Exploitation of dynamic symmetries for solving SAT problems

Thèse de doctorat de Sorbonne Université

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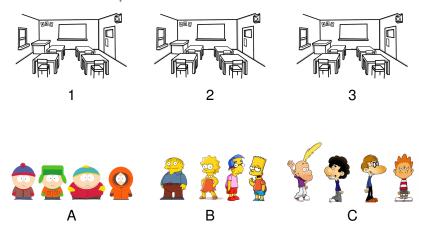


Motivation

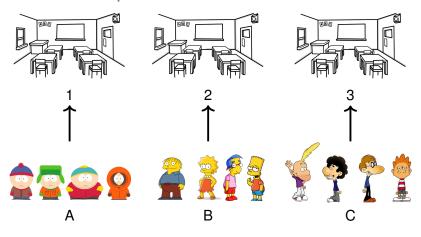
Boolean SATisfiability is widely used in different domains

- Artificial intelligence (planning [KS⁺92], ...)
- Bioinformatics (haplotype inference [LMS06], ...)
- Security (cryptanalysis [MM00], ...)
- Computationally hard problems (ramsey numbers, graph coloring, ...)
- Formal methods, (bounded model checking [BCCZ99], ...)

SAT: an example



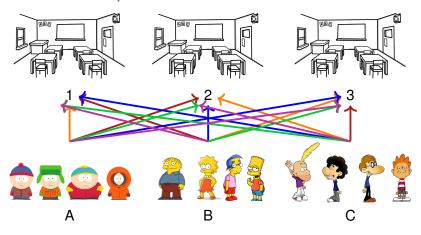
SAT: an example



Is it possible to attribute each group to a classroom?

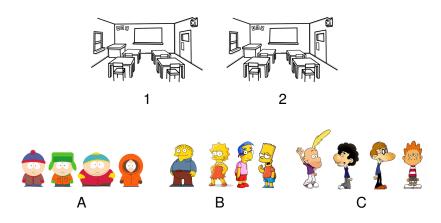
YES! SAT

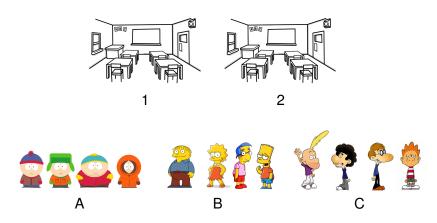
SAT: an example



Is it possible to attribute each group to a classroom?

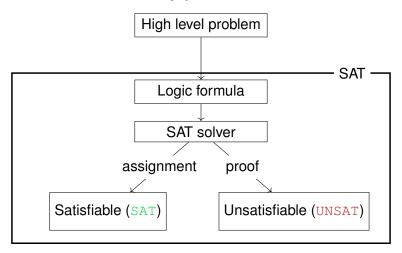
YES! SAT Many solutions

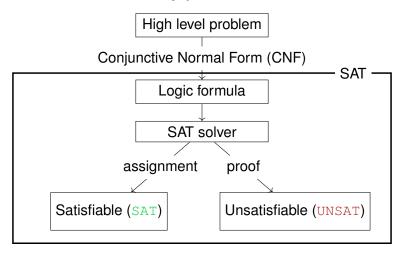




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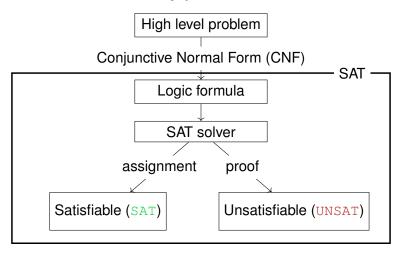
No! UNSAT





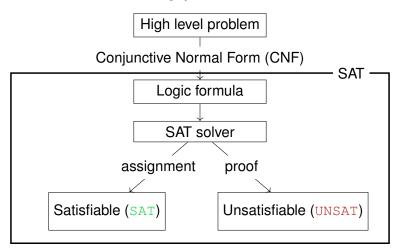
CNF representation:

$$\underbrace{\left(x_1 \lor x_2 \lor \neg x_3\right)}_{\text{Clause with literals } x_1, x_2, \neg x_3}$$



