

On Proofs for SAT and QBF

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Marijn J.H. Heule and Benjamin Kiesl:

[The Potential of Interference-Based Proof Systems](#)

(Extended Abstract, Submitted to the ARCADE workshop)

Outline

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- Short summary of our first paper:
 - In the paper, we introduce new proof systems for SAT solving.
- Short summary of our second paper:
 - We show how two important proof systems for QBF are related.

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- **Example:**

$$(a \vee \bar{b}) \wedge (c) \wedge (\bar{a} \vee \bar{c})$$

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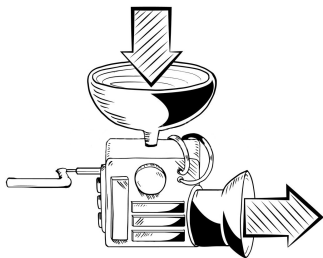
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 - ... a formula if it satisfies all its clauses.

➡ SAT:

- Given a formula F , does there exist an assignment that satisfies F ?

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$$(x \vee y) \wedge (\bar{x} \vee \bar{y}) \wedge (z \vee \bar{z})$$

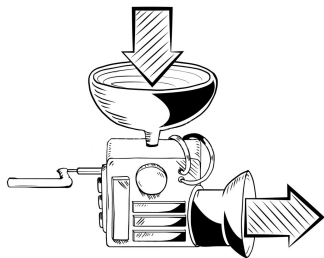


The Satisfiability Problem of Propositional Logic (SAT)

Input Formula



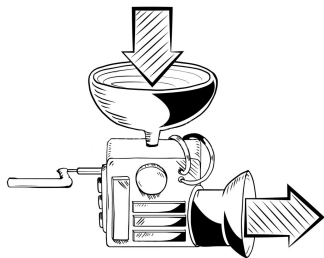
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The Satisfiability Problem of Propositional Logic (SAT)

Formulas can be seen as **sets** of clauses

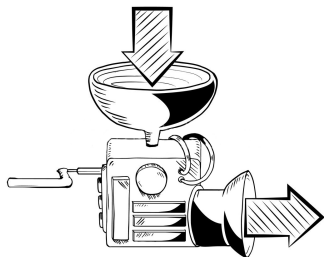
$$\downarrow$$
$$\{x \vee y, \quad \bar{x} \vee \bar{y}, \quad z \vee \bar{z}\}$$



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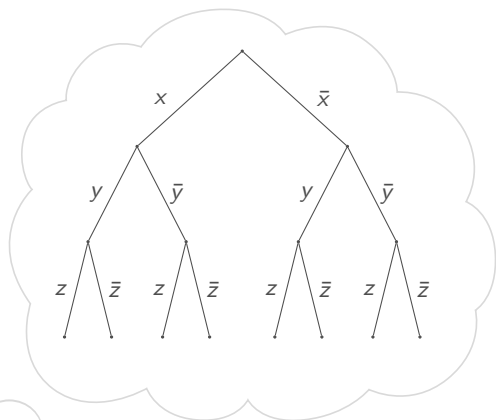
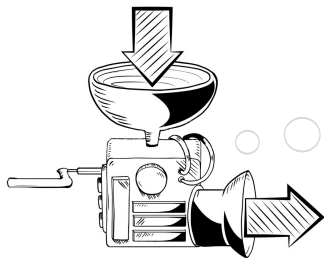
Clauses can be seen as **sets** of literals

