



Resolving Inconsistencies and Redundancies in Declarative Process Models

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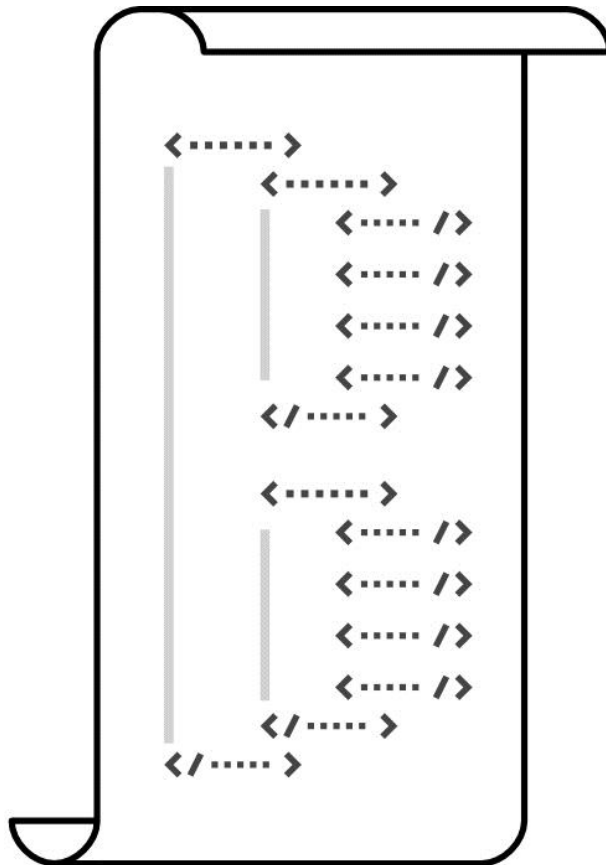
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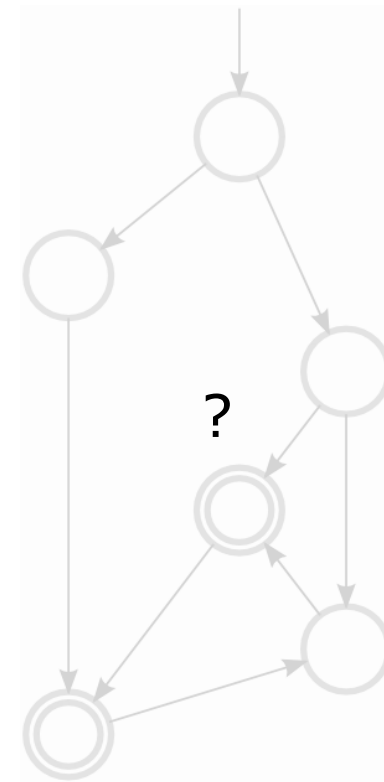
Di Ciccio, C., Maggi, F. M., Montali, M., Mendling, J. (2017). Resolving inconsistencies and redundancies in declarative process models. *Information Systems*, 64, 425–446.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.is.2016.09.005>

(Declarative) process discovery
Declarative constraints as automata

Process discovery

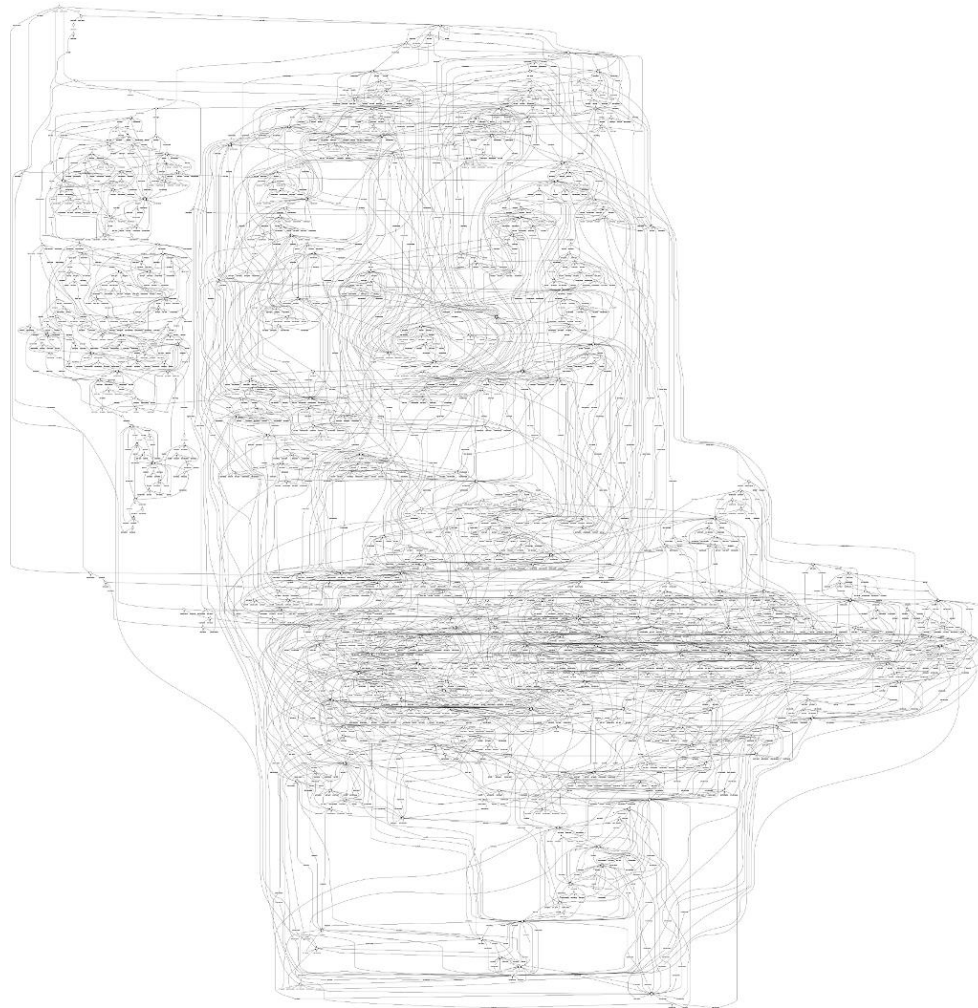


Event log

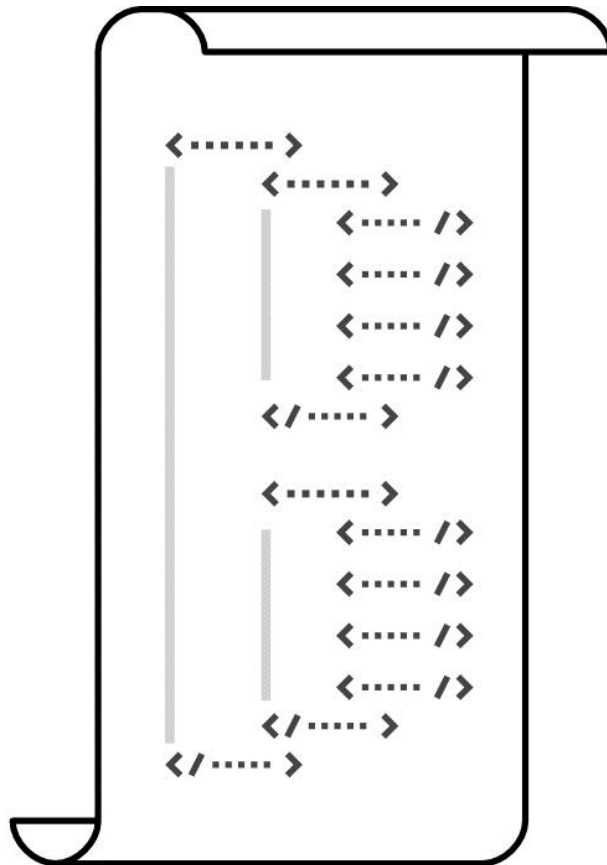


Process model

Mining flexible processes



Declarative process discovery



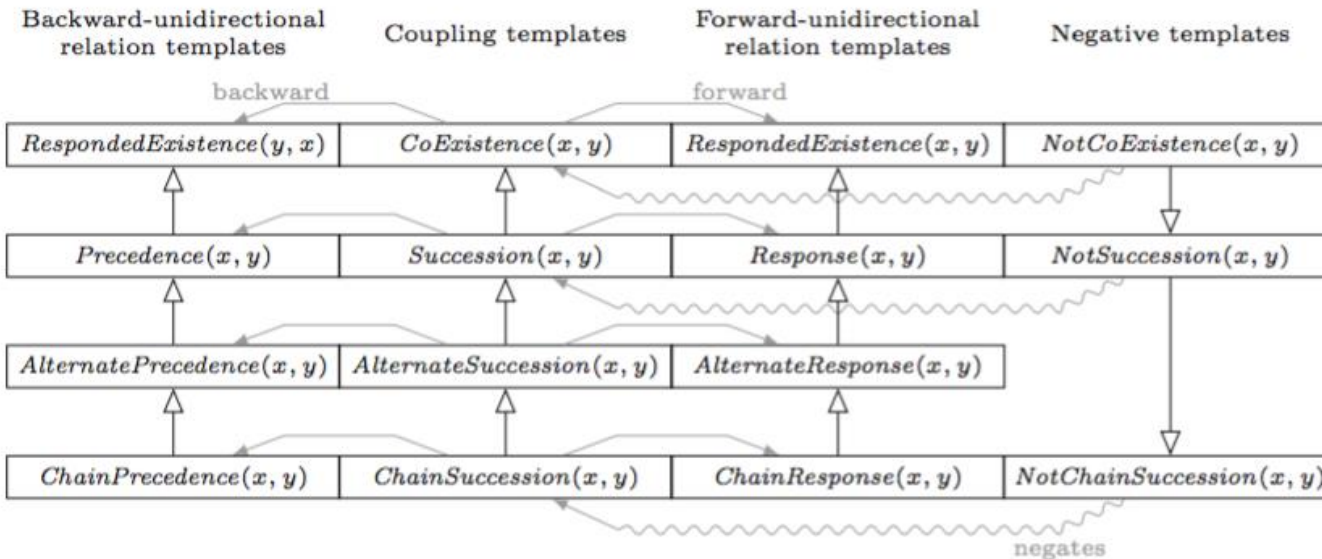
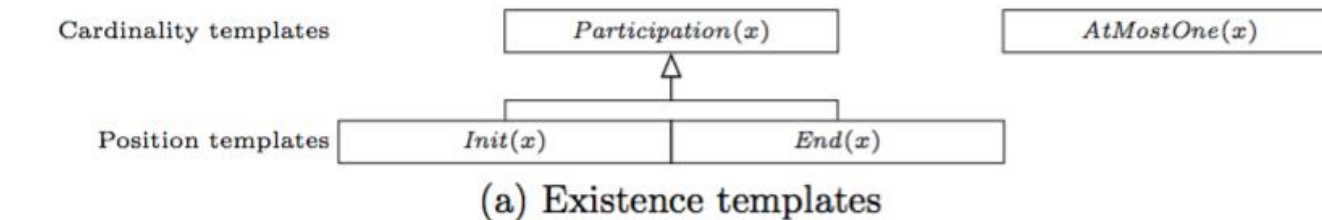
?

Objective: understanding the **constraints** that best **define the allowed behaviour** of the process behind the event log

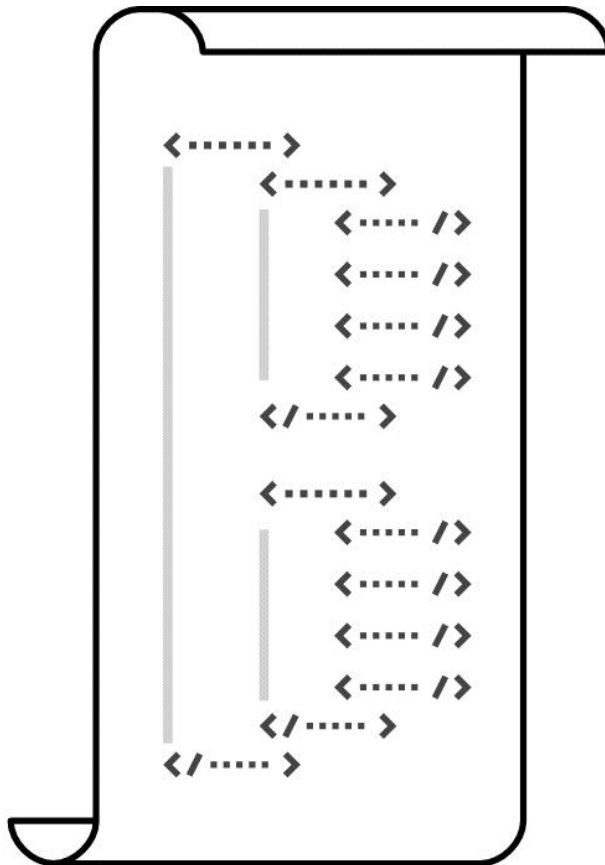
Declarative modelling of processes

- Usage of constraints
 - “Open model”
 - Declare
 - state-of-the-art language
- Init(c)
 - *c is always the first executed activity*
 - End(d)
 - *d is always the last executed activity*
 - RespondedExistence(a,b)
 - *If a is executed, b has to be executed*
 - Response(a,b)
 - *If a is executed, b has to be executed afterwards*
 - ChainResponse(a,b)
 - *If a is executed, b has to be executed immediately afterwards*
 - Precedence(a,b)
 - *If b is executed, a must have been executed beforehand*
 - ChainPrecedence(a,b)
 - *If b is executed, a has to be executed immediately beforehand*
 - NotChainSuccession(a,b)
 - *If a is executed, b cannot be executed immediately afterwards*

Subsumption hierarchy of relation Declare templates



WU
WIRTSCHAFTS
UNIVERSITÄT
WIEN VIENNA
UNIVERSITY OF
ECONOMICS
AND BUSINESS

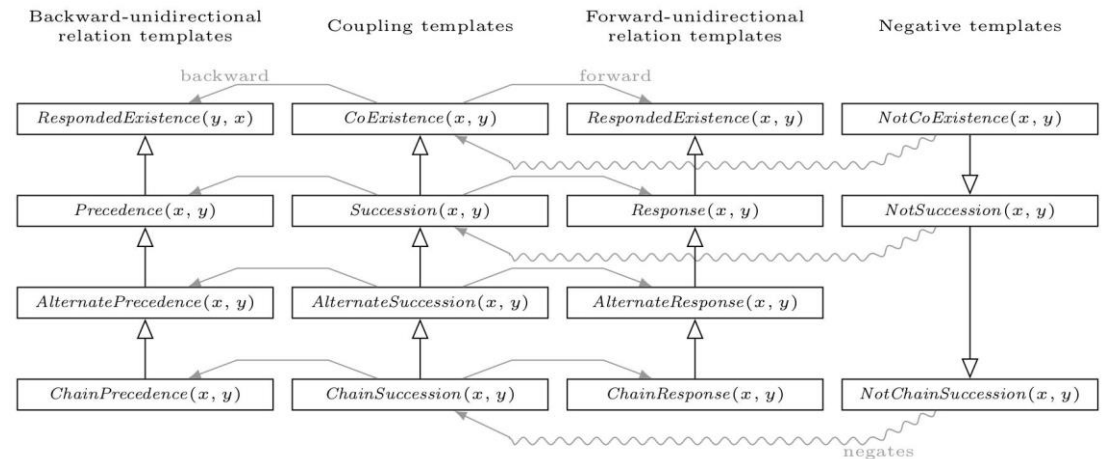


- “Submit draft”,
- “Write deliverable”,
- “Organise agenda”,
- ...

a,
b,
c,
...

