

Modern Birkhäuser Classics

Logic for Computer Scientists
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Propositional Logic (V)

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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

$\square := F$;
 $F := \text{Res}(F)$;
 until $\square \in F$ or $(F = G)$;
 3. if $\square \in F$ then " F is **unsatisfiable**"
 else " F is **satisfiable**";

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

- 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.

Resolution Theorem



- In the following we want to distinguish between:
 - the clauses which are generated by the algorithm and
 - those clauses thereof which are really relevant to derive the empty clause.

Definition

- A **derivation** (or proof) of the empty clause from a clause set F is a sequence C_1, C_2, \dots, C_m of clauses such that C_m is the empty clause, and for every i ($1, \dots, m$) C_i either is a clause in F or a **resolvent** of two clauses C_a, C_b with $a, b < i$.

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Resolution Theorem



- From the **previous** definition we have a new formulation of the **Resolution Theorem**

Theorem (reformulation of Resolution Theorem):

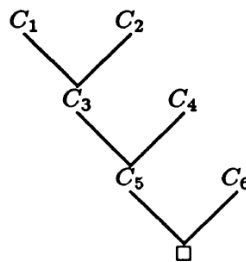
- A clause set F is **unsatisfiable** if and only if a **derivation** of the **empty clause** from F exists.

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Resolution Theorem

Example: Let $F = \{\{A, B, \neg C\}, \{\neg A\}, \{A, B, C\}, \{A, \neg B\}\}$. F is unsatisfiable. This fact is proved by the following derivation C_1, \dots, C_7 where

C_1	$=$	$\{A, B, \neg C\}$	(clause in F)
C_2	$=$	$\{A, B, C\}$	(clause in F)
C_3	$=$	$\{A, B\}$	(resolvent of C_1, C_2)
C_4	$=$	$\{A, \neg B\}$	(clause in F)
C_5	$=$	$\{A\}$	(resolvent of C_3, C_4)
C_6	$=$	$\{\neg A\}$	(clause in F)
C_7	$=$	\square	(resolvent of C_5, C_6)



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Resolution Theorem

Exercises (homework):

1. Use propositional resolution theorem show that the following sets of clauses are **unsatisfiable**.

- a) $\{p, q\}, \{\neg p, r\}, \{\neg p, \neg r\}, \{p, \neg q\}$
- b) $\{p, q, \neg r, s\}, \{\neg p, r, s\}, \{\neg q, \neg r\}, \{p, \neg s\}, \{\neg p, \neg r\}, \{r\}$

2. Use propositional **resolution refutation** to prove the following sentence.

$$((p \vee q) \wedge (p \rightarrow r)) \models (p \rightarrow r)$$

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Resolution Strategies



- When doing **resolution** automatically, one has to **decide in which order to resolve the clauses**.
- This order can greatly affect the time needed to find a contradiction (empty clause).
- Strategies include:
 - **Unit resolution strategy**
 - **Set of support strategy**
 - **Davis-Putnam Procedure**

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Unit Resolution Strategy



- **Unit resolution:** all resolutions involve **at least one unit clause**. Preference is given to clauses that have not been used yet.

- Prove P_4 from $P_1 \rightarrow P_2, \neg P_2, \neg P_1 \rightarrow P_3 \vee P_4, P_3 \rightarrow P_5, P_6 \rightarrow \neg P_5$ and P_6 .

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | $\neg P_1 \vee P_2$ | Premise |
| 2. | $\neg P_2$ | Premise |
| 3. | $P_1 \vee P_3 \vee P_4$ | Premise |
| 4. | $\neg P_3 \vee P_5$ | Premise |
| 5. | $\neg P_6 \vee \neg P_5$ | Premise |
| 6. | P_6 | Premise |
| 7. | $\neg P_4$ | Negation of conclusion |
| 8. | $\neg P_1$ | Resolvent of 1, 2 |
| 9. | $\neg P_5$ | Resolvent of 5, 6 |
| 10. | $P_1 \vee P_3$ | Resolvent of 3, 7 |
| 11. | $\neg P_3$ | Resolvent of 4, 9 |
| 12. | P_3 | Resolvent of 8, 10 |
| 13. | ■ | Resolvent of 11, 12 |

Unit Resolution Strategy



- **Unit resolution is not complete!**
- **Example:**
 - Check the following **logical consequence**:
$$(Q \vee R) \wedge (Q \vee \neg R) \wedge (\neg Q \vee R) \models (Q \wedge R)$$
 - The set of clauses (including the **negation of the conclusion**):
$$\{\{Q, R\}, \{Q, \neg R\}, \{\neg Q, R\}, \{\neg Q, \neg R\}\}$$
 - In this case there is no unit clause, which makes **unit resolution impossible**.

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Set of Support Strategy



Basic ideas:

- One partitions all clauses into two sets:
 - the **set of support** and
 - the **auxiliary set**.
- The **auxiliary set** is formed in such a way that the formulas in it are not contradictory.
- For instance, the premises (facts/axioms) are usually not contradictory. The inconsistency only arises after one adds the negation of the conclusion.
- One often uses:
 - the **premises** as the **initial auxiliary set** and
 - the **negation of the conclusion** as the initial **set of support**.

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Set of Support Strategy



- Then we have:
 - the **premises** as the **initial auxiliary set** and
 - the **negation of the conclusion** as the initial **set of support**.
- Since one cannot derive any contradiction by resolving clauses within the **auxiliary set**, one avoids such resolutions.
 - i.e. each resolution takes **at least one clause** from the **set of support**.
- The **resolvent** is then added to the **set of support**.
- **Resolution with the set of support strategy is complete!**

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Set of Support Strategy



Example:

Prove P_4 from $P_1 \rightarrow P_2, \neg P_2, \neg P_1 \rightarrow P_3 \vee P_4, P_3 \rightarrow P_5, P_6 \rightarrow \neg P_5$ and P_6 , by using the set of support strategy.

