

From Event Logs to Process Logic

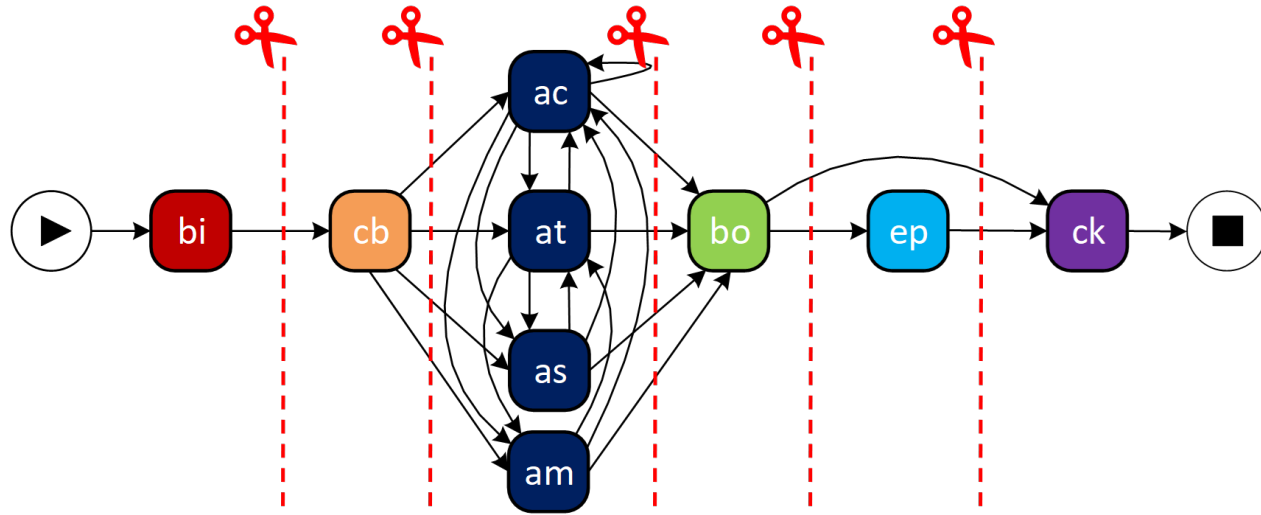
The Basics of Process Discovery

Wil van der Aalst

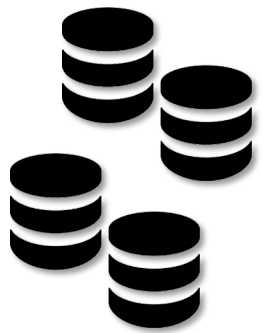
Process and Data Science @ RWTH Aachen University & Celonis

www.vdaalst.com @wvdaalst

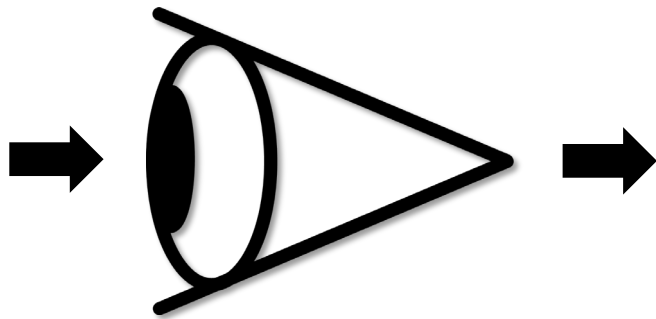
About this second lecture



- ☐ Process Discovery
- ☐ Directly-Follows Graphs
- ☐ Bottom-Up Discovery:
Alpha miner
- ☐ Top-Down Discovery:
Inductive Mining
- ☐ “No Enterprise AI
without OCPM”



complex reality



event data and process models



machine learning

Outline: Foundations of Process Discovery

Baseline: Discovering DFG + filtering

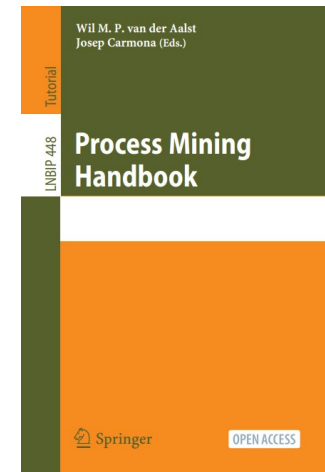
**Bottom-up
discovery**

**Alpha
algorithm**

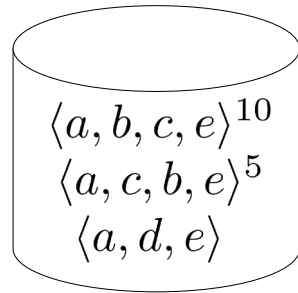
**Top-down
discovery**

**Inductive
mining**

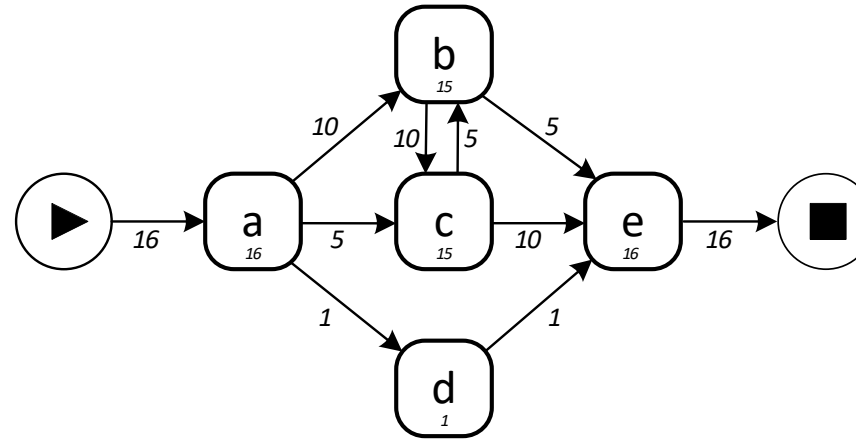
At times, I refer to the formal definitions in the Chapter 2 to show that with the right tools one can be precise and compact.



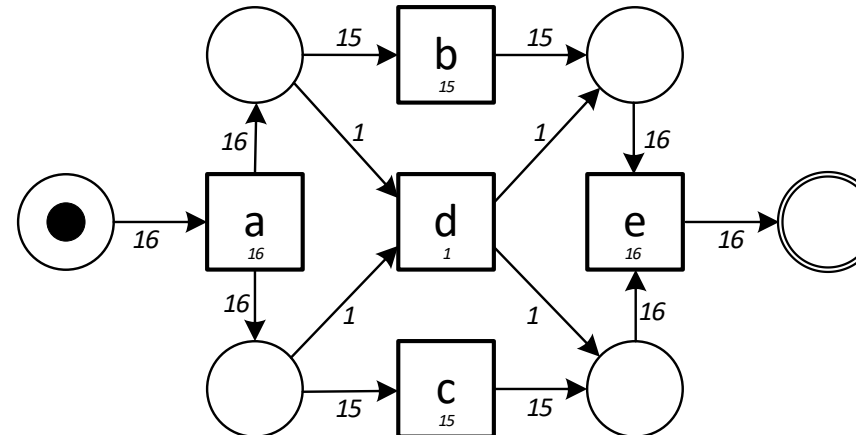
The main idea (informal)



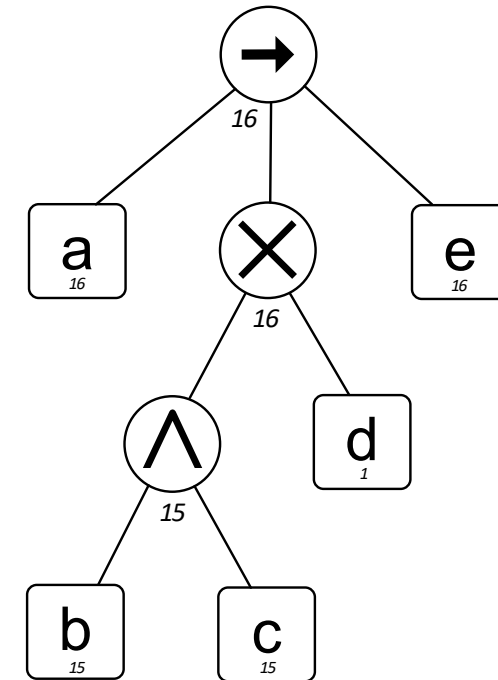
(a) Event log L_1



(b) Directly-Follows Graph (DFG): M_1



(c) Accepting Petri Net (APN): M_2



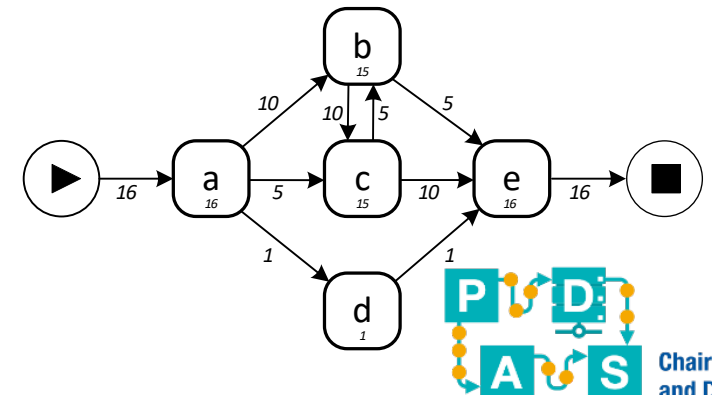
(d) Process Tree (PT): M_3

Baseline approach using DFGs

Baseline approach: DFGs

Definition 4 (Directly-Follows Graph). A *Directly-Follows Graph (DFG)* is a pair $G = (A, F)$ where $A \subseteq \mathcal{U}_{act}$ is a set of activities and $F \in \mathcal{B}((A \times A) \cup (\{\blacktriangleright\} \times A) \cup (A \times \{\blacksquare\}) \cup (\{\blacktriangleright\} \times \{\blacksquare\}))$ is a multiset of arcs. $\blacktriangleright$ is the start node and $\blacksquare$ is the end node ($\{\blacktriangleright, \blacksquare\} \cap \mathcal{U}_{act} = \emptyset$). $\mathcal{U}_G \subseteq \mathcal{U}_M$ is the set of all DFGs.

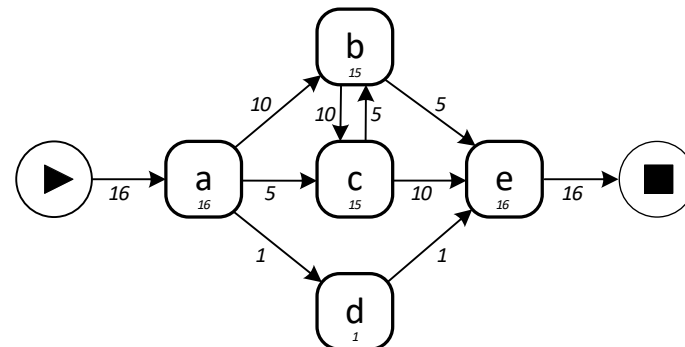
- Graph with nodes representing activities and start $\blacktriangleright$ and end $\blacksquare$.
- Behavior starts with dummy activity $\blacktriangleright$ and ends with dummy activity $\blacksquare$. Node $\blacktriangleright$ is a source node and $\blacksquare$ is a sink node.
- Arcs represent the directly-follows relation.
- Multisets to represent frequencies.
- Can be viewed as summary of the data!



Language of a DFG

Definition 5 (Traces of a DFG). Let $G = (A, F) \in \mathcal{U}_G$ be a DFG. The set of possible traces described by G is $\text{lang}(G) = \{ \langle a_2, a_3, \dots, a_{n-1} \rangle \mid a_1 = \blacktriangleright \wedge a_n = \blacksquare \wedge \forall_{1 \leq i < n} (a_i, a_{i+1}) \in F \}$.

- **Possible traces:** All paths possible according to the graph starting in node $\blacktriangleright$ and ending in node $\blacksquare$.
- **Recall:** $\blacktriangleright$ is a source node and $\blacksquare$ is a sink node.

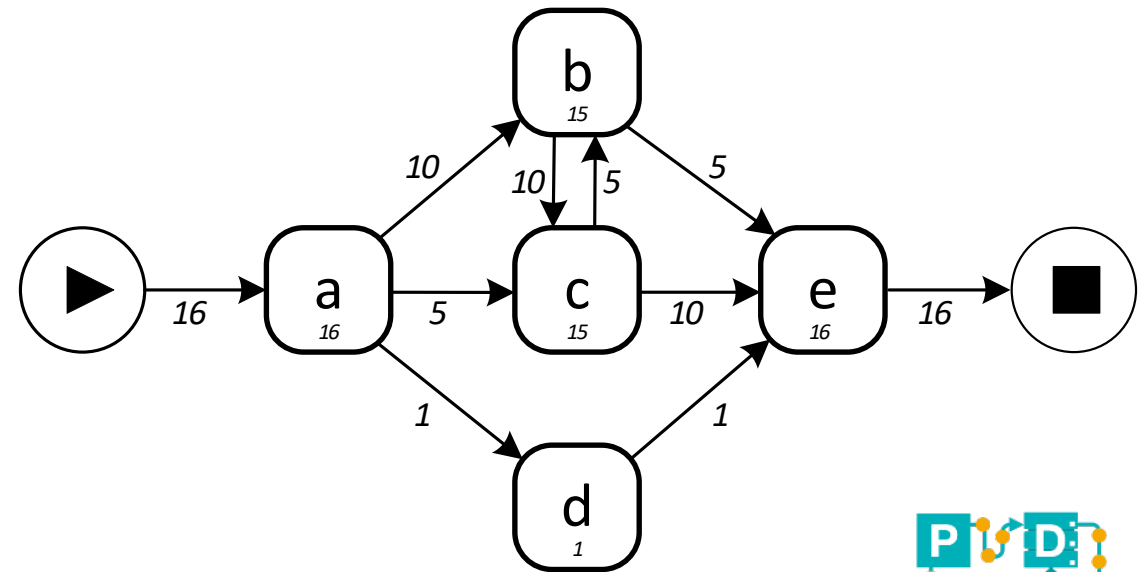
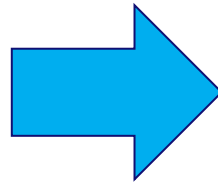
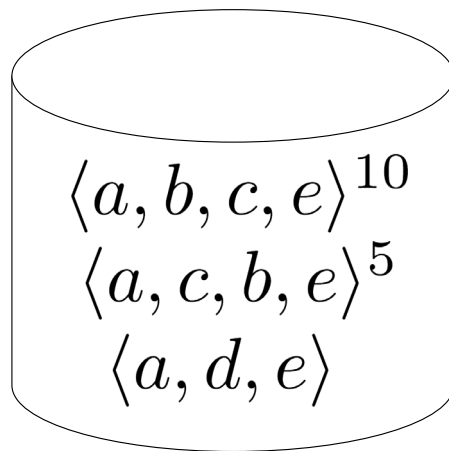


Baseline discovery

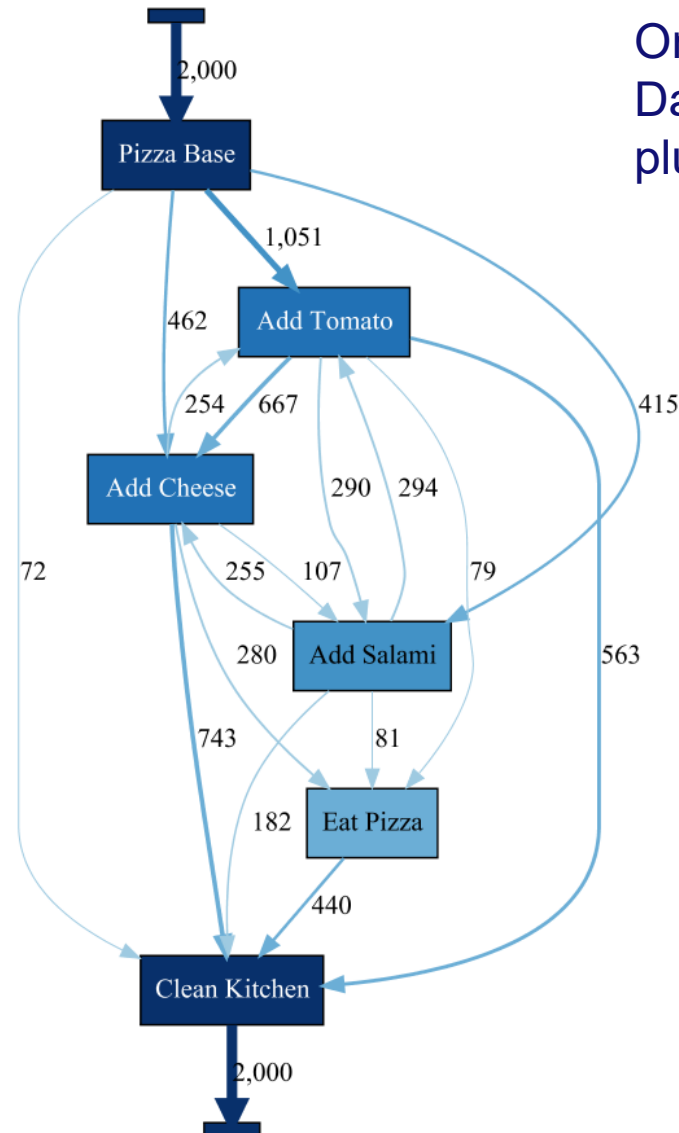
Your first discovery algorithm in just two lines of mathematics

Definition 6 (Baseline Discovery Algorithm). Let $L \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{U}_{act}^*)$ be an event log. $disc_{DFG}(L) = (A, F)$ is the DFG based on L with:

- $A = \{a \in \sigma \mid \sigma \in L\}$ and
- $F = [(\sigma_i, \sigma_{i+1}) \mid \sigma \in L' \wedge 1 \leq i < |\sigma|]$ with $L' = [\langle \blacktriangleright \rangle \cdot \sigma \cdot \langle \blacksquare \rangle \mid \sigma \in L]$.



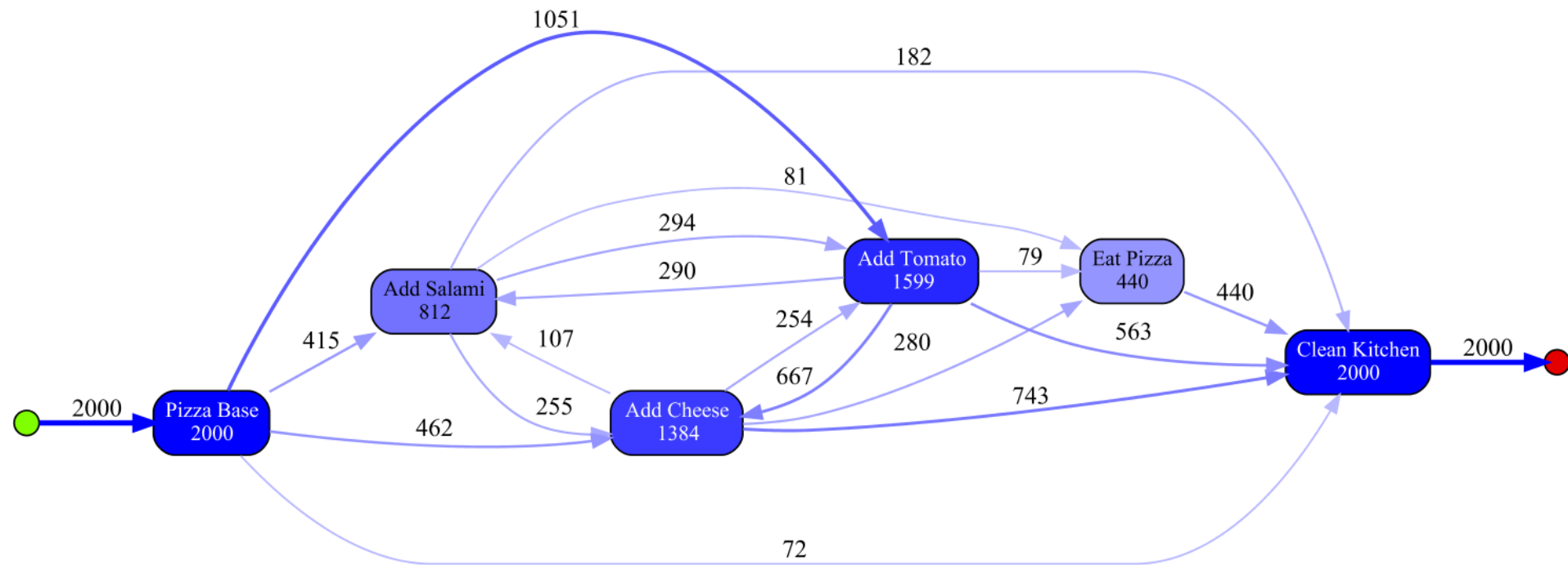
DFG discovery in ProM



One of the views of the
Data-aware heuristic miner
plug-in (Felix Mannhardt)

DFG discovery in ProM

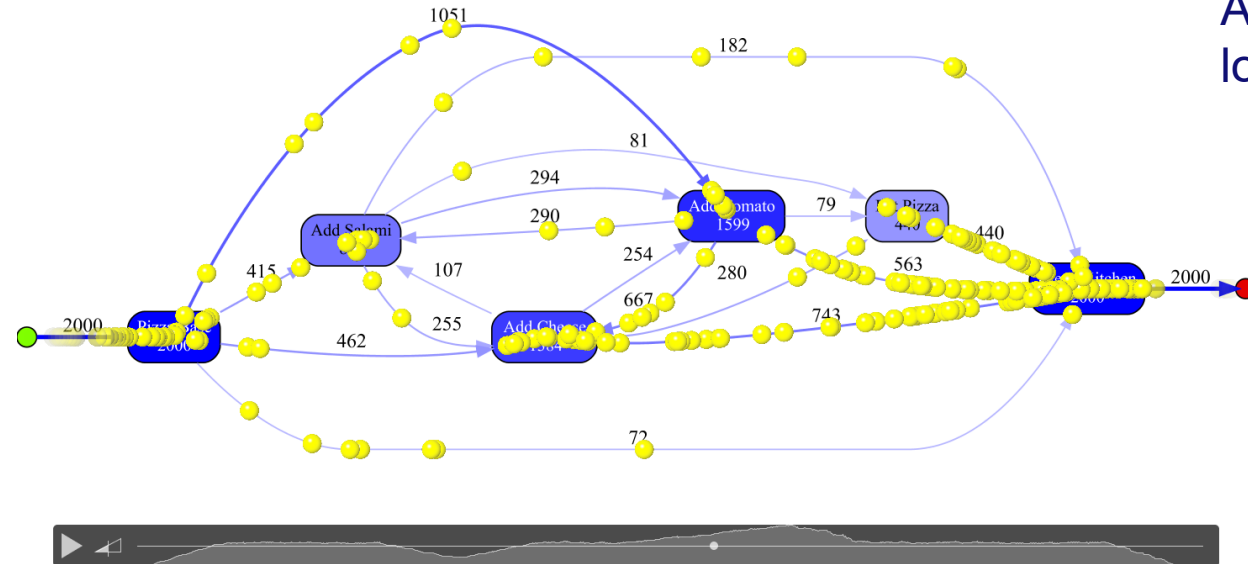
Directly-follows visual miner (Sander Leemans)



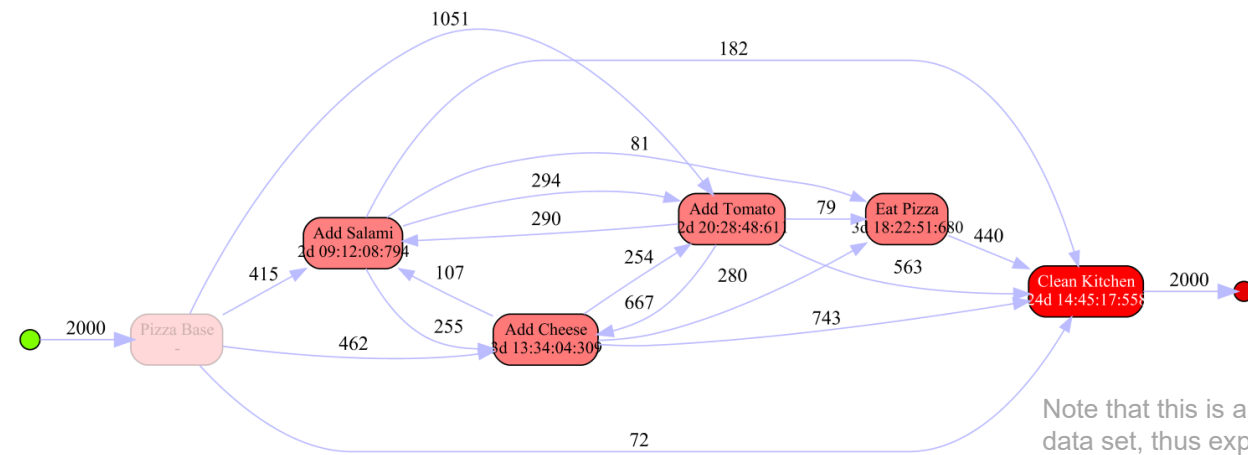
DFG discovery in ProM



Animation of the event log on top of the model



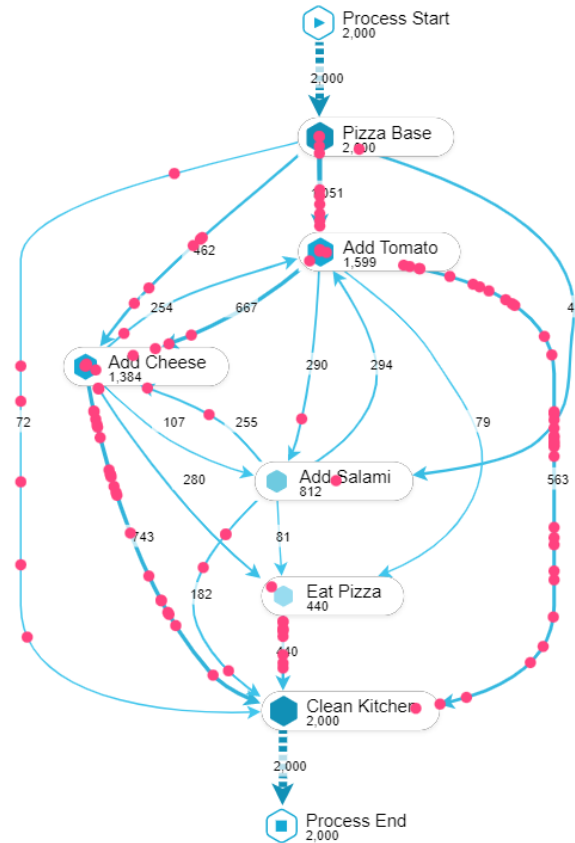
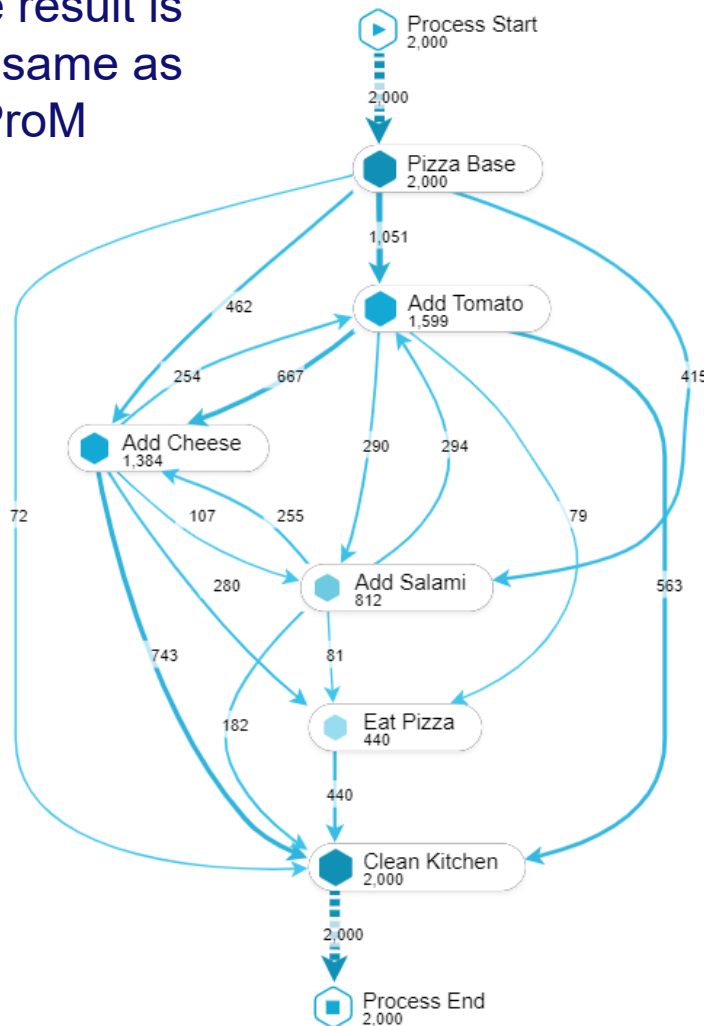
Waiting times



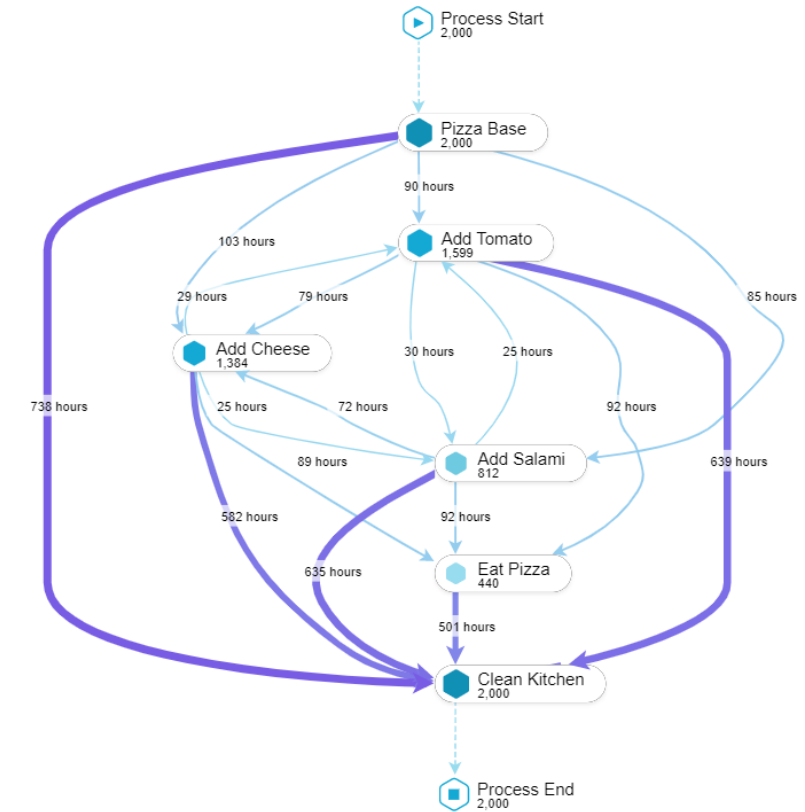
Note that this is a synthetic data set, thus explaining the long delays.

DFG Discovery in Celonis

The result is the same as in ProM



animation



times

Note that this is a synthetic data set, thus explaining the long delays.



What if we get Spaghetti instead of Lasagna?



- **Purchase to Pay (P2P).**
 - **2654 cases**
 - **16226 events**
 - **685 variants**
 - **24 unique activities**
- Still relatively simple, but ...**

Filtering

Filtering

- **Activity-based filtering**: Rank the activities (e.g., based on frequency) and remove lower-ranked activities completely from your data.
- **Variant-based filtering**: Rank the variants (e.g., based on frequency) and remove lower-ranked variants. A variant is simply a sequence of activities and may occur multiple times.
- **Arc-based filtering** (**not recommended!**): Delete arcs in the DFG (e.g., based on frequency).



Hospital Billing - Event Log

DOI: 10.4121/uuid:76c46b83-c930-4798-a1c9-4be94dfb741

[Cite](#)

DATASET

by [Felix Mannhardt](#) 

The 'Hospital Billing' event log was obtained from the financial modules of the ERP system of a regional hospital. The event log contains events that are related to the billing of medical services that have been provided by the hospital. Each trace of the event log records the activities executed to bill a package of medical services that were bundled together. The event log does not contain information about the actual medical services provided by the hospital. The 100,000 traces in the event log are a random sample of process instances that were recorded over three years. Several attributes such as the 'state' of the process, the 'caseType', the underlying 'diagnosis' etc. are included in the event log. Events and attribute values have been anonymized. The time stamps of events have been randomized for this purpose, but the time between events within a trace has not been altered. More information about the event log can be found in the related publications.