↓
 $\{\{x, y\}, \{\bar{x}, \bar{y}\}, \{z, \bar{z}\}\}$



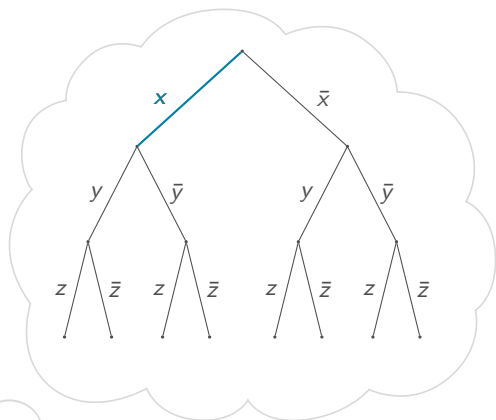
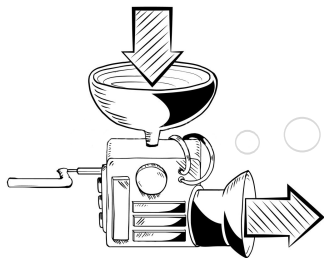
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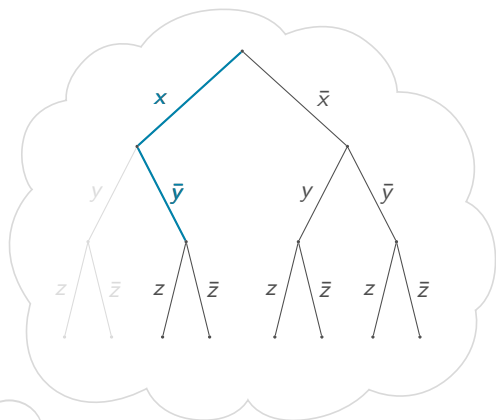
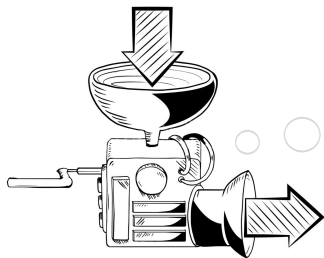
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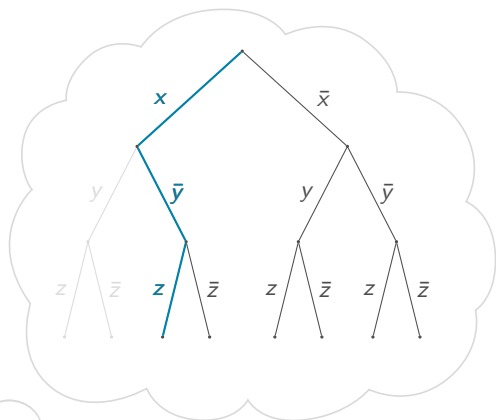
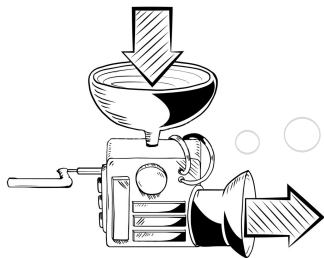
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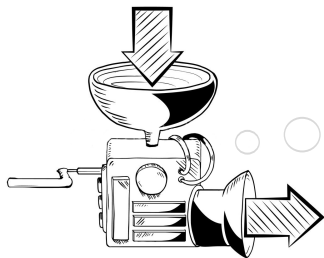
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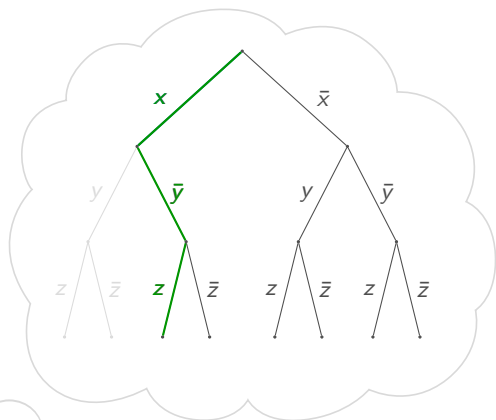


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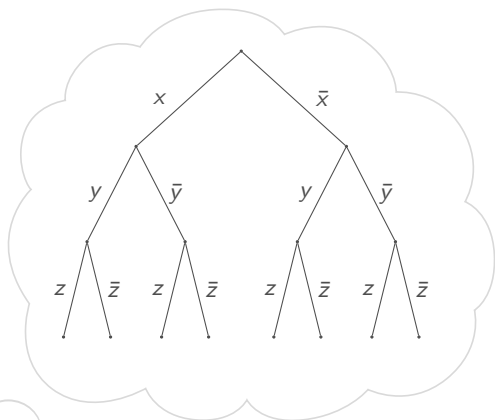
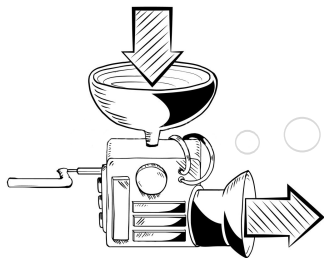


