

Cara: An Isomorphism-Based #SAT Solver

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Component caching

To avoid redundant work

Input CNF formula


$$\varphi: (\mathbf{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg \mathbf{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)$$

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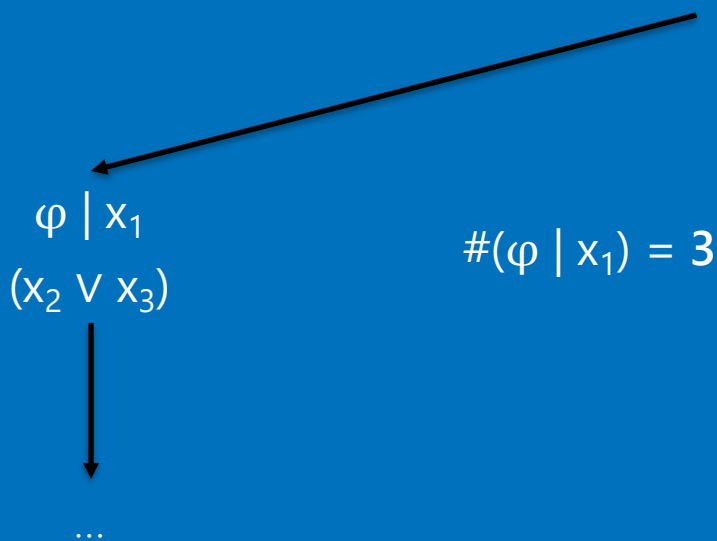

$$\varphi \mid x_1$$
$$(x_2 \vee x_3)$$

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$$\#(\varphi \mid x_1) = 3$$

...



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$$\begin{array}{l} \varphi \mid x_1 \\ (x_2 \vee x_3) \end{array}$$

$$\#(\varphi \mid x_1) = 3$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \varphi \mid \neg x_1 \\ (x_2 \vee x_3) \end{array}$$

...



Component caching

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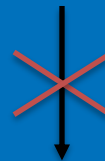
$$\varphi \mid x_1$$
$$(x_2 \vee x_3)$$



...

$$\#(\varphi \mid x_1) = 3 = \#(\varphi \mid \neg x_1)$$

$$\varphi \mid \neg x_1$$
$$(x_2 \vee x_3)$$



...

Component caching

To avoid redundant work

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$$\varphi \mid x_1$$
$$(x_2 \vee x_3)$$



...

$$\#(\varphi \mid x_1) = 3 = \#(\varphi \mid \neg x_1)$$

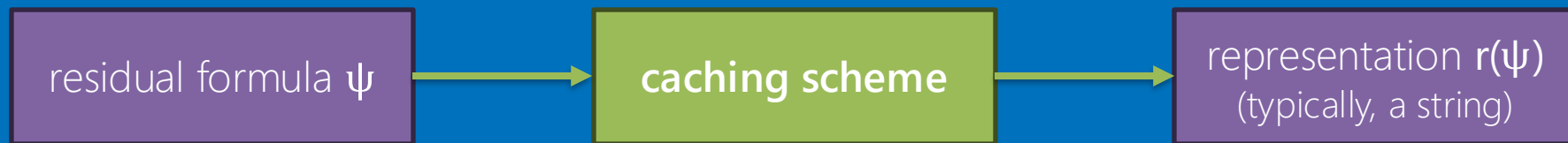
$$\varphi \mid \neg x_1$$
$$(x_2 \vee x_3)$$



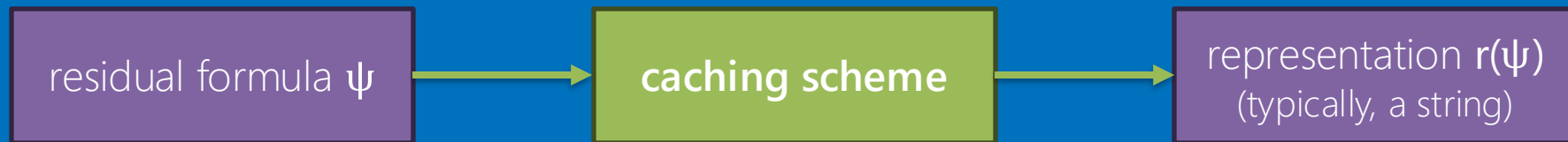
...

notation: **residual CNF formulae**

Caching scheme



Caching scheme

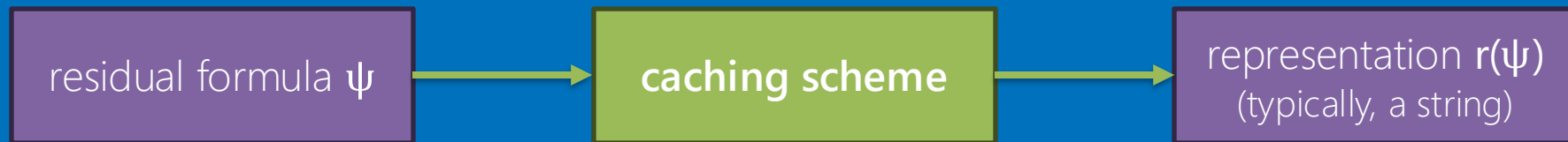


A caching scheme is **correct**¹ if $\forall \psi_1, \psi_2: (r(\psi_1) = r(\psi_2)) \Rightarrow (\psi_1 \Leftrightarrow \psi_2)$

¹ LAGNIEZ, Jean-Marie; MARQUIS, Pierre. Enhanced Caching for# SAT Solving. 2020.



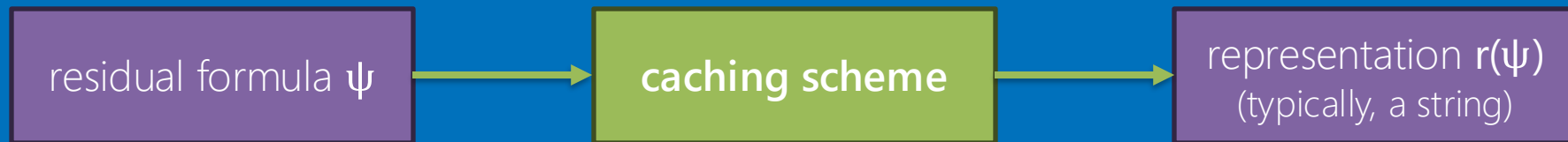
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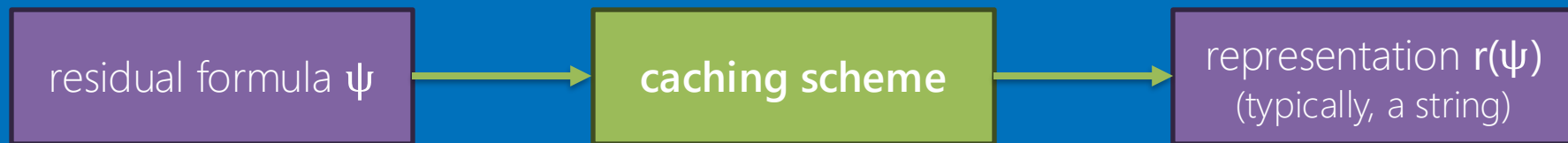


A caching scheme is **correct**¹ if $\forall \psi_1, \psi_2: (r(\psi_1) = r(\psi_2)) \Rightarrow \cancel{(\psi_1 \Leftrightarrow \psi_2)} \quad (\# \psi_1 = \# \psi_2)$

Key properties of a caching scheme: strength of equivalence detection,
representation size, computation time

¹ LAGNIEZ, Jean-Marie; MARQUIS, Pierre. Enhanced Caching for# SAT Solving. 2020.

