



[Collatz in Dafny]

# Hardware & Software Verification

John Wickerson & Pete Harrod

Lecture 10: SAT and SMT solving

# Automatic proof

- We often rely on automatic provers:
  - e.g. in Dafny, to show that **invariant**  $P$  is preserved,
  - e.g. in Isabelle methods like **by auto**.
- How do these automatic provers work?

# SAT queries

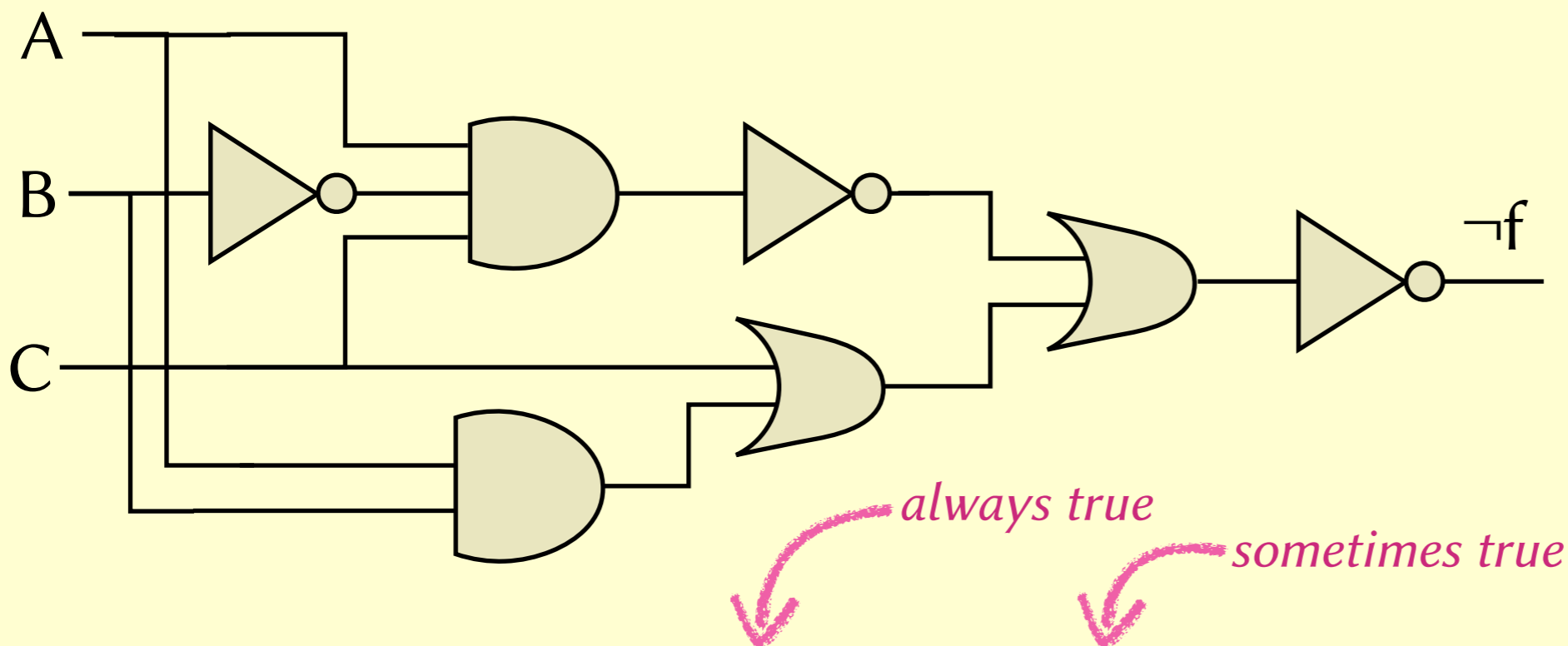
- Simple case: proofs about Boolean statements.

# SAT queries

- Simple case: proofs about Boolean statements.
  - $f = (\neg(A \wedge \neg B \wedge C) \vee (C \vee (B \wedge A)))$

# SAT queries

- Simple case: proofs about Boolean statements.
  - $\neg f = \neg(\neg(A \wedge \neg B \wedge C) \vee (C \vee (B \wedge A)))$



A	B	C	$\neg f$
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	0
1	1	1	0

A formula can be VALID, SATISFIABLE,  
UNSATISFIABLE, or INVALID.

