

# Decision Procedures

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## Quantifier-free Theory of Equality

$$\Sigma_E : \{=, a, b, c, \dots, f, g, h, \dots, p, q, r, \dots\}$$

uninterpreted symbols:

- constants  $a, b, c, \dots$
- functions  $f, g, h, \dots$
- predicates  $p, q, r, \dots$

- ①  $\forall x. x = x$  (reflexivity)
- ②  $\forall x, y. x = y \rightarrow y = x$  (symmetry)
- ③  $\forall x, y, z. x = y \wedge y = z \rightarrow x = z$  (transitivity)

define  $=$  to be an **equivalence relation**.

Axiom schema

- ④ for each positive integer  $n$  and  $n$ -ary function symbol  $f$ ,  

$$\forall x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n. \bigwedge_i x_i = y_i \rightarrow f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(y_1, \dots, y_n)$$
 (congruence)
- ⑤ for each positive integer  $n$  and  $n$ -ary predicate symbol  $p$ ,  

$$\forall x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n. \bigwedge_i x_i = y_i \rightarrow (p(x_1, \dots, x_n) \leftrightarrow p(y_1, \dots, y_n))$$
 (equivalence)

$$F : s_1 = t_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge s_m = t_m \wedge s_{m+1} \neq t_{m+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge s_n \neq t_n$$

The algorithm performs the following steps:

- 1 Construct the congruence closure  $\sim$  of

$$\{s_1 = t_1, \dots, s_m = t_m\}$$

over the subterm set  $S_F$ . Then

$$\sim \models s_1 = t_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge s_m = t_m .$$

- 2 If for any  $i \in \{m + 1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $s_i \sim t_i$ , return unsatisfiable.
- 3 Otherwise,  $\sim \models F$ , so return satisfiable.

How do we actually construct the congruence closure in Step 1?

Begin with the **finest congruence** relation  $\sim_0$ :

$$\{\{s\} : s \in S_F\}.$$

Each term of  $S_F$  is only congruent to itself.

Then, for each  $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ , impose  $s_i = t_i$  by merging

$$[s_i]_{\sim_{i-1}} \quad \text{and} \quad [t_i]_{\sim_{i-1}}$$

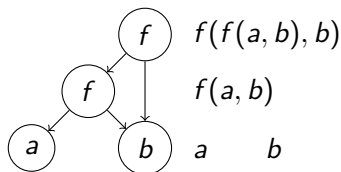
to form a new congruence relation  $\sim_i$ . To accomplish this merging,

- form the union of  $[s_i]_{\sim_{i-1}}$  and  $[t_i]_{\sim_{i-1}}$
- propagate any new congruences that arise within this union.

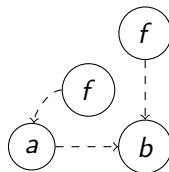
The new relation  $\sim_i$  is a congruence relation in which  $s_i \sim t_i$ .

Efficient data structure for computing the congruence closure.

- **Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG)** to represent terms.



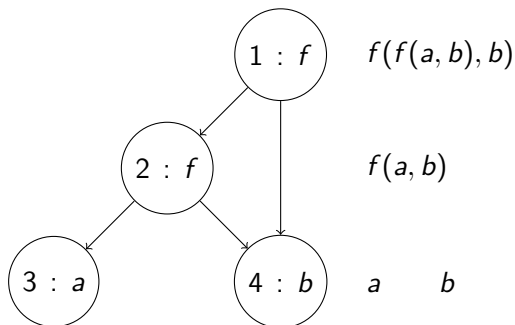
- **Union-Find data structure** to represent equivalence classes:



For every subterm of the  $\Sigma_E$ -formula  $F$ , create

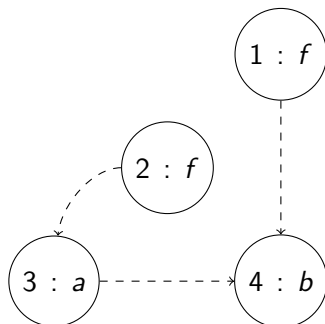
- a node labelled with the function symbols.
- and edges to the argument nodes.

