



Computational Learning Theory

Learning Tree Patterns

Akihiro Yamamoto 山本 章博

<http://www.iip.ist.i.kyoto-u.ac.jp/member/akihiro/>
akihiro@i.kyoto-u.ac.jp



Contents

- Rooted, Ordered, Labeled and Ranked Trees
- Formal tree languages and tree patterns.
- Learning tree languages from positive data



Formal Languages

- Σ : a finite set of symbols and called an alphabet
- Σ^* : the set of all finite strings consisting of the symbols in Σ .
 - An empty string is denoted by ε .
 - $\Sigma^+ = \Sigma^* - \{\varepsilon\}$
- A formal language L on Σ is a subset of Σ^* .

Example

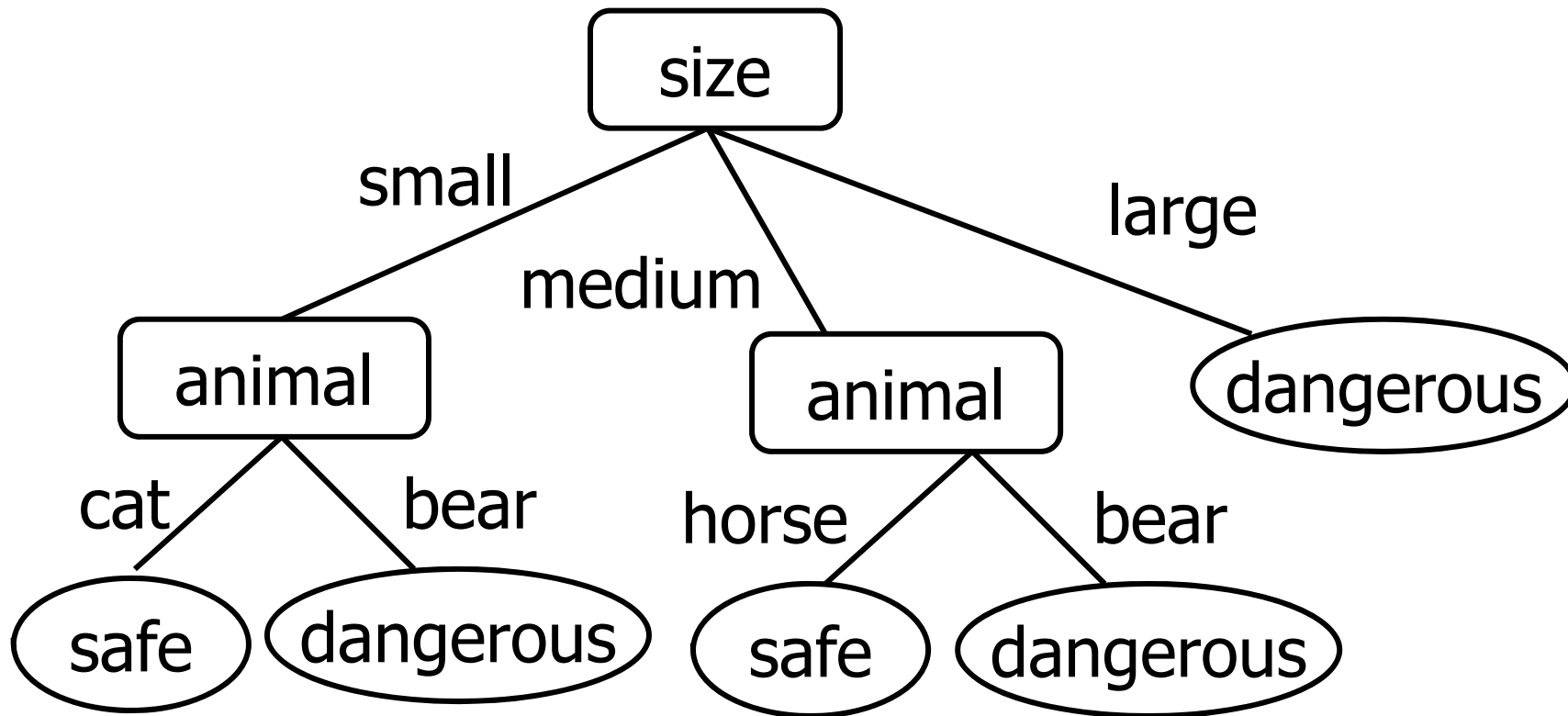
$$\Sigma = \{a, b\}$$

$$\Sigma^* = \{\varepsilon, a, b, aa, ab, ba, bb, aaa, aab, \dots\}$$

$$L = \{aab, abb, aaab, aabb, abab, abbb, \dots\}$$

Trees (1)

- Trees are very popular data structure in computer science.



Trees (2)

- Trees are very popular data structure in computer science.

Yahoo!天気情報
トップ > 福岡県 > 福岡(福岡県 福岡地方)

関連天気情報 今日・明日の天気
天気図 8月15日(水)

ひまわり画像
実況天気図
予想天気図

アメダス画像
気温
降水量
風
日照

Yahoo!関連コンテンツ
Yahoo!掲示板 - 福岡県

Yahoo!関連カテゴリ
地域情報 - 福岡県

最高気温(度) 35
風: 南東→北東 波: 1 m
降水確率(%) --- 10 20 10
時間帯(時) 0-6 6-12 12-18 18-24

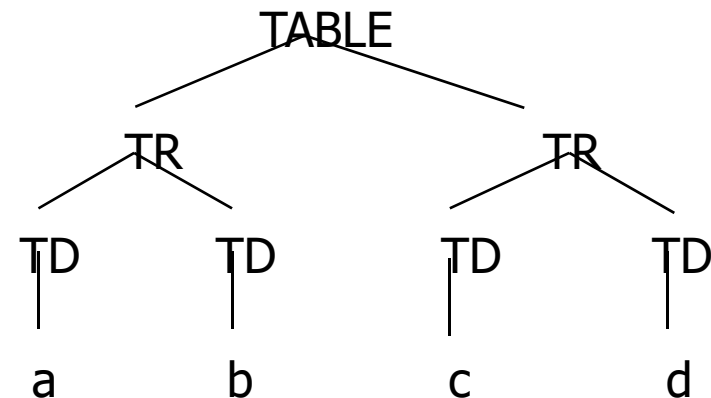
警報注意報
生活指数 - 洗濯指数・紫外線指数・肌荒れ指数

今週の天気
8月17日(金) 8月18日(土) 8月19日(日)

気温(度) 34 / 27 気温(度) 34 / 26 気温(度) 33 / 26
降水確率(%) 20 降水確率(%) 20 降水確率(%) 20

a	b
c	d

```
<TABLE>  
  <TR>  
    <TD>a</TD>  
  <TD>b</TD>  
  </TR>  
  <TR>  
    <TD>c </TD>  
  <TD>d</TD>  
  </TR>  
</TABLE>
```





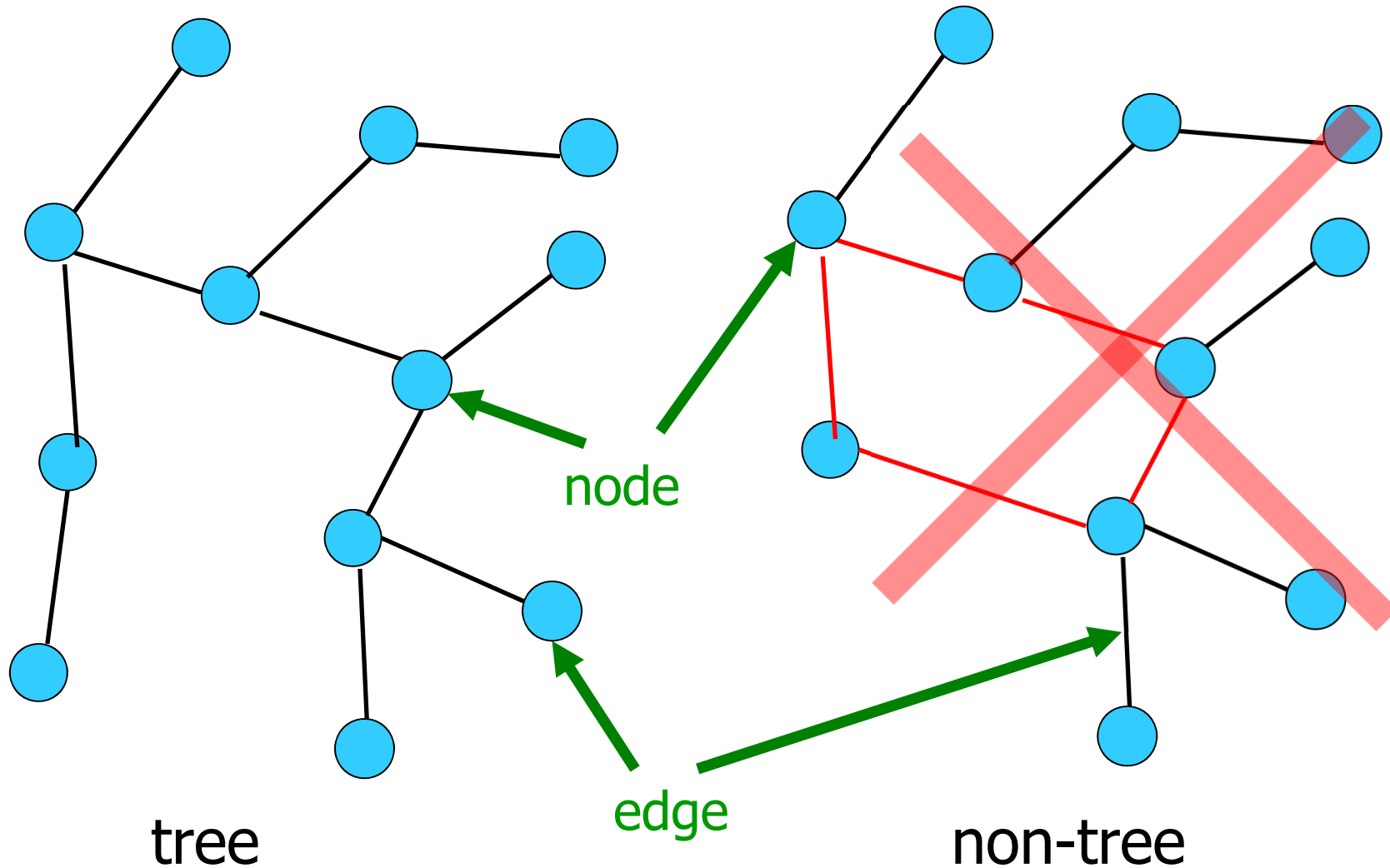
Typical Usage of Trees

- We introduced two types of usage of trees:
 - guidance of activity, e.g. representing classification, representing classification, and so on.
 - data with structure, e.g. parsing trees (results of parsing) ...

