

## 10. Combining Decision Procedures

### Combining Decision Procedures: Nelson-Oppen Method

#### Given

Theories  $T_i$  over signatures  $\Sigma_i$   
 (constants, functions, predicates)  
 with corresponding decision procedures  $P_i$  for  $T_i$ -satisfiability.

#### Goal

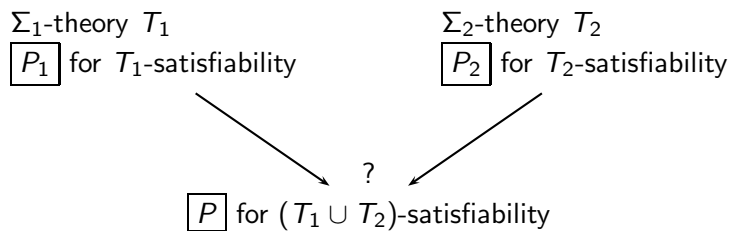
Decide satisfiability of a sentence in theory  $\cup_i T_i$ .

**Example:** How do we show that

$$F : 1 \leq x \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge f(x) \neq f(1) \wedge f(x) \neq f(2)$$

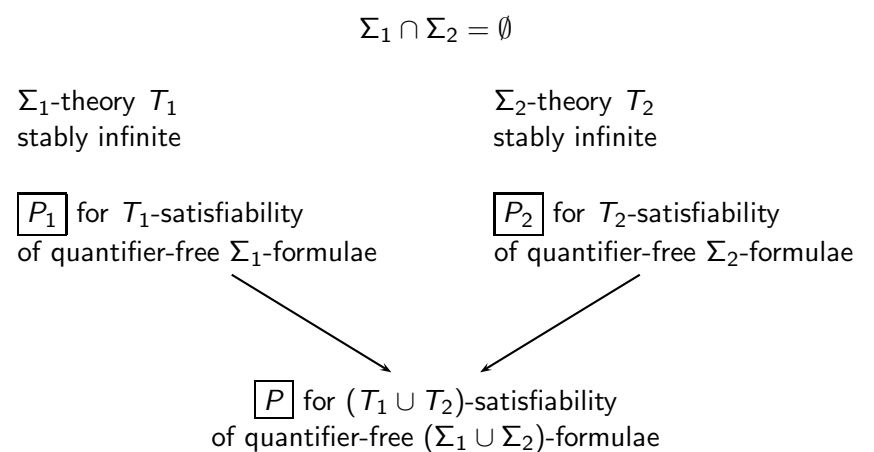
is  $(T_E \cup T_Z)$ -unsatisfiable?

### Combining Decision Procedures



**Problem:**  
 Decision procedures are domain specific.  
 How do we combine them?

### Nelson-Oppen Combination Method (N-O Method)



## Nelson-Oppen: Limitations

Given formula  $F$  in theory  $T_1 \cup T_2$ .

1.  $F$  must be quantifier-free.
2. Signatures  $\Sigma_i$  of the combined theory only share =, i.e.,

$$\Sigma_1 \cap \Sigma_2 = \{=\}$$

3. Theories must be stably infinite.

### Note:

- ▶ Algorithm can be extended to combine arbitrary number of theories  $T_i$  — combine two, then combine with another, and so on.
- ▶ We restrict  $F$  to be conjunctive formula — otherwise convert to DNF and check each disjunct.

## Stably Infinite Theories

A  $\Sigma$ -theory  $T$  is stably infinite iff

for every quantifier-free  $\Sigma$ -formula  $F$ :

if  $F$  is  $T$ -satisfiable

then there exists some  $T$ -interpretation that satisfies  $F$ .

**Example:**  $\Sigma$ -theory  $T$

$$\Sigma : \{a, b, =\}$$

Axiom

$$\forall x. x = a \vee x = b$$

For every  $T$ -interpretation  $I$ ,  $|D_I| \leq 2$  (at most two elements).

Hence,  $T$  is *not* stably infinite.

**All the other theories mentioned so far are stably infinite.**

## Example: Theory of partial orders

$\Sigma$ -theory  $T_{\preceq}$

$$\Sigma_{\preceq} : \{\preceq, =\}$$

where  $\preceq$  is a binary predicate.

