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## Tableaux algorithms

- Formal semantics provides implicit knowledge via logical consequence.
- $\alpha$  is a logical consequence of  $K$ ,  $K \models \alpha$ , if and only if every model of  $K$  is a model of  $\alpha$ .
- An algorithm based on the prior definition requires checking every possible model of the knowledge base, which is not feasible.
- We need an algorithm that finds the logical consequence based on syntax. We use **Tableaux algorithms** (Pellet, HermiT, RacerPro, Konclude, and FaCT++).
- But its soundness and completeness needed to be proven formally, which requires substantial mathematical build-up.
- We consider only the algorithm, and the proofs are taken for granted.
- We start with tableaux algorithm for  $\mathcal{ALC}$ .





















## Illustration continued

$$K \models C(a) \quad (25)$$

$$K \models \neg C \sqcup D \quad (26)$$

$$K \models \neg D(a) \quad (27)$$

- From 25,  $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow C$ , and 27,  $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \neg D$ :  $\mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \neg D\}$ .
- 26 is a T-Box statement and it might as well hold for  $a$ :  $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \neg C \sqcup D$ .
- $(\neg C \sqcup D) \in \mathcal{L}(a)$ , which means that  $\neg C(a)$  or  $D(a)$ . This introduces two new cases:
  - If  $\neg C(a)$ , then  $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \neg C = \{C, \neg D, \neg C \sqcup D, \neg C\}$ , which is a contradiction.
  - If  $D(a)$ , then  $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow D = \{C, \neg D, \neg C \sqcup D, D\}$ , which is a contradiction.
  - In both cases we arrive at a contradiction, which indicates that  $K$  is unsatisfiable.
- Branching leads to nondeterminism of the tableaux algorithm.



## Tableaux example

$$K = \{C(a), C \sqsubseteq \exists R.D, D \sqsubseteq E\}$$

$$NNF(K) = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists R.D, \neg D \sqcup E\}$$

Is  $(\exists R.E)(a)$  a logical consequence of  $K$ ?

From inference by reduction to unsatisfiability table:

Instance checking	$K \models C(a)$ iff $K \cup \{\neg C(a)\}$ is unsatisfiable.
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Therefore, we need to show that  $K \cup \{\neg(\exists R.E)(a)\}$  is unsatisfiable. From 16,  
 $NNF(\exists R.E) = \forall R.\neg E$ .

$$NNF(K) = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists R.D, \neg D \sqcup E, \forall R.\neg E(a)\},$$

which we need to show that  $NNF(K)$  is unsatisfiable.

# The naïve tableaux algorithm for $\mathcal{ALC}$

A tableaux for an  $\mathcal{ALC}$  knowledge base consists of:

- a set of nodes, labeled with individual names or variable names,
- directed edges between some pairs of nodes,
- for each node labeled  $x$ , a set  $\mathcal{L}(x)$  of class expressions, and
- for each pair of nodes  $x$  and  $y$ , a set  $\mathcal{L}(x, y)$  of role names.

## Algorithm

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**Algorithm 1:** NAIVE\_ALC\_Tableaux( $NNF(K)$ )

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**Data:**  $NNF(K)$

**Result:** Satisfiability status of  $K$

$initialTableaux = INITIALIZE\_Tableaux(NNF(K));$

**return** APPLY\_RULES( $initialTableaux, NNF(K)$ );

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## Algorithm

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**Algorithm 2:** INITIALIZE\_Tableaux( $NNF(K)$ )

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**Data:**  $NNF(K)$

**Result:** Initial tableaux

- For each individual  $a$  occurring in  $K$ , create a node labeled  $a$  and set  $\mathcal{L}(a) = \emptyset$ .
  - For all pairs  $a, b$  of individuals, set  $\mathcal{L}(a, b) = \emptyset$ .
  - For each A-Box statement  $C(a)$  in  $K$ , set  $L(a) \leftarrow C$ .
  - For each R-Box statement  $R(a, b)$  in  $K$ , set  $L(a, b) \leftarrow R$ .
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**Algorithm 3:** APPLY\_RULES(*initialTableaux*, *NNF(K)*)
 