Caching scheme



A caching scheme is **correct**¹ if $\forall \psi_1, \psi_2: (r(\psi_1) = r(\psi_2)) \Rightarrow \cancel{(\psi_1 \Leftrightarrow \psi_2)} \quad (\# \psi_1 = \# \psi_2)$

Key properties of a caching scheme: strength of equivalence detection,
representation size, computation time

Explicit representation: *standard (Cachet²), basic, i (D4³),*

Implicit representation: *hybrid (sharpSAT⁴), o, i',
probabilistic component caching (GANAK⁵)*

¹ LAGNIEZ, Jean-Marie; MARQUIS, Pierre. Enhanced Caching for# SAT Solving. 2020.

² SANG, Tian, et al. Combining Component Caching and Clause Learning for Effective Model Counting. SAT, 2004, 4: 7th.

³ LAGNIEZ, Jean-Marie; MARQUIS, Pierre. An Improved Decision-DNNF Compiler. In: IJCAI. 2017. p. 667-673.

⁴ THURLEY, Marc. sharpSAT—counting models with advanced component caching and implicit BCP. In: International Conference on Theory and Applications of Satisfiability Testing. Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2006. p. 424-429.

⁵ SHARMA, Shubham, et al. GANAK: A Scalable Probabilistic Exact Model Counter. In: IJCAI. 2019. p. 1169-1176.

Caching scheme i¹ (presented at the Workshop on Counting and Sampling 2021)

$$\varphi : (x_1 \vee \mathbf{x_2} \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (\mathbf{x_2} \vee x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee \mathbf{x_2} \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_3 \vee x_4 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_6)$$

$$\varphi \mid \neg x_2 : (x_1 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_3 \vee x_4 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_6)$$

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$$\varphi \mid \neg x_2 : \quad (x_1 \vee \neg x_4) \quad \wedge (x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge \underbrace{(x_3 \vee x_4 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_6)}_{\text{untouched clauses}}$$

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$$r(\varphi \mid \neg x_2) = \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\text{sorted residual variables}} \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\text{sorted touched residual clauses}}$$

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$$\varphi : (x_1 \vee \mathbf{x_2} \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (\mathbf{x_2} \vee x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee \mathbf{x_2} \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_3 \vee x_4 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_6)$$

$$\varphi \mid \neg x_2 : \quad (x_1 \vee \neg x_4) \quad \wedge (x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge \underbrace{(x_3 \vee x_4 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_6)}_{\text{untouched clauses}}$$

$$r(\varphi \mid \neg x_2) = \frac{\text{sorted residual variables} \quad 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 0,}{\text{sorted touched residual clauses} \quad 1, -4, 0, 1, -4, 0, 3, 4, 0}$$

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$$\varphi \mid \neg x_2 : \underbrace{(x_1 \vee \neg x_4)}_{\text{redundant clause}} \wedge (x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge \underbrace{(x_3 \vee x_4 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_6)}_{\text{untouched clauses}}$$

$$r(\varphi \mid \neg x_2) = \underbrace{1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 0,}_{\text{sorted residual variables}} \underbrace{\cancel{1, -4, 0}, 1, -4, 0, 3, 4, 0}_{\text{sorted touched non-redundant residual clauses}}$$

¹ LAGNIEZ, Jean-Marie; MARQUIS, Pierre. Enhanced Caching for# SAT Solving. 2020.

Motivation

Residual CNF formulae:

$$\psi_1 : (x_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_3 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_3 \vee x_4)$$

Motivation

Residual CNF formulae:

$$\psi_1 : (x_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_3 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_3 \vee x_4)$$

$$\#\psi_1 = 6$$

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Residual CNF formulae:

$$\psi_1 : (x_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_3 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_3 \vee x_4)$$

$$\#\psi_1 = 6$$

$$\psi_2 : (x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (\neg x_5 \vee x_7) \wedge (x_7 \vee \neg x_8) \wedge (x_5 \vee \neg x_7 \vee x_8)$$

Motivation

Residual CNF formulae:

$$\psi_1 : (x_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_3 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_3 \vee x_4) \quad \#\psi_1 = 6$$

$$\psi_2 : (x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (\neg x_5 \vee x_7) \wedge (x_7 \vee \neg x_8) \wedge (x_5 \vee \neg x_7 \vee x_8) \quad \#\psi_2 = 6$$

variable names are NOT relevant

Motivation

Residual CNF formulae:

$$\psi_1 : (x_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_3 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_3 \vee x_4) \quad \#\psi_1 = 6$$

$$\psi_2 : (x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (\neg x_5 \vee x_7) \wedge (x_7 \vee \neg x_8) \wedge (x_5 \vee \neg x_7 \vee x_8) \quad \#\psi_2 = 6$$

variable names are NOT relevant

$$\psi_3 : (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_3 \vee \neg x_4)$$

Motivation

Residual CNF formulae:

$$\psi_1 : (x_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_3 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_3 \vee x_4) \quad \#\psi_1 = 6$$

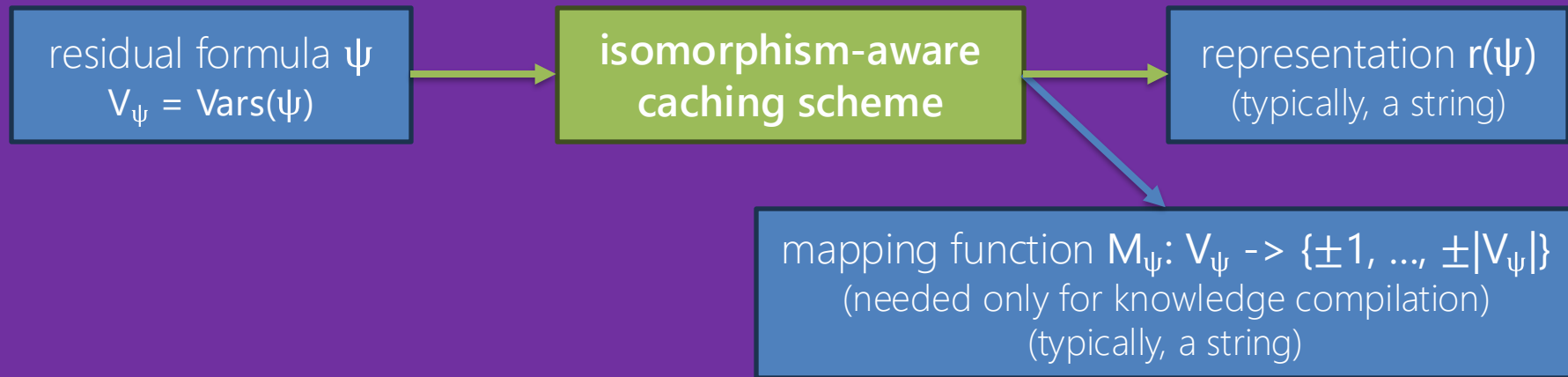
$$\psi_2 : (x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (\neg x_5 \vee x_7) \wedge (x_7 \vee \neg x_8) \wedge (x_5 \vee \neg x_7 \vee x_8) \quad \#\psi_2 = 6$$

variable names are NOT relevant

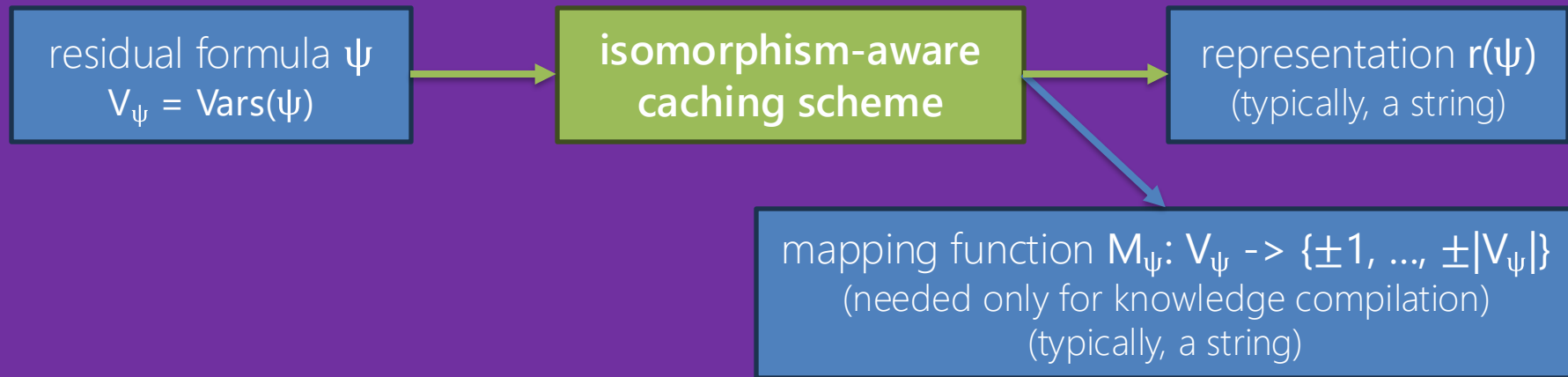
$$\psi_3 : (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_3 \vee \neg x_4) \quad \#\psi_3 = 6$$

