



UNIVERSITÄT
DES
SAARLANDES



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR INFORMATICS

Stable Matching

Mechanism Design Without Money

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May 13, 2025

Several proofs and examples of this lecture are taken from Thomas Kesselheim's [lecture notes](#)



Matching Markets and Stability

- ▶ job applicants A , companies X



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$\mathcal{L}(X)$: set of binary relations \succ satisfying

- either $x \succ y$ or $y \succ x$
for every $x, y \in X$ with $x \neq y$
- $x \succ z$ whenever $x \succ y$ and $y \succ z$



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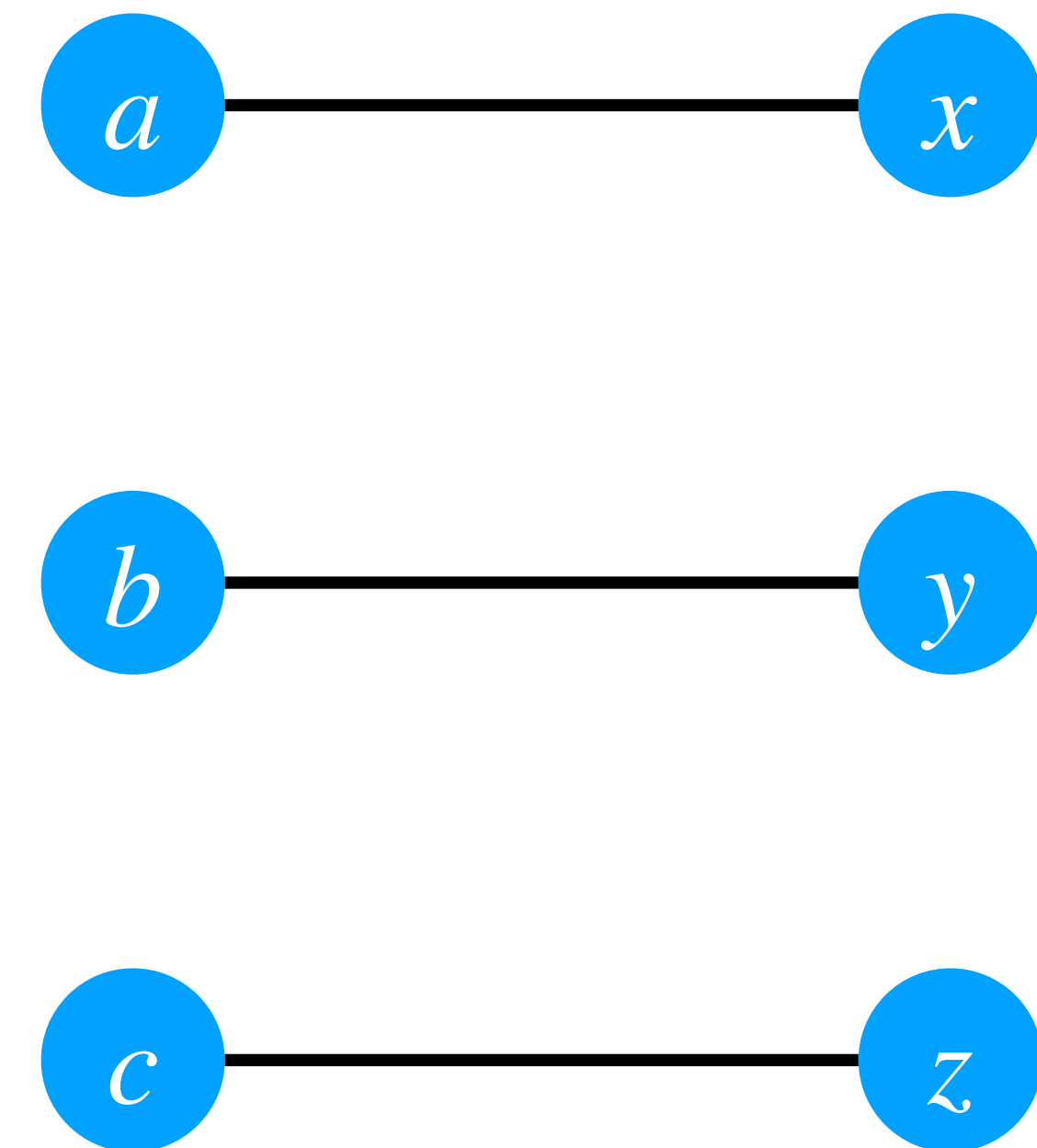
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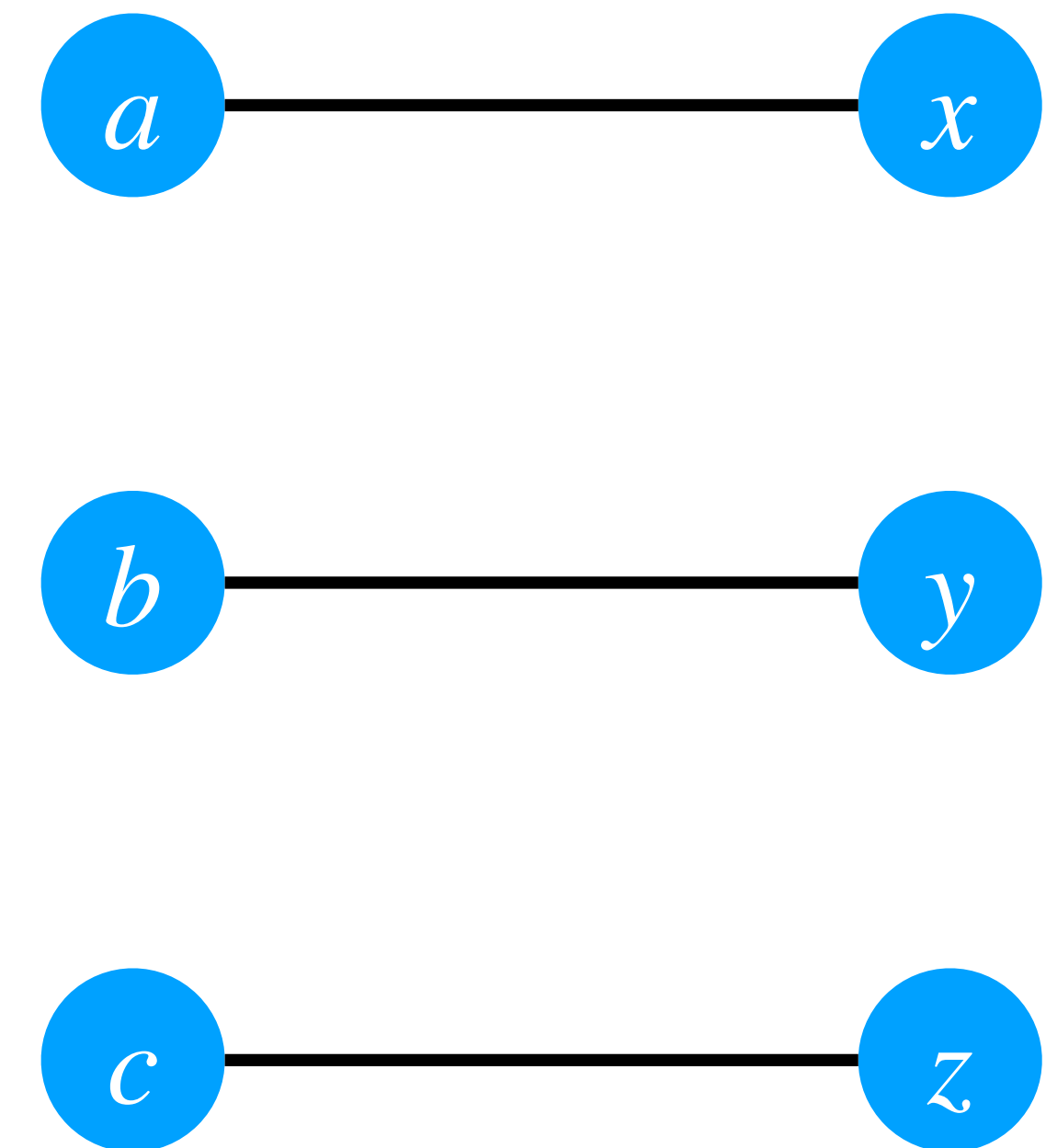
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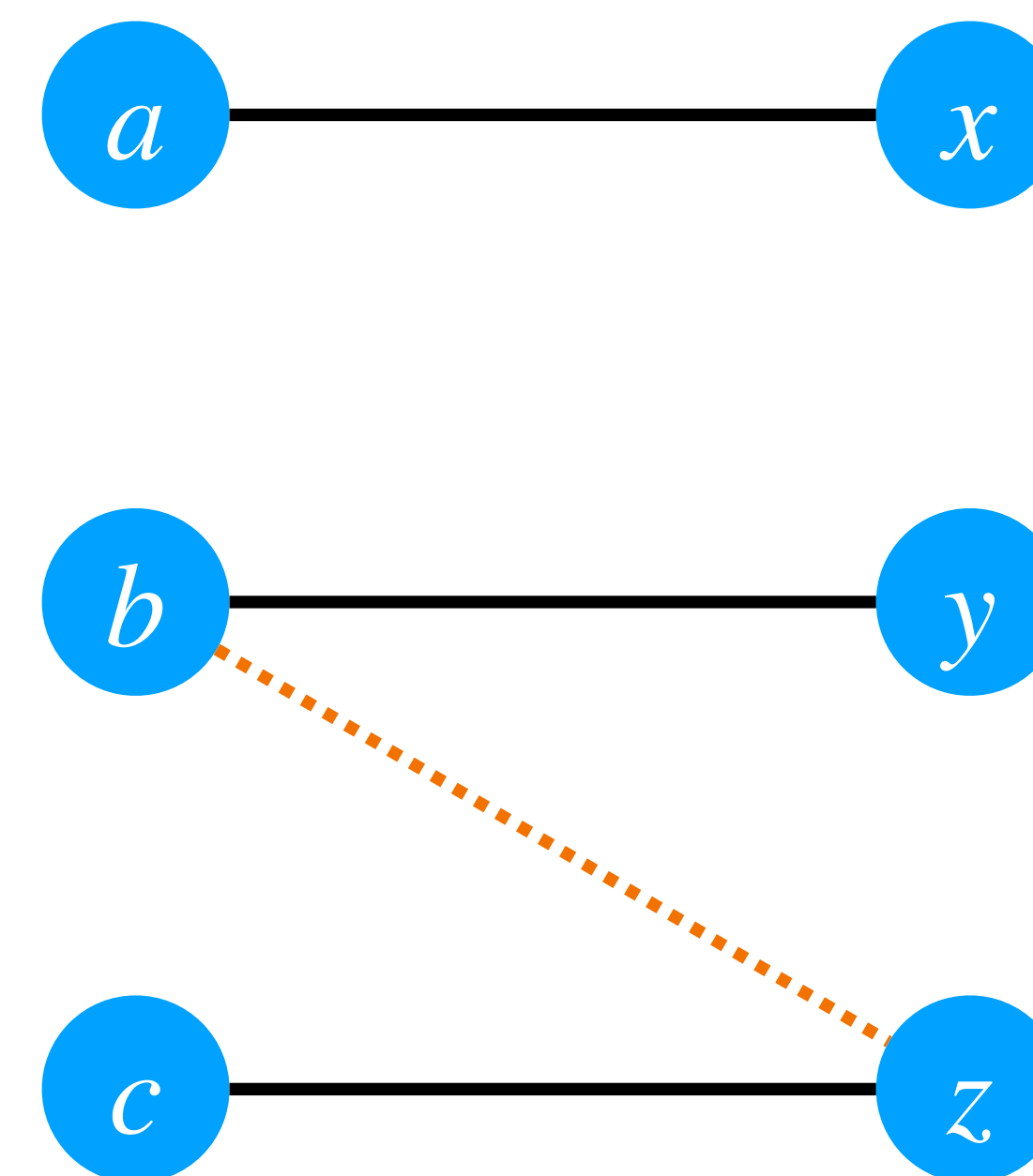
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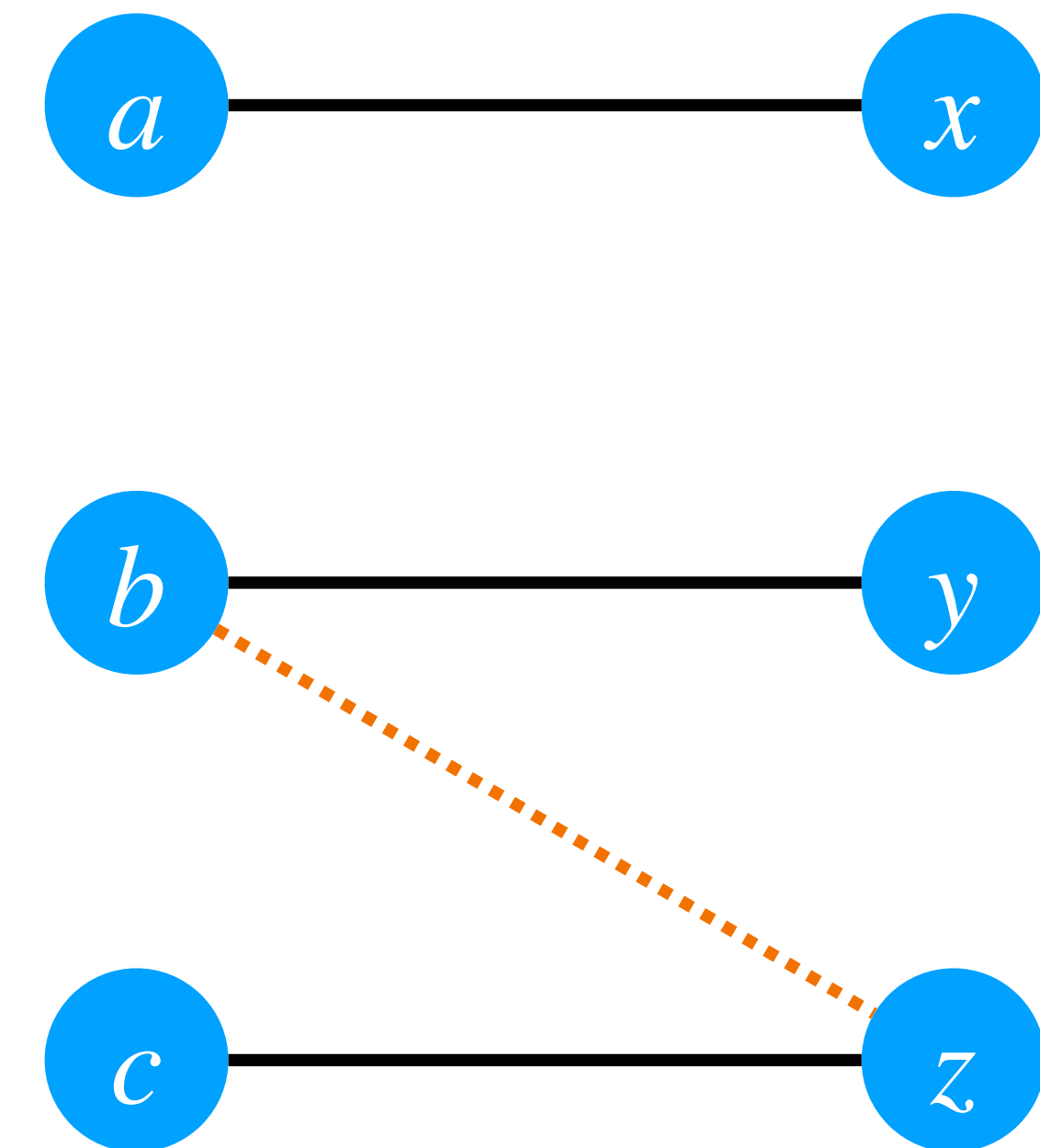




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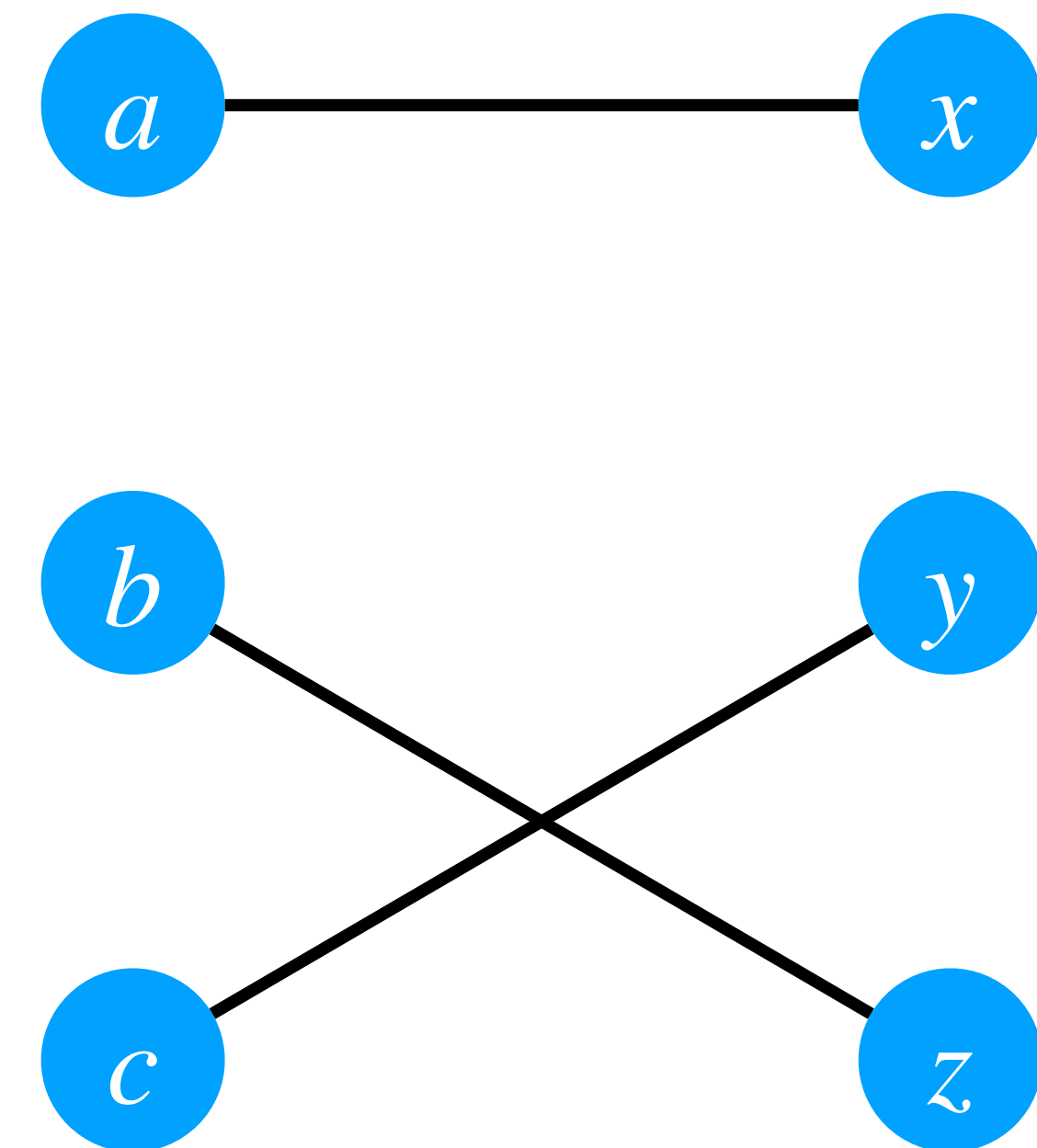




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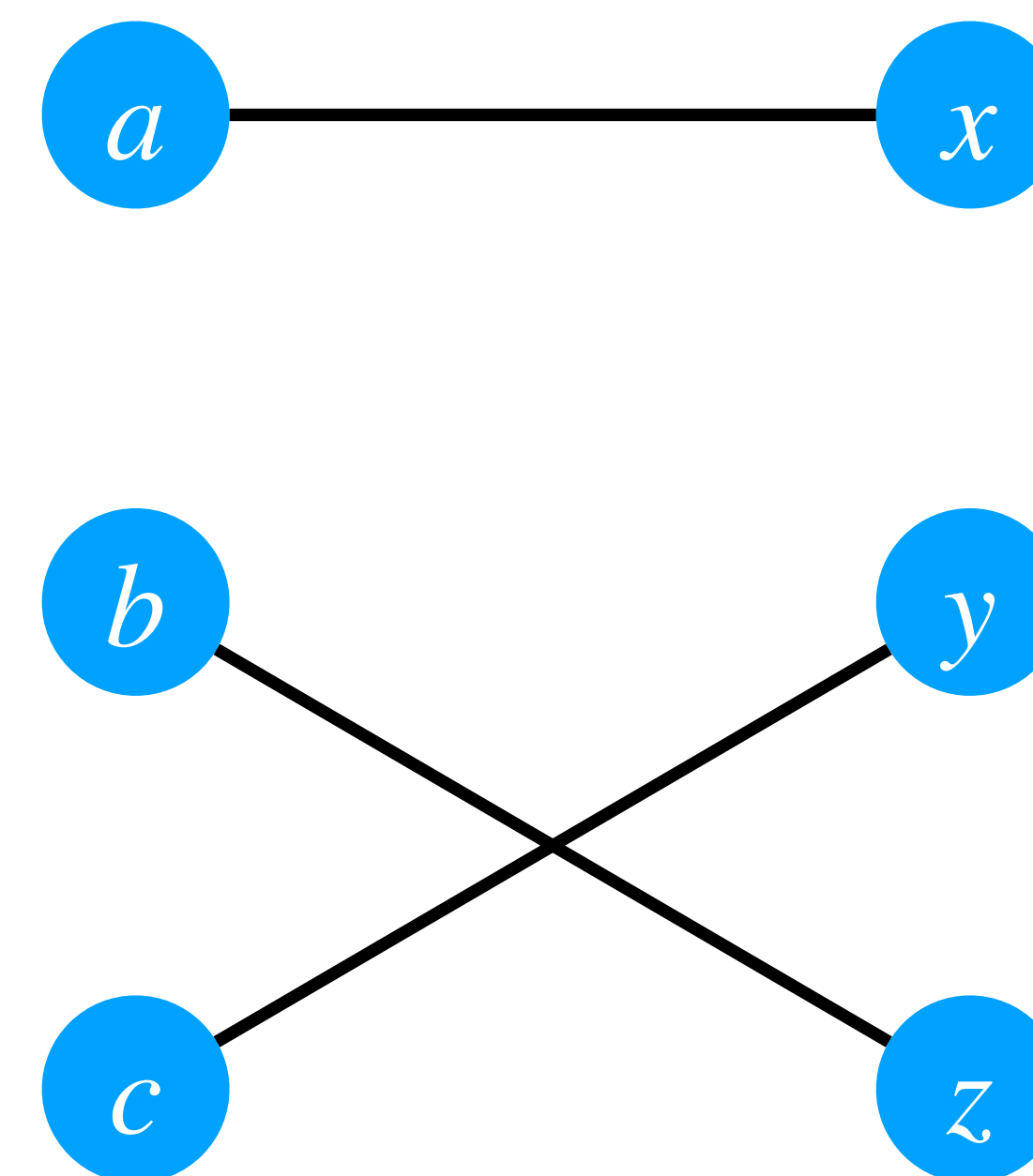
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- ▶ a mechanism is stable if it produces stable matchings
analogously for other properties





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A stable matching always exists and can be found efficiently.



