QRAT$^+$: Generalizing QRAT by a More Powerful QBF Redundancy Property

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9th International Joint Conference on Automated Reasoning (IJCAR), part of FLoC 2018, July 14-17, Oxford, UK

This work is supported by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) under grant S11409-N23.

Introduction (1)

Quantified Boolean Formulas (QBF):

- Existential ($\exists$) / universal ($\forall$) quantification of propositional variables.
- Checking QBF satisfiability: PSPACE-complete.
- QBF encodings: potentially more succinct than propositional logic.
- Progress in QBF reasoning:
  - Theory: proof systems.
  - Practice: solving, preprocessing.

Example

- QBF $\psi := \Pi.\phi$ in *prenex conjunctive normal form (PCNF)*.
- $$\psi = \underbrace{\forall u,v\exists x,y.}_{\text{quantifier prefix}} \underbrace{(\bar{u} \lor x) \land (u \lor \bar{x}) \land (\bar{v} \lor y) \land (v \lor \bar{y})}_{\text{propositional CNF}}.$$
- Prefix ordering matters in QBF reasoning, e.g. $u < x$, $v < y$.

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- Prefix ordering matters in QBF reasoning, e.g. $u < x$, $v < y$.

Introduction (2)

QBF Preprocessing:

- Elimination/addition of redundant clauses and literals in PCNF $\Pi.\phi$.
- Equivalence-preserving *inference* steps: $\Pi.(\phi \wedge C) \equiv \Pi.\phi$.
- Satisfiability-preserving *interference* steps: $\Pi.(\phi \wedge C) \equiv_{sat} \Pi.\phi$.
- Inferences/interferences relevant in proof systems, cf. [HK17].

QBF Preprocessing via QRAT **Proof System:** [HSB14, HSB17]

- Redundancy property: "quantified resolution asymmetric tautology."
- QRAT system simulates all techniques in QBF reasoning tools.
- Incomplete, poly-time inferences checks by unit propagation on *quantifier-free* ϕ.

$\psi := \Pi.(\phi \wedge C) \longrightarrow$ [Inferences checks wrt. ϕ: Has C QRAT?] $\underbrace{\longrightarrow \quad \Pi.\phi}_{\text{Deleting } C\text{: interference}}$

Our Contributions: QRAT$^+$ Proof System

$\psi := \Pi.(\phi \wedge C)$ $\longrightarrow$ Inferences checks wrt. $\Pi.\phi$: Has C QRAT$^+$? $\underbrace{\longrightarrow \quad \Pi.\phi}_{\text{Deleting } C\text{: interference}}$

- Generalizes inference checking in QRAT based on quantifier prefix.
- Incomplete, poly-time inferences checks by *QBF unit propagation* to *leverage quantifier structure*.
- More powerful interferences by QRAT$^+$ redundancy property.
- Proof-theoretical impact of QRAT/QRAT$^+$ redundancy removal.
- Tool *QRATPre+*: QRAT$^+$ redundancy removal for QBF preprocessing.
- Experimental results: positive impact on QBF solver performance.

The Original QRAT Proof System (1)

Theorem ([HSB17]; QRAT-based interferences)

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\big(\phi \wedge (C' \cup \{l\})\big)$ *with a clause* $C = (C' \cup \{l\})$.
If clause C *has* QRAT *on literal* l *with respect to* $\Pi.\phi$ *and*

1. $q(l) = \exists$, *then* $\psi \equiv_{sat} \Pi.\phi$. *(add/delete clauses)*
2. $q(l) = \forall$, *then* $\psi \equiv_{sat} \Pi.(\phi \wedge C')$. *(add/delete literals)*

- QRAT property of clauses: "quantified resolution asymm. tautology."
- QRAT checking: inference checking in *resolution neighborhood* of C.

Definition (cf. [Kul99, JHB12, KSTB17])

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\big(\phi \wedge (C' \cup \{l\})\big)$ with a clause $C = (C' \cup \{l\})$.
Resolution neighborhood (RN) of C with respect to $l \in C$:
$\text{RN}(C, l) := \{D \mid D \in \phi, \bar{l} \in D\}$.

The Original QRAT Proof System (2)

Definition ([HSB17]; informally)

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\Big(\phi \wedge (C' \cup \{l\})\Big)$, $C = (C' \cup \{l\})$, $D \in \mathrm{RN}(C, l)$.
Outer resolvent (OR) of C and D on l: $\mathrm{OR}(C, D, l) \subset (C \cup D)$.

Definition ([HSB17]; propositional inference checking)

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\Big(\phi \wedge (C' \cup \{l\})\Big)$ with a clause $C = (C' \cup \{l\})$.
Towards checking whether C has QRAT on l:

- For *all* $D \in \mathrm{RN}(C, l)$, consider outer resolvent $\mathrm{OR} := \mathrm{OR}(C, D, l)$.
- Propositional implication check:
  $\phi \models \mathrm{OR}$, i.e. $\phi \equiv \phi \wedge \mathrm{OR}$?
- $\phi \models \mathrm{OR}$ iff $\phi \rightarrow \mathrm{OR}$ valid iff $\phi \wedge \overline{\mathrm{OR}}$ unsatisfiable.

