

# Turing machines over infinite alphabets

Sławomir Lasota  
University of Warsaw

joint work with  
Mikołaj Bojańczyk, Bartek Klin, Joanna Ochremiak, Szymon Toruńczyk

Dagstuhl seminar 14141, 2014.04.03

# Turing machines over infinite alphabets

...but finite up to permutation (orbit-finite)

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# computation in sets with atoms

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sets with urelements

permutation models  
[Mostowski '39]

nominal sets  
[Gabbay, Pitts '99]

sets with symmetry

named sets  
[Pistore, Montanari '97]

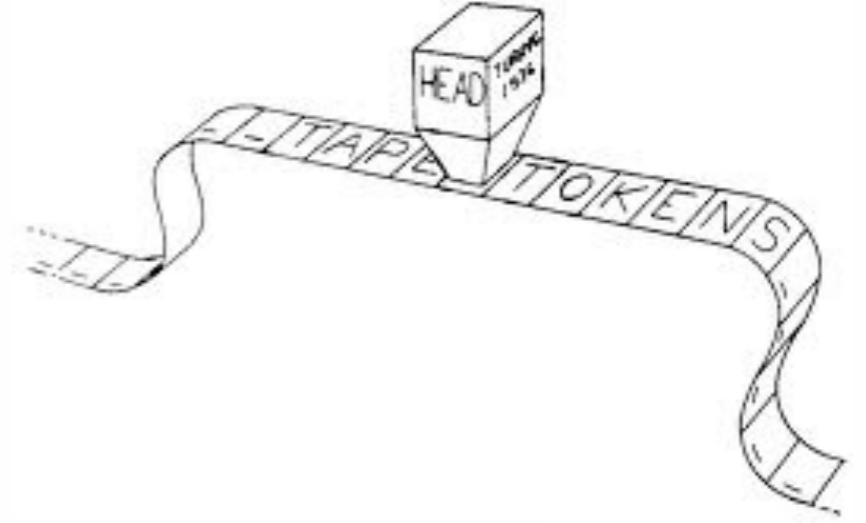
Fraenkel-Mostowski sets

nominal G-sets

hereditarily finitely-supported sets

# Turing machines

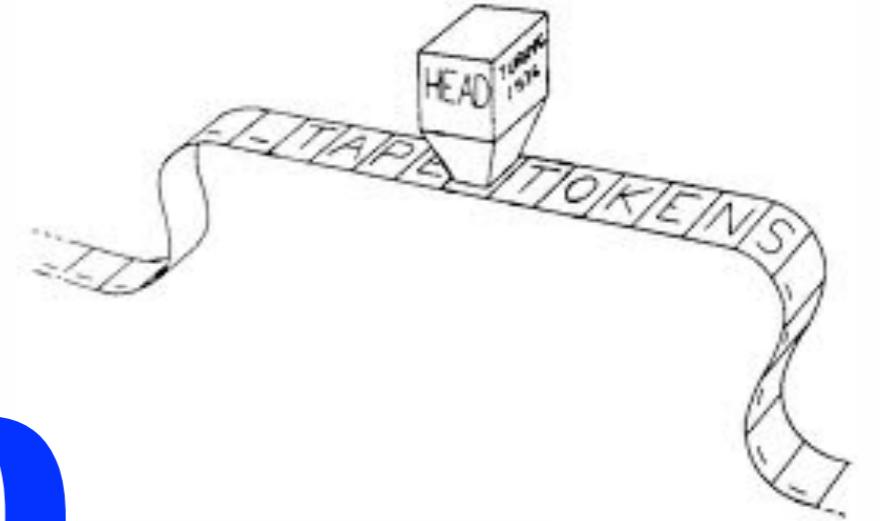
(any atoms)



- tape alphabet  $A$
- states  $Q$
- subset  $\delta \subseteq Q \times A \times Q \times A \times \{\leftarrow, \rightarrow, \downarrow\}$
- subsets  $I, F \subseteq Q$

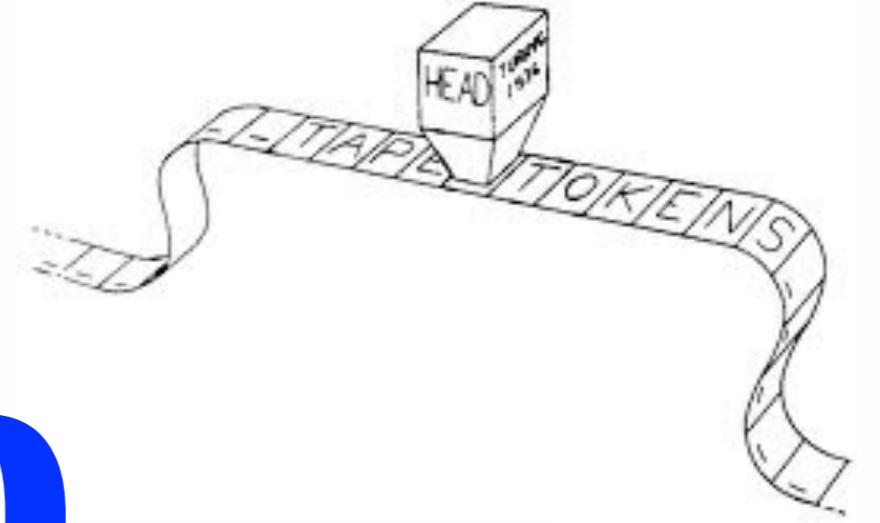
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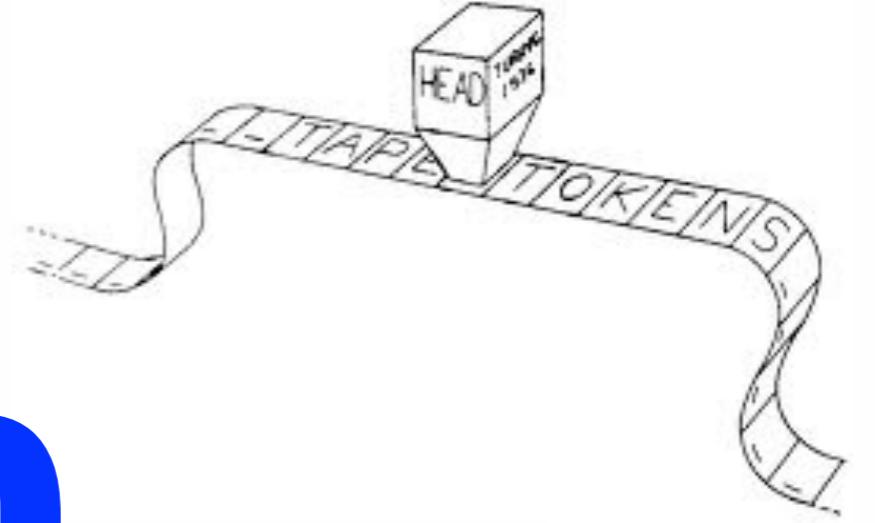
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Configurations =  $A^* \times \underline{Q} \times A^*$

# Turing machines (any atoms)



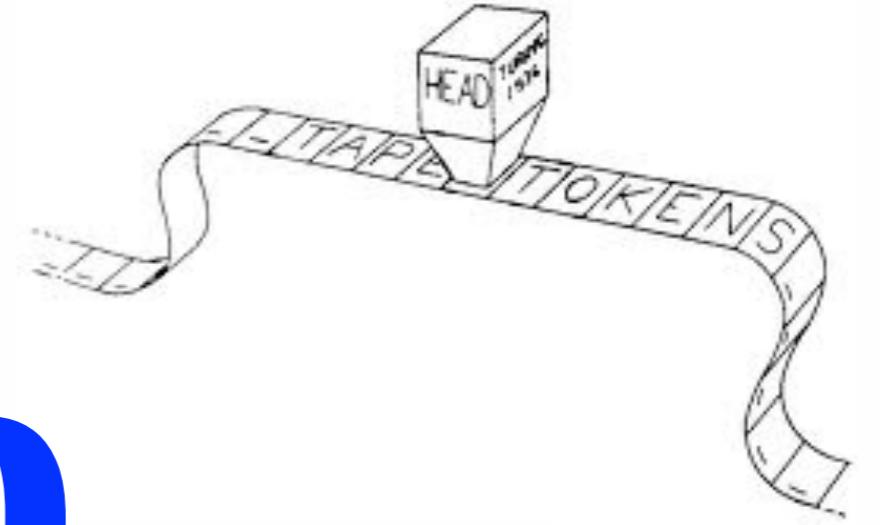
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Deterministic machines:

- $\delta : \underline{Q} \times A \rightarrow \underline{Q} \times A \times \{\leftarrow, \rightarrow, \downarrow\}$

# Turing machines (any atoms)



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Deterministic machines:

- $\delta : \underline{Q} \times A \rightarrow \underline{Q} \times A \times \{\leftarrow, \rightarrow, \downarrow\}$

Consider only atoms ( $N, =$ ) in this presentation

input alphabet: atoms

language:

tape alphabet:

states:

transitions:

atoms  $\times$  (a finite set)

input alphabet: atoms

language:

tape alphabet:

states:

transitions:

input alphabet: atoms

language: "no atom appears twice":  
 $\{a_1 a_2 \dots a_n : a_i \neq a_j \text{ when } i \neq j\}$

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states:

transitions:

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tape alphabet:  $A = \text{atoms} \cup \{\perp\}$

states:

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transitions:	$\delta : Q \times A \rightarrow Q \times A \times \{\leftarrow, \rightarrow, \downarrow\}$
	$\delta(\text{start}, a) = (\underline{a}, \perp, \rightarrow) \quad a \in \text{atoms}$

if in state **start** atom  $a$  is read from tape, goto state  $\underline{a}$ , write  $\perp$  on tape, and move right

input alphabet: atoms

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$$\delta(\text{start}, a) = (\underline{a}, \perp, \rightarrow) \quad a \in \text{atoms}$$

$$\delta(\underline{a}, b) = (\underline{a}, b, \rightarrow) \quad a \neq b, a, b \in \text{atoms}$$

if in state  $\underline{a}$  atom  $b \neq a$   
is read from tape, stay  
in state  $\underline{a}$ , write  $b$  on  
tape, and move right

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$$\delta(\text{start}, B) = (\text{accept}, B, \rightarrow)$$

# Do TMs determinize?

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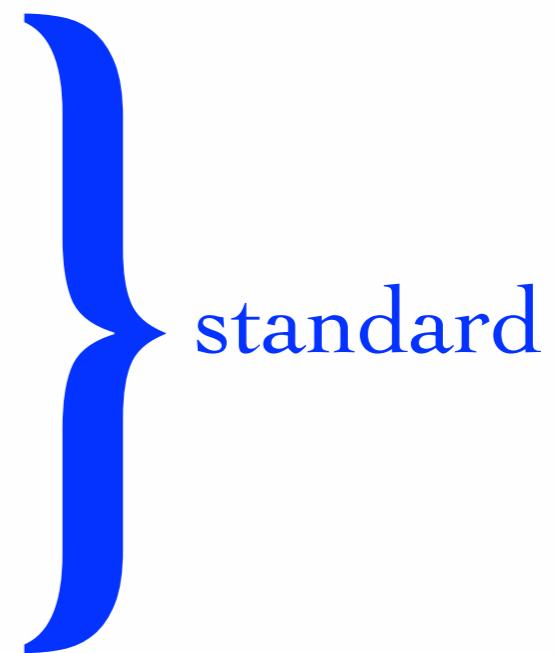
Example alphabets:

- atoms
- ordered pairs of atoms
- unordered pairs of atoms
- unordered pairs of ordered pairs of atoms
- ordered triples of pairs of atoms modulo even number of flips

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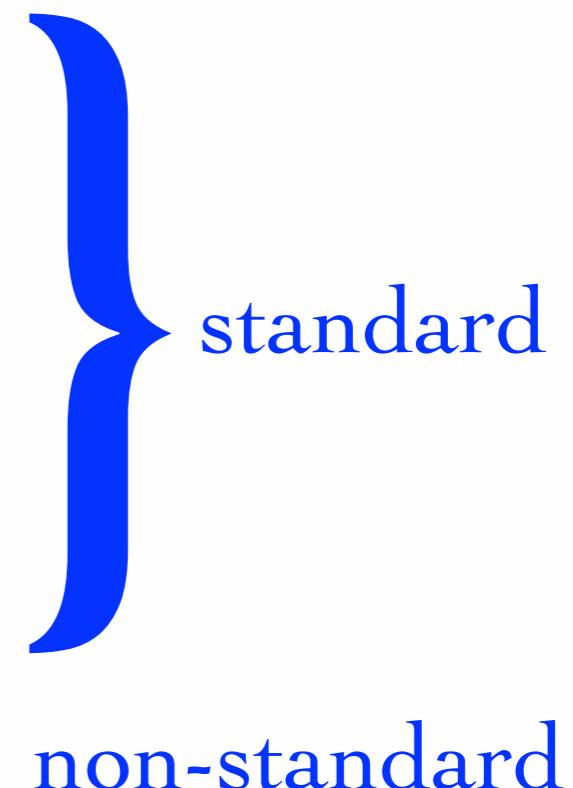
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- 
- standard
- non-standard

# alphabet: atoms

alphabet: atoms



a b a e d d c d f d g y h e u s e d f e r g f f e d s

alphabet: atoms

guess an atom  
different than h

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de-atomization:

alphabet: atoms

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## de-atomization:

- replacing atoms with binary encodings

a	1
b	101
e	1001
d	10001
c	...

