

Binary Decision Diagrams

Binary Decision Diagrams (BDDs) are a class of **graphs** that can be used as **data structure** for compactly representing **boolean functions**.

BDDs were introduced by **R. Bryant** in 1986.

BDDs are used to solve **equivalence problems** between formulas of propositional logic.

Very important in the areas of **hardware design** and **hardware optimization**.

Graphs

Recall some basic graph-theoretical concepts:

directed graph	node	edge	
predecessor	successor	path	cycle
acyclic graph	tree	forest	

Boolean Functions

A boolean function of arity $n \geq 1$ is a function $\{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$.

Examples:

$$\text{or}(x_1, x_2) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x_1 = 1 \text{ or } x_2 = 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } x_1 = 0 \text{ or } x_2 = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{if_then_else}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \begin{cases} x_2 & \text{if } x_1 = 1 \\ x_3 & \text{if } x_1 = 0 \end{cases}$$

Z.B.: $\text{if_then_else}(1, 0, 1) = 0$, $\text{if_then_else}(0, 0, 1) = 1$

$$\text{sum}(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x_1 + x_2 = x_3x_4 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Z.B.: $\text{sum}(1, 1, 1, 0) = 1$ (because $1 + 1 = 10$),
 $\text{sum}(0, 0, 0, 1) = 0$ (because $0 + 0 = 00$).

$$\text{majority}_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the majority of} \\ & x_1, \dots, x_n \text{ has value 1} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Z.B.: $\text{majority}_4(1, 1, 0, 0) = 0$, $\text{majority}_3(1, 0, 1) = 1$

$$\text{parity}_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the number of inputs } x_1, \dots, x_n \\ & \text{equal to 1 is even} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Z.B.: $\text{parity}_3(1, 0, 1) = 1$, $\text{parity}_2(1, 0) = 0$

Formulas and boolean functions

Let F be a formula, and let n be a number such that all atomic formulas occurring in F belong to $\{A_1, \dots, A_n\}$.

Example: $F = A_1 \wedge A_2$, $n = 2$, but also $n = 3$!

We define the boolean function $f_F^n: \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$:

$f_F^n(x_1, \dots, x_n) =$ truth value of F under the assignment
that sets A_1, \dots, A_n to x_1, \dots, x_n

Example: For $F = A_1 \wedge A_2$:

$$f_F^2(0, 1) = \text{value of } 0 \wedge 1 = 0$$

$$f_F^3(0, 1, 1) = \text{value of } 0 \wedge 1 = 0$$

Remark: If all of $\{A_1, \dots, A_n\}$ occur in F , then f_F^n is essentially the truth table of F .

Convention: We write e.g. $f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1 \vee (x_2 \wedge \neg x_1)$, meaning $f = f_F^3$ for the formula $F = A_1 \vee (A_2 \wedge \neg A_1)$.

Fact: Let F_1 and F_2 be two formulas, and let n be a number such that all atomic formulas occurring in F_1 or F_2 belong to $\{A_1, \dots, A_n\}$. Then $f_{F_1}^n = f_{F_2}^n$ iff $F_1 \equiv F_2$.

Example: $F_1 = A_1$, $F_2 = A_1 \wedge (A_2 \vee \neg A_2)$.

$$f_{F_1}^2(0, 0) = 0 = f_{F_2}^2(0, 0)$$

$$f_{F_1}^2(0, 1) = 0 = f_{F_2}^2(0, 1)$$

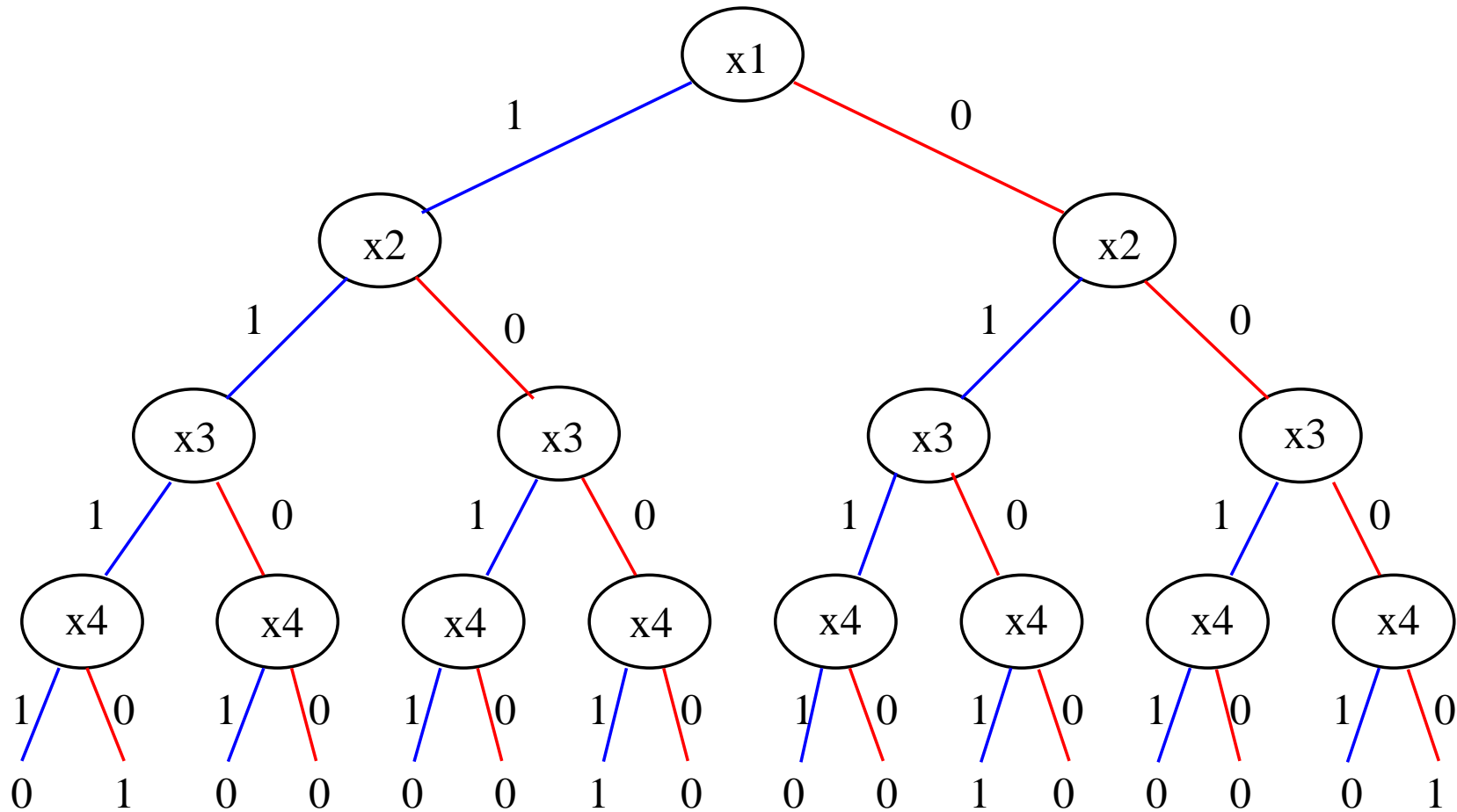
$$f_{F_1}^2(1, 0) = 1 = f_{F_2}^2(1, 0)$$

$$f_{F_1}^2(1, 1) = 1 = f_{F_2}^2(1, 1)$$

Convention: The constants **0** and **1** represent the only two boolean functions of arity 0.

