

Revisiting ILP Models for Exact Crossing Minimization in Storyline Drawings

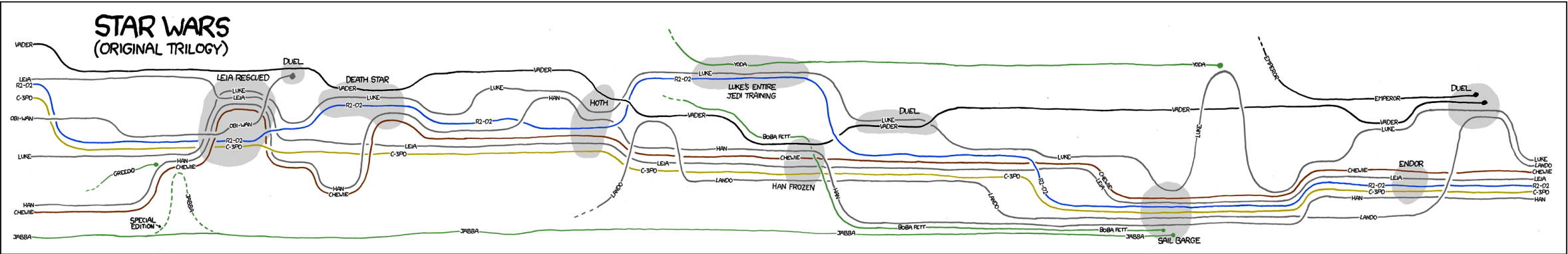
Alexander Dobler^[1], Michael Jünger^[2], Paul J. Jünger^[3],
Julian Meffert^[3], Petra Mutzel^[3], Martin Nöllenburg^[1]

September 18, 2024 · GD 2024

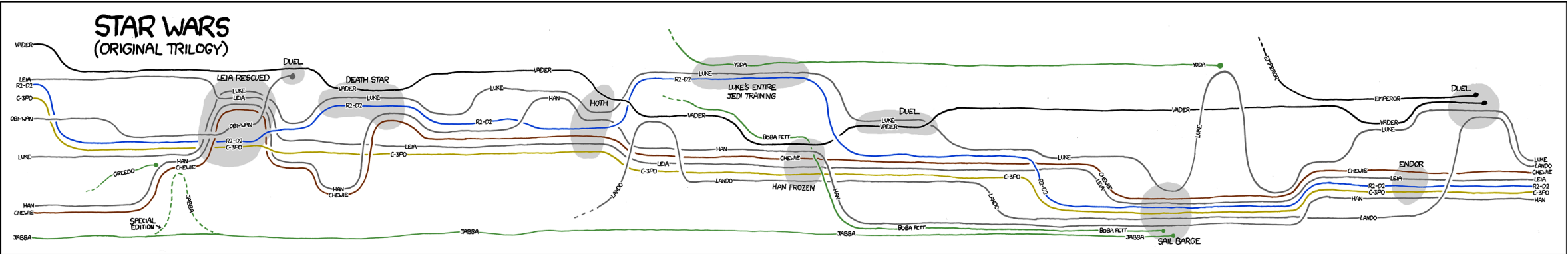


[3]



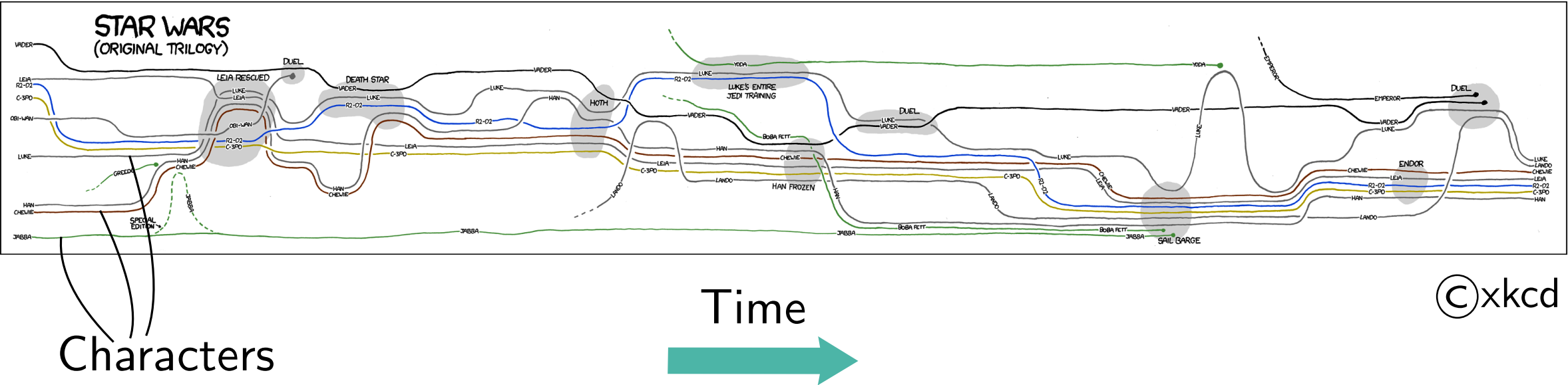


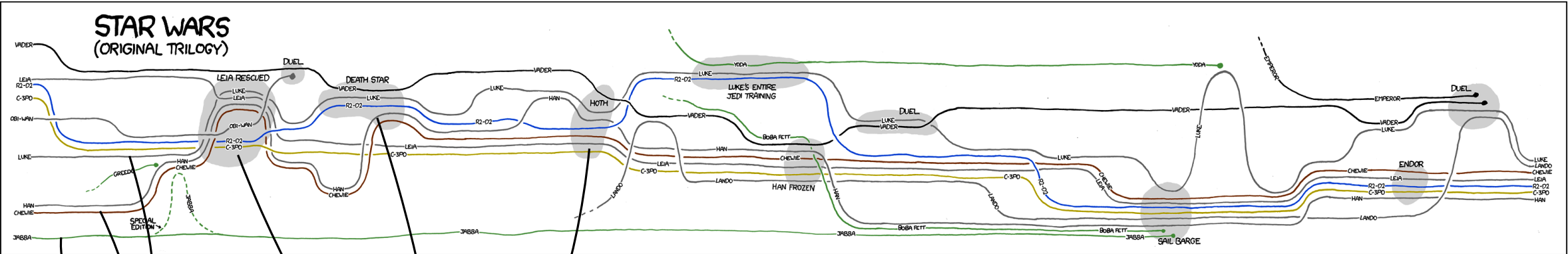
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Time
→

©xkcd





Characters

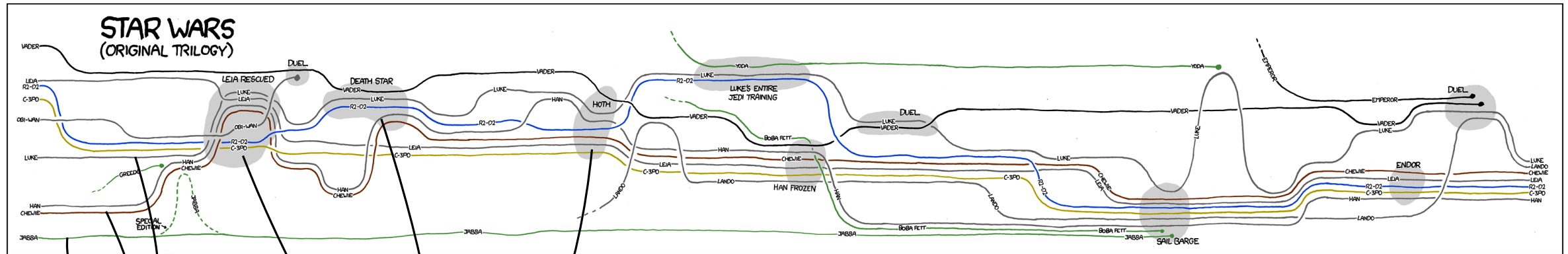
Time



Interactions

©xkcd

Storylines



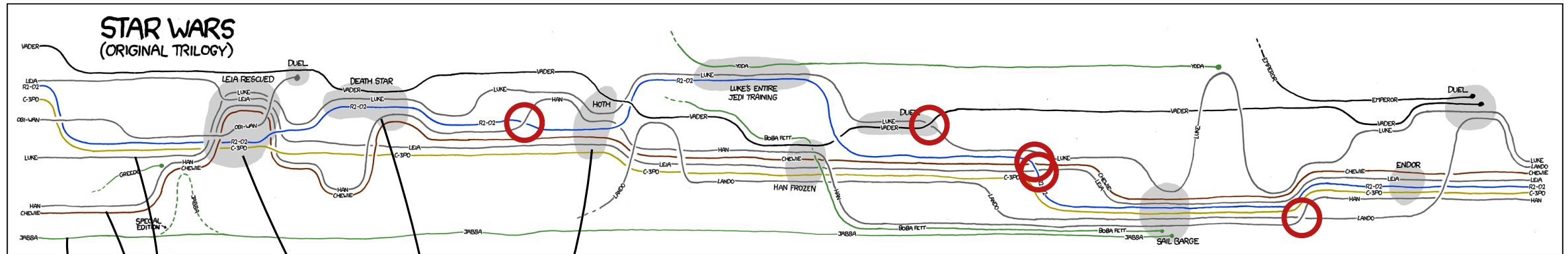
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Visualization for **books, movies, publication data, ...**



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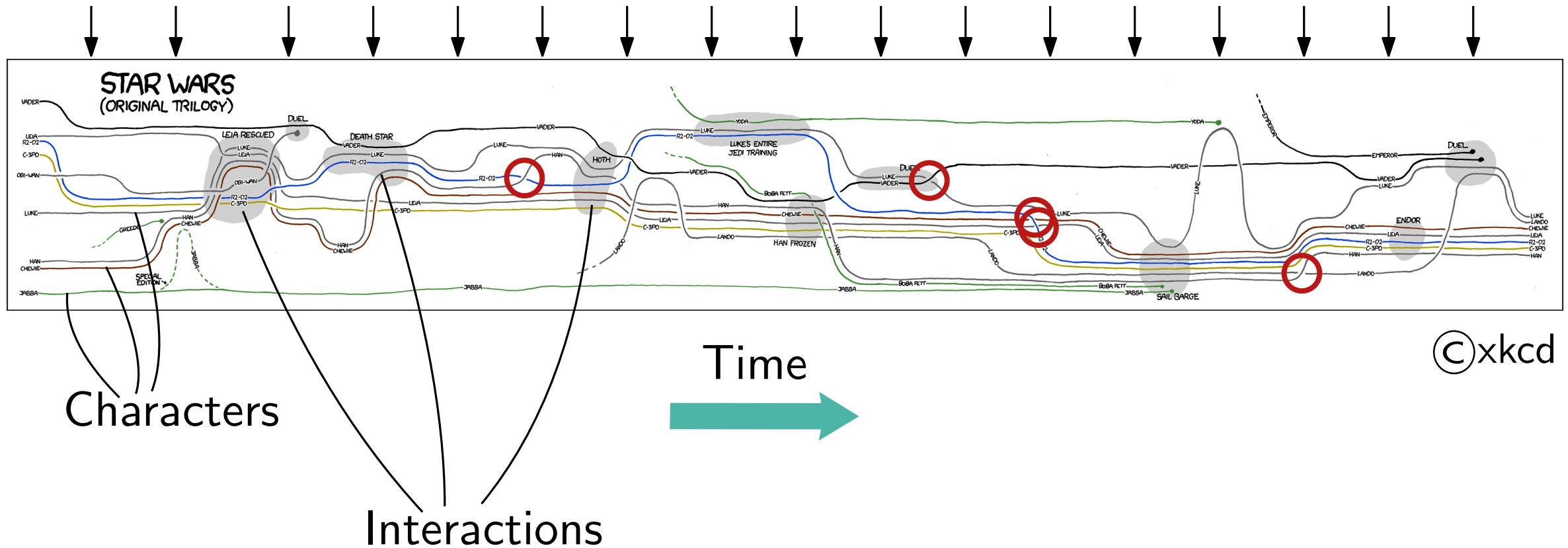
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Goal: Minimize **crossings**

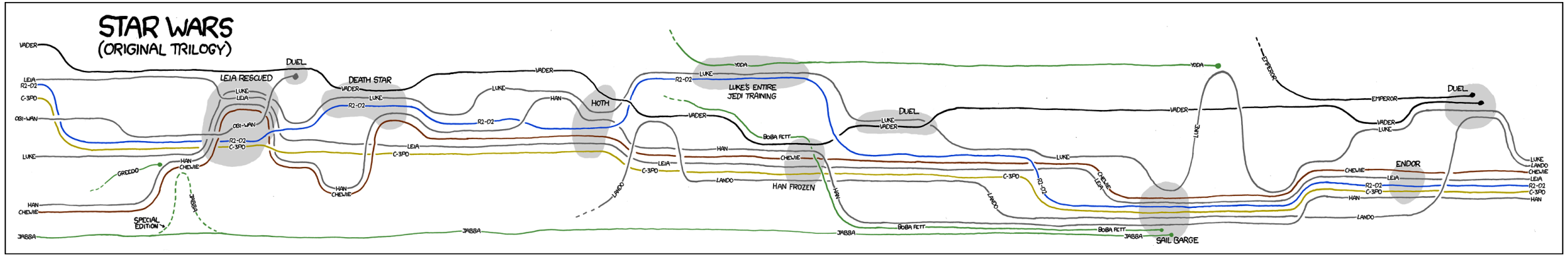


Visualization for **books, movies, publication data, ...**

Goal: Minimize **crossings**

Degree of freedom: vertical **order** of character curves over time

Previous Work on Crossing Minimization



- [Ogawa and Ma, 2010]: greedy algorithm
- [Tanahashi and Ma, 2012]: genetic algorithm
- [Liu, Wu, Wei, Liu, and Liu, 2013]: pipeline approach
- [Kostitsyna, Nöllenburg, Polishchuk, Schulz, and Strash, 2015]: NP-hardness and fixed-parameter tractability by #characters
- [Gronemann, Jünger, Liers, Mambelli, 2016]: exact integer programming formulations and experimental evaluation of one formulation

[GJLM, 2016]: exact integer programming formulations and experimental evaluation of algorithm based on one formulation

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We enrich the **simple formulations** by

- **structural** problem-specific **insights**,
- **initial heuristic**, and
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[GJLM, 2016]: exact integer programming formulations and experimental evaluation of algorithm based on one formulation

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Barbie, Oppenheimer, Harry Potter, Titanic, ...

