

FORMALLY CERTIFIED SATISFIABILITY SOLVING

by

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An Abstract

Of a thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy  
degree in Computer Science  
in the Graduate College of  
The University of Iowa

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Thesis Supervisor: Associate Professor Aaron D. Stump

## ABSTRACT

Satisfiability (SAT) and satisfiability modulo theories (SMT) solvers are high-performance automated propositional and first-order theorem provers, used as underlying tools in many formal verification and artificial intelligence systems. Theoretic and engineering advancement of solver technologies improved the performance of modern solvers; however, the increased complexity of those solvers calls for formal verification of those tools themselves. This thesis discusses two methods to formally certify SAT/SMT solvers. The first method is generating proofs from solvers and certifying those proofs. Because new theories are constantly added to SMT solvers, a flexible framework to safely add new inference rules is necessary. The proposal is to use a meta-language called LFSC, which is based on Edinburgh Logical Framework. SAT/SMT logics have been encoded in LFSC, and the encoding can be easily and modularly extended for new logics. It is shown that an optimized LFSC checker can certify SMT proofs efficiently. The second method is using a verified programming language to implement a SAT solver and verify the code statically. Guru is a pure functional programming language with support for dependent types and theorem proving; Guru also allows for efficient code generation by means of resource typing. A modern SAT solver, called versat, has been implemented and verified to be correct in Guru. The performance of versat is shown to be comparable with that of the current proof checking technology.

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CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

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PH.D. THESIS

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To Mi-Jeong and Claire and Monica

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES . . . . .	vi
LIST OF FIGURES . . . . .	vii
CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
1.1 Theorem Provers . . . . .	1
1.2 De Bruijn Criterion . . . . .	3
1.3 Correctness of Satisfiability Solvers . . . . .	4
1.4 Contributions . . . . .	6
2 BACKGROUND: SATISFIABILITY SOLVING . . . . .	8
2.1 The Classical DPLL Algorithm . . . . .	8
2.2 The Modern DPLL Algorithm . . . . .	10
2.3 SAT Solver Engineering . . . . .	13
2.4 Satisfiability Modulo Theories . . . . .	14
3 RELATED WORK . . . . .	18
3.1 SAT Proof Checking . . . . .	18
3.1.1 Resolution-based Proof Formats . . . . .	18
3.1.2 Linear Resolution-based Proof Formats . . . . .	19
3.1.3 Reverse Unit Propagation . . . . .	21
3.1.4 Trustworthiness of the Proof Checker . . . . .	23
3.2 SMT Proof Checking . . . . .	25
3.3 Statically Verified SAT Solvers . . . . .	26
3.3.1 Verified SAT Solvers . . . . .	27
3.3.2 Limitations . . . . .	28
4 SAT/SMT PROOF CHECKING USING A LOGICAL FRAMEWORK	31
4.1 The LFSC Language . . . . .	32
4.1.1 Notational Conventions . . . . .	34
4.1.2 Introducing LF with Side Conditions . . . . .	35
4.1.3 Abstract Syntax and Informal Semantics . . . . .	37
4.2 Encoding Propositional Reasoning . . . . .	40
4.2.1 Encoding Propositional Resolution . . . . .	42

4.2.2	Deferred Resolution . . . . .	46
4.3	Encoding Quantifier-Free Integer Difference Logic . . . . .	49
4.3.1	CNF Conversion . . . . .	49
4.3.2	Converting Theory Lemmas to Propositional Clauses . . . . .	52
4.3.3	Encoding Integer Difference Logic . . . . .	55
4.4	Results for QF_IDL Proof Checking . . . . .	56
4.5	Conclusion . . . . .	59
5	VERIFYING MODERN SAT SOLVER USING DEPENDENT TYPES	60
5.1	The GURU Programming Language . . . . .	60
5.1.1	The GURU Syntax . . . . .	64
5.1.2	Verified Programming in GURU . . . . .	66
5.2	Formalizing Correct SAT Solvers . . . . .	68
5.2.1	Representation of CNF Formulas . . . . .	69
5.2.2	Deduction Rules . . . . .	70
5.2.3	The <code>answer</code> Type . . . . .	72
5.2.4	Parser and Entry Point . . . . .	73
5.3	Implementation and Invariants . . . . .	74
5.3.1	Array-based Clauses and Invariants . . . . .	75
5.3.2	Conflict Analysis with Optimized Resolution . . . . .	78
5.3.3	Summary of Implementation . . . . .	84
5.4	Results: <code>versat</code> Performance . . . . .	86
5.5	Discussion . . . . .	89
5.6	Conclusion . . . . .	91
	APPENDIX . . . . .	92
	A APPENDICES FOR LFSC ENCODINGS . . . . .	92
	A.1 Typing Rules of LFSC . . . . .	92
	A.2 Formal Semantics of Side Condition Programs . . . . .	95
	A.3 Helper Code for Resolution . . . . .	96
	A.4 Small Example Proof . . . . .	96
	B APPENDICES FOR VERSAT . . . . .	101
	B.1 Formal Syntax of GURU . . . . .	101
	B.2 Helper Code in the GURU Standard Library . . . . .	103
	REFERENCES . . . . .	105

## LIST OF TABLES

Table	
4.1	Summary of results for <code>QF_IDL</code> . . . . . 57
5.1	Summary of variables used in <code>ResState</code> . . . . . 84
5.2	Results for the certified track benchmarks of the SAT competition 2007 . 88

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	
2.1	The classical DPLL algorithm . . . . . 9
2.2	The modern DPLL algorithm . . . . . 10
4.1	Main syntactical categories of LFSC . . . . . 37
4.2	Definition of propositional clauses in LFSC concrete syntax . . . . . 42
4.3	Propositional resolution calculus in LFSC concrete syntax . . . . . 43
4.4	An example refutation and its LFSC encoding . . . . . 45
4.5	New constructors for the clause type and rules for deferred resolution . . . 47
4.6	Pseudo-code for side condition function used by the <b>S</b> rule . . . . . 47
4.7	Sample CNF conversion rules for partial clauses . . . . . 51
4.8	LFSC proof rule for <b>rename</b> transformation . . . . . 52
4.9	The <b>literal</b> rule for partial clauses and its LFSC encoding . . . . . 53
4.10	Assumption rules for theory lemmas in LFSC concrete syntax . . . . . 53
4.11	Sample QF_IDL rules and LFSC encodings . . . . . 55
4.12	LFSC encoding of the <b>idl_contra</b> rule . . . . . 55
4.13	Solve-only times versus proof checking times for QF_IDL . . . . . 59
5.1	Sample GURU definitions . . . . . 65
5.2	Encoding of the inference system ( <b>pf</b> ) and its helper functions . . . . . 71
5.3	Definition of the <b>answer</b> type . . . . . 72
5.4	Definition of the array-based clauses and invariants ( <b>aclause</b> ) . . . . . 75

5.5	Conflict analysis — a linear sequence of resolutions . . . . .	78
5.6	Naive implementation of resolution . . . . .	79
5.7	Avoiding duplicated literals using a look-up table . . . . .	80
5.8	Data structure for optimized resolution . . . . .	80
5.9	Definition of conflict analysis state ( <code>ResState</code> ) . . . . .	83
5.10	Correctness theorem for table-clearing code . . . . .	85
A.1	Bidirectional typing rules and context rules for LFSC . . . . .	92
A.2	Typing Rules for Code Terms . . . . .	94
A.3	Operational semantics of side condition programs . . . . .	95
A.4	Variable and literal comparison . . . . .	97
A.5	Operations on clauses . . . . .	98
A.6	A small QF_IDL proof . . . . .	99
B.1	Syntax for GURU terms ( $t$ ) and types ( $T$ ) . . . . .	102
B.2	Syntax for GURU Formulas ( $F$ ) . . . . .	102
B.3	Syntax for GURU commands . . . . .	102

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

Formal verification is an engineering practice to prove the correctness of software or hardware systems using machine checkable methods, which are based on mathematical logics. In other words, all system correctness should be mechanically proved. This is a computer science incarnation of Russell’s Logicism – “all mathematical truths are logical truths”. Formal verification is often compared to test-based verification. Several studies demonstrated that ultra-high dependability is infeasible to achieve through testing alone [24, 52]. And Steven Miller at Rockwell Collins reported a formal verification method detected more errors in a flight control system than the traditional verification techniques, including inspection and simulation, did [56]. So, formal methods can provide greater confidence in system implementations. However, the trustworthiness of a formal method depends on the verification tool used. The definition of formal verification above is recursive, because the checker itself is another system. So, the checker also needs to be verified using another checker, and so forth. This chain of verification must stop at some point.

#### 1.1 Theorem Provers

Theorem provers are software tools used to prove mathematical theorems, and those tools are often used at the end of the verification chain. There are two categories of theorem provers: automated theorem provers and interactive theorem provers.

First, automated theorem provers are designed to verify theorems without user

intervention. They are often based on traditional logics, like propositional logic or first order (predicate) logic. Propositional logic is decidable and its decision procedures have been studied under the name of the *satisfiability* (SAT) problem. SAT solvers search for an interpretation of the propositional symbols that makes the given formula true and report whether or not there exists such an interpretation. Because the validity of a formula can also be deduced from the unsatisfiability of its negation, a SAT solver can be used as a propositional theorem prover. For first order logics, although they are generally undecidable, there are numerous approaches for automating first order theorem proving. Some provers, including Prover9 [54], search for a proof of a given theorem, although that procedure may not terminate. These provers allow users to define their own axioms. Other provers try to restrict the language and find an efficiently decidable subset of first-order logics. For example, ground formulas with linear/real integer arithmetics are decidable. Thus, theorem proving in such logics can be fully automated. The field of *satisfiability modulo theories* (SMT) [13] represents such efforts to define decidable fragment of first order logics and develop efficient decision procedures. SMT is a first order logic version of the satisfiability problem. A SMT logic is a first order logic with equality and a combination of certain theories such as linear integer/real arithmetic, bit-vectors, and arrays. SMT solvers are based on the theory that independent decision procedures for individual theories can collectively build a decision procedure for the whole logic with those theories combined [60]. Thus, SMT solvers can be easily extended with new theories. The performance of SAT/SMT solvers has been improved greatly in the last decade, and

they are critical components of verification methods like model checking [25, 45] and symbolic execution [48].

Second, interactive theorem provers are essentially proof checkers of inductive calculi. They are designed to prove properties of mathematical functions and can also be used to verify software and hardware systems. Interactive theorem provers are also called proof assistants, because they provide some level of automation to help with proof construction. Proof construction is interactive because the underlying logics are undecidable and inductive proofs usually require human’s intervention. Although those theorem provers are equipped with some automated proof generation features (called “tactics”), the human creativity seems to be the key of theorem proving. Recent works showed that interactive theorem provers can be used to verify important properties of complex software systems. CompCert is an optimizing compiler for a subset of the C programming language, for which semantics preservation has been proved in the Coq theorem prover [50, 20]. The seL4 microkernel verification effort uses the Isabelle theorem prover to prove that the microkernel implementation in C and assembly follows a high-level non-deterministic model expressing the desired system properties [47].

## 1.2 De Bruijn Criterion

Some theorem provers were constructed in a principled way to increase the trustworthiness of the provers. The De Bruijn criterion characterizes verification systems producing proof objects that can be independently checked using a simple checker[11]. The original Automath system, invented by De Bruijn, in the late 60’s

was a proof checker and had a small kernel. The kernel essentially implements a proof checker of the underlying logic. This piece of software is often called the trusted core or trusted base, and it is the ultimate authority on logical truths upon which various theories and theorems can be expressed and proved. If the core is small enough, it can be peer reviewed and verified manually by inspection. The Automath systems are based on the idea that type checking is equivalent to proof checking [39]. Popular systems following the same idea include LF [46], Twelf [8], Nuprl [26], Coq [2], and Agda [1]. Also, there is another important method that meets the De Bruijn criterion, called the LCF approach. Robin Milner implemented his Logic for Computable Functions (LCF) [44]. LCF is well known for its use of a new programming language, called *ML* (for “meta language”), to define the logic and implement tactics altogether. In LCF, theorems are objects (of the `thm` type), and those theorems can be built only by applying certain functions, which correspond to the proof rules. Thus, even though tactics are implemented in the same language and can be arbitrarily complex, they cannot harm the soundness of the whole system, and thus are outside of the trusted core. The HOL [3] and Isabelle [4] theorem provers are based on the LCF approach [43].

### 1.3 Correctness of Satisfiability Solvers

Unlike the LCF and its descendants, mainstream SAT/SMT solvers are not built on small foundations. Instead, they are tested against each other over a large set of formulas. The usefulness of a SAT/SMT solver depends on its sheer performance solving large formulas. So, they are implemented in conventional programming lan-

languages like C++ with emphasis on performance. Although the correctness of solver algorithms is proved on paper, the implementations are mostly unverified. Popular SAT solvers are relatively small in size (about 2500 lines of C++) and believed to be correct. However, the internal engineering of those SAT solvers is very sophisticated, and it is not practical to verify the code just by inspection. Indeed, Brummayer discovered incorrect answers from the top solvers which participated in the SAT competition 2006 and 2008 [23]. Thus, formal verification techniques for SAT/SMT solvers themselves are highly desired. Currently, there are two distinct approaches for verified SAT/SMT solving. One is to verify the certificates generated from solvers. The other is to verify the code of solvers.

**Proof checking.** The advantages of certificate generation are: 1) it requires minimal changes to existing solvers, 2) certificates can be used for other purposes such as counterexample presentation and interpolant generation [66]. The disadvantage of proof generation is time and space costs for generating and checking certificates. For satisfiable formulas, models can be generated as certificates and checked by a simple trusted evaluator. For unsatisfiable formulas, certificates are in the form of refutational proof. SAT is well known as the first NP-hard problem identified [27]. Instances of the SAT problem have small positive certificates (models), but not necessarily small negative certificates (proofs). So, the size of proofs and the performance of proof checking can be an issue in adopting a certificate-based verification method. On the other hand, first order formulas do not have simple certificates in general. However, quantifier-free formulas with a limited use of function symbols may have

simple models, which can then be checked.

**Verifying the code.** Statically verified solvers can solve and certify formula without a proof checking overhead. However, modern SAT solvers, setting aside SMT solvers, are quite sophisticated software, thus it is challenging to verify their code. The usual approach is to implement the solver in an interactive theorem prover and prove the answer is always correct according to the definition of satisfiability.

## 1.4 Contributions

As discussed in Section 1.3, proof checking and verifying the solver’s code are two main approaches for formally certified satisfiability solving. This dissertation reports on the two novel implementations: 1) a SAT/SMT proof checking system using a logical framework; 2) a statically verified SAT solver in a dependently typed programming language. Our proof checking method uses a logical framework called LFSC, which is distinguished from other solutions. LFSC is designed and implemented by my advisor, Aaron Stump and his former students. This dissertation suggests an efficient proof certification method using the LFSC language and the optimized LFSC type checker. Aaron Stump, Andrew Reynolds and I worked together on the encoding of SAT reasoning, namely the efficient resolution rule (discussed in Section 4.2). I encoded the QF\_IDL SMT logic (discussed in Section 4.3). I also implemented a SAT/SMT solver, called CLSAT, which produces proofs in the proposed format.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Although CLSAT started as a class project with other students at Washington University in St. Louis, I have rewritten most of the code, except for the parser code for reading SMT formula files, which is mainly written by Timothy Simpson.

Our statically verified SAT solver, called `versat`, implements modern SAT solver features and low-level optimizations. `versat` is written in the GURU programming language, which is a functional programming language with support for dependent types. The GURU language and the compiler have been designed and implemented by Aaron Stump with his former students. I wrote the SAT-specific code/proofs of `versat`. Aaron Stump, Corey Oliver, and Kevin Clancy helped me to prove theorems about general data structures like machine words, lists and vectors. Because SAT/SMT solvers have gained its popularity for their performance and scalability to solve large formulas, the performance of certified SAT/SMT solvers are crucial for any practical applications. Thus, the focus of our research was on the performance of our implementations.

**This dissertation is organized as following:** Chapter 2 reviews the basics of SAT/SMT solver algorithms and features. Chapter 3 surveys the related work on certifying SAT/SMT solvers. Chapter 4 is based on our previously published workshop papers [74, 64] and recently accepted journal paper, and it reports on our proof checking method. Chapter 5 extends our recently published conference paper [65] and reports on the verified SAT solver we implemented.

## CHAPTER 2

### BACKGROUND: SATISFIABILITY SOLVING

Mainstream SAT solvers, including the state-of-the-art SAT solvers MiniSAT [33] and PicoSAT [19], are based on the Davis-Putnam-Logemann-Loveland (DPLL) algorithm [30]. Also most SMT solvers use SAT solvers internally as propositional reasoning engines, which interact with the decision procedures for theories.

#### 2.1 The Classical DPLL Algorithm

Figure 2.1 shows the classical DPLL algorithm. The input formula  $\Phi$  is in *conjunctive normal form* (CNF), and the partial model  $M$  is represented as a set of consistent literals (never having both  $v$  and  $\neg v$ ), where the polarity of each literal means the truth-value assigned to the variable. Initially,  $M$  is empty and the *DPLL* function returns *true* if the formula is satisfiable, or *false*, otherwise. The variable  $M$  is a partial model, represented as a set of literals. A clause with only one literal is called *unit*. A clause is also called unit when it has only one literal that is not assigned in the partial model  $M$  and all the other literals are false under  $M$ . The *unit-propagation* procedure repeatedly extends the current partial model  $M$  by adding the literal from a unit clause. The existence of the empty clause under  $M$  means the formula is falsified by  $M$ . So, when the algorithm finds a contradiction under  $M \cup d$  —*DPLL*( $\Phi$ ,  $M \cup d$ ) returns false—, the algorithm backtracks past the last literal and tries the other polarity  $\bar{d}$ . If *DPLL* returns false on both  $M \cup d$  and  $M \cup \bar{d}$ , then any model containing  $M$  cannot satisfy the formula. Especially, if *DPLL* returns false and

```

function DPLL( $\Phi$ ,  $M$ )
  for every unit clause  $l$  in  $\Phi$  under  $M$                                 unit-propagation
     $M := M \cup l$ ;
  if a clause in  $\Phi$  is false under  $M$  then                                conflict
    return false;
  if  $M$  contains all variables in  $\Phi$  then
    return true;
   $d := \textit{choose-literal}(\Phi, M)$ ;
  return DPLL( $\Phi, M \cup d$ ) or DPLL( $\Phi, M \cup \bar{d}$ );

```

Figure 2.1. The classical DPLL algorithm (simplified).  $\Phi$  is the input formula, and  $M$  is a partial model. The *choose-literal* function returns an arbitrary literal from  $\Phi$  that is not defined under  $M$ .  $\bar{l}$  means the opposite polarity of  $l$ .

$M$  is empty, the formula is unsatisfiable. On the other hand, if  $\Phi$  has no conflicts and  $M$  is a complete model, then  $\Phi$  is satisfiable. The algorithm in Figure 2.1 does not return the found model, though it can be easily modified to return the model  $M$ . The classical DPLL algorithm is fairly straightforward. Below is an informal analysis of the algorithm:

**Soundness.** *DPLL* returns true only if the model  $M$  contains all the variables in  $\Phi$  and there is no conflict. That means the formula can be fully evaluated under the model and the truth-value of the formula is *true*. Also, the function returns false only if the formula has no model. This can be proved by induction on the number of variables in the formula unassigned under  $M$ . Thus, the algorithm returns correct answers.

**Completeness.** The number of variables in the formula is finite. Each recursive call reduces the number of unassigned variable by one, and the function returns when

```

function Modern-DPLL( $\Phi$ )
   $M := \emptyset$  partial model
  level := 0
  repeat
    for every unit clause  $l$  in  $\Phi$  under  $M$  unit-propagation
       $M := M \cup l$ ;
    if a clause in  $\Phi$  is false under  $M$  then
      if level = 0 then
        return false;
       $c := \text{analyze}()$  conflict analysis
      level := calc-level( $c$ )
       $d := \text{uip-lit}(c)$ 
       $M := \text{backtrack}(M, \text{level})$ 
       $M := M \cup d$ 
       $\Phi := \Phi \wedge c$  clause learning
    else
      if  $M$  contains all variables in  $\Phi$  then
        return true;
      level := level + 1
       $d := \text{choose-literal}(\Phi, M)$ ;
       $M := M \cup d$ 

```

Figure 2.2. The modern DPLL algorithm. The *analyze* function deduces a clause from  $\Phi$  as a lemma, and the *calc-level* function calculates the new decision level to backtrack. And the *uip-lit* function returns the only literal in  $c$  that assigned on and after the last decision point.

all variables are assigned. Thus, the depth of recursive call is limited by the number of variables. Therefore, the algorithm is terminating.

