

```
choice-idempotency : ∀ {i : Size} {A : Domain} {D : Dimension} {e : BCC i A}
```

```
-----  
→ BCC , [ _ ] ⊢ D ⟨ e , e ⟩ ≈ e
```

```
choice-idempotency {i} {A} {D} {e} = extensionality (λ c →
```

```
[ D ⟨ e , e ⟩ ] c
```

```
≡⟨
```

```
[ if (c D) then e else e ] c ≡⟨ Eq.cong (flip [ _ ] c) (if-idemp (c D)) ⟩
```

```
[ e ] c
```

```
▮)
```

🔍 - 8.9k `BCC.lagda.md` Agda

```
completeness-by-expressiveness : ∀ {L1 L2 : VarLang} {C1 C2 : ConfLang} {S1 : Se
```

```
→ Complete L1 C1 S1
```

```
→ L2 , S2 is-as-expressive-as L1 , S1
```

```
-----  
→ Complete L2 C2 S2
```

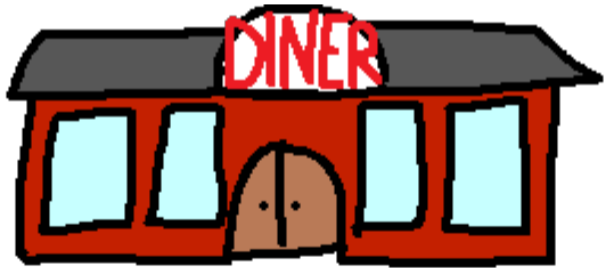
```
completeness-by-expressiveness {L1} {L2} { _ } { _ } {S1} {S2} encode-in-L1 L1-to-L2
```

```
let { _ }
```

🔍 - 11k `Completeness.lagda.md` Agda

Formal Languages for Solution-Space Variability

Paul Bittner, Jeffrey Young, Parisa Ataei, Alexander Schultheiß, Eric Walkingshaw, Leopoldo Teixeira, Thomas Thüm | FOSD 2023





VEGETARIAN

WHICH WICH WOULD YOU LIKE?

TRIPLE CHEESE MELT
 ELVIS WICH (Pine Honey & Barbecue)
 TOMATO & AVOCADO
 BLACK BEAN PATTY
 HUMMUS & BELL PEPPERS

CHOOSE YOUR BREAD

WHITE WHEAT

CHOOSE YOUR CHEESE (optional)

AMERICAN SWISS PROVOLONE
 CHEDDAR PEPPER JACK MOZZARELLA

How Would You Like Your WICH Worked?

MUSTARDS
 Yellow Dijon Honey Deli

MAYOS
 Regular Lite Horseradish Spicy

SPREADS & SAUCES
 BBQ Buffalo Marinara
 1000 Island Ranch

ONIONS
 Red Grilled Crispy Strings

VEGGIES
 Lettuce Tomato Pickles Jalapenos
 Olive Salad Mushrooms Sauerkraut
 Coleslaw Bell Peppers

OILS & SPICES
 Oil Vinegar Parmesan
 Mustard Oregano (Whole)
 (75¢ Each)

Does this relate
to our
problems?

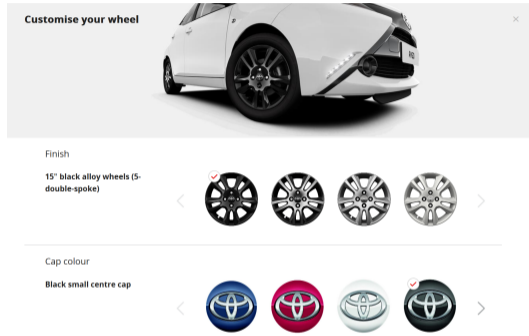


There certainly is a lot of variability in these sandwiches! Just as in ...

Does this relate to our problems?



There certainly is
a lot of variability
in these
sandwiches! Just
as in ...



There certainly is a lot of variability in these sandwiches! Just as in ...



Customise your wheel

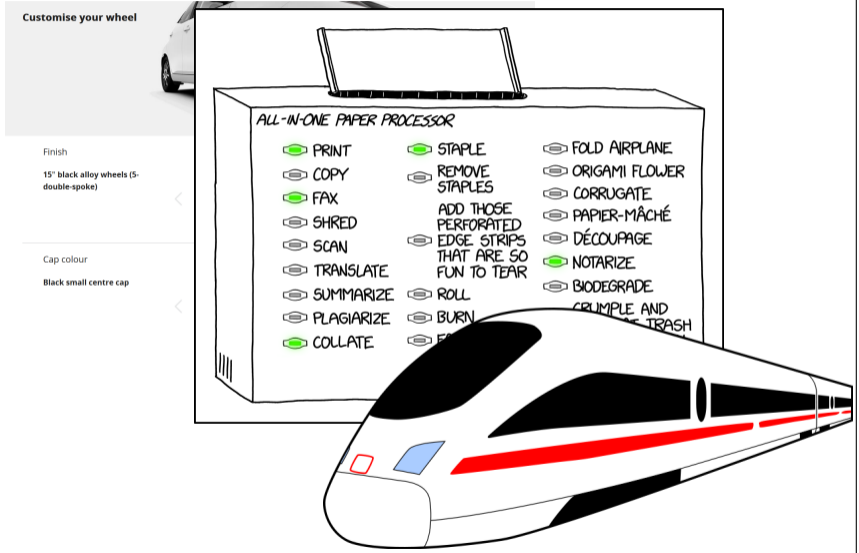
Finish
15" black alloy wheels (5-double-spoke)

Cap colour
Black small centre cap

ALL-IN-ONE PAPER PROCESSOR

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRINT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STAPLE	<input type="checkbox"/> FOLD AIRPLANE
<input type="checkbox"/> COPY	<input type="checkbox"/> REMOVE STAPLES	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGAMI FLOWER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAX	ADD THOSE PERFORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> CORRUGATE
<input type="checkbox"/> SHRED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDGE STRIPS THAT ARE SO FUN TO TEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> PAPIER-MÂCHÉ
<input type="checkbox"/> SCAN	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSLATE	<input type="checkbox"/> DÉCOURAGE
<input type="checkbox"/> SUMMARIZE	<input type="checkbox"/> ROLL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOTARIZE
<input type="checkbox"/> PLAGIARIZE	<input type="checkbox"/> BURN	<input type="checkbox"/> BIODEGRADE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COLLABORATE	<input type="checkbox"/> EAT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CRUMPLE AND THROW AT TRASH LIKE BASKETBALL

There certainly is a lot of variability in these sandwiches! Just as in ...