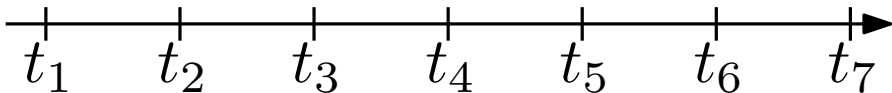
Formal Problem Definition

Input: $(T, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{I}, A)$ where

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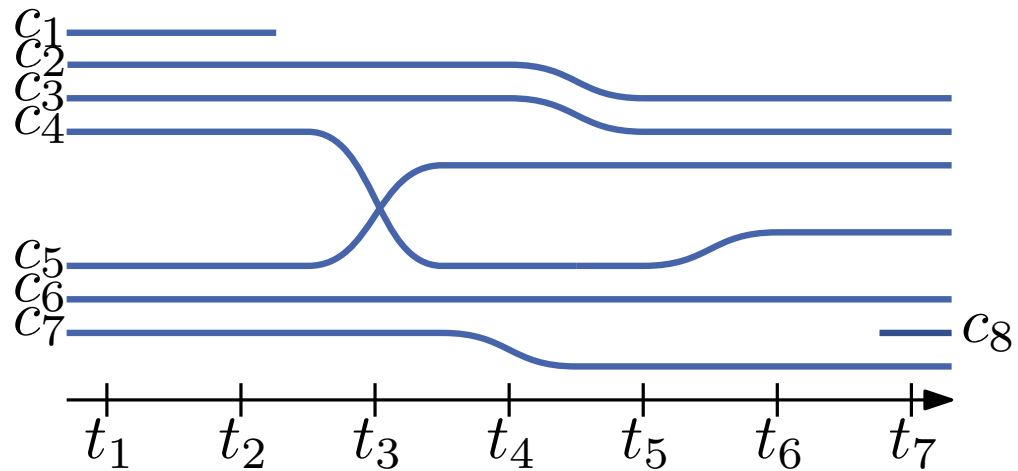
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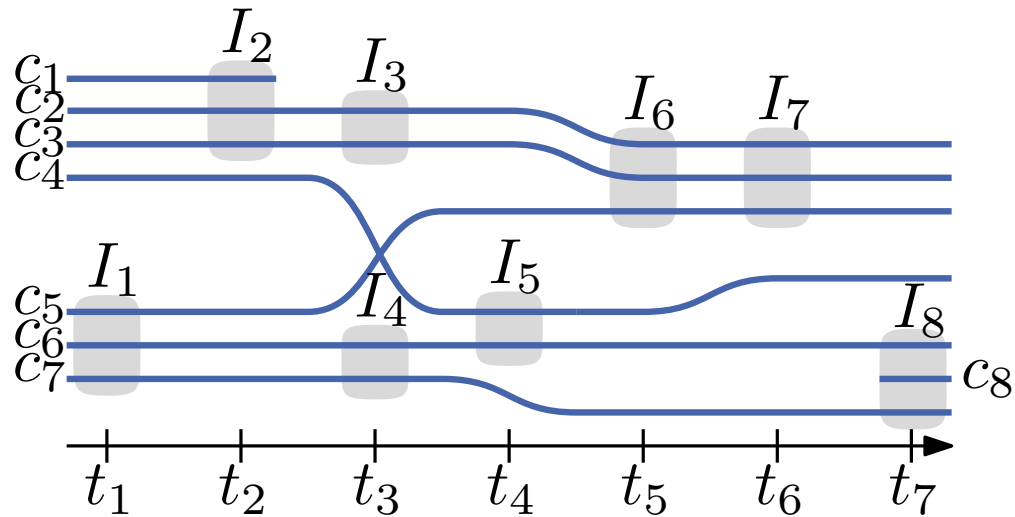
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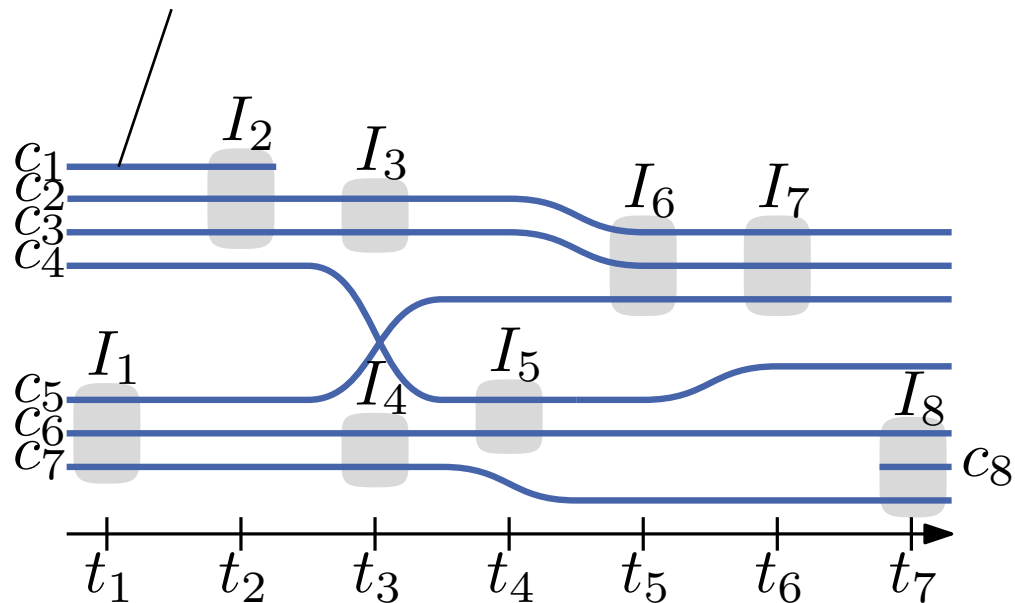


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$$A(c_1) = [t_1, t_2]$$

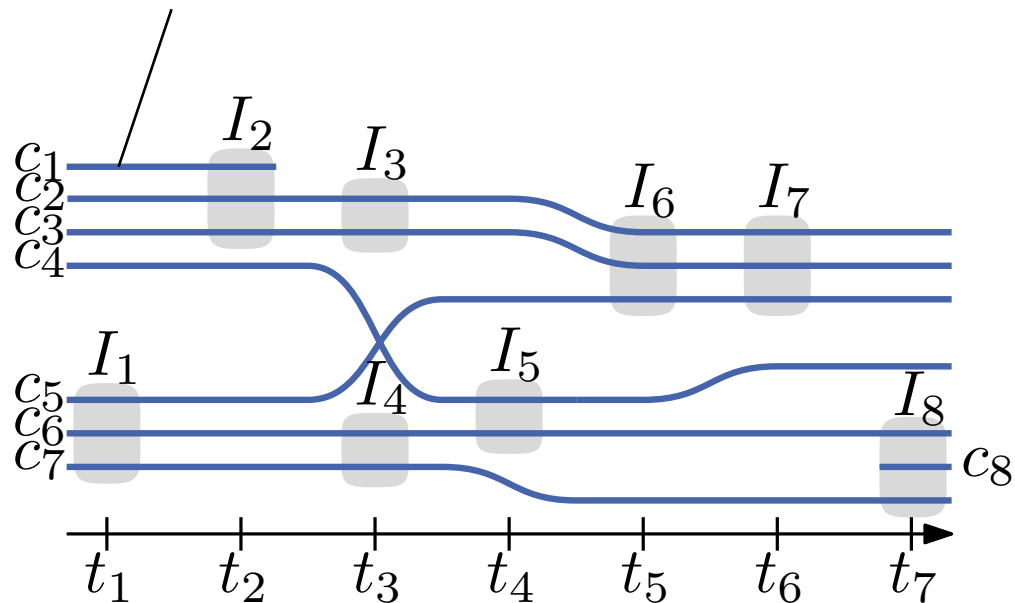


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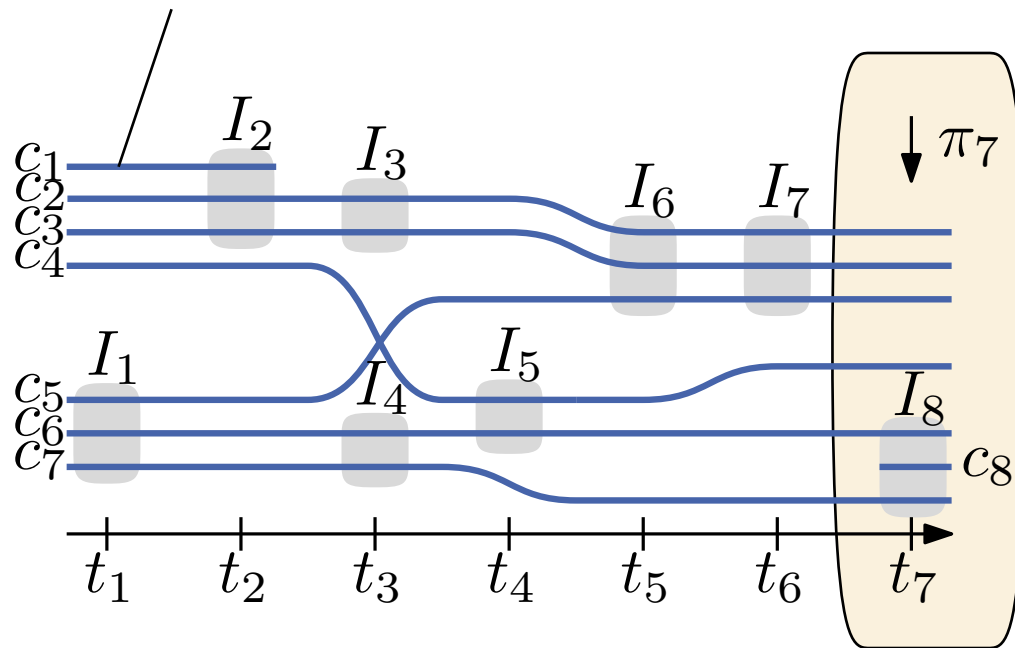
A sequence $(\pi_1, \dots, \pi_\ell)$ of permutations of respective active characters s.t. interaction characters are consecutive in the respective permutations

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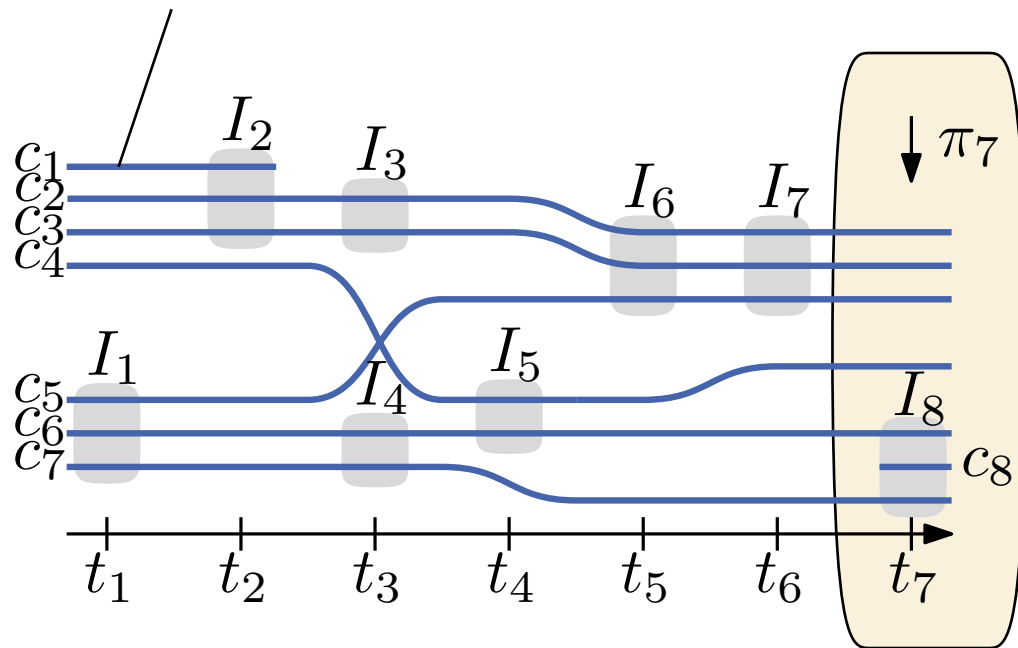
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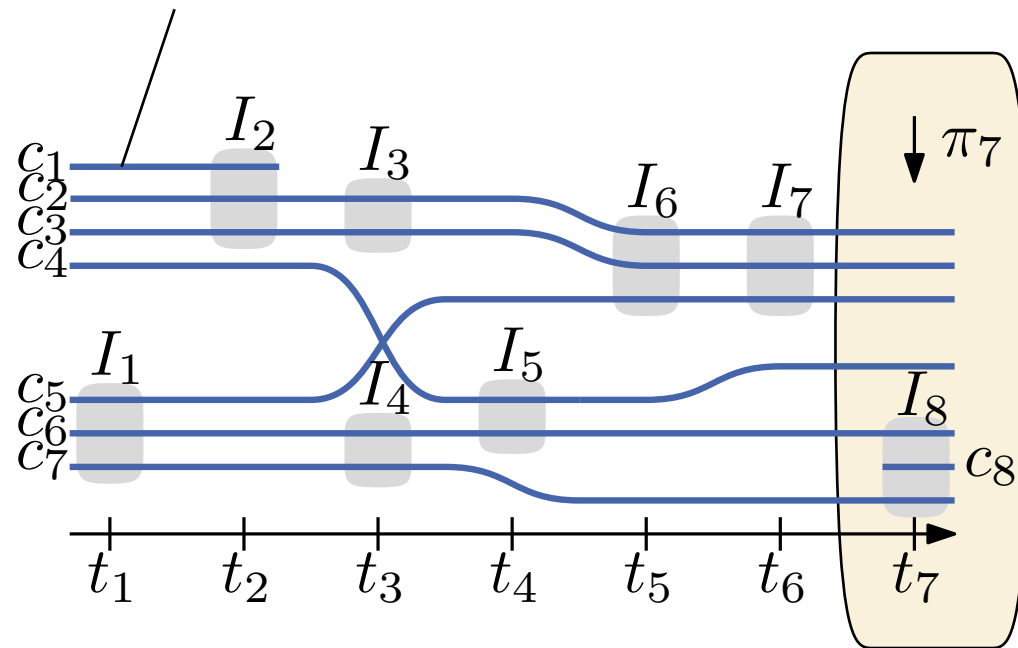
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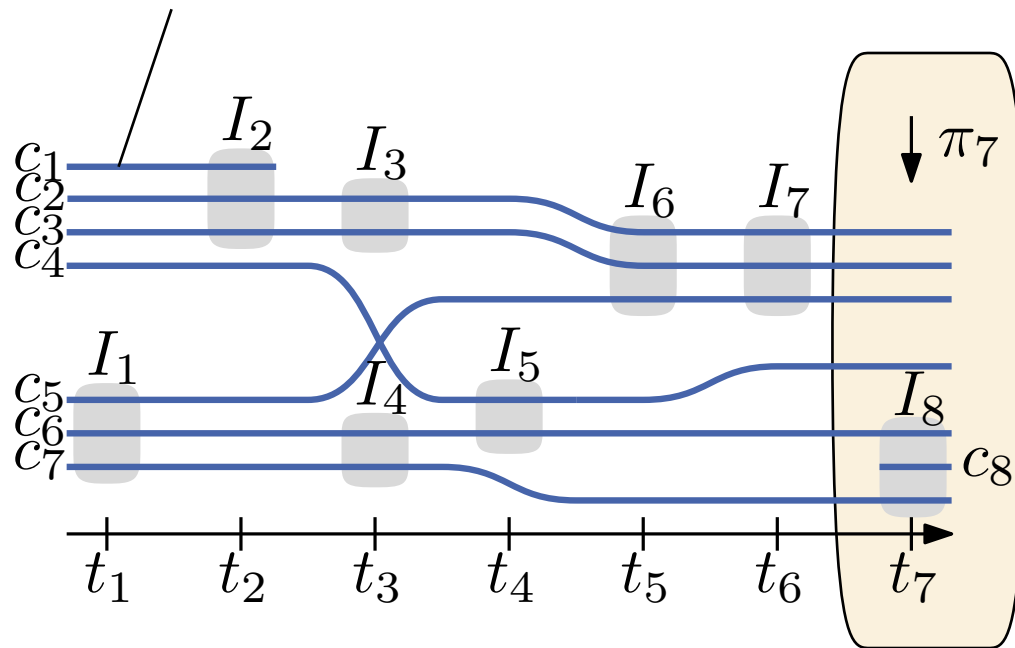


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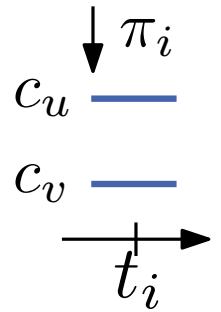


combinatorial problem!

Three Integer Programming Formulations

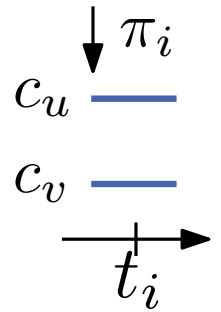
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In common: Binary variable $x_{i,u,v}$ which is 1 iff character c_u is above c_v at t_i



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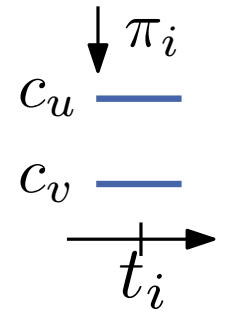
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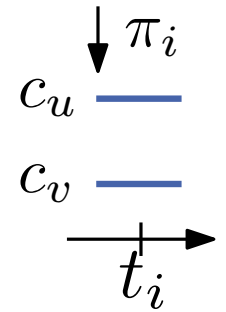
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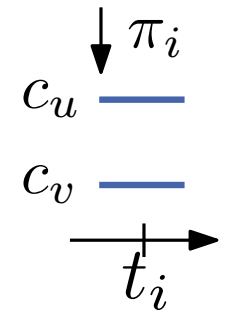
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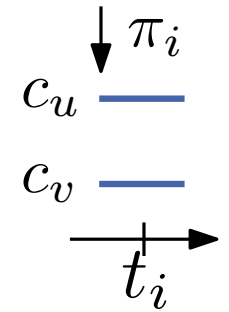
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[GJLM, 2016] implement this

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \max \sum_{e \in E_M} w_e z_e && (\text{CUT}) \\
 & \sum_{e \in F} z_e - \sum_{e \in C \setminus F} z_e \leq |F| - 1 && \text{for all cycles } C \subseteq E_M, F \subseteq C, |F| \text{ odd} \quad (\text{CYC}) \\
 & 0 \leq z_{(v^*, c_{uv}^i)} + z_{(v^*, c_{vw}^i)} - z_{(v^*, c_{uw}^i)} \leq 1 && \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, \ell; c_{uv}^i, c_{vw}^i, c_{uw}^i \in V_i \quad (\text{LOPC}) \\
 & && \text{with } c_u \prec_{\pi_i} c_v \prec_{\pi_i} c_w \\
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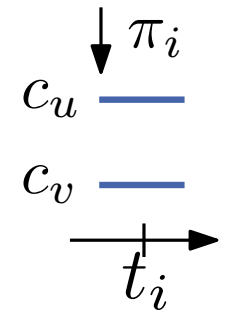
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exponential number of constraints
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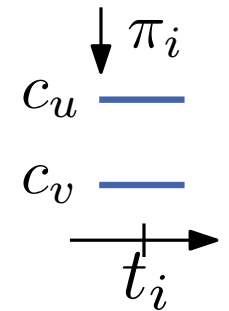
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We work with **simple** linear and quadratic model!