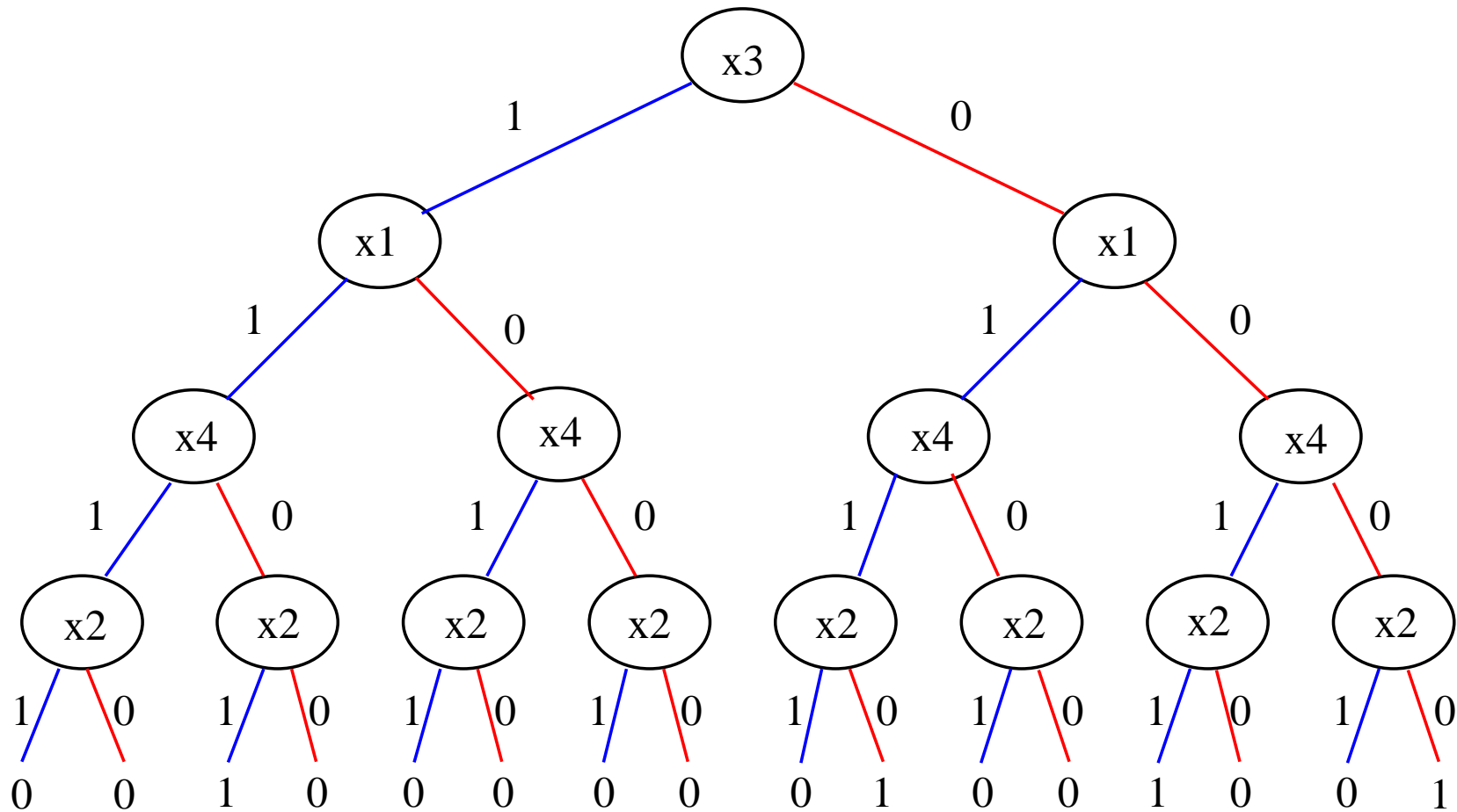
sum as binary decision tree

A boolean function can be represented by a [decision tree](#)



Variable order

A decision tree can use a variable order different from the order used in the function.



A **variable order** is a bijection

$$b: \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$$

We say that $b(1), b(2), b(3), \dots, b(n)$ are the first, second, third, \dots , n -th variable w.r.t. the order b .

We denote the bijection $b(1) = x_{i_1}, \dots, b(n) = x_{i_n}$ by

$$x_{i_1} < x_{i_2} < \dots < x_{i_n} .$$

Binary decision trees

A **decision tree** for the variable order $x_{i_1} < \dots < x_{i_n}$ is a tree satisfying the following conditions:

- (1) All leaves are labelled by 0 or by 1.
- (2) All other nodes are labelled by a variable and have exactly two children, the **0-child** and the **1-child**. The edges leading to these children are labelled by 0 resp. by 1.
- (3) If the root is not a leaf, then it is labelled by x_{i_1} .
- (4) If a node is labelled by x_{i_n} then its two children are leaves.
- (5) If a node is labelled by x_{i_j} and $j < n$, then its two children are labelled by $x_{i_{j+1}}$.

Every path of a decision tree determines an assignment of the variables x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_n} and vice versa.

The boolean function f_T represented by a decision tree T is defined as follows:

$f_T(x_1, \dots, x_n) =$ label of the leaf reached by the path corresponding to the assignment $x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_n}$

A **binary decision forest** is a forest of decision trees with the same variable order. A decision forest represents the set of functions represented by its elements.

Binary Decision Diagrams (informally)

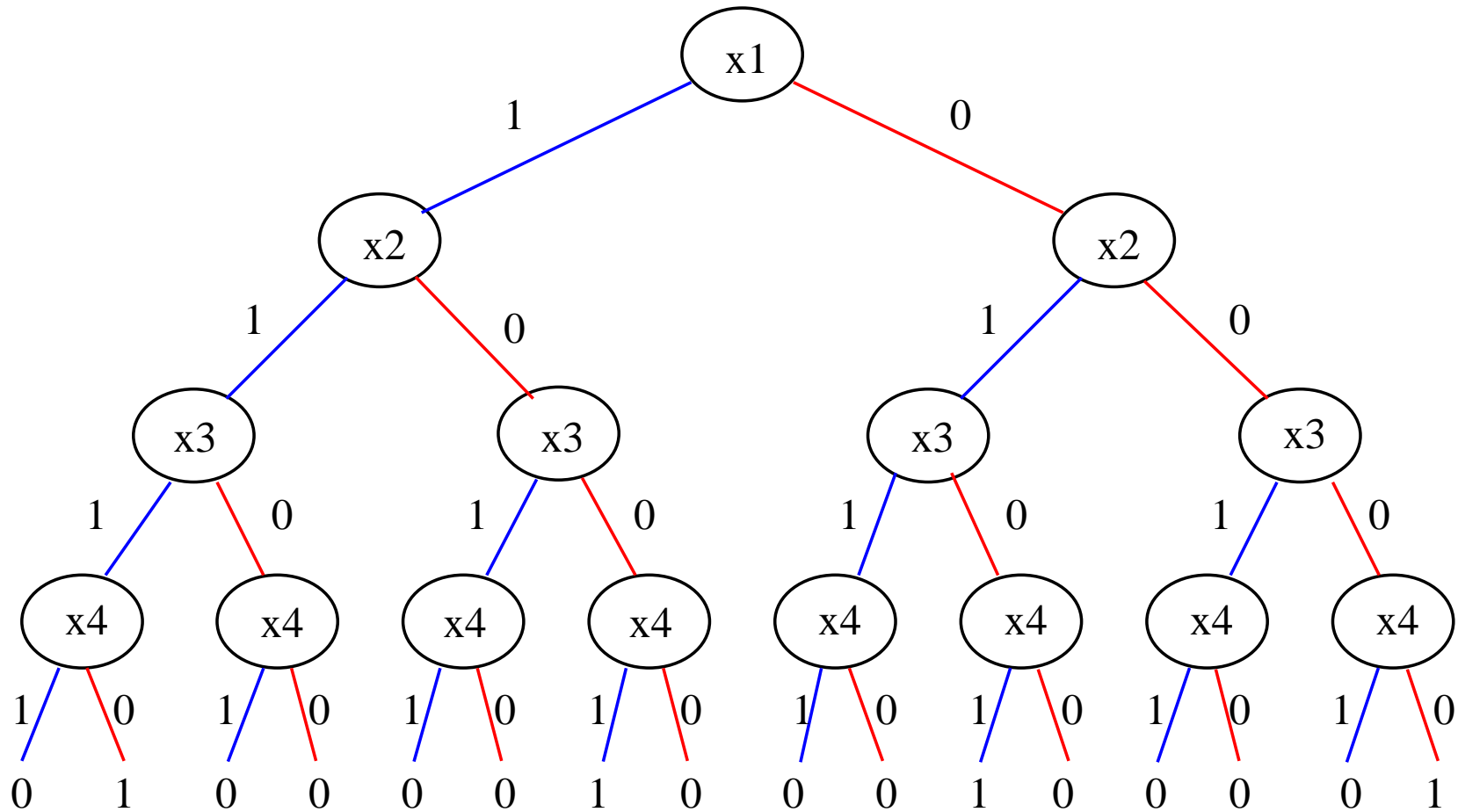
A BDD (multiBDD) is a “compact representation” of a binary decision tree (decision forest).

A BDD (multiBDD) is obtained from a decision tree (forest) through repeated application of two compression rules (see example in the next slide):

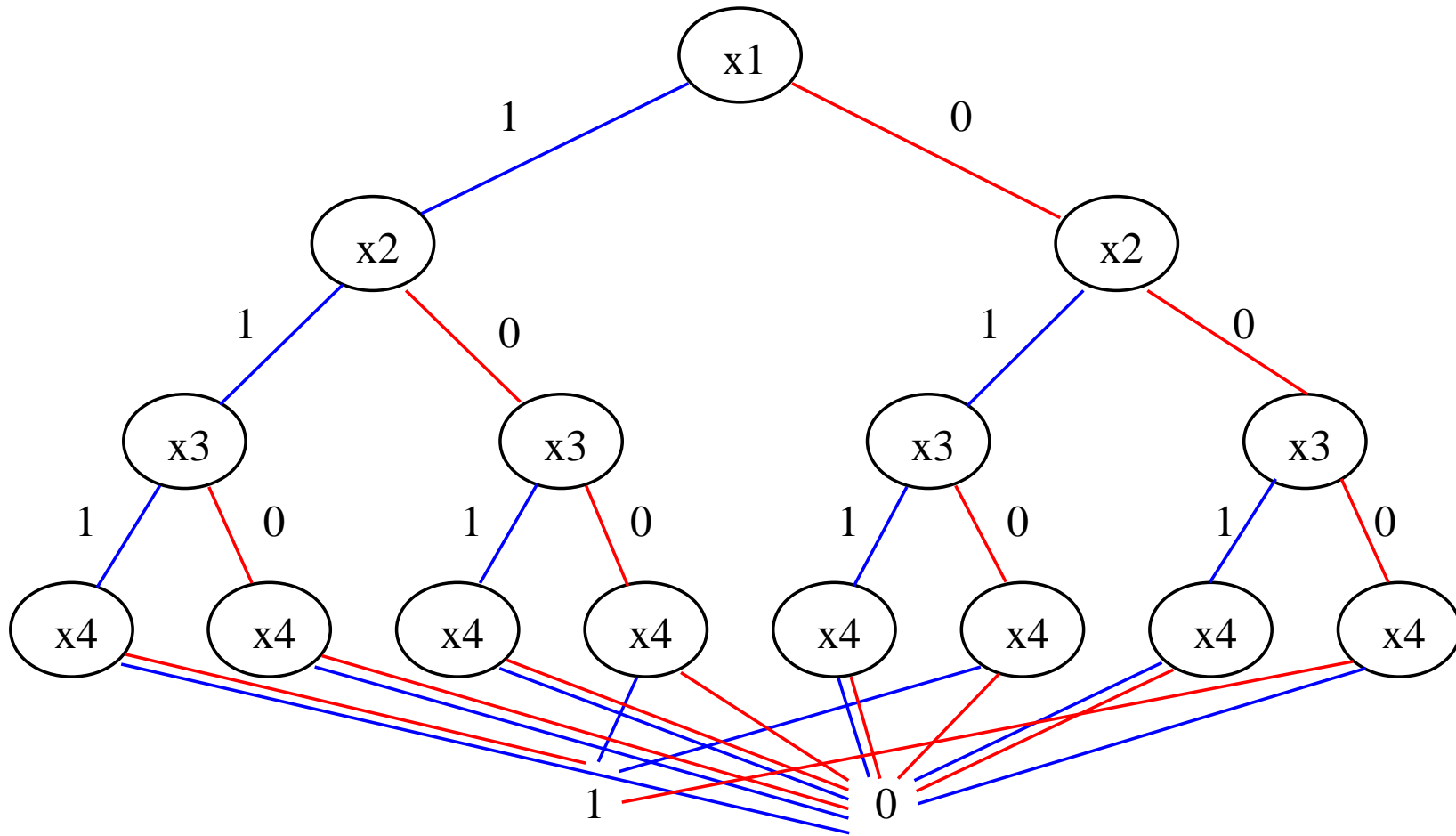
- Rule 1: Sharing of identical subtrees.
- Rule 2: Elimination of nodes for which the 0-child and the 1-child coincide (redundant nodes).