literal polarity is NOT relevant

Isomorphism-aware caching scheme



Isomorphism-aware caching scheme



An isomorphism-aware caching scheme is **correct** if :

$$\forall \psi_1, \psi_2: (r(\psi_1) = r(\psi_2)) \Rightarrow (M_{\psi_1}(\psi_1) \Leftrightarrow M_{\psi_2}(\psi_2)) \equiv (\#\psi_1 = \#\psi_2)$$

Cara caching scheme¹

$$\psi_1 = (\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_5) \wedge (x_4 \vee \neg x_6) \wedge (x_3 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (\neg x_4 \vee x_5 \vee \neg x_6)$$

$$\#\psi_1 = ?$$

$$V_{\psi_1} = \{ 3, 4, 5, 6 \}$$

¹ ILLNER, Petr. New Compilation Languages Based on Restricted Weak Decomposability. In: Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence. 2025. p. 14987-14996.

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$$\#\psi_1 = ?$$

$$V_{\psi_1} = \{ 3, 4, 5, 6 \}$$

	C_x	$C_{\neg x}$	μ_x	$\mu_{\neg x}$	ID
x_3					
x_4					
x_5					
x_6					

C_l = the number of clauses containing l

μ_l = the average size of clauses containing l

$C_x < C_{\neg x}$ = sign flip

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$$\#\psi_1 = ?$$

$$V_{\psi_1} = \{3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

	C_x	$C_{\neg x}$	μ_x	$\mu_{\neg x}$	ID
x_3	1	1	0.5	0.5	3
x_4	1	1	0.5	0.5	4
x_5	2	0	1.0	0.0	5
x_6	1	1	0.5	0.5	6

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x_6		1		3	6

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x_3	1	1	3	2	3
x_4	1	1	2	3	4
x_5	2	1	3	2	5
x_6	1	2	3	2.5	6

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$$\#\psi_1 = ?$$

$$V_{\psi_1} = \{ 3, 4, 5, 6 \}$$

	C_x	$C_{\neg x}$	μ_x	$\mu_{\neg x}$	ID	Order
x_3	1	1	3	2	3	2
x_4	1	1	2	3	4	1
x_5	2	1	3	2	5	4
x_6	1	2	3	2.5	6	3

C_l = the number of clauses containing l

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x_5	2	1	3	2	5	4
x_6	1	2	3	2.5	6	3

C_l = the number of clauses containing l

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$$M_{\psi_1} = \{ 3 \mapsto 2, \\ 4 \mapsto 1, \\ 5 \mapsto 4, \\ 6 \mapsto 3 \}$$

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x_3	1	1	3	2	3	2
x_4	1	1	2	3	4	1
x_5	2	1	3	2	5	4
x_6	1 < 2	3	2.5	6		3

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$$\#\psi_1 = ?$$

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	C_x	$C_{\neg x}$	μ_x	$\mu_{\neg x}$	ID	Order
x_3	1	1	3	2	3	2
x_4	1	1	2	3	4	1
x_5	2	1	3	2	5	4
x_6	1	< 2	3	2.5	6	3

C_l = the number of clauses containing l
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 $C_x < C_{\neg x}$ = sign flip

$$M_{\psi_1} = \{ 3 \mapsto 2, 4 \mapsto 1, 5 \mapsto 4, 6 \mapsto -3 \}$$

$$M_{\psi_1}(\psi_1) = (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_4 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_4 \vee x_3)$$

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$$\psi_1 = (\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_5) \wedge (x_4 \vee \neg x_6) \wedge (x_3 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (\neg x_4 \vee x_5 \vee \neg x_6)$$

$$\#\psi_1 = ?$$

$$V_{\psi_1} = \{3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

	C_x	$C_{\neg x}$	μ_x	$\mu_{\neg x}$	ID	Order
x_3	1	1	3	2	3	2
x_4	1	1	2	3	4	1
x_5	2	1	3	2	5	4
x_6	1	< 2	3	2.5	6	3

C_l = the number of clauses containing l
 μ_l = the average size of clauses containing l
 $C_x < C_{\neg x}$ = sign flip

$$M_{\psi_1} = \{ 3 \mapsto 2, 4 \mapsto 1, 5 \mapsto 4, 6 \mapsto -3 \}$$

$$M_{\psi_1}(\psi_1) = (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_4 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_4 \vee x_3)$$

$$r(\psi_1) = \underline{1, 3, 0, -2, -4, 0, -1, 3, 4, 0, 2, -3, 4, 0}$$

sorted residual clauses

¹ ILLNER, Petr. New Compilation Languages Based on Restricted Weak Decomposability. In: Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence. 2025. p. 14987-14996.



Cara caching scheme¹

$$\psi_1 = (\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_5) \wedge (x_4 \vee \neg x_6) \wedge (x_3 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (\neg x_4 \vee x_5 \vee \neg x_6)$$

$$\#\psi_1 = 5$$

$$V_{\psi_1} = \{3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

	C_x	$C_{\neg x}$	μ_x	$\mu_{\neg x}$	ID	Order
x_3	1	1	3	2	3	2
x_4	1	1	2	3	4	1
x_5	2	1	3	2	5	4
x_6	1	< 2	3	2.5	6	3

C_l = the number of clauses containing l
 μ_l = the average size of clauses containing l
 $C_x < C_{\neg x}$ = sign flip

$$M_{\psi_1} = \{ 3 \mapsto 2, 4 \mapsto 1, 5 \mapsto 4, 6 \mapsto -3 \}$$

$$M_{\psi_1}(\psi_1) = (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_4 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_4 \vee x_3)$$

$$r(\psi_1) = \underline{1, 3, 0, -2, -4, 0, -1, 3, 4, 0, 2, -3, 4, 0}$$

sorted residual clauses

cache entry: key = $r(\psi_1)$,
 value = $\#\psi_1 = 5$

¹ ILLNER, Petr. New Compilation Languages Based on Restricted Weak Decomposability. In: Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence. 2025. p. 14987-14996.



Cara caching scheme¹ - key properties

- 1) Deterministic representations
- 2) Syntactically identical (up to ordering) CNF formulae yield the same representation and mapping function
=> everything detected by *i* is also detected by *Cara*
- 3) Additional moments can be used in tuples to enhance isomorphism detection
- 4) Construction is computationally expensive
- 5) Representations tend to be larger

¹ ILLNER, Petr. New Compilation Languages Based on Restricted Weak Decomposability. In: Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence. 2025. p. 14987-14996.

