

# **Propositional Logic**

ECE 650  
Methods & Tools for Software Engineering (MTSE)  
Fall 2023

Presented by  
Dr. Albert Wasef

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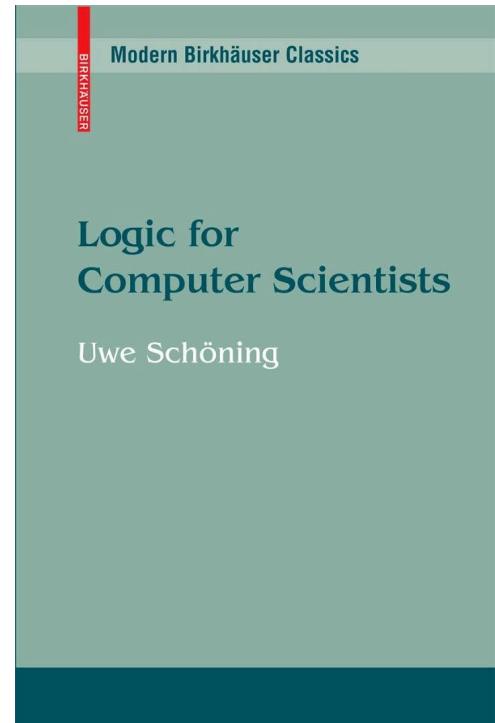
# References

## Chpater 1 of Logic for Computer Scientists

- [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-0-8176-4763-6\\_2](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-0-8176-4763-6_2)

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# What is Logic

According to Merriam-Webster dictionary logic is:

**a** (1) : a science that deals with the principles and criteria of validity of inference and demonstration

**d** :the arrangement of circuit elements (as in a computer) needed for computation; *also*: the circuits themselves

# What is Formal Logic

Formal Logic consists of

- syntax – what is a legal sentence in the logic
- semantics – what is the meaning of a sentence in the logic
- proof theory – formal (syntactic) procedure to construct valid/true sentences

Formal logic provides

- a language to precisely express knowledge, requirements, facts
- a formal way to reason about consequences of given facts rigorously

# Where is Formal Logic used in SE?

## Programming Languages

- conditional statements
- meaning (semantics) of programs

## Requirements and Specification

- rigorous definition of what is to be constructed
- e.g., if we used formal logic for assignments, there would be no questions on what is required, what is optional, and no questions

## Computer Hardware

- computers are built out of simple logical gates
- most computer hardware can be specified and understood in propositional logic

## Testing and Verification

- rigorously validate that software satisfies its specifications

## Algorithms and Optimization

- many complex problems can be reduced to logic and solved effectively using automated decision procedures

# Propositional Logic (or Boolean Logic)

Explores simple grammatical connections such as *and*, *or*, and *not* between simplest “atomic sentences”

A = “Paris is the capital of France”

B = “mice chase elephants”

The subject of propositional logic is to declare formally the truth of complex structures from the truth of individual atomic components

A and B

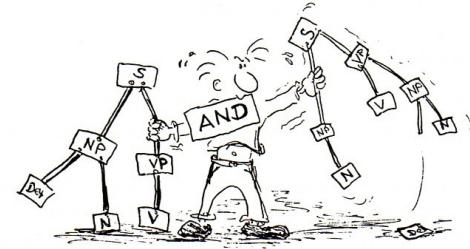
A or B

if A then B

A and not A

# Syntax and Semantics

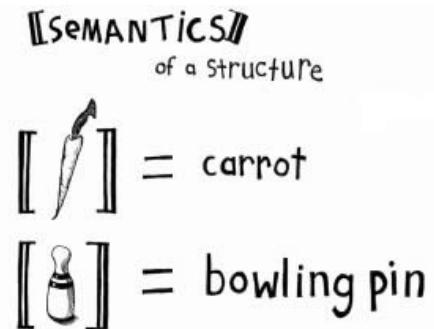
## Syntax



- MW: the way in which linguistic elements (such as words) are put together to form constituents (such as phrases or clauses)
- Determines and restricts how things are written

## Semantics

- MW: the study of meanings
- Determines how syntax is interpreted to give meaning



# Syntax of Propositional Logic

An *atomic formula* has a form  $A_i$ , where  $i = 1, 2, 3 \dots$

*Formulas* are defined inductively as follows:

- All atomic formulas are formulas
- For every formula  $F$ ,  $\neg F$  (called not  $F$ ) is a formula
- For all formulas  $F$  and  $G$ ,  $F \wedge G$  (called and) and  $F \vee G$  (called or) are formulas

## Abbreviations

- use  $A, B, C, \dots$  instead of  $A_1, A_2, \dots$
- use  $F_1 \rightarrow F_2$  instead of  $\neg F_1 \vee F_2$  (implication)
- use  $F_1 \leftrightarrow F_2$  instead of  $(F_1 \rightarrow F_2) \wedge (F_2 \rightarrow F_1)$  (iff)

# Formal Syntax of Propositional Logic

**constant** ::= true | false | 0 | 1 | T |  $\perp$

**variable** ::= p | q | r | A | B | C |  $A_0$  |  $A_1$  | ...

**atom** ::= constant | variable

**literal** ::= atom |  $\neg$  atom

**formula** ::= literal |  
 $\neg$  formula |  
formula  $\wedge$  formula |  
formula  $\vee$  formula

# Example

$$F = \neg((A_5 \wedge A_6) \vee \neg A_3)$$

Sub-formulas are

$$F, ((A_5 \wedge A_6) \vee \neg A_3),$$

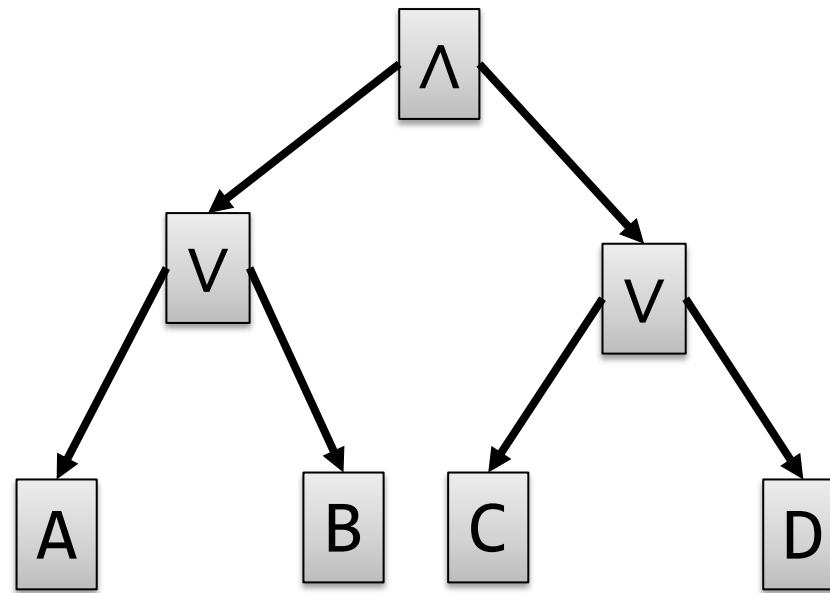
$$A_5 \wedge A_6, \neg A_3,$$

$$A_5, A_6, A_3$$

# Abstract Syntax Tree (AST)

AST is an abstract tree representation of formulas

- each node represents a syntactic construct occurring in the formula
  - e.g., variable, operator, etc.
- called “*abstract*” because some details of concrete syntax are omitted
  - AST normalizes (provides common representation) of irrelevant differences in syntax (e.g., white space, order of operations)
- example AST:  $(A \vee B) \wedge (C \vee D)$



