

Formal Verification of SkipLists with Arbitrarily Many Levels

Alejandro Sánchez¹

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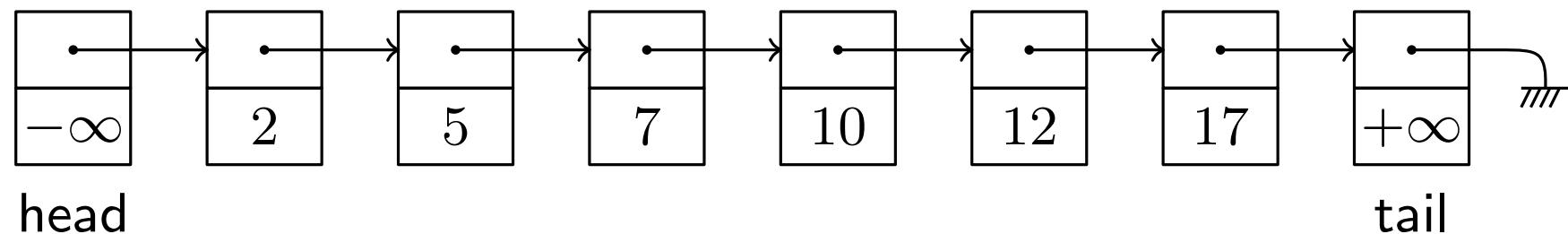
Skiplists

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- ▶ Sorted list of elements

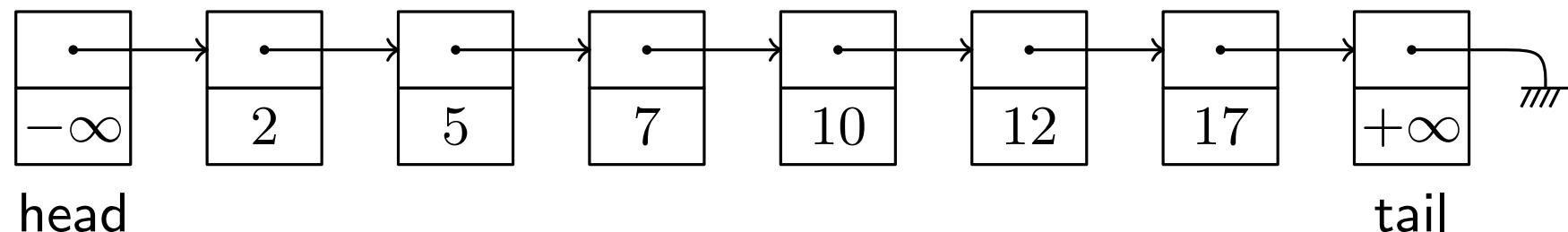
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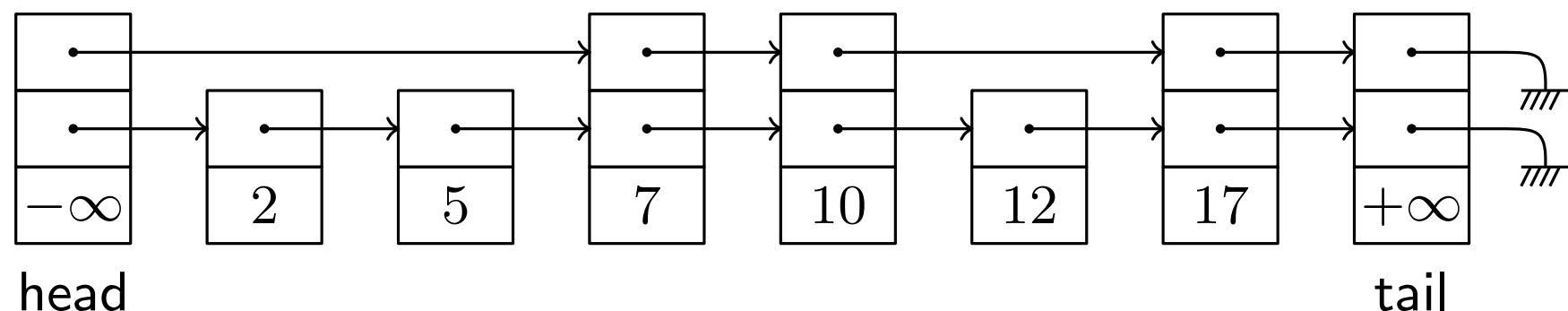
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- ▶ Sorted list of elements
- ▶ Hierarchy of linked lists which **skip** nodes



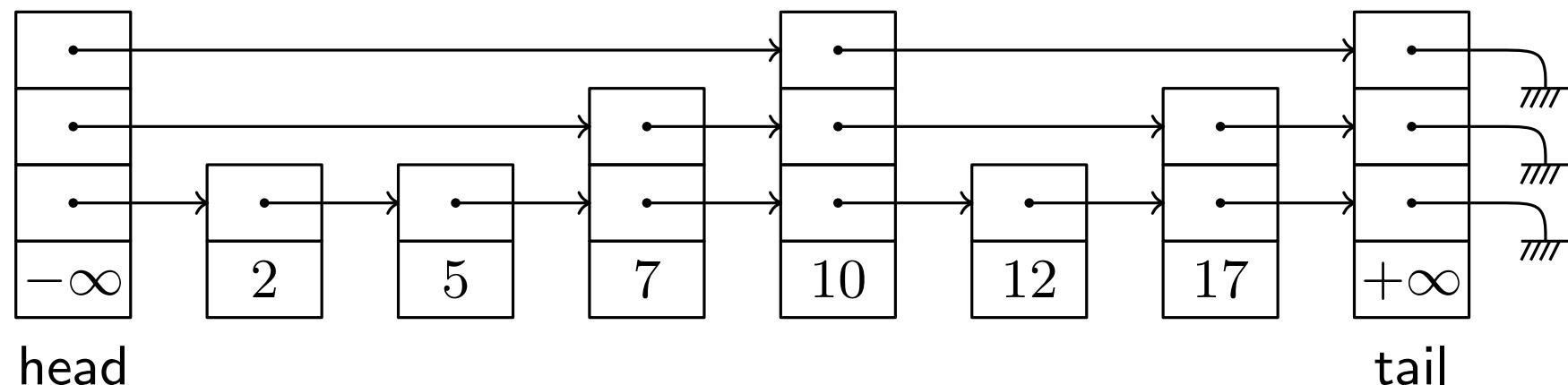
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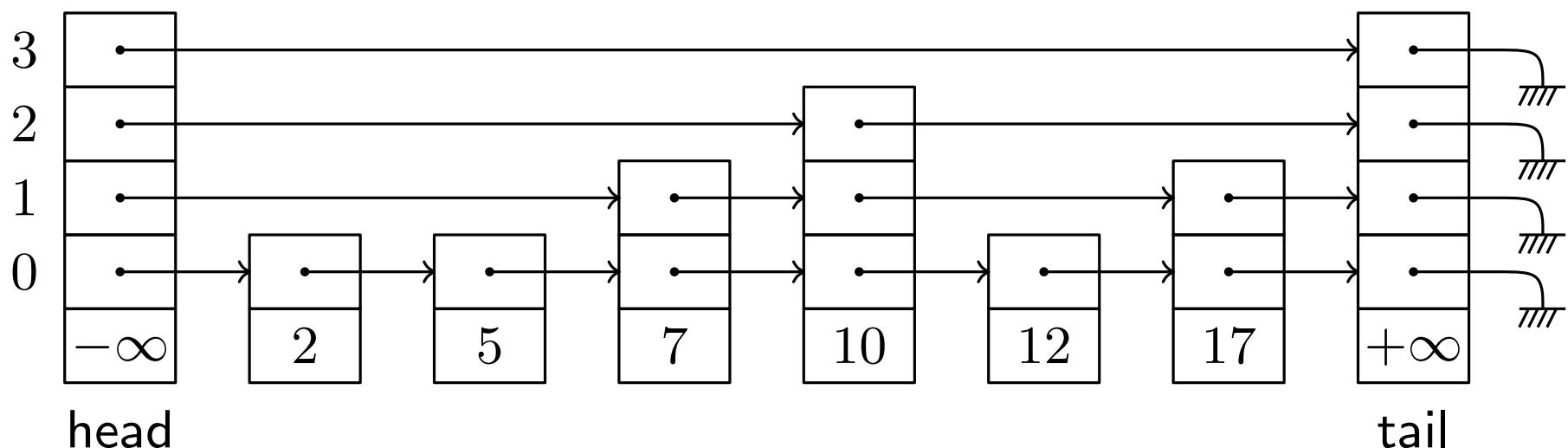
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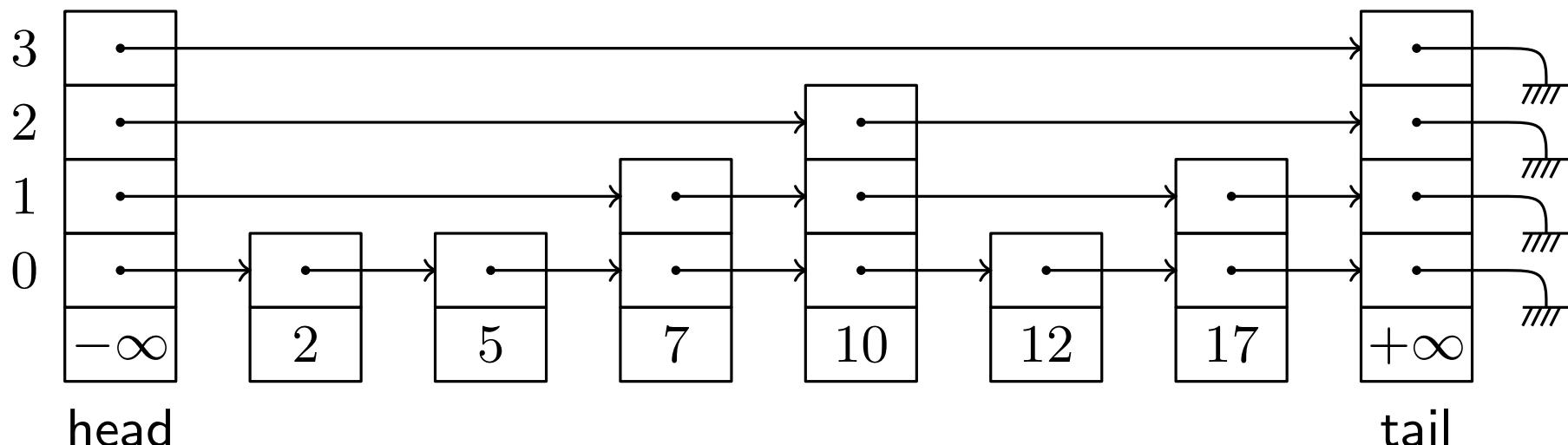
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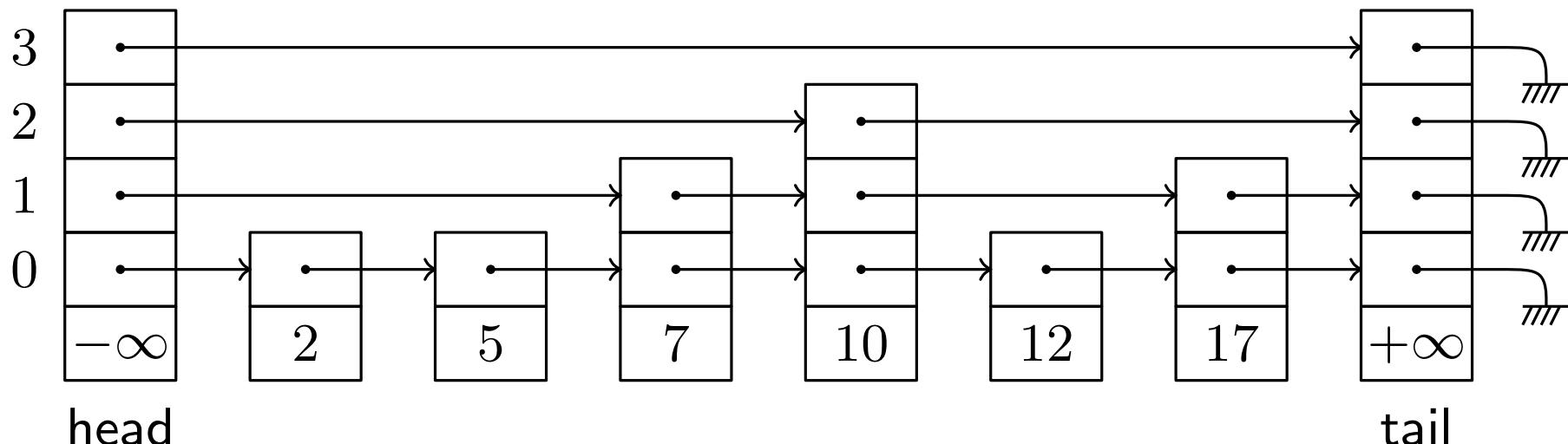


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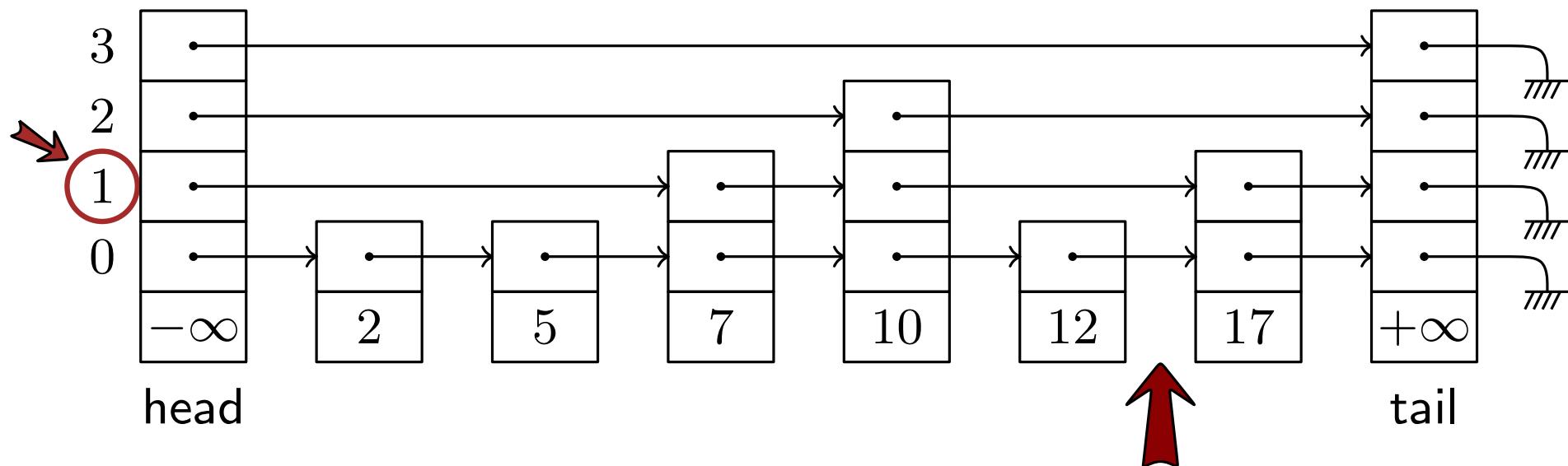


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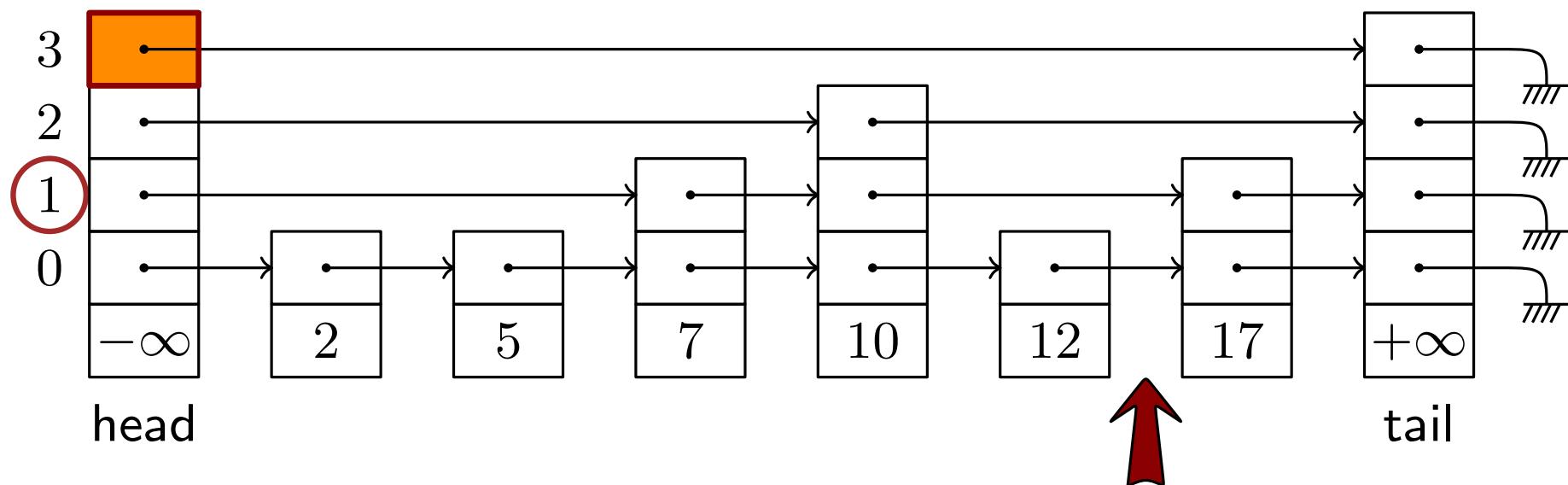


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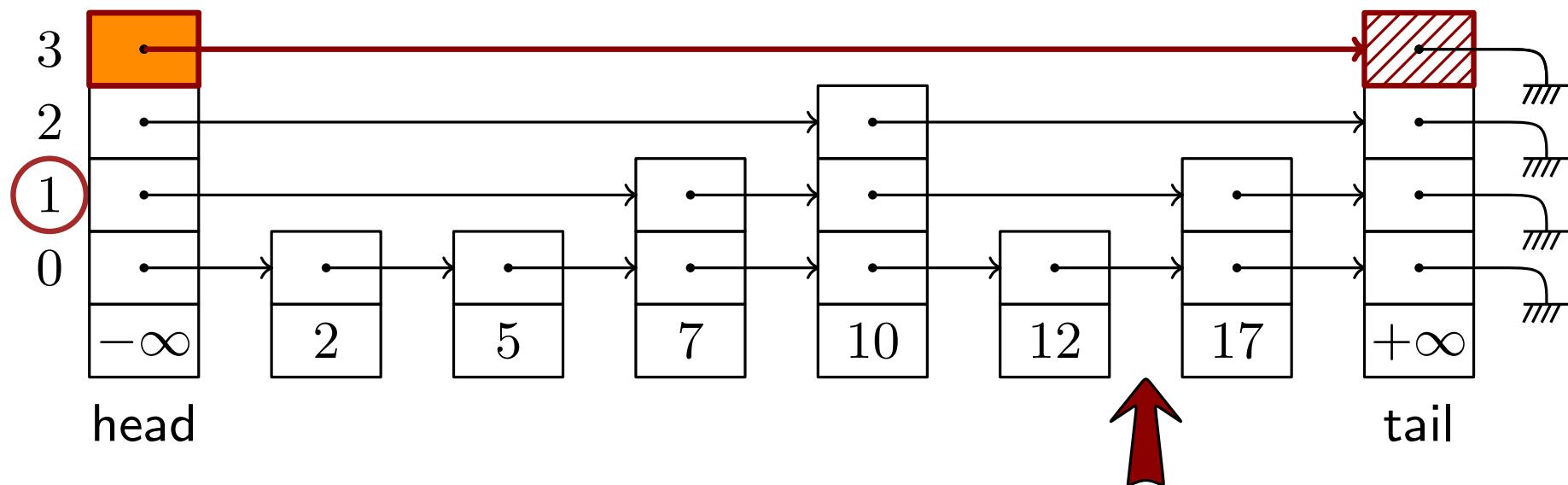


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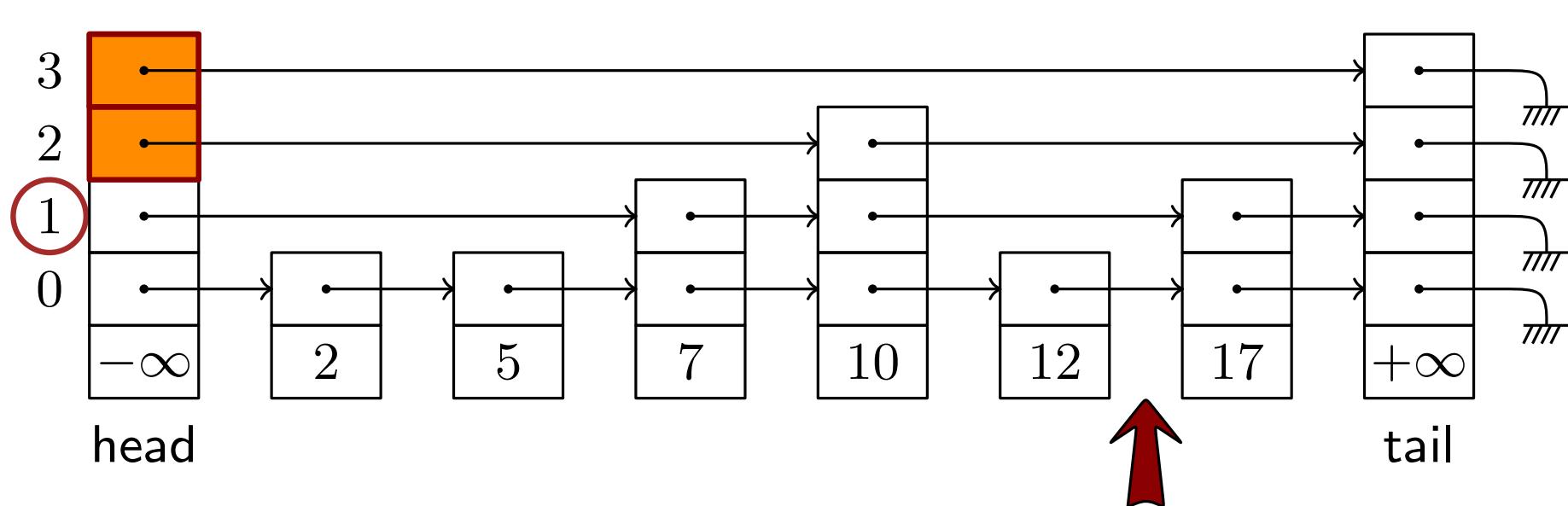
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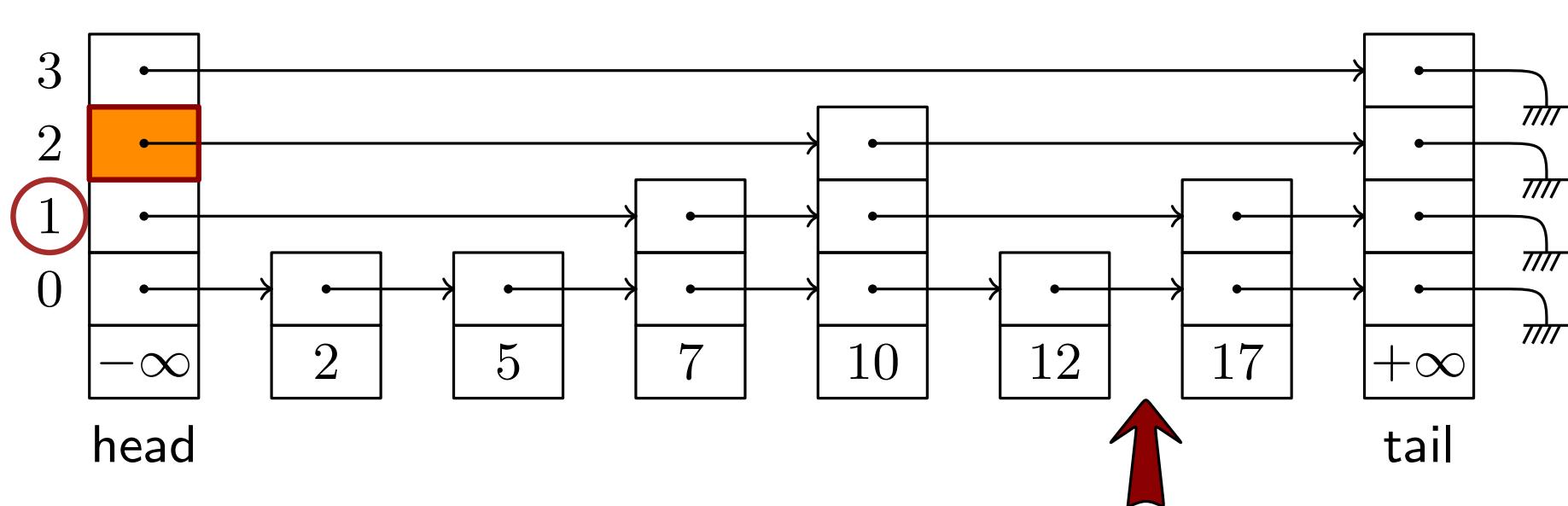
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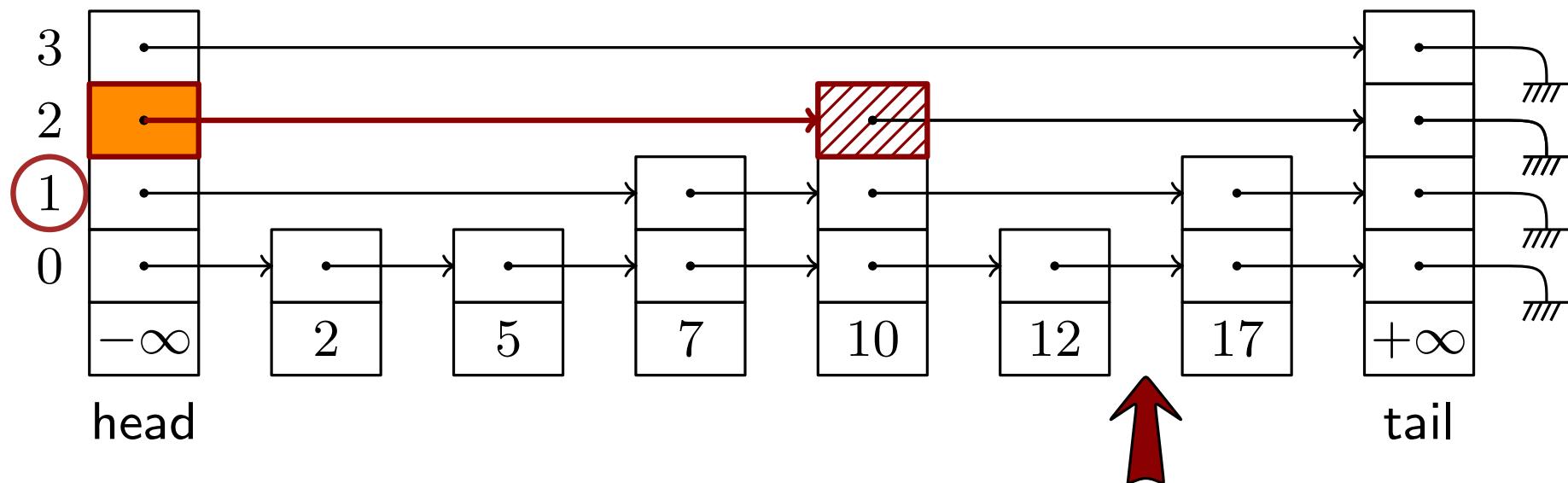


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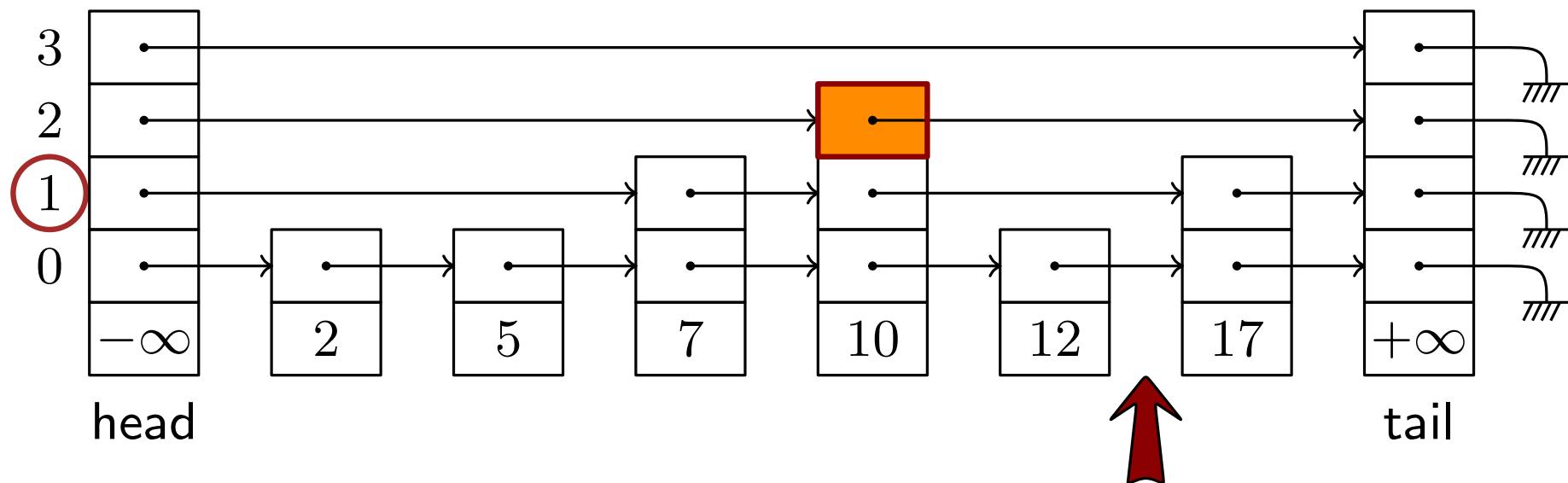


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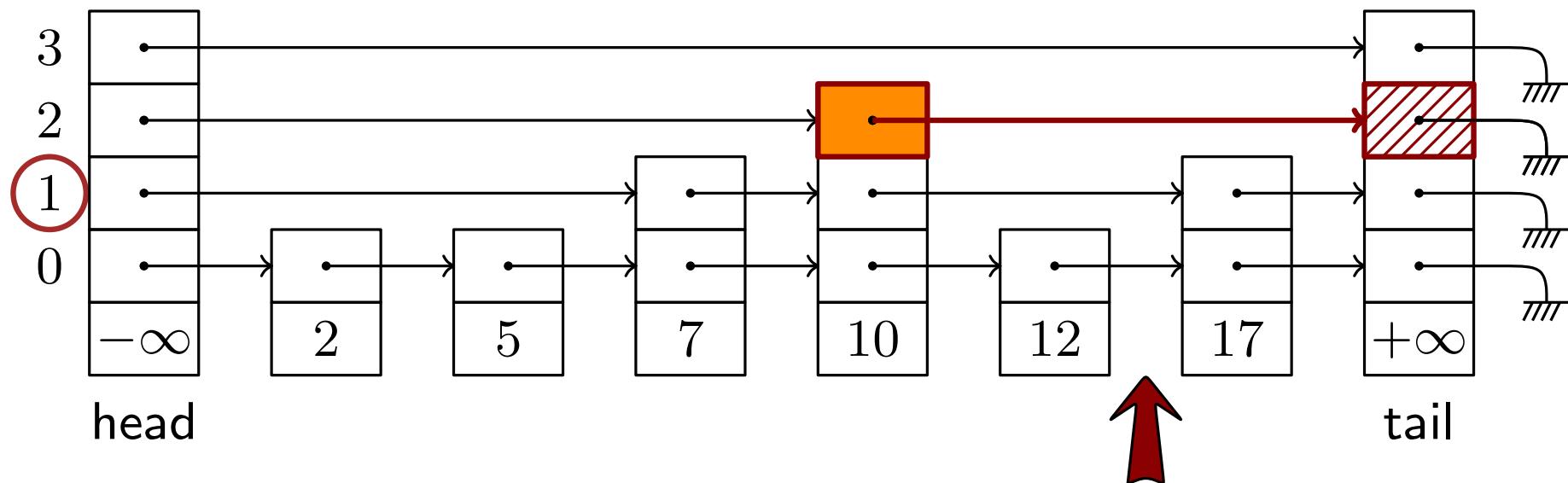


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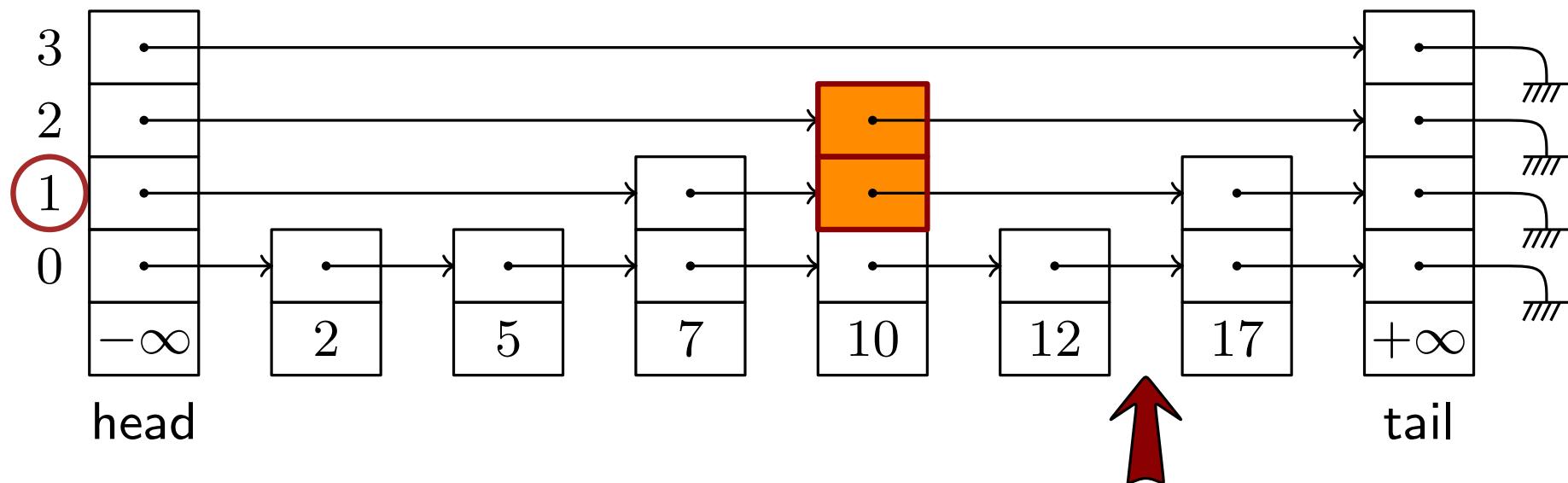


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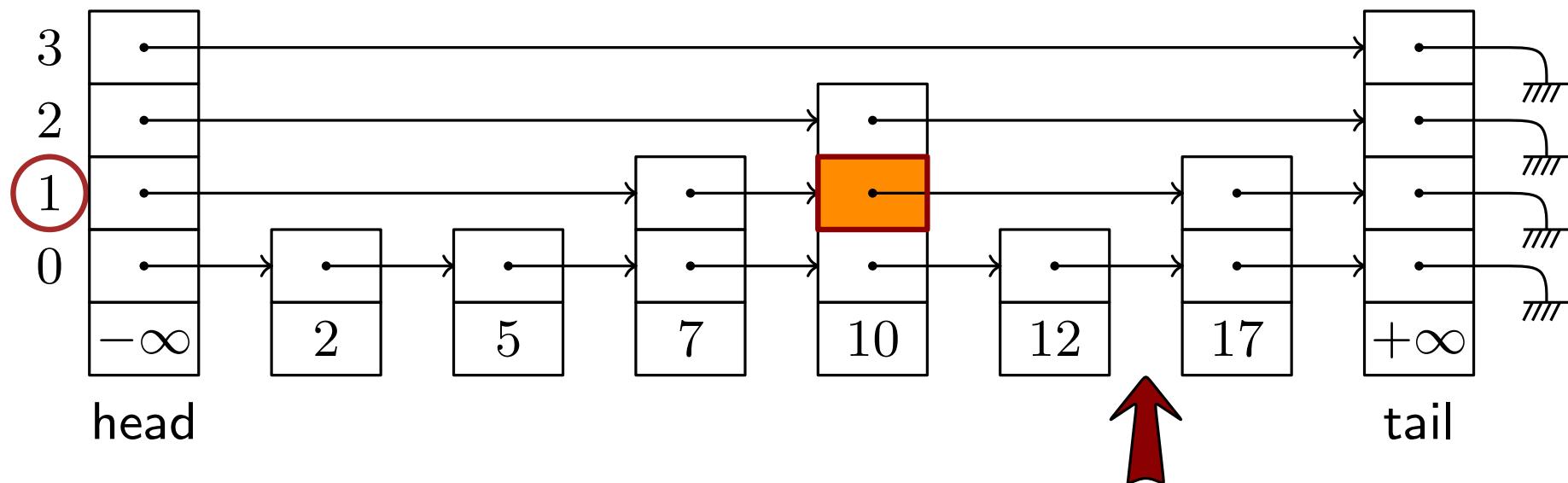