## 2.2 The Modern DPLL Algorithm

Figure 2.2 shows the modern version of the DPLL algorithm. It has a top-level loop (**repeat**), instead of a primitive recursion as in the classical algorithm, which makes the execution flow more complex. The variable *level* keeps track of how many chosen literals are in the current model  $M$  at any given time. Every time a literal is

chosen (*choose-literal*) and added to the model  $M$ , the level gets increased by one. The level value corresponds to the recursion depth in the classical version. The biggest difference from the classical DPLL is how conflicts are handled.

**Conflict Analysis.** Under the current partial assignment, if a clause is falsified, the *analyze* function deduces a new clause, called a *conflict clause*, from the existing set of clauses, with a very small cost of performance [70]. Conflict analysis performs a series of resolutions, where the (propositional) resolution rule is:

$$\frac{x \vee C \quad \neg x \vee D}{C \vee D} \text{ resolution}$$

During the analysis, the SAT solver repeatedly resolves out recently assigned literals, though it can add more literals. The idea is that the SAT solver wants to compute a new clause with fewer literals that are assigned recently. This process stops when it deduce a clause with only one literal assigned at the current level, which is called the first *unique implication point* (UIP) literal. Sometimes, a conflict clause may imply that the current conflict stems from a far earlier branching choice, instead of the last choice. Then, the new clause may instruct the solver to backtrack multiple choices (backjumping), so more search space is pruned. Also, this part of the SAT solver is the main target of soundness verification, because it is where deduction is performed. Compared to the fact that the classical DPLL performs purely semantic exploration, the modern DPLL is a combination of semantic exploration and syntactic manipulation applying deduction rules.

**Backjumping.** Once a conflict clause  $c$  is derived, the new level is calculated from the clause. The *calc-level* function compares the levels at which variables in the conflict clause are assigned, and returns the second highest level. (The highest level is always the current level, because of the UIP literal.) In fact, the algorithm implicitly records the level at which each variable is assigned. Then, the current level is updated and the *backtrack* function removes literals that are assigned above the new level. This is called *backjumping*, because the level may decrease by more than one, depending on the conflict clause. Also, because the conflict clause is always unit under the new  $M$ , the UIP literal  $d$  is assigned.

**Clause Learning.** Finally, and also optionally, the conflict clauses can be stored in the clause database to prune out even more search space later on. However, it is also possible that the increasing size of the clause database slows down unit propagation. Thus, clause learning is used with heuristics about what kind of clauses should be added, and when to drop them.

**Correctness.** Due to the dynamic nature of the modern DPLL algorithm, it is much more complicated to analyze the correctness of the algorithm. Nieuwenhuis et al. formalized the DPLL procedure as a state transition system, called Abstract DPLL, and showed that the abstract system is sound and complete [62, 61]. Abstract DPLL captures the core state of a SAT solver and represents it as a pair of a partial assignment sequence and the set of clauses. It also defines transition rules that reflect the operations performed in SAT solvers. Using the abstract DPLL framework, it is

easy to see that the classical and modern algorithms follow the abstract system and thus are correct.

### 2.3 SAT Solver Engineering

Some important SAT solver features are abstracted away in the algorithms above.

**Efficient Unit Propagation.** Unit-propagation, also called Boolean Constraint Propagation (BCP), is a procedure to assign the truth values for certain literals when each of those literals is the only literal in a clause left unassigned. So, there is only one choice of assignment to make that clause true. To perform unit-propagation efficiently, SAT solvers need to index the occurrences of each literal. The common technique is using the two-literal watch lists where only two literals of each clause are indexed [58, 83, 82].

**Decision Heuristics.** Deciding which variable to assign at the given point is an important heuristic of SAT solvers. SAT solvers use some variations of the VSIDS (for Variable State Independent Decaying Sum) method [58]. VSIDS maintains a score board of all the variables, showing how active they are in the current search branch. The definition of activity is different from solver to solver. The usual heuristic is to decide the most active variable, but the activity value decays to emphasize recent activities.

**Restarts.** The usual decision heuristics try to stay in the same search branch, which can be very deep and not promising. The restarts technique [42] monitors the solver’s activity and, if the solver is spending too much time in a particular search branch, it forces the solver to backtrack all the way up to the search root. This helps solvers escape out of a deep branch and try another branch, which might lead to an early conclusion. This is also a heuristic and its utility depends on the characteristics of the formula.

**Conflict Clause Minimization.** This is an extension of conflict analysis and tries to minimize the size of the conflict clause by applying the self-subsumption rule [71]. When the conflict clause looks like  $x \vee C \vee D$  and there is another clause like  $\neg x \vee C$ ,  $x$  can be dropped from the conflict clause:

$$\frac{x \vee C \vee D \quad \neg x \vee C}{C \vee D} \text{ self\_subsumption}$$

A typical SAT solver has a log of clauses that may allow self-subsumptions. But, different solvers have different heuristics for how much time they will spend searching for such clauses. If successful, this search time can be rewarded with a shorter conflict clause. Shorter clauses are stronger and can prune even more search space.

## 2.4 Satisfiability Modulo Theories

Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT) refers to the satisfiability of a first order formula in a theory or a combination of theories [13]. Many applications of formal methods translate verification conditions into first-order logic formulas with some theory, which fixes the interpretations of certain predicates and function symbols; for

example, inequalities and arithmetic operators. General first-order theorem proving with additional axioms is not realistic for large formulas. Instead, using specialized reasoning methods for the specific theory turns out to be a more successful alternative. Many theories of integers and real numbers are in fact decidable and they have efficient decision procedures. And more and more decision procedures have been discovered for other data types such as arrays, strings and bit vectors. Nelson and Oppen showed that decision procedures for individual theories can cooperate to solve formulas in the combined theory [60]. This makes it easier to design SMT solvers supporting logics with multiple theories combined.

A common SMT solver design is based on a SAT solver integrated with a decision procedure for a first order theory (or “theory solver”) [35]. The SAT and theory solvers are clearly separated inside the SMT solver, and interact with each other in the following way:

1. The internal SAT solver solves the formula as if atomic formulas are just propositional variables, ignoring any meaning of those atomic formulas. For example, a formula,  $(0 < x) \wedge (x < 0)$  is treated as though it is  $P \wedge Q$ .
2. If the SAT solver reports unsatisfiable, the original formula is reported unsatisfiable. That is because the formula is refutable only using propositional deduction rules, without any theory axioms. On the other hand, if the SAT solver reports satisfiable, then there will be a model, which includes (possibly negated) atomic formulas. Because the SAT solver did not consider the meaning of the atomic formulas, the model can be inconsistent. For the same example

above,  $\{0 < x, x < 0\}$  can be a model reported from the SAT solver, which happens to be inconsistent with respect to the theory of integer/real numbers.

3. This model has to be checked against the desired theory. The theory solver tries to find an inconsistency among theory formulas in the model. If there is no inconsistency, the original formula is reported SAT. If there is an inconsistency among some of the theory formulas,  $\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_n$  (where  $\phi_i$  are atomic formulas or negated ones), the theory solver gives the SAT solver a new clause,  $\neg\phi_1 \vee \neg\phi_2 \vee \dots \vee \neg\phi_n$  (called a “theory lemma”). Theory lemmas are necessary to eliminate the inconsistent models found by the SAT solver. From the SAT solver’s point of view, theory lemmas are just new constraints to satisfy. For the example model above, the theory lemma will be  $0 \not< x \vee x \not< 0$ . And the solver goes back to the step (1) and repeats.

This approach is called *lazy theory reasoning*, because the theory solver passively reacts to the SAT solver. Popular SMT solvers, including including CVC3 [15] and Z3 [32], are based on this approach.

Satisfiability certificates are usually semantic *models* of formulas. For SAT formulas, a certificate of satisfiability is a set of truth-value assignments to the proposition variables in the given formula. For SMT formulas, a satisfiability certificate is a model for the constant and function symbols of the formula. Mainstream SAT/SMT solvers have support for producing models for satisfiable formulas. For SAT, models can be efficiently verified by a simple trusted evaluator. In fact, the SAT competition requires all participants to generate models for satisfiable formulas [5]. For

SMT, describing and checking models can be complicated, due to infinite domains and function interpretations. However, the SMT-LIB initiative is trying to define a standard model format as well as the SMT formula format and standard logics [14]. Using models generated from solvers is also a common practice. When verification conditions of a software and hardware system are formulated in the propositional logic or a first order logic, a SAT/SMT solver is used to check the conditions. If the solver answers “yes” (satisfiable), it means the condition is not valid and the model generated from the solver is a counterexample.

## CHAPTER 3

### RELATED WORK

#### 3.1 SAT Proof Checking

The SAT competition is a bi-yearly event where the best SAT solvers compete against each other [5]. As a part of the competition, there is a separate category, called certified UNSAT, where solvers are required to generate proofs of unsatisfiability. For the certified track, several proof formats have been proposed over time. The RES and RUP formats are the two recent standard formats accepted at the competition, and the TraceCheck format is gaining popularity. In this section, I discuss SAT/SMT proof systems and static verification of SAT solvers.

##### 3.1.1 Resolution-based Proof Formats

The resolution rule is refutation complete by itself. And resolution is used during clause learning in state-of-the-art SAT and solvers [84]. The *resolution* proof format (RES), used at the SAT competition 2005, is based directly on the resolution rule [37]. A RES proof is a sequence of resolution steps. Each resolution step records two premises to resolve, the pivot literal, and the resolvent. Each step is given a reference number and the number can be used to mention the clause proved at that step. For an input formula with  $n$  clauses, the clauses in the input formula are named from 1 to  $n$ , and reference numbers in its proof start from  $n + 1$ . Those reference numbers are used to record the premises of each resolution step. In every proof, the last step is supposed to prove the empty clause.

For example, consider this CNF formula,  $(p_1 \vee p_2) \wedge (p_1 \vee \neg p_2) \wedge (\neg p_1 \vee p_2) \wedge (\neg p_1 \vee \neg p_2)$ . And an example refutation proof is below.

$$\begin{array}{rcccc} 5 & p_1 & 1 & 2 & p_2 \\ 6 & \neg p_1 & 3 & 4 & p_2 \\ 7 & \cdot & 5 & 6 & p_1 \end{array}$$

In this proof, the four input clauses are implicitly numbered from 1 through 4. Let  $C_i$  be the clause numbered  $i$ . The first line gives a singleton clause  $p_1$  the number 5 and justifies the deduction of that clause by resolving the clause  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  over the literal  $p_2$ . Similarly, the clause  $C_6$ , which is  $\neg p_1$ , is proved. Finally, the empty clause  $(\cdot)$  is proved by resolving the clauses  $C_5$  and  $C_6$ .

The RES format is simple and easy to understand. Also, because proofs contain both the clauses to prove and their justifications, it is easy to find bugs in the solver and the checker. However, for the same reason, the sizes of proofs can be very large. So, to shrink the sizes of proofs, an alternative format, called *resolution proof trace* (RPT), was proposed, where the resolvents (clauses) are omitted.

The advantage of the RES format is that checking a RES proof does not take additional memory space beside the proof itself. There is no need to compute and store anything additionally. However, the RES/RPT formats are considered too fine-grained and hard to instrument existing solvers to generate proofs. How to generate resolution proofs from SAT solvers is discussed in [76].

### 3.1.2 Linear Resolution-based Proof Formats

Most modern SAT solvers implements a feature called *conflict analysis* to deduce a new clause, called *conflict clause*, as a lemma. It is well known that conflict analysis can be represented as a series of (linear) resolution steps [41, 85, 17]. Res-

olution steps performed during conflict analysis are identified as *linear resolutions*, where at least one premise of each resolution is an input clause or a previous lemma. So, the resolution proof for each lemma is a linear sequence of resolutions, rather than an arbitrary resolution tree. For example, suppose  $C_1 \dots C_n$  be input clauses and previous lemmas, and a linear resolution proof is in this form:

$$\frac{\frac{C_0 \quad C_1}{D_1} \quad C_2}{D_2} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{D_{n-1} \quad C_n}{D_n}$$

$D_i (1 \leq i < n)$  are intermediate resolvents, and only the final resolvent  $D_n$  is stored as a lemma and may be used later in the proof.

Zhang and Malik reported a proof format based on linear resolution for their SAT solver `zchaff` [85]. In that format, a proof is a sequence of lemmas. And each lemma states the the new clause's unique ID number (as in the RES format), the conflict clause and the ID numbers of the clauses involved in generating the conflict clause. The example proof above is recorded as a lemma below:

$$m \quad I_0, I_1, I_2, \dots, I_n$$

The  $m$  is the unique ID number for the lemma and it can be used to refer  $D_n$  in the rest of the proof. Each  $I_i$  is the clause ID for  $C_i$ . The clause IDs are reported in the exact order of resolutions. A proof checker can simply apply resolution to the first two clauses and keep resolving the result of the previous resolution with the next clause.

PicoSAT is one of the state-of-the-art SAT solvers. The PicoSAT developers designed their own proof format, called TraceCheck. TraceCheck is very similar to the `zchaff`'s proof trace. But, TraceCheck can optionally report  $D_n$  along with the clause IDs, which is useful for debugging. When not reported,  $D_n$  is abbreviated with a wildcard symbol `*`. For example, the same lemma above can be stated as:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 m \quad D_n \quad I_0, I_1, I_2, \dots, I_n \\
 \text{or} \\
 m \quad * \quad I_0, I_1, I_2, \dots, I_n
 \end{array}$$

Unlike `zchaff`'s trace format, TraceCheck format allows the clause IDs to be reported in an arbitrary order. That makes it considerably easier to instrument existing SAT solvers to report proofs. Any TraceCheck checker should be able to calculate the correct order of resolutions.

These linear resolution-based formats can shrink proofs even further compared to the RES/RPT formats. Linear resolution is known to be refutation complete [38]. So, it is true that any solver can report a linear resolution proof. Moreover, it is also easier for most mainstream SAT solvers to report using these formats, especially TraceCheck [19].

### 3.1.3 Reverse Unit Propagation

The Reverse Unit Propagation (RUP) proof format has been proposed by Van Gelder as an efficient propositional proof representation scheme [38]. RUP is an inference rule that concludes  $F \vdash C$  when  $(F \cup \neg C)$  is refutable using only *unit resolution*, which is similar to standard binary resolution except that one of the two resolved clauses is required to be a unit clause. Unit resolution is not refutation complete in general, but it has been shown that conflict clauses generated from standard conflict-

analysis algorithms are indeed RUP inferences [38]. If a clause is a RUP inference, a unit-resolution proof deriving the clause can be calculated from that clause itself. Potentially, a long resolution proof of a RUP inference can be compressed to the concluded clause. Also, an efficient RUP inference checker can be implemented using the two-literal watch lists, a standard unit propagation algorithm used in most SAT solvers [41]. A complete RUP proof is a sequence of clauses (lemmas) with the last one being the empty clause. The clauses are checked one clause at a time. Each clause  $C$  is checked with respect to the RUP inference rule, where  $F$  is the original formula *and* the clauses that have been checked previously. Even though all correct lemmas are logically true in the input formula, RUP inference is so weak that intermediate clauses are necessary as stepping stones leading to the empty clause. For example, here is an unsatisfiable formula in Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF):  $(p \vee q) \wedge (p \vee \neg q) \wedge (\neg p \vee q) \wedge (\neg p \vee \neg q)$ . That formula can be encoded in the DIMACS format, a standard input format used at the SAT competition, as below:

```

1  2  0
1 -2  0
-1  2  0
-1 -2  0

```

Positive numbers represent propositional variables and negative numbers are negated variables. The variables  $p$  and  $q$  are renamed as 1 and 2, respectively. A zero indicates the end of each clause. Now, consider this RUP proof of the formula:

```

1  0
0

```

An equivalent TraceCheck proof would be:

$$\begin{array}{l} 5 \quad p \quad 1, 2 \\ 6 \quad \perp \quad 3, 4, 5 \end{array}$$

The RUP proof format has a similar syntax as the DIMACS format. The proof above has two clauses (RUP inferences). Essentially, it is the same as the TraceCheck version above, except that all the proof annotations are missing in the RUP proof. Because the input formula does not have a unit clause, the empty clause cannot be a RUP inference directly from the input formula. So, at least one intermediate clause is necessary. The first proof clause is a unit clause 1. Assume the negation of the clause, which is  $-1$ . The assumed clause  $-1$  and the first clause of the formula concludes 2 by unit resolution, and similarly,  $-1$  and the second clause concludes  $-2$ . Finally, 2 and  $-2$  are contradictory. So, 1 is a RUP inference. Once a clause is verified, it is kept as a lemma and may be used in the later inferences. Using the clause just verified, the empty clause can be checked in a similar fashion, resolving 1 with the third and fourth input clauses.

Almost all mainstream SAT solvers are clause learning SAT solvers with a form of conflict analysis. Because such learned clauses are RUP inferences, the RUP format is even easier to instrument in existing SAT solvers than TraceCheck. Thus, the RUP format is the most popular format used at the SAT competition.

#### 3.1.4 Trustworthiness of the Proof Checker

The official proof checker, `checker3` for the SAT competition, is 1,538 lines of C. It supports RES and RPT formats. An efficient RUP proof checker would be more complex, because RUP proof checking requires a quite sophisticated algorithm

to achieve desired performance. In the SAT competition, RUP proofs are converted to RES format first. Then, the RES version is checked. This conversion, however, does not need verification. It's considered an immediate step of proof construction, and the final RES proofs are used to certify the unsatisfiability of the formula. The disadvantage is, due to this conversion process the official RUP checker failed to check many proofs at the competitions. The PicoSAT developers' own proof checker, `tracecheck` is very efficient, but the size of trusted base is quite huge (2,989 lines of C++ and the `boolforce` library), considering the best SAT solver `minisat` is about 2,500 lines of C++. To construct more trustworthy proof checkers, two methods have been proposed:

**Proof reconstruction in theorem provers.** Weber implemented a proof checker in the Isabelle theorem prover [79, 78, 80]. Any SAT solver can be used as an external oracle, and his checker translates the propositional proofs generated from the SAT solver to the theorem prover's own proof objects so that the theorem  $\phi \vdash \perp$  is justified by the theorem prover's kernel. This kind of proof checking is called *proof reconstruction*. Proof reconstruction-based checkers can also be used as tactics within the theorem prover, not just as proof checkers.

**Verifying proof checker** Darbari et al. implemented an efficient `TraceCheck` proof checker and verified its soundness (it only accepts correct proofs) in the Coq theorem prover [29]. This technique does not translate proofs, instead it checks proofs directly. They can also extract a certified OCaml code, which is executable independently of

the theorem prover.

### 3.2 SMT Proof Checking

Considering the size and complexity of modern SMT solvers, it seems much more difficult to verify their code. Instead, it may be more cost-effective to verify their proofs. CVC3 [55, 36], Fx7 [57], Z3 [31], and veriT [22] are example SMT solvers that have the ability to produce refutation proofs. Unlike SAT, there is no de facto standard format for SMT proofs. Those solvers defined their own proof formats, and there are no separate authorities or official formats, yet.

**CVC3.** CVC3’s proofs are in the format of the HOL Light theorem prover (a LCF-style theorem prover), while others use their own custom proof formats. CVC3’s proofs are translated to HOL Light’s proofs and construct theorems in the theorem prover (proof reconstruction).

**Fx7.** Moskal’s Fx7 uses a custom rewriting-based meta-language to enable concise and understandable expression of proof rules, to increase trust. He also implemented a meta-language checker, Trew, which is shown to be very efficient for the AUFLIA (Linear Integer Arithmetic with Uninterpreted Functions and Arrays) logic benchmarks in the SMT-LIB database. Trew’s code is 1,500 lines of C, which is small, but still less trustworthy than small-core theorem provers written in functional programming languages.

**Z3.** Z3 uses a particular natural deduction proof system. At first, a custom proof checker was used mostly for debugging of Z3 itself. Recently, Böhme et al. implemented a proof reconstruction-based checker in Isabelle [21].