# Semantics of propositional logic

1/2

Start with two truth values:  $\{0, 1\}$

- 0 stands for false, and 1 stands for true

Let  $D$  be any subset of the *atomic* formulas

An *assignment*  $A$  is a map  $D \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$

- $A$  assigns true/false to every atomic in  $D$

Let  $E \supseteq D$  be a set of formulas built from  $D$  using propositional connectives

*Extended assignment*  $A'$ :  $E \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  extends  $A$  from atomic formulas to all formulas

# Semantics of propositional logic

2/2

For an atomic formula  $A_i$  in  $D$ :  $A'(A_i) = A(A_i)$

$$\begin{aligned} A'(F \wedge G) &= 1 && \text{if } A'(F) = 1 \text{ and } A'(G) = 1 \\ &= 0 && \text{otherwise} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} A'(F \vee G) &= 1 && \text{if } A'(F) = 1 \text{ or } A'(G) = 1 \\ &= 0 && \text{otherwise} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} A'(\neg F) &= 1 && \text{if } A'(F) = 0 \\ &= 0 && \text{otherwise} \end{aligned}$$

# Exercise: Define Extended Assignment

$$F = \neg((A \wedge B) \vee C)$$

$$\mathcal{A}(A) = 1$$

$$\mathcal{A}(B) = 1$$

$$\mathcal{A}(C) = 0$$

Is F true or false under A'?

# Truth Tables for Basic Operators

$\mathcal{A}(F)$	$\mathcal{A}(G)$	$\mathcal{A}'(F \wedge G)$
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

$\mathcal{A}(F)$	$\mathcal{A}(G)$	$\mathcal{A}'(F \vee G)$
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	1

An extended assignment  $\mathcal{A}'$  extends the truth table from atomic propositions to propositional formulas

$\mathcal{A}(F)$	$\mathcal{A}'(\neg F)$
0	1
1	0

## Formula

$$F = \neg((A \wedge B) \vee C)$$

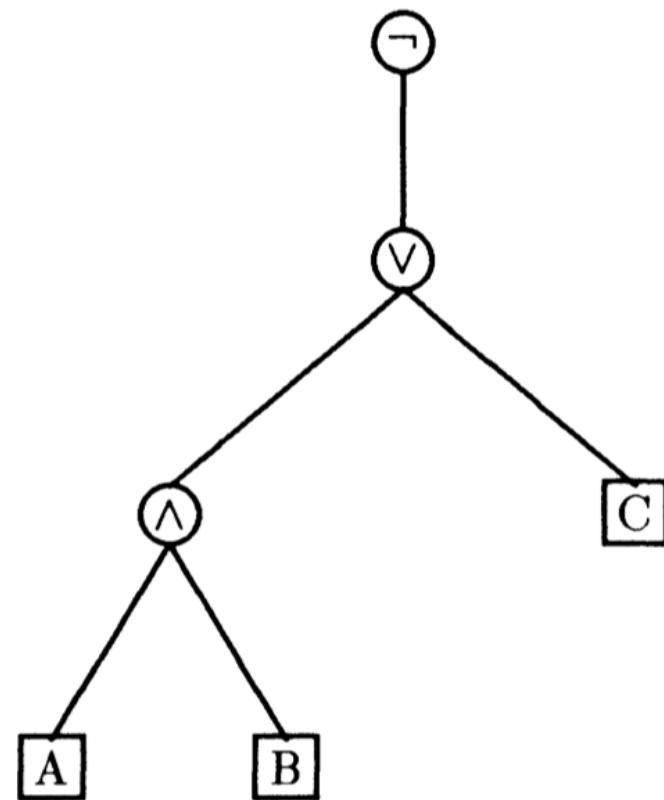
## Assignment

$$\mathcal{A}(A) = 1$$

$$\mathcal{A}(B) = 1$$

$$\mathcal{A}(C) = 0$$

## Abstract Syntax Tree (AST)



# Propositional Logic: Semantics

An assignment  $A$  is *suitable* for a formula  $F$  if  $A$  assigns a truth value to every atomic proposition of  $F$

An assignment  $A$  is a *model* for  $F$ , written  $A \models F$ , iff

- $A$  is suitable for  $F$
- $A'(F) = 1$ , i.e.,  $F$  evaluates to true (or holds) under  $A$

A formula  $F$  is *satisfiable* iff  $F$  has a model, otherwise  $F$  is *unsatisfiable* (or contradictory)

A formula  $F$  is *valid* (or a tautology), written  $\vdash F$ , iff every suitable assignment for  $F$  is a model for  $F$

# Determining Satisfiability via a Truth Table

A formula  $F$  with  $n$  atomic sub-formulas has  $2^n$  suitable assignments

Build a truth table enumerating all assignments

$F$  is satisfiable iff there is at least one entry with 1 in the output

	$A_1$	$A_2$	$\dots$	$A_{n-1}$	$A_n$	$F$
$\mathcal{A}_1:$	0	0		0	0	$\mathcal{A}_1(F)$
$\mathcal{A}_2:$	0	0		0	1	$\mathcal{A}_2(F)$
$\vdots$			$\ddots$			$\vdots$
$\mathcal{A}_{2^n}:$	1	1		1	1	$\mathcal{A}_{2^n}(F)$

# Problem: Is formula F SAT?

$$F = (\neg A \rightarrow (A \rightarrow B))$$

$A$	$B$	$\neg A$	$(A \rightarrow B)$	$F$
0	0	1	1	1
0	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	1
1	1	0	1	1

# Validity and Unsatisfiability

## Theorem:

A formula  $F$  is valid if and only if  $\neg F$  is unsatisfiable

## Proof:

$F$  is valid  $\Leftrightarrow$  every suitable assignment for  $F$  is a model for  $F$   
 $\Leftrightarrow$  every suitable assignment for  $\neg F$  is not a model for  $\neg F$   
 $\Leftrightarrow \neg F$  does not have a model  
 $\Leftrightarrow \neg F$  is unsatisfiable

# Book: Exercise #10

Prove or give a counterexample

Valid

(a) If  $(F \Rightarrow G)$  is *valid* and  $F$  is *valid*, then  $G$  is *valid*

(b) If  $(F \Rightarrow G)$  is *sat* and  $F$  is *sat*, then  $G$  is *sat*

Not Valid

(c) If  $(F \Rightarrow G)$  is *valid* and  $F$  is *sat*, then  $G$  is *sat*

Valid

# Semantic Equivalence

Two formulas  $F$  and  $G$  are *(semantically) equivalent*, written  $F \equiv G$ , iff for every assignment  $A$  that is suitable for both  $F$  and  $G$ ,  $A'(F) = A'(G)$

For example,  $(F \wedge G)$  is equivalent to  $(G \wedge F)$

Formulas with different atomic propositions can be equivalent

- e.g., all tautologies are equivalent to true
- e.g., all unsatisfiable formulas are equivalent to false

# Substitution Theorem

**Theorem:** Let  $F$  and  $G$  be equivalent formulas. Let  $H$  be a formula in which  $F$  occurs as a sub-formula. Let  $H'$  be a formula obtained from  $H$  by replacing every occurrence of  $F$  by  $G$ . Then,  $H$  and  $H'$  are equivalent.

