

Efficient Algorithms, Spring 2021

8. Solving SAT

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DaST 
Data • (Systems+Theory)

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Zurich ^{UZH}

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Agenda for This Lecture

We look at SATisfiability of CNF formulas through FAQ glasses

- Classical SAT solver: The DPLL procedure
 - Logical Resolution
- Connection to solving FAQs over the Boolean semiring

SAT instances with acyclic hypergraphs

- Are α -acyclic SAT instances solvable efficiently?
- Solving β -acyclic SAT instances efficiently

SATisfiability: Given a CNF formula F over Boolean variables, is F satisfiable?

Example: Consider the Boolean formula F over variables x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 :

$$F = (x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_3 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$$

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- F is a conjunction (\wedge) of **clauses**, each clause is a disjunction (\vee) of **literals**
 - Example of clause: $(x_1 \vee \neg x_2)$
 - **Unit-clauses** only consist of a single literal, e.g., (x_3)
 - **Tautological clauses** are always true, regardless of variable assignment, e.g., $(x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_1)$

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 - Example of literals: x_2 or $\neg x_2$
 - **Single-phase variables** occur either only positively or only negatively, e.g., $\neg x_4$
- Possible satisfying assignment: $x_2 = 0, x_3 = 1$, anything else for x_1, x_4

SAT as FAQ

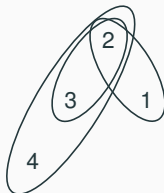
Any SAT instance can be immediately encoded in FAQ over the Boolean semiring

- Each variable in the CNF formula becomes a variable in the FAQ expression
- One factor per clause, mapping (non-)satisfying assignments to 1 (resp. 0)

$$F = \underbrace{(x_1 \vee \neg x_2)}_{\psi_{12}(x_1, x_2)} \wedge \underbrace{(x_2 \vee x_3 \vee \neg x_4)}_{\psi_{234}(x_2, x_3, x_4)} \wedge \underbrace{(\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)}_{\psi_{23}(x_2, x_3)}$$

$$\phi() = \bigvee_{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4} \psi_{12}(x_1, x_2) \wedge \psi_{234}(x_2, x_3, x_4) \wedge \psi_{23}(x_2, x_3)$$

- Hypergraph: One hyperedge per clause, one node per variable (disregard \neg)



Representation of Factors for Clauses (1/2)

Trivial representation: **Truth table** of variables in the clause

- The factor corresponding to a clause has one tuple per satisfying assignment of the variables
- Example: The clause $(x_2 \vee x_3 \vee \neg x_4)$ is represented by the factor

x_2	x_3	x_4	$\psi_{234}(x_2, x_3, x_4)$
0	0	0	1
0	1	0	1
1	0	0	1
1	1	0	1
0	1	1	1
1	0	1	1
1	1	1	1

The only assignment that is not satisfying: $x_2 = 0, x_3 = 0, x_4 = 1$

Problems with this representation:

- For a clause with n variables, the factor can have up to 2^n tuples
- Yannakakis/LFTJ take time proportional to factor sizes, so exponential in n

Representation of Factors for Clauses (2/2)

Compact, natural representation: **The clause itself**

- + Only takes $O(n)$ size, where n is the number of variables
- - Cannot represent arbitrary relationships between the variables
 - Cannot represent the result of semi-join reduction used by Yannakakis
 - Cannot represent factors defined by marginalisation of variables over clauses
 - Can only represent a disjunction of literals

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We want a variable-marginalisation algorithm, much like LFTJ

- Marginalise out one variable at a time
 - Special case: Single-phase variables
 - General case: Resolution
- Special case for clauses: Conjunction of contradicting unit-clauses
- Special case for clauses: Tautological clauses

The DPLL Procedure

The Davis-Putnam (DP) Algorithm (1960): Building Block 1/4

1. Find every single-phase variable and eliminate its clauses

$$(\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_3 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee x_4) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4 \vee \neg x_5) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_3 \vee x_5)$$

Variable x_2 only occurs negatively: Set $\neg x_2 = 1$ and eliminate the clauses

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$$(x_1 \vee \neg x_3 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4 \vee \neg x_5) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_3 \vee x_5)$$

This filtering done in time linear in the number of clauses and variables

- Simulated by plain variable marginalisation in FAQ:

$$\psi_{134}(x_1, x_3, x_4) \wedge \psi_{135}(x_1, x_3, x_5) \wedge \psi_{145}(x_1, x_4, x_5) \wedge \underbrace{\bigvee_{x_2} \psi_{124}(x_1, x_2, x_4) \wedge \psi'_{124}(x_1, x_2, x_4)}_1$$

2. Eliminate tautological clauses

The clause $(\neg x_2 \vee x_2 \vee x_1 \vee x_3 \vee x_4)$ evaluates to 1 for **any** variable assignment

What does tautology correspond to in the general FAQ world?

