

The DPLL Procedure

Cesare Tinelli

`tinelli@cs.uiowa.edu`

The University of Iowa

Propositional Satisfiability: SAT

- Deciding the satisfiability of a propositional formula is a well-studied and important problem.
- **Theoretical interest:** first established NP-Complete problem, phase transition, ...
- **Practical interest:** applications to scheduling, planning, logic synthesis, verification, ...
 - Development of algorithms and enhancements.
 - Implementation of extremely efficient tools.
 - Solvers based on the **DPLL procedure** have been the most successful so far.

The Original DPLL

- Tries to **build** incrementally a **satisfying truth assignment** M for a CNF formula F .
- M is grown by
 - **deducing** the truth value of a literal from M and F ,
or
 - **guessing** a truth value.
- If a wrong guess for a literal leads to an inconsistency, the procedure **backtracks** and tries the opposite value.

The Original DPLL – Example

Operation	Assign.	Formula
		$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$

The Original DPLL – Example

Operation	Assign.	Formula
		$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
deduce 1	1	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$

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Operation	Assign.	Formula
		$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
deduce 1	1	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
deduce $\bar{2}$	$1, \bar{2}$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$

The Original DPLL – Example

Operation	Assign.	Formula
		$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
deduce 1	1	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
deduce $\bar{2}$	1, $\bar{2}$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
try 3	1, $\bar{2}$, 3	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$

The Original DPLL – Example

Operation	Assign.	Formula
		$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
deduce 1	1	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
deduce $\bar{2}$	1, $\bar{2}$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
try 3	1, $\bar{2}$, 3	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
deduce 4	1, $\bar{2}$, 3, 4	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$

The Original DPLL – Example

Operation	Assign.	Formula
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try 3	1, $\bar{2}$, 3	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
deduce 4	1, $\bar{2}$, 3, 4	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$

Inconsistency!

The Original DPLL – Example

Operation	Assign.	Formula
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deduce 1	1	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
deduce $\bar{2}$	1, $\bar{2}$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
try 3	1, $\bar{2}, 3$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
deduce 4	1, $\bar{2}, 3, 4$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
undo 3	1, $\bar{2}$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$

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try 3	1, $\bar{2}, 3$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
deduce 4	1, $\bar{2}, 3, 4$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
undo 3	1, $\bar{2}$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
try $\bar{3}$	1, $\bar{2}, \bar{3}$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$

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deduce $\bar{2}$	1, $\bar{2}$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
try 3	1, $\bar{2}, 3$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
deduce 4	1, $\bar{2}, 3, 4$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
undo 3	1, $\bar{2}$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$
try $\bar{3}$	1, $\bar{2}, \bar{3}$	$1 \vee 2, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee \bar{4}, 1$

Model Found!

An Abstract Framework for DPLL

- The DPLL procedure can be described declaratively by simple sequent-style calculi.
- Such calculi however cannot model meta-logical features such as backtracking, learning and restarts.
- We model DPLL and its enhancements as **transition systems** instead.
- A transition system is a binary **relation** over **states**, induced by a set of **conditional transition rules**.

An Abstract Framework for DPLL

Our states:

$$\textit{fail} \quad \text{or} \quad M \parallel F$$

where F is a CNF formula, a **set of clauses**, and M is a **sequence of annotated literals** denoting a partial truth assignment.

An Abstract Framework for DPLL

Our states:

$$\textit{fail} \quad \text{or} \quad M \parallel F$$

Initial state:

- $\emptyset \parallel F$, where F is to be checked for satisfiability.

Expected final states:

- *fail*, if F is unsatisfiable
- $M \parallel G$, where M is a model of G and G is logically equivalent to F .

Transition Rules for the Original DPLL

Extending the assignment:

Propagate

$$M \parallel F, C \vee l \rightarrow M l \parallel F, C \vee l \quad \text{if} \quad \begin{cases} M \text{ falsifies } C, \\ l \text{ is undefined in } M \end{cases}$$

Transition Rules for the Original DPLL

Extending the assignment:

Propagate

$$M \parallel F, C \vee l \rightarrow M l \parallel F, C \vee l \quad \text{if} \quad \begin{cases} M \text{ falsifies } C, \\ l \text{ is undefined in } M \end{cases}$$

Decide

$$M \parallel F \rightarrow M l^\bullet \parallel F \quad \text{if} \quad \begin{cases} l \text{ or } \bar{l} \text{ occurs in } F, \\ l \text{ is undefined in } M \end{cases}$$

Notation: l^\bullet annotates l as a decision literal.