Satisfiable



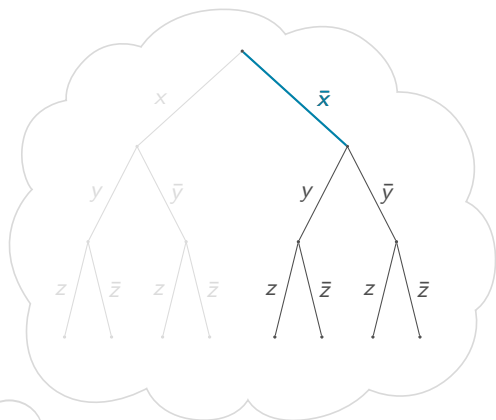
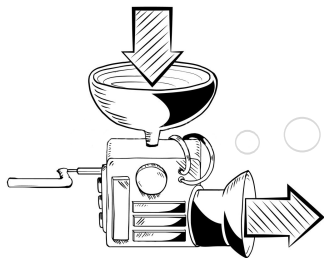
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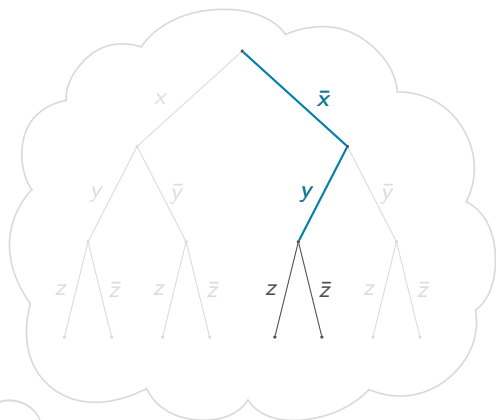
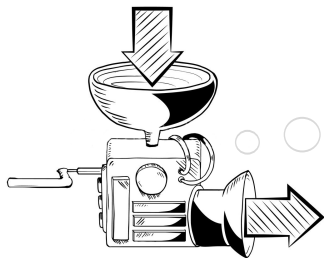
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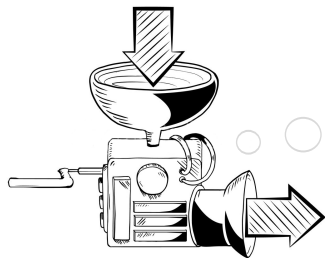
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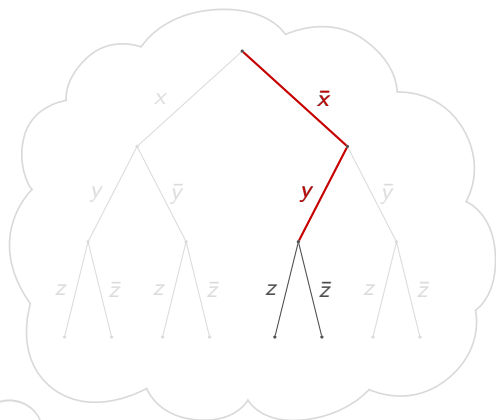


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- There exists a resolution proof for every unsatisfiable formula.

Resolution Proofs

- Example: $F = (\bar{x} \vee \bar{y} \vee z) \wedge (\bar{z}) \wedge (x \vee \bar{y}) \wedge (\bar{u} \vee y) \wedge (u)$

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■ **Drawbacks** of resolution:

- For **many** seemingly simple formulas, there are **only** resolution proofs of **exponential size**.
- **State-of-the-art solving techniques** are **not succinctly expressible**.

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 - ↳ State-of-the-art techniques should be expressible in the system.
4. (Soundness and completeness.)

Traditional Proofs vs. Interference-Based Proofs

- In **traditional** proof systems, everything that is **inferred**, is **implied** by the premises.

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- ➡ When inferring something, we reason about the **presence** of facts.
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- ➔ This leads to **interference-based proof systems**.

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 - ▶ The **empty clause is unsatisfiable** because it has no literal that could be true.

Interference-Based Proofs

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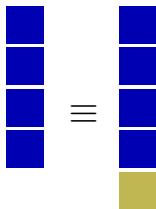


Proof



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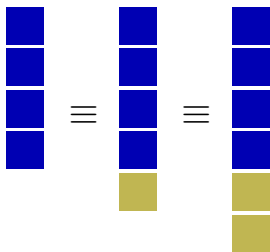


