Search in SAT

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The Satisfiability (SAT) problem

$$
\begin{aligned}
&(x_5 \vee x_8 \vee \bar{x}_2) \wedge (x_2 \vee \bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_8 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee \bar{x}_7) \wedge (\bar{x}_5 \vee x_3 \vee x_8) \wedge \\
&(\bar{x}_6 \vee \bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_5) \wedge (x_8 \vee \bar{x}_9 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_1 \vee x_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_8 \vee x_4) \wedge \\
&(\bar{x}_9 \vee \bar{x}_6 \vee x_8) \wedge (x_8 \vee x_3 \vee \bar{x}_9) \wedge (x_9 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee x_8) \wedge (x_6 \vee \bar{x}_9 \vee x_5) \wedge \\
&(x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee \bar{x}_8) \wedge (x_8 \vee \bar{x}_6 \vee \bar{x}_3) \wedge (x_8 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee \bar{x}_1) \wedge (\bar{x}_8 \vee x_6 \vee \bar{x}_2) \wedge \\
&(x_7 \vee x_9 \vee \bar{x}_2) \wedge (x_8 \vee \bar{x}_9 \vee x_2) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_9 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_8 \vee x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2) \wedge \\
&(x_3 \vee \bar{x}_4 \vee \bar{x}_6) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_7 \vee x_5) \wedge (\bar{x}_7 \vee x_1 \vee x_6) \wedge (\bar{x}_5 \vee x_4 \vee \bar{x}_6) \wedge \\
&(\bar{x}_4 \vee x_9 \vee \bar{x}_8) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_9 \vee x_1) \wedge (x_5 \vee \bar{x}_7 \vee x_1) \wedge (\bar{x}_7 \vee \bar{x}_9 \vee \bar{x}_6) \wedge \\
&(x_2 \vee x_5 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_8 \vee \bar{x}_4 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_5 \vee x_9 \vee x_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_5 \vee \bar{x}_7 \vee x_9) \wedge \\
&(x_2 \vee \bar{x}_8 \vee x_1) \wedge (\bar{x}_7 \vee x_1 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_4 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_9 \vee \bar{x}_4) \wedge \\
&(x_3 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (\bar{x}_6 \vee x_3 \vee \bar{x}_9) \wedge (\bar{x}_7 \vee x_5 \vee x_9) \wedge (x_7 \vee \bar{x}_5 \vee \bar{x}_2) \wedge \\
&(x_4 \vee x_7 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_4 \vee \bar{x}_9 \vee \bar{x}_7) \wedge (x_5 \vee \bar{x}_1 \vee x_7) \wedge (x_5 \vee \bar{x}_1 \vee x_7) \wedge \\
&(x_6 \vee x_7 \vee \bar{x}_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_8 \vee \bar{x}_6 \vee \bar{x}_7) \wedge (x_6 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_8 \vee x_2 \vee x_5)
\end{aligned}
$$

Does there exist an assignment satisfying all clauses?

Search for a satisfying assignment (or proof none exists)

$$
\begin{array}{l}
(x_5 \vee x_8 \vee \bar{x}_2) \wedge (x_2 \vee \bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_8 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee \bar{x}_7) \wedge (\bar{x}_5 \vee x_3 \vee x_8) \wedge \\
(\bar{x}_6 \vee \bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_5) \wedge (x_8 \vee \bar{x}_9 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_1 \vee x_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_8 \vee x_4) \wedge \\
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(x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee \bar{x}_8) \wedge (x_8 \vee \bar{x}_6 \vee \bar{x}_3) \wedge (x_8 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee \bar{x}_1) \wedge (\bar{x}_8 \vee x_6 \vee \bar{x}_2) \wedge \\
(x_7 \vee x_9 \vee \bar{x}_2) \wedge (x_8 \vee \bar{x}_9 \vee x_2) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_9 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_8 \vee x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2) \wedge \\
(x_3 \vee \bar{x}_4 \vee \bar{x}_6) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_7 \vee x_5) \wedge (\bar{x}_7 \vee x_1 \vee x_6) \wedge (\bar{x}_5 \vee x_4 \vee \bar{x}_6) \wedge \\
(\bar{x}_4 \vee x_9 \vee \bar{x}_8) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_9 \vee x_1) \wedge (x_5 \vee \bar{x}_7 \vee x_1) \wedge (\bar{x}_7 \vee \bar{x}_9 \vee \bar{x}_6) \wedge \\
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(x_2 \vee \bar{x}_8 \vee x_1) \wedge (\bar{x}_7 \vee x_1 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_4 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_9 \vee \bar{x}_4) \wedge \\
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(x_4 \vee x_7 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_4 \vee \bar{x}_9 \vee \bar{x}_7) \wedge (x_5 \vee \bar{x}_1 \vee x_7) \wedge (x_5 \vee \bar{x}_1 \vee x_7) \wedge \\
(x_6 \vee x_7 \vee \bar{x}_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_8 \vee \bar{x}_6 \vee \bar{x}_7) \wedge (x_6 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_8 \vee x_2 \vee x_5)
\end{array}
$$

Play the SAT game:

`http://www.cril.univ-artois.fr/~roussel/satgame/satgame.php`

Motivation

From 100 variables, 200 constraints (early 90s)
to 1,000,000 vars. and 20,000,000 cls. in 20 years.

Applications:
Hardware and Software Verification, Planning, Scheduling, Optimal Control, Protocol Design, Routing, Combinatorial problems, Equivalence Checking, etc.

SAT used to solve many other problems!

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SAT used to solve many other problems!

Overview

Search for Lemmas

Depth-first search

- Learning Lemmas
- Data-structures
- Heuristics

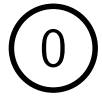
Search for Simplification

Breadth-first search

- Variable elimination
- Blocked clause elimination
- Unhiding redundancy

Conflict-driven SAT solvers: Search and Analysis

$(x_1 \vee x_4) \wedge$
$(x_3 \vee \bar{x}_4 \vee \bar{x}_5) \wedge$
$(\bar{x}_3 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_4) \wedge$
$\mathcal{F}_{\text{extra}}$



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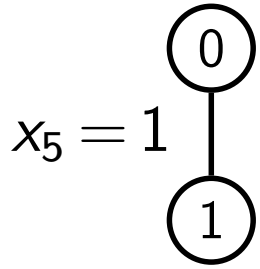

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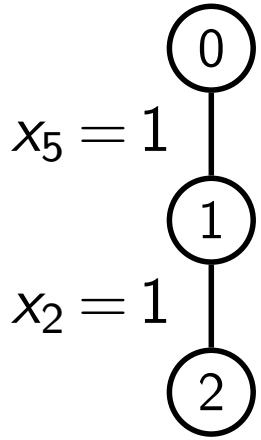

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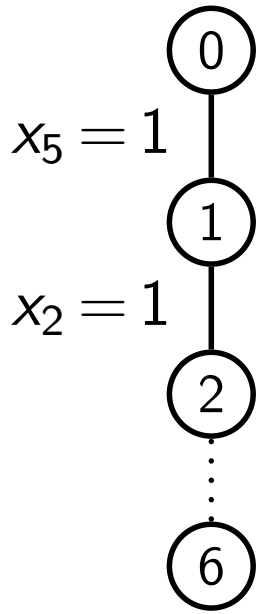

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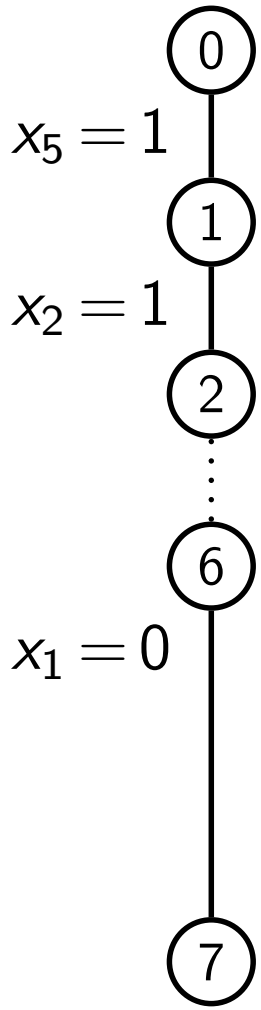

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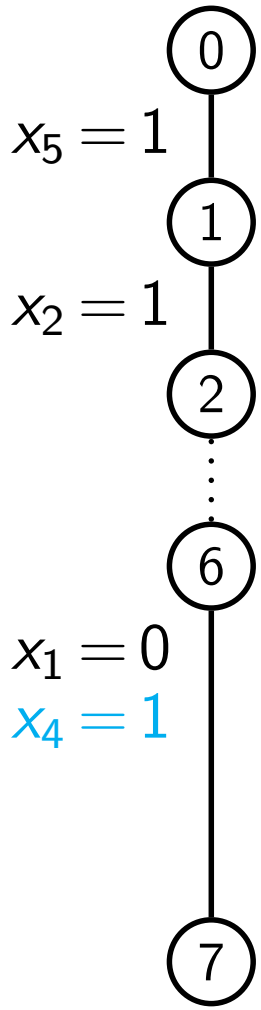

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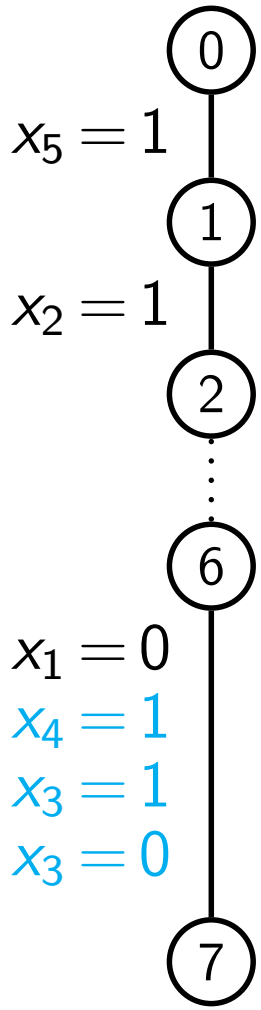

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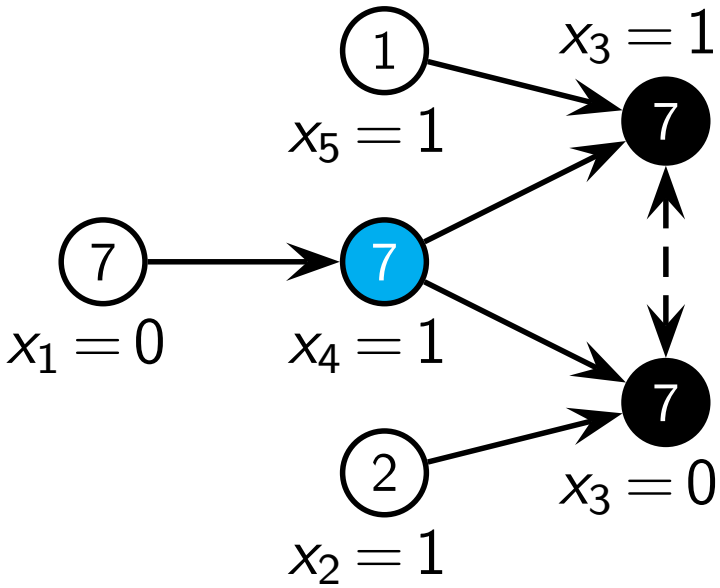

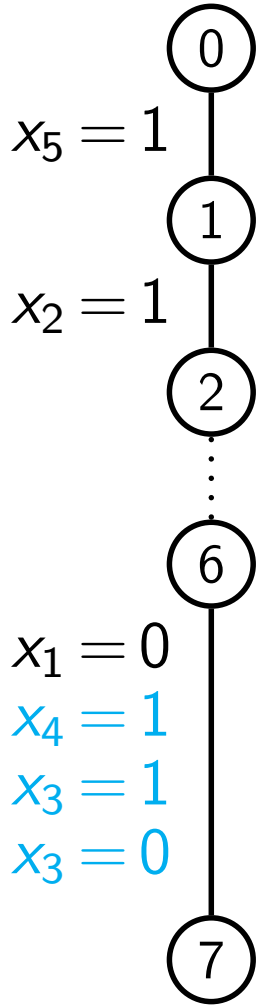

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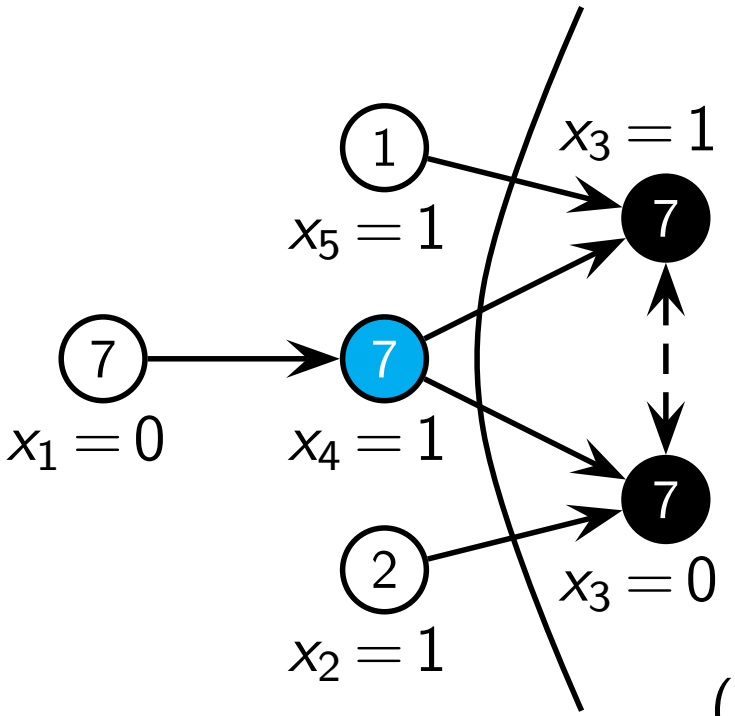