There certainly is a lot of variability in these sandwiches! Just as in ...



Customise your wheel

Finish
15" black alloy wheels (5-double-spoke)

Cap colour
Black small centre cap

ALL-IN-ONE PAPER PROCESSOR

- PRINT
- STAPLE
- FOLD AIRPLANE
- ORIGAMI FLOWER
- REMOVE

Microsoft Productivity Software

Microsoft Office 365 Home **SELECTED**

+ £59.99

+ £79.99

+ £119.99

+ £229.99

+ £399.60

+ £628.80

Microsoft Office Not Included

For your best experience, Lenovo recommends selecting a Microsoft Office product with your new purchase.

NEED HELP DECIDING?
Roll over each product to get specific details on each Office product

There certainly is a lot of variability in these sandwiches! Just as in ...



But how to describe and analyze variability in all these domains?

Customise your wheel

FOLD AIRPLANE
ORIGAMI FLOWER

Microsoft Office Not Included

For your best experience, Lenovo recommends selecting a Microsoft Office product with your new purchase.

NEED HELP DECIDING?
Roll over each product to get specific details on each Office product

Option	Price
Office Home and Business 2016	+ £119.99
Office Home and Business 2016	+ £229.99
Standard Microsoft Office Business 2016	+ £399.60
Standard Microsoft Office	+ £628.80



Using Formal Languages for Variability

Core
Choice Calculus

Binary
Choice Calculus

Algebraic
Decision Diagrams

Binary
Decision Diagrams

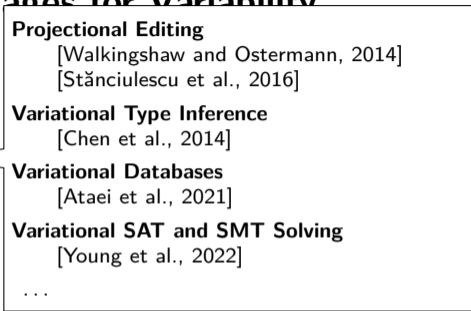
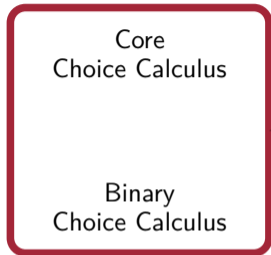
Option Calculus

Variation Trees

Artifact Trees

Variability-Aware
Abstract Syn-
tax Trees

Using Formal Languages for Variability



rees

Algebraic
Decision Diagrams

Variation Trees

Variability-Aware
Abstract Syn-
tax Trees

Binary
Decision Diagrams

Using Formal Languages for Variability

Core
Choice Calculus

Binary
Choice Calculus

Option Calculus

Artifact Trees

Algebraic
Decision Diagrams

Formalizing Software Product-Line Analyses

[Castro et al., 2021]

Classical Computation Problems

[Bahar et al., 1993]

Game Theory

[Aadithya et al., 2011]

...

ware
yn-
s

Binary
Decision Diagrams

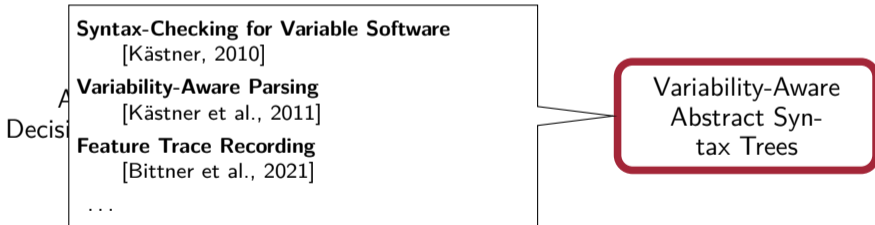
Using Formal Languages for Variability

Core
Choice Calculus

Binary
Choice Calculus

Option Calculus

Artifact Trees



Binary
Decision Diagrams

Using Formal Lang

Core
Choice Calculus

Binary
Choice Calculus

Algebraic
Decision Diagrams

Binary
Decision Diagrams

But how do these languages relate? Can we transfer research results based on one formalism to the others?

Trees

Variation Trees



Variability-Aware
Abstract Syn-
tax Trees

Using Formal Lang

Core
Choice Calculus

Binary
Choice Calculus

Algebraic
Decision Diagrams



Binary
Decision Diagrams

But how do these languages relate? Can we transfer research results based on one formalism to the others?