Transition Rules for the Original DPLL

Repairing the assignment:

Fail

$$M \parallel F, C \rightarrow \textit{fail} \quad \mathbf{if} \quad \begin{cases} M \text{ falsifies } C, \\ M \text{ contains no decision literals} \end{cases}$$

Transition Rules for the Original DPLL

Repairing the assignment:

Fail

$$M \parallel F, C \rightarrow \textit{fail} \quad \text{if} \quad \begin{cases} M \text{ falsifies } C, \\ M \text{ contains no decision literals} \end{cases}$$

Backtrack

$$M l^\bullet N \parallel F, C \rightarrow M \bar{l} \parallel F, C \quad \text{if} \quad \begin{cases} M l^\bullet N \text{ falsifies } C, \\ l \text{ last decision literal} \end{cases}$$

Original DPLL System – Example

$$F := \begin{array}{lll} 1. \overline{p_1} \vee p_2, & 2. \overline{p_3} \vee p_4, & 3. \overline{p_6} \vee \overline{p_5} \vee \overline{p_2} \\ 4. \overline{p_5} \vee p_6, & 5. p_5 \vee p_7, & 6. \overline{p_1} \vee p_5 \vee \overline{p_7} \end{array}$$

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M	Rule
<hr/>	
p_1^\bullet	Decide

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M	Rule
p_1^\bullet	Decide
p_1^\bullet, p_2	Propagate 1.

Original DPLL System – Example

$$F := \begin{array}{l} 1. \overline{p_1} \vee p_2, \quad 2. \overline{p_3} \vee p_4, \quad 3. \overline{p_6} \vee \overline{p_5} \vee \overline{p_2} \\ 4. \overline{p_5} \vee p_6, \quad 5. p_5 \vee p_7, \quad 6. \overline{p_1} \vee p_5 \vee \overline{p_7} \end{array}$$

M	Rule
p_1^\bullet	Decide
p_1^\bullet, p_2	Propagate 1.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet$	Decide

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$$F := \begin{array}{l} 1. \overline{p_1} \vee p_2, \quad 2. \overline{p_3} \vee p_4, \quad 3. \overline{p_6} \vee \overline{p_5} \vee \overline{p_2} \\ 4. \overline{p_5} \vee p_6, \quad 5. p_5 \vee p_7, \quad 6. \overline{p_1} \vee p_5 \vee \overline{p_7} \end{array}$$

M	Rule
p_1^\bullet	Decide
p_1^\bullet, p_2	Propagate 1.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4$	Propagate 2.

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$$F := \begin{array}{l} 1. \overline{p_1} \vee p_2, \quad 2. \overline{p_3} \vee p_4, \quad 3. \overline{p_6} \vee \overline{p_5} \vee \overline{p_2} \\ 4. \overline{p_5} \vee p_6, \quad 5. p_5 \vee p_7, \quad 6. \overline{p_1} \vee p_5 \vee \overline{p_7} \end{array}$$

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p_1^\bullet	Decide
p_1^\bullet, p_2	Propagate 1.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4$	Propagate 2.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet$	Decide

Original DPLL System – Example

$$F := \begin{array}{l} 1. \overline{p_1} \vee p_2, \quad 2. \overline{p_3} \vee p_4, \quad 3. \overline{p_6} \vee \overline{p_5} \vee \overline{p_2} \\ 4. \overline{p_5} \vee p_6, \quad 5. p_5 \vee p_7, \quad 6. \overline{p_1} \vee p_5 \vee \overline{p_7} \end{array}$$

M	Rule
p_1^\bullet	Decide
p_1^\bullet, p_2	Propagate 1.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4$	Propagate 2.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet, \overline{p_6}$	Propagate 3.

