

Algorithms and Satisfiability

7. Satisfiability, Part I: Principles and Basic Algorithms

How to Think About What is True or False

Álvaro Torralba



AALBORG UNIVERSITET

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Thanks to Jörg Hoffmann for slide sources

Agenda

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Satisfiability
- 3 Basics
- 4 Applications
- 5 Normal Forms
- 6 Resolution
- 7 The Davis-Putnam (Logemann-Loveland) Procedure
- 8 Conclusion

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So far...

- 1 Dynamic Programming
- 2 Greedy Algorithms
- 3 Computational geometry algorithms: sweeping techniques
- 4 External-memory algorithms and data structures
- 5 Parallel algorithms
- 6 Amortized analysis

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- ① Dynamic Programming
- ② Greedy Algorithms
- ③ Computational geometry algorithms: sweeping techniques
- ④ External-memory algorithms and data structures
- ⑤ Parallel algorithms
- ⑥ Amortized analysis

→ Techniques to make efficient algorithms and analyze their performance

What if an efficient algorithm does not exist?

What to do when you can't find an efficient algorithm?¹



"I can't find an efficient algorithm, I guess I'm just too dumb."

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→ **Complexity**: We can prove that some problems cannot be solved in polynomial time by computers (unless $P=NP$)

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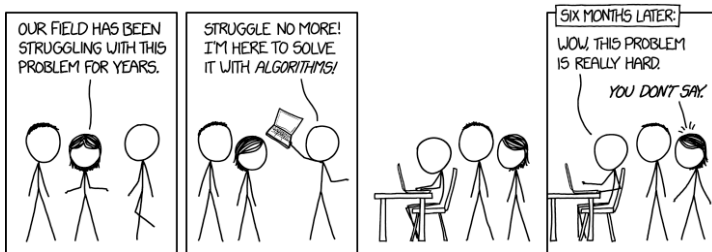
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But that is only worst case asymptotic complexity...

- Do the interesting real-world instances pertain to the worst case?
- Are interesting real-world instances small enough so that we can solve them?

You say I can't solve that? Hold my beer!



"We TOLD you it was hard." "Yeah, but now that I'VE tried, we KNOW it's hard." XKCD.com/1831

Two Questions

What algorithms can we use to solve these hard problems?

→ Explored in the Lectures and Exercises

How to solve these hard problems in practice using solvers?

→ Explored in the mini-projects

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- Preparation: Install tool in your computer
- (shorter) Lecture
- Project: Use a solver to solve some problems
- Optional: submit your solution to receive feedback
- **Exam relevant!**: in 2021 no one submitted their solution and at least half of the students failed to answer the exam question!

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- $(x \vee y) \wedge (\neg x \vee \neg y),$

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Our Agenda for This Topic

→ Our treatment of the topic “SAT Solving” consists of Chapters 7 and 8.

- **This Chapter:** Basic definitions and concepts; resolution; DPLL.
→ Sets up the framework. Resolution is the quintessential reasoning procedure underlying most successful solvers.
- **Chapter 8:** Clause learning; practical problem structure.
→ State-of-the-art algorithms for satisfiability in propositional logic, and an important observation about how they behave.
- **Mini-project:** SAT modulo theories (SMT)
→ Extension beyond propositional formulas!

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- **Resolution:** How does resolution work? What are its properties?
→ Formally introduces the most basic reasoning method.
- **The Davis-Putnam (Logemann-Loveland) Procedure:** How to systematically test satisfiability?
→ The quintessential SAT solving procedure, DPLL.

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Syntax of Propositional Logic

→ Atoms Σ in propositional logic = Boolean variables.

Definition (Syntax). Let Σ be a set of atomic propositions. Then:

1. \perp and \top are Σ -formulas. (“False”, “True”)
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If φ and ψ are Σ -formulas, then so are:

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5. $\varphi \vee \psi$ (“Disjunction”)
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Notation: Atoms and negated atoms are called **literals**. Operator precedence: $\neg > \dots$ (we’ll be using brackets except for negation).