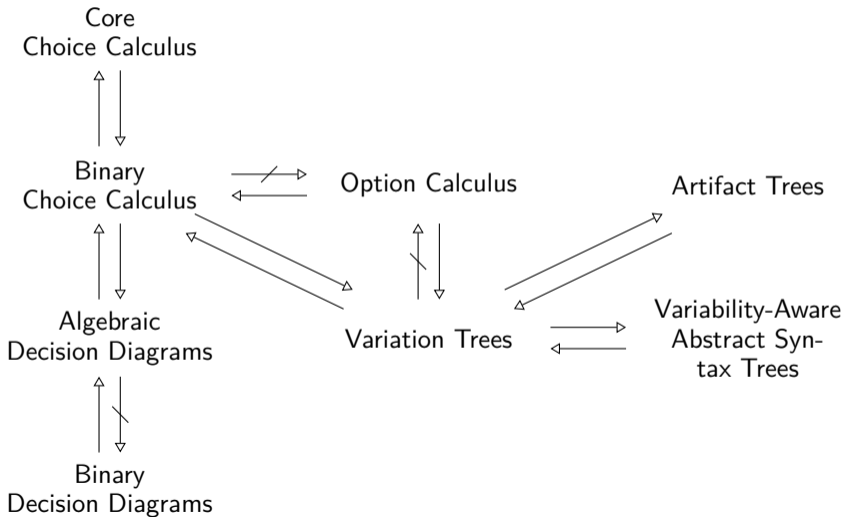
Trees

Variation Trees



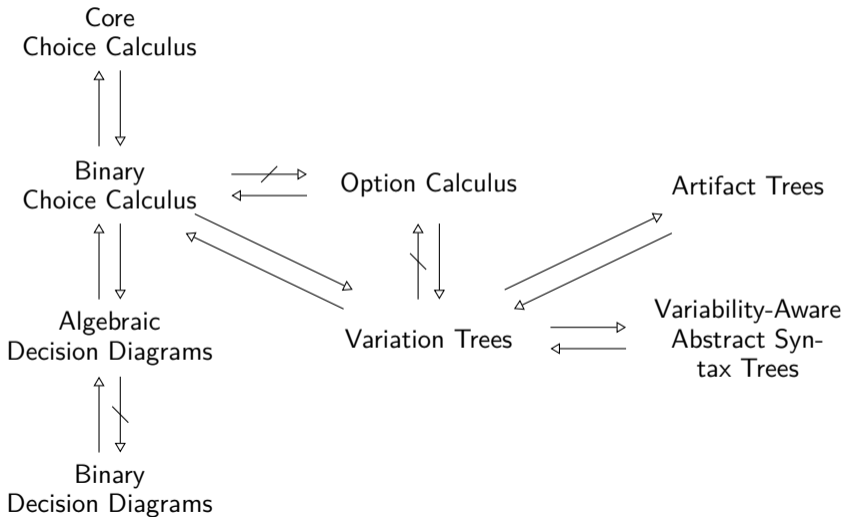
Variability-Aware
Abstract Syn-
tax Trees

Research Goal Map Out Language Space



Research Goal Map Out Language Space

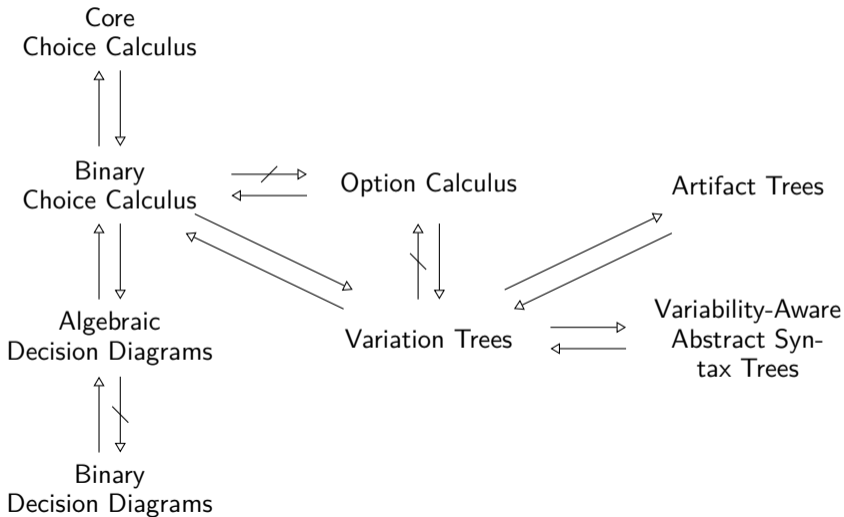
Why relating?



Research Goal Map Out Language Space

Why relating?

transfer research results

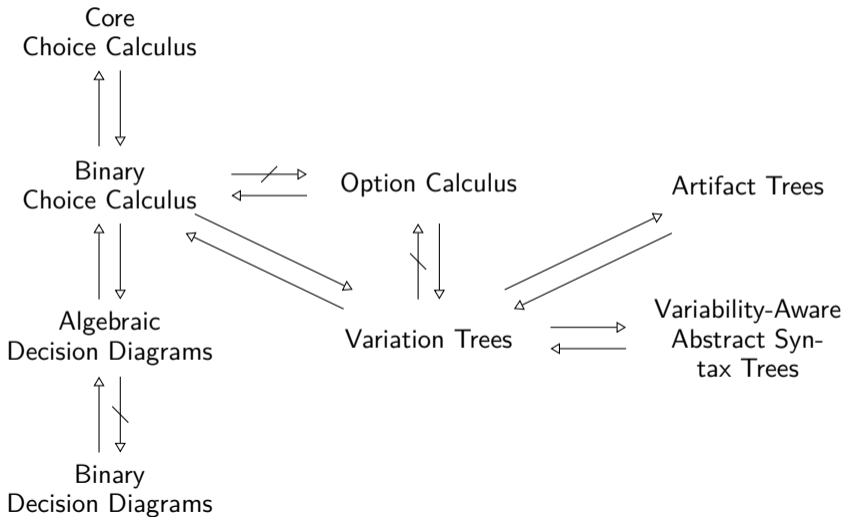


Research Goal Map Out Language Space

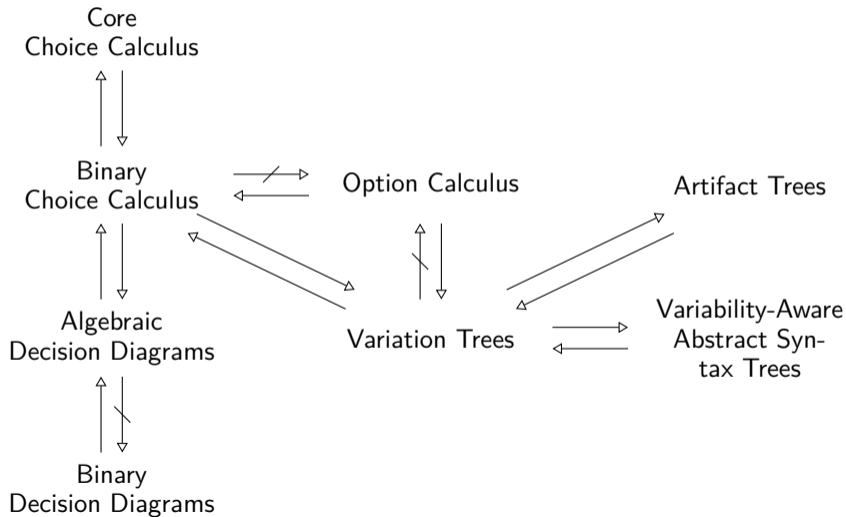
Why relating?

transfer research results

guidance on which language to pick



Research Goal Map Out Language Space



Why relating?