In symbols:

$$F \equiv G \quad \Rightarrow \quad H \equiv H[F \rightarrow G]$$

**Proof:**

(Let's talk about proof by induction first...)

# Aside: Notation for Substitution

We need a concise notation for “Find-Replace”

- Replace every occurrence of **variable** (string, value, ...) **X** with **variable** (string, value, ...) **Y** in a **formula** (string, object, state) **F**, and return the new formula (string, object, state) without changing **F** in place.

In Python, this looks like

- `string.replace(old, new [, count])`
- `F.replace(X, Y)`

In books, logic, slides, this course

- $F[X / Y]$  – “F with X replaced by Y”
- $F[X / Y]$  – “F with X replacing Y”
- $F[X \rightarrow Y]$  – “F with X replacing Y”
- $F[X \leftarrow Y]$  – “F with X replaced by Y”
- $s/X/Y/g$  – sed syntax

# Mathematical Induction (over Natural Numbers)

To proof that a property  $P(n)$  holds for all natural numbers  $n$

1. Show that  $P(0)$  is true
2. Assume that  $P(k)$  is true for some natural number  $k$ 
  - This assumption is called an **Inductive Hypothesis (IH)**
3. Show that  $P(k+1)$  is true using IH from the previous step
4. Conclude that  $P(n)$  holds for all natural numbers  $n$ 
  - $P(n)$  is proven (or established, true) by mathematical induction

# Example: Mathematical Induction

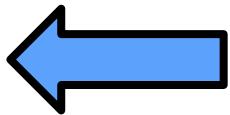
Show by induction that the formula for arithmetic series is correct

$$0 + \cdots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

Base Case:  $P(0)$  is  $0 = \frac{0(0+1)}{2}$

IH: Assume  $P(k)$ , show  $P(k+1)$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 0 + \cdots + k + (k+1) \\ &= \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + (k+1) \\ &= \frac{k(k+1)+2(k+1)}{2} \\ &= \frac{(k+1)((k+1)+1)}{2} \end{aligned}$$



IH is used in this step

# Structural Induction on the formula structure

The definition of a syntax of a formula is an *inductive* definition

- first, define atomic formulas; second, define more complex formulas from simple ones, each next definition uses previous definition recursively

The definition of the semantics of a formula is also inductive

- first, determine value of atomic propositions; second, define values of more complex formulas

The same principle works for proving properties of formulas!

- To show that every formula  $F$  satisfies some property  $S$ :
- (base case) show that  $S$  holds for atomic formulae
- (induction step) assume  $S$  holds for an arbitrary fixed formulas  $F$  and  $G$ . Show that  $S$  holds for  $(F \wedge G)$ ,  $(F \vee G)$ , and  $(\neg F)$

# Substitution Theorem (back from detour)

**Theorem:** Let  $F$  and  $G$  be equivalent formulas. Let  $H$  be a formula in which  $F$  occurs as a sub-formula. Let  $H'$  be a formula obtained from  $H$  by replacing every occurrence of  $F$  by  $G$ . Then,  $H$  and  $H'$  are equivalent.

**Proof:** by induction on formula structure

(base case) if  $H$  is atomic, then  $F = H$ ,  $H' = G$ , and  $F \equiv G$

(inductive step)

(case 1)  $H = \neg H_1$

(case 2)  $H = H_1 \wedge H_2$

(case 3)  $H = H_1 \vee H_2$

# Useful Equivalences (1/ 2)

$$\begin{aligned}(F \wedge F) &\equiv F \\(F \vee F) &\equiv F\end{aligned}\quad (\text{Idempotency})$$

$$\begin{aligned}(F \wedge G) &\equiv (G \wedge F) \\(F \vee G) &\equiv (G \vee F)\end{aligned}\quad (\text{Commutativity})$$

$$\begin{aligned}((F \wedge G) \wedge H) &\equiv (F \wedge (G \wedge H)) \\((F \vee G) \vee H) &\equiv (F \vee (G \vee H))\end{aligned}\quad (\text{Associativity})$$

$$\begin{aligned}(F \wedge (F \vee G)) &\equiv F \\(F \vee (F \wedge G)) &\equiv F\end{aligned}\quad (\text{Absorption})$$

$$\begin{aligned}(F \wedge (G \vee H)) &\equiv ((F \wedge G) \vee (F \wedge H)) \\(F \vee (G \wedge H)) &\equiv ((F \vee G) \wedge (F \vee H))\end{aligned}\quad (\text{Distributivity})$$

$$\neg\neg F \equiv F \quad (\text{Double Negation})$$

# Useful Equivalences (2/ 2)

$$\neg(F \wedge G) \equiv (\neg F \vee \neg G)$$

$$\neg(F \vee G) \equiv (\neg F \wedge \neg G)$$

(deMorgan's Laws)

$$(F \vee G) \equiv F, \text{ if } F \text{ is a tautology}$$

$$(F \wedge G) \equiv G, \text{ if } F \text{ is a tautology}$$

(Tautology Laws)

$$(F \vee G) \equiv G, \text{ if } F \text{ is unsatisfiable}$$

$$(F \wedge G) \equiv F, \text{ if } F \text{ is unsatisfiable}$$

(Unsatisfiability Laws)

Don't believe in these laws. Prove them using structural induction!

# Bool: Exercise 18: Children and Doctors

Formalize and show that the two statements are equivalent

- If the child has temperature or has a bad cough and we reach the doctor, then we call him

$$((T \vee C) \wedge R) \Rightarrow D$$

- If the child has temperature, then we call the doctor, provided we reach him, and, if we reach the doctor then we call him, if the child has a bad cough

$$(R \Rightarrow (T \Rightarrow D)) \wedge (C \Rightarrow (R \Rightarrow D))$$

$$((T \vee C) \wedge R) \Rightarrow D$$
$$((T \wedge R) \vee (C \wedge R)) \Rightarrow D$$
$$((T \wedge R) \Rightarrow D) \wedge ((C \wedge R) \Rightarrow D)$$
$$(R \Rightarrow (T \Rightarrow D)) \wedge (C \Rightarrow (R \Rightarrow D))$$

Law:

$$(a \vee b) \Rightarrow c$$
$$(a \Rightarrow c) \wedge (b \Rightarrow c)$$



Extra Slides

**END OF LECTURE**

# Book Example: Secret to long life

"What is the secret of your long life?" a centenarian was asked.

"I strictly follow my diet: If I don't **drink** beer for dinner, then I always have **fish**. Any time I have both **beer** and **fish** for dinner, then I do without **ice cream**. If I have **ice cream** or don't have **beer**, then I never eat **fish**."

The questioner found this answer rather confusing.  
Can you simplify it?