If two subterms are equal, only one node is created.





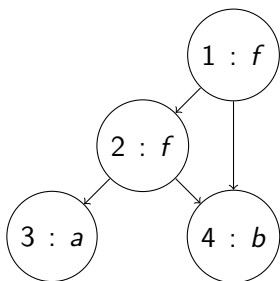
Equivalence classes are connected by a tree structure, with arrows pointing to the root node.



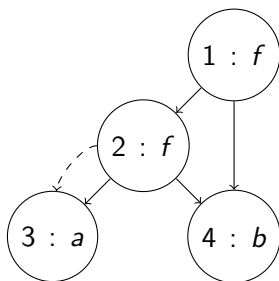
Two operations are defined:

- **FIND**: Find the representative of an equivalence class by following the edges.  $O(\log n)$
- **UNION**: Merge two classes by connecting the representatives.  $O(1)$

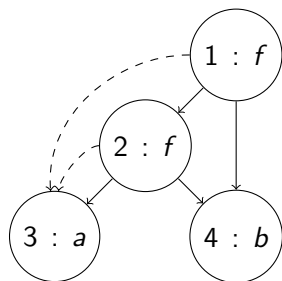
$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$



Initial DAG



$f(a, b) = a \Rightarrow$   
MERGE  $f(a, b)$   $a$

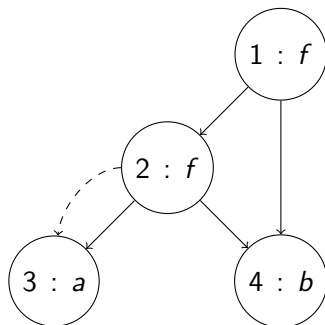


$f(a, b) \sim a, b \sim b \Rightarrow$   
 $f(f(a, b), b) \sim f(a, b)$   
MERGE  $f(f(a, b), b)$   
 $f(a, b)$

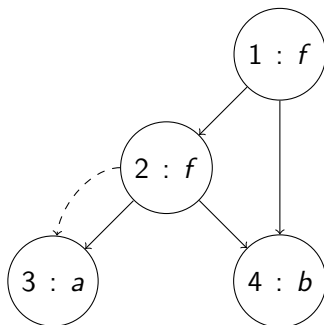
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{FIND } f(f(a, b), b) = a = \text{FIND } a \\ f(f(a, b), b) \neq a \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \text{Unsatisfiable}$$

```
type node = {  
    id           : id  
                 node's unique identification number  
  
    fn          : string  
                 constant or function name  
  
    args        : id list  
                 list of function arguments  
  
    mutable find : id  
                 the edge to the representative  
  
    mutable cpar : id set  
                 if the node is the representative for its  
                 congruence class, then its cpar  
                 (congruence closure parents) are all  
                 parents of nodes in its congruence class  
  
}
```

```
type node = {  
  id           : id       ... 2  
  fn          : string   ... f  
  args        : idlist   ... [3,4]  
  mutable find : id       ... 3  
  mutable cpar : idset    ...  $\emptyset$   
}
```



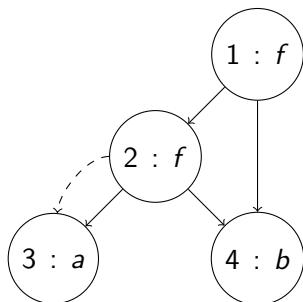
```
type node = {  
  id           : id       ... 3  
  fn          : string   ... a  
  args        : idlist   ... []  
  mutable find : id       ... 3  
  mutable cpar : idset    ... {1,2}  
}
```



## FIND function

returns the representative of node's congruence class

```
let rec FIND  $i$  =  
  let  $n$  = NODE  $i$  in  
  if  $n.find = i$  then  $i$  else FIND  $n.find$ 
```

