

A Resolution Decision Procedure for the Guarded Fragment With Transitive Guards

Yevgeny Kazakov
(joint work with Hans de Nivelle)

Objectives

- How to find a **decision procedure** for a **non-trivial** fragment of first-order logic?
- How to **specify** a decision procedure and proof its **correctness**?

What Is the Guarded Fragment?

- The **guarded fragment** (Andréka, van Benthem & Németi, 1996):
 - Quantifiers should be bounded:

$$\forall \bar{x}. (G \rightarrow F) \quad \exists \bar{x}. (G \wedge F).$$

- where **G** is an **atom-guard** containing all variables of **F**

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Example:

- **Guarded** formula:

$$\text{Seriality} \equiv \forall x. (\underline{V(x)} \rightarrow \exists y. [\underline{\text{Edge}(x, y)} \wedge V(y)])$$

- **Non-guarded** formula:

$$\text{Transitivity} \equiv \forall xyz. [\underline{T(x, y)} \wedge \underline{T(y, z)} \rightarrow T(x, z)]$$

Properties of Guarded Formulas

- **GF** is related to many modal-like logics:

$$\begin{array}{l} ALC ::= A \quad | \\ C_1 \sqcap C_2 \quad | \\ C_1 \sqcup C_2 \quad | \\ \neg C \quad | \\ \forall R.C \quad | \\ \exists R.C. \end{array}$$

Properties of Guarded Formulas

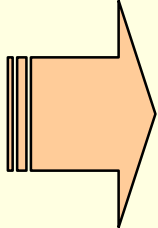
- **GF** is related to many modal-like logics:

$ALC ::= A$		$A(x)$	$::= FO[ALC]$
$C_1 \sqcap C_2$		$C_1(x) \wedge C_2(x)$	
$C_1 \sqcup C_2$		$C_1(x) \vee C_2(x)$	
$\neg C$		$\neg C(x)$	
$\forall R.C$		$\forall y.(R(x, y) \rightarrow C(y))$	
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- **GF** has nice computational properties:

- A tree-model property,
- A small model property,
- Decidability

The Guarded Fragment and Transitivity

$$\text{Transitivity} \equiv \forall xyz. [\underline{T(x, y)} \wedge \underline{T(y, z)} \rightarrow T(x, z)]$$

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 - [Grädel, 1999]: **GF³** with two transitive predicates is *undecidable*;
 - [Ganzinger, Meyer, Veanes, 1999]: **GF²[T]** is *undecidable*.

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 - [Ganzinger, Meyer, Veanes, 1999]: **GF²[T]** is *undecidable*.
- Decidable extensions with transitivity:
 - + [Ganzinger et al, 1999]: **monadic-GF²[T]** is decidable;
 - + [Szwast, Tendera, 2001]: **GF[TG]** is in 2EXPTIME;
 - + [Kierionski, 2002, 2003]: **monadic-GF²[T]** is 2EXPTIME-hard.

GF With Transitive Guards

- The guarded fragment with transitive guards ***GF[TG]***:

$$\forall \bar{x}. (G \rightarrow F) \quad \exists \bar{x}. (G \wedge F).$$

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- Transitive predicates may occur only as guards.

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Example:

- ***GF[TG]*** can express orderings without endpoints:

$$\text{NoEnd} \equiv \forall xy. (\underline{x < y} \rightarrow \exists z. \underline{y < z})$$

- ***GF[TG]*** cannot express dense orderings:

$$\text{Density} \equiv \forall xy. (\underline{x < y} \rightarrow \exists z. \underline{x < z} \wedge \underline{z < y})$$

Decision Procedures for FO-fragments

Two approaches

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graph TD; A[Two approaches] --> B[Model-theoretic]; A --> C[Proof-theoretic];
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Model-theoretic
(search for a model)

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Decision Procedures for FO-fragments

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+ **Highly efficient** implementations
– Rely on a “**good model**” property
? Formalization
(soundness, completeness, proof/model checking)

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Proof-theoretic
(Search for a **proof**)

? **Highly optimized** implementations
+ **soundness/completeness** is guaranteed
! **Correctness** is reduced to termination

Resolution Decides *GF*

- [de Nivelle, 1998] Resolution decides *GF* without equality.

HOW to formalize?