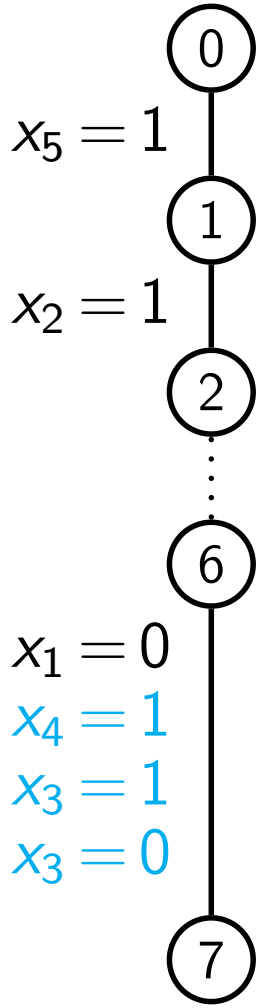

$(\bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_4 \vee \bar{x}_5)$

Conflict-driven SAT solvers: Search and Analysis

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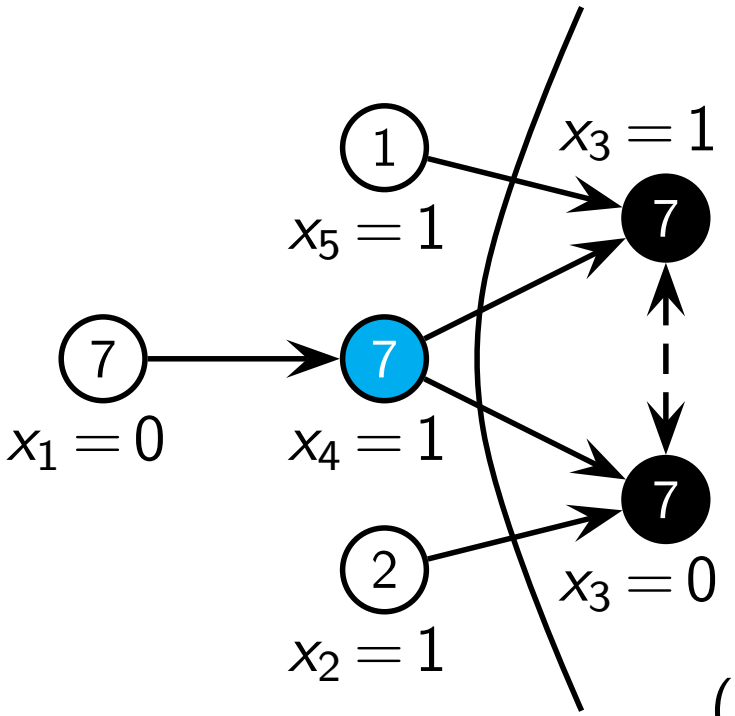

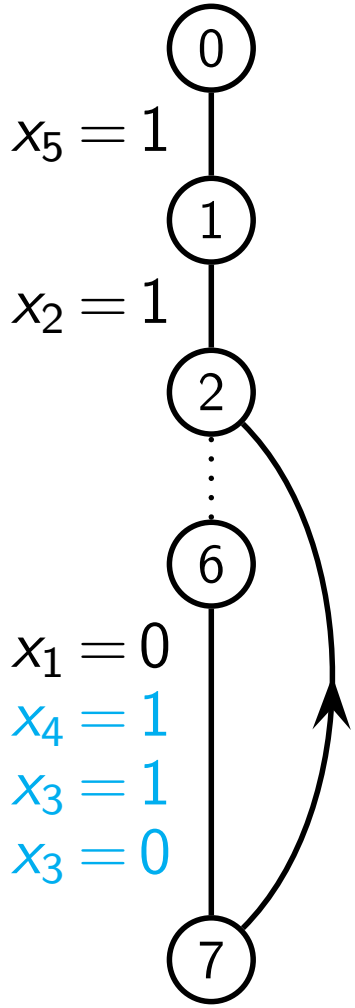

$$(\bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_4 \vee \bar{x}_5)$$

Conflict-driven SAT solvers: Search and Analysis

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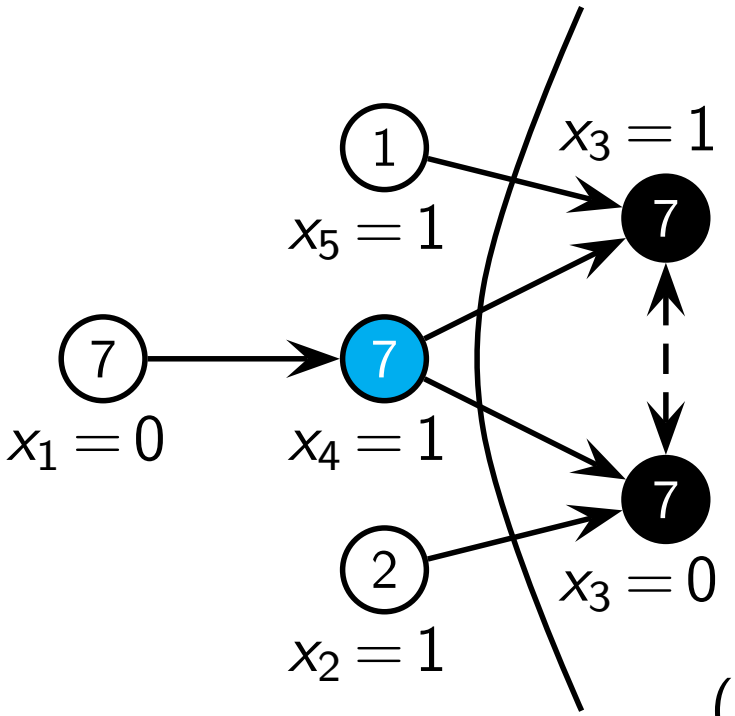
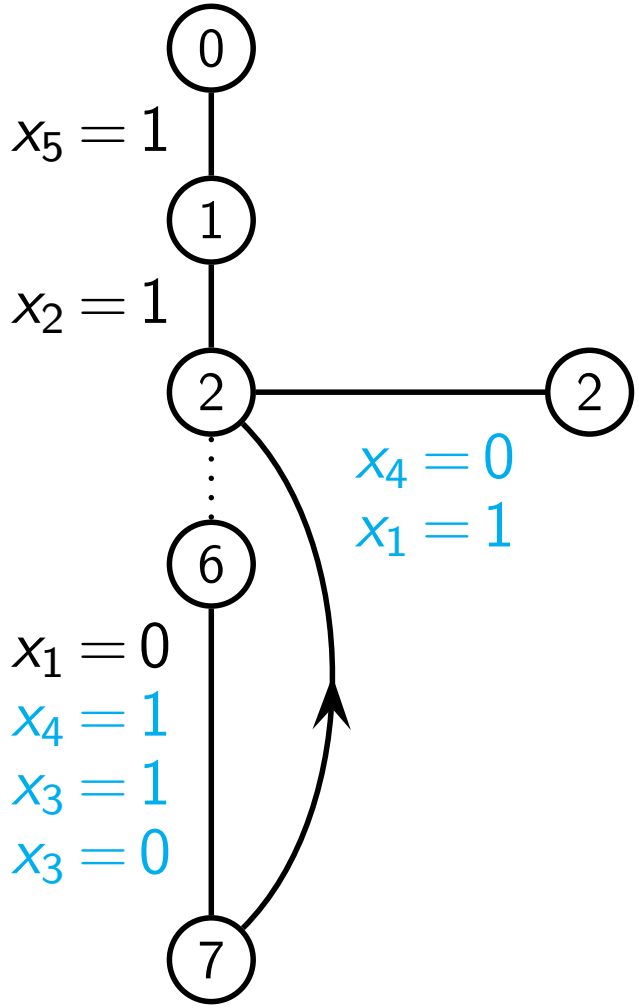
$(x_3 \vee \bar{x}_4 \vee \bar{x}_5) \wedge$
$(\bar{x}_3 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_4) \wedge$
$\mathcal{F}_{\text{extra}}$





$(\bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_4 \vee \bar{x}_5)$

Conflict-driven SAT solvers: Search and Analysis

$(x_1 \vee x_4) \wedge$
$(x_3 \vee \bar{x}_4 \vee \bar{x}_5) \wedge$
$(\bar{x}_3 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_4) \wedge$
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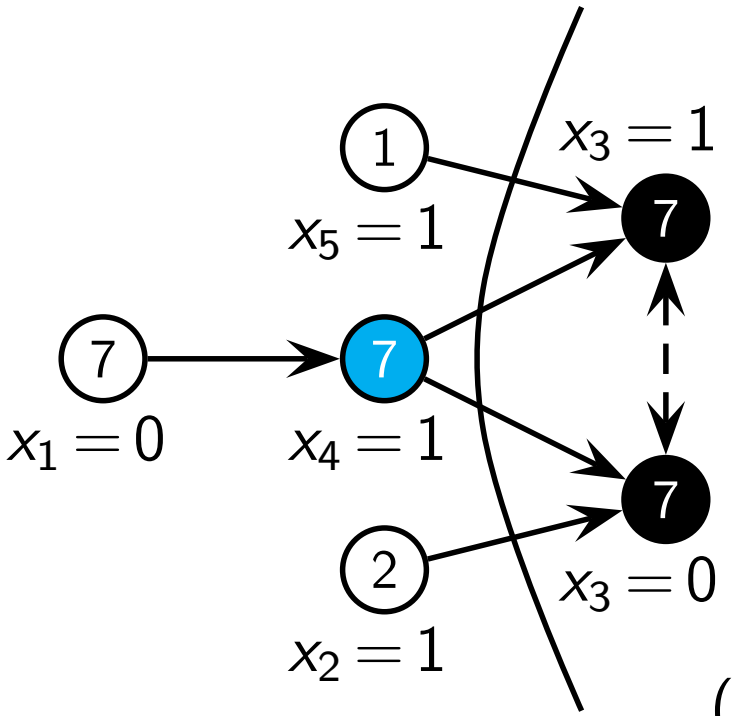
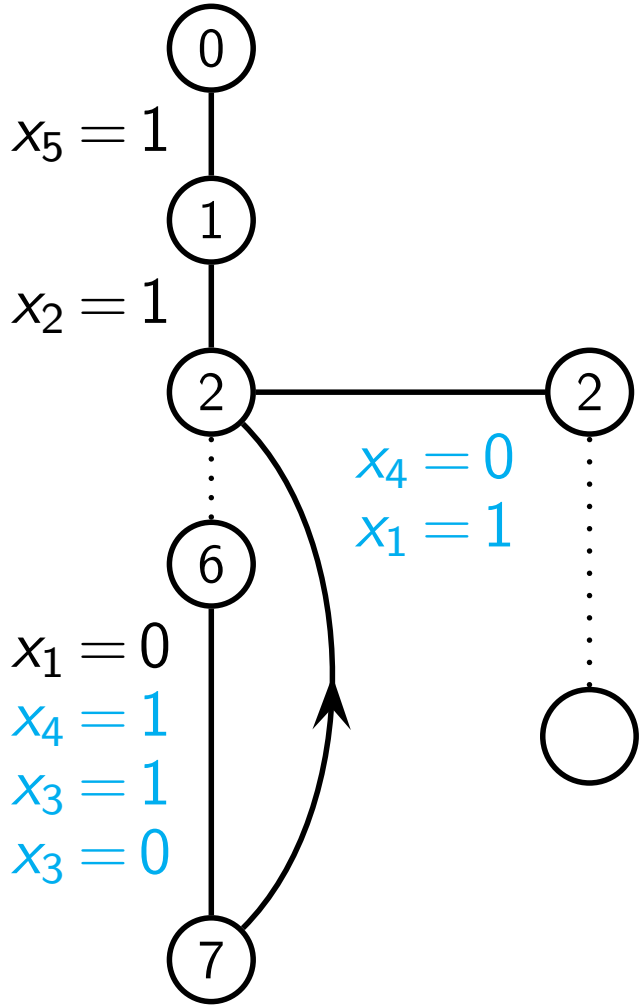


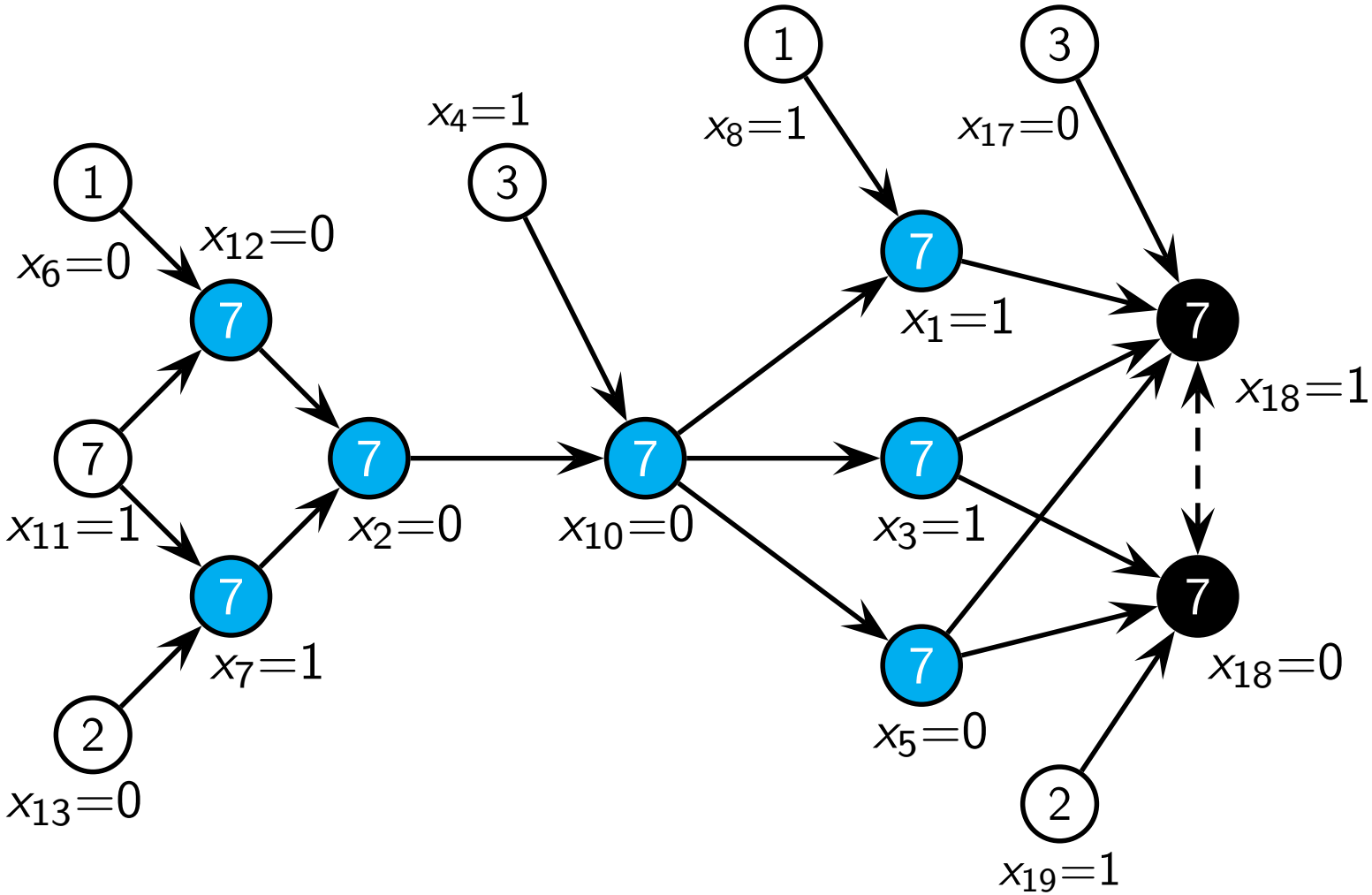


$(\bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_4 \vee \bar{x}_5)$

Conflict-driven SAT solvers: Pseudo-code

1: **while** TRUE **do**
2: $l_{\text{decision}} := \textsc{GetDecisionLiteral}(\ )$
3: **If** no l_{decision} **then return** `satisfiable`
4: $\mathcal{F} := \textsc{Simplify}(\ \mathcal{F}(l_{\text{decision}} \leftarrow 1)\ )$
5: **while** $\mathcal{F}$ contains C_{conflict} **do**
6: $C_{\text{conflict}} := \textsc{AnalyzeConflicts}(\ )$
7: **If** $C_{\text{conflict}} \neq \emptyset$ **then return** `unsatisfiable`
8: $\textsc{BackTrack}(\ C_{\text{conflict}}\ )$
9: $\mathcal{F} := \textsc{Simplify}(\ \mathcal{F} \cup C_{\text{conflict}}\ )$
10: **end while**
11: **end while**