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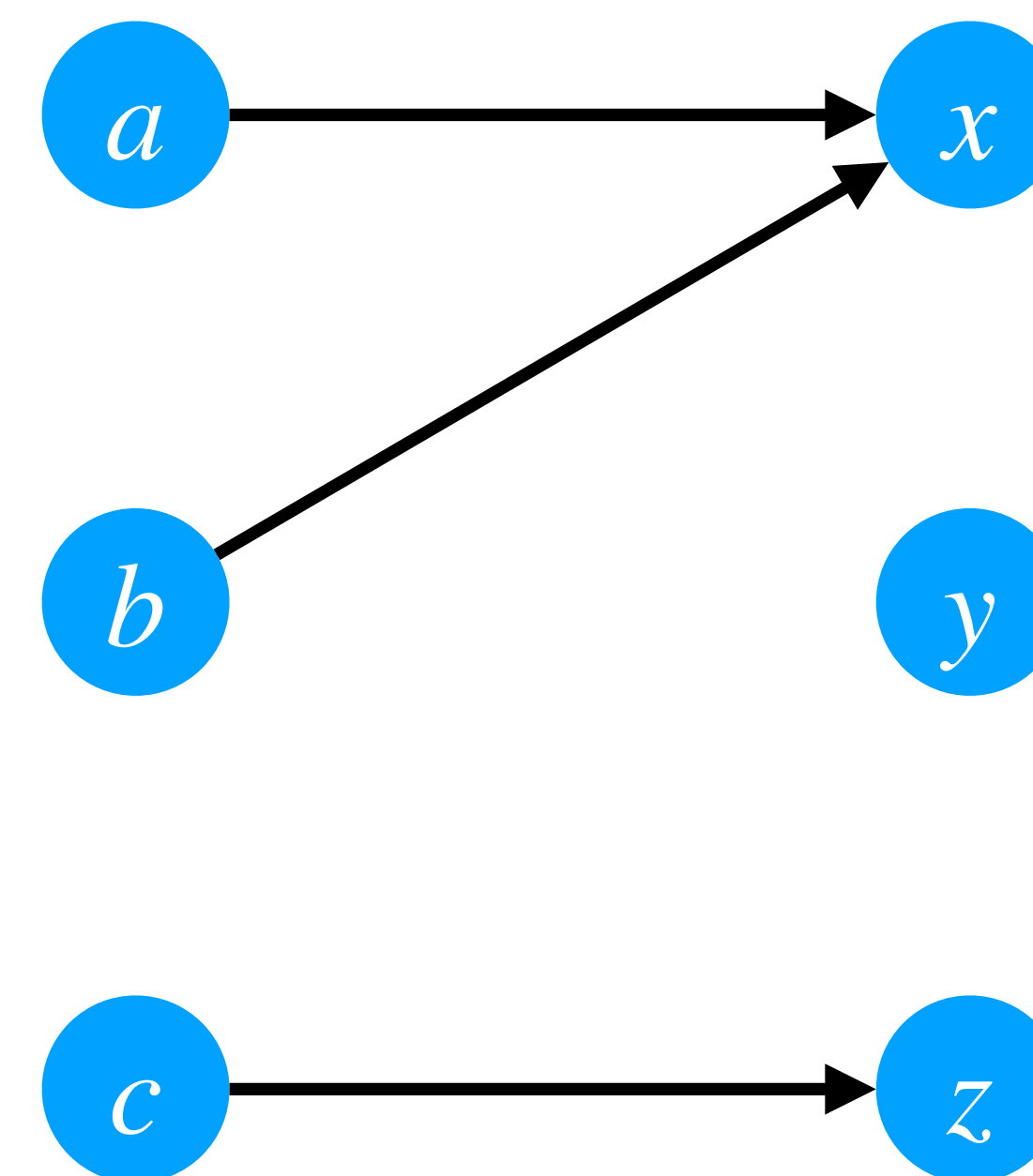
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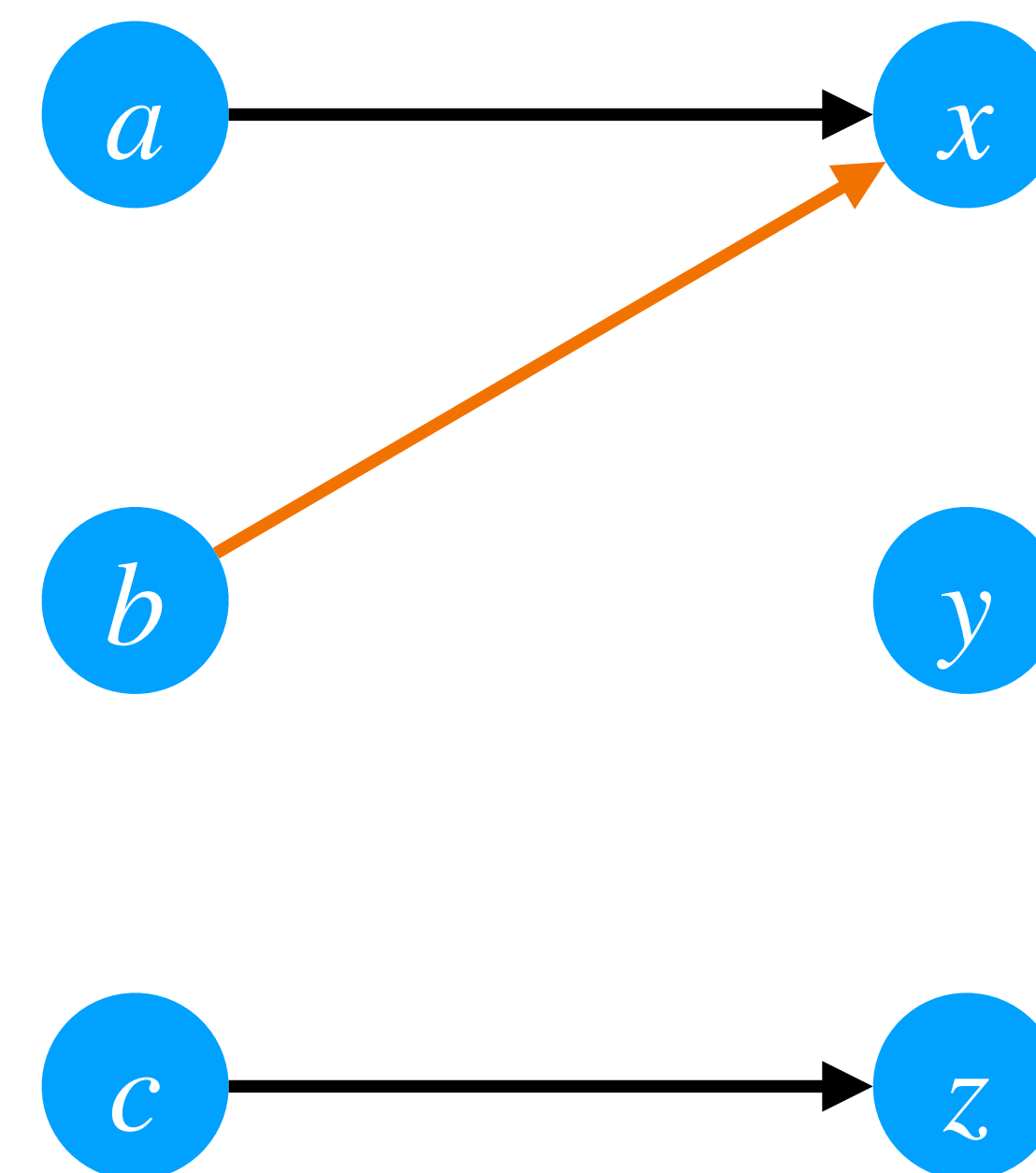
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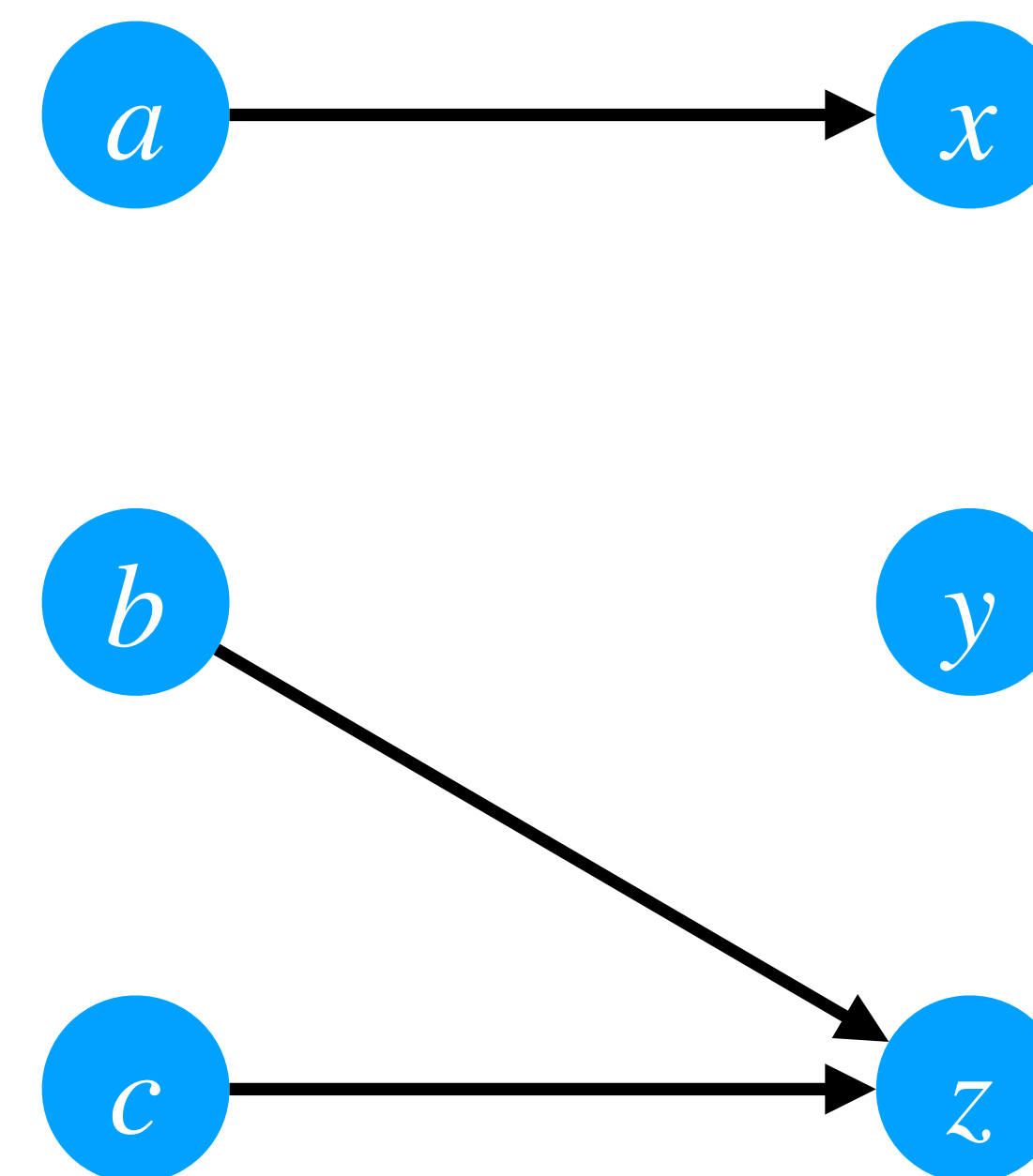
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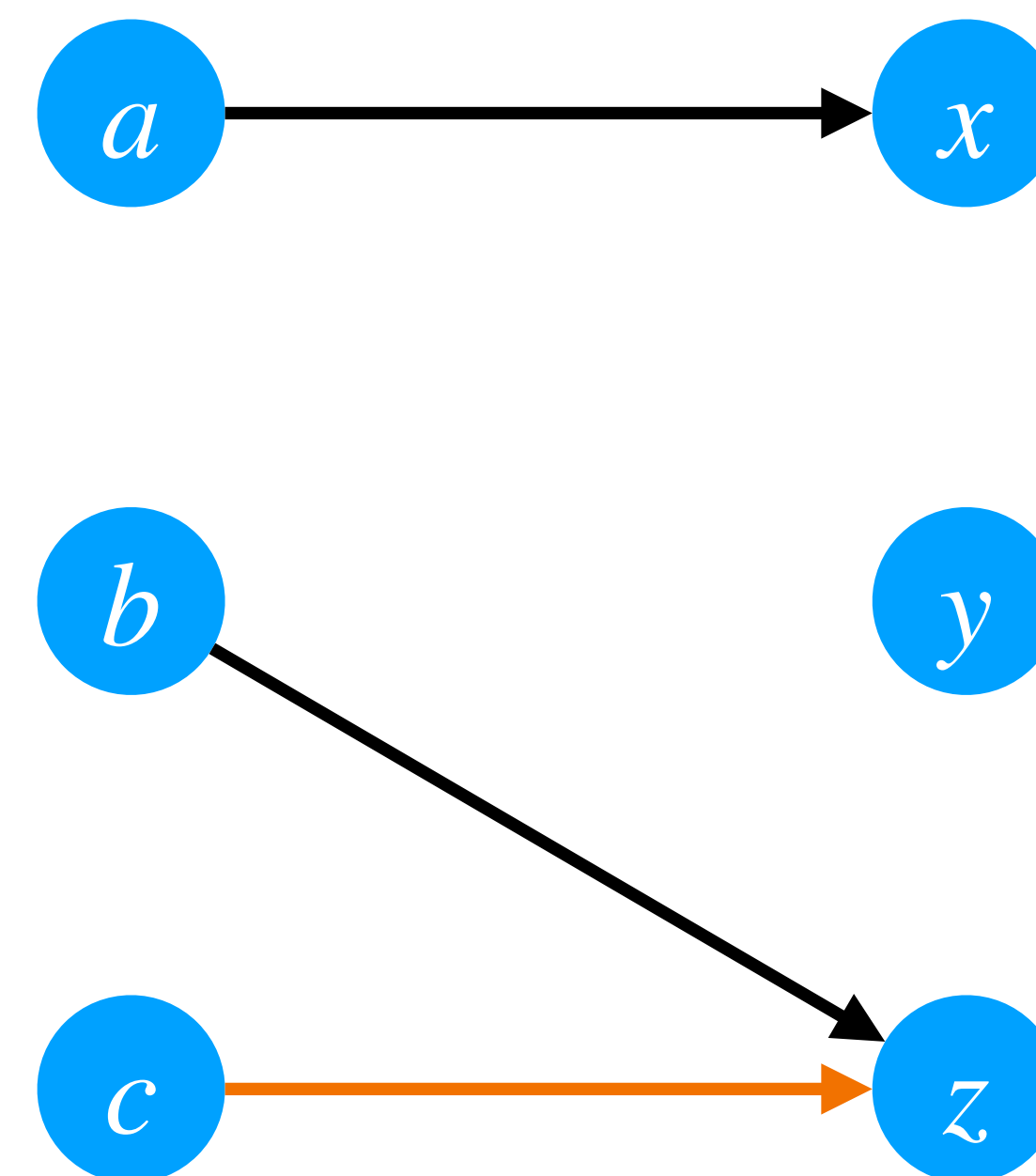
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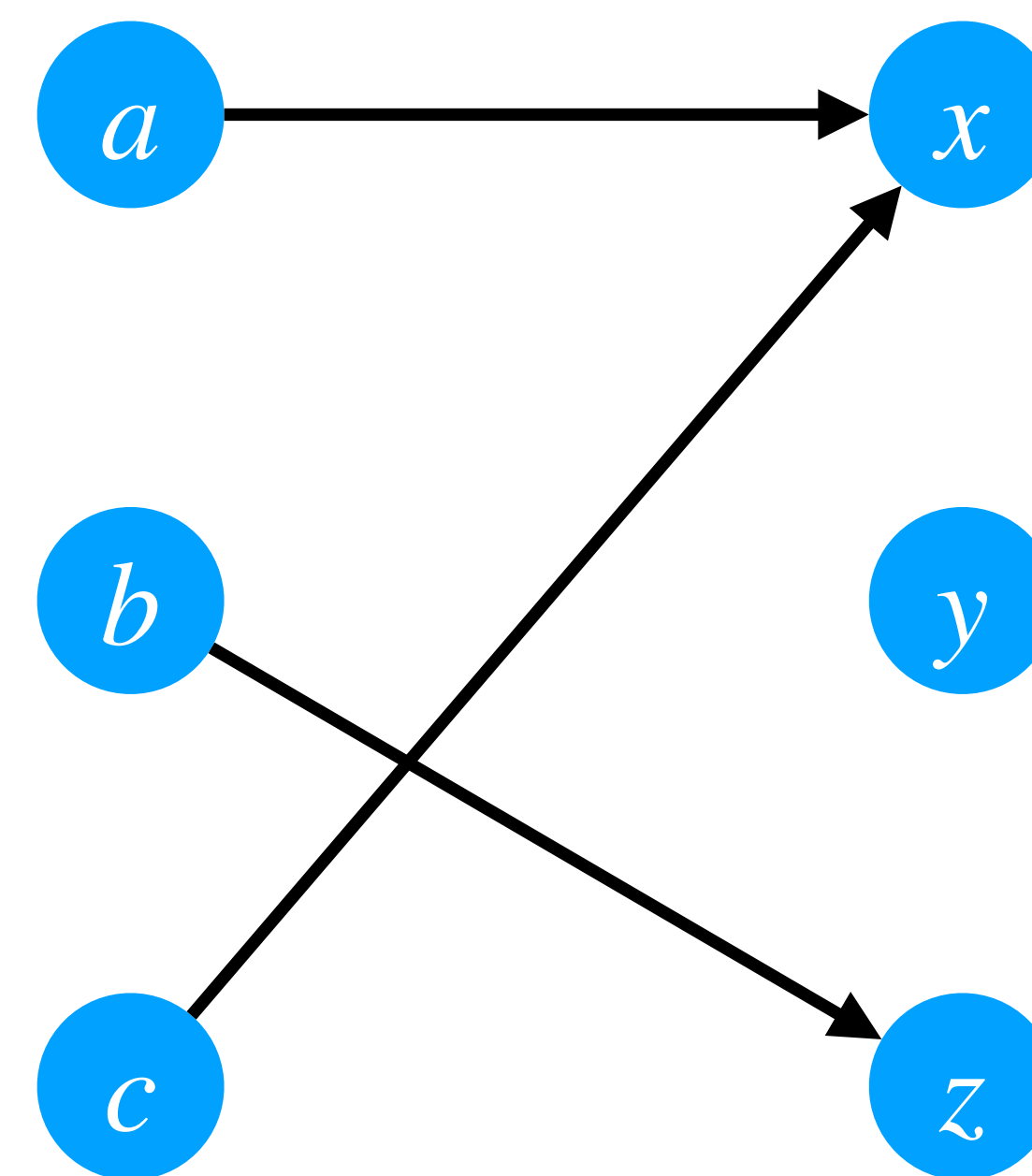
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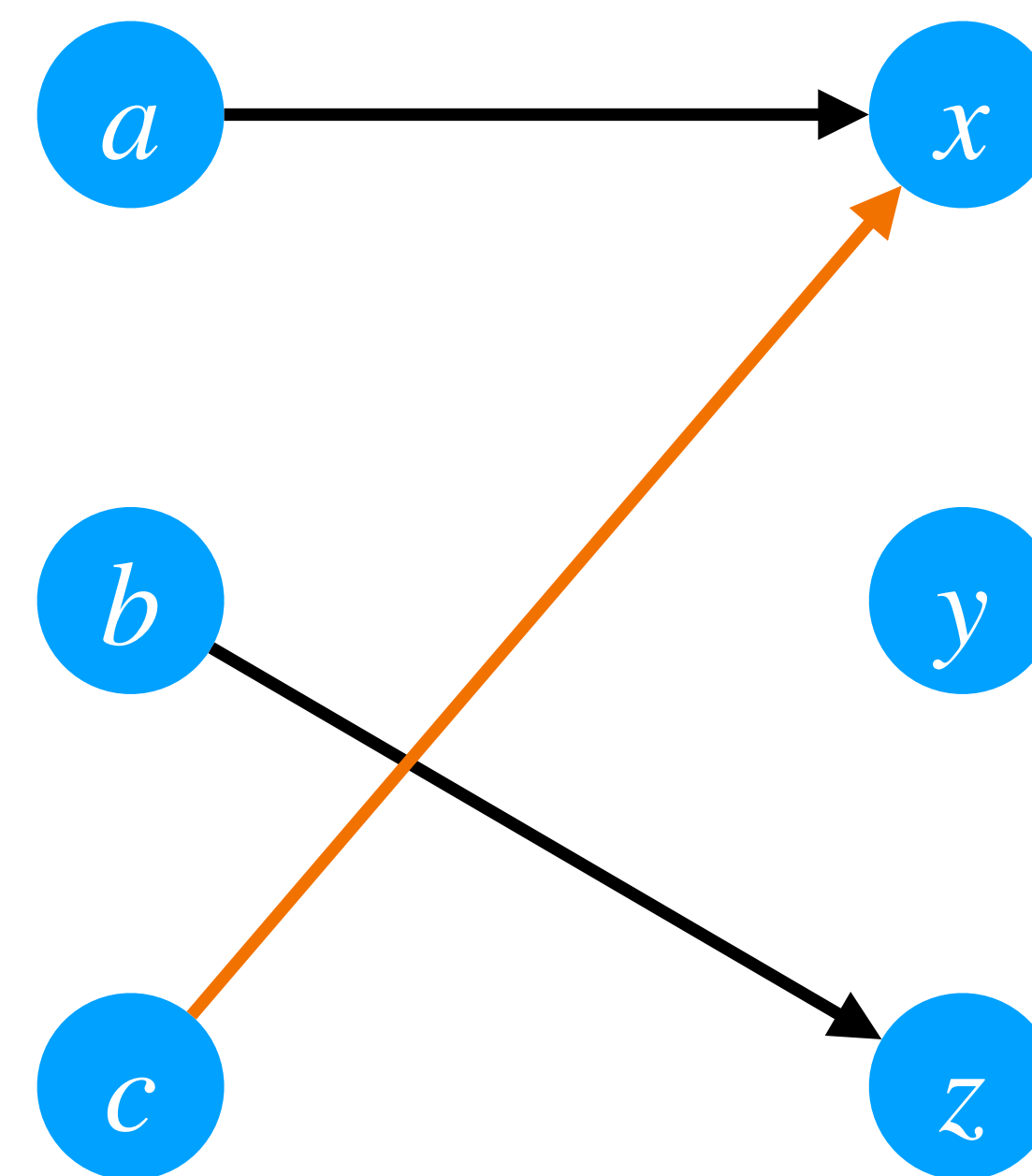
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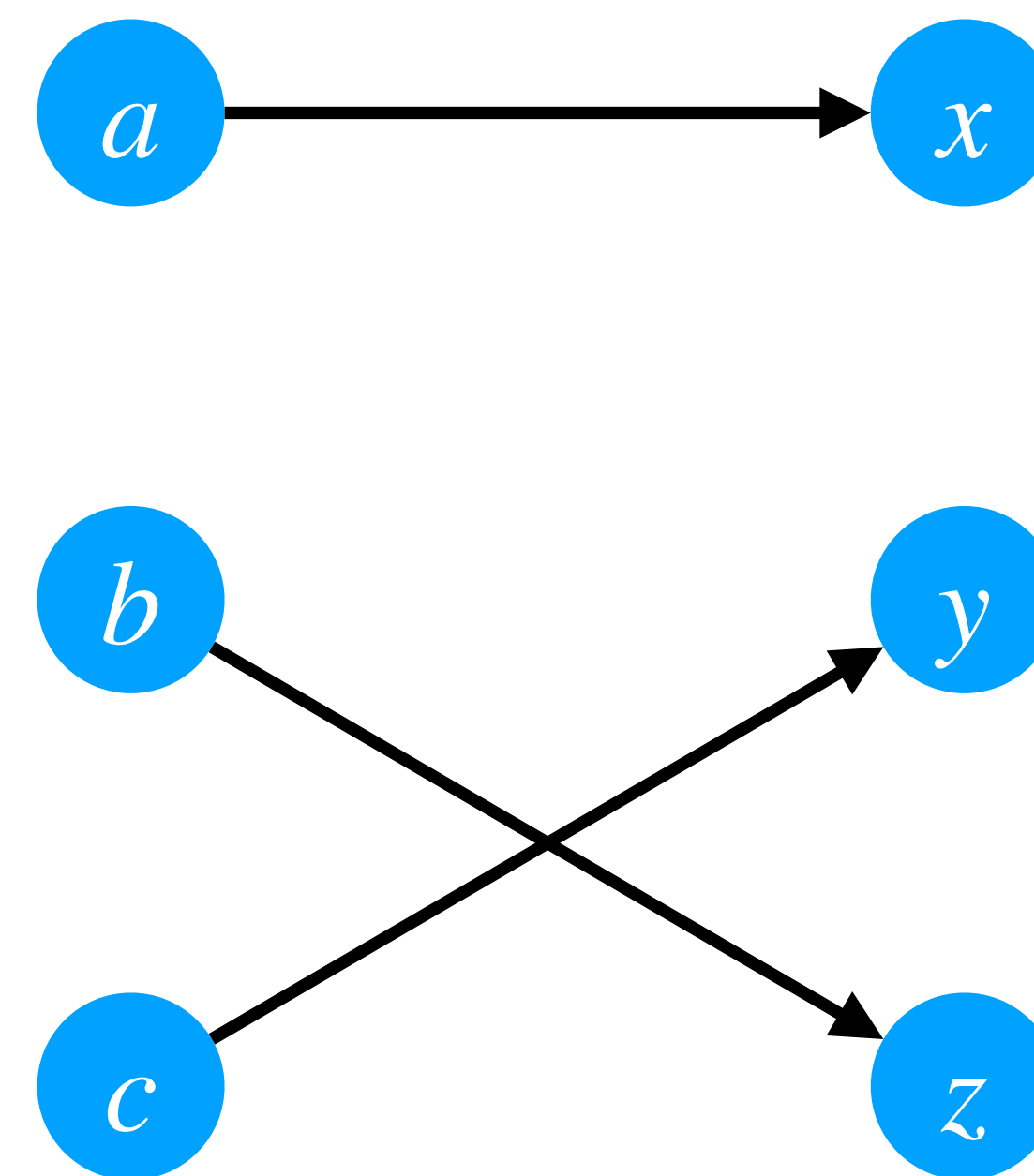
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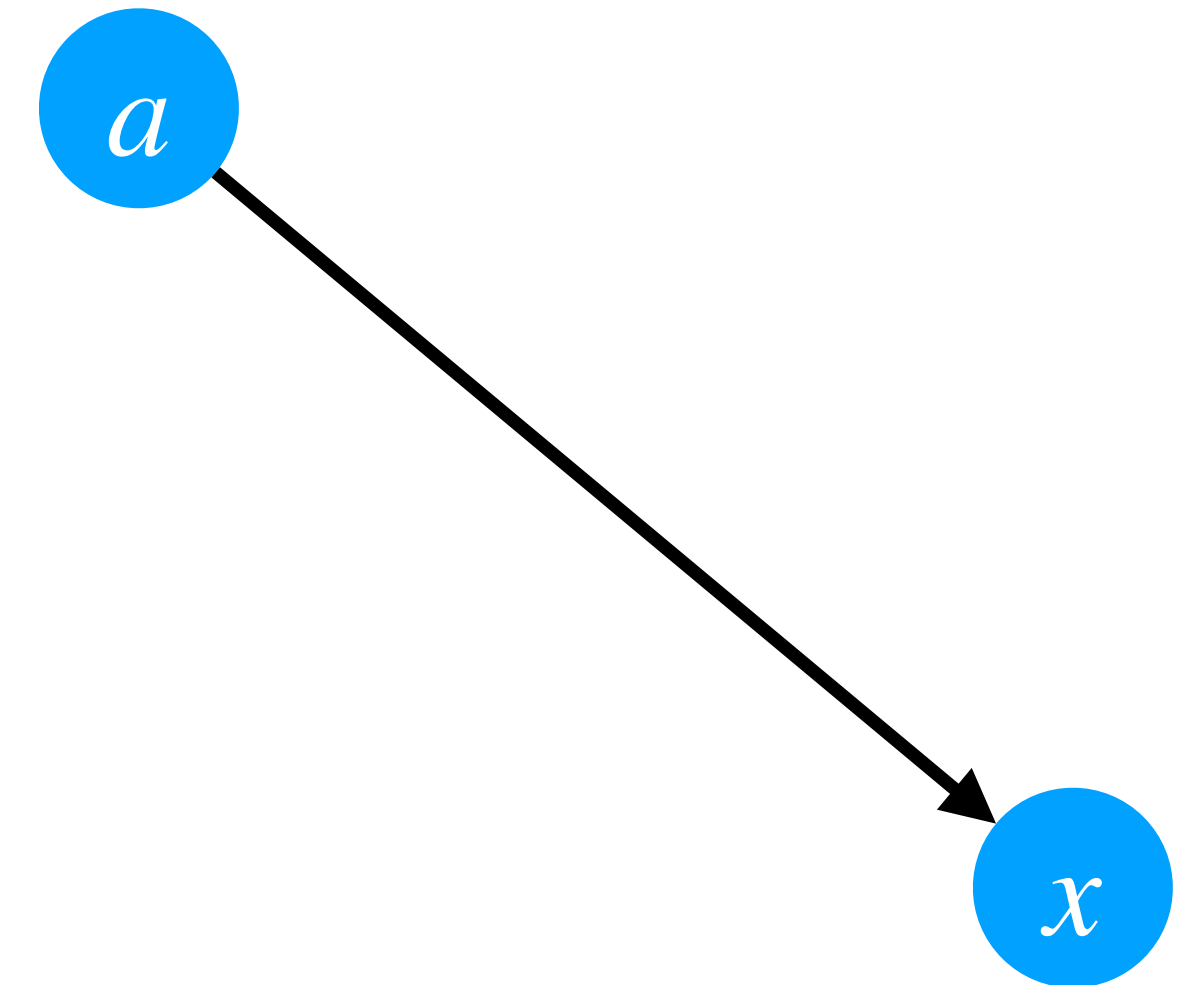
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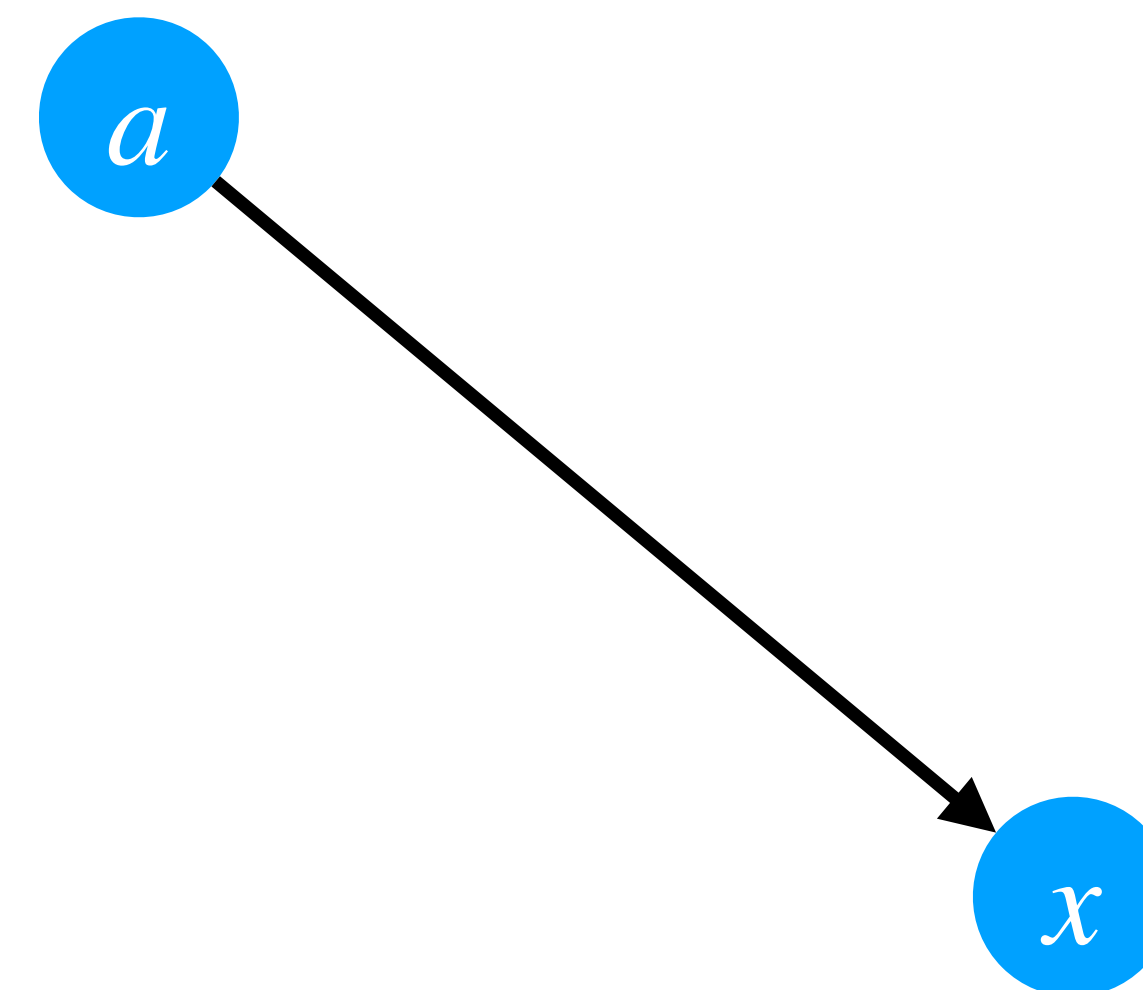
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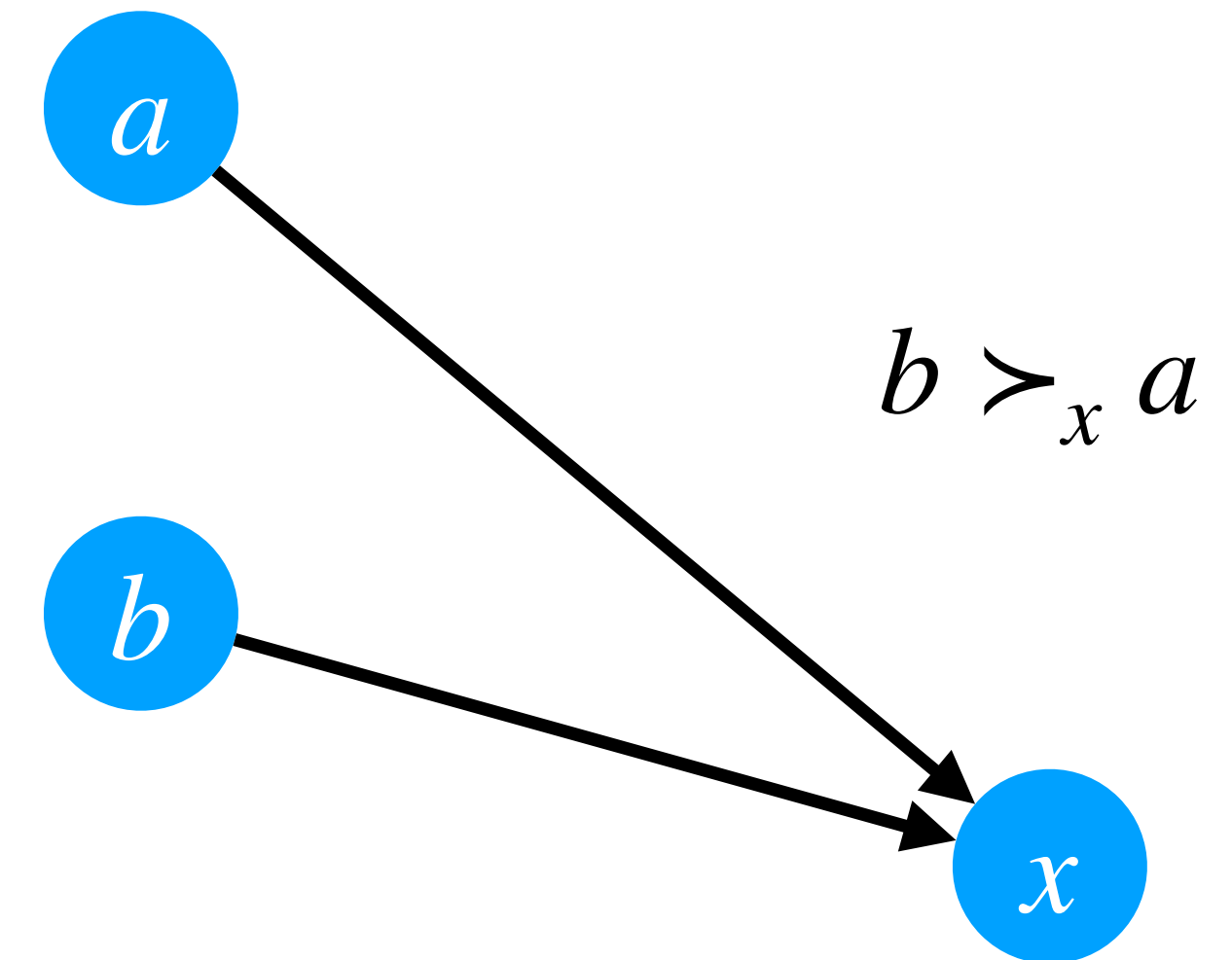