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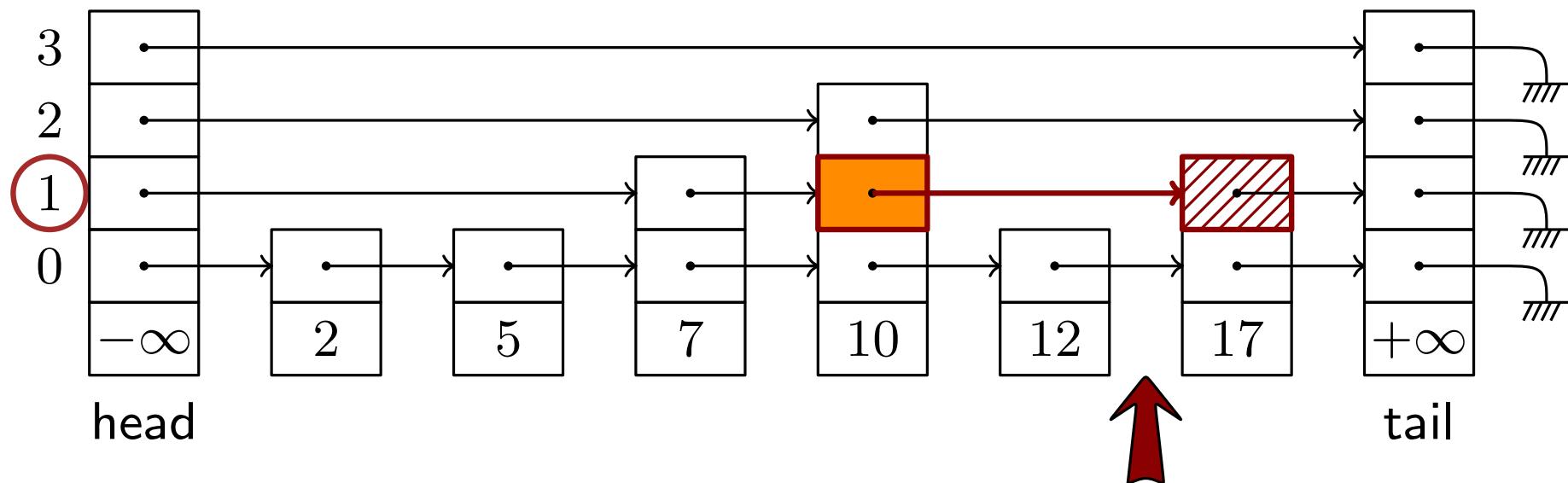


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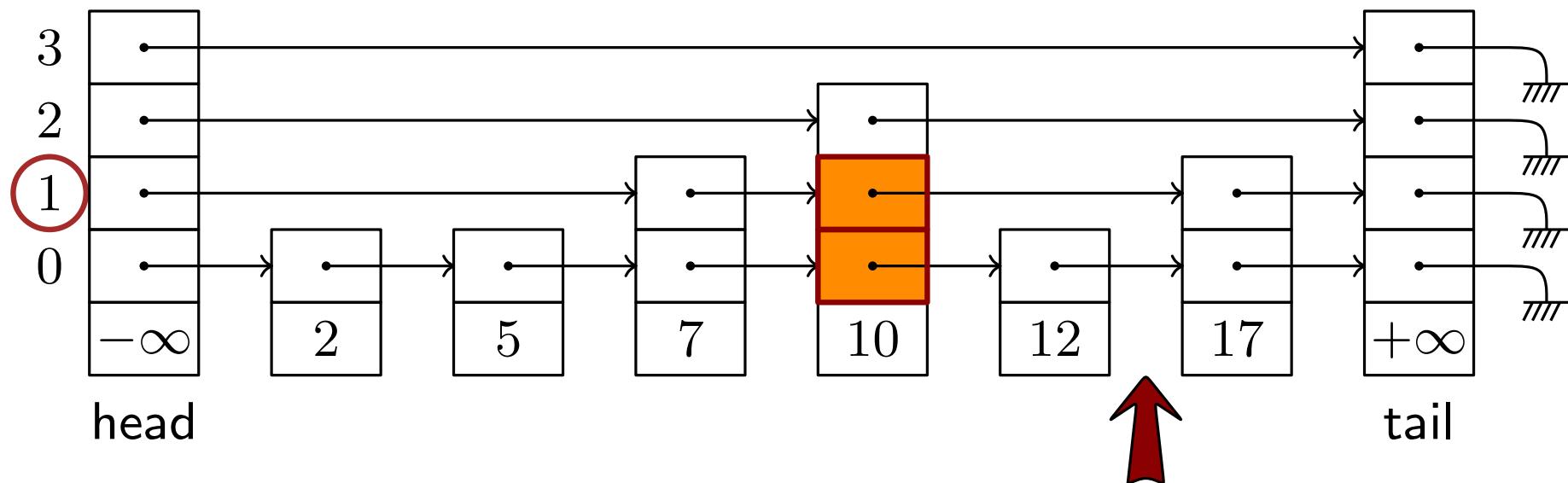


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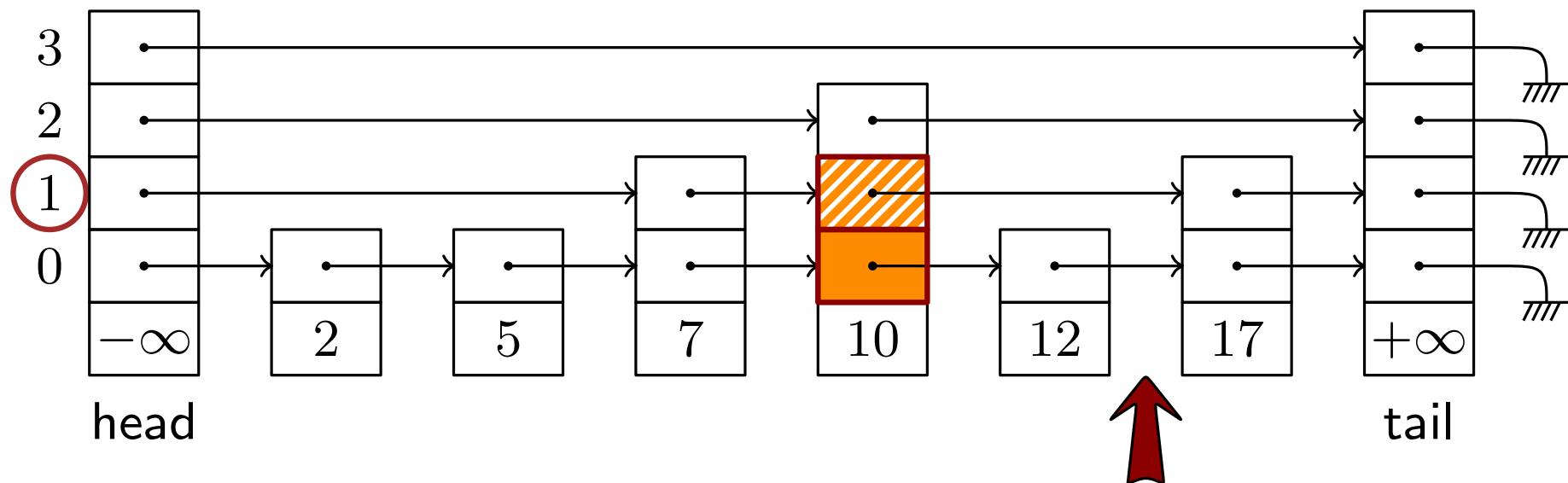


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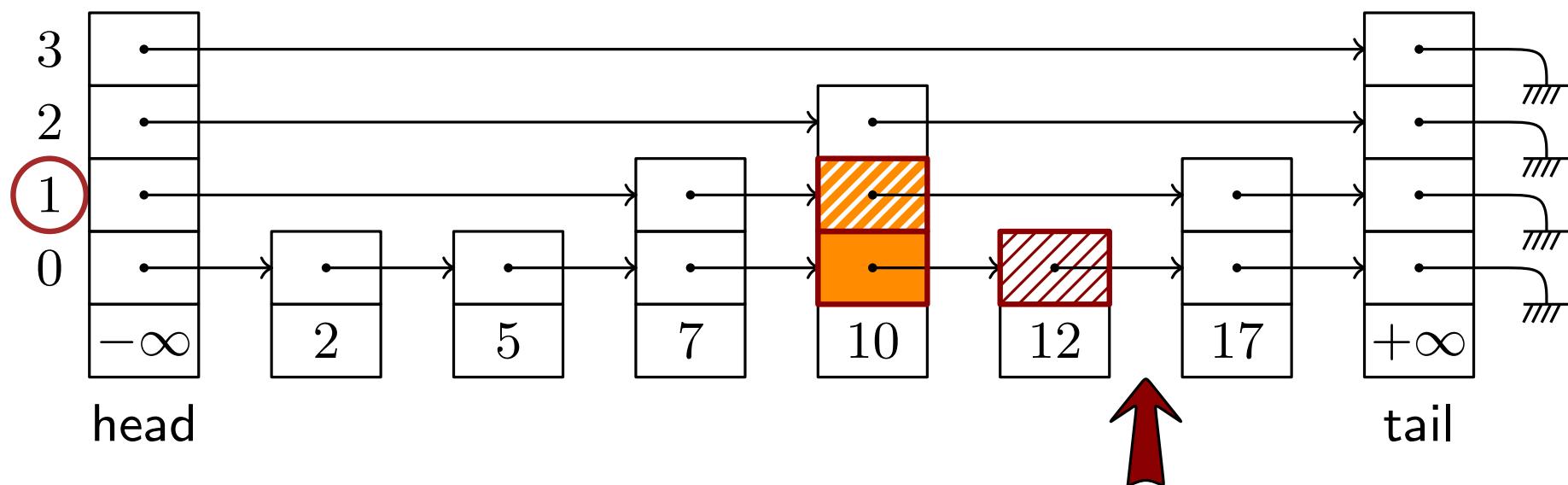


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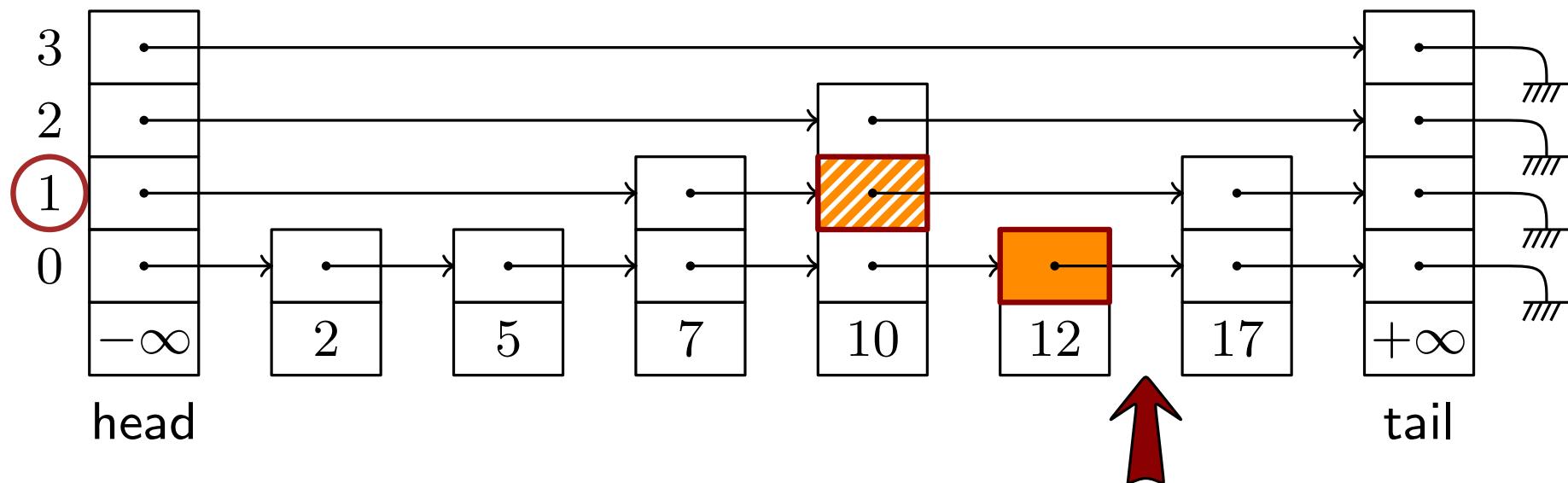


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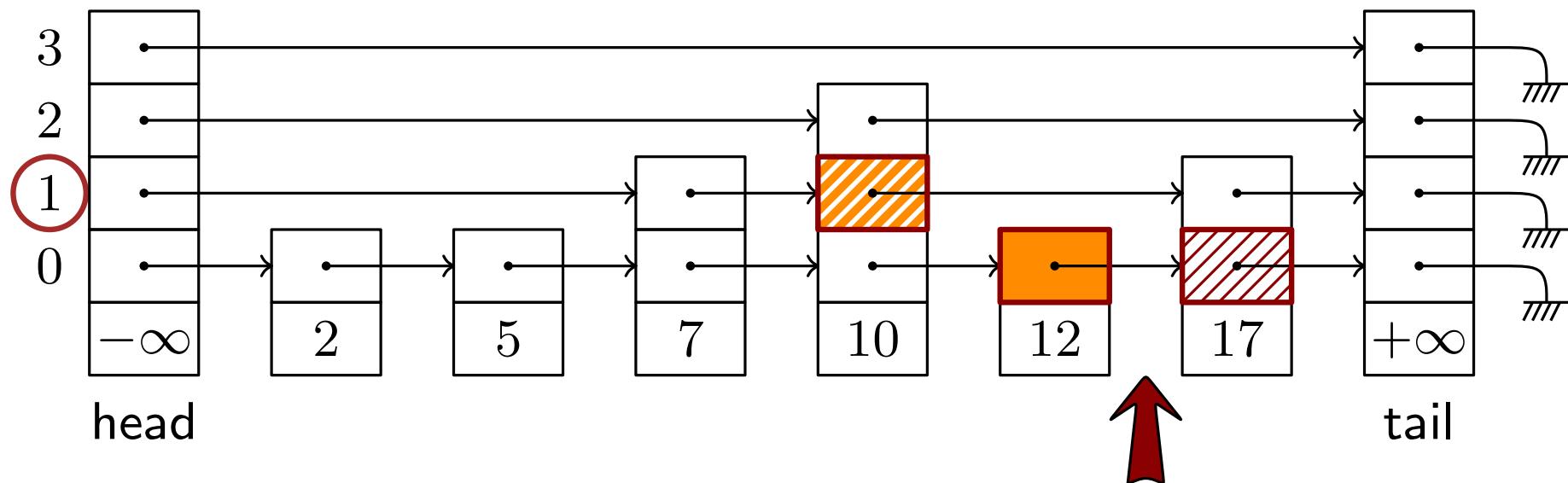


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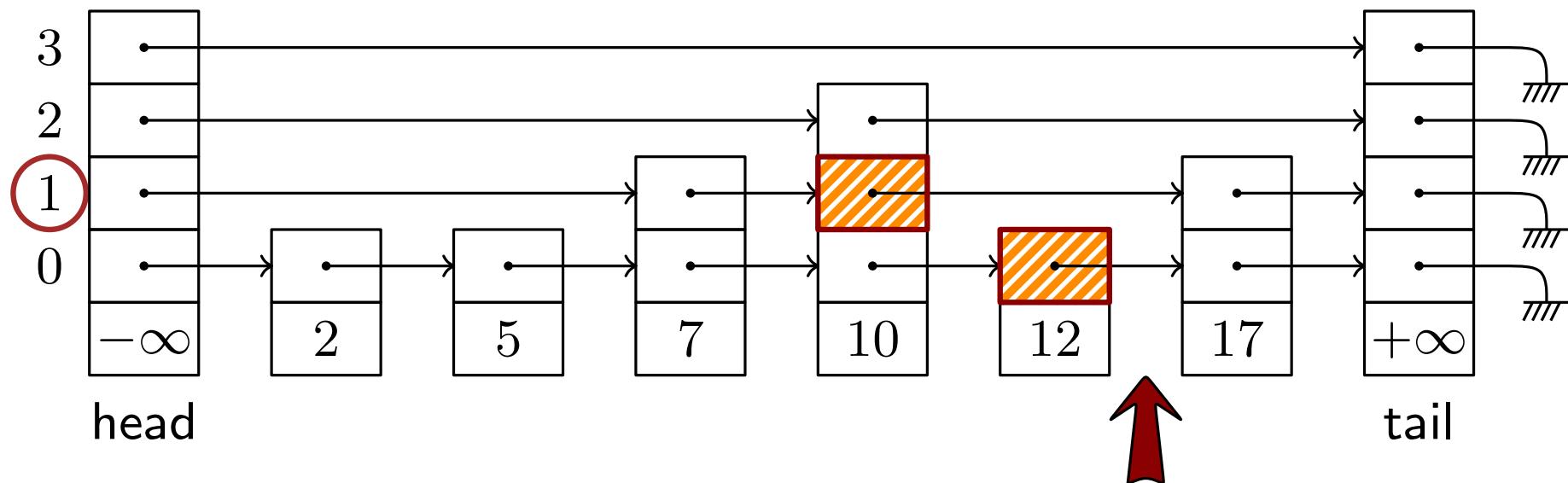


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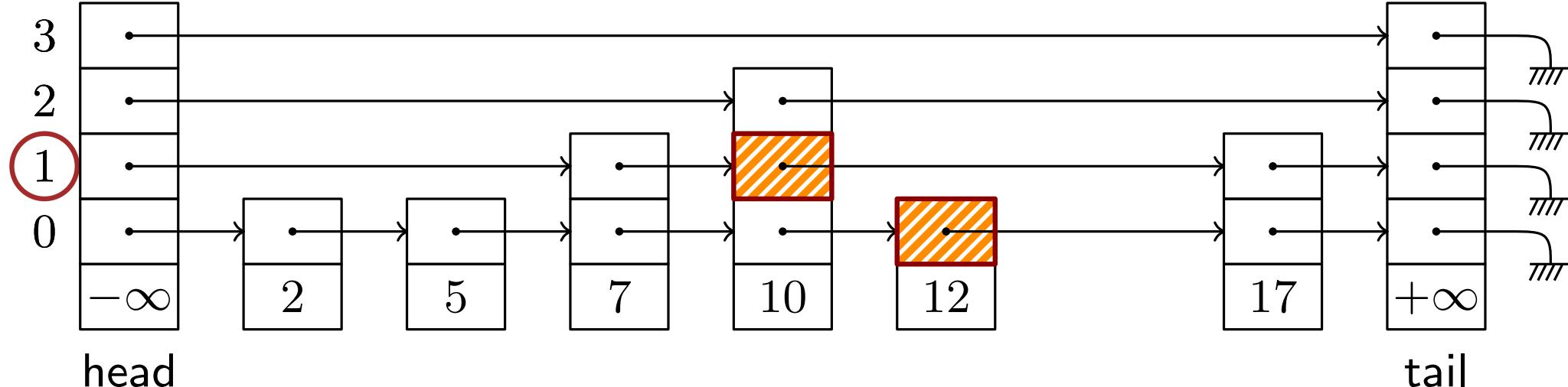
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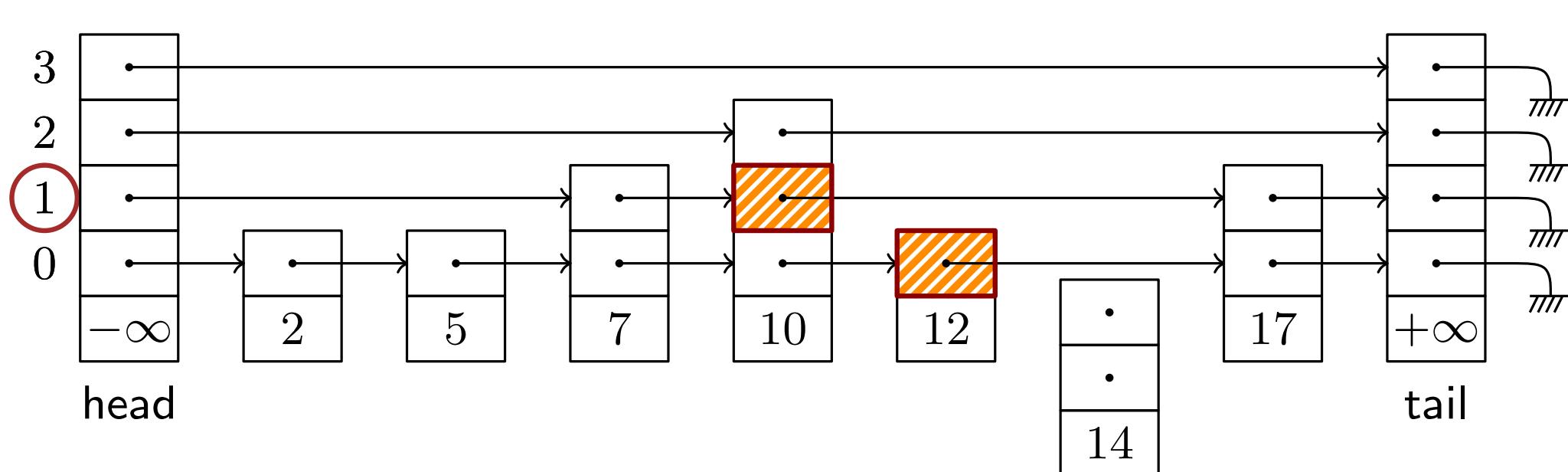
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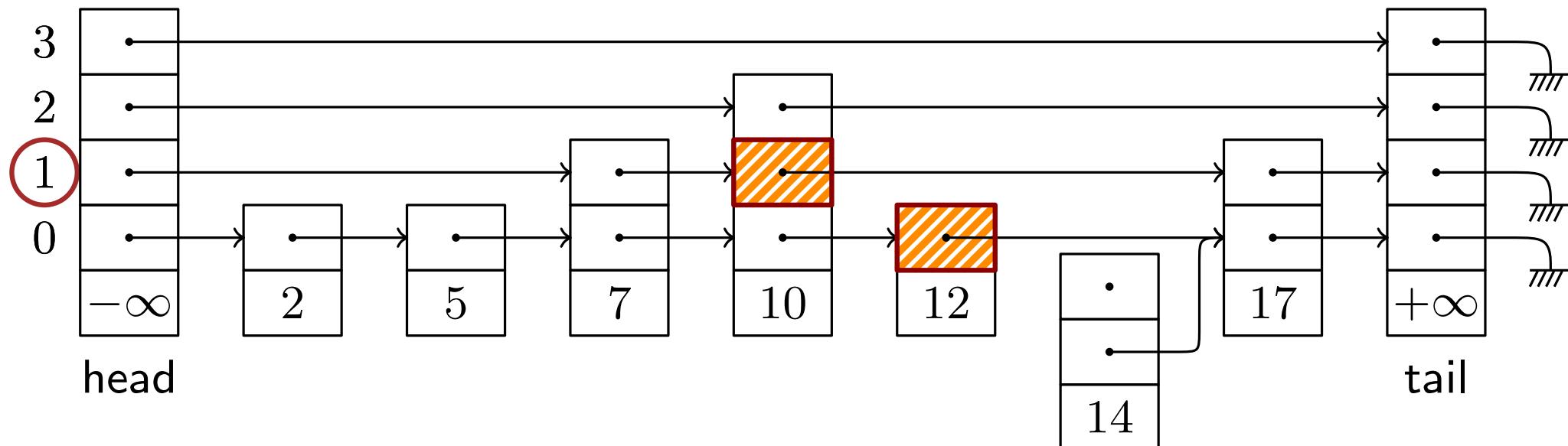
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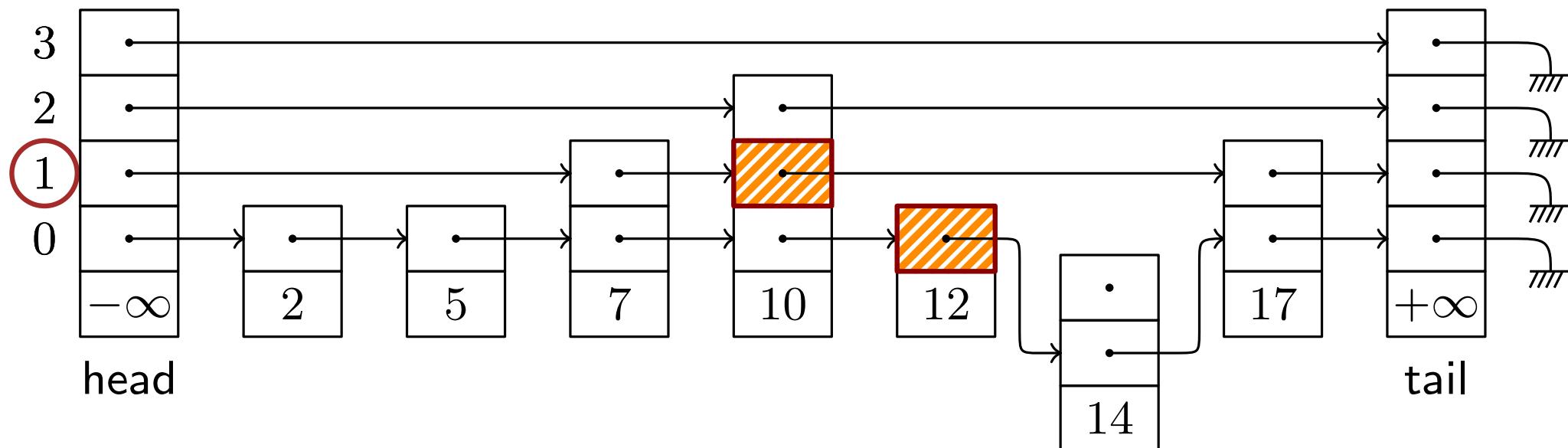


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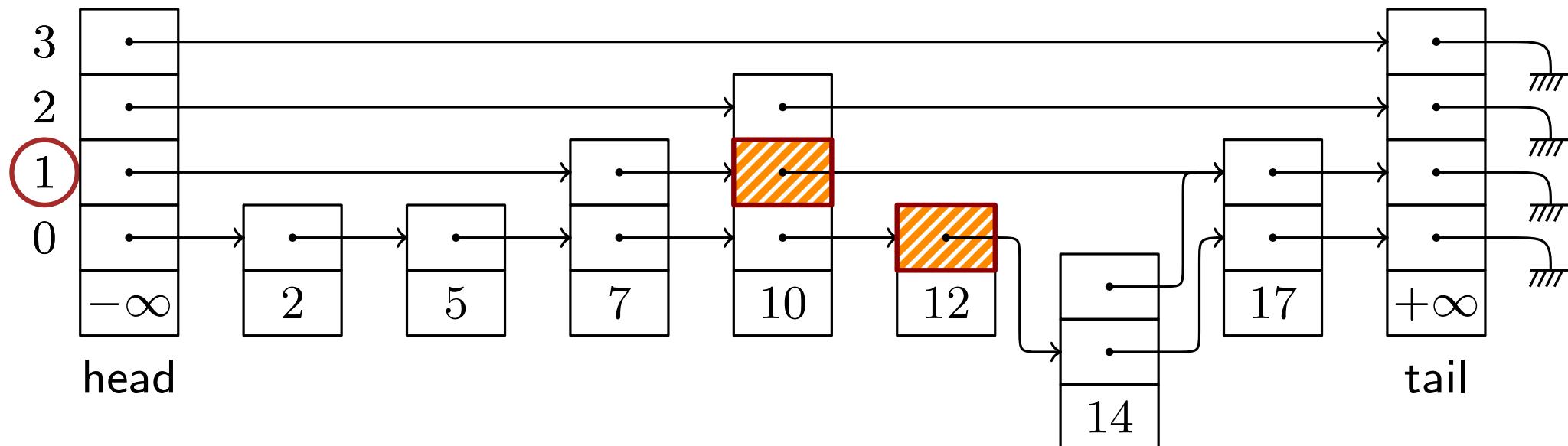
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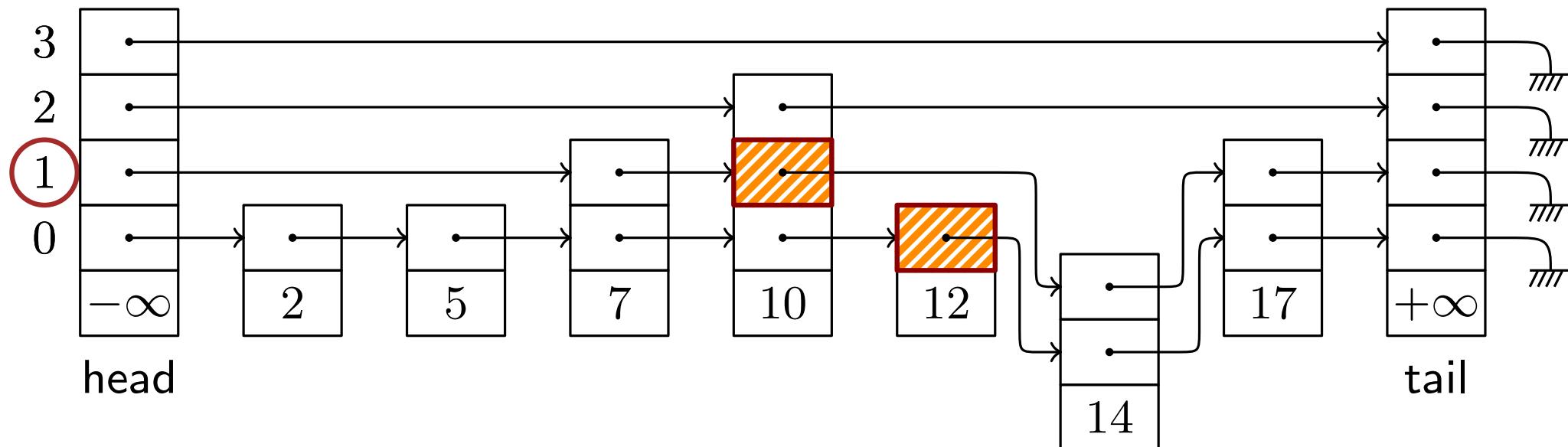
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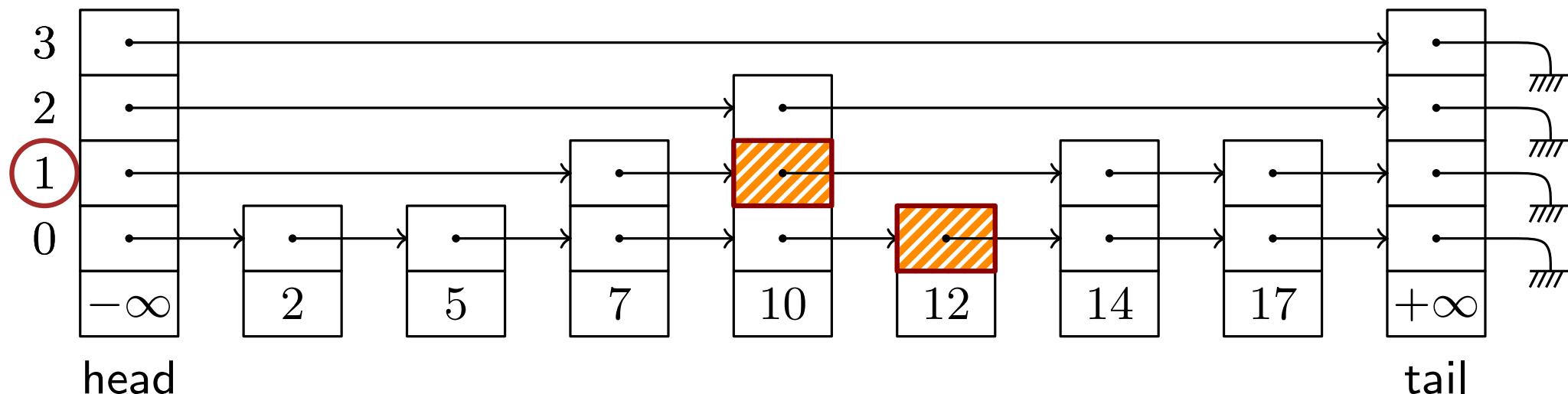


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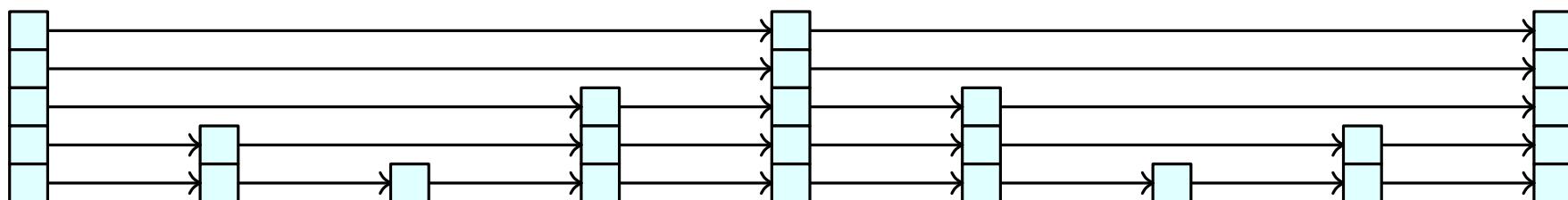
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Why skip lists of unbounded height?

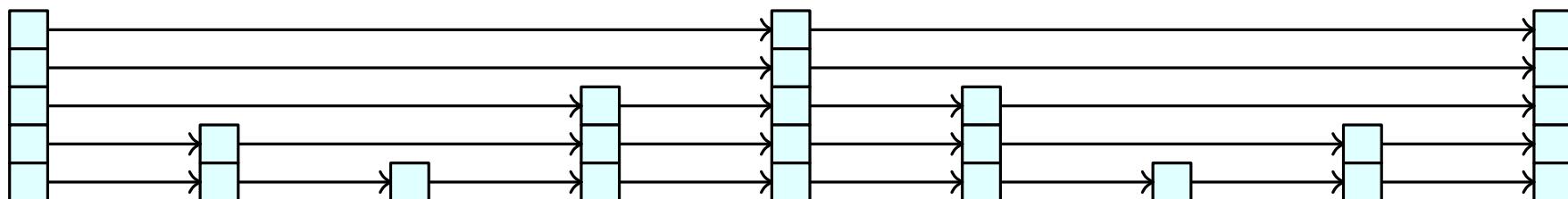
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- ▶ We previously developed TSL_K



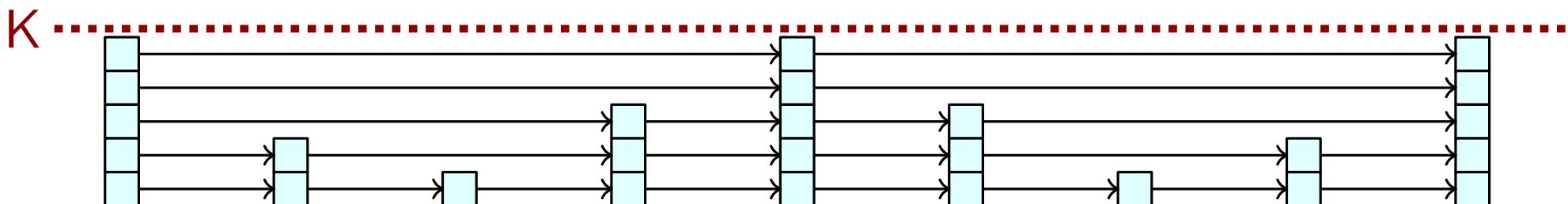
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 - ▶ Works for skiplists of arbitrary length...