**veriT.** The proof format of veriT has its own natural deduction rules with a linear layout, in which each deduction step makes a new line with a line number. Armand et al. implemented a verified proof checker for veriT’s proofs in Coq [10]. They showed that proof checking is more efficient than compared to Böhme et al’s method because they do not reconstruct Coq proofs from veriT’s proofs. Previously, Fontaine et al. also showed a proof reconstruction method in Isabelle with the previous version of veriT, called haRVey [34]. They report that proof reconstruction (proof checking in Isabelle) takes exceedingly longer time compared to proof-searching time taken by the haRVey prover.

### 3.3 Statically Verified SAT Solvers

Verifying the SAT solver’s code means proving some of these theorems about it.

1. If  $\text{solve}(\phi) = SAT$ , then  $\exists M.M \models \phi$ .
2. If  $\text{solve}(\phi) = UNSAT$ , then  $\forall M.M \not\models \phi$ .
3. **solve** is a total function (always terminates).

The properties 1 and 2 are the soundness (answers are correct) of the algorithm. The property 3 is the completeness (questions are eventually answered) of the

algorithm.

### 3.3.1 Verified SAT Solvers

Noteworthy efforts have been made to apply formal verification techniques to SAT solver algorithms, using interactive theorem provers. Following researchers have proved their solvers are sound and complete.

1. Lescuyer implemented and verified the classical DPLL algorithm in Coq [51]. He proved that the algorithm is sound and complete according to the standard semantics of propositional logic. His work is an effort to bring the DPLL procedure directly into Coq as a fully automated propositional reasoning tactic. His implementation can also be extracted into the OCaml programming language and compiled to machine code. However, the classical DPLL algorithm is not as efficient as the modern DPLL implementations, setting aside the overhead of the OCaml runtime environment due to garbage collection.
2. Marić implemented a modern style DPLL algorithm in Isabelle, including conflict analysis, clause learning and backjumping features [53]. He also implemented one of the low-level features: the two-literal watch lists. Marić verified that the algorithm is sound and complete. The specification of correct SAT solver is based on the abstract DPLL state transition rules [61]. Abstract DPLL is a formalization of the SAT algorithm in terms of a state transition system, instead of imperative pseudocode as in the classical DPLL. It is a more generalized framework that accommodates new features and deduction methods

of modern solvers. Even though he implemented some low-level details, this implementation is not executable outside the theorem prover and it serves as a model of the actual C++ implementation.

3. Shankar et al. also proved a modern DPLL algorithm in the PVS theorem prover [69]. This implementation has modern features like clause learning and backjumping, and it is also verified to be sound and complete according to the abstract DPLL state transition rules. Compared to Marić’s implementation, it lacks a low-level detail like the two-literal watch lists.

These SAT solvers are verified in various theorem provers. Lescuyer’s implementation can also be used as a trusted tactic for the Coq theorem prover because this implementation is executable and certified. The other implementations did not implement decision heuristics, because such heuristics do not affect the correctness of the solvers. Their decision heuristics are left as abstract choice functions. Although any simple heuristic can replace the abstract functions, a more realistic heuristic will call for a feedback mechanism from the other parts of the solver, and thus significant refactoring of the solver may be necessary.

### 3.3.2 Limitations

The biggest limitation of the verified SAT solvers is the performance. None of these SAT solvers are intended to match the performance of unverified SAT solvers. Those verified SAT solvers above either use inefficient data structures or omit low-level details to simplify verification. For example, Peano numbers or abstract data

type are used to represent propositional variables of the input formula, where as mainstream SAT solvers use machine words for efficiency. An abstract data type can be replaced with machine words during compilation of such a verified SAT solver; however the details related to bit/arithmetic operations and overflow situations are hidden and abstracted away from the solver implementation. Marić's implementation uses a list (instead of an array) to represent the entire clause database and perform sequential access to individual clauses. Shankar's implementation is more optimized using an array data structure for the clause database and perform random access to clauses. Mainstream SAT solvers use low-level data structures such as machine words, bit operations, mutable arrays and pointers. Also, they are highly optimized using various engineering techniques, such as splitting, duplicating, and reorganizing data in memory for faster access. Most of these engineering techniques do not appear in the verified solvers, and they can not be easily implemented in the programming language of theorem provers. For example:

- Because each clause is referenced by several pointers in the two-literal watch lists and other data structures, the whole data structure becomes a graph (rather than a tree), which makes it difficult to implement in such programming languages. In the Marić and Shankar's implementations, clauses in the clause database are accessed indirectly through their position numbers in the list (or array) of all clauses. On the other hand, in mainstream SAT solvers, clauses are not numbered; instead, they are directly referenced. Thus, there is no single list or array referencing all the clauses. Directly referencing clauses is

an important low-level optimization that significantly affects the performance.

- Mutable arrays are critical to the performance of SAT solvers. The two-literal watch lists are a collection of arrays that change dynamically. Also, solvers use a variety of lookup tables for bookkeeping purposes. Therefore, the support for efficient mutable arrays is important for implementing high-performance SAT solvers.

## CHAPTER 4

### SAT/SMT PROOF CHECKING USING A LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

There are many different SMT logics depending on the theories built into the logics. The SMT-LIB initiative provides a library of formulas divided into several different logics. Even though SMT-LIB defines a set of standard theories and logics, solvers may support for novel logics by adding their own theories. Also, different SMT solvers may use different sets of inference rules depending on the solver's algorithms. So, a flexible and extensible proof system is highly desirable for a standard SMT proof checker. As shown in Section 3.2, Both CVC3 and Fx7 use meta-languages as the bases of their proof format. CVC3 generates proofs in the HOL Light's proof language. Because HOL Light can be extended with new theories, the logic of HOL Light can be considered a meta-language to encode inference rules (a logic) and proofs. Fx7 uses its own meta-language, called Trew, which is specifically designed for encoding logics and efficient proof checking. Trew is based on a term-rewriting calculus. In Trew, inference rules (at the logic level) are encoded as rewrite rules (at the meta-language level). The advantage of using a meta-language is that the proof checker can be easily extended. Usually inference rules are defined declaratively and modularly, thus it is easy to understand and verify the existing rules, and add new rules. If we compare that to the program code for a proof checker, the code may be obscure to understand and adding new rules may change the meaning of the old code for the existing rules, which can break the correctness of the old code. For

the other proof formats discussed in Section 3.2, theorem provers are still used to validate proofs. Böhme et al. essentially implemented a proof translator from an ad-hoc proof language to the proof language of the Isabelle/HOL theorem prover. Besides the translation part, everything is the same as CVC3 proofs in HOL Light. Armand et al. verified their proof checker is correct in the Coq theorem prover. This proof checker does not translate proofs, instead they proved that the proof checker’s computation is sound w.r.t the encoding of the logic. As we can see, all of the SMT proof systems above rely on meta-languages one way or another to encode the subject logic and ensure the correctness of the proof checkers. In this chapter, we describe a novel SMT proof system based on another meta-language, called Edinburgh Logical Framework.

#### 4.1 The LFSC Language

In this chapter we propose and describe a meta-logic, called LFSC, for “Logical Framework with Side Conditions”, which we have developed explicitly with the goal of supporting the description of several proof systems for SMT, and enabling the implementation of very fast proof checkers. In LFSC, solver implementors can describe their proof rules using a compact declarative notation which also allows the use of computational side conditions. These conditions, expressed in a small functional programming language, enable some parts of a proof to be established by computation. The flexibility of LFSC facilitates the design of proof systems that reflect closely the sort of high-performance inferences made by SMT solvers. The side conditions feature offers a continuum of possible LFSC encodings of proof systems, from com-

pletely declarative at one extreme, using rules with no side conditions, to completely computational at the other, using a single rule with a huge side condition. We argue that supporting this continuum is a major strength of LFSC. Solver implementors have the freedom to choose the amount of computational inference when devising proof systems for their solver. This freedom cannot be abused since any decision is explicitly recorded in the LFSC formalization and becomes part of the proof system’s trusted computing base. Moreover, the ability to create with a relatively small effort different LFSC proof systems for the same solver provides an additional level of trust even for proof systems with a substantial computational component—since at least during the developing phase one could also produce proofs in a more declarative, if less efficient, proof system.

We have put considerable effort in developing a full blown, highly efficient proof checker for LFSC proofs. Instead of developing a dedicated LFSC checker, one could imagine embedding LFSC in declarative languages such as Maude or Haskell. While the advantages of prototyping symbolic tools in these languages are well known, in our experience their performance lags too far behind carefully engineered imperative code for high-performance proof checking. This is especially the case for the sort of proofs generated by SMT solvers which can easily reach sizes measured in megabytes or even gigabytes. Based on previous experimental results by others, a similar argument could be made against the use of interactive theorem provers (such as Isabelle [63] or Coq [18]), which have a very small trusted core, for SMT-proof checking. By allowing the use of computational side conditions and relying on a dedicated proof checker,

our solution seeks to strike a pragmatic compromise between trustworthiness and efficiency.

#### 4.1.1 Notational Conventions

LFSC is a direct extension of Edinburgh Logical Framework (LF, for short) [46], a type-theoretic logical framework based on the  $\lambda\Pi$  calculus, in turn an extension of the simply typed  $\lambda$ -calculus. A logical framework in the general sense is a language (or a system) that allows for encoding axioms and inference rules, and checking proofs. LF influenced the early theorem prover, Automath and others like Coq and Twelf. LF has been used successfully for representing proofs in applications like proof-carrying code [59].

The  $\lambda\Pi$  calculus has three levels of entities: *values*; *types*, understood as collections of values; and *kinds*, families of types. Its main feature is the support for *dependent types* which are types parametrized by values.<sup>1</sup> Informally speaking, if  $\tau_2[x]$  is a dependent type with value parameter  $x$ , and  $\tau_1$  is a non-dependent type, the expression  $\Pi x:\tau_1.\tau_2[x]$  denotes in the calculus the type of functions that return a value of type  $\tau_2[v]$  for each value  $v$  of type  $\tau_1$  for  $x$ . When  $\tau_2$  is itself a non-dependent type, the type  $\Pi x:\tau_1.\tau_2$  is just the arrow type  $\tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2$  of simply typed  $\lambda$ -calculus.

The current concrete syntax of LFSC is based on Lisp-style S-expressions, with all operators in infix format. For improved readability, we will often write LFSC expressions in abstract syntax instead. We will write concrete syntax expressions in

---

<sup>1</sup> A simple example of dependent types is the type of bit vectors of (positive integer) size  $n$ .

`typewriter` font. In abstract syntax expressions, we will write variables and meta-variables in *italics* font, and constants in `sans serif` font. Predefined keywords in the LFSC language will be in **bold** sans serif font.

#### 4.1.2 Introducing LF with Side Conditions

LFSC is based on the Edinburgh Logical Framework (LF) [46]. LF has been used extensively as a meta-language for encoding deductive systems including logics, semantics of programming languages, as well as many other applications [49, 16, 59]. In LF, proof systems can be encoded as *signatures*, which are collections of typing declarations. Each proof rule is a constant symbol whose type represents the inferences allowed by the rule. For example, the following transitivity rule for equality

$$\frac{t_1 = t_2 \quad t_2 = t_3}{t_1 = t_3} \text{ eq\_trans}$$

can be encoded in LF as a constant `eq_trans` of type

$$\Pi t_1:\text{term}. t_2:\text{term}. t_3:\text{term}. \Pi u_1:\text{holds}(t_1 = t_2). \Pi u_2:\text{holds}(t_2 = t_3). \text{holds}(t_1 = t_3) .$$

The encoding can be understood intuitively as saying: for any terms  $t_1, t_2$  and  $t_3$ , and any proofs  $u_1$  of the equality  $t_1 = t_2$  and  $u_2$  of  $t_2 = t_3$ , `eq_trans` constructs a proof of  $t_1 = t_3$ . In the concrete, Lisp-style syntax of LFSC, the declaration of the rule would look like

```
(declare eq_trans (! t1 term (! t2 term (! t3 term
  (! u1 (holds (= t1 t2)) (! u2 (holds (= t2 t3))
    (holds (= t1 t3)))))))
```

where `!` represents LF's  $\Pi$  binder, for the dependent function space, `term` and `holds` are previously declared type constructors, and `=` is a previously declared constant of

type  $\Pi t_1:\text{term}.t_2:\text{term}.\text{term}$  (i.e.,  $\text{term} \rightarrow \text{term} \rightarrow \text{term}$ ).

Now, pure LF is not well suited for encoding large proofs from SMT solvers, due to the computational nature of many SMT inferences. For example, consider trying to prove the following simple statement in a logic of arithmetic:

$$(t_1 + (t_2 + (\dots + t_n) \dots)) - ((t_{i_1} + (t_{i_2} + (\dots + t_{i_n}) \dots)) = 0 \quad (4.1)$$

where  $t_{i_1} \dots t_{i_n}$  is a permutation of the terms  $t_1, \dots, t_n$ . A purely declarative proof would need  $\Omega(n \log n)$  applications of an associativity and a commutativity rule for  $+$ , to bring opposite terms together before they can be pairwise reduced to 0.

Producing, and checking, purely declarative proofs in SMT, where input formulas alone are often measured in megabytes, is unfeasible in many cases. To address this problem, LFSC extends LF by supporting the definition of rules with side conditions, *computational checks* written in a small but expressive first-order functional language. The language has built-in types for arbitrary precision integers and rationals, inductive datatypes, ML-style pattern matching, recursion, and a very restricted set of imperative features. When checking the application of an inference rule with a side condition, an LFSC checker computes actual parameters for the side condition and executes its code. If the side condition fails, because it is not satisfied or because of an exception caused by a pattern-matching failure, the LFSC checker rejects the rule application. In LFSC, a proof of statement (4.1) could be given by a single application of a rule of the form:

```
(declare eq_zero (! t term (^ (normalize t) 0) (holds (= t 0))))
```

where `normalize` is the name of a separately defined function in the side condition

(Kinds)	$\kappa ::= \mathbf{type} \mid \mathbf{kind} \mid \Pi x:\tau. \kappa$
(Types)	$\tau ::= k \mid \tau \ t \mid \Pi x:\tau_1[\{s \ t\}]. \tau_2$
(Terms)	$t ::= x \mid c \mid t:\tau \mid \lambda x[:\tau]. t \mid t_1 \ t_2$
(Patterns)	$p ::= c \mid c \ x_1 \cdots x_{n+1}$
(Programs)	$s ::= x \mid c \mid c \ s_1 \cdots s_{n+1} \mid \mathbf{match} \ s \ (p_1 \ s_1) \cdots (p_{n+1} \ s_{n+1}) \mid$ $\mathbf{let} \ x \ s_1 \ s_2 \mid \mathbf{fail} \ \tau \mid -s \mid s_1 + s_2 \mid s_1 \times s_2 \mid \mathbf{ifneg} \ s_1 \ s_2 \ s_3 \mid$ $\mathbf{markvar} \ s \mid \mathbf{ifmarked} \ s_1 \ s_2 \ s_3$

Figure 4.1. Main syntactical categories of LFSC. Letter  $c$  denotes term constants (including integer/rational ones),  $x$  denotes term variables,  $k$  denotes type constants. The square brackets are grammar meta-symbols enclosing optional subexpressions.

language that takes an arithmetic term and returns a normal form for it. The expression  $(\wedge (\mathbf{normalize} \ t) \ 0)$  defines the side condition of the `eq_zero` rule, with the condition succeeding if and only if the expression `(normalize t)` evaluates to 0.

### 4.1.3 Abstract Syntax and Informal Semantics

In this section, we informally describe the LFSC language in abstract syntax and its informal semantics. The formal typing rules and semantics of LFSC is discussed in Appendices A.1 and A.2. Well-typed value, type, kind and side-condition expressions are drawn from the syntactical categories defined in Figure 4.1 in BNF format. The syntax for kinds, types, and terms is the same as the original LF, except for the optional side condition expression in the  $\Pi$ -abstraction. And the syntax for patterns and programs is added to express side condition programs. Programs can be defined and given names so that they can be called from side condition expressions. Also, note that programs can be called recursively within the program itself without

restriction, which permits general recursion. Currently, we do not enforce termination of side condition programs, nor do we attempt to provide facilities to reason formally about the behavior of such programs.

Program expressions  $s$  are used in side condition code. There, we also make use of the syntactic sugar  $(\mathbf{do} \ s_1 \ \cdots \ s_n \ s)$  for the expression  $(\mathbf{let} \ x_1 \ s_1 \ \cdots \ \mathbf{let} \ x_n \ s_n \ s)$  where  $x_1$  through  $x_n$  are fresh variables. Side condition programs in LFSC are monomorphic, simply typed, first-order, recursive functions with pattern matching, inductive data types and two built-in basic types: arbitrary precision integers and rationals. In practice, our implementation is a little more permissive, allowing side-condition code to pattern-match also over dependently typed data. For simplicity, we restrict our attention here to the formalization for simple types only.

The operational semantics of the main constructs in the side condition language could be described informally as follows. Expressions of the form  $\{s \ t\}$  is a restrictive form of equality predicates, meaning that the expression  $s$  evaluates to the term  $t$ . Expressions of the form  $(c \ s_1 \ \cdots \ s_{n+1})$  are applications of either term constants or program constants (i.e., declared functions) to arguments. In the former case, the application constructs a new value; in the latter, it invokes a program. The expressions  $(\mathbf{match} \ s \ (p_1 \ s_1) \ \cdots \ (p_{n+1} \ s_{n+1}))$  and  $(\mathbf{let} \ x \ s_1 \ s_2)$  behave exactly as their corresponding matching and let-binding constructs in ML-like languages. The expression  $(\mathbf{fail} \ \tau)$  always raises that exception, for any type  $\tau$ . The expression  $(\mathbf{markvar} \ s)$  evaluates to the value of  $s$  if this value is a variable. In that case, the expression has

also the side effect of toggling a Boolean mark on that variable.<sup>2</sup> The expression **(ifmarked  $s_1$   $s_2$   $s_3$ )** evaluates to the value of  $s_2$  or of  $s_3$  depending on whether  $s_1$  evaluates to a marked or an unmarked variable. Both **markvar** and **ifmarked** raise a failure exception if their arguments do not evaluate to a variable. We support marking just variables instead of arbitrary terms, because it is convenient to map all occurrences of the same (as determined by scoping) variable to the same in-memory representation. The same is not true for arbitrary terms, particularly in the presence of a non-trivial definitional equality: an indexing structure would then be needed, imposing additional implementation complexity and runtime performance penalty. Type checking also fails when evaluating the fail construct (**fail**  $\tau$ ), or when pattern matching fails.

LFSC has two built-in numeric types: **mpz** and **mpr**. The **mpz** type is for arbitrary precision integer type (the name comes from the underlying GNU Multiple Precision Arithmetic Library, **gmp**); the **mpr** type is similarly for rationals. Also, LFSC provides built-in arithmetic functions overloaded for those types: **-**(unary), **+**, **×**, and **ifneg**. The arguments to these functions must be numeric expressions of the same type. The first three functions operates on numeric constants as expected; **(ifneg  $x$   $y$   $z$ )** evaluates to  $y$  or  $z$  depending on whether the **mpz** number  $x$  is negative or not.

Our implementation of LFSC supports the use of the wildcard symbol **\_** in

---

<sup>2</sup> For simplicity, we limit the description here to a single mark per variable. In reality, there are 32 such marks, each with its own **markvar** command.

place of an actual argument of an application when the value of this argument is determined by the types of later arguments. This feature, which is analogous to implicit arguments in theorem provers such as Coq and programming languages such as Scala, is crucial to avoid bloating proofs with redundant information. In a similar vein, the syntax allows a form of lambda abstraction that does not annotate the bound variable with its type when that type can be computed efficiently from context.

## 4.2 Encoding Propositional Reasoning

In this section and the next, we illustrate the power and flexibility of LFSC for SMT proof checking by discussing a number of proof systems relevant to SMT, and their possible encodings in LFSC. Our goal is not to be exhaustive, but to provide representative examples of how LFSC allows one to encode a variety of logics and proof rules while paying attention to proof checking performance issues. Section 4.4 focuses on the latter by reporting on our initial experimental results.

Roughly speaking, proofs generated by SMT solvers, especially those based on the DPLL( $T$ ) architecture [62], are two-tiered refutation proofs, with a propositional skeleton filled with several theory-specific subproofs [40]. The conclusion, a trivially unsatisfiable formula, is reached by means of propositional inferences applied to a set of input formulas and a set of *theory lemmas*. These are disjunctions of theory literals proved from no assumptions mostly with proof rules specific to the theory or theories in question—the theory of real arithmetic, of arrays, etc.

