

Efficient resolution of logical models

ENSTA-IA303

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Lecture 4: A Decision Procedure for the Theory of Equality

Main goals for today

In class¹:

- How to decide the \mathcal{T} -satisfiability for quantifier-free formula in the Equality

¹Main references:

- The Calculus of Computation [[Bradley and Manna, 2007](#)], Chapter 9 (Section 9.1, 9.2, 9.3)

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- How to decide the \mathcal{T} -satisfiability for quantifier-free formula in the Equality

In the tutorial:

- Implement the decision procedure

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- 1 A Decision Procedure for the Theory of Equality
 - T_E -satisfiability
 - Deciding T_E via Congruence Closure
 - An algorithm to computing congruence closure

Why the Theory of Equality \mathcal{T}_E ?

- *Base theory*: in most cases we assume the equality predicate $=$ to be part of any theory (i.e., interpreted as equality)
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 - ▶ We can first check if a formula is satisfiable considering all the function symbols “uninterpreted”
 - ▶ If the formula is unsatisfiable with \mathcal{T}_E , then the formula is unsatisfiable in the “original” theory.Example from [Barrett et al., 2009]:

$$a * (f(b) + f(c)) = d \wedge \neg(b * (f(a) + f(c)) = d) \wedge a = b$$

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- ▶ \mathcal{T}_E solver is “cheap”, so we can run it before calling more expensive theory solvers.

Theory of Equality

The Theory of Equality functions \mathcal{T}_E is defined as:

- the signature $\Sigma_E := \{=, a, b, c, \dots, f, g, h, \dots, p, q, r, \dots\}$
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- the set of axioms \mathcal{A} :

① $\forall x. x = x$

② $\forall x, y. x = y \rightarrow y = x$

③ $\forall x, y, z. (x = y \wedge y = z) \rightarrow x = z$

[reflexivity]

[symmetry]

[transitivity]

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④ Function and predicate congruence

★ For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and n -ary function symbol f :

$$\forall x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n. \left(\bigwedge_{i=1}^n x_i = x_j \right) \rightarrow f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(y_1, \dots, y_n)$$

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Some concrete examples

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$$a = b \wedge b = c \implies g(f(a), b) = g(f(c), a)$$

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Some examples are from [\[Bradley and Manna, 2007\]](#) and [\[Barrett et al., 2009\]](#)

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- We consider a conjunction of theory literals where atoms are equalities

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- Here we do not consider predicates.
In general: replace predicates with functions to get an *equisatisfiable* formula

Example

$$p(x, y) \wedge q(f(y)) \wedge f(x) = y \quad \Longrightarrow \quad f_p(x, y) = v_T \wedge f_q(f(y)) = v_T \wedge f(x) = y$$

v_T is a fresh value, f_p, q_p are fresh function symbols. Intuitively, the transformation assumes that:

$$\forall x, y. p(x, y) \leftrightarrow f_p(x, y) = v_T \text{ and } \forall x. q(x) \leftrightarrow f_q(x) = v_T$$

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A first intuition about deciding \mathcal{T}_E formulas²

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Use the equalities to infer new equalities, applying the T_E axioms, and then check for contradictions with the inequalities

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Decision procedure for T_E

$$\phi := [s_1 = t_1, \dots, s_m = t_m, \neg(s_{m+1} = t_{m+1}), \dots, \neg(s_n = t_n)]$$

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- 1 Apply the T_E axioms (reflexivity, symmetry, transitivity, and congruence) to the existing equalities, inferring a set of new equalities.
 - ▶ Since the possible terms in ϕ are finite, then also the number of inferred equalities are finite.
 - ▶ So, this enumeration terminates.