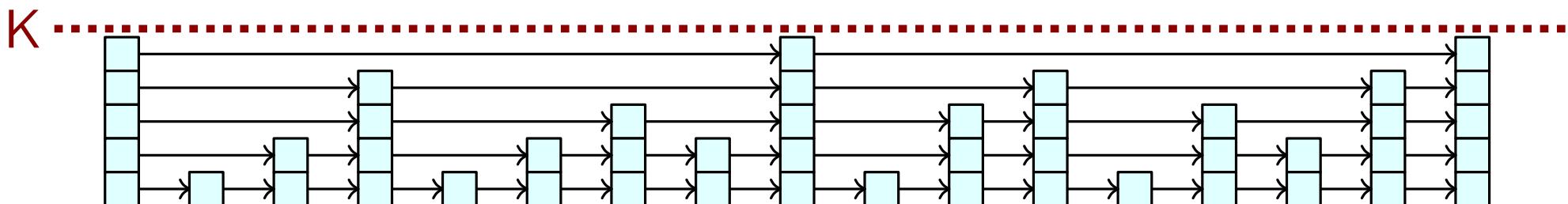
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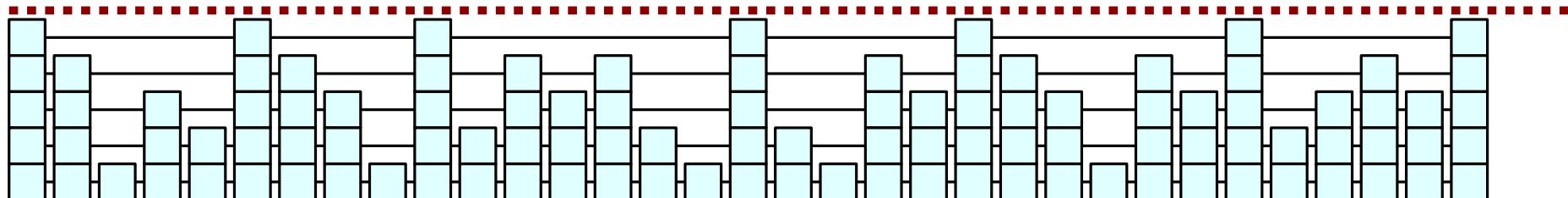
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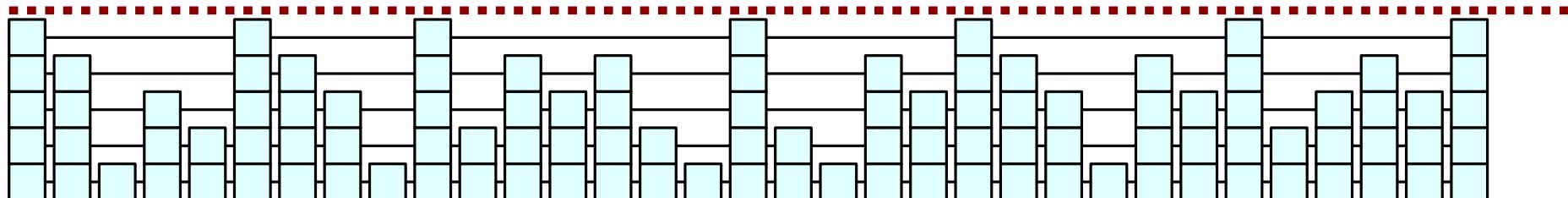


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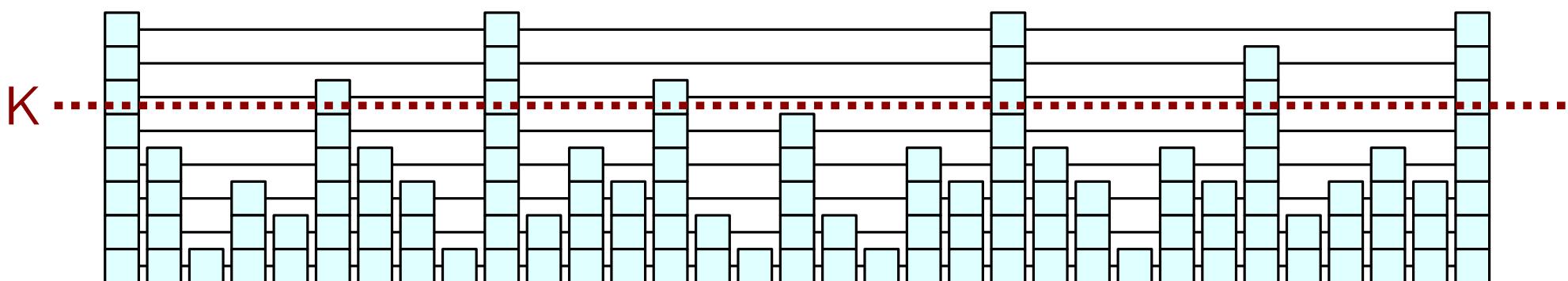
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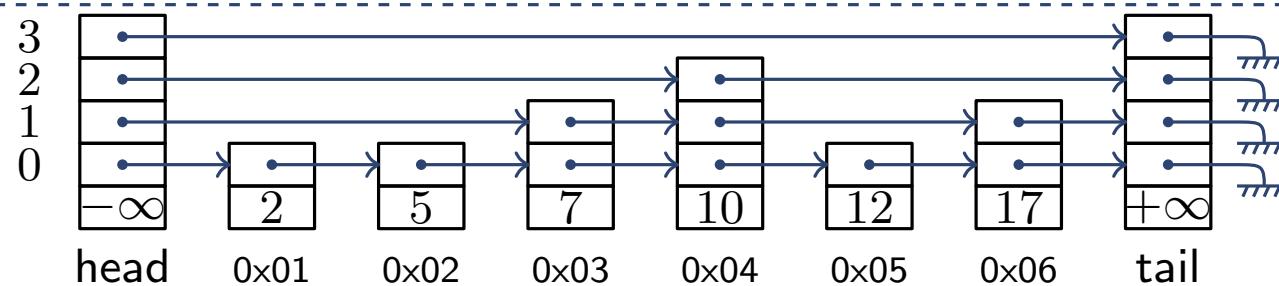
In practice, **performance is lost!**

Dynamic height is required



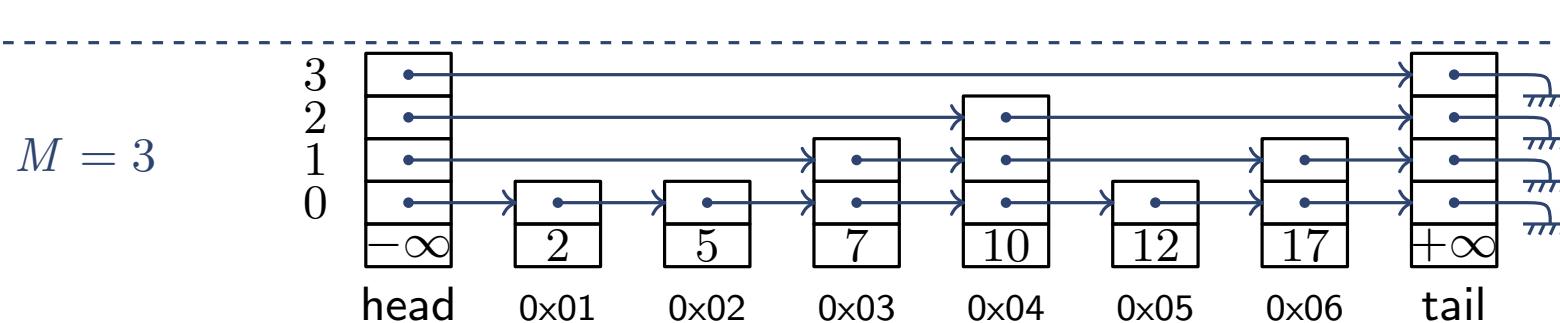
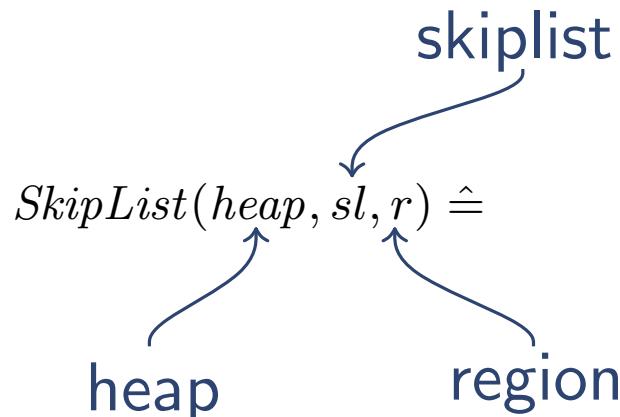
Verification of SkipLists

$M = 3$



Verification of Skiplists

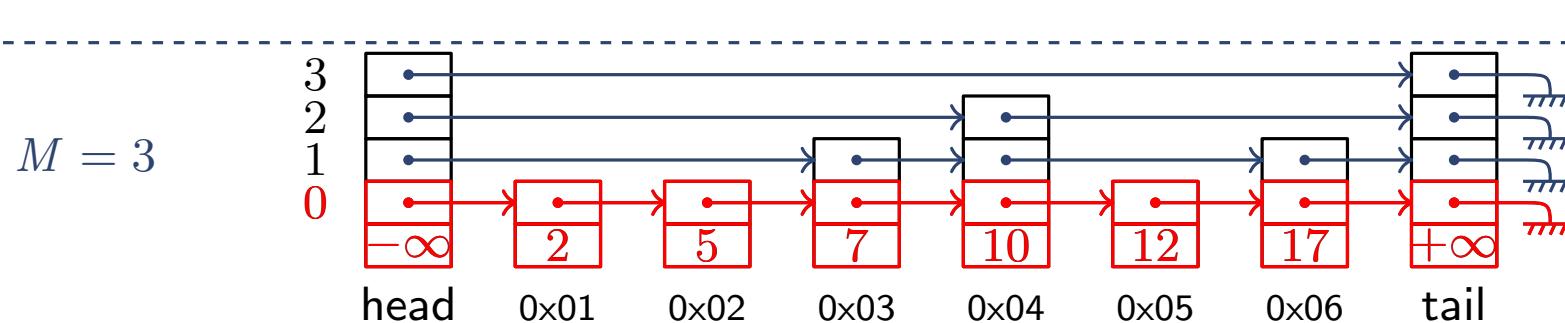
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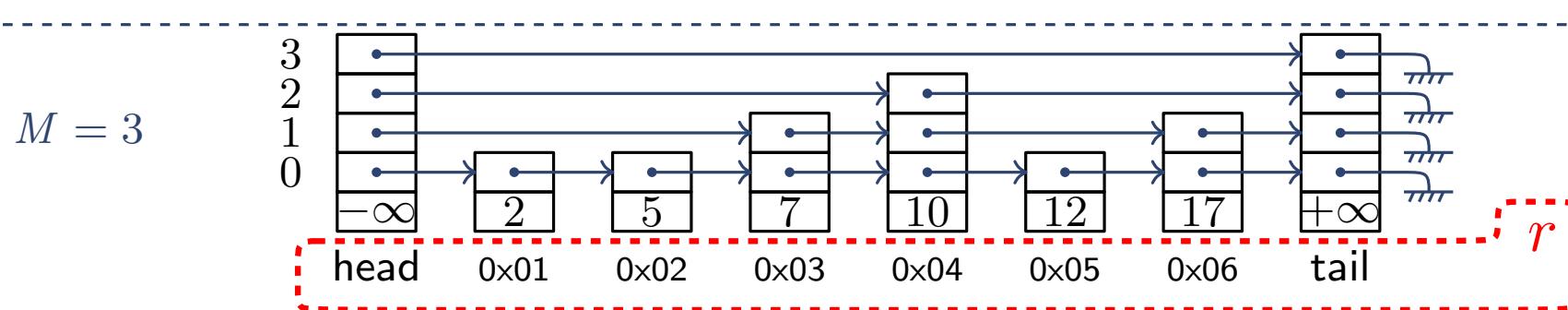
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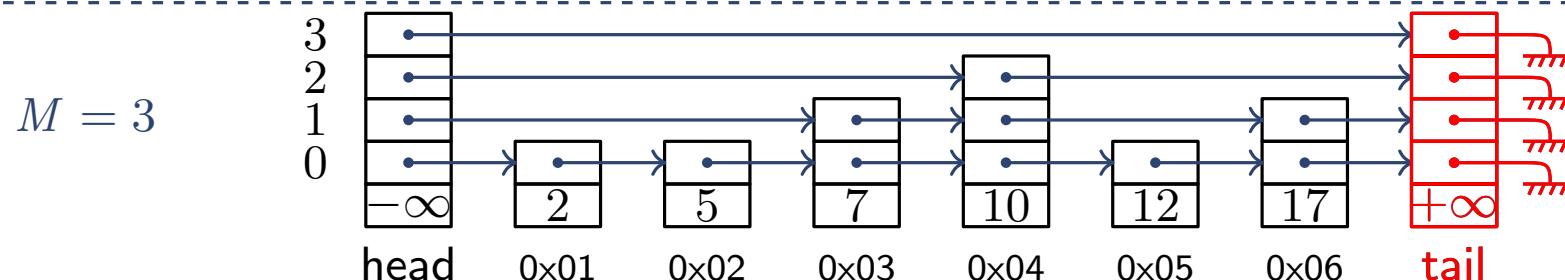
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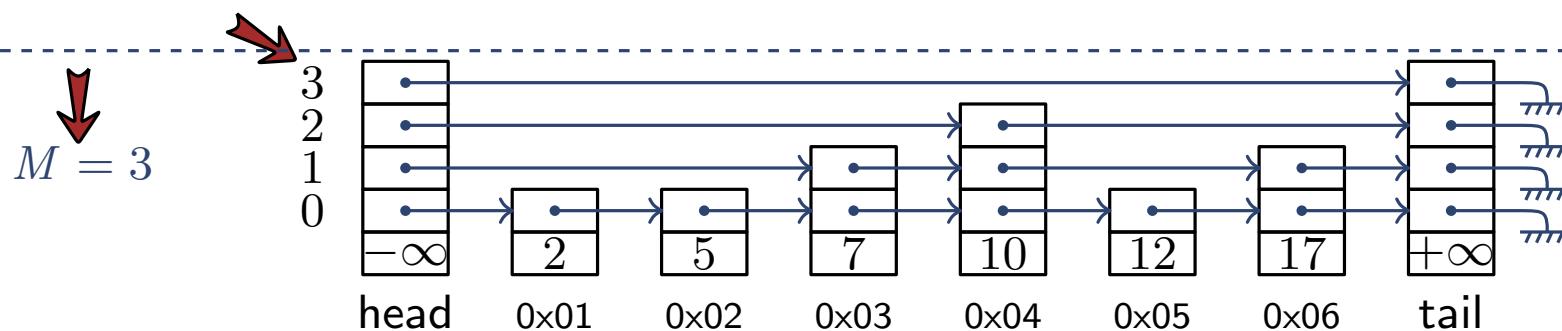
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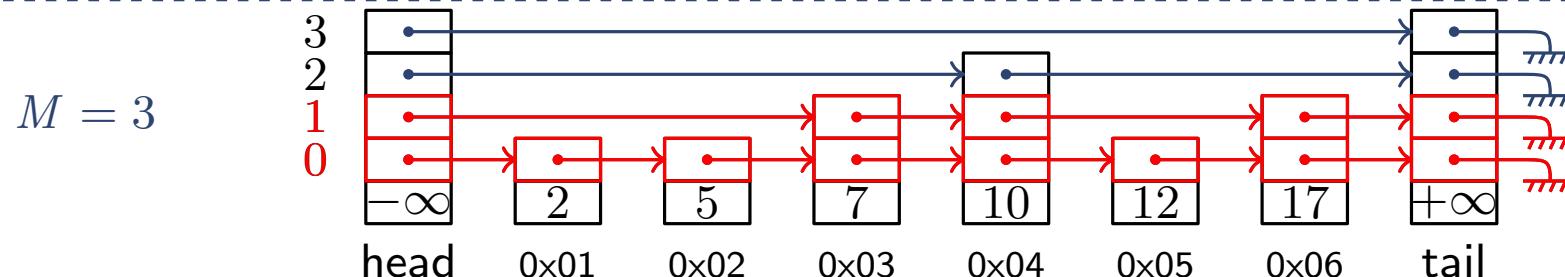
$$\text{SkipList}(\text{heap}, sl, r) \hat{=} \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{ordList}(\text{heap}, \text{head}, \text{tail}, 0) \\ r = \text{region}(\text{heap}, \text{head}, \text{tail}) \\ \text{heap}[\text{tail}].\text{arr}[0] = \text{null} \wedge \dots \wedge \text{heap}[\text{tail}].\text{arr}[M] = \text{null} \wedge \\ a \in r \rightarrow \text{heap}[a].\text{level} \leq M \end{array} \right) \wedge \wedge$$



Verification of Skiplists

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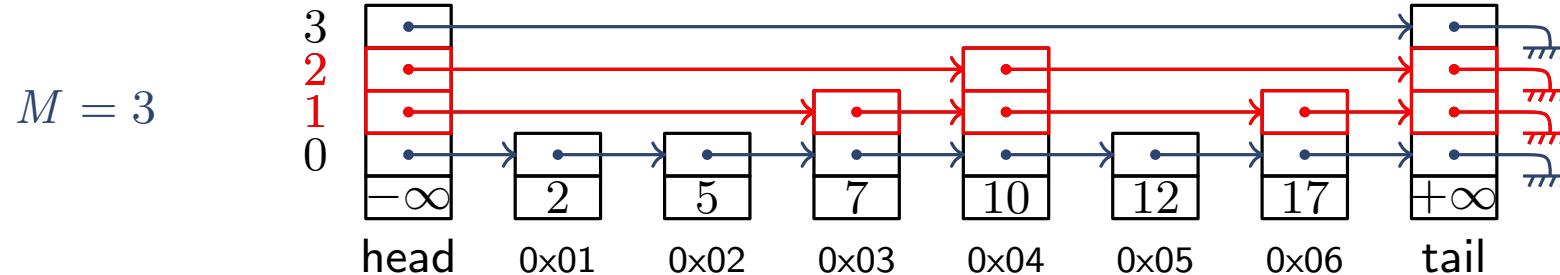
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Verification of Skiplists

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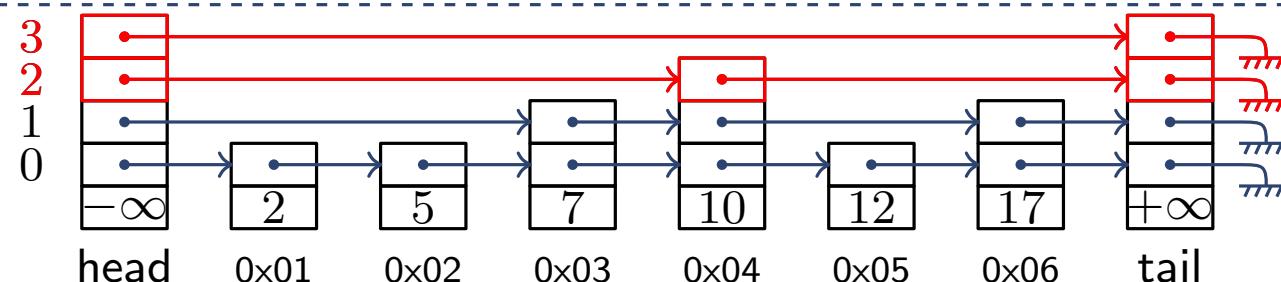


Verification of Skiplists

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$M = 3$



Verification of Skiplists

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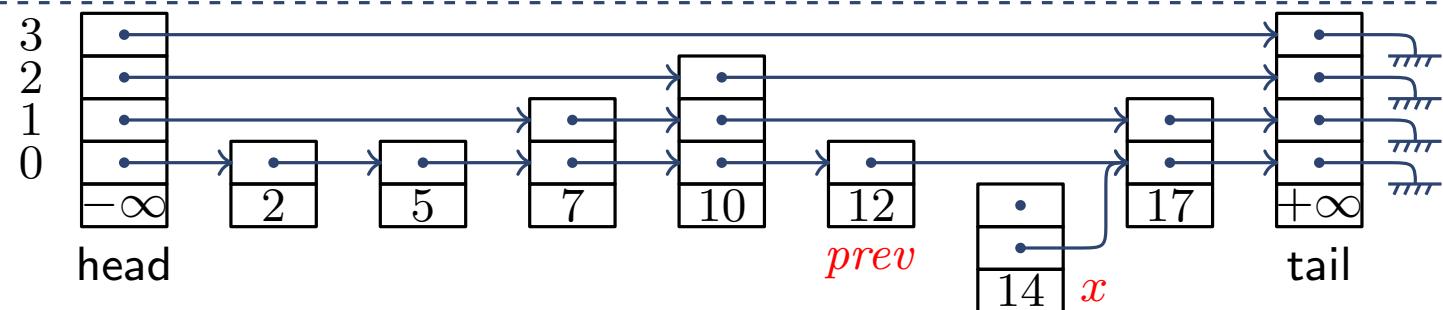
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- ▶ **Program transitions** :

```

9: . .
10: prev.arr[0] := x
11: . .

```



Verification of Skiplists

- ▶ **Skiplist shape preservation** : $\Box \text{SkipList}(\text{heap}, \text{sl}, r)$

$$\text{SkipList}(\text{heap}, \text{sl}, r) \hat{=} \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{ordList}(\text{heap}, \text{head}, \text{tail}, 0) \\ \wedge \\ r = \text{region}(\text{heap}, \text{head}, \text{tail}) \\ \wedge \\ \text{heap}[\text{tail}].\text{arr}[0] = \text{null} \wedge \dots \wedge \text{heap}[\text{tail}].\text{arr}[M] = \text{null} \\ \wedge \\ a \in r \rightarrow \text{heap}[a].\text{level} \leq M \\ \wedge \\ \bigwedge_{i \in 0 \dots (M-1)} \text{addrs}(\text{heap}, \text{head}, \text{tail}, i+1) \subseteq \text{addrs}(\text{heap}, \text{head}, \text{tail}, i) \end{array} \right)$$

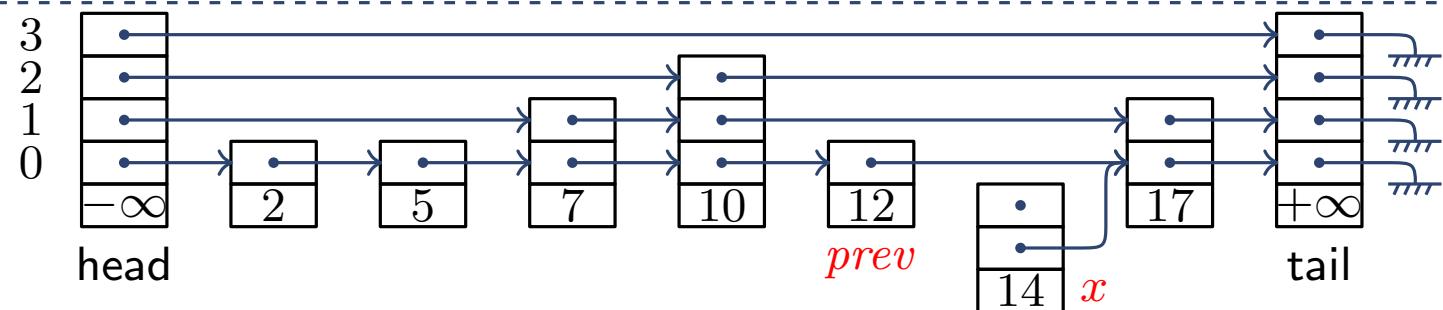
- ▶ **Program transitions** : $SL(h, sl, r)$

$\text{SkipList}(h, sl, r)$

```

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```



Verification of Skiplists

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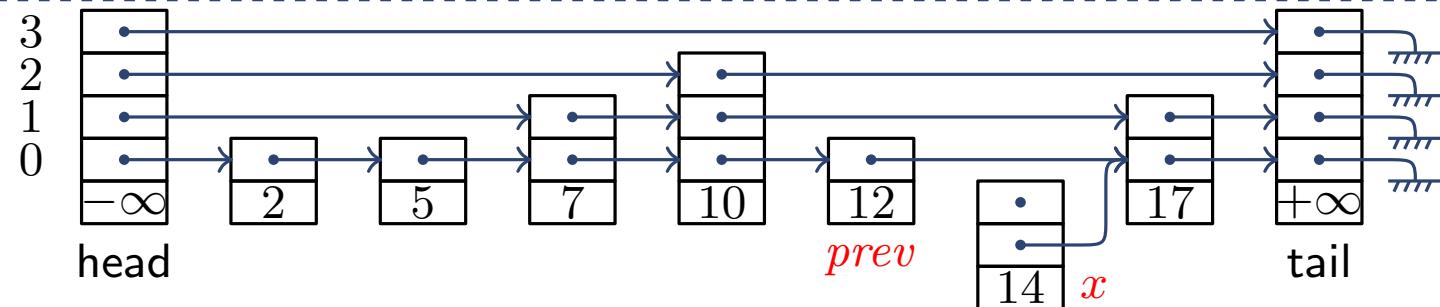
- ▶ **Program transitions** : $SL(h, sl, r) \wedge \varphi_{aux}$

$$\text{SkipList}(h, sl, r) \wedge \left(\begin{array}{ll} x.\text{val} &= 14 \\ \text{prev}.\text{val} &< 14 \\ x.\text{arr}[0].\text{val} &> 14 \\ \text{prev}.\text{arr}[0] &= x.\text{arr}[0] \\ x \notin r & \end{array} \right) \wedge \wedge \wedge \wedge$$