Large portions of the proof’s propositional part consist typically of applications of some variant of the resolution rule. These subproofs are generated similarly to what

is done by proof-producing SAT solvers, where resolution is used for conflict analysis and lemma generation [84, 40]. A proof format proposed in 2005 by Van Gelder for SAT solvers is based directly on resolution [75]. Input formulas in SMT differ from those given to SAT solvers both for being not necessarily in Conjunctive Normal Form and for having non-propositional atoms. As a consequence, the rest of the propositional part of SMT proofs involve CNF conversion rules as well as *abstraction* rules that uniformly replace theory atoms in input formulas and theory lemmas with Boolean variables. While SMT solvers usually work just with quantifier-free formulas, some of them can reason about quantifiers as well, by generating and using selected ground instances of quantified formulas. In these cases, output proofs also contain applications of rules for quantifier instantiation.

In the following, we demonstrate different ways of representing propositional clauses and SMT formulas and lemmas in LFSC, and of encoding proof systems for them with various degrees of support for efficient proof checking. For simplicity and space constraints, we consider only a couple of individual theories, and restrict our attention to quantifier-free formulas. We note that encoding proofs involving combinations of theories is more laborious but not qualitatively more difficult; encoding SMT proofs for quantified formulas is straightforward thanks to LFSC’s support for higher-order abstract syntax which allows one to represent and manipulate quantifiers as higher-order functions, in a completely standard way.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> For instance  $\forall x:\tau. \phi$  can be represented as  $(\text{forall } \lambda x:\tau. \phi)$  where  $\text{forall}$  is a constant of type  $(\tau \rightarrow \text{formula}) \rightarrow \text{formula}$ . Then, quantifier instantiation reduces to (lambda-term) application.

```

(declare var type)
(declare lit type)
(declare pos (! x var lit))
(declare neg (! x var lit))

(declare clause type)
(declare cln clause)
(declare clc (! l lit (! c clause clause)))

```

Figure 4.2. Definition of propositional clauses in LFSC concrete syntax

#### 4.2.1 Encoding Propositional Resolution

The first step in encoding any proof system in LFSC (or LF for that matter) is to encode its formulas. In the case of propositional resolution, this means encoding propositional clauses. Figure 4.2 presents a possible encoding, with type and type constructor declarations in LFSC’s concrete syntax. We first declare an LFSC type `var` for propositional variables and then a type `lit` for propositional literals. Type `lit` has two constructors, `pos` and `neg`, both of type  $\Pi x:\text{var}. \text{lit}^4$  which turn a variable into a literal of positive, respectively negative, polarity. We use these to represent positive and negative occurrences of a variable in a clause. The type `clause`, for propositional clauses, is endowed with two constructors that allow the encoding of clauses as lists of literals. The constant `cln` represents the empty clause ( $\square$ ). The function `clc` intuitively takes a literal  $l$  and a clause  $c$ , and returns a new clause consisting of  $l$  followed by the literals of  $c$ . For an example, a clause like  $P \vee \neg Q$  can be encoded as the term `(clc (pos P) (clc (neg Q) cln))`.

---

<sup>4</sup> Recall that the `!` symbol in the concrete syntax stands for  $\Pi$ -abstraction.

```

(declare holds (! c clause type))

(program resolve ((c1 clause) (c2 clause) (v var)) clause
  (let pl (pos v) (let nl (neg v)
    (do (in pl c1) (in nl c2)
      (let d (append (remove pl c1) (remove nl c2))
        (drop_dups d))))))

(declare R (! c1 clause (! c2 clause (! c3 clause
  (! u1 (holds c1) (! u2 (holds c2)
    (! v var (^ (resolve c1 c2 v) c3)
      (holds c3))))))))))

```

Figure 4.3. Propositional resolution calculus in LFSC concrete syntax

Figure 4.3 provides LFSC declarations that model binary propositional resolution with factoring. The type `holds`, indexed by values of type `clause`, represents the type of proofs for clauses. Intuitively, for any clause  $c$ , values of type `(holds  $c$ )` are proofs of  $c$ . The side-condition function `resolve` takes two clauses and a variable  $v$ , and returns the result of resolving the two clauses together with  $v$  as the pivot<sup>5</sup>, after eliminating any duplicate literals in the resolvent. The constructor `R` encodes the resolution inference rule. Its type

$$\prod c_1:\text{clause}. \prod c_2:\text{clause}. \prod c_3:\text{clause}. \\ \prod u_1:\text{holds } c_1. \prod u_2:\text{holds } c_2. \prod v:\text{var} \{(\text{resolve } c_1 \ c_2 \ v) \ c_3\}. \text{holds } c_3$$

can be paraphrased as follows: for any clauses  $c_1, c_2, c_3$  and variables  $v$ , the rule `R` returns a proof of  $c_3$  from a proof of  $c_1$  and a proof of  $c_2$  *provided that*  $c_3$  is the result of successfully applying the `resolve` function to  $c_1, c_2$  and  $v$ . The side condition function

---

<sup>5</sup> A variable  $v$  is the *pivot* of a resolution application with resolvent  $c_1 \vee c_2$  if the clauses resolved upon are  $c_1 \vee v$  and  $\neg v \vee c_2$ .

`resolve` is defined as follows (using a number of auxiliary functions whose definition can be found in the appendix). To resolve clauses  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  with pivot  $v$ ,  $v$  must occur in a positive literal of  $c_1$  and a negative literal of  $c_2$  (checked with the `in` function). If that case, the resolvent clause is computed by removing (with `remove`) all positive occurrences of  $v$  from  $c_1$  and all negative ones from  $c_2$ , concatenating the resulting clauses (with `append`), and finally dropping any duplicates from the concatenation (with `drop_dups`); otherwise, `resolve`, and consequently the side condition of `R`, fails.

In proof terms containing applications of the `R` rule, the values of its input variables  $c_1$ ,  $c_2$  and  $c_3$  can be determined from later input values, namely the concrete types of  $u_1$ ,  $u_2$  and  $v$ , respectively. Hence, in those applications  $c_1, \dots, c_3$  can be replaced by the wildcard `_`, as mentioned in Section 4.1 and shown in Figure 4.4.

The single rule above is enough to encode proofs in the propositional resolution calculus. This does not appear to be possible in LF. Without side conditions one also needs auxiliary rules, for instance, to move a pivot to the head of the list representing the clause and to perform factoring on the resolvent. The upshot of this is a more complex proof system and bigger proofs. Other approaches to checking resolution proofs avoid the need for those auxiliary rules by hard coding the clause type in the proof checker and implementing it as a set of literals. An example is work by Weber and Amjad on reconstructing proofs produced by an external SAT solver in Isabelle/HOL [81]. They use several novel encoding techniques to take advantage of the fact that the native sequents of the Isabelle/HOL theorem prover are of the form  $\Gamma \vdash \phi$ , where  $\Gamma$  is interpreted as a set of literals. They note the importance of

$$\frac{\frac{V_1 \vee V_2 \quad \neg V_1 \vee V_2}{V_2} \quad \frac{\neg V_2 \vee V_3 \quad \neg V_3 \vee \neg V_2}{\neg V_2}}{\square}$$

$\lambda v_1:\text{var}. \lambda v_2:\text{var}. \lambda v_2:\text{var}.$   
 $\lambda p_1:\text{holds}(v_1 \vee v_2). \lambda p_2:\text{holds}(\neg v_1 \vee v_2).$   
 $\lambda p_3:\text{holds}(\neg v_2 \vee v_3). \lambda p_4:\text{holds}(\neg v_3 \vee \neg v_2).$   
 $(\text{R} \text{ --- } (\text{R} \text{ --- } p_1 \ p_2 \ v_1) (\text{R} \text{ --- } p_3 \ p_4 \ v_3) \ v_2) : \text{holds } \square)$

```

(check
  (% v1 var (% v2 var (% v3 var
    (% p1 (holds (clc (pos v1) (clc (pos v2) cln)))
    (% p2 (holds (clc (neg v1) (clc (pos v2) cln)))
    (% p3 (holds (clc (neg v2) (clc (pos v3) cln)))
    (% p4 (holds (clc (neg v3) (clc (neg v2) cln)))
    (: (holds cln) (R _ _ _ (R _ _ _ p1 p2 v1)
      (R _ _ _ p3 p4 v3) v2))))))))))

```

Figure 4.4. An example refutation and its LFSC encoding, respectively in abstract and in concrete syntax (as argument of the `check` command). In the concrete syntax, `(% x τ t)` stands for  $\lambda x:\tau.t$ ; for convenience, the ascription operator `:` takes first a type and then a term.

these techniques for achieving acceptable performance over their earlier work, where rules for reordering literals in a clause, for example, were required. Their focus is on importing external proofs into Isabelle/HOL, not trustworthy efficient proof-checking in its own right. But we point out that it would be wrong to conclude that their approach is intrinsically more declarative than the LFSC approach: in their case, the computational side-conditions needed to maintain the context  $\Gamma$  as a set have simply been made implicit, as part of the core inference system of the theorem prover. In contrast, the LFSC approach makes such side conditions explicit, and user-definable.

**Example 1.** *For a simple example of a resolution proof, consider a propositional*

clause set containing the clauses  $c_1 := \neg V_1 \vee V_2$ ,  $c_2 := \neg V_2 \vee V_3$ ,  $c_3 := \neg V_3 \vee \neg V_2$ , and  $c_4 := V_1 \vee V_2$ . A resolution derivation of the empty clause from these clauses is given in Figure 4.4. The proof can be represented in LFSC as the lambda term below the proof tree. Ascription is used to assign type  $(\text{holds } \square)$  to the main subterm  $(R \_ \dots v_2)$  under the assumption that all four input clauses hold. This assumption is encoded by using the input (i.e., lambda) variables  $p_1, \dots, p_4$  of type  $(\text{holds } c_1), \dots, (\text{holds } c_4)$ , respectively. Checking the correctness of the original proof in the resolution calculus then amounts to checking that the lambda term is well-typed in LFSC when its  $\_$  holes are filled in as prescribed by the definition of  $R$ . In the concrete syntax, this is achieved by passing the proof term to the `check` command. ■

The use of lambda abstraction in the example above comes from standard LF encoding methodology. In particular, note how object-language variables (the  $V_i$ 's) are represented by LFSC meta-variables (the  $\lambda$ -variables  $v_1, \dots, v_4$ ). This way, safe renaming and safe substitution of bound variables at the object level are inherited for free from the meta-level. In LFSC, an additional motivation for using meta-variables for object language variables is that we can efficiently test the former for equality in side conditions using variable marking. In the resolution proof system described here, this is necessary in the side condition of the  $R$  rule—for instance, to check that the pivot occurs in the clauses being resolved upon (see Appendix A.3).

#### 4.2.2 Deferred Resolution

The single rule resolution calculus presented above can be further improved in terms of proof checking performance by delaying the side condition tests, as done in

```

(declare clr (! l lit (! c clause clause)))
(declare con (! c1 clause (! c2 clause clause)))

(declare DR (! c1 clause (! c2 clause
    (! u1 (holds c1) (! u2 (holds c2) (!v var
        (holds (con (clr (pos v) c1) (clr (neg v) c2))))))))))

(declare S (! c1 clause (! c2 clause
    (! u (holds c1) (^ (simplify c1) c2)
        (holds c2))))))

```

Figure 4.5. New constructors for the clause type and rules for deferred resolution

```

function simplify ( $x$  : clause) : clause =
  match  $x$  with
     $cln \rightarrow cln$ 
     $con\ c_1\ c_2 \rightarrow$  append (simplify  $c_1$ ) (simplify  $c_2$ )
     $clc\ l\ c \rightarrow$ 
      if  $l$  is marked for deletion then (simplify  $c$ )
      else mark  $l$  for deletion;  $d = clc\ l$  (simplify  $c$ ); unmark  $l$ ;  $d$ 
     $clr\ l\ c \rightarrow$ 
      if  $l$  is marked for deletion then  $d =$  simplify  $c$ 
      else mark  $l$  for deletion;  $d =$  simplify  $c$ ; unmark  $l$ ;
      if  $l$  was deleted from  $c$  then  $d$  else fail

```

Figure 4.6. Pseudo-code for side condition function used by the S rule

constrained resolution approaches [67]. One can modify the clause data structure so that it includes constraints representing those conditions. Side condition constraints are accumulated in resolvent clauses and then checked periodically, possibly just at the very end, once the final clause has been deduced. The effect of this approach is that (i) checking resolution applications becomes a constant time operation, and (ii) side condition checks can be deferred, accumulated, and then performed more

efficiently in a single sweep using a new rule that converts a constrained clause to a regular one after discharging its attached constraint.

There are many ways to implement this general idea. We present one in Figure 4.5, based on extending the clause type of Figure 4.2 with two more constructors: `clr` and `con`. The term  $(\text{clr } l \ c)$  denotes the clause consisting of all the literals of  $c$  except  $l$ , assuming that  $l$  indeed occurs in  $c$ . The expression  $(\text{con } c_1 \ c_2)$  denotes the clause consisting of all the literals that are in  $c_1$  or in  $c_2$ . Given two clauses  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  and a pivot variable  $v$ , the new resolution rule `DR`, with no side conditions, produces the resolvent  $(\text{con } (\text{clr } (\text{pos } v) \ c_1) \ (\text{clr } (\text{neg } v) \ c_2))$  which carries within itself the *resolution constraint* that  $(\text{pos } v)$  must occur in  $c_1$  and  $(\text{neg } v)$  in  $c_2$ . Applications of the resolution rule can alternate with applications of the rule `S`, which converts a resolvent clause into a regular clause (constructed with just `cln` and `clc`) while also checking that the resolvent’s resolution constraints are satisfied. A sensible strategy is to apply `S` both to the final resolvent and to any intermediate resolvent that is used more than once in the overall proof—to avoid unnecessary duplication of constraints.

The side condition function for `S` is provided in pseudo-code (for improved readability) in Figure 4.6. The pseudo-code should be self-explanatory. The auxiliary function `append`, defined only on regular clauses, works like a standard list append function. Since the cost of `append` is linear in the first argument, `simplify` executes more efficiently with linear resolution proofs, where at most one of the two premises of each resolution step is a previously proved (and simplified) lemma. Such proofs are naturally generated by SMT solvers with a propositional engine based

on conflict analysis and lemma learning—which means essentially all SMT solvers available today. In some cases, clauses returned by `simplify` may contain duplicate literals. However, such literals will be removed by subsequent calls to `simplify`, thereby preventing any significant accumulation in the clauses we produce.

Our experiments show that deferred resolution leads to significant performance improvements at proof checking time: checking deferred resolution proofs is on average 5 times faster than checking proofs using the resolution rule R [64]. The increased speed does come here at the cost of increased size and complexity of the side condition code, and so of the trusted base. The main point is again that LFSC gives users the choice of how big they want the trusted base to be, while also documenting that choice explicitly in the side condition code.

### 4.3 Encoding Quantifier-Free Integer Difference Logic

This section explains our encoding of a sample SMT logic, called Quantifier-Free Integer Difference Logic (QF\_IDL, for short). Although QF\_IDL is one of the simplest SMT logics, our encoding provides the core infrastructure for all other SMT logics.

#### 4.3.1 CNF Conversion

Most SMT solvers accept as input quantifier-free formulas (from now on simply *formulas*) but do the bulk of their reasoning on a set of clauses derived from the input via a conversion to CNF or, equivalently, clause form. For proof checking purposes, it is then necessary to define proof rules that account for this conversion. Defining a good set of such proof rules is challenging because of the variety of CNF transformations

used in practice. Additional difficulties, at least when using logical frameworks, come from more mundane but nevertheless important problems such as how to encode with proof rules, which have a fixed number of premises, transformations that treat operators like logical conjunction and disjunction as multiarity symbols, with an arbitrary number of arguments.

To show how these difficulties can be addressed in LFSC we discuss now a hybrid data structure we call *partial clauses* that mixes formulas and clauses and supports the encoding of many CNF conversion methods as small step transformations on partial clauses. Partial clauses represent intermediate states between an initial formula to be converted to clause form and its final clause form. We then present a general set of rewrite rules on partial clauses that can be easily encoded as LFSC proof rules. Abstractly, a partial clause is simply a pair

$$(\phi_1, \dots, \phi_m; l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_n)$$

consisting of a (possibly empty) sequence of formulas and a clause. Semantically, it is just the disjunction  $\phi_1 \vee \dots \vee \phi_m \vee l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_n$  of all the formulas in the sequence with the clause. A set  $\{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_k\}$  of input formulas, understood conjunctively, can be represented as the sequence of partial clauses  $(\phi_1; ), \dots, (\phi_k; )$ . A set of rewrite rules can be used to turn this sequence into an equisatisfiable sequence of partial clauses of the form  $( ; c_1), \dots, ( ; c_n)$ , which is in turn equisatisfiable with  $c_1 \wedge \dots \wedge c_n$ . Figure 4.7 describes some of the rewrite rules for partial clauses. We defined 31 CNF conversion rules to transform partial clauses. Most rules eliminate logical connectives and let-bindings in a similar way as the ones shown in Figure 4.7. Several kinds of

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
\text{dist\_pos} & (\phi_1 \wedge \phi_2, \Phi; c) \Longrightarrow & (\phi_1, \Phi; c), (\phi_2, \Phi; c) \\
\text{dist\_neg} & (\neg(\phi_1 \wedge \phi_2), \Phi; c) \Longrightarrow & (\neg\phi_1, \neg\phi_2, \Phi; c) \\
\text{flat\_pos} & (\phi_1 \vee \phi_2, \Phi; c) \Longrightarrow & (\phi_1, \phi_2, \Phi; c) \\
\text{flat\_neg} & (\neg(\phi_1 \vee \phi_2), \Phi; c) \Longrightarrow & (\neg\phi_1, \Phi; c), (\neg\phi_2, \Phi; c) \\
\text{rename} & (\phi, \Phi; c) \Longrightarrow & (\Phi; v, c), (\phi; \neg v), (\neg\phi; v) \quad (v \text{ is a fresh var})
\end{array}$$

Figure 4.7. Sample CNF conversion rules for partial clauses (shown as a rewrite system).  $\Phi$  is a sequence of formulas and  $c$  is a sequence of literals (a clause).

popular CNF conversion algorithms can be realized as particular application strategies for this set of rewrite rules (or a subset thereof).

Formulating the rewrite rules of Figure 4.7 into LFSC proof rules is not difficult. The only challenge is that conversions based on them and including **rename** are only satisfiability preserving, not equivalence preserving. To guarantee soundness in those cases we use natural-deduction style proof rules of the following general form for each rewrite rule  $p \Longrightarrow p_1, \dots, p_n$  in Figure 4.7: derive  $\square$ , the empty clause, from (i) a proof of the partial clause  $p$  and (ii) a proof of  $\square$  from the partial clauses  $p_1, \dots, p_n$ . We provide one example of these proof rules in Figure 4.8, namely the one for **rename**; the other proof rules are similar. In the figure, the type **formSeq** for sequences of formulas has two constructors, analogous to the usual ones for lists. The constructor **pc\_holds** is the analogous of **holds**, but for partial clauses—it denotes a proof of the partial clause  $(\Phi; c)$  for every sequence  $\Phi$  of formulas and clause  $c$ . Note how the requirement in **rename** that the variable  $v$  be fresh is achieved at the meta-level in the LFSC proof rule with the use of a  $\Pi$ -bound variable.

```

(declare formula type)
(declare not (! phi formula formula)
(declare and (! phi formula (! phi formula formula))
(declare or (! phi formula (! phi formula formula))

(declare formSeq type)
(declare empty formSeq)
(declare ins (! phi formula (! Phi formSeq formSeq)))

(declare pc_holds (! Phi formSeq (! c clause type)))

(declare rename (! phi formula (! Phi formSeq (! c clause
(! q (pc_holds (ins phi Phi) c)
(! r (! v var (! r1 (pc_holds Phi (clc (pos v) c))
(! r2 (pc_holds (ins phi empty) (clc (neg v) cln))
(! r3 (pc_holds (ins (not phi) empty) (clc (pos v) cln))
(holds cln))))))
(holds cln))))))

```

Figure 4.8. LFSC proof rule for rename transformation in Figure 4.7

### 4.3.2 Converting Theory Lemmas to Propositional Clauses

When converting input formulas to clause form, SMT solvers also abstract each *theory atom*  $\phi$  (e.g.,  $s = t, s < t$ , etc.) occurring in the input with a unique propositional variable  $v$ , and store the corresponding mapping internally. This operation can be encoded in LFSC using a proof rule similar to `rename` from Figure 4.8, but also incorporating the mapping between  $v$  and  $\phi$ . Figure 4.9 shows the `literal` rule and its LFSC encoding. In particular, SMT solvers based on the *lazy approach* [68, 13] abstract theory atoms with propositional variables to separate propositional reasoning, done by a SAT engine which works with a set of propositional clauses, from theory reasoning proper, done by an internal *theory solver* which works only with sets of *the-*

$$\text{literal } (l, \Phi; c) \implies (\Phi; v, c) \quad (v \text{ is a fresh var})$$

```

(declare literal (! l formula (! Phi formSeq (! c clause
  (! r (pc_holds (ins l Phi) c)
  (! u (! v var (! a (atom v l) (! o (pc_holds Phi (clc (pos v) c))
    (holds cln))))))
  (holds cln))))))

```

Figure 4.9. The literal rule for partial clauses (shown as a rewrite rule) and its LFSC encoding. The bound variable  $a$  of the type “(atom v l)” records the relationship between the (atomic) formula  $l$  and the propositional symbol  $v$  abstracting the formula.

```

(declare th_holds (! phi formula type))

(declare assume_true
  (! v var (! phi formula (! c clause
    (! r (atom v phi)
    (! u (! o (th_holds phi) (holds c))
      (holds (clc (neg v) c))))))))

(declare assume_false
  (! v var (! phi formula (! c clause
    (! r (atom v phi)
    (! u (! o (th_holds (not phi)) (holds c))
      (holds (clc (pos v) c))))))))

```

Figure 4.10. Assumption rules for theory lemmas in LFSC concrete syntax

*ory literals*, theory atoms and their negations. At the proof level, the communication between the theory solver and the SAT engine is established by having the theory solver prove some theory lemmas, in the form of disjunctions of theory literals, whose abstraction is then used by the SAT engine as if it was an additional input clause. A convenient way to produce proofs that connect proofs of theory lemmas with Boolean refutations, which use abstractions of theory lemmas and of clauses derived from the

input formulas, is again to use natural deduction-style proof rules.

