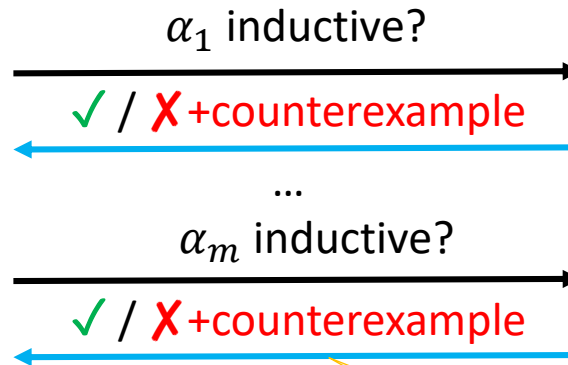
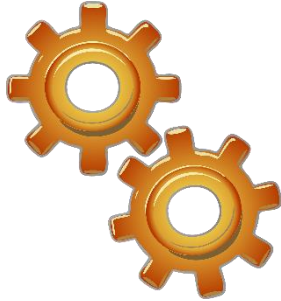
Cex to Induction (CTI):
Transition (σ, σ') of δ s.t.
 $\sigma \models \alpha_i, \sigma' \models \neg \alpha_i$



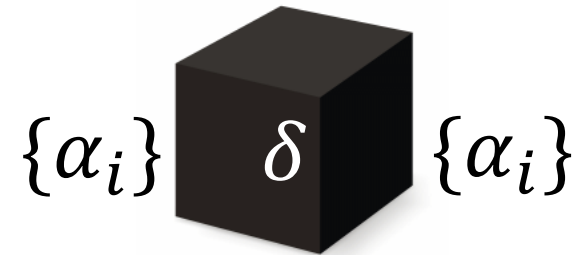
* $\alpha'_i = \alpha_i[V \mapsto V']$

Inductiveness-Query Model

inference algorithm



inductiveness-query oracle



$\alpha_i \wedge \delta \wedge \neg \alpha'_i$ unsat?

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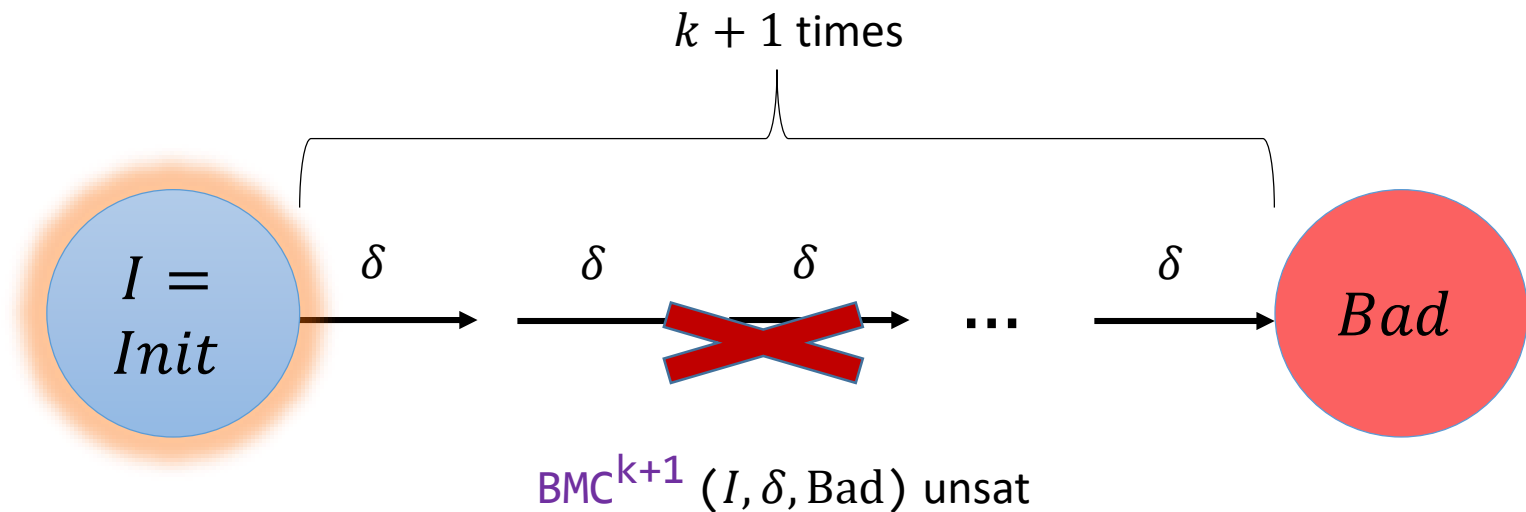
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Transition (σ, σ') of δ s.t.
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Is it sufficient to capture existing SAT-based algorithms?

* $\alpha'_i = \alpha_i[V \mapsto V']$

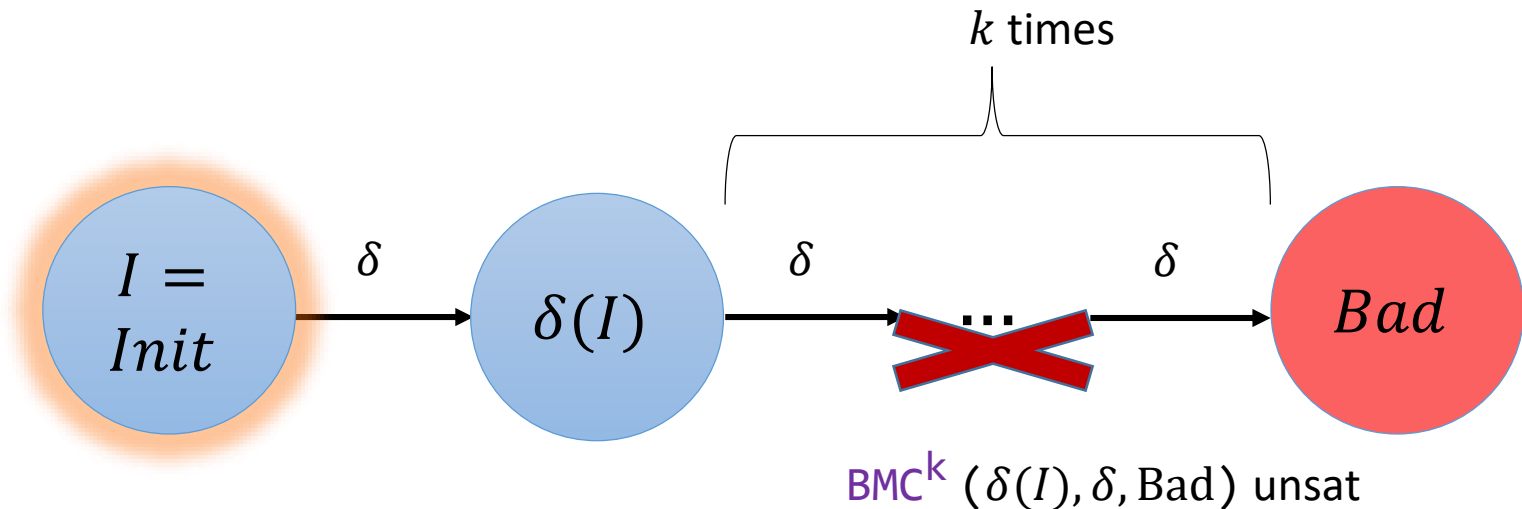
Interpolation-Based Inference

$I = Init$



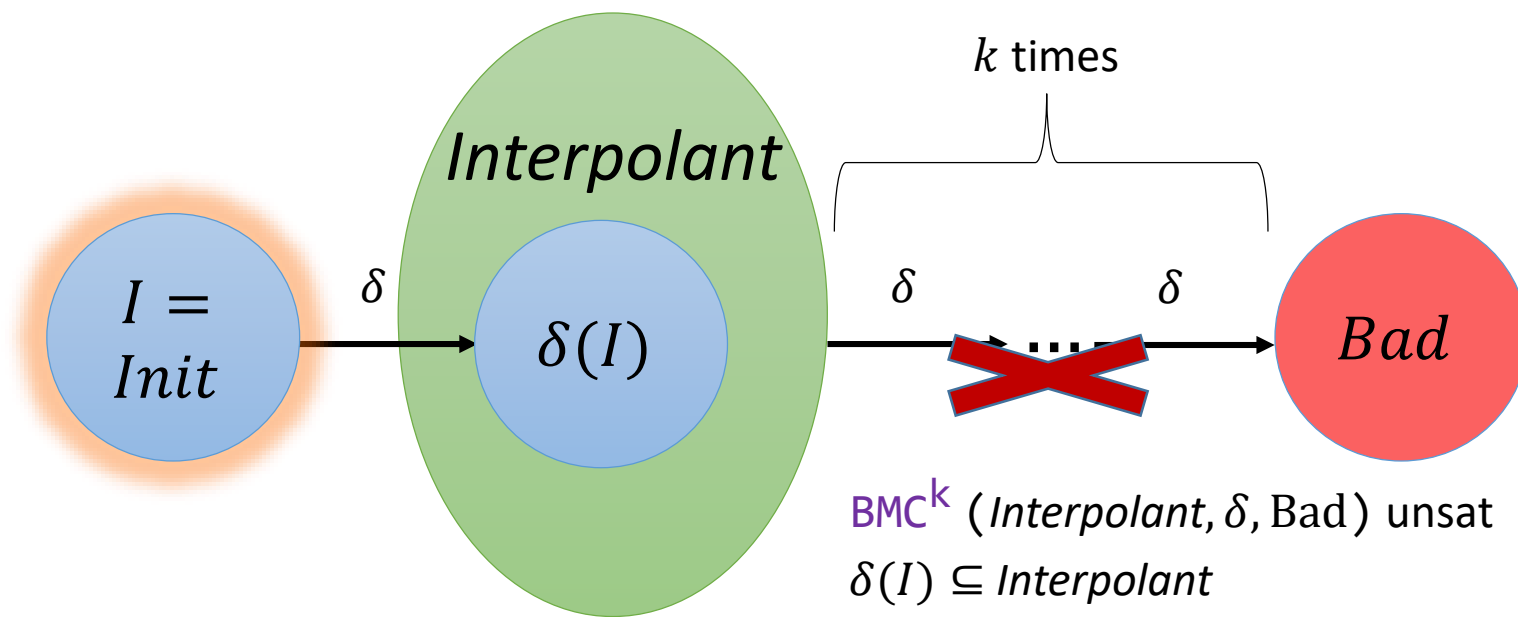
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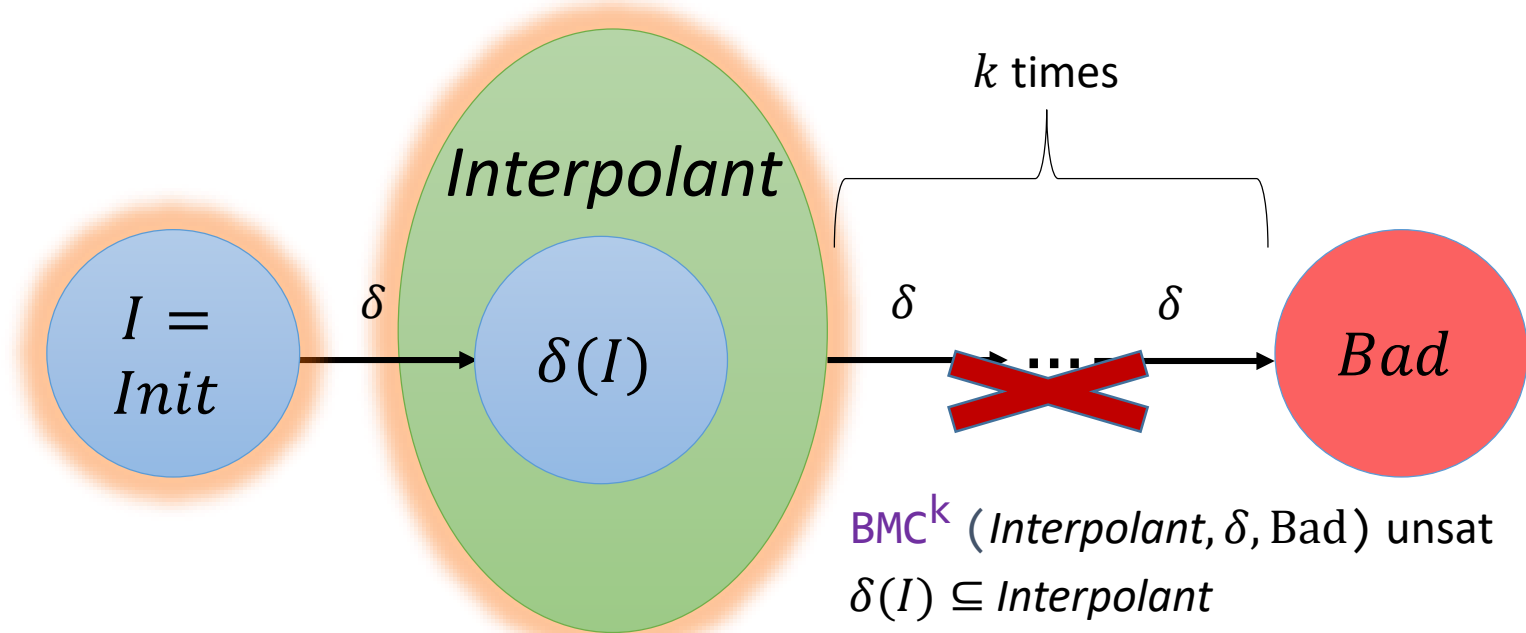
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Interpolation-Based Inference

