

The CDSAT Paradigm for Theory Combination in SMT

(Based on joint work with S. Graham-Lengrand and N. Shankar)

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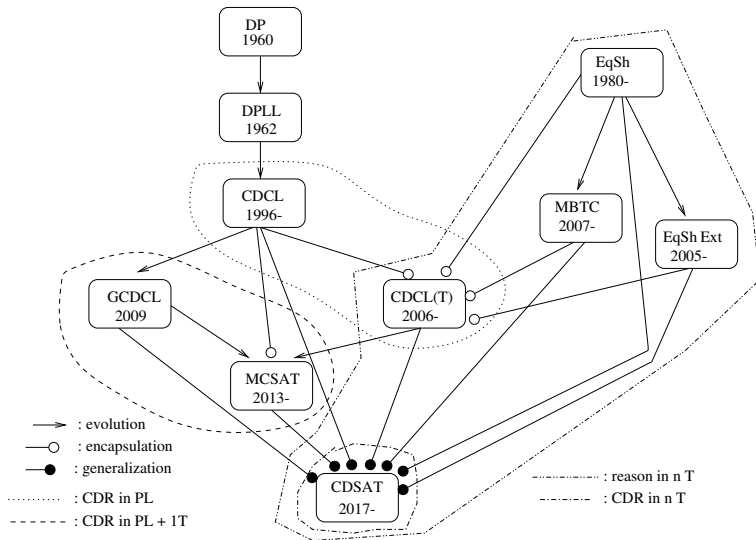
Lisbon, Portugal, EU, 15 and 17 July 2025)

- ▶ SMT: Satisfiability Modulo Theory
- ▶ CDSAT (Conflict-Driven Satisfiability)
 - ▶ Allows conflict-driven reasoning in a theory union
 - ▶ Generalizes previous conflict-driven procedures
- ▶ Quantifier-free input problem: set of ground clauses

Conflict-driven decision procedures

- ▶ **Search** for a model:
 - ▶ Decide **assignments** of values to terms
 - ▶ **Propagate** consequences of assignments
 - ▶ **Conflict**: contradiction
- ▶ Perform **inferences** only to solve conflicts (or reach unsat):
 - ▶ **Explain** conflict by **inferences**
(steps towards a possible refutation)
 - ▶ **Learn** generated **lemma** that excludes current assignment:
avoid hitting same conflict
 - ▶ Solve conflict by amending assignment to satisfy lemma
- ▶ **Search** and **inferences** guide each other:
 - ▶ **Search** focuses **inferences** on conflicts
 - ▶ **Inferences** allow **search** to escape dead-end's

The big picture



CDSAT: most general conflict-driven reasoning procedure

- ▶ Theory $\mathcal{T} = \bigcup_{k=1}^n \mathcal{T}_k$: **predicate-sharing** theories
Disjoint if \simeq is the only shared symbol
- ▶ Decide satisfiability modulo theory and assignment (SMA):
input may include **initial assignment**
 - ▶ **Boolean assignment**: $L \leftarrow \text{true}$ (**Boolean value**)
 - ▶ **First-order assignment**: $x \leftarrow 3$ (**non-Boolean value**)
- ▶ Answer **sat** if there exists satisfying assignment including initial one, **unsat** otherwise
- ▶ Initial assignment is relevant for parallelization, optimization as satisfiability, quantified satisfiability (**QSMA**)

CDSAT: most general conflict-driven reasoning procedure

- ▶ Transition system: transition rules (e.g., **Decide**, **Deduce**)
- ▶ Coordinates **theory modules**:
 \mathcal{T}_k -inference system + **finite local basis**
- ▶ Offers conflict-driven control accommodating also non-conflict-driven procedures (**black-box** modules)
- ▶ The modules collaborate as **peers** on a **shared trail** Γ containing the current assignment
- ▶ Each module offers **decisions** and **deductions**
propagation, **conflict detection**, **explanation**
- ▶ **Sound**, **complete**, **terminating** under suitable hypotheses
 - ▶ **Finite global basis** from the local ones for **termination**

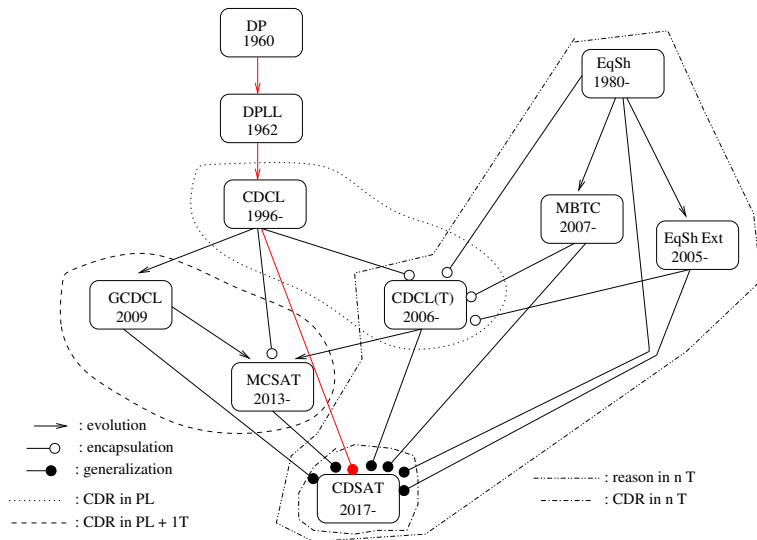
Assignments take center stage

- ▶ Assignments of **values** to **terms**:
 $(x > 1) \leftarrow \text{false}, ((x > 1) \vee (y < 0)) \leftarrow \text{true},$
 $(\text{store}(a, i, v) \simeq b) \leftarrow \text{true}, y \leftarrow \sqrt{2}, \text{select}(a, j) \leftarrow 3$
- ▶ Term and value have the same sort
- ▶ Formulas are **Boolean** terms (sort prop)
- ▶ **Plausible** assignment: does not contain $L \leftarrow \text{true}$ and $L \leftarrow \text{false}$
- ▶ **Terms** and **values** are kept separate:
term only on the left, **value** only on the right of an assignment
- ▶ $\text{select}(a, j) \leftarrow 3$ cannot be replaced by $\text{select}(a, j) \simeq 3$:
a value is not a term, is not in the signature
- ▶ What are **values**?

Theory extensions to define values

- ▶ From theory \mathcal{T}_k to **theory extension** \mathcal{T}_k^+ :
 - ▶ Add new constant symbols (and possibly axioms)
 - ▶ E.g.: add a constant symbol for every number (integers, rationals, algebraic reals)
 $\sqrt{2}$ is a constant symbol interpreted as $\sqrt{2}$
 - ▶ All \mathcal{T}_k^+ 's add true and false (all \mathcal{T}_k 's have sort prop)
 - ▶ **Trivial** if it adds only true and false
- ▶ **Values** in assignments are these constant symbols: \mathcal{T}_k -values
- ▶ \mathcal{T}_k -assignment: assigns \mathcal{T}_k -values
- ▶ **Conservative** theory extension: \mathcal{T}_k^+ -unsatisfiable implies \mathcal{T}_k -unsatisfiable

The big picture: propositional reasoning



Conflict-driven propositional satisfiability: CDCL

[Marques Silva, Sakallah: ICCAD 1996, IEEE TOC 1999]

- ▶ Candidate partial model represented as a **trail** Γ of Boolean assignments (stack)
- ▶ **Decision**: add L to Γ if $L \notin \Gamma$ and $\bar{L} \notin \Gamma$
Every decision opens new level on Γ
- ▶ **Unit propagation** detects **implied literals** and **conflict clauses**
- ▶ Resolution to **explain conflict**: learn resolvent C
- ▶ Backjump away from **conflict** to a state that satisfies C
- ▶ **First assertion clause** (or 1UIP) heuristic

CDSAT reduces to CDCL if **Bool** is the only theory in the union

CDSAT generalizes CDCL

- ▶ Transition rule **Decide**: $?L$
acceptable if $L \notin \Gamma$ and $\bar{L} \notin \Gamma$ (more later for first-order decisions)
- ▶ Transition rule **Deduce** adds **justified assignment** $J \vdash L$
with **justification** J if $J \vdash_k L$ for some \mathcal{T}_k
 $\text{level}_\Gamma(J \vdash L) = \text{level}_\Gamma(J)$ and $\text{level}_\Gamma(J) = \max\{\text{level}_\Gamma(A) \mid A \in J\}$
Deduce covers **unit propagation**: implied literal: $J \vdash L$
 $J \vdash_{\text{Bool}} L \quad J = \{C \vee L, \neg C\}$
- ▶ Input assignments on Γ at level 0 as justified assignments with empty justification: $\emptyset \vdash C$
- ▶ Trail not a stack: $J \vdash L$ may be added after assignments of higher level if multiple modules share Γ (**late propagation**)

CDSAT generalizes CDCL

- ▶ **Conflict**: $J \subseteq \Gamma$, $J \vdash_k L$ for some \mathcal{T}_k , and $\bar{L} \in \Gamma$
unsatisfiable assignment $E = J \cup \{\bar{L}\}$
- ▶ **Conflict state**: $\langle \Gamma; E \rangle$, $E \subseteq \Gamma$
- ▶ Transition rule **Resolve explains** E by replacing $J \vdash L$ in E with J
- ▶ Given **conflict** $E = J \uplus H$ with cube $H = \{\bar{L}_1, \dots, \bar{L}_k\}$
transition rule **LearnBackjump**
 - ▶ **Learns** $J \vdash C$ where $C = L_1 \vee \dots \vee L_k$:
 J entails C since $J \uplus H$ is unsatisfiable
 - ▶ **Backjumps** to a level m such that
 $m < \text{level}_\Gamma(H)$ (quit **conflict**) and
 $m \geq \text{level}_\Gamma(J)$ so that $J \vdash C$ can be added to Γ

First assertion clause heuristic in CDSAT

- ▶ Apply **Resolve** until **conflict** E contains only one literal \bar{L} whose level m is **max** in E
- ▶ Generalize 1UIP: **max** in E not necessarily max in Γ
- ▶ Apply **LearnBackjump** to **conflict** $E = J \uplus H$ where $H = \{\bar{L}\} \uplus H'$ and $H' = \{\bar{L}_1, \dots, \bar{L}_k\}$
- ▶ **Learn** $J \vdash C$ where $C = L_1 \vee \dots \vee L_k \vee L$ (first assertion clause)
- ▶ **Backjump** to level $n = \text{level}_\Gamma(J \uplus H')$:
 $n < \text{level}_\Gamma(H)$ as $\text{level}_\Gamma(H) = \text{level}_\Gamma(\bar{L})$ which is **max** in E
 $n \geq \text{level}_\Gamma(J)$ as $J \uplus H'$ is superset of J
- ▶ Apply **Deduce** to add $\{C\} \uplus H' \vdash L$ since $\{C\} \uplus H' \vdash_{\text{Bool}} L$

