

Database Theory

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6. Conjunctive Queries

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Outline

6. Conjunctive Queries

6.1 Query Equivalence and Containment

6.2 Homomorphism Theorem

6.3 Query Minimization

6.4 Acyclic Conjunctive Queries

Query Optimization

The common approach to (first-order) query optimization is via **equivalence preserving transformations in relational algebra**. E.g.:

- \bowtie is commutative and associative, hence applicable in any order
- Cascaded projections may be simplified: If the attributes A_1, \dots, A_n are among B_1, \dots, B_m , then

$$\pi_{A_1, \dots, A_n}(\pi_{B_1, \dots, B_m}(E)) = \pi_{A_1, \dots, A_n}(E)$$

- Cascaded selections might be merged:

$$\sigma_{c_1}(\sigma_{c_2}(E)) = \sigma_{c_1 \wedge c_2}(E)$$

- Commuting selection with join. If c only involves attributes in E_1 , then

$$\sigma_c(E_1 \bowtie E_2) = \sigma_c(E_1) \bowtie E_2$$

We do not treat such transformations in this course.

Beyond Standard Equivalences

- The known equivalences are not always sufficient:
 - e.g.: none of the equivalences reduces the number of joins!
- For further optimization, the following decision problems are crucial:

Definition (Query Equivalence and Containment)

We say a query Q_1 is **equivalent** to a query Q_2 (in symbols, $Q_1 \equiv Q_2$) if $Q_1(D) = Q_2(D)$ for every database instance D . Similarly, we say Q_1 is **contained** in Q_2 (written $Q_1 \subseteq Q_2$) if $Q_1(D) \subseteq Q_2(D)$ for every D .

QUERY-EQUIVALENCE

INSTANCE: A pair Q_1, Q_2 of queries.

QUESTION: Does $Q_1 \equiv Q_2$ hold?

QUERY-CONTAINMENT

INSTANCE: A pair Q_1, Q_2 of queries.

QUESTION: Does $Q_1 \subseteq Q_2$ hold?

- In the following we concentrate w.l.o.g. on query containment because

$$Q_1 \equiv Q_2 \Leftrightarrow Q_1 \subseteq Q_2 \text{ and } Q_2 \subseteq Q_1 \text{ and}$$

$$Q_1 \subseteq Q_2 \Leftrightarrow Q_1 \equiv (Q_1 \cap Q_2).$$

- Observe that if Q_1, Q_2 are formulated in relational algebra, then deciding $Q_1 \subseteq Q_2$ (and thus also $Q_1 \equiv Q_2$) is **undecidable!**
 - Indeed, Q is empty over all databases $\Leftrightarrow Q \subseteq \emptyset$.
 - By Traktenbrot's Theorem, checking emptiness is undecidable for RA!
- Good news: $Q_1 \subseteq Q_2$ is decidable for conjunctive queries!
- The decidability comes from the **Homomorphism Theorem** (see below).
- The theorem also gives rise to optimization of conjunctive queries that reduces the number of joins.

Datalog-like notation for CQs

- Next we use Datalog notation for CQs!
- E.g.: the conjunctive query

$$\{\langle x, y \rangle \mid \exists z, w. B(x, y) \wedge R(y, z) \wedge R(y, w) \wedge R(w, y)\}$$

is written as the rule

$$Q(x, y) :- B(x, y), R(y, z), R(y, w), R(w, y).$$

Conjunctive Queries into Tableaux

- Tableau: representation of a conjunctive query as a database
- A tableau for a CQ Q is just a database where variables can appear in tuples, plus a set of distinguished variables.
- Assume a query Q such that

$$Q(x, y): \neg B(x, y), R(y, z), R(y, w), R(w, y)$$

- Then the tableau of Q is:

B:	<table style="border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 0 10px;">A</td><td style="padding: 0 10px;">B</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 0 10px;">x</td><td style="padding: 0 10px;">y</td></tr> </table>	A	B	x	y	R:	<table style="border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 0 10px;">A</td><td style="padding: 0 10px;">B</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 0 10px;">y</td><td style="padding: 0 10px;">z</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 0 10px;">y</td><td style="padding: 0 10px;">w</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 0 10px;">w</td><td style="padding: 0 10px;">y</td></tr> </table>	A	B	y	z	y	w	w	y
A	B														
x	y														
A	B														
y	z														
y	w														
w	y														
x y		← answer line													

- Variables in the answer line are called distinguished

Tableau homomorphisms

Definition (Tableau homomorphism)

A homomorphism of two tableaux $f: T_1 \rightarrow T_2$ is a mapping

$$f: \{\text{variables of } T_1\} \rightarrow \{\text{variables of } T_2\} \cup \{\text{constants}\}$$

such that:

- For every distinguished x , $f(x) = x$
- For every relation R in T_1 and row x_1, \dots, x_k in R , $f(x_1), \dots, f(x_k)$ is a row of R in T_2

Theorem (Homomorphism Theorem)

Let Q_1, Q_2 be two conjunctive queries, and T_{Q_1}, T_{Q_2} their tableaux. Then

$$Q_1 \subseteq Q_2 \iff \text{there exists a homomorphism } f: T_{Q_2} \rightarrow T_{Q_1}.$$

Applying the Homomorphism Theorem

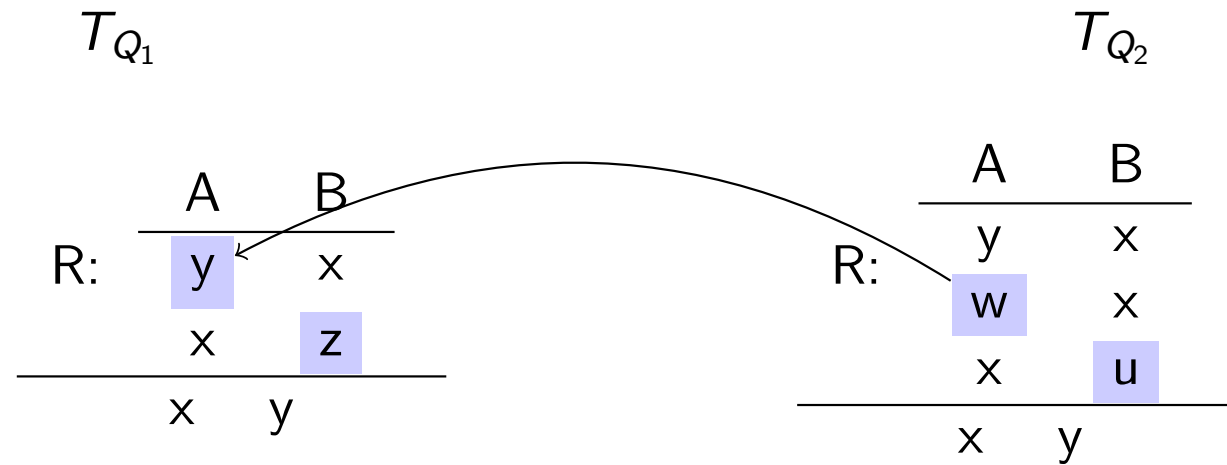
- We first consider queries over a single relation:
- $Q_1(x, y) \text{ :- } R(y, x), R(x, z)$
- $Q_2(x, y) \text{ :- } R(y, x), R(w, x), R(x, u)$

Tableau for Q_1 :

R:	A	B
	y	x
	x	z
	x y	

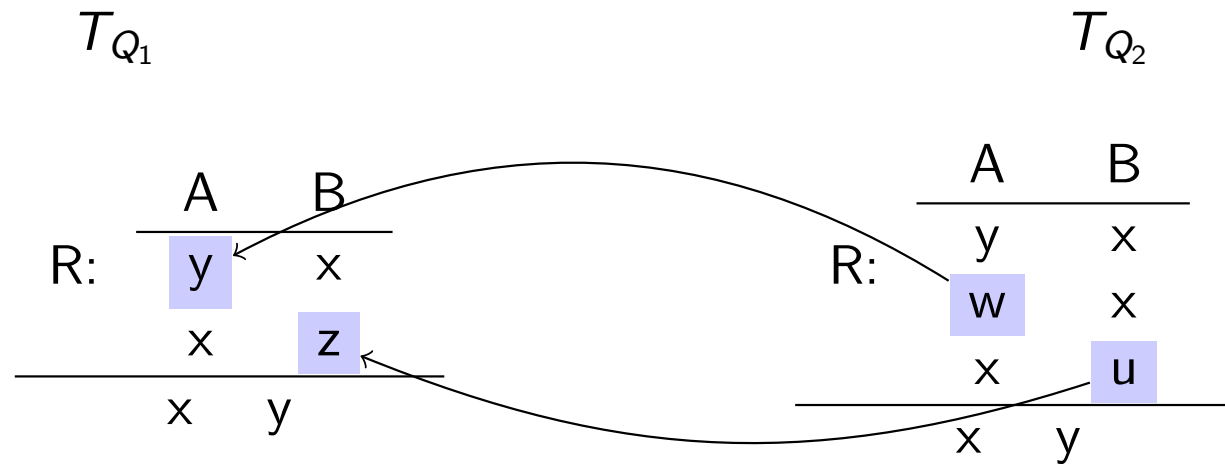
Tableau for Q_2 :

R:	A	B
	y	x
	w	x
	x	u
	x y	



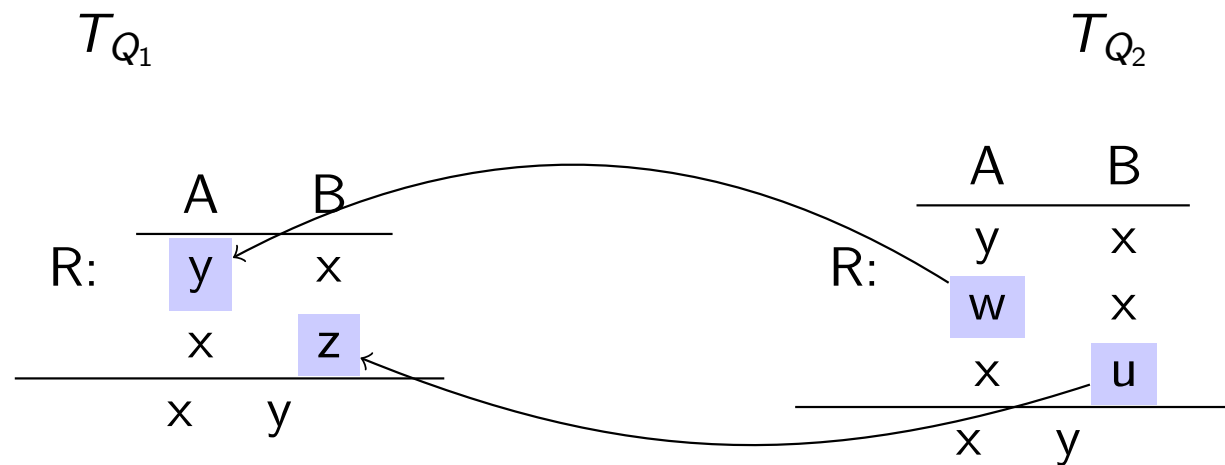
Take f such that:

■ $f(w) = y,$



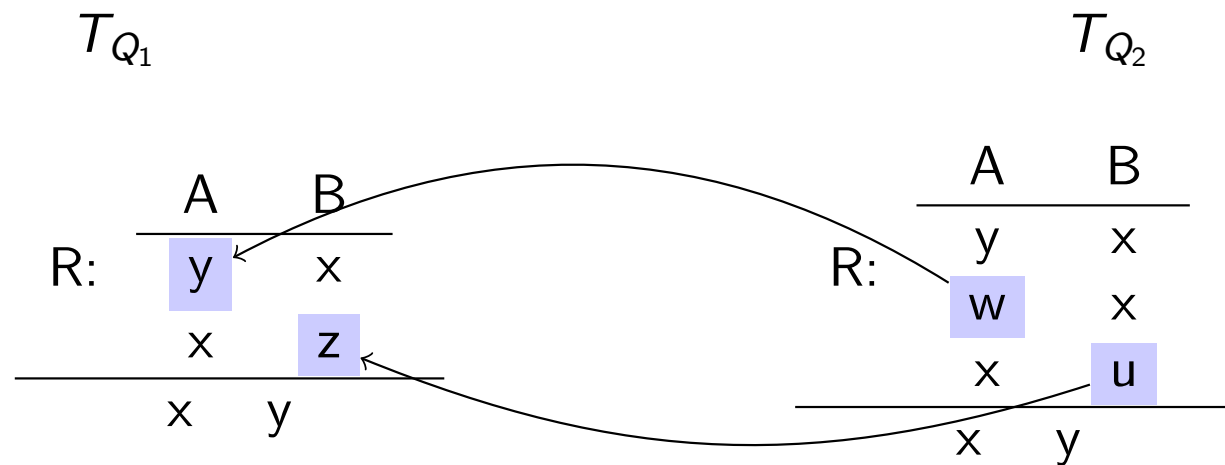
Take f such that:

- $f(w) = y,$
- $f(u) = z,$



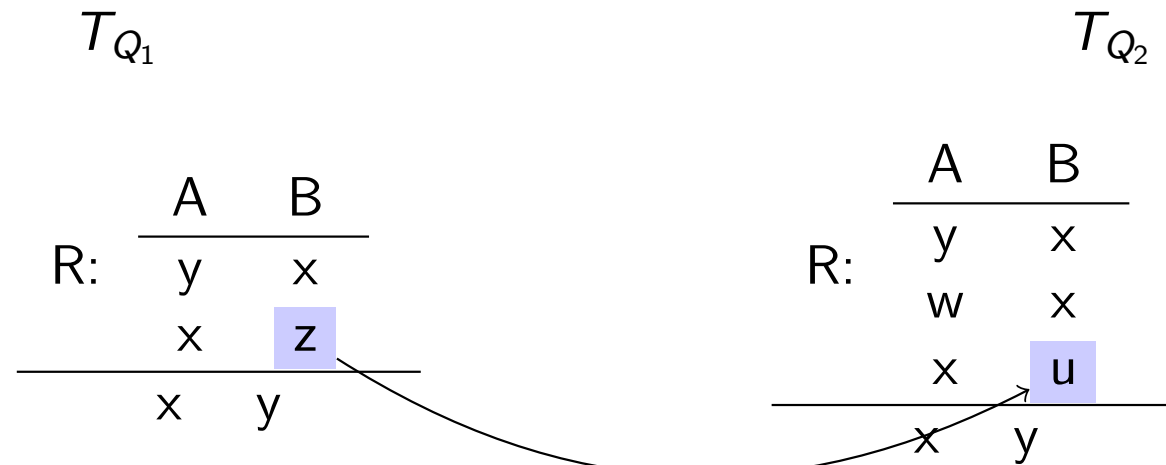
Take f such that:

- $f(w) = y,$
- $f(u) = z,$
- $f(x) = x$ and $f(y) = y.$



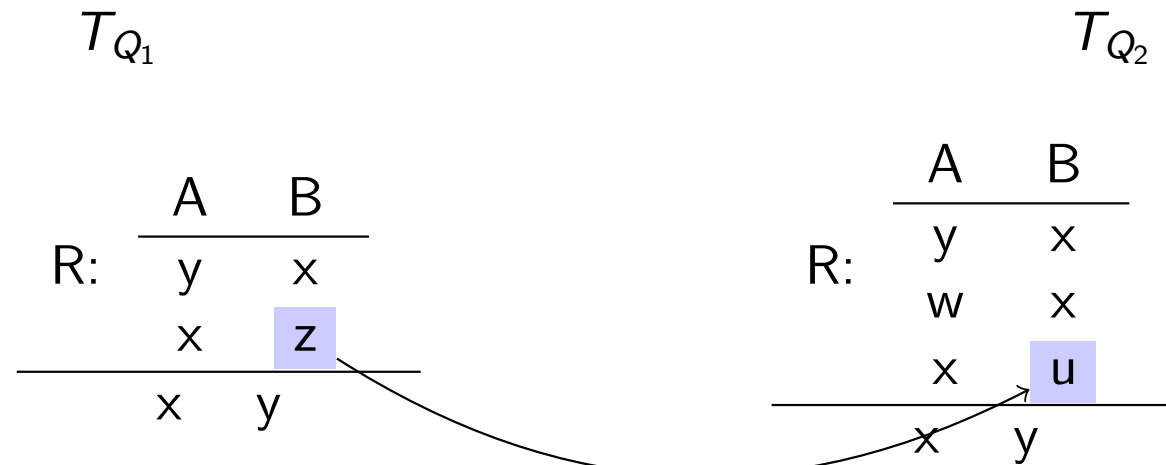
Take f such that:

- $f(w) = y,$
- $f(u) = z,$
- $f(x) = x$ and $f(y) = y.$
- Hence $Q_1 \subseteq Q_2!$



Take f such that:

■ $f(z) = u,$



Take f such that:

- $f(z) = u,$
- $f(x) = x$ and $f(y) = y.$

T_{Q_1}								
R:								
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 0 10px;">A</td><td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 0 10px;">B</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 0 10px;">y</td><td style="padding: 0 10px;">x</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 0 10px;">x</td><td style="padding: 0 10px; background-color: #e0e0ff;">z</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-top: 1px solid black; padding: 0 10px;">x</td><td style="border-top: 1px solid black; padding: 0 10px;">y</td></tr> </table>	A	B	y	x	x	z	x	y
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y	x							
x	z							
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T_{Q_2}										
R:										
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Take f such that:

- $f(z) = u$,
- $f(x) = x$ and $f(y) = y$.
- Hence $Q_2 \subseteq Q_1$!

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A	B									
y	x									
w	x									
x	u									
x	y									

Take f such that:

- $f(z) = u$,
- $f(x) = x$ and $f(y) = y$.
- Hence $Q_2 \subseteq Q_1$!
- Since $Q_1 \subseteq Q_2$ and $Q_2 \subseteq Q_1$, we have $Q_2 \equiv Q_1$!

Proof of the Homomorphism Theorem.

Observation. A tuple \vec{c} is in the answer to a CQ Q over a database D iff there is a homomorphism f from the tableau of Q to the database D such that $f(\vec{x}) = \vec{c}$, where \vec{x} is the tuple of distinguished variables of Q .

Assume a pair Q_1, Q_2 of CQs with variables V_1, V_2 , respectively. Assume that \vec{x} is the tuple of answer variables of Q_1 and Q_2 .

Suppose there exists a homomorphism $f: T_{Q_2} \rightarrow T_{Q_1}$. Assume a database D and an arbitrary tuple $\vec{c} \in Q_1(D)$. By the above observation there is a homomorphism g from T_{Q_1} to D such that $g(\vec{x}) = \vec{c}$. Observe that the composition $h = g \circ f$ is a homomorphism from T_{Q_2} to D such that $h(\vec{x}) = \vec{c}$. Hence $\vec{c} \in Q_2(D)$.

Suppose $Q_1 \subseteq Q_2$. Then, by assumption, $Q_1(D) \subseteq Q_2(D)$ for all instances D . Take the tableau T_{Q_1} as database instance D . Clearly, \vec{x} is in the answer to Q_1 over T_{Q_1} . Then using the assumption we get $\vec{x} \in Q_2(T_{Q_1})$. By the observation above, then there is a homomorphism f from T_{Q_2} to T_{Q_1} such that $f(\vec{x}) = \vec{x}$. □

Existence of a Homomorphism: Complexity

Theorem

Given two tableaux, deciding the existence of a homomorphism between them is NP-complete.

Proof.

NP-membership. Guess a candidate mapping f and check in polynomial time whether f is a homomorphism.

NP-hardness. By a straightforward reduction from the NP-complete problem **BQE** for CQs. Let the Boolean CQ Q be an arbitrary instance of **BQE**. We define the following tableaux T_1 and T_2 :

T_1 : tableau of the Boolean CQ Q .

T_2 : consider D as tableau of a Boolean CQ

We clearly have: Query Q over DB D is non-empty \Leftrightarrow there exists a homomorphism from T_1 to T_2 . □

CQ Containment and Equivalence: Complexity

Corollary

Given two conjunctive queries Q_1 and Q_2 , both deciding $Q_1 \subseteq Q_2$ and $Q_1 \equiv Q_2$ are NP-complete.

Proof.

The NP-completeness of **CQ Containment** follows immediately from the Homomorphism Theorem together with the above theorem.

From this, we may conclude the NP-completeness of **CQ Equivalence** via the following equivalences:

$$Q_1 \equiv Q_2 \Leftrightarrow Q_1 \subseteq Q_2 \text{ and } Q_2 \subseteq Q_1 \text{ and}$$
$$Q_1 \subseteq Q_2 \Leftrightarrow Q_1 \equiv (Q_1 \cap Q_2).$$

□

Minimizing Conjunctive Queries

Goal: Given a conjunctive query Q , find an equivalent conjunctive query Q' with the minimum number of joins.

More formally:

Definition

A conjunctive query Q is **minimal** if there **does not** exist a conjunctive query Q' such that

- $Q \equiv Q'$, and
- Q' has fewer atoms than Q .

Minimization by Deletion

- The following is an easy consequence of the Homomorphism theorem:

- Assume Q is

$$Q(\vec{x}) \text{ :- } R_1(\vec{u}_1), \dots, R_k(\vec{u}_k)$$

- Assume that there is an equivalent conjunctive query Q' of the form

$$Q'(\vec{x}) \text{ :- } S_1(\vec{v}_1), \dots, S_l(\vec{v}_l), \quad l < k.$$

- Then Q is equivalent to a query of the form

$$Q'(\vec{x}) \text{ :- } R_1(\vec{u}_{i_1}), \dots, R_l(\vec{u}_{i_l})$$

- In other words, to minimize a conjunctive query, it suffices to consider deletions of atoms on the right of :-

Minimization Procedure

- Given a conjunctive query Q , transform it into the tableau T_Q .
- Algorithm to obtain a minimal equivalent query:

$T' := T_Q$;

repeat until no change

 choose a row t in T' ;

if there is a homomorphism $f: T' \rightarrow T' \setminus \{t\}$

then $T' := T' \setminus \{t\}$

end;

return (the query defined by) T' ;

- Note: If a homomorphism $T' \rightarrow T' \setminus \{t\}$ exists, then T' , $T' \setminus \{t\}$ define equivalent queries, as a homomorphism from $T' \setminus \{t\}$ to T' exists. (Why?)

Minimizing Conjunctive Queries: example

- Conjunctive query with one relation R only:

$$Q(x, y, z) :- R(x, y, z_1), R(x_1, y, z_2), R(x_1, y, z), y = 4$$

- Tableau T_Q (relation R omitted):

A	B	C
x	4	z ₁
x ₁	4	z ₂
x ₁	4	z
x	4	z

- Minimization, step 1: Is there a homomorphism from T_Q to

A	B	C
x ₁	4	z ₂
x ₁	4	z
x	4	z

- Answer: No. For any homomorphism f , $f(x) = x$ (why?), thus the image of the first row is not in the small tableau.

- Step 2: Is T_Q equivalent to

A	B	C
x	4	z_1
x_1	4	z
x	4	z

- Answer: Yes. Homomorphism $f: f(z_2) = z$, all other variables stay the same.
- The new tableau is not equivalent to

A	B	C	or	A	B	C
x	4	z_1		x_1	4	z
x	4	z		x	4	z

- Because $f(x) = x$, $f(z) = z$, and the image of one of the rows is not present.

- Minimal tableau:

A	B	C
x	4	z_1
x_1	4	z
x	4	z

- Back to conjunctive query. CQ Q is equivalent to CQ Q' with

$$Q'(x, 4, z) \text{ :- } R(x, 4, z_1), R(x_1, 4, z)$$

Complexity of Minimization (1)

Theorem

Given a tableau T and a tuple t in T , checking whether there is a homomorphism from T to $T \setminus \{t\}$ is NP-complete.

Proof.

Membership in NP is immediate. For the hardness part, we provide a reduction from 3-**COLORABILITY**. We exploit a well-known trick: a graph is 3-colorable iff it can be homomorphically embedded into a “triangle”. Assume a graph $G = (V, E)$, where $V = \{1, \dots, n\}$. W.l.o.g., G is assumed to be connected. Take the Boolean CQ Q_G with the following atoms:

- 1 $V_1(x_1), \dots, V_n(x_n)$,
- 2 $E(x_i, x_j)$ for each edge $(i, j) \in E$,
- 3 $R(y_r), G(y_g), B(y_b)$,
- 4 $E(y_r, y_g), E(y_g, y_r), E(y_g, y_b), E(y_b, y_g)$ and $E(y_r, y_b), E(y_b, y_r)$.
- 5 $V_i(y_c)$ for all $i \in V$ and $c \in \{r, g, b\}$.

Proof (continued).

It is not difficult to see that G is 3-colorable iff there is a homomorphism from T_{Q_G} to $T_{Q_G} \setminus \{V_1(x_1)\}$.

(\Rightarrow) Assume G is 3-colorable with $\mu: V \rightarrow \{r, g, b\}$ a witnessing coloring. Then the following function f is a homomorphism from T_{Q_G} to $T_{Q_G} \setminus \{V_1(x_1)\}$:

- $f(x_i) = y_{\mu(i)}$, for all $i \in V$,
- $f(y_c) = y_c$, for all $c \in \{r, g, b\}$.

(\Leftarrow) Assume there is a homomorphism f from T_{Q_G} to $T_{Q_G} \setminus \{V_1(x_1)\}$. Then $f(x_1) \in \{y_r, y_g, y_b\}$ due to the atom $V_1(x_1)$ of Q_G . Since G is **connected**, we must also have $f(x_i) \in \{y_r, y_g, y_b\}$ for all $i \in V$.

Take the function $\mu: V \rightarrow \{r, g, b\}$ such that (a) $\mu(i) = r$ if $f(x_i) = y_r$, (b) $\mu(i) = g$ if $f(x_i) = y_g$, and (c) $\mu(i) = b$ if $f(x_i) = y_b$.