Activities

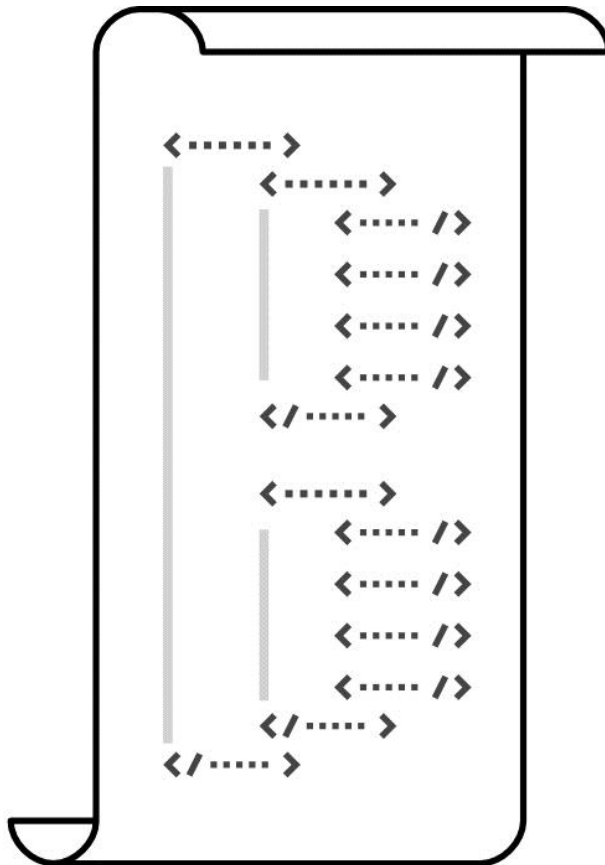
Process alphabet



Event log

Declarative constraint templates

Mining declarative processes



RespondedExistence(a,b) ?

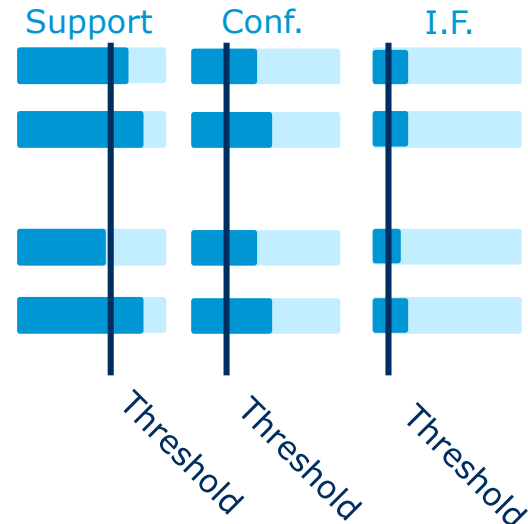
RespondedExistence(a,c) ?

...

Response(a,b) ?

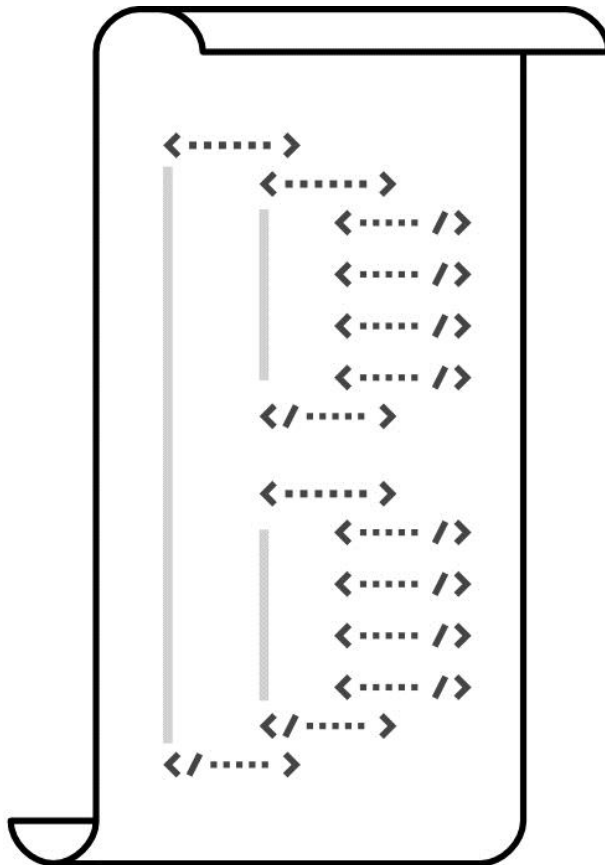
Response(a,c) ?

...



- **Support:**
fraction of cases fulfilling the constraint
- **Confidence:**
support scaled by fraction of traces in which the activation occurs
- **Interest factor:**
confidence scaled by fraction of traces in which the target occurs

Mining declarative processes



RespondedExistence(a,b) ?

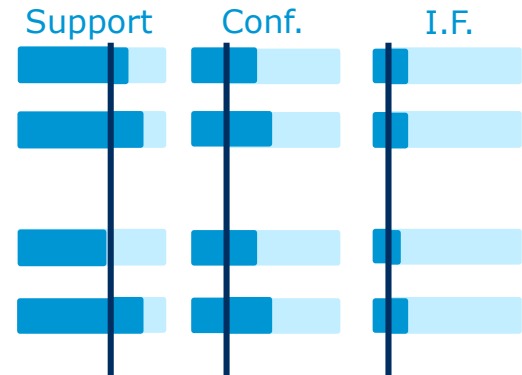
RespondedExistence(a,c) ?

...

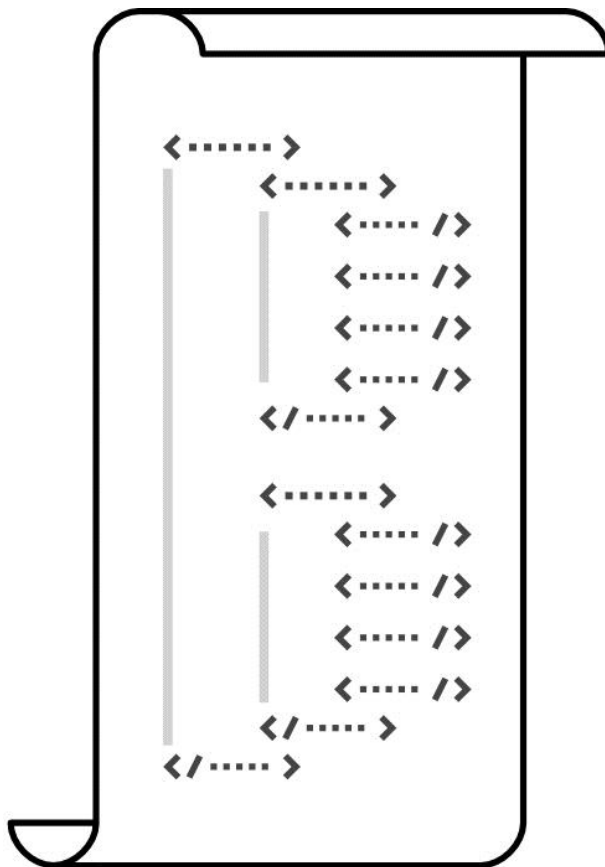
Response(a,b) ?

Response(a,c) ?

...



Mining declarative processes



RespondedExistence(a,b) ☒

RespondedExistence(a,c) ?

...

Response(a,b) ?

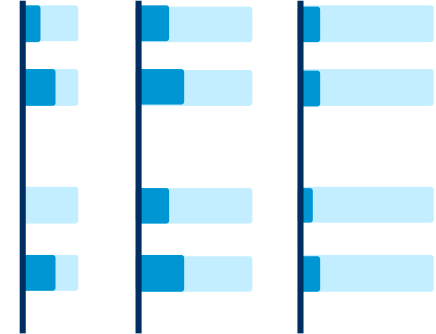
Response(a,c) ☒

...

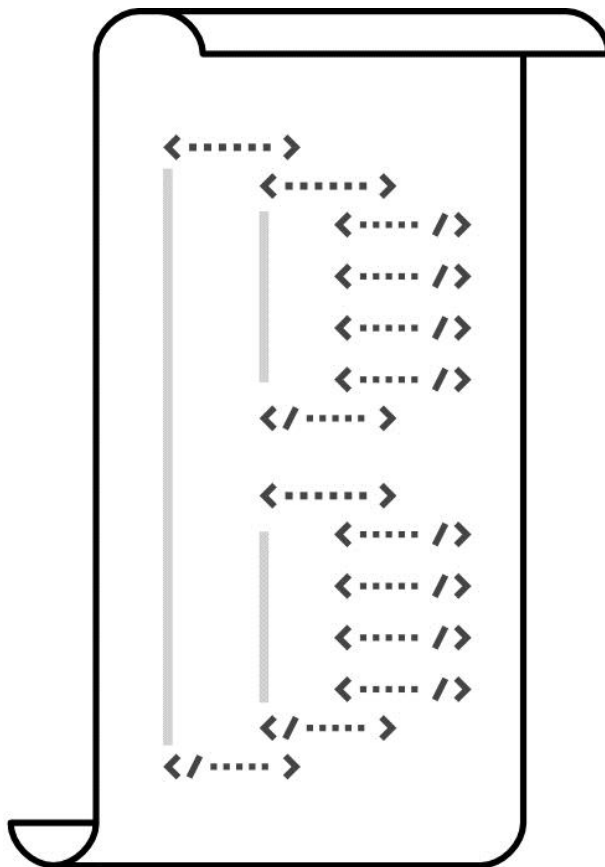
Support

Conf.

I.F.



Mining declarative processes



RespondedExistence(a,b) ☒

RespondedExistence(a,c) ?

...

~~Response(a,b)~~ ☐

Response(a,c) ☒

...

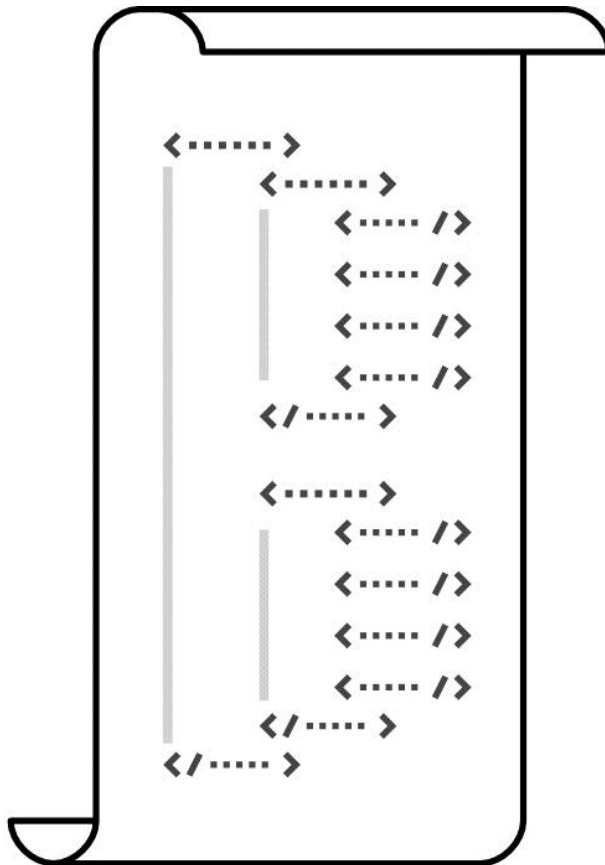
Support

Conf.

I.F.



Mining declarative processes



RespondedExistence(a,b) ☒

RespondedExistence(a,c) ?

...

~~Response(a,b)~~ ☐

Response(a,c) ☒

...

Support

Conf.

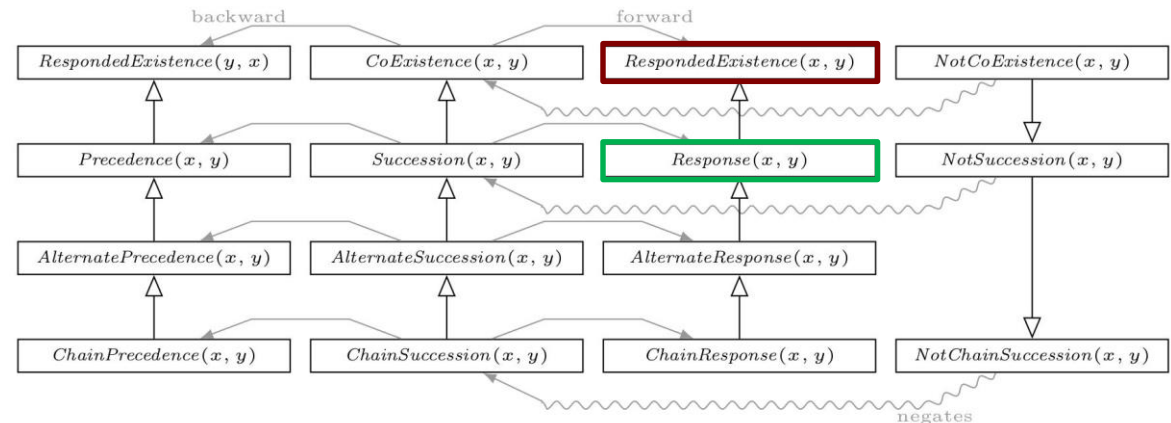
I.F.