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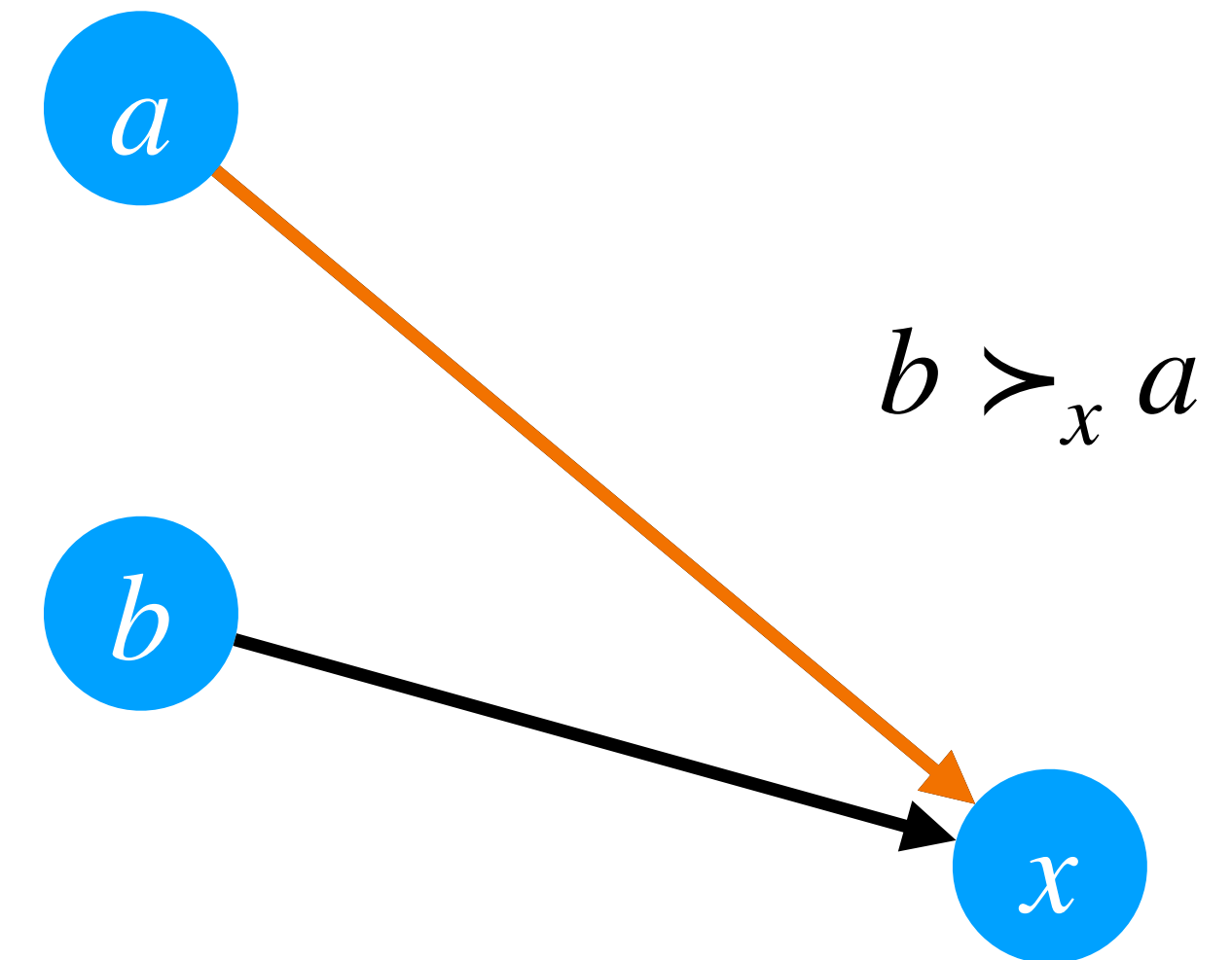
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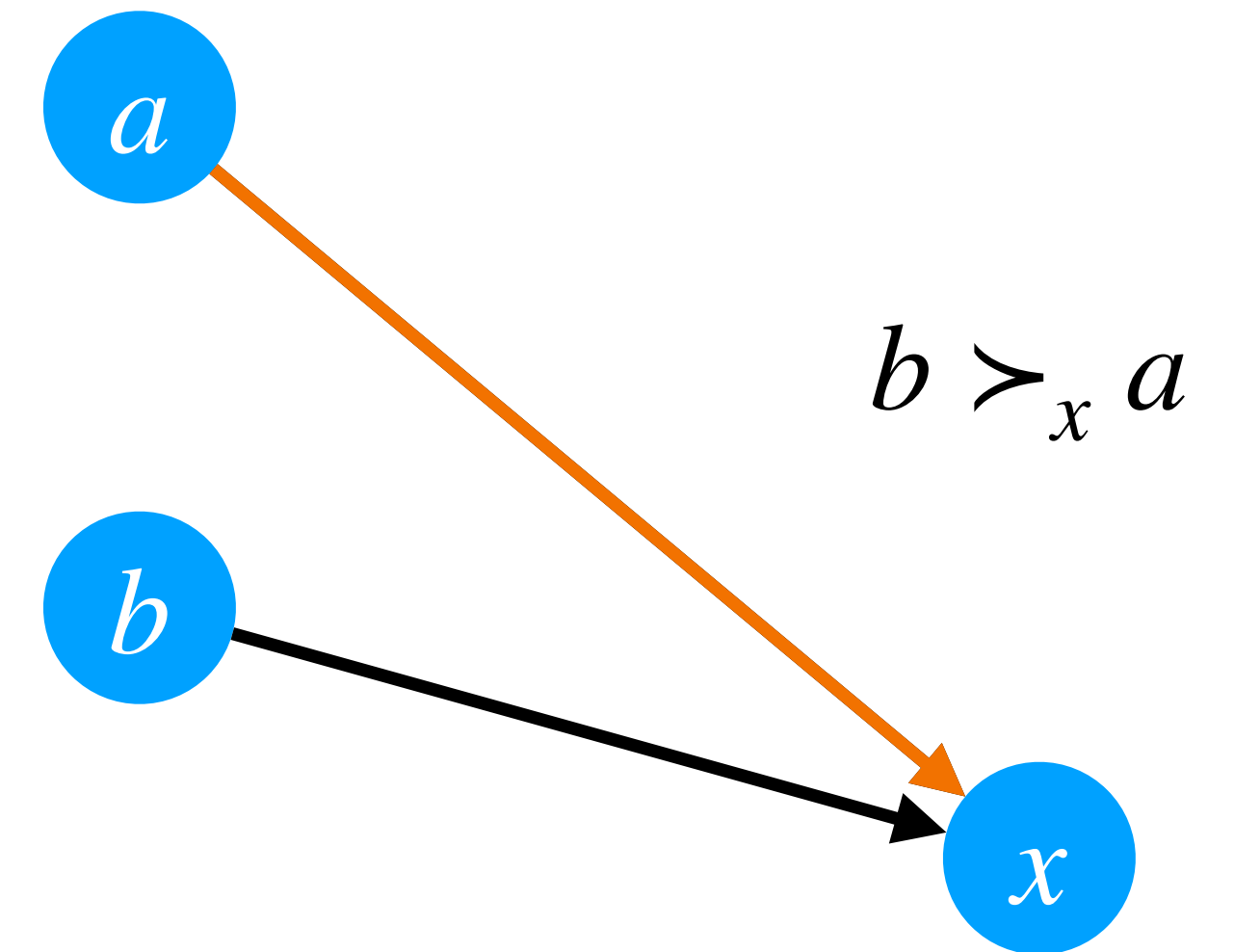
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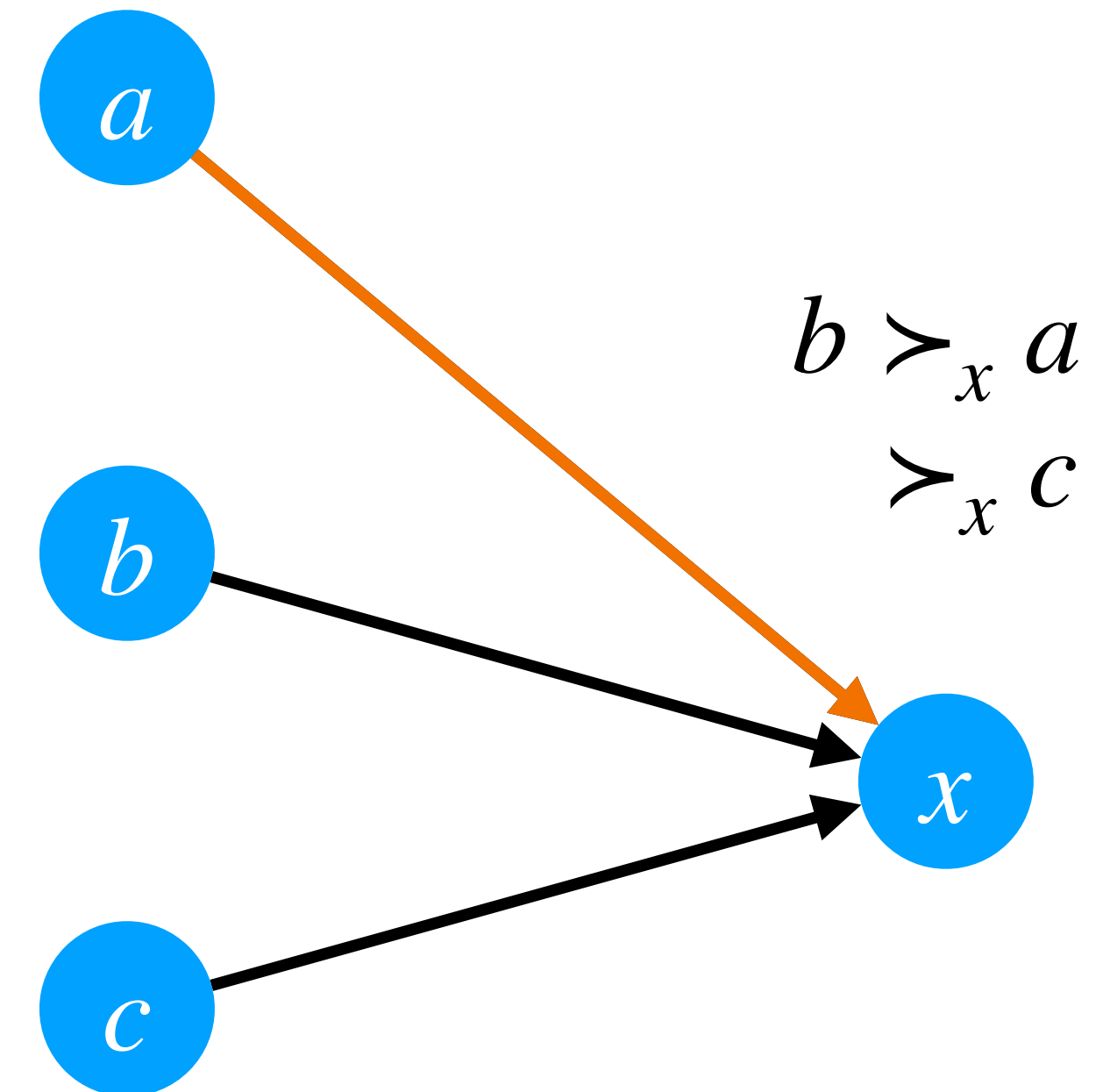
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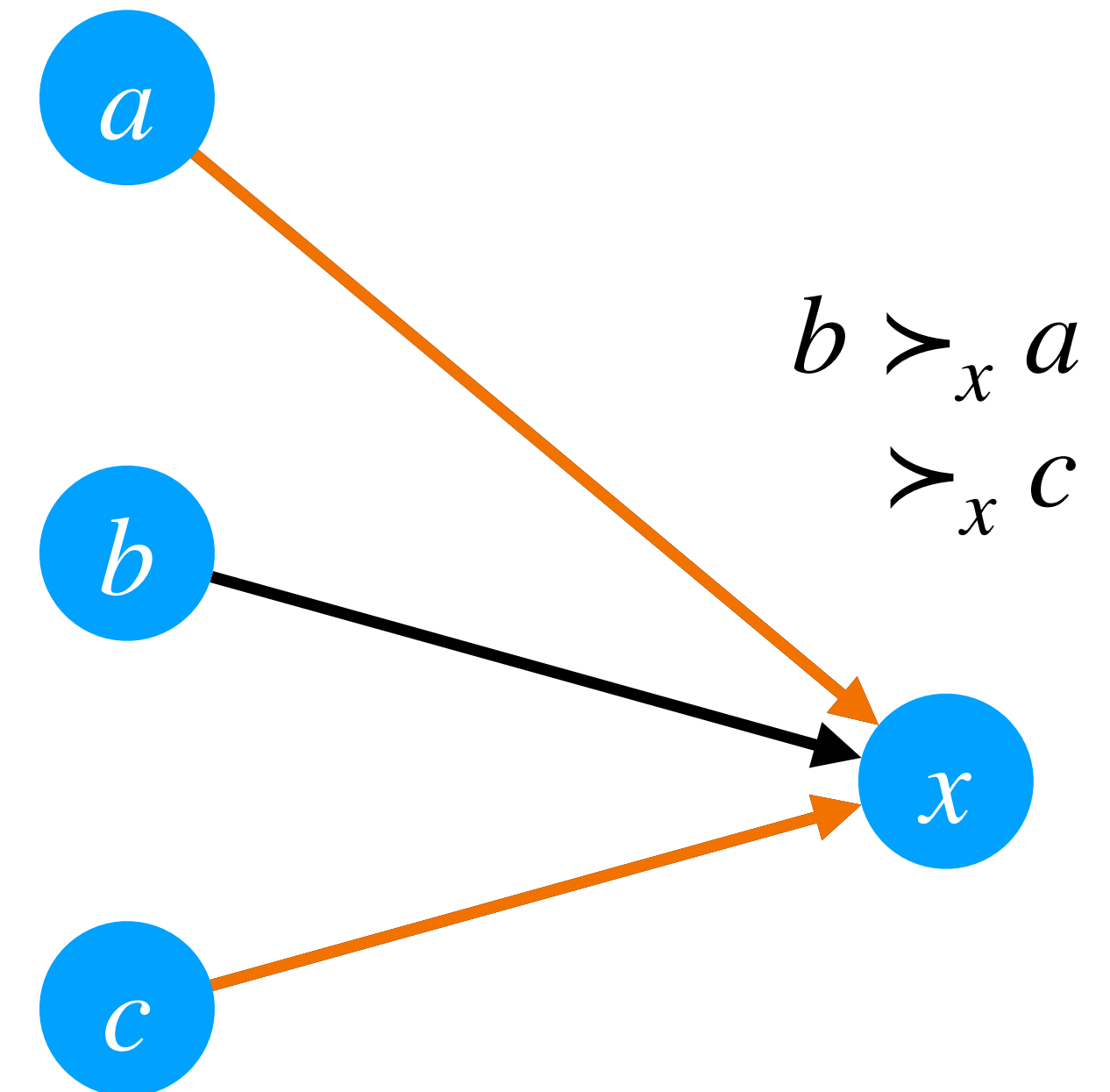
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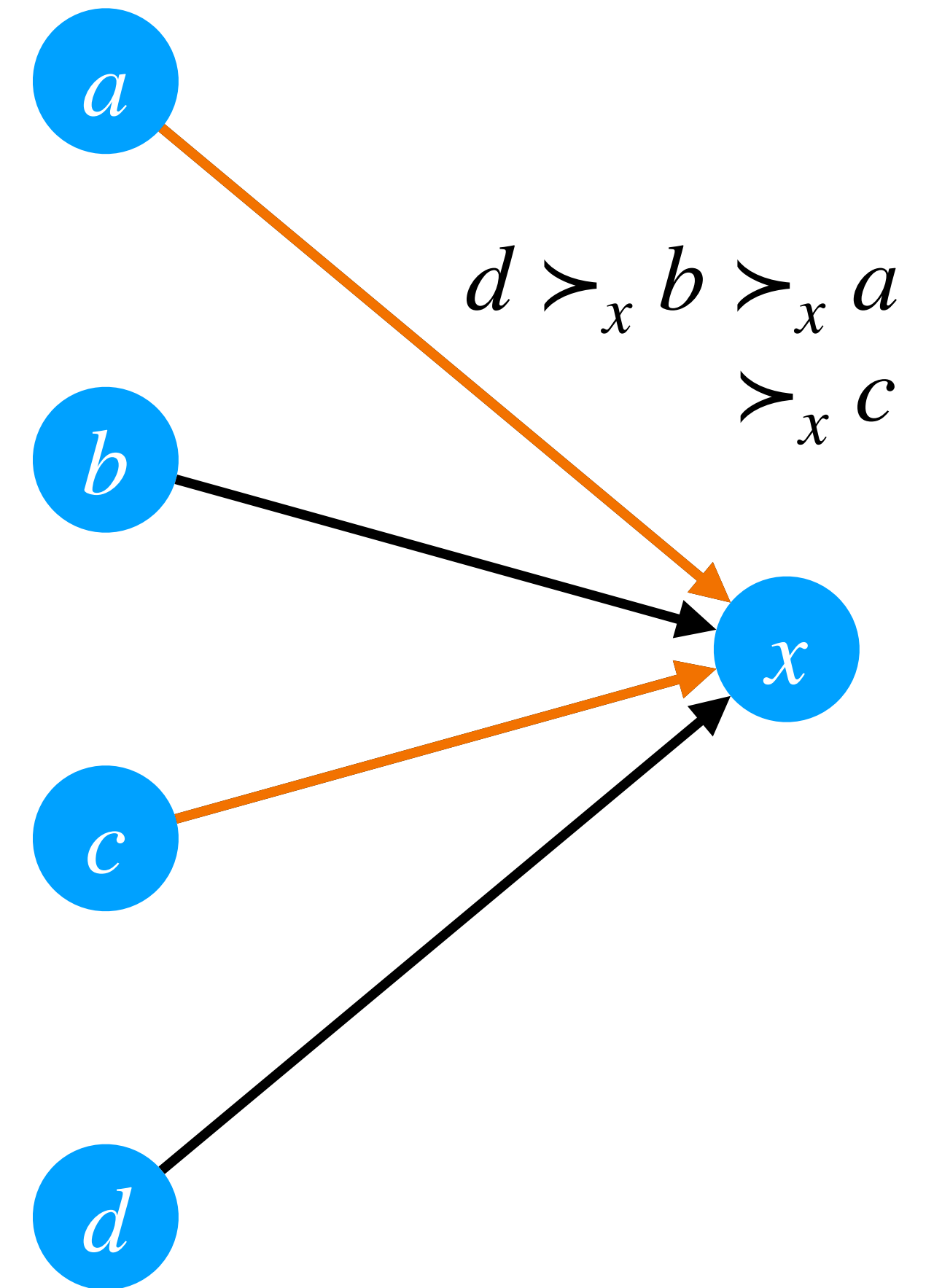
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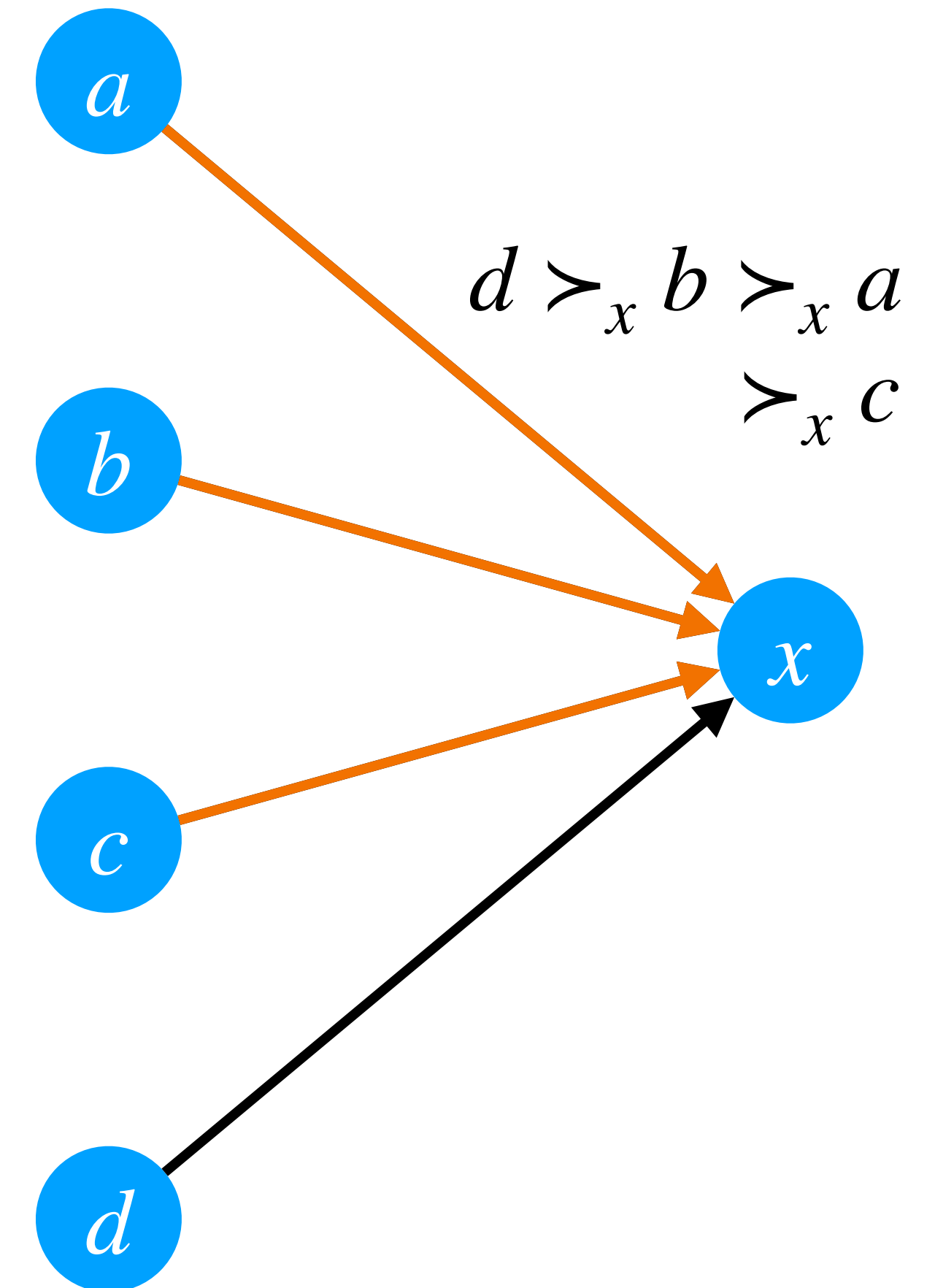
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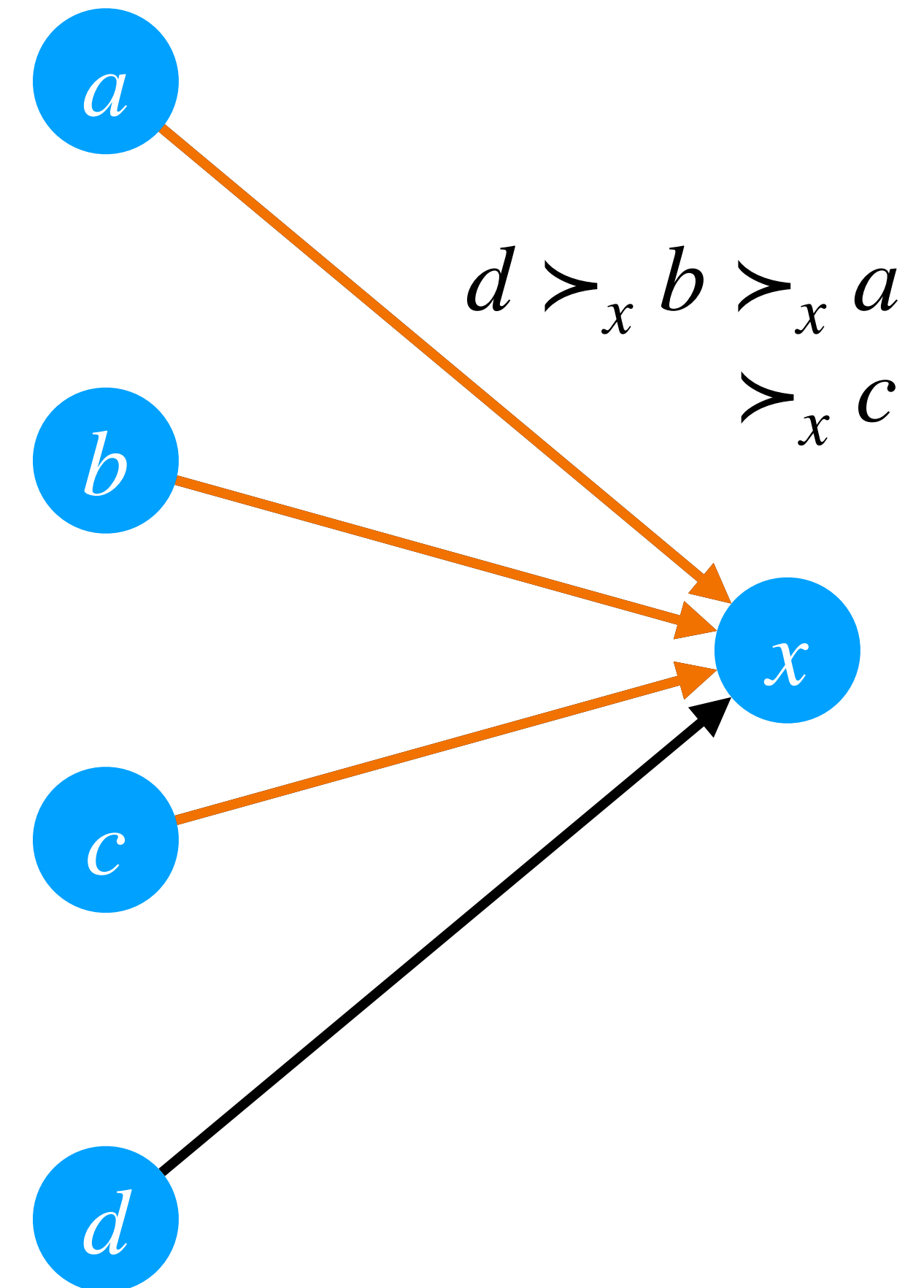
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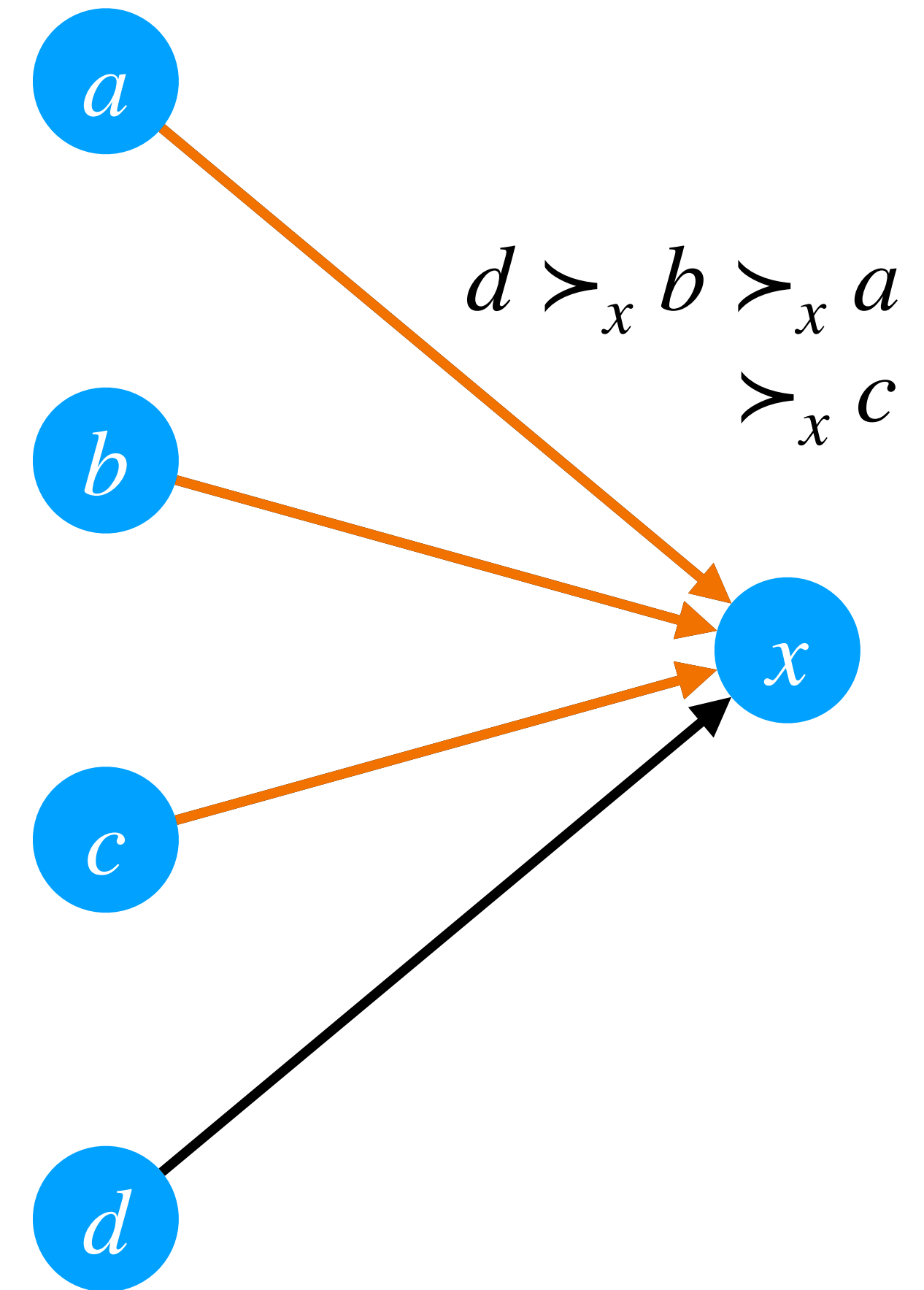
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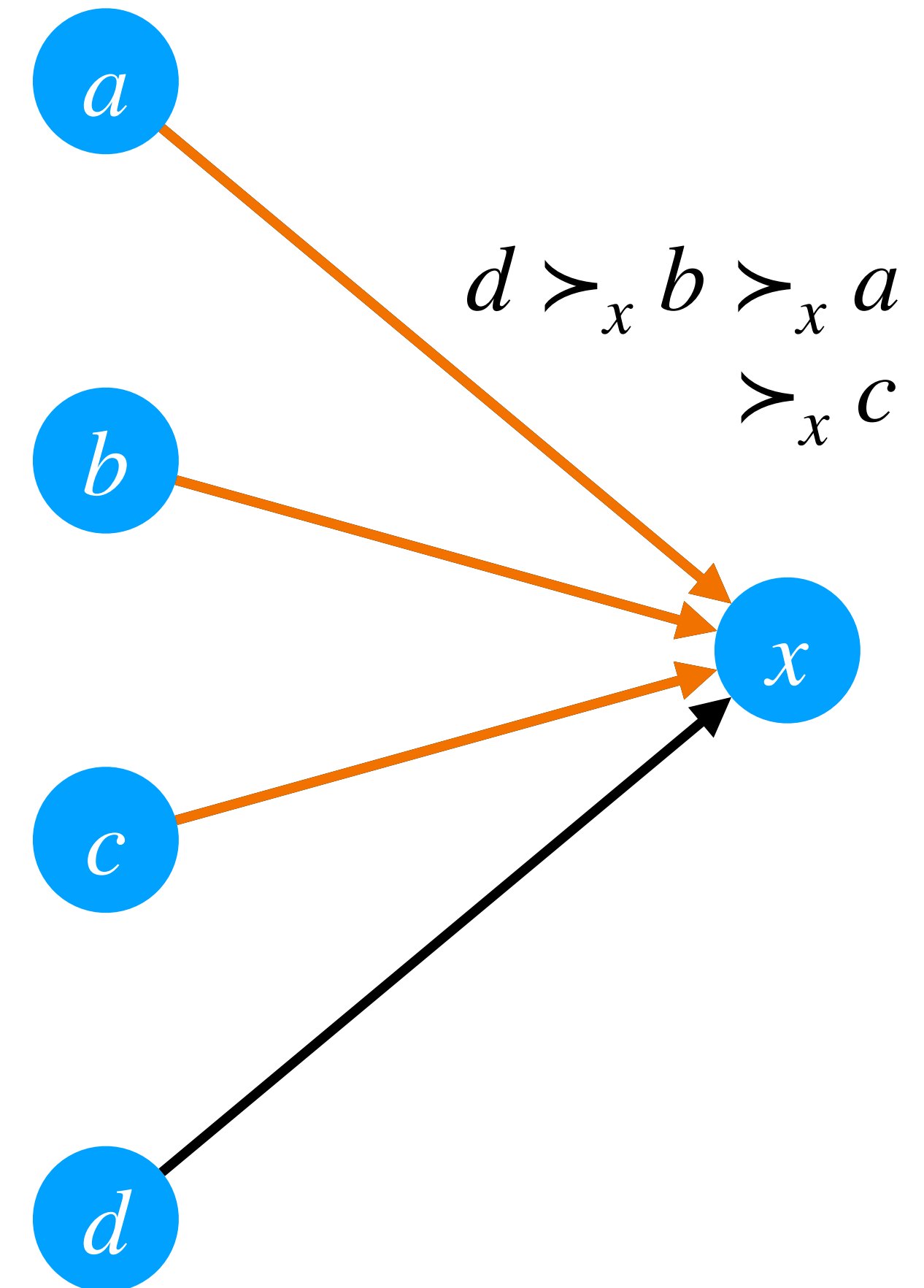
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 - at least one new rejection between a pair (a, x) occurs in every step except for the last one





