

# *Efficient Theorem-Proving for Modal Logics*

Cláudia Nalon

Department of Computer Science, University of Brasília

Joint work with Clare Dixon (Manchester), Ullrich Hustadt (Liverpool),  
and Fabio Papacchini (Lancaster at Leipzig)

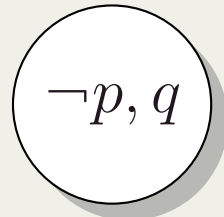
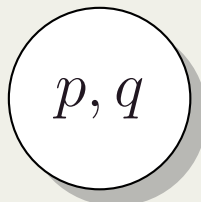
# Introduction

# Motivation

- **Modal logics** have been used in Computer Science to represent properties of complex systems: temporal, epistemic, obligations, choice, actions, and so on.
- Given a **representation** of a computational system in a logical language, we also want to **reason** about the system and their properties.
- There are different **proof methods** we could use:
  - Some modal languages can be translated into first-order and we could then use readily available automated reasoners.
  - Provide a proof method within the language of a particular modal logic.

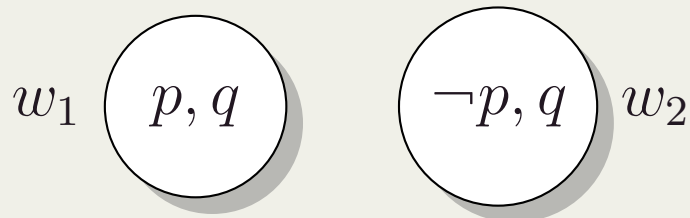
# Syntax and Semantics

- Modal logics are extensions of propositional logic with operators ' $\Box$ ' and ' $\Diamond$ '.
- Evaluation of a formula depends on a **set of worlds** and on the **accessibility relations** on this set.
- Different restrictions on the accessibility relations give rise to different modal logics.



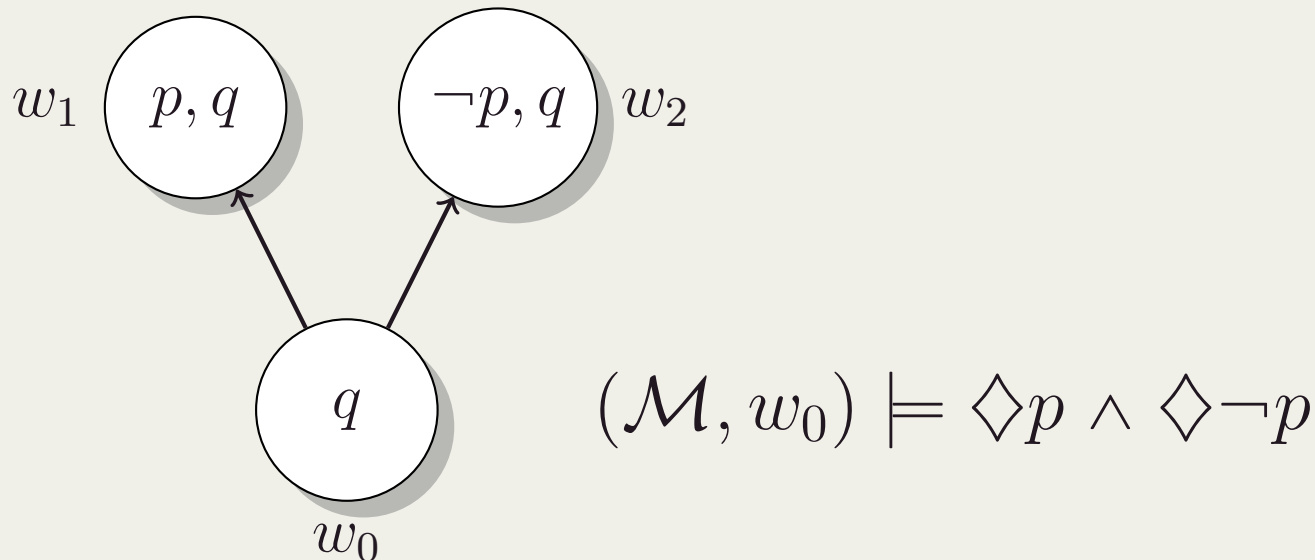
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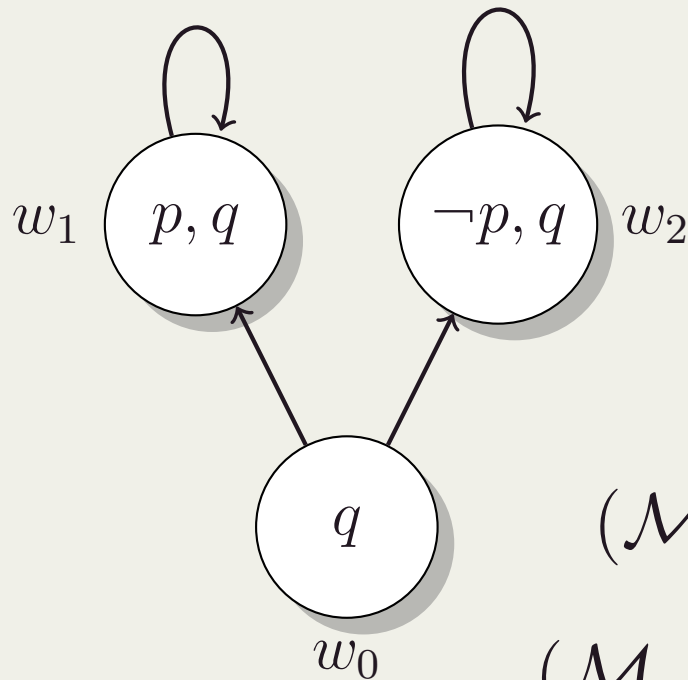
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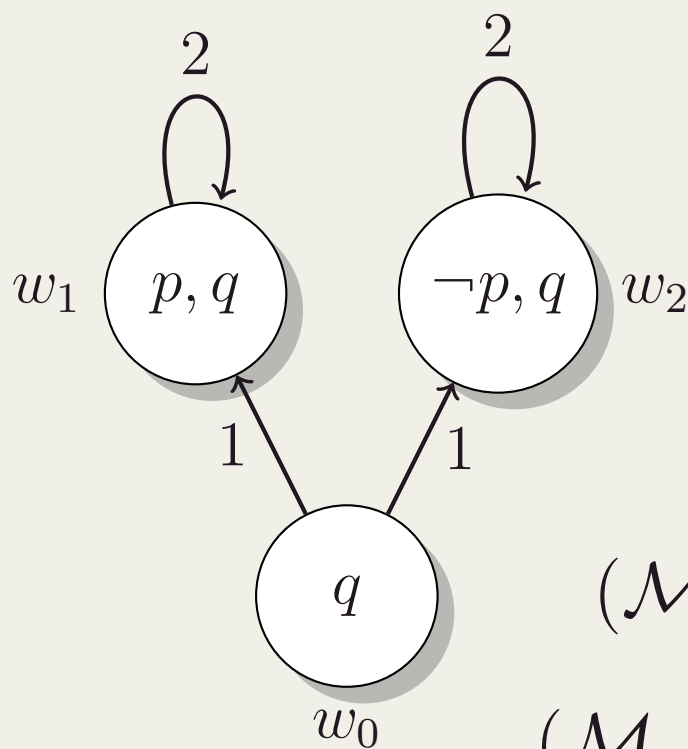


$$(\mathcal{M}, w_0) \models \Diamond p \wedge \Diamond \neg p$$

$$(\mathcal{M}, w_0) \models \Box(\Box p \vee \Box \neg p)$$

# Syntax and Semantics

- Modal logics are extensions of propositional logic with operators  $\Box^a$  and  $\Diamond^a$ , where  $a \in \mathcal{A} = \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .
- Evaluation of a formula depends on a **set of worlds** and on the **accessibility relations** on this set.
- Different restrictions on the accessibility relations give rise to different modal logics.



$$(\mathcal{M}, w_0) \models \Diamond^1 p \wedge \Diamond^1 \neg p$$

$$(\mathcal{M}, w_0) \models \Box^1 (\Box^2 p \vee \Box^2 \neg p)$$



# Syntax

- The **set of well-formed formulae**, WFF:
  - $p \in \mathcal{P}$ ;
  - if  $\varphi \in \text{WFF}$ , then so are  $\neg\varphi$  and  $\Box^a\varphi$ ,  $a \in \mathcal{A} = \{1, \dots, n\}$ ;
  - if  $\varphi$  and  $\psi \in \text{WFF}$ , then  $(\varphi \wedge \psi) \in \text{WFF}$ .
- Abbreviations:
  - $\text{false} \equiv p \wedge \neg p$  (for  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ )
  - $\text{true} \equiv \neg\text{false}$
  - $\varphi \vee \psi \equiv \neg(\neg\varphi \wedge \neg\psi)$
  - $\varphi \rightarrow \psi \equiv \neg\varphi \vee \psi$
  - $\varphi \leftrightarrow \psi \equiv (\varphi \rightarrow \psi) \wedge (\psi \rightarrow \varphi)$
  - $\Diamond^a\varphi \equiv \neg\Box^a\neg\varphi$ .