The rules are applied until all subtrees are different and there are no redundant nodes.

Example: sharing of subtrees

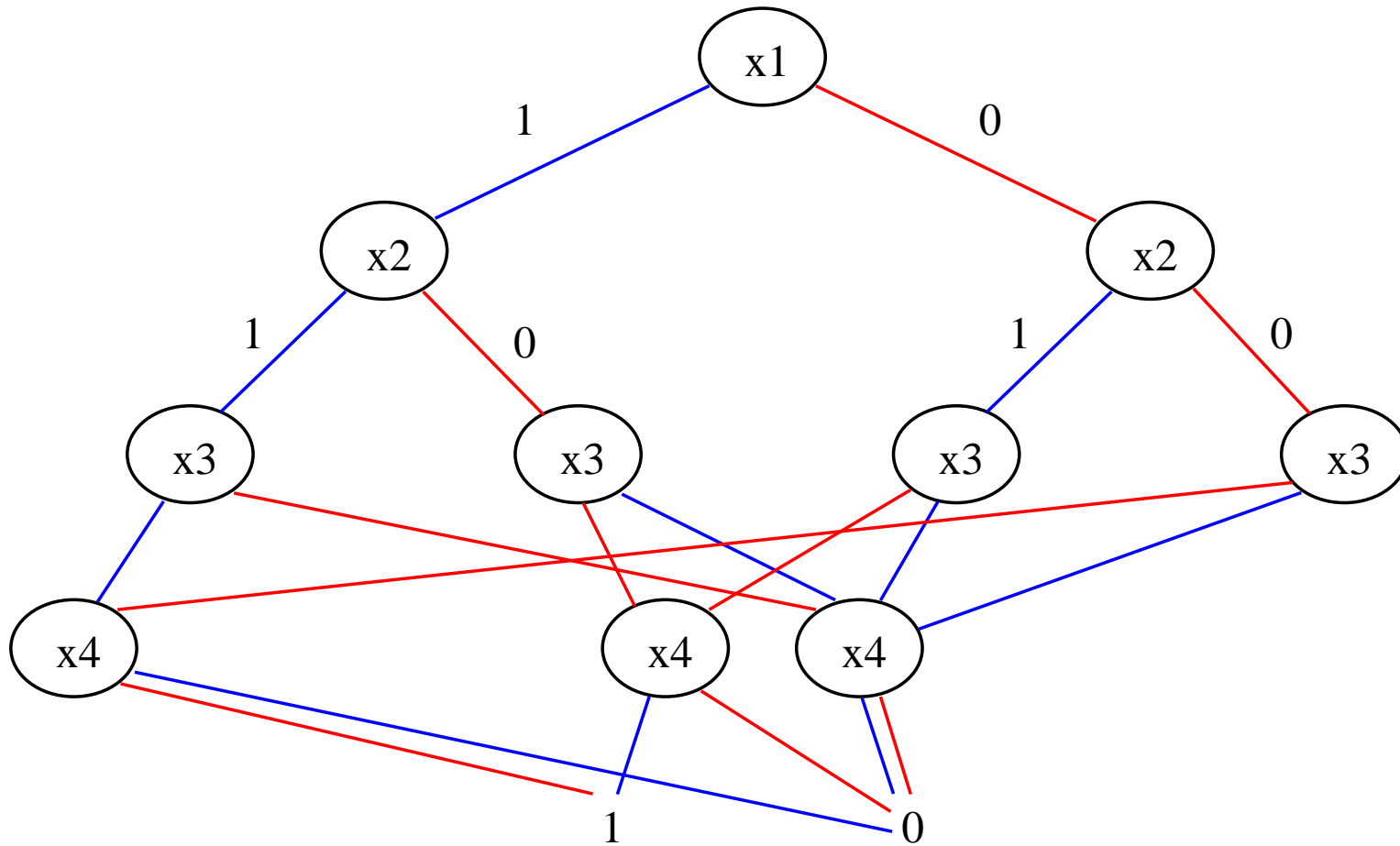


Example: sharing of subtrees



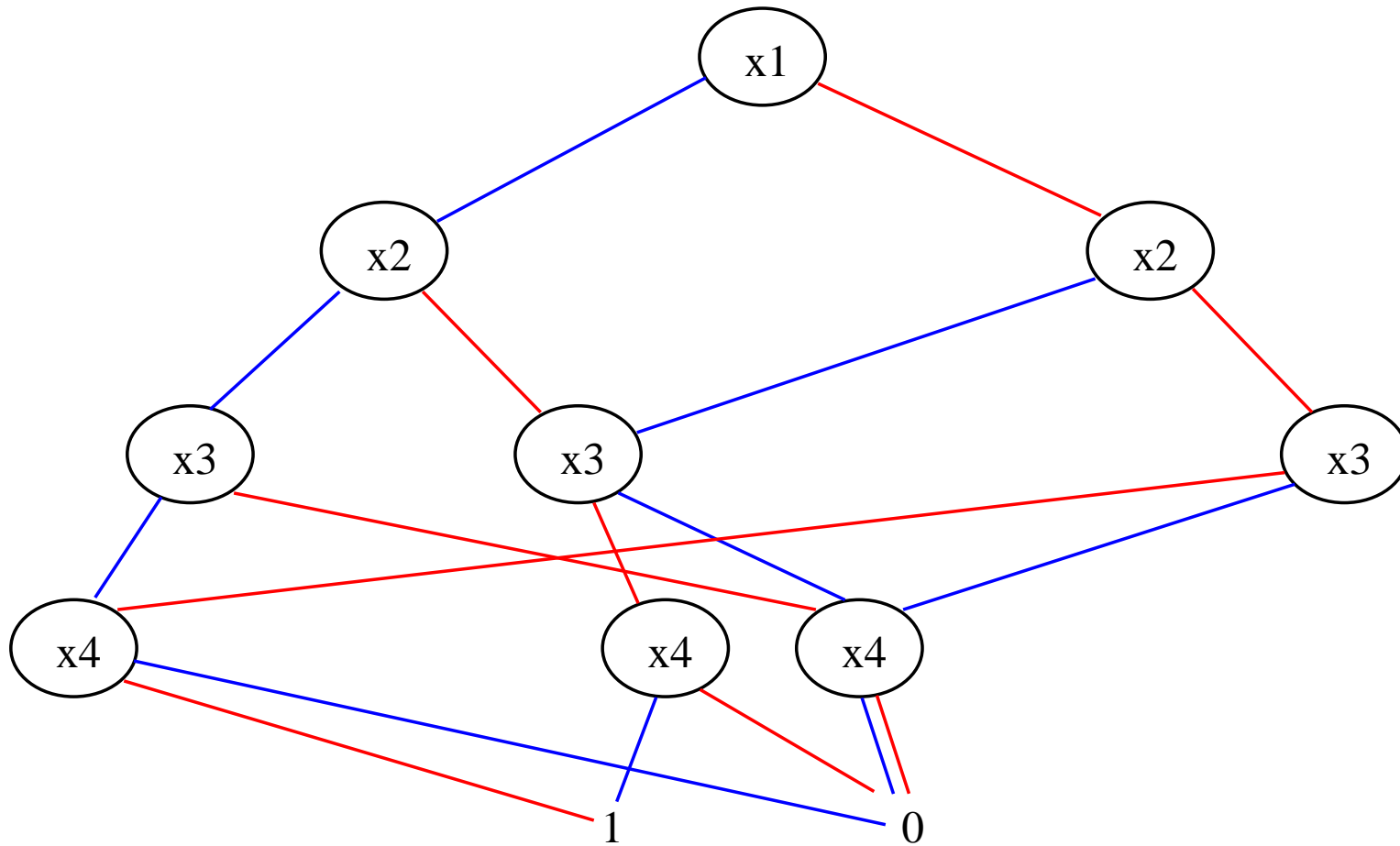
All 0- und 1-leaves are merged.