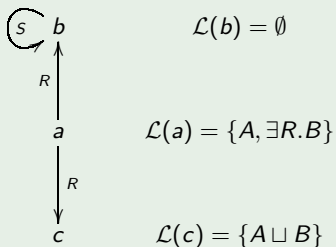
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- **In each step**, nondeterministically apply the following rules:
    - **$\sqcap$ -rule:** If  $C \sqcap D \in \mathcal{L}(x)$  and  $\{C, D\} \not\subseteq \mathcal{L}(x)$ , then set  $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \{C, D\}$ .
    - **$\sqcup$ -rule:** If  $C \sqcup D \in \mathcal{L}(x)$  and  $\{C, D\} \cap \mathcal{L}(x) = \emptyset$ , then set  $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow C$  or  $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow D$ .
    - **$\exists$ -rule:** If  $\exists R.C \in \mathcal{L}(x)$  and there exists no  $y$  with  $R \in \mathcal{L}(x, y)$  and  $C \in \mathcal{L}(y)$ , then
      - add a new node with label  $y$  (where  $y$  is a new node label),
      - set  $\mathcal{L}(x, y) = \{R\}$ , and
      - set  $\mathcal{L}(y) = \{C\}$ .
    - **$\forall$ -rule:** If  $\forall R.C \in \mathcal{L}(x)$  and there is a node  $y$  with  $R \in \mathcal{L}(x, y)$  and  $C \notin \mathcal{L}(y)$ , then set  $\mathcal{L}(y) \leftarrow C$ .
    - **T-Box-rule:** If  $C$  is a T-Box statement and  $C \notin \mathcal{L}(x)$ , then set  $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow C$ .
  - **Terminates**,
    - either there is a node  $x$  such that  $\mathcal{L}(x)$  contains a contradiction, i.e., if there is  $C \in \mathcal{L}(x)$  and at the same time  $\neg C \in \mathcal{L}(x)$  (also apply for  $\top, \perp$ ),
    - or none of the rules are applicable.
-

## Tableaux example

$$NNF(K) = \{A(a), (\exists R.B)(a), R(a, b), R(a, c), S(b, b), (A \sqcup B)(c), \neg A \sqcup (\forall S.B)\}$$

From Algorithm 2,



## An explanation of Algorithm 3

- $K$  is satisfiable if the Algorithm 3 terminates without contradiction, otherwise,  $K$  is unsatisfiable.
- Sources of non-determinism:
  - Which expansion rule to apply next: whatever rule we choose, it will **not** get us onto the wrong track, though the algorithm may take more steps to terminate. This leads to **don't care non-determinism**.
  - The choice which has to be made when applying the  $\sqcup$ -rule: bad choice gets us on to the wrong track. This is because, if we choose to set  $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow C$ , then it is no longer possible to set  $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow D$  as the rule  $\{C, D\} \cap \mathcal{L}(x) = \emptyset$  prevent this. If the choice leads to a contradiction, then we have to backtrack to that choice point and try another alternative. This leads to **don't know non-determinism**.
- If you can make a choice of rule applications such that no contradiction occurs and the process terminates, then the knowledge base is satisfiable.

## Tableaux example

- $K = \{C(a), C \sqsubseteq \exists R.D, D \sqsubseteq E\}$
- Question:  $K \models (\exists R.E)(a)$
- Problem: Instance checking.
- Solution:  $K \models C(a)$  iff  $K \cup \{\neg C(a)\}$  is unsatisfiable.
- $NNF(\neg(\exists R.E)(a)) = \forall R.\neg E(a)$
- $NNF(K) = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists R.D, \neg D \sqcup E, \forall R.\neg E(a)\}$

## Algorithm

- $\mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall R.\neg E\}$
- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \neg C \sqcup \exists R.D$
- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \neg C$  contradiction.
- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \exists R.D$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg D \sqcup E$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg D$  contradiction.
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow E$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg E$  ( $\forall$ -rule) contradiction.