- Corresponding factor does not filter out any possible values for its variables
- In DB: Factor is Cartesian product of the active domains of its variables

3. Identify unit-clause contradictions

$$(\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (\neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee x_4) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4 \vee \neg x_5) \wedge (x_3)$$

There are two contradicting unit clauses: $(\neg x_3)$ and (x_3) .

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The conjunction of $(\neg x_3)$ and (x_3) , and the entire formula, always evaluates to 0.

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This building block can be simulated using full reducers in Yannakakis

- Semi-join reduction of the factor for the clause (x_3) using the factor for the clause $(\neg x_3)$ yields the factor representing the constant 0

4. Eliminate a non-single-phase variable by resolution

Evaluate $F = (x \vee \alpha) \wedge (\neg x \vee \beta)$, where α, β are disjunctions of literals without x .

A. **Marginalisation**: Marginalise x in $F \underbrace{((0 \vee \alpha) \wedge (1 \vee \beta))}_{(x=0) \wedge \alpha} \vee \underbrace{((1 \vee \alpha) \wedge (0 \vee \beta))}_{(x=1) \wedge \beta}$

- We obtain the formula $(\neg x \wedge \alpha) \vee (x \wedge \beta)$ equivalent with F
- We proceed with the evaluation of α in case $x = 0$ and of β in case $x = 1$

More on Resolution

Replace $(x \vee \alpha) \wedge (\neg x \vee \beta)$ by equi-satisfiable clause $(\alpha \vee \beta)$

General case: Formula has n clauses $(x \vee \alpha_i)$ and m clauses $(\neg x \vee \beta_j)$

- $\forall i \in [n], j \in [m]$: Conjunction $(x \vee \alpha_i) \wedge (\neg x \vee \beta_j)$ has resolvent $(\alpha_i \vee \beta_j)$
- We replace $\bigwedge_{i \in [n]} (x \vee \alpha_i) \wedge \bigwedge_{j \in [m]} (\neg x \vee \beta_j)$ by $\bigwedge_{i \in [n], j \in [m]} (\alpha_i \vee \beta_j)$
- The new and old formulas are equi-satisfiable
- Variable x does not occur anymore in the new formula

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Complexity:

- For each variable x , we replace $n + m$ clauses by $n \cdot m$ resolvent clauses
- The complexity can be exponential in number of variables
- Exponential time unavoidable in worst case
- Polynomial time possible for 2SAT, β -acyclic SAT, Horn clauses, . . .

The DP Algorithm: Putting the Building Blocks Together

Algorithm DP (CNF Formula F)

1. **if** F is empty (i.e., has no clause) **then return** 1 // Satisfiable
2. **if** F has a unit-clause contradiction **then return** 0 // Unsatisfiable
3. **if** F has single-phase variables **then** remove their clauses from F
// These clauses can be made true
- // Next eliminate a variable and replace its clauses by resolvents
4. Pick a remaining variable x
5. $F' =$ empty-set
6. **for each** pair of clauses $(x \vee \alpha_i)$ and $(\neg x \vee \beta_j)$ in F **do**
7. **if** $(\alpha_i \vee \beta_j)$ is not tautological **then** add $(\alpha_i \vee \beta_j)$ to F' // Resolution
8. Remove all clauses containing x or $\neg x$ from F and add to F all clauses in F'
9. **return** DP (F)

The DP Algorithm: Running Example

$$\underbrace{(\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_4)}_{c_1} \wedge \underbrace{(x_1 \vee \neg x_3 \vee \neg x_4)}_{c_2} \wedge \underbrace{(\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee x_4)}_{c_3} \wedge \underbrace{(\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4 \vee \neg x_5)}_{c_4} \wedge \underbrace{(\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3 \vee x_5)}_{c_5}$$

$$\underline{\text{DP}}(c_1 \wedge c_2 \wedge c_3 \wedge c_4 \wedge c_5)$$

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DP($c_1 \wedge c_2 \wedge c_3 \wedge c_4 \wedge c_5$)