CNF representation:

Formula (CNF)
$$\underbrace{\left(x_1 \lor x_2 \lor \neg x_3\right)}_{Clause} \land \left(\neg x_1 \lor \neg x_2\right) \land \left(x_2 \lor \neg x_4\right)$$



Clause representation as a set:

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

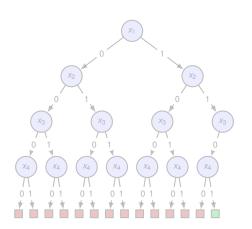
SAT Solving

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

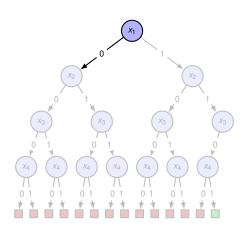
Enumerative algorithms:

- Davis, Putnam, Logemann, and Loveland (DPLL) [DLL62]
 - Boolean Constraint Propagation (BCP)

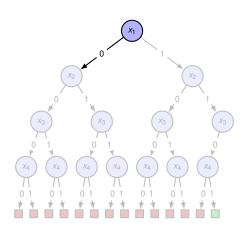
- Conflict Driven Clause Learning (CDCL) [MSS99]
 - Derived from DPLL
 - Clause learning



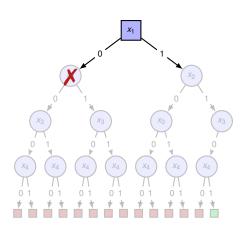
$$\omega_{1} = \{x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}, x_{4}\}
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\omega_{3} = \{x_{1}, x_{4}\}
\omega_{4} = \{x_{2}, \neg x_{4}\}
\omega_{5} = \{x_{2}, x_{4}\}
\omega_{6} = \{x_{3}, x_{4}\}$$



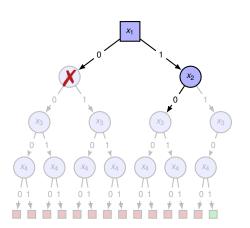
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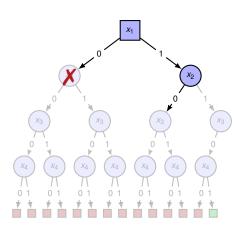
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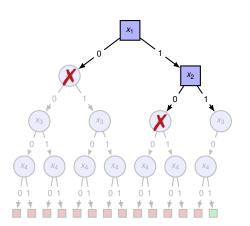
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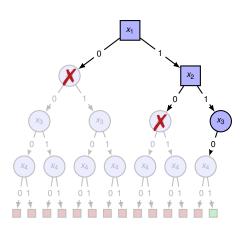
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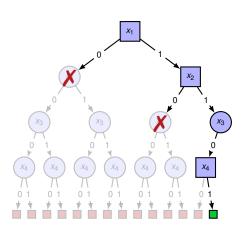
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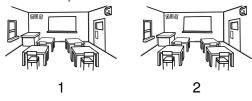
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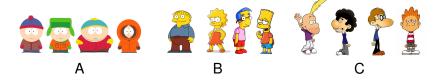


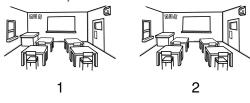
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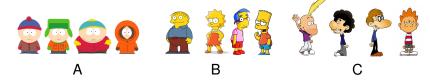


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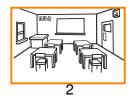


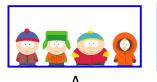


Is it possible to attribute each group to a classroom?

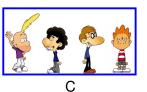
No!











Is it possible to attribute each group to a classroom?

No!

