

2. Satisfiability of Comparisons

We consider *finite* sets of comparisons, that is, atoms with the predicates “=”, “≠”, “≤”, and “<” (also called built-in predicates). An example of such a set is the following:

$$x \leq y, x < z, y \leq 5, y \neq 4.$$

We interpret built-in atoms either over the rational numbers \mathbb{Q} or the integers \mathbb{Z} . We define as usual when an assignment that maps variables to numbers satisfies an atom. An assignment satisfies a set if it satisfies every atom in the set. A set A of atoms is *satisfiable over* \mathbb{Q} if there is an assignment that maps the variables in A to elements of \mathbb{Q} and satisfies A . The set A is *satisfiable over* \mathbb{Z} if there is an assignment that maps the variables in A to elements of \mathbb{Z} and satisfies A .

We are interested in coming up with methods to check whether such a set is satisfiable. For each of the following classes of conjunctions of comparisons, describe a method by which one can check satisfiability: Comparisons with

1. “=”
2. “=” and “≠”
3. “≤”, ranging over the rational numbers
4. “≤” and “≠”, ranging over the rational numbers
5. “≤” and “<”, ranging over the rational numbers
6. “≤”, ranging over the integers
7. “≤” and “<”, ranging over the integers.