SINCE 1828

JOIN MWU | GAMES | BROWSE THESAURUS | WORD OF THE DAY | WORDS AT PLAY |

normal form

DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

# normal form noun

## Definition of *normal form*

*logic*

: a canonical or standard fundamental form of a statement to which others can be reduced

*especially* : a compound statement in the propositional calculus consisting of nothing but a conjunction of disjunctions whose disjuncts are either elementary statements or negations thereof

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/normal%20form>

# Negation Normal Form (NNF)

A formula  $F$  is in **Negation Normal Form (NNF)** if every occurrence of negation ( $\neg$ ) in  $F$  is applied to an atomic sub-formula of  $F$ .

For example,

- $\neg a \vee \neg b \vee c$  is in NNF
- $\neg (a \wedge b \wedge \neg c)$  is NOT in NNF (why?)

**Theorem (NNF):** For every formula  $F$  there is a semantically equivalent form  $G$  in NNF. In symbols

- For every  $F$ , exists  $G$  in NNF, such that  $F \equiv G$

# Proof of NNF Theorem

By **structural induction** on the structure of a formula  $F$

**(base case):** atomic formulas  $A$  and  $\neg A$  are in NNF

**(IH):** Assume that the theorem is true for every sub-formula of  $F$ : For every sub-formula  $H$  of  $F$  there exists  $J$  in NNF such that  $J \equiv H$ . Show that there exists  $G$  in NNF such that  $G \equiv F$

**( $\neg$  case):** Assume  $F = \neg H$ . Then,  $F \equiv \neg(\neg J) \equiv J$

**( $\vee$  case):** Assume  $F = H_1 \vee H_2$ . Then,  $F \equiv J_1 \vee J_2$

**( $\wedge$  case):** Assume  $F = H_1 \wedge H_2$ . Then,  $F \equiv J_1 \wedge J_2$

# Normal Form: DNF

A *literal* is either an atomic proposition  $v$  or its negation  $\neg v$

A *cube* is a conjunction of literals

- e.g.,  $(v_1 \wedge \neg v_2 \wedge v_3)$

A formula  $F$  is in *Disjunctive Normal Form* (DNF) if  $F$  is a disjunction of conjunctions of literals

$$\bigvee_{i=1}^n \left( \bigwedge_{j=1}^{m_i} L_{i,j} \right)$$

**(Fun) Fact:** determining whether a DNF formula  $F$  is satisfiable is easy

- easy == linear in the size of the formula

# Normal Form: CNF

A *literal* is either an atomic proposition  $v$  or its negation  $\neg v$

A *clause* is a disjunction of literals

- e.g.,  $(v_1 \vee \neg v_2 \vee v_3)$

A formula  $F$  is in *Conjunctive Normal Form* (CNF) if  $F$  is a conjunction of disjunctions of literals

$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^n \left( \bigvee_{j=1}^{m_i} L_{i,j} \right)$$

**(Fun) Fact:** determining whether a CNF formula  $F$  is satisfiable is hard

- hard == NP-complete

# Normal Form Theorem

**Theorem:** For every formula  $F$ , there is an equivalent formula  $F_1$  in CNF, and an equivalent formula  $F_2$  in DNF.

That is, CNF and DNF are normal forms:

- Every propositional formula can be converted to CNF and to DNF without affecting its meaning (i.e., semantics)!

**Proof:** (by induction on the structure of the formula  $F$ )

Details are left as an exercise!

# Converting a formula to CNF

Given a formula F

1. Substitute in F every occurrence of a sub-formula of the form

$\neg\neg G$  by  $G$

$\neg(G \wedge H)$  by  $(\neg G \vee \neg H)$

$\neg(G \vee H)$  by  $(\neg G \wedge \neg H)$

The result is a formula in Negation Normal Form (NNF)

2. Substitute in F each occurrence of a sub-formula of the form

$(F \vee (G \wedge H))$  by  $((F \vee G) \wedge (F \vee H))$

$((F \wedge G) \vee H)$  by  $((F \vee H) \wedge (G \vee H))$

The resulting formula F is in CNF

- the result in CNF might be exponentially bigger than original formula F

# Example: From Truth Table to CNF and DNF

DNF

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

CNF

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

Truth table

A	B	C	F
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	0
1	1	1	0

see the book for detailed algorithm

# From Truth Table to DNF / CNF

From a truth table  $T$  to DNF formula  $F$

- For every row  $i$  of  $T$  with value 1, construct a conjunction  $F_i$  that characterizes the row. That is,  $F_i$  is a formula that is true **exactly** for the assignment of row  $i$
- Let  $F = \vee F_i$ , then  $F$  is equivalent to  $T$  and is in DNF
- Fact:  $F$  has as many disjuncts as rows with value 1 in  $T$
- Question: How big can  $F$  be? How small can  $F$  be?

From a truth table  $T$  to CNF formula  $G$

- For every row  $i$  of  $T$  with value 0, construct a conjunction  $F_i$  that characterizes the row
- Let  $G_i$  be NNF of  $\neg F_i$
- Let  $G = \wedge G_i$ , then  $G$  is equivalent to  $T$  and is in CNF
- Fact:  $F$  has as many disjuncts as rows with value 0 in  $T$
- Question: How big can  $F$  be? How small can  $F$  be?

# 2-CNF Fragment

A formula  $F$  is in 2-CNF iff

- $F$  is in CNF
- every clause of  $F$  has at most 2 literals

**Theorem:** There is a polynomial algorithm for deciding whether a 2-CNF formula  $F$  is satisfiable

# Horn Fragment

A formula  $F$  is in Horn fragment iff

- $F$  is in CNF
- in every clause, at most one literal is positive

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

- Note that each clause can be written as an implication
  - e.g.  $C \wedge A \Rightarrow D$ ,  $A \wedge B \Rightarrow \text{False}$ ,  $\text{True} \Rightarrow D$

$$(B \rightarrow A) \wedge (A \wedge C \rightarrow D) \wedge (A \wedge B \rightarrow 0) \wedge (1 \rightarrow D) \wedge (E \rightarrow 0)$$

**Theorem:** There is a polynomial time algorithm for deciding satisfiability of a Horn formula  $F$

# Horn Satisfiability

**Input:** a Horn formula  $F$

**Output:** UNSAT or SAT + satisfying assignment for  $F$

**Step 1:** Mark every occurrence of an atomic formula  $A$  in  $F$  if there is an occurrence of sub-formula of the form  $A$  in  $F$

**Step 2:** pick a formula  $G$  in  $F$  of the form  $A_1 \wedge \dots \wedge A_n \rightarrow B$  such that all of  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  are already marked

- if  $B = 0$ , return UNSAT
- otherwise, mark  $B$  and go back to Step 2

**Step 3:** Construct a suitable assignment  $S$  such that  $S(A_i) = 1$  iff  $A_i$  is marked. Return SAT with a satisfying assignment  $S$ .

