

# Exploitation of dynamic symmetries for solving SAT problems

Doctorat de Sorbonne Université

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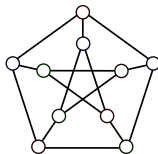
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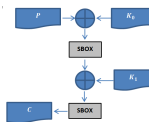


# Motivation

Graph coloring



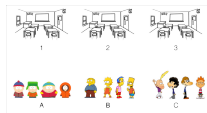
Cryptanalysis



Hardware and software  
verification

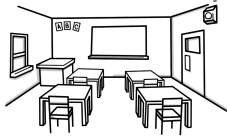


Planning



Boolean  
SATisfiability

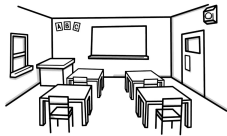
## SAT: an example (1/2)



1



2



3



A



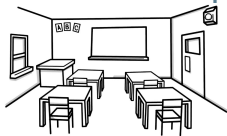
B



C

Is it possible to attribute each group to a unique classroom?

## SAT: an example (1/2)



1  
↑



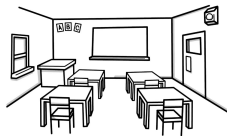
A



2  
↑



B



3  
↑

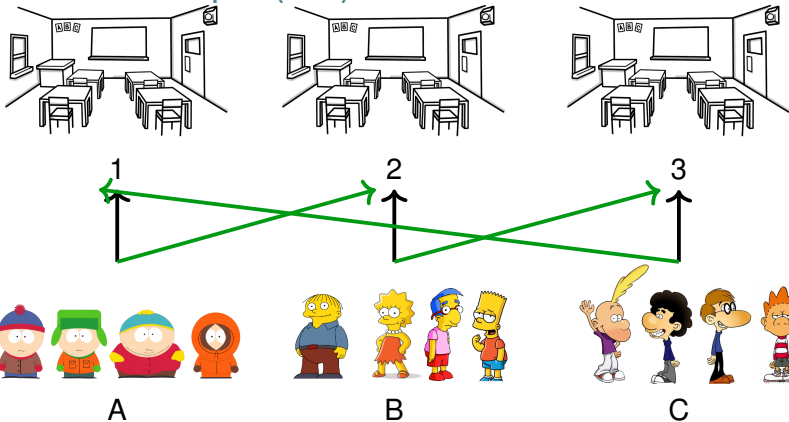


C

Is it possible to attribute each group to a unique classroom?

YES! SATisfiable  $\alpha = \{(A, 1), (B, 2), (C, 3)\}$

## SAT: an example (1/2)

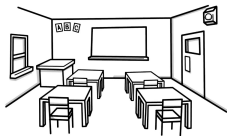
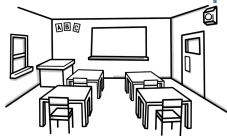


Is it possible to attribute each group to a unique classroom?

YES! SATisfiable  $\alpha = \{(A, 1), (B, 2), (C, 3)\}$

Many solutions  $\alpha' = \{(A, 2), (B, 3), (C, 1)\}$

## SAT: an example (1/2)



A



B



C

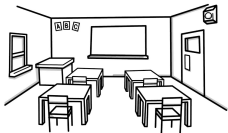
Is it possible to attribute each group to a unique classroom?

YES! SATisfiable  $\alpha = \{(A, 1), (B, 2), (C, 3)\}$

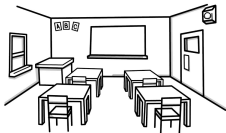
Many solutions  $\alpha' = \{(A, 2), (B, 3), (C, 1)\}$

$\vdots$

## SAT: an example (2/2)



1



2



A



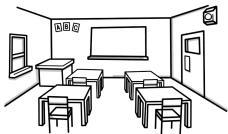
B



C

Is it possible to attribute each group to a unique classroom?

## SAT: an example (2/2)



1



2



A



B



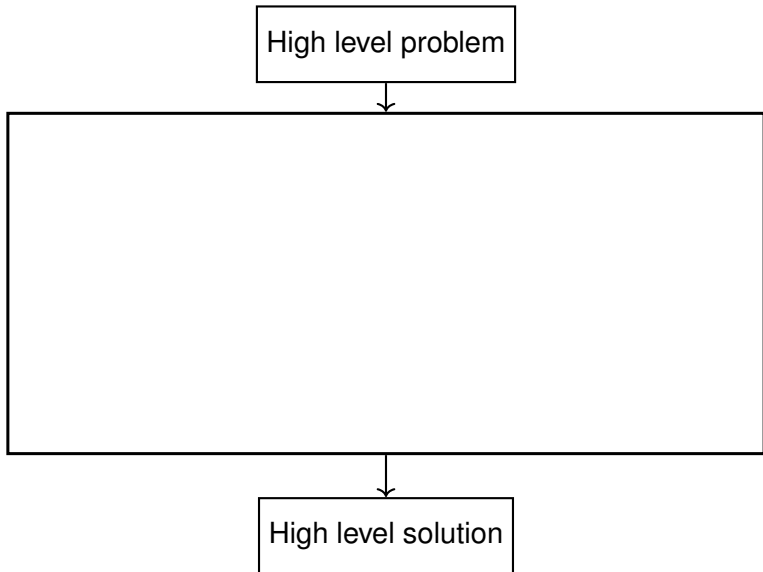
C

Is it possible to attribute each group to a unique classroom?

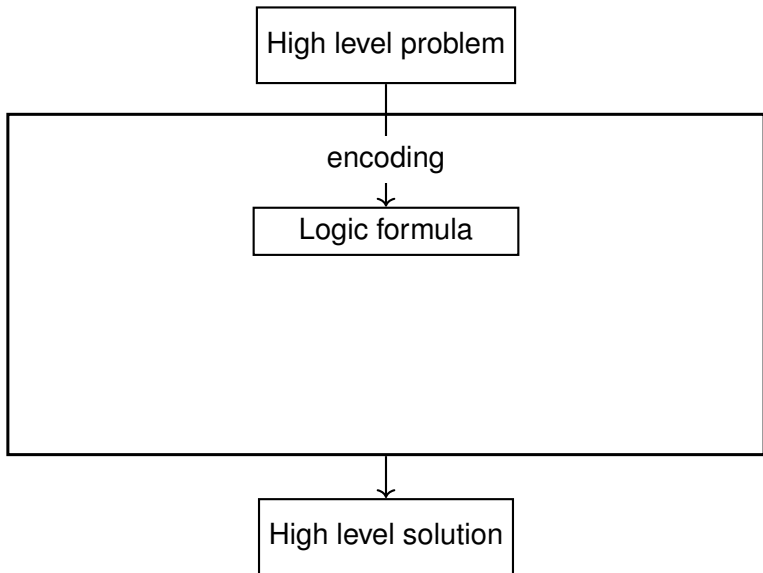
No! UNSATISFIABLE



# From high level problem to the solution through SAT solving



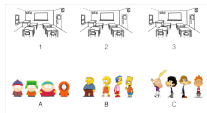
# From high level problem to the solution through SAT solving



# Encoding the problem

$$\overbrace{(A, 1)}^{x_1} \overbrace{(A, 2)}^{x_2} \overbrace{(A, 3)}^{x_3}$$

$$(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge$$



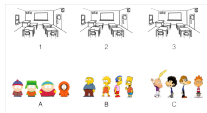
# Encoding the problem

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \overbrace{(A, 1)}^{x_1} & \overbrace{(A, 2)}^{x_2} & \overbrace{(A, 3)}^{x_3} \\ (B, 1) & (B, 2) & (B, 3) \\ (C, 1) & (C, 2) & (C, 3) \end{array}$$

$$(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge$$

$$(x_4 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge$$

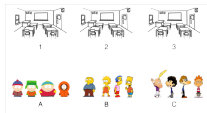
$$(x_7 \vee x_8 \vee x_9) \wedge$$



# Encoding the problem

$$\begin{array}{c} \overbrace{(A, 1)}^{x_1} \overbrace{(A, 2)}^{x_2} \overbrace{(A, 3)}^{x_3} \\ (B, 1)(B, 2)(B, 3) \\ (C, 1)(C, 2)(C, 3) \end{array}$$

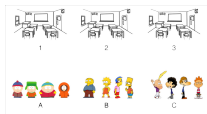
$$\begin{array}{l} \neg(A, 1) \neg(B, 1) \\ \neg(A, 1) \neg(C, 1) \\ \neg(B, 1) \neg(C, 1) \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{l} (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge \\ (x_4 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge \\ (x_7 \vee x_8 \vee x_9) \wedge \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge \\ (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_7) \wedge \\ (\neg x_4 \vee \neg x_7) \wedge \end{array}$$

# Encoding the problem



$$\begin{matrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ \overbrace{(A, 1)} & \overbrace{(A, 2)} & \overbrace{(A, 3)} \\ \overbrace{(B, 1)} & \overbrace{(B, 2)} & \overbrace{(B, 3)} \\ \overbrace{(C, 1)} & \overbrace{(C, 2)} & \overbrace{(C, 3)} \end{matrix}$$

$$\neg(A, 1) \neg(B, 1)$$

$$\neg(A, 1) \neg(C, 1)$$

$$\neg(B, 1) \neg(C, 1)$$

$$\neg(A, 2) \neg(B, 2)$$

$$\neg(A, 2) \neg(C, 2)$$

$$\neg(B, 2) \neg(C, 2)$$

$$\neg(A, 3) \neg(B, 3)$$

$$\neg(A, 3) \neg(C, 3)$$

$$\neg(B, 3) \neg(C, 3)$$

$$(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge$$

$$(x_4 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge$$

$$(x_7 \vee x_8 \vee x_9) \wedge$$

$$(\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge$$

$$(\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_7) \wedge$$

$$(\neg x_4 \vee \neg x_7) \wedge$$

$$(\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_5) \wedge$$

$$(\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_8) \wedge$$

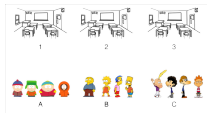
$$(\neg x_5 \vee \neg x_8) \wedge$$

$$(\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_6) \wedge$$

$$(\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_9) \wedge$$

$$(\neg x_6 \vee \neg x_9)$$

# Encoding the problem



$$\begin{matrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ \overbrace{(A, 1)} & \overbrace{(A, 2)} & \overbrace{(A, 3)} \\ \overbrace{(B, 1)} & \overbrace{(B, 2)} & \overbrace{(B, 3)} \\ \overbrace{(C, 1)} & \overbrace{(C, 2)} & \overbrace{(C, 3)} \end{matrix}$$

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$$\neg(A, 2) \neg(B, 2)$$

$$\neg(A, 2) \neg(C, 2)$$

$$\neg(B, 2) \neg(C, 2)$$

$$\neg(A, 3) \neg(B, 3)$$

$$\neg(A, 3) \neg(C, 3)$$

$$\neg(B, 3) \neg(C, 3)$$

$$\begin{matrix} \text{Clause} \\ (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge \\ (x_4 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge \\ (x_7 \vee x_8 \vee x_9) \wedge \end{matrix}$$

$$(\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge$$

$$(\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_7) \wedge$$

$$(\neg x_4 \vee \neg x_7) \wedge$$

$$(\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_5) \wedge$$

$$(\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_8) \wedge$$

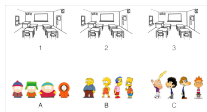
$$(\neg x_5 \vee \neg x_8) \wedge$$

$$(\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_6) \wedge$$

$$(\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_9) \wedge$$

$$(\neg x_6 \vee \neg x_9)$$

# Encoding the problem



$$\begin{array}{ccc} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ \overbrace{(A, 1)} & \overbrace{(A, 2)} & \overbrace{(A, 3)} \\ \overbrace{(B, 1)} & \overbrace{(B, 2)} & \overbrace{(B, 3)} \\ \overbrace{(C, 1)} & \overbrace{(C, 2)} & \overbrace{(C, 3)} \end{array}$$