Example: sharing of subtrees



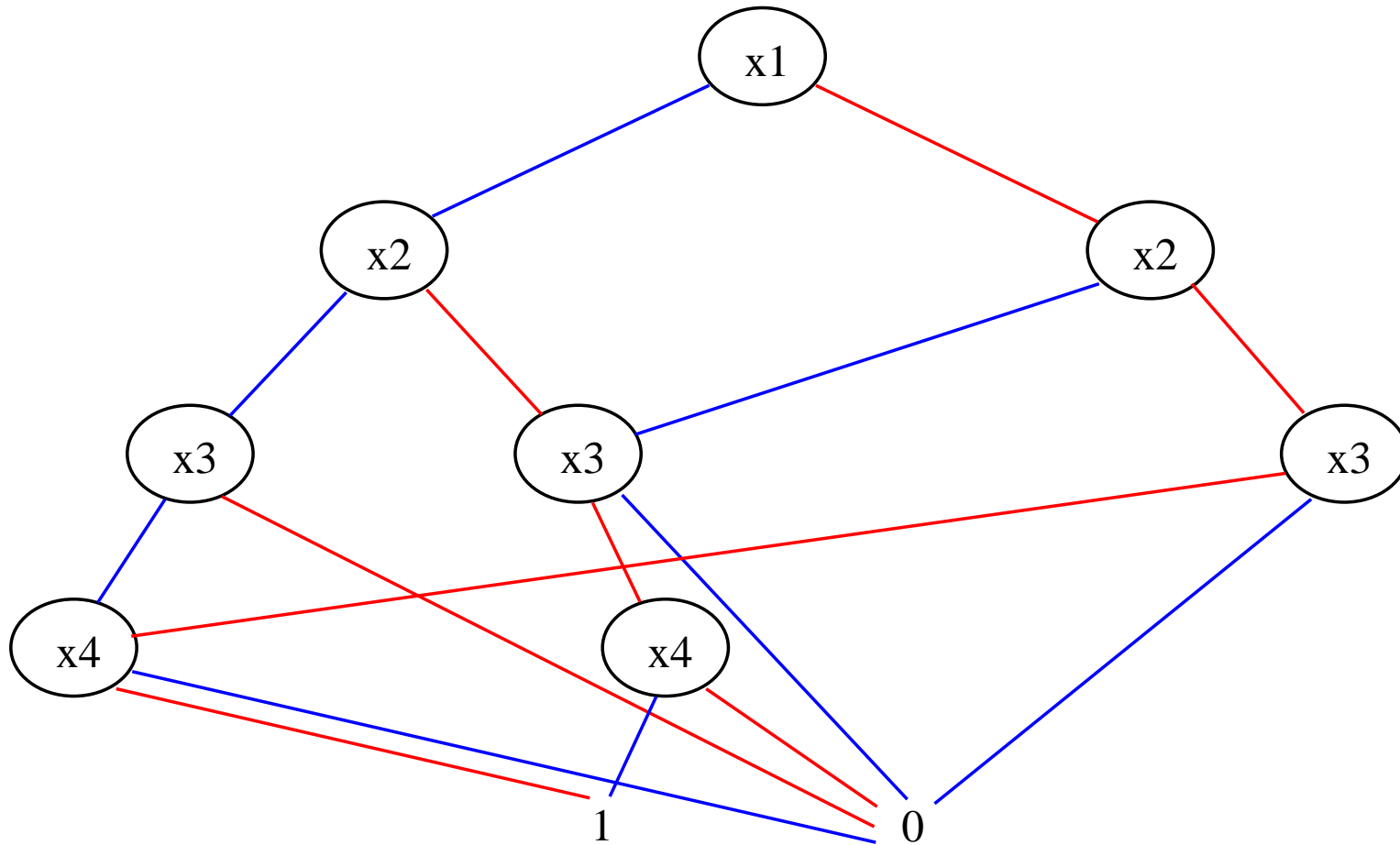
Identical x_4 -nodes are merged.

Example: sharing of subtrees



Identical x_3 -nodes are merged.

Example: removing redundant nodes



Redundant x_4 -node is removed

Formal Definition of BDDs

A **BDD** for a given variable order is an acyclic directed graph satisfying the following properties:

- (1) There is exactly one node without predecessors (the **root**)
- (2) There is one or two nodes without successors, labelled by 0 or 1 (if there are two then they carry different labels).
- (3) All other nodes are labelled by a variable and have exactly two **distinct** children, the **0-child** and the **1-child**. The edges leading to these children are labelled by 0 resp. by 1.
- (4) A child of a node is labelled by 0, by 1, or by a variable larger than the label of its parent w.r.t. the variable order.
- (5) All descendant-closed subgraphs of the graph are non-isomorphic.

MultiBDDs

A **multiBDD** is an acyclic graph satisfying (2)-(5) together a distinguished nonempty subset of nodes called the **roots**.

Every node without predecessors is a root, but other nodes may also be roots.

A multiBDD represents a set of boolean functions, one for each root.

Remarks

Remark: A “closed subgraph” of a BDD is again a BDD.

Remark: The function $\text{true}_n(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ given by

$$\text{true}_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 1 \text{ for every } x_1, x_n \in \{0, 1\}^n$$

is represented, for every $n \geq 1$ and for every variable order, by the BDD consisting of one single node labelled by 1.

Similarly for $\text{false}_n(x_1, \dots, x_n)$

Relevance of variable orders

The variable order can have large impact on the size of the BDD.

Example:

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_{2n}) = (x_1 \leftrightarrow x_{n+1}) \wedge (x_2 \leftrightarrow x_{n+2}) \wedge \dots \wedge (x_n \leftrightarrow x_{2n})$$

Size grows **exponentially in n** for $x_1 < \dots < x_n < x_{n+1} < \dots < x_{2n}$.

Size grows **linearly in n** for $x_1 < x_{n+1} < x_2 < x_{n+2} < \dots < x_n < x_{2n}$.

Problem in practice: finding a good order.

Canonicity of BDDs

We show that for a given boolean function and a given variable order there is a **unique BDD** representing the function.

More generally (but simpler to prove!), we show that for every set of boolean functions of the same arity and for every variable order there is a **unique multiBDD** representing the set.

The functions $f[0]$ und $f[1]$

Lemma I: Let f be a boolean function of arity $n \geq 1$. There are exactly two boolean functions $f[0]$ und $f[1]$ of arity $(n - 1)$ satisfying

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (\neg x_1 \wedge f[0](x_2, \dots, x_n)) \vee (x_1 \wedge f[1](x_2, \dots, x_n)) \quad (*)$$

Proof: The functions $f[0]$ and $f[1]$ defined by

$$f[0](x_2, \dots, x_n) = f(0, x_2, \dots, x_n) \text{ and}$$

$$f[1](x_2, \dots, x_n) = f(1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \text{ satisfy } (*).$$

Let f_0 and f_1 be **arbitrary** functions satisfying $(*)$. Then

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (\neg x_1 \wedge f_0(x_2, \dots, x_n)) \vee (x_1 \wedge f_1(x_2, \dots, x_n))$$

By the properties of \vee and \wedge we have

$$f(0, x_2, \dots, x_n) = f_0(x_2, \dots, x_n) \text{ and together with}$$

$$f(0, x_2, \dots, x_n) = f[0](x_2, \dots, x_n) \text{ we get } f_0 = f[0].$$

The proof that $f_1 = f[1]$ holds is analogous.

Let $f: \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ be a boolean function, let B be a BDD with variable order $x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_n$, and let v be the root of B . Define the nodes $v[0]$ and $v[1]$ as follows:

- (1) If v is labelled by x_1 , then $v[0]$ and $v[1]$ are the 0-child and the 1-child of v .
- (2) Otherwise, $v[0] = v = v[1]$.

Lemma II: B represents the function f iff $v[0]$ and $v[1]$ represent the functions $f[0]$ and $f[1]$, respectively.