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- 2 For every inequality $\neg s_i = t_i$ ($i \in [m+1, n]$), check if $s_i = t_i$ is in the set of inferred equalities.
 - ▶ If we find such $\neg s_i = t_i$ and $s_i = t_i$, then ϕ is unsatisfiable
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- R is an *equivalence relation* if:
 - ▶ Reflexivity: $\forall s_1 \in S. (s_1, s_1) \in R$
 - ▶ Symmetry: $\forall s_1, s_2 \in S. (s_1, s_2) \in R$
 - ▶ Transitivity: $\forall s_1, s_2, s_3 \in S. ((s_1, s_2) \in R \wedge (s_2, s_3) \in R) \rightarrow (s_1, s_3) \in R$

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- R is a *congruence relation* if:
 - ▶ R is an equivalence relation, and
 - ▶ for every the n -ary functions f :

$$\forall s_1, \dots, s_n, t_1, \dots, t_n \in R. \bigwedge_{i \in [1, n]} (s_i, t_i) \in R \rightarrow (f(s_1, \dots, s_n), f(t_1, \dots, t_n)) \in R$$

The T_E axioms express a congruence relation between terms

Equivalence and Congruence Classes

- $[s]_R$ is an equivalence (resp. congruence) class under the equivalence (resp. congruence) relation R :

$$[s]_R := \{s' \in S \mid (s, s') \in R\}$$

Example: $\phi := f(a, b) = a \wedge \neg(f(f(a, b), b) = a)$

$S = \{\text{set of sub-terms of } \phi\} = \{a, b, f(a, b), f(f(a, b), b)\}$

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- A *partition* P of the set S is $P \subseteq 2^S$ such that:
 - ▶ $\bigcup_{S' \in P} S' = S$ and $\forall S_1, S_2 \in P. (S_1 \neq S_2 \rightarrow S_1 \cap S_2 = \emptyset)$

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- The *quotient* S/R is the partition of S formed by the equivalence classes of S under R :

$$S/R := \{[s]_R \mid s \in S\}$$

Example: $\{[a]_R, [b]_R\}$

Congruence Closure

- R_1 refines R_2 ($R_1 \preceq R_2$) if:

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- R^C is the *congruence closure* for the congruence relation R if
 - ▶ $R \preceq R^C$
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Computing the congruence closure:

- Start with the finest congruence relation (every element in its own congruence class)
- For each equality $s_i = t_i$, merge the congruence classes for $[s_i]_R$ and $[t_i]_R$:
 - ▶ First union the elements of $[s_i]_R$ and $[t_i]_R$, to define the new class $[s_i]_R$
 - ▶ Then, propagate the congruences that arise between the new pairs of elements in the union

\mathcal{T}_E -Satisfiability

$$\phi := [s_1 = t_1, \dots, s_m = t_m, \neg(s_{m+1} = t_{m+1}), \dots, \neg(s_n = t_n)]$$

- 1 Construct the congruence closure of $\{s_1 = t_1, \dots, s_m = t_m\}$, over the sub-terms of ϕ .
- 2 If any of the atoms in the inequalities $s_i = t_i$, for $i \in [m+1, n]$, is such that s_i and t_i are in the same congruence class, then returns unsatisfiable
- 3 Otherwise, return satisfiable

Example - congruence closure computation

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2. From the equality $f(a, b) = a$, we *merge* $\{a\}$ and $\{f(a, b)\}$

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3. Apply congruence - $f(a, b) = f(f(a, b), b)$:

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This partition is the congruence closure.

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Is ϕ satisfiable? No, since ϕ requires $\neg f(f(a, b), b) = a$, but $f(f(a, b), b)$ and a are in the same congruence class.

Example - congruence closure computation (2)

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3. Apply congruence - $f(a) = f(f^3(a)) = f^4(a)$:

$$\{\{a, f^3(a)\}, \{f(a), f^4(a)\}, \{f^2(a)\}, \{f^5(a)\}\}$$

Example - congruence closure computation (2)

$$\phi := f^3(a) = a \wedge f(f(f^3(a))) = a \wedge \neg f(a) = a$$

1. Finest partition of sub-terms (notation: $f^0(v) = v$ and $f^k = f(f^{k-1}(v))$):

$$\{\{a\}, \{f(a)\}, \{f^2(a)\}, \{f^3(a)\}, \{f^4(a)\}, \{f^5(a)\}\}$$

2. From the equality $f^3(a) = a$, we merge $\{a\}$ and $\{f^3(a)\}$:

$$\{\{\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{f^3(a)}\}, \{f(a)\}, \{f^2(a)\}, \{f^4(a)\}, \{f^5(a)\}\}$$

