



Implementing a checker for propositional logic in Circom

Traian Florin Șerbănuță (and Mihai Calancea, and Brandon Moore)

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Overview of the talk

- Arithmetic circuits and R1CS constraints
- Designing R1CS constraint systems using Circom
- Randomized (non-deterministic) programming
- Current implementation of Propositional Logic in Circom
 - Hilbert proofs
 - Arithmetization of terms/patterns/formulae as Reed-Solomon polynomials
 - Well-formedness checking
 - Modus-ponens
 - Axioms and instantiation of (meta)variables

Rank-1 Constraint Systems

R1CS Formulations (programmer style)

- Constant values: only a constant value is allowed.
- Linear expression: an expression where only addition is used.
 - It can also be written using multiplication of variables by constants.
 - $2 * x + 3 * y + 2$ is allowed, as it is equivalent to $x + x + y + y + y + 2$.
- Quadratic expression: multiplication between two linear expressions and addition of a linear expression:
 - $A * B - C$, where A , B and C are linear expressions.
 - For instance, $(2 * x + 3 * y + 2) * (x + y) + 6 * x + y^2$.
- Quadratic constraint: $A * B - C = 0$, where A , B and C are linear expressions.

Source: (Documentation 2024)

R1CS Formulations (mathematical style)

A **system of rank-1 quadratic equations** over \mathbb{F} is a tuple $\mathcal{S} = ((a_j, b_j, c_j)_{j \in \overline{1, N_g}}, n)$ where $a_j, b_j, c_j \in \mathbb{F}^{1+N_w}$ and $n \leq N_w$

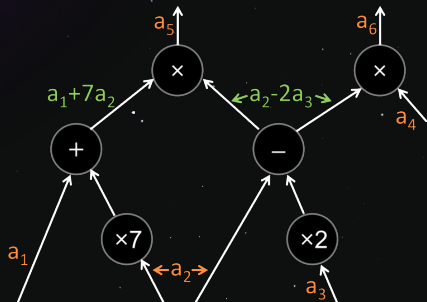
- N_g - the number of constraints
- N_w - the number of variables
- n - the input size

\mathcal{S} is satisfiable with an input $x \in \mathbb{F}^n$ if there is a witness $w \in \mathbb{F}^{N_w}$ such that:

1. $x = (w_1, \dots, w_n)$, and
2. $\langle a_j, (1, w) \rangle \cdot \langle b_j, (1, w) \rangle = \langle c_j, (1, w) \rangle$ for $j \in \overline{1, N_g}$.

Source (Ben-Sasson et al. 2013; Gennaro et al. 2012)

Arithmetic circuits to R1CS



An arithmetic circuit.

The value at each output wire of a multiplication gate is expressed in terms of the values of output wires of lower multiplication gates (or of input wires) (Gennaro et al. 2012).

$$(a_1 + 7a_2) \cdot (a_2 - 2a_3) = a_5$$

$$(a_2 - 2a_3) \cdot a_4 = a_6$$

R1CS: $N_g = 2, N_w = 6, n = 4$

$(0; 1, 7, 0, 0, 0, 0), (0, 0, 1, -2, 0, 0, 0), (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)$

$(0, 0, 1, -2, 0, 0, 0), (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0), (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)$

Programming in Circom

Circom

- A JavaScript-like language with extra support for signals and constraints
- The compiler checks that signals are used and constrained appropriately
 - no non-quadratic constraints
 - no conditionals based on signals
 - no unbounded loops for signals
- One can use the regular language to compute the witness
 - conditional and unbounded loops are allowed
 - one should constrain/check the witness using R1CS constraints

Signals

- The “circuit” variables of the language
- Correspond to output wires of arithmetic circuit gates
- When assigned to, one should also generate the corresponding constraint(s)

E.g., $a_6 \leq (a_2 - 2 * a_3) * a_4$

- However, we can also assign them directly and specify the constraint(s) separately
 - especially if we want to assign them to non-quadratic expressions

```
b <-- 1/a;  
a * b == 1;
```