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$$\neg(B, 2) \neg(C, 2)$$

$$\neg(A, 3) \neg(B, 3)$$

$$\neg(A, 3) \neg(C, 3)$$

$$\neg(B, 3) \neg(C, 3)$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \boxed{(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)} \wedge \\ (x_4 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge \\ (x_7 \vee x_8 \vee x_9) \wedge \\ \\ (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge \\ (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_7) \wedge \\ (\neg x_4 \vee \neg x_7) \wedge \\ \\ (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_5) \wedge \\ (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_8) \wedge \\ (\neg x_5 \vee \neg x_8) \wedge \\ \\ (\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_6) \wedge \\ (\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_9) \wedge \\ (\neg x_6 \vee \neg x_9) \end{array}$$

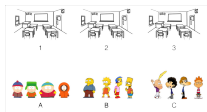
Clause

Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF)

Any Boolean formula can be transformed into CNF in polynomial time



# Encoding the problem



$$\begin{matrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ \overbrace{(A, 1)} & \overbrace{(A, 2)} & \overbrace{(A, 3)} \\ \overbrace{(B, 1)} & \overbrace{(B, 2)} & \overbrace{(B, 3)} \\ \overbrace{(C, 1)} & \overbrace{(C, 2)} & \overbrace{(C, 3)} \end{matrix}$$

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$$\neg(A, 3) \neg(B, 3)$$

$$\neg(A, 3) \neg(C, 3)$$

$$\neg(B, 3) \neg(C, 3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge \\ & (x_4 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge \\ & (x_7 \vee x_8 \vee x_9) \wedge \\ & (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge \\ & (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_7) \wedge \\ & (\neg x_4 \vee \neg x_7) \wedge \\ & (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_5) \wedge \\ & (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_8) \wedge \\ & (\neg x_5 \vee \neg x_8) \wedge \\ & (\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_6) \wedge \\ & (\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_9) \wedge \\ & (\neg x_6 \vee \neg x_9) \end{aligned}$$

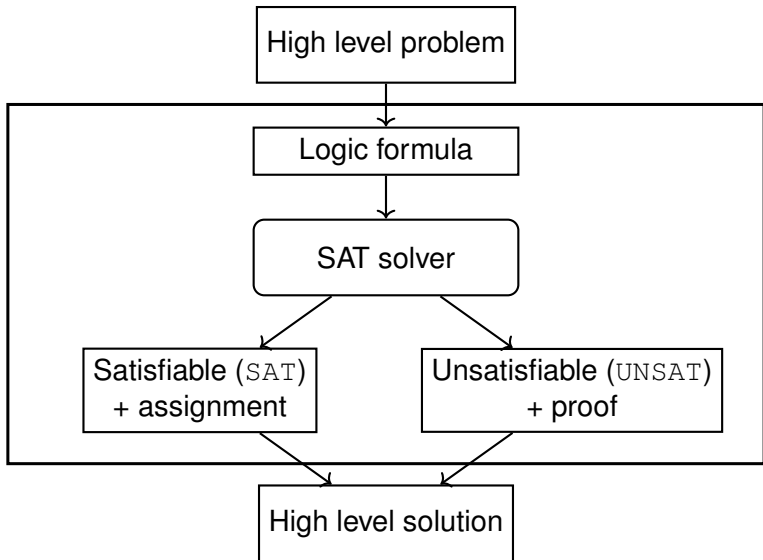
Clause

Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF)

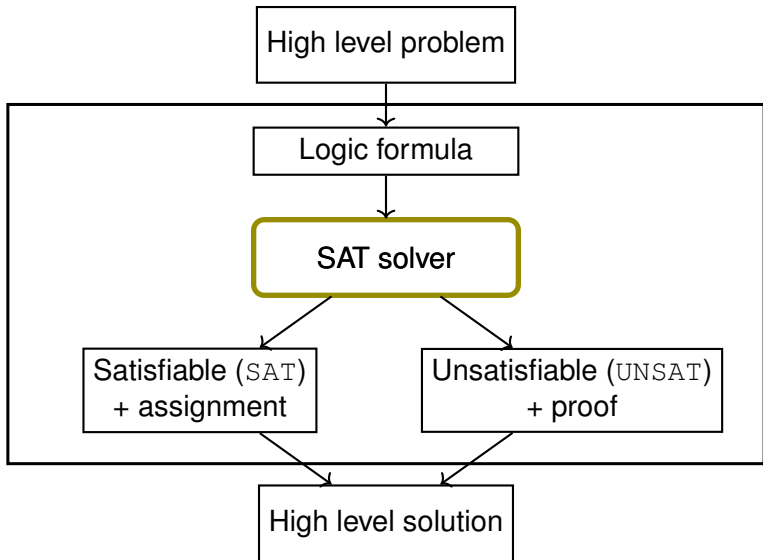
Clause represented as a set:

$$(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \rightarrow \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$$

# From high level problem to the solution through SAT solving



# From high level problem to the solution through SAT solving



# SAT Solving

Solving SAT formula is known to be **NP-complete** [Coo71]

Good performance in practice:

- Handle large problem (million variables and clauses)
- International SAT competition each year on academic and industrial problems

# SAT Solving

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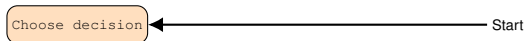
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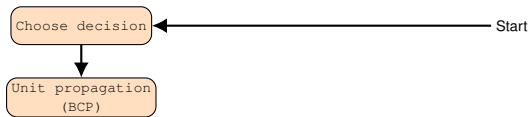
Enumerative algorithms:

- Davis, Putnam, Logemann, and Loveland (DPLL) [DLL62]
  - Boolean Constraint Propagation (BCP)
- **Conflict Driven Clause Learning** (CDCL) [MSS99]
  - Derived from DPLL
  - Clause learning

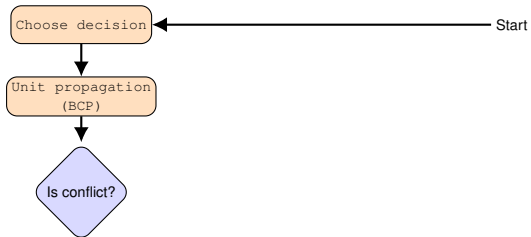
# CDCL in detail



# CDCL in detail

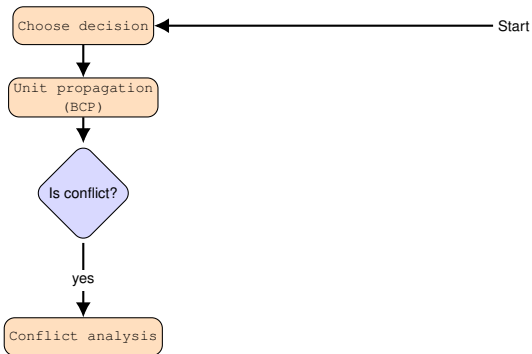


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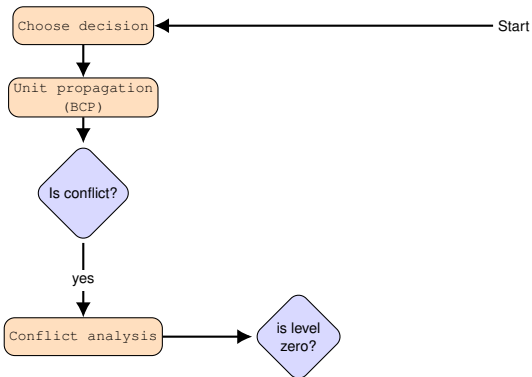




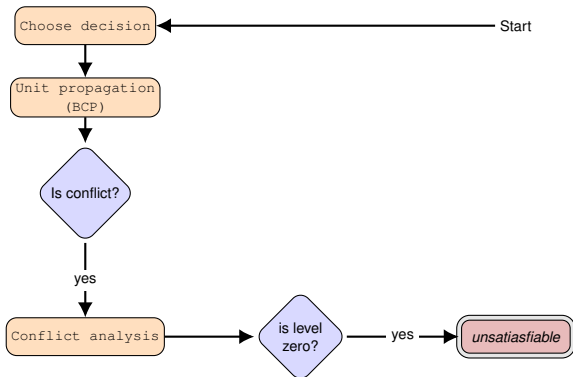
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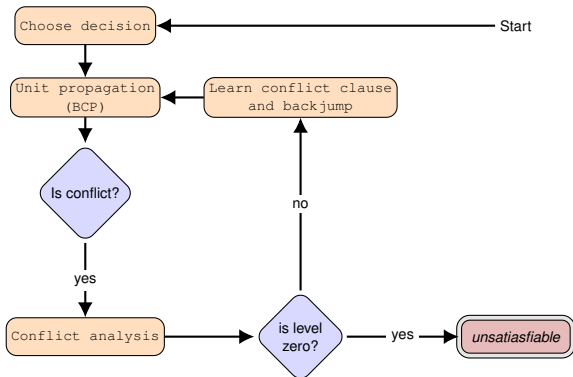
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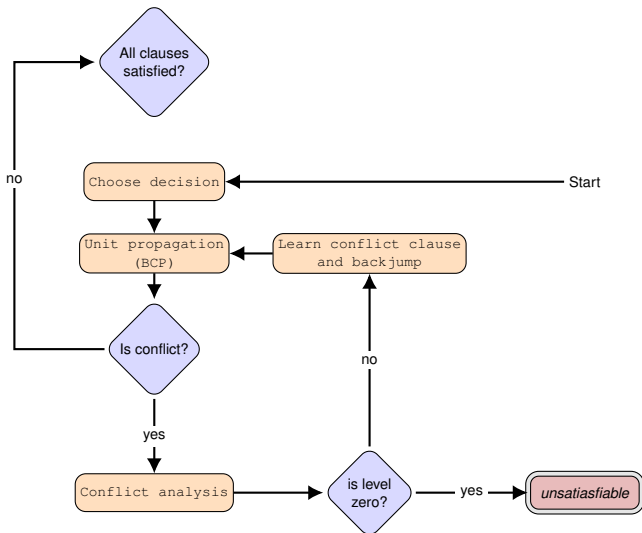
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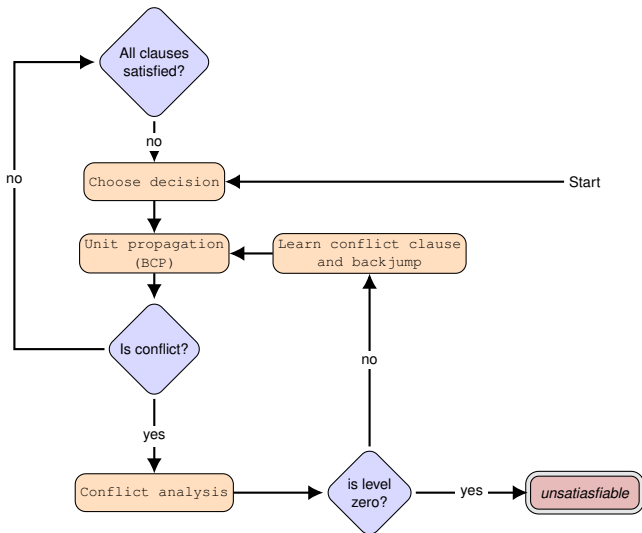
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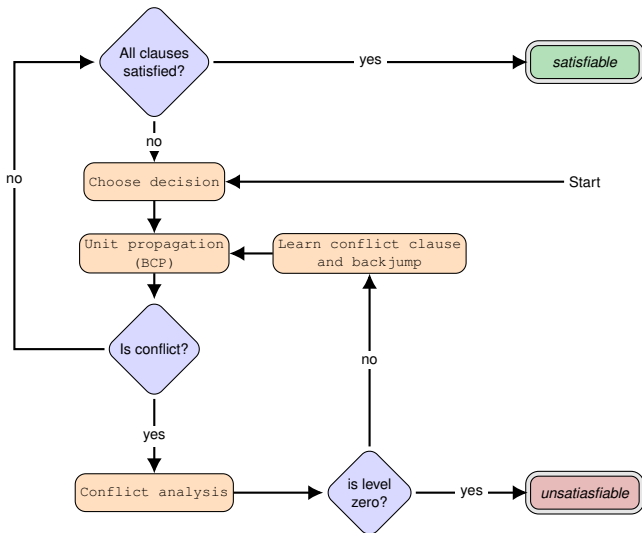
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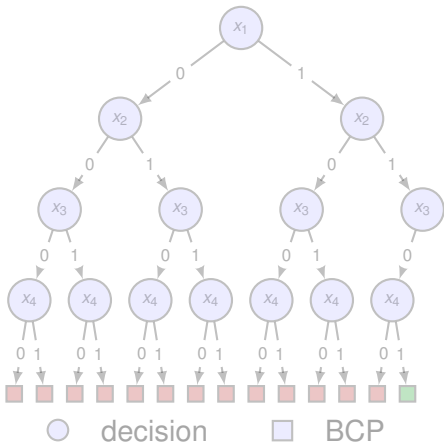
# CDCL in detail