# Exercise 21

Apply Horn satisfiability algorithm on a formula

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

$$\neg E$$

$$(\neg C \vee A)$$

$$C$$

$$B$$

$$(\neg G \vee D)$$

$$G$$

# 3-CNF Fragment

A formula  $F$  is in 3-CNF iff

- $F$  is in CNF
- every clause of  $F$  has at most 3 literals

**Theorem:** Deciding whether a 3-CNF formula  $F$  is satisfiable is at least as hard as deciding satisfiability of an arbitrary CNF formula  $G$

**Proof:** by effective *reduction* from CNF to 3-CNF

Let  $G$  be an arbitrary CNF formula. Replaced every clause of the form

$$(\ell_0 \vee \cdots \vee \ell_n)$$

with 3-literal clauses

$$(\ell_0 \vee b_0) \wedge (\neg b_0 \vee \ell_1 \vee b_1) \wedge \cdots \wedge (\neg b_{n-1} \vee \ell_n)$$

where  $\{b_i\}$  are fresh atomic propositions not appearing in  $F$

# Complexity of 3-CNF Satisfiability

**Theorem (Cook-Levin):** The Boolean Satisfiability Problem is NP-complete

## Consequences

- If a formula  $F$  is satisfiable, then there exists a certificate for satisfiability that can be checked in P (polynomial) time.
  - That is, checking solutions is easy
- Any other problem that has polynomial certificates is polynomial reducible to Boolean Satisfiability
  - That is, such problems can be solved by writing a loop-free program, compiling it to a Boolean circuit, and checking whether the circuit ever accepts some input
- **MANY MANY MANY OPTIMIZATION PROBLEMS ARE LIKE THAT**
- Boolean Satisfiability is easy iff  $P = NP$ 
  - i.e., Boolean satisfiability today is a **VERY VERY VERY HARD** problem!

# Background Reading: SAT

Screenshot of a web browser displaying the ACM Communications magazine archive page for August 2009, featuring an article on Boolean Satisfiability.

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The page header includes:

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Communications of the ACM, Vol. 52 No. 8, Pages 76-82  
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Comments

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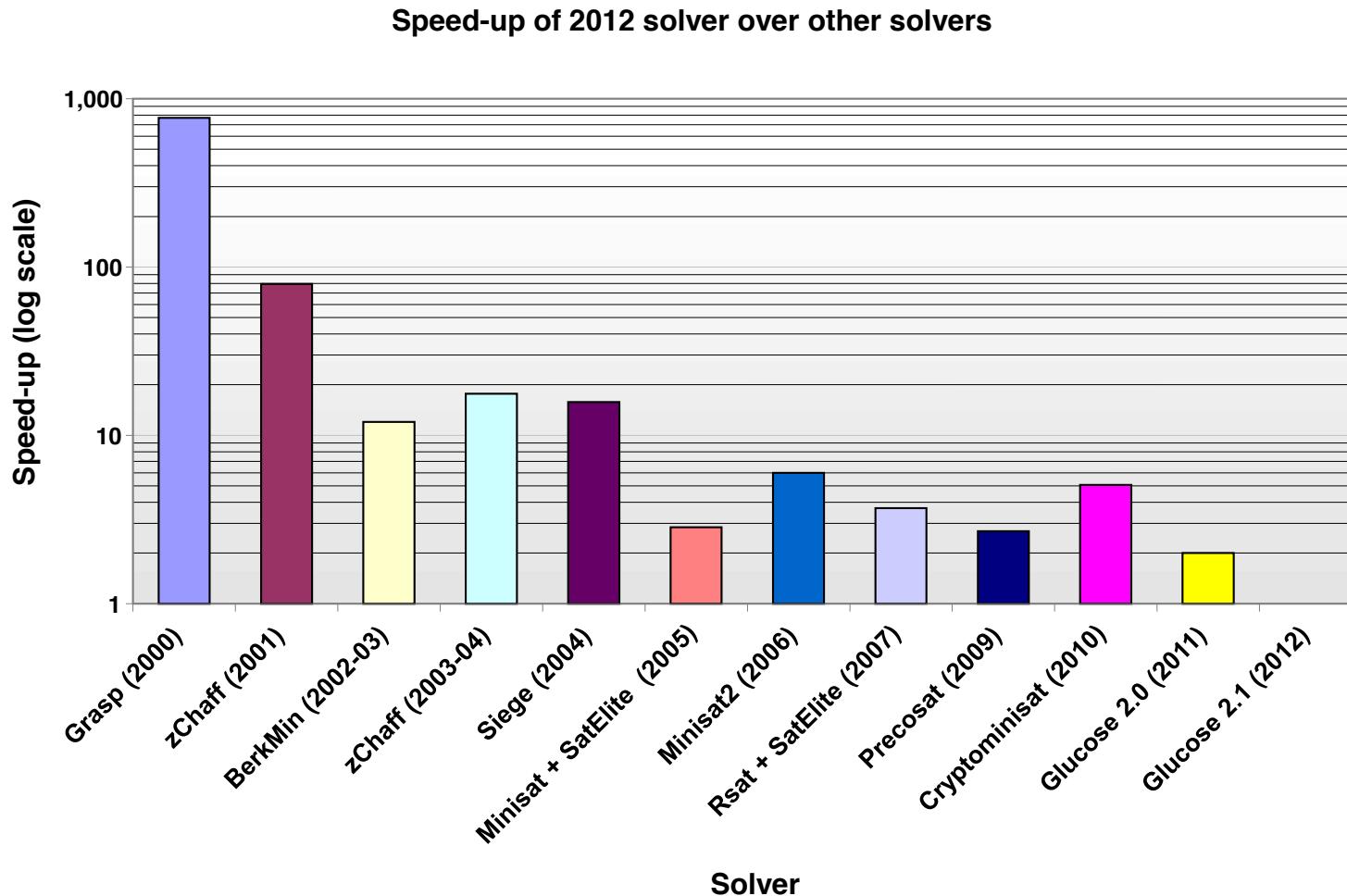
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**ARTICLE CONTENTS:**

- Introduction
- Boolean Satisfiability
- Theoretical hardness: SAT and NP Completeness

# Some Experience with SAT Solving



from M. Vardi, <https://www.cs.rice.edu/~vardi/papers/highlights15.pdf>

# SAT - Milestones

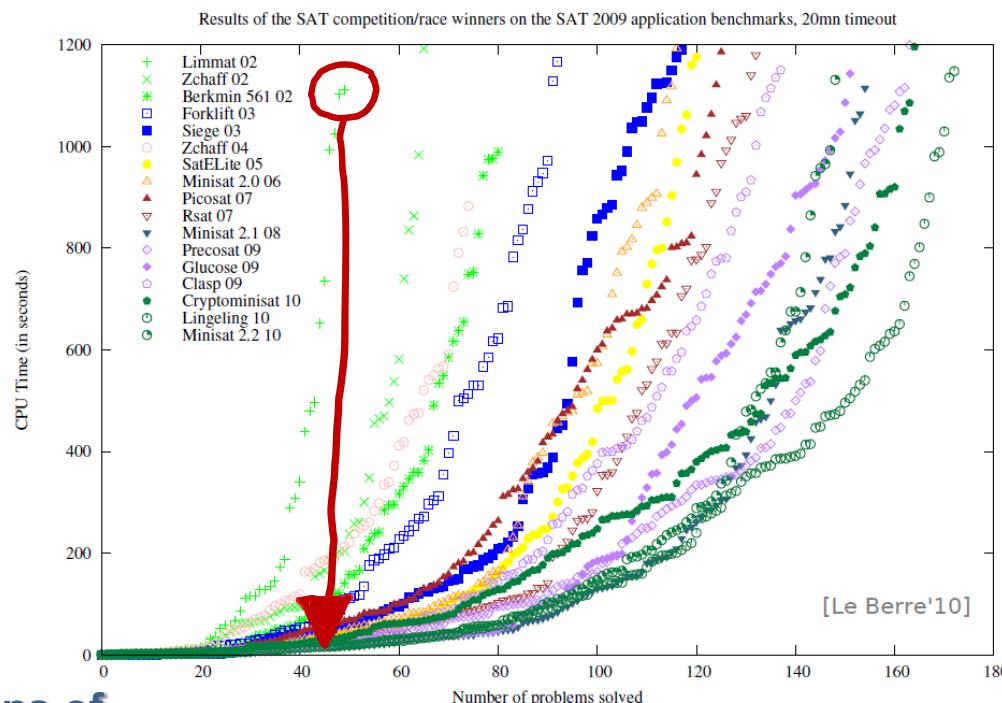
Problems impossible 10 years ago are trivial today