We claim that μ is a valid 3-coloring of G . Let (i, j) be an arbitrary edge in E . Then $E(x_i, x_j)$ is an atom in Q_G . Since f is a homomorphism, we have $\langle f(x_i), f(x_j) \rangle$ in the relation E of $T_{Q_G} \setminus \{V_1(x_1)\}$. Then by construction of Q_G , we have $f(x_i) \neq f(x_j)$ and thus $\mu(i) \neq \mu(j)$. \square

Complexity of Minimization (2)

Theorem

Given a conjunctive query Q , checking whether Q is minimal is co-NP-complete.

Proof.

We prove by showing that checking whether a query is **not** minimal is NP-complete. NP-Membership of the latter problem is immediate. For the hardness part, we observe that the query Q_G obtained from G in the previous proof can be reused. We show below that G is 3-colorable iff Q_G is not minimal.

(\Rightarrow) Assume G is 3-colorable with $\mu: V \rightarrow \{r, g, b\}$ a witnessing coloring. Then the following function f (also used in the previous proof) is a homomorphism from T_{Q_G} to $T_{Q_G} \setminus \{V_1(x_1)\}$:

- $f(x_i) = y_{\mu(i)}$, for all $i \in V$,
- $f(y_c) = y_c$, for all $c \in \{r, g, b\}$.

Hence, Q_G is not minimal.

Proof (continued).

(\Leftarrow) Assume Q_G is not minimal. Then there is $M \subset T_{Q_G}$ such that $M \neq \emptyset$ and there is a homomorphism f from T_{Q_G} to $T_{Q_G} \setminus M$.

Let us analyze f . The domain of f is $\{y_r, y_g, y_b\} \cup \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$.

The atoms $R(y_r)$, $G(y_g)$, $B(y_b)$ in Q_G are the only atoms with leading symbol R , G , and B , respectively. Hence, none of the atoms $R(y_r)$, $G(y_g)$, $B(y_b)$ can be in M . Moreover, we must have $f(y_r) = y_r$, $f(y_g) = y_g$ and $f(y_b) = y_b$.

Since f is a homomorphism from T_{Q_G} to $T_{Q_G} \setminus M$, f cannot be the identity function and thus there exists $k \in V$ such that $f(x_k) \neq x_k$.

Recall that for all $i \in V$ and all $V_i(t)$ of Q_G we have $t = x_i$, $t = y_r$, $t = y_g$ or $t = y_b$. Then we must have $f(x_k) \in \{y_r, y_g, y_b\}$.

Since G is connected, we must also have $f(x_i) \in \{y_r, y_g, y_b\}$ for all $i \in V$. Analogously to the proof of the theorem, we can define a valid 3-coloring of G as follows: $\mu: V \rightarrow \{r, g, b\}$ such that (a) $\mu(i) = r$ if $f(x_i) = y_r$, (b) $\mu(i) = g$ if $f(x_i) = y_g$, and (c) $\mu(i) = b$ if $f(x_i) = y_b$.

Uniqueness of Minimal Queries

A natural question: does the order in which we remove tuples from the tableaux matter? The answer is “no” by the following theorem.

Theorem

If Q_1, Q_2 are two minimal queries equivalent to a query Q , then the tableaux T_{Q_1} and T_{Q_2} are isomorphic.

Proof.

The proof proceeds in several steps.

Homomorphisms. By the equivalences $Q_1 \equiv Q \equiv Q_2$, there exists a homomorphism $f: T_{Q_1} \rightarrow T_{Q_2}$ and a homomorphism $g: T_{Q_2} \rightarrow T_{Q_1}$. Let $h = g \circ f$. Clearly, $h: T_{Q_1} \rightarrow T_{Q_1}$ is also a homomorphism.

$|T_{Q_1}| = |T_{Q_2}|$. Suppose that $|T_{Q_2}| < |T_{Q_1}|$ (the case $|T_{Q_1}| < |T_{Q_2}|$ is symmetric). Then $|h(T_{Q_1})| < |T_{Q_1}|$ and, hence, $h(T_{Q_1}) \subset T_{Q_1}$. Thus the query corresponding to $h(T_{Q_1})$ is strictly smaller than Q_1 . This contradicts the assumption that Q_1 is a minimal CQ equivalent to Q .

Proof (continued).

h preserves the number of variables. Consider h as a mapping from the variables in T_{Q_1} to terms (i.e., variables and constants) in T_{Q_1} . We claim that $|Var(h(T_{Q_1}))| = |Var(T_{Q_1})|$. Suppose to the contrary that $Var(h(T_{Q_1})) < Var(T_{Q_1})$. Then $h(T_{Q_1}) \subset T_{Q_1}$ and again we get a contradiction since this would mean that the query corresponding to $h(T_{Q_1})$ is strictly smaller than Q_1 .

h is a permutation of the variables in T_{Q_1} . $|Var(h(T_{Q_1}))| = |Var(T_{Q_1})|$ implies that h maps every variable in $Var(T_{Q_1})$ to a variable in $Var(T_{Q_1})$ (and not to a constant). Hence, h is a function $h: Var(T_{Q_1}) \rightarrow Var(T_{Q_1})$. Moreover, $|Var(h(T_{Q_1}))| = |Var(T_{Q_1})|$ also implies that h is bijective.

Isomorphism. Every multiple application of h (i.e., h, h^2, h^3, \dots) again yields a permutation on $Var(T_{Q_1})$ and a homomorphism $T_{Q_1} \rightarrow T_{Q_1}$. For every permutation, there exists an $n \geq 1$ with $h^n = id$, i.e., $(g \circ f)^n = id$. Let $f^* = f \circ h^{n-1}$. Clearly, f^* is a homomorphism and $g \circ f^* = id$. In other words, $f^*: T_{Q_1} \rightarrow T_{Q_2}$ is bijective with inverse function g . Hence, f^* is an isomorphism. □

Acyclic Conjunctive Queries

- Many CQs in practice enjoy the so-called **acyclicity** property
- Acyclic CQs can be evaluated efficiently (in polynomial time)

Definition

A conjunctive query Q is **acyclic** if it has a **join tree**.

- A join tree can be seen as (an efficiently executable) query plan

Definition (Join Tree)

Let $Q(\vec{x}) :- R_1(\vec{z}_1), \dots, R_n(\vec{z}_n)$ be a CQ.

A **join tree** $T = (V, E)$ is a tree where

- $V = \{R_1(\vec{z}_1), \dots, R_n(\vec{z}_n)\}$, i.e. V is the set of atoms in Q
- E satisfies for all variables z of Q :
 $\{R_j(\vec{z}_j) \in V \mid z \text{ occurs in } R_j(\vec{z}_j)\}$ induces a **connected subtree** in T

Join Tree – Example

Example

$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6):-$

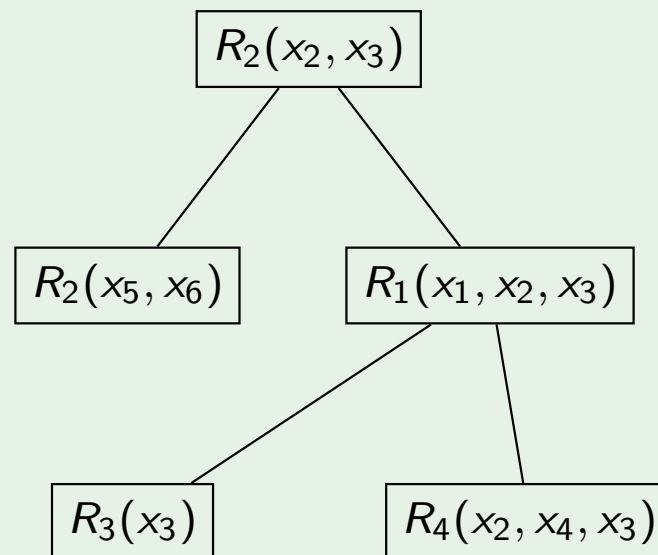
$$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$$

Join Tree – Example

Example

$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6) :-$

$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$

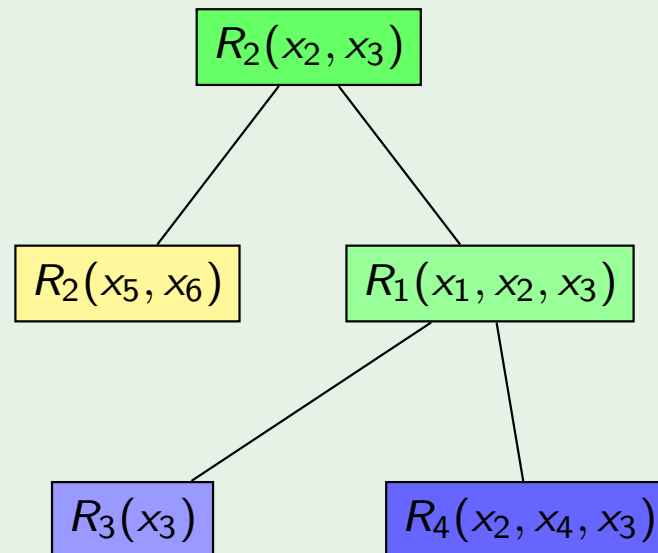


Join Tree – Example

Example

$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6) :-$

$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$

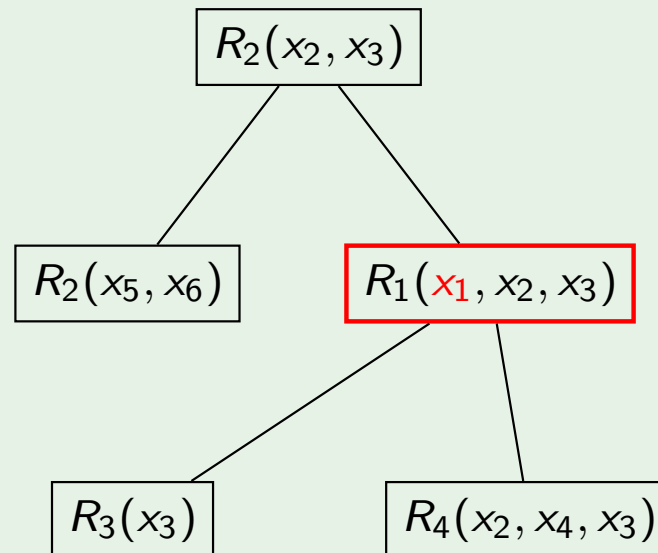


Join Tree – Example

Example

$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6) :-$

$$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$$

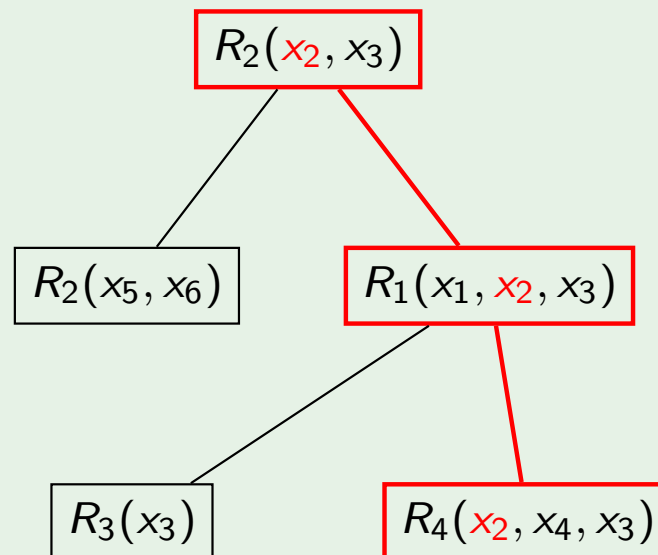


Join Tree – Example

Example

$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6):-$

$$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$$

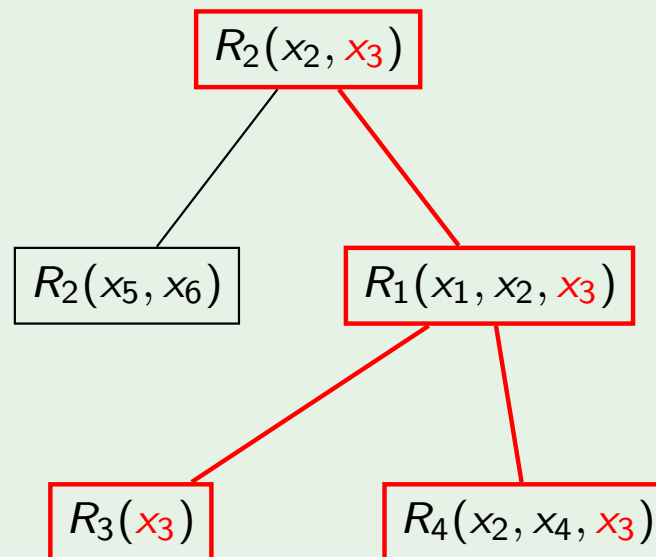


Join Tree – Example

Example

$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6):-$

$$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$$

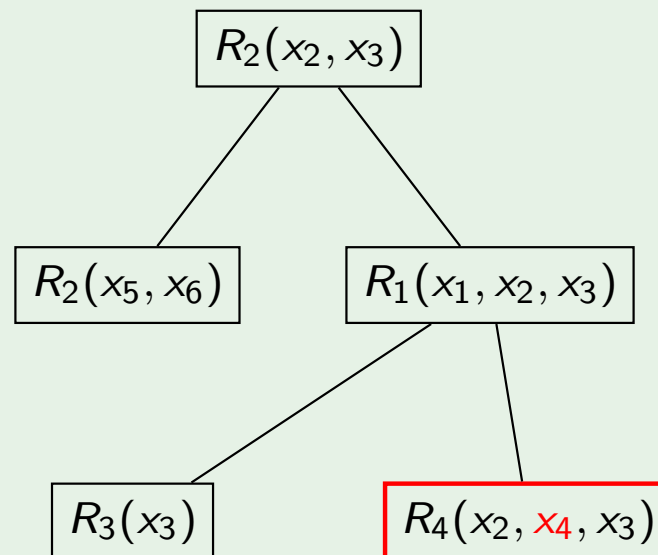


Join Tree – Example

Example

$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6):-$

$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$

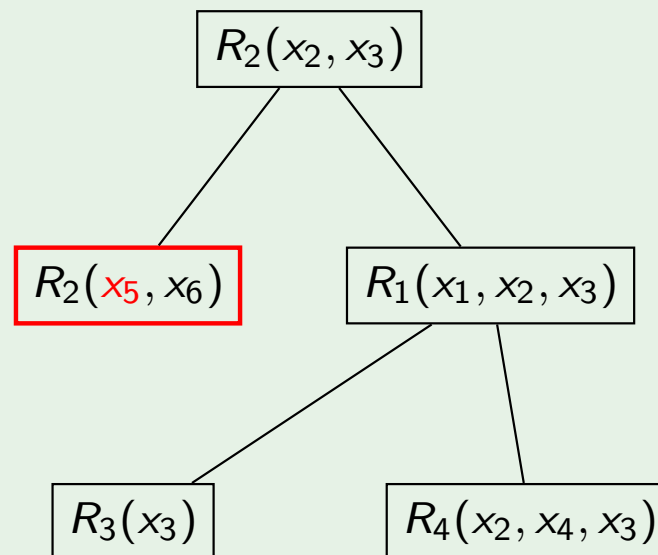


Join Tree – Example

Example

$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6) :-$

$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$

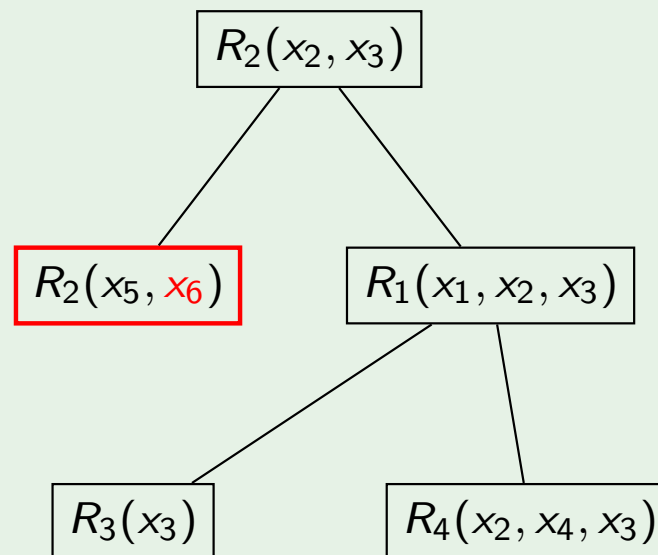


Join Tree – Example

Example

$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6):-$

$$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$$



Finding Join Trees

Remarks:

- Existence of a join tree can be **efficiently decided**
- Join tree can be **efficiently computed** (if one exists)

→ **GYO-reduction** (Graham, Yu, and Ozsoyoglu)

- Tests for acyclicity of hypergraphs
- Reduction sequence allows to build a join tree efficiently
- Easy to identify a query with a hypergraph
- Two equivalent definitions exist

Define

- Atom $R(\vec{z})$ is empty if $|\vec{z}| = 0$, and
- Atom $R_1(\vec{z}_1)$ is contained in atom $R_2(\vec{z}_2)$ if $\vec{z}_1 \subseteq \vec{z}_2$

GYO-Reduction

Definition (GYO/GYO'-reduction)

Let $Q(\vec{x}) :- R_1(\vec{z}_1), \dots, R_n(\vec{z}_n)$ be a CQ. Apply the following rules until no longer possible.

- GYO-reduction:
 - Eliminate variables that are contained in at most one atom.
 - Eliminate atoms that are empty or contained in another atom.
- GYO'-reduction:
 - Eliminate atoms that share no variables with other atoms.
 - Eliminate atoms R if there exists a **witness** R' s.t. each variable in R either appears in R only, or also appears in R' .

Theorem

- $GYO'(Q) = \emptyset$ iff $GYO(Q) = \emptyset$
- $GYO'(Q) = \emptyset$ iff Q has a join tree (iff Q is acyclic)

GYO-Reduction: Proof

Proof.

We only prove the second equivalence:

$GYO'(Q) = \emptyset \Rightarrow Q$ has a join tree: Consider the sequence (R_1, \dots, R_n) of atoms removed during the reduction. Create a join tree as follows:

- Whenever R_j was the witness for R_i , then make R_i a child node of R_j
- Merge the resulting forest to a tree “arbitrarily”

It is easy to check that this indeed gives a valid join tree.

Q has a join tree $\Rightarrow GYO'(Q) = \emptyset$: Consider a join tree T for Q . Removing leaf nodes from T in arbitrary order gives a sequence of valid GYO'-reduction steps that eliminates all atoms:

- Either a leaf node shares no variable with its parent \Rightarrow First rule
- All variables occurring not only in the leaf node must be contained in the parent node (connectedness condition) \Rightarrow parent node is witness

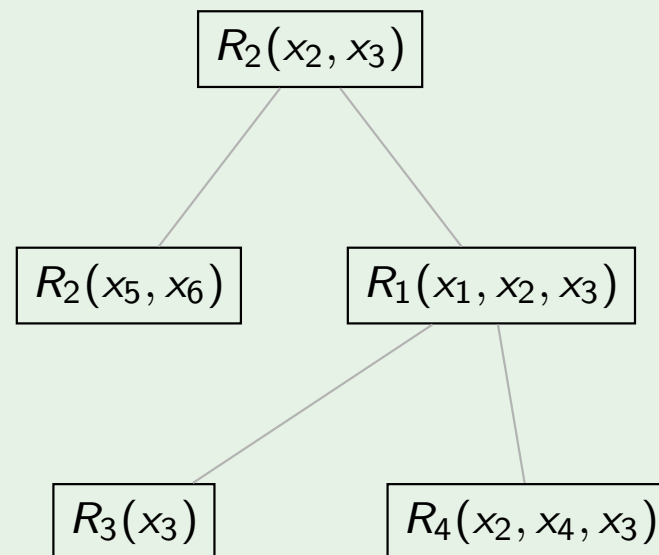
□

GYO-reduction: Example

Example

Consider again $Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6)$:-

$$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$$

 r_1 r_2 r_3 r_4 r_5 

GYO-reduction: Example

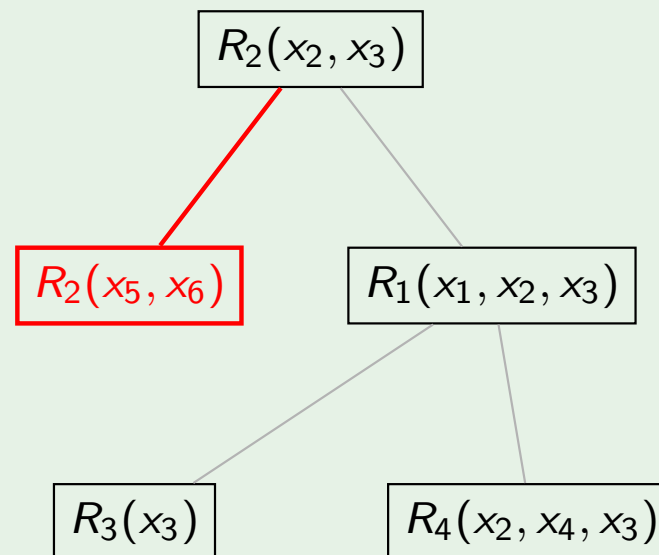
Example

Consider again $Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6)$:-

$$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$$

 r_1 r_2 r_3 r_4 r_5

$$\mathcal{A}_0 = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4, r_5\}$$



GYO-reduction: Example

Example

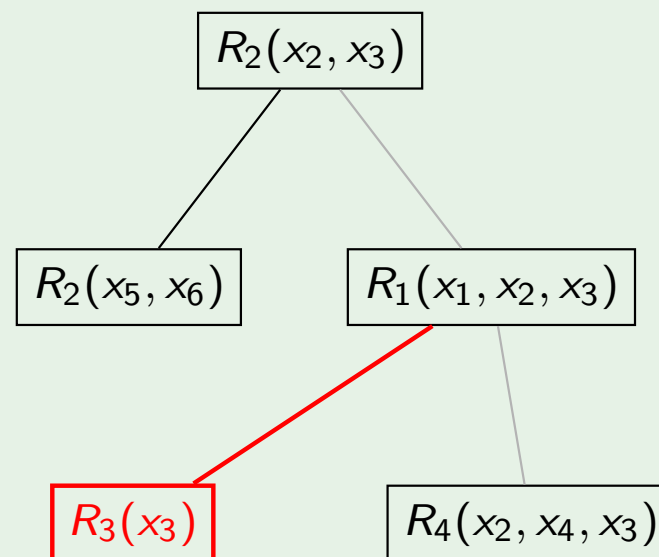
Consider again $Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6)$:-

$$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$$

 r_1 r_2 r_3 r_4 r_5

$$\mathcal{A}_0 = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4, r_5\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_1 = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4\}$$



GYO-reduction: Example

Example

Consider again $Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6)$:-

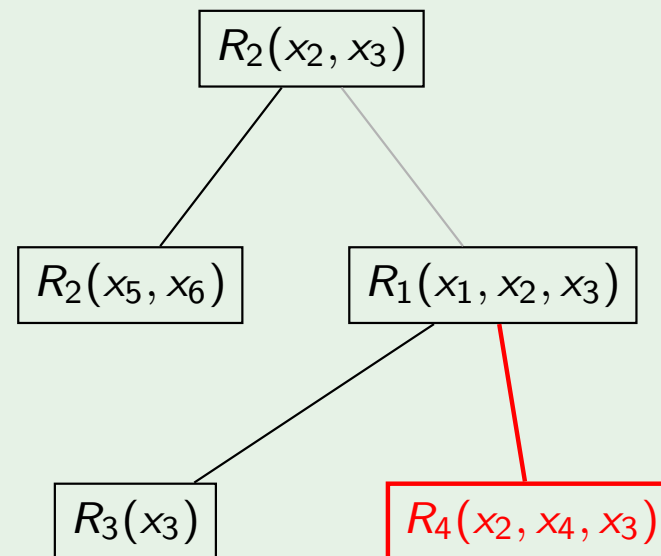
$$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$$

 r_1 r_2 r_3 r_4 r_5

$$\mathcal{A}_0 = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4, r_5\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_1 = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = \{r_2, r_3, r_4\}$$



GYO-reduction: Example

Example

Consider again $Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6)$:-

$$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$$

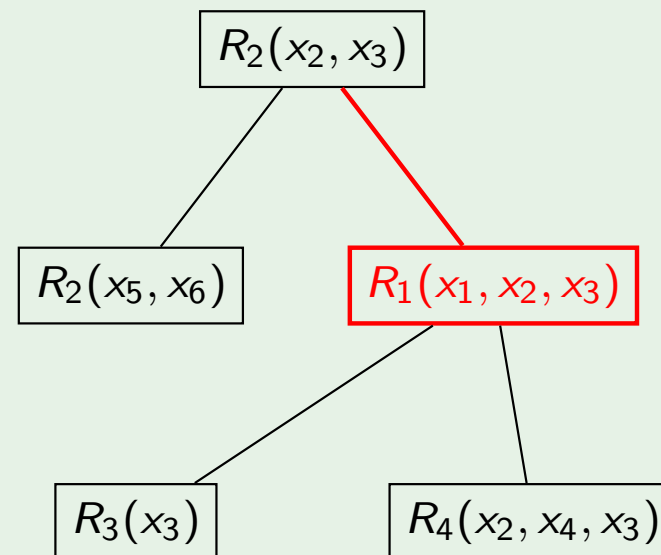
r_1 r_2 r_3 r_4 r_5

$$\mathcal{A}_0 = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4, r_5\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_1 = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = \{r_2, r_3, r_4\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_3 = \{r_3, r_4\}$$



GYO-reduction: Example

Example

Consider again $Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6)$:-

$$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$$

 r_1 r_2 r_3 r_4 r_5

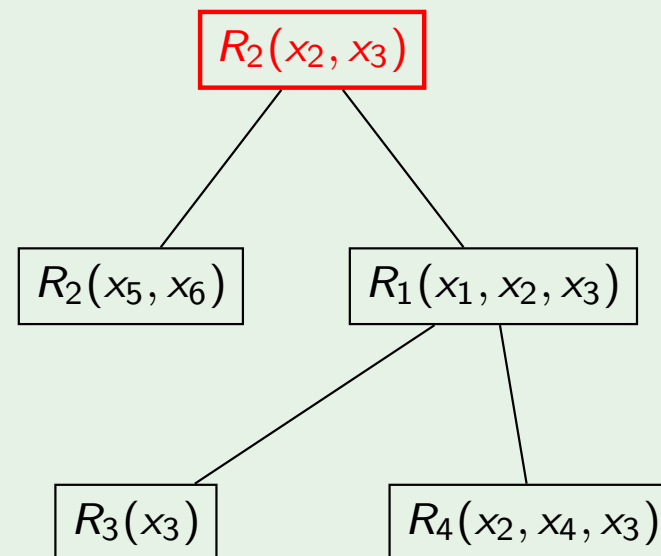
$$\mathcal{A}_0 = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4, r_5\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_1 = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = \{r_2, r_3, r_4\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_3 = \{r_3, r_4\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_4 = \{r_4\}$$



GYO-reduction: Example

Example

Consider again $Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6)$:-

$$R_3(x_3) \wedge R_4(x_2, x_4, x_3) \wedge R_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_2, x_3) \wedge R_2(x_5, x_6)$$

 r_1 r_2 r_3 r_4 r_5

$$\mathcal{A}_0 = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4, r_5\}$$

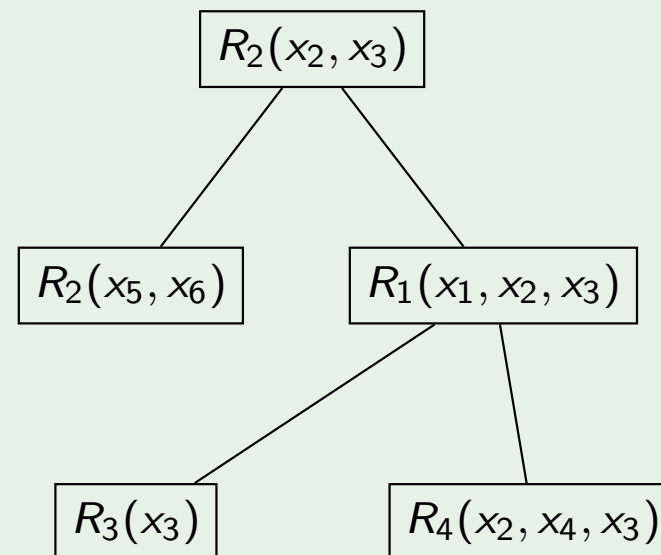
$$\mathcal{A}_1 = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = \{r_2, r_3, r_4\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_3 = \{r_3, r_4\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_4 = \{r_4\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_5 = \{\}$$



Deciding ACQs Efficiently (Yannakakis)

Dynamic Programming Algorithm over the join tree $T = (V, E)$

Algorithm by Yannakakis

Let $T = (V, E)$ be a join tree of a query Q .