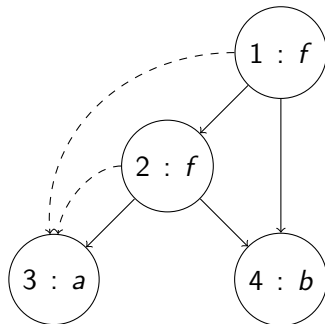


**Example:**  $\text{FIND } 2 = \text{FIND } 3 = 3$   
3 is the representative of 2.

## UNION function

```
let UNION  $i_1$   $i_2$  =  
  let  $n_1$  = NODE (FIND  $i_1$ ) in  
  let  $n_2$  = NODE (FIND  $i_2$ ) in  
   $n_1$ .find  $\leftarrow$   $n_2$ .find;  
   $n_2$ .ccpar  $\leftarrow$   $n_1$ .ccpar  $\cup$   $n_2$ .ccpar;  
   $n_1$ .ccpar  $\leftarrow$   $\emptyset$ 
```

$n_2$  is the representative of the union class



UNION 1 2      $n_1 = 1$     $n_2 = 3$

1.find  $\leftarrow 3$

3.ccpair  $\leftarrow \{1,2\}$

1.ccpair  $\leftarrow \emptyset$



## CCPAR function

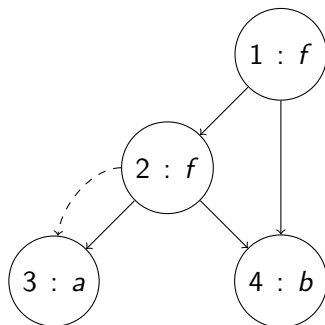
Returns parents of all nodes in  $i$ 's congruence class

```
let CCPAR  $i$  =  
  (NODE (FIND  $i$ )).ccpar
```

## CONGRUENT predicate

Test whether  $i_1$  and  $i_2$  are congruent

```
let CONGRUENT  $i_1$   $i_2$  =  
  let  $n_1$  = NODE  $i_1$  in  
  let  $n_2$  = NODE  $i_2$  in  
   $n_1$ .fn =  $n_2$ .fn  
   $\wedge |n_1$ .args| =  $|n_2$ .args|  
   $\wedge \forall i \in \{1, \dots, |n_1$ .args|\}. FIND  $n_1$ .args[ $i$ ] = FIND  $n_2$ .args[ $i$ ]
```



Are 1 and 2 congruent?

fn fields

— both  $f$

# of arguments

— same

left arguments  $f(a, b)$  and  $a$  — both congruent to 3

right arguments  $b$  and  $b$  — both 4 (congruent)

Therefore 1 and 2 are congruent.

## MERGE function

```
let rec MERGE  $i_1$   $i_2$  =  
  if FIND  $i_1$   $\neq$  FIND  $i_2$  then begin  
    let  $P_{i_1}$  = CCPAR  $i_1$  in  
    let  $P_{i_2}$  = CCPAR  $i_2$  in  
    UNION  $i_1$   $i_2$ ;  
    foreach  $t_1, t_2 \in P_{i_1} \times P_{i_2}$  do  
      if FIND  $t_1$   $\neq$  FIND  $t_2$   $\wedge$  CONGRUENT  $t_1$   $t_2$   
      then MERGE  $t_1$   $t_2$   
    done  
  end
```

$P_{i_1}$  and  $P_{i_2}$  store the current values of CCPAR  $i_1$  and CCPAR  $i_2$ .

Given  $\Sigma_E$ -formula

$$F : s_1 = t_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge s_m = t_m \wedge s_{m+1} \neq t_{m+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge s_n \neq t_n ,$$

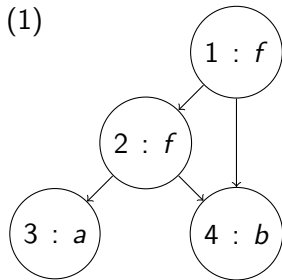
with subterm set  $S_F$ , perform the following steps:

- 1 Construct the initial DAG for the subterm set  $S_F$ .
- 2 For  $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ , MERGE  $s_i$   $t_i$ .
- 3 If FIND  $s_i =$  FIND  $t_i$  for some  $i \in \{m + 1, \dots, n\}$ , return unsatisfiable.
- 4 Otherwise (if FIND  $s_i \neq$  FIND  $t_i$  for all  $i \in \{m + 1, \dots, n\}$ ) return satisfiable.