Figure 4.10 shows two rules used for this purpose. The rule `assume_true` derives the propositional clause  $\neg v \vee c$  from the assumptions that (i)  $v$  abstracts a formula  $\phi$  (expressed by the type `(atom v  $\phi$ )`) and (ii)  $c$  is provable from  $\phi$ . Similarly, `assume_false` derives the clause  $v \vee c$  from the assumptions that  $v$  abstracts a formula  $\phi$  and  $c$  is provable from  $\neg\phi$ . Suppose  $\psi_1 \vee \dots \vee \psi_n$  is a theory lemma. A proof-producing theory solver can be easily instrumented to prove the empty clause from the assumptions  $\bar{\psi}_1, \dots, \bar{\psi}_n$ , where  $\bar{\psi}_i$  denotes the complement of the literal  $\psi_i$ . This proof can be expressed by the theory solver with nested applications of `assume_true` and `assume_false`, and become a proof of the propositional clause  $l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_n$ , where each  $l_i$  is the propositional literal corresponding to  $\psi_i$ .

**Example 2.** Consider a theory lemma such as  $\neg(s = t) \vee t = s$ , say, for some terms  $s$  and  $t$ . Staying at the abstract syntax level, let  $P$  be a proof term encoding a proof of  $\square$  from the assumptions  $s = t$  and  $\neg(t = s)$ . By construction, this proof term has type `(holds  $\square$ )`. Suppose  $a_1, a_2$  are meta-variables of type `(atom  $v_1$  ( $s = t$ ))` and `(atom  $v_2$  ( $t = s$ ))`, respectively, for some meta-variables  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  of type `var`. Then, the proof term

$$\begin{aligned} &(\text{assume\_true } \_ \_ \_ a_1 (\lambda h_1. \\ &(\text{assume\_false } \_ \_ \_ a_2 (\lambda h_2. P))) \end{aligned}$$

has type `holds ( $\neg v_1 \vee v_2$ )` and can be included in larger proof terms declaring  $v_1, v_2, a_1$ , and  $a_2$  as above. Note that the  $\lambda$ -variables  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  do not need a type annotation here as their types can be inferred from the types of  $a_1$  and  $a_2$ . ■

$$\frac{x - x \leq c \quad \{c < 0\}}{\square} \text{idl\_contra} \qquad \frac{x - y < c \quad \{c - 1 = d\}}{x - y \leq d} \text{lt\_to\_leq}$$

$$\frac{x - y \leq a \quad y - z \leq b \quad \{a + b = c\}}{x - z \leq c} \text{idl\_trans}$$

Figure 4.11. Sample QF\_IDL rules and LFSC encodings. The variables  $x, y, z$  are declared SMT constant symbols and  $a, b, c, d$  are `mpz` numerals.

```
(declare int type)                                (declare as_int (! x mpz int))

(declare idl_contra (! x int (! c mpz
  (! u (th_holds (<= (- x x) (as_int c))) (^ (ifneg c tt ff) tt)
  (holds cln))))))
```

Figure 4.12. LFSC encoding of the `idl_contra` rule. The `as_int` builds a term of the SMT integer type `int` from a `mpz` number; `tt` and `ff` are the constructors of the `bool` predefined type for Booleans.

### 4.3.3 Encoding Integer Difference Logic

The logic QF\_IDL, for *quantifier-free integer difference logic*, consists of formulas interpreted over the integer numbers and restricted (in essence) to Boolean combinations of atoms of the form  $x - y \leq c$  where  $x$  and  $y$  are integer variables (equivalently, free constants) and  $c$  is an integer value, i.e., a possibly negated numeral. Some QF\_IDL rules for reasoning about the satisfiability of sets of literals in this logic are shown in Figure 4.11, in conventional mathematical notation. Rule side conditions are provided in braces, and are to be read as semantic expressions; for example,  $a + b = c$  in a side condition should be read as “ $c$  is the result of adding  $a$  and  $b$ .” Note that the side conditions involve only values, and so can be checked by (simple) computation. The actual language QF\_IDL contains additional atoms be-

sides those of the form of  $x - y \leq c$ . For instance, atoms such as  $x < y$  and  $x - y \geq c$  are also allowed. Typical solvers for this logic use then a number of normalization rules to reduce these additional atoms to the basic form. An example would be rule `lt_to_leq` in Figure 4.11.

Encoding typical QF\_IDL proof rules in LFSC is straightforward thanks to the built-in support for side conditions and for arbitrary precision integers in the side condition language. As an example, Figure 4.12 shows the `idl_contra` rule. Also, a complete example QF\_IDL proof is explained in Appendix A.4.

#### 4.4 Results for QF\_IDL Proof Checking

In this section we provide some empirical results on LFSC proof checking for the logics presented in the previous section. These results were obtained with an LFSC proof checker that we have developed to be both general (i.e., supporting the whole LFSC language) and fast. The tool, which we will refer to as LFSC here, is more accurately described as a *proof checker generator*: given an LFSC signature, a text file declaring a proof system in LFSC format, it produces a checker for that proof system. Some of its notable features in support of high performance proof checking are the compilation of side conditions, as opposed to the incorporation of a side condition language interpreter in the proof checker, and the generation of proof checkers that check proof terms on the fly, as they parse them.

In separate work, we developed an SMT solver for the QF\_IDL logic, mostly to experiment with proof generation in SMT. This solver, called CLSAT, can solve moderately challenging QF\_IDL benchmarks from the SMT-LIB library, namely those clas-

sified with difficulty 0 through 3.<sup>6</sup> We ran CLSAT on the unsatisfiable QF\_IDL benchmarks in SMT-LIB, and had it produce proofs in the LFSC proof system sketched in Section 4.3.3 optimized with the deferred resolution rule described in Section 4.2.2. Then we checked the proofs using the LFSC checker. The experiments were performed on the SMT-EXEC solver execution service.<sup>7</sup> A timeout of 1,800 seconds was used for each of the 622 benchmarks.<sup>8</sup> Table 4.1 summarizes those results for two configurations: `clsat` (r453 on SMT-EXEC), in which CLSAT is run with proof-production off; and `clsat+lfsc` (r591 on SMT-EXEC), in which CLSAT is run with proof-production on, followed by a run of LFSC on the produced proof.

Table 4.1. Summary of results for QF\_IDL (timeout: 1,800 seconds)

Configuration	Solved	Unsolved	Timeouts	Time
<code>clsat</code> (without proofs) (r453)	542	50	30	29,507.7s
<code>clsat+lfsc</code> (r591)	539	51	32	38,833.6s

The **Solved** column gives the number of benchmarks each configuration completed successfully. The **Unsolved** column gives the number of benchmarks each configuration failed to solve before timeout due to CLSAT’s incomplete CNF conversion implementation and lack of arbitrary precision arithmetic. The first configuration

<sup>6</sup> The difficulty values of SMT benchmarks in SMT-LIB range from 0 to 5.

<sup>7</sup> The results are publicly available at the SMT-EXEC service [6] under the job name `clsat-lfsc-2009.8`.

<sup>8</sup> The SMT-LIB library contains 692 benchmarks known to be unsatisfiable. 70 of them have difficulty level 4 or 5, and are excluded in this experiment.

solved all benchmarks solved by the second. The one additional unsolved answer for `clsat+lfsc` is `diamonds.18.10.i.a.u.smt`, the proof of which is bigger than 2GB in size and the proof checker failed on due to a memory overflow. The **Time** column gives the total times taken by each configuration to solve the 539 benchmarks solved by both. Those totals show that the overall overhead of proof generation *and* proof checking over just solving for those benchmarks was 31.6%, which we consider rather reasonable.

For a more detailed picture on the overhead incurred with proof-checking, Figure 4.13 compares proof checking times by `clsat+lfsc` with CLSAT’s solve-only times. Each dot represents one of the 542 benchmarks that CLSAT could solve. The horizontal axis is for solve-only times (without proof production) while the vertical axis is for proof checking times. Both are in seconds on a log scale. It turned out that the proofs from certain families of benchmarks, namely `fischer`, `diamonds`, `planning` and `post_office`, are much more difficult to verify than those for other families. In particular, for those benchmarks proof checking took *longer* than solving. The worst offender is benchmark `diamonds.11.3.i.a.u.smt` whose proof checking time was 2.30s vs 0.2s of solving time. However, the figure also shows that as these benchmarks get more difficult, the relative proof overheads appear to converge towards 100%, as indicated by the dotted line.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> The outlier above the dotted line is `diamonds.18.10.i.a.u.smt`.

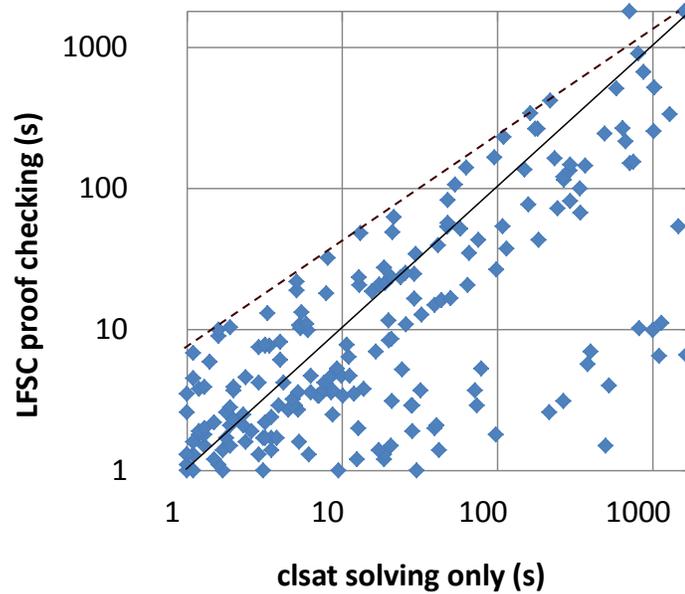


Figure 4.13. Solve-only times versus proof checking times for QF\_IDL

## 4.5 Conclusion

We have argued how efficient and highly customizable proof checking can be supported with the Logical Framework with Side Conditions, LFSC. We have shown how diverse proof rules, from purely propositional to core SMT inferences, can be supported naturally and efficiently using LFSC. Thanks to an optimized implementation, LFSC proof checking times compare very favorably to solving times.

## CHAPTER 5

### VERIFYING MODERN SAT SOLVER USING DEPENDENT TYPES

In this chapter, we report on a verified modern SAT solver, called `versat`. The `versat` program was written in a functional programming language, called GURU. The GURU programming language is designed for verified programming by combining features of general programming languages and interactive theorem provers. Verifying SAT solver's code requires a logic that is completely different from verifying SAT/SMT proofs: a logic for general computations. Interactive theorem provers have sought for logics for computation. Since Scott's logic used  $\lambda$ -calculus to reason about computation, functional programming languages have been used for defining mathematical functions and used in many theorem provers. Beyond mathematics and abstract algorithms, recent studies have applied interactive theorem provers to verify complex properties of large software, such as compilers [50] and operating systems [47].

#### 5.1 The Guru Programming Language

By way of background for the sections on the specification and implementation of `versat` below, we begin with a quick introduction to GURU. GURU is a functional programming language with support for dependent types [12], inductive data types [28], partial functions and resource types [73, 72]. GURU is inspired by the Coq theorem prover for easy type-declaration with inductive data types and rich expressiveness for describing strong software properties with dependent types. In ad-

dition to that, GURU allows for reasoning about partial functions (possibly diverging computations), and efficient code generation by means of resource types.

**Functional programming language.** GURU is a functional programming language, in which  $\lambda$ -abstraction (and  $\mu$ -abstraction for recursive counterpart) is used as the principle of function definition, and reductions (substitution of the  $\lambda/\mu$ -bound variables with a given term) as the principle of function application (call) and evaluation (computation). Reduction steps for applications of the  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  abstractions are shown below:

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda x. t) u &\Rightarrow [u/x]t \\ (\mu f. t) u &\Rightarrow [(\mu f. t)/f]t u \end{aligned}$$

The bracket expression  $[u/x]t$  means that every free occurrence of variable  $x$  of the term  $t$  is replaced with the term  $u$ . The  $\mu$ -abstraction above represents a recursive function, in which the variable  $f$  represents the function itself. So, the reduction step replicates the function in place of all the occurrences of  $f$ .

Like Coq, GURU supports inductive data types. An inductive data type defines the symbols and grammar of terms that belong to the type. With inductive type definitions, programs can pattern-match on first-order variables, which is essentially the same as case-splitting on the possible top-level symbols of any term in place of the variables.

**Operational semantics.** GURU has a deterministic operational semantics, namely *call-by-value* (CBV, for short) semantics, in which function arguments are evaluated first before the function is applied. GURU is a *pure* functional language in the sense

that program execution is not affected by any implicit states like memory content or I/O states, other than the program term itself. Thus, any evaluations of the given term always yields the same value.

**Dependent types.** As in the LFSC language, GURU is based on the  $\lambda\Pi$ -calculus and supports dependent types.  $\Pi$ -abstracted types create type families indexed by types (i.e.  $\Pi x : \text{type}. T[x]$ ) or terms (i.e.  $\Pi x : T'. T[x]$ ), which are called polymorphic and dependently typed, respectively. A type defines a set of terms/functions, and various properties of terms and functions can be described using types. Dependent type systems are very expressive, because one can use the same syntax for terms, like inductive data types and pattern matching, to define types. So, dependent type system brings together the language for terms and types.

**Logic.** The logic (the inference rules) of GURU is a first order logic with equality. GURU provides a nice syntax for equality atoms and quantifiers (universal and existential). In addition to the usual reflexivity, transitivity and congruence rules, GURU adds a provable equality over evaluation. A term is provably equal to the evaluated term.<sup>1</sup> Thus, evaluating a term not only results in a value, but also admits the fact that the term is equal to the resulting value. GURU's induction rule allows for reasoning about recursive functions by induction on the first-order input arguments

---

<sup>1</sup> In fact, each step of evaluation is equal to the previous step, not just fully evaluated term. Thus, the sequence of evaluations is a chain of equal terms, just like simplification steps in Mathematics.

of functions. Note that every function argument is considered a finite value <sup>2</sup>, which is always true because function arguments are evaluated before their evaluated terms (values) are passed to the function. <sup>3</sup>

**Partial functions.** Unlike Coq, which systematically restricts all functions to be total, GURU allows for general recursion (arbitrary  $\mu$ -abstraction without any syntactic restrictions). Thus, one can express looping (or diverging) terms and partial functions. The advantage is that writing programs in GURU is easier than in Coq. It is often very hard to show a function is total, which can be too costly for prototyping purposes and simple scripting needs. Also, termination may not be the most important aspect of software, depending on the type of software. A SAT solver is a good example: the SAT solver’s algorithm is terminating in theory; however, SAT solvers are not expected to solve every formula in practice. Statistical evidence of the performance will be more meaningful for this kind of software than the guarantee of termination. On the other hand, partial functions make typing and inference rules more complicated. Notably, indexed types and quantifier instantiations only allow *values* (fully evaluated finite terms) to apply. GURU checks if each term being used as an argument in such situations is indeed a value. One may prove a given term is a value, using a *termination proof*. Also, a function may be proved to be total by inductively showing that for all inputs, the function always returns a value. Once

---

<sup>2</sup> A value is a term that cannot be evaluated any further

<sup>3</sup> Because GURU supports partial function and the evaluation of term may not terminate, properties of functions are valid under the condition that their arguments are indeed terminating.

functions are proved to be total and registered with GURU, any applications of those functions to values are automatically accepted as values. Thus, even though not required, it is often convenient to prove some functions to be total, especially, if they are used in the context of types and proofs.

**Resource types.** GURU’s resource type system [72] is a separate typing system from the regular type system mentioned above. It is a static analysis designed to define resource (memory) management policies and direct the GURU compiler to optimize the generated machine code.<sup>4</sup> One good example is a linear typing-like policy with separate reader/writer references. With this policy, a memory object can have at most one writer reference, and the object can be destructively updated with the writer reference. Any number of reader references to the same object can be created (for example, passing the object to other functions); however, the writer reference will be locked until all the reader references are disposed. Such a policy is encoded as a resource type in the GURU standard library, and prominently used in `versat` to efficiently manage its data structures.

### 5.1.1 The GURU Syntax

In this section, we explain the GURU syntax by example. More detailed definition of the syntax is presented in Appendix B.1. Figure 5.1 shows the definitions of natural numbers (Peano numbers) as an inductive type, and the `isZ` and `plus` function

---

<sup>4</sup> GURU compiles programs into the C programming language, and then into the machine code by a standard C compiler. GURU also features some basic optimizations including *tail-recursion*.

```

Inductive nat : type :=
  Z : nat
  | S : Fun(x:nat). nat

Define isZ := fun(x:nat).
  match x with
    Z   => tt
  | S x' => ff
  end

Define plus := fun f(n m : nat) : nat.
  match n with
    Z   => m
  | S n' => (S (f n' m))
  end

```

Figure 5.1. Sample GURU definitions

in the GURU's concrete syntax. The `Inductive` command declares a new type (in this case, `nat`, which is a type – thus, it has the type `type`). The `Z` and `S` are the two symbols (or *constructors*) for the terms of the `nat` type. `Z` is a constant symbol and `S` is a unary function symbol, indicated by the type `Fun(x:nat).nat`, which is  $\Pi x : nat. nat$  in the abstract syntax. And the `Define` command defines a new symbol. In the example above, `isZ` is defined as a non-recursive function, and `plus` is defined as a recursive function. The `fun` keyword stands for the  $\lambda$ -abstraction in the concrete syntax with multiple  $\lambda$ s (with the same type of variables) compressed with one `fun`. For example,  $\lambda x : nat. \lambda y : nat. t$  can be written as `fun(x y:nat). t`. The `match...with` expression is used for case-splitting on a first-order variable with the cases corresponding to each of the variable type's constructors. The `match...with` expression is followed by a series of case-expressions separated by the bar (`|`) character

and the `end` keyword. Each case starts with a constructor symbol. If the constructor has a function type, variables representing the arguments to the constructor should follow the constructor symbol. The arguments to constructors are also called *subdata* of the term being matched on (or the *scrutinee*). Then, an arrow symbol (`=>`) and the subprogram for the case follow. The constructors `tt` and `ff` are for the `bool` (Boolean) type, defined in the GURU standard library. For recursive functions, a name follows the `fun` keyword (like `f` for the `plus` definition), and the return type of the function should be stated (like `: nat` for `plus`), which is necessary for decidable type checking. The name following `fun` is the  $\mu$  bound variable and used for the recursive reference of the function itself. Finally, function applications  $t u$  are written as `(t u)`, where parentheses are strictly required. Also, type-level applications are written as `<t u>`, where the type of `t` is a  $\Pi$ -abstraction.