## Tableaux

$$a \quad \mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall R.\neg E, \exists R.D\}$$

$$\downarrow R$$

$$x$$

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \{D, \neg D \sqcup E, \underbrace{E, \neg E}_{\text{contradiction}}\}$$

contradiction

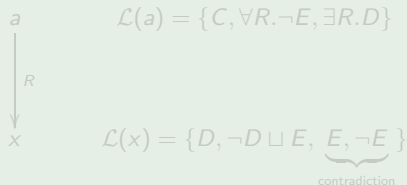
## Tableaux example

- $K = \{C(a), C \sqsubseteq \exists R.D, D \sqsubseteq E\}$
- Question:  $K \models (\exists R.E)(a)$
- Problem: Instance checking.
- Solution:  $K \models C(a)$  iff  $K \cup \{\neg C(a)\}$  is unsatisfiable.
- $NNF(\neg(\exists R.E)(a)) = \forall R.\neg E(a)$
- $NNF(K) = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists R.D, \neg D \sqcup E, \forall R.\neg E(a)\}$

## Algorithm

- $\mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall R.\neg E\}$
- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \neg C \sqcup \exists R.D$
- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \neg C$  contradiction.
- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \exists R.D$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg D \sqcup E$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg D$  contradiction.
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow E$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg E$  ( $\forall$ -rule) contradiction.

## Tableaux



## Tableaux example

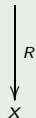
- $K = \{C(a), C \sqsubseteq \exists R.D, D \sqsubseteq E\}$
- Question:  $K \models (\exists R.E)(a)$
- Problem: Instance checking.
- Solution:  $K \models C(a)$  iff  $K \cup \{\neg C(a)\}$  is unsatisfiable.
- $NNF(\neg(\exists R.E)(a)) = \forall R.\neg E(a)$
- $NNF(K) = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists R.D, \neg D \sqcup E, \forall R.\neg E(a)\}$

## Algorithm

- $\mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall R.\neg E\}$
- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \neg C \sqcup \exists R.D$
- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \neg C$  contradiction.
- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \exists R.D$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg D \sqcup E$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg D$  contradiction.
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow E$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg E(\forall\text{-rule})$  contradiction.

## Tableaux

$$a \quad \mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall R.\neg E, \exists R.D\}$$



$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \{D, \neg D \sqcup E, \underbrace{E, \neg E}_{\text{contradiction}}\}$$

contradiction

## Tableaux example

- $K = \{C(a), C \sqsubseteq \exists R.D, D \sqsubseteq E \sqcup F, F \sqsubseteq E\}$
- Question:  $K \models (\exists R.E)(a)$
- Problem: Instance checking.
- Solution:  $K \models C(a)$  iff  $K \cup \{\neg C(a)\}$  is unsatisfiable.
- $NNF(\neg(\exists R.E)(a)) = \forall R.\neg E(a)$
- $NNF(K) = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists R.D, \neg D \sqcup E \sqcup F, \neg F \sqcup E, \forall R.\neg E(a)\}$

## Algorithm

- $\mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall R.\neg E\}$
- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \neg C \sqcup \exists R.D$
- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \neg C$  contradiction.
- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \exists R.D$

## Algorithm

- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg E(\forall\text{-rule})$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg D \sqcup E \sqcup F$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg D$  contradiction.
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow E \sqcup F$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow E$  contradiction.
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow F$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg F \sqcup E$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg F$  contradiction.
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow E$  contradiction.

## Tableaux example

- $K = \{C(a), C \sqsubseteq \exists R.D, D \sqsubseteq E \sqcup F, F \sqsubseteq E\}$
- Question:  $K \models (\exists R.E)(a)$
- Problem: Instance checking.
- Solution:  $K \models C(a)$  iff  $K \cup \{\neg C(a)\}$  is unsatisfiable.
- $NNF(\neg(\exists R.E)(a)) = \forall R.\neg E(a)$
- $NNF(K) = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists R.D, \neg D \sqcup E \sqcup F, \neg F \sqcup E, \forall R.\neg E(a)\}$

## Algorithm

- $\mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall R.\neg E\}$
- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \neg C \sqcup \exists R.D$
- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \neg C$  contradiction.
- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \exists R.D$

## Algorithm

- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg E(\forall\text{-rule})$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg D \sqcup E \sqcup F$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg D$  contradiction.
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow E \sqcup F$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow E$  contradiction.
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow F$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg F \sqcup E$
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg F$  contradiction.
- $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow E$  contradiction.