LearnBackjump may follow other heuristics (e.g., **learn and restart**)

Example where CDSAT emulates CDCL

1. $S = \{\bar{A} \vee B, \bar{A} \vee C \vee E, \bar{B} \vee D, \bar{C} \vee \bar{D}, A \vee \bar{B} \vee E, B \vee \bar{C}, F \vee \bar{E}\}$
subset of input
2. **Decide** adds $? \bar{F}$ to trail Γ opening level n
3. **Deduce** adds $J \vdash \bar{E}$ with $J = \{F \vee \bar{E}, ? \bar{F}\}$ to level n
since $\{F \vee \bar{E}, ? \bar{F}\} \vdash_{\text{Bool}} \bar{E}$
4. Two more **Decide** create levels $n + 1$ and $n + 2$
5. Another **Decide** adds $? A$ opening level $n + 3$
6. **Deduce** adds to level $n + 3$
 $H \vdash B$ with $H = \{\bar{A} \vee B, ? A\}$
 $I \vdash C$ with $I = \{\bar{A} \vee C \vee E, J \vdash \bar{E}, ? A\}$
 $K \vdash D$ with $K = \{\bar{B} \vee D, H \vdash B\}$

Example where CDSAT emulates CDCL

7. $\{\overline{C} \vee \overline{D}, \textcolor{blue}{I} \vdash C\} \vdash_{\text{Bool}} \overline{D}$ but $\textcolor{blue}{K} \vdash D \in \Gamma$
Conflict: $E_0 = \{\overline{C} \vee \overline{D}, \textcolor{blue}{I} \vdash C, \textcolor{blue}{K} \vdash D\}$
/* $\overline{C} \vee \overline{D}$ is conflict clause, not assertion clause */
8. E_0 contains literals $\textcolor{blue}{I} \vdash C$ and $\textcolor{blue}{K} \vdash D$ of max level $(n+3)$
Resolve: $E_1 = \{\overline{C} \vee \overline{D}, \textcolor{blue}{I} \vdash C, \overline{B} \vee D, \textcolor{blue}{H} \vdash B\}$
/* $\overline{C} \vee \overline{D}$ and $\overline{B} \vee D$ yield $\overline{B} \vee \overline{C}$ (not assertion clause) */
9. E_1 contains literals $\textcolor{blue}{I} \vdash C$ and $\textcolor{blue}{H} \vdash B$ of max level $(n+3)$
Resolve: $E_2 = \{\overline{C} \vee \overline{D}, \overline{A} \vee C \vee E, \textcolor{blue}{J} \vdash \overline{E}, \textcolor{blue}{?}A, \overline{B} \vee D, \textcolor{blue}{H} \vdash B\}$
/* $\overline{B} \vee \overline{C}$ and $\overline{A} \vee C \vee E$ yield $\overline{B} \vee \overline{A} \vee E$ (not assertion clause) */
10. E_2 contains literals $\textcolor{blue}{?}A$ and $\textcolor{blue}{H} \vdash B$ of max level $(n+3)$
Resolve: $E_3 = \{\overline{C} \vee \overline{D}, \overline{A} \vee C \vee E, \textcolor{blue}{J} \vdash \overline{E}, \textcolor{blue}{?}A, \overline{B} \vee D, \overline{A} \vee B\}$
/* $\overline{B} \vee \overline{A} \vee E$ and $\overline{A} \vee B$ yield $\overline{A} \vee E$ (assertion clause) */

Example where CDSAT emulates CDCL

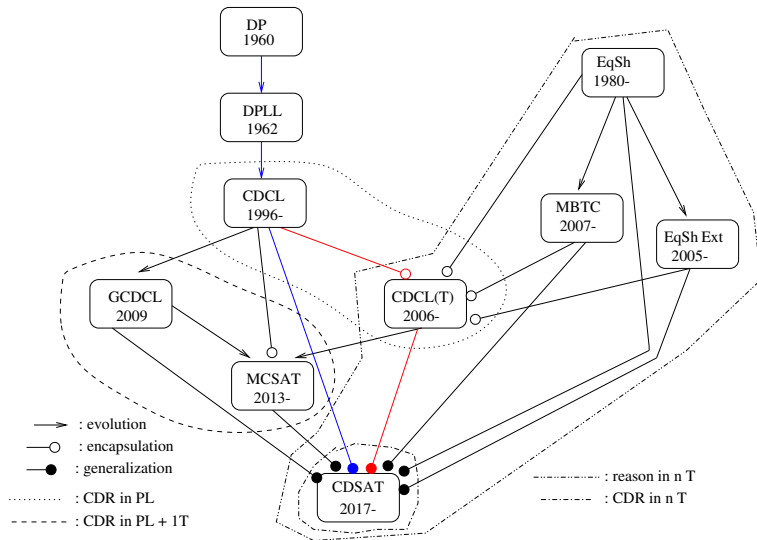
$$E_3 = \{\overline{C} \vee \overline{D}, \overline{A} \vee C \vee E, \textcolor{blue}{J} \vdash \overline{E}, \textcolor{red}{?}A, \overline{B} \vee D, \overline{A} \vee B\}$$

$\textcolor{red}{?}A$ has level $n + 3$ (max), $\textcolor{blue}{J} \vdash \overline{E}$ has level n , and the rest has level 0

11. **LearnBackjump** jumps back to level n
adds $G \vdash (\overline{A} \vee E)$ with $G = \{\overline{C} \vee \overline{D}, \overline{A} \vee C \vee E, \overline{B} \vee D, \overline{A} \vee B\}$
12. **Deduce** adds $M \vdash \overline{A}$ with $M = \{G \vdash (\overline{A} \vee E), \textcolor{blue}{J} \vdash \overline{E}\}$
since $\{G \vdash (\overline{A} \vee E), \textcolor{blue}{J} \vdash \overline{E}\} \vdash_{\text{Bool}} \overline{A}$
13. **Deduce** adds $N \vdash \overline{B}$ with $N = \{A \vee \overline{B} \vee E, M \vdash \overline{A}, \textcolor{blue}{J} \vdash \overline{E}\}$
14. **Deduce** adds $P \vdash \overline{C}$ with $P = \{B \vee \overline{C}, N \vdash \overline{B}\}$

Γ contains $\{\overline{E}, \overline{A}, \overline{B}, \overline{C}\}$ model of S

The big picture: from SAT to SMT



CDCL(\mathcal{T}): from SAT to SMT

DPLL(\mathcal{T}) later renamed CDCL(\mathcal{T}) for \mathcal{T} a single theory
[Nieuwenhuis, Oliveras, Tinelli: JACM 2006]

- ▶ CDCL + decision procedure for \mathcal{T} -satisfiability of set of \mathcal{T} -literals
- ▶ CDCL works on propositional abstraction:
 \mathcal{T} -atoms replaced by propositional variables
- ▶ Let $\{L_1, \dots, L_n\} \subseteq \Gamma$ and $C = \bar{L}_1 \vee \dots \vee \bar{L}_n$
 \mathcal{T} -sat procedure contributes only:
 - ▶ **\mathcal{T} -conflict** detection: if $\{L_1, \dots, L_n\}$ is \mathcal{T} -unsat
 C is conflict clause
 - ▶ **\mathcal{T} -propagation**: if $\{L_1, \dots, L_n\}$ \mathcal{T} -entails L
add L to Γ with justification $C \vee L$
 L **must be** an input literal (i.e., **not new**)

CDCL(\mathcal{T}): from SAT to SMT

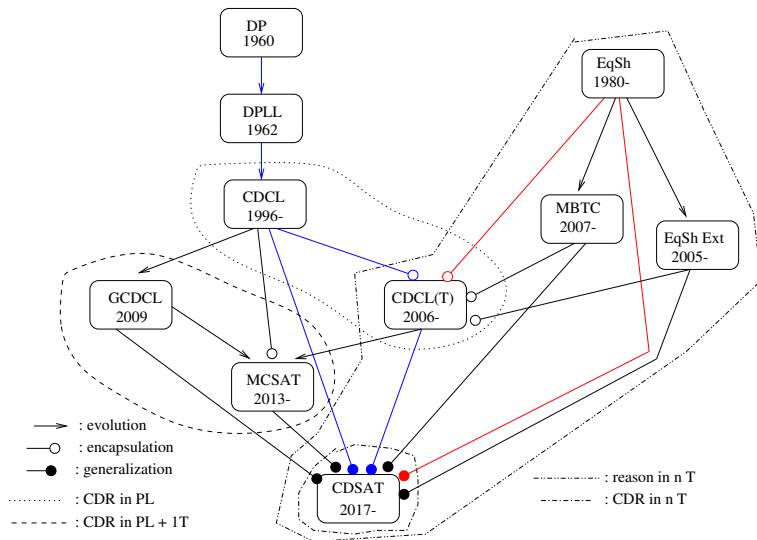
- ▶ \mathcal{T} -sat procedure integrated as a **black-box**
 - ▶ That only raises a flag if it detects an inconsistency in the propositional model that CDCL is building ignoring the theory:
 - ▶ **\mathcal{T} -conflict**: $\{L_1, \dots, L_n\}$ is \mathcal{T} -unsat
 $\bar{L}_1 \vee \dots \vee \bar{L}_n$ is \mathcal{T} -valid consequence of the input
 - ▶ **\mathcal{T} -propagation**: $\{L_1, \dots, L_n, \bar{L}\}$ is \mathcal{T} -unsat
 $\bar{L}_1 \vee \dots \vee \bar{L}_n \vee L$ is \mathcal{T} -valid consequence of the input
- Never deduce anything that excludes a \mathcal{T} -model but is not a \mathcal{T} -valid consequence of the input
- ▶ Model search, trail, conflict explanation, conflict-driven reasoning remain propositional

CDSAT generalizes CDCL(\mathcal{T})

