

resolution

CSCI  
373

is  $c_1 \wedge c_2 \wedge \dots \wedge c_n$  unsatisfiable?

clauses

$c_1$

$c_2$

$\vdots$

$c_n$

strategy:

keep finding new clauses  
that are entailed by some  
subset of our current  
clauses until we entail  $\perp$

$$(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \models \neg B \vee C$$

either  $m(A) = 0$  :

this literal is unsatisfied

$\downarrow$

$$(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (\textcircled{A} \vee C)$$

$\uparrow$

so  $m(C) = 1$

or  $m(A) = 1$  :

this literal is unsatisfied

$\downarrow$

$$(\textcircled{\neg A} \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C)$$

$\uparrow$

so  $m(B) = 0$

in general:

$$(\ell_1 \vee \ell_2) \wedge (\overline{\ell}_1 \vee \ell_3) \models \ell_2 \vee \ell_3$$

where:

$$\ell_1, \ell_2, \ell_3 \in \text{literals}(\Sigma)$$

$$\overline{\sigma} = \neg\sigma$$

$$\overline{\neg\sigma} = \sigma$$

e.g.

$$(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \models \neg B \vee C$$

$$(B \vee \neg C) \wedge (\neg B \vee A) \models ?$$

$$(B \vee \neg C) \wedge (\neg B \vee C) \models ?$$

$$(B \vee C) \wedge (\neg B \vee C) \models ?$$

in general:

$$(\ell_1 \vee \ell_2) \wedge (\overline{\ell}_1 \vee \ell_3) \models \ell_2 \vee \ell_3$$

where:

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e.g.

$$(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \models \neg B \vee C$$

$$(B \vee \neg C) \wedge (\neg B \vee A) \models \neg C \vee A$$

$$(B \vee \neg C) \wedge (\neg B \vee C) \models \neg C \vee C$$

$$(B \vee C) \wedge (\neg B \vee C) \models C \vee C$$

in general:

$$(\ell_1 \vee \ell_2) \wedge (\overline{\ell}_1 \vee \ell_3) \models \ell_2 \vee \ell_3$$

where:

$$\ell_1, \ell_2, \ell_3 \in \text{literals}(\Sigma)$$

$$\overline{\sigma} = \neg\sigma$$

$$\overline{\neg\sigma} = \sigma$$

e.g.

$$(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \models \neg B \vee C$$

$$(B \vee \neg C) \wedge (\neg B \vee A) \models \neg C \vee A$$

$$(B \vee \neg C) \wedge (\neg B \vee C) \models \top$$

$$(B \vee C) \wedge (\neg B \vee C) \models C$$

the "resolution rule":

$$(\ell_1 \vee \ell_2) \wedge (\bar{\ell}_1 \vee \ell_3) \models \ell_2 \vee \ell_3$$

where:

$$\ell_1, \ell_2, \ell_3 \in \text{literals}(\Sigma)$$

$$\overline{\sigma} = \neg\sigma$$

$$\overline{\neg\sigma} = \sigma$$

e.g.

$$(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \models \neg B \vee C$$

$$(B \vee \neg C) \wedge (\neg B \vee A) \models \neg C \vee A$$

$$(B \vee \neg C) \wedge (\neg B \vee C) \models \top$$

$$(B \vee C) \wedge (\neg B \vee C) \models C$$

**theorem:**  $(l_1 \vee l_2) \wedge (\bar{l}_1 \vee l_3) \models l_2 \vee l_3$

**proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} & I((l_1 \vee l_2) \wedge (\bar{l}_1 \vee l_3)) \\ &= I(l_1 \vee l_2) \cap I(\bar{l}_1 \vee l_3) \\ &= (I(l_1) \cup I(l_2)) \cap (I(\bar{l}_1) \cup I(l_3)) \\ &= (I(l_1) \cap I(\bar{l}_1)) \cup (I(l_1) \cap I(l_3)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(\bar{l}_1)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(l_3)) \\ &= (I(l_1) \cap I(l_3)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(\bar{l}_1)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(l_3)) \\ &\subseteq I(l_3) \cup I(l_2) \cup I(l_2) \\ &= I(l_2) \cup I(l_3) \\ &= I(l_2 \vee l_3) \end{aligned}$$