$$I = \textit{Init} \vee \textit{Interpolant}$$



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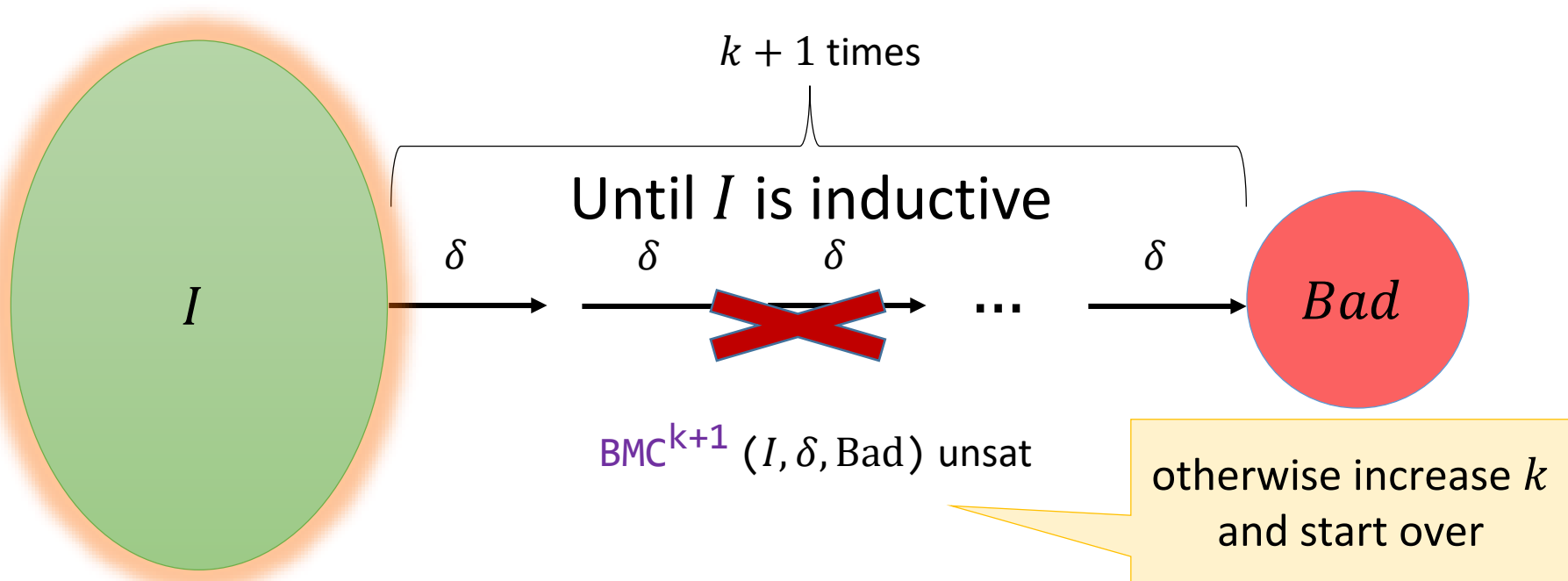


I

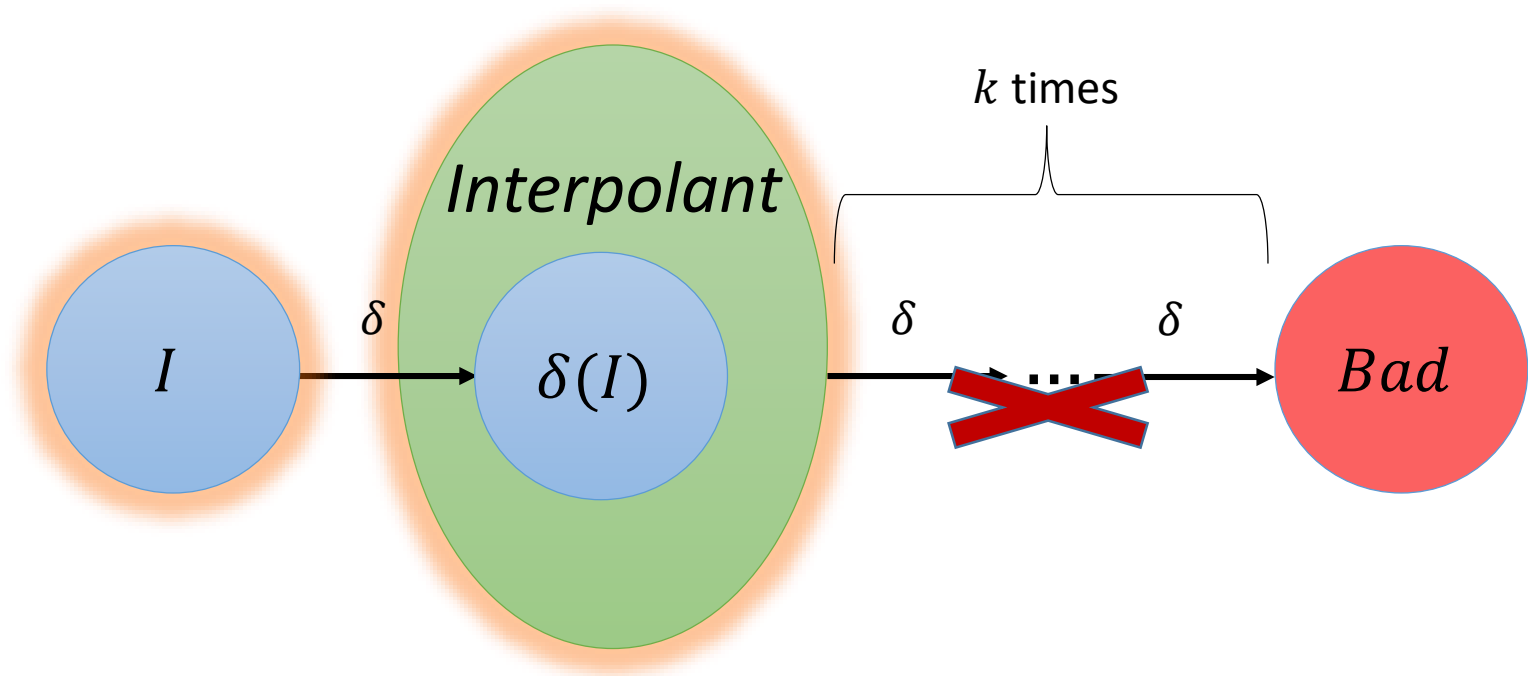
Inductive ?

Interpolation-Based Inference

$$I = \text{Init} \vee \text{Interpolant} \vee \text{Interpolant}_2 \vee \dots$$



Computing an Interpolant



Model-Based Interpolation

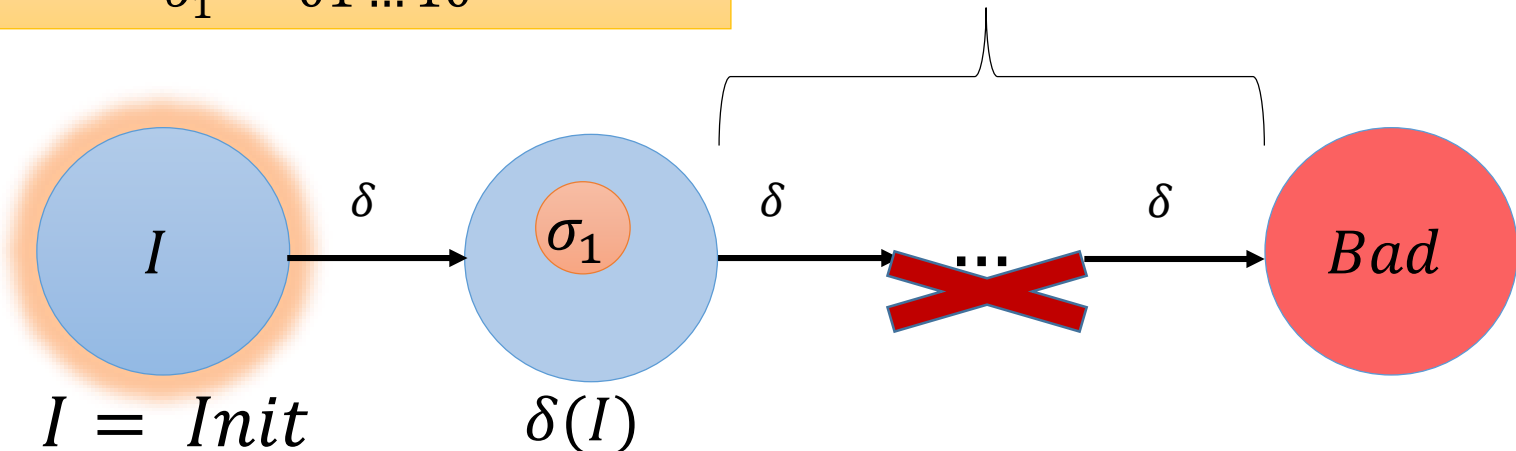
Init:
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Bad:
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δ :
 $y_1, \dots, y_n := *$
 $x_1, \dots, x_n := (x_1, \dots, x_n) +$
 $2 \cdot (y_1, \dots, y_n) \pmod{2^n}$

$Interpolant_1 = (x_1 = 0 \wedge x_2 = 1 \wedge \dots \wedge x_{n-1} = 1 \wedge x_n = 0)$

$\sigma_1 = 01 \dots 10$



[HVC'12] Computing Interpolants without Proofs. Chockler, Ivrii, Matsliah

[LPAR'13] Instantiations, Zippers and EPR Interpolation. Bjørner, Gurfinkel, Korovin, Lahav

