IN3070/4070 - Logic - Autumn 2020

Lecture 7: Resolution

Martin Giese

1st October 2019





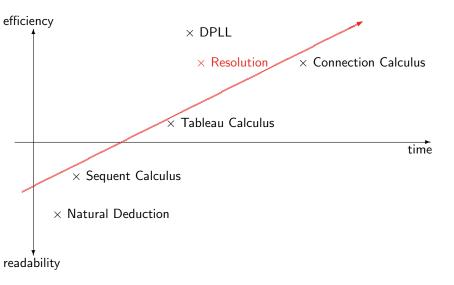
Today's Plan

- ▶ Introduction
- ► Repetition: Negation Normal Form
- ► Conjunctive Normal Form
- Clausal Form
- ► Resolution
- Soundness of Resolution
- ► Completeness of Resolution

Outline

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Proof Search Calculi



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- consists of one (two for first-order) inference rules and one axiom

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- works for first-order formulae in clausal form (e.g. conjunctive or disjunctive normal form)
- consists of one (two for first-order) inference rules and one axiom
- ▶ is one of the most popular proof search calculi
- ▶ has been implemented in many automated theorem provers

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Theorem 2.1.

Every formula in first-order logic can be transformed into an equivalent formula in NNF.

To convert an arbitrary formula to a formula in NNF, remove implications, and push negations inwards, preserving equivalence, using the following:

$$A \to B \equiv \neg A \lor B$$
$$\neg (A \land B) \equiv \neg A \lor \neg B$$
$$\neg (A \lor B) \equiv \neg A \land \neg B$$
$$\neg (\forall x A) \equiv \exists x \neg A$$
$$\neg (\exists x A) \equiv \forall x \neg A$$
$$\neg (\neg A) \equiv A$$

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 is **not** in CNF.

What about just p or $(p \lor q)$? Yes, if we consider a literal to be both a conjunction and a disjunction.

Theorem 3.1.

Every formula in propositional logic can be transformed into an equivalent formula in CNF.

To convert an arbitrary propositional formula to a formula in CNF perform the following steps, each of which preserves logical equivalence:

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- (1) Convert to negation normal form.
- (2) Use the distributive laws to move conjunctions inside disjunctions to the outside

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



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$$(p \vee \neg q) \wedge (\neg p \vee q)$$
 in clausal form: $\{\{p, \neg q\}, \{\neg p, q\}\}\$

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Every formula ϕ in propositional logic can be transformed into an logically equivalent formula in clausal form.

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This follows from the previous theorem, where we transformed a formula to CNF. Each disjunction is then transformed to a clause (of literals), and the clausal form is the set of these clauses. \Box

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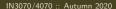
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A set of clauses is valid iff every clause in the set is true in every interpretation. But there are no clauses in \emptyset that need be true, so \emptyset is valid.

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Definition 5.2 (Resolution Rule).

Let C_1 , C_2 be clauses with $L \in C_1$ and $\overline{L} \in C_2$. The resolvent C' of C_1 and C_2 is $(C_1 \setminus \{L\}) \cup (C_2 \setminus \{\overline{L}\})$. C_1 and C_2 are the parents of C'.

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- ▶ the resolution rule maintains satisfiability: If $\mathcal{I} \models C_1$ and $\mathcal{I} \models C_2$ then $\mathcal{I} \models C'$
- ▶ if a set of clauses S is satisfiable and $C_1, C_2 \in S$, then $S \cup \{C'\}$ is satisfiable.

Example: Let $C_1 = \{a, b, \neg c\}$ and $C_2 = \{b, c, \neg e\}$.

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Observations:

▶ if $\{a, b, \neg c\}$ and $\{b, c, \neg e\} \equiv (a \lor b \lor \neg c) \land (b \lor c \lor \neg e)$ are true in \mathcal{I} , then $(a \lor b)$ is true (if c is true) or $(b \lor \neg e)$ is true (if c is false); hence $(a \lor b \lor \neg e)$ is true

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- ▶ if resolvent is unsatisfiable, then conj. of parents is unsatisfiable
- ▶ the empty clause □ is unsatisfiable
- ▶ goal: derive empty clause □

- ▶ a set of clauses is unsatisfiable iff the empty clause can be derived
- ▶ a clause *C* is true iff at least one of its literals is true; if there is no literal in *C*, then *C* is false and every set of clauses (in CNF) that contains *C* is false, i.e.unsatisfiable

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Definition 5.3 (Resolution Procedure).

