

Limitations of SMT Solvers

Ruzica Piskac

Max-Planck Institute for Software Systems, Germany

Literature:

- This talk will be based on
 - Talking to SMT developers
 - Talking to people working in software model checking
 - Own experience in using SMT solvers
- Robert Nieuwenhuis, Albert Oliveras, Enric Rodríguez-Carbonell, Albert Rubio: “*Challenges in Satisfiability Modulo Theories*”. RTA 2007: 2-18

SMT Solvers

What are they and how do they work?

SMT Solvers

- Used as a core engine in many tools in
 - Program analysis
 - Software engineering
 - Program model checking
 - Hardware verification, ...
- Combine propositional satisfiability search techniques with specialized theory solvers
 - Linear arithmetic
 - Bit vectors
 - Uninterpreted functions with equality

Lazy approach to SMT

$$x < 1 \wedge (x \geq 1 \vee x \geq 2 \vee x \leq 3)$$

atoms are abstracted
as Boolean variables

$$p_1 \wedge (\neg p_1 \vee p_2 \vee p_3)$$

A SAT solver returns

$$P_1 = \text{true}, p_2 = \text{true}$$

We create a formula
corresponding to
this assignment

$$x < 1 \wedge x \geq 2$$

A theory solver checks
its satisfiability

UNSAT

Lazy approach to SMT

$$x < 1 \wedge (x \geq 1 \vee x \geq 2 \vee x \leq 3)$$

The formula is added to the original formula to prevent its further derivations

$$x \geq 1 \vee x < 2$$


Its negation is a valid formula


$$x < 1 \wedge x \geq 2$$

UNSAT


Lazy approach to SMT

$$x < 1 \wedge (x \geq 1 \vee x \geq 2 \vee x \leq 3) \wedge (x \geq 1 \vee x < 2)$$


$$p_1 \wedge (\neg p_1 \vee p_2 \vee p_3) \wedge (\neg p_1 \vee \neg p_2)$$


$$p_1 = \text{true}, p_2 = \text{false}, \\ p_3 = \text{true}$$


$$x < 1 \wedge x < 2 \wedge x \leq 3$$


$$\text{SAT} \\ x = 0$$

Combining Different Theories

- Based on the Nelson-Oppen combination procedures
 - Theories need to be disjoint, i.e. they share only the equality symbol
 - Theories need to be **stably infinite**, i.e. if a formula is satisfiable in some model of a theory, then it is also satisfiable in a model of infinite cardinality
 - For complexity purposes, it is desirable that a theory is **convex**:
 - $S \models x_1 = y_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n = y_n$ then $S \models x_i = y_i$ for some i
 - Non-convex theory: linear integer arithmetic
 - $1 \leq x \leq 2 \models x = 1 \vee x = 2$

Nelson Oppen Combination Procedure

- Step 1:
 - Purification = converting formula into an equisatisfiable formula which is a conjunction of formulas, each belonging to a different theory
- Step 2 (loop):
 - Deduction and propagation = theory solvers deduce equalities between shared variables and propagate those equalities to other conjuncts. Repeat the process
 - If any theory solver returns UNSAT, return UNSAT
 - Otherwise return SAT

Nelson-Oppen Procedure-Example

$$x + 2 = y \wedge f(\text{read}(\text{write}(a, x, 3), y-2)) \neq f(y - x + 1)$$

Linear Integer Arithmetic	Arrays	EUF

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Nelson-Oppen Procedure-Example

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Linear Integer Arithmetic	Arrays	EUF
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Linear Integer Arithmetic	Arrays	EUF
$x + 2 = y$ $u_1 = 3$ $u_2 = y - 2$		

Nelson-Oppen Procedure-Example

$$f(u_3) \neq f(y - x + 1)$$

Linear Integer Arithmetic	Arrays	EUF
$x + 2 = y$ $u_1 = 3$ $u_2 = y - 2$	$u_3 = \text{read}(\text{write}(a, x, u_1), u_2)$	