Initially the **set of support** is given by $\neg P_4$, the negation of the conclusion.

One then does all the possible resolutions involving $\neg P_4$, then all possible resolutions involving the resulting resolvents, and so on.

- | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------|-----|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. | $\neg P_1 \vee P_2$ | Premise | 8. | $P_1 \vee P_3$ | Resolvent of 7, 3 |
| 2. | $\neg P_2$ | Premise | 9. | $P_2 \vee P_3$ | Resolvent of 1, 8 |
| 3. | $P_1 \vee P_3 \vee P_4$ | Premise | 10. | P_3 | Resolvent of 2, 9 |
| 4. | $\neg P_3 \vee P_5$ | Premise | 11. | P_5 | Resolvent of 4, 10 |
| 5. | $\neg P_6 \vee \neg P_5$ | Premise | 12. | $\neg P_6$ | Resolvent of 5, 11 |
| 6. | P_6 | Premise | 13. | ■ | Resolvent of 6, 12 |
| 7. | $\neg P_4$ | Negation of concl | | | |

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Davis-Putnam Procedure – the algorithm



The main loop

- Given as input a nonempty **set of clauses** in the propositional literals P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n , the **Davis-Putnam Procedure (DPP)** repeats the following steps until there are no literals left:
 - Choose a literal P_i appearing in one of the clauses.
 - Add all possible **resolvents** using resolution on P_i to the set of clauses.
 - Discard all clauses with P_i or $\neg P_i$ in them.

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Davis-Putnam Procedure – the algorithm



The stop criteria and the output

- If in some step of **DPP** we resolve $\{P_i\}$ and $\{\neg P_i\}$ then we obtain the **empty clause**, and it will be the only clause at the end of the procedure.
- If we never obtain a pair $\{P_i\}$ and $\{\neg P_i\}$ to resolve, then all the clauses will be thrown out and the output will be **no clauses (empty set of clauses)**.
- So the **output of DPP** either the **empty clause** or **no clauses (empty set of clauses)**.
- If the **output of DPP** is the **empty clause**, this indicates that both $\{P_i\}$ and $\{\neg P_i\}$ were produced, that is, the **formula is unsatisfiable**.
- If the **output of DPP** is **no clause (empty set of clauses)**, no contradiction can be found, and the **formula is satisfiable**.

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Davis-Putnam Procedure - example

Example:

Theorem: $(\neg P \vee Q) \wedge (\neg Q \vee \neg R \vee S) \wedge P \wedge R \Rightarrow S$???

↔ $F = \{\{\neg P, Q\}, \{\neg Q, \neg R, S\}, \{P\}, \{R\}, \{\neg S\}\}$ is **unsatisfiable??**

Proof: (using Davis-Putnam Procedure)

Set of Literals of $F = \{P, Q, R, S\}$

By P: New clauses using resolution on P: $\{Q\}$

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

Discard all clauses with P or $\neg P$ in them.

$F = \{\{\neg Q, \neg R, S\}, \{R\}, \{\neg S\}, \{Q\}\}$

By Q: New clauses using resolution on Q: $\{\neg R, S\}$

$F = \{\{\neg Q, \neg R, S\}, \{R\}, \{\neg S\}, \{Q\}, \{\neg R, S\}\}$

Discard all clauses with Q or $\neg Q$ in them.

$F = \{\{R\}, \{\neg S\}, \{\neg R, S\}\}$

By R: New clauses using resolution on R: $\{S\}$

$F = \{\{R\}, \{\neg S\}, \{\neg R, S\}, \{S\}\}$

Discard all clauses with R or $\neg R$ in them.

$F = \{\{S\}, \{\neg S\}\}$

By S: New clauses using resolution on S: $\{\}$

$F = \{\{S\}, \{\neg S\}, \{\}\}$

Discard all clauses with S or $\neg S$ in them.

$F = \{\{\}\}$

So the output is the **empty clause**, then F is **unsatisfiable** →
the original argument is valid (**theorem is proven!**)



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Davis-Putnam Procedure

Exercise:

Theorem: $(\neg P \vee Q) \wedge (\neg Q \vee \neg R \vee \neg S) \wedge P \wedge R \Rightarrow S$???



$F = \{\{\neg P, Q\}, \{\neg Q, \neg R, \neg S\}, \{P\}, \{R\}, \{\neg S\}\}$ is **unsatisfiable ???**

Proof: (using Davis-Putnam Procedure)



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Davis-Putnam Procedure



- **Theorem: (the DPP is correct and complete)**

- Let S be a finite set of clauses. Then S is **unsatisfiable** if the **output** of the **Davis-Putnam Procedure** is the **empty clause**.

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Resolution. Final remarks



- **Resolution** is a simple syntactic transformation applied to formulas.
- A collection of such transformation rules we call a **resolution calculus (or calculus)**.
- In the **resolution calculus**, the task is to prove **unsatisfiability** of a given formula.
- The definition of a **calculus** is sensible only if its **correctness** and its **completeness** can be established.
- **Correctness** (or **soundness**) means that every formula for which the **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. Final remarks.



- We have seen that in some special case the resolution calculus leads to an efficient algorithm to determine **(un)satisfiability**.
- In the case of arbitrary clause sets, it is possible to exhibit **unsatisfiable** clause sets such that every derivation of the empty clause consists of exponentially many resolution steps.
- **In general case, the expense of the resolution algorithm is comparable with the expense of the truth-table method.**
- Because of the "**NP-completeness**" of the **satisfiability problem**, there does not seem to exist any significantly faster algorithm.