Model-Based Interpolation

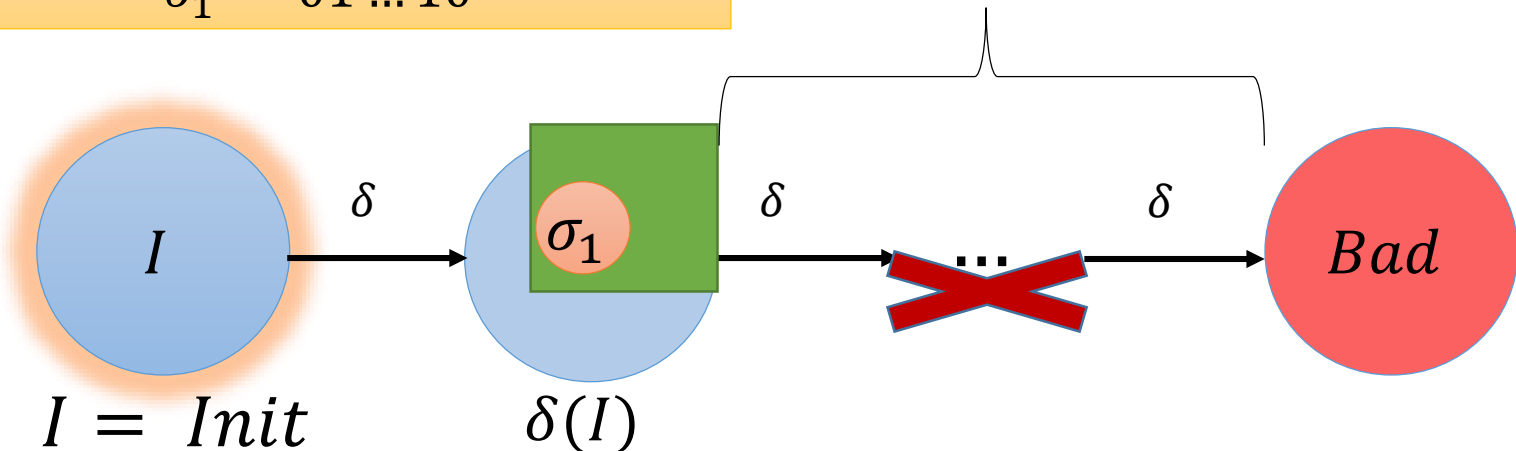
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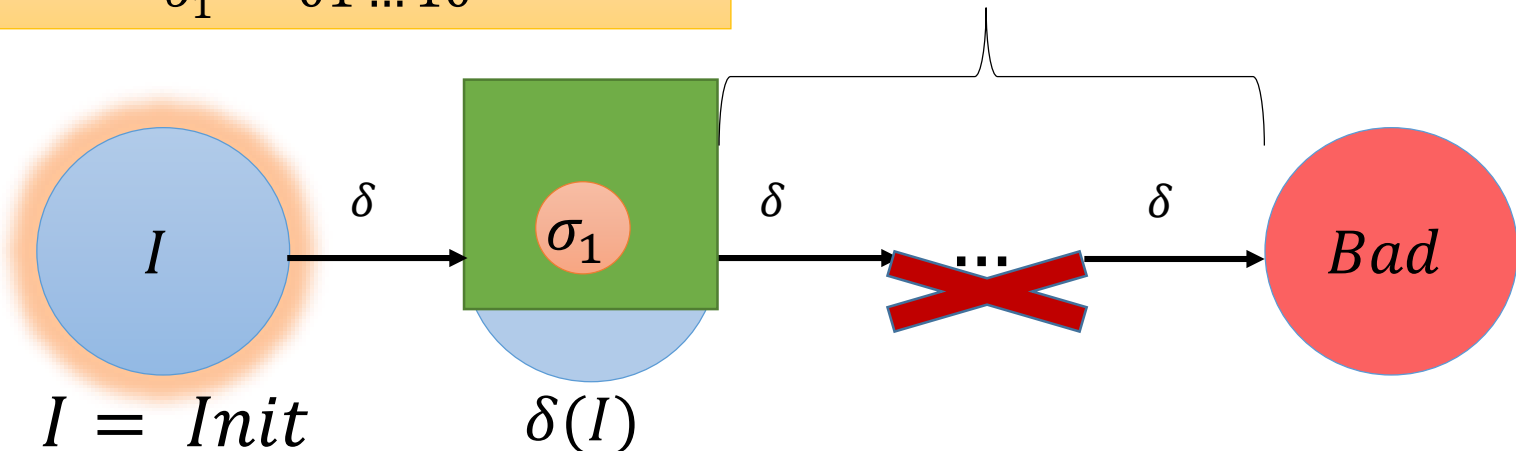
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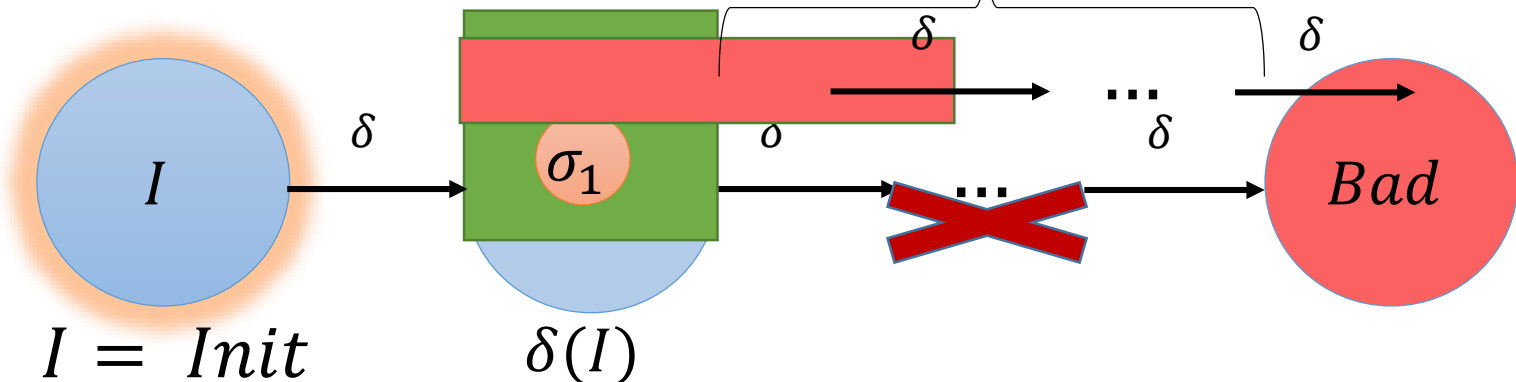
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k times



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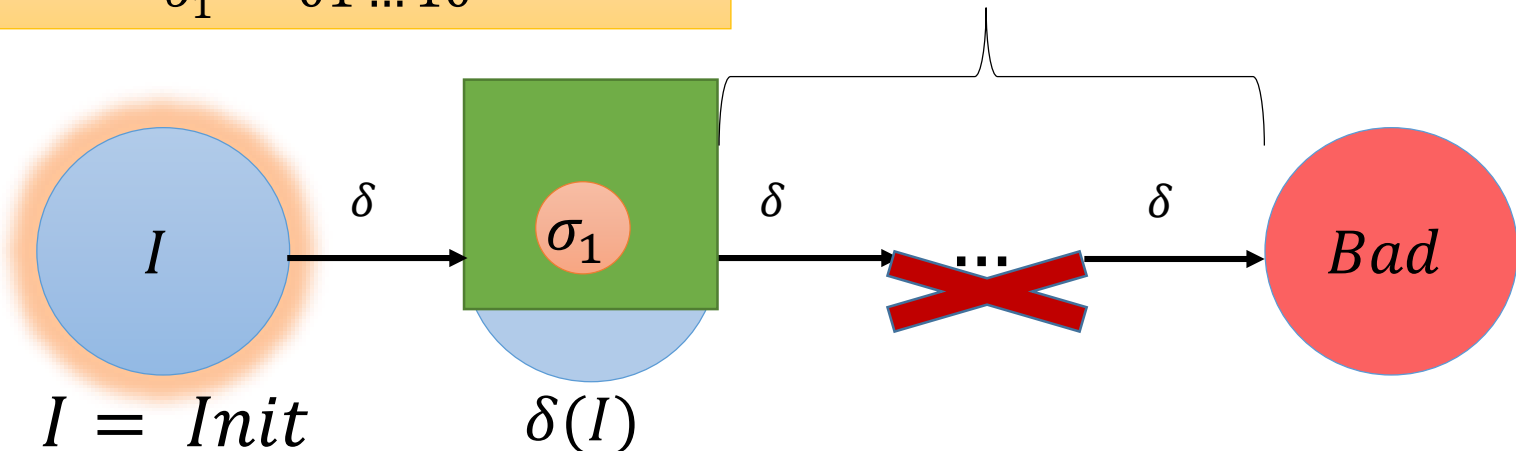
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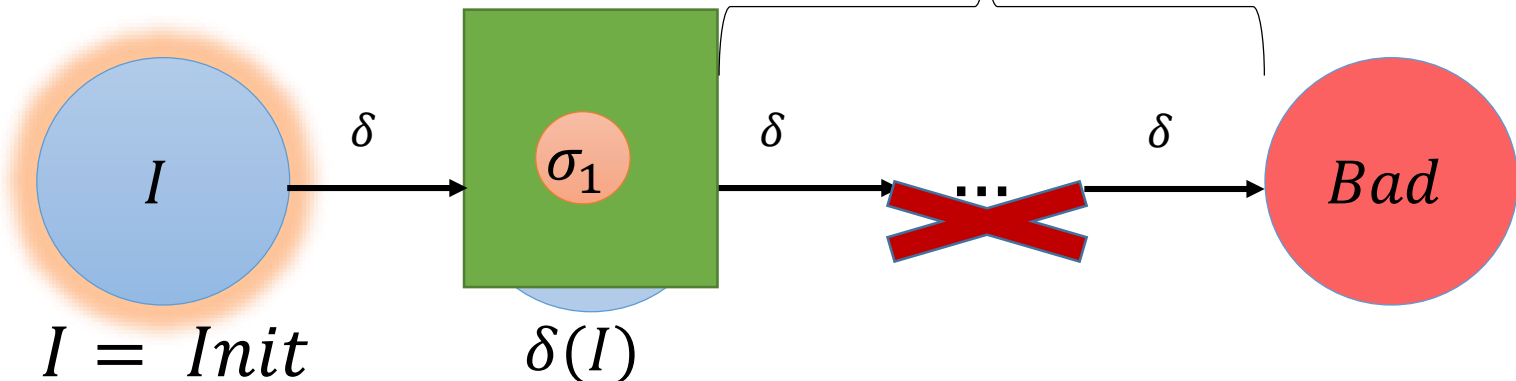
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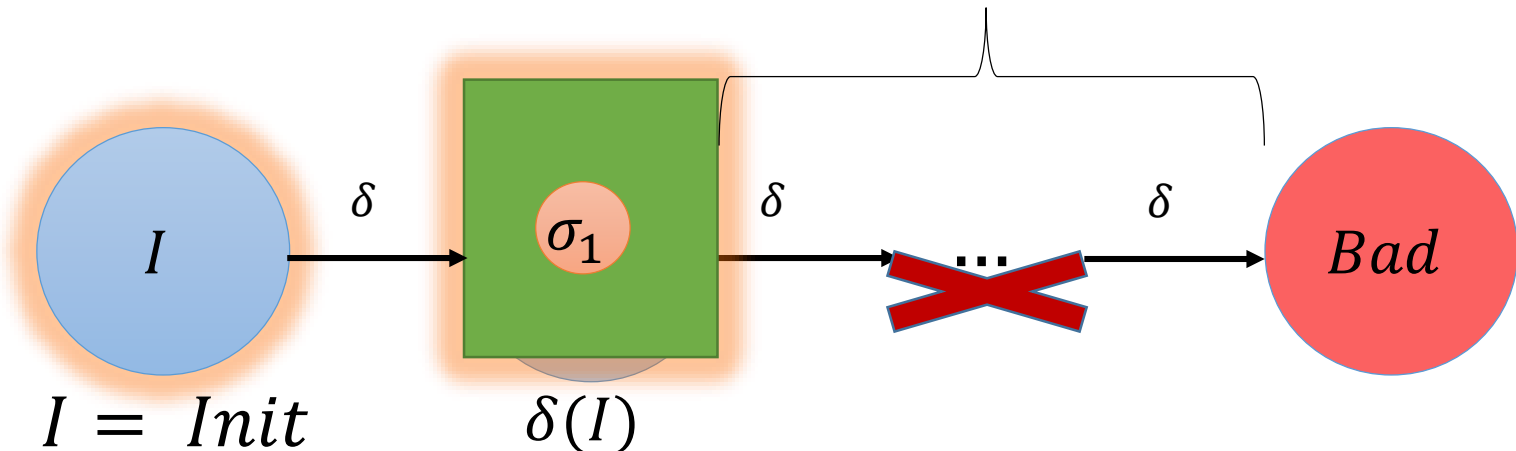
Model-Based Interpolation

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$I = \text{Init} \vee (x_n = 0)$  k times



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Model-Based Interpolation

Inferring invariant in DNF:

$$\underbrace{(\ell_1^1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \ell_{k_1}^1)}_{\text{gen}(\sigma_1)} \vee \dots \vee \underbrace{(\ell_1^m \wedge \cdots \wedge \ell_{k_m}^m)}_{\text{gen}(\sigma_m)}$$

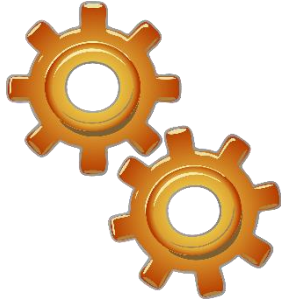
ITP-k:

```
I := false
while (_, σ') counterexample
    to Inductive(δ, I):
    I := I ∨ generalize(σ')

generalize(σ'):
    drop literals from σ'
    while BMCk(σ', δ, Bad) unsat
```

Inductiveness-Query Model

inference algorithm



α_1 inductive?

