

Answer Set Solving in Practice

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Axiomatic Characterization: Overview

- 1 Completion
- 2 Tightness
- 3 Loops and Loop Formulas

Outline

- 1 Completion
- 2 Tightness
- 3 Loops and Loop Formulas

Motivation

- **Question** Is there a propositional formula $F(P)$ such that the models of $F(P)$ correspond to the stable models of P ?
- **Observation** Although each atom is defined through a set of rules, each such rule provides only a sufficient condition for its head atom
- **Idea** The idea of program completion is to turn such implications into a definition by adding the corresponding necessary counterpart

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Program completion

Let P be a normal logic program

- The **completion** $CF(P)$ of P is defined as follows

$$CF(P) = \left\{ a \leftrightarrow \bigvee_{r \in P, \text{head}(r)=a} BF(\text{body}(r)) \mid a \in \text{atom}(P) \right\}$$

where

$$BF(\text{body}(r)) = \bigwedge_{a \in \text{body}(r)^+} a \wedge \bigwedge_{a \in \text{body}(r)^-} \neg a$$

An example

$$P = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} a \leftarrow \\ b \leftarrow \sim a \\ c \leftarrow a, \sim d \\ d \leftarrow \sim c, \sim e \\ e \leftarrow b, \sim f \\ e \leftarrow e \end{array} \right\} \quad CF(P) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} a \leftrightarrow \top \\ b \leftrightarrow \neg a \\ c \leftrightarrow a \wedge \neg d \\ d \leftrightarrow \neg c \wedge \neg e \\ e \leftrightarrow (b \wedge \neg f) \vee e \\ f \leftrightarrow \perp \end{array} \right\}$$

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- $CF(P)$ is logically equivalent to $\overleftarrow{CF}(P) \cup \overrightarrow{CF}(P)$, where

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$$\text{body}_P(a) = \{ \text{body}(r) \mid r \in P \text{ and } \text{head}(r) = a \}$$

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- $\overrightarrow{CF}(P)$ completes P by adding necessary conditions for all atoms

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Supported models

- Every stable model of P is a model of $CF(P)$, but not vice versa
Models of $CF(P)$ are called the supported models of P

In other words, every stable model of P is a supported model of P
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- P has 21 models, including $\{a, c\}$, $\{a, d\}$, but also $\{a, b, c, d, e, f\}$
- P has 3 supported models, namely $\{a, c\}$, $\{a, d\}$, and $\{a, c, e\}$
- P has 2 stable models, namely $\{a, c\}$ and $\{a, d\}$

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The mismatch

- Question What causes the mismatch between supported models and stable models?
- Hint Consider the unstable yet supported model $\{a, c, e\}$ of P !
- Answer Cyclic derivations are causing the mismatch between supported and stable models

Atoms in a stable model can be “derived” from a program in a finite number of steps

Atoms in a cycle (not being “supported from outside the cycle”) cannot be “derived” from a program in a finite number of steps

But such atoms do not contradict the completion of a program and do thus not eliminate an unstable supported model

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Non-cyclic derivations

Let X be a stable model of normal logic program P

- For every atom $A \in X$, there is a finite sequence of positive rules

$$\langle r_1, \dots, r_n \rangle$$

such that

- 1 $head(r_1) = A$
 - 2 $body(r_i)^+ \subseteq \{head(r_j) \mid i < j \leq n\}$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$
 - 3 $r_i \in P^X$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$
- That is, each atom of X has a non-cyclic derivation from P^X
 - Example There is no finite sequence of rules providing a derivation for e from $P^{\{a,c,e\}}$

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Positive atom dependency graph

- The origin of (potential) circular derivations can be read off the **positive atom dependency graph** $G(P)$ of a logic program P given by

$$(atom(P), \{(a, b) \mid r \in P, a \in body(r)^+, head(r) = b\})$$

- A logic program P is called tight, if $G(P)$ is acyclic

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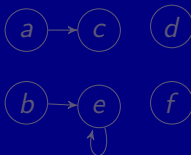
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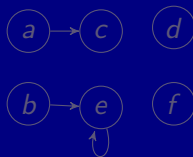
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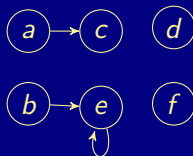


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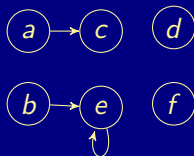


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Tight programs

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- For tight programs, stable and supported models coincide:

Let P be a tight normal logic program and $X \subseteq \text{atom}(P)$
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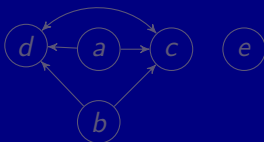
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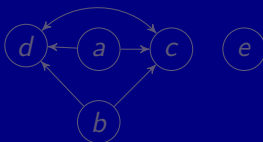


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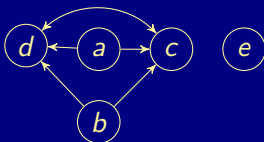
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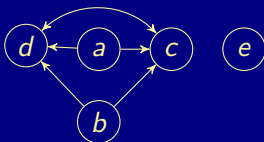
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- **Question** Is there a propositional formula $F(P)$ such that the models of $F(P)$ correspond to the stable models of P ?
- **Observation** Starting from the completion of a program, the problem boils down to eliminating the circular support of atoms holding in the supported models of the program
- **Idea** Add formulas prohibiting circular support of sets of atoms
- **Note** Circular support between atoms a and b is possible, if a has a path to b and b has a path to a in the program's positive atom dependency graph

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Loops

Let P be a normal logic program, and let $G(P) = (atom(P), E)$ be the positive atom dependency graph of P

- A set $\emptyset \subset L \subseteq atom(P)$ is a loop of P if it induces a non-trivial strongly connected subgraph of $G(P)$
That is, each pair of atoms in L is connected by a path of non-zero length in $(L, E \cap (L \times L))$
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 That is, each pair of atoms in L is connected by a path of non-zero length in $(L, E \cap (L \times L))$
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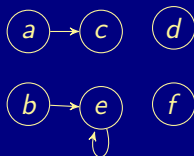
Loops

Let P be a normal logic program, and
 let $G(P) = (atom(P), E)$ be the positive atom dependency graph of P