History

2017-08-01 first online, published, posted

Publisher

Eindhoven University of Technology

Format

media types: application/x-gzip, text/plain, text/xml

References

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-59536-8_34

Organizations

Cases: 100,000
Events: 451,359
Event Types: 18
Variants: 1,020



Usage statistics

14090
views

21
citations

5878
downloads

Categories

[Business And Management](#)

Keywords

[000 Computer Science, Knowledge & Systems](#)

[Billing Process](#)

[Event Log](#)

[Hospital](#)

[IEEE Task Force On Process Mining](#)

[Process Mining](#)

[Real Life Event Logs](#)

Time coverage

2012-12-13T10:13:18+01:00 / 2016-01-19T08:58:56+01:00



attribute = "value" (use right click to view available attribut

OUTPUT: PROCESS MODEL

Directly-follows Graph

Export model

OPTIONS & THRESHOLDS

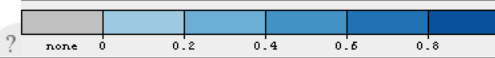
Frequency:

Cases: 100,000
Events: 451,359
Event Types: 18
Variants: 1,020

Using 158/158 directly-follows relations occuring at least 0 times

 **Expert Options**

LEGEND



Activity-based
filtering
(4 activities
selected)

Tasks

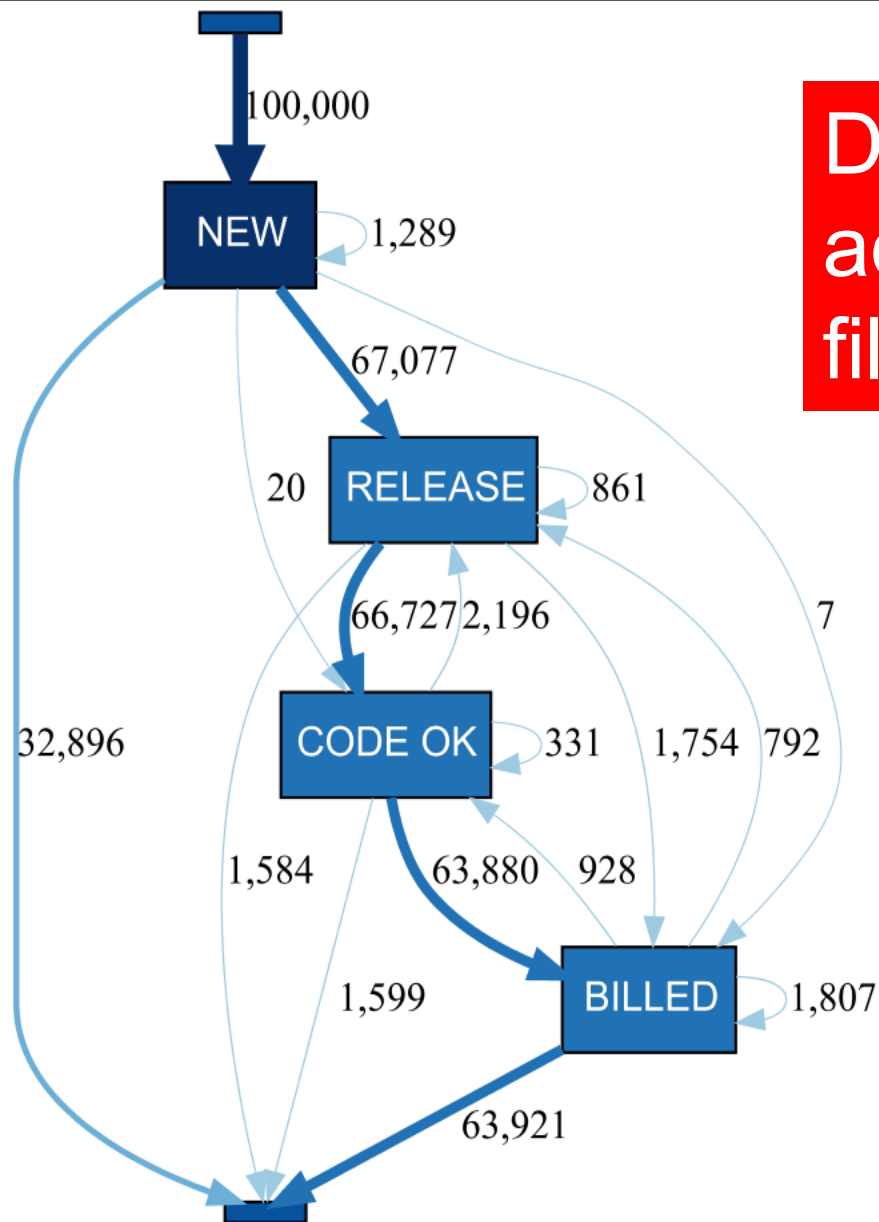
Log Filter

Event filter
Only green events will be used.

BILLED+complete
CHANGE DIAGN+complete
CHANGE END+complete
CODE ERROR+complete
CODE NOK+complete
CODE OK+complete
DELETE+complete
EMPTY+complete
FIN+complete
JOIN-PAT+complete
MANUAL+complete
NEW+complete
REJECT+complete
RELEASE+complete
REOPEN+complete
SET STATUS+complete

Select top percentage: 80

Log name:



DFG after
activity-based
filtering

100% of cases
86% of events

INPUT: TRACES

attribute = "value" (use right click to view available attri ?

Using 100,000/100,000 traces, 507,669/507,669 events

OUTPUT: PROCESS MODEL

Directly-follows Graph

Export model

SELECTED HEURISTICS

OPTIONS & THRESHOLDS

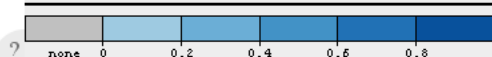
Frequency:

Cases: 100,000
Events: 307,669
Event Types: 4
Variants: 220

Using 18/18 directly-follows relations occurring at least 0 times

☐ Expert Options

LEGEND



Hospital Billing - Event Log

Select all Deselect all Sort by Count (Descending) Group by Sequence Color by Event Class Classify by concept:name



Export 3 selected trace variant(s) as log
Export 3 selected trace variant(s) as image
Remove 3 selected trace variant(s) (CAREFUL this changes the input log)

Variant-based filtering (top-3)

SQL-like filter by trace/ Filter Mode TRACES Match Sub-string ?



Traces	100,000
Events	451,359
Event Classes	18
Attributes	22
Variants	1,020
Events per Trace	4.514
First Event	2012-12-13T10:13:18Z
Last Event	2016-01-19T08:58:56Z

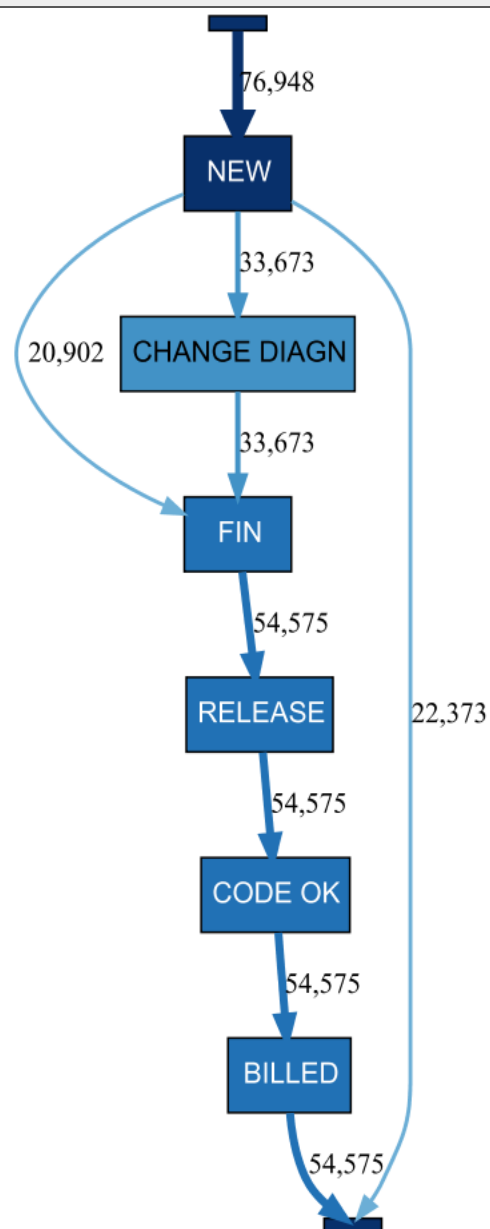
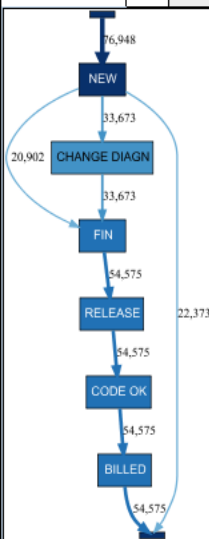
Name	Type	Value
------	------	-------

Interactive Data-aware Heuristic Miner for Top 3

Select visualisation ...



Base Model +



DFG after
variant-based
filtering (top-3)

77% of cases
72% of events

INPUT: TRACES

attribute = "value" (use right click to view available a ?)

Using 76,948/76,948 traces, 482,817/482,817 events

OUTPUT: PROCESS MODEL

Directly-follows Graph

Export model

SELECTED HEURISTICS

OPTIONS & THRESHOLDS

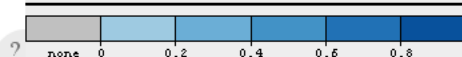
Frequency:

Cases: 76,948
Events: 328,92
Event Types: 6
Variants: 3

Using 9/9 directly-follows relations occurring at least 0 times

Expert Options

LEGEND



Full DFG Celonis

DFG

Activity Frequency

Activities 18 of 18

:= Legend

30%

30%

Search

All (3)

View (2)

Knowl...

...

+

 New asset

📄

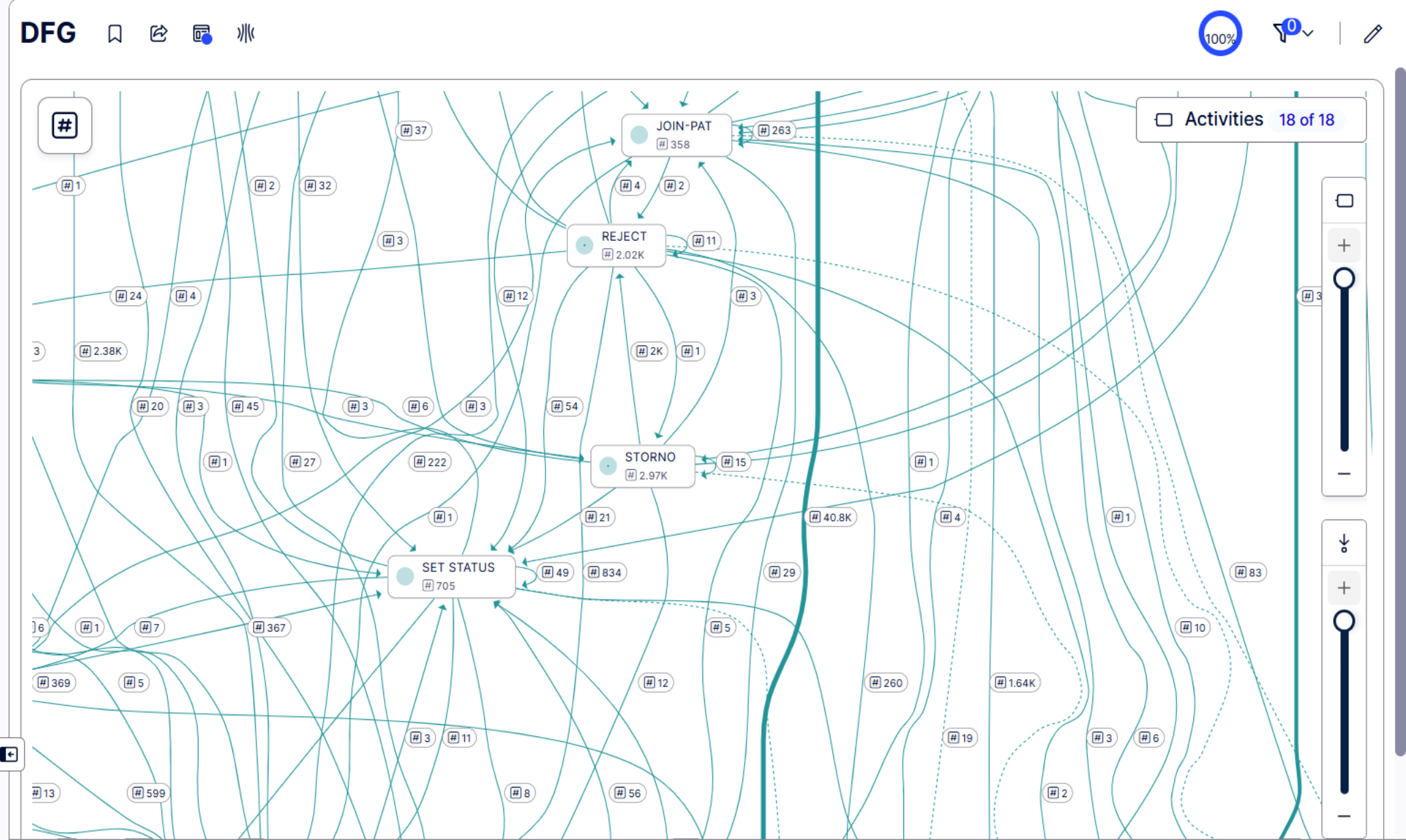
 Variants

📄

 DFG

🔗

 Hospital-billing KM



Studio > hospital-billing > def

Search

All (3) View (2) Knowl...

New asset

Variants

DFG

Hospital-billing KM

Activity-based filtering

Start #100K

NEW #101K

FIN #1.29K

RELEASE #70.9K

CODE OK #68K

End #100K

Activities 4 of 18

Activity	Select all	Event logs
☒ NEW		☒
☐ FIN		☒
☒ RELEASE		☒
☒ CODE OK		☒
☒ BILLED		☒
☐ CHANGE DIAGN		☒
☐ DELETE		☒
☐ REOPEN		☒

Cancel Apply

Celonis | Variants | def | hospital

academic-workspace-wvdaalst.eu-2.celonis.cloud/package-manager/ui/studio/ui/spaces/02ea5e91-e05d-4e47-9d31-11295b57e66a/packages/fab8a9f4-4b20-47c7-a664-3474262d5481/nodes/bdc2e2b1-7bb4-484...

Studio > hospital-billing > def

Search

All (3)View (2)Knowl...

+ New asset

Variants

DFG

Hospital-billing KM

Search CTRL /

1

3 Create version

Deploy

100%

#

Variant Explorer

cases covered

34%

1 of 949 variant

33.7K of 100K cases

Apply Filter

Variant	Count	Coverage	Avg TPT
☒ #1	33.7K	34%	131 d
☐ #2	22.4K	22%	0 ms
☐ #3	20.9K	21%	238 d
☐ #4	4.81K	5%	51 d
☐ #5	3.51K	4%	144 d
☐ #6	2.3K	2%	135 d
☐ #7	1.56K	2%	18 d
☐ #8	977	1%	102 d
☐ #9	866	1%	159 d
☐ #10	512	1%	450 d
☐ Others	8.52K	9%	210 d

Collapse Controls

Start

33.7K cases

33.7K

NEW

33.7K times

33.7K

CHANGE DIAGN

33.7K times

33.7K

FIN

33.7K times

33.7K

RELEASE

33.7K times

33.7K

CODE OK

33.7K times

33.7K

BILLED

33.7K times

33.7K

Activities 18 of 18

Variant-based filtering (top 1)

Legend72%

Celonis | Variants | def | hospital

academic-workspace-wvdaalst.eu-2.celonis.cloud/package-manager/ui/studio/ui/spaces/02ea5e91-e05d-4e47-9d31-11295b57e66a/packages/fab8a9f4-4b20-47c7-a664-3474262d5481/nodes/bdc2e2b1-7bb4-484...

Studio > hospital-billing > def

Search

1

Create version

Deploy

Search

All (3)View (2)Knowl...

New asset

Variants

DFG

Hospital-billing KM

100%

Activities 18 of 18

Legend72%

#

Variant Explorer

cases covered
3 of 949 variants
76.9K of 100K cases

Apply Filter

Variant	Count	Coverage	Avg TPT
#1	33.7K	34%	131 d
#2	22.4K	22%	0 ms
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#5	3.51K	4%	144 d
#6	2.3K	2%	135 d
#7	1.56K	2%	18 d
#8	977	1%	102 d
#9	866	1%	159 d
#10	512	1%	450 d
Others	8.52K	9%	210 d

Collapse Controls

NEW
76.9K times

CHANGE DIAGN
33.7K times

FIN
54.6K times

RELEASE
54.6K times

CODE OK
54.6K times

BILLED
54.6K times

Variant-based filtering (top 3)

Celonis | Variants | def | hospital

academic-workspace-wvdaalst.eu-2.celonis.cloud/package-manager/ui/studio/ui/spaces/02ea5e91-e05d-4e47-9d31-11295b57e66a/packages/fab8a9f4-4b20-47c7-a664-3474262d5481/nodes/bdc2e2b1-7bb4-484...

Studio > hospital-billing > def

Search CTRL /

1

Create version

Deploy

Search

All (3) View (2) Knowl...

+ New asset

Variants

DFG

Hospital-billing KM

Variant Explorer

100%

cases covered

3 of 3 variants

76.9K of 76.9K cases

Apply Filter

Variant	Count	Coverage	Avg TPT
#1	33.7K	44%	131 d
#2	22.4K	29%	0 ms
#3	20.9K	27%	238 d

Collapse Controls

Start

NEW

CHANGE DIAGN

FIN

RELEASE

CODE OK

BILLED

Legend

59%

77%

Variant 3 selected

Attribute filter

Process filters

Process flow filter

Activity filter

Throughput time filter

Activity count filter

Copy filters to View

Reset filters

Propogate filter that covers 77% of cases

Search

All (3) View (2) Knowl...

+ New asset

Variants

DFG

Hospital-billing KM

Variants

#

Variant Explorer

100%

cases covered

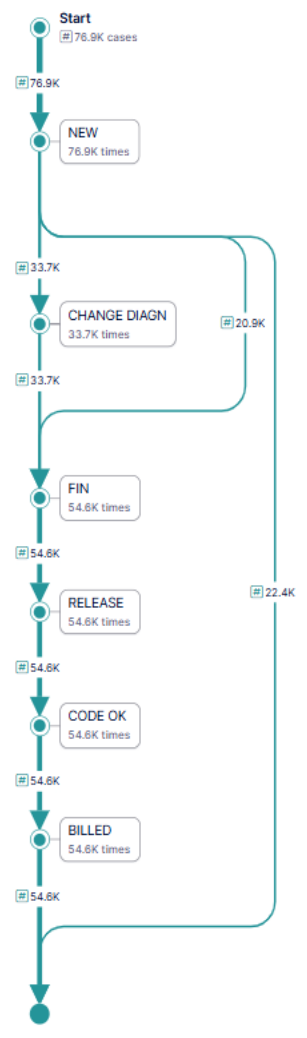
3 of 3 variants

76.9K of 76.9K cases

Apply Filter

Variant	Count	Coverage	Avg TPT
#1	33.7K	44%	131 d
#2	22.4K	29%	0 ms
#3	20.9K	27%	238 d

Collapse Controls



77%

Variant 3 selected

Activities 18 of 18

Filters copied to the clipboard

Go to the View where you want to apply the filters and apply them by clicking on "apply filter". The filters will remain in the clipboard for 10 minutes.

Celonis | DFG | def | hospital-bill

academic-workspace-wvdaalst.eu-2.celonis.cloud/package-manager/ui/studio/ui/spaces/02ea5e91-e05d-4e47-9d31-11295b57e66a/packages/fab8a9f4-4b20-47c7-a664-3474262d5481/nodes/eabcf8f2-08bc-4bef...

Studio > hospital-billing > def

Search

All (3)View (2)Knowl...

+ New asset

Variants

DFG

Hospital-billing KM

77%

Variant3 selected

Create versionDeploy

Google Chrome anpassen und verwalten

DFG

#

Variant-based filtering (top-3)

Start76.9K

NEW76.9K

CHANGE DIAGN33.7K

FIN54.6K

RELEASE54.6K

CODE OK54.6K

BILLED54.6K

End76.9K

22.4K

33.7K

20.9K

33.7K

54.6K

54.6K

54.6K

54.6K

54.6K

54.6K

Activities18 of 18

Legend73%

Celonis | Variants | def | hospital

academic-workspace-wvdaalst.eu-2.celonis.cloud/package-manager/ui/studio/ui/spaces/02ea5e91-e05d-4e47-9d31-11295b57e66a/packages/fab8a9f4-4b20-47c7-a664-3474262d5481/nodes/bdc2e2b1-7bb4-484...

Studio > hospital-billing > def

Search

All (3)View (2)Knowl...

+ New asset

Variants

DFG

Hospital-billing KM

100%

3 Create version

Deploy

#

Variant Explorer

91%

cases covered

9 of 949 variants

91K of 100K cases

Apply Filter

	Variant	Count	Coverage	Avg TPT
☒	#1	33.7K	34%	131 d
☒	#2	22.4K	22%	0 ms
☒	#3	20.9K	21%	238 d
☒	#4	4.81K	5%	51 d
☒	#5	3.51K	4%	144 d
☒	#6	2.3K	2%	135 d
☒	#7	1.56K	2%	18 d
☒	#8	977	1%	102 d
☒	#9	866	1%	159 d
☐	#10	512	1%	450 d
☐	Others	8.52K	9%	210 d

Collapse Controls

Start

NEW

CHANGE DIAGN

DELETE

FIN

RELEASE

CODE OK

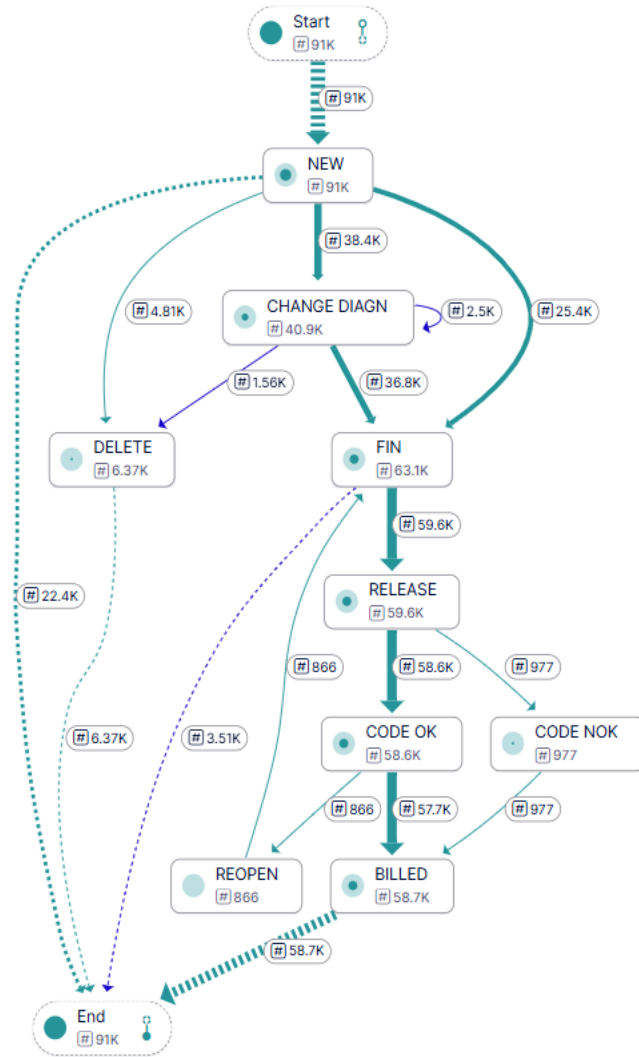
CODE NOK

Legend

59%

Variant-based filtering (top-10)

Variant-based
filtering (top-10)



Challenges

Challenges

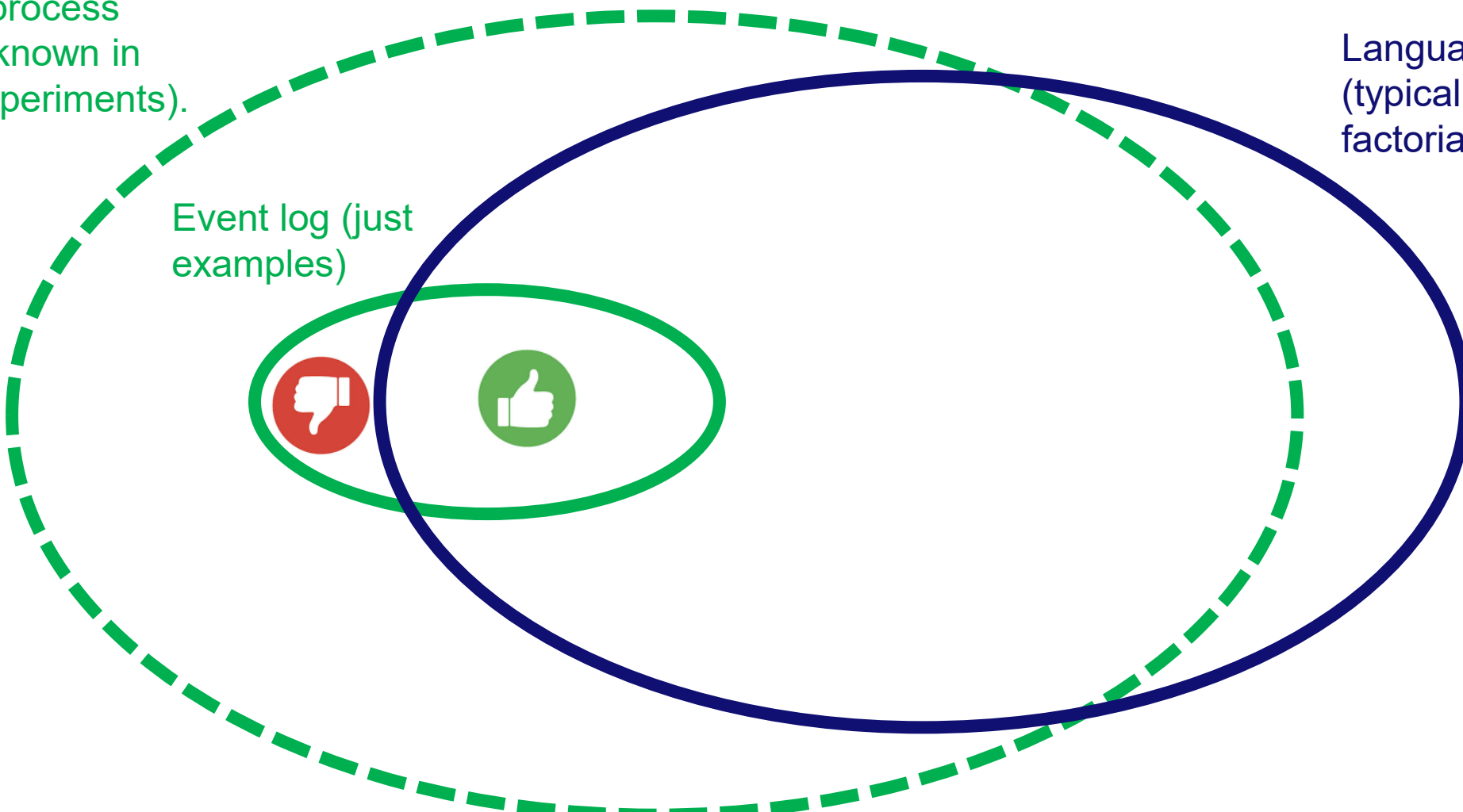
- If the model allows for a loop, we have **infinitely** many possible traces. This can never be observed!
- The event log just shows **examples**, the fact that something did not happen does **not** mean it cannot.
- We do not have **negative** traces, i.e., it is not a classification problem.
- Hence, precision and recall **cannot** be defined in the usual manner.

Visualizing the challenges

Real process
(only known in
lab experiments).

Language of the model
(typically infinitely or
factorial many traces).

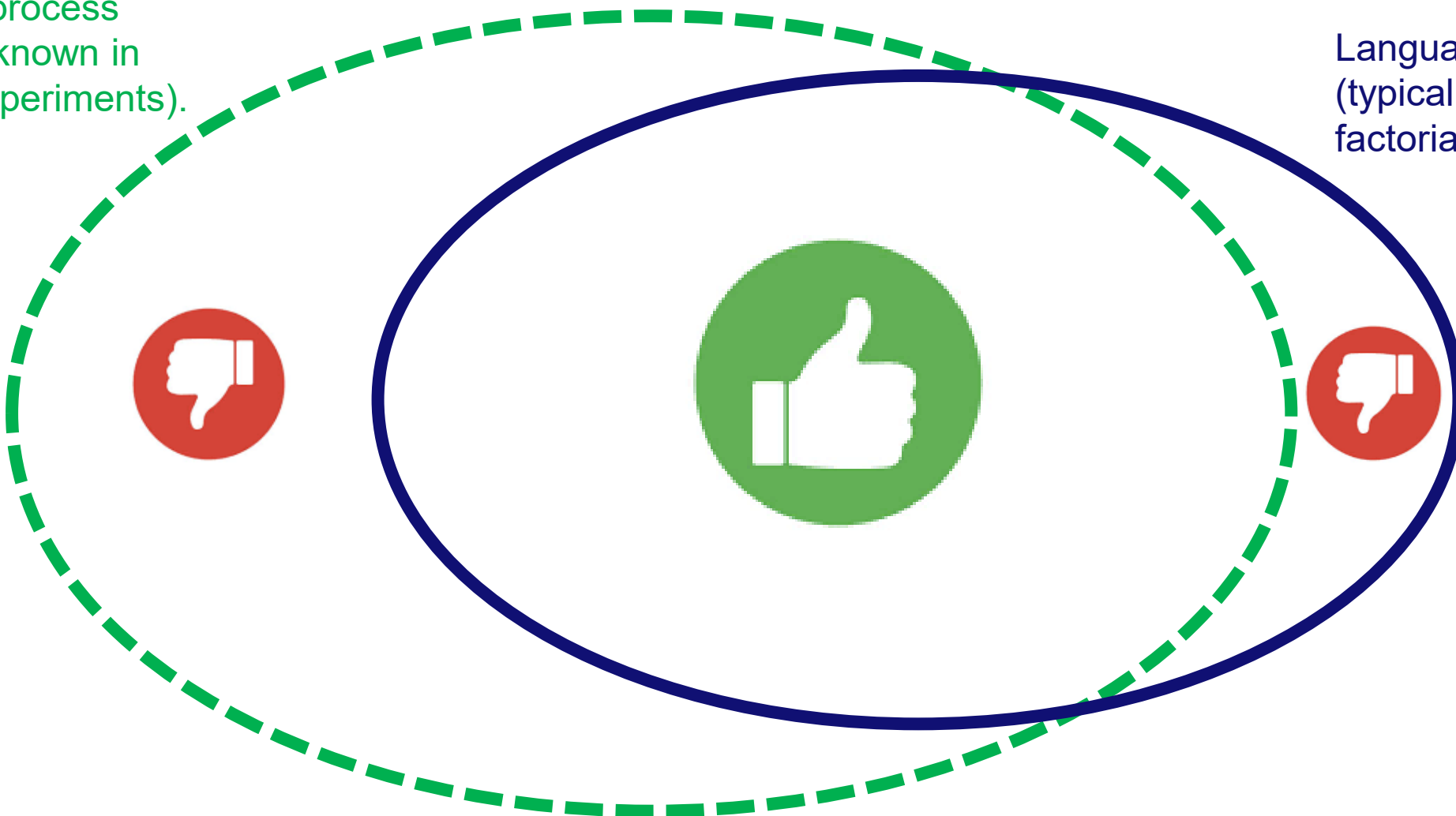
Event log (just
examples)



What we would like to know, but cannot know

Real process
(only known in
lab experiments).

Language of the model
(typically infinitely or
factorial many traces).



Therefore, there are many approximations (often using proxies)

See later lectures!

- **Replay fitness** (using the fraction of fitting traces on the event log, token-based, or alignment based).
- **Precision** (e.g., escaping edges).
- **Simplicity** (e.g., number of arcs).
- **Generalization** (e.g., likelihood that the next trace will fit given some assumptions about the distribution).

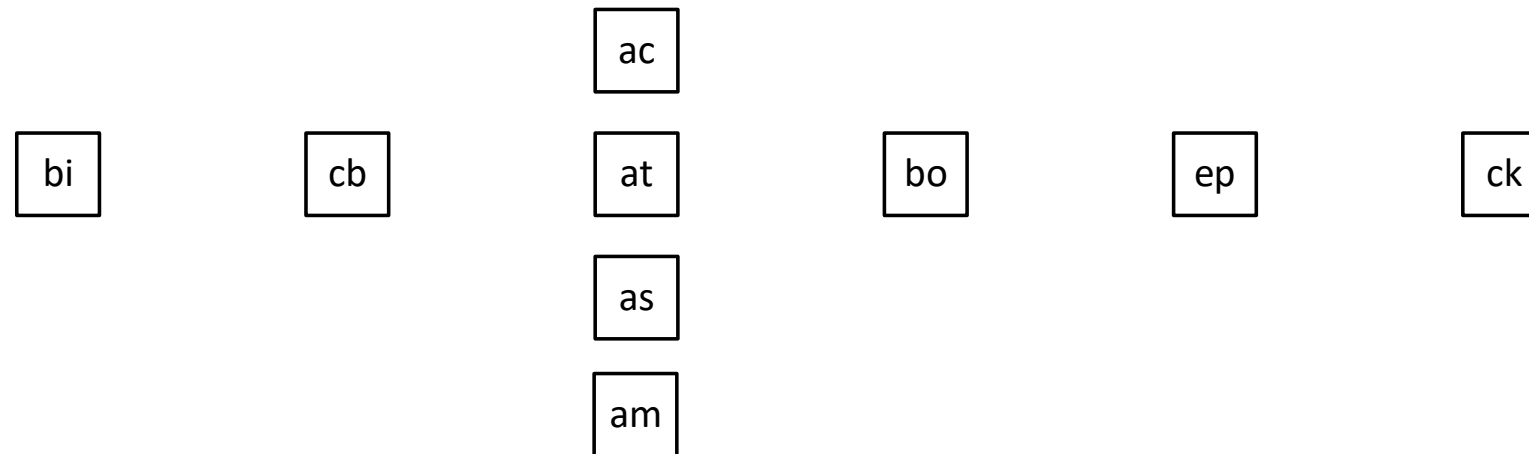
Check out stochastic conformance checking!

