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A Verified SAT Solver with Watched Literals Using Imperative HOL

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SAT Solving

Given a formula in conjunctive normal form

$$\varphi = \bigwedge_i \bigvee_j L_{i,j}$$

is there an assignment making the formula true?

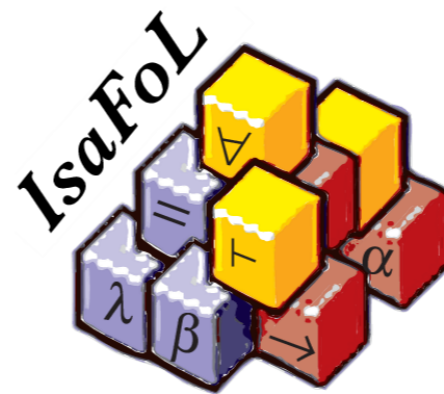
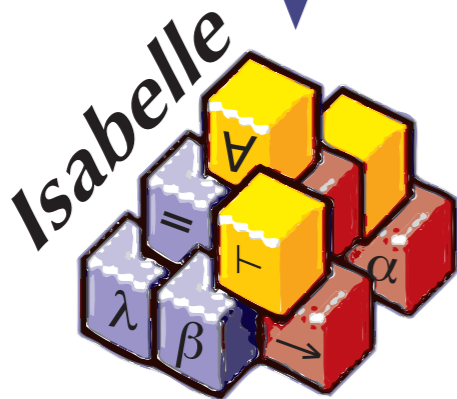
Most used algorithm: CDCL, an improvement over DPLL

How reliable are SAT solvers?

Two ways to ensure correctness:

- ▶ certify the certificate
 - certificates are huge
- ▶ verification of the code
 - code will not be competitive
 - allows to study metatheory

I certify your
proof



IsaFoL project

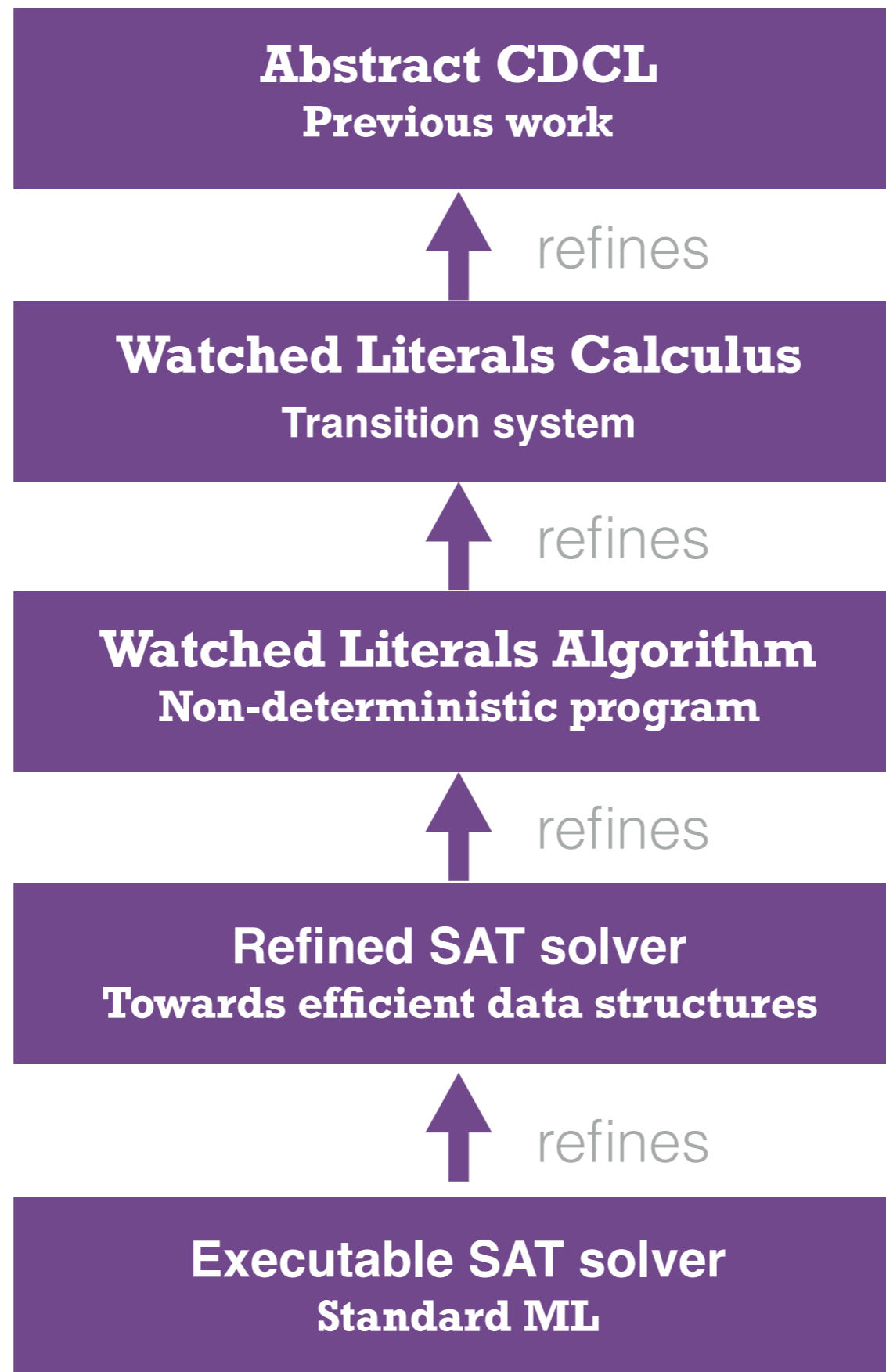
Isabelle Formalisation of Logic

IsaFoL

- ▶ FO resolution
by Schlichtkrull (ITP 2016)
- ▶ CDCL with learn, forget, restart, and incrementality
by Blanchette, Fleury, Weidenbach (IJCAR 2016)
- ▶ GRAT certificate checker
by Lammich (CADE-26, 2017)
- ▶ A verified SAT solver with watched literals
by Fleury, Blanchette, Lammich (now)

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Abstract CDCL

Previous work

DPLL

Candidate model

Clause

1. Guess
2. or propagate information
3. or take the opposite of the last guess if there is a conflict

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$
2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$
3. $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee C$
4. $\neg A \vee B$

DPLL

Candidate model

A?

Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$

2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$

3. $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee C$

4. $\neg A \vee B$

1. Guess
2. or propagate information
3. or take the opposite of the last guess if there is a conflict

DPLL

Candidate model

A? **B**

1. Guess
2. or propagate information
3. or take the opposite of the last guess if there is a conflict

Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$
2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$
3. $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee C$
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DPLL

Candidate model

$A?$ B $\neg C$

Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$
2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$
3. $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee C$
4. $\neg A \vee B$

1. Guess
2. or propagate information
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DPLL

Candidate model

$\neg A$

Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$

2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$

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4. $\neg A \vee B$

1. Guess
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DPLL

Candidate model

$\neg A \quad \neg C?$

Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$
2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$
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1. Guess
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DPLL

Candidate model

$\neg A$ $\neg C?$ $\neg B$

Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$
2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$
3. $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee C$
4. $\neg A \vee B$

1. Guess
2. or propagate information
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DPLL

Candidate model

$\neg A$

CDCL = DPLL +
non-chronological backtracking +
learning

Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$

2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$

3. $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee C$

4. $\neg A \vee B$

5. $\neg A$

Propagate rule

in Isabelle

$$C \vee L \in N \implies M \models_{\text{as}} \neg C \implies \text{undefined_lit } M \ L \implies \\ (M, N) \Rightarrow_{\text{CDCL}} (L \# M, N)$$

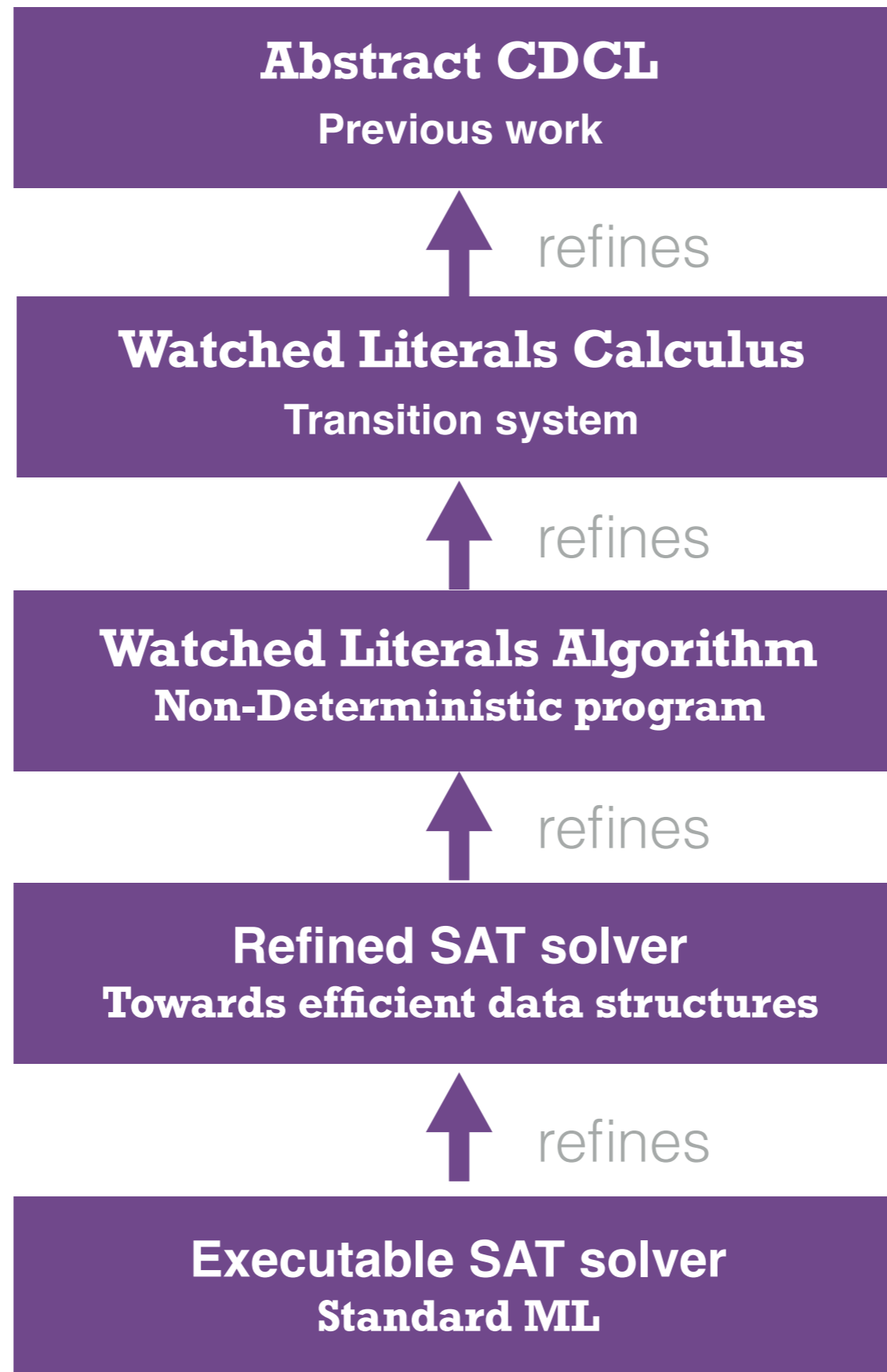
Propagate rule

in Isabelle

$$C \vee L \in N \implies M \models \neg C \implies \text{undefined_lit } M \ L \implies \\ (M, N) \Rightarrow_{\text{CDCL}} (L \# M, N)$$

Problem:

Iterating over the clauses
is inefficient



Watched Literals Calculus

Transition system

DPLL with Watched Literals

Candidate model

Clause

1. Watch one true literals
2. or watch two unset literals
3. or watch a false literals
if all other literals are false

1. $\boxed{\neg B} \vee \boxed{C} \vee A$
2. $\boxed{\neg C} \vee \boxed{\neg B} \vee \neg A$
3. $\boxed{\neg A} \vee \boxed{\neg B} \vee C$
4. $\boxed{\neg A} \vee \boxed{B}$

To update:

DPLL with Watched Literals

Candidate model

A?