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Example

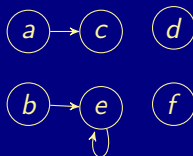
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$$\blacksquare \text{loop}(P) = \{\{e\}\}$$

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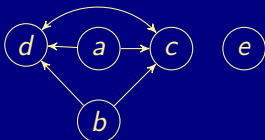
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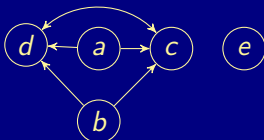
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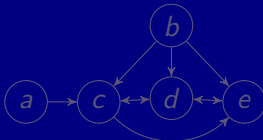
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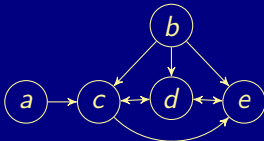
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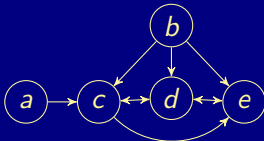
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Loop formulas

Let P be a normal logic program

- For $L \subseteq \text{atom}(P)$, define the **external supports** of L for P as

$$ES_P(L) = \{r \in P \mid \text{head}(r) \in L \text{ and } \text{body}(r)^+ \cap L = \emptyset\}$$

- Define the external bodies of L in P as $EB_P(L) = \text{body}(ES_P(L))$
- The (disjunctive) loop formula of L for P is

$$\begin{aligned} LF_P(L) &= (\bigvee_{a \in L} a) \rightarrow (\bigvee_{B \in EB_P(L)} BF(B)) \\ &\equiv (\bigwedge_{B \in EB_P(L)} \neg BF(B)) \rightarrow (\bigwedge_{a \in L} \neg a) \end{aligned}$$

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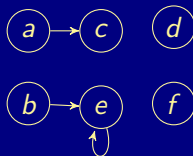
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Example

$$\blacksquare P = \left\{ \begin{array}{lll} a \leftarrow & c \leftarrow a, \sim d & e \leftarrow b, \sim f \\ b \leftarrow \sim a & d \leftarrow \sim c, \sim e & e \leftarrow e \end{array} \right\}$$

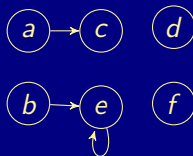


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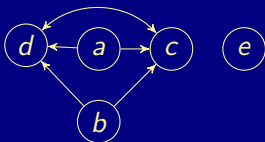
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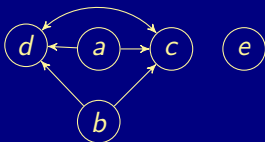
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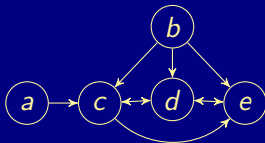
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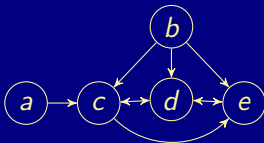


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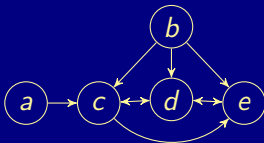


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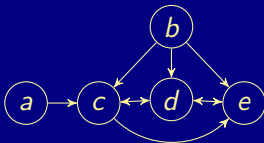


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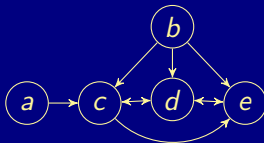


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Lin-Zhao Theorem

Theorem

*Let P be a normal logic program and $X \subseteq \text{atom}(P)$
Then, X is a stable model of P iff $X \models CF(P) \cup LF(P)$*

Loops and loop formulas: Properties

Let X be a supported model of normal logic program P

- Then, X is a stable model of P iff
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Loops and loop formulas: Properties (ctd)

- Result If $\mathcal{P} \not\subseteq \mathcal{NC}^1/poly$,² then there is no translation \mathcal{T} from logic programs to propositional formulas such that, for each normal logic program P , both of the following conditions hold:
 - 1 The propositional variables in $\mathcal{T}[P]$ are a subset of $atom(P)$
 - 2 The size of $\mathcal{T}[P]$ is polynomial in the size of P
- Note Every vocabulary-preserving translation from normal logic programs to propositional formulas must be exponential (in the worst case)
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²A conjecture from complexity theory that is believed to be true

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Operational Characterization: Overview

4 Partial Interpretations

5 Fitting Operator

6 Unfounded Sets

7 Well-Founded Operator

Outline

- 4 Partial Interpretations
- 5 Fitting Operator
- 6 Unfounded Sets
- 7 Well-Founded Operator

Interlude: Partial interpretations

or: 3-valued interpretations

A **partial interpretation** maps atoms onto truth values *true*, *false*, and *unknown*

- Representation $\langle T, F \rangle$, where
 - T is the set of all *true* atoms and
 - F is the set of all *false* atoms
 - Truth of atoms in $\mathcal{A} \setminus (T \cup F)$ is *unknown*
- Properties
 - $\langle T, F \rangle$ is conflicting if $T \cap F \neq \emptyset$
 - $\langle T, F \rangle$ is total if $T \cup F = \mathcal{A}$ and $T \cap F = \emptyset$
- Definition For $\langle T_1, F_1 \rangle$ and $\langle T_2, F_2 \rangle$, define
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Outline

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Basic idea

- Idea Extend T_P to normal logic programs
- Logical background The idea is to turn a program's completion into an operator such that
 - the head atom of a rule must be *true* if the rule's body is *true*
 - an atom must be *false* if the body of each rule having it as head is *false*

Definition

- Let P be a normal logic program
- Define

$$\Phi_P \langle T, F \rangle = \langle \mathbf{T}_P \langle T, F \rangle, \mathbf{F}_P \langle T, F \rangle \rangle$$

where

$$\mathbf{T}_P \langle T, F \rangle = \{ \text{head}(r) \mid r \in P, \text{body}(r)^+ \subseteq T, \text{body}(r)^- \subseteq F \}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_P \langle T, F \rangle = \{ a \in \text{atom}(P) \mid \\ \text{body}(r)^+ \cap F \neq \emptyset \text{ or } \text{body}(r)^- \cap T \neq \emptyset \\ \text{for each } r \in P \text{ such that } \text{head}(r) = a \}$$

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Example

$$P = \left\{ \begin{array}{lll} a \leftarrow & c \leftarrow a, \sim d & e \leftarrow b, \sim f \\ b \leftarrow \sim a & d \leftarrow \sim c, \sim e & e \leftarrow e \end{array} \right\}$$