**theorem:**  $(l_1 \vee l_2) \wedge (\bar{l}_1 \vee l_3) \models l_2 \vee l_3$

**proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} & I((l_1 \vee l_2) \wedge (\bar{l}_1 \vee l_3)) \\ &= I(l_1 \vee l_2) \cap I(\bar{l}_1 \vee l_3) \\ &= (I(l_1) \cup I(l_2)) \cap (I(\bar{l}_1) \cup I(l_3)) \\ &= (I(l_1) \cap I(\bar{l}_1)) \cup (I(l_1) \cap I(l_3)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(\bar{l}_1)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(l_3)) \\ &= (I(l_1) \cap I(l_3)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(\bar{l}_1)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(l_3)) \\ &\subseteq I(l_3) \cup I(l_2) \cup I(l_2) \\ &= I(l_2) \cup I(l_3) \\ &= I(l_2 \vee l_3) \end{aligned}$$

**theorem:**  $(l_1 \vee l_2) \wedge (\bar{l}_1 \vee l_3) \models l_2 \vee l_3$

**proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} & I((l_1 \vee l_2) \wedge (\bar{l}_1 \vee l_3)) \\ &= I(l_1 \vee l_2) \cap I(\bar{l}_1 \vee l_3) \\ &= (I(l_1) \cup I(l_2)) \cap (I(\bar{l}_1) \cup I(l_3)) \\ &= (I(l_1) \cap I(\bar{l}_1)) \cup (I(l_1) \cap I(l_3)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(\bar{l}_1)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(l_3)) \\ &= (I(l_1) \cap I(l_3)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(\bar{l}_1)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(l_3)) \\ &\subseteq I(l_3) \cup I(l_2) \cup I(l_2) \\ &= I(l_2) \cup I(l_3) \\ &= I(l_2 \vee l_3) \end{aligned}$$

**theorem:**  $(\ell_1 \vee \ell_2) \wedge (\bar{\ell}_1 \vee \ell_3) \models \ell_2 \vee \ell_3$

**proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} & I((\ell_1 \vee \ell_2) \wedge (\bar{\ell}_1 \vee \ell_3)) \\ &= I(\ell_1 \vee \ell_2) \cap I(\bar{\ell}_1 \vee \ell_3) \\ &= (I(\ell_1) \cup I(\ell_2)) \cap (I(\bar{\ell}_1) \cup I(\ell_3)) \\ &= (I(\ell_1) \cap I(\bar{\ell}_1)) \cup (I(\ell_1) \cap I(\ell_3)) \cup (I(\ell_2) \cap I(\bar{\ell}_1)) \cup (I(\ell_2) \cap I(\ell_3)) \\ &= (I(\ell_1) \cap I(\ell_3)) \cup (I(\ell_2) \cap I(\bar{\ell}_1)) \cup (I(\ell_2) \cap I(\ell_3)) \\ &\subseteq I(\ell_3) \cup I(\ell_2) \cup I(\ell_2) \\ &= I(\ell_2) \cup I(\ell_3) \\ &= I(\ell_2 \vee \ell_3) \end{aligned}$$

**theorem:**  $(\ell_1 \vee \ell_2) \wedge (\bar{\ell}_1 \vee \ell_3) \models \ell_2 \vee \ell_3$

**proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} & I((\ell_1 \vee \ell_2) \wedge (\bar{\ell}_1 \vee \ell_3)) \\ &= I(\ell_1 \vee \ell_2) \cap I(\bar{\ell}_1 \vee \ell_3) \\ &= (I(\ell_1) \cup I(\ell_2)) \cap (I(\bar{\ell}_1) \cup I(\ell_3)) \\ &= (I(\ell_1) \cap I(\bar{\ell}_1)) \cup (I(\ell_1) \cap I(\ell_3)) \cup (I(\ell_2) \cap I(\bar{\ell}_1)) \cup (I(\ell_2) \cap I(\ell_3)) \\ &= (I(\ell_1) \cap I(\ell_3)) \cup (I(\ell_2) \cap I(\bar{\ell}_1)) \cup (I(\ell_2) \cap I(\ell_3)) \\ &\subseteq I(\ell_3) \cup I(\ell_2) \cup I(\ell_2) \\ &= I(\ell_2) \cup I(\ell_3) \\ &= I(\ell_2 \vee \ell_3) \end{aligned}$$

