



Technische Universität Wien

# **Tree-Decomposition based Algorithms for Abstract Argumentation Frameworks**

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#### Motivation

#### **Overview**

- Argumentation Frameworks (AFs) important research field in Artificial Intelligence
- Selection of 'appropriate' arguments from AF defined by a semantics
- Many different semantics
- Selection oftentimes computationally hard (intractable)
- → Identify tractable fragments
  For AFs: Tree-Width, defined on Tree Decompositions

#### Goal

- Development of novel algorithms for stable, complete and admissible semantics, following up the work of Dvořák et.al. [1]
- Based on Tree Decompositions, tractable
- Evaluation of different types of Tree Decompositions

#### **Basic Definitions**

# **Argumentation Framework** [2] Pair F = (A, R) where A is a set of arguments and $B \subset A \times A$ is the

arguments and  $R \subseteq A \times A$  is the attack relation.

#### **Tree Decomposition** [3]

Tree where each node has a bag that contains a set of vertices from the original graph such that:

- every vertex in at least one bag
- connected vertices together in bag
- nodes containing a vertex are connected upwards the tree.

#### **Admissible Semantics** [2]

Set *S* admissible if conflict-free and each argument in *S* is defended.

### **Stable Semantics** [2]

Set *S* stable if conflict-free and each argument not in *S* is attacked by *S*.

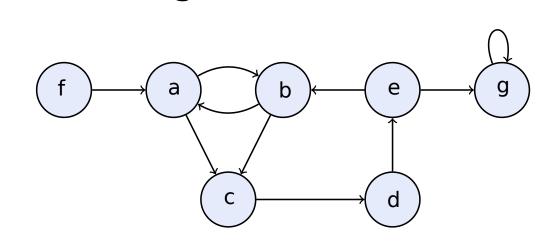
#### **Complete Semantics** [2]

Set *S* complete if admissible and each defended argument is in *S*.

# Approach for Algorithms based on Tree Decompositions

#### **Preparation**

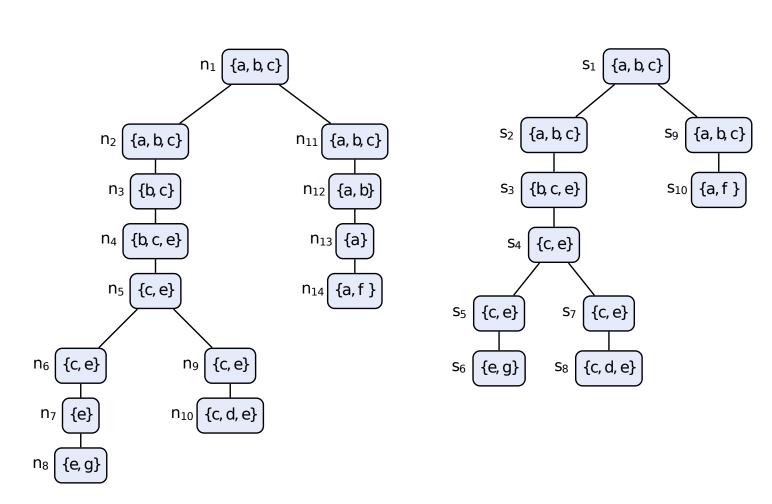
#### Input Instance: Argumentation Framework



Example Argumentation Framework

#### **Obtain Tree Decomposition**

- Makes use of heuristics (finding decomposition of minimal width itself intractable)
- Handled by an existing purpose-built framework
- Either normalized or semi-normalized
- Semi-norm contains less nodes
- Several arguments introduced or removed in one node
- Branch node the same



Tree Decomposition: Normalized (left), Semi-normalized (right)