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- Clauses resulted for *GF* can be described by the clause schemes:

1. $\hat{\beta}$

← Propositional

2. $\neg !\hat{g} [!\bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta} [f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]$

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← **Guarded**

Guarded: $\neg a(x, y, x) \vee b(y, f'(x, y));$
 $\neg b(x, y) \vee \neg b(y, x);$
 $\neg p \vee \neg q(c, c)$

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2. $\neg !\hat{g} [!\bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta} [f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]$

← **Guarded**

Non-Guarded:

$$\neg a(x, y, x) \vee b(f'(x, y), f'(y, x))$$

$$\neg b(y, f'(x, y))$$

Saturation of the Clause Set

The Ordered Resolution Calculus:

$$\text{OR: } \frac{C \vee \underline{A}^* \quad D \vee \neg \underline{B}^*}{C\sigma \vee D\sigma}$$

$$\text{OF: } \frac{C \vee \underline{A}^* \vee \underline{B}}{C\sigma \vee A\sigma}$$

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1	$\hat{\beta} \vee \beta^*$	2	$\neg !\hat{g} [!\bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta} [f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]$
1.1	$\hat{\beta} \vee \underline{b}^*$:OR	2.1	$\neg !\hat{g} [!\bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta} [f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}] \vee \beta [!f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]^*$
1.2	$\hat{\beta} \vee \neg \underline{b}^*$:OR	2.1.1	$\neg !\hat{g} [!\bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta} [f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}] \vee \underline{b} [!f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]^*$:OR
1.3	$\hat{\beta} \vee \underline{b}_1^* \vee \underline{b}_2$:OF	2.1.2	$\neg !\hat{g} [!\bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta} [f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}] \vee \neg \underline{b} [!f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]^*$:OR
OR[1.1;1.2]:	$\hat{\beta}$:1	2.1.3	$\neg !\hat{g} [!\bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta} [f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}] \vee \underline{b} [!f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]^* \vee \underline{b} [f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]$:OF
OF[1.3]	$\hat{\beta} \vee \underline{b}_1$:1	OR[2.1.1;2.1.2]:	$\neg !\hat{g} [!\bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta} [f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]$:2
		OF[2.1.3]	$\neg !\hat{g} [!\bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta} [f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}] \vee \underline{b} [!f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]$:2
		2.2	$\neg \underline{g} [!\bar{x}]^\# \vee \neg \hat{g} [!\bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta} [\bar{x}]$:OR
		OR[1.1;2.2]	$\hat{\beta}$:1
		OR[2.1.1;2.2]:	$\neg !\hat{g} [!\bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta} [f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta} [f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]$:2

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			$\hat{\beta} \vee \beta^* [f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]$:2
			:1
		OR[2.1.1;2.2]:	$\neg !\hat{g} [!\bar{x}] \vee \beta [f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}] \vee \beta [f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]$:2

Resolution generates **finitely many** clauses
for **every** input!

Why Resolution Terminates for *GF* ?

2.1.1 $\neg !\hat{g}[\bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta}[f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}] \vee \underline{b[!f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]^*}$:OR

2.2 $\neg \underline{g[\bar{x}]^\#} \vee \neg \hat{g}[\bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta}[\bar{x}]$:OR

OR[2.1.1;2.2]: $\neg !\hat{g}[\bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta}[f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta}[f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]$:2

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1. Unified expressions contain **all variables**;
 - Number of variables does not grow.
2. Every variable occurs in a **deepest position**
 - Clause depth does not grow.

Resolution With Transitivity Axioms

- Resolution with transitivity axioms may produce **larger clauses**:

1. $\neg(xTy) \vee \neg(yTz) \vee \underline{xTz}^*$;
2. $\neg(\underline{xTz})^* \vee \neg(zTu) \vee xTu$;

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OR [1;2]: $3. \quad \neg(xTy) \vee \neg(yTz) \vee \neg(zTu) \vee xTu;$

