



# **Constraint Solving**

René Thiemann and Fabian Mitterwallner based on a previous course by Aart Middeldorp

## Outline

- 1. Summary of Previous Lecture
- 2. Complexity of Simplex Algorithm
- 3. Unsatisfiable Cores and Farkas' Lemma
- 4. Simplex Algorithm for DPLL(*T*)
- 5. Further Reading

### **Difference Logic**

conjunction of constraints of the form  $x - y \le c$  or x - y < c

### **Definition Inequality Graph**

conjunction  $\varphi$  of nonstrict difference constraints

inequality graph of  $\varphi$  contains edge from  $x \xrightarrow{c} y$  for every constraint  $x - y \le c$  in  $\varphi$ 

#### **Theorem**

conjunction  $\varphi$  of nonstrict difference constraints is satisfiable inequality graph of  $\varphi$  has no negative cycle



#### **Bellman-Ford Algorithm**

computes distances in graphs from single source; detects negative cycles

#### **Simplex - Representation**

represent m inequalities using m slack variables  $s_i$  and bounds  $s_i \leq 1 \geq c$ 

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
-x + y \le 1 & & & \\
y \le 4 & & \\
-x - y \le -6 & & \Longrightarrow & \begin{pmatrix}
-1 & 1 \\
0 & 1 \\
-1 & -1 \\
3 & -1
\end{pmatrix} \begin{array}{c}
s_1 \le 1 \\
s_2 \le 4 \\
s_3 \le -6 \\
3 & -1
\end{array}$$

matrix presentation

basic variables 
$$\rightarrow$$
  $\begin{pmatrix} x & y & \leftarrow \text{nonbasic} \text{ variable} \\ s_1 & \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \\ s_4 & 3 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$  meaning of rows: equalities, e.g.,  $s_4 = 3x - 1y$ 

 $x \ v \leftarrow$ **nonbasic** variables

#### **Notation**

- matrix is **tableau**, stored in combination with **bounds** x < / > c and **assignment**
- B is set of **basic variables** (in tableau listed vertically)
- N is set of nonbasic variables (in tableau listed horizontally)

### $\mathbf{DPLL}(T)$ Simplex Algorithm

**Input:** conjunction of LRA atoms  $\varphi$  without < **Output:** satisfiable assignment or unsatisfiable

- 1 transform  $\varphi$  into tableau and bounds
- assign 0 to each variable
- if all basic variables satisfy their bounds then return current (satisfying) assignment
- 4 let  $x_i \in B$  be variable that violates its bounds
- search for suitable variable  $x_j \in N$  for pivoting with  $x_i$
- 6 return unsatisfiable if search unsuccessful
- 7 perform pivot operation on  $x_i$  and  $x_j$
- 9 update assignment
- go to step 3

### $\mathbf{DPLL}(T)$ Simplex Algorithm

$$A\vec{x}_N = \vec{x}_B \tag{1}$$

$$-\infty \le I_i \le x_i \le u_i \le +\infty \tag{2}$$

#### **Invariant**

• (1) is satisfied and (2) holds for all nonbasic variables

## Suitability

• for  $x_i \in B$  violating lower or upper bound, find suitable non-basic variable  $x_j$  such that increase (or decrease) of  $x_j$  is possible w.r.t. bounds of  $x_j$  and helps to solve violation of  $x_i$ 

#### **Pivoting**

- swap basic  $x_i$  and nonbasic  $x_j$ , so  $i \in B$  and  $j \in N$
- reorder row i in tableau to obtain form  $x_i = \dots$  (\*), and substitute (\*) in remaining tableau
- result afterwards: tableau A' where  $j \in B$  and  $i \in N$

#### **Update**

- assignment of  $x_i$  is updated to previously violated bound  $l_i$  or  $u_i$ ,
- assignment of each  $x_k \in B$  is recomputed using A'



nonbasic  $\vec{x}_M$ 

 $\sum_{i=1}^{N} x_{i} \left( \dots A_{ij} \right)$ 

#### $\mathbb{Q}_{\delta}$ : $\delta$ -Rationals

 $\bullet$   $\,\delta\text{-rationals}$  are used for supporting strict inequalities in LRA and difference logic

replace 
$$expr < c$$
 by  $expr \le c - \delta$ 

- ullet  $\delta$  represents some small positive rational number
- ullet computation on  $\mathbb{Q}_\delta$  is done symbolically, e.g., in simplex algorithm
- after solution for  $\mathbb{Q}_{\delta}$  is detected, a concrete  $\delta$  can be computed (exercise)

