# Automated reasoning for first-order logic Theory, Practice and Challenges 

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## Part I

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## Acknowledgments

- Harald Ganzinger
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- Renate Schmidt
- Christoph Sticksel
- Andrei Voronkov


## Logic and Automated Reasoning

## Applications:

- software and hardware verification: Intel, Microsoft
- information management: biomedical ontologies, semantic Web, databases
- combinatorial reasoning: constraint satisfaction, planning, scheduling
- Internet security
- theorem proving in mathematics


John McCarthy
"It is reasonable to hope that the relationship between computation and mathematical logic will be as fruitful in the next century as that between analysis and physics in the past."

McCarthy, 1963.

## Formalising Complex Systems



## Automated Reasoning

The complexity of current engineering systems is enormous:

- Intel Microprocessor: 2 billion transistors
- Microsoft Windows: 50 million lines of code

Complexity is rapidly growing!

Automated reasoning methods are crucial!
In this lectures we will focus on efficient automated reasoning for
first-order logic.

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## First-order reasoning

- Theory:
- resolution, superposition, instantiation
- completeness, redundancy elimination, decision procedures
- software/hardware verification
- semantic Web, securitv, multi-agent systems, bio-health - Reasoning systems for FOL - Resolution/superposition-based: Vamnire F SPASS Prover9 Metis, Waldmeister - Instantiation-based: iProver, Darwin, Equinox - Tahleaux connection orenmitric natural deduction leanCoP, Princess, GEO, Muscadet - CASC - The World Championship for Automated Theorem Proving


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## These lectures

Reasoning for first-Order logic

- First-order logic
- Resolution-based methods
- Instantiation-based methods
- Effectively propositional fragment (EPR)
- Applications: bounded model checking and finite model finding
- Implementation techniques:
proof search, indexing, redundancy elimination


## Why first-order logic?

- expressive: quantifiers are needed in many applications
- expressivity comes at a price: first-order logic is semi-decidable
- reasoning can be done at a higher level and can gain in efficiency
- has efficient reasoning methods

Syntax of first-order logic

First-order logic terms

$$
\begin{aligned}
\forall x \forall i \forall z \quad & (\text { same_content }(\operatorname{store}(x, i, e), z) \rightarrow \\
& {[\text { out_of_bounds }(x, i) \vee \exists j(\operatorname{select}(z, j) \simeq e)]) }
\end{aligned}
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- Variables: $\mathcal{X}=\{x, y, z, i, j, \ldots\}$ - infinitely countable set
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F(y)=\forall x(p(x, y) \rightarrow \exists y q(y, x))
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- A variable occurrence is bound if it is under the scope of a quantifier
- A formula is closed, also called a sentence if it does not contain free variables Note: the same variable can have both free and bound occurrences.
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$\qquad$ Rectified formula:

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Rectifying a formula: rename quantified variables

$$
F^{\prime}(y)=\forall x\left(p(x, y) \rightarrow \exists y_{1} q\left(y_{1}, x\right)\right)
$$

$F(y)$ is equivalent to $F^{\prime}(y)$
We will assume that all formulas are rectified.

## Substitutions

A substitution: is a mapping $\sigma: X \mapsto T(\Sigma, X)$ such that $\sigma(x) \neq x$ is finite.

Example:

$$
\sigma=\{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto f(x, g(z))\}
$$

where $\sigma$ is assumed to be identity for all variables different from $x, y$. The domain of $\sigma$ :

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\operatorname{dom}(\sigma)=\{x \mid x \in X, \sigma(x) \neq x\}
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Notation:

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Application of a substitution to a term/formula: - simultaneous replacement of variables by terms.

$$
(p(f(x, x), y) \vee q(g(y))) \sigma=p(f(a, a), f(x, g(z))) \vee q(g(f(x, g(z))))
$$

Semantics of first-order logic

## First-order interpretation

Consider a signature $\Sigma=(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{P})$.
A first-order $\Sigma$-structure is a triple:

$$
\mathcal{A}=\left(A, \mathcal{F}^{\mathcal{A}}, \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{A}}\right)
$$

where

- $\mathcal{F A}$ is a collection of functions $\left\{f_{\mathcal{A}}: A^{n} \mapsto A \mid f / n \in \mathcal{F}\right\}$
- $\mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{A}}$ is a collection of relations $\left\{p_{\mathcal{A}} \subseteq A^{n} \mid p / n \in \mathcal{P}\right\}$


## First-order interpretation

Consider a signature $\Sigma=(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{P})$.
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Examples: Let $\Sigma=(\{+/ 2, * / 2,0\},\{\leq / 2\})$.
$\sum$-structures:

- $\mathbb{N}=\left(N,\left\{+_{\mathbb{N}}, *_{\mathbb{N}}, 0_{\mathbb{N}}\right\},\left\{\leq_{\mathbb{N}}\right\}\right)$ - natural numbers
- $\mathbb{R}=\left(R,\left\{+_{\mathbb{R}}, *_{\mathbb{R}}, 0_{\mathbb{R}}\right\},\left\{\leq_{\mathbb{R}}\right\}\right)$ - reals
- $\mathbb{L}=\left(\mathcal{P}(N),\left\{+_{\mathbb{L}}, *_{\mathbb{L}}, 0_{\mathbb{L}}\right\},\left\{\leq_{\mathbb{L}}\right\}\right)$ - lattice over the power set of $N$ where $+_{\mathbb{L}}$ is union of sets, $*_{\mathbb{L}}$ is intersection of sets, $\leq_{\mathbb{L}}$ is subset relation.