Example  $f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$

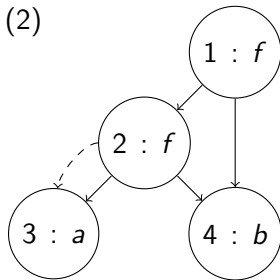
$$f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$$

(1)



Initial DAG

(2)



MERGE 2 3

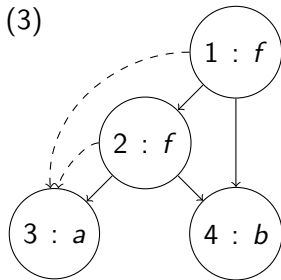
UNION 2 3

$$P_2 = \{1\}$$

$$P_3 = \{2\}$$

CONGRUENT 1 2

(3)



MERGE 1 2

UNION 1 2

$$P_1 = \{\}$$

$$P_2 = \{1, 2\}$$

FIND  $f(f(a, b), b) = a =$  FIND  $a \Rightarrow$  **Unsatisfiable**

Given  $\Sigma_E$ -formula

$$F : f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq a .$$

The subterm set is

$$S_F = \{a, b, f(a, b), f(f(a, b), b)\} ,$$

resulting in the initial partition

$$(1) \{\{a\}, \{b\}, \{f(a, b)\}, \{f(f(a, b), b)\}\}$$

in which each term is its own congruence class. Fig (1).

Final partition

$$(2) \{\{a, f(a, b), f(f(a, b), b)\}, \{b\}\}$$

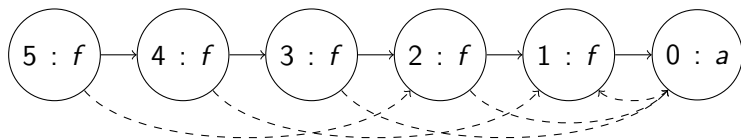
Does

$$(3) \{\{a, f(a, b), f(f(a, b), b)\}, \{b\}\} \models F ?$$

No, as  $f(f(a, b), b) \sim a$ , but  $F$  asserts that  $f(f(a, b), b) \neq a$ . Hence,  $F$  is  $T_E$ -unsatisfiable.

Example  $f^3(a) = a \wedge f^5(a) = a \wedge f(a) \neq a$

$$f(f(f(a))) = a \wedge f(f(f(f(f(a)))))) = a \wedge f(a) \neq a$$



Initial DAG

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(f(f(a))) = a &\Rightarrow \text{MERGE } 3 \ 0 & P_3 &= \{4\} & P_0 &= \{1\} \\
 &\Rightarrow \text{MERGE } 4 \ 1 & P_4 &= \{5\} & P_1 &= \{2\} \\
 &\Rightarrow \text{MERGE } 5 \ 2 & P_5 &= \{\} & P_2 &= \{3\}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(f(f(f(f(a)))))) = a &\Rightarrow \text{MERGE } 5 \ 0 & P_5 &= \{3\} & P_0 &= \{1, 4\} \\
 &\Rightarrow \text{MERGE } 3 \ 1 & P_3 &= \{1, 3, 4\}, & P_1 &= \{2, 5\}
 \end{aligned}$$

FIND  $f(a) = f(a) = \text{FIND } a \Rightarrow$  **Unsatisfiable**

Given  $\Sigma_E$ -formula

$$F : f(f(f(a))) = a \wedge f(f(f(f(f(a)))))) = a \wedge f(a) \neq a ,$$

which induces the initial partition

①  $\{\{a\}, \{f(a)\}, \{f^2(a)\}, \{f^3(a)\}, \{f^4(a)\}, \{f^5(a)\}\}$  .