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### Complexity of DPLL(T) Simplex Algorithm

- input: *m* inequalities using *n* problem variables
- switch to general form: *m* basic variables, *n* nonbasic variables
- number of different tableaux:  $\binom{m+n}{n}$
- number of different configurations:  $\binom{m+n}{n} \cdot 3^n$  (each nonbasic variable gets assigned 0, lower bound, or upper bound)
- consequences
  - bad news 1: assuming termination, obtain exponential worst-case complexity
  - bad news 2: simplex algorithm does not terminate in general
  - good news 1: simplex algorithm terminates using Bland's rule
  - good news 2: worst-case complexity rarely observed, often only  $\mathcal{O}(m)$  many iterations

#### **Bland's Rule**

• in pivoting pick lexicographically smallest  $(x_i, x_j) \in B \times N$  such that  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  are suitable; assumes some fixed order on variables

#### **Example (Felgenhauer and Middeldorp)**

#### **Example (Felgenhauer and Middeldorp)**

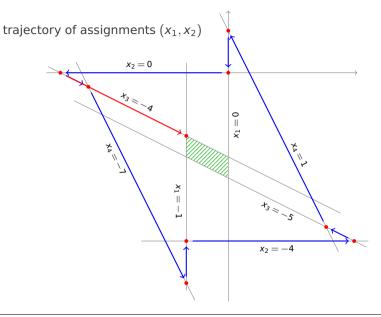
$$-1 \leqslant x_1 \leqslant 0$$

$$-1\leqslant x_1\leqslant 0 \qquad \qquad -4\leqslant x_2\leqslant 0$$

$$-5 \leqslant x_3 \leqslant -4$$

$$-7 \leqslant x_4 \leqslant 1$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_3 & x_2 \\ 1 & -2 \\ -4 & 0 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$



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#### Unsatisfiable Cores for DPLL(T)

- recall: for DPLL(T) it is beneficial if theory solvers produce small unsatisfiable cores
- simplex algorithm can easily identify unsatisfiable cores
- in detail: consider that unsatisfiability is detected via basic variable xi
  - w.l.o.g. we only consider the case  $v(x_i) < l_i$  (the other case is symmetric)
  - in this case tableau contains equation

$$x_i = \sum_{j \in N_{pos}} A_{ij} x_j + \sum_{k \in N_{neg}} A_{ik} x_k$$

such that  $A_{ii} > 0 \land v(x_i) = u_i$  for all  $j \in N_{pos}$  and  $A_{ik} < 0 \land v(x_k) = I_k$  for all  $k \in N_{peg}$ 

then the set of (original) constraints (corresponding to)

$$egin{aligned} x_i &\geq I_i \ x_j &\leq u_j \ x_k &\geq I_k \end{aligned} \qquad & ext{for all } j \in N_{pos} \ & ext{for all } k \in N_{neg} \end{aligned}$$

is an unsatisfiable core

this core is minimal w.r.t. the subset-relation

#### Farkas' Lemma

- consider  $\leq$ -constraints  $\underbrace{-x \leq -5}_{\ell_1 \leq r_1} \land \underbrace{2x + y \leq 12}_{\ell_2 \leq r_2} \land \underbrace{-y \leq -3}_{\ell_3 \leq r_3} \land \underbrace{x 3y \leq 2}_{\ell_4 \leq r_4}$
- alternative way to prove unsatisfiability of constraints  $\ell_1 \leq r_1, \ell_2 \leq r_2, \dots$ 
  - find Farkas' coefficients, i.e., non-negative coefficients  $c_1, c_2, \ldots$  such that

$$\mathbb{Q}\ni\sum_{i}c_{i}\ell_{i}>\sum_{i}c_{i}r_{i}\in\mathbb{Q}$$

• example: choose  $c_1 = 2$ ,  $c_2 = c_3 = 1$ ,  $c_4 = 0$ 

$$2 \cdot (-x) + 1 \cdot (2x + y) + 1 \cdot (-y) + 0 \cdot (x - 3y) = 0 > -1 = 2 \cdot (-5) + 1 \cdot 12 + 1 \cdot (-3) + 0 \cdot 2 = 0$$

- Farkas' Lemma: finite set of ≤-constraints is unsatisfiable iff Farkas' coefficients exists
  - soundness: existence of Farkas' coefficients obviously shows unsatisfiability
  - completeness: if constraints are unsatisfiable, then simplex will detect this; whenever unsatisfiability is detected in simplex algorithm, one can extract Farkas' coefficients from the tableau equation (similar to the detection of unsatisfiable cores, but with finer analysis)