```

9: . . .
10: prev.arr[0] := x
11: . . .

```



Verification of Skiplists

- ▶ **Skiplist shape preservation** : $\square \text{SkipList}(\text{heap}, sl, r)$

$$\text{SkipList}(\text{heap}, sl, r) \doteq \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{ordList}(\text{heap}, \text{head}, \text{tail}, 0) \\ r = \text{region}(\text{heap}, \text{head}, \text{tail}) \\ \text{heap}[\text{tail}].\text{arr}[0] = \text{null} \wedge \dots \wedge \text{heap}[\text{tail}].\text{arr}[M] = \text{null} \\ a \in r \rightarrow \text{heap}[a].\text{level} \leq M \\ \bigwedge_{i \in 0 \dots (M-1)} \text{addrs}(\text{heap}, \text{head}, \text{tail}, i+1) \subseteq \text{addrs}(\text{heap}, \text{head}, \text{tail}, i) \end{array} \right) \wedge \wedge \wedge \wedge$$

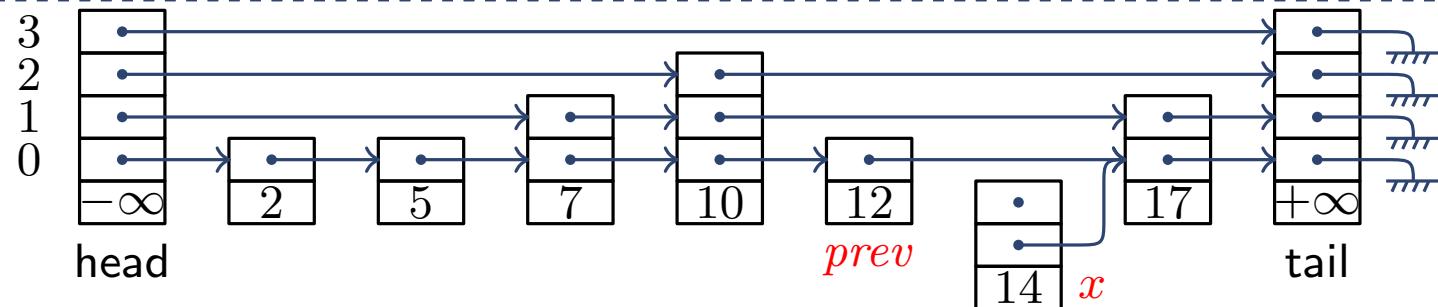
- ▶ **Program transitions** : $SL(h, sl, r) \wedge \varphi_{aux} \wedge \rho_{10}(V, V')$

$$\text{SkipList}(h, sl, r) \wedge \left(\begin{array}{l} x.\text{val} = 14 \\ \text{prev}.\text{val} < 14 \\ x.\text{arr}[0].\text{val} > 14 \\ \text{prev}.\text{arr}[0] = x \\ x \notin r \end{array} \wedge \wedge \wedge \wedge \right) \wedge \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{at}_{10} \\ \text{prev}'.\text{arr}[0] = x \\ \text{at}'_{11} \\ h' = h \wedge sl = sl' \\ r' = r \cup \{x\} \wedge x' = x \end{array} \wedge \wedge \wedge \wedge \dots \right)$$

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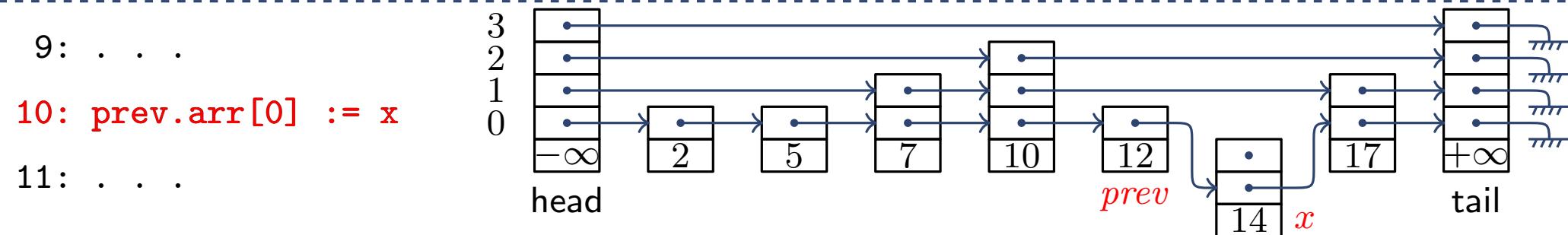
Verification of Skiplists

- ▶ **Skiplist shape preservation** : $\square \text{SkipList}(\text{heap}, sl, r)$

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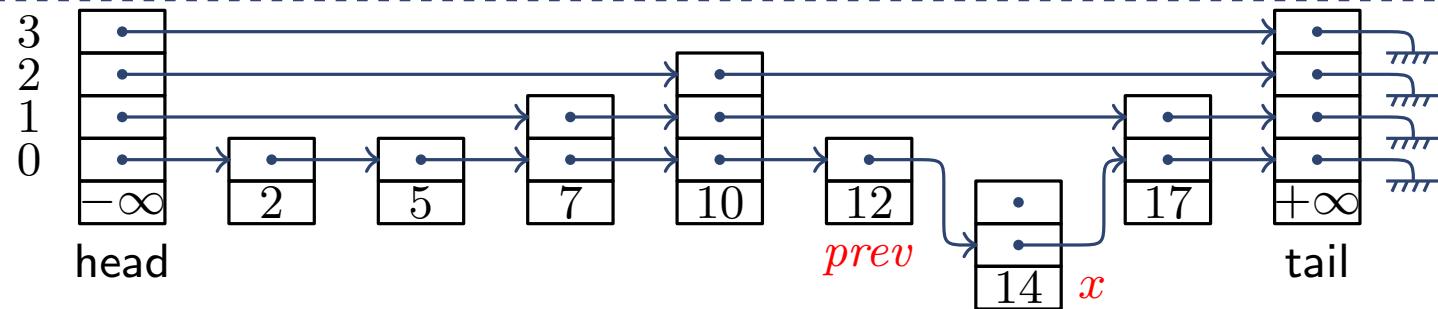
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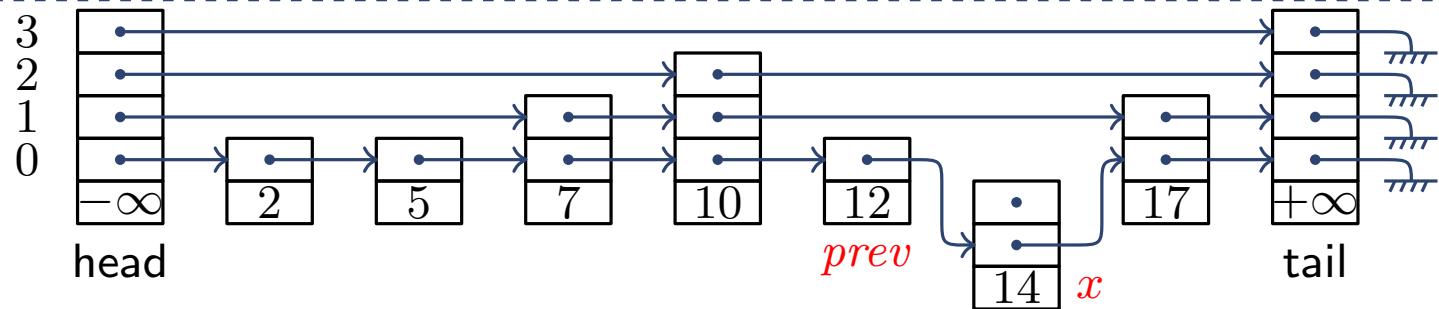
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```



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reason about

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reason about

ordered values + notion of ordered list

Verification of Skiplists

- ▶ **Skiplist shape preservation** : $\square \text{SkipList}(\text{heap}, sl, r)$

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reason about
levels

Verification of Skiplists

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reason about
arrays

Verification of Skiplists

- ▶ **Skiplist shape preservation** : $\square \text{SkipList}(\text{heap}, sl, r)$

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reason about
regions (sets)

Verification of Skiplists

- ▶ **Skiplist shape preservation** : $\square \text{SkipList}(\text{heap}, sl, r)$

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reason about
memory, cells

Our Contribution

- ▶ **TSL**, a theory for skiplists of **arbitrary length and height**
- ▶ We show TSL **decidable**...
- ▶ ...by reducing **TSL satisfiability** to **TSL_K satisfiability**.
- ▶ Show it suitable for verifying **real world implementations**

TSL: Theory of SkipList of Arbitrary Height

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- ▶ TSL, like TSL_K , is a **union of other theories**

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$$\Sigma_{\text{addr}}$$

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$$\Sigma_{\text{addr}} \cup \Sigma_{\text{elem}}$$

TSL: Theory of SkipList of Arbitrary Height