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Fact: TMs over this alphabet do determinize

alphabet: ordered pairs of atoms

$$(a, b) \in \text{atoms}^2 \quad a \neq b$$

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- nodes (atoms) can be computed using projections

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- then any decidable property of directed graphs can be decided deterministically

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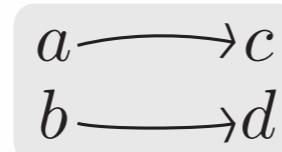
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alphabet: unordered pairs of ordered pairs of atoms

$$\{(a, c), (b, d)\}$$

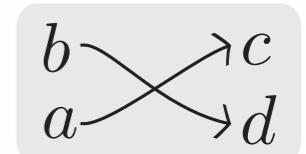
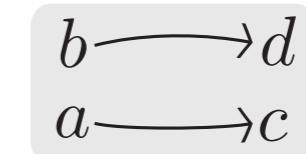
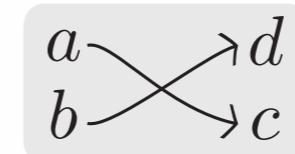
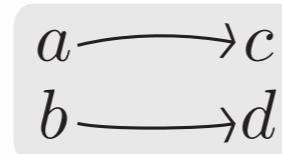
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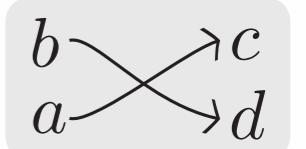
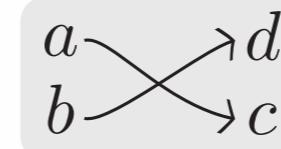
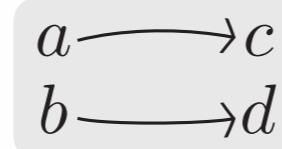
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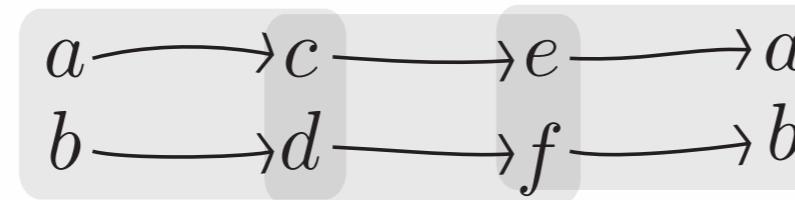


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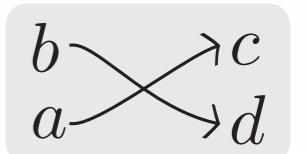
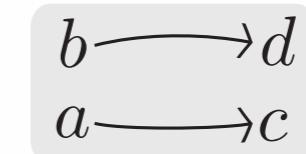
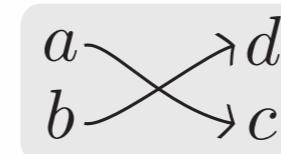
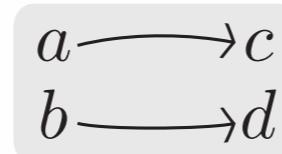


simple strips:

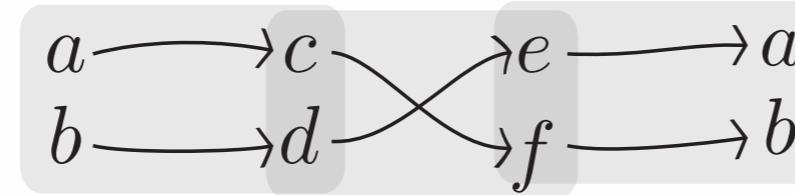
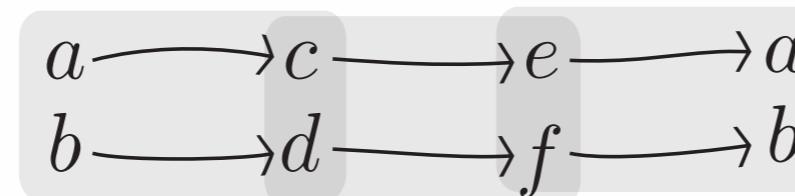


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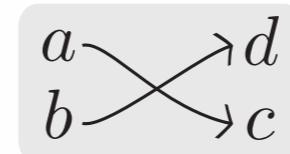
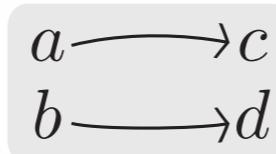
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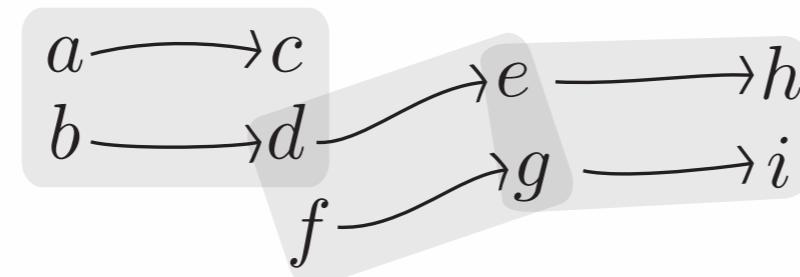
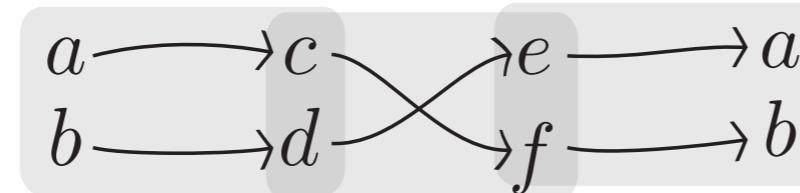
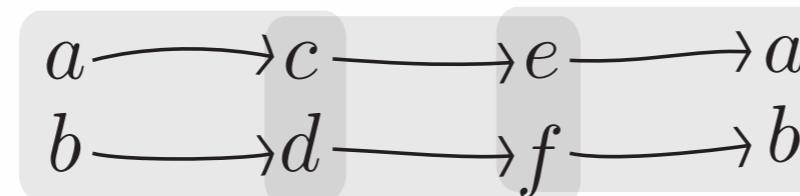
is not a simple strip

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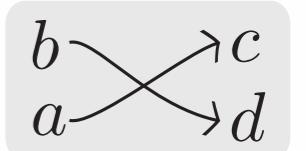
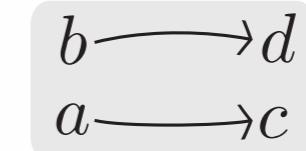
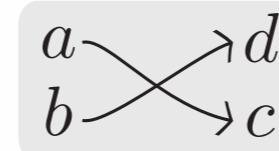
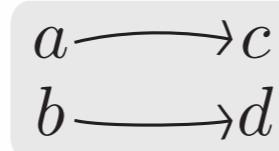


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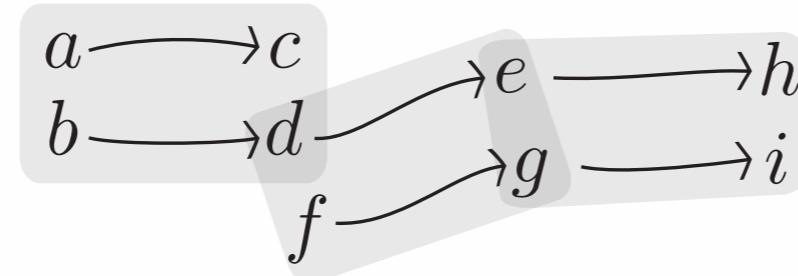
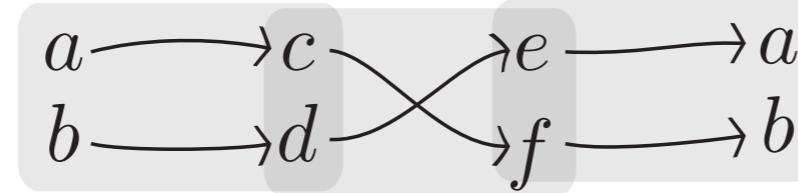
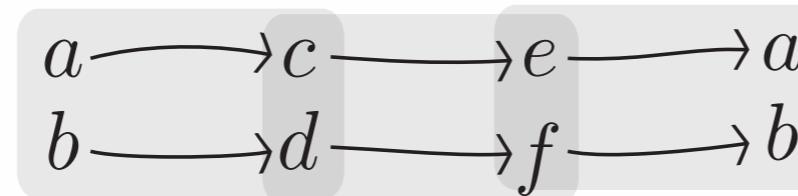
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simple strips:



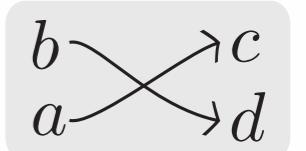
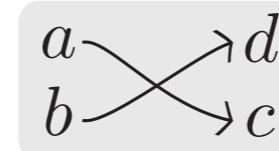
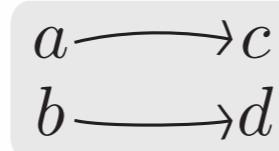
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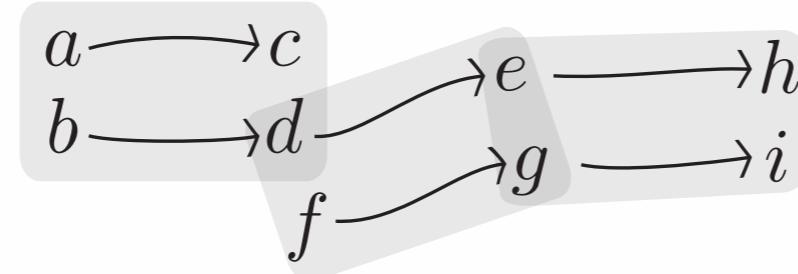
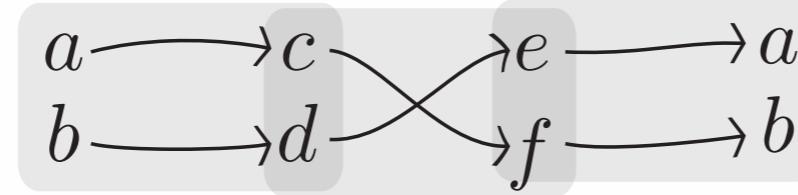
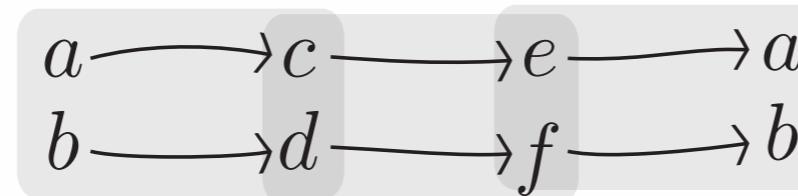
Are simple strips recognized by a **nondeterministic** TM?