Semantics of Propositional Logic

Definition (Interpretation). Let Σ be a set of atomic propositions. An *interpretation* of Σ , also called a *truth assignment*, is a function $I : \Sigma \mapsto \{1, 0\}$. We set:

$$I \models \top$$

$$I \not\models \perp$$

$$I \models P \quad \text{iff} \quad P^I = 1$$

$$I \models \neg \varphi \quad \text{iff} \quad I \not\models \varphi$$

$$I \models \varphi \wedge \psi \quad \text{iff} \quad I \models \varphi \text{ and } I \models \psi$$

$$I \models \varphi \vee \psi \quad \text{iff} \quad I \models \varphi \text{ or } I \models \psi$$

$$I \models \varphi \rightarrow \psi \quad \text{iff} \quad \text{if } I \models \varphi, \text{ then } I \models \psi$$

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If $I \models \varphi$, we say that I *satisfies* φ , or that I is a *model* of φ . The set of all models of φ is denoted by $M(\varphi)$.

Semantics of Propositional Logic: Examples

Example

Formula: $\varphi = [(P \vee Q) \leftrightarrow (R \vee S)] \wedge [\neg(P \wedge Q) \wedge (R \wedge \neg S)]$

→ For I with $I(P) = 1, I(Q) = 1, I(R) = 0, I(S) = 0$, do we have $I \models \varphi$?

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→ For I with $I(\text{InSatisfiabilityClass}) = 0, I(\text{HavingAGreatTime}) = 1$, do we have $I \models \varphi$? Yes: $\varphi = \psi_1 \rightarrow \psi_2$ is true iff either ψ_1 is false, or ψ_2 is true (i.e., $\psi_1 \rightarrow \psi_2$ has the same models as $\neg\psi_1 \vee \psi_2$).

Terminology

Satisfiability

A formula φ is:

- **satisfiable** if there exists I that satisfies φ .
- **unsatisfiable** if φ is not satisfiable.
- **falsifiable** if there exists I that doesn't satisfy φ .
- **valid** if $I \models \varphi$ holds for all I . We also call φ a **tautology**.

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Entailment

Formula φ **entails** ψ ($\varphi \models \psi$), if $M(\psi) \subseteq M(\varphi)$.

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General Problem Solving using SAT

(some new problem)



model problem in logic \mapsto use off-the-shelf SAT solver



(its solution)

- “Any problem that can be formulated as SAT.”
- Very successful using propositional logic and modern solvers for SAT! (Propositional satisfiability testing, **Chapter 8**.)

Applications

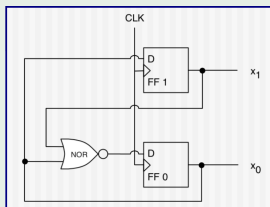
Lots of interesting problems can be formulated as SAT!

- Lots of NP problems
- Scheduling
- Hardware Verification
- Logical Deduction
- Planning (**Chapter 12**)

And we can even extend this by considering SAT modulo theories (**mini project**)

Example Application: Hardware Verification

Example



- Counter, repeatedly from $c = 0$ to $c = 2$.
- 2 bits x_1 and x_0 ; $c = 2 * x_1 + x_0$.
- (“FF” Flip-Flop, “D” Data IN, “CLK” Clock)
- **To Verify:** If $c < 3$ in current clock cycle, then $c < 3$ in next clock cycle.

Step 1: Encode into propositional logic.

- **Propositions:** x_1, x_0 ; and x'_1, x'_0 (value in next cycle).
- **Transition relation:** $x'_1 \leftrightarrow x_0$; $x'_0 \leftrightarrow \neg(x_1 \vee x_0)$.
- **Initial state:** $\neg(x_1 \wedge x_0)$. **Error property:** $x'_1 \wedge x'_0$.

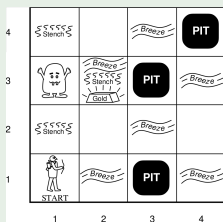
Step 2: Transform to CNF, encode as set Δ of clauses.

$\rightarrow \{\{\neg x'_1, x_0\}, \{x'_1, \neg x_0\}, \{x'_0, x_1, x_0\}, \{\neg x'_0, \neg x_1\}, \{\neg x'_0, \neg x_0\}, \{\neg x_1, \neg x_0\}, \{x'_1\}, \{x'_0\}\}$

Step 3: Call a SAT solver (up next).