Axioms

1.  $\forall x. x \preceq x$  ( $\preceq$  reflexivity)
2.  $\forall x, y. x \preceq y \wedge y \preceq x \rightarrow x = y$  ( $\preceq$  antisymmetry)
3.  $\forall x, y, z. x \preceq y \wedge y \preceq z \rightarrow x \preceq z$  ( $\preceq$  transitivity)

We prove  $T_{\preceq}$  is stably infinite.

Consider  $T_{\preceq}$ -satisfiable quantifier-free  $\Sigma_{\preceq}$ -formula  $F$ .

Consider arbitrary satisfying  $T_{\preceq}$ -interpretation  $I : (D_I, \alpha_I)$ ,

where  $\alpha_I$  maps  $\preceq$  to  $\leq_I$ .

- ▶ Let  $A$  be any infinite set disjoint from  $D_I$

- ▶ Construct new interpretation  $J : (D_J, \alpha_J)$

- ▶  $D_J = D_I \cup A$

- ▶  $\alpha_J = \{\preceq \mapsto \leq_J\}$ , where for  $a, b \in D_J$ ,

$$a \leq_J b \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} a \leq_I b & \text{if } a, b \in D_I \\ a = b & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$J$  is  $T_{\preceq}$ -interpretation satisfying  $F$  with infinite domain.

Hence,  $T_{\preceq}$  is stably infinite.

Example: Consider quantifier-free conjunctive  $(\Sigma_E \cup \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -formula

$$F : 1 \leq x \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge f(x) \neq f(1) \wedge f(x) \neq f(2) .$$

The signatures of  $T_E$  and  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$  only share  $=$ . Also, both theories are stably infinite. Hence, the NO combination of the decision procedures for  $T_E$  and  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$  decides the  $(T_E \cup T_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -satisfiability of  $F$ .

Intuitively,  $F$  is  $(T_E \cup T_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -unsatisfiable.

For the first two literals imply  $x = 1 \vee x = 2$  so that

$$f(x) = f(1) \vee f(x) = f(2).$$

Contradict last two literals.

Hence,  $F$  is  $(T_E \cup T_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -unsatisfiable.

### Nelson-Oppen Method: Overview

Consider quantifier-free conjunctive  $(\Sigma_1 \cup \Sigma_2)$ -formula  $F$ .

Two versions:

- ▶ nondeterministic — simple to present, but high complexity
- ▶ deterministic — efficient

Nelson-Oppen (N-O) method proceeds in two steps:

- ▶ Phase 1 (variable abstraction)  
— same for both versions
- ▶ Phase 2  
nondeterministic: guess equalities/disequalities and check  
deterministic: generate equalities/disequalities by equality propagation

### N-O Overview

Phase 1: Variable Abstraction

- ▶ Given conjunction  $\Gamma$  in theory  $T_1 \cup T_2$ .
- ▶ Convert to conjunction  $\Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_2$  s.t.
  - ▶  $\Gamma_i$  in theory  $T_i$
  - ▶  $\Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_2$  satisfiable iff  $\Gamma$  satisfiable.

Phase 2: Check

- ▶ If there is some set  $S$  of equalities and disequalities between the shared variables of  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$   
 $\text{shared}(\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2) = \text{free}(\Gamma_1) \cap \text{free}(\Gamma_2)$   
s.t.  $S \cup \Gamma_i$  are  $T_i$ -satisfiable for all  $i$ ,  
then  $\Gamma$  is **satisfiable**.
- ▶ Otherwise, **unsatisfiable**.

### Phase 1: Variable abstraction

Given quantifier-free conjunctive  $(\Sigma_1 \cup \Sigma_2)$ -formula  $F$ .

Transform  $F$  into two quantifier-free conjunctive formulae

$$\Sigma_1\text{-formula } F_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \Sigma_2\text{-formula } F_2$$

s.t.  $F$  is  $(T_1 \cup T_2)$ -satisfiable iff  $F_1 \wedge F_2$  is  $(T_1 \cup T_2)$ -satisfiable

$F_1$  and  $F_2$  are linked via a set of shared variables.

For term  $t$ , let  $\text{hd}(t)$  be the root symbol, e.g.  $\text{hd}(f(x)) = f$ .