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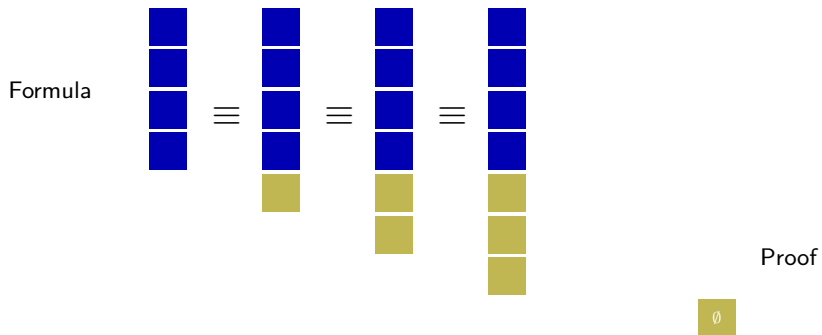
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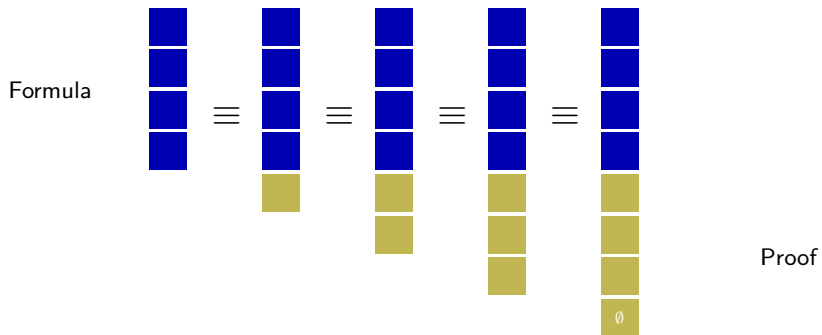
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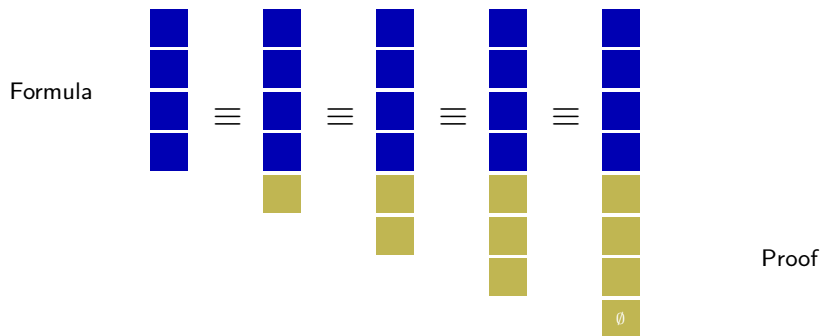
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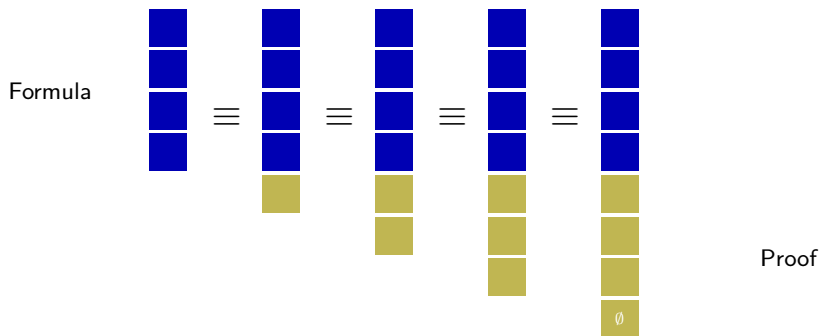


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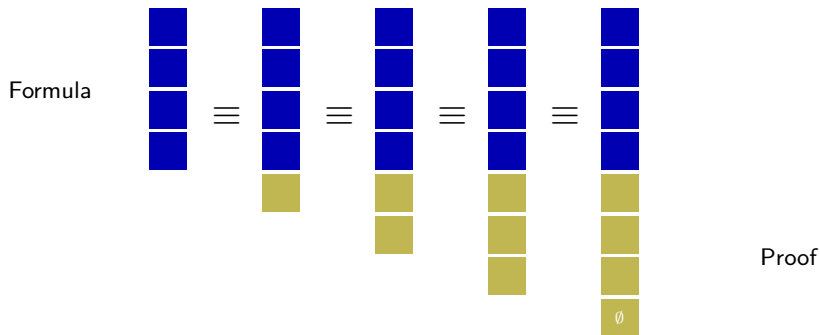
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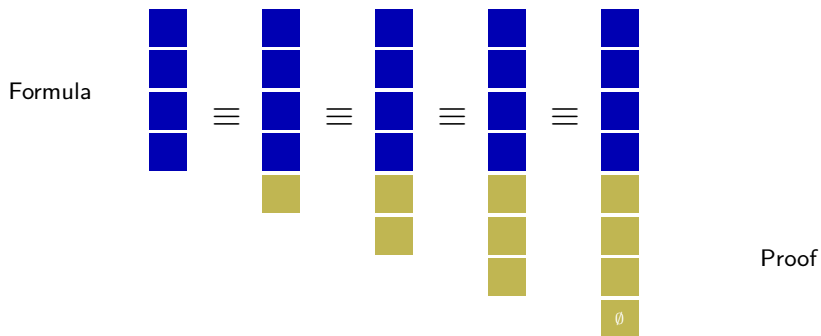
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- Are there **more general types of redundant clauses** than RATs?