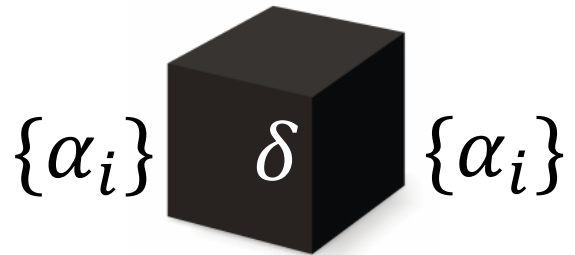
✓ / ✗+counterexample

...

α_m inductive?

✓ / ✗+counterexample

inductiveness-query oracle



$I := \text{false}$

while $(_, \sigma')$ counterexample
to $\text{Inductive}(\delta, I)$:

$I := I \vee \text{generalize}(\sigma')$

generalize (σ') :

drop literals from σ'

while $\text{BMC}^k(\sigma', \delta, \text{Bad})$ unsat

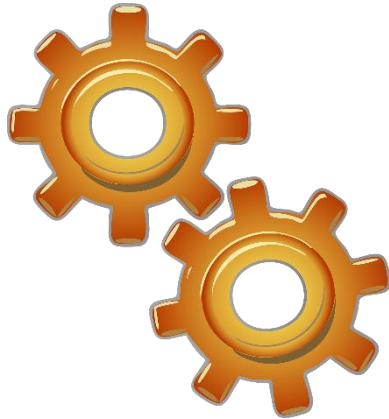
I inductive?

✓ / ✗

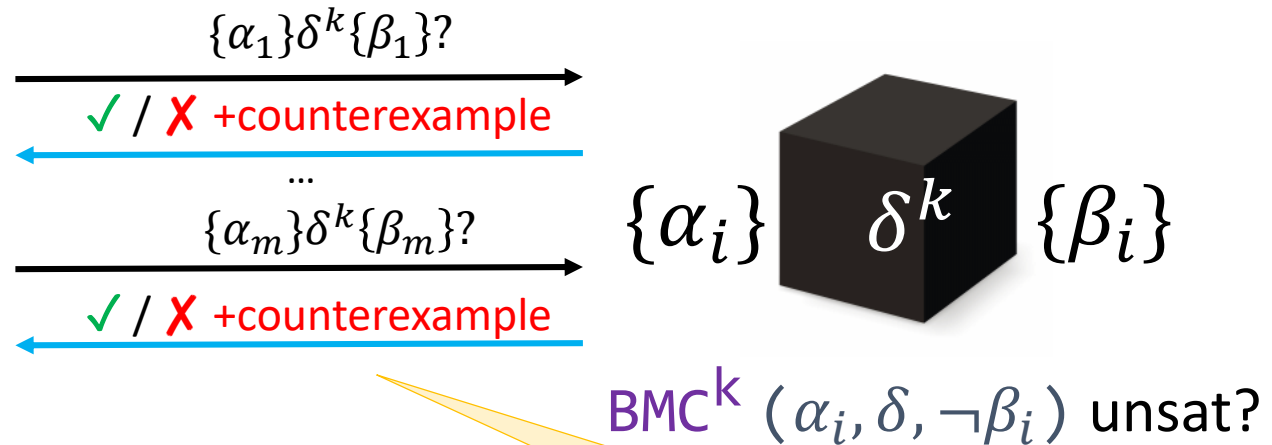
?

Hoare-Query Model

inference algorithm



Hoare-query oracle



Trace $(\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_k)$ of δ s.t.
 $\sigma_0 \models \alpha_i, \quad \sigma_k \models \neg\beta_i$

Capable of modeling several interesting algorithms

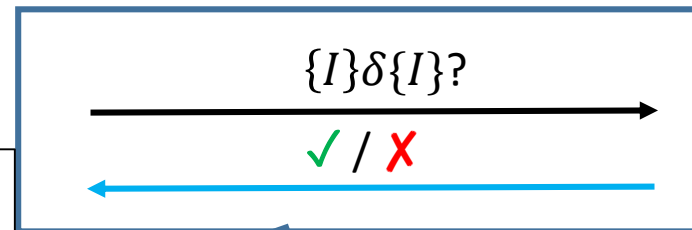
Hoare-Query Model

ITP-k:


```

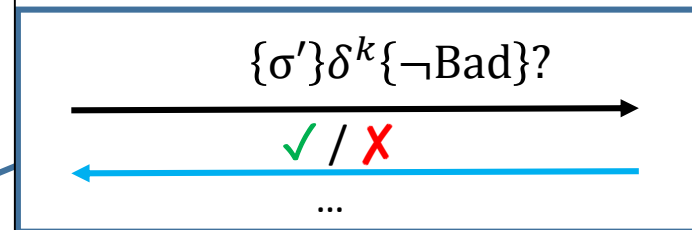
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generalize(σ'):
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```



Hoare-query
oracle

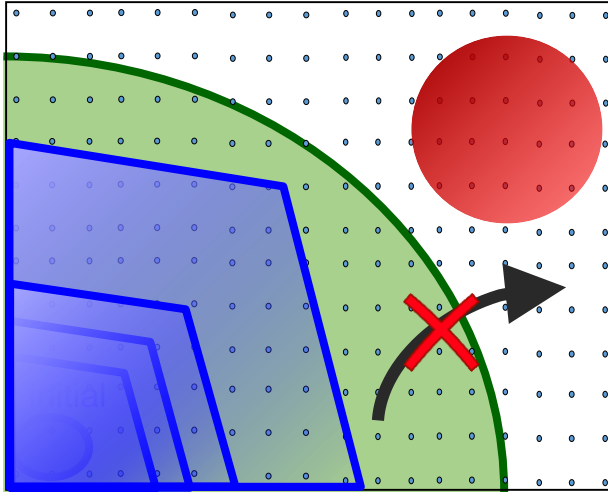
$\{\alpha_i\}$  $\{\beta_i\}$



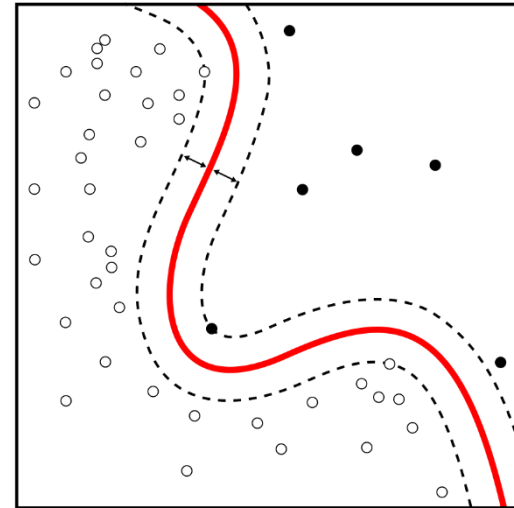
Also captures IC3/PDR

Outline

Invariant Inference



Exact Concept Learning



vs.

- Query-based learning models for invariant inference
- Complexity lower and upper bounds for each model
- Invariant inference is harder than concept learning
- Complexity results for invariant inference algorithms from concept learning algorithms

Hoare-Query Complexity

Thm: Every Hoare-query algorithm requires $2^{\Omega(n)}$ queries in the worst case for inferring $I \in \text{DNF}$ s.t. $|I| \leq \text{poly}(n)$

n is the vocabulary size, $k = \text{poly}(n)$

Throughout the talk

- even with **unlimited** computational power
- **unconditional** lower bound

Hoare-Query Complexity

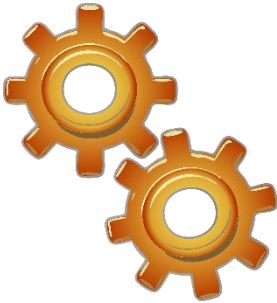
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Proof sketch:

given

inference algorithm

with $< 2^{\text{poly}(n)}$ queries



$\{\alpha_1\}\{\beta_1\}?$

✓ / ✗

...

$\{\alpha_m\}\{\beta_m\}?$

✓ / ✗

construct δ_1, δ_2 for

Hoare-query oracle



$\{\alpha_i\}$ δ_1 $\{\beta_i\}$

$\{\alpha_i\}$ δ_2 $\{\beta_i\}$



1. δ_1 has an inductive invariants with at most n cubes
2. δ_2 does not (in fact, unsafe)
3. all queries return the same answer for δ_1, δ_2

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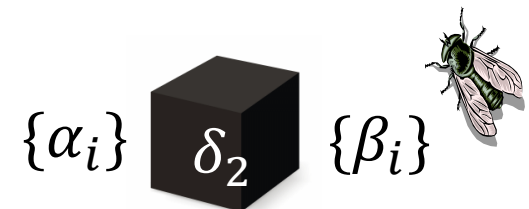
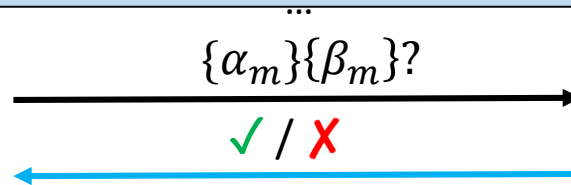
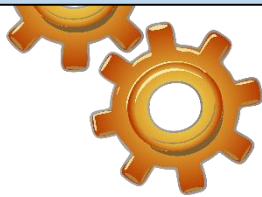
infer
with

construct δ_1, δ_2 for

take δ s checking validity of Boolean quantified formulas

$\exists x_1, \dots, x_n. \forall y_1, \dots, y_n. \phi(x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n)$

a sub-exponential number of valuations do not determine validity!



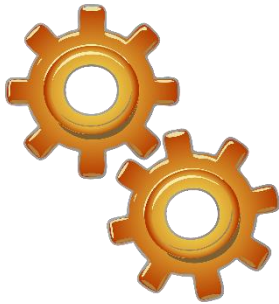
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I is monotone:
propositions appear only
positively

construct δ_1, δ_2 for
Hoare-query oracle



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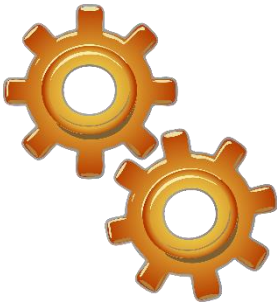
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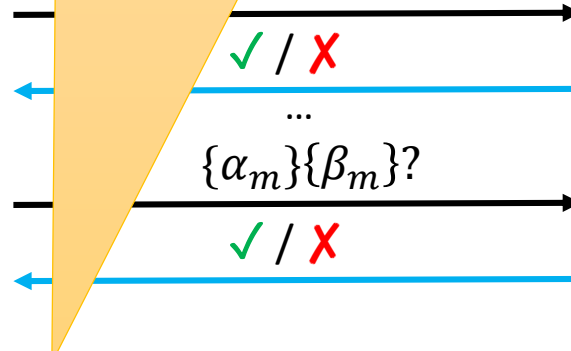
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inference algorithm

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I is monotone:
propositions appear only
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construct δ_1, δ_2 for
Hoare-query oracle

$\{\alpha_i\}$ δ_1 $\{\beta_i\}$



$\{\alpha_i\}$ δ_2 $\{\beta_i\}$



Cor: Every Hoare-query algorithm requires $2^{\Omega(n)}$ queries in the worst case for inferring short monotone DNF invariants

Hoare > Inductiveness

Thm: There exists a class of transition systems \mathcal{P} , so that for solving inference:

1. \exists Hoare-query algorithm (with $k=1$) with $\text{poly}(n)$ queries
2. \forall inductiveness-query algorithm requires $2^{\Omega(n)}$ queries

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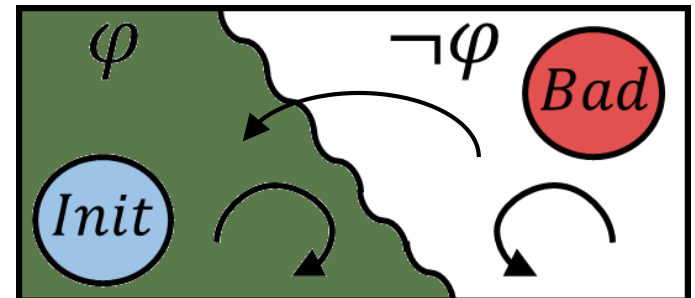
Proof:

\mathcal{P} = maximal transition systems for monotone DNF with n cubes

propositions appear only positively

$$\varphi = x_1 \vee (x_2 \wedge x_3)$$

Maximal system for φ :



Hoare > Inductiveness

Upper bound:

\exists Hoare-query algorithm (with $k=1$) with $\text{poly}(n)$ queries

Proof: **ITP-1** takes $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ queries