## Semantics of first-order logic

Consider a structure $\mathcal{A}=\left(A, \mathcal{F}^{\mathcal{A}}, \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{A}}\right)$.
A variable assignment: $\gamma: \mathcal{X} \mapsto A$
An interpretation is a pair: $\mathcal{I}=(\mathcal{A}, \gamma)$
For every therm $t$ define value $\mathcal{I}(t)$ of $t$ under $\mathcal{I}$ as follows:

- $\mathcal{I}(t)=\gamma(t)$ if $t$ is a variable
- $\mathcal{I}\left(f\left(t_{1}, \ldots, t_{n}\right)\right)=f_{\mathcal{A}}\left(\mathcal{I}\left(t_{1}\right), \ldots, \mathcal{I}\left(t_{n}\right)\right)$

Note that $\mathcal{I}(t) \in A$.
Example: Consider $\mathbb{N}=(N,\{+/ 2, * / 2\},\{\leq / 2, \simeq / 2\})$,
$\gamma=\{x \mapsto 0, y \mapsto 1\}$ and $\mathcal{I}=(\mathbb{N}, \gamma)$. Then

- $\mathcal{I}(x+(y+y) *(y+y))=4$

Notation: $\gamma_{x}^{a}$ is a variable assignment coinciding with $\gamma$ on all variables except $x$ where it is equal to $a$.

## Evaluation of formulas

A formula $F(\bar{x})$ is true in an interpretation $\mathcal{I}=(\mathcal{A}, \gamma)$, denoted as $\mathcal{I} \models F(\bar{x})$ if the following holds:

- atomic formulas: $\mathcal{I} \models p\left(t_{1}, \ldots, t_{n}\right)$ iff $\left(\mathcal{I}\left(t_{1}\right), \ldots, \mathcal{I}\left(t_{n}\right)\right) \in p^{\mathcal{A}}$.
- Boolean combinations:
- $\mathcal{I} \models \neg F(\bar{x})$ iff $\mathcal{I} \models F(\bar{x})$ does not hold
- $\mathcal{I} \models F_{1}(\bar{x}) \wedge F_{2}(\bar{x})$ iff $\mathcal{I} \models F_{1}(\bar{x})$ and $\mathcal{I} \models F_{2}(\bar{x})$
- $\mathcal{I} \models F_{1}(\bar{x}) \vee F_{2}(\bar{x})$ iff $\mathcal{I} \models F_{1}(\bar{x})$ or $\mathcal{I} \models F_{2}(\bar{x})$
- $\mathcal{I} \models F_{1}(\bar{x}) \rightarrow F_{2}(\bar{x})$ iff $\mathcal{I} \not \models F_{1}(\bar{x})$ or $\mathcal{I} \models F_{2}(\bar{x})$
- $\mathcal{I} \models F_{1}(\bar{x}) \leftrightarrow F_{2}(\bar{x})$ iff $\mathcal{I} \models F_{1}(\bar{x})$ if and only if $\mathcal{I} \models F_{2}(\bar{x})$
- quantified formulas:
- $\mathcal{I} \models \forall x F(\bar{x})$ iff for every $a \in A,\left(\mathcal{A}, \gamma_{x}^{a}\right) \models F(\bar{x})$,
- $\mathcal{I} \models \exists x F(\bar{x})$ iff there exists $a \in A$ such that $\left(\mathcal{A}, \gamma_{x}^{a}\right) \models F(\bar{x})$


## Evaluation of formulas

Example: Consider $\mathbb{N}=(N,\{+, *\},\{\leq, \simeq\}), \gamma=\{x \mapsto 2, y \mapsto 1\}$ and $\mathcal{I}=(\mathbb{N}, \gamma)$. Then

- $\mathcal{I} \models \forall z(x \leq z+y \rightarrow(x \leq z \vee z+y \simeq x))$
- $\mathcal{I} \models \forall z \exists u(z \leq u)$
- $\mathcal{I} \not \vDash \exists u \forall z(z \leq u)$
$\square$ $F\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$. Assume $\gamma\left(x_{i}\right)=a_{i}$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. Then we write Note that for any closed formula $F$ its true value does not depend on in this case we can write $\mathcal{A} \models F$. We say $\mathcal{A}$ is a model for $F$


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Notation: Consider an interpretation $\mathcal{I}=(\mathcal{A}, \gamma)$ and a formula $F\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$. Assume $\gamma\left(x_{i}\right)=a_{i}$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. Then we write $\mathcal{A} \models F\left[a_{1}, \ldots, a_{n}\right]$ in place of $\mathcal{I} \models F\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$.
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## Validity, satisfiability,

A (closed) formula $F$ is

- satisfiable if there is a $\sum$-structure $\mathcal{A}$ which is a model for $F, \mathcal{A} \models F$
- valid if every $\Sigma$-structure is a model for $F$ Note: a formula $F$ is valid if and only if $\neg F$ is unsatisfiable
- $F_{1}$ semantically imply $F_{2}$, denoted $F_{1} \models F_{2}$, if all models of $F_{1}$ are also models of $F_{2}$
- semantically equivalent, denoted $F_{1} \equiv F_{2}$, iff $F_{1}$ and $F_{2}$ have the same models


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- $F_{1}$ semantically imply $F_{2}$, denoted $F_{1} \models F_{2}$, if all models of $F_{1}$ are also models of $F_{2}$
- semantically equivalent, denoted $F_{1} \equiv F_{2}$, iff $F_{1}$ and $F_{2}$ have the same models


## First-order theories

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Axioms for $T$ is a set of formulas $A x$ such that $A x \subseteq T$ and $A x$ imply $T$.

