

# Decision Procedures

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## Nelson-Oppen Theory Combination

**Motivation:** How do we show that

$$F : 1 \leq x \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge f(x) \neq f(1) \wedge f(x) \neq f(2)$$

is  $(T_E \cup T_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -unsatisfiable?

## Given

Multiple Theories  $T_i$  over signatures  $\Sigma_i$

(constants, functions, predicates)

with corresponding decision procedures  $P_i$  for  $T_i$ -satisfiability.

## Goal

Decide satisfiability of a sentence in theory  $\cup_i T_i$ .

$$\Sigma_1 \cap \Sigma_2 = \{=\}$$

$\Sigma_1$ -theory  $T_1$

$\boxed{P_1}$  for  $T_1$ -satisfiability  
of quantifier-free  $\Sigma_1$ -formulae

$\Sigma_2$ -theory  $T_2$

$\boxed{P_2}$  for  $T_2$ -satisfiability  
of quantifier-free  $\Sigma_2$ -formulae

$\boxed{P}$  for  $(T_1 \cup T_2)$ -satisfiability  
of quantifier-free  $(\Sigma_1 \cup \Sigma_2)$ -formulae

We show how to get Procedure  $P$  from Procedures  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ .

Given formula  $F$  in theory  $T_1 \cup T_2$ .

- 1  $F$  must be quantifier-free.
- 2 Signatures  $\Sigma_i$  of the combined theory **only share**  $=$ , i.e.,

$$\Sigma_1 \cap \Sigma_2 = \{=\}$$

- 3 Theories must be **stably infinite**.

Note:

- Algorithm can be extended to combine arbitrary number of theories  $T_i$  — combine two, then combine with another, and so on.
- We restrict  $F$  to be conjunctive formula — otherwise convert to DNF and check each disjunct.

**Problem:** The  $T_1/T_2$ -interpretations must have the same data domain; it turns out same cardinality, e.g. infinite, is enough.

## Definition (stably infinite)

A  $\Sigma$ -theory  $T$  is **stably infinite** iff  
for every quantifier-free  $\Sigma$ -formula  $F$ :  
if  $F$  is  $T$ -satisfiable  
then there exists some **infinite**  $T$ -interpretation that satisfies  $F$   
with **infinite cardinality**.

- $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$ : stably infinite (all  $T$ -interpretations are infinite).
- $T_{\mathbb{Q}}$ : stably infinite (all  $T$ -interpretations are infinite).
- $T_{\mathbb{E}}$ : stably infinite (one can add infinitely many fresh and distinct values).
- $\Sigma$ -theory  $T$  with  $\Sigma : \{a, b, =\}$  and axiom  $\forall x. x = a \vee x = b$ :  
not stable infinite,  
since every  $T$ -interpretation has at most two elements.

Consider quantifier-free conjunctive  $(\Sigma_E \cup \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -formula

$$F : 1 \leq x \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge f(x) \neq f(1) \wedge f(x) \neq f(2) .$$

The signatures of  $T_E$  and  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$  only share  $=$ . Also, both theories are stably infinite. Hence, the NO combination of the decision procedures for  $T_E$  and  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$  decides the  $(T_E \cup T_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -satisfiability of  $F$ .

$F$  is  $(T_E \cup T_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -unsatisfiable:

The first two literals imply  $x = 1 \vee x = 2$  so that  $f(x) = f(1) \vee f(x) = f(2)$ . This contradicts last two literals.



## Phase 1: Variable Abstraction

- Given conjunction  $\Gamma$  in theory  $T_1 \cup T_2$ .
- Convert to conjunction  $\Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_2$  s.t.
  - $\Gamma_i$  in theory  $T_i$
  - $\Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_2$  satisfiable iff  $\Gamma$  satisfiable.

## Phase 2: Check

- If there is some set  $S$  of equalities and disequalities between the shared variables of  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$   
 $\text{shared}(\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2) = \text{free}(\Gamma_1) \cap \text{free}(\Gamma_2)$   
s.t.  $S \cup \Gamma_i$  are  $T_i$ -satisfiable for all  $i$ ,  
then  $\Gamma$  is **satisfiable**.
- Otherwise, **unsatisfiable**.

Consider quantifier-free conjunctive  $(\Sigma_1 \cup \Sigma_2)$ -formula  $F$ .