Sander Leemans, Wil van der Aalst, Tobias Brockhoff, Artem Polyvyanny: Stochastic process mining: Earth movers' stochastic conformance. Inf. Syst. 102: 101724 (2021)

Bottom-up discovery

Bottom-up discovery

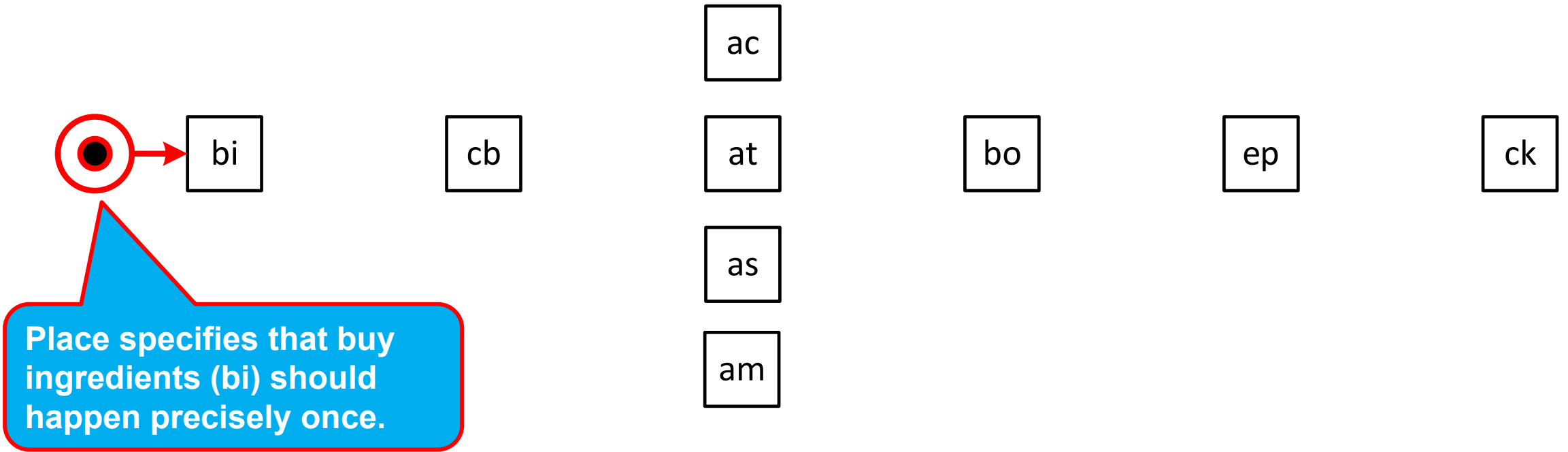
- Assume that **anything is possible**.
- Start adding **constraints** supported by the data.
- A Petri net **place** is a constraint.
- Accepting Petri-nets are surprisingly **declarative**.



Using short names: buy ingredients (bi), create base (cb), add cheese (ac), add tomato (at), add salami (as), add mushrooms (am), bake in oven (bo), eat pizza (ep), and clean kitchen (ck).



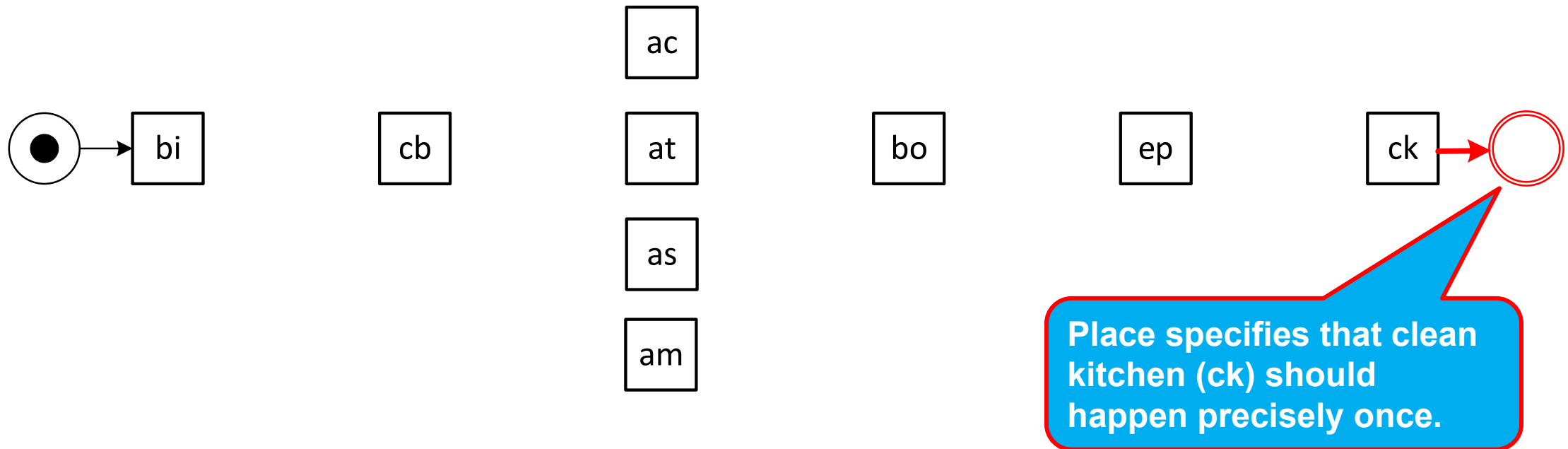
Places as constraints



An accepting Petri net has an initial and final marking (here the final marking is $[\]$, i.e., no tokens).

Using short names: buy ingredients (bi), create base (cb), add cheese (ac), add tomato (at), add salami (as), add mushrooms (am), bake in oven (bo), eat pizza (ep), and clean kitchen (ck).

Places as constraints

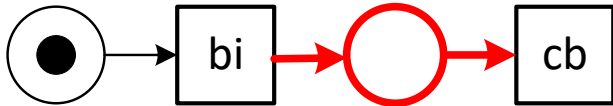


An accepting Petri net has an initial and final marking (here the final marking has one token in sink place).

Using short names: buy ingredients (bi), create base (cb), add cheese (ac), add tomato (at), add salami (as), add mushrooms (am), bake in oven (bo), eat pizza (ep), and clean kitchen (ck).

Places as constraints

- $\#bi = \#cb$ at the end of each case
- $\#bi \geq \#cb$ at any point in time



Place specifies that bi and cb should happen the same number of times. Moreover, at any stage the number of occurrences of cb should not exceed the number of occurrences of bi.

ac

at

as

am

bo

ep

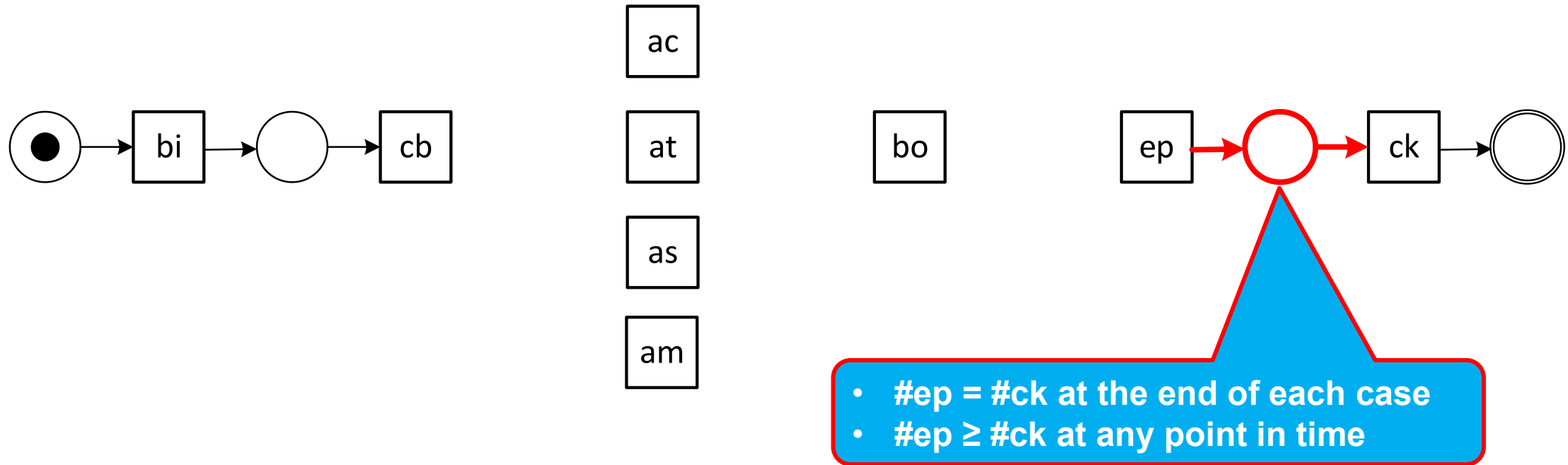
ck

A place defines a **local** constraint.

Using short names: buy ingredients (bi), create base (cb), add cheese (ac), add tomato (at), add salami (as), add mushrooms (am), bake in oven (bo), eat pizza (ep), and clean kitchen (ck).

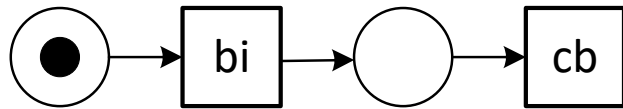


Places as constraints



Using short names: buy ingredients (bi), create base (cb), add cheese (ac), add tomato (at), add salami (as), add mushrooms (am), bake in oven (bo), eat pizza (ep), and clean kitchen (ck).

Places as constraints

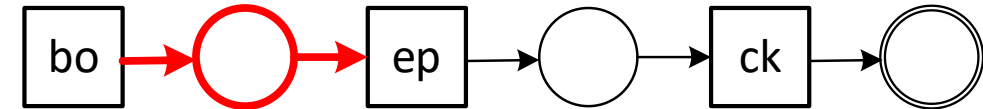


ac

at

as

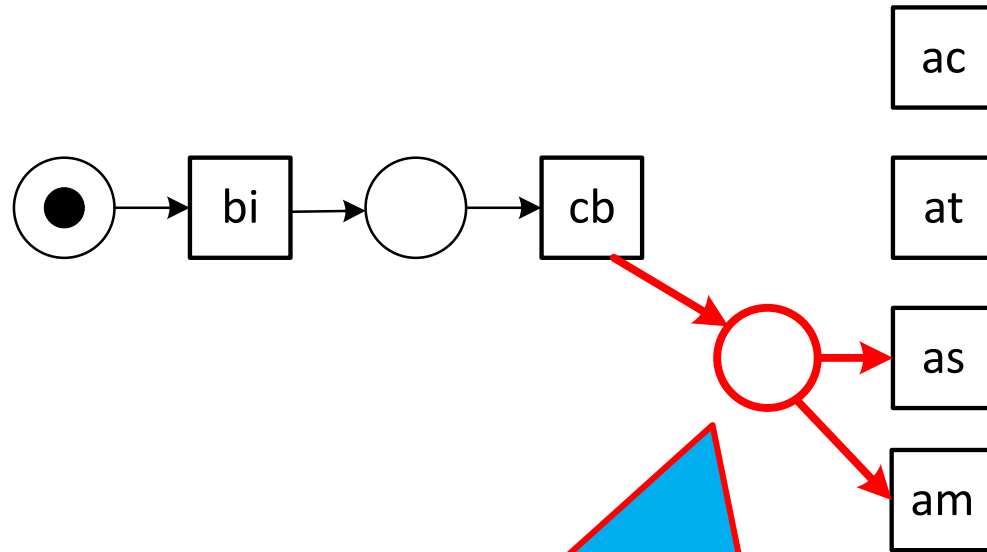
am



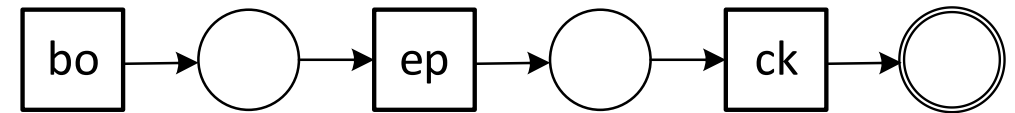
- $\#bo = \#ep$ at the end of each case
- $\#bo \geq \#ep$ at any point in time

Using short names: buy ingredients (bi), create base (cb), add cheese (ac), add tomato (at), add salami (as), add mushrooms (am), bake in oven (bo), eat pizza (ep), and clean kitchen (ck).

Places as constraints

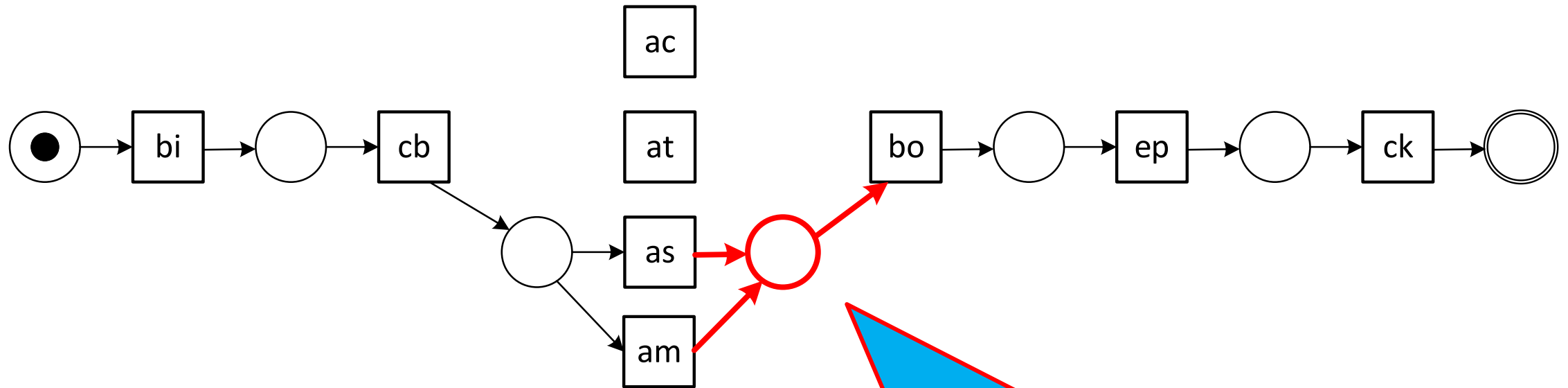


- $\#cb = \#as + \#am$ at the end of each case
- $\#cb \geq \#as + \#am$ at any point in time



Using short names: buy ingredients (bi), create base (cb), add cheese (ac), add tomato (at), add salami (as), add mushrooms (am), bake in oven (bo), eat pizza (ep), and clean kitchen (ck).

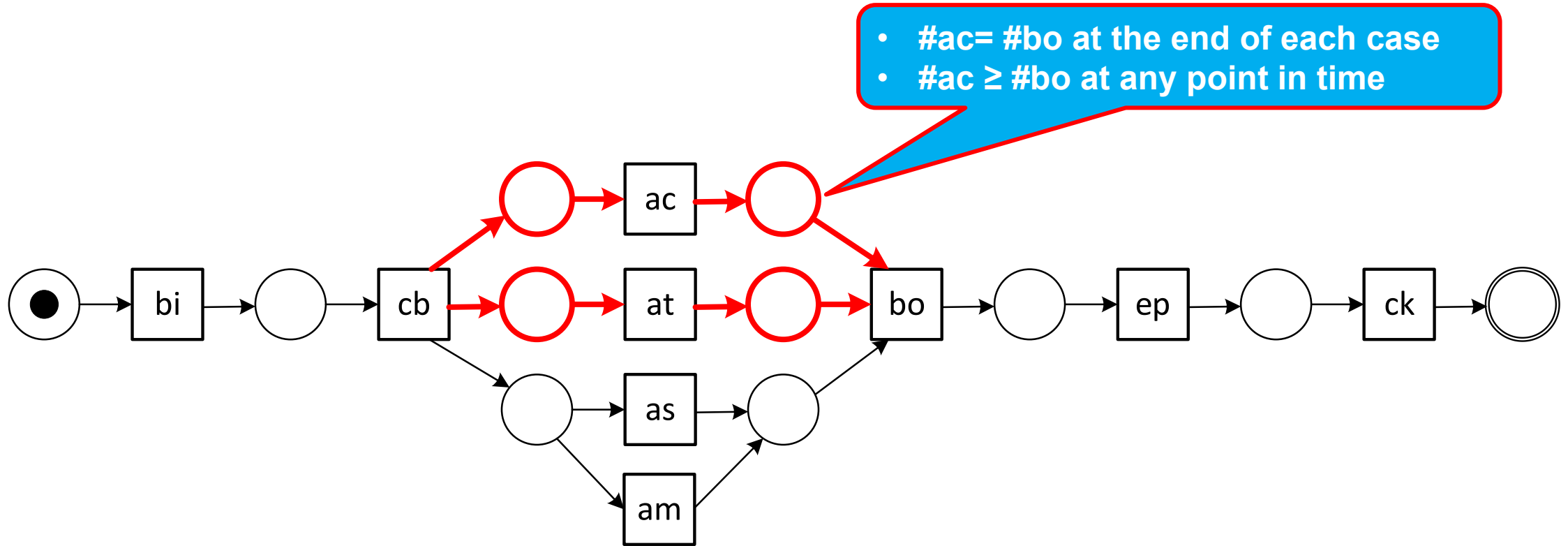
Places as constraints



- $\#as + \#am = \#bo$ at the end of each case
- $\#as + \#am \geq \#bo$ any point in time

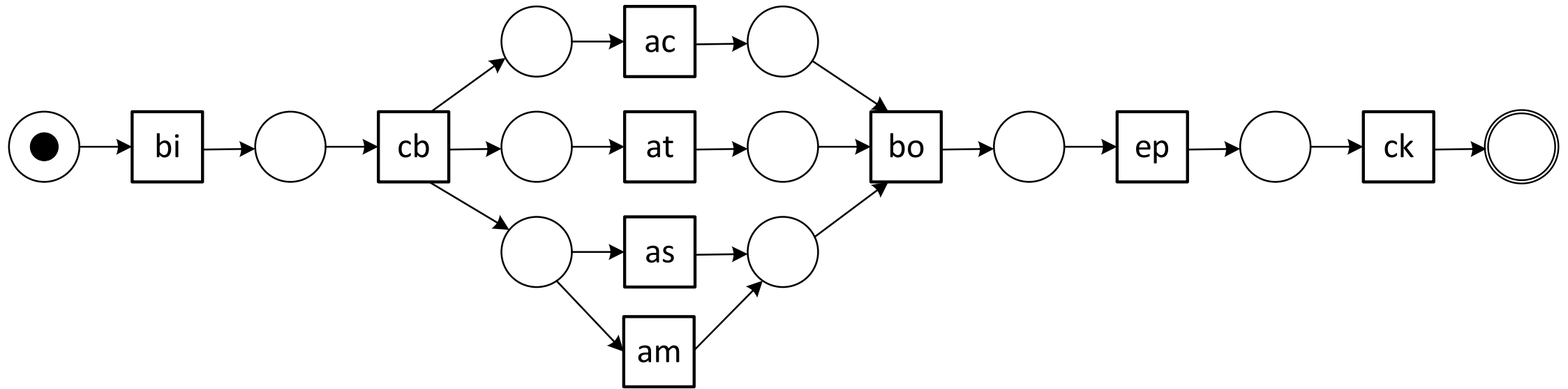
Using short names: buy ingredients (bi), create base (cb), add cheese (ac), add tomato (at), add salami (as), add mushrooms (am), bake in oven (bo), eat pizza (ep), and clean kitchen (ck).

Places as constraints



Using short names: buy ingredients (bi), create base (cb), add cheese (ac), add tomato (at), add salami (as), add mushrooms (am), bake in oven (bo), eat pizza (ep), and clean kitchen (ck).

Final accepting Petri net



Also every intermediate model was an accepting Petri net!

Bottom-up process discover uses this locality principle!

Using short names: buy ingredients (bi), create base (cb), add cheese (ac), add tomato (at), add salami (as), add mushrooms (am), bake in oven (bo), eat pizza (ep), and clean kitchen (ck).

Alpha Algorithm

Just eight lines of mathematics, based on the DFG created before

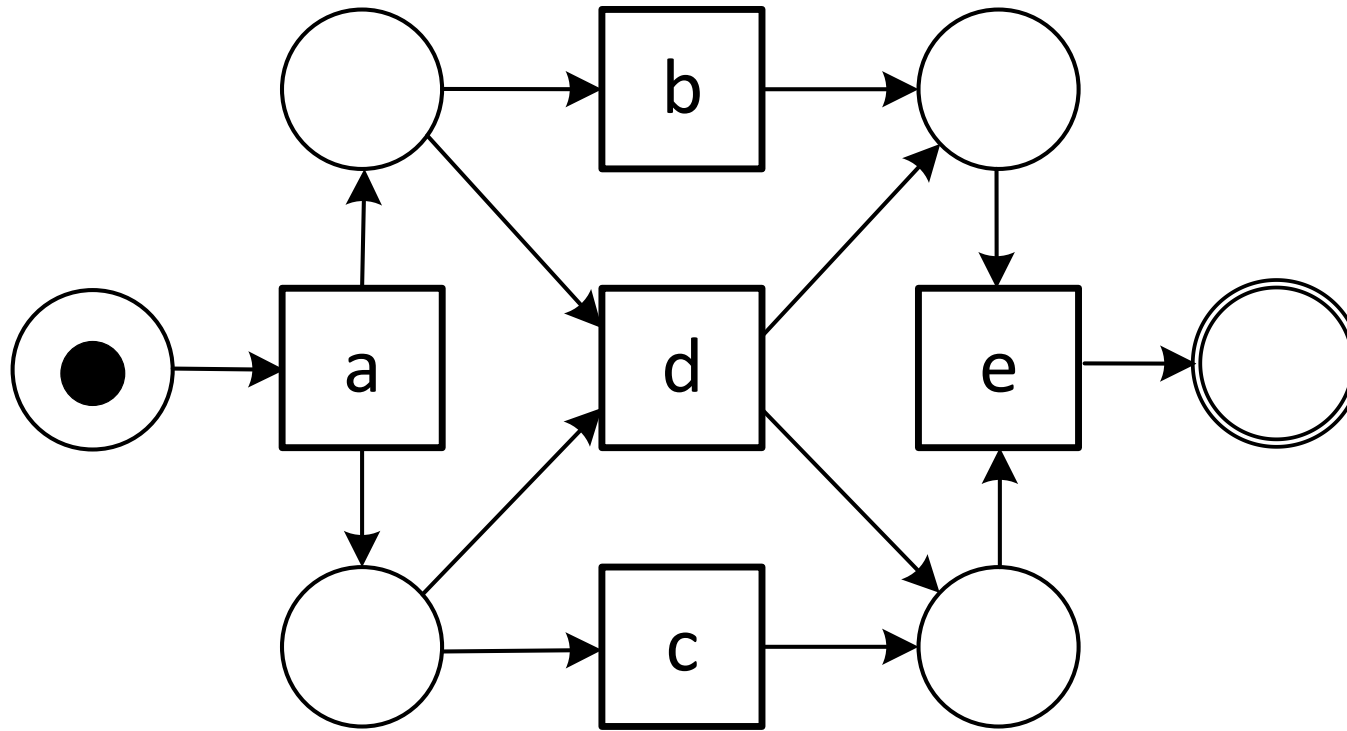
Definition 22 (Alpha Algorithm). *The alpha algorithm $disc_{alpha} \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{U}_{act}^*) \rightarrow \mathcal{U}_{AN}$ returns an accepting Petri net $disc_{alpha}(L)$ for any event log $L \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{U}_{act}^*)$. Let $A = act(L)$ and $fp(L) = fp(disc_{DFG}(L))$ the footprint of event log L . This allows us to write $a_1 \rightarrow_L a_2$ if $fp(L)((a_1, a_2)) = \rightarrow$ and $a_1 \#_L a_2$ if $fp(L)((a_1, a_2)) = \#$ for any $a_1, a_2 \in A' = A \cup \{\blacktriangleright, \blacksquare\}$.*

1. $Cnd = \{(A_1, A_2) \mid A_1 \subseteq A' \wedge A_1 \neq \emptyset \wedge A_2 \subseteq A' \wedge A_2 \neq \emptyset \wedge \forall_{a_1 \in A_1} \forall_{a_2 \in A_2} a_1 \rightarrow_L a_2 \wedge \forall_{a_1, a_2 \in A_1} a_1 \#_L a_2 \wedge \forall_{a_1, a_2 \in A_2} a_1 \#_L a_2\}$ are the candidate places,
2. $Sel = \{(A_1, A_2) \in Cnd \mid \forall_{(A'_1, A'_2) \in Cnd} A_1 \subseteq A'_1 \wedge A_2 \subseteq A'_2 \implies (A_1, A_2) = (A'_1, A'_2)\}$ are the selected maximal places,
3. $P = \{p_{(A_1, A_2)} \mid (A_1, A_2) \in Sel\} \cup \{p_{\blacktriangleright}, p_{\blacksquare}\}$ is the set of all places,
4. $T = \{t_a \mid a \in A'\}$ is the set of transitions,
5. $F = \{(t_a, p_{(A_1, A_2)}) \mid (A_1, A_2) \in Sel \wedge a \in A_1\} \cup \{(p_{(A_1, A_2)}, t_a) \mid (A_1, A_2) \in Sel \wedge a \in A_2\} \cup \{(p_{\blacktriangleright}, t_{\blacktriangleright}), (t_{\blacksquare}, p_{\blacksquare})\}$ is the set of arcs,
6. $l = \{(t_a, a) \mid a \in A\}$ is the labeling function,
7. $M_{init} = [p_{\blacktriangleright}]$ is the initial marking, $M_{final} = [p_{\blacksquare}]$ is the final marking, and
8. $disc_{alpha}(L) = ((P, T, F, l), M_{init}, M_{final})$ is the discovered accepting Petri net.



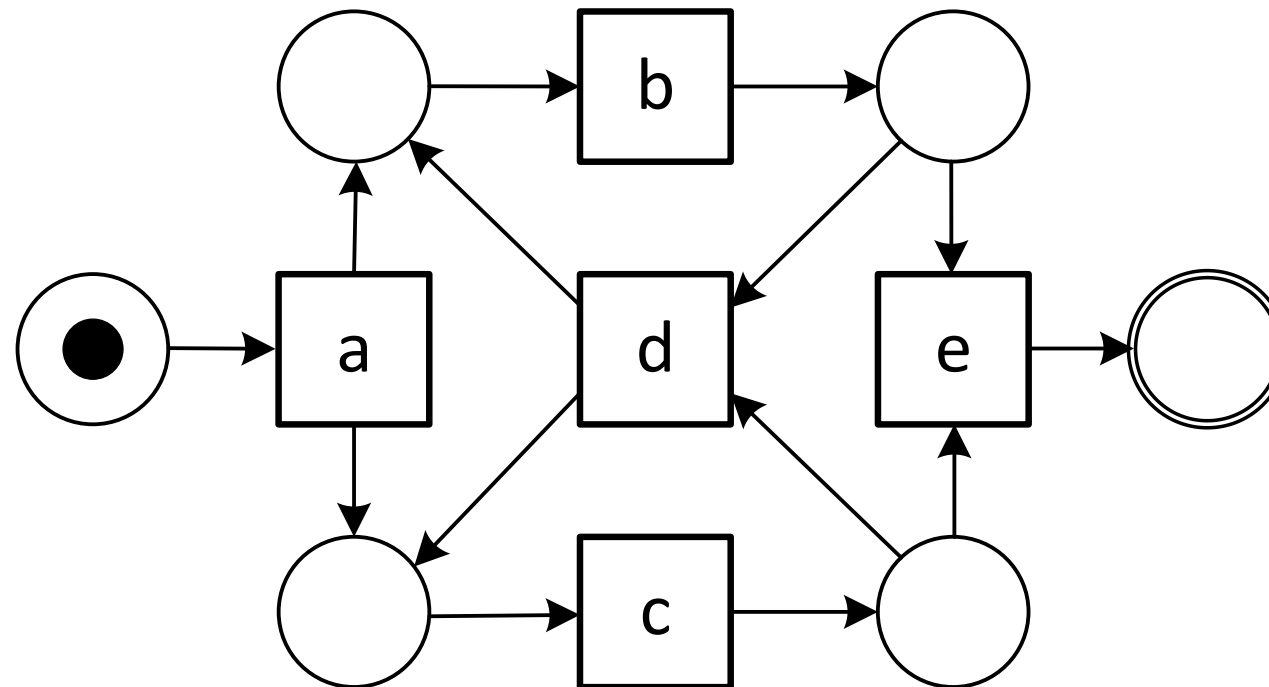
Example

$$L_1 = [\langle a, b, c, e \rangle^{10}, \langle a, c, b, e \rangle^5, \langle a, d, e \rangle] \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{U}_{act}^*)$$



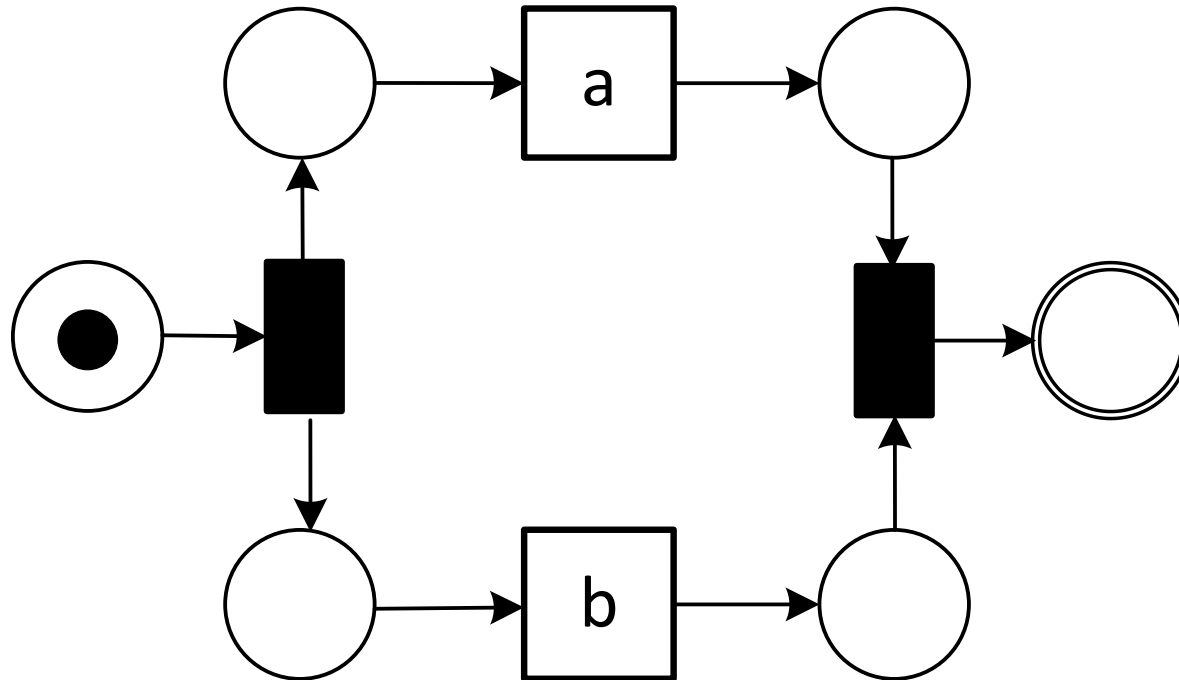
Another example

$$L_2 = [\langle a, b, c, e \rangle^{50}, \langle a, c, b, e \rangle^{40}, \langle a, b, c, d, b, c, e \rangle^{30}, \langle a, c, b, d, b, c, e \rangle^{20}, \langle a, b, c, d, c, b, e \rangle^{10}, \langle a, c, b, d, c, b, d, b, c, e \rangle^{10}]$$



Another example

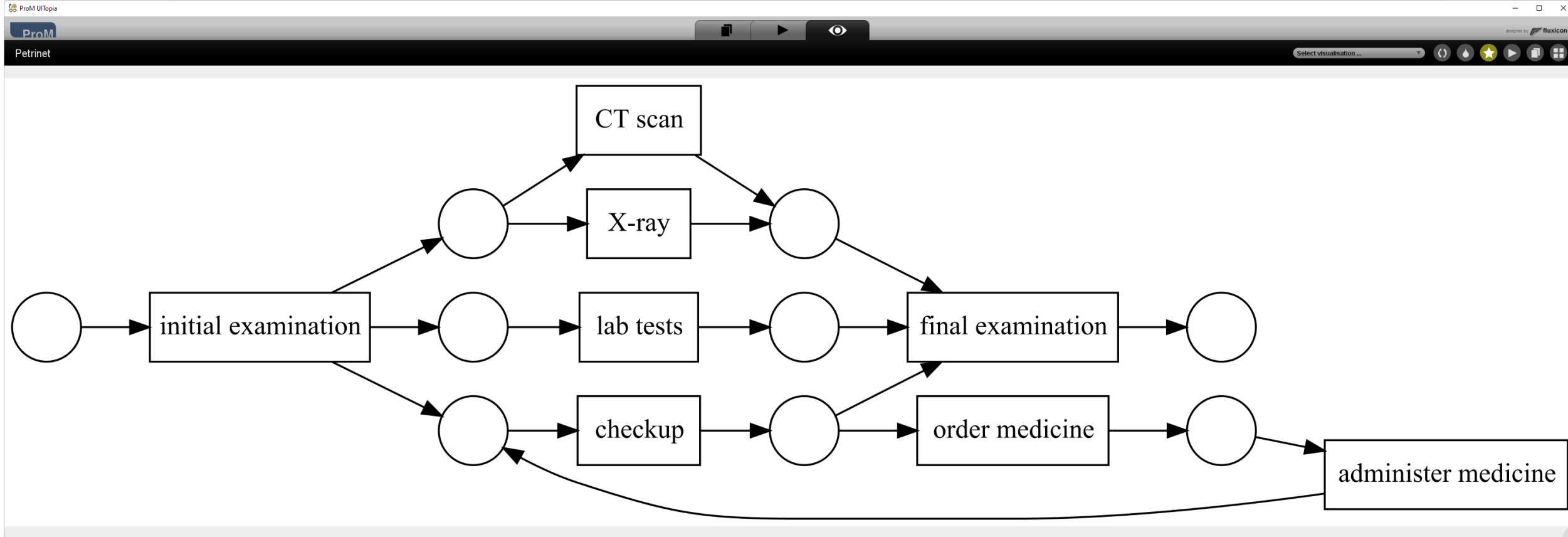
$$L_4 = [\langle a, b \rangle^{35}, \langle b, a \rangle^{15}]$$



Illustrates why it sometimes makes sense to add an artificial start and end.