Example Application: Logical Deduction (Wumpus)

Example



- The player cannot see the entire board, only if there is Stench or Breeze on the current cell.
- To Verify:** After visiting [2,1] and [1,2], are we sure cell [2,2] is free?.

Step 1: Encode into propositional logic.

- Propositions:** $Stench[i, j]$, $Breeze[i, j]$, $Wumpus[i, j]$, $Pit[i, j]$;
- Knowledge Base:** $KB = \bigwedge_{i,j} Wumpus[i, j] \implies Stench[i, j+1] \wedge Stench[i, j-1] \wedge \dots$
- Question:** $Q = \neg(Wumpus[2, 2] \wedge Pit[2, 2])$.

Step 2: Transform $KB \wedge \neg(Q)$ to CNF, encode as set Δ of clauses.

Step 3: Call a SAT solver (up next). If unsatisfiable, then we can conclude Q .

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Want: Determine whether φ is satisfiable, valid, etc.

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Normal Forms

The two quintessential normal forms: (there are others as well)

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→ Given a propositional formula φ , we can in polynomial time construct a CNF/DNF formula ψ that is satisfiable if and only if φ is. (Proof omitted)

Transformation to Normal Form

CNF Transformation (DNF Transformation: Analogously)

Exploit the equivalences:

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→ An interpretation I satisfies a clause C iff there exists $l \in C$ such that $I \models l$. I satisfies Δ iff, for all $C \in \Delta$, we have $I \models C$.

Satisfiability in the Clausal Form: Rim Cases

It's normally simple ...

- E.g., I with $I(P) = 0, I(Q) = 0, I(R) = 0$ does not satisfy $\Delta = \{\{P, \neg Q\}, \{R\}\}$.

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- With $\Delta = \{\}$, does there exist I so that $I \models \Delta$? Yes, because I satisfies all clauses $C \in \Delta$ (trivial as there is no clause in Δ).

Agenda

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Satisfiability
- 3 Basics
- 4 Applications
- 5 Normal Forms
- 6 Resolution**
- 7 The Davis-Putnam (Logemann-Loveland) Procedure
- 8 Conclusion

Deduction

Basic Concepts in Deduction

- **Inference rule:** Rule prescribing how we can infer new formulas.
→ For example, if the KB is $\{\dots, (\varphi \rightarrow \psi), \dots, \varphi, \dots\}$ then ψ can be deduced using the inference rule $\frac{\varphi, \varphi \rightarrow \psi}{\psi}$.
- **Calculus:** Set \mathcal{R} of inference rules.
- **Derivation:** φ can be **derived** from KB using \mathcal{R} , $\text{KB} \vdash_{\mathcal{R}} \varphi$, if starting from KB there is a sequence of applications of rules from \mathcal{R} , ending in φ .
- **Soundness:** \mathcal{R} is **sound** if all derivable formulas do follow logically: if $\text{KB} \vdash_{\mathcal{R}} \varphi$, then $\text{KB} \models \varphi$.
- **Completeness:** \mathcal{R} is **complete** if all formulas that follow logically are derivable: if $\text{KB} \models \varphi$, then $\text{KB} \vdash_{\mathcal{R}} \varphi$.

→ If \mathcal{R} is sound and complete, then to check whether $\text{KB} \models \varphi$, we can check whether $\text{KB} \vdash_{\mathcal{R}} \varphi$.

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Definition (Resolution Rule). Resolution uses the following inference rule (with exclusive union $\dot{\cup}$ meaning that the two sets are disjoint):

$$\frac{C_1 \dot{\cup} \{l\}, C_2 \dot{\cup} \{\bar{l}\}}{C_1 \cup C_2}$$

If Δ contains *parent clauses* of the form $C_1 \dot{\cup} \{l\}$ and $C_2 \dot{\cup} \{\bar{l}\}$, the rule allows to add the *resolvent* clause $C_1 \cup C_2$. l and \bar{l} are called the *resolution literals*.