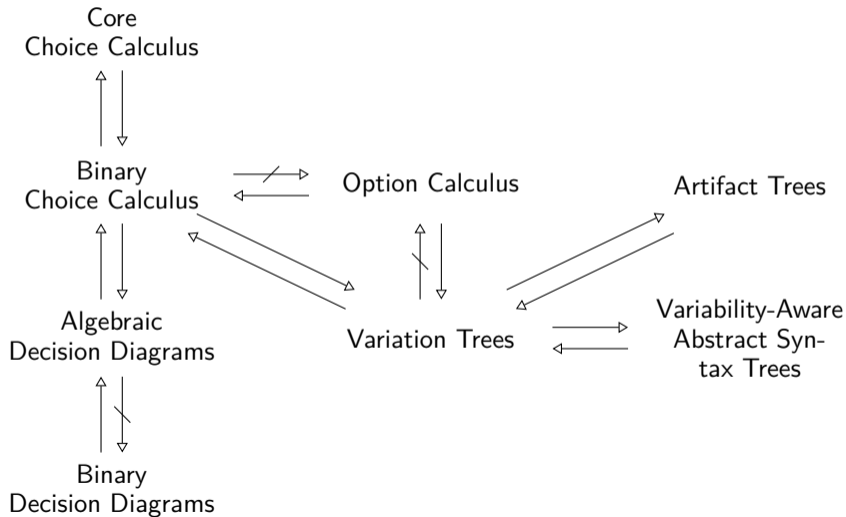
transfer research results

guidance on which language to pick

perform analyses or proofs on "easy"-to-process language

base user-languages on expressive formal languages

Research Goal Map Out Language Space



Why relating?

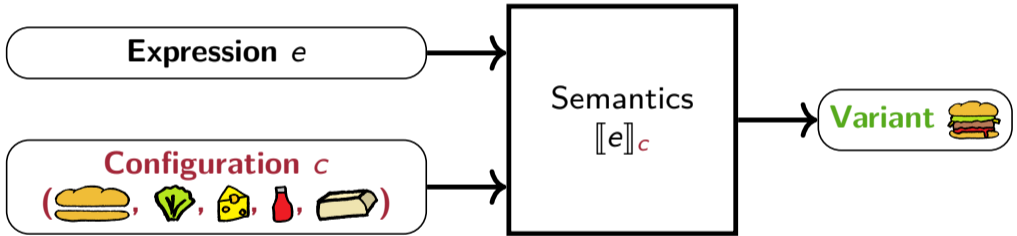
transfer research results

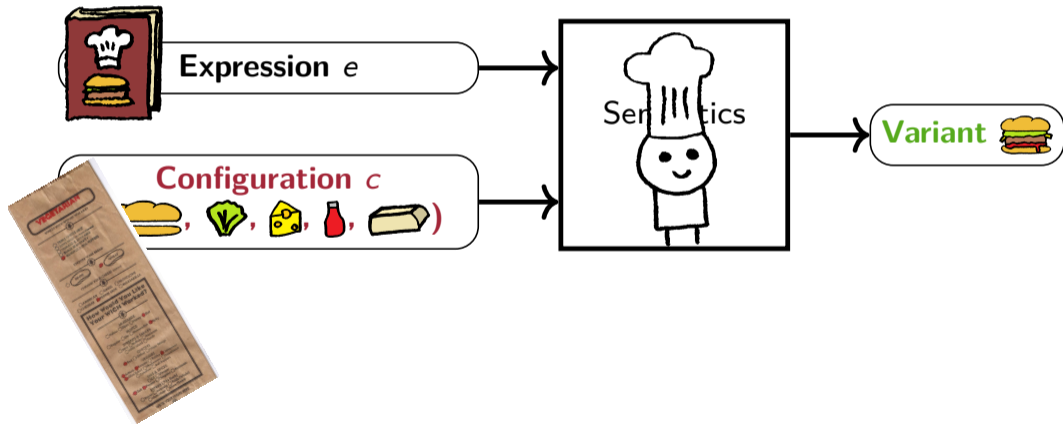
guidance on which language to pick

perform analyses or proofs on "easy"-to-process language

base user-languages on expressive formal languages

a better understanding of variability itself






Example: Core Choice Calculus [Walkingshaw, 2013]

$$e ::= a\langle e, \dots, e \rangle \quad \textit{Object Structure}$$
$$| D\langle e, \dots, e \rangle \quad \textit{Choice}$$


Example: Core Choice Calculus [Walkingshaw, 2013]



$$e ::= a\langle e, \dots, e \rangle \quad \textit{Object Structure}$$
$$| D\langle e, \dots, e \rangle \quad \textit{Choice}$$


always 

maybe 

always 

either  or 

any combination of  and 

always 


Example: Core Choice Calculus [Walkingshaw, 2013]



$$e ::= a \langle e, \dots, e \rangle \quad \textit{Object Structure}$$



$$| D \langle e, \dots, e \rangle \quad \textit{Choice}$$

always 

maybe 


always 

either  or 

any combination of  and 





always 



Salad? \langle , \circ \rangle ,



Patty \langle , , \rangle ,

Sauce \langle \circ , , , ,  \rangle



Example: Core Choice Calculus [Walkingshaw, 2013]



$e ::= a\langle e, \dots, e \rangle$ *Object Structure*
 $\quad | D\langle e, \dots, e \rangle$ *Choice*

