Decision Procedures in Verification

First-Order Logic (2)

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Until now:

Syntax (one-sorted signatures vs. many-sorted signatures)

Signature

A signature $\Sigma = (\Omega, \Pi)$, fixes an alphabet of non-logical symbols, where

- Ω is a set of function symbols f with arity $n \geq 0$, written f/n,
- Π is a set of predicate symbols p with arity $m \geq 0$, written p/m.

A many-sorted signature $\Sigma = (S, \Omega, \Pi)$, fixes an alphabet of non-logical symbols, where

- S is a set of sorts,
- Ω is a set of function symbols f with arity $a(f) = s_1 \ldots s_n \rightarrow s$,
- Π is a set of predicate symbols p with arity $a(p) = s_1 \ldots s_m$

where $s_1, \ldots, s_n, s_m, s$ are sorts.

Variables

We assume that X is a given countably infinite set of symbols which we use for (the denotation of) variables.

Many-sorted case:

We assume that for every sort $s \in S$, X_s is a given countably infinite set of symbols which we use for (the denotation of) variables of sort s.

Terms, Atoms, Formulae

Terms over Σ (resp., Σ-terms) are formed according to these syntactic rules:

$$
\begin{array}{rcllr}
t, u, v & ::= & x & , x \in X & \text{(variable)} \\
 & \mid & f(s_1, ..., s_n) & , f/n \in \Omega & \text{(functional term)}
\end{array}
$$

Many-sorted case:

a variable $x \in X_s$ is a term of sort s

if $a(f) = s_1 \dots s_n \to s$, and t_i are terms of sort s_i, $i = 1, \dots, n$ then $f(t_1, ..., t_n)$ is a term of sort s.

Atoms

Atoms (also called atomic formulas) over Σ are formed according to this syntax:

$$\begin{array}{lcll} A, B & ::= & p(t_1, ..., t_m) & , \ p/m \in \Pi \\ \Big[& \mid & (t \approx t') & \text{(equation)} \quad \Big] \end{array}$$

Whenever we admit equations as atomic formulas we are in the realm of first-order logic with equality.

Many-sorted case:

If $a(p) = s_1 \dots s_m$, we require that t_i is a term of sort s_i for $i = 1, \dots, m$.

Equality: Several possibilities

- $\approx_s$ for every sort s
- $t \approx t'$ well-formed iff t and t' are terms of the same sort
- No restrictions (restrictions only on the semantic level)

General First-Order Formulas

$\mathsf{F}_\Sigma(X)$ is the set of first-order formulas over Σ defined as follows:

$$
\begin{array}{rcll}
F, G, H & ::= & \bot & \text{(falsum)} \\
& \mid & \top & \text{(verum)} \\
& \mid & A & \text{(atomic formula)} \\
& \mid & \neg F & \text{(negation)} \\
& \mid & (F \land G) & \text{(conjunction)} \\
& \mid & (F \lor G) & \text{(disjunction)} \\
& \mid & (F \rightarrow G) & \text{(implication)} \\
& \mid & (F \leftrightarrow G) & \text{(equivalence)} \\
& \mid & \forall x F & \text{(universal quantification)} \\
& \mid & \exists x F & \text{(existential quantification)}
\end{array}
$$

Conventions

In what follows we will use the following conventions:

constants (0-ary function symbols) are denoted with $a, b, c, d, \ldots$

function symbols with arity ≥ 1 are denoted

- $f, g, h, \ldots$ if the formulae are interpreted into arbitrary algebras
- $+, -, s, \ldots$ if the intended interpretation is into numerical domains

predicate symbols with arity 0 are denoted $P, Q, R, S, \ldots$

predicate symbols with arity ≥ 1 are denoted

- $p, q, r, \ldots$ if the formulae are interpreted into arbitrary algebras
- $\leq, \geq, <, >$ if the intended interpretation is into numerical domains

variables are denoted $x, y, z, \ldots$

2.2 Semantics

To give semantics to a logical system means to define a notion of truth for the formulas. The concept of truth that we will now define for first-order logic goes back to Tarski.

As in the propositional case, we use a two-valued logic with truth values "true" and "false" denoted by 1 and 0, respectively.

Structures

A Σ-algebra (also called Σ-interpretation or Σ-structure) is a triple

$$\mathcal{A} = (U,\ (f_{\mathcal{A}} : U^n \to U)_{f/n \in \Omega},\ (p_{\mathcal{A}} \subseteq U^m)_{p/m \in \Pi})$$

where $U \neq \emptyset$ is a set, called the universe of $\mathcal{A}$.