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simple strips:



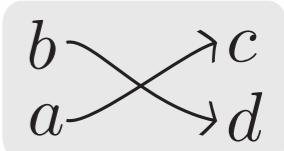
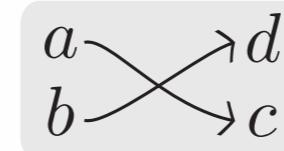
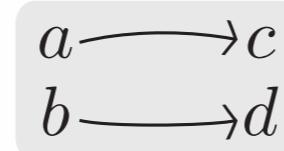
is not a simple strip

neither

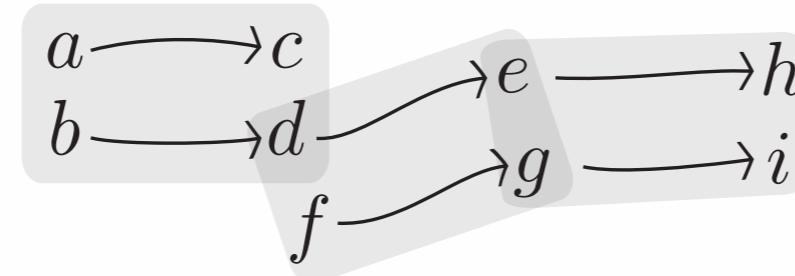
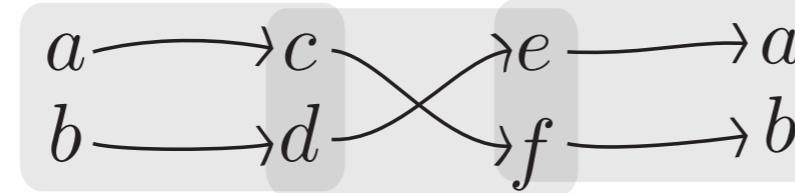
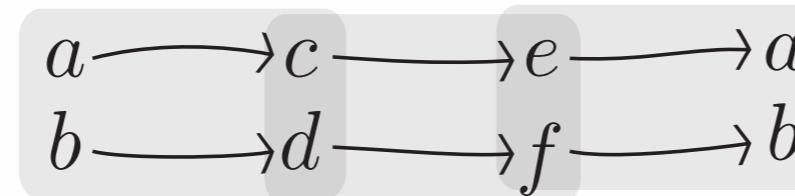
Are simple strips recognized by a **deterministic** TM?

alphabet: unordered pairs of ordered pairs of atoms

$$\{(a, c), (b, d)\}$$



simple strips:



is not a simple strip

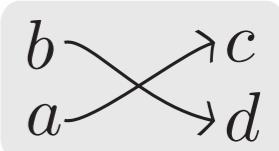
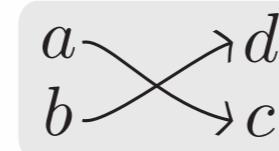
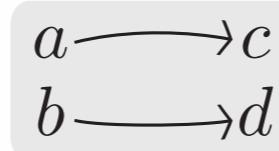
neither

Are simple strips recognized by a **deterministic TM**?

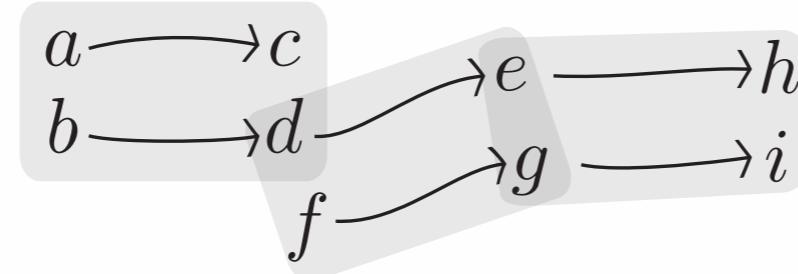
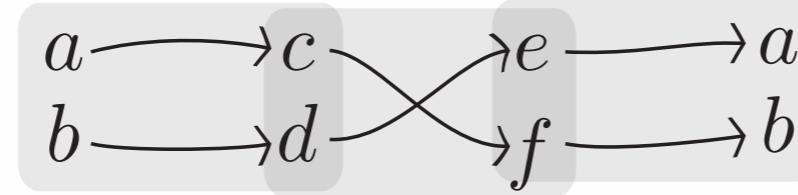
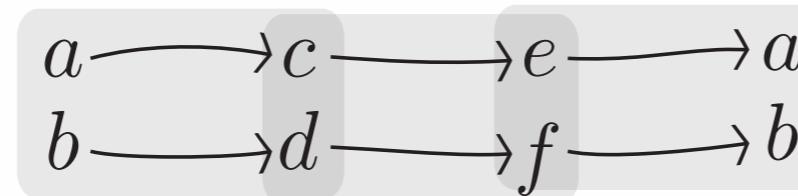
$$\left( \begin{array}{c} a \longrightarrow c \\ b \longrightarrow d \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} c \longrightarrow e \\ d \longrightarrow f \end{array} \right) \mapsto \begin{array}{c} a \longrightarrow e \\ b \longrightarrow f \end{array}$$

alphabet: unordered pairs of ordered pairs of atoms

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simple strips:



is not a simple strip

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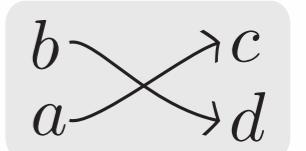
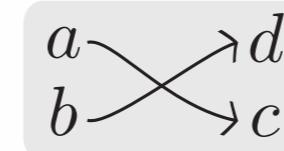
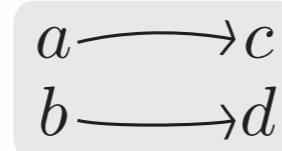
Are simple strips recognized by a **deterministic TM**?

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} a \rightarrow c \\ b \rightarrow d \end{array}, \begin{array}{l} c \rightarrow e \\ d \rightarrow f \end{array} \right) \mapsto \begin{array}{l} a \rightarrow e \\ b \rightarrow f \end{array}$$

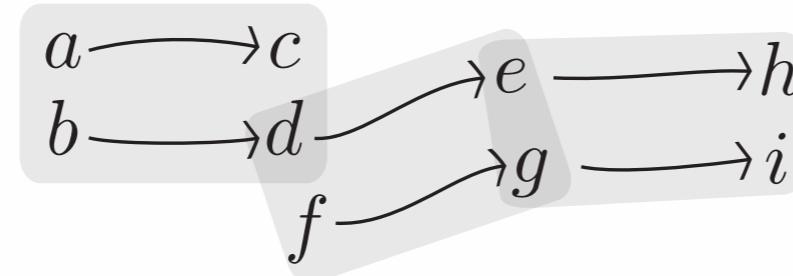
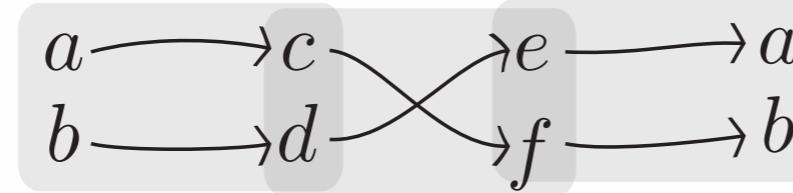
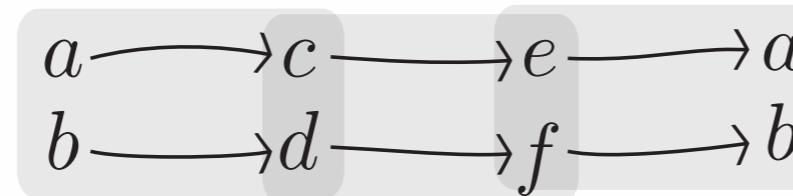
$$\begin{array}{l} a \rightarrow a \\ b \rightarrow b \end{array}$$

alphabet: unordered pairs of ordered pairs of atoms

$$\{(a, c), (b, d)\}$$



simple strips:



is not a simple strip

neither

Are simple strips recognized by a **deterministic** TM?

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$$\begin{array}{c} a \rightarrow a \\ b \rightarrow b \end{array}$$

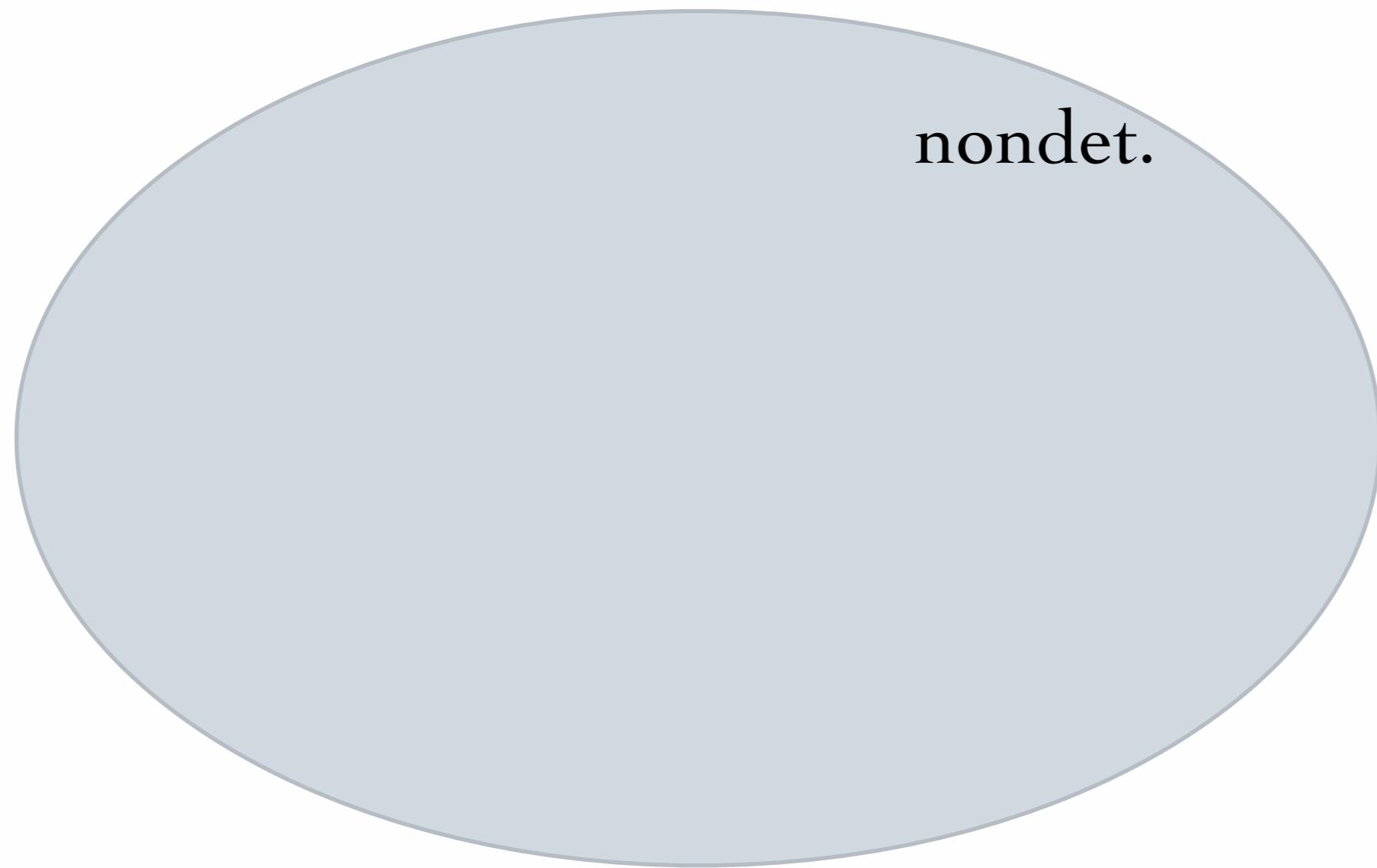
Fact: TMs over this alphabet do determinize

## Theorem:

There is an alphabet  $A$ , and a language over  $A$  that is in NP but is not recognizable by a deterministic TM.