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No, because to satisfy the resolvent it is enough to satisfy one of C_1, C_2 . E.g.: Setting $I(P) = 0$ and $I(Q) = 1$, we satisfy $\{P, Q\}$ but do not satisfy $\{P, \neg R\}$ when setting the resolution literal to $I(R) = 1$.

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$$\Delta = \{\{\neg Q, \neg P\}, \{P, \neg Q, \neg R, \neg S\}, \{Q, \neg S\}, \{S\}, \{R, \neg S\}\}$$

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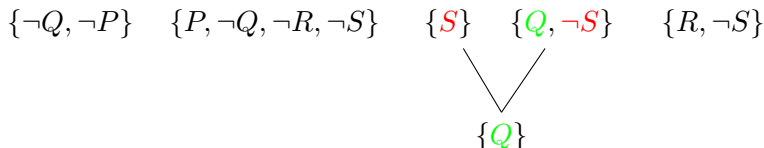
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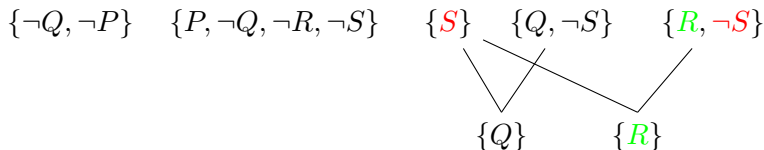
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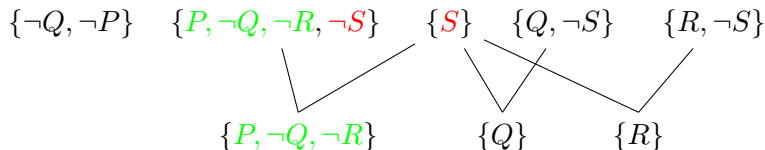
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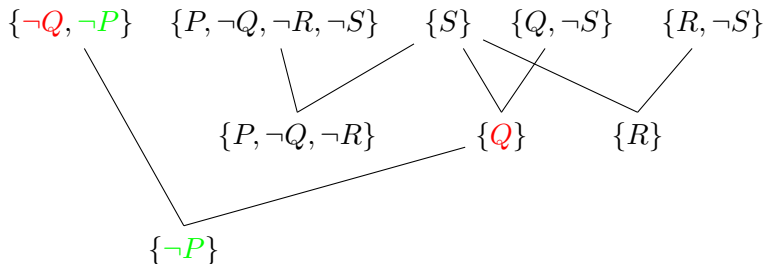
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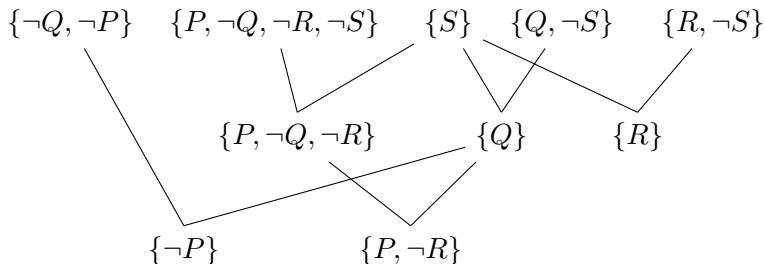
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Using Resolution: A Simple Example

$\Delta = \{\{\neg Q, \neg P\}, \{P, \neg Q, \neg R, \neg S\}, \{Q, \neg S\}, \{S\}, \{R, \neg S\}\}$

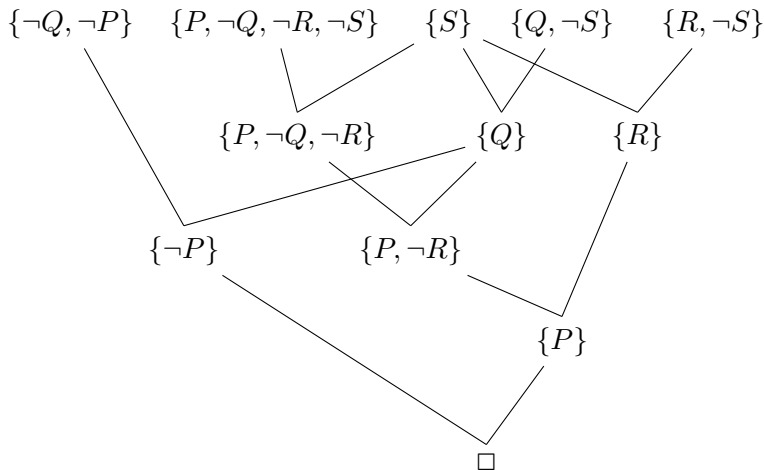
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Derive \square by applying the resolution rule.



