CryptoMiniSat with CCAnr at the SAT Competition 2020

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I. Introduction

This paper presents the conflict-driven clause-learning (CLDL) SAT solver CryptoMiniSat (*CMS*) augmented with the Stochastic Local Search (SLS) [3] solver CCAnr as submitted to SAT Competition 2020.

CryptoMiniSat aims to be a modern, open source SAT solver using inprocessing techniques, optimized data structures and finely-tuned timeouts to have good control over both memory and time usage of inprocessing steps. It also supports, when compiled as such, to recover XOR constraints and perform Gauss-Jordan elimination on them at every decision level. For the competition, this option was disabled. CryptoMiniSat is authored by Mate Soos.

CCAnr [3] is a stochastic local search (SLS) solver for SAT, which is based on the configuration checking strategy and has good performance on non-random SAT instances. CCAnr switches between two modes: it flips a variable according to the CCA (configuration checking with aspiration) heuristic if any; otherwise, it flips a variable in a random unsatisfied clause (which we refer to as the focused local search mode). The main novelty of CCAnr lies on the greedy heuristic in the focused local search mode, which contributes significantly to its good performance on structured instances

II. Composing the Two Solvers

The two solvers are composed together in a way that does *not* resemble portfolio solvers. The system runs the CDCL solver CryptoMiniSat, along with its periodic inprocessing, by default. However, at every 2nd inprocessing step, CryptoMiniSat's irredundant clauses are pushed into CCAnr (in case the predicted memory use is not too high). CCAnr is then allowed to run for a predefined number of steps. This in total leads to about 1% of all solving time dedicated to CCAnr. In case CCAnr finds a satisfying assignment, this is given back to the CDCL solver, which then performs all the necessary extension to the solution (e.g. for Bounded Variable Elimination, BVE [4]) and outputs the final solution.

In case CCAnr does not find a satisfying assignment, the following takes place. Firstly, the best variable setting found by CCAnr as measured by the number of satisfied clauses, is assigned as the polarity of the variables in the CDCL SAT solver. This idea has been taken from the solver CaDiCaL [2] as submitted to the 2019 SAT Race by Armin Biere. Secondly, after every successful execution of CCAnr, 100 variables' VSIDS are bumped in the following way. CCAnr uses a clause weighting technique and clauses with greater weight can be considered more difficult to satisfy. Once CCAnr finishes, CCAnr's clauses are sorted according to their weights. Then, these clauses' variables' VSIDS are bumped, from hardest-to-easiest clause order, until 100 variables' VSIDS have been bumped. This shows clear improvement in the combined solver's performance. We believe these two integrations point to potential tighter, as-yet unexplored integration opportunities of the two solvers.

Note that the inclusion of the SLS solver is full in the sense that assumptions-based solving, library-based solver use, and all other uses of the SAT solver is fully supported with SLS solving enabled. Hence, this is not some form of portfolio where a simple shell script determines which solver to run and then runs that solver. Instead, the SLS solver is a full member of the solver, much like any other inprocessing system, and works in tandem with it. For example, in case an inprocessing step has reduced the number of variables through BVE or increased it through BVA [5], the SLS solver will then try to solve the problem thus modified. In case the SLS solver finds a solution, the main solver will then correctly manipulate it to fit the needs of the "outside world", i.e. the caller.

As the two solvers are well-coupled, the combination of the two solvers can solve problems that neither system can solve on its own. Hence, *the system is more than just a union of its parts* which is not the case for traditional portfolio solvers.

III. Further Improvements Relative to SAT Race 2019

Many of the inprocessing parameters have been tuned. A few bugs related to clause activities have been fixed. The VSIDS and Maple decay factors are now iteratively changed between 0.70 and 0.90 for Maple and 0.92 and 0.99 for VSIDS. Between each iteration there is an inprocessing step, as before. This seems to add heterogeneity and avoids having to tune these parameters to a "single best" value.

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