3. Apply congruence - $f(a) = f(f^3(a)) = f^4(a)$:

$$\{\{a, f^3(a)\}, \{\mathbf{f(a)}, \mathbf{f^4(a)}\}, \{f^2(a)\}, \{f^5(a)\}\}$$

4. From congruence we have $f(f(a)) = f(f^4(a)) = f^5(a)$:

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6. Apply congruence - $f(f^2(a)) = f(f^3(a)) = f^4(a)$:

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Example - congruence closure computation (2)

$$\phi := f^3(a) = a \wedge f(f(f^3(a))) = a \wedge \neg f(a) = a$$

We have the congruence closure:

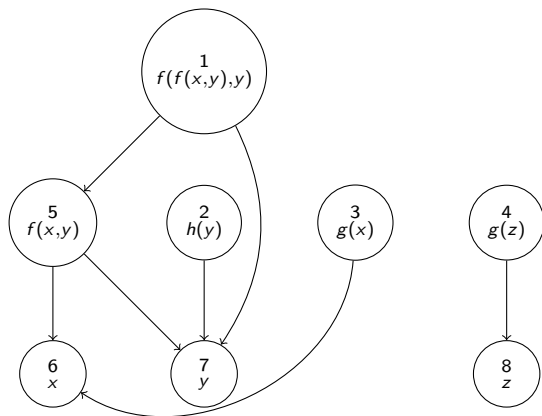
$$\{\{a, f(a), f^2(a), f^3(a), f^4(a), f^5(a)\}\}$$

We have $\neg f(a) = a$, but a and $f(a)$ are in the same congruence class, so ϕ is unsatisfiable!

- 1 A Decision Procedure for the Theory of Equality
 - T_E -satisfiability
 - Deciding T_E via Congruence Closure
 - An algorithm to computing congruence closure

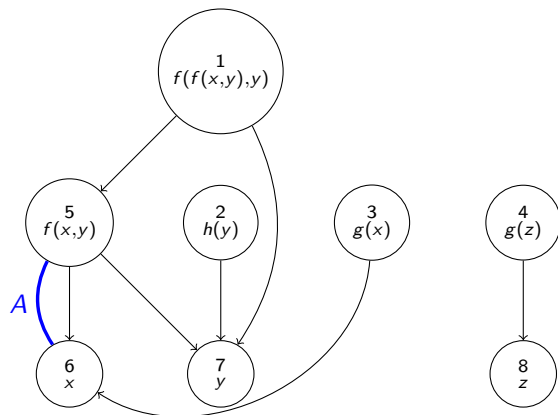
Congruence Closure via DAG

$$\phi := f(x, y) = x \wedge h(y) = g(x) \wedge f(f(x, y), y) = z \wedge \neg g(x) = g(z)$$



Congruence Closure via DAG

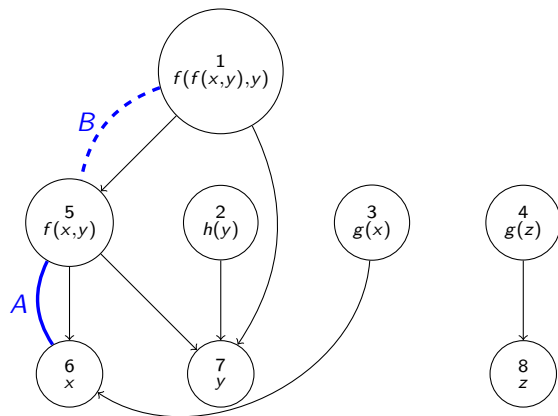
$$\phi := f(x,y) = x \wedge h(y) = g(x) \wedge f(f(x,y),y) = z \wedge \neg g(x) = g(z)$$