## First-order theories

Consider a first-order theory $T$ and a first-order formula $F$. The main reasoning problem is checking whether $T \models F$.

Axioms of groups Group: $\Sigma=\left(\left\{\cdot / 2,^{-1} / 1, e / 0\right\},\{\simeq / 2\}\right)$ :

- $\forall x, y, z \quad(x \cdot(y \cdot z) \simeq(x \cdot y) \cdot z)-$ associativity
- $\forall x \quad\left(x \cdot x^{-1} \simeq e\right)-$ inverse
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Is $\exists a \exists i \forall j(\operatorname{select}(a, i) \simeq \operatorname{select}(a, j))$ a theorem in the theory of arrays ?

## Deduction

Semantic arguments are usually as hoc, complicated and applicable only to narrow cases.

Deduction: A simple set of syntactic rules to derive theorems.

- purely syntactic derivations
- can derive any First-order theorem (completeness)
- a universal set of rules which is applicable to any first-order theory
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## Calculi for first-order logic

Calculi complete for first-order logic:

- natural deduction
- difficult to automate
> > tableaux-based calculi
> - popular with special fragments: modal and description logics
> - difficult to automate efficiently in the general case
> - resolution/superposition calculi
> - general purpose
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> > decision procedure for many fragments
> - instantiation-based calculi
> - combination of efficient ground reasoning with first-order reasoning
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## Refutational reasoning

In reasoning methods we study, the validity problem is reformulated in terms of unsatisfiability. Proof by contradiction.

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A \text { is valid iff } \neg A \text { is unsatisfiable. }
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In other words:

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Example. The are an infinite number of prime numbers.
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Normal forms: CNF

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- Literal L: either an atom $p(\bar{t})$ (positive literal) or its negation $\neg p(\bar{t})$ (negative literal).

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- Empty clause, denoted by $\square: n=0$ The empty clause is false in every interpretation.


## CNF

- A formula $F$ is in conjunctive normal form, or simply CNF, if it is either $\top$, or $\perp$, or a universally quantified conjunction of clauses:

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Example:

$$
\forall x, y, z\left[\begin{array}{ll} 
& p(x) \vee p(y) \vee \neg q(x, f(y)) \\
& \neg p(f(z)) \vee q(z, z) \\
& q(c, f(d))
\end{array}\right.
$$

Notation: a set of clauses

$$
\{p(x) \vee p(y) \vee \neg q(x, f(y)), \neg p(f(z)) \vee q(z, z), q(c, f(d))\}
$$

- A set of clauses $S$ is a clausal normal form of a formula $F$ if $S$ is equi-satisfiable with $F$.


## CNF transformation

Main steps in the basic CNF transformation:

1. Prenex normal form - moving all quantifiers up-front

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \forall y[\forall x[p(f(x), y)] \rightarrow \forall v \exists z[q(f(z)) \wedge p(v, z)]] \Rightarrow \\
& \forall y \exists x \forall v \exists z[p(f(x), y) \rightarrow(q(f(z)) \wedge p(v, z))]
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\end{aligned}
$$

3. CNF transformation of the quantifier-free part

$$
\begin{aligned}
\forall y \forall v[ & \left.p\left(f\left(s k_{1}(y)\right), y\right) \rightarrow\left(q\left(f\left(s k_{2}(y, v)\right)\right) \wedge p\left(v, s k_{2}(y, v)\right)\right)\right] \Rightarrow \\
\forall y \forall v[ & \left(\neg p\left(f\left(s k_{1}(y)\right), y\right) \vee q\left(f\left(s k_{2}(y, v)\right)\right)\right) \wedge \\
& \left.\left(\neg p\left(f\left(s k_{1}(y)\right), y\right) \vee p\left(v, s k_{2}(y, v)\right)\right)\right]
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## Prenex normal form

Prenex normal form - moving all quantifiers up-front.
Assume that the formula is rectified and
$F \leftrightarrow G$ is replaced by $(F \rightarrow G) \wedge(G \rightarrow F)$.

$$
\begin{array}{rll}
\neg(\forall x F) & \Rightarrow_{\mathrm{PNF}} & \exists x \neg F \\
\neg(\exists x F) & \Rightarrow_{\mathrm{PNF}} & \forall x \neg F \\
(\exists x F) \times G G & \Rightarrow_{\mathrm{PNF}} & \exists x(F \times G) \\
(\exists x F) \rightarrow G & \Rightarrow_{\mathrm{PNF}} & \forall x(F \rightarrow G) \\
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(\forall x F) \rightarrow G & \Rightarrow_{\mathrm{PNF}} & \exists x(F \rightarrow G)
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Example:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \forall y[\forall x[p(f(x), y)] \rightarrow \forall v \exists z[q(f(z)) \wedge p(v, z)]] \Rightarrow_{\mathrm{PNF}}^{*} \\
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## Skolemization

Skolemization - eliminating existential quantifiers.

$$
F=\forall \bar{x} \exists y F^{\prime}(\bar{x}, y)
$$

Informally:

- $F$ states that for each value of $\bar{x}$ we can choose a value for $y$ such that $F^{\prime}(\bar{x}, y)$ holds.
- We can represent this choice by a Skolem function $s k_{F^{\prime}}(\bar{x})$.
- $\forall \bar{x} \exists y F^{\prime}(\bar{x}, y)$ is equi-satisfiable with $\forall \bar{x} F^{\prime}\left(\bar{x}, s k_{F^{\prime}}(\bar{x})\right)$.