Learning conflict clauses (lemma's)



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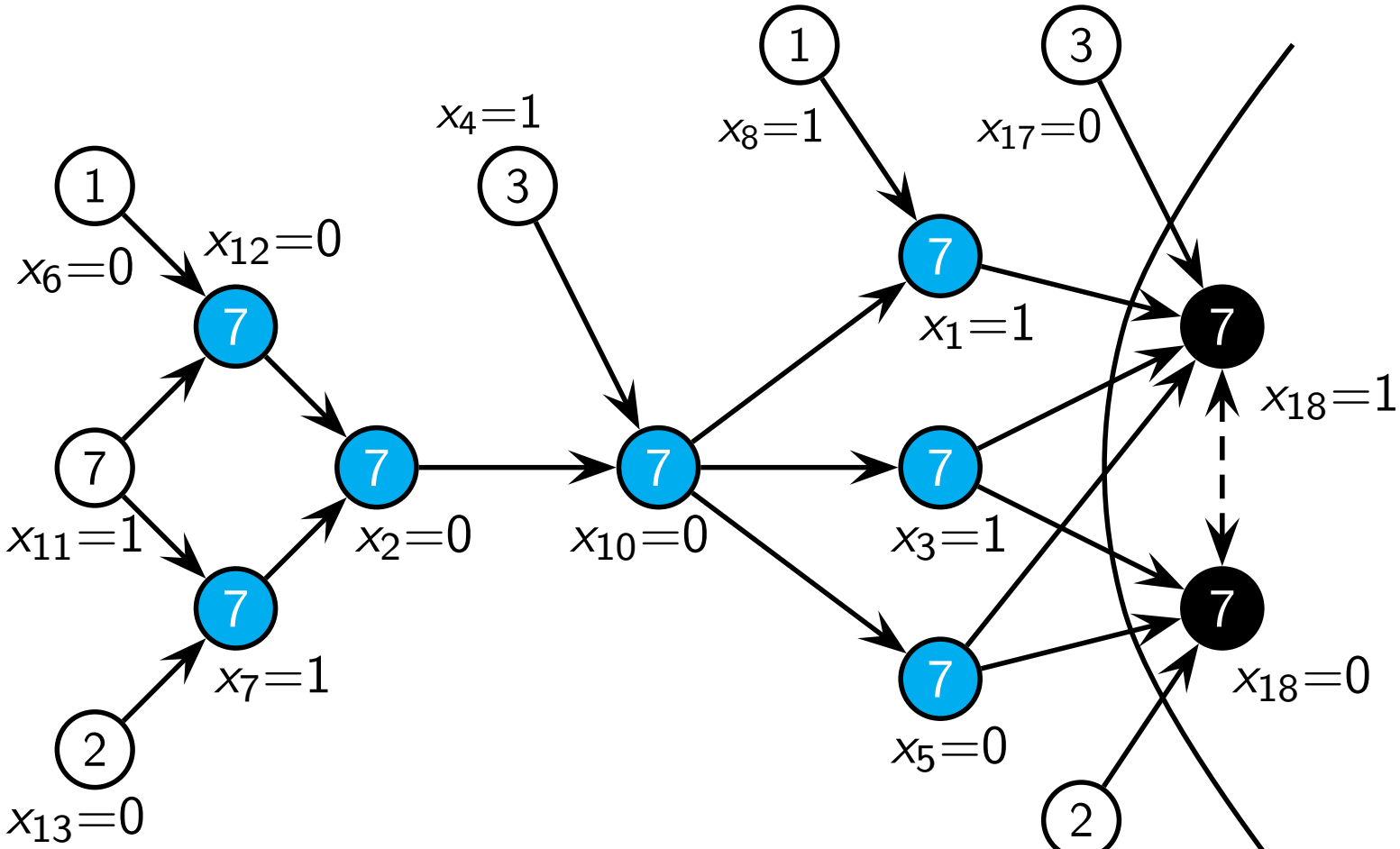
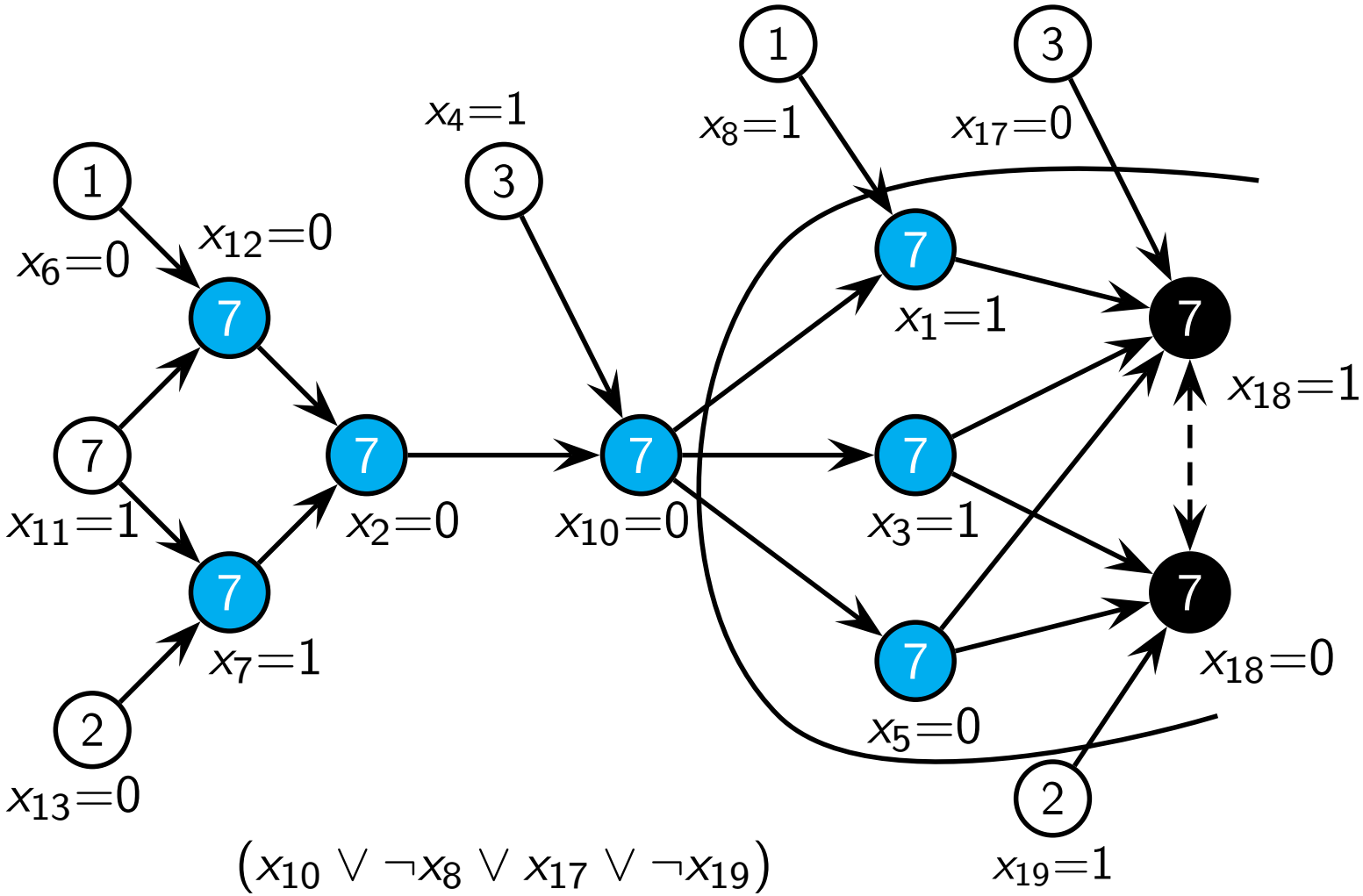


$(\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_3 \vee x_5 \vee x_{17} \vee \neg x_{19})$

tri-asserting clause

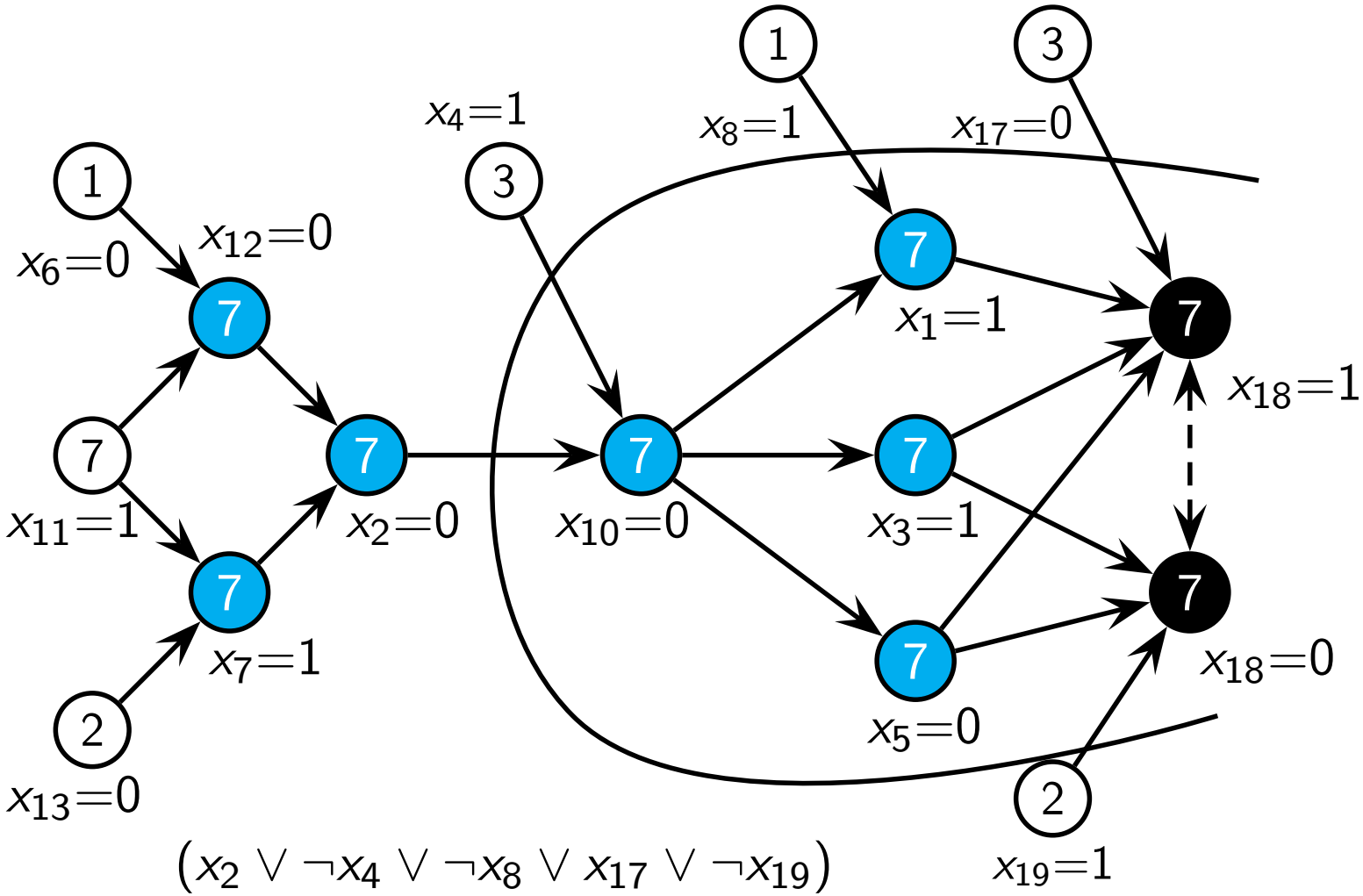
Learning conflict clauses (lemma's)