Problem: computationally hard (co-NP) propositional implication check.

The Original QRAT Proof System (3)

Definition ([HSB17]; incomplete propositional inference checks)

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\Big(\phi \wedge (C' \cup \{l\})\Big)$ with a clause $C = (C' \cup \{l\})$.
Checking whether C has QRAT on l in poly-time by unit propagation:

- For *all* $D \in \mathsf{RN}(C, l)$, consider outer resolvent $\mathsf{OR} := \mathsf{OR}(C, D, l)$.
- Propagate $\overline{\mathsf{OR}}$ on CNF ϕ to get empty clause ($\emptyset$):
  $\phi \wedge \overline{\mathsf{OR}} \vdash_1 \emptyset$?
- If $\phi \wedge \overline{\mathsf{OR}} \vdash_1 \emptyset$ then $\phi \wedge \overline{\mathsf{OR}}$ unsatisfiable:
  $\phi \models \mathsf{OR}$ and hence $\phi \equiv \phi \wedge \mathsf{OR}$.
- Otherwise, if $\phi \wedge \overline{\mathsf{OR}} \nvdash_1 \emptyset$ then C does not have QRAT on l.

The Original QRAT Proof System (3)

Definition ([HSB17])

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\Big(\phi \wedge (C' \cup \{l\})\Big)$ with a clause $C = (C' \cup \{l\})$.
Clause C has QRAT on l wrt. $\Pi.\phi$ iff, for *all* $D \in \text{RN}(C, l)$:
$\phi \wedge \overline{\text{OR}(C, D, l)} \vdash_1 \emptyset$.

Example (inference checks by unit propagation)

PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\phi$, $\Pi := \forall u_1 \exists x_3 \forall u_2 \exists x_4$, $\phi := (u_1 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (\bar{u}_2 \vee \bar{x}_4)$.
Let $C := (u_1 \vee \bar{x}_3)$ and check if $\phi \models C$ by unit propagation.

- Propagating $\overline{C} = (\bar{u}_1) \wedge (x_3)$ on CNF ϕ: $(x_4) \wedge (\bar{u}_2 \vee \bar{x}_4) \rightsquigarrow (\bar{u}_2)$.
- $\phi \wedge \overline{C} \nvdash_1 \emptyset$; all variables, including $\forall u_2$, are existential in CNF ϕ.
- Propositional unit propagation on ϕ is *not* aware of quantifiers in ψ.

The Original QRAT Proof System (3)

Definition ([HSB17])

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\Big(\phi \wedge (C' \cup \{l\})\Big)$ with a clause $C = (C' \cup \{l\})$.
Clause C has QRAT on l wrt. $\Pi.\phi$ iff, for *all* $D \in \mathrm{RN}(C, l)$:
$\phi \wedge \overline{\mathrm{OR}(C, D, l)} \vdash_1 \emptyset$.

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- Propagating $\overline{C} = (\bar{u}_1) \wedge (x_3)$ on CNF ϕ: $(x_4) \wedge (\bar{u}_2 \vee \bar{x}_4) \rightsquigarrow (\bar{u}_2)$.
- $\phi \wedge \overline{C} \nvdash_1 \emptyset$; all variables, including $\forall u_2$, are existential in CNF ϕ.
- Propositional unit propagation on ϕ is *not* aware of quantifiers in ψ.

$\Rightarrow$ Leverage PCNF quantifier structure for stronger propagation.

$\Rightarrow$ Checking QBF implication: $\Pi.\phi$ implies $\Pi.(\phi \wedge C)$.

QRAT$^+$: The Big Picture

$\psi := \Pi.(\phi \wedge C) \longrightarrow$ **Inferences** checks wrt. ϕ: Has C QRAT? $\underbrace{\longrightarrow \quad \Pi.\phi}_{\text{Deleting } C\text{: interference}}$

Theorem ([HSB17]; QRAT-based interferences)

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\big(\phi \wedge (C' \cup \{l\})\big)$ *with a clause* $C = (C' \cup \{l\})$.
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2. $q(l) = \forall$, *then* $\psi \equiv_{sat} \Pi.(\phi \wedge C')$. *(add/delete literals)*

QRAT$^+$: The Big Picture

$\psi := \Pi.(\phi \wedge C) \longrightarrow$ **Inferences** checks wrt. $\Pi.\phi$: Has C QRAT$^+$? $\underbrace{\longrightarrow \quad \Pi.\phi}_{\text{Deleting } C\text{: interference}}$

Theorem (QRAT$^+$-based interferences)

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\Big(\phi \wedge (C' \cup \{l\})\Big)$ *with a clause* $C = (C' \cup \{l\})$.
If clause C *has* QRAT$^+$ *on literal* l *with respect to* $\Pi.\phi$ *and*

1. $q(l) = \exists$, *then* $\psi \equiv_{sat} \Pi.\phi$. *(add/delete clauses)*
2. $q(l) = \forall$, *then* $\psi \equiv_{sat} \Pi.(\phi \wedge C')$. *(add/delete literals)*

- Interferences like QRAT: QRAT$^+$ clause/literal redundancy property.
- QRAT$^+$ interferences: more powerful, more general than QRAT.
- QRAT vs. QRAT$^+$: leveraging QBF quantifier structure in inference checking by a variant of unit propagation.