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- ▶ since x is attainable for a , there exists a stable matching in which they are matched and b is matched to $y \neq x$ or unmatched



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one can analogously run company-proposing
- ▶ for any agent, call an agent from the other side **attainable** if there exists a stable matching in which these two agents are matched
- ▶ **Theorem**
In the outcome of applicant-proposing DA:
 - every applicant gets matched to their most-preferred attainable company,
- ▶ by contradiction: an applicant gets rejected by their most-preferred attainable company
- ▶ call (a, x) the first such pair and say x rejects a because of b
- ▶ b likes x at least as much as their most-preferred attainable company because of how we fixed (a, x)
- ▶ since x is attainable for a , there exists a stable matching in which they are matched and b is matched to $y \neq x$ or unmatched
- ▶ (b, x) form a blocking pair in this matching



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Thus, the matched agents are the same in every stable matching.



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- ▶ the proof is analogous for applicants (starting from company-proposing DA)



Strategic Behavior

- ▶ Is DA strategyproof?



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yes (proposing side) and
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No mechanism is stable and
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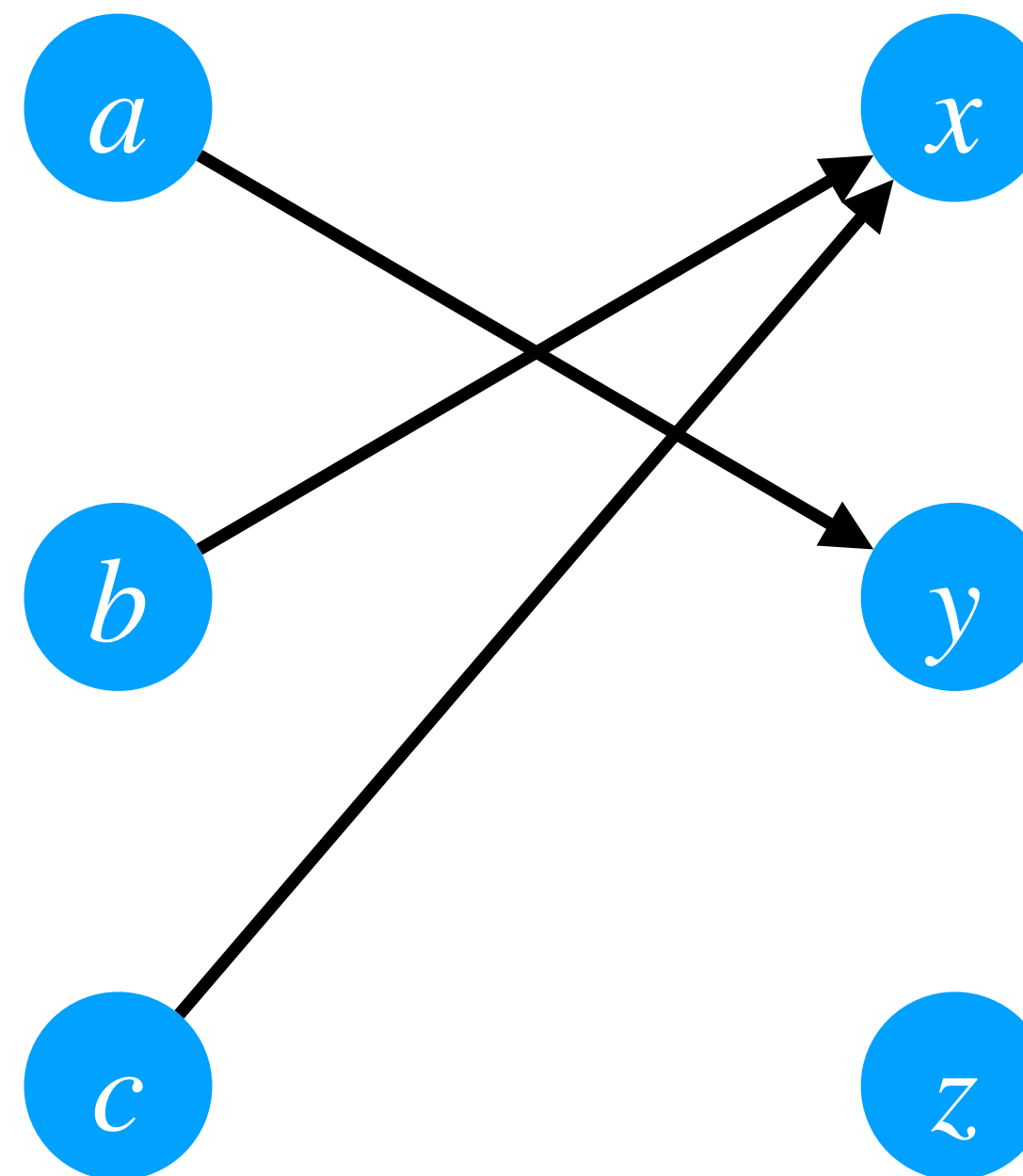
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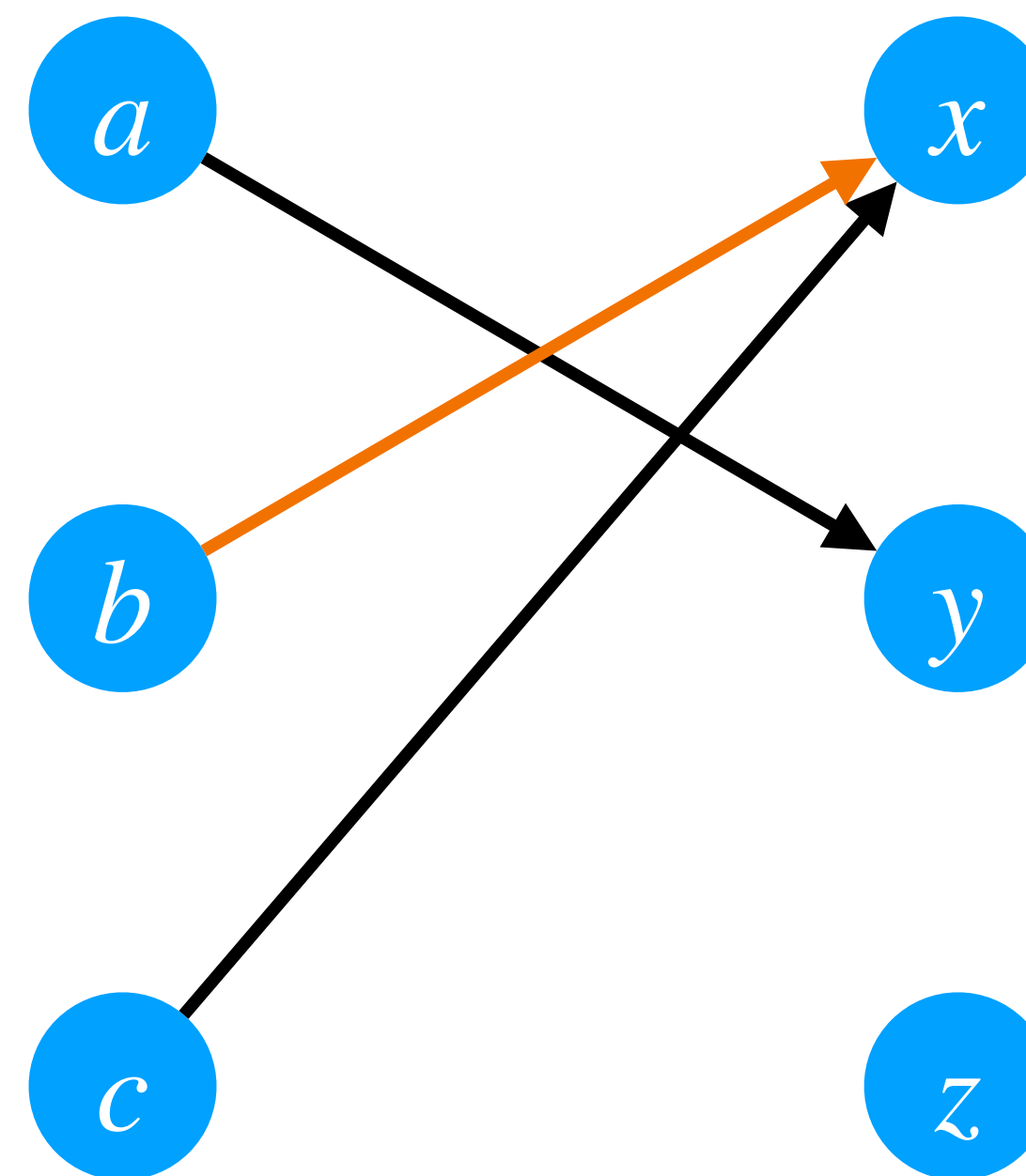
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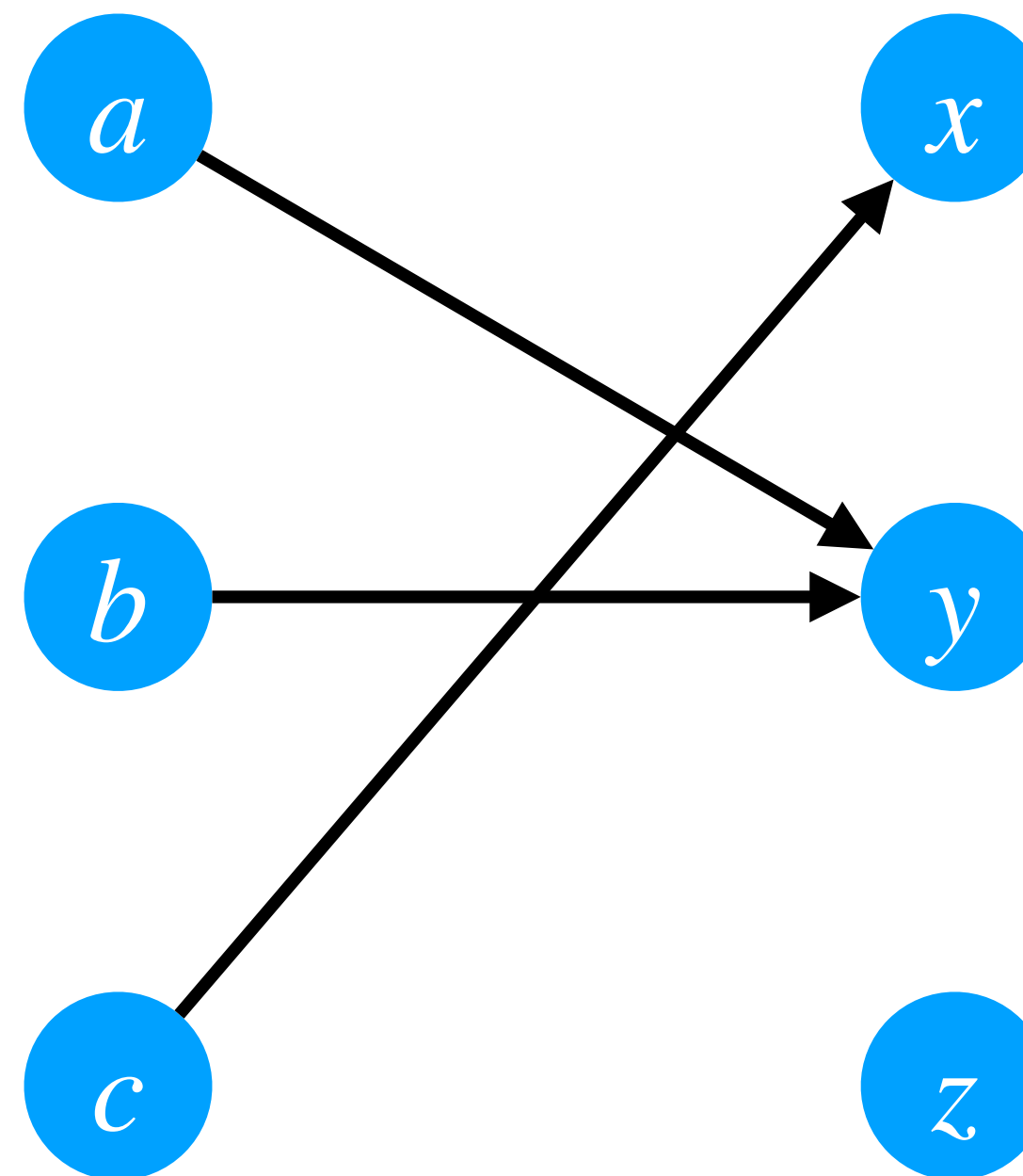
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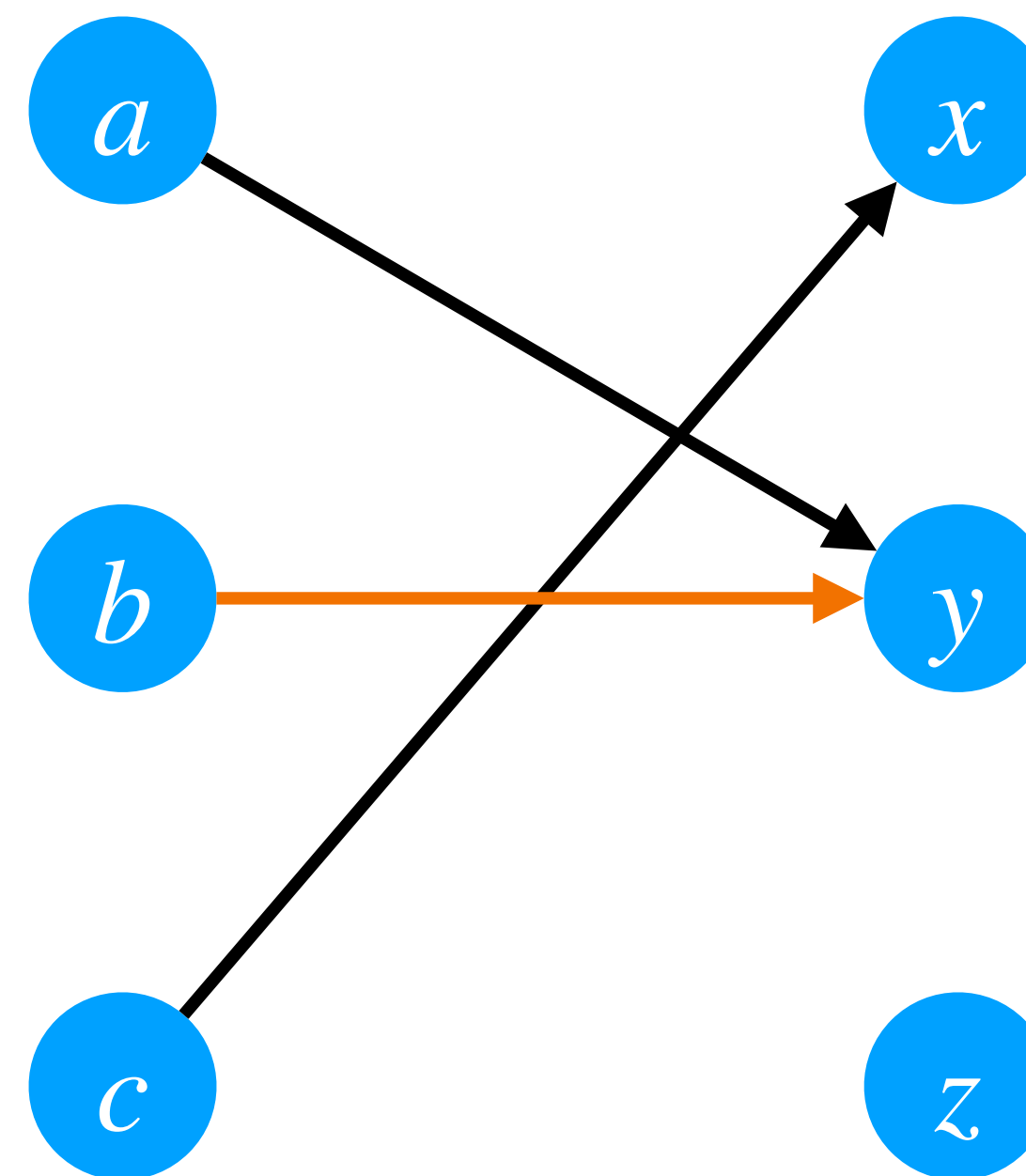
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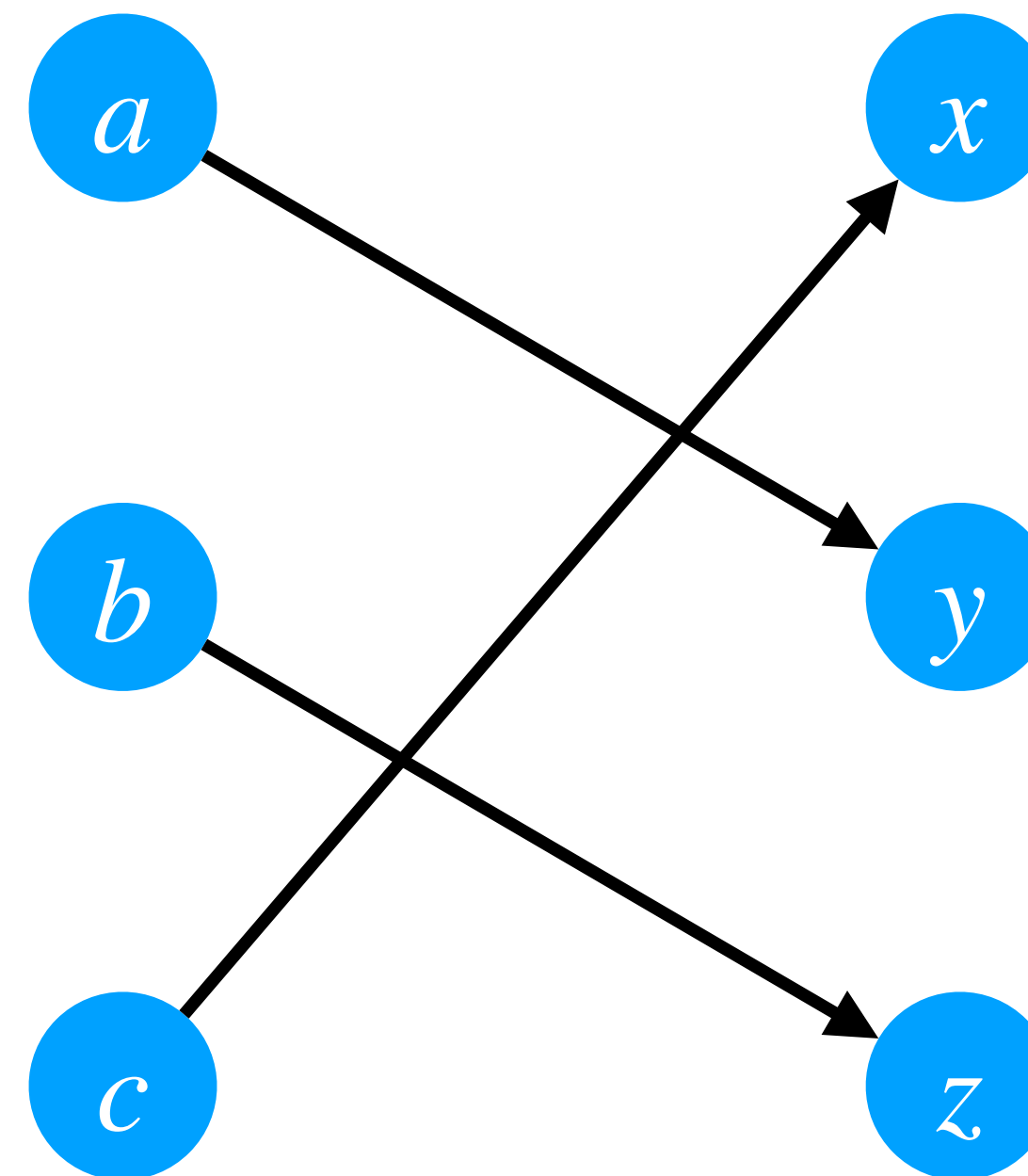
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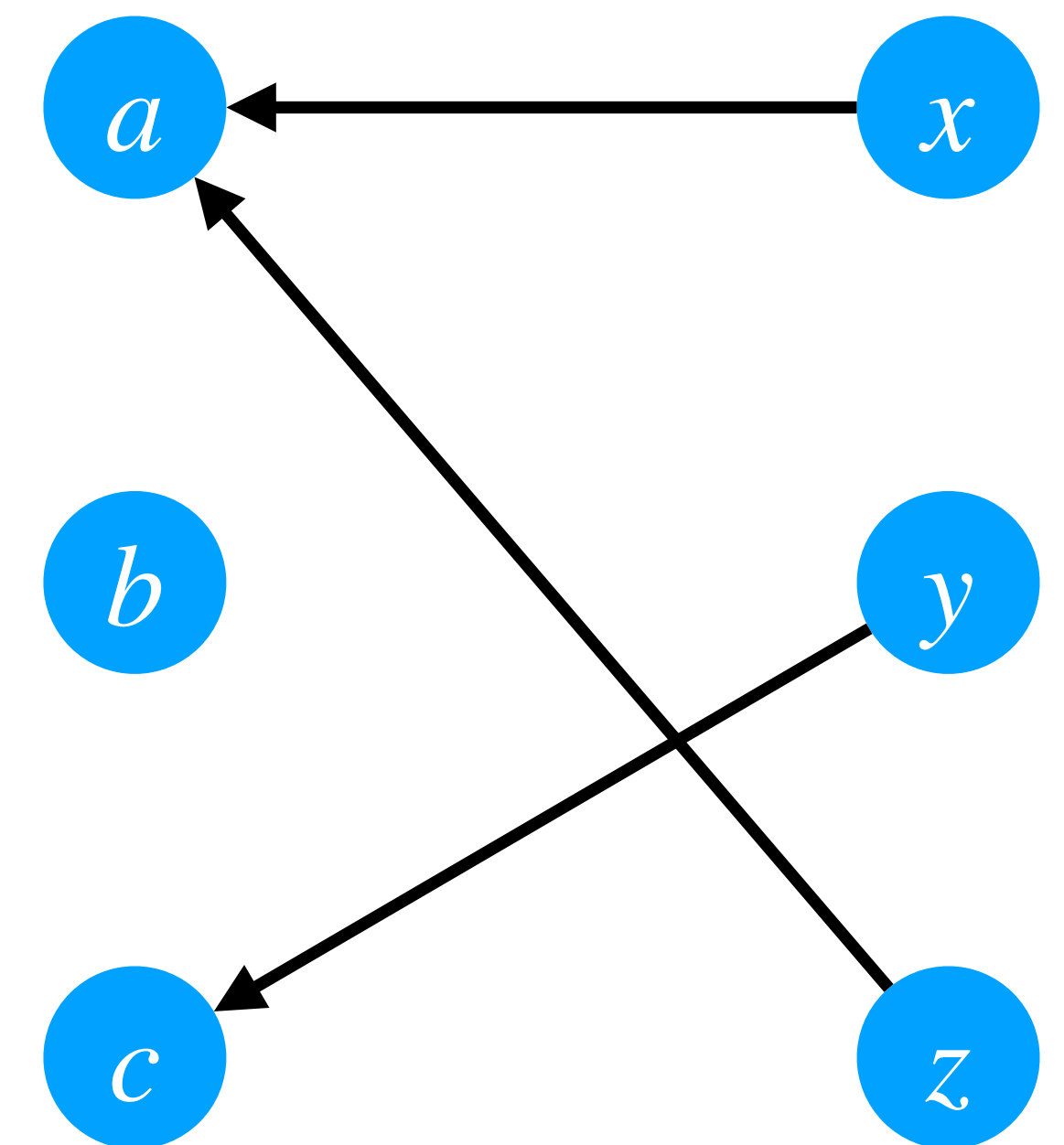
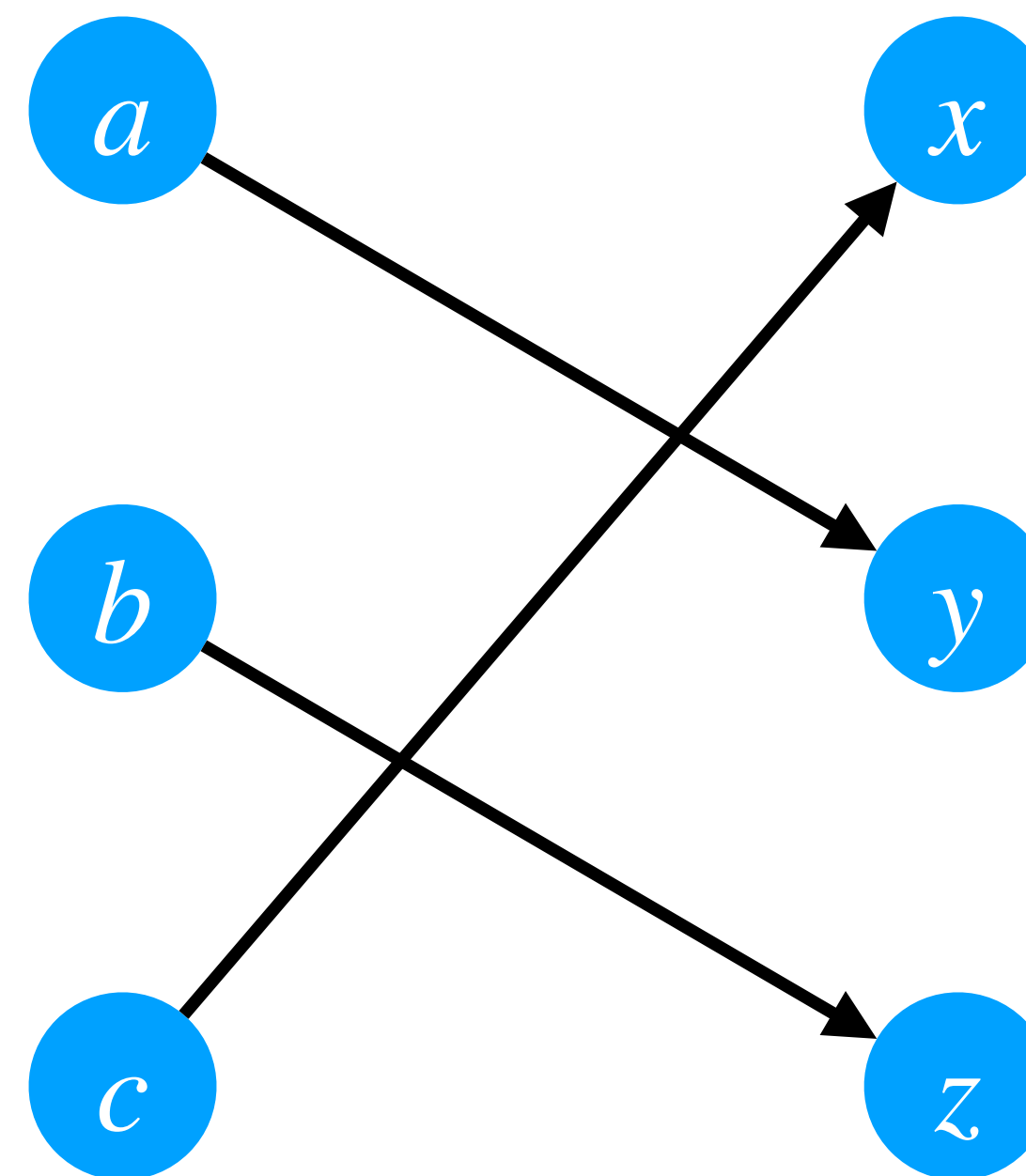
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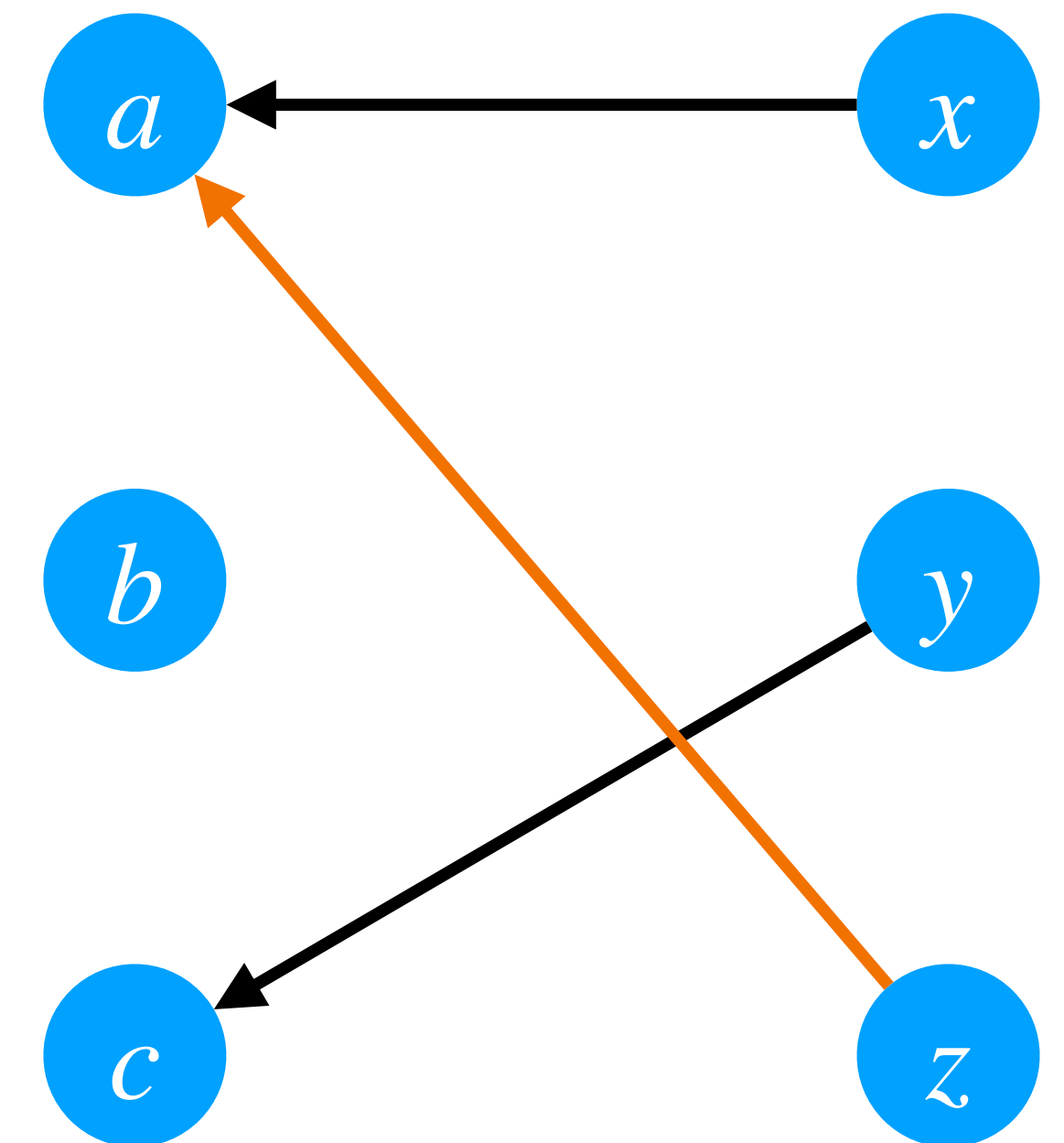
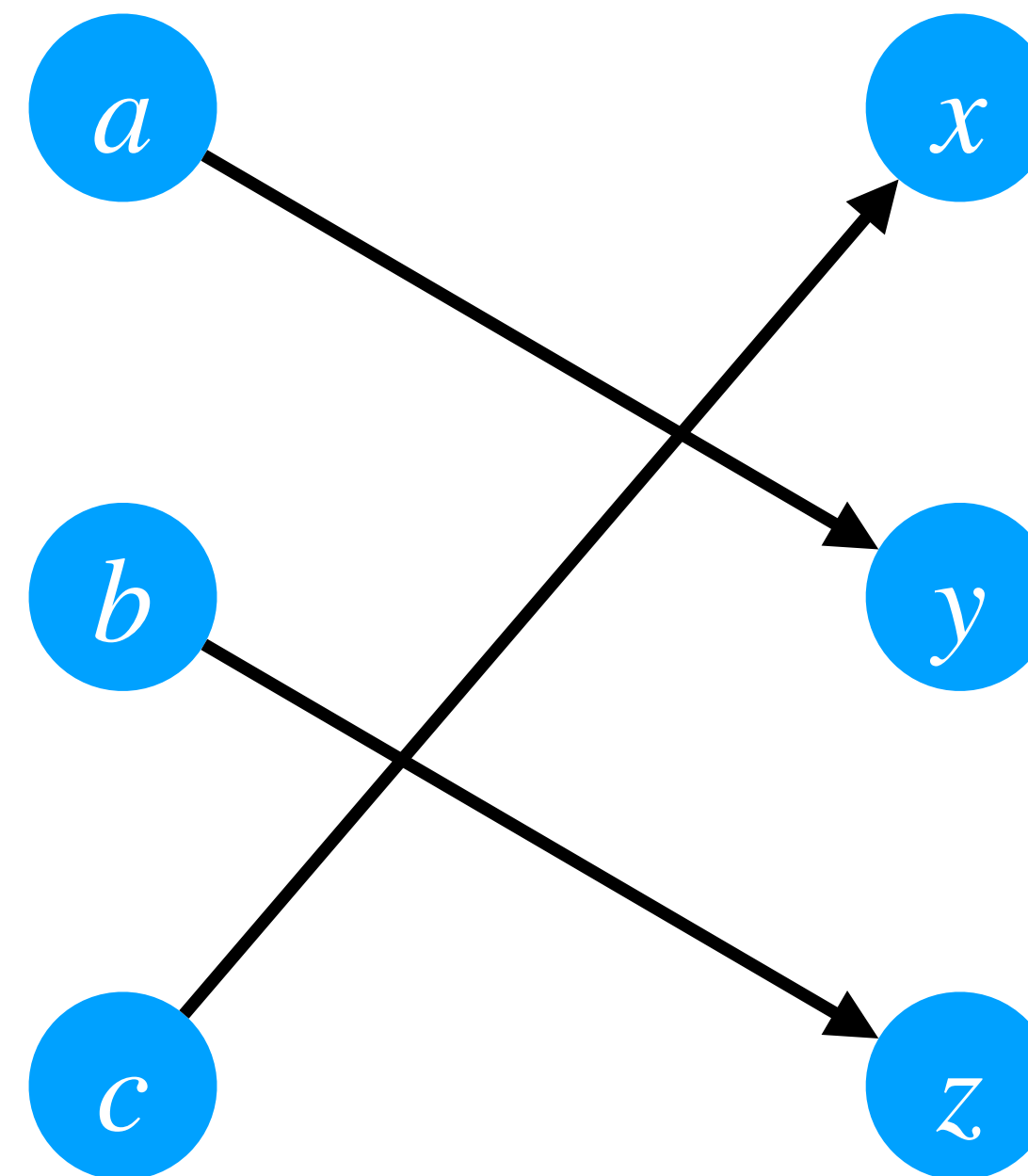
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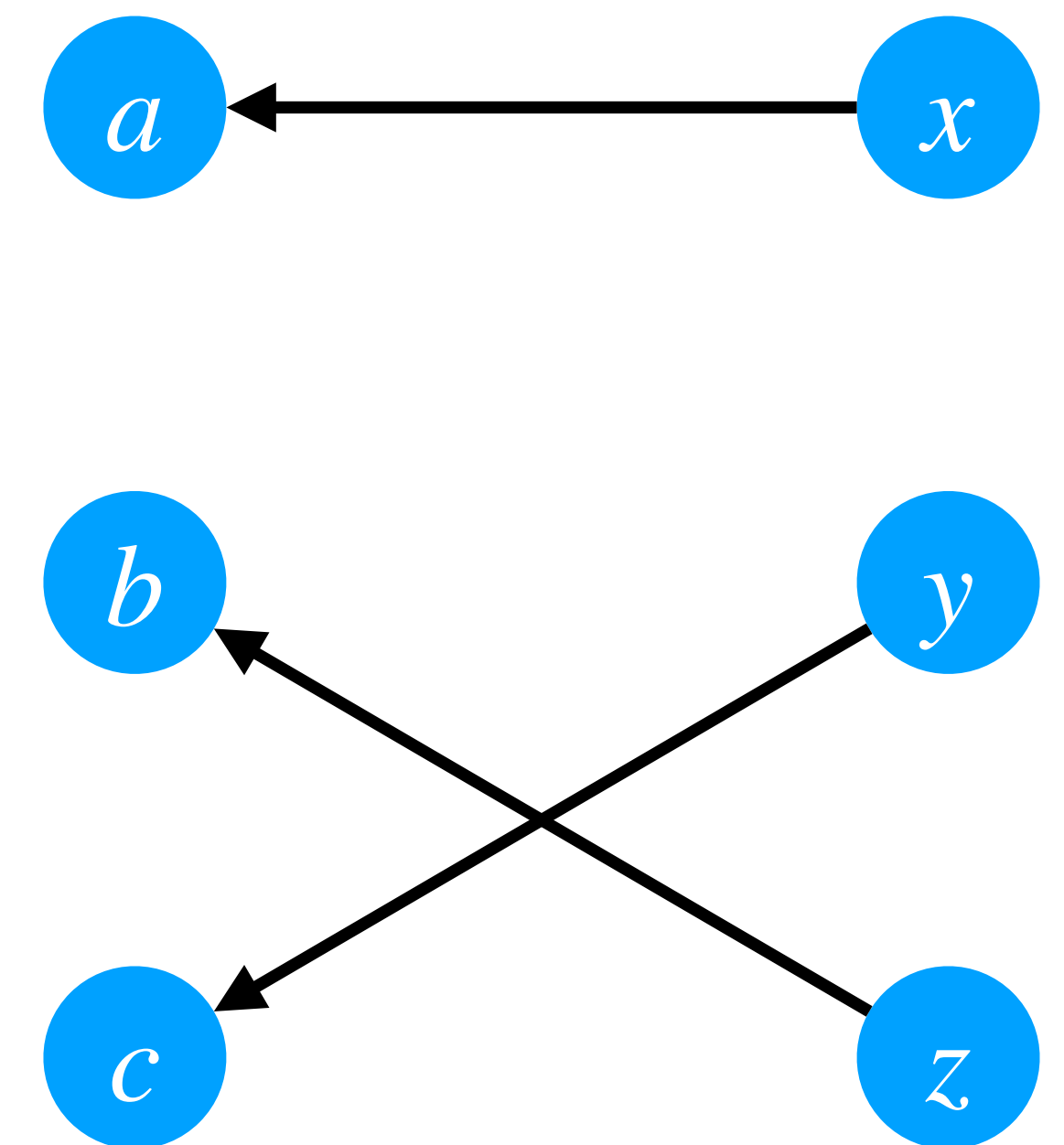
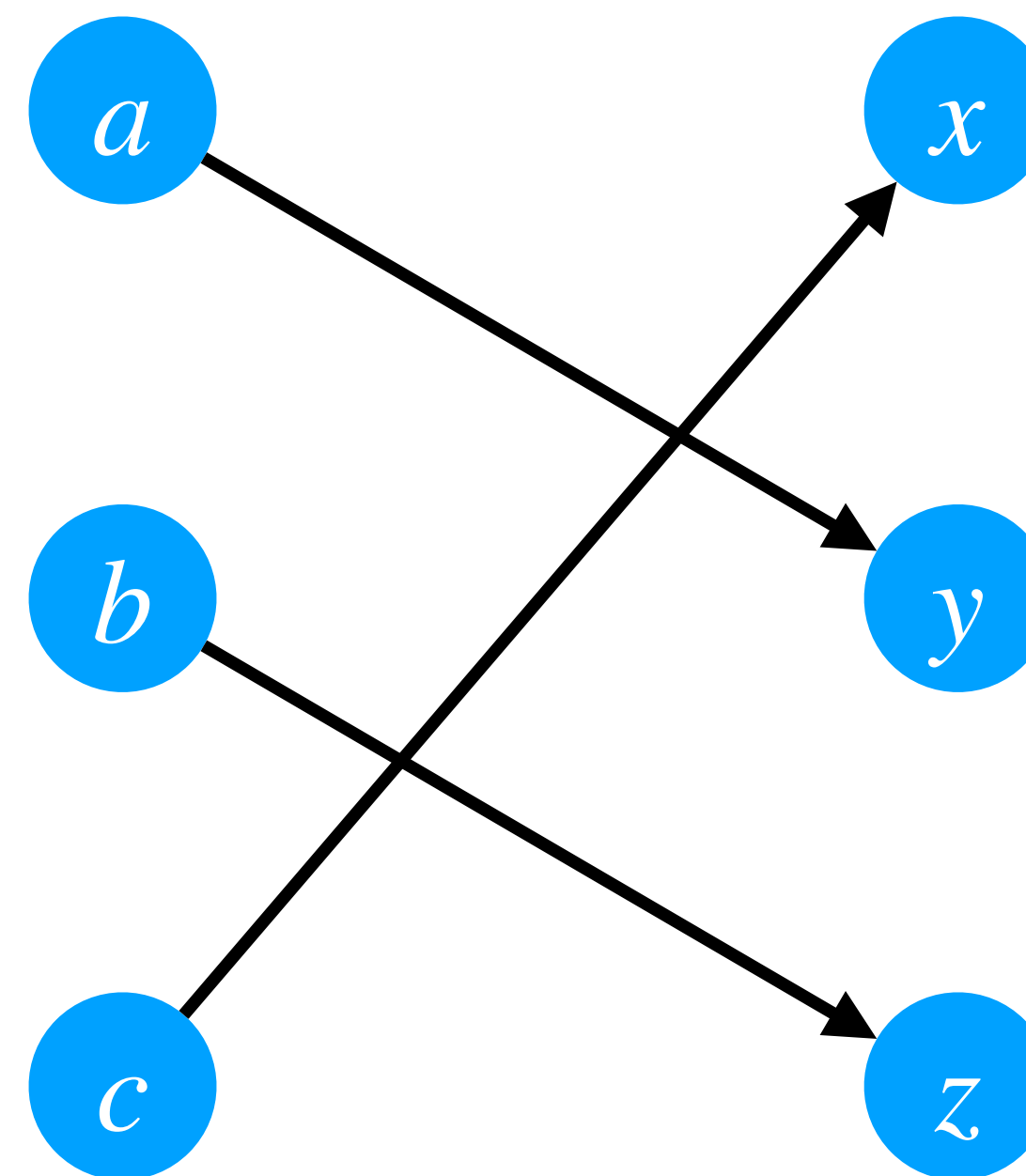
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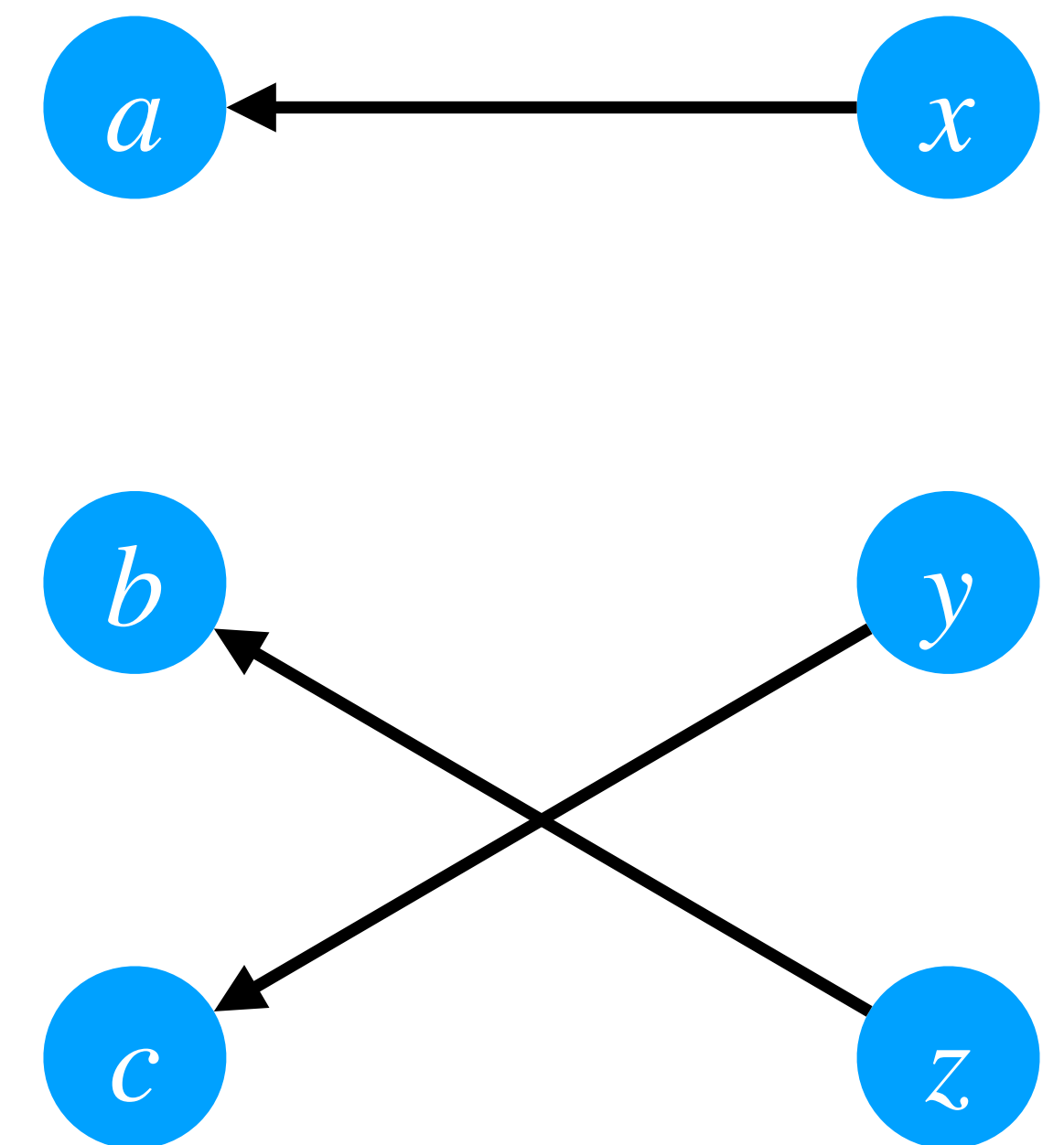
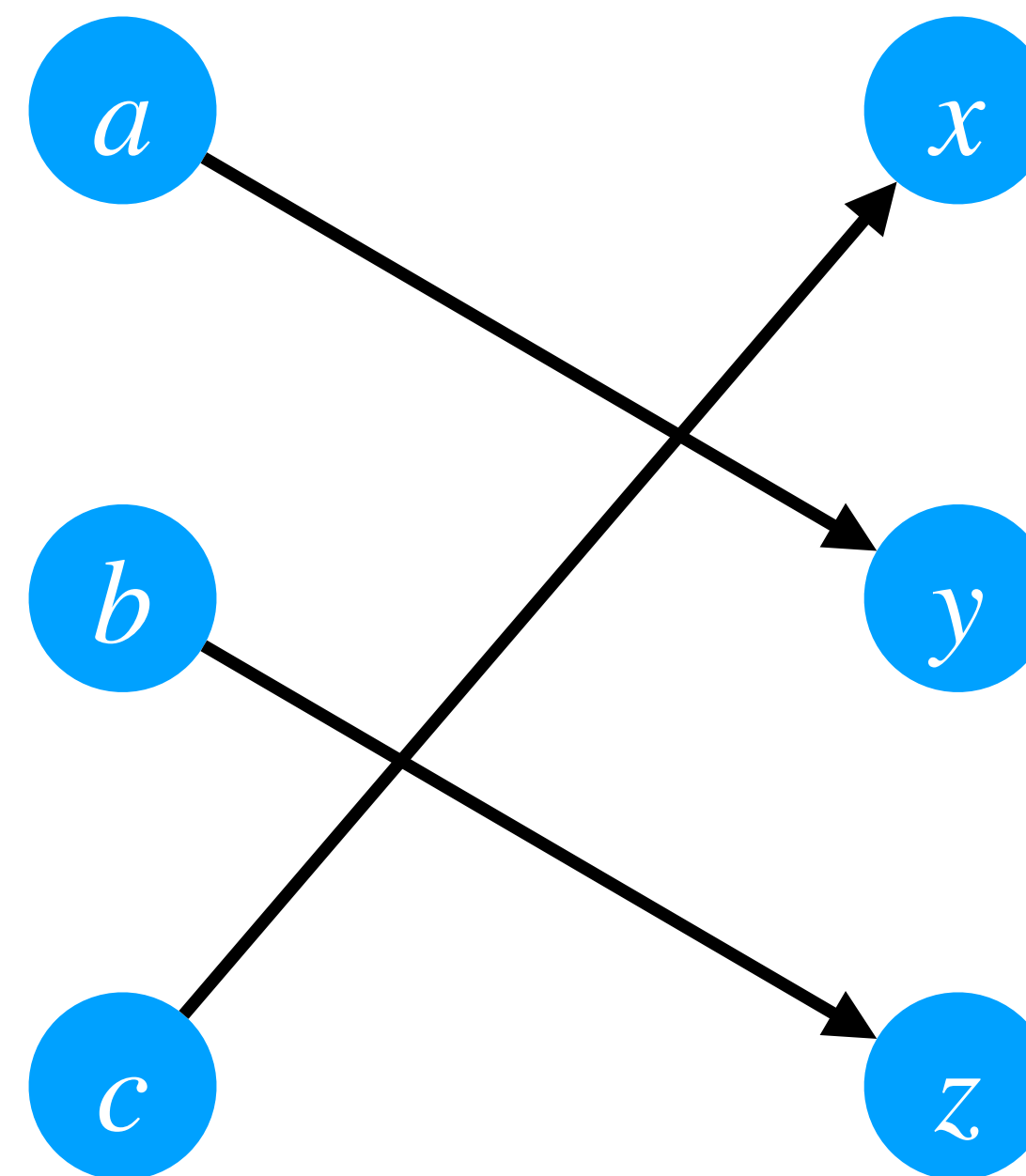
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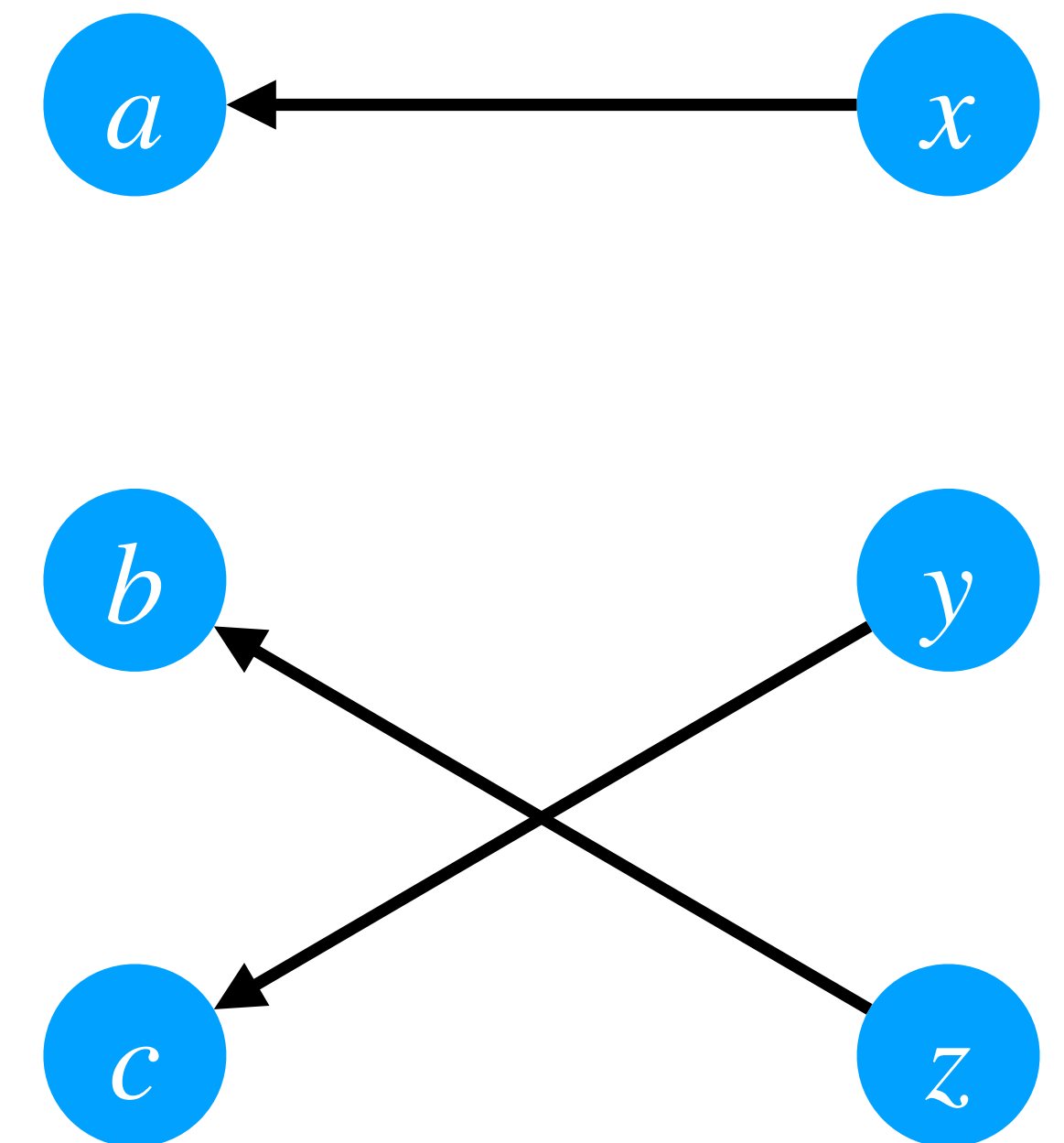
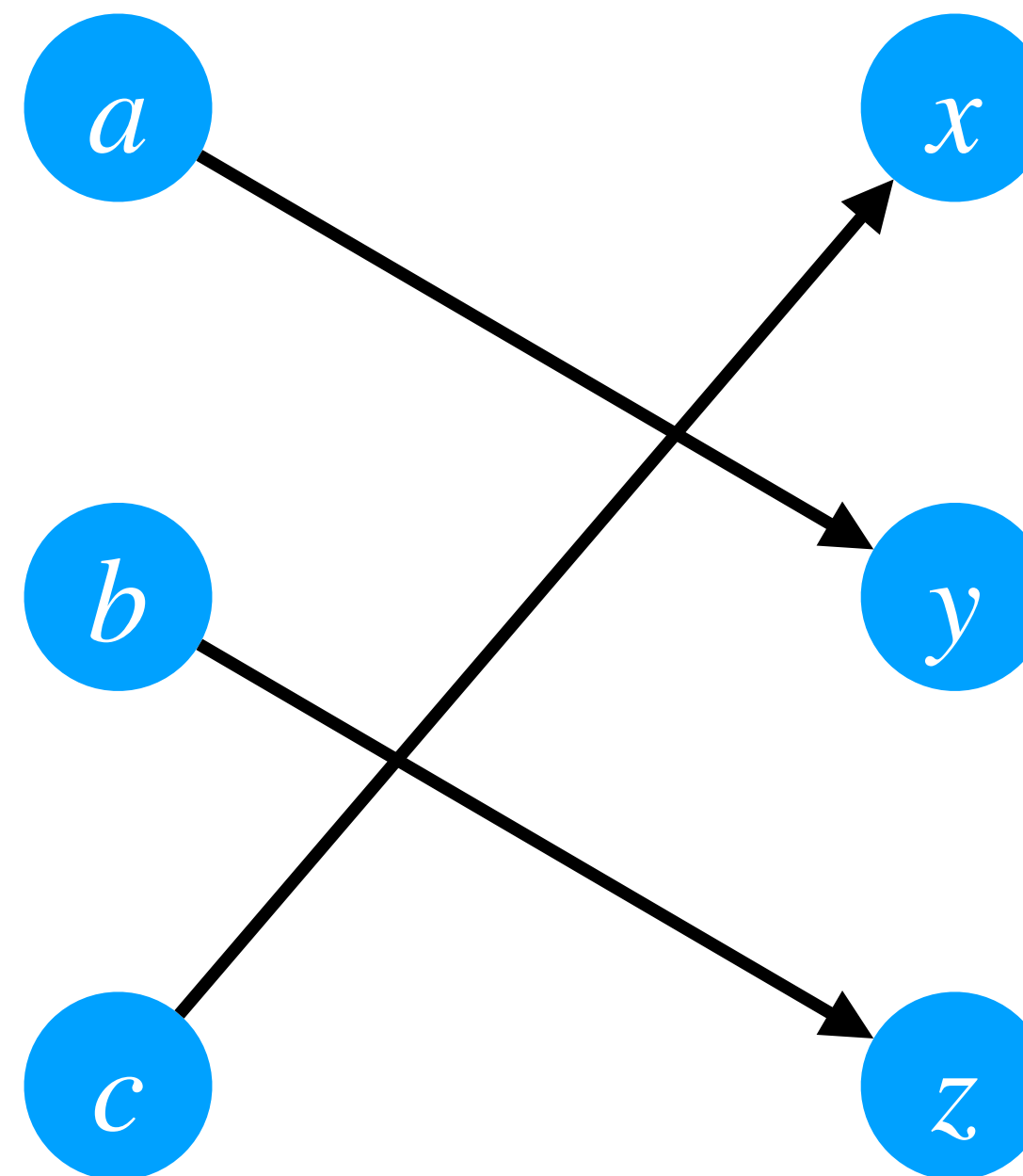
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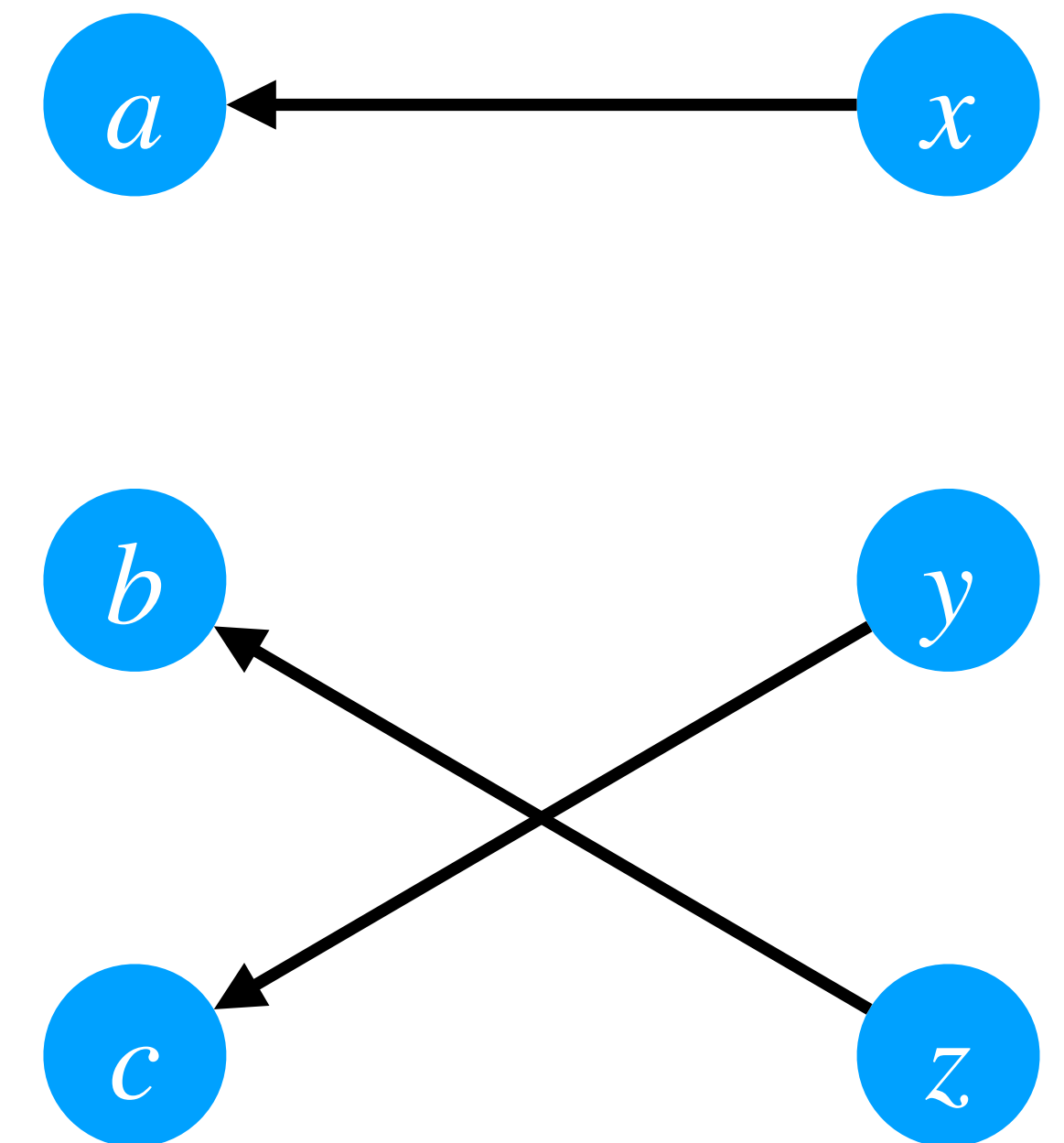
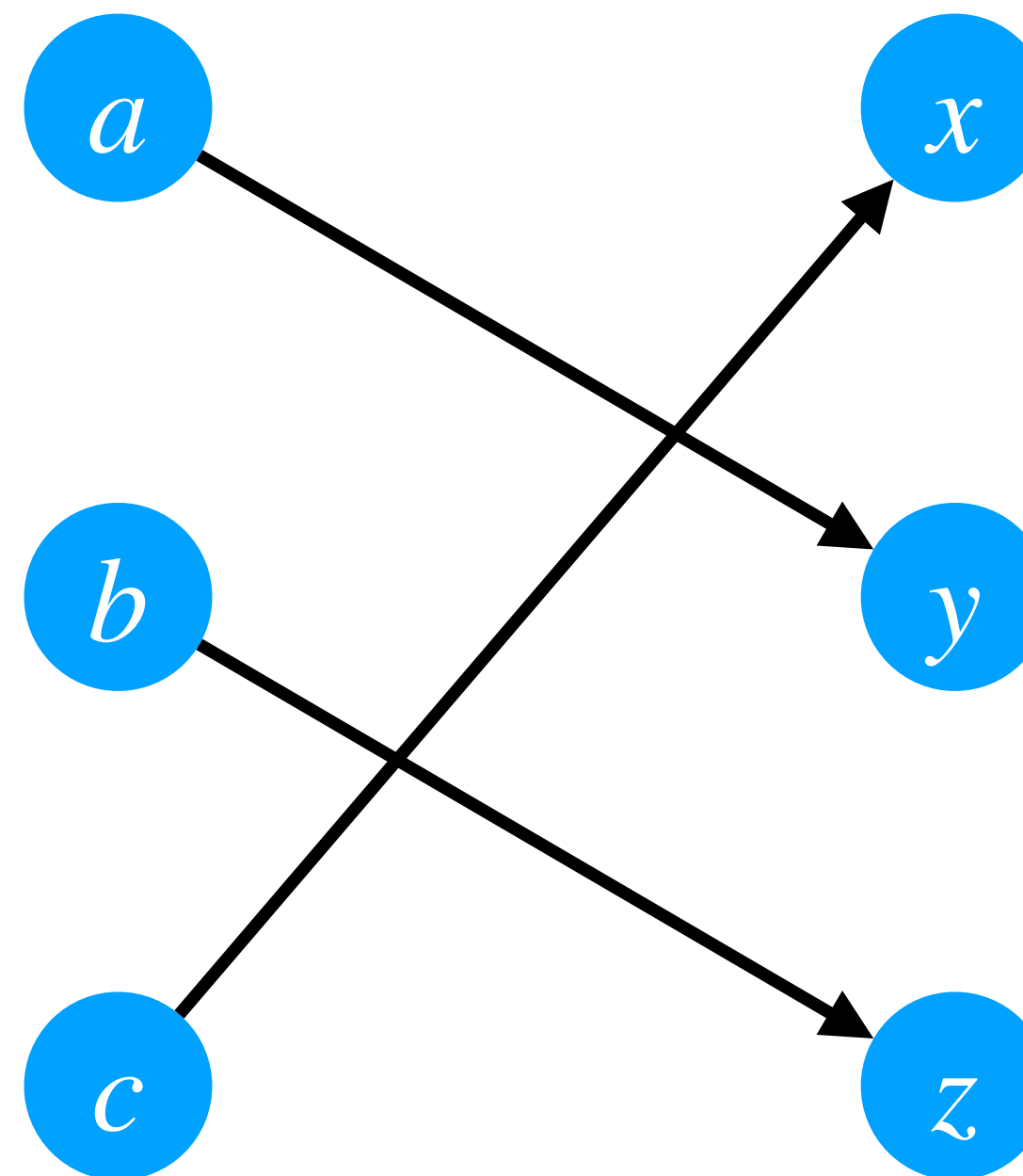
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- ▶ a matching is **Pareto-optimal** for one side if no alternative matching is