# Semantics

- A **Kripke Structure**  $\mathcal{M}$  for  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{A} = \{1, \dots, n\}$  is a tuple

$$\mathcal{M} = \langle \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R}_1, \dots, \mathcal{R}_n, \pi \rangle,$$

where:

- $\mathcal{W}$  is a non-empty set;
  - For each  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mathcal{R}_a \subseteq \mathcal{W} \times \mathcal{W}$ ;
  - $\pi : \mathcal{W} \times \mathcal{P} \longrightarrow \{T, F\}$ .
- The **satisfiability relation**  $\models$  between a world  $w \in \mathcal{W}$  in a Kripke structure  $\mathcal{M}$  and a formula is inductively defined by:
    - $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models p, p \in \mathcal{P}$ , iff  $\pi(w, p) = T$ ;
    - $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models \neg\varphi$  iff  $(\mathcal{M}, w) \not\models \varphi$ ;
    - $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models \varphi \wedge \psi$  iff  $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models \varphi$  and  $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models \psi$ ;
    - $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models \boxed{^a}\varphi$  iff for all  $w'$ ,  $w\mathcal{R}_aw'$  implies  $(\mathcal{M}, w') \models \varphi$ .

# Reasoning Tasks

$$\mathcal{M} = \langle \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R}_1, \dots, \mathcal{R}_n, \pi \rangle$$

- A formula  $\varphi$  is **locally satisfiable** iff there is a model  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $w \in \mathcal{W}$  such that  $\langle \mathcal{M}, w \rangle \models \varphi$ . In this case, we say that  $\mathcal{M}$  satisfies  $\varphi$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{M} \models_L \varphi$ .
- A formula  $\varphi$  is **globally satisfiable** iff there is a model  $\mathcal{M}$  and for all  $w \in \mathcal{W}$  we have that  $\langle \mathcal{M}, w \rangle \models \varphi$ . In this case, we say that  $\mathcal{M}$  globally satisfies  $\varphi$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{M} \models_G \varphi$ .
- A formula  $\varphi$  is **satisfiable under the global constraints**  $\Gamma = \{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_m\}$  iff there is a model  $\mathcal{M}$  such that  $\mathcal{M} \models_G \Gamma$  and there is  $w \in \mathcal{W}$  such that  $\langle \mathcal{M}, w \rangle \models_L \varphi$ .

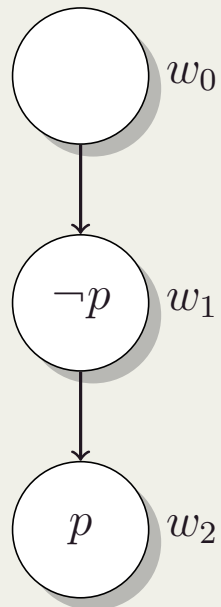
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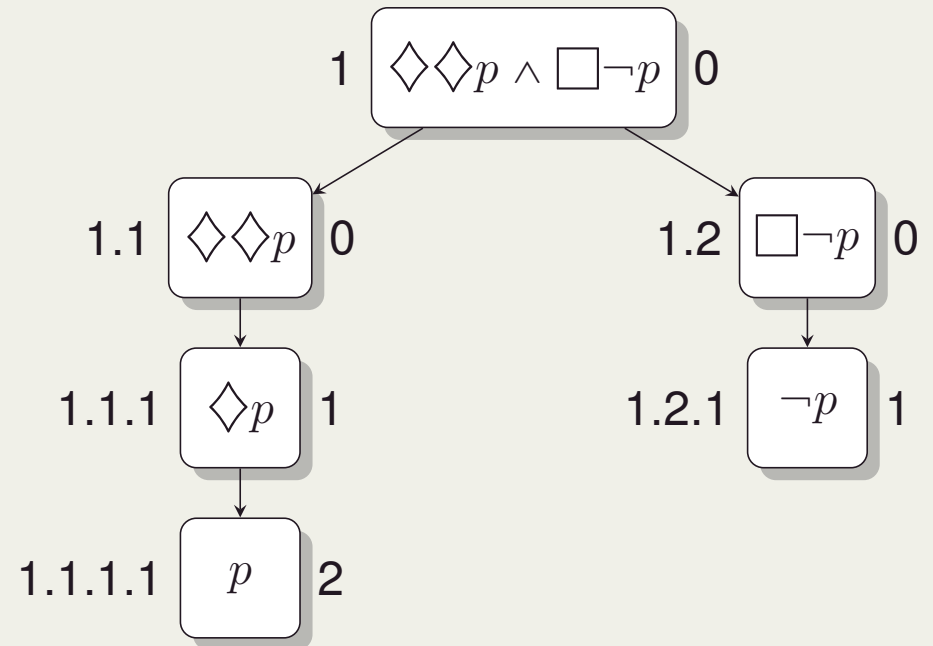
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# Local Reasoning

- Nice properties: **finite**, **tree-like** models with height bounded by the modal depth/modal level of the formula.



$$\diamond\diamond p \wedge \square\neg p$$



# Clausal Resolution for Propositional Logic

- There is only one inference rule:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{[RES]} \quad \varphi \quad \vee \quad l \\ \quad \quad \psi \quad \vee \quad \neg l \\ \hline \quad \quad \varphi \quad \vee \quad \psi \end{array}$$

# Procedure

Let  $\Gamma_0$  be a set of clauses.

1:  $i \leftarrow 0$

2: **repeat**

3:     Choose  $c_1$  and  $c_2 \in \Gamma_i$  such that  $l \in c_1$  and  $\neg l \in c_2$

4:     Calculate the resolvent  $r$

5:     **if**  $r$  is not redundant **then**

6:         Let  $\Gamma_{i+1} \leftarrow \Gamma_i \cup \{r\}$

7:     **end if**

8:      $i \leftarrow i + 1$

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# CNF

- conjunctive normal form

$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^n \bigvee_{j=1}^m l_{ij}$$

Let  $\varphi \in \text{WFF}$ . There is  $\varphi' \in \text{WFF}$ ,  $\varphi' \models \varphi$  and  $\varphi'$  is in CNF.

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- $\varphi \rightarrow \varphi' \longmapsto \neg\varphi \vee \varphi'$  (def. implication);
- $\neg(\varphi \wedge \varphi') \longmapsto \neg\varphi \vee \neg\varphi'$  (De Morgan);
- $\neg(\varphi \vee \varphi') \longmapsto \neg\varphi \wedge \neg\varphi'$  (De Morgan);
- $\neg\neg\varphi \longmapsto \varphi$  (double negation elimination);
- $\varphi \vee (\varphi' \wedge \varphi'') \longmapsto (\varphi \vee \varphi') \wedge (\varphi \vee \varphi'')$  (distribution).

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$$\text{size}((\varphi \vee \varphi') \wedge (\varphi \vee \varphi'')) = 2 \times \text{size}(\varphi) + \text{size}(\varphi' \wedge \varphi'') + 2$$

# Renaming

- Introduce **new literals** which replace complex subformulae;
- Introduce the **definition** clauses for those literals.