QRAT$^+$: More General Inference Checking

Definition ([HSB17]; propositional inference checking)

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\Big(\phi \wedge (C' \cup \{l\})\Big)$ with a clause $C = (C' \cup \{l\})$.
Towards checking whether C has QRAT on l:

- For *all* $D \in \mathsf{RN}(C, l)$, consider outer resolvent $\mathsf{OR} := \mathsf{OR}(C, D, l)$.
- Propositional implication check:
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QRAT$^+$: More General Inference Checking

Definition (QBF inference checking)

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\Big(\phi \wedge (C' \cup \{l\})\Big)$ with a clause $C = (C' \cup \{l\})$.

Towards checking whether C has QRAT$^+$ on l:

- For *all* $D \in \mathrm{RN}(C, l)$, consider outer resolvent $\mathrm{OR} := \mathrm{OR}(C, D, l)$.
- QBF implication check:
  $\Pi.\phi \models \Pi.(\phi \wedge \mathrm{OR})$, i.e. $\Pi.\phi \equiv_t \Pi.(\phi \wedge \mathrm{OR})$?

- Inference checking in QRAT$^+$: implication checking on QBF level.
- Generalization of propositional implication checking in QRAT.
- Known fact [SDB06]: for CNFs ϕ and ϕ', if $\phi \equiv \phi'$ then $\Pi.\phi \equiv_t \Pi.\phi'$.
- In general, if $\Pi.\phi \equiv_t \Pi.\phi'$ then $\phi \not\equiv \phi'$.
- **Problem (again):** computationally hard QBF implication check.

QRAT$^+$: QBF Unit Propagation (1)

Definition ([KBKF95])

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\phi$ and a non-tautological clause C, *universal reduction (UR)* of C produces the clause

$$UR(C) := C \setminus \{l \in C \mid q(l) = \forall, \forall l' \in C \text{ with } q(l') = \exists : l' < l\}$$

- Local deletion of "trailing" universal literals by prefix ordering '$<$'.
- *QBF unit propagation*: propositional unit propagation + UR.
- Notation $\Pi.\phi \vdash_{1\forall} \emptyset$: propagation on QBF $\Pi.\phi$ results in empty clause.

Example

Given PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\phi$ with $\Pi := \forall u_1 \exists x_3 \forall u_2 \exists x_4$.

- For clause $C := (x_3 \vee \bar{u}_2 \vee x_4)$, $UR(C) = C$ since $u_2 < x_4$, $q(x_4) = \exists$.
- For clause $C' := (u_1 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee \bar{u}_2)$, $UR(C') = (u_1 \vee \bar{x}_3)$ since u_2 trailing.
- **Note:** UR leverages quantifier structure to eliminate universal literals.

QRAT$^+$: QBF Unit Propagation (2)

Definition (QBF inference checking)

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\Big(\phi \wedge (C' \cup \{l\})\Big)$ with a clause $C = (C' \cup \{l\})$.

Towards checking whether C has QRAT$^+$ on l:

- For *all* $D \in \mathrm{RN}(C, l)$, consider outer resolvent $\mathrm{OR} := \mathrm{OR}(C, D, l)$.
- Computationally hard QBF implication check: $\Pi.\phi \models \Pi.(\phi \wedge \mathrm{OR})$, i.e. $\Pi.\phi \equiv_t \Pi.(\phi \wedge \mathrm{OR})$?
- **Goal:** $\Pi.(\phi \wedge \overline{\mathrm{OR}}) \vDash_{1\forall} \emptyset$ such that $\Pi.\phi \models \Pi.(\phi \wedge \mathrm{OR})$.

Soundness Problem (!): if $\Pi.(\phi \wedge \overline{C}) \vDash_{1\forall} \emptyset$ then $\Pi.\phi \not\models \Pi.(\phi \wedge C)$

- Given QBF $\Pi.\phi$ with $\Pi := \forall u \exists x$, $\phi := (u \vee \bar{x}) \wedge (\bar{u} \vee x)$, and $C := (x)$.
- $\Pi.\phi$ satisfiable, $\Pi.(\phi \wedge \overline{C}) \vDash_{1\forall} \emptyset$ but $\Pi(\phi \wedge (x))$ unsatisfiable.

QRAT$^+$: QBF Unit Propagation on Abstractions (1)

Definition

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\phi$ with prefix $\Pi := Q_1 B_1 \ldots Q_i B_i Q_{i+1} B_{i+1} \ldots Q_n B_n$.

