

Modern Birkhäuser Classics

Logic for Computer Scientists  
Uwe Schöningh

Prolog Programming  
for Artificial Intelligence  
Horst R. Geffert





FLORIDA  
INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY

# Propositional Logic (IV)

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## SAT – problem

### Remember that ...

- The **CNF Satisfiability Problem (SAT)** is:
  - Given a propositional **CNF** formula **F**;
  - Question: Is **F** **satisfiable**?
- **Example:**
  - Given  $F = (A \vee B) \wedge (\neg B \vee C \vee \neg D) \wedge (\neg A \vee D)$ .  
F is satisfiable?
  - Answer:  $\mathcal{A}(F) = 1$  for this assignment:  
 $\mathcal{A}(A) = 1, \mathcal{A}(B) = 0, \mathcal{A}(C) = 0, \text{ and } \mathcal{A}(D) = 1.$
  - Then **F is satisfiable**.

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## Resolution



- **Resolution** is a simple syntactic transformation applied to formulas.
- **Process:**
  - From **two** given **formulas** in a **resolution step** (if provided resolution is applicable to the formulas), a **third formula is generated**.
  - This new formula can then be used in further resolution steps, and so on.
- A collection of such "mechanical" transformation rules we call a **calculus**.

In the case of the **resolution calculus**, the task is to prove **unsatisfiability** of a given formula.

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## Calculus. Correctness and Completeness



- The definition of a **calculus** is sensible only if its **correctness** and its **completeness** can be established.
- **Correctness (soundness)** means that every formula for which the resolution **calculus** claims **unsatisfiability** indeed is **unsatisfiable**.
- **Completeness** means that for every **unsatisfiable** formula there is a way to prove this by means of the resolution **calculus**.

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## Resolution

- A general precondition for the application of **resolution** to a formula is that the formula (or set of formulas) is in **CNF**. That is, if necessary, the formula has to be transformed into an equivalent **CNF formula**

$$F = (L_{1,1} \vee \dots \vee L_{1,n_1}) \wedge \dots \wedge (L_{k,1} \vee \dots \vee L_{k,n_k})$$

where the  $L_{i,j}$  are literals, i.e.

$$L_{i,j} \in \{A_1, A_2, \dots\} \cup \{\neg A_1, \neg A_2, \dots\}$$

- For the presentation of resolution it is advantageous to represent formulas in **CNF** as sets of so-called **clauses** where a clause is a set of literals:

$$F = \{\{L_{1,1}, \dots, L_{1,n_1}\}, \dots, \{L_{k,1}, \dots, L_{k,n_k}\}\}$$

- Example:**

$$\square \text{ Given } F = (A \vee B) \wedge (\neg B \vee C \vee \neg D) \wedge (\neg A \vee D).$$

$$F = \{\{A, B\}, \{\neg B, C, \neg D\}, \{\neg A, D\}\}$$

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## Resolvent

### Definition (resolvent)

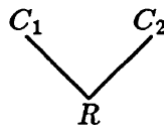
- Let  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$  and  $R$  be **clauses**. Then  $R$  is called a **resolvent of  $C_1$  and  $C_2$**  if there is a literal  $L \in C_1$  such that  $\bar{L} \in C_2$  and  $R$  has the form:

$$R = (C_1 - \{L\}) \cup (C_2 - \{\bar{L}\}).$$

here  $\bar{L}$  is defined as:

$$\bar{L} = \begin{cases} \neg A_i & \text{if } L = A_i, \\ A_i & \text{if } L = \neg A_i \end{cases}$$

- Graphically we denote this situation by the following diagram:



- Example:**

$$\square \text{ Given } F = (A \vee B) \wedge (\neg B \vee C \vee \neg D) \wedge (\neg A \vee D).$$

$$F = \{\{A, B\}, \{\neg B, C, \neg D\}, \{\neg A, D\}\}$$

$$C_1 = \{A, B\}, C_2 = \{\neg B, C, \neg D\} \text{ then } R = \{A, C, \neg D\}$$