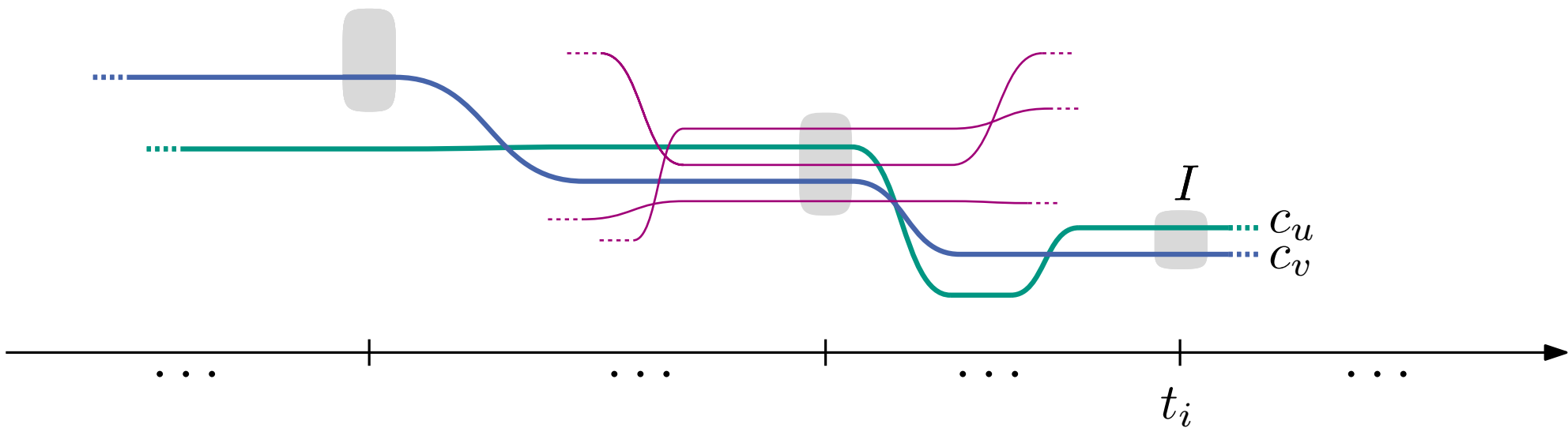
$$F \subseteq C, |F| \text{ odd}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{e \in E_M} w_e z_e && \text{(CUT)} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{e \in E_M} z_e = |C| && \text{(CYC)} \\ & 0 \leq z_{(c_u, c_v)} + z_{(c_v, c_w)} - z_{(c_u, c_w)} \leq 1 && \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, k; c_u, c_v, c_w \in V_i \text{ (LOPC)} \\ & && \text{with } c_u \prec_{t_i} c_v, c_v \prec_{t_i} c_w \\ & z_{(c_u, c_v)} = z_{(c_v, c_w)} && \text{if } c_u, c_v \prec_{t_i} c_w \\ & z_{(c_u, c_v)} = z_{(c_v, c_w)} && \text{if } c_u, c_v \succ_{t_i} c_w \\ & z_{(c_u, c_v)} \in \{0, 1\} && \text{for all } e \in E_M \end{aligned}$$

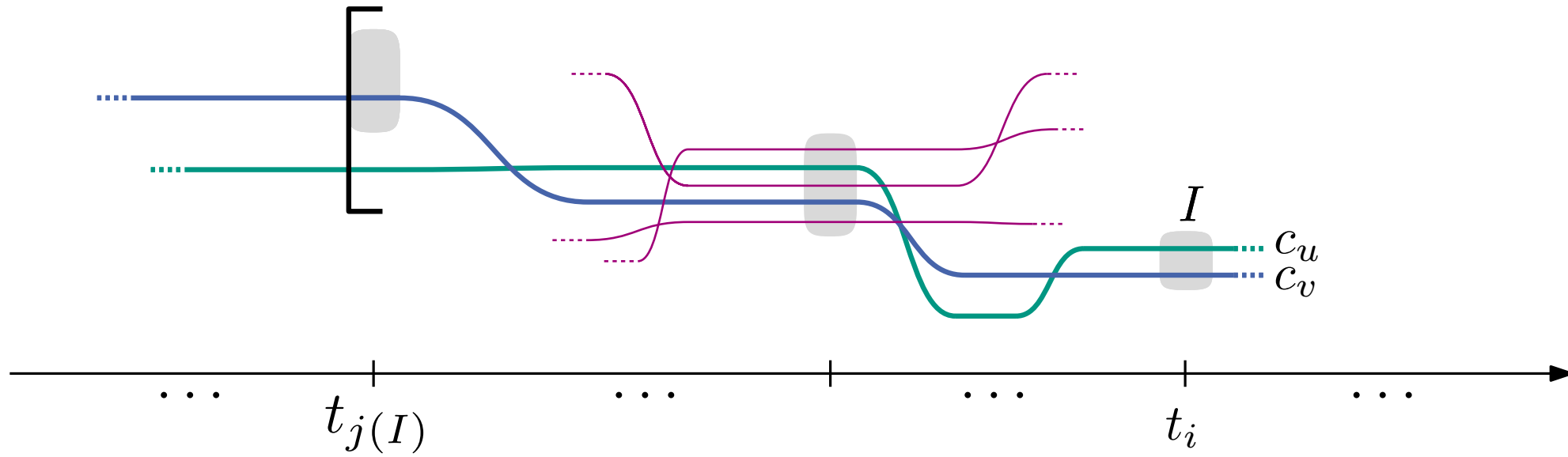
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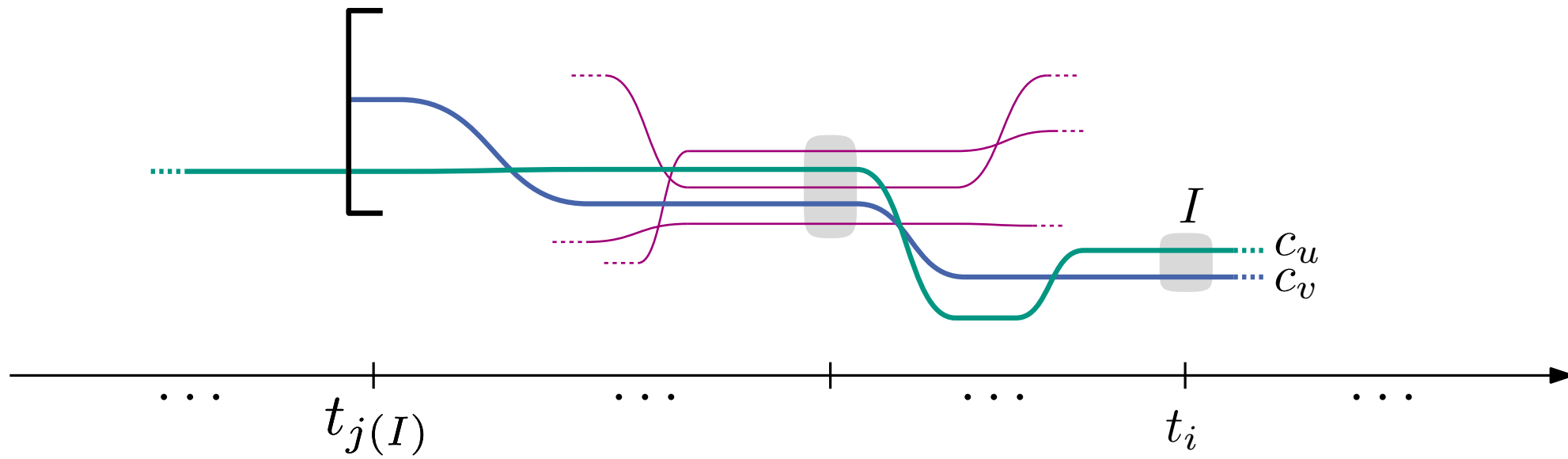
Structural Property 1