- *Abstraction* of ψ with respect to block i: $Abs(\psi, i) := Abs(\Pi, i).\phi$.
- $Abs(\Pi, i) := \underbrace{\exists(B_1 \cup \ldots \cup B_i)}_{abstracted} \underbrace{Q_{i+1} B_{i+1} \ldots Q_n B_n}_{original}$
- Leftmost quantifiers up to $Q_i B_i$ are all existential.
- Quantifier-free CNF part ϕ unchanged.

Example

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\phi$ with prefix $\Pi := \forall B_1 \exists B_2 \forall B_3 \exists B_4$.

- $Abs(\psi, 0) = \psi$
- $Abs(\psi, 1) = Abs(\psi, 2) = \exists(B_1 \cup B_2) \forall B_3 \exists B_4.\phi$
- $Abs(\psi, 3) = Abs(\psi, 4) = \exists(B_1 \cup B_2 \cup B_3 \cup B_4).\phi$

QRAT$^+$: QBF Unit Propagation on Abstractions (2)

Lemma

Let $\psi := \Pi.\phi$ *and* $\psi' := \Pi.\phi'$ *be QBFs with the same prefix* $\Pi := Q_1 B_1 \dots Q_i B_i \dots Q_n B_n$.

- *For all i, if* $Abs(\psi, i) \equiv_t Abs(\psi', i)$ *then* $\psi \equiv_t \psi'$.

Lemma

Given a $\Pi.\phi$ *and a clause* C.
Let $i = \max(levels(\Pi, C))$ *be the maximum nesting level of variables in* C.

- *If* $Abs(\Pi.(\phi \wedge \overline{C}), i) \vDash_{1\forall} \emptyset$ *then* $\Pi.\phi \equiv_t \Pi.(\phi \wedge C)$.

- Check QBF implication of some clause C based on abstractions.
- Apply QBF unit propagation to *suitable* abstractions wrt. C.
- If empty clause derived on abstraction of $\Pi.\phi$, then C implied by $\Pi.\phi$.

QRAT$^+$: QBF Unit Propagation on Abstractions (3)

Example

PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\phi$, $\Pi := \exists x_1, x_2 \forall u_1 \exists x_3 \forall u_2 \exists x_4$ and CNF ϕ as follows.

$C_1 := (x_2 \vee \bar{u}_1 \vee x_3)$
$C_2 := (\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{u}_1 \vee \bar{x}_3)$
$C_3 := (\bar{x}_2 \vee u_1 \vee x_3)$
$C_4 := (u_1 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee x_4)$
$C_5 := (\bar{u}_2 \vee \bar{x}_4)$
$C_6 := (\bar{x}_1 \vee u_2 \vee \bar{x}_4)$

Check if $C := (u_1 \vee \bar{x}_3)$ implied by ψ by QBF unit prop. on abstraction:

- If $Abs(\Pi.(\phi \wedge \overline{C}), i) \vdash_{1\forall} \emptyset$ then $\Pi.\phi \equiv_t \Pi.(\phi \wedge C)$.
- Maximum nesting level in C: $i = \max(levels(\Pi, C)) = 3$.

QRAT^{+}: QBF Unit Propagation on Abstractions (3)

Example

PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\phi$, $\Pi := \exists x_1, x_2 \exists u_1 \exists x_3 \forall u_2 \exists x_4$ and CNF ϕ as follows.

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\begin{aligned}
C_1 &:= (x_2 \vee \bar{u}_1 \vee x_3) \\
C_2 &:= (\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{u}_1 \vee \bar{x}_3) \\
C_3 &:= (\bar{x}_2 \vee u_1 \vee x_3) \\
C_4 &:= (u_1 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee x_4) \\
C_5 &:= (\bar{u}_2 \vee \bar{x}_4) \\
C_6 &:= (\bar{x}_1 \vee u_2 \vee \bar{x}_4)
\end{aligned}
$$

- Propagate $\overline{C} = (\bar{u}_1) \wedge (x_3)$

Check if $C := (u_1 \vee \bar{x}_3)$ implied by ψ by QBF unit prop. on abstraction:

- If $Abs(\Pi.(\phi \wedge \overline{C}), i) \vDash_{1\forall} \emptyset$ then $\Pi.\phi \equiv_t \Pi.(\phi \wedge C)$.
- Maximum nesting level in C: $i = \max(levels(\Pi, C)) = 3$.
- Abstract wrt. quantifier block $i = 3$.