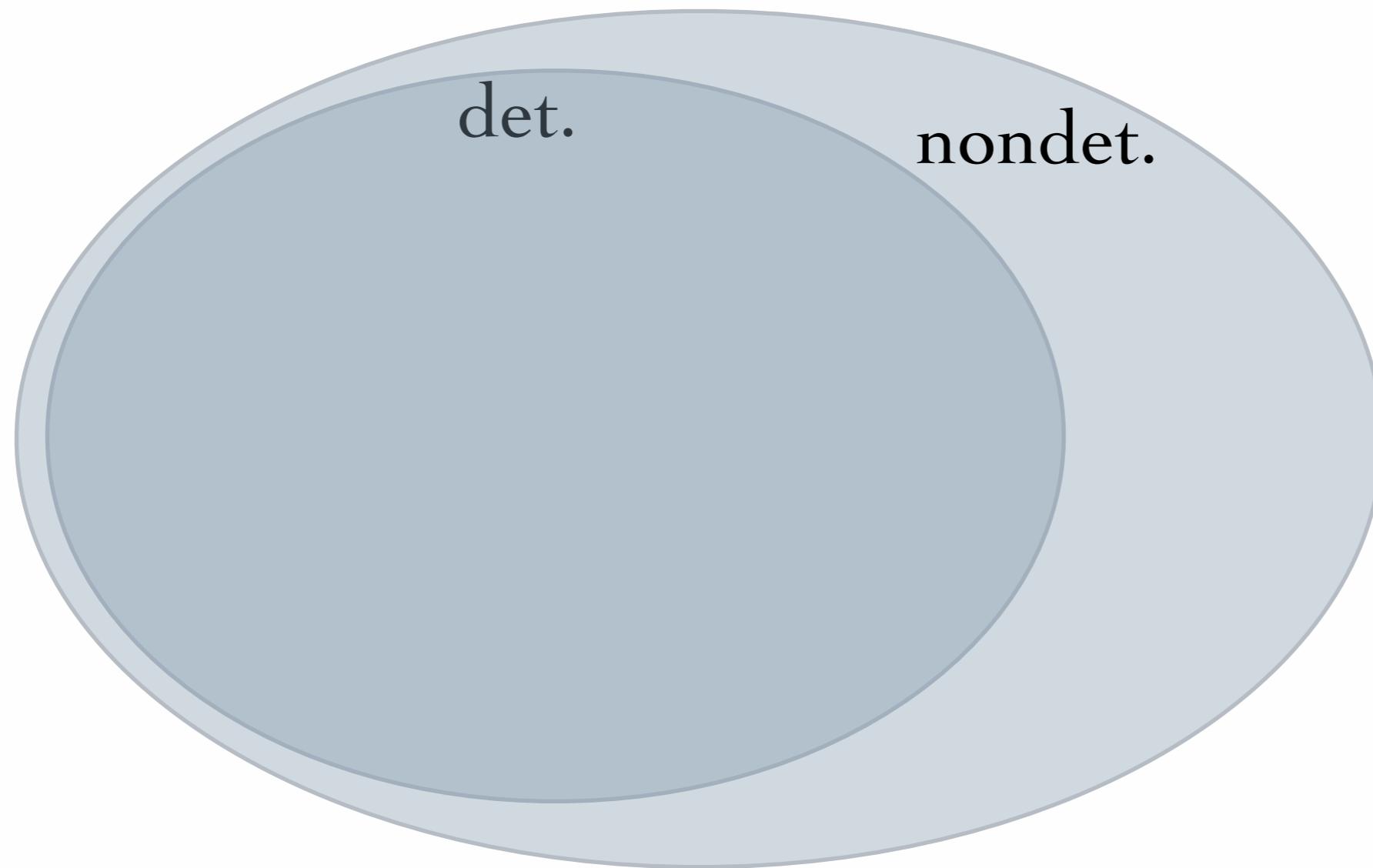
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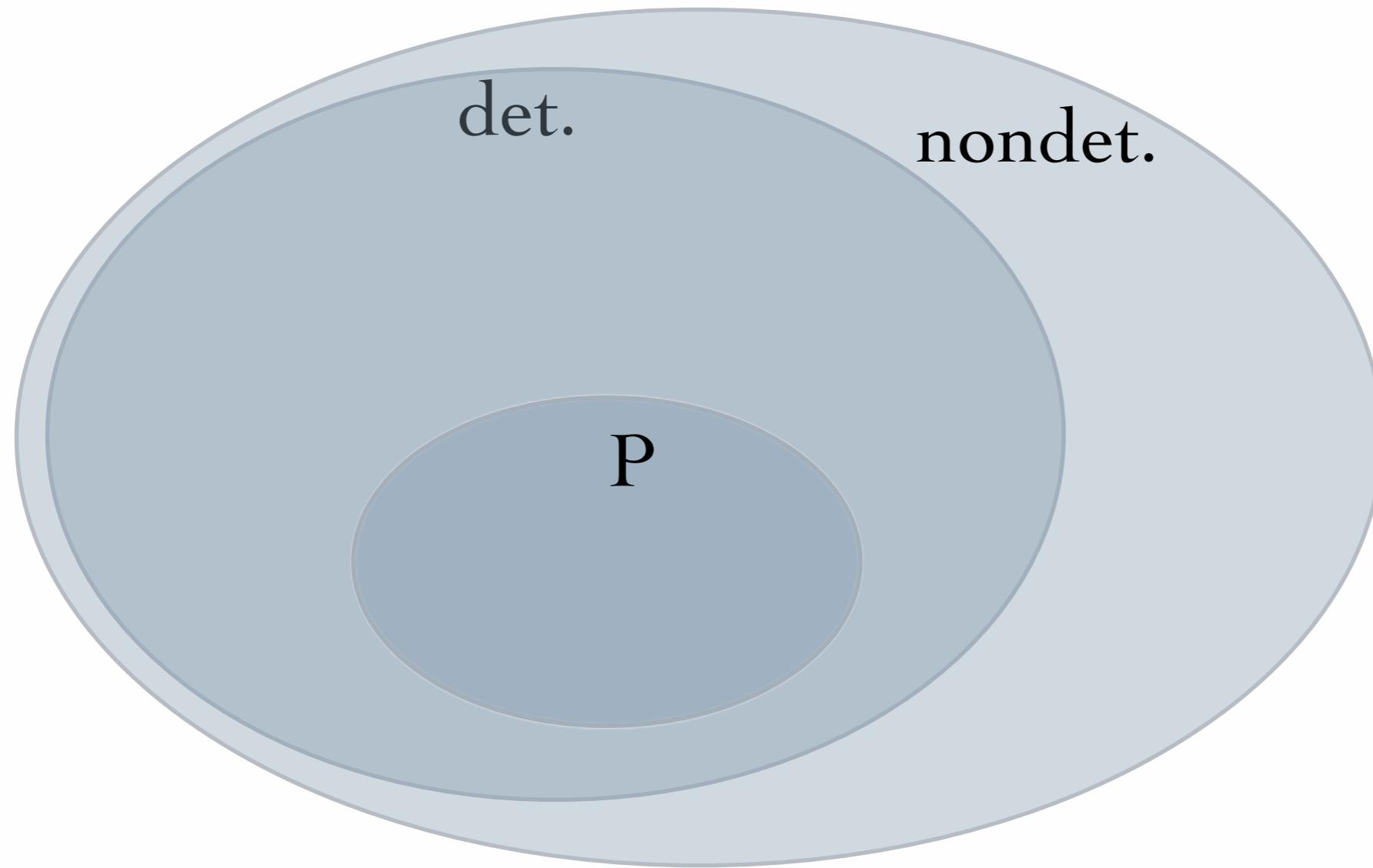
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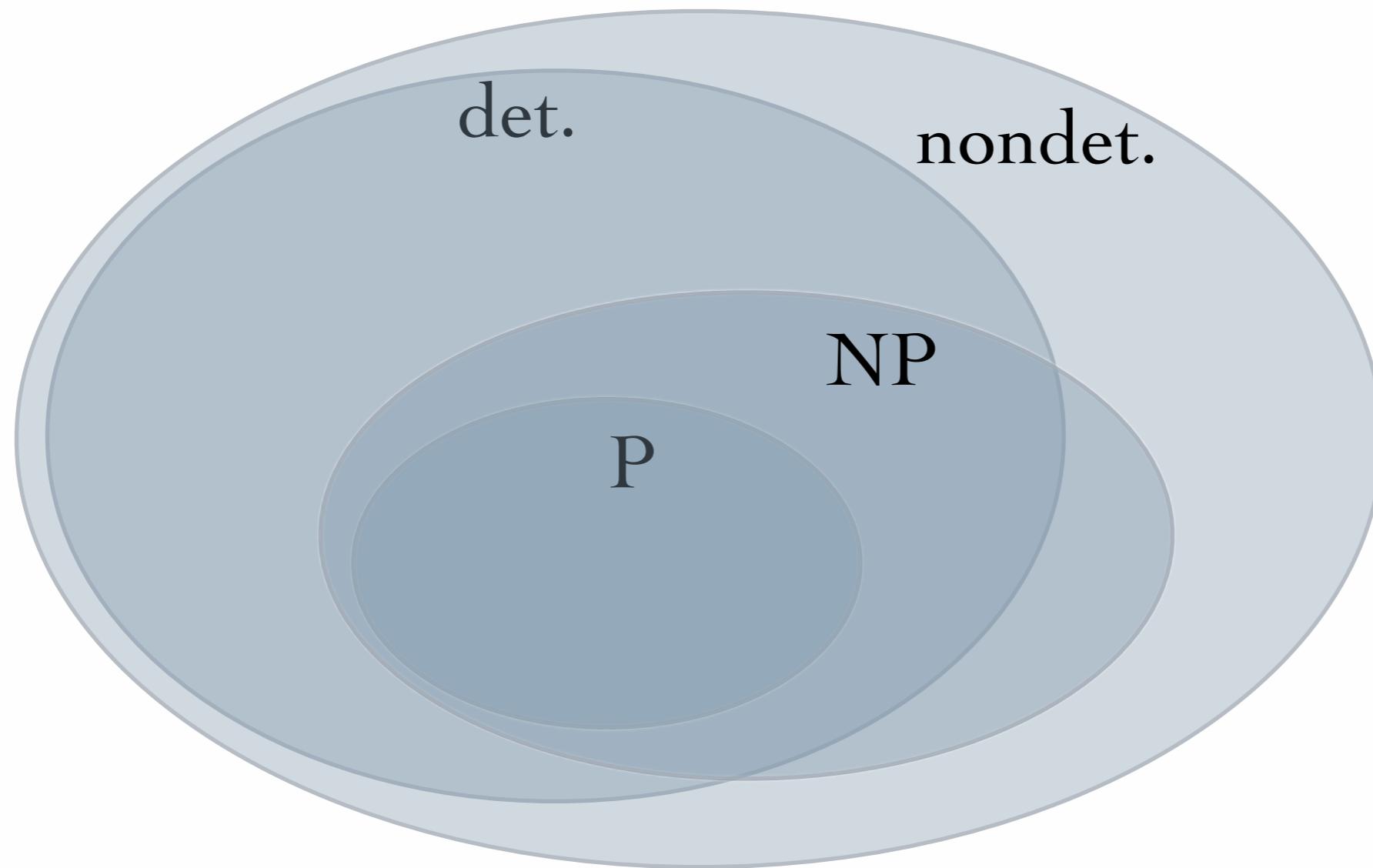
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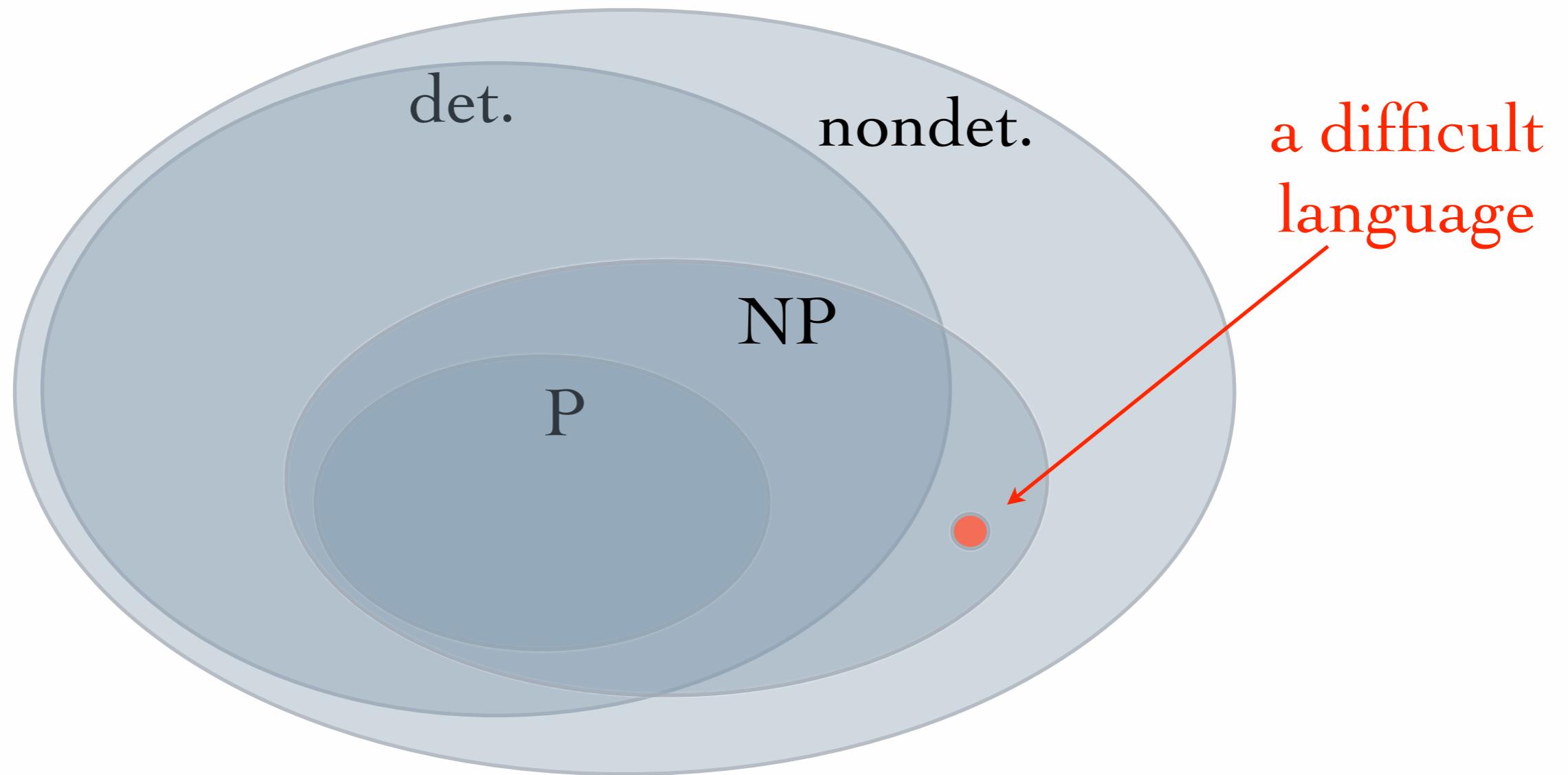
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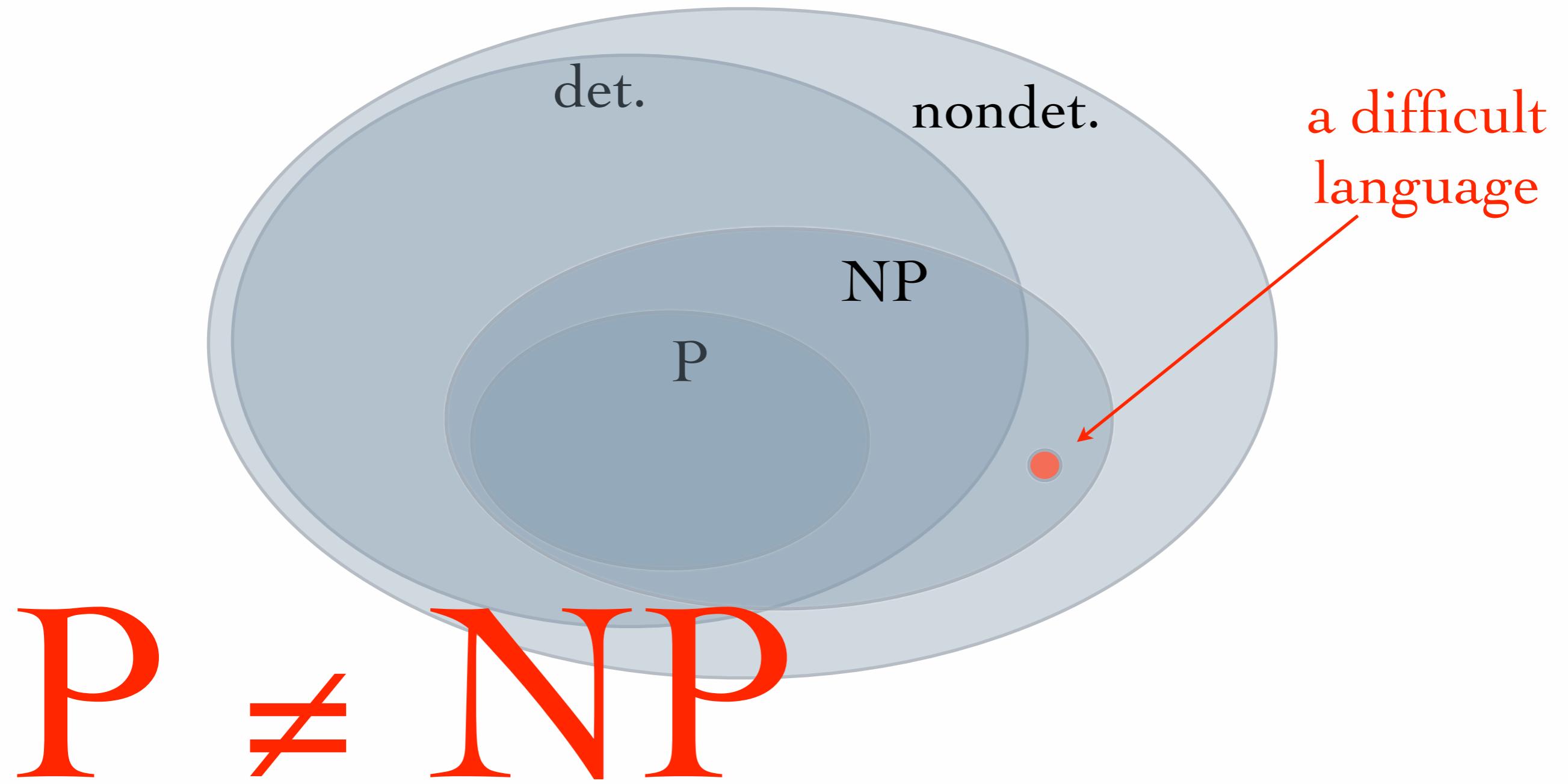
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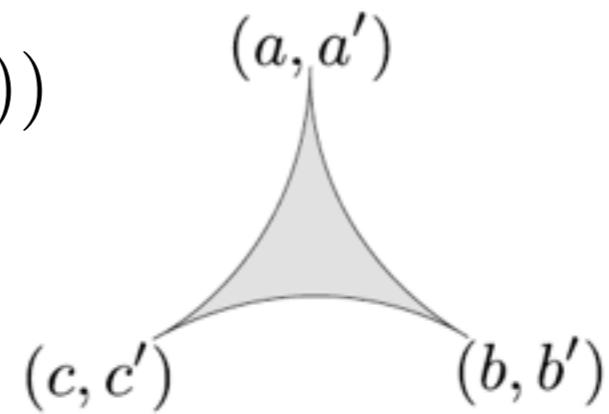
There is an alphabet  $A$ , and a language over  $A$  that is in NP but is not recognizable by a deterministic TM.