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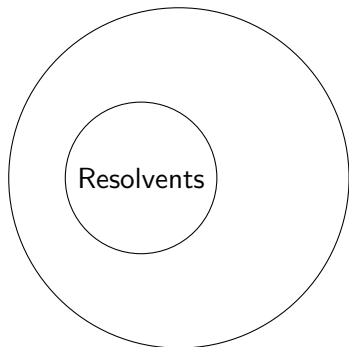
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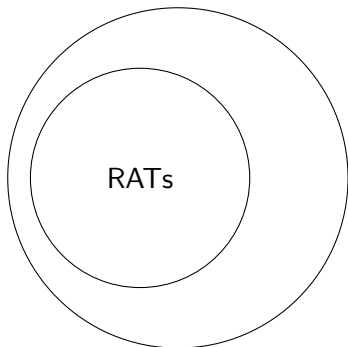
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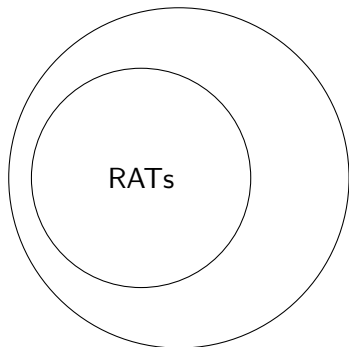
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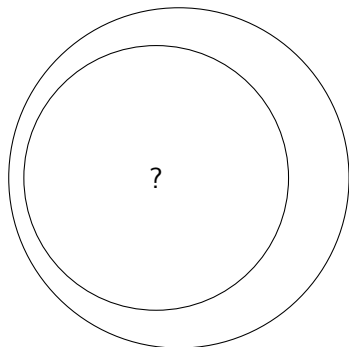
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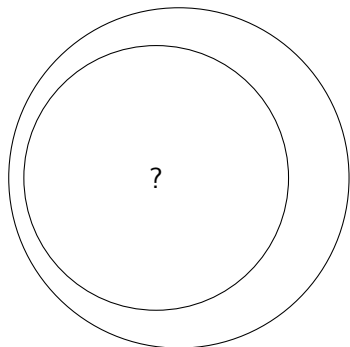
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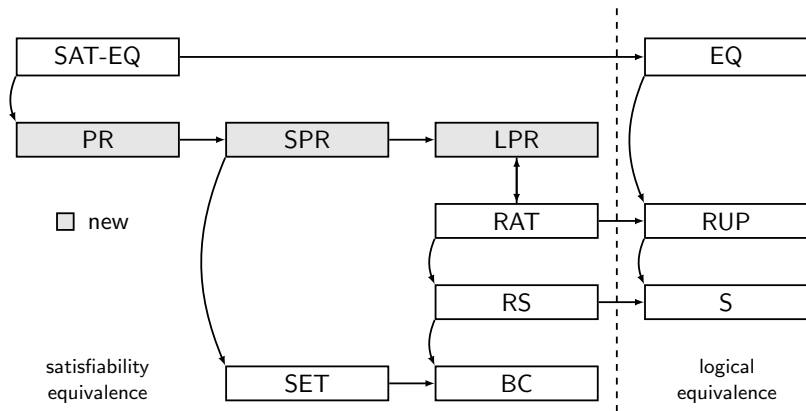
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New Landscape of Redundancy Notions



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 - ➡ **Open problem: Automatically** generate such short proofs.

