

# An Introduction to Boolean Satisfiability

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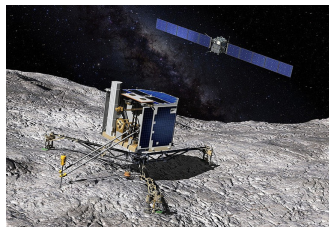
INSA-Toulouse & LAAS-CNRS

January 5, 2023

# Context & Introduction

# Context: Solving (Very) Hard Combinatorial Problems

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<https://homepages.laas.fr/ehebrard/rosetta.html>

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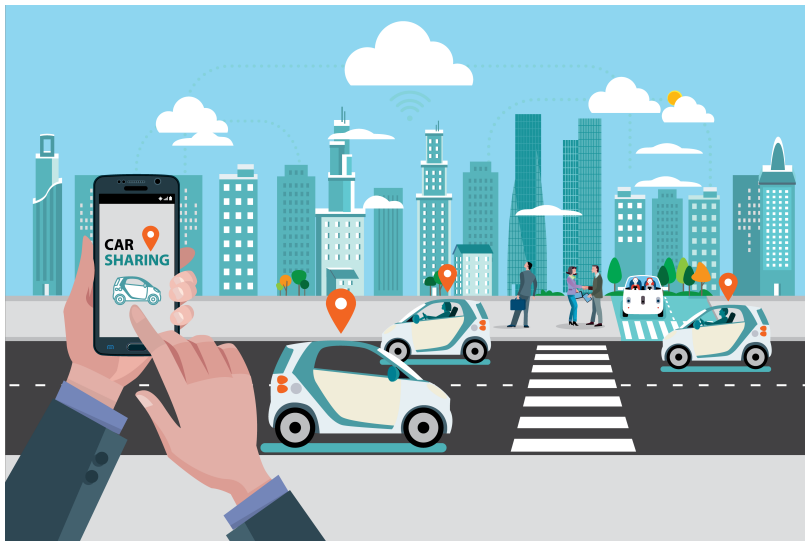
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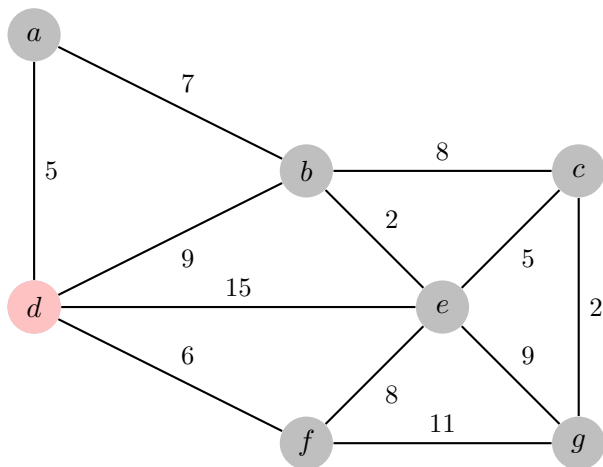
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- We are missing job opportunities in optimisation!
- SAT as a tool to tackle combinatorial problems
- We focus in this course on the modelling aspect
- Resources for combinatorial optimisation: Many! a good start would be the online course on discrete optimisation  
<https://www.coursera.org/learn/discrete-optimization>
- Handbook of Satisfiability - Second Edition - IOS Press, 2021