Presence of symmetries hinders the performance of the solver

Symmetry

A symmetry (permuation) g is a bijective function (on variables) that leaves the formula invariant

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

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

The set of symmetries of a formula is a group noted G

Computing symmetries of a SAT problem

CNF formula

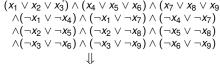
$$\begin{array}{l} (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_4 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (x_7 \vee x_8 \vee x_9) \\ \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_7) \wedge (\neg x_4 \vee \neg x_7) \\ \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_5) \wedge (\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_8) \wedge (\neg x_5 \vee \neg x_8)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

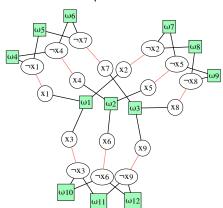
Computing symmetries of a SAT problem $(x_1 \lor x_2 \lor x_3) \land (x_4 \lor x_5 \lor x_6) \land (x_7 \lor x_8 \lor x_9)$

CNF formula

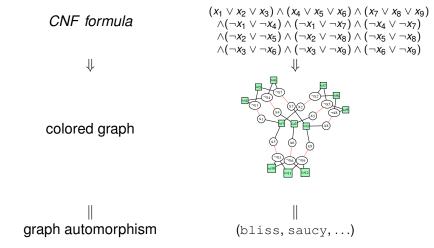


colored graph

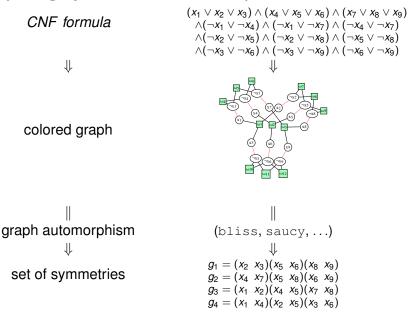




Computing symmetries of a SAT problem



Computing symmetries of a SAT problem



Orbit of an assignment $\alpha = G.\alpha = \{g.\alpha \mid g \in G\}$

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Example:

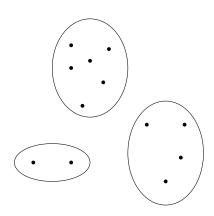
full assignment

11/30

Orbit of an assignment $\alpha = G.\alpha = \{g.\alpha \mid g \in G\}$

Example:

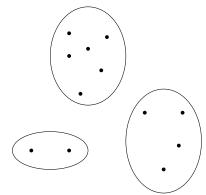
- full assignment
- orbit



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Example:

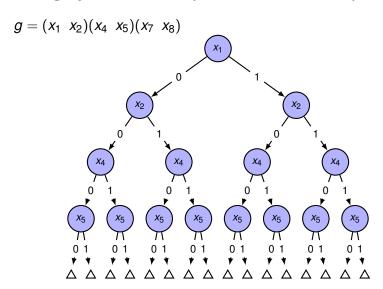
- full assignment
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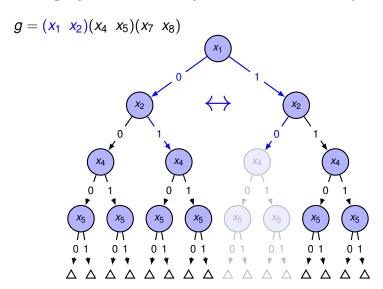
Equivalence relation with respect to SAT:

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

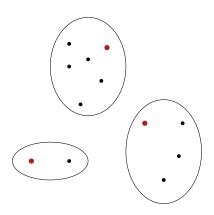
Using symmetries to prune the search space



Using symmetries to prune the search space



Representative assignment

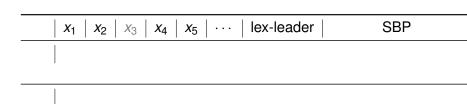


- full assignment
- orbit
- representative assignment

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

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

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



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| | <i>x</i> ₁ | <i>X</i> ₂ | <i>X</i> ₃ | <i>x</i> ₄ | <i>X</i> ₅ | | lex-leader | SBP |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|------------|-----|
| <i>O</i> ₁ | F | Т | - | – | - | | ✓ | |

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|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|------------|---------------------------------|
| 0. | F | Т | - | - | _ | | / | |
| O_1 | Т | F | – | – | - | | x | $\rightarrow \neg x_1 \lor x_2$ |
| | I | | | | | | | |