- Let's iterate Φ_P on $\langle \{a\}, \{d\} \rangle$:

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Fitting semantics

- Define the iterative variant of Φ_P analogously to T_P :

$$\Phi_P^0 \langle T, F \rangle = \langle T, F \rangle \qquad \Phi_P^{i+1} \langle T, F \rangle = \Phi_P \Phi_P^i \langle T, F \rangle$$

- Define the Fitting semantics of a normal logic program P as the partial interpretation:

$$\bigsqcup_{i \geq 0} \Phi_P^i \langle \emptyset, \emptyset \rangle$$

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Properties

Let P be a normal logic program

- $\Phi_P \langle \emptyset, \emptyset \rangle$ is monotonic
That is, $\Phi_P^i \langle \emptyset, \emptyset \rangle \sqsubseteq \Phi_P^{i+1} \langle \emptyset, \emptyset \rangle$
- The Fitting semantics of P is
 - not conflicting,
 - and generally not total

Fitting fixpoints

Let P be a normal logic program,
and let $\langle T, F \rangle$ be a partial interpretation

- Define $\langle T, F \rangle$ as a **Fitting fixpoint** of P if $\Phi_P \langle T, F \rangle = \langle T, F \rangle$
 - The Fitting semantics is the \sqsubseteq -least Fitting fixpoint of P
 - Any other Fitting fixpoint extends the Fitting semantics
 - Total Fitting fixpoints correspond to supported models

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- P has three total Fitting fixpoints:

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P has three supported models, two of them are stable models

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Properties

Let P be a normal logic program,
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- Let $\Phi_P \langle T, F \rangle = \langle T', F' \rangle$
- If X is a stable model of P such that $T \subseteq X$ and $X \cap F = \emptyset$,
then $T' \subseteq X$ and $X \cap F' = \emptyset$

That is, Φ_P is stable model preserving

Hence, Φ_P can be used for approximating stable models and so for
propagation in ASP-solvers

- However, Φ_P is still insufficient, because total fixpoints correspond to
supported models, not necessarily stable models

Note The problem is the same as with program completion

The missing piece is non-circularity of derivations !

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Outline

4 Partial Interpretations

5 Fitting Operator

6 Unfounded Sets

7 Well-Founded Operator

Unfounded sets

Let P be a normal logic program,
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- A set $U \subseteq \text{atom}(P)$ is an unfounded set of P wrt $\langle T, F \rangle$, if for each rule $r \in P$ such that $\text{head}(r) \in U$, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{body}(r)^+ \cap F \neq \emptyset \text{ or } \text{body}(r)^- \cap T \neq \emptyset \text{ or} \\ & \text{body}(r)^+ \cap U \neq \emptyset \end{aligned}$$

Intuitively, $\langle T, F \rangle$ is what we already know about P

Rules satisfying Condition 1 are not usable for further derivations

Condition 2 is the unfounded set condition treating cyclic derivations:
All rules still being usable to derive an atom in U require an(other)
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Greatest unfounded sets

Let P be a normal logic program,
and let $\langle T, F \rangle$ be a partial interpretation

- **Observation** The union of two unfounded sets is an unfounded set
- The greatest unfounded set of P wrt $\langle T, F \rangle$ is the union of all unfounded sets of P wrt $\langle T, F \rangle$

It is denoted by $\mathbf{U}_P \langle T, F \rangle$

- Alternatively, we may define

$$\mathbf{U}_P \langle T, F \rangle = \text{atom}(P) \setminus \text{Cn}(\{r \in P \mid \text{body}(r)^+ \cap F = \emptyset\}^T)$$

- Note $\text{Cn}(\{r \in P \mid \text{body}(r)^+ \cap F = \emptyset\}^T)$ contains all non-circularly derivable atoms from P wrt $\langle T, F \rangle$

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Greatest unfounded sets

Let P be a normal logic program,
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- Observation The union of two unfounded sets is an unfounded set
- The **greatest unfounded set** of P wrt $\langle T, F \rangle$ is the union of all unfounded sets of P wrt $\langle T, F \rangle$

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Outline

- 4 Partial Interpretations
- 5 Fitting Operator
- 6 Unfounded Sets
- 7 Well-Founded Operator**

Well-founded operator

Let P be a normal logic program,
and let $\langle T, F \rangle$ be a partial interpretation

- Observation Condition 1 (in the definition of an unfounded set) corresponds to $\mathbf{F}_P\langle T, F \rangle$ of Fitting's $\Phi_P\langle T, F \rangle$
- Idea Extend (negative part of) Fitting's operator Φ_P

That is,

- keep definition of $\mathbf{T}_P\langle T, F \rangle$ from $\Phi_P\langle T, F \rangle$ and
 - replace $\mathbf{F}_P\langle T, F \rangle$ from $\Phi_P\langle T, F \rangle$ by $\mathbf{U}_P\langle T, F \rangle$
- In words, an atom must be *false*
if it belongs to the greatest unfounded set

- Definition $\Omega_P\langle T, F \rangle = \langle \mathbf{T}_P\langle T, F \rangle, \mathbf{U}_P\langle T, F \rangle \rangle$
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Example

$$P = \left\{ \begin{array}{lll} a \leftarrow & c \leftarrow a, \sim d & e \leftarrow b, \sim f \\ b \leftarrow \sim a & d \leftarrow \sim c, \sim e & e \leftarrow e \end{array} \right\}$$

- Let's iterate Ω_{P_1} on $\langle \{c\}, \emptyset \rangle$:

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_P \langle \{c\}, \emptyset \rangle &= \langle \{a\}, \{d, f\} \rangle \\ \Omega_P \langle \{a\}, \{d, f\} \rangle &= \langle \{a, c\}, \{b, e, f\} \rangle \\ \Omega_P \langle \{a, c\}, \{b, e, f\} \rangle &= \langle \{a\}, \{b, d, e, f\} \rangle \\ \Omega_P \langle \{a\}, \{b, d, e, f\} \rangle &= \langle \{a, c\}, \{b, e, f\} \rangle \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

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Well-founded semantics

- Define the iterative variant of Ω_P analogously to Φ_P :

$$\Omega_P^0 \langle T, F \rangle = \langle T, F \rangle \qquad \Omega_P^{i+1} \langle T, F \rangle = \Omega_P \Omega_P^i \langle T, F \rangle$$