*always false* ↗

↖ *sometimes false*

*always true* ↘

*sometimes true* ↘

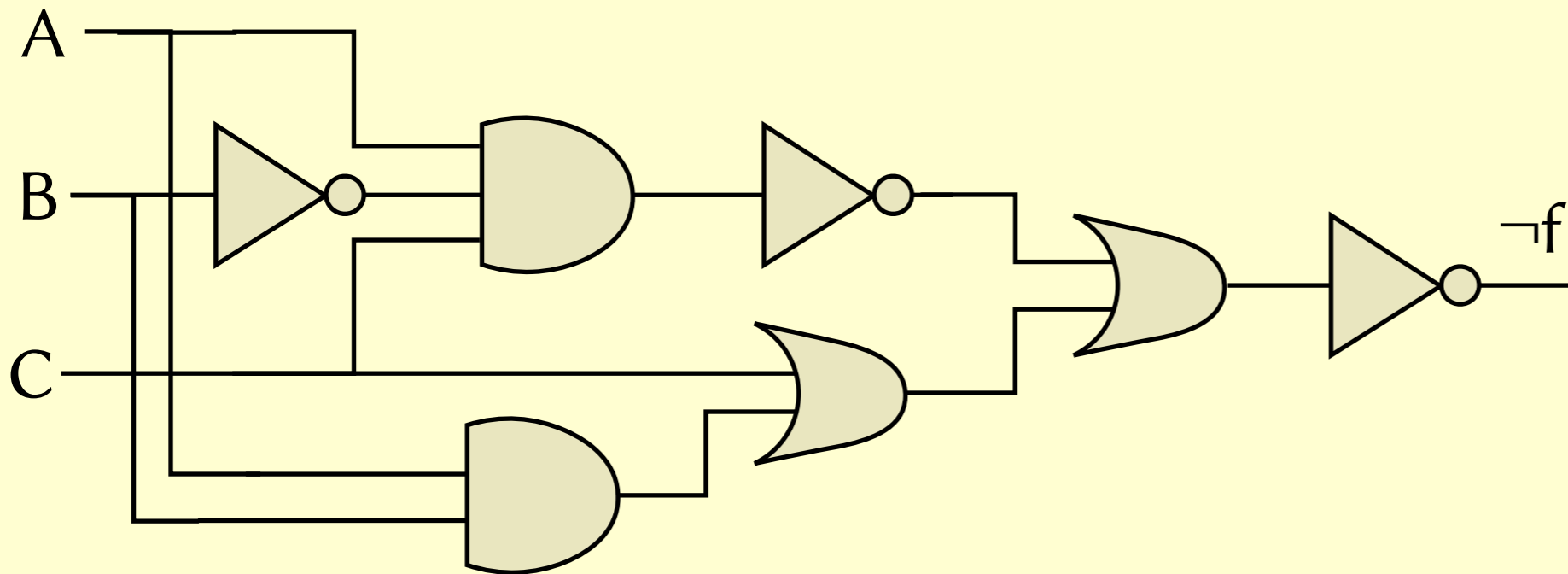
# SAT solving

- A simple algorithm:

```
for A in {0, 1}:
  for B in {0, 1}:
    for C in {0, 1}:
      if  $\neg f(A, B, C) = 1$ :
        return ("SAT", [A, B, C])
return ("UNSAT")
```

# SAT solving

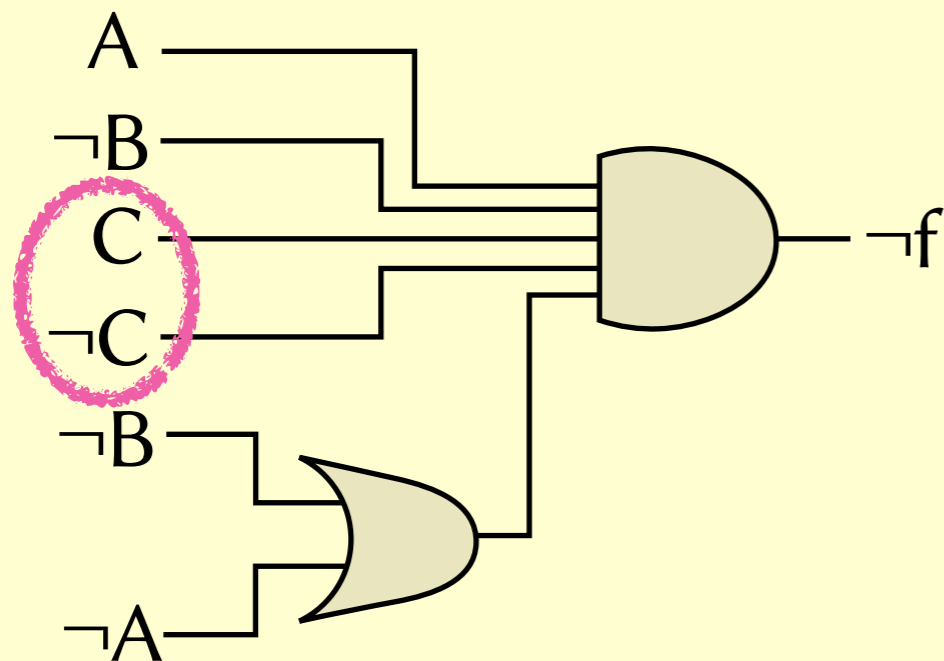
- A cleverer way: use de Morgan's rules to convert the formula to *conjunctive normal form*.



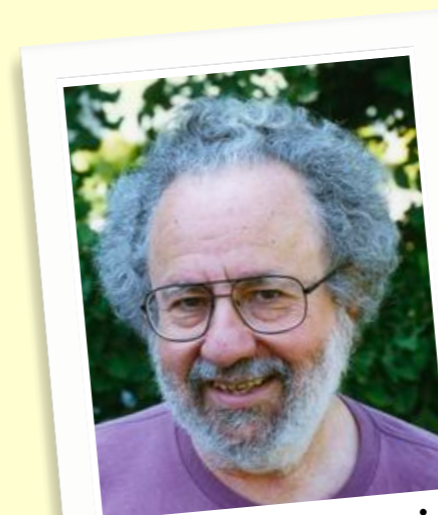


# SAT solving

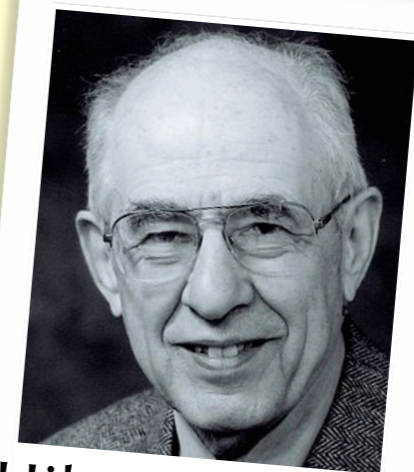
- A cleverer way: use de Morgan's rules to convert the formula to *conjunctive normal form*.