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Nelson-Oppen Procedure-Example

$$f(u_3) \neq f(u_4)$$

Linear Integer Arithmetic	Arrays	EUF
$x + 2 = y$ $u_1 = 3$ $u_2 = y - 2$ $u_4 = y - x + 1$	$u_3 = \text{read}(\text{write}(a, x, u_1), u_2)$	

Nelson-Oppen Procedure-Example

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Nelson-Oppen Procedure-Example

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Nelson-Oppen Procedure-Example

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Shaz's Example

$$x = y \wedge f(x - y) \neq f(y - x)$$

Linear Integer Arithmetic	EUF

Shaz's Example

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Linear Integer Arithmetic	EUF
$x = y$ $u_1 = x - y$ $u_2 = y - x$	$f(u_1) \neq f(u_2)$

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Linear Integer Arithmetic	EUF
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Linear Integer Arithmetic	EUF
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Shaz's Example

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Linear Integer Arithmetic	EUF
$x = y$ $u_1 = x - y$ $u_2 = y - x$ $u_1 = u_2$	$f(u_1) \neq f(u_2)$ $u_1 = u_2$ UNSAT

Congruence Closure Algorithm

- Used for checking satisfiability of EUF formulas
- Given a set of equalities, the congruence closure algorithm computes the smallest set of implied equalities
- Usually based on an efficient DAG implementation
- The basic rule for deduction
 - $x_1 = y_1, \dots, x_n = y_n \Rightarrow f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(y_1, \dots, y_n)$

Limitations of SMT Solvers

... there are no limitations... 😊

“System Out of Resources”

- Generated formulas are too large
 - Encoding is often done automatically and it becomes costly to solve
 - This also influences the size of the generated proof (in case of UNSAT) – computation of minimal infeasible subset
- Finding a tailor-made encoding for a specific problem can drastically decrease the size of the formulas
- Empirical results show that the splits should be done at the leaves of the search
- One should also consider eager splitting on the literals that do not appear in the input formula

Lack of Decision Procedures

- Research and development of theory solvers are guided by the needs of users
- Some decidable theories do not have efficient theory solvers
 - Floating point arithmetic (work in progress, a PhD student @NYU)
 - Real algebra (work in progress, a PhD student @RWTH Aachen)
- Is decidability overrated? – some SMT solvers provide a limited support for undecidable theories (\mathbb{Z} , $+$, $*$)

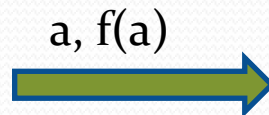
Handling of Quantifiers

- Some SMT solvers provide a support for quantifiers

$$\forall x_1, x_2, x_3 : (\text{subtype}(x_1, x_2) \wedge \text{subtype}(x_2, x_3) \rightarrow \text{subtype}(x_1, x_3))$$

- Basic idea:
 - Select a number of ground atoms
 - Instantiate the formula with those ground atoms and check satisfiability of the new formula

$$\neg P(f(a)) \wedge \forall x. P(x)$$



$$\neg P(f(a)) \wedge P(a) \wedge P(f(a))$$

- If it is unsatisfiable return UNSAT; otherwise ???

Handling of Quantifiers

- For some fragments there are COMPLETE techniques
 - Essentially uninterpreted fragment [Ge, de Moura, CAV'09]:
 - variables can appear only as an argument of uninterpreted function or predicate symbols (NO: $P(f(g(x+y)))$!)
 - Local Theory Extensions [Jacobs, CAV'09]
 - Local theories: monotone functions, injective functions, guarded boundness condition
$$\forall x. g(x) \rightarrow s(x) \leq f(x) \leq t(x)$$
- Using E-matching to instantiate quantifiers [de Moura, Bjorner, CADE'07]

Quantifiers in Essentially Uninterpreted fragment - Example

$$f(a) = 0 \wedge \forall x. \forall y. g(x) \leq 0 \wedge g(f(y)) + 1 \leq f(y)$$

