

Computer-Aided Reasoning for Software

# **A Survey of Theory Solvers**

[courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse507/14au/](https://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse507/14au/)

**Emina Torlak**

[emina@cs.washington.edu](mailto:emina@cs.washington.edu)

# Today

# Today

## Last lecture

- Introduction to Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)

# Today

## Last lecture

- Introduction to Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)

## Today

- A quick survey of theory solvers
- An in-depth look at the core theory solver (Theory of Equality)

# Today

## Last lecture

- Introduction to Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)

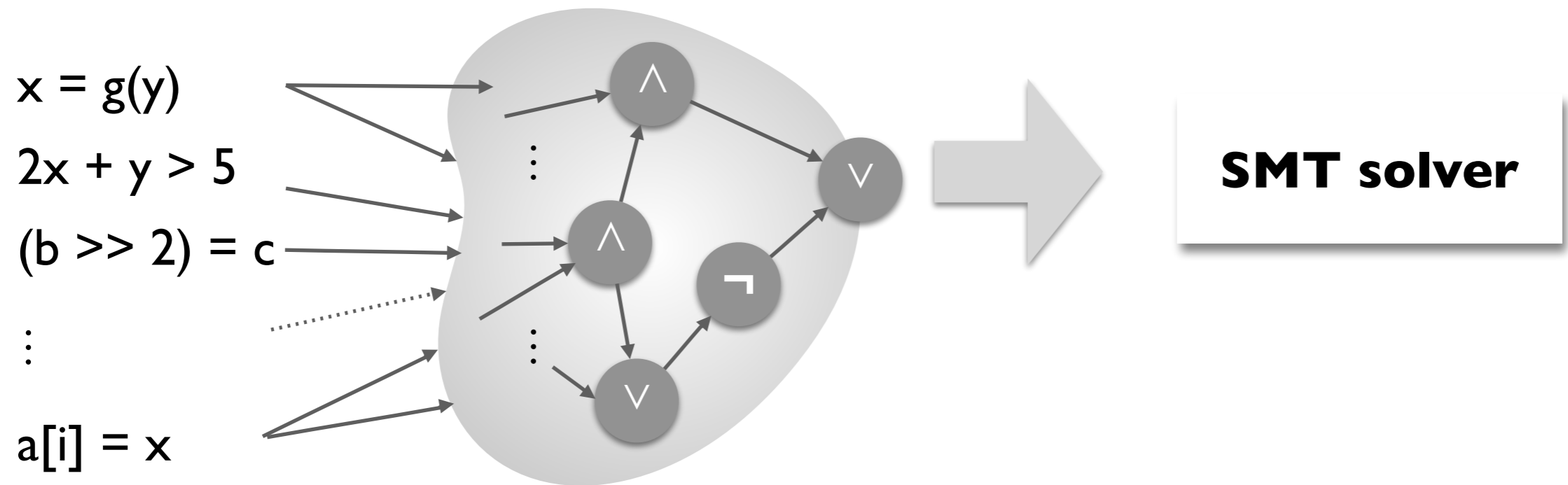
## Today

- A quick survey of theory solvers
- An in-depth look at the core theory solver (Theory of Equality)

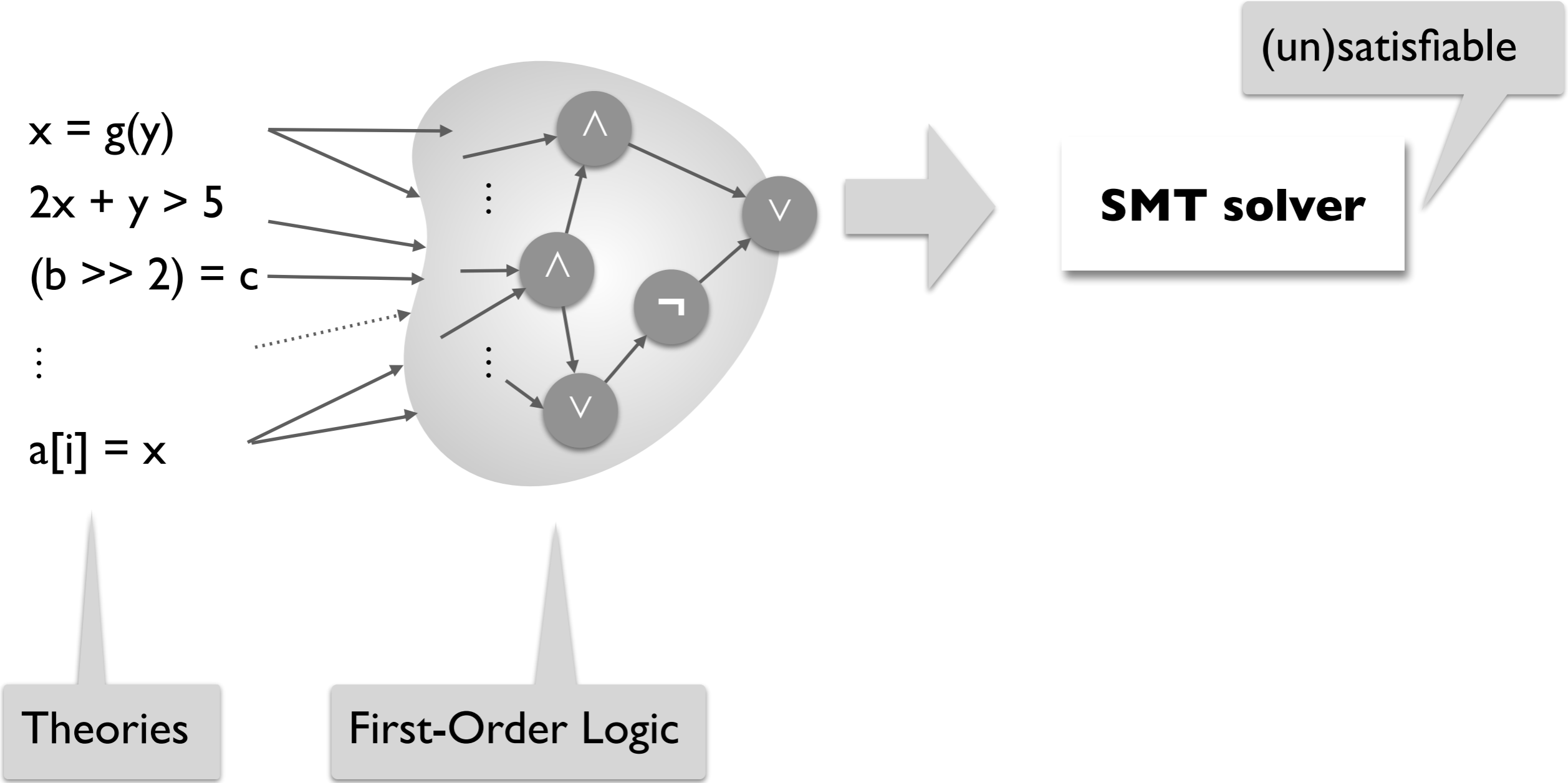
## Reminder

- Homework 1 due today at 11pm
- Homework 2 coming out
- Email us your project topic and brief abstract by 11pm on Thursday

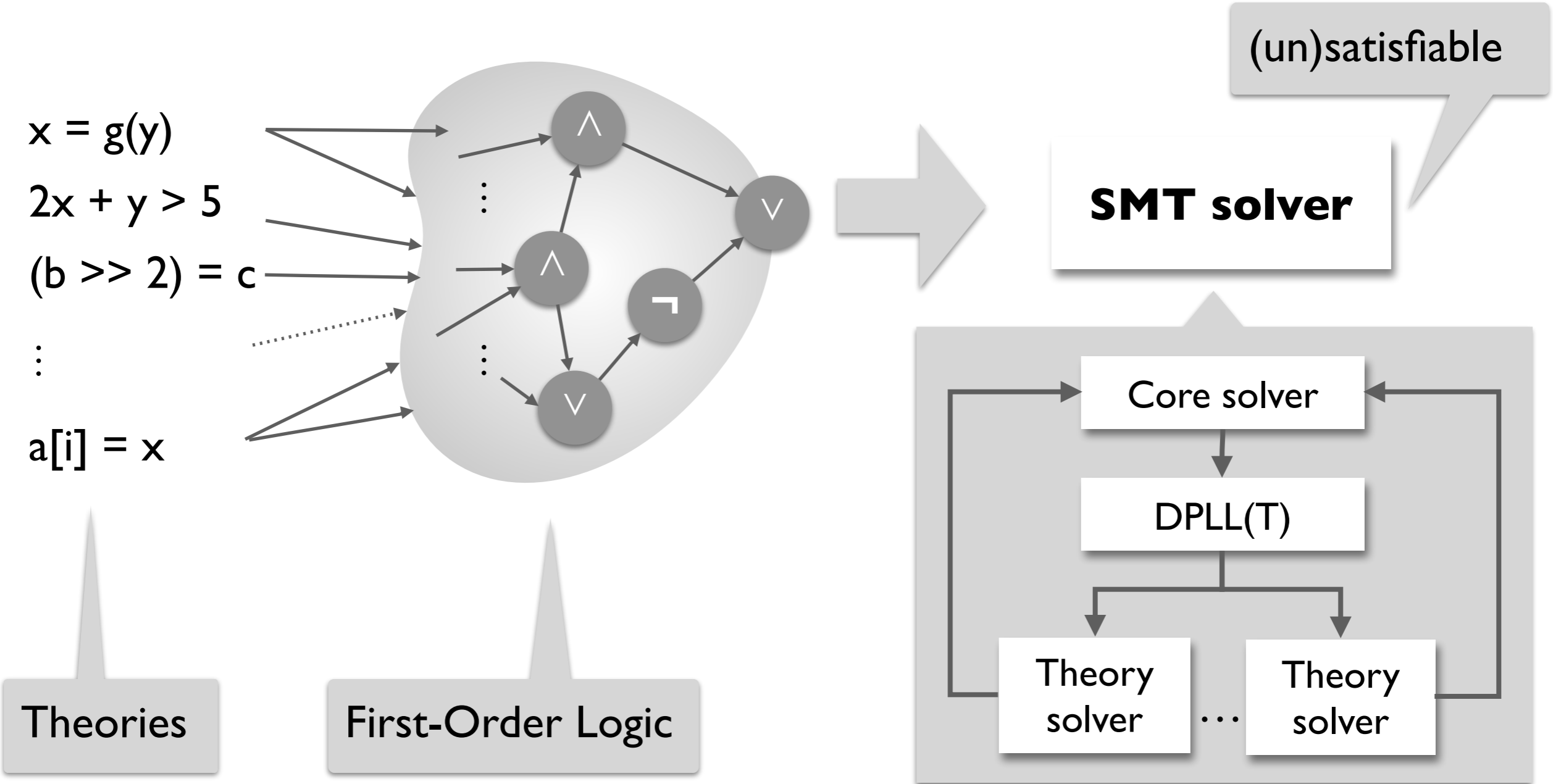
# Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)



# Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)



# Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)





# A brief survey of common theory solvers

$$x = g(y)$$

Core solver

$$2x + y > 5$$

Theory  
solver

$$2i + j > 5$$

Theory  
solver

$$(b \gg 2) = c$$

Theory  
solver

$$a[i] = x$$

Theory  
solver

# A brief survey of common theory solvers

$$x = g(y)$$

Equality and UF

$$2x + y > 5$$

Linear Real  
Arithmetic

$$2i + j > 5$$

Linear Integer  
Arithmetic

$$(b \gg 2) = c$$

Fixed-Width  
Bitvectors

$$a[i] = x$$

Arrays

# A brief survey of common theory solvers

$$x = g(y)$$

Equality and UF

$$2x + y > 5$$

Linear Real  
Arithmetic

$$2i + j > 5$$

Linear Integer  
Arithmetic

$$(b \gg 2) = c$$

Fixed-Width  
Bitvectors

$$a[i] = x$$

Arrays

- **Conjunctions** of linear constraints over  $\mathbb{R}$ 
  - Can be decided in polynomial time, but in practice solved with the **General Simplex** method (worst case exponential)
  - Can also be decided with **Fourier-Motzkin** elimination (exponential)

# A brief survey of common theory solvers

$$x = g(y)$$

Equality and UF

$$2x + y > 5$$

Linear Real  
Arithmetic

$$2i + j > 5$$

Linear Integer  
Arithmetic

$$(b \gg 2) = c$$

Fixed-Width  
Bitvectors

$$a[i] = x$$

Arrays

- **Conjunctions of linear constraints over  $\mathbb{Z}$**
- **Branch-and-bound** (based on Simplex)
- **Omega Test** (extension of Fourier-Motzkin)
- **Small-Domain Encoding** used for arbitrary combinations of linear constraints over  $\mathbb{Z}$
- **NP-complete**

# A brief survey of common theory solvers

$$x = g(y)$$

Equality and UF

$$2x + y > 5$$

Linear Real  
Arithmetic

$$2i + j > 5$$

Linear Integer  
Arithmetic

$$(b \gg 2) = c$$

Fixed-Width  
Bitvectors

$$a[i] = x$$

Arrays

- **Arbitrary combination** of constraints over bitvectors
- **Bit blasting** (reduction to SAT)
- NP-complete