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$\forall y \exists x \forall v \exists z[p(f(x), y) \rightarrow(q(f(z)) \wedge p(v, z))] \Rightarrow_{S K}$
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\neg(F \vee G) & \Rightarrow_{\mathrm{CNF}} & (\neg F \wedge \neg G) \\
\neg(F \wedge G) & \Rightarrow_{\mathrm{CNF}} & (\neg F \vee \neg G) \\
\neg \neg F & \Rightarrow_{\mathrm{CNF}} & F \\
(F \wedge G) \vee H & \Rightarrow_{\mathrm{CNF}} & (F \vee H) \wedge(G \vee H)
\end{array}
$$

## Clausal normal form

$$
\begin{aligned}
F & \Rightarrow \mathrm{PNF}_{*} & \exists \forall x_{1} \ldots \exists \forall x_{n} F^{\prime} \\
& \Rightarrow{ }_{\mathrm{SK}}^{*} & \forall \bar{x} F^{\prime \prime} \\
& \Rightarrow_{\mathrm{CNF}}^{*} & \forall \bar{x}\left[\bigwedge_{i}\left(\bigvee_{j} L_{i, j}\right)\right] \\
& \Rightarrow & \left\{C_{1}, \ldots, C_{n}\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

Note: all variables in $C_{1}, \ldots, C_{n}$ are implicitly universally quantified.

Problems with the basic transformation:

* exponentior in size
- the structure of the formula can be lost
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## Optimized CNF transformation

Optimized: do the opposite to the basic transformation.

- structural transformation: introduce names for complex sub-formulas
$\rightarrow$ miniscoping: push quantifiers inwards
Deduces argumants of Clolam functions:
miniscoping: $\quad p(s k) \vee q(x, y) \quad E P R$


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Reduces arguments of Skolem functions: $\forall x, y \exists z(p(z) \vee q(x, y))$ basic: $\quad p(s k(x, y)) \vee q(x, y)$ non-EPR
miniscoping: $\quad p(s k) \vee q(x, y) \quad$ EPR
[Nonnengart, Weidenbach, AR'01; Hoder, Khasidashvili, Korovin, Voronkov,

Herbrand interpretations

## Herbrand interpretations

Basic idea: In order to check of satisfiability of (universal) formulas it is sufficient to consider only specific class of interpretations called Herbrand interpretations.
$\qquad$ one constant in $\mathcal{F}$ Key ingredient - ground terms. Ground terms - terms without occurrences of variables e.g The set of eround terms is $T(5$ (A) Ground atoms, clauses are ... without occurrences of variables Grounding su'stiution is a substiution with :he range in ground terms.

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## Herbrand interpretations

A Herbrand $\Sigma$-interpretation $\mathcal{H}=\left(H, \mathcal{F}^{\mathcal{H}}, \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{H}}\right)$ is a $\Sigma$-structure such that

- $H=T(\Sigma, \emptyset)$-the domain is the set of all ground terms
- $f^{\mathcal{H}}\left(t_{1}, \ldots, t_{n}\right)=f\left(t_{1}, \ldots, t_{n}\right)$ - terms are interpreted by themselves

Note: the domain and the interpretation of functions are fixed, only interpretations of predicates can vary.

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Example: Consider $\Sigma=(\{s / 1,0 / 0\},\{p / 2\})$ possible Herbrand $\Sigma$-interpretations $\mathcal{H}_{1}, \mathcal{H}_{2}$ :

- $0 \in p^{\mathcal{H}_{1}}, s(s(0)) \in p^{\mathcal{H}_{1}}, \ldots, s^{2 n}(0) \in p^{\mathcal{H}_{1}}, \ldots$.

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Q: How many Herbrand interpretations over $\Sigma$ exist?
We can specify any Herbrand interpretation uniquely by specifying which ground atoms are true in it.
Notation: $\mathcal{H}_{1}=\left\{p(0), p(s(s(0))), \ldots, p\left(s^{2 n}(0)\right), \ldots\right\}$.

## Herbrand interpretations suffice

Theorem. Consider a universally quantified formula $F$ over $\Sigma$.
Then $F$ is satisfiable if and only if $F$ has a Herbrand model.

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$\Rightarrow)$ Let $F=\forall x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n} F^{\prime}(\bar{x})$ where $F^{\prime}(\bar{x})$ is quantifier-free.
Consider $\mathcal{A}$ such that $\mathcal{A} \models \forall x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n} F^{\prime}(\bar{x})$.