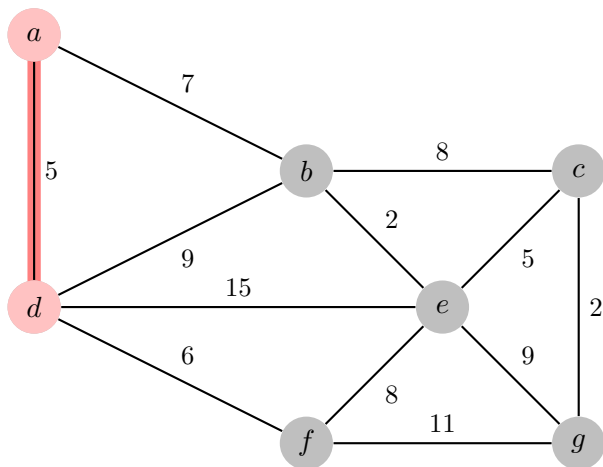


# Exemple

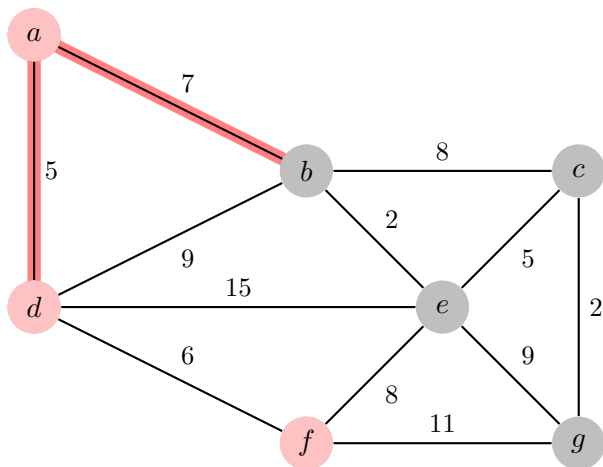




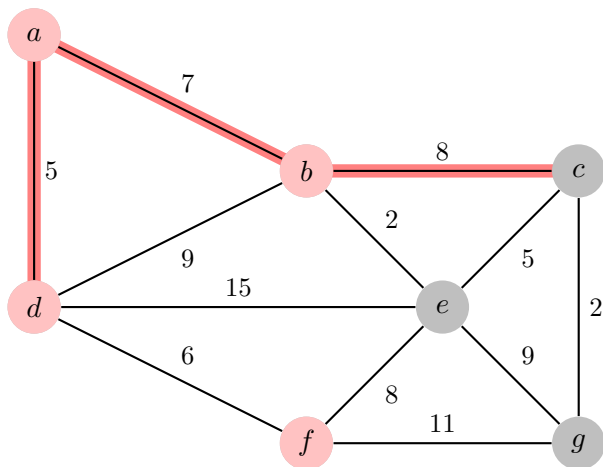
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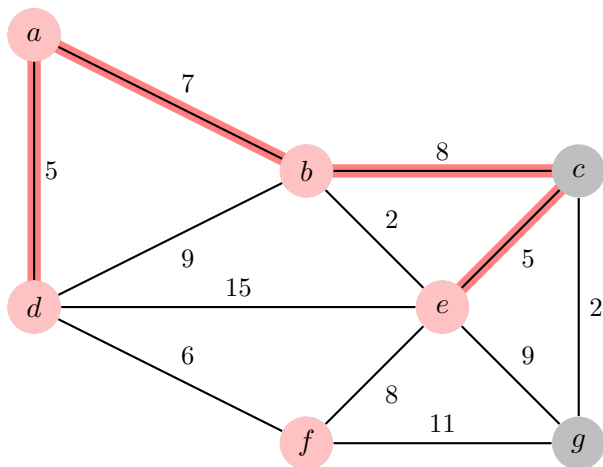
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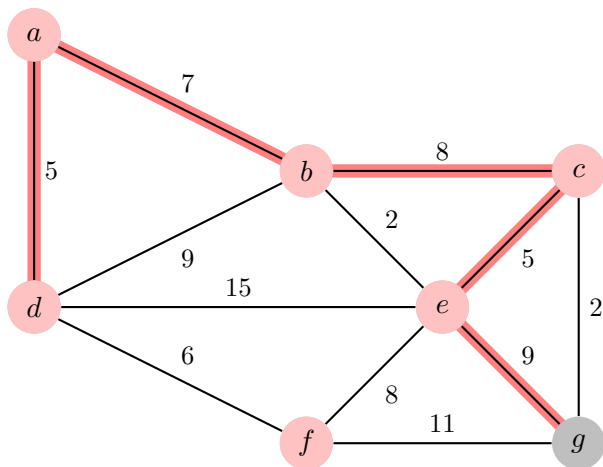
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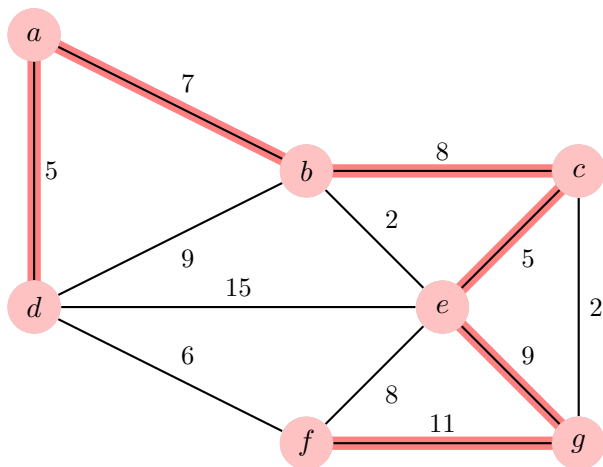
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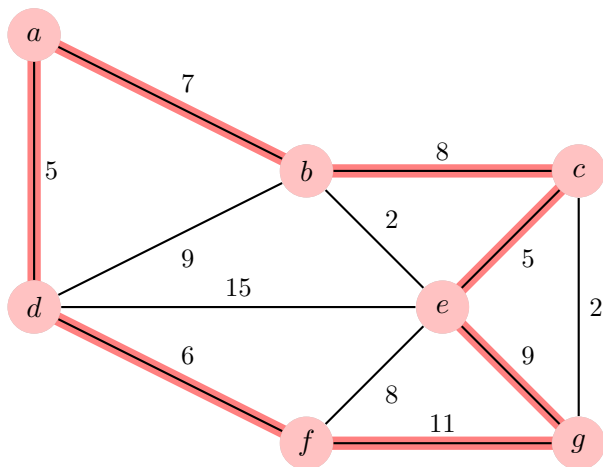
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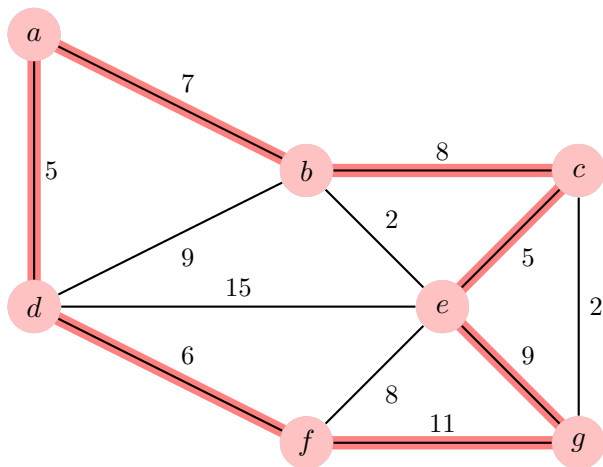
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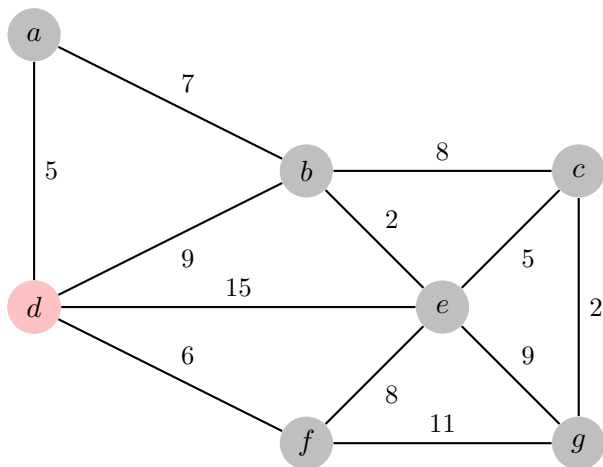
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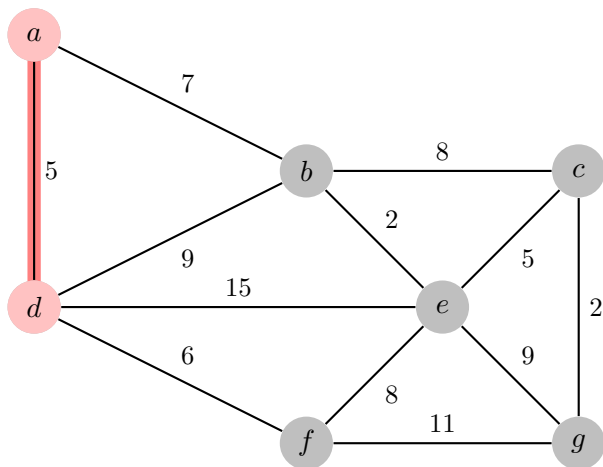
--  $\rightarrow$  Cost :  $5 + 7 + 8 + 5 + 9 + 11 + 6 = 53Km$