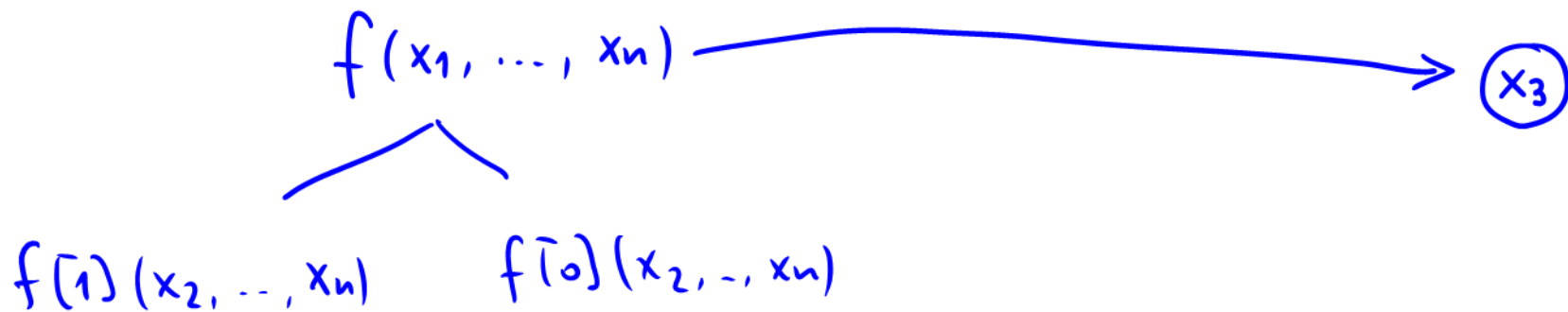
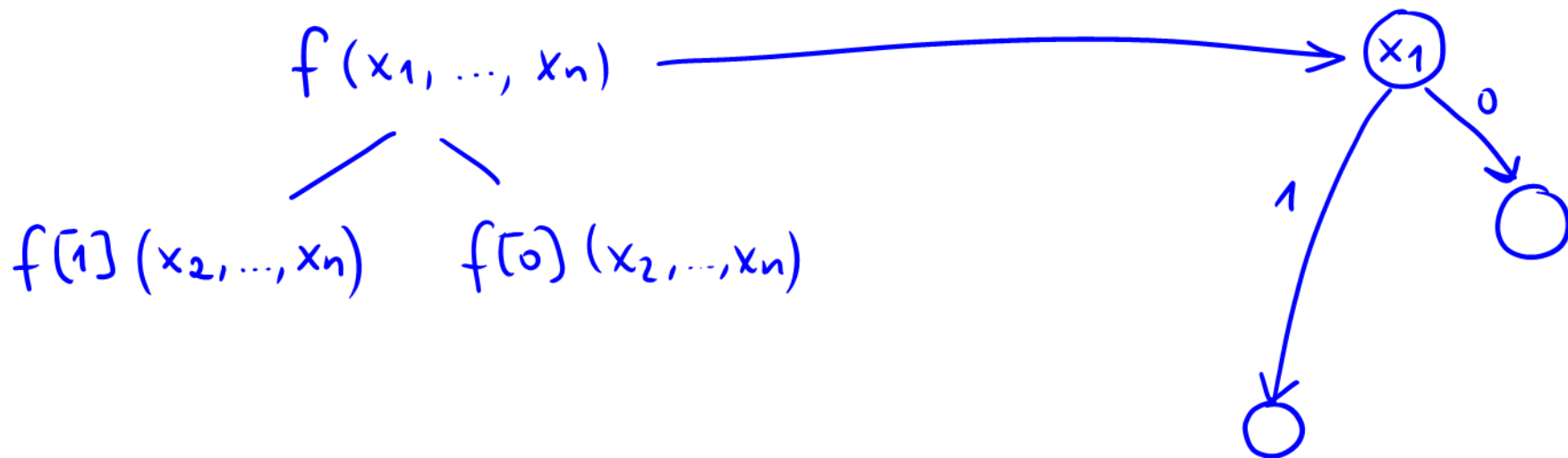
Proof: Easy.

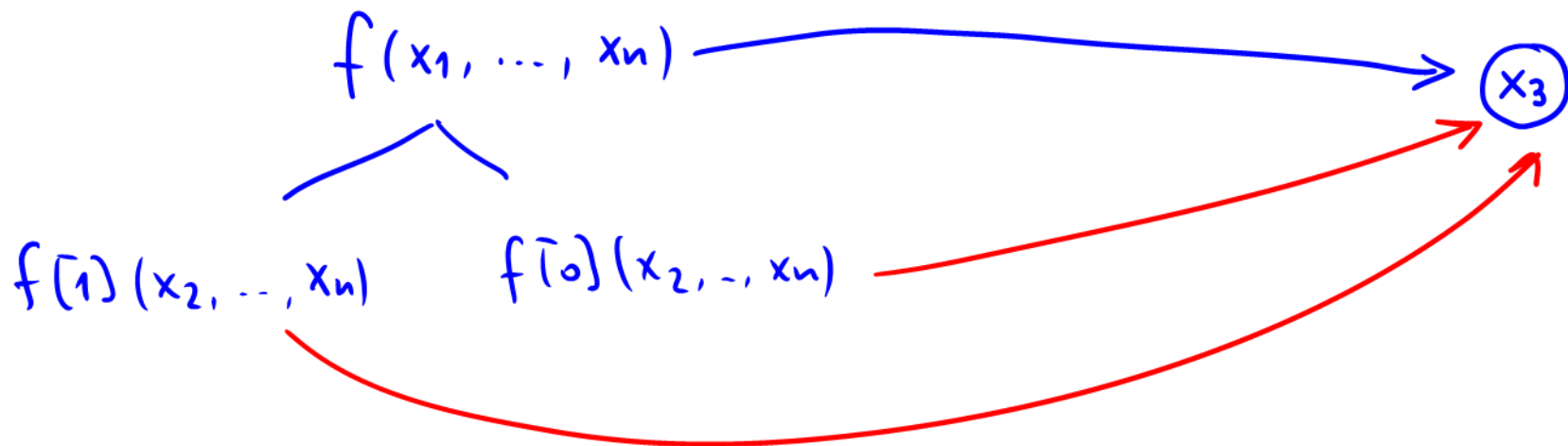
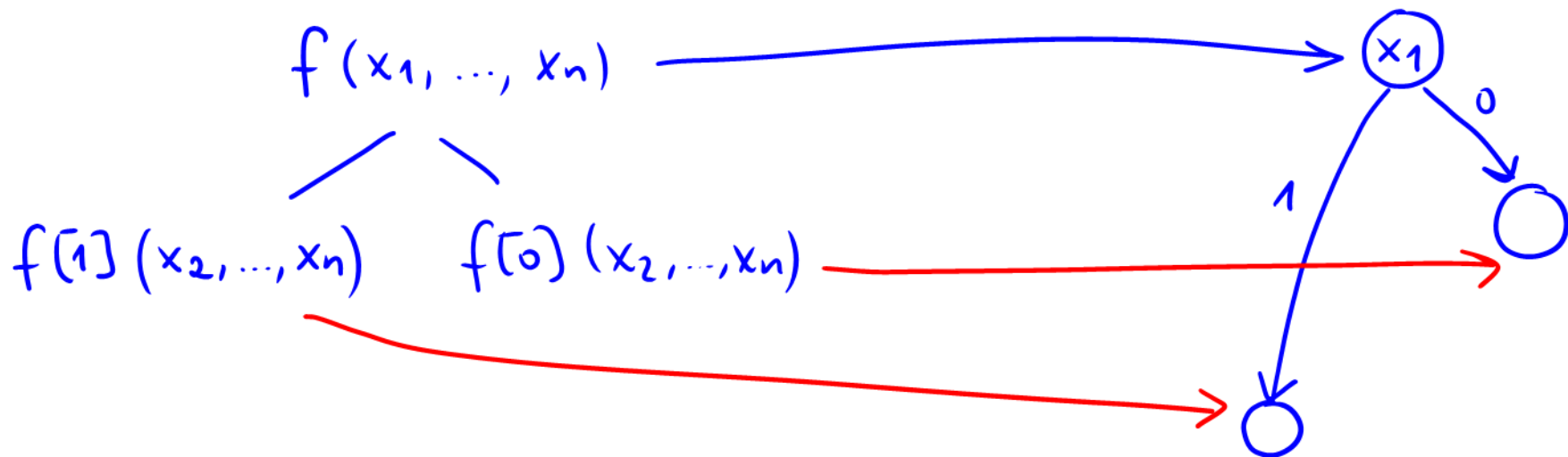
Summary

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \begin{cases} \rightarrow f^{[1]}(x_2, \dots, x_n) = f(1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \\ \rightarrow f^{[0]}(x_2, \dots, x_n) = f(0, x_2, \dots, x_n) \end{cases}$$

$f^{[0]}$, $f^{[1]}$ unique solution of

$$f = (\neg x_1 \wedge f^{[0]}) \vee (x_1 \wedge f^{[1]})$$





Theorem: Let \mathcal{F} be a nonempty set of boolean functions of arity n and let $x_{i_1} < \dots < x_{i_n}$ be a variable order. There is exactly one multiBDD that follows this order and represents \mathcal{F} .

Proof: We consider the order $x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_n$, for other orders the proof is similar. Proof by induction on the arity n .

Basis: $n = 0$. There are exactly two boolean functions with $n = 0$, namely the constants $\mathbf{0}$ and $\mathbf{1}$, and two BDDs $\mathbf{K}_0, \mathbf{K}_1$ consisting of one single node labelled by 0 or by 1. The set $\{\mathbf{0}\}$ is represented by \mathbf{K}_0 , the set $\{\mathbf{1}\}$ by \mathbf{K}_1 , and the set $\{\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1}\}$ by the multiBDD consisting of \mathbf{K}_0 and \mathbf{K}_1 .

Step: $n > 0$. Let $\mathcal{F} = \{f_1, \dots, f_k\}$.

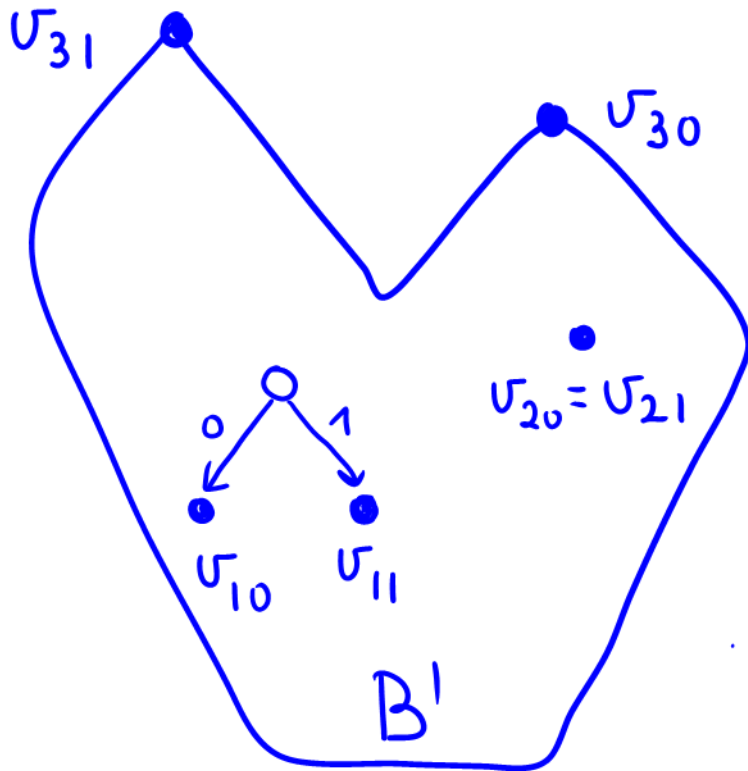
Define $\mathcal{F}' = \{f_1[0], f_1[1], \dots, f_k[0], f_k[1]\}$, where $f_i[0]$ and $f_i[1]$ are as in Lemma I.