Given a set of clauses S.

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- 2. $S' := S \cup \{C'\}$, S := S'
- 3. if $C' = \square$, then output "unsatisfiable"; if all possible resolvents have been considered, then output "satisfiable"; otherwise continue with 1.

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- ▶ Equivalent to: $p \land (p \rightarrow q) \land \neg q$
- ightharpoonup CNF: $p \wedge (\neg p \vee q) \wedge \neg q$

- ▶ Prove validity of: $p \land (p \rightarrow q) \rightarrow q$
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- ightharpoonup CNF: $p \wedge (\neg p \vee q) \wedge \neg q$
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- ▶ Resolvent: {q}
- ▶ New clause set: $\{\{p\}, \{\neg p, q\}, \{\neg q\}, \{q\}\}$
- ▶ Resolution step 2: between $\{\neg q\}$ and $\{q\}$

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- ➤ Resolvent: □

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- ▶ terminates, if all clauses $C_i \cup \{L\}, C_i \cup \{\overline{L}\}$ have been considered

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But the empty clause ${\cal I}$ contains no literals, so that is a contradiction.

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Semantic Trees

The completeness proof uses the following concept:

Definition 7.1 (Semantic Trees).

A semantic tree is a binary tree where:

- ▶ The root is labelled by the symbol \bot ,
- Every node has either no children or two children,
- ▶ For every node that has children, there is some atom A such that one child is labeled with A and the other with $\neg A$
- ▶ There are not two complementary literals A and $\neg A$ on any path starting at the root.

Semantic Trees

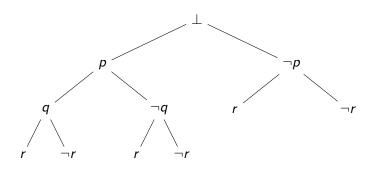
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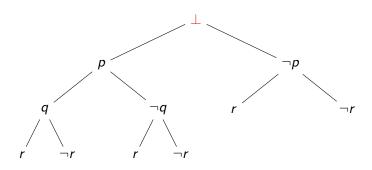
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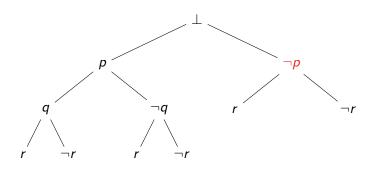
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Not a data structure, just needed for the completeness proof

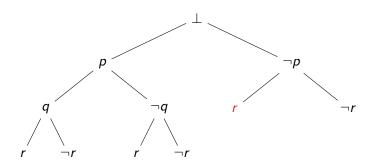




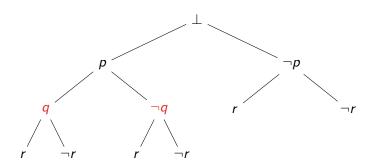
▶ Root labelled with ⊥



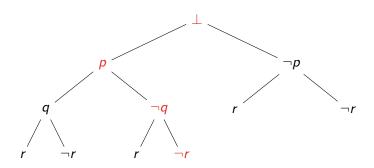
- ightharpoonup Root labelled with \perp
- Either two children,



- ▶ Root labelled with ⊥
- ▶ Either two children, or no children



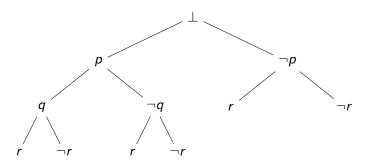
- ▶ Root labelled with ⊥
- Either two children, or no children
- Complementary siblings



- ▶ Root labelled with ⊥
- Either two children, or no children
- Complementary siblings
- ▶ No complementary pairs on a path