- It may then become obvious that  $\neg f$  is UNSAT.
- If not, we can use the Davis–Putnam algorithm...



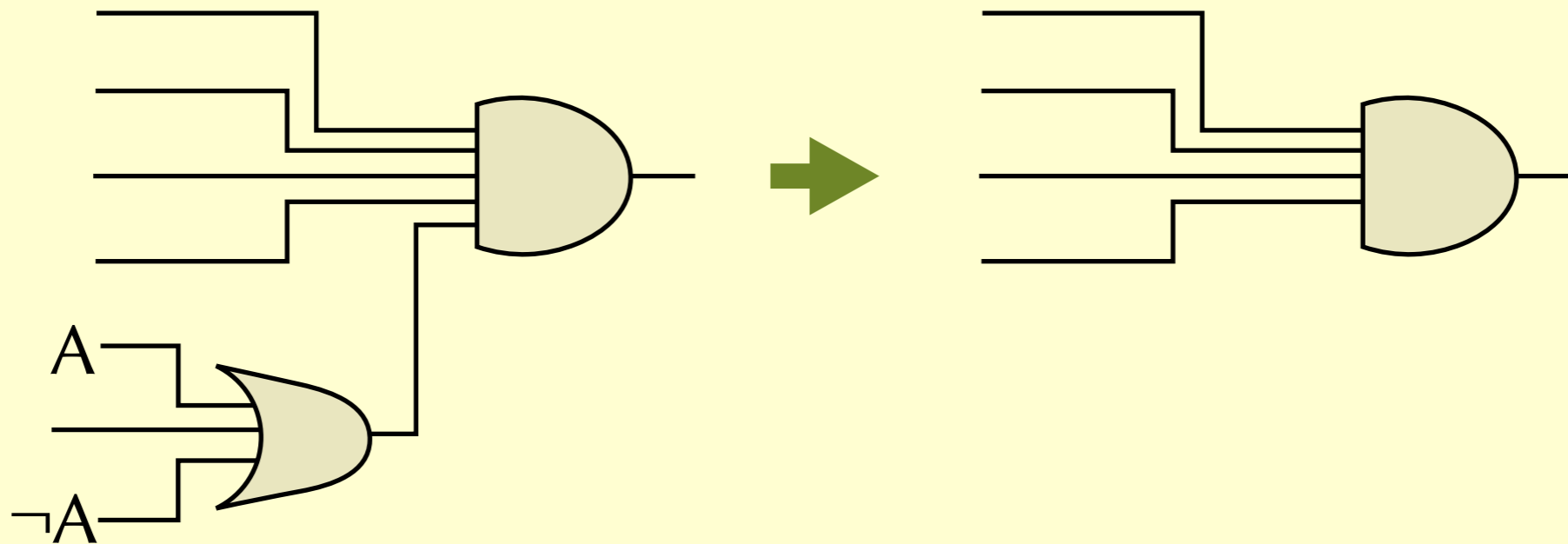
Martin Davis  
1928–



Hilary Putnam  
1926–2016

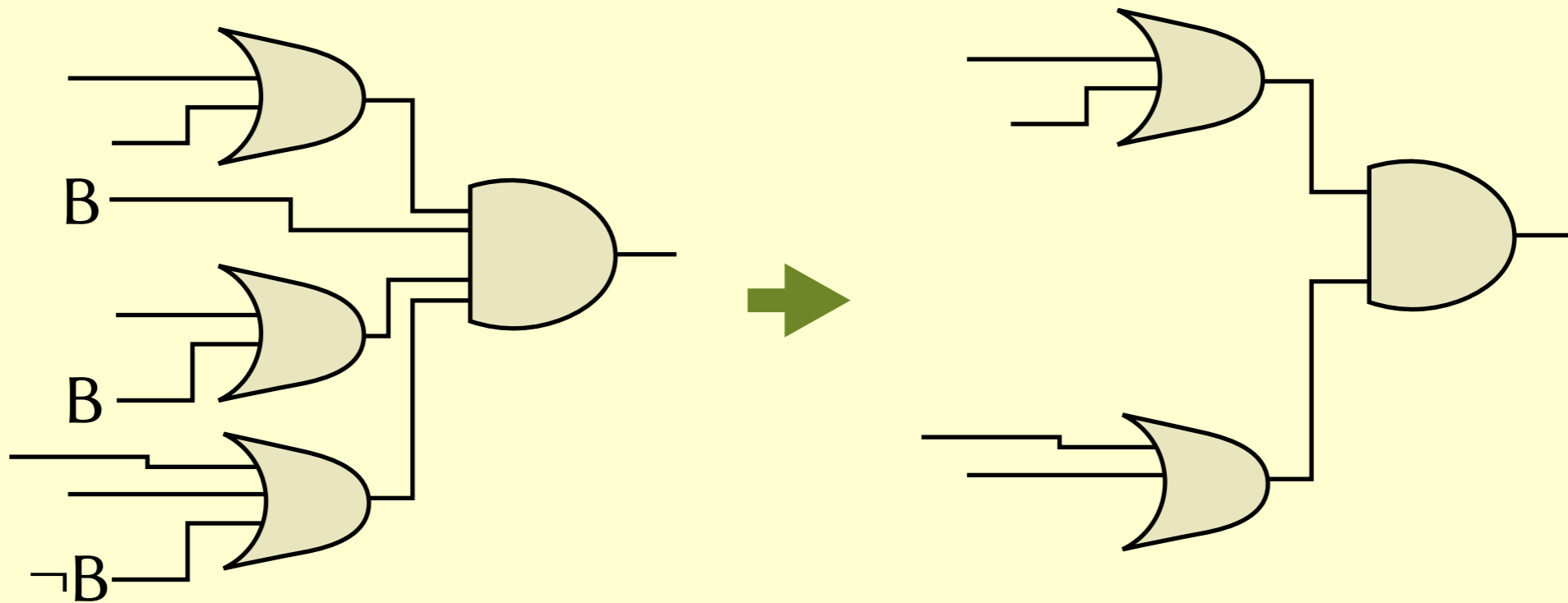
# The DP method

1. If an OR-gate takes both  $L$  and  $\neg L$ , delete it.



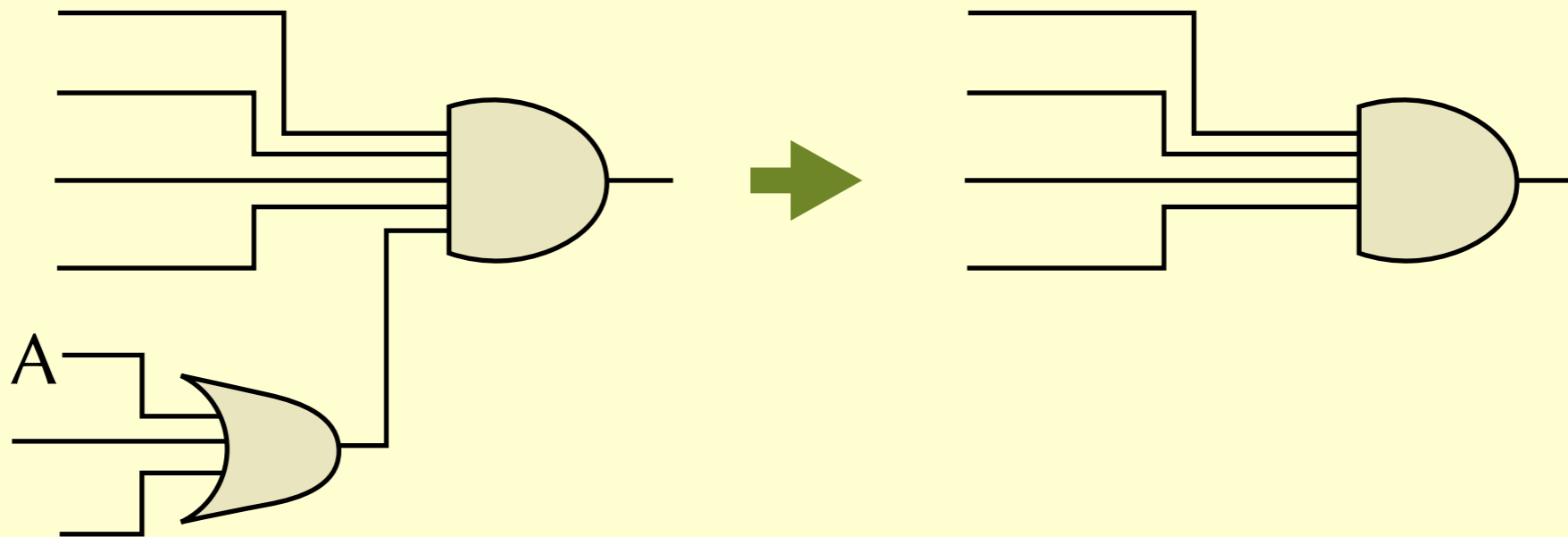
# The DP method

1. If an OR-gate takes both  $L$  and  $\neg L$ , delete it.
2. If  $L$  is connected directly to the AND-gate, delete it, delete all OR-gates that take  $L$ , and delete any connections to  $\neg L$ .  