**theorem:**  $(l_1 \vee l_2) \wedge (\bar{l}_1 \vee l_3) \models l_2 \vee l_3$

**proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} & I((l_1 \vee l_2) \wedge (\bar{l}_1 \vee l_3)) \\ &= I(l_1 \vee l_2) \cap I(\bar{l}_1 \vee l_3) \\ &= (I(l_1) \cup I(l_2)) \cap (I(\bar{l}_1) \cup I(l_3)) \\ &= (I(l_1) \cap I(\bar{l}_1)) \cup (I(l_1) \cap I(l_3)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(\bar{l}_1)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(l_3)) \\ &= (I(l_1) \cap I(l_3)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(\bar{l}_1)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(l_3)) \\ &\subseteq I(l_3) \cup I(l_2) \cup I(l_2) \\ &= I(l_2) \cup I(l_3) \\ &= I(l_2 \vee l_3) \end{aligned}$$

**theorem:**  $(l_1 \vee l_2) \wedge (\bar{l}_1 \vee l_3) \models l_2 \vee l_3$

**proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} & I((l_1 \vee l_2) \wedge (\bar{l}_1 \vee l_3)) \\ &= I(l_1 \vee l_2) \cap I(\bar{l}_1 \vee l_3) \\ &= (I(l_1) \cup I(l_2)) \cap (I(\bar{l}_1) \cup I(l_3)) \\ &= (I(l_1) \cap I(\bar{l}_1)) \cup (I(l_1) \cap I(l_3)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(\bar{l}_1)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(l_3)) \\ &= (I(l_1) \cap I(l_3)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(\bar{l}_1)) \cup (I(l_2) \cap I(l_3)) \\ &\subseteq I(l_3) \cup I(l_2) \cup I(l_2) \\ &= I(l_2) \cup I(l_3) \\ &= I(l_2 \vee l_3) \end{aligned}$$

**theorem:**  $(\ell_1 \vee \ell_2) \wedge (\bar{\ell}_1 \vee \ell_3) \models \ell_2 \vee \ell_3$

**proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} & I((\ell_1 \vee \ell_2) \wedge (\bar{\ell}_1 \vee \ell_3)) \\ &= I(\ell_1 \vee \ell_2) \cap I(\bar{\ell}_1 \vee \ell_3) \\ &= (I(\ell_1) \cup I(\ell_2)) \cap (I(\bar{\ell}_1) \cup I(\ell_3)) \\ &= (I(\ell_1) \cap I(\bar{\ell}_1)) \cup (I(\ell_1) \cap I(\ell_3)) \cup (I(\ell_2) \cap I(\bar{\ell}_1)) \cup (I(\ell_2) \cap I(\ell_3)) \\ &= (I(\ell_1) \cap I(\ell_3)) \cup (I(\ell_2) \cap I(\bar{\ell}_1)) \cup (I(\ell_2) \cap I(\ell_3)) \\ &\subseteq I(\ell_3) \cup I(\ell_2) \cup I(\ell_2) \\ &= I(\ell_2) \cup I(\ell_3) \\ &= I(\ell_2 \vee \ell_3) \end{aligned}$$

resolution :

$$(\ell_1 \vee \ell_2) \wedge (\bar{\ell}_1 \vee \ell_3) \models \ell_2 \vee \ell_3$$

generalized resolution :

$$(\ell_1 \vee \cdots \vee \ell_j \vee \cdots \vee \ell_m) \wedge (\ell_{m+1} \vee \cdots \vee \ell_k \vee \cdots \vee \ell_n) \vdash_R \bigvee_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j, i \neq k}}^n \ell_i$$

$$\text{if } \ell_j = \bar{\ell}_k$$

generalized resolution :

$$\left( \bigvee_{i=1}^m l_i \right) \wedge \left( \bigvee_{i=m+1}^n l_i \right) \vdash_R \bigvee_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j, i \neq k}}^n l_i$$

where :  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$

$k \in \{m+1, \dots, n\}$

$$l_j = \overline{l_k}$$

e.g.  $(\neg A \vee \neg B \vee \neg D) \wedge (A \vee C) \quad \vdash_R \neg B \vee \neg D \vee C$

$$(\neg A \vee \neg B \vee \neg D) \wedge (\neg A \vee B \vee E) \quad \vdash_R \neg A \vee \neg D \vee E$$

$$(A \vee \neg B \vee \neg D) \wedge (\neg A \vee B \vee E) \quad \vdash_R T$$

generalized resolution :

$$\left( \bigvee_{i=1}^m l_i \right) \wedge \left( \bigvee_{i=m+1}^n l_i \right) \vdash_R \bigvee_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j, i \neq k}}^n l_i$$

where :  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$

$k \in \{m+1, \dots, n\}$

$$l_j = \overline{l_k}$$

e.g.  $(\neg A \vee \neg B \vee \neg D) \wedge (A \vee C) \vdash_R \neg B \vee \neg D \vee C$