- ▶ Consider a theory union whose members are **Bool** and \mathcal{T}
- ▶ Theory modules:
 - ▶ **Bool**-module
 - ▶ **Black-box** \mathcal{T} -module:
 - ▶ Only one inference rule: $L_1, \dots, L_m \vdash \perp$
 - ▶ That invokes the \mathcal{T} -procedure to detect \mathcal{T} -unsat of a set of literals

CDSAT can use a **black-box** \mathcal{T} -module
whenever a theory \mathcal{T} does not have a conflict-driven procedure

The big picture: theory combination



Classical approach to theory combination: equality sharing

Equality sharing aka Nelson-Oppen method

[Nelson, Oppen: ACM TOPLAS 1979]

- ▶ $\mathcal{T} = \bigcup_{k=1}^n \mathcal{T}_k$: disjoint theories (share \simeq and sorts)
- ▶ Decision procedure for \mathcal{T}_k -satisfiability of set of \mathcal{T}_k -literals
- ▶ Stably infinite: \mathcal{T}_k -model with infinite cardinality
- ▶ Get decision procedure for \mathcal{T} -satisfiability of set of \mathcal{T} -literals
- ▶ Combination of decision procedures as black-boxes
- ▶ By disjointness, agreement is needed on:
 - ▶ Cardinalities of shared sorts: by stable infiniteness
 - ▶ Equalities between shared terms: needs work

Equality sharing: separation

- ▶ Input set S : \mathcal{T} -literals mix symbols from the \mathcal{T}_k 's signatures
- ▶ **Separate** S into sets S_k of \mathcal{T}_k -literals sharing only \simeq and variables

Example: S contains $f(2, y) \simeq f(x, y)$

- ▶ **EUF** ($f \in \Sigma_{\text{EUf}}$) and **LIA** ($2 \in \Sigma_{\text{LIA}}$)
- ▶ Shared sort: \mathbb{Z} ; \simeq is $\simeq_{\mathbb{Z}}$; $f: \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$
- ▶ **EUf**: 2 is a variable
- ▶ **LIA**: $f(2, y)$ and $f(x, y)$ are variables
- ▶ $S_{\text{EUf}} = \{w_1 \simeq f(w_2, y), w_3 \simeq f(x, y), w_1 \simeq w_3\}$
- ▶ $S_{\text{LIA}} = \{w_2 \simeq 2, w_1 \simeq w_3\}$
- ▶ **Shared variables**: $\mathcal{V}_{\text{sh}}(S) = \{w_1, w_2, w_3\}$

How CDSAT handles separation

- ▶ Input set S : \mathcal{T} -literals mix symbols from the \mathcal{T}_k 's signatures
- ▶ Each \mathcal{T}_k treats as a variable a term whose top symbol is **foreign**

Example: S contains $f(2, y) \simeq f(x, y)$
(i.e., $(f(2, y) \simeq f(x, y)) \leftarrow \text{true}$)

- ▶ **EUf** ($f \in \Sigma_{\text{EUf}}$) and **LIA** ($2 \in \Sigma_{\text{LIA}}$)
- ▶ Shared sort: \mathbb{Z} ; \simeq is $\simeq_{\mathbb{Z}}$; $f: \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$
- ▶ **EUf**: 2 is **foreign** hence a variable
- ▶ **LIA**: f is **foreign** hence $f(2, y)$ and $f(x, y)$ are variables
- ▶ **Shared terms**:

$$\mathcal{V}_{\text{sh}}(S) = \{f(2, y) \simeq f(x, y), f(2, y), 2, f(x, y)\}$$

Equality sharing: the reduction

- ▶ Reduce the \mathcal{T} -sat problem to \mathcal{T}_k -sat problems
- ▶ S is \mathcal{T} -sat iff $\bigcup_{k=1}^n S_k$ is \mathcal{T} -sat
- ▶ **Arrangement** α : represents a **partition** of $\mathcal{V}_{\text{sh}}(S)$
- ▶ α : conjunction that contains
 - ▶ $u \simeq v$ if u and v in the same class of the partition
 - ▶ $u \not\simeq v$ otherwise
- ▶ Combination theorem:
 $\bigcup_{k=1}^n S_k$ is \mathcal{T} -sat iff $\exists \alpha$ s.t. $S_k \wedge \alpha$ is \mathcal{T}_k -sat ($1 \leq k \leq n$)

Equality sharing: build arrangement (convex theories)

- ▶ $\mathcal{E}_0 = \emptyset$
- ▶ $\mathcal{E}_i = \mathcal{E}_{i-1} \cup \{u \simeq v\}$ if a \mathcal{T}_k -sat procedure deduces $u \simeq v$ from $S_k \cup \mathcal{E}_{i-1}$
- ▶ If a \mathcal{T}_k -sat procedure deduces \perp from $S_k \cup \mathcal{E}_i$ for some i : return **unsat** (S is **\mathcal{T} -unsat**)
- ▶ Otherwise, let $\alpha = \mathcal{E}_q$ such that $\mathcal{E}_q = \mathcal{E}_{q-1}$ (no more equalities) and return **sat** (S is **\mathcal{T} -sat**)

Complete for **convex** theories:

\mathcal{T}_k is **convex** if

$\mathcal{T}_k \models H \supset \bigvee_{i=1}^n u_i \simeq v_i$ implies $\exists j, 1 \leq j \leq n, \mathcal{T}_k \models H \supset u_j \simeq v_j$

H : a conjunction of \mathcal{T}_k -literals

Equality sharing: build arrangement (non-convex theories)

- ▶ \mathcal{T}_k **not convex**: \mathcal{T}_k -procedure deduces $\bigvee_{j=1}^m u_j \simeq v_j$
- ▶ \mathcal{T} -procedure calls itself recursively on each subproblem obtained by adding $u_j \simeq v_j$ to current \mathcal{E}_i
- ▶ In practice: CDCL(\mathcal{T}) where \mathcal{T} -procedure is equality sharing combination [Barrett, Nieuwenhuis, Oliveras, Tinelli: LPAR 2006] [Krstić, Amit Goel: FroCoS 2007]
 - ▶ \mathcal{T} -procedure sends (propositional abstraction of) $\bigvee_{j=1}^m u_j \simeq v_j$ to CDCL
 - ▶ Reasoning about disjunction is entrusted to CDCL
 - ▶ Case $u_j \simeq v_j$ is considered when CDCL puts it on the trail
 - ▶ Sole new (i.e., non-input) literals in CDCL(\mathcal{T}):
(propositional abstractions of) equalities between shared variables

Equality sharing is not conflict-driven

- ▶ Combining theories by combining procedures
- ▶ \mathcal{T}_k -procedures combined as **black-boxes**
- ▶ Generation of (disjunctions of) equalities resembles saturation (can be emulated by superposition)
- ▶ In $\text{CDCL}(\mathcal{T})$ where \mathcal{T} -procedure is equality sharing combination, model search, trail, conflict explanation, conflict-driven reasoning remain propositional

In order to see how CDSAT emulates Equality Sharing, let's learn more about theory modules in CDSAT

Theory modules $\mathcal{I}_1, \dots, \mathcal{I}_n$ for theories $\mathcal{T}_1, \dots, \mathcal{T}_n$

- ▶ Theory module \mathcal{I}_k for theory \mathcal{T}_k is a set of inference rules $J \vdash_k L$ where
 - ▶ J is a \mathcal{T}_k -assignment: may contain first-order assignments
 - ▶ L is a singleton **Boolean** assignment
 - ▶ If a first-order assignment to x follows from the trail it can be added as a decision (**forced decision**)
- ▶ **Local basis**: $\text{basis}_k(X)$ contains all terms that \mathcal{I}_k can generate from set of terms X

CDSAT modules: equality inferences

All CDSAT theory modules include **equality inferences**:

- ▶ Reflexivity: $\vdash t \simeq t$
- ▶ Symmetry: $t \simeq s \vdash s \simeq t$
- ▶ Transitivity: $t \simeq s, s \simeq u \vdash t \simeq u$
- ▶ Same value: $t \leftarrow c, s \leftarrow c \vdash t \simeq s$
- ▶ Different values: $t \leftarrow c, s \leftarrow q \vdash t \not\simeq s$

With first-order assignments, two ways to make $t \simeq s$ true:
 $(t \simeq s) \leftarrow \text{true}$ and $t \leftarrow c, s \leftarrow c$

CDSAT generalizes equality sharing

- ▶ Each \mathcal{T}_k module can place its inferences $J \vdash_k L$ as justified assignments $J \vdash L$ on the **shared trail** by **Deduce** transitions (**Deduce** covers \mathcal{T}_k -propagation)
 - ▶ Equality inferences: transitivity steps and equalities from first-order assignments contribute to build an arrangement
 - ▶ Theory specific inference rules can deduce (disjunctions of) equalities
- ▶ The \mathcal{T}_k modules cooperate to build an arrangement **publicly** on the **shared trail**
- ▶ Disjunctions are handled by the **Bool**-module by **decision** and **unit propagation** (as in CDCL)

CDSAT module for equality with uninterpreted functions

- ▶ $\Sigma_{\text{EUF}} = \langle S, F \rangle$ $\text{prop} \in S$ $\simeq_s \in F$ for all sorts $s \in S$
- ▶ EUF^+ may be **trivial** or add countably many values for each $s \in S \setminus \{\text{prop}\}$ used as labels of congruence classes, e.g.:
 $t_1 \leftarrow c, t_2 \leftarrow c, t_3 \leftarrow c_3, t_4 \leftarrow c_4, t_5 \leftarrow c_5$
shorter than
 $t_1 \simeq t_2, t_1 \not\simeq t_3, t_1 \not\simeq t_4, t_1 \not\simeq t_5, t_3 \not\simeq t_4, t_3 \not\simeq t_5, t_4 \not\simeq t_5$
- ▶ **Congruence:**
 - ▶ $(t_i \simeq u_i)_{i=1\dots m}, (f(t_1, \dots, t_m) \not\simeq f(u_1, \dots, u_m)) \vdash_{\text{EUF}} \perp$
 - ▶ $(t_i \simeq u_i)_{i=1\dots m} \vdash_{\text{EUF}} f(t_1, \dots, t_m) \simeq f(u_1, \dots, u_m)$
 - ▶ $(t_i \simeq u_i)_{i=1\dots m, i \neq j}, f(t_1, \dots, t_m) \not\simeq f(u_1, \dots, u_m) \vdash_{\text{EUF}} t_j \not\simeq u_j$
- ▶ **basis_{EUF}(X):** all subterms of terms in **X** and all equalities between them