Example in ProM

1856 cases, 11761 events, 197 variants



The Alpha algorithm is very simplistic

(mostly used for didactical reasons)

- Cannot handled certain constructs
- Weaker guarantees
- However, it illustrates the idea of process discovery.
- There exist various stronger bottom-up techniques:
 - State-based regions
 - Language-based regions
 - eST miner
 - Hybrid miner

Definition 22 (Alpha Algorithm). The alpha algorithm $disc_{alpha} \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{U}_{act}^*) \rightarrow \mathcal{U}_{AN}$ returns an accepting Petri net $disc_{alpha}(L)$ for any event log $L \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{U}_{act}^*)$. Let $A = act(L)$ and $fp(L) = fp(disc_{DFG}(L))$ the footprint of event log L . This allows us to write $a_1 \rightarrow_L a_2$ if $fp(L)((a_1, a_2)) = \rightarrow$ and $a_1 \#_L a_2$ if $fp(L)((a_1, a_2)) = \#$ for any $a_1, a_2 \in A' = A \cup \{\blacktriangleright, \blacksquare\}$.

1. $Cnd = \{(A_1, A_2) \mid A_1 \subseteq A' \wedge A_1 \neq \emptyset \wedge A_2 \subseteq A' \wedge A_2 \neq \emptyset \wedge \forall a_1 \in A_1 \forall a_2 \in A_2 a_1 \rightarrow_L a_2 \wedge \forall a_1, a_2 \in A_1 a_1 \#_L a_2 \wedge \forall a_1, a_2 \in A_2 a_1 \#_L a_2\}$ are the candidate places,
2. $Sel = \{(A_1, A_2) \in Cnd \mid \forall (A'_1, A'_2) \in Cnd A_1 \subseteq A'_1 \wedge A_2 \subseteq A'_2 \implies (A_1, A_2) = (A'_1, A'_2)\}$ are the selected maximal places,
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6. $l = \{(t_a, a) \mid a \in A\}$ is the labeling function,
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8. $disc_{alpha}(L) = ((P, T, F, l), M_{init}, M_{final})$ is the discovered accepting Petri net.

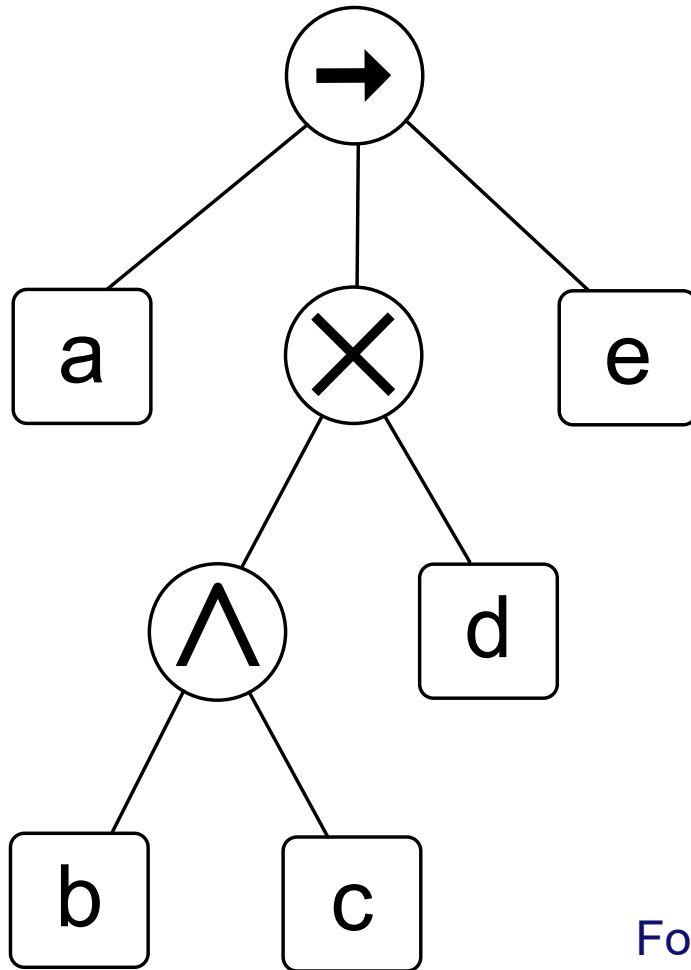
Top-down discovery

Top-down discovery

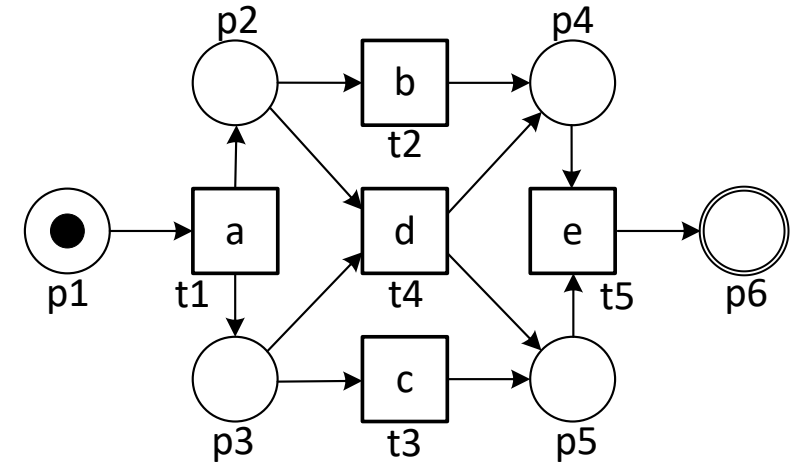
- **Divide and conquer.**
- **Split the problem recursively into smaller problems such that things get trivial.**
- **An example is the Inductive Mining (IM) technique:**
 - **Uses process trees.**
 - **The leading approach**
 - **Implemented in ProM, Celonis, and many other tools.**

Process Trees

A process tree

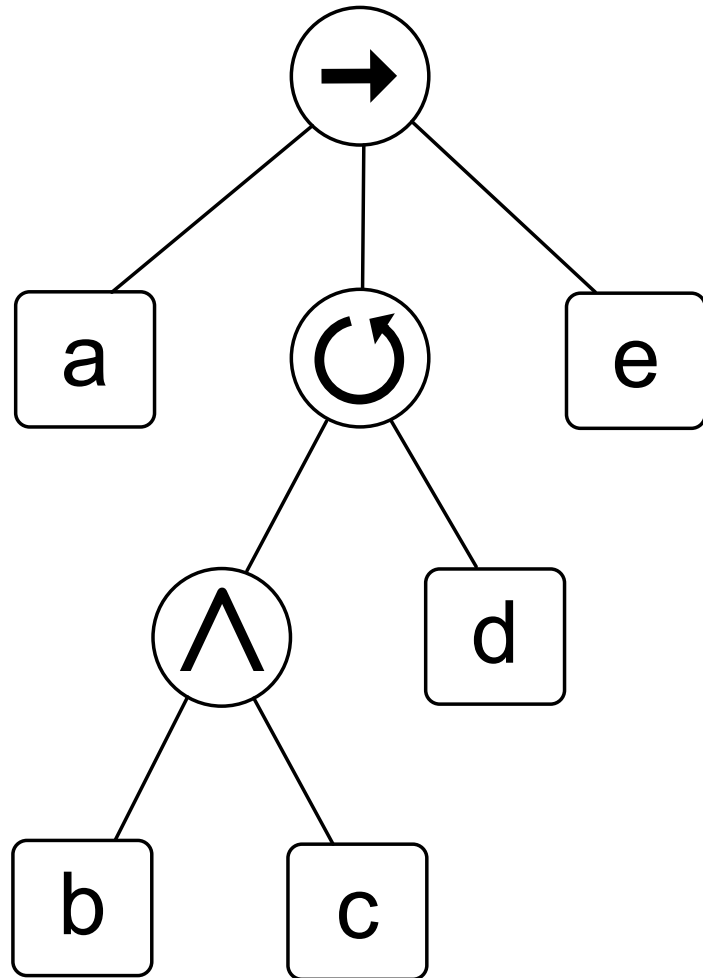


Semantics

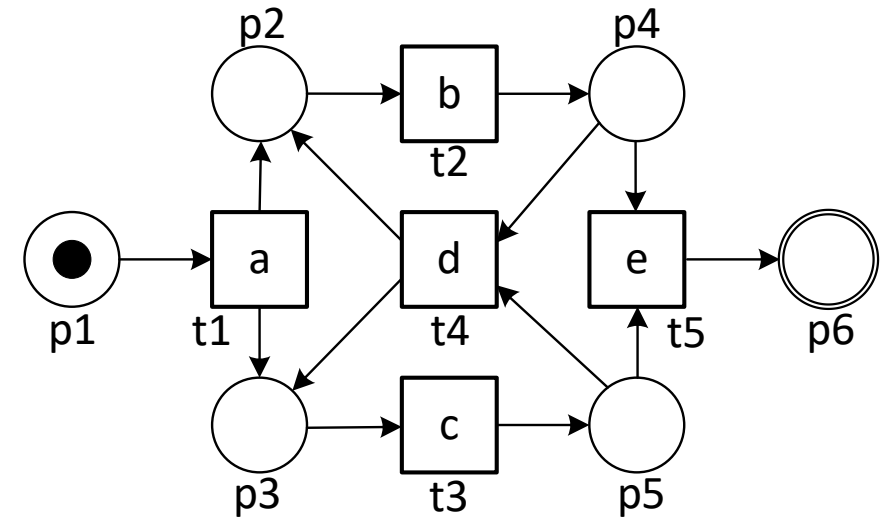


Four types of operators: $\rightarrow$ (sequential composition), $\times$ (exclusive choice), $\wedge$ (parallel composition), and $\odot$ (redo loop).

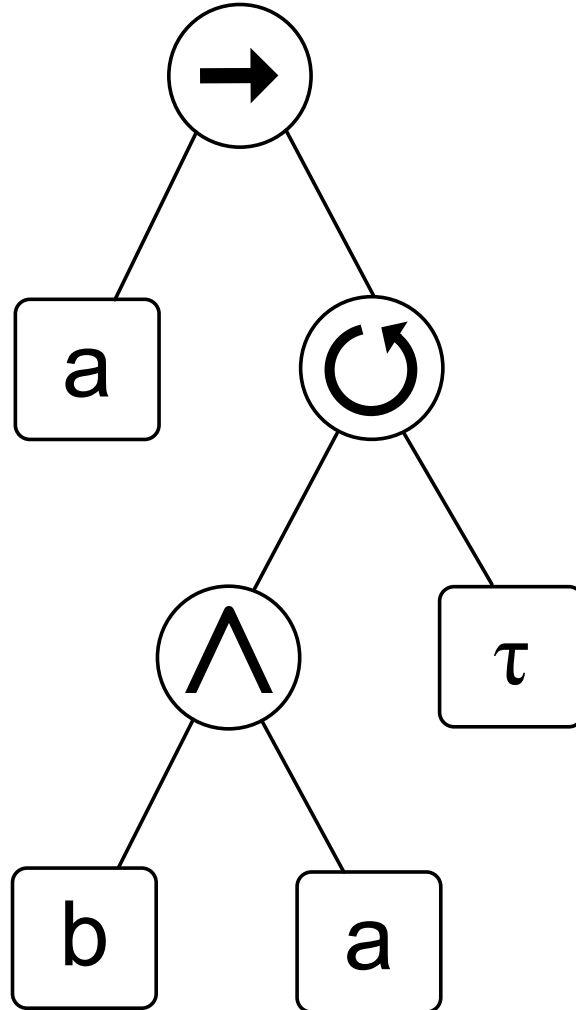
Another process tree



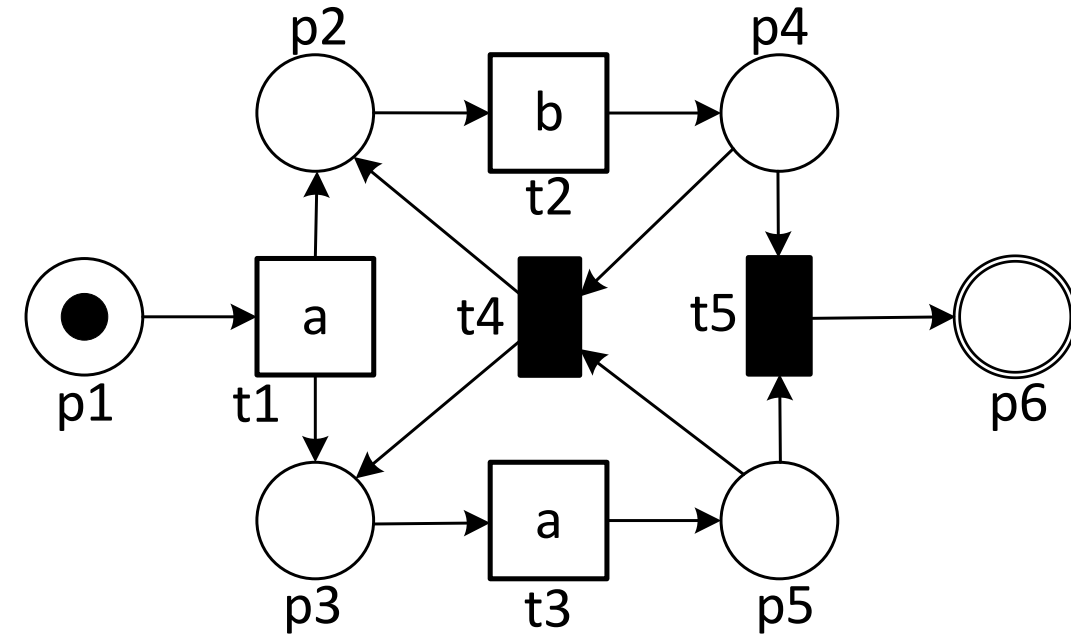
Semantics



Another process tree



Semantics



Inductive Mining

Inductive Mining (IM)

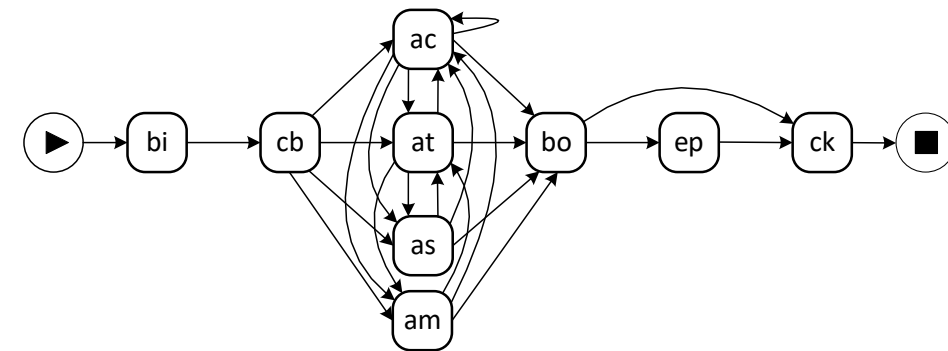
- Decompose the event log into smaller events logs until the problem get trivial.
- Four types of cuts corresponding to the operators:
→ (sequential composition), × (exclusive choice), ∧ (parallel composition), and ↺ (redo loop).
- In each step the activities are partitioned into subsets until they are singletons.
- Developed by Sander Leemans in the context of his PhD thesis (NWO project “Don’t Search for the Undesirable! Avoiding “Blind Alleys” in Process Mining” 2012-2017)

Event log



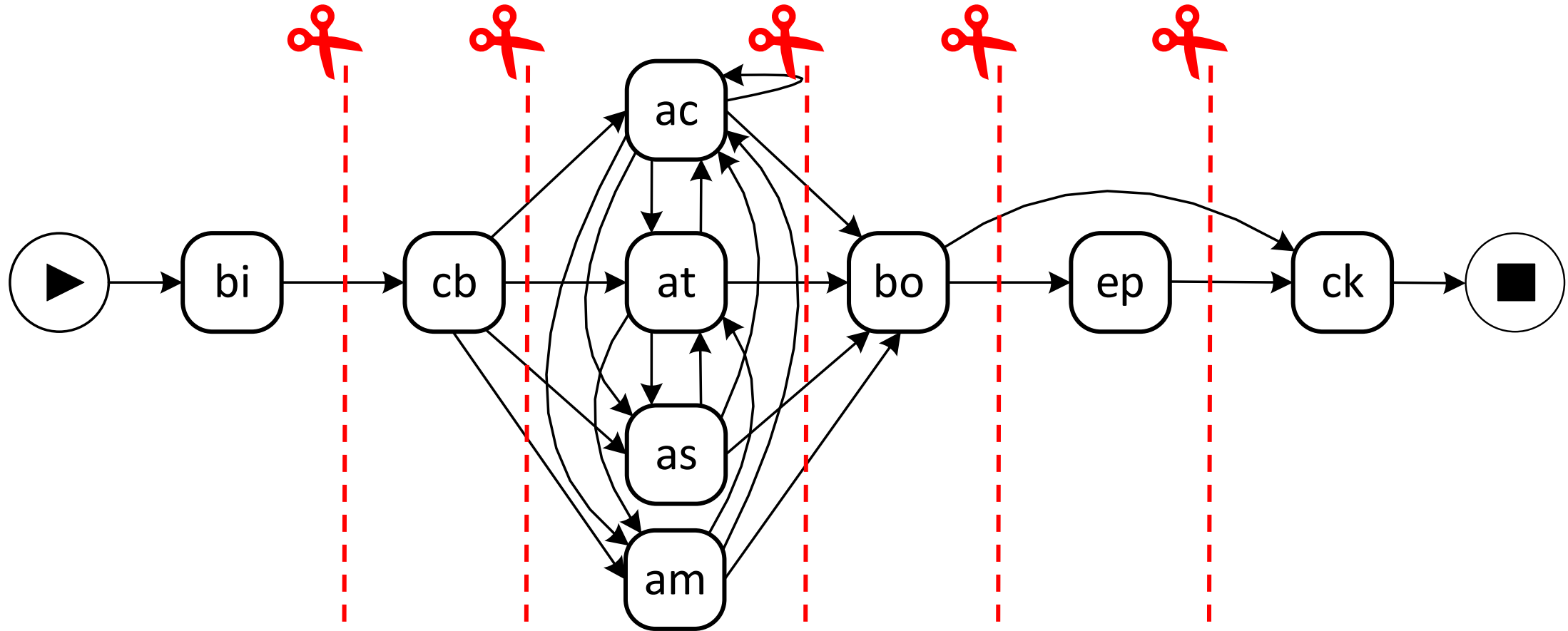
Activities: buy ingredients (bi), create base (cb), add cheese (ac), add tomato (at), add salami (as), add mushrooms (am), bake in oven (bo), eat pizza (ep), and clean kitchen (ck).

Create a DFG for the whole event log



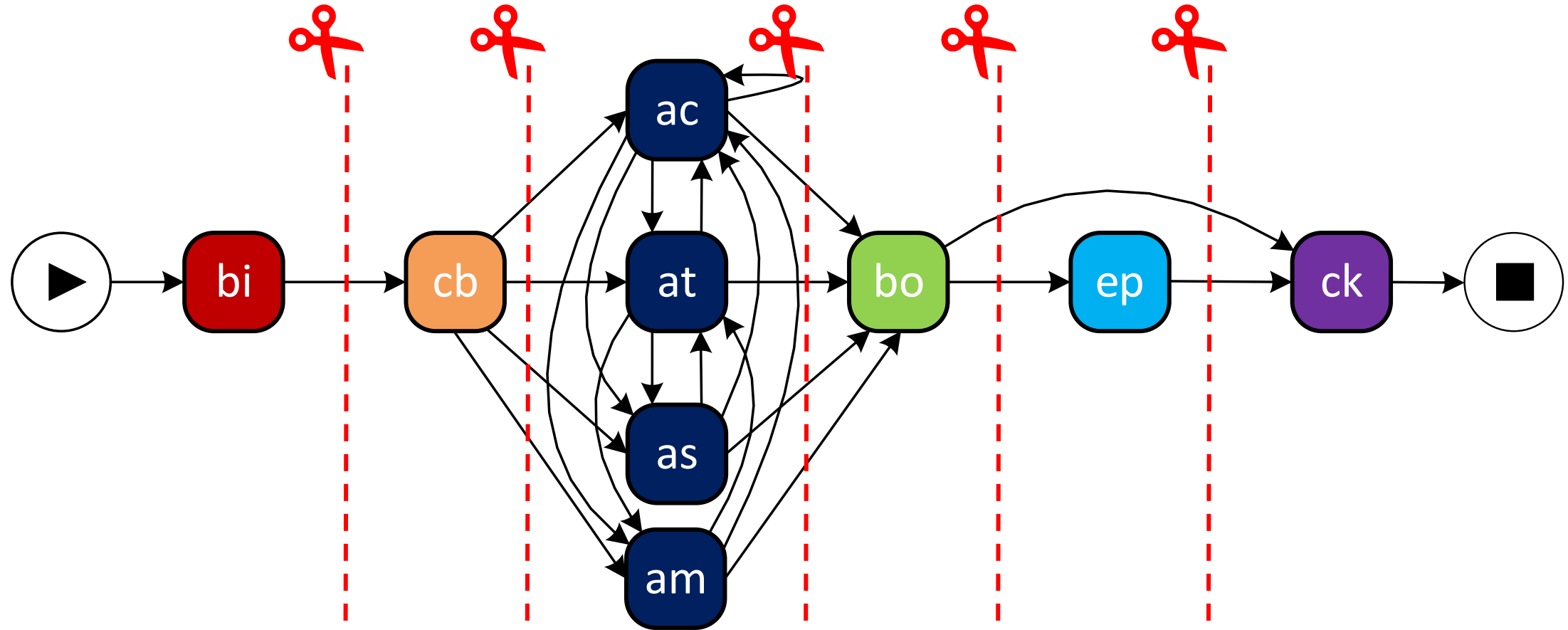
Frequencies omitted for readability

Apply a sequence cut



There is a sequence cut when the DFG can be split into sequential parts where only “forward connections” are possible. Note that we need to use the non-reflexive transitive closure of F .

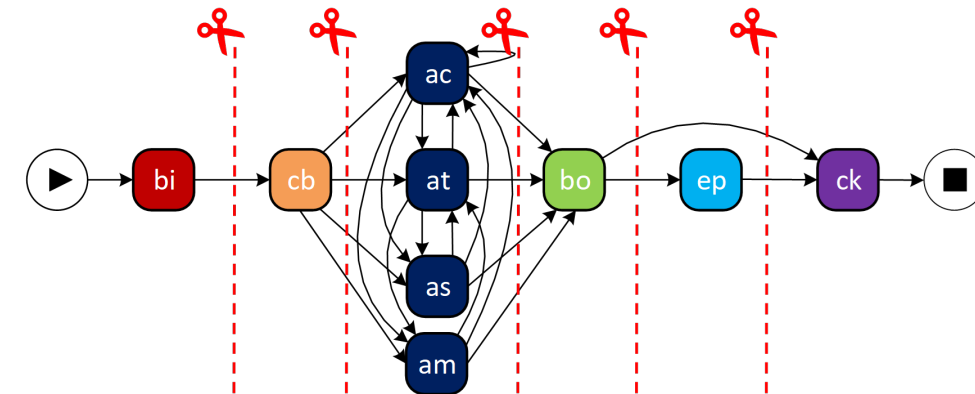
Sequence cut partitions activities in six subsets



Color the events based on the partitioning



Sequence cut



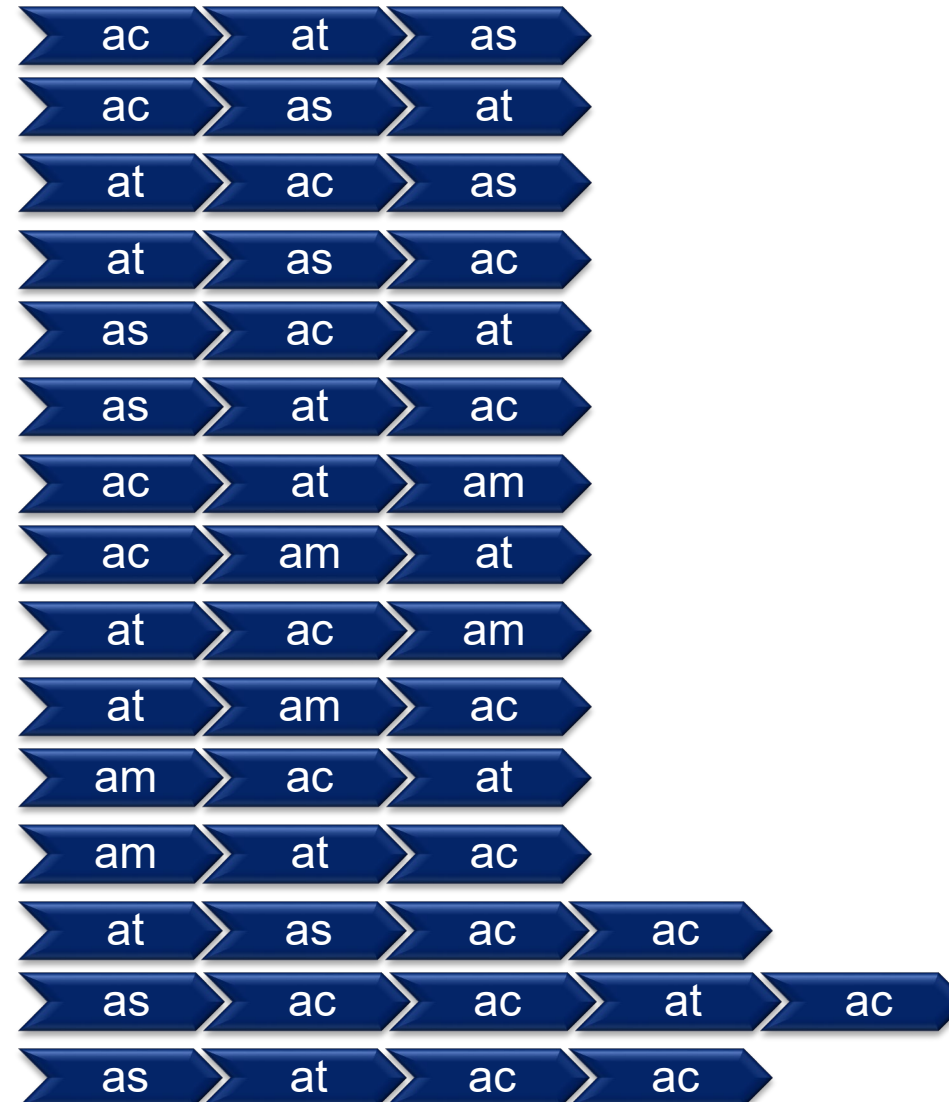
Split the event log based on the partitioning



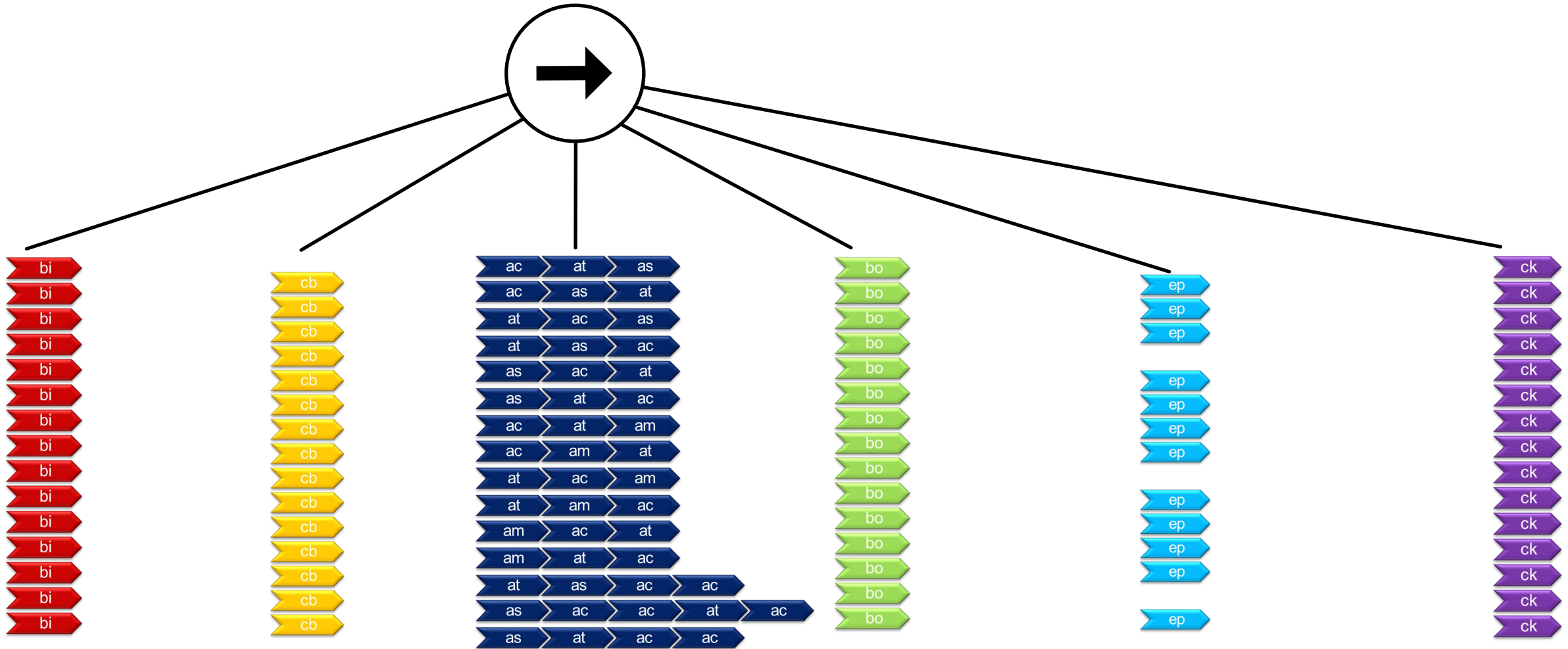
Five of the projected event logs refer to a single activity (base case)



The blue group has four activities

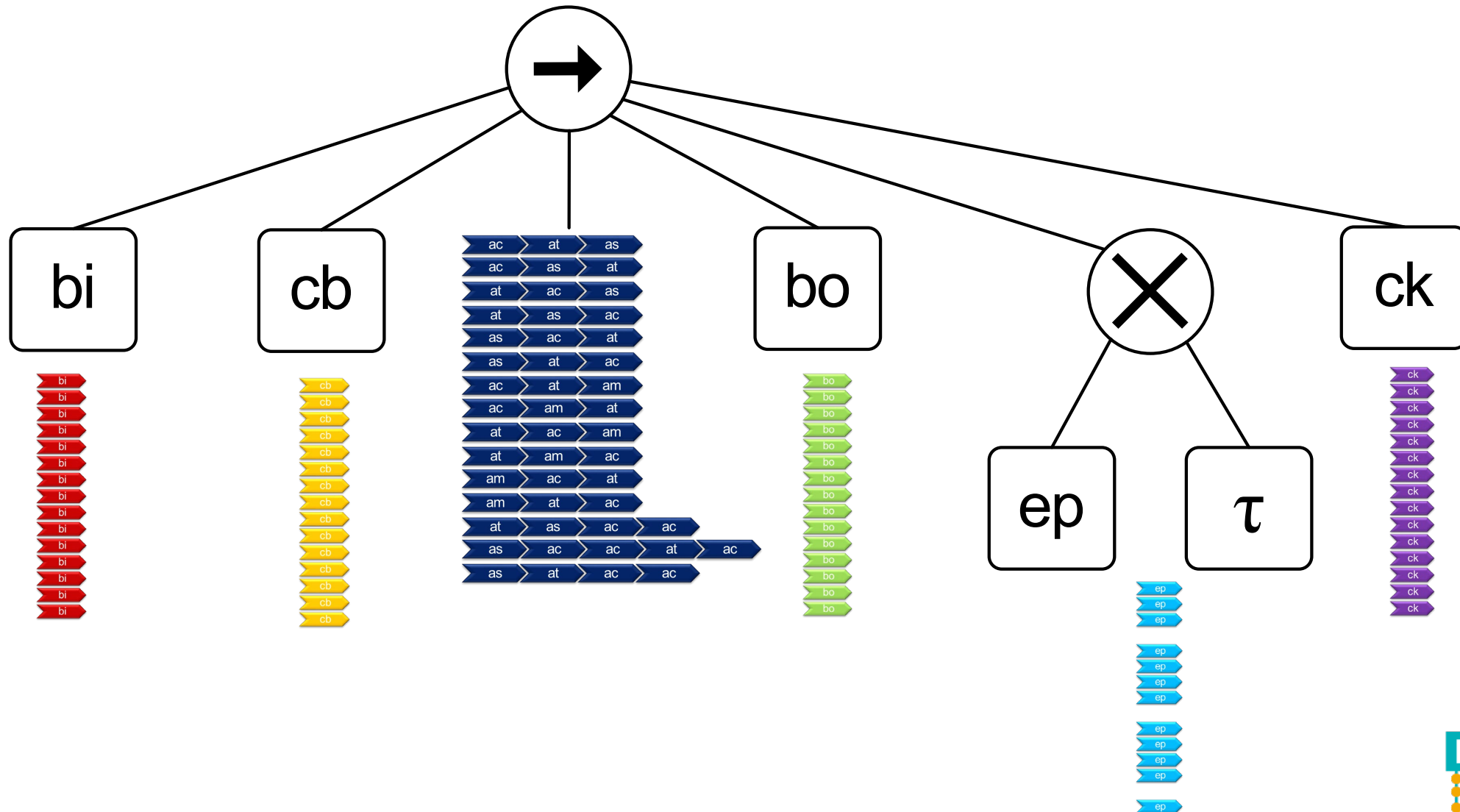


Recursion: Apply algorithm to all sublogs

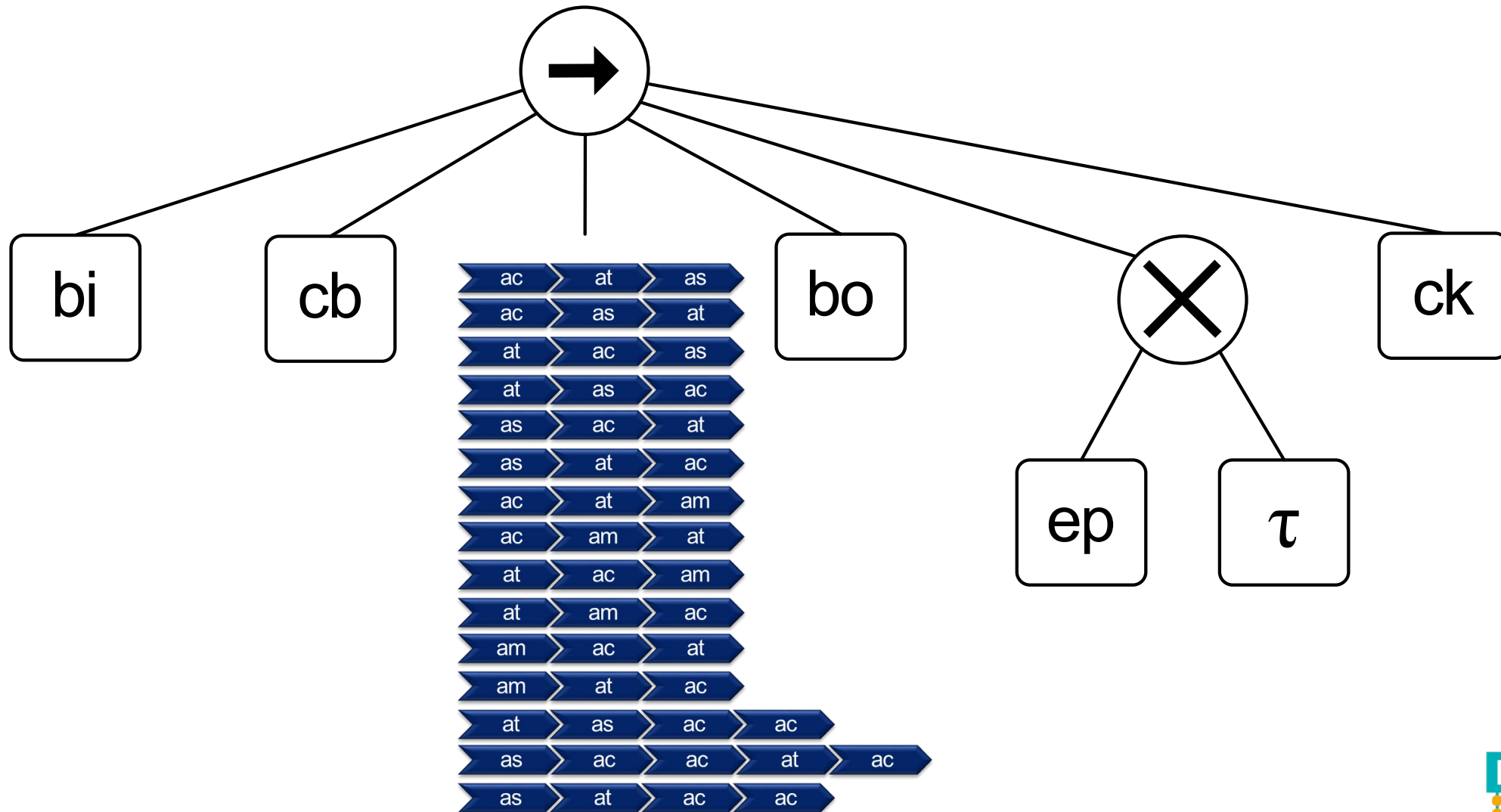


Five of the projected event logs refer to a single activity (base case).