year	Milestone
1960	Davis-Putnam procedure
1962	Davis-Logeman-Loveland
1984	Binary Decision Diagrams
1992	DIMACS SAT challenge
1994	SATO: clause indexing
1997	GRASP: conflict clause learning
1998	Search Restarts
2001	zChaff: 2-watch literal, VSIDS
2005	Preprocessing techniques
2007	Phase caching
2008	Cache optimized indexing
2009	In-processing, clause management
2010	Blocked clause elimination

Concept

2002

2010



Millions of  
variables from  
HW designs

Courtesy Daniel le Berre

# Graph k-Coloring

Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , and a natural number  $k > 0$  is it possible to assign colors to vertices of  $G$  such that no two adjacent vertices have the same color.

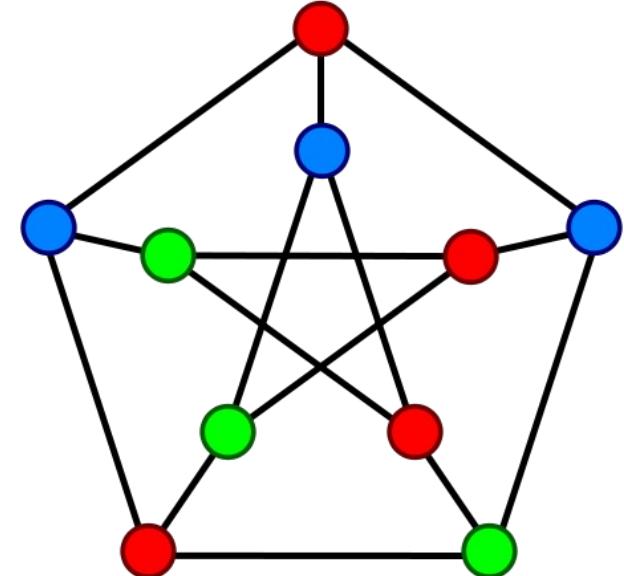
Formally:

- does there exist a function  $f : V \rightarrow [0..k]$  such that
- for every edge  $(u, v)$  in  $E$ ,  $f(u) \neq f(v)$

Graph coloring for  $k > 2$  is NP-complete

**Problem:** Encode k-coloring of  $G$  into CNF

- construct CNF  $C$  such that  $C$  is SAT iff  $G$  is  $k$ -colorable



# **$k$ -coloring as CNF**

Let a Boolean variable  $f_{v,i}$  denote that vertex  $v$  has color  $i$

- if  $f_{v,i}$  is true if and only if  $f(v) = i$

Every vertex has at least one color

$$\bigvee_{0 \leq i < k} f_{v,i} \quad (v \in V)$$

No vertex is assigned two colors

$$\bigwedge_{0 \leq i < j < k} (\neg f_{v,i} \vee \neg f_{v,j}) \quad (v \in V)$$

No two adjacent vertices have the same color

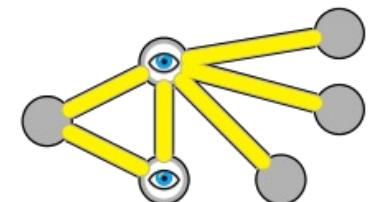
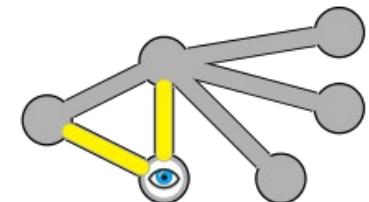
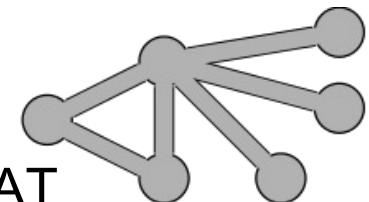
$$\bigwedge_{0 \leq i < k} (\neg f_{v,i} \vee \neg f_{u,i}) \quad ((v, u) \in E)$$

# Vertex Cover

Given a graph  $G=(V,E)$ . A vertex cover of  $G$  is a subset  $C$  of vertices in  $V$  such that every edge in  $E$  is incident to at least one vertex in  $C$

see a4\_encoding.pdf for details of reduction to CNF-SAT

- will be given together with assignment 4



# Compactness Theorem

## Theorem:

A (possibly infinite) set  $M$  of propositional formulas is satisfiable iff every finite subset of  $M$  is satisfiable.

## Corollary:

A (possibly infinite) set  $M$  of propositional formulas is unsatisfiable iff there exists a finite subset  $U$  of  $M$  such that  $U$  is unsatisfiable

## Proof:

- Section 1.4 in Logic for Computer Scientists by Uwe Schoning

# Satisfiability and Unsatisfiability

Let  $F$  be a propositional formula (large)

Assume that  $F$  is satisfiable. What is a short proof / certificate to establish satisfiability without a doubt?

- provide a model. The model is linear in the size of the formula

Now, assume that  $F$  is unsatisfiable. What is a short proof / certificate to establish UNSATISFIABILITY without a doubt?

Is the following formula SAT or UNSAT? How do you explain your answer?

$$\neg b \wedge (\neg a \vee b \vee \neg c) \wedge a \wedge (\neg a \vee c)$$

# Propositional Resolution

Pivot

$$\frac{C \vee p \quad D \vee \neg p}{C \vee D}$$

Resolvent

$$\text{Res}(\{C, p\}, \{D, \neg p\}) = \{C, D\}$$

Given two clauses  $(C, p)$  and  $(D, \neg p)$  that contain a literal  $p$  of different polarity, create a new clause by taking the union of literals in  $C$  and  $D$

# Resolution Lemma

$F$  is a CNF formula;  $X$  and  $Y$  are two clauses in  $F$

$R$  be a resolvent of  $X$  and  $Y$

Then,

$F \cup \{ R \}$  is semantically equivalent to  $F$

- $R$  is implied by  $F$
- Any model that makes  $F$  true, also makes  $R$  true
- Adding  $R$  to  $F$  does not make  $F$  any harder to satisfy

# Resolution Theorem

$F$  be a set of clauses (i.e., a formula in CNF)

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

$\text{Res}^n$  is defined recursively as follows:

$$Res^0(F) = F$$

$$Res^{n+1}(F) = Res(Res^n(F)), \text{ for } n \geq 0$$

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

**Theorem:** A CNF  $F$  is UNAT iff  $\text{Res}^*(F)$  contains an empty clause

# Exercise from LCS

For the following set of clauses determine  $\text{Res}^n$  for  $n=0, 1, 2$

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

$$B \vee C$$

$$\neg A \vee C$$

$$B \vee \neg C$$

$$\neg C$$

# Proof of the Resolution Theorem

(*Soundness*) By Resolution Lemma,  $F$  is equivalent to  $\text{Res}^i(F)$  for any  $i$ . Let  $n$  be such that  $\text{Res}^{n+1}(F)$  contains an empty clause, but  $\text{Res}^n(F)$  does not. Then,  $\text{Res}^n(F)$  must contain two unit clauses  $L$  and  $\neg L$ . Hence, it is UNSAT, since there is no model that can make  $L$  both true and false.

