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# Constraint programming for inductive logic programming

— Andrew Cropper, Céline Hocquette —

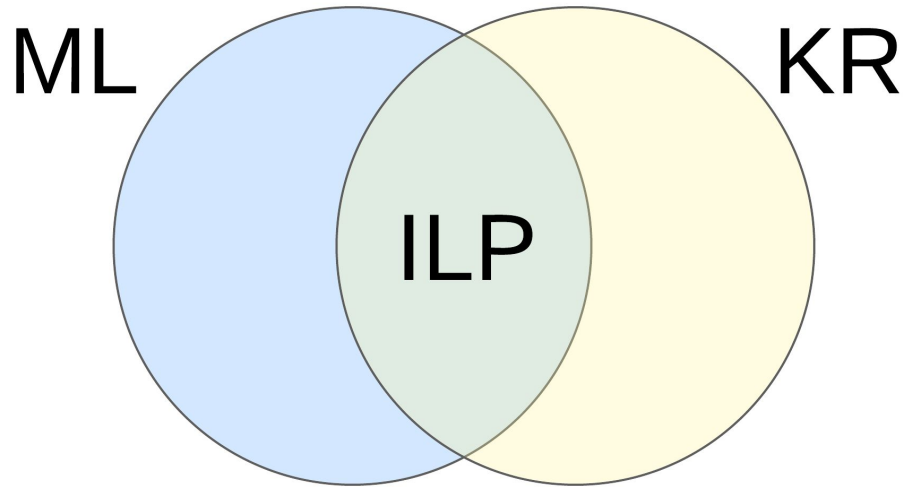
University of Oxford

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# Inductive Logic Programming (ILP)

# Inductive Logic Programming



# Inductive Logic Programming

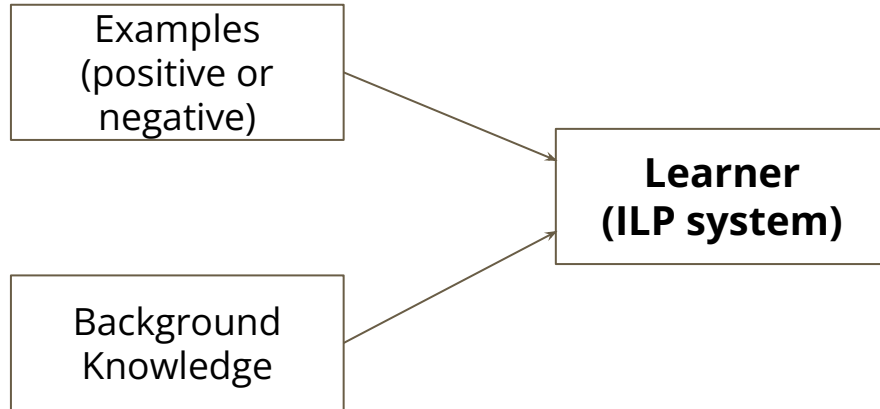
Examples  
(positive or  
negative)

# Inductive Logic Programming

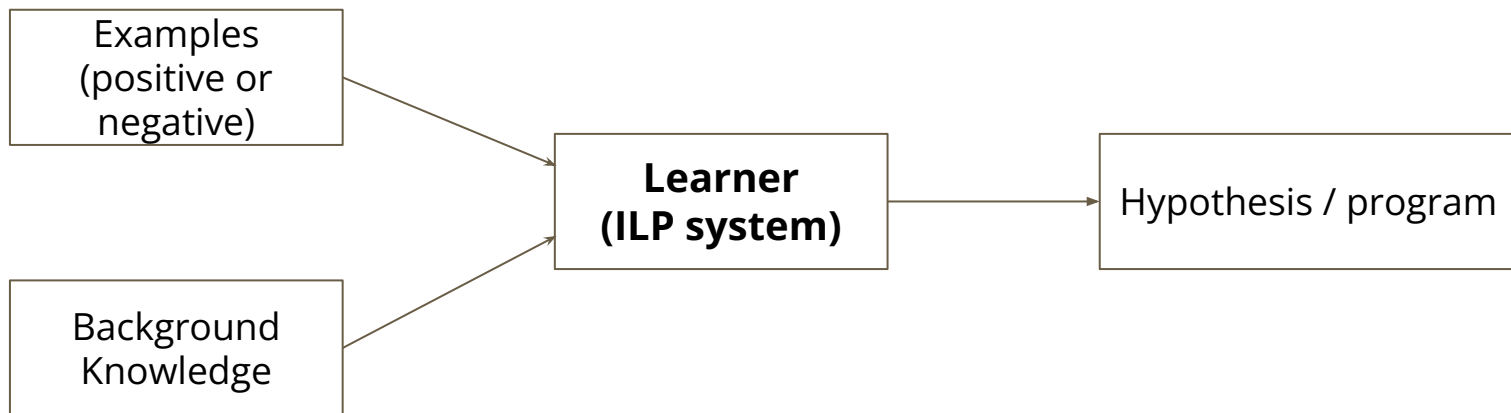
Examples  
(positive or  
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Background  
Knowledge