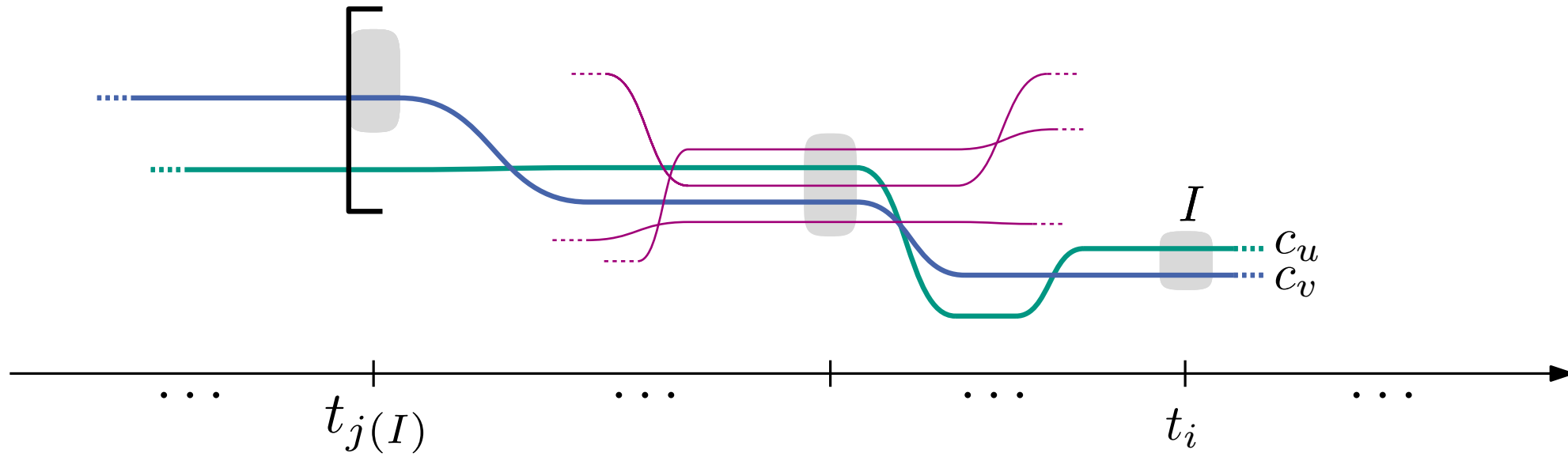
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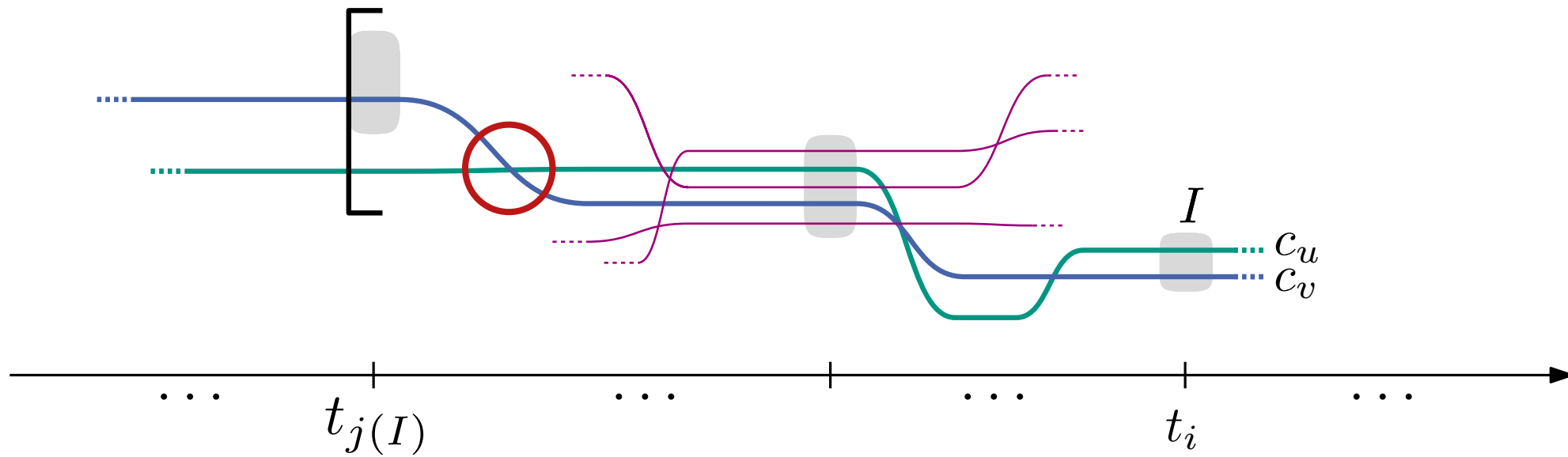
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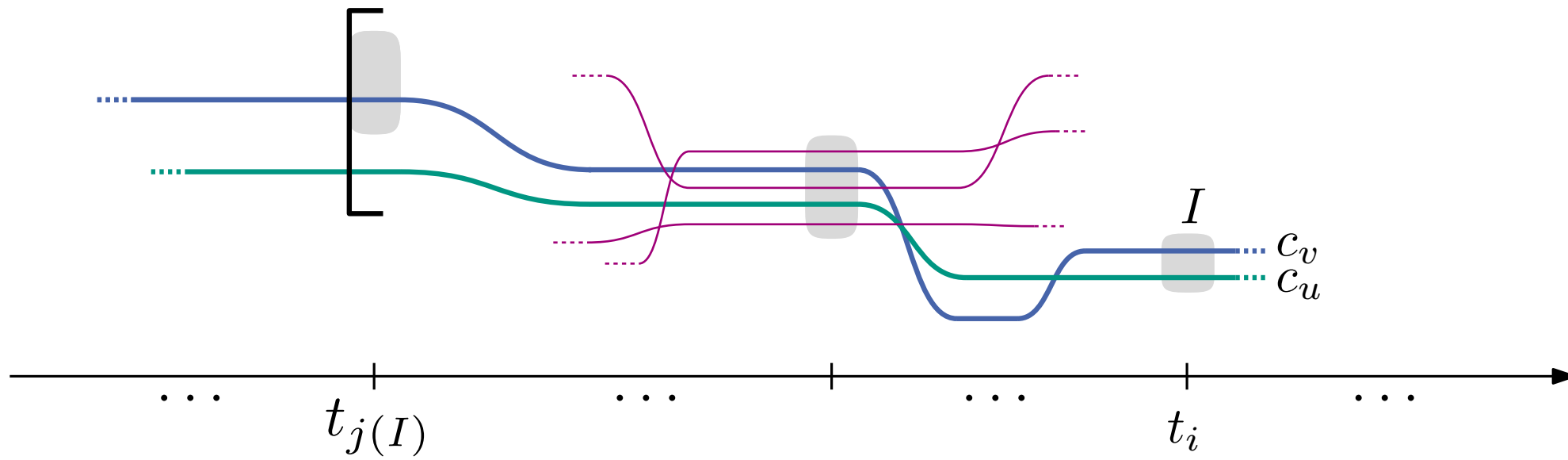
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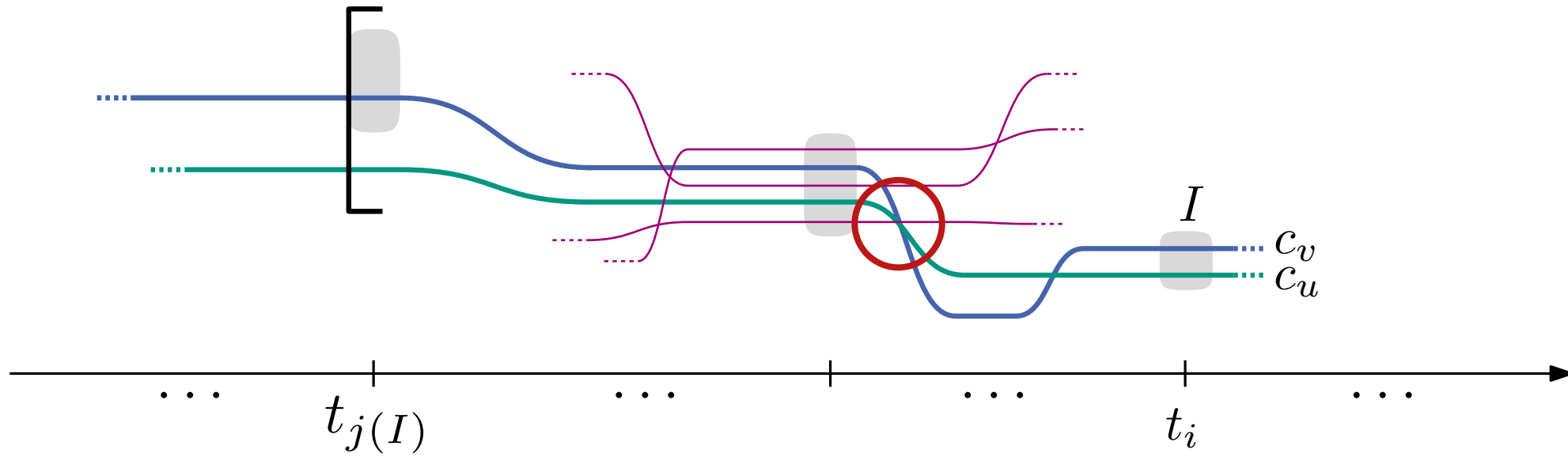
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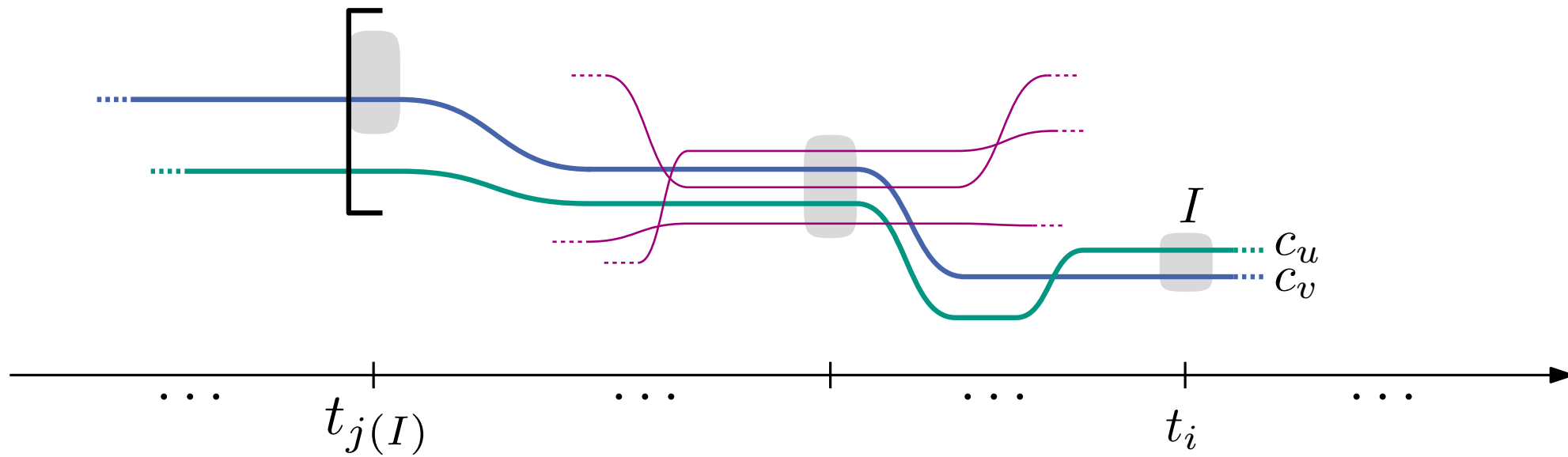
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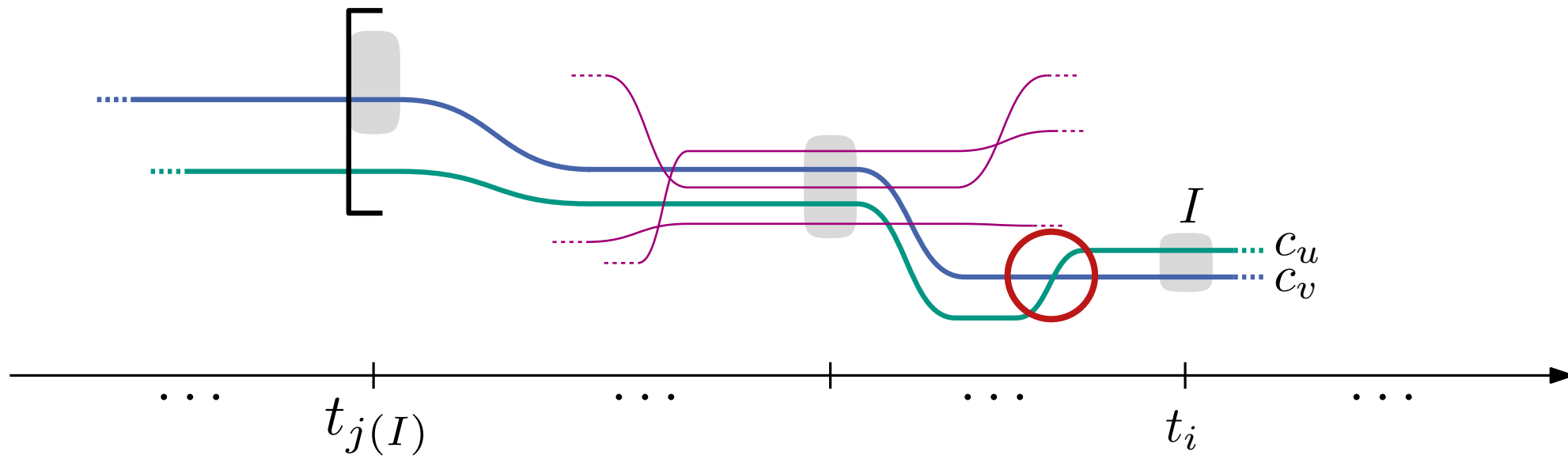
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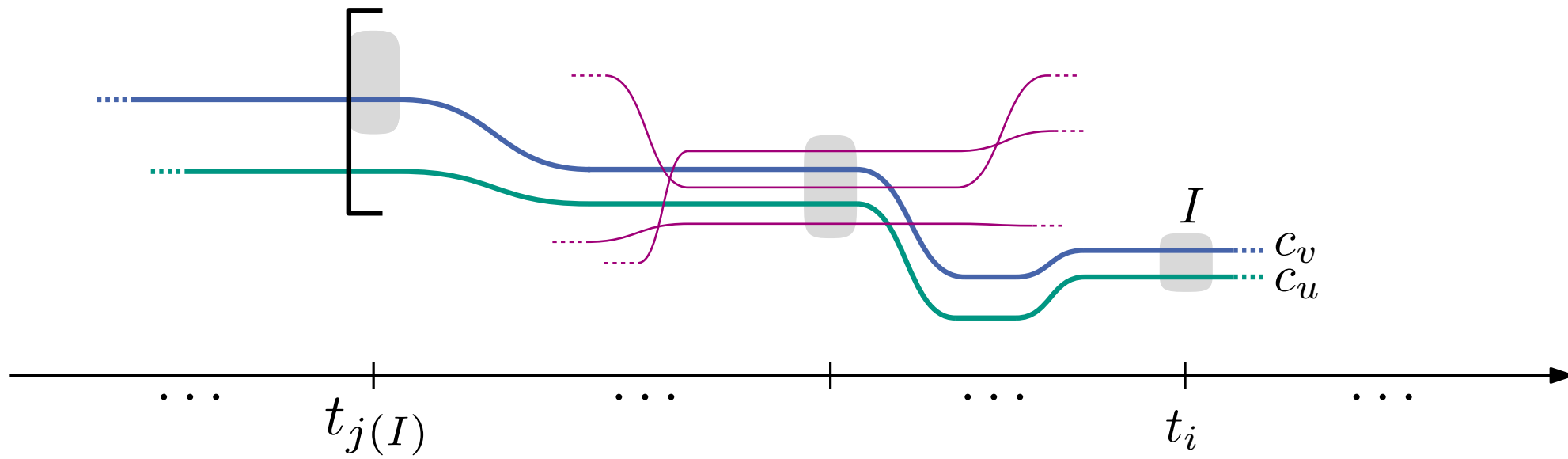
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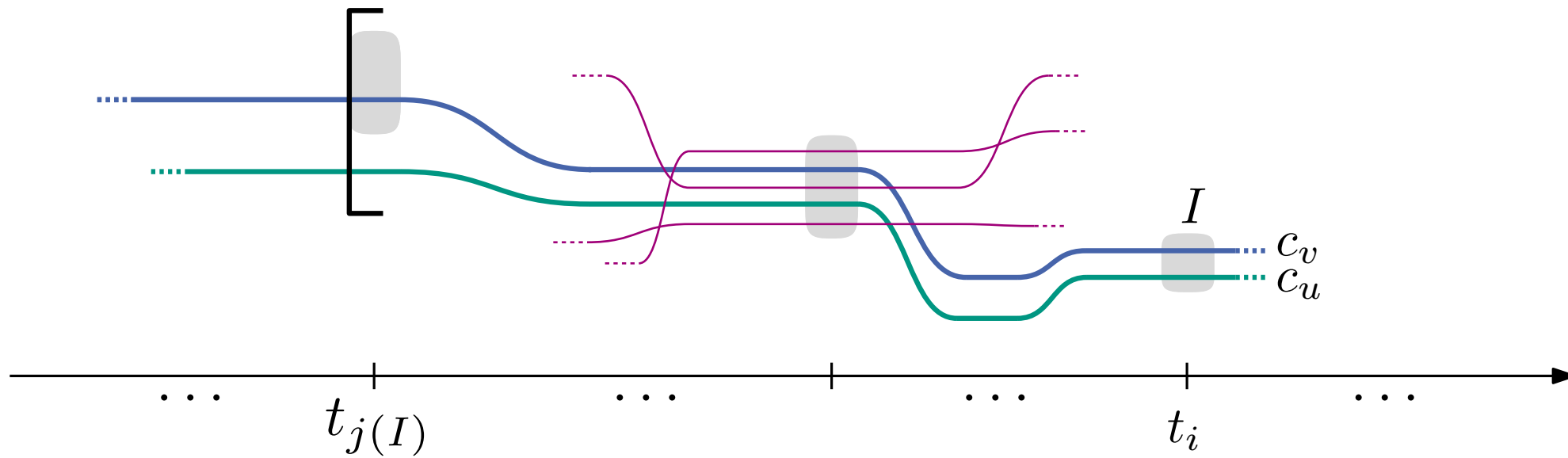
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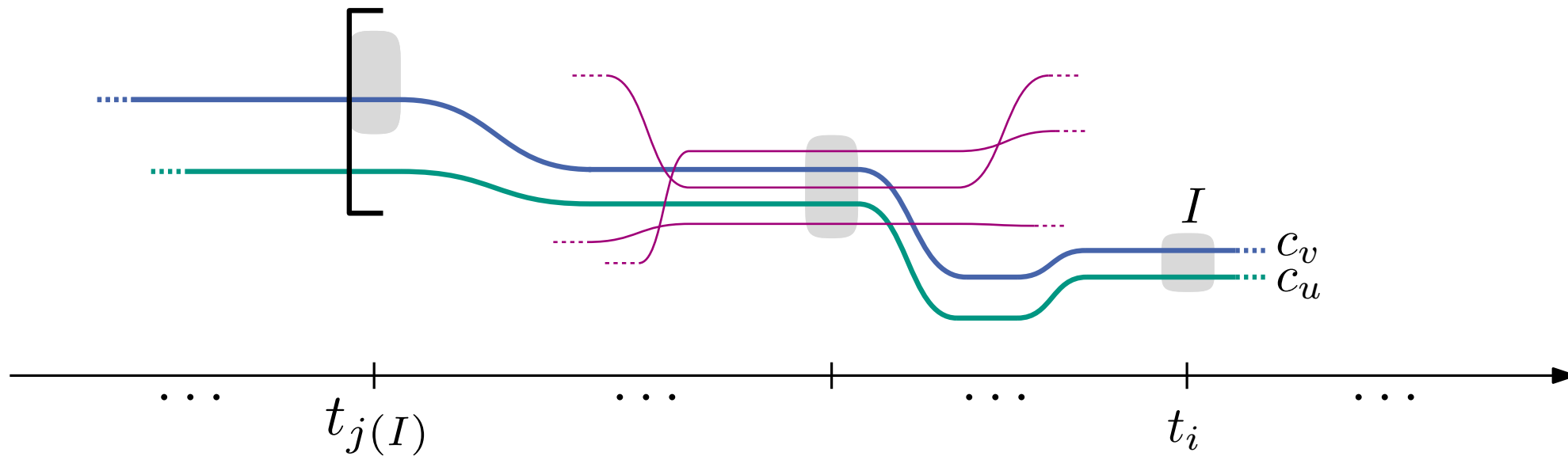
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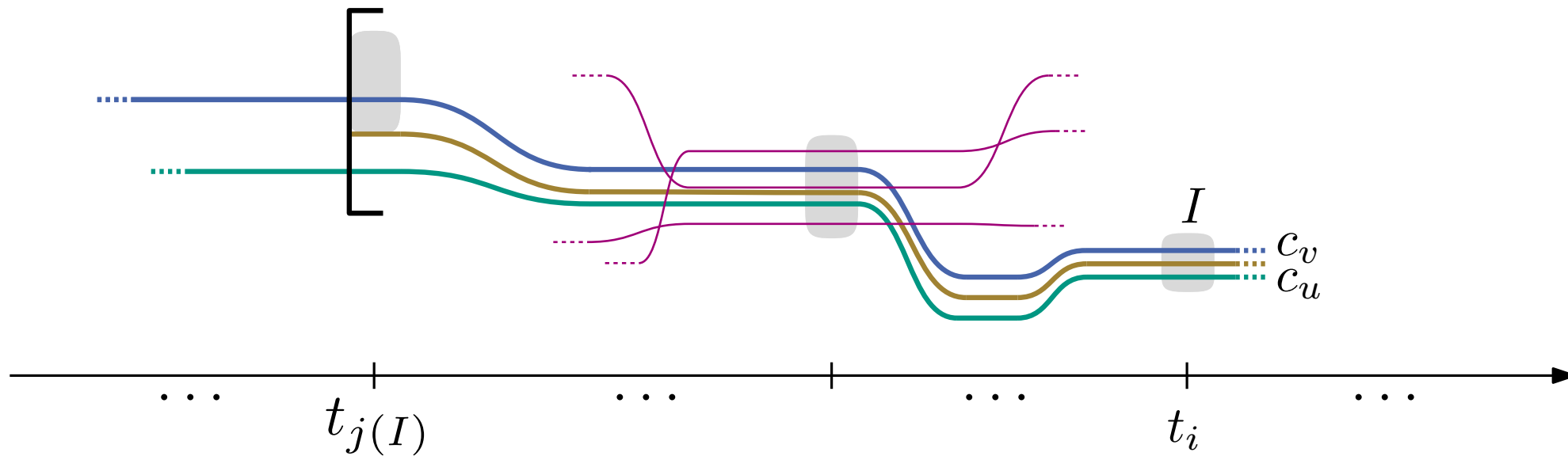


Theorem. This untangling does not increase crossings.