Given database instance D , decide $Q(D) = \emptyset$ as follows:

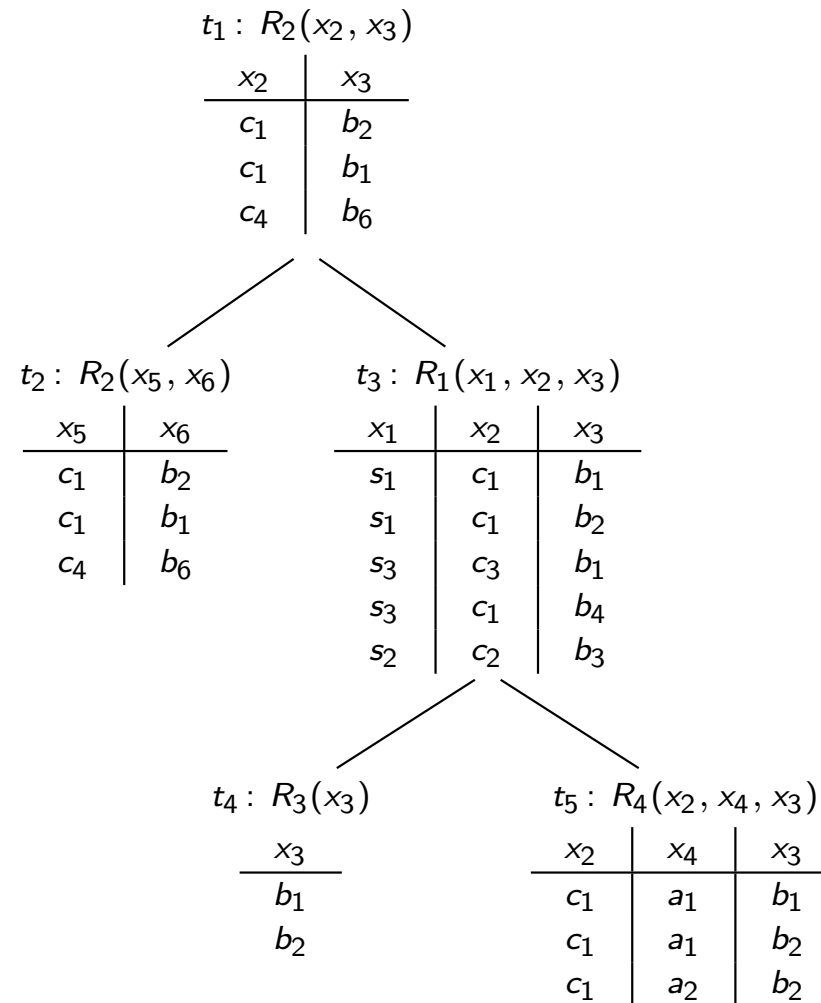
- 1 Assign to each $R_j(\vec{z}_j) \in V$ the corresponding relation R_j^D of D .
- 2 In a bottom up traversal of T : **compute semijoins** of R_j^D
- 3 If the resulting relation at root node is
empty, then $Q(D) = \emptyset$,
nonempty, then $Q(D) \neq \emptyset$.

Theorem

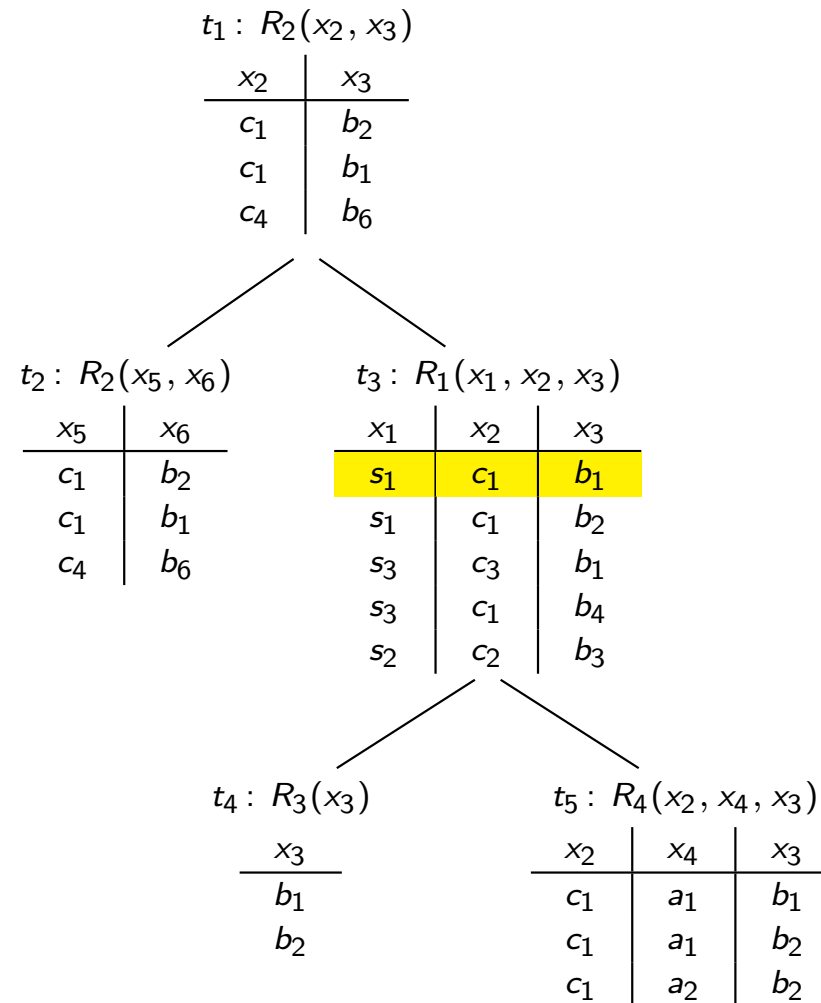
For ACQs Q :

- *Deciding $Q(D) = \emptyset$ is feasible in polynomial time.*
- *Computing $Q(D)$ can be done in output polynomial time.*

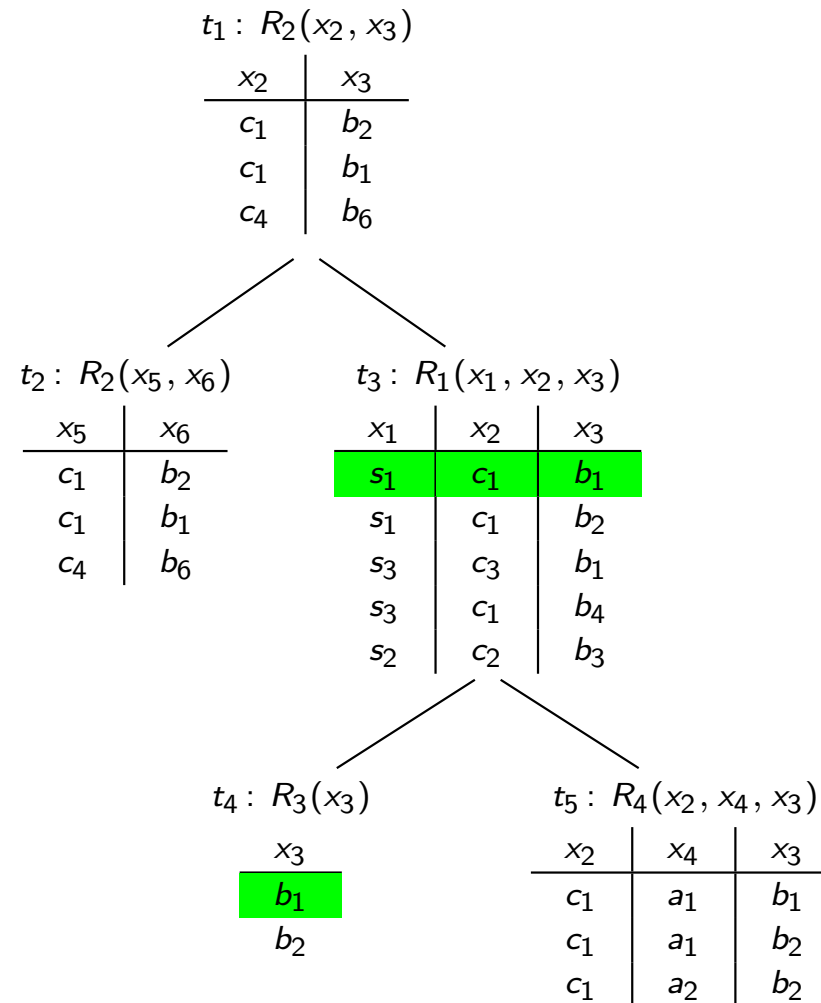
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



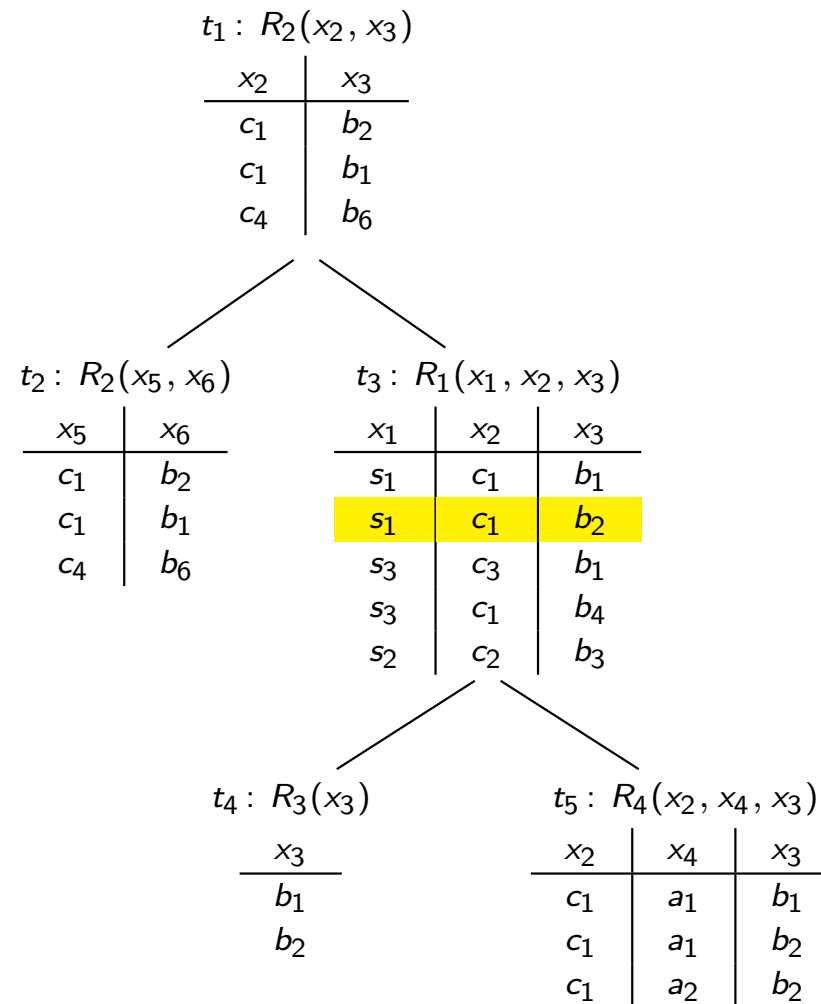
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



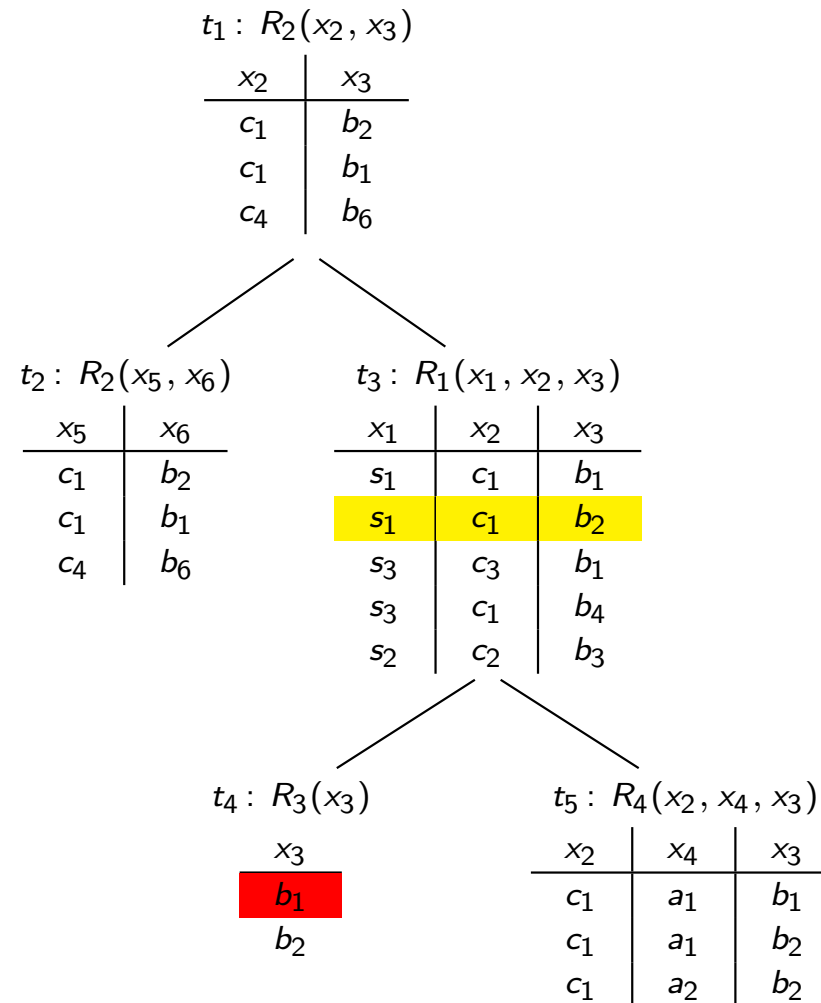
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



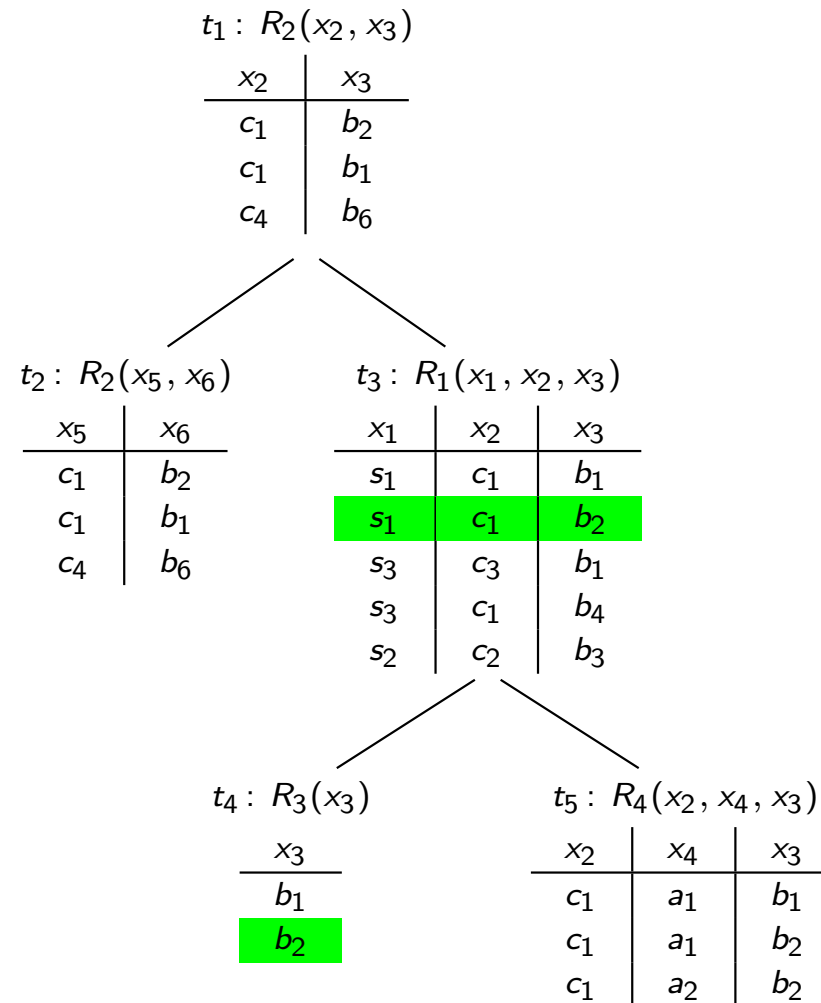
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



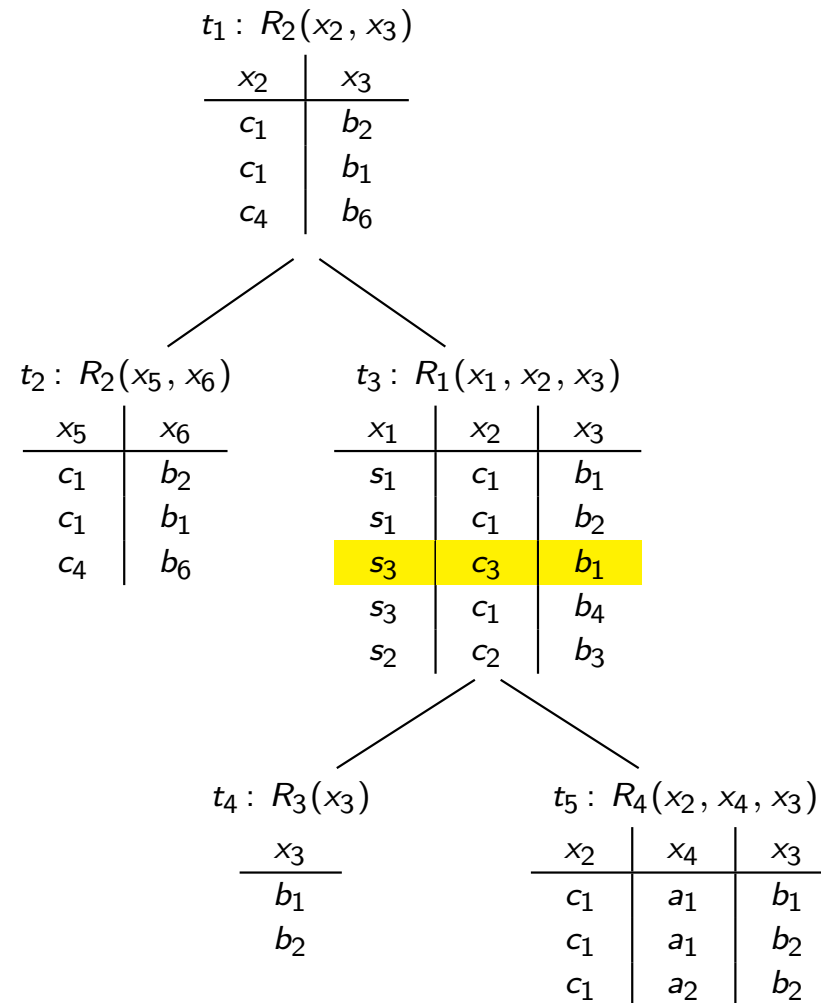
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



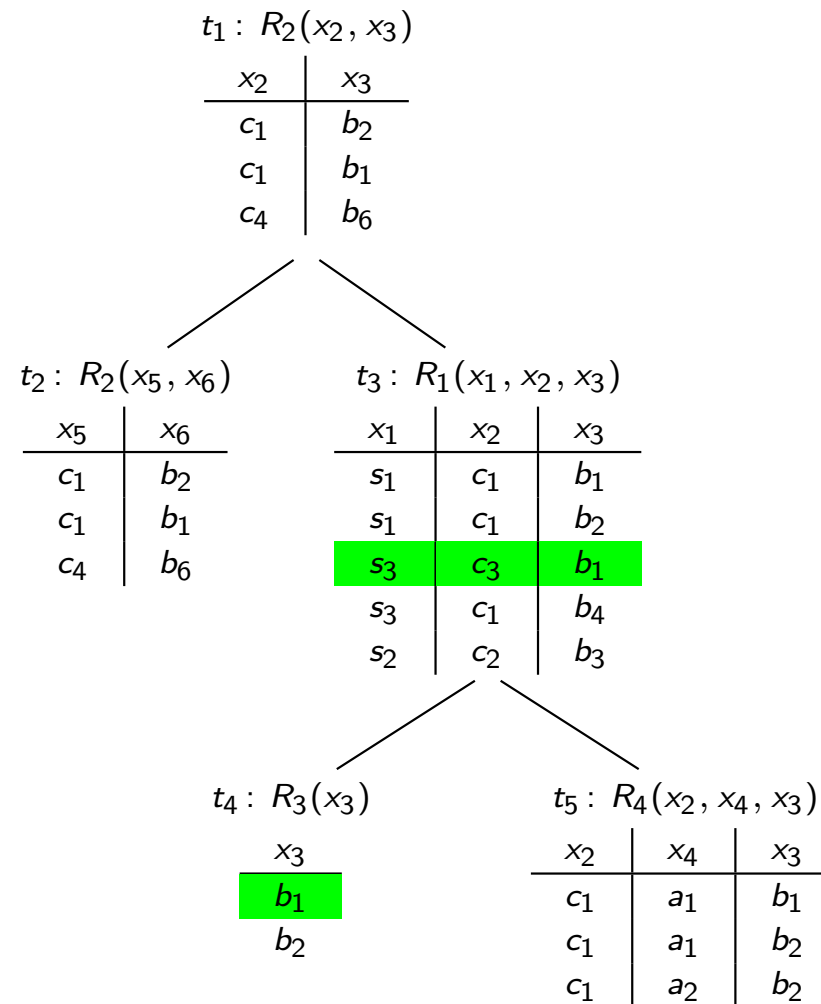
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