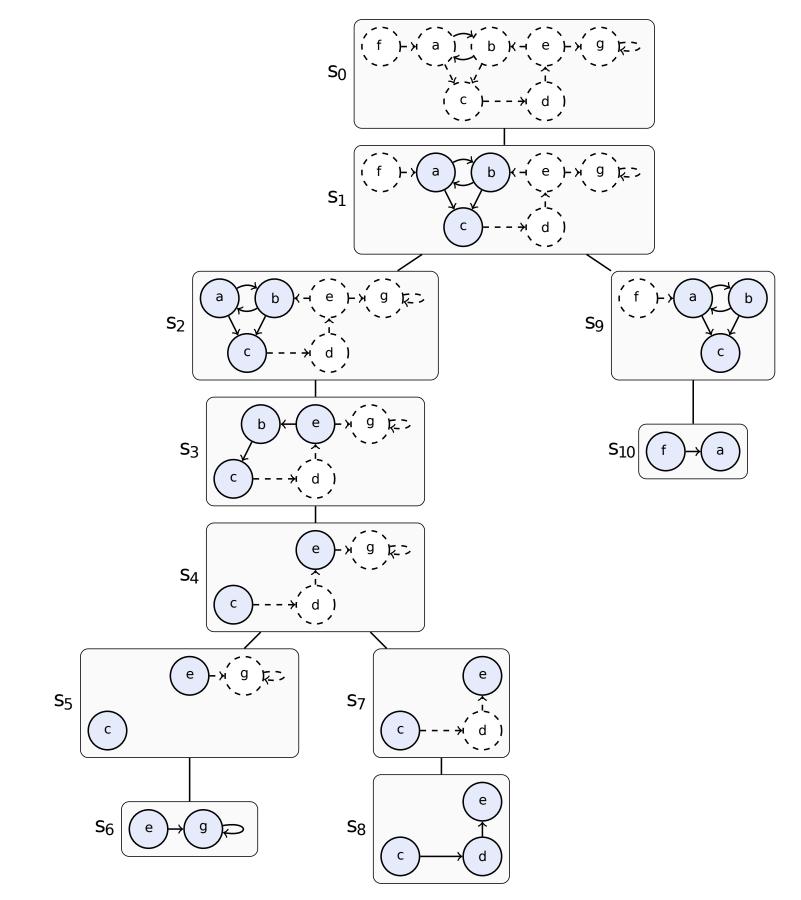
#### Computation

Traverse tree in bottom-up order

 Use information about vertices in current bag and colorings of vertices in the sub-tree

**Restricted Sets:** Contain arguments that that were completely considered in the sub-tree of a node, arguments fulfill properties of semantics

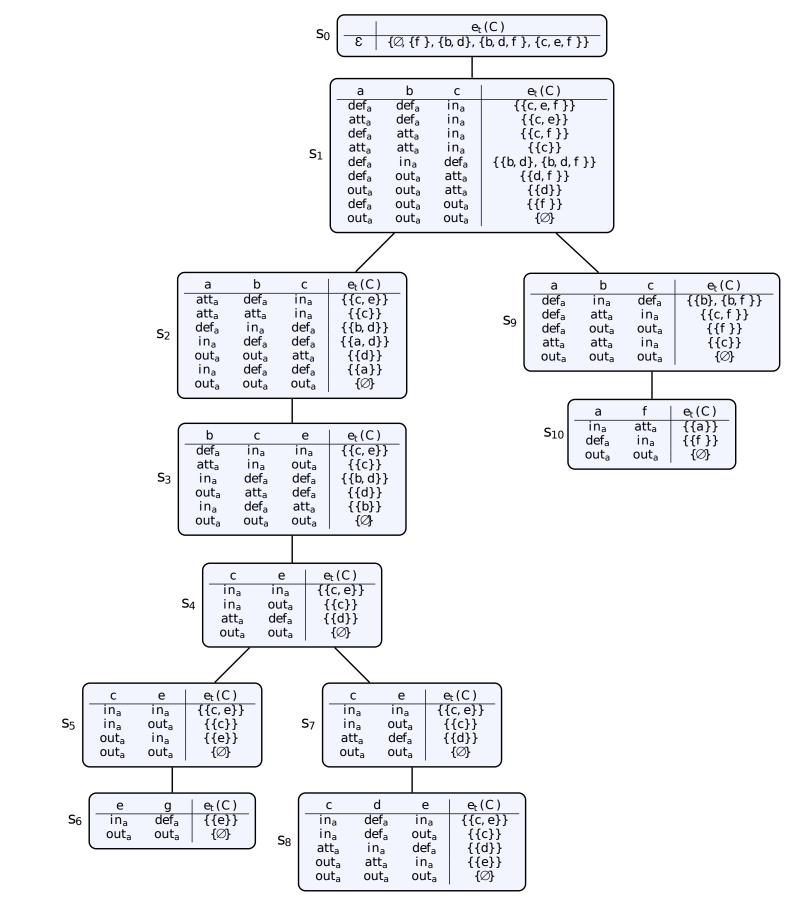
**Colorings:** Defined on restricted sets Encode information about relations by assigning colors to each argument of current node