A. merge(5,5)

Congruence Closure via DAG

$$\phi := f(x, y) = x \wedge h(y) = g(x) \wedge f(f(x, y), y) = z \wedge \neg g(x) = g(z)$$

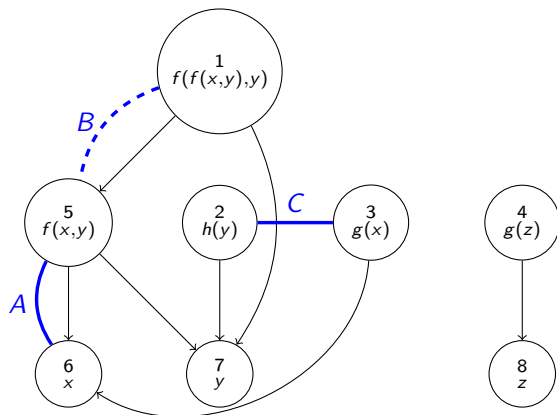


A. merge(5,5)

B. merge(1,5)

Congruence Closure via DAG

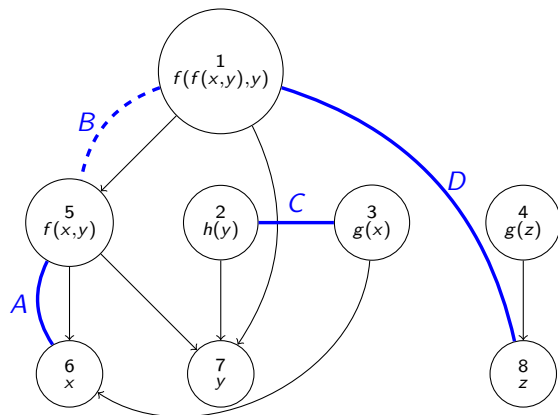
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- A. merge(5,5)
- B. merge(1,5)
- C. merge(2,3)

Congruence Closure via DAG

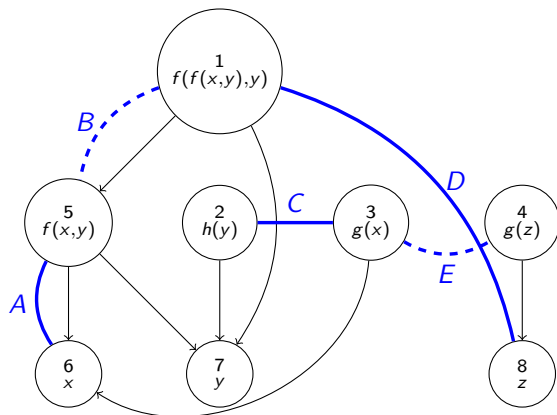
$$\phi := f(x, y) = x \wedge h(y) = g(x) \wedge f(f(x, y), y) = z \wedge \neg g(x) = g(z)$$



- A. merge(5,5)
- B. merge(1,5)
- C. merge(2,3)
- D. merge(1,8)

Congruence Closure via DAG

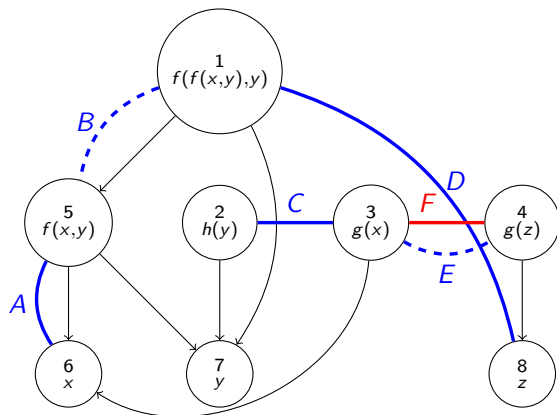
$$\phi := f(x, y) = x \wedge h(y) = g(x) \wedge f(f(x, y), y) = z \wedge \neg g(x) = g(z)$$



- A. merge(5,5)
- B. merge(1,5)
- C. merge(2,3)
- D. merge(1,8)
- E. merge(2,4)