$$(\neg A \vee \neg B \vee \neg D) \wedge (\neg A \vee B \vee E) \vdash_R \neg A \vee \neg D \vee E$$

$$(\neg A \vee \neg B \vee \neg D) \wedge (\neg A \vee B \vee E) \vdash_R \begin{array}{l} A \vee \neg A \vee \neg D \vee E \\ \neg B \vee B \vee \neg D \vee E \end{array}$$

generalized resolution :

$$\left( \bigvee_{i=1}^m l_i \right) \wedge \left( \bigvee_{i=m+1}^n l_i \right) \vdash_R \bigvee_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j, i \neq k}}^n l_i$$

where :  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$

$$k \in \{m+1, \dots, n\}$$
$$l_j = \overline{l_k}$$

e.g.  $(\neg A \vee \neg B \vee \neg D) \wedge (A \vee C) \vdash_R \neg B \vee \neg D \vee C$

$$(\neg A \vee \neg B \vee \neg D) \wedge (\neg A \vee B \vee E) \vdash_R \neg A \vee \neg D \vee E$$

$$(A \vee \neg B \vee \neg D) \wedge (\neg A \vee B \vee E) \vdash_R \top$$

generalized resolution :

$$\left( \bigvee_{i=1}^m l_i \right) \wedge \left( \bigvee_{i=m+1}^n l_i \right) \vdash_R \bigvee_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j, i \neq k}}^n l_i$$

where :  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$

$k \in \{m+1, \dots, n\}$

$$l_j = \overline{l_k}$$

e.g.

$$(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge A \quad \vdash_R ?$$

generalized resolution :

$$\left( \bigvee_{i=1}^m l_i \right) \wedge \left( \bigvee_{i=m+1}^n l_i \right) \vdash_R \bigvee_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j, i \neq k}}^n l_i$$

where :  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$

$k \in \{m+1, \dots, n\}$

$$l_j = \overline{l_k}$$

e.g.

$$\begin{aligned} I(\alpha \vee \perp) &= I(\alpha) \cup I(\perp) \\ &= I(\alpha) \cup \{\} \\ &= I(\alpha) \end{aligned}$$

$$(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge A$$

$$\equiv (\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee \perp)$$

$$\vdash_R \neg B \vee \perp$$

$$\equiv \neg B$$

generalized resolution :

$$\left( \bigvee_{i=1}^m l_i \right) \wedge \left( \bigvee_{i=m+1}^n l_i \right) \vdash_R \bigvee_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j, i \neq k}}^n l_i$$

where :  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$

$k \in \{m+1, \dots, n\}$

$$l_j = \overline{l_k}$$

e.g.

$$\neg A \wedge A \quad \vdash_R ?$$

generalized resolution :

$$\left( \bigvee_{i=1}^m l_i \right) \wedge \left( \bigvee_{i=m+1}^n l_i \right) \vdash_R \bigvee_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j, i \neq k}}^n l_i$$

where :  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$

$k \in \{m+1, \dots, n\}$

$$l_j = \overline{l_k}$$

e.g.

$$\begin{aligned} I(\alpha \vee \perp) &= I(\alpha) \cup I(\perp) \\ &= I(\alpha) \cup \{\} \\ &= I(\alpha) \end{aligned}$$

$$\neg A \wedge A$$

$$\equiv (\neg A \vee \perp) \wedge (A \vee \perp)$$

$$\vdash_R \perp \vee \perp$$

$$\equiv \perp$$

generalized resolution :

$$\left( \bigvee_{i=1}^m l_i \right) \wedge \left( \bigvee_{i=m+1}^n l_i \right) \vdash_R \bigvee_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j, i \neq k}}^n l_i$$

where :  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$

$k \in \{m+1, \dots, n\}$

$$l_j = \overline{l_k}$$

special :

$$l_1 \wedge \overline{l_1} \vdash_R \perp$$

Cases

$$l_1 \wedge (\overline{l_1} \vee l_2) \vdash_R l_2$$

generalized resolution:

$$\left( \bigvee_{i=1}^m l_i \right) \wedge \left( \bigvee_{i=m+1}^n l_i \right) \vdash_R \bigvee_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j, i \neq k}}^n l_i$$

where:  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$

$k \in \{m+1, \dots, n\}$

$$l_j = \overline{l_k}$$

generalized resolution is sound:

if  $\alpha \vdash_R \beta$ , then  $\alpha \models \beta$

is  $c_1 \wedge c_2 \wedge \dots \wedge c_n$  unsatisfiable?