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$\Rightarrow$ add **symmetry breaking constraints**: $x_{j(I),u,v} = x_{k,u,v}, \forall k \in \{j(I) + 1, \dots, i\}$

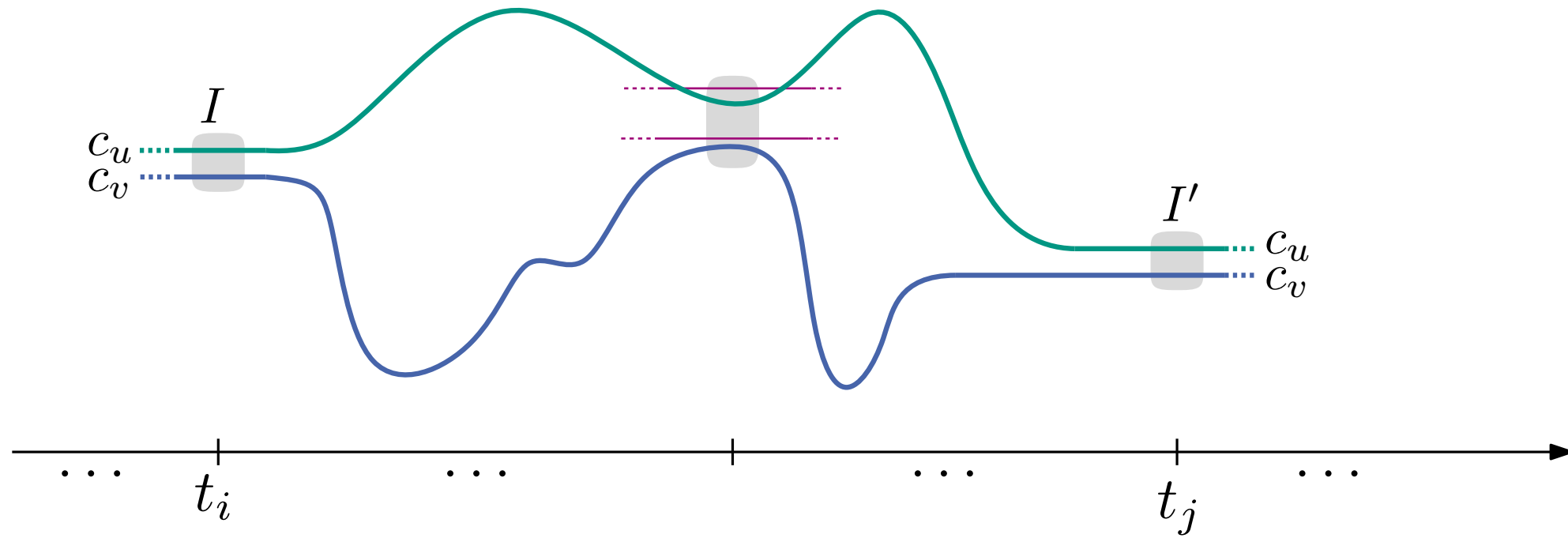


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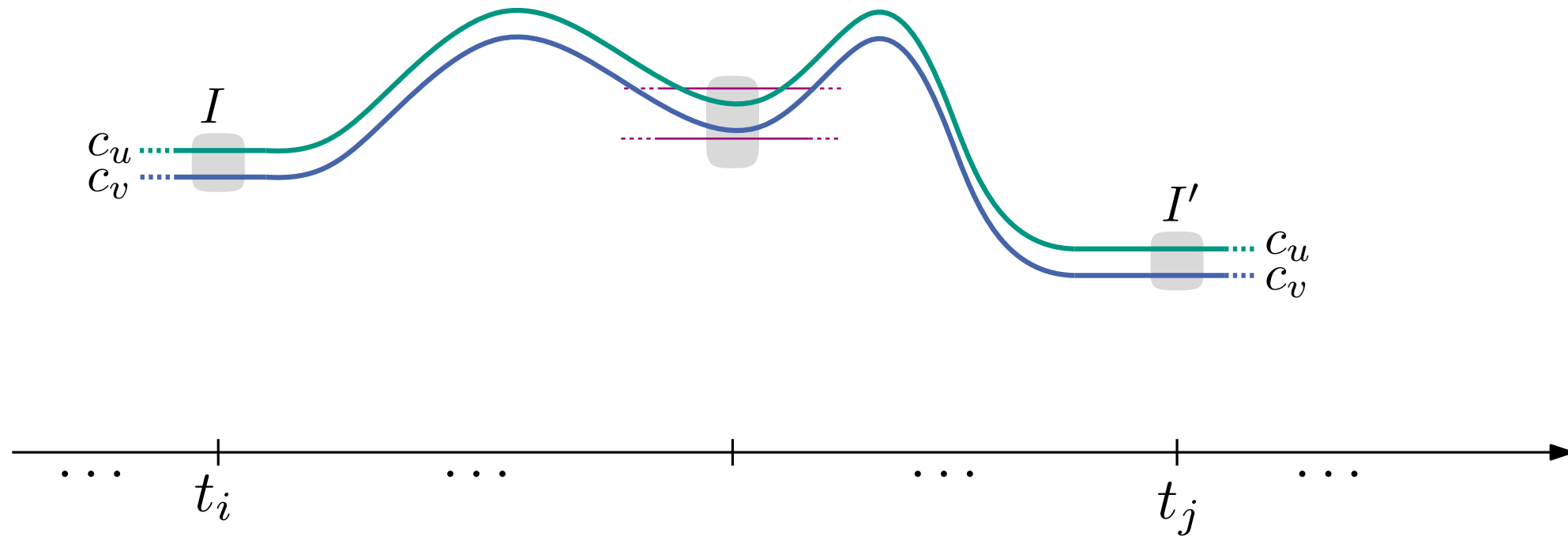
$\Rightarrow$ add **symmetry breaking constraints**: $x_{j(I),u,v} = x_{k,u,v}, \forall k \in \{j(I) + 1, \dots, i\}$

This also works for **more than two characters!**

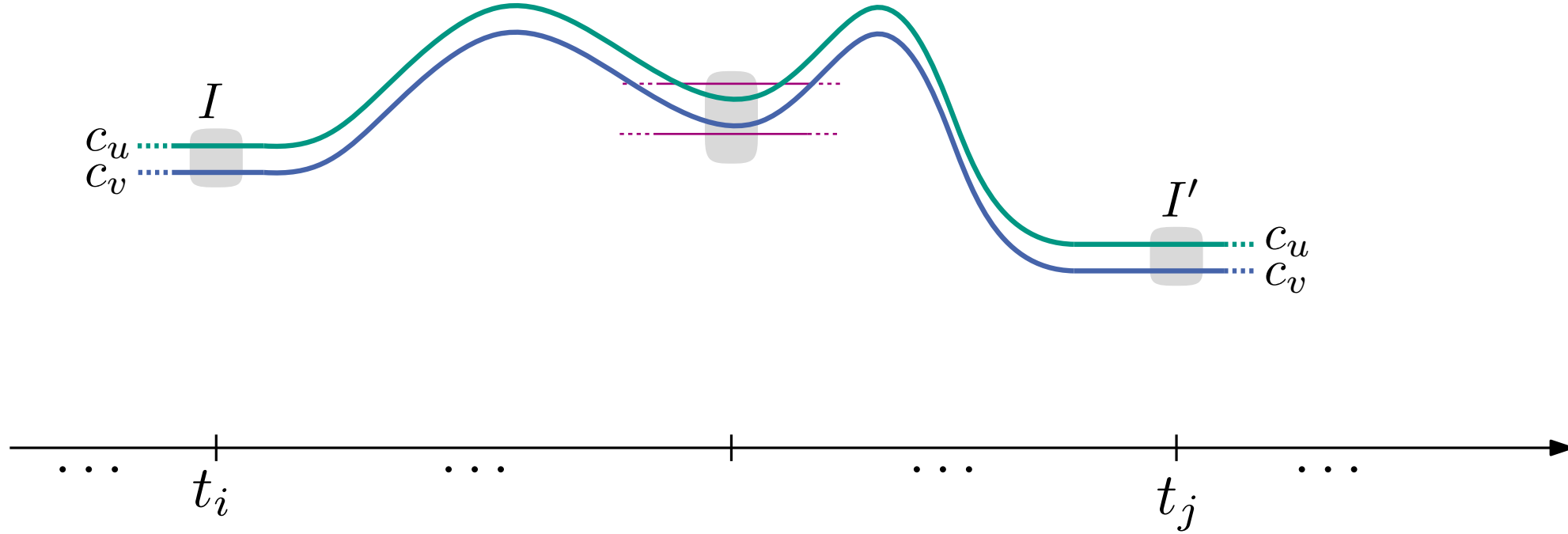
Structural Property 2



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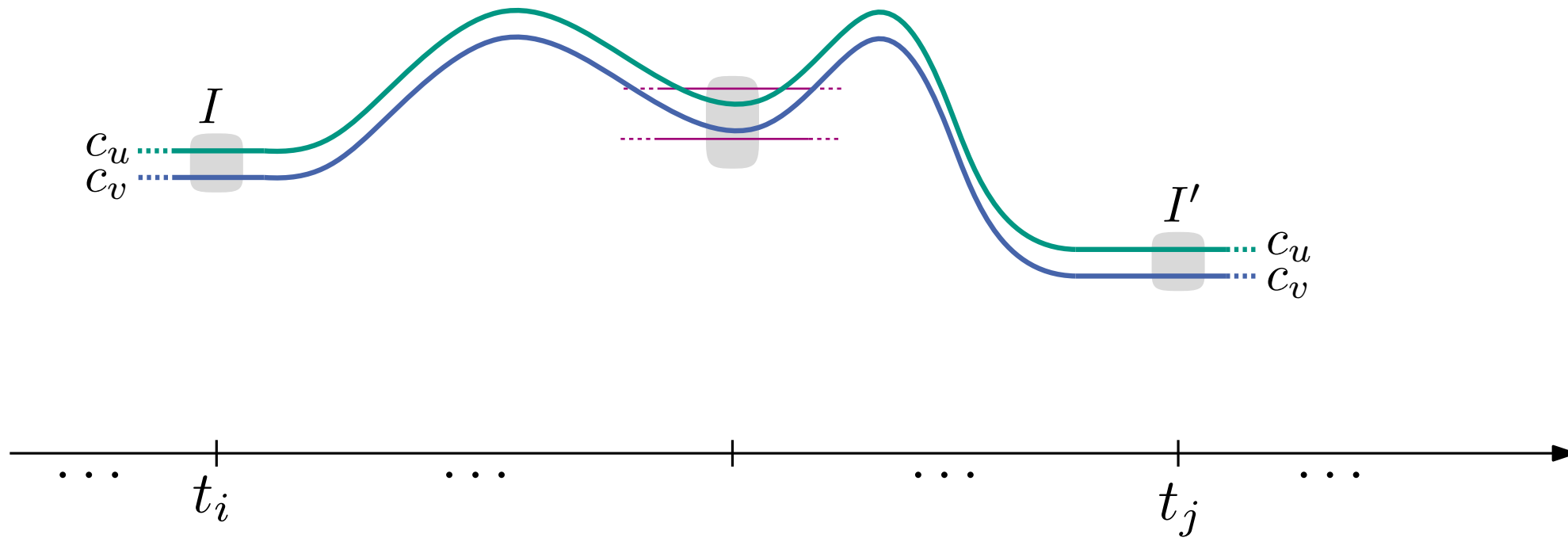


Structural Property 2



$\Rightarrow$ more **symmetry breaking constraints**: $x_{k,u,w} = x_{k,v,w}$,
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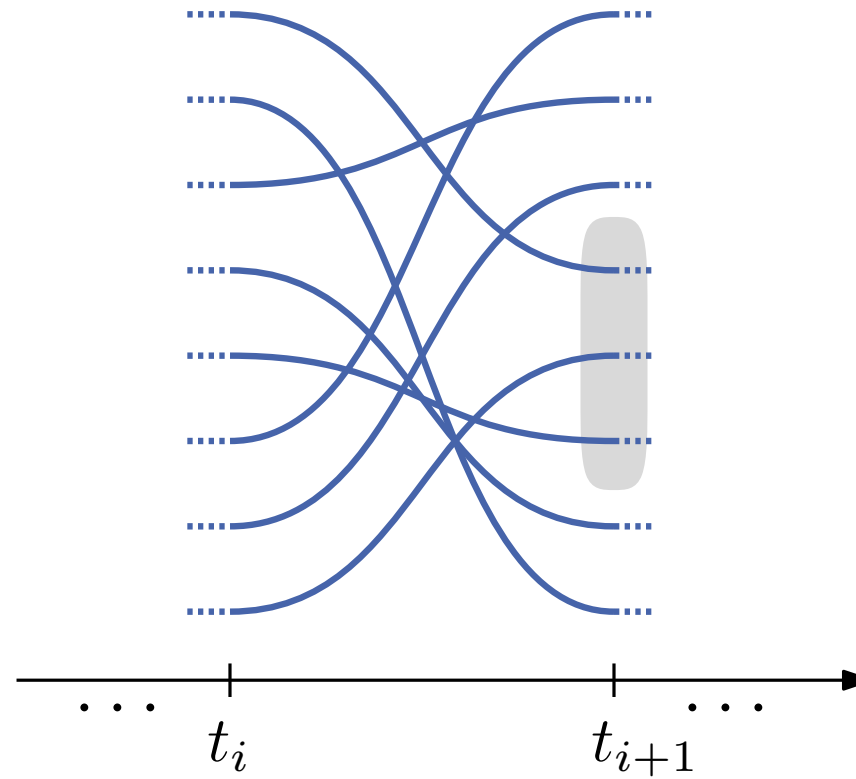
Also **extends** to
interaction with **more**
characters!

Structural Property 3 and New ILP Model

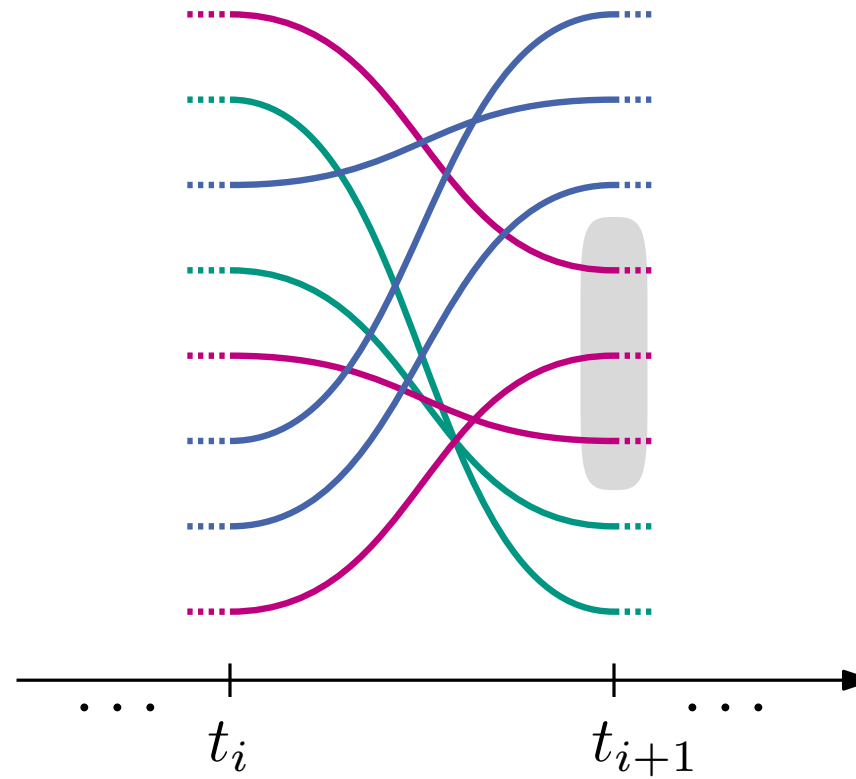
Models have **cubic** number of
transitivity constraints

$$x_{i,u,v} + x_{i,v,w} + x_{i,w,u} \leq 2$$
$$\forall i \dots, \ell; c_u, c_v, c_w \in AC(t_i)$$