Let  $\varphi$  be the formula to be replaced and  $new_\varphi$  a fresh propositional symbol:

$$Pol(\varphi) > 0 \Rightarrow new_\varphi \rightarrow \varphi$$

$$Pol(\varphi) < 0 \Rightarrow \varphi \rightarrow new_\varphi$$

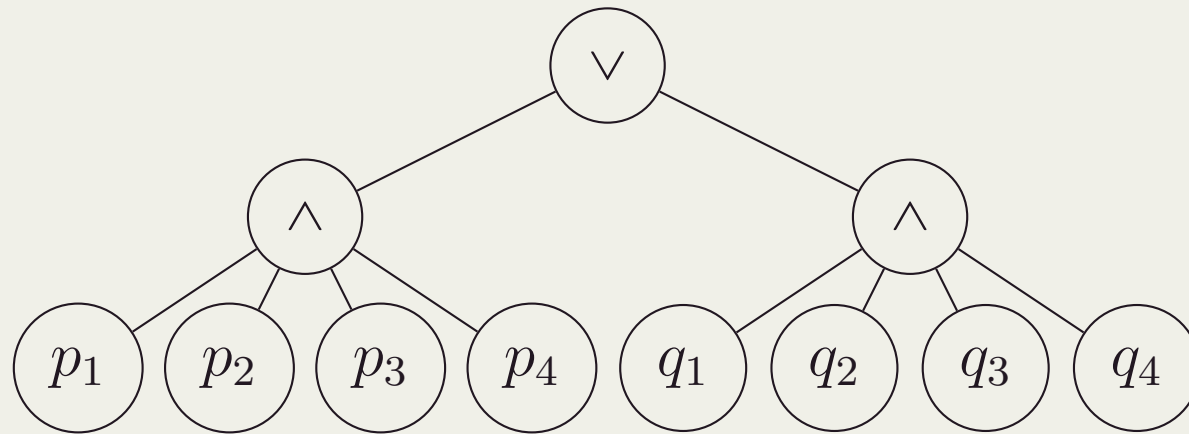
$$Pol(\varphi) = 0 \Rightarrow new_\varphi \leftrightarrow \varphi$$

[Tseitin, 1968],[PG, 1986]

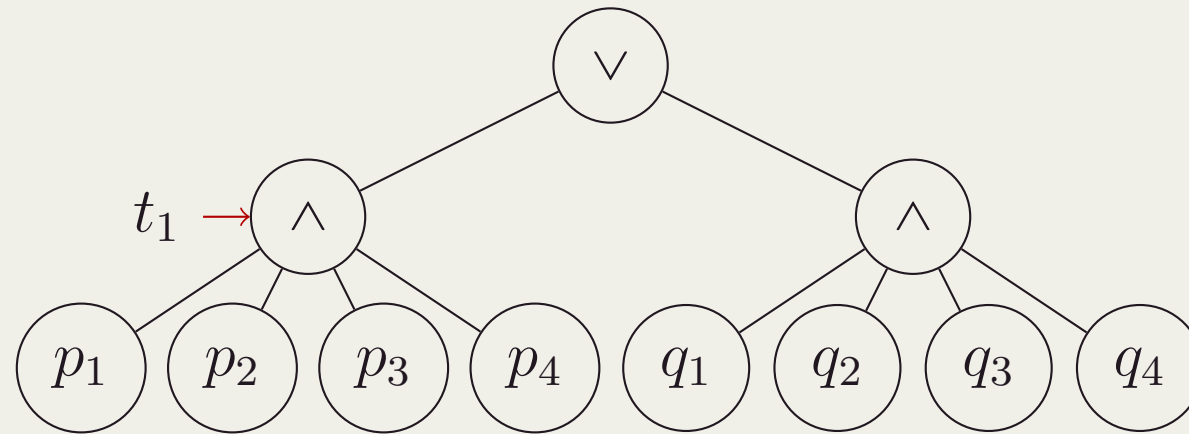
Let  $\varphi \in \text{WFF}$ . There is  $\varphi' \in \text{WFF}$ ,  $\varphi'$  is in CNF, and  $\varphi'$  is satisfiable if, and only if,  $\varphi$  is satisfiable.

Moreover,  $\text{size}(\varphi') = O(\text{size}(\varphi))$ .

# Example

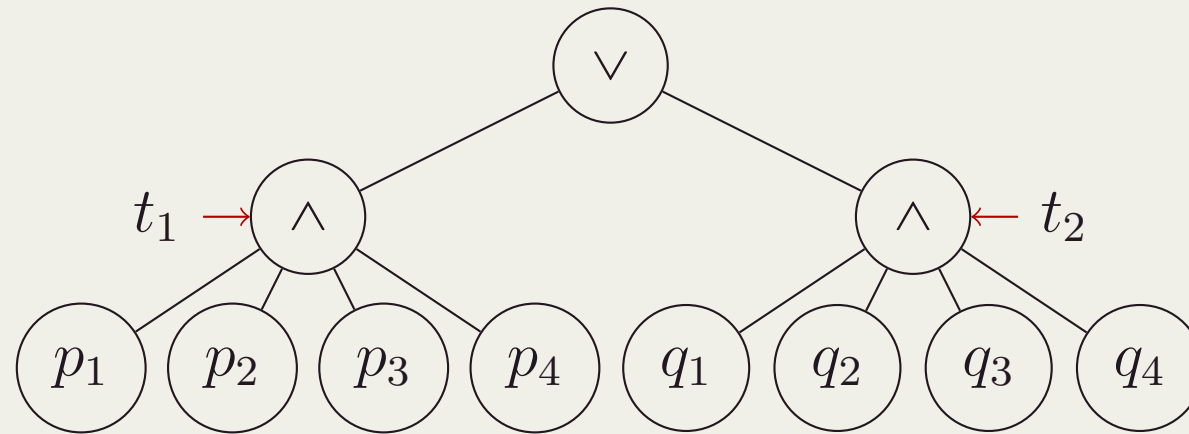


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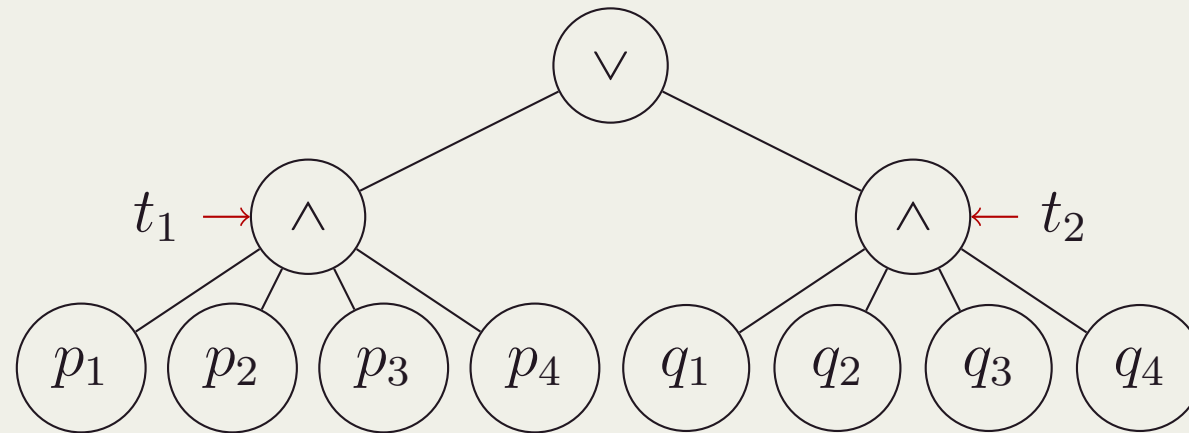




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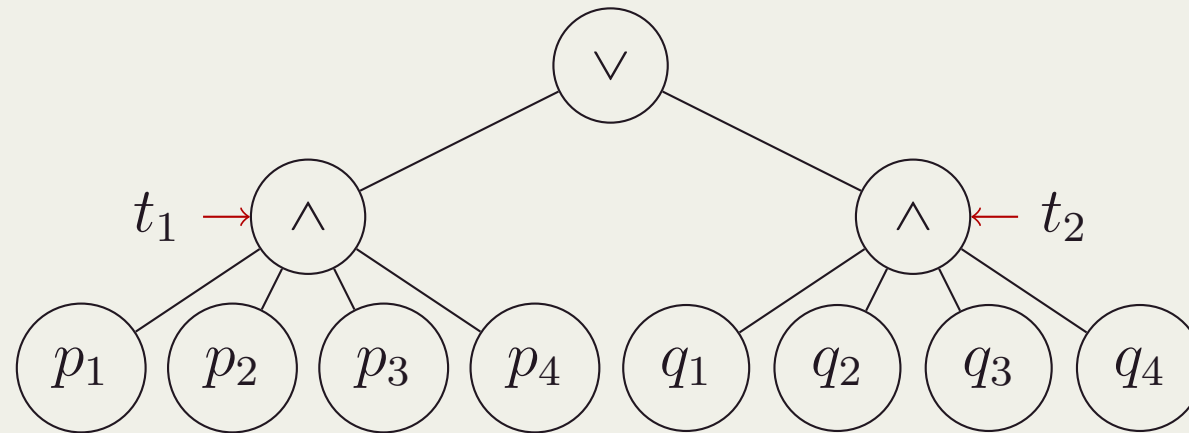