Backward-unidirectional
relation templates

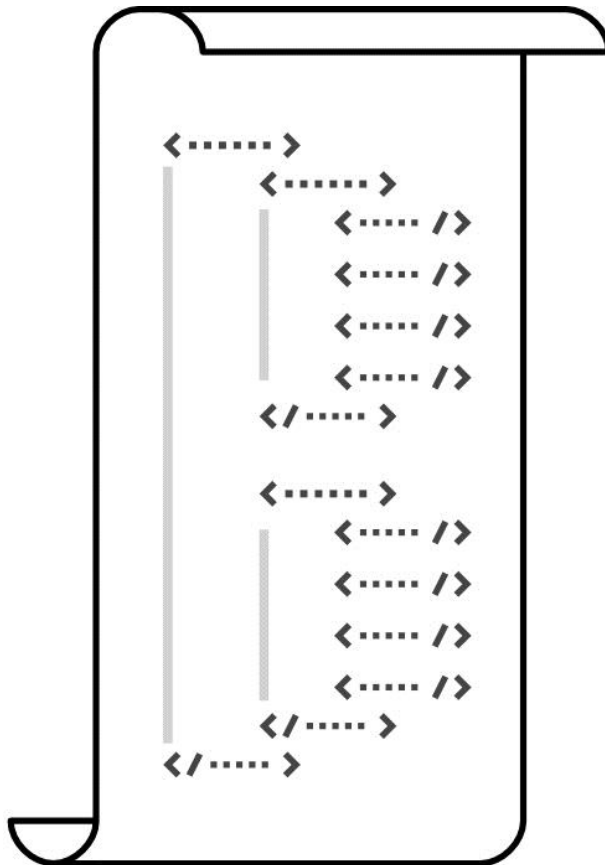
Coupling templates

Forward-unidirectional
relation templates

Negative templates



Mining declarative processes



RespondedExistence(a,b) ☒

~~RespondedExistence(a,c)~~ ☐

...

~~Response(a,b)~~ ☐

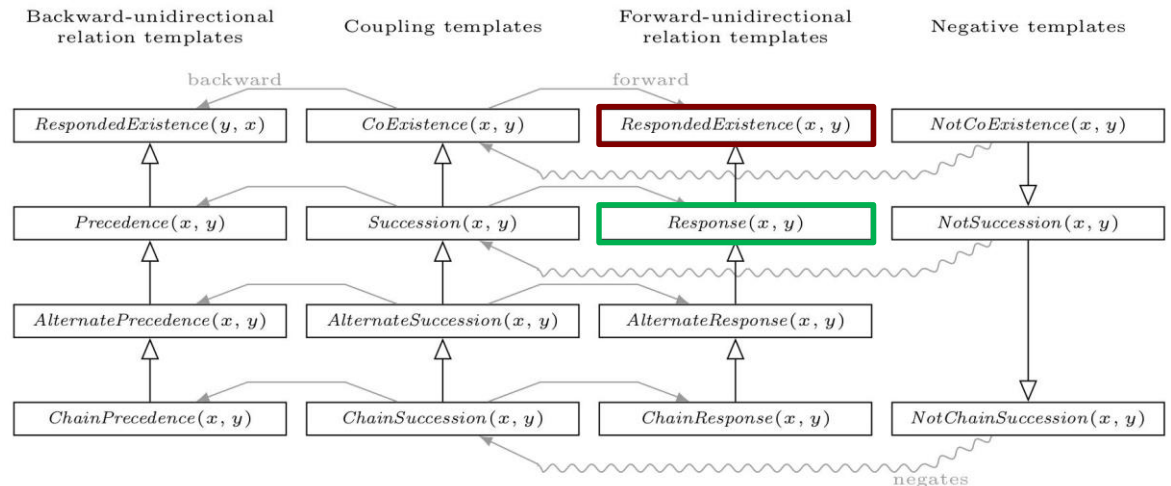
Response(a,c) ☒

...

Support

Conf.

I.F.



Mining declarative processes

RespondedExistence(a,b)

RespondedExistence(a,c) 

and

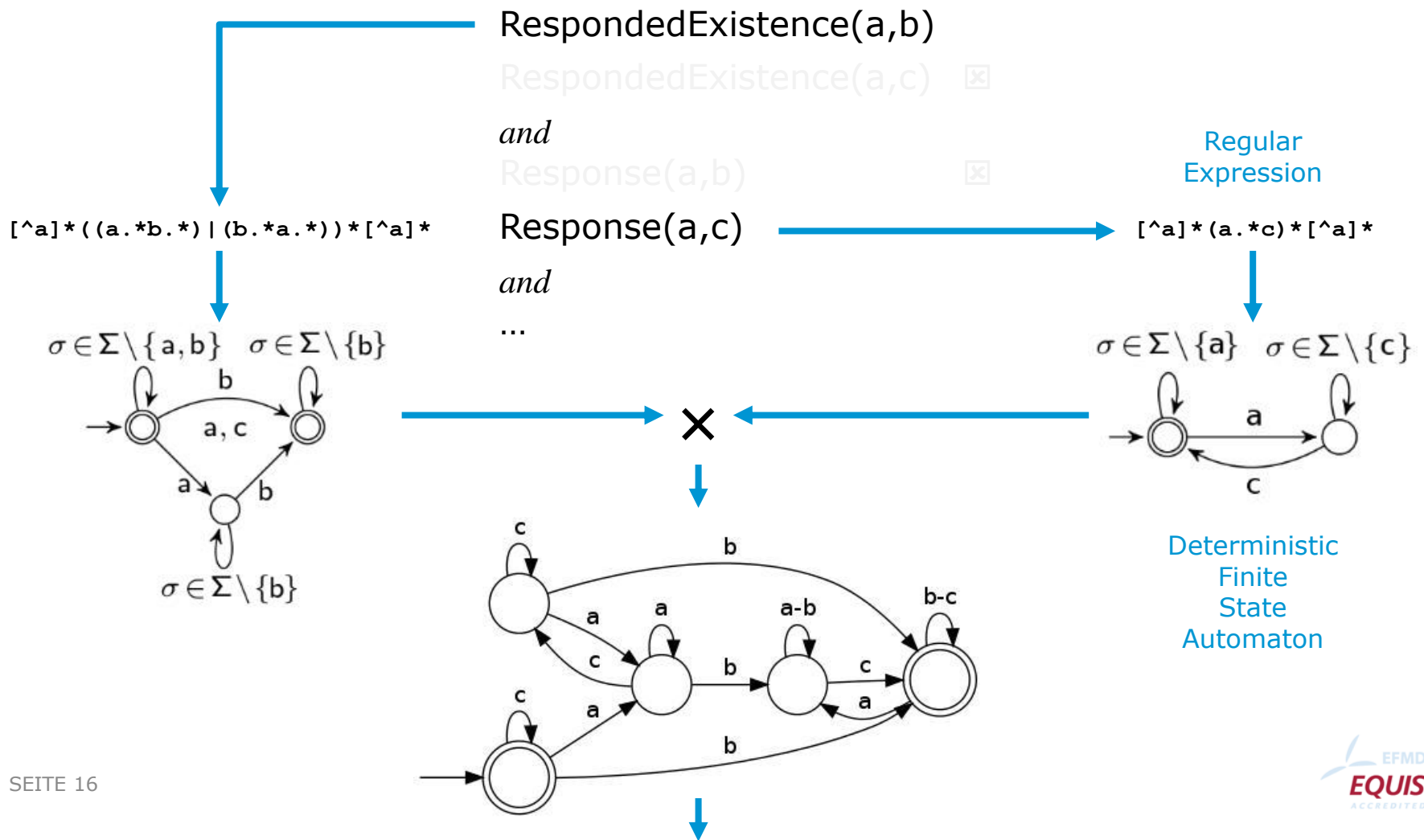
Response(a,b) 

Response(a,c)

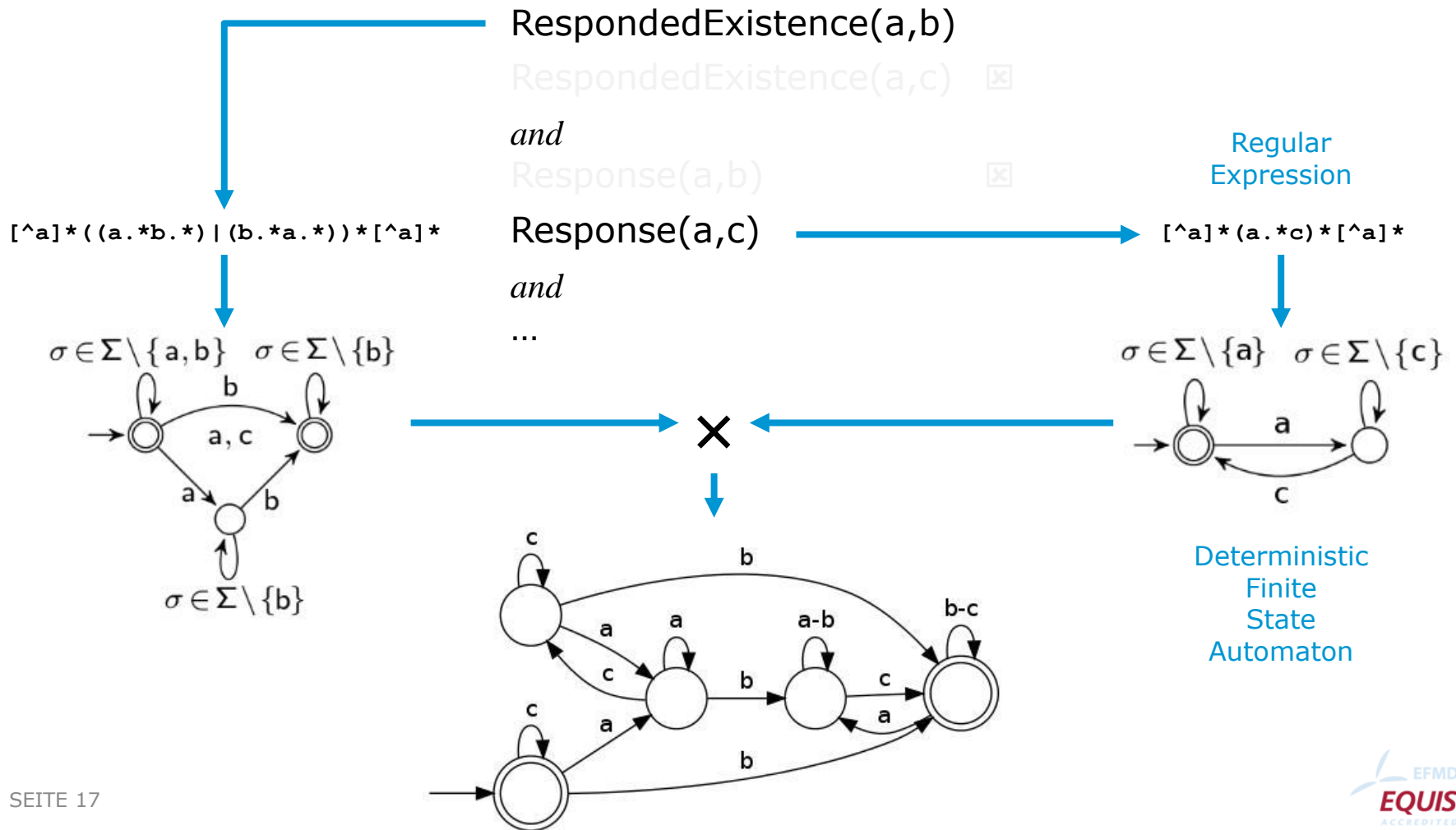
and

...

From constraints-based model to FSA



To be kept in mind



So far, so good

What is the problem?

While mining a real-life log...

```
- <log xes.version="1.0" xes.features="nested-attributes" openxes.version="1.0RC7">
  <extension name="Lifecycle" prefix="lifecycle" uri="http://www.xes-standard.org/lifecycle.xesext"/>
  <extension name="Time" prefix="time" uri="http://www.xes-standard.org/time.xesext"/>
  <extension name="Concept" prefix="concept" uri="http://www.xes-standard.org/concept.xesext"/>
  <classifier name="Event Name" keys="concept:name"/>
  <string key="concept:name" value="Email Log"/>
  <string key="lifecycle:model" value="standard"/>
  <trace>
    <string key="concept:name" value="dc.claudio@gmail.com/SM4All"/>
    - <event>
      <string key="lifecycle:transition" value="complete"/>
      <string key="concept:name" value="send agenda"/>
      <date key="time:timestamp" value="2009-07-09T17:44:59Z"/>
    </event>
    - <event>
      <string key="lifecycle:transition" value="complete"/>
      <string key="concept:name" value="send meeting"/>
      <date key="time:timestamp" value="2009-07-14T22:24:43Z"/>
    </event>
    - <event>
      <string key="lifecycle:transition" value="complete"/>
      <string key="concept:name" value="send draft"/>
      <date key="time:timestamp" value="2009-09-11T17:05:50Z"/>
    </event>
    - <event>
      <string key="lifecycle:transition" value="complete"/>
      <string key="concept:name" value="send draft"/>
      <date key="time:timestamp" value="2009-09-14T10:21:42Z"/>
    </event>
    - <event>
      <string key="lifecycle:transition" value="complete"/>
      <string key="concept:name" value="send draft"/>
      <date key="time:timestamp" value="2009-10-12T21:31:49Z"/>
    </event>
    - <event>
      <string key="lifecycle:transition" value="complete"/>
      <string key="concept:name" value="write deliverable"/>
      <date key="time:timestamp" value="2010-01-12T23:16:34Z"/>
    </event>
    - <event>
      <string key="lifecycle:transition" value="complete"/>
      <string key="concept:name" value="send report"/>
      <date key="time:timestamp" value="2010-01-13T16:00:58Z"/>
    </event>
    - <event>
      <string key="lifecycle:transition" value="complete"/>
      <string key="concept:name" value="write deliverable"/>
      <date key="time:timestamp" value="2010-01-13T16:00:58Z"/>
    </event>
  </trace>
</log>
```