- Define the well-founded semantics of a normal logic program P as the partial interpretation:

$$\bigsqcup_{i \geq 0} \Omega_P^i \langle \emptyset, \emptyset \rangle$$

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Properties

Let P be a normal logic program

- $\Omega_P \langle \emptyset, \emptyset \rangle$ is monotonic
That is, $\Omega_P^i \langle \emptyset, \emptyset \rangle \subseteq \Omega_P^{i+1} \langle \emptyset, \emptyset \rangle$
- The well-founded semantics of P is
 - not conflicting,
 - and generally not total
- We have $\bigsqcup_{i \geq 0} \Phi_P^i \langle \emptyset, \emptyset \rangle \subseteq \bigsqcup_{i \geq 0} \Omega_P^i \langle \emptyset, \emptyset \rangle$

Well-founded fixpoints

Let P be a normal logic program,
and let $\langle T, F \rangle$ be a partial interpretation

- Define $\langle T, F \rangle$ as a **well-founded fixpoint** of P if $\Omega_P \langle T, F \rangle = \langle T, F \rangle$
 - The well-founded semantics is the \sqsubseteq -least well-founded fixpoint of P
 - Any other well-founded fixpoint extends the well-founded semantics
 - Total well-founded fixpoints correspond to stable models

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- P has two total well-founded fixpoints:
 - 1. $\langle \{a, c\}, \{b, d, e, f\} \rangle$
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Properties

Let P be a normal logic program,
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- Let $\Omega_P \langle T, F \rangle = \langle T', F' \rangle$
- If X is a stable model of P such that $T \subseteq X$ and $X \cap F = \emptyset$,
then $T' \subseteq X$ and $X \cap F' = \emptyset$

That is, Ω_P is stable model preserving

Hence, Ω_P can be used for approximating stable models and so for propagation in ASP-solvers

- In contrast to Φ_P , operator Ω_P is sufficient for propagation because total fixpoints correspond to stable models
- Note In addition to Ω_P , most ASP-solvers apply backward propagation, originating from program completion (although this is unnecessary from a formal point of view)

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Proof-theoretic Characterization: Overview

- 8 Tableau Calculi
- 9 Tableau Calculi for ASP
- 10 Tableau Calculi characterizing ASP solvers
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Motivation

- Goal Analyze computations in ASP solvers
 - Wanted A declarative and fine-grained instrument for characterizing operations as well as strategies of ASP solvers
 - Idea View stable model computations as derivations in an inference system
- Consider Tableau-based proof systems for analyzing ASP solving

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- Consider **Tableau-based proof systems** for analyzing ASP solving

Tableau calculi

- Traditionally, tableau calculi are used for
 - automated theorem proving and
 - proof theoretical analysisin classical as well as non-classical logics
- General idea Given an input, prove some property by decomposition
Decomposition is done by applying deduction rules
- For details, see *Handbook of Tableau Methods*, Kluwer, 1999

General definitions

- A **tableau** is a (mostly binary) tree
- A **branch** in a tableau is a path from the root to a leaf
- A branch containing $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_m$ can be extended by applying tableau rules of form

$$\frac{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_m}{\alpha_1}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\alpha_n$$

$$\frac{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_m}{\beta_1 \mid \dots \mid \beta_n}$$

Rules of the former format append entries $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ to the branch

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Example

- A simple tableau calculus for proving unsatisfiability of propositional formulas, composed from \neg , \wedge , and \vee , consists of rules

$$\frac{\neg\neg\alpha}{\alpha} \qquad \frac{\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2}{\alpha_1 \quad \alpha_2} \qquad \frac{\beta_1 \vee \beta_2}{\beta_1 \quad | \quad \beta_2}$$

- All rules are semantically valid, when interpreting entries in a branch conjunctively and distinct (sub-)branches as connected disjunctively
- A propositional formula φ is unsatisfiable iff there is a tableau with φ as the root node such that
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$$(1) \quad a \wedge ((\neg b \wedge (\neg a \vee b)) \vee \neg\neg\neg a) \quad [\varphi]$$

$$(2) \quad a \quad [1]$$

$$(3) \quad (\neg b \wedge (\neg a \vee b)) \vee \neg\neg\neg a \quad [1]$$

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$$(7) \quad \neg a \quad [6] \qquad (8) \quad b \quad [6]$$

All three branches of the tableau are contradictory (cf 2, 5, 7, 8, 10)

Hence, $a \wedge ((\neg b \wedge (\neg a \vee b)) \vee \neg\neg\neg a)$ is unsatisfiable

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Outline

8 Tableau Calculi

9 Tableau Calculi for ASP

10 Tableau Calculi characterizing ASP solvers

11 Proof complexity

Tableaux and ASP

- A tableau rule captures an elementary inference scheme in an ASP solver
- A branch in a tableau corresponds to a successful or unsuccessful computation of a stable model
- An entire tableau represents a traversal of the search space

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ASP-specific definitions

- A (signed) **tableau** for a logic program P is a binary tree such that
 - the root node of the tree consists of the rules in P ;
 - the other nodes in the tree are **entries** of the form Tv or Fv , called **signed literals**, where v is a variable,
 - generated by extending a tableau using deduction rules (given below)
- An entry Tv (Fv) reflects that variable v is *true* (*false*) in a corresponding variable assignment

A set of signed literals constitutes a partial assignment

- For a normal logic program P ,
 - atoms of P in $atom(P)$ and
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Tableau rules for ASP at a glance

$$(FTB) \frac{\rho \leftarrow l_1, \dots, l_n \quad \mathbf{t}l_1, \dots, \mathbf{t}l_n}{\mathbf{T}\{l_1, \dots, l_n\}}$$

$$(FTA) \frac{\rho \leftarrow l_1, \dots, l_n \quad \mathbf{T}\{l_1, \dots, l_n\}}{\mathbf{T}\rho}$$

$$(FFB) \frac{\rho \leftarrow l_1, \dots, l_i, \dots, l_n \quad \mathbf{f}l_i}{\mathbf{F}\{l_1, \dots, l_i, \dots, l_n\}}$$

$$(FFA) \frac{\mathbf{F}B_1, \dots, \mathbf{F}B_m}{\mathbf{F}\rho} \quad (§)$$

$$(WFN) \frac{\mathbf{F}B_1, \dots, \mathbf{F}B_m}{\mathbf{F}\rho} \quad (\dagger)$$