- Solution**: use a **selection function**:

$$1. \quad \neg(\underline{xTy})^\# \vee \neg(yTz) \vee xTz;$$

$$2. \quad \neg(xTy) \vee \neg(\underline{yTz})^\# \vee xTz;$$

OR ~~[1;2]~~: —

Resolution With Transitivity Axioms

- Selection does not help avoiding **increase of variables** in clauses:

$$1. \quad \neg(\underline{xTy}) \# \vee \neg(yTz) \vee xTz;$$

$$2. \quad \alpha(x) \vee \underline{f(x)Tx^*};$$

$$\text{OR}[2;1]: 3. \quad \alpha(x) \vee \neg(xTz) \vee \underline{f(x)Tz^*};$$

$$\text{OR}[3;1]: 4. \quad \alpha(x) \vee \neg(xTz) \vee \neg(zTz_1) \vee \underline{f(x)Tz_1^*};$$

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- Or **increase of functional depth**:

$$1. \quad \neg(\underline{xTy}) \# \vee \neg(\underline{yTz}) \# \vee xTz;$$

$$2. \quad \alpha(x) \vee \underline{f(x)Tx^*};$$

$$\text{HR}[2,2;1]: 3. \quad \alpha(x) \vee \underline{ff(x)Tx^*};$$

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Resolution With Transitivity Axioms

- Selection does not help avoiding increase of variables

1. $\neg(\underline{xTy})$

2. $\alpha(x) \vee \underline{f(x)}$

OR[2;1]: 3. $\alpha(x) \vee \underline{f(x)}$

OR[3;1]: 4. $\alpha(x) \vee \underline{f(x)}$

- Harmless situations:

1. $\neg(\underline{xTy}) \# \vee \neg(\underline{yTz}) \# \vee xTz;$

2. $\alpha(x) \vee \underline{f(x)Tx*};$

3. $\alpha'(x) \vee \underline{xTx*};$

HR[2,3;1]: 4. $\alpha(x) \vee \alpha'(x) \vee \underline{f(x)Tx*};$

- Or increase of functional depth:

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Constraint Clauses

- “Smart” selection strategies can be realized through **constraint clauses** (~ Chaining calculus):

$T.1$	$\neg(\underline{xTy})\# \vee \neg(yTz) \vee xTz$	$x \succ \max(y, z)$
$T.2$	$\neg(xTy) \vee \neg(\underline{yTz})\# \vee xTz$	$z \succ \max(y, x)$
$T.3$	$\neg(\underline{xTy})\# \vee \neg(\underline{yTz})\# \vee xTz$	otherwise

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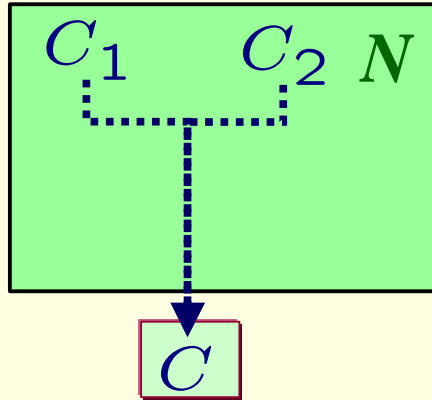
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- Saturation with constraint clauses:

1.	$\neg(\underline{xTy})^* \vee \neg(yTz) \vee xTz;$	$x \succ \max(y, z)$
2.	$\alpha(x) \vee \underline{f(x)Tx}^*;$	
OR[2; 1]: 3.	$\alpha(x) \vee \neg(xTz) \vee \underline{f(x)Tz}^*;$	$f(x) \succ z$
OR[3; 1]: 4.	$\alpha(x) \vee \neg(xTz) \vee \neg(zTz_1) \vee \underline{f(x)Tz_1}^*;$	
:		$f(x) \succ \max(z, z_1)$

Redundancy of Inferences

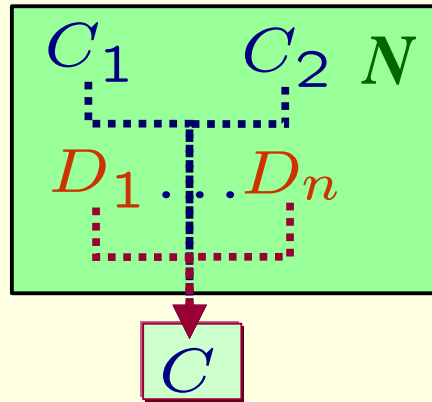
- Abstract notion of redundancy
[Bachmair, Ganzinger, 1990]:



- An inference $C_1, C_2 \vdash C$ is
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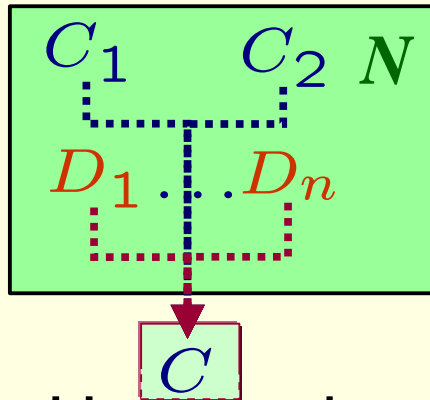
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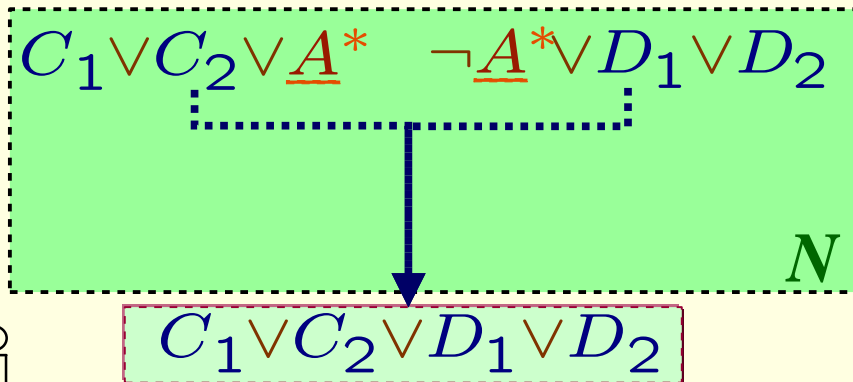
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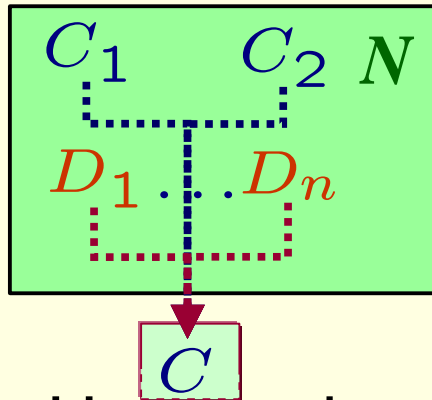
- How to show that inference is redundant?



A resolution inference is **redundant in N**

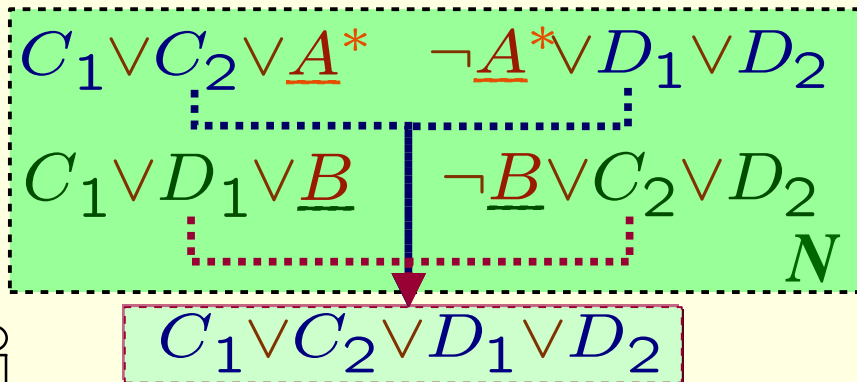
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- How to show that inference is redundant?