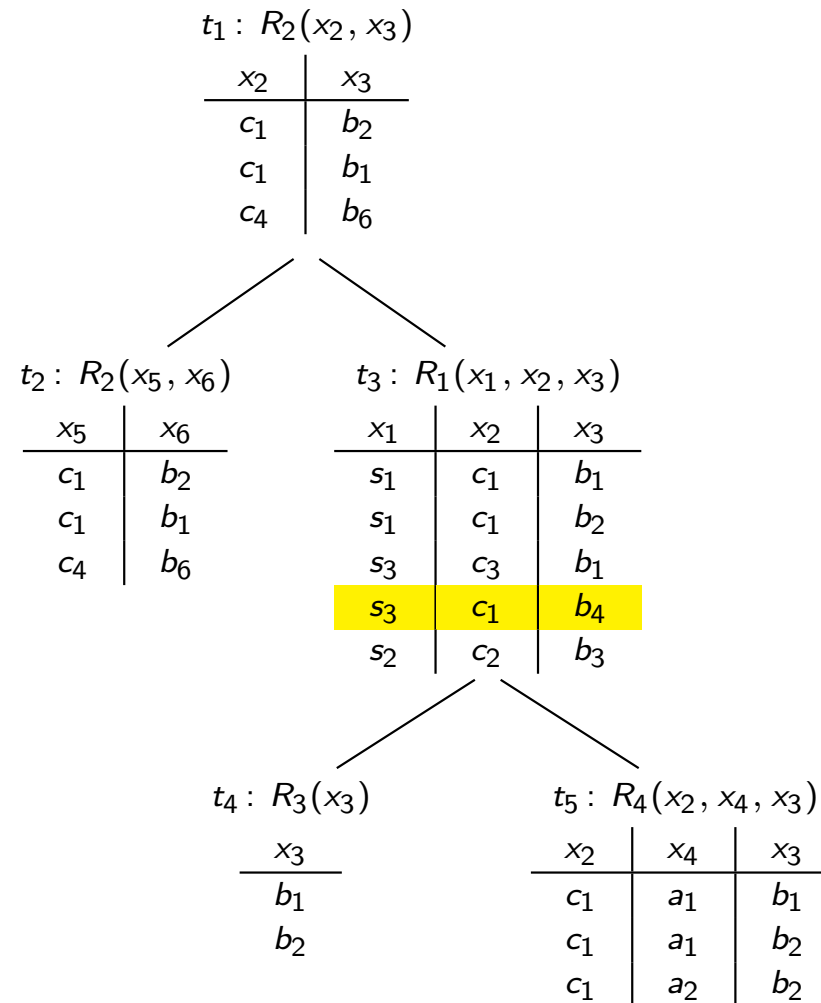
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



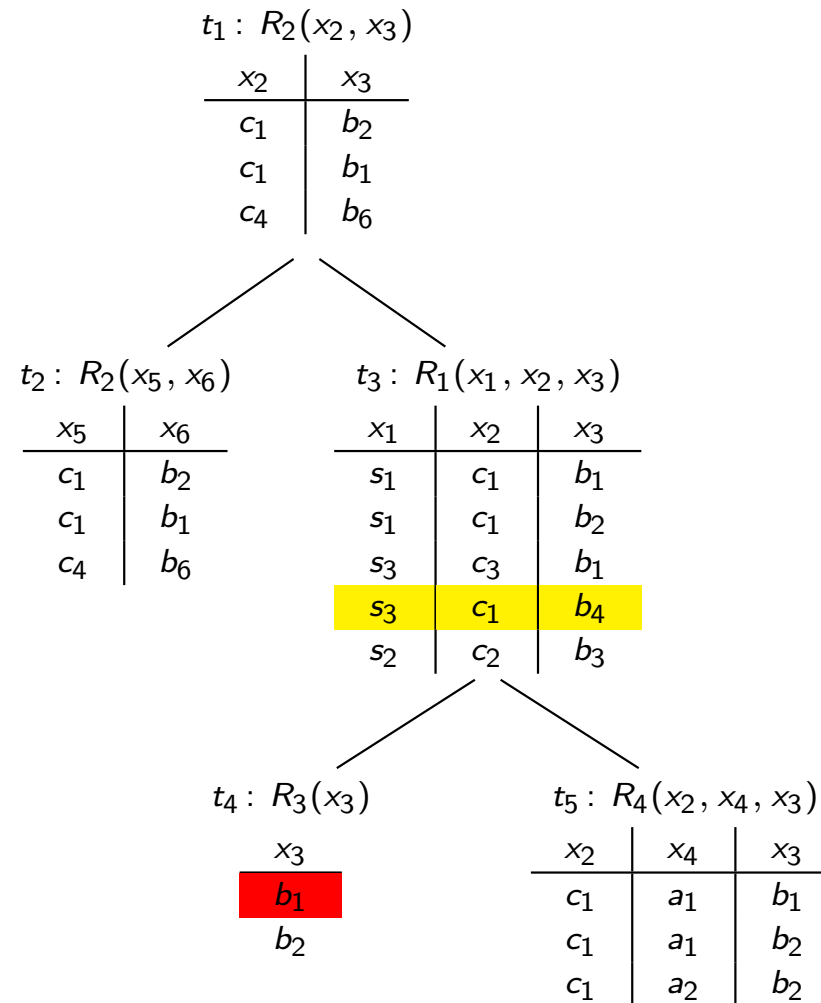
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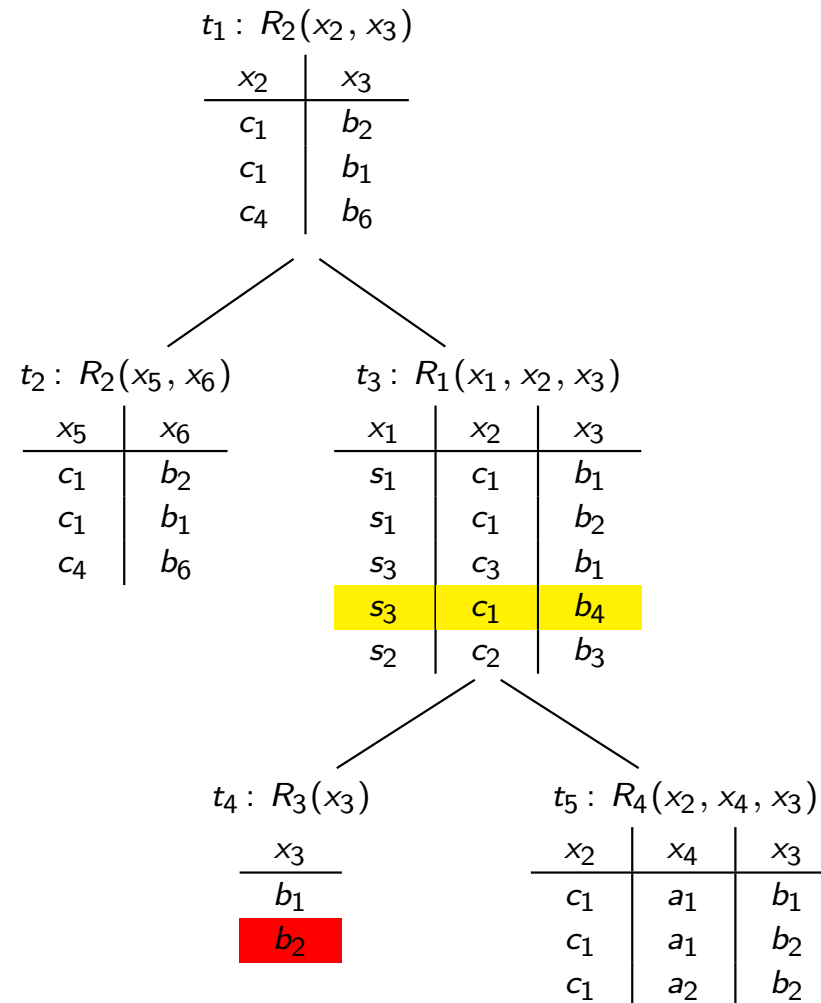
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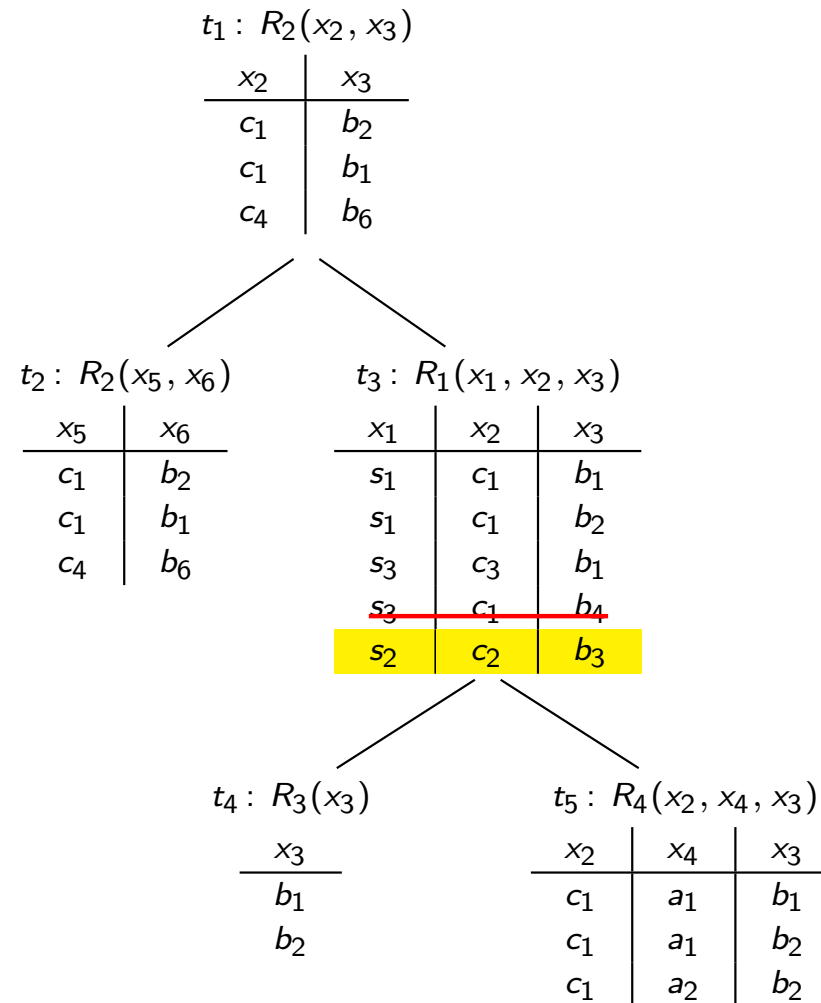
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



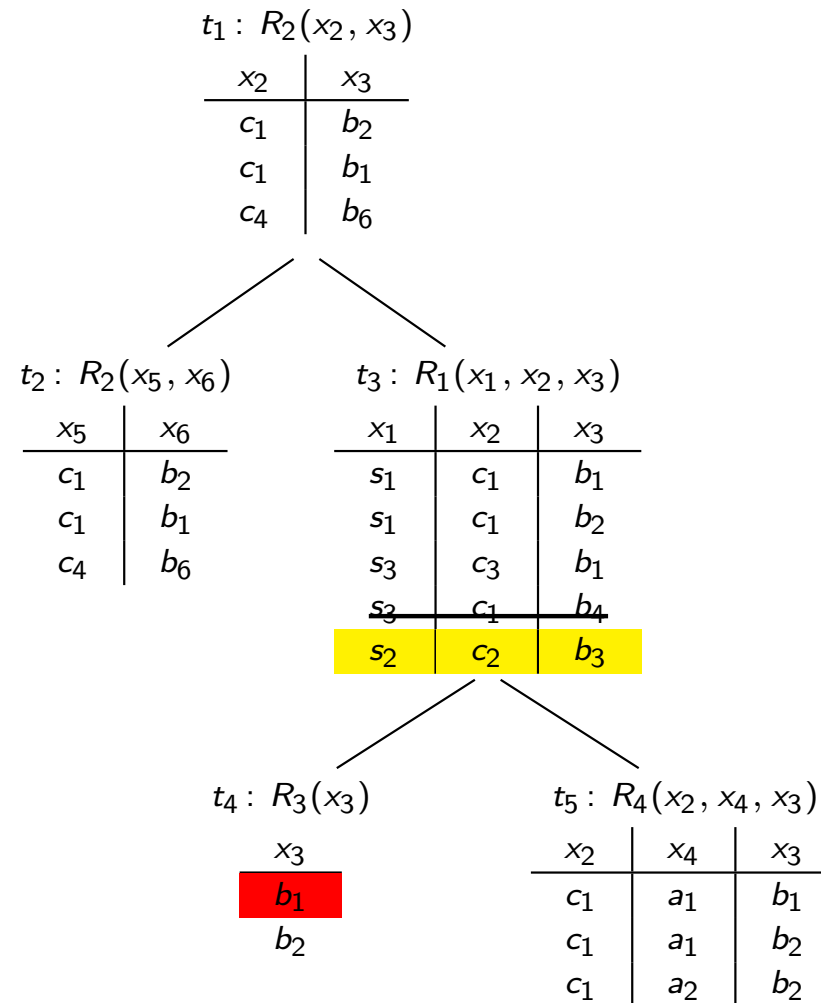
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



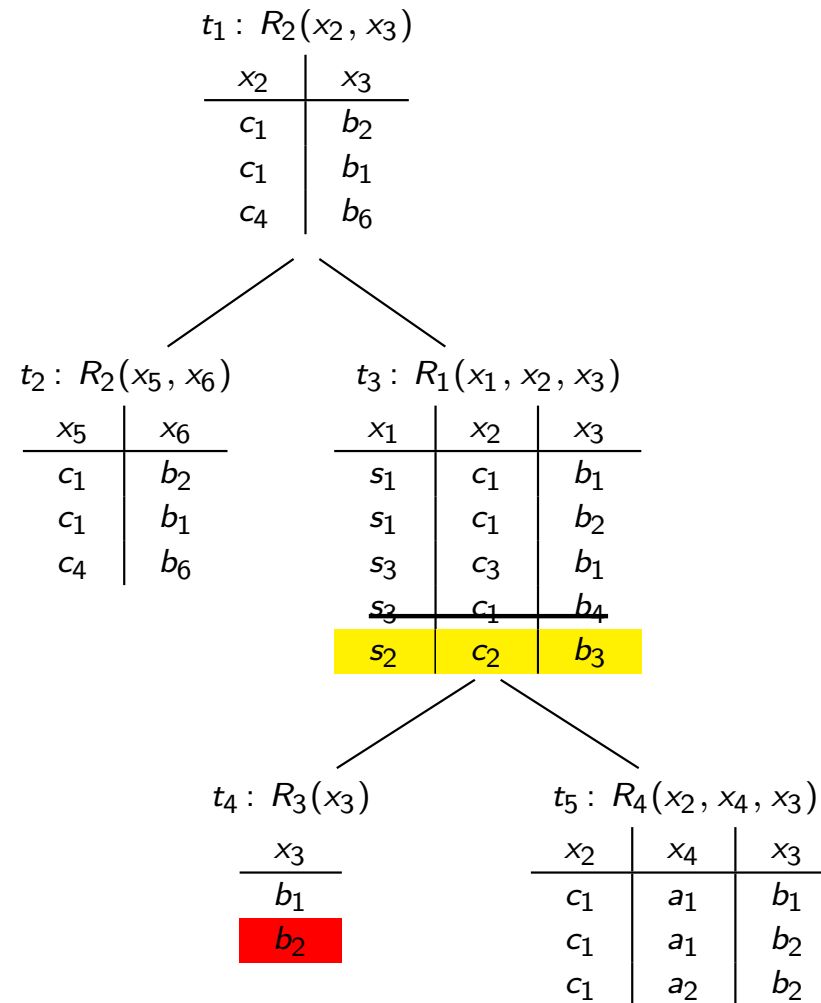
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



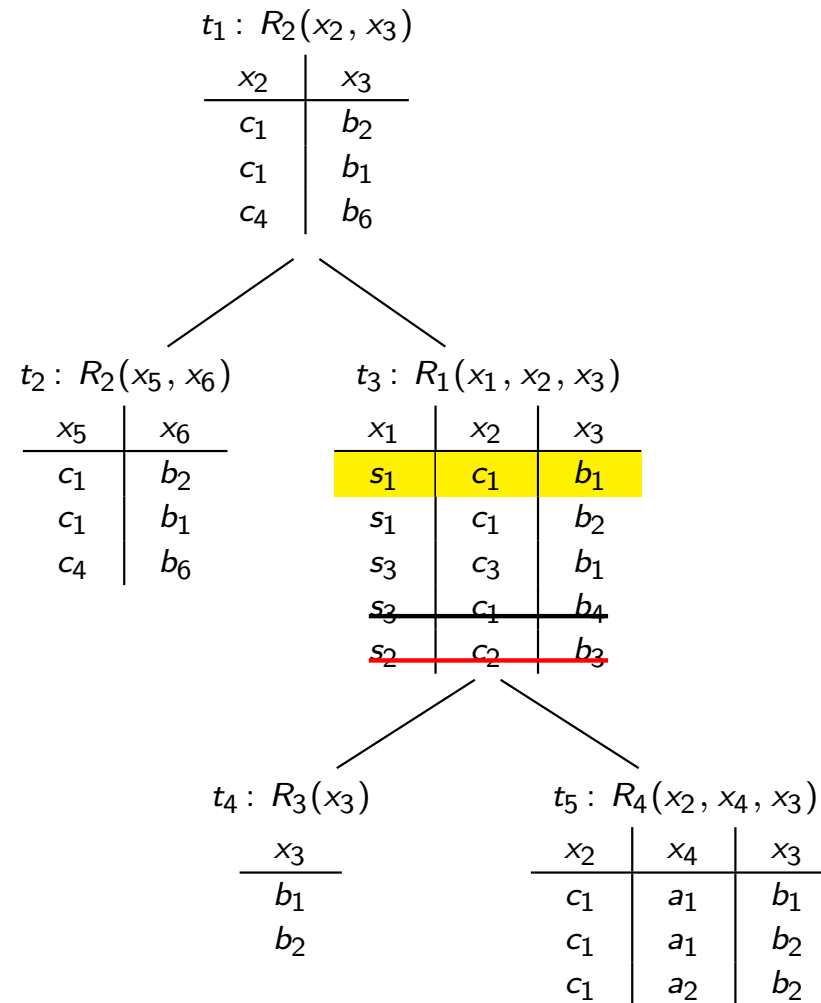
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



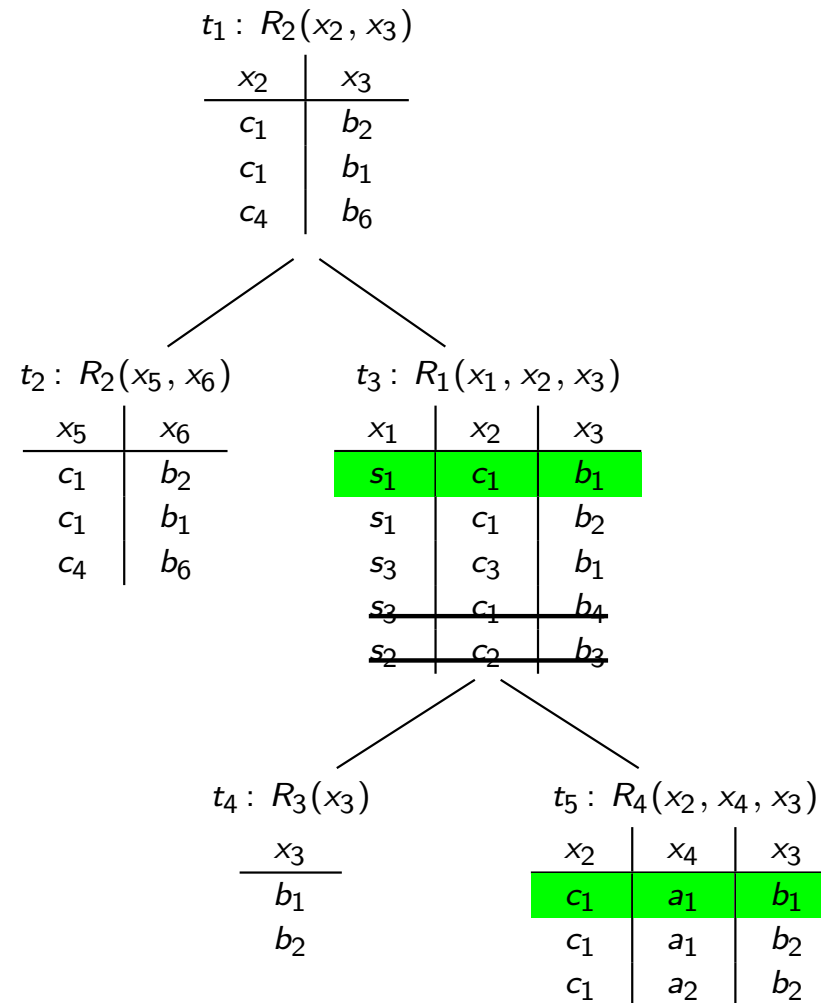
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



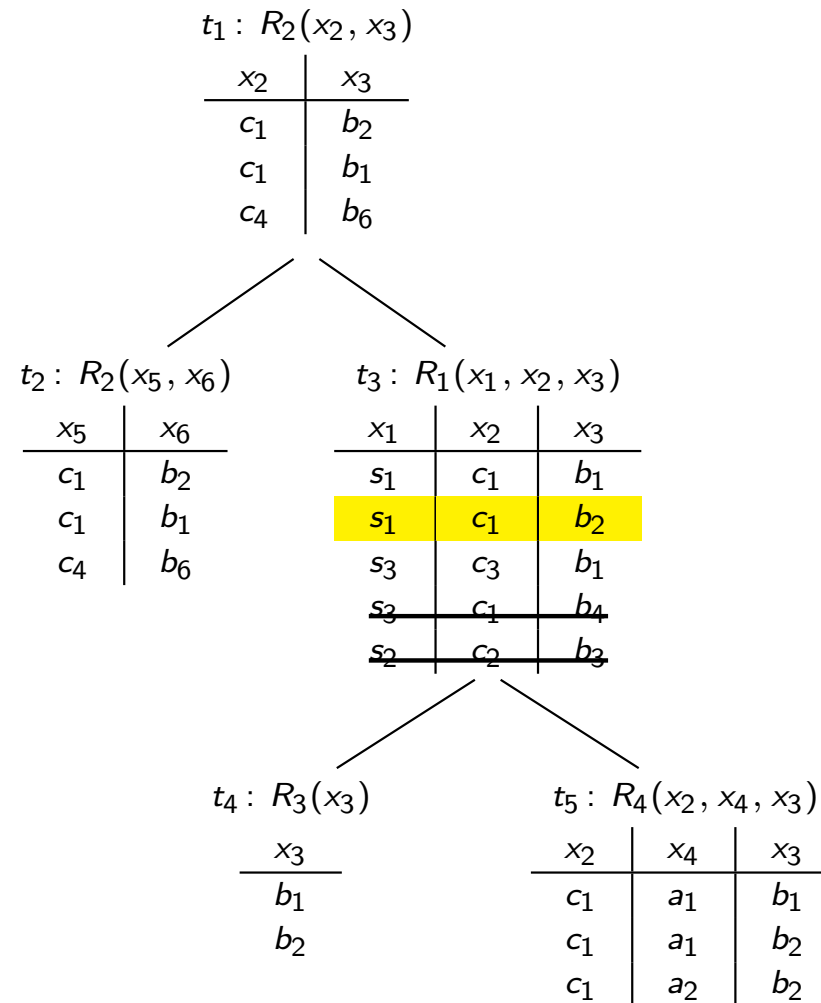
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



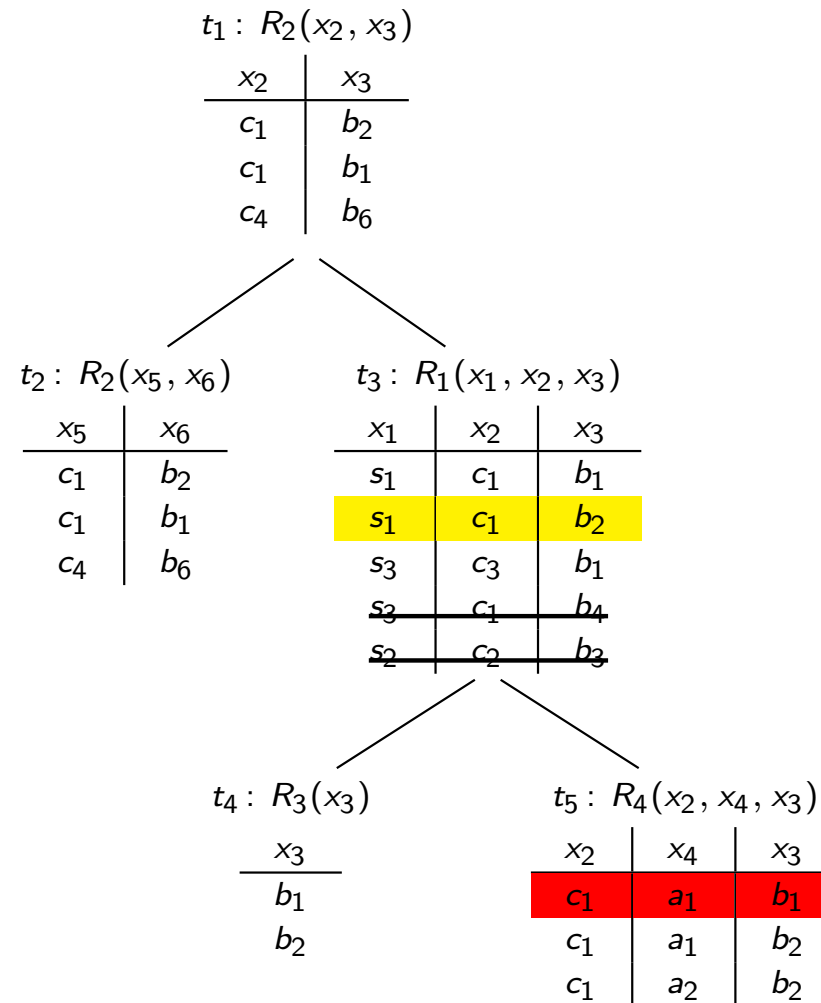
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