# CDCL in detail



## CDCL in action



$$\omega_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{x_1, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_3 = \{X_1, X_4\}$$

$$\omega_4 = \{x_2, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_5 = \{X_2, X_4\}$$

$$\omega_6 = \{X_3, X_4\}$$

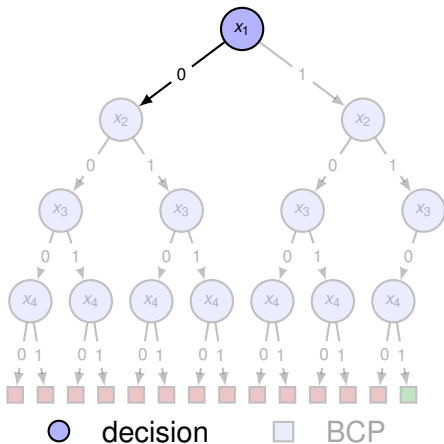
$$\alpha = \{$$



# CDCL in action

Choose decision

Unit Propagation  
(BCP)



$$\omega_1 = \{\mathbf{x}_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_3 = \{\mathbf{x}_1, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_4 = \{x_2, \neg x_4\}$$

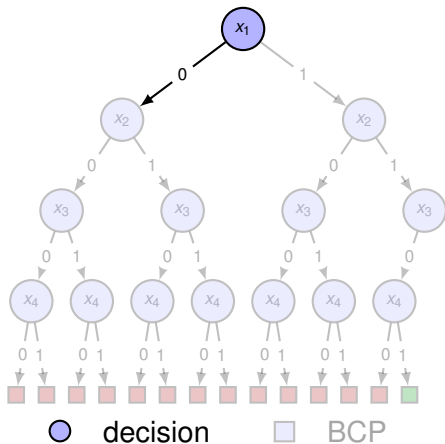
$$\omega_5 = \{x_2, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_6 = \{x_3, x_4\}$$

$$\alpha = \{\neg x_1\}$$

# CDCL in action

Conflict Analysis



$$\omega_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{x_1, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_3 = \{x_1, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_4 = \{x_2, \neg x_4\}$$

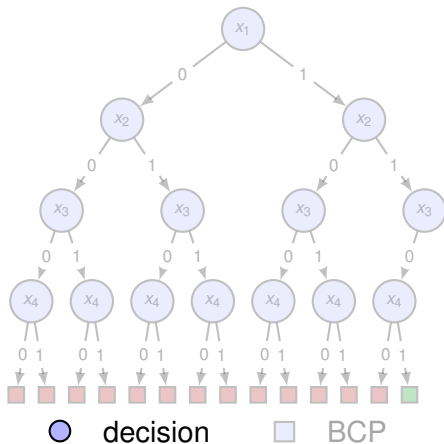
$$\omega_5 = \{x_2, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_6 = \{x_3, x_4\}$$

$$\alpha = \{\neg x_1\}$$

# CDCL in action

Learn conflict clause  
and backjump



$$\omega_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{x_1, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_3 = \{x_1, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_4 = \{x_2, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_5 = \{x_2, x_4\}$$

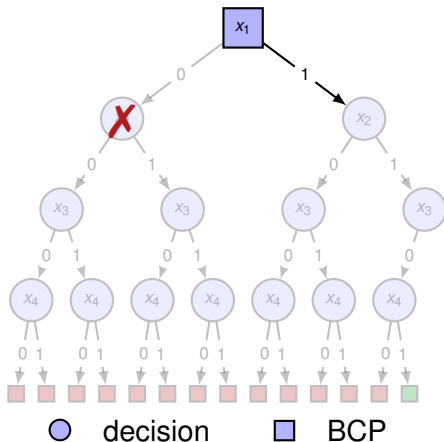
$$\omega_6 = \{x_3, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_7 = \{x_1\}$$

$$\alpha = \{\}$$

# CDCL in action

Unit Propagation  
(BCP)



$$\omega_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{x_1, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_3 = \{x_1, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_4 = \{x_2, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_5 = \{x_2, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_6 = \{x_3, x_4\}$$

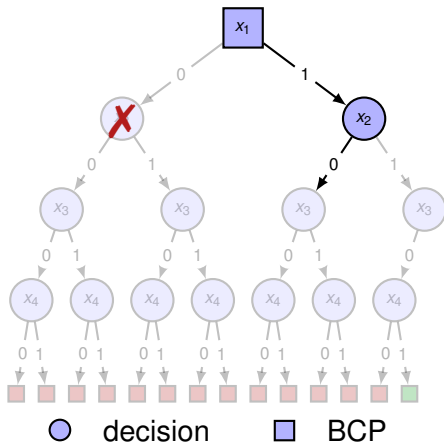
$$\omega_7 = \{x_1\}$$

$$\alpha = \{x_1\}$$

# CDCL in action

Choose decision

Unit Propagation  
(BCP)



$$\omega_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{x_1, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_3 = \{x_1, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_4 = \{x_2, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_5 = \{x_2, x_4\}$$

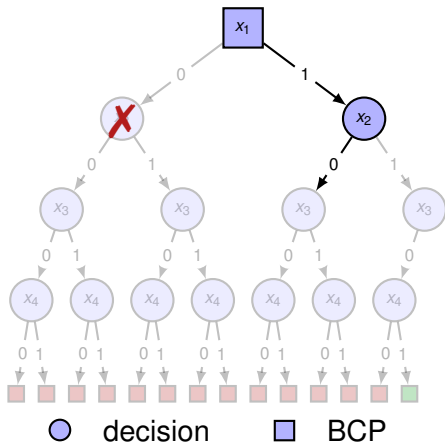
$$\omega_6 = \{x_3, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_7 = \{x_1\}$$

$$\alpha = \{x_1, \neg x_2\}$$

# CDCL in action

Conflict Analysis



$$\omega_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{x_1, \neg x_4\}$$

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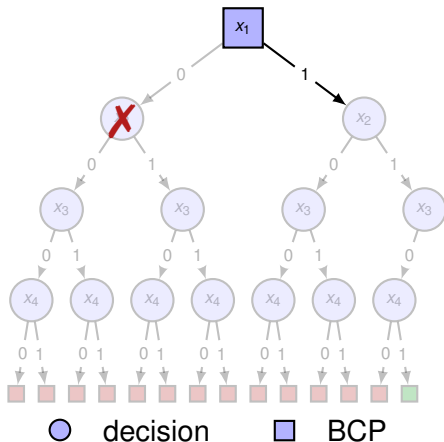
$$\omega_6 = \{x_3, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_7 = \{x_1\}$$

$$\alpha = \{x_1, \neg x_2\}$$

# CDCL in action

Learn conflict clause  
and backjump



$$\omega_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$$

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$$\omega_4 = \{x_2, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_5 = \{x_2, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_6 = \{x_3, x_4\}$$

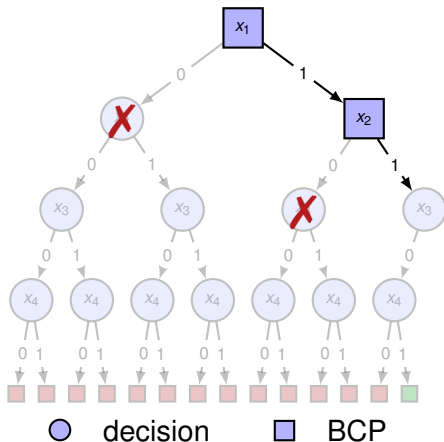
$$\omega_7 = \{x_1\}$$

$$\omega_8 = \{x_2\}$$

$$\alpha = \{x_1\}$$

# CDCL in action

Unit Propagation  
(BCP)



$$\omega_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{x_1, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_3 = \{x_1, x_4\}$$

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$$\omega_6 = \{x_3, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_7 = \{x_1\}$$

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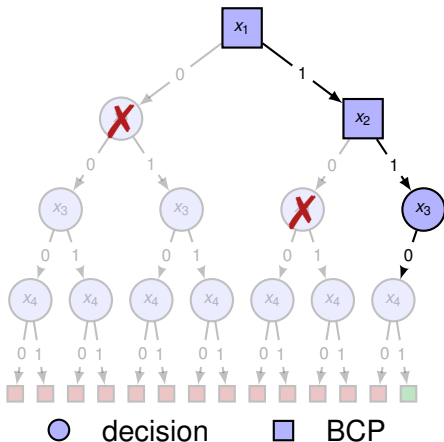
$$\alpha = \{x_1, x_2\}$$



# CDCL in action

Choose decision

Unit Propagation  
(BCP)



$$\omega_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{x_1, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_3 = \{x_1, x_4\}$$

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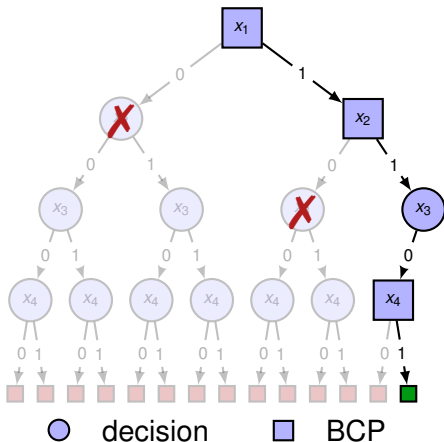
$$\omega_7 = \{x_1\}$$

$$\omega_8 = \{x_2\}$$

$$\alpha = \{x_1, x_2, \neg x_3\}$$

# CDCL in action

satisfiable



$$\omega_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$$

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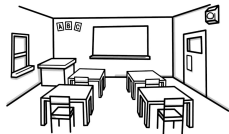
$$\omega_7 = \{x_1\}$$