Two versions:

- **nondeterministic** — simple to present, but high complexity
- **deterministic** — efficient

Nelson-Oppen (N-O) method proceeds in two steps:

- **Phase 1** (variable abstraction)  
— same for both versions
- **Phase 2**  
nondeterministic: guess equalities/disequalities and check  
deterministic: generate equalities/disequalities by equality propagation

Given quantifier-free conjunctive  $(\Sigma_1 \cup \Sigma_2)$ -formula  $F$ .

Transform  $F$  into two quantifier-free conjunctive formulae

$\Sigma_1$ -formula  $F_1$       and       $\Sigma_2$ -formula  $F_2$

s.t.  $F$  is  $(T_1 \cup T_2)$ -satisfiable iff  $F_1 \wedge F_2$  is  $(T_1 \cup T_2)$ -satisfiable

$F_1$  and  $F_2$  are linked via a set of shared variables.

For term  $t$ , let  $\text{hd}(t)$  be the root symbol, e.g.  $\text{hd}(f(x)) = f$ .

# Generation of $F_1$ and $F_2$

For  $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$  and  $i \neq j$ , repeat the transformations

- ① if function  $f \in \Sigma_i$  and  $\text{hd}(t) \in \Sigma_j$ ,

$$F[f(t_1, \dots, t, \dots, t_n)] \text{ eqsat. } F[f(t_1, \dots, w, \dots, t_n)] \wedge w = t$$

- ② if predicate  $p \in \Sigma_i$  and  $\text{hd}(t) \in \Sigma_j$ ,

$$F[p(t_1, \dots, t, \dots, t_n)] \text{ eqsat. } F[p(t_1, \dots, w, \dots, t_n)] \wedge w = t$$

- ③ if  $\text{hd}(s) \in \Sigma_i$  and  $\text{hd}(t) \in \Sigma_j$ ,

$$F[s = t] \text{ eqsat. } F[\top] \wedge w = s \wedge w = t$$

- ④ if  $\text{hd}(s) \in \Sigma_i$  and  $\text{hd}(t) \in \Sigma_j$ ,

$$F[s \neq t] \text{ eqsat. } F[w_1 \neq w_2] \wedge w_1 = s \wedge w_2 = t$$

where  $w$ ,  $w_1$ , and  $w_2$  are fresh variables.

# Example: Phase 1

Consider  $(\Sigma_E \cup \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -formula

$$F : 1 \leq x \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge f(x) \neq f(1) \wedge f(x) \neq f(2) .$$

According to transformation 1, since  $f \in \Sigma_E$  and  $1 \in \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}}$ , replace  $f(1)$  by  $f(w_1)$  and add  $w_1 = 1$ . Similarly, replace  $f(2)$  by  $f(w_2)$  and add  $w_2 = 2$ . Now, the literals

$$\Gamma_{\mathbb{Z}} : \{1 \leq x, x \leq 2, w_1 = 1, w_2 = 2\}$$

are  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -literals, while the literals

$$\Gamma_E : \{f(x) \neq f(w_1), f(x) \neq f(w_2)\}$$

are  $T_E$ -literals. Hence, construct the  $\Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -formula

$$F_1 : 1 \leq x \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge w_1 = 1 \wedge w_2 = 2$$

and the  $\Sigma_E$ -formula

$$F_2 : f(x) \neq f(w_1) \wedge f(x) \neq f(w_2) .$$

$F_1$  and  $F_2$  share the variables  $\{x, w_1, w_2\}$ .

$F_1 \wedge F_2$  is  $(T_E \cup T_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -equisatisfiable to  $F$ .

## Example: Phase 1

Consider  $(\Sigma_E \cup \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -formula

$$F : f(x) = x + y \wedge x \leq y + z \wedge x + z \leq y \wedge y = 1 \wedge f(x) \neq f(2) .$$

In the first literal,  $\text{hd}(f(x)) = f \in \Sigma_E$  and  $\text{hd}(x + y) = + \in \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}}$ ; thus, by (3), replace the literal with

$$w_1 = f(x) \wedge w_1 = x + y .$$

In the final literal,  $f \in \Sigma_E$  but  $2 \in \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}}$ , so by (1), replace it with

$$f(x) \neq f(w_2) \wedge w_2 = 2 .$$

Now, separating the literals results in two formulae:

$$F_1 : w_1 = x + y \wedge x \leq y + z \wedge x + z \leq y \wedge y = 1 \wedge w_2 = 2$$

is a  $\Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -formula, and

$$F_2 : w_1 = f(x) \wedge f(x) \neq f(w_2)$$

is a  $\Sigma_E$ -formula.