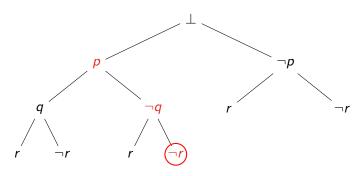
Partial Interpretations

The path to every node n in a semantic tree gives a 'partial interpretation' \mathcal{I}_n :



Partial Interpretations

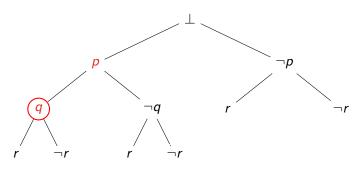
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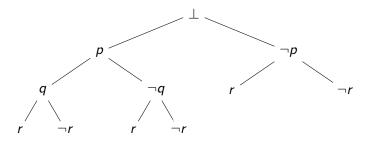
$$\mathcal{I}_n \models p$$
, $\mathcal{I}_n \models \neg q$, $\mathcal{I}_n \models \neg r$

Partial Interpretations

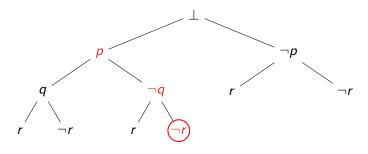
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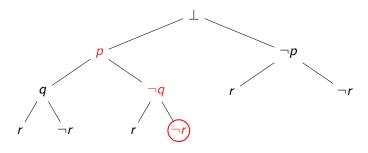
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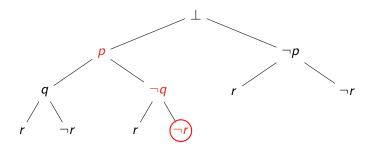
Sometimes, such a 'partial interpretation' is enough to falsify a clause:



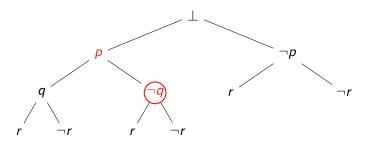
▶ At the marked node, the clause $\neg p \lor q \lor r$ is false



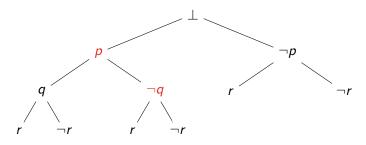
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- ▶ At the marked node, the clause $\neg p \lor r$ is false
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- ▶ The clause $\neg p \lor q$ is already false at the parent node!



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- ▶ The clause $\neg p \lor q$ is already false at the parent node!
- It remains false further down.

Failure Nodes - Definition

Definition 7.2.

A node n in a semantic tree is a falsifies a clause C if for every literal $L \in C$, the complement \overline{L} is on the branch leading to n.

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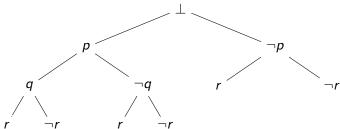
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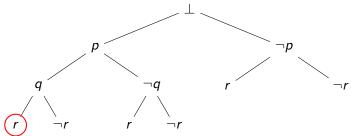
Failure nodes have just enough information to make sure some clause is falsified.

Note: A has the root as a failure node iff $\square \in S$.

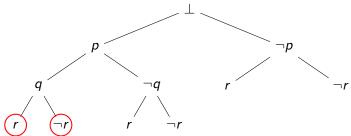
- 1. $\neg p \lor \neg q \lor \neg r$
- 2. $\neg q \lor r$
- 3. $\neg p \lor q$
- 4. p
- 5. $p \vee \neg r$



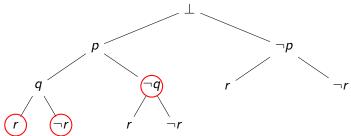
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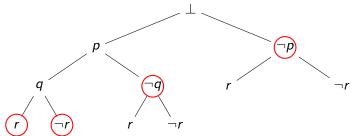
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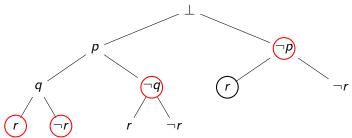
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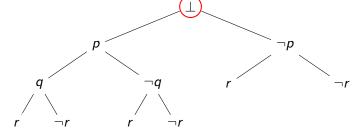


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Not a failure node: parent node falsifies clause 4.