$$(FL) \frac{\mathbf{F}B_1, \dots, \mathbf{F}B_m}{\mathbf{F}\rho} \quad (\ddagger)$$

$$(BFB) \frac{\mathbf{F}\{l_1, \dots, l_i, \dots, l_n\} \quad \mathbf{t}l_1, \dots, \mathbf{t}l_{i-1}, \mathbf{t}l_{i+1}, \dots, \mathbf{t}l_n}{\mathbf{f}l_i}$$

$$(BFA) \frac{\rho \leftarrow l_1, \dots, l_n \quad \mathbf{F}\rho}{\mathbf{F}\{l_1, \dots, l_n\}}$$

$$(BTB) \frac{\mathbf{T}\{l_1, \dots, l_i, \dots, l_n\}}{\mathbf{t}l_i}$$

$$(BTA) \frac{\mathbf{T}\rho \quad \mathbf{F}B_1, \dots, \mathbf{F}B_{i-1}, \mathbf{F}B_{i+1}, \dots, \mathbf{F}B_m}{\mathbf{T}B_i} \quad (§)$$

$$(WFJ) \frac{\mathbf{T}\rho \quad \mathbf{F}B_1, \dots, \mathbf{F}B_{i-1}, \mathbf{F}B_{i+1}, \dots, \mathbf{F}B_m}{\mathbf{T}B_i} \quad (\dagger)$$

$$(BL) \frac{\mathbf{T}\rho \quad \mathbf{F}B_1, \dots, \mathbf{F}B_{i-1}, \mathbf{F}B_{i+1}, \dots, \mathbf{F}B_m}{\mathbf{T}B_i} \quad (\ddagger)$$

$$(\text{Cut}[X]) \frac{}{\mathbf{T}v \mid \mathbf{F}v} \quad (\# [X])$$

More concepts

- A **tableau calculus** is a set of tableau rules
 - A branch in a tableau is conflicting, if it contains both Tv and Fv for some variable v
 - A branch in a tableau is total for a program P , if it contains either Tv or Fv for each $v \in atom(P) \cup body(P)$
 - A branch in a tableau of some calculus \mathcal{T} is closed, if no rule in \mathcal{T} other than *Cut* can produce any new entries
 - A branch in a tableau is complete, if it is either conflicting or both total and closed
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 - A tableau of some calculus \mathcal{T} is a refutation of \mathcal{T} for a program P , if every branch in the tableau is conflicting

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Example

- Consider the program

$$P = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} a \leftarrow \\ c \leftarrow \sim b, \sim d \\ d \leftarrow a, \sim c \end{array} \right\}$$

having stable models $\{a, c\}$ and $\{a, d\}$

(Previewed) Example

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | $a \leftarrow$ | |
| | $c \leftarrow \sim b, \sim d$ | |
| | $d \leftarrow a, \sim c$ | |
| (FTB) | $T\emptyset$ | |
| (FTA) | Ta | |
| (FFA) | Fb | |
| (Cut[atom(P)]) | Tc | Fc |
| (BTA) | $T\{\sim b, \sim d\}$ | (BFA) $F\{\sim b, \sim d\}$ |
| (BTB) | Fd | (BFB) Td |
| (FFB) | $F\{a, \sim c\}$ | (FTB) $T\{a, \sim c\}$ |

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Auxiliary definitions

- For a literal l , define conjugation functions t and f as follows

$$tl = \begin{cases} Tl & \text{if } l \text{ is an atom} \\ Fa & \text{if } l = \sim a \text{ for an atom } a \end{cases}$$

$$fl = \begin{cases} Fl & \text{if } l \text{ is an atom} \\ Ta & \text{if } l = \sim a \text{ for an atom } a \end{cases}$$

- Examples $ta = Ta$, $fa = Fa$, $t\sim a = Fa$, and $f\sim a = Ta$

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- Examples $ta = Ta$, $fa = Fa$, $t\sim a = Fa$, and $f\sim a = Ta$

Auxiliary definitions

- Some tableau rules require conditions for their application
- Such conditions are specified as **provisos**

$$\frac{\textit{prerequisites}}{\textit{consequence}} \textit{ (proviso)} \qquad \textit{proviso: some condition(s)}$$

- Note All tableau rules given in the sequel are stable model preserving

Forward True Body (FTB)

- Prerequisites All of a body's literals are *true*
- Consequence The body is *true*
- Tableau Rule FTB

$$\frac{p \leftarrow l_1, \dots, l_n \quad \mathbf{t}l_1, \dots, \mathbf{t}l_n}{\mathbf{T}\{l_1, \dots, l_n\}}$$

- Example

$$\frac{a \leftarrow b, \sim c \quad \mathbf{T}b \quad \mathbf{F}c}{\mathbf{T}\{b, \sim c\}}$$

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Backward False Body (BFB)

- Prerequisites A body is *false*, and all its literals except for one are *true*
- Consequence The residual body literal is *false*
- Tableau Rule BFB

$$\frac{\mathbf{F}\{l_1, \dots, l_i, \dots, l_n\} \quad \mathbf{t}l_1, \dots, \mathbf{t}l_{i-1}, \mathbf{t}l_{i+1}, \dots, \mathbf{t}l_n}{\mathbf{f}l_i}$$

- Examples

$$\frac{\mathbf{F}\{b, \sim c\} \quad \mathbf{T}b}{\mathbf{T}c}$$

$$\frac{\mathbf{F}\{b, \sim c\} \quad \mathbf{F}c}{\mathbf{F}b}$$

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- Examples

$$\frac{\mathbf{F}\{b, \sim c\} \\ \mathbf{T}b}{\mathbf{T}c}$$

$$\frac{\mathbf{F}\{b, \sim c\} \\ \mathbf{F}c}{\mathbf{F}b}$$

Forward False Body (FFB)

- Prerequisites Some literal of a body is *false*
- Consequence The body is *false*
- Tableau Rule FFB

$$\frac{p \leftarrow l_1, \dots, l_i, \dots, l_n \quad \mathbf{f} l_i}{\mathbf{F}\{l_1, \dots, l_i, \dots, l_n\}}$$