V_x = ground terms for instantiating variable x

A_f = ground terms that will appear as arguments of function f

Quantifiers in Essentially Uninterpreted fragment - Example

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Constraints on sets V_i and F_j :

$$a \in A_f$$

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$$f(V_y) \subseteq A_g$$

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$$V_y = A_f$$

Solution:

$$A_f = \{a\}$$

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$$V_y = \{a\}$$

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$$A_f = \{a\}$$

$$V_y = \{a\}$$

$$A_g = \{f(a)\}$$

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$$V_x = A_g$$

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$$V_y = A_f$$

Solution:

$$A_f = \{a\}$$

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$$A_g = \{f(a)\}$$

$$V_x = \{f(a)\}$$

Quantifiers in Essentially Uninterpreted fragment - Example

$$f(a) = 0 \wedge \forall x. \forall y. g(x) \leq 0 \wedge g(f(y)) + 1 \leq f(y)$$

Instances:

$$A_f = \{a\}$$

$$V_y = \{a\}$$

$$A_g = \{f(a)\}$$

$$V_x = \{f(a)\}$$

Instantiated
formula

$$f(a) = 0 \wedge g(f(a)) \leq 0 \wedge g(f(a)) + 1 \leq f(a)$$

SAT

Model:

$$f(a) = 0, g(f(a)) = -1, a = 1$$

Quantifiers in Essentially Uninterpreted fragment - Example

SAT

$$f(a) = 0 \wedge \forall x. \forall y. g(x) \leq 0 \wedge g(f(y)) + 1 \leq f(y)$$

Model:

$$f(a) = 0, g(f(a)) = -1, a = 1$$



SAT

Model for the original formula:

$$\{ a \rightarrow 1, f \rightarrow \lambda x. 0, g \rightarrow \lambda x. -1 \}$$