1. Watch one true literals
2. or watch two unset literals
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Clause

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To update:

DPLL with Watched Literals

Candidate model

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Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$
2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$
3. $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee C$
4. $\neg A \vee B$

To update: 3. 4.

DPLL with Watched Literals

Candidate model

A?

1. Watch one true literals
2. or watch two unset literals
3. or watch a false literals
if all other literals are false

Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$
2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$
3. $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee C$
4. $\neg A \vee B$

To update: 4.

DPLL with Watched Literals

Candidate model

A?

1. Watch one true literals
2. or watch two unset literals
3. or watch a false literals
if all other literals are false

Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$
2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$
3. $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee C$
4. $\neg A \vee B$

To update:

DPLL with Watched Literals

Candidate model

A? B

1. Watch one true literals
2. or watch two unset literals
3. or watch a false literals
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Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$
2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$
3. $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee C$
4. $\neg A \vee B$

To update:

B

DPLL with Watched Literals

Candidate model

A? B

1. Watch one true literals
2. or watch two unset literals
3. or watch a false literals
if all other literals are false

Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$
2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$
3. $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee C$
4. $\neg A \vee B$

To update: 1. 2. 3.

DPLL with Watched Literals

Candidate model

A? B

1. Watch one true literals
2. or watch two unset literals
3. or watch a false literals
if all other literals are false

Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$
2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$
3. $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee C$
4. $\neg A \vee B$

To update: 2. 3.

DPLL with Watched Literals

Candidate model

A? B

1. Watch one true literals
2. or watch two unset literals
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Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$
2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$
3. $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee C$
4. $\neg A \vee B$

To update: 3.

DPLL with Watched Literals

Candidate model

$A?$ B $\neg C$

1. Watch one true literals
2. or watch two unset literals
3. or watch a false literals
if all other literals are false

Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$
2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$
3. $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee C$
4. $\neg A \vee B$

To update: 3.

C

DPLL with Watched Literals

Candidate model

$A?$ B $\neg C$

1. Watch one true literals
2. or watch two unset literals
3. or watch a false literals
if all other literals are false

Clause

1. $\neg B \vee C \vee A$
2. $\neg C \vee \neg B \vee \neg A$
3. $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee C$
4. $\neg A \vee B$

To update:

DPLL with Watched Literals

Candidate model

$\neg A$

1. Watch one true literals
2. or watch two unset literals
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if all other literals are false

Clause

1. $\neg B \vee \boxed{C} \vee \boxed{A}$
2. $\boxed{\neg C} \vee \boxed{\neg B} \vee \boxed{\neg A}$
3. $\boxed{\neg A} \vee \boxed{\neg B} \vee \boxed{C}$
4. $\boxed{\neg A} \vee \boxed{B}$

To update:

$\neg A$

DPLL with Watched Literals

Candidate model

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1. Watch one true literals
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3. $\boxed{\neg A} \vee \boxed{\neg B} \vee \boxed{C}$
4. $\boxed{\neg A} \vee \boxed{B}$
5. $\neg A$

To update:

$\neg A$

Watched literals invariant

1. Watch one true literals
2. or watch two unset literals
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Watched literals invariant

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unless a conflict has
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Watched literals invariant

1. Watch one true literals
2. or watch two unset literals
3. or watch a false literals
if all other literals are false

unless a conflict has
been found

or an update is
pending

Watched literals invariant (less wrong)

this literal has been set earlier

1. Watch one true literals
2. or watch two unset literals
3. or watch a false literals if all other literals are false

unless a conflict has been found

or an update is pending



Finding invariants (11 new ones)



No high-level description



sledgehammer

 Finding invariants (11 new ones)

 No high-level description

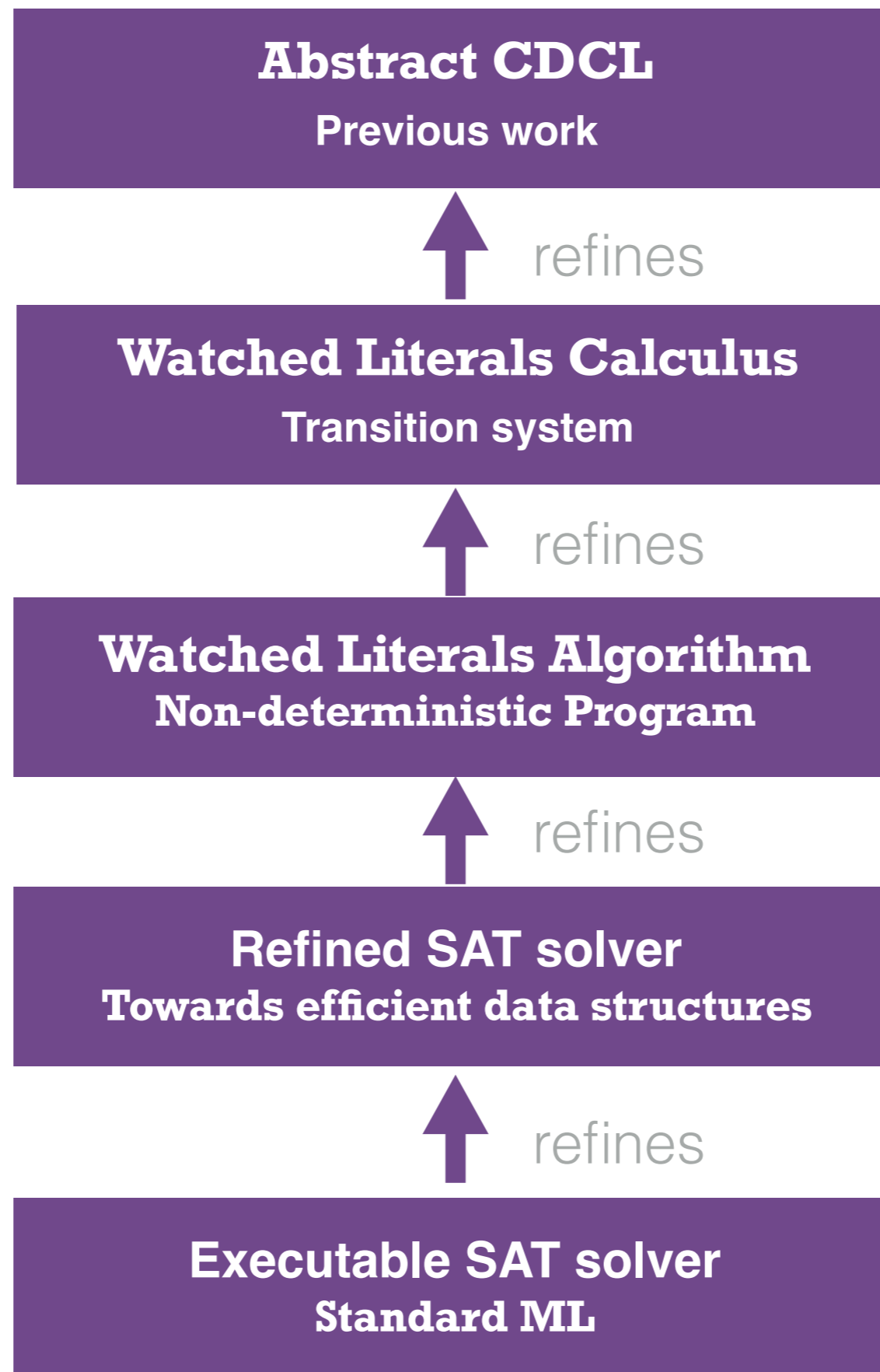
 sledgehammer

Correctness theorem

in Isabelle

If S is well-formed and $S \Rightarrow_{\text{TWL}} T$ then

$S \Rightarrow_{\text{CDCL}} T$



Watched Literals Calculus

Transition system



Watched Literals Algorithm

Non-deterministic Program

Picking Next Clause

```
propagate_conflict_literal L S :=  
  WHILE_T  
    ( $\lambda T. \text{clauses\_to\_update } T \neq \{\}$ )  
  
    ( $\lambda T. \text{do } \{$   
      ASSERT( $\text{clauses\_to\_update } T \neq \{\}$ )  
      C  $\leftarrow$  SPEC ( $\lambda C. C \in \text{clauses\_to\_update } T$ );  
      U  $\leftarrow$  remove_from_clauses_to_update C T;  
      update_clause (L, C) U  
    }  
  )  
  
S
```

Refinement Framework: non-deterministic exception monad

```
propagate_conflict_literal L S :=  
  WHILET  
    (λT. clauses_to_update T ≠ {})  
  
    (λT. do {  
      ASSERT(causes_to_update T ≠ {})  
      C ← SPEC (λC. C ∈ clauses_to_update T);  
      U ← remove_from_clauses_to_update C T;  
      update_clause (L, C) U  
    })  
  )  
  
S
```

Refinement Framework: non-deterministic exception monad

propagate_conflict_literal L S :=

WHILE_T

($\lambda T. \text{clauses_to_update } T \neq \{\}$)

($\lambda T. \text{do } \{$

ASSERT($\text{clauses_to_update } T \neq \{\}$)

C \leftarrow SPEC ($\lambda C. C \in \text{clauses_to_update } T$);

U \leftarrow remove_from_clauses_to_update C T;

update_clause (L, C) U

}

)

S

Assertions

Refinement Framework: non-deterministic exception monad

propagate_conflict_literal L S :=

WHILE_T

($\lambda T. \text{clauses_to_update } T \neq \{\}$)

($\lambda T. \text{do } \{$

 ASSERT($\text{clauses_to_update } T \neq \{\}$)