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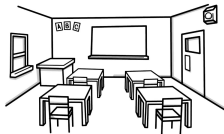
$$\alpha = \{x_1, x_2, \neg x_3, x_4\}$$

# SAT and symmetries

# Presence of symmetries



1



2



A

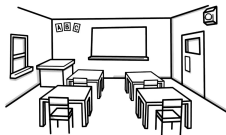
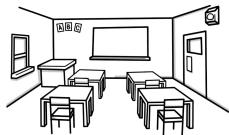


B



C

# Presence of symmetries



A

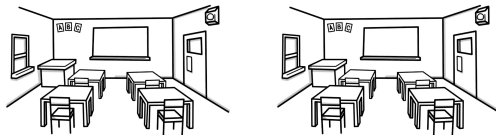


B



C

# Presence of symmetries



1 ← → 2



A

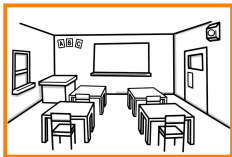


B

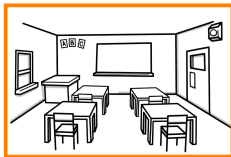


C

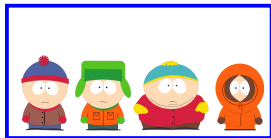
# Presence of symmetries



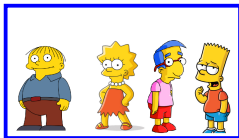
1



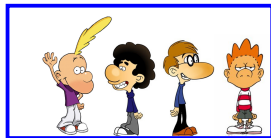
2



A

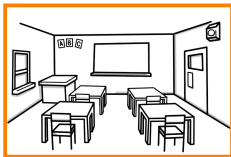


B

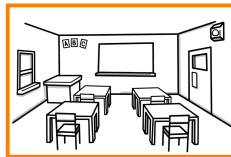


C

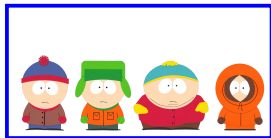
# Presence of symmetries



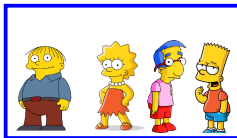
$\neq 2$



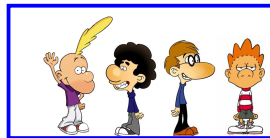
$\neq 1$



A



B C

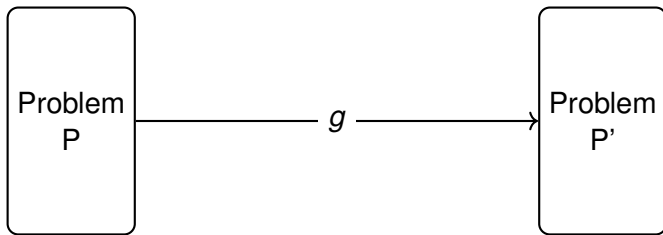


$\in B$



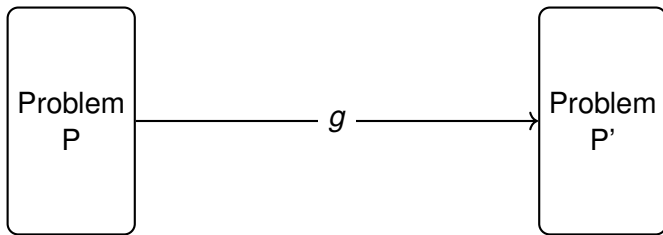
## Symmetry in high level

$g$ : a symmetry



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$g$ : a symmetry

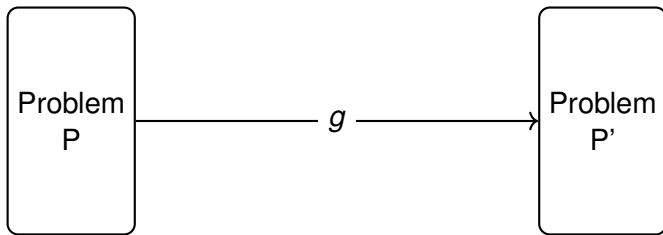


Equi-satisfiability

$$solution \models P \Leftrightarrow g.solution \models P'$$

# Symmetry in high level

$g$ : a symmetry



## Equi-satisfiability

$$solution \models P \Leftrightarrow g.solution \models P'$$

- Semantic symmetries
- **Syntactic symmetries**

# Syntactic symmetry

A symmetry (permutation)  $g$  is a bijective function (on variables) that leaves the formula  $\varphi$  invariant

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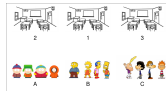
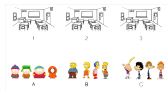
$$g = \left( \begin{array}{ccccccccc} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & x_5 & x_6 & x_7 & x_8 & x_9 \\ x_2 & x_1 & x_3 & x_5 & x_4 & x_6 & x_8 & x_7 & x_9 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$$

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$$\begin{array}{ll} \omega_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3\} & \longleftrightarrow \omega_1 = \{x_2, x_1, x_3\} \\ \omega_2 = \{x_4, x_5, x_6\} & \longleftrightarrow \omega_2 = \{x_5, x_4, x_6\} \\ \omega_3 = \{x_7, x_8, x_9\} & \longleftrightarrow \omega_3 = \{x_8, x_7, x_9\} \\ \omega_4 = \{\neg x_1, \neg x_4\} & \longleftrightarrow \omega_4 = \{\neg x_2, \neg x_5\} \\ \omega_5 = \{\neg x_1, \neg x_7\} & \longleftrightarrow \omega_5 = \{\neg x_2, \neg x_8\} \\ \omega_6 = \{\neg x_4, \neg x_7\} & \longleftrightarrow \omega_6 = \{\neg x_5, \neg x_8\} \\ \omega_7 = \{\neg x_2, \neg x_5\} & \longleftrightarrow \omega_7 = \{\neg x_1, \neg x_4\} \\ \omega_8 = \{\neg x_2, \neg x_8\} & \longleftrightarrow \omega_8 = \{\neg x_1, \neg x_7\} \\ \omega_9 = \{\neg x_5, \neg x_8\} & \longleftrightarrow \omega_9 = \{\neg x_4, \neg x_7\} \\ \omega_{10} = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_6\} & \longleftrightarrow \omega_{10} = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_6\} \\ \omega_{11} = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_9\} & \longleftrightarrow \omega_{11} = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_9\} \\ \omega_{12} = \{\neg x_6, \neg x_9\} & \longleftrightarrow \omega_{12} = \{\neg x_6, \neg x_9\} \end{array}$$



P

$g.P = P' = P$

# Computing symmetries of a SAT problem

*CNF formula*

$$\begin{aligned} & (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_4 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (x_7 \vee x_8 \vee x_9) \\ & \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_7) \wedge (\neg x_4 \vee \neg x_7) \\ & \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_5) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_8) \wedge (\neg x_5 \vee \neg x_8) \\ & \wedge (\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_6) \wedge (\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_9) \wedge (\neg x_6 \vee \neg x_9) \end{aligned}$$

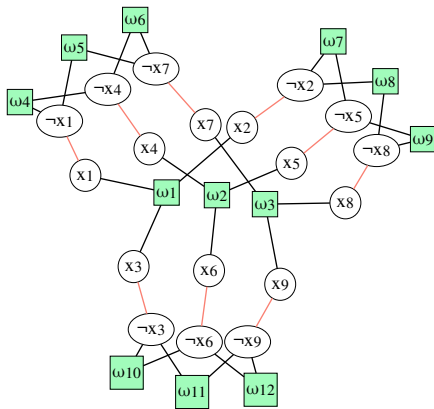
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colored graph





# Computing symmetries of a SAT problem

*CNF formula*

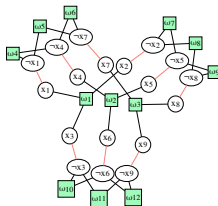


colored graph



graph automorphism

$$\begin{aligned} & (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_4 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (x_7 \vee x_8 \vee x_9) \\ & \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_7) \wedge (\neg x_4 \vee \neg x_7) \\ & \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_5) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_8) \wedge (\neg x_5 \vee \neg x_8) \\ & \wedge (\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_6) \wedge (\neg x_3 \vee \neg x_9) \wedge (\neg x_6 \vee \neg x_9) \end{aligned}$$



(bliss, saucy, ...)

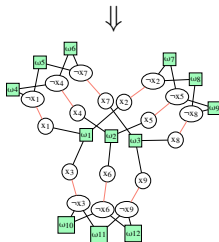
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CNF formula

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colored graph



⇓  
graph automorphism

⇓  
(bliss, saucy, ...)

⇓  
set of symmetries

⇓

$$\begin{aligned} g_1 &= (x_2 \ x_3)(x_5 \ x_6)(x_8 \ x_9) \\ g_2 &= (x_4 \ x_7)(x_5 \ x_8)(x_6 \ x_9) \\ g_3 &= (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8) \\ g_4 &= (x_1 \ x_4)(x_2 \ x_5)(x_3 \ x_6) \end{aligned}$$

The set of symmetries of a formula is a group noted  $\langle G, \circ \rangle$

Exploitation of symmetries:

Static symmetry breaking

# Orbit

Orbit of an assignment  $\alpha$  for a group  $G$ :

$$G.\alpha = \{g.\alpha \mid g \in G\}$$

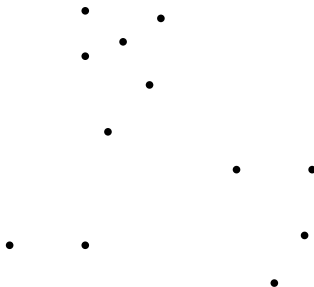
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Example:

- full assignment



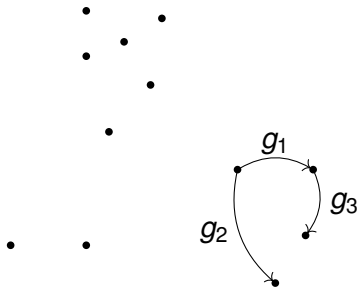
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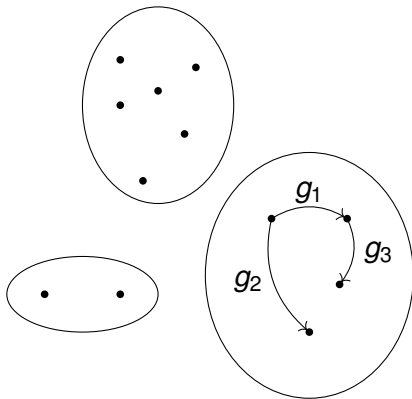
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Equivalence relation with respect to SAT:

- Either  $G.\alpha$  contains no solution
- Or all elements of  $G.\alpha$  are solutions