### Generation of $F_1$ and $F_2$

For  $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$  and  $i \neq j$ , repeat the transformations

(1) if function  $f \in \Sigma_i$  and  $\text{hd}(t) \in \Sigma_j$ ,

$$F[f(t_1, \dots, t_n)] \Rightarrow F[f(t_1, \dots, w, \dots, t_n)] \wedge w = t$$

(2) if predicate  $p \in \Sigma_i$  and  $\text{hd}(t) \in \Sigma_j$ ,

$$F[p(t_1, \dots, t_n)] \Rightarrow F[p(t_1, \dots, w, \dots, t_n)] \wedge w = t$$

(3) if  $\text{hd}(s) \in \Sigma_i$  and  $\text{hd}(t) \in \Sigma_j$ ,

$$F[s = t] \Rightarrow F[\top] \wedge w = s \wedge w = t$$

(4) if  $\text{hd}(s) \in \Sigma_i$  and  $\text{hd}(t) \in \Sigma_j$ ,

$$F[s \neq t] \Rightarrow F[w_1 \neq w_2] \wedge w_1 = s \wedge w_2 = t$$

where  $w, w_1$ , and  $w_2$  are fresh variables.

### Example: Consider $(\Sigma_E \cup \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -formula

$$F : f(x) = x + y \wedge x \leq y + z \wedge x + z \leq y \wedge y = 1 \wedge f(x) \neq f(2) .$$

In the first literal,  $\text{hd}(f(x)) = f \in \Sigma_{=}$  and  $\text{hd}(x + y) = + \in \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}}$ ; thus, by (3), replace the literal with

$$w_1 = f(x) \wedge w_1 = x + y .$$

In the final literal,  $f \in \Sigma_E$  but  $2 \in \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}}$ , so by (1), replace it with

$$f(x) \neq f(w_2) \wedge w_2 = 2 .$$

Now, separating the literals results in two formulae:

$$F_1 : w_1 = x + y \wedge x \leq y + z \wedge x + z \leq y \wedge y = 1 \wedge w_2 = 2$$

is a  $\Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -formula, and

$$F_2 : w_1 = f(x) \wedge f(x) \neq f(w_2)$$

is a  $\Sigma_E$ -formula.

The conjunction  $F_1 \wedge F_2$  is  $(T_E \cup T_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -equisatisfiable to  $F$ .

### Example: Consider $(\Sigma_E \cup \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -formula

$$F : 1 \leq x \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge f(x) \neq f(1) \wedge f(x) \neq f(2) .$$

According to transformation 1, since  $f \in \Sigma_E$  and  $1 \in \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}}$ , replace  $f(1)$  by  $f(w_1)$  and add  $w_1 = 1$ . Similarly, replace  $f(2)$  by  $f(w_2)$  and add  $w_2 = 2$ .

Now, the literals

$$\Gamma_{\mathbb{Z}} : \{1 \leq x, x \leq 2, w_1 = 1, w_2 = 2\}$$

are  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -literals, while the literals

$$\Gamma_E : \{f(x) \neq f(w_1), f(x) \neq f(w_2)\}$$

are  $T_E$ -literals. Hence, construct the  $\Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -formula

$$F_1 : 1 \leq x \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge w_1 = 1 \wedge w_2 = 2$$

and the  $\Sigma_E$ -formula

$$F_2 : f(x) \neq f(w_1) \wedge f(x) \neq f(w_2) .$$

$F_1$  and  $F_2$  share the variables  $\{x, w_1, w_2\}$ .

$F_1 \wedge F_2$  is  $(T_E \cup T_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -equisatisfiable to  $F$ .

## Nondeterministic Version

### Phase 2: Guess and Check

- ▶ Phase 1 separated  $(\Sigma_1 \cup \Sigma_2)$ -formula  $F$  into two formulae:  $\Sigma_1$ -formula  $F_1$  and  $\Sigma_2$ -formula  $F_2$
- ▶  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are linked by a set of shared variables:  $V = \text{shared}(F_1, F_2) = \text{free}(F_1) \cap \text{free}(F_2)$
- ▶ Let  $E$  be an equivalence relation over  $V$ .
- ▶ The arrangement  $\alpha(V, E)$  of  $V$  induced by  $E$  is:

$$\alpha(V, E) : \bigwedge_{u, v \in V. uEv} u = v \wedge \bigwedge_{u, v \in V. \neg(uEv)} u \neq v$$

### Then,

the original formula  $F$  is  $(T_1 \cup T_2)$ -satisfiable iff there exists an equivalence relation  $E$  of  $V$  s.t.

- (1)  $F_1 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_1$ -satisfiable, and
- (2)  $F_2 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_2$ -satisfiable.

Otherwise,  $F$  is  $(T_1 \cup T_2)$ -unsatisfiable.