 C \leftarrow SPEC ($\lambda C. C \in \text{clauses_to_update } T$);

 U \leftarrow remove_from_clauses_to_update C T;

 update_clause (L, C) U

 }

)

S

Non-deterministic
getting of a clause

Refinement Framework: non-deterministic exception monad

```
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  WHILET  
    (λT. clauses_to_update T ≠ {})  
  
    (λT. do {  
      ASSERT(causes_to_update T ≠ {})  
      C ← SPEC (λC. C ∈ clauses_to_update T);  
      U ← remove_from_clauses_to_update C T;  
      update_clause (L, C) U  
    })  
  )  
  
S
```

- ▶ More deterministic (order of the rules)
- ▶ But still non deterministic (decisions)
- ▶ Goals of the form

- ▶ More deterministic (order of the rules)
- ▶ But still non deterministic (decisions)
- ▶ Goals of the form

propagate_conflict_literal $L \ S \leq \text{SPEC}(\lambda T. \ S \Rightarrow_{\text{TWL}^*} T)$

in Isabelle



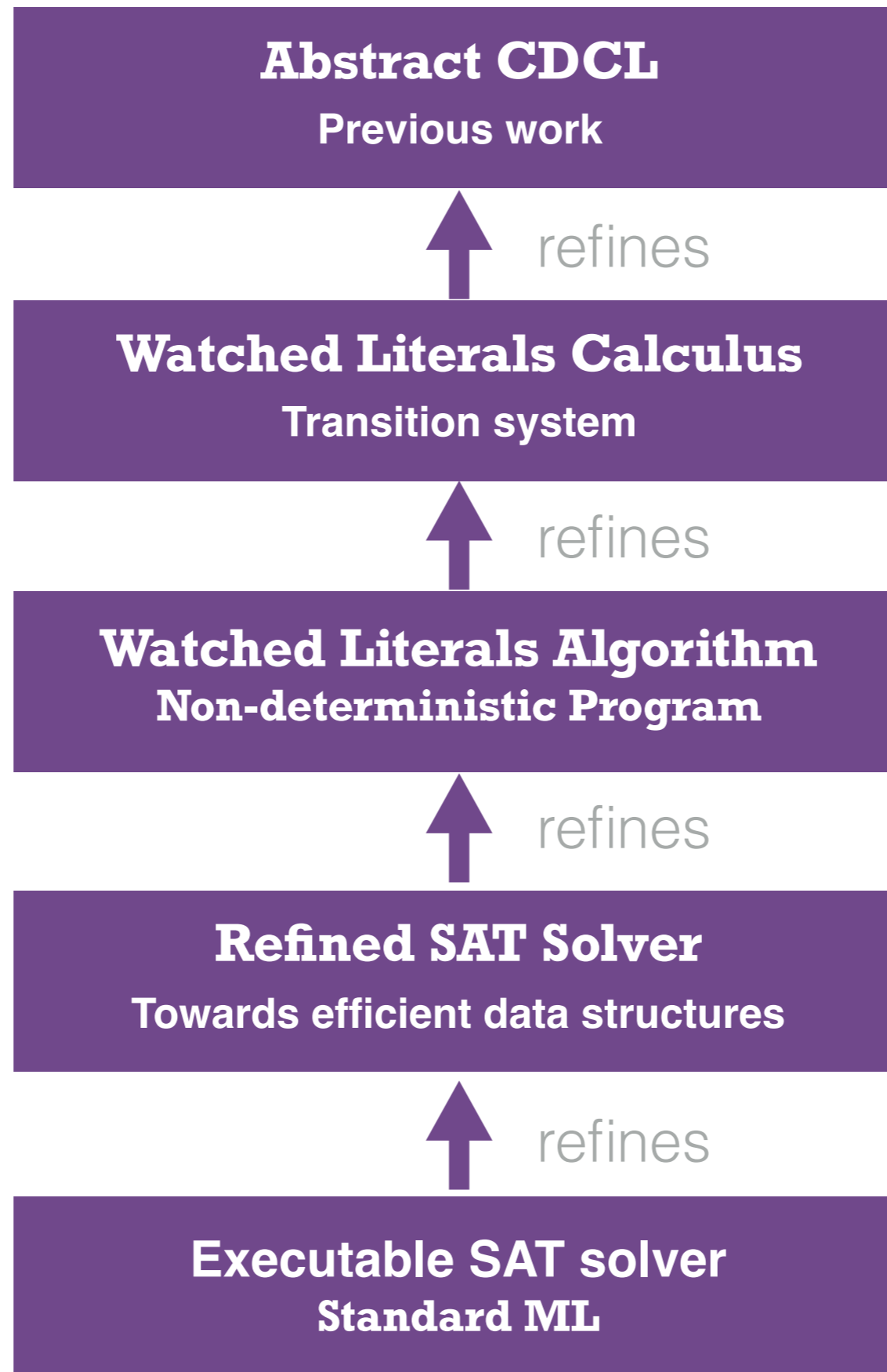
VCG's goals hard to read



Very tempting to write fragile proofs



sledgehammer



Watched Literals Algorithm

Non-deterministic Program



Refined SAT Solver

Towards efficient data structures

DPLL with Watched Literals

Clauses (multisets)

1. $\boxed{\neg B} \vee \boxed{C} \vee A$
2. $\boxed{\neg C} \vee \boxed{\neg B} \vee \neg A$
3. $\neg A \vee \boxed{\neg B} \vee \boxed{C}$
4. $\boxed{\neg A} \vee \boxed{B}$

To update:

Clauses after refinement (lists)

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|------------------|----------|
| 1. | $\boxed{\neg B}$ | \boxed{C} | A |
| 2. | $\boxed{\neg C}$ | $\boxed{\neg B}$ | $\neg A$ |
| 3. | \boxed{C} | $\boxed{\neg B}$ | $\neg A$ |
| 4. | $\boxed{\neg A}$ | \boxed{B} | |

A: $\neg A: 4$ C: 1,3 $\neg C: 2$
 B: 4 $\neg B: 1,2,3$

```

propagate_conflict_literal L S :=
  WHILET
    (λT. clauses_to_update T ≠ {})

    (λT. do {
      ASSERT(causes_to_update T ≠ {})
      C ← SPEC (λC. C ∈ clauses_to_update T);
      U ← remove_from_clauses_to_update C T;
      update_clause L C U
    }
  )

  S

```

```

propagate_conflict_literal_list L S :=
  WHILET
    (λ(w, T). w < length (watched_by T L))

    (λ(w, T). do {
      C ← (watched_by T L) ! w;
      update_clause_list L C T
    }
  )

  (S, 0)

```

```

propagate_conflict_literal L S :=
  WHILET
    (λT. clauses_to_update T ≠ {})

    (λT. do {
      ASSERT(causes_to_update T ≠ {})
      C ← SPEC (λC. C ∈ clauses_to_update T);
      U ← remove_from_clauses_to_update C T;
      update_clause L C U
    }
  )

  S

```

```

propagate_conflict_literal_list L S :=
  WHILET
    (λ(w, T). w < length (watched_by T L))






    (λ(w, T). do {
      C ← (watched_by T L) ! w;
      update_clause_list L C T
    }
  )

  (S 0)

```

`propagate_conflict_literal_list L S` $\leq \Downarrow$ `conversion_between_states`
`(propagate_conflict_literal L T)`

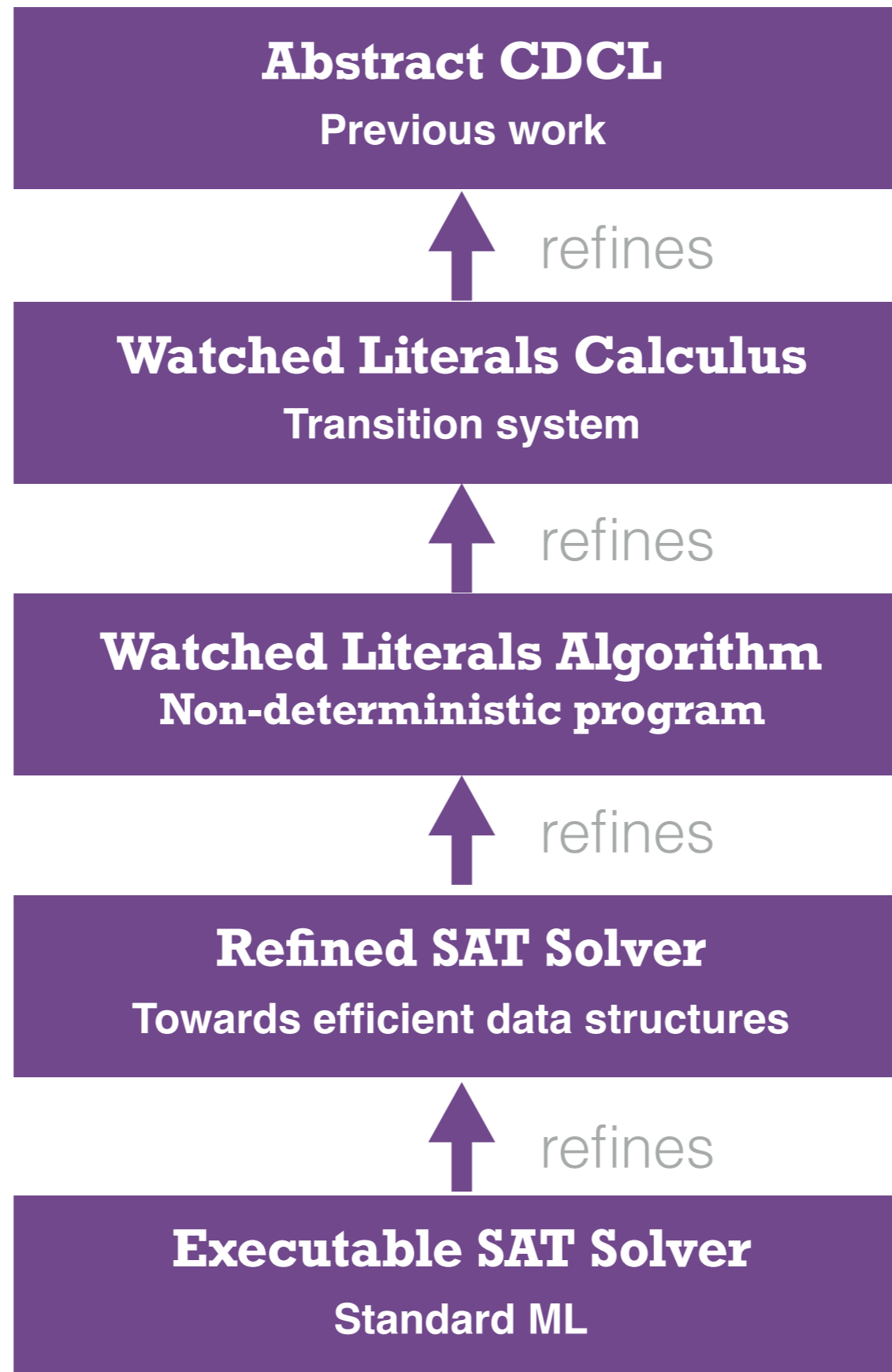
in Isabelle

-  More new invariants
-  Aligning goals is hard...
-  Fast code uses many invariants
-  Forgotten and new invariants
-  sledgehammer