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Then for any $t_{1}, \ldots, t_{n} \in T(\Sigma, \emptyset)$ we have $\mathcal{A} \models F^{\prime}\left[t_{1}^{\mathcal{A}}, \ldots, t_{n}^{\mathcal{A}}\right]$.
Define a Herbrand interpretation $\mathcal{H}$ as follows

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\mathcal{H}=\left\{p(\bar{t}) \mid \mathcal{A} \models p\left[\bar{t}^{\mathcal{A}}\right], \text { where } p \in \mathcal{P}, \bar{t} \in T(\Sigma, \emptyset)\right\} .
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The domain of $\mathcal{H}$ is $T(\Sigma, \emptyset)$, hence to show that $\mathcal{H} \models \forall x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n} F^{\prime}(\bar{x})$ it is suffices to show that for any terms $t_{1}, \ldots, t_{n} \in T(\Sigma, \emptyset), \mathcal{H} \models F^{\prime}\left[t_{1}, \ldots, t_{n}\right]$. This holds since $\mathcal{H} \models F^{\prime}\left[t_{1}, \ldots, t_{n}\right]$ iff $\mathcal{A} \models F^{\prime}\left[t_{1}^{\mathcal{A}}, \ldots, t_{n}^{\mathcal{A}}\right]$ by construction.

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Consider a universally quantified formula:
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Denote the set of all ground instances of $F^{\prime}$ as

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\operatorname{Gr}\left(F^{\prime}\right)=\left\{F^{\prime} \sigma \mid \sigma \text { is a grounding substitution }\right\}
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For a set of formulas $\Phi, \operatorname{Gr}(\Phi)=\{\operatorname{Gr}(F) \mid F \in \Phi\}$
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For clauses and set of clauses definitions of ground instances are similar.
Example: Consider a signature $\Sigma=(\{f / 1, a / 0\},\{p / 1\})$.
Ground instances of $p(x) \vee \neg p(f(x))$ consist of: $\left.p(a) \vee \neg p(f(a)), \quad p(f(a)) \vee \neg p(f(f(a))), \ldots, p\left(f^{n}(a)\right) \vee \neg p\left(f^{n+1}(a)\right)\right), \ldots$

## Reduction of first-order to ground

Theorem. A set of first-order universal formulas $\Phi$ is satisfiable if and only the set of its ground instances $\operatorname{Gr}(\Phi)$ is satisfiable.

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$\Leftarrow)$ Assume $\operatorname{Gr}(\Phi)$ is satisfiable. Then there is a Herbrand model
$\mathcal{H} \models \operatorname{Gr}(\Phi)$. Since the domain of $\mathcal{H}$ is exactly all ground terms, $\mathcal{H} \models \Phi$.

## Reduction first-order to propositional

Ground formulas can be seen as propositional formulas as follows:
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Example:

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\begin{aligned}
F & =\{p(f(a)) \vee \neg p(a), p(a) \vee \neg p(f(a))\} \\
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Corollary. A set of first-order universal formulas $\Phi$ is satisfiable if and only the set of propositional formulas $\operatorname{Prop}(\operatorname{Gr}(\phi))$ is satisfiable We will not distinguish between ground atoms and their propositional

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## Examples

Example: Consider a signature $\Sigma=(\{a / 0, b / 0\},\{p / 1, q / 2\})$ and a set of clauses $S=\{\neg p(x) \vee q(x, a), \neg q(x, x) \vee p(x)\}$. Is $S$ satisfiable?.

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The set of ground instances $\operatorname{Gr}(S)$ is infinite:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left.p(a) \vee \neg p(f(a)), \quad p(f(a)) \vee \neg p(f(f(a))), \ldots, p\left(f^{n}(a)\right) \vee \neg p\left(f^{n+1}(a)\right)\right), \ldots \\
& \left.\neg p(a) \vee p(f(a)), \quad \neg p(f(a)) \vee p(f(f(a))), \ldots, \neg p\left(f^{n}(a)\right) \vee p\left(f^{n+1}(a)\right)\right), \ldots
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Inference systems

## Deduction, Inference Systems

An inference has the form:

where $n \geq 0, F_{1}, \ldots, F_{n}, G$ are formulas.

- $F_{1} \ldots F_{n}$ are called premises.
- $G$ is called conclusion.

An inference rule $R$ is a set of inferences.
An inference system, (or a calculus) $\mathbb{I}$ is a set of inference rules

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An inference system, (or a calculus) $\mathbb{I}$ is a set of inference rules.

## Derivation, proofs

- A derivation tree in $\mathbb{I}$ is a tree built from inferences.
- A proof of $F($ in $\mathbb{I})$ from $F_{1}, \ldots, F_{n}$ is a tree with leaves in $F_{1}, \ldots, F_{n}$ and the root $F$.
- A refutation proof is a proof of $\square$.
- $F$ is derivable, (or provable) in $\mathbb{I}$ from a set of formulas $S$, denoted $S \vdash_{\mathbb{I}} F$, if there is a proof of $F$ from formulas in $S$.


## Soundness/Completeness

## Soundness.

- An inference is sound if the conclusion of this inference logically follows from the premises $(\models)$.
- An inference rule is sound if all its inferences are sound.
- An inference system is sound if all its inference rules are sound.
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Lemma. If an inference system $\mathbb{I}$ is sound then for any set of formulas $S$ :

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Completeness. An inference system $\mathbb{I}$ is refutationally complete if for any set of formulas $S$ we have:

$$
S \models \perp \quad \text { implies } \quad S \vdash_{\mathbb{I}} \square .
$$

## Proofs and reasoning methods

## Formal Proofs:

- each step of a proof is easy to check
- proofs - certificates of correctness
- independent proof checking
- efficient proof search
- restrictions on applicability of inference rules


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- each step of a proof is easy to check
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Reasoning methods based on inference systems:

- efficient proof search
- restrictions on applicability of inference rules
- proof search strategies

Propositional resolution

## Propositional Resolution

Propositional Resolution inference system $\mathbb{B} \mathbb{R}$, consists of the following inference rules:

- Binary resolution rule (BR):

$$
\frac{C \vee p \quad \neg p \vee D}{C \vee D}(B R)
$$

- Binary positive factoring rule (BF):

$$
\frac{C \vee p \vee p}{C \vee p}(B F)
$$

where $p$ is an atom.