# Example



$$(t_1 \vee t_2) \wedge (t_1 \rightarrow p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge p_3 \wedge p_4) \wedge (t_2 \rightarrow q_1 \wedge q_2 \wedge q_3 \wedge q_4)$$

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$$(t_1 \vee t_2)$$

$$(\neg t_1 \vee p_1) \wedge (\neg t_1 \vee p_2) \wedge (\neg t_1 \vee p_3) \wedge (\neg t_1 \vee p_4)$$

$$(\neg t_2 \vee q_1) \wedge (\neg t_2 \vee q_2) \wedge (\neg t_2 \vee q_3) \wedge (\neg t_2 \vee q_4)$$

## More on Renaming

- Renaming ensures that the CNF of a formula has size linear on the size of that formula.
- Renaming helps **separating** different contexts for reasoning:

$$t \rightarrow \diamond_1 \diamond_2 p$$

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$$t \rightarrow \diamond_1 t_1 \wedge t_1 \rightarrow \diamond_2 p$$

- In the case of a modal language, we need to make sure that the definition of the new literal is **available** wherever it is needed:

$$(t \rightarrow \diamond_1 t_1) \wedge \Box^*(t_1 \rightarrow \diamond_2 p)$$

- The use of the **universal operator** “mimics” the renaming procedure for First-Order Logic, where definitions are universally quantified.

# Clauses - Previous Calculus

In [ND, 2006] and [ND, 2007] (inspired by [Mints, 1990])

- Initial clause  $\boxed{*}(\text{start} \rightarrow \bigvee_{b=1}^r l_b)$
- Literal clause  $\boxed{*}(\text{true} \rightarrow \bigvee_{b=1}^r l_b)$
- Positive  $a$ -clause  $\boxed{*}(l' \rightarrow \boxed{a}l)$
- Negative  $a$ -clause  $\boxed{*}(l' \rightarrow \blacklozenge_a l)$

where  $l, l', l_b \in \mathcal{L}$ . Positive and negative  $a$ -clauses are together known as *modal  $a$ -clauses*; the index  $a$  may be omitted if it is clear from the context.

# Modal Layered Clauses

In [NHD, 2015, NDH, 2019] (inspired by [AdNdR, 2000], [AGHdR, 2000]):

- Literal clause  $ml : \bigvee_{b=1}^r l_b$
- Positive  $a$ -clause  $ml : l' \rightarrow \boxed{a}l$
- Negative  $a$ -clause  $ml : l' \rightarrow \blacklozenge_a l$

where  $ml \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{*\}$  and  $l, l', l_b \in \mathcal{L}$ .



# Inference Rules

[LRES]

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} ml : D \quad \vee \quad l \\ ml' : D' \quad \vee \quad \neg l \end{array}}{\sigma(\{ml, ml'\}) : D \quad \vee \quad D'}$$

[MRES]

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} ml : l_1 \quad \rightarrow \quad \boxed{a}l \\ ml' : l_2 \quad \rightarrow \quad \diamond_a \neg l \end{array}}{\sigma(\{ml, ml'\}) : \neg l_1 \quad \vee \quad \neg l_2}$$

where  $\sigma(\{i\}) = i$ ,  $\sigma(\{i, *\}) = i$ ,  
 $i \in \{*\} \cup \mathbb{N}$

$0 : p \vee q, 0 : \neg p \vee q$

$* : p \vee q, * : \neg p \vee q$

$* : p \vee q, 1 : \neg p \vee q$

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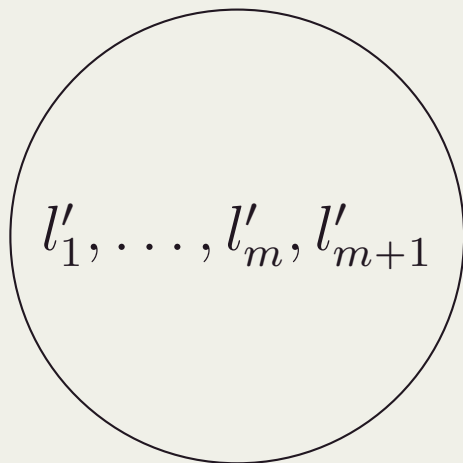
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[GEN1]

$$\begin{array}{l} ml_1 : l'_1 \rightarrow \boxed{a} \neg l_1 \\ \vdots \\ ml_m : l'_m \rightarrow \boxed{a} \neg l_m \\ ml_{m+1} : l'_{m+1} \rightarrow \diamond a \neg l \\ ml_{m+2} : l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_m \vee l_{m+1} \end{array}$$

---

$$\sigma \left( \{ml_{m+2} - 1\} \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+1} \{ml_i\} \right) : \neg l'_1 \vee \dots \vee \neg l'_m \vee \neg l'_{m+1}$$