(*Completeness*) Assume  $F$  is UNSAT. Proof by induction on the number of different atomic propositions in  $F$ .

**Base case** is trivial:  $F$  contains an empty clause.

**IH:** Assume  $F$  only has atomic propositions  $A_1, \dots, A_{n+1}$

- Let  $F_0$  be the result of replacing  $A_{n+1}$  by 0
- Let  $F_1$  be the result of replacing  $A_{n+1}$  by 1
- Both  $F_0$  and  $F_1$  are UNSAT, so apply IH to  $F_0$  and  $F_1$
- Restore replaced literals by re-inserting into every clause removed from
- Combine the two resolutions (if necessary)

# Proof System

$$P_1, \dots, P_n \vdash C$$

An inference rule is a tuple  $(P_1, \dots, P_n, C)$

- where,  $P_1, \dots, P_n, C$  are formulas
- $P_i$  are called **premises** and  $C$  is called a **conclusion**
- intuitively, the rules says that the conclusion is true if the premises are

A proof system  $P$  is a collection of inference rules

A proof in a proof system  $P$  is a tree (or a DAG) such that

- nodes are labeled by formulas
- for each node  $n$ ,  $(\text{parents}(n), n)$  is an inference rule in  $P$

# Propositional Resolution

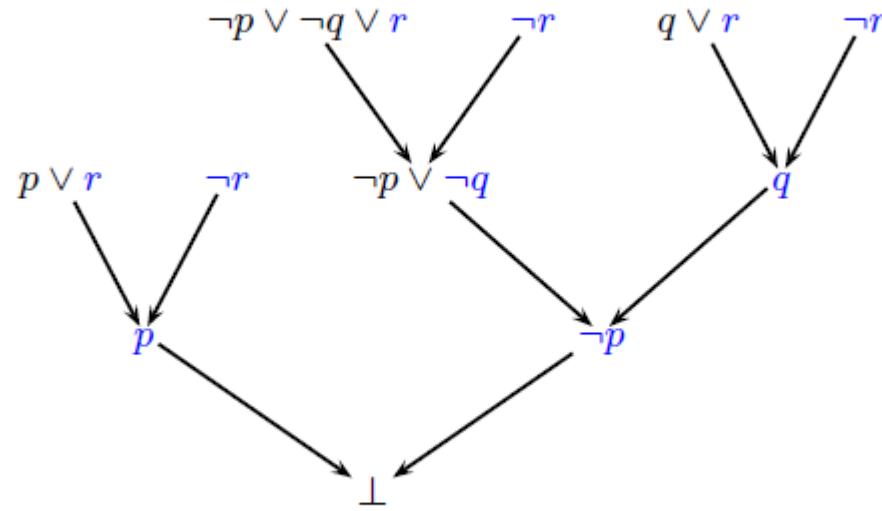
$$\frac{C \vee p \quad D \vee \neg p}{C \vee D}$$

Propositional resolution is a sound inference rule

Proposition resolution system consists of a single propositional resolution rule

# Example of a resolution proof

A refutation of  $\neg p \vee \neg q \vee r, p \vee r, q \vee r, \neg r$ :



# Resolution Proof Example

Show by resolution that the following CNF is UNSAT

$$\neg b \wedge (\neg a \vee b \vee \neg c) \wedge a \wedge (\neg a \vee c)$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{\neg a \vee b \vee \neg c \quad a}{\frac{b \vee \neg c}{\frac{\neg c}{\perp}}} \quad \frac{}{\frac{a \quad \neg a \vee c}{c}} \end{array}$$

# Entailment and Derivation

A set of formulas  $F$  **entails** a set of formulas  $G$  iff every model of  $F$  and is a model of  $G$

$$F \models G$$

A formula  $G$  is **derivable** from a formula  $F$  by a proof system  $P$  if there exists a proof whose leaves are labeled by formulas in  $F$  and the root is labeled by  $G$

$$F \vdash_P G$$

# Soundness and Completeness

A proof system P is **sound** iff

$$(F \vdash_P G) \implies (F \models G)$$

A proof system P is **complete** iff

$$(F \models G) \implies (F \vdash_P G)$$

# Propositional Resolution

**Theorem:** Propositional resolution is sound and complete for propositional logic

**Proof:** Follows from Resolution Theorem

# Book: Exercise 33

Using resolution show that

$$A \wedge B \wedge C$$

is a consequence of

$$\neg A \vee B$$

$$\neg B \vee C$$

$$A \vee \neg C$$

$$A \vee B \vee C$$

## Exercise 34

Show using resolution that  $F$  is valid

$$F = (\neg B \wedge \neg C \wedge D) \vee (\neg B \wedge \neg D) \vee (C \wedge D) \vee B$$

$$\neg F = (B \vee C \vee \neg D) \wedge (B \vee D) \wedge (\neg C \vee \neg D) \wedge \neg B$$

# Boolean Satisfiability (CNF-SAT)

Let  $V$  be a set of variables

A *literal* is either a variable  $v$  in  $V$  or its negation  $\neg v$

A *clause* is a disjunction of literals

- e.g.,  $(v_1 \vee \neg v_2 \vee v_3)$

A Boolean formula in *Conjunctive Normal Form* (CNF) is a conjunction of clauses

- e.g.,  $(v_1 \vee \neg v_2) \wedge (v_3 \vee v_2)$

An *assignment*  $s$  of Boolean values to variables *satisfies* a clause  $c$  if it evaluates at least one literal in  $c$  to true

An assignment  $s$  *satisfies* a formula  $C$  in CNF if it satisfies every clause in  $C$

Boolean Satisfiability Problem (CNF-SAT):

- determine whether a given CNF  $C$  is satisfiable

# Are the following CNFs SAT or UNSAT

CNF 1 (3 clauses)

- $\neg b$
- $\neg a \vee \neg b \vee \neg c$
- $a$
- SAT:  $s(a) = \text{True}$ ;  $s(b) = \text{False}$ ;  $s(c) = \text{False}$

CNF 2 (4 clauses)

- $\neg b$
- $\neg a \vee b \vee \neg c$
- $a$
- $\neg a \vee c$
- UNSAT

# DIMACS CNF File Format

Textual format to represent CNF-SAT problems

c start with comments

c

c

p cnf 5 3

1 -5 4 0

-1 5 3 4 0

-3 -4 0

Format details

- comments start with c
- header line: p cnf nbvar nbclauses
  - nbvar is # of variables, nbclauses is # of clauses
- each clause is a sequence of distinct numbers terminating with 0
  - positive numbers are variables, negative numbers are negations

# Algorithms for SAT

SAT is NP-complete

DPLL (Davis-Putnam-Logemann-Loveland, '60)

- smart enumeration of all possible SAT assignments
- worst-case EXPTIME
- alternate between deciding and propagating variable assignments

CDCL (GRASP '96, Chaff '01)

- conflict-driven clause learning
- extends DPLL with
  - smart data structures, backjumping, clause learning, heuristics, restarts...
- scales to millions of variables
- N. Een and N. Sörensson, “An Extensible SAT-solver”, in SAT 2013.