- 🔑 Choice on the heuristics
- 🔑 Choice on the data structures
- 🔑 Prepare code synthesis

Decision heuristic

- ▶ Variable-move-to-front heuristic
- ▶ No correctness w.r.t. a standard implementation
- ▶ Behaves correctly:
 - returns an unset literal if there is one
 - no exception (out-of-bound array accesses)



Refined SAT Solver

Towards efficient data structures



Executable SAT Solver

Standard ML

```
sepref_definition executable_version  
  is <propagate_conflict_literal_heuristics>  
  :: <unat_lit_assnk *a state_assnd →a state_assn>  
  by sepref
```

Synthesise imperative code and a refinement relation

```

sepref_definition executable_version
  is <propagate_conflict_literal_heuristics>
  :: <unat_lit_assnk *a state_assnd →a state_assn>
  by sepref

```

Synthesise imperative code and a refinement relation

```

main_loop S :=
  heap_WHILET
    (λ(finished, _). return (¬ finished))
    (λ(_, state).
      propagate state >>=
      analyse_or_decide)
    (False, state) >>=
    (λ(_, final_state). return final_state)

```

```

sepref_definition executable_version
  is <propagate_conflict_literal_heuristics>
  :: <unat_lit_assnk *a state_assnd →a state_assn>
  by sepref

```

Synthesise imperative code and a refinement relation

```

fun main_loop state =
  fn () =>
    let
      val (_, final_state) =
        heap_WHILET
          (fn (done, _) => (fn () => not done))
          (fn (_, state) =>
            (analyse_or_decide (propagate state ()) ()))
          (false, xi)
    ();
  in final_state end;

```

```

sepref_definition executable_version
  is <propagate_conflict_literal_heuristics>
  :: <unat_lit_assnk *a state_assnd →a state_assn>
  by sepref

```

Synthesise imperative code and a refinement relation

```

fun cdcl_twl_stgy_prog_wl_D_code x =
  (fn xi => fn () =>
    let
      val a =
        heap_WHILET (fn (a1, _) => (fn () => (not a1)))
          (fn (_, a2) =>
            (fn f_ => fn () => f_ ((unit_propagation_outer_loop_wl_D a2) ()) ())
            cdcl_twl_o_prog_wl_D_code)
          (false, xi) ();
    in
      let
        val (_, aa) = a;
      in
        (fn () => aa)
      end
    end
  )

```

 Choice on the data structures

Clauses: resizable arrays of (fixed sized) arrays

However, no aliasing

- Indices instead of pointers
- `N[C]` makes a copy, so only use `N[C][i]`

 Generates imperative code

 No error messages

 Transformations before generating code

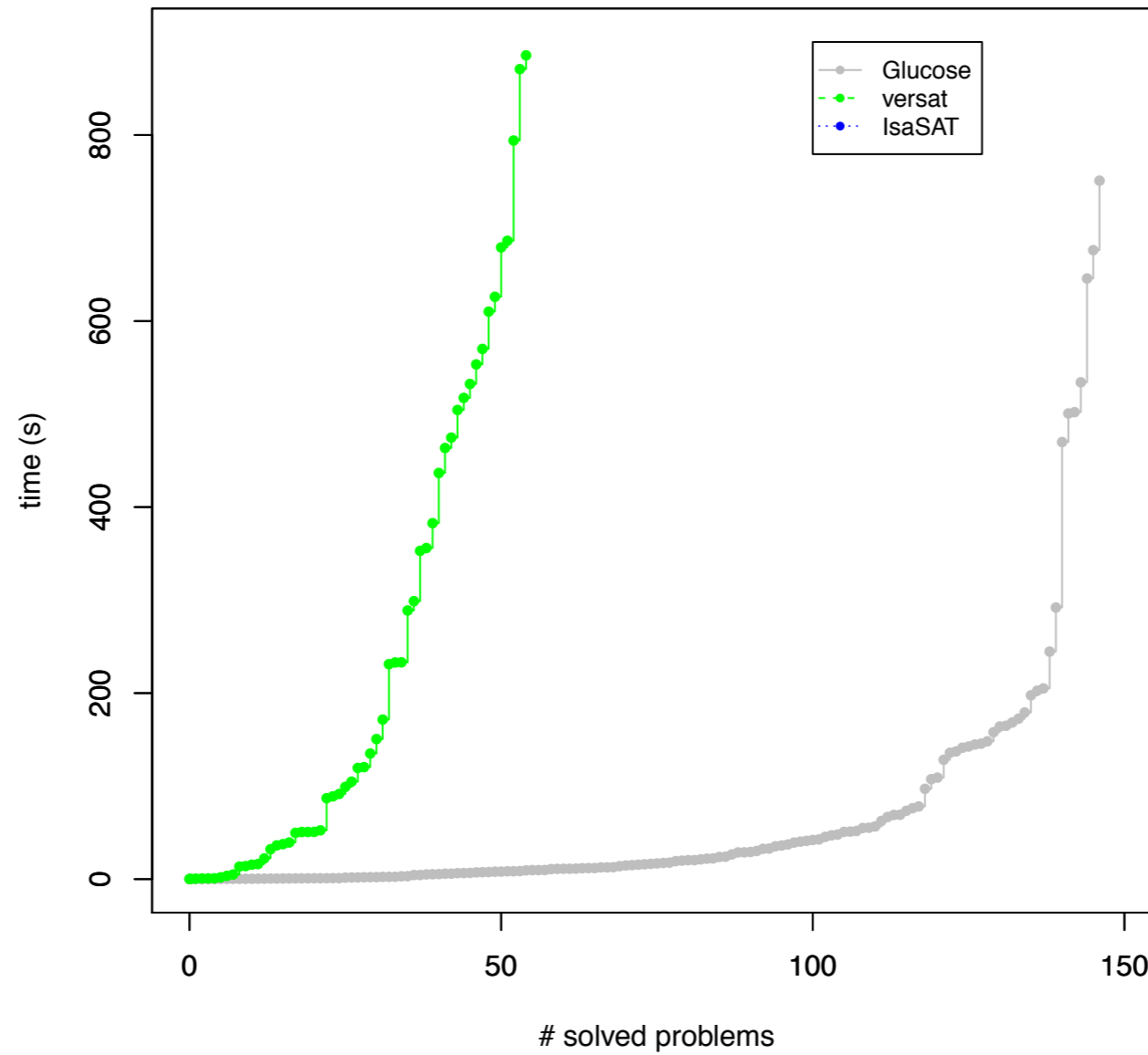
Clauses of length 0
and 1

Once combined with an initialisation:

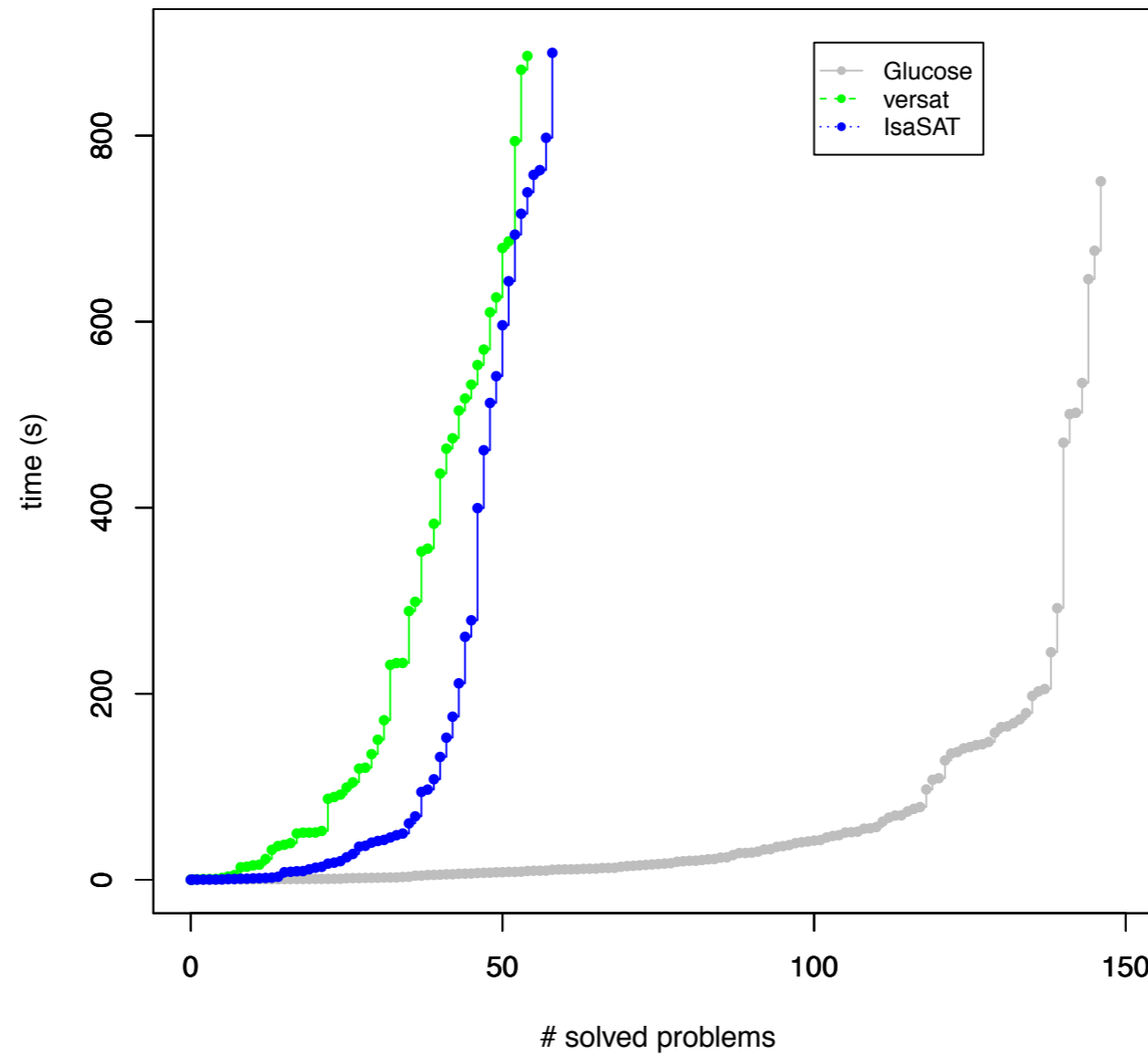
```
<(IsaSAT_code, model_if_satisfiable)  
  ∈ [λN. each_clause_is_distinct N ∧  
      literals_fit_in_32_bit_integer N]a  
  clauses_as_listsk → model>
```

in Isabelle

Exported code tested with an unchecked parser
(easy and medium problems from the SAT competition 2009)