### Example (Application of Linear Arithmetic: Termination Proving)

consider program

```
factorial(n) {
  i = 1;
  r = 1;
  while (i <= n) {
    r = r * i;
    i = i + 1; }
  return r;</pre>
```

•  $\varphi$  describes one iteration of loop (primed variables store values after iteration)

$$\varphi := i < n \land i' = i + 1 \land r' = r \cdot i \land n' = n$$

- proving termination: find linear ranking function, i.e., linear expression e(i, n, r), decrease factor d with  $0 < d \in \mathbb{Q}$ , and bound  $f \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that
- $\varphi \to e(i, n, r) \ge e(i', n', r') + d$  (expression decreases in every iteration by at least d)
    $\varphi \to e(i, n, r) \ge f$  (expression is bounded from below by f)

### **Example (Termination Proof Continued)**

- loop iteration  $\varphi := i < n \land i' = i + 1 \land r' = r \cdot i \land n' = n$
- proving termination by validity of formulas

$$\varphi \to e(i, n, r) \ge e(i', n', r') + d$$
  $\varphi \to e(i, n, r) \ge f$ 

is equivalent to unsatisfiability of negated formulas

$$\varphi \wedge e(i, n, r) < e(i', n', r') + d$$
  $\varphi \wedge e(i, n, r) < f$ 

- choose linear ranking function e(i, n, r) := n i and d := 1 and f = -1, and drop all non-linear constraints to get two linear problems:
  - $i < n \land i' = i + 1 \land n' = n \land n i < n' i' + 1$

(violate decrease)

•  $i < n \land i' = i + 1 \land n' = n \land n - i < -1$ 

(violate boundedness) both problems are unsatisfiable over  $\mathbb O$  (just run simplex), so termination is proved

- problem: how to find linear expression e(i, n, r) and constants d and f?
- solution: combined search for e(i, n, r), d and f and Farkas' coefficients

### **Towards Algorithm to Synthesize Linear Ranking Function**

- assume loop is given as transition formula in the form of linear inequalities  $A\vec{x} + A'\vec{x'} < \vec{b}$  between primed and unprimed variables
- example

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{A} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} i \\ n \end{pmatrix} + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{A'} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} i' \\ n' \end{pmatrix} \leq \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{\vec{b}}$$

encodes transition formula  $i \le n \land n' = n \land i' = i + 1$  (formula  $\varphi$  after removal of non-linear part)

## Algorithm to Synthesize Linear Ranking Function [Podelski, Rybalschenko]

- assume loop is given as transition formula in the form of linear inequalities  $A\vec{x} + A'\vec{x'} \leq \vec{b}$  between primed and unprimed variables
- idea: find parameters of ranking function and Farkas' coefficients in one go
- algorithm: encode the following constraints for row vectors  $\vec{c_1}$ ,  $\vec{c_2}$  of variables
  - $\vec{c_1} > \vec{0}, \vec{c_2} > \vec{0}$
  - $\vec{c_1}A' = 0$
  - $\vec{c_1}A = \vec{c_2}A$
  - $\vec{c_2}A = -\vec{c_2}A'$
  - $\vec{c_2}\vec{b} < 0$

and return "linear ranking function exists" iff constraints are satisfiable

- completeness is based on Farkas' lemma (assumes satisfiable transition formula)
- ullet soundness: extract parameters of ranking function from concrete solution  $ec{c_1}, ec{c_2}$

$$e(\vec{x}) = \vec{c_2} A' \vec{x}$$
  $d = -\vec{c_2} \vec{b}$   $f = -\vec{c_1} \vec{b}$ 

### **Example Application (Continue in Termination Proof)**

• 
$$(c_1 \quad c_2 \quad c_3 \quad c_4 \quad c_5) \ge (0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0), \quad (c_6 \quad c_7 \quad c_8 \quad c_9 \quad c_{10}) \ge (0 \quad \dots \quad 0)$$

$$\bullet \left( -c_4 + c_5 \quad -c_2 + c_3 \right) = \left( 0 \quad 0 \right)$$

• 
$$(c_1 + c_4 - c_5 - c_1 + c_2 - c_3) = (c_6 + c_9 - c_{10} - c_6 + c_7 - c_8)$$