# A brief survey of common theory solvers

$$x = g(y)$$

Equality and UF

$$2x + y > 5$$

Linear Real  
Arithmetic

$$2i + j > 5$$

Linear Integer  
Arithmetic

$$(b \gg 2) = c$$

Fixed-Width  
Bitvectors

$$a[i] = x$$

Arrays

- **Conjunctions** of constraints over read/write terms in the theory of arrays
- Reduce to  $T_{=}$  satisfiability
- NP-complete (because the reduction introduces disjunctions)

# A brief survey of common theory solvers

$x = g(y)$   
Equality and UF

- **Conjunctions of equality constraints over uninterpreted functions**
- **Congruence closure**
- **Polynomial time**

$$2x + y > 5$$

Linear Real  
Arithmetic

$$2i + j > 5$$

Linear Integer  
Arithmetic

$$(b \gg 2) = c$$

Fixed-Width  
Bitvectors

$$a[i] = x$$

Arrays

# Theory of equality and UF ( $T_=$ )

## Signature (all symbols)

- $\{=, a, b, c, \dots, f, g, \dots, p, q, \dots\}$

## Axioms

- reflexivity:  $\forall x. x = x$
- symmetry:  $\forall x, y. x = y \rightarrow y = x$
- transitivity:  $\forall x, y, z. x = y \wedge y = z \rightarrow x = z$
- congruence:  $\forall x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n. (\bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq n} x_i = y_i) \rightarrow f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(y_1, \dots, y_n)$
- congruence:  $\forall x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n. (\bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq n} x_i = y_i) \rightarrow p(x_1, \dots, x_n) \leftrightarrow p(y_1, \dots, y_n)$



# Theory of equality and UF ( $T=$ )

## Signature (all symbols)

- $\{=, a, b, c, \dots, f, g, \dots, p, q, \dots\}$

## Axioms

- reflexivity:  $\forall x. x = x$
- symmetry:  $\forall x, y. x = y \rightarrow y = x$
- transitivity:  $\forall x, y, z. x = y \wedge y = z \rightarrow x = z$
- congruence:  $\forall x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n. (\bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq n} x_i = y_i) \rightarrow f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(y_1, \dots, y_n)$
- ~~X~~ congruence:  $\forall x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n. (\bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq n} x_i = y_i) \rightarrow p(x_1, \dots, x_n) \leftrightarrow p(y_1, \dots, y_n)$

Replace predicates with equality constraints over functions:

- introduce a fresh constant  $t$
- for each predicate  $p$ , introduce a fresh function  $f_p$
- $p(x_1, \dots, x_n) \rightsquigarrow f_p(x_1, \dots, x_n) = t$

# Theory of equality and UF ( $T=$ )

## Signature (all function symbols)

- $\{=, a, b, c, \dots, f, g, \dots\}$

## Axioms

- reflexivity:  $\forall x. x = x$
- symmetry:  $\forall x, y. x = y \rightarrow y = x$
- transitivity:  $\forall x, y, z. x = y \wedge y = z \rightarrow x = z$
- congruence:  $\forall \bar{x}, \bar{y}. \bigwedge (x_i = y_i) \rightarrow f(\bar{x}) = f(\bar{y})$

# Theory of equality and UF ( $T_=$ )

## Signature (all function symbols)

- $\{=, a, b, c, \dots, f, g, \dots\}$

## Axioms

- reflexivity:  $\forall x. x = x$
- symmetry:  $\forall x, y. x = y \rightarrow y = x$
- transitivity:  $\forall x, y, z. x = y \wedge y = z \rightarrow x = z$
- congruence:  $\forall \bar{x}, \bar{y}. \bigwedge (x_i = y_i) \rightarrow f(\bar{x}) = f(\bar{y})$

## $T_=$ models

- all structures  $\langle U, I \rangle$  that satisfy the axioms of  $T_=$

# Theory of equality and UF ( $T_=$ )

## Signature (all function symbols)

- $\{=, a, b, c, \dots, f, g, \dots\}$

## Axioms

- reflexivity:  $\forall x. x = x$
- symmetry:  $\forall x, y. x = y \rightarrow y = x$
- transitivity:  $\forall x, y, z. x = y \wedge y = z \rightarrow x = z$
- congruence:  $\forall \bar{x}, \bar{y}. \bigwedge (x_i = y_i) \rightarrow f(\bar{x}) = f(\bar{y})$

## $T_=$ models

- all structures  $\langle U, I \rangle$  that satisfy the axioms of  $T_=$

## $T_=$ models?

$$U = \{\odot, \clubsuit\}$$

$$I_1(=) : \{\langle \odot, \clubsuit \rangle, \langle \clubsuit, \odot \rangle\}$$

$$I_2(=) : \{\langle \odot, \odot \rangle, \langle \clubsuit, \clubsuit \rangle\}$$

$$I_3(=) : \{\langle \odot, \odot \rangle, \langle \clubsuit, \clubsuit \rangle, \\ \langle \odot, \clubsuit \rangle, \langle \clubsuit, \odot \rangle\}$$

# Is a conjunction of $T=$ literals satisfiable?

$$f(f(f(a))) = a \wedge f(f(f(f(a)))) = a \wedge f(a) \neq a$$

# Is a conjunction of $T=$ literals satisfiable?

$$f^3(a) = a \wedge f^5(a) = a \wedge f(a) \neq a$$

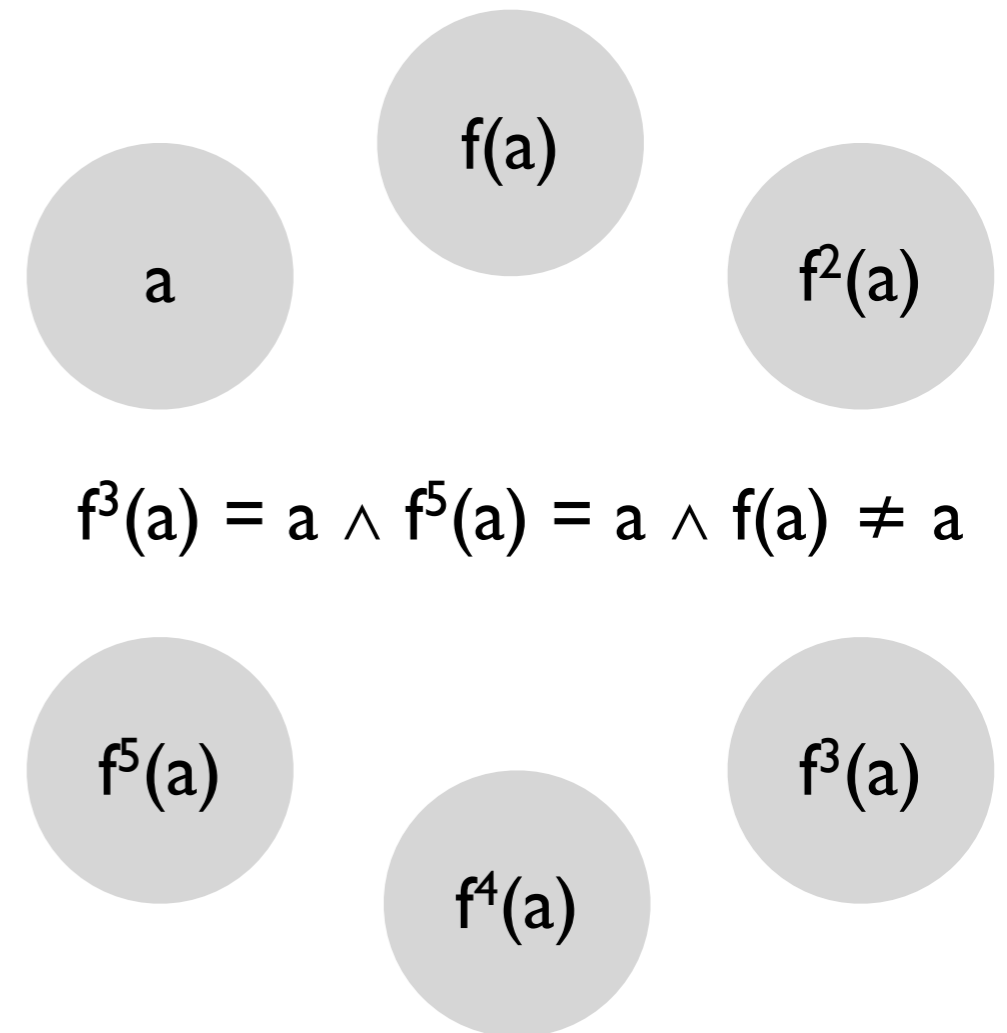
# Congruence closure algorithm



$$f^3(a) = a \wedge f^5(a) = a \wedge f(a) \neq a$$

# Congruence closure algorithm

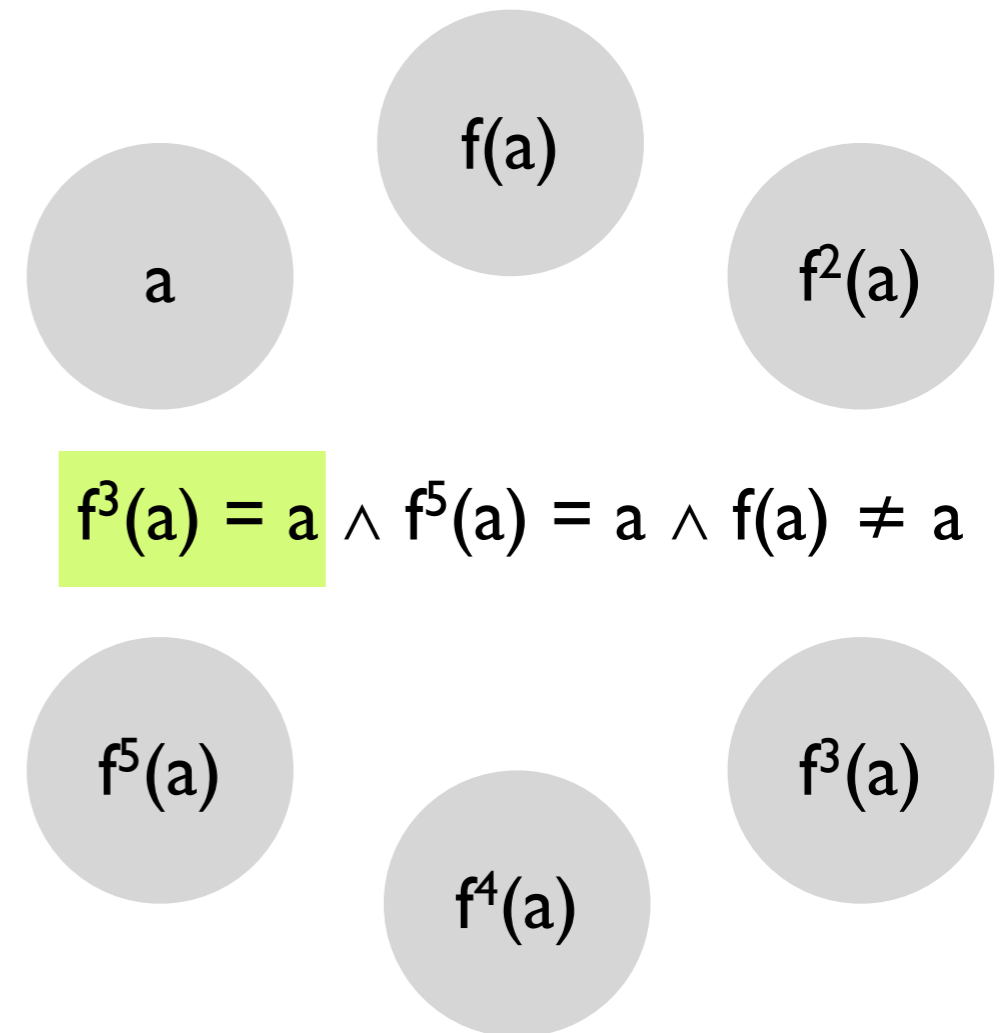
- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class