No unit-clause contradiction, no single-phase variable

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Add resolvent: $(\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_4 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_4)$ for $c_2 \wedge c_1$

Resolvent: $(\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_4 \vee \neg x_2 \vee x_4)$ for $c_2 \wedge c_3$ is tautological, not added

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Single-phase variables: Set $\neg x_2 = \neg x_3 = \neg x_4 = \neg x_5 = 1$

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Remove the clauses of single-phase variables

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Single-phase variables: Set $\neg x_2 = \neg x_3 = \neg x_4 = \neg x_5 = 1$

Remove the clauses of single-phase variables

There is no clause left

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Resolvent: $(\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_4 \vee x_2 \vee x_3 \vee x_5)$ for $c_2 \wedge c_5$ is tautological, not added

DP(($\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_4 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_4$) \wedge ($\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_4 \vee \neg x_4 \vee \neg x_5$))

Single-phase variables: Set $\neg x_2 = \neg x_3 = \neg x_4 = \neg x_5 = 1$

Remove the clauses of single-phase variables

There is no clause left

DP(\emptyset)

return 1

return 1

return 1

The DPLL Algorithm (1962)

DPLL refines DP. They are both complete, i.e., decide SAT for **any** CNF formula

- **Backtracking-based search using repeated variable marginalisation**
- **Single-phase variable elimination** like for DP
- **Unit propagation**
 - Unit clause (ℓ): Literal ℓ has to be set to 1, no choice!
 - Every clause that contains ℓ is removed (becomes 1)
 - Every clause that contains $\neg\ell$ is updated by removing $\neg\ell$ (which is 0)
 - This often leads to deterministic cascades of units

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DPLL is a special case of LFTJ in the Boolean domain

- Backbone for both: variable marginalisation
- Single-phase variable elimination is a special case of marginalisation
 - For a Boolean variable, we sum over two cases: 0 and 1
 - For a single-phase variable, only one case is useful: its literal is 1
- Unit propagation is akin to Yannakakis (semi-join) reducer

The DPLL Algorithm (1962)

Algorithm DPLL (CNF Formula F)

1. **if** F only has single-phase variables **then return** 1 // Satisfiable

2. **if** F has an empty clause **then return** 0 // Unsatisfiable

//Next replace every occurrence of literal ℓ with 1 and of $\neg\ell$ to 0

3. **for each** unit clause (ℓ) in F **do** $F := \text{unit-propagate}(\ell, F)$

4. **for each** single-phase variable ℓ in F **do** $F := \text{single-phase}(\ell, F)$

5. **if** F has no literal, i.e., it is constant, **then return** F

//Next choose a literal to marginalise

6. $\ell = \text{choose-literal}(F)$

7. **return** DPLL $(F \wedge (\ell))$ | DPLL $(F \wedge (\neg\ell))$

The DPLL Algorithm: Running Example

$$F = (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_3 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee x_4) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4 \vee \neg x_5) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3 \vee x_5)$$

DPLL (F)

Choose literal $\ell = \neg x_1$

DPLL ($F \wedge (\neg x_1)$)

Propagate unit clause $(\neg x_1)$ in F to obtain $F := (\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_4)$

Single-phase variables: Set $\neg x_3 = \neg x_4 = 1$, F becomes (1)

There is no literal left in F , return 1

return 1

In case we would first recurse with DPLL ($F \wedge (x_1)$):

Propagate unit clause (x_1) in F to obtain

$$F := (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee x_4) \wedge (\neg x_4 \vee \neg x_5) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_3 \vee x_5)$$

Single-phase variable: Set $x_3 = 1$ to obtain

$$F := (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee x_4) \wedge (\neg x_4 \vee \neg x_5)$$

Single-phase variables: Set $\neg x_2 = \neg x_5 = 1$, F becomes (1)

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Acyclic SAT

- Well-known: SAT is NP-hard

(Cook's Theorem)

α - and β -Acyclic SAT

- Well-known: SAT is NP-hard (Cook's Theorem)
- Bad news: α -acyclic SAT is still NP-hard