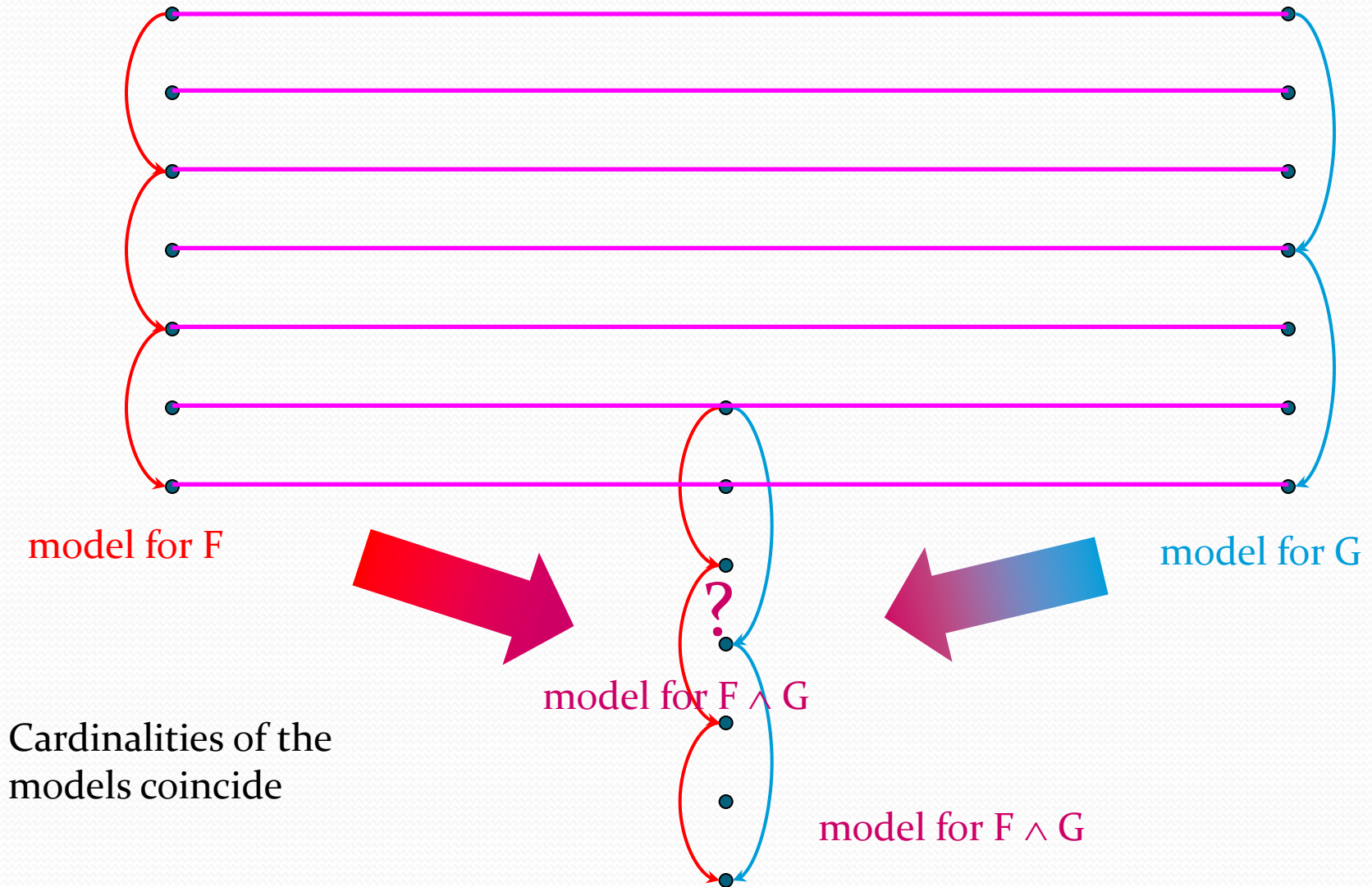
On Combining Non-disjoint Theories

Joint work with Thomas Wies and Viktor Kuncak

Combining Different Theories

- Based on the Nelson-Oppen combination procedures
 - Theories need to be disjoint, i.e. they share only the equality symbol
 - Theories need to be stably infinite, i.e. if a formula is satisfiable in some model of a theory, then it is also satisfiable in a model of infinite cardinality
 - For complexity purposes, it is also good if a theory is convex:
 - $S \models x_1 = y_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n = y_n$ then $S \models x_i = y_i$ for some i
 - Non-convex theory: linear integer arithmetic
 - $1 \leq x \leq 2 \models x = 1 \vee x = 2$

Amalgamation of Models: The Disjoint Case



Generated Verification Condition

$$\begin{aligned} & \neg \text{next0}^*(\text{root0}, n) \wedge x \notin \{\text{data0}(v) \mid \text{next0}^*(\text{root0}, v)\} \wedge \\ & \text{next} = \text{next0}[n := \text{root0}] \wedge \text{data} = \text{data0}[n := x] \rightarrow \\ & \quad |\{\text{data}(v) . \text{next}^*(n, v)\}| = \\ & \quad |\{\text{data0}(v) . \text{next0}^*(\text{root0}, v)\}| + 1 \end{aligned}$$

“The number of stored objects has increased by one.”

Expressing this VC requires a rich logic

- transitive closure $*$ (in lists and also in trees)
- unconstraint functions (data, data0)
- cardinality operator on sets $|\dots|$

How do we check satisfiability of such a formula?

Decomposing the Formula

Consider a (simpler) formula

$$|\{data(x). next^*(root,x)\}|=k+1$$

Introduce **fresh variables** denoting sets:

$$A = \{x. next^*(root,x)\} \wedge \quad 1) WS_1S$$

$$B = \{y. \exists x. data(x,y) \wedge x \in A\} \wedge \quad 2) C^2$$

$$|B|=k+1 \quad 3) BAPA$$

Good news: conjuncts are in decidable fragments

Bad news: conjuncts share more than just equality
(they share set variables and set operations)

\Rightarrow We cannot apply the Nelson-Oppen procedure

Combining Theories by Reduction

Satisfiability problem expressed in HOL:

(all free symbols existentially quantified)

$\exists \text{ next, data, k, root. } \exists A, B.$

$A = \{x. \text{next}^*(\text{root}, x)\} \wedge$

1) WS1S

$B = \{y. \exists x. \text{data}(x, y) \wedge x \in A\} \wedge$

2) C²

$|B| = k + 1$

3) BAPA

We assume formulas share only:

- **set variables** (sets of uninterpreted elems)
- set operations and relations

Combining Theories by Reduction

Satisfiability problem expressed in HOL,
after moving fragment-specific quantifiers

$\exists A, B.$

$\exists \text{ next, root. } A = \{x. \text{ next}^*(\text{root}, x)\} \wedge$

$\exists \text{ data. } B = \{y. \exists x. \text{ data}(x, y) \wedge x \in A\} \wedge$

$\exists k. |B|=k+1$

F_{BAPA}

F_{WSIS}

F_{C_2}

Extend decision procedures for fragments into

projection procedures that reduce each

conjunct to a **decidable shared theory**

applies \exists to all non-set variables

Combining Theories by Reduction

Satisfiability problem expressed in HOL,
after moving fragment-specific quantifiers

$\exists A, B.$

$\exists \text{ next, root. } A = \{x. \text{ next}^*(\text{root}, x)\} \wedge$

$\exists \text{ data. } B = \{y. \exists x. \text{ data}(x, y) \wedge x \in A\} \wedge$

$\exists k. |B|=k+1$

F_{BAPA}

$F_{\text{WS}_2\text{S}}$

F_{C_2}

Check satisfiability of conjunction of projections

$\exists A, B. F_{\text{WS}_2\text{S}} \wedge F_{\text{C}_2} \wedge F_{\text{BAPA}}$

Conjunction of projections satisfiable \rightarrow so is original formula

BAPA-Reducibility

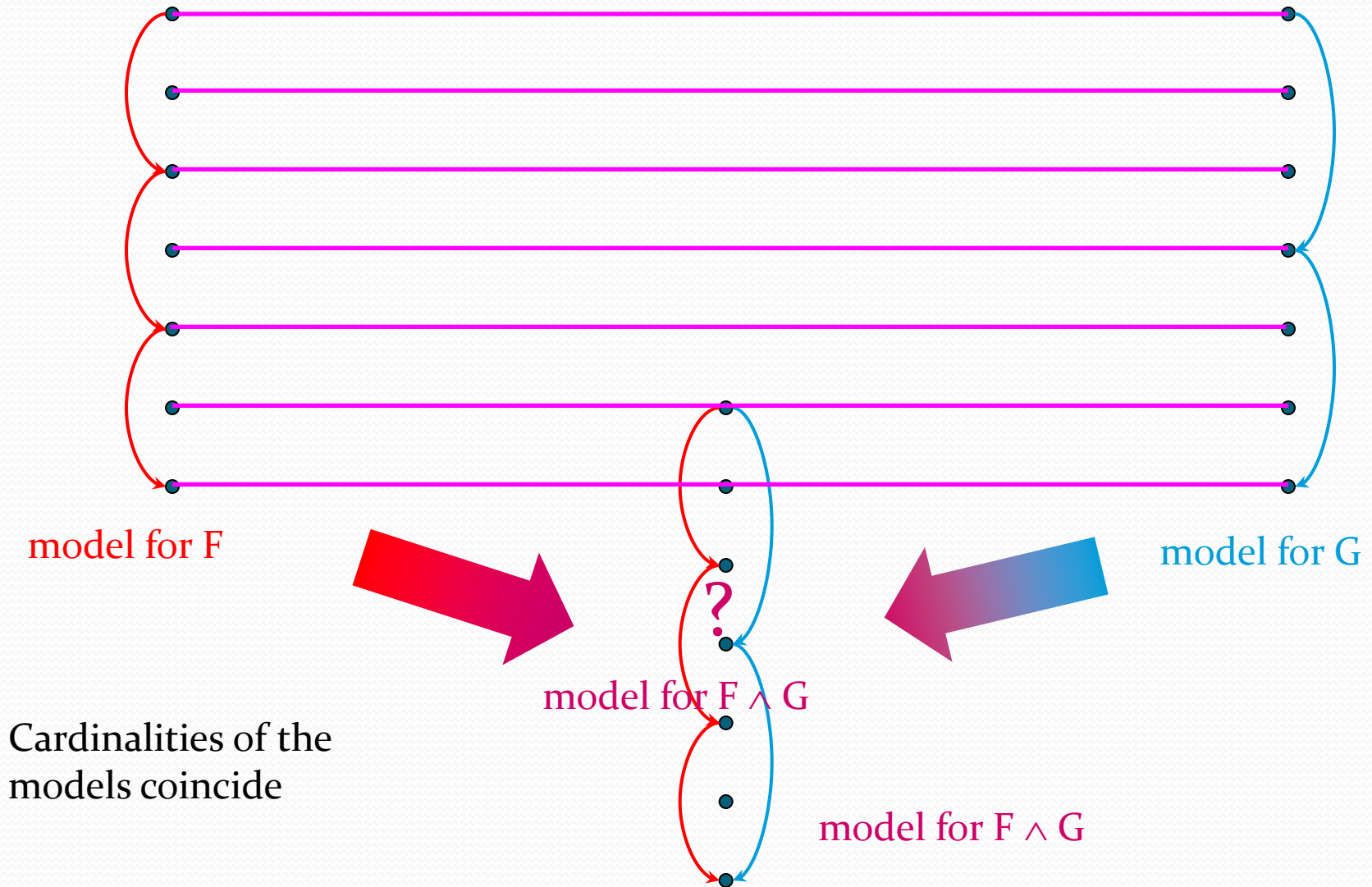
Definition: Logic is **BAPA-reducible** iff there is an algorithm that computes projections of formulas onto set variables, and these projections are BAPA formulas.