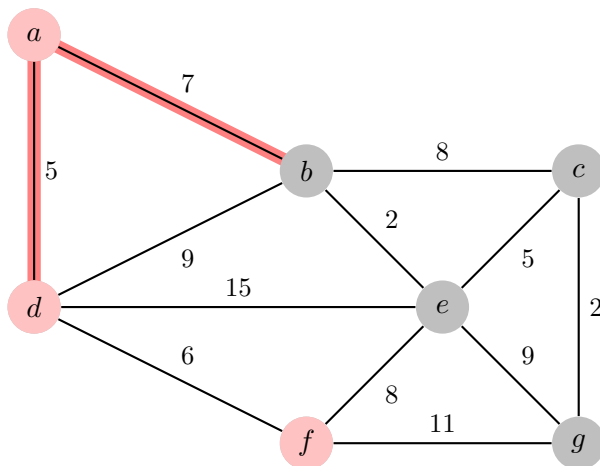
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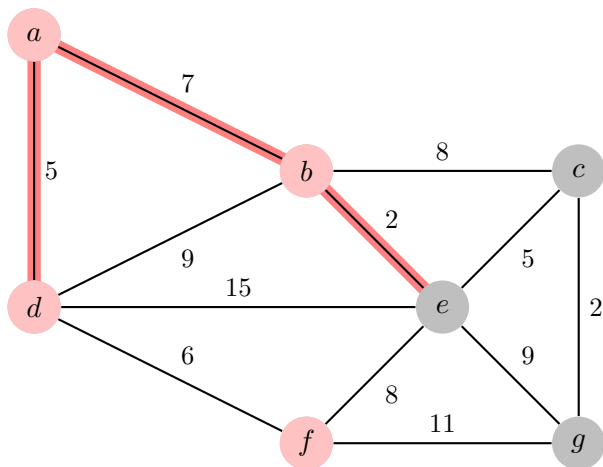
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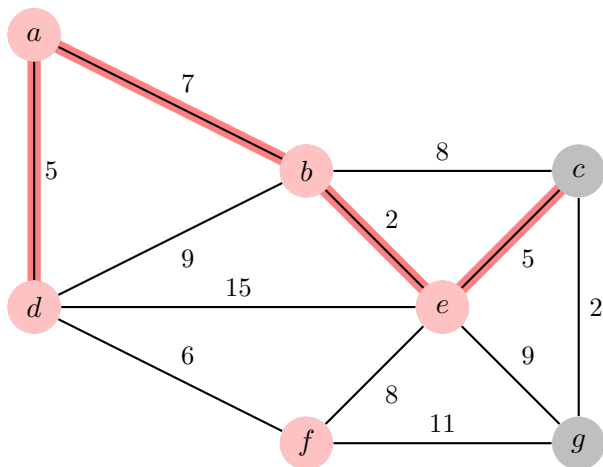
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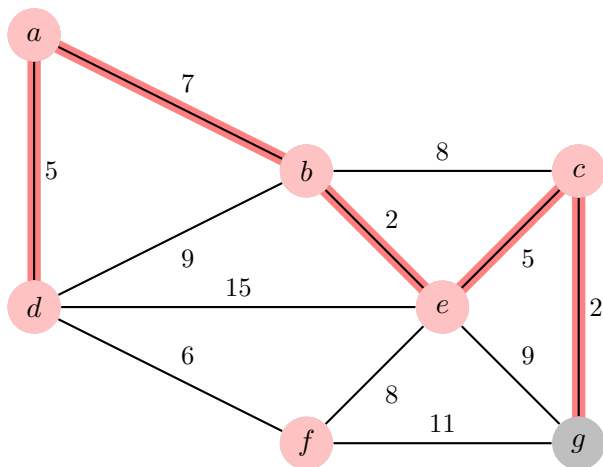
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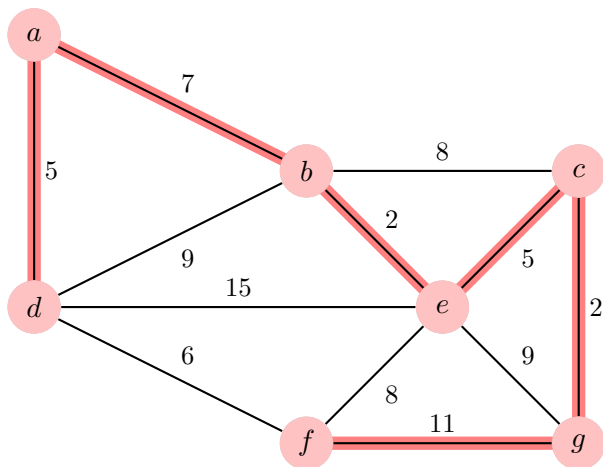
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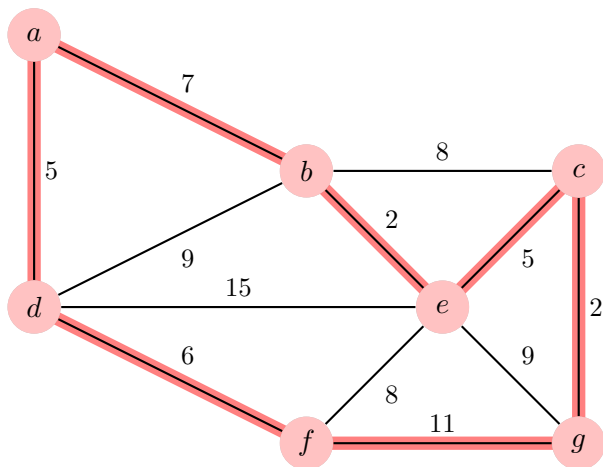
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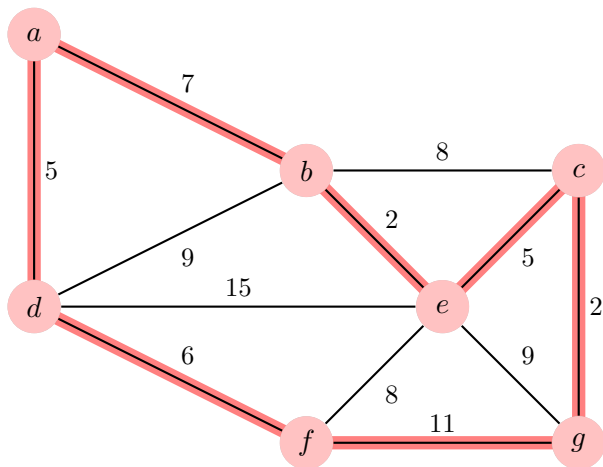


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--  $\rightarrow$  Cost :  $5 + 7 + 2 + 5 + 2 + 11 + 6 = 38Km$

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The problem is inherently hard. However, the Concorde algorithm can solve instances up to 86 000 cities!

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# Solving Methodologies

- ① Adhoc methods
  - ① Specific exact algorithm
  - ② Heuristic method
  - ③ Meta-heuristic (genetic algorithms, ant colony, ..)
- ② Declarative Approaches
  - ① (Mixed) Integer Programming,
  - ② Constraint Programming
  - ③ Boolean Satisfiability (SAT)
  - ④ ...

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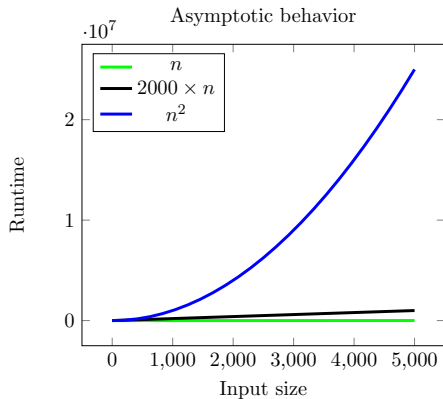


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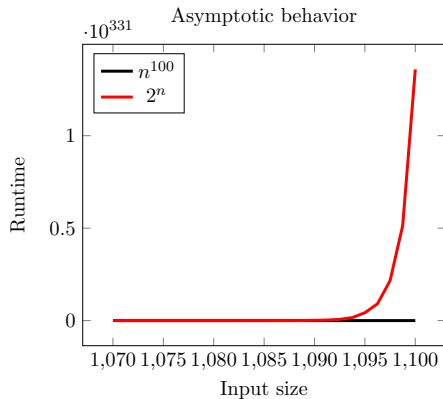
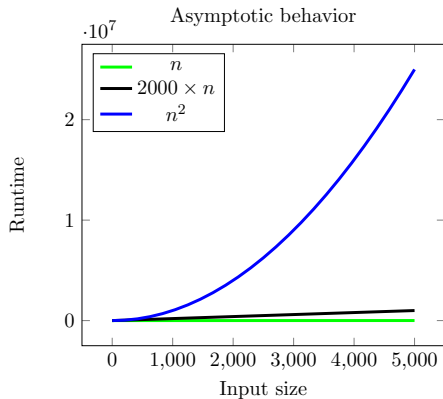
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- What if we don't know if a problem has a polynomial time algorithm?