QRAT$^+$: QBF Unit Propagation on Abstractions (3)

Example

PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\phi$, $\Pi := \exists x_1, x_2 \exists u_1 \exists x_3 \forall u_2 \exists x_4$ and CNF ϕ as follows.

$$
\begin{aligned}
C_1 &:= \cancel{(x_2 \vee \bar{u}_1 \vee x_3)} \\
C_2 &:= \cancel{(\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{u}_1 \vee \bar{x}_3)} \\
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C_4 &:= (\cancel{u_1} \vee \cancel{\bar{x}_3} \vee x_4) \\
C_5 &:= (\bar{u}_2 \vee \bar{x}_4) \\
C_6 &:= (\bar{x}_1 \vee u_2 \vee \bar{x}_4)
\end{aligned}
$$

- Propagate $\overline{C} = (\bar{u}_1) \wedge (x_3)$
- Simplify, propagate (x_4) resulting from C_4.
- C_5 becomes empty since u_2 still universal.
- Hence $Abs(\Pi.(\phi \wedge \overline{C}), i) \vdash_{1\forall} \emptyset$.

Check if $C := (u_1 \vee \bar{x}_3)$ implied by ψ by QBF unit prop. on abstraction:

- If $Abs(\Pi.(\phi \wedge \overline{C}), i) \vdash_{1\forall} \emptyset$ then $\Pi.\phi \equiv_t \Pi.(\phi \wedge C)$.
- Maximum nesting level in C: $i = \max(levels(\Pi, C)) = 3$.
- Abstract wrt. quantifier block $i = 3$.

QRAT$^+$: Final View

Definition ([HSB17]; incomplete propositional inference checks)

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\Big(\phi \wedge (C' \cup \{l\})\Big)$ with a clause $C = (C' \cup \{l\})$.
Checking whether C has QRAT on l in poly-time by unit propagation:

- For *all* $D \in \mathrm{RN}(C, l)$, consider outer resolvent $\mathrm{OR} := \mathrm{OR}(C, D, l)$.
- Propagate $\overline{\mathrm{OR}}$ on CNF ϕ to get empty clause ($\emptyset$):
  $\phi \wedge \overline{\mathrm{OR}} \vdash_1 \emptyset$?
- If $\phi \wedge \overline{\mathrm{OR}} \vdash_1 \emptyset$ then $\phi \equiv \phi \wedge \mathrm{OR}$.
- Otherwise, if $\phi \wedge \overline{\mathrm{OR}} \nvdash_1 \emptyset$ then C does not have QRAT on l.

$$\psi := \Pi.(\phi \wedge C) \;\longrightarrow\; \boxed{\text{Inferences checks wrt. } \phi\text{: Has } C \text{ QRAT?}} \;\underbrace{\longrightarrow \quad \Pi.\phi}_{\text{Deleting } C\text{: interference}}$$

QRAT$^+$: Final View

Definition (incomplete QBF inference checks)

Given a PCNF $\psi := \Pi.\big(\phi \wedge (C' \cup \{l\})\big)$ with a clause $C = (C' \cup \{l\})$.

Checking whether C has QRAT$^+$ on l in poly-time by QBF unit prop.:

- For *all* $D \in \mathrm{RN}(C, l)$, consider outer resolvent $\mathrm{OR} := \mathrm{OR}(C, D, l)$.
- Let $i = \max(\mathit{levels}(\Pi, \mathrm{OR}))$ be the maximum nesting level in OR.
- Consider the abstraction of $\Pi.\phi$ with respect to block i.
- If $\mathit{Abs}(\Pi.(\phi \wedge \overline{\mathrm{OR}}), i) \vdash_{1\forall} \emptyset$ then $\Pi.\phi \equiv_t \Pi.(\phi \wedge \mathrm{OR})$.
- If $\mathit{Abs}(\Pi.(\phi \wedge \overline{\mathrm{OR}}), i) \nvdash_{1\forall} \emptyset$ then C does not have QRAT$^+$ on literal l.

$\psi := \Pi.(\phi \wedge C) \longrightarrow$ [Inferences checks wrt. $\Pi.\phi$: Has C QRAT$^+$?] $\underbrace{\longrightarrow \quad \Pi.\phi}_{\text{Deleting } C\text{: interference}}$

- Abstractions: crucial for *sound and poly-time* QRAT$^+$ checking.

The Power of QRAT and QRAT$^+$

Proposition (cf. example in paper [LE18b])

There exists a class of PCNFs where every clause C has QRAT$^+$*, but not* QRAT*, on an existential literal, i.e. C can be eliminated by* QRAT$^+$ *only.*

- More powerful QRAT$^+$ interferences: adding/deleting clauses.
- Abstractions in QBF unit propagation are crucial for this observation.
- Similar result for elimination of universal literals by QRAT$^+$.

The Power of QRAT and QRAT$^+$

Proposition (cf. example in paper [LE18b])

Eliminating universal literals by QRAT *or* QRAT$^+$ *in PCNFs may result in exponentially shorter proofs in the LQU$^+$-resolution calculus.*

- LQU$^+$-resolution [BWJ14]: strongest resolution-based calculus.
- Impact of QRAT/QRAT$^+$-interferences on power of proof systems.
- More powerful interferences by redundancy elimination, cf. [HK17].
- Related result [KHS17] for weaker QU-resolution calculus [VG12].