Theorem:

1) WS2S, 2) C^2 , 3) BAPA, 4) BSR, 5) qf-multisets are all BAPA-reducible.

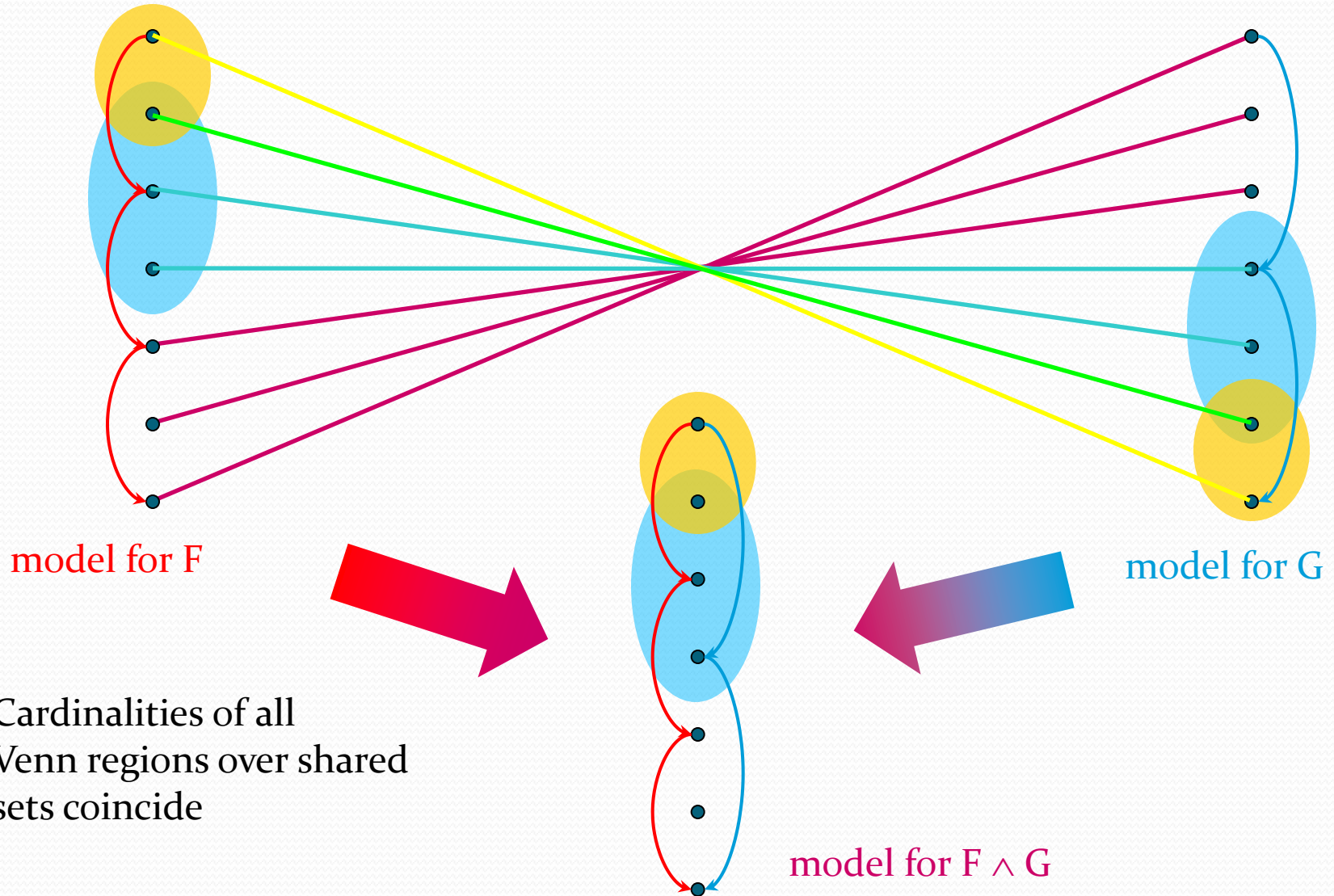
Thus, their set-sharing combination is decidable.