Example: Consider  $(\Sigma_E \cup \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -formula

$$F : 1 \leq x \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge f(x) \neq f(1) \wedge f(x) \neq f(2)$$

Phase 1 separates this formula into the  $\Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -formula

$$F_1 : 1 \leq x \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge w_1 = 1 \wedge w_2 = 2$$

and the  $\Sigma_E$ -formula

$$F_2 : f(x) \neq f(w_1) \wedge f(x) \neq f(w_2)$$

with

$$V = \text{shared}(F_1, F_2) = \{x, w_1, w_2\}$$

There are 5 equivalence relations to consider, which we list by stating the partitions:

1.  $\{\{x, w_1, w_2\}\}$ , i.e.,  $x = w_1 = w_2$ :  
 $x = w_1$  and  $f(x) \neq f(w_1) \Rightarrow F_2 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_E$ -unsatisfiable.
2.  $\{\{x, w_1\}, \{w_2\}\}$ , i.e.,  $x = w_1, x \neq w_2$ :  
 $x = w_1$  and  $f(x) \neq f(w_1) \Rightarrow F_2 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_E$ -unsatisfiable.
3.  $\{\{x, w_2\}, \{w_1\}\}$ , i.e.,  $x = w_2, x \neq w_1$ :  
 $x = w_2$  and  $f(x) \neq f(w_2) \Rightarrow F_2 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_E$ -unsatisfiable.
4.  $\{\{x\}, \{w_1, w_2\}\}$ , i.e.,  $x \neq w_1, w_1 = w_2$ :  
 $w_1 = w_2$  and  $w_1 = 1 \wedge w_2 = 2$   
 $\Rightarrow F_1 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -unsatisfiable.
5.  $\{\{x\}, \{w_1\}, \{w_2\}\}$ , i.e.,  $x \neq w_1, x \neq w_2, w_1 \neq w_2$ :  
 $x \neq w_1 \wedge x \neq w_2$  and  $x = w_1 = 1 \vee x = w_2 = 2$   
 (since  $1 \leq x \leq 2$  implies that  $x = 1 \vee x = 2$  in  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$ )  
 $\Rightarrow F_1 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -unsatisfiable.

Hence,  $F$  is  $(T_E \cup T_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -unsatisfiable.

Example: Consider the  $(\Sigma_{\text{cons}} \cup \Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -formula

$$F : \text{car}(x) + \text{car}(y) = z \wedge \text{cons}(x, z) \neq \text{cons}(y, z) .$$

After two applications of (1), Phase 1 separates  $F$  into the  $\Sigma_{\text{cons}}$ -formula

$$F_1 : w_1 = \text{car}(x) \wedge w_2 = \text{car}(y) \wedge \text{cons}(x, z) \neq \text{cons}(y, z)$$

and the  $\Sigma_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -formula

$$F_2 : w_1 + w_2 = z ,$$

with

$$V = \text{shared}(F_1, F_2) = \{z, w_1, w_2\} .$$

Consider the equivalence relation  $E$  given by the partition

$$\{\{z\}, \{w_1\}, \{w_2\}\} .$$

The arrangement

$$\alpha(V, E) : z \neq w_1 \wedge z \neq w_2 \wedge w_1 \neq w_2$$

satisfies both  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ :  $F_1 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_{\text{cons}}$ -satisfiable, and  $F_2 \wedge \alpha(V, E)$  is  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$ -satisfiable.

Hence,  $F$  is  $(T_{\text{cons}} \cup T_{\mathbb{Z}})$ -satisfiable.

### Practical Efficiency

Phase 2 was formulated as "guess and check":

First, guess an equivalence relation  $E$ , then check the induced arrangement.

The number of equivalence relations grows super-exponentially with the # of shared variables. It is given by Bell numbers. e.g., 12 shared variables  $\Rightarrow$  over four million equivalence relations.

### Solution: Deterministic Version

# Deterministic Version

Phase 1 as before

Phase 2 asks the decision procedures  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  to propagate new equalities.