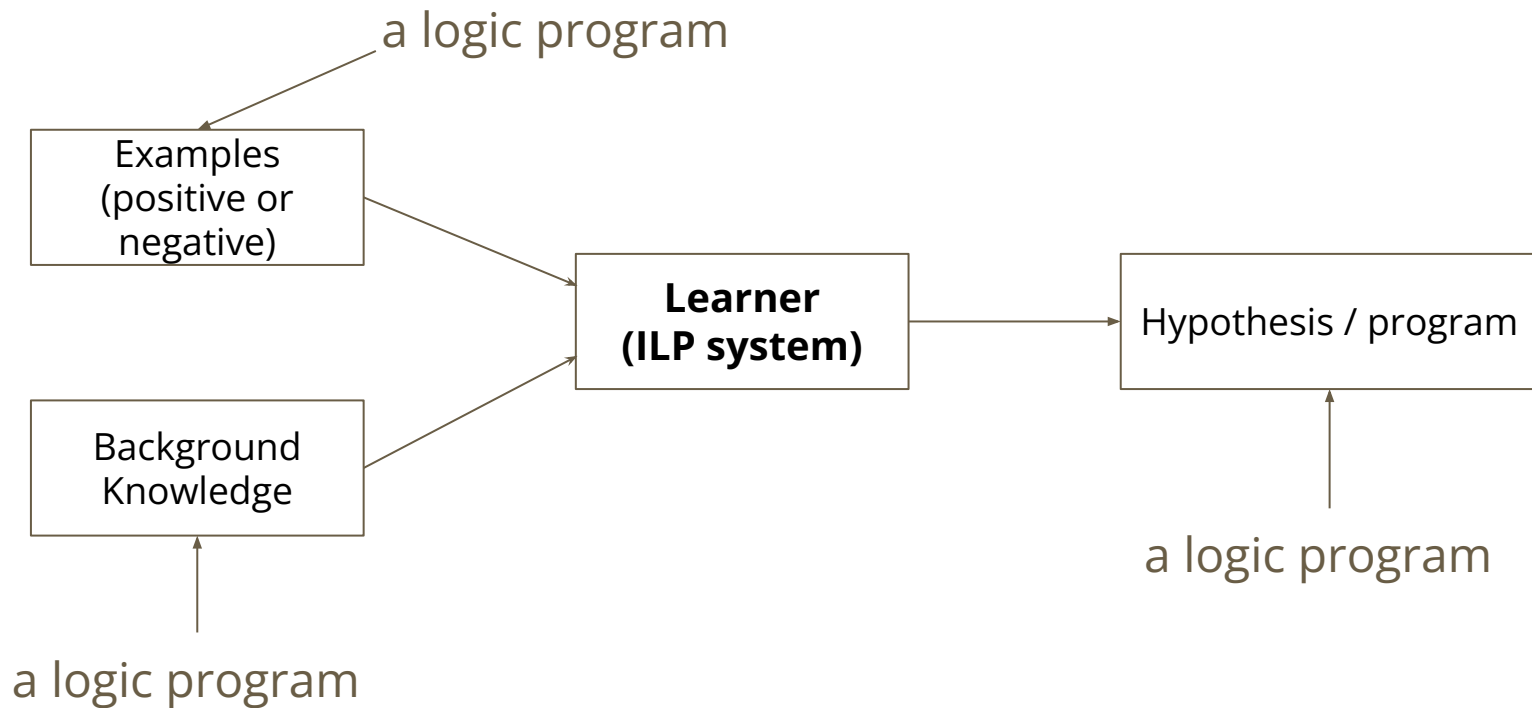
# Inductive Logic Programming



# Inductive Logic Programming

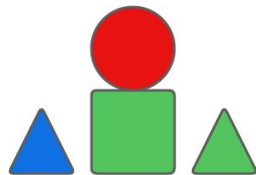


# Inductive Logic Programming

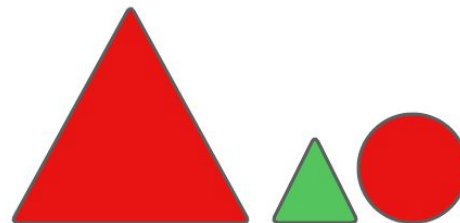
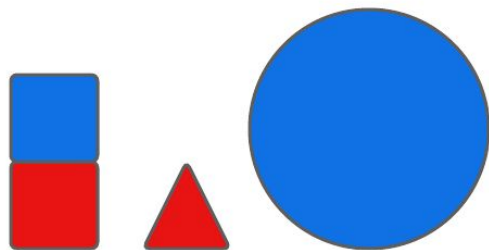
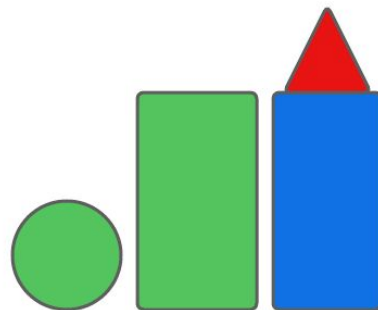


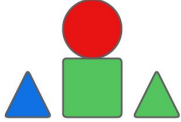
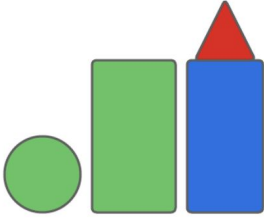
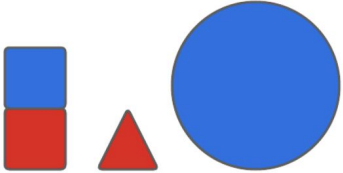
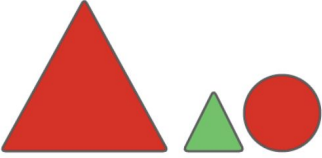


**Positive examples**



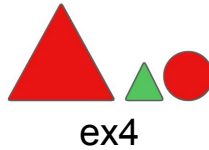
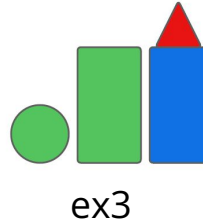
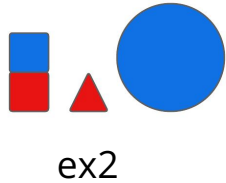
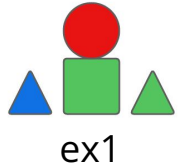
**Negative examples**



Positive examples	Negative examples
	
	

There must be a red piece in contact with a small piece

Positive examples	Negative examples
<p><code>zendo(ex1).</code> <code>zendo(ex2).</code></p>	<p><code>zendo(ex3).</code> <code>zendo(ex4).</code></p>

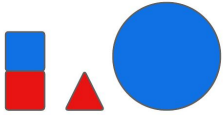
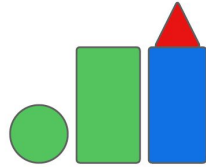
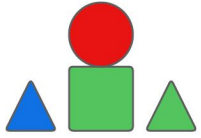


## Background Knowledge

```

piece(ex1, p1).
piece(ex1, p2).
piece(ex1, p3).
piece(ex1, p4).
blue(p1).
triangle(p1).
size(p1, 2).
small(2).
red(p2).
round(p2).
triangle(p4).
contact(p2, p3).
on(p2, p3).
right(p4, p3).
left(p1, p2).
...

```



### Hypothesis

```
zendo(Structure):-  
    piece(Structure,Piece1),  
    red(Piece1),  
    contact(Piece1,Piece2),  
    size(Piece2,Size),  
    small(Size).
```

# Why care about ILP?

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- Learn from small amount of data

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- Learn explainable models

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# Why care about ILP?