$(x_{10} \vee \neg x_8 \vee x_{17} \vee \neg x_{19})$

first unique implication point

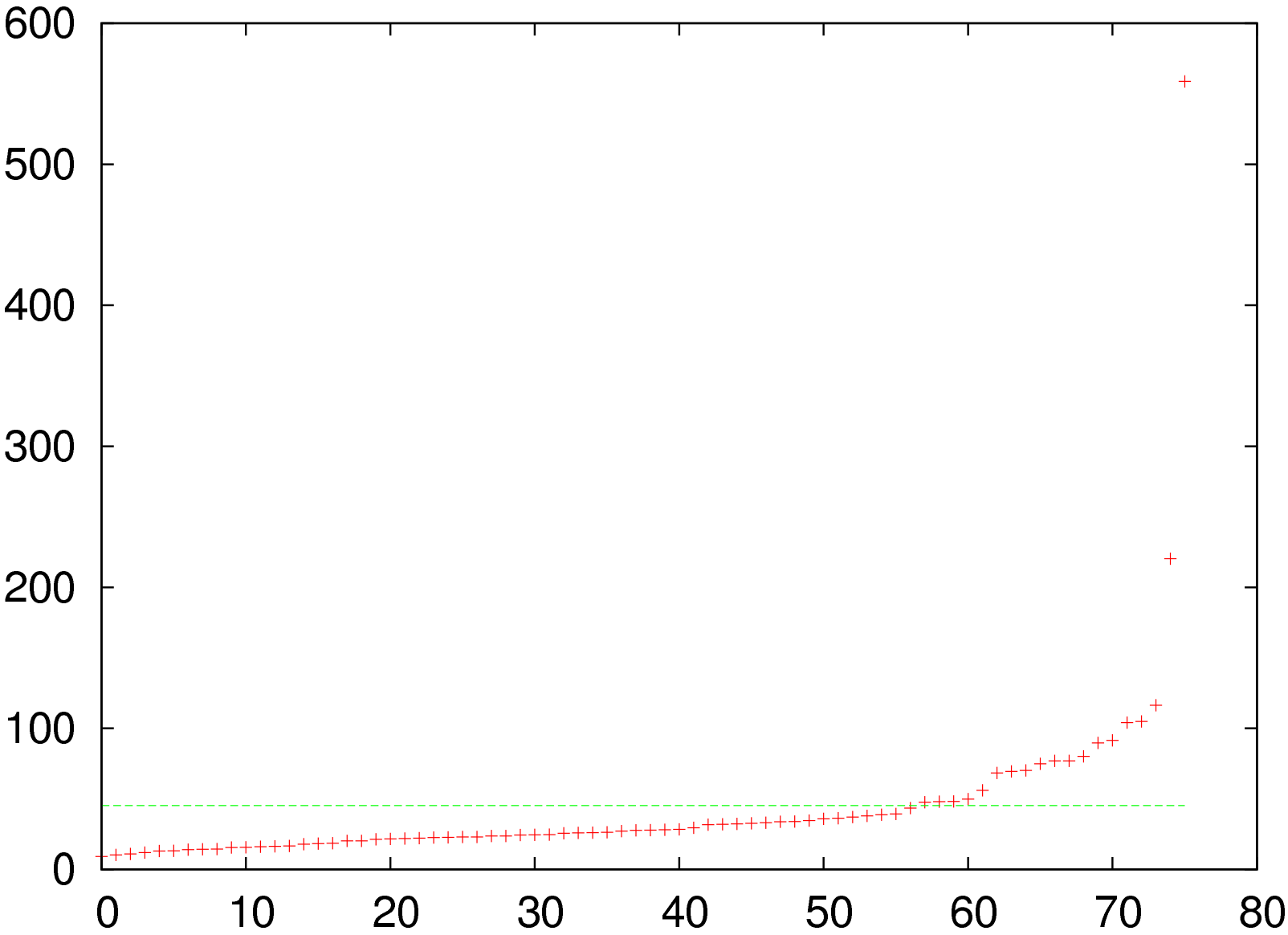
Learning conflict clauses (lemma's)



$(x_2 \vee \neg x_4 \vee \neg x_8 \vee x_{17} \vee \neg x_{19})$

second unique implication point

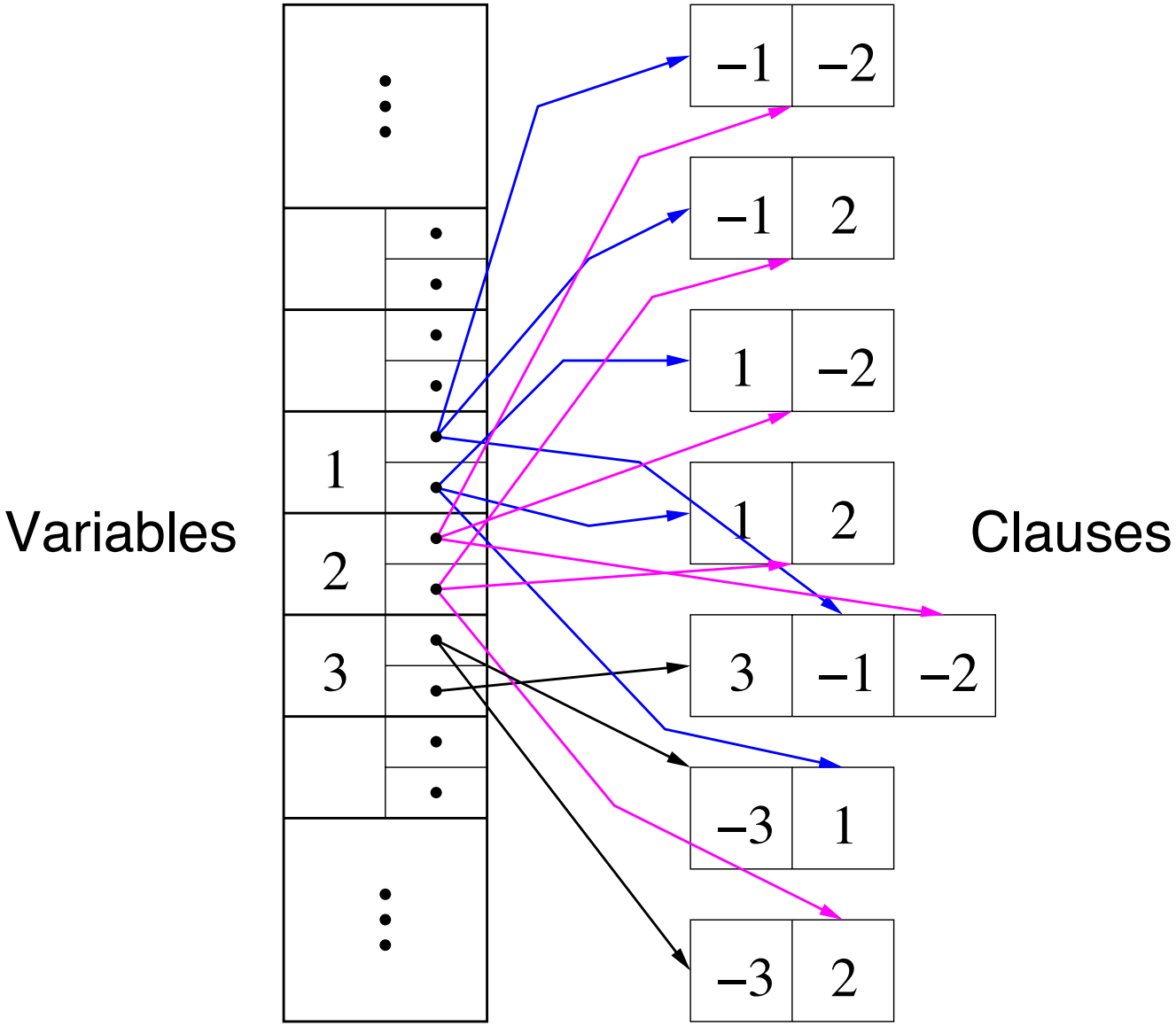
Average Learned Clause Length



Data-structures

Watch pointers

Simple data structure for unit propagation



Conflict-driven: Watch pointers (1)

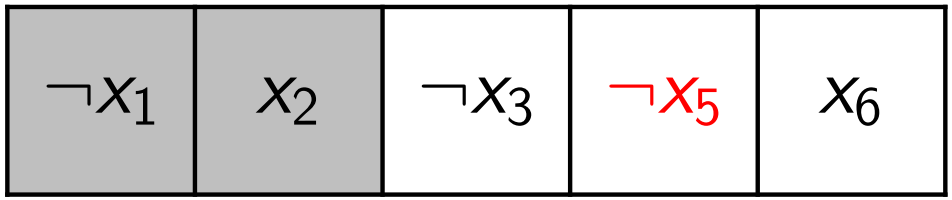
$$\varphi = \{x_1 = *, x_2 = *, x_3 = *, x_4 = *, x_5 = *, x_6 = *\}$$

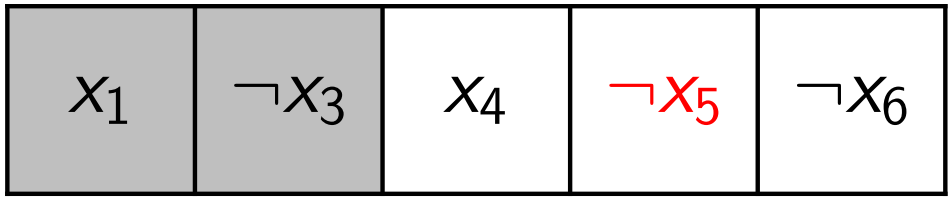
$\neg x_1$	x_2	$\neg x_3$	$\neg x_5$	x_6

x_1	$\neg x_3$	x_4	$\neg x_5$	$\neg x_6$

Conflict-driven: Watch pointers (1)

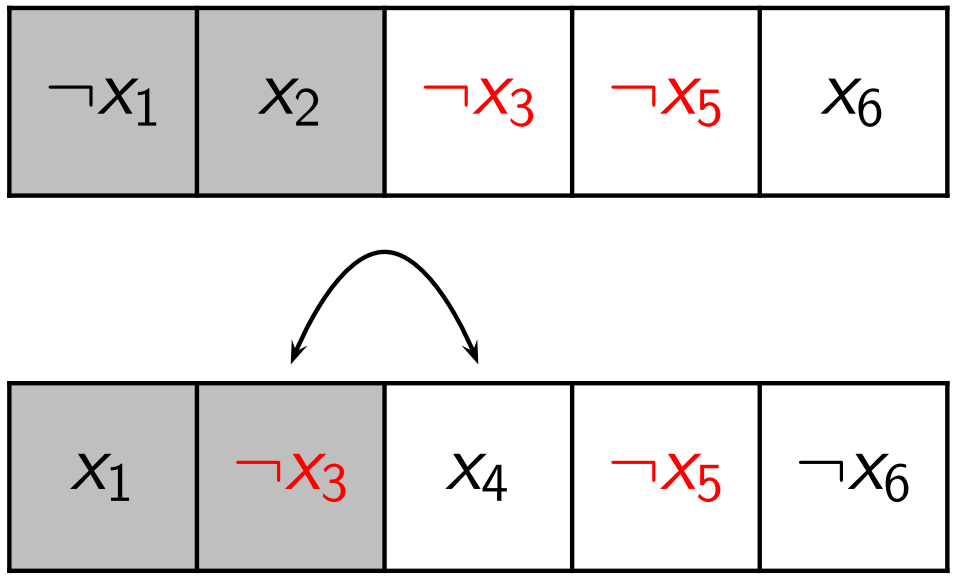
$$\varphi = \{x_1 = *, x_2 = *, x_3 = *, x_4 = *, x_5 = \mathbf{1}, x_6 = *\}$$





Conflict-driven: Watch pointers (1)

$$\varphi = \{x_1 = *, x_2 = *, x_3 = \mathbf{1}, x_4 = *, x_5 = 1, x_6 = *\}$$



Conflict-driven: Watch pointers (1)

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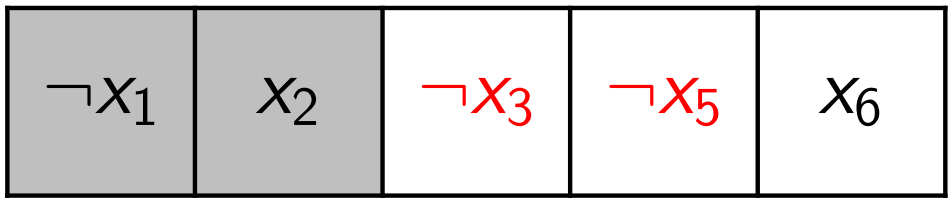
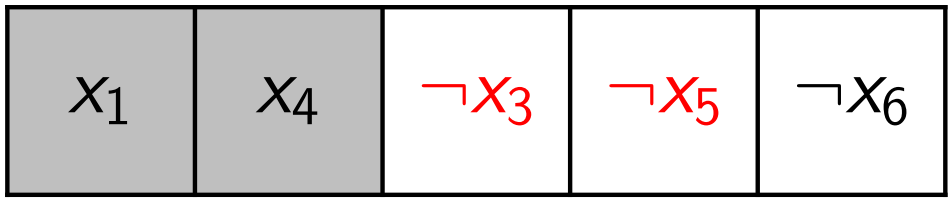
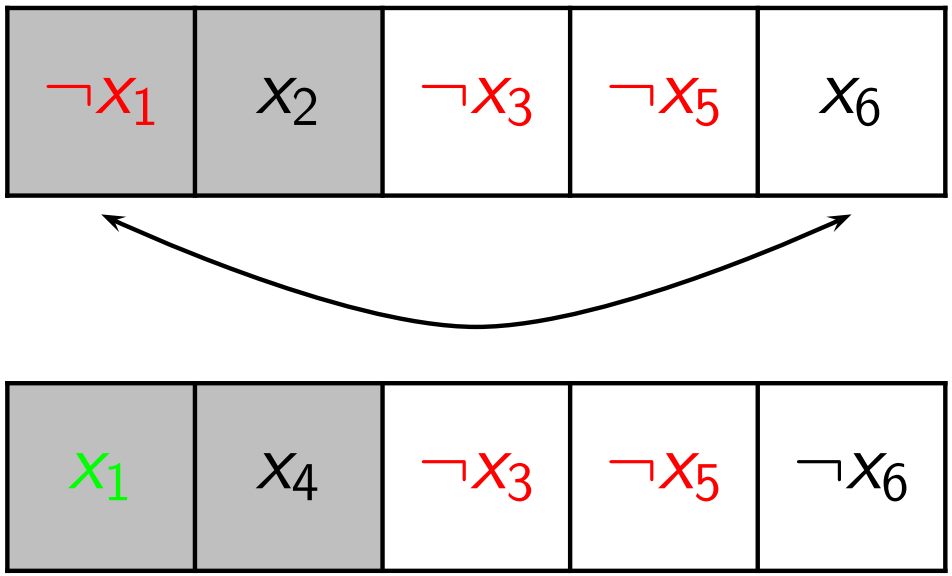




Conflict-driven: Watch pointers (1)

$$\varphi = \{x_1 = \mathbf{1}, x_2 = *, x_3 = 1, x_4 = *, x_5 = 1, x_6 = *\}$$



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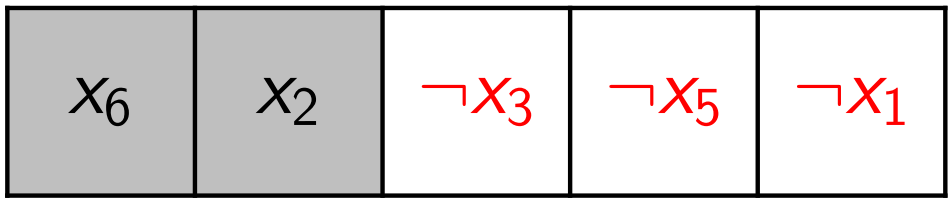