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What Jayadev Misra Says

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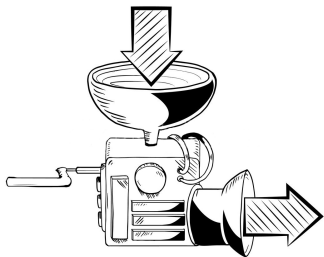
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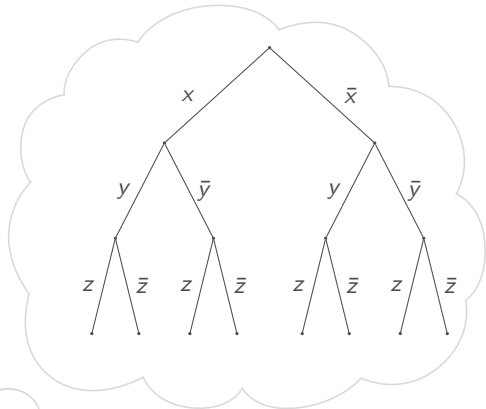
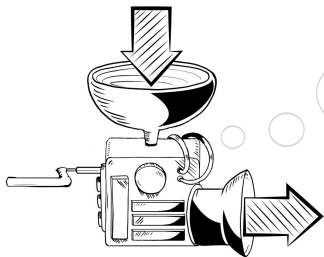
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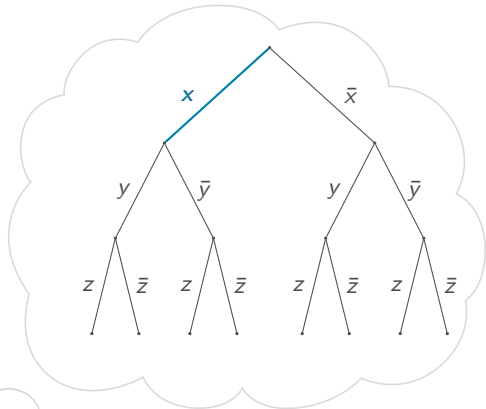
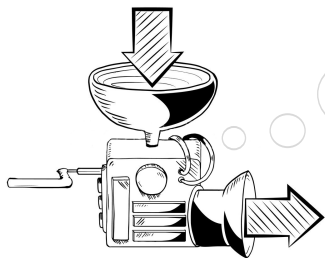
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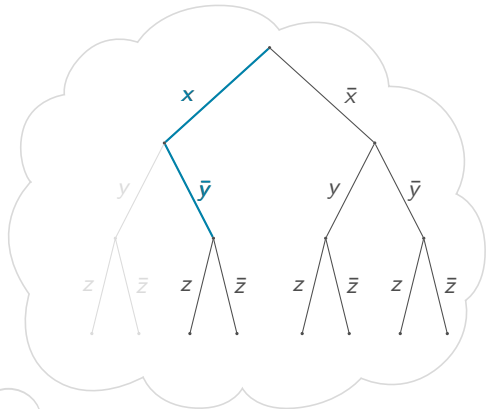
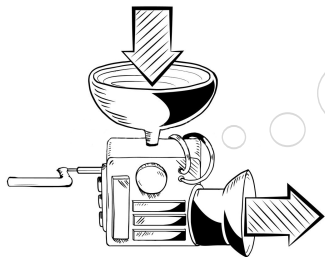
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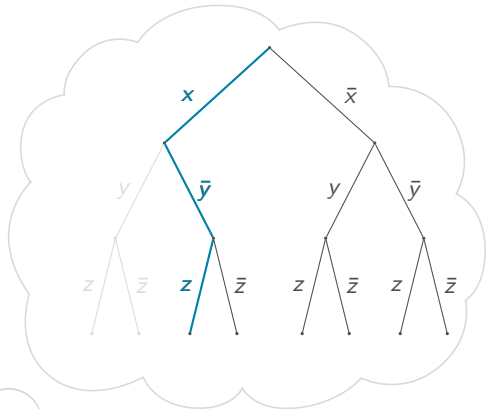
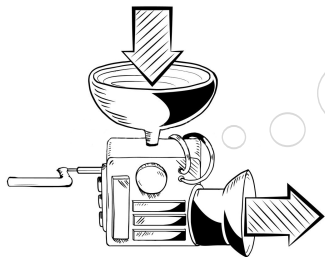
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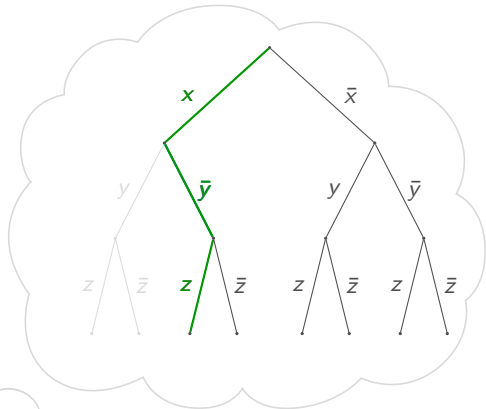
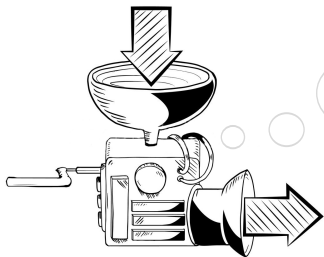
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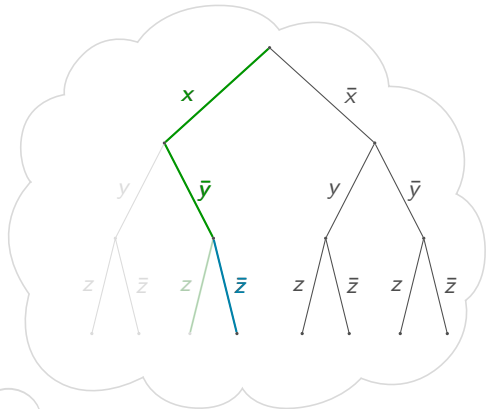
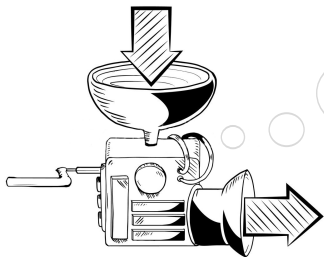