alphabet: ordered triples of ordered pairs of atoms  
modulo even number of flips

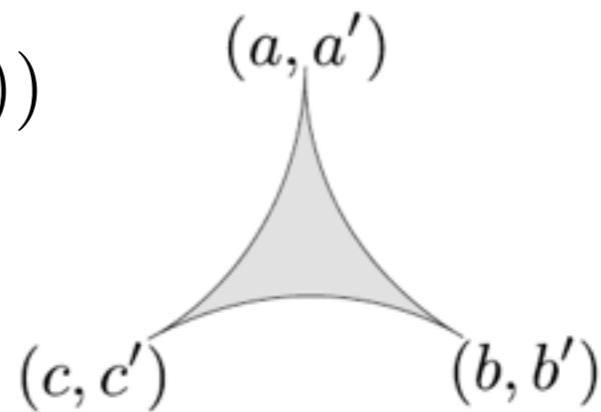
alphabet: ordered triples of ordered pairs of atoms  
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Triangle =  $((a, a'), (b, b'), (c, c'))$



alphabet: ordered triples of ordered pairs of atoms  
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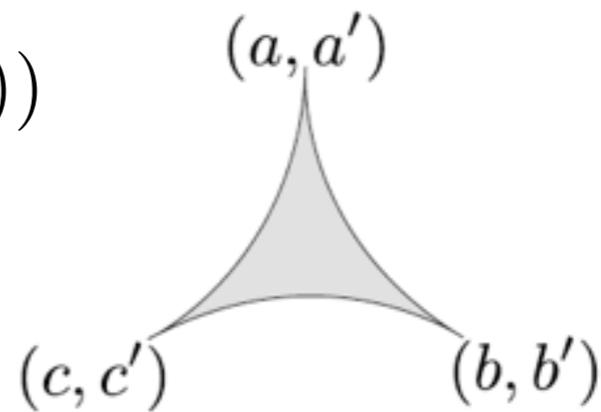
Triangle =  $((a, a'), (b, b'), (c, c'))$



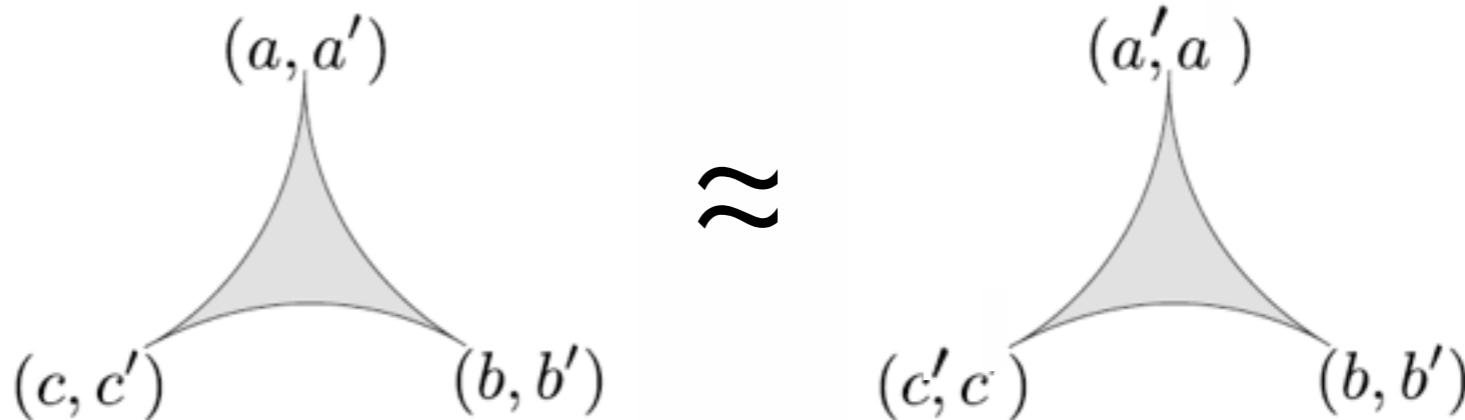
Let triangles with same pairs be equivalent if exactly two pairs are flipped:

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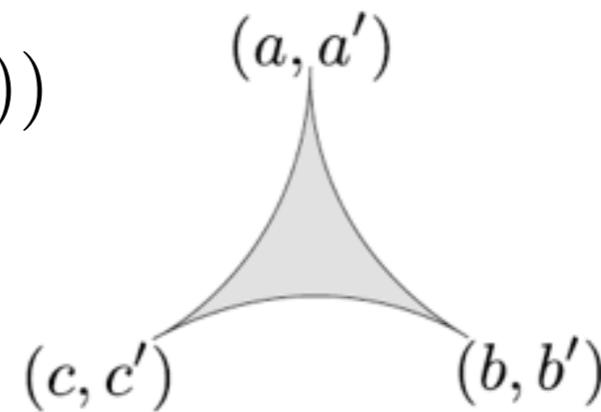