(The solution, if it exists, will surely involve setting  $L=1$ .)



# The DP method

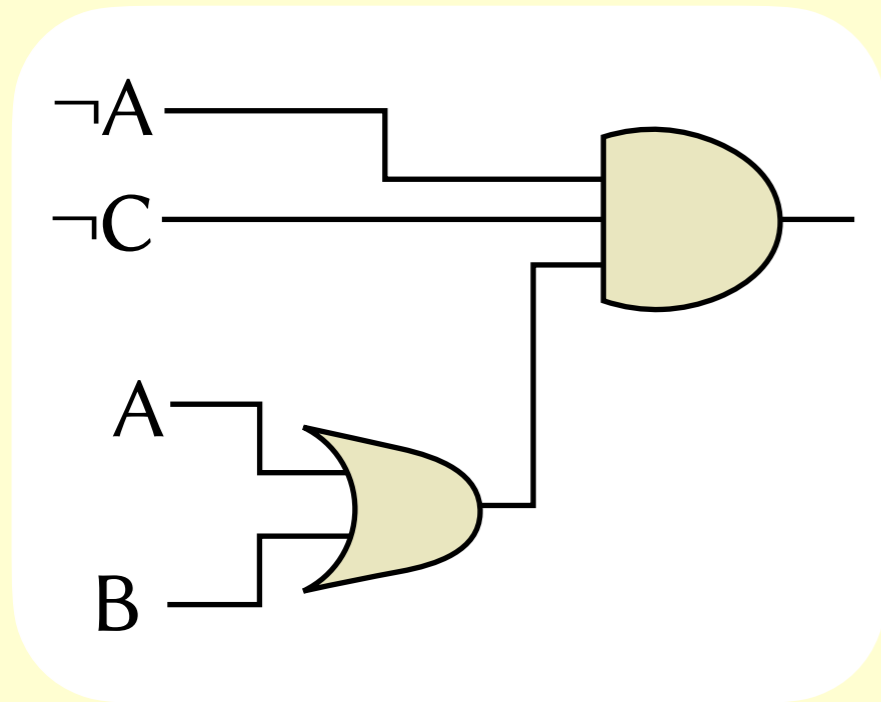
1. If an OR-gate takes both  $L$  and  $\neg L$ , delete it.
2. If  $L$  is connected directly to the AND-gate, delete it, delete all OR-gates that take  $L$ , and delete any connections to  $\neg L$ .  
(The solution, if it exists, will surely involve setting  $L=1$ .)
3. If  $L$  is unused, delete all OR-gates that take  $\neg L$ .  
(The solution, if it exists, will surely involve setting  $L=0$ .)