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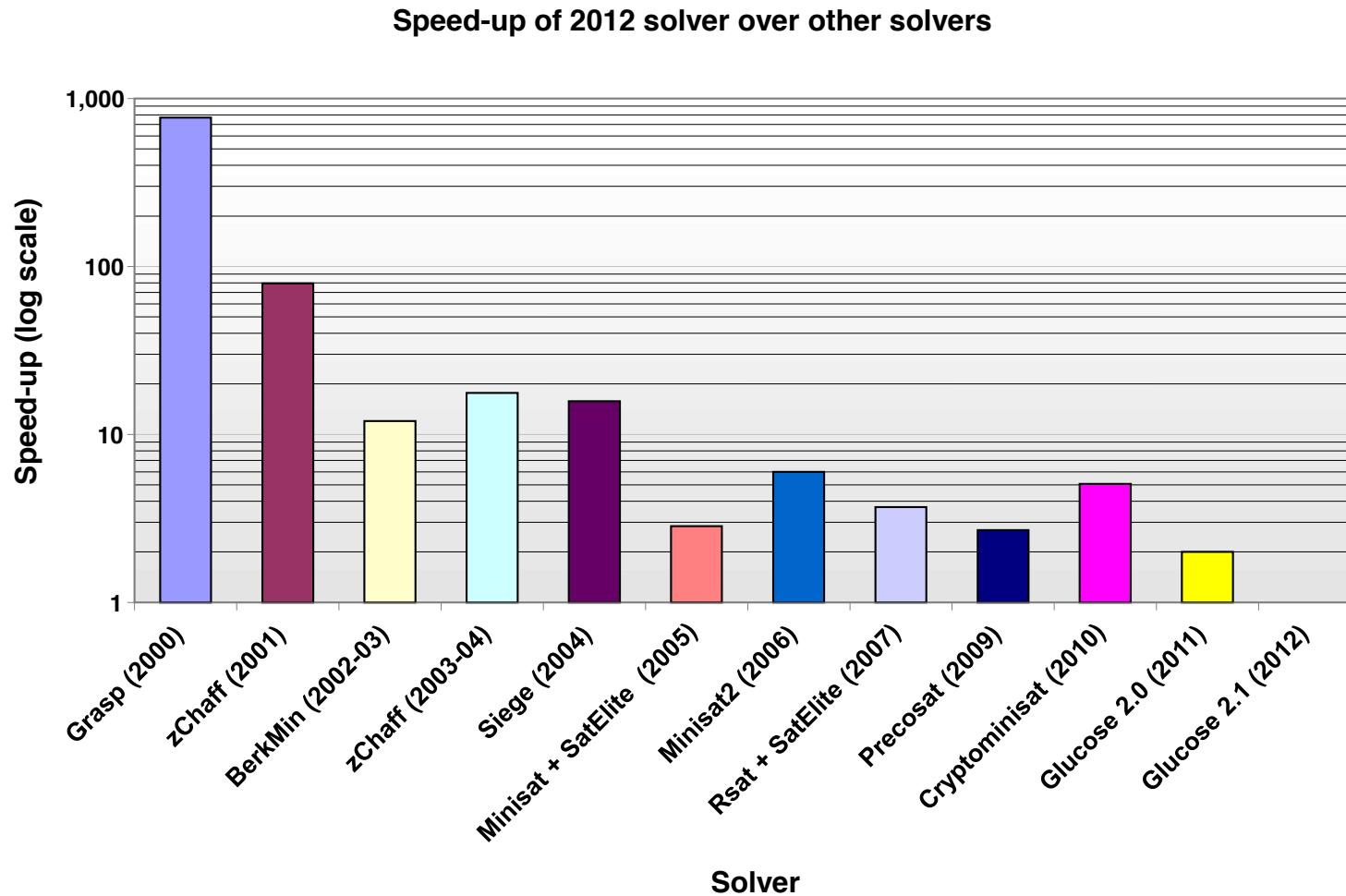
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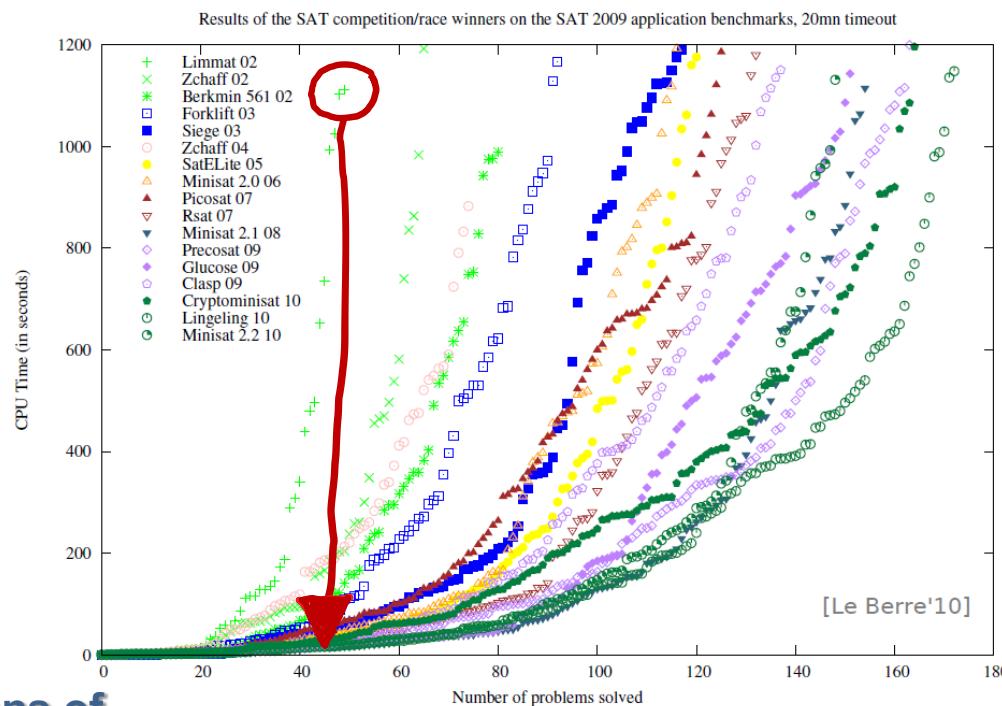
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Courtesy Daniel le Berre