Compositionality via templates (Iden3 2024)

```
template AND() {  
    signal input a;  
    signal input b;  
    signal output out;  
  
    out <== a*b;  
}  
template OR() {  
    signal input a;  
    signal input b;  
    signal output out;  
  
    out <== a + b - a*b;  
}
```

```
template IsZero() {  
    signal input in_  
    signal output out;  
    signal inv;  
  
    inv <-- in_!=0 ? 1/in_ : 0;  
    out <== -in_*inv +1;  
    in_*out === 0;  
}
```

- if $in_$ is 0, then $out=1$ uniquely satisfies both equations regardless of inv
- if $in_$ is not 0 then there exists inv s.t. $in_ * inv = 1$ and $out=0$ uniquely satisfies both equations

Template Recursion

```
template MultiAND(n) {  
    signal input in[n];  
    signal output out;  
    component and1;  
    component and2;  
    component ands[2];  
    if (n==1) {  
        out <== in[0];  
    } else if (n==2) {  
        and1 = AND();  
        and1.a <== in[0];  
        and1.b <== in[1];  
        out <== and1.out;  
    } else {  
        and2 = AND();  
        var n1 := n\2;  
        var n2 = n-n\2;  
        ands[0] = MultiAND(n1);  
        ands[1] = MultiAND(n2);  
        var i;  
        for (i=0; i<n1; i++)  
            ands[0].in[i] <== in[i];  
        for (i=0; i<n2; i++)  
            ands[1].in[i] <== in[n1+i];  
        and2.a <== ands[0].out;  
        and2.b <== ands[1].out;  
        out <== and2.out;  
    }  
}
```

Conditional

```
template If() {  
    signal input condition;  
    signal input t;  
    signal input e;  
    signal els <== (1 - condition) * e;  
    signal output result <== condition * t + els;  
}
```

Conversion to bits

```
// Converts felt into N-digit binary representation
// Fails if N is too small
template Num2Bits(N) {
    signal input in;
    signal output out[N];
    var lc1=0;

    var e2=1;
    for (var i = 0; i<N; i++) {
        out[i] <-- (in >> i) & 1;
        out[i] * (out[i] -1 ) === 0;
        lc1 += out[i] * e2;
        e2 = e2+e2
    }
    lc1 === in;
}
```

Other functions: Less than and exponent

```
template LessThan(n) {  
    assert(n <= 252);  
    signal input in[2];  
    signal output out;  
  
    component n2b = Num2Bits(n+1);  
    n2b.in <== in[0]+ (1<<n) - in[1];  
    out <== 1-n2b.out[n];  
    // checks that no borrowing  
    // is needed for subtraction  
}  
  
// multiplies the elements in vector in selected  
// by bits which should be a vector of 0/1  
template ConditionalProduct(w) {  
    signal input in[w];  
    signal input bits[w];  
    signal output out;  
    var lc = 1;  
    for (var i=0; i<w; i++) {  
        aux[i] <== (1 - bits[i]) + bits[i] * in[i];  
    }  
    out <== MultiAND(w)(aux);  
}
```

Exponentiation

// Compute b^e in $O(N = \log e)$ gates

```
template BinaryExp(N) {  
    signal input b;  
    signal input e;  
    signal pb[N];  
    signal bits[N] <== Num2Bits(N)(e);  
    signal output res;  
  
    for (var i = 0; i < N; i++) {  
        pb[i] <== i == 0 ? b : pb[i - 1] * pb[i - 1];  
    }  
  
    res <== ConditionalProduct(N)(pb, bits);  
}
```

Maximum value in an array

```
function array_max(N, A) {  
    // returns the maximum value  
    // in the array A of size N  
    var m = 0;  
    for (var i = 0; i < N; i ++) {  
        if (A[i] > m) m = A[i];  
    }  
    return m;  
}
```