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## Resolvent

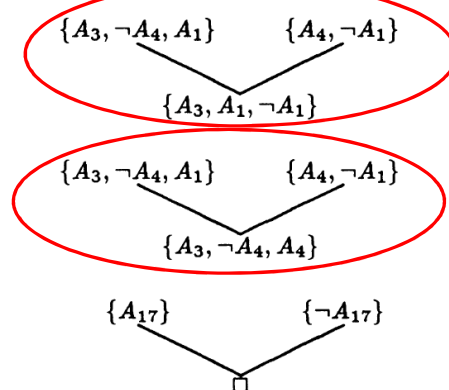
- The definition of **resolvent** also includes the case that  $R$  is the **empty set** (if  $C_1 = \{L\}$  and  $C_2 = \{\bar{L}\}$  for some literal  $L$ ) This **empty clause** is denoted by the special symbol  $\square$ .
- Please note that, the **empty clause**,  $\square$ , is **unsatisfiable**. Therefore, a clause set which contains  $\square$  as an element is **unsatisfiable**.
- **Why?**
  - Let's see how the resolution rule is applied to  $C_1 = \{S\}$  and  $C_2 = \{\neg S\}$ .
  - It is easy to see that  $S \equiv \text{False} \vee S$  and  $\neg S \equiv \text{False} \vee \neg S$
  - So  $C_1 = \{\text{False}, S\}$  and  $C_2 = \{\text{False}, \neg S\}$  then resolvent of  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  is  $C_{1,2} = \{\text{False}\}$ .
  - $F = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n, \text{False}\}$  is **False** i.e is **unsatisfiable**.

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## Resolvent

### Examples:

- The following are some ~~examples~~ for **resolvents**:



- **Exercise:** Give the entire list of **resolvents** which can be generated from the set of clauses:  
 $\{ \{A, E, \neg B\}, \{\neg A, B, C\}, \{\neg A, \neg D, \neg E\}, \{A, D\} \}$

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## Resolvent



### Very Important!

- Note that in resolving two clauses, **only one pair of literals may be resolved at a time**, even though there are multiple resolvable pairs.
- For example, the following is **not a legal application** of resolution.  $C_1 = \{p, q\}$  and  $C_2 = \{\neg p, \neg q\}$  and the **resolvent** is the empty clause,  $\square$  **Wrong!**
- For  $C_1 = \{p, q\}$  and  $C_2 = \{\neg p, \neg q\}$  the legal **resolvents** are  $C_3 = \{p, \neg p\}$  and  $C_4 = \{q, \neg q\}$

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## Resolution



### Lemma (resolution lemma)

Let  $F$  be a **CNF** formula, represented as a set of clauses. Let  $R$  be a **resolvent** of two clauses  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  in  $F$ . Then  **$F$  and  $F \cup \{R\}$  are equivalent.**

**Proof:** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an assignment that is suitable for  $F$  (and also for  $F \cup \{R\}$ ). If  $\mathcal{A} \models F \cup \{R\}$  then immediately,  $\mathcal{A} \models F$ . Conversely, suppose  $\mathcal{A} \models F$ , that is, for all clauses  $C \in F$ ,  $\mathcal{A} \models C$ . Assume the resolvent  $R$  has the form  $R = (C_1 - \{L\}) \cup (C_2 - \{\bar{L}\})$  where  $C_1, C_2 \in F$  and  $L \in C_1, \bar{L} \in C_2$ .

*Case 1:*  $\mathcal{A} \models L$ .

Then, by  $\mathcal{A} \models C_2$  and  $\mathcal{A} \not\models \bar{L}$ , it follows  $\mathcal{A} \models (C_2 - \{\bar{L}\})$ , and therefore  $\mathcal{A} \models R$ .

*Case 2:*  $\mathcal{A} \not\models L$ .