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TSL_K

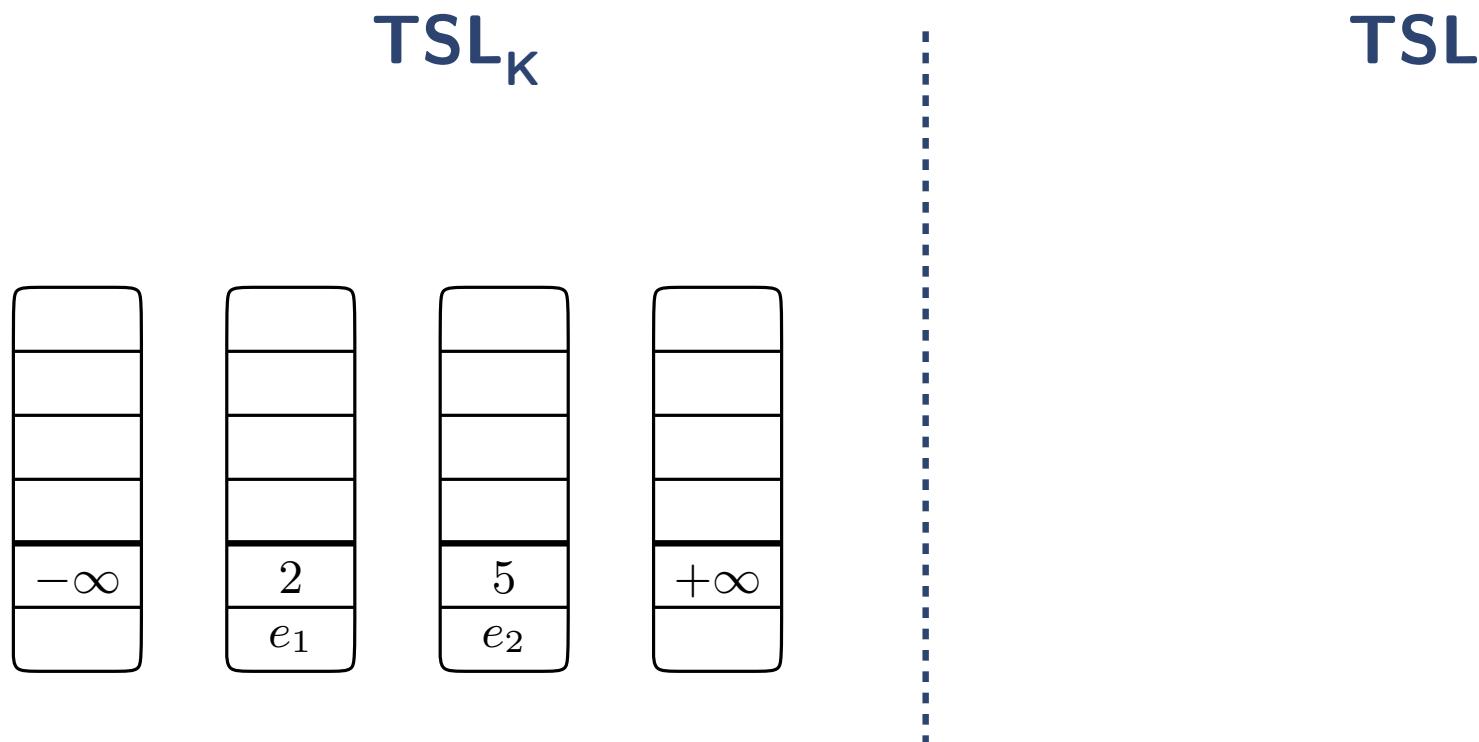
TSL



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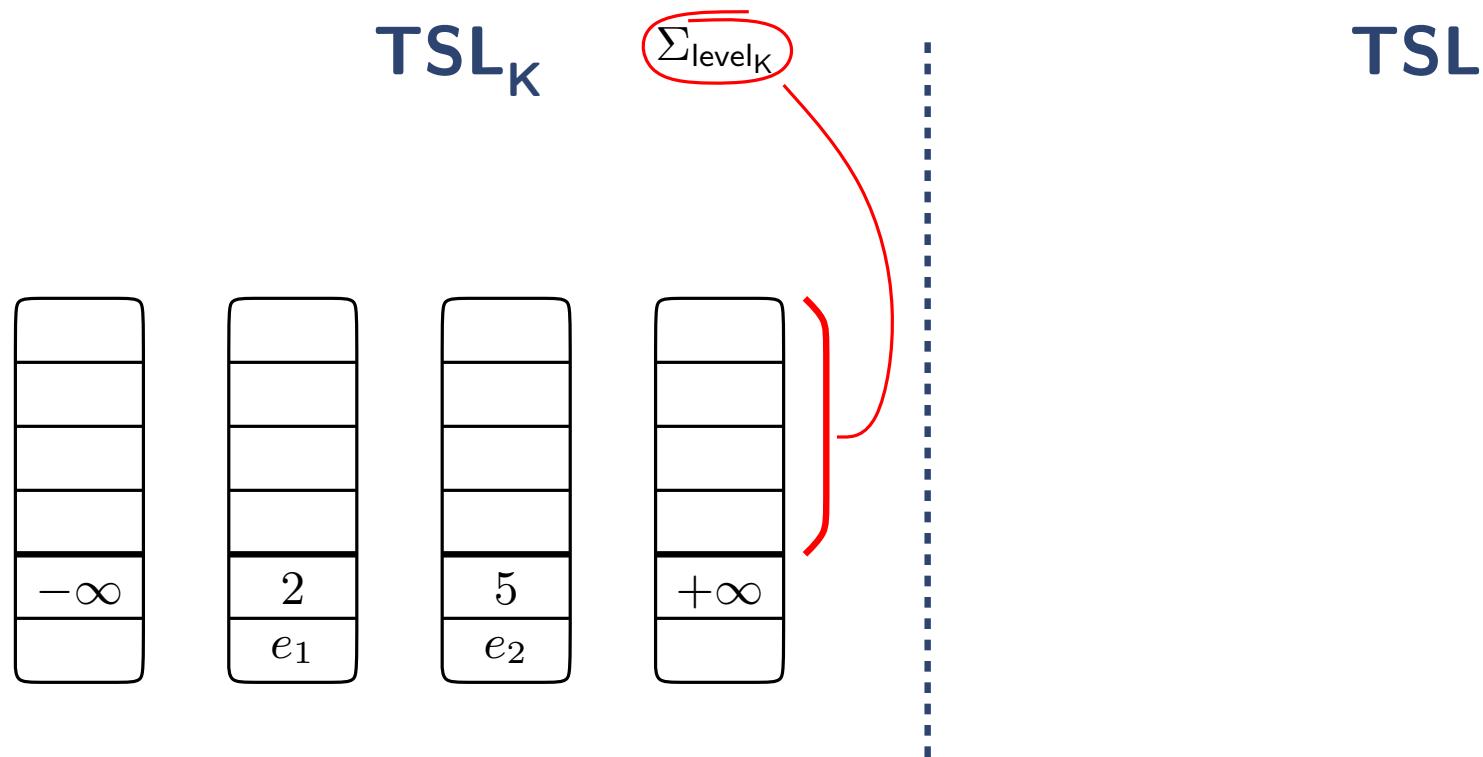
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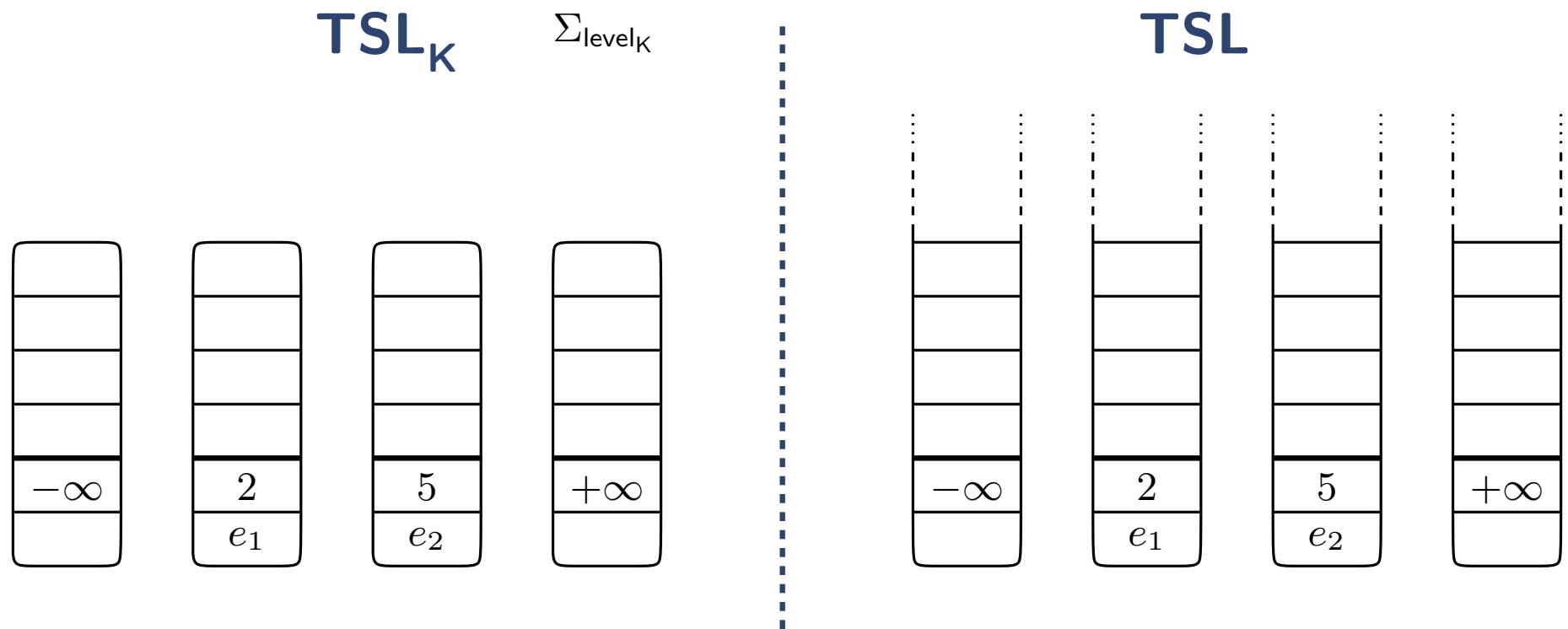
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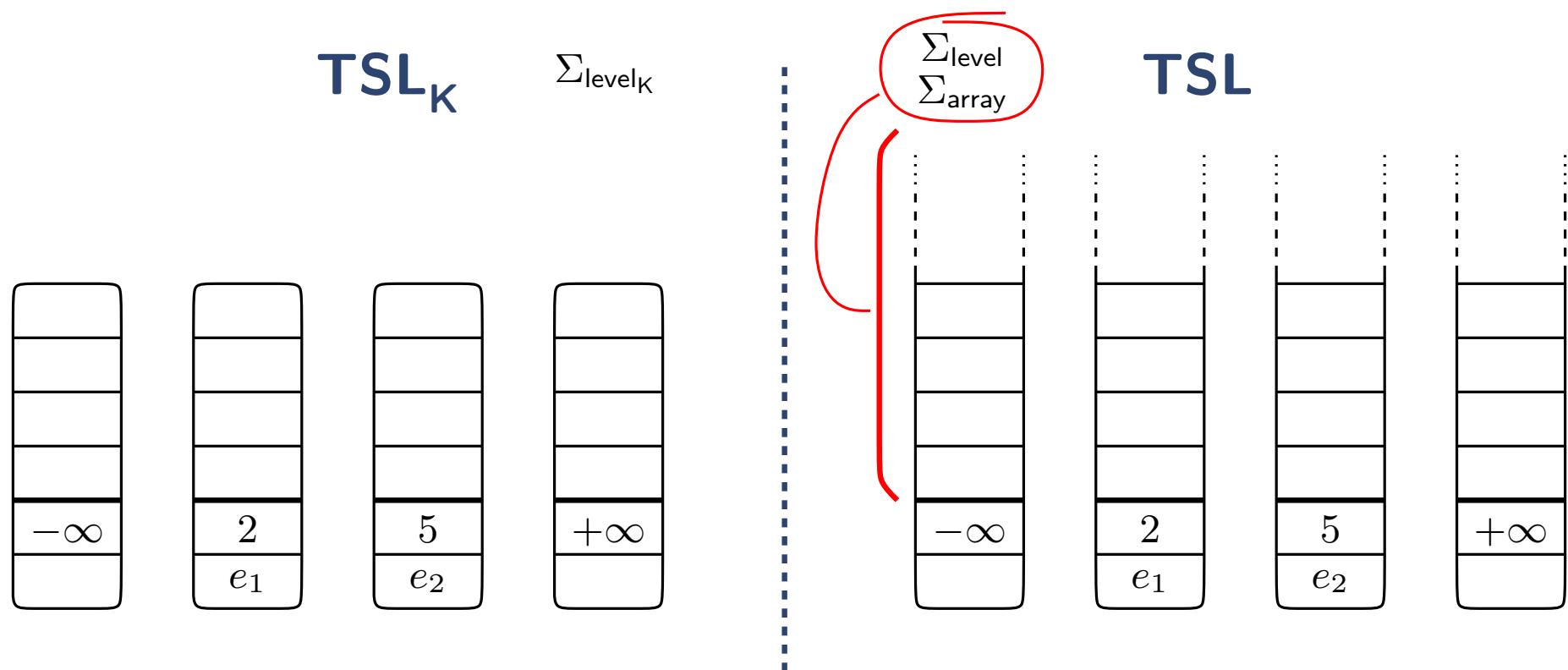
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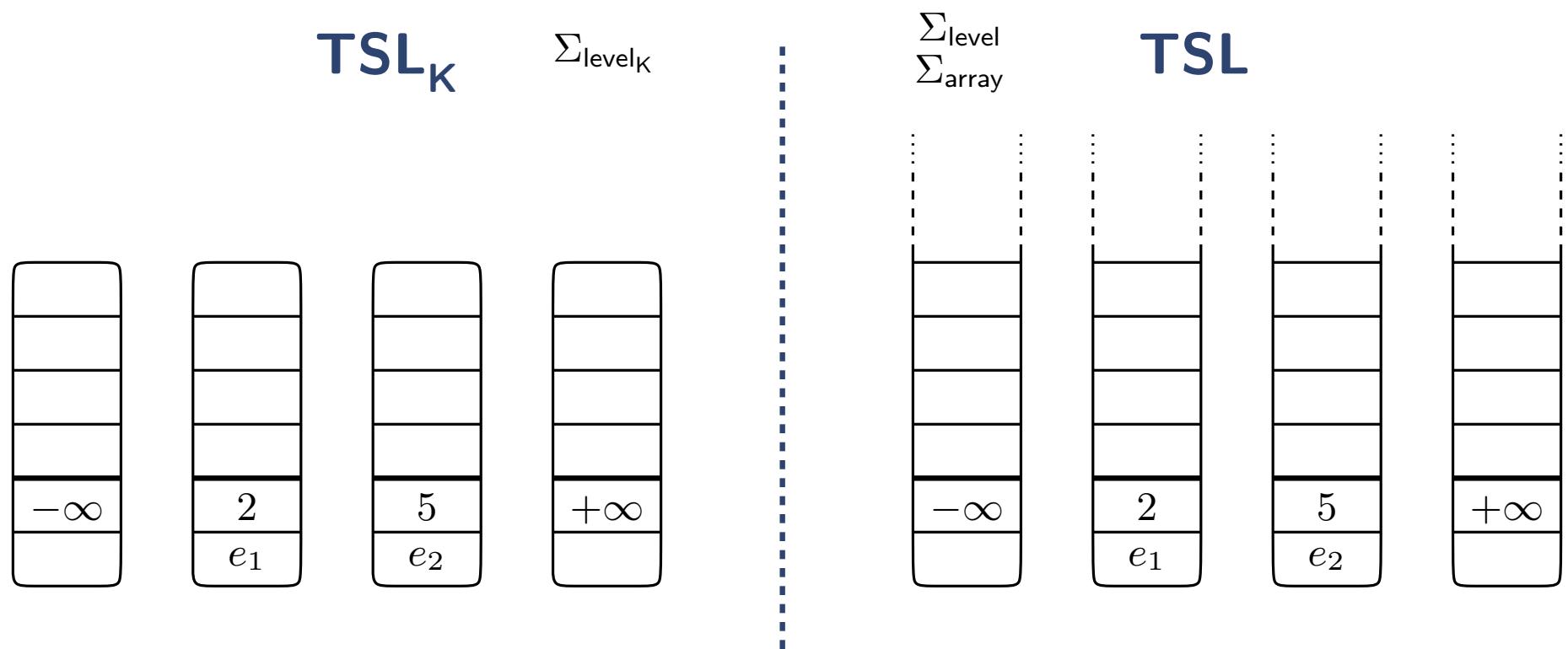
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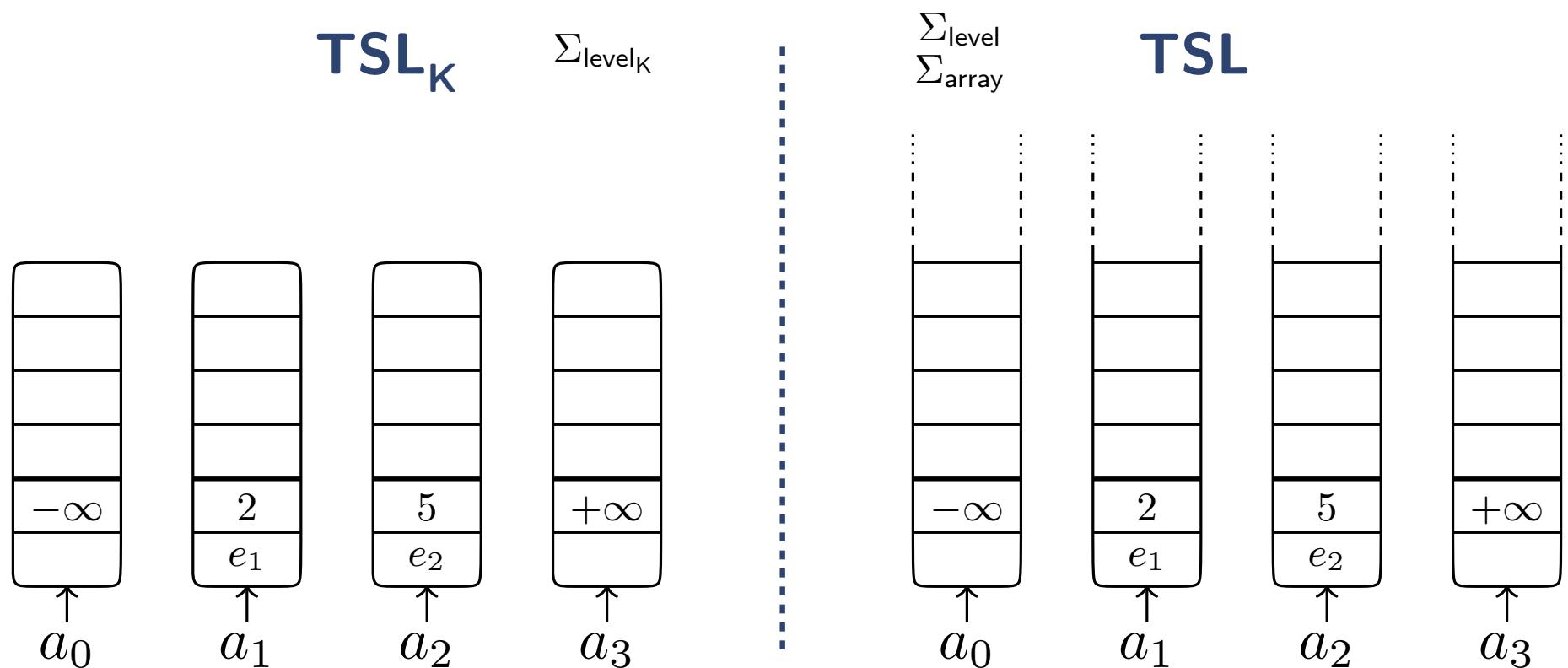
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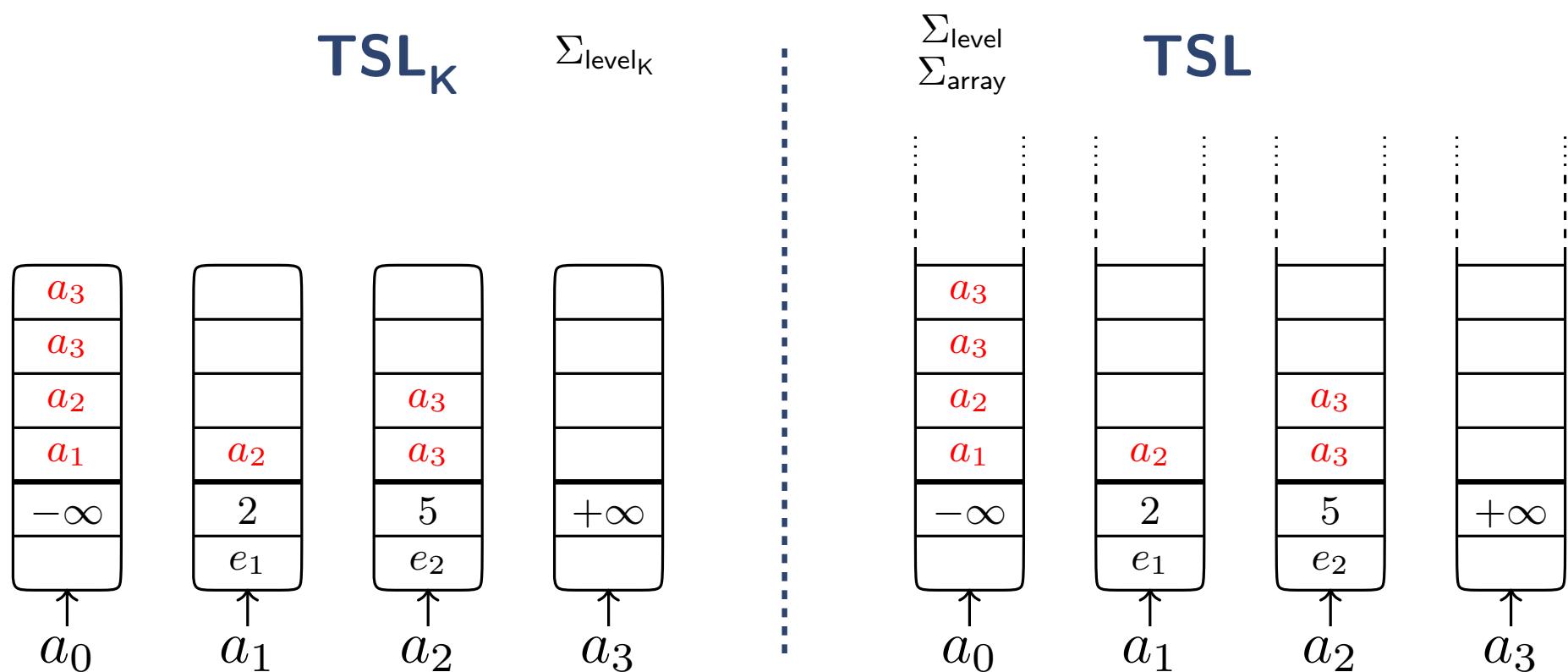
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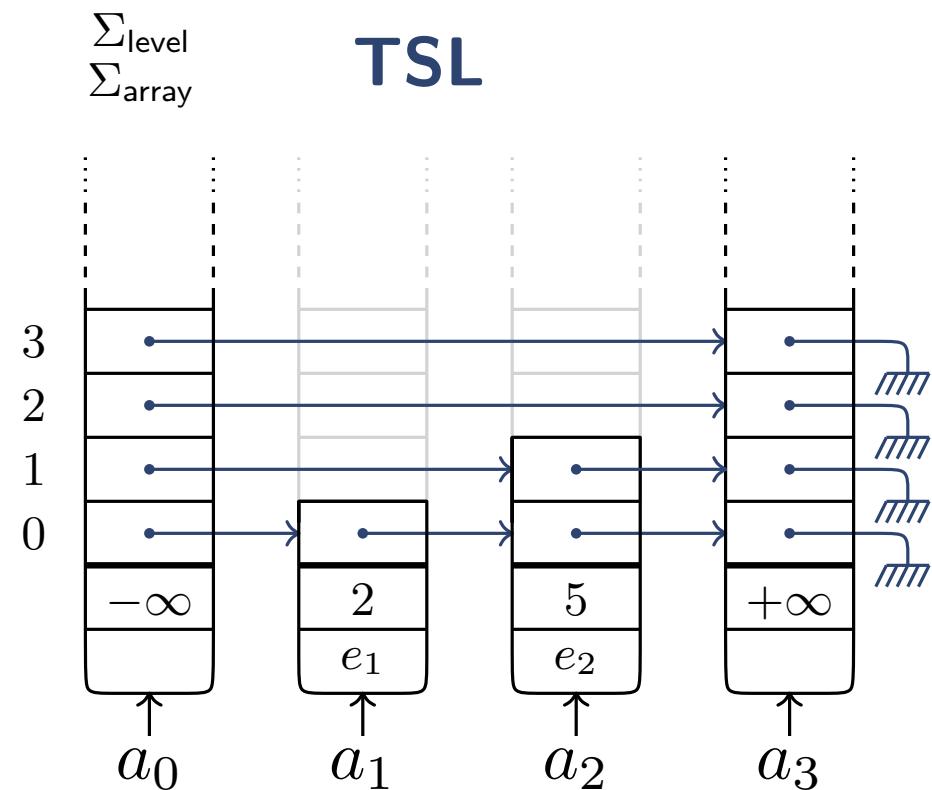
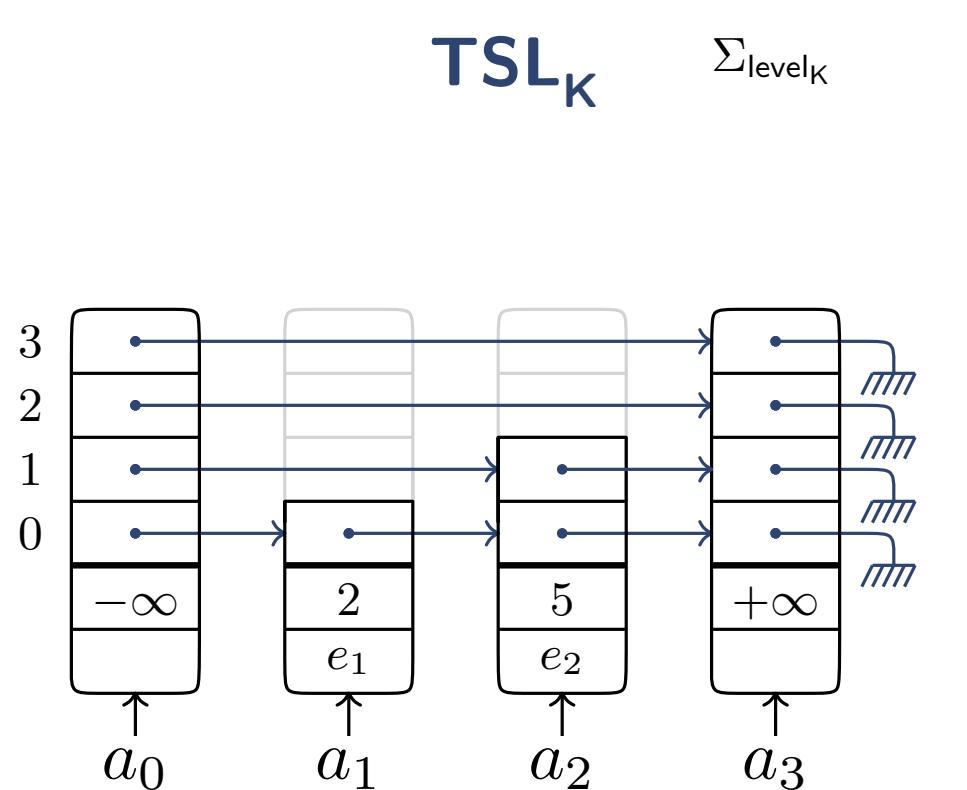
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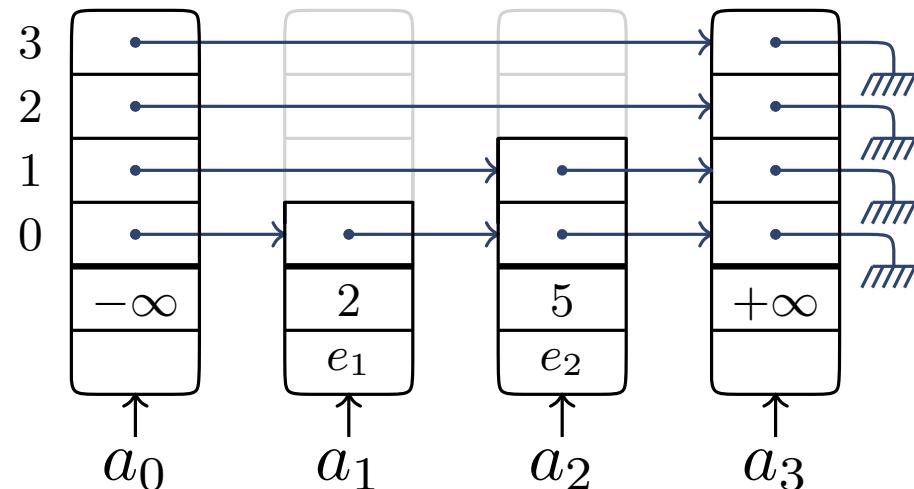


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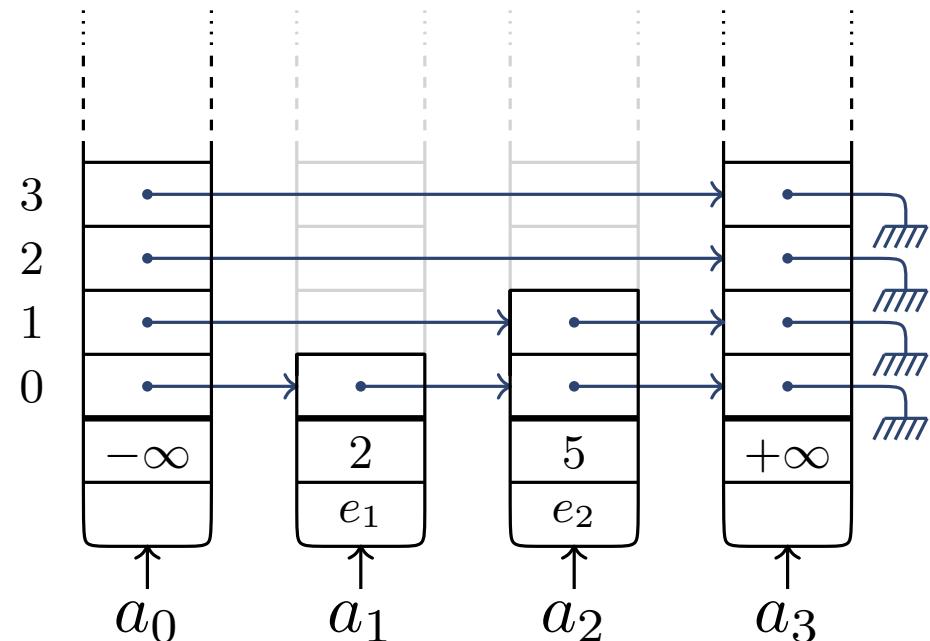
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TSL_K



TSL

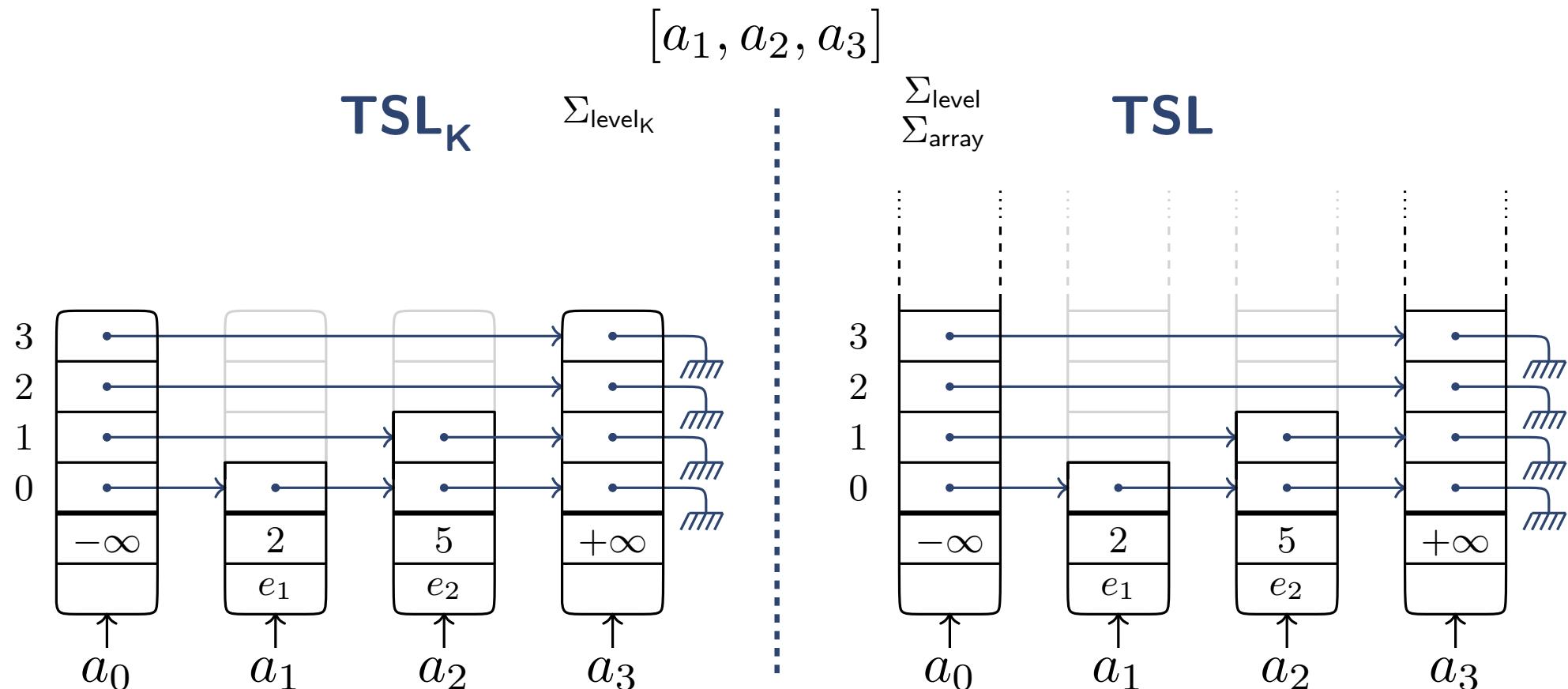


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path = a non-repeating sequence of addresses

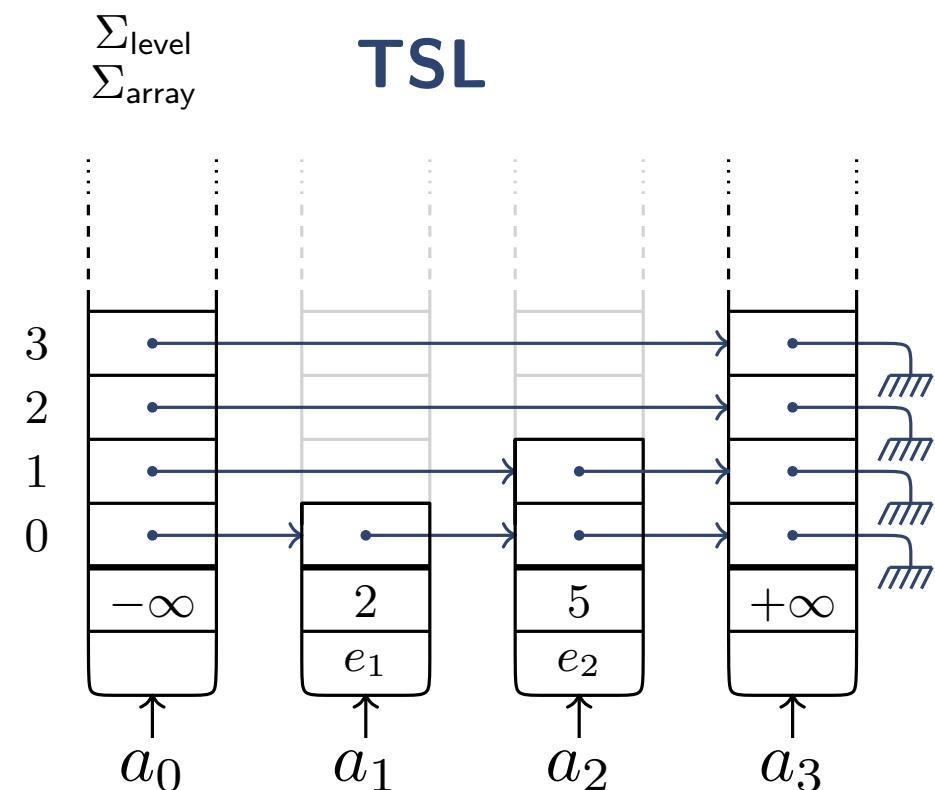
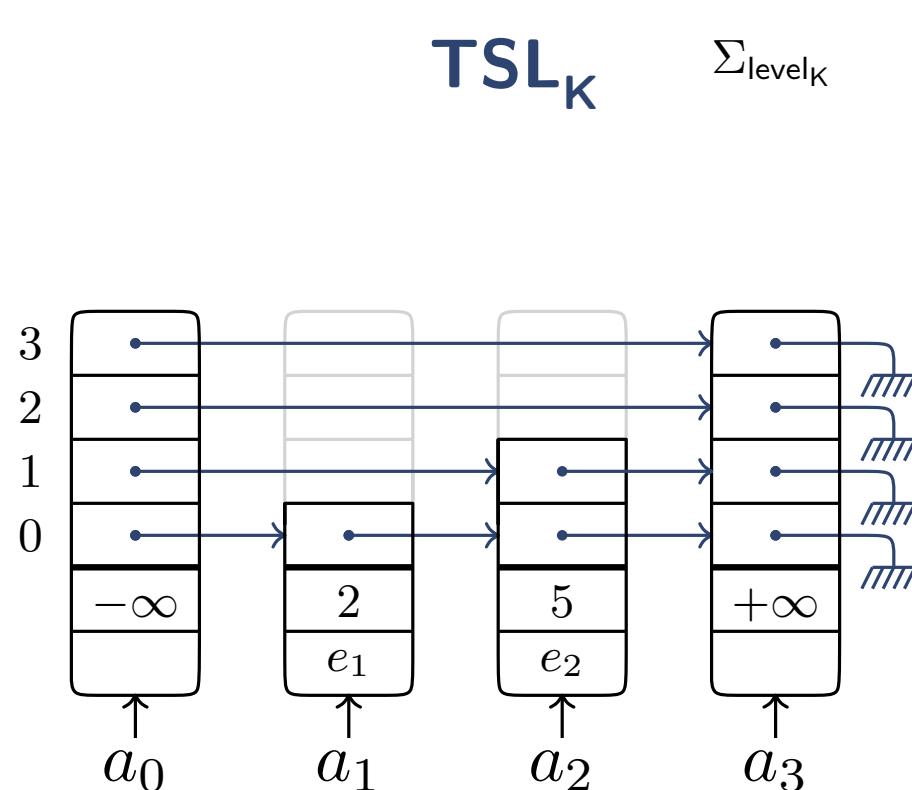


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append([a₁, a₂], [a₃], [a₁, a₂, a₃])

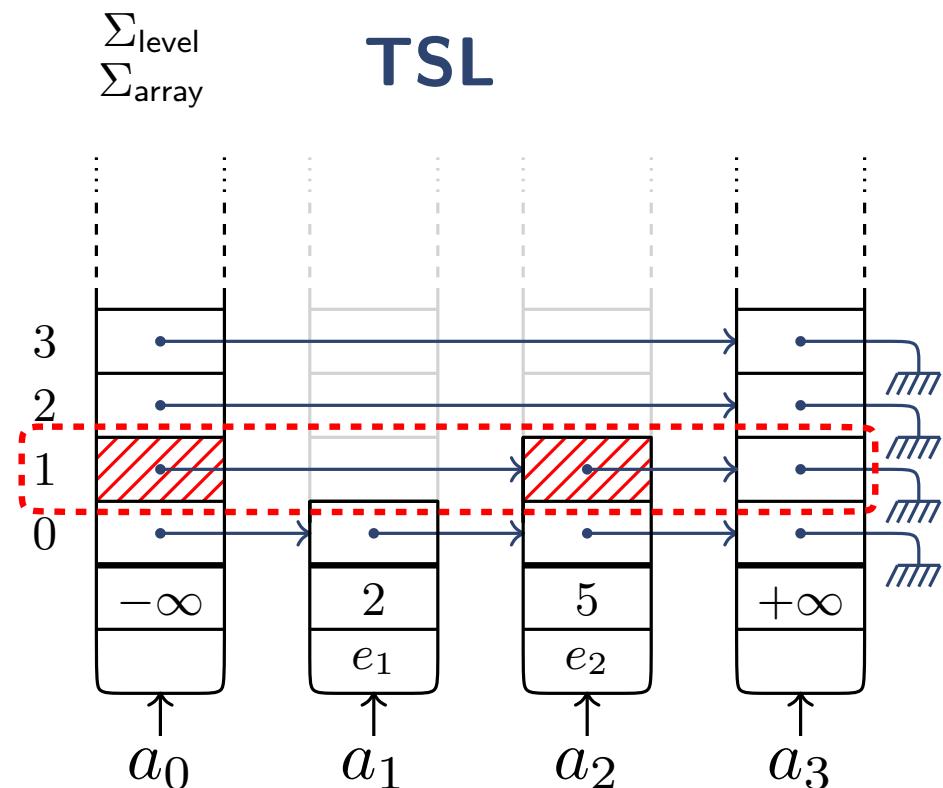
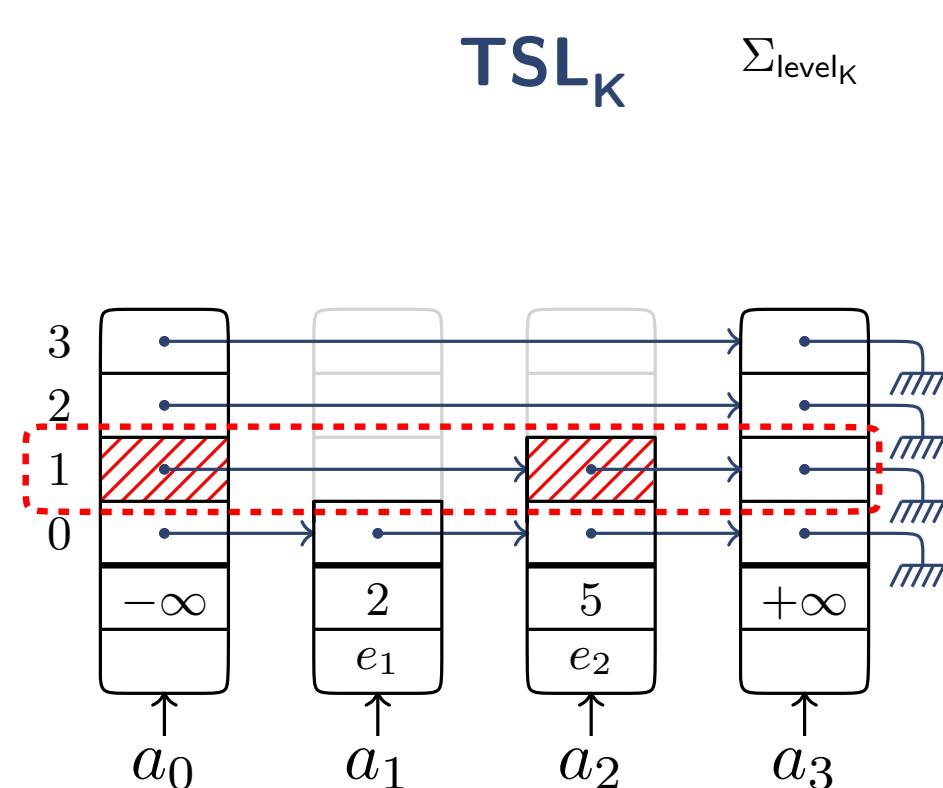


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reach($a_0, a_3, 1, [a_0, a_2]$)

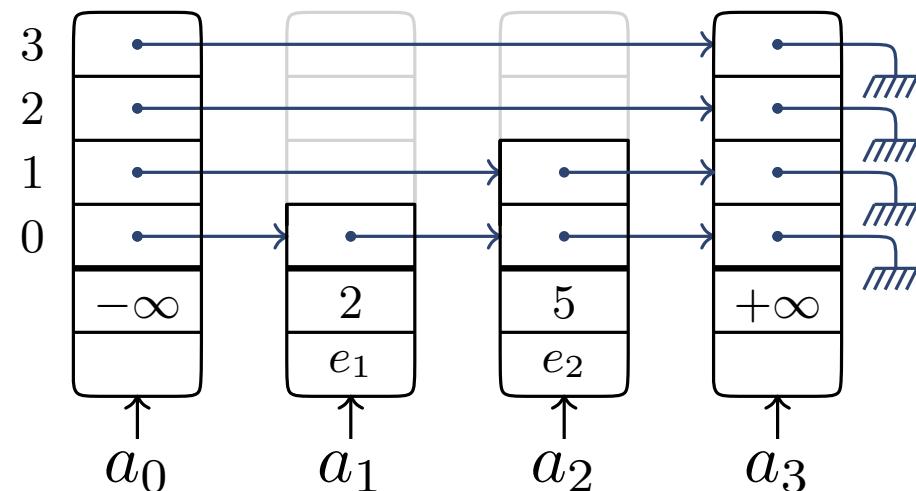


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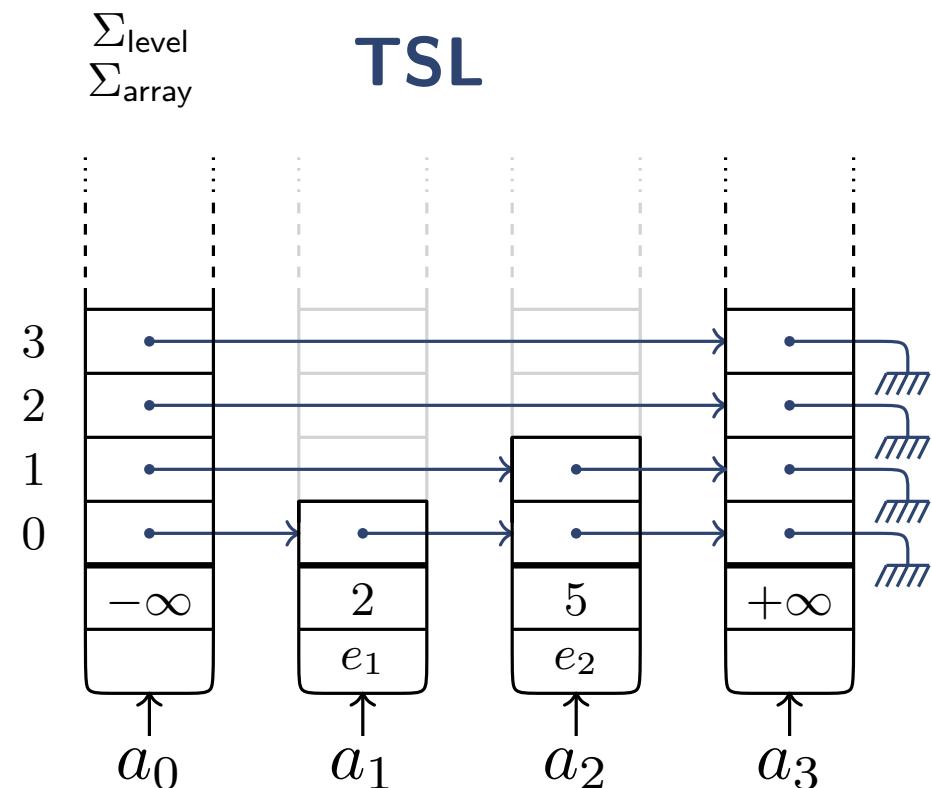
$$\Sigma_{\text{addr}} \cup \Sigma_{\text{elem}} \cup \Sigma_{\text{ord}} \cup \Sigma_{\text{cell}} \cup \Sigma_{\text{mem}} \cup \Sigma_{\text{set}} \cup \Sigma_{\text{reachability}} \cup \Sigma_{\text{bridge}}$$

TSL_K



Σ_{level_K}

TSL



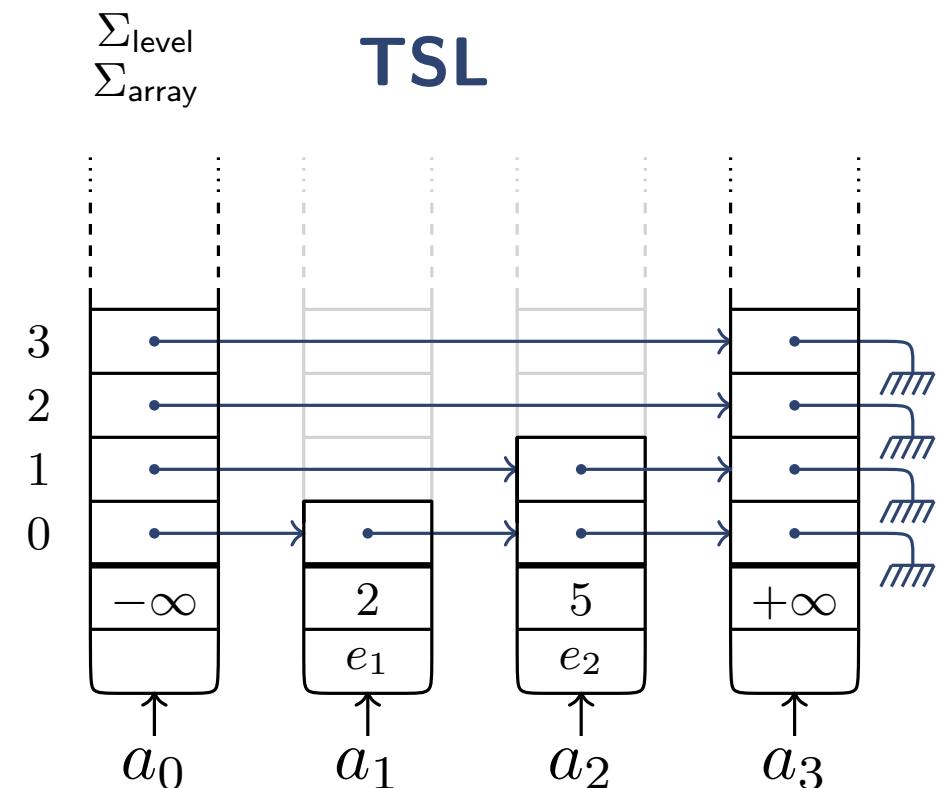
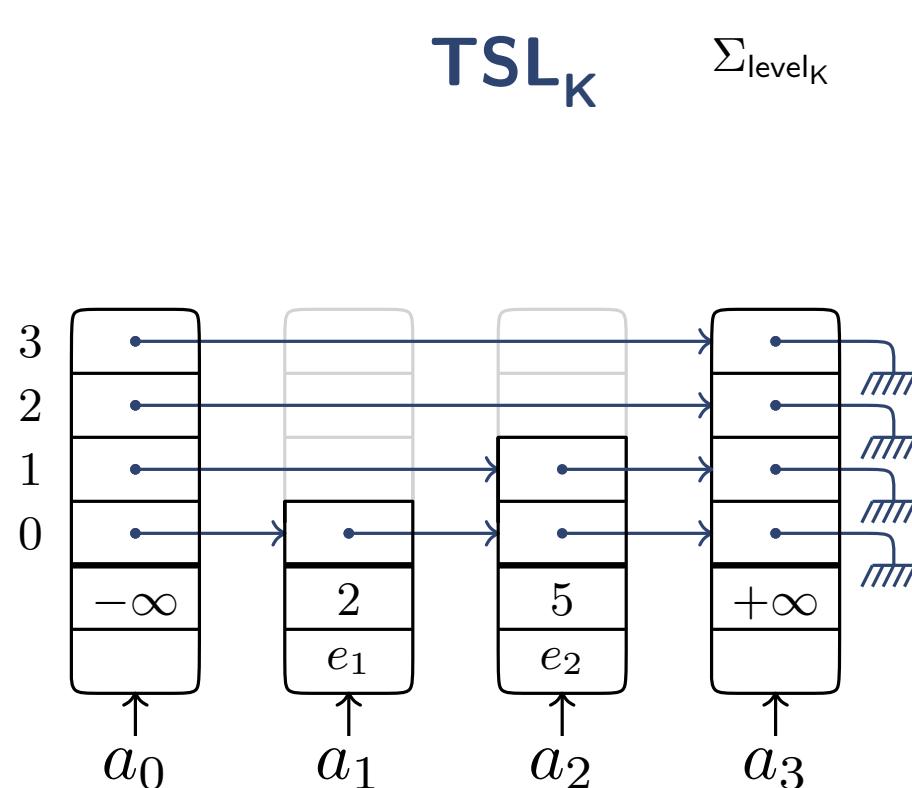
Σ_{level}
 Σ_{array}

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$$\text{path2set}([a_2, a_3]) = \{a_2, a_3\}$$

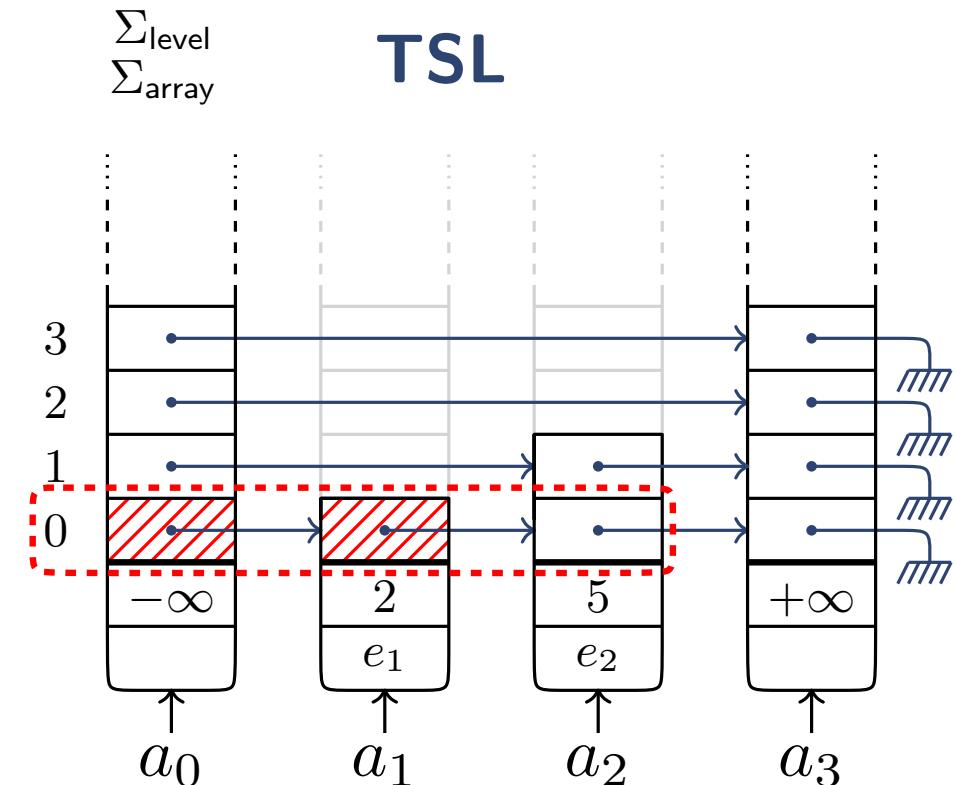
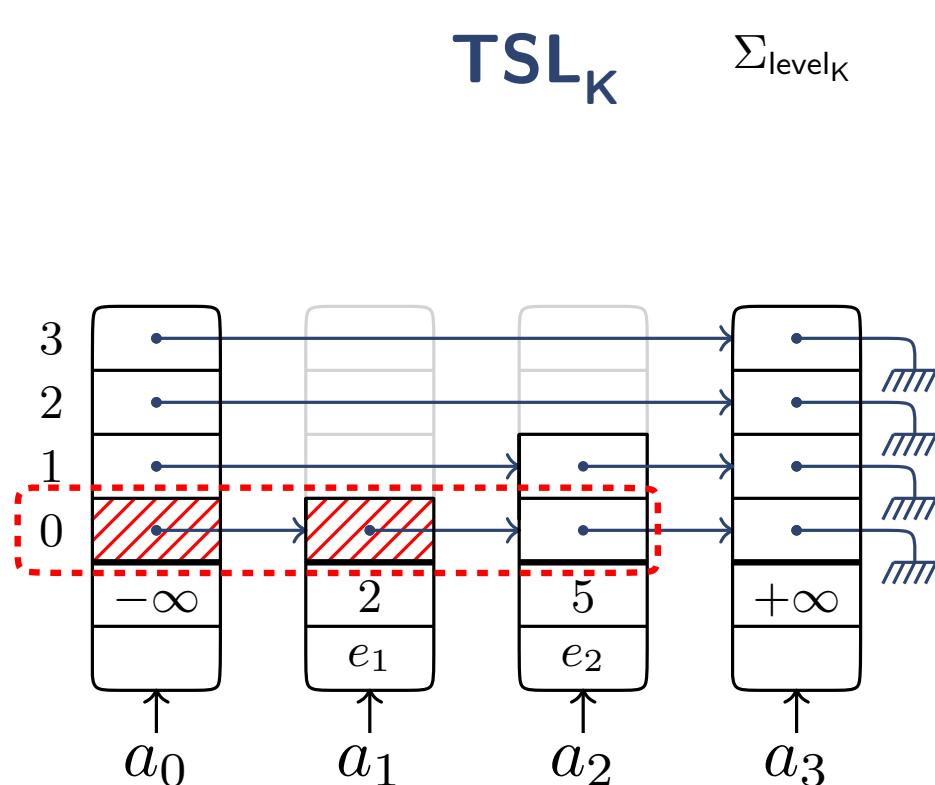


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$$getp(a_0, a_2, 0) = [a_0, a_1]$$

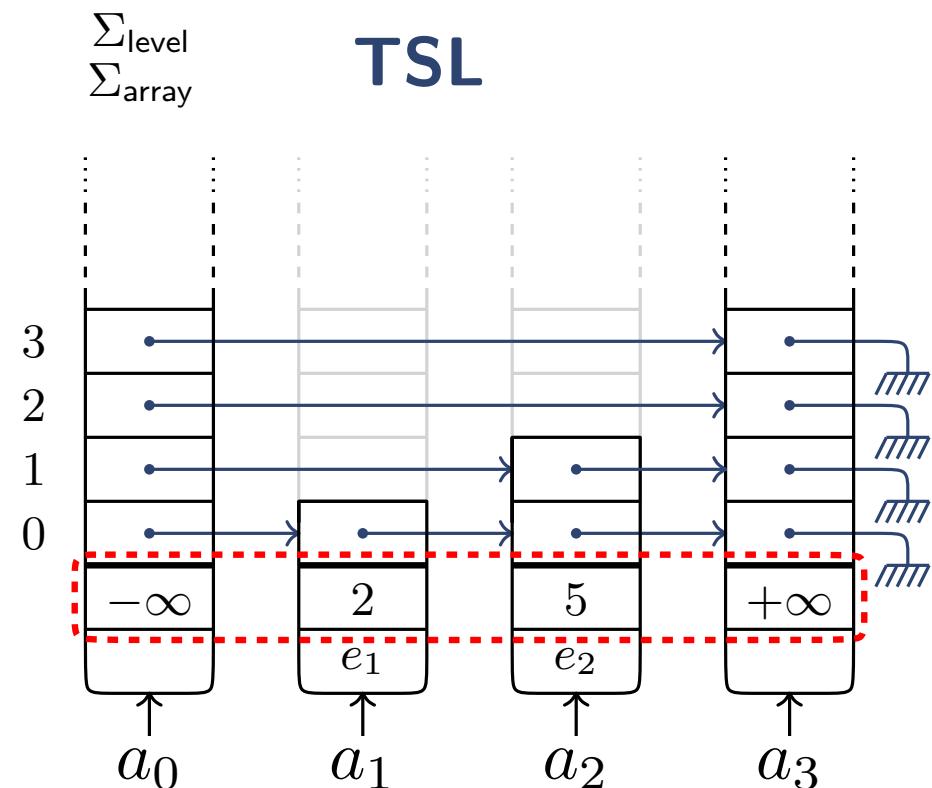
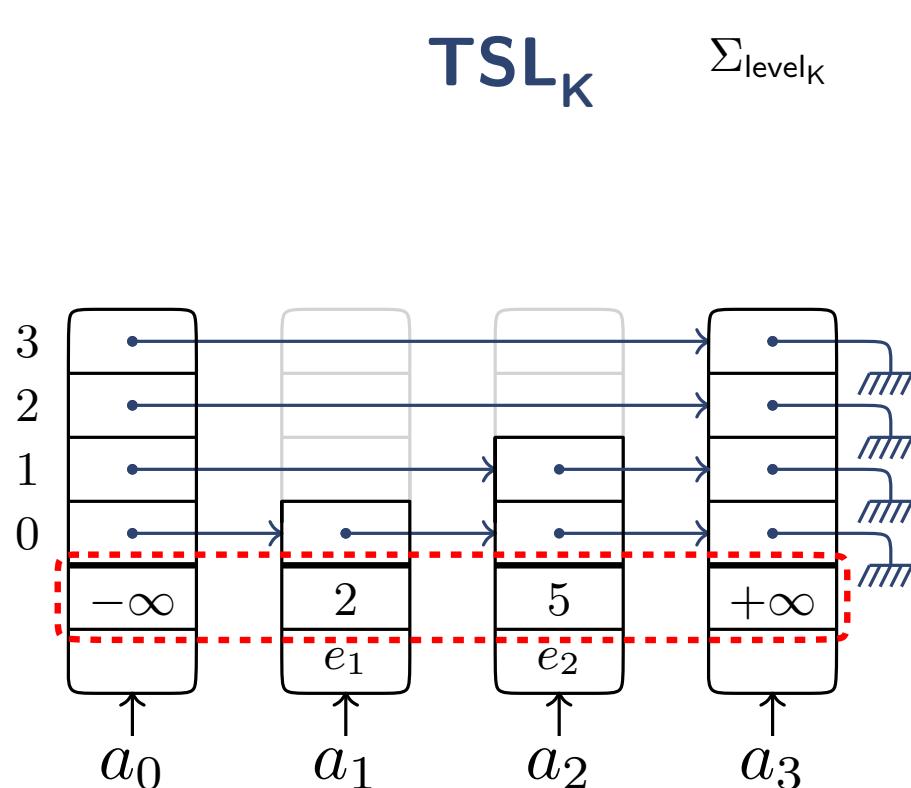


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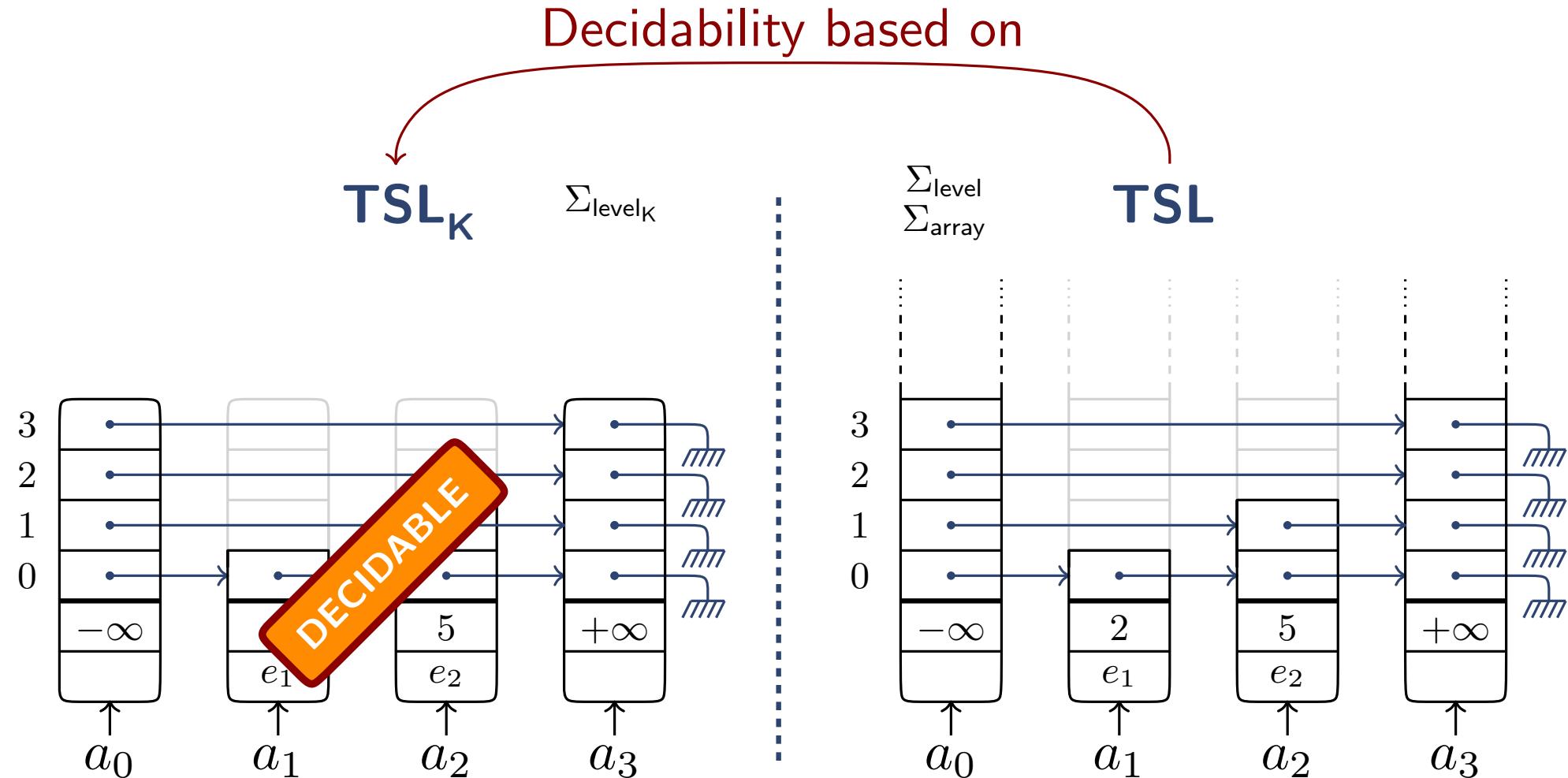
ordList([a₀, a₁, a₂, a₃])



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Decision Procedure for TSL

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- ▶ Let φ_{norm} be a normalized TSL formula

Decision Procedure for TSL

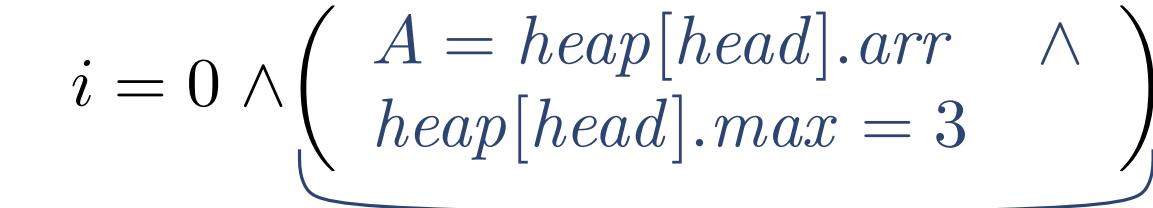
- ▶ Let φ_{norm} be a normalized TSL formula

$$\varphi \quad : \quad i = 0 \wedge \left(\begin{array}{l} A = \text{heap}[\text{head}].\text{arr} \\ \text{heap}[\text{head}].\text{max} = 3 \end{array} \right) \wedge B = A\{i \leftarrow \text{tail}\}$$

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 ↓ Normalization

$$\varphi_{\text{norm}} \quad : \quad i = 0 \wedge \left(\begin{array}{l} c = \text{heap}[\text{head}] \\ c = \text{mkcell}(e, k, A, l) \\ l = 3 \end{array} \right) \wedge B = A\{i \leftarrow \text{tail}\}$$