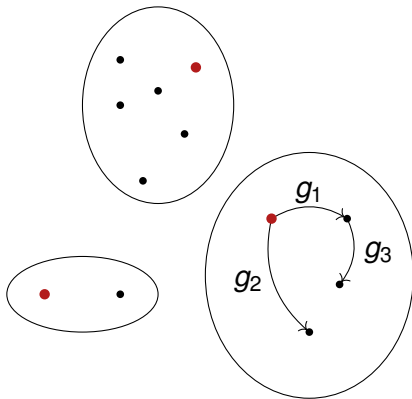
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# Comparing assignments: Assessments

Define an ordering relation to compare assignments ( $\prec$ )

- Total ordering on variables
- Minimum value:  $F < T$  or  $T < F$

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- Minimum value:  $F < T$  or  $T < F$

**Allow only minimal value (lex-leader)**

Forbid other assignments in each orbit

→ Add all symmetry breaking predicates (SBP) statically

## Comparing assignments: Example

Ordering relation:  $x_1 \leq x_2 \leq x_3 \leq x_4 \leq x_5 \leq x_6 \leq x_7 \leq x_8$ ;  $F < T$

Symmetry:  $g = (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$

Assignments:

	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_6$	$x_7$	$x_8$
$\alpha$	T	F	F	F	F	F	F	F

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$\alpha$	T	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
$g.\alpha$	F	T	F	F	F	F	F	F

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$\alpha$	T	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
$g.\alpha$	F	T	F	F	F	F	F	F

Comparing:

$$g.\alpha \prec \alpha$$

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$\alpha$	T	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
$g.\alpha$	F	T	F	F	F	F	F	F

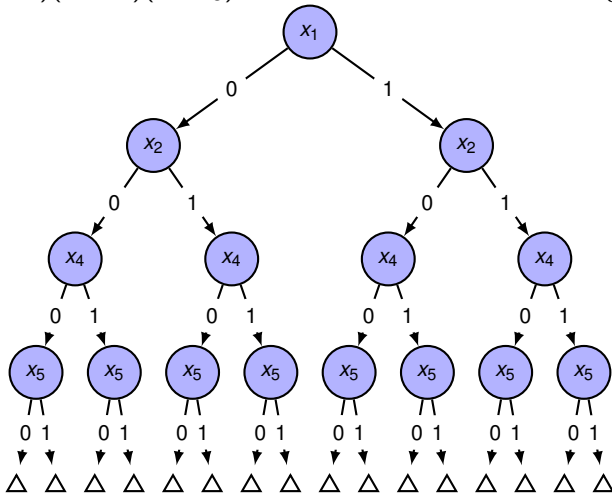
Comparing:

$$g.\alpha \prec \alpha \Rightarrow \text{SBP: } \omega = \{\neg x_1, x_2\}$$

# Using symmetries to prune the search space

$$g = (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$$

$$\omega = \{\neg x_1, x_2\}$$

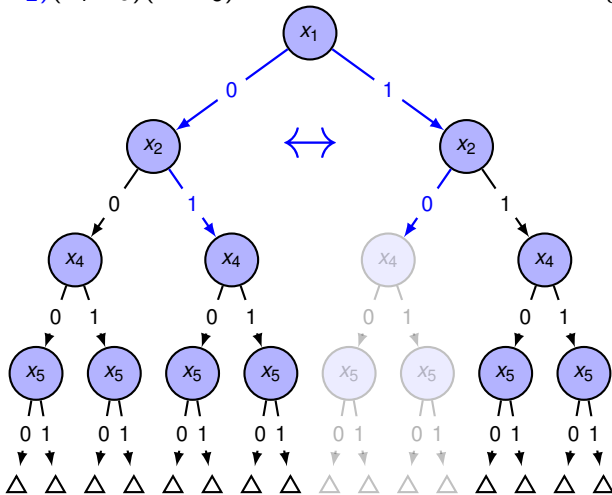




# Using symmetries to prune the search space

$$g = (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$$

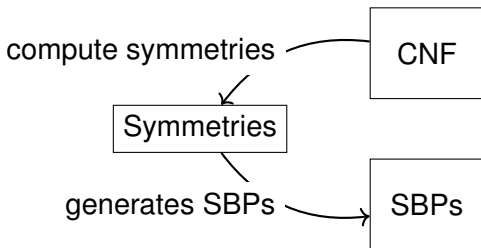
$$\omega = \{\neg x_1, x_2\}$$



# State-of-the-art static symmetry breaking

State-of-the-art:

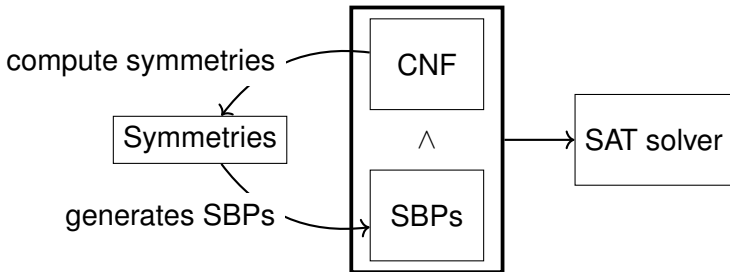
- Shatter [ASM06]
- BreakID [DBBD16]



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State-of-the-art:

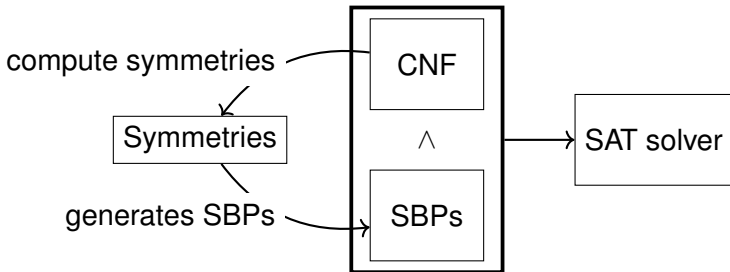
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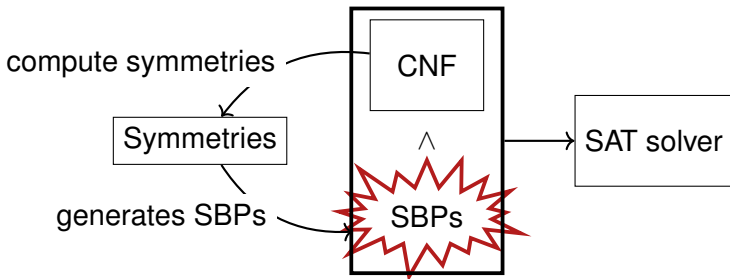


Works well on many symmetrical problems

# State-of-the-art static symmetry breaking

State-of-the-art:

- Shatter [ASM06]
- BreakID [DBBD16]



Works well on many symmetrical problems

The solver can "explode" instead of being helped

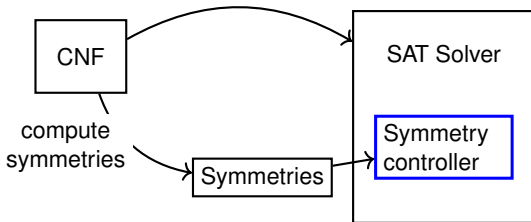
- generate not needed clause
- flooding the solver

First contribution:

CDCL[sym] Introducing Effective Symmetry  
Breaking in SAT Solving

TACAS'18 [MBCK18]

# General idea

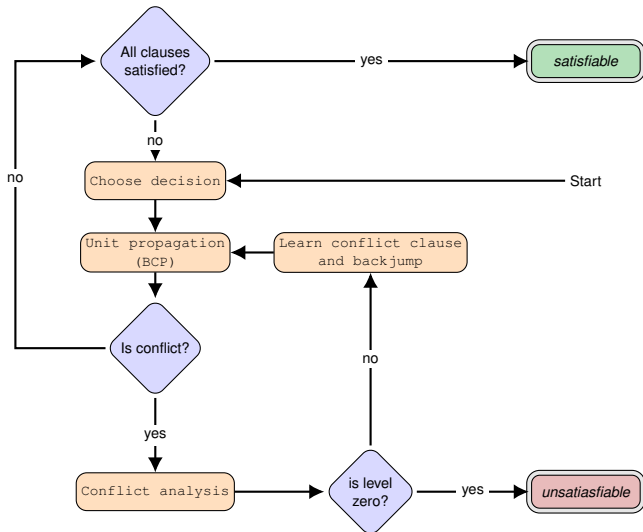


Symmetry controller:

- Generates SBP on-the-fly
- Only when needed
- Intrusive on solver

# CDCL[Sym]

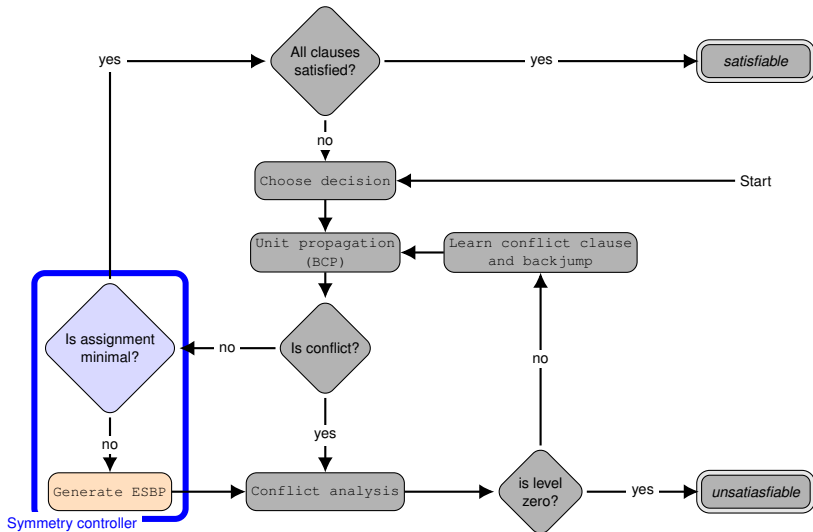
Compute and inject SBP *opportunistically*, during the solving





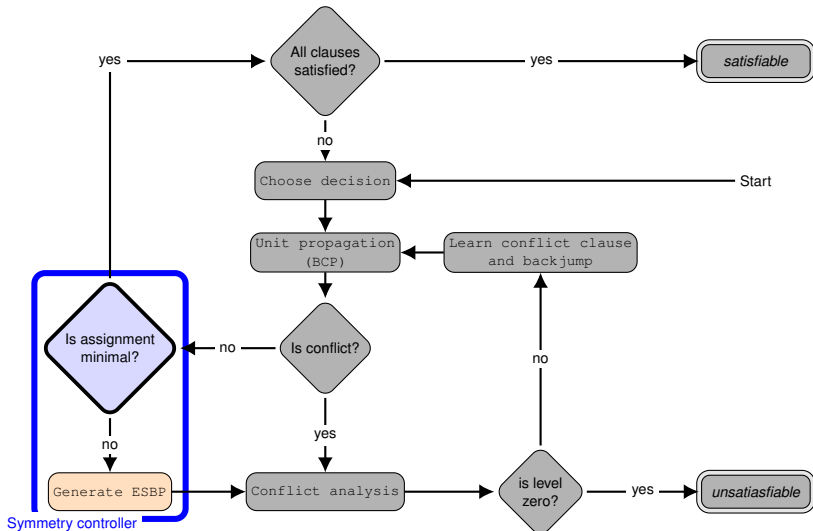
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Compute and inject SBP *opportunistically*, during the solving



# Is assignment minimal?

Our proposal: Symmetry status tracking

- reducer:  $g.\alpha \prec \alpha$
- inactive:  $\alpha \prec g.\alpha$
- active: *not enough information*