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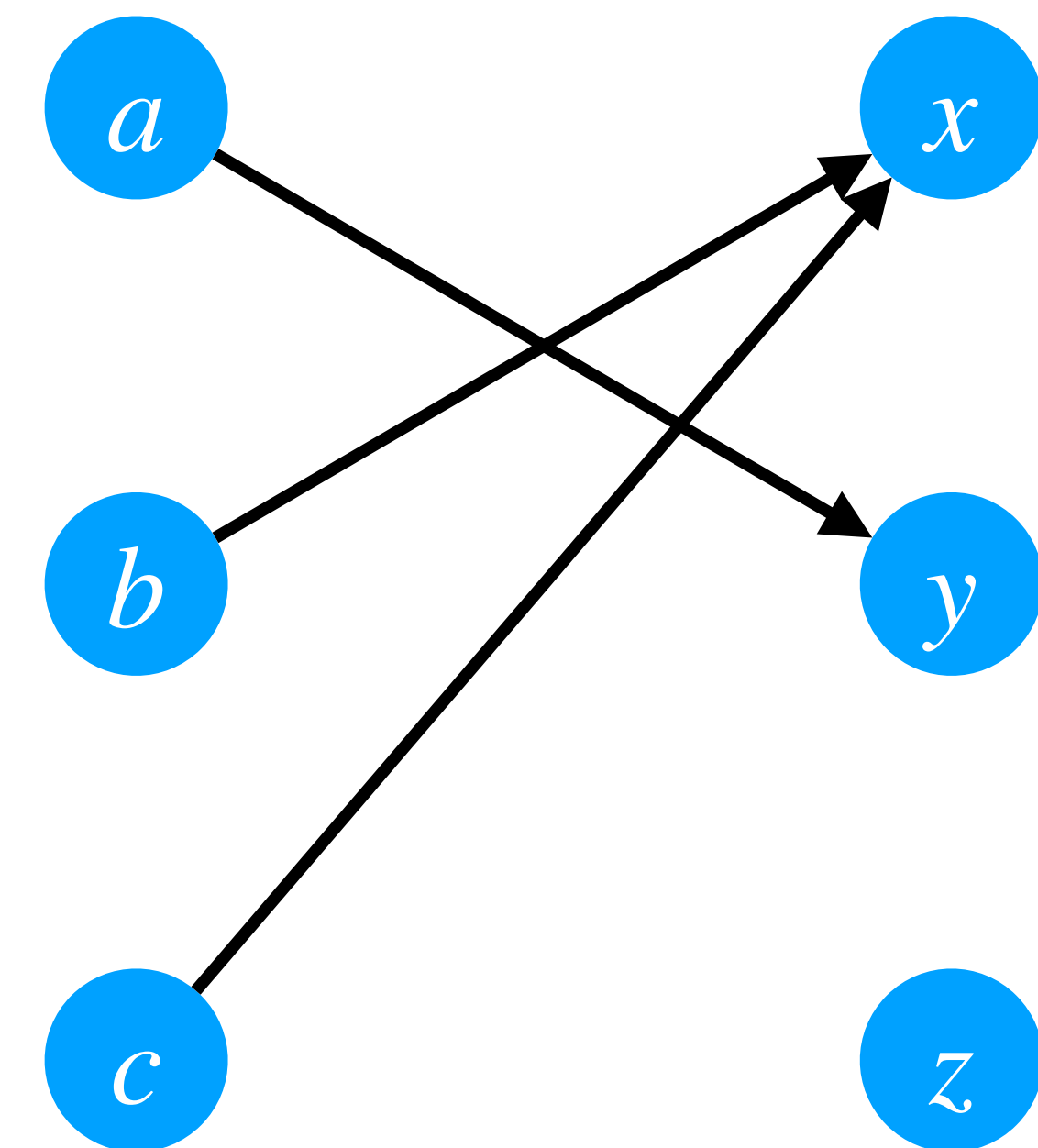
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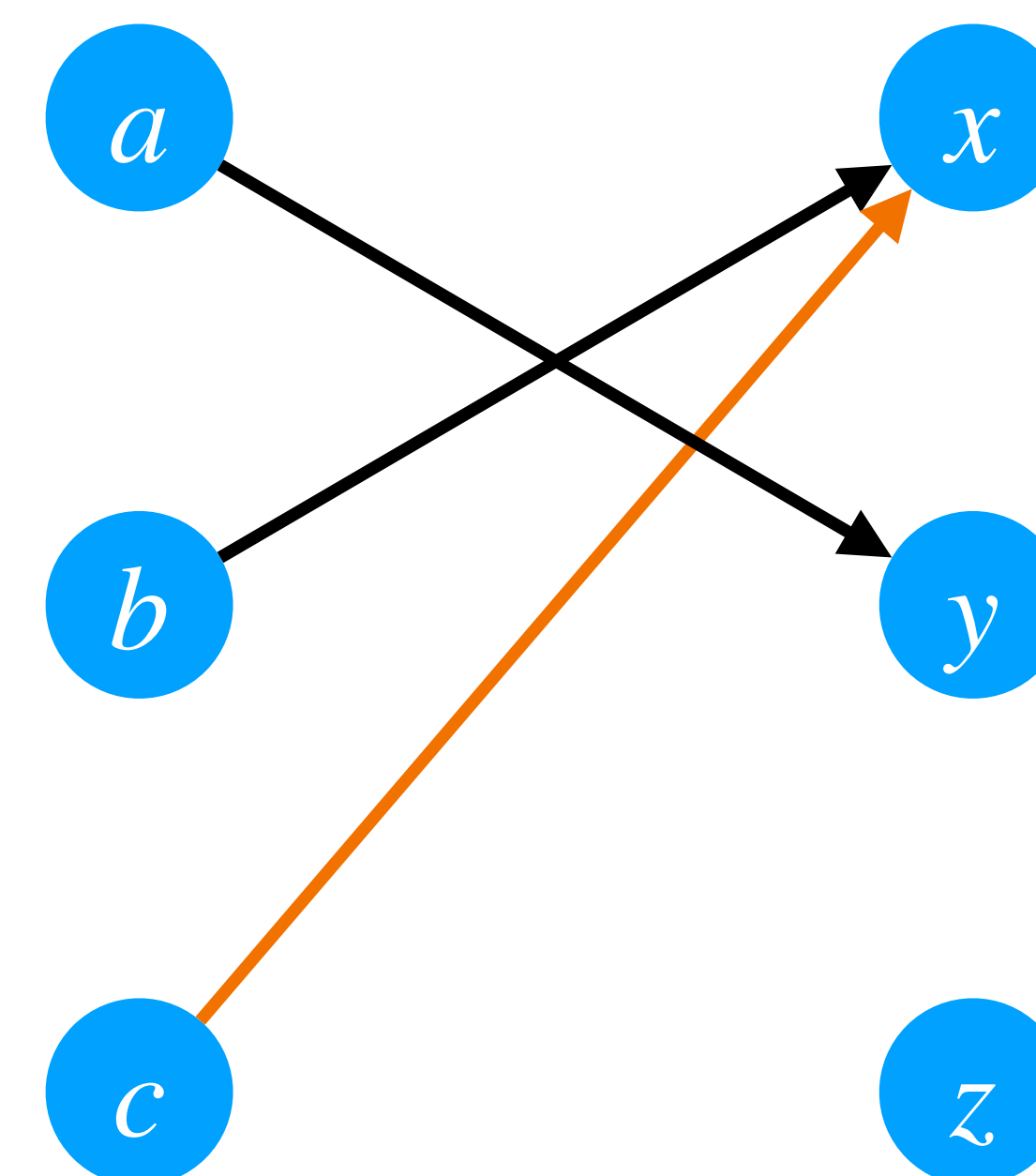
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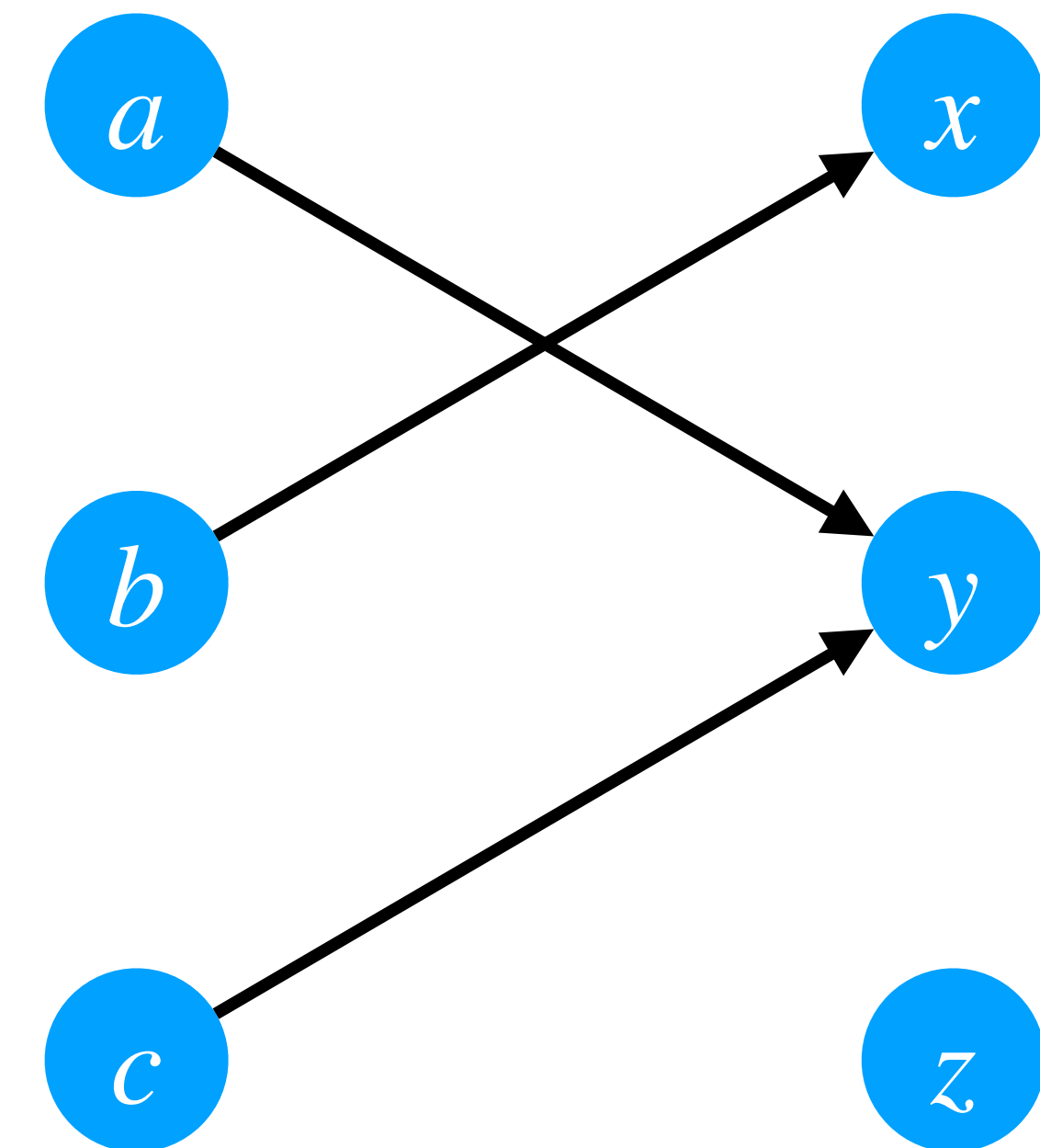
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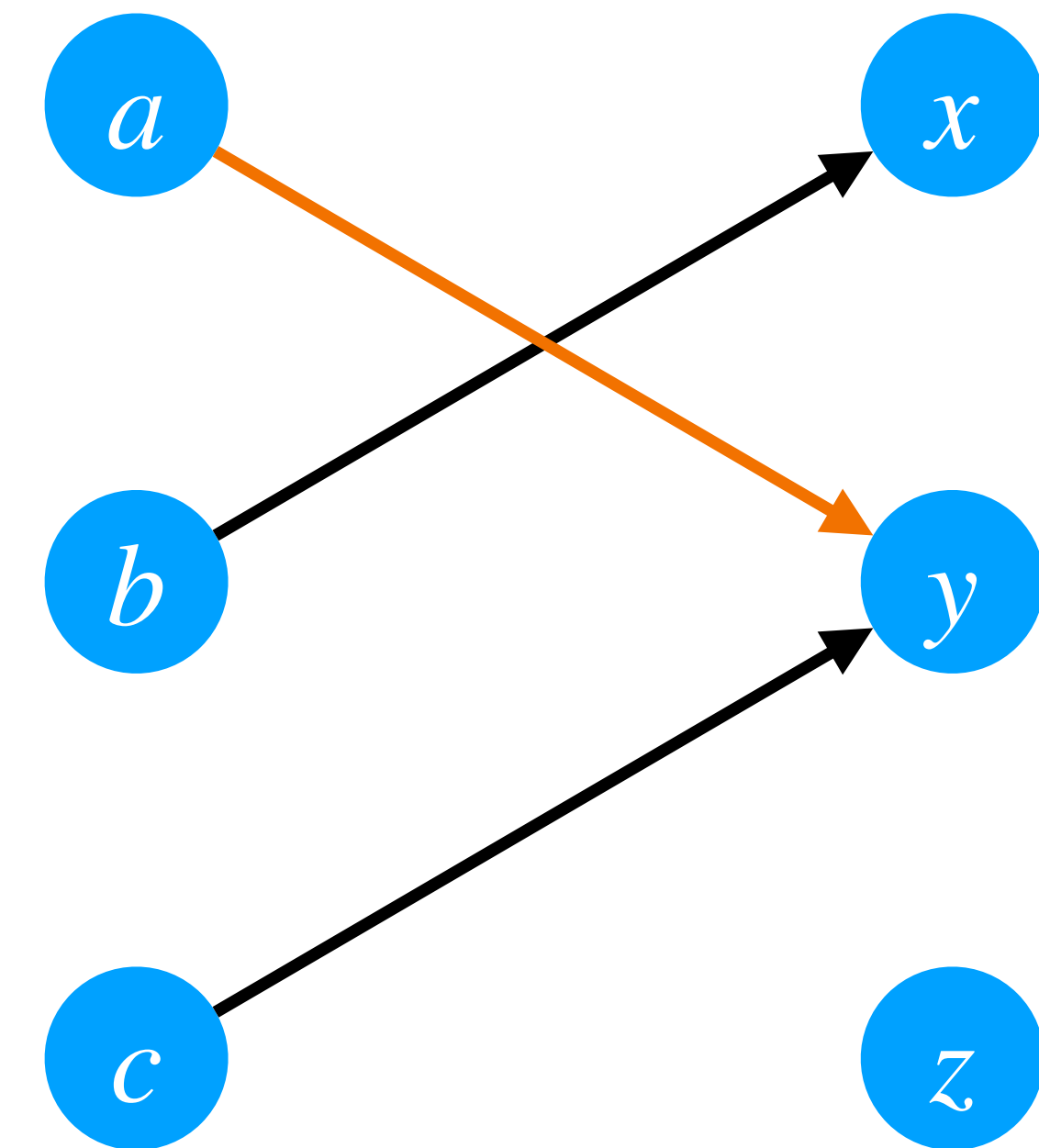
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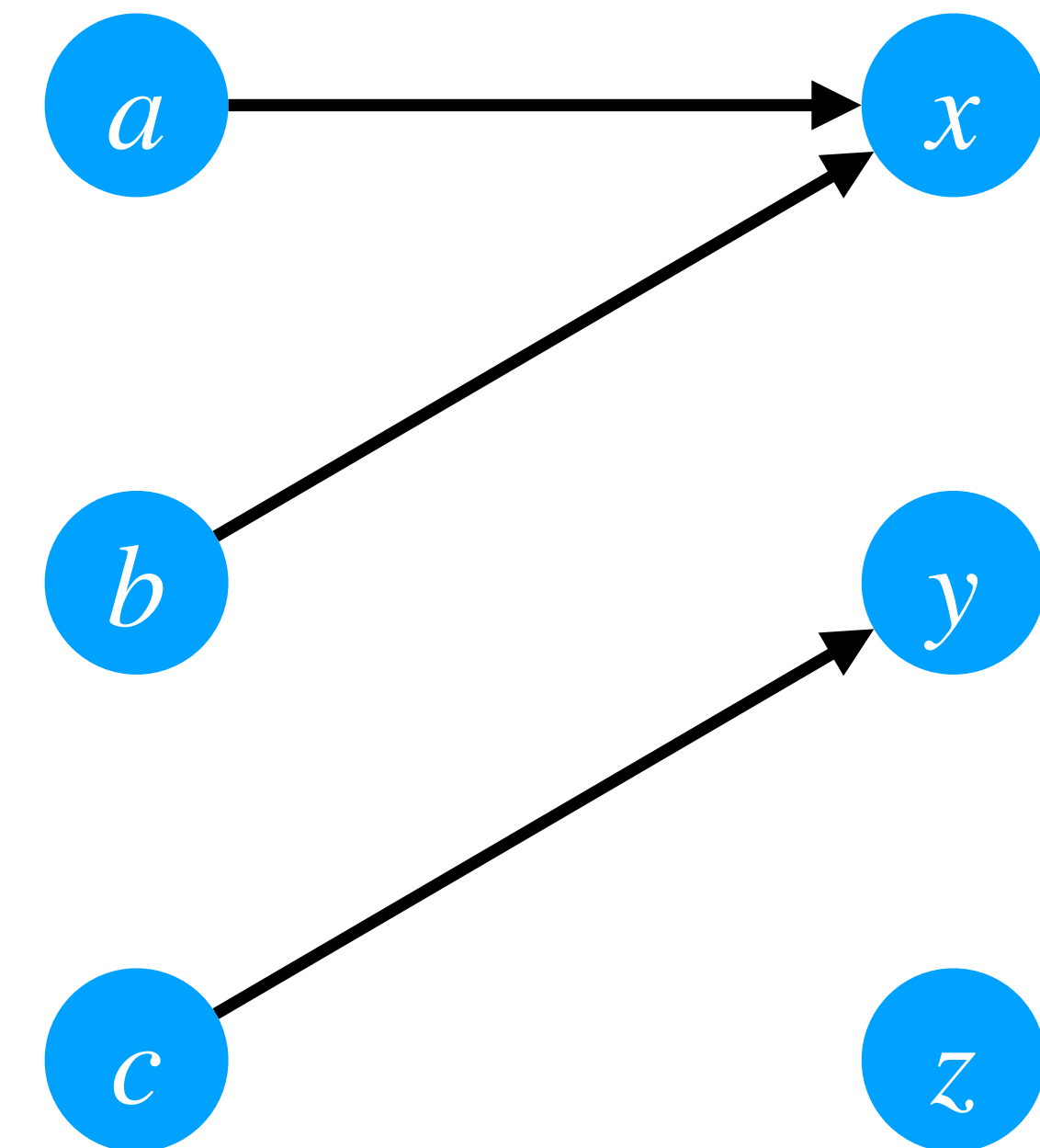
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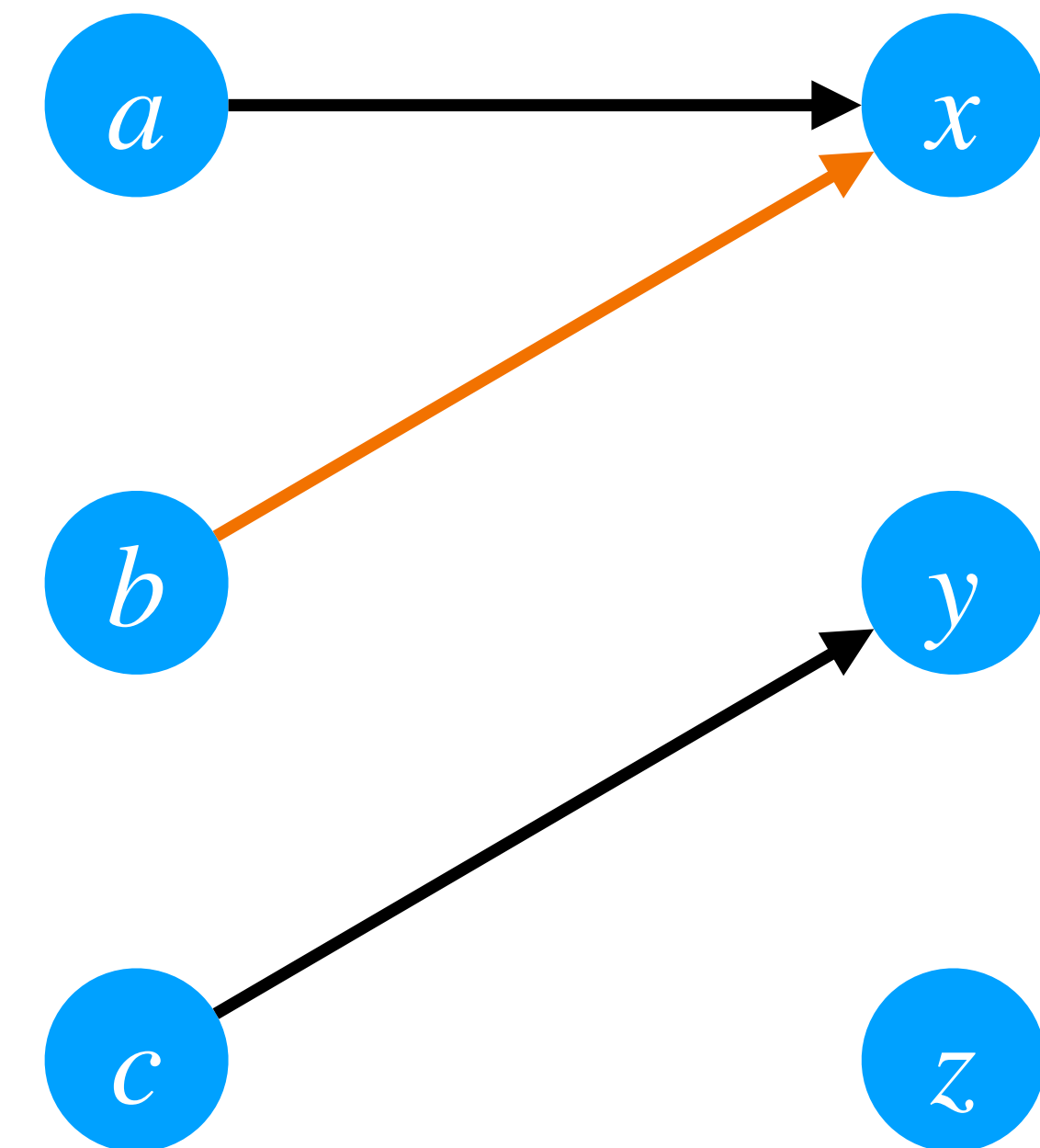