## Tableaux

 $a$   
↓  
 $R$   
↓  
 $x$ 

$$\mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall R. \neg E, \exists R. D\}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \{D, \neg E, \neg D \sqcup \neg E \sqcup F, \neg F \sqcup \neg E\}$$

## Tableaux example

$$\text{Human} \sqsubseteq \exists \text{hasParent}.\text{Human}$$

$$\text{Orphan} \sqsubseteq \text{Human} \sqcap \forall \text{hasParent}.\neg \text{Alive}$$

$$\text{Orphan}(\text{harryPotter})$$

$$\text{hasParent}(\text{harryPotter}, \text{jamesPotter})$$

- $K \models \neg \text{Alive}(\text{jamesPotter})?$
- We need  $\neg \neg \text{Alive}(\text{jamesPotter}) = \text{Alive}(\text{jamesPotter})$  and show  $\text{NNF}(K \cup \text{Alive}(\text{jamesPotter}))$  unsatisfiable.

$$\neg H \sqcup \exists P.H$$

$$\neg O \sqcup (H \sqcap \forall P.\neg A)$$

$$O(h)$$

$$P(h, j)$$

$$A(j)$$

## Algorithm

$$h \quad \mathcal{L}(h) = \{O\}$$

$$\downarrow^P$$

$$j \quad \mathcal{L}(j) = \{A\}$$

- T-Box-rule:  $\mathcal{L}(h) \leftarrow \neg O \sqcup (H \sqcap \forall P.\neg A)$
- $\sqcup$ -rule:  $\mathcal{L}(h) \leftarrow \neg O$  contradiction.
- $\mathcal{L}(h) \leftarrow H \sqcap \forall P.\neg A$
- $\sqcap$ -rule:  $\mathcal{L}(h) \leftarrow \{H, \forall P.\neg A\}$
- $\sqcup$ -rule:  $\forall P.\neg A \in \mathcal{L}(h)$
- $\mathcal{L}(j) \leftarrow \neg A$  contradiction.

## Tableaux

$$\begin{array}{c} h \\ \downarrow \\ P \\ \downarrow \\ j \end{array}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(h) = \{O, \neg O \sqcup (H \sqcap \forall P. \neg A), H \sqcap \forall P. \neg A, H, \forall P. \neg A\}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(j) = \{A, \neg A\}$$

## Tableaux example

$$NNF(K) = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists R.D, \neg D \sqcup E, \forall R.\neg E(a)\}$$

- From Algorithm 2,

$$a \quad \mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall R.\neg E\}$$

- From Algorithm 3,

- T-Box-rule:  $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \neg C \sqcup \exists R.C$ .

- $\sqcup$ -rule:  $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \neg C$  contradicts with  $C$ .

- $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow \exists R.D$ .

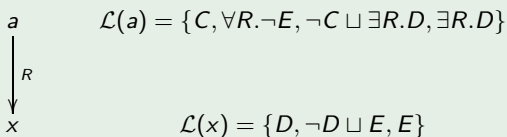
- $\exists$ -rule:  $a \quad \mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall R.\neg E, \neg C \sqcup \exists R.D, \exists R.D\}$

$$\begin{array}{c} a \\ \downarrow R \\ x \end{array}$$

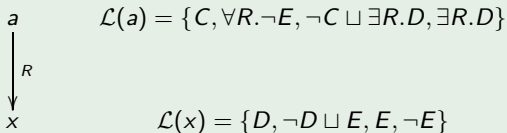
$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \{D\}$$

## Tableaux example

- From Algorithm 3,
  - T-Box-rule:  $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg D \sqcup E$ .
  - $\sqcup$ -rule:  $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg D$  contradicts with  $D$ .
  - $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow E$



- $\forall R. \neg E \in \mathcal{L}(a)$ , means that everything to which  $a$  connects via  $R$  must be in  $\neg E$ . Since,  $a$  connects to  $x$  via  $R$ , we set  $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \neg E$ , which results in a contradiction.
- Therefore, the knowledge base is unsatisfiable, and the instance checking problem is solved, i.e.,  $K \models (\exists R. E)(a)$ .



## The tableaux algorithm with blocking for $\mathcal{ALC}$

- Algorithm 1 for  $\mathcal{ALC}$  does not always terminate.
- Consider:  $K = \{\exists R.T, \top(a_1)\}$ .
  - Consider the interpretation  $I$ , with  $\Delta = \{a_1, a_2, \dots\}$ , s.t.  $a_i' = a_i$  and  $(a_i, a_{i+1}) \in R^I$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ . This is a model of  $K$ . Therefore,  $K$  is satisfiable.
- Let's try to construct the tableaux for  $K$ .
  - We initialize with a node  $a$  and  $\mathcal{L}(a_1) = \{\top\}$ .
  - T-Box-rule:  $\mathcal{L}(a_1) \leftarrow \exists R.T$ .
  - $\exists$ -rule: creates a new node  $x$  with  $\mathcal{L}(a_1, x) = \{R\}$  and  $\mathcal{L}(x) = \{\top\}$ .
  - For the new  $x$  we again apply the T-Box-rule, which yields into  $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \exists R.T$ .
  - $\exists$ -rule: creates another new node  $y$  with  $\mathcal{L}(x, y) = \{R\}$  and  $\mathcal{L}(y) = \{\top\}$ .
  - This process repeats and does not terminate.