• 
$$(c_6 + c_9 - c_{10} - c_6 + c_7 - c_8) = -(-c_9 + c_{10} - c_7 + c_8)$$

• 
$$c_{10} - c_9 < 0$$

• find solution 
$$c_1 = c_8 = c_9 = 1$$
,  $c_i = 0$  for  $i \notin \{1, 8, 9\}$ 

extract ranking function parameters

• 
$$e(i,n) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} A' \begin{pmatrix} i \\ n \end{pmatrix} = n - i$$

• 
$$d = -\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \vec{b} = 1$$

• 
$$f = -\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \vec{b} = 0$$

#### **Soundness Proof: Details**

- loop transition formula:  $A\vec{x} + A'\vec{x'} \leq \vec{b}$
- constraints:  $\vec{c_1} \ge \vec{0}$ ,  $\vec{c_2} \ge \vec{0}$ ,  $\vec{c_1}A' = 0$ ,  $\vec{c_1}A = \vec{c_2}A$ ,  $\vec{c_2}A = -\vec{c_2}A'$ , and  $\vec{c_2}\vec{b} < 0$
- ranking function parameters:  $e(\vec{x}) = \vec{c_2} A' \vec{x}$ ,  $d = -\vec{c_2} \vec{b}$ , and  $f = -\vec{c_1} \vec{b}$
- choice of d:  $d = -\vec{c_2}\vec{b} > 0$
- boundedness
  - assume  $\vec{x}$  and  $\vec{x'}$  satisfy loop transition formula
  - hence  $\vec{c_1}(A\vec{x} + A'\vec{x'}) \leq \vec{c_1}\vec{b}$
  - hence  $\vec{c_1} \vec{A} \vec{x} + \vec{c_1} \vec{A'} \vec{x'} \leq \vec{c_1} \vec{b}$
  - hence  $\vec{c_1} A \vec{x} \leq \vec{c_1} \vec{b}$
  - hence  $\vec{c_2} A \vec{x} \leq \vec{c_1} \vec{b}$
  - hence  $-\vec{c_2}A'\vec{x} \leq \vec{c_1}\vec{b}$
  - hence  $-e(\vec{x}) \leq -f$
  - hence  $e(\vec{x}) > f$
- decrease  $e(\vec{x}) > e(\vec{x'}) + d$ : similar to boundedness

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### Why use simplex algorithm for LRA?

- situation
  - solving LRA problems is in P (interior point method, ...)
  - simplex algorithm has exponential worst-case time complexity
- simplex algorithm is still popular
  - exponential behaviour rarely triggered, only on artificial examples
  - simplex can be used incrementally
- incrementality
  - simplex can be used as theory solver for DPLL(T), where often constraints are activated and deactivated
  - simplex can be used as backend for LIA solver (next lecture),
     where new constraints are added on-the-fly
  - aim: do not restart simplex from scratch when slightly modifying constraints

#### Incremental Interface for DPLL(T)

- ullet make all constraints available to simplex at the beginning of the algorithm, ignoring Boolean structure  $\Longrightarrow$  obtain global tableau for all constraints
- modify simplex algorithm by adding active-flags for upper and lower bounds
- when executing simplex, all inactive bounds are ignored
- · initially all bounds are inactive
- activation of a constraint
  - activate corresponding lower or upper bound  $s_i \le c$  or  $c \le s_i$  for slack variable  $s_i$
  - if new bound gives rise to a conflict  $u_i < l_i$  then report unsatisfiable
  - otherwise, if  $s_i \in N$  and  $s_i$  violates bound, then update assignment of  $s_i$  to c (at this point, invariants (1) and (2) are established for the active bounds)
  - run simplex on current tableau and assignment to determine satisfiability
- deactivation of a constraint
  - deactivate corresponding lower or upper bound
  - usually occurs after a conflict has been detected
  - tableau and assignment can be reused from before: they satisfy invariants (1) and (2)

#### Example (Simplex as DPLL(T) Theory Solver)

• input is formula  $\varphi$ 

$$(c_1 \lor c_5) \land (c_6 \lor \neg c_3) \land (c_4 \lor c_5) \land (c_2 \lor c_7 \lor \neg c_8) \land \dots$$

$$\underbrace{x \geq 5}_{c_1}$$
  $\underbrace{2x + y \leq 12}_{c_2}$   $\underbrace{y < 3}_{c_3}$   $\underbrace{x - 3y \leq 2}_{c_4}$  ...