By induction hypothesis there is exactly one multiBDD B' with roots $v_{10}, v_{11}, \dots, v_{k0}, v_{k1}$ representing \mathcal{F}' . I.e., for every function $f_i[j]$ the root v_{ij} represents $f_i[j]$.

f_1, f_2, f_3



$f_1[0], f_1[1], \dots, f_3[1]$

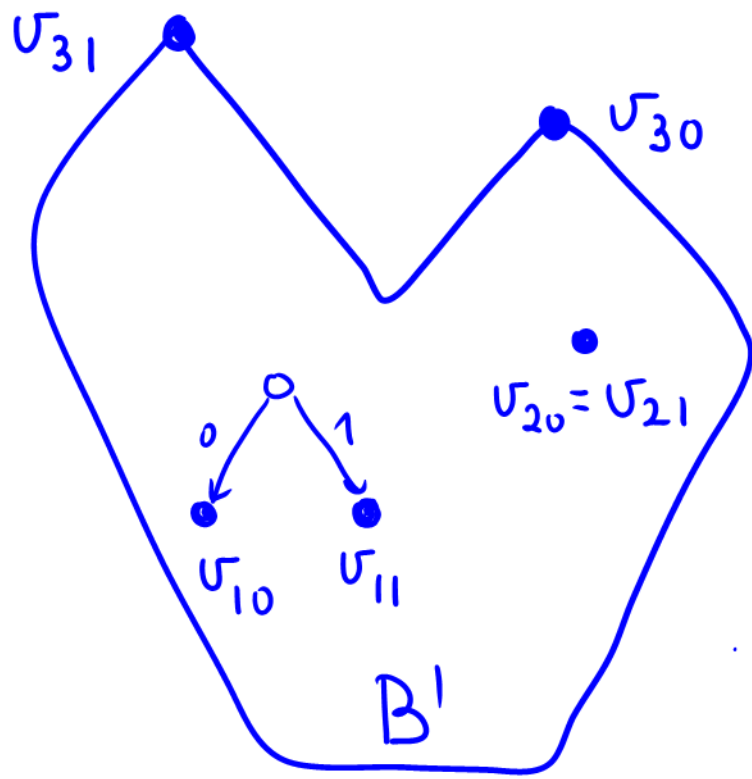


unique!

Let B be the multiBDD with roots v_1, \dots, v_n obtained from B' after executing the following steps for $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$:

- If $v_{i0} = v_{i1}$ then set $v_i := v_{i0}$.
(In this case v_{i0} represents f_i .)
- If $v_{i0} \neq v_{i1}$ and B' has a node v such with v_{i0} as 0-child and v_{i1} as 1-child then set $v_i := v$.
- If $v_{i0} \neq v_{i1}$ and B' contains no such node then add a new node v_i having v_{i0} as 0-Kind and v_{i1} as 1-Kind .
(So v_i represents f_i , see Lemma II.)

Clearly, B represents \mathcal{F} . We now show that B is the only multiBDD representing \mathcal{F} .



Let \tilde{B} be an arbitrary multiBDD with roots $\tilde{v}_1, \dots, \tilde{v}_n$ representing \mathcal{F} .

By Lemma II, \tilde{B} contains nodes $\tilde{v}_1[0], \tilde{v}_1[1], \dots, \tilde{v}_k[0], \tilde{v}_k[1]$ representing the functions of \mathcal{F}' .

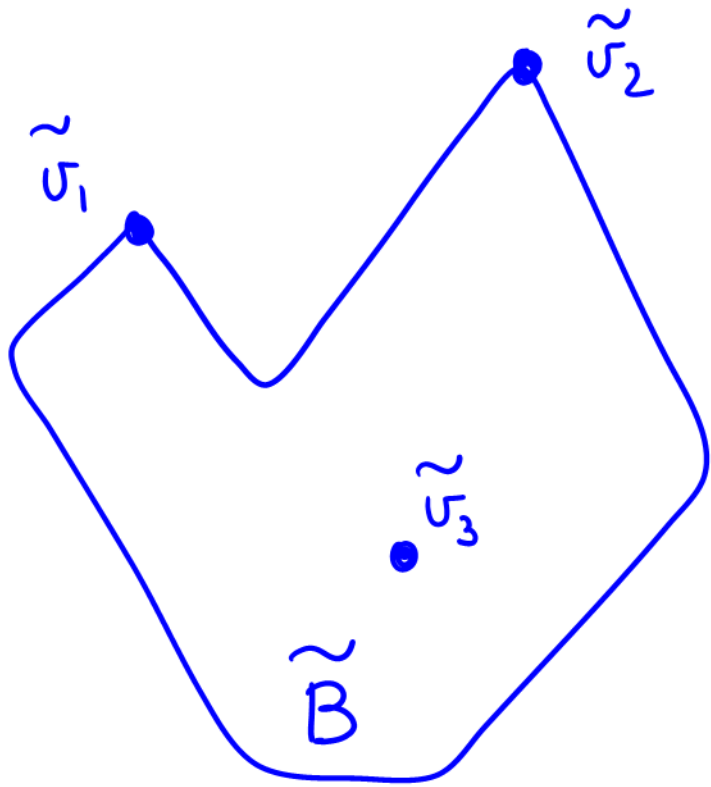
By induction hypothesis, the multiBDD containing these nodes and all its descendants is the multiBDD B' . In particular, we have

$v_{ij} = \tilde{v}_i[j]$ for every $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $j \in \{0, 1\}$.

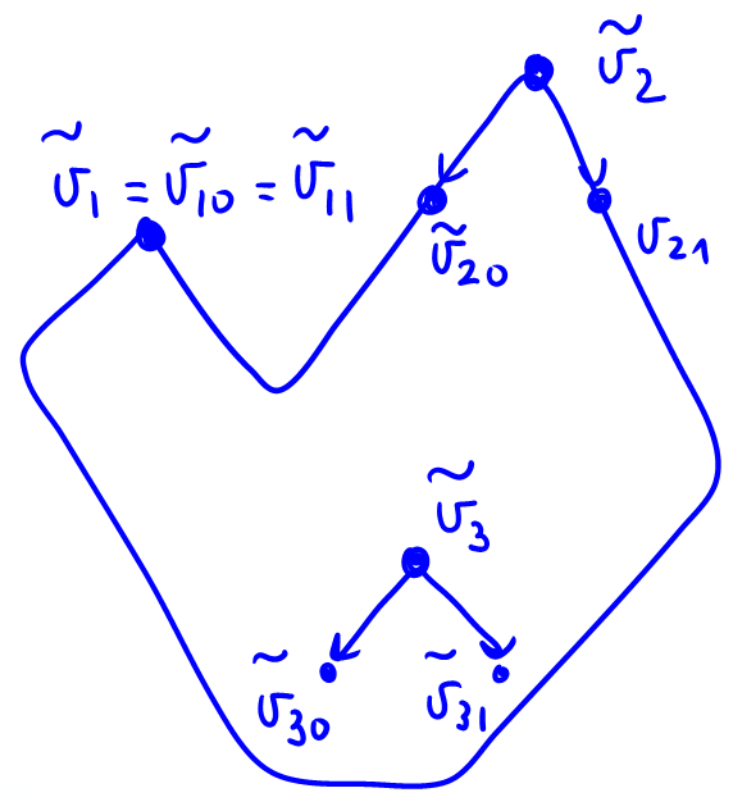
Let v_i and \tilde{v}_i be the roots of B and \tilde{B} , representing f_i . By Lemmas I and II, v_{i0} and $\tilde{v}_i[0]$ represent $f[0]$, and v_{i1} and $\tilde{v}_i[1]$ represent $f[1]$.

Since $v_i[0] = \tilde{v}_i[0]$ and $v_i[1] = \tilde{v}_i[1]$ we get $v_i = \tilde{v}_i$.

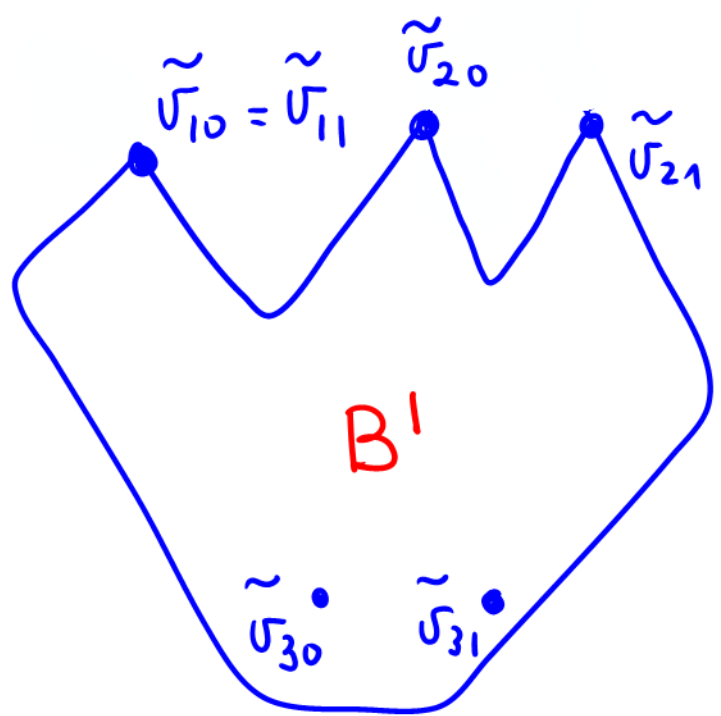
So B and \tilde{B} are equal.