```
 $I := \text{false}$   
while ( $\_, \sigma'$ ) counterexample  
to Inductive( $\delta, I$ ):
```

```
   $I := I \vee \text{generalize}(\sigma')$ 
```

```
generalize( $\sigma'$ ):
```

```
  drop literals from  $\sigma'$   
  while BMC1( $\sigma', \delta, \text{Bad}$ ) unsat
```

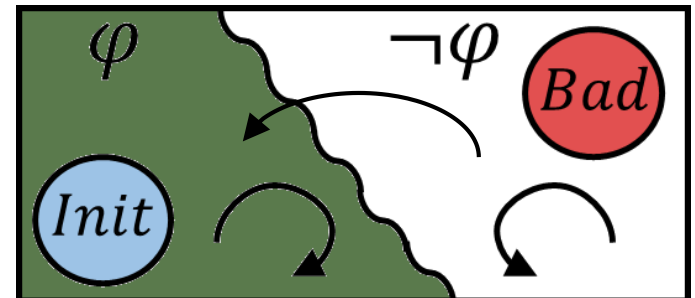
minimal

$\sigma' \Rightarrow \varphi$

φ is monotone

1 iteration 1 iteration

$$\varphi = x_1 \vee (x_2 \wedge x_3)$$



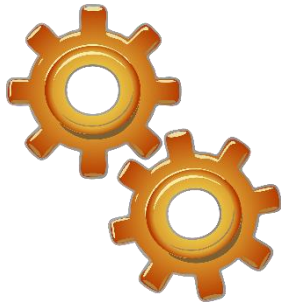
Hoare > Inductiveness

Lower bound:

\forall inductiveness-query algorithm requires $2^{\Omega(n)}$ queries

Proof:

inference algorithm



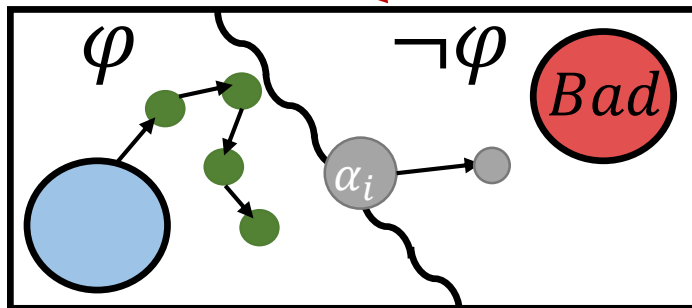
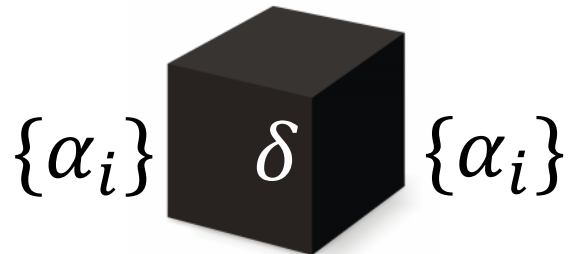
α_1 inductive?

X+counterexample

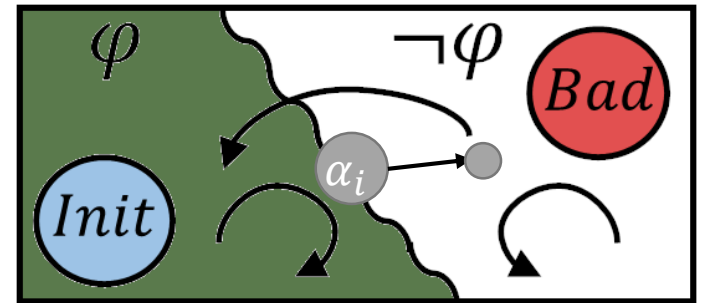
...
 α_m inductive?

X+counterexample

inductiveness-query oracle



\geq



Hoare > Inductiveness

Lower bound:

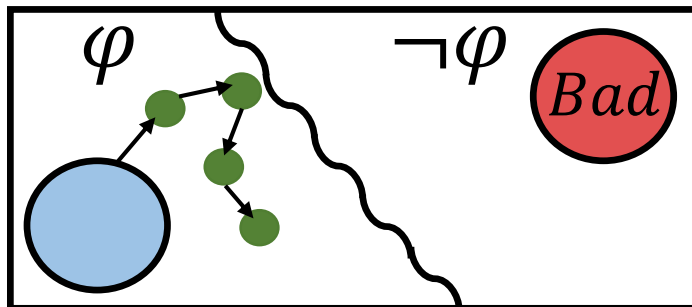
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Proof:

previous Corollary

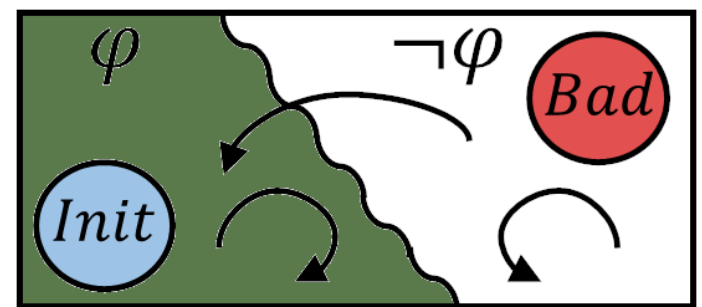
general systems

monotone DNF invariants



maximal systems

monotone DNF invariants



$$2^{\Omega(n)} \leq$$

$$\leq$$

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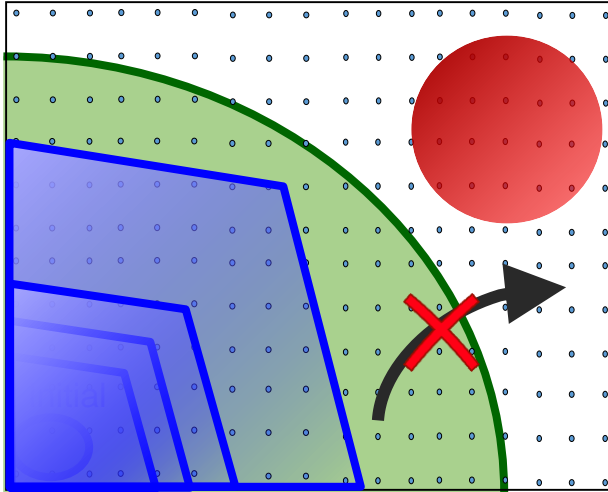


Similar proof works with a simple case of IC3/PDR

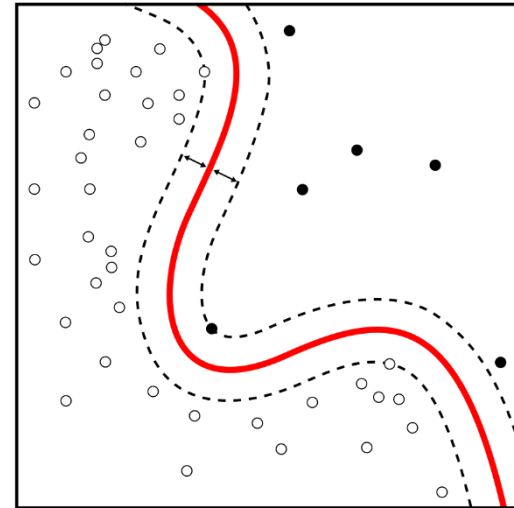
\Rightarrow ICE cannot model PDR,
and the extension of [VMCAI'17] is necessary

Outline

Invariant Inference



Exact Concept Learning

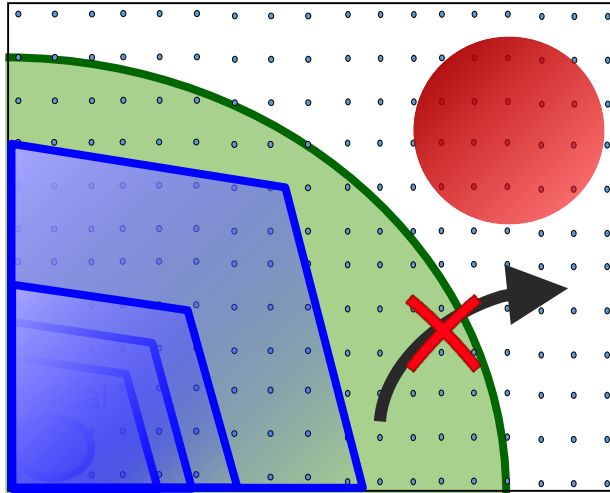


vs.

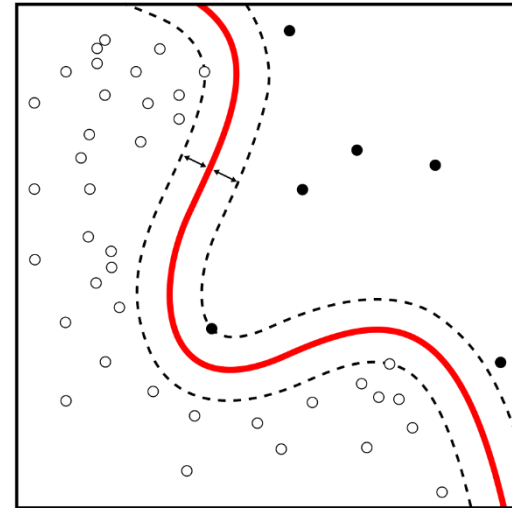
- Query-based learning models for invariant inference
- Complexity lower and upper bounds for each model
- ➡ - Invariant inference is harder than concept learning
- Complexity results for invariant inference algorithms from concept learning algorithms

Inferring Monotone DNF

Invariant Inference



Exact Concept Learning



vs.

| | Maximal | General |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Inductive | $2^{\Omega(n)}$ | $2^{\Omega(n)}$ |
| Hoare | poly | $2^{\Omega(n)}$ |

| Equiv | sub-exponential |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Equiv + mem | poly |

[ML'87] Queries and Concept Learning, Angluin

[COLT'12] Tight Bounds on Proper Equivalence Query Learning of DNF, Hellerstein et al.

Inductiveness vs. Equivalence Queries

Invariant Inference

learning algorithm



is it α_1 ?

✓ / ✗+counterexample

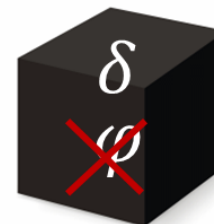
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is it α_m ?

✓ / ✗+counterexample