Original DPLL System – Example

$$F := \begin{array}{l} 1. \overline{p_1} \vee p_2, \quad 2. \overline{p_3} \vee p_4, \quad 3. \overline{p_6} \vee \overline{p_5} \vee \overline{p_2} \\ 4. \overline{p_5} \vee p_6, \quad 5. p_5 \vee p_7, \quad 6. \overline{p_1} \vee p_5 \vee \overline{p_7} \end{array}$$

M	Rule
p_1^\bullet	Decide
p_1^\bullet, p_2	Propagate 1.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4$	Propagate 2.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet, \overline{p_6}$	Propagate 3.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, \overline{p_5}$	Backtrack 4.

Original DPLL System – Example

$$F := \begin{array}{l} 1. \overline{p_1} \vee p_2, \quad 2. \overline{p_3} \vee p_4, \quad 3. \overline{p_6} \vee \overline{p_5} \vee \overline{p_2} \\ 4. \overline{p_5} \vee p_6, \quad 5. p_5 \vee p_7, \quad 6. \overline{p_1} \vee p_5 \vee \overline{p_7} \end{array}$$

M	Rule
p_1^\bullet	Decide
p_1^\bullet, p_2	Propagate 1.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4$	Propagate 2.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet, \overline{p_6}$	Propagate 3.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, \overline{p_5}$	Backtrack 4.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, \overline{p_5}, p_7$	Propagate 5.

Original DPLL System – Example

$$F := \begin{array}{l} 1. \overline{p_1} \vee p_2, \quad 2. \overline{p_3} \vee p_4, \quad 3. \overline{p_6} \vee \overline{p_5} \vee \overline{p_2} \\ 4. \overline{p_5} \vee p_6, \quad 5. p_5 \vee p_7, \quad 6. \overline{p_1} \vee p_5 \vee \overline{p_7} \end{array}$$

M	Rule
p_1^\bullet	Decide
p_1^\bullet, p_2	Propagate 1.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4$	Propagate 2.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet, \overline{p_6}$	Propagate 3.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, \overline{p_5}$	Backtrack 4.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, \overline{p_5}, p_7$	Propagate 5.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, \overline{p_3}$	Backtrack 6.

Original DPLL System – Example

$$F := \begin{array}{l} 1. \overline{p_1} \vee p_2, \quad 2. \overline{p_3} \vee p_4, \quad 3. \overline{p_6} \vee \overline{p_5} \vee \overline{p_2} \\ 4. \overline{p_5} \vee p_6, \quad 5. p_5 \vee p_7, \quad 6. \overline{p_1} \vee p_5 \vee \overline{p_7} \end{array}$$

M	Rule
p_1^\bullet	Decide
p_1^\bullet, p_2	Propagate 1.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4$	Propagate 2.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet, \overline{p_6}$	Propagate 3.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, \overline{p_5}$	Backtrack 4.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, \overline{p_5}, p_7$	Propagate 5.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, \overline{p_3}$	Backtrack 6.
...	

From Backtracking to Backjumping

Backtrack

$$M l \bullet N \parallel F, C \rightarrow M \bar{l} \parallel F, C \quad \text{if} \quad \begin{cases} M l \bullet N \text{ falsifies } C, \\ l \text{ last decision literal} \end{cases}$$

From Backtracking to Backjumping

Backtrack

$$M l^\bullet N \parallel F, C \rightarrow M \bar{l} \parallel F, C \quad \text{if} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} M l^\bullet N \text{ falsifies } C, \\ l \text{ last decision literal} \end{array} \right.$$

Backjump

$$M l^\bullet N \parallel F, C \rightarrow M k \parallel F, C \quad \text{if} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. M l^\bullet N \text{ falsifies } C, \\ 2. \text{ for some clause } D \vee k: \\ \quad F, C \models D \vee k, \\ \quad M \text{ falsifies } D, \\ \quad k \text{ is undefined in } M, \\ \quad k \text{ or } \bar{k} \text{ occurs in} \\ \quad M l^\bullet N \parallel F, C \end{array} \right.$$

From Backtracking to Backjumping

Backtrack

$$M l^\bullet N \parallel F, C \rightarrow M \bar{l} \parallel F, C \quad \text{if} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} M l^\bullet N \text{ falsifies } C, \\ l \text{ last decision literal} \end{array} \right.$$

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$$M l^\bullet N \parallel F, C \rightarrow M k \parallel F, C \quad \text{if} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. M l^\bullet N \text{ falsifies } C, \\ 2. \text{ for some clause } D \vee k: \\ \quad F, C \models D \vee k, \\ \quad M \text{ falsifies } D, \\ \quad k \text{ is undefined in } M, \\ \quad k \text{ or } \bar{k} \text{ occurs in} \\ \quad M l^\bullet N \parallel F, C \end{array} \right.$$

Note: $D \vee k$ is computed by **conflict analysis**.