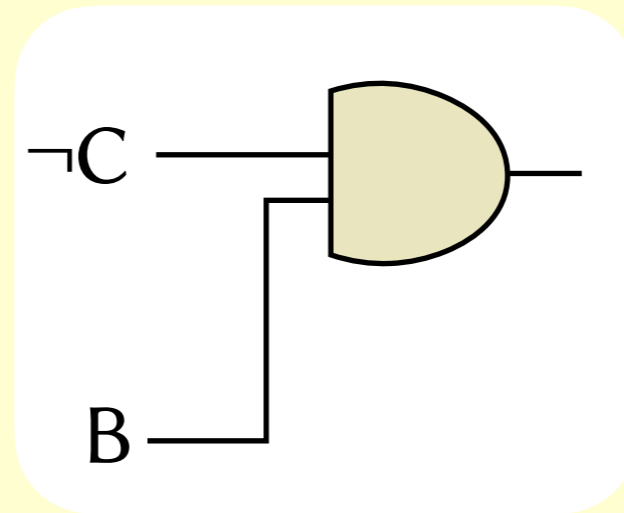
# The DP method

1. If an OR-gate takes both  $L$  and  $\neg L$ , delete it.
2. If  $L$  is connected directly to the AND-gate, delete it, delete all OR-gates that take  $L$ , and delete any connections to  $\neg L$ .  
(The solution, if it exists, will surely involve setting  $L=1$ .)
3. If  $L$  is unused, delete all OR-gates that take  $\neg L$ .  
(The solution, if it exists, will surely involve setting  $L=0$ .)
4. If any OR-gate has no inputs, the formula is false.
5. If the AND-gate has no inputs, the formula is true.
6. Pick a literal  $L$  and repeat the above for the cases  $L=0$  and  $L=1$ .