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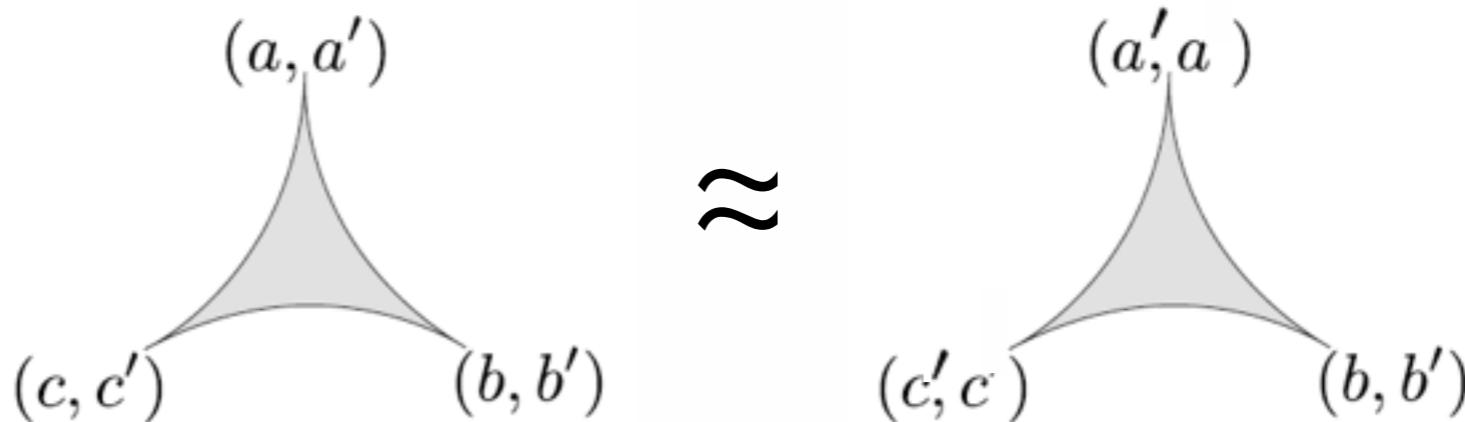


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Triangle =  $((a, a'), (b, b'), (c, c'))$



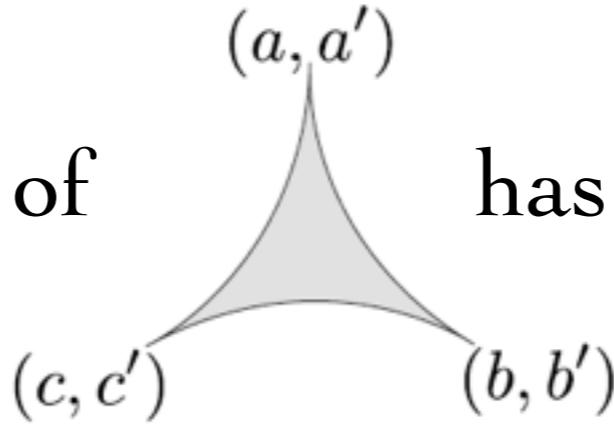
Let triangles with same pairs be equivalent if exactly two pairs are flipped:



Alphabet = equivalence classes of triangles

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equivalence class of

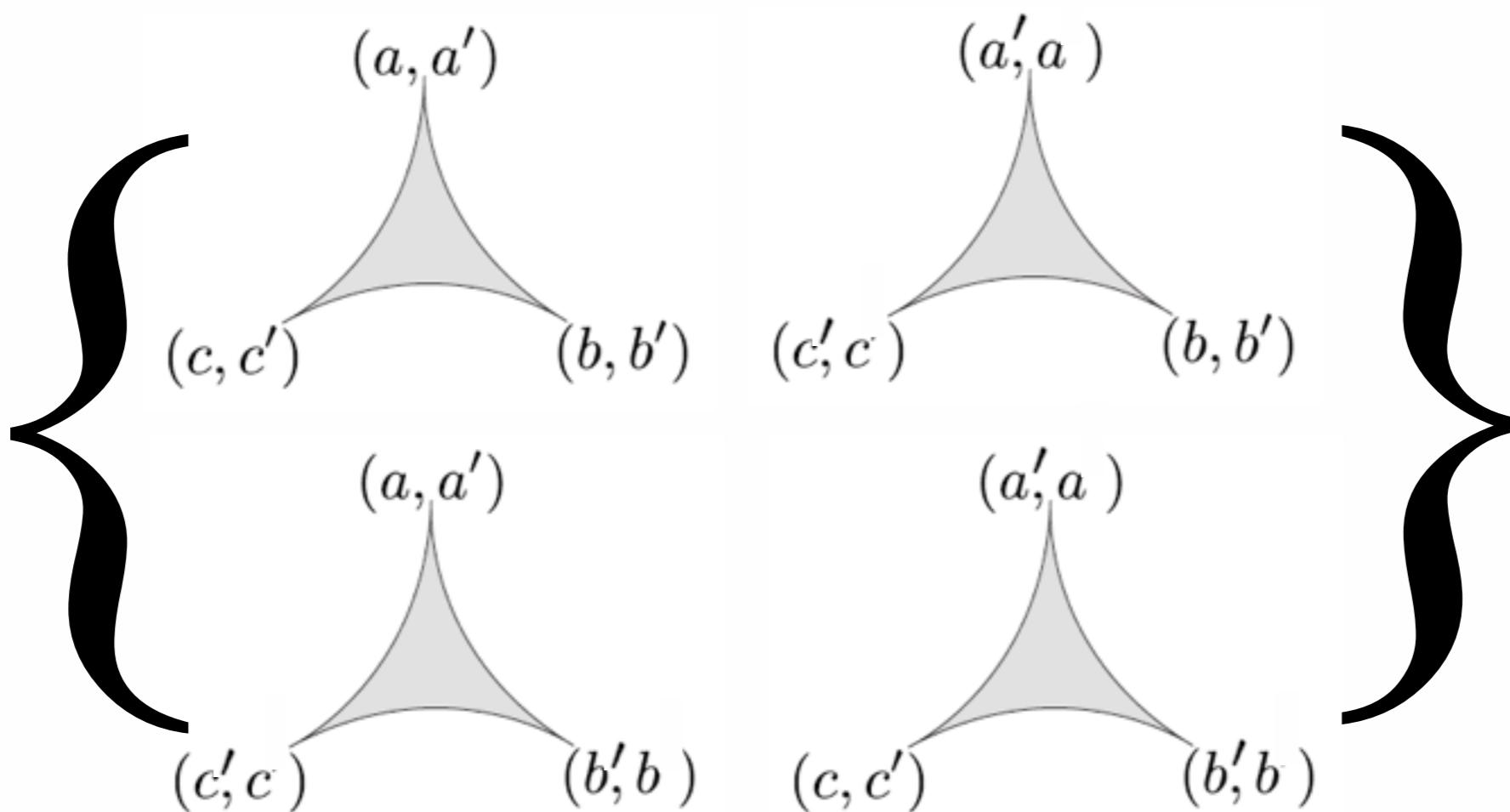


has four elements:

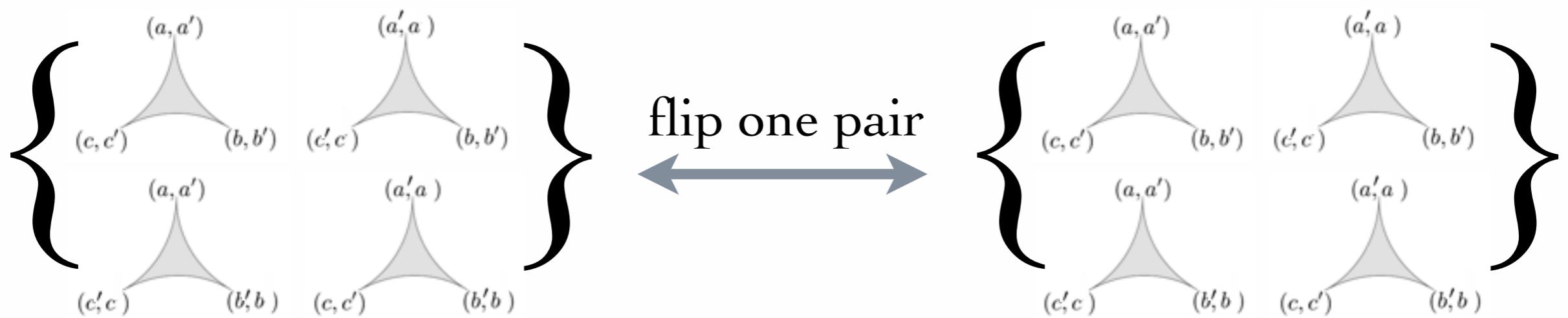
alphabet: ordered triples of ordered pairs of atoms  
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equivalence class of  $(a, a')$  has four elements:

$(c, c')$   $(b, b')$

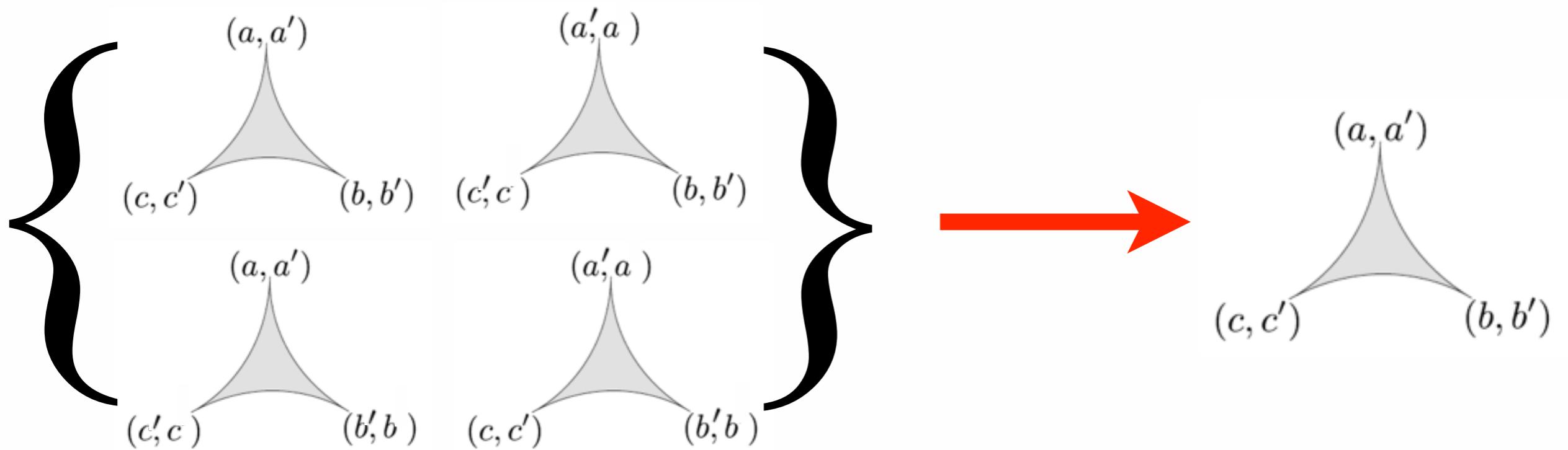


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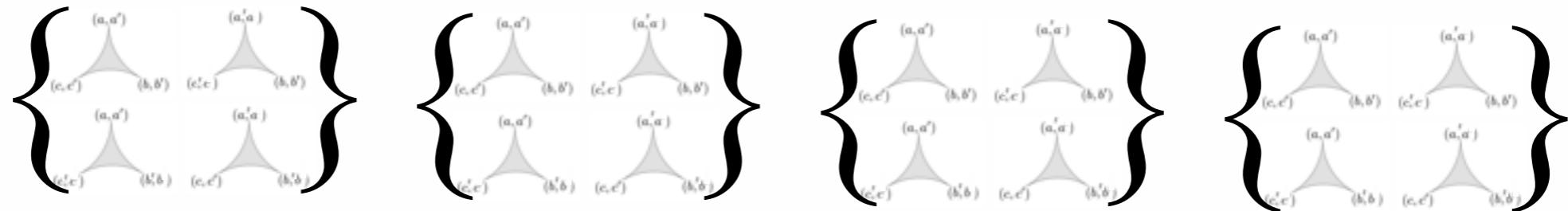


alphabet: ordered triples of ordered pairs of atoms  
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there is no function!