$$a_1 \mathcal{L}(a_1) = \{\top, \exists R.T\} \xrightarrow{R} x \mathcal{L}(x) = \{\top, \exists R.T\} \xrightarrow{R} y \mathcal{L}(y) = \{\top, \exists R.T\} \xrightarrow{R} \dots$$

## Blocking continue

- We said that *ALC* or *SROIQ* is decidable.
- In order to achieve guaranteed termination, we need to introduce **blocking**. This simply eliminates the repeats.
- If the newly created node  $x$  has the same properties as the node  $a_1$ , then instead of expanding  $x$  to a new node  $y$ , we reuse  $a_1$ .
- Definition: A node with label  $x$  is directly blocked by a node with label  $y$  if
  - $x$  is a variable (i.e., not an individual)
  - $y$  is an ancestor of  $x$ , and
  - $\mathcal{L}(x) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(y)$ .

## Blocking continue

- Definition of ancestor:  $\forall x \mathcal{L}(z, x) \neq \emptyset$  is called a predecessor of  $x$ . Every predecessor of  $x$ , which is not an individual, is an ancestor of  $x$ , and every predecessor or ancestor of  $x$ , which is not an individual, is also an ancestor of  $x$ .
- A node with label  $x$  is blocked if it is directly blocked or one of its ancestors is blocked.
- Full tableaux algorithm: The rules in Algorithm 3 are applied if  $x$  is not blocked.
- From our example,  $\mathcal{L}(x) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(a_1)$ . Therefore,  $x$  is blocked by  $a_1$ . The resulting tableaux is:
 
$$a_1 \mathcal{L}(a_1) = \{\top, \exists R.T\} \xrightarrow{R} x \mathcal{L}(x) = \{\top\}$$
- The blocked node  $x$  represents the infinite set  $\{a_2, a_3, \dots\}$ .
- Therefore,  $\mathcal{J}$  is,  $\Delta = \{a_1, a\}$  s.t.  $a_1^J = a_1, x^J = a$  and  $R^J = \{(a_1, a), (a, a)\}$ . The model would be cyclic.



## Blocking example

$$K = \{H \sqsubseteq \exists P.H, B(t)\}$$

Which stands for:  $Human \sqsubseteq \exists hasParent.Human$   
 $Bird(tweety)$

Question:  $K \models \neg H(t)$ ?

$$NNF(K') = \{\neg H \sqcup \exists P.H, B(t), H(t)\}$$

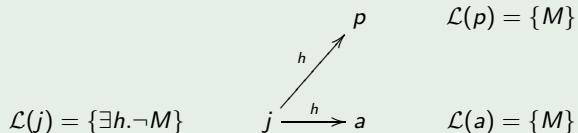
Initialized	$\mathcal{L}(t) = \{B, H\}$		
T-Box-rule	$\mathcal{L}(t) \leftarrow \neg H \sqcup \exists P.H$	$t$	$\mathcal{L}(t) = \{B, H, \neg H \sqcup \exists P.H, \exists P.H\}$
$\sqcup$ -rule	$\mathcal{L}(t) \leftarrow \neg H$ (contradiction)	↓	
	$\mathcal{L}(t) \leftarrow \exists P.H$	$P$	
$\exists$ -rule	create a node with label $x$ , $\mathcal{L}(t, x) = \{P\}$ , and $\mathcal{L}(x) = \{H\}$	↓	
	node $x$ is blocked by $t$	$x$	$\mathcal{L}(x) = \{H\}$



## Illustration

•  $NNF(K') = \{h(j, p), h(j, a), M(p), M(a), \exists h. \neg M(j)\}$ .

• Algorithm 2 yields:



• Algorithm 3 yields:  $\exists$ -rule  $\mathcal{L}(j, x) = \{h\}$  and  $\mathcal{L}(x) = \{\neg M\}$ .