- Support threshold: 0.85
- Confidence threshold: 0.25
- Interest factor threshold: 0.25

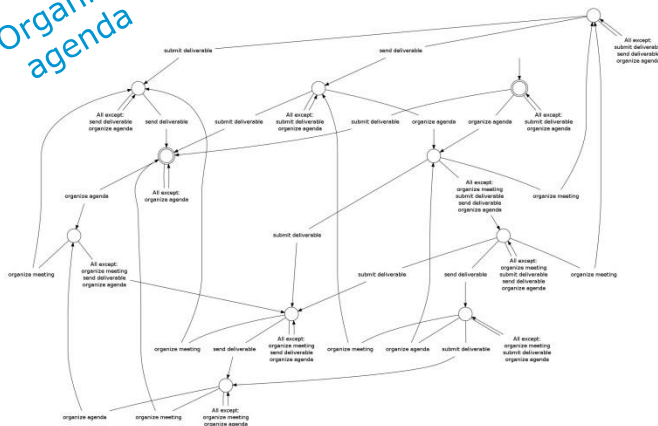
100.000% Precedence(send deliverable, organize meeting)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.750;
100.000% Precedence(send draft, organize meeting)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.750;
100.000% Precedence(write deliverable, organize meeting)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.563;
}			
[send agenda] => {			
90.000% RespondedExistence(send agenda, organize agenda)	33.333%		conf.: 0.675; int.f.: 0.338;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send agenda, organize agenda)	100.000%		conf.: 0.500; int.f.: 0.375;
100.000% CoExistence(send agenda, organize meeting)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.563;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send agenda, organize meeting)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.563;
100.000% RespondedExistence(send agenda, send deliverable)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.750;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send agenda, send deliverable)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.750;
100.000% RespondedExistence(send agenda, send draft)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.563;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send agenda, send draft)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.563;
100.000% CoExistence(send agenda, submit meeting)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.563;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send agenda, submit meeting)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.563;
100.000% CoExistence(send agenda, submit deliverable)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.563;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send agenda, submit deliverable)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.563;
90.000% RespondedExistence(send agenda, submit report)	33.333%		conf.: 0.675; int.f.: 0.506;
95.918% NotChainSuccession(send agenda, submit report)	72.789%		conf.: 0.719; int.f.: 0.540;
100.000% CoExistence(send agenda, write deliverable)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.563;
90.478% NotChainSuccession(send agenda, write deliverable)	36.508%		conf.: 0.679; int.f.: 0.509;
}			
[send deliverable] => {			
100.000% Participation(send deliverable)	100.000%		conf.: 1.000; int.f.: 1.000;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send deliverable, organize demo)	100.000%		conf.: 0.250; int.f.: 0.250;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send deliverable, organize meeting)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.750;
90.909% NotChainSuccession(send deliverable, send agenda)	39.394%		conf.: 0.682; int.f.: 0.682;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send deliverable, send demo)	100.000%		conf.: 0.250; int.f.: 0.250;
100.000% CoExistence(send deliverable, send draft)	100.000%		conf.: 1.000; int.f.: 1.000;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send deliverable, send draft)	100.000%		conf.: 1.000; int.f.: 1.000;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send deliverable, send meeting)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.750;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send deliverable, send report)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.750;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send deliverable, submit deliverable)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.750;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send deliverable, submit draft)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.750;
91.667% RespondedExistence(send deliverable, submit report)	44.444%		conf.: 0.917; int.f.: 0.688;
88.235% NotChainSuccession(send deliverable, submit report)	21.569%		conf.: 0.662; int.f.: 0.662;
91.304% NotChainSuccession(send deliverable, write deliverable)	42.029%		conf.: 0.685; int.f.: 0.685;
100.000% Precedence(send draft, send deliverable)	100.000%		conf.: 1.000; int.f.: 1.000;
}			
[send demo] => {			
100.000% AlternatePrecedence(send deliverable, send demo)	100.000%		conf.: 0.250; int.f.: 0.250;
100.000% AlternateResponse(send demo, send deliverable)	100.000%		conf.: 0.250; int.f.: 0.250;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send demo, send deliverable)	100.000%		conf.: 0.250; int.f.: 0.250;
100.000% AlternateResponse(send demo, send draft)	100.000%		conf.: 0.250; int.f.: 0.250;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send demo, send draft)	100.000%		conf.: 0.250; int.f.: 0.250;
100.000% AlternatePrecedence(send draft, send demo)	100.000%		conf.: 0.250; int.f.: 0.250;
}			
[send draft] => {			
100.000% Participation(send draft)	100.000%		conf.: 1.000; int.f.: 1.000;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send draft, organize agenda)	100.000%		conf.: 0.500; int.f.: 0.500;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send draft, organize demo)	100.000%		conf.: 0.250; int.f.: 0.250;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send draft, organize meeting)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.750;
100.000% Succession(send draft, send deliverable)	100.000%		conf.: 0.857; int.f.: 0.857;
85.714% NotChainSuccession(send draft, send deliverable)	4.762%		conf.: 0.857; int.f.: 0.857;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send draft, send demo)	100.000%		conf.: 0.250; int.f.: 0.250;
85.714% NotChainSuccession(send draft, send meeting)	4.762%		conf.: 0.643; int.f.: 0.643;
92.000% NotChainSuccession(send draft, send report)	46.667%		conf.: 0.690; int.f.: 0.690;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send draft, submit deliverable)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int.f.: 0.750;
100.000% NotChainSuccession(send draft, submit draft)	100.000%		conf.: 0.250; int.f.: 0.250;
89.091% NotChainSuccession(send draft, submit report)	27.273%		conf.: 0.668; int.f.: 0.668;
92.593% NotChainSuccession(send draft, write deliverable)	50.617%		conf.: 0.694; int.f.: 0.694;

While mining a real-life log...

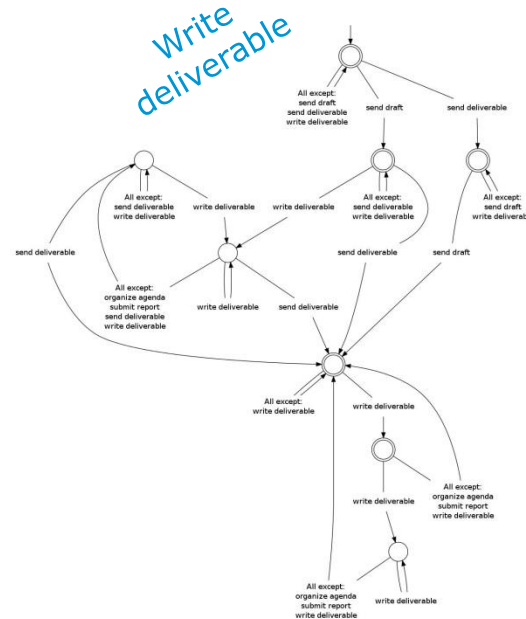
```
[submit draft] => {
  100.000% AlternatePrecedence(send draft, submit draft)
  100.000% Response(submit draft, send deliverable)
  100.000% NotChainSuccession(submit draft, send deliverable)
  100.000% AlternateResponse(submit draft, send draft)
  100.000% NotChainSuccession(submit draft, send draft)
}
```

100.000%		conf.:	0.250;	int'f:	0.250;
100.000%		conf.:	0.250;	int'f:	0.250;
100.000%		conf.:	0.250;	int'f:	0.250;
100.000%		conf.:	0.250;	int'f:	0.250;
100.000%		conf.:	0.250;	int'f:	0.250;

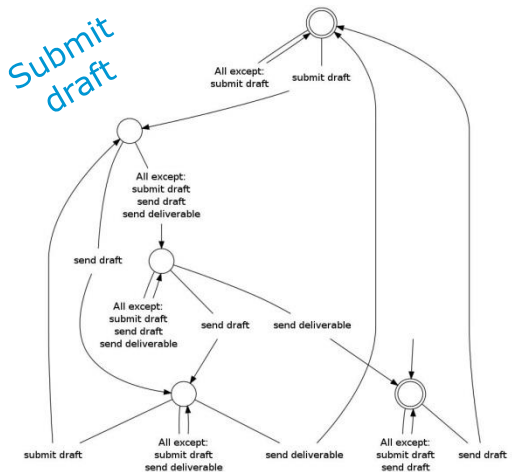
Organise
agenda



Write
deliverable



Submit
draft



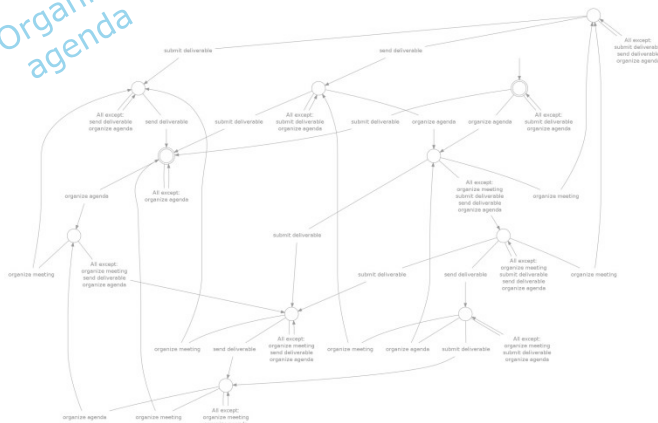
Time to challenge the X

```
[submit draft] => {
  100.000% AlternatePrecedence(send draft, submit draft)
  100.000% Response(submit draft, send deliverable)
  100.000% NotChainSuccession(submit draft, send deliverable)
  100.000% AlternateResponse(submit draft, send draft)
  100.000% NotChainSuccession(submit draft, send draft)
}
```

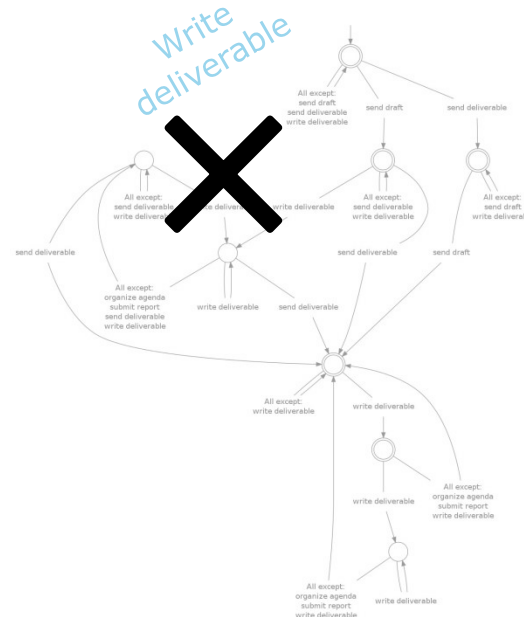
100.000%
100.000%
100.000%
100.000%
100.000%

	conf.:	0.250;	int'f:	0.250;
	conf.:	0.250;	int'f:	0.250;
	conf.:	0.250;	int'f:	0.250;
	conf.:	0.250;	int'f:	0.250;
	conf.:	0.250;	int'f:	0.250;

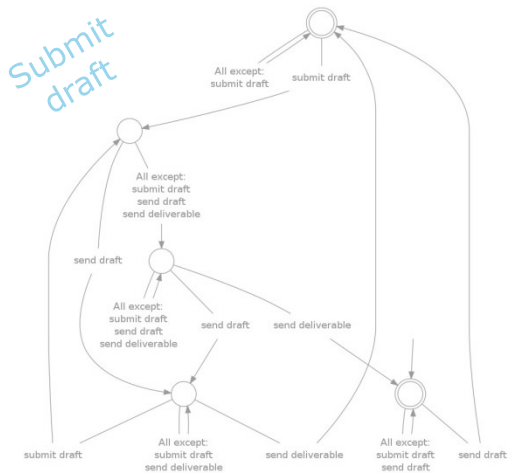
Organise
agenda



Write
deliverable



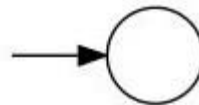
Submit
draft



Time to challenge the X

Loading...

The result



The problems

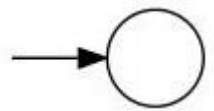
1) inconsistency

- When support threshold is lower than 100%, constraints can be valid through most of the log, though being in conflict
- Example: an event log consists of two traces:
 1. $\langle a, b, a, b, a, b, c \rangle$
 2. $\langle a, b, a, b, a, c \rangle$
- Support threshold: 0.7
 - a is always the first
 $\Rightarrow \text{Init}(a)$
 - c is always the last
 $\Rightarrow \text{End}(c)$
 - In 6 cases over 8 (75%), a and c do not directly follow each other
 $\Rightarrow \text{NotChainSuccession}(a, c)$
 - In 5 cases over 7 (71.43%), b and c do not directly follow each other
 $\Rightarrow \text{NotChainSuccession}(b, c)$

The problems

1) inconsistency

- When support threshold is lower than 100%, constraints can be valid through most of the log, though being in conflict
- Example: an event log consists of two traces:
 1. $\langle a, b, a, b, a, b, c \rangle$
 2. $\langle a, b, a, b, a, c \rangle$
- Support threshold: 0.7
 - a is always the first
⇒ Init(a)
 - c is always the last
⇒ End(c)
 - In 6 cases over 8 (75%), a and c do not directly follow each other
⇒ NotChainSuccession(a,c)
 - In 5 cases over 7 (71.43%), a and b do not directly follow each other
⇒ NotChainSuccession(b,c)
- Question: what can be done right before c?
⇒ inconsistency!



- Which constraints conflict?

How can we be sure we found all conflicting constraints?

From where should we start?

Can we avoid to check the same sets of constraints more than once?