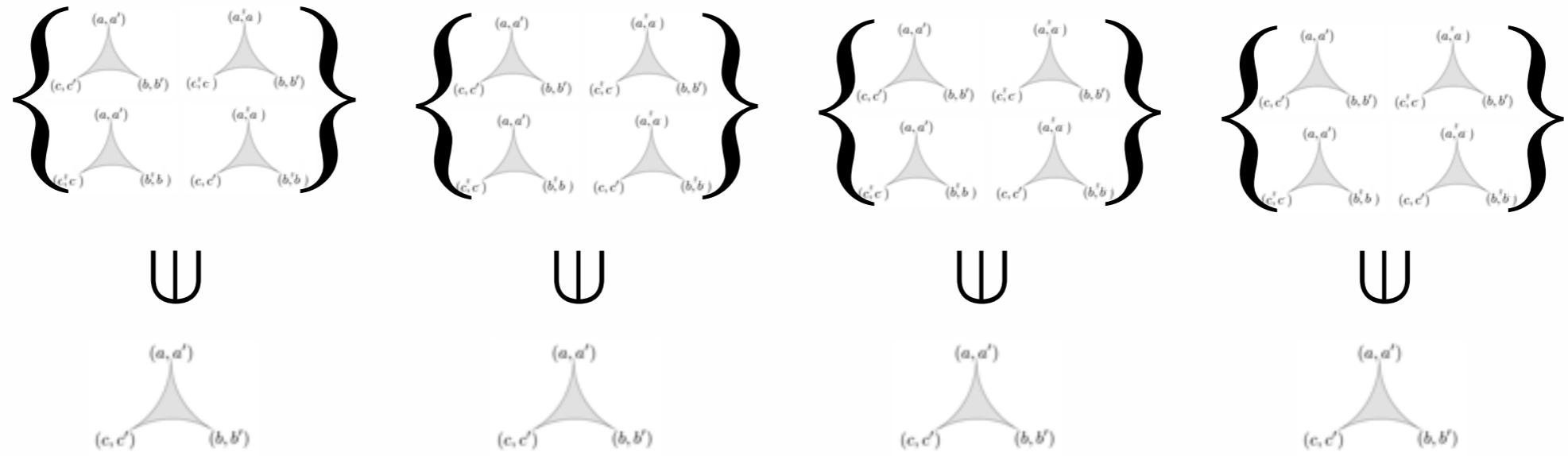
# difficult language



...

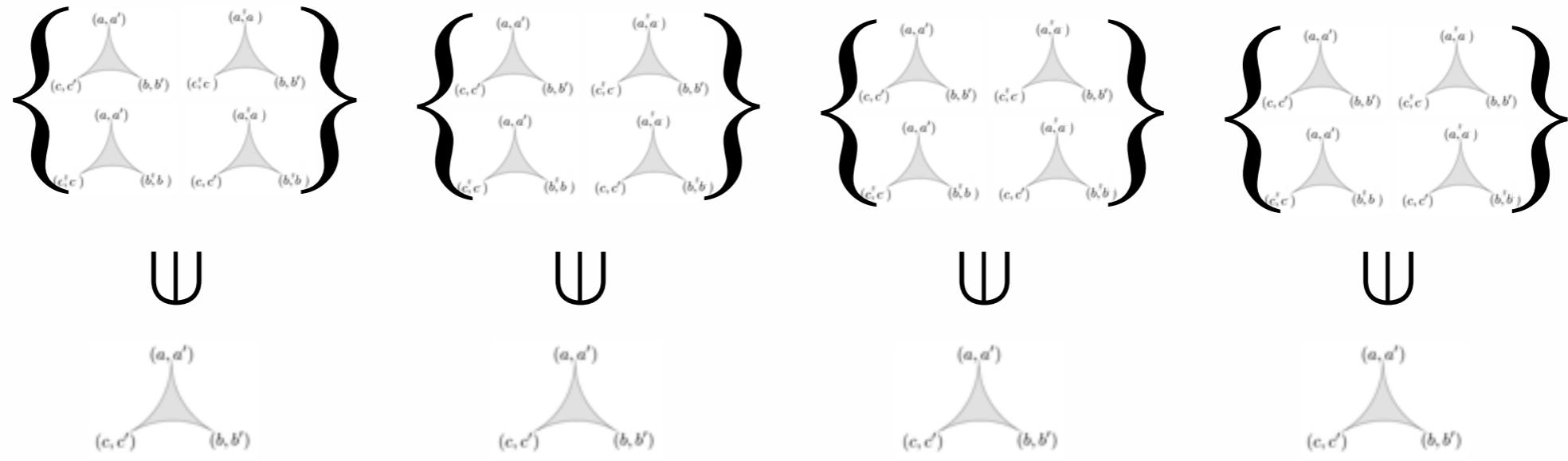
# difficult language

sequence  
of  
elements



# difficult language

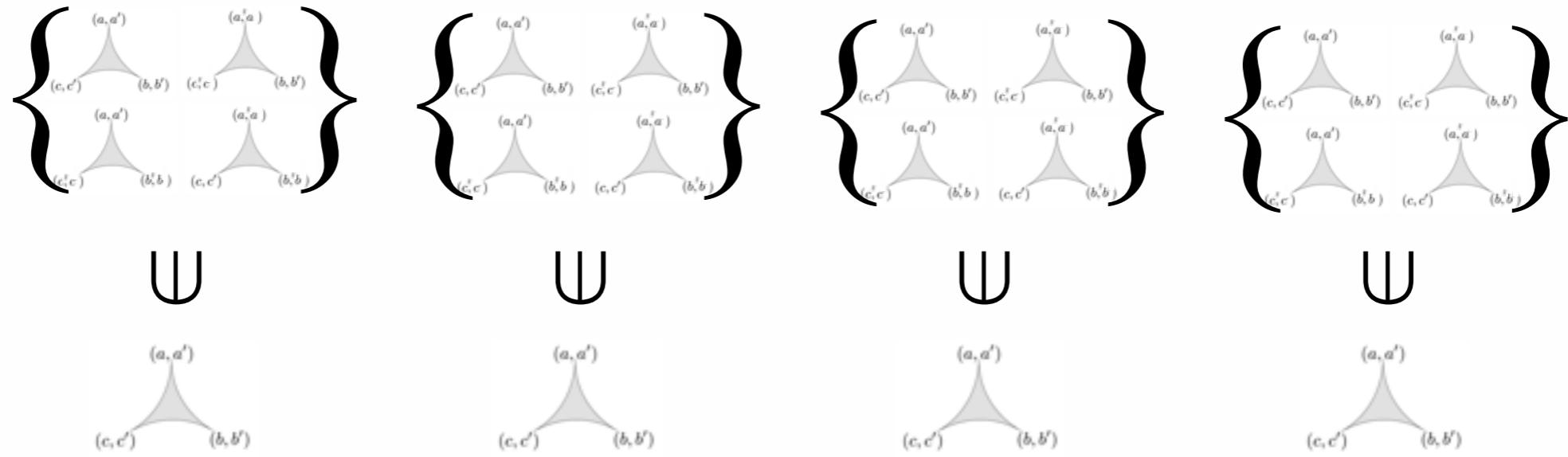
sequence  
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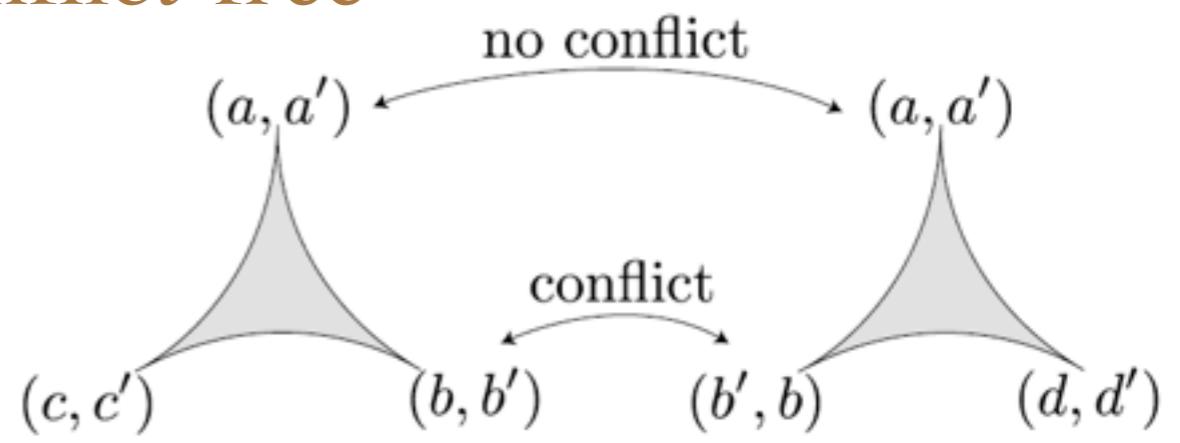
Language: a word is in the language iff  
some sequence of elements is **conflict-free**

# difficult language

sequence  
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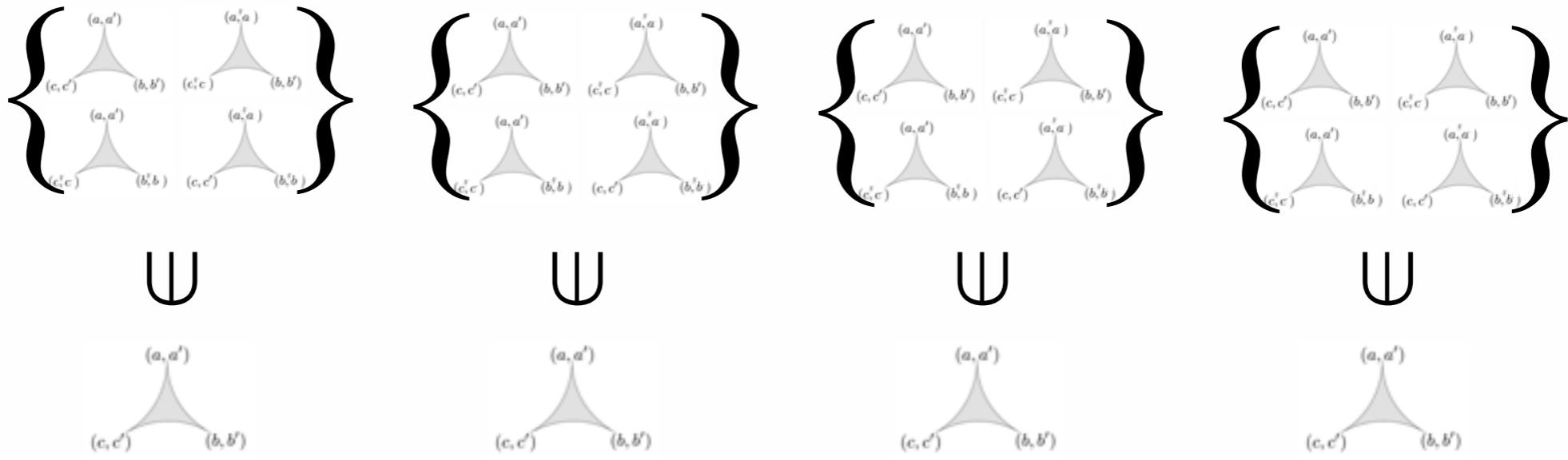


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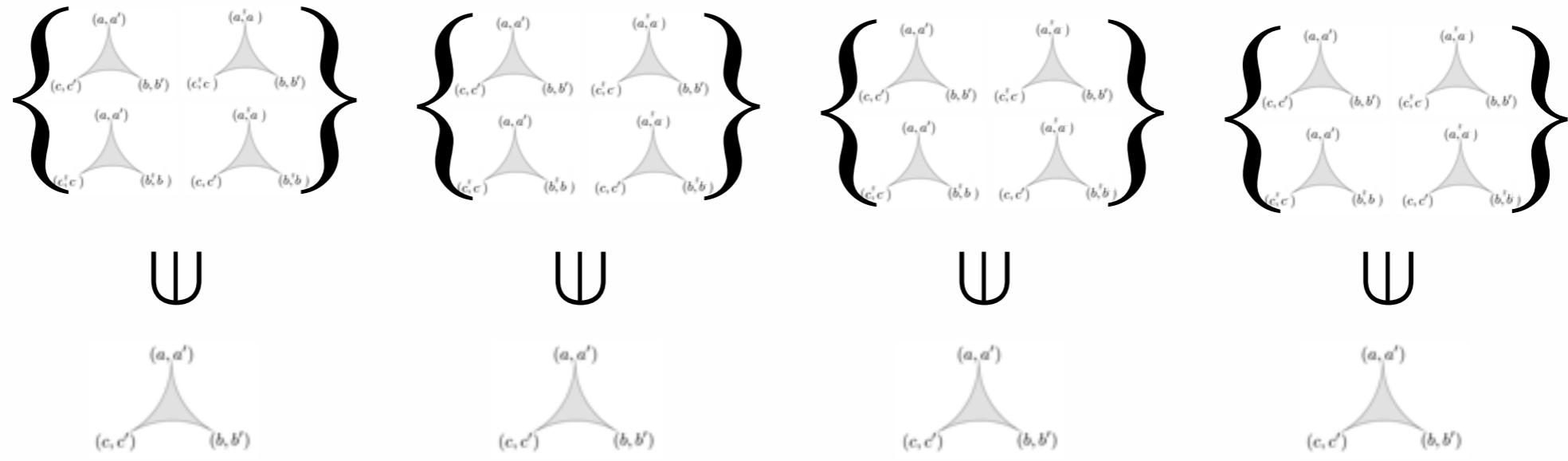