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## Efficient implementation of symmetry status tracking

**Keep track the smallest unassigned variable  $x$ :**

- 1  $\alpha(g.x) \leq \alpha(x)$ , then  $g$  is `reducer`  $\Rightarrow$  Effective SBP (ESBP)
- 2  $\alpha(x) \leq \alpha(g.x)$ , then  $g$  is `inactive`  $\Rightarrow g$  cannot reduce  $\alpha$
- 3  $\alpha(g.x)$  or  $\alpha(x)$  is unassigned then  $g$  is `active`

## Example

Ordering relation:  $x_1 \leq x_2 \leq x_3 \leq x_4 \leq x_5 \leq x_6 \leq x_7 \leq x_8$ ;  $F < T$

Symmetry:  $g = (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$

	$\downarrow$							
	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_6$	$x_7$	$x_8$
$\alpha$	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
$g.\alpha$	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U

$g.\alpha$        $\alpha$

status of permutation  $g$ : active

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$\alpha$	U	F	U	U	U	U	U	U
$g.\alpha$	F	U	U	U	U	U	U	U

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$g.\alpha$	F	U	U	U	F	U	U	U

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$\alpha$	T	F	U	F	U	U	U	U
$g.\alpha$	F	T	U	U	F	U	U	U

$$g.\alpha \prec \alpha$$

status of permutation  $g$ : reducer



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$g.\alpha$	F	T	U	U	F	U	U	U

$$g.\alpha \prec \alpha$$

status of permutation  $g$ : reducer

On-the-fly generation of ESBP:  $\omega = \{\neg x_1, x_2\}$

# CDCL[Sym] implementation

- C++ Implementation: 1780 Loc
- Packaged as a library **cosy** (Controller of Symmetry)

<https://github.com/lip6/cosy>

- Low memory consumption
- Virtually works with any enumerative CDCL SAT solver
- Can be easily integrated

→ e.g. +3% LOC on MiniSAT  
90 lines out of 3090

# Experiments

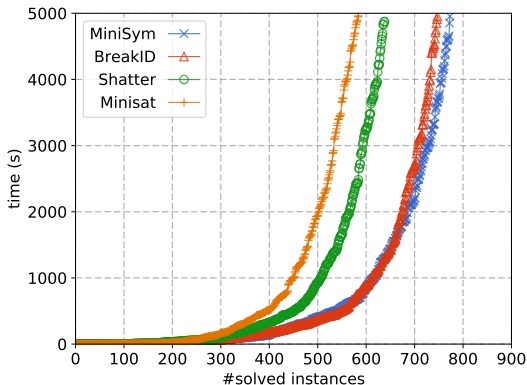
## Benchmark:

- from SAT contests 2012 – 2017
- filter: `bliss` finds symmetries in 1000 seconds
- 36 % of instances, 1 350/3 700

## Setup:

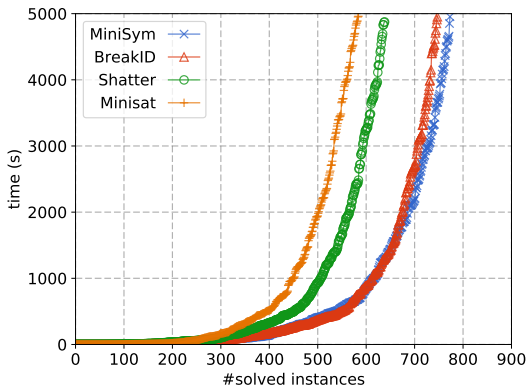
- four tools
  - MiniSat (no symmetry, baseline)
  - MiniSat + BreakID (SOTA SAT solver using symmetries)
  - MiniSat + Shatter (SOTA SAT solver using symmetries)
  - **MiniSym** = MiniSat + cosy (our approach)
- 5000 seconds timeout, 8GB memory
- includes time to compute symmetries (except for MiniSat)

# Experimental results



Solver	PAR-2	SAT	UNSAT
MiniSAT	2243h	325	261
Shatter	2088h	316	324
BreakID	1790h	334	415
MiniSym	1735h	336	439

# Experimental results



Number of SBPs	BreakID	MiniSym
UNSAT (399)	2 576 349	<b>913 339</b>
SAT (320)	12 179 513	<b>457 452</b>

# Discussion of the results

Change the ordering relation

- Choose another lex-leader
- Generate other SBP

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## Adapt the solver heuristics dynamically

- Restart
- Cleaning database

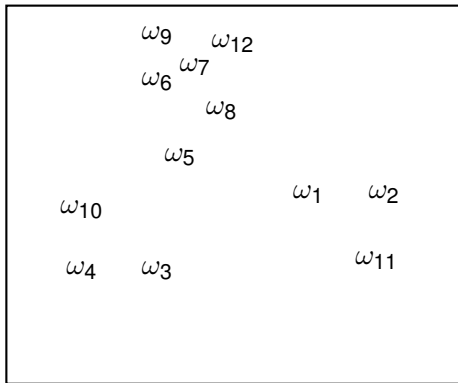


Exploitation of symmetries:

Dynamic symmetry breaking

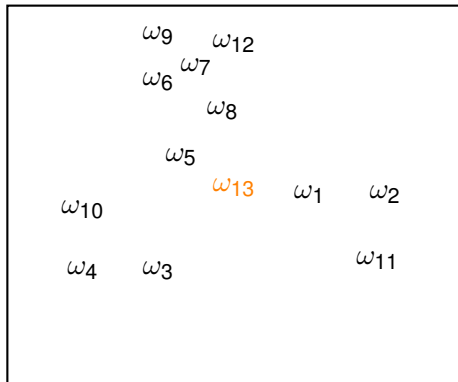
# Learn symmetrical clauses

- formula
- $\omega$  clause



# Learn symmetrical clauses

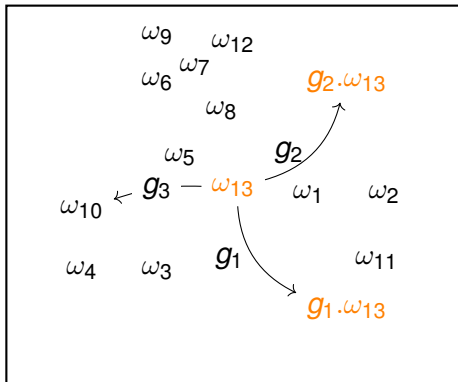
- formula
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Learnt clauses are logical consequences of the formula

# Learn symmetrical clauses

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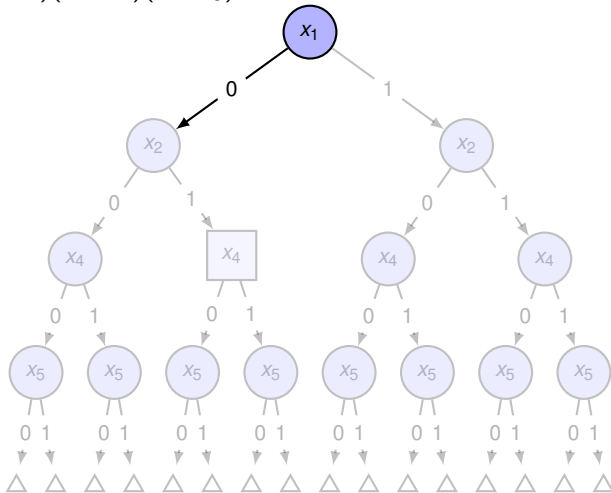
Learnt clauses are logical consequences of the formula

$g \in G$  are symmetries of the formula

→ symmetrical learnt clauses are logical consequences too

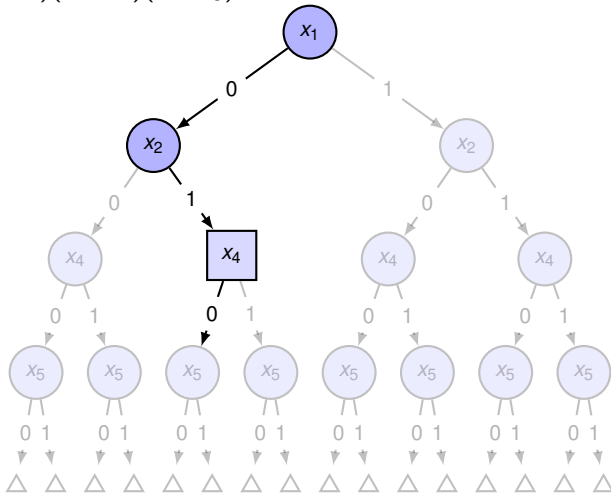
# Using symmetries to accelerate the tree traversal

$$g = (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$$



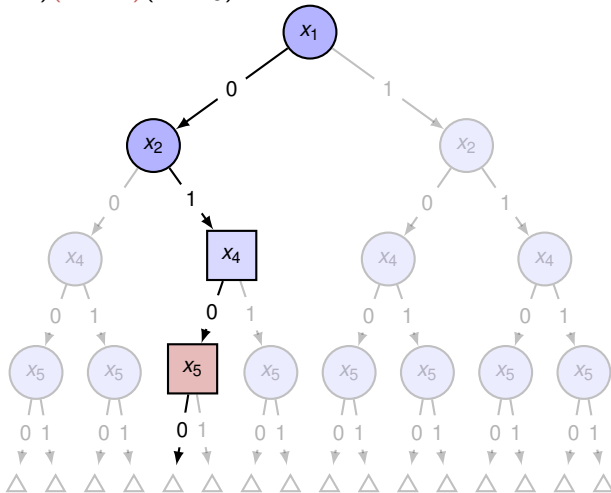
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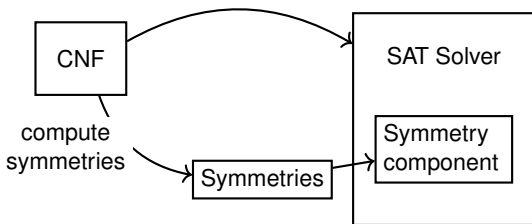


Use symmetries to deduce symmetrical facts.