always



maybe



always



either



any combination of






always



Salad? \langle , \circ \rangle ,



Patty \langle ,  \rangle ,

Sauce \langle \circ , , ,  \rangle

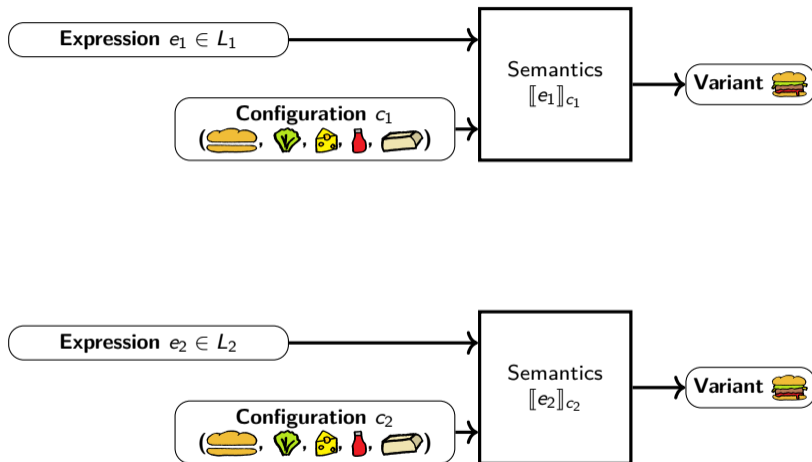
\rangle \rangle_c



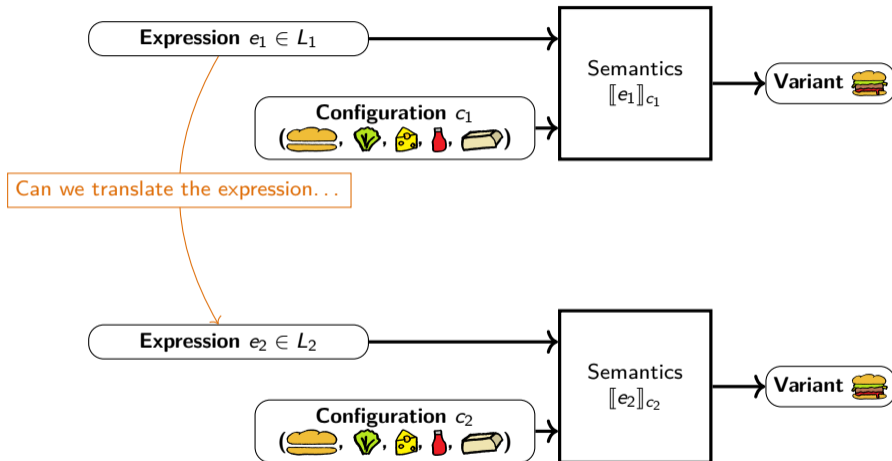
$=$ if $c(\textit{Salad?}) = 0$,
 $\quad c(\textit{Patty}) = 0$,
 $\quad c(\textit{Sauce}) = 2$.

How to Compare Variability Languages?

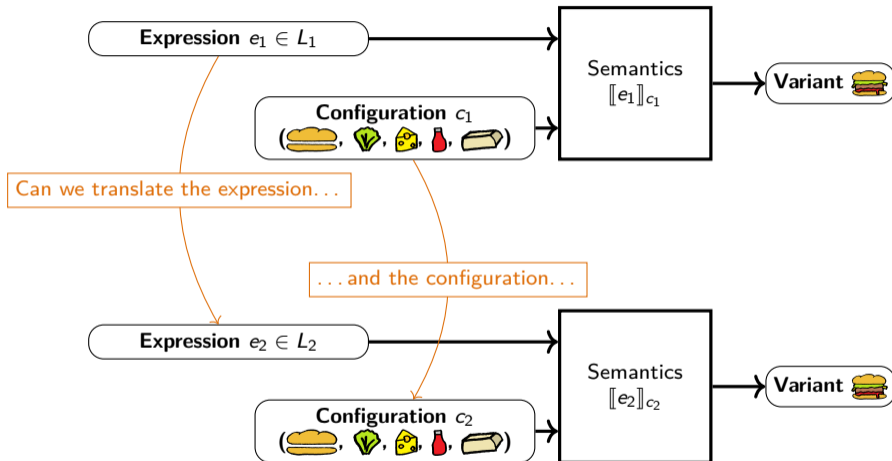
How to Compare Variability Languages?



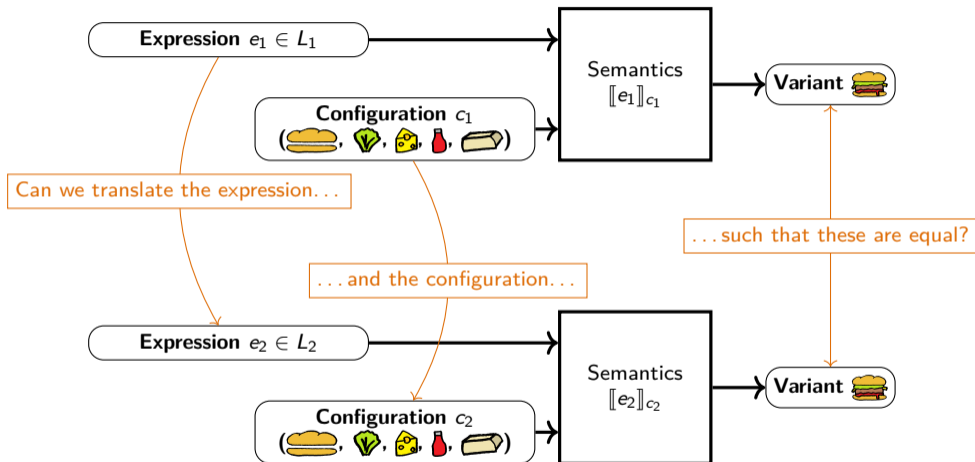
How to Compare Variability Languages?



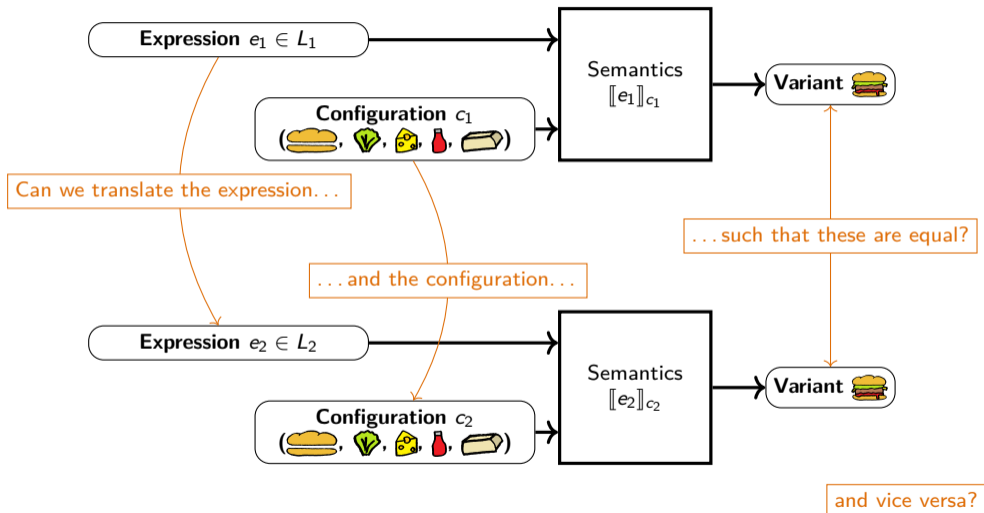
How to Compare Variability Languages?



How to Compare Variability Languages?



How to Compare Variability Languages?



L_1 is as expressive as L_2

iff Every expression in L_2 can be translated to an expression in L_1 that describes the same set of variants.

L_1 is as expressive as L_2

iff

Every expression in L_2 can be translated to an expression in L_1 that describes the same set of variants.

L_1 is variant equivalent to L_2

iff

L_1 is as expressive as L_2 and vice versa.