- used to guess the maximum value as a witness
- no signals/constraints involved in array_max

```
template ArrayMax(N) {  
    signal input A[N];  
    signal output m <-- array_max(N, A);  
    var m1 = m + 1;  
    signal checks[N+1], diffs[N+1];  
    diffs[0] <== 1;  
    for (var i = 0; i < N; i ++) {  
        checks[i] <== LessThan(64)([A[i], m1]);  
        diffs[i+1] <== diffs[i] * (A[i] - m);  
    }  
    checks[N] <== IsZero()(diffs[N]);  
    signal ok <== MultiAND(N + 1)(checks);  
    ok == 1;  
}
```


Propositional Logic

Syntax

Formulæ

- $\varphi ::= x \mid \perp \mid \varphi \rightarrow \varphi$
- $x ::= \phi_0 \mid \phi_1 \mid \phi_2 \mid \dots$

Axioms (Łukasiewicz's third axiom system)

- **Prop1:** $\phi_0 \rightarrow (\phi_1 \rightarrow \phi_0)$
- **Prop2:** $(\phi_0 \rightarrow (\phi_1 \rightarrow \phi_2)) \rightarrow ((\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_1) \rightarrow (\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_2))$
- **Prop3:** $((\phi_0 \rightarrow \perp) \rightarrow (\phi_1 \rightarrow \perp)) \rightarrow (\phi_1 \rightarrow \phi_0)$

Deduction

- **Modus Ponens:**
$$\frac{\varphi, \varphi \rightarrow \psi}{\psi}$$

Instantiation

- **Instantiate:** Substituting variables with formulæ

Notations

- $\neg\varphi ::= \varphi \rightarrow \perp$
- $\varphi \wedge \psi ::= \neg(\varphi \rightarrow \neg\psi)$
- $\varphi \vee \psi ::= \neg\varphi \rightarrow \psi$

Hilbert Proofs for $\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0$

Proofs of pattern well-formedness:

1. ϕ_0 by HMetaVar(0)
2. $(\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0)$ by HImplies(1, 1)

Propositional Logic Proof:

1. $((\phi_0 \rightarrow ((\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0) \rightarrow \phi_0)) \rightarrow ((\phi_0 \rightarrow (\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0)) \rightarrow (\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0)))$
by Instantiate(Prop2, $[\phi_1 \mapsto (\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0), \phi_2 \mapsto \phi_0, \phi_0 \mapsto \phi_0]$)
2. $(\phi_0 \rightarrow ((\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0) \rightarrow \phi_0))$ by Instantiate(Prop1, $[\phi_1 \mapsto (\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0), \phi_0 \mapsto \phi_0, \phi_2 \mapsto \phi_2]$)
3. $((\phi_0 \rightarrow (\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0)) \rightarrow (\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0))$ by ModusPonens(1, 2)
4. $(\phi_0 \rightarrow (\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0))$ by Instantiate(Prop1, $[\phi_1 \mapsto \phi_0, \phi_0 \mapsto \phi_0, \phi_2 \mapsto \phi_2]$)
5. $(\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0)$ by ModusPonens(3, 4)

Arithmetization of formulæ

- Running example: $\phi_0 \vee \neg \phi_0$
- Desugar notations: $(\phi_0 \rightarrow \perp) \rightarrow (\phi_0 \rightarrow \perp)$
- Consider the prefix-form of the formula $\rightarrow \rightarrow \phi_0 \perp \rightarrow \phi_0 \perp$
- Associate numbers to each token
 - say \rightarrow is 1
 - say \perp is 2
 - say variables are numbered consecutively from 3, i.e. ϕ_0 is 3

Then we can associate to the formula the following vector of size 7:

$[1, 1, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2]$

Reed-Solomon fingerprint

Given a vector $(v_i)_{i=1, \dots, M}$, the Reed-Solomon polynomial associated to v is $p(x) = \sum_{i=1}^M x^{i-1} * v_i$.