The conjunction  $F_1 \wedge F_2$  is  $(T_E \cup T_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -equisatisfiable to  $F$ .

- Phase 1 **separated**  $(\Sigma_1 \cup \Sigma_2)$ -formula  $F$  into two formulae:  
 $\Sigma_1$ -formula  $F_1$  and  $\Sigma_2$ -formula  $F_2$
- $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are linked by a set of **shared variables**:  
 $V = \text{shared}(F_1, F_2) = \text{free}(F_1) \cap \text{free}(F_2)$
- Let  $E$  be an **equivalence relation** over  $V$ .
- The **arrangement**  $\alpha(V, E)$  of  $V$  induced by  $E$  is:

$$\alpha(V, E) : \bigwedge_{u, v \in V. uEv} u = v \wedge \bigwedge_{u, v \in V. \neg(uEv)} u \neq v$$

## Lemma

The original formula  $F$  is  $(T_1 \cup T_2)$ -satisfiable iff there exists an equivalence relation  $E$  of  $V$  s.t.

- (1)  $F_1 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_1$ -satisfiable, and
- (2)  $F_2 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_2$ -satisfiable.

## Proof:

$\Rightarrow$  If  $F$  is  $(T_1 \cup T_2)$ -satisfiable, then  $F_1 \wedge F_2$  is  $(T_1 \cup T_2)$ -satisfiable, hence there is a  $T_1 \cup T_2$ -Interpretation  $I$  with  $I \models F_1 \wedge F_2$ .

Define  $E \subseteq V \times V$  with  $u E v$  iff  $I \models u = v$ .

Then  $E$  is an equivalence relation.

By definition of  $E$  and  $\alpha(V, E)$ ,  $I \models \alpha(V, E)$ .

Hence  $I \models F_1 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  and  $I \models F_2 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$ .

Thus, these formulae are  $T_1$ - and  $T_2$ -satisfiable, respectively.



⇐ Let  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  be  $T_1$ - and  $T_2$ -interpretations, respectively, with

$$I_1 \models F_1 \wedge \alpha(V, E) \text{ and } I_2 \models F_2 \wedge \alpha(V, E).$$

W.l.o.g. assume that  $\alpha_{I_1}[=](v, w)$  iff  $v = w$  iff  $\alpha_{I_2}[=](v, w)$ .

(Otherwise, replace  $D_{I_i}$  with  $D_{I_i}/\alpha_{I_i}[=]$ )

Since  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are stably infinite, we can assume that  $D_{I_1}$  and  $D_{I_2}$  are of the same cardinality.

Since  $I_1 \models \alpha(V, E)$  and  $I_2 \models \alpha(V, E)$ , for  $x, y \in V$ :

$$\alpha_{I_1}[x] = \alpha_{I_1}[y] \text{ iff } \alpha_{I_2}[x] = \alpha_{I_2}[y].$$

Construct bijective function  $g : D_{I_1} \rightarrow D_{I_2}$  with  $g(\alpha_{I_1}[x]) = \alpha_{I_2}[x]$  for all  $x \in V$ . Define  $I$  as follows:  $D_I = D_{I_2}$ ,

$$\alpha_I[x] = \alpha_{I_2}[x] (= g(\alpha_{I_1}[x])) \text{ for } x \in V,$$

$$\alpha_I[=](v, w) \text{ iff } v = w,$$

$$\alpha_I[f_2] = \alpha_{I_2}[f_2] \text{ for } f_2 \in \Sigma_2,$$

$$\alpha_I[f_1](v_1, \dots, v_n) = g(\alpha_{I_1}[f_1](g^{-1}(v_1), \dots, g^{-1}(v_n))) \text{ for } f_1 \in \Sigma_1.$$

Then  $I$  is a  $T_1 \cup T_2$ -interpretation, and satisfies  $F_1 \wedge F_2$ .