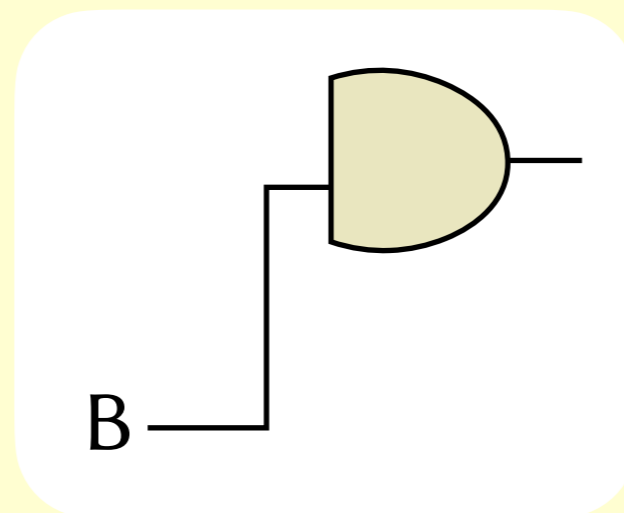
# DP example 1



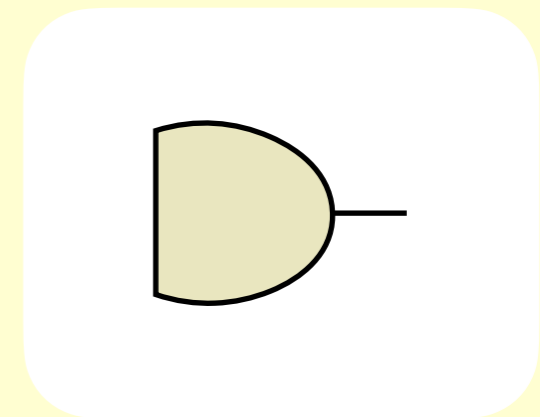
$\rightarrow$   
A=0



$\downarrow$  C=0

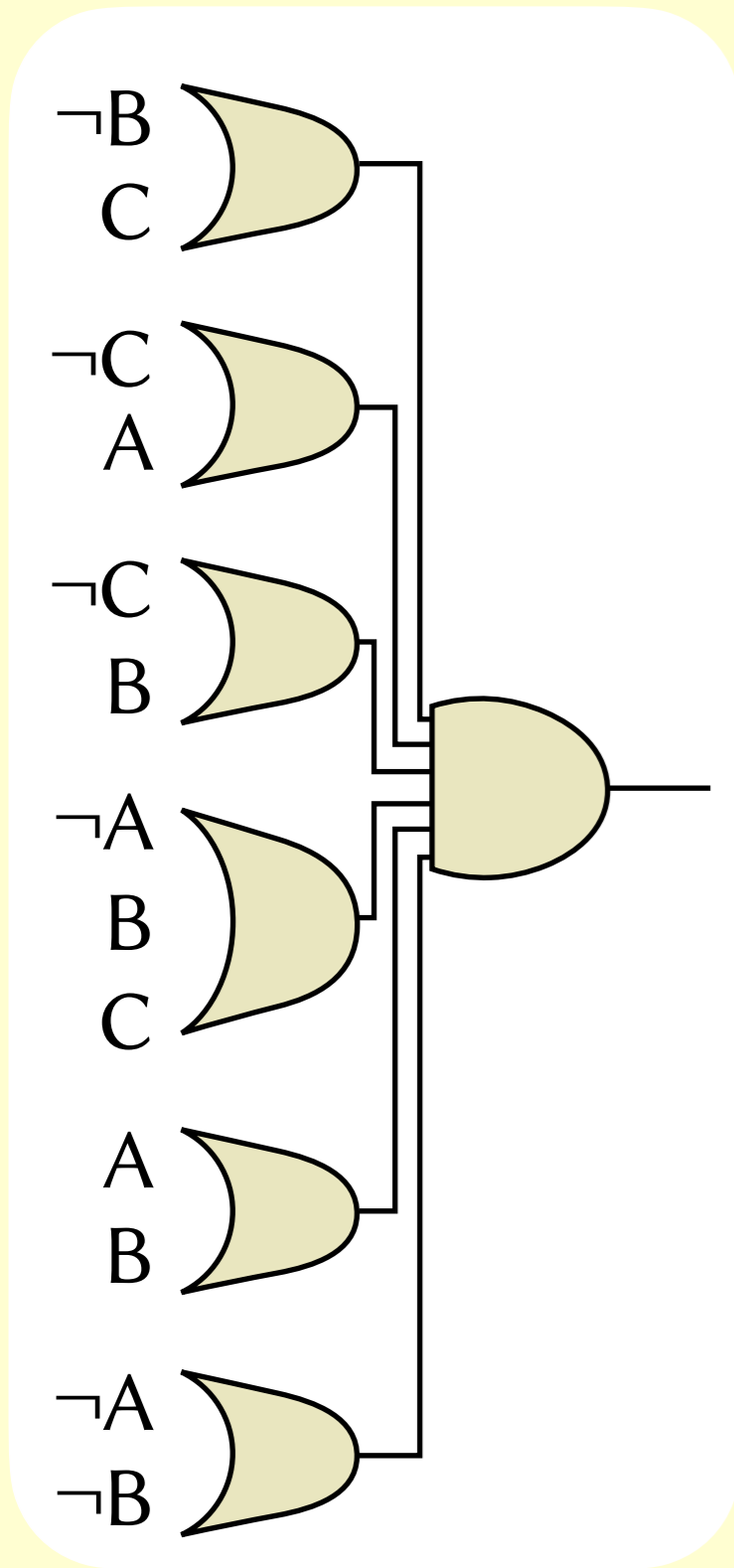


$\rightarrow$  B=1

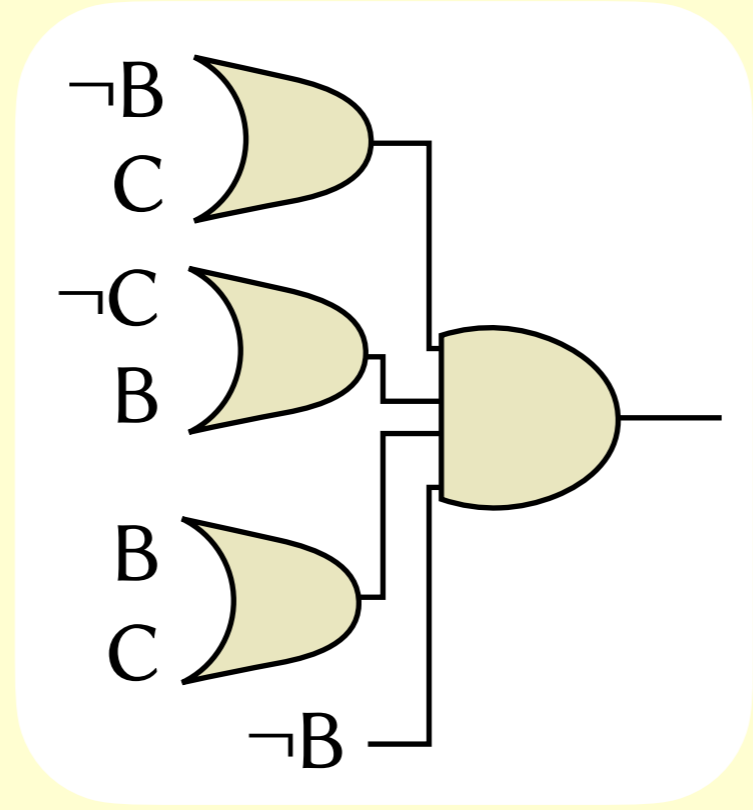


**Satisfiable**, e.g.  
when  $A=0$ ,  $B=1$ ,  $C=0$

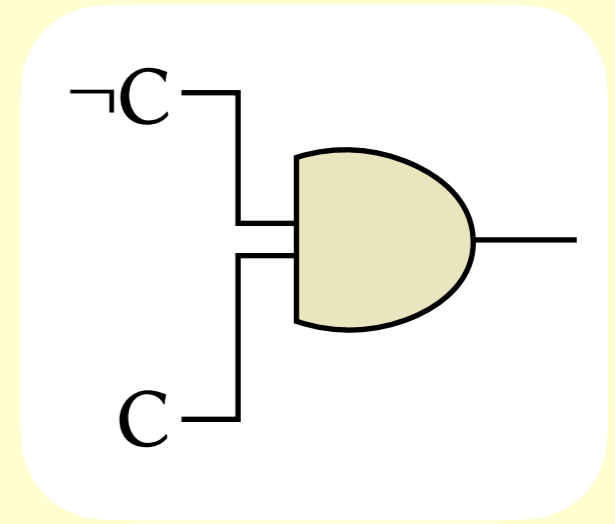
# DP example 2



$\rightarrow$   
A=1

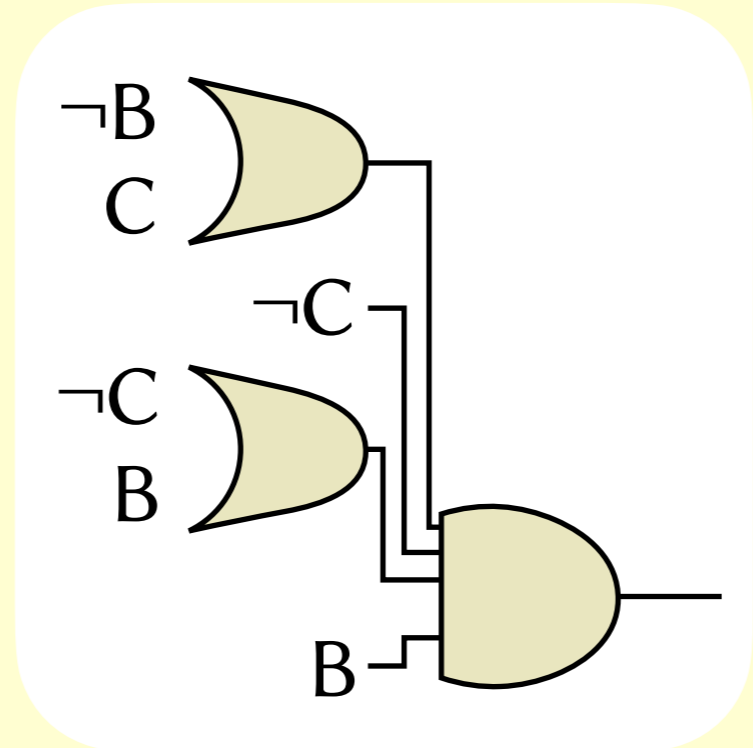


$\rightarrow$   
B=0

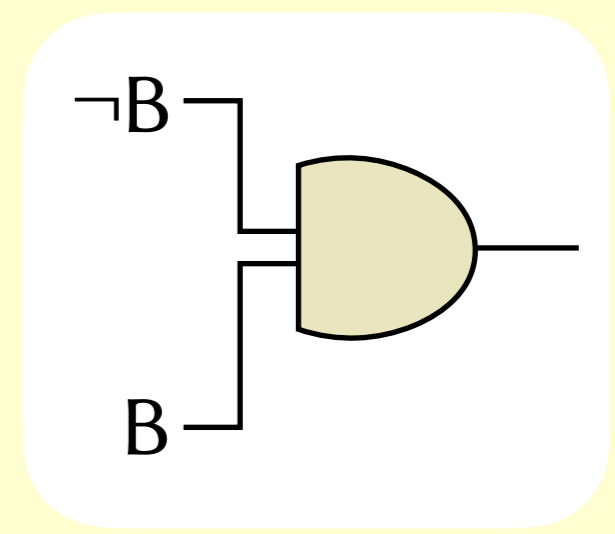