Example where CDSAT emulates equality sharing

1. $\{x \leq y, y \leq (x + g(x)), P(h(x) - h(y)), \neg P(0), g(x) \simeq 0\}$
Theory union: **LIA** \cup **EUF**
2. $S = \{x \leq y, y \leq (x + g(x)), f(h(x) - h(y)) \simeq \bullet, f(0) \not\simeq \bullet, g(x) \simeq 0\}$
 $\mathcal{V}_{\text{sh}}(S) = \{x, y, g(x), h(x), h(y), h(x) - h(y), 0\}$
3. **LIA**-module: $\{y \leq x + g(x), g(x) \simeq 0\} \vdash_{\text{LIA}} y \leq x$
Deduce: $J \vdash (y \leq x)$ (level 0)
with $J = \{y \leq x + g(x), g(x) \simeq 0\}$
/* step hidden in **black-box LIA**-procedure in equality sharing */
4. **LIA**-module: $\{x \leq y, J \vdash (y \leq x)\} \vdash_{\text{LIA}} x \simeq y$
Deduce: $H \vdash (x \simeq y)$ (level 0)
with $H = \{x \leq y, J \vdash (y \leq x)\}$

Example where CDSAT emulates equality sharing

5. **EUF**-module: $H \vdash (x \simeq y) \vdash_{\text{EUf}} h(x) \simeq h(y)$
Deduce: $I \vdash (h(x) \simeq h(y))$ (level 0)
with $I = \{H \vdash (x \simeq y)\}$
6. **LIA**-module: $I \vdash (h(x) \simeq h(y)) \vdash_{\text{LIA}} h(x) - h(y) \simeq 0$
Deduce: $K \vdash (h(x) - h(y) \simeq 0)$ (level 0)
with $K = \{I \vdash (h(x) \simeq h(y))\}$
7. **EUF**-module:
 $\{f(h(x) - h(y)) \simeq \bullet, K \vdash (h(x) - h(y) \simeq 0)\} \vdash_{\text{EUf}} f(0) \simeq \bullet$
but the trail contains $f(0) \not\simeq \bullet$
EUf-conflict:
 $E = \{f(h(x) - h(y)) \simeq \bullet, K \vdash (h(x) - h(y) \simeq 0), f(0) \not\simeq \bullet\}$
(level 0)
Fail returns **unsat** (nowhere to backjump to)

CDSAT can emulate equality sharing

- ▶ Each \mathcal{T}_k module can also place **decisions** on the **shared trail** by **Decide** transitions
- ▶ A \mathcal{T}_k -inference $J \vdash_k L$ from $J \subseteq \Gamma$ leads to \mathcal{T}_k -**conflict**
 $E = J \cup \{\bar{L}\}$ if $\bar{L} \in \Gamma$
- ▶ Solved by **LearnBackjump**

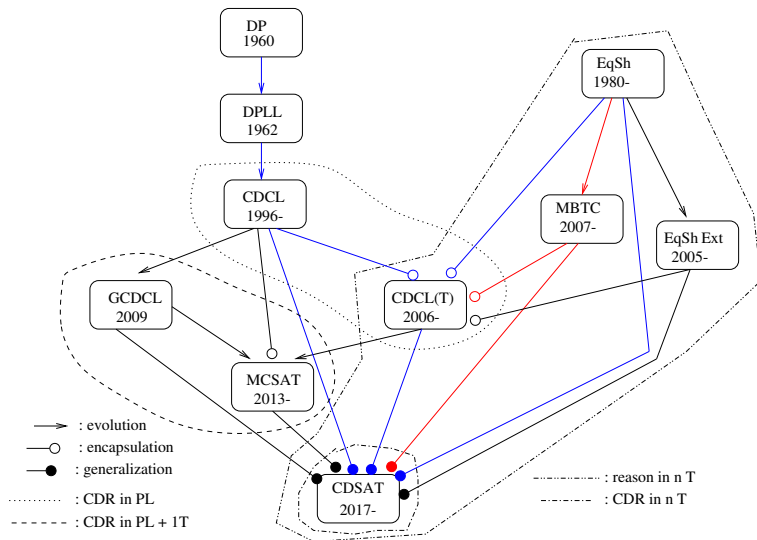
Example where CDSAT emulates equality sharing: variant

1. $\{x \leq y, y \leq (x + g(x)), P(h(x) - h(y)), \neg P(0), g(x) \simeq 0\}$
theories: **LIA** \cup **EUF**
2. $S = \{x \leq y, y \leq (x + g(x)), f(h(x) - h(y)) \simeq \bullet, f(0) \not\simeq \bullet, g(x) \simeq 0\}$
 $\mathcal{V}_{\text{sh}}(S) = \{x, y, g(x), h(x), h(y), h(x) - h(y), 0\}$
3. **EUF**-module: **Decide** adds $?(x \not\simeq y)$ (level 1)
4. **LIA**-module: $\{y \leq x + g(x), g(x) \simeq 0\} \vdash_{\text{LIA}} y \leq x$
Deduce: $J \vdash (y \leq x)$ (level 0)
with $J = \{y \leq x + g(x), g(x) \simeq 0\}$ /* **late propagation** */
5. **LIA**-module: $\{x \leq y, J \vdash (y \leq x)\} \vdash_{\text{LIA}} x \simeq y$
but the trail contains $?(x \not\simeq y)$
LIA-conflict: $E_0 = \{?(x \not\simeq y), x \leq y, J \vdash (y \leq x)\}$

Example where CDSAT emulates equality sharing: variant

6. **LIA-conflict**: $E_0 = \{?(x \neq y), x \leq y, \text{ } \perp \vdash (y \leq x)\}$
 $?(x \neq y)$ has level 1, the rest has level 0
7. **LearnBackjump**: back to level 0 adding $\text{ } \vdash (x \simeq y)$
 $H = \{x \leq y, \text{ } \perp \vdash (y \leq x)\}$
the derivation continues as before

The big picture: more theory combination



Model-based theory combination (MBTC)

[de Moura, Bjørner: SMT 2007]

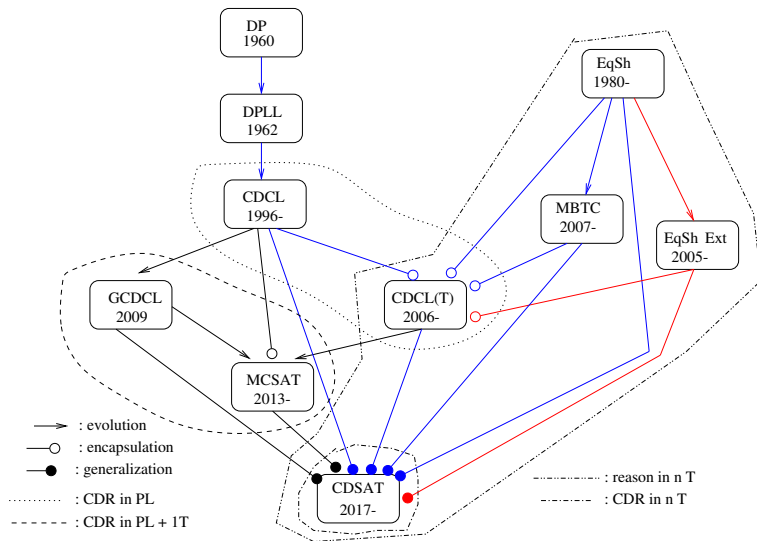
- ▶ Variant of equality sharing in CDCL(\mathcal{T})
- ▶ Assume \mathcal{T}_k -sat procedure builds candidate model \mathcal{M}_k (e.g., linear arithmetic)
- ▶ Share $u \simeq v$ if true in \mathcal{M}_k not necessarily \mathcal{T}_k -entailed by $S_k \cup \mathcal{E}_i$ (u and v \mathcal{T}_k -terms occurring in S_k)
- ▶ (Propositional abstraction of) $u \simeq v$ posted on trail as decision
- ▶ If \mathcal{T}_k -**conflict** ensues, undo, and update \mathcal{M}_k
- ▶ Useful to accelerate reaching **sat**

\mathcal{M}_k and conflict-driven updates remain inside **black-box** procedure

CDSAT generalizes MBTC

- ▶ All theory modules cooperate as **peers** to build a model for $\mathcal{T} = \bigcup_{k=1}^n \mathcal{T}_k$ on the **shared trail**
- ▶ A theory module \mathcal{I}_k can build a partial \mathcal{T}_k -model \mathcal{M}_k **publicly** on the **shared trail**
- ▶ \mathcal{I}_k can **deduce** an equality $u \simeq v$ that follows from assignments in \mathcal{M}_k : CDSAT modules **deduce** from first-order assignments
- ▶ If a conflict ensues, $u \simeq v$ and the first-order decisions from which it depends will be undone, and \mathcal{M}_k will be amended
- ▶ MBTC does it with a decision, because in CDCL(\mathcal{T}) only \mathcal{T} -valid consequences of the input can be deduced

The big picture: more theory combination



Extensions of equality sharing

[Tinelli, Zarba: JAR 2005] [Fontaine: FroCoS 2009]

[Jovanović, Barrett: LPAR 2010] [Toledo, Przybicki, Zohar: CADE 2025]

- ▶ Variants of equality sharing in $\text{CDCL}(\mathcal{T})$
- ▶ Equality sharing requires the theories to be **stably infinite**
- ▶ Variants allow \mathcal{T}_1 **not stably infinite**, if \mathcal{T}_2 satisfies stronger cardinality requirements
- ▶ Still combining theories by combining procedures
- ▶ Procedures combined as **black-boxes**
- ▶ Completeness approach as in equality sharing: hypotheses on theories + combination theorem

CDSAT does not require **stable infiniteness**

CDSAT and agreement on cardinalities of sorts

- ▶ CDSAT requires that there exists **leading theory**, say \mathcal{T}_1 , that
 - ▶ Has all sorts in the theory union
 - ▶ Has all cardinality constraints aggregated and enforced by \mathcal{T}_1 -module inferences
- ▶ Every \mathcal{T}_k ($k \neq 1$) has to agree with \mathcal{T}_1 on what's shared: any two \mathcal{T}_k and \mathcal{T}_j ($k \neq j$) agree
- ▶ Agreement guaranteed by theory modules **completeness** requirements:
 - ▶ \mathcal{T}_1 -module **complete**
 - ▶ \mathcal{T}_k -module ($k \neq 1$) **leading-theory-complete**
- ▶ CDSAT approach to **completeness** differs from that of (variants of) equality sharing