- Examples

$$\frac{a \leftarrow b, \sim c \quad \mathbf{F} b}{\mathbf{F}\{b, \sim c\}}$$

$$\frac{a \leftarrow b, \sim c \quad \mathbf{T} c}{\mathbf{F}\{b, \sim c\}}$$

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- Examples

$$\frac{a \leftarrow b, \sim c \quad \mathbf{F} b}{\mathbf{F}\{b, \sim c\}}$$

$$\frac{a \leftarrow b, \sim c \quad \mathbf{T} c}{\mathbf{F}\{b, \sim c\}}$$

Backward True Body (BTB)

- Prerequisites A body is *true*
- Consequence The body's literals are *true*
- Tableau Rule BTB

$$\frac{\mathcal{T}\{l_1, \dots, l_i, \dots, l_n\}}{\mathbf{t}l_i}$$

- Examples

$$\frac{\mathcal{T}\{b, \sim c\}}{\mathbf{T}b}$$

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- Examples

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$$\frac{\mathcal{T}\{b, \sim c\}}{\mathbf{F}c}$$

Tableau rules for bodies

Consider rule body $B = \{l_1, \dots, l_n\}$

- Rules FTB and BFB amount to implication

$$l_1 \wedge \dots \wedge l_n \rightarrow B$$

- Rules FFB and BTB amount to implication

$$B \rightarrow l_1 \wedge \dots \wedge l_n$$

- Together they yield

$$B \equiv l_1 \wedge \dots \wedge l_n$$

Tableau rules for bodies

Consider rule body $B = \{l_1, \dots, l_n\}$

- Rules FTB and BFB amount to implication

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Forward True Atom (FTA)

- Prerequisites Some of an atom's bodies is *true*
- Consequence The atom is *true*
- Tableau Rule FTA

$$\frac{p \leftarrow l_1, \dots, l_n \quad \mathcal{T}\{l_1, \dots, l_n\}}{\mathcal{T}p}$$

- Examples

$$\frac{a \leftarrow b, \sim c \quad \mathcal{T}\{b, \sim c\}}{\mathcal{T}a}$$

$$\frac{a \leftarrow d, \sim e \quad \mathcal{T}\{d, \sim e\}}{\mathcal{T}a}$$

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Backward False Atom (BFA)

- Prerequisites An atom is *false*
- Consequence The bodies of all rules with the atom as head are *false*
- Tableau Rule BFA

$$\frac{p \leftarrow l_1, \dots, l_n \quad \mathbf{F}p}{\mathbf{F}\{l_1, \dots, l_n\}}$$

- Examples

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Forward False Atom (FFA)

- Prerequisites For some atom, the bodies of all rules with the atom as head are *false*
- Consequence The atom is *false*
- Tableau Rule FFA

$$\frac{FB_1, \dots, FB_m}{Fp} \quad (\text{body}_P(p) = \{B_1, \dots, B_m\})$$

- Example

$$\frac{F\{b, \sim c\} \quad F\{d, \sim e\}}{Fa} \quad (\text{body}_P(a) = \{\{b, \sim c\}, \{d, \sim e\}\})$$

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Backward True Atom (BTA)

- Prerequisites An atom is *true*, and the bodies of all rules with the atom as head except for one are *false*
- Consequence The residual body is *true*
- Tableau Rule BTA

$$\frac{\mathbf{T}p \quad \mathbf{F}B_1, \dots, \mathbf{F}B_{i-1}, \mathbf{F}B_{i+1}, \dots, \mathbf{F}B_m}{\mathbf{T}B_i} \quad (\text{body}_p(p) = \{B_1, \dots, B_m\})$$

- Examples

$$\frac{\mathbf{T}a \quad \mathbf{F}\{b, \sim c\}}{\mathbf{T}\{d, \sim e\}} \quad (*)$$

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Relationship with program completion

Let P be a normal logic program

- The eight tableau rules introduced so far essentially provide (straightforward) inferences from $CF(P)$

Preliminaries for unfounded sets

Let P be a normal logic program

- For $P' \subseteq P$, define the **greatest unfounded set** of P wrt P' as

$$\mathbf{U}_P(P') = \text{atom}(P) \setminus \text{Cn}((P')^\emptyset)$$

- For a loop $L \in \text{loop}(P)$, define the external bodies of L as

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Well-Founded Negation (WFN)

- Prerequisites An atom is in the greatest unfounded set wrt rules whose bodies are *false*
- Consequence The atom is *false*
- Tableau Rule WFN

$$\frac{FB_1, \dots, FB_m}{Fp} \quad (p \in \mathbf{U}_P(\{r \in P \mid \text{body}(r) \notin \{B_1, \dots, B_m\}\}))$$

- Examples

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Well-Founded Justification (WFJ)

- Prerequisites A *true* atom is in the greatest unfounded set wrt rules whose bodies are *false*, if a particular body is made *false*
- Consequence The respective body is *true*
- Tableau Rule WFJ

$$\frac{\mathbf{T}p}{\mathbf{F}B_1, \dots, \mathbf{F}B_{i-1}, \mathbf{F}B_{i+1}, \dots, \mathbf{F}B_m} \quad (p \in \mathbf{U}_P(\{r \in P \mid \text{body}(r) \notin \{B_1, \dots, B_m\}\}))$$

- Examples

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Well-founded tableau rules

- Tableau rules WFN and WFJ ensure non-circular support for *true* atoms
- Note
 - 1 WFN subsumes falsifying atoms via FFA,
 - 2 WFJ can be viewed as “backward propagation” for unfounded sets,
 - 3 WFJ subsumes backward propagation of *true* atoms via BTA

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Relationship with well-founded operator

Let P be a normal logic program, $\langle T, F \rangle$ a partial interpretation, and $P' = \{r \in P \mid \text{body}(r)^+ \cap F = \emptyset \text{ and } \text{body}(r)^- \cap T = \emptyset\}$.