Normally, by abuse of notation, we will have $\mathcal{A}$ denote both the algebra and its universe.

By Σ-Alg we denote the class of all Σ-algebras.

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By Σ-Alg we denote the class of all Σ-algebras.

A many-sorted Σ-algebra (also called Σ-interpretation or Σ-structure), where $\Sigma = (S, \Omega, \Pi)$ is a triple

$$\mathcal{A}=(\{U_s\}_{s\in S},\ (f_{\mathcal{A}}{:}U_{s_1}\times\ldots\times U_{s_n}\to U_s)_{\substack{f\in\Omega,\\ a(f)=s_1\ldots s_n\to s}}\ (p_{\mathcal{A}}{:}U_{s_1}\times\ldots\times U_{s_m}\to\{0,1\})_{\substack{p\in\Pi\\ a(p)=s_1\ldots s_m}}\ )$$

where $U_s \neq \emptyset$ is a set, called the universe of $\mathcal{A}$ of sort s.

Assignments

A variable has no intrinsic meaning. The meaning of a variable has to be defined externally (explicitly or implicitly in a given context) by an assignment.

A (variable) assignment, also called a valuation (over a given Σ-algebra $\mathcal{A}$), is a map $\beta : X \to \mathcal{A}$.

Variable assignments are the semantic counterparts of substitutions.

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Many-sorted case:

$\beta = \{\beta_s\}_{s \in S}, \beta_s : X_s \to U_s$

Value of a Term in $\mathcal{A}$ with Respect to β

By structural induction we define

$$\mathcal{A}(\beta) : \mathsf{T}_\Sigma(X) \to \mathcal{A}$$

as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}(\beta)(x) &= \beta(x), && x \in X \\ \mathcal{A}(\beta)(f(s_1, \ldots, s_n)) &= f_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{A}(\beta)(s_1), \ldots, \mathcal{A}(\beta)(s_n)), && f/n \in \Omega \end{aligned}$$

Value of a Term in $\mathcal{A}$ with Respect to β

In the scope of a quantifier we need to evaluate terms with respect to modified assignments. To that end, let $\beta[x \mapsto a] : X \to \mathcal{A}$, for $x \in X$ and $a \in \mathcal{A}$, denote the assignment

$$\beta[x \mapsto a](y) := \begin{cases} a & \text{if } x = y \\ \beta(y) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Truth Value of a Formula in $\mathcal{A}$ with Respect to β

$\mathcal{A}(\beta) : \mathrm{F}_\Sigma(X) \to \{0,1\}$ is defined inductively as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{A}(\beta)(\bot) &= 0 \\
\mathcal{A}(\beta)(\top) &= 1 \\
\mathcal{A}(\beta)(p(s_1,\ldots,s_n)) = 1 &\quad\Leftrightarrow\quad (\mathcal{A}(\beta)(s_1),\ldots,\mathcal{A}(\beta)(s_n)) \in p_{\mathcal{A}} \\
\mathcal{A}(\beta)(s \approx t) = 1 &\quad\Leftrightarrow\quad \mathcal{A}(\beta)(s) = \mathcal{A}(\beta)(t) \\
\mathcal{A}(\beta)(\neg F) = 1 &\quad\Leftrightarrow\quad \mathcal{A}(\beta)(F) = 0 \\
\mathcal{A}(\beta)(F \rho G) &= \mathrm{B}_\rho(\mathcal{A}(\beta)(F), \mathcal{A}(\beta)(G)) \\
&\quad \text{with } \mathrm{B}_\rho \text{ the Boolean function associated with } \rho \\
\mathcal{A}(\beta)(\forall x F) &= \min_{a \in U} \{\mathcal{A}(\beta[x \mapsto a])(F)\} \\
\mathcal{A}(\beta)(\exists x F) &= \max_{a \in U} \{\mathcal{A}(\beta[x \mapsto a])(F)\}
\end{aligned}$$

Example

The "Standard" Interpretation for Peano Arithmetic:

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
U_{\mathbb{N}} & = & \{0, 1, 2, \ldots\} \\
0_{\mathbb{N}} & = & 0 \\
s_{\mathbb{N}} & : & n \mapsto n + 1 \\
+_{\mathbb{N}} & : & (n, m) \mapsto n + m \\
*_{\mathbb{N}} & : & (n, m) \mapsto n * m \\
\leq_{\mathbb{N}} & = & \{(n, m) \mid n \text{ less than or equal to } m\} \\
<_{\mathbb{N}} & = & \{(n, m) \mid n \text{ less than } m\}
\end{array}$$

Note that $\mathbb{N}$ is just one out of many possible Σ_{PA}-interpretations.