Hence  $F$  is  $T_1 \cup T_2$ -satisfiable.

Consider  $(\Sigma_E \cup \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -formula

$$F : 1 \leq x \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge f(x) \neq f(1) \wedge f(x) \neq f(2)$$

Phase 1 separates this formula into the  $\Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -formula

$$F_1 : 1 \leq x \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge w_1 = 1 \wedge w_2 = 2$$

and the  $\Sigma_E$ -formula

$$F_2 : f(x) \neq f(w_1) \wedge f(x) \neq f(w_2)$$

with

$$V = \text{shared}(F_1, F_2) = \{x, w_1, w_2\}$$

There are 5 equivalence relations to consider, which we list by stating the partitions:

## Example: Phase 2 (cont)

- ①  $\{\{x, w_1, w_2\}\}$ , *i.e.*,  $x = w_1 = w_2$ :  
 $x = w_1$  and  $f(x) \neq f(w_1) \Rightarrow F_2 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_E$ -unsatisfiable.
- ②  $\{\{x, w_1\}, \{w_2\}\}$ , *i.e.*,  $x = w_1, x \neq w_2$ :  
 $x = w_1$  and  $f(x) \neq f(w_1) \Rightarrow F_2 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_E$ -unsatisfiable.
- ③  $\{\{x, w_2\}, \{w_1\}\}$ , *i.e.*,  $x = w_2, x \neq w_1$ :  
 $x = w_2$  and  $f(x) \neq f(w_2) \Rightarrow F_2 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_E$ -unsatisfiable.
- ④  $\{\{x\}, \{w_1, w_2\}\}$ , *i.e.*,  $x \neq w_1, w_1 = w_2$ :  
 $w_1 = w_2$  and  $w_1 = 1 \wedge w_2 = 2$   
 $\Rightarrow F_1 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -unsatisfiable.
- ⑤  $\{\{x\}, \{w_1\}, \{w_2\}\}$ , *i.e.*,  $x \neq w_1, x \neq w_2, w_1 \neq w_2$ :  
 $x \neq w_1 \wedge x \neq w_2$  and  $x = w_1 = 1 \vee x = w_2 = 2$   
 (since  $1 \leq x \leq 2$  implies that  $x = 1 \vee x = 2$  in  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$ )  
 $\Rightarrow F_1 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -unsatisfiable.

Hence,  $F$  is  $(T_E \cup T_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -unsatisfiable.

## Example: Phase 2 (cont)

Consider the  $(\Sigma_{\text{cons}} \cup \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -formula

$$F : \text{car}(x) + \text{car}(y) = z \wedge \text{cons}(x, z) \neq \text{cons}(y, z) .$$

After two applications of (1), Phase 1 separates  $F$  into the  $\Sigma_{\text{cons}}$ -formula

$$F_1 : w_1 = \text{car}(x) \wedge w_2 = \text{car}(y) \wedge \text{cons}(x, z) \neq \text{cons}(y, z)$$

and the  $\Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -formula

$$F_2 : w_1 + w_2 = z ,$$

with

$$V = \text{shared}(F_1, F_2) = \{z, w_1, w_2\} .$$

Consider the equivalence relation  $E$  given by the partition

$$\{\{z\}, \{w_1\}, \{w_2\}\} .$$

The arrangement

$$\alpha(V, E) : z \neq w_1 \wedge z \neq w_2 \wedge w_1 \neq w_2$$

satisfies both  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ :  $F_1 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_{\text{cons}}$ -satisfiable, and

$F_2 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -satisfiable.

Hence,  $F$  is  $(T_{\text{cons}} \cup T_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -satisfiable.

Phase 2 was formulated as “guess and check”:  
First, guess an equivalence relation  $E$ ,  
then check the induced arrangement.

The number of equivalence relations grows super-exponentially with the #  
of shared variables. It is given by **Bell numbers**.  
e.g., 12 shared variables  $\Rightarrow$  over four million equivalence relations.

**Solution:** Deterministic Version

Phase 1 as before

Phase 2 asks the decision procedures  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  to propagate new equalities.