# State-of-the-art dynamic symmetry breaking

State-of-the-art:

- Symmchaff [Sab05]
- Symmetry Learning Scheme (SLS) [BNOS10]
- Symmetry Propagation (SP) [DBdC<sup>+</sup>12]
- Symmetry Explanation Learning (SEL) [DBB17]

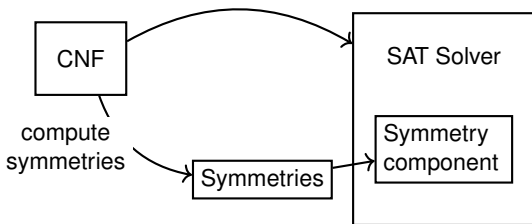




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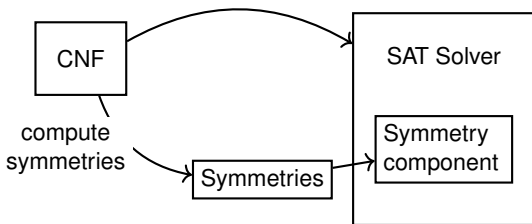
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Observations:

Solve some instances very quickly

Cannot handle some instances solved by static approach

Second contribution

Composing Symmetry Propagation and  
Effective Symmetry Breaking for SAT Solving

NFM'19 [MBK19]

# Composing ESBP and SP

Compose the symmetry propagation and the ESBP

*prune the decision tree while accelerating its traversal*

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*prune the decision tree while accelerating its traversal*

Problems:

- ESBP breaks symmetries (incrementally)
- SP considers the manipulated symmetries valid all time

In a hybrid approach, SP must be able to identify  
**valid symmetries**

# Is valid symmetry?

Our proposal: Local symmetries

Let  $\varphi$  be a formula. We define  $L_{\omega,\varphi}$ , the set of *local symmetries* for a clause  $\omega$ , and with respect to a formula  $\varphi$ , as follows:

$$L_{\omega,\varphi} = \{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S} \mid \varphi \vdash \sigma.\omega\}$$

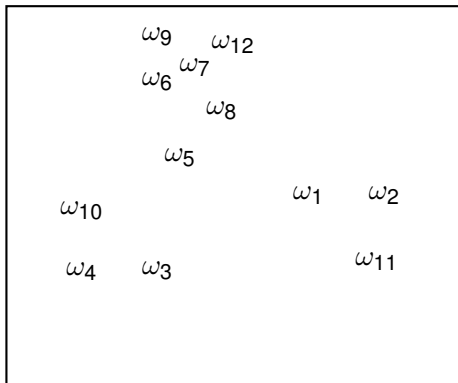
We can state that:

$$\bigcap_{\omega \in \varphi} L_{\omega,\varphi} \subseteq G.$$

**Guarantee that symmetrical clauses are logical consequences of the formula**

# Local symmetry

- formula
- $\omega$  clause
- $\omega$  learnt clause



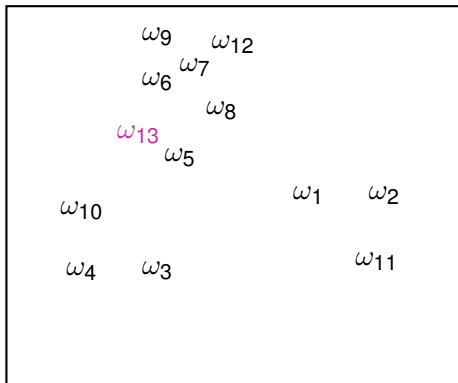
Local symmetries:

$$\omega \leftarrow \{g_1, g_2, g_3\}$$



# Local symmetry

- formula
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- $\omega$  learnt clause
- $\omega$  ESBP

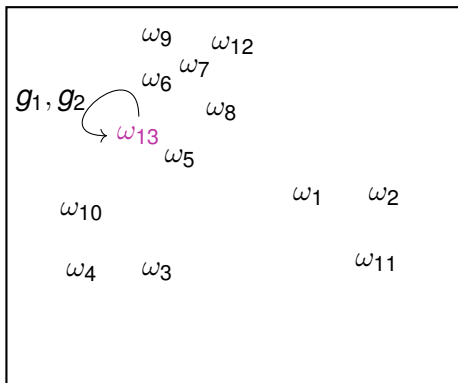


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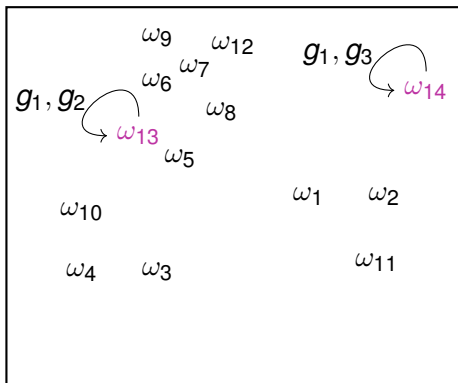
$$\omega \leftarrow \{g_1, g_2, g_3\}$$

$$\omega_{13} \leftarrow \{g_1, g_2\}$$

- Compute valid local symmetries
- On the fly
- At minimal cost

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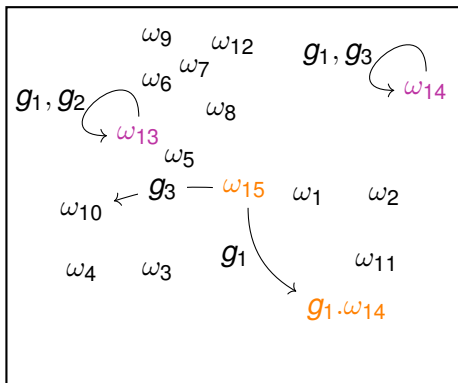
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Local symmetries:

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$$\omega_{13} \leftarrow \{g_1, g_2\}$$

$$\omega_{14} \leftarrow \{g_1, g_3\}$$

$$\omega_{15} \leftarrow \{g_1, g_3\}$$

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**Inductive construction**

# Experimental results

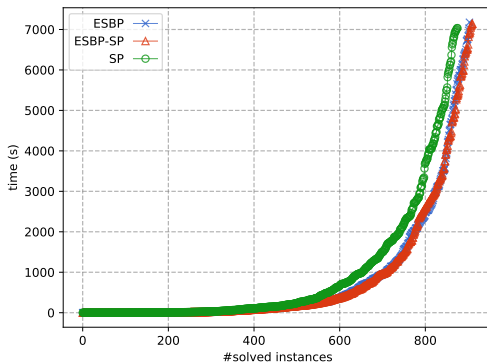
## Benchmark:

- from SAT contests 2012 – 2018
- filter: `bliss` finds symmetries in 1000 seconds
- 1400 symmetric instances (out of 4000)

## Setup:

- three tools
  - MiniSat SP (Minisat with Symmetry Propagation)
  - MiniSat ESBP (Minisat with cosy)
  - **Minisat ESBP-SP** (our approach)
- 7200 seconds timeout

# Experimental results



Solver	PAR-2	SAT	UNSAT
SP	1674h00	406	470
ESBP	1578h30	416	488
<b>ESBP-SP</b>	<b>1570h15</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>491</b>

## Discussion of the results

SP and ESBP have separated symmetry managers → costly

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SP and ESBP have separated symmetry managers → costly

Combine ESBP with Symmetry Explanation Learning (SEL)

- SEL have less requirements than SP
- We believe that this will improves the performance



# Conclusion & Perspectives

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  - Generation of SBP on the fly
  - Package as a library cosy usable with any CDCL solver
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**Thanks !**



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# Weakly active symmetries

## Logical consequence

When  $\omega$  is satisfied in all satisfying assignments of  $\varphi$ , we say that  $\omega$  is a logical consequence of  $\varphi$ , and we denote this by  $\varphi \vdash \omega$ .

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## Weakly active symmetries

Let a subset  $\delta \subseteq \alpha$ , a symmetry  $\sigma$  of  $\varphi$  such that  $\varphi \cup \delta \vdash \varphi \cup \alpha \wedge \sigma.\delta \subseteq \alpha$  then  $\sigma$  is weakly active symmetry.



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## Symmetry propagation

Let  $\sigma$  a weakly active symmetry, then

$$\varphi \cup \alpha \vdash \{I\} \Leftrightarrow \varphi \cup \alpha \vdash \sigma.\{I\}$$

# Local symmetries

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We can state that:

$$\bigcap_{\omega \in \varphi} L_{\omega, \varphi} \subseteq G.$$

# Computing local symmetries

Formula can be decomposed as :  $\varphi = \varphi_o \cup \varphi_e \cup \varphi_d$  where

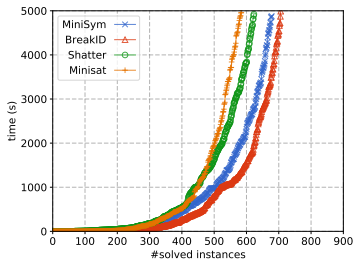
- $\varphi_o$  is the set of the original clauses
- $\varphi_e$  is the set of ESBPs
- $\varphi_d$  is the set of deduced clauses.

## Local symmetries

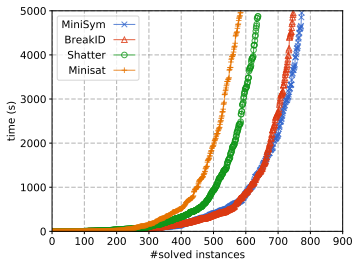
- $\omega \in \varphi_o, L_{\omega, \varphi} \supseteq G$
- $\omega \in \varphi_e, L_{\omega, \varphi} \supseteq \text{Stab}(\omega) = \{\sigma \in G \mid \omega = \sigma.\omega\}$
- $\omega \in \varphi_d, L_{\omega, \varphi} \supseteq \left( \bigcap_{\omega' \in \varphi_1} L_{\omega', \varphi} \right) \cup \text{Stab}(\omega)$

where  $\varphi_1$  is the set of clauses that derives  $\omega$ .

# Experimental results



(a) with saucy3



(b) with bliss

# Generates symmetry breaking predicates (SBP)

- Define lexicographic order
  - Define total order on variables
  - Define minimal value
- Forbid non minimal assignment for each orbit

Example:

$$x_1 \leq x_2 \leq x_3 \leq x_4 \leq x_5 \leq x_6 \leq x_7 \leq x_8; \textcolor{red}{F} < \textcolor{green}{T}$$

$$g = (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$$

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$\dots$	lex-leader	SBP

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$O_1$	F	T	—	—	—	$\dots$	✓	$\rightarrow \neg x_1 \vee x_2$
	T	F	—	—	—	$\dots$	✗	



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$O_1$	$\textcolor{red}{F}$	$\textcolor{green}{T}$	—	—	—	$\dots$	✓	$\rightarrow \neg x_1 \vee x_2$
	$\textcolor{green}{T}$	$\textcolor{red}{F}$	—	—	—	$\dots$	✗	
$O_2$	$\textcolor{red}{F}$	$\textcolor{red}{F}$	—	$\textcolor{red}{F}$	$\textcolor{green}{T}$	$\dots$	✓	

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$$g = (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$$

	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$\dots$	lex-leader	SBP
$O_1$	F	T	—	—	—	$\dots$	✓	$\rightarrow \neg x_1 \vee x_2$
	T	F	—	—	—	$\dots$	✗	
$O_2$	F	F	—	F	T	$\dots$	✓	$\rightarrow x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_4 \vee x_5$
	F	F	—	T	F	$\dots$	✗	

# Generates symmetry breaking predicates (SBP)

- Define lexicographic order
  - Define total order on variables
  - Define minimal value
- Forbid non minimal assignment for each orbit

Example:

$$x_1 \leq x_2 \leq x_3 \leq x_4 \leq x_5 \leq x_6 \leq x_7 \leq x_8; \text{F} < \text{T}$$

$$g = (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$$

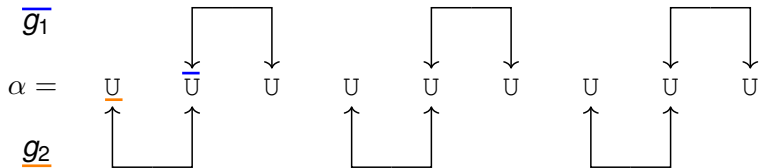
	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$\cdots$	lex-leader	SBP
$O_1$	F	T	—	—	—	$\cdots$	✓	$\rightarrow \neg x_1 \vee x_2$
	T	F	—	—	—	$\cdots$	✗	
$O_2$	F	F	—	F	T	$\cdots$	✓	$\rightarrow x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_4 \vee x_5$
	F	F	—	T	F	$\cdots$	✗	
...								