- In this lecture we treat “tree” as data.

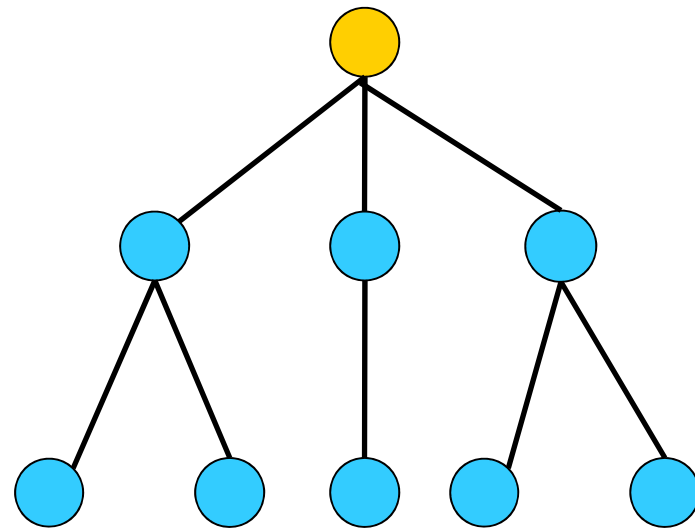
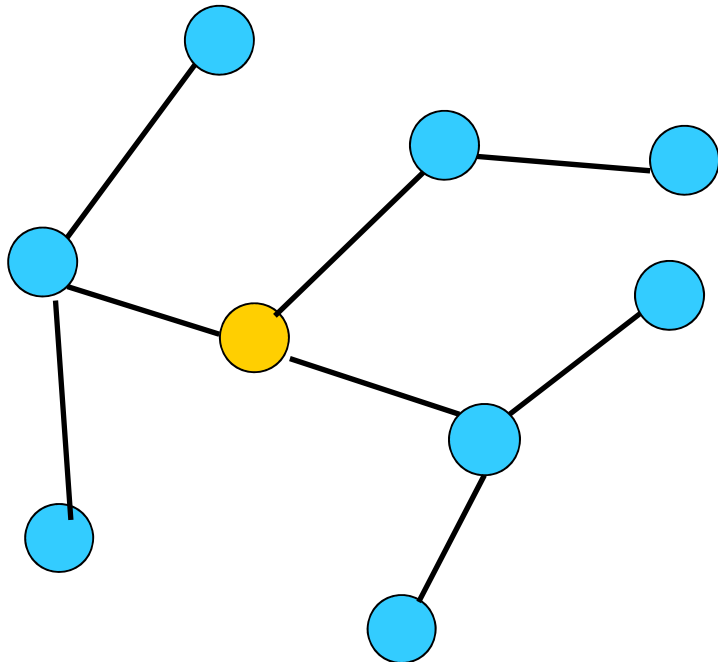
Definition of Trees

- Generally a tree is an acyclic graph.



Classes of trees (1)

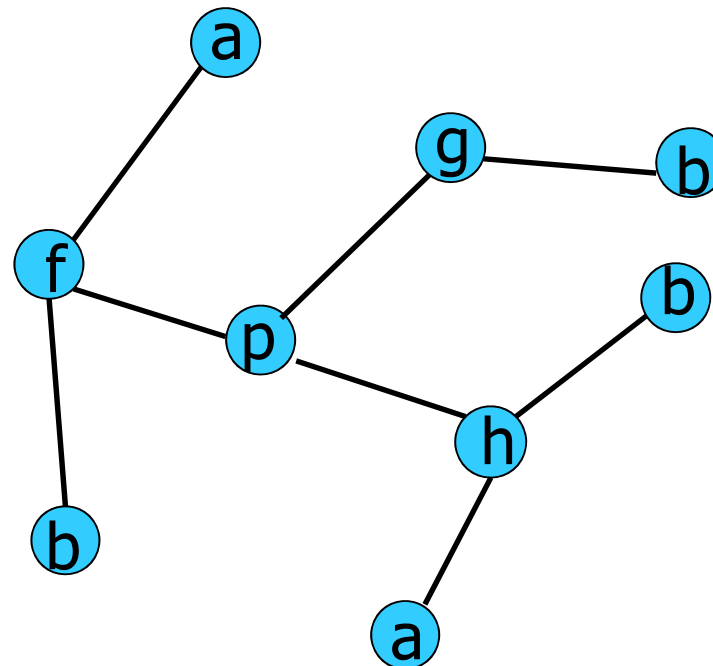
- If a node in a tree T is selected, T is called a **rooted** tree.
- A rooted tree is regarded as a directed graph by giving the direction to every edge so that we can reach every leaf from the root.



Classes of trees (2)

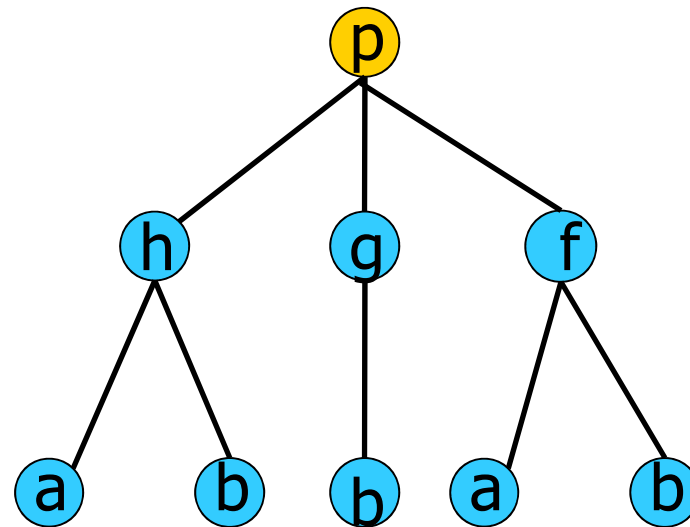
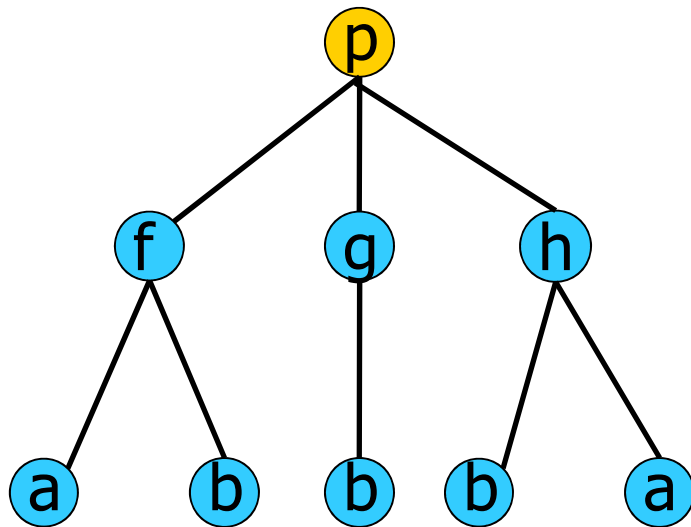
- Let Σ be a finite set of symbols and called an alphabet.
- A tree T is **labeled** if an label is attached to every **node** of a tree T .

$$\Sigma = \{a, b, f, g, h, p\}$$



Classes of trees (3)

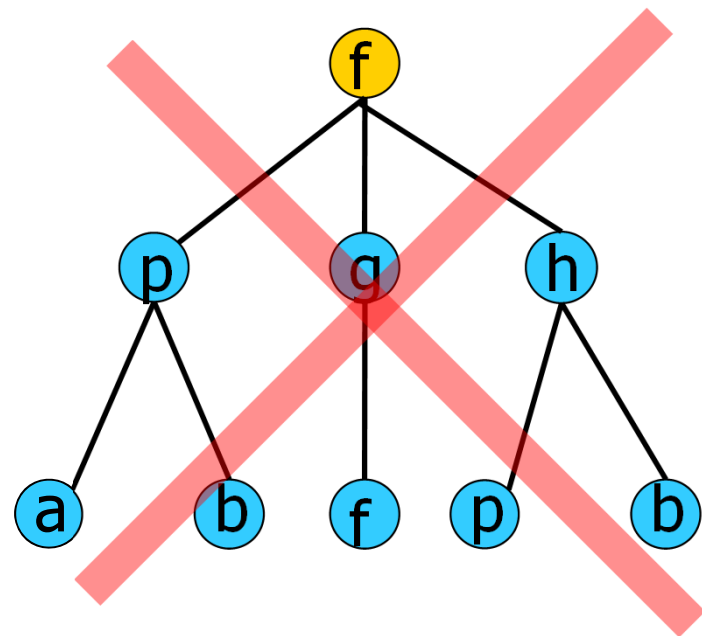
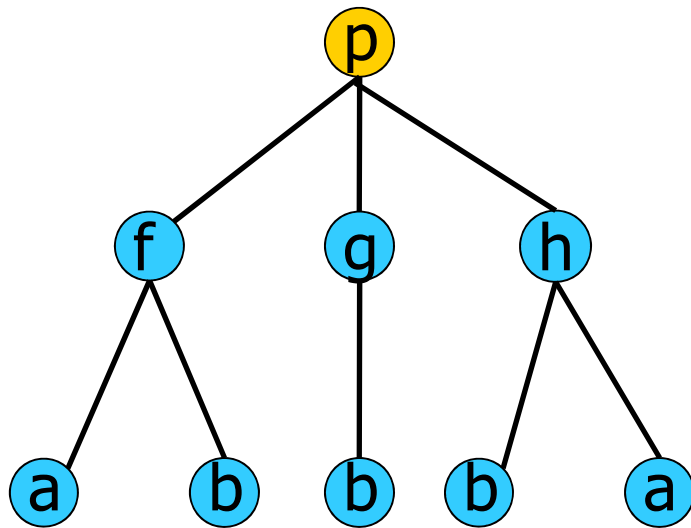
- A rooted and labeled tree T is **ordered** if, for every non-leaf node in T , an ordering is given to the set of its children.
 - That is, for every non-leaf node, the first child, the second child, ... are defined.