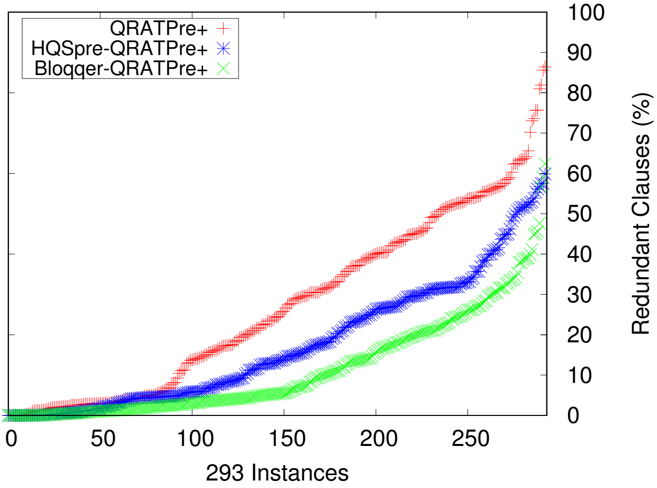
Experiments (1)

Preprocessor "QRATPre+":

- First implementation of redundancy removal by QRAT/QRAT$^+$.
- Future work: addition of redundancies, handling non-confluence.
- Focus: 523 PCNFs from QBFEVAL'17 competition.
- Impact of QRAT$^+$ less pronounced compared to QRAT: only 32% of instances have > 3 quantifier blocks, cf. [LE18a].
- Clause elimination more effective than universal literal elimination (no effects on 2% resp. 75% of benchmarks).
- Positive effects on QBF solving: more instances solved.

Source code: `https://lonsing.github.io/qratpreplus/`

Experiments (2): Clause Elimination



- QRATPre+ detects redundant clauses even after the application of state-of-the-art preprocessors Bloqqer and HQSpre.

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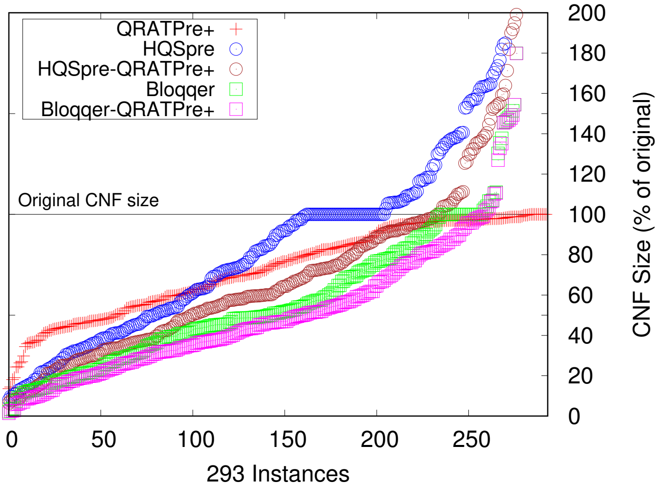
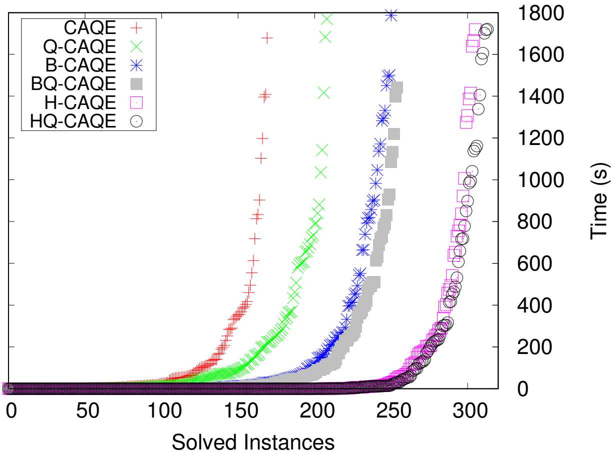


- Variable expansion in Bloqqer and HQSpre may increase CNF sizes, QRATPre+ still effective.

Experiments (3): Solver Performance on 523 PCNFs

Preprocessing:

- "Q": QRATPre+
- "B": Bloqqer
- "H": HQSpre
- "BQ": first Bloqqer, then QRATPre+
- "HQ": first HQSpre, then QRATPre+



Solver	*Original*	*Q*	*B*	*BQ*	*H*	*HQ*
CAQE	170	209	251	255	306	314

Experiments (3): Solver Performance on 523 PCNFs

Preprocessing:

- "Q": QRATPre+
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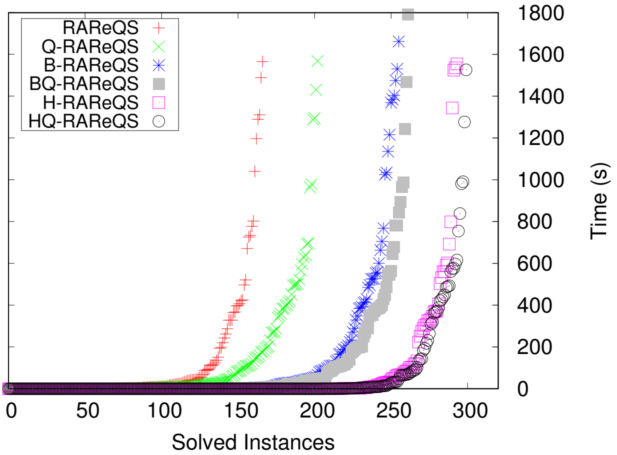
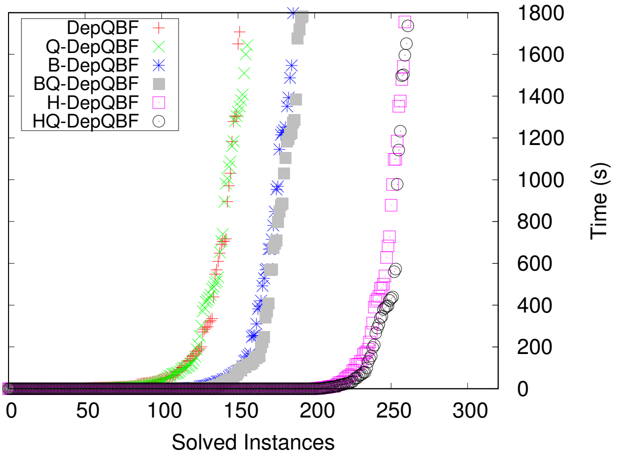


Solver	*Original*	*Q*	*B*	*BQ*	*H*	*HQ*
CAQE	170	209	251	255	306	314
RAReQS	167	203	256	262	294	300

Experiments (3): Solver Performance on 523 PCNFs

Preprocessing:

- "Q": QRATPre+
- "B": Bloqqer
- "H": HQSpre
- "BQ": first Bloqqer, then QRATPre+
- "HQ": first HQSpre, then QRATPre+



Solver	*Original*	*Q*	*B*	*BQ*	*H*	*HQ*
CAQE	170	209	251	255	306	314
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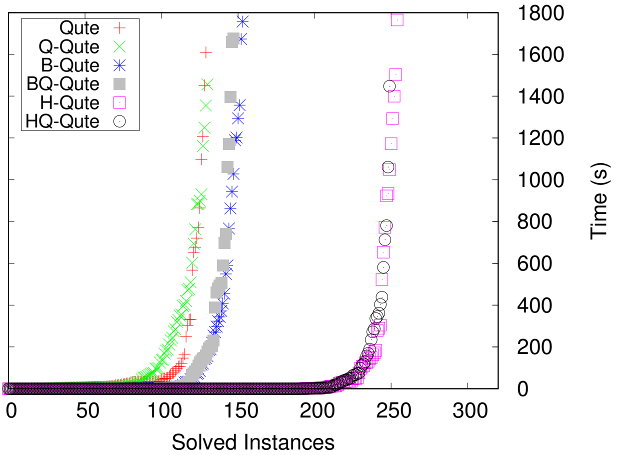

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Summary

Poly-time inference checks for QRAT:

- Cf. [HSB17].
- $\phi \wedge \overline{\mathrm{OR}(C, D, l)} \vdash_1 \emptyset$?

QRAT $\vdash_1$

- Read $\boxed{\mathrm{X}} \rightarrow \boxed{\mathrm{Y}}$ as "Y is more general than X".
- Interferences based on Y are more powerful than based on X.

$\psi := \Pi.(\phi \wedge C) \longrightarrow$ **Inferences** checks wrt. ϕ: Has C QRAT? $\underbrace{\longrightarrow \quad \Pi.\phi}_{\text{Deleting } C\text{: interference}}$

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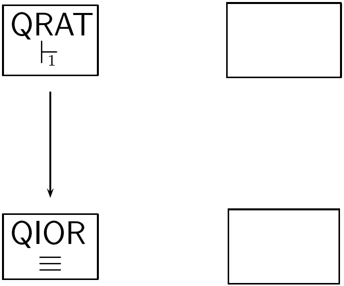
Complete inference checks for QIOR:

- Cf. [HSB17].
- quantified implied outer resolvent.
- $\phi \equiv \phi \wedge \text{OR}(\Pi, C, D, l)$?



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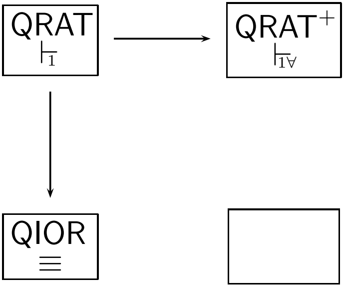
Summary

Poly-time inference checks for QRAT$^+$:

- $Abs(\Pi.(\phi \wedge \overline{\text{OR}(C, D, l)}), i) \vDash_{1\forall} \emptyset$?



- Read $\boxed{X} \rightarrow \boxed{Y}$ as "Y is more general than X".
- Interferences based on Y are more powerful than based on X.