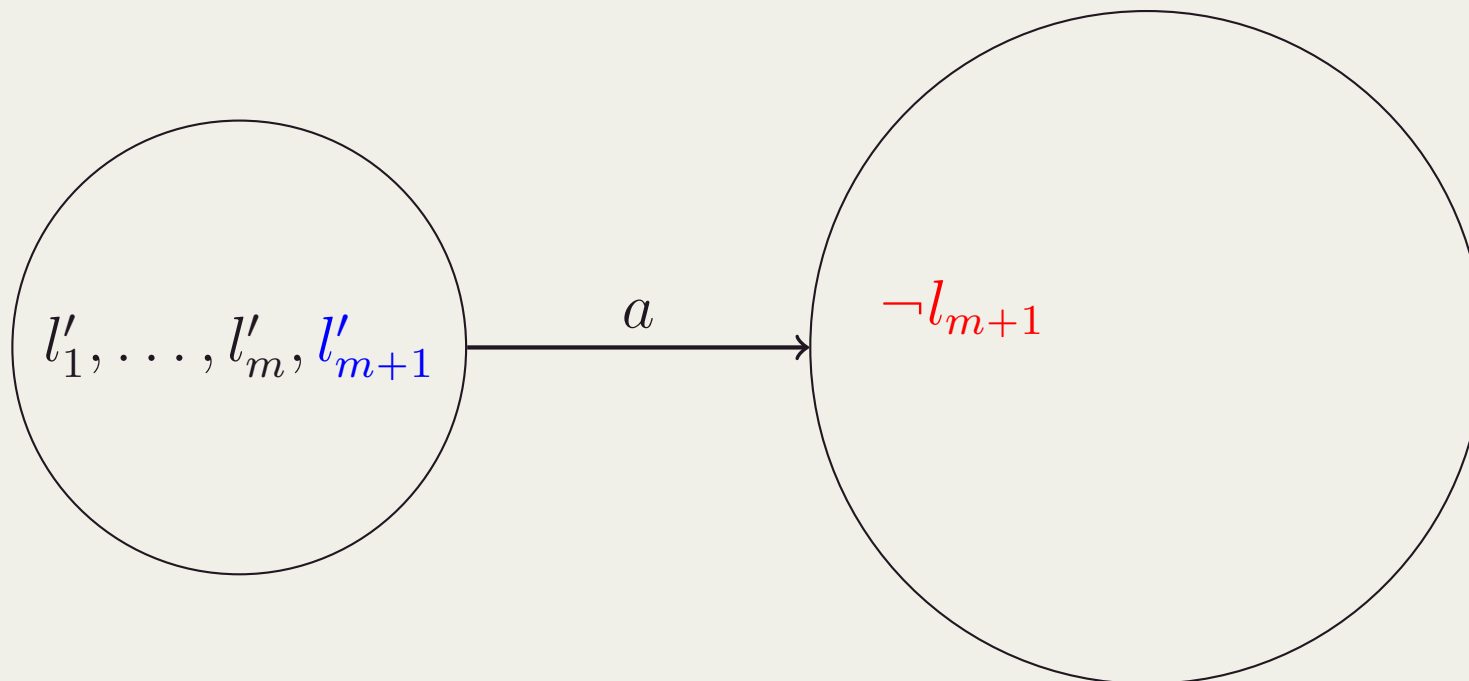
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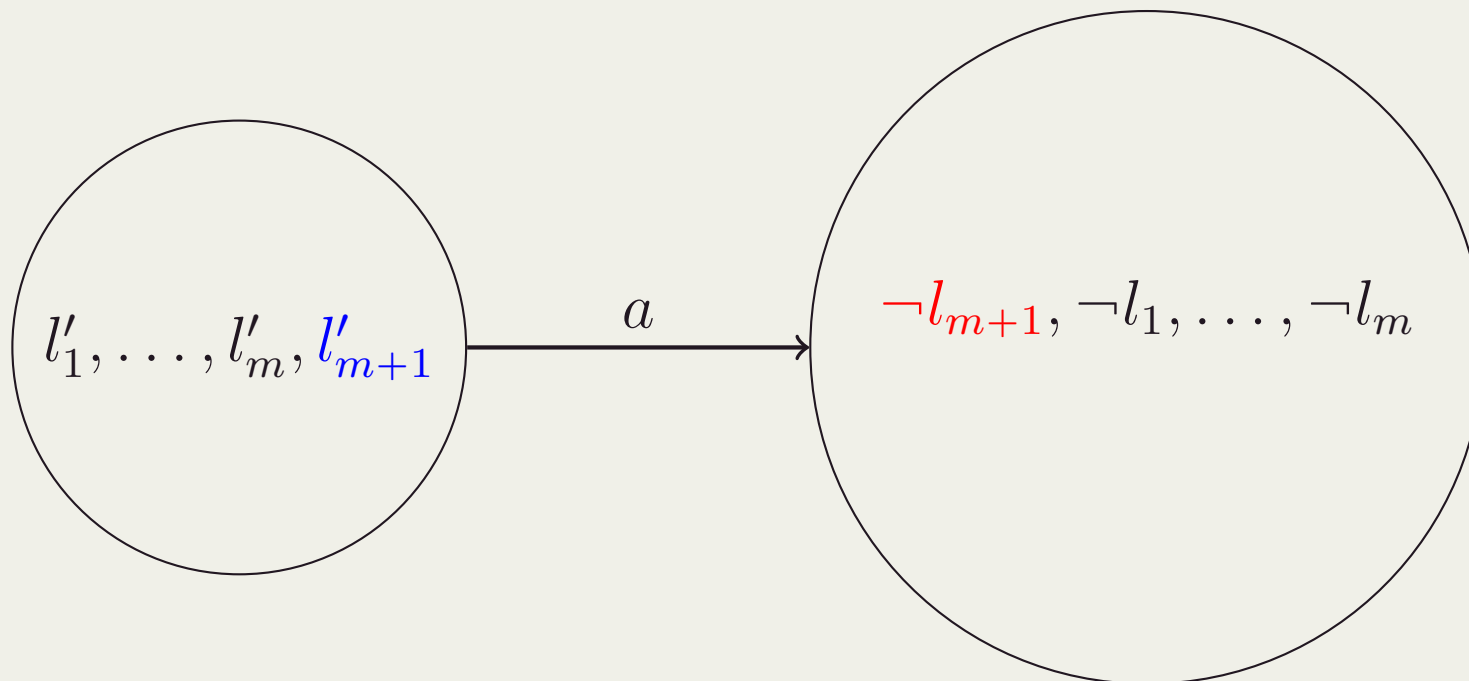
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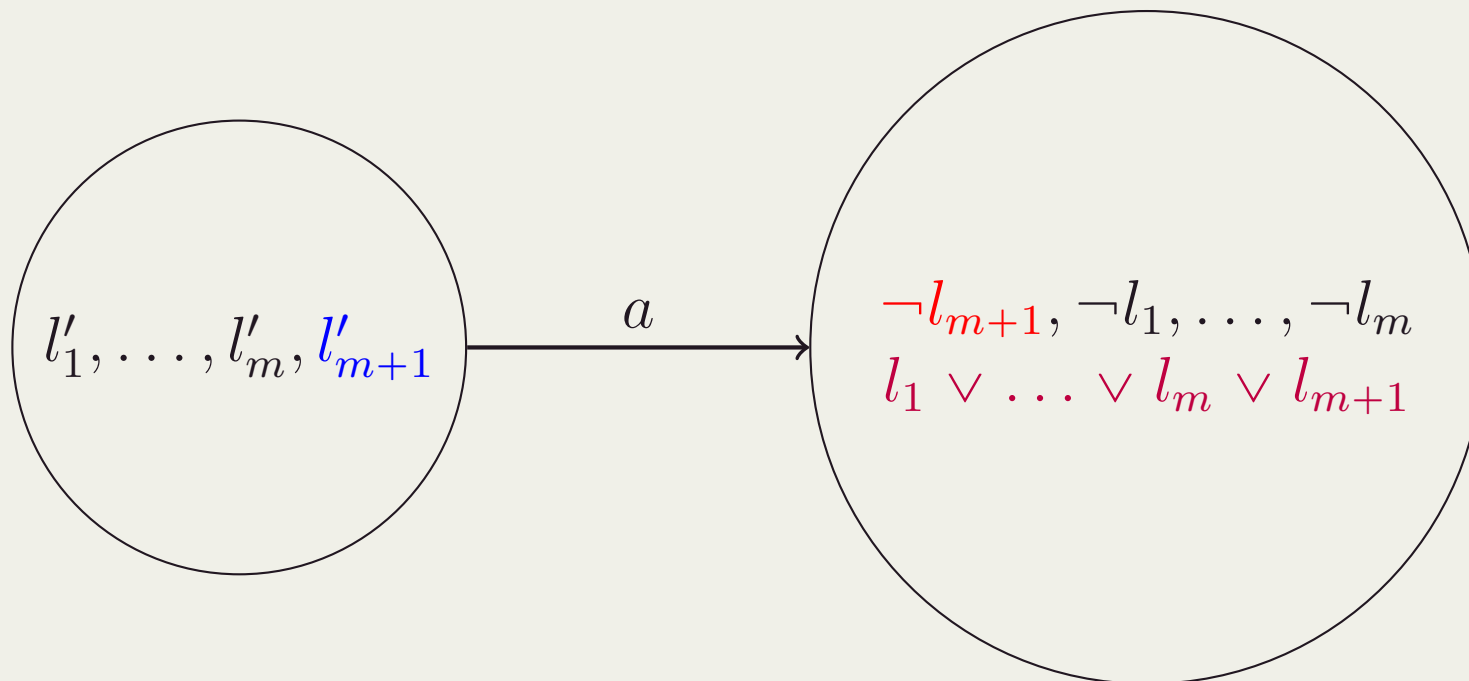
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 ml_{m+2} &: \color{red}{l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_m \vee l_{m+1}}
 \end{aligned}$$


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# Inference Rules

[GEN2]

$$ml_1 : l'_1 \rightarrow \boxed{a}l_1$$

$$ml_2 : l'_2 \rightarrow \boxed{a}\neg l_1$$

$$ml_3 : l'_3 \rightarrow \diamond_a l_2$$

---

$$ml : \neg l'_1 \vee \neg l'_2 \vee \neg l'_3$$

where  $ml = \sigma(\{ml_1, ml_2, ml_3\})$

[GEN3]

$$ml_1 : l'_1 \rightarrow \boxed{a}\neg l_1$$

$\vdots$

$$ml_m : l'_m \rightarrow \boxed{a}\neg l_m$$

$$ml_{m+1} : l' \rightarrow \diamond_a l$$

$$ml_{m+2} : l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_m$$

---

$$ml : \neg l'_1 \vee \dots \vee \neg l'_m \vee \neg l'$$

where  $ml = \sigma(\{ml_1, \dots, ml_{m+1}, ml_{m+2} - 1\})$

# Examples

$$\diamond\diamond p \wedge \square\neg p$$

$$0 : t_0$$

$$0 : t_0 \rightarrow \diamond t_1$$

$$1 : t_1 \rightarrow \diamond p$$

$$0 : t_0 \rightarrow \square\neg p$$



# Examples

$$\diamond\diamond p \wedge \square\neg p$$

$$0 : t_0$$

$$0 : t_0 \rightarrow \diamond t_1$$

$$1 : t_1 \rightarrow \diamond p$$

$$0 : t_0 \rightarrow \square\neg p$$

$$p \wedge \diamond\neg p$$

$$0 : t_0$$

$$0 : \neg t_0 \vee p$$

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The full pack is in my webpage: [nalon.org](http://nalon.org).