Then, by  $\mathcal{A} \models C_1$ , it follows  $\mathcal{A} \models (C_1 - \{L\})$ , and therefore  $\mathcal{A} \models R$ . ■

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## Resolution

### Definition ( $Res^*(F)$ )

Let  $F$  be a set of clauses. Then  $Res(F)$  is defined as

$$Res(F) = F \cup \{R \mid R \text{ is a resolvent of two clauses in } F\}.$$

Furthermore, define

$$\begin{aligned} Res^0(F) &= F \\ Res^{n+1}(F) &= Res(Res^n(F)) \text{ for } n \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

and finally, let

$$Res^*(F) = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} Res^n(F).$$

- **Exercise:** For the following set of clauses,

$$F = \{\{A, \neg B, C\}, \{B, C\}, \{\neg A, C\}, \{B, \neg C\}, \{\neg C\}\}$$

determine  $Res^n(F)$  for  $n = 0, 1$ , and  $2$ .



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## Resolution Theorem

### Theorem (Resolution Theorem)

- A clause set  $F$  is **unsatisfiable** if and only if  $\square \in Res^*(F)$ .

(see Prof. in the Schoning's book, Chapter 1)

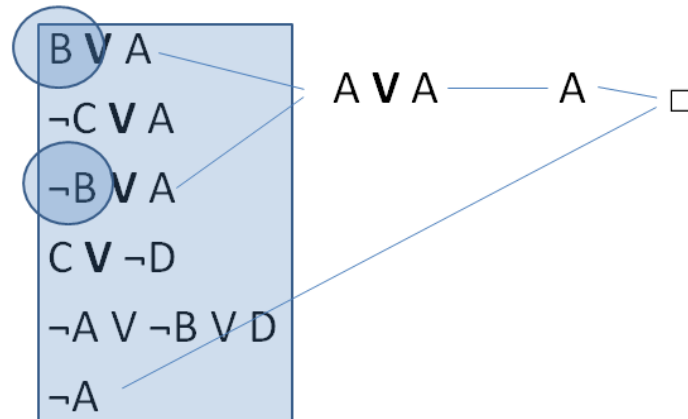
- Note that from the **Resolution Theorem** we can infer the **correctness** and **completeness** of the **resolution calculus** (with respect to **unsatisfiability**).



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## Resolution Theorem

### Example:



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## Resolution Theorem

### Example:

#### Facts (1-6)

- 1)  $B \vee A$
- 2)  $\neg C \vee A$
- 3)  $\neg B \vee A$
- 4)  $C \vee \neg D$
- 5)  $\neg A \vee \neg B \vee D$
- 6)  $\neg A$

#### Resolvents

- 7)  $\neg C$  From 2,6
- 8)  $\neg D$  From 4,7
- 9)  $\neg A \vee \neg B$  From 5,8
- 10)  $B$  From 1,6
- 11)  $\neg A$  From 9,10
- 12)  $\neg B$  From 3,11

$\square$

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## Algorithm (from Resolution Theorem)



- Algorithm that decides **satisfiability** for a given input formula in CNF form

**Instance:** a formula  $F$  in CNF

1. Form a clause set from  $F$  (and continue to call it  $F$ );
2. repeat
  - $G := F$ ;
  - $F := \text{Res}(F)$ ;
  - until  $\square \in F$  or  $(F = G)$ ;
3. if  $\square \in F$  then " $F$  is **unsatisfiable**"  
else " $F$  is **satisfiable**";

- Note that in some cases this algorithm can come up with a decision quite fast, but there do exist examples for **unsatisfiable** formulas where exponentially many resolvents have to be generated before the until condition is satisfied.

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## Resolution Refutation in Propositional Logic



- Suppose you need to prove this **logical consequence**
  - $F \models G$  ( **$G$  is True when  $F$  is True**) – **Theorem!**  
(set of axioms  $\Rightarrow$  conclusion)  
**Note:  $F$  is True  $\Rightarrow$  the set of axioms is consistent**
- Using the definition of  $F \rightarrow G$ , it's easy to prove that:
  - if  $F \models G$  then  $F \wedge \neg G$  is a **contradiction**

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## Resolution Refutation in Propositional Logic