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- For many Problems in  $NP$ , we don't know if a polynomial time algorithm exists. Is  $P=NP$ ?

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Given a set of Boolean variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  and a CNF formula  $\Phi$  over  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , the Boolean Satisfiability problem (SAT) is to find an assignment of the variables that satisfies all the clauses.

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$$x \vee \neg y \vee z$$

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$$y \vee w$$

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A possible solution:

$$x \leftarrow 1; y \leftarrow 1; z \leftarrow 0; w \leftarrow 0$$

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- SAT is the first problem that is shown to be in the class NP-Complete (the class of the 'hardest' problems in NP):
  - Any problem in NP can be reduced polynomially to SAT
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- Huge practical improvements in the past 2 decades or so

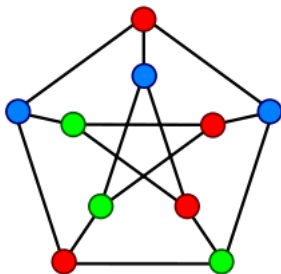
# Examples of Applications

- AI Planning
- Scheduling
- Software verification
- Machine learning
  - Robustness
  - Synthesis
  - Verification
- Mathematical Proofs!  
`https://news.cnrs.fr/articles/  
the-longest-proof-in-the-history-of-mathematics`
- Timetabling
- ...

# Modelling in SAT

# The example of Graph Colouring

- Graph Coloring is a well known combinatorial problem that has many applications (in particular in scheduling problems)
- Let  $G = (V, E)$  be an undirected graph where  $V$  is a set of  $n$  vertices and  $E$  is a set of  $m$  edges. Is it possible to colour the graph with  $k$  colours such that no two adjacent nodes share the same colour?





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- Forbid two nodes that share an edge to be coloured with the same colour

$$\forall \{i, j\} \in E, \forall a \in [1, k] : \neg x_i^a \vee \neg x_j^a$$

(This is a translation of  $x_i^a \rightarrow \neg x_j^a$ )

# The Example of Graph Coloring: The Model Size

What is the (space) size of the model?

- $n \times k$  Boolean variables
- Constraints form 1:  $n$  clauses with  $k$  literals each
- Constraints form 2:  $n \times k^2$  binary clauses
- Constraints form 3:  $m \times k$  binary clauses

# The Example of Graph Coloring: The Minimization Version

- Propose a method that uses SAT for the minimisation version of the problem. That is, given  $G = (V, E)$ , we seek to find the minimum value of  $k$  to satisfy the colouring requirements.

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  - **Decreasing linear Search:** Run iteratively  $SAT(V, E, UB - 1), SAT(V, E, UB - 2), \dots$  until the problem is unsatisfiable. The last satisfiable value of  $k$  is the optimal value



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  - **Binary search:** Run iteratively  $SAT(V, E, z)$  as long as  $UB > LB$  where  $z = \lceil (UB - LB)/2 \rceil$ . If the result is satisfiable, then and  $UB \leftarrow z$  otherwise  $LB \leftarrow z$

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- An alternative approach is to look for valid theoretical bounds in the literature.

# Modelling Cardinality Constraints

- A cardinality constraint takes as input a sequence of Boolean variables  $[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and an integer  $k$  and enforces

$$\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \leq k$$

- Cardinality constraints are everywhere!
- There exist many ways in the literature to encode such constraints. See for instance <https://www.carstensinz.de/papers/CP-2005.pdf>

# Quadratic encoding for $\sum_1^n x_i = 1$

- At least one constraint:

$$x_1 \vee x_2 \dots \vee x_n$$

- at most one constraint:

$$\forall i, j : \neg x_i \vee \neg x_j$$

This generates one clause of size  $n$  and  $(n^2)$  binary clauses without introducing additional variables.

# Linear encoding for $\sum_1^n x_i = 1$

A sequence of Boolean variables  $[y_1, \dots, y_n]$  is introduced such that  $\forall i \in [1, n], y_i$  is true iff  $\sum_{l=1}^{l=i} x_l = 1$ . The set of clauses for the encoding is the following:

$$x_1 \vee x_2 \dots \vee x_n$$

$$y_n^1$$

$$\forall i \in [1, n-1] : y_i \rightarrow y_{i+1}$$

$$\forall i \in [1, n-1] : y_i \rightarrow \neg x_{i+1}$$

$$\forall i \in [1, n] : x_i \rightarrow y_i$$

Size:  $n$  new variables, 1  $n$ -ary clause and  $3 \times n$  binary clauses,

Encoding for  $\sum_1^n x_i \geq k$

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- Do not Increment:  $\neg y_{i-1}^z \wedge \neg x_i \rightarrow y_i^{z+1}$



# Encoding for $\sum_1^n x_i \geq k$

Size of the encoding:

- $\Theta(n \times k)$  variables
- $\Theta(n + k)$  unary clauses
- $\Theta(n \times k)$  binary clauses
- $\Theta(n \times k)$  ternary clauses

Encoding for  $\sum_1^n x_i = k$  ?

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# Encoding for $\sum_1^n x_i = k$ ?

- Encode  $\sum_1^n x_i \geq k + 1$
- Add  $y_n^k$
- Replace  $y_n^{k+1}$  by  $\neg y_n^{k+1}$
- The size of the encoding is the same as  $\sum_1^n x_i \geq k$  (asymptotically)

Linear encoding for  $\sum_1^n x_i \leq k$  ?

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- Encode  $\sum_1^n x_i \leq b$
- $\sum_1^n x_i \geq a$  with the same additional variables
- The size of the encoding is the same as  $\sum_1^n x_i \geq k$  (asymptotically)



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- Check the MaxSAT competition

# The Example of Graph Coloring: A Possible MaxSAT Model

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be an undirected graph where  $V$  is the set of vertices and  $E$  is the set of edges. In the (decision version of the) graph colouring problem, we are given  $k$  colours to colour the graph such that no two adjacent nodes share the same colour.

- Propose a MaxSAT model for the minimisation version of the problem. That is, given  $G = (V, E)$ , we seek to find the minimum value of  $k$  to satisfy the colouring requirements.

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# The Example of Graph Coloring: A Possible MaxSAT Model

- We shall extend the previous model:
- Let  $u_a$  be a Boolean variable that is True iff. the colour  $a \in [1, k]$  is used
- Consider the previous model  $SAT(V, E, k)$  with  $k$  an upper bound.
- All the previous clauses are hard.
- Add the following hard clauses:

$$\forall i \in [1, n], \forall a \in [1, k] : \neg u_a \rightarrow \neg x_i^a$$

- Eventually we can add symmetry breaking constraints:  $u_a \rightarrow u_{a-1}$
- Then add the soft clauses:

$$\forall a \in [1, k] : \neg u_a$$

- A MaxSAT Optimal solution satisfies all the hard coloring clauses (valid colouring) and maximizes the number of non used colours.