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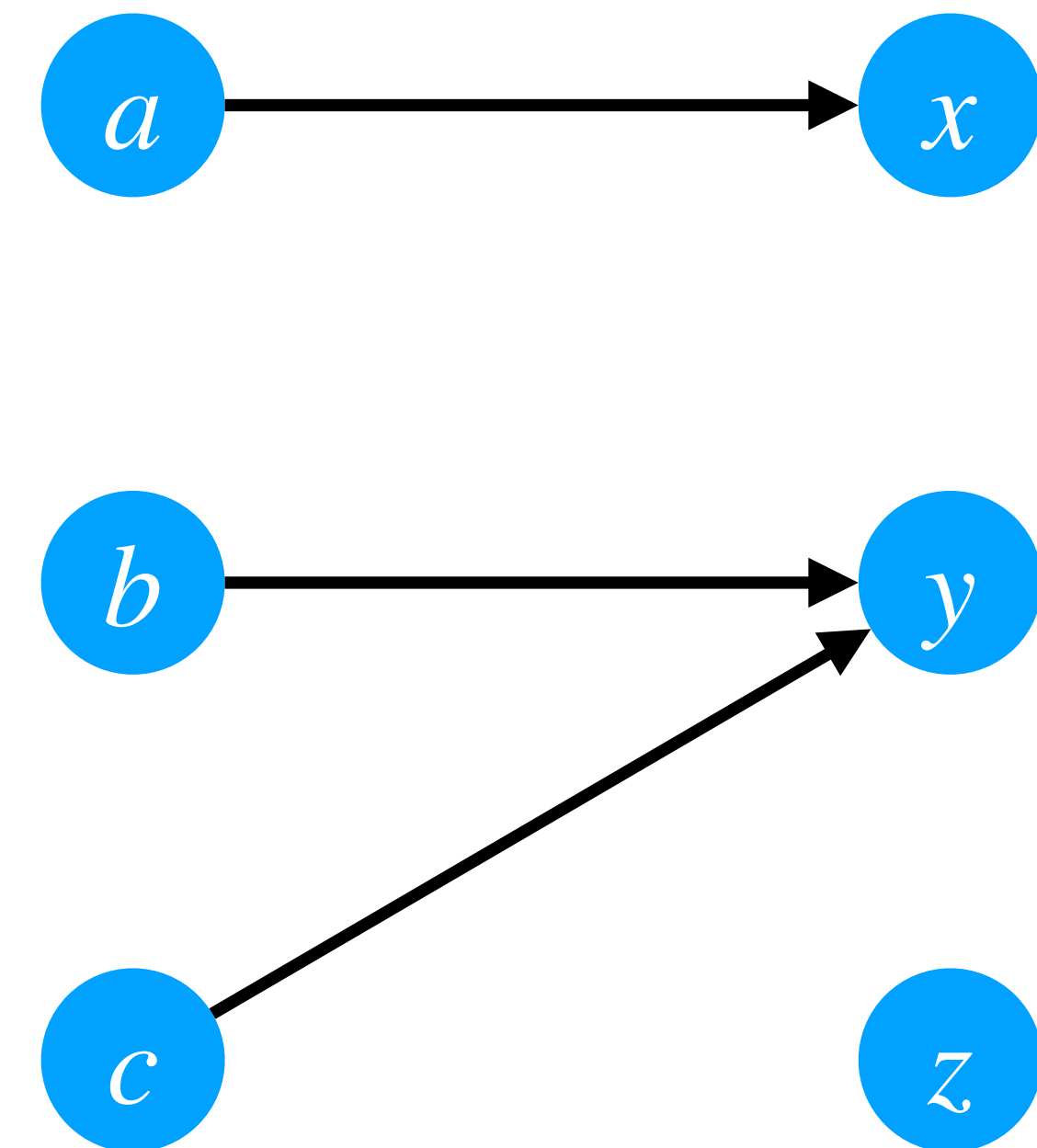
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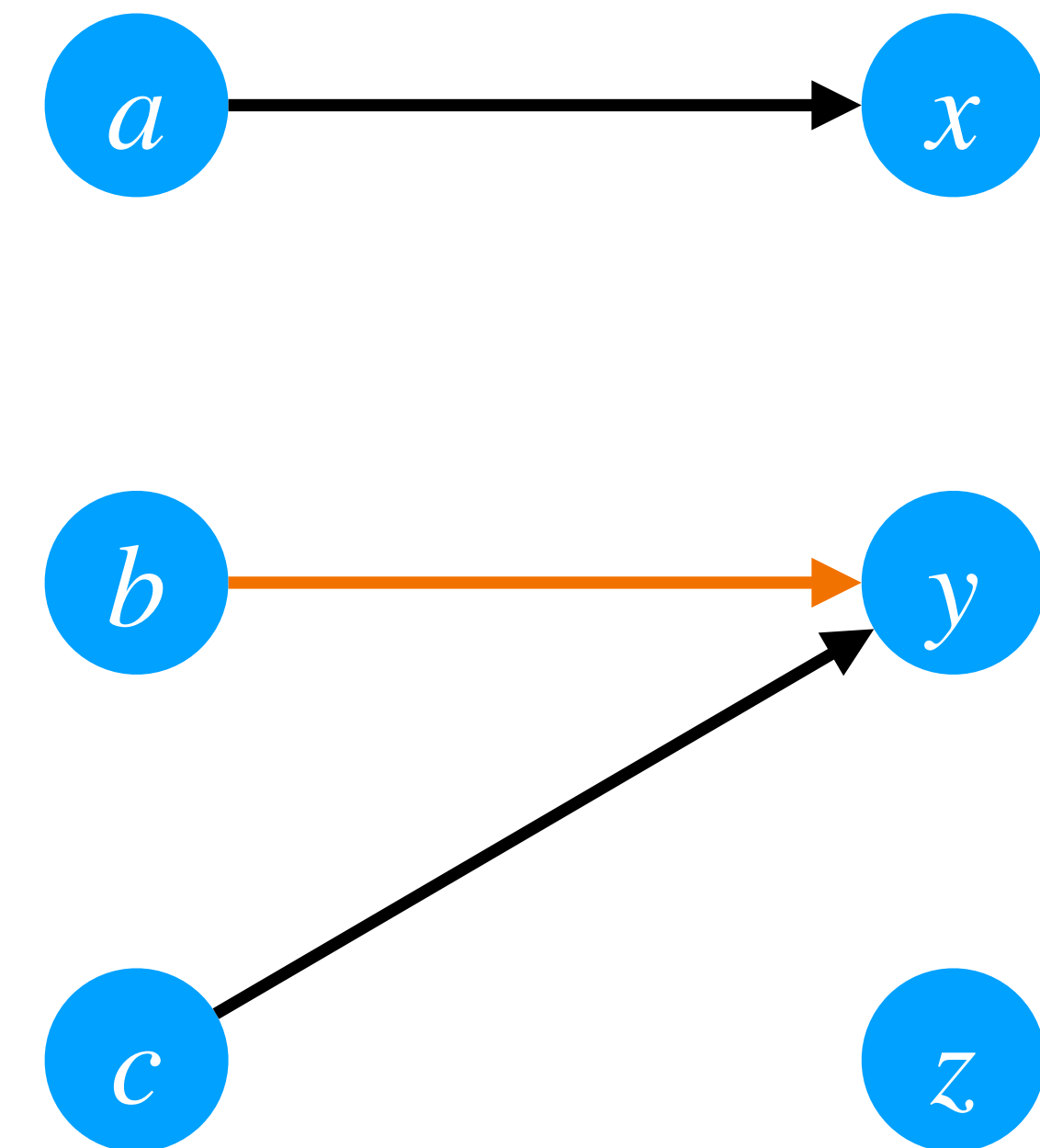
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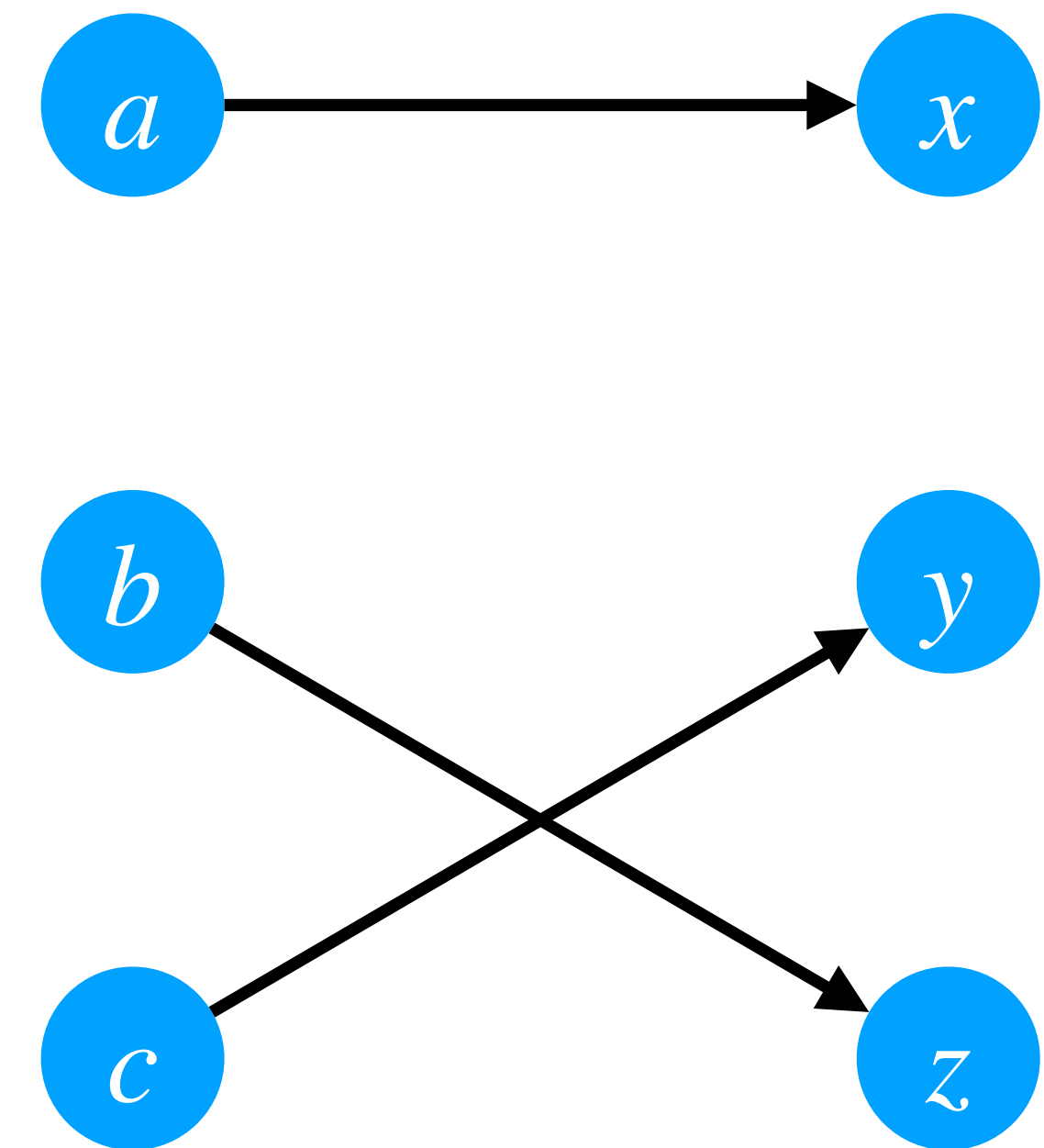
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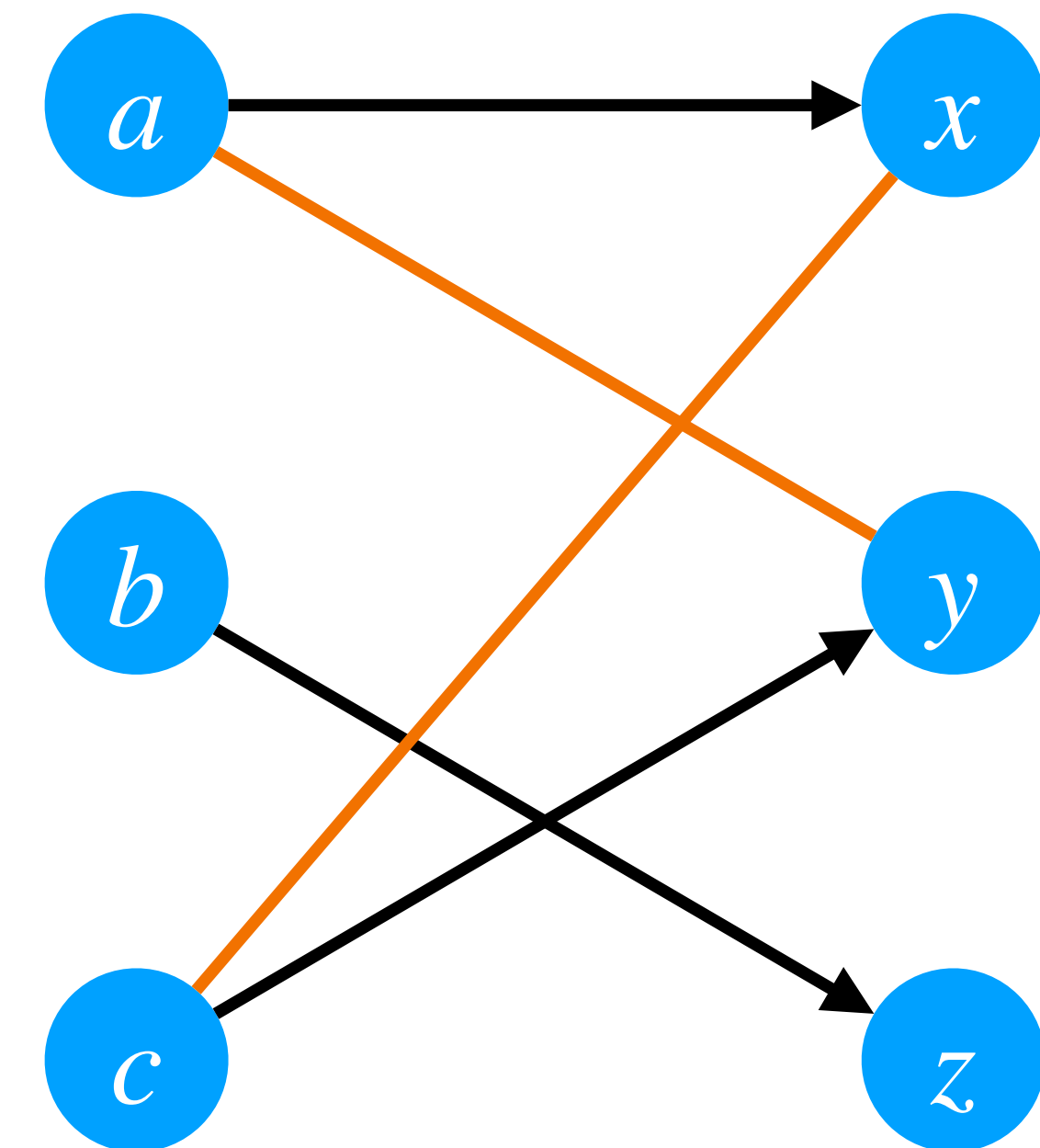
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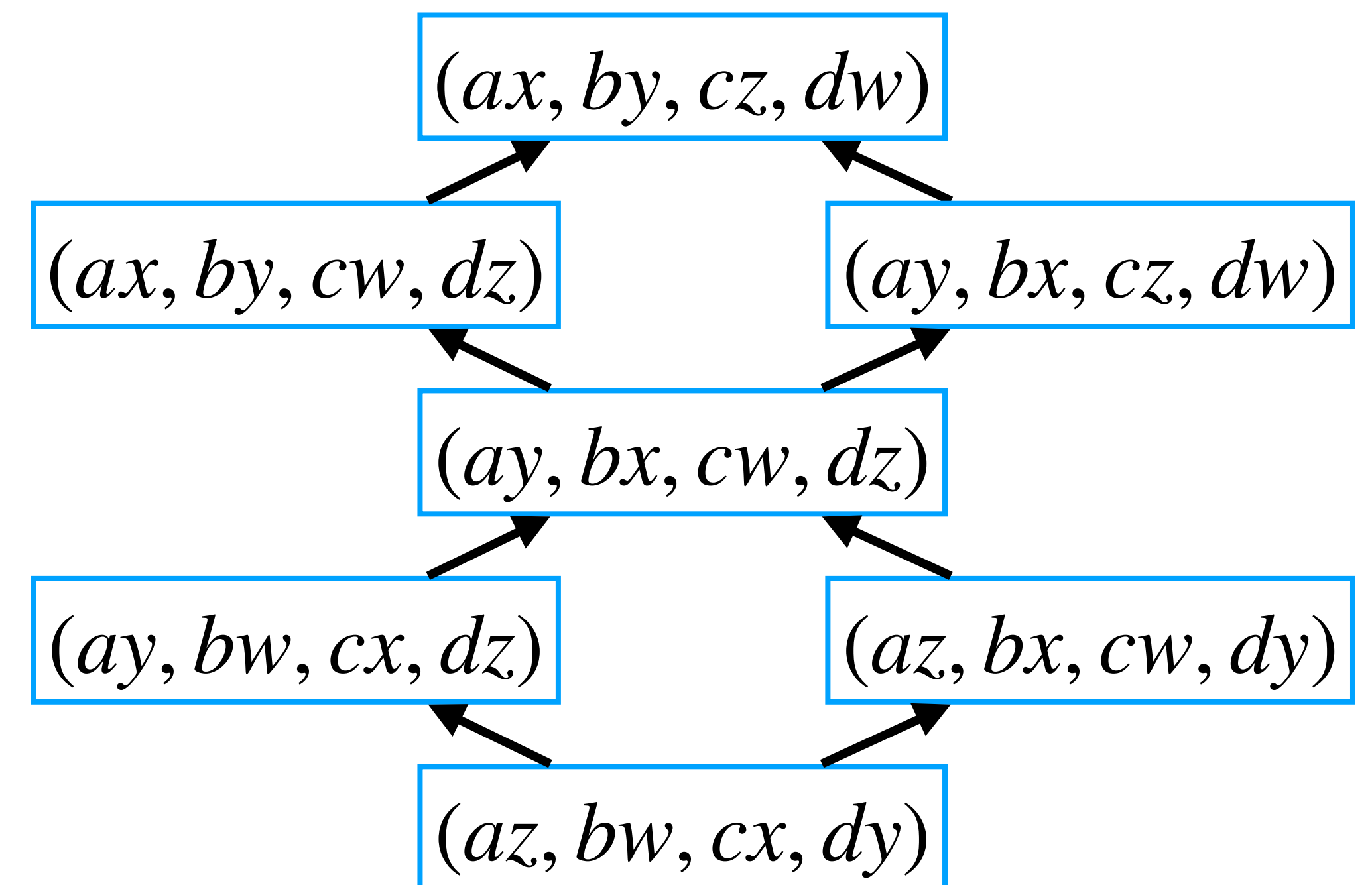
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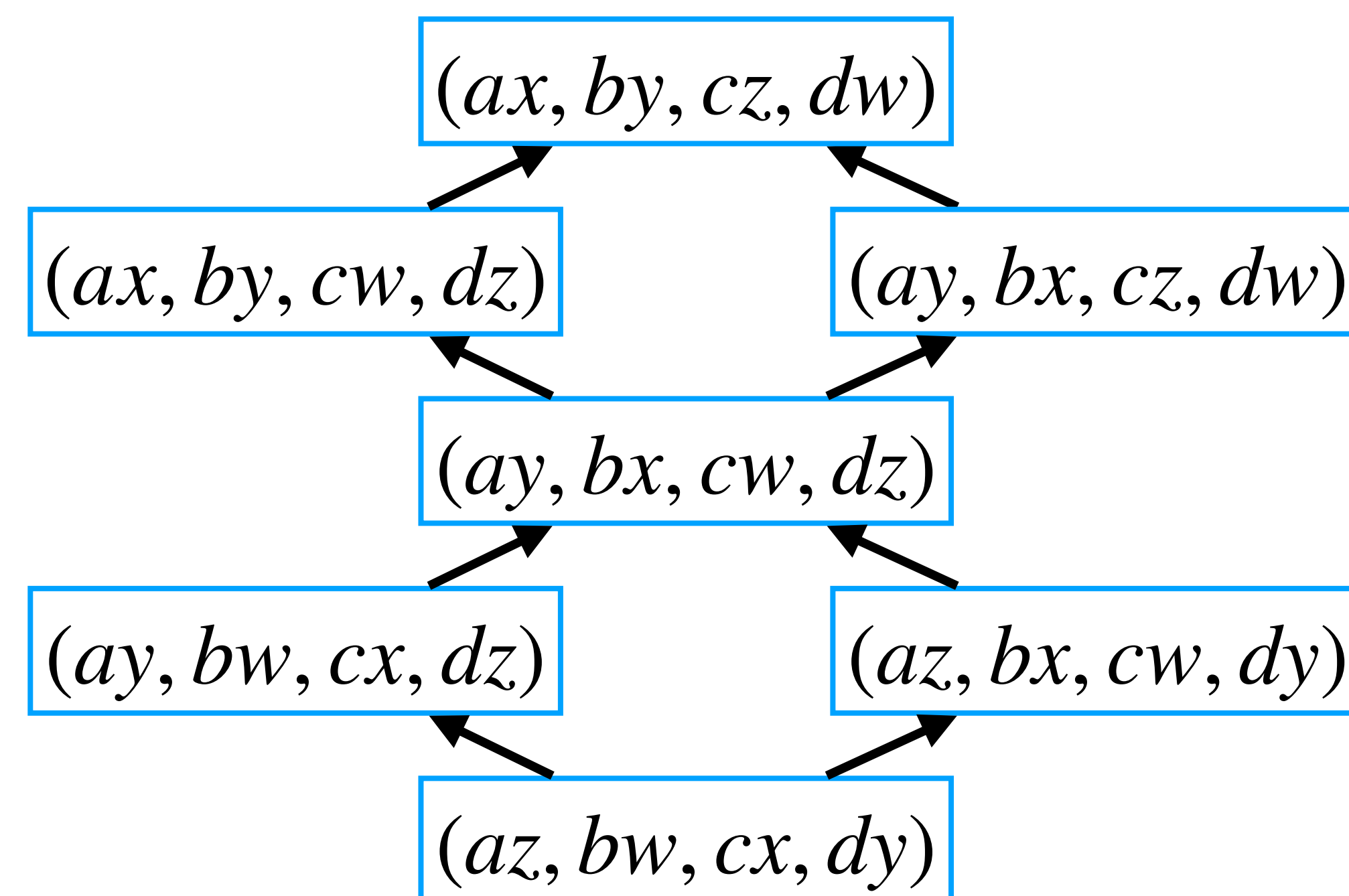