The Reed-Solomon fingerprint of v is the value of p at a random (but fixed) point r .

```
template Fingerprint(M) {  
    signal input r;  
    signal input pattern[M];  
    signal r_pow[M];  
    r_pow[0] <== 1;  
    for (var i = 1; i < M; i++) {  
        r_pow[i] <== r_pow[i - 1] * r;  
    }  
    signal output fingerprint <== EscalarProduct(M)(r_pow, pattern);  
}
```

Arithmetization of formulæ (continued)

- We fix a randomly chosen number r
- We encode a formula φ as a pair $FP(\varphi) ::= (n, N)$ where:
 - n is the length of φ in its prefix representation
 - N is the fingerprint obtained by evaluating at point r the Reed-Solomon polynomial associated to the vector corresponding to φ
- E.g., assuming $r = 10$ and a large enough prime-field, $FP(\phi_0 \vee \neg \phi_0) = (7, 1132132)$

Properties

- Equality checking: $\varphi = \psi$ can be replaced by $FP(\varphi) = FP(\psi)$
- Concatenation
 - Assume $FP(\varphi) = (n, N)$ and $FP(\psi) = (m, M)$
 - Then $FP(\varphi \rightarrow \psi) = (n + m + 1, 1 + r * (N + r^n * M))$

Checking Well-Formedness

As we saw before, we can consider a deduction system for well-formedness, where:

- **Bottom** is an axiom
- **MetaVar** is an axiom (parameterized by the index of the variable)
- **Implies** is a deduction rule
$$\frac{\varphi, \psi}{\varphi \rightarrow \psi}$$

In a Hilbert proof using this system:

- we can consider that each step outputs a well-formed pattern
- We can thus consider **Implies** to (also) be parameterized by the previous indices (in the proof) where its hypotheses were established.

Proofs of pattern well-formedness for $\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0$:

1. ϕ_0 by HMetaVar(0)
2. $(\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0)$ by HImplies(1, 1)

Arithmetization of Well-Formedness proofs

- To each proof step we associate
 - an identifier of the axiom/rule used
 - a list of parameters (padded with zeros)
- **Bottom**: identifier 1, no parameters
- **MetaVar**: identifier 2, index of the variable
- **Implies**: identifier 3, $(n, N, i), (m, M, j)$ where:
 - (n, N) is the fingerprint of the formula at index i in the proof
 - (m, M) is the fingerprint of the formula at index j in the proof
- *Note*: the conclusion of each step will be computed during checking

Arithmetization of the proof of well-formedness for $\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0$:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. ϕ_0 by HMetaVar(0) | 1. (2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0) |
| 2. $(\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0)$ by HImplies(1, 1) | 2. (3, 1, 3, 1, 1, 3, 1) |

The checking process

Given a row (at index i) corresponding to arithmetization of a proof step:

- use first argument to determine which rule was used
- use the parameters to compute the FP (n, N) of the conclusion according to this rule
- emit (n, N, i) as a proved statement of well-formedness
- if rule has hypotheses (Implies)
 - emit (n_h, N_h, i_h) as a hypothesis of well-formedness
 - check that $i_h < i$ (to avoid cyclic proofs)

Finally, check that all emitted hypotheses are included in all emitted proved statements.

Example

1. $(2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)$ — a MetaVar rule with variable of index 0
 - emit $(1, 3, 1)$ as proved statement
2. $(3, 1, 3, 1, 1, 3, 1)$ — an Implies rule with arguments $(1, 3, 1), (1, 3, 1)$
 - emit $(3, 133, 2)$ as proved statement; emit $(1, 3, 1)$ twice as hypotheses

Finally, check that $[(1, 3, 1), (1, 3, 1)]$ is included in $[(1, 3, 1), (3, 133, 2)]$