# Extensions: Quantified Boolean Formula (QBF)

- A QBF has the form  $Q.F$ , where  $F$  is a CNF-SAT formulae, and  $Q$  is a sequence of quantified variables ( $\forall x$  or  $\exists x$ ).
- Example  $\forall x, \exists y, \exists z, (x \vee \neg y) \wedge (\neg y \vee z)$
- QBF Solver Competition:  
[https://www.qbflib.org/solvers\\_list.php](https://www.qbflib.org/solvers_list.php)

# Extensions: Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)

- SMT extends SAT by allowing higher level constraints
- Such constraints belong to certain theories
- Examples of theories include linear integer arithmetic, linear real arithmetic, difference logic, etc
- Check the SAT/SMT summer schools  
<http://satassociation.org/sat-smt-school.html>

## Exercise: SAT for Machine Learning

- Let  $F = [f_1, \dots, f_k]$  be a set of  $k$  features and  $E = [e_1, \dots, e_n]$  a set of  $n$  examples.
- We want to build an undirected acyclic graph for prediction
- Task1: Propose a model for the topology of the graph
- Task 2: Extend the model to make sure that each example is well classified
- Task 3: Adapt the model to maximize the accuracy of the model

# Conflict Driven Clause Learning

# Modern SAT Solvers: Conflict Driven Clause Learning (CDCL)

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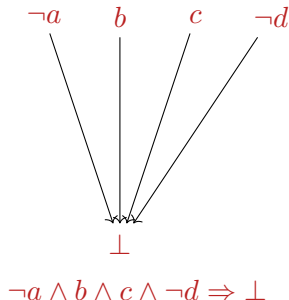
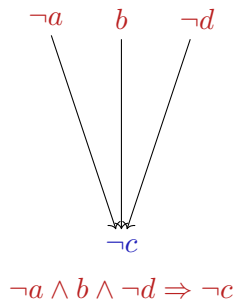
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- **Can be seen as a CP Solver (Search, propagation) augmented by clause learning**
- But also :
  - Activity-based branching
  - Lazy data structures (2-Watched Literals)
  - Clause Database Reduction
  - Simplifications
  - Restarts
  - ...

**Exercise:** Propose a filtering algorithm to prune the variables domain in a given clause

# Unit Propagation

Given a clause  $C$  of arity  $n$ . If  $n - 1$  literals are false then set the last one to be true.

Example:  $(a \vee \neg b \vee \neg c \vee d)$



---

**Algorithm 1:** Unit Propagation

---

**Data:** A clause  $C$

**if** *All literals in  $C$  are false* **then**

**return** Failure ;

**else**

**if** *Only one literal  $l \in C$  is unassigned and the rest are false*  
        **then**

        | Make  $l$  true ;

**end**

**end**

---

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- Observe first that propagation happens only in two cases:
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- If a literal watching a clause  $C$  becomes *false*, look for replacement. If no replacement found, then perform propagation

## Algorithm 2: Two watched Literals (decision $d$ )

- ▷ Assuming initially that all variables are unassigned and that each clause contain at least 2 literals
  - ▷ For each clause  $C$ ,  $W[C]$  is initialized with a set that contains two variables in  $C$ 
    - ▷ For each variable  $x$ ,  $B[x]$  is the set of clauses watched by  $x$
  - ▷  $d$  is the latest decision ;

```

 $S \leftarrow \{d\}$  ;
while  $S \neq \emptyset$  do
  Let  $x \in S$  ;
   $S \leftarrow S \setminus \{x\}$  ;
  while  $B[x] \neq \emptyset$  do
    Let  $C \in B[x]$  ;
     $W[C] \leftarrow W[C] \setminus \{x\}$  ;
    if  $\exists x' \in C \setminus W[C]$  such that  $x'$  is unassigned then
      |  $W[C] \leftarrow W[C] \cup \{x'\}$  ;
      |  $B[x'] \leftarrow B[x'] \cup \{C\}$  ;
    else
      | Let  $y \in W[C]$  ;
      | if  $y$  is not assigned then
      | | assign  $y$  to a value that satisfies  $C$  ;
      | |  $S \leftarrow S \cup \{y\}$  ;
      | |  $S \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
      | else
      | | if  $y$  does not satisfy  $C$  then
      | | | return FAILURE ;
      | | end
      | end
    end
  end
end

```

# Learning and Backjumping

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- When there is only one literal  $uip$  propagated in the last level in the current explanation, learn the associated new clause  $C$ , backjump (to the last level of propagated literals in  $C$ ), propagate  $\neg uip$  via the new clause,

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- While there is more than one literal propagated in the last level in the current explanation, replace it with it's explanation from the triggering clause
- When there is only one literal *ui*p propagated in the last level in the current explanation, learn the associated new clause  $C$ , backjump (to the last level of propagated literals in  $C$ ), propagate  $\neg ui$ p via the new clause, and continue the exploration

# Conflict Analysis

---

## Algorithm 1: 1-UIP-with-Propagators

---

```

1  $\Psi \leftarrow \text{explain}(\perp)$  ;
2 while  $|\{q \in \Psi \mid \text{level}(q) = \text{current level}\}| > 1$  do
    $p \leftarrow \arg \max_q (\{\text{rank}(q) \mid \text{level}(q) = \text{current level} \wedge q \in \Psi\})$  ;
3    $\Psi \leftarrow \Psi \cup \{q \mid q \in \text{explain}(p) \wedge \text{level}(q) > 0\} \setminus \{p\}$  ;
   return  $\Psi$  ;

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   return  $\Psi$  ;

```

---

- Why stop with one literal  $l$  propagated at the last level ?
- **To make sure that when the algorithm backjumps, propagation takes place by making  $l$  true**
- When backjumping using a clause that contains more than one literal propagated at the last level, then no propagation can be performed.



# Implication Graph

	$f$		

$$\neg a \vee \neg f \vee g$$

$$\neg a \vee \neg b \vee \neg h$$

$$a \vee c$$

$$a \vee \neg i \vee \neg l$$

$$a \vee \neg k \vee \neg j$$

$$b \vee d$$

$$b \vee g \vee \neg n$$

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$$\neg c \vee \neg k \vee \neg i \vee l$$