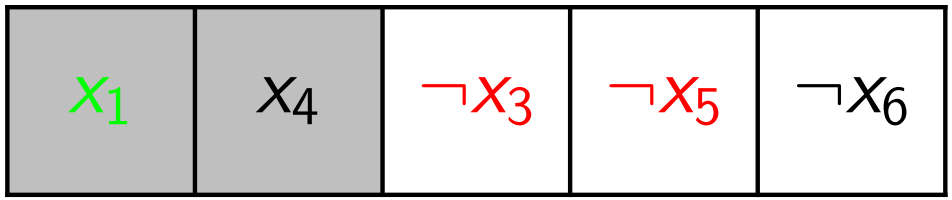

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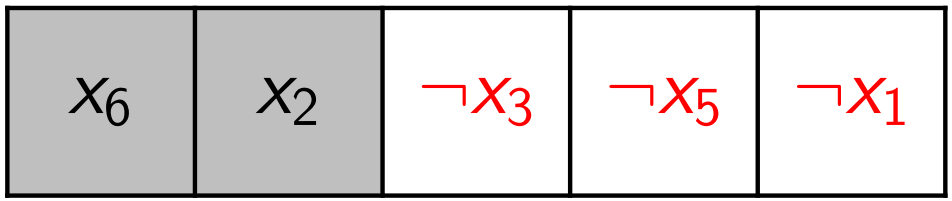

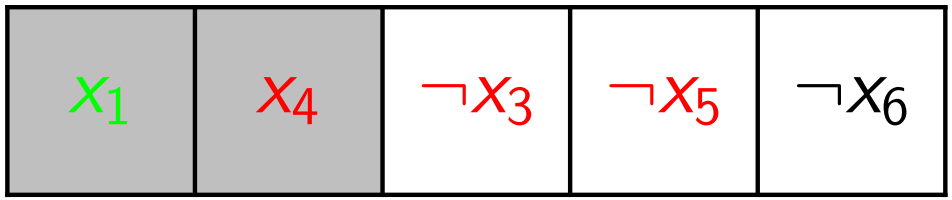

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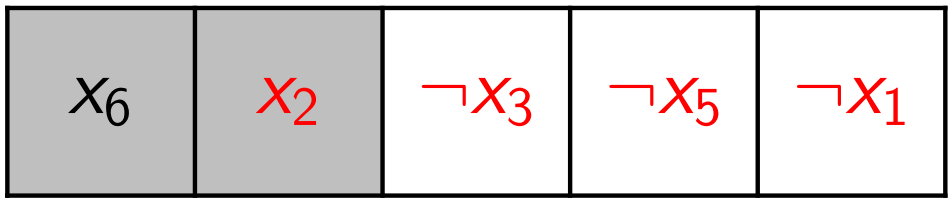

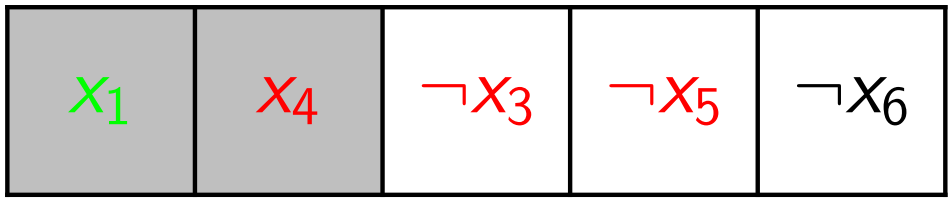

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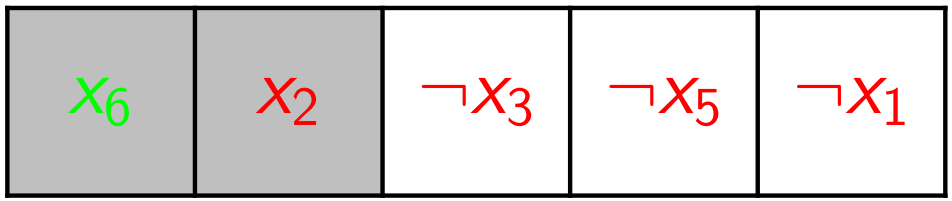

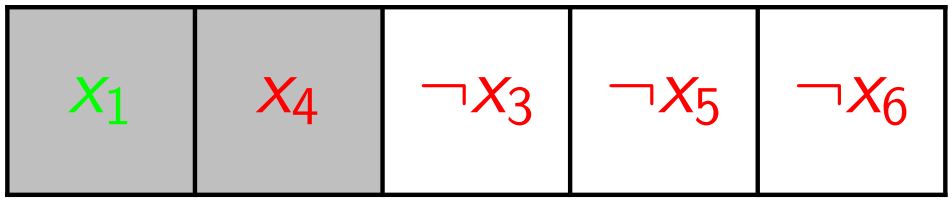

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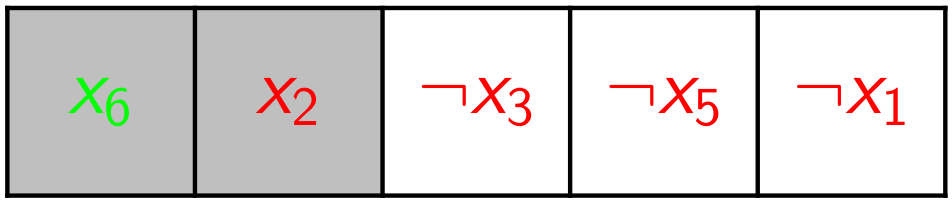
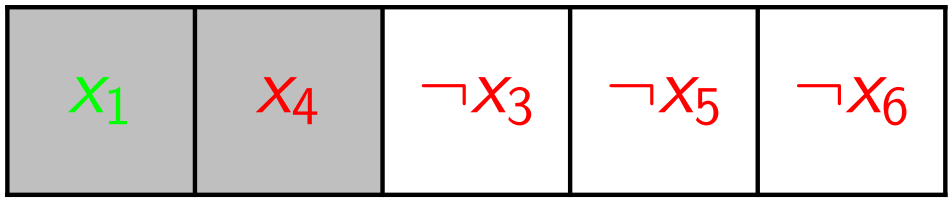




Conflict-driven: Watch pointers (2)

Only examine (get in the cache) a clause when both

- a watch pointer gets falsified
- the other one is not satisfied

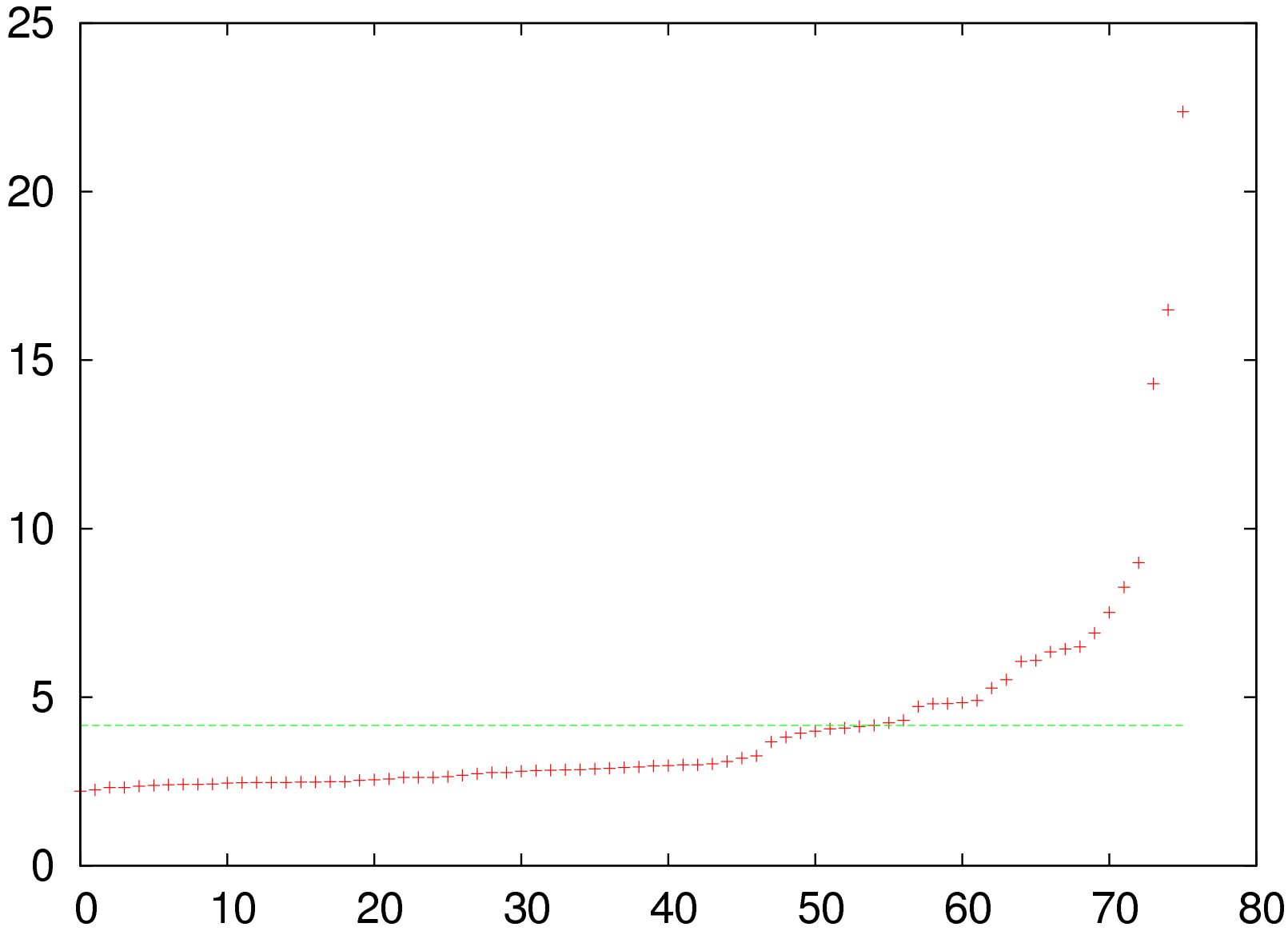
While backjumping, just unassign variables

Conflict clauses $\rightarrow$ watch pointers

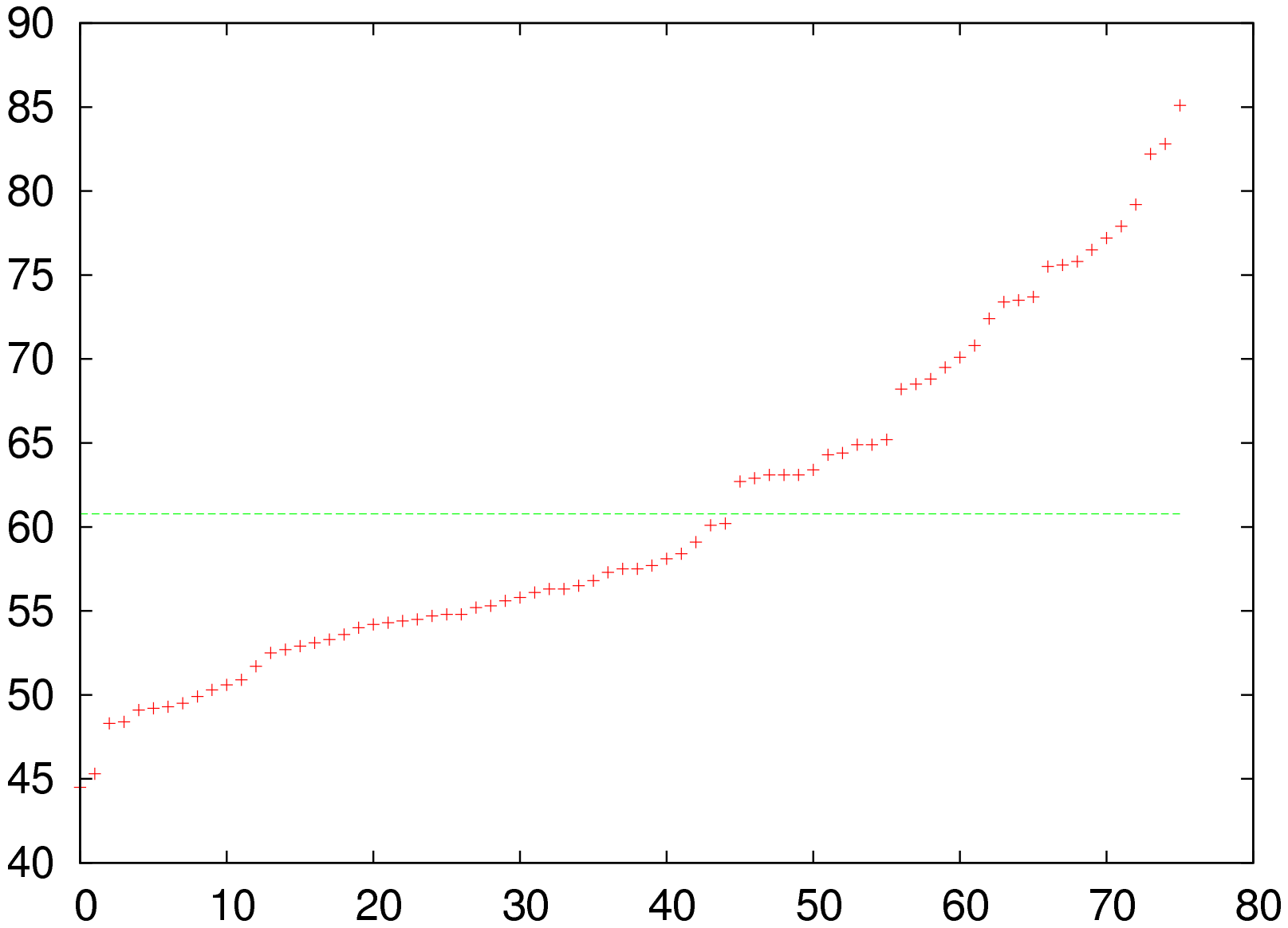
No detailed information available

Not used for binary clauses

Average Number Clauses Visited Per Propagation



Percentage visited clauses with other watched literal true



Heuristics

Most important CDCL heuristics

Variable selection heuristics

- aim: minimize the search space
- plus: could compensate a bad value selection

Value selection heuristics

- aim: guide search towards a solution (or conflict)
- plus: could compensate a bad variable selection, cache solutions of subproblems [PipatsrisawatDarwiche'07]