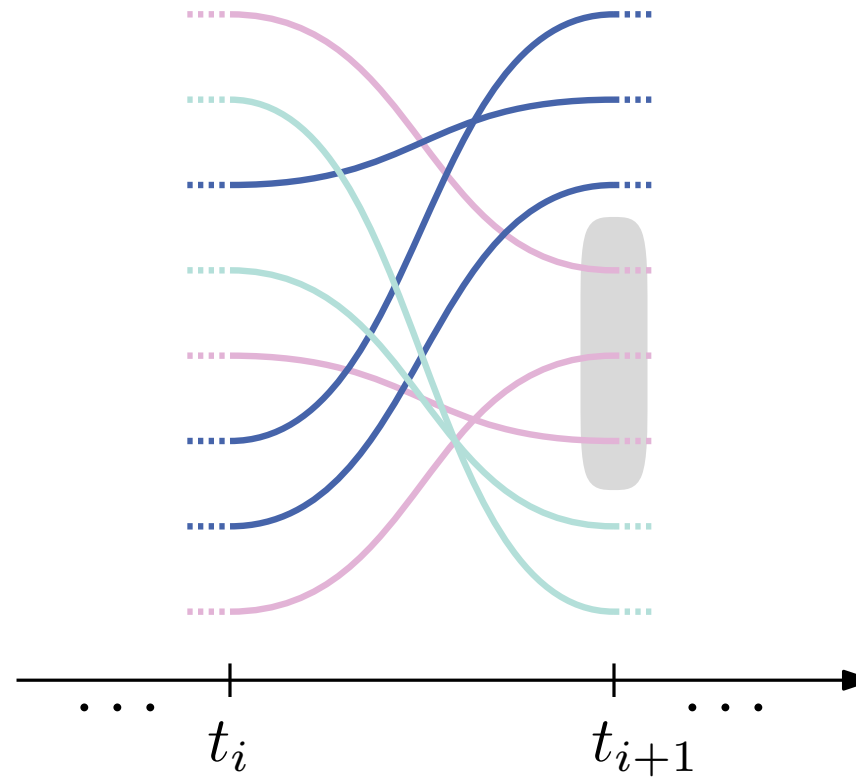
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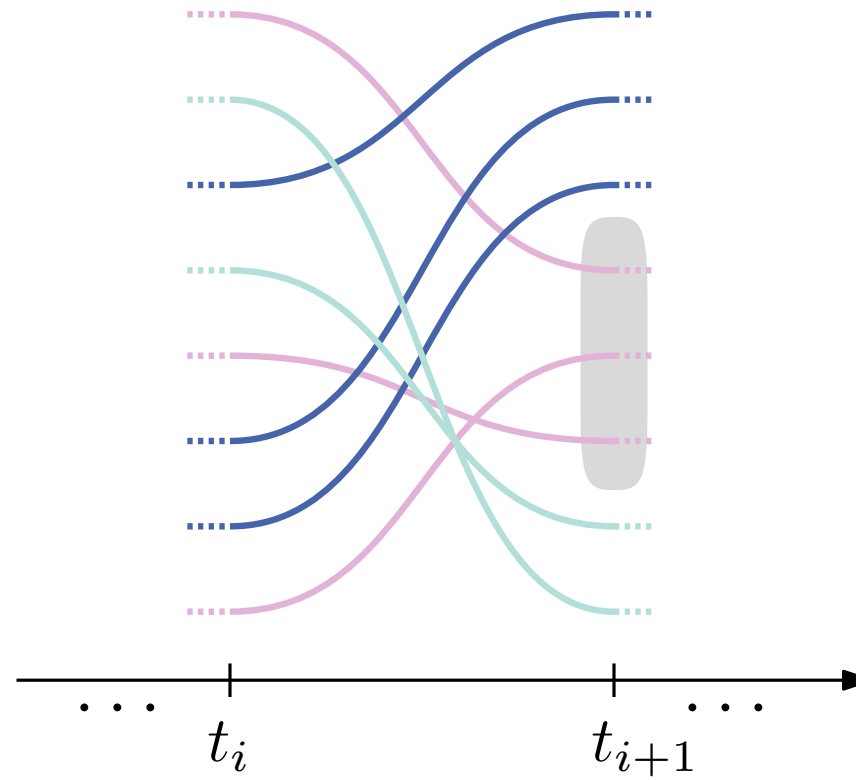
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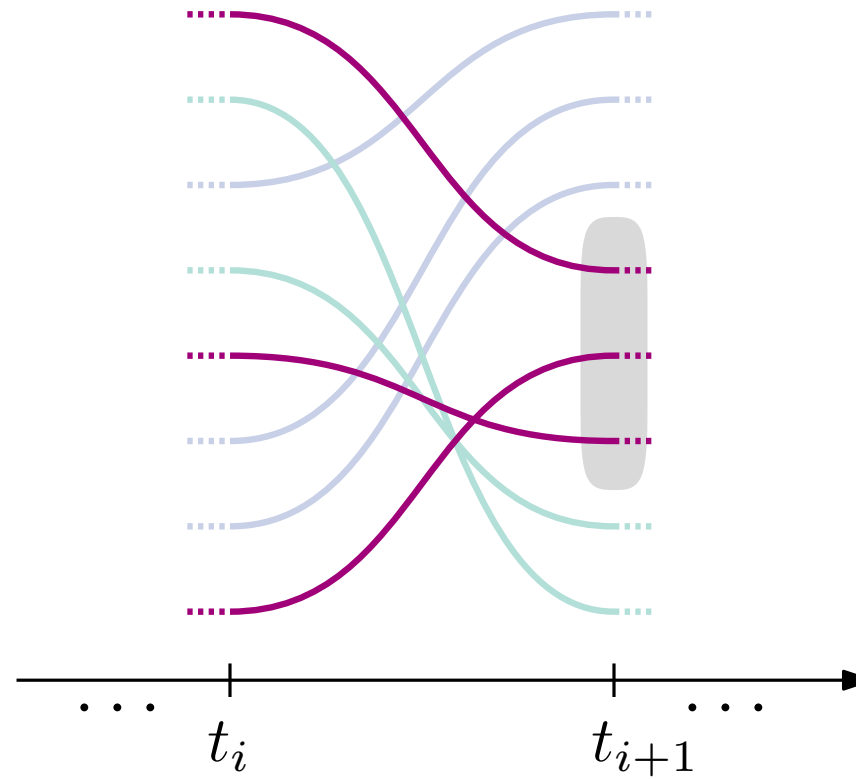
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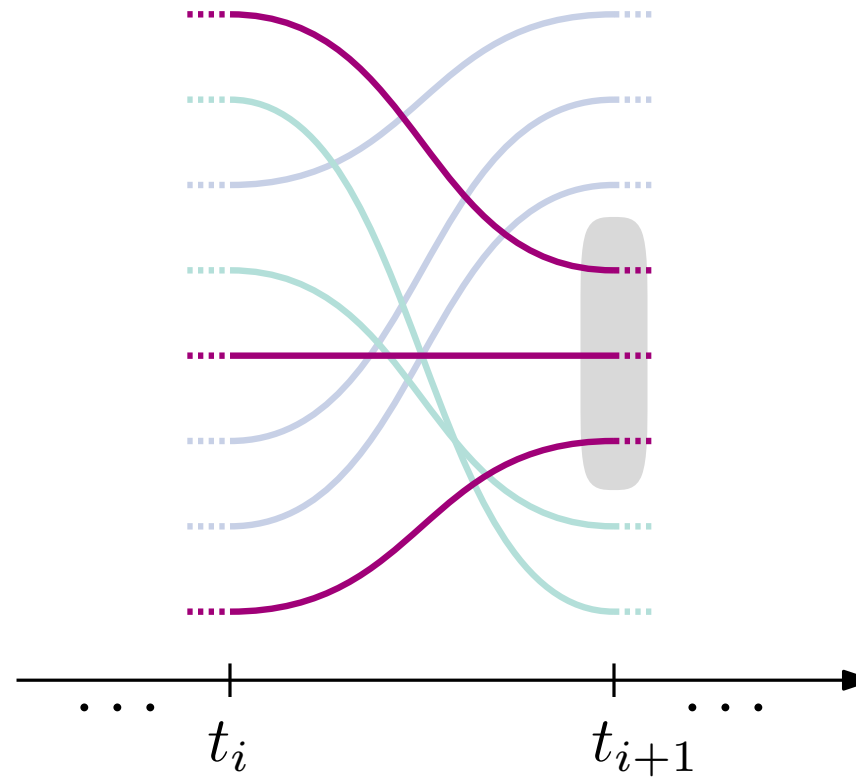
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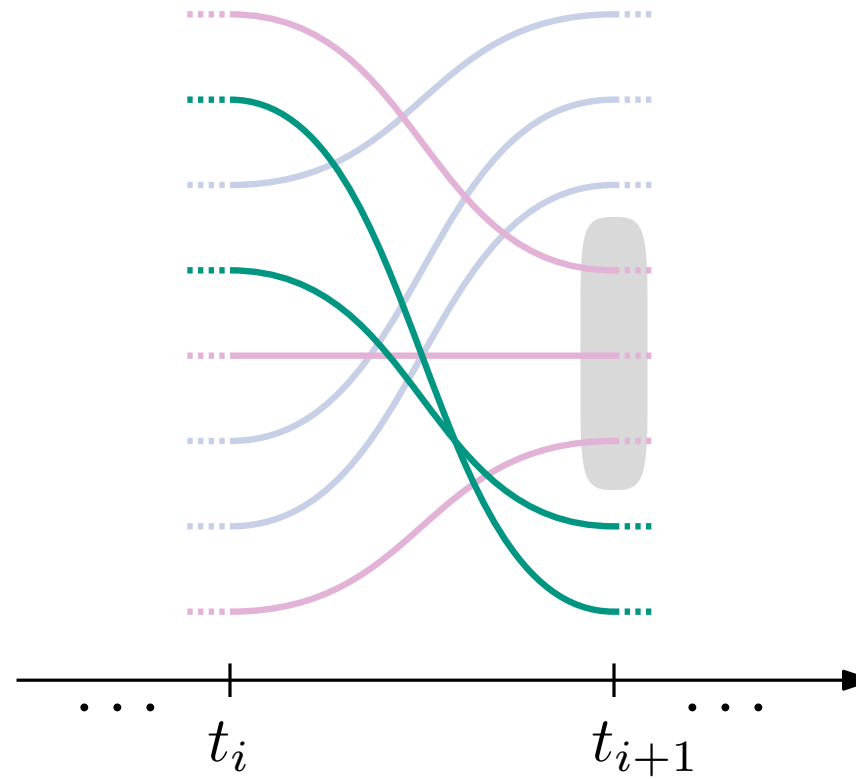
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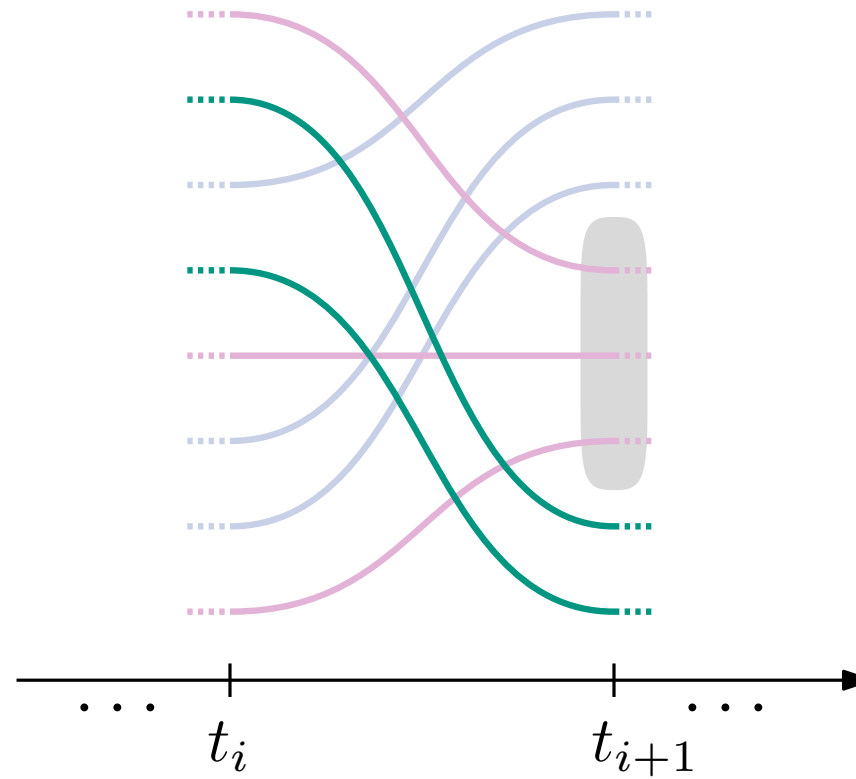
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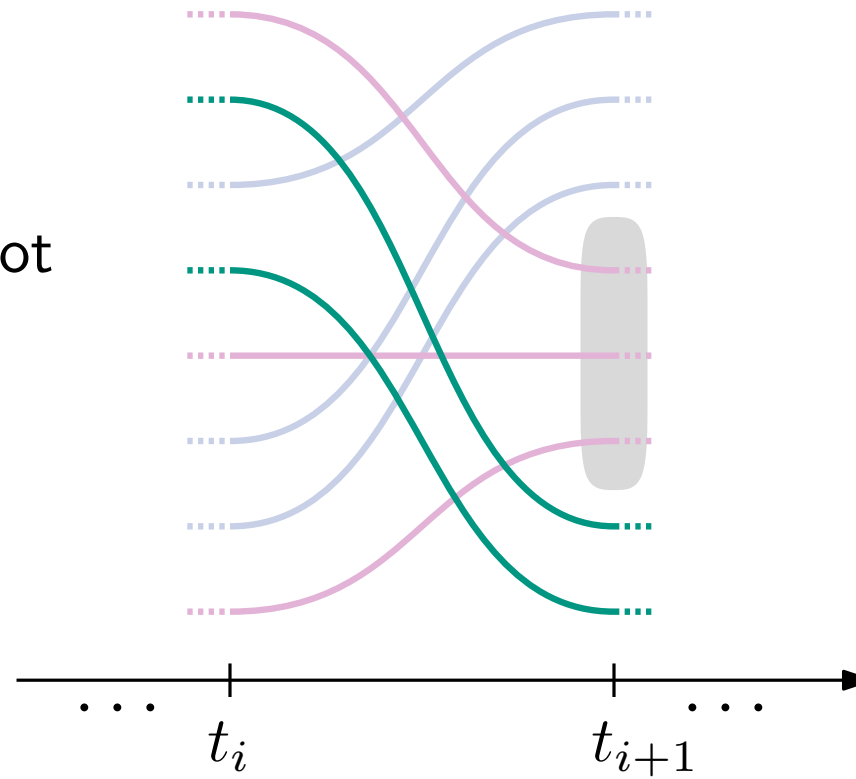


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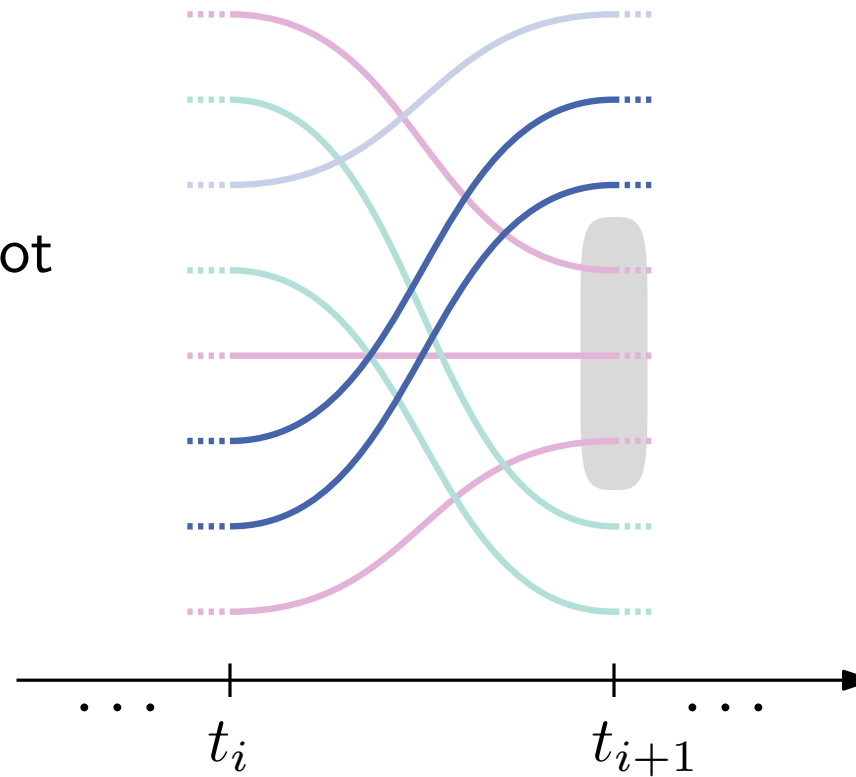


Structural Property 3 and New ILP Model

Theorem. Untangling does not increase crossings.

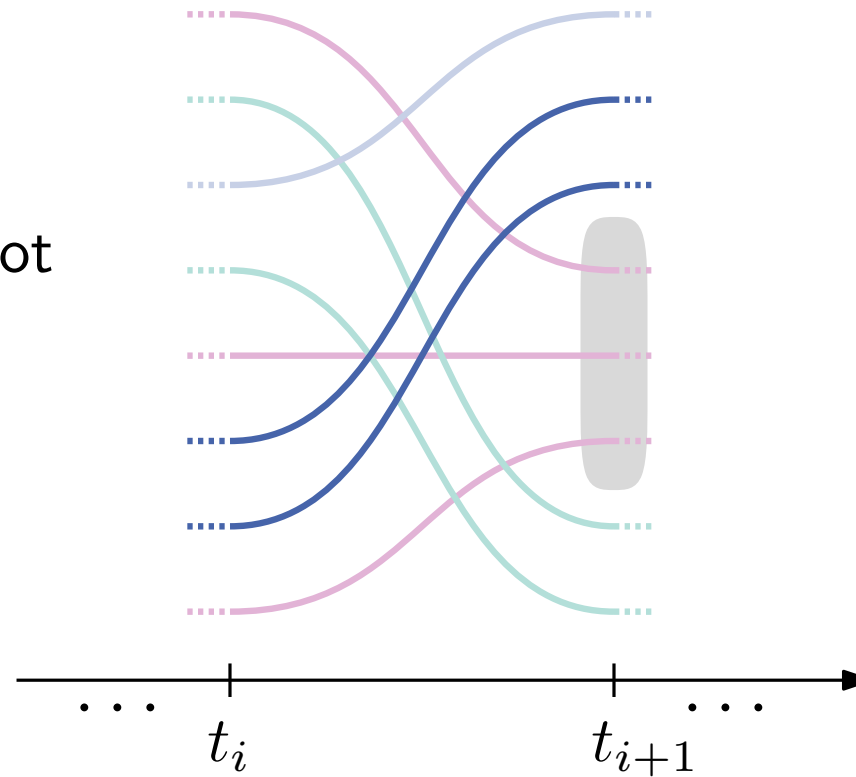


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$\Rightarrow$ for a pair of characters above I relative order propagated from t_i