- Learn from small amount of data
- Learn explainable models
- Learn from relational data
- ILP can be applied to many problems
  - robot scientist, biology, learning game strategies

# In this presentation

Popper: an inductive logic programming system

*Learning logic programs by combining programs, Andrew Cropper and Céline Hocquette, ECAI, 2023.*

*Learning MDL logic programs from noisy data, Céline Hocquette, Andreas Niskanen, Matti Järvisalo, and Andrew Cropper, AAI, 2024.*

**Why care?**

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- Popper formulates the ILP problem as a CP problem

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- Benchmarks tasks for the CP community


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- Popper formulates the ILP problem as a CP problem
- Challenges for the CP community to address limitations
- Benchmarks tasks for the CP community
- Accessible way to bridge CP and ML

# How does Popper work?

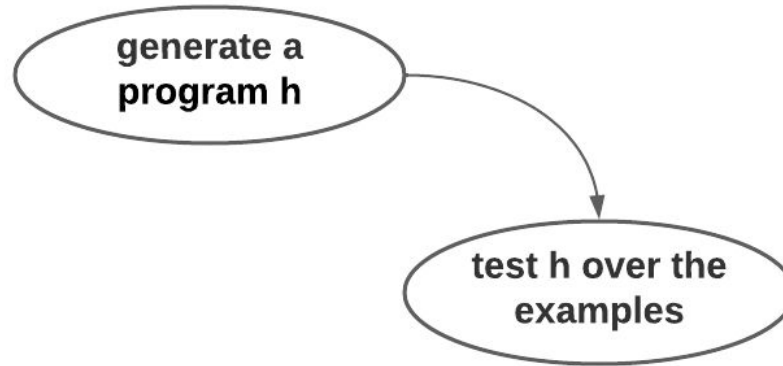


# How does Popper work?

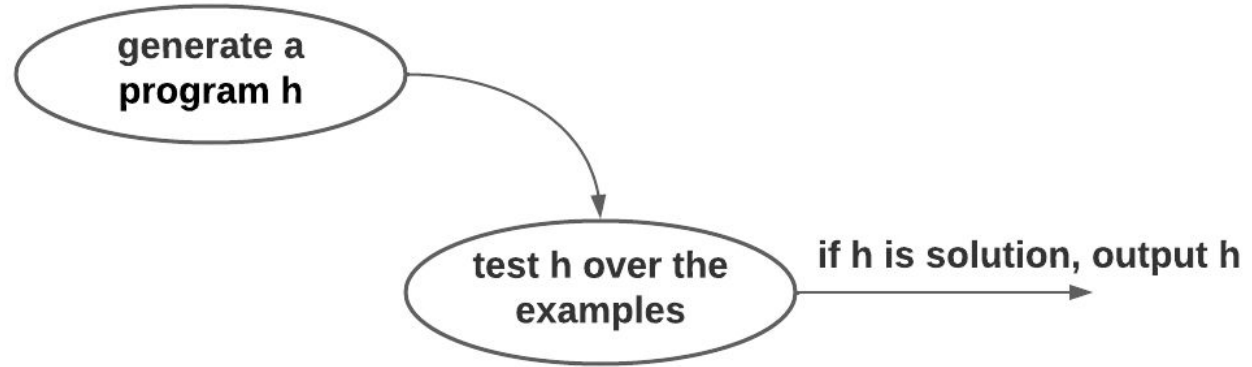


**generate a  
program h**

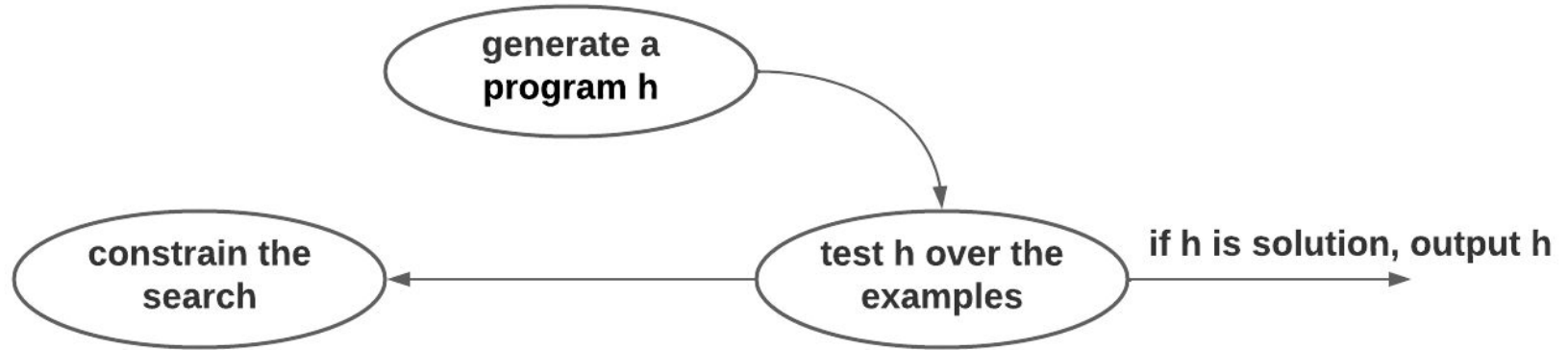
# How does Popper work?