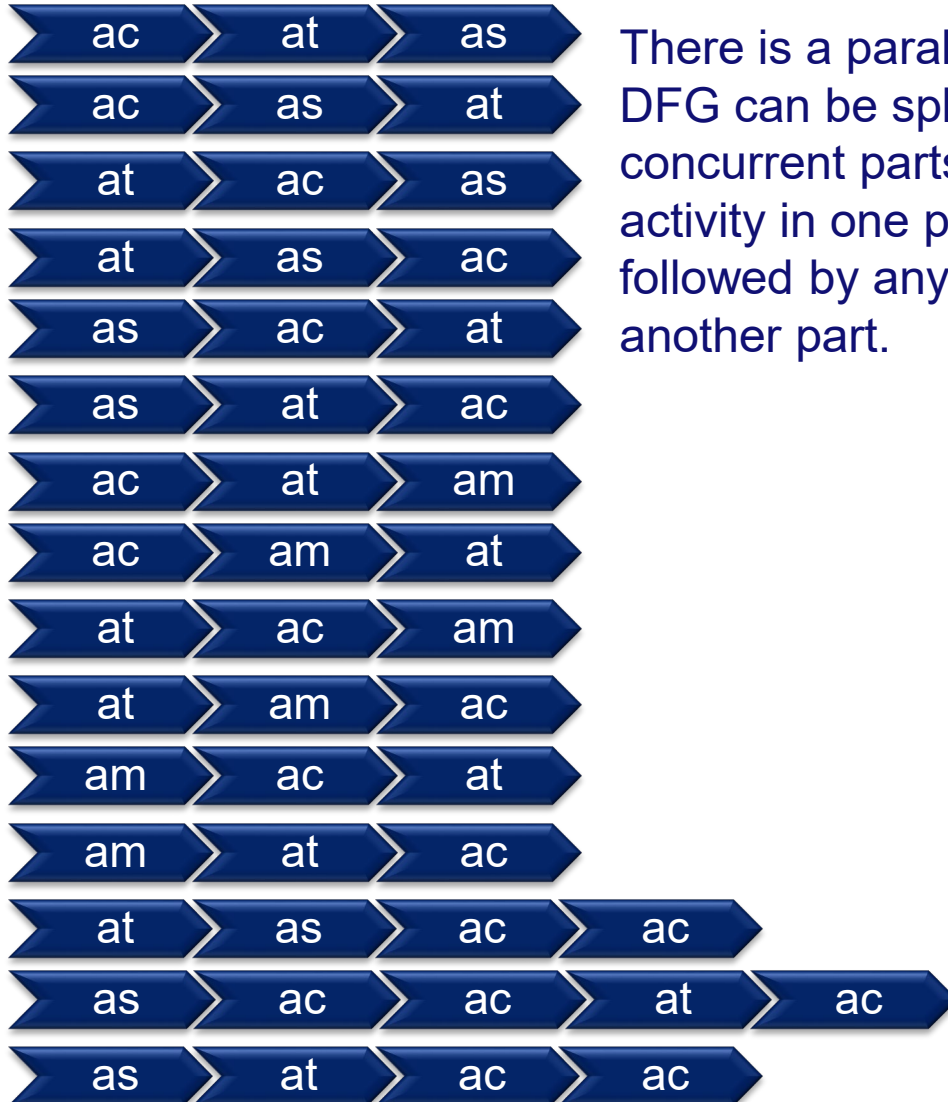
Handling the base cases (ep can be skipped)



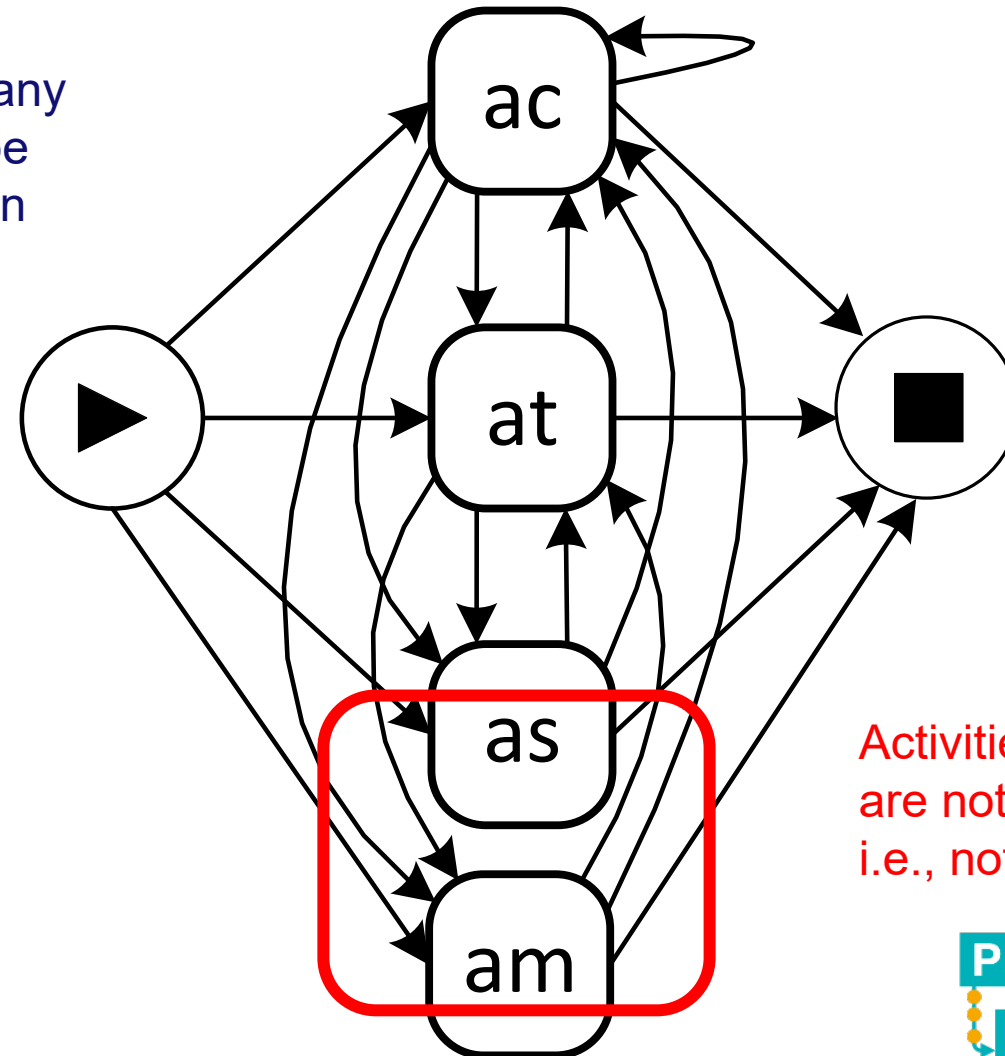
Only the blue event log remains



Continue with the blue event log

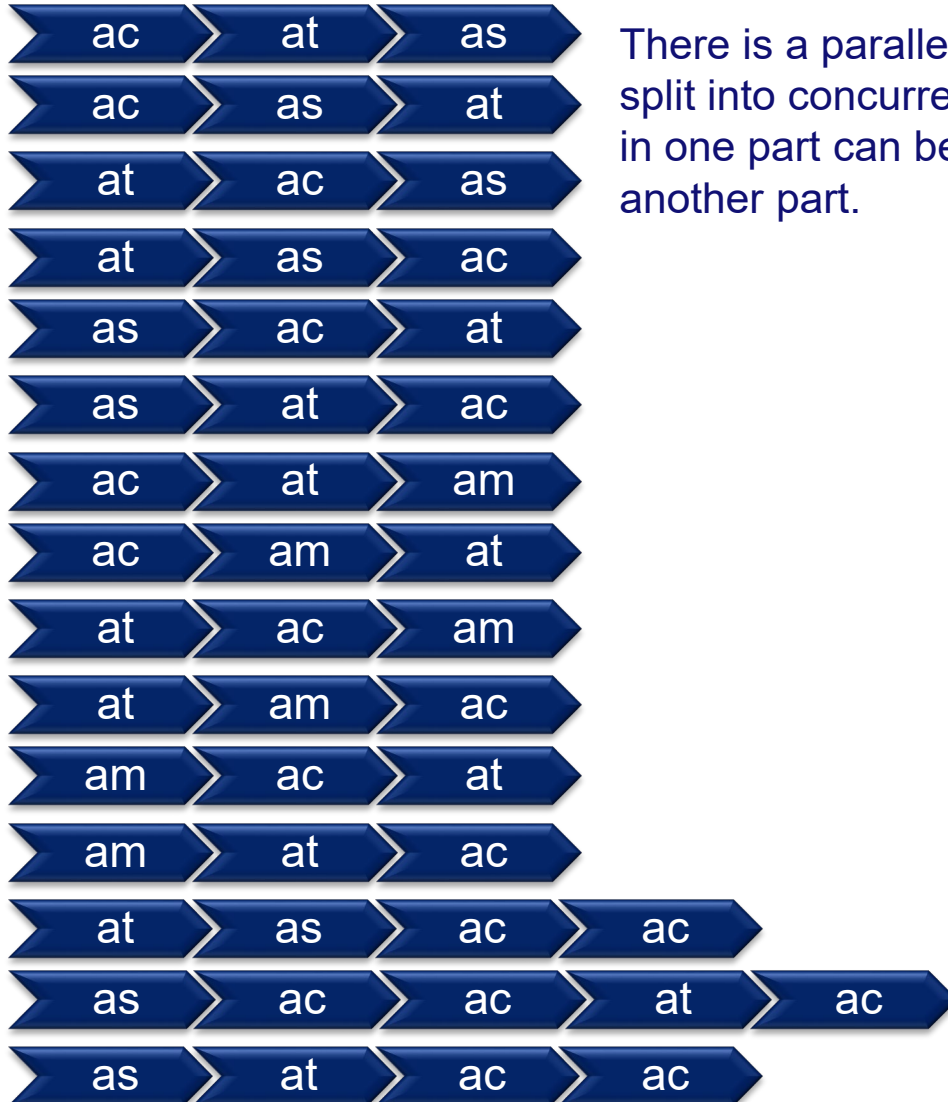


There is a parallel cut when the DFG can be split into concurrent parts where any activity in one part can be followed by any activity in another part.

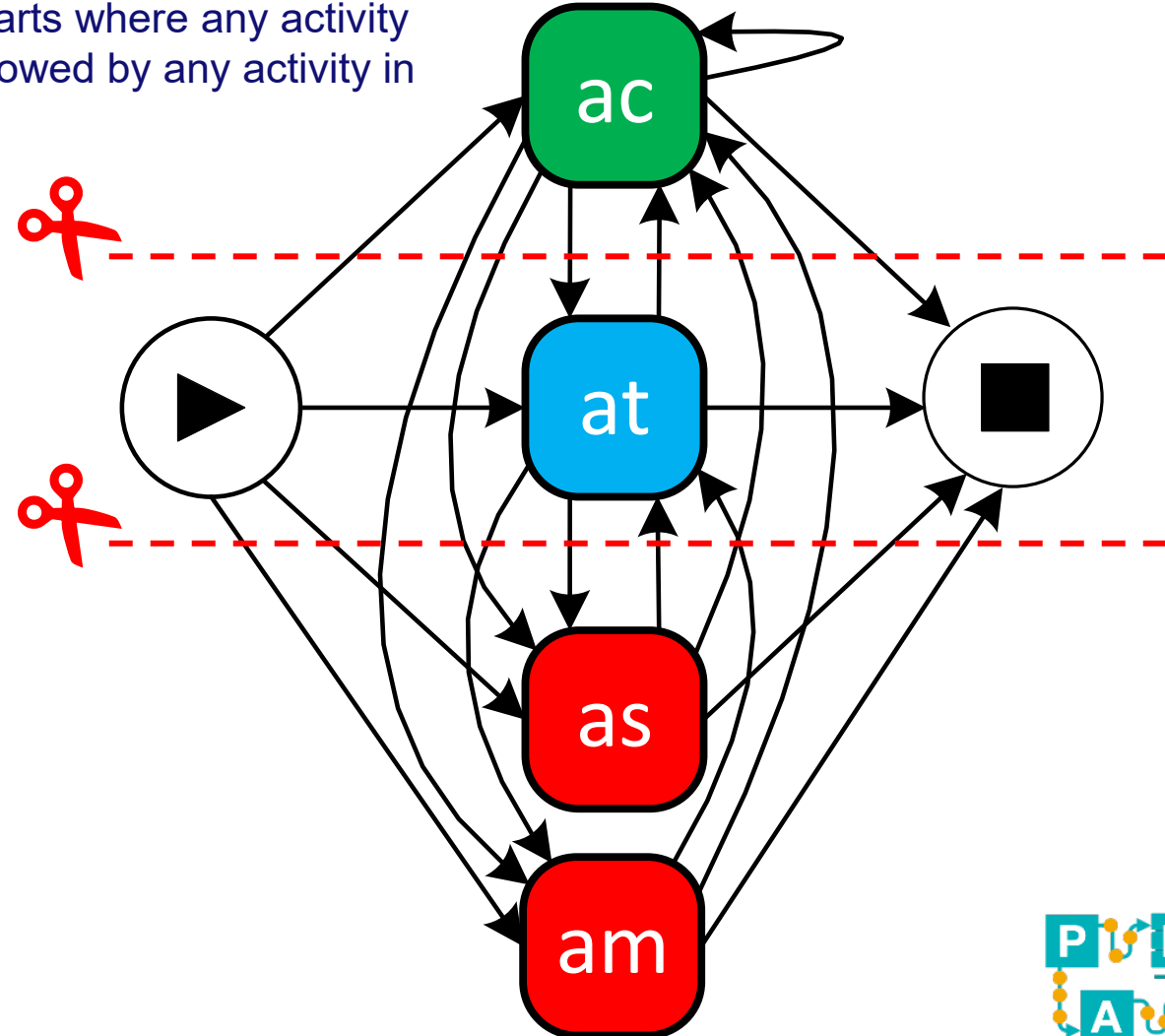


Activities as and am are not connected, i.e., not concurrent

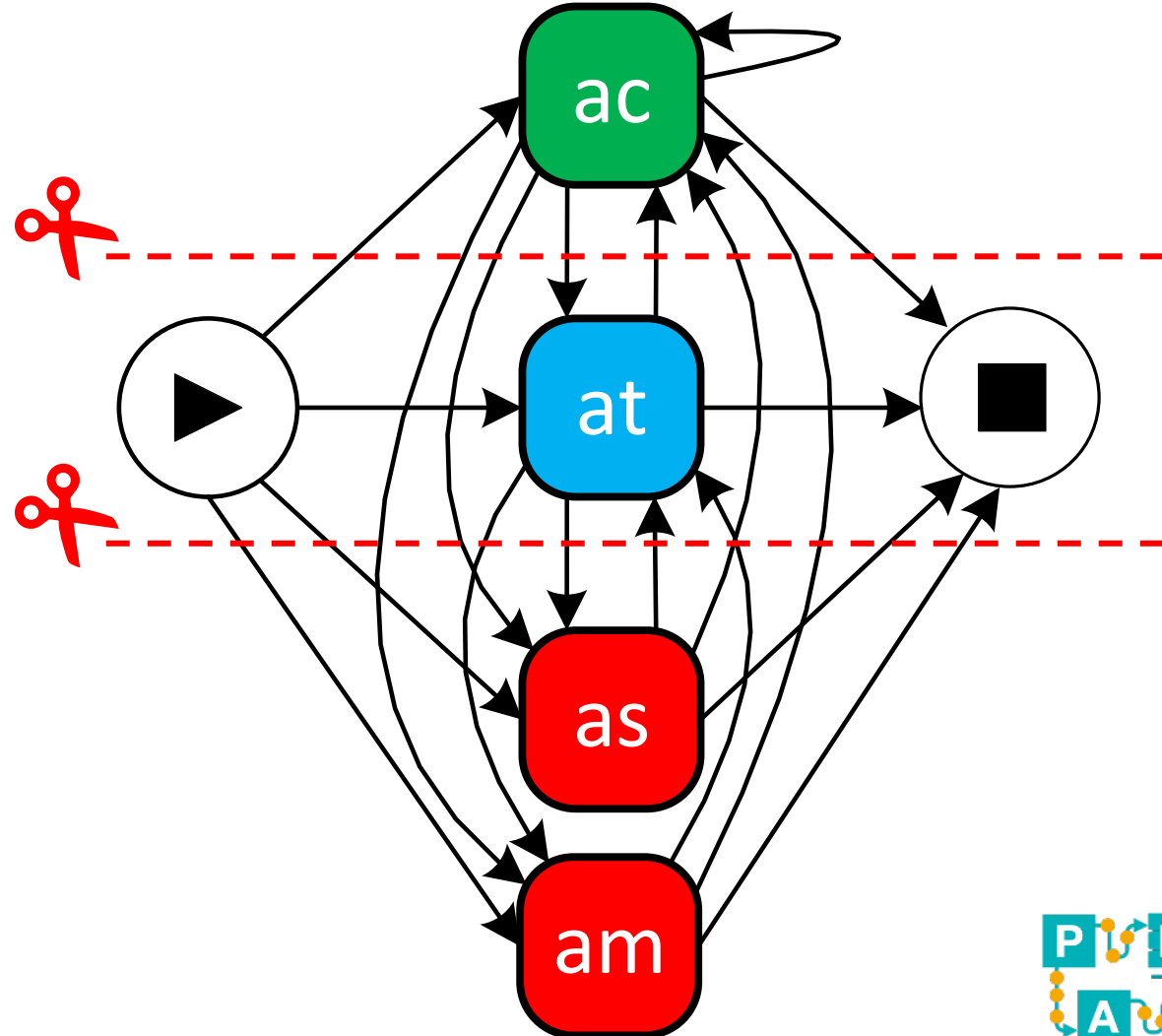
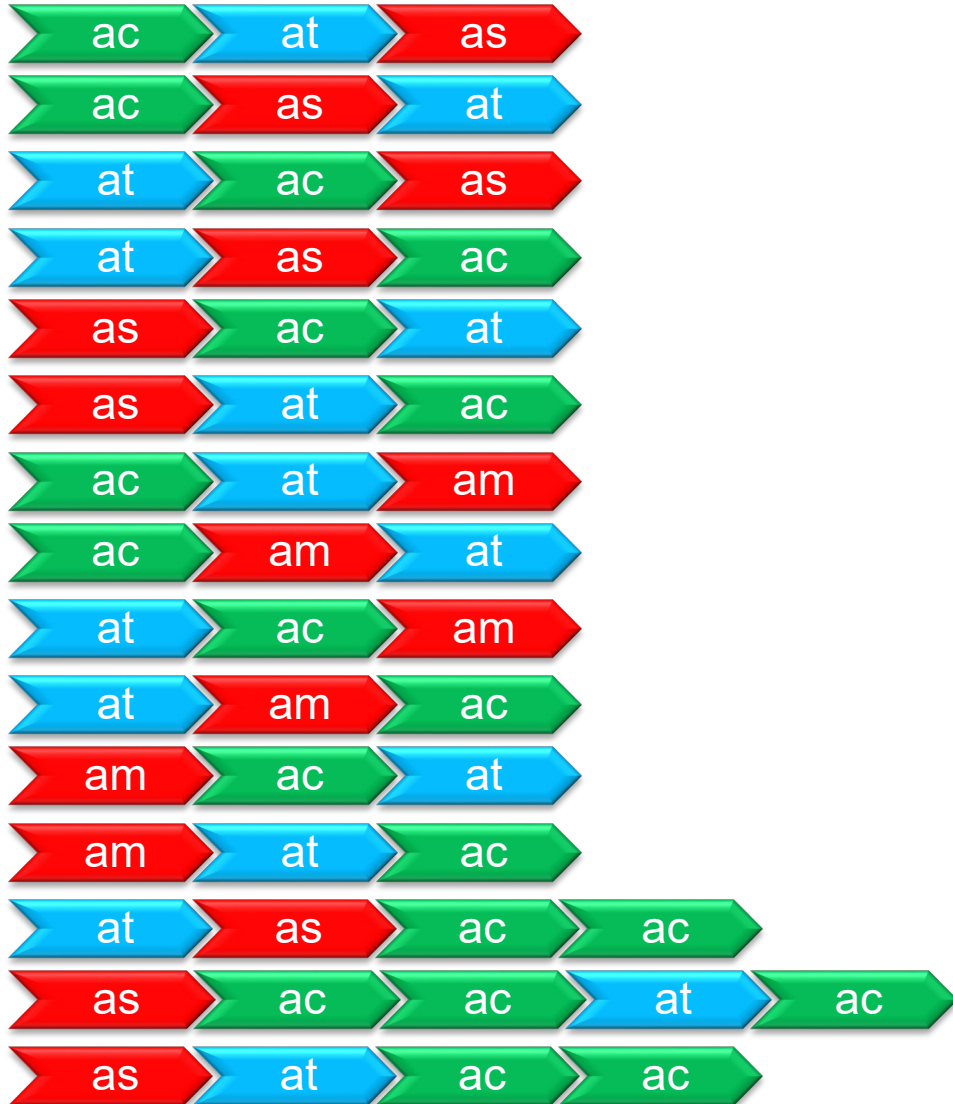
Apply a parallel cut resulting in three activity groups



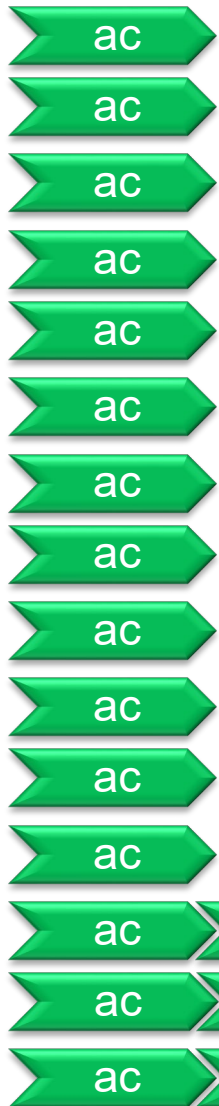
There is a parallel cut when the DFG can be split into concurrent parts where any activity in one part can be followed by any activity in another part.



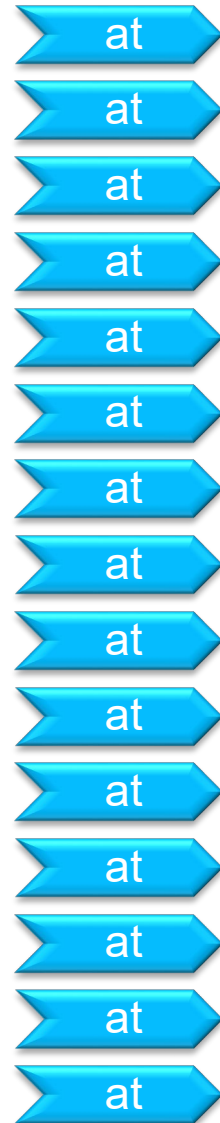
Apply a parallel cut resulting in three activity groups



Three new event logs are created



Base case (just
activity ac)

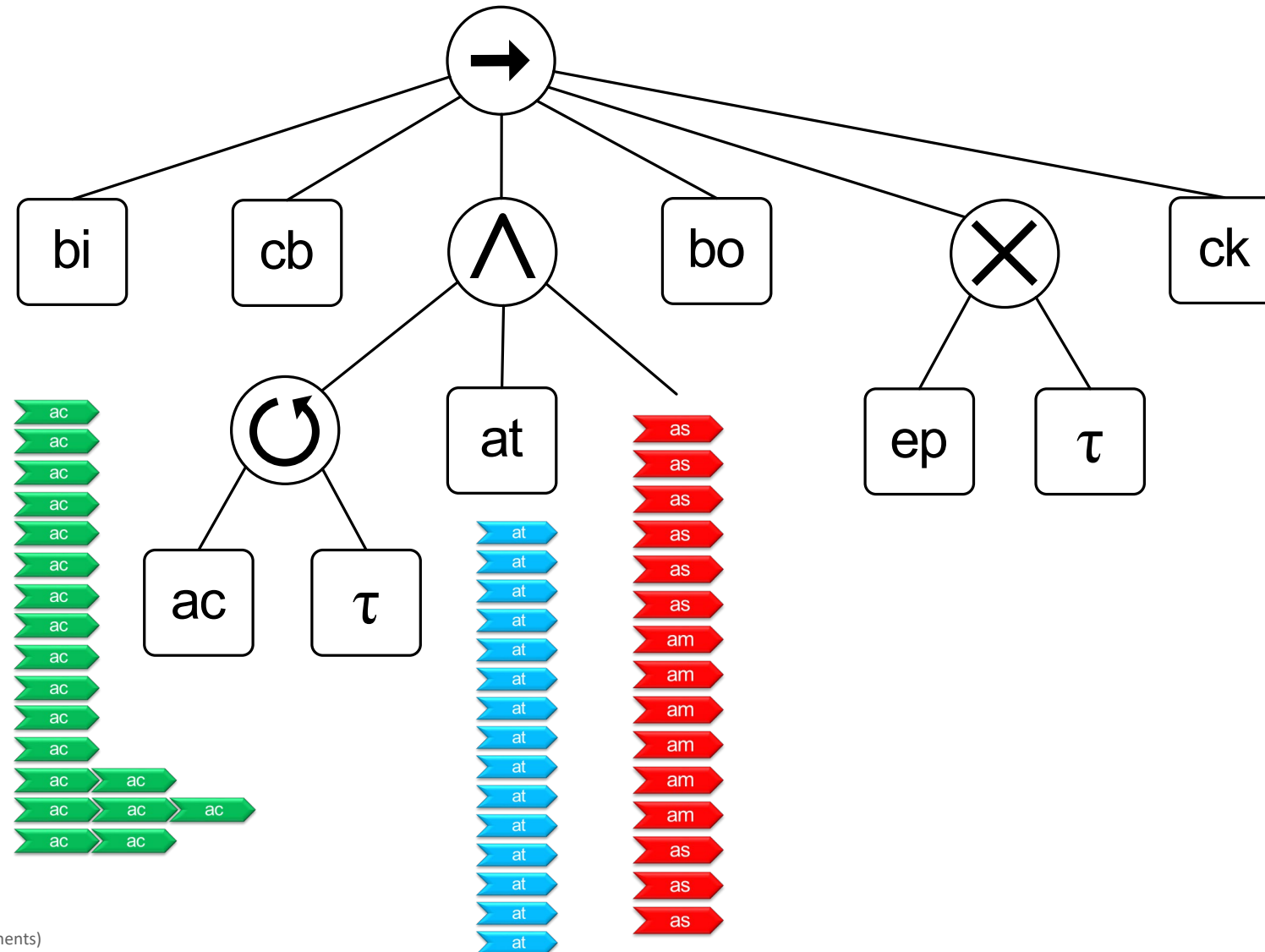


Base case (just
activity at)

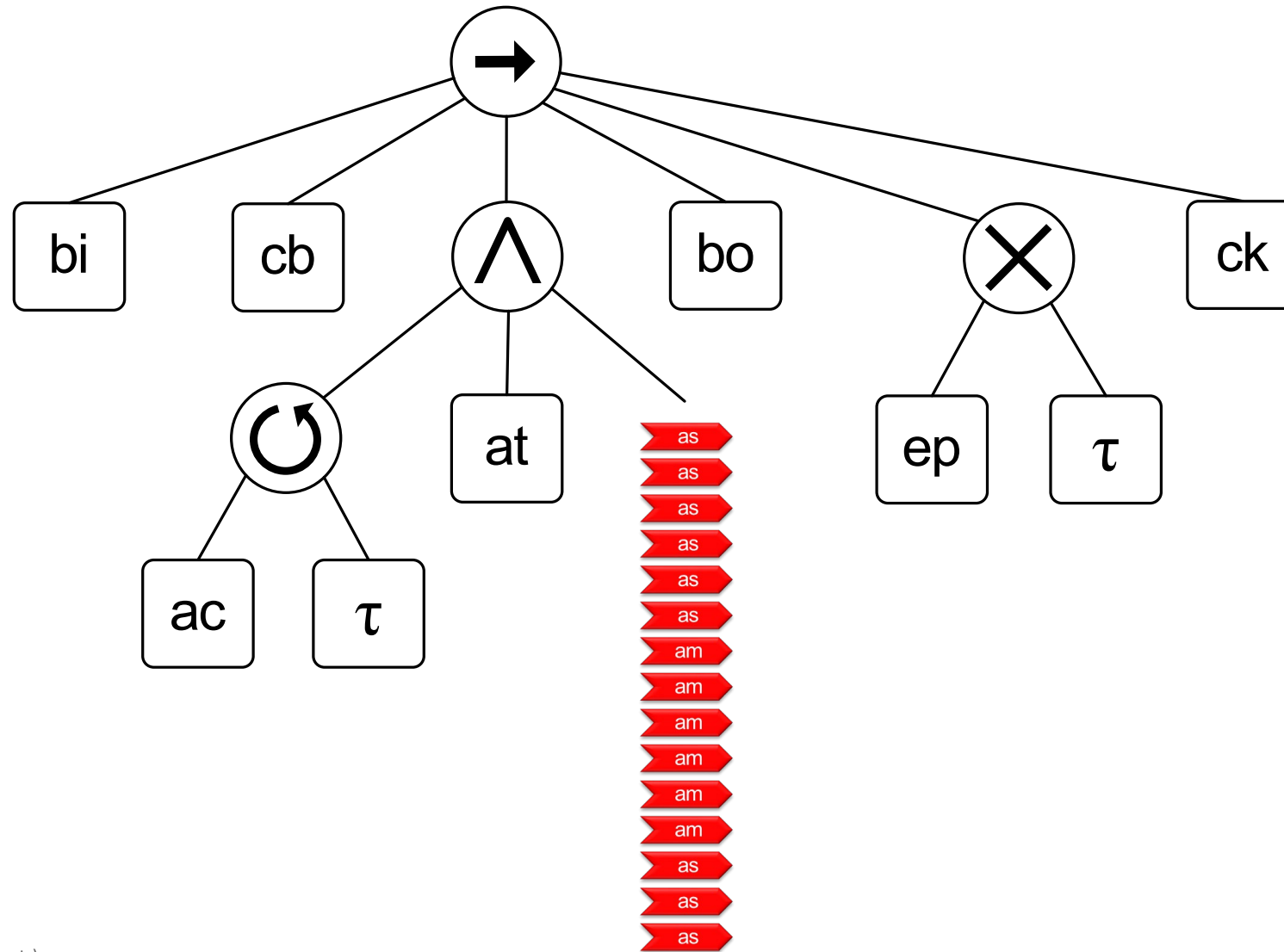


Not a base case, still two
activities as and am.