$$c \vee h \vee n \vee \neg m$$

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$$d \vee \neg g \vee l$$

$$\neg g \vee n \vee o$$

$$h \vee \neg o \vee \neg j \vee n$$

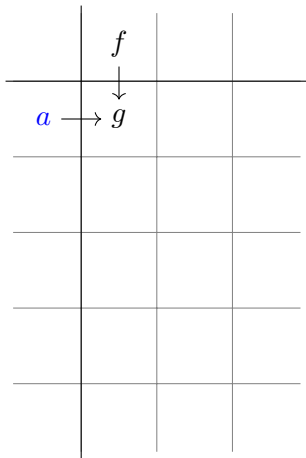
$$\neg i \vee j$$

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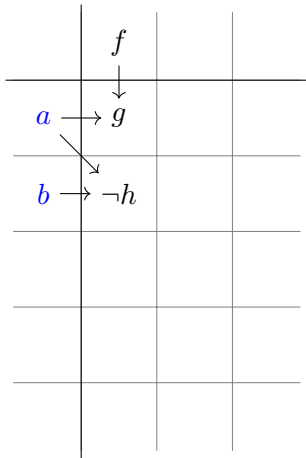
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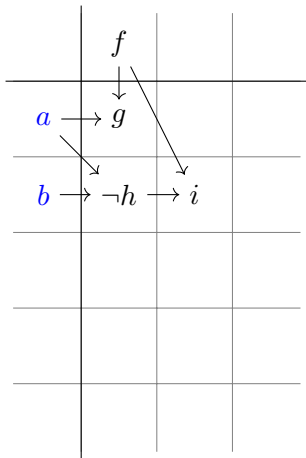
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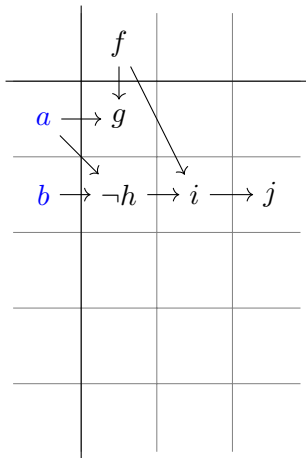
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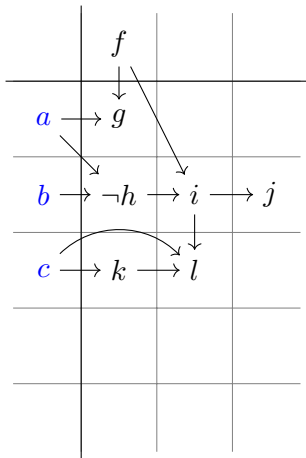
$$\neg i \vee j$$

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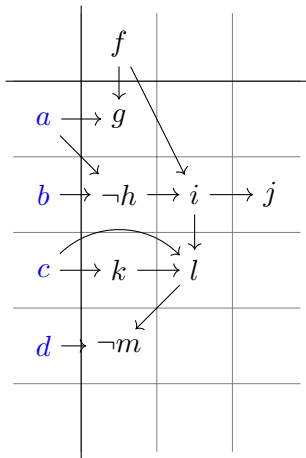
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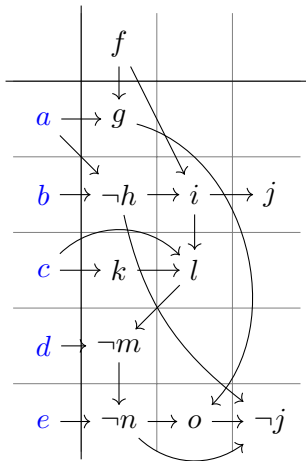
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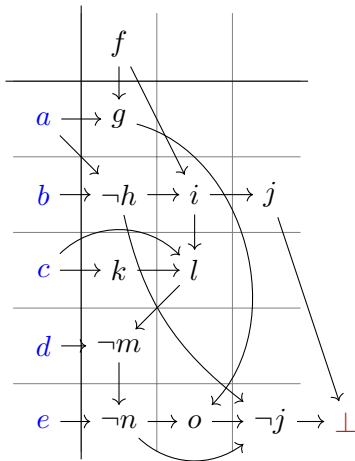
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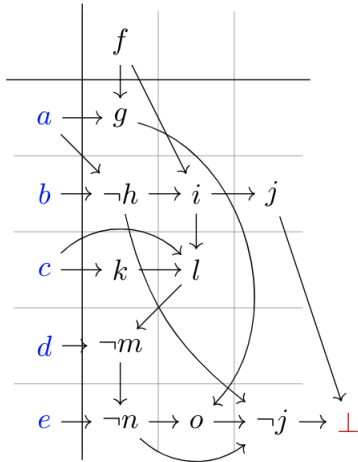
$$\neg e \vee m \vee \neg n$$

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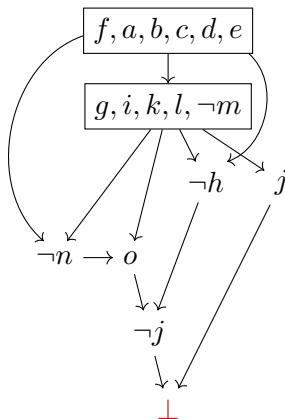
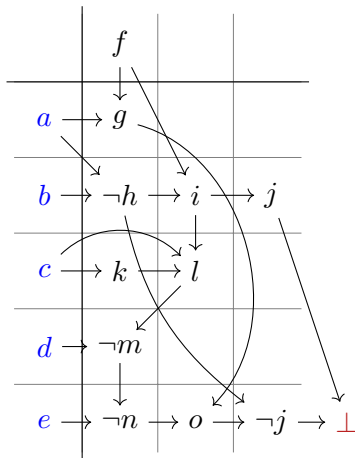
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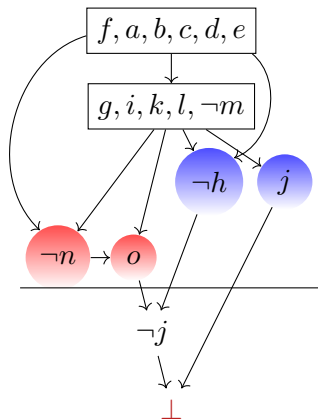
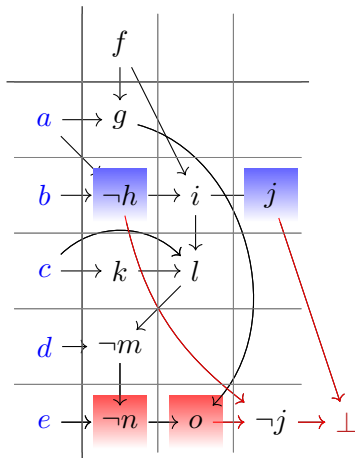
$$\neg e \vee m \vee \neg n$$

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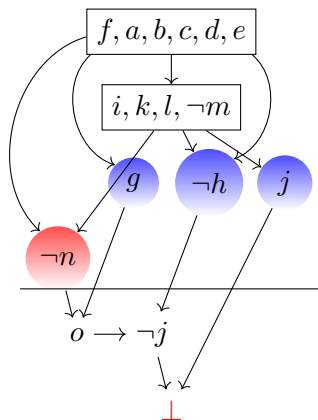
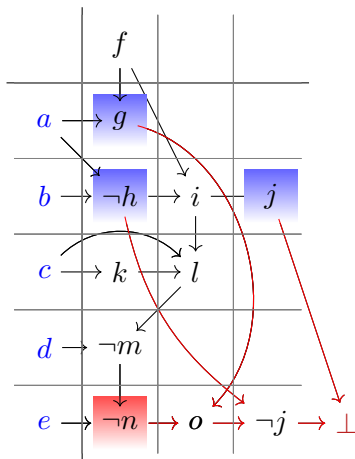
# Conflict Analysis