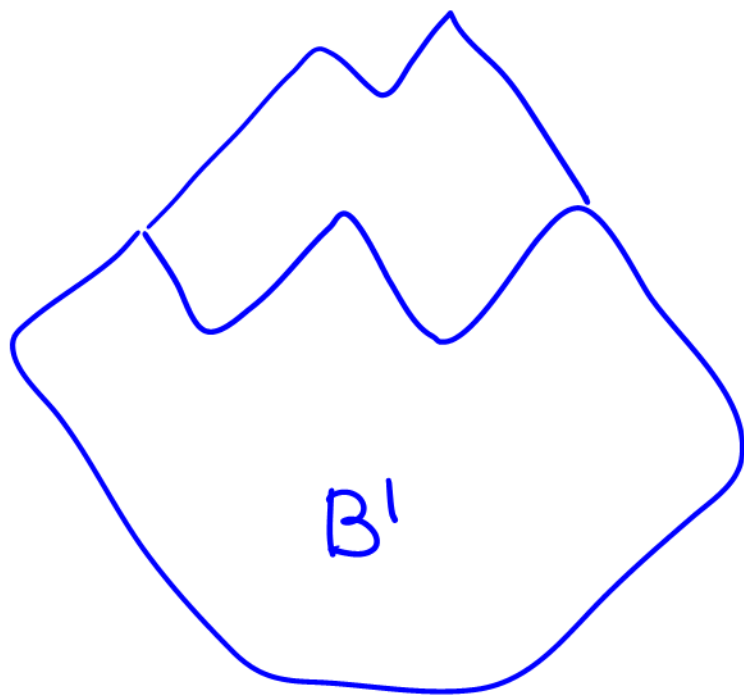
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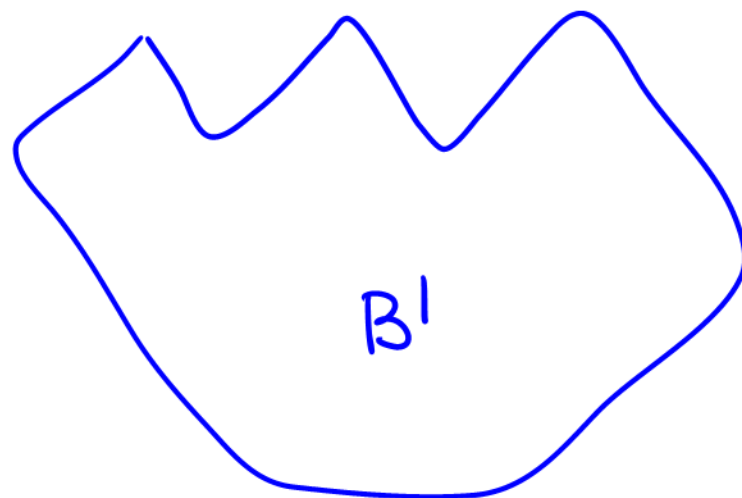
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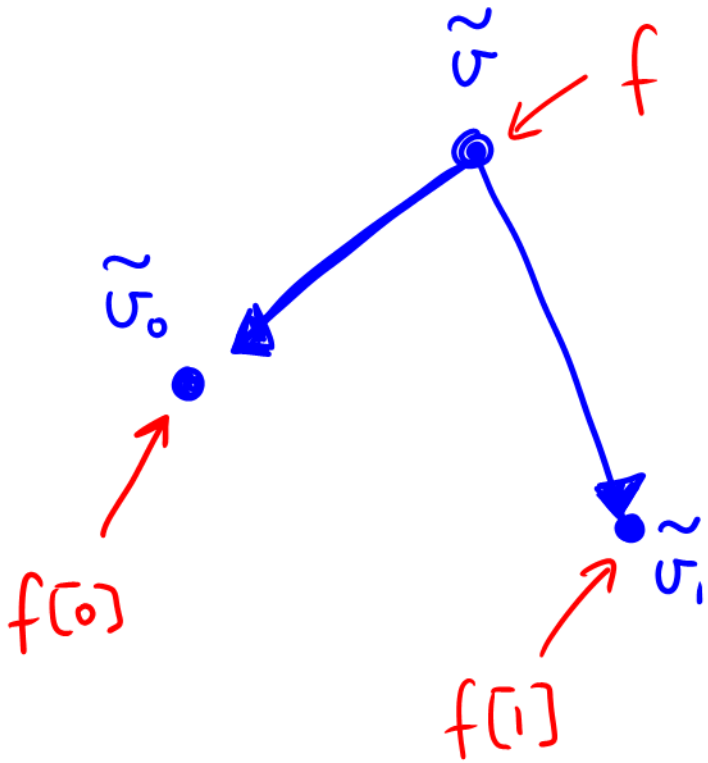
B

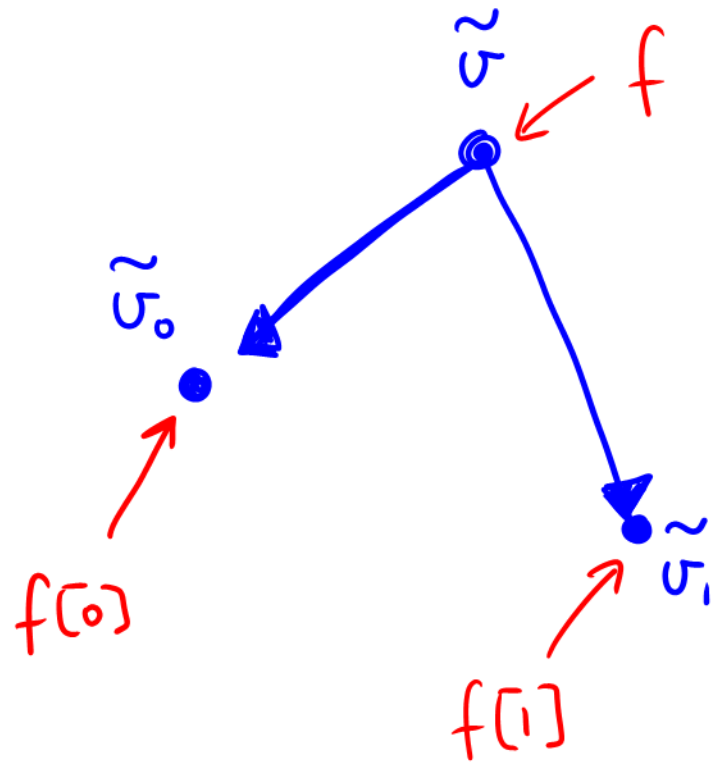


\tilde{B}



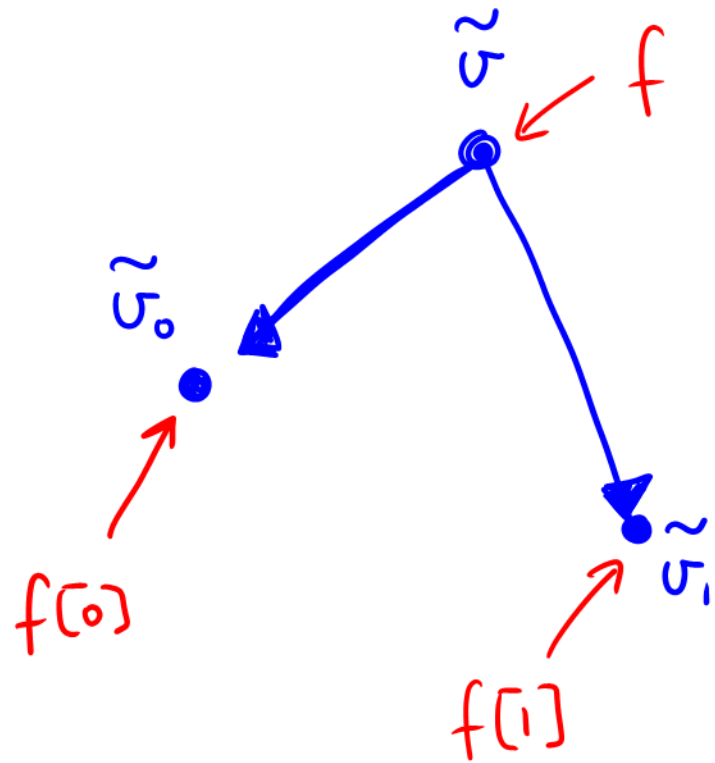
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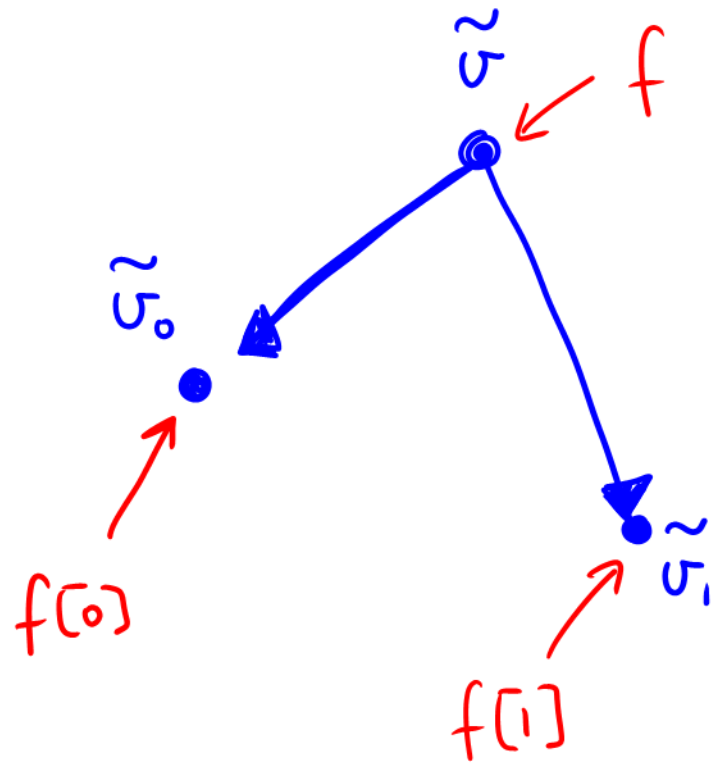


Can some other node v represent f as well?