Classes of trees (4)

- A rooted and labeled tree T is **ranked** if, for every non-leaf node in T , the number of its children is fixed by the label attached to it.

$$\Sigma = \{a/0, b/0, f/2, g/1, h/2, p/3\}$$



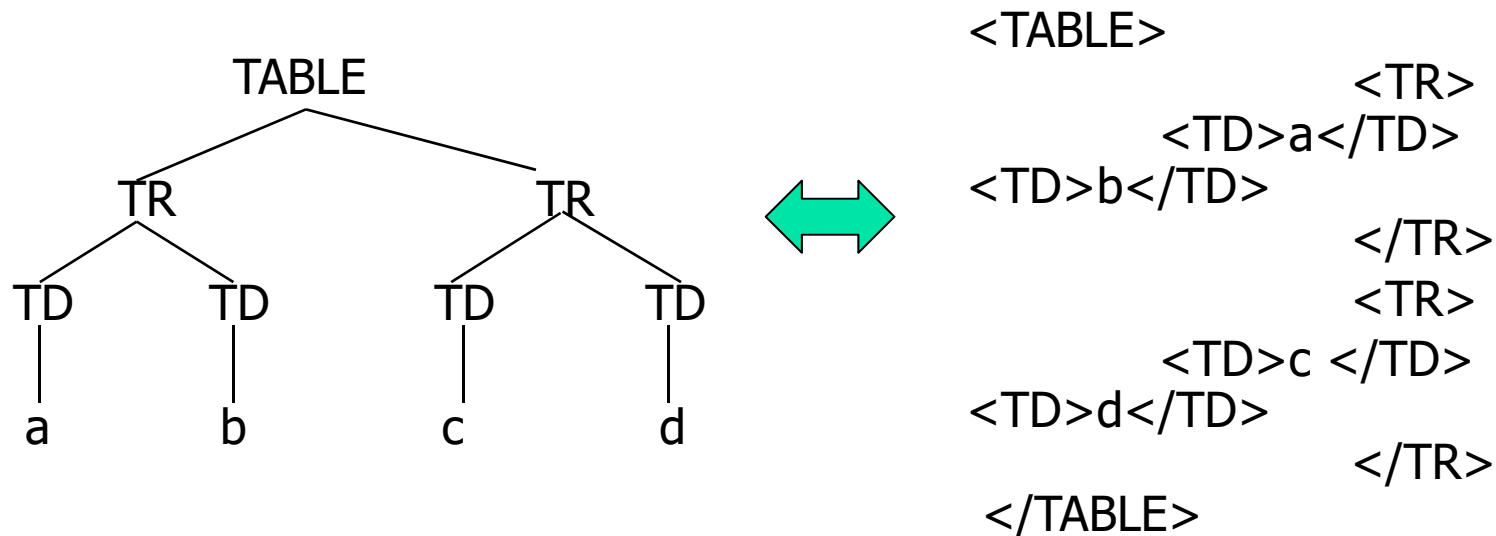


The class treated in this lecture

- We treat rooted, labeled, ordered, and ranked trees.
 - From now, a “tree” means that a rooted, labeled, ordered, and ranked tree.

Expressing Trees

- The relation between HTML expressions and dom trees shows that a tree is represented as an expression.



- With referring mathematical logic, we use simpler expressions.

`TABLE(TR(TD(a), TD(b)), TR(TD(c), TD(d)))`

Application of Tree Patterns

- Extracting common “structure” from tree data

The diagram illustrates the extraction of a common tree structure from multiple instances of a Yahoo! weather page. The screenshots show the following elements:

- Navigation:** [トップ](#) > [福岡県](#) > [福岡\(福岡県 福岡地方\)](#)
- Weather Information:** 今日・明日の天気, 8月15日(水), 晴れ, 最高気温(度) 35, 風: 南東→北東, 波: 1 m, 降水確率(%) ---, 10, 20, 10, 時間帯(時) 0-6, 6-12, 12-18, 18-24
- Alerts:** 警報注意報, 生活指数
- Weekly Weather:** 今週の天気, 8月17日(金), 8月18日(土), 8月19日(日), 気温(度) 34 / 27, 34 / 26, 33, 降水確率(%) 20, 20, 20
- Related Content:** 関連天気情報, 天気図, ひまわり画像, 実況天気図, 予想天気図, アメダス画像, 気温, 降水量, 風, 日照, Yahoo!関連コンテンツ, Yahoo!掲示板, 福岡県, Yahoo!関連カテゴリ, 地域情報, 福岡県

The rightmost screenshot shows a zoomed-in view of the weather information section, highlighting the following elements:

- Navigation:** [V\(0\)](#) > [V\(1\)地方](#)
- Weather Information:** 今日・明日の天気, [V\(5\)](#), 最高気温(度) [V\(9\)](#), 風: [V\(8\)](#), [V\(10\)](#), 波: [V\(11\)m](#), 降水確率(%) ---, [V\(12\)](#), [V\(13\)](#), [V\(14\)](#), 時間帯(時) 0-6, 6-12, 12-18, 18-24
- Alerts:** 警報注意報, 生活指数

A green arrow points from the leftmost screenshot to the rightmost one, indicating the process of identifying common patterns across different instances.



Formal Tree Languages

- Σ : a finite set of symbols and called an alphabet
 - To each symbol a non-negative integer called its rank is attached.
- $T(\Sigma)$: the set of all rooted, labeled, ordered, and ranked trees consisting of the symbols in Σ .
- A formal tree language L on Σ is a subset of $T(\Sigma)$.

Examples

$$\Sigma = \{a/0, f/2\}$$

$$T(\Sigma) = \{a, f(a,a), f(f(a,a),a), f(a,f(a,a)), f(f(a,a), f(a,a)), \square \}$$

$$\Sigma = \{z/0, s/1, p/3\}$$

$$T(\Sigma) = \{z, s(z), s(s(z)), p(z,z,z), p(s(z),z,z), s(p(z,z,z)), \dots \}$$



Tree Patterns

- Let X be a countable set of variables
 - Assuming $\Sigma \cap X = \emptyset$
 - and $\text{rank}(x) = 0$ for every variable.
- A **tree pattern** π is an element of $\text{TL}(\Sigma \cup X)$

Example

$$\Sigma = \{a/0, f/2\}, X = \{x/0, y/0, \dots\}$$

$a, f(x, a), f(f(a, x), a), f(f(a, x), y), f(x, f(a, x)), \dots$

We sometime assume that every variable in a pattern is indexed, in the ordering of its first occurrence.

$$\Sigma = \{a/0, f/2\}, X = \{x_1/0, x_2/0, x_3/0, \dots\}$$

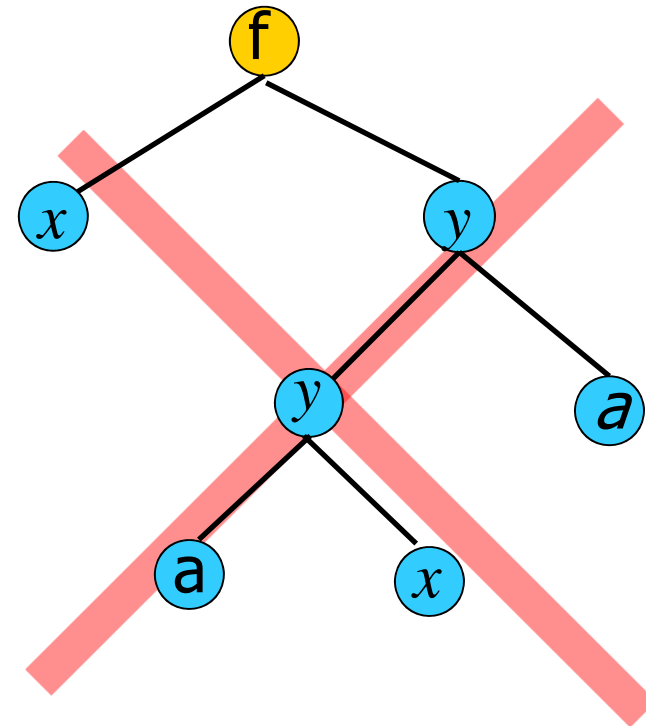
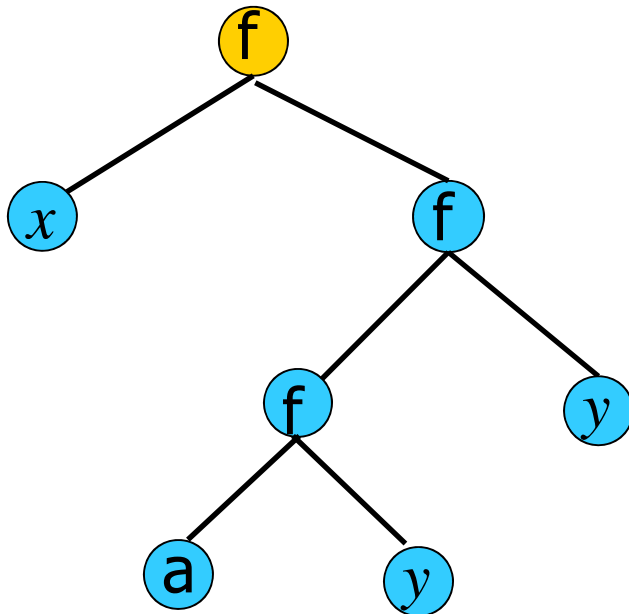
$f(x_1, a), f(f(a, x_1), x_2), f(x_1, f(a, x_2)), \dots$