# Example

$$g_1 = (x_2 \ x_3)(x_5 \ x_6)(x_8 \ x_9)$$

$$g_2 = (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$$

$$\textcolor{red}{F} < \textcolor{green}{T} \quad x_1 \leq x_2 \leq x_3 \leq x_4 \leq x_5 \leq x_6 \leq x_7 \leq x_8 \leq x_9$$

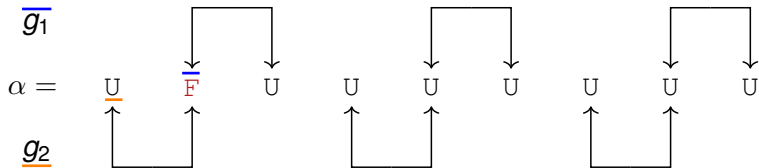


# Example

$$g_1 = (x_2 \ x_3)(x_5 \ x_6)(x_8 \ x_9)$$

$$g_2 = (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$$

$$\textcolor{red}{F} < \textcolor{green}{T} \quad x_1 \leq x_2 \leq x_3 \leq x_4 \leq x_5 \leq x_6 \leq x_7 \leq x_8 \leq x_9$$

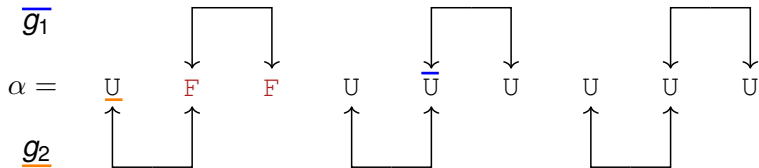


# Example

$$g_1 = (x_2 \ x_3)(x_5 \ x_6)(x_8 \ x_9)$$

$$g_2 = (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$$

$$\textcolor{red}{F} < \textcolor{green}{T} \quad x_1 \leq x_2 \leq x_3 \leq x_4 \leq x_5 \leq x_6 \leq x_7 \leq x_8 \leq x_9$$

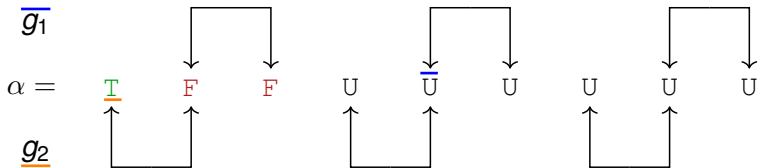


## Example

$$g_1 = (x_2 \ x_3)(x_5 \ x_6)(x_8 \ x_9)$$

$$g_2 = (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$$

**F** < **T**     $x_1 \leq x_2 \leq x_3 \leq x_4 \leq x_5 \leq x_6 \leq x_7 \leq x_8 \leq x_9$

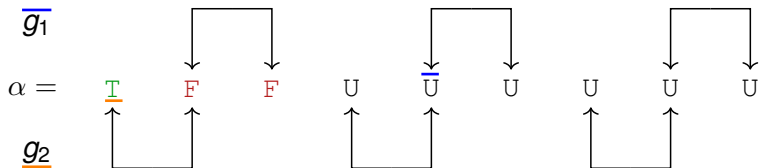


# Example

$$g_1 = (x_2 \ x_3)(x_5 \ x_6)(x_8 \ x_9)$$

$$g_2 = (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$$

$$\textcolor{red}{F} < \textcolor{green}{T} \quad x_1 \leq x_2 \leq x_3 \leq x_4 \leq x_5 \leq x_6 \leq x_7 \leq x_8 \leq x_9$$



$g_2$  generates ESBP  $\omega = \{\neg x_1, x_2\}$



# Example

- 1 reducer:  $\alpha(g.x) \leq \alpha(x)$
- 2 inactive:  $\alpha(x) \leq \alpha(g.x)$
- 3 active:  $\alpha(g.x)$  or  $\alpha(x)$  is unassigned

$$x_1 \leq x_2 \leq x_3 \leq x_4 \leq x_5 \leq x_6 \leq x_7 \leq x_8 ; \text{ F } < \text{ T }$$

$$g_1 = \begin{array}{ccc} (x_2 & x_3) & (x_5 & x_6) & (x_8 & x_9) \end{array} \left| \begin{array}{l} x = x_2 \\ g.x = x_3 \\ \text{active} \end{array} \right.$$

↑

$$g_2 = \begin{array}{ccc} (x_1 & x_2) & (x_4 & x_5) & (x_7 & x_8) \end{array} \left| \begin{array}{l} x = x_1 \\ g.x = x_2 \\ \text{active} \end{array} \right.$$

↑

...

$$\alpha = \{ \quad \quad \quad \}$$

# Example

- 1 reducer:  $\alpha(g.x) \leq \alpha(x)$
- 2 inactive:  $\alpha(x) \leq \alpha(g.x)$
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$$x_1 \leq x_2 \leq x_3 \leq x_4 \leq x_5 \leq x_6 \leq x_7 \leq x_8 ; \text{ F } < \text{ T }$$

$$g_1 = \begin{array}{ccc} (\textcolor{red}{x}_2 & x_3) & (x_5 & x_6) & (x_8 & x_9) \end{array} \left| \begin{array}{l} x = \textcolor{red}{x}_2 \\ g.x = x_3 \\ \text{active} \end{array} \right.$$

$$g_2 = \begin{array}{ccc} (x_1 & \textcolor{red}{x}_2) & (x_4 & x_5) & (x_7 & x_8) \end{array} \left| \begin{array}{l} x = x_1 \\ g.x = \textcolor{red}{x}_2 \\ \text{active} \end{array} \right.$$

...

$$\alpha = \{ \neg x_2 \quad \}$$

# Example

- 1 reducer:  $\alpha(g.x) \leq \alpha(x)$
- 2 inactive:  $\alpha(x) \leq \alpha(g.x)$
- 3 active:  $\alpha(g.x)$  or  $\alpha(x)$  is unassigned

$$x_1 \leq x_2 \leq x_3 \leq x_4 \leq x_5 \leq x_6 \leq x_7 \leq x_8 ; \text{ F } < \text{ T }$$

$$g_1 = \begin{array}{cc|cc} (x_2 & x_3) & (x_5 & x_6) & (x_8 & x_9) \\ & & \uparrow & & & \end{array} \quad \left| \quad x = x_5 \quad g.x = x_6 \right.$$

active

$$g_2 = \begin{array}{cc|cc} (x_1 & x_2) & (x_4 & x_5) & (x_7 & x_8) \\ \uparrow & & & & & \end{array} \quad \left| \quad x = x_1 \quad g.x = x_2 \right.$$

reducer

...

$$\alpha = \{\neg x_2, \neg x_3, x_1\}$$

# Example

- 1 reducer:  $\alpha(g.x) \leq \alpha(x)$
- 2 inactive:  $\alpha(x) \leq \alpha(g.x)$
- 3 active:  $\alpha(g.x)$  or  $\alpha(x)$  is unassigned

$$x_1 \leq x_2 \leq x_3 \leq x_4 \leq x_5 \leq x_6 \leq x_7 \leq x_8 ; \text{ F } < \text{ T }$$

$$g_1 = \begin{array}{cc|cc} (x_2 & x_3) & (x_5 & x_6) & (x_8 & x_9) \\ \uparrow & & & & & \end{array} \quad \left| \quad x = x_5 \quad g.x = x_6 \right.$$

active

$$g_2 = \begin{array}{cc|cc} (x_1 & x_2) & (x_4 & x_5) & (x_7 & x_8) \\ \uparrow & & & & & \end{array} \quad \left| \quad x = x_1 \quad g.x = x_2 \right.$$

reducer

...

$$\alpha = \{\neg x_2, \neg x_3, x_1\}$$

$$g_2 \text{ generates } \omega = \{\neg x_1, x_2\}$$

# CDCL in action TODO



$$\omega_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{x_4, x_5, x_6\}$$

$$\omega_3 = \{\neg x_1, \neg x_5\}$$

$$\omega_4 = \{\neg x_2, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_5 = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_6 = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_6\}$$

# CDCL in action TODO



$$\omega_1 = \{\mathbf{x}_1, x_2, x_3\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{x_4, x_5, x_6\}$$

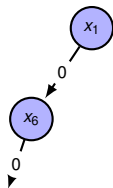
$$\omega_3 = \{\neg \mathbf{x}_1, \neg x_5\}$$

$$\omega_4 = \{\neg x_2, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_5 = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_6 = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_6\}$$

# CDCL in action TODO



$$\omega_1 = \{\mathbf{x}_1, x_2, x_3\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{x_4, x_5, \mathbf{x}_6\}$$

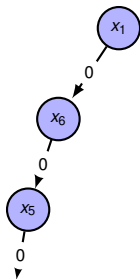
$$\omega_3 = \{\neg \mathbf{x}_1, \neg x_5\}$$

$$\omega_4 = \{\neg x_2, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_5 = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_6 = \{\neg x_3, \neg \mathbf{x}_6\}$$

# CDCL in action TODO



$$\omega_1 = \{\mathbf{x}_1, x_2, x_3\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{\mathbf{x}_4, \mathbf{x}_5, \mathbf{x}_6\}$$

$$\omega_3 = \{\neg x_1, \neg x_5\}$$

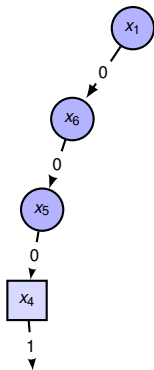
$$\omega_4 = \{\neg x_2, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_5 = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_6 = \{\neg x_3, \neg \mathbf{x}_6\}$$



# CDCL in action TODO



$$\omega_1 = \{\mathbf{x}_1, x_2, x_3\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{\mathbf{x}_4, \mathbf{x}_5, \mathbf{x}_6\}$$

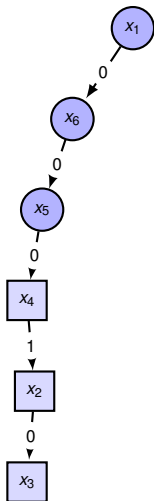
$$\omega_3 = \{\neg x_1, \neg x_5\}$$

$$\omega_4 = \{\neg \mathbf{x}_2, \neg \mathbf{x}_4\}$$

$$\omega_5 = \{\neg \mathbf{x}_3, \neg \mathbf{x}_4\}$$

$$\omega_6 = \{\neg x_3, \neg \mathbf{x}_6\}$$

# CDCL in action TODO



$$\omega_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{x_4, x_5, x_6\}$$

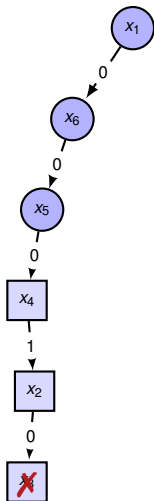
$$\omega_3 = \{\neg x_1, \neg x_5\}$$

$$\omega_4 = \{\neg x_2, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_5 = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_6 = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_6\}$$

# CDCL in action TODO



$$\omega_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{x_4, x_5, x_6\}$$

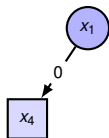
$$\omega_3 = \{\neg x_1, \neg x_5\}$$

$$\omega_4 = \{\neg x_2, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_5 = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_6 = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_6\}$$

# CDCL in action TODO



$$\omega_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$$

$$\omega_2 = \{x_4, x_5, x_6\}$$

$$\omega_3 = \{\neg x_1, \neg x_5\}$$

$$\omega_4 = \{\neg x_2, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_5 = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_4\}$$

$$\omega_6 = \{\neg x_3, \neg x_6\}$$

$$\omega_7 = \{x_1, \neg x_4\}$$