Congruence Closure via DAG

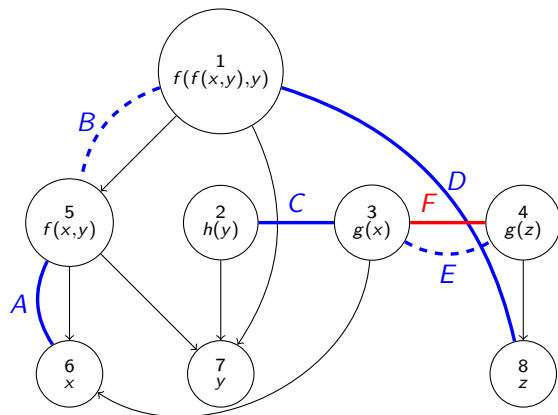
$$\phi := f(x, y) = x \wedge h(y) = g(x) \wedge f(f(x, y), y) = z \wedge \neg g(x) = g(z)$$



- A. merge(5,5)
- B. merge(1,5)
- C. merge(2,3)
- D. merge(1,8)
- E. merge(2,4)
- F. Conflict

Congruence Closure via DAG

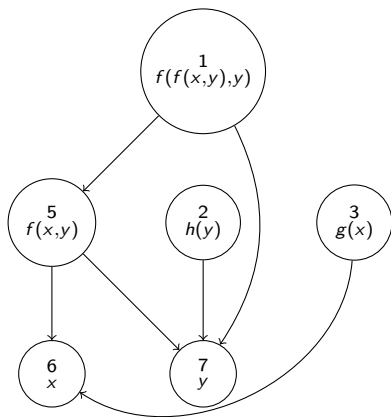
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- A. merge(5,5)
- B. merge(1,5)
- C. merge(2,3)
- D. merge(1,8)
- E. merge(2,4)
- F. Conflict

This is what you will implement in the tutorial

A DAG data structure congruence closure



```
Node {  
  id : integer;  
  // id of the class representative  
  find : integer;  
  // name of the node  
  name : string;  
  // ids of the children  
  args : list of integers;  
  // ids of the class parents  
  parents : list of integers;  
}
```

Node for $f(x, y)$

```
Node {  
  id = 5  
  find = 5  
  name : f;  
  args : [6,7];  
  parents : [1];  
}
```

UNION/FIND functions

procedure NODE(i)

Returns the node that has the id i

procedure FIND(i)

$n = \text{NODE}(i)$

if $n.\text{find} = i$ **then**

return i

else

return FIND($n.\text{find}$)

Returns the id of the equivalence class for the node i .

procedure UNION(i_1, i_2)

$n_1 = \text{NODE}(i_1)$

$n_2 = \text{NODE}(i_2)$

$n_1.\text{find} = n_2.\text{find}$

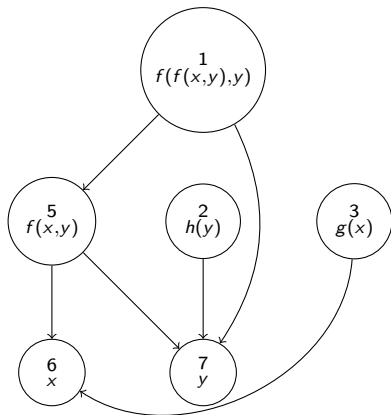
$n_2.\text{parents} =$

$n_1.\text{parents} \cup n_2.\text{parents}$

$n_1.\text{parents} = []$

Computes the union of i_1 and i_2

UNION/FIND example



```
Node {  
  id = 5  
  find = 5  
  name : f;  
  args : [6,7];  
  parents : [1];  
}
```

```
Node {  
  id = 6  
  find = 6  
  name : x;  
  args : [];  
  parents : [5];  
}
```