Tree Patterns (2)

- Since we let the rank of any variable be 0, it can be attached only to leaf nodes.

$$\Sigma = \{a/0, f/2\}, X = \{x/0, y/0, \dots\}$$

$$\pi = f(x, f(f(a, y), y))$$





Defining tree languages with tree patterns

- A tree language defined with a tree pattern π is $\{\sigma \mid \sigma = \pi\theta \text{ for some non-empty grounding substitution } \theta\}$
The language is denoted by $L(\pi)$.

Examples

$$\Sigma = \{a/0, f/2\}, X = \{x/0, y/0, \dots\}$$

$$T(\Sigma) = \{a, f(a,a), f(f(a,a),a), f(a,f(a,a)), f(f(a,a), f(a,a)), \dots\}$$

$$TL(f(x,a)) = \{f(a,a), f(a,a), f(f(a,a),a), f(f(f(a,a),a),a), \dots\}$$

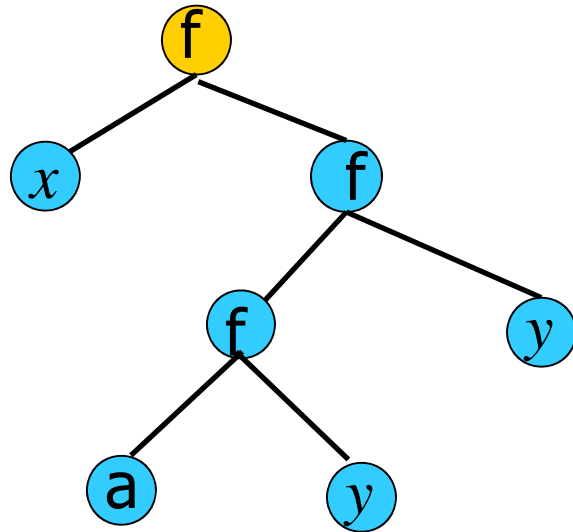
$$TL(f(x,a)) = \{f(a,a), f(a,a), f(f(a,a),a), f(f(f(a,a),a),a), \dots\}$$

$$TL(f(x,f(a,x))) = \{f(a,f(a,a)), f(f(a,a),f(a,f(a,a))), \\ f(f(f(a,a),a),f(a,f(f(a,a),a))), \dots\}$$

$$TL(f(x,f(a,y))) = \{f(a,f(a,a)), f(a,f(a,f(a,a))), f(f(a,a),f(a,a)), \\ f(f(a,a),f(a,f(a,a))), \\ f(a,f(a,f(f(a,a),a))), \dots\}$$

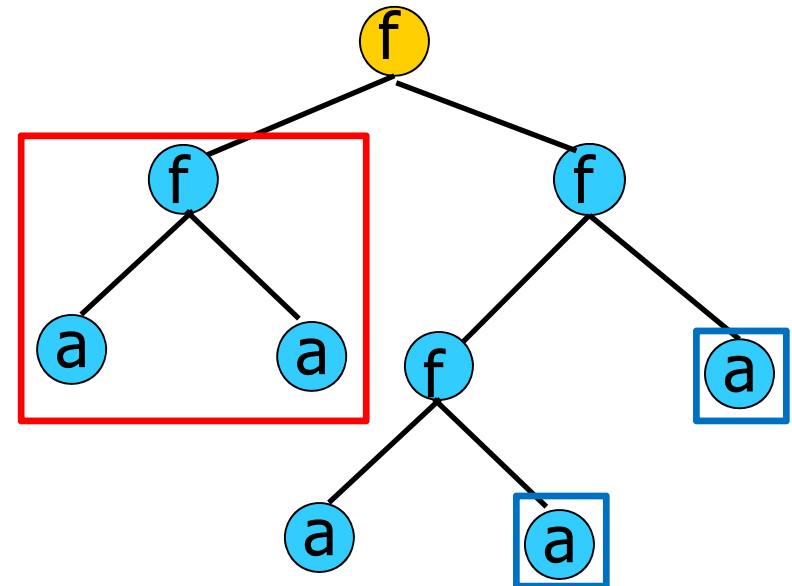
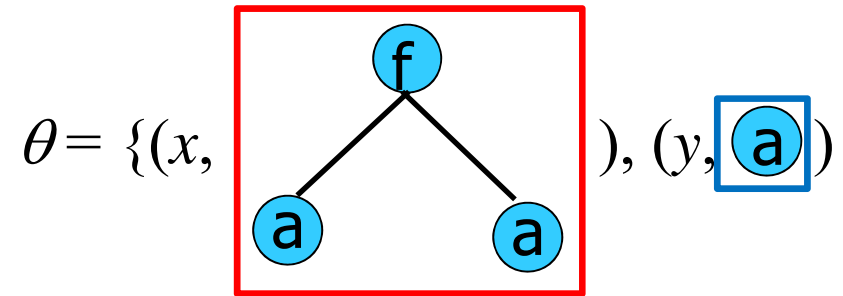
Substitution(2)

$$\pi = f(x, f(f(a, y), y))$$



$$\pi \theta = f(f(a, a), f(f(a, a), a))$$

$$\theta = \{ (x, f(a, a)), (y, a) \}$$





Substitution (1)

- A **substitution** is a set of pairs
$$\theta = \{ (x_1, \tau_1), (x_2, \tau_2), \dots, (x_n, \tau_n) \}$$
where x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n are distinct variables and
 $\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_n$ are patterns.
- Applying a substitution θ to a tree pattern π is replacing every variable x_i in π with τ_i simultaneously. The result is denoted by $\pi\theta$.
- The rank of any variable is 0, but any pattern can be π_i .

Examples

$$\theta_1 = \{ (x, \mathbf{f(a,a)}), (y, \mathbf{a}) \}$$

$$\theta_2 = \{ (x, \mathbf{f(y,a)}), (y, \mathbf{f(a,y)}) \}$$

$$\mathbf{f(x,x)}\theta_1 = \mathbf{f(f(a,a), f(a,a))}$$

$$\mathbf{f(x,x)}\theta_2 = \mathbf{f(f(y,a), f(y,a))}$$

$$\mathbf{f(x, f(a, y))}\theta_1 = \mathbf{f(f(a,a), f(a, a))}$$

$$\mathbf{f(x, f(a, y))}\theta_2 = \mathbf{f(f(y,a), f(a, f(a, y)))}$$



Substitution (2)

- A substitution $\theta = \{ (x_1, \tau_1), (x_2, \tau_2), \dots, (x_n, \tau_n) \}$ is ~~non-empty~~ if all of $\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_n$ are in $TL(\Sigma \cup X)$.
- A substitution θ **grounds** a pattern π if $\pi \theta \in TL(\Sigma)$.
Such θ is called a grounding substitution for π .
- A substitution $\theta = \{ (x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_n, y_n) \}$ is **variable renaming** if y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n are distinct variables.
 - We regard two tree patterns equivalent when each one is obtained from the other by renaming variables.

Examples

Two tree patterns $f(x, a)$ and $f(y, a)$ are equivalent, and they are also equivalent to $f(x_1, a)$.

Two patterns $f(f(x, a), f(y, x))$ and $f(f(y, a), f(x, y))$ are equivalent, and they are also equivalent to $f(f(z, a), f(w, z))$ and $f(f(x_1, a), f(y_1, x_1))$



Learning tree pattern languages

Example

$$C = \{f(a, f(f(a, a), a)), \\ f(f(a, a), f(f(a, a), a)), \\ f(f(a, a), f(f(f(a, a), a), f(a, a))), \\ f(f(f(a, a), a), f(f(a, a), a))\}$$