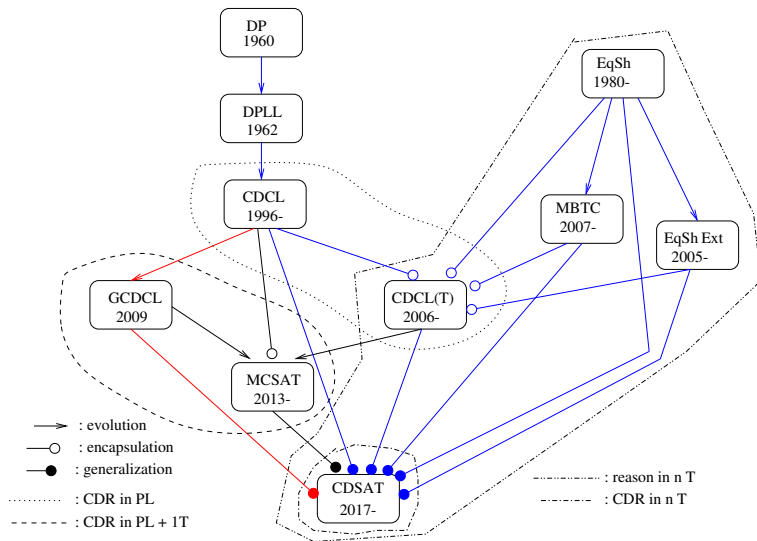
Examples

1. All theories **stably infinite**: \mathcal{T}_1 is fictional $\mathcal{T}_{\mathbb{N}}$ that interprets all sorts (except prop) as having the cardinality of \mathbb{N}
2. **At-most- m** cardinality constraint on sort s :
$$\forall x_0, \dots, \forall x_m. \bigvee_{0 \leq i \neq k \leq m} x_i \simeq_s x_k$$

 x_0, \dots, x_m : $m + 1$ distinct variables of sort s
Inference rule in the \mathcal{T}_1 -module:
$$\bigwedge_{0 \leq i \neq k \leq m} u_i \not\simeq_s u_k \vdash_{\mathcal{T}_1} \perp$$

 u_0, \dots, u_m : any $m + 1$ distinct terms of sort s
3. Aggregation: if \mathcal{T}_2 says **at-most- m** and \mathcal{T}_2 says **at-most- p** ,
 \mathcal{T}_1 says **at-most- $\min(m, p)$**

The big picture: conflict-driven theory reasoning



Conflict-driven satisfiability procedures in arithmetic

Generalize the CDCL pattern:

- ▶ Candidate model: theory model (e.g., LRA, LIA, NRA)
- ▶ Assignment: also to first-order terms
(e.g., $x \leftarrow 3$, $x < y \leftarrow \text{true}$, $z \leftarrow y + 3$)
- ▶ Propagation: also evaluation of arithmetic expressions
(e.g., $y \leftarrow 0 \vdash_{\text{LRA}} (y > 2) \leftarrow \text{false}$)
- ▶ Explanation: also theory-conflicts by theory inferences
- ▶ Learn lemmas that may contain new (non-input) atoms and may exclude first-order assignments
- ▶ Expensive theory inferences only on demand to respond to conflicts

Outline of GCDCL procedure for generic single theory \mathcal{T}

[McMillan, Kuehlmann, Sagiv: CAV 2009]

- ▶ Embed reasoning about disjunction into theory reasoning by generalizing to \mathcal{T} -clauses a theory reasoning inference rule for \mathcal{T} -literals
- ▶ Apply the generalized rule only to **explain conflicts**
- ▶ Devise restrictions to ensure **termination**

Achieved in GCDCL: linear rational arithmetic (**LRA**)

Linear rational arithmetic (LRA)

- ▶ Input: set S of LRA-clauses
- ▶ LRA-term: rational constant c , sum $c_1 \cdot x_1 + \dots + c_n \cdot x_n$
- ▶ LRA-clause: disjunction of $t_1 \triangleleft t_2$ literals, $\triangleleft \in \{<, \leq\}$
- ▶ $\overline{(t_1 < t_2)}$ and $\overline{(t_1 \leq t_2)}$ replaced by $t_2 \leq t_1$ and $t_2 < t_1$
- ▶ $t_1 \simeq t_2$ rewritten as $t_1 \leq t_2$ and $t_2 \leq t_1$
- ▶ Variable x with positive coefficient:
rearrange literal into upper bound $x \triangleleft t$
- ▶ Variable x with negative coefficient:
rearrange literal into lower bound $t \triangleleft x$

Linear rational arithmetic (LRA)

- Fourier-Motzkin (FM) resolution:

$$\{t_1 \leq_1 x, x \leq_2 t_2\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} t_1 \leq_3 t_2$$

$$\leq_1, \leq_2, \leq_3 \in \{<, \leq\}$$

\leq_3 is $<$ if either \leq_1 or \leq_2 is $<$ and \leq otherwise

- Transitive closure: $\{x < -y, -y < -2\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} x < -2$

- Linear combination of constraints:

$$\{x + y < 0, -y + 2 < 0\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} x + 2 < 0$$

- Fourier-Motzkin algorithm:

termination guaranteed

(elim one variable at each round, finitely many variables)

but generates a doubly exponential number of constraints

[Lassez, Maher: JAR 1992]

Generalized CDCL (GCDCL) for LRA

[McMillan, Kuehlmann, Sagiv: CAV 2009]

- ▶ Generalize FM-resolution to LRA-clauses: shadow rule e.g.:
 $\{(b < d) \vee (c < d), d < a\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} (b < a) \vee (c < a)$
- ▶ Generates new (non-input) atoms
- ▶ Applied only to explain LRA-conflicts
generating lemmas excluding LRA-assignments
- ▶ Add restrictions to recover termination:
assume fixed total ordering \prec_{LRA} on rational variables
apply inference only if the variable resolved upon is
 \prec_{LRA} -maximum in both premises

Independently:

[Korovin, Tsiskaridze, Voronkov: CP 2009] [Cotton: FORMATS 2010]

CDSAT module for linear rational arithmetic (LRA)

- ▶ Signature Σ_{LRA} :
 - ▶ Sorts: $S = \{\text{prop}, \mathbb{Q}\}$
 - ▶ Symbols: \simeq_s for all $s \in S$
 $1, +, <, \leq, q \cdot$ for all rational numbers $q \in \mathbb{Q}$
- ▶ Theory extension LRA^+ adds constants \tilde{q} for all $q \in \mathbb{Q}$
- ▶ Inference rules:
 - ▶ **Evaluation**: $(t_1 \leftarrow \tilde{q}_1, \dots, t_m \leftarrow \tilde{q}_m) \vdash_{\text{LRA}} l \leftarrow b$
 - ▶ **Disequality elimination**:
 $t_1 \leq x, x \leq t_2, t_1 \simeq_{\mathbb{Q}} t_0, t_2 \simeq_{\mathbb{Q}} t_0, x \not\simeq_{\mathbb{Q}} t_0 \vdash_{\text{LRA}} \perp$
detects **LRA-conflict**: no value for variable x

CDSAT module for linear rational arithmetic (LRA)

- ▶ **FM-resolution**: $\{t_1 \prec_1 x, x \prec_2 t_2\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} t_1 \prec_3 t_2$
 $\prec_1, \prec_2, \prec_3 \in \{<, \leq\}$
 \prec_3 is $<$ if either \prec_1 or \prec_2 is $<$ and \leq otherwise
- ▶ **basis_{LRA}(X)**: subterms, equalities, disequalities restricting FM-resolution to resolve on the \prec_{LRA} -maximum variable
- ▶ **Detection of empty solution space**:
 $\{y_1 \leftarrow \tilde{q}_1, \dots, y_m \leftarrow \tilde{q}_m\} \uplus E \vdash_{\text{LRA}} \perp$
for all x in E , $x \prec_{\text{LRA}} y_i$ or $x = y_i$ for some i ($1 \leq i \leq m$)
- ▶ Alternatively and in practice: **sensible** search plan that selects rational variables for decision in **\prec_{LRA} -increasing order**

For CDSAT at work on conflict-driven theory reasoning, we need:

- ▶ Acceptability of first-order decisions
- ▶ Transition rule **Deduce** beyond unit propagation and deduction of equalities between shared terms
- ▶ Transition rule to solve conflicts due to first-order decisions:
UndoClear

Let's also have a more formal look at the CDSAT trail

CDSAT trail: a sequence of assignments

- ▶ Each assignment is a **decision** $?A$ or a **justified assignment** $H \vdash A$
- ▶ **Decision**: either **Boolean** or **first-order**; opens the next level
- ▶ **Justification** of A : set H of assignments that appear before A
 - ▶ Due to an inference $H \vdash_k A$
 - ▶ Due to conflict-solving transitions
 - ▶ **Boolean** or input **first-order** assignment
 - ▶ Input assignment ($H = \emptyset$)
- ▶ Level of A : max among those of the elements of H
- ▶ A justified assignment of level 5 may appear after a decision of level 6: **late propagation**; a trail is not a stack

Acceptability of a decision

- ▶ **Boolean** decision $?L$: it suffices $L \notin \Gamma$ and $\bar{L} \notin \Gamma$
- ▶ **First-order** decision $?(u \leftarrow c)$
where c is a \mathcal{T}_k -value:
 - ▶ Trail Γ does not assign a \mathcal{T}_k -value to term u
 - ▶ $u \leftarrow c$ does not trigger a \mathcal{T}_k -inference $J \cup \{u \leftarrow c\} \vdash_k \bar{L}$
with $J \subseteq \Gamma$ and $L \in \Gamma$
 - ▶ Excluding a first-order decision that triggers an immediate conflict from which nothing can be learned

CDSAT transition rule Deduce

- ▶ Propagation:
 - ▶ **Boolean propagation**: e.g., unit propagation
 - ▶ **\mathcal{T}_k -propagation**: e.g., propagation of equalities when emulating equality sharing
- ▶ **\mathcal{T}_k -inferences** that **explain** a **\mathcal{T}_k -conflict** generating lemmas possibly excluding **\mathcal{T}_k -assignments** until the **\mathcal{T}_k -conflict** can be **detected** as a Boolean conflict on the trail:
 $J \vdash_k L$ and $\bar{L} \in \Gamma$
unsatisfiable assignment $E = J \cup \{\bar{L}\}$