Semi-normalized Tree Decomposition with Sub-Frameworks

**V-Colorings:** Defined solely on current vertices and colorings of child-node, not on restricted sets

→ Fixed-parameter tractability achieved



Semi-normalized Tree Decomposition with V-Colorings for Admissible Semantics

## **Result Delivery**

- At root node all arguments have been handled
- Restricted sets correspond to extensions of AF
- → Computation in  $f(tw) \cdot n^{O(1)}$

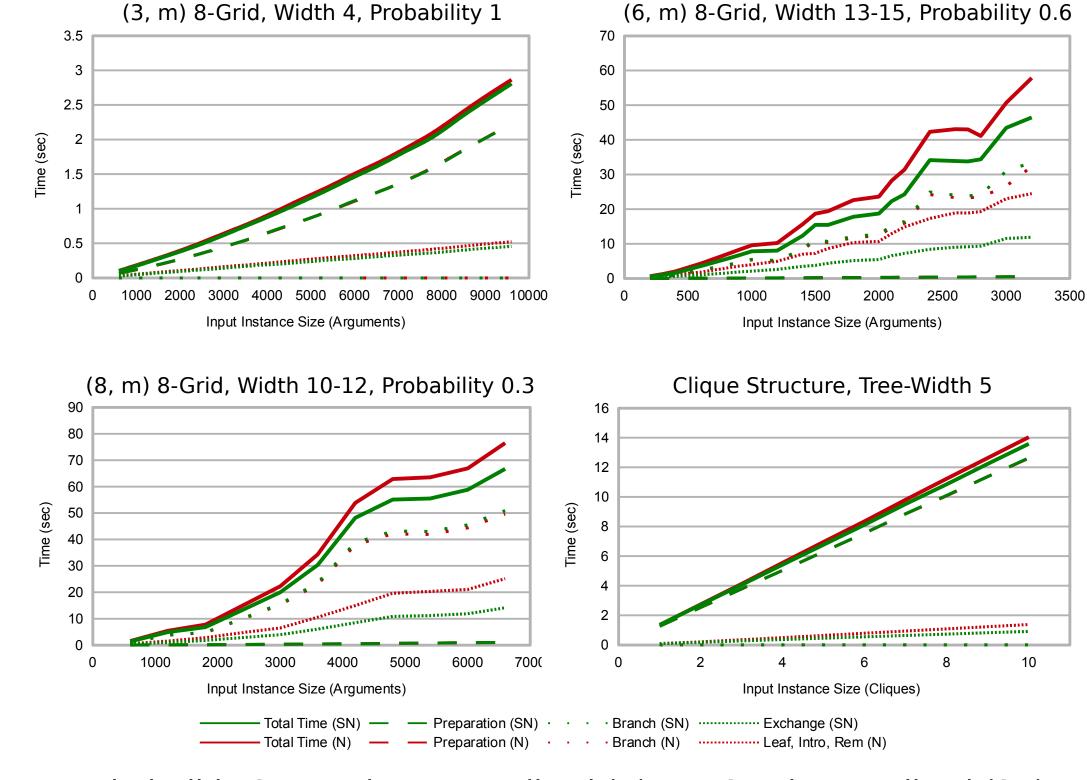
# **Experimental Results**

#### **Test Setup**

- Comparison of already existing algorithm for admissible semantics on normalized tree decomposition [1] to novel on seminormalization
- Different test instance types (Grid, Clique)
- Different width and edge probability

#### **Analysis of Benchmarks**

- Semi-normalized implementation outperforms normalized in every test case
- Relative performance gain significant (up to 50%)
- Absolute performance gain depends on cost for preparation and branch node evaluation
- In general: Less edges, performance gain more significant



Admissible Semantics: Normalized (N) vs. Semi-normalized (SN)

# Conclusion

# Contributions

- Novel algorithms for stable and complete semantics based on normalized tree decompositions
- Novel algorithm for admissible semantics based on semi-normalized tree decompositions
- Implementations and correctness proofs of the algorithms
- Experimental results show that algorithm on semi-normalized tree decompositions outperforms the existing one

#### **Future Work**

- Provide algorithms for further semantics based on tree decompositions
- Analysis of run-time on non-normalized tree decompositions
- Detailed complexity analysis