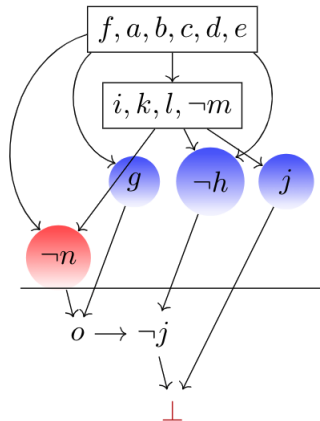
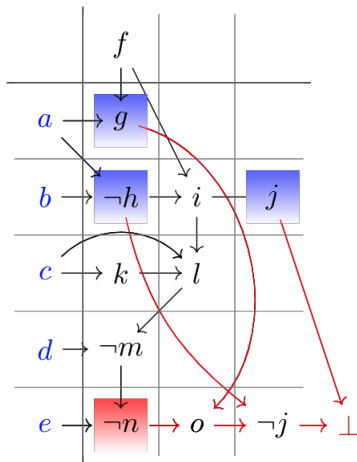
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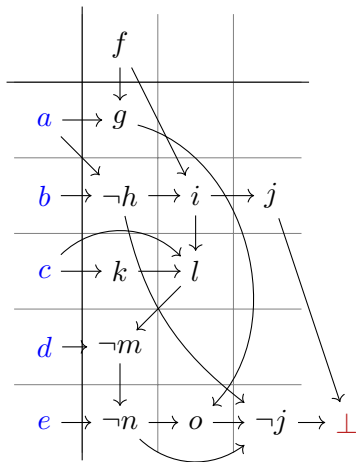
# Conflict Analysis



# Conflict Analysis



# Conflict analysis



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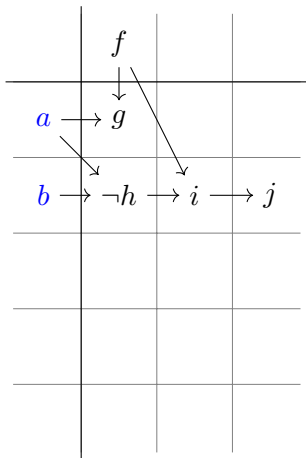
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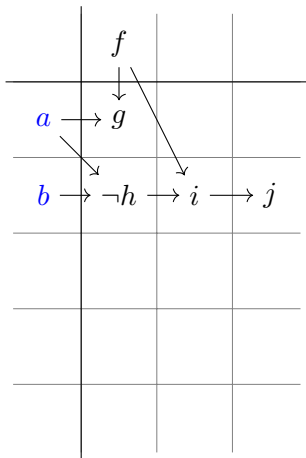
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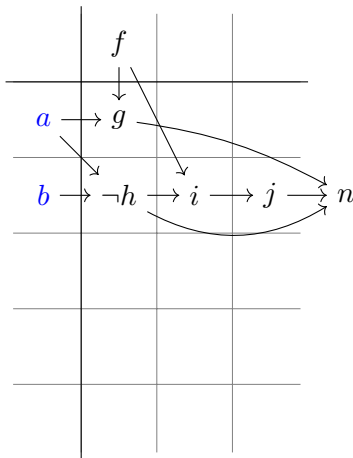
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 $h \vee \neg o \vee \neg j \vee n$   
 $\neg i \vee j$   
 $\neg d \vee \neg l \vee \neg m$   
 $\neg e \vee m \vee \neg n$   
 $\neg f \vee h \vee i$

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- Randomization: breaking ties, random decision between  $k$  best choices, ...
- Restarts: Geometric/Luby

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# SAT Solvers (Few examples)

- MiniSat: <http://minisat.se/>
- Glucose: <http://www.labri.fr/perso/lsimon/glucose/>
- Lingeling <http://fmv.jku.at/lingeling>
- Any Solver by Armin Biere  
<http://fmv.jku.at/software/index.html>
- Any winner from past and future SAT competitions:  
<https://www.satcompetition.org/>

# SAT vs CSP

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- The constraint satisfaction problem (CSP) is the problem of deciding if a constraint network has a solution
- Mostly solvable by backtracking algorithms (Search and Filtering)

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## Value Ordering

‘Succeed-first’ [Geelen, 1992]:

“Follow the best chances leading to a solution”

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## Arc Consistency

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$C$  is Arc Consistent (AC) iff for every variable  $x$  in the scope of  $C$ , for every value  $v \in D(x)$ , there exists an assignment  $w$  in  $D$  satisfying  $C$  in which  $v$  is assigned to  $x$



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- If each domain is a singleton, the propagator must be able to check if the assignment corresponds to a solution or not.

# CP vs. SAT

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  - When should we encode to SAT, when shouldn't we?
  - CP vs. SAT: a fundamental difference is the presence of global reasoning in CP.

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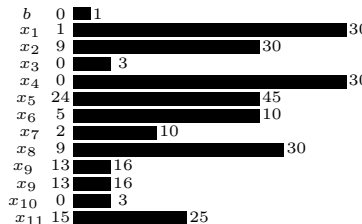
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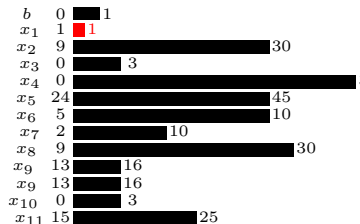
# Learning in CP

$$\begin{aligned}
 &x_1 + x_7 \geq 4 \wedge \\
 &x_2 + x_{10} \geq 11 \wedge \\
 &x_3 + x_9 = 16 \wedge \\
 &x_5 \geq x_8 + x_9 \wedge \\
 &b \leftrightarrow (x_9 - x_4 = 14) \wedge \\
 &b \rightarrow (x_6 \geq 7) \wedge \\
 &b \rightarrow (x_6 + x_7 \leq 9) \wedge \\
 &x_{11} \geq x_9 + x_{10}
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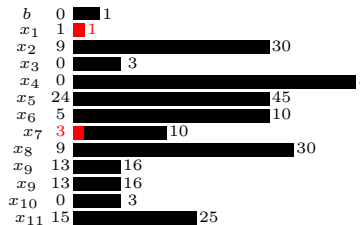
$\llbracket x_1 = 1 \rrbracket$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + x_7 &\geq 4 \wedge \\ x_2 + x_{10} &\geq 11 \wedge \\ x_3 + x_9 &= 16 \wedge \\ x_5 &\geq x_8 + x_9 \wedge \\ b &\leftrightarrow (x_9 - x_4 = 14) \wedge \\ b &\rightarrow (x_6 \geq 7) \wedge \\ b &\rightarrow (x_6 + x_7 \leq 9) \wedge \\ x_{11} &\geq x_9 + x_{10} \end{aligned}$$


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$$\llbracket x_1 = 1 \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket x_7 \geq 3 \rrbracket$$

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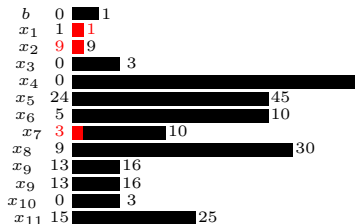


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$$\llbracket x_1 = 1 \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket x_7 \geq 3 \rrbracket$$

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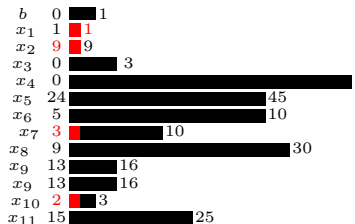