□ if  $F \models G$  then  $F \wedge \neg G$  is a **contradiction**

### ■ Algorithm:

1. Transform the set of axioms in a **clausal form**, S
2. Negate the theorem (**negate the conclusion**). Transform the negated conclusion in a clausal form and add it to the set of axioms in a clausal form, S.
3. **repeat**
  - 3.1. Select two appropriate clauses  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  from S
  - 3.2. Compute  $R = \text{Res}(C_1, C_2)$
  - 3.3. **if**  $R \neq \square$  **then** add R to S
- until**  $R = \square$  **or** there are no two other clauses that resolve
4. **if**  $R = \square$  **then**  
**the theorem is proven**
5. **else**  
**it is not a theorem**  
(the conclusion cannot be proved from the set of axioms)

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## Resolution Refutation in Propositional Logic



### Example: (Resolution Refutation)

#### ■ Prove: (remember that " $\models$ " $\equiv$ " $\Rightarrow$ ")

$$(P \rightarrow Q) \wedge (Q \rightarrow R) \Rightarrow (P \rightarrow R)$$

□ Negate the conclusion:

$$F = (P \rightarrow Q) \wedge (Q \rightarrow R) \Rightarrow \neg(P \rightarrow R)$$

□ Using  $P \rightarrow Q \equiv \neg P \vee Q$ , we obtain clause form set:

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

□ Derive the **empty clause** using resolution:

$$\{Q\} \quad \text{resolving } \{P\} \text{ with } \{\neg P, Q\}$$

$$\{R\} \quad \text{resolving } \{Q\} \text{ with } \{\neg Q, R\}$$

$$\square \quad \text{resolving } \{R\} \text{ with } \{\neg R\}$$

#### ■ Conclusion: F is **unsatisfiable** then

$$(P \rightarrow Q) \wedge (Q \rightarrow R) \Rightarrow (P \rightarrow R) \text{ is a } \textbf{theorem}$$

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## Resolution Refutation in Propositional Logic



- From the previous example we prove that:  
$$(P \rightarrow Q) \wedge (Q \rightarrow R) \Rightarrow (P \rightarrow R)$$
- In particular we prove that:
- “**Toby will die**” from the statements that:
  - “Toby is a dog” and
  - “all dogs are animals” and
  - “all animals will die”

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## Resolution Refutation in Propositional Logic



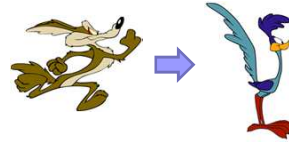
- Suppose you need to prove this **logical consequence**
  - $F \models G$  (**G is True when F is True**) – **Theorem!**  
(set of axioms  $\Rightarrow$  conclusion)
- **Remember that!**
  - By the **Resolution Refutation**:
    - If we derive a **contradiction (empty clause)**, then the conclusion follows from the axioms.
    - If we **can't obtain a contradiction**, then the conclusion cannot be proved from the axioms.
  - **Example:**
    - Prove by resolution refutation:  $P \vee Q \models P \wedge Q$

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## Resolution Refutation in Propositional Logic



**Example** (Roadrunner & Coyote):



### ■ Facts/Axioms:

- Coyote chases Roadrunner
- If Roadrunner is smart, Coyote does not catch it
- If Coyote chases Roadrunner and does not catch it, then Coyote is annoyed.
- Roadrunner is smart

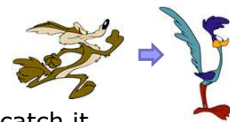
■ **Theorem:** Coyote is annoyed ????

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## Resolution Refutation in Propositional Logic



**Example** (Roadrunner and Coyote):



### ■ Facts/Axioms:

- Coyote chases Roadrunner
- If Roadrunner is smart, Coyote does not catch it
- If Coyote chases Roadrunner and does not catch it, then Coyote is annoyed.
- Roadrunner is smart

**Theorem:** Coyote is annoyed ????

### ■ Proof strategy:

- We try to prove that "**Coyote is NOT annoyed**" is a **contradiction**
- We add "Coyote is NOT annoyed" to the clause form set, and prove False
- We will use the following set of literals:
  - C = Coyote chases Roadrunner
  - S = Roadrunner is smart
  - B = Coyote catches Roadrunner
  - A = Coyote is annoyed

■ **Exercise:** Prove this theorem by resolution refutation

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