The equality  $f^3(a) = a$  induces the partition

②  $\{\{a, f^3(a)\}, \{f(a), f^4(a)\}, \{f^2(a), f^5(a)\}\}$  .

The equality  $f^5(a) = a$  induces the partition

③  $\{\{a, f(a), f^2(a), f^3(a), f^4(a), f^5(a)\}\}$  .

Now, does

$$\{\{a, f(a), f^2(a), f^3(a), f^4(a), f^5(a)\}\} \models F ?$$

No, as  $f(a) \sim a$ , but  $F$  asserts that  $f(a) \neq a$ . Hence,  $F$  is  $T_E$ -unsatisfiable.



## Theorem (Sound and Complete)

*Quantifier-free conjunctive  $\Sigma_E$ -formula  $F$  is  $T_E$ -satisfiable iff the congruence closure algorithm returns satisfiable.*

### Proof:

$\Rightarrow$  Let  $I$  be a satisfying interpretation.

By induction over the steps of the algorithm one can prove:

Whenever the algorithm merges nodes  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ ,  $I \models t_1 = t_2$  holds.

Since  $I \models s_i \neq t_i$  for  $i \in \{m + 1, \dots, n\}$  they cannot be merged.

Hence the algorithm returns satisfiable.

Proof:

⇐ Let  $S$  denote the nodes of the graph and

Let  $[t] := \{t' \mid t \sim t'\}$  denote the congruence class of  $t$  and

$S/\sim := \{[t] \mid t \in S\}$  denote the set of congruence classes.

Show that there is an interpretation  $I$ :

$$D_I = S/\sim \cup \{\Omega\}$$

$$\alpha_I[f](v_1, \dots, v_n) = \begin{cases} [f(t_1, \dots, t_n)] & v_1 = [t_1], \dots, v_n = [t_n], \\ & f(t_1, \dots, t_n) \in S \\ \Omega & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

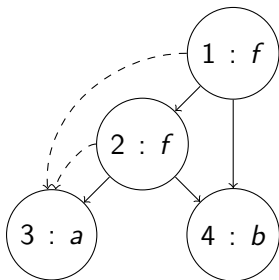
$$\alpha_I[=](v_1, v_2) = \top \text{ iff } v_1 = v_2$$

$I$  is well-defined!

$\alpha_I[=]$  is a congruence relation,

$I \models F$ .

Example:  $f(a, b) = a \wedge f(f(a, b), b) \neq b$



$$S = \{f(f(a, b), b), f(a, b), a, b\}$$

$$S/\sim = \{\{f(f(a, b), b), f(a, b), a\}, \{b\}\} = \{[a], [b]\}$$

$$D_I = \{[a], [b], \Omega\}$$

$\alpha_I[f]$	[a]	[b]	$\Omega$
[a]	$\Omega$	[a]	$\Omega$
[b]	$\Omega$	$\Omega$	$\Omega$
$\Omega$	$\Omega$	$\Omega$	$\Omega$

$\alpha_I[=]$	[a]	[b]	$\Omega$
[a]	$\top$	$\perp$	$\perp$
[b]	$\perp$	$\top$	$\perp$
$\Omega$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\top$

We can get rid of predicates by

- Introduce fresh constant  $\bullet$  corresponding to  $\top$ .
- Introduce a fresh function  $f_p$  for each predicate  $p$ .
- Replace  $p(t_1, \dots, t_n)$  with  $f_p(t_1, \dots, t_n) = \bullet$ .

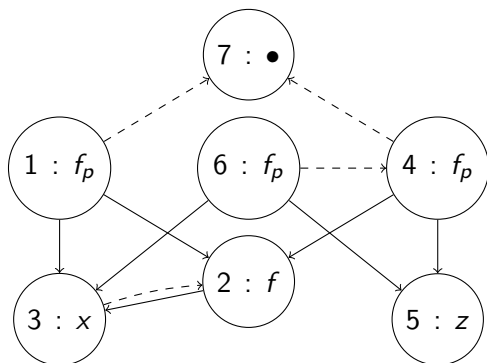
Compare the equivalence axiom for  $p$   
with the congruence axiom for  $f_p$ .