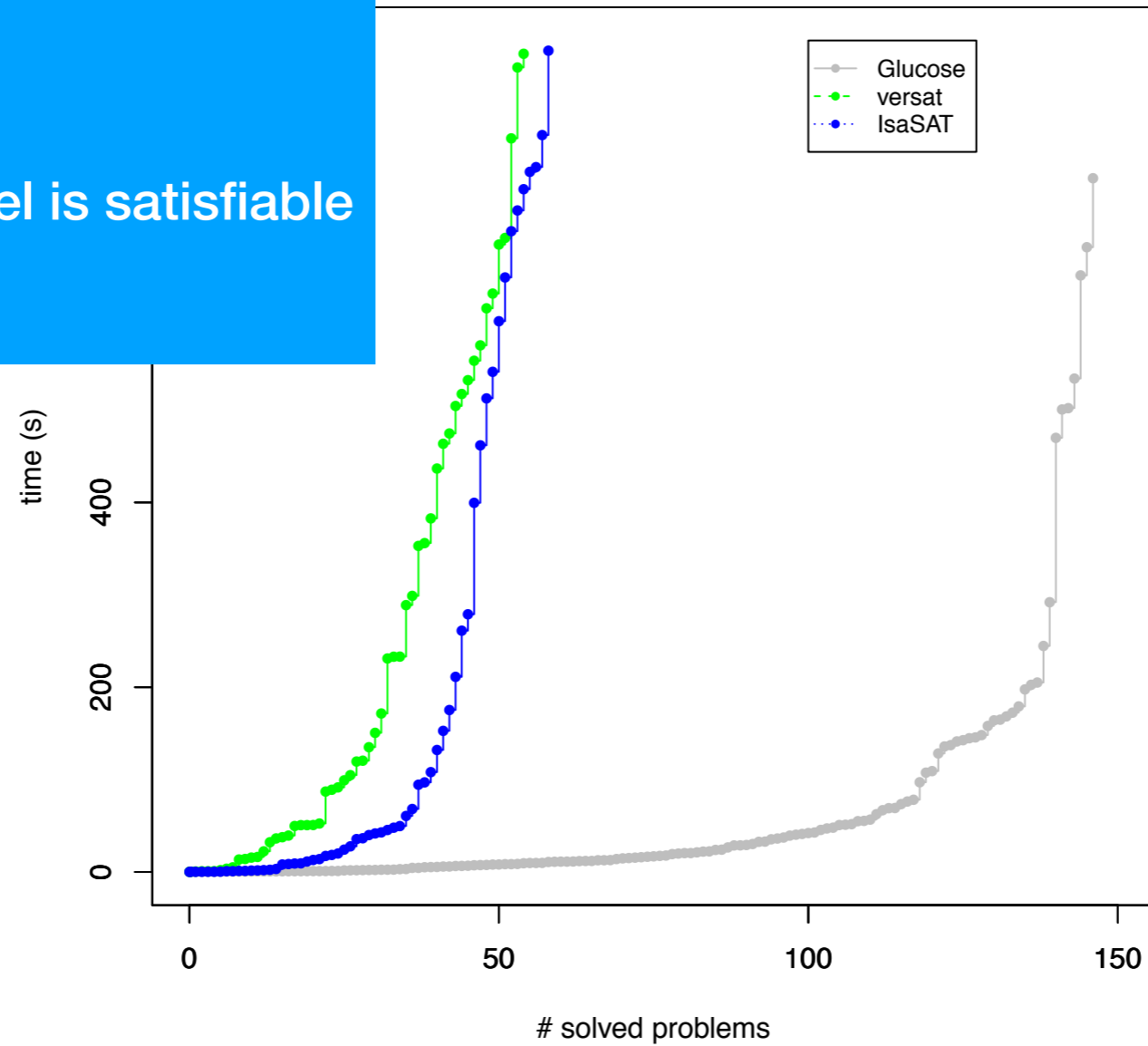
Performance of the first executable version



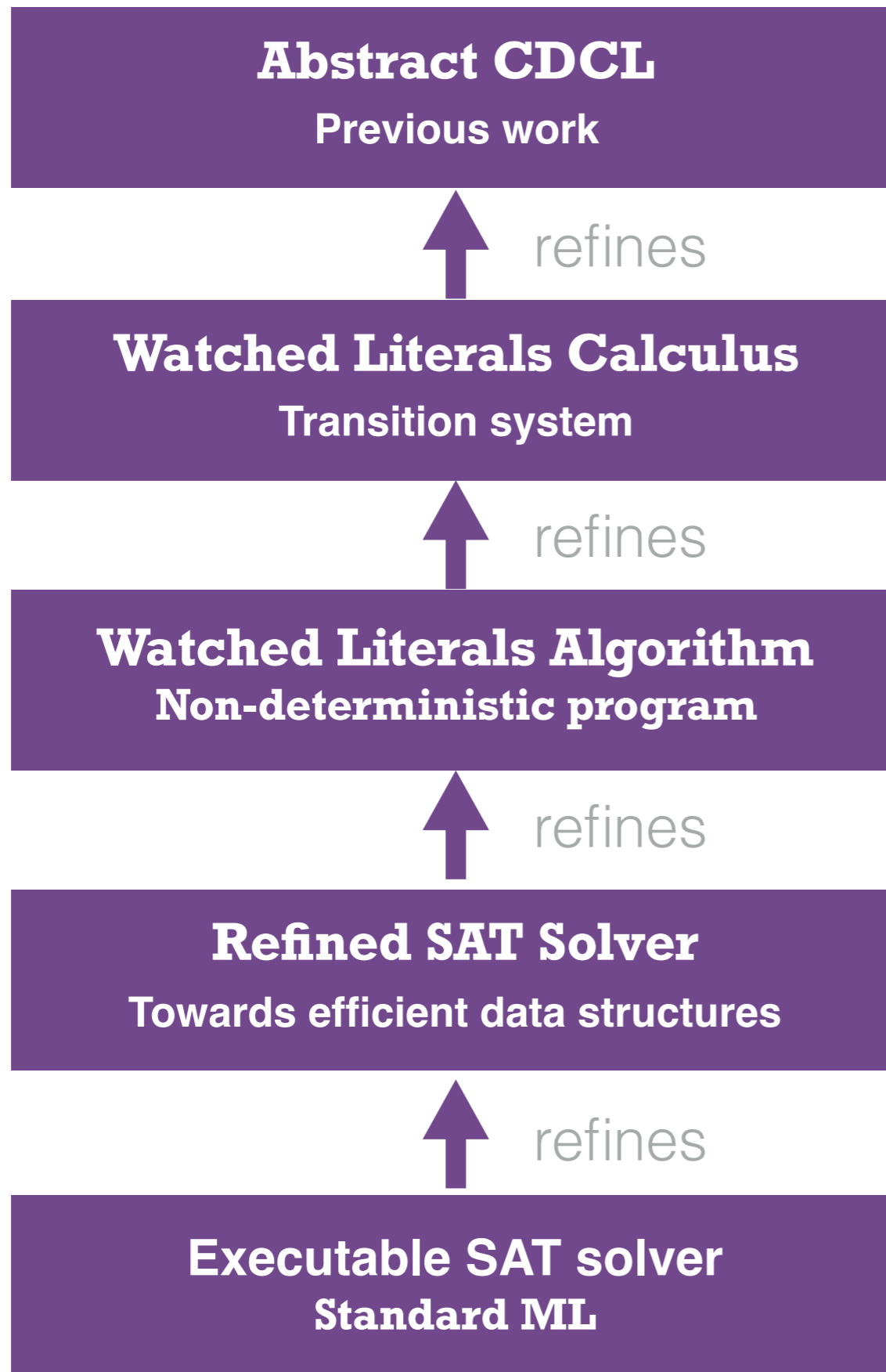
Performance of IsaSAT

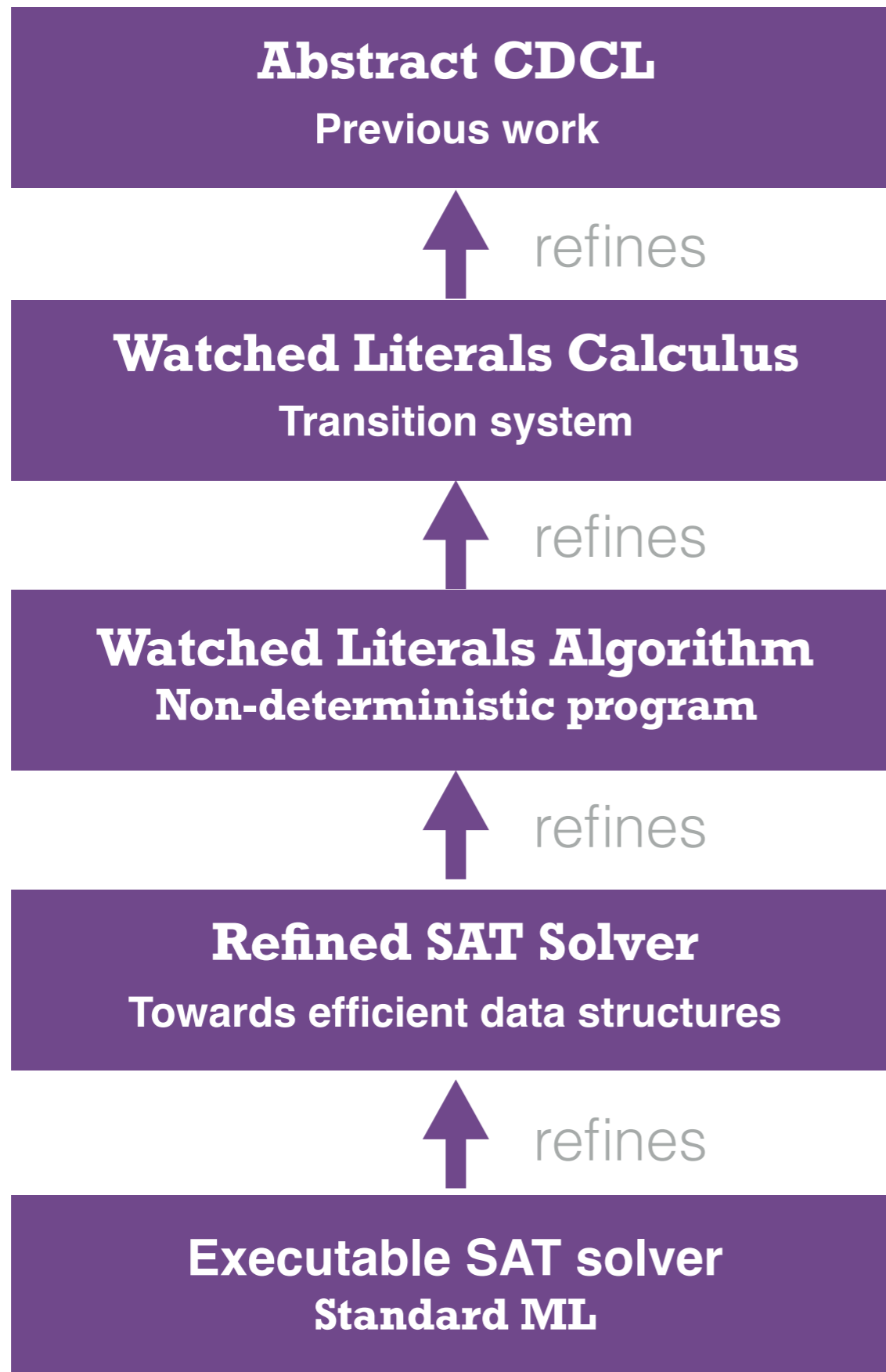
Correct up to:

- ▶ run-time checks
- ▶ checking the model is satisfiable

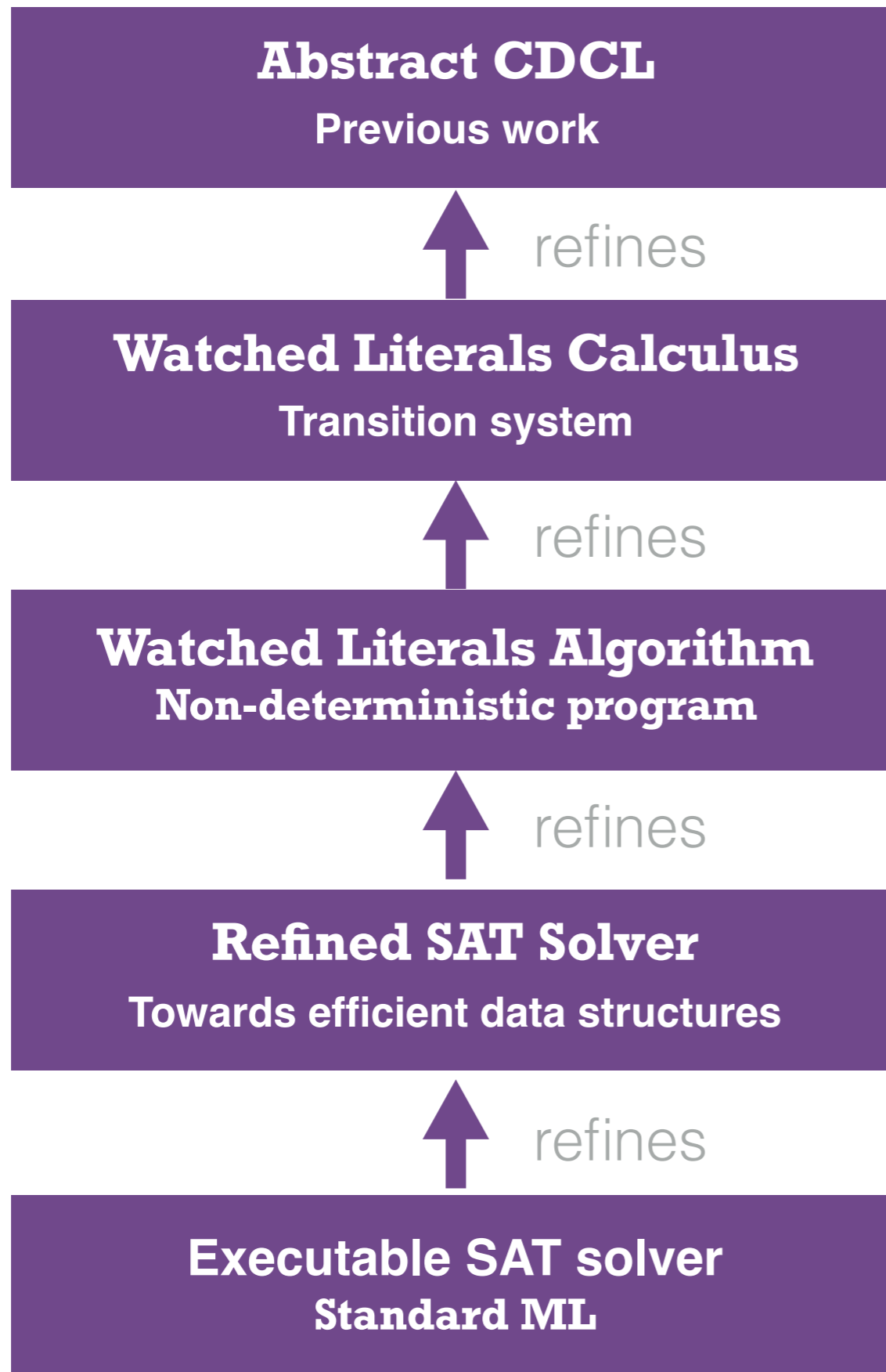


Performance of IsaSAT



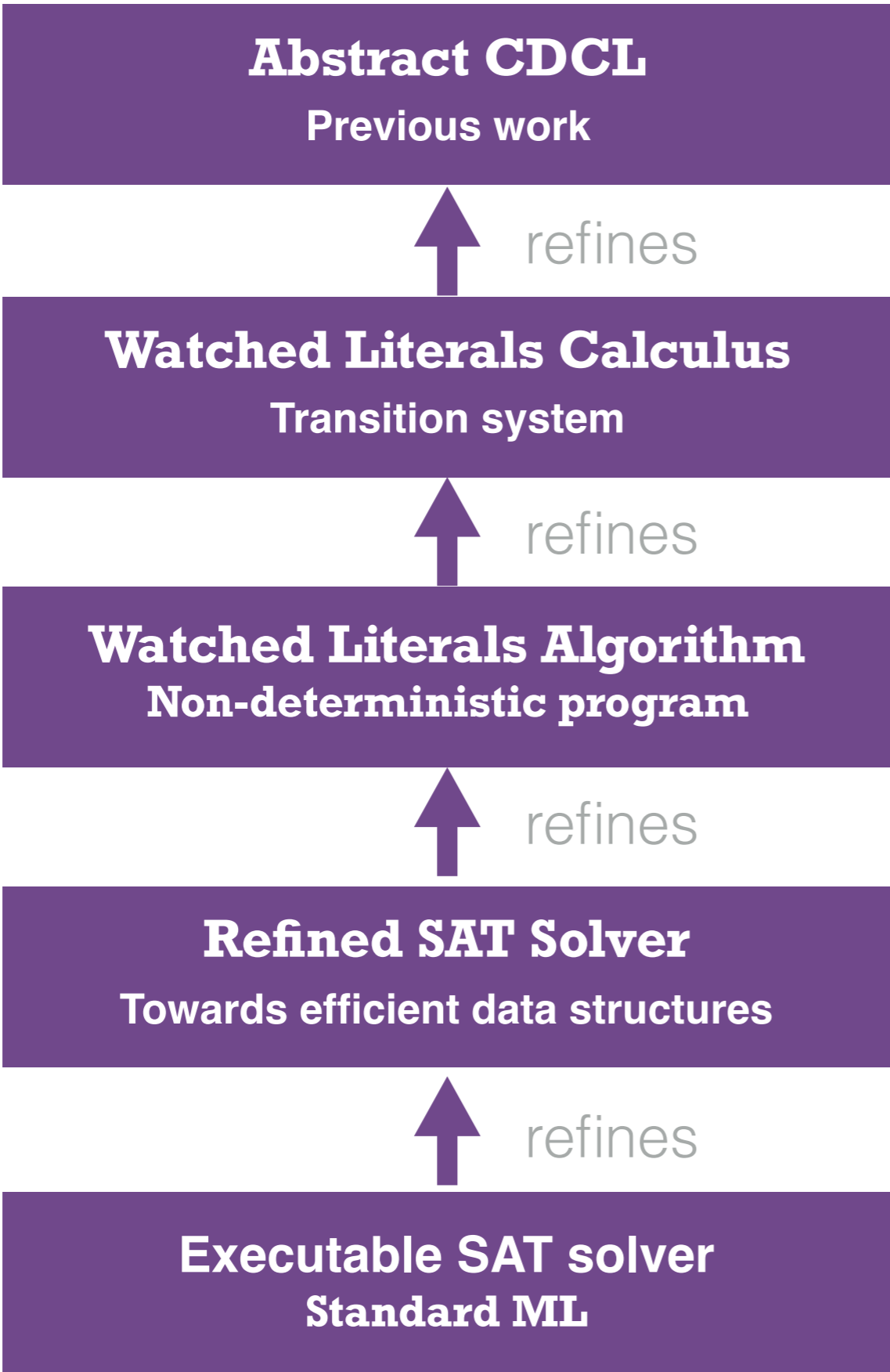


- better implementation (trail, conflict)
- dynamic decision heuristic



- allow learned clause minimisation

- better implementation (trail, conflict)
- dynamic decision heuristic
- learned clause minimisation



- allow learned clause minimisation

- more invariants

- better implementation (trail, conflict)
- dynamic decision heuristic
- learned clause minimisation

How hard is it?

	Paper	Proof assistant
Very abstract	13 pages	50 pages
Abstract CDCL	9 pages (1/2 month)	90 pages (5 months)
Watched Literals	1 page (C++ code of MiniSat)	600 pages (15 months)

Conclusion

Concrete outcome

- ▶ Watched literals optimisation
- ▶ Verified executable SAT solver

Methodology

- ▶ Refinement using the Refinement Framework

Future work

- ▶ Restarts
- ▶ Use SAT solver in IsaFoR
- ▶ SAT Modulo Theories (e.g., CVC or z3)

Annex

```
for (i = j = 1; i < out_learnt.size(); i++)  
  if (reason(var(out_learnt[i])) == CRef_Undef ||  
      !litRedundant(out_learnt[i]))  
    out_learnt[j++] = out_learnt[i];
```

```

fun minimize_and_extract_highest_lookup_conflict_code x =
  (fn ai => fn bid => fn bic => fn bib => fn bia => fn bi => fn () =>
    let
      val a =
        heap_WHILET
          (fn (_, (a1a, (_, a2b))) =>
            (fn f_ => fn () => f_ ((length_arl_u_code heap_uint32 a2b) ()) ())
              (fn x_a => (fn () => (Word32.< (a1a, x_a))))))
          (fn (a1, (a1a, (a1b, a2b))) =>
            (fn f_ => fn () => f_
              (((fn () => Array.sub (fst a2b, Word32.toInt a1a))) ()) ())
              (fn x_a =>
                (fn f_ => fn () => f_
                  ((literal_redundant_wl_lookup_code ai bid a1 a1b x_a bia) ())
                  ()))
              (fn (a1c, (_, a2d)) =>
                (if not a2d
                  then (fn () =>
                      (a1, (Word32.+ (a1a, (Word32.fromInt 1)),
                        (a1c, a2b))))
                  else (fn f_ => fn () => f_
                      ((delete_from_lookup_conflict_code x_a a1) ()) ())
                      (fn x_e =>
                        (fn f_ => fn () => f_ ((arl_last heap_uint32 a2b)
                          ())) ())
                        (fn xa =>
                          (fn f_ => fn () => f_
                            ((arl_set_u heap_uint32 a2b a1a xa) ()) ())
                          (fn xb =>
                            (fn f_ => fn () => f_
                              ((arl_butlast heap_uint32 xb) ()) ()))
                          (fn xc => (fn () => (x_e, (a1a, (a1c, xc))))))))))
                      (bic, ((Word32.fromInt 1), (bib, bi))) ());
                in
                  let
                    val (a1, (_, (a1b, a2b))) = a;

```

What is in IsaSAT?