Example

Values over $\mathbb{N}$ for Sample Terms and Formulas:

Under the assignment $\beta : x \mapsto 1, y \mapsto 3$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{N}(\beta)(s(x) + s(0)) &\quad = \quad 3\\
\mathbb{N}(\beta)(x + y \approx s(y)) &\quad = \quad 1\\
\mathbb{N}(\beta)(\forall x, y(x + y \approx y + x)) &\quad = \quad 1\\
\mathbb{N}(\beta)(\forall z\ z \leq y) &\quad = \quad 0\\
\mathbb{N}(\beta)(\forall x \exists y\ x < y) &\quad = \quad 1
\end{aligned}$$

2.3 Models, Validity, and Satisfiability

F is valid in $\mathcal{A}$ under assignment β:

$$\mathcal{A}, \beta \models F \quad :\Leftrightarrow \quad \mathcal{A}(\beta)(F) = 1$$

F is valid in $\mathcal{A}$ ($\mathcal{A}$ is a model of F):

$$\mathcal{A} \models F \quad :\Leftrightarrow \quad \mathcal{A}, \beta \models F, \text{ for all } \beta \in X \to U_{\mathcal{A}}$$

F is valid (or is a tautology):

$$\models F \quad :\Leftrightarrow \quad \mathcal{A} \models F, \text{ for all } \mathcal{A} \in \Sigma\text{-alg}$$

F is called satisfiable iff there exist $\mathcal{A}$ and β such that $\mathcal{A}, \beta \models F$.
Otherwise F is called unsatisfiable.

Substitution Lemma

The following propositions, to be proved by structural induction, hold for all Σ-algebras $\mathcal{A}$, assignments β, and substitutions σ.

Lemma 2.3:

For any Σ-term t

$$\mathcal{A}(\beta)(t\sigma) = \mathcal{A}(\beta \circ \sigma)(t),$$

where $\beta \circ \sigma : X \to \mathcal{A}$ is the assignment $\beta \circ \sigma(x) = \mathcal{A}(\beta)(x\sigma)$.

Proposition 2.4:

For any Σ-formula F, $\mathcal{A}(\beta)(F\sigma) = \mathcal{A}(\beta \circ \sigma)(F)$.

Substitution Lemma

Corollary 2.5:
$\mathcal{A}, \beta \models F\sigma \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \mathcal{A}, \beta \circ \sigma \models F$

These theorems basically express that the syntactic concept of substitution corresponds to the semantic concept of an assignment.

Entailment and Equivalence

F entails (implies) G (or G is a consequence of F), written $F \models G$

$:\Leftrightarrow$ for all $\mathcal{A} \in \Sigma$-alg and $\beta \in X \rightarrow U_{\mathcal{A}}$,
whenever $\mathcal{A}, \beta \models F$ then $\mathcal{A}, \beta \models G$.

F and G are called equivalent

$:\Leftrightarrow$ for all $\mathcal{A} \in \Sigma$-alg und $\beta \in X \rightarrow U_{\mathcal{A}}$ we have
$\mathcal{A}, \beta \models F \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \mathcal{A}, \beta \models G$.

Entailment and Equivalence

Proposition 2.6:
F entails G iff $(F \rightarrow G)$ is valid

Proposition 2.7:
F and G are equivalent iff $(F \leftrightarrow G)$ is valid.

Extension to sets of formulas N in the "natural way", e.g., $N \models F$

:$\Leftrightarrow$ for all $\mathcal{A} \in \Sigma$-alg and $\beta \in X \rightarrow U_{\mathcal{A}}$:
if $\mathcal{A}, \beta \models G$, for all $G \in N$, then $\mathcal{A}, \beta \models F$.

Validity vs. Unsatisfiability

Validity and unsatisfiability are just two sides of the same medal as explained by the following proposition.

Proposition 2.8:

$$F \text{ valid} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \neg F \text{ unsatisfiable}$$

Hence in order to design a theorem prover (validity checker) it is sufficient to design a checker for unsatisfiability.

Q: In a similar way, entailment $N \models F$ can be reduced to unsatisfiability. How?

Theory of a Structure

Let $\mathcal{A} \in \Sigma$-alg. The (first-order) theory of $\mathcal{A}$ is defined as

$$Th(\mathcal{A}) = \{G \in \mathsf{F}_\Sigma(X) \mid \mathcal{A} \models G\}$$

Problem of axiomatizability:

For which structures $\mathcal{A}$ can one axiomatize $Th(\mathcal{A})$, that is, can one write down a formula F (or a recursively enumerable set F of formulas) such that

$$Th(\mathcal{A}) = \{G \mid F \models G\}?$$

Analogously for sets of structures.