- example execution (without theory propagation)
  - start simplex with tableau for all atoms and negated atoms within  $\varphi$ , but no activated bounds (obtain tableau  $T_0$ , assignment  $v_0(x) = 0$ )
  - assume partial Boolean assignment  $c_1, \neg c_3, c_4$  from Boolean solver  $\implies$  activate the bounds, execute simplex on  $T_0$  and  $v_0$  to obtain  $T_1$  and  $v_1$
  - all bounds are satisfied, so detect LRA-consistency
  - extend to  $c_1, \neg c_3, c_4, c_2$ , activate bound, execute simplex on  $T_1$  and  $v_1$  to obtain  $T_2$  and  $v_2$
  - detect unsatisfiable core  $c_1, \neg c_3, c_2$ , so learn  $\neg c_1 \lor c_3 \lor \neg c_2$
  - ... next simplex invocation starting from  $T_2$  and  $v_2$  ...

## **Incremental Simplex Algorithm – Interface**

- initSimplex: takes list of indexed constraints, initially all inactive
- assert i: activates constraint with index i, may detect unsat core
- check: check if currently activated constraints are satisfiable, may detect unsat core
- solution: after successful check, deliver satisfying assignment
- checkpoint: after successful check, get checkpoint information to return to this state
- backtrack cp: return to previous checkpoint cp, where subset of constraints has been asserted

### **Haskell Implementation**

- available under http://cl-informatik.uibk.ac.at/teaching/ss24/cs/simplex.tgz
- SimplexInternals.hs verified simplex implementation
- SimplexCommon.hs common interface to access verified types
- SimplexInterface.hs wrapper for non-incremental simplex algorithm + example
- SimplexIOInterface.hs wrapper for incremental simplex algorithm + example

```
ghci SimplexIOInterface.hs
ghci> initSimplex exampleSlidesInput
Okav <state 0. asserted: []>
ghci> assert 1
Okav <state 1. asserted: [1]>
ghci> assert (-3)
Okay <state 2, asserted: [-3,1]>
ghci> assert 4
Okav \langlestate 3, asserted: [4,-3,1]\rangle
ghci> check
Okay <state 4, asserted: [4.-3.1]>
ghci> checkpoint
checkpoint "cp5" created
Okay \langlestate 5, asserted: [4,-3,1]\rangle
ghci> assert 2
Okay \langlestate 6, asserted: [2,4,-3,1]\rangle
ghci> check
unsat-core [2.1.-3] detected, use backtrack to one of ["cp5"]
ghci> backtrack "cp5"
Okay <state 7, asserted: [4,-3,1]>
```

lecture 7

### **Linear Programming**

- linear programming: find solution in  $\mathbb Q$  of linear constraints  $\varphi$  that maximizes linear function f
- potential implementation
  - ullet perform standard setup for running simplex on arphi
  - add additional slack variable s with tableau equality s = f, then start simplex
  - once solution v has been detected, compute f(v) and change bound of s to  $s \ge f(v) + \delta$
  - iterate to find better solution, or detect optimality if unsat is returned
- problem: algorithm does not terminate if f can be increased arbitrarily
- solution: use standard simplex algorithm for linear programming,<sup>a</sup> and not the DPLL(T)-variant of simplex for decidability that was presented here
  - at least one difference: solving  $A\vec{x} \leq \vec{b}$  is formulated via slack variables  $\vec{s} \geq \vec{0}$  as tableau  $A\vec{x} + \vec{s} = \vec{b}$  so the tableau equations can have non-zero constants

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Alexander Schrijver, Theory of Linear and Integer Programming, Chapter 11

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#### **Kröning and Strichmann**

Sections 5.1 and 5.2

#### **Further Reading**



Bertram Felgenhauer and Aart Middeldorp Constructing Cycles in the Simplex Method for DPLL(T)

Proc. 14th ICTAC, LNCS 10580, pp. 213-228, 2017

Andreas Podelski and Andrey Rybalchenko

A Complete Method for the Synthesis of Linear Ranking Functions

Proc. VMCAI 2004, LNCS 2937, pp. 239-251, 2004

Ralph Bottesch, Max W. Haslbeck, and René Thiemann Verifying an Incremental Theory Solver for Linear Arithmetic in Isabelle/HOL In Proc. FroCoS, LNAI 11715, pp. 223—239, 2019.

#### **Important Concepts**

- active and inactive bounds
- Bland's selection rule
- Farkas' coefficients
- Farkas' lemma
- incremental simplex algorithm
- linear programming
- linear ranking function
- unsatisfiable core