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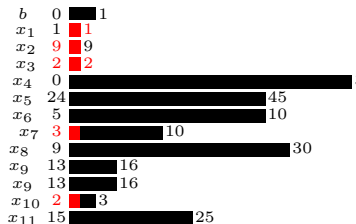
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$b$	0		1
$x_1$	1		1
$x_2$	9		9
$x_3$	2		2
$x_4$	0		
$x_5$	24		45
$x_6$	5		10
$x_7$	3		 10
$x_8$	9		30
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$x_9$	13		16
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# Learning in CP











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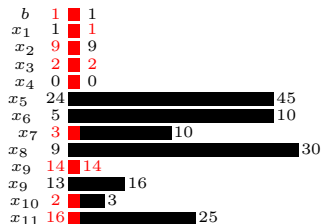
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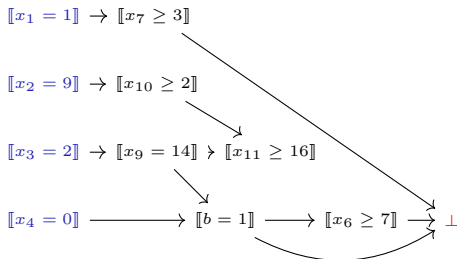
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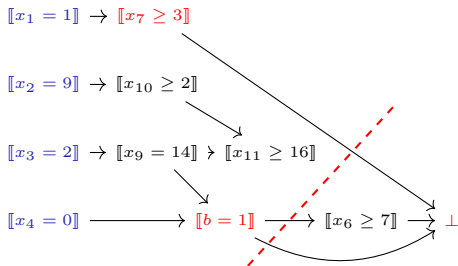
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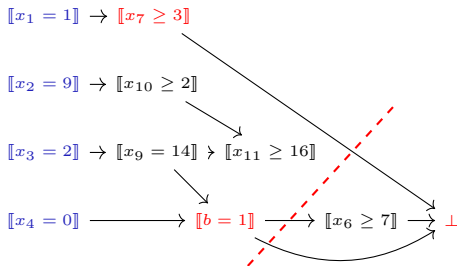


- Conflict analysis:  $\llbracket b = 1 \rrbracket \wedge \llbracket x_7 \geq 3 \rrbracket \Rightarrow \perp$

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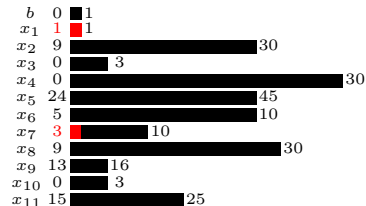


# Learning in CP

$$\llbracket x_1 = 1 \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket x_7 \geq 3 \rrbracket$$

- Conflict analysis:  $\llbracket b = 1 \rrbracket \wedge \llbracket x_7 \geq 3 \rrbracket \Rightarrow \perp$
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- Backtrack to level 1

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + x_7 &\geq 4 \wedge \\ x_2 + x_{10} &\geq 11 \wedge \\ x_3 + x_9 &= 16 \wedge \\ x_5 &\geq x_8 + x_9 \wedge \\ b &\leftrightarrow (x_9 - x_4 = 14) \wedge \\ b &\rightarrow (x_6 \geq 7) \wedge \\ b &\rightarrow (x_6 + x_7 \leq 9) \wedge \\ x_{11} &\geq x_9 + x_{10} \end{aligned}$$

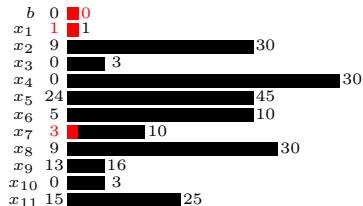


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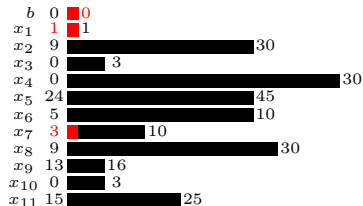


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# Conflict analysis

---

## Algorithm 1: 1-UIP-with-Propagators

---

```

1  $\Psi \leftarrow \text{explain}(\perp)$  ;
2 while  $|\{q \in \Psi \mid \text{level}(q) = \text{current level}\}| > 1$  do
     $p \leftarrow \arg \max_q (\{\text{rank}(q) \mid \text{level}(q) = \text{current level} \wedge q \in \Psi\})$  ;
3    $\Psi \leftarrow \Psi \cup \{q \mid q \in \text{explain}(p) \wedge \text{level}(q) > 0\} \setminus \{p\}$  ;
   return  $\Psi$  ;

```

---

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- To enable clause learning in CP, each propagator must be able to explain its filtering in the form of clauses (“Lazy Clause Generation”).
- We distinguish two types of explanations:
  - Explaining Failure
  - Explaining Domain filtering
- Example: Explain the constraint  $X \leq Y$  with two scenarios (failure and propagation).

- Let  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  be a sequence of Boolean variables, and let  $d$  be a positive integer.
- The  $\text{CARDINALITY}(x_1, \dots, x_n, d)$  constraint holds iff exactly  $d$  variables from the sequence  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  are true.
- Write a filtering algorithm for  $\text{CARDINALITY}$ .
- What is the time complexity?
- Does it enforce arc consistency?
- Explain the  $\text{CARDINALITY}$  filtering.

# Correction

---

**Algorithm 4:**  $\text{CARDINALITY}([x_1, \dots, x_n], d)$

---

```

if  $|\{x_j \mid \mathcal{D}(x_j) = \{1\}\}| > d$  then
1   $\mathcal{D} \leftarrow \perp$  ;
if  $|\{x_j \mid \mathcal{D}(x_j) = \{0\}\}| > n - d$  then
2   $\mathcal{D} \leftarrow \perp$  ;
if  $|\{x_j \mid \mathcal{D}(x_j) = \{1\}\}| = d$  then
    foreach  $i \in \{1..n\}$  do
        if  $\mathcal{D}(x_i) = \{0, 1\}$  then
3       $\mathcal{D}(x_i) \leftarrow \{0\}$  ;
    else
        if  $|\{x_j \mid \mathcal{D}(x_j) = \{0\}\}| = n - d$  then
            foreach  $i \in \{1..n\}$  do
                if  $\mathcal{D}(x_i) = \{0, 1\}$  then
4       $\mathcal{D}(x_i) \leftarrow \{1\}$  ;
return  $\mathcal{D}$  ;

```

---



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$$x^1 \wedge x^2 \wedge \dots \wedge x^{d+1} \rightarrow \perp$$

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- Explaining the propagating the value 1: the conjunction of all the assigned variables
- Explaining the propagating the value 0: the conjunction of all the assigned variables

# Encoding CSP into SAT

- How to encode the variables' domain ?
- How to encode each constraint into a set of clauses ?

# Domain Encoding: Quadratic Encoding

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- The number of clauses is quadratic

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- $y_j \rightarrow y_{j+1}$
- $x_i \rightarrow y_{v_i} \wedge \neg y_{v_i-1}$
- The number of variables is linear in the size of the domain
- The number of clauses is linear. However, some clauses are of arity three

## Exercise: Constraint encoding ?

- How to encode the AllDifferent constraint ?
- How to encode  $\sum_i X_i \leq k$  ( $X_i$  is an integer variable)?
- How to encode  $\sum_i a_i \times X_i \leq k$  ?

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