Well-formedness of implication

```
template WfBinaryConstructor(LogN, ConstructorId) {  
    signal input index, h_a, len_a, idx_a, h_b, len_b, idx_b;  
    signal input r; // evaluation point  
    signal r_pow_len_a <== BinaryExp(LogN)(r, len_a);  
    signal r_pow_len_b <== BinaryExp(LogN)(r, len_b);  
    var check_idx_a = CheckIndex(LogN)(idx_a, index);  
    var check_idx_b = CheckIndex(LogN)(idx_b, index);  
    signal ab <== h_a + r_pow_len_a * h_b;  
    signal h_ab <== ConstructorId + r * ab;  
    signal len_ab <== len_a + len_b + 1;  
    signal output o1 <== PatternAtIndexRelFp()(h_a, len_a, idx_a);  
    signal output o2 <== PatternAtIndexRelFp()(h_b, len_b, idx_b);  
    signal output p <== PatternAtIndexRelFp()(h_ab, len_ab, index);  
    signal output correctness <== AND()(check_idx_a, check_idx_b);  
}
```

Subset argument

There are various subset arguments. Here we describe one based on logarithmic derivatives (Haböck 2022).

Input two vectors $A = (a_i)_{i \in \overline{1, n}}$, $B = (b_j)_{j \in \overline{1, m}}$

Simplifying assumption: A is a set (no repetitions).

Output whether all elements of B are also in A

- Let $M = (m_i)_{i \in \overline{1, n}}$ be the multiplicities of A in B $m_i = |\{j \in \overline{1, m} \mid b_j = a_i\}|$.
- Let $p_A(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{m_i}{X - a_i}$
- Let $p_B(X) = \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{1}{X - b_j}$
- Output whether $p_A = p_B$
 - by evaluating p_A and p_B at a random point.

Checking a Propositional Logic Proof

- **ModusPonens** is a deduction rule $\frac{\varphi, \varphi \rightarrow \psi}{\psi}$
- **Instantiate** allows substituting variables with formulæ in already proved terms
- we assume 1. Prop1; 2. Prop2; 3. Prop3 and shift the proof by the number of axioms.

In a Hilbert proof using this system:

- we can consider that each step outputs a well-formed pattern
- We can consider ModusPonens to (also) be parameterized by the previous indices (in the proof) where its hypotheses were established.

Proofs of pattern well-formedness for $\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0$:

4. Instantiate(2, [$\phi_1 \mapsto (\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0)$, $\phi_2 \mapsto \phi_0$])
5. Instantiate(1, [$\phi_1 \mapsto (\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0)$])
6. ModusPonens(1, 2)
7. Instantiate(1, [$\phi_1 \mapsto \phi_0$])
8. ModusPonens(3, 4)

Arithmetization of proofs

- Similar to well-formedness proofs
- **ModusPonens**: identifier 1, (n, N, i) , (m, M, j) where:
 - (n, N) is the fingerprint of formula φ at index i in the proof
 - (m, M) is the fingerprint of a formula ψ
 - Formula $\varphi \rightarrow \psi$ is at index j in the proof
- **Instantiate**: identifier 2, (n, N, i) , $(m, M, 0)$, P
 - (n, N) is the fingerprint of the base pattern, at index i in the proof
 - (m, M) is the fingerprint of the result pattern to be outputed
 - P is a hash of the fingerprints of the instantiated formulæ

Arithmetization of the PL proof for $\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0$:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4. Instantiate(2, $[\phi_1 \mapsto (\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0), \phi_2 \mapsto \phi_0]$) | 4. (2, 13, 11314..., 2, 17, 11311..., 0, H1) |
| 5. Instantiate(1, $[\phi_1 \mapsto (\phi_0 \rightarrow \phi_0)]$) | 5. (2, 5, 13143, 1, 7, 1311333, 0, H2) |
| 6. ModusPonens(1, 2) | 6. (1, 7, 1311333, 5, 9, 113133133, 4, 0) |
| 7. Instantiate(1, $[\phi_1 \mapsto \phi_0]$) | 7. (2, 5, 13143, 1, 5, 13133, 0, H3) |
| 8. ModusPonens(3, 4) | 8. (1, 5, 13133, 7, 3, 133, 6, 0) |