α - and β -Acyclic SAT

- Well-known: SAT is NP-hard (Cook's Theorem)
- Bad news: α -acyclic SAT is still NP-hard
- Good News: β -acyclic SAT can be solved in polynomial time using the DP algorithm

α -acyclic SAT is NP-hard (1/3)

Polynomial **reduction** from arbitrary SAT to α -acyclic SAT

Given: Arbitrary CNF formula F

Construct: α -Acyclic CNF formula F' that is equi-satisfiable to F

α -acyclic SAT is NP-hard (1/3)

Polynomial **reduction** from arbitrary SAT to α -acyclic SAT

Given: Arbitrary CNF formula F

Construct: α -Acyclic CNF formula F' that is equi-satisfiable to F

- Let $F = c_1 \wedge \dots \wedge c_m$ with variables x_1, \dots, x_n
- Set $F' = c_1 \wedge \dots \wedge c_m \wedge (x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n \vee x_0)$ with fresh variable x_0

α -acyclic SAT is NP-hard (1/3)

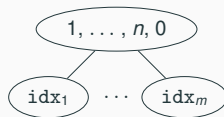
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F' is α -acyclic, since it has a join tree



where idx_i is the index set of the variables in c_i

$$F = c_1 \wedge \dots \wedge c_m$$

equi-satisfiable to

$$F' = c_1 \wedge \dots \wedge c_m \wedge (x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n \vee x_0)$$

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Example

$$F = (x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$$

$$F' = (x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3 \vee x_0)$$

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- $\{x_1 = 1, x_2 = 1, x_3 = 0\}$ satisfies F
 $\{x_1 = 1, x_2 = 1, x_3 = 0, x_0 = 1\}$ satisfies F'

$$F = c_1 \wedge \dots \wedge c_m$$

equi-satisfiable to

$$F' = c_1 \wedge \dots \wedge c_m \wedge (x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n \vee x_0)$$

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- $\{x_1 = 1, x_2 = 1, x_3 = 0\}$ satisfies F
 $\{x_1 = 1, x_2 = 1, x_3 = 0, x_0 = 1\}$ satisfies F'
- $\{x_1 = 0, x_2 = 0, x_3 = 1, x_0 = 0\}$ satisfies F'
 $\{x_1 = 0, x_2 = 0, x_3 = 1\}$ satisfies F

$$F = c_1 \wedge \dots \wedge c_m$$

equi-satisfiable to

$$F' = c_1 \wedge \dots \wedge c_m \wedge (x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n \vee x_0)$$

General case:

F satisfiable $\Rightarrow F'$ satisfiable

- Consider satisfying assignment τ for F
- $\tau \cup \{x_0 = 1\}$ satisfies F'

$$F = c_1 \wedge \dots \wedge c_m$$

equi-satisfiable to

$$F' = c_1 \wedge \dots \wedge c_m \wedge (x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n \vee x_0)$$

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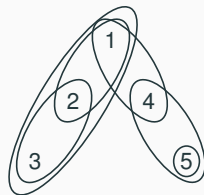
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F' satisfiable $\Rightarrow F$ satisfiable

- Consider satisfying assignment τ' for F'
- $\tau' - \{x_0 = 1, x_0 = 0\}$ satisfies F

Order of Variable Marginalisation Matters

$$F = \underbrace{(x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)}_{c_1} \wedge \underbrace{(\neg x_1 \vee x_4)}_{c_2} \wedge \underbrace{(\neg x_2 \vee x_3)}_{c_3} \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\neg x_4 \vee x_5) \wedge (\neg x_5)$$



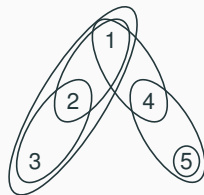
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Start with the elimination of x_1

Resolvent of c_1 and c_2 is $c_{12} = (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3 \vee x_4)$

c_{12} is **not included** in any clause of F



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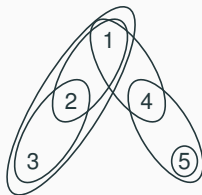
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\implies No increase in the number of clauses



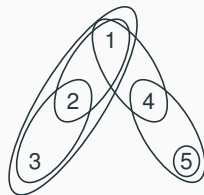
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β -acyclic CNF formulas admit marginalisation orders that avoid exponential increase in the number of clauses