L_1 is as expressive as L_2

iff

Every expression in L_2 can be translated to an expression in L_1 that describes the same set of variants.

L_1 is variant equivalent to L_2

iff

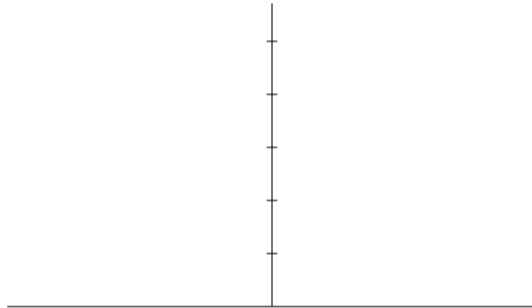
L_1 is as expressive as L_2 and vice versa.

L_1 is semantically equivalent to L_2

iff

L_1 and L_2 are variant equivalent and same configurations yield same variants. (Translation of configurations is an isomorphism.)

Annotation Language
How to annotate elements
with variability information?



Composition
How to derive
variants?

Annotation Language

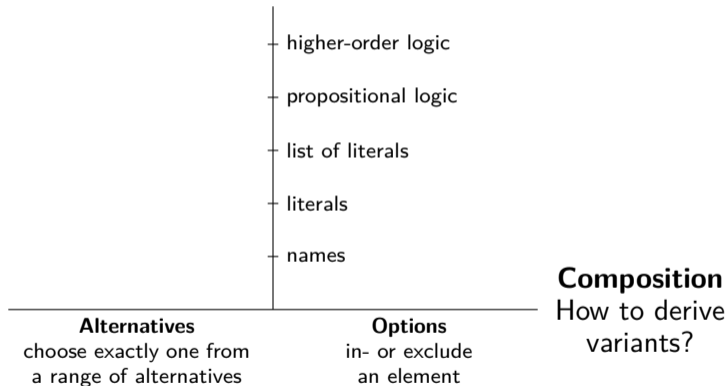
How to annotate elements
with variability information?

- higher-order logic
- propositional logic
- list of literals
- literals
- names

Composition
How to derive
variants?

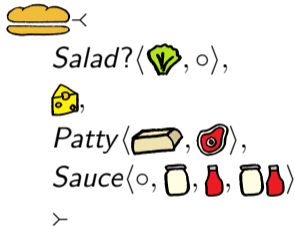
Annotation Language

How to annotate elements
with variability information?



Annotation Language

How to annotate elements with variability information?



Core Choice Calculus
[Walkingshaw, 2013]

higher-order logic

propositional logic

list of literals

literals

names

Alternatives

choose exactly one from a range of alternatives

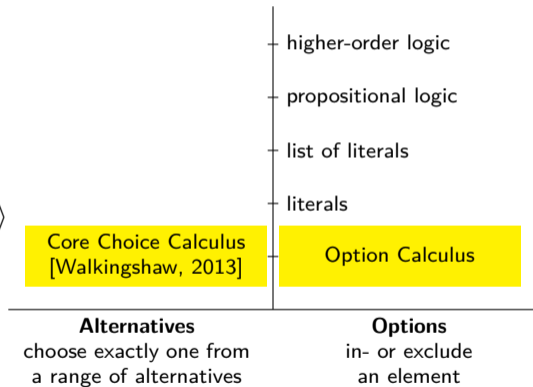
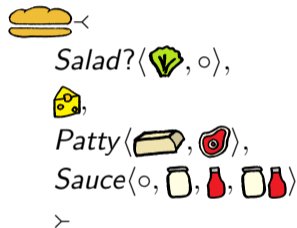
Options

in- or exclude an element

Composition
How to derive variants?

Annotation Language

How to annotate elements with variability information?







Composition
How to derive
variants?



Salad? \langle , \circ \rangle ,




Patty \langle , , \rangle ,

Sauce \langle \circ , , , , , \rangle







Core Choice Calculus
[Walkingshaw, 2013]



Salad?{, o},




Patty{, ,

Sauce{o, , , , ,


>


Core Choice Calculus
[Walkingshaw, 2013]




Salad?{,



Tofu?{,

Meat?{,

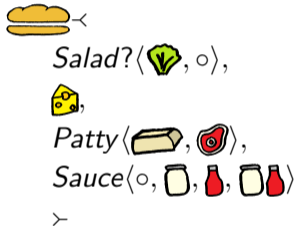
Ketchup?{,

Mayo?{,

>

Option Calculus

Named options cannot express alternatives!

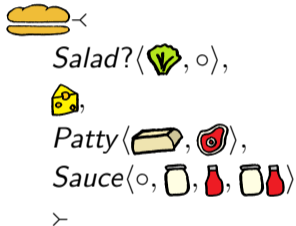


Core Choice Calculus
[Walkingshaw, 2013]



Option Calculus

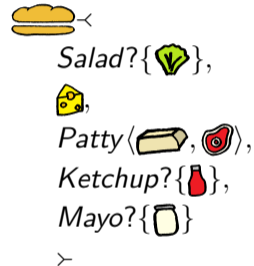
Named options cannot express alternatives!



Core Choice Calculus
[Walkingshaw, 2013]



Option Calculus



Variation Trees
[Bittner et al., 2022]

L is complete

iff L can encode any given set of variants.

L is complete

iff L can encode any given set of variants.

L_1 is complete
 $\wedge L_2$ is as expressive as L_1

\models

L_2 is complete.

L is complete

iff L can encode any given set of variants.