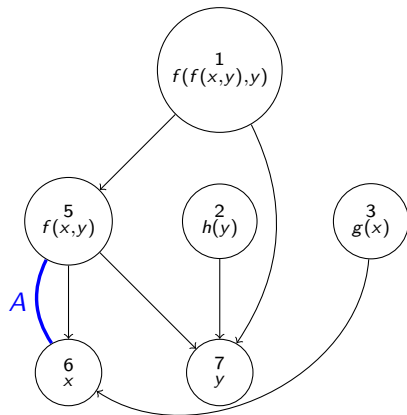
UNION(6,5)

```
Node {  
  id = 5  
  find = 6  
  name : f;  
  args : [6,7];  
  parents : [];  
}
```

```
Node {  
  id = 6  
  find = 6  
  name : x;  
  args : [];  
  parents : [5,1];  
}
```

FIND(5) now returns node 6

UNION/FIND example



```
Node {
  id = 5
  find = 5
  name : f;
  args : [6,7];
  parents : [1];
}
```

```
Node {
  id = 6
  find = 6
  name : x;
  args : [];
  parents : [5];
}
```

UNION(6,5)

```
Node {
  id = 5
  find = 6
  name : f;
  args : [6,7];
  parents : [];
}
```

```
Node {
  id = 6
  find = 6
  name : x;
  args : [];
  parents : [5,1];
}
```

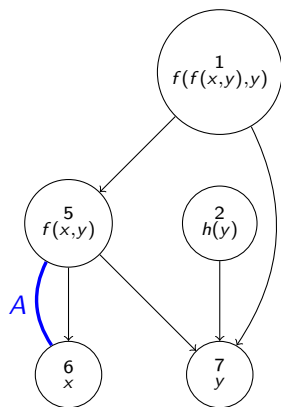
FIND(5) now returns node 6

CONGRUENT function

Returns true if the node in $i1$ and in $i2$ are congruent

```
procedure CONGRUENT( $i1, i2$ )  
   $n1 = \text{NODE}(i1)$   
   $n2 = \text{NODE}(i2)$   
  if  $n1.name \neq n2.name$  then  
    return False  
  else if  $\text{len}(n1.args) \neq \text{len}(n2.args)$  then  
    return False  
  else if  $\text{len}(n1.args) \neq \text{len}(n2.args)$  then  
    return  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(n1.args)\}.$   
       $\text{FIND}(n1.args[i]) = \text{FIND}(n2.args[i])$ 
```

CONGRUENT example



```
n5 := {          n6 := {          n1 := {
  id = 5          id = 6          id = 1
  find = 6       find = 6       find = 1
  name : f;      name : x;      name : f;
  args : [6,7]; args : [];    args : [5,7];
  parents : [1]; parents : [5,1]; parents : [];
}                }                }
```

Execution of CONGRUENT(1,5)

- n1 = NODE(1)
- n5 = NODE(5)
- n1.name == f == n5.name
- len(n1.args) == len(n2.args)
 - FIND(6) == 6 == FIND(5)
 - FIND(7) == 7 == FIND(7)

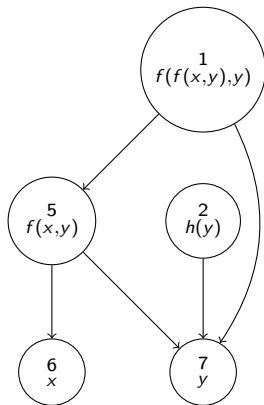
So node 1 and 5 are congruent.

MERGE function

Merge the congruent classes of the node i_1 and node i_2

```
procedure MERGE( $i_1, i_2$ )  
  if FIND( $i_1$ )  $\neq$  FIND( $i_2$ ) then  
     $P_1 = \text{NODE}(\text{FIND}(i_1)).\text{parents}$   
     $P_2 = \text{NODE}(\text{FIND}(i_2)).\text{parents}$   
    UNION( $i_1, i_2$ )  
    for  $t_1, t_2 \in P_1 \times P_2$  do  
      if FIND( $t_1$ )  $\neq$  FIND( $t_2$ ) and CONGRUENT( $t_1, t_2$ ) then  
        MERGE( $t_1, t_2$ )
```