## Example

Given: $S=\{q \vee \neg p, p \vee q, \neg q\}$

A proof in resolution calculus:


Another proof in resolution calculus:

## Example

Given: $S=\{q \vee \neg p, p \vee q, \neg q\}$

A proof in resolution calculus:

$$
\frac{q \vee \neg p \quad p \vee q}{\frac{q \vee q}{q}}
$$

Another proof in resolution calculus:

## Example

Given: $S=\{q \vee \neg p, p \vee q, \neg q\}$

A proof in resolution calculus:

$$
\frac{q \vee \neg p \quad p \vee q}{\frac{q \vee q}{\frac{q}{(\mathrm{BF})}}}
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{\frac{q \vee \neg p \quad p \vee q}{\frac{q \vee q}{(\mathrm{BR})}_{\frac{q}{(\mathrm{BF})}}^{\square}}{ }^{\square}}^{(\mathrm{BR})}
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{\frac{q \vee \neg p \quad p \vee q}{\frac{q \vee q}{(B R)}_{\text {(BF) }^{q}}^{\square}} \quad \neg q_{\text {(BR) }} \text { ( }}^{q}
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Another proof in resolution calculus:

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\underline{q \vee \neg p \quad \neg q}
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\frac{q \vee \neg p}{\frac{\neg p}{} \quad \neg q}(\mathrm{BR})
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Another proof in resolution calculus:

$$
\begin{array}{cc}
q \vee \neg p & \neg q \\
{\left.\frac{\neg p}{}{ }^{q R}\right)}^{q} & p \vee q \\
& \text { (BR) }
\end{array}
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\begin{array}{ccc}
q \vee \neg p & \neg q \\
\hline \frac{\neg p}{}{ }^{\text {(BR) }} & p \vee q \\
\hline & \frac{q}{\text { (BR) }} \quad \neg q \\
& \square & \text { (BR) }
\end{array}
$$

## Linear Proofs

Tree Proof:


Linear Proof:

1. $q \vee \neg p$ input
2. $p \vee q$ input
3. $\neg q$ input
4. $\quad q \vee q \quad B R(1,2)$
5. $\quad q \quad B F(4)$
6. 

$\square$
BR $(3,5)$

## Soundness of resolution

Theorem. [Soundness] The resolution inference system $\mathbb{B R}$ is sound.
Proof. Conclusions of BR and BF are logically implied by the premises.

- $\{C \vee p, \neg p \vee D\} \models C \vee D$
- $\{C \vee L \vee L\} \models C \vee L$
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Theorem. [Completeness] The resolution inference system $\mathbb{B} \mathbb{R}$ is refutationally complete.

We need to show that for any set of clauses $S$ :

$$
S \models \square \quad \text { implies } \quad S \vdash_{\mathbb{B R}} \square .
$$

or equivalently:
$S \vdash_{\mathbb{B} \mathbb{R}} \square \quad$ implies $\quad S$ is satisfiable
Completeness of resolution is one of the key results in automated reasoning. We will present the proof after some preparations.

## Search for unsatisfiability

Basic Idea. A Saturation Process:
Given set of clauses $S$ we exhaustively apply all inference rules adding the conclusions to this set until the contradiction ( $\square$ ) is derived.

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S_{0} \Rightarrow S_{1} \Rightarrow \ldots S_{n} \Rightarrow \ldots
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Define
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More formally: define one-step resolution expansion

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\operatorname{Res}(S)=\{C \mid C \text { is a conclusion of } \mathbb{B} \mathbb{R} \text { applied to clauses in } S\}
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Define

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S_{0}=S, S_{1}=\operatorname{Res}\left(S_{0}\right), \ldots, S_{n}=\operatorname{Res}\left(S_{n-1}\right), \ldots
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is called the basic saturation process.
The limit of the basic saturation process is $\operatorname{Res}^{*}(S)=\bigcup_{0 \leq i<\omega} S_{i}$

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More formally: define one-step resolution expansion

$$
\operatorname{Res}(S)=\{C \mid C \text { is a conclusion of } \mathbb{B} \mathbb{R} \text { applied to clauses in } S\}
$$

Define

$$
S_{0}=S, S_{1}=\operatorname{Res}\left(S_{0}\right), \ldots, S_{n}=\operatorname{Res}\left(S_{n-1}\right), \ldots
$$

is called the basic saturation process.
The limit of the basic saturation process is $\operatorname{Res}^{*}(S)=\bigcup_{0 \leq i<\omega} S_{i}$
Lemma. A clause $C$ is derivable from $S$ using $\mathbb{B} \mathbb{R}$ if and only if
$C \in \operatorname{Res}^{*}(S)$.

## Saturated sets and completeness

A set of clauses $S$ is saturated if $\operatorname{Res}(S) \subseteq S$.
Note: The limit of any basic saturation process is a saturated set.