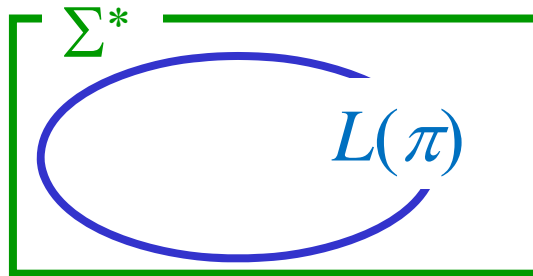
Positive Presentations



e_1, e_2, e_3, \dots



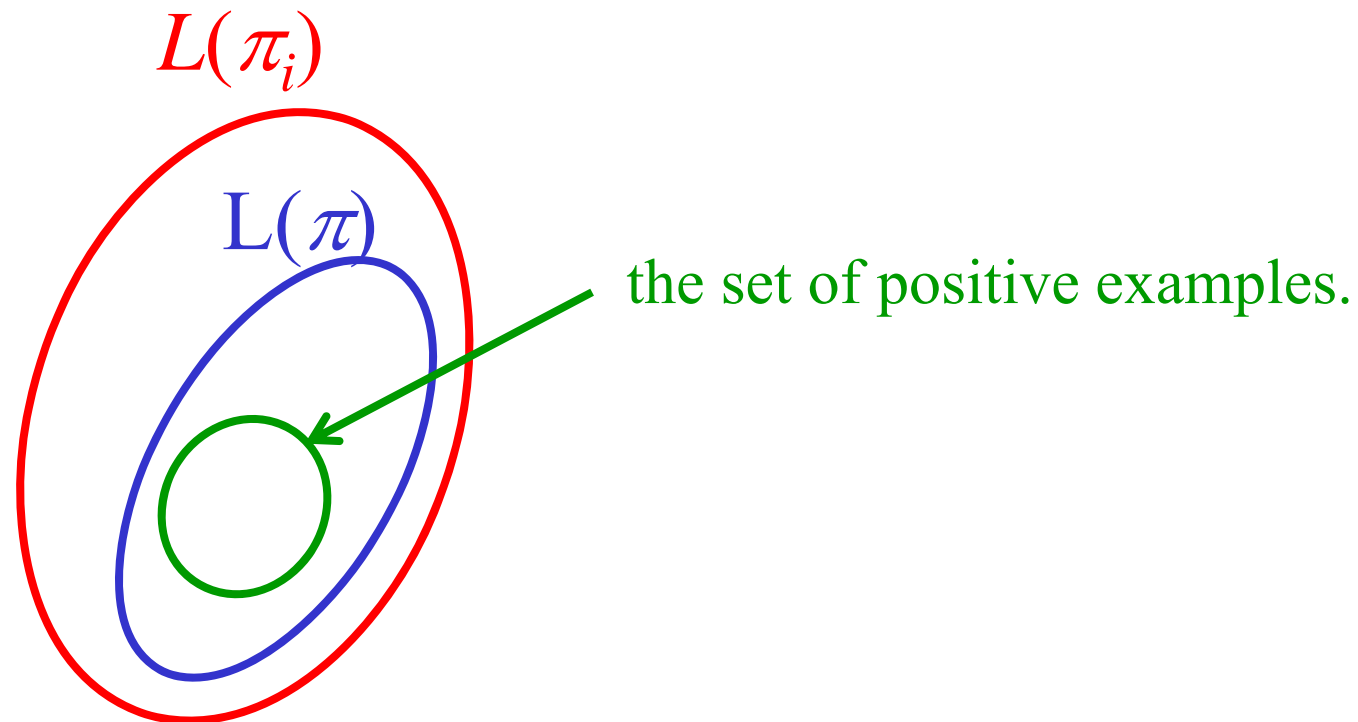
$\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3, \dots$



- A **presentation** of $L(\pi)$ is a **infinite** sequence consisting of positive and negative example.
- A presentation σ is **positive** if σ consists only of positive example $\langle s, + \rangle$ and any positive example occurs at least once in σ .

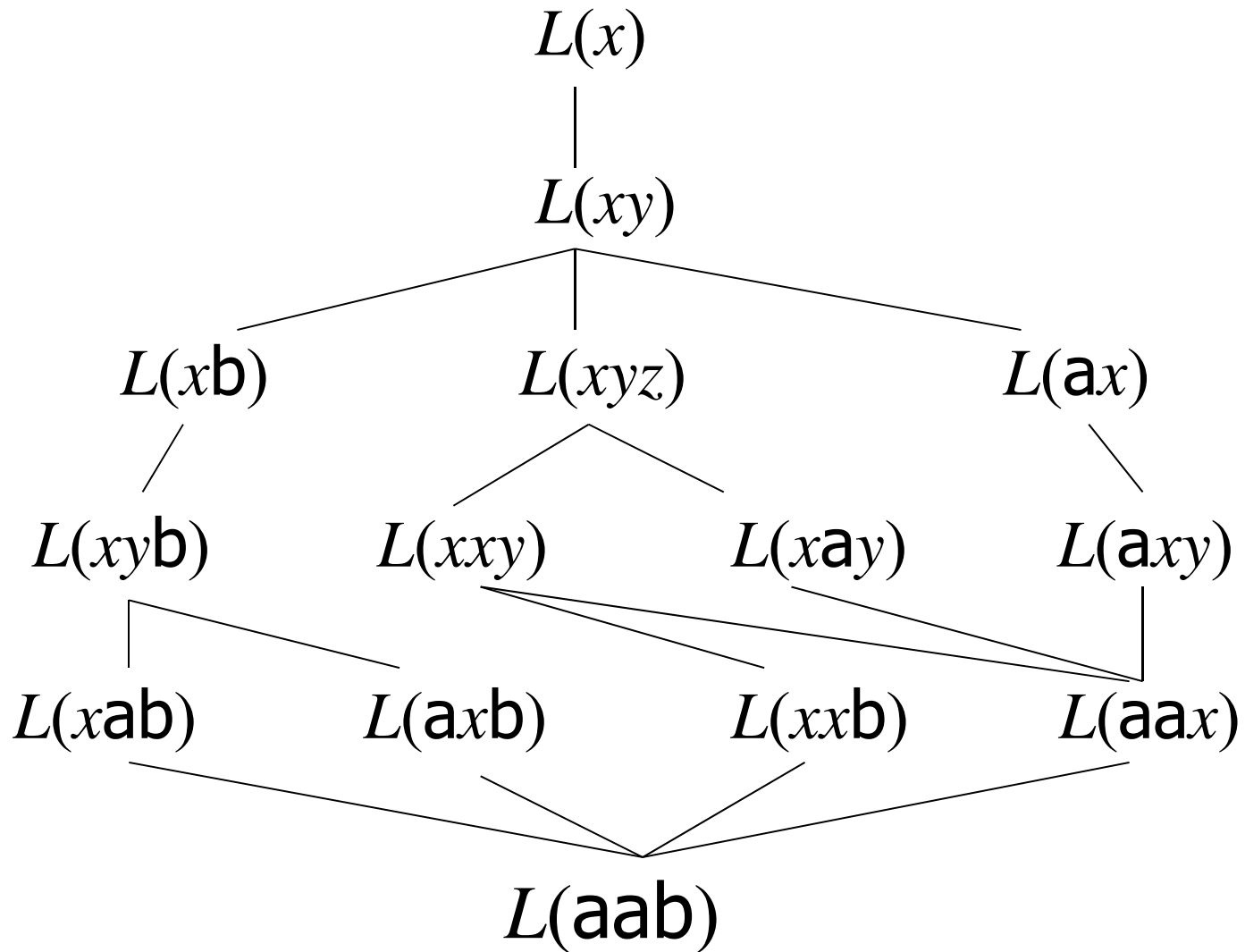
Which patterns should be chosen?

- Intuitively, choose a minimal language which contains all of the positive examples at the moment.
 - That is, avoid over-generalization!