MERGE example

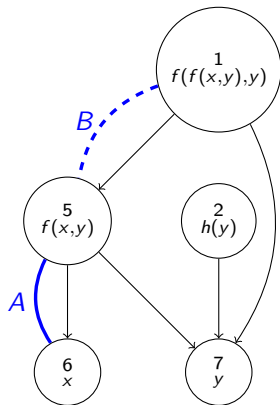


```
n5 := {          n6 := {          n1 := {
  id = 5          id = 6          id = 1
  find = 5       find = 6       find = 1
  name : f;      name : x;      name : f;
  args : [6,7];  args : [];      args : [5,7];
  parents : [1]; parents : [5];  parents : [];
}                }                }
```

Execution of MERGE(5,6)

- FIND(5) != FIND(6)
 - P1 = [1]
 - P2 = [5]
 - UNION(5,6) - example we saw earlier
 - P1 x P2 = [(1,5)]
 - FIND(1) != FIND(5)
 - CONGRUENT(1,5)
- => So we recursively merge 1 and 5: MERGE(1,5)
=> 1,5,6 are in the same congruence class

MERGE example



```
n5 := {          n6 := {          n1 := {
  id = 5          id = 6          id = 1
  find = 5       find = 6       find = 1
  name : f;      name : x;      name : f;
  args : [6,7];  args : [];      args : [5,7];
  parents : [1]; parents : [5];  parents : [];
}                }                }
```

Execution of MERGE(5,6)

- FIND(5) != FIND(6)
 - P1 = [1]
 - P2 = [5]
 - UNION(5,6) - example we saw earlier
 - P1 x P2 = [(1,5)]
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 - CONGRUENT(1,5)
- => So we recursively merge 1 and 5: MERGE(1,5)
=> 1,5,6 are in the same congruence class

Revisiting the decision procedure using the union-find algorithm

$$\phi := [s_1 = t_1, \dots, s_m = t_m, \neg(s_{m+1} = t_{m+1}), \dots, \neg(s_n = t_n)]$$

- 1 Construct the DAG G
- 2 For all $(s_i, t_i) \in [1, m]$ call $\text{MERGE}(s_i, t_i)$ – (in practice the id of s_i and t_i)
- 3 If for any inequalities $(s_i, t_i) \in [m + 1, n]$:
 - ▶ $\text{FIND}(s_i) = \text{FIND}(t_i)$, then return unsatisfiable
- 4 Otherwise return satisfiable.

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- 4 Otherwise return satisfiable.

Properties:

- The algorithm is sound and complete for quantifier-free conjunctive Σ_E -formulas.
- This algorithm runs in time $O(e^2)$ for $O(n)$ merges
More efficient algorithms exist that run in $O(e \log e)$ for $O(n)$ merges (e.g., see [\[Detlefs et al., 2005\]](#))




To sum up

What did we see today?

- We can decide the \mathcal{T}_E -satisfiability of a conjunctive formula ϕ computing the congruence closure:
 - ▶ We use a graph (UNION/FIND data structures) to represent and merge congruence classes
 - ▶ We obtain the congruence classes from the equalities in ϕ
 - ▶ Once we have the congruence classes, we check for inconsistencies with the inequalities of ϕ
- The computation is efficient (there are some optimization that can run in polynomial time ($O(n \log n)$))

Next week: how to decide consistency for the theory of linear arithmetic

References I

-  Barrett, C. W., Sebastiani, R., Seshia, S. A., and Tinelli, C. (2009). Satisfiability modulo theories. In Biere, A., Heule, M., van Maaren, H., and Walsh, T., editors, *Handbook of Satisfiability*, volume 185 of *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence and Applications*, pages 825–885. IOS Press.
-  Bradley, A. R. and Manna, Z. (2007). *The calculus of computation - decision procedures with applications to verification*. Springer.
-  Detlefs, D., Nelson, G., and Saxe, J. B. (2005). Simplify: a theorem prover for program checking. *J. ACM*, 52(3):365–473.