- The following conditions are equivalent
 - 1 $p \in \mathbf{U}_P \langle T, F \rangle$
 - 2 $p \in \mathbf{U}_P(P')$
- Hence, the well-founded operator Ω and WFN coincide
- Note In contrast to Ω , WFN does not necessarily require a rule body to contain a *false* literal for the rule being inapplicable

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Forward Loop (FL)

- Prerequisites The external bodies of a loop are *false*
- Consequence The atoms in the loop are *false*
- Tableau Rule FL

$$\frac{\mathbf{F}B_1, \dots, \mathbf{F}B_m}{\mathbf{F}p} \quad (p \in L, L \in \text{loop}(P), EB_P(L) = \{B_1, \dots, B_m\})$$

- Example

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} a \leftarrow a \\ a \leftarrow \sim b \\ \mathbf{F}\{\sim b\} \end{array}}{\mathbf{F}a} \quad (EB_P(\{a\}) = \{\{\sim b\}\})$$

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Backward Loop (BL)

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Tableau rules for loops

- Tableau rules FL and BL ensure non-circular support for *true* atoms
- For a loop L such that $EB_p(L) = \{B_1, \dots, B_m\}$, they amount to implications of form

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Relationship with loop formulas

- Tableau rules FL and BL essentially provide (straightforward) inferences from loop formulas
 - Impractical to precompute exponentially many loop formulas
- In practice, ASP solvers such as *smodels* and *clasp*
 - exploit strongly connected components of positive atom dependency graphs
 - can be viewed as an interpolation of FL
 - do not directly implement BL (and neither WFJ)
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Case analysis by *Cut*

- Up to now, all tableau rules are deterministic
That is, rules extend a single branch but cannot create sub-branches
- In general, closing a branch leads to a partial assignment
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Well-known tableau calculi

- Fitting's operator Φ applies forward propagation without sophisticated unfounded set checks

$$\mathcal{T}_\Phi = \{FTB, FTA, FFB, FFA\}$$

- Well-founded operator Ω replaces negation of single atoms with negation of unfounded sets

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- “Local” propagation via a program's completion can be determined by elementary inferences on atoms and rule bodies

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Outline

- 8 Tableau Calculi
- 9 Tableau Calculi for ASP
- 10 Tableau Calculi characterizing ASP solvers**
- 11 Proof complexity

Tableau calculi characterizing ASP solvers

- ASP solvers combine propagation with case analysis
- We obtain the following tableau calculi characterizing

$$\mathcal{T}_{cmodels-1} = \mathcal{T}_{completion} \cup \{Cut[atom(P) \cup body(P)]\}$$

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- SAT-based ASP solvers, *assat* and *cmodels*, incrementally add loop formulas to a program's completion
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- SAT-based ASP solvers, *assat* and *cmodels*, incrementally add loop formulas to a program's completion
- Native ASP solvers, *smodels*, *dlv*, *noMoRe*, and *nomore++*, essentially differ only in their *Cut* rules

Outline

- 8 Tableau Calculi
- 9 Tableau Calculi for ASP
- 10 Tableau Calculi characterizing ASP solvers
- 11 Proof complexity**

Proof complexity

- **Proof complexity** is used for describing the relative efficiency of different proof systems

It compares proof systems based on minimal refutations

It is independent of heuristics

- A proof system \mathcal{T} polynomially simulates a proof system \mathcal{T}' , if every refutation of \mathcal{T}' can be polynomially mapped to a refutation of \mathcal{T}
Otherwise, \mathcal{T} does not polynomially simulate \mathcal{T}'
- For showing that proof system \mathcal{T} does not polynomially simulate \mathcal{T}' , we have to provide an infinite witnessing family of programs such that minimal refutations of \mathcal{T} asymptotically are exponentially larger than minimal refutations of \mathcal{T}'
The size of tableaux is simply the number of their entries
- We do not need to know the precise number of entries:
Counting required *Cut* applications is sufficient !

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- $\mathcal{T}_{smodels}$ restricts Cut to $atom(P)$ and \mathcal{T}_{noMoRe} to $body(P)$
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Relative efficiency

- As witnessed by $\{P_a^n \cup P_c^n\}$ and $\{P_b^n \cup P_c^n\}$, respectively, $\mathcal{T}_{\text{models}}$ and $\mathcal{T}_{\text{noMoRe}}$ do not polynomially simulate one another
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$\mathcal{T}_{\text{models}}$: Example tableau

$(r_1) \quad a \leftarrow \sim b$

$(r_4) \quad c \leftarrow g$

$(r_7) \quad e \leftarrow f, \sim c$

$(r_2) \quad b \leftarrow d, \sim a$

$(r_5) \quad d \leftarrow c$

$(r_8) \quad f \leftarrow \sim g$

$(r_3) \quad c \leftarrow b, d$

$(r_6) \quad d \leftarrow g$

$(r_9) \quad g \leftarrow \sim a, \sim f$

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| (1) | Ta | [Cut] |
| (2) | $T\{\sim b\}$ | [BTA: $r_1, 1$] |
| (3) | Fb | [BTB: 2] |
| (4) | $F\{d, \sim a\}$ | [BFA: $r_2, 3$] |
| (5) | $F\{\sim a, \sim f\}$ | [FFB: $r_9, 1$] |
| (6) | Fg | [FFA: $r_9, 5$] |
| (7) | $T\{\sim g\}$ | [FTB: $r_8, 6$] |
| (8) | Tf | [FTA: $r_8, 7$] |
| (9) | $F\{b, d\}$ | [FFB: $r_3, 3$] |
| (10) | $F\{g\}$ | [FFB: $r_4, r_6, 6$] |
| (11) | Fc | [FFA: $r_3, r_4, 9, 10$] |
| (12) | $F\{c\}$ | [FFB: $r_5, 11$] |
| (13) | Fd | [FFA: $r_5, r_6, 10, 12$] |
| (14) | $T\{f, \sim c\}$ | [FTB: $r_7, 8, 11$] |
| (15) | Te | [FTA: $r_7, 14$] |

| | | |
|------|------------------|-----------------------|
| (16) | Fa | [Cut] |
| (17) | $F\{\sim b\}$ | [BFA: $r_1, 16$] |
| (18) | Tb | [BFB: 17] |
| (19) | $T\{d, \sim a\}$ | [BTA: $r_2, 18$] |
| (20) | Td | [BTB: 19] |
| (21) | $T\{b, d\}$ | [FTB: $r_3, 18, 20$] |
| (22) | Tc | [FTA: $r_3, 21$] |
| (23) | $F\{f, \sim c\}$ | [FFB: $r_7, 22$] |
| (24) | Fe | [FFA: $r_7, 23$] |
| (25) | $T\{c\}$ | [FTB: $r_5, 22$] |