Example 1:

Real linear arithmetic  $T_{\mathbb{R}}$   
 $P_{\mathbb{R}}$

Theory of equality  $T_E$   
 $P_E$

$$F : f(f(x)-f(y)) \neq f(z) \wedge x \leq y \wedge y+z \leq x \wedge 0 \leq z$$

( $T_{\mathbb{R}} \cup T_E$ )-unsatisfiable

Intuitively,  
 last 3 conjuncts  $\Rightarrow x = y \wedge z = 0$   
 contradicts 1st conjunct

# Phase 1: Variable Abstraction

$$F : f(f(x) - f(y)) \neq f(z) \wedge x \leq y \wedge y + z \leq x \wedge 0 \leq z$$

$$f(x) \Rightarrow u \quad f(y) \Rightarrow v \quad u - v \Rightarrow w$$

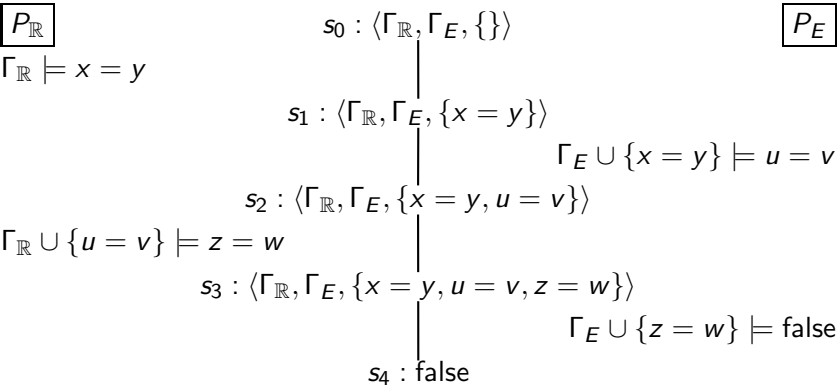
$\Gamma_E : \{f(w) \neq f(z), u = f(x), v = f(y)\} \dots T_E$ -formula

$\Gamma_{\mathbb{R}} : \{x \leq y, y + z \leq x, 0 \leq z, w = u - v\} \dots T_{\mathbb{R}}$ -formula

$$\text{shared}(\Gamma_{\mathbb{R}}, \Gamma_E) = \{x, y, z, u, v, w\}$$

Nondeterministic version — over 200  $E$ s!  
 Let's try the deterministic version.

# Phase 2: Equality Propagation



Contradiction. Thus,  $F$  is ( $T_{\mathbb{R}} \cup T_E$ )-unsatisfiable.  
 If there were no contradiction,  $F$  would be ( $T_{\mathbb{R}} \cup T_E$ )-satisfiable.

# Convex Theories

**Claim:**  
 Equality propagation is a decision procedure for convex theories.

**Def.** A  $\Sigma$ -theory  $T$  is *convex* iff  
 for every quantifier-free conjunction  $\Sigma$ -formula  $F$   
 and for every disjunction  $\bigvee_{i=1}^n (u_i = v_i)$   
 if  $F \models \bigvee_{i=1}^n (u_i = v_i)$   
 then  $F \models u_i = v_i$ , for some  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$

## Convex Theories

- ▶  $T_E, T_{\mathbb{R}}, T_{\mathbb{Q}}, T_{\text{CONS}}$  are convex
- ▶  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}, T_A$  are not convex

Example:  $T_{\mathbb{Z}}$  is not convex

Consider quantifier-free conjunctive

$$F : 1 \leq z \wedge z \leq 2 \wedge u = 1 \wedge v = 2$$

Then

$$F \models z = u \vee z = v$$

but

$$F \not\models z = u$$

$$F \not\models z = v$$

## Example:

The theory of arrays  $T_A$  is not convex.

Consider the quantifier-free conjunctive  $\Sigma_A$ -formula

$$F : a(i \triangleleft v)[j] = v .$$

Then

$$F \Rightarrow i = j \vee a[j] = v ,$$

but

$$F \not\models i = j$$

$$F \not\models a[j] = v .$$

## What if $T$ is Not Convex?

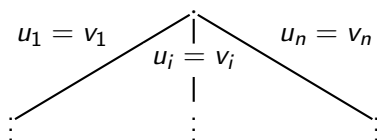
Case split when:

$$\Gamma \models \bigvee_{i=1}^n (u_i = v_i)$$

but

$$\Gamma \not\models u_i = v_i \quad \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, n$$

- ▶ For each  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , construct a branch on which  $u_i = v_i$  is assumed.
- ▶ If all branches are contradictory, then **unsatisfiable**. Otherwise, **satisfiable**.