# K<sub>S</sub>P- LWB - k\_t4p - Modal Layering

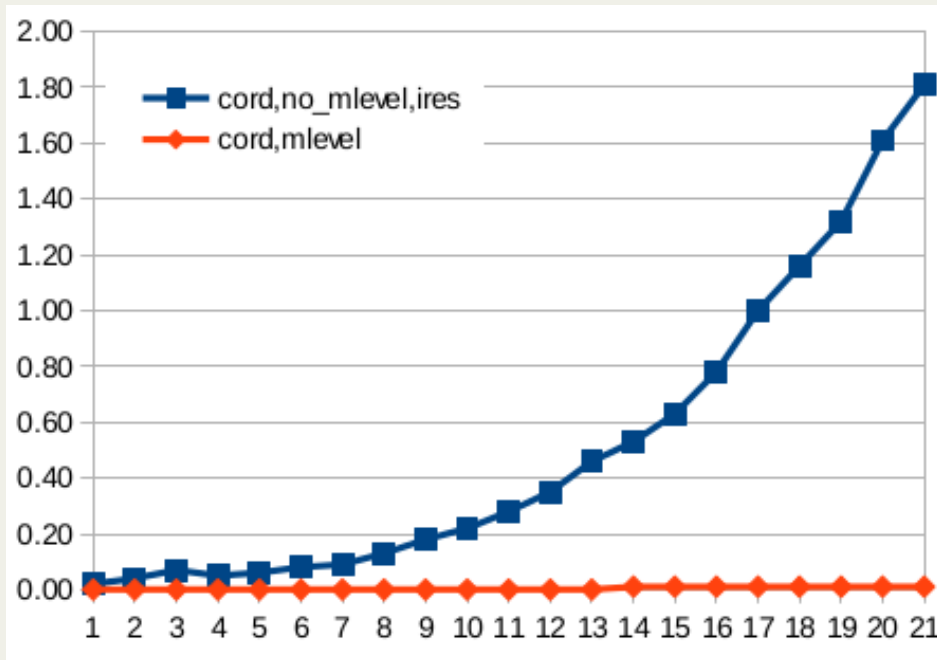


Figura 1: Unsatisfiable Formulae

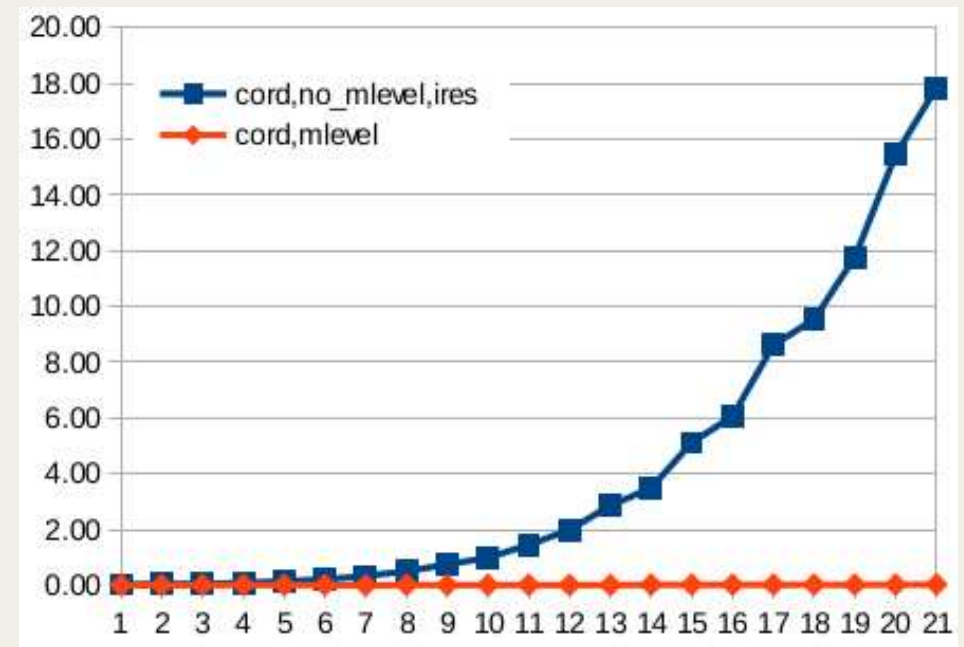
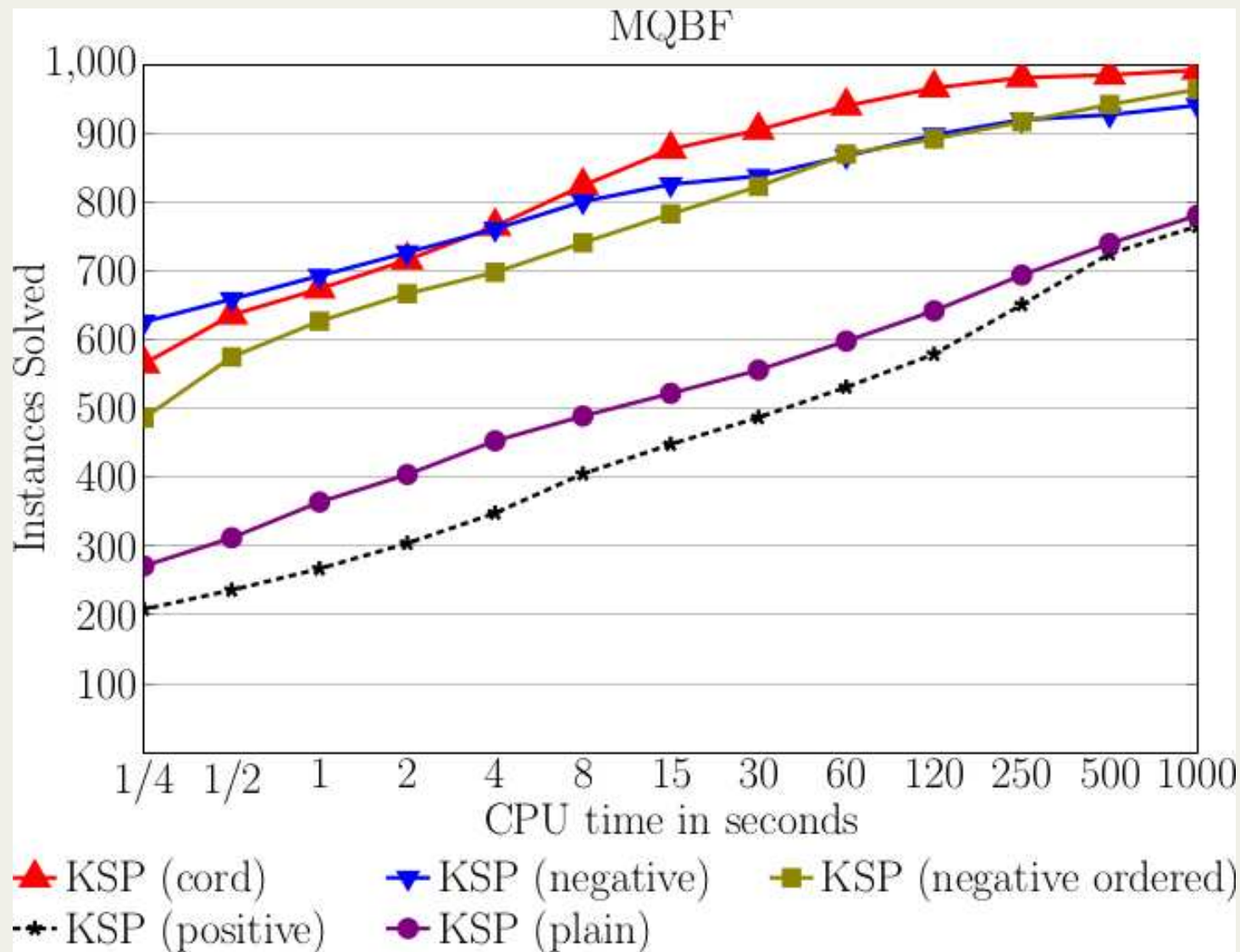
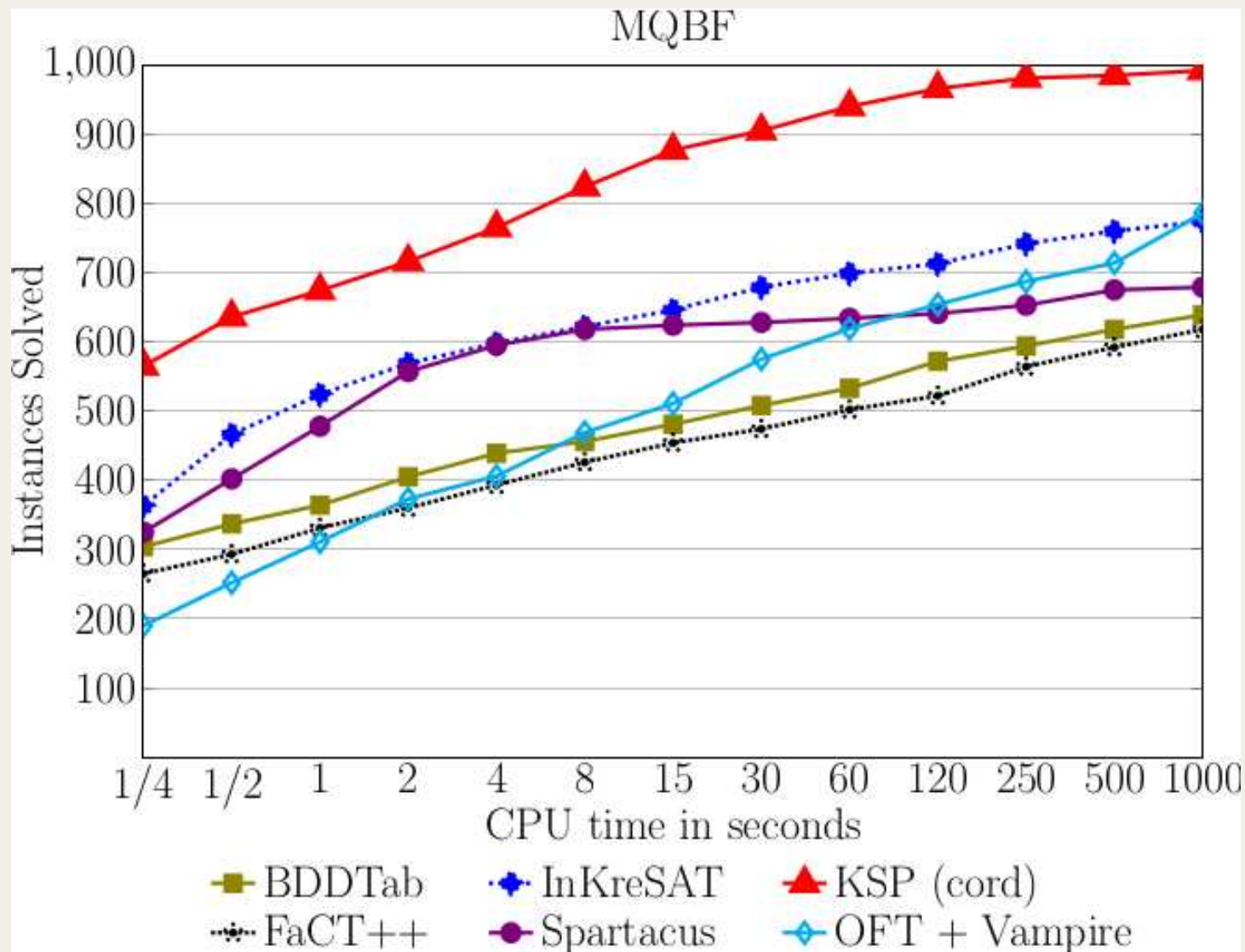