The problems

2) redundancy

- Many constraints may be fulfilled 100% of times yet not add a bit of information to other already discovered ones
- Example: an event log consists of two traces:
 1. <a, b, a, b, a, b, c>
 2. <a, b, a, b, a, c>
 - *a is always the first*
⇒ Init(a)
 - *c is always the last*
⇒ End(c)
 - *Before c, a precedes*
⇒ Precedence(a,c)
 - *Before b, a precedes*
⇒ Precedence(a,b)
 - *After a, c eventually follows*
⇒ Response(a,c)
 - *After b, c eventually follows*
⇒ Response(b,c)

The problems

2) redundancy

- Many constraints may be fulfilled 100% of times yet not add a bit of information to other already discovered ones
- Example: an event log consists of two traces:
 1. <a, b, a, b, a, b, c>
 2. <a, b, a, b, a, c>
 - a is always the first
⇒ Init(a)
 - c is always the last
⇒ End(c)
 - Before c, a precedes
⇒ Precedence(a,c)
 - Before b, a precedes
⇒ Precedence(a,b)
 - After a, c eventually follows
⇒ Response(a,c)
 - After b, c eventually follows
⇒ Response(b,c)



Of course! a is always the first

The problems

2) redundancy

- Many constraints may be fulfilled 100% of times yet not add a bit of information to other already discovered ones

- Example: an event log consists of two traces:

1. <a, b, a, b, a, b, c>

2. <a, b, a, b, a, c>

- a is always the first
⇒ Init(a)

- c is always the last
⇒ End(c)

- Before c, a precedes
⇒ Precedence(a,c)

- Before b, a precedes
⇒ Precedence(a,b)

- After a, c eventually follows
⇒ Response(a,c)

- After b, c eventually follows
⇒ Response(b,c)

Of course! a is always the first

Of course! c is always the last

- Question: can't we avoid stating the obvious?
⇒ redundancy!

- Which constraints are redundant?

How to find redundancies?

From where should we start?

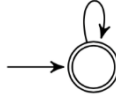
Can we avoid to check the same sets of constraints more than once?

The solution

*Algebraic structure with
composition operator (\square)
holding the properties of*

- commutativity
- associativity

and bearing

- identity element \rightarrow 

- and absorbing element \rightarrow 

Automata-product *monoid*

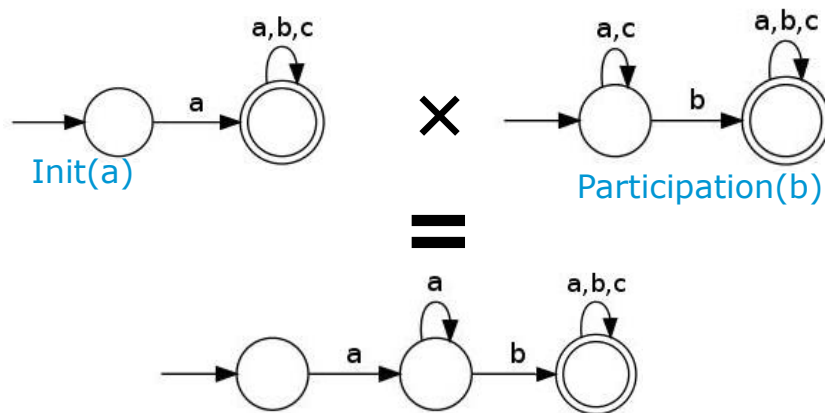
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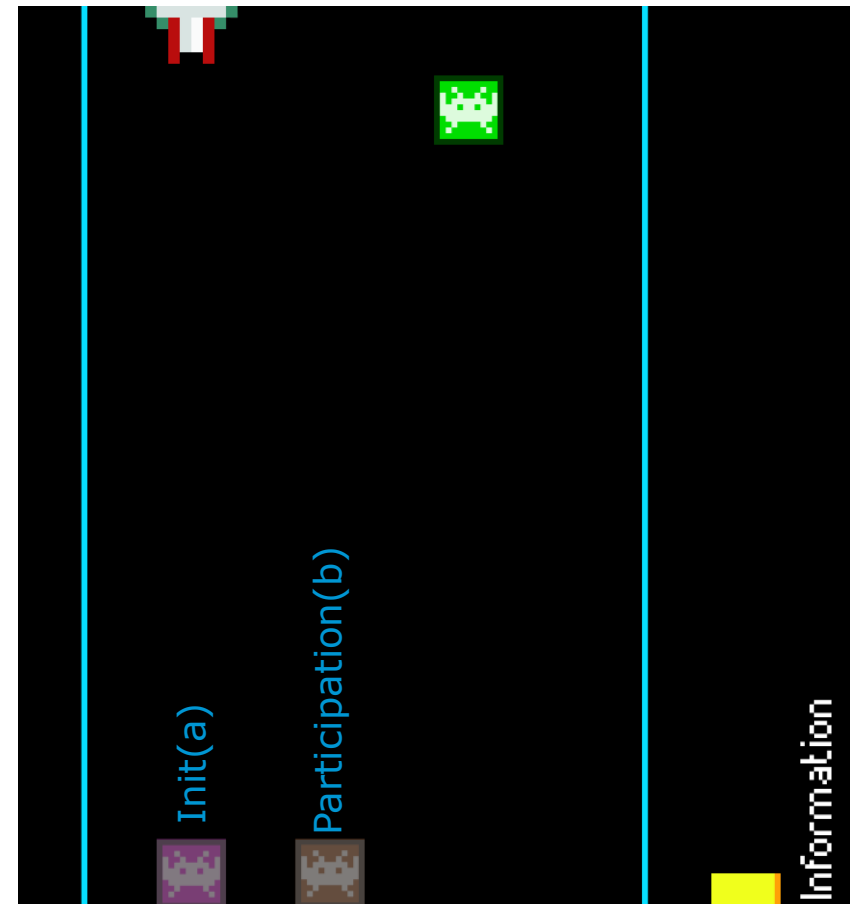


Rules of the game

- Intersect the **product automaton** with the newly visited constraints, one at a time

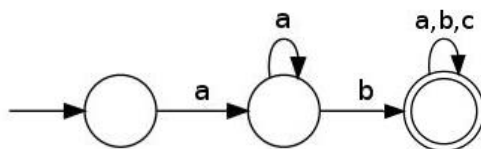
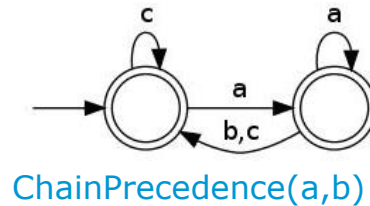


Product automaton

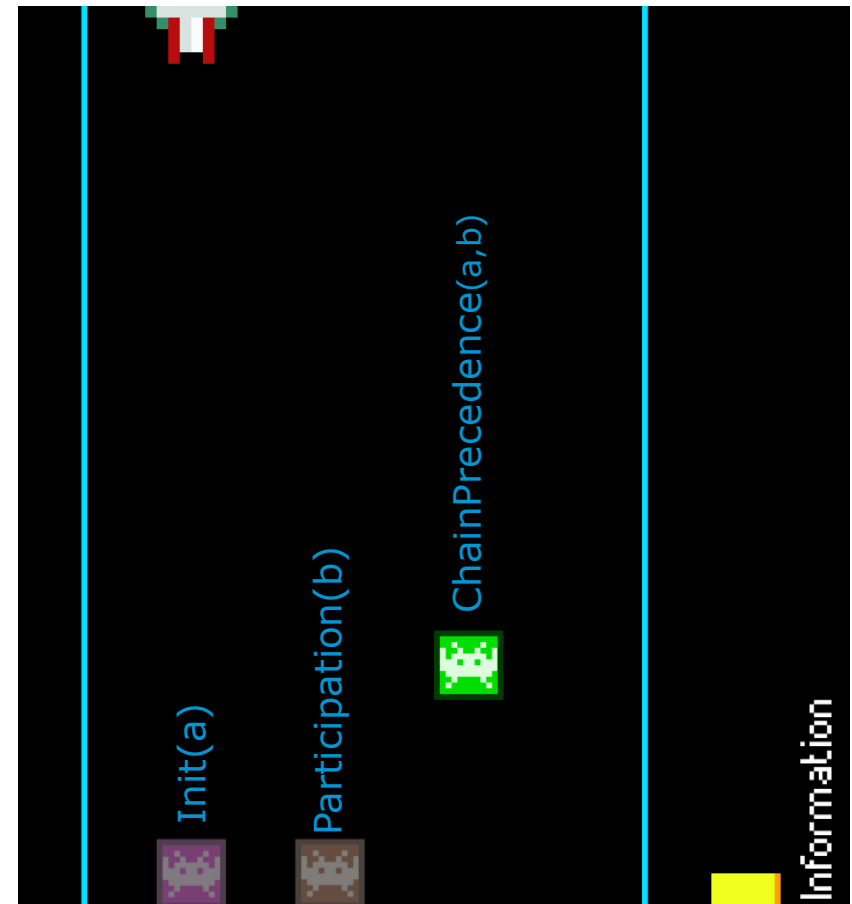


Rules of the game

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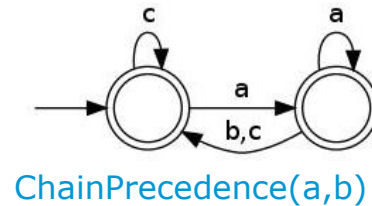


Product automaton

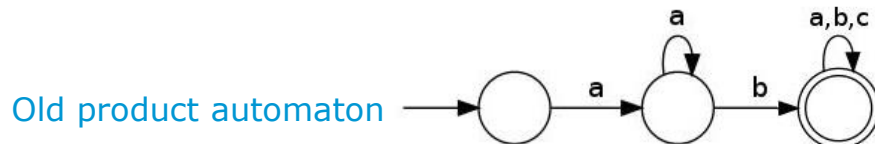


Exploiting formal properties

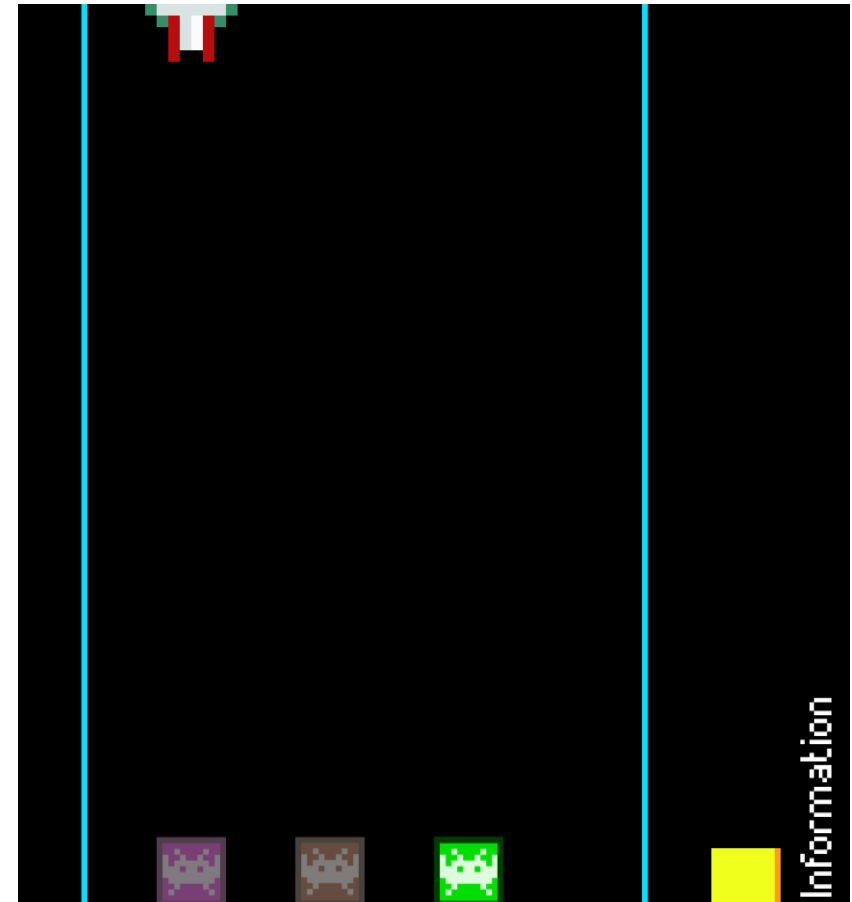
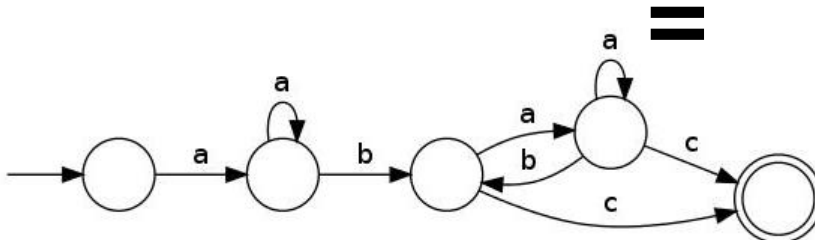
- We take advantage of
 1. associativity
 - allows for "storage" of results



×

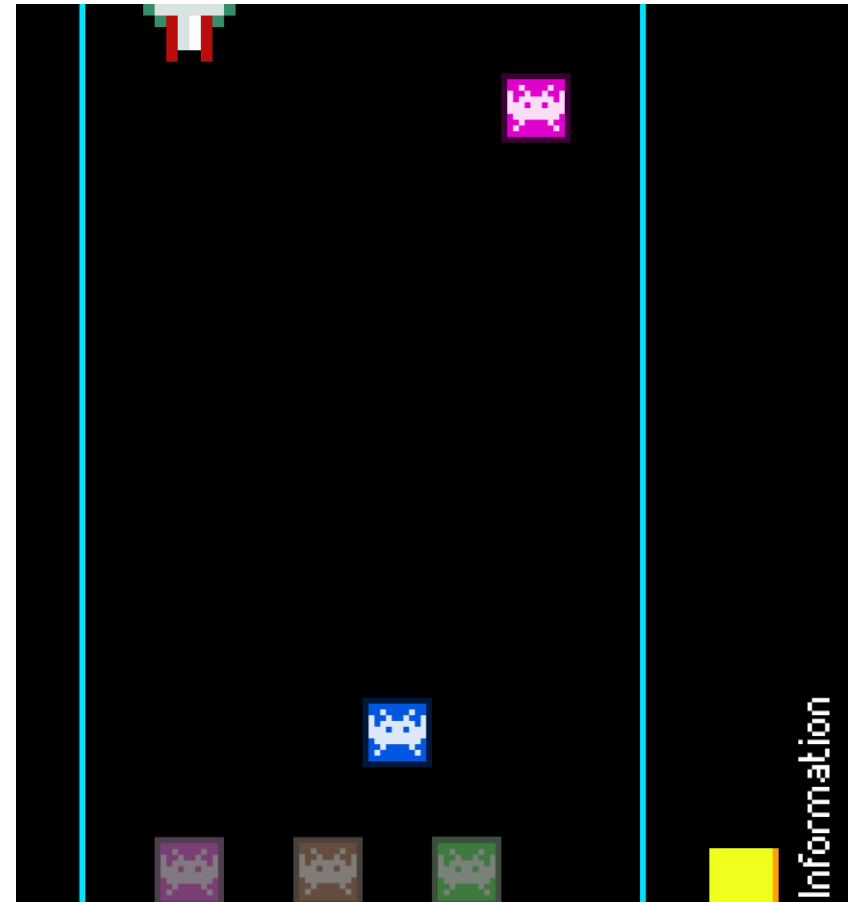
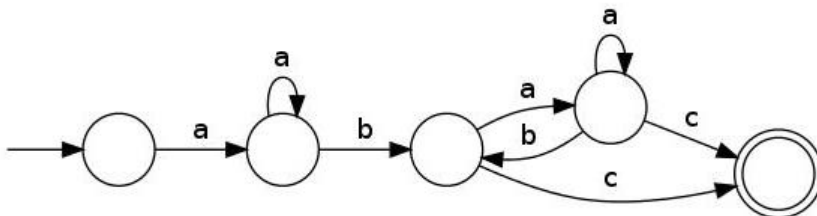