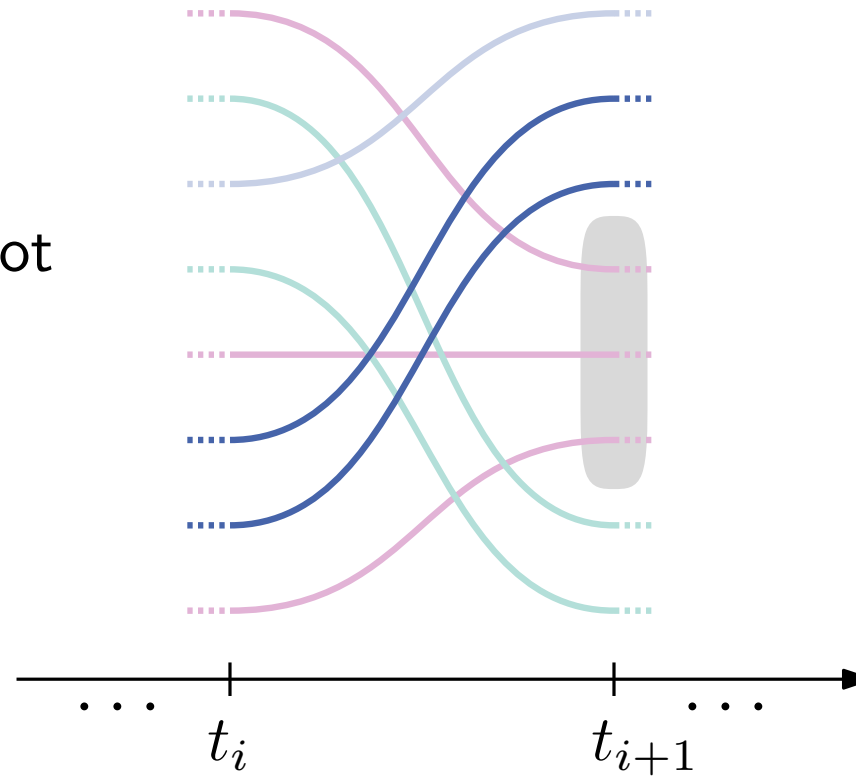
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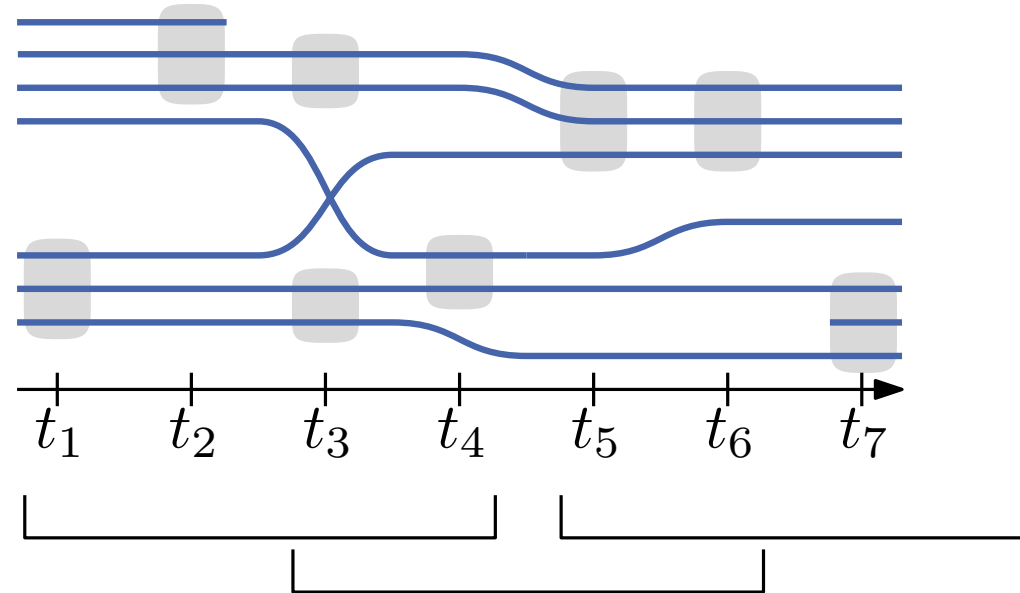


New Model: **PLO**

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With some **additional** constraints we can get to **quadratic instead of cubic** number of constraints

- **structural** problem-specific **insights**,
- **initial heuristic**, and
- **exploitation heuristics** for fractional solutions



Compute optimal solution for **overlapping slices** and **glue them together**

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ILP solver gives **fractional LP solutions** during solution process

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Round them to get good **upper bounds** on optimal solution.

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Afterwards: apply **local search** based on **structural observations** and a **barycenter-type heuristic**

Algorithms

- **MC**: Reimplemented Max-Cut Formulation of [GJLM, 2016]
- **LIN**: Linearized model
- **QDR**: Quadratic model
- **PLO**: New model based on structural insights

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All algorithms use **Gurobi** (Gurobi allows quadratic models)

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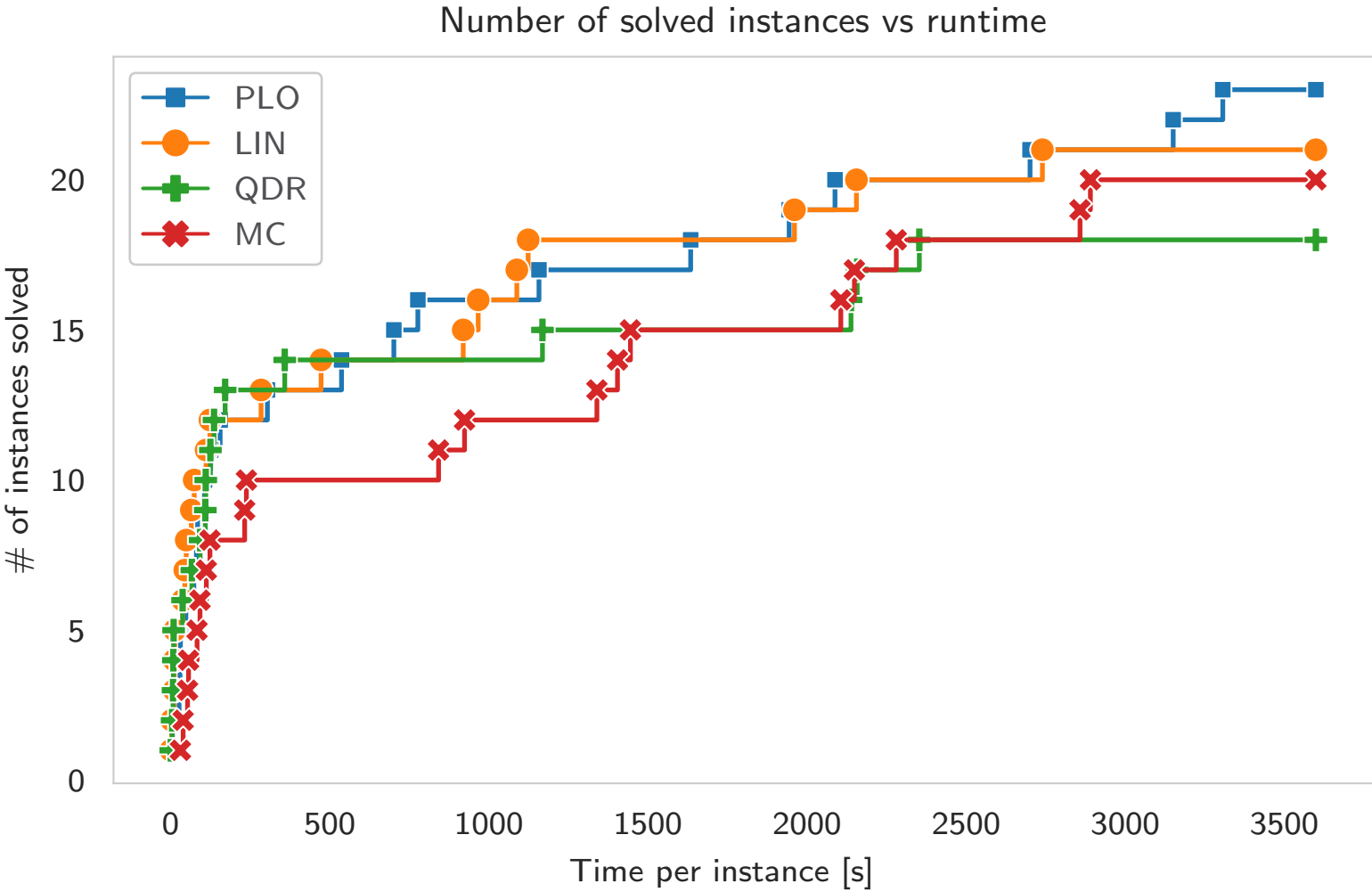
Evaluation: **23** instances

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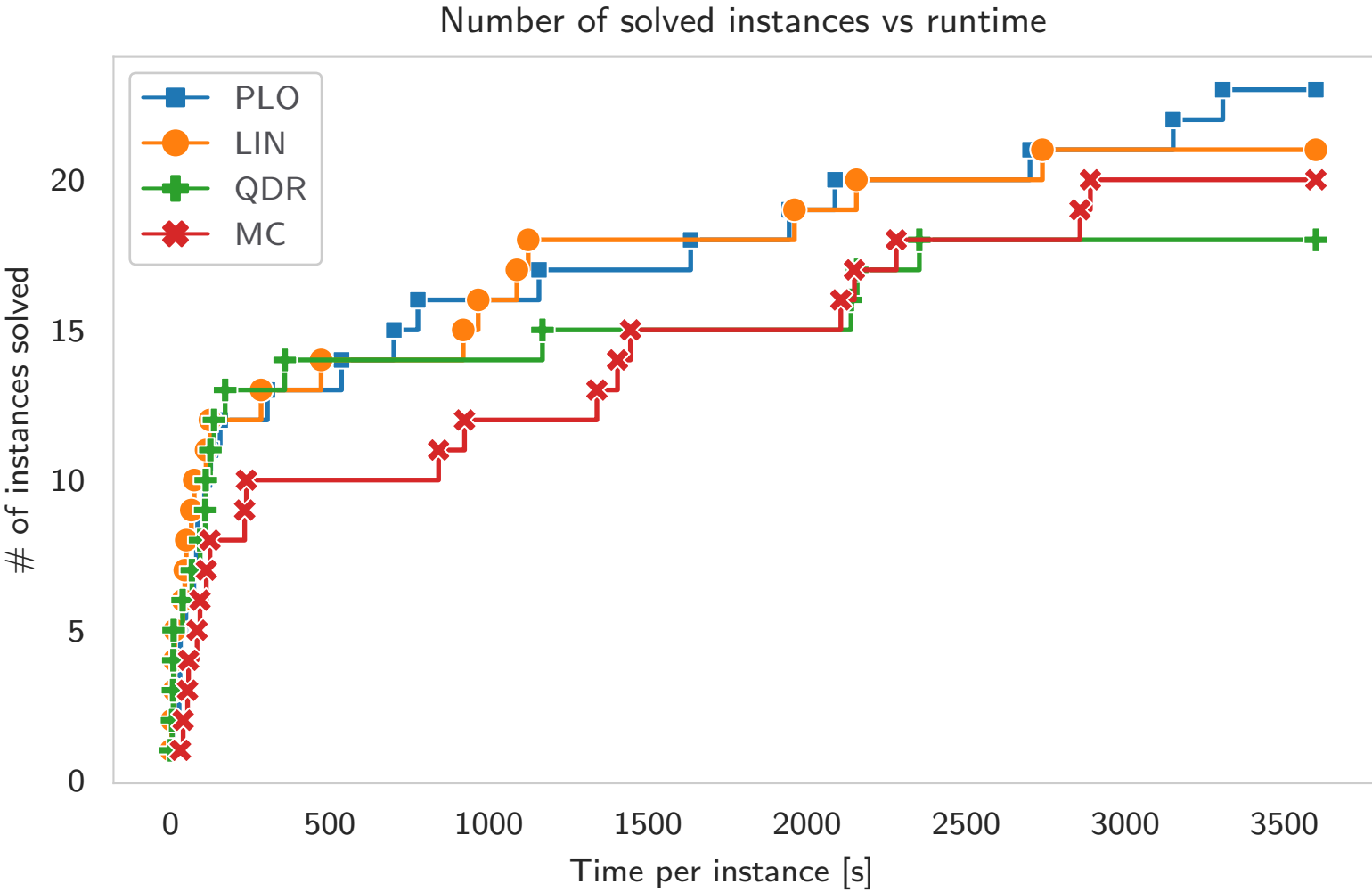
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Evaluation: **23** instances