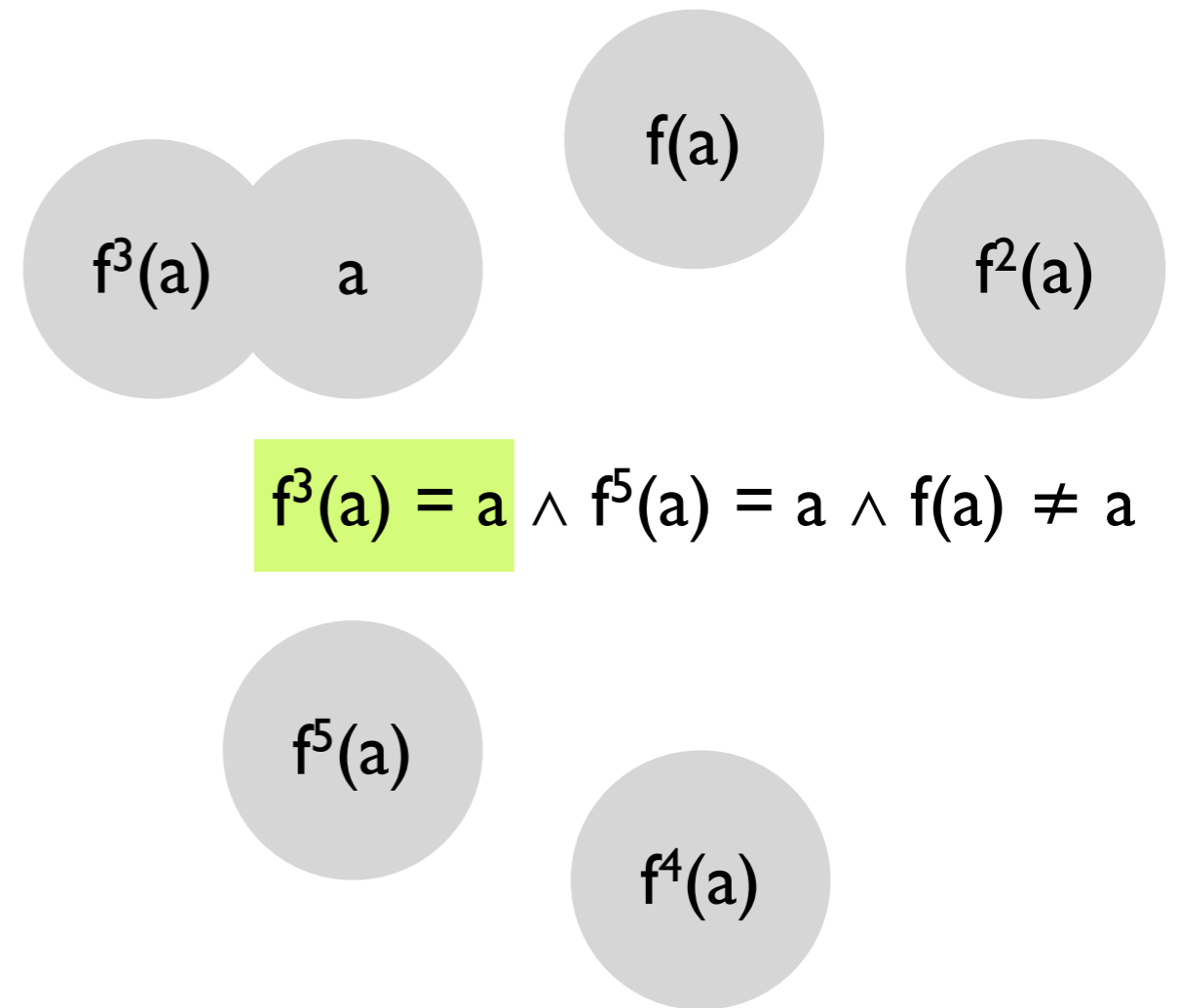
# Congruence closure algorithm

- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class
- For each positive literal  $t_1 = t_2$  in  $F$



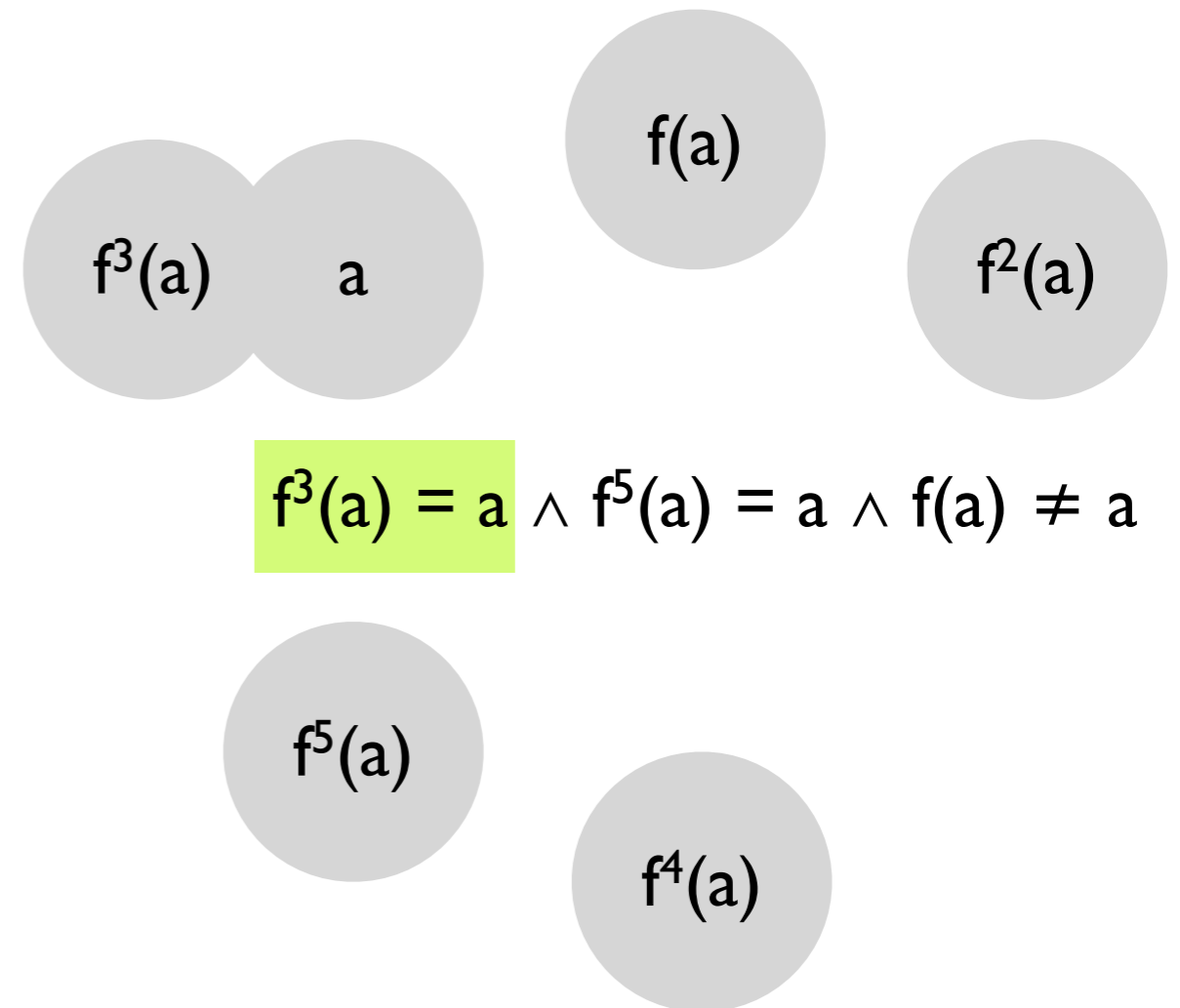
# Congruence closure algorithm

- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class
- For each positive literal  $t_1 = t_2$  in  $F$ 
  - Merge the classes for  $t_1$  and  $t_2$



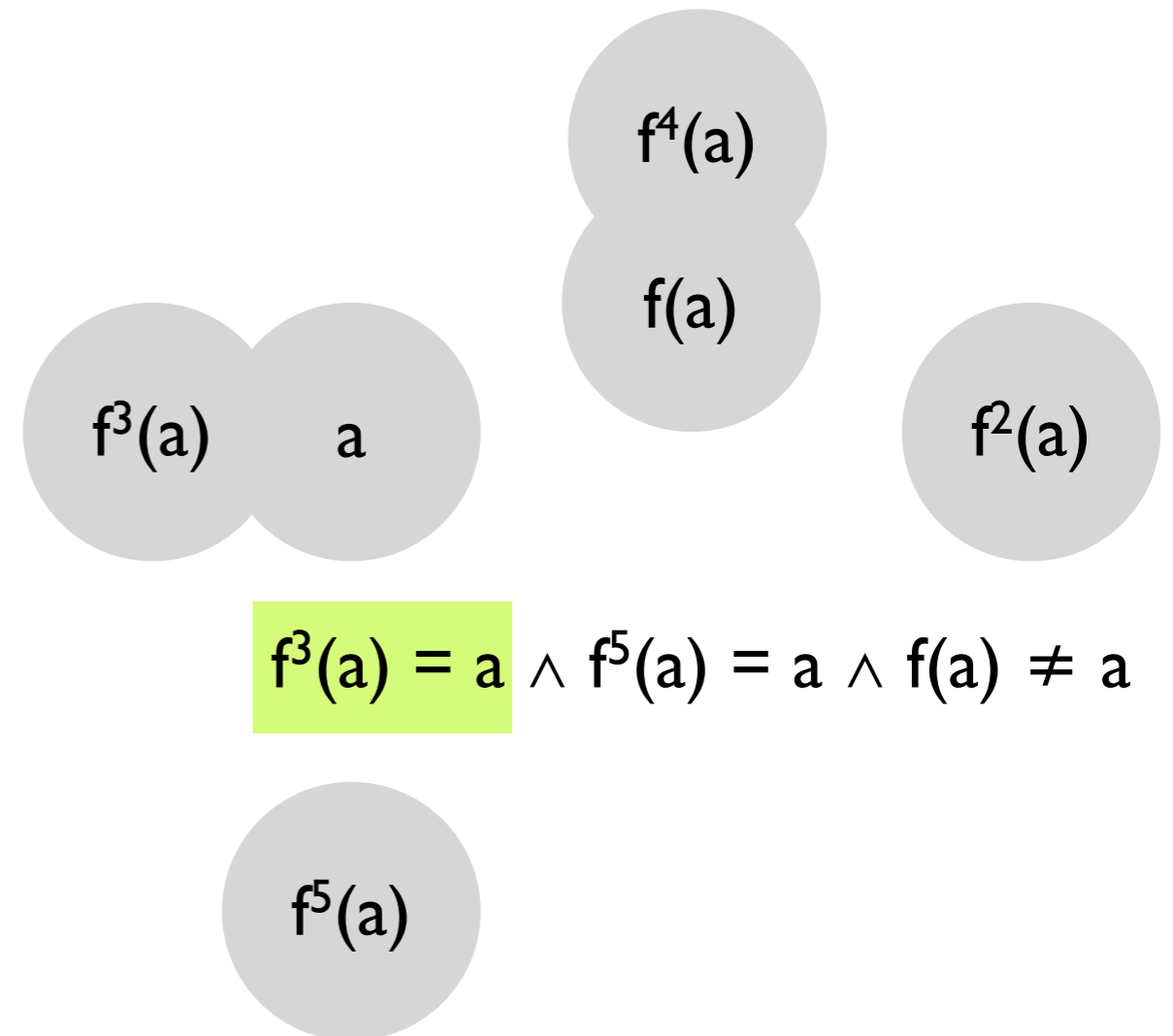
# Congruence closure algorithm

- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class
- For each positive literal  $t_1 = t_2$  in  $F$ 
  - Merge the classes for  $t_1$  and  $t_2$
  - Propagate the resulting congruences



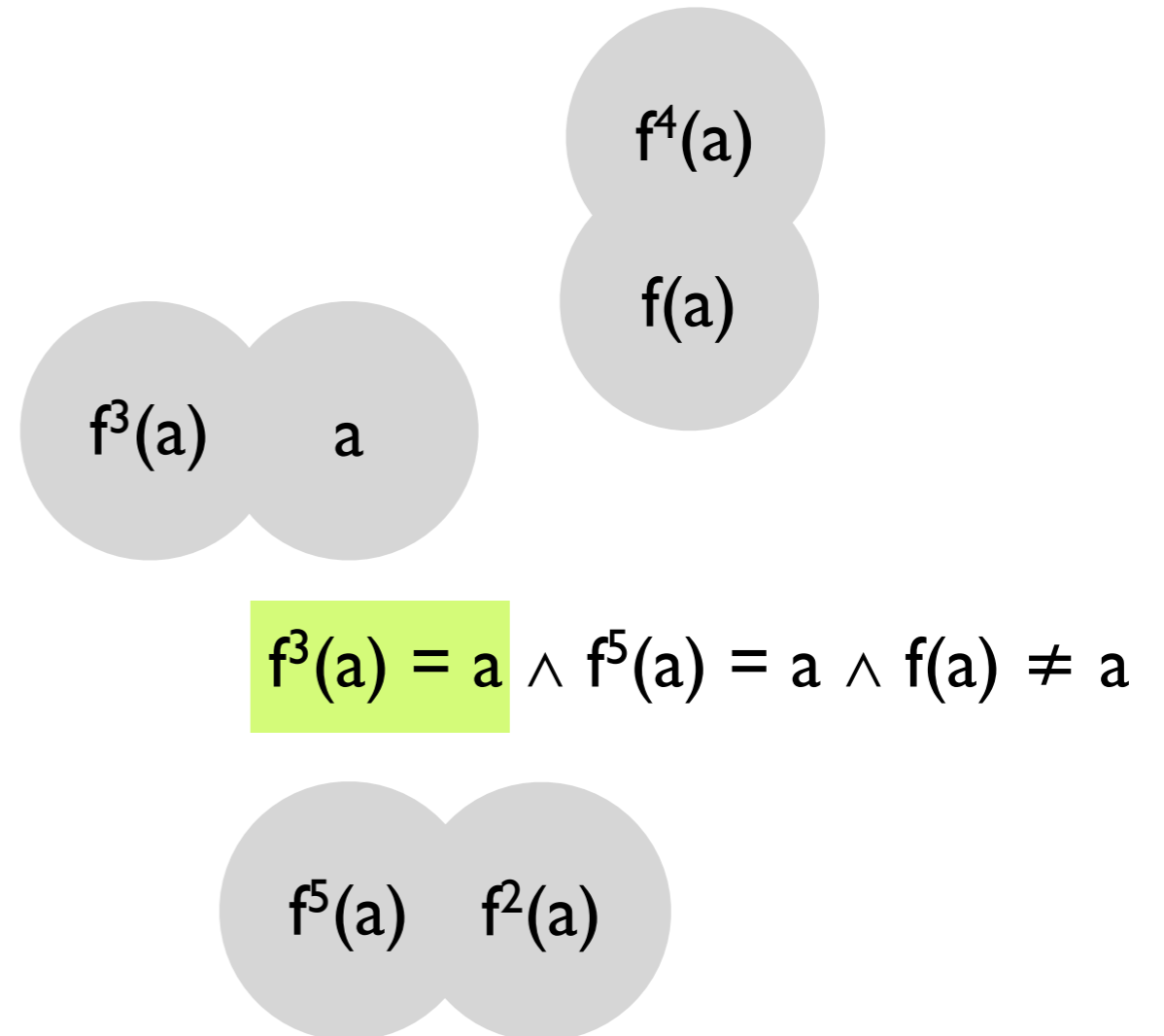
# Congruence closure algorithm

- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class
- For each positive literal  $t_1 = t_2$  in  $F$ 
  - Merge the classes for  $t_1$  and  $t_2$
  - Propagate the resulting congruences