No! Because

- The nodes v_0, v_1 represent functions f_0, f_1 satisfying

$$f = (\neg x_1 \wedge f_0) \vee (x_1 \wedge f_1)$$



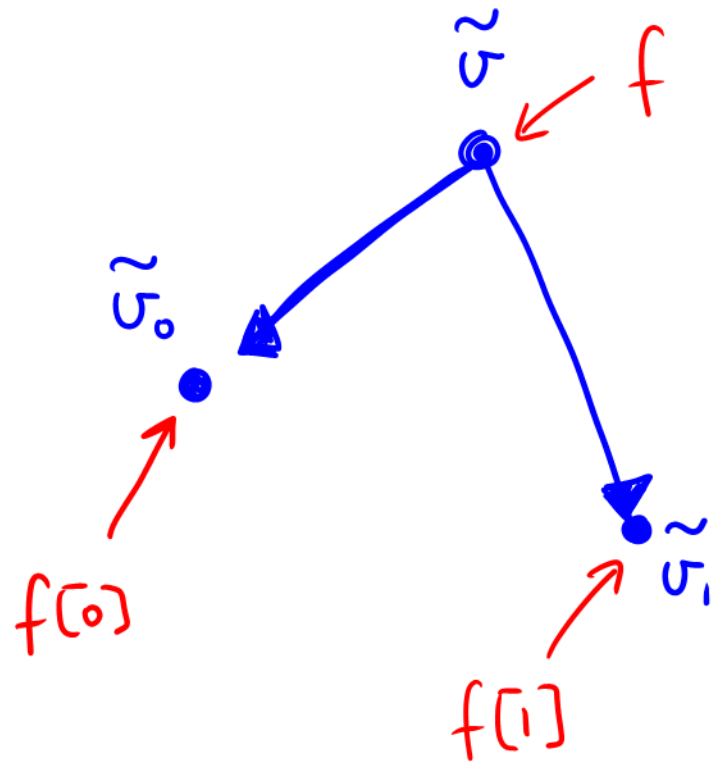
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- so they represent $f[0], f[1]$ (unique solution)
- so they are \tilde{v}_0, \tilde{v}_1 .

Computing BDDs from Formulas

Goal: Given a formula F over the atomic formulas A_1, \dots, A_n and a variable order for $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$, compute a BDD representing $f_F(x_1, \dots, x_n)$.

Naive procedure: Compute the decision tree of f_F and reduce it using the compression rules.

Problem: The decision tree is too large!

Better procedure (idea): Compute recursively the multiBDD representing $\{f_{F[A_i/0]}, f_{F[A_i/1]}\}$ for a suitable A_i , and derive from it the BDD for f_F , where $F[A_i/0]$ bzw. $F[A_i/1]$ are the formulas obtained by replacing every occurrence of A_i by 0 resp. by 1.

In the next slides we formalize this idea.

$$F = (A_1 \vee A_2) \wedge A_3$$

Let $\mathcal{S} = \{F_1, \dots, F_n\}$ be a nonempty set of formulas.

We define a procedure $\text{multiBDD}(\mathcal{S})$ that returns the roots of a multiBDD representing the set $\{f_{F_1}, \dots, f_{F_n}\}$.

\mathbf{K}_0 denotes the BDD with only one node labelled by 0.

\mathbf{K}_1 denotes the BDD with only one node labelled by 1.

A **proper formula** is a formula containing at least one occurrence of a variable (i.e., not only 0 and 1).

An atomic formula A_i is **smaller** than A_j if x_i appears before x_j in the variable order.

The function $\text{multiBDD}(\mathcal{S})$

if \mathcal{S} contains no proper formulas

then if all formulas of \mathcal{S} are equivalent to 0

then return $\{\mathbf{K}_0\}$

else if all formulas in \mathcal{S} are equivalent to 1

then return $\{\mathbf{K}_1\}$

else return $\{\mathbf{K}_0, \mathbf{K}_1\}$

else choose a proper formula $F \in \mathcal{S}$.

Let A_i be the smallest atomic formula occurring in F .

Let $B = \text{multiBDD}(\mathcal{S} \setminus \{F\} \cup \{F[A_i/0], F[A_i/1]\})$.

Let v_0, v_1 be the roots of B representing $F[A_i/0], F[A_i/1]$.

if $v_0 = v_1$ then return B

else add a new node v with v_0, v_1 as 0- and 1-child

(if such a node does not exist yet);

return $(B \setminus \{v_0, v_1\}) \cup \{v\}$

Equivalence problems

Given two formulas F_1, F_2 , the following algorithm decides whether $F_1 \equiv F_2$ holds:

- Choose a suitable variable order $x_1 < \dots < x_n$.
- Compute a multiBDD for $\{F_1, F_2\}$.
- Check whether the roots v_{F_1}, v_{F_2} are equal.

For digital circuits: the BDDs are not derived from formulas, but directly from the circuits.

Operations on BDDs

Given:

- two formulas F, G over the atomic formulas A_1, \dots, A_n ,
- a variable order for $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$,
- a multiBDD with two roots v_F, v_G representing the functions $f_F(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ and $f_G(x_1, \dots, x_n)$, and
- a binary boolean operation (e.g. $\vee, \wedge, \rightarrow, \leftrightarrow$)

Goal: compute a BDD for the function $f_{F \circ G}(x_1, \dots, x_n)$.

With our convention we have $f_{F \circ G} = f_F \circ f_G$

Idea

Lemma: $(f_F \circ f_G)[0] = f_F[0] \circ f_G[0]$ and $(f_F \circ f_G)[1] = f_F[1] \circ f_G[1]$.

Proof: Exercise.

Algorithm: (for the order $x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_n$, similar for others)

- Compute a multiBDD for $\{f_F[0] \circ f_G[0], f_F[1] \circ f_G[1]\}$.
(Recursively.)
- Use the Lemma to build a BDD for $f_{F \circ G}(x_1, \dots, x_n)$.

The function $\text{Or}(v_F, v_G)$

if $v_F = \mathbf{K}_1$ **or** $v_G = \mathbf{K}_1$ **then return** \mathbf{K}_1
else if $v_F = v_G = \mathbf{K}_0$ **then return** \mathbf{K}_0
else let v_{F0}, v_{G0} be the 0-children of v_F, v_G and
let v_{F1}, v_{G1} be the 1-children of v_F, v_G
 $v_0 := \text{Or}(v_{F0}, v_{G0}); v_1 := \text{Or}(v_{F1}, v_{G1})$
if $v_0 = v_1$ **then return** v_0
else add a new node v with v_0, v_1 as 0- and 1-child
(if such a node does not exist yet);
return v

Implementing BDDs

Source: *An introduction to Binary Decision Diagrams*

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<http://www.itu.dk/people/hra/notes-index.html>

Data structures

BDD-nodes coded as numbers $0, 1, 2, \dots$ with $0, 1$ for the end nodes.

BDD-nodes are stored in a table

$$T: u \mapsto (i, l, h)$$

where i, l, h are the label, the 0-child and the 1-child of u .
(Here l stands for “low” and h for “high”.)

We maintain a second table

$$H: (i, l, h) \mapsto u$$

so that following invarinat holds:

$$T(u) = (i, l, h) \quad \text{iff} \quad H(i, l, h) = u$$

Basic operations on T :

$init(T)$: Initializes T with 0 and 1

$add(T, i, l, h)$: Adds node with attributes (i, l, h) to T and returns it

$var(u), low(u), high(u)$: Returns the variable, 0-child, 1-child of u

Basic operations on H :

$init(H)$: Initializes H as the empty table

$member(H, i, l, h)$: Checks whether (i, l, h) belongs to H

$lookup(H, i, l, h)$: Returns the node $H(i, l, h)$

$insert(H, i, l, h, u)$: Adds $(i, l, h) \mapsto u$ to H (if not yet there)

The function $Make(i, l, h)$

Look in H for a node with attributes (i, l, h) . If found, then return it. Otherwise create a new node and return it.

Make(i, l, h)

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1:  if  $l = h$  then return  $l$ 
2:  else if  $member(H, i, l, h)$  then
3:      return  $lookup(H, i, h, l)$ 
4:  else  $u := add(T, i, l, h)$ 
5:       $insert(H, i, l, h, u)$ 
6:      return  $u$ 
```

Implementing *Or*

Problem: the function can be called many times with the same arguments.

Solution: dynamic programming. The results of all calls are stored. Each call checks first if the result has already been computed earlier.

Or(u_1, u_2)

1: **init** G

2: **return** *Or'*(u_1, u_2)