### 5.1.2 Verified Programming in GURU

In GURU, programs can be verified both *externally* (as in traditional theorem provers), and *internally* (cf [9]). For a standard example of the difference, suppose we wish to prove that the result of appending two lists has length equal to the sum of the input lengths.

External verification of this property may proceed like this. First, we define the type of `append` function on lists. In GURU syntax, the typing for this `append` function is:

```
append : Fun(A:type)(l1 l2 : <list A>). <list A>
```

This says that `append` accepts a type `A`, and lists `l1` and `l2` holding elements of type

A, and produces another such list. To verify the desired property, we write a proof in GURU’s proof syntax of the following formula:

```
forall(A:type)(l1 l2:<list A>).
  { (length (append l1 l2)) = (plus (length l1) (length l2)) }
```

The equality listed expresses, in GURU’s semantics, that the term on the left-hand side evaluates to the same value as the term on the right-hand side. So the formula states that for all types A, for all lists l1 and l2 holding elements of that type, calling the `length` function on the result of appending l1 and l2 gives the same result as adding the lengths of l1 and l2. This is the external approach.

With internal verification, we first define an alternative *indexed* datatype for lists. A type index is a program value occurring in the type, in this case the length of the list. We define the type `<vec A n>` to be the type of lists storing elements of type A, and having length n, where n is a natural number:

```
Inductive vec : Fun(A:type)(n:nat).type :=
  vecn : Fun(A:type). <vec A Z>
| vecc : Fun(A:type)(spec n:nat)(a:A)(l:<vec A n>). <vec A (S n)>
```

This states that `vec` is inductively defined with constructors `vecn` and `vecc` (for `nil` and `cons`, respectively). The return type of `vecc` is `<vec A (S n)>`, where `S` is the successor function. So the length of the list returned by the constructor `vecc` is one greater than the length of the sublist `l`. Note that the argument `n` (of `vecc`) is labeled “`spec`”, which means *specificational*. GURU will enforce that no run-time results will depend on the value of this argument, thus enabling the compiler to erase all values for that parameter in compiled code.

We can now define the type of `vec_append` function on vectors:

```
vec_append : Fun(A:type)(spec n m:nat)
             (l1:<vec A n>)(l2:<vec A m>). <vec A (plus n m)>
```

This type states that `append` takes in a type `A`, two specificational natural numbers `n` and `m`, and vectors `l1` and `l2` of the corresponding lengths, and returns a new vector of length `(plus n m)`. This is how internal verification expresses the relationship between lengths which we proved externally above. Type-checking code like this may require the programmer to prove that two types are equivalent. For example, a proof of commutativity of addition is needed to prove `<vec A (plus n m)>` equivalent to `<vec A (plus m n)>`. Currently, these proofs must mostly be written by the programmer, using special proof syntax, including syntax for inductive proofs.

## 5.2 Formalizing Correct SAT Solvers

The main property of `versat` is the soundness of the solver on top of the basic requirements of GURU, such as memory safety and array-bounds checking. We encoded the underlying logic of SAT in GURU to reason about the behavior of the SAT solver. That encoding includes the representation of formulas and the deduction rules. For a “UNSAT” answer, our specification requires that there exists a derivation proof of the empty clause from the input formula. Note that most solvers can generate a model with a “SAT” answer and those models can be checked very efficiently. So, we do not think there is a practical advantage for statically verifying the soundness of “SAT” answers. Also, it is important to note that the specification is the only part we need to trust. So, it should be clear and concise. The specification of `versat` is only 259 lines of GURU code. The rest of `versat` is the actual implementation and

the proof that the implementation follows the specification, which will be checked by the GURU type system.

### 5.2.1 Representation of CNF Formulas

The representation of formulas in DPLL-style SAT algorithms is in Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF). The DIMACS benchmark format for the SAT competition is also in CNF. A CNF propositional formula is a conjunction of clauses, where clauses are disjunction of literals, and literals are just variables or the negations of variables. The `formula` type represents CNF formulas, and it is defined using simple data structures: 32 bit unsigned integers for literals and lists for clauses and formulas. The lower 31 bits of the literal represent the variable number, and the most significant bit represents the polarity (whether or not the variable is negated). Mainstream SAT solvers written in C/C++ use the `int` (32-bit signed machine integer) type, where negative numbers represent negated variables. The definition of `lit` in `versat` closely models the behavior of mainstream SAT solvers.<sup>5</sup> The GURU definitions of those types are listed below:

```
Define lit := word
Define clause := <list lit>
Define formula := <list clause>
```

The `word` type is defined in the GURU standard library and represents 32 bit unsigned integers (see Appendix B.2 for the definitions of `word` and `list`). Clauses are lists of literals. Formulas are lists of clauses. We emphasize that these simple data structures

---

<sup>5</sup> Negating literals performed by `versat` is flipping the most significant bit of machine word (unsigned integer). On the other hand, the negation of signed integer as performed in mainstream SAT solvers is two's complement.

are only for specification. Section 5.3 describes how our verification relates them to efficient data structures in the actual implementation.

### 5.2.2 Deduction Rules

There are different ways to specify the unsatisfiability of formulas. One is a model theoretic (semantic) definition, saying no model satisfies the formula, or  $\Phi \models \perp$ . Another is a proof theoretic (syntactic) one, saying the empty clause (False) can be deduced from the formula or  $\Phi \vdash \perp$ . In propositional logic, the above two definitions are equivalent. In **versat**, we have taken a weaker variant of the proof theoretic definition,  $\Phi \vdash_{res} \perp$  where only the resolution rule is used to refute the formula. Because  $\vdash_{res}$  is strictly weaker than  $\vdash$ ,  $\Phi \vdash_{res} \perp$  still implies  $\Phi \models \perp$ . So, even though our formalization is proof theoretic, it should be possible to prove that our formalization satisfies a model theoretic formalization.

The **pf** type encodes the deduction rules of propositional logic, and **pf** objects represents proofs. Figure 5.2 shows the definition of **pf** type and its helper functions. **c1\_subsume** is a predicate that means **c1** subsumes **c2**, expressed using just a subset function on lists defined in GURU's standard library. And **is\_resolvent** is a predicate that means **r** is a resolvent of **c1** and **c2** over the literal **l**. Additionally, **c1\_has** checks that the clause contains the given literal, and **c1\_erase** removes all the occurrences of the literal in the clause. Also, **tt** and **ff** are Boolean values defined in the library. The `<pf F C>` type stands for the set of proofs that the formula **F** implies the clause **C**. Members of this type are constructed as derivation trees for the clause. Because this proof tree will not be generated and checked at run-time, the type requires the

```

Define eq_lit := eqword
Define eq_clause := (eqlist lit eqword)

Define cl_has := fun(c:clause)(l:lit). (member lit l c eq_lit)
Define cl_erase := fun(c:clause)(l:lit). (erase lit eq_lit l c)
Define cl_subsume := fun(c1:clause)(c2:clause).
  (list_subset lit eq_lit c1 c2)

Define is_resolvent := fun(r:clause)(c1:clause)(c2:clause)(l:lit).
  (and (and (cl_has c1 (negated l))
            (cl_has c2 l))
        (and (cl_subsume (cl_erase c1 (negated l)) r)
              (cl_subsume (cl_erase c2 l) r))))

Inductive pf : Fun(F : formula)(C : clause).type :=
  pf_asm : Fun(F : formula)(C:clause)
    (u : { (member C F eq_clause) = tt }). <pf F C>
| pf_sub : Fun(F : formula)(C C' : clause)
  (d : <pf F C'>)
  (u : { (cl_subsume C' C) = tt }). <pf F C>
| pf_res : Fun(F : formula)(C C1 C2 : clause)(l : lit)
  (d1 : <pf F C1>)(d2 : <pf F C2>)
  (u : { (is_resolvent C C1 C2 l) = tt }). <pf F C>

```

Figure 5.2. Encoding of the inference system (pf) and its helper functions

proper preconditions at each constructor. GURU's type system ensures that those proof objects are valid by construction.

The `eqword`, `member`, and `erase` functions are defined in the GURU standard library (see Appendix B.2 for their definitions). The `pf_asm` constructor stands for the assumption rule, which proves any clause in the input formula. The `member` function looks for the clause `C` in the formula, returning `tt` if so. The `pf_sub` constructor stands for the subsumption rule. This rule allows to remove duplicated literals or change the order of literals in a proven clause. Note that the constructor requires a

```

Inductive answer : Fun(F:formula).type :=
  sat : Fun(spec F:formula).<answer F>
| unsat : Fun(spec F:formula)(spec p:<pf F (nil lit)>).<answer F>

```

Figure 5.3. Definition of the `answer` type

proof `d` of `C'` and a precondition `u` that `C'` subsumes `C`. Finally, `pf_res` stands for the resolution rule. It requires two clauses (`C1` and `C2`) along with their proofs (`d1` and `d2`) and the precondition `u` that `C` is a resolvent of `C1` and `C2` over the literal `l`.

### 5.2.3 The `answer` Type

In order to enforce soundness, the implementation is required to have a particular return type, called `answer`. So, if the implementation type checks, it is considered valid under our specification. Figure 5.3 shows the definition of the `answer` type. The `answer` type has two constructors (or values): `sat` and `unsat`. The `unsat` constructor holds two subdata: the input formula `F` and a proof `p` of the empty clause. The formula `F` is required to make sure the proof indeed proves the input formula. The term `(nil lit)` means the empty list of literals, meaning the empty clause. By constructing a value of the type `<pf F (nil lit)>`, we know that the empty clause is derivable from the original formula. Note that the proof `p` is marked as specificational using the `spec` keyword. The type checker still requires the programmer to supply the `spec` arguments. However, those arguments will be erased during compilation. We only care about the existence of such data, not the actual value. By constructing proofs only from the invariants of the solver, GURU's type system confirms that such proofs could always be constructed without fail. So, making them specificational,

hence not computing them at run-time, is sound. Now, the typing of the SAT solver implementation, `solve` using the `answer` type is following:

```
solve : Fun(nv:word)(F:formula). <answer F>
```

The extra argument `nv` stands for the number of variables in the formula, which is stated in the given DIMACS benchmark file. This number is used for determining the size of various data structures such as look-up tables in `versat`. Also, note that the dependent typing makes sure that the formula that the `answer` type is talking about is indeed the input formula, not just any formula.

#### 5.2.4 Parser and Entry Point

The formula type above is still in terms of integer and list data structures, not a stream of characters as stored in a benchmark file. The benchmark file has to be translated to GURU data structure before it can be reasoned about. So, we include a simple recursive parser for the DIMACS standard benchmark format, which amounts to 145 lines of GURU code, as a part of our specification. It might be possible to reduce this using a verified parser generator, but we judge there to be more important targets of further verification. Similarly, the main function is considered a part of the specification, as the outcome of the `solve` function is an `answer` value, not the action of printing "SAT" or "UNSAT". The main function simply calls the parser, passes the output to the `solve` function, and prints the answer as a string of characters.

### 5.3 Implementation and Invariants

The specification in Section 5.2 does not constrain the details of the implementation very much. For a trivial example, a solver that just aborted immediately on every input formula would satisfy the specification. So would a solver that used the naive data structures for formulas, or a naive solving algorithm. Therefore, we have imposed an additional informal constraint on `versat`, which is that it should use efficient low-level data structures, and should implement a number of the essential features of modern SAT solvers. The features implemented in `versat` are conflict analysis, clause learning, backjumping, watched literals, and basic decision heuristics. Also, each of these features is implemented using the same efficient data structures that can be found in a C-language implementation like `tinisat` or `minisat`. However, implementing more features and optimizations make it more difficult to prove the soundness property.

Modern SAT solvers are driven by conflict analysis, during which a new clause is deduced and recorded to guide the search. Thus, the critical component for soundness is the conflict analysis module, which can be verified, to some extent, in isolation from the rest of the solver. Verifying that every learned clause is a consequence of the input clauses ensures the correctness of UNSAT answers from the solver, in the special case of the empty clause. Using the internal-verification approach described in the previous section, the conflict analysis module enforces soundness by requiring that with each learned clause added to the clause database, there is an accompanying specification proof (the `pf` datatype described in Section 5.2). In this section, we

```

Inductive aclause : Fun(nv:word)(F:formula).type :=
  mk_acleave : Fun(spec n:word)(l:<array lit n>)
    (spec nv:word)(spec F:formula)
    (u1:{ (array_in_bounds nv l) = tt })
    (spec c:clause)(spec pf_c:<pf F c>)
    (u2:{ c = (to_cl l) }).
<acleave nv F>

```

Figure 5.4. Definition of the array-based clauses and invariants (`acleave`)

explain some of the run-time clause data structure along with the invariants, and the conflict analysis implementation.

### 5.3.1 Array-based Clauses and Invariants

In the specification, the data structure for clauses is (singly linked) list, which is straightforward to reason about. However, accessing elements in a list is not as efficient as an array. The elements of an array are more likely in the same cache line, which leads to a faster sequential access, as elements in a linked list are not. Also arrays will use less memory than lists because of the extra storage for pointers. So, at the implementation level, `versat` uses array-based clauses with invariants as defined in Figure 5.4. An `<array lit n>` object stands for an array of literals of size `n`, where `n` has the type `word`. The variable `nv` represents the number of different variables in the formula `F`. It is also the maximum possible value for variable numbers as defined in the DIMACS file format (variables are named from 1 up to `nv`). The predicate `(array_in_bounds nv l)` used in the invariant `u1` means every variable in the array `l` is less than or equal to `nv` and not equal to zero. The invariant `u1` is used to avoid run-time checks for array bounds when accessing a number of look-up tables indexed

by the variable number, such as the current assignment value, the reference to the antecedent clauses, and the decision level for a given variable.

The array `l` is implicitly null-terminated. The word value zero (the null literal) is used as the termination marker of a given array. The null literal should be present within the bounds of the array, and only the literals up to the null literal make up the clause.<sup>6</sup> Null-terminated arrays are used in most of mainstream SAT solvers to store clauses for simplicity and performance of accessing clauses. By having an array null-terminated, the end of the array can be detected during sequential access, without a separate variable storing the length of the array. Note that the variable `n` is marked as specification, so the length of the array `l` is not traced at runtime. Interestingly, the null-termination property of the array `l` is implied by the invariant `u1`. The `array_in_bounds` function is a partial function that returns a boolean value only for properly null-terminated arrays; otherwise, the return value is undefined. Thus, from the invariant `u1`, which states that the function returned the `tt` value, it can be proved that the array `l` is null-terminated.<sup>7</sup> The difficulty of using a null-terminated array is that we need to prove array accesses up to the null literal are indeed within bounds of the array. The following lemma (proved in GURU) states that if an array-based clause has the invariant `u1`, its length is strictly greater than zero.

---

<sup>6</sup> The rest of the array after the null literal is ignored, if any. In fact, `versat` always allocate an array just big enough to contain the clause and the null literal.

<sup>7</sup> In fact, the null-termination is also implied by `u2` as well, because the `to_c1` function is a partial function only defined for null-terminated arrays.

```

Forall(nv:word)
  (n:word)(l:<array lit n>)
  (u1:{ (array_in_bounds nv l) = tt }).
  { (ltword word0 n) = tt }

```

The `word0` value stands for the machine word zero (of the `word` type). The `ltword` is the less-than predicate (a Boolean function in GURU) for machine words. According to this theorem, accessing the first item (indexed by zero) of an array-based clause is always within bounds. In `versat`, we also proved that (informally speaking) “if the first item of a null-terminated array is not null, the rest of the array is also null-terminated.” Thus, we can access the second item as long as the first item is not null, and so on. The second invariant `u2` states that the clause `c`, which is proved by `pf_c`, is the same as the interpretation of `l`, where `to_cl` is our interpretation of a null-terminated sequence from the beginning of an array as a list.

At the beginning of execution, `versat` converts all input clauses into `<aclause nv F>` objects. In order to satisfy the invariants, the conversion function checks that every variable is within bounds and internally proves that the interpretation of the output array is exactly the same as the input list-based clause. Then, every time a new clause is learned, a new `<aclause nv F>` object is created and stored in the clause database. Remember the soundness of the whole solver requires a `<pf F (nil lit)>` object, which is a proof of the list-based empty clause. Assume we derived the empty array-based clause at run-time. From the invariant `u2`, we know that there exists an interpretation of the array clause. The following theorem states that the only possible interpretation of the empty array is the empty list, `(nil lit)`.

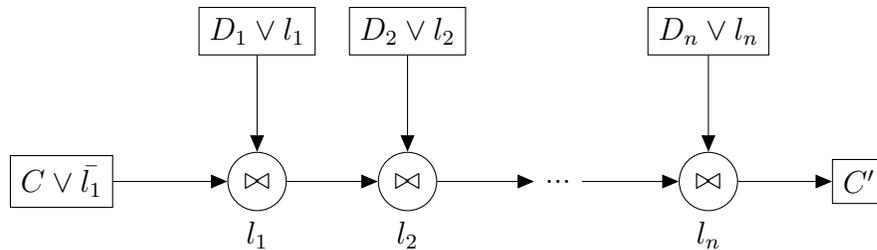


Figure 5.5. Conflict analysis — a linear sequence of resolutions. The  $\bowtie$  symbol represent the operation of resolution, and  $l_i$  are the pivot literals to be resolved out.  $C \vee \bar{l}_1$  is the initial input to conflict analysis (the *conflicting clause*).  $D_i \vee l_i$  clauses are clauses from the clause database.  $C'$  is the result of conflict analysis, called the *conflict clause*.

```

Forall(n:word)(l:<array lit n>
  (u:{ (eq_lit (array_get 1 word0) lit_null) = tt }).
  { (to_cl l) = nil }

```

Now, we can conclude that the interpretation is indeed the empty list-based clause, which is valid according to another invariant `pf_c`. Thus, it suffices to compute the empty array-based clause (with all its invariants preserved) to prove the empty list-based clause as required for creating the `unsat` value of the `answer` type.

### 5.3.2 Conflict Analysis with Optimized Resolution

The conflict analysis is where a SAT solver deduces a new clause from the existing set of clauses by resolution. Essentially, a series of resolutions are applied until the first unique implication point (UIP) clause is derived as shown in Figure 5.5. In order to speed up the resolution sequence, advanced solvers like `minisat` use a number of related data structures to represent the intermediate conflict clauses and perform resolutions efficiently. In `versat`, we implemented this optimized resolution and proved the implementation is sound according to the simple definition of

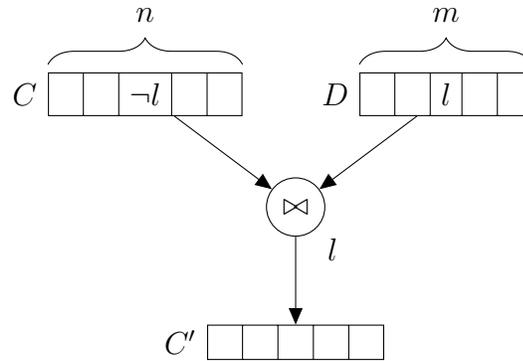


Figure 5.6. Naive implementation of resolution. The resolvent  $C'$  is computed by copying the literals from  $C$  except for  $\neg l$  and copying the literals from  $D$  except for  $l$ .  $n$  and  $m$  are the lengths of  $C$  and  $D$ . The time complexity is linear in  $n + m$ .

`is_resolvent` in the specification.

Figure 5.6 shows a naive implementation of resolvent computation. The time complexity of this implementation is linear in the lengths of the two input clauses,  $O(n + m)$ . Mainstream SAT solvers improve the time complexity to  $O(m)$  using a combination of techniques. In addition to the speed-up, we want to avoid duplicated literals in the resolvent  $C'$ . Otherwise, the result of conflict analysis will contain many duplicate literals, which take up memory space and processing time. Duplication removal can be easily achieved by using a look-up table shown in Figure 5.7. The look-up table  $L$  indexes the content of  $C'$ , and effectively duplicates the content of  $C'$  in a different layout in memory.<sup>8</sup> Whenever a literal is inserted to the resolvent  $C'$ , we use the table  $L$  to see if the literal is already present in  $C'$ , so that we can avoid adding duplicate literals to  $C'$ . To prove this resolvent computation is correct,

---

<sup>8</sup> Indirection(indexing) and duplication are common in many software engineering techniques.