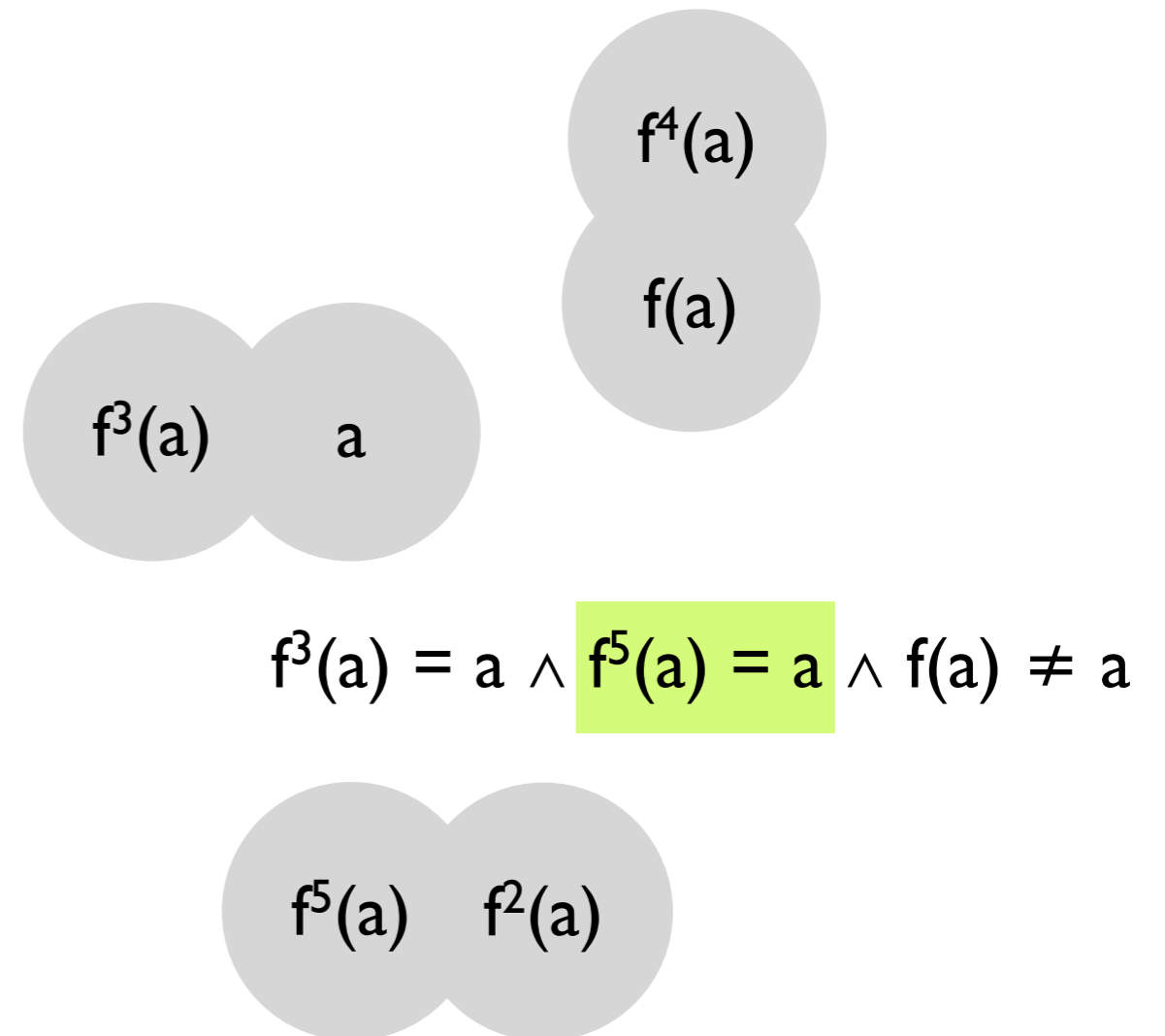
# Congruence closure algorithm

- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class
- For each positive literal  $t_1 = t_2$  in  $F$ 
  - Merge the classes for  $t_1$  and  $t_2$
  - Propagate the resulting congruences



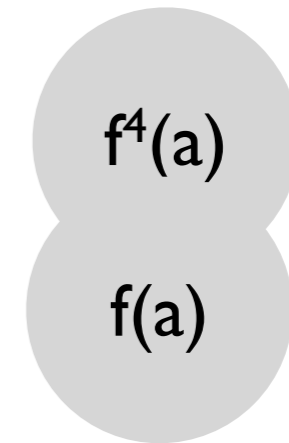
# Congruence closure algorithm

- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class
- For each positive literal  $t_1 = t_2$  in  $F$ 
  - Merge the classes for  $t_1$  and  $t_2$
  - Propagate the resulting congruences

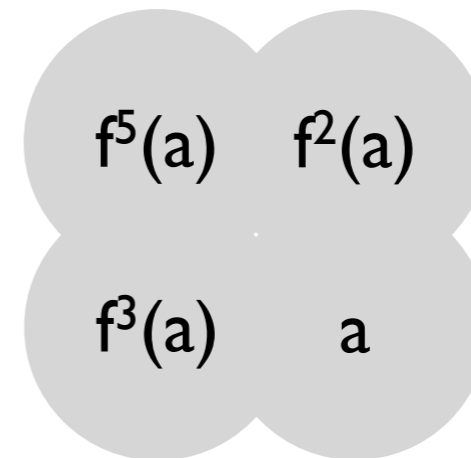


# Congruence closure algorithm

- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class
- For each positive literal  $t_1 = t_2$  in  $F$ 
  - Merge the classes for  $t_1$  and  $t_2$
  - Propagate the resulting congruences



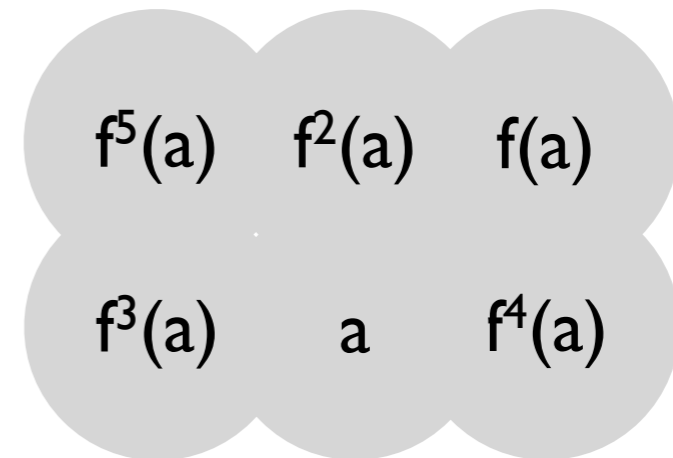
$$f^3(a) = a \wedge f^5(a) = a \wedge f(a) \neq a$$



# Congruence closure algorithm

- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class
- For each positive literal  $t_1 = t_2$  in  $F$ 
  - Merge the classes for  $t_1$  and  $t_2$
  - Propagate the resulting congruences

$$f^3(a) = a \wedge f^5(a) = a \wedge f(a) \neq a$$

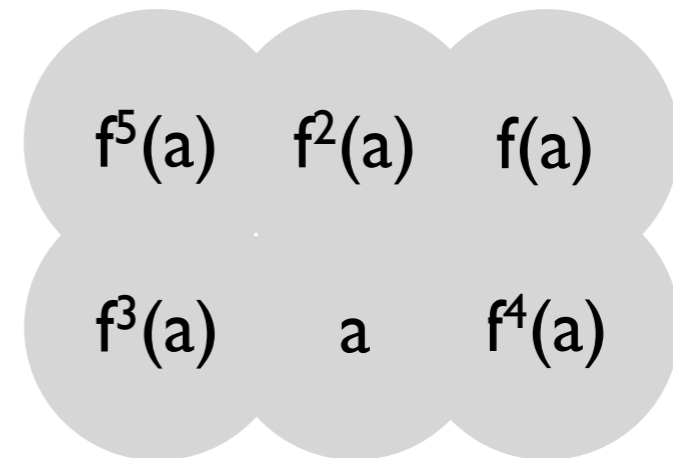




# Congruence closure algorithm

- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class
- For each positive literal  $t_1 = t_2$  in  $F$ 
  - Merge the classes for  $t_1$  and  $t_2$
  - Propagate the resulting congruences
- If  $F$  has a negative literal  $t_1 \neq t_2$  with both terms in the same congruence class, output UNSAT
- Otherwise, output SAT

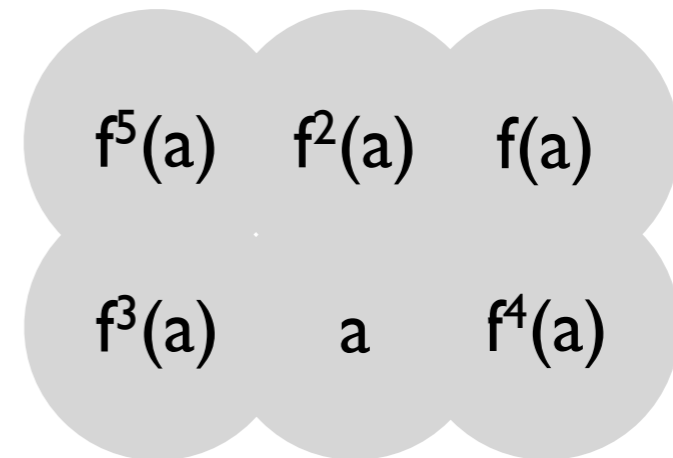
$$f^3(a) = a \wedge f^5(a) = a \wedge f(a) \neq a$$



# Congruence closure algorithm

- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class
- For each positive literal  $t_1 = t_2$  in  $F$ 
  - Merge the classes for  $t_1$  and  $t_2$
  - Propagate the resulting congruences
- If  $F$  has a negative literal  $t_1 \neq t_2$  with both terms in the same congruence class, output UNSAT
- Otherwise, output SAT

$$f^3(a) = a \wedge f^5(a) = a \wedge f(a) \neq a$$



UNSAT

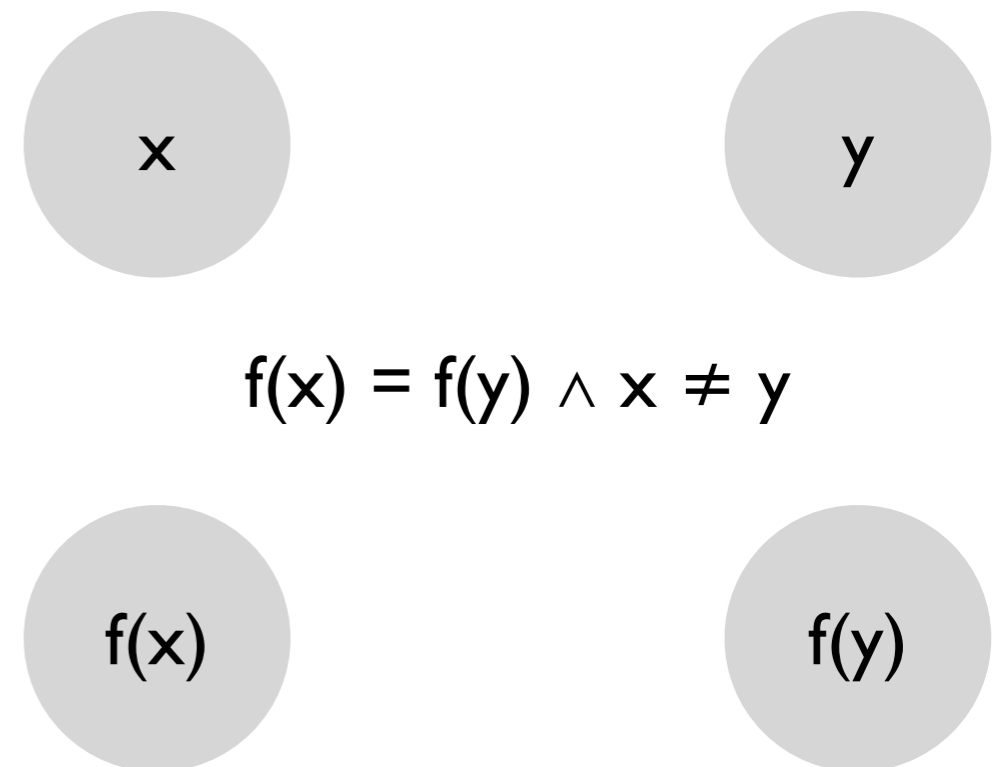
# Congruence closure algorithm: another example

- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class
- For each positive literal  $t_1 = t_2$  in  $F$ 
  - Merge the classes for  $t_1$  and  $t_2$
  - Propagate the resulting congruences
- If  $F$  has a negative literal  $t_1 \neq t_2$  with both terms in the same congruence class, output UNSAT
- Otherwise, output SAT

$$f(x) = f(y) \wedge x \neq y$$

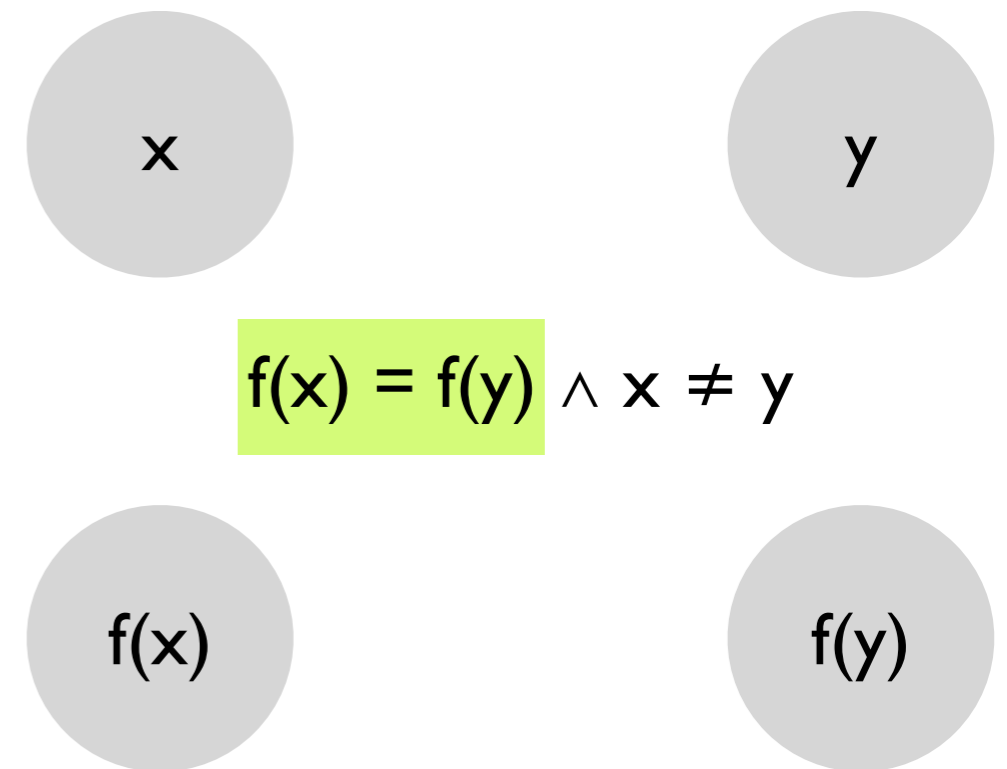
# Congruence closure algorithm: another example

- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class
- For each positive literal  $t_1 = t_2$  in  $F$ 
  - Merge the classes for  $t_1$  and  $t_2$
  - Propagate the resulting congruences
- If  $F$  has a negative literal  $t_1 \neq t_2$  with both terms in the same congruence class, output UNSAT
- Otherwise, output SAT



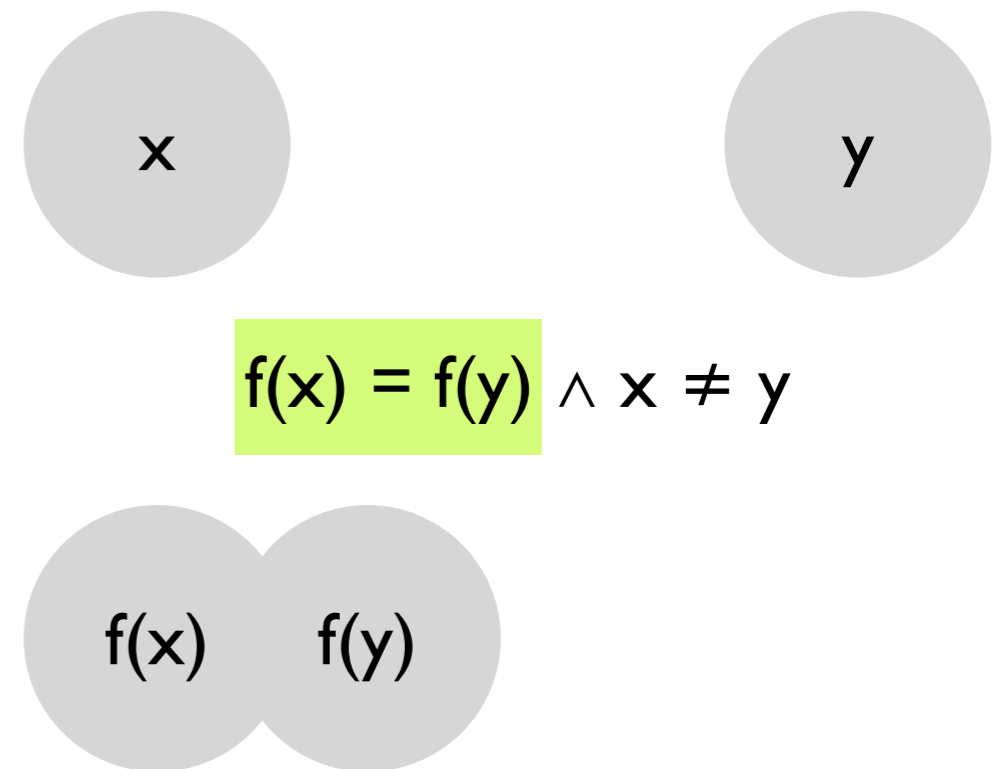
# Congruence closure algorithm: another example

- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class
- For each positive literal  $t_1 = t_2$  in  $F$ 
  - Merge the classes for  $t_1$  and  $t_2$
  - Propagate the resulting congruences
- If  $F$  has a negative literal  $t_1 \neq t_2$  with both terms in the same congruence class, output UNSAT
- Otherwise, output SAT



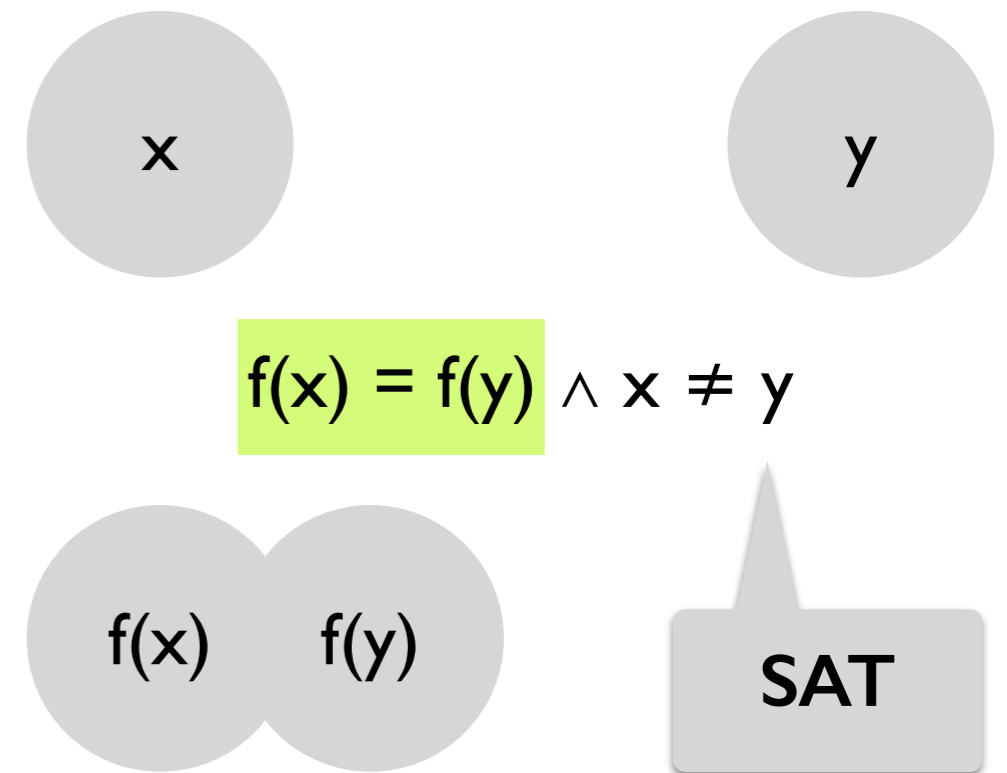
# Congruence closure algorithm: another example

- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class
- For each positive literal  $t_1 = t_2$  in  $F$ 
  - Merge the classes for  $t_1$  and  $t_2$
  - Propagate the resulting congruences
- If  $F$  has a negative literal  $t_1 \neq t_2$  with both terms in the same congruence class, output UNSAT
- Otherwise, output SAT



# Congruence closure algorithm: another example

- Place each subterm of  $F$  into its own congruence class
- For each positive literal  $t_1 = t_2$  in  $F$ 
  - Merge the classes for  $t_1$  and  $t_2$
  - Propagate the resulting congruences
- If  $F$  has a negative literal  $t_1 \neq t_2$  with both terms in the same congruence class, output UNSAT
- Otherwise, output SAT



# Congruence closure algorithm: definitions

A binary relation  $R$  is an **equivalence relation** if it is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.



# Congruence closure algorithm: definitions

A binary relation  $R$  is an **equivalence relation** if it is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

An equivalence relation  $R$  is a **congruence relation** iff

$$\forall \bar{x}, \bar{y}. \bigwedge R(x_i, y_i) \rightarrow R(f(\bar{x}), f(\bar{y}))$$

# Congruence closure algorithm: definitions

A binary relation  $R$  is an **equivalence relation** if it is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

An equivalence relation  $R$  is a **congruence relation** iff

$$\forall \bar{x}, \bar{y}. \bigwedge R(x_i, y_i) \rightarrow R(f(\bar{x}), f(\bar{y}))$$

The **equivalence class** of an element  $s \in S$  under an equivalence relation  $R$ :

$$\{ s' \in S \mid R(s, s') \}$$

What is the equivalence class of 9 under  $\equiv_3$ ?

# Congruence closure algorithm: definitions

A binary relation  $R$  is an **equivalence relation** if it is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

An equivalence relation  $R$  is a **congruence relation** iff

$$\forall \bar{x}, \bar{y}. \bigwedge R(x_i, y_i) \rightarrow R(f(\bar{x}), f(\bar{y}))$$

The **equivalence class** of an element  $s \in S$  under an equivalence relation  $R$ :

$$\{ s' \in S \mid R(s, s') \}$$

An equivalence class is called a **congruence class** if  $R$  is a congruence relation.

# Congruence closure algorithm: definitions

The equivalence closure  $R^E$  of a binary relation  $R$  is the smallest equivalence relation that contains  $R$ .

# Congruence closure algorithm: definitions

The equivalence closure  $R^E$  of a binary relation  $R$  is the smallest equivalence relation that contains  $R$ .

What is the equivalence closure of  $R = \{\langle a, b \rangle, \langle b, c \rangle, \langle d, d \rangle\}$ ?

# Congruence closure algorithm: definitions

The equivalence closure  $R^E$  of a binary relation  $R$  is the smallest equivalence relation that contains  $R$ .

What is the equivalence closure of  $R = \{\langle a, b \rangle, \langle b, c \rangle, \langle d, d \rangle\}$ ?

$R^E = \{\langle a, a \rangle, \langle b, b \rangle, \langle c, c \rangle, \langle d, d \rangle$   
 $\langle a, b \rangle, \langle b, a \rangle, \langle b, c \rangle, \langle c, b \rangle,$   
 $\langle a, c \rangle, \langle c, a \rangle\}$

# Congruence closure algorithm: definitions

The **equivalence closure**  $R^E$  of a binary relation  $R$  is the smallest equivalence relation that contains  $R$ .

The **congruence closure**  $R^C$  of a binary relation  $R$  is the smallest congruence relation that contains  $R$ .