Conflict Analysis

- ▶ conflict as lookup table (Minisat)
- ▶ and as explicit array (Minisat's "outl", to simplify proofs)

Decisions

- ▶ Variable move to front (Splatz, cadical)

Propagations

- ▶ Mostly following MiniSAT (without BLIT)

How much is missing?

Features (I)

10

- arena based memory allocation for clauses and watchers
- blocking literals (BLIT)
- special handling of binary clause watches
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- learned clause minimization with poison
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- decision only clauses (DECO)
- failed literal probing on binary implication graph roots
- eager recent learned clause subsumption

Thank you, Norbert & Mate!

Slides by Armin Biere

Features (II)

11

- stamping based VMTF instead of VSIDS
- subsumption for both irredundant and learned clauses
- inprocessing blocked clause decomposition (BCD) enabling ...
- ... inprocessing SAT sweeping for backbones and equivalences
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- bounded variable elimination (BVE)
- blocked clause elimination (BCE)
- **dynamic sticky clause reduction**
- exponential moving average based restart scheduling
- delaying restarts
- trail reuse

Splatz @ POS'15

Splatz @ POS'15

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Code only

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Code only

Strengthening

Splatz @ POS'15

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Splatz @ POS'15

Code only

Strengthening

Change CDCL

Splatz @ POS'15

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Slides by Armin Biere

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Splatz @ POS'15

Code only

Restarts (future)

Strengthening

Change CDCL

Splatz @ POS'15

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Splatz @ POS'15

Code only

Restarts (future)

Strengthening

Change WL

Change CDCL

Splatz @ POS'15

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Thank you, Norbert & Mate!

Slides by Armin Biere

Features (II)

11

- stamping based VMTE instead of VSIDS
- Unchecked array accesses (Isabelle takes care of it)
- No unbounded integers (in theory, not complete anymore)
- Restarts

- exponential moving average based restart scheduling
- delaying restarts
- trail reuse

Splatz @ POS'15

Code only

Restarts (future)