- A resolution inference is **redundant** in N if $A \succ B$

Redundancy in practice

- The clause 4 can be obtained differently by resolving on **smaller literals**:

1. $\neg(\underline{xTy})^* \vee \neg(yTz) \vee xTz; \quad | \quad x \succ \max(y, z)$

2. $\alpha(c) \vee \underline{f(c)Tc}^*;$

OR[2; 1]: 3. $\alpha(c) \vee \neg(cTz) \vee \underline{f(c)Tz}^*; \quad | \quad f(a) \succ z$

OR[3; 1]: 4. $\alpha(c) \vee \neg(cTz) \vee \neg(zTz_1) \vee \underline{f(c)Tz_1}^*;$
: $| \quad f(c) \succ \max(z, z_1)$

More Troublesome Inferences

- Resolving **negative** occurrences of transitive predicates may yield problems:

$$1. \quad \alpha(x) \vee \underline{f(x)Tx^*};$$

$$2. \quad \neg(\underline{xTy})^* \vee a(x) \vee \beta(y);$$

$$\text{OR}[1;T.1]: 3. \quad \alpha(x) \vee \neg(xTz) \vee \underline{f(x)Tz^*};$$

$$\text{OR}[2;3] : 4. \quad \alpha(x) \vee \neg(xTz) \vee \underline{a(f(x))}^* \vee \beta(z);$$

- The **variable z** does not occur in a **deepest position**.
- How to make the inference **OR[5;2]** **redundant**?

Auxiliary Inference Rule

- Add a **sound** inference rule:

1. $\alpha(c) \vee \underline{f(c)Tc^*}$;

2. $\neg(\underline{xTy})^* \vee a(x) \vee \beta(y)$;

OR[1; T.1]: 3. $\alpha(c) \vee \neg(cTz) \vee \underline{f(c)Tz^*}$;

OR[3; 2] : 4. $\alpha(c) \vee \neg(cTz) \vee a(f(c)) \vee \beta(z)$;

Transitive Recursion

$$TR: \frac{\neg(x\hat{T}y)^* \vee \alpha[x] \vee \beta[y]}{\begin{array}{l} \neg(x\hat{T}y) \vee \alpha[x] \vee u(y) \\ \neg(x\hat{T}y) \vee \neg u(x) \vee u(y) \\ \neg u(y) \vee \beta[y] \end{array}}$$

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Transitive Recursion

$$TR: \frac{\neg(x\hat{T}y)^* \vee \alpha[x] \vee \beta[y]}{\neg(x\hat{T}y) \vee \alpha[x] \vee u(y) \vee \neg(x\hat{T}y) \vee \neg u(x) \vee u(y) \vee \neg u(y) \vee \beta[y]}$$

$$1. \quad \alpha(c) \vee \underline{f(c)Tc^*};$$

$$2. \quad \neg(\underline{xTy})^* \vee a(x) \vee \beta(y);$$

$$OR[1; T.1]: 3. \quad \alpha(c) \vee \neg(cTz) \vee \underline{f(c)Tz^*};$$

$$OR[3; 2] : 4. \quad \alpha(c) \vee \neg(cTz) \vee a(f(c)) \vee \beta(z);$$

$$TR[2] : 5. \quad \neg(\underline{xTy})^* \vee a(x) \vee u(y);$$

$$: 6. \quad \neg(\underline{xTz})^* \vee \neg u(x) \vee u(z);$$

$$OR[1; 5]: 7. \quad \alpha(c) \vee a(f(c)) \vee u(c);$$

Auxiliary Inference Rule

- Add a **sound** inference rule:

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TR[2] : 5. $\neg(\underline{xTy})^* \vee a(x) \vee u(\underline{f(c)Tz} \succ u(c))$

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Extended Guarded Clauses

- Extended guarded clauses for the **GF[*TG*]**:

$$\neg !\hat{g} [!\bar{x}] \vee \hat{\beta} [\bar{x}] \vee \gamma [!\bar{x}] \vee \\ \vee \neg \hat{T} [!f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}] \vee \gamma [!f(\bar{x}), \bar{x}]$$

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- The fragment is **closed** under inference rules of ordered resolution:
 - using **constraints** and **redundancy elimination**;
 - all cases can be **schematically** described;
- procedure has an **optimal complexity** and captures the complexities of simpler **sub-fragments** (**S**, **SHI**, **SHIb**).

Conclusions

- A decision procedure for **GF[*TG*]** is given which make use of **advanced refinements** of the resolution calculus;
- The procedure has an **optimal complexity** and scalable to sub-fragments;
- **Surprisingly**: the clause class captures even a larger fragment than **GF[*TG*]**: it allows the **conjunction** of transitive relations as guards.
- Current work: extend to the case with **equality** (integrating the **chaining calculus**), **compositional** binary relations, **theories** of **linear** and **branching** orderings.

Thank You!

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