The congruence closure algorithm computes the congruence closure of the equality relation over terms asserted by a conjunctive quantifier-free formula in  $T=$ .

# Congruence closure algorithm: data structure



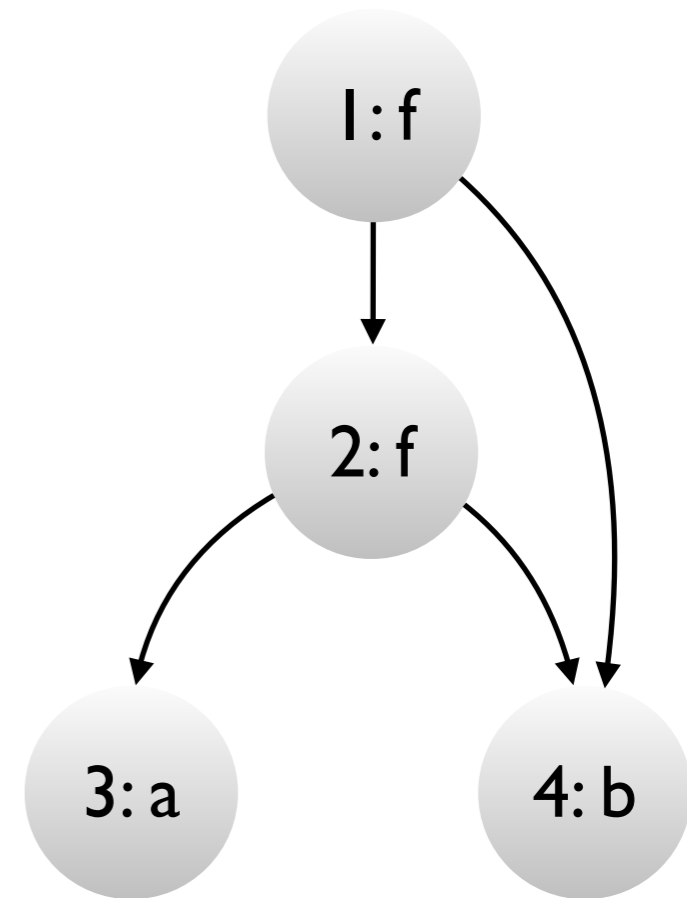
$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$



# Congruence closure algorithm: data structure

- Represent subterms with a DAG

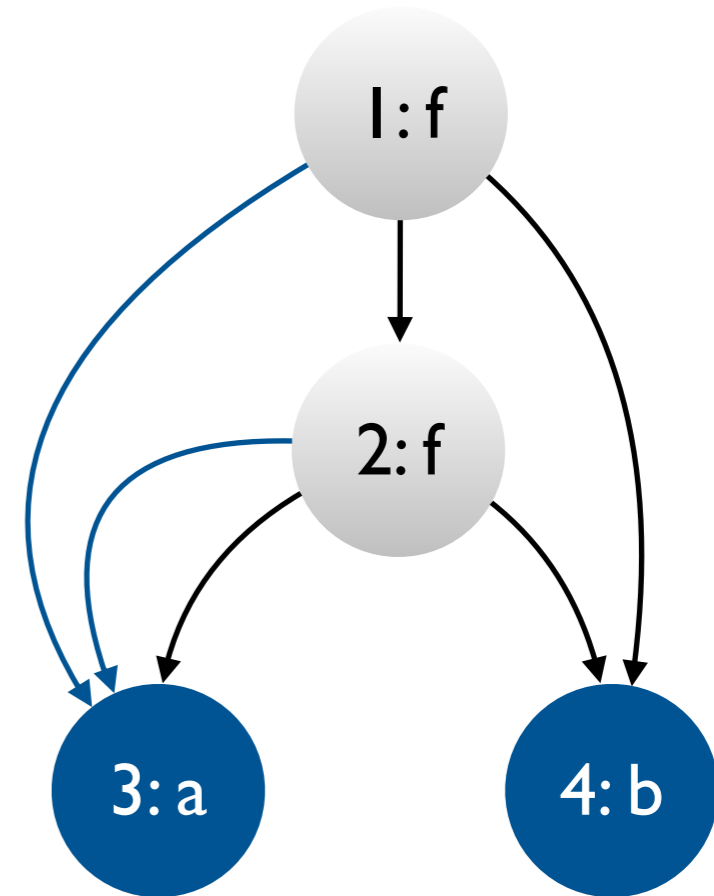
$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$



# Congruence closure algorithm: data structure

- Represent subterms with a DAG
- Each node has a **find** pointer to another node in its congruence class (or to itself if it is the **representative**)

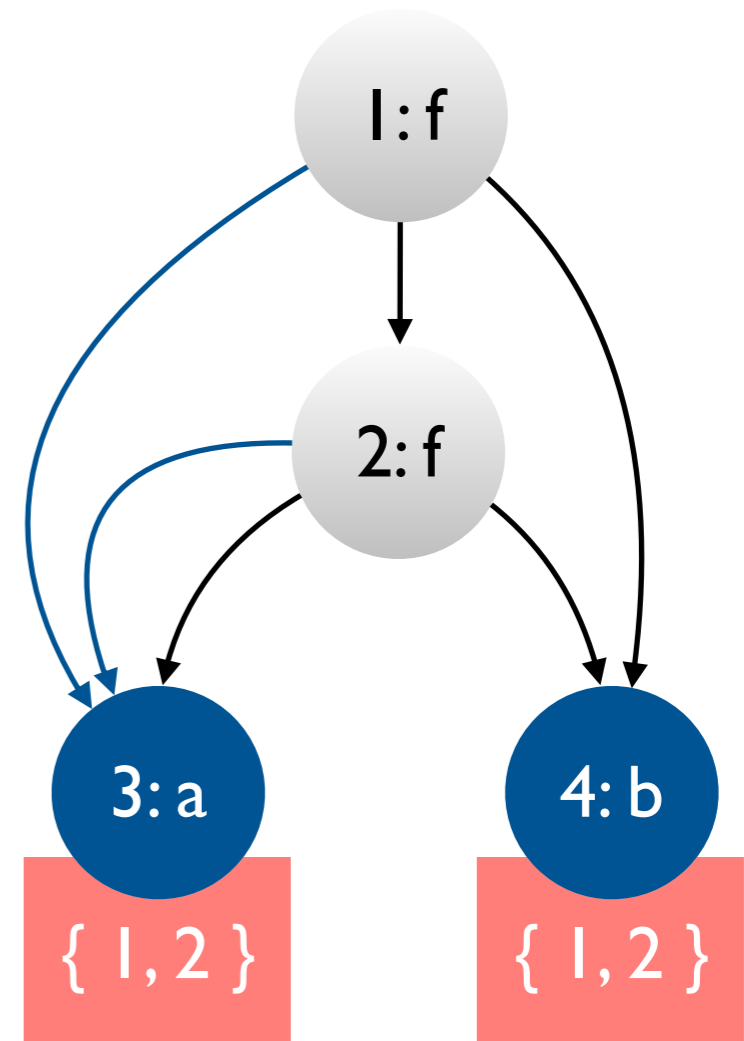
$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$



# Congruence closure algorithm: data structure

- Represent subterms with a DAG
- Each node has a **find** pointer to another node in its congruence class (or to itself if it is the **representative**)
- Each representative has a **ccp** field that stores all parents of all nodes in its congruence class.

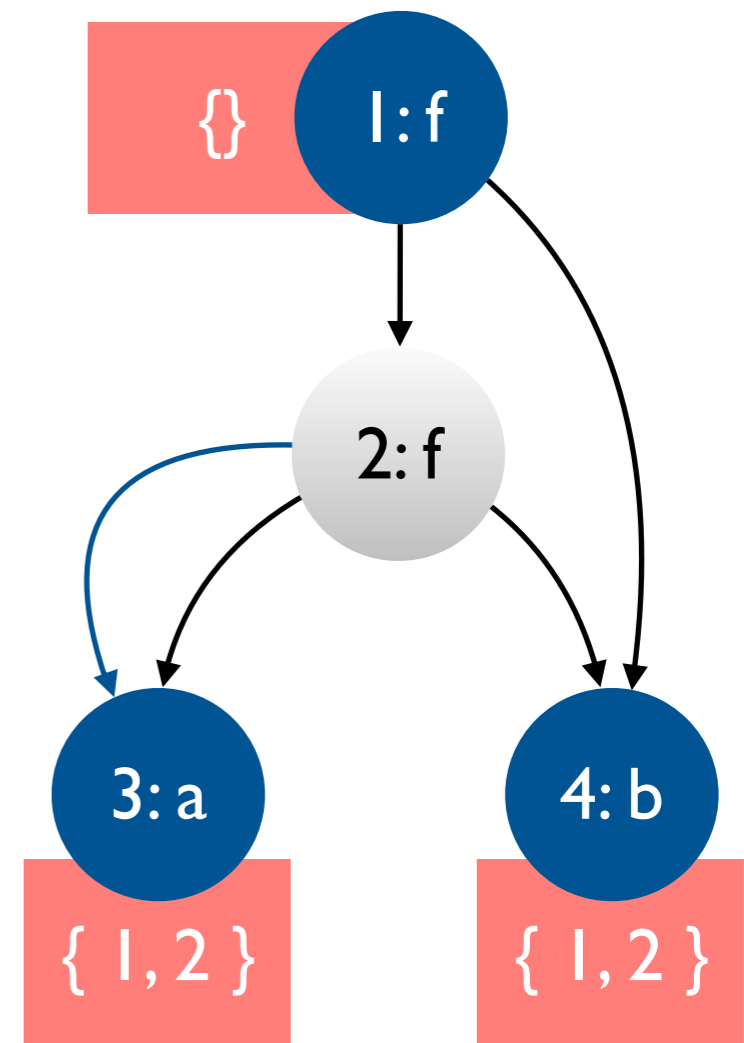
$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$



# Congruence closure algorithm: union-find



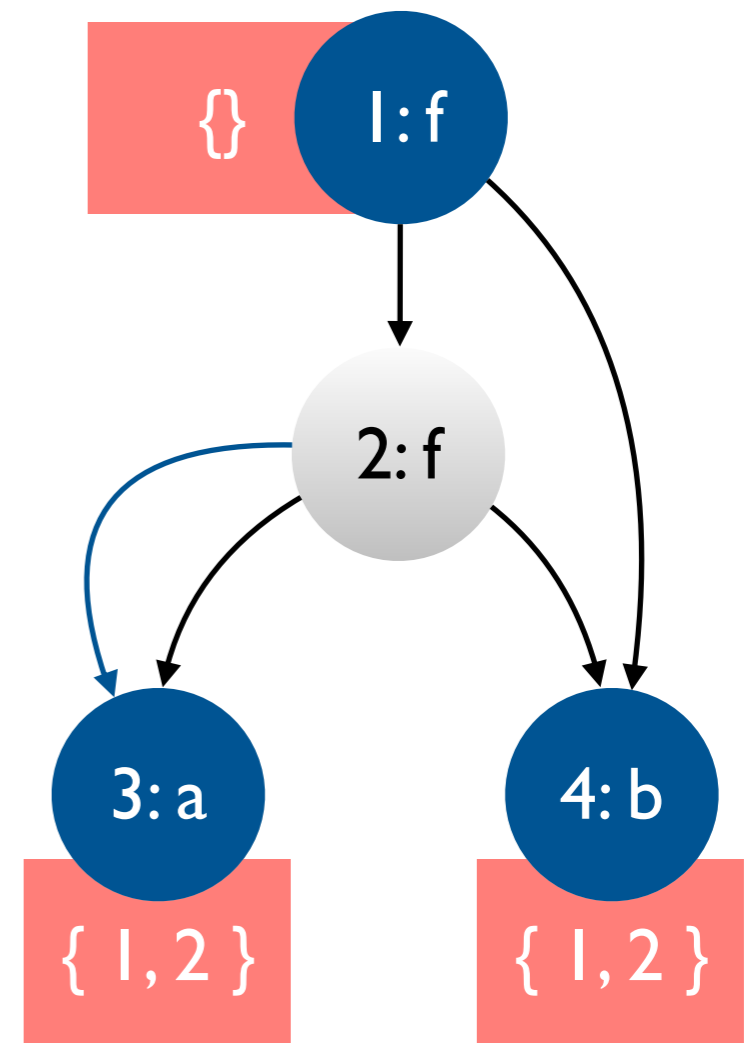
$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$



# Congruence closure algorithm: union-find

- FIND returns the representative of a node's equivalence class.