Figura 2: Satisfiable Formulae

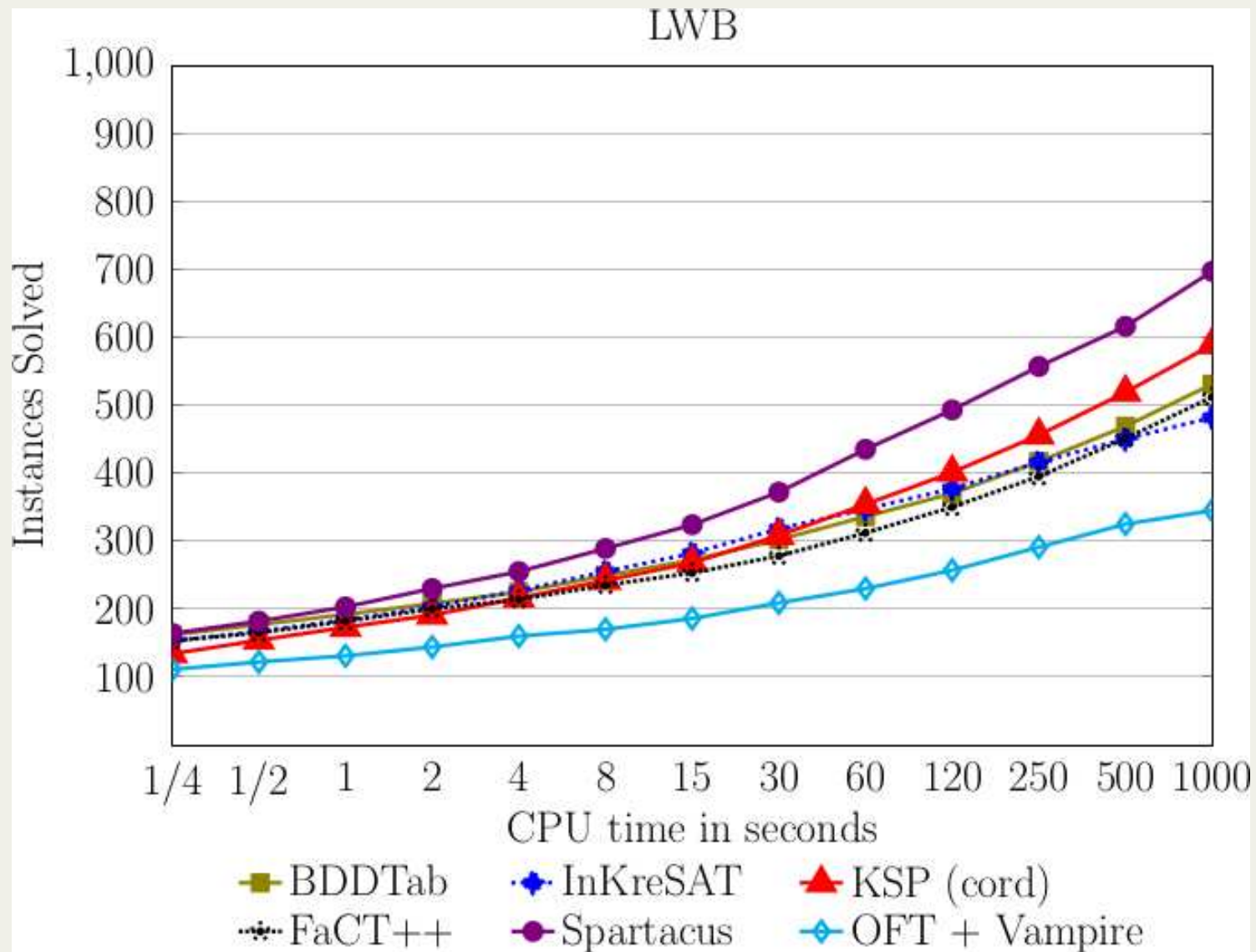
# K<sub>S</sub>P- MQBF - Different Refinements