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$$\varphi_{\text{sanit}} := \varphi_{\text{norm}} \wedge \bigwedge_{B=A\{l \leftarrow a\} \in \varphi_{\text{norm}}} (l_{\text{new}} = l + 1)$$

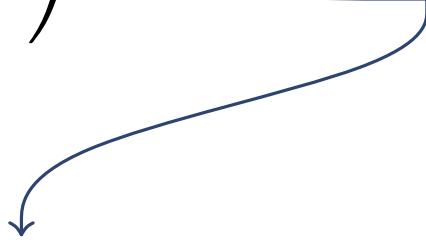
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 $\varphi_{\text{sanit}} : \varphi_{\text{norm}} \wedge l_{\text{new}} = i + 1$

Why sanitization? Soon will be clear

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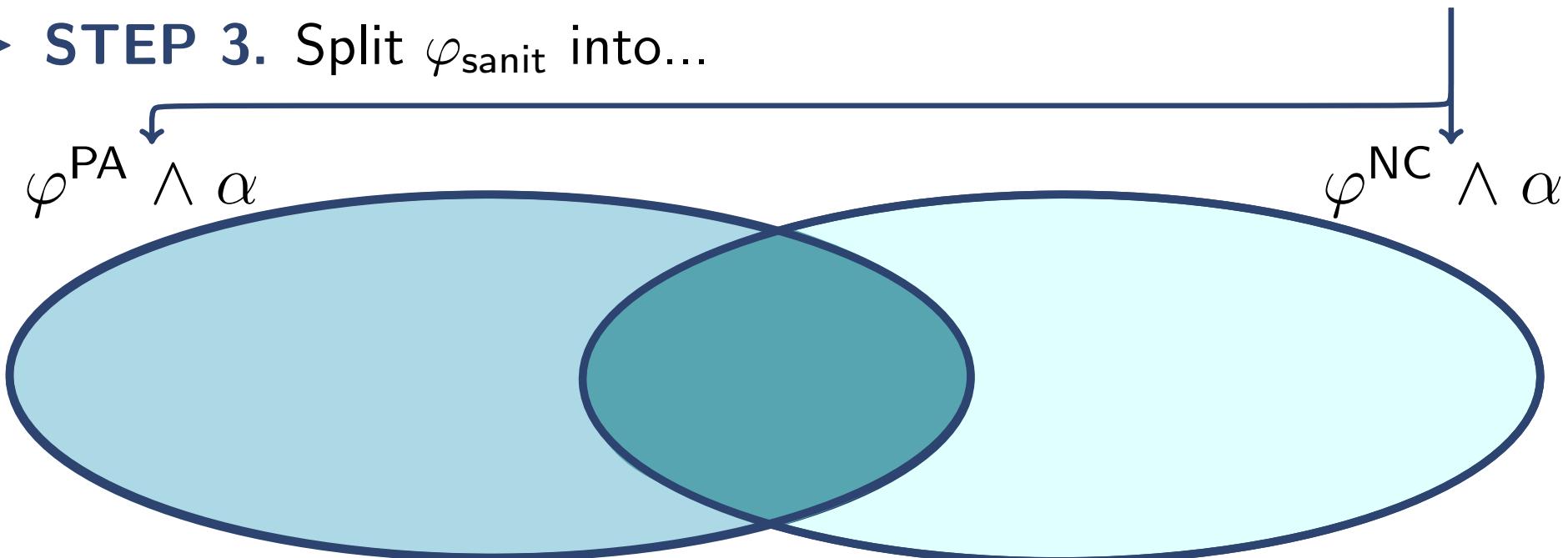
A possible arrangement: $\{i < l_{\text{new}}, i < l, l_{\text{new}} < l\}$

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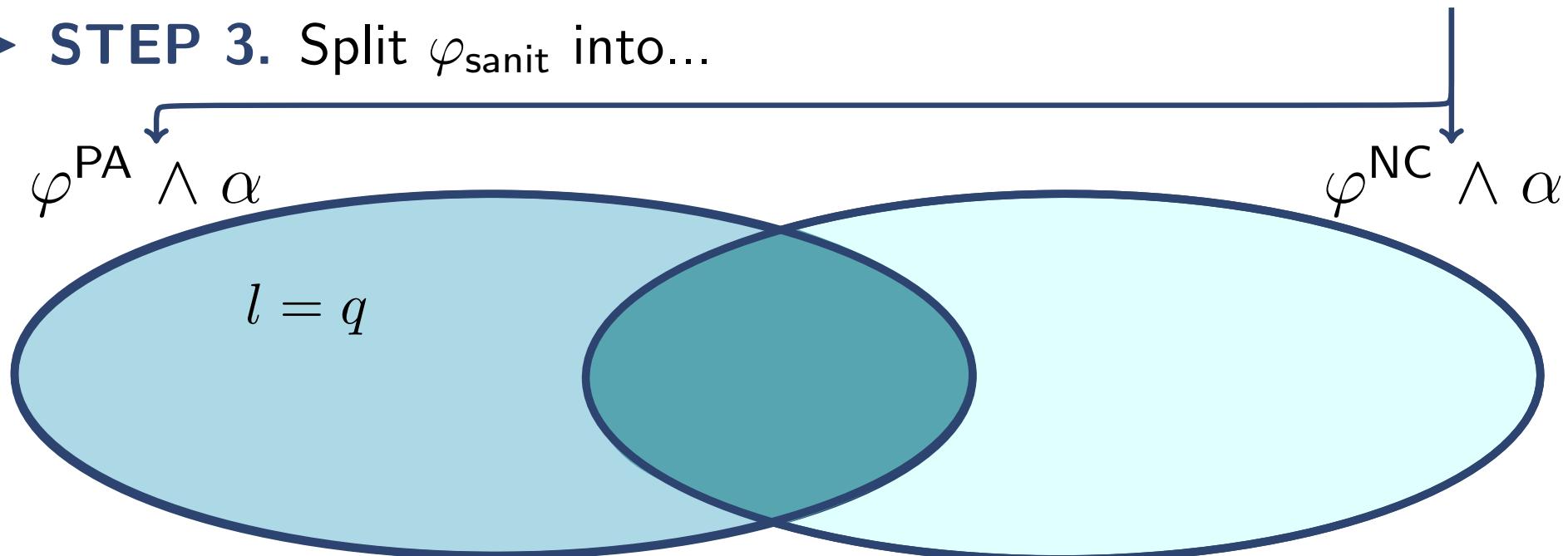


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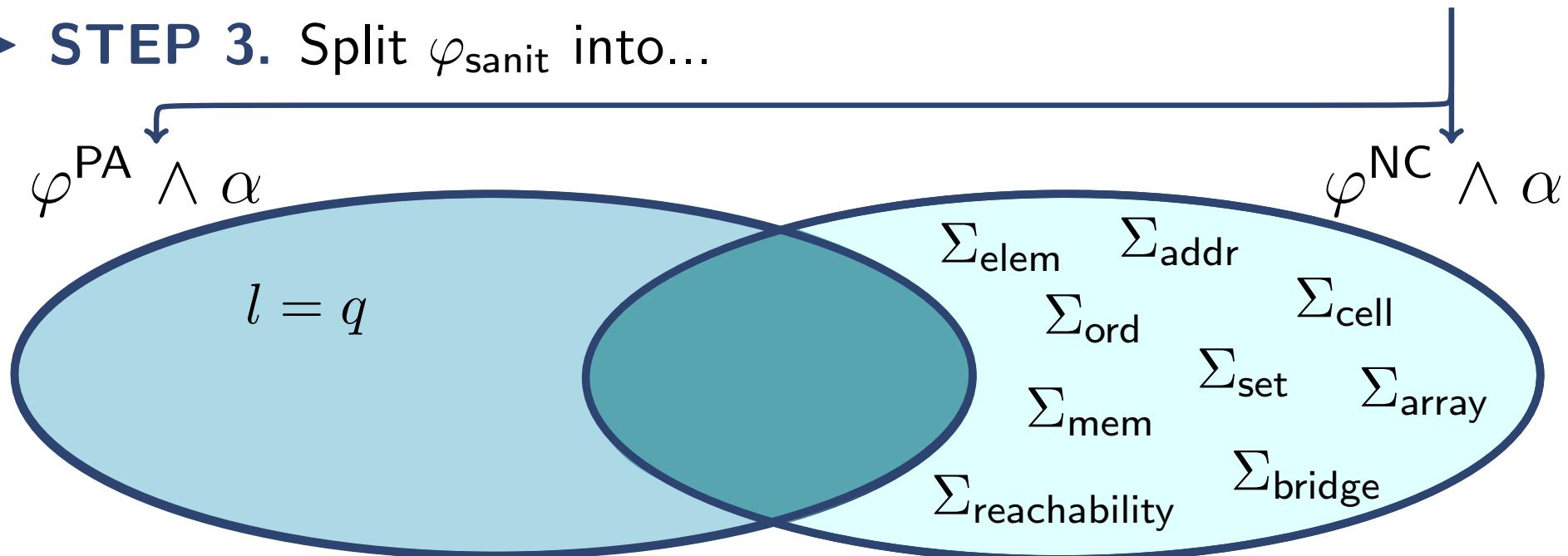


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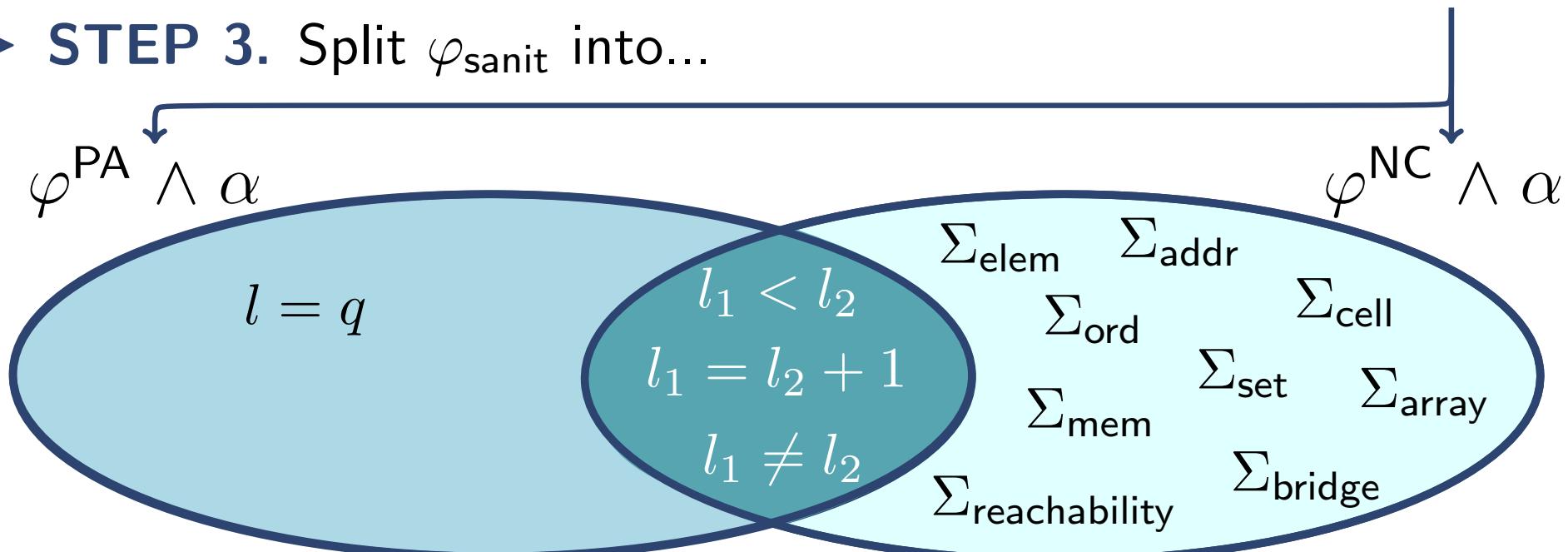


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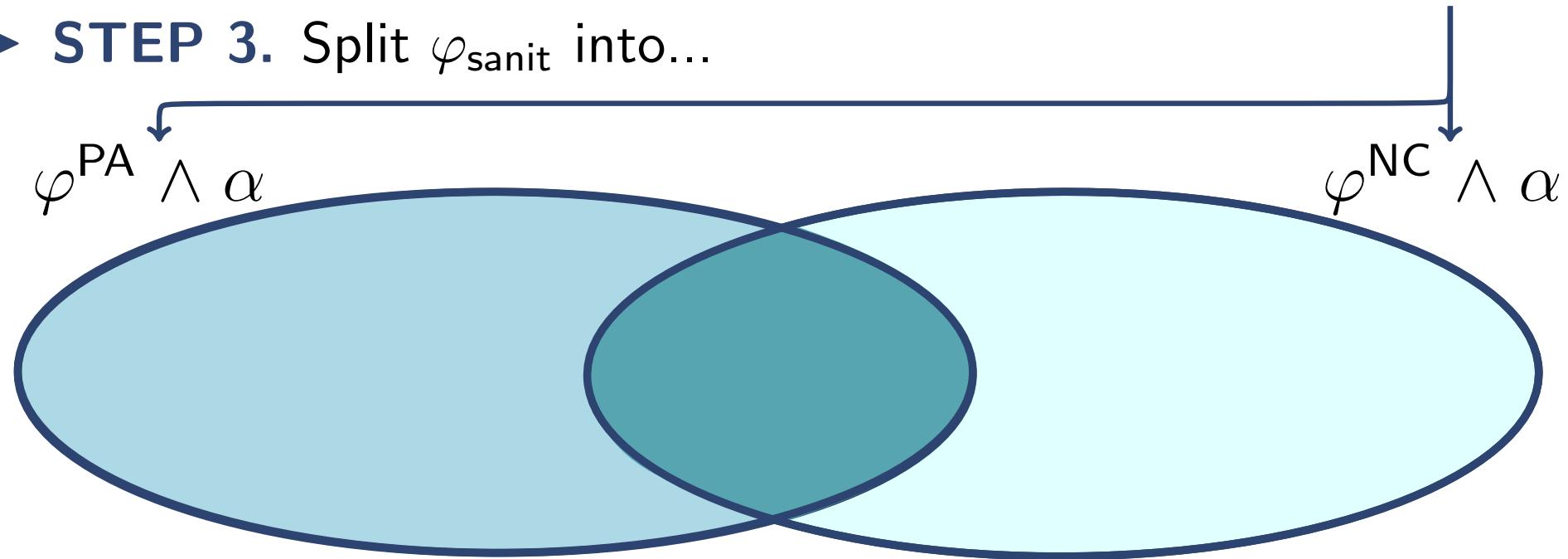


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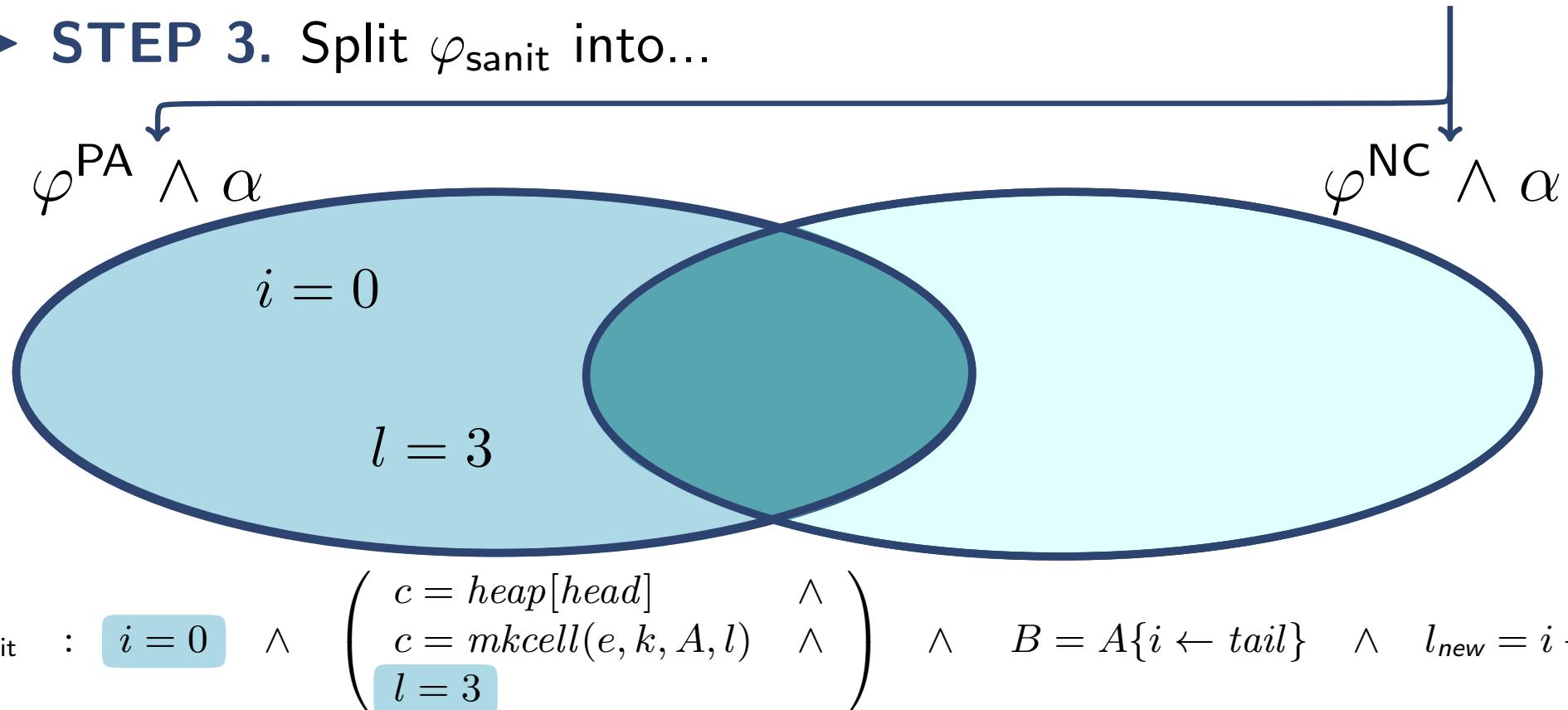
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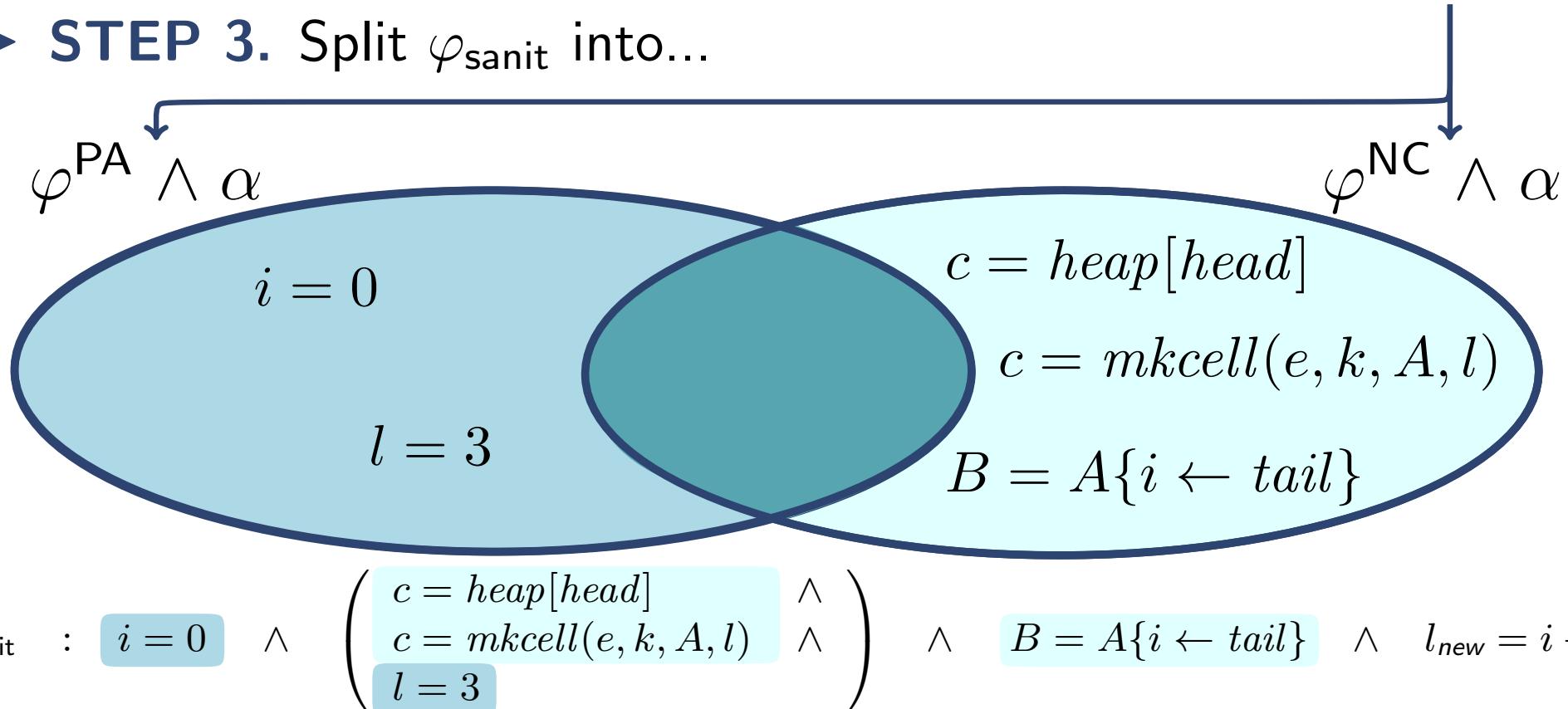


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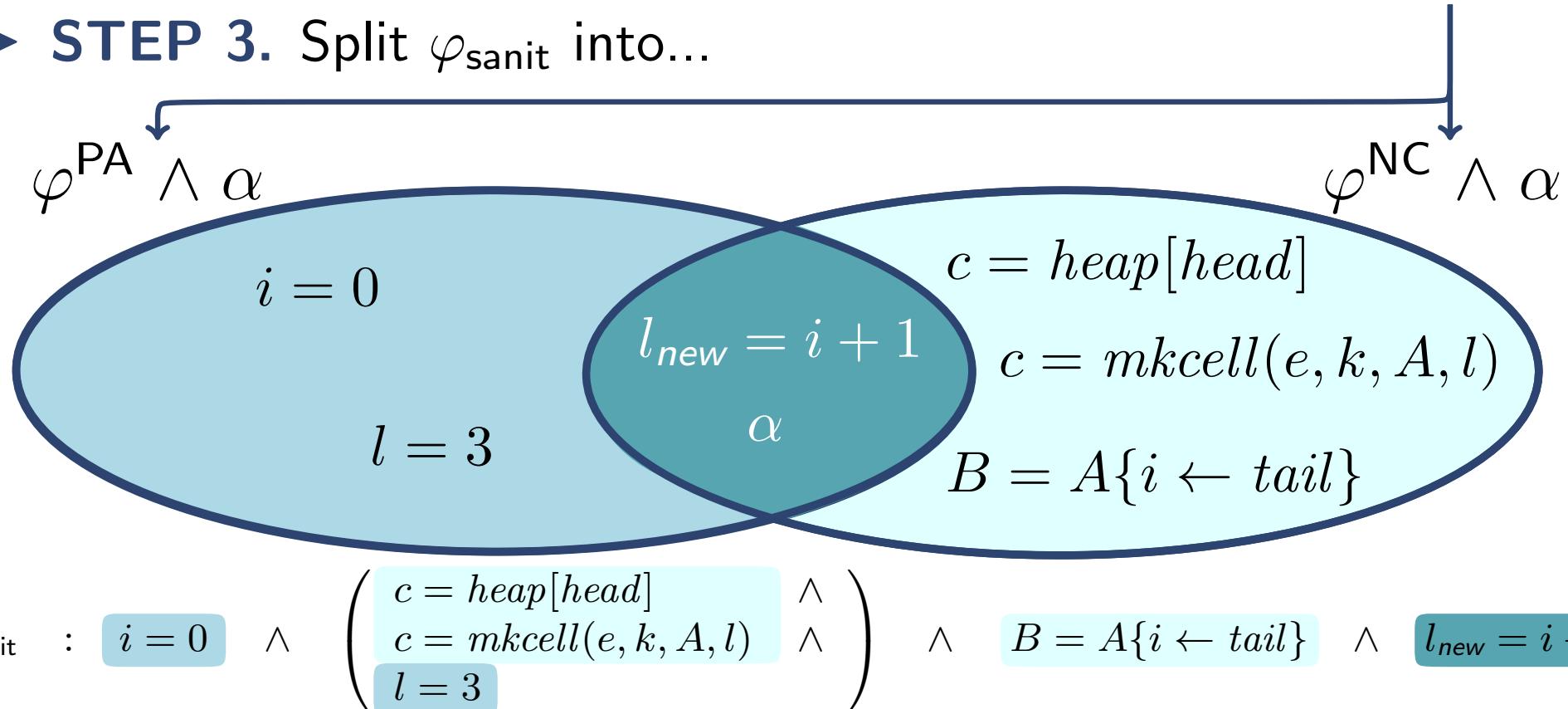


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- ▶ **STEP 4.** Check satisfiability of $(\varphi^{\text{PA}} \wedge \alpha)$ and $(\varphi^{\text{NC}} \wedge \alpha)$

Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- ▶ Let φ be a TSL formula

Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- ▶ Let φ be a TSL formula



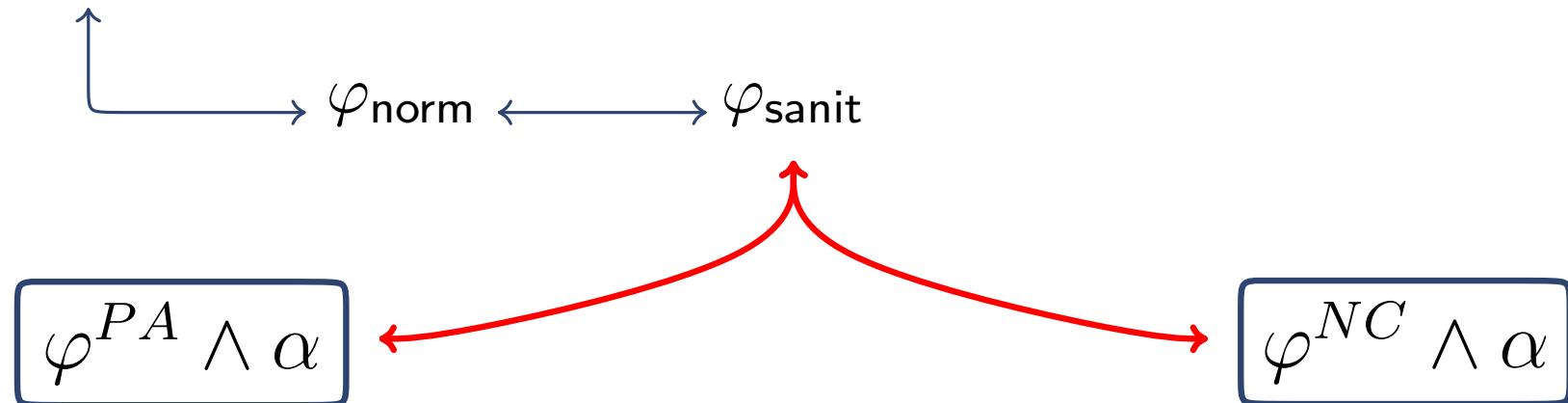
Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

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Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



Theorem:

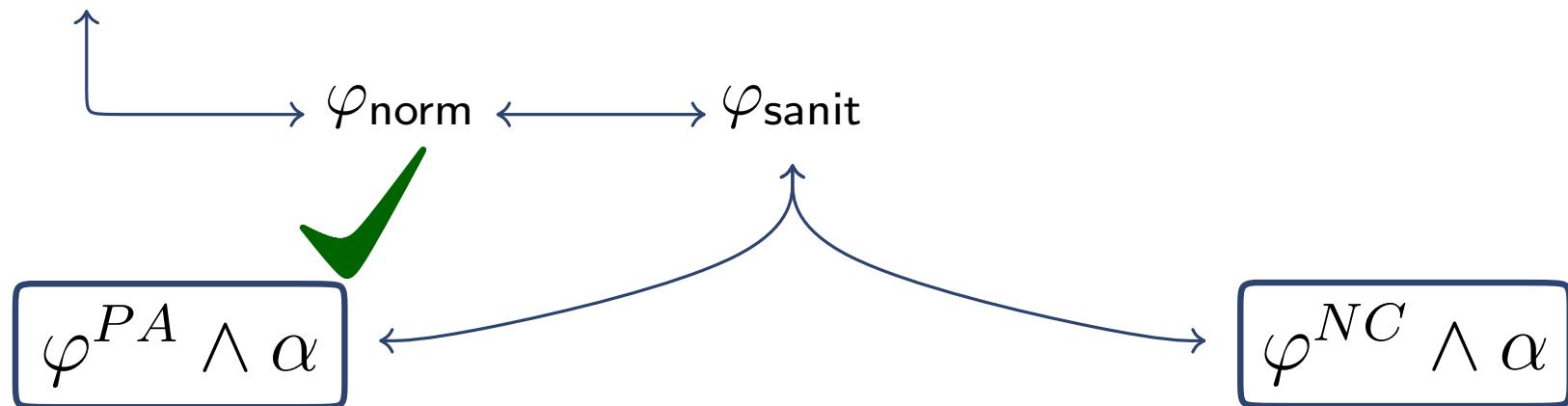
φ : TSL formula is satisfiable

iff

for some arrangement α , both
 $(\varphi^{PA} \wedge \alpha)$ and $(\varphi^{NC} \wedge \alpha)$ are satisfiable

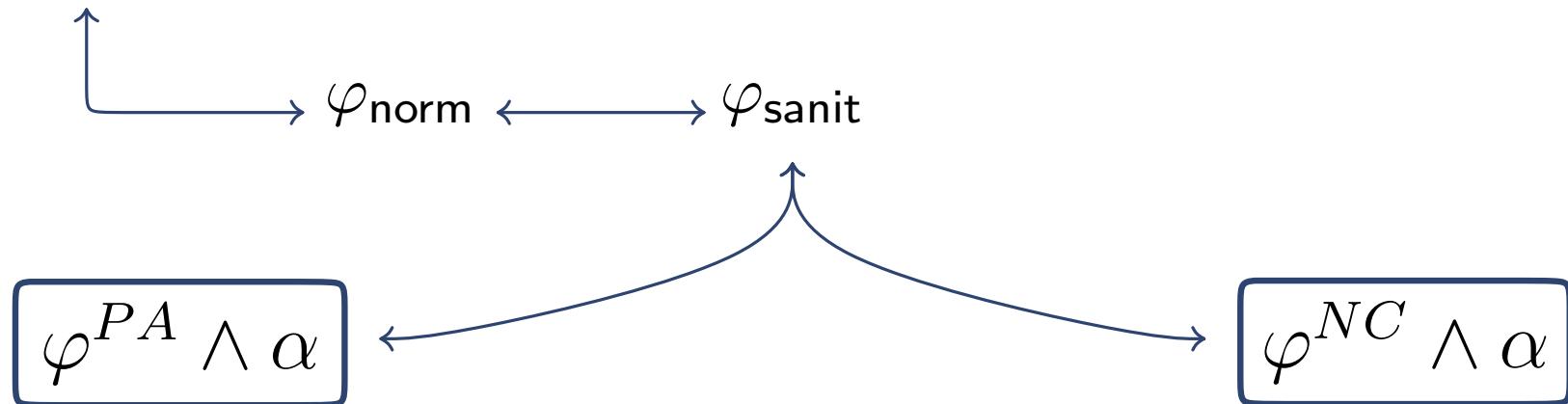
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- Let φ be a TSL formula



Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

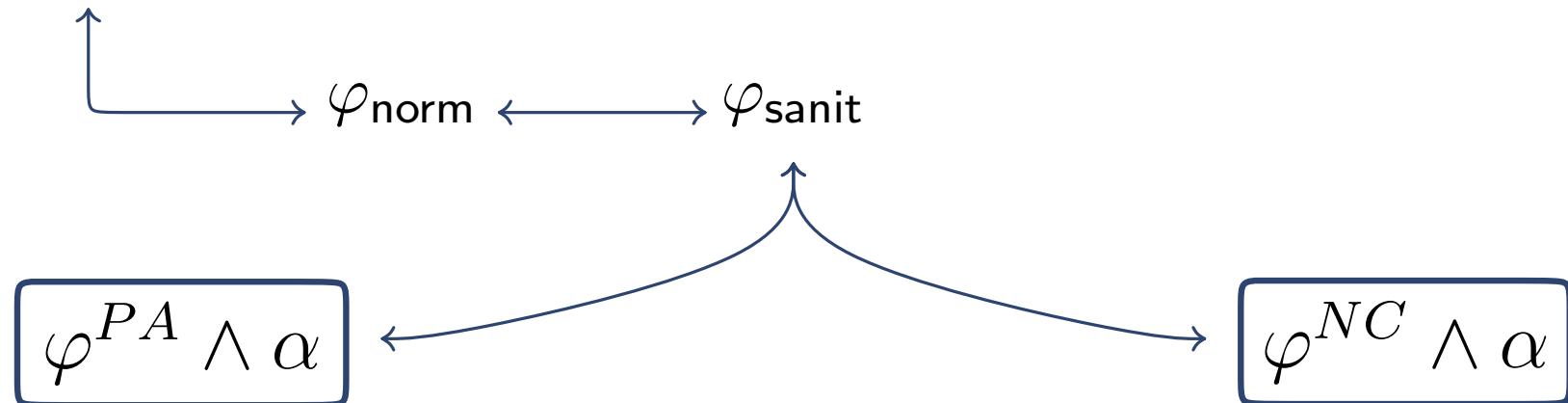
- ▶ Let φ be a TSL formula



- ▶ **Gapless model:** we stay only with **interesting levels**

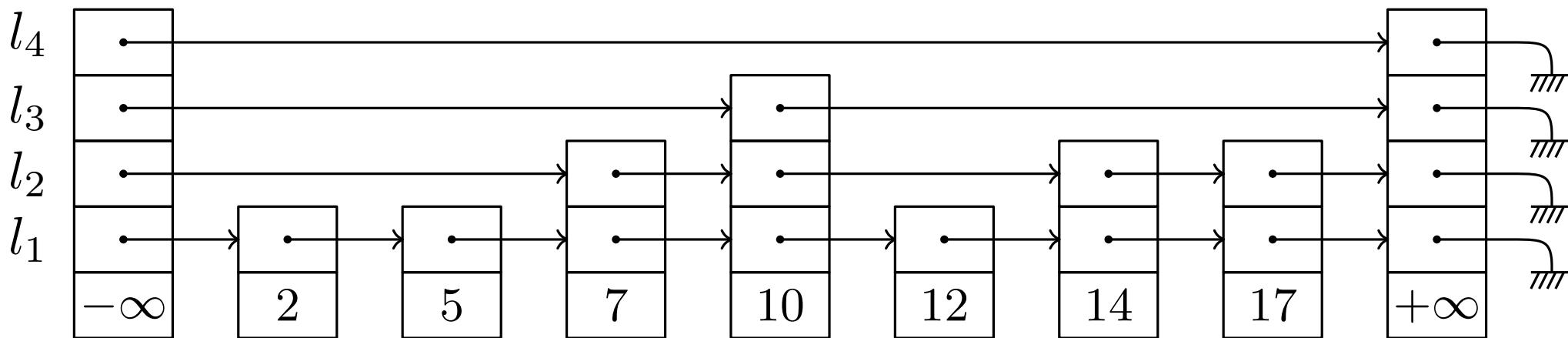
Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



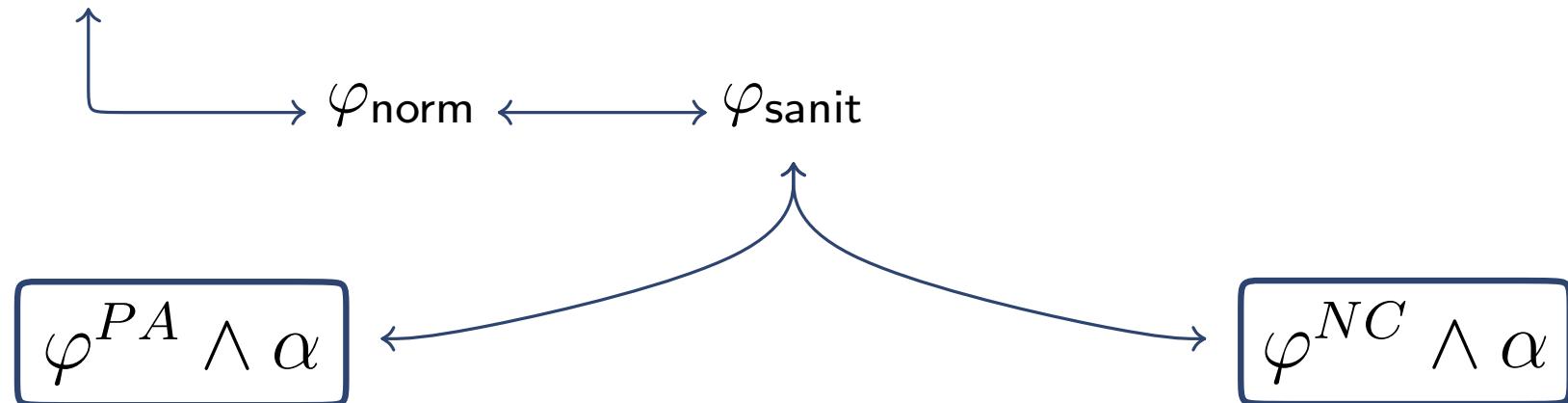
$$V_{\text{level}}(\varphi^{NC} \wedge \alpha) = \{l_1, l_3\}$$

- Gapless model:** we stay only with **interesting levels**



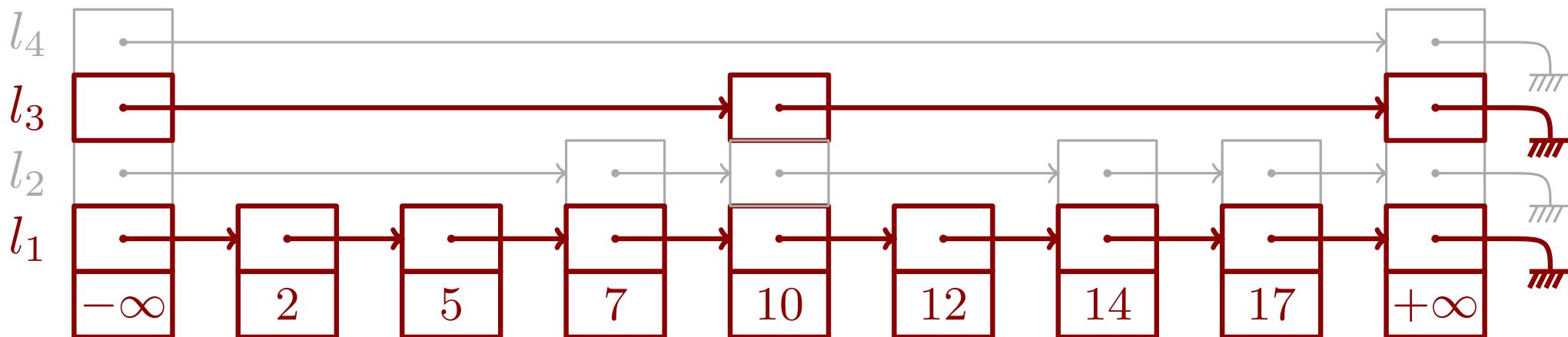
Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



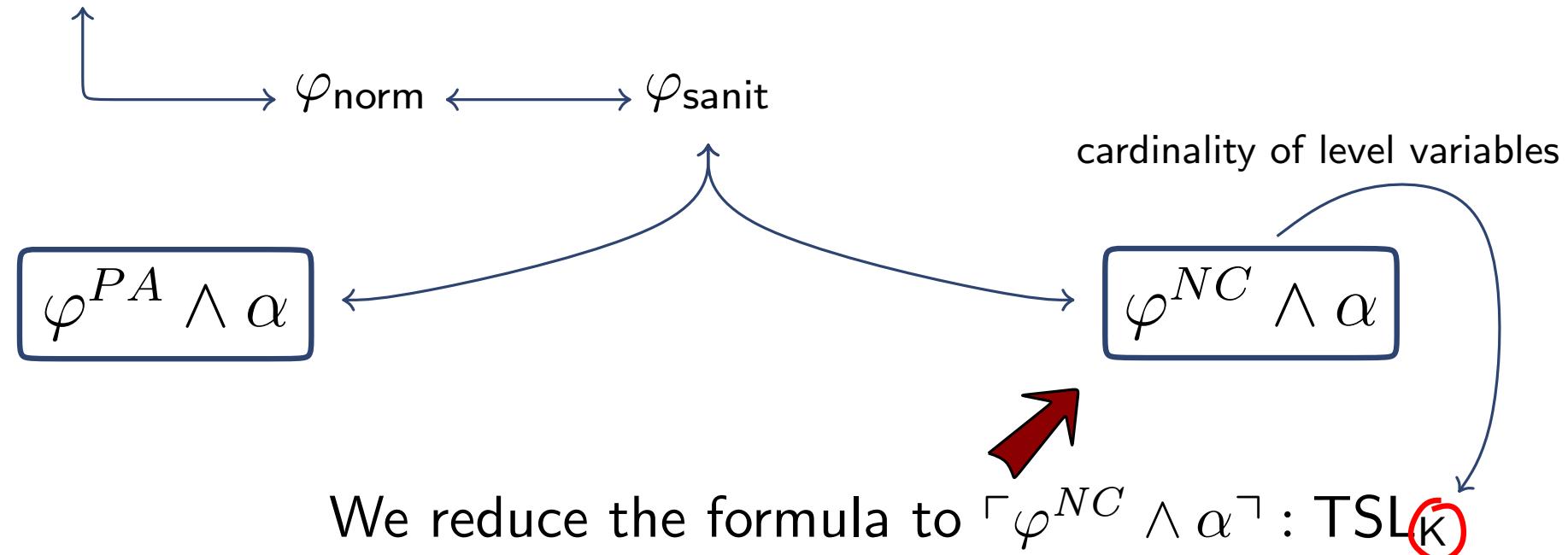
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- Gapless model:** we stay only with **interesting levels**

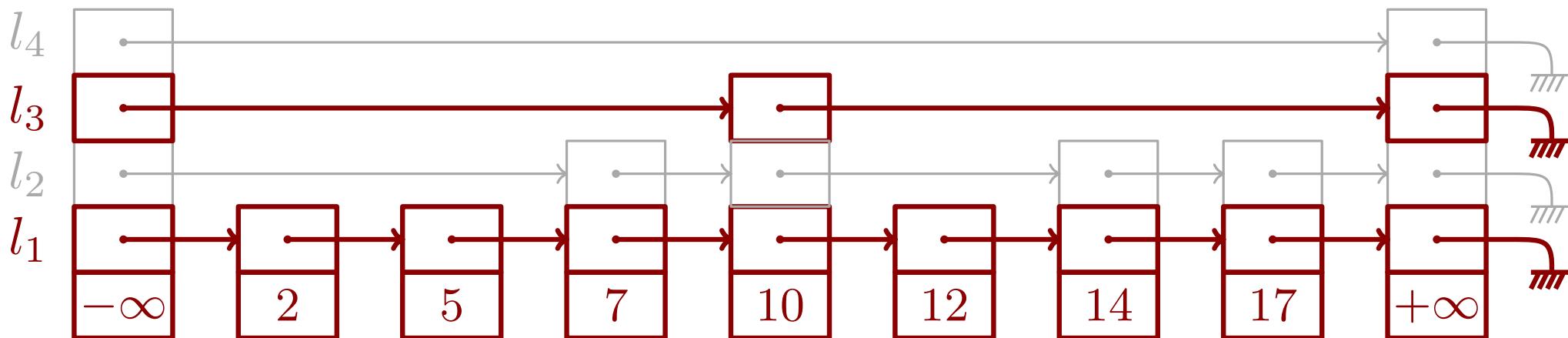


Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula

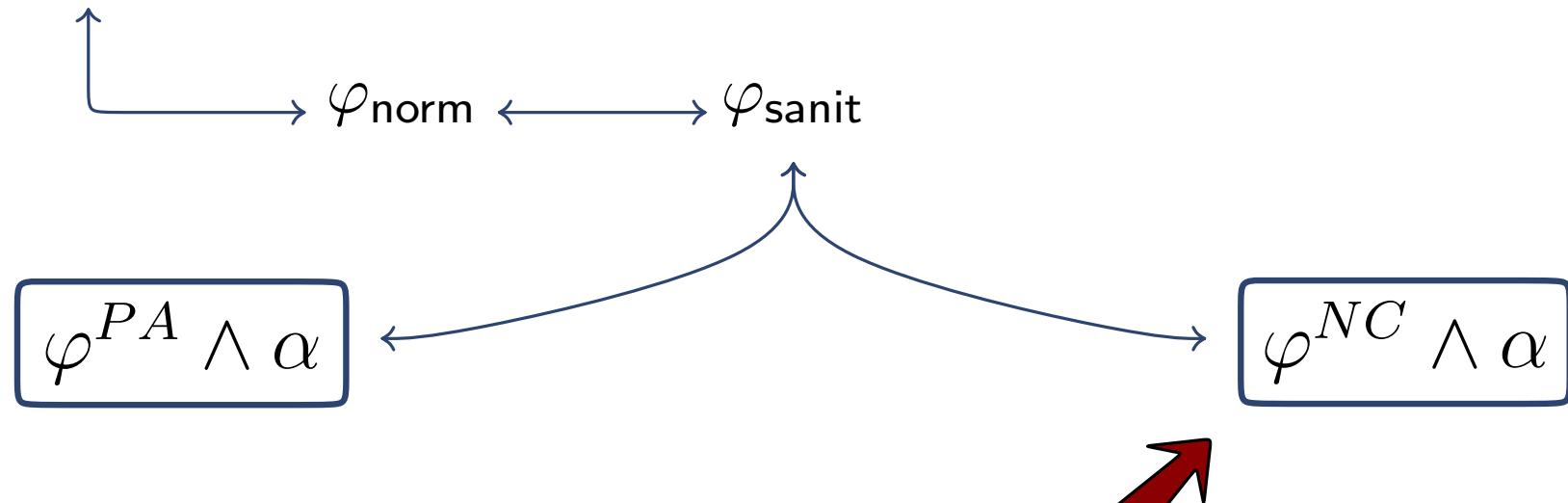


- Gapless model:** we stay only with **interesting levels**



Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



Theorem:

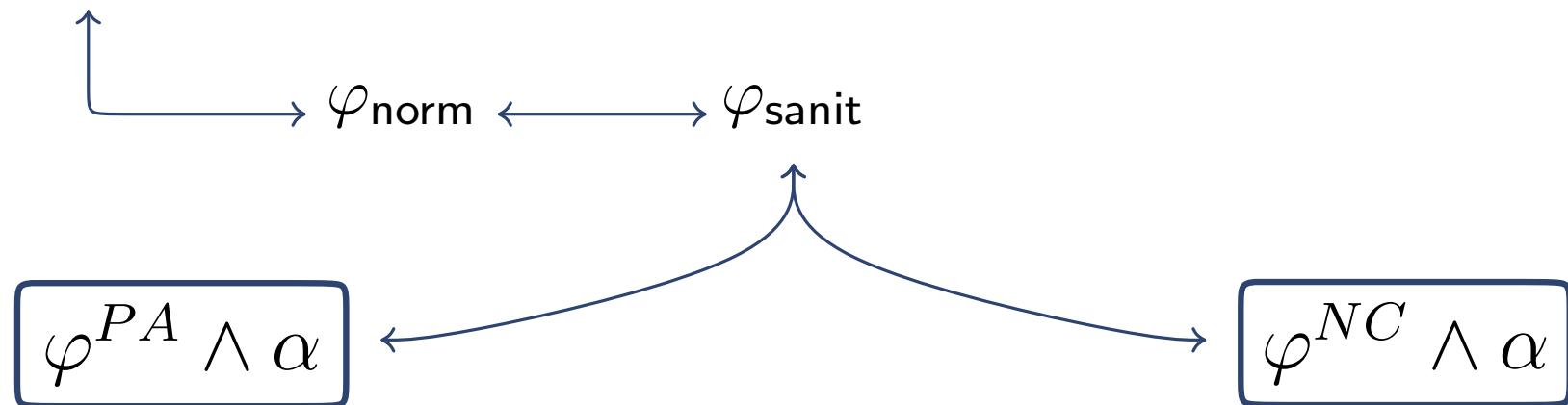
ψ a sanitized TSL formula without constant levels is satisfiable

iff

$\vdash \psi \vdash : \text{TSL}_K$ is satisfiable

Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