Exact Concept Learning

oracle



Counterexamples to induction:

$$\sigma \models \neg\varphi \text{ or } \sigma' \models \varphi$$

Positive/negative examples:

$$\sigma^+ \models \varphi, \sigma^- \models \neg\varphi$$

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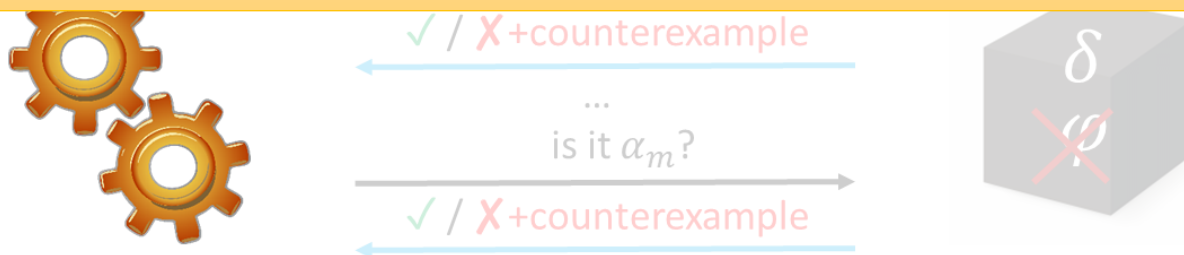
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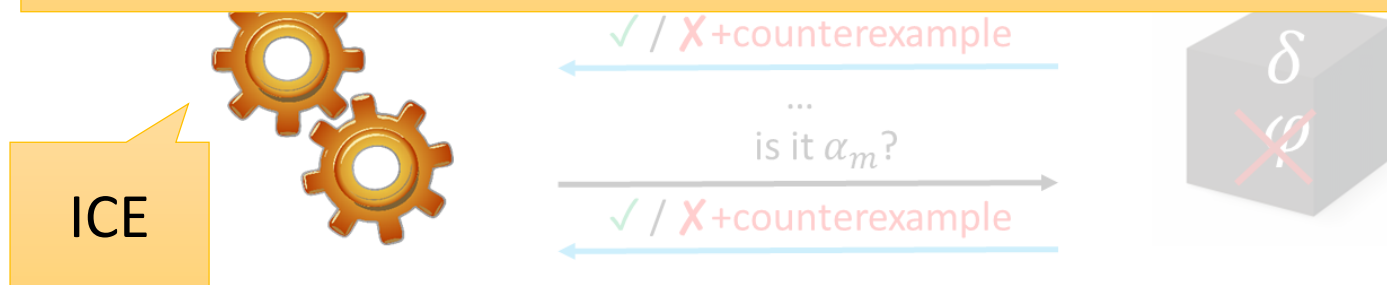
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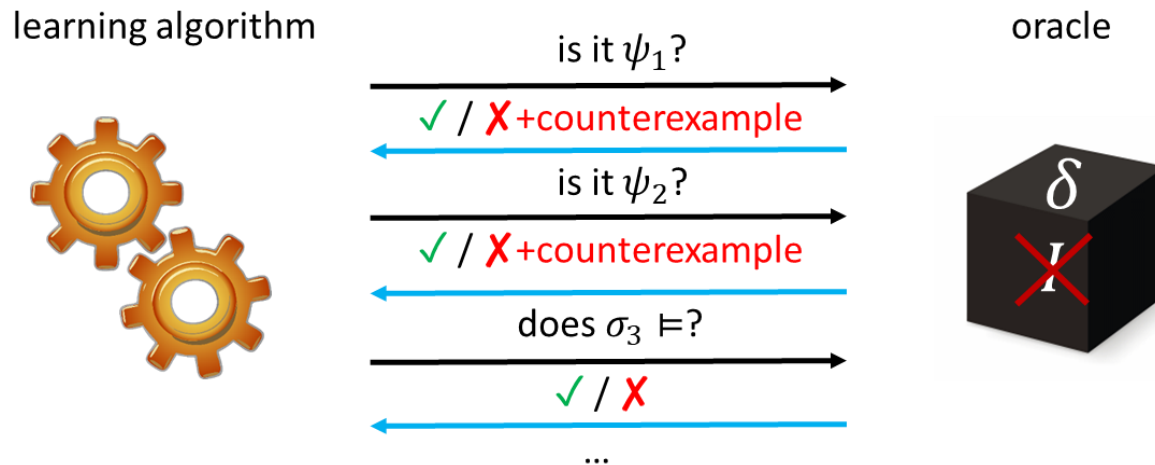
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[COLT'12] Tight Bounds on Proper Equivalence Query Learning of DNF, Hellerstein et al.

[CAV'14] ICE: A Robust Framework for Learning Invariants. Garg, Löding, Madhusudan, Neider

Invariant Inference with Equivalence & Membership Queries



Invariant Inference

Exact Concept Learning

| | Maximal | General |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Inductive | $2^{\Omega(n)}$ | $2^{\Omega(n)}$ |
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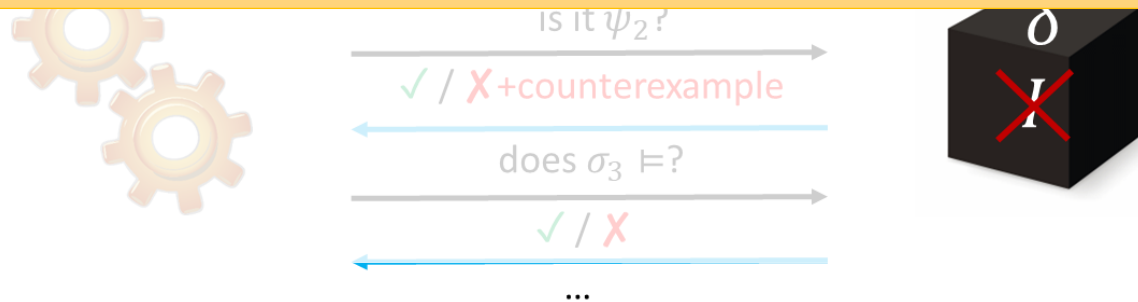
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Invariant Inference with Equivalence & Membership Queries

Thm. In general, in the Hoare-query model, **no efficient way** to implement a teacher for equivalence and membership queries



Invariant Inference

Exact Concept Learning

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[POPL'20] Complexity and Information in Invariant Inference. Feldman, Immerman, Shoham, Sagiv

Invariant Inference with Equivalence & Membership Queries

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Sufficient conditions for
exact learning algorithms \Rightarrow invariant inference algorithms

| | Maximal | General | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
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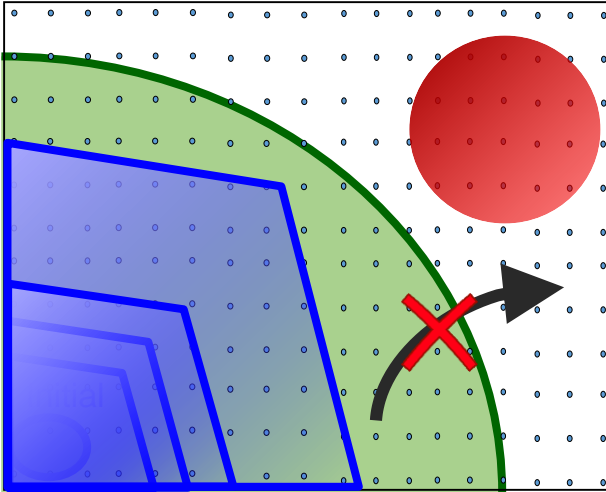
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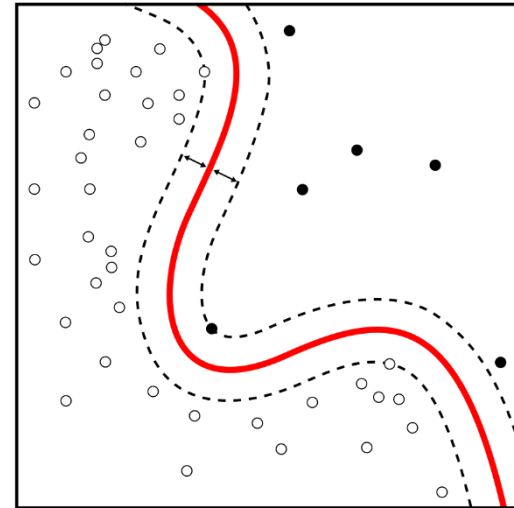
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Outline

Invariant Inference

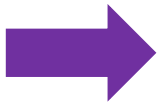


Exact Concept Learning



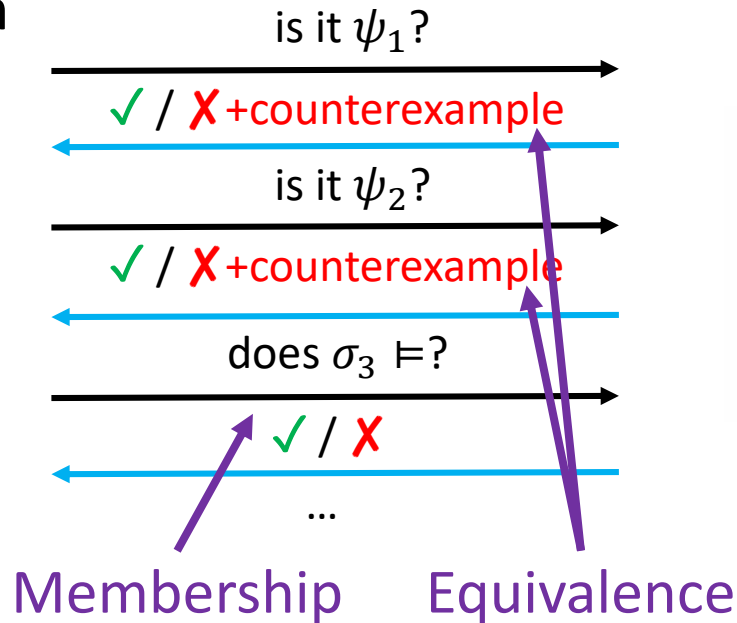
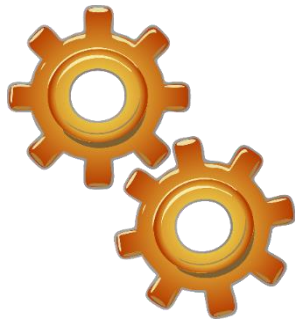
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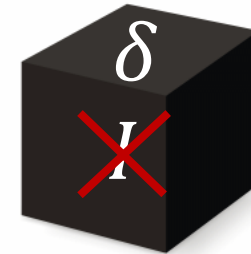


From Learning to Inference

learning algorithm

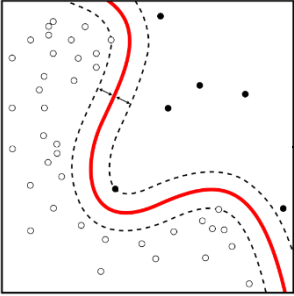


oracle



Need to
implement
this

From Learning to Inference



Exact **learning**
DNF formulas

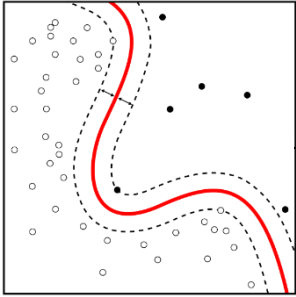
```
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```