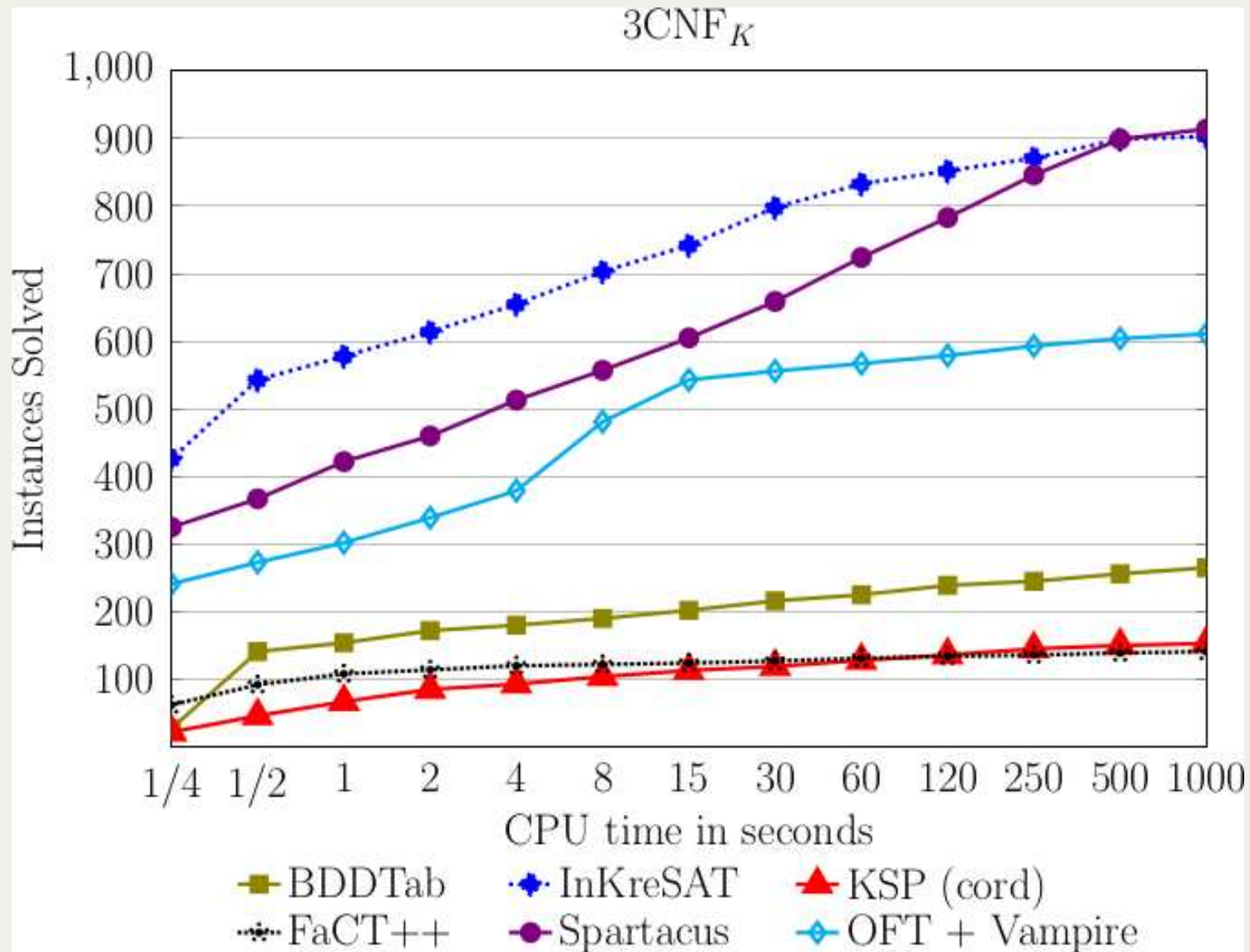
# All Provers - MQBF



# All Provers - LWB

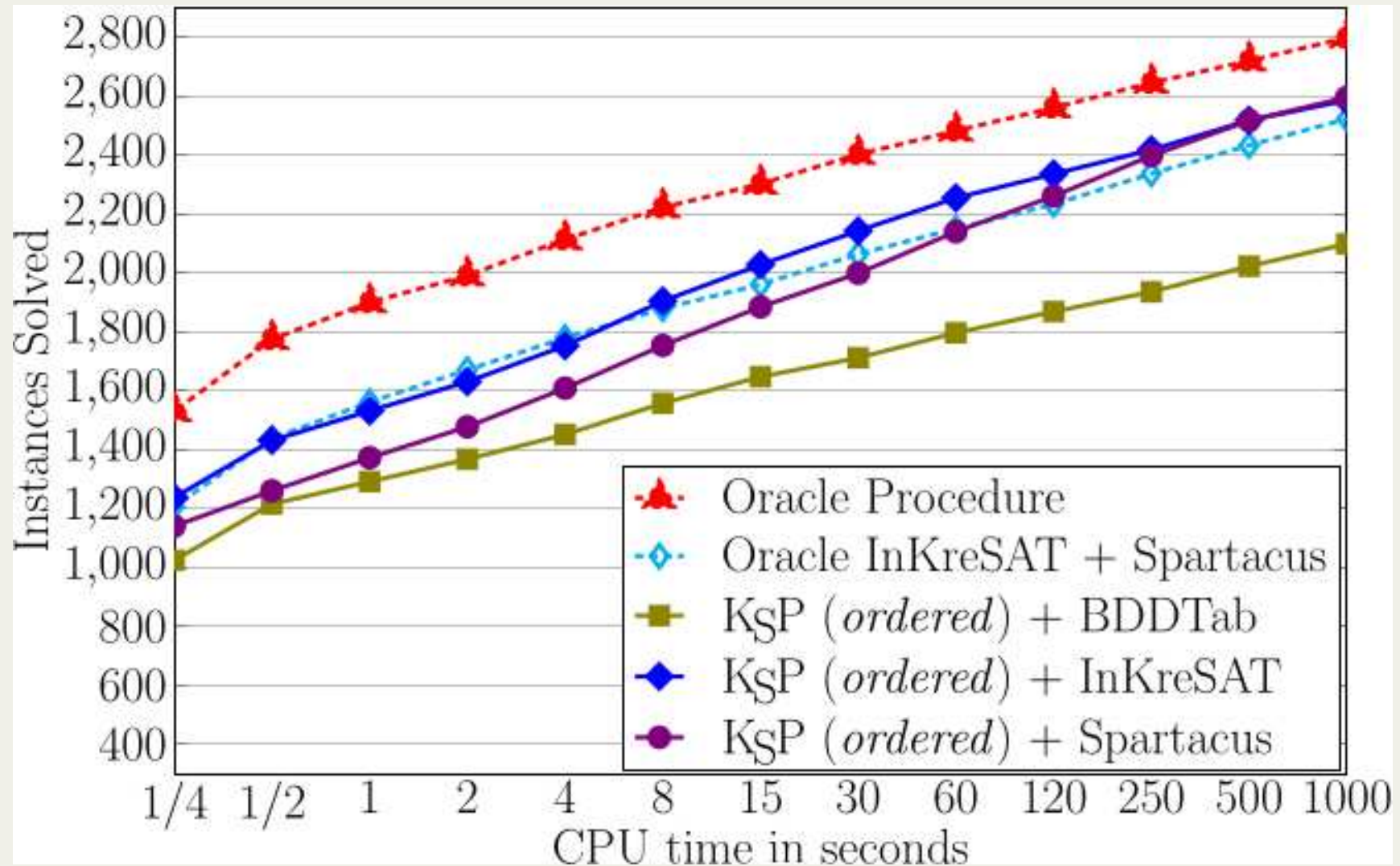


# All Provers - 3CNF



# Oracle/Portfolio

BDDTab	FaCT++	InKreSAT	K <sub>S</sub> P	Spartacus	OFT + Vampire	Unsolved
674	111	912	849	748	57	227



# Some Notes

- The calculus is sound, complete, and terminating (TABLEAUX 2015, ToCL 2020).
- The calculus for  $K_n$  was implemented and tested (IJCAR 2016, JAR 2020).
- Negative and ordered resolution, together with layering, are also complete (ToCL 2020).
- Ongoing and future work:
  - $K_{\mathcal{S}P}$  is not any clever (yet).
  - Renaming can be improved????
  - Saturation takes a lot of time: combined proof methods might help here.



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	BDDTab		FaCT++		InKreSAT		KSP (cord)		Spartacus		OFT + Vampire	
branch_n	22	22	12	12	15	15	18	18	12	12	<b>50</b>	70
branch_p	22	22	12	12	22	22	23	24	14	14	<b>50</b>	70
d4_n	20	440	6	40	34		<b>48</b>	1560	28	760	14	200
d4_p	26	640	24	600	18	360	<b>54</b>	1800	32	920	21	960
dum_n	39	2400	42	2640	23	1120	<b>49</b>	3200	44	2800	17	640
dum_p	42	2640	38	2320	28	1520	<b>50</b>	3280	46	2960	18	720
grz_n	35	2600	27	1800	50	4500	5	50	<b>52</b>	5500	24	1500
grz_p	35	2600	27	1800	51	5000	29	2000	<b>52</b>	5500	27	1800
lin_n	46	4000	43	3400	33	2500	1	10	<b>50</b>	4800	40	3100
lin_p	14	500	28	10000	<b>56</b>	500000	23	5000	55	400000	28	10000
path_n	37	290	48	400	7	14	<b>54</b>	1000	47	400	41	330
path_p	35	270	48	400	5	12	<b>54</b>	1000	47	400	41	330
ph_n	10	10	8	16	24	90	3	6	<b>21</b>	75	15	45
ph_p	<b>11</b>	11	9	8	10	10	5	5	9	9	10	10
poly_n	39	600	34	500	30		36	540	<b>44</b>	720	20	220
poly_p	38	580	34	500	28	400	36	540	<b>44</b>	700	20	220
t4p_n	40	3500	24	1500	17	800	39	3000	<b>45</b>	6000	11	200
t4p_p	48	7500	49	8000	28		49	8000	<b>53</b>	12000	14	500