Completeness of the resolution calculus $\mathbb{B} \mathbb{R}$ can be reformulated as
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Completeness of the resolution calculus $\mathbb{B} \mathbb{R}$ can be reformulated as follows. For any saturated set of clauses $S$ :
$\square \notin S$ implies $S$ is satisfiable

Completeness of resolution

## Main idea

Consider a saturated set of clauses $S$ such that $\square \notin S$.
How we can show that $S$ is satisfiable?

Clause representation: multi-sets of literals.
Mu...t: mult: sets, w-11 founded ondens on atoms, literals and clauses.

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Clause representation: multi-sets of literals.
Next: multi-sets, well-founded orders on atoms, literals and clauses.

## Multi-Sets

Clauses will be represented as multi-sets of literals.

- Multi-sets are "sets which allow repetition".

Example: $\quad\{a, a, b\}, \quad\{a, b, a\}, \quad\{a, b\}$

- Formally, let $X$ be a set.

A multi-set $S$ over $X$ is a mapping $S: X \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$.

- Intuitively, $S(x)$ specifies the number of occurrences of the element $x$ (of the base set $X$ ) within $S$.
- Example: $S=\{a, a, a, b, b\}$ is a multi-set over $\{a, b, c\}$, where $S(a)=3, S(b)=2, S(c)=0$.
- We say that $x$ is an element of $S$, if $S(x)>0$.


## Multi-Sets (cont'd)

- We use set notation ( $\in, \subset, \subseteq, \cup, \cap$, etc.) with analogous meaning also for multi-sets, e.g.,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left(S_{1} \cup S_{2}\right)(x) & =S_{1}(x)+S_{2}(x) \\
\left(S_{1} \cap S_{2}\right)(x) & =\min \left\{S_{1}(x), S_{2}(x)\right\} \\
\left(S_{1} \backslash S_{2}\right)(x) & =S_{1}(x)-S_{2}(x)
\end{aligned}
$$

- A multi-set $S$ over $X$ is called finite, if

$$
|\{x \in X \mid S(x)>0\}|<\infty .
$$

- From now on we consider finite multi-sets only.


## Multi-Set Orderings $\succ_{\text {mul }}$

## Definition

Let $(X, \succ)$ be a (strict) ordering. The multi-set extension $\succ_{\text {mul }}$ of $\succ$ to (finite) multi-sets over $X$ is defined by

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\begin{aligned}
S_{1} \succ_{\text {mul }} S_{2} \Longleftrightarrow & S_{1} \neq S_{2} \text { and } \\
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1. Remove common occurrences of elements from $S_{1}$ and $S_{2}$. Assume this gives $S_{1}^{\prime} \neq S_{2}^{\prime}$.
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Example $\{5,5,4,3,2\} \succ_{\text {mul }}\{5,4,4,3,3,2\}$

## Properties of Multi-Set Orderings

An ordering over $X$ is well-founded if if there is no infinite decreasing chain $x_{0} \succ x_{1} \succ x_{2} \succ \ldots$ of elements $x_{i} \in X$.

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Q: How many multi-sets less than $\{3\}$ ?

## Order on atoms, literals and clauses

Consider a set of ground atoms $\mathcal{P}$.
Let $\succ$ be any well-founded, total order on $\mathcal{P}$.
 Clauses are considered as multi-sets of literals. M' w" am'iguóus'y use . Q: What is the smallest clause ? Q Consider $A_{1} \rightarrow A_{2}$

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## The model construction [Bachmair, Ganzinger]

Consider $S$ is a set of clauses.

Construct a Herbrand interpretation $I_{S}$ aiming at satisfying clauses in $S$.

- consider clauses in the order $\succ$ from small to large
- satisfy the next clause $A \vee C$ by adding $A$ to $I_{S}$ provided certain conditions are met.


## The model construction [Bachmair, Ganzinger]

More formally: Goal construct $I_{S}$ such that $I_{S} \models S$ if $S$ is saturated.
Consider a clause $C \in S$ that we would like to satisfy. By induction assume that for all smaller clauses $D \prec C$ we constructed: Define: interpretation up-to $C$ as $I_{C}=\bigcup_{D \prec C} \epsilon_{D}$ Dafina: satisfying atom for for $C$ as $\epsilon_{C}=\{A\}$ (in this case $C$ is called productive) if $\checkmark \epsilon_{C}=\emptyset$ otherwise Define: interpretation at $C$ to be $/ C=/ C U E C$.

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## Counter-example reduction [Bachmair, Ganzinger]

Lemma Model construction is monotone:
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- Inference by $\mathbb{B} \mathbb{R}$ is applicable to $C$ in $S$ with the conclusion $G$ s.t.
- $G \prec C$, and
- $I_{s} \not \vDash G$, and
- $G \in S$
- $G$ is a smaller counter-example! Contradiction with minimality of $C$.
resolution reduces counter-examples


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Key property: resolution reduces counter-examples

## Literal selection functions

Unrestricted resolution is a very prolific inference system.
Use selection function to restrict applicability of rules to selected literals Selection function: selects a subset of literals in a clause sel $(C) \subseteq C$. only selected literals are eligible for inferences.

A selection function sel is admissible if $\rightarrow \operatorname{sel}(C)=\emptyset$ only when $C$ is the empty clause. > if sel'(C) consists of only positive literals then sel( $C$ ) also contains We will underline selected literals:

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- if $\operatorname{sel}(C)$ consists of only positive literals then $s e l(C)$ also contains all maximal literals in $C$.