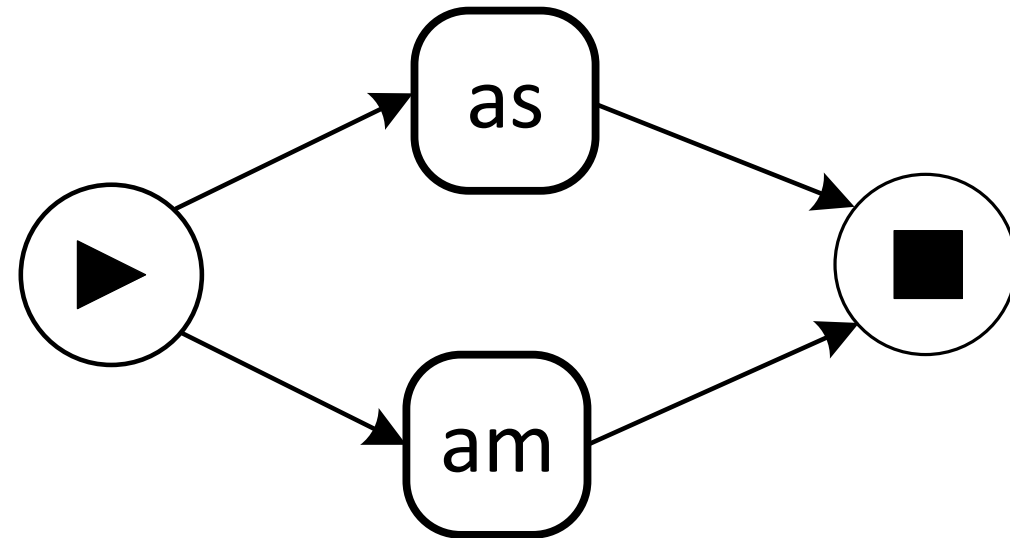
Handling the base cases (ac can be repeated)



Only the red event log remains



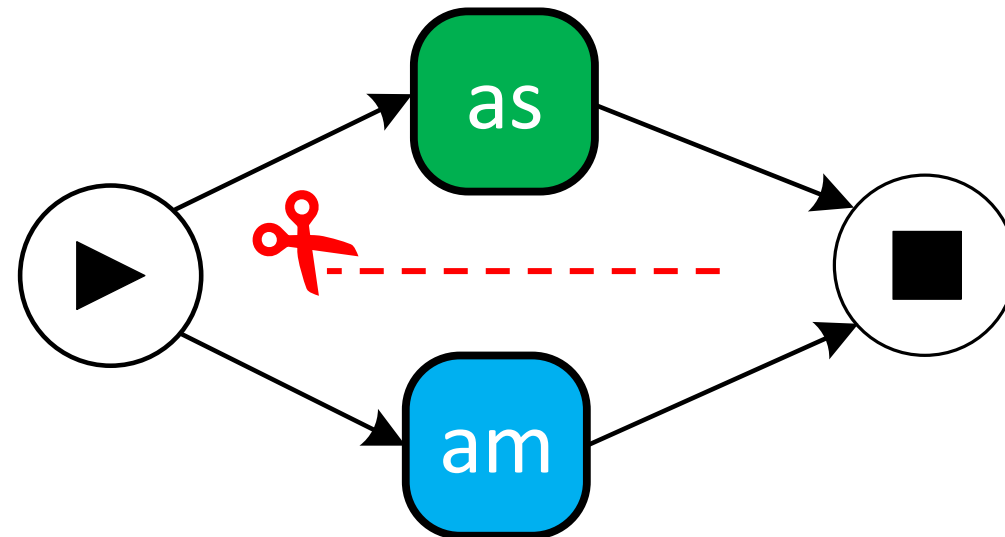
Continue with the red event log



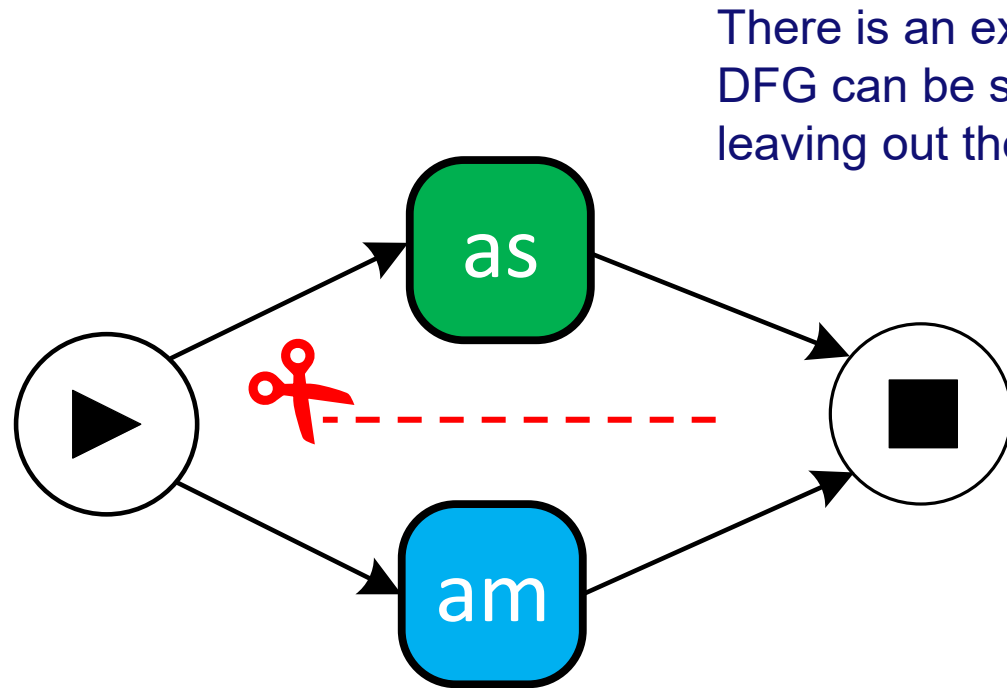
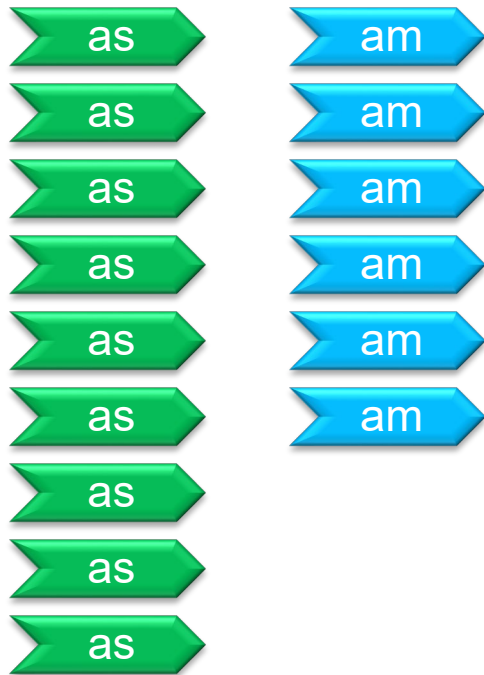
We find an exclusive-choice cut



There is an exclusive-choice cut when the DFG can be split into disconnected parts after leaving out the artificial start and end.



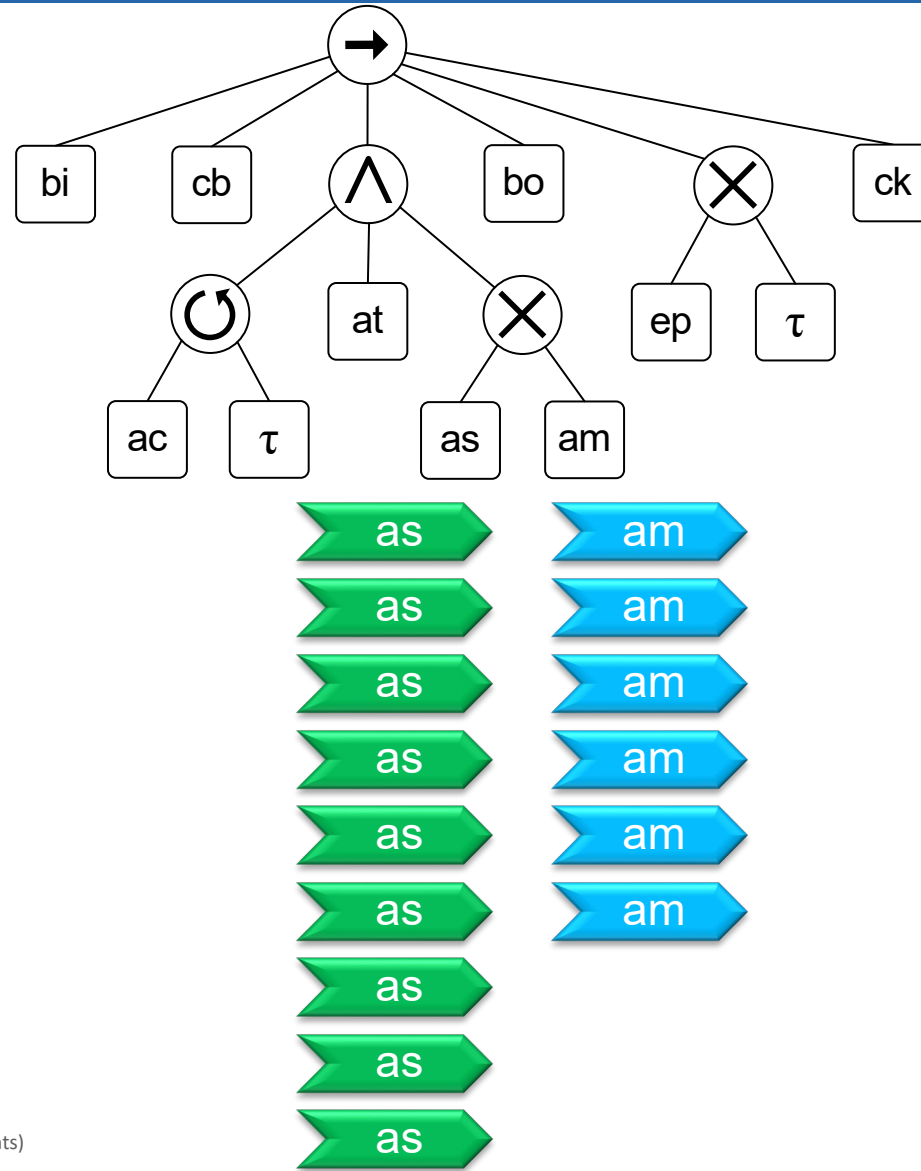
We find an exclusive-choice cut



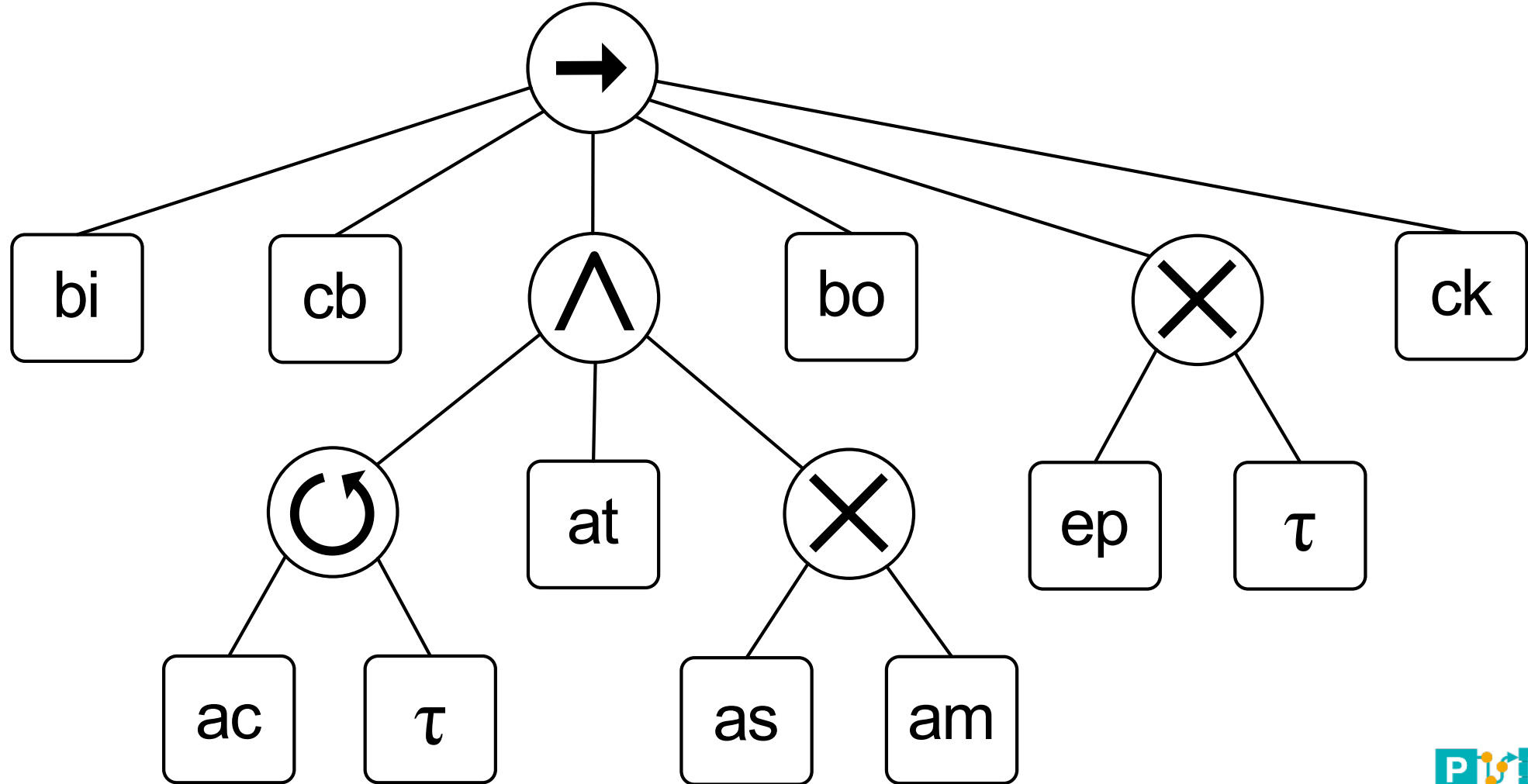
There is an exclusive-choice cut when the DFG can be split into disconnected parts after leaving out the artificial start and end.

Note that projection is now different than for the sequence and parallel cuts.

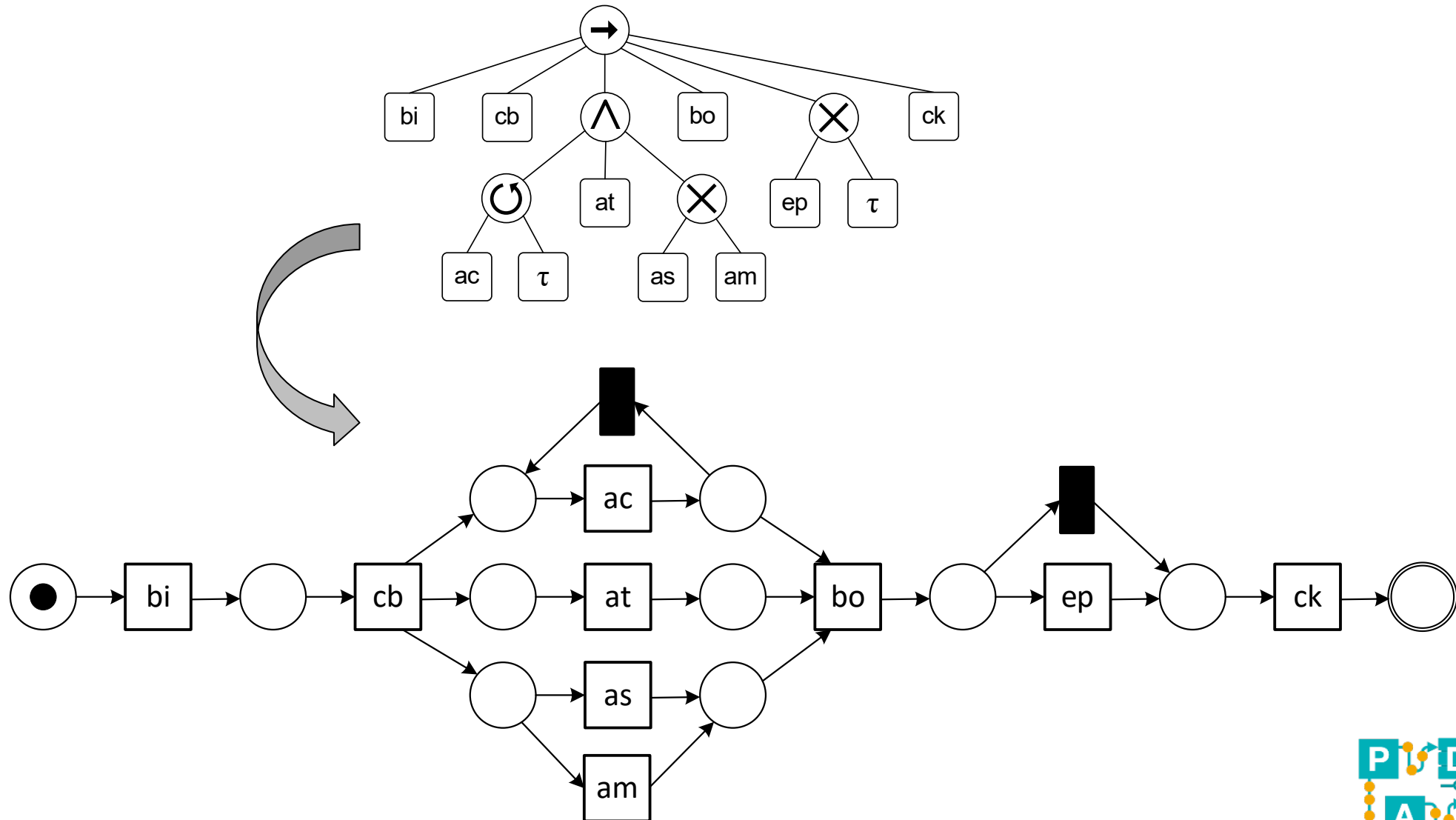
We end up with two base cases



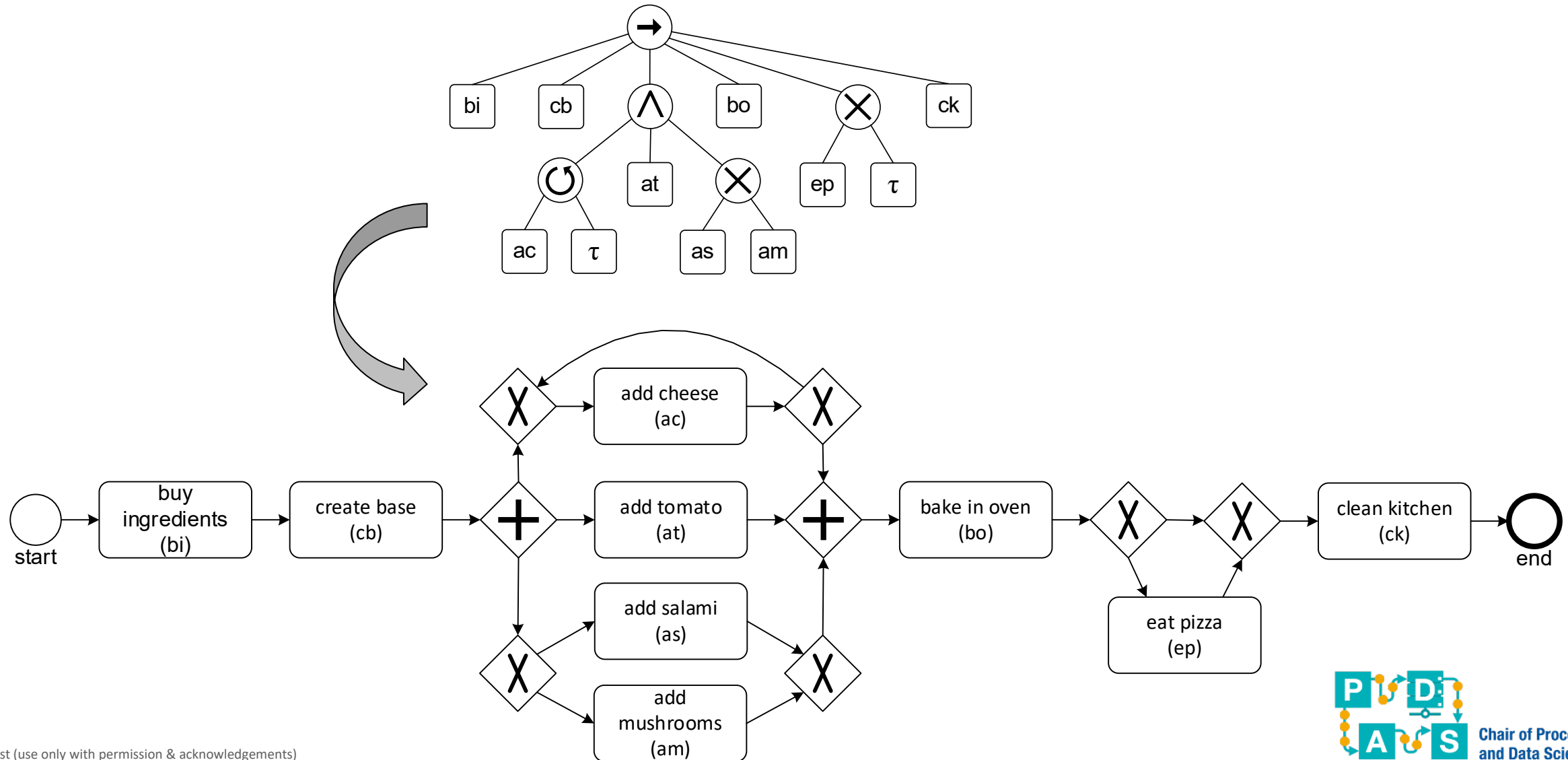
The process tree returned by the Inductive Mining algorithm



Can be visualized using Petri nets or BPMN



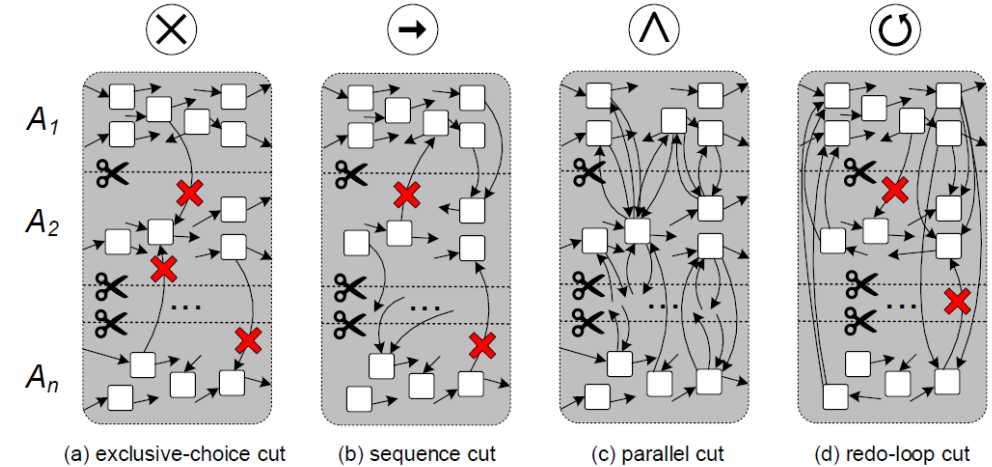
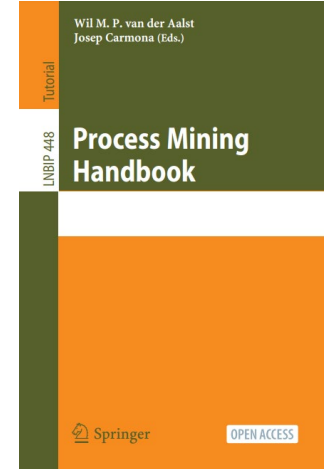
Can be visualized using Petri nets or BPMN



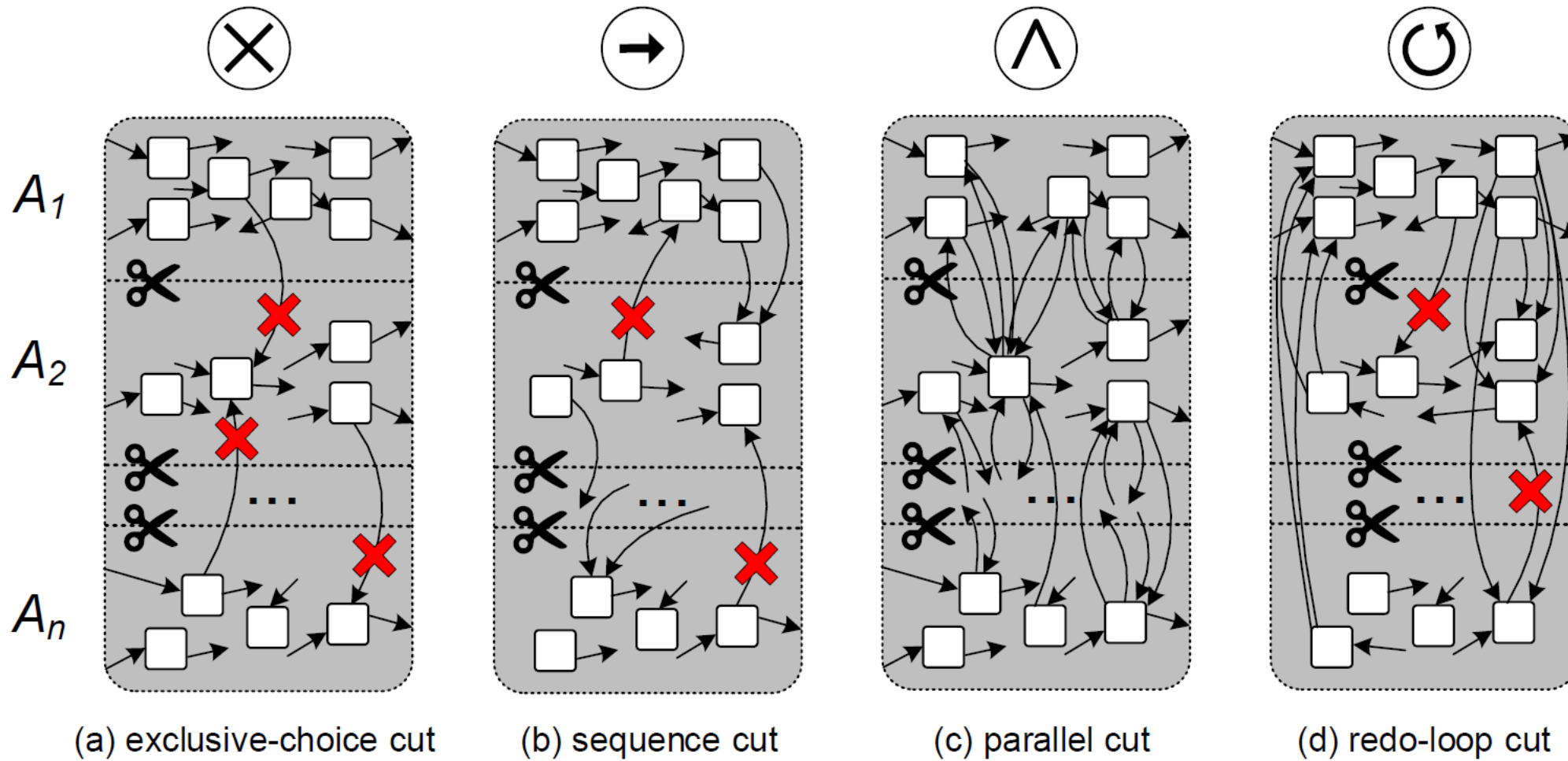
The details

Definition 23 (Sequence, Exclusive-Choice, Parallel, and Redo-Loop Cuts). Let $L \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{U}_{act}^*)$ be an event log having a DFG $disc_{DFG}(L) = (A, F)$ based on L (note that $A = act(L)$) with start activities $A^{start} = \{a \in A \mid (\blacktriangleright, a) \in F\}$ and end activities $A^{end} = \{a \in A \mid (a, \blacksquare) \in F\}$. An n -ary $\oplus$ -cut of L is a partition of A into $n \geq 2$ pairwise disjoint subsets $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ (i.e., $A = \bigcup_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} A_i$ and $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$ for $i \neq j$) with $\oplus \in \{\rightarrow, \times, \wedge, \cup\}$. Such a $\oplus$ -cut is denoted $(\oplus, A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n)$. For each type of operator $\oplus \in \{\rightarrow, \times, \wedge, \cup\}$ specific conditions apply:

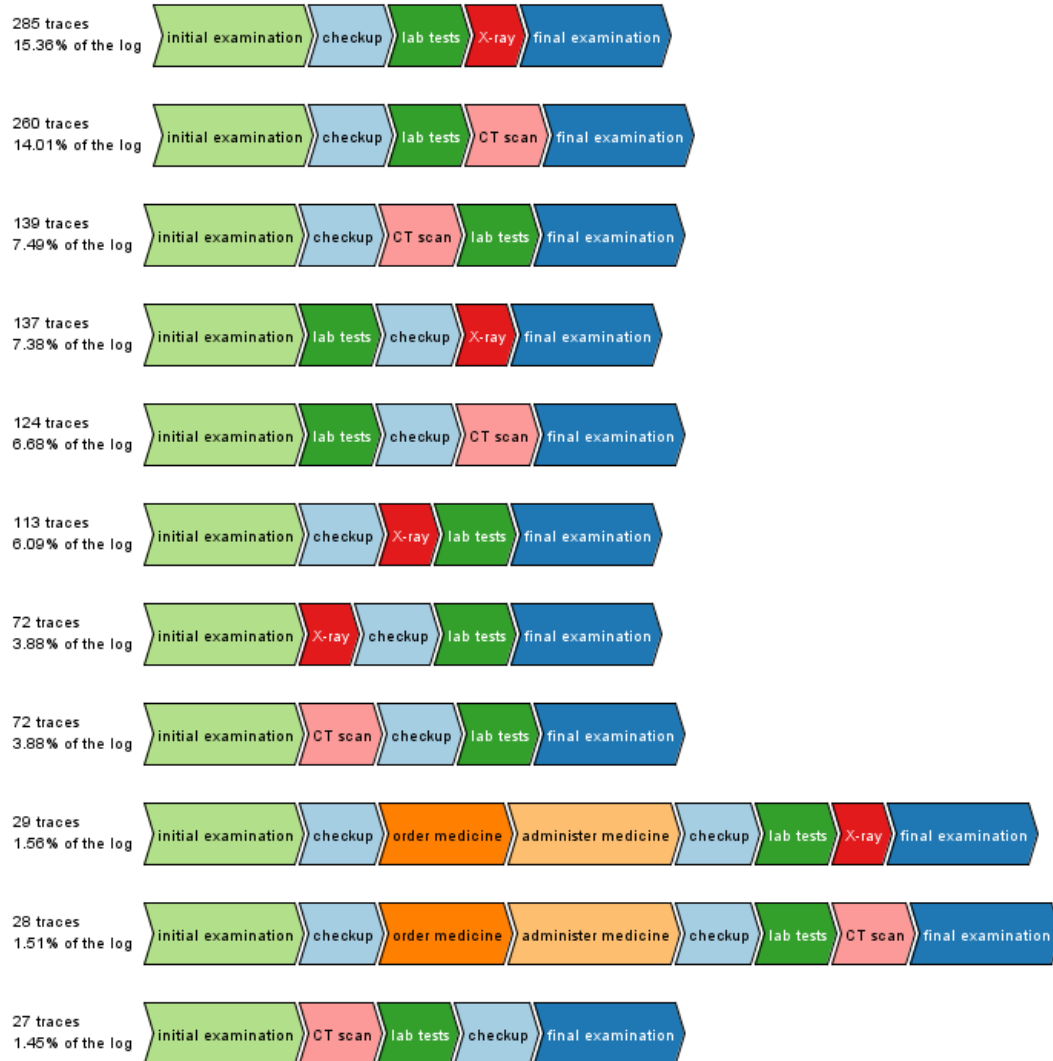
- An exclusive-choice cut of L is a cut $(\times, A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n)$ such that
 - $\forall_{i,j \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \forall_{a \in A_i} \forall_{b \in A_j} i \neq j \Rightarrow (a, b) \notin F$.
- A sequence cut of L is a cut $(\rightarrow, A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n)$ such that
 - $\forall_{i,j \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \forall_{a \in A_i} \forall_{b \in A_j} i < j \Rightarrow ((a, b) \in F^+ \wedge (b, a) \notin F^+)$.
(Note that F^+ is the non-reflexive transitive closure of F , i.e., $(a, b) \in F^+$ means that there is a path from a to b in the DFG.)
- A parallel cut of L is a cut $(\wedge, A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n)$ such that
 - $\forall_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} A_i \cap A^{start} \neq \emptyset \wedge A_i \cap A^{end} \neq \emptyset$ and
 - $\forall_{i,j \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \forall_{a \in A_i} \forall_{b \in A_j} i \neq j \Rightarrow (a, b) \in F$.
- A redo-loop cut of L is a cut $(\cup, A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n)$ such that
 - $A^{start} \cup A^{end} \subseteq A_1$,
 - $\forall_{i,j \in \{2, \dots, n\}} \forall_{a \in A_i} \forall_{b \in A_j} i \neq j \Rightarrow (a, b) \notin F$,
 - $\{a \in A_1 \mid (a, b) \in F \wedge b \notin A_1\} = A^{end}$,
 - $\{a \in A_1 \mid (b, a) \in F \wedge b \notin A_1\} = A^{start}$,
 - $\forall_{(a,b) \in F} a \in A_1 \wedge b \notin A_1 \Rightarrow \forall_{a' \in A^{end}} (a', b) \in F$, and
 - $\forall_{(b,a) \in F} a \in A_1 \wedge b \notin A_1 \Rightarrow \forall_{a' \in A^{start}} (b, a') \in F$.