Two Interesting Theories

Let $\Sigma_{Pres} = (\{0/0, s/1, +/2\},\ \emptyset)$ and $\mathbb{Z}_+ = (\mathbb{Z}, 0, s, +)$ its standard interpretation on the integers.
$Th(\mathbb{Z}_+)$ is called Presburger arithmetic (M. Presburger, 1929).
(There is no essential difference when one, instead of $\mathbb{Z}$, considers the natural numbers $\mathbb{N}$ as standard interpretation.)

Presburger arithmetic is decidable in 3EXPTIME (D. Oppen, JCSS, 16(3):323–332, 1978), and in 2EXPSPACE, using automata-theoretic methods (and there is a constant $c \geq 0$ such that $Th(\mathbb{Z}_+) \not\in$ NTIME$(2^{2^{cn}})$).

Two Interesting Theories

However, $\mathbb{N}_* = (\mathbb{N}, 0, s, +, *)$, the standard interpretation of $\Sigma_{PA} = (\{0/0, s/1, +/2, */2\}, \emptyset)$, has as theory the so-called Peano arithmetic which is undecidable, not even recursively enumerable.

Note: The choice of signature can make a big difference with regard to the computational complexity of theories.

Logical theories

Syntactic view

first-order theory: given by a set $\mathcal{F}$ of (closed) first-order Σ-formulae.

the models of $\mathcal{F}$: $\quad \mathrm{Mod}(\mathcal{F}) = \{\mathcal{A} \in \Sigma\text{-alg} \mid \mathcal{A} \models G, \text{ for all } G \text{ in } \mathcal{F}\}$

Semantic view

given a class $\mathcal{M}$ of Σ-algebras

the first-order theory of $\mathcal{M}$: $\mathrm{Th}(\mathcal{M}) = \{G \in F_\Sigma(X) \text{ closed} \mid \mathcal{M} \models G\}$

Theories

$\mathcal{F}$ set of (closed) first-order formulae

$$\mathrm{Mod}(\mathcal{F}) = \{A \in \Sigma\text{-alg} \mid \mathcal{A} \models G, \text{ for all } G \text{ in } \mathcal{F}\}$$

$\mathcal{M}$ class of Σ-algebras

$$\mathrm{Th}(\mathcal{M}) = \{G \in F_\Sigma(X) \text{ closed} \mid \mathcal{M} \models G\}$$

$\mathrm{Th}(\mathrm{Mod}(\mathcal{F}))$ the set of formulae true in all models of $\mathcal{F}$

represents exactly the set of consequences of $\mathcal{F}$

Theories

$\mathcal{F}$ set of (closed) first-order formulae

$$\text{Mod}(\mathcal{F}) = \{A \in \Sigma\text{-alg} \mid \mathcal{A} \models G, \text{ for all } G \text{ in } \mathcal{F}\}$$

$\mathcal{M}$ class of Σ-algebras

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$\text{Th}(\text{Mod}(\mathcal{F}))$ the set of formulae true in all models of $\mathcal{F}$
represents exactly the set of consequences of $\mathcal{F}$

Note: $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \text{Th}(\text{Mod}(\mathcal{F}))$ (typically strict)

$\mathcal{M} \subseteq \text{Mod}(\text{Th}(\mathcal{M}))$ (typically strict)

Examples

1. Groups

Let $\Sigma = (\{e/0, */2, i/1\}, \emptyset)$

Let $\mathcal{F}$ consist of all (universally quantified) group axioms:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
\forall x, y, z & x * (y * z) \approx (x * y) * z \\
\forall x & x * i(x) \approx e \quad \wedge \quad i(x) * x \approx e \\
\forall x & x * e \approx x \quad \wedge \quad e * x \approx x
\end{array}$$

Every group $\mathcal{G} = (G, e_G, *_G, i_G)$ is a model of $\mathcal{F}$

Mod($\mathcal{F}$) is the class of all groups

$\mathcal{F} \subset \mathrm{Th}(\mathrm{Mod}(\mathcal{F}))$

Examples

2. Linear (positive)integer arithmetic

Let $\Sigma = (\{0/0, s/1, +/2\}, \{\leq /2\})$

Let $\mathbb{Z}_+ = (\mathbb{Z}, 0, s, +, \leq)$ the standard interpretation of integers.