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| (26) | Tf | [Cut] |
| (27) | $F\{\sim a, \sim f\}$ | [FFB: $r_9, 26$] |
| (28) | Fc | [WFN: 27] |
| (29) | Ff | [Cut] |
| (30) | $T\{\sim a, \sim f\}$ | [FTB: $r_9, 16, 29$] |
| (31) | Tg | [FTA: $r_9, 30$] |
| (32) | $T\{g\}$ | [FTB: $r_4, r_6, 31$] |
| (33) | $F\{\sim g\}$ | [FFB: $r_8, 31$] |

\mathcal{T}_{noMoRe} : Example tableau

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 (r_1) & a \leftarrow \sim b & (r_2) & b \leftarrow d, \sim a & (r_3) & c \leftarrow b, d \\
 (r_4) & c \leftarrow g & (r_5) & d \leftarrow c & (r_6) & d \leftarrow g \\
 (r_7) & e \leftarrow f, \sim c & (r_8) & f \leftarrow \sim g & (r_9) & g \leftarrow \sim a, \sim f
 \end{array}$$

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| (1) | $T\{\sim b\}$ | [Cut] | (16) | $F\{\sim b\}$ | [Cut] |
| (2) | Ta | [FTA: $r_1, 1$] | (17) | Fa | [FFA: $r_1, 16$] |
| (3) | Fb | [BTB: 1] | (18) | Tb | [BFB: 16] |
| (4) | $F\{d, \sim a\}$ | [BFA: $r_2, 3$] | (19) | $T\{d, \sim a\}$ | [BTA: $r_2, 18$] |
| (5) | $F\{\sim a, \sim f\}$ | [FFB: $r_9, 2$] | (20) | Td | [BTB: 19] |
| (6) | Fg | [FFA: $r_9, 5$] | (21) | $T\{b, d\}$ | [FTB: $r_3, 18, 20$] |
| (7) | $T\{\sim g\}$ | [FTB: $r_8, 6$] | (22) | Tc | [FTA: $r_3, 21$] |
| (8) | Tf | [FTA: $r_8, 7$] | (23) | $F\{f, \sim c\}$ | [FFB: $r_7, 22$] |
| (9) | $F\{b, d\}$ | [FFB: $r_3, 3$] | (24) | Fe | [FFA: $r_7, 23$] |
| (10) | $F\{g\}$ | [FFB: $r_4, r_6, 6$] | (25) | $T\{c\}$ | [FTB: $r_5, 22$] |
| (11) | Fc | [FFA: $r_3, r_4, 9, 10$] | (26) | $T\{\sim g\}$ | [Cut] |
| (12) | $F\{c\}$ | [FFB: $r_5, 11$] | (27) | Fg | [BTB: 26] |
| (13) | Fd | [FFA: $r_5, r_6, 10, 12$] | (28) | $F\{g\}$ | [FFB: $r_4, r_6, 27$] |
| (14) | $T\{f, \sim c\}$ | [FTB: $r_7, 8, 11$] | (29) | Fc | [WFN: 28] |
| (15) | Te | [FTA: $r_7, 14$] | (30) | $F\{\sim g\}$ | [Cut] |
| | | | (31) | Tg | [BFB: 30] |
| | | | (32) | $T\{g\}$ | [FTB: $r_4, r_6, 31$] |
| | | | (33) | Ff | [FFA: $r_8, 30$] |
| | | | (34) | $T\{\sim a, \sim f\}$ | [FTB: $r_9, 17, 33$] |

$\mathcal{T}_{\text{nomore}^{++}}$: Example tableau

- | | | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| (r_1) | $a \leftarrow \sim b$ | (r_2) | $b \leftarrow d, \sim a$ | (r_3) | $c \leftarrow b, d$ |
| (r_4) | $c \leftarrow g$ | (r_5) | $d \leftarrow c$ | (r_6) | $d \leftarrow g$ |
| (r_7) | $e \leftarrow f, \sim c$ | (r_8) | $f \leftarrow \sim g$ | (r_9) | $g \leftarrow \sim a, \sim f$ |

- | | | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| (1) | Ta | [Cut] | (16) | Fa | [Cut] |
| (2) | $T\{\sim b\}$ | [BTA: $r_1, 1$] | (17) | $F\{\sim b\}$ | [BFA: $r_1, 16$] |
| (3) | Fb | [BTB: 2] | (18) | Tb | [BFB: 17] |
| (4) | $F\{d, \sim a\}$ | [BFA: $r_2, 3$] | (19) | $T\{d, \sim a\}$ | [BTA: $r_2, 18$] |
| (5) | $F\{\sim a, \sim f\}$ | [FFB: $r_9, 1$] | (20) | Td | [BTB: 19] |
| (6) | Fg | [FFA: $r_9, 5$] | (21) | $T\{b, d\}$ | [FTB: $r_3, 18, 20$] |
| (7) | $T\{\sim g\}$ | [FTB: $r_8, 6$] | (22) | Tc | [FTA: $r_3, 21$] |
| (8) | Tf | [FTA: $r_8, 7$] | (23) | $F\{f, \sim c\}$ | [FFB: $r_7, 22$] |
| (9) | $F\{b, d\}$ | [FFB: $r_3, 3$] | (24) | Fe | [FFA: $r_7, 23$] |
| (10) | $F\{g\}$ | [FFB: $r_4, r_6, 6$] | (25) | $T\{c\}$ | [FTB: $r_5, 22$] |
| (11) | Fc | [FFA: $r_3, r_4, 9, 10$] | (26) | $T\{\sim g\}$ | [Cut] |
| (12) | $F\{c\}$ | [FFB: $r_5, 11$] | (27) | Fg | [BTB: 26] |
| (13) | Fd | [FFA: $r_5, r_6, 10, 12$] | (28) | $F\{g\}$ | [FFB: $r_4, r_6, 27$] |
| (14) | $T\{f, \sim c\}$ | [FTB: $r_7, 8, 11$] | (29) | Fc | [WFN: 28] |
| (15) | Te | [FTA: $r_7, 14$] | (30) | $F\{\sim g\}$ | [Cut] |
| | | | (31) | Tg | [BFB: 30] |
| | | | (32) | $T\{g\}$ | [FTB: $r_4, r_6, 31$] |
| | | | (33) | Ff | [FFA: $r_8, 30$] |
| | | | (34) | $T\{\sim a, \sim f\}$ | [FTB: $r_9, 16, 33$] |

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