We will underline selected literals: $\neg A \vee B \vee C$

## Ordered resolution with selection

Let sel be a selection function.
Ordered resolution with selection function sel, denoted $\mathbb{B R} \mathbb{R}$, consists of the following inference rules:

- Resolution with selection rule (BRS):

$$
\frac{C \vee \underline{p} \quad \frac{\neg p}{C \vee D}}{C \vee D}(B R)
$$

- Ordered factoring with selection rule (BFS):

$$
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Exercise Resolution with arbitrary selection is incomplete.

## Redundancy elimination

Abstract notion of redundancy.
A clause $C$ is redundant in $S$ if there exists $\left\{C_{1}, \ldots, C_{n}\right\} \subseteq S$ such that

- $\left\{C_{1}, \ldots, C_{n}\right\} \vDash C$
- $C_{1} \prec C, \ldots, C_{n} \prec C$

We can remove redundant clauses from the search space!
Practical redundancies:
D tautoiogy elimination: $p \vee \operatorname{lo}$ C can be eliminated

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- subsumption elimination: if $C \subset D, D$ can be eliminated indeed: $C \models D$ and $C \prec D$.


## Non-ground resolution

- A non-ground clause can be seen as representation of a (possibly infinite) set of its ground instances.
- Consider $q(x, a) \vee p(x)$ and $q(y, z) \vee \neg p(f(y))$.
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## Unifiers

- Consider

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E=\left\{s_{1} \doteq t_{1}, \ldots, s_{n} \doteq t_{n}\right\}
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a simultaneous unification problem, where $s_{i}$ and $t_{i}$ are terms or atoms.

- A substitution $\sigma$ is a unifier of $E_{\text {, if }} s_{i} \sigma=t_{i} \sigma$ for each $1 \leq i \leq n$
- If a unifier of $E$ exists, then $E$ is said to be unifiable.
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## Most general unifiers

- The most general unifier of $\sigma=\operatorname{mgu}(\{s \doteq t\})$ :
- is a unifier $s \sigma \doteq t \sigma$.
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Theorem [Robinson 1965] For any unifiable system of equations $E=\left\{s_{1} \doteq t_{1}, \ldots, s_{n} \doteq t_{n}\right\}$ there is the most general unifier mgu $(E)$, which is unique up to renaming.

## Unification algorithm:

Apply unification transformation rules to $E$ to obtain mgu $(E)$.

- Orientation: $t \doteq x, E \Rightarrow U x \doteq t, E$ if $t \notin \mathcal{X}$
- Trivial: $t \doteq t, E \Rightarrow U E$
- Clash: $f(\ldots) \doteq g(\ldots), E \Rightarrow u \perp$
- Decomposition:
$f\left(s_{1}, \ldots, s_{n}\right) \doteq f\left(t_{1}, \ldots, t_{n}\right), E \Rightarrow u$
$s_{1} \doteq t_{1}, \ldots, s_{n} \doteq t_{n}, E$
- Occur-check: $x \doteq t, E \Rightarrow U \perp$
if $x \in \operatorname{var}(t), x \neq t$
- Substitution: $x \doteq t, E \Rightarrow u x \doteq t, E\{t \mapsto x\}$
if $x \in \operatorname{var}(E), x \notin \operatorname{var}(t)$


## General resolution with selection:

- Resolution rule (BRS):

$$
\frac{C \vee p \quad \neg p^{\prime} \vee D}{(C \vee D) \sigma}(B R)
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where $\sigma=\operatorname{mgu}\left(p, p^{\prime}\right)$

- Binary positive factoring (BFS):

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Extend $\succ$ from order on ground atoms to any order $\succ^{\prime}$ on (non-ground)
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if $A(\bar{x}) \succ B(\bar{x})$ then for every ground substitution
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Completeness of resolution in the general case

Theorem. $\mathbb{B R S}$ with any admissible selection functions is complete for
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Therefore $\operatorname{Gr}(S)$ is satisfiable on a Herbrand model $/ \mathrm{S}$.

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Therefore $\operatorname{Gr}(S)$ is satisfiable on a Herbrand model $I_{S}$.
Finally $I_{S} \models S$.

## Resolution as a decision procedure

Consider a fair saturation process by a sound and complete calculi $\mathcal{C}$

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S_{0} \Rightarrow S_{1} \Rightarrow \ldots S_{n} \Rightarrow \ldots
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There are three possible outcomes:

1. $\square$ is derived ( $\square \in S_{n}$ for some $n$ ), then $S$ is unsatisfiable (soundness);
2. no new clauses can be derived from $S_{i}$, i. e. $\operatorname{Res}\left(S_{i}\right) \subseteq S_{i}$, for some $0 \leq i<\omega$ and $\square \notin S$, then $S$ is satisfiable (completeness);
3. $S$ grows ad infinitum, the process does not terminate, in this case $S$ is satisfiable (completeness).

In cases 1) and 2) the procedure terminates.
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A sound and complete calculus $\mathcal{C}$ together with a fair saturation strategy is a decision procedure for a fragment $\Phi$ if the saturation process terminates for any clause set in $\Phi$.

## The magic of resolution

Resolution calculus with appropriate simplifications, selection functions and saturation strategies is a decision procedure for many fragments:

- monadic fragment [Bachmair, Ganzinger, Waldmann]
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