Using Resolution: A Frequent Mistake

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This is due to Observation 1: An interpretation can set, e.g., $P := T, Q := F$, satisfying *both* $\{P, Q\}$ and $\{\neg P, \neg Q\}$ together, avoiding the need to satisfy either of C_1 or C_2 .

Questionnaire

Question!

What are resolvents of $\{P, \neg Q, R\}$ and $\{\neg P, Q, R\}$?

(A): $\{Q, \neg Q, P, R\}$.

(B): $\{P, \neg P, R, S\}$.

(C): $\{R\}$.

(D): $\{Q, \neg Q, R\}$.

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→ (A): No. If we resolve on P then it disappears completely.

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→ (C): No. If we resolve on P then we get both Q and $\neg Q$ into the clause, similar if we resolve on Q .

→ We can resolve on only ONE literal at a time, cf. slide 34.

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→ (B): No. By resolving on Q we get this clause except S , and although the larger clause always is sound as well of course, we are not allowed to deduce it by the rule.

→ (C): No. If we resolve on P then we get both Q and $\neg Q$ into the clause, similar if we resolve on Q .

→ **We can resolve on only ONE literal at a time, cf. slide 34.**

→ (D): Yes, this is what we get by resolving on P .

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- 2 Satisfiability
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The DPLL Procedure

Call on input Δ and the empty partial interpretation I :

```
function DPLL( $\Delta, I$ ) returns a partial interpretation  $I$ , or “unsatisfiable”  
/* Unit Propagation (UP) Rule: */  
   $\Delta' :=$  a copy of  $\Delta$ ;  $I' := I$   
  while  $\Delta'$  contains a unit clause  $C = \{l\}$  do  
    extend  $I'$  with the respective truth value for the proposition underlying  $l$   
    simplify  $\Delta'$  /* remove false literals and true clauses */  
/* Termination Test: */  
  if  $\square \in \Delta'$  then return “unsatisfiable”  
  if  $\Delta' = \{\}$  then return  $I'$   
/* Splitting Rule: */  
  select some proposition  $P$  for which  $I'$  is not defined  
   $I'' := I'$  extended with one truth value for  $P$ ;  $\Delta'' :=$  a copy of  $\Delta'$ ; simplify  $\Delta''$   
  if  $I''' := \text{DPLL}(\Delta'', I'') \neq \text{“unsatisfiable”}$  then return  $I'''$   
   $I'' := I'$  extended with the other truth value for  $P$ ;  $\Delta'' := \Delta'$ ; simplify  $\Delta''$   
  return DPLL( $\Delta'', I''$ )
```

→ In practice, of course one uses flags etc. instead of “copy”.

DPLL: Example (Vanilla1)

$$\Delta = \{\{P, Q, \neg R\}, \{\neg P, \neg Q\}, \{R\}, \{P, \neg Q\}\}$$

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1. UP Rule: $S \mapsto 1$

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Properties of DPLL

Unsatisfiable case:

- What can we say if “unsatisfiable” is returned?

→ In this case, we know that Δ is unsatisfiable: Unit propagation is *sound*, in the sense that it does not reduce the set of solutions.

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DPLL is an example of a successful algorithmic pattern: Search + Inference

- $\text{DPLL} \approx \text{Search} = \text{Backtracking}$, with $\text{Inference}() = \text{unit propagation}$.
- Unit propagation is sound: It does not reduce the set of solutions.
(Also: = Soundness of calculus, cf. next slide.)