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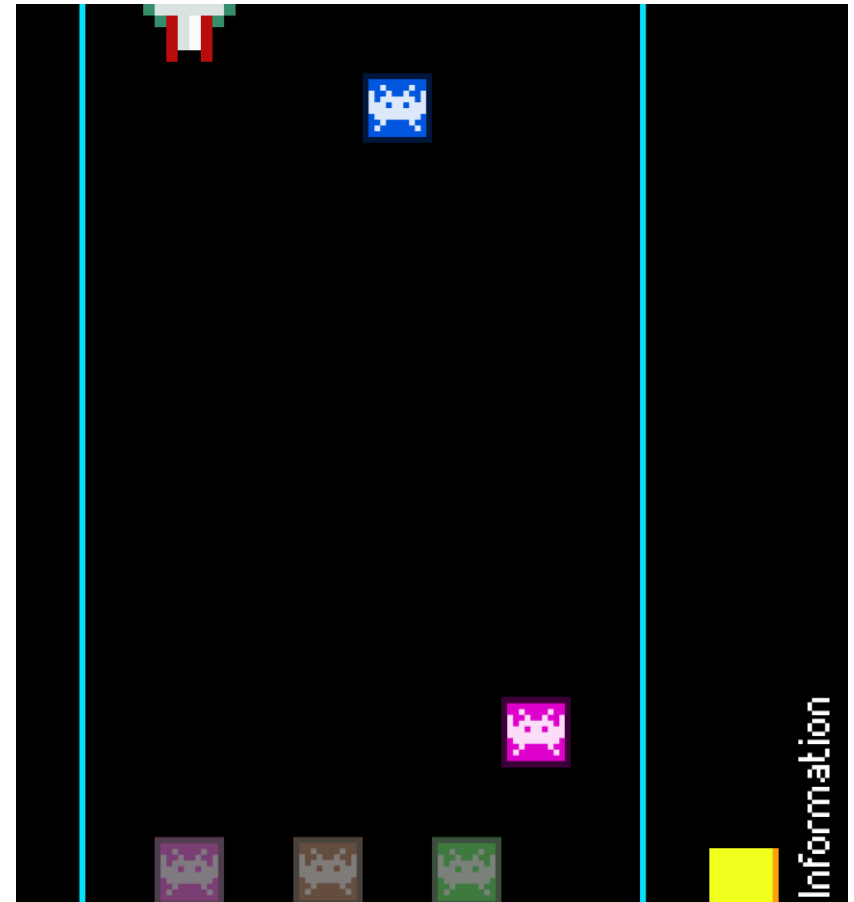
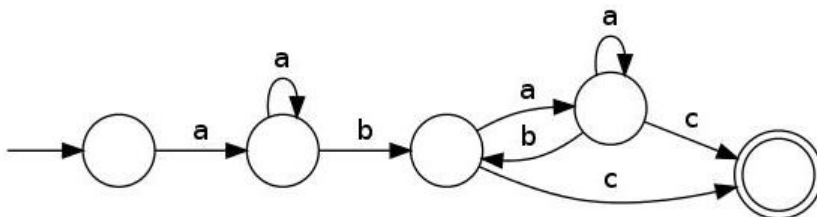
Exploiting formal properties

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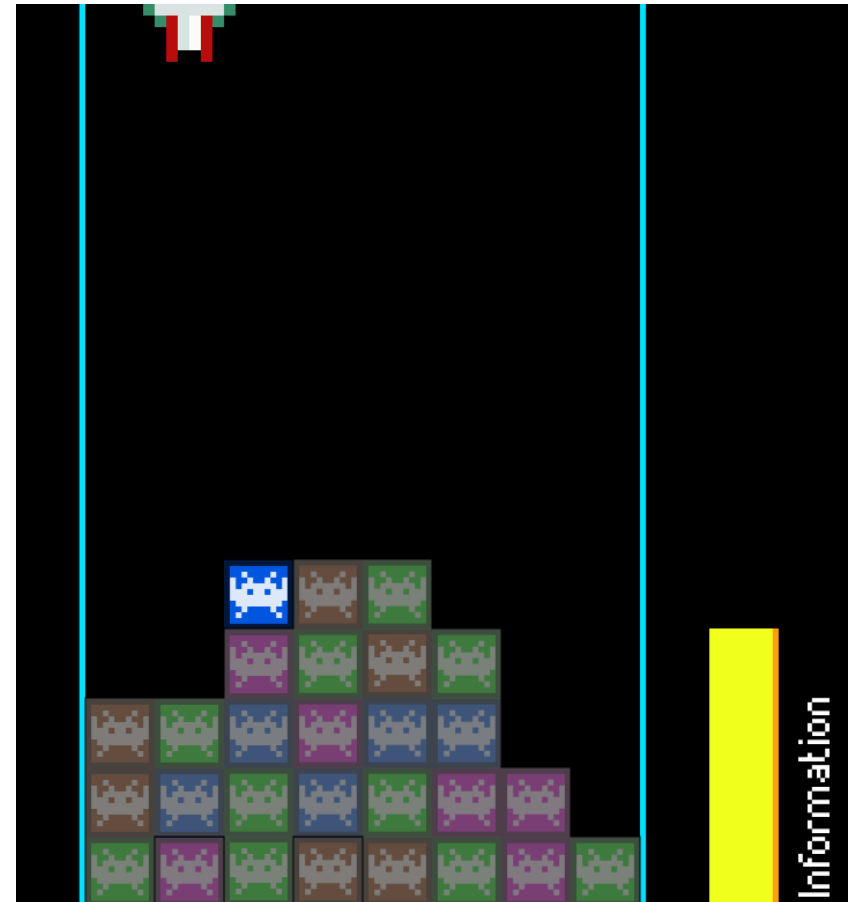
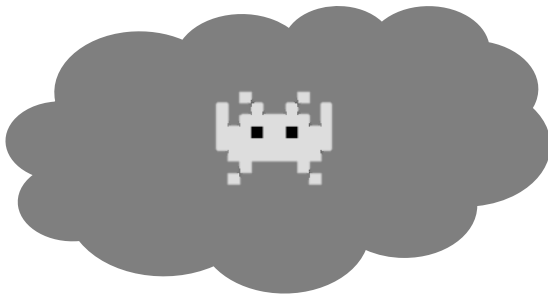
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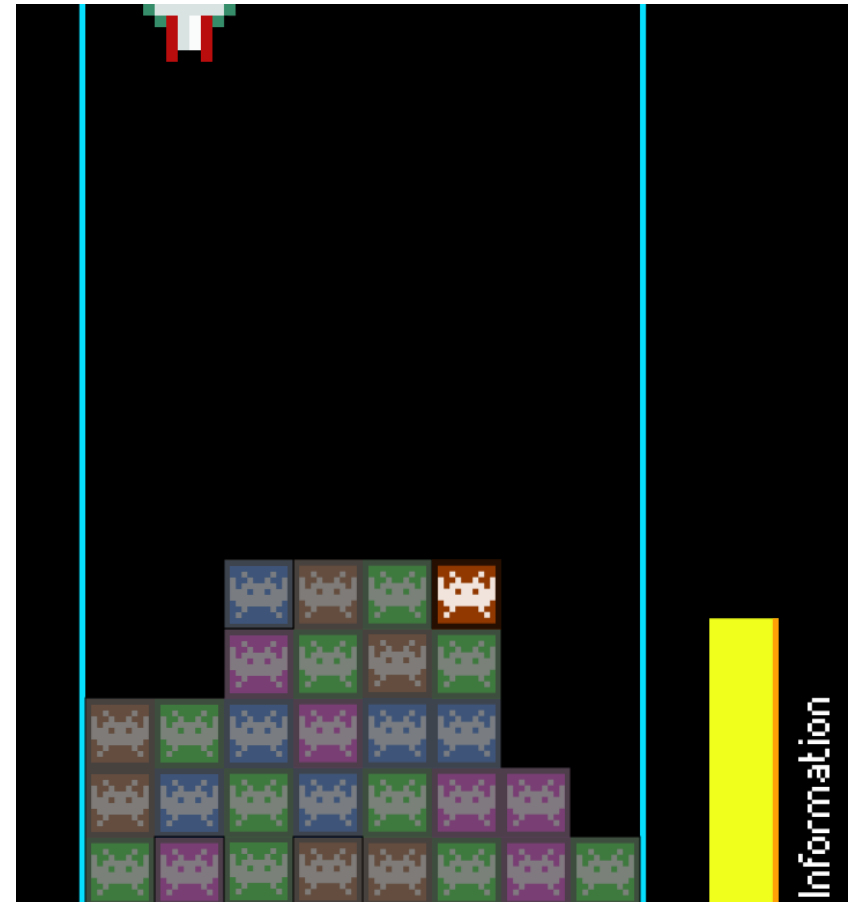
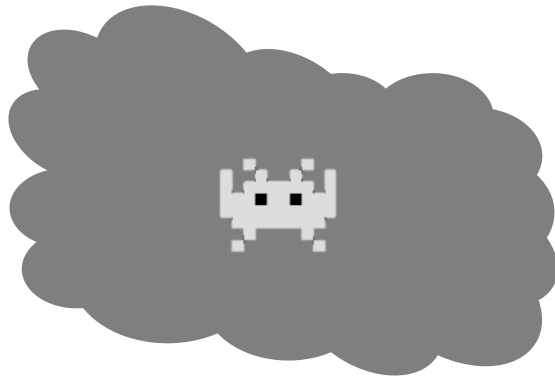
Playing the game

- Newly visited constraints add information to the knowledge on the process model if they reduce the number of possible traces (accepted strings)



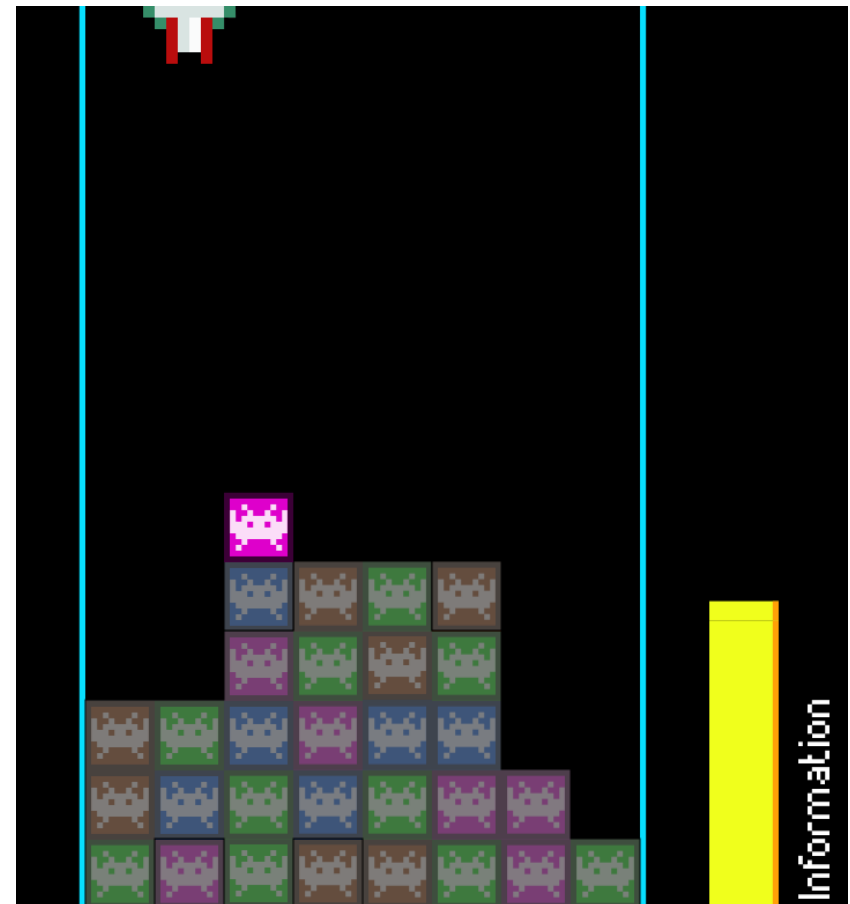
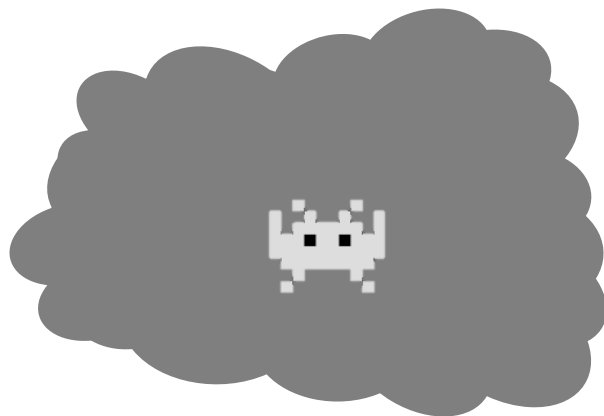
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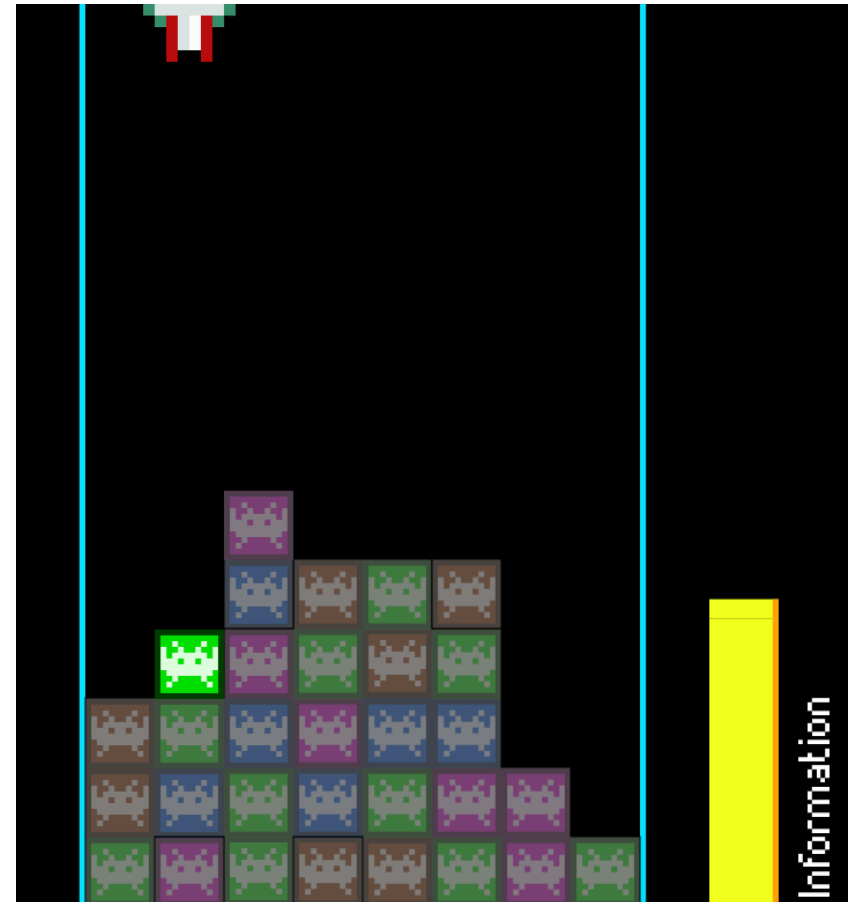
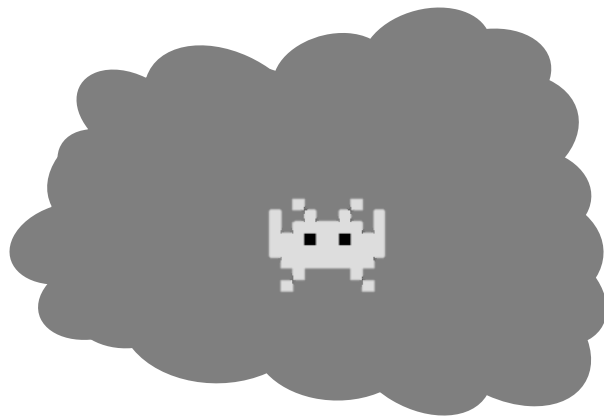
Playing the game