$\{\mathbb{Z}_+\} \subset \mathsf{Mod}(\mathsf{Th}(\mathbb{Z}_+))$

3. Uninterpreted function symbols

Let $\Sigma = (\Omega, \Pi)$ be arbitrary

Let $\mathcal{M} = \Sigma$-alg be the class of all Σ-structures

The theory of uninterpreted function symbols is Th(Σ-alg) the family of all first-order formulae which are true in all Σ-algebras.

Examples

4. Lists

Let $\Sigma = (\{\text{car}/1, \text{cdr}/1, \text{cons}/2\}, \emptyset)$

Let $\mathcal{F}$ be the following set of list axioms:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{car}(\text{cons}(x, y)) &\approx x \\ \text{cdr}(\text{cons}(x, y)) &\approx y \\ \text{cons}(\text{car}(x), \text{cdr}(x)) &\approx x \end{aligned}$$

$\text{Mod}(\mathcal{F})$ class of all models of $\mathcal{F}$

$\text{Th}_{\text{Lists}} = \text{Th}(\text{Mod}(\mathcal{F}))$ theory of lists (axiomatized by $\mathcal{F}$)

2.4 Algorithmic Problems

Validity(F): $\models F$?

Satisfiability(F): F satisfiable?

Entailment(F,G): does F entail G?

Model($\mathcal{A}$,F): $\mathcal{A} \models F$?

Solve($\mathcal{A}$,F): find an assignment β such that $\mathcal{A}, \beta \models F$

Solve(F): find a substitution σ such that $\models F\sigma$

Abduce(F): find G with “certain properties” such that G entails F

Decidability/Undecidability

In 1931, Gödel published his incompleteness theorems in

> "Über formal unentscheidbare Sätze der Principia Mathematica und verwandter Systeme"

(in English "On Formally Undecidable Propositions of Principia Mathematica and Related Systems").

He proved for any computable axiomatic system that is powerful enough to describe the arithmetic of the natural numbers (e.g. the Peano axioms or Zermelo-Fraenkel set theory with the axiom of choice), that:

- If the system is consistent, it cannot be complete.
- The consistency of the axioms cannot be proven within the system.

Decidability/Undecidability

These theorems ended a half-century of attempts, beginning with the work of Frege and culminating in Principia Mathematica and Hilbert's formalism, to find a set of axioms sufficient for all mathematics.

The incompleteness theorems also imply that not all mathematical questions are computable.

Consequences of Gödel's Famous Theorems

1. For most signatures Σ, validity is undecidable for Σ-formulas. (One can easily encode Turing machines in most signatures.)
2. For each signature Σ, the set of valid Σ-formulas is recursively enumerable.
   (We will prove this by giving complete deduction systems.)
3. For $\Sigma = \Sigma_{PA}$ and $\mathbb{N}_* = (\mathbb{N}, 0, s, +, *)$, the theory $Th(\mathbb{N}_*)$ is not recursively enumerable.

These undecidability results motivate the study of subclasses of formulas (fragments) of first-order logic

Q: Can you think of any fragments of first-order logic for which validity is decidable?

Some Decidable Fragments/Problems

Validity/Satisfiability/Entailment: Some decidable fragments:

- Variable-free formulas without equality:
  satisfiability is NP-complete. (why?)
- Variable-free Horn clauses (clauses with at most one positive atom): entailment is decidable in linear time.
- Monadic class: no function symbols, all predicates unary;
  validity is NEXPTIME-complete.
- Q: Other decidable fragments of FOL (with variables)?
  Which methods for proving decidability?

Decidable problems.

Finite model checking is decidable in time polynomial in the size of the structure and the formula.

Goals

Identify:

- decidable fragments of first-order logic
- fragments of FOL for which satisfiability checking is easy

Methods:

- Theoretical methods (automata theory, finite model property)
- Adjust automated reasoning techniques
  (e.g. to obtaining efficient decision procedures)

  Extend methods for automated reasoning in propositional logic?

    Instantiation/reduction to propositional logic

    Extend the resolution calculus for first-order logic

Goals

Extend methods for automated reasoning in propositional logic?

Instantiation/reduction to propositional logic

Extend the resolution calculus for first-order logic

Ingredients:

- Give a method for translating formulae to clause form
- Regard formulae with variables as a set of all their instances (where variables are instantiated with ground terms)
  - Show that only certain instances are needed

    $\mapsto$ reduction to propositional logic
  - Finite encoding of infinitely many inferences

    $\mapsto$ resolution for first-order logic