## Example 2: Non-Convex Theory

$T_{\mathbb{Z}}$  not convex!

$$\boxed{P_{\mathbb{Z}}}$$

$T_E$  convex

$$\boxed{P_E}$$

$$\Gamma : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \leq x, \quad x \leq 2, \\ f(x) \neq f(1), \quad f(x) \neq f(2) \end{array} \right\} \text{ in } T_{\mathbb{Z}} \cup T_E$$

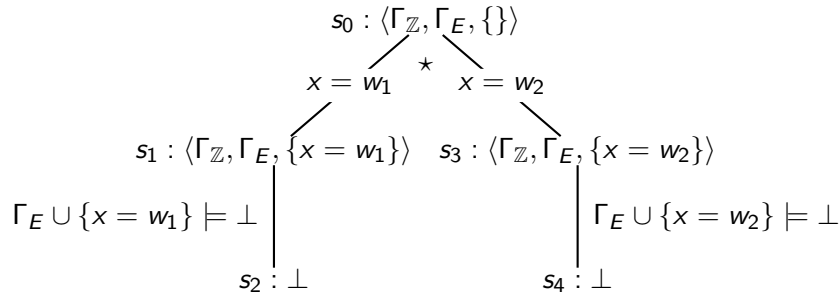
- ▶ Replace  $f(1)$  by  $f(w_1)$ , and add  $w_1 = 1$ .
- ▶ Replace  $f(2)$  by  $f(w_2)$ , and add  $w_2 = 2$ .

Result:

$$\Gamma_{\mathbb{Z}} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \leq x, \\ x \leq 2, \\ w_1 = 1, \\ w_2 = 2 \end{array} \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad \Gamma_E = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} f(x) \neq f(w_1), \\ f(x) \neq f(w_2) \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\text{shared}(\Gamma_{\mathbb{Z}}, \Gamma_E) = \{x, w_1, w_2\}$$

### Example 2: Non-Convex Theory



$$\star : \Gamma_{\mathbb{Z}} \models x = w_1 \vee x = w_2$$

All leaves are labeled with  $\perp \Rightarrow \Gamma$  is  $(T_{\mathbb{Z}} \cup T_E)$ -unsatisfiable.

### Example 3: Non-Convex Theory

$$\Gamma : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \leq x, \quad x \leq 3, \\ f(x) \neq f(1), \quad f(x) \neq f(3), \quad f(1) \neq f(2) \end{array} \right\} \text{ in } T_{\mathbb{Z}} \cup T_E$$

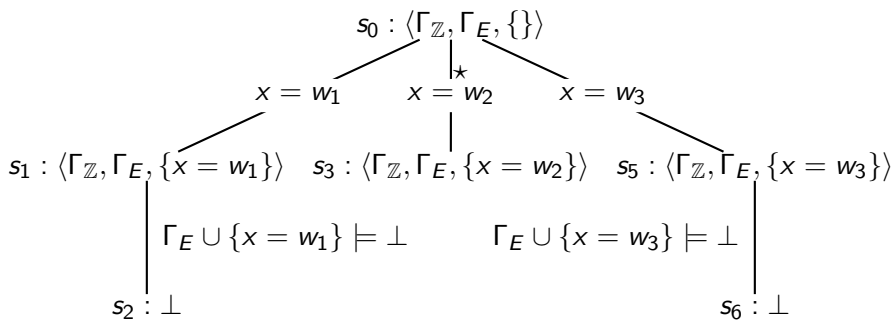
- ▶ Replace  $f(1)$  by  $f(w_1)$ , and add  $w_1 = 1$ .
- ▶ Replace  $f(2)$  by  $f(w_2)$ , and add  $w_2 = 2$ .
- ▶ Replace  $f(3)$  by  $f(w_3)$ , and add  $w_3 = 3$ .

Result:

$$\Gamma_{\mathbb{Z}} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \leq x, \\ x \leq 3, \\ w_1 = 1, \\ w_2 = 2, \\ w_3 = 3 \end{array} \right\} \text{ and } \Gamma_E = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} f(x) \neq f(w_1), \\ f(x) \neq f(w_3), \\ f(w_1) \neq f(w_2) \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\text{shared}(\Gamma_{\mathbb{Z}}, \Gamma_E) = \{x, w_1, w_2, w_3\}$$

### Example 3: Non-Convex Theory



$$\star : \Gamma_{\mathbb{Z}} \models x = w_1 \vee x = w_2 \vee x = w_3$$

No more equations on middle leaf  $\Rightarrow \Gamma$  is  $(T_{\mathbb{Z}} \cup T_E)$ -satisfiable.