35–88 characters, 54–329 interactions

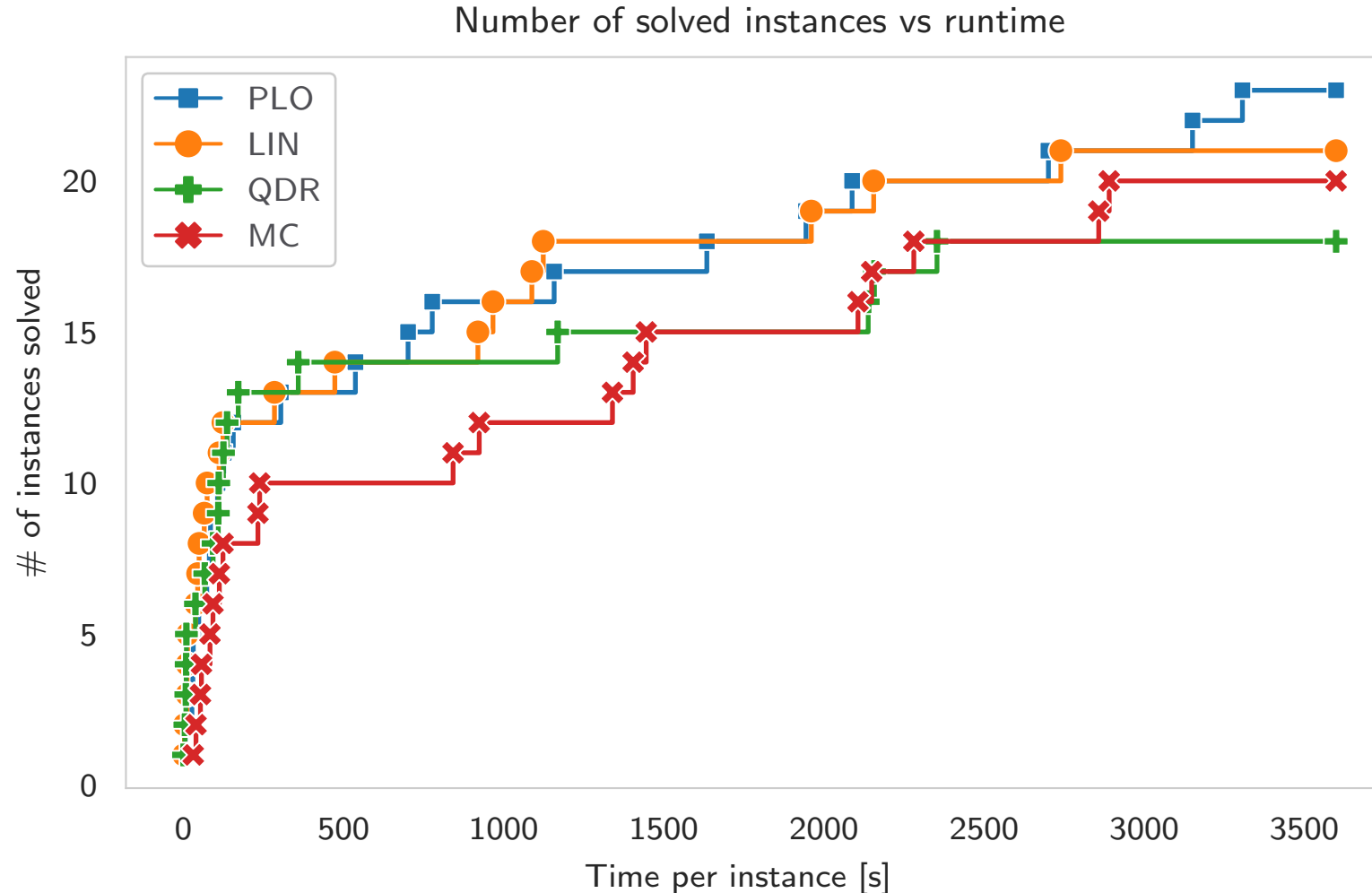


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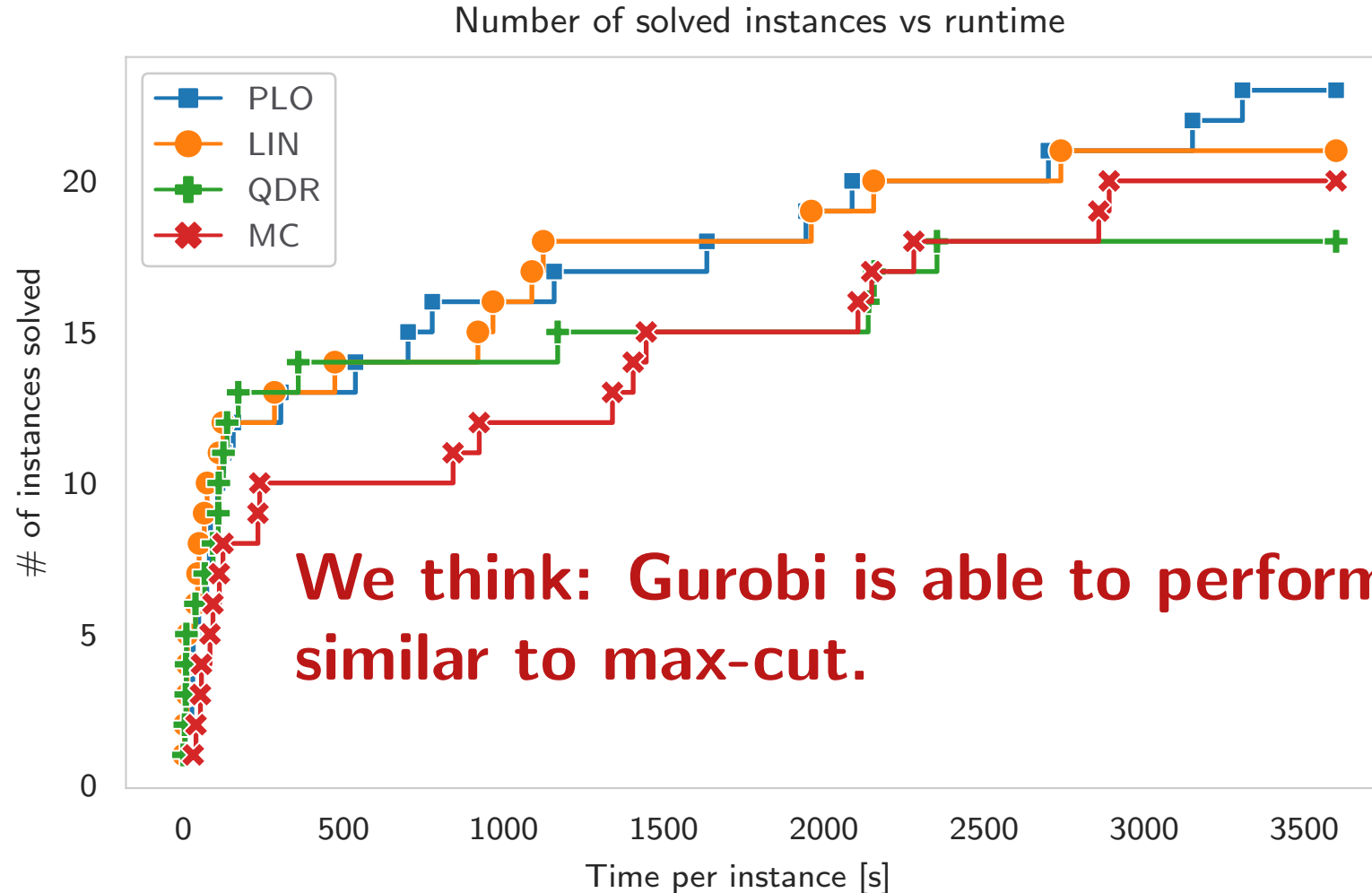
New model solves all 23 considered instances within time limit!



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LIN and **PLO** perform better than **MC** by [GJLM, 2016], **2–3 times faster**



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We think: Gurobi is able to perform transformation similar to max-cut.

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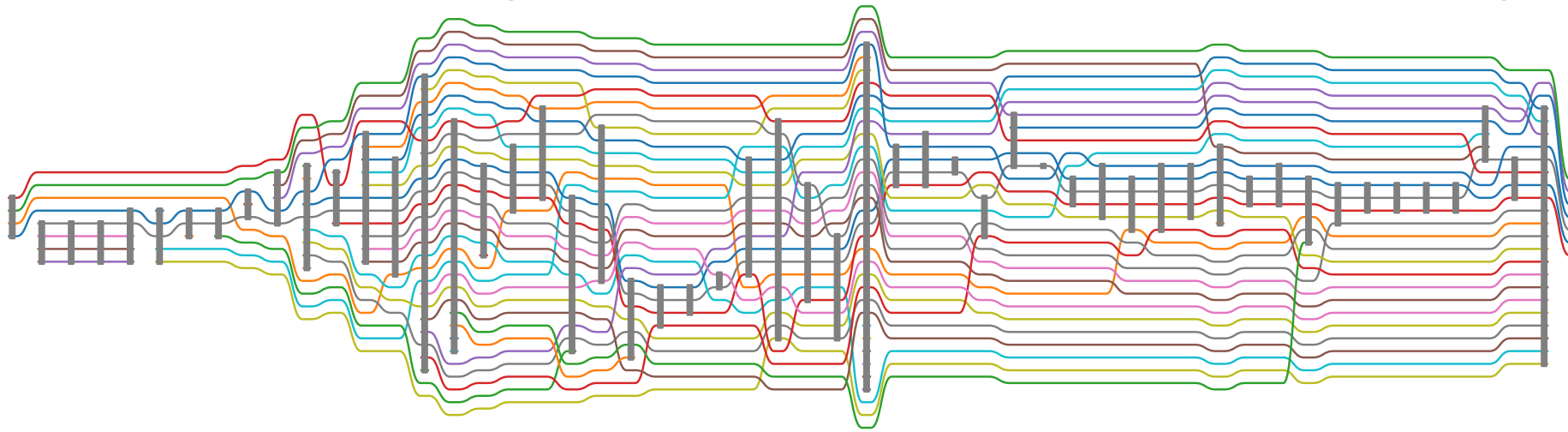
- **SBC**: symmetry breaking constraints
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speedup factor	PLO	LIN	QDR
SBC	1.12	1.35	1.42
INIT	1.05	1.09	0.97
RND	1.50	1.37	1.52

Enriching **simpler models** by problem-specific insights can **outperform more complex models** (at least when implemented in Gurobi).

Conclusion

Enriching **simpler models** by problem-specific insights can **outperform more complex models** (at least when implemented in Gurobi).



Harry Potter 1

PLO: 776s

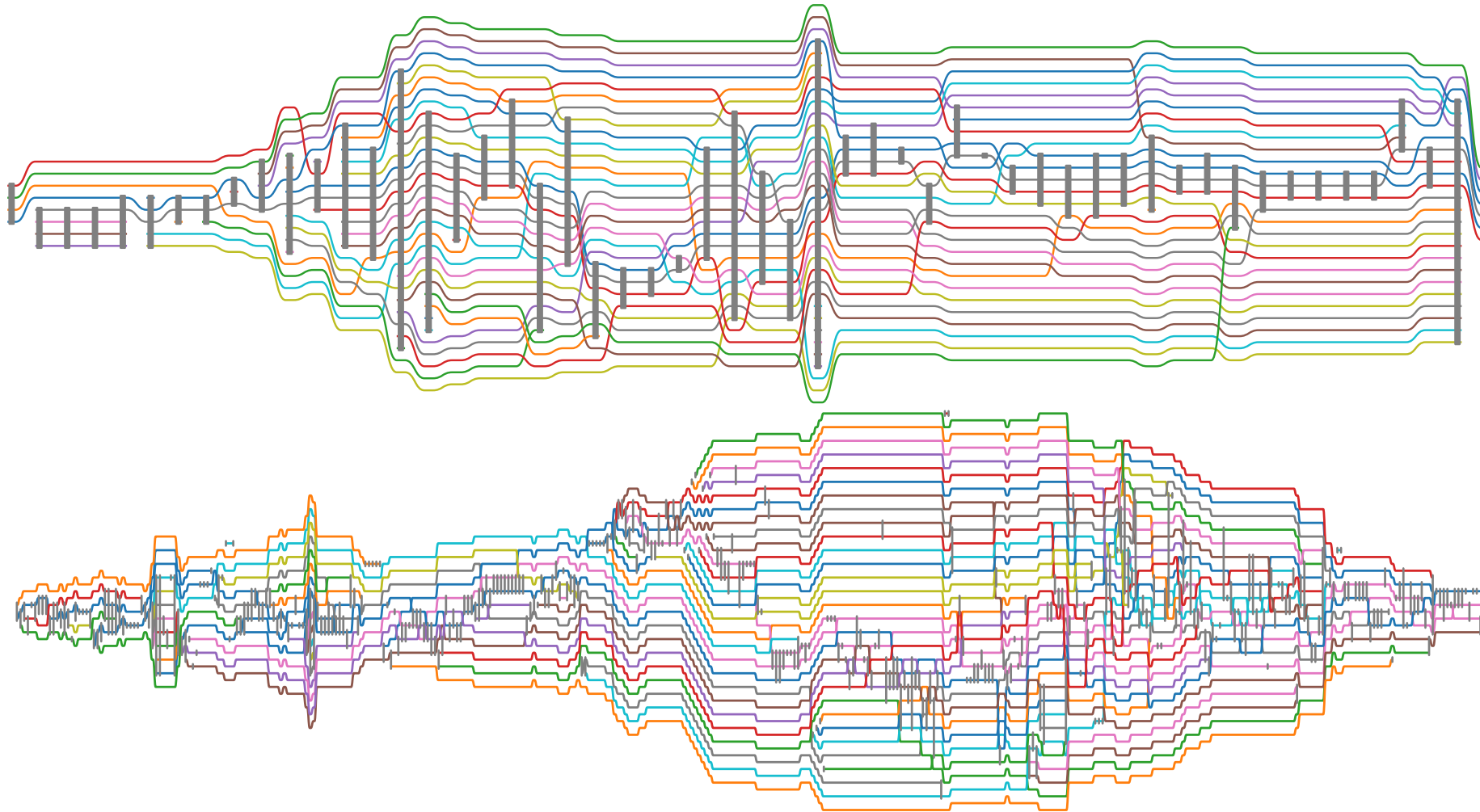
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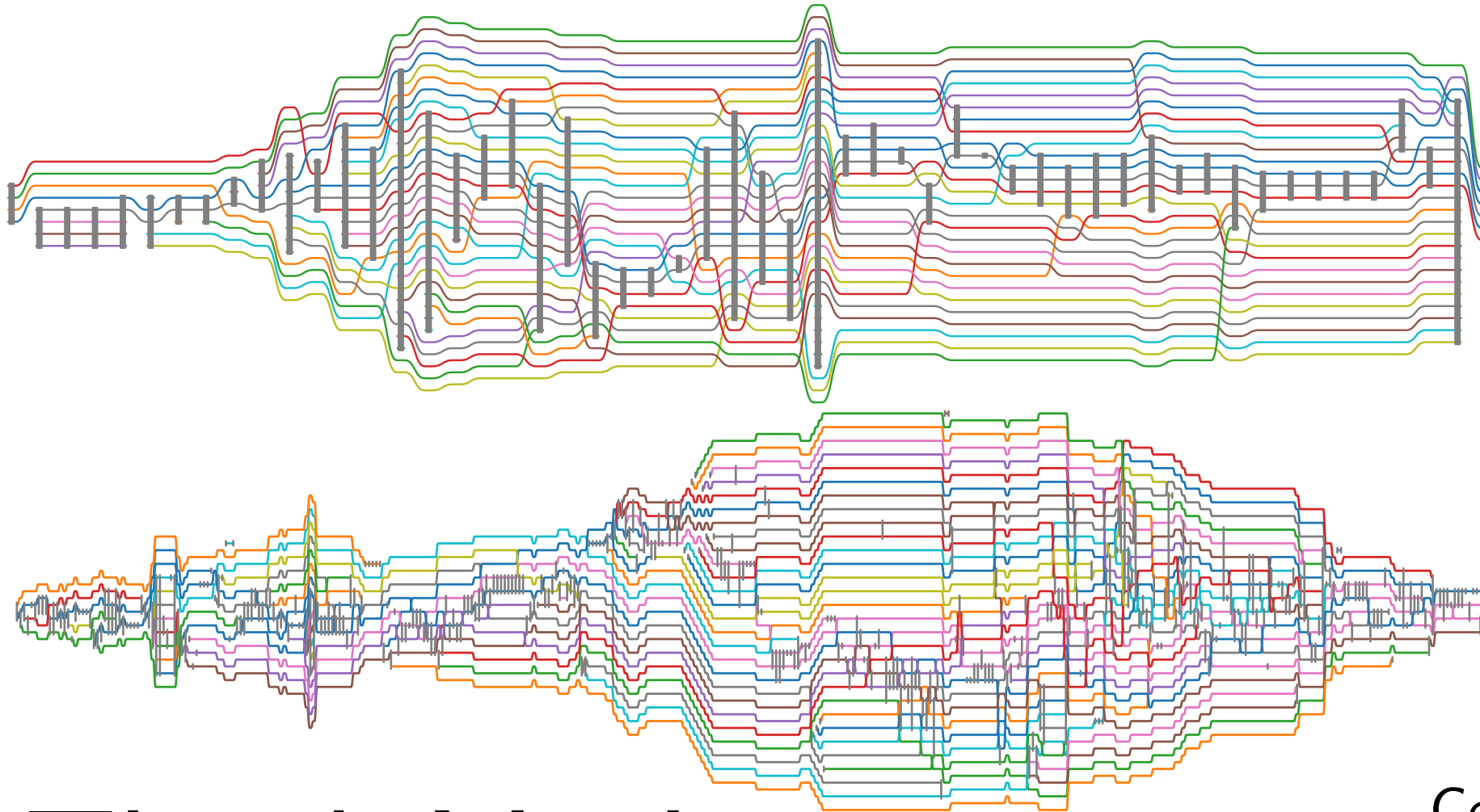
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Les Misérables

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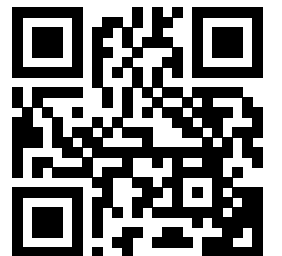
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Thank You!

Code and
instances



A Simple Quadratic Integer Program

Binary variable $x_{i,u,v}$ which is 1 iff character c_u is before c_v in π_i

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$$x_{i,u,v} = 1 - x_{i,v,u} \quad \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, \ell; c_u, c_v \in \text{AC}(t_i) \text{ with } u < v \quad (\text{EQ})$$

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$\text{AC}(t_i, t_{i+1}) \dots$ characters active at t_i and t_{i+1}

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Binary variable $x_{i,u,v}$ which is 1 iff character c_u is before c_v in π_i



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Symmetry

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Transitivity $x_{i,u,v} = 1 - x_{i,v,u}$ for all $i = 1, \dots, \ell; c_u, c_v \in \text{AC}(t_i)$ with $u < v$ (EQ)

$$x_{i,u,v} + x_{i,v,w} + x_{i,w,u} \leq 2$$

for all $i = 1, \dots, \ell; c_u, c_v, c_w \in \text{AC}(t_i)$ (LOP)

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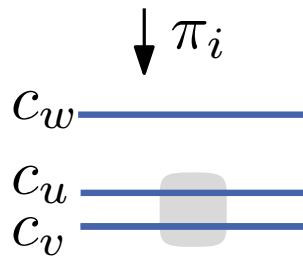
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Tree constraints

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$\text{AC}(t_i, t_{i+1}) \dots$ characters active at t_i and t_{i+1}

linearized objective

$$\min \sum_{i=1}^{\ell-1} \sum_{c_u, c_v \in \text{AC}(t_i, t_{i+1})} y_{i,u,v} \quad (\text{LIN})$$

$$y_{i,u,v} \geq x_{i,u,v} - x_{i+1,u,v} \quad \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, \ell; c_u, c_v \in \text{AC}(t_i, t_{i+1}) \quad (\text{CR})$$

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Gronemann et al. reformulated the problem as a **Max-Cut** problem on specific weighted graph G and computed optimal solutions on real-world storylines

exponential number of constraints
→ branch and cut, complicated to implement

$$\max \sum_{e \in E_M} w_e z_e \quad (\text{CUT})$$

$$\sum_{e \in F} z_e - \sum_{e \in C \setminus F} z_e \leq |F| - 1 \quad \text{for all cycles } C \subseteq E_M, F \subseteq C, |F| \text{ odd} \quad (\text{CYC})$$

$$0 \leq z_{(v^*, c_{uv}^i)} + z_{(v^*, c_{vw}^i)} - z_{(v^*, c_{uw}^i)} \leq 1 \quad \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, \ell; c_{uv}^i, c_{vw}^i, c_{uw}^i \in V_i \quad (\text{LOPC})$$

with $c_u \prec_{\hat{\pi}_i} c_v \prec_{\hat{\pi}_i} c_w$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} z_{(v^*, c_{uw}^i)} = z_{(v^*, c_{vw}^i)} \text{ if } c_u, c_v \prec_{\hat{\pi}_i} c_w \\ z_{(v^*, c_{wu}^i)} = z_{(v^*, c_{wv}^i)} \text{ if } c_u, c_v \succ_{\hat{\pi}_i} c_w \end{array} \right\} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, \ell; I \in \mathcal{I}(t_i); \\ c_u, c_v \in \text{char}(I); c_w \in \text{AC}(t_i) \setminus \text{char}(I) \end{array} \quad (\text{TRC})$$

$$z_e \in \{0, 1\} \quad \text{for all } e \in E_M \quad (\text{BIC})$$