- $\forall x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2. x_1 = y_1 \wedge x_2 = y_2 \rightarrow p(x_1, x_2) \leftrightarrow p(y_1, y_2)$
- $\forall x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2. x_1 = y_1 \wedge x_2 = y_2 \rightarrow f_p(x_1, x_2) = f_p(y_1, y_2)$

$$x = f(x) \wedge p(x, f(x)) \wedge p(f(x), z) \wedge \neg p(x, z)$$

is rewritten to

$$x = f(x) \wedge f_p(x, f(x)) = \bullet \wedge f_p(f(x), z) = \bullet \wedge f_p(x, z) \neq \bullet$$



FIND  $f_p(x, z) = \bullet$

FIND  $\bullet = \bullet$

$\Rightarrow$  **Unsatisfiable**

## Theory of Lists

$\Sigma_{\text{cons}} : \{\text{cons}, \text{car}, \text{cdr}, \text{atom}, =\}$

- **constructor** cons:  $\text{cons}(a, b)$  list constructed by prepending  $a$  to  $b$
- **left projector** car:  $\text{car}(\text{cons}(a, b)) = a$
- **right projector** cdr:  $\text{cdr}(\text{cons}(a, b)) = b$
- **atom**: unary predicate

- reflexivity, symmetry, transitivity
- congruence axioms:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2. x_1 = x_2 \wedge y_1 = y_2 &\rightarrow \text{cons}(x_1, y_1) = \text{cons}(x_2, y_2) \\ \forall x, y. x = y &\rightarrow \text{car}(x) = \text{car}(y) \\ \forall x, y. x = y &\rightarrow \text{cdr}(x) = \text{cdr}(y) \end{aligned}$$

- equivalence axiom:

$$\forall x, y. x = y \rightarrow (\text{atom}(x) \leftrightarrow \text{atom}(y))$$

- $\forall x, y. \text{car}(\text{cons}(x, y)) = x$  (left projection)
- $\forall x, y. \text{cdr}(\text{cons}(x, y)) = y$  (right projection)
- $\forall x. \neg \text{atom}(x) \rightarrow \text{cons}(\text{car}(x), \text{cdr}(x)) = x$  (construction)
- $\forall x, y. \neg \text{atom}(\text{cons}(x, y))$  (atom)



First simplify the formula:

- Consider only conjunctive  $\Sigma_{\text{CONS}} \cup \Sigma_{\text{E}}$ -formulae.  
Convert non-conjunctive formula to DNF and check each disjunct.
- $\neg \text{atom}(u_i)$  literals are removed:  
replace  $\neg \text{atom}(u_i)$  with  $u_i = \text{cons}(u_i^1, u_i^2)$   
by the (construction) axiom.

Result is a conjunctive  $\Sigma_{\text{CONS}} \cup \Sigma_{\text{E}}$ -formula with the literals:

- $s = t$
- $s \neq t$
- $\text{atom}(u)$

where  $s, t, u$  are  $T_{\text{CONS}} \cup T_{\text{E}}$ -terms.

$$\begin{aligned} F : & \quad \underbrace{s_1 = t_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge s_m = t_m}_{\text{generate congruence closure}} \\ & \quad \wedge \underbrace{s_{m+1} \neq t_{m+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge s_n \neq t_n}_{\text{search for contradiction}} \\ & \quad \wedge \underbrace{\text{atom}(u_1) \wedge \cdots \wedge \text{atom}(u_\ell)}_{\text{search for contradiction}} \end{aligned}$$

where  $s_i$ ,  $t_i$ , and  $u_i$  are  $T_{\text{cons}} \cup T_E$ -terms.