Restart strategies

- aim: avoid heavy-tail behavior [GomesSelmanCrato'97]
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Variable State Independent Decaying Sum (VSIDS)

- original idea (zChaff): for each conflict, increase the score of involved variables by 1, half all scores each 256 conflicts [MoskewiczMZZM2001]
- improvement (MiniSAT): for each conflict, increase the score of involved variables by δ and increase $\delta := 1.05\delta$ [EenSörensson2003]

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Visualization of VSIDS in PicoSAT

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0jhFywLre8

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- negative branching (early MiniSAT) [EenSörensson2003]

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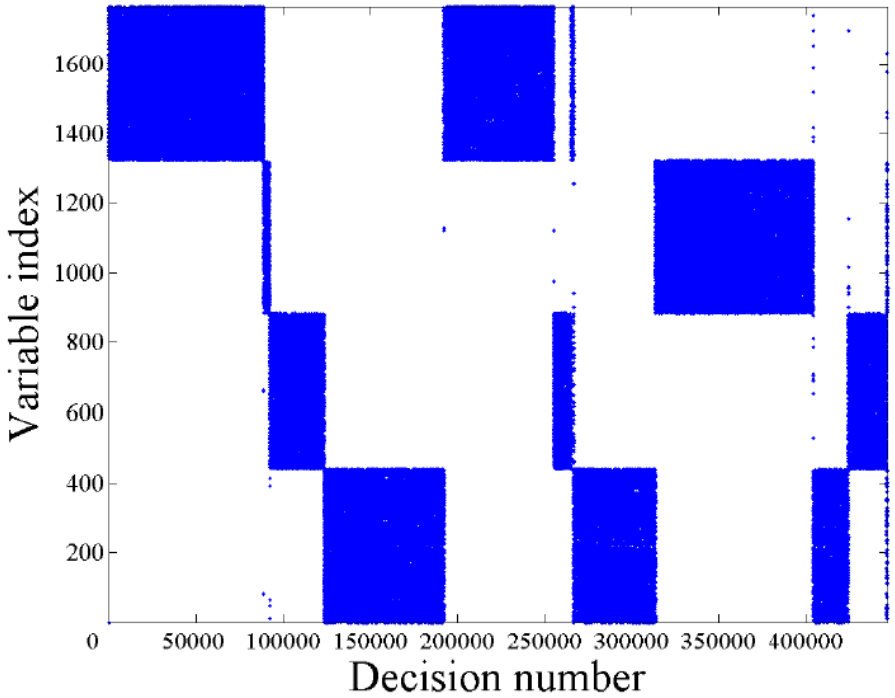
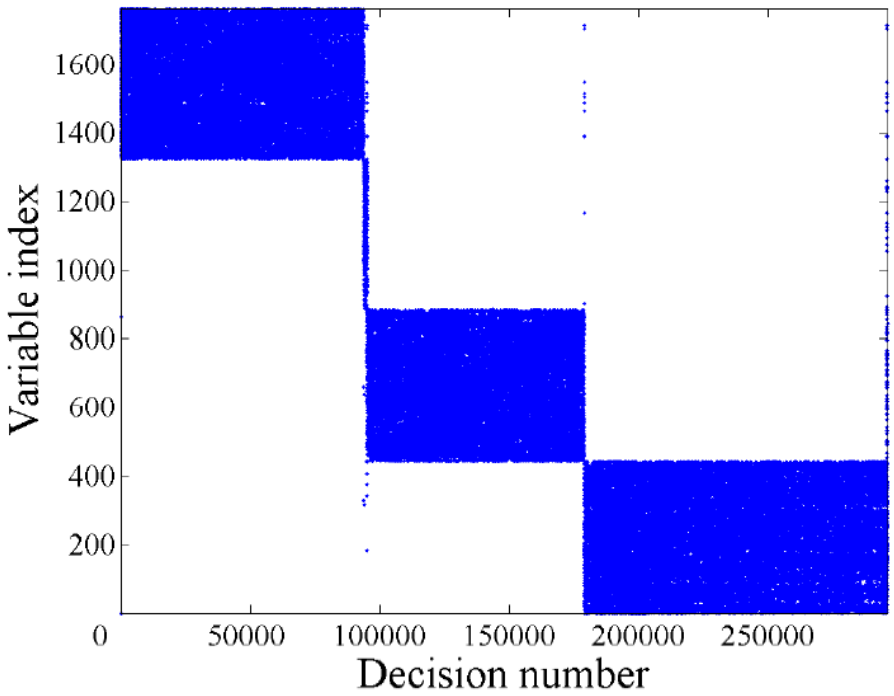
Heuristics: Phase-saving

Selecting the last implied value remembers solved components



negative branching



phase-saving

Restarts

Restarts in CDCL solvers:

- Counter heavy-tail behavior [GomesSelmanCrato'97]
- Unassign all variables but keep the (dynamic) heuristics

Restart strategies: [Walsh'99, LubySinclairZuckerman'93]

- Geometrical restart: e.g. $100, 150, 225, 333, 500, 750, \ldots$
- Luby sequence: e.g. $100, 100, 200, 100, 100, 200, 400, \ldots$

Rapid restarts by reusing trail: [vanderTakHeuleRamos'11]

- Partial restart same effect as full restart
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Variable Elimination

Variable Elimination [DavisPutnam'60]

Definition (Resolution)

Given two clauses $C = (x \vee a_1 \vee \cdots \vee a_i)$ and $D = (\bar{x} \vee b_1 \vee \cdots \vee b_j)$, the *resolvent* of C and D on variable x (denoted by $C \otimes_x D$) is $(a_1 \vee \cdots \vee a_i \vee b_1 \vee \cdots \vee b_j)$

Resolution on sets of clauses F_x and $F_{\bar{x}}$ (denoted by $F_x \otimes_x F_{\bar{x}}$) generates all (non-tautological) resolvents of $C \in F_x$ and $D \in F_{\bar{x}}$.

Definition (Variable elimination (VE))

Given a CNF formula F, *variable elimination* (or DP resolution) removes a variable x by replacing F_x and $F_{\bar{x}}$ by $F_x \otimes_x F_{\bar{x}}$

Proof procedure [DavisPutnam60]

VE is a complete proof procedure. Applying VE until fixpoint results in the empty formula (satisfiable) or empty clause (unsatisfiable)

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VE by substitution [EenBiere07]

General idea

Detect gates (or definitions) $x = \mathrm{GATE}(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$ in the formula and use them to reduce the number of added clauses

Possible gates

gate	G_x	$G_{\bar{x}}$
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$\mathrm{ITE}(c, t, f)$	$(x \vee \bar{c} \vee \bar{t}), (x \vee c \vee \bar{f})$	$(\bar{x} \vee \bar{c} \vee t), (\bar{x} \vee c \vee f)$

Variable elimination by substitution [EenBiere07]

Let $R_x = F_x \setminus G_x$; $R_{\bar{x}} = F_{\bar{x}} \setminus G_{\bar{x}}$.

Replace $F_x \wedge F_{\bar{x}}$ by $G_x \otimes_x R_{\bar{x}} \wedge G_{\bar{x}} \otimes_x R_x$.

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VE by substitution [EenBiere'07]

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$$F_x = (x \vee c) \wedge (x \vee \bar{d}) \wedge (x \vee \bar{a} \vee \bar{b})$$
$$F_{\bar{x}} = (\bar{x} \vee a) \wedge (\bar{x} \vee b) \wedge (\bar{x} \vee \bar{e} \vee f)$$

Example of substitution

		R_x		G_x
		$(x \vee c)$	$(x \vee \bar{d})$	$(x \vee \bar{a} \vee \bar{b})$
$G_{\bar{x}}$	$(\bar{x} \vee a)$	$(a \vee c)$	$(a \vee d)$	
	$(\bar{x} \vee b)$	$(b \vee c)$	$(b \vee d)$	
$R_{\bar{x}}$	$(\bar{x} \vee \bar{e} \vee f)$			$(\bar{a} \vee \bar{b} \vee \bar{e} \vee f)$

using substitution: $|F_x \otimes F_{\bar{x}}| < |F_x| + |F_{\bar{x}}|$

Blocked Clause Elimination

Blocked Clauses [Kullmann'99]

Definition (Blocking literal)

A literal l in a clause C of a CNF F blocks C w.r.t. F if for every clause $C' \in F$ with $\bar{l} \in C'$, the resolvent $(C \setminus \{l\}) \cup (C' \setminus \{\bar{l}\})$ obtained from resolving C and C' on l is a tautology.

With respect to a fixed CNF and its clauses we have:

Definition (Blocked clause)

A clause is blocked if it contains a literal that blocks it.

Example

Consider the formula $(a \vee b) \wedge (a \vee \bar{b} \vee \bar{c}) \wedge (\bar{a} \vee c)$.
First clause is not blocked.
Second clause is blocked by both a and $\bar{c}$. Third clause is blocked by c

Proposition

Removal of an arbitrary blocked clause preserves satisfiability.

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Blocked Clause Elimination (BCE)

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While there is a blocked clause C in a CNF F, remove C from F.

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After removing either $(a \vee \bar{b} \vee \bar{c})$ or $(\bar{a} \vee c)$,
the clause $(a \vee b)$ becomes blocked (*no clause with either* $\bar{b}$ *or* $\bar{a}$).
An extreme case in which BCE removes all clauses of a formula!

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BCE is confluent, i.e., has a unique fixpoint

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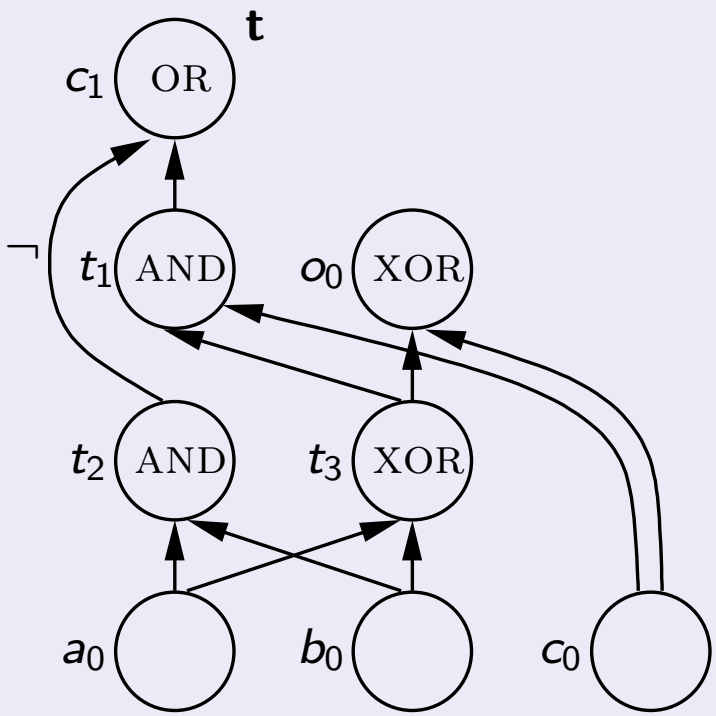

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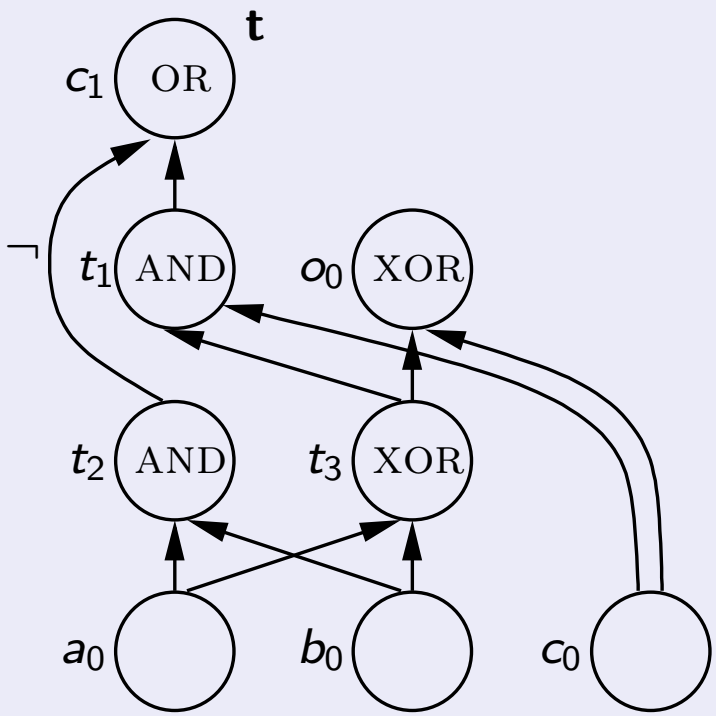

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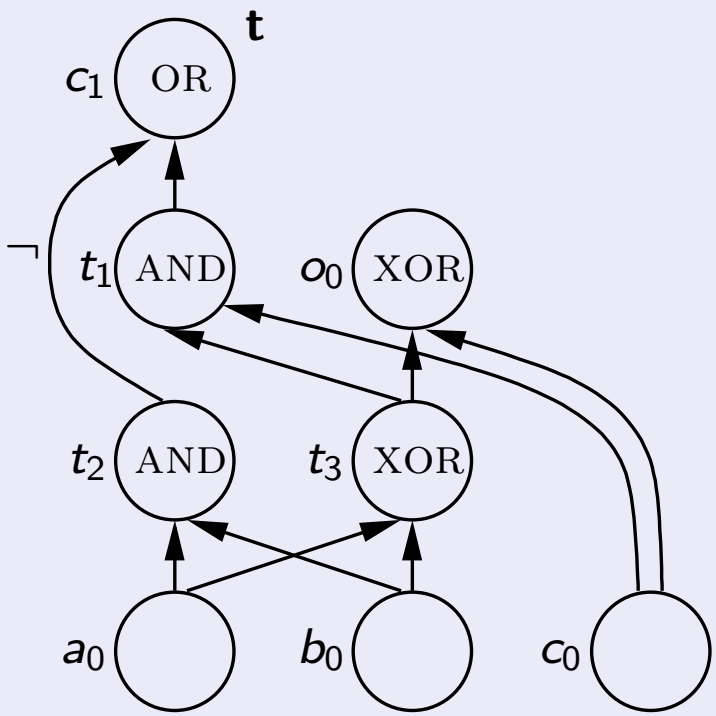