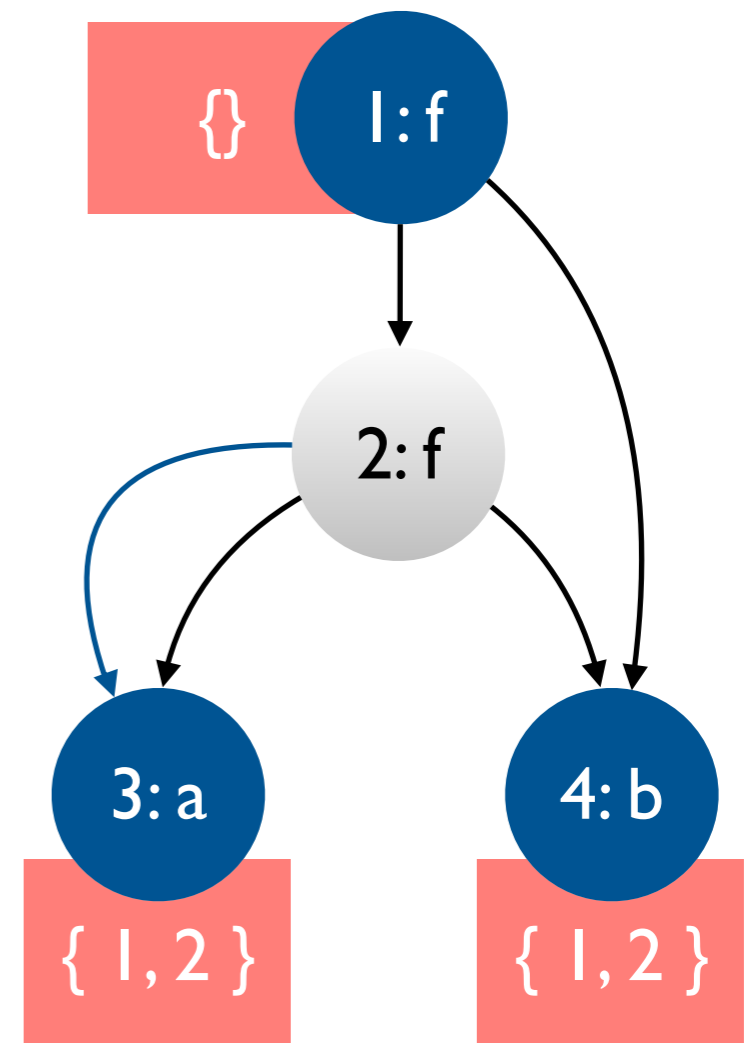
$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$



# Congruence closure algorithm: union-find

- FIND returns the representative of a node's equivalence class.
- UNION combines equivalence classes for nodes  $i_1$  and  $i_2$ :
  - $n_1, n_2 \leftarrow \text{FIND}(i_1), \text{FIND}(i_2)$
  - $n_1.\text{find} \leftarrow n_2$
  - $n_2.\text{ccp} \leftarrow n_1.\text{ccp} \cup n_2.\text{ccp}$
  - $n_1.\text{ccp} \leftarrow \emptyset$

$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$

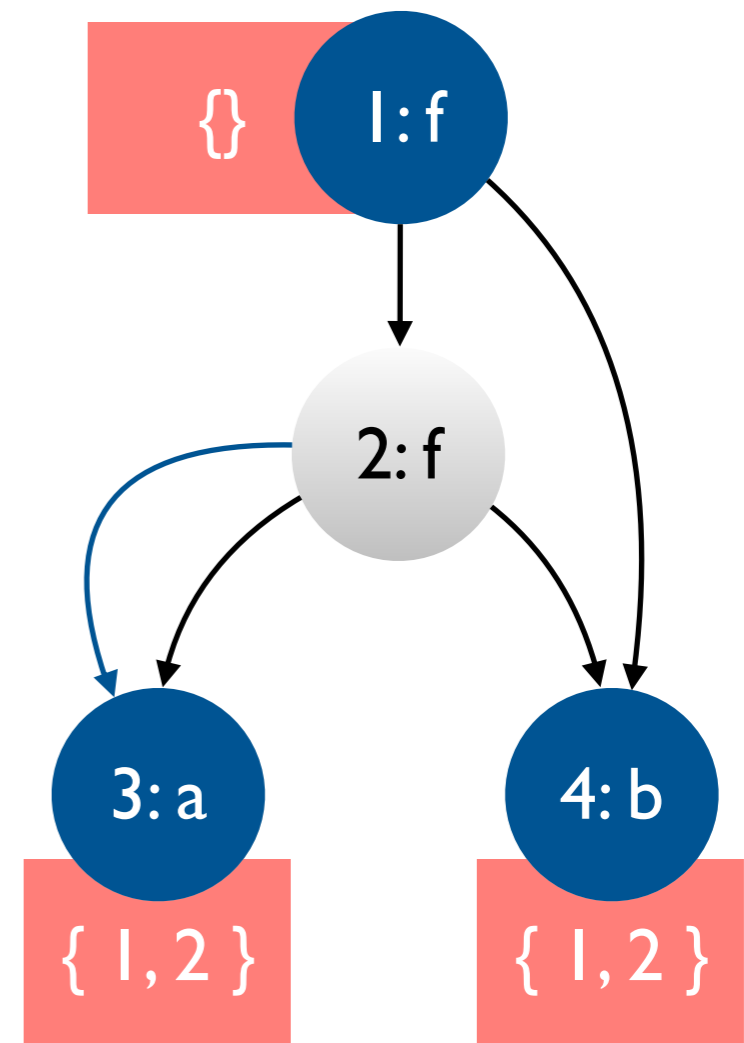


# Congruence closure algorithm: union-find

- FIND returns the representative of a node's equivalence class.
- UNION combines equivalence classes for nodes  $i_1$  and  $i_2$ :
  - $n_1, n_2 \leftarrow \text{FIND}(i_1), \text{FIND}(i_2)$
  - $n_1.\text{find} \leftarrow n_2$
  - $n_2.\text{ccp} \leftarrow n_1.\text{ccp} \cup n_2.\text{ccp}$
  - $n_1.\text{ccp} \leftarrow \emptyset$

What is UNION(1, 2)?

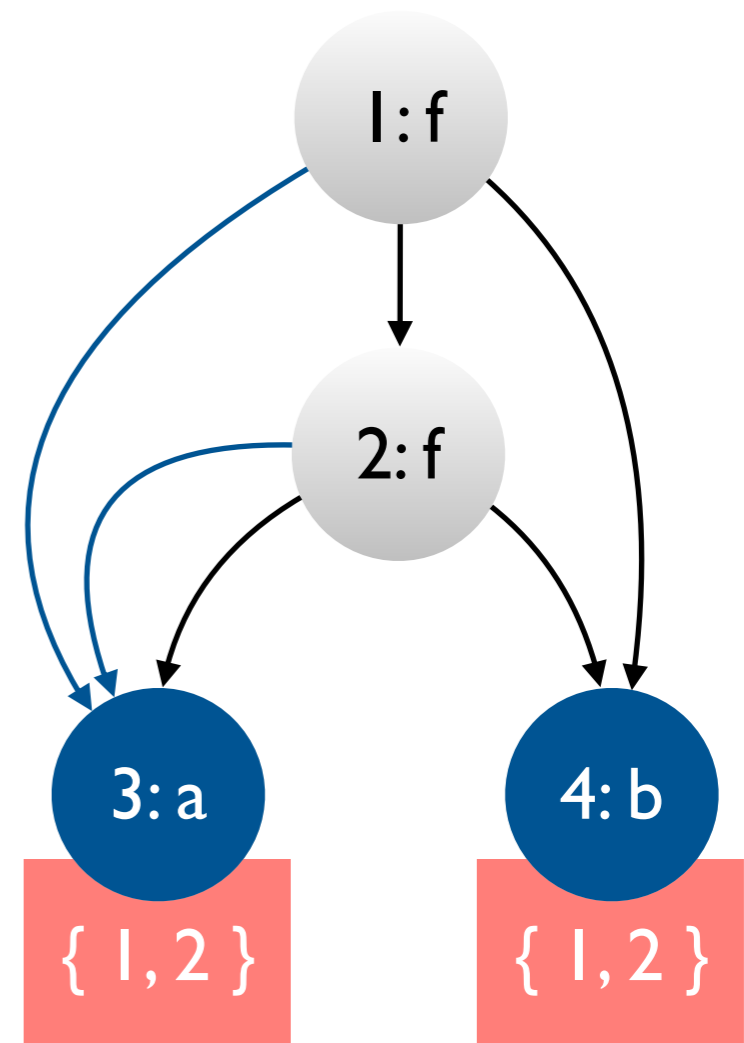
$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$



# Congruence closure algorithm: union-find

- FIND returns the representative of a node's equivalence class.
- UNION combines equivalence classes for nodes  $i_1$  and  $i_2$ :
  - $n_1, n_2 \leftarrow \text{FIND}(i_1), \text{FIND}(i_2)$
  - $n_1.\text{find} \leftarrow n_2$
  - $n_2.\text{ccp} \leftarrow n_1.\text{ccp} \cup n_2.\text{ccp}$
  - $n_1.\text{ccp} \leftarrow \emptyset$

$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$

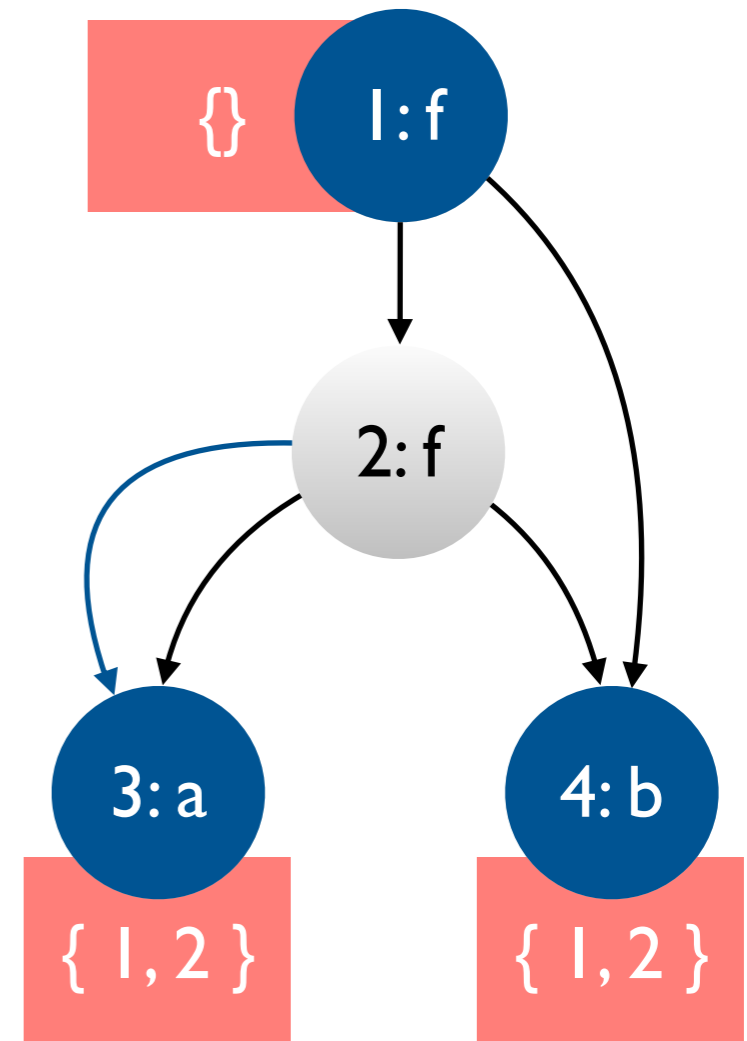




# Congruence closure algorithm: congruent

- CONGRUENT takes as input two nodes and returns true iff their
  - functions are the same
  - corresponding arguments are in the same congruence class

$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$

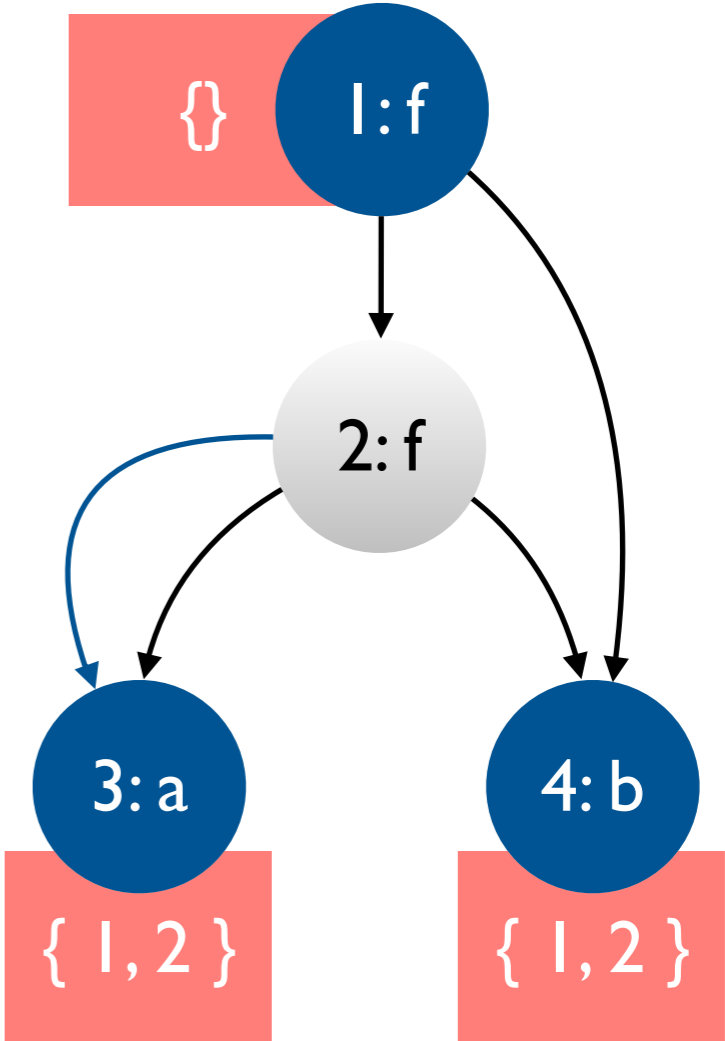


# Congruence closure algorithm: congruent

- CONGRUENT takes as input two nodes and returns true iff their
  - functions are the same
  - corresponding arguments are in the same congruence class

CONGRUENT(1, 2)?