Four types of cuts

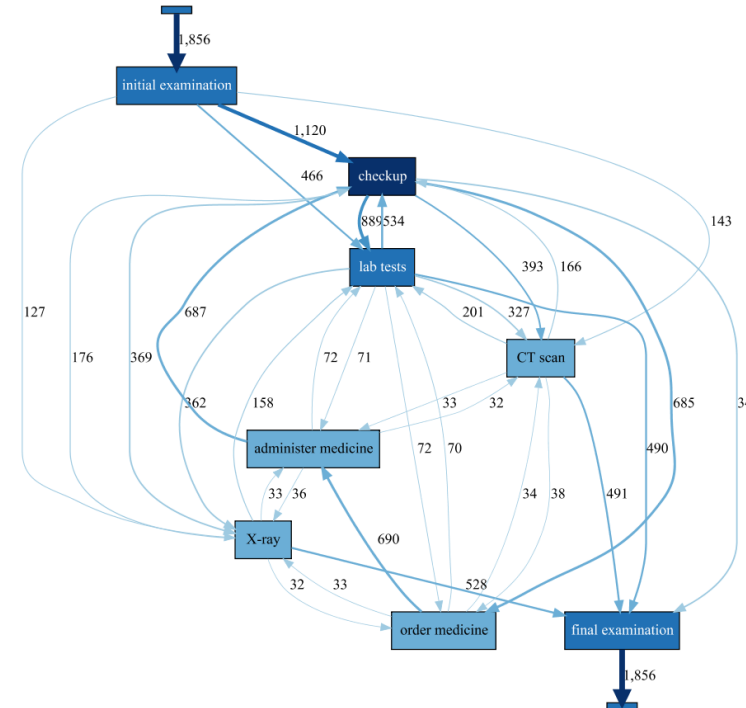


Another example

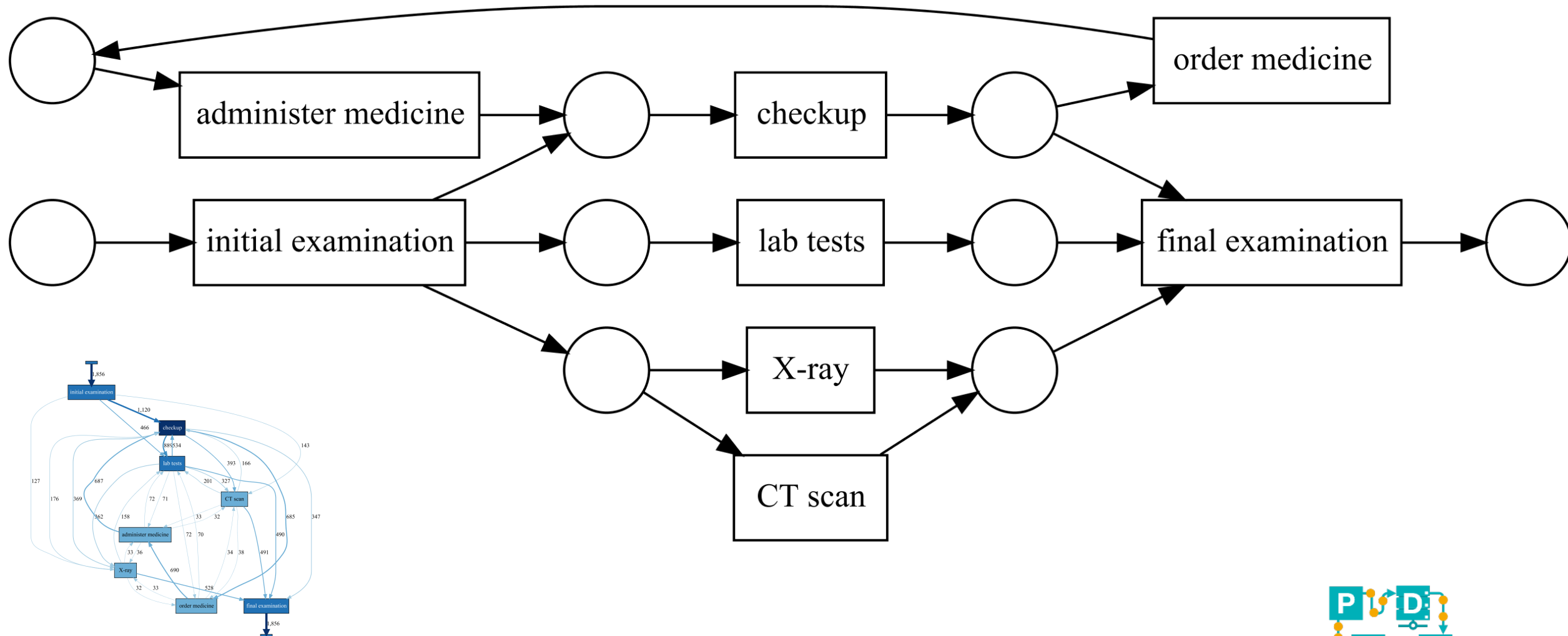


Just 11 of 197 variants

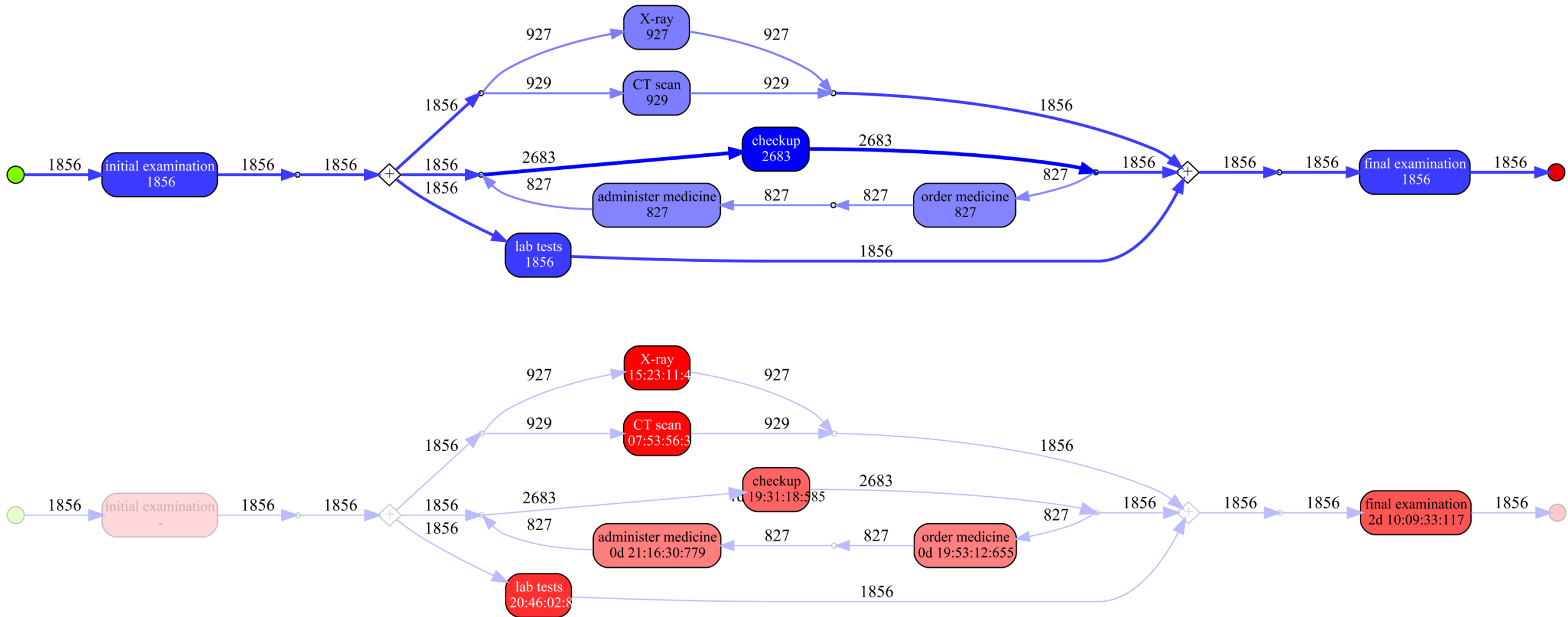
- 1856 cases, 197 variants
- 11761 events
- 8 unique activities



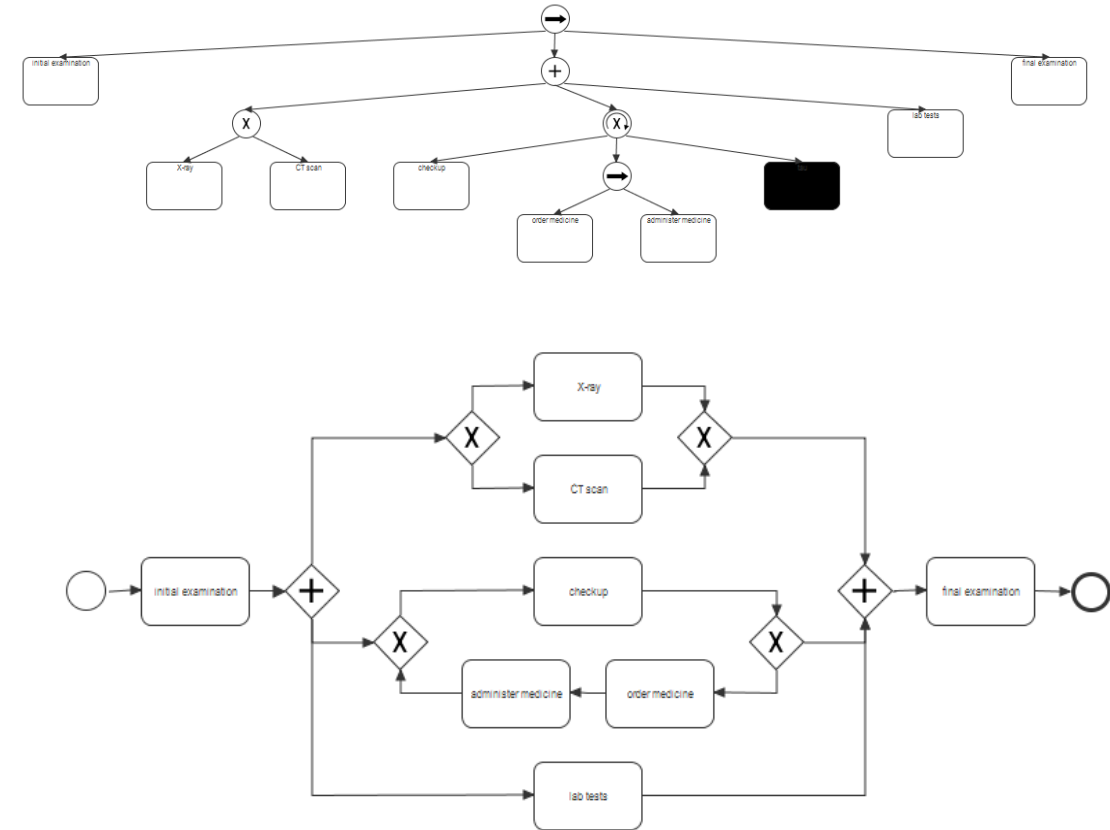
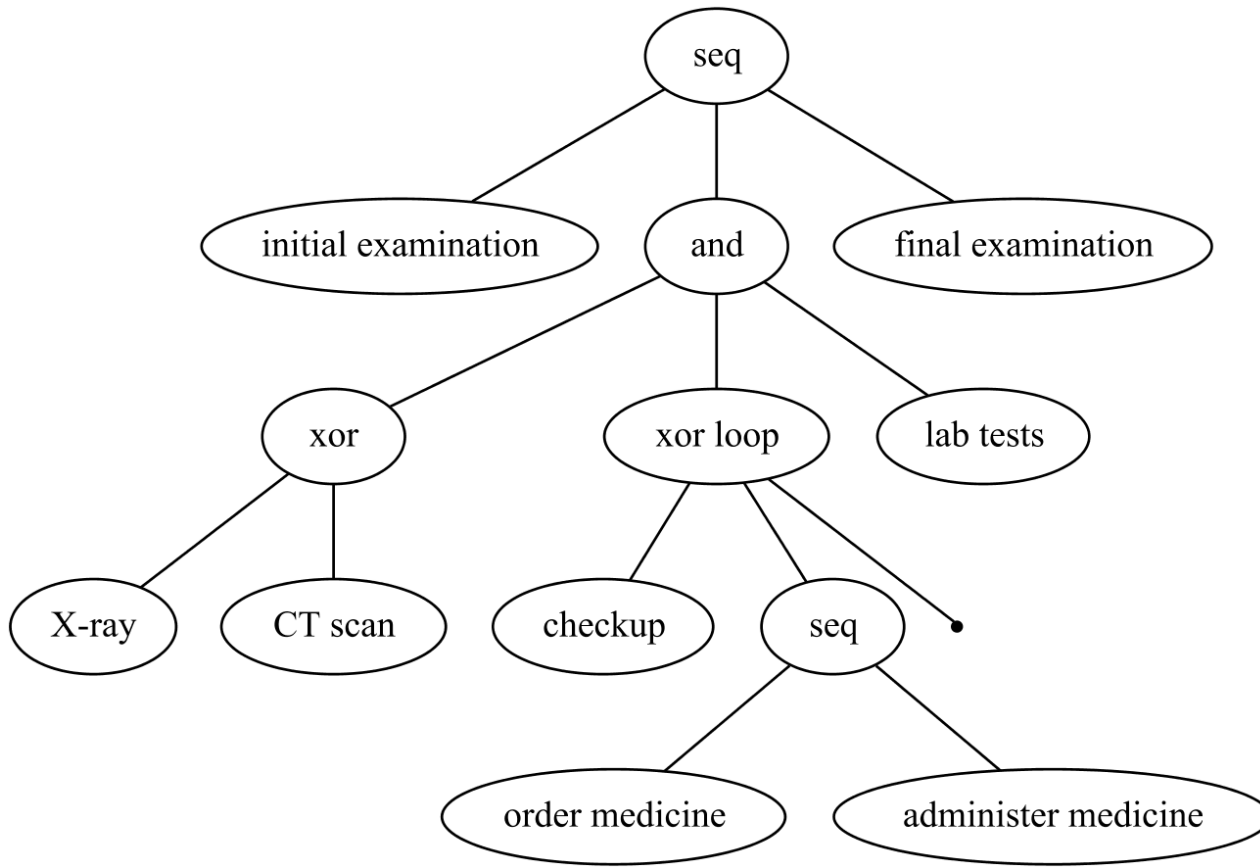
Alpha algorithm (ProM)



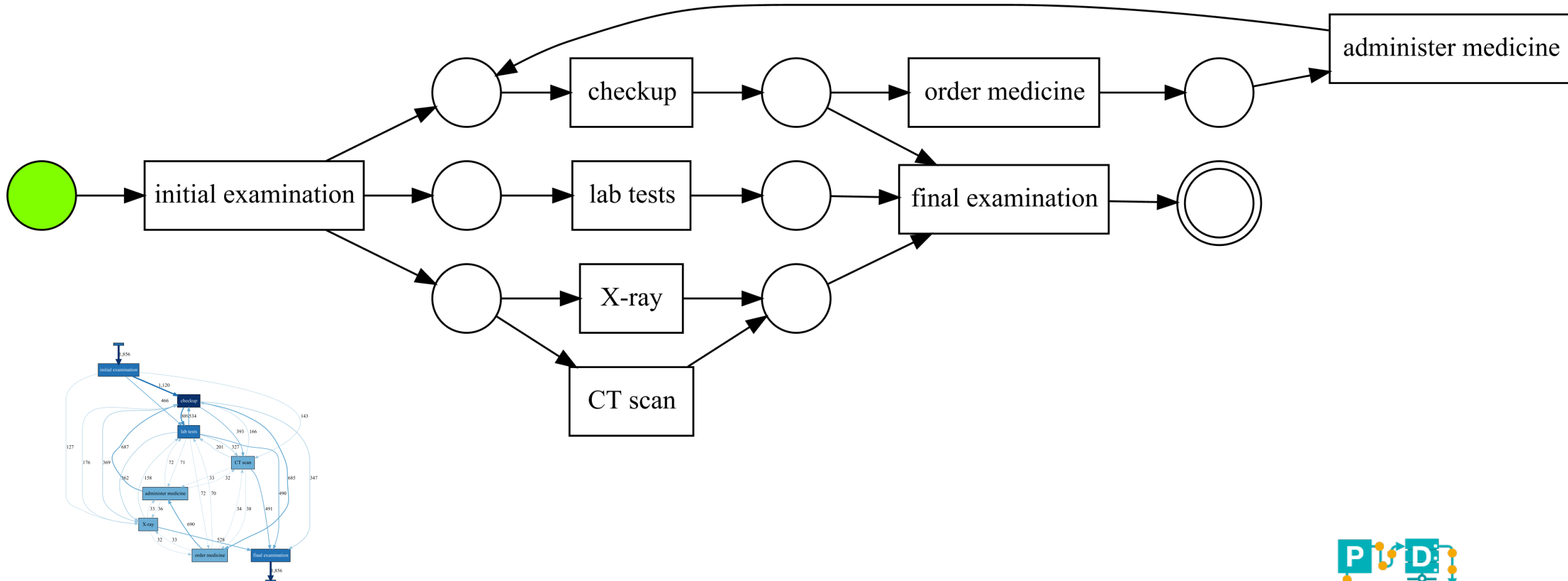
Inductive visual miner (ProM)



Different visualizations in ProM



Mapped onto an accepting Petri net



Deviations

Variants

Allowed deviations

Explore deviations

Conformance rate

Synthetichealthcarelog Activity

100%

Deviations (0)

Congratulations! Your data has no deviations and conditions. It is 100% compliant.