clauses

$c_1$

$c_2$

$\vdots$

$c_n$

strategy:

keep finding new clauses  
that are entailed by some  
subset of our current  
clauses until we entail  $\perp$

is  $c_1 \wedge c_2 \wedge \dots \wedge c_n$  unsatisfiable?

clauses

$c_1$

$c_2$

:

$c_n$

strategy:

keep finding new clauses  
that are entailed by

resolution

until we entail  $\perp$

is  $(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \wedge B \wedge \neg C$  unsatisfiable?

clauses

$\neg A \vee \neg B$

$A \vee C$

$B$

$\neg C$

$\neg B \vee C$

$C$

$\perp$

which clauses  
are entailed by  
resolution?

is  $(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \wedge B \wedge \neg C$  unsatisfiable?

clauses

$\neg A \vee \neg B$
$A \vee C$

B

$\neg C$

$$(\overline{\neg A \vee \neg B}) \wedge (\overline{A \vee C}) \vdash_R (\neg B \vee C)$$

so add  $(\neg B \vee C)$   
to our clauses

is  $(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \wedge B \wedge \neg C$  unsatisfiable?

clauses

$$\neg A \vee \neg B$$

$$A \vee C$$

$$B$$

$$\neg C$$

$$\neg B \vee C$$

$$B \wedge (\neg B \vee C) \vdash_R C$$

so add  $C$   
to our clauses

is  $(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \wedge B \wedge \neg C$  unsatisfiable?

clauses

$\neg A \vee \neg B$

$A \vee C$

$B$

$\neg C$

$\neg B \vee C$

$C$

$$\frac{C \wedge \neg C}{\vdash_R \perp}$$

so add  $\perp$   
to our clauses

is  $(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \wedge B \wedge \neg C$  unsatisfiable?

clauses

$\neg A \vee \neg B$

$A \vee C$

$B$

$\neg C$

$\neg B \vee C$

$C$

$\perp$

the original sentence  
entails  $\perp$ , so it is  
**unsatisfiable**

is  $(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \wedge (\neg B \vee \neg C)$  unsatisfiable?

clauses

$\neg A \vee \neg B$

$A \vee C$

$B \vee \neg C$

$\neg B \vee C$

$A \vee B$

which clauses  
are entailed by  
resolution?

is  $(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \wedge (\neg B \vee \neg C)$  unsatisfiable?

clauses

$\neg A \vee \neg B$

$A \vee C$

$B \vee \neg C$

$(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \vdash_R (\neg B \vee C)$

so add  $(\neg B \vee C)$   
to our clauses

is  $(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \wedge (B \vee C)$  unsatisfiable?

clauses

$\neg A \vee \neg B$

$A \vee C$

$B \vee C$

$\neg B \vee C$

$(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (B \vee C) \vdash_R (\neg A \vee C)$

so add  $(\neg A \vee C)$   
to our clauses

is  $(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \wedge (\neg A \vee C)$  unsatisfiable?

clauses

$\neg A \vee \neg B$

$A \vee C$

$B \vee C$

$\neg B \vee C$

$\neg A \vee C$

$(\overline{A \vee C}) \wedge (\neg A \vee C) \vdash_R C$

so add  $C$

to our clauses

is  $(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \wedge (\neg B \vee C)$  unsatisfiable?

clauses

$\neg A \vee \neg B$

$A \vee C$

$B \vee C$

$\neg B \vee C$

$\neg A \vee C$

C

nothing more  
to resolve

is  $(\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge (A \vee C) \wedge (\neg B \vee C)$  unsatisfiable?

clauses

$\neg A \vee \neg B$

$A \vee C$

$B \vee C$

$\neg B \vee C$

$\neg A \vee C$

C

does this mean  
the original  
sentence is  
satisfiable?

is  $C_1 \wedge C_2 \wedge \dots \wedge C_n$  unsatisfiable?

### soundness

if we keep applying resolution to the clauses until we obtain  $\perp$ , then the sentence is unsatisfiable



### completeness

if we keep applying resolution to the clauses and never obtain  $\perp$ , then the sentence is satisfiable



is  $C_1 \wedge C_2 \wedge \dots \wedge C_n$  unsatisfiable?

### soundness

if we keep applying resolution to the clauses until we obtain  $\perp$ , then the sentence is unsatisfiable



### completeness

if we keep applying resolution to the clauses and never obtain  $\perp$ , then the sentence is satisfiable