The checking process

Similar (largely) to checking the well-formedness proof:

ModusPonens we emit $FP(\varphi)$ with provided index as hypothesis

- we compute $FP(\varphi \rightarrow \psi)$ and emit it with provided index as hypothesis

- we emit $FP(\psi)$ with current index as proved statement

- we check that provided indices are smaller than current index

Instantiate we emit base pattern with provided index as hypothesis

- we emit result pattern with current index as proved statement

- we emit an “instantiation hypothesis”

- we check that base pattern index is smaller than current index

Finally - check that all emitted hypotheses are included in all emitted proved statements. -
axioms are pre-emitted - check that all emitted instantiate hypotheses are included in all
emitted instantiate statements. - instantiate proofs will be detailed later.

The checking process: Example

4. (2, 13, 113145113413, 2, 17, 11311333113133133, 0, H1) - Instantiate, $2 < 4$
 - emit (13, 113145113413, 2) as hypothesis
 - emit (17, 11311333113133133, 4) as proved statement
5. (2, 5, 13143, 1, 7, 1311333, 0, H2) - Instantiate, $1 < 5$
 - emit (5, 13143, 1) as hypothesis
 - emit (7, 1311333, 5) as proved statement
6. (1, 7, 1311333, 5, 9, 113133133, 4, 0) - ModusPonens, $5 < 6, 4 < 6$
 - emit (7, 1311333, 5) and (17, 11311333113133133, 4) as hypotheses
 - emit (9, 113133133, 6) as proved statement
7. (2, 5, 13143, 1, 5, 13133, 0, H3) - Instantiate, $1 < 7$
 - emit (5, 13143, 1) as hypothesis
 - emit (5, 13133, 7) as proved statement
8. (1, 5, 13133, 7, 3, 133, 6, 0) - ModusPonens, $7 < 8, 6 < 8$
 - emit (5, 13133, 7) and (9, 113133133, 6) as hypotheses
 - emit (3, 133, 8) as proved statement

For Instantiate we also emit a hash of all parameters (no indices) as instantiation hypothesis

Circom code for ModusPonens

```
template ModusPonens(LogN) {  
    signal input h_a, len_a, idx_a, h_b, len_b, idx_ab;  
    signal input index, r;  
    signal r_pow_len_a <== BinaryExp(LogN)(r, len_a);  
    signal r_pow_len_b <== BinaryExp(LogN)(r, len_b);  
    var check_idx_a = CheckIndex(LogN)(idx_a, index);  
    var check_idx_ab = CheckIndex(LogN)(idx_ab, index);  
    signal ab <== h_a + r_pow_len_a * h_b;  
    signal h_ab <== implies_id() + r * ab;  
    signal len_ab <== len_a + len_b + 1;  
    signal output obligation1 <== PatternAtIndexRelFp()(h_a, len_a, idx_a);  
    signal output obligation2 <== PatternAtIndexRelFp()(h_ab, len_ab, idx_ab);  
    signal output proof <== PatternAtIndexRelFp()(h_b, len_b, index);  
    signal output correctness <== AND()(check_idx_a, check_idx_ab);  
}
```


Computing the instantiation relation

Input The base pattern, in arithmetic vectorial form
Fingerprints of arguments, together with their indices in the well-formedness proof

Output well-formedness obligations for all arguments
a hash of the proof of instantiation

- Use the fingerprints of arguments and their indices to emit well-formedness obligations
- Compute the result fingerprint of instantiation
 - traverse the base pattern computing the fingerprint and replacing variables with the fingerprint of corresponding argument
- compute a hash of base pattern (fingerprint), arguments fingerprints and result fingerprint
 - emit it as the proof of instantiation.

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