Example 1:

Real linear arithmetic  $T_{\mathbb{R}}$

$P_{\mathbb{R}}$

Theory of equality  $T_E$

$P_E$

$$F : f(f(x)-f(y)) \neq f(z) \wedge x \leq y \wedge y + z \leq x \wedge 0 \leq z$$

$$F : f(f(x) - f(y)) \neq f(z) \wedge x \leq y \wedge y + z \leq x \wedge 0 \leq z$$

$$f(x) \Rightarrow u \quad f(y) \Rightarrow v \quad u - v \Rightarrow w$$

$$\Gamma_E : \{f(w) \neq f(z), u = f(x), v = f(y)\} \quad \dots T_E\text{-formula}$$

$$\Gamma_{\mathbb{R}} : \{x \leq y, y + z \leq x, 0 \leq z, w = u - v\} \quad \dots T_{\mathbb{R}}\text{-formula}$$

$$\text{shared}(\Gamma_{\mathbb{R}}, \Gamma_E) = \{x, y, z, u, v, w\}$$

Nondeterministic version — over 200  $E$ s!

Let's try the deterministic version.

$$\boxed{P_{\mathbb{R}}}$$

$$s_0 : \langle \Gamma_{\mathbb{R}}, \Gamma_E, \{\} \rangle$$

$$\boxed{P_E}$$

$$\Gamma_{\mathbb{R}} \models x = y$$

$$s_1 : \langle \Gamma_{\mathbb{R}}, \Gamma_E, \{x = y\} \rangle$$

$$\Gamma_E \cup \{x = y\} \models u = v$$

$$s_2 : \langle \Gamma_{\mathbb{R}}, \Gamma_E, \{x = y, u = v\} \rangle$$

$$\Gamma_{\mathbb{R}} \cup \{u = v\} \models z = w$$

$$s_3 : \langle \Gamma_{\mathbb{R}}, \Gamma_E, \{x = y, u = v, z = w\} \rangle$$

$$\Gamma_E \cup \{z = w\} \models \text{false}$$

$$s_4 : \text{false}$$

Contradiction. Thus,  $F$  is  $(T_{\mathbb{R}} \cup T_E)$ -unsatisfiable.

If there were no contradiction,  $F$  would be  $(T_{\mathbb{R}} \cup T_E)$ -satisfiable.



## Definition (convex theory)

A  $\Sigma$ -theory  $T$  is **convex** iff

for every quantifier-free conjunction  $\Sigma$ -formula  $F$

and for every disjunction  $\bigvee_{i=1}^n (u_i = v_i)$

if  $F \models \bigvee_{i=1}^n (u_i = v_i)$

then  $F \models u_i = v_i$ , for some  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$

## Claim

Equality propagation is a decision procedure for convex theories.

- $T_E, T_{\mathbb{R}}, T_{\mathbb{Q}}, T_{\text{cons}}$  are convex
- $T_{\mathbb{Z}}, T_A$  are not convex

**Example:**  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$  is not convex

Consider quantifier-free conjunctive

$$F : 1 \leq z \wedge z \leq 2 \wedge u = 1 \wedge v = 2$$

Then

$$F \models z = u \vee z = v$$

but

$$F \not\models z = u$$

$$F \not\models z = v$$

### Example:

The theory of arrays  $T_A$  is not convex.

Consider the quantifier-free conjunctive  $\Sigma_A$ -formula

$$F : a\langle i \triangleleft v \rangle[j] = v .$$

Then

$$F \Rightarrow i = j \vee a[j] = v ,$$

but

$$\begin{aligned} F &\not\Rightarrow i = j \\ F &\not\Rightarrow a[j] = v . \end{aligned}$$

Case split when:

$$\Gamma \models \bigvee_{i=1}^n (u_i = v_i)$$

but

$$\Gamma \not\models u_i = v_i \quad \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, n$$

- For each  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , construct a branch on which  $u_i = v_i$  is assumed.
- If **all** branches are contradictory, then **unsatisfiable**. Otherwise, **satisfiable**.