Cara caching scheme
vs
caching scheme ***i***

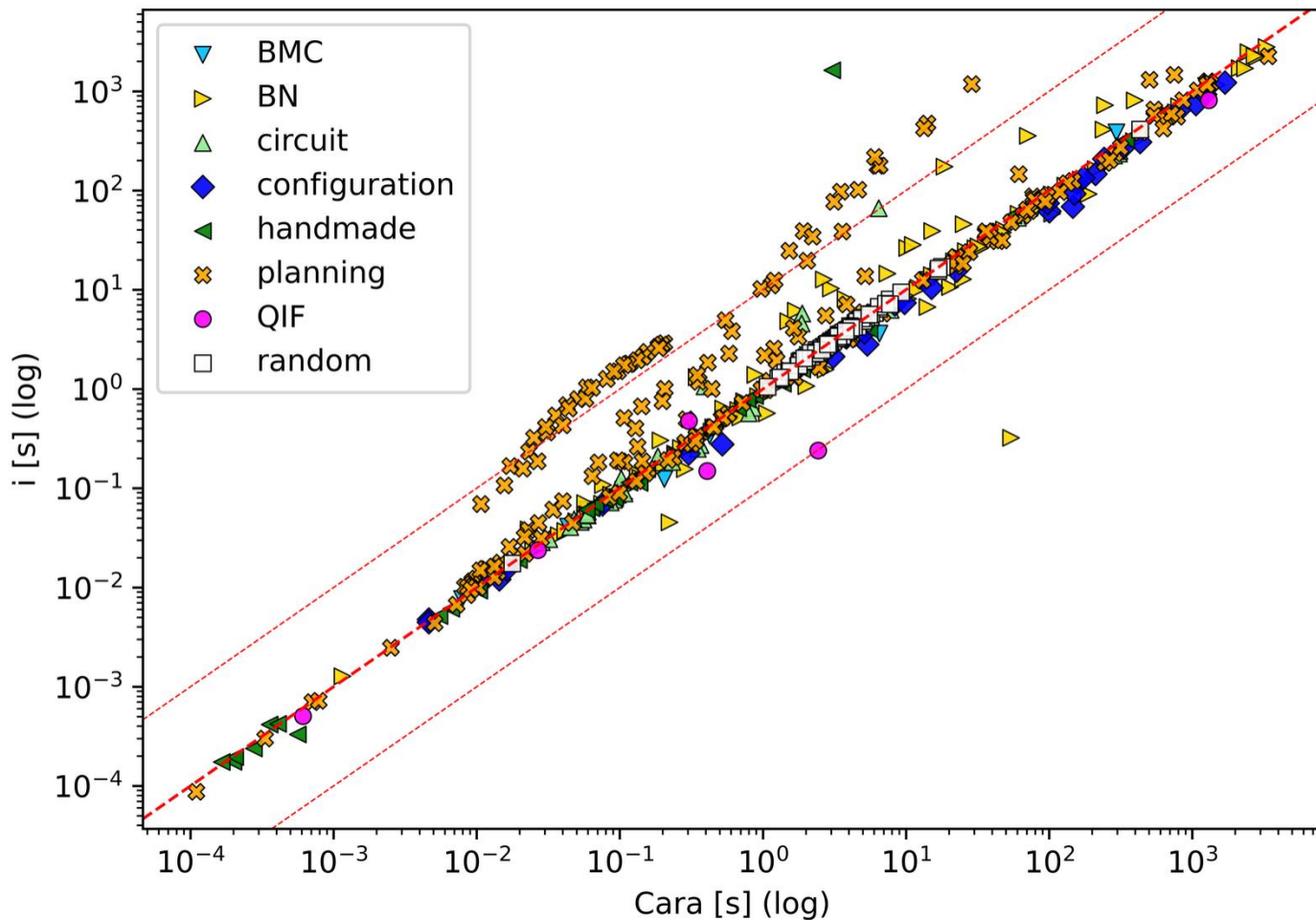
Experiments

The time-out
(resp. memory-out)
was set to **1 hour**
(resp. **32 GB**).

Each instance was
solved **3** times, and
the given results are
averages.

#solved runs	<i>Cara</i>	<i>i</i>
3/3	593	586
2/3	1	5
1/3	0	0
Total	594	591

Cara vs i - runtime



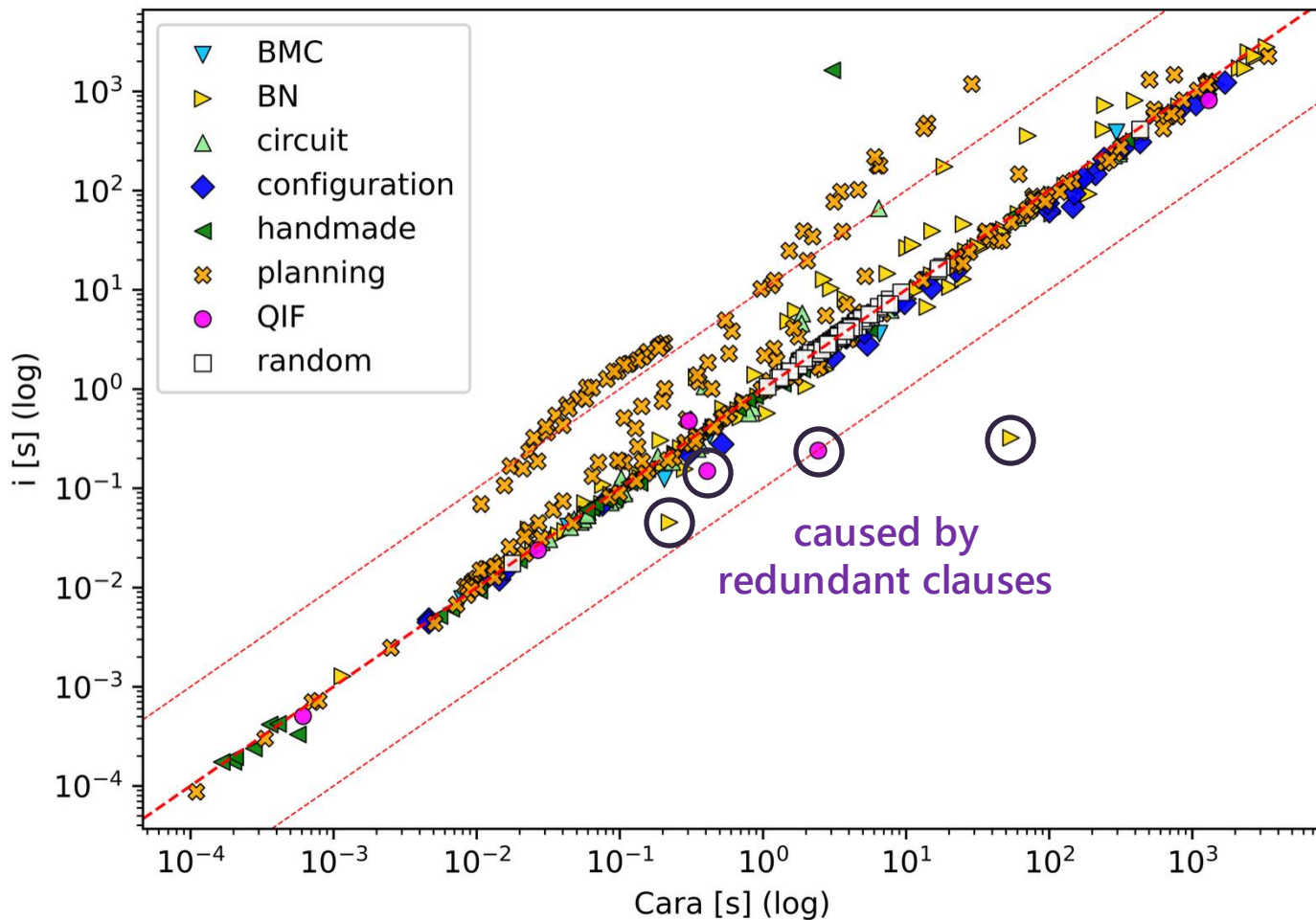
Experiments

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Each instance was
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#solved runs	<i>Cara</i>	<i>i</i>
3/3	593	586
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Total	594	591