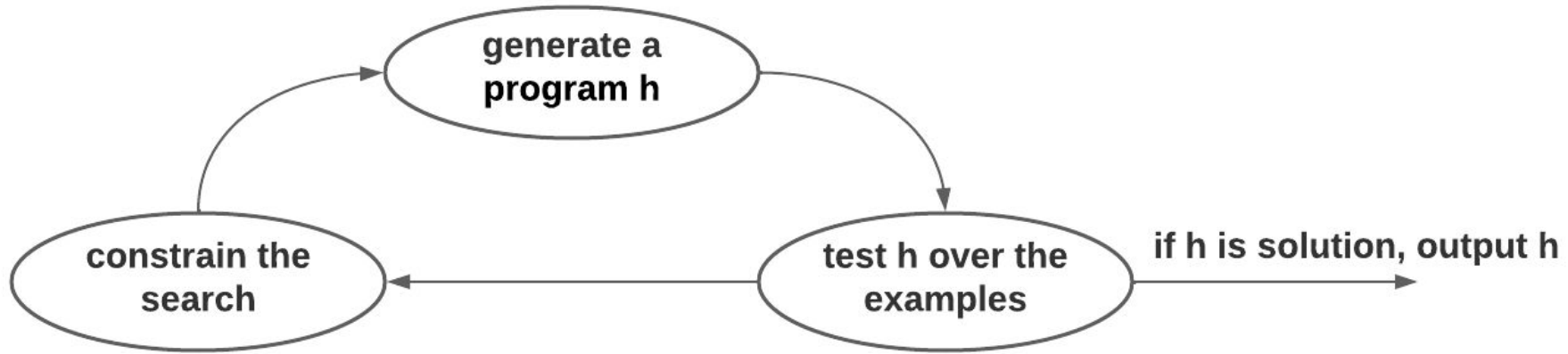
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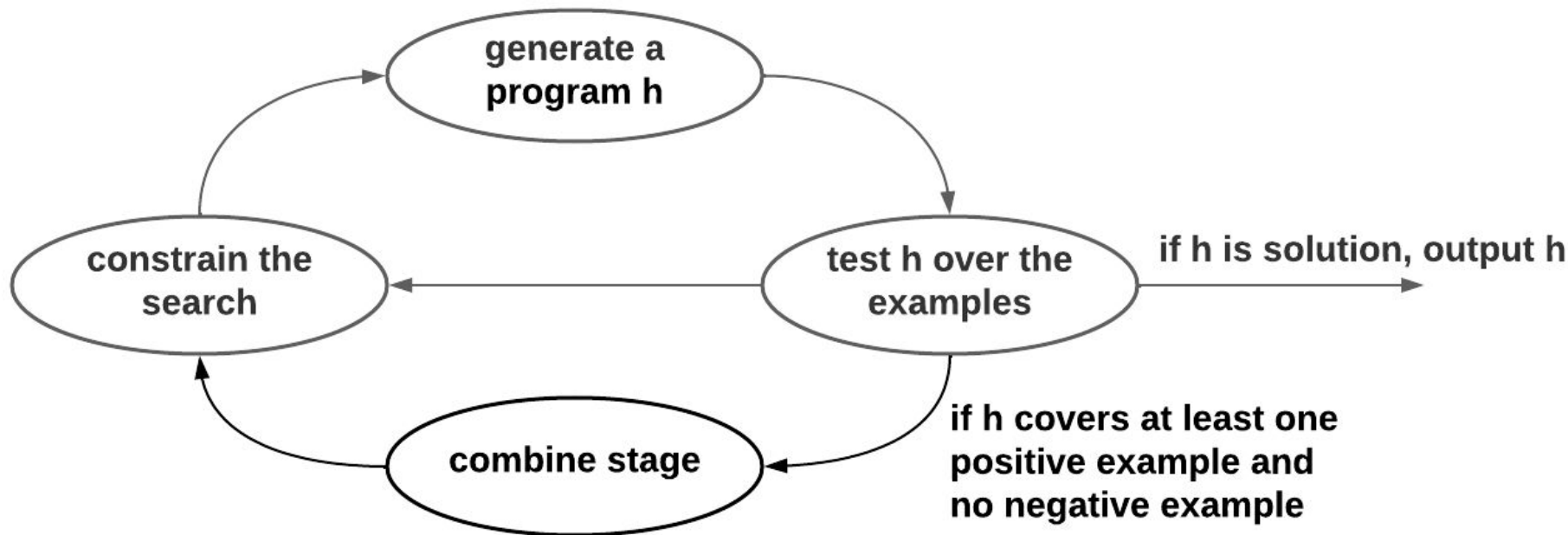
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# Generate stage

