

# CSE 403

Software Engineering

Winter 2023

**Advanced program analysis**

**A primer on solver-aided reasoning  
and verification**



What is a SAT solver?

What is a SAT solver?

- Takes a **formula** (propositional logic) as input.

$$(x1 \vee x2) \wedge (\neg x1 \vee x3) \wedge (x1 \vee \neg x3) \wedge (\neg x2 \vee \neg x3)$$

## What is a SAT solver?

- Takes a **formula** (propositional logic) as input.
- Returns a **model** (an assignment that satisfies the formula).

$$(x1 \vee x2) \wedge (\neg x1 \vee x3) \wedge (x1 \vee \neg x3) \wedge (\neg x2 \vee \neg x3)$$


**SAT solver**



$X = \{x1, x2, x3\} = \{T, F, T\}$

## What is Z3?

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  - Supports formulas for more complex data types
  - Theories for Integers, Strings, Arrays, etc.

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- An SMT (Satisfiability Modulo Theories) solver.
  - Supports formulas for more complex data types
  - Theories for Integers, Strings, Arrays, etc.
  - Examples for Integers:
    - $a * 1 = a$  (identity element)
    - $a + 0 = a$  (identity element)

## What is Z3?

- An SMT (Satisfiability Modulo Theories) solver.
- Uses a standard language (SMT-LIB).
  - Print to the screen.
  - **Declare variables** and functions.

```
(echo "Running Z3...")  
(declare-const a Int)
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  - **Check satisfiability** and **obtain a model**.
  - ...

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(echo "Running Z3...")  
(declare-const a Int)  
(assert (> a 0))  
(check-sat)  
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```

Which question does this code answer?

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(echo "Running Z3...")  
(declare-const a Int)  
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```

This code is asking the question:  
Does an integer greater than 0 exist?

## A first example

```
1 int simpleMath(int a, int b) {  
2   assert(b>0);  
3   if(a + b == a * b) {  
4     return 1;  
5   }  
6   return 0;  
7 }
```

Does this method ever return 1?

## A first example

```
1 int simpleMath(int a, int b) {
2   assert(b>0);
3   if(a + b == a * b) {
4     return 1;
5   }
6   return 0;
7 }
```

```
(declare-const a Int)
(declare-const b Int)

(assert (> b 0))
(assert (= (+ a b) (* a b)))

(check-sat)
(get-model)
```

Does this method ever return 1? Let's ask Z3...

## A more complex example



```
1 int getNumber(int a, int b, int c) {
2   if (c==0) return 0;
3   if (c==4) return 0;
4   if (a + b < c) return 1;
5   if (a + b > c) return 2;
6   if (a * b == c) return 3;
7   return 4;
8 }
```

Does this method ever return 3?  
What constraints must be satisfied?

## A more complex example

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1 int getNumber(int a, int b, int c) {
2   if (c==0) return 0;
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5   if (a + b > c) return 2;
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All of the following must be true:

- $!(c == 0)$
- $!(c == 4)$
- $!(a + b < c)$
- $!(a + b > c)$
- $a * b == c$

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- $!(c == 4)$
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- $a * b == c$

$(a + b == c) \wedge (a * b == c) \wedge (c \neq 0) \wedge (c \neq 4)$

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- $!(c == 0)$
- $!(c == 4)$
- $!(a + b < c)$
- $!(a + b > c)$
- $a * b == c$

```
(declare-const a Int)
(declare-const b Int)
(declare-const c Int)

(assert (not (= c 0)))
(assert (not (= c 4)))
(assert (not (< (+ a b) c)))
(assert (not (> (+ a b) c)))
(assert (= (* a b) c))

(check-sat)
```

## A more complex example

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```

All of the following must be true:

- $!(c == 0)$
- $!(c == 4)$
- $!(a + b < c)$
- $!(a + b > c)$
- $a * b == c$

```
(define-sort JInt () (_ BitVec 32))
(declare-const a JInt)
(declare-const b JInt)
(declare-const c JInt)

(assert (not (= c #x00000000)))
(assert (not (= c #x00000004)))
(assert (not (bvslt (bvadd a b) c)))
(assert (not (bvsgt (bvadd a b) c)))
(assert (= (bvmul a b) c))

(check-sat)
(get-model)
```

Z3 supports Bitvectors of arbitrary size.  
Let's model Java ints (32 bits) and ask the same question...

## Reasoning about program equivalence

```
1 int add1(int a, int b) {  
2   return a + b;  
3 }  
4  
5 int add2(int a, int b) {  
6   return a * b;  
7 }
```

Are these two methods semantically equivalent?

## Reasoning about program equivalence

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2   return a + b;  
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7 }
```

```
(declare-const a Int)  
(declare-const b Int)  
  
(declare-const add1 Int)  
(declare-const add2 Int)  
  
(assert (= add1 (+ a b)))  
(assert (= add2 (* a b)))  
(assert (= add1 add2))  
  
(check-sat)  
(get-model)
```

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(declare-const a Int)  
(declare-const b Int)  
  
(declare-const add1 Int)  
(declare-const add2 Int)  
  
(assert (= add1 (+ a b)))  
(assert (= add2 (* a b)))  
(assert (= add1 add2))  
  
(check-sat)  
(get-model)
```

Yes, for a=2 and b=2.  
What have we actually proven here?

## Reasoning about program equivalence

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```

```
(declare-const a Int)  
(declare-const b Int)  
  
(declare-const add1 Int)  
(declare-const add2 Int)  
  
(assert (= add1 (+ a b)))  
(assert (= add2 (* a b)))  
(assert (not (= add1 add2)))  
  
(check-sat)  
(get-model)
```

For **universal claims**, our goal is to **prove** the absence of counter examples (i.e., the defined constraints are **unsat**!)

## Summary

- Solver-aided reasoning is used for testing and verification.
  - SMT solvers:
    - Provide one solution, if one exists.
    - Are commonly used to find counter-examples (or prove unsat).
    - Support many theories that can model program semantics.
    - Usually support a standard language (SMT-lib).
  - The challenge is to model a problem as a constraint system.
- A few examples:
- Statistical test selection
  - Data-structure synthesis
  - Program synthesis
- Many higher-level DSLs and language bindings exist.

10 weeks flew by!