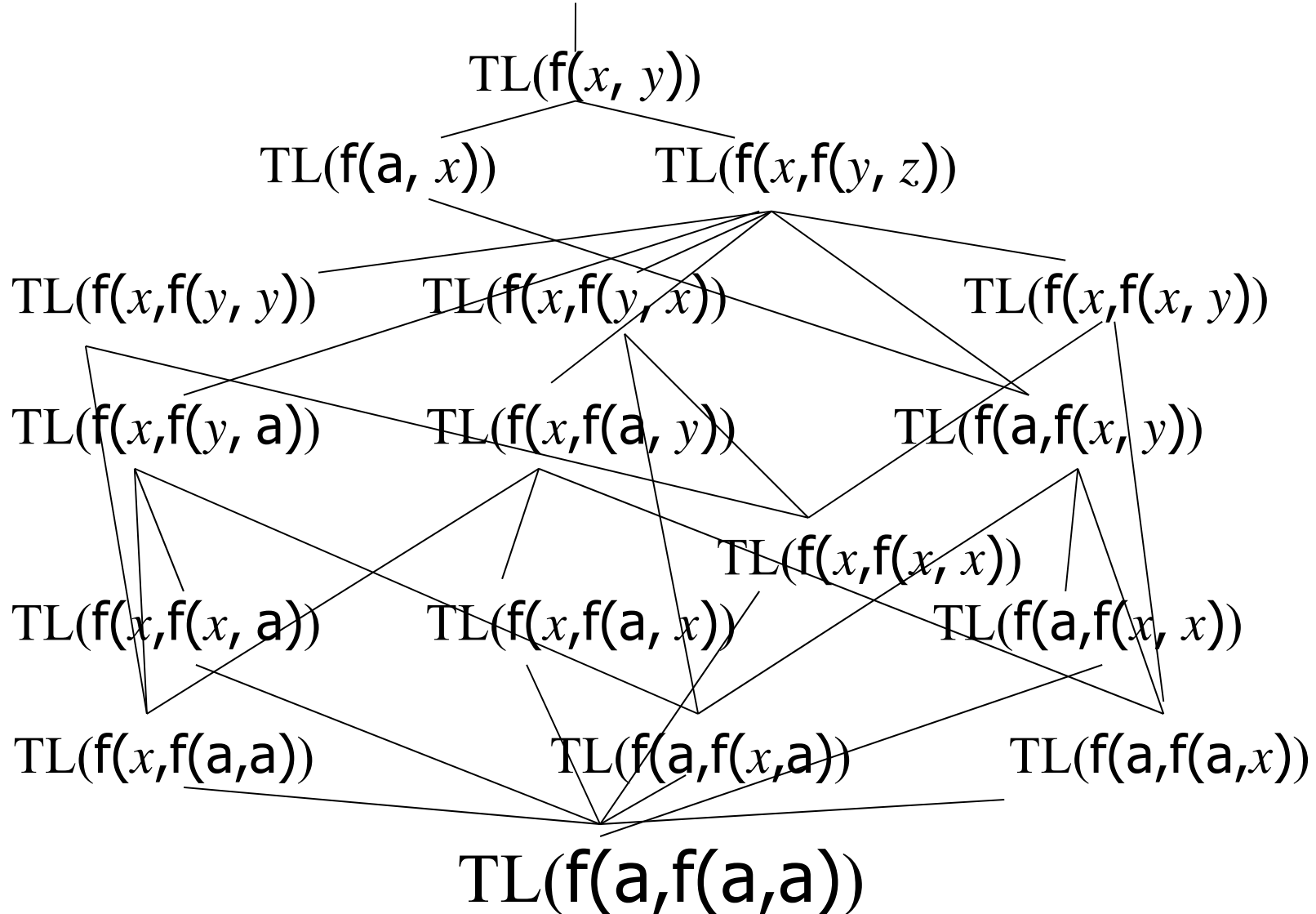
Hasse Diagram : String Case

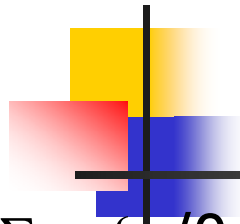




Hasse Diagram : Tree Case

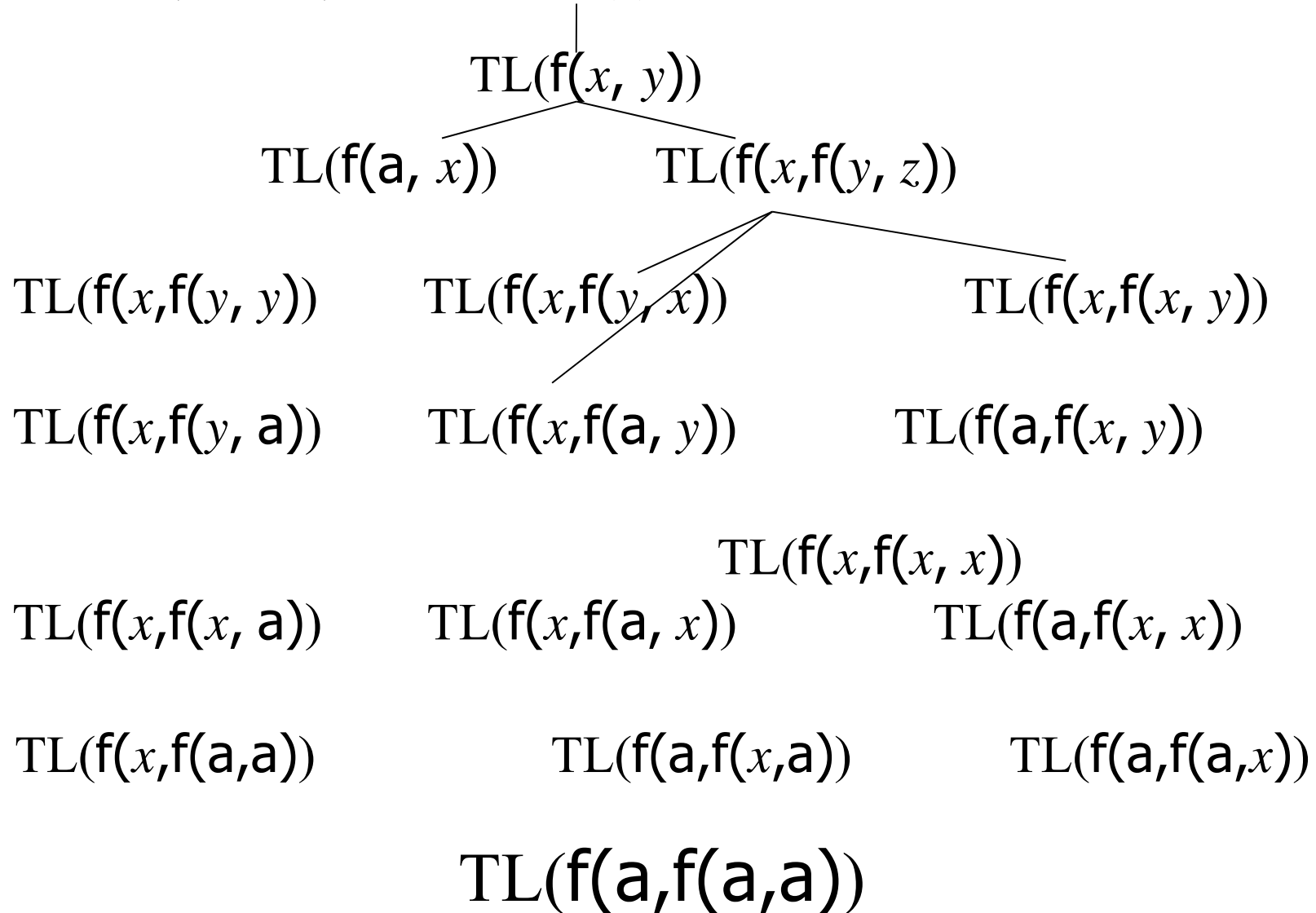
$\Sigma = \{a/0, f/2\}, X = \{x, y, \dots\}$ TL (x)





Hasse Diagram : Tree Case

$\Sigma = \{a/0, f/2\}, X = \{x, y, \dots\}$ TL (x)





C4: Finite thickness

- A class $L(G)$ of languages has **the finite thickness** if for all $w \in \Sigma^*$ there are only a finite number of languages in $L(G)$ which contain w .

Theorem [Angluin] A class $L(G)$ of languages is identifiable in the limit from positive presentation **if** $L(G)$ of languages has the finite thickness.



Analysis of Tree Patterns

Example $\Sigma = \{a/0, f/2\}$, $X = \{x/0, y/0, \dots\}$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{TL}(f(x, f(y, a), y)) \\ &= \{f(a, f(f(a, a), a)), \\ & \quad f(f(a, a), f(f(a, a), a)), \\ & \quad f(f(a, a), f(f(f(a, a), a), f(a, a))), \\ & \quad f(f(f(a, a), a), f(f(a, a), a)), \dots \\ & \quad f(f(f(f(a, a), a), a), f(f(a, a), a)), \dots\} \end{aligned}$$

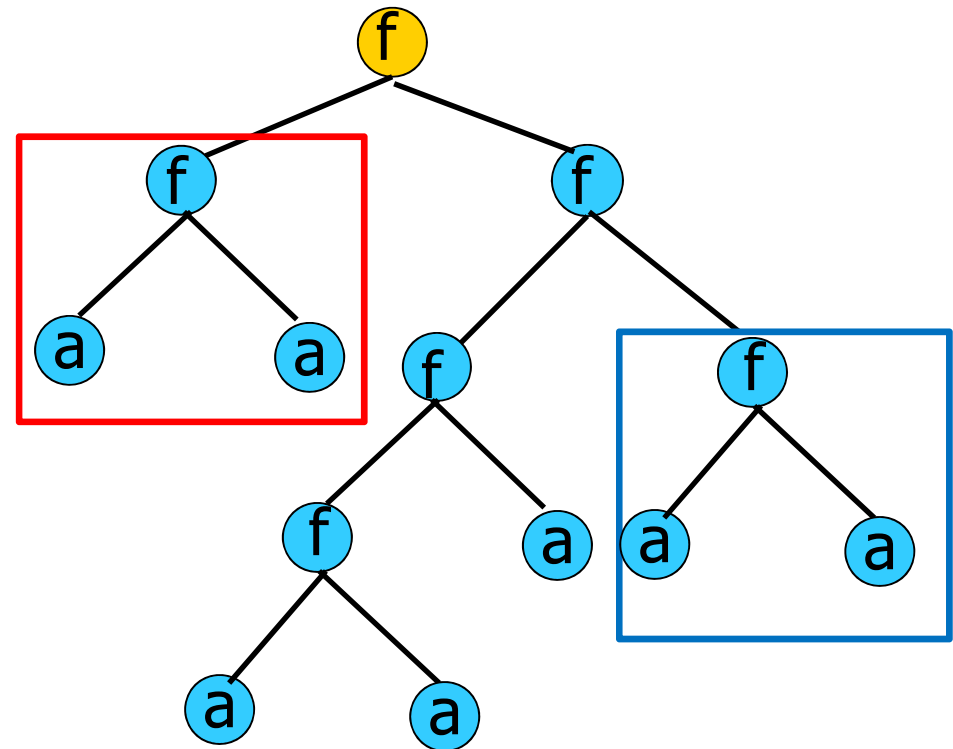
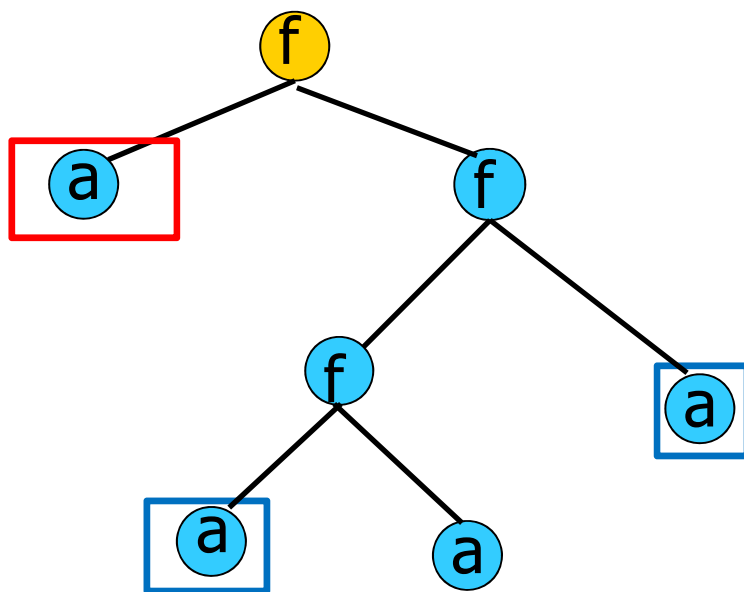
Anti-Unification of Trees