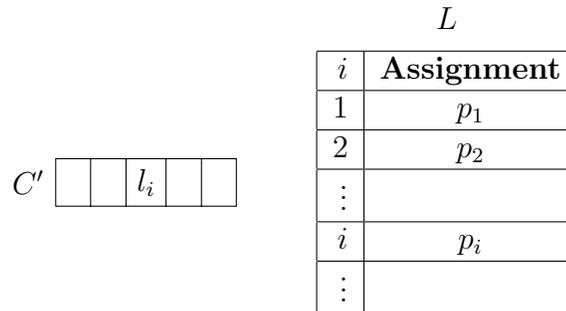


Figure 5.7. Avoiding duplicated literals using a look-up table. The table  $L$  is an array of size  $\mathbf{nv}$  (the number of variables), and indexes the content of  $C'$  by the variable number  $i$ . The variables  $p_i$  are three-state values of **positive**, **negative**, or **unassigned**. The first two values indicate the polarities of a variable appearing in  $C'$  (assuming  $v$  and  $\neg v$  never appear in a clause at the same time). If  $p_i$  is **unassigned**, the variable  $i$  does not appear in the clause  $C'$  neither positively nor negatively.

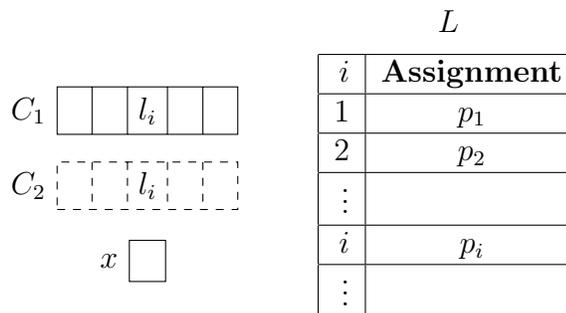


Figure 5.8. Data structure for optimized resolution.  $C'$  is split into two separate parts  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ .  $C_1$  only contains the literals assigned at the current decision level (since the last decision literal is assigned).  $C_2$  contains the rest of the literals from  $C'$ . Note that  $C_2$  is specificational and not created at run-time.  $x$  is a run-time variable containing the length of  $C_2$ .

we need an invariant that the contents of  $C'$  and  $L$  are coherent. An important property of conflict analysis is that the pivot literals (in Figure 5.5) are always the literals that are assigned after the last decision literal. When a SAT solver explores the search space finding a model, it incrementally build partial models by asserting certain literals. There are two different kinds of asserted literals: decision literals and deduced literals. Decision literals are speculatively asserted literals by the SAT solver to find a candidate model. Deduced literals are asserted because they are inferred from the input formula and the other asserted literals. In other words, conflict analysis is a procedure to resolve out the literals asserted since the last decision. That means the SAT solver knows which literals may be removed during conflict analysis at the beginning. Using this property, we can achieve the improved complexity of  $O(m)$ .

Figure 5.8 shows the abstract data structure for the optimized resolution. This data structure represents intermediate clauses deduced by resolution steps. Also, the data structure is reused for the next resolution by destructively updating it, instead of creating a new one. In this version,  $C'$  is split into  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ .  $C_1$  contains the literals assigned before the last decision,  $C_2$  contains the rest of  $C'$ . Only the literals in  $C_2$  may be removed during conflict analysis, and  $C_1$  will only grow. Note that  $C_2$  is specificational data and not created at run-time. Instead, a new run-time variable  $x$  keeps track of the supposed length of  $C_2$ . The length of  $C_2$  is used to check for early termination of conflict analysis. Conflict analysis terminates when it deduces the first UIP clause. A UIP clause has only one literal assigned since the last decision. Thus, as soon as the length of  $C_2$  becomes 1 at the end of resolution, conflict analysis stops.

That is the reason why we monitor the length of  $C_2$ , even though we do not need the content of  $C_2$  at run-time.

Figure 5.9 shows the concrete data structure `ResState` representing intermediate conflict clauses and their invariants, which are maintained after each resolution step over the course of conflict analysis. Those invariants are sufficient to prove the soundness of `versat`'s conflict analysis. Table 5.1 summarizes the variables used in the `ResState` type. The conflict clause is split into the literals assigned at the previous decision levels (`c1`) and the literals assigned at the current level (`c2`) according to the invariant `u5`. So, the complete conflict clause at the time is `(append c1 c2)`. Notice that `c2` is declared as a specificational data with the `spec` keyword. During conflict analysis, `versat` does not build each intermediate conflict clause as a single complete clause. Instead, the whole conflict clause is duplicated in a look-up table (`vt`), and it keeps track of the number of literals assigned at the current level, which is the `c21`, as stated by the invariants `u1`, `u2` and `u3`. The `u2` and `u3` ensure that the conflict clause and the table contain exactly the same set of literals. The look-up table `vt` enables a constant time check whether a literal is in the conflict clause, which makes duplication removal and other operations efficient. And it also enables a constant time removal of a literal assigned at the current level, which can be done by unmarking the literal on the `vt` and decrementing the value of `c21` by one. That also requires all literals in the list `c2` to be distinct (`u4`), so that removing all occurrences of a literal (as in the specification) will decrease the length only by one (in the implementation). Note that, although the type of `c21` is `nat` (the Peano

```

Inductive ResState : Fun(nv:word)(dl:word).type :=
  res_state : Fun
    (spec nv:word)
    (spec dl:word)
    (dls:<array word nv>)
    (vt:<array assignment nv>)
    (c1:clause)
    (spec c2:clause)
    (c2l:nat)
    (u1:{ c2l = (length c2) })
    (u2:{ (all_lits_are_assigned vt (append c2 c1)) = tt })
    (u3:{ (c1_has_all_vars (append c2 c1) vt) = tt })
    (u4:{ (c1_unique c2) = tt })
    (u5:{ (c1_set_at_prev_levels dl dls c1) = tt })
    .<ResState nv dl>

```

Figure 5.9. Definition of conflict analysis state (**ResState**)

number), incrementing/decrementing by one and zero testing are constant time operations just like the machine integer operations. Also, note that, some invariants — e.g. all variables are within bounds — are omitted in the figure for clarity.

For the resolution function, we have proved that the computation of the resolvent between the previous conflict clause and the antecedent clause follows the specification of `is_resolvent`, so that a new `pf` object for the resolvent can be constructed. At the end of the conflict analysis, `versat` will find the Unique Implication Point (UIP) literal, say `l`, and the `ResState` value will have one as the value of `c2l`. Because the UIP literal must be assigned at the current decision level, it should be in `c2` and the length of `c2` is one due to the invariant `u1`. That means actually `c2` is a singleton list that consists of `l`. Thus, the complete conflict clause is `(cons lit l c1)`. Then, an array-base clause can be constructed and stored in the clause database, just

Table 5.1. Summary of variables used in `ResState`

Var	Description
<code>nv</code>	the number of variables in the formula
<code>d1</code>	the current decision level
<code>d1s</code>	a table of the decision levels at which each variable is assigned
<code>vt</code>	a look-up table for the variables in the conflict clause
<code>c1</code>	the literals of the conflict clause assigned at the previous decision levels
<code>c2</code>	the literals of the conflict clause assigned at the current decision level
<code>c2l</code>	the length of <code>c2</code>
<code>u1</code>	the length of the list <code>c2</code> is the same as the value of <code>c2l</code>
<code>u2</code>	all the literals in the conflict clause are marked on the table
<code>u3</code>	all the literals marked on the table are in the conflict clause
<code>u4</code>	all literals in the list <code>c2</code> are unique
<code>u5</code>	all variables in <code>c1</code> are assigned at the previous decision levels

as the input list-based clauses are processed at the beginning of execution. Finally, `versat` clears up the table `vt` by unmarking all the literals to recycle for the next analysis. Instead of sweeping through the whole table, `versat` only unmarks those literals in the conflict clause. It can be proved that after unmarking those literals, the table is clean as new using the invariant `u3` above. Correctness of this clean-up process is proved in around 400 lines of lemmas, culminating in the theorem in Figure 5.10, which states that the efficient table-clearing code (`clear_vars`) returns a table which is indistinguishable from a brand new array (created with `array_new`).

### 5.3.3 Summary of Implementation

The source code of `versat` totals 9884 lines, including proofs. It is hard to separate proofs from code because they can be intermixed within a function. Roughly speaking, auxiliary code (to formulate invariants) and proofs take up 80% of the entire program. The generated C code weighs in at 12712 lines. The C code is self-contained

```

forall (nv:word)
  (vt:<array assignment nv>)
  (c:clause)
  (u:{ (cl_valid nv c) = tt })
  (r:{ (cl_has_all_vars c vt) = tt })
  .{ (clear_vars vt c) = (array_new nv UN) }

```

Figure 5.10. Correctness theorem for table-clearing code

and includes the translations of GURU’s library functions being used. All lemmas used by `versat` have been machine-checked by the GURU compiler.

**Properties not proved.** First, we do not prove termination for `versat`. It could (*a priori*) be the case that the solver diverges on some inputs, and it could also be the case that certain run-time checks we perform (discussed in Section 5.5) fail. These termination properties have not been formally verified. However, what users want is to solve problems in a reasonable amount of time. A guarantee of termination does not satisfy users’ expectations. It is more important to evaluate the performance over real problems as we show in Section 5.4. Second, we have not verified completeness of `versat`. It is (again *a priori*) possible that `versat` reports satisfiable, but the formula is actually unsatisfiable. In fact, we include a run-time check at the end of execution, to ensure that when `versat` reports SAT, the formula does have a model. But it would take substantial additional verification to ensure that this run-time check never fails.

#### 5.4 Results: versat Performance

We compared `versat` to `picosat-936` with proof generation and checking for certified UNSAT answers. `picosat` [19] is one of the best SAT solvers and can generate proofs in the RUP and TraceCheck formats. The RUP proof format [75] is the official format for the certified track of the SAT competition, and `checker3` is used as the trusted proof checker. The TraceCheck format [7] is `picosat`'s preferred proof format, and the format and checker are made by the developers of `picosat`. We measured the runtime of the whole workflow of solving, proof generation, and checking in both of the formats over the benchmarks used for the certified track of the SAT competition 2007. The certified track has not been updated since then.

Table 5.2 shows the performance comparison. The “`versat`” column shows the solving times of `versat`. The “`picosat(R)`” and “`picosat(T)`” columns shows the solving and proof generation times of `picosat` in the RUP format and TraceCheck format, respectively. Since `checker3` does not accept the RUP format directly, `rupToRes` is used to convert RUP proofs into the RES format, which `checker3` accepts. The “`rupToRes`” column shows the conversion times, and the “`checker3`” column shows the times for checking the converted proofs. The “`tracecheck`” column shows the checking times for the proofs in the TraceCheck format. The “`Total(R)`” and “`Total(T)`” shows the total times for solving, proof generation, conversion (if needed), and checking in the RUP format and TraceCheck format, respectively. The unit of the values is in seconds. “T” means a timeout and “E” means a runtime error before timeout. The machine used for the test was equipped with an Intel Core2 Duo T8300

running at 2.40GHz and 3GB of memory. The time limits for solving, conversion, and checking were all 3600 seconds, individually.

`versat` solved 6 out of 16 benchmarks. Since UNSAT answers of `versat` are verified by construction, `versat` was able to certify the unsatisfiability of those 6 benchmarks. `picosat` could solve 14 of them and generated proofs in both of the formats. However, the RUP proof checking tool chain could only verify 4 of the RUP proofs within additional 2 hour timeouts (1 hour for conversion and 1 hour for checking). So, `versat` was able to certify the two more benchmarks that could not be certified using `picosat` and the official RUP proof checking tools. On the other hand, `tracecheck` could verify 12 of 14 TraceCheck proofs. Note that the maximum proof size was about 4GB and the disk space was enough to store the proofs.

When comparing the trusted base of those systems, `versat`'s trusted base is the GURU compiler, some basic datatypes and functions in the GURU library, and 259 lines of specification written in GURU. `checker3` is 1538 lines of C code. `tracecheck` is 2989 lines of C code along with 7857 lines of `boolforce` library written in C. Even though `tracecheck` is the most efficient system, the trusted base is also very large. One could argue that GURU compiler is also quite large (19175 lines of Java). However, because the GURU compiler is a generic system, it is unlikely to generate an unsound SAT solver from the code that it checked, and the verification cost of GURU compiler itself, if needed, should be amortized across multiple applications.

**General performance.** We measured the solving times of `versat`, `minisat-2.2.0`, `picosat-936` and `tinisat-0.22` over the SAT Race 2008 Test Set 1, which was used

Table 5.2. Results for the certified track benchmarks of the SAT competition 2007

Benchmarks	versat	picosat(R)	rupToRes	checker3	Total(R)	picosat(T)	tracecheck	Total(T)
itox_vc965	1.74	0.18	0.88	0.36	1.42	0.18	0	0.18
dspam_dump_vc973	3565	0.57	2.32	0.99	3.88	0.55	0.01	0.56
eq.atree.braun.7.unsat	15.43	2.63	42.13	2.78	47.54	2.92	1.1	4.02
eq.atree.braun.8.unsat	361.11	24.11	642.35	E	E	26.47	9.11	35.58
eq.atree.braun.9.unsat	T	406.94	T	T	T	356.03	62.68	418.71
AProVE07-02	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
AProVE07-15	T	93.94	T	T	T	103.95	20.44	124.39
AProVE07-20	T	262.05	T	T	T	272.39	95.87	368.26
AProVE07-21	T	1437.64	T	T	T	1505.24	E	E
AProVE07-22	T	196.28	T	T	T	239.59	116.8	356.39
dated-5-15-u	T	2698.49	E	E	E	2853.12	E	E
dated-10-11-u	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
dated-5-11-u	T	255.06	E	E	E	266.6	23.36	289.96
total-5-11-u	1777.26	91.27	E	E	E	109.94	32.42	142.36
total-5-13-u	T	560.96	E	E	E	629.53	151.23	780.76
manol-pipe-c10midw_s	772.68	25.46	7.38	1.37	34.21	25.54	0.1	25.64

for the qualification round for the SAT Race 2008. The machine used for the measurement was equipped with an Intel Xeon X5650 running at 2.67GHz and 12GB of memory. The time limit was 900 seconds. In summary, `versat` solved 19 out of 50 benchmarks in the set. `minisat` solved 47. `picosat` solved 46. `tinisat` solved 49. `versat` is not quite comparable with those state-of-the-art solvers, yet. However, to our best knowledge, `versat` is the only verified solver at the actual code level that could solve those competition benchmarks.

## 5.5 Discussion

The idea for the specification was clear, and the specification did not change much since the beginning of the project. However, the hard part was formalizing invariants of the conflict analysis all the way down to the data structures and machine words, let alone actually proving them. Modern SAT solvers are usually small, but highly optimized as several data structures are cleverly coupled with strong invariants. The source code of `minisat` and `tinisat` does not tell what invariants it assumes. As we discovered new invariants, we had to change our verification strategy several times along the development. Sometimes, we compromised and slightly modified our implementation. For example, the look-up table `vt`, used for resolution to test the membership of variable in the current conflict clause, could be an array of booleans. Instead, we used an array of `assignment`, which has three states of positive, negative, and unassigned. The other solvers assume the current assignment table already contains the polarity of each variable, which is an additional invariant. In `versat`, the table marks variables with the polarity, which duplicates information

in the assignment table, avoiding the invariant above.

**Unimplemented features.** Some features not implemented in `versat` includes conflict clause simplification and restart. Conflict clause simplification feature requires to prove that there exists a certain sequence of resolutions that derives the simplified clause. Although the sequence can be computed by topologically sorting the removed literals at run-time, additional invariants would be required to prove it statically.

**Run-time checks.** Certain properties of `versat`'s state are checked at run-time, like `assert` in C. We tried to keep a minimal set of invariants and it is simply not strong enough to prove some properties. Run-time checks makes the solver incomplete, because it may abort. Also, it costs execution time to perform such a check. In principle, all of these properties could be proved statically so that those run-time checks could be avoided. However, stronger invariants are harder to prove. Some would require a much longer development time and may not speed up the solver very much. Thus, the priority is the tight loops in the unit propagation and resolution. However, one-time procedures like initialization and the final conflict analysis are considered a lower priority. We did not measure how much those run-time checks cost, however, `gprof` time profiler showed that they are not bottlenecking `versat`.

**Verified programming in GURU.** GURU is a great tool to implement efficient verified software, and the generated C code can be plugged into other programs. Optimizing software always raises the question of correctness, where the source code can get complicated as machine code. In those situations, GURU can be used to assure

the correctness. However, some automated proving features are desired for general usage. Because `versat` heavily uses arrays, array-bounds checking proliferates, which requires a fair amount of arithmetic reasoning. At the same time, when code changes over the course of development, those arithmetic reasonings are the most affected and need to be updated or proved again. So, automated reasoning of integer arithmetic would be one of the most desired feature of GURU, allowing the programmer to focus on more higher level reasonings.

## 5.6 Conclusion

In our best knowledge, `versat` is the first modern SAT solver that is statically verified to be sound all the way down to machine words and data structures. And the generated C code can be compiled to binary code without modifications or incorporated into other software. We have shown that the sophisticated invariants of the efficient data structures used in modern SAT solvers can be formalized and proved in GURU. Future work includes improving the performance of `versat` by implementing/verifying more advanced SAT solver features, such as conflict clause minimization. And we envision that the code and lemmas in `versat` can be applied to other SAT-related applications, such as an verified efficient RUP proof checker and a verified efficient SMT solver.

## APPENDIX A

## APPENDICES FOR LFSC ENCODINGS

## A.1 Typing Rules of LFSC

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\cdot \text{Ok}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{type} \Rightarrow \mathbf{kind}} \quad \frac{\Gamma \text{ Ok} \quad \Gamma \vdash \tau \Rightarrow \kappa}{\Gamma, y : \tau \text{ Ok}} \quad \frac{\Gamma, x_1 : \tau_1, \dots, x_n : \tau_n, f : k_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow k_n \rightarrow k \text{ Ok} \quad \Gamma, x_1 : \tau_1, \dots, x_n : \tau_n, f : k_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow k_n \rightarrow k \vdash s \Rightarrow k}{\Gamma, f(x_1 : k_1 \dots x_n : k_n) : k = s \text{ Ok}} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \text{ Ok}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{type}^c \Rightarrow \mathbf{kind}} \quad \frac{\Gamma \text{ Ok}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{type}^c \Rightarrow \mathbf{kind}} \quad \frac{\Gamma \text{ Ok} \quad y : \tau \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash y \Rightarrow \tau} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t \Leftarrow \tau}{\Gamma \vdash t : \tau \Rightarrow \tau} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash \tau \Leftarrow \mathbf{type} \quad \Gamma, x : \tau \vdash T \Rightarrow \alpha \quad \alpha \in \{\mathbf{type}, \mathbf{type}^c, \mathbf{kind}\}}{\Gamma \vdash \Pi x : \tau. T \Rightarrow \alpha} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \tau \Rightarrow \Pi x : \tau_1. \kappa \quad \Gamma \vdash t \Leftarrow \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash (\tau t) \Rightarrow [t/x]\kappa} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash \tau_1 \Leftarrow \mathbf{type} \quad \Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash \tau_2 \Rightarrow \mathbf{type} \quad \Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash s \Rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash t \Rightarrow \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \Pi x : \tau_1 \{s t\}. \tau_2 \Rightarrow \mathbf{type}^c} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 \Rightarrow \Pi x : \tau_1. \tau_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 \Leftarrow \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash (t_1 t_2) \Rightarrow [t_2/x]\tau_2} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \tau_1 \Rightarrow \mathbf{type} \quad \Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash t \Rightarrow \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : \tau_1. t \Rightarrow \Pi x : \tau_1. \tau_2} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 \Rightarrow \Pi x : \tau_1 \{s t\}. \tau_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 \Leftarrow \tau_1 \quad |\Gamma| \vdash \varepsilon; [t_2/y]s \downarrow [t_2/y]t; \sigma}{\Gamma \vdash (t_1 t_2) \Rightarrow [t_2/x]\tau_2} \quad \frac{\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash t \Rightarrow \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. t \Leftarrow \Pi x : \tau_1. \tau_2}
\end{array}$$

Figure A.1. Bidirectional typing rules and context rules for LFSC. Letter  $y$  denotes variables and constants declared in context  $\Gamma$ , letter  $T$  denotes types or kinds. Letter  $\varepsilon$  denotes the state in which every variable is unmarked. The kinds  $\mathbf{type}^c$  and  $\mathbf{type}$  are used to distinguish types with side conditions in them from types without.