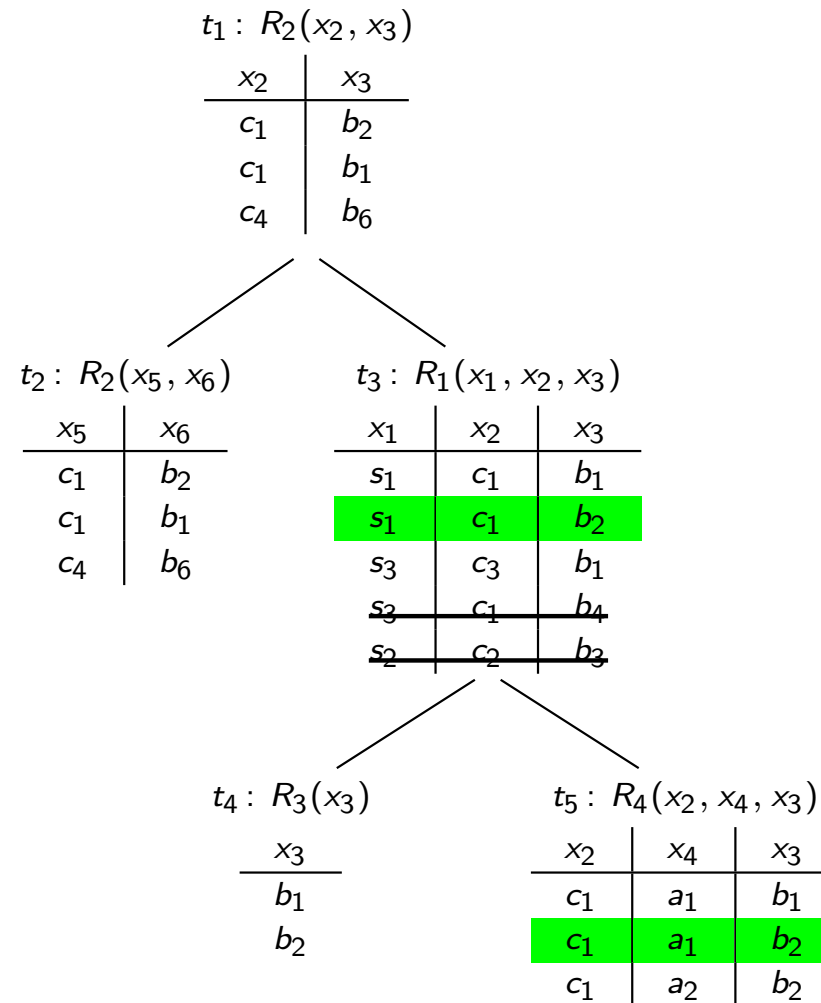
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



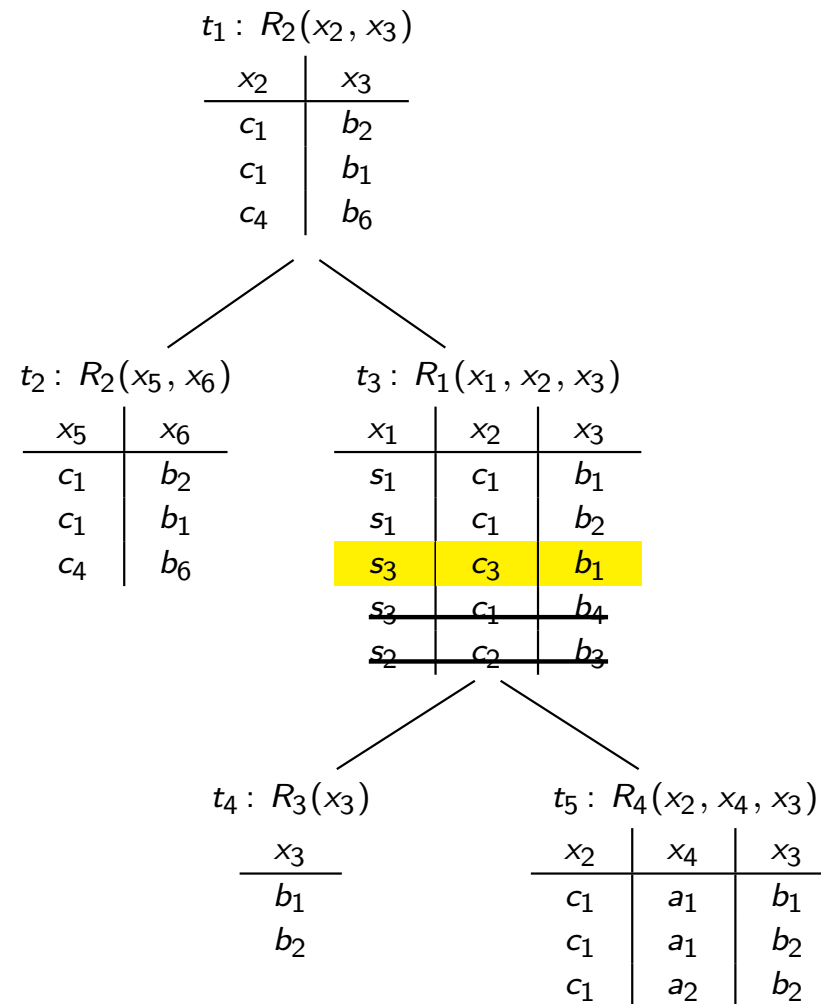
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



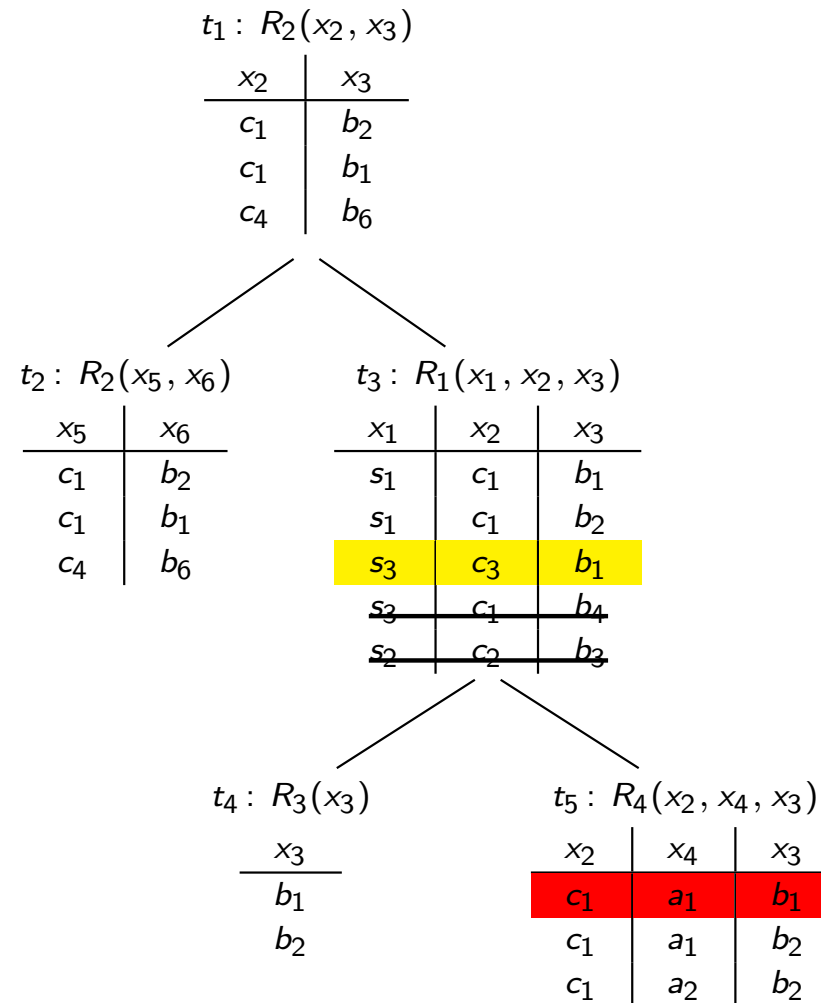
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



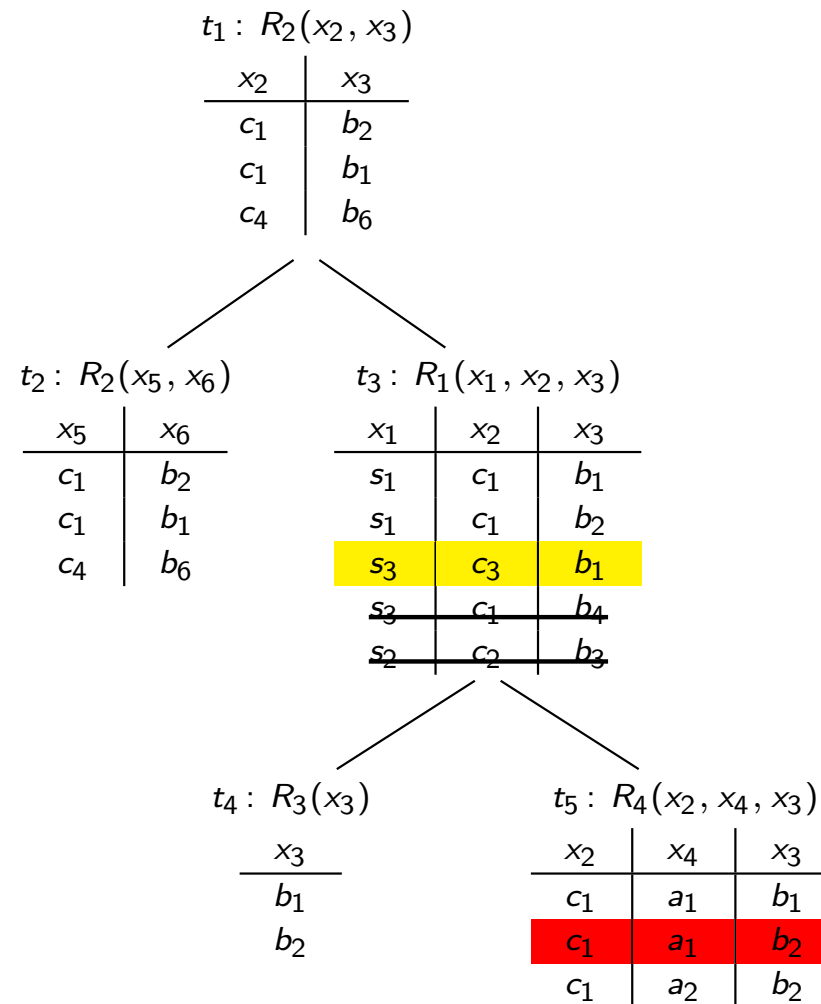
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



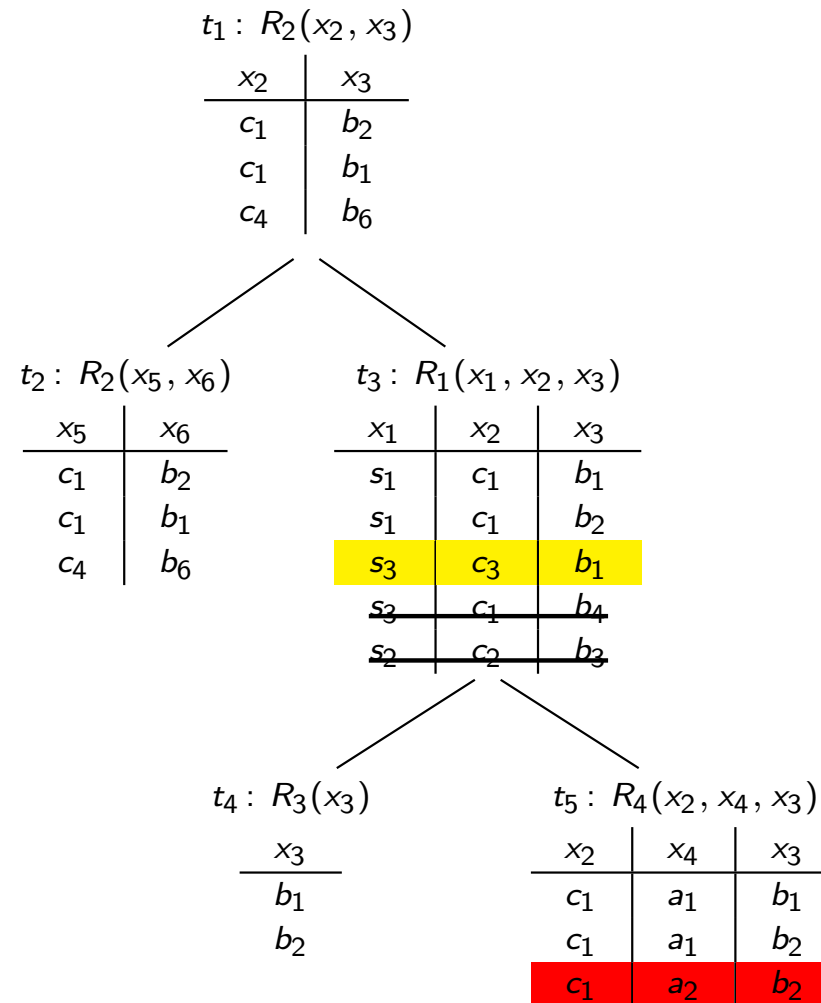
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



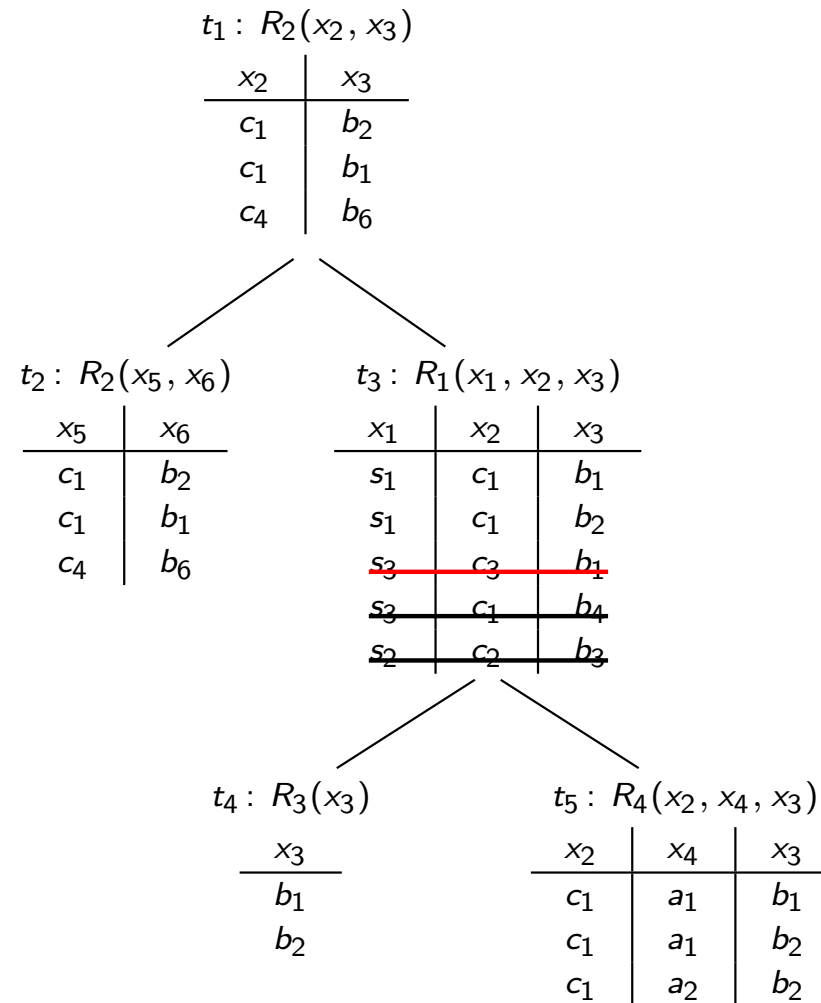
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



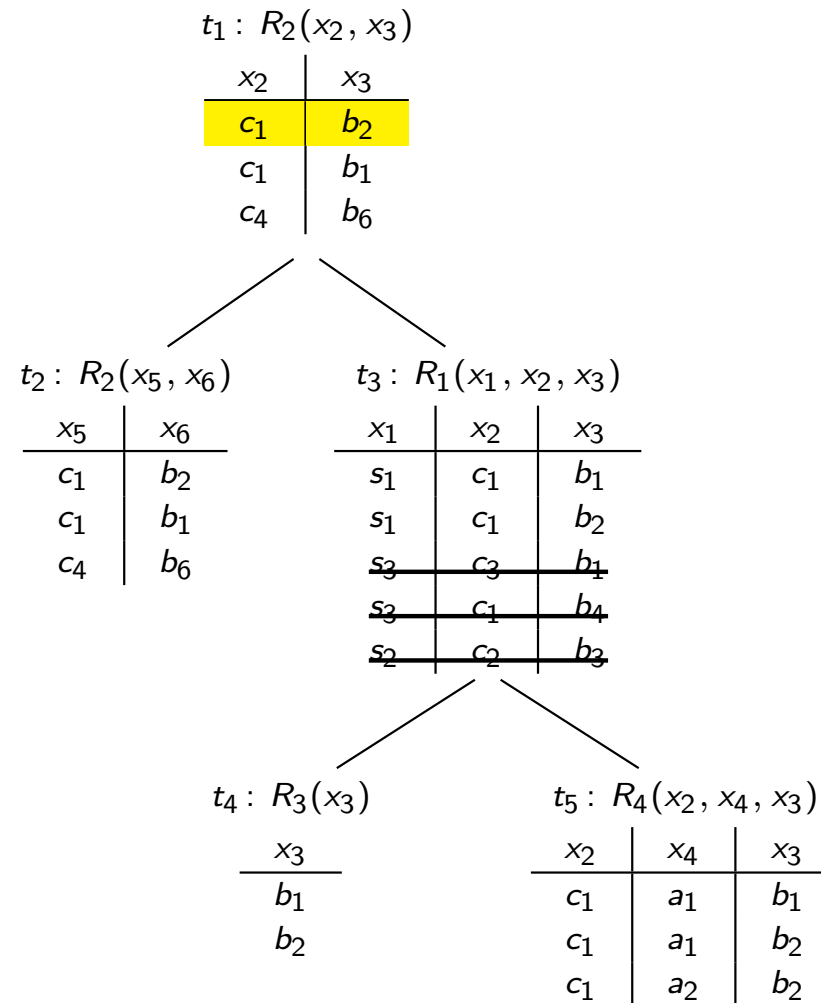
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



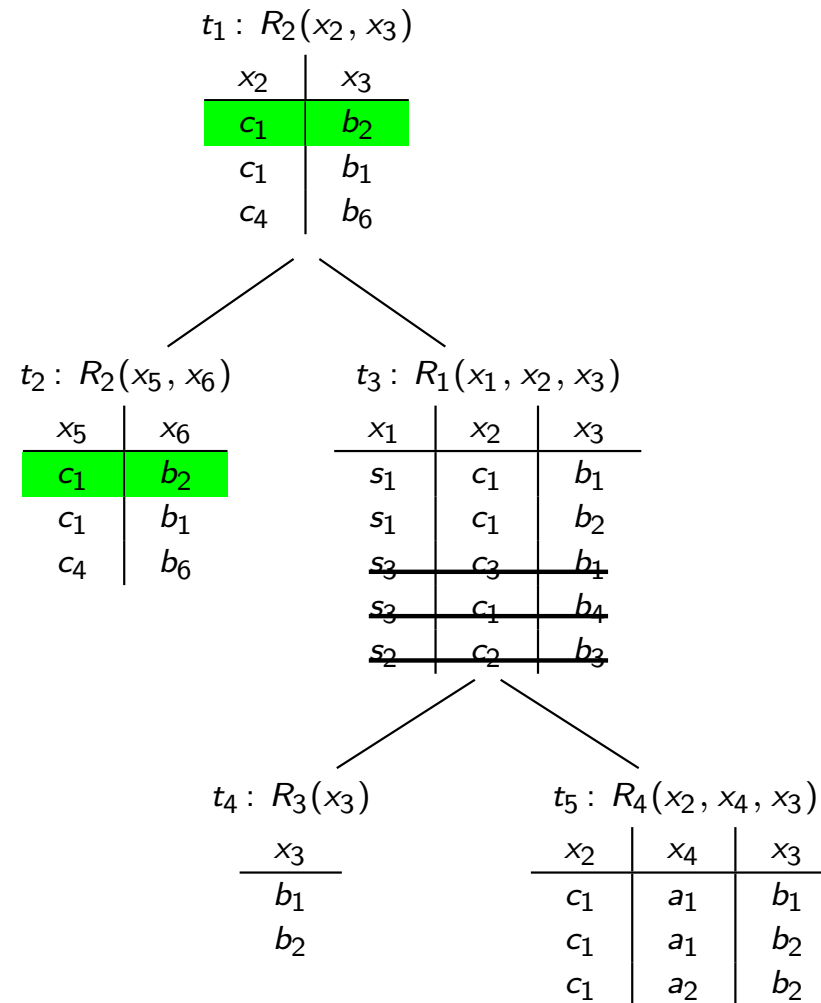
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



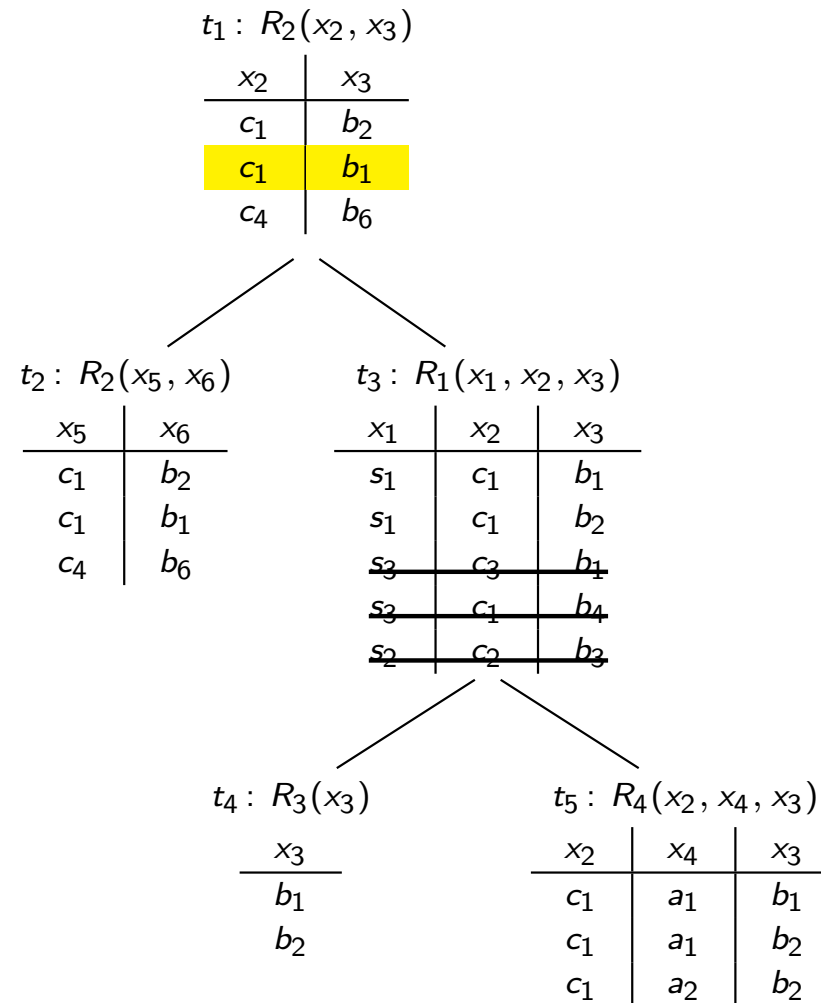
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



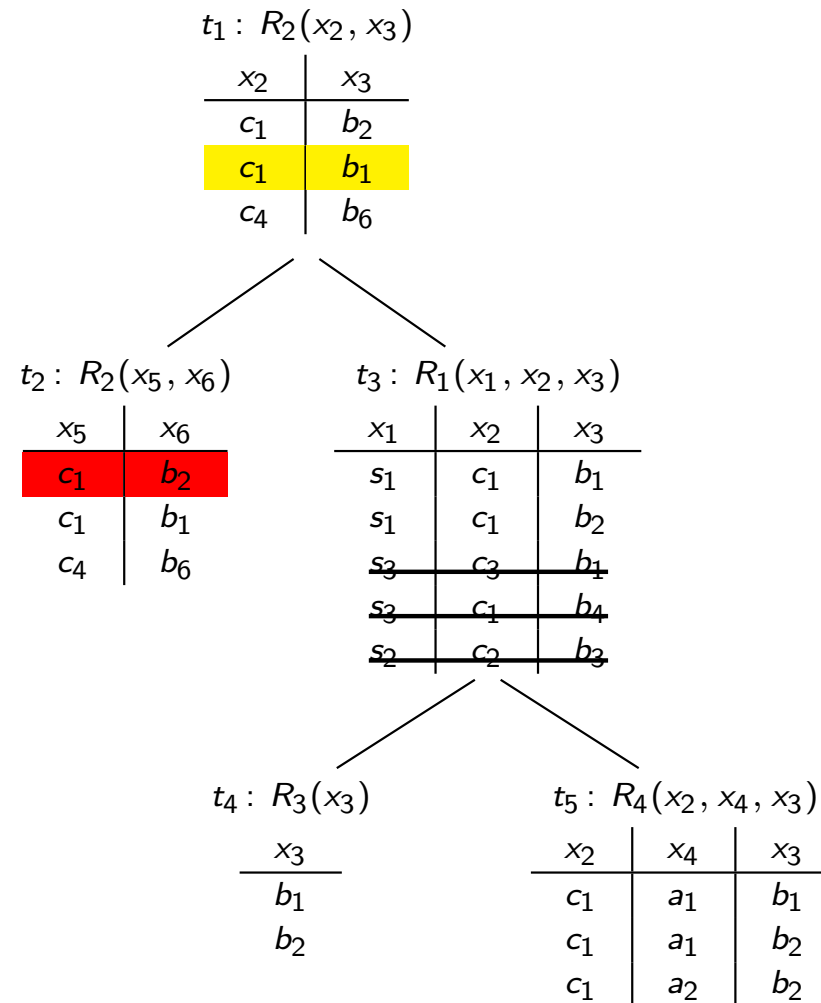
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