Example Revised

$$F := \begin{array}{l} 1. \overline{p_1} \vee p_2, \quad 2. \overline{p_3} \vee p_4, \quad 3. \overline{p_6} \vee \overline{p_5} \vee \overline{p_2} \\ 4. \overline{p_5} \vee p_6, \quad 5. p_5 \vee p_7, \quad 6. \overline{p_1} \vee p_5 \vee \overline{p_7} \end{array}$$

M	Rule
p_1^\bullet	Decide
p_1^\bullet, p_2	Propagate 1.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4$	Propagate 2.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet, \overline{p_6}$	Propagate 3.

Example Revised

$$F := \begin{array}{l} 1. \overline{p_1} \vee p_2, \quad 2. \overline{p_3} \vee p_4, \quad 3. \overline{p_6} \vee \overline{p_5} \vee \overline{p_2} \\ 4. \overline{p_5} \vee p_6, \quad 5. p_5 \vee p_7, \quad 6. \overline{p_1} \vee p_5 \vee \overline{p_7} \end{array}$$

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$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet, \overline{p_6}$	Propagate 3.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, \overline{p_5}$	Backjump with $\overline{p_2} \vee \overline{p_5}$.

Example Revised

$$F := \begin{array}{l} 1. \overline{p_1} \vee p_2, \quad 2. \overline{p_3} \vee p_4, \quad 3. \overline{p_6} \vee \overline{p_5} \vee \overline{p_2} \\ 4. \overline{p_5} \vee p_6, \quad 5. p_5 \vee p_7, \quad 6. \overline{p_1} \vee p_5 \vee \overline{p_7} \end{array}$$

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$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet$	Decide
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, p_3^\bullet, p_4, p_5^\bullet, \overline{p_6}$	Propagate 3.
$p_1^\bullet, p_2, \overline{p_5}$	Backjump with $\overline{p_2} \vee \overline{p_5}$.
...	

Basic DPLL System

At the core, current DPLL-based SAT solvers are implementations of the transition system:

Basic DPLL

- Propagate
- Decide
- Fail
- Backjump

The Basic DPLL System – Correctness

Some terminology

Irreducible state: state to which no transition rule applies.

Execution: sequence of transitions allowed by the rules and starting with states of the form $\emptyset \parallel F$.

Exhausted execution: execution ending in an irreducible state.

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Proposition (**Strong Termination**) **Every** execution in Basic DPLL is finite.

Note: This is not so immediate, because of Backjump.

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Proposition (Soundness) For every exhausted execution starting with $\emptyset \parallel F$ and ending in $M \parallel F$, M satisfies F .

Proposition (Completeness) If F is unsatisfiable, every exhausted execution starting with $\emptyset \parallel F$ ends with *fail*.

Enhancements to Basic DPLL

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Learn

$$M \parallel F \rightarrow M \parallel F, C \quad \text{if} \quad \begin{cases} \text{all atoms of } C \text{ occur in } F, \\ F \models C \end{cases}$$

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Usually C is a clause identified during conflict analysis.

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Restart

$$M \parallel F \rightarrow \emptyset \parallel F \quad \text{if} \quad \dots \text{you want to}$$

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The DPLL system =

{Propagate, Decide, Fail, Backjump, Learn, Forget, Restart}

The DPLL System – Strategies

- Applying one Basic DPLL rule between each two Learn and applying Restart less and less often ensures termination.

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 3. Apply Propagate

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Proposition (Completeness) If F is unsatisfiable, for every

execution $\emptyset \parallel F \Longrightarrow \dots \Longrightarrow S$ with S irreducible wrt. Basic DPLL, $S = fail$.