[CACM'84] A Theory of the Learnable. Valiant

[ML'87] Queries and Concept Learning. Angluin

[ML'95] On the Learnability of Disjunctive Normal Form
Formulas. Aizenstein and Pitt

From Learning to Inference



Exact **learning**
DNF formulas



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```

```
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```

```
  while Membership( $\sigma'$ ) =  $\checkmark$ 
```

Inductive(I)

BMC^k(σ' , δ , Bad) **unsat**

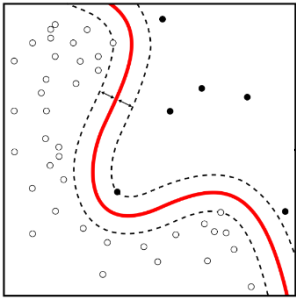
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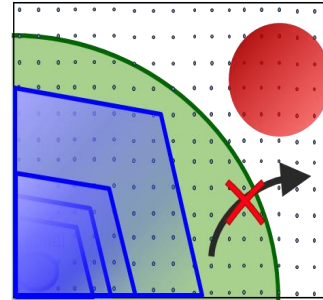
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From Learning to Inference



Exact **learning**
DNF formulas



Inferring
DNF invariants

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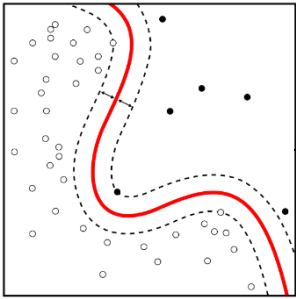
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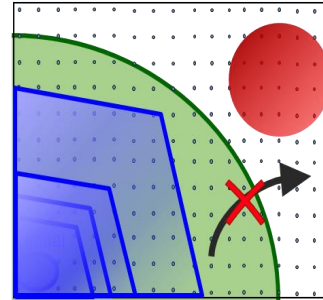
[CAV'03] Interpolation and SAT-Based Model Checking,
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 Chockler, Ivrii, Matsliah

From Learning to Inference



Efficiently

Exact **learning**
DNF formulas



Efficiently

Inferring
DNF invariants

$\psi := \text{false}$

while σ' counterexample
to **Equivalent**

$\psi := \psi \vee \text{generalize}(\sigma')$

generalize(σ'):

drop literals from σ'

while **Membership**(σ') = \checkmark

When is the
transformation correct?

$I := \text{false}$

(σ') counterexample
to **Inductive**(I):

$I := I \vee \text{generalize}(\sigma')$

generalize(σ'):

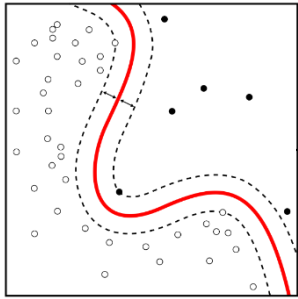
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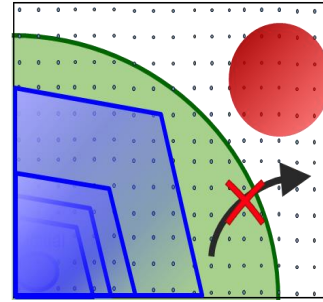
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From Learning to Inference



Efficiently

Exact **learning**
DNF formulas



Efficiently

Inferring
DNF invariants

Thm: can implement queries when
the invariant is *k-fenced*
and the algorithm's queries are *one-sided*

generalize(σ'):
drop literals from σ'
while **Membership**(σ') = ✓

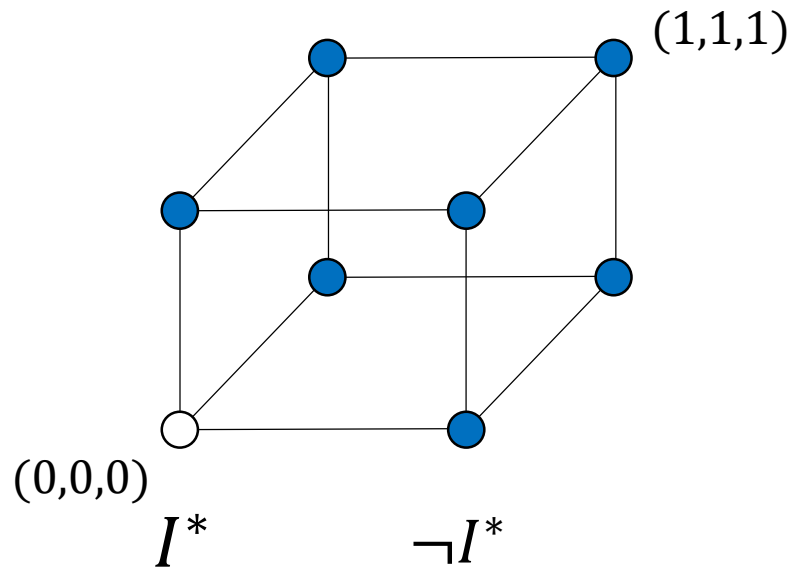


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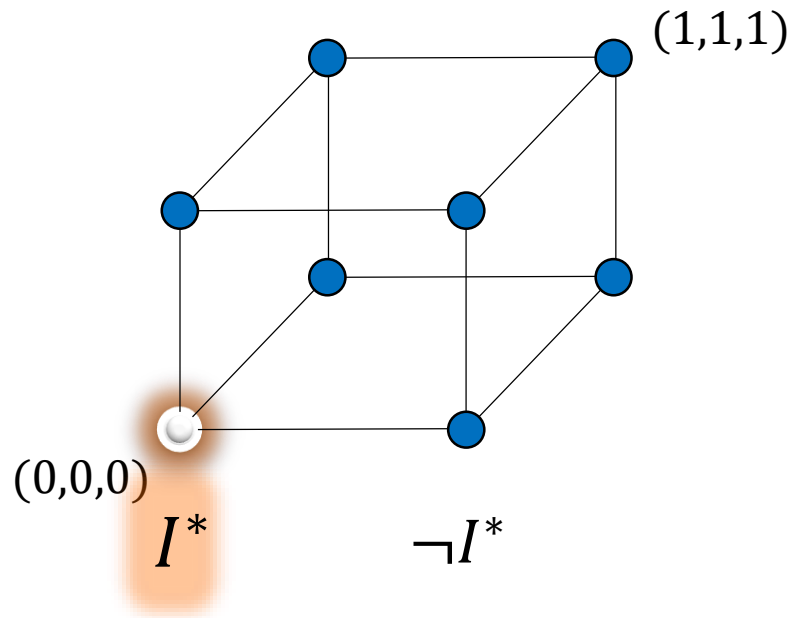
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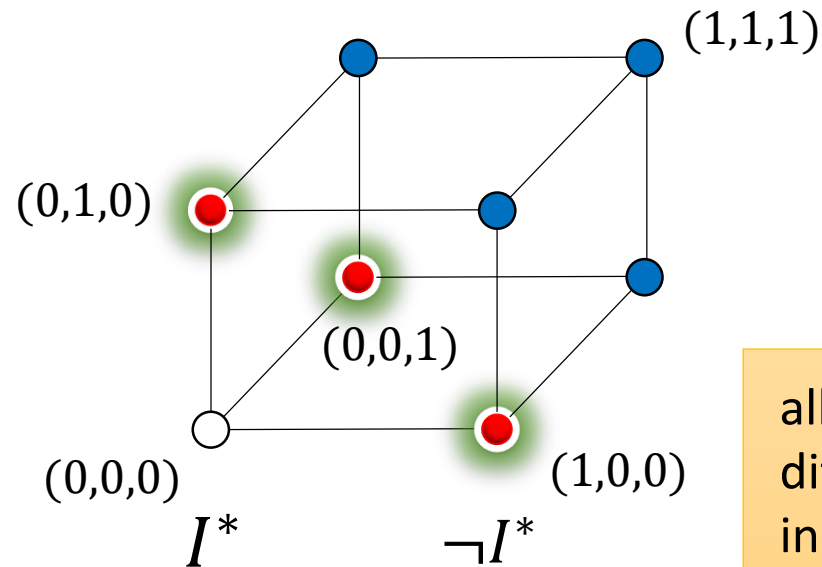
k -Fenced Invariants



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k -Fenced Invariants

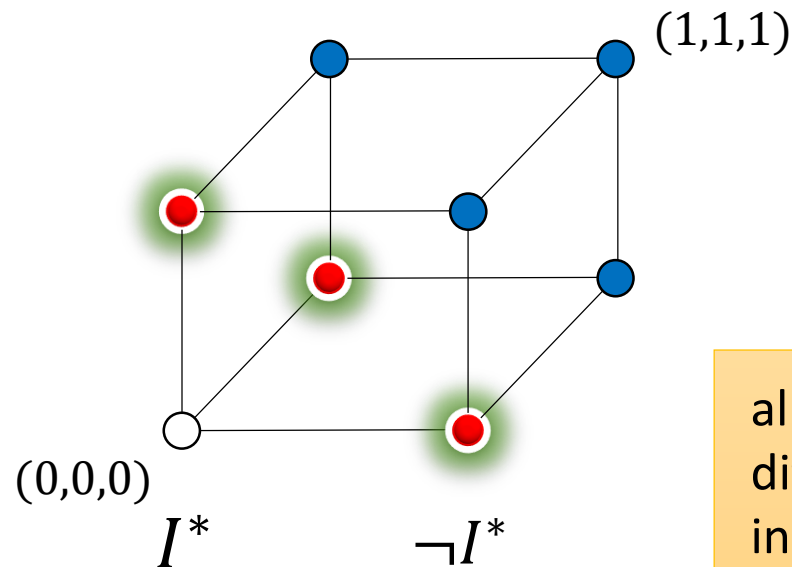


all states $\sigma \notin I^*$ that differ from some $\sigma' \in I^*$ in one bit

$\partial^-(I^*)$

Outer boundary

k -Fenced Invariants



all states $\sigma \notin I^*$ that differ from some $\sigma' \in I^*$ in one bit

I^* is k -fenced if
all the states in $\partial^-(I^*)$
can reach a bad state in at most k steps

Example: k -Fenced Invariant

$$\underline{\text{Init:}} \\ (x_1, \dots, x_n) := 0 \dots 0$$

$$\underline{\text{Bad:}} \\ (x_1, \dots, x_n) = 1 \dots 1$$

$$\underline{\delta:} \\ y_1, \dots, y_n := * \\ x_1, \dots, x_n := (x_1, \dots, x_n) + \\ 2 \cdot (y_1, \dots, y_n) \pmod{2^n}$$

$$I^*: x_n \neq 1$$

all the states in $\partial^-(I^*) = \{x_n = 1\}$
can reach a bad state in at most k steps $= 1$

Example: k -Fenced Invariant

Init:
 $(x_1, \dots, x_n) := 0 \dots 0$

Bad:
 $(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 1 \dots 1$

δ :
 $y_1, \dots, y_n := *$
 $x_1, \dots, x_n := (x_1, \dots, x_n) +$
 $2 \cdot (y_1, \dots, y_n) \pmod{2^n}$

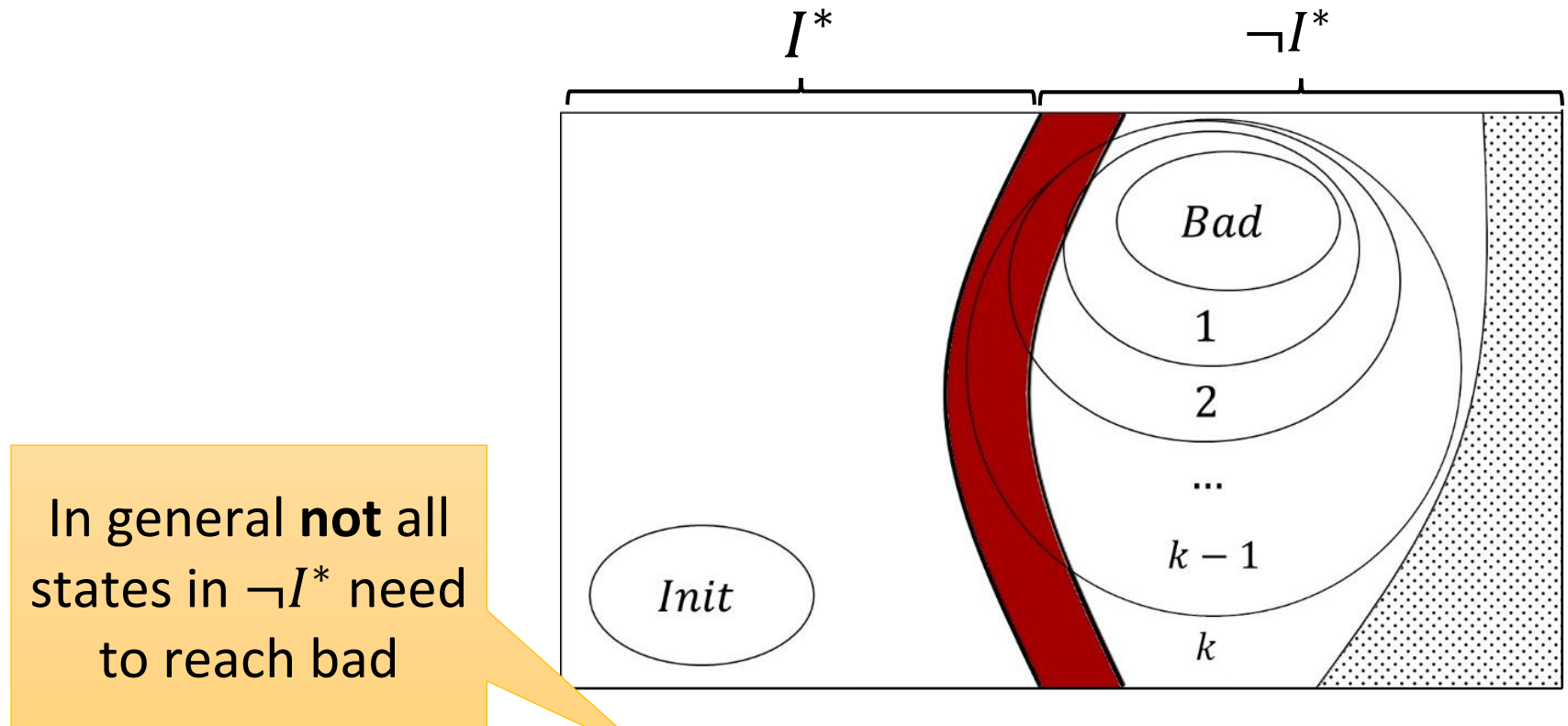
In general **not** all
states in $\neg I^*$ need
to reach bad

$I^*: x_n \neq 1$

In this example
 $\neg I^*$

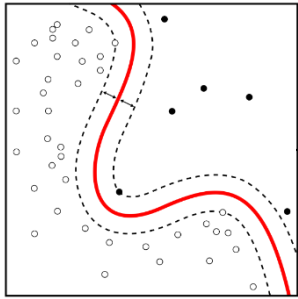
all the states in $\partial^-(I^*) = \{x_n = 1\}$
can reach a bad state in at most k steps $= 1$

k -Fenced Invariants



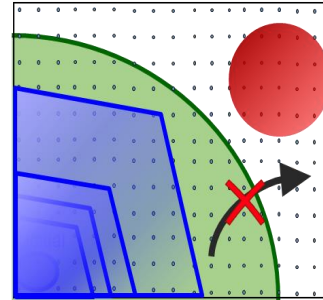
all the states in $\partial^-(I^*)$
can reach a bad state in at most k steps

From Learning to Inference



Efficiently

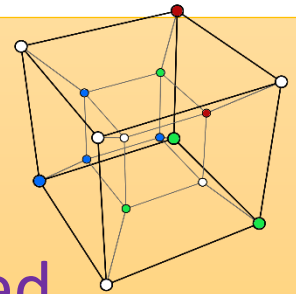
Exact **learning**
DNF formulas



Efficiently

Inferring
DNF invariants

Thm: can implement queries when
the invariant is *k-fenced* ✓
and the algorithm's queries are one-sided

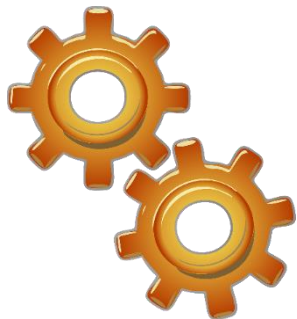


One-Sided Equivalence(ψ): $\psi \Rightarrow \varphi$

One-Sided Membership(σ): $\sigma \in \varphi \cup \partial^-(\varphi)$

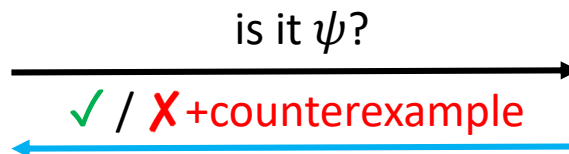
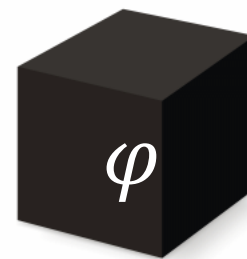
One-Sided Equivalence Queries to Invariants

inference
algorithm



$$\psi \Rightarrow \varphi$$

teacher



is ψ an inductive invariant?

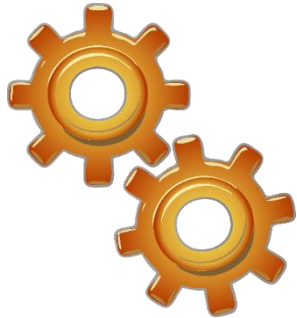
✓ yes hooray!

✗+counterexample transition:
 (σ, σ') s.t. $\sigma \models \psi, \sigma' \models \neg\psi$

Always return σ' as
positive example

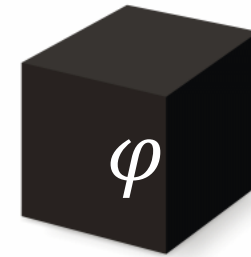
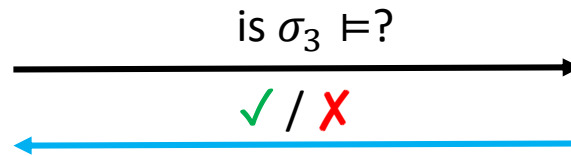
One-Sided Membership Queries to k -Fenced Invariants

inference
algorithm



$$\sigma \in \varphi \cup \partial^-(\varphi)$$

teacher



can't σ_3 reach bad states
in k steps?

$\text{BMC}^k(\sigma_3, \delta, \text{Bad})$ **unsat**?

\checkmark then yes

\times then no

Doesn't always imply that