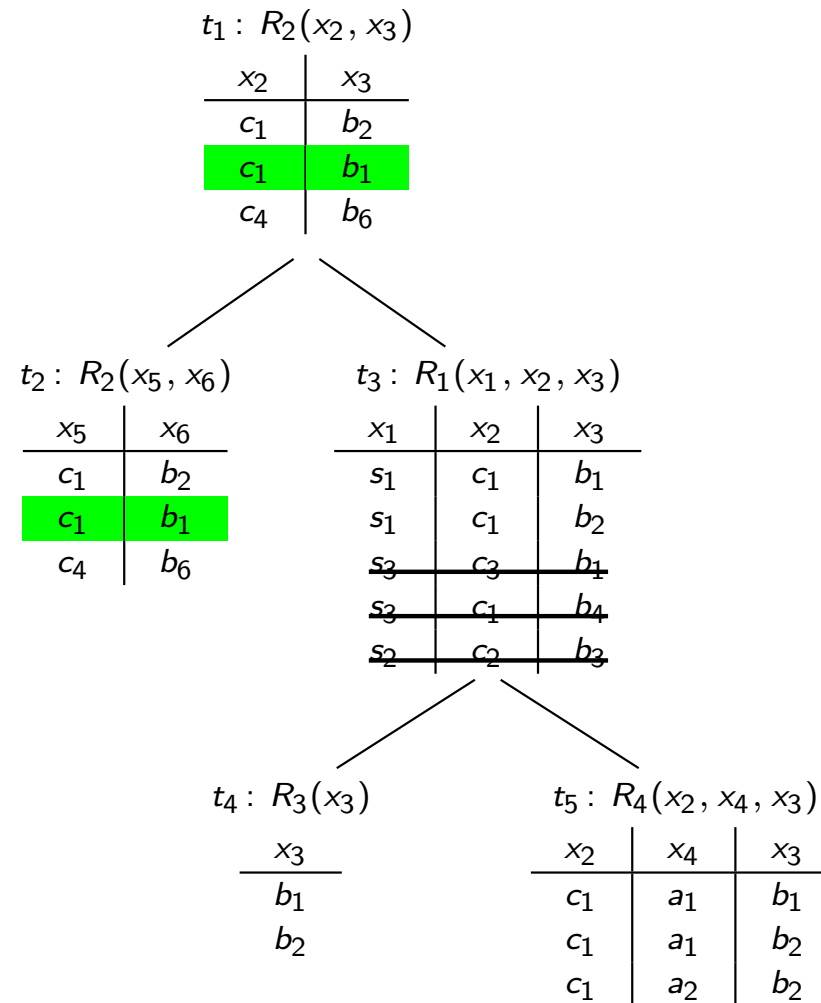
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



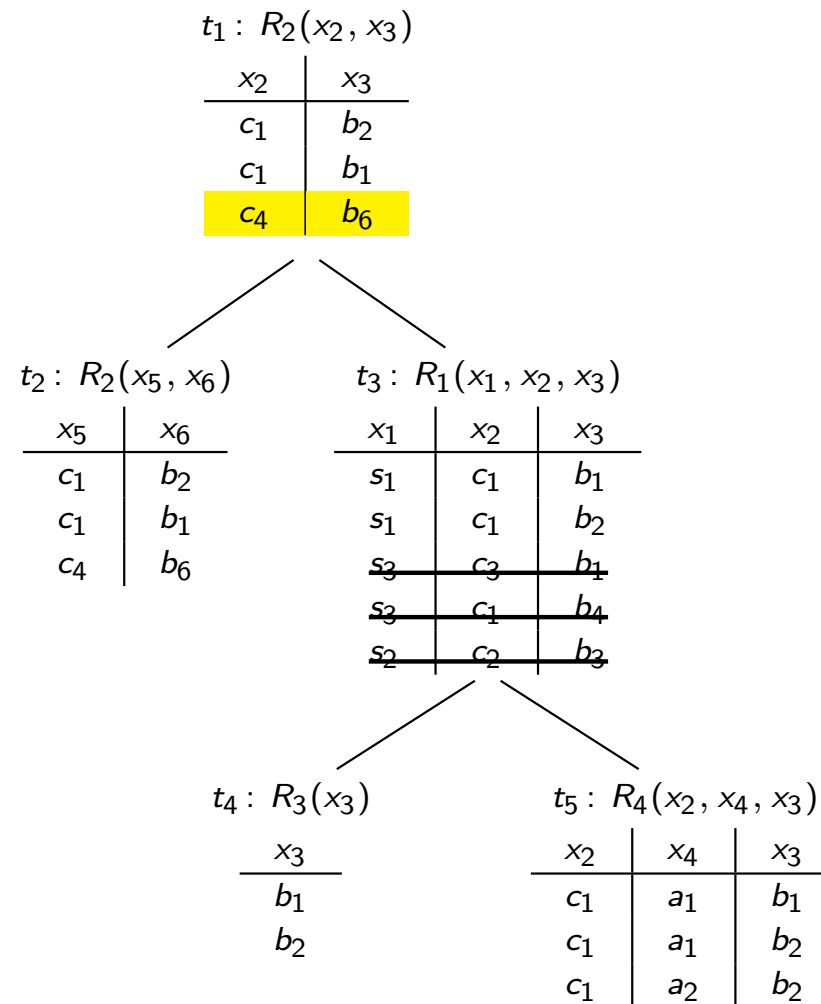
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



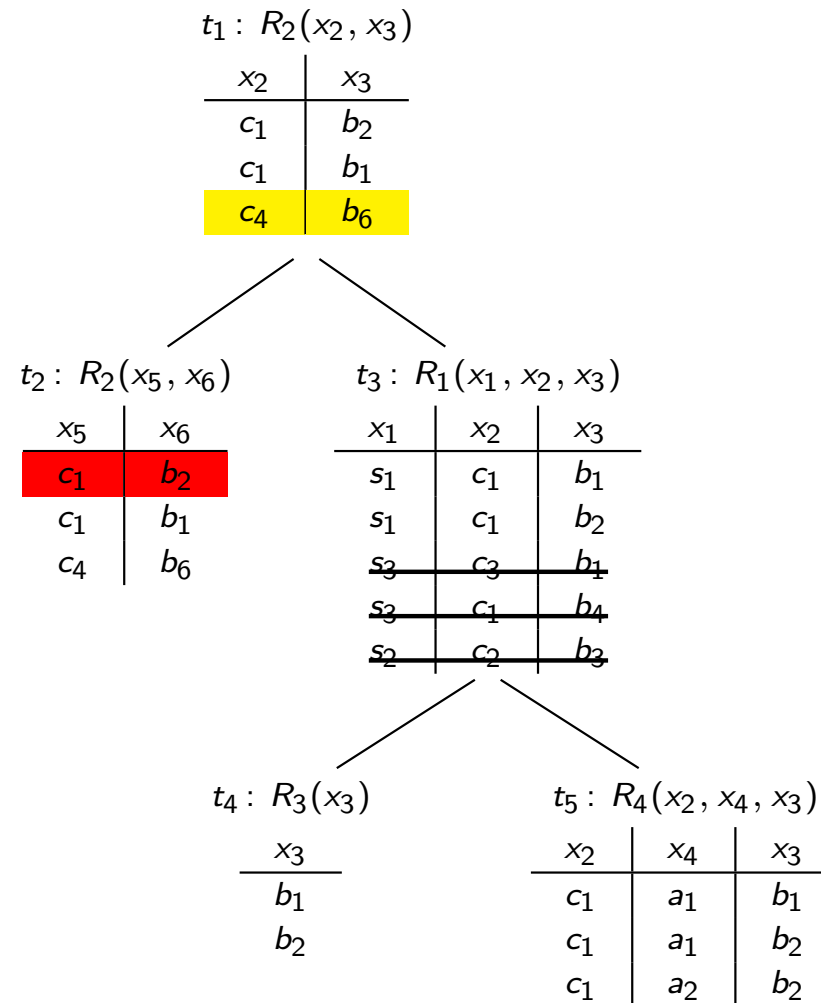
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



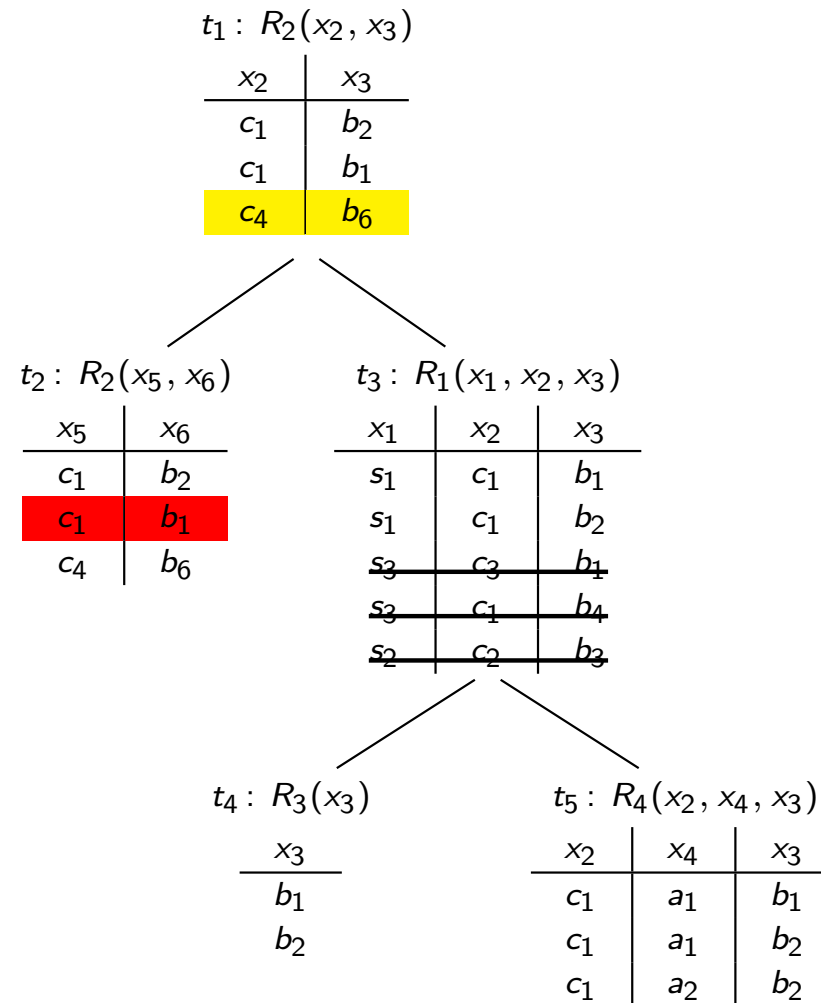
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



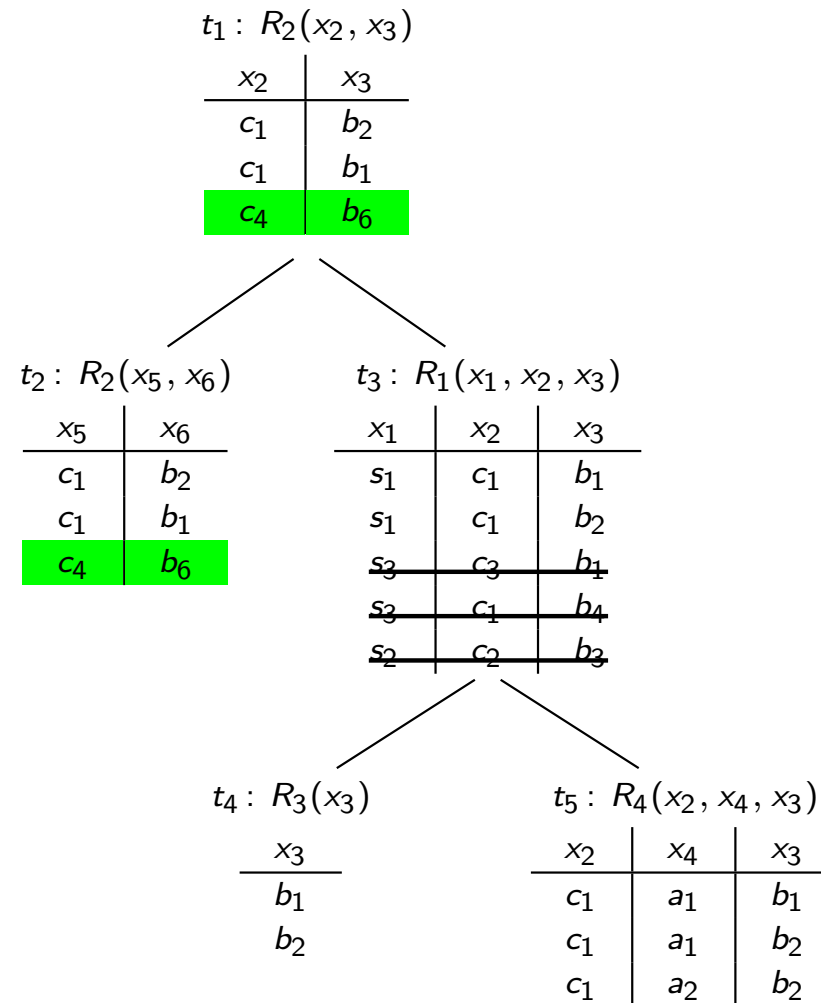
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



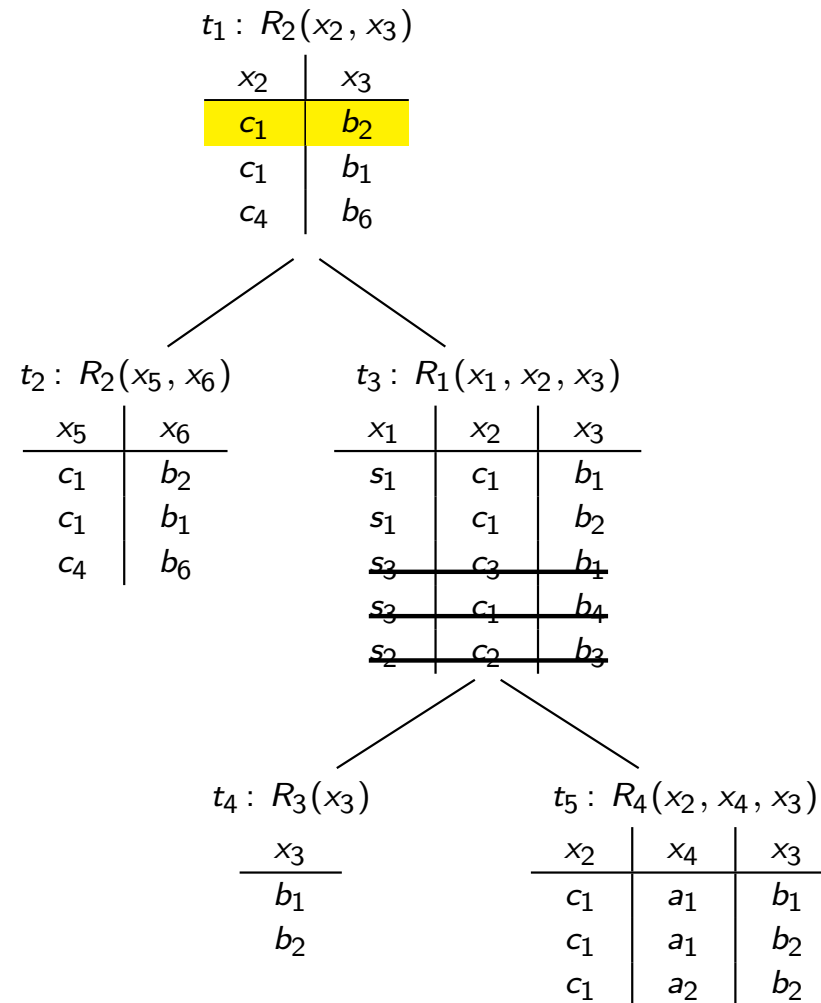
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



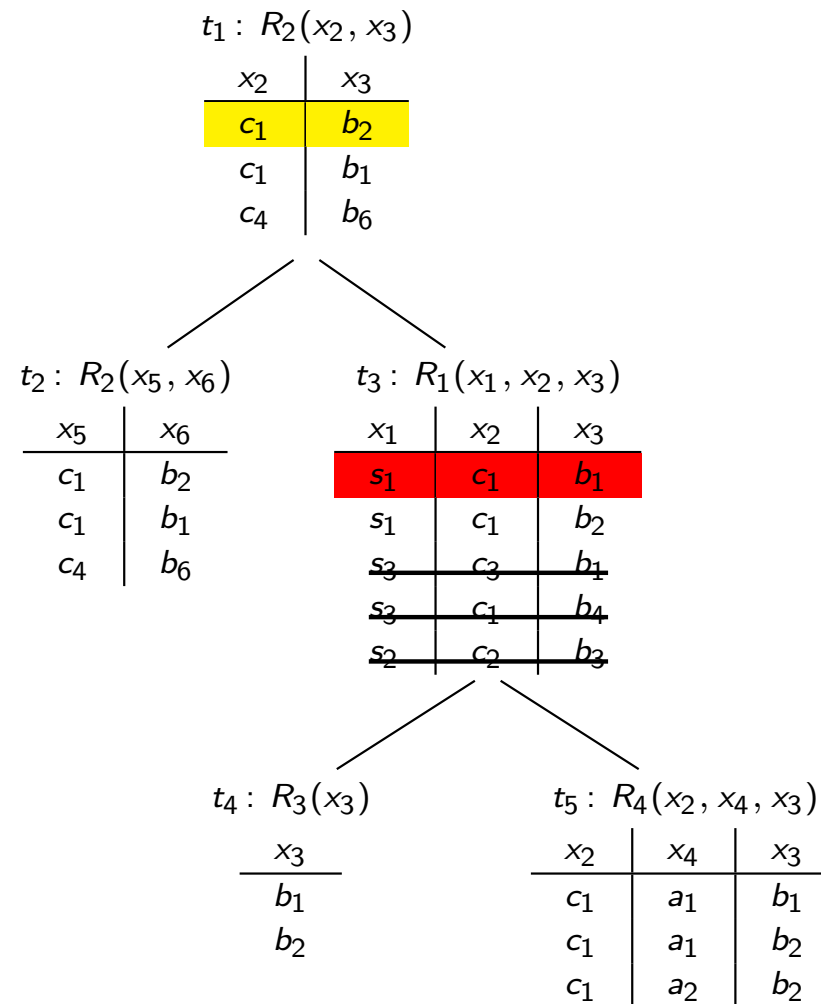
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



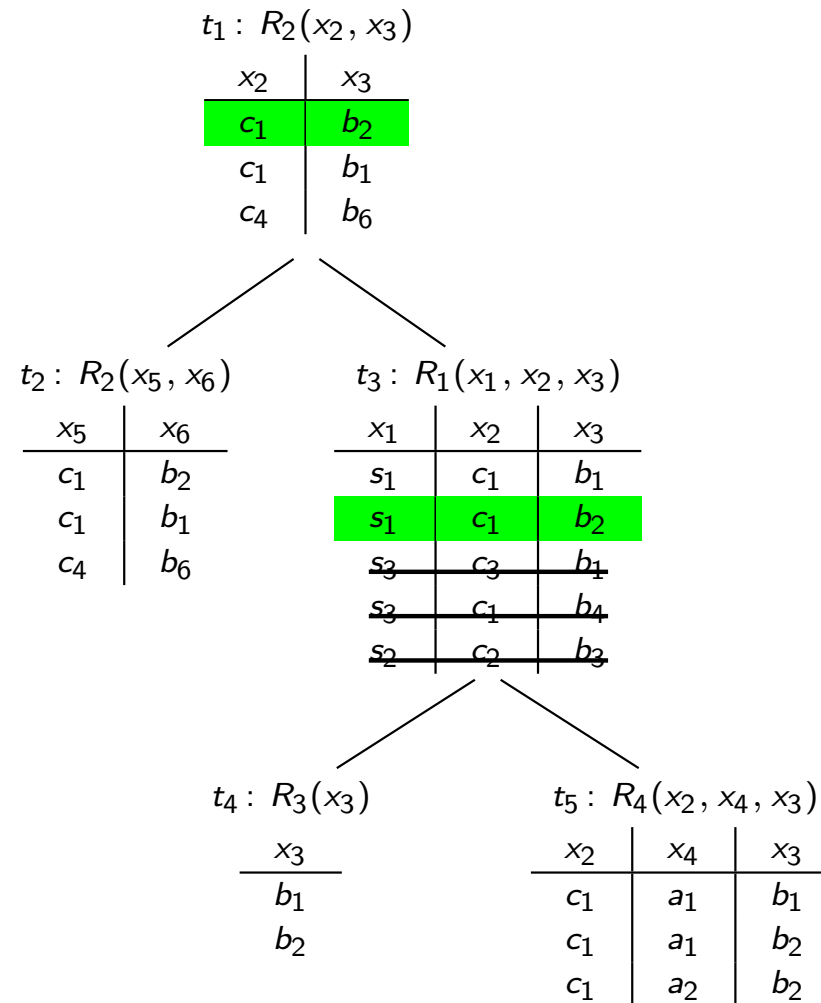
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



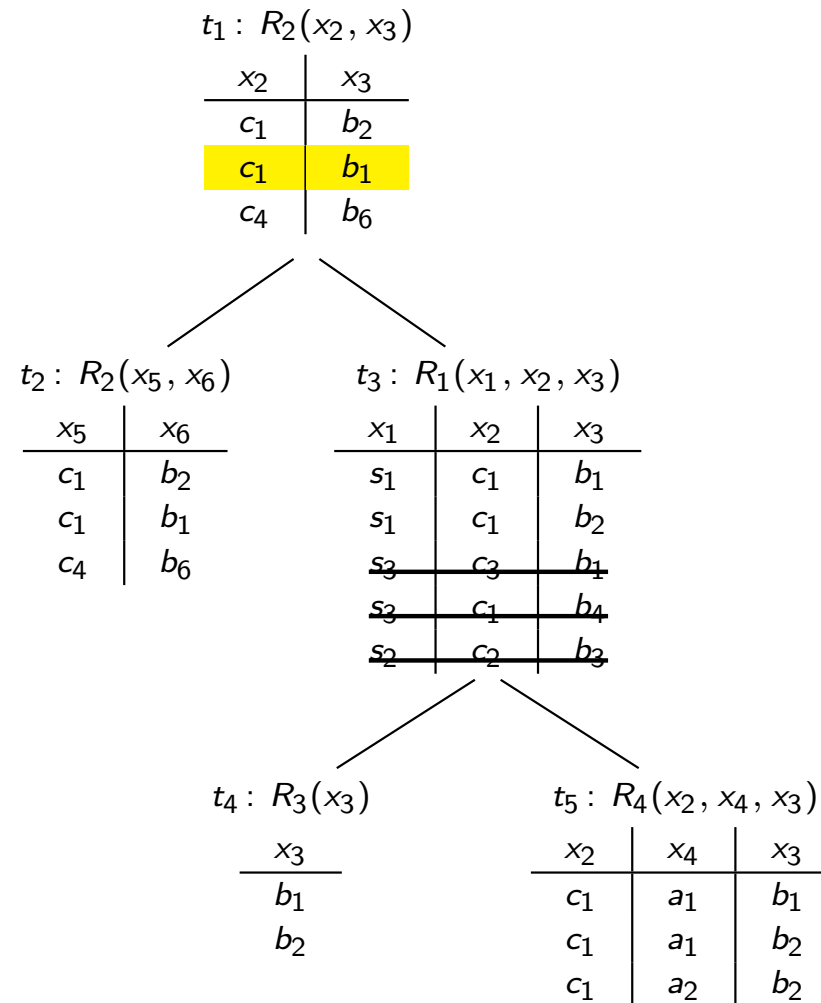
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



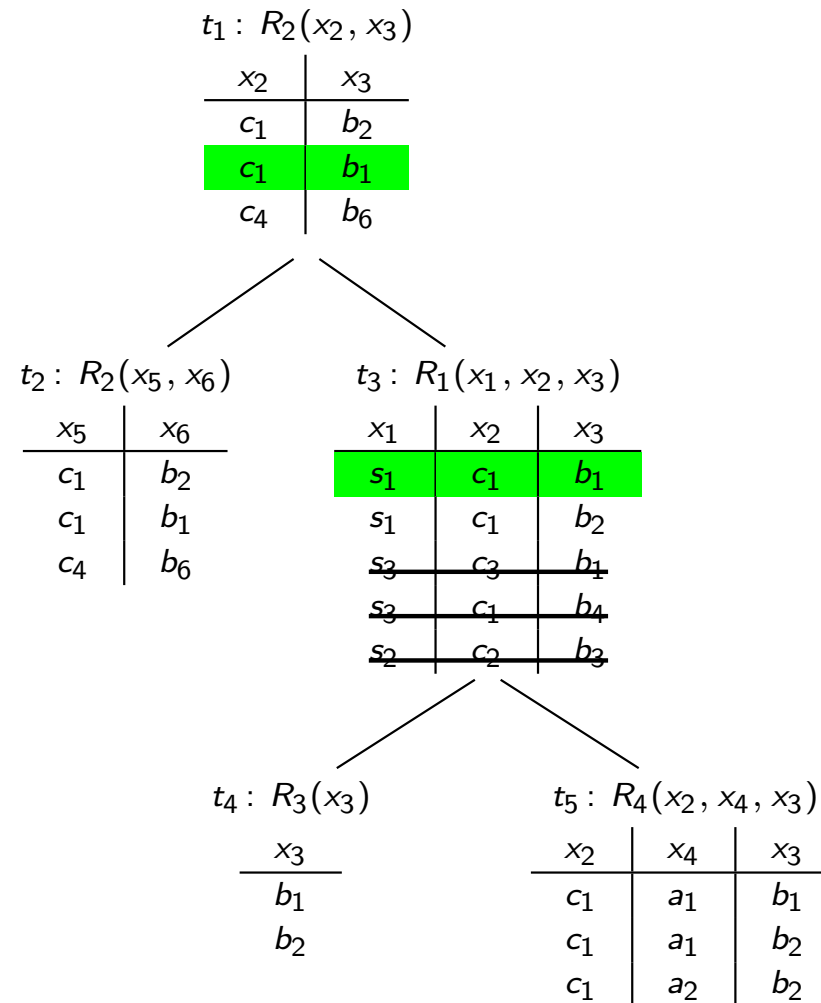
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