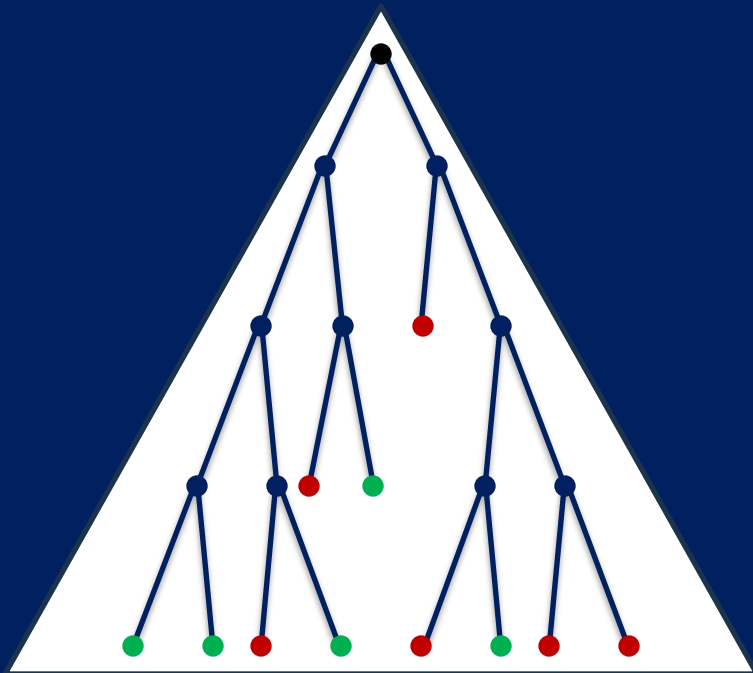
Cara vs i - runtime



Which caching scheme is better?

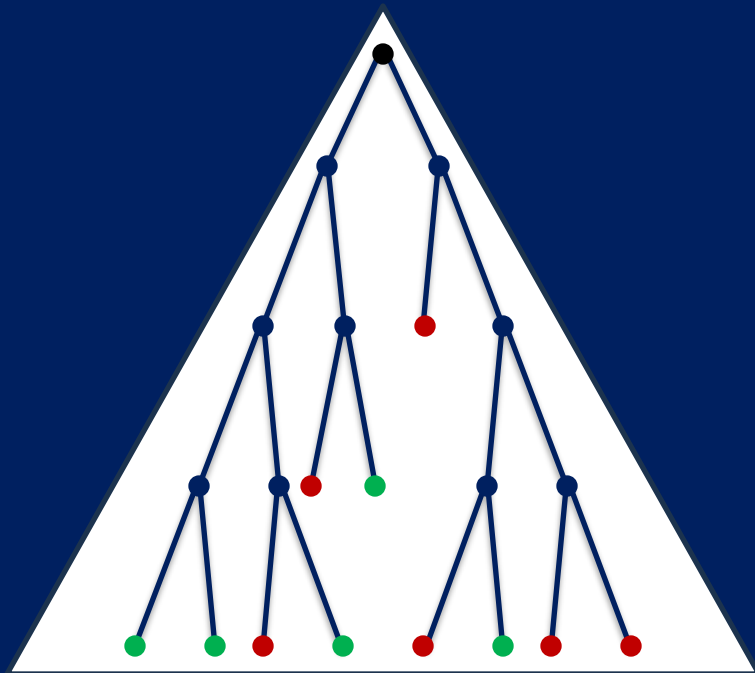
Balance of caching schemes – future research