$\psi := \Pi.(\phi \wedge C) \longrightarrow$ **Inferences checks wrt. $\Pi.\phi$: Has C QRAT$^+$?** $\longrightarrow \Pi.\phi$

Deleting C: interference

Summary

Poly-time inference checks for QRAT$^+$:

- $Abs(\Pi.(\phi \wedge \overline{\text{OR}(C, D, l)}), i) \vdash_{1\forall} \emptyset$?

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- quantified implied outer resolvent.
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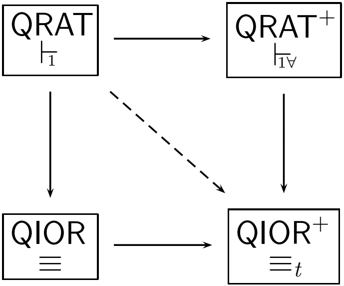

- Read $\boxed{\text{X}} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{Y}}$ as "Y is more general than X".
- Interferences based on Y are more powerful than based on X.

$\psi := \Pi.(\phi \wedge C) \longrightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{Inferences checks wrt. } \Pi.\phi\text{: Has } C \text{ QRAT}^+\text{?}}$ $\underbrace{\longrightarrow \quad \Pi.\phi}_{\text{Deleting } C\text{: interference}}$

Summary

Future Work:

- Workflow for QRAT$^+$ proof checking and Skolem function extraction.
- Handling non-confluence of QRAT/QRAT$^+$ interferences in practice.
- Selective addition of redundancies (clauses, literals) to enable further interferences.

QRATPre+ tool: `https://lonsing.github.io/qratpreplus/`

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Thank you!

Appendix

[Appendix] QRAT$^+$: Outer Resolvents and Abstractions

$D_1 = D'_1 \cup \{\bar{l}\} \ \dots$ $\qquad D_j = D'_j \cup \{\bar{l}\} \ \dots$ $\qquad D_n = D'_n \cup \{\bar{l}\}$

$\mathsf{OR}_1 := \mathsf{OR}(C, D_1, l) \subset (C \cup D_1)$
$i = max(levels(\Pi, \mathsf{OR}_1)) = 3$
$\Pi \ = \exists B_1 \forall B_2 \exists B_3 \forall B_4 \exists B_5$
$Abs(\Pi, i) := \exists B_1 \exists B_2 \exists B_3 \forall B_4 \exists B_5$
Check: $Abs(\Pi.(\phi \wedge \overline{\mathsf{OR}_1}), i) \vdash_{1\forall} \emptyset$?

$C = C' \cup \{l\}$

- Abstractions may differ with respect to current outer resolvent.
- Different numbers of universal variables in resp. abstracted formula.
- Quantifier structure is leveraged to a different extent.

[Appendix] QRAT^{+}: Outer Resolvents and Abstractions

$D_1 = D'_1 \cup \{\bar{l}\} \ \dots \qquad D_j = D'_j \cup \{\bar{l}\} \ \dots \qquad D_n = D'_n \cup \{\bar{l}\}$

$$\mathsf{OR}_j := \mathsf{OR}(C, D_j, l) \subset (C \cup D_j)$$
$$i = max(levels(\Pi, \mathsf{OR}_j)) = 1$$
$$\Pi \ = \exists B_1 \forall B_2 \exists B_3 \forall B_4 \exists B_5$$
$$Abs(\Pi, i) := \exists B_1 \forall B_2 \exists B_3 \forall B_4 \exists B_5$$
$$\text{Check: } Abs(\Pi.(\phi \wedge \overline{\mathsf{OR}_j}), i) \vdash_{1\forall} \emptyset?$$

$$C = C' \cup \{l\}$$

- Abstractions may differ with respect to current outer resolvent.
- Different numbers of universal variables in resp. abstracted formula.
- Quantifier structure is leveraged to a different extent.

[Appendix] QRAT$^+$: Outer Resolvents and Abstractions

$D_1 = D'_1 \cup \{\bar{l}\}$ ... $D_j = D'_j \cup \{\bar{l}\}$ ... $D_n = D'_n \cup \{\bar{l}\}$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathsf{OR}_n &:= \mathsf{OR}(C, D_n, l) \subset (C \cup D_n) \\
i &= max(levels(\Pi, \mathsf{OR}_n)) = 5 \\
\Pi &= \exists B_1 \forall B_2 \exists B_3 \forall B_4 \exists B_5 \\
Abs(\Pi, i) &:= \exists B_1 \exists B_2 \exists B_3 \exists B_4 \exists B_5 \\
\text{Check: } & Abs(\Pi.(\phi \wedge \overline{\mathsf{OR}_n}), i) \vdash_{1\forall} \emptyset?
\end{aligned}$$

$C = C' \cup \{l\}$

- Abstractions may differ with respect to current outer resolvent.
- Different numbers of universal variables in resp. abstracted formula.
- Quantifier structure is leveraged to a different extent.

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