UP = Unit Resolution

The Unit Propagation (UP) Rule ...

```
while  $\Delta'$  contains a unit clause  $\{l\}$  do
  extend  $I'$  with the respective truth value for the proposition underlying  $l$ 
  simplify  $\Delta'$  /* remove false literals */
```

... corresponds to a calculus:

UP = Unit Resolution

The Unit Propagation (UP) Rule ...

while Δ' contains a **unit clause** $\{l\}$ **do**
 extend I' with the respective truth value for the proposition underlying l
 simplify Δ' /* remove false literals */

... corresponds to a calculus:

Definition (Unit Resolution). *Unit Resolution* is the calculus consisting of the following inference rule:

$$\frac{C \dot{\cup} \{\bar{l}\}, \{l\}}{C}$$

That is, if Δ contains parent clauses of the form $C \dot{\cup} \{\bar{l}\}$ and $\{l\}$, the rule allows to add the resolvent clause C .

→ Unit propagation = Resolution restricted to the case where one of the parent clauses is unit.

UP/Unit Resolution: Soundness/Completeness

Soundness:

- Need to show: *If Δ' can be derived from Δ by UP, then $\Delta \models \Delta'$.*

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- **Yes**, because any derivation made by unit resolution can also be made by (full) resolution, which we already know has this property.
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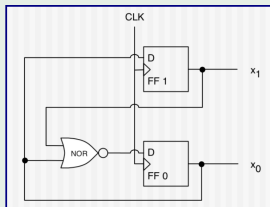
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Completeness:

- Need to show: *If $\Delta \models \Delta'$, then Δ' can be derived from Δ by UP.*
- **No**. UP makes only limited inferences, as long as there are unit clauses. It does not guarantee to infer everything that can be inferred.
- Example: $\{\{P, Q\}, \{P, \neg Q\}, \{\neg P, Q\}, \{\neg P, \neg Q\}\}$ is unsatisfiable but UP cannot derive the empty clause \square .

Questionnaire

Example



- Counter, repeatedly from $c = 0$ to $c = 2$.
- **To Verify:** If $c < 3$ in current clock cycle, then $c < 3$ in next clock cycle.
- $\Delta = \{\{\neg x'_1, x_0\}, \{x'_1, \neg x_0\}, \{x'_0, x_1, x_0\}, \{\neg x'_0, \neg x_1\}, \{\neg x'_0, \neg x_0\}, \{\neg x_1, \neg x_0\}, \{x'_1\}, \{x'_0\}\}$

Question!

How many recursive calls to DPLL are made on Δ ?

(A): 0

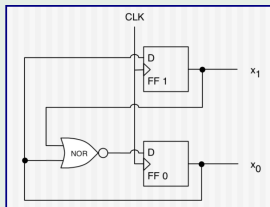
(B): 1

(C): 4

(D): 11

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Question!

How many recursive calls to DPLL are made on Δ ?

(A): 0

(B): 1

(C): 4

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→ The correct answer is (B): UP derives the empty clause (via $\{x'_1\}$, $\{\neg x'_1, x_0\}$, $\{\neg x'_0, \neg x_0\}$, $\{x'_0\}$) in the first recursive call, so exactly 1 search node is generated.

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Summary

- SAT: Is a **propositional logic** formula ϕ **satisfiable**?
 - Hard problem in general (NP-hard)
 - Many applications
- **Propositional logic** formulas are built from **atomic propositions**, with the connectives “and, or, not”.
- Every propositional formula can be brought into **conjunctive normal form (CNF)**, which can be identified with a set of **clauses**.
- **Resolution** is a deduction procedure based on trying to derive the **empty clause**. It is **refutation-complete**, and can be used to prove $KB \models \varphi$ by showing that $KB \cup \{\neg\varphi\}$ is unsatisfiable.
- **SAT solvers** decide satisfiability of CNF formulas. This can be used for deduction, and is highly successful as a general problem solving technique (e.g., in Verification).
- **DPLL** = backtracking with inference performed by **unit propagation (UP)**, which iteratively instantiates unit clauses and simplifies the formula.

Further Reading

The main material for the course are the post-handouts. If you are interested on more detailed overview of the topic, you can check these books:

- The Art of Computer Programming by Donald E. Knuth, Vol 4. Section 7.2.2.2
- Handbook of Satisfiability, Hans van Maaren, Armin Biere, Toby Walsh.