$$f(x, f(f(y, a), z))$$

$$f(x, f(f(y, a), y))$$

$$f(a, f(f(a, a), a))$$

$$f(f(a, a), f(f(f(a, a), a), f(a, a)))$$



Anti-Unification of Trees

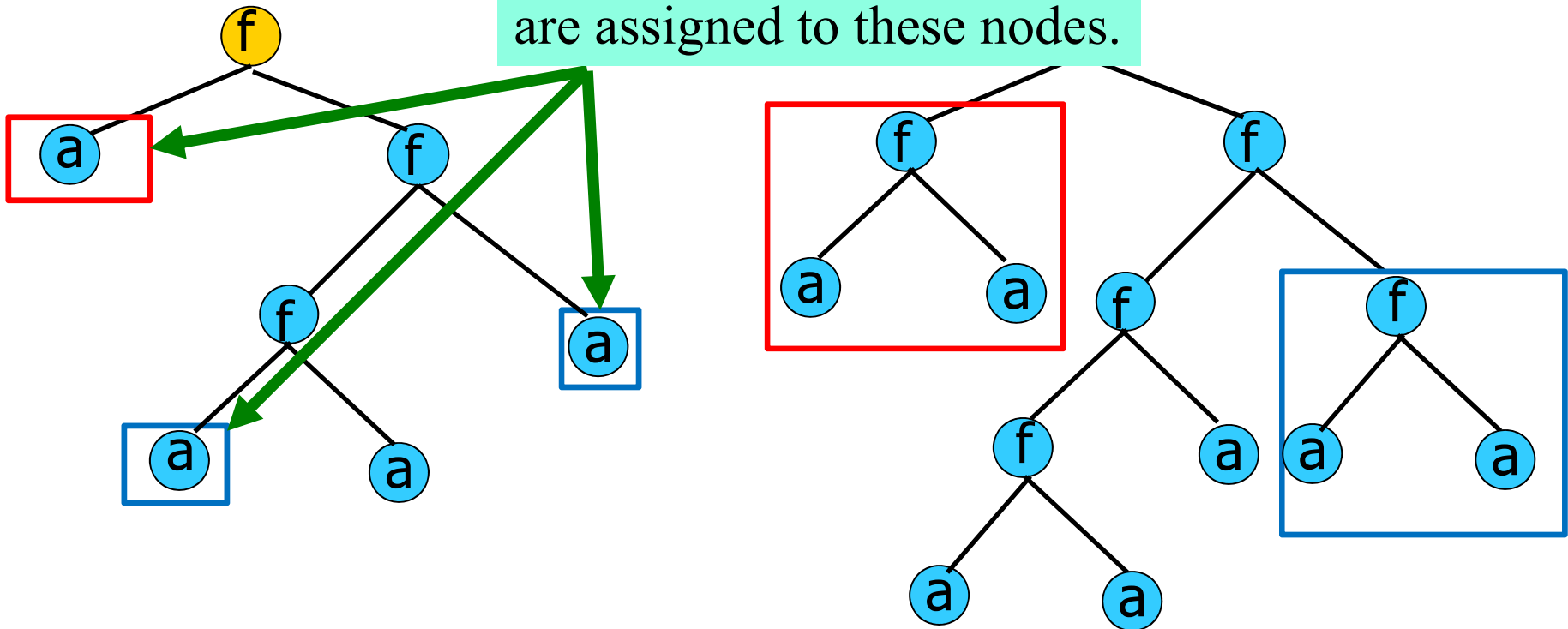
$$f(x, f(f(y, a), y))$$

$$f(x, f(f(y, a), y))$$

$$f(a, f(f(a, a), a))$$

$$f(a, f(a, a))$$

We can know that variables are assigned to these nodes.