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closely related to Cai-Fuerer-Immerman graphs (1992)

# difficult language

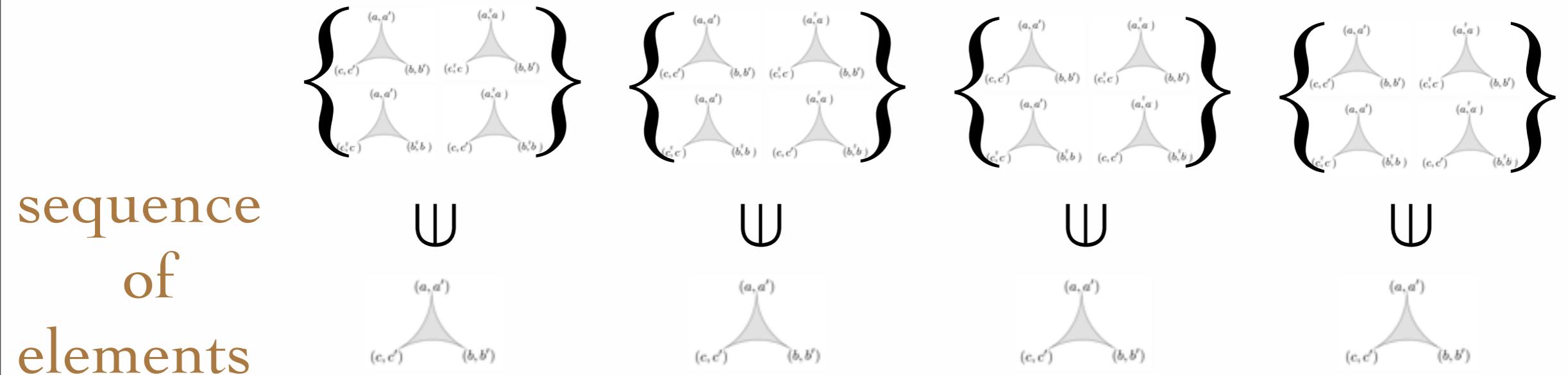
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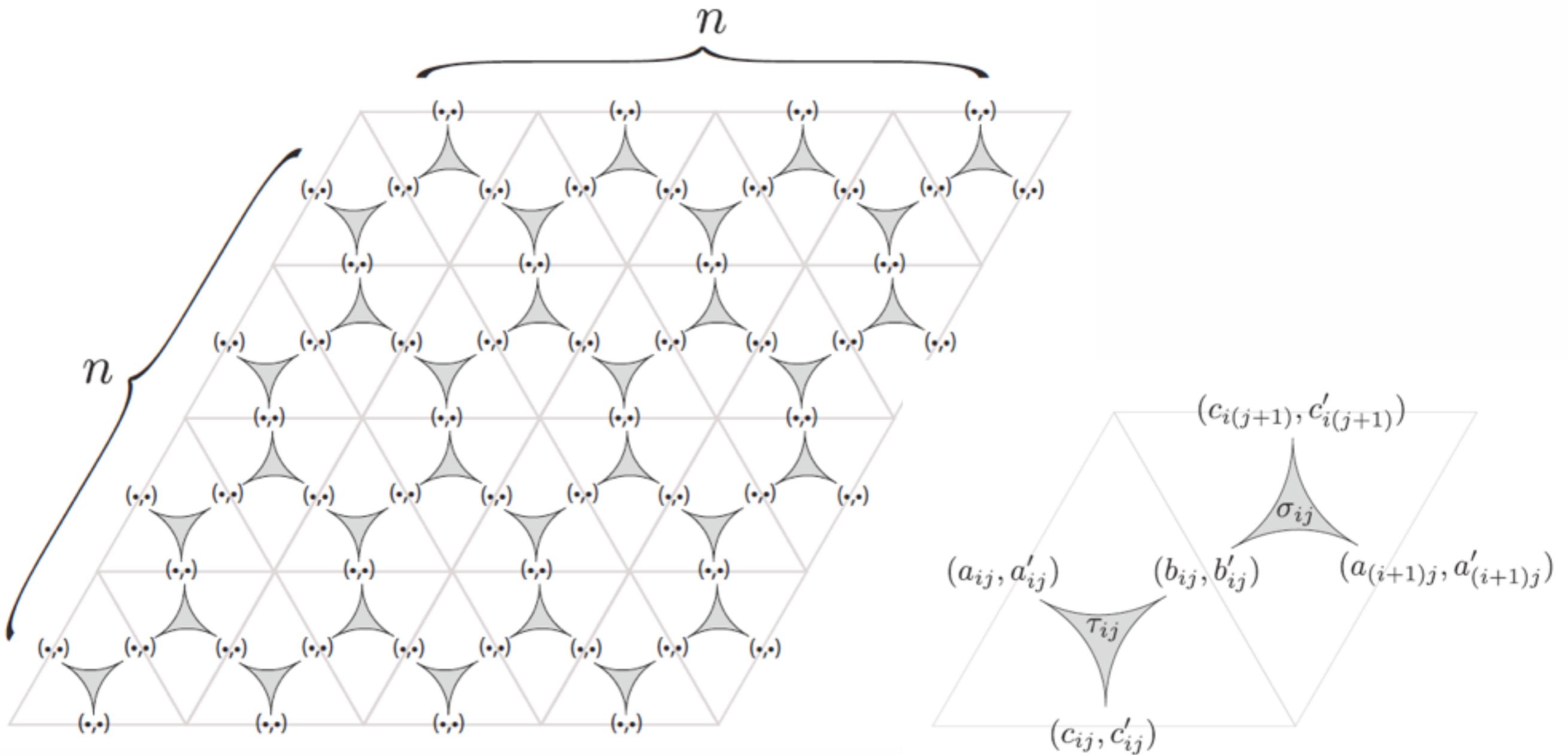


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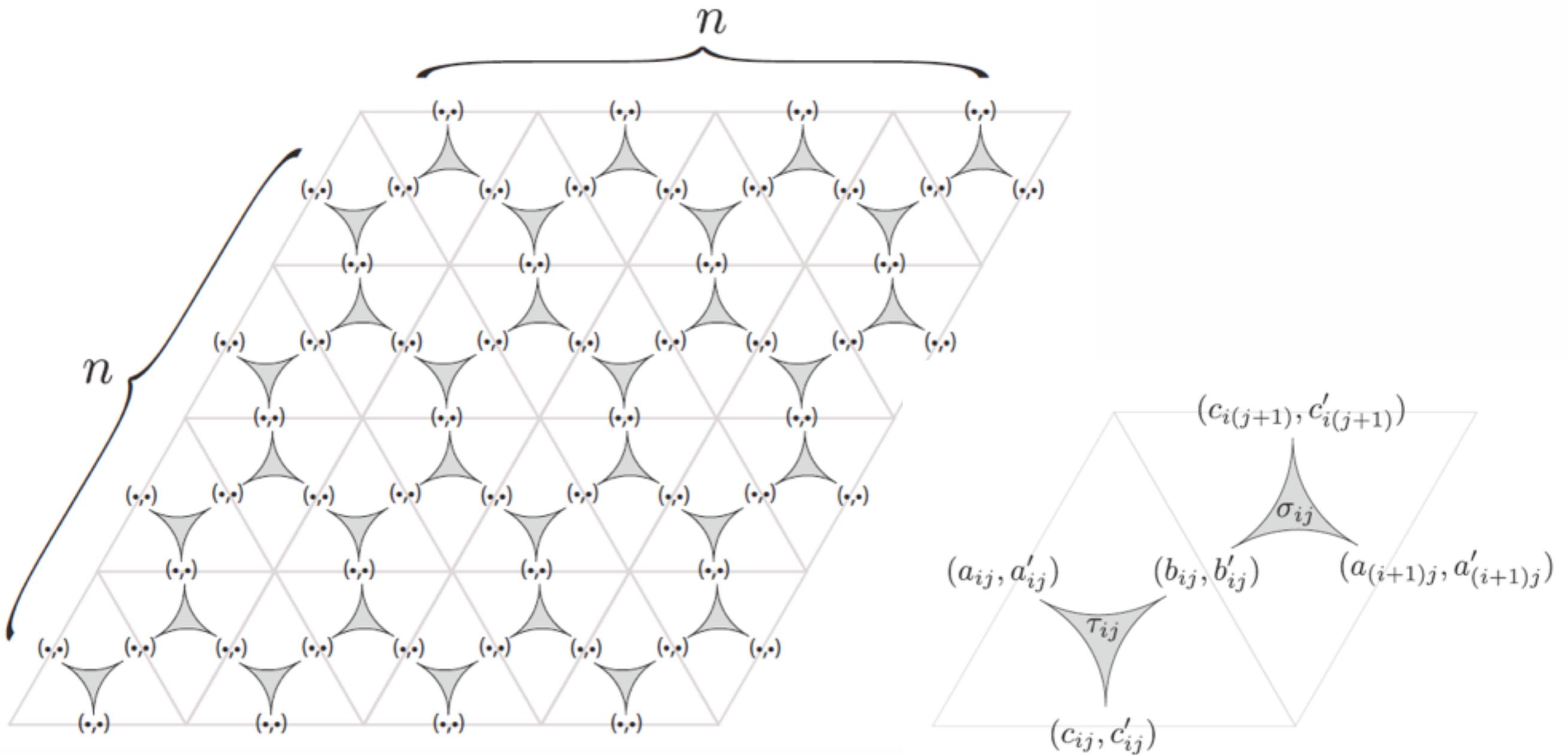
recognized in NP: guess a sequence of elements

not recognized by a deterministic machine:  
enumeration of sequences of elements is not  
doable by a deterministic machine

# difficult language



# difficult language



For sufficiently large size, deterministic machine can not distinguish an input torus from a "flipped" one

# recent and on-going work

- effective characterization of standard alphabets using CSP theory
- model-theoretic characterization of standard alphabets (homogenizability)
- generalization to other well-behaved atoms
- applications to descriptive complexity
- characterization of standard atoms
- ...

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many interesting links to other fields

# open problems

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sets with atoms ( $\mathbb{N}$ ,  $=$ )

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classical sets	sets with atoms ( $N, =$ )
general Petri nets	elementary nets

# open problems

- are standard alphabets closed under union?
- is every deterministic TM equivalent to a Petri net with tape alphabet equal to input alphabet?
- explore the complexity of reachability problem for places:  
places: atoms  $\times$  (a finite set)
- translate and investigate the equivalence of sets with atoms ( $N, =$ )

classical sets	sets with atoms ( $N, =$ )
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# open problems

- are standard alphabets closed under union?
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- translate and investigate sets with atoms ( $N, =$ )

classical sets	sets with atoms ( $N, =$ )
general Petri nets	elementary nets
data Petri nets	general Petri nets

# visit our blog

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "Atompress | Computation with atoms". The address bar contains "atoms.mimuw.edu.pl". The main content area displays a blog post titled "COMPUTATION WITH ATOMS". The post discusses sets with atoms and their various names. It includes links to "A book in progress" and "People". Below the post, there's a section for "PAPERS" with a link to "CHARACTERIZATION OF STANDARD ALPHABETS". The sidebar on the left lists recent posts: "Characterization of Standard Alphabets", "Standard alphabets vs. homogenizability", "A conjecture concerning Brzozowski algorithm (PRIZE!)", "Derived alphabets", and "A pumping lemma for automata with atoms". There's also a "Log in" link.

# thank you!