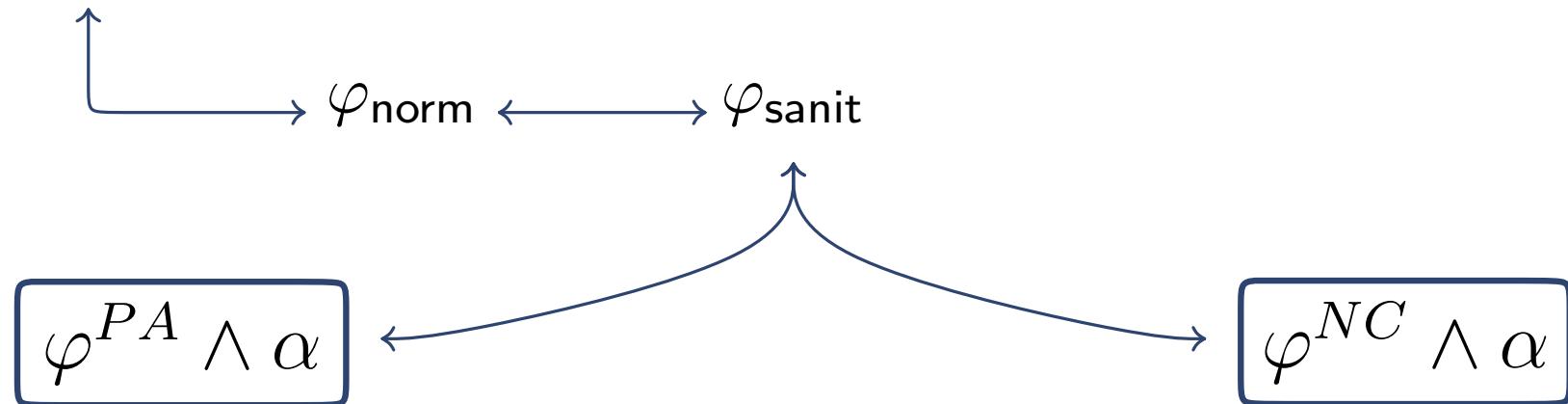
- ▶ Let φ be a TSL formula



- ▶ Reduction $\text{TSL} \longrightarrow \text{TSL}_K$

Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



- Reduction

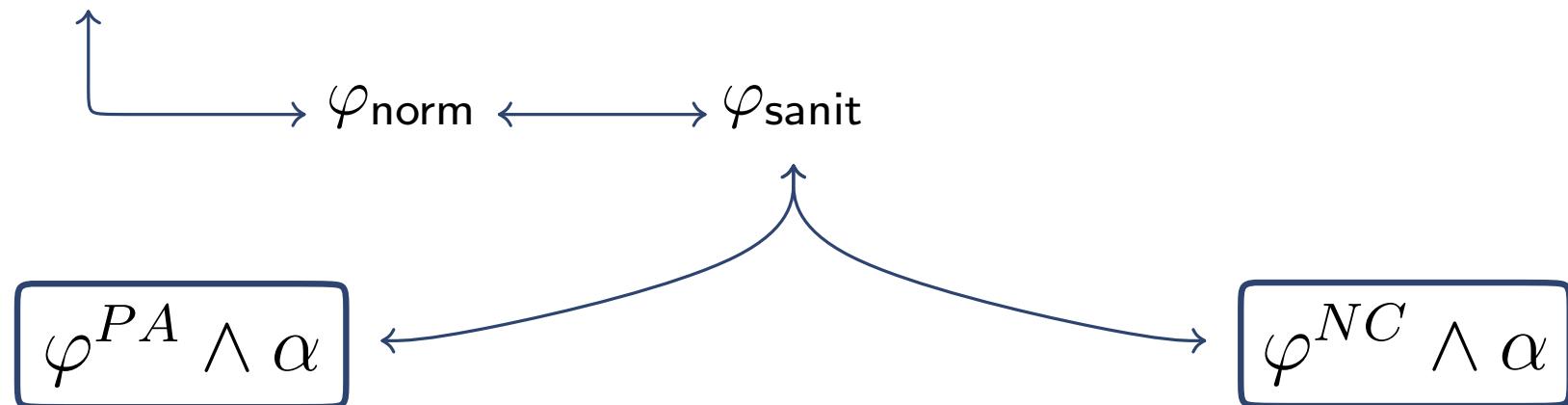
$$\text{TSL} \longrightarrow \text{TSL}_K$$

$$\lceil c = \text{mkcell}(e, k, A, l) \rceil \quad c = (e, k, v_{A[0]}, \dots, v_{A[K-1]})$$

$$v_{A[l]} = A(l)$$

Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



- Reduction

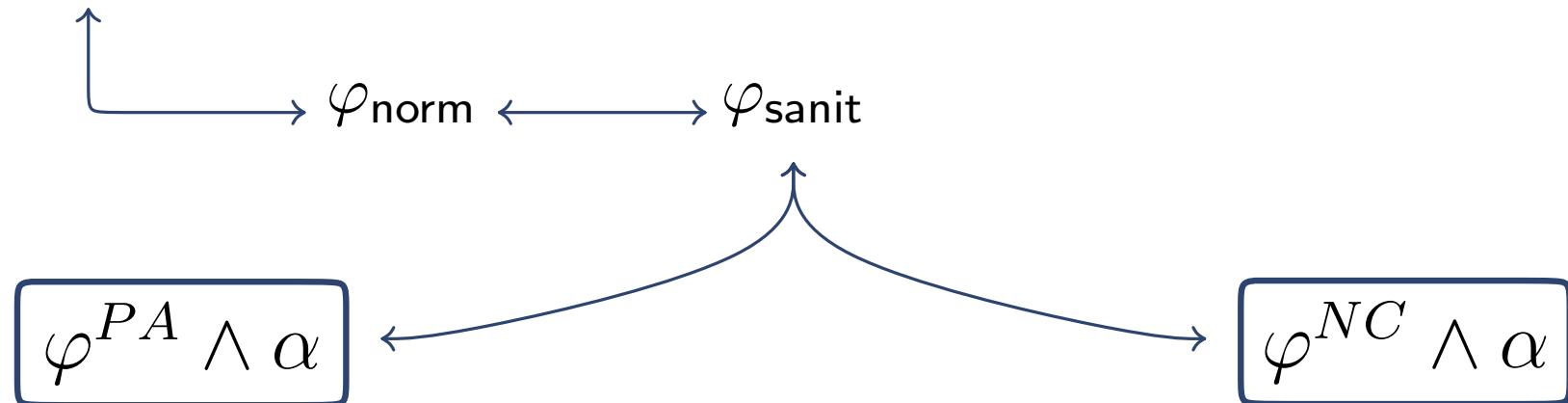
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$$\lceil a = A[l] \rceil \quad \bigwedge_{i=0 \dots K-1} l = i \rightarrow a = v_{A[i]}$$

Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



- Reduction

$$\text{TSL} \longrightarrow \text{TSL}_K$$

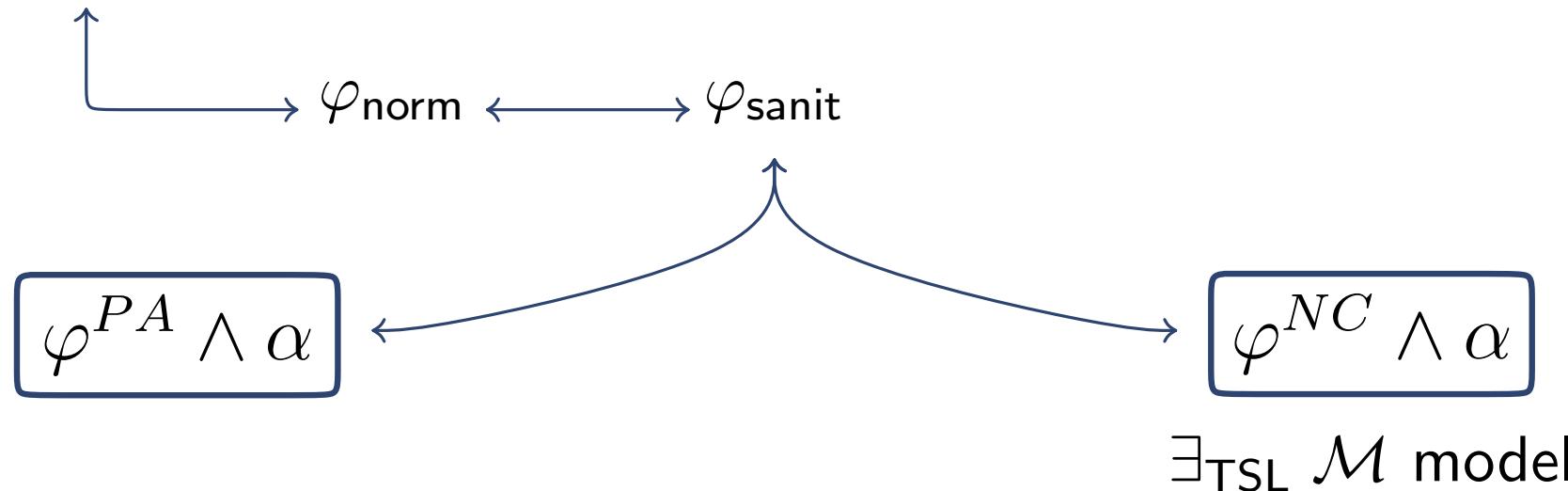
$$\Gamma c = \text{mkcell}(e, k, A, l) \vdash \quad c = (e, k, v_{A[0]}, \dots, v_{A[K-1]})$$

$$\Gamma a = A[l] \vdash \quad \bigwedge_{i=0 \dots K-1} l = i \rightarrow a = v_{A[i]}$$

$$\Gamma B = A\{l \leftarrow a\} \vdash \quad \begin{aligned} & \left(\bigwedge_{i=0 \dots K-1} l = i \rightarrow a = v_{B[i]} \right) \wedge \\ & \left(\bigwedge_{j=0 \dots K-1} l \neq j \rightarrow v_{B[j]} = v_{A[j]} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula

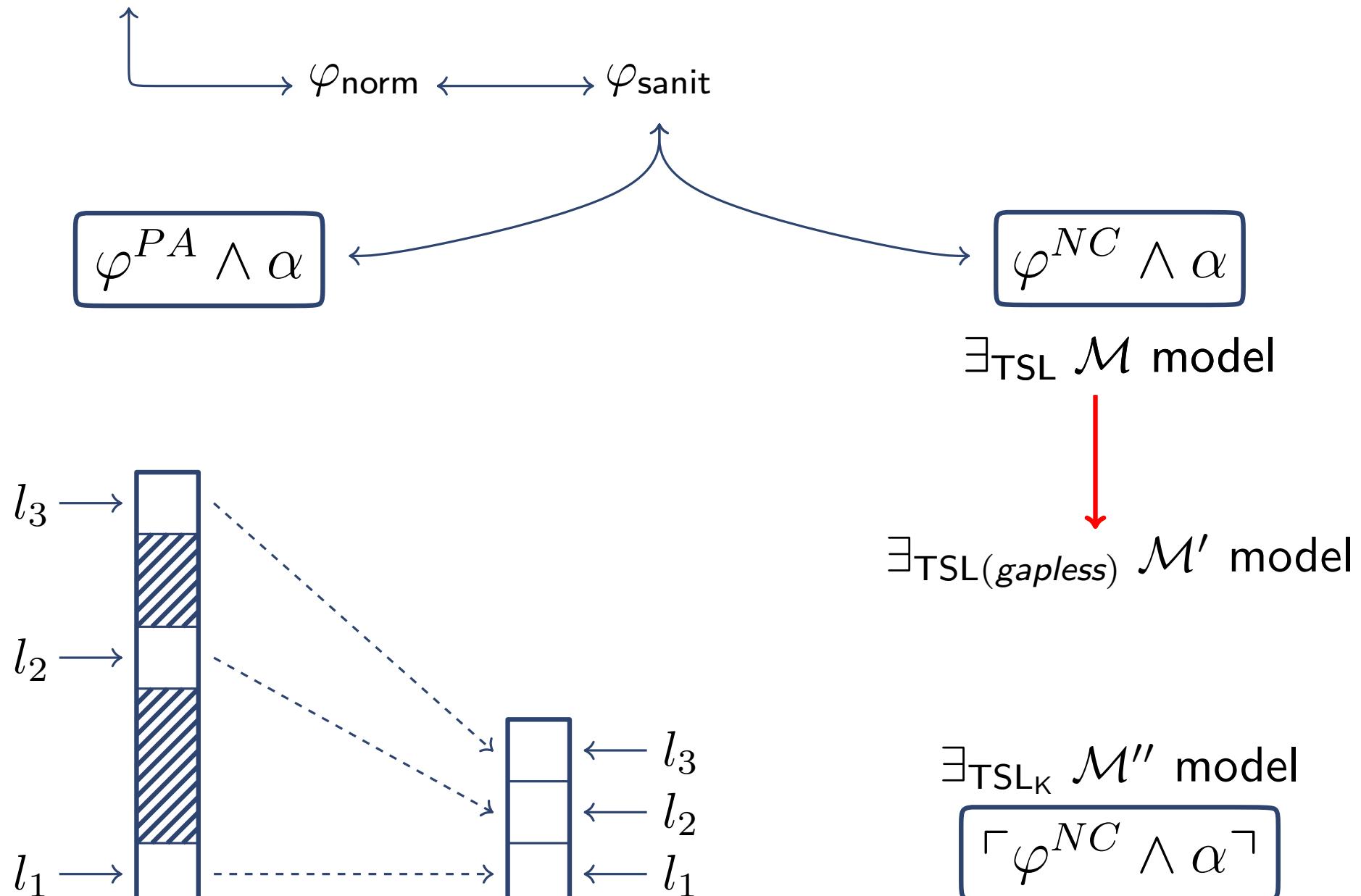


$\exists_{\text{TSL}_K} \mathcal{M}''$ model

$\Gamma \varphi^{NC} \wedge \alpha \Gamma$

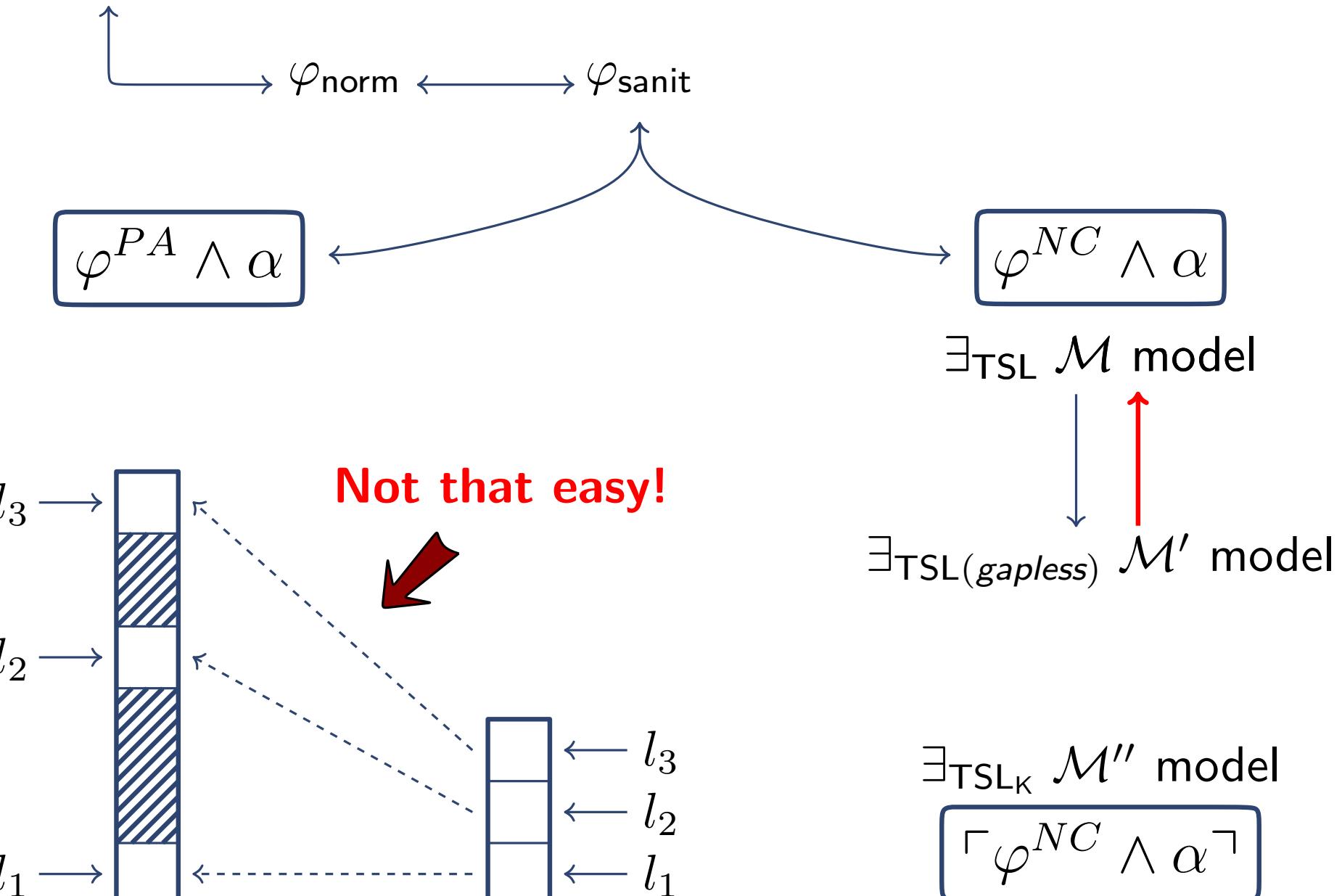
Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



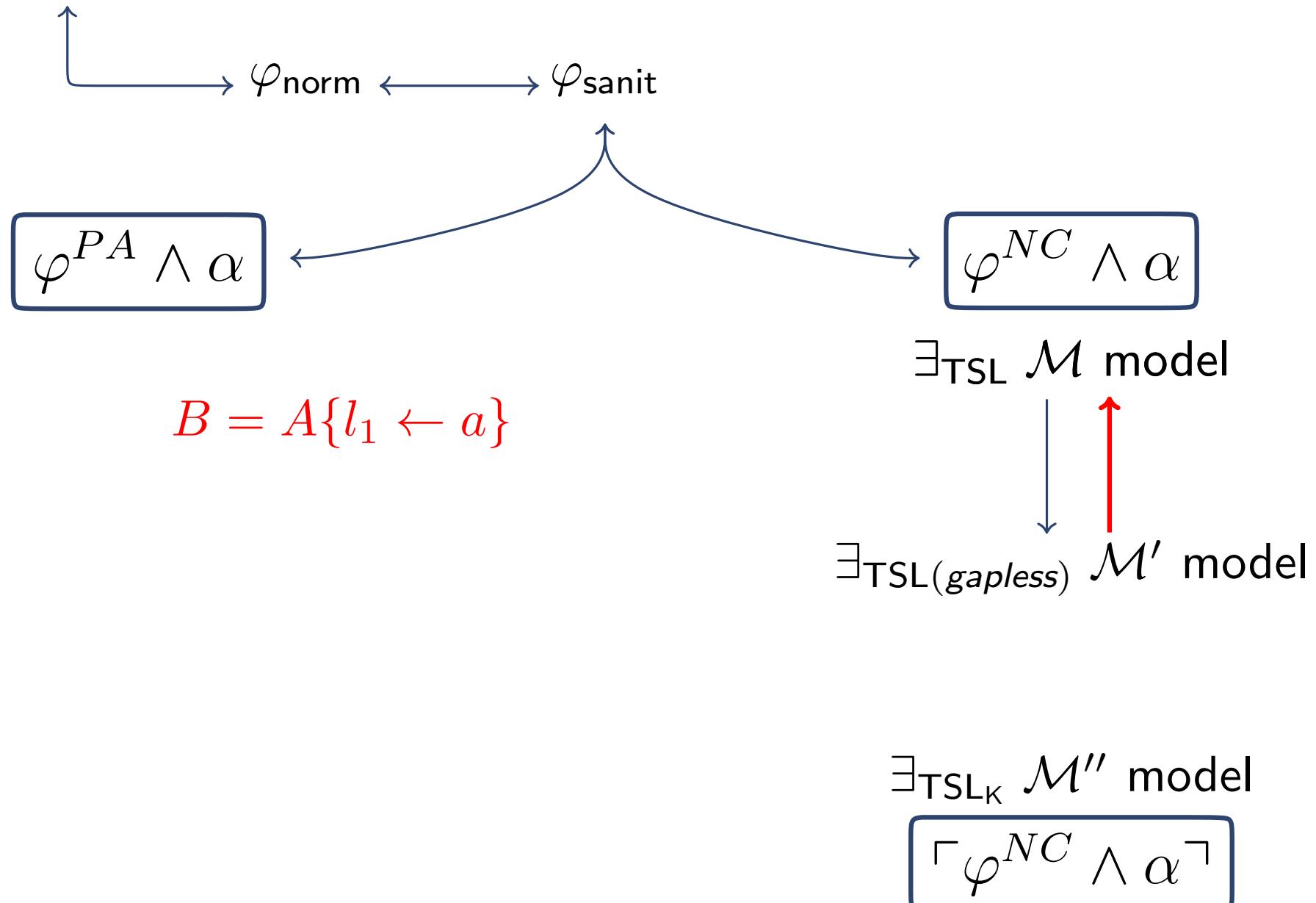
Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



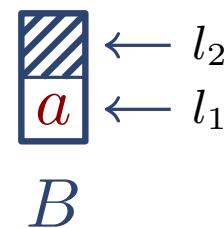
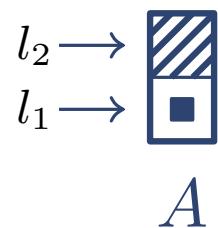
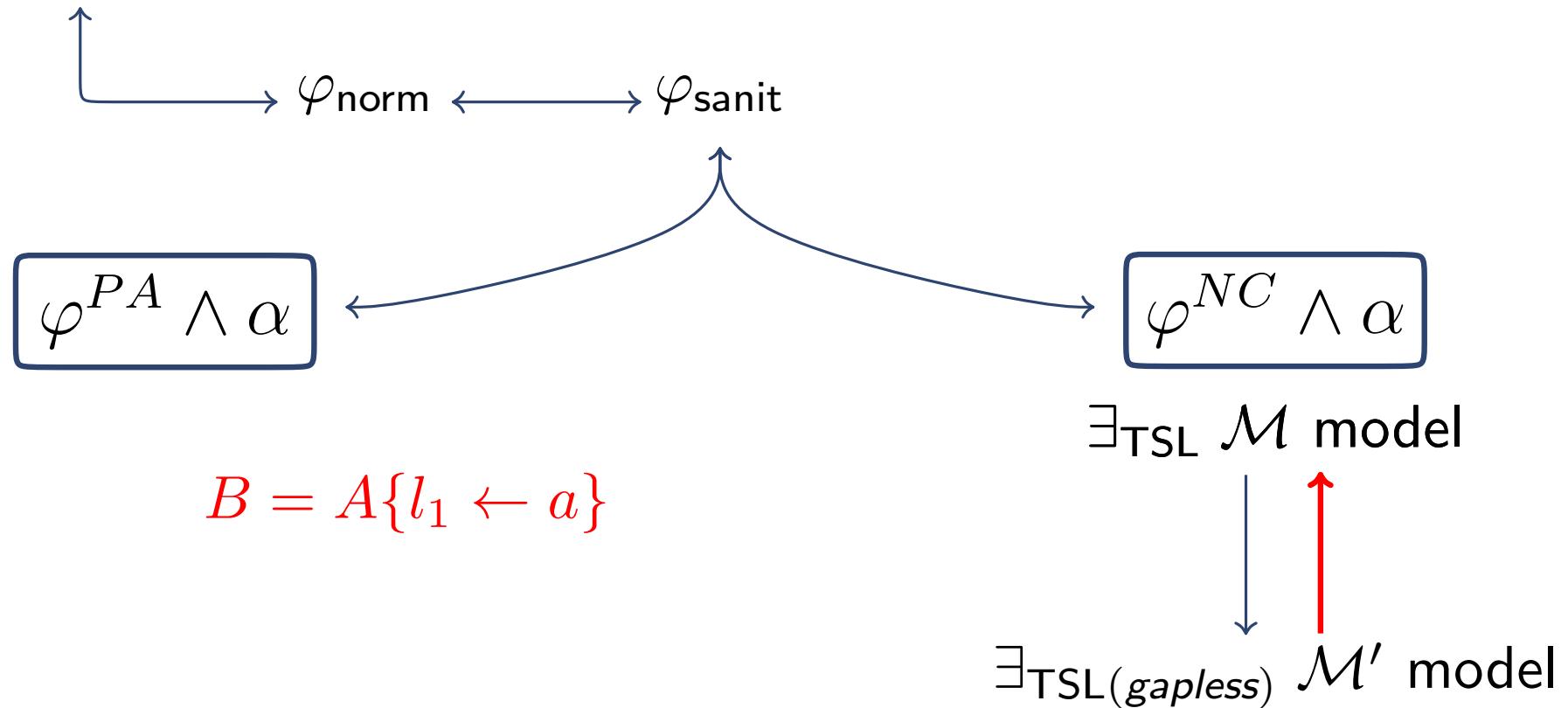
Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

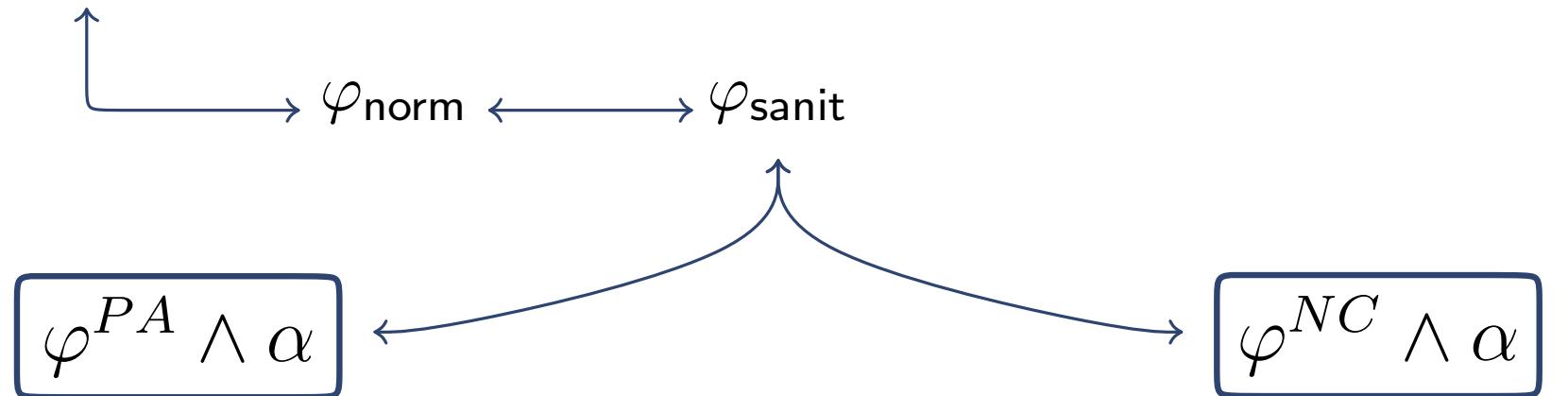
- Let φ be a TSL formula



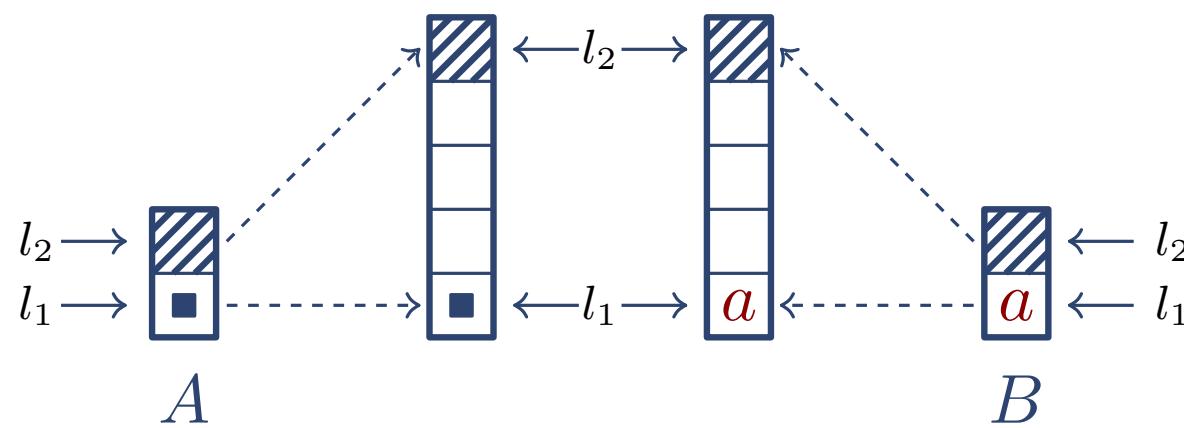
$\exists_{TSL_K} M'' \text{ model}$
 $\Gamma \varphi^{NC} \wedge \alpha \vdash$

Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



$$B = A\{l_1 \leftarrow a\}$$

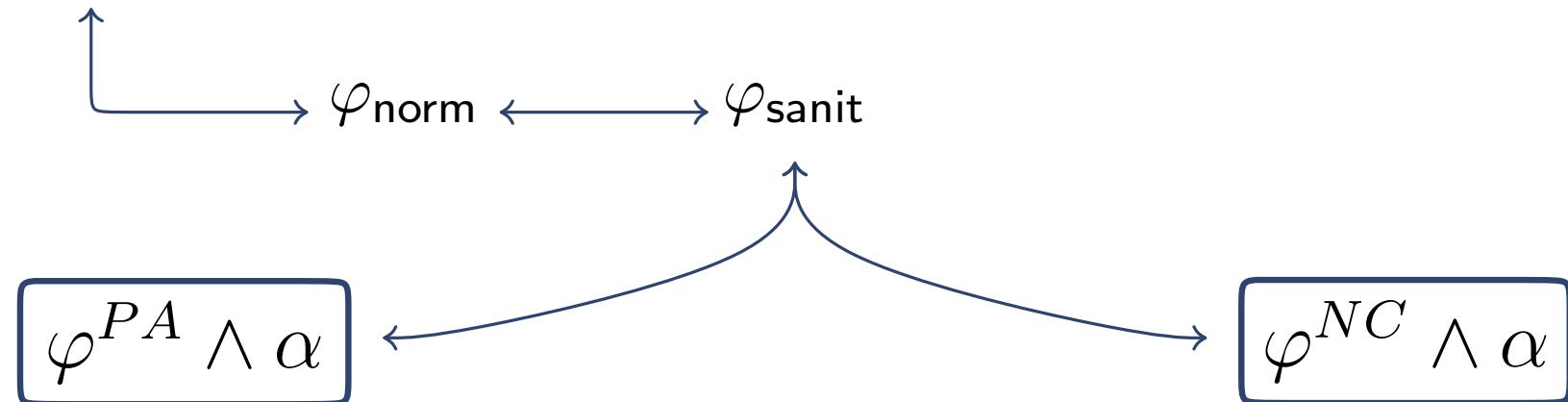


$\exists_{TSL} \mathcal{M}$ model
 $\exists_{TSL(gapless)} \mathcal{M}'$ model

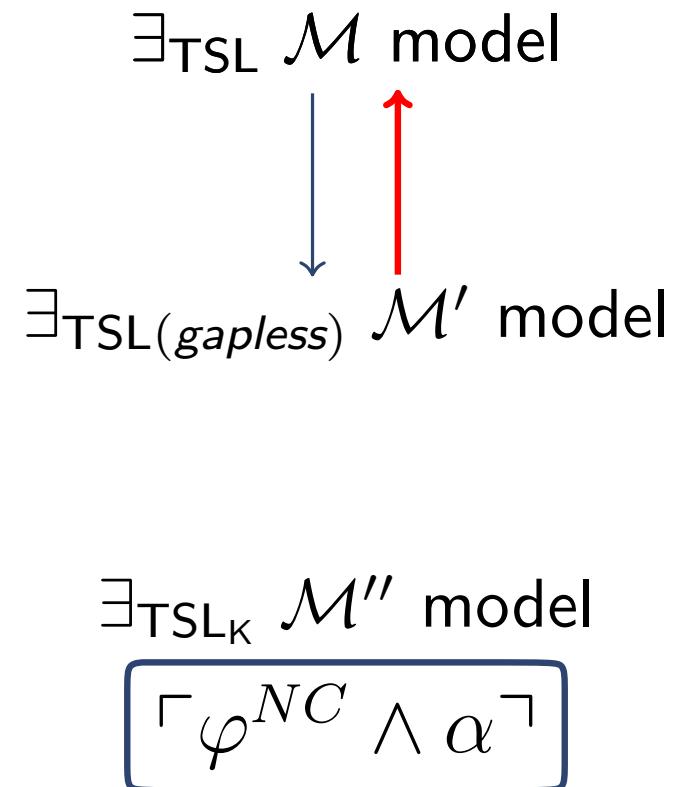
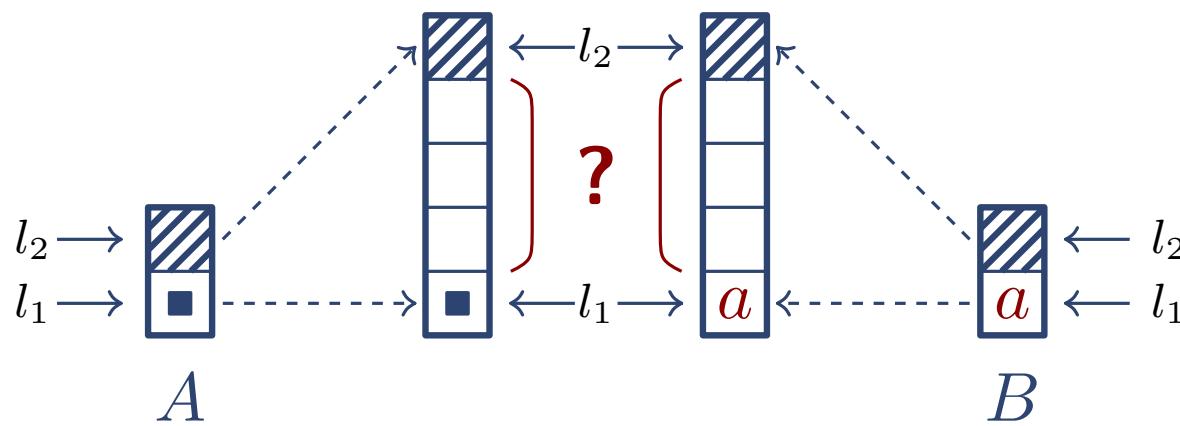
$\exists_{TSL_K} \mathcal{M}''$ model
 $\Gamma \varphi^{NC} \wedge \alpha \vdash$

Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula

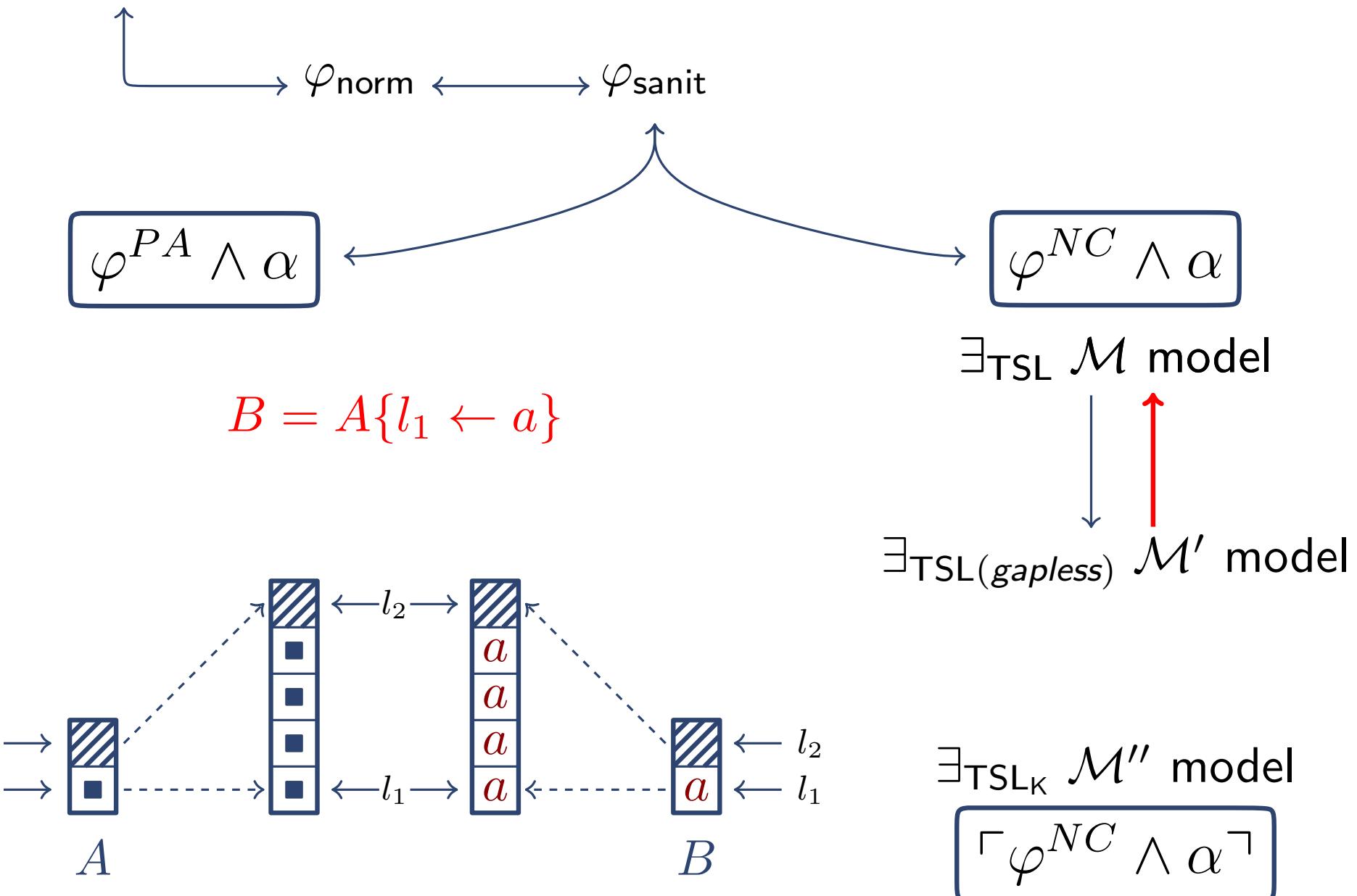


$$B = A\{l_1 \leftarrow a\}$$



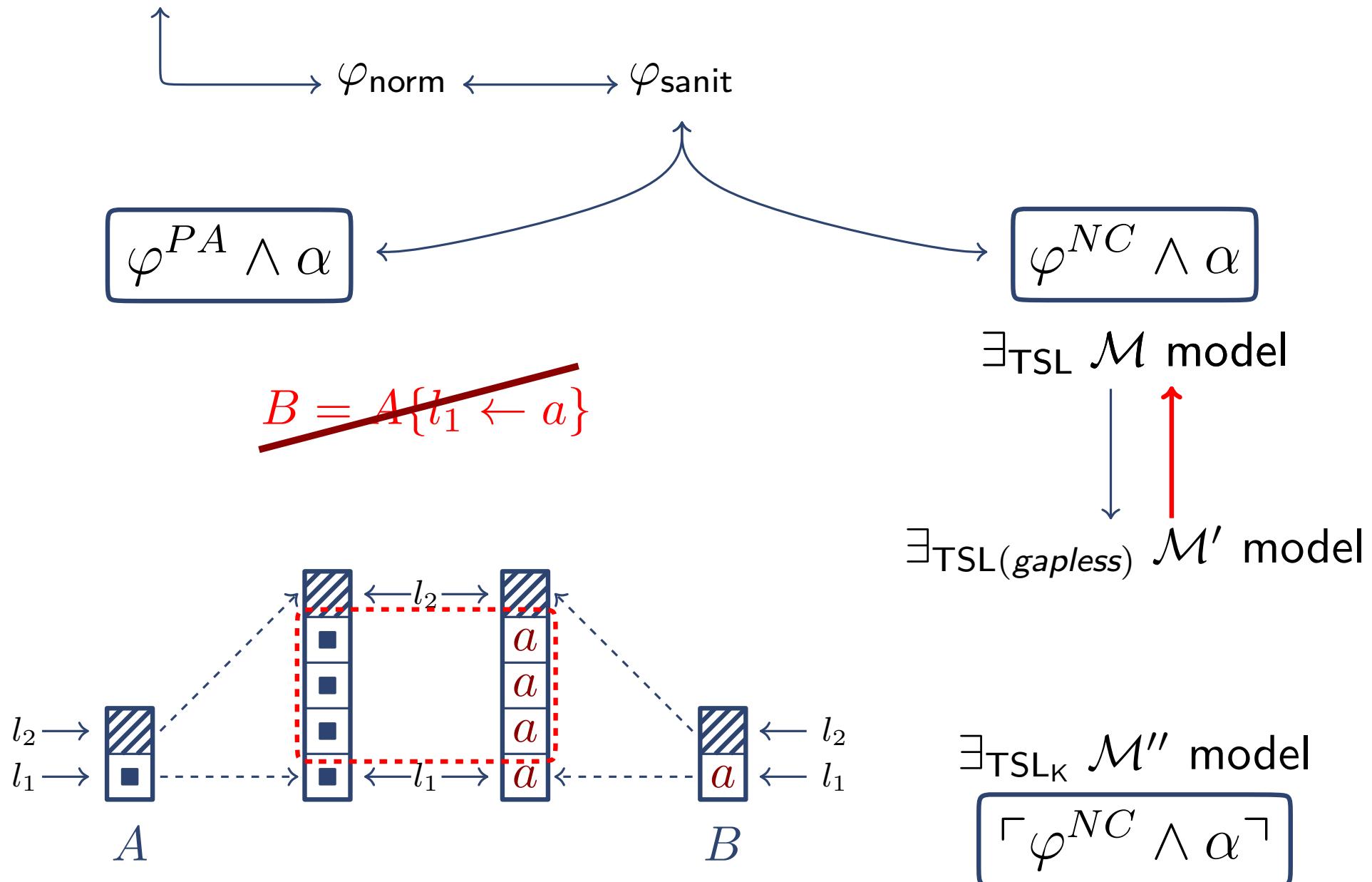
Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



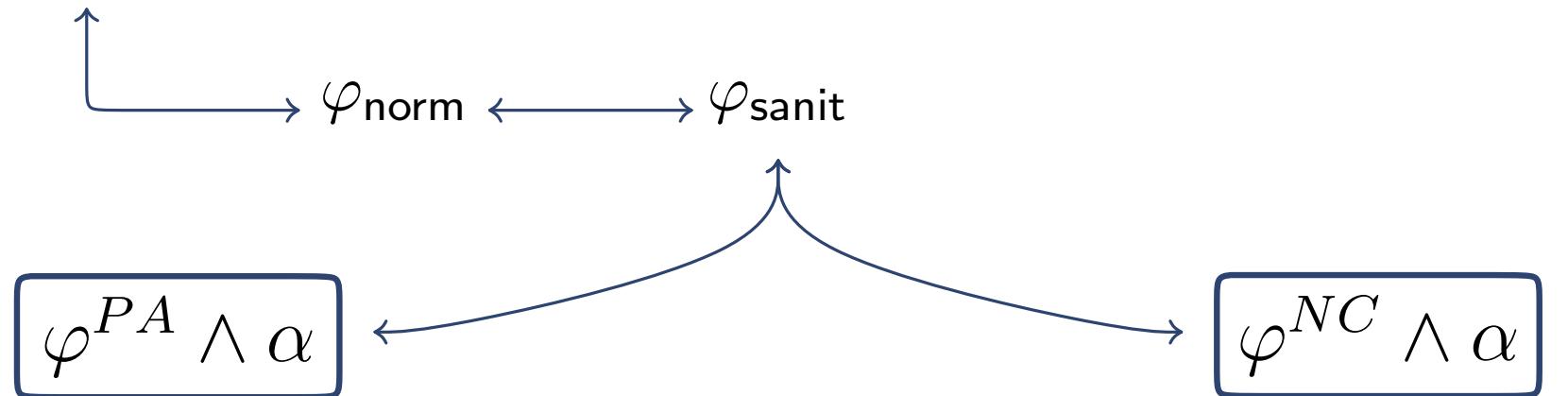
Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula

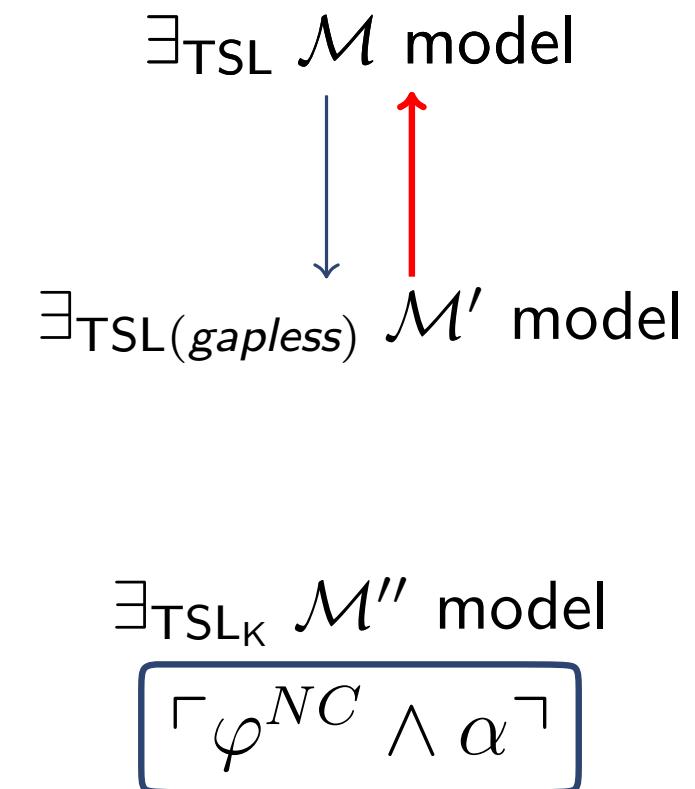
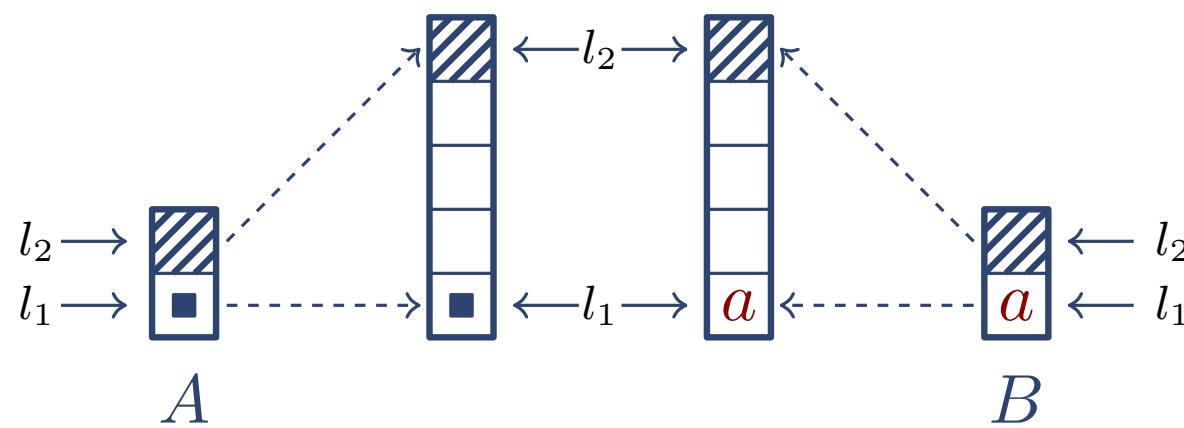


Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula

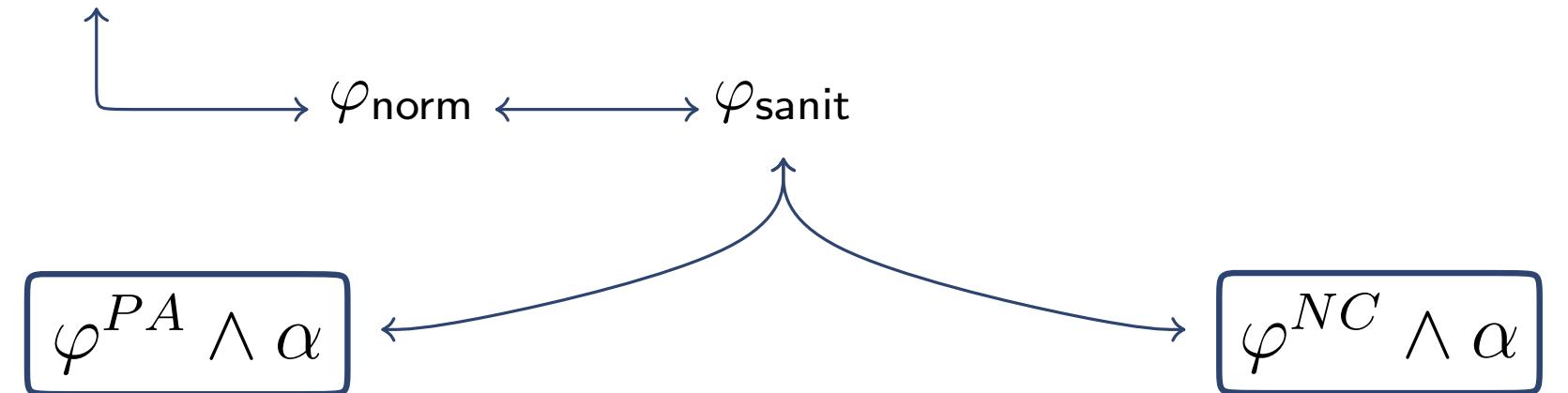


$$B = A\{l_1 \leftarrow a\}$$



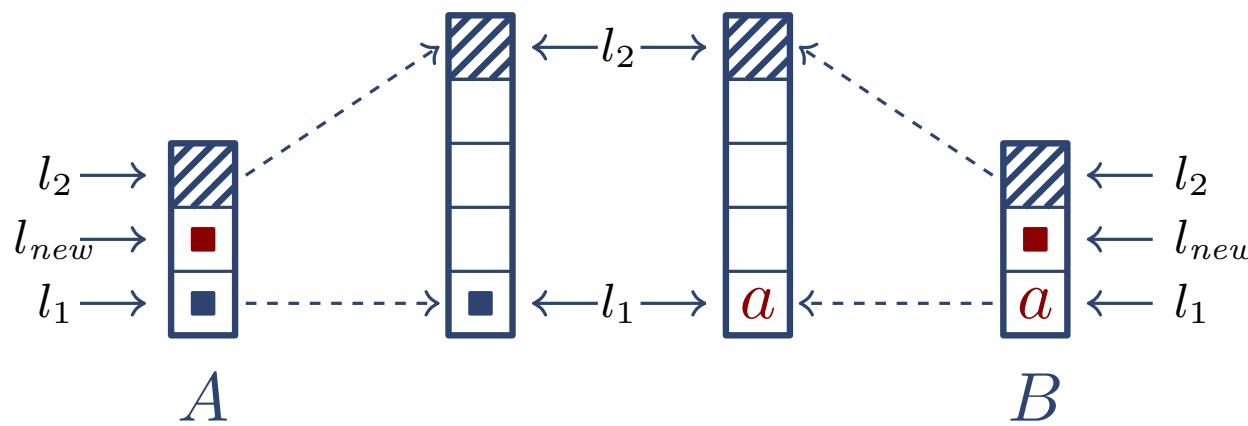
Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



$$B = A\{l_1 \leftarrow a\}$$

Add $l_{new} = l_1 + 1$



$\exists_{TSL} \mathcal{M}$ model

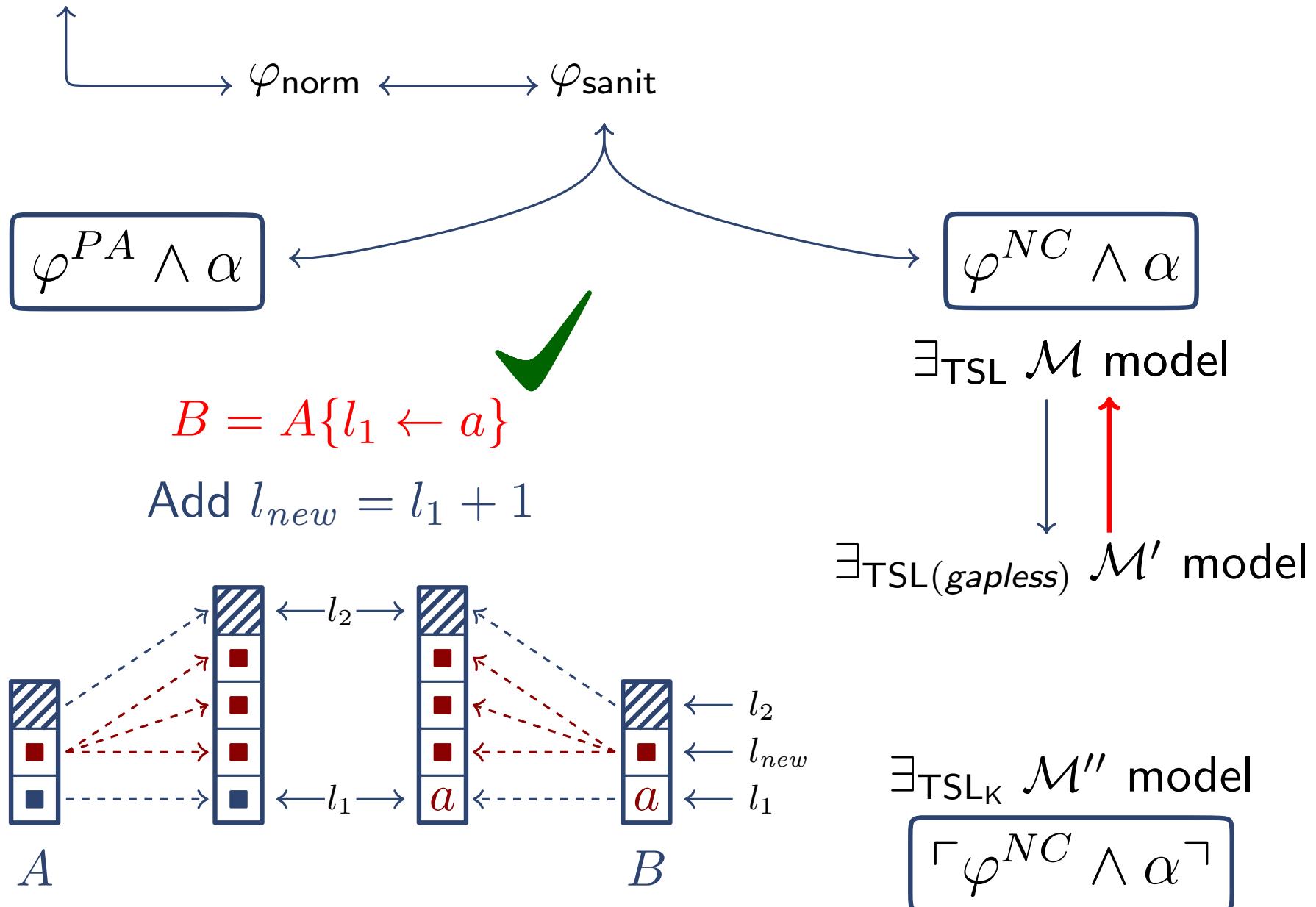
$\exists_{TSL(gapless)} \mathcal{M}'$ model

$\exists_{TSL_K} \mathcal{M}''$ model

$$\Gamma \varphi^{NC} \wedge \alpha \vdash$$

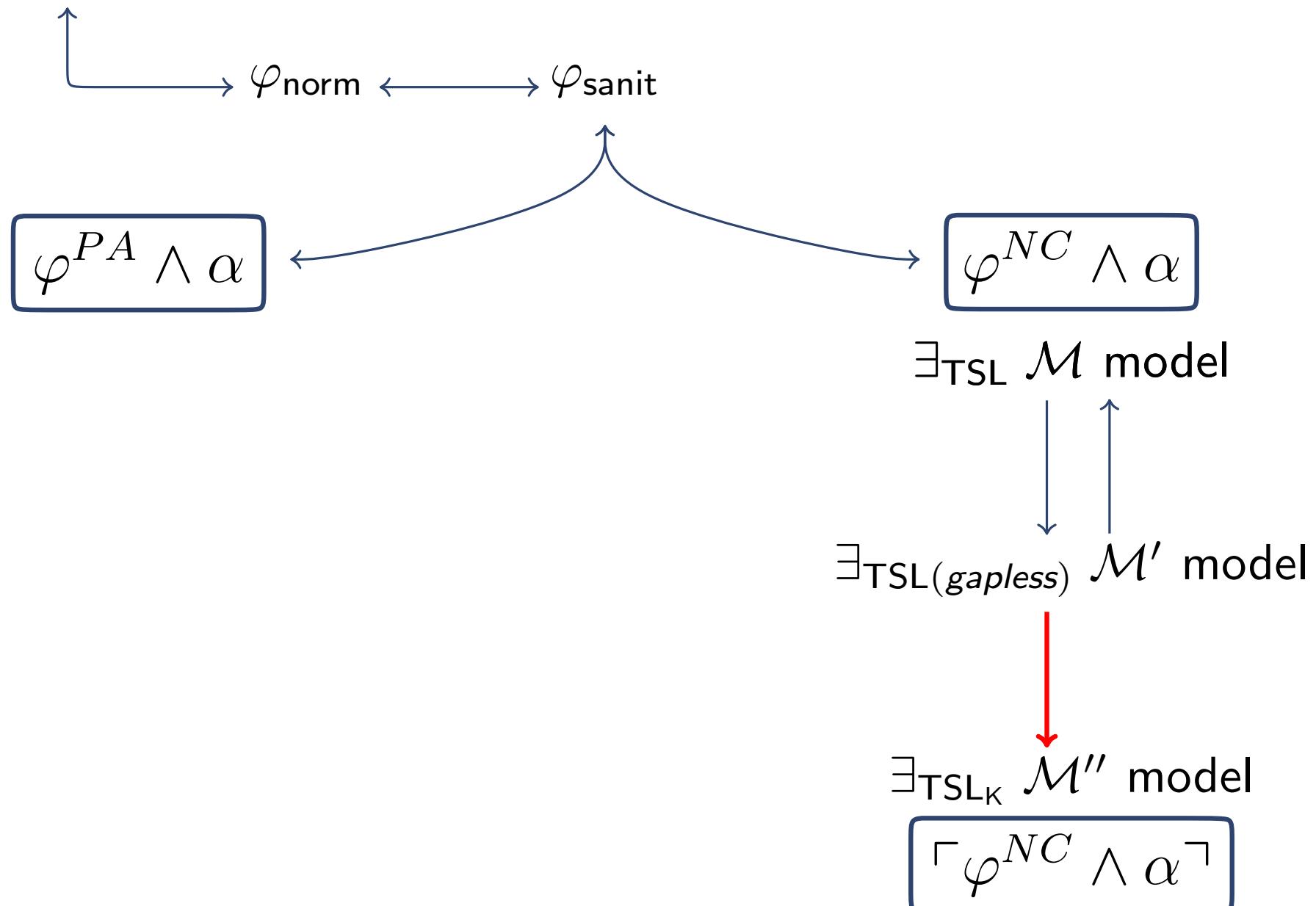
Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



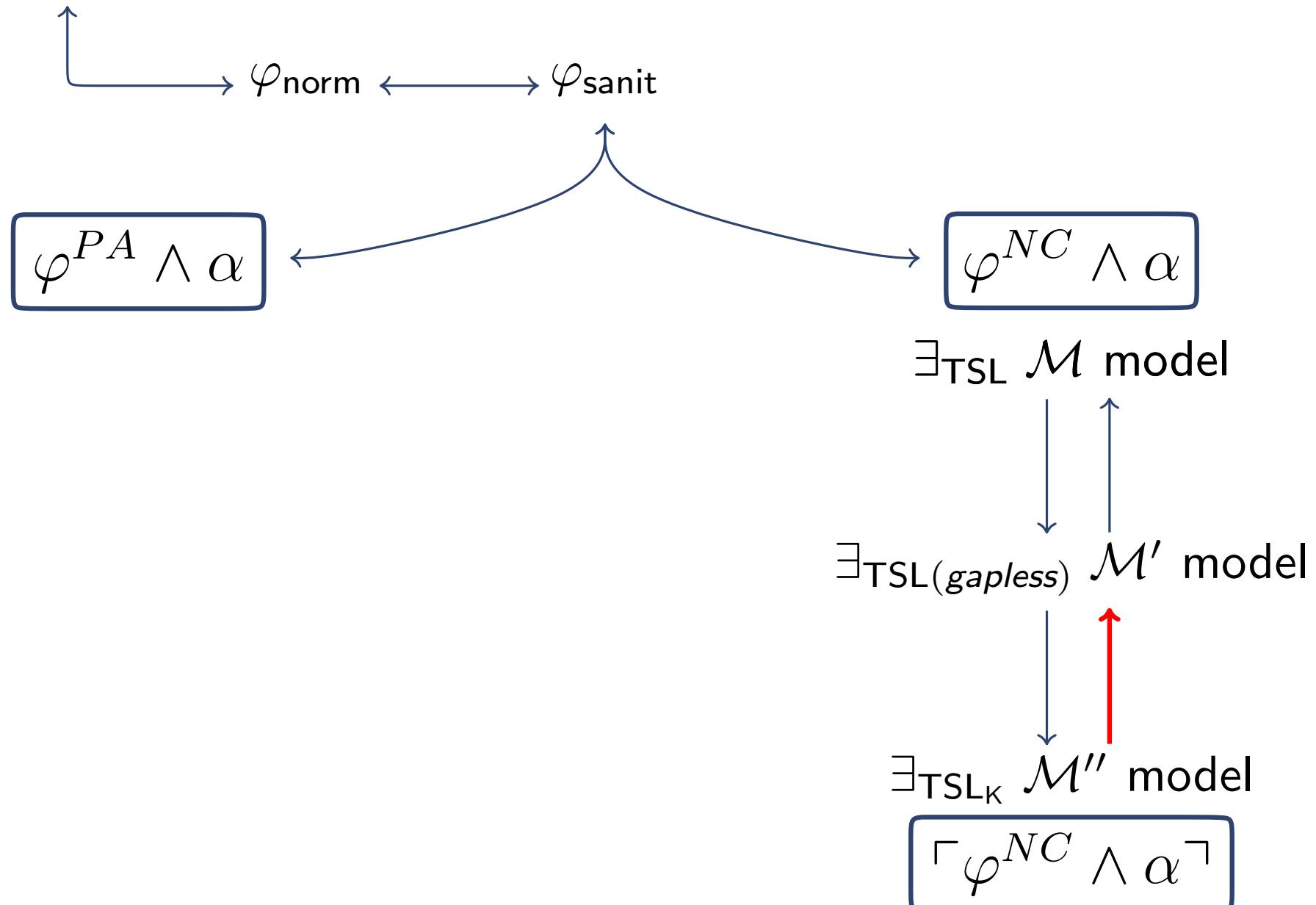
Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



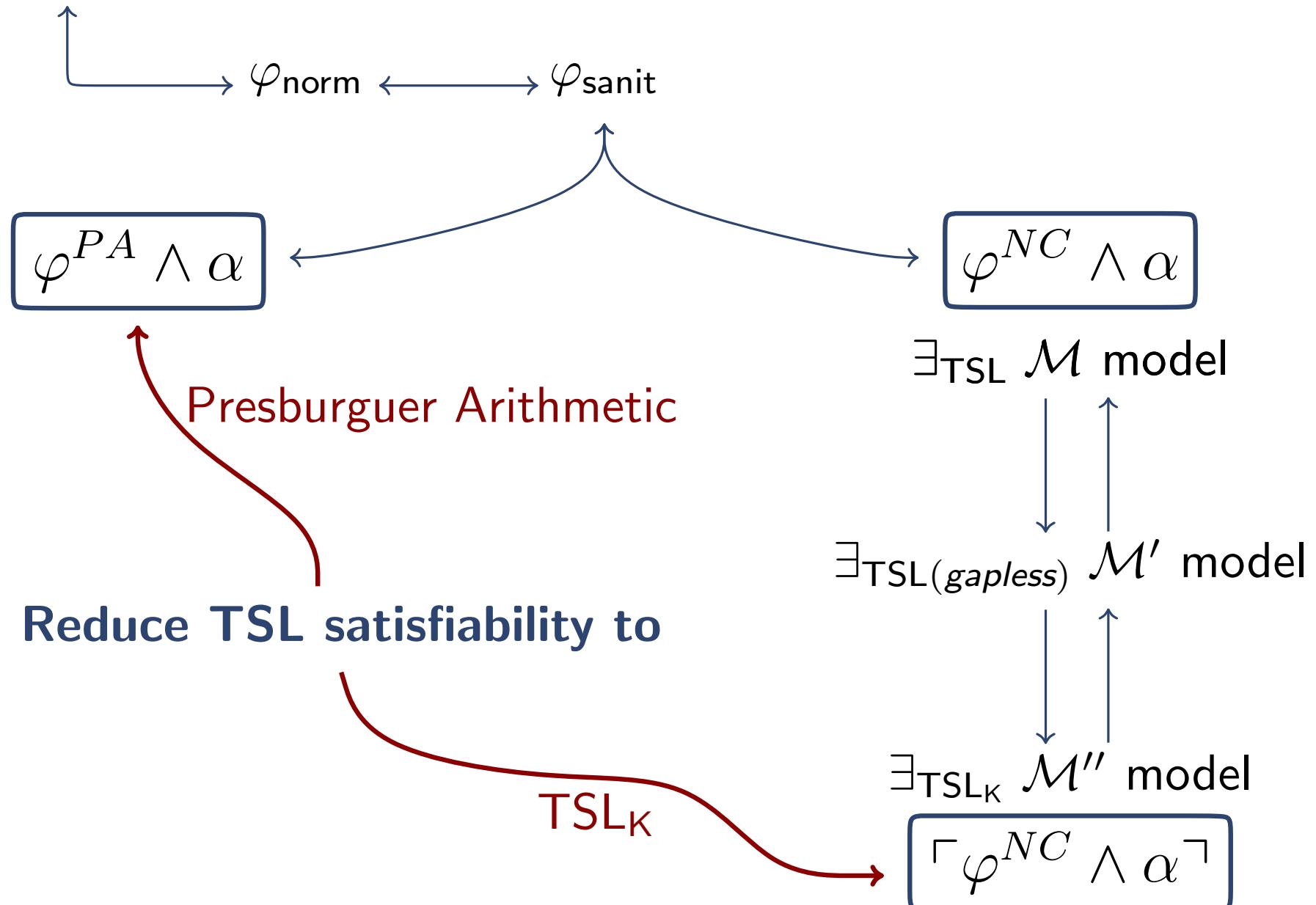
Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



Decision Procedure for TSL: Correctness

- Let φ be a TSL formula



Empirical Evaluation

- ▶ We have **implemented** TSL decision procedure in **LEAP**
- ▶ We verify **shape preservation** and **functional properties**
- ▶ We **compare** TSL with previous TSL_K **performance**

Empirical Evaluation

Form.	#Calls to DPs						VC time (s.)		Time (s.)
	# φ	TSL	TSL ₁	TSL ₂	TSL ₃	TSL ₄	slowest	avg	DP
skiplist	560	28	45	92	38	14	5.40	0.24	19.64
	1583	56	111	185	76	—	22.66	0.54	42.93
	1899	30	39	55	22	—	0.32	0.02	1.60
	2531	57	167	286	116	4	2.35	0.84	6.75
skiplistKDE	214	14	37	61	32	12	5.93	0.24	13.14
	585	32	99	174	76	—	3.10	0.17	9.36
	1115	27	38	42	16	—	0.22	0.01	0.76
	797	34	120	194	76	—	0.64	0.06	3.06
funcInsert	75	7	9	2	—	—	0.02	0.01	0.04
funcRemove	75	8	9	15	2	—	0.04	0.01	0.10
skiplist ₁	119	—	32	—	—	—	0.10	0.01	0.32
region ₁	119	—	27	—	—	—	0.14	0.01	0.28
skiplist ₂	137	—	—	47	—	—	2.15	0.05	4.13
region ₂	122	—	—	27	—	—	1.08	0.03	2.44
skiplist ₃	154	—	—	—	62	—	776.45	15.27	1221.52
region ₃	124	—	—	—	27	—	17.36	0.34	26.92
skiplist ₄	171	—	—	—	—	77	T.O.	T.O.	T.O.
region ₄	126	—	—	—	—	27	226.08	4.30	348.44

Empirical Evaluation

Form.	#Calls to DPs						VC time (s.)		Time (s.)
	# φ	TSL	TSL ₁	TSL ₂	TSL ₃	TSL ₄	slowest	avg	DP
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skiplist ₃	154	—	—	—	62	—	776.45	15.27	1221.52
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skiplist ₄	171	—	—	—	—	77	T.O.	T.O.	T.O.
	126	—	—	—	—	27	226.08	4.30	348.44

TS_L decision procedure vs TS_{L_K} decision procedure

Empirical Evaluation

Form.	# φ	#Calls to DPs					VC time (s.)		Time (s.)
		TSL	TSL ₁	TSL ₂	TSL ₃	TSL ₄	slowest	avg	DP
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skiplist ₄	171	—	—	—	—	77	T.O.	T.O.	T.O.
region ₄	126	—	—	—	—	27	226.08	4.30	348.44

A TSL queries is decomposed into multiple calls to TSL_K

Empirical Evaluation

Form.	#Calls to DPs						VC time (s.)		Time (s.)
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skiplist ₄	171	—	—	—	—	77	T.O.	T.O.	T.O.
region ₄	126	—	—	—	—	27	226.08	4.30	348.44

While TSL_K did not scale beyond a skiplist with 4 levels...

Empirical Evaluation

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skiplist ₁	119	—	32	—	—	—	0.10	0.01	0.32
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region ₃	124	—	—	—	27	—	17.36	0.34	26.92
skiplist ₄	171	—	—	—	—	77	T.O.	T.O.	T.O.
region ₄	126	—	—	—	—	27	226.08	4.30	348.44

... TSL verified the examples in less than a minute for every height

Conclusions

- ▶ We presented **TSL**, a theory for skip lists of arbitrary height
- ▶ **TSL** can reason about memory, cells, pointers, regions, reachability, ordered lists and sublists
- ▶ We proved **TSL decidable** and presented a **decision procedure**
- ▶ Decision procedure has been **implemented** as part of **LEAP**
- ▶ We used TSL to **verify real world implementations**
- ▶ **Future work**
 - ▶ Extend TSL for concurrent skip lists
 - ▶ Verify further implementations
 - ▶ Improve automation by generating and propagating invariants

LEAP and examples available at
software.imdea.org/leap