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- 3. $\neg p \lor q$
- 4. *p*
- 5. $p \lor \neg r$
- 6. L



The empty clause is falsified by the root node

Closed Semantic Trees

Definition 7.4.

Given a semantic tree and a clause set *S*, a branch of the tree is closed if it contains a failure node.

Closed Semantic Trees

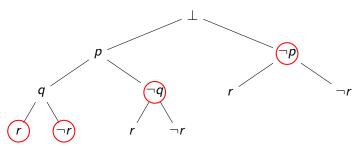
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The semantic tree is closed if all branches contain failure nodes.

Closed Semantic Tree – Example

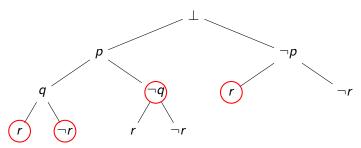
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The semantic tree is closed for these 5 clauses.

Closed Semantic Tree – Example

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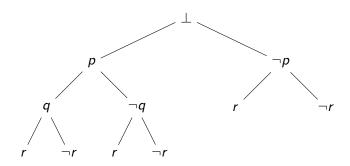


Without p, it is not closed.

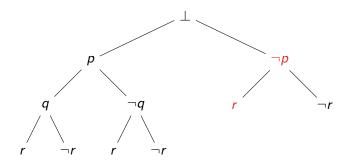
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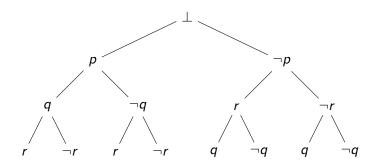


Example: Complete Semantic Tree



Not complete, since neither q nor $\neg q$ on branch

Example: Complete Semantic Tree



Complete for vocabulary $\{p, q, r\}$

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A complete semantic tree 'enumerates' all possible interpretations.

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Unsatisfiable Clause Sets close Semantic Trees

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Proof.

- \Rightarrow Let S be an unsatisfiable clause set. Construct a complete semantic tree. For each branch \mathcal{B} , $\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{B}} \not\models S$, so $\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{B}} \not\models C$ for some clause $C \in S$, so there is a node on the branch that falsifies C. The falsifying nodes highest up on each branch are failure nodes. So the semantic tree is closed.
- \Leftarrow Let S be a clause set and let a closed semantic tree be given. For any interpretation \mathcal{I} , there is a branch in the tree such that $\mathcal{I} \models L$ for all literals L on that branch. Since there is a failure node for some clause $C \in S$ on that branch, the atoms on the branch entail $\neg C$, so $\mathcal{I} \not\models C$, and thus $\mathcal{I} \not\models S$.

This holds for arbitrary interpretations \mathcal{I} , so S is unsatisfiable.

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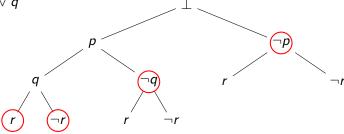
- $\square \notin S$. Then
 - a resolution step is possible from S,
 - ightharpoonup and the resulting clause set S' has a smaller closed semantic tree

1.
$$\neg p \lor \neg q \lor \neg r$$

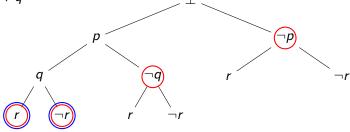
2.
$$\neg q \lor r$$

3.
$$\neg p \lor q$$

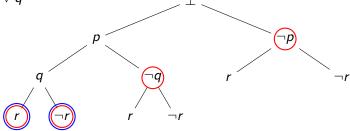
4. p



- 1. $\neg p \lor \neg q \lor \neg r$
- 2. $\neg q \lor r$
- 3. $\neg p \lor q$
- 4. p

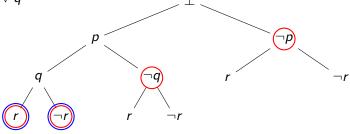


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- or it constructs a path in the tree without a failure node, but that is not possible.

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- ▶ This gives a closed semantic tree with two nodes less than before.

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Proof.

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