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Inconsistency!

- Newly visited constraints add information to the knowledge on the process model if they reduce the number of possible traces (accepted strings)
- Conflict:

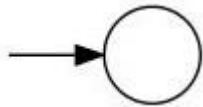


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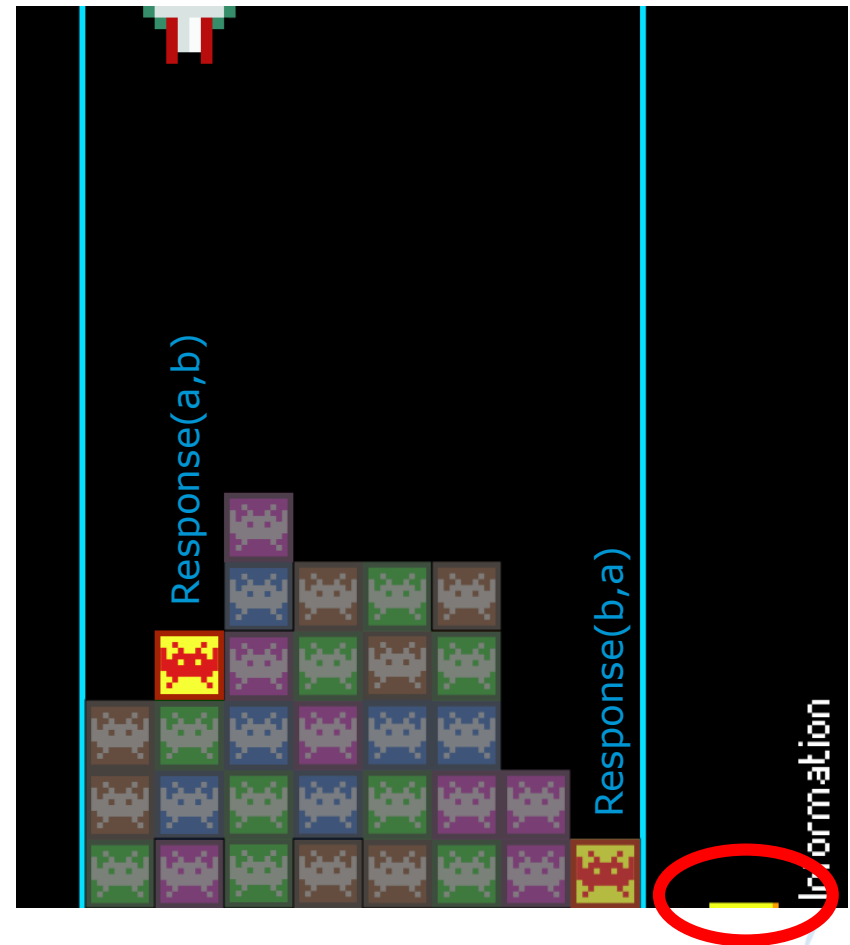
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- **Conflict:**

- The product automaton becomes

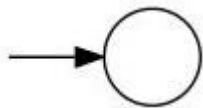


(empty language)



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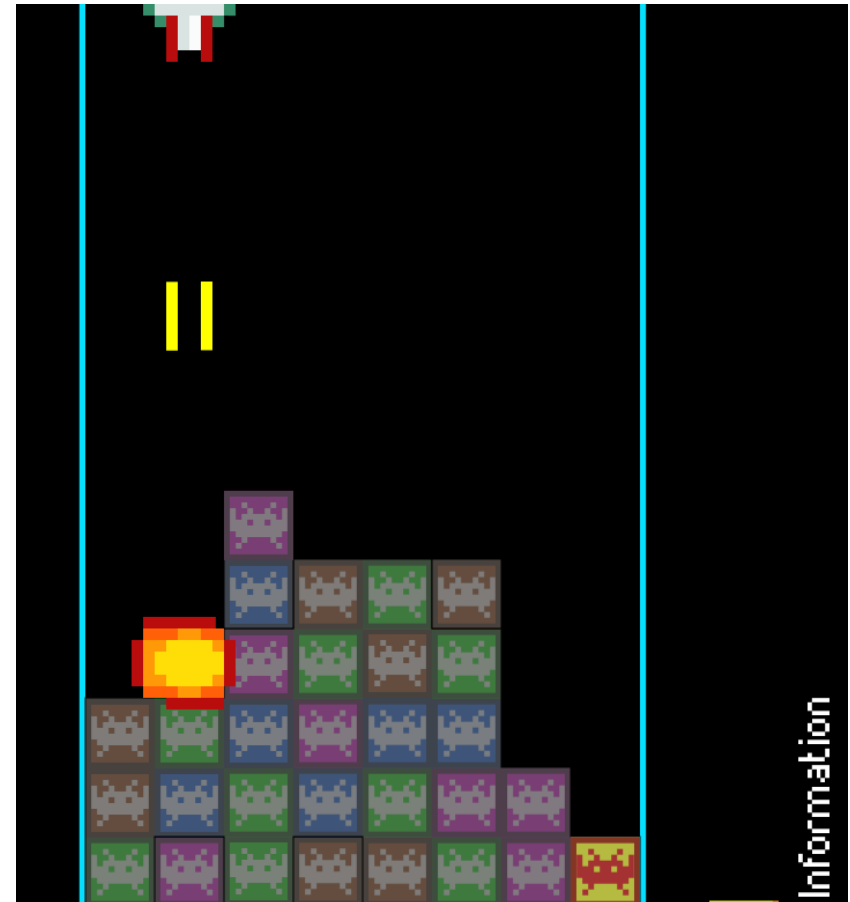


(empty language)



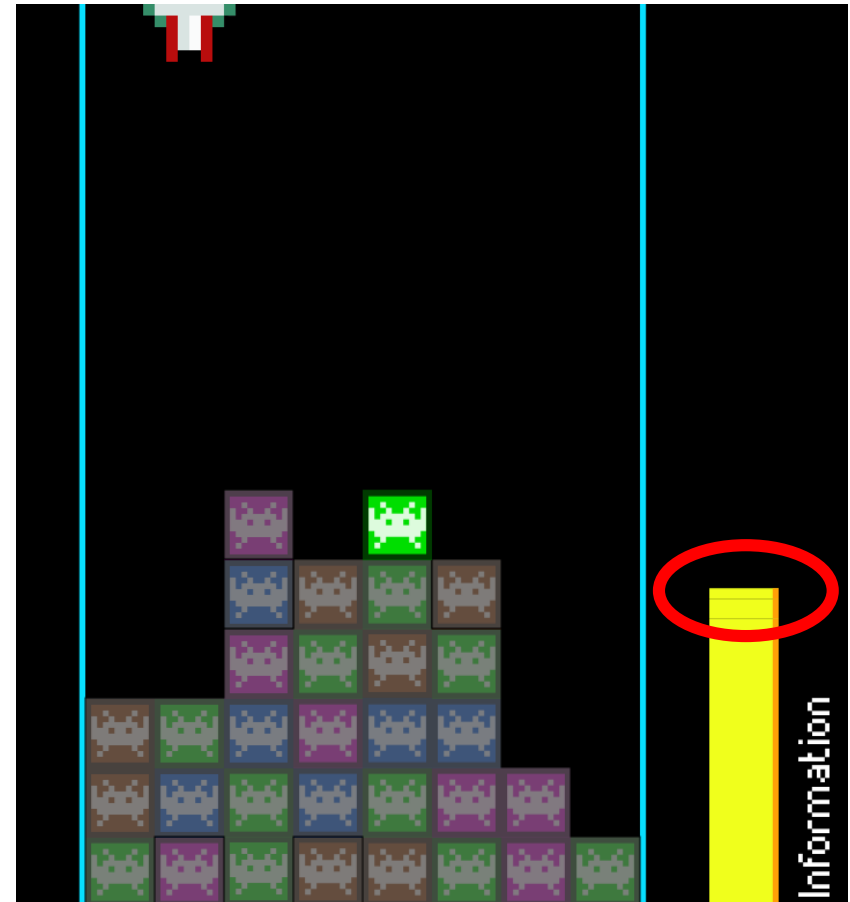
Inconsistency!

- Newly visited constraints add information to the knowledge on the process model if they reduce the number of possible traces (accepted strings)
- **Conflict:**
 - Remove the constraint, in case



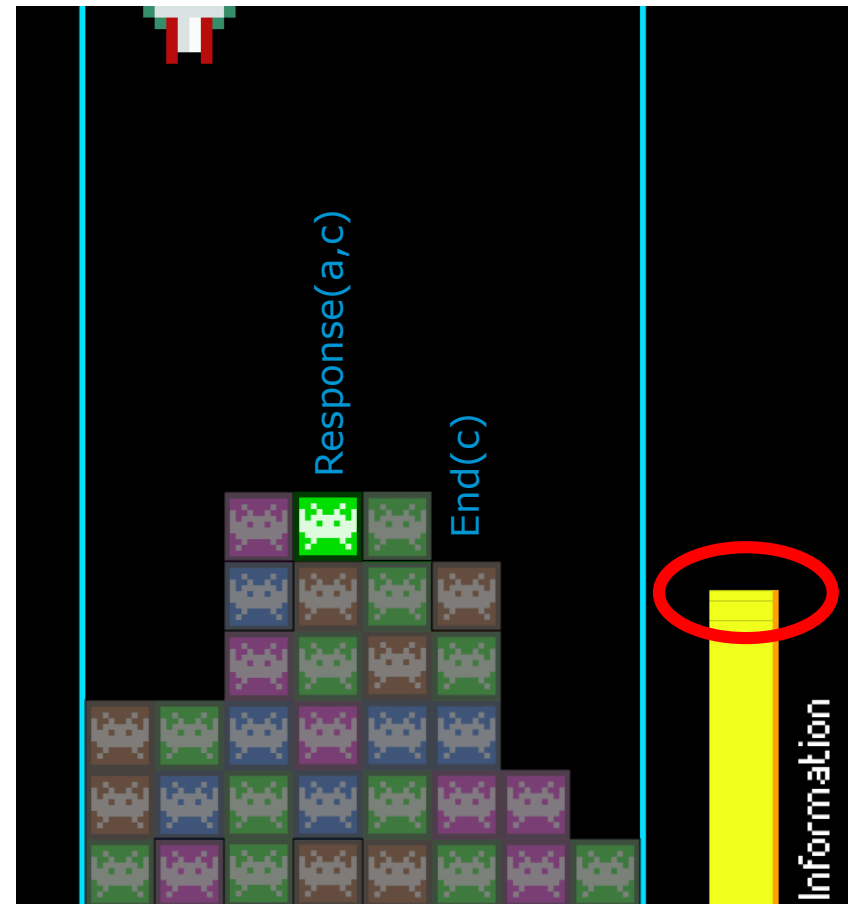
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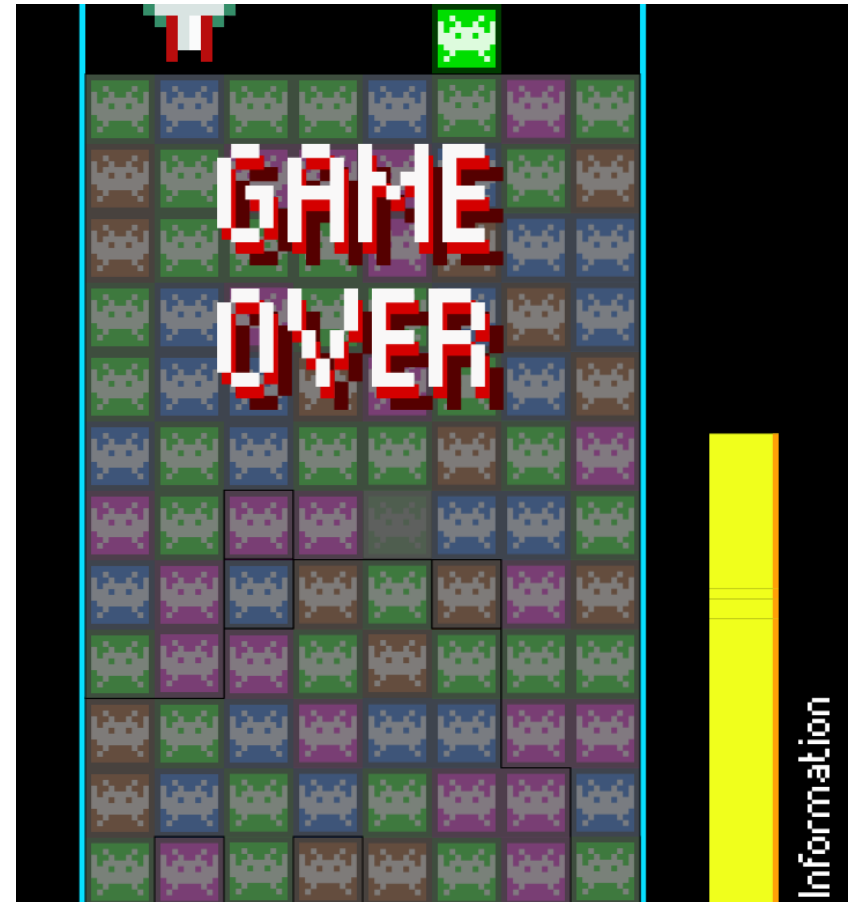
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 - The new product automaton accepts the same strings as before (**language inclusion**)