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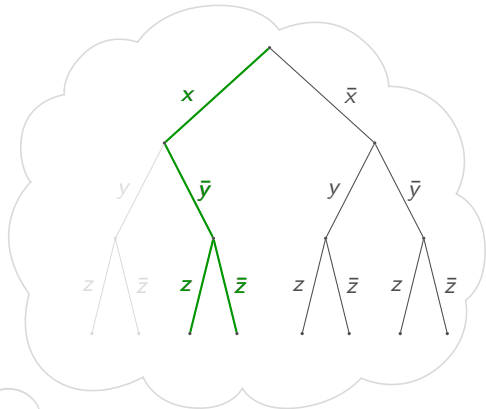
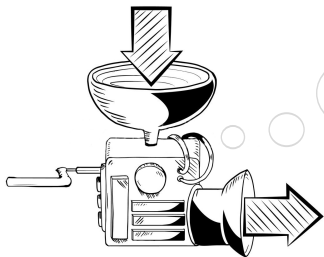
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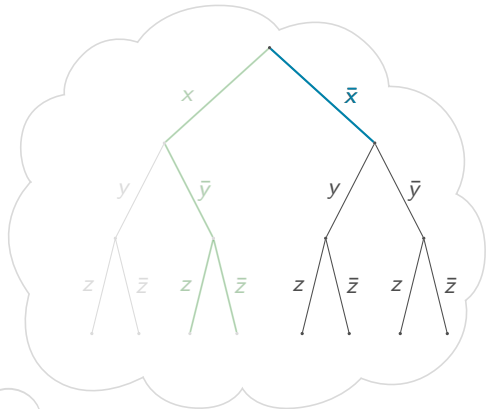
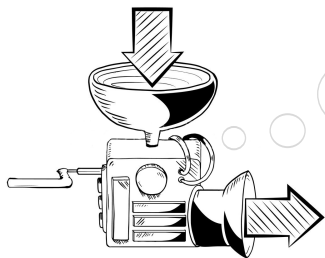
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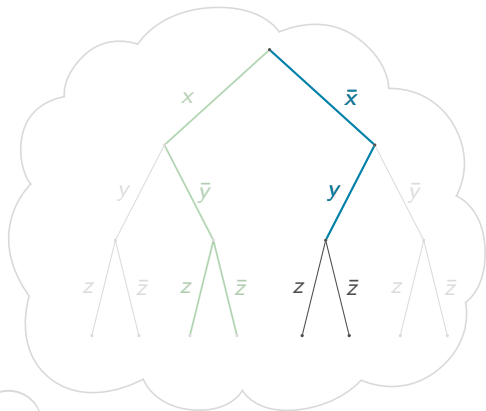
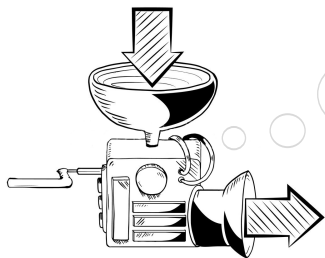
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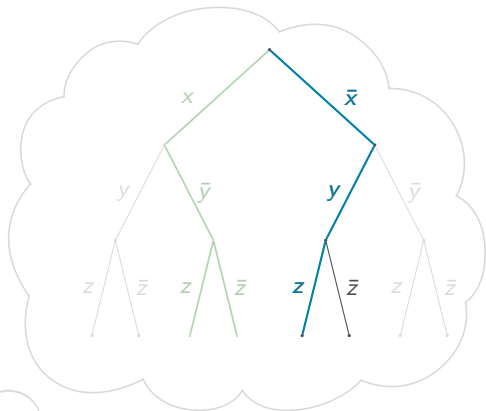
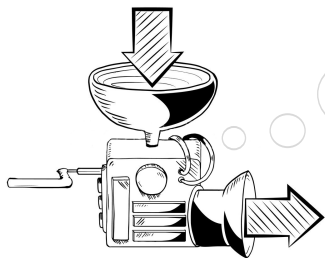
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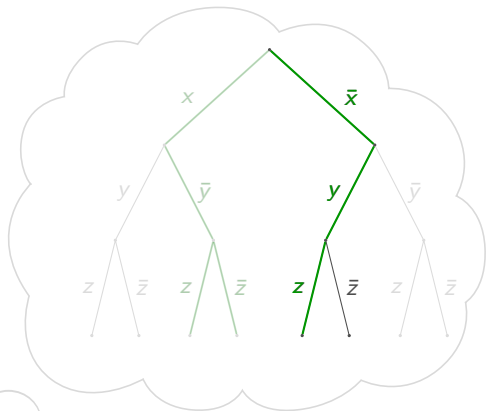
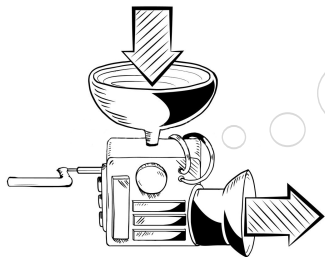
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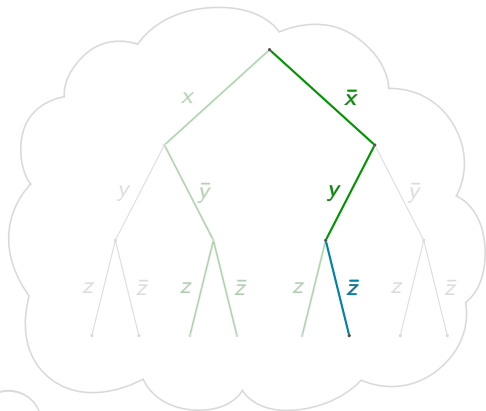
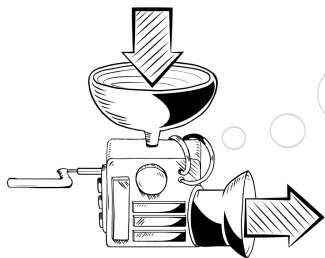
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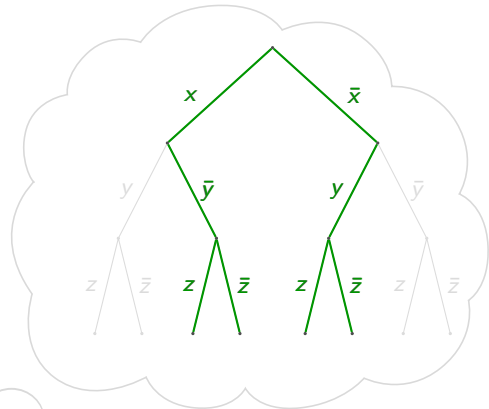
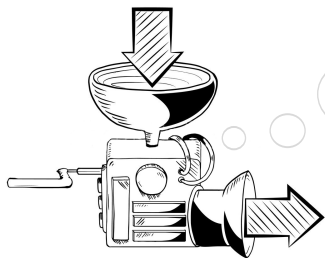
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 - Our answer: **Yes!**