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| | <i>x</i> ₁ | <i>X</i> ₂ | <i>X</i> ₃ | <i>x</i> ₄ | <i>x</i> ₅ | | lex-leader | SBP |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|------------|---------------------------------|
| O ₁ | F | Т | - | - | _ | | ✓ X | |
| | Т | F | – | – | - | • • • | X | $\rightarrow \neg x_1 \lor x_2$ |
| <i>O</i> ₂ | F | F | - | F | Т | | ✓ | |

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

| | <i>x</i> ₁ | <i>X</i> ₂ | <i>X</i> ₃ | <i>x</i> ₄ | <i>x</i> ₅ | | lex-leader | SBP |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|------------|---|
| Ω_{t} | F | Т | - | _ | - | | ✓ X | |
| —— | Т | F | _ | _ | _ | | X | $\rightarrow \neg x_1 \lor x_2$ |
| | F | F | - | F | Т | | / | $\bigg \to x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_4 \vee x_5$ |
| O_2 | F | F | – | Т | F | | × | $\rightarrow x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_4 \vee x_5$ |

- Define lexicographic order
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Example:

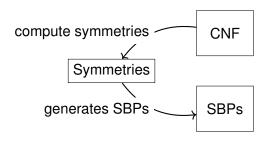
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| | <i>x</i> ₁ | <i>X</i> ₂ | <i>X</i> ₃ | X ₄ | <i>x</i> ₅ | | lex-leader | SBP |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--|------------|---|
| | F | Т | - | - | - | | ✓ × | |
| —— | Т | F | _ | - | _ | | × | $\rightarrow \neg x_1 \lor x_2$ |
| _ | F | F | - | F | Т | | / | $ \rightarrow x_1 \lor x_2 \lor \neg x_4 \lor x_5 $ |
| O_2 | F | F | - | Т | F | | × | $\rightarrow x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_4 \vee x_5$ |

. .

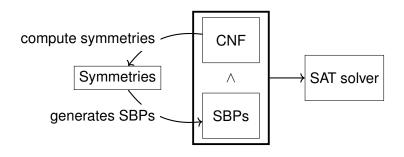
Static symmetry breaking



Different approaches:

- Shatter [ASM06]
- BreakID [DBBD16]
- ...

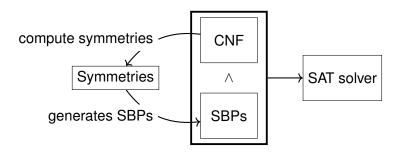
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Static symmetry breaking



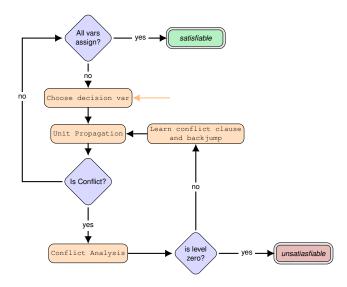
Different approaches:

- Shatter [ASM06]
- BreakID [DBBD16]
- ...

The solver can "explode" instead of being helped

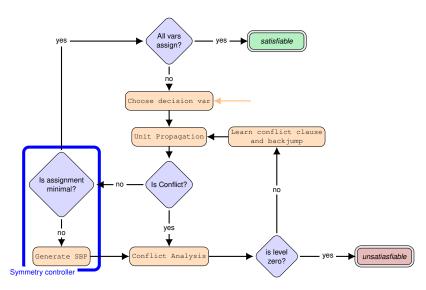
Our contribution CDCL[Sym] [MBCK18]

Compute and inject SBP opportunistically, during the solving



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Compute and inject SBP opportunistically, during the solving



Symmetry status

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

Efficient implementation of symmetry status

Keep track the smallest unassigned variable x:

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

Update whenever variables are assigned / unassigned

$$g_1 = (x_2 \ x_3)(x_5 \ x_6)(x_8 \ x_9)$$
 $g_2 = (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$

$$F < T \quad x_1 \le x_2 \le x_3 \le x_4 \le x_5 \le x_6 \le x_7 \le x_8 \le x_9$$

$$\overline{g_1}$$

$$\alpha = \quad \underline{U} \quad \overline{U} \quad U \quad U \quad U \quad U \quad U \quad U$$

$$\underline{g_2} \quad \Box$$

$$g_1 = (x_2 \ x_3)(x_5 \ x_6)(x_8 \ x_9)$$
 $g_2 = (x_1 \ x_2)(x_4 \ x_5)(x_7 \ x_8)$

$$F < T \quad x_1 \le x_2 \le x_3 \le x_4 \le x_5 \le x_6 \le x_7 \le x_8 \le x_9$$

$$\overline{g_1}$$

$$\alpha = \underbrace{U}_{F} \quad U \quad U \quad U \quad U \quad U \quad U \quad U$$

$$\underline{g_2} \quad \Box$$

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

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

$$F < T \quad x_1 \le x_2 \le x_3 \le x_4 \le x_5 \le x_6 \le x_7 \le x_8 \le x_9$$

$$\overline{g_1}$$

$$\alpha = \underline{T} \quad F \quad F \quad U \quad \overline{U} \quad U \quad U \quad U$$

$$\underline{g_2} \quad \Box$$

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

- 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

$$x_1 \le x_2 \le x_3 \le x_4 \le x_5 \le x_6 \le x_7 \le x_8$$
 ; F < T
 $g_1 = \begin{pmatrix} x_2 & x_3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_5 & x_6 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_8 & x_9 \end{pmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} x = x_2 & g.x = x_3 \\ & \text{active} \end{pmatrix}$ $g_2 = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_4 & x_5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_7 & x_8 \end{pmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} x = x_1 & g.x = x_2 \\ & \text{active} \end{pmatrix}$

 $\alpha = \{$

19/30

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

19/30

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

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

19/30

CDCL[Sym] Implementation

- Packaged as a library cosy¹
- Lightweight
- Fast Update and low memory
- Follows symmetry status

Works with any enumerative SAT solver

https://github.com/lip6/cosy

Experiments

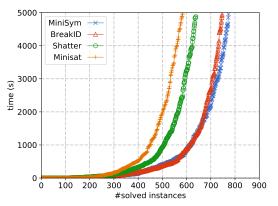
Benchmark:

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

Setup:

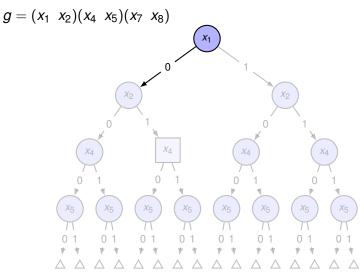
- four tools
 - MiniSat (no symmetry, baseline)
 - MiniSat + BreakID (SOTA SAT solver using symmetries)
 - MiniSat + Shatter (SOTA SAT solver using symmetries)
 - MiniSym = MiniSat + CDCL[Sym] (our approach)
- 5000s timeout, 8GB memory
- includes time to compute symmetries (except for MiniSat)

Experimental results

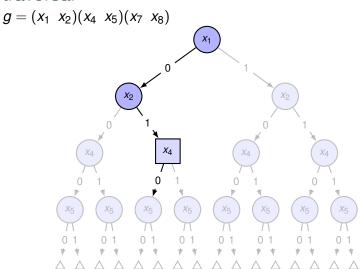


| Solver | PAR-2 | ALL | SAT | UNSAT |
|---------|-------|-----|-----|-------|
| MiniSAT | 2243h | 586 | 325 | 261 |
| Shatter | 2088h | 640 | 316 | 324 |
| BreakID | 1790h | 749 | 334 | 415 |
| MiniSym | 1735h | 775 | 336 | 439 |

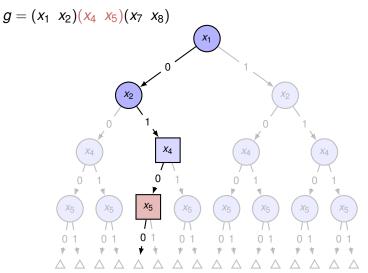
Using symmetries to accelerate the tree traversal



Using symmetries to accelerate the tree traversal

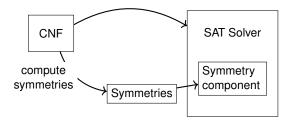


Using symmetries to accelerate the tree traversal



Use symmetries to deduce symmetrical facts.