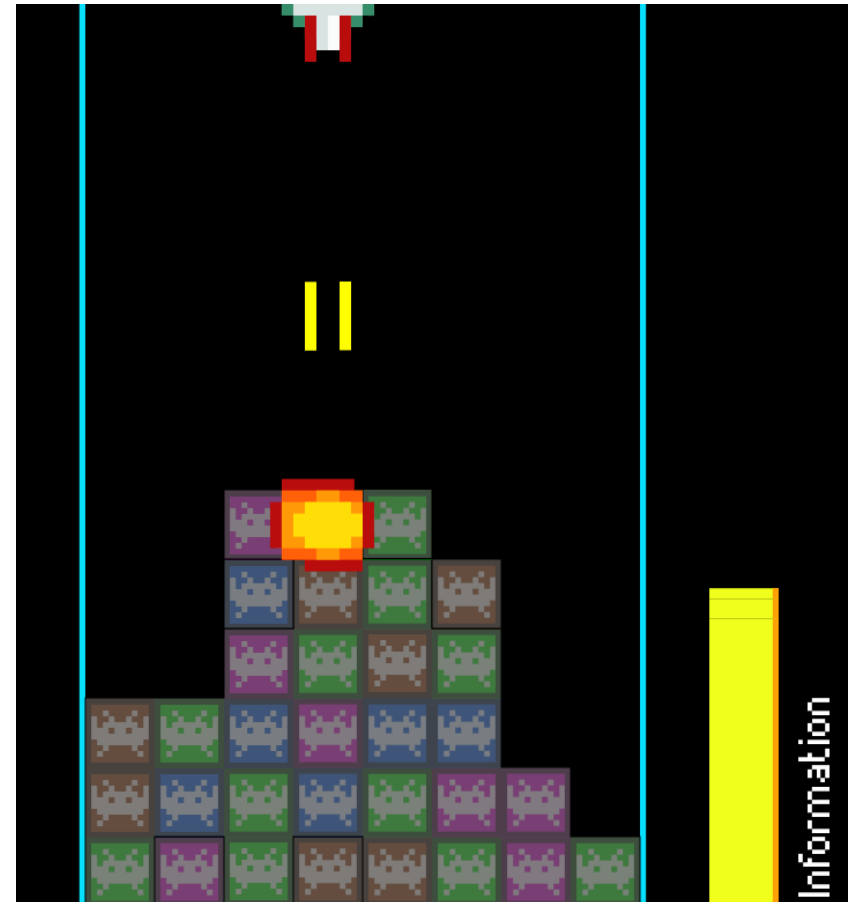
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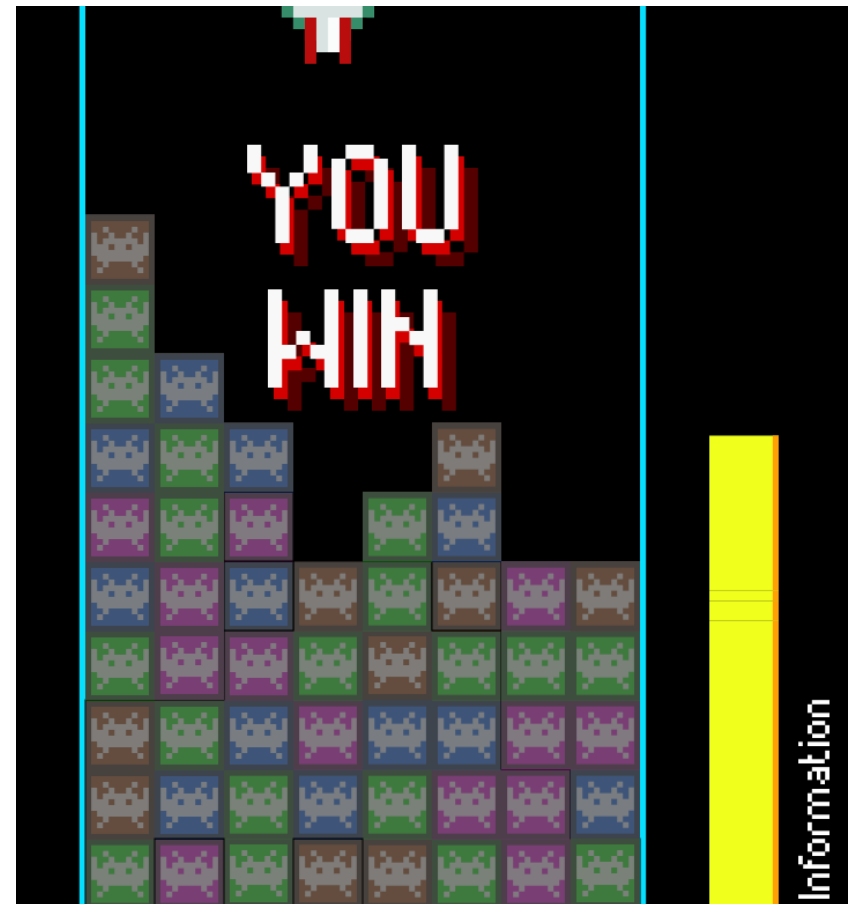
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Objectives

- Remove inconsistencies
- Minimise redundancies
- Analyse each constraint once



The solution: Inconsistency detection

- Rationale:
 1. How to **find** inconsistencies among constraints?
 - Use the automaton-based model for constraints
 - Does the cross-product automaton recognise the **empty language**?
 2. How to **search** the inconsistencies?
 - Exploit:
 - a) The product operation between automata
 - b) The sorting of Declare templates
- Guideline:
 - Preserve the most meaningful constraints
 - The sorting prioritises constraints

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 1. How to **find** redundancies among constraints?
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Which were the conflicting constraints in the log?

How does the redundancy removal perform?

What is more in the paper?

Limitations and future work

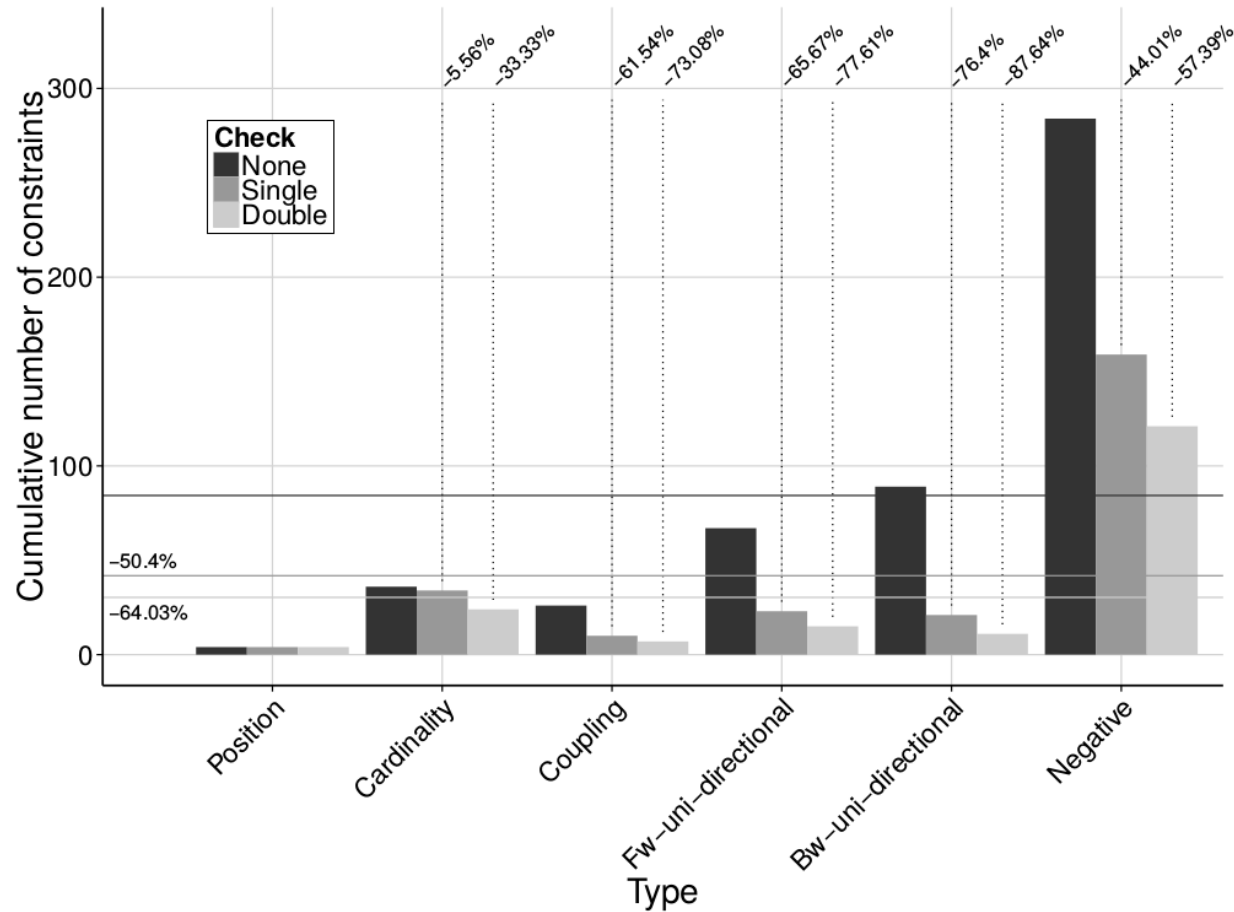
[illegible]

Which were the conflicting constraints in the log?

1. NotSuccession(send meeting, organize agenda)
2. NotChainSuccession(send draft, send deliverable)
3. Succession(send draft, submit report)

100.000%	NotChainSuccession(send draft, organize agenda)	100.000%		conf.: 0.500; int'f.: 0.500;
100.000%	NotChainSuccession(send draft, organize demo)	100.000%		conf.: 0.250; int'f.: 0.250;
100.000%	NotChainSuccession(send draft, organize meeting)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int'f.: 0.750;
100.000%	Succession(send draft, send deliverable)	100.000%		conf.: 1.000; int'f.: 1.000;
85.714%	NotChainSuccession(send draft, send deliverable)	100.000%		conf.: 4.857; int'f.: 4.857;
100.000%	NotChainSuccession(send draft, send demo)	100.000%		conf.: 0.250; int'f.: 0.250;
85.714%	NotChainSuccession(send draft, send meeting)	4.762%		conf.: 0.643; int'f.: 0.643;
92.000%	NotChainSuccession(send draft, send report)	46.666%		conf.: 0.690; int'f.: 0.690;
100.000%	NotChainSuccession(send draft, submit deliverable)	100.000%		conf.: 0.750; int'f.: 0.750;
100.000%	NotChainSuccession(send draft, submit draft)	100.000%		conf.: 0.250; int'f.: 0.250;
89.091%	NotChainSuccession(send draft, submit report)	27.272%		conf.: 0.668; int'f.: 0.668;
92.593%	NotChainSuccession(send draft, write deliverable)	50.617%		conf.: 0.694; int'f.: 0.694;

Redundancy reduction



Conclusions, limitations and future work

We have presented an algorithm which automatically finds inconsistencies and redundancies in mined Declare models

- The checks are purely based on operations over automata (remember: **monoids**)
- <http://github.com/cdc08x/minerful>

More in the paper:

- The order in which the constraints are checked deeply affects the returned result
 - Comparative studies prove different sorting strategies to affect
 - computation time
 - fitness of the returned model
 - size

Limitations:

- Performances are heavily affected by the interplay of constraints

Future work:

- Users/analysts involvement
- <http://www.promtools.org/prom6/nightly>



Resolving Inconsistencies and Redundancies in Declarative Process Models

Claudio Di Ciccio, Fabrizio Maria Maggi, Marco Montali and Jan Mendling

8th International Workshop on Enterprise Modeling and Information Systems Architectures (EMISA 2017)
Essen, Germany

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Di Ciccio, C., Maggi, F. M., Montali, M., Mendling, J. (2017). Resolving inconsistencies and redundancies in declarative process models. *Information Systems*, 64, 425–446.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.is.2016.09.005>



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Extra slides deck



Computational time complexity

$$O\left(\underbrace{n \cdot \log n}_{\text{Number of constraints sorting}} + \underbrace{n \cdot \bigcirc_{\mathcal{A}}^T}_{\text{Automata product / language check conflict and redundancy (single) check}} + \underbrace{n^2 \cdot \bigcirc_{\mathcal{A}}^T}_{\text{redundancy double-check}} \right)$$