search space



Balance of caching schemes – future research

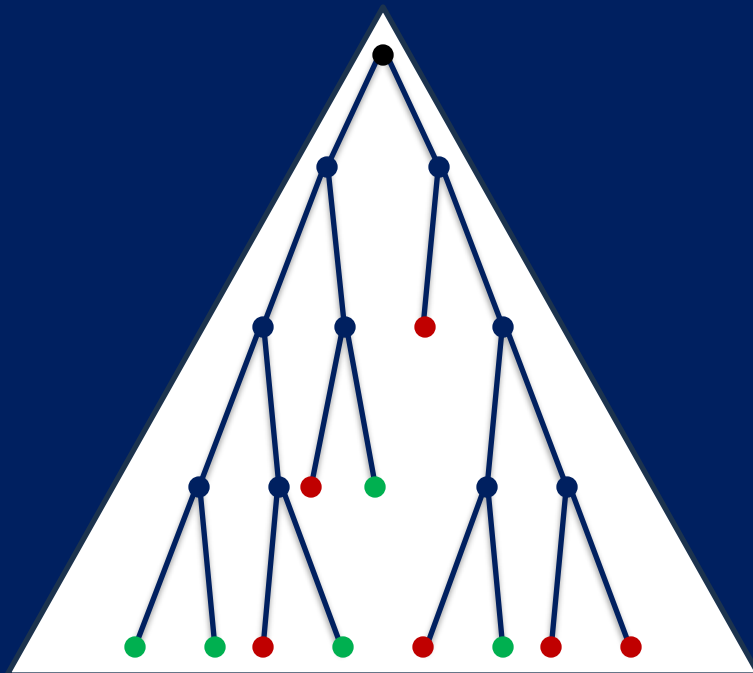
search space



larger residual formulae
lower isomorphism detection
more untouched clauses

Balance of caching schemes – future research

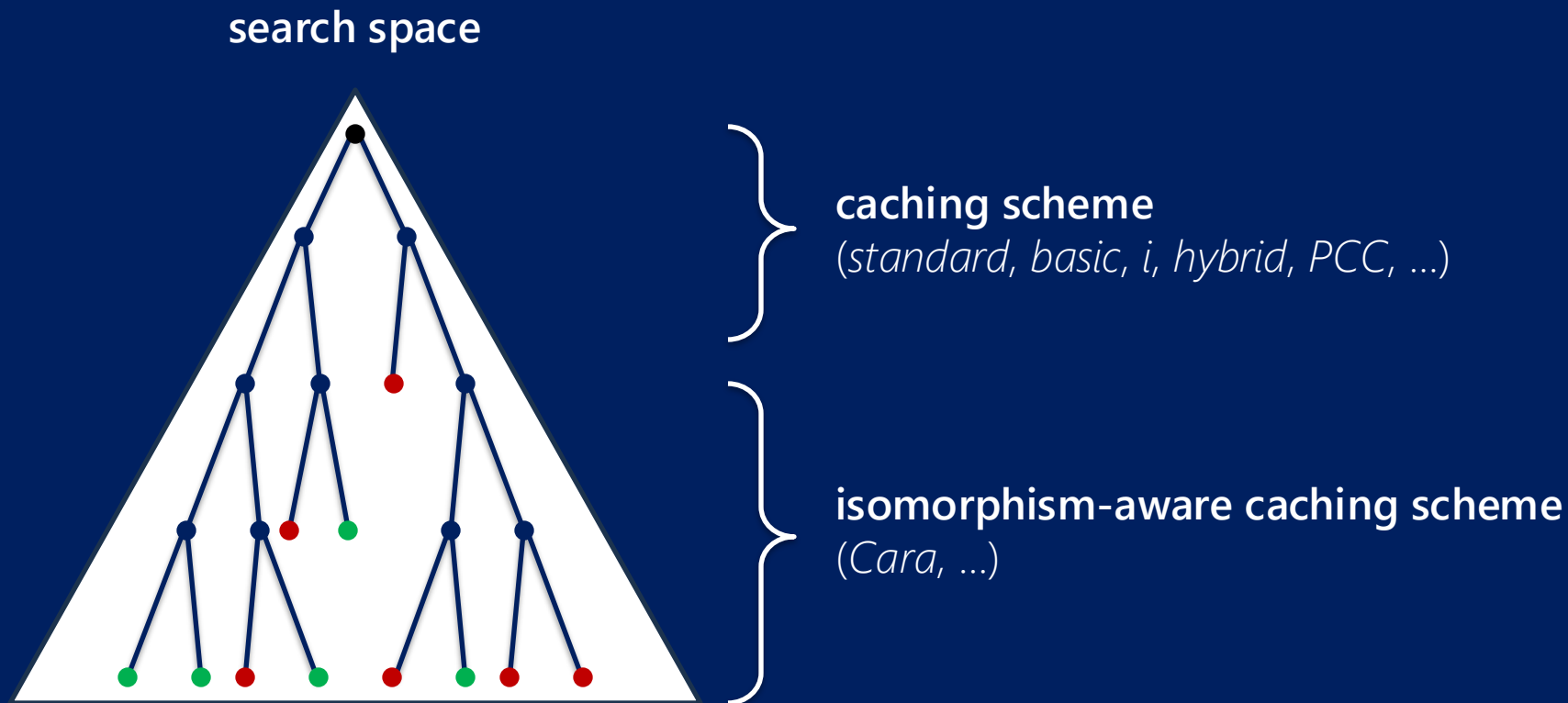
search space



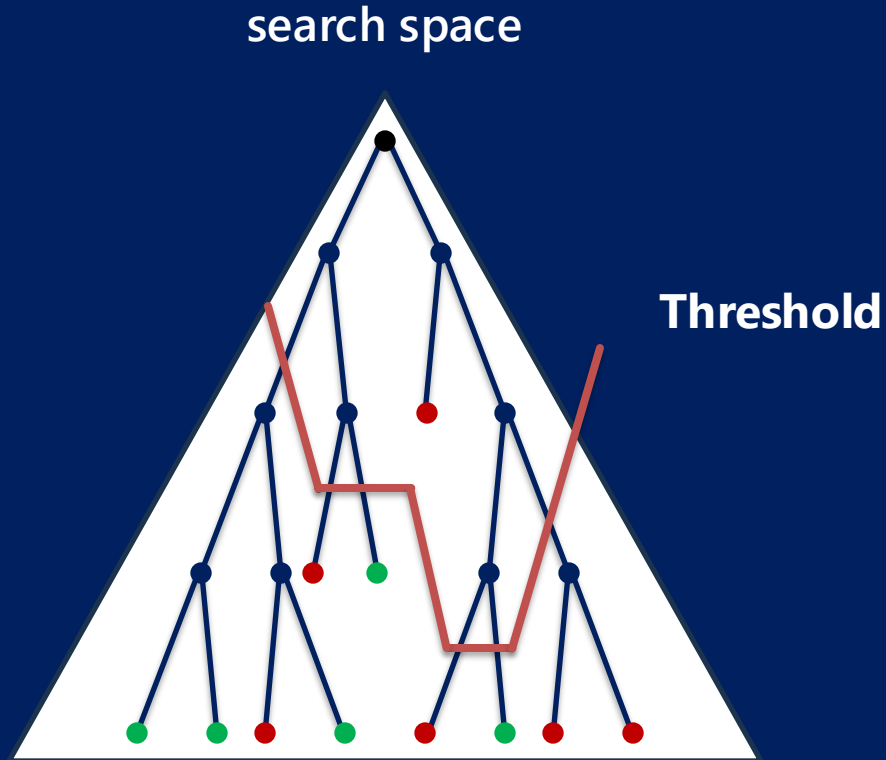
larger residual formulae
lower isomorphism detection
more untouched clauses

smaller residual formulae
higher isomorphism detection
fewer untouched clauses

Balance of caching schemes – future research

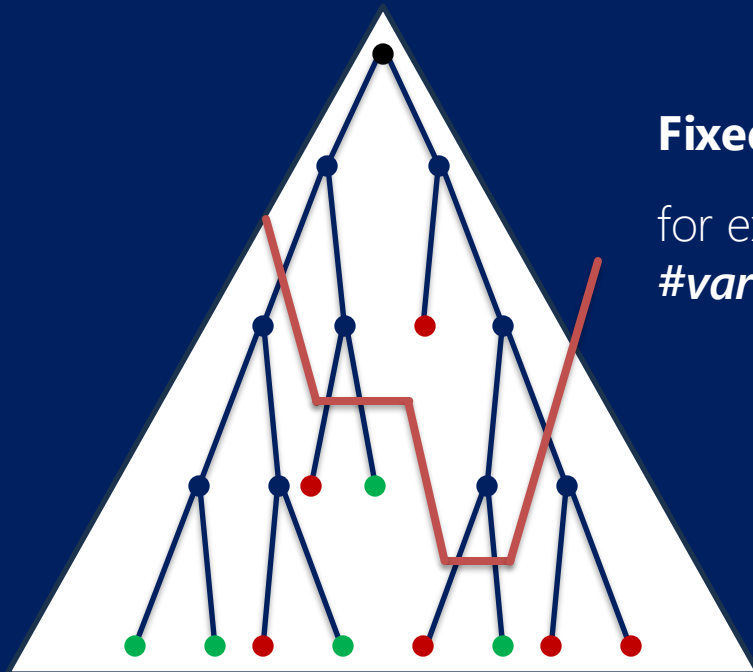


Balance of caching schemes – future research



Balance of caching schemes – future research

search space



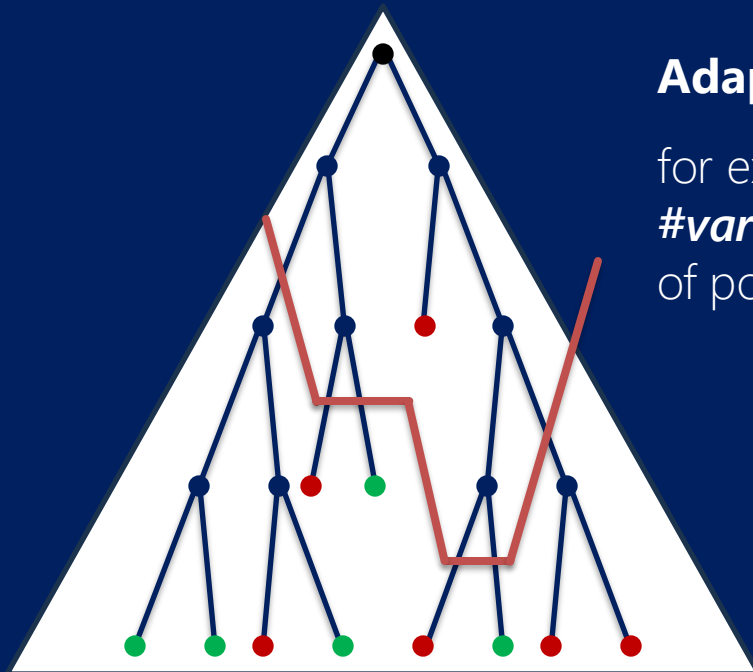
Fixed threshold:

for example,

#variables / #clauses / formula size \leq "X"

Balance of caching schemes – future research

search space

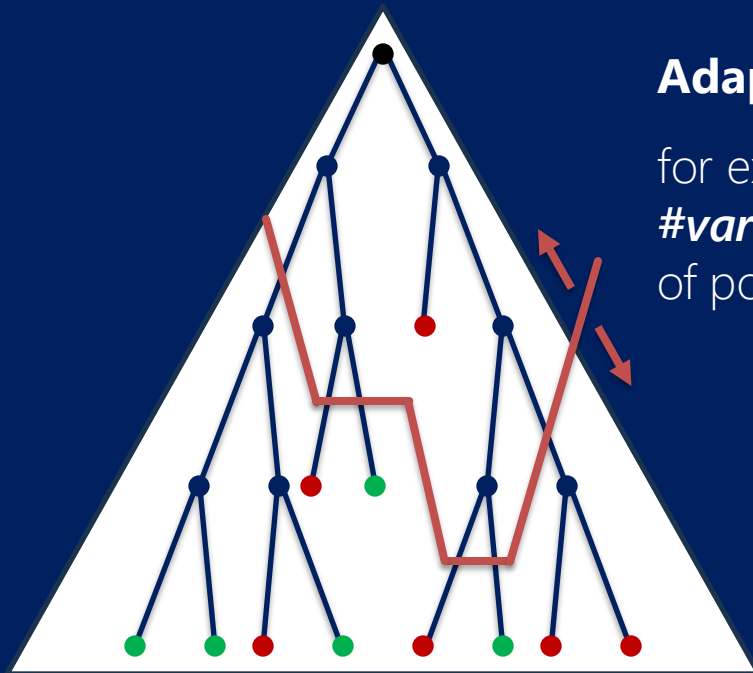


Adaptive threshold:

for example, the **average** / maximum
#variables / #clauses / formula size
of positively cached residual formulae

Balance of caching schemes – future research

search space



Adaptive threshold:

for example, the **average** / maximum
#variables / #clauses / formula size
of positively cached residual formulae

Note: Invalid cache entries can be easily
detected and removed when the next
cache cleaning strategy is triggered.