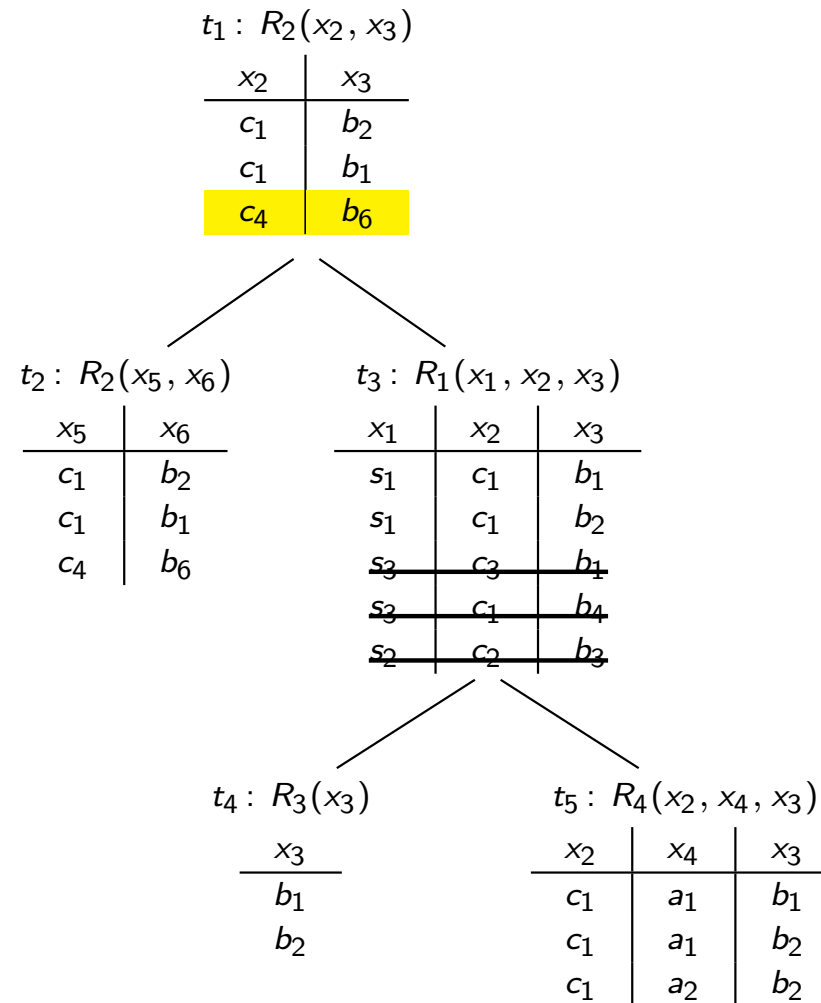
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



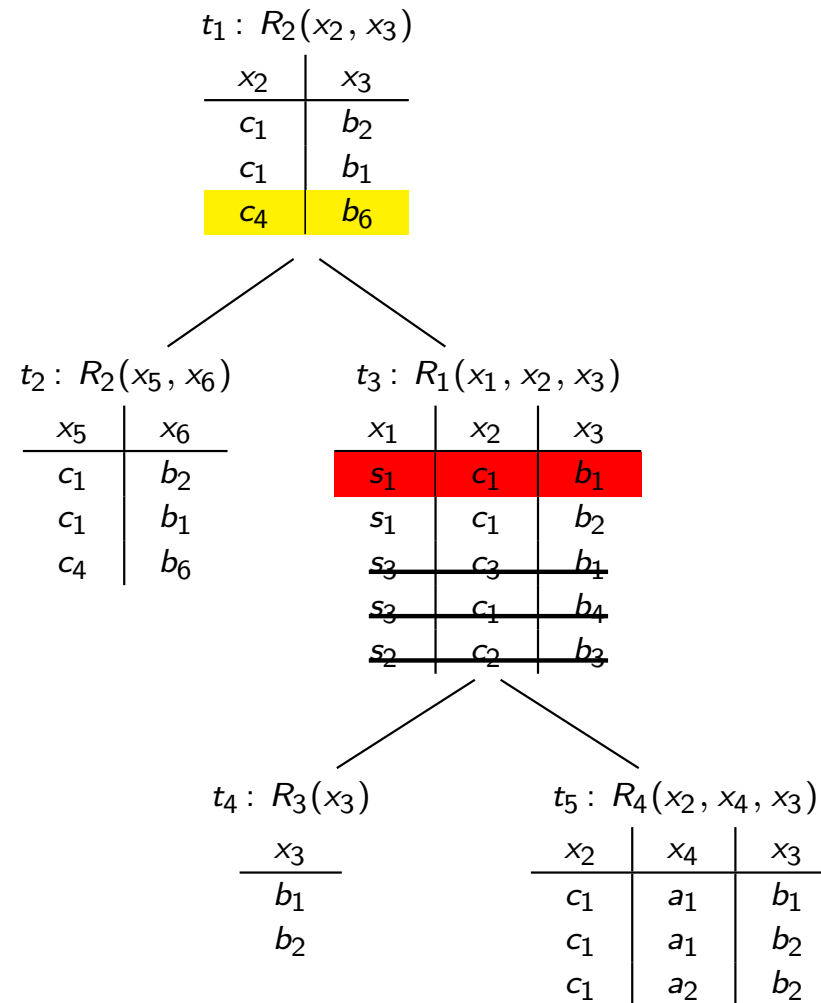
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



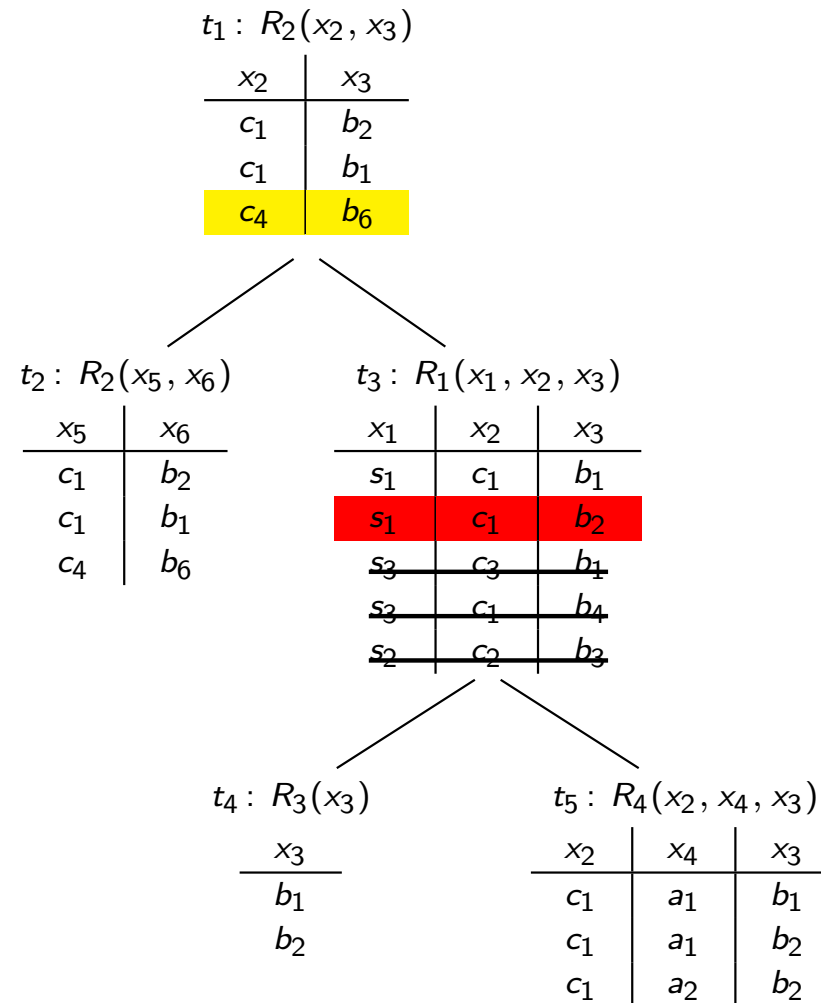
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



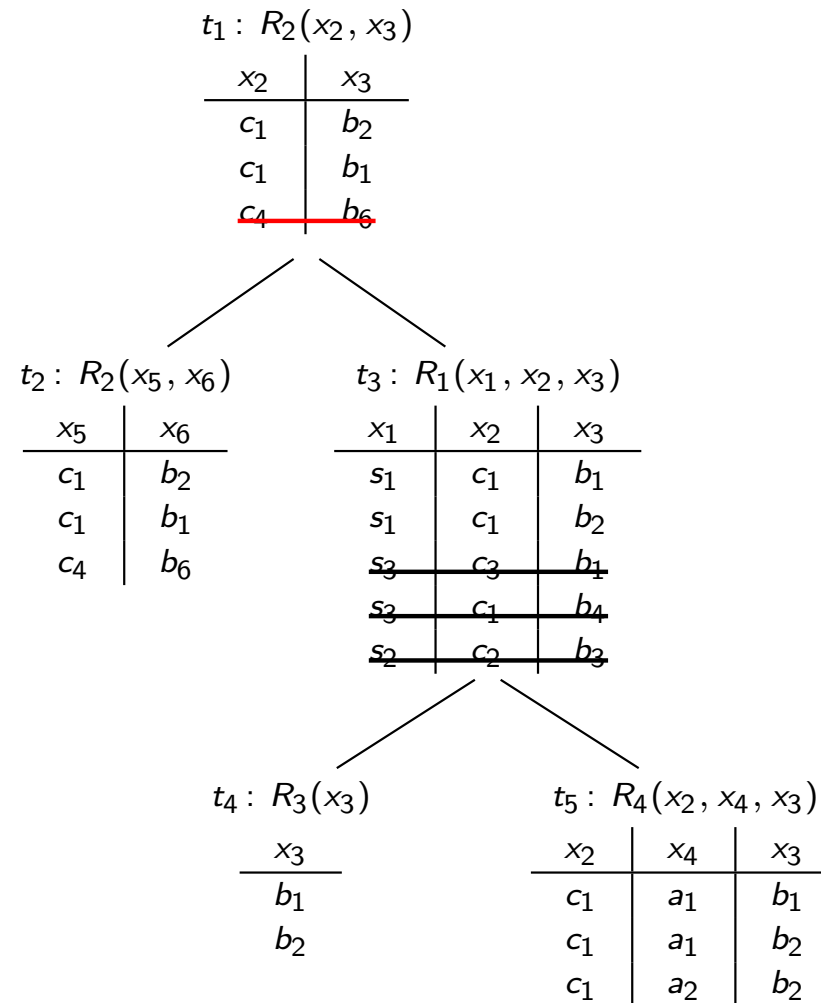
Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



Yannakakis Algorithm – Example



Yannakakis Algorithm – Enumeration

Two additional traversals allow us to enumerate all answers.

Theorem

Let Q be an *acyclic conjunctive query*. Given some database instance D , $Q(D)$ can be computed in output polynomial time, i.e., in time $O\left((\|D\| + \|Q(D)\|)^k\right)$ for some constant $k \geq 1$.

Enumeration Algorithm

Given a join tree of query Q ; a database instance D . Compute $Q(D)$:

- 1st bottom-up traversal: **semijoins** as before (upwards propagation)
- 2 top-down traversal: “reverse” **semijoins** (downwards propagation)
- 3 2nd bottom-up traversal: compute solutions using **joins**.

Yannakakis Algorithm – Proof

Proof sketch.

Correctness of the algorithm follows from the following propositions:
Given join tree T , for $t \in V(T)$ let T_t be the subtree of T rooted at t ,
 R_t the relation computed by semijoin and R'_t the one by joins:



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- 1 After the 1st bottom-up traversal:

$$R_t = \pi_{vars(t)}(\bowtie_{v \in V(T_t)} v) \text{ for each } t \in T$$



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- 3 After the 2nd bottom-up traversal:

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Yannakakis Algorithm – Proof

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- 3 After the 2nd bottom-up traversal:

$$R'_t = \pi_{\text{vars}(T_t)}(\bowtie_{v \in V(T)} v) \text{ for each } t \in T$$

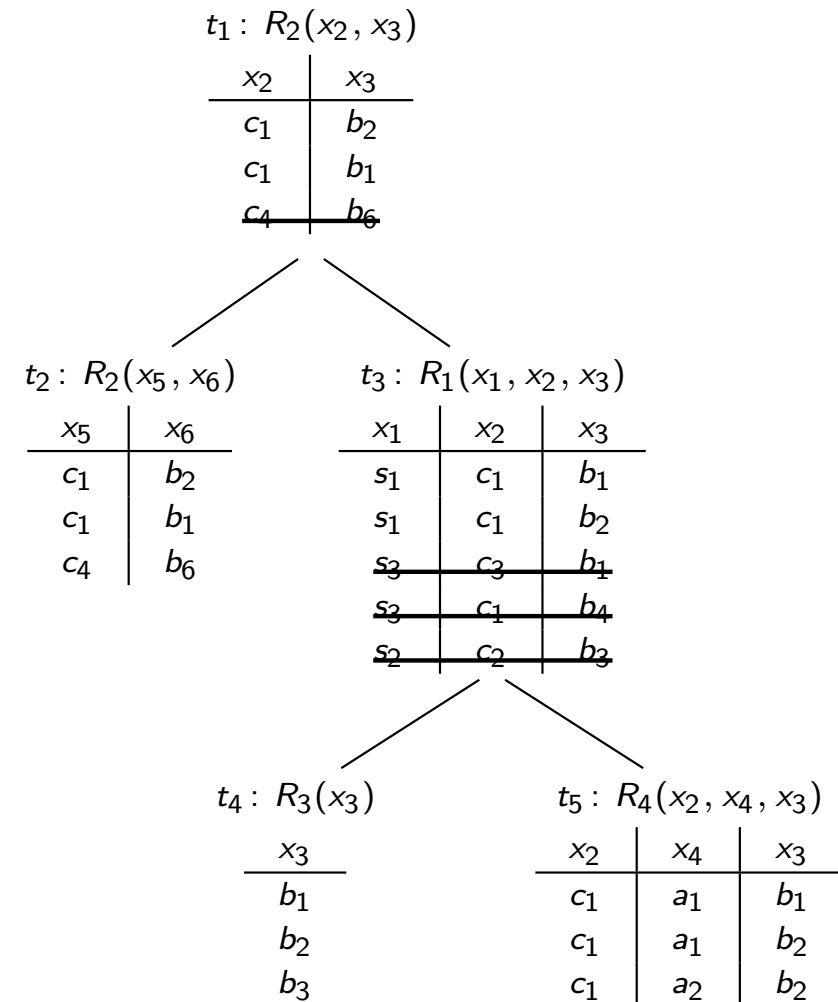
$\Rightarrow R'_r$ at root r contains all results



Enumeration – Example

Example

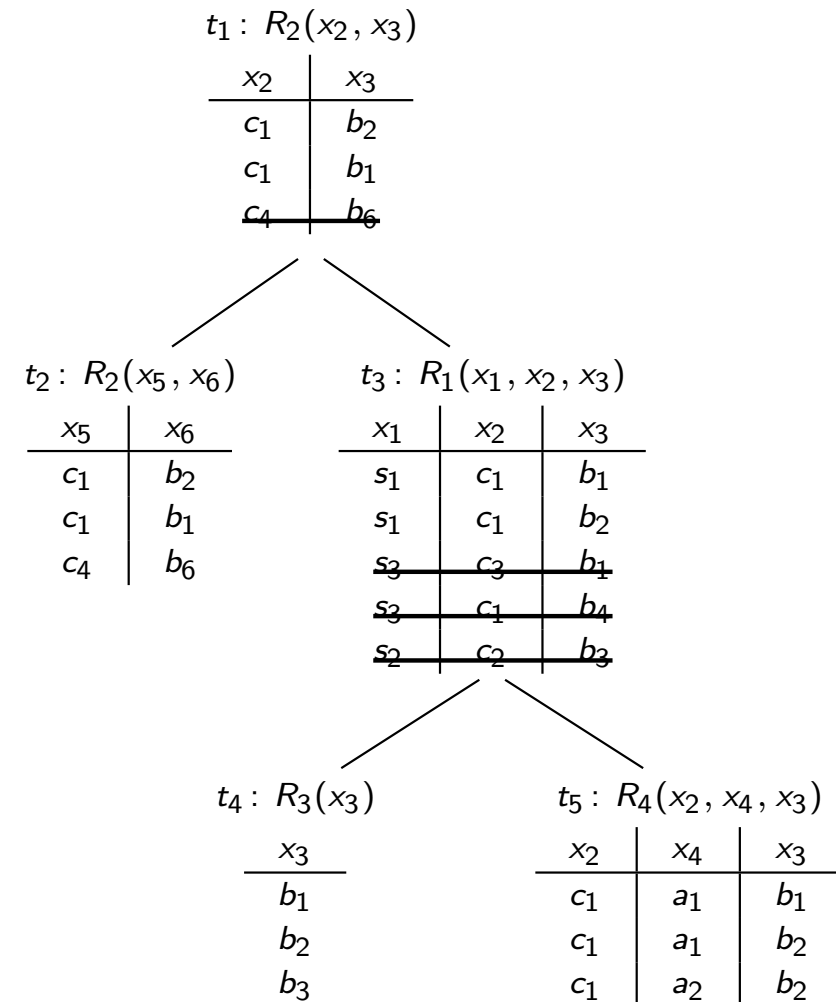
- 1 We have already performed the 1st bottom-up traversal



Enumeration – Example

Example

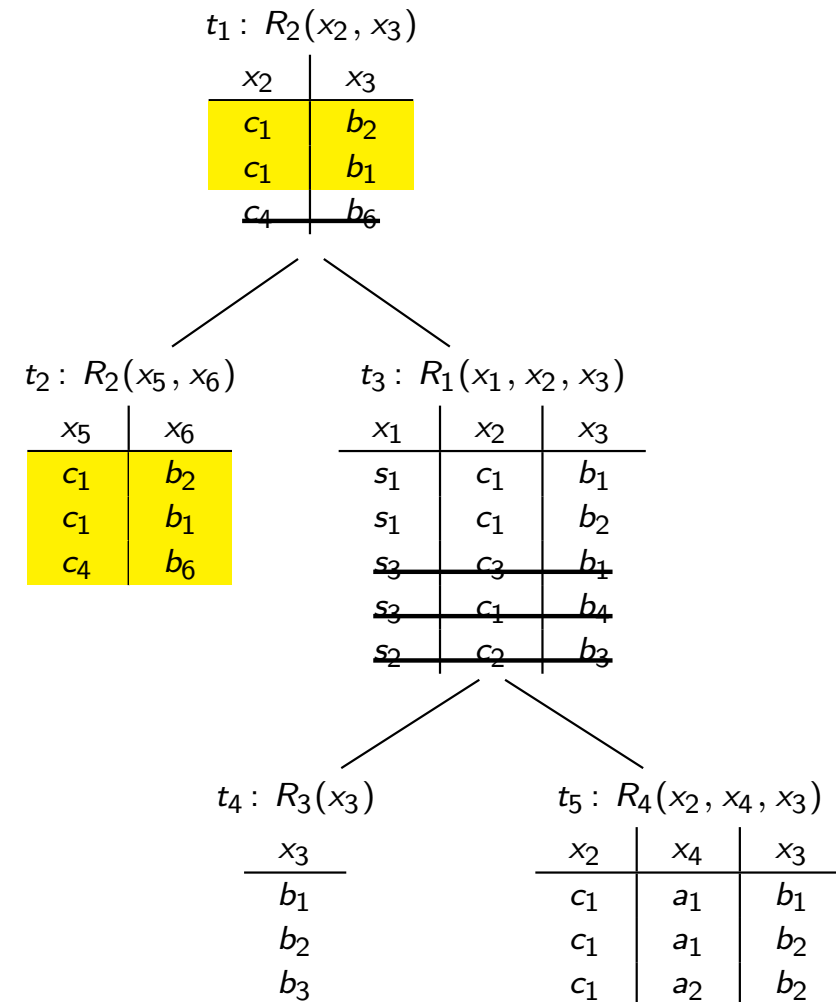
- 1 We have already performed the 1st bottom-up traversal
- 2 Top-down semijoins



Enumeration – Example

Example

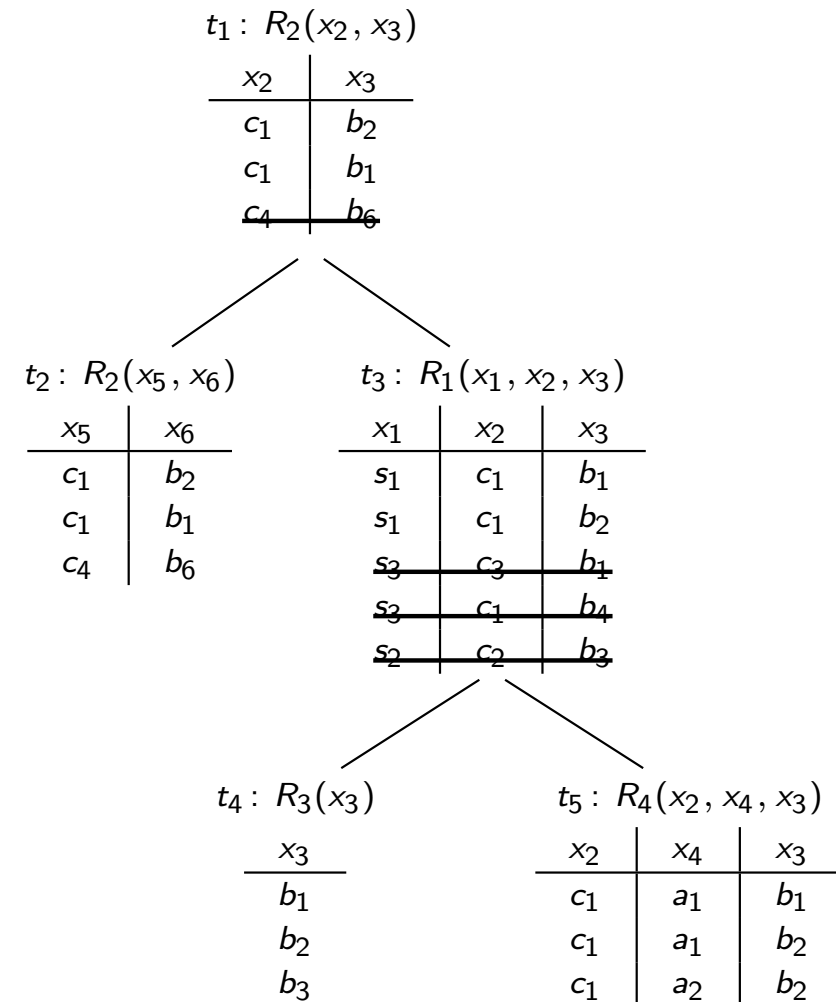
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Enumeration – Example

Example

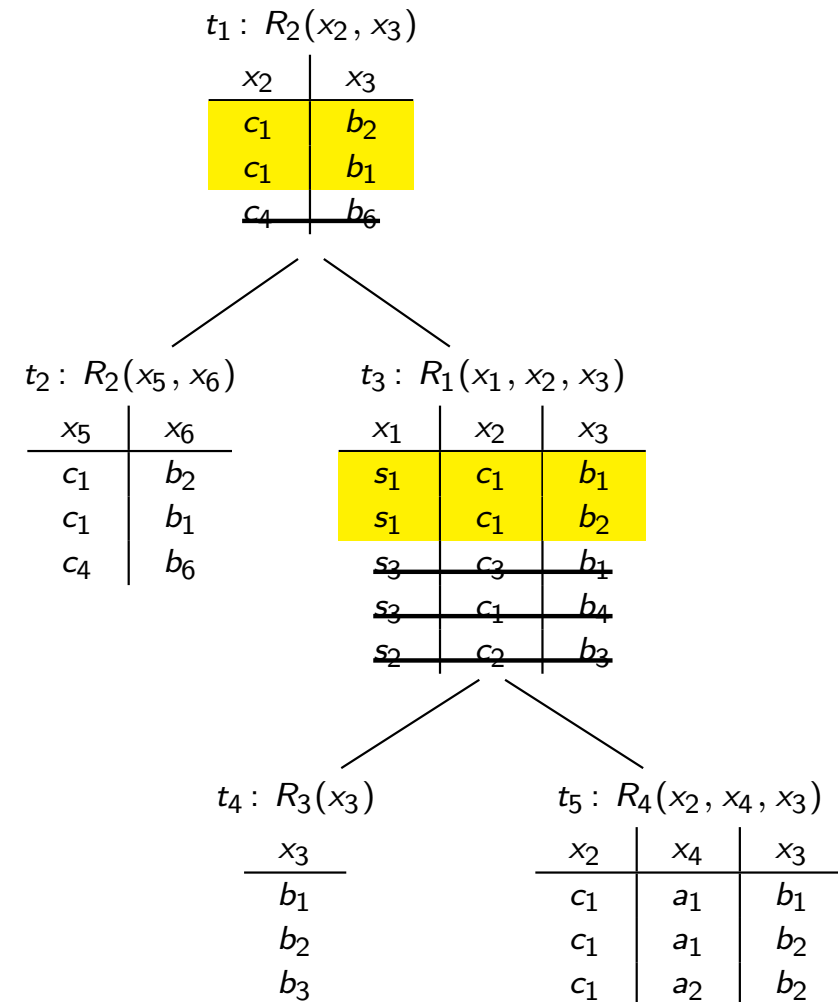
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Enumeration – Example