**Unsatisfiable**

$\rightarrow$   
A=0



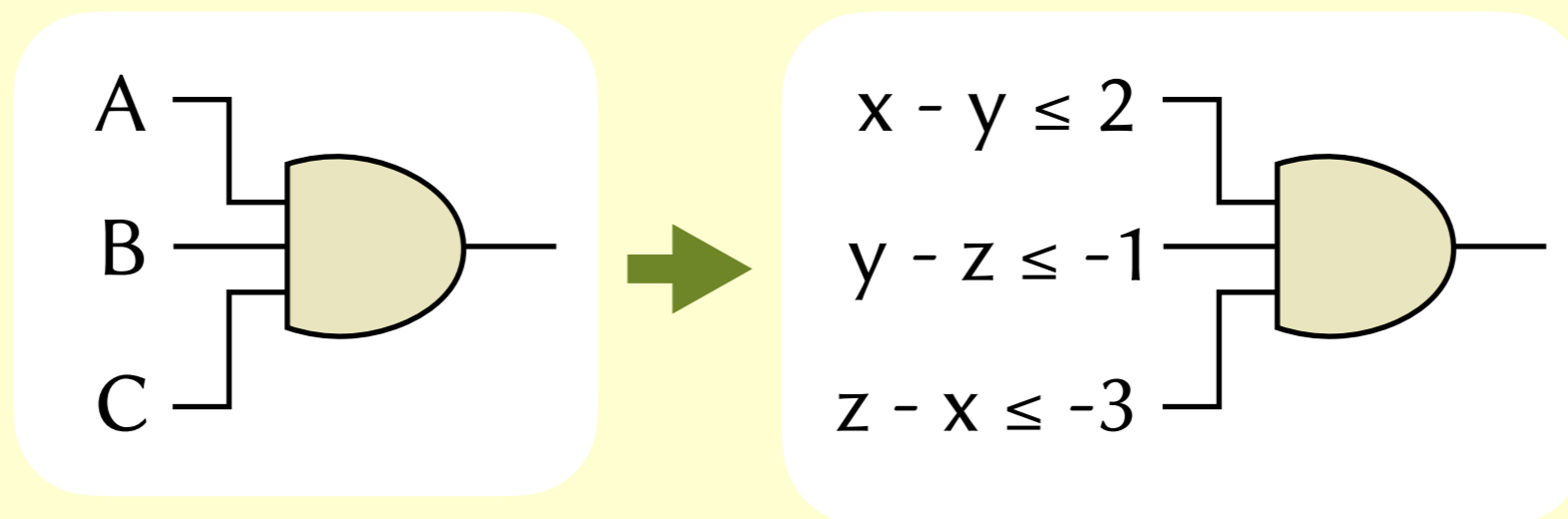
$\rightarrow$   
C=0



**Unsatisfiable**

# Towards SMT solving

- We can now prove basic Boolean formulas. But what about proving something like  $A \times (B + C) = A \times B + A \times C$ ?
- If these are 32-bit integers, we could make this a SAT problem by treating each variable as 32 Boolean variables and encoding the rules of Boolean arithmetic.
- Or we can move up to SMT: *satisfiability modulo theories*.