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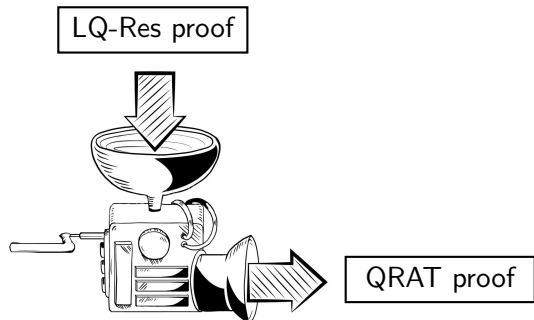
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- With the tool it is now possible to **merge a QRAT proof** of a preprocessor **with a long-distance proof** of a search-based solver.

Simulation Procedure: Results

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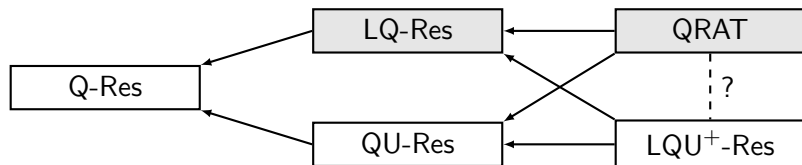
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 - Formulas well-known for having short LQ-Res proofs but being hard for other proof systems: Kleine Büning formulas
 - We have hand-crafted QRAT proofs of these formulas that are shorter than the LQ-Res proofs.

New Proof-Complexity Landscape for QBF



- **Open question:** Can QRAT also simulate LQU^+-Res , a system that is stronger than LQ-Res?

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A Little Blocked Literal . . . : Conclusion

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 - LQ-Res is a popular system for QBF *solving*.
 - QRAT is the best system for QBF *preprocessing*.
- QRAT turns out to be stronger than LQ-Res.
- Our *new tool* allows to transform LQ-Res proofs into QRAT proofs.

But I did not spend my whole time writing papers. (Fortunately.)

Found A Fantastic Collaborator/Supervisor



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Had Also a Lot of Fun With His Husband



Lived Together With Magnificent Roommates



Had a Great Time With Lindy and Devon



And Last But Not Least: Met a Cool Group!