Amalgamation of Models: The Disjoint Case



Amalgamation of Models:

The Set-Sharing Case



BAPA-reduction for WS1S

WS1S formula for a regular language

$$F = ((A \wedge \neg B)(B \wedge \neg A))^* (\neg B \wedge \neg A)^*$$

Formulas are interpreted over finite words

Symbols in alphabet correspond to

$$(\neg A \wedge \neg B), (A \wedge \neg B), (\neg A \wedge B), (A \wedge B)$$

00 10 01 11

Model of formula F

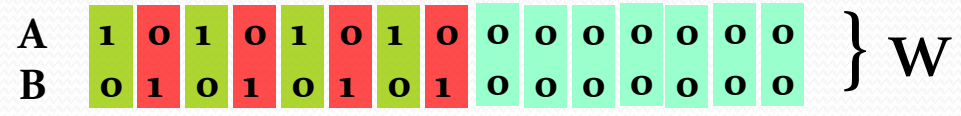
A	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

BAPA-reduction for WS1S

WS1S formula for a regular language

$$F = ((A \wedge \neg B)(B \wedge \neg A))^* (\neg B \wedge \neg A)^*$$

Model of formula F



A,B denote sets of positions in the word w.

00, 10, 01, 11 denote Venn regions over A,B

Parikh image gives card.s of Venn regions

$$\text{Parikh}(w) = \{ 00 \mapsto 7, 10 \mapsto 4, 01 \mapsto 4, 11 \mapsto 0 \}$$

BAPA-reduction for WS1S

Decision procedure for sat. of WS1S:

- construct finite word automaton A from F
- check emptiness of $L(A)$

Parikh 1966:

Parikh image of a regular language is semilinear and effectively computable from the finite automaton

Construct BAPA formula from Parikh image of the reg. lang.

BAPA-reduction for WS1S

WS1S formula for a regular language

$$F = ((A \wedge \neg B)(B \wedge \neg A))^* (\neg B \wedge \neg A)^*$$

Parikh image of the models of F:

$$\text{Parikh}(F) = \{(q,p,p,0) \mid q,p \geq 0\}$$

00 10 01 11

BAPA formula for projection of F onto A,B:

$$|A \cap B^c| = |A^c \cap B| \wedge |A \cap B| = 0$$

Fragment of Insertion into Tree

```
class Node {Node left,right; Object data;}
```

```
class Tree {
```

```
  private static Node root;
```

```
  private static int size; /*:
```

```
  private static specvar nodes :: objset;
```

```
  vardefs "nodes=={x. (root,x) ∈ {(x,y). left x = y ∨ right x = y}*}";
```

```
  private static specvar content :: objset;
```

```
  vardefs "content=={x. ∃ n. n ≠ null ∧ n ∈ nodes ∧ data n = x} " */
```



```
  private void insertAt(Node p, Object e) /*:
```

```
    requires "tree [ left , right ] ∧ nodes ⊆ Object.alloc ∧ size = card content ∧  
            e ∉ content ∧ e ≠ null ∧ p ∈ nodes ∧ p ≠ null ∧ left p = null"
```

```
    modifies nodes,content,left,right , data,size
```

```
    ensures "size = card content" */
```

```
{
```

```
  Node tmp = new Node();
```