L_1 is complete
 $\wedge L_2$ is as expressive as L_1

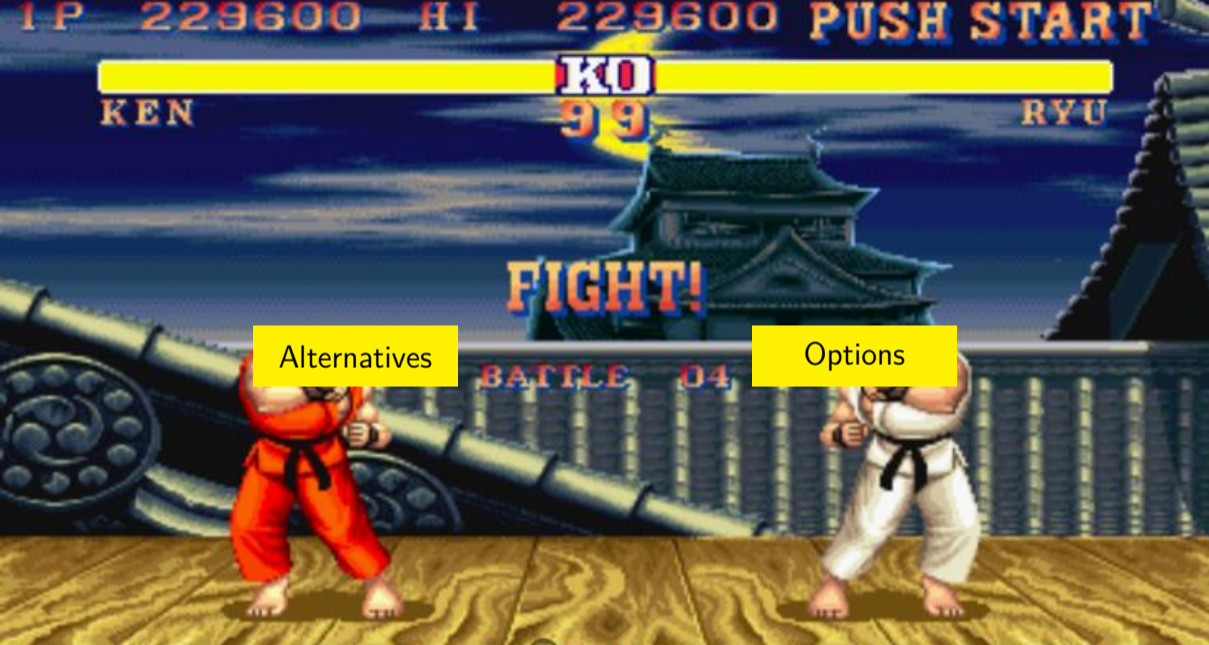
\models

L_2 is complete.

L_1 is complete
 $\wedge L_2$ is incomplete

\models

L_2 is less expressive than L_1 .



Alternatives

Options



- complete

- incomplete

Alternatives

Options



- complete
- more expressive

Alternatives

- incomplete
- less expressive

Options

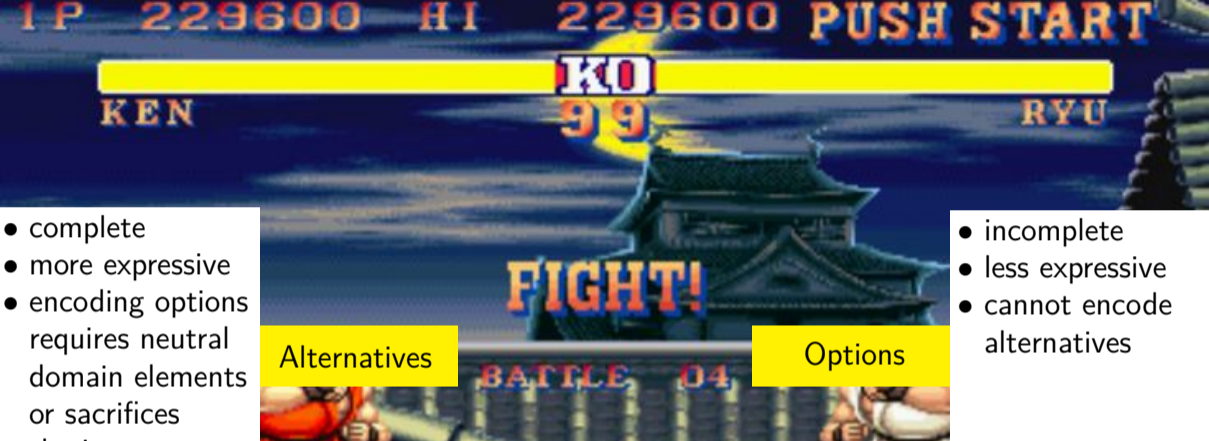


- complete
- more expressive
- encoding options requires neutral domain elements or sacrifices sharing

Alternatives

Options

- incomplete
- less expressive
- cannot encode alternatives



- complete
- more expressive
- encoding options requires neutral domain elements or sacrifices sharing

Alternatives

Options

- incomplete
- less expressive
- cannot encode alternatives

Conclusions:

- Options are useful syntax to increase sharing.
- For completeness, **else** statements or **negations** of annotations are essential.