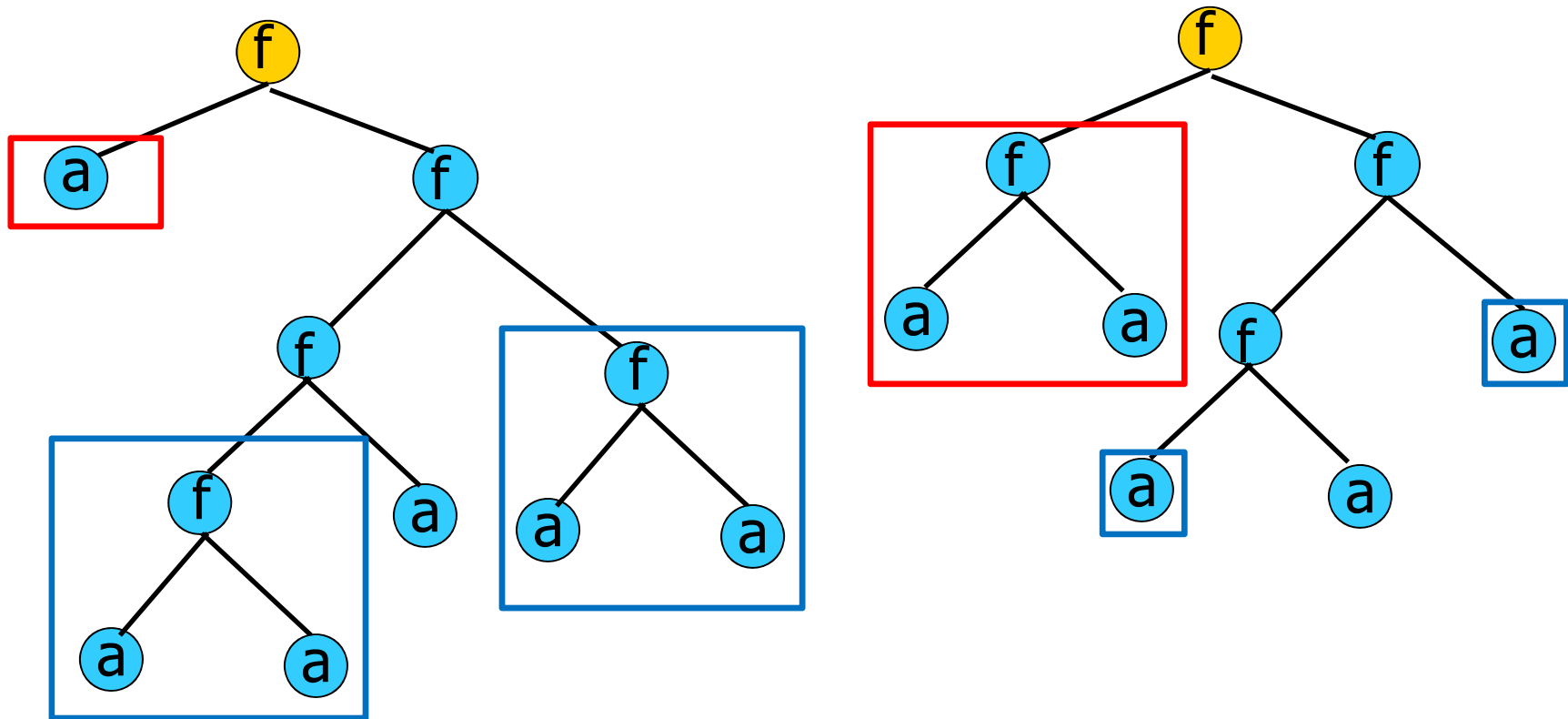


Anti-Unification of Trees

$f(x, f(f(y, a), y))$

$f(a, f(f(f(a, a), a), f(a, a)))$

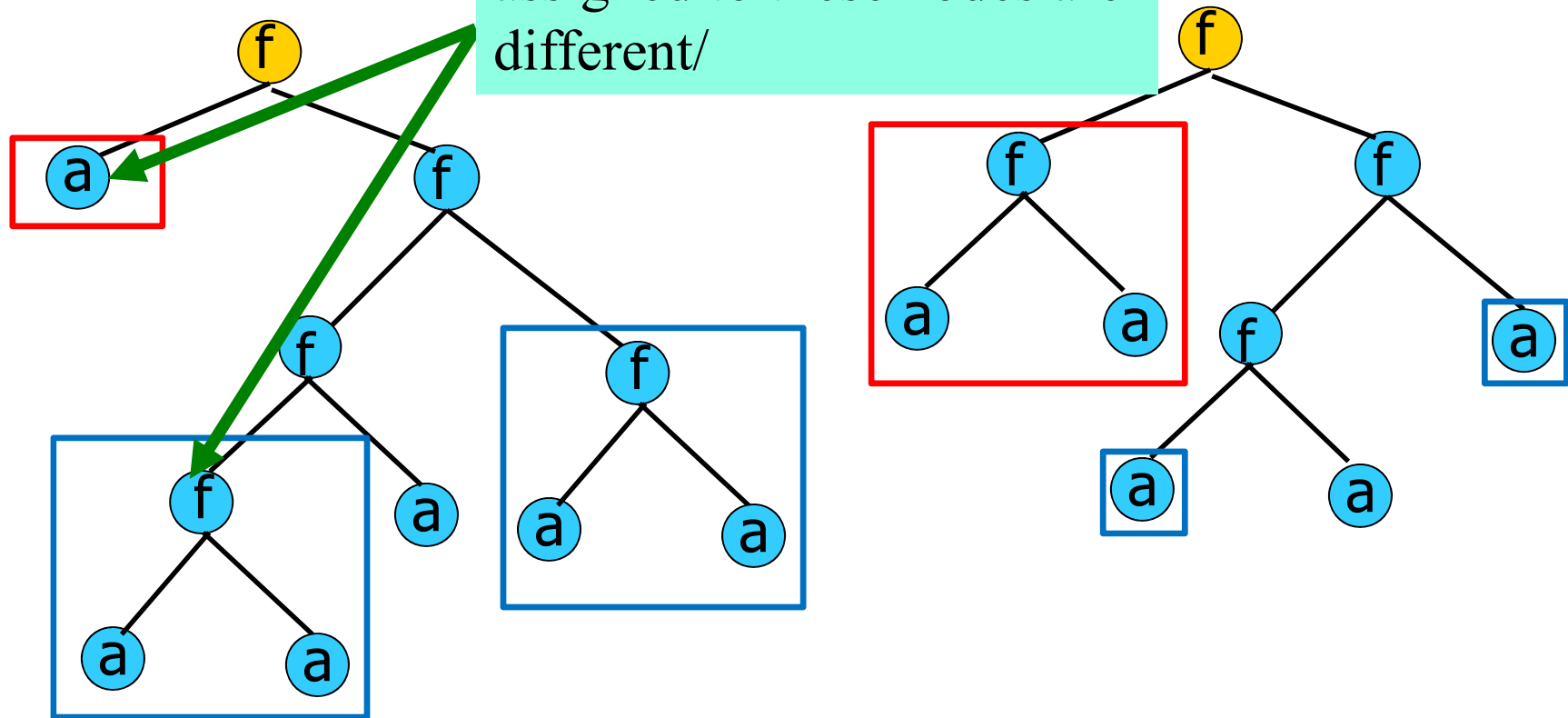
$f(f(a, a), f(f(a, a), a))$



Anti-Unification of Trees

$$f(x, f(f(y, a), y))$$

$f(a, f(f(f(a, a), a), a))$ We can know that variables assigned to these nodes are different/ $f(f(a, a), a)$





Characteristic Set of $L(\pi)$

- Let π be a pattern which contains variables x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n .

Consider the following substitutions:

$$\sigma_1 = \{(x_1, t), (x_2, \mathbf{a}), \dots, (x_n, \mathbf{a})\},$$

...

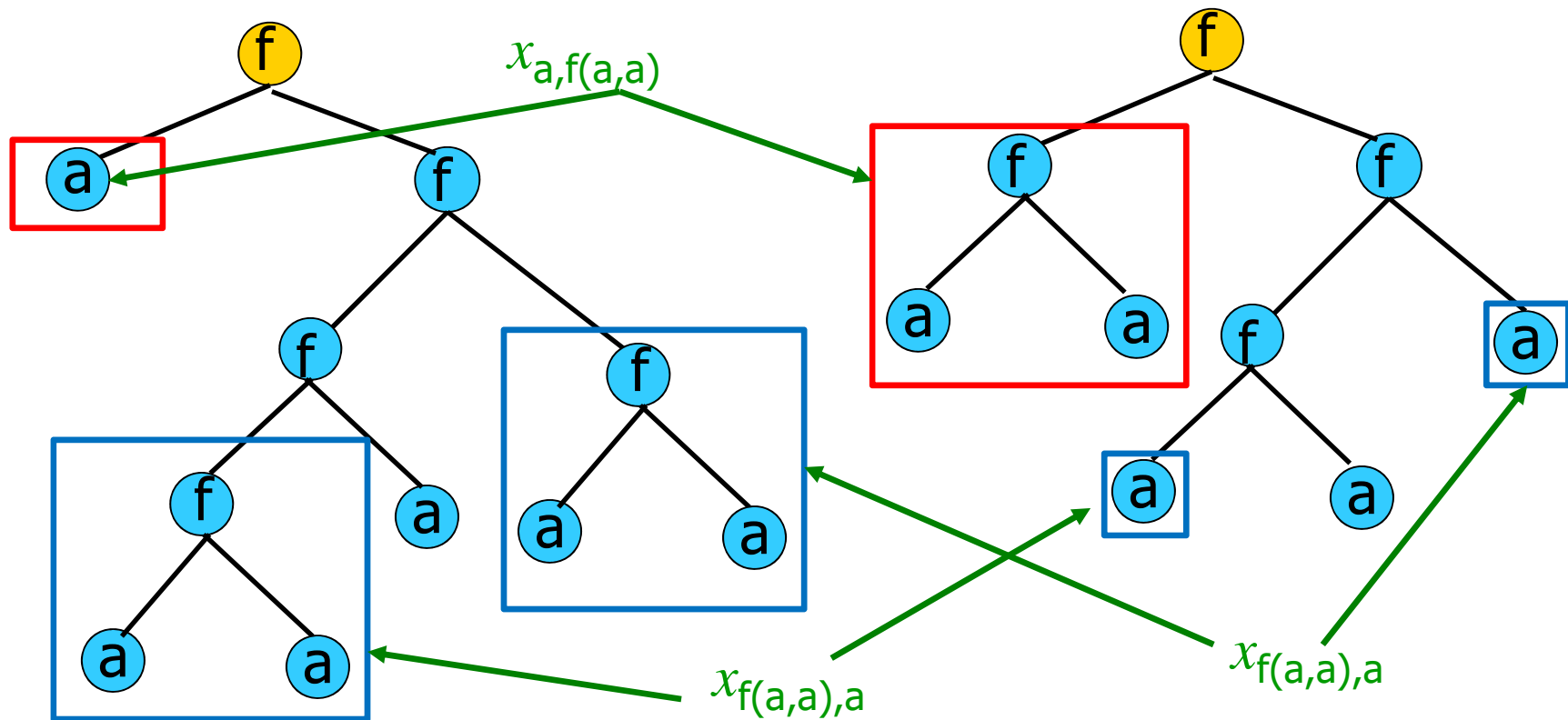
$$\sigma_n = \{(x_1, \mathbf{a}), (x_2, \mathbf{a}), \dots, (x_n, t)\}$$

where t is a tree different from \mathbf{a} , e.g. $f(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a})$.

- The set $\{\pi\sigma_1, \dots, \pi\sigma_n\}$ is a characteristic set of $L(\pi)$.

Anti-Unification Algorithm

1. Compare two trees from their roots.
2. If different labels are attached to nodes on a same position, replace the labels with a variable with an index which indicates the difference.





Anti-Unification Algorithm

$\langle f(a, f(f(f(a, a), a), f(a, a))), f(f(a, a), f(f(a, a), a)) \rangle$

→ $\langle f(a, f(f(f(a, a), a), f(a, a))), f(f(a, a), f(f(a, a), a)) \rangle$

→ $\langle f(x_{a, f(a, a)}, f(f(f(a, a), a), f(a, a))), f(x_{a, f(a, a)}, f(f(f(a, a), a), a)) \rangle$

→ $\langle f(x_{a, f(a, a)}, f(f(f(a, a), a), f(a, a))), f(x_{a, f(a, a)}, f(f(a, a), a)) \rangle$

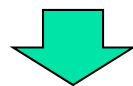
→ $\langle f(x_{a, f(a, a)}, f(f(f(a, a), a), f(a, a))), f(x_{a, f(a, a)}, f(f(a, a), a)) \rangle$

→ $\langle f(x_{a, f(a, a)}, f(f(x_{f(a, a), a}, a), f(a, a))), f(x_{a, f(a, a)}, f(f(x_{f(a, a), a}, a), a)) \rangle$

→ $\langle f(x_{a, f(a, a)}, f(f(x_{f(a, a), a}, a), f(a, a))), f(x_{a, f(a, a)}, f(f(x_{f(a, a), a}, a), a)) \rangle$

→ $\langle f(x_{a, f(a, a)}, f(f(x_{f(a, a), a}, a), x_{f(a, a), a})),$

$f(x_{a, f(a, a)}, f(f(x_{f(a, a), a}, a), x_{f(a, a), a})) \rangle$



$f(x, f(f(y, a), y)) \rangle$



Identification of tree patterns

Theorem By applying the anti-unification to all given examples at each moment, the learning machine EX-identifies the class of all tree pattern languages in the limit from positive presentations.



Origin of Learning Tree Patterns

G. Plotkin: Automatic Methods of Inductive Inference, 1971.

AUTOMATIC METHODS OF INDUCTIVE INFERENCE

G. PLOTKIN

PhD Thesis

Edinburgh University, 1971



G. Plotkin

The Royal Society:

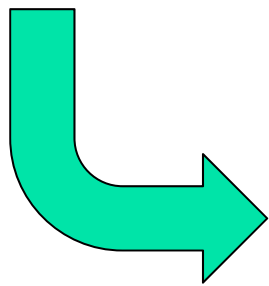
Plotkin has contributed to Artificial Intelligence, Logic, Linguistics and especially to Computer Science. In AI he worked on **hypothesis-formation** and universal unification; in Logic, on frameworks for arbitrary logics; in Linguistics, on formalising Situation Theory.

His main general contribution has been to establish a semantic framework for Computer Science, especially programming languages. Particular significant results are in the **lambda-calculus** (elementary models, definability, call-by-value), non-determinism (powerdomain theory), semantic formalisms (structured operational semantics, metalanguages), and categories of semantic domains (coherent, pro-finite, concrete). Further contributions concern the semantic paradigm of full abstraction, concurrency theory (event structures), **programming logic and type theory**.



Example[Plotkin71]

ID	Class	Size	Color	Animal
a	dangerous	small	black	bear
b	dangerous	medium	black	bear
c	dangerous	large	black	dog
d	safe	small	black	cat
e	safe	medium	black	horse
f	dangerous	large	black	horse
g	dangerous	large	brown	horse



$\forall x. \text{black}(x) \rightarrow \text{dangerous}(x)$

$\forall x. \text{large}(x) \wedge \text{horse}(x) \rightarrow \text{dangerous}(x)$