$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$



# Congruence closure algorithm: merge

MERGE ( $i_1, i_2$ )

$n_1, n_2 \leftarrow \text{FIND}(i_1), \text{FIND}(i_2)$

**if**  $n_1 = n_2$  **then return**

$p_1, p_2 \leftarrow n_1.\text{cpp}, n_2.\text{cpp}$

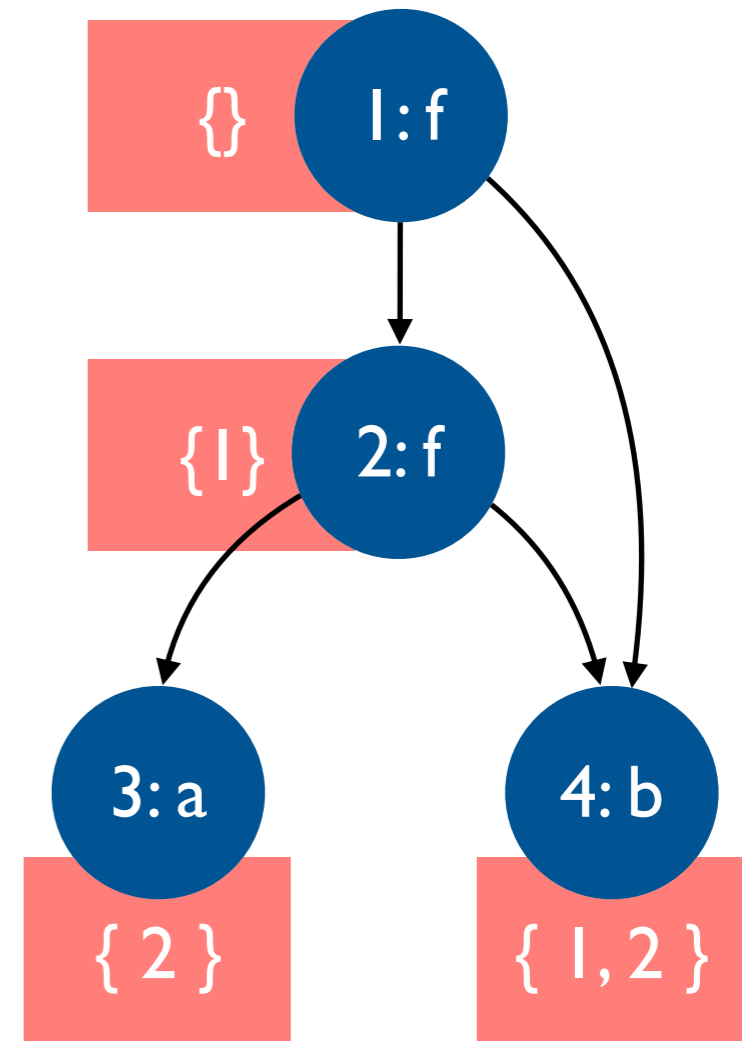
UNION( $n_1, n_2$ )

**for each**  $t_1, t_2 \in p_1 \times p_2$

**if** CONGRUENT( $t_1, t_2$ ) **then**

MERGE( $t_1, t_2$ )

$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$



# Congruence closure algorithm: merge

MERGE ( $i_1, i_2$ )

$n_1, n_2 \leftarrow \text{FIND}(i_1), \text{FIND}(i_2)$

**if**  $n_1 = n_2$  **then return**

$p_1, p_2 \leftarrow n_1.\text{cpp}, n_2.\text{cpp}$

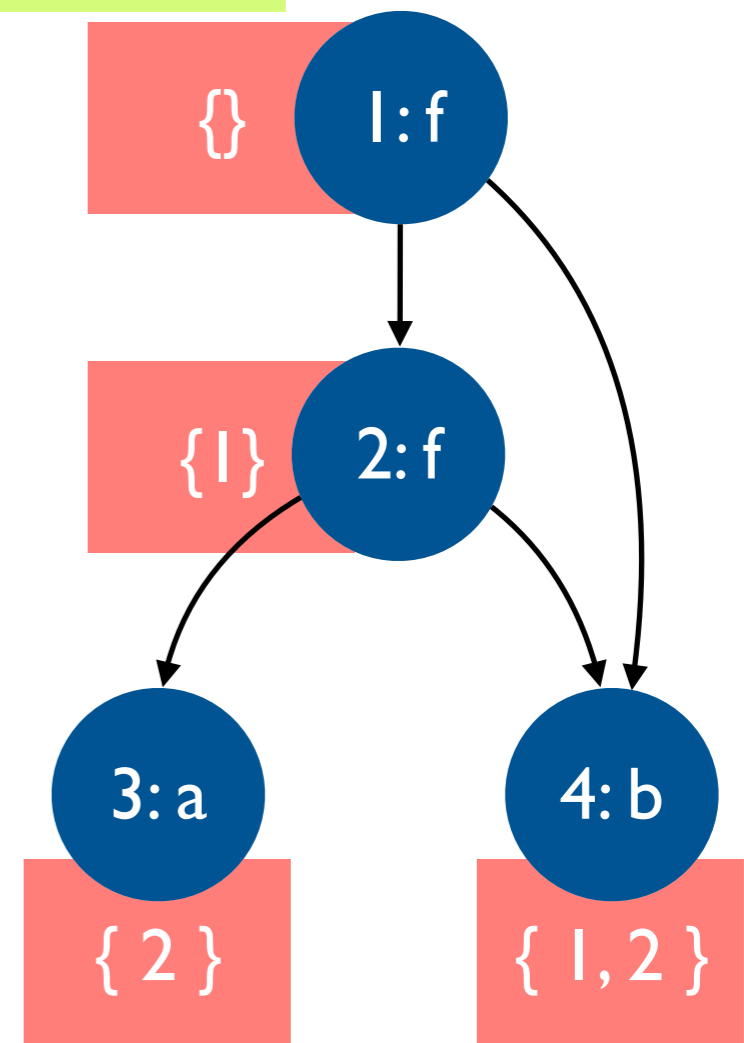
UNION( $n_1, n_2$ )

**for each**  $t_1, t_2 \in p_1 \times p_2$

**if** CONGRUENT( $t_1, t_2$ ) **then**

MERGE( $t_1, t_2$ )

$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$



# Congruence closure algorithm: merge

MERGE ( $i_1, i_2$ )

$n_1, n_2 \leftarrow \text{FIND}(i_1), \text{FIND}(i_2)$

**if**  $n_1 = n_2$  **then return**

$p_1, p_2 \leftarrow n_1.\text{cpp}, n_2.\text{cpp}$

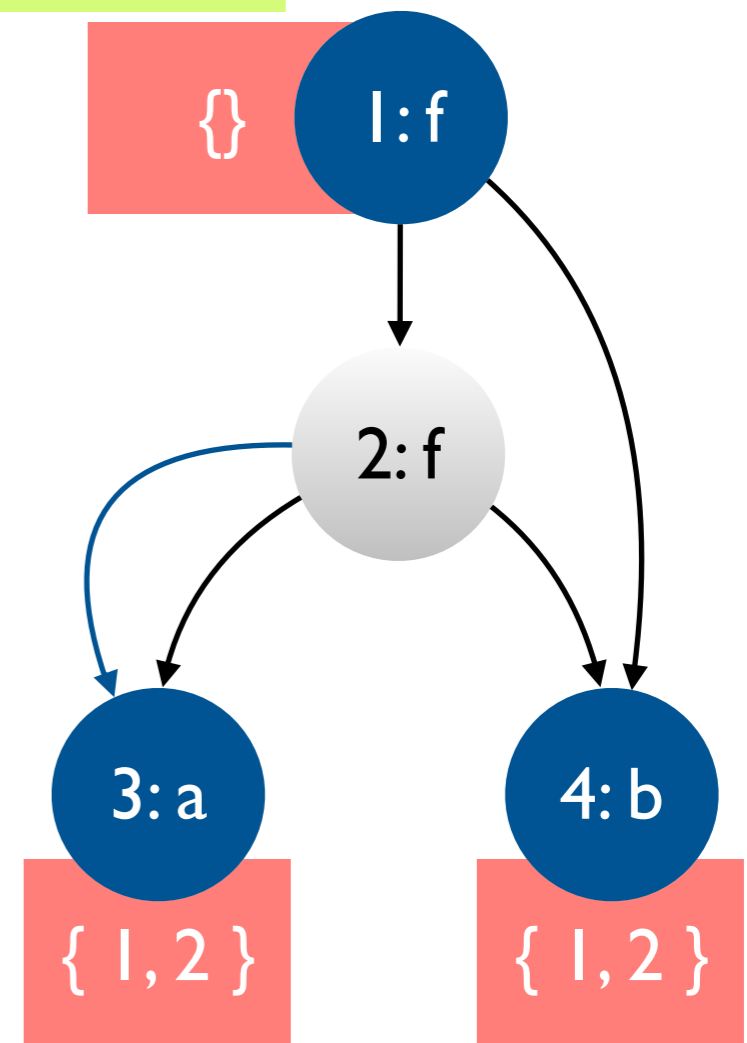
UNION( $n_1, n_2$ )

**for each**  $t_1, t_2 \in p_1 \times p_2$

**if** CONGRUENT( $t_1, t_2$ ) **then**

MERGE( $t_1, t_2$ )

$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$



# Congruence closure algorithm: merge

MERGE ( $i_1, i_2$ )

$n_1, n_2 \leftarrow \text{FIND}(i_1), \text{FIND}(i_2)$

**if**  $n_1 = n_2$  **then return**

$p_1, p_2 \leftarrow n_1.\text{cpp}, n_2.\text{cpp}$

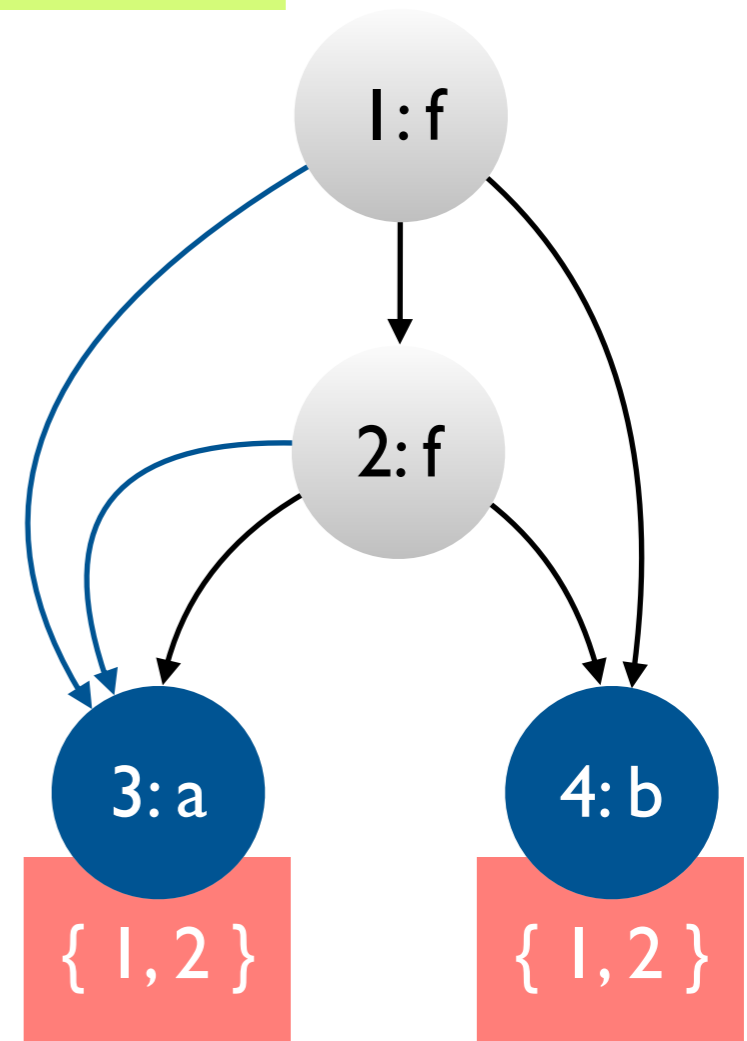
UNION( $n_1, n_2$ )

**for each**  $t_1, t_2 \in p_1 \times p_2$

**if** CONGRUENT( $t_1, t_2$ ) **then**

MERGE( $t_1, t_2$ )

$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$



# Summary

## Today

- A brief survey of theory solvers
- Congruence closure algorithm for deciding conjunctive  $T=$  formulas

## Next lecture

- Combining theories