Example

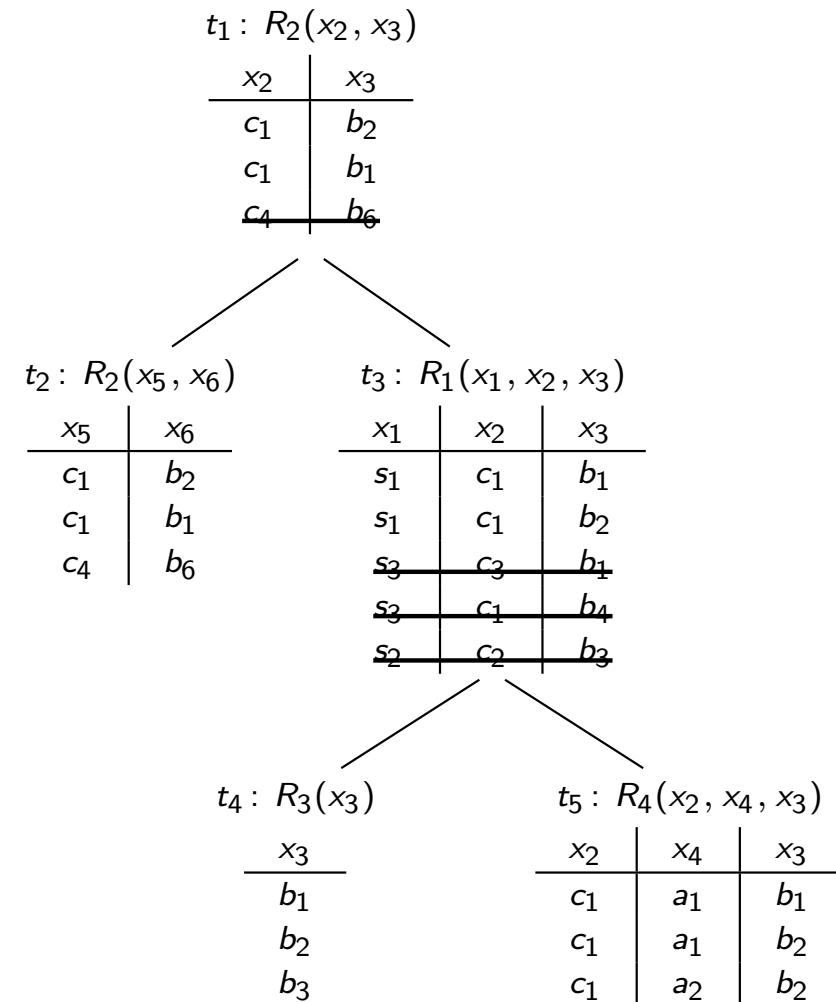
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Enumeration – Example

Example

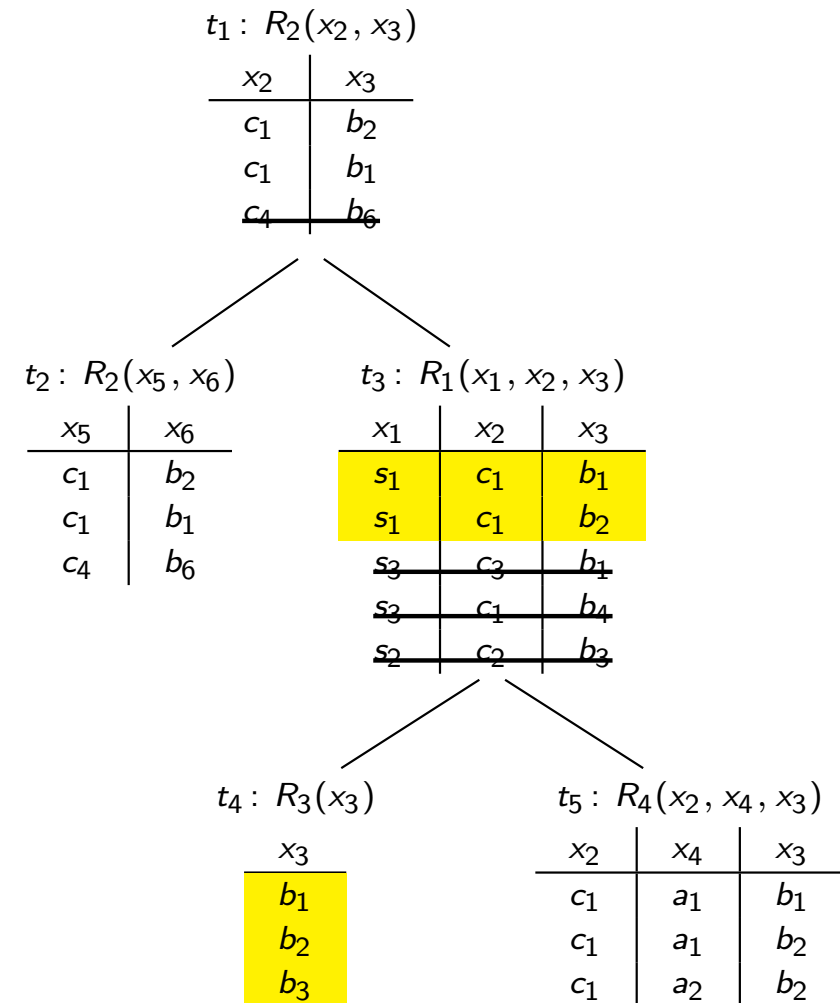
- 1 We have already performed the 1st bottom-up traversal
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Enumeration – Example

Example

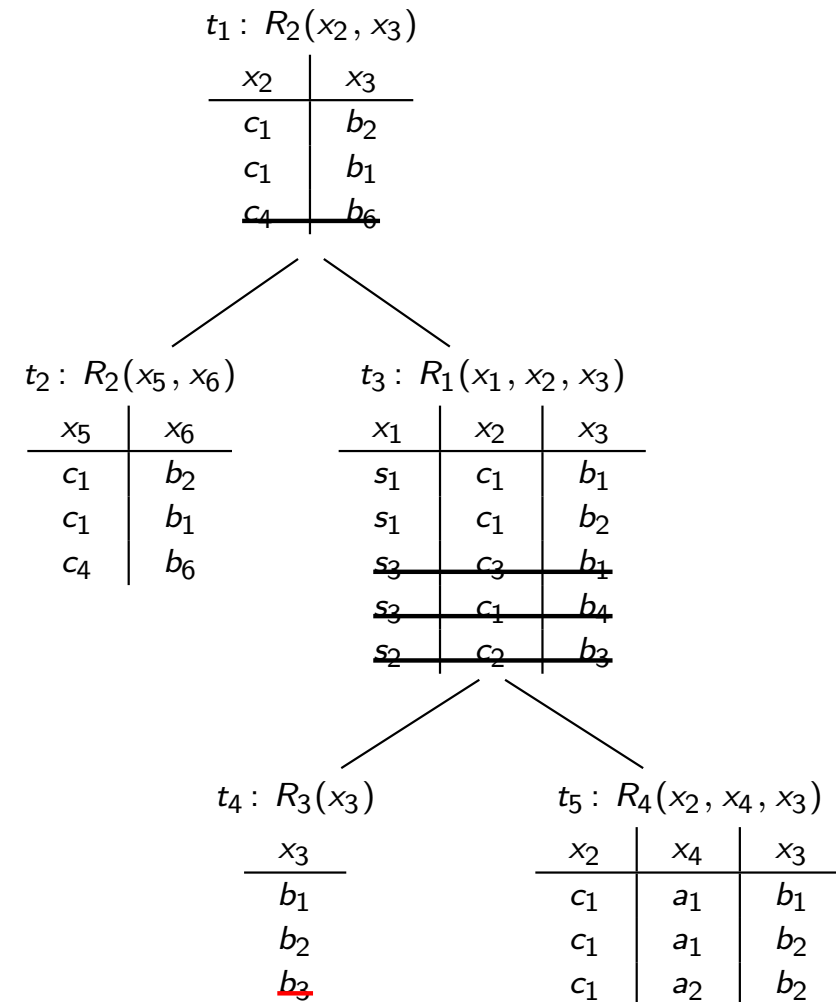
- 1 We have already performed the 1st bottom-up traversal
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Enumeration – Example

Example

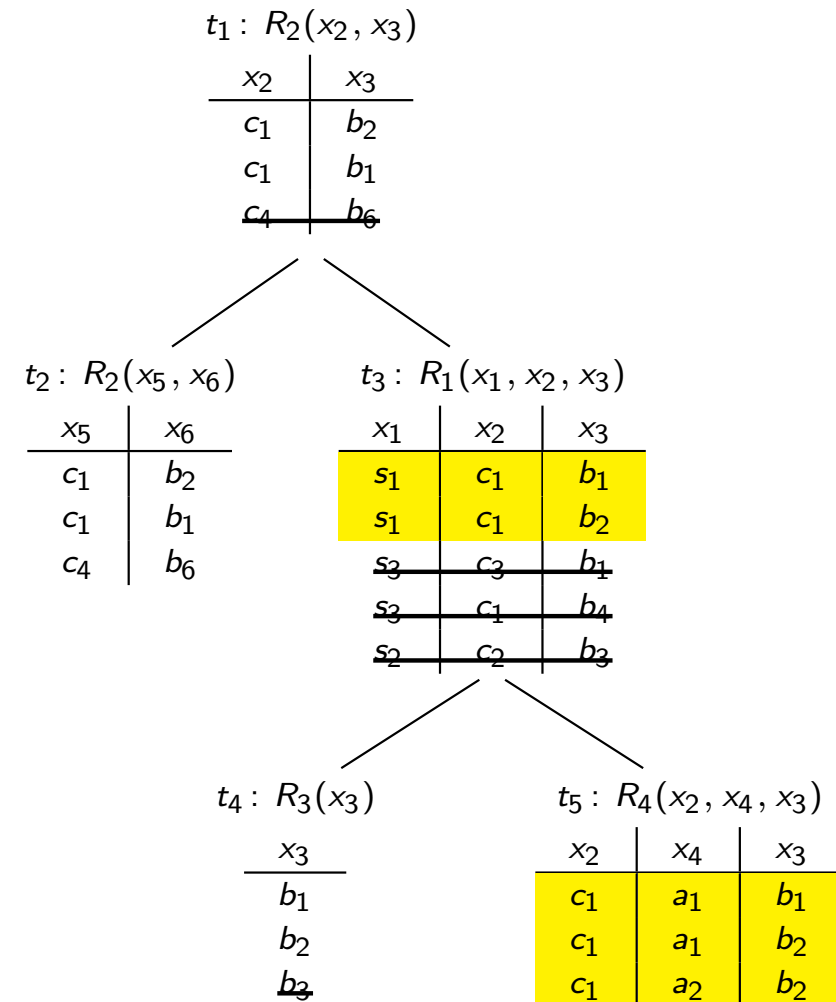
- 1 We have already performed the 1st bottom-up traversal
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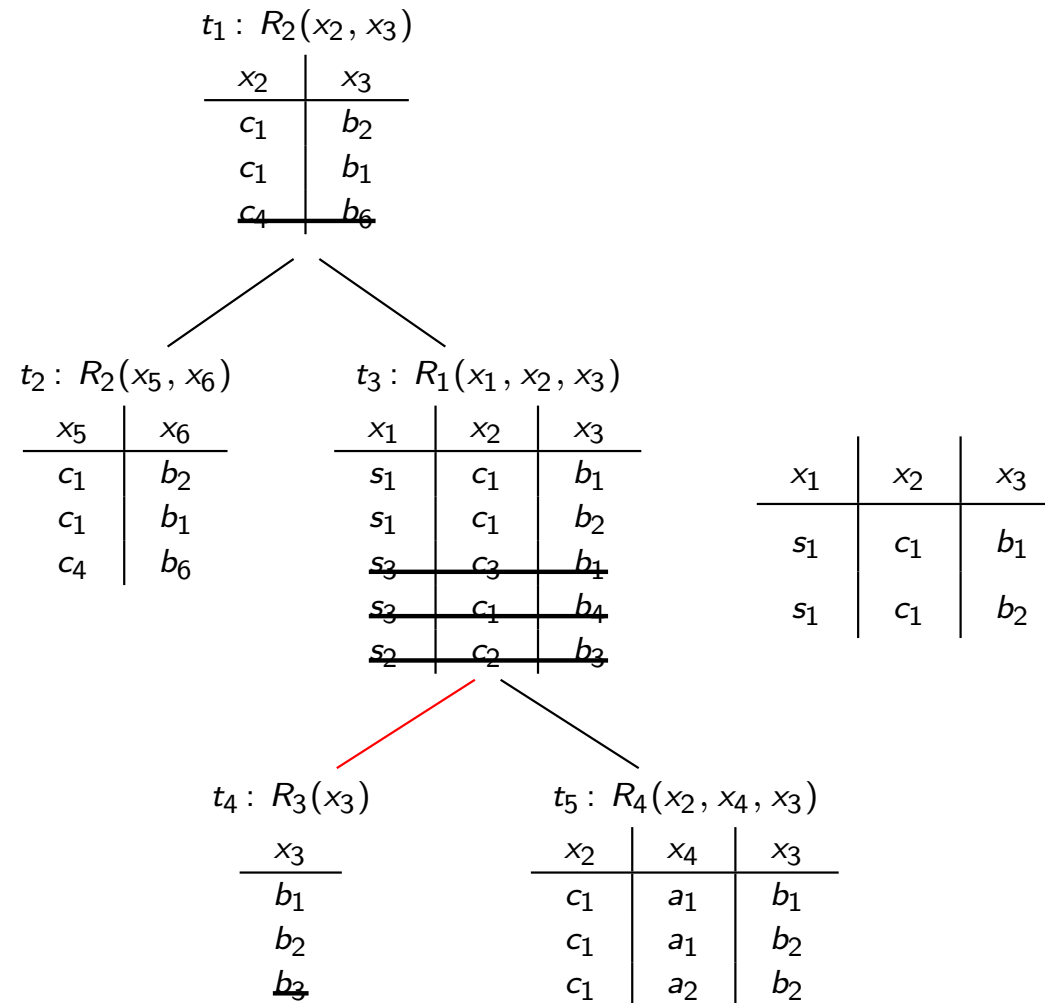
Enumeration – Example

Example

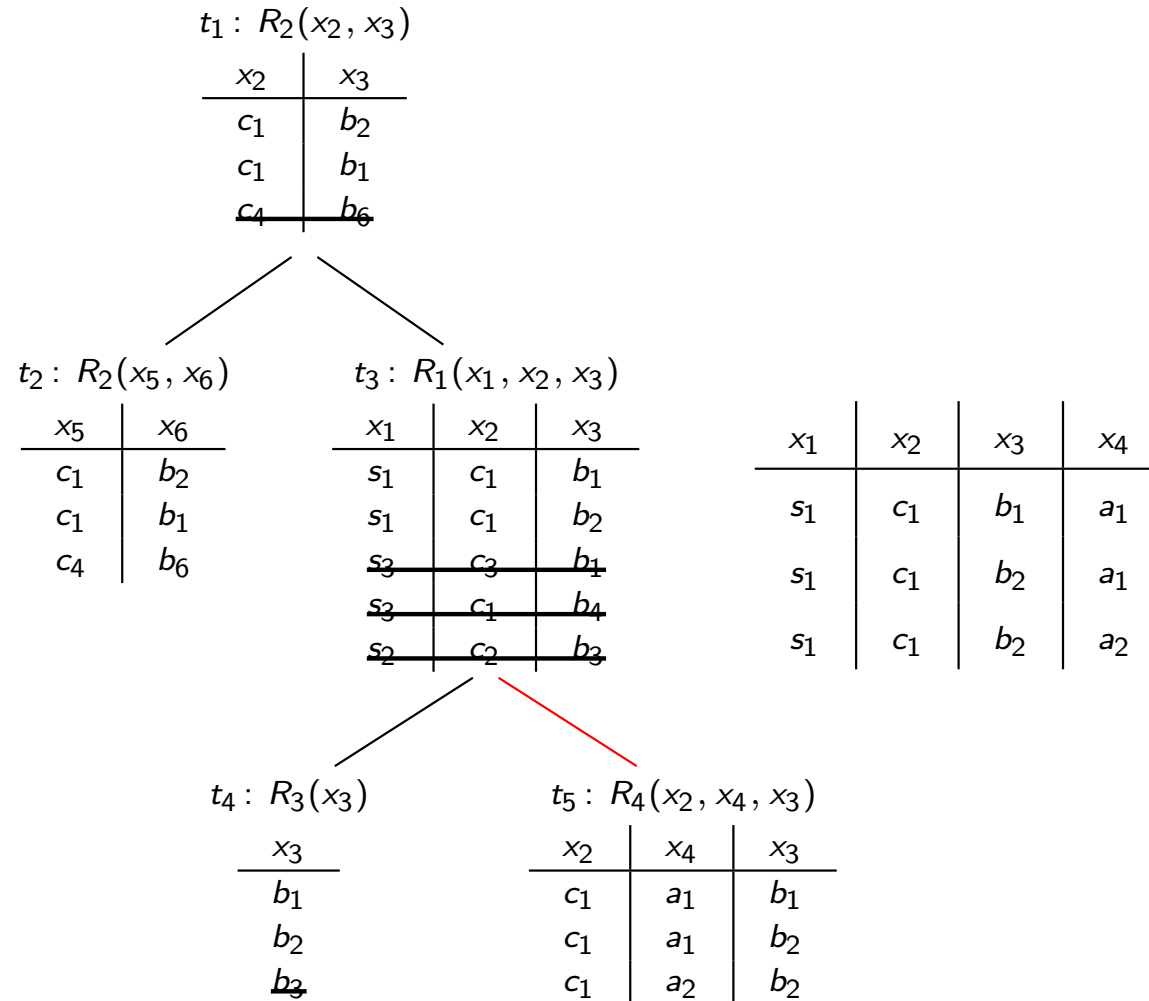
- 1 We have already performed the 1st bottom-up traversal
- 2 Top-down semijoins
- 3 Compute result in 2nd bottom-up traversal



Enumeration – Example

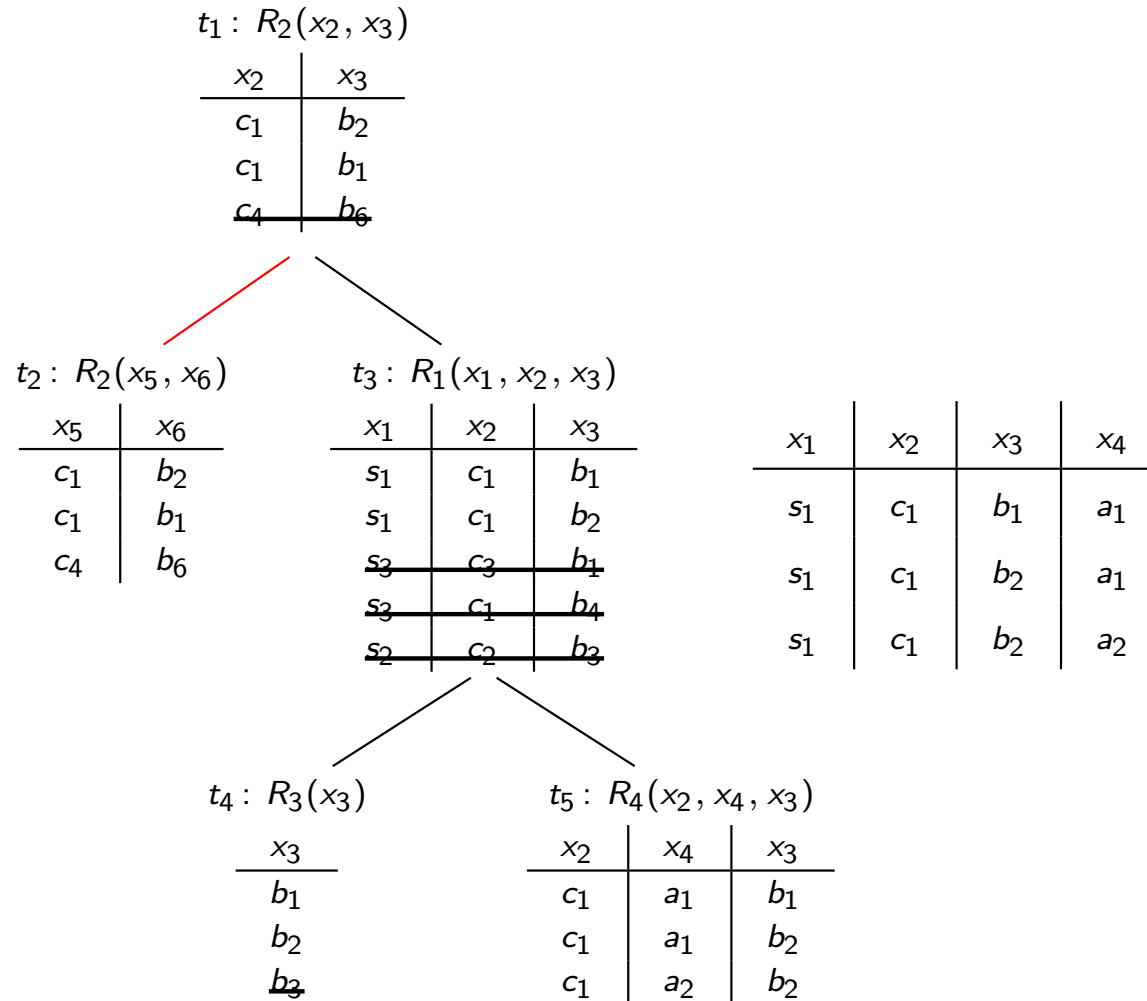


Enumeration – Example



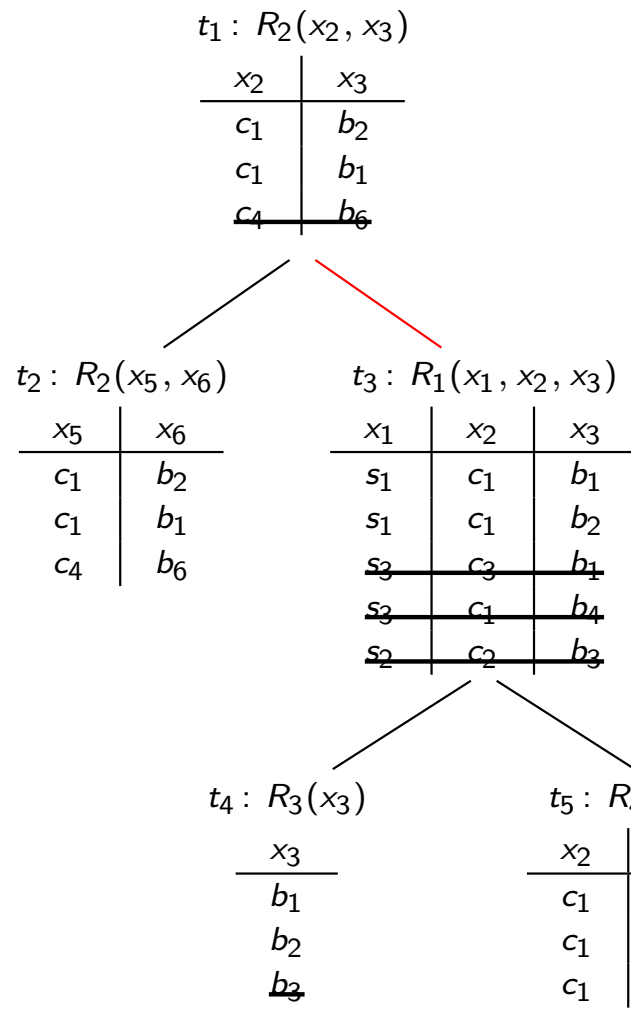
Enumeration – Example

x_2	x_3	x_5	x_6
c_1	b_2	c_1	b_2
c_1	b_2	c_1	b_1
c_1	b_2	c_4	b_6
c_1	b_1	c_1	b_2
c_1	b_1	c_1	b_1
c_1	b_1	c_4	b_6



Enumeration – Example

x ₁	x ₂	x ₃	x ₄	x ₅	x ₆
s ₁	c ₁	b ₂	a ₁	c ₁	b ₂
s ₁	c ₁	b ₂	a ₁	c ₁	b ₁
s ₁	c ₁	b ₂	a ₁	c ₄	b ₆
s ₁	c ₁	b ₂	a ₂	c ₁	b ₂
s ₁	c ₁	b ₂	a ₂	c ₁	b ₁
s ₁	c ₁	b ₂	a ₂	c ₄	b ₆
s ₁	c ₁	b ₁	a ₁	c ₁	b ₂
s ₁	c ₁	b ₁	a ₁	c ₁	b ₁
s ₁	c ₁	b ₁	a ₁	c ₄	b ₆



x ₁	x ₂	x ₃	x ₄
s ₁	c ₁	b ₁	a ₁
s ₁	c ₁	b ₂	a ₁
s ₁	c ₁	b ₂	a ₂

Learning Objectives

- The notions of query equivalence and containment,
- The Homomorphism theorem,
- The complexity of query equivalence and containment,
- Minimization of conjunctive queries,
- Acyclic conjunctive queries,
- The Yannakakis algorithm.