

Introduction to SML

Example: A Tautology Checker

Michael R. Hansen

`mrh@imm.dtu.dk`

Informatics and Mathematical Modelling
Technical University of Denmark

Propositional Logic

A **formula** in propositional logic is either an **atom** given by its name which is a string, or a **composite proposition** built from atoms using the operators for **negation** (\neg), **conjunction** (\wedge), and **disjunction** (\vee).

For example,

$$P \vee (Q \wedge \neg R)$$

is a formula of propositional logic, where P, Q and R are the atoms.

- define an SML datatype to represent formulas

Datatype

```
datatype prop = A of string  
              | Neg of prop  
              | And of prop * prop  
              | Or of prop * prop
```

```
infix 3 Or
```

```
infix 4 And
```

Negation Normal Form

A formula is in *negation normal form* if the negation operator only appears as applied directly to atoms.

Write an SML function transforming a formula into an equivalent formula in negation normal form, using the de Morgan laws:

$$\neg(p \wedge q) \Leftrightarrow (\neg p) \vee (\neg q)$$

$$\neg(p \vee q) \Leftrightarrow (\neg p) \wedge (\neg q)$$

and the law: $\neg(\neg p) \Leftrightarrow p$.

Negation Normal Form: function

```
fun nnf(Neg(p1 And p2)) = nnf(Neg p1) Or nnf(Neg p2)
  | nnf(Neg(p1 Or p2)) = nnf(Neg p1) And nnf(Neg p2)
  | nnf(Neg (Neg p1)) = nnf p1
  | nnf(p1 And p2) = nnf p1 And nnf p2
  | nnf(p1 Or p2) = nnf p1 Or nnf p2
  | nnf p = p
```

Conjunctive Normal Form

A *literal* is an atom or its negation.

A formula is in *conjunctive normal form* if it is a conjunction of formulas, where each conjunct (i.e. formula in the conjunction) is a disjunction of literals.

Write an SML function which transforms a formula into an equivalent formula in conjunctive normal form, using the above result and the laws:

$$\begin{aligned} p \vee (q \wedge r) &\Leftrightarrow (p \vee q) \wedge (p \vee r) \\ (p \wedge q) \vee r &\Leftrightarrow (p \vee r) \wedge (q \vee r) \end{aligned}$$

From NNF to CNF

```
fun cnf(p And q) = cnf p And cnf q
```

```
| cnf(p1 Or q1) =
```

```
  (case (cnf p1, cnf q1) of
```

```
    (p' , q' And r' ) => cnf(p' Or q' )  
                          And cnf(p' Or r' )
```

```
  | (p' And q' , r' ) => cnf(p' Or r' )  
                          And cnf(q' Or r' )
```

```
  | (p' , q' )          => p' Or q'
```

```
| cnf 1                = 1
```

Tautology

A formula ϕ is called a *tautology* if it is true for any assignment of truth values to its atoms.

- A **disjunction of literals**, a **clause**, is a tautology exactly when it contains both A and $\neg A$, for some atom A .
- A **conjunction** is a tautology precisely when each conjunct is a tautology.

Write a tautology checker in SML, i.e. an SML function which determines whether a formula is a tautology or not.

Tautology Checker

Assume function

```
isClauseTaut: prop -> bool
```

is given

```
fun isCnfTaut(p And q) = isCnfTaut p  
                        andalso isCnfTaut q
```

```
| isCnfTaut p          = isClauseTaut p
```

```
fun isTautologi f = isCnfTaut(cnf(nnf f));
```

Tautology of Clauses

Declare functions:

```
positiveAtoms: prop -> string list
```

```
negativeAtoms: prop -> string list
```

```
intersection: string list * string list -> string list
```

```
fun isClauseTaut c =  
  let val posAtoms = positiveAtoms c  
      val negAtoms = negativeAtoms c  
  in intersection(posAtoms, negAtoms) <> []  
  end
```