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Input:

- a set of literals  $L$
- a set of constraints  $C$



# Generate stage

Input:

- a set of literals  $L$
- a set of constraints  $C$

Output: a set of literals  $L' \subset L$  such that:

- $L'$  is consistent with  $C$
- $L'$  is minimal in size

# Generate stage

Input:

```
{piece(A,B), red(B), blue(B), small(B), red(C), blue(C), small(C), red(D),  
blue(D), small(D), contact(B,C), contact(C,B), contact(B,D),  
contact(D,B), contact(C,D), contact(D,C)}
```

# Generate stage

Input:

```
{piece(A,B), red(B), blue(B), small(B), red(C), blue(C), small(C), red(D),  
blue(D), small(D), contact(B,C), contact(C,B), contact(B,D),  
contact(D,B), contact(C,D), contact(D,C)}
```

Output:

```
{piece(A,B), red(B)}
```

# Generate stage

Input:

```
{piece(A,B), red(B), blue(B), small(B), red(C), blue(C), small(C), red(D),  
blue(D), small(D), contact(B,C), contact(C,B), contact(B,D),  
contact(D,B), contact(C,D), contact(D,C)}
```

Output:

```
{piece(A,B), red(B)}
```

```
zendo(A) ← piece(A,B), red(B)
```

# Generate stage

We currently use ASP

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- easy for us

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We currently use ASP

- easy for us
- easy to express recursive concepts (connectedness)
- incremental solving



# Combine stage

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Input:

- a set of programs  $P$ , with their size and coverage, such that for all  $p \in P$ :
  - $p$  covers at least one positive example
  - $p$  does not cover any negative example

# Combine stage

Input:

- a set of programs  $P$ , with their size and coverage, such that for all  $p \in P$ :
  - $p$  covers at least one positive example
  - $p$  does not cover any negative example

Output: a set of programs  $P' \subset P$  such that:

- $P'$  covers as many positive examples as possible
- $P'$  is minimal in size

# Combine stage

Input:

Program	Positive examples covered	Size
p1	{e1,e2,e3}	3
p2	{e9}	3
p3	{e1,e3,e5,e6,e7}	4
p4	{e2,e6,e7}	4
p5	{e2,e5,e8,e9}	5
p6	{e8,e9}	6

# Combine stage

Input:

Program	Positive examples covered	Size
p1	{e1,e2,e3}	3
p2	{e9}	3
p3	{e1,e3,e5,e6,e7}	4
p4	{e2,e6,e7}	4
p5	{e2,e5,e8,e9}	5
p6	{e8,e9}	6

Output:

{p1,p3,p5} covers {e1,e2,e3,e5,e6,e7,e8,e9} and has size 12

# Combine stage

We used ASP and switched to MaxSAT

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We used ASP and switched to MaxSAT

We can support noise

Thursday 22nd, 2:00-3:15  
Knowledge Representation

**Why not one big SAT/ASP problem?**



# Why not one big SAT/ASP problem?

- infinite domains, function symbols (lists), numerical reasoning

# Why not one big SAT/ASP problem?

- Infinite domains, function symbols (lists), numerical reasoning
- The problem quickly becomes infeasible

# Conclusion

- Popper, an ILP algorithm which uses CP

# Limitations: generate stage

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- The generate stage can be prohibitively slow and it prevents us to use Popper on some tasks

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Can our ASP encoding be improved?

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Can our ASP encoding be improved?

Would a different CP approach be more suitable?

# Limitations: combine stage

- We use UWRMaxSAT.



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- We use UWRMaxSAT. Can your solver / encoding do better?

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  - Currently non-incremental

# Limitations: combine stage

- We use UWRMaxSAT. Can your solver / encoding do better?
  - Currently single-threaded
  - Currently non-incremental
  - Struggles with weights

# Benchmarks

We have hard and large (1gb+) instances if you want to try!

Thank you!

<https://github.com/logic-and-learning-lab/Popper>

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[andrew.cropper@cs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.cropper@cs.ox.ac.uk)