$T_{\mathbb{Z}}$  not convex!

$$\boxed{P_{\mathbb{Z}}}$$

$T_E$  convex

$$\boxed{P_E}$$

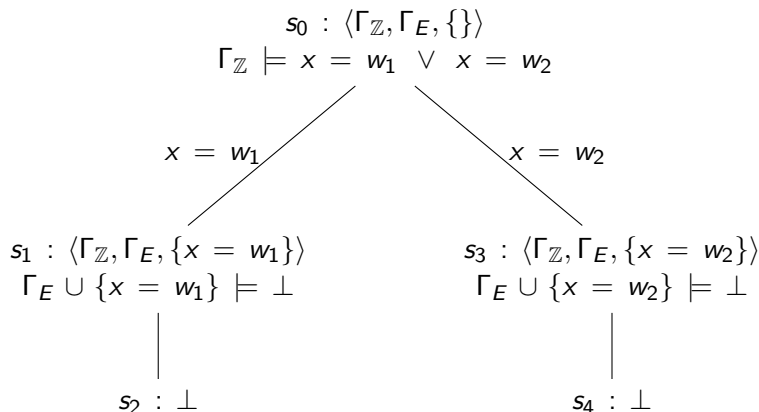
$$\Gamma : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \leq x, \quad x \leq 2, \\ f(x) \neq f(1), \quad f(x) \neq f(2) \end{array} \right\} \text{ in } T_{\mathbb{Z}} \cup T_E$$

- Replace  $f(1)$  by  $f(w_1)$ , and add  $w_1 = 1$ .
- Replace  $f(2)$  by  $f(w_2)$ , and add  $w_2 = 2$ .

Result:

$$\Gamma_{\mathbb{Z}} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \leq x, \\ x \leq 2, \\ w_1 = 1, \\ w_2 = 2 \end{array} \right\} \text{ and } \Gamma_E = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} f(x) \neq f(w_1), \\ f(x) \neq f(w_2) \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\text{shared}(\Gamma_{\mathbb{Z}}, \Gamma_E) = \{x, w_1, w_2\}$$



All leaves are labeled with  $\perp \Rightarrow \Gamma$  is  $(T_{\mathbb{Z}} \cup T_E)$ -unsatisfiable.

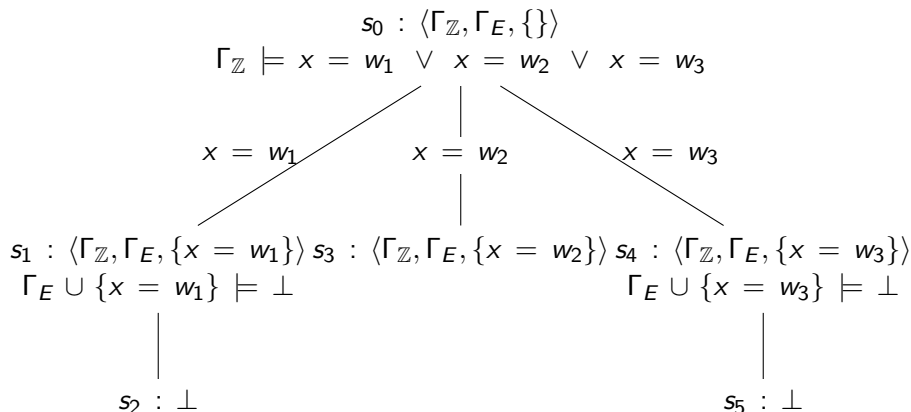
$$\Gamma : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \leq x, \quad x \leq 3, \\ f(x) \neq f(1), \quad f(x) \neq f(3), \quad f(1) \neq f(2) \end{array} \right\} \quad \text{in } T_{\mathbb{Z}} \cup T_E$$

- Replace  $f(1)$  by  $f(w_1)$ , and add  $w_1 = 1$ .
- Replace  $f(2)$  by  $f(w_2)$ , and add  $w_2 = 2$ .
- Replace  $f(3)$  by  $f(w_3)$ , and add  $w_3 = 3$ .

Result:

$$\Gamma_{\mathbb{Z}} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \leq x, \\ x \leq 3, \\ w_1 = 1, \\ w_2 = 2, \\ w_3 = 3 \end{array} \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad \Gamma_E = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} f(x) \neq f(w_1), \\ f(x) \neq f(w_3), \\ f(w_1) \neq f(w_2) \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\text{shared}(\Gamma_{\mathbb{Z}}, \Gamma_E) = \{x, w_1, w_2, w_3\}$$



No more equations on middle leaf  $\Rightarrow \Gamma$  is  $(T_{\mathbb{Z}} \cup T_E)$ -satisfiable.