Strengthening

Change WL

Change CDCL

Splatz @ POS'15

Update Strategy

A first idea

M

Clauses N

A better strategy

CBAM

Clauses N

A

B

C

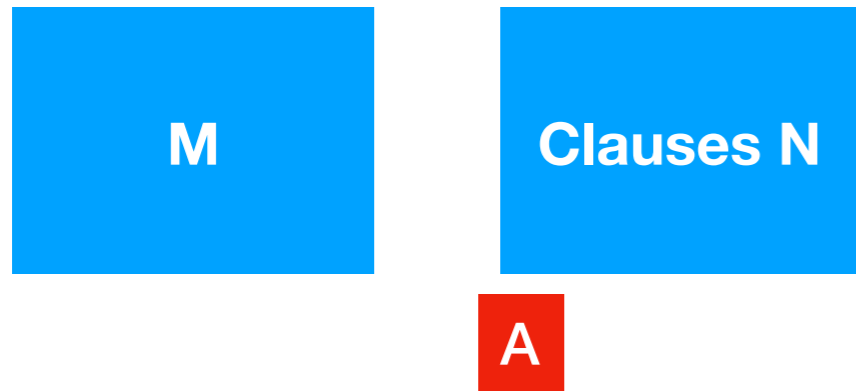
A

B

C

Update Strategy

A first idea



A better strategy



B

C

A

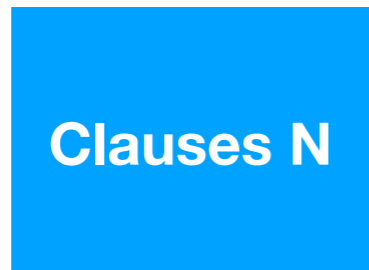
B

C

Update Strategy

A first idea

A better strategy



Update Strategy

A first idea



A better strategy



A

B

C

D

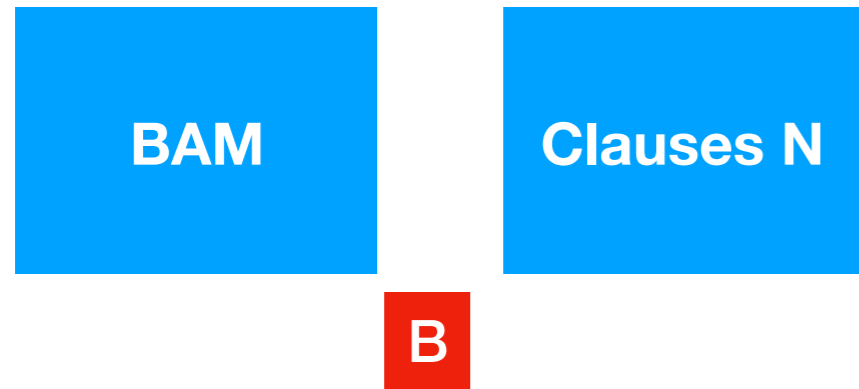
A

B

C

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A first idea

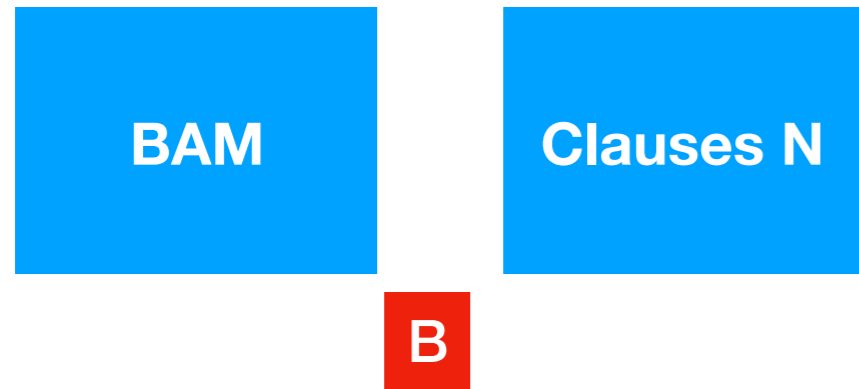


A better strategy

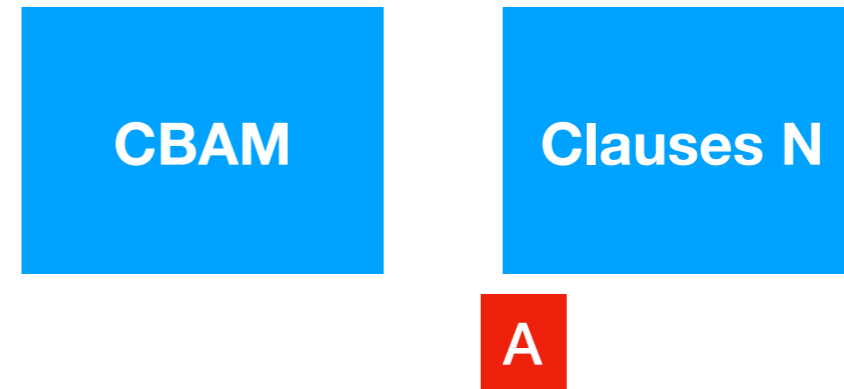


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A first idea

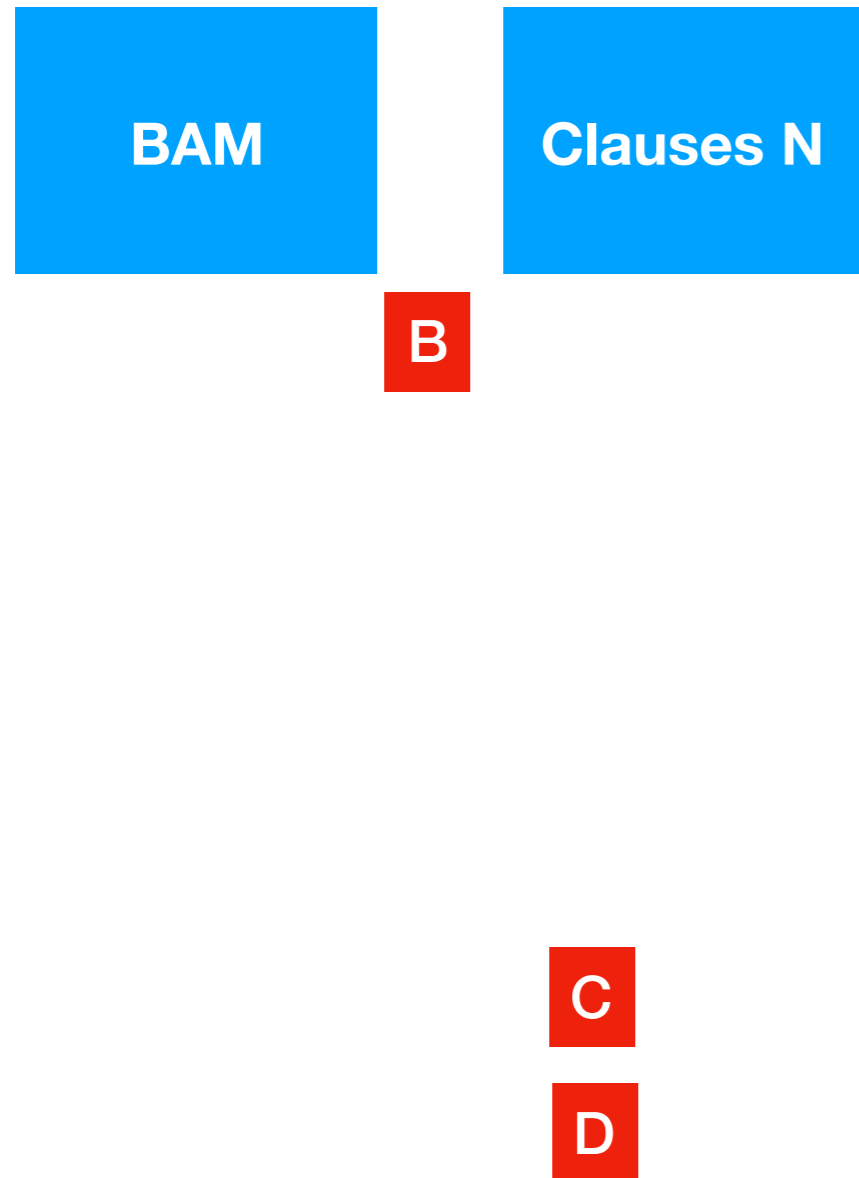


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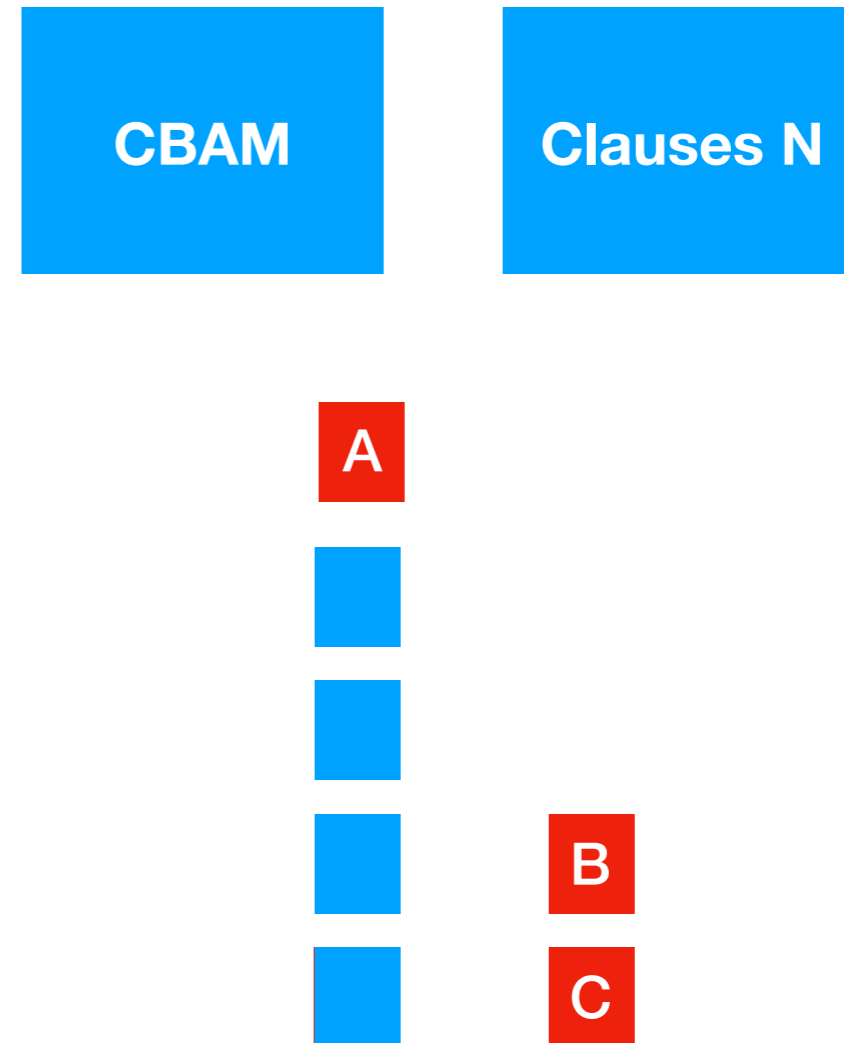


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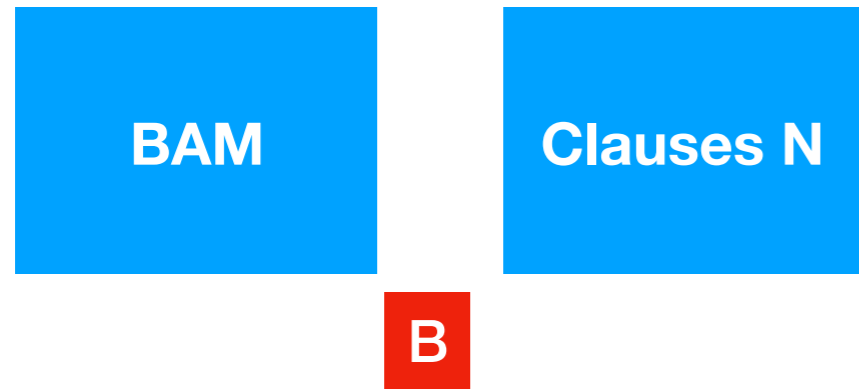


A better strategy



Update Strategy

A first idea

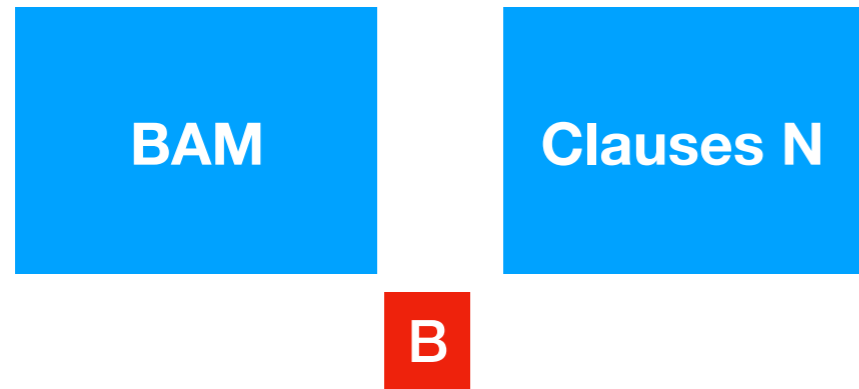


A better strategy

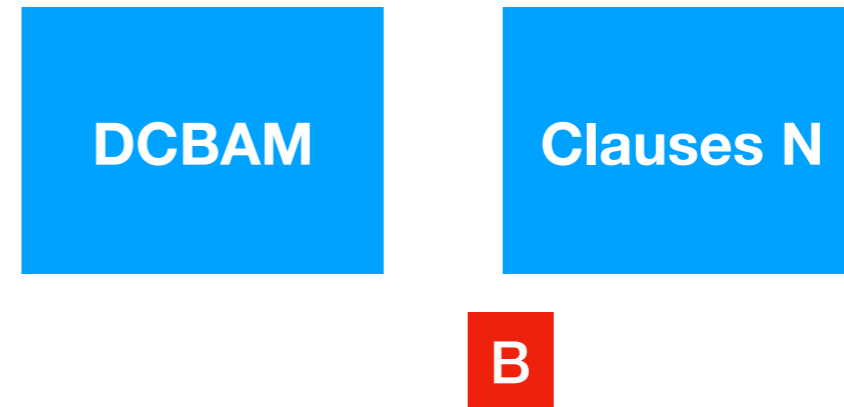


Update Strategy

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A better strategy



C

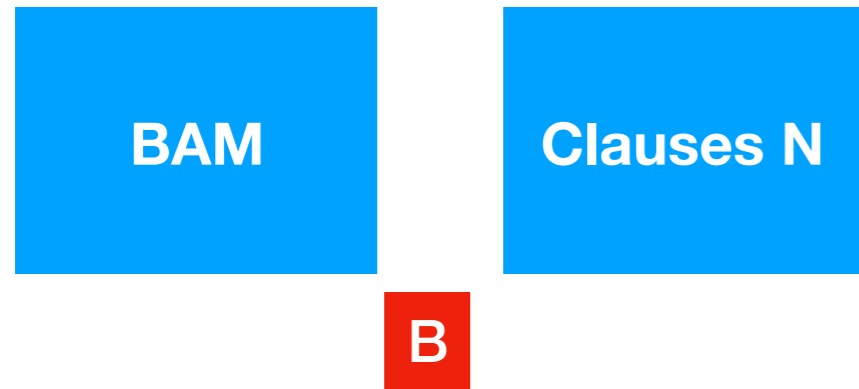
D

C

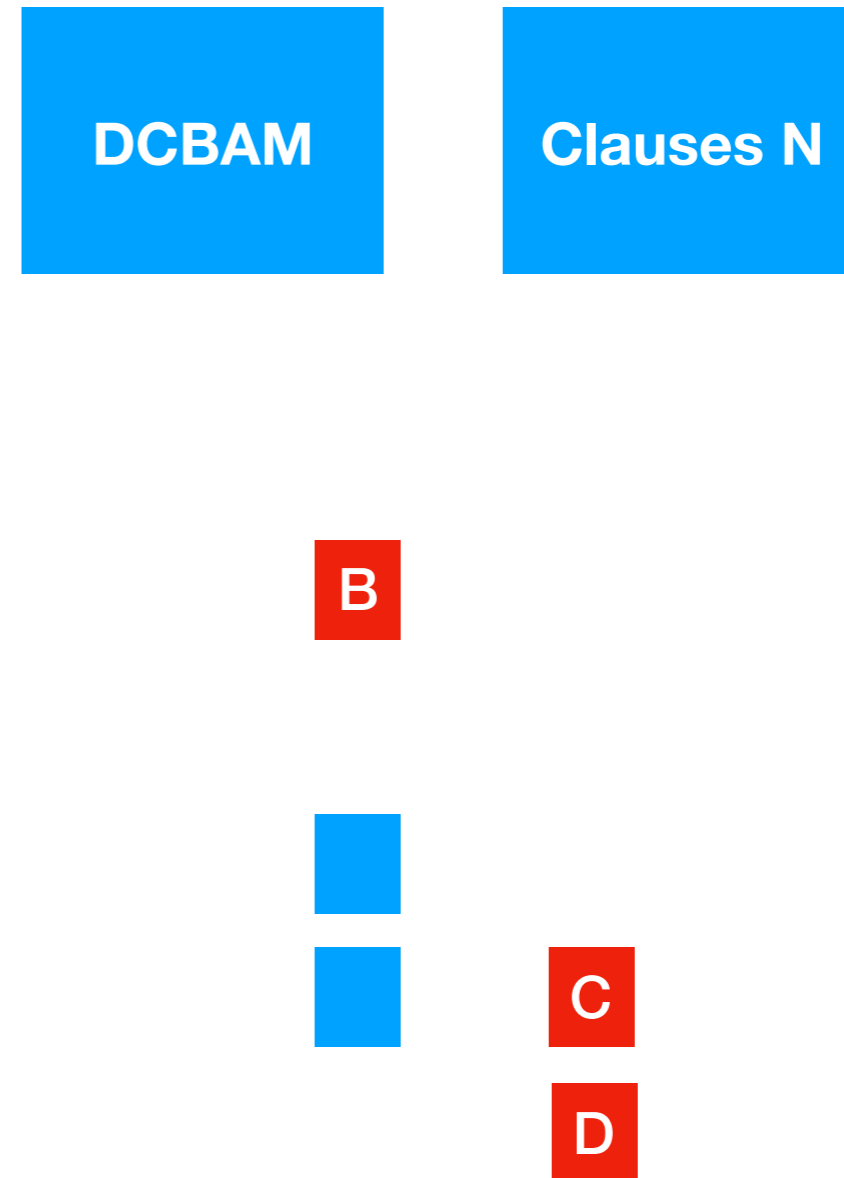
D

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A first idea



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A better strategy

BAM

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DCBAM

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