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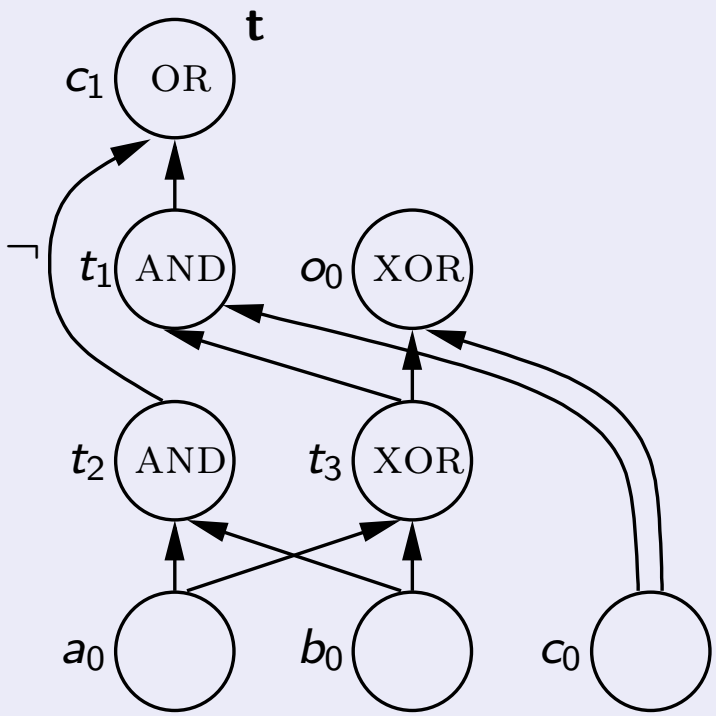

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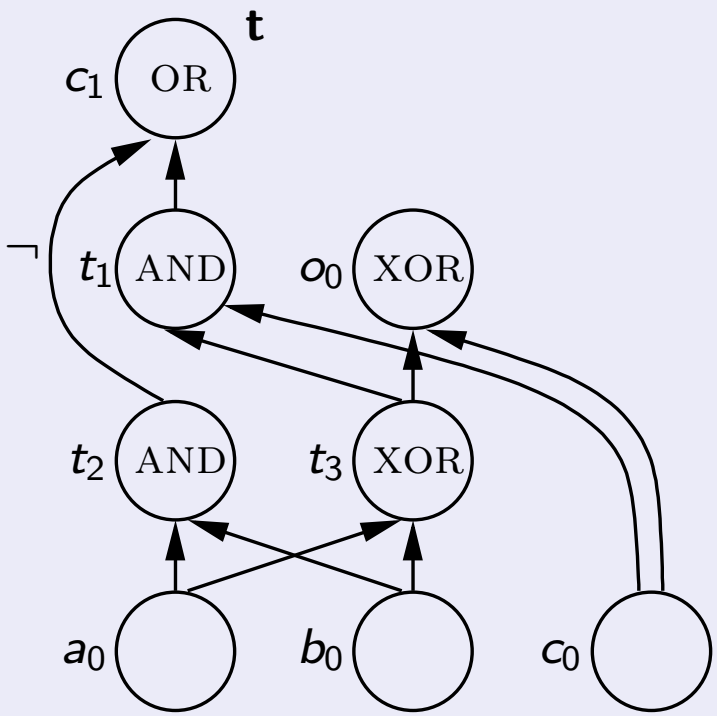

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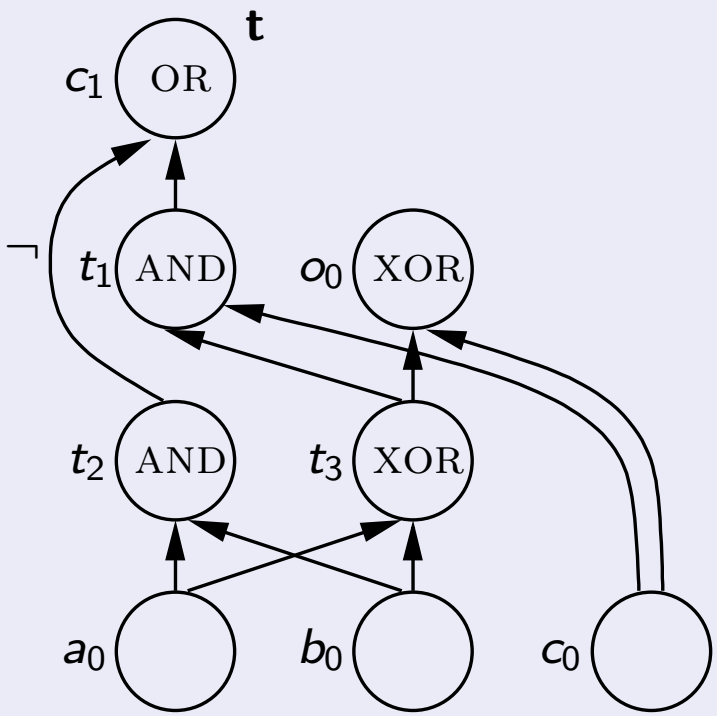

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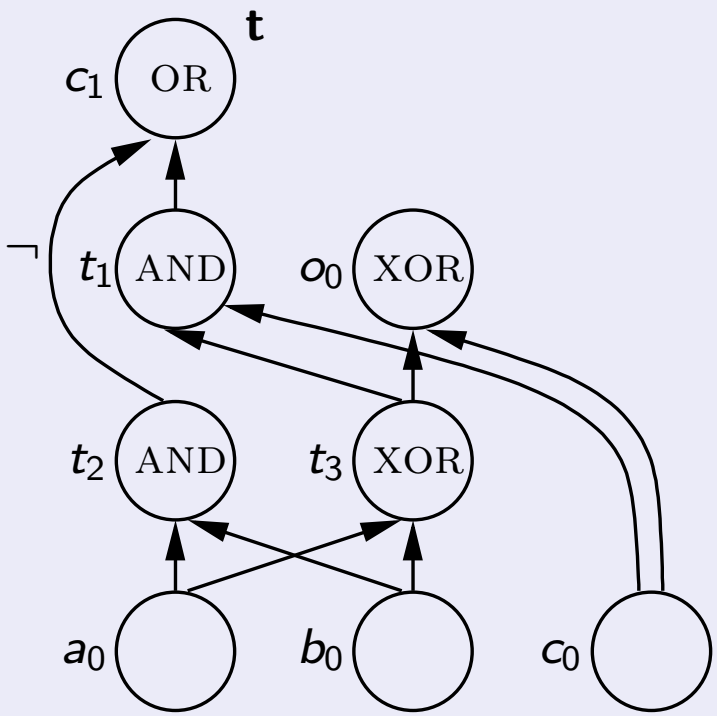

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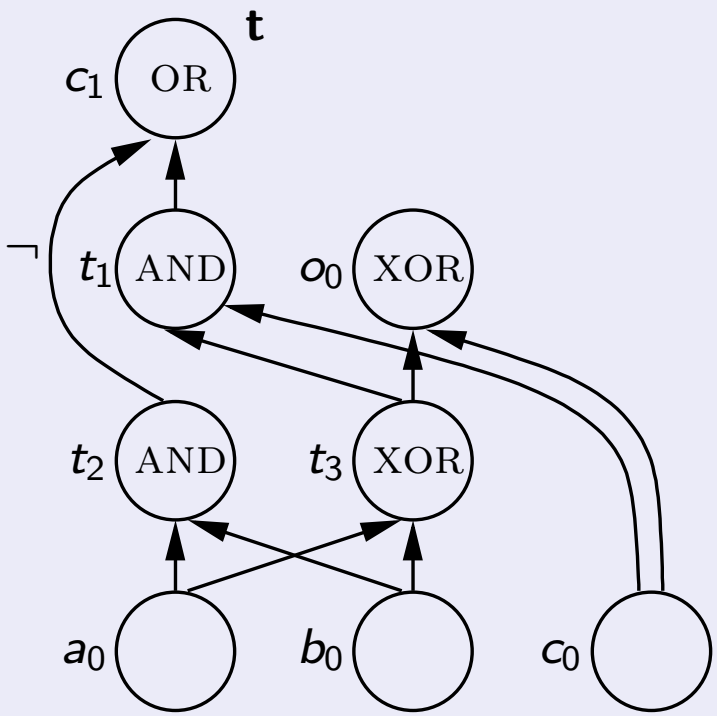

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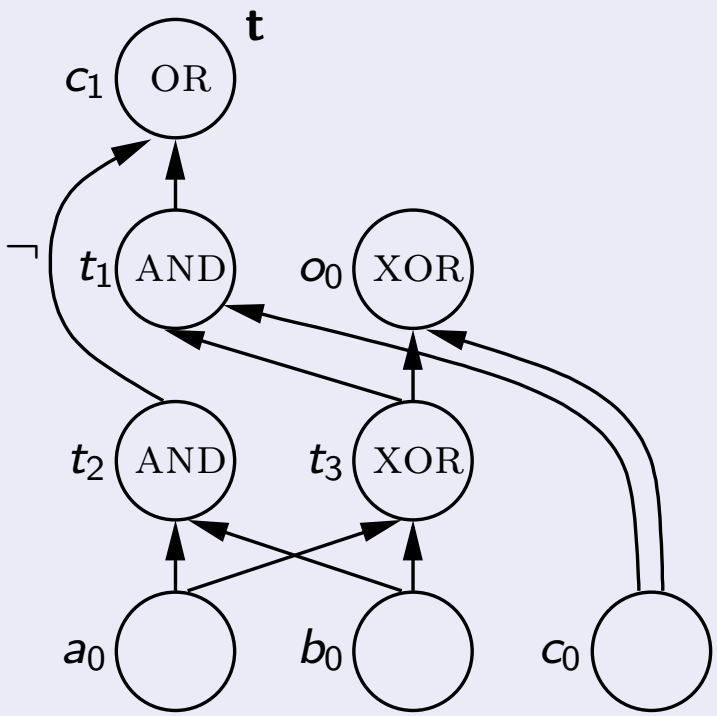

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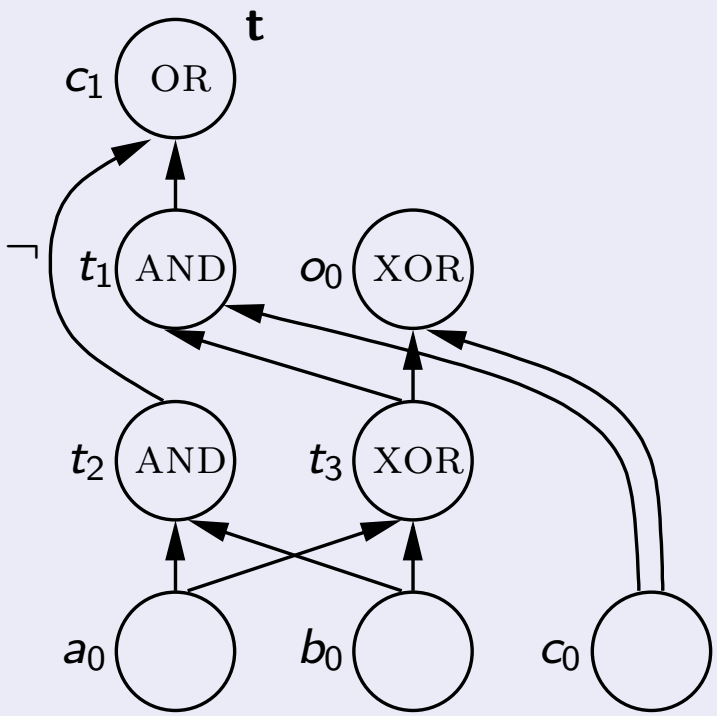

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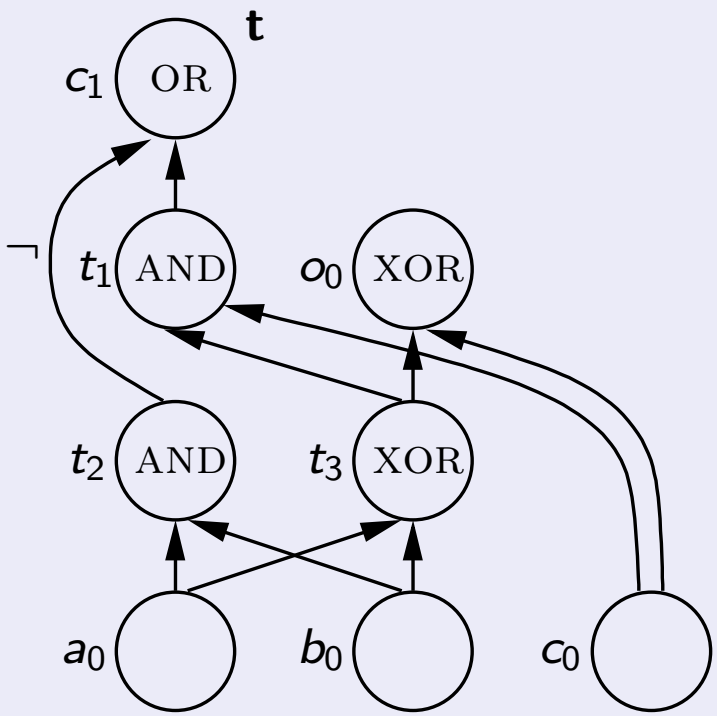

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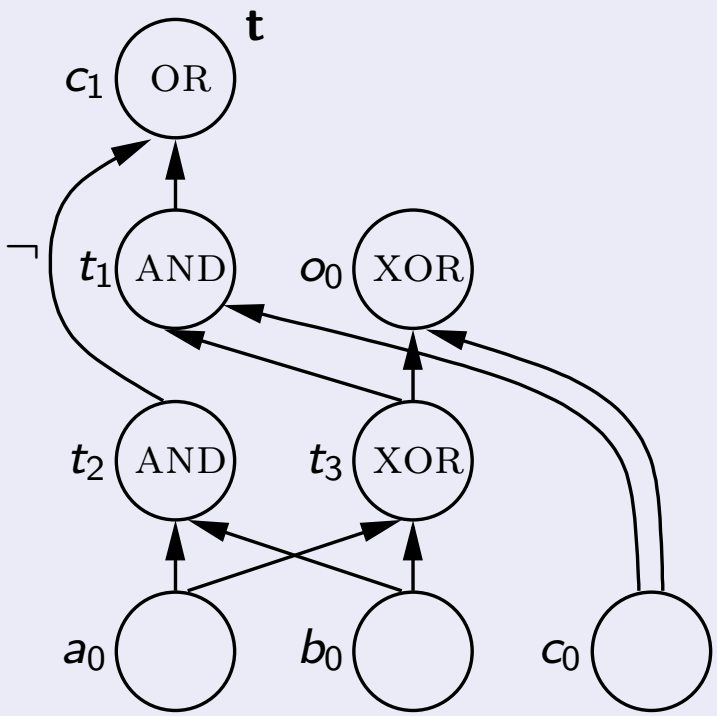