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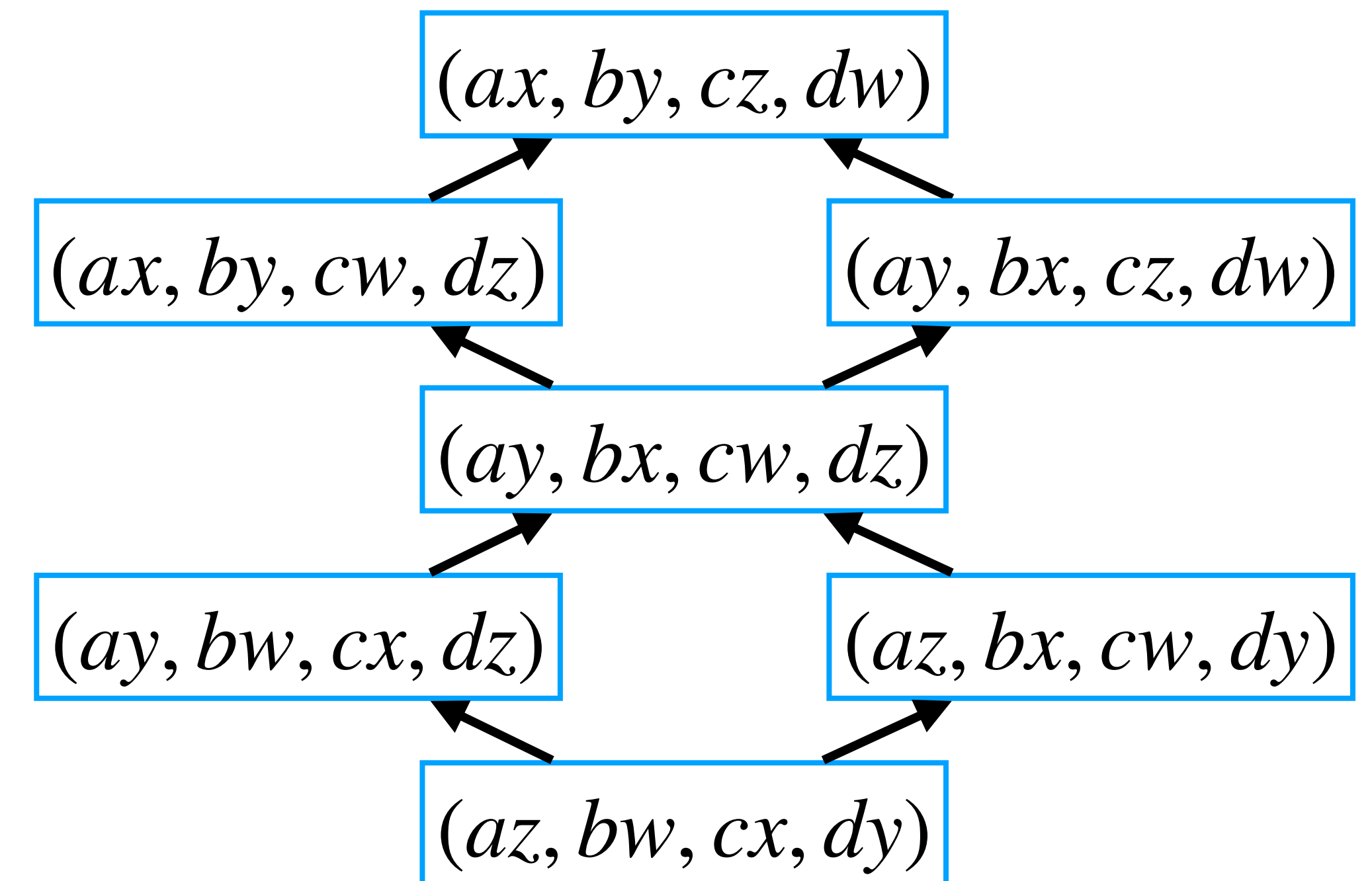




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 - Chilean school admission system gives interesting examples! [Correa et al. '21]



References

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