CDSAT transition rule UndoClear

- ▶ The assignment of **max** level in the conflict is a first-order decision
- ▶ A first-order assignment does not have a complement that can be learned
- ▶ **UndoClear** incorporates backtracking from the level of the bad decision to the previous one
- ▶ The state has changed due to a **late propagation**
- ▶ **UndoClear** fires after a **late propagation**:
bad decision was **acceptable** prior to the **late propagation**;
causes a conflict afterwards

Example with UndoClear

$\{l_0: 2x + y \simeq 1, l_1: 2x + 2y \simeq 1\}$ subset of the input (level 0)

1. **Decide:** $?(x \leftarrow 0)$ (level 1) /* **acceptable** */
2. **Deduce:** $J \vdash (y \simeq 0)$ with $J = \{2x + y \simeq 1, 2x + 2y \simeq 1\}$ (level 0)
FM-resolution: $\{2x + y \simeq 1, 2x + 2y \simeq 1\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} y \simeq 0$ ($l_1 - l_0$)
/* **late propagation** */
3. $\{?(x \leftarrow 0), J \vdash (y \simeq 0)\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} 2x + y \not\simeq 1$ detects
LRA-conflict $E = \{?(x \leftarrow 0), J \vdash (y \simeq 0), 2x + y \simeq 1\}$
UndoClear: undo $? (x \leftarrow 0)$ (**max** level in E) back to level 0
4. **Decide:** $? (x \leftarrow 1/2)$ (level 1)
/* **forced decision:** **only acceptable** value for x */

Example of non-termination of FM-resolution

Infinite sequence of FM-resolutions alternating on distinct variables:

$$\begin{array}{llll} l_0 : & -2 \cdot x - y < 0 & & \\ l_1 : & x + y < 0 & & \\ l_2 : & x < -1 & & \\ l_3 : & -y < -2 & (l_0 + 2l_2) & \text{elim } x \\ l_4 : & x < -2 & (l_1 + l_3) & \text{elim } y \\ l_5 : & -y < -4 & (l_0 + 2l_4) & \text{elim } x \\ l_6 : & x < -4 & (l_1 + l_5) & \text{elim } y \\ l_7 : & -y < -8 & (l_0 + 2l_6) & \text{elim } x \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \end{array}$$

It may arise even if FM-resolution is applied
only to respond to **LRA-conflicts**

Example where CDSAT emulates GCDCL

$l_0: -2 \cdot x - y < 0, l_1: x + y < 0, l_2: x < -1$ (level 0)

1. Decide: $?(y \leftarrow 0)$ (level 1) /* acceptable */
LRA-conflict: $\{-2 \cdot x - y < 0, x < -1, y \leftarrow 0\}$
2. Explained by $l_0 + 2l_2: \{-y < 2 \cdot x, 2 \cdot x < -2\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} -y < -2$
Deduce: $l_3: -y < -2$ (level 0) /* late propagation */
3. $y \leftarrow 0 \vdash_{\text{LRA}} \overline{-y < -2}$ detects LRA-conflict $\{y \leftarrow 0, -y < -2\}$
UndoClear: undo $?(y \leftarrow 0)$ and back to level 0
4. Decide: $?(x \leftarrow -2)$ (level 1) /* acceptable */
LRA-conflict: $\{x + y < 0, -y < -2, x \leftarrow -2\}$
5. Explained by $l_1 + l_3: \{x < -y, -y < -2\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} x < -2$
Deduce: $l_4: x < -2$ (level 0) /* late propagation */

Example where CDSAT emulates GCDCL

6. $x \leftarrow -2 \vdash_{\text{LRA}} \overline{x < -2}$ detects **LRA-conflict** $\{x \leftarrow -2, x < -2\}$
UndoClear: undo $? (x \leftarrow -2)$ and back to level 0
7. **Decide**: $? (y \leftarrow -3)$ (level 1) /* **acceptable** */
LRA-conflict: $\{-2 \cdot x - y < 0, x < -2, y \leftarrow -3\}$
8. Explained by $l_0 + 2l_4$: $\{-y < 2 \cdot x, 2 \cdot x < -4\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} -y < -4$
Deduce: $l_5: -y < -4$ (level 0) /* **late propagation** */
9. $y \leftarrow -3 \vdash_{\text{LRA}} \overline{-y < -4}$ detects **LRA-conflict** $\{y \leftarrow -3, -y < -4\}$
UndoClear: undo $? (y \leftarrow -3)$ and back to level 0
10. **Decide**: $? (x \leftarrow -3)$ (level 1) /* **acceptable** */
LRA-conflict: $\{x + y < 0, -y < -4, x \leftarrow -3\}$

Example where CDSAT emulates GCDCL

11. Explained by $l_1 + l_5: \{x < -y, -y < -4\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} x < -4$
Deduce: $l_6: x < -4$ (level 0) /* late propagation */
12. $x \leftarrow -3 \vdash_{\text{LRA}} \overline{x < -4}$ detects LRA-conflict $\{x \leftarrow -3, x < -4\}$
UndoClear: undo $?(x \leftarrow -3)$ and back to level 0
13. Decide: $?(y \leftarrow -5)$ (level 1) /* acceptable */
LRA-conflict: $\{-2 \cdot x - y < 0, x < -4, y \leftarrow -5\}$
14. Explained by $l_0 + 2l_6: \{-y < 2 \cdot x, 2 \cdot x < -8\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} -y < -8$
Deduce: $l_7: -y < -8$ (level 0) /* late propagation */
15. $y \leftarrow -5 \vdash_{\text{LRA}} \overline{-y < -8}$ detects LRA-conflict $\{y \leftarrow -5, -y < -8\}$
UndoClear: undo $?(y \leftarrow -5)$ and back to level 0
- ...

Example where CDSAT emulates GCDCL

- ▶ Assume $y \prec_{\text{LRA}} x$
- ▶ 2nd FM-resolution inference in the non-halting sequence:
 $\{x < -y, -y < -2\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} x < -2$
is barred: it resolves on y when x occurs in the premises
- ▶ All GCDCL or CDSAT derivations embedding that diverging series of FM-resolution inferences are barred
- ▶ Multiple CDSAT-derivations discover that
 $l_0: -2 \cdot x - y < 0, l_1: x + y < 0, l_2: x < -1$
is **LRA-unsatisfiable**
- ▶ A simple one does it by mere **LRA-propagations** at level 0

Example where CDSAT emulates GCDCL

$l_0: -2 \cdot x - y < 0$, $l_1: x + y < 0$, $l_2: x < -1$ (level 0)

Assume $y \prec_{\text{LRA}} x$

1. **Deduce**: $l_3: -y < -2$ (level 0)

$l_0 + 2l_2: \{-y < 2 \cdot x, 2 \cdot x < -2\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} -y < -2$

/* x is \prec_{LRA} -max variable in both premises */

2. **Deduce**: $l_4: y < 0$ (level 0) /*normal form of $-y < -2 \cdot y$ */

$l_0 + 2l_1: \{-y < 2 \cdot x, 2 \cdot x < -2 \cdot y\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} -y < -2 \cdot y$

/* x is \prec_{LRA} -max variable in both premises */

3. **Deduce**: $l_5: 2 < 0$ (level 0)

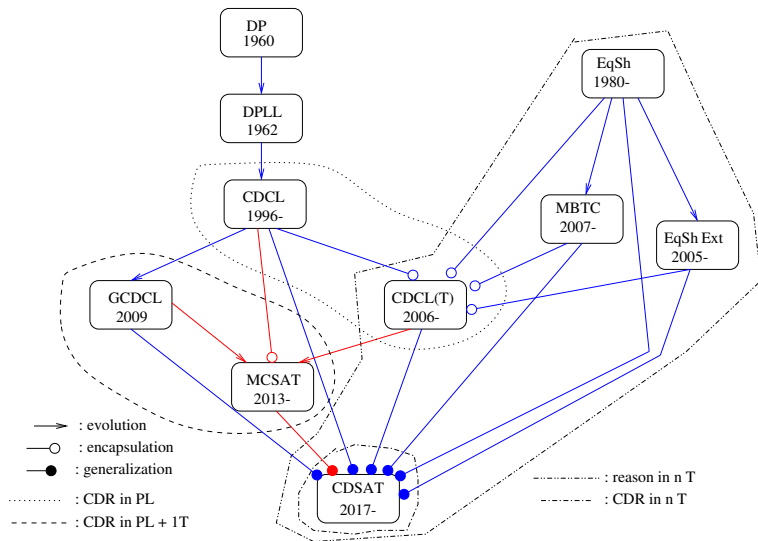
$-l_3 + l_4: \{2 < y, y < 0\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} 2 < 0$

/* y is \prec_{LRA} -max variable in both premises as there is no x */

4. $\emptyset \vdash_{\text{LRA}} \overline{2 < 0}$ reveals **LRA-conflict** at level 0

so that **Fail** returns **unsat**

The big picture: better conflict-driven theory reasoning



Conflict-driven satisfiability procedures for sets of \mathcal{T} -literals:

- ▶ **LIA**: Cutting-to-the-chase procedure
[Jovanović, de Moura: CADE 2011, JAR 2013]
[Bromberger et al.: CADE 2015]
- ▶ **NRA**: NLSAT
[Jovanović, de Moura: IJCAR 2012]
- ▶ Use **first-order** assignments
- ▶ **Explain conflicts** by inferences that generate **new** atoms and may exclude **first-order** assignments

Conflict-driven satisfiability procedures for sets of \mathcal{T} -clauses?