Dynamic Symmetry Breaking

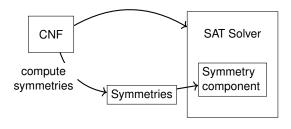


Different approaches:

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

• ...

Dynamic Symmetry Breaking



Different approaches:

- Symmchaff [Sab05]
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- ...

Cannot handle some instances solved by static approach

ESBP + SP [MBK19]

Compose the symmetry propagation and the ESBP 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

 $\omega_1 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)}$ $\omega_2 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)}$ $\omega_3 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)}$ $\omega_4 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)}$

Macro level \rightarrow Micro level

 $\omega_1 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)}$ $\omega_2 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)}$ $\omega_3 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)}$ $\omega_4 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)}$ ω_5 ω_5 Macro level \rightarrow Micro level

```
\omega_1 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)} \omega_2 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)} \omega_3 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)} \omega_4 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)} \omega_5 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)} \omega_6 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)} Macro level \omega_7 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)}
```

Compute valid local symmetries on-the-fly at a minimal cost.

```
\omega_1 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)} \omega_2 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)} \omega_3 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)} \omega_4 \leftarrow \text{(Local symmetries)} \omega_5 Macro level \rightarrow Micro level
```

Compute valid local symmetries on-the-fly at a minimal cost.

- Inductive construction of the valid symmetries
- During the solving
- At a minimal cost

Experimental results

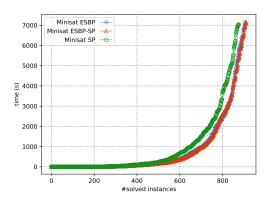
Benchmark:

- from SAT contests 2012 2018
- retain only instances for which bliss finds significant symmetries in 1000s
- 1400 symmetric instances (out of 4000)

Setup:

- three tools
 - MiniSat SP (Minisat with Symmetry Propagation)
 - MiniSat ESBP (Minisat with CDCL[Sym])
 - Minisat ESBP-SP (our approach)
- 7200s timeout

Experimental results



| Solver | PAR-2 | ALL | SAT | UNSAT |
|---------|---------|-----|-----|-------|
| SP | 1674h00 | 876 | 406 | 470 |
| ESBP | 1578h30 | 904 | 416 | 488 |
| ESBP-SP | 1570h15 | 911 | 420 | 491 |

Conclusion

- A new dynamic symmetry breaking approach
 - Generation of SBP on the fly
 - Package as a library cosy usable with any CDCL solver
 - Overcomes drawbacks of the existing approaches

- A new hybrid approach (ESBP-SP)
 - Take advantage of static and dynamic approach
 - Introduce local symmetries

Perspectives

 Combination of CDCL[Sym] with other dynamic symmetry breaking approach

Exploitation of partial symmetries

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 Combination of CDCL[Sym] with other dynamic symmetry breaking approach

Exploitation of partial symmetries

Thanks!



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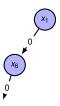
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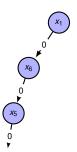
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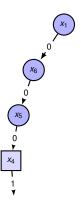
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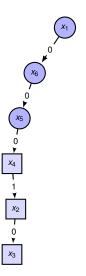
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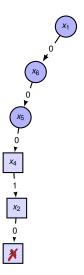
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$$\omega_7 = \{x_1, \neg x_4\}$$

Weakly active symmetries

Logical consequence

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

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Symmetry propagation

Let σ a weakly active symmetry, then

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

Local symmetries

Logical consequence

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

Local Symmetries

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

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

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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

- φ_o is the set of the original clauses
- φ_e is the set of ESBPs
- φ_d is the set of deduced clauses.

Local symmetries

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

where φ_1 is the set of clauses that derives ω .