- 1 Construct the initial DAG for  $S_F$
- 2 for each node  $n$  with  $n.\text{fn} = \text{cons}$ 
  - add  $\text{car}(n)$  and MERGE  $\text{car}(n) \ n.\text{args}[1]$
  - add  $\text{cdr}(n)$  and MERGE  $\text{cdr}(n) \ n.\text{args}[2]$by axioms (left projection), (right projection)
- 3 for  $1 \leq i \leq m$ , MERGE  $s_i \ t_i$
- 4 for  $m + 1 \leq i \leq n$ , if FIND  $s_i = \text{FIND } t_i$ , return **unsatisfiable**
- 5 for  $1 \leq i \leq \ell$ , if  $\exists v. \text{FIND } v = \text{FIND } u_i \wedge v.\text{fn} = \text{cons}$ , return **unsatisfiable**
- 6 Otherwise, return **satisfiable**

Given  $(\Sigma_{\text{cons}} \cup \Sigma_E)$ -formula

$$F : \quad \begin{aligned} & \text{car}(x) = \text{car}(y) \wedge \text{cdr}(x) = \text{cdr}(y) \\ & \wedge \neg \text{atom}(x) \wedge \neg \text{atom}(y) \wedge f(x) \neq f(y) \end{aligned}$$

where the function symbol  $f$  is in  $\Sigma_E$

$$\text{car}(x) = \text{car}(y) \quad \wedge \quad (1)$$

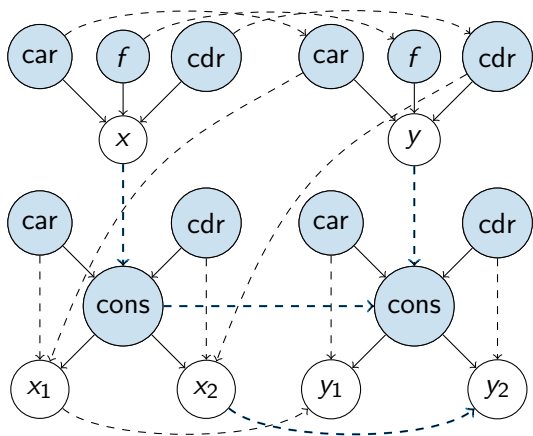
$$\text{cdr}(x) = \text{cdr}(y) \quad \wedge \quad (2)$$

$$F' : \quad x = \text{cons}(x_1, x_2) \quad \wedge \quad (3)$$

$$y = \text{cons}(y_1, y_2) \quad \wedge \quad (4)$$

$$f(x) \neq f(y) \quad (5)$$

Example:  $\text{car}(x) = \text{car}(y) \wedge \text{cdr}(x) = \text{cdr}(y) \wedge$   
 $x = \text{cons}(x_1, x_2) \wedge y = \text{cons}(y_1, y_2) \wedge f(x) \neq f(y)$



--> congruence

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3 :

MERGE  $\text{car}(x)$   $\text{car}(y)$

MERGE  $\text{cdr}(x)$   $\text{cdr}(y)$

MERGE  $x$   $\text{cons}(x_1, x_2)$

MERGE  $\text{car}(x)$   $\text{car}(\text{cons}(x_1, x_2))$

MERGE  $\text{cdr}(x)$   $\text{cdr}(\text{cons}(x_1, x_2))$

MERGE  $y$   $\text{cons}(y_1, y_2)$

MERGE  $\text{car}(y)$   $\text{car}(\text{cons}(y_1, y_2))$

MERGE  $\text{cdr}(y)$   $\text{cdr}(\text{cons}(y_1, y_2))$

MERGE  $\text{cons}(x_1, x_2)$   $\text{cons}(y_1, y_2)$

MERGE  $f(x)$   $f(y)$

Step 4 :

FIND  $f(x) = \text{FIND } f(y)$

$\Rightarrow$  *unsatisfiable*

## Theorem (Sound and Complete)

*Quantifier-free conjunctive  $\Sigma_{\text{CONS}}$ -formula  $F$  is  $T_{\text{CONS}}$ -satisfiable iff the congruence closure algorithm for  $T_{\text{CONS}}$  returns satisfiable.*

**Proof:**

$\Rightarrow$  Let  $I$  be a satisfying interpretation.