Core
Choice Calculus

Binary
Choice Calculus

Algebraic
Decision Diagrams

Binary
Decision Diagrams

Option Calculus

Variation Trees

Artifact Trees

Variability-Aware
Abstract Syntax Trees

Contributions

Core
Choice Calculus

Binary
Choice Calculus

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Decision Diagrams

Binary
Decision Diagrams

Option Calculus

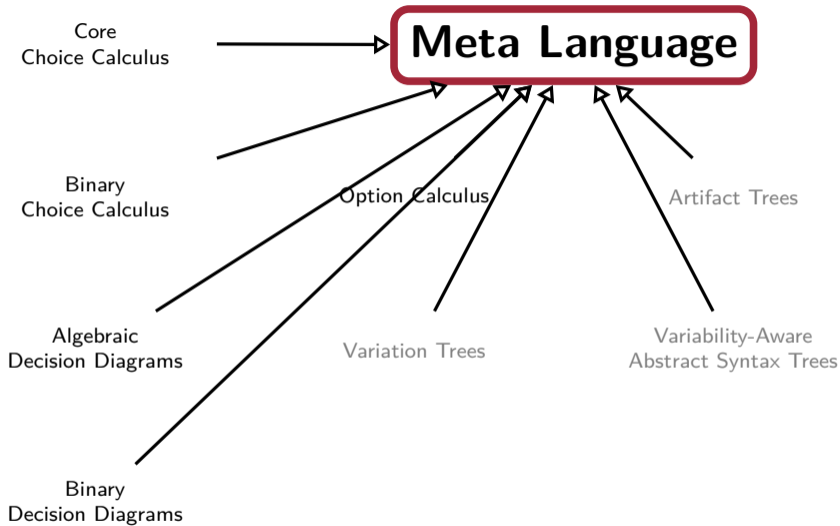
Variation Trees

Artifact Trees

Variability-Aware
Abstract Syntax Trees

Contributions

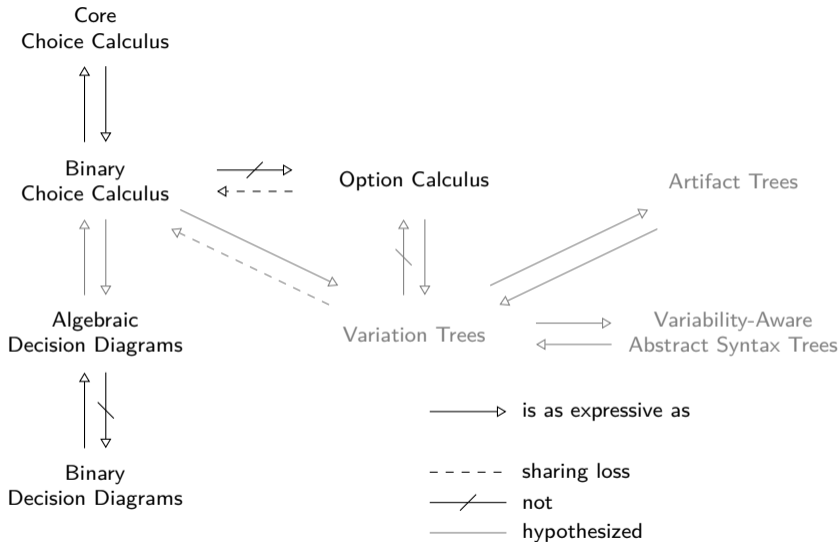
option calculus to
formally clarify
relationship between
alternatives and options



Contributions

option calculus to formally clarify relationship between alternatives and options

formal framework based on meta-language for variability

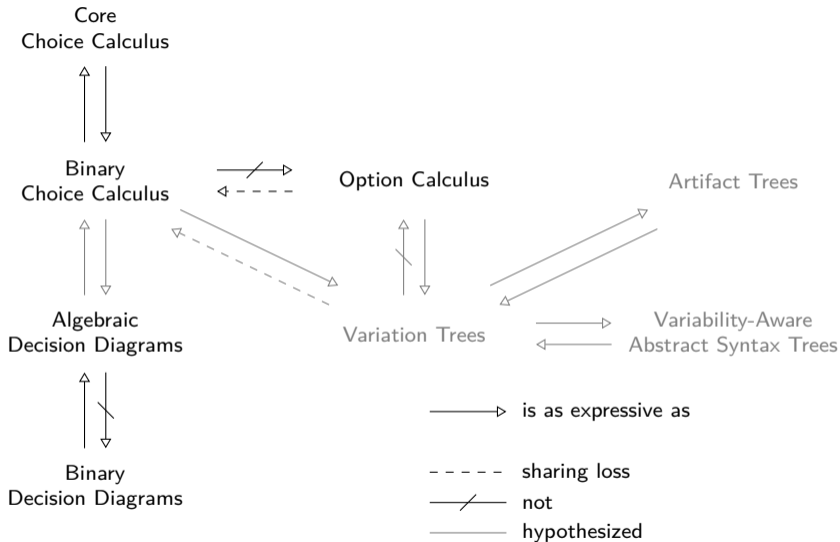


Contributions

option calculus to formally clarify relationship between alternatives and options

formal framework based on meta-language for variability

formal comparison of variability languages



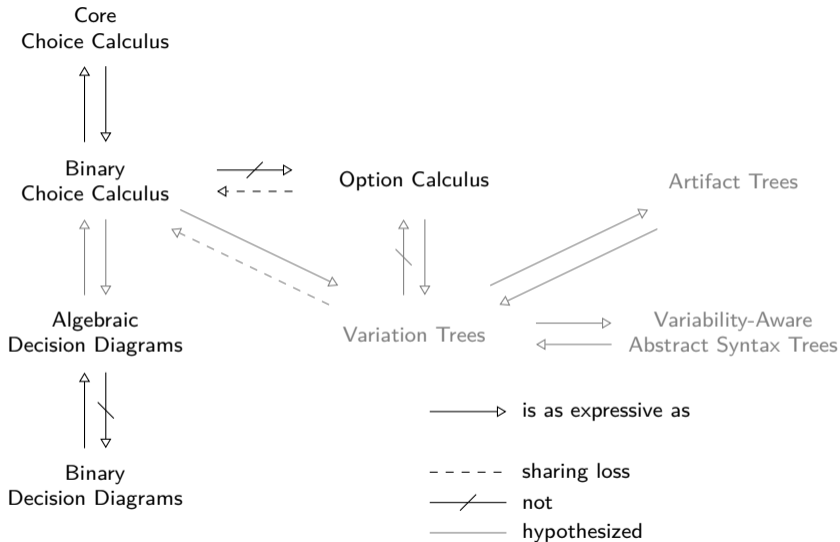
Contributions

option calculus to formally clarify relationship between alternatives and options

formal framework based on meta-language for variability

formal comparison of variability languages

(in)completeness proofs



Contributions

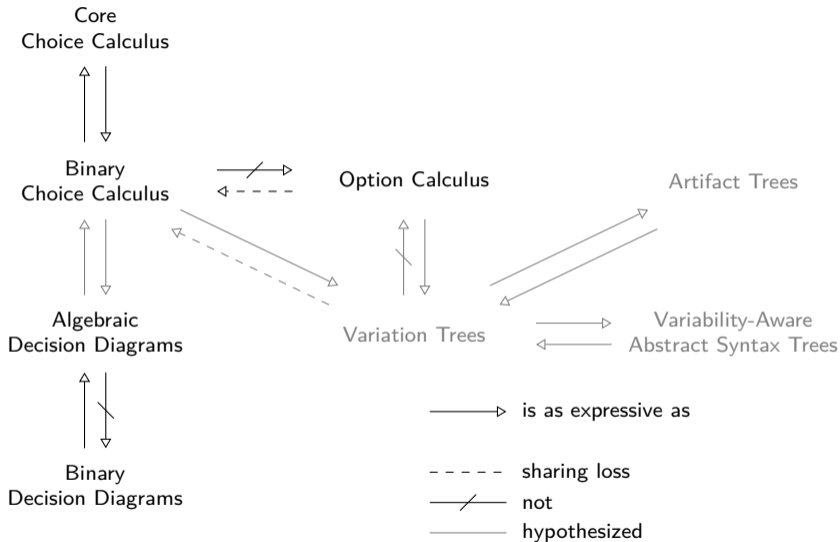
option calculus to formally clarify relationship between alternatives and options

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formal comparison of variability languages

(in)completeness proofs

open-source Agda library



Contributions

option calculus to formally clarify relationship between alternatives and options


formal framework based on meta-language for variability


formal comparison of variability languages

(in)completeness proofs

open-source Agda library

but still WIP

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