$$\sigma_3 \models I^*$$

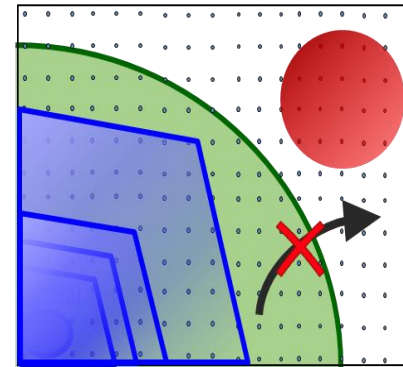
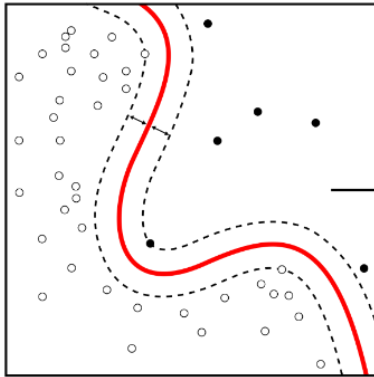
From Learning to Inference

Thm: Let \mathcal{C} be a class of formulas.

$\exists \mathcal{A}$ **identifying** $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}$ with
polynomially-many
one-sided queries



$\exists \mathcal{A}$ **inferring** $I^* \in \mathcal{C}$ with
polynomially-many
SAT queries
whenever I^* is **k -fenced**



Efficient Inference

Thm 1: $\mathcal{C} = \text{monotone DNF}$

$\exists \mathcal{A}$ **identifying** $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}$ with
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one-sided queries



$\exists \mathcal{A}$ **inferring** $I^* \in \mathcal{C}$ with
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[CACM'84] A Theory of the Learnable. Valiant

[ML'87] Queries and Concept Learning. Angluin

[ML'95] On the Learnability of Disjunctive Normal Form Formulas. Aizenstein and Pitt

Efficient Inference

Thm 1: $\mathcal{C} = \text{monotone DNF}$

$\exists \mathcal{A}$ **identifying** $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}$ with
polynomially-many
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$\exists \mathcal{A}$ **inferring** $I^* \in \mathcal{C}$ with
polynomially-many
SAT queries
whenever I^* is **k -fenced**

$\psi := \text{false}$

while σ' counterexample
to **Equivalence**(ψ):

$\psi := \psi \vee \text{generalize}(\sigma')$

generalize(σ'): $\sigma' \in \varphi \cup \partial^-(\varphi)$

drop literals from σ'

while **Membership**(σ') = **✓**

$\psi \Rightarrow \varphi$

$I := \text{false}$

while $(_, \sigma')$ counterexample
to **Inductive**(I):

$I := I \vee \text{generalize}(\sigma')$

generalize(σ'):

drop literals from σ'

while **BMC^k**($\sigma', \delta, \text{Bad}$) **unsat**

Efficient Inference

Thm 1: $\mathcal{C} =$ **monotone** DNF

$\exists \mathcal{A}$ **identifying** $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}$ with
polynomially-many
one-sided queries



$\exists \mathcal{A}$ **inferring** $I^* \in \mathcal{C}$ with
polynomially-many
SAT queries
whenever I^* is **k -fenced**

Thm 1: The **interpolation-based algorithm** converges in a polynomial number of SAT queries if I^* is

- k -fenced, and
- has a **short monotone DNF** representation

[CACM'84] A Theory of the Learnable. Valiant

[ML'87] Queries and Concept Learning. Angluin

[ML'95] On the Learnability of Disjunctive Normal Form Formulas. Aizenstein and Pitt

Efficient Inference

Thm 2: \mathcal{C} = almost-monotone DNF

$\exists \mathcal{A}$ **identifying** $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}$ with
polynomially-many
one-sided queries



$\exists \mathcal{A}$ **inferring** $I^* \in \mathcal{C}$ with
polynomially-many
SAT queries
whenever I^* is k -fenced

Thm 2: A **different algorithm** converges in a polynomial number of SAT queries if I^* is

- k -fenced, and
- has a **short almost-monotone** DNF representation

at most $O(1)$ terms include negated variables

Inference from Unrestricted Queries

Thm': Let \mathcal{C} be a class of formulas.

$\exists \mathcal{A}$ **identifying** $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}$ with
polynomially-many
~~one-sided~~ queries



$\exists \mathcal{A}$ **inferring** $I^* \in \mathcal{C}$ with
polynomially-many
SAT queries
whenever I^* is k -fenced

two-sided

Thm 3: A **different algorithm** converges in a polynomial number of SAT queries if I^* is

- **two-sided** k -fenced, and
- has a **short DNF** and a **short CNF** representation
e.g., I^* is expressible as a **short decision tree**

Inference from Unrestricted Queries

Thm': Let \mathcal{C} be a class of formulas.

two-sided

$\exists A$ inferring $I^* \in \mathcal{C}$ with
arbitrarily many
queries
if I^* is k -fenced

Thm: also when I^* is one-sided k -fenced
but **not by transformation from learning**

Thm 3: A different algorithm converges in a polynomial number of SAT queries if I^* is

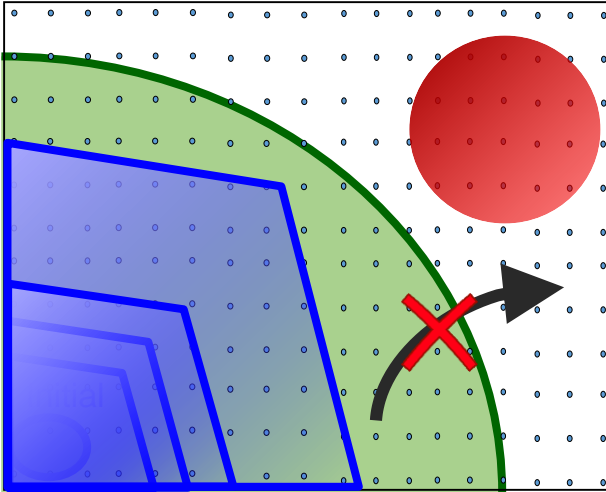
- two-sided k -fenced, and
 - has a short DNF and a short CNF representation
- e.g., I^* is expressible as a short decision tree

[Inf. Comput. '95] Exact Learning Boolean Function via the Monotone Theory. Bshouty

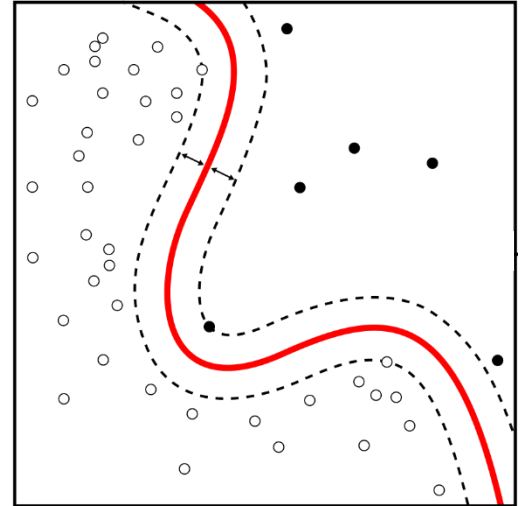
[SAS '22] Invariant Inference With Provable Complexity From the Monotone Theory. Feldman, Shoham

Conclusion (1)

Invariant Inference



Exact Concept Learning

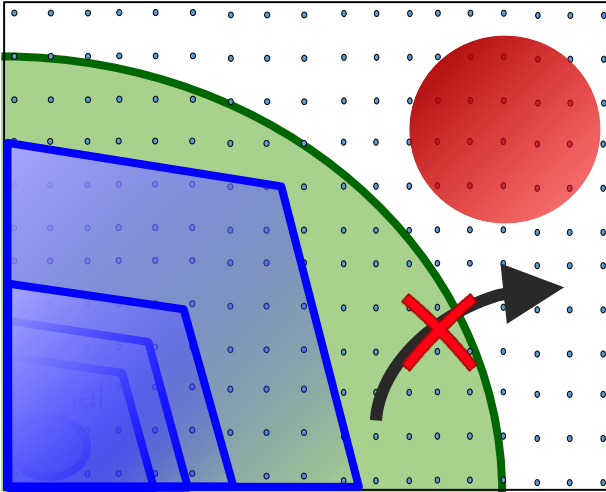


VS.

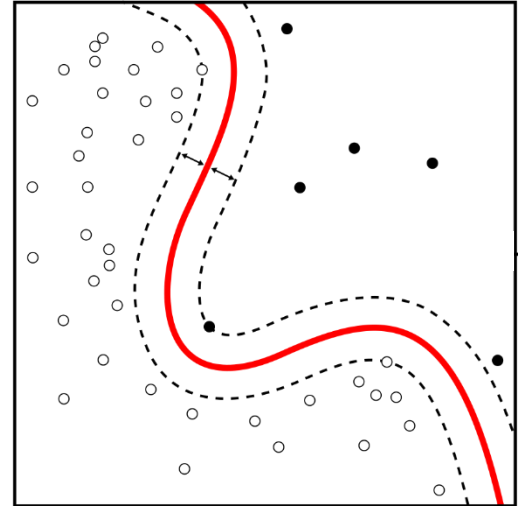
- Query-based learning models for invariant inference
- Complexity lower and upper bounds for each model
- Invariant inference is harder than concept learning
- Complexity results for invariant inference algorithms from concept learning algorithms

Conclusion (2)

Invariant Inference



Exact Concept Learning



VS.

- What about IC3/PDR?
- Impact of k in the Hoare query model?
- Is the fence condition necessary?
- Other conditions?
- Beyond Boolean programs