*Cara*¹ + *Arjun*^{*2} VS *Ganak*³

* ensuring identical preprocessing

¹ <https://github.com/llner/carasolver>

² <https://github.com/meelgroup/arjun>

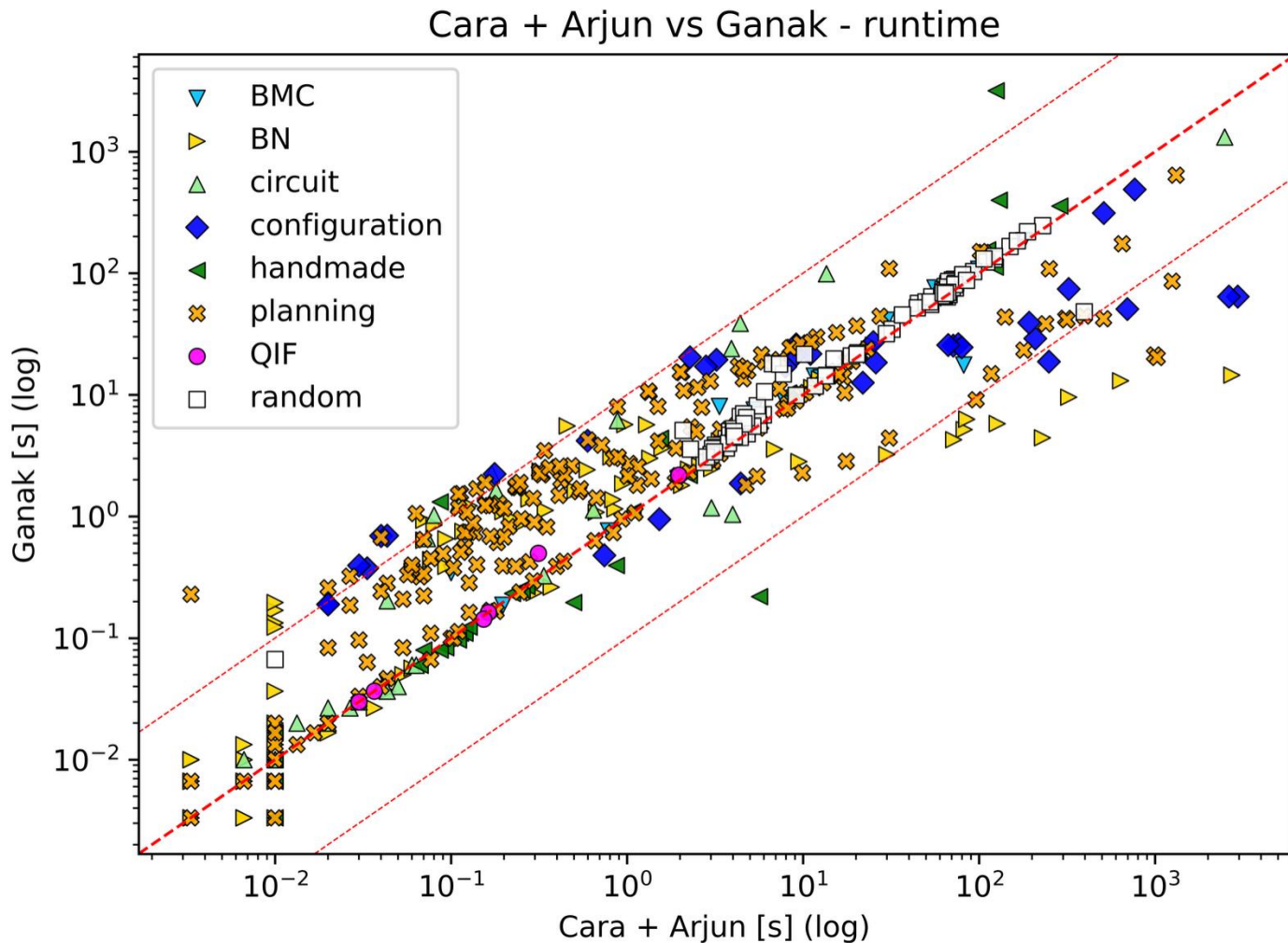
³ <https://github.com/meelgroup/ganak>

Experiments

The time-out
(resp. memory-out)
was set to **1 hour**
(resp. **32 GB**).

Each instance was
solved 3 times, and
the given results are
averages.

#solved runs	<i>Cara</i>	<i>Ganak</i>
3/3	623	632
2/3	0	0
1/3	0	0
Total	623	632



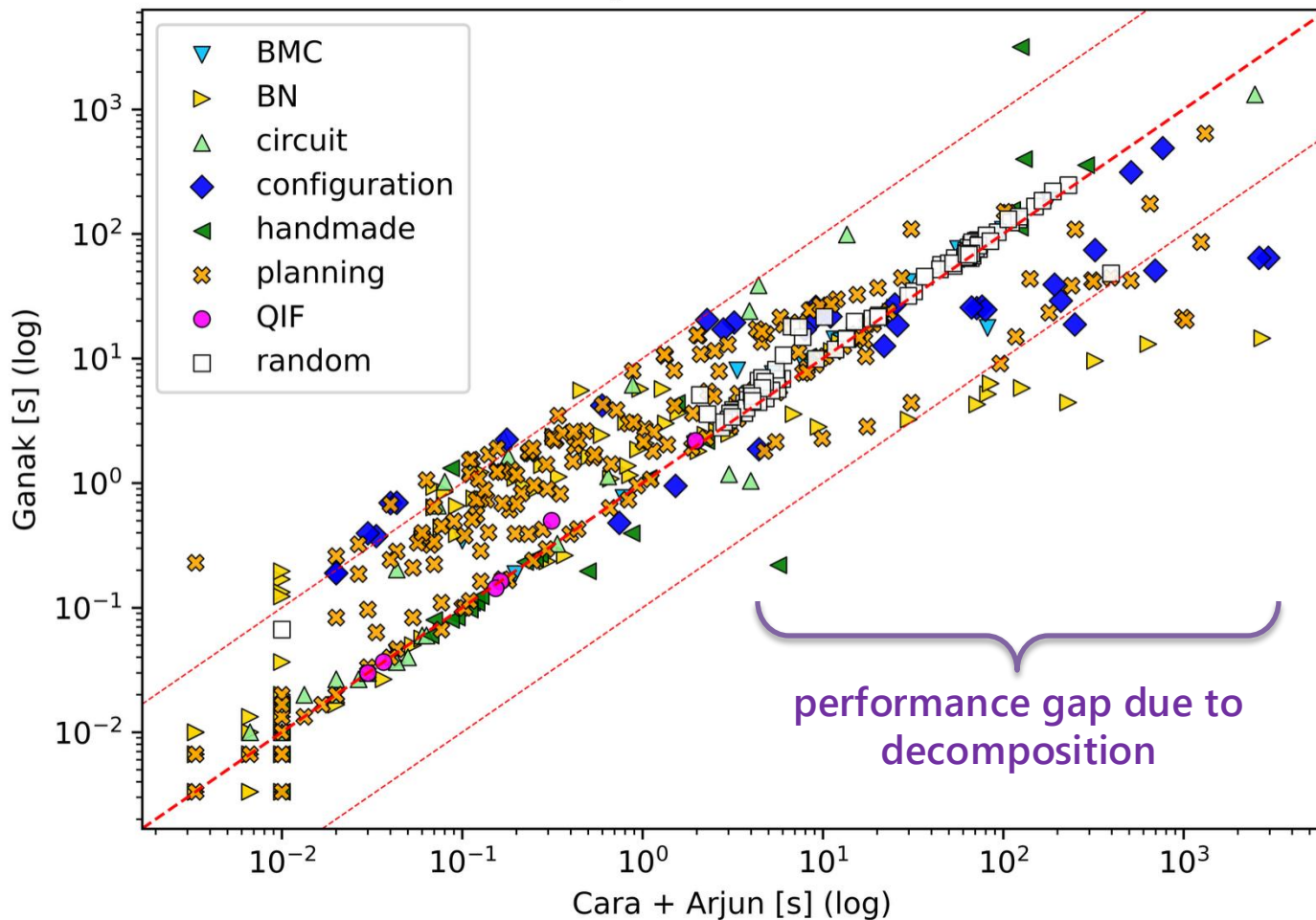
Experiments

The time-out
(resp. memory-out)
was set to **1 hour**
(resp. **32 GB**).