From GCDCL to MCSAT

- ▶ No need to generalize to \mathcal{T} -clauses an inference rule for \mathcal{T} -literals
- ▶ Entrust the reasoning about disjunction to CDCL
- ▶ Integrate in CDCL a conflict-driven \mathcal{T} -satisfiability procedure for sets of \mathcal{T} -literals
- ▶ CDCL(\mathcal{T})? No, it allows
neither **first-order assignment** nor **new** atoms on the trail
nor **\mathcal{T} -inferences** generating lemmas possibly excluding
first-order assignments
- ▶ MCSAT (Model-Constructing SATisfiability)
[de Moura, Jovanović: VMCAI 2013]
[Jovanović, Barrett, de Moura: FMCAD 2013]

MCSAT (Model-Constructing SATisfiability)

- ▶ Integrate CDCL and **one** model-constructing conflict-driven \mathcal{T} -sat procedure for sets of \mathcal{T} -literals (called \mathcal{T} -plugin) that
 - ▶ Has access to the trail
 - ▶ Proposes assignments to first-order terms: \mathcal{T} -assignments
 - ▶ Computes \mathcal{T} -propagations
 - ▶ Explains \mathcal{T} -conflicts by \mathcal{T} -inferences generating lemmas possibly excluding \mathcal{T} -assignments
 - ▶ Lemma may contain **new** (i.e., non-input) atoms coming from a **finite basis** for **termination**
- ▶ CDCL and the \mathcal{T} -plugin cooperate in model construction
- ▶ Both propositional and \mathcal{T} -reasoning are conflict-driven

CDSAT generalizes MCSAT

- ▶ CDSAT generalizes MCSAT to generic union $\mathcal{T} = \bigcup_{k=1}^n \mathcal{T}_k$
- ▶ MCSAT is not a combination calculus
hence does not cover, e.g.:
 - ▶ Interaction of multiple first-order theories on the trail
 - ▶ Conflict-drivenness for more than one first-order theory
 - ▶ Combination of conflict-driven and **black-box** procedures
 - ▶ **Soundness**, **completeness**, **termination** for theory combination
 - ▶ Construction of **finite global basis** from local ones
- ▶ CDSAT does **not** require model-constructing \mathcal{T}_k -sat procedures in the sense of MCSAT

CDSAT generalizes MCSAT

- ▶ CDSAT and MCSAT have different transition systems, e.g.:
 - ▶ MCSAT evaluation mechanism $\rightsquigarrow \mathcal{T}_k$ -inferences in CDSAT
 - ▶ MCSAT explanation function $\rightsquigarrow \mathcal{T}_k$ -inferences in CDSAT
explanation function: private to \mathcal{T}_k -plugin
 \mathcal{T}_k -inferences in CDSAT: public on shared trail
- ▶ CDSAT provides foundations for instances of theory combination in MCSAT implementations, e.g.:
 $\text{Bool} \cup \text{EUF} \cup \text{LRA}$ [Jovanović, Barrett, de Moura: FMCAD 2013]
- ▶ CDSAT allows **predicate-sharing** theories
MCSAT assumes **disjoint** theories

CDSAT reduces to MCSAT if theory union contains only **Bool** and **one** theory \mathcal{T} equipped with a conflict-driven model-constructing \mathcal{T} -sat procedure for sets of \mathcal{T} -literals

Example where CDSAT emulates MCSAT

$x < y, x < z, (y < w) \vee (z < w), w < x$ (level 0)

Assume $x \prec_{\text{LRA}} y \prec_{\text{LRA}} z \prec_{\text{LRA}} w$ and a sensible search plan

1. Decide: $?(x \leftarrow 0)$ (level 1) /* acceptable */
2. Decide: $?(y \leftarrow 1)$ (level 2) /* acceptable */
/* $?(y \leftarrow 0)$ not acceptable: $\{x \leftarrow 0, y \leftarrow 0\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} \overline{(x < y)}$ */
3. Decide: $?(z \leftarrow 1)$ (level 3) /* acceptable */
/* $?(z \leftarrow 0)$ not acceptable: $\{x \leftarrow 0, z \leftarrow 0\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} \overline{(x < z)}$ */

LRA-conflict:

$\{x \leftarrow 0, y \leftarrow 1, z \leftarrow 1, w < x, (y < w) \vee (z < w)\}$

Equivalently: no acceptable value for w

Disjunction: case analysis by Bool-module

Example where CDSAT emulates MCSAT

4. **Decide:** $?(y < w)$ (level 4)
5. **Deduce:** $J \vdash (y < x)$ (level 4)
 $J = \{?(y < w), \emptyset \vdash (w < x)\}$ (level 4)
 $\{?(y < w), \emptyset \vdash (w < x)\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} y < x$
/* w is $\prec_{\text{LRA-max}}$ variable in both $y < w$ and $w < x$ */
6. **Deduce:** $I \vdash (x < x)$ (level 4)
 $I = \{\emptyset \vdash (x < y), J \vdash (y < x)\}$ (level 4)
 $\{\emptyset \vdash (x < y), J \vdash (y < x)\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} x < x$
/* y is $\prec_{\text{LRA-max}}$ variable in both $x < y$ and $y < x$ */
LRA-conflict: $E_0 = \{I \vdash (x < x)\}$
7. **Resolve:** $E_1 = \{\emptyset \vdash (x < y), J \vdash (y < x)\}$
8. **Resolve:** $E_2 = \{\emptyset \vdash (x < y), ?(y < w), \emptyset \vdash (w < x)\}$

Example where CDSAT emulates MCSAT

9. **LearnBackjump**: back to level 0 adding $H \vdash (\overline{y < w})$
 $H = \{\emptyset \vdash (x < y), \emptyset \vdash (w < x)\}$
/* 0 is smallest level where $\overline{y < w}$ is undefined */
10. **Deduce**: $G \vdash (z < w)$ (level 0)
 $G = \{H \vdash (\overline{y < w}), \emptyset \vdash ((y < w) \vee (z < w))\}$ (level 0)
 $\{H \vdash (\overline{y < w}), \emptyset \vdash ((y < w) \vee (z < w))\} \vdash_{\text{Bool}} z < w$
/* shadow rule unnecessary: Bool-module handles \vee by decision and unit propagation; LRA-module reasons about LRA-literals */
11. **Deduce**: $K \vdash (z < x)$ (level 0)
 $K = \{G \vdash (z < w), \emptyset \vdash (w < x)\}$ (level 0)
 $\{G \vdash (z < w), \emptyset \vdash (w < x)\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} z < x$
/* w is $\prec_{\text{LRA-max}}$ variable in both $z < w$ and $w < x$ */

Example where CDSAT emulates MCSAT

12. **Deduce**: $M \vdash (x < x)$ (level 0)

$M = \{\emptyset \vdash (x < z), \ K \vdash (z < x)\}$ (level 0)

$\{\emptyset \vdash (x < z), \ K \vdash (z < x)\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} x < x$

/* z is $\prec_{\text{LRA-max}}$ variable in both $x < z$ and $z < x$ */

13. **LRA-conflict**: $E_3 = \{M \vdash (x < x)\}$ (level 0)

Fail returns **unsat**

- ▶ **Deduce** covers both conflict explanation and propagation
- ▶ CDSAT can apply inferences (e.g., FM-resolution) more liberally than MCSAT

CDSAT: Conflict-driven reasoning from a theory to many

- ▶ **Conflict-driven** behavior and **black-box** integration are at odds: each conflict-driven \mathcal{T}_k -sat procedure needs to access the trail, post assignments, perform inferences, explain \mathcal{T}_k -**conflicts**, export lemmas
- ▶ Key abstraction in CDSAT: open the **black-boxes**
pull out the \mathcal{T}_k -inference systems
coordinate them in a **conflict-driven** way
- ▶ If \mathcal{T}_k has no conflict-driven \mathcal{T}_k -sat procedure:
black-box inference rule $L_1, \dots, L_m \vdash_k \perp$
invokes the \mathcal{T}_k -procedure to detect \mathcal{T}_k -unsat

Theory view of an assignment

It defines what a theory sees of an assignment:

- ▶ \mathcal{T}_k -view of assignment H , written H_k :
 - ▶ \mathcal{T}_k -assignments in H : those that assign \mathcal{T}_k -values
 - ▶ $u \simeq t$ if H contains $u \leftarrow c$ and $t \leftarrow c$
 - ▶ $u \not\simeq t$ if H contains $u \leftarrow c$ and $t \leftarrow q$ with $c \neq q$

u and t of \mathcal{T}_k -sort s ($s \neq \text{prop}$)

$u \leftarrow c$ and $t \leftarrow c$ may be posted by \mathcal{T}_j ($k \neq j$) sharing s
- ▶ **Global view:**
 - ▶ The \mathcal{T} -view of H for $\mathcal{T} = \bigcup_{k=1}^n \mathcal{T}_k$
 - ▶ $H_{\mathcal{T}}$ has everything

Key notion for theory combination (MCSAT does not have it)

Theory view: example

$$H = \{x > 1, \text{store}(a, i, v) \simeq b, \text{select}(a, j) \leftarrow \text{red}, y \leftarrow -1, z \leftarrow 2\}$$

- ▶ $H_{\text{Bool}} = \{x > 1, \text{store}(a, i, v) \simeq b\}$
- ▶ $H_{\text{Arr}} = \{x > 1, \text{store}(a, i, v) \simeq b, \text{select}(a, j) \leftarrow \text{red}\}$
- ▶ $H_{\text{LRA}} = \{x > 1, \text{store}(a, i, v) \simeq b, y \leftarrow -1, z \leftarrow 2, y \neq z\}$
- ▶ $H_{\text{EUF}} = \{x > 1, \text{store}(a, i, v) \simeq b, y \neq z\}$
assuming EUF has the sort Q of the rational numbers
- ▶ A **Boolean** assignment belongs to every theory view
- ▶ **Global view**: $H \cup \{y \neq z\}$

Term u is **relevant** to \mathcal{T}_k in assignment J if

- ▶ Either u occurs in J (also as subterm), \mathcal{T}_k has the sort s of u and has values for s
- ▶ Term u is an equality $u_1 \simeq_s u_2$ s.t. u_1 and u_2 occur in J , \mathcal{T}_k has sort s , but not values for s
- ▶ Term u is a Boolean term $p(u_1, \dots, u_m)$ s.t. p is a **shared predicate** symbol (by \mathcal{T}_k and at least another theory), the u_i 's occur in J , and \mathcal{T}_k has their sorts

Key notion for theory combination (MCSAT does not have it)

Relevance: example

- ▶ $H = \{x \leftarrow 5, f(x) \leftarrow 2, f(y) \leftarrow 3\}$
- ▶ $x, y: Q, \quad f: Q \rightarrow Q, \quad \text{LRA and EUF share sort } Q$
- ▶ $H_{\text{LRA}} = H \cup \{x \neq f(x), x \neq f(y), f(x) \neq f(y)\}$
- ▶ $H_{\text{EUF}} = \{x \neq f(x), x \neq f(y), f(x) \neq f(y)\}$
- ▶ x and y are **LRA-relevant**, not **EUF-relevant**
- ▶ $x \simeq y$ is **EUF-relevant**, not **LRA-relevant**
- ▶ **LRA** makes x and y equal/different by assigning them same/different values
- ▶ **EUF** makes x and y equal/different by assigning a truth value to $x \simeq y$