By induction over the steps of the algorithm one can prove:

Whenever the algorithm merges nodes  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ ,  $I \models t_1 = t_2$  holds.

Since  $I \models s_i \neq t_i$  for  $i \in \{m+1, \dots, n\}$  they cannot be merged.

From  $I \models \neg \text{atom}(\text{cons}(t_1, t_2))$  and  $I \models \text{atom}(u_i)$

follows  $I \models u_i \neq \text{cons}(t_1, t_2)$  by equivalence axiom.

Thus  $u_i$  for  $i \in \{1, \dots, \ell\}$  cannot be merged with a cons node.

Hence the algorithm returns satisfiable.

Proof:

- $\Leftarrow$  Let  $S$  denote the nodes of the graph and  
 let  $S/\sim$  denote the congruence classes computed by the algorithm.  
 Show that there is an interpretation  $I$ :

$$D_I = \{\text{binary trees with leaves labelled with } S/\sim\}$$

$$\setminus \{\text{trees with subtree } \begin{array}{c} \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ [t_1] \quad [t_2] \end{array} \text{ with } \text{cons}(t_1, t_2) \in S\}$$

$$\text{cons}_I(v_1, v_2) = \begin{cases} [\text{cons}(t_1, t_2)] & v_1 = [t_1], v_2 = [t_2], \text{cons}(t_1, t_2) \in S \\ \begin{array}{c} \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ v_1 \quad v_2 \end{array} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{car}_I(v) = \begin{cases} [\text{car}(t)] & \text{if } v = [t], \text{car}(t) \in S \\ v_1 & \text{if } v = \begin{array}{c} \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ v_1 \quad v_2 \end{array} \\ \text{arbitrary} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{cdr}_I(v) = \begin{cases} [\text{cdr}(t)] & \text{if } v = [t], \text{cdr}(t) \in S \\ v_2 & \text{if } v = \begin{array}{c} \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ v_1 \quad v_2 \end{array} \\ \text{arbitrary} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{atom}_I(v) = \begin{cases} \text{false} & \text{if } v = [\text{cons}(t_1, t_2)] \\ \text{false} & \text{if } v = \begin{array}{c} \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ v_1 \quad v_2 \end{array} \\ \text{true} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\alpha_I[=](v_1, v_2) = \text{true iff } v_1 = v_2$$

$I$  is well-defined!  $\alpha_I[=]$  is obviously a congruence relation.

$$\forall x, y. \text{car}(\text{cons}(x, y)) = x \quad (\text{left projection})$$

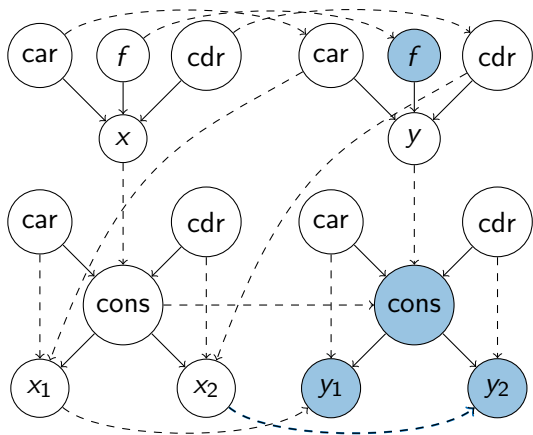
$$\forall x, y. \text{cdr}(\text{cons}(x, y)) = y \quad (\text{right projection})$$

$$\forall x. \neg \text{atom}(x) \rightarrow \text{cons}(\text{car}(x), \text{cdr}(x)) = x \quad (\text{construction})$$

$$\forall x, y. \neg \text{atom}(\text{cons}(x, y)) \quad (\text{atom})$$



Example:  $\text{car}(x) = \text{car}(y) \wedge \text{cdr}(x) = \text{cdr}(y) \wedge$   
 $x = \text{cons}(x_1, x_2) \wedge y = \text{cons}(y_1, y_2)$



--> congruence