This is thanks to a nice property of beta-acyclic hypergraphs: nested inclusion

Nested Inclusion Chain

A set $\{e_1, \dots, e_k\}$ of sets forms a **nested inclusion chain** if $e_{i_1} \subseteq \dots \subseteq e_{i_k}$ for some ordering $i_1, \dots, i_k \in [k]$

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We apply this property to the set of hyperedges of nodes in the SAT hypergraph

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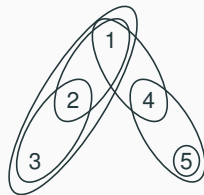
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Example

$\partial(4) = \{\{1, 4\}, \{4, 5\}\}$
is not a nested inclusion chain



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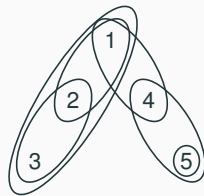
Example

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is not a nested inclusion chain

$$\partial(3) = \{\{2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}$$

is a nested inclusion chain



DP Solver for β -Acyclicity SAT

Property 1

Every β -acyclic hypergraph has a node i s.th. $\partial(i)$ forms a nested inclusion chain

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DP algorithm for β -acyclic SAT

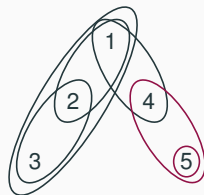
Apply the resolution rule only for a variable x_i such that $\partial(i)$ forms a nested inclusion chain

Example 1/4

$$F_0 = (x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_4) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\neg x_4 \vee x_5) \wedge (\neg x_5)$$

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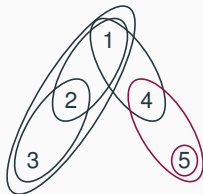


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Nested inclusion chains

$$\partial(5) = \{\{5\}, \{4, 5\}\}, \partial(3) = \{\{2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}$$

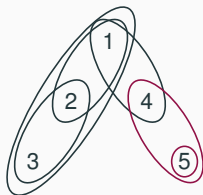


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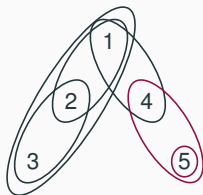
Do resolution on 5

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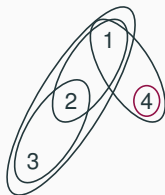
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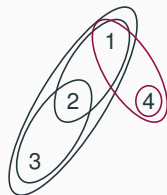
Do resolution on 5

$$F_1 = (x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_4) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\neg x_4)$$



Example 2/4

$$F_1 = (x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_4) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\neg x_4)$$

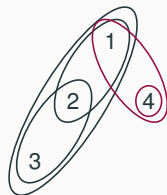


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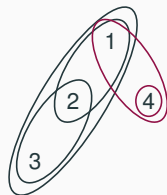


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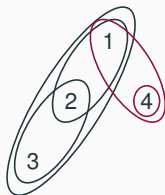
Do resolution on 4

Example 2/4

$$F_1 = (x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_4) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\neg x_4)$$

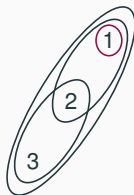
Nested inclusion chains

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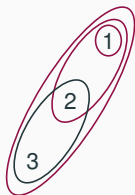
Do resolution on 4

$$F_2 = (x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2)$$



Example 3/4

$$F_2 = (x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2)$$

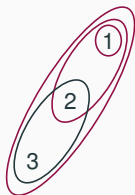


Example 3/4

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Nested inclusion chains

$$\partial(1) = \{\{1\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}, \partial(3) = \{\{2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}$$

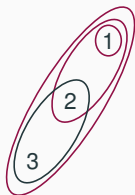


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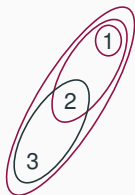
Do resolution on 1

Example 3/4

$$F_2 = (x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2)$$

Nested inclusion chains

$$\partial(1) = \{\{1\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}, \partial(3) = \{\{2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}$$



Do resolution on 1

$$F_3 = (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_2)$$



Example 4/4

$$F_3 = (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_2)$$



Example 4/4

$$F_3 = (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_2)$$

Nested inclusion chains

$$\partial(2) = \{\{2\}, \{2, 3\}, \{2, 3\}\}, \partial(3) = \{\{2, 3\}, \{2, 3\}\}$$



Example 4/4

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Do resolution on 2

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Unit-clause contradiction

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Do resolution on 2

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Unit-clause contradiction

$\Rightarrow F$ not satisfiable