The typing rules for terms and types, given in Figure A.1, are based on the rules of *canonical forms LF* [77]. They include judgments of the form  $\Gamma \vdash e \Leftarrow T$  for checking that expression  $e$  has type/kind  $T$  in context  $\Gamma$ , where  $\Gamma$ ,  $e$ , and  $T$  are inputs to the judgment; and judgments of the form  $\Gamma \vdash e \Rightarrow T$  for computing a type/kind  $T$  for expression  $e$  in context  $\Gamma$ , where  $\Gamma$  and  $e$  are inputs and  $T$  is output. The contexts  $\Gamma$

map variables and constants to types or kinds, and map constants  $f$  for side condition functions to (possibly recursive) definitions of the form  $(x_1 : \tau_1 \cdots x_n : \tau_n) : \tau = s$ , where  $s$  is a term with free variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , the function's formal parameters.

The three top rules of Figure A.1 define well-formed contexts. The other rules, read from conclusion to premises, induce deterministic type/kind checking and type computation algorithms. They work up to a standard definitional equality, namely  $\beta\eta$ -equivalence; and use standard notation for capture-avoiding substitution ( $[t/x]T$  is the result of simultaneously replacing every free occurrence of  $x$  in  $T$  by  $t$ , and renaming any bound variable in  $T$  that occurs free in  $t$ ). Side conditions occur in type expressions of the form  $\Pi y:\tau_1\{s\}.\tau_2$ , constructing types of kind **type**<sup>c</sup>. The premise of the last rule, defining the well-typedness of applications involving such types, contains a judgement of the form  $\Delta \vdash \sigma; s \downarrow s'; \sigma'$  where  $\Delta$  is a context consisting only of definitions for side condition functions, and  $\sigma$  and  $\sigma'$  are *states*, i.e., mappings from variables to their mark. Such judgment states that, under the context  $\Delta$ , evaluating the expression  $s$  in state  $\sigma$  results in the expression  $s'$  and state  $\sigma'$ . In the application rule,  $\Delta$  is  $|\Gamma|$  defined as the collection of all the function definitions in  $\Gamma$ . Note that the rules of Figure A.1 enforce that bound variables do not have types with side conditions in them—by requiring those types to be of kind **type**, as opposed to kind **type**<sup>c</sup>. An additional requirement is not formalized in the figure. Suppose  $\Gamma$  declares a constant  $d$  with type  $\Pi x_1:\tau_1 \cdots \Pi x_n:\tau_n.\tau$  of kind **type**<sup>c</sup>, where  $\tau$  is either  $k$  or  $(k\ t_1 \cdots t_m)$ . Then neither  $k$  nor an application of  $k$  may be used as the domain of a  $\Pi$ -type. This is to ensure that applications requiring side condition checks never

appear in types. Similar typing rules, included in the appendix, define well-typedness for side condition terms, in a fairly standard way.

The completely standard type-computation rules for code terms are given in Figure A.2. Code terms are monomorphically typed. We write  $N$  for any arbitrary precision integer, and use several arithmetic operations on these; others can be easily modularly added. Function applications are required to be simply typed. In the typing rule for pattern matching expressions, patterns  $P$  must be of the form  $c$  or  $(c\ x_1 \ \dots\ x_m)$ , where  $c$  is a constructor, not a bound variable (we do not formalize the machinery to track this difference). In the latter case,  $\text{ctxt}(P) = \{x_1 : T_1, \dots, x_n : T_n\}$ , where  $c$  has type  $\prod x_1 : T_1. \dots x_n : T_n. T$ . We sometimes write  $(\text{do } C_1\ C_2)$  as an abbreviation for  $(\text{let } x\ C_1\ C_2)$ , where  $x \notin \text{FV}(C_2)$ .

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\Gamma(x) = T}{\Gamma \vdash x \Rightarrow T} \qquad \qquad \qquad \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash N \Rightarrow \text{mpz}} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 \Rightarrow \text{mpz} \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 \Rightarrow \text{mpz}}{\Gamma \vdash t_1 + t_2 \Rightarrow \text{mpz}} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t \Rightarrow \text{mpz}}{\Gamma \vdash -t \Rightarrow \text{mpz}} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash C_1 \Rightarrow T' \quad \Gamma, x : T' \vdash C_2 \Rightarrow T}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{let } x\ C_1\ C_2) \Rightarrow T} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash C_1 \Rightarrow \text{mpz} \quad \Gamma \vdash C_2 \Rightarrow T \quad \Gamma \vdash C_3 \Rightarrow T}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{ifneg } C_1\ C_2\ C_3) \Rightarrow T} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash C \Rightarrow T}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{markvar } C) \Rightarrow T} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 \Rightarrow \prod x : T_1. T_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 \Rightarrow T_1 \quad x \notin \text{FV}(T_2)}{\Gamma \vdash (t_1\ t_2) \Rightarrow T_2} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \Rightarrow \text{type}}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{fail } T) \Rightarrow T} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash C_1 \Rightarrow T' \quad \Gamma \vdash C_2 \Rightarrow T \quad \Gamma \vdash C_3 \Rightarrow T}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{ifmarked } C_1\ C_2\ C_3) \Rightarrow T} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash C \Rightarrow T \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}. (\Gamma \vdash P_i \Rightarrow T \quad \Gamma, \text{ctxt}(P_i) \vdash C_i \Rightarrow T')}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{match } C\ (P_1\ C_1) \ \dots\ (P_n\ C_n)) \Rightarrow T'}
\end{array}$$

Figure A.2. Typing Rules for Code Terms. Rules for the built-in rational type are similar to those for the the integer type, and so are omitted.

## A.2 Formal Semantics of Side Condition Programs

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{\sigma_1; c \downarrow c; \sigma_1} \quad \frac{}{\sigma_1; x \downarrow x; \sigma_1} \quad \frac{\sigma_1; s \downarrow x; \sigma_2}{\sigma_1; (\mathbf{markvar} \ s) \downarrow x; \sigma_2[x \mapsto \neg \sigma_2(x)]} \\
\frac{\sigma_1; s_1 \downarrow r; \sigma_2 \quad r < 0 \quad \sigma_2; s_2 \downarrow s'_2; \sigma_3}{\sigma_1; (\mathbf{ifneg} \ s_1 \ s_2 \ s_3) \downarrow s'_2; \sigma_3} \quad \frac{\sigma_1; s_1 \downarrow r; \sigma_2 \quad r \geq 0 \quad \sigma_2; s_3 \downarrow s'_3; \sigma_3}{\sigma_1; (\mathbf{ifneg} \ s_1 \ s_2 \ s_3) \downarrow s'_3; \sigma_3} \\
\frac{\sigma_1; s_1 \downarrow x; \sigma_2 \quad \sigma_2(x) \quad \sigma_2; s_2 \downarrow s'_2; \sigma_3}{\sigma_1; (\mathbf{ifmarked} \ s_1 \ s_2 \ s_3) \downarrow s'_2; \sigma_3} \quad \frac{\sigma_1; s_1 \downarrow x; \sigma_2 \quad \neg \sigma_2(x) \quad \sigma_2; s_3 \downarrow s'_3; \sigma_3}{\sigma_1; (\mathbf{ifmarked} \ s_1 \ s_2 \ s_3) \downarrow s'_3; \sigma_3} \\
\frac{\sigma_1; s_1 \downarrow s'_1; \sigma_2 \quad \sigma_2; [s'_1/x]s_2 \downarrow s'_2; \sigma_3}{\sigma_1; (\mathbf{let} \ x \ s_1 \ s_2) \downarrow s'_2; \sigma_3} \quad \frac{\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}, (\sigma_i; s_i \downarrow s'_i; \sigma_{i+1})}{\sigma_1; (c \ s_1 \ \dots \ s_n) \downarrow (c \ s'_1 \ \dots \ s'_n); \sigma_{n+1}} \\
\frac{\sigma_1; s \downarrow (c \ s'_1 \ \dots \ s'_n); \sigma_2 \quad \exists i \ p_i = (c \ x_1 \ \dots \ x_n) \quad \sigma_2; [s'_1/x_1, \dots, s'_n/x_n]s_i \downarrow s'; \sigma_3}{\sigma_1; (\mathbf{match} \ s \ (p_1 \ s_1) \ \dots \ (p_m \ s_m)) \downarrow s'; \sigma_3} \\
\frac{\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\} (\Delta \vdash \sigma_i; s_i \downarrow s'_i; \sigma_{i+1}) \quad (f(x_1 : \tau_1 \ \dots \ x_n : \tau_n) : \tau = s) \in \Delta \quad \Delta \vdash \sigma_{n+1}; [s'_1/x_1, \dots, s'_n/x_n]s \downarrow s'; \sigma_{n+2}}{\Delta \vdash \sigma_1; (f \ s_1 \ \dots \ s_n) \downarrow s'; \sigma_{n+2}}
\end{array}$$

Figure A.3. Operational semantics of side condition programs. We omit the straightforward rules for the rational operators  $-$  and  $+$ .

A big-step operational semantics of side condition programs is provided in Figure A.3 using  $\Delta \vdash \sigma; s \downarrow s'; \sigma'$  judgements. For brevity, we elide “ $\Delta \vdash$ ” from the rules when  $\Delta$  is unused. Note that side condition programs can contain unbound variables, which evaluate to themselves. States  $\sigma$  (updated using the notation  $\sigma[x \mapsto v]$ ) map such variables to the value of their Boolean mark. If no rule applies when running a side condition, program evaluation and hence checking of types with side conditions fails. This also happens when evaluating the fail construct (**fail**  $\tau$ ), or when pattern

matching fails. Currently, we do not enforce termination of side condition programs, nor do we attempt to provide facilities to reason formally about the behavior of such programs.

### A.3 Helper Code for Resolution

The helper code called by the side condition program `resolve` of the encoded resolution rule `R` is given in Figures A.4 and A.5. We can note the frequent uses of `match`, for decomposing or testing the form of data. The program `eqvar` of Figure A.4 uses variable marking to test for equality of LF variables. The code assumes a datatype of Booleans `tt` and `ff`. It marks the first variable, and then tests if the second variable is marked. Assuming all variables are unmarked except during operations such as this, the second variable will be marked iff it happens to be the first variable. The mark is then cleared (recall that `markvar` toggles marks), and the appropriate Boolean result returned. Marks are also used by `dropdups` to drop duplicate literals from the resolvent.

### A.4 Small Example Proof

Figure A.6 shows a small QF\_IDL proof. This proof derives a contradiction from the assumed formula

```
(and (<= (- x y) (as_int (~ 1)))
      (and (<= (- y z) (as_int (~ 2)))
            (<= (- z x) (as_int (~ 3)))))
```

The proof begins by introducing the variables `x`, `y`, and `z`, and the assumption (named `f`) of the formula above. Then it uses CNF conversion rules to put that formula into CNF. CNF conversion starts with an application of the `start` rule, which turns the hy-

```

(program eqvar ((v1 var) (v2 var)) bool
  (do (markvar v1)
    (let s (ifmarked v2 tt ff)
      (do (markvar v1) s))))

(program litvar ((l lit)) var
  (match l ((pos x) x) ((neg x) x)))

(program eqlit ((l1 lit) (l2 lit)) bool
  (match l1 ((pos v1) (match l2 ((pos v2) (eqvar v1 v2))
                                ((neg v2) ff)))
    ((neg v1) (match l2 ((pos v2) ff)
                       ((neg v2) (eqvar v1 v2))))))

```

Figure A.4. Variable and literal comparison

pothesis of the input formula (`th_hold`  $\phi$ ) to a proof of the partial clause (`pc_hold` ( $\phi$ ; )).

The `dist_pos`, mentioned also in Section 4.3.1 above, breaks a conjunctive partial clause into conjuncts. The `decl_atom_pos` proof rule introduces new propositional variables for positive occurrences of atomic formulas. The new propositional variables introduced this way are `v0`, `v1`, and `v2`, corresponding to the atomic formulas (let us call them  $\phi_0$ ,  $\phi_1$ , and  $\phi_2$ ) in the original assumed formula, in order. The `decl_atom_pos` rule is similar to `rename` (discussed in Section 4.3.1 above), but it also binds additional meta-variables of type (`atom v  $\phi$` ) to record the relationships between variables and abstracted formulas. So for example, `a0` is of type (`atom v0  $\phi_0$` ). The `clausify` rule turns the judgements of partial clauses with the empty formula sequence (`pc_holds` (; `c`)) to the judgements of pure propositional clauses (`holds c`). Here, this introduces variables `x0`, `x1`, and `x2` as names for the asserted unit clauses  $\phi_0$ ,  $\phi_1$ , and  $\phi_2$ , respectively.

```

(declare Ok type)
(declare ok Ok)

(program in ((l lit) (c clause)) Ok
  (match c ((clc l' c') (match (eqlit l l') (tt ok) (ff (in l c'))))
    (cln (fail Ok))))

(program remove ((l lit) (c clause)) clause
  (match c (cln cln)
    ((clc l' c')
     (let u (remove l c')
       (match (eqlit l l') (tt u) (ff (clc l' u)))))))

(program append ((c1 clause) (c2 clause)) clause
  (match c1 (cln c2) ((clc l c1') (clc l (append c1' c2)))))

(program dropdups ((c1 clause)) clause
  (match c1 (cln cln)
    ((clc l c1')
     (let v (litvar l)
       (ifmarked v
        (dropdups c1')
        (do (markvar v)
            (let r (clc l (dropdups c1'))
              (do (markvar v) ; clear the mark
                  r))))))))))

```

Figure A.5. Operations on clauses

```

(% x int (% y int (% z int
(% f (th_holds (and (<= (- x y) (as_int (~ 1)))
                  (and (<= (- y z) (as_int (~ 2)))
                      (<= (- z x) (as_int (~ 3))))))
(: (holds cln)
(start _ f
(\ f0
(dist_pos _ _ _ _ f0
(\ f1 (\ f2
(decl_atom_pos _ _ _ f1
(\ v0 (\ a0 (\ f3
(clausify _ f3
(\ x0
(dist_pos _ _ _ _ f2
(\ f4 (\ f5
(decl_atom_pos _ _ _ f4
(\ v1 (\ a1 (\ f6
(clausify _ f6
(\ x1
(decl_atom_pos _ _ _ f5
(\ v2 (\ a2 (\ f7
(clausify _ f7
(\ x2
(R _ _ _ x0
(R _ _ _ x1
(R _ _ _ x2
  (assume_true _ _ _ a0 (\ h0
  (assume_true _ _ _ a1 (\ h1
  (assume_true _ _ _ a2 (\ h2
    (idl_contra _ _
      (idl_trans _ _ _ _ _ h0
      (idl_trans _ _ _ _ _ h1
        h2))))))))))
      v2) v1) v0)
))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))

```

Figure A.6. A small QF\_IDL proof

After CNF conversion is complete, the proof derives a contradiction from those asserted unit clauses and a theory clause derived using `assume_true` (see Section 4.3.2) from a theory contradiction. The theory contradiction is obtained with `idl_trans` and `idl_contra` (Section 4.3.3).

## APPENDIX B

### APPENDICES FOR `versat`

#### B.1 Formal Syntax of GURU

**Terms and types.** Figure B.1 shows the syntax for terms and types in GURU. We use a number of meta-variables to denote terms from different syntactic classes. We use  $x$  and  $y$  for variables,  $c$  for term constructors,  $d$  for type constructors, and  $o$  for resource types. The bracket expression  $[t]$  means  $t$  is optional. We write  $\bar{t}$  for a sequence  $t_1 t_2 \cdots t_n$  (for some  $n > 0$ ). For the case of  $(\bar{x}[: \bar{A}])$ , we mean  $(x_1[: A_1])(x_2[: A_2]) \cdots (x_n[: A_n])$ . The `let` term defines  $x$  to be  $t$  within the context of  $t'$ . Unlike variables defined with the `Define` command,  $x$  and  $t$  are not definitionally equal in GURU. Instead, the `by-bound` variable  $y$  is provided as a proof of  $x = t$ , hence the typing is  $y : \{ x = t \}$ . The `by` clause of `match` is similar. The difference is  $x$  and  $y$  for `match` take different classifier in each case  $c_i \bar{x}_i \Rightarrow t_i$ , where  $x$  has a formula type  $\{ t = (c_i \bar{x}_i) \}$  and  $y$  has a formula type proving the type of  $t$  is equal to the type of  $(c_i \bar{x}_i)$ .

**Formulas.** Figure B.2 shows the syntax for formulas in GURU. It provides a language for first-order formulas with equality. Negation is provided in the form of the disequality predicate  $(\neq)$ .

**Commands.** A GURU program is a sequence of commands, shown in Figure B.3. Here,  $G$  ranges over terms, types and type families, formulas, and proofs.  $K$  is for

$$\begin{aligned}
t & ::= x \parallel c \parallel \text{fun } x(\bar{x}[: \bar{A}] )[: T]. t \parallel (t X) \parallel \\
& \quad \text{cast } t \text{ by } P \parallel \text{abort } T \parallel \\
& \quad \text{let } x = t \text{ [by } y] \text{ in } t' \parallel \\
& \quad \text{match } t \text{ [by } x y] \text{ with } c_1 \bar{x}_1 \Rightarrow t_1 \mid \dots \mid c_n \bar{x}_n \Rightarrow t_n \text{ end} \parallel \\
& \quad \text{existse\_term } P t \\
X & ::= t \parallel T \parallel P \\
A & ::= T \parallel \text{type} \parallel F \\
T & ::= x \parallel d \parallel \text{Fun}(x : A). T \parallel \langle T Y \rangle \\
Y & ::= t \parallel T
\end{aligned}$$

Figure B.1. Syntax for GURU terms ( $t$ ) and types ( $T$ ) from the Stump et al.'s paper [72] (slightly simplified).

$$\begin{aligned}
F & ::= \text{Quant}(x : A). F \parallel \{Y_1 \stackrel{?}{=} Y_2\} \parallel \text{True} \parallel \text{False} \\
\text{Quant} & \in \{\text{Forall}, \text{Exists}\} \\
\stackrel{?}{=} & \in \{=, \neq\}
\end{aligned}$$

Figure B.2. Syntax for GURU Formulas ( $F$ )

Define  $c : A := G$ .

Inductive  $d : K := c_1 : D_1 \mid \dots \mid c_k : D_k$ .

where

$$D ::= \text{Fun}(\bar{y} : \bar{A}). \langle d Y_1 \dots Y_n \rangle$$

$$K ::= \text{type} \parallel \text{Fun}(x : B). K$$

$$B ::= \text{type} \parallel T$$

Figure B.3. Syntax for GURU commands from the Stump et al.'s paper [73].

kinds. Type and term constructors are introduced by the `Inductive` command, and defined constants by the `Define` command.

## B.2 Helper Code in the Guru Standard Library

```

Inductive bool : type :=
  ff : bool
| tt : bool

Define primitive word := <vec bool wordlen>

Inductive list : Fun(A:type).type :=
  nil : Fun(A:type). <list A>
| cons : Fun(A:type)(a:A)(l:<list A>). <list A>

Define eqlist :=
  fun eqlist(A:type)(eqA:Fun(x y:A).bool)(l m:<list A>):bool.
  match l with
  nil _ =>
    match m with
    nil _ => tt
    | cons _ _ m' => ff
    end
  | cons _ a l' =>
    match m with
    nil _ => ff
    | cons _ b m' => (and (eqA a b) (eqlist A eqA l' m'))
    end
  end

Define member :=
  fun member(A:type)(x:A)(l:<list A>
    (eqA:Fun(x1 x2:A).bool) : bool.
  match l with
  nil _ => ff
  | cons _ h t => (or (eqA x h) (member A x t eqA))
  end

Define list_all :=
  fun list_all(A:type)(f:Fun(a:A).bool)(l:<list A>) : bool.
  match l with
  nil _ => tt
  | cons _ a l' => match (f a) with
    ff => ff
    | tt => (list_all A f l')
  end
  end
end

```

```
Define list_subset :=
  fun list_subset(A:type)(eqA:Fun(a b:A).bool)(l1 l2:<list A>) : bool.
    (list_all A fun(a:A).(member A a l2 eqA) l1)

Define erase :=
  fun erase(A:type)(eqA:Fun(x1 x2:A).bool)
    (x:A)(l:<list A>) : <list A>.
  match l with
  nil _ => l
  | cons _ y l' =>
    match (eqA x y) with
    ff => (cons A y (erase A eqA x l'))
    | tt => (erase A eqA x l')
    end
  end
end
```

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