# Some theories

- **Equality and uninterpreted functions**, which knows that you can't have  $x=y$  and  $y=z$  without  $x=z$ , and that you can't have  $x=y$  without  $f(x)=f(y)$ .
- **Difference logic**, where statements take the form  $x - y \leq c$ .
- **Presburger arithmetic**, which allows statements about naturals containing  $+$ ,  $0$ ,  $1$ , and  $=$ .



Mojżesz Presburger  
1904–c.1943

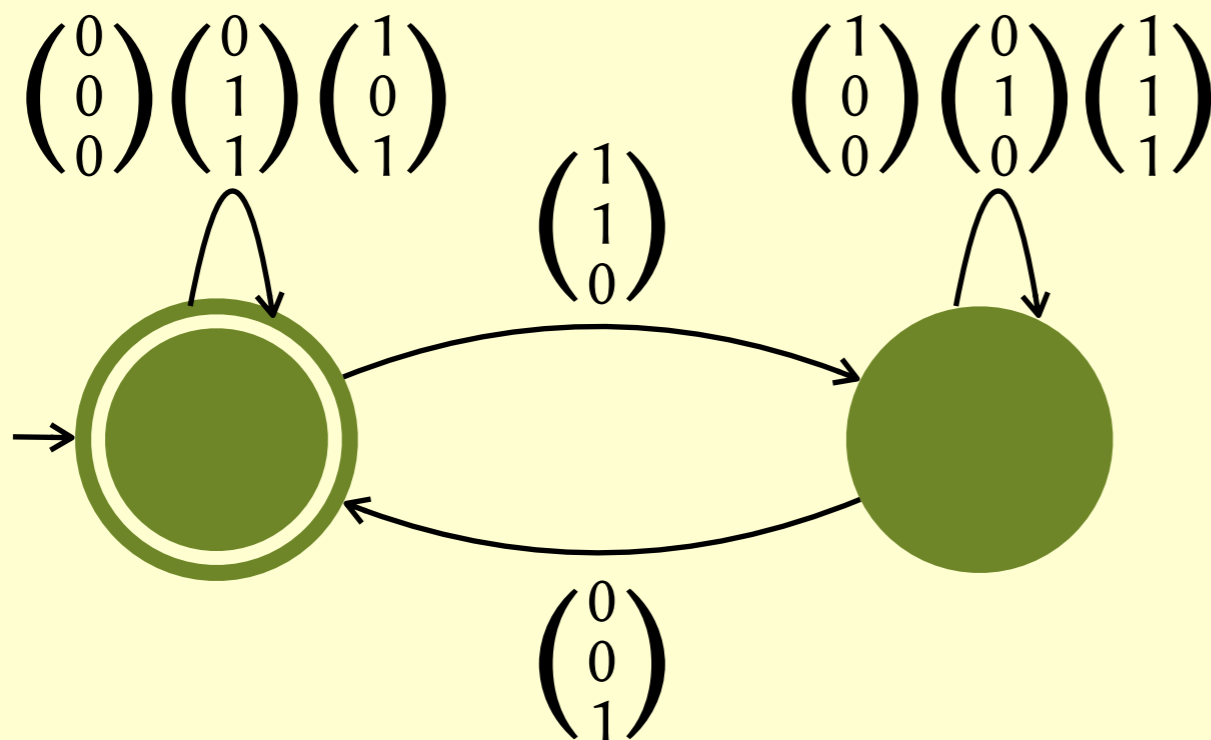
# Some theories

- **Equality and uninterpreted functions**, which knows that you can't have  $x=y$  and  $y=z$  without  $x=z$ , and that you can't have  $x=y$  without  $f(x)=f(y)$ .
- **Difference logic**, where statements take the form  $x - y \leq c$ .
- **Presburger arithmetic**, which allows statements about naturals containing  $+$ ,  $0$ ,  $1$ , and  $=$ .
- **Non-linear arithmetic**, which allows queries like:  
$$(\sin(x)^3 = \cos(\log(y) \cdot x) \vee b \vee -x^2 \geq 2.3y) \wedge (\neg b \vee y < -34.4 \vee \exp(x) > \frac{y}{x})$$
- **Theory of arrays, theory of bit-vectors, etc.**

# Decidability of Presburger

$$x + y = z$$

	1	2	4	8	16	32	64
x =	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
y =	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
z =	0	0	1	1	1	1	0



Julius Richard Büchi  
1924–1984

# Adding multiplication

- If we add multiplication, we can write a statement representing the Collatz conjecture: does there exist an infinite sequence of positive integers  $x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots$  such that

$$2 \times x_{i+1} = x_i \quad \text{if } x_i \text{ is even}$$

$$x_{i+1} = 3 \times x_i + 1 \quad \text{if } x_i \text{ is odd}$$

- So **if** arithmetic with multiplication were decidable, we could solve the Collatz conjecture automatically!

# Automatic proof

- We often rely on automatic provers:
  - e.g. in Dafny, to show that **invariant**  $P$  is preserved,
  - e.g. in Isabelle methods like **by auto**.
- How do these automatic provers work?