BPMN export or edit with Celonis CPM

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
<cpm:definitions xmlns:symbi="http://schemas.symbioworld.com/plugins/bpmn/v2" xmlns:bpmn="http://www.omg.org/spec/BPMN/20100524/MODEL" xmlns:bpmndi="http://www.omg.org/spec/BPMN/20100524/DI" xmlns:di="http://www.omg.org/spec/DI/20100524/DI" xmlns:dc="http://www.omg.org/spec/DC/20100524/DC" targetNamespace="http://www.celonis.com/bpmn20" exporter="celonis-process-adherence-manager" exporterVersion="1.0.0">
  <cpm:process name="Synthetichealthcarelog Activity" id="TProcess-1">
    <cpm:extensionElements>
      <symbi:repositoryElement>
        <symbi:repositoryElement id="4e1b8afe-8618-4e52-87a3-3cb03fb88a7e" name="initial examination" type="BestPracticeTask">
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</definitions>

```

#

Target Model

Throughput time filter ⓘ



Event log ⓘ

■ Synthetichealthcarelog Activity

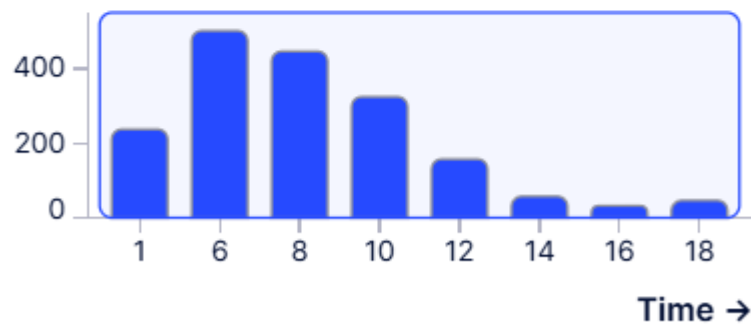


from initial examination First

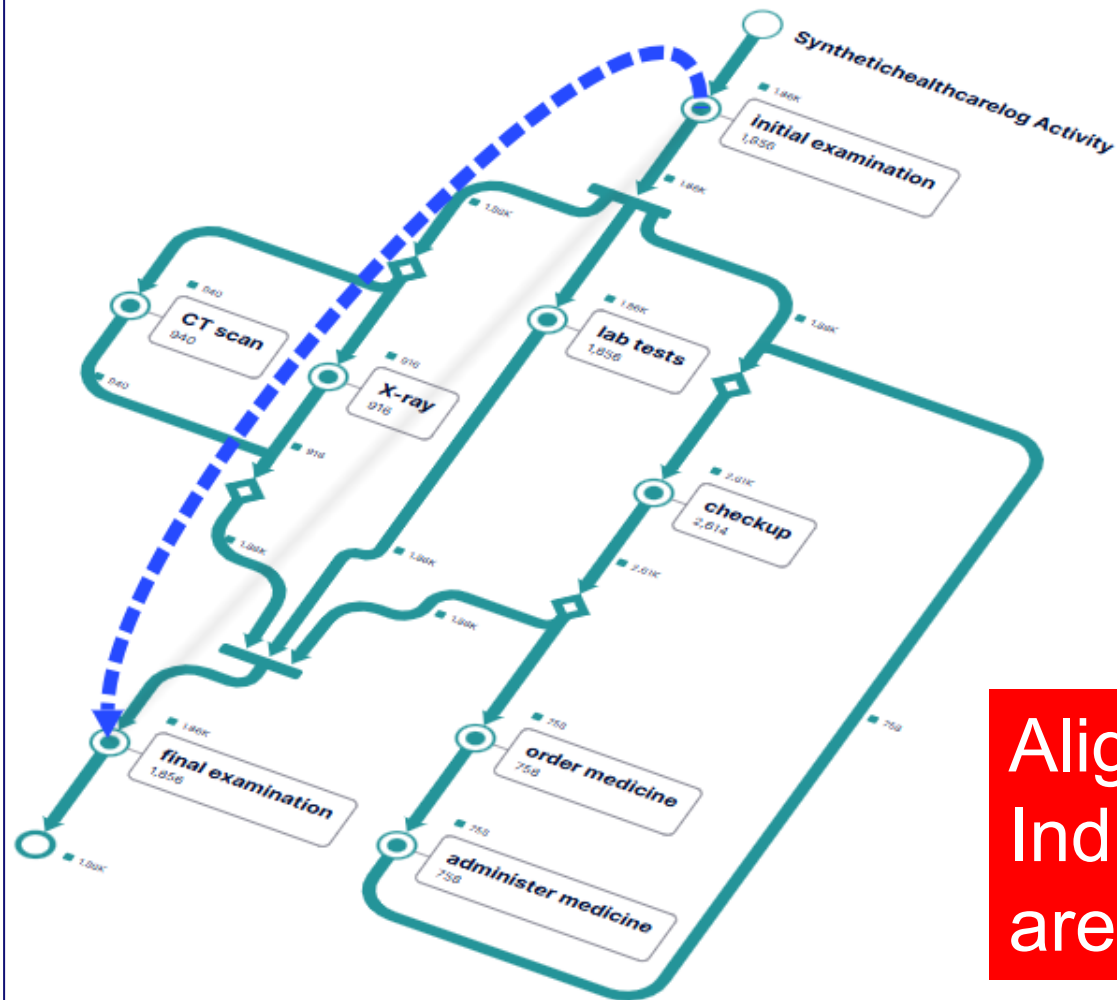
to final examination Last

avg. 9.25 days med. 8 days min. 0 days max. 0 days

↑ Frequency



1 to 23 days



Alignments and Inductive Mining are supported !!

Preset filters

Select the data you want to the target model.

+ Add a filter

Data & Coverage Info

■ Synthetichealthcarelog Activity

Summary: Inductive Mining

- The models are guaranteed to be **sound**, i.e., no deadlocks, no livelocks, and no other anomalies.
- The basic algorithm guarantees that the **event log can be reproduce completely** (of course one can filter if desired).
- The algorithm has **good performance** (and there are also more scalable variants) and implemented in several tools.
- There are **various additional theoretical guarantees**, i.e., rediscover the process tree used to create the event log.



If time permits (1/2):

Process models as the lens to look at event data

95% of AI projects fail





AI fails when it is dropped into broken processes instead of fixing them

Without process visibility, AI optimizes only fragments

AI cannot automate a workflow that nobody has mapped or observed

If you automate chaos, you get automated chaos

AI pilots succeed in demos and fail in production because real processes are messy and fragmented

No ROI without process redesign

AI needs more than data; it needs process context

When AI hits the walls, those walls are usually process boundaries

Disconnected systems are a technical symptom; disconnected processes are the real disease

"When Agents Hit the Walls" — CIO, April 2026

"Why enterprise AI initiatives keep dying before production" — InformationWeek, March 2026

"Most AI Investments Are Failing. The Problem Isn't The Technology." — Forbes, Feb. 2026

"The 'Last Mile' Problem Slowing AI Transformation" — Harvard Business Review, March 2026

"Why Most CEOs See No Return On AI Investments" — Forbes, March 2026

"Why Your Digital Investments Aren't Creating Value" — Harvard Business Review, Feb. 2026

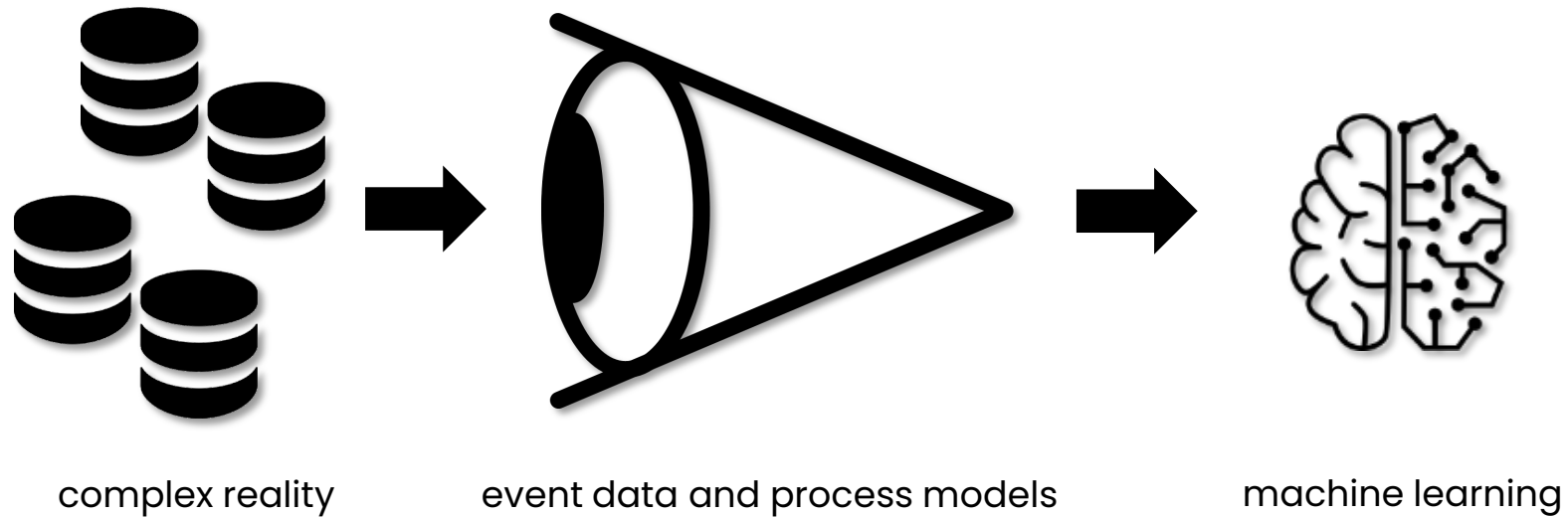
"The Hidden Costs That Are Undermining Enterprise AI ROI" — Forbes, March 2026

"Why AI Adoption Stalls, According to Industry Data" — Harvard Business Review, Feb. 2026

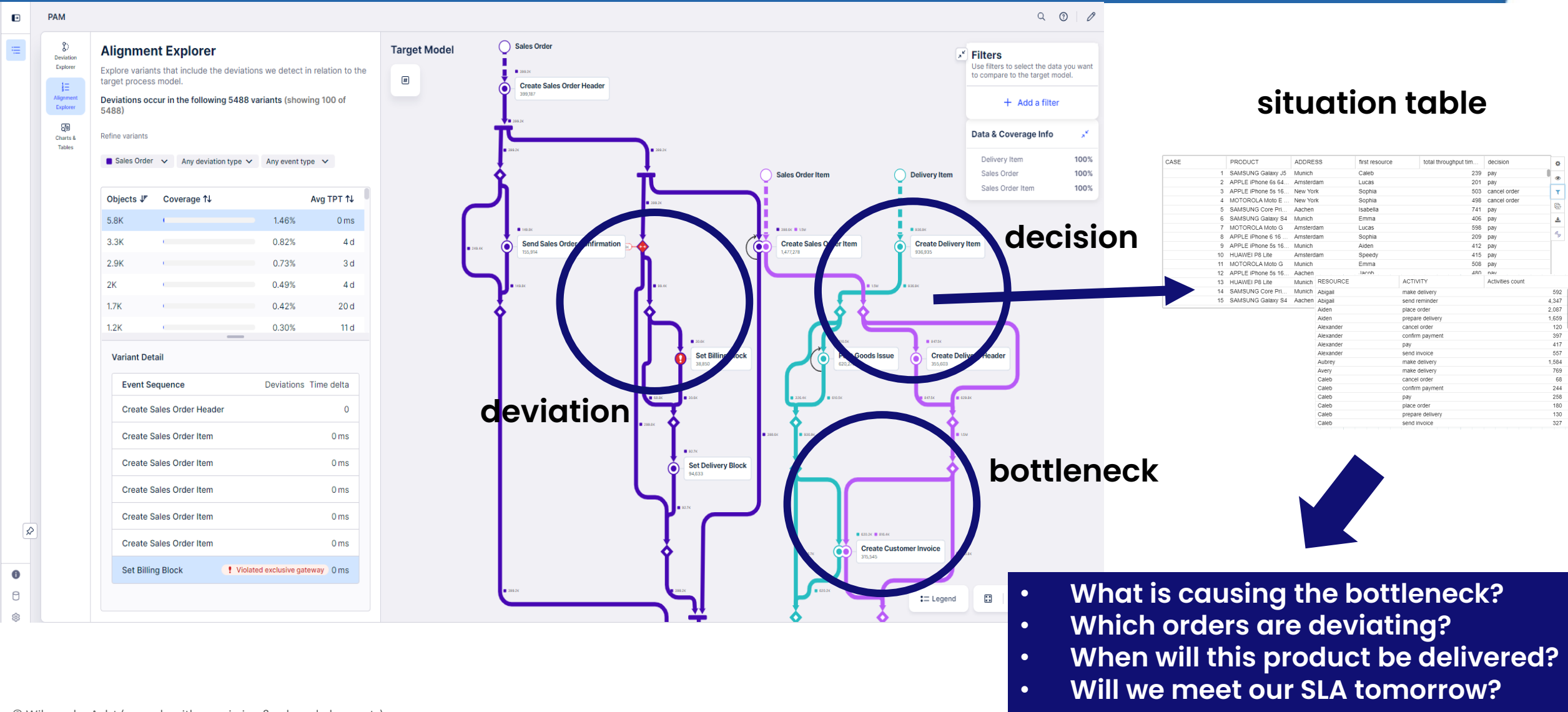
"From insights to action: Why enterprises are shifting to execution-driven AI systems" — Economic Times, March 2026

"Nearly 80% of UK firms have adopted AI — but barely any are seeing a positive ROI so far" — TechRadar, March 2026

Process Mining Enables ML



Generating “Machine Learning Problems” for “Process Problems”



Guesswork Versus Computation

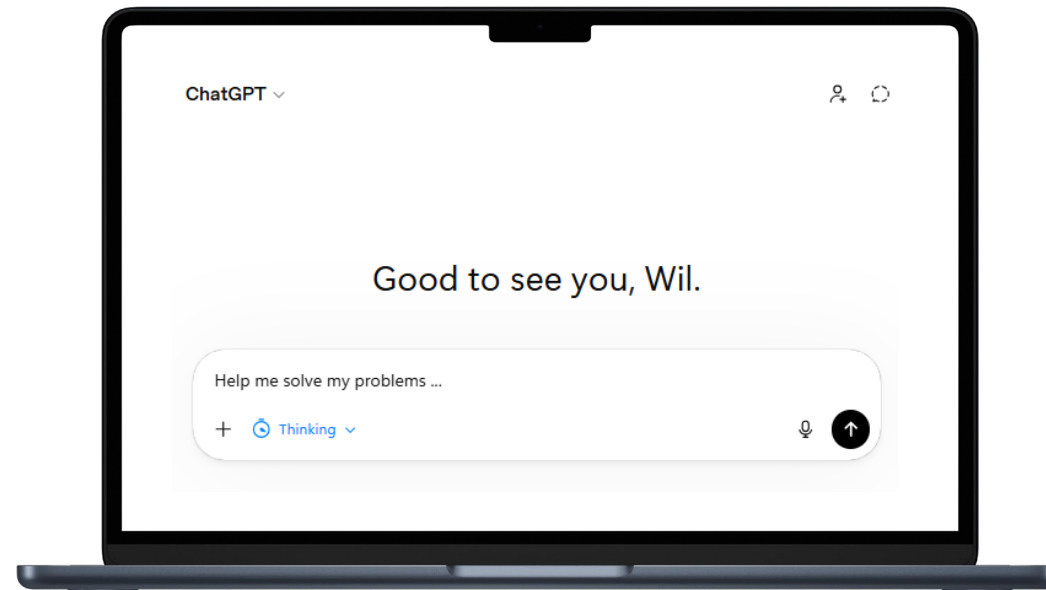
Question



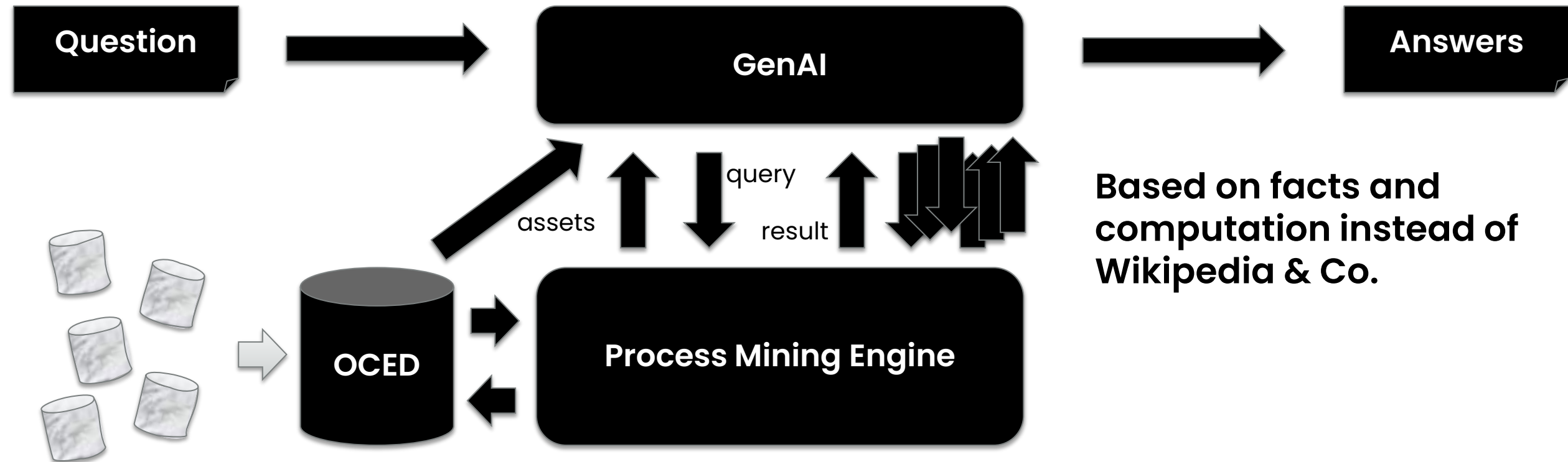
GenAI

?

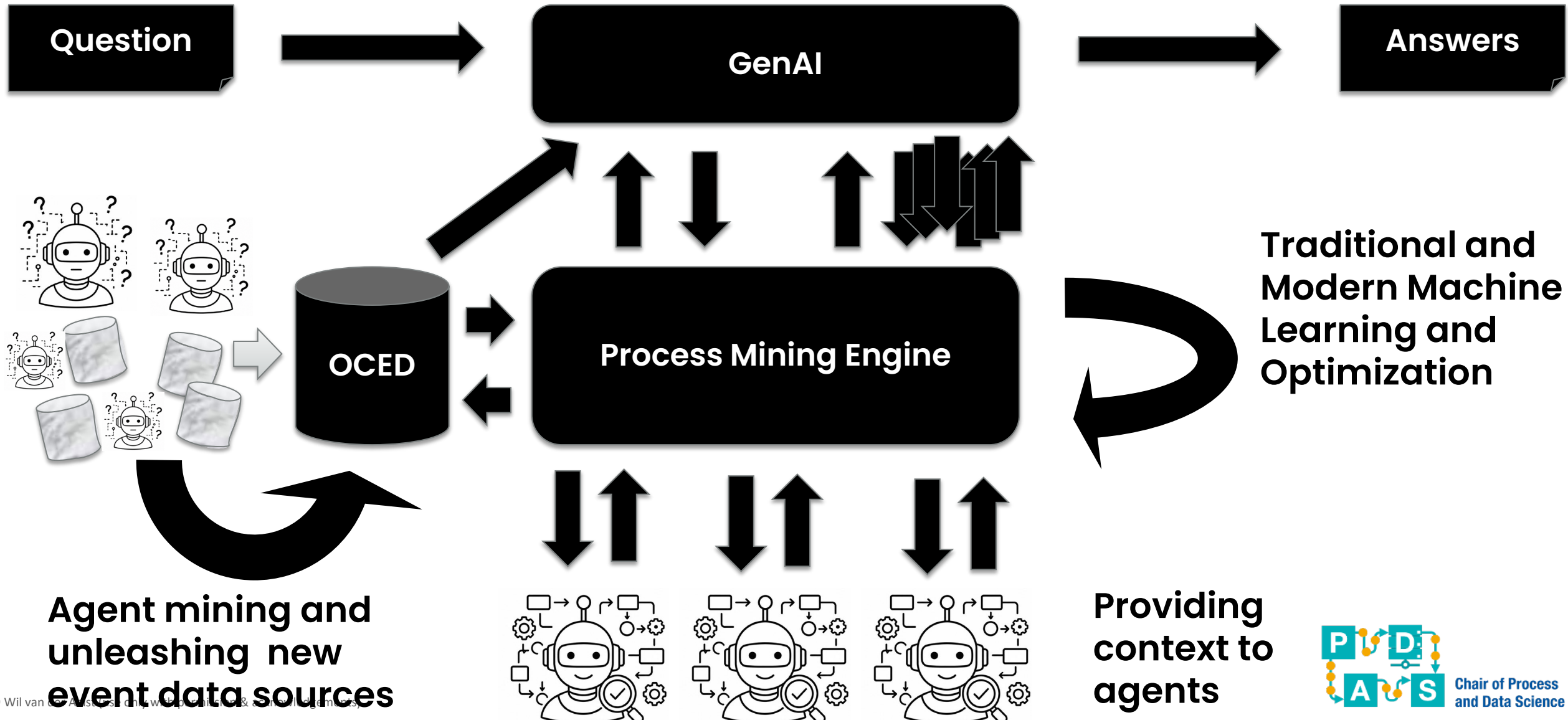
Answers



Guesswork Versus Computation



Not just copilots!





If time permits (2/2): Lifting PM to the next level

Object-Centric Process Mining (OCPM)

- Out-of-scope for this introduction tutorial
- Like moving from 2D to 3D!
- See www.ocel-standard.org

01

Avoid repeatedly going back to your source systems

- Offers a single system-agnostic source of truth
- Saves time and helps to capture real-live events and objects

02

Avoid distortions due to the single-case assumption

- Squeezing reality into simple event logs creates distortions
- This includes the unintentional replication of events (convergence) and loss of causal relations (divergence)

03

See and understand the interactions between different object types

- Problems live at the intersections of processes and organizational entities
- E.g. low On-Time-In-Full (OTIF) scores may be caused by sales, production, procurement, logistics, etc.



W. van der Aalst, Object-Centric Process Mining: The Next Frontier in Business Performance. 2023. celonis.is/OCPM-Whitepaper



W.M.P. van der Aalst, Object-Centric Process Mining: Unraveling the Fabric of Real Processes. Mathematics 2023, 11, 2691. <https://doi.org/10.3390/math11122691>

OCEL 2.0 Specification Event Logs Tool Support OCEL 1.0 Search docs...

Object-Centric Event Log 2.0

OCEL 2.0 is a format for objectcentric event logs.

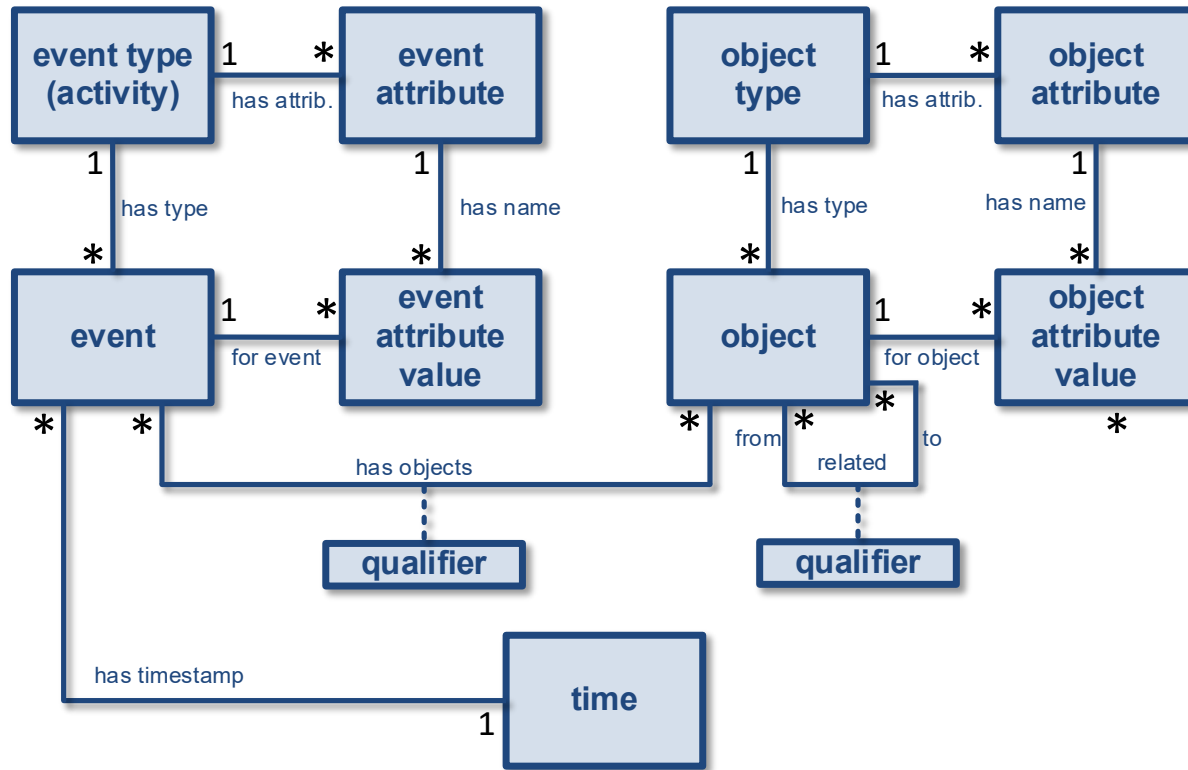
Get Started

<https://www.ocel-standard.org/>

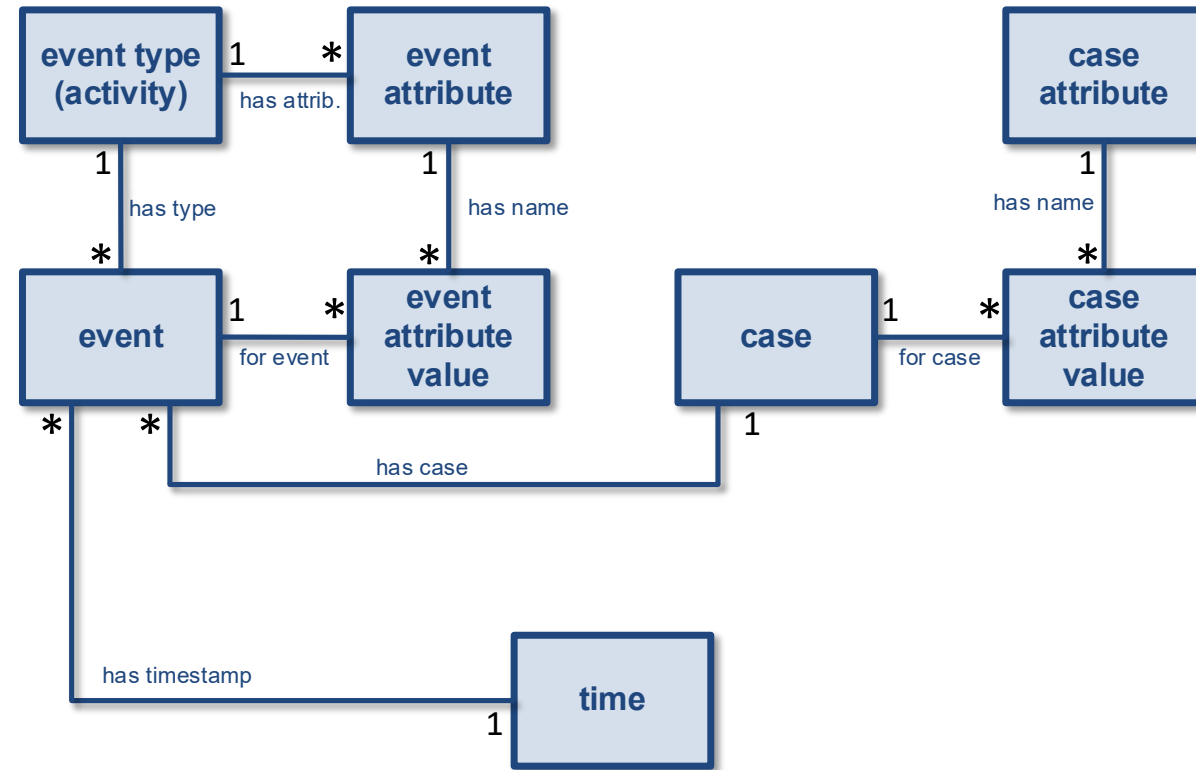


Chair of Process and Data Science

Case-Centric Versus Object-Centric

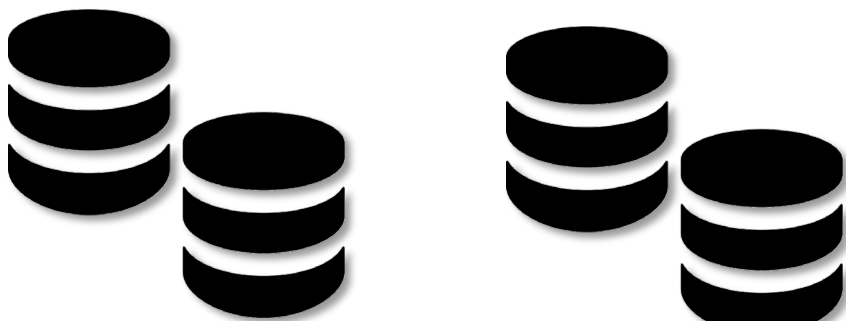


Object-Centric

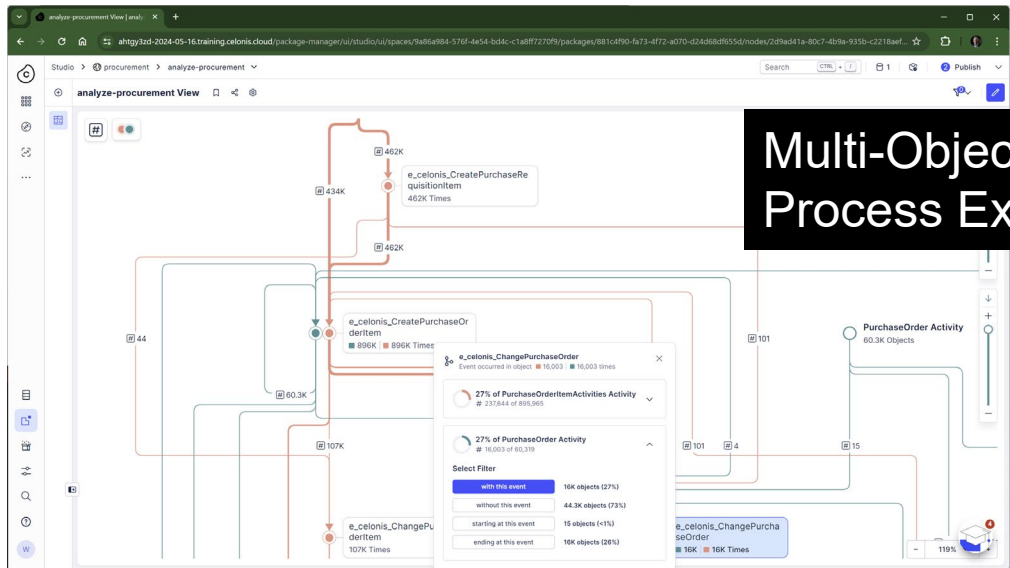
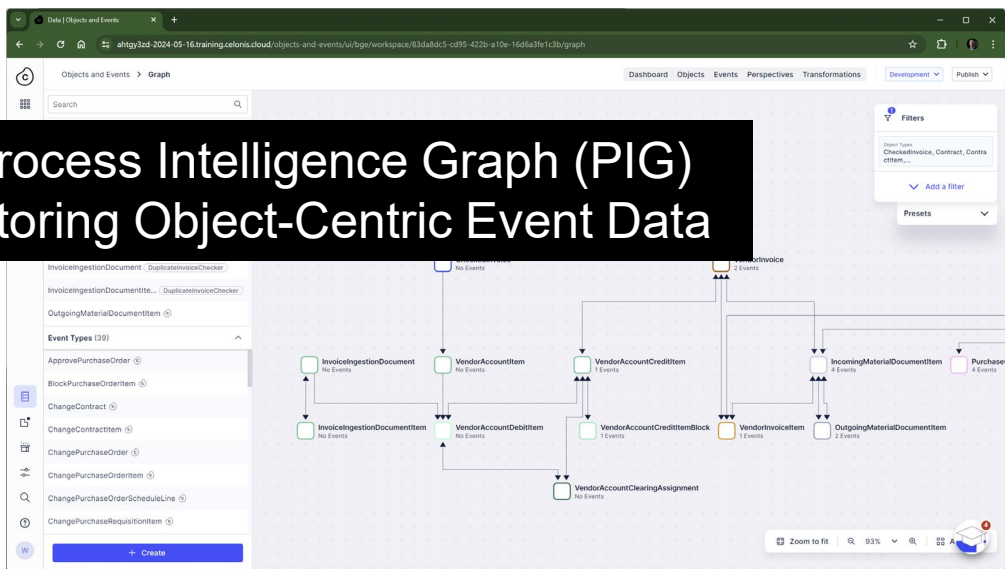


Case-Centric

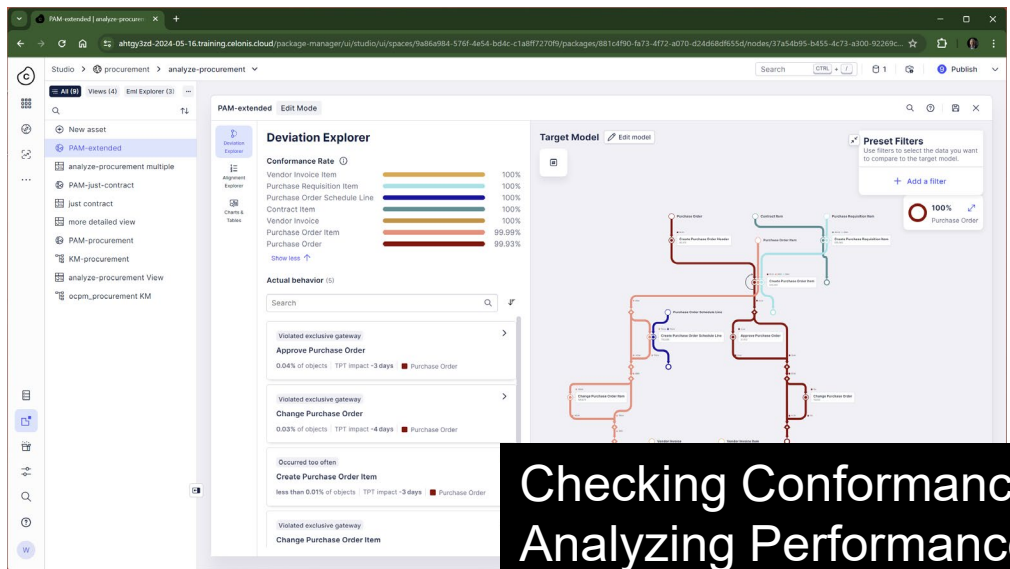
Celonis Supports OCPM



Process Intelligence Graph (PIG)
Storing Object-Centric Event Data

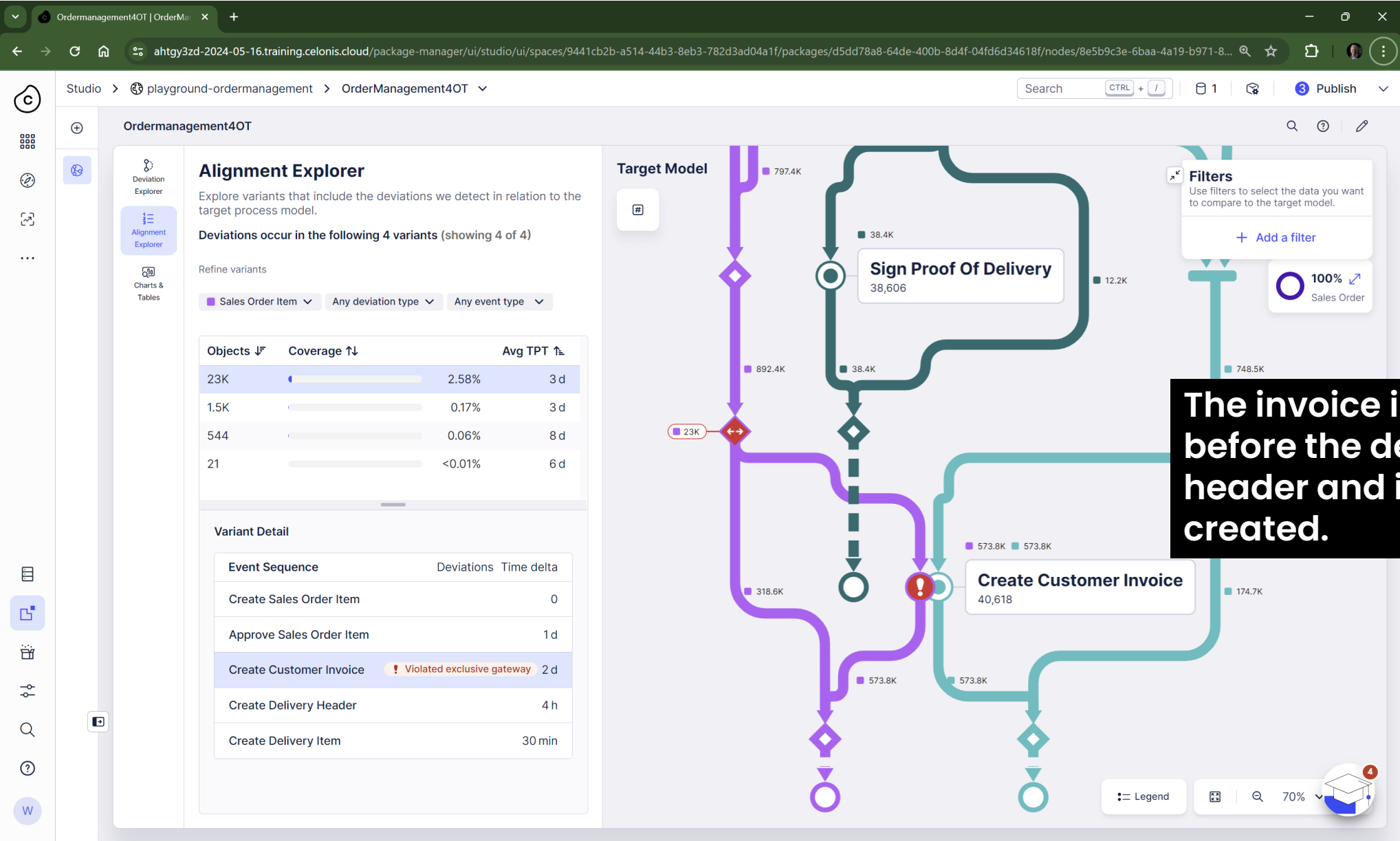


Multi-Object
Process Explorer

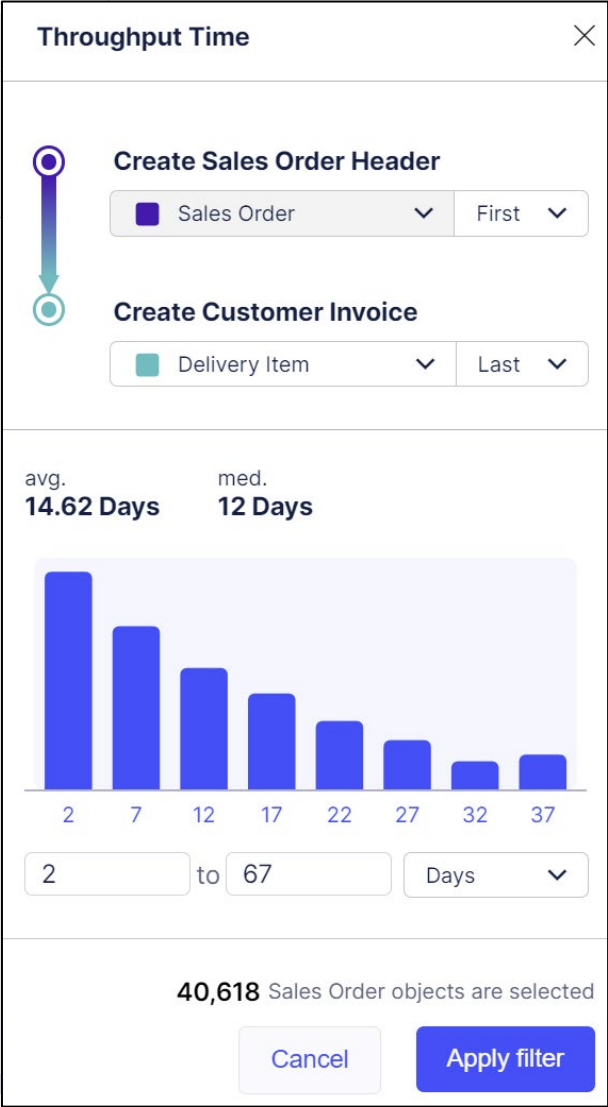
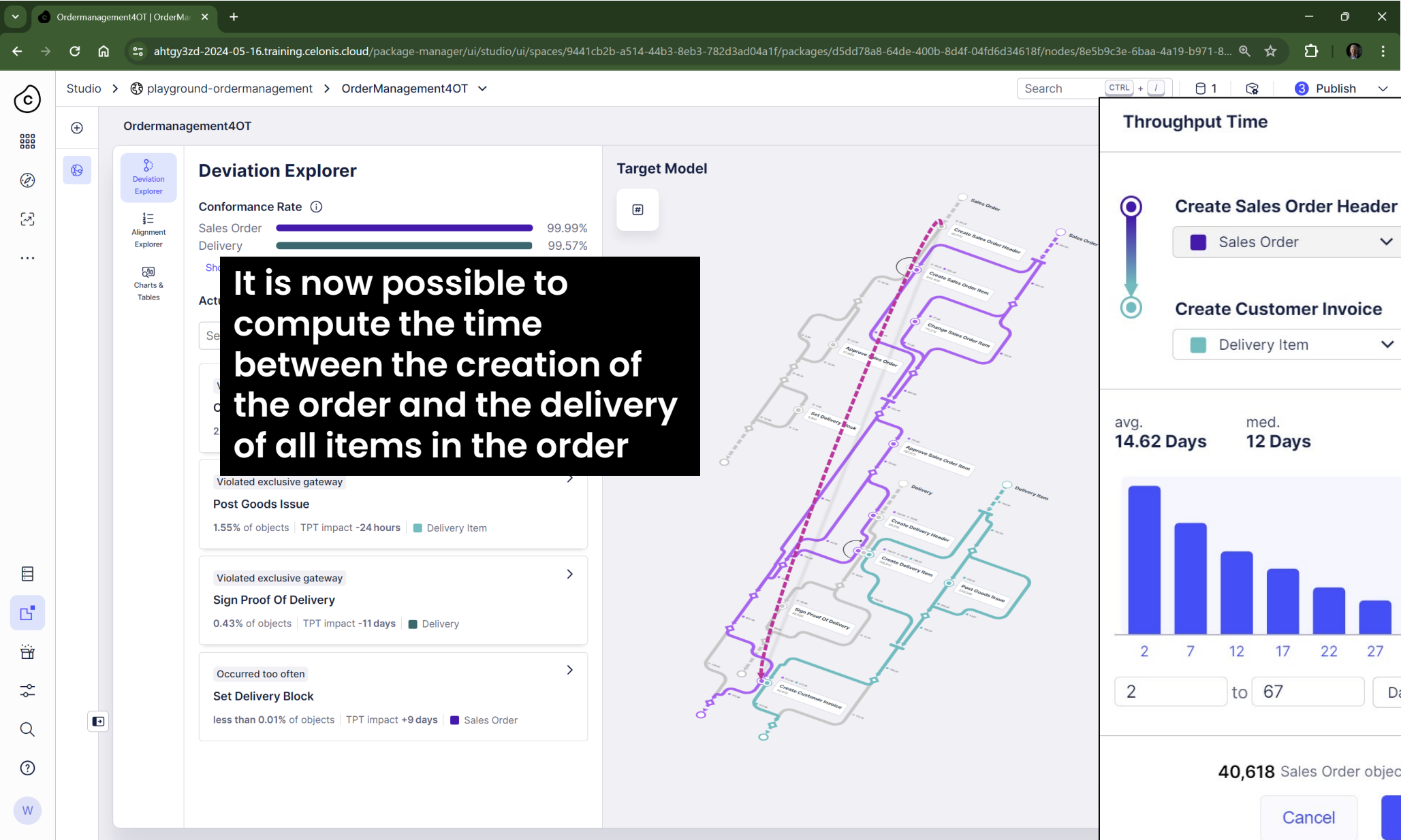


Checking Conformance and
Analyzing Performance

Conformance Checking Using Alignments



End-to-End Performance Analysis



Conclusion

Foundations of Process Discovery

Baseline: Discovering DFG + filtering

2 lines of mathematics

Bottom-up discovery

Alpha algorithm

8 lines of mathematics

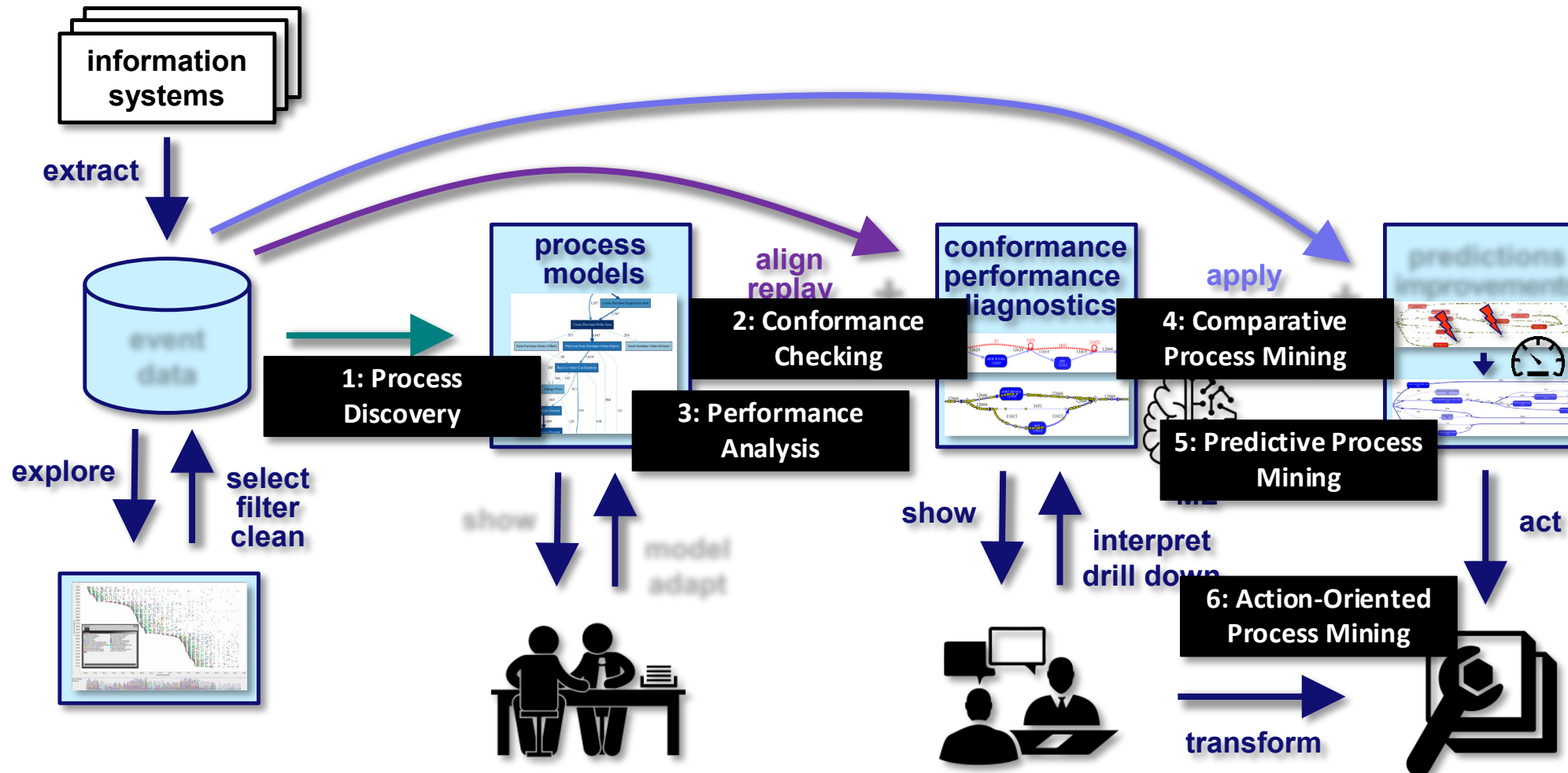
Top-down discovery

Inductive mining

approximately 20 lines of mathematics

Not a solved problem!

Discovery is just one of many techniques



Websites

- www.processmining.org
- www.process-mining-summer-school.org
- www.tf-pm.org
- www.promtools.org
- www.celonis.com/academic-signup
- xes-standard.org
- ocel-standard.org
- www.pads.rwth-aachen.de
- www.vdaalst.com



Online courses

- **Coursera course “Process Mining: Data science in Action”**
Register via coursera.org/learn/process-mining (>175.000 participants since 2015).
- **Celonis/RWTH course “Process Mining: From Theory to Execution”**
Register via www.celonis.com/wils-process-mining-class.
- **edX course “A Hands-on Introduction to Process Mining”**
Register via RWTHx: www.edx.org/school/rwthx.
- **edX course “Object Centric Process Mining”**
Register via RWTHx: www.edx.org/school/rwthx.



Books (not intended to be complete)