Acceptability revisited

$\Gamma_{\mathcal{T}_k}$: the \mathcal{T}_k -view of trail Γ

A \mathcal{T}_k -assignment $u \leftarrow c$ is an **acceptable** decision $?(u \leftarrow c)$ for the \mathcal{T}_k -module if

1. Term u is relevant to \mathcal{T}_k in $\Gamma_{\mathcal{T}_k}$
2. $\Gamma_{\mathcal{T}_k}$ does not assign a \mathcal{T}_k -value to term u
3. If $u \leftarrow c$ is a first-order assignment: $t \leftarrow c$ does not trigger a \mathcal{T}_k -inference $J \cup \{u \leftarrow c\} \vdash_k \bar{L}$ with $J \subseteq \Gamma_{\mathcal{T}_k}$ and $L \in \Gamma_{\mathcal{T}_k}$

CDSAT transition rule UndoDecide

- ▶ The assignment of **max** level in conflict E is a justified assignment $J \vdash L$ where J contains a first-order decision $?A$ such that $\text{level}_\Gamma(?A) = \text{level}_\Gamma(J) = \text{level}_\Gamma(E)$
- ▶ **UndoDecide** undoes $?A$, backtracks, and puts \bar{L} on the trail
- ▶ A first-order assignment does not have a complement, but its Boolean consequence does
- ▶ **Resolve** is forbidden: replacing $J \vdash L$ with J in E and undoing $?A$ by **UndoClear** can cause a loop if **Decide** reiterates $?A$

- ▶ Signature Σ_{Arr} :
 - ▶ Sorts: $S = \{\text{prop}, I, V, A\}$, I : indices, V : (array) values, A : arrays with indices of sort I and values of sort V
 - ▶ Symbols: \simeq_s for all $s \in S$, select (read), store (write)
- ▶ Theory extension Arr^+ may be trivial or add countably many values for each $s \in S \setminus \{\text{prop}\}$
- ▶ Inference rules corresponding to the **select-over-store** axioms:
 1. $i \simeq j \longrightarrow \text{select}(\text{store}(a, i, v), j) \simeq v$
 $\{i \simeq j, b \simeq \text{store}(a, i, v), \text{select}(b, j) \not\simeq v\} \vdash_{\text{Arr}} \perp$
 2. $i \not\simeq j \longrightarrow \text{select}(\text{store}(a, i, v), j) \simeq \text{select}(a, j)$
 $\{i \not\simeq j, b \simeq \text{store}(a, i, v), \text{select}(b, j) \not\simeq \text{select}(a, j)\} \vdash_{\text{Arr}} \perp$

CDSAT module for arrays with extensionality

- ▶ **Extensionality** axiom:
 $(\forall i. \text{select}(a, i) \simeq \text{select}(b, i)) \longrightarrow a \simeq b$
- ▶ Clausal form:
 $\text{select}(a, \text{diff}(a, b)) \not\simeq \text{select}(b, \text{diff}(a, b)) \vee a \simeq b$
Skolem function $\text{diff} : A \times A \rightarrow I$ captures the witness index
- ▶ Inference rule:
 $a \not\simeq b \vdash_{\text{Arr}} \text{select}(a, \text{diff}(a, b)) \not\simeq \text{select}(b, \text{diff}(a, b))$
- ▶ **basis**_{Arr}(X): all subterms of terms in X , equalities btw them, and witness terms $\text{select}(a, \text{diff}(a, b))$, $\text{select}(b, \text{diff}(a, b))$

Example with theory clauses and UndoDecide

- ▶ Input set S contains clauses:
 - ▶ $C_1: (i \neq j) \vee (\text{select}(\text{store}(a, i, v), j) < \text{select}(a, j))$
 - ▶ $C_2: (\text{select}(a, j) - \text{select}(a, k)) \simeq 0$
 - ▶ $C_3: (\text{select}(\text{store}(a, i, v), j) \not< \text{select}(a, j)) \vee (\text{select}(a, j) + \text{select}(a, k) \simeq v)$
- ▶ Theory union: $\text{Bool} \cup \text{LRA} \cup \text{Arr}$
- ▶ Suppose Arr interprets indices as integers:
 $I = \mathbb{Z}$ and Arr^+ adds integer constants as Arr -values

Example with theory clauses and UndoDecide

1. Arr-module: Decide $?(i \leftarrow 0)$ (level 1)
/* acceptable as i is relevant to Arr */
2. Arr-module: Decide $?(j \leftarrow 0)$ (level 2)
3. Arr-module: equality inference $\{i \leftarrow 0, j \leftarrow 0\} \vdash_{\text{Arr}} i \simeq j$
Deduce: $A_1: \mathcal{J} \vdash (i \simeq j)$ with $J = \{?(i \leftarrow 0), ?(j \leftarrow 0)\}$ (level 2)
4. Bool-module: unit propagation
 $\{A_1, C_1\} \vdash_{\text{Bool}} \text{select}(\text{store}(a, i, v), j) < \text{select}(a, j)$
Deduce: $A_2: \mathcal{I} \vdash (\text{select}(\text{store}(a, i, v), j) < \text{select}(a, j))$
with $I = \{A_1, C_1\}$ (level 2)

Example with theory clauses and UndoDecide

5. Bool-module: unit propagation

$\{A_2, C_3\} \vdash_{\text{Bool}} \text{select}(a, j) + \text{select}(a, k) \simeq v$

Deduce: $A_3 : H \vdash (\text{select}(a, j) + \text{select}(a, k) \simeq v)$

with $H = \{A_2, C_3\}$ (level 2)

6. Arr-module: first select-over-store rule

$\{A_1, A_2\} \vdash_{\text{Arr}} v < \text{select}(a, j)$

Deduce: $A_4 : G \vdash (v < \text{select}(a, j))$

with $G = \{A_1, A_2\}$ (level 2)

7. LRA-module: FM-resolution $A_3 + C_2$

$\{A_3, C_2\} \vdash_{\text{LRA}} \text{select}(a, j) \simeq v/2$

Deduce: $A_5 : M \vdash (\text{select}(a, j) \simeq v/2)$

with $M = \{A_3, C_2\}$ (level 2)

Example with theory clauses and UndoDecide

LRA-conflict: $E_0 = \{A_4, A_5\}$

as $A_4: \mathcal{G} \vdash (v < \text{select}(a, j))$ and $A_5: \mathcal{M} \vdash (\text{select}(a, j) \simeq v/2)$

8. E_0 contains literals A_4 and A_5 of max level (2)

Resolve: $E_1 = \{A_4, A_3, C_2\}$

9. E_1 contains literals A_3 and A_4 of max level (2)

Resolve: $E_2 = \{A_1, A_2, A_3, C_2\}$

10. E_2 contains literals A_1, A_2 and A_3 of max level (2)

Resolve: $E_3 = \{A_1, A_2, C_3, C_2\}$

11. E_3 contains literals A_1 , and A_2 of max level (2)

Resolve: $E_4 = \{A_1, C_1, C_3, C_2\}$

Example with theory clauses and UndoDecide

$$E_4 = \{A_1, C_1, C_3, C_2\}$$

E_4 contains **one** literal of max level: $\text{level}_\Gamma(A_1) = 2 = \text{level}_\Gamma(E_4)$

A_1 is $J \vdash (i \simeq j)$ and $J = \{?(i \leftarrow 0), ?(j \leftarrow 0)\}$
where $?(j \leftarrow 0)$ also has level 2

Apply **Resolve** to replace A_1 with J
and **UndoClear** to undo $?(j \leftarrow 0)$?

No, the system could loop by repeating $?(j \leftarrow 0)$
(still acceptable)

Example with theory clauses and UndoDecide

12. **UndoDecide**: undo $\gamma(j \leftarrow 0)$, backtrack to level 1,
and add decision $\gamma(i \not\approx j)$ (level 2)
/* $C_1: (i \not\approx j) \vee (\text{select}(\text{store}(a, i, v), j) < \text{select}(a, j))$ is satisfied */
13. **LRA**-module: **Decide** $\gamma(\text{select}(a, j) \leftarrow 1)$ (level 3)
14. **LRA**-module: **Decide** $\gamma(\text{select}(a, k) \leftarrow 1)$ (level 4)
/* $C_2: (\text{select}(a, j) - \text{select}(a, k)) \simeq 0$ is satisfied */
15. **LRA**-module: **Decide** $\gamma(v \leftarrow 2)$ (level 5)
/* $C_3: (\text{select}(\text{store}(a, i, v), j) \not\approx \text{select}(a, j)) \vee$
 $(\text{select}(a, j) + \text{select}(a, k) \simeq v)$ is satisfied */

Example with theory clauses and UndoDecide: variant

Suppose theory Arr does not have values for array indices:
 i and j not relevant, Arr-module cannot decide their values

1. Arr-module: Decide $?(i \simeq j)$ (level 1)
/* acceptable as $i \simeq j$ is relevant to Arr */
2. The same transitions as before lead to conflict
 $\{?(i \simeq j), C_1, C_3, C_2\}$ (level 1)
3. LearnBackjump backtracks to level 0 and places $N \vdash (i \not\simeq j)$
on the trail with $N = \{C_1, C_3, C_2\}$
4. The satisfiability of the clauses can be detected as before

Current and future work

- ▶ More theory modules: maps, vectors (aka dynamic arrays), vectors with concatenation
(possibly subsuming sequences and hence strings)
- ▶ Formulas with quantifiers: CDSAT(QSMA)
- ▶ CDSAT search plans: both global and local issues
 - ▶ Heuristic strategies to make decisions, prioritize theory inferences, control lemma learning
 - ▶ Efficient techniques to detect applicability of theory inference rules and acceptability of decisions
- ▶ Architecture of a CDSAT solver
- ▶ Baby verified implementation written in Rust by Xavier Denis:
<https://github.com/xldenis/cdsat>

- ▶ The CDSAT method for satisfiability modulo theories and assignments: an exposition.
Proc. CiE-21, LNAI 15764, 1–16, Springer, 2025.
- ▶ Conflict-driven satisfiability for theory combination: transition system and completeness. JAR, 64(3):579–609, 2020.
- ▶ Conflict-driven satisfiability for theory combination: modules, lemmas, and proofs. JAR, 66(1):43–91, 2022.
- ▶ CDSAT for predicate-sharing theories: arrays, maps, and vectors with abstract domain. In preparation.

Thank you!