Each instance was
solved 3 times, and
the given results are
averages.

#solved runs	<i>Cara</i>	<i>Ganak</i>
3/3	623	632
2/3	0	0
1/3	0	0
Total	623	632

Cara + Arjun vs Ganak - runtime



*Cara*¹ VS *SymGanak*^{*2}

¹ <https://github.com/llner/carasolver>

² <https://github.com/meelgroup/ganak>

* no Arjun

Experiments

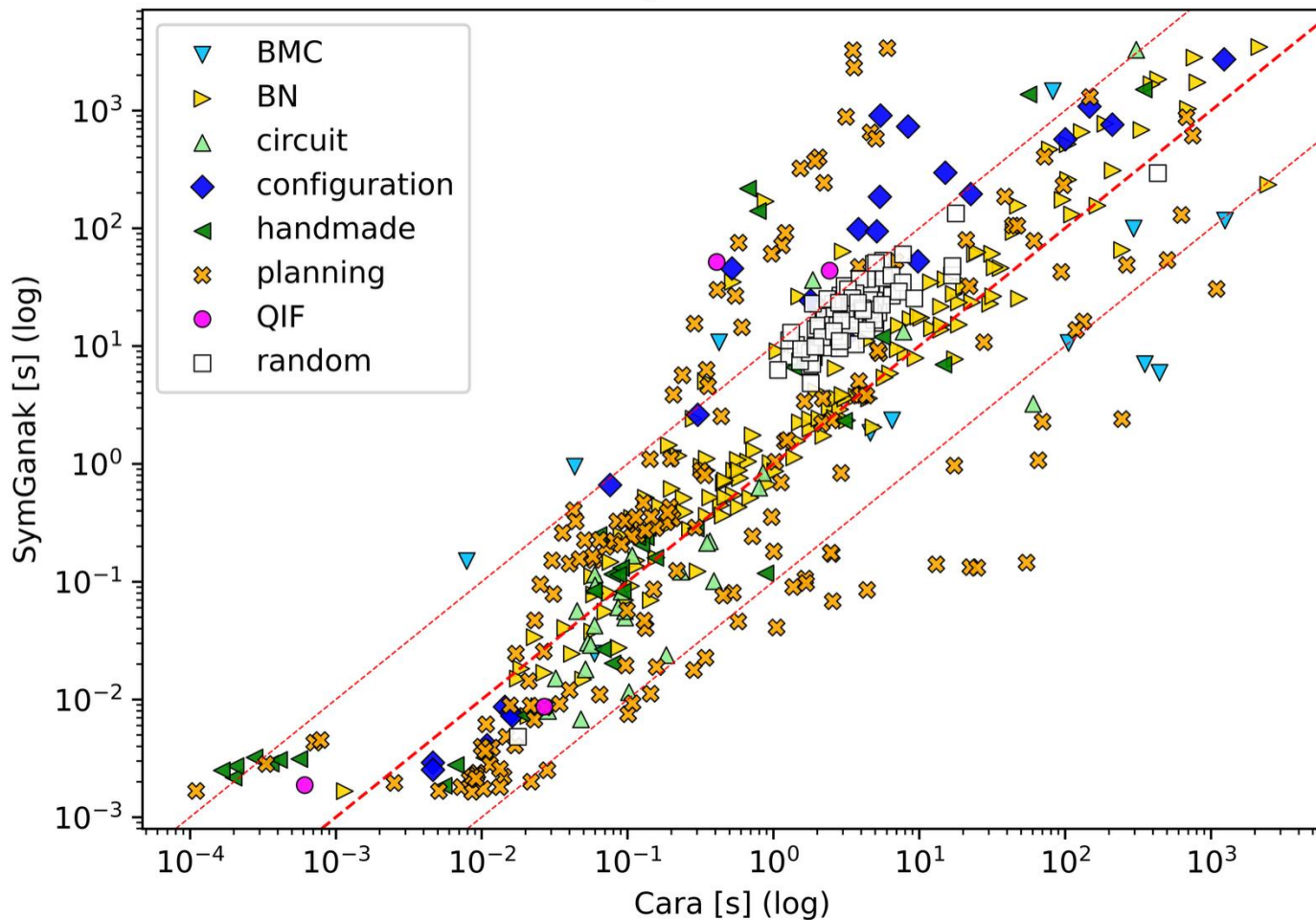
The time-out
(resp. memory-out)
was set to **1 hour**
(resp. **32 GB**).

Each instance was
solved 3 times, and
the given results are
averages.

#solved runs	<i>Cara</i> *	<i>SymGanak</i>
3/3	593	512
2/3	1	0
1/3	0	0
Total	594	512

* strict dominance

Cara vs SymGanak - runtime



Functional pigeonhole principle (FPHP)

Instance ¹	#pigeons	#holes
fphp-010-020	10	20
fphp-015-020	15	20

¹ <https://www.cril.univ-artois.fr/kc/benchmarks.html>

Functional pigeonhole principle (FPHP)

Instance ¹	#pigeons	#holes
fphp-010-020	10	20
fphp-015-020	15	20

Instance ¹	Runtime [s]					
	<i>Cara</i> ²	<i>Cara</i> ² + <i>Arjun</i> ³	<i>SymGanak</i> ⁴	<i>Ganak</i> ⁴	<i>SharpSAT-TD</i> ⁵	<i>D4</i> ⁶
fphp-010-020	3.04	124.81	2.37	3 176.17*	—	—
fphp-015-020	14.61	314.69	7.03	—	—	—

¹ <https://www.cril.univ-artois.fr/kc/benchmarks.html>

² <https://github.com/llner/carasolver>

³ <https://github.com/meelgroup/arjun>

⁴ <https://github.com/meelgroup/ganak>

⁵ <https://github.com/Laakeri/sharpsat-td>

⁶ <https://github.com/crilab/d4v2>

* invalid number of models

N-Queens problem

N	Runtime [s]	
	<i>Cara</i> ¹	<i>SymGanak</i> ²
10	0.17	0.05
11	0.62	0.47
12	3.37	9.81
13	25.89	92.09
14	128.39	1858.32
15	1264.51	—

¹ <https://github.com/llner/carasolver>

² <https://github.com/meelgroup/ganak>

Future research

- 1) Adaptive balance of caching schemes
- 2) Replace the obsolete *MiniSat*¹, which is used for satisfiability checks and implied literals at each inner node, with *CaDiCaL*².
- 3) **Integrate the decomposability approach used by *Ganak* and *SharpSAT-TD* into the adaptiveness framework.**

¹ EÉN, Niklas; SÖRENSSON, Niklas. An extensible SAT-solver. In: International conference on theory and applications of satisfiability testing, Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2003. p. 502-518.

² BIERE, Armin, et al. CaDiCaL 2.0. In: International Conference on Computer Aided Verification, Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2024. p. 133-152.