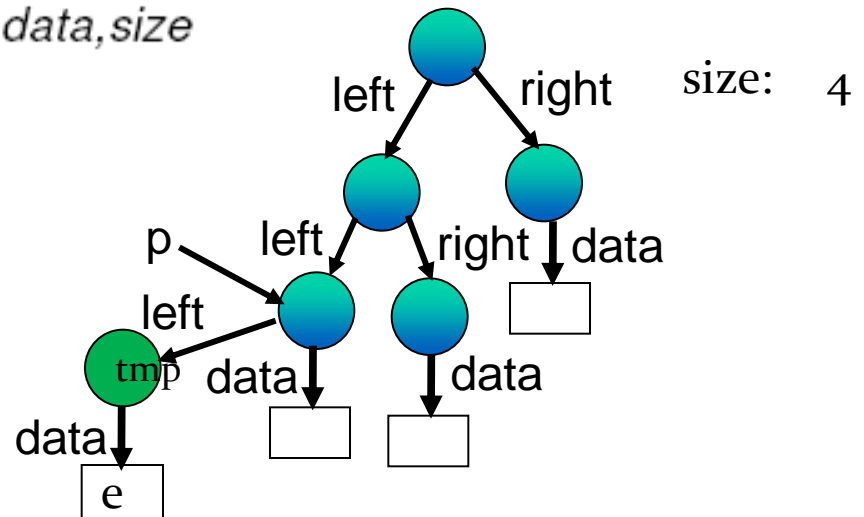
```
  tmp.data = e;
```

```
  p.left = tmp;
```

```
  size = size + 1;
```

```
}
```

```
}
```



Reduction of VC for insertAt

SHARED SETS: nodes, nodes1, content, content1, {e}, {tmp}

WS2S FRAGMENT:

$tree[left , right] \wedge left\ p = null \wedge p \in nodes \wedge left\ tmp = null \wedge right\ tmp = null \wedge$
 $nodes = \{x. (root, x) \in \{(x, y). left\ x = y \mid right\ x = y\}^*\} \wedge$
 $nodes1 = \{x. (root, x) \in \{(x, y). (left\ (p := tmp))\ x = y \mid right\ x = y\}$

CONSEQUENCE: $nodes1 = nodes \cup \{tmp\}$

C2 FRAGMENT:

$data\ tmp = null \wedge (\forall y. data\ y \neq tmp) \wedge tmp \notin alloc \wedge nodes \subseteq alloc \wedge$
 $content = \{x. \exists n. n \neq null \wedge n \in nodes \wedge data\ n = x\} \wedge$
 $content1 = \{x. \exists n. n \neq null \wedge n \in nodes1 \wedge (data(tmp := e))\ n = x\}$

CONSEQUENCE: $nodes1 \neq nodes \cup \{tmp\} \vee content1 = content \cup \{e\}$

BAPA FRAGMENT: $e \notin content \wedge card\ content1 \neq card\ content + 1$

CONSEQUENCE: $e \notin content \wedge card\ content1 \neq card\ content + 1$

Conjunction of projections unsatisfiable \rightarrow so is original formula

Conclusions

- SMT solvers = tools for efficiently checking satisfiability of formulas
- Although very powerful tools, there are limitations:
 - Lack of decision procedures
 - Handling of quantifiers
 - The requirements for the Nelson-Oppen combination are too restrictive
- Presented a new combination technique for theories sharing sets by reduction to a common shared theory:
 - Resulting theory is useful for automated verification of complex properties of data structure implementations