Unhiding redundancy

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Redundant clauses:

- Removal of $C \in F$ preserves unsatisfiability of F
- Assign $l \in C$ to false and check for a conflict in $F \setminus \{C\}$

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Redundancy elimination during pre- and in-processing

- Distillation [JinSomenzi2005]
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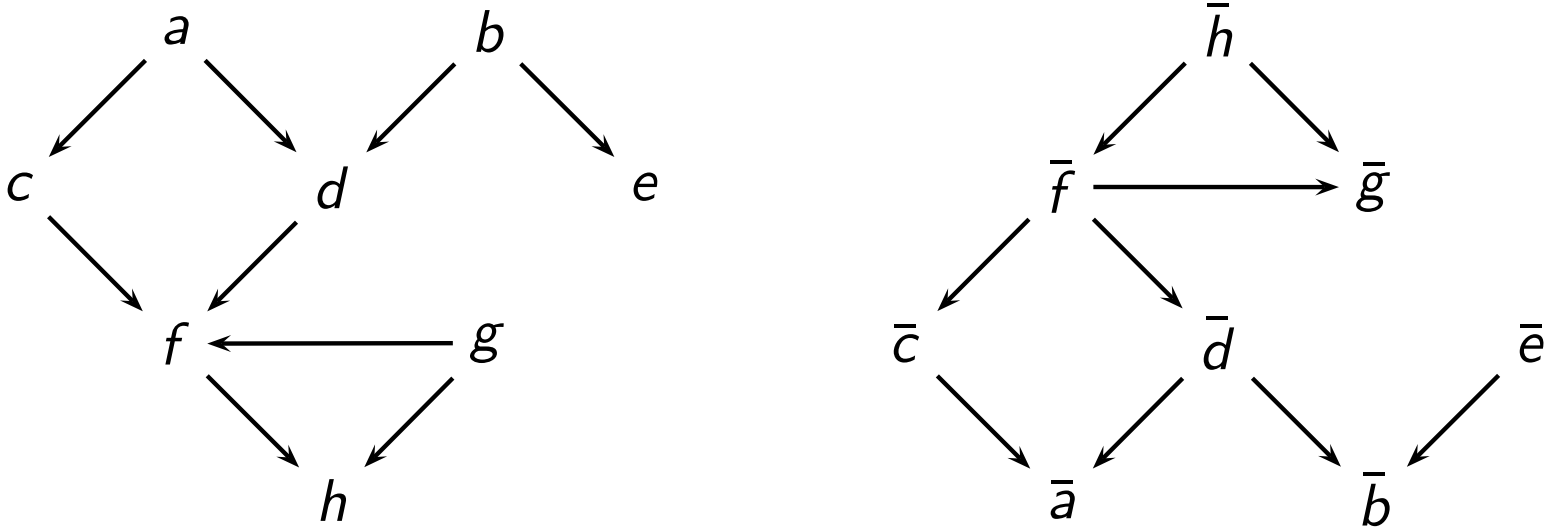
Unhide: Binary implication graph (BIG)

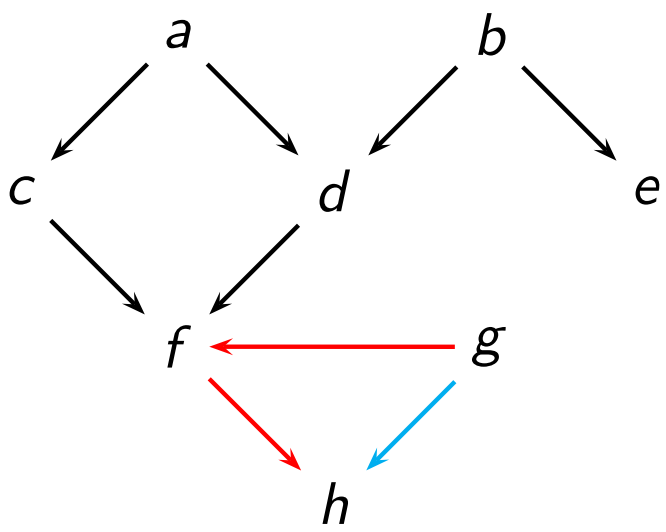
unhide: use the binary clauses to detect redundant clauses and literals

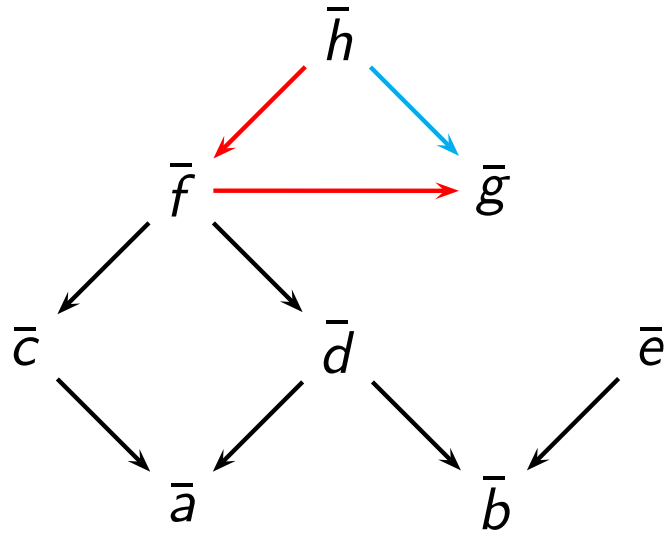


$$(\bar{a} \vee c) \wedge (\bar{a} \vee d) \wedge (\bar{b} \vee d) \wedge (\bar{b} \vee e) \wedge$$
$$(\bar{c} \vee f) \wedge (\bar{d} \vee f) \wedge (\bar{g} \vee f) \wedge (\bar{f} \vee h) \wedge$$
$$(\bar{g} \vee h) \wedge \underbrace{(\bar{a} \vee \bar{e} \vee h) \wedge (\bar{b} \vee \bar{c} \vee h) \wedge (a \vee b \vee c \vee d \vee e \vee f \vee g \vee h)}_{\text{non binary clauses}}$$

Unhide: Transitive reduction (TRD)

transitive reduction: remove shortcuts in the binary implication graph





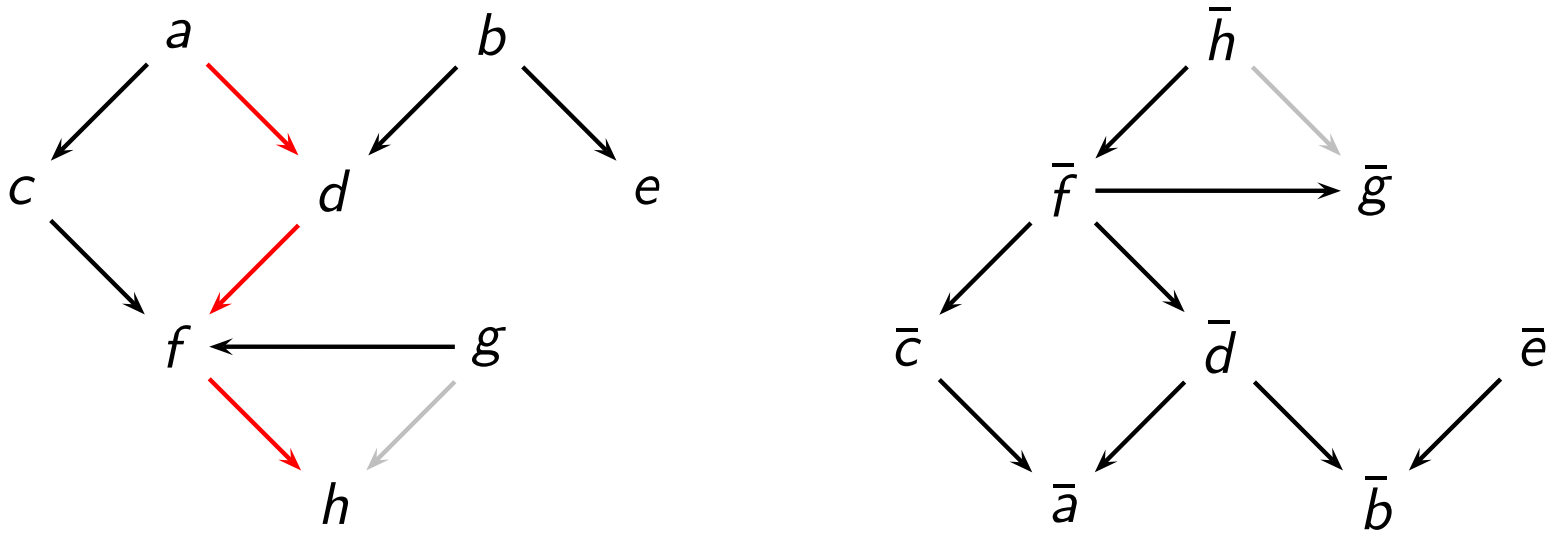
$$(\bar{a} \vee c) \wedge (\bar{a} \vee d) \wedge (\bar{b} \vee d) \wedge (\bar{b} \vee e) \wedge$$
$$(\bar{c} \vee f) \wedge (\bar{d} \vee f) \wedge (\bar{g} \vee f) \wedge (\bar{f} \vee h) \wedge$$
$$\cancel{(\bar{g} \vee h)} \wedge (\bar{a} \vee \bar{e} \vee h) \wedge (\bar{b} \vee \bar{c} \vee h) \wedge (a \vee b \vee c \vee d \vee e \vee f \vee g \vee h)$$

TRD

$g \rightarrow f \rightarrow h$

Unhide: Hidden tautology elimination (HTE) (1)

HTE removes clauses that are subsumed by an implication in BIG



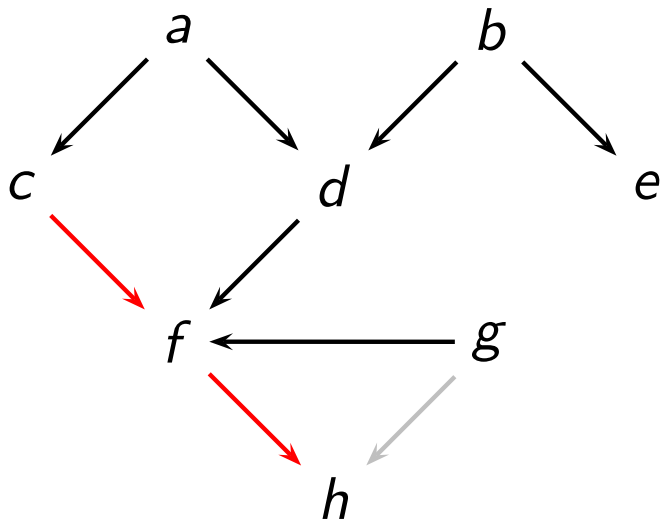
$$(\bar{a} \vee c) \wedge (\bar{a} \vee d) \wedge (\bar{b} \vee d) \wedge (\bar{b} \vee e) \wedge$$
$$(\bar{c} \vee f) \wedge (\bar{d} \vee f) \wedge (\bar{g} \vee f) \wedge (\bar{f} \vee h) \wedge$$
$$\cancel{(\bar{a} \vee \bar{e} \vee h)} \wedge (\bar{b} \vee \bar{c} \vee h) \wedge (a \vee b \vee c \vee d \vee e \vee f \vee g \vee h)$$

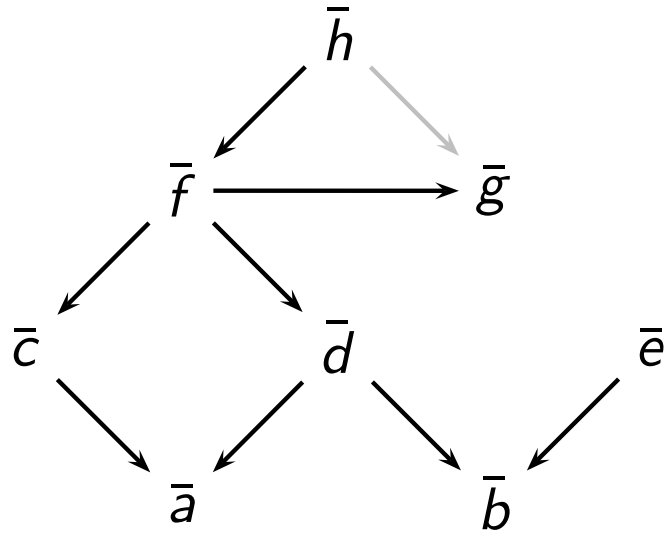
HTE

$a \rightarrow d \rightarrow f \rightarrow h$

Unhide: Hidden tautology elimination (HTE) (2)

HTE removes clauses that are subsumed by an implication in BIG





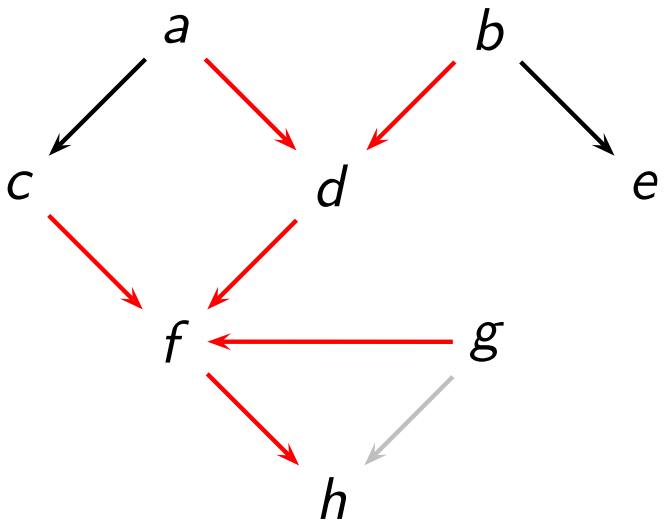
$$(\bar{a} \vee c) \wedge (\bar{a} \vee d) \wedge (\bar{b} \vee d) \wedge (\bar{b} \vee e) \wedge$$
$$(\bar{c} \vee f) \wedge (\bar{d} \vee f) \wedge (\bar{g} \vee f) \wedge (\bar{f} \vee h) \wedge$$
$$\cancel{(\bar{b} \vee \bar{c} \vee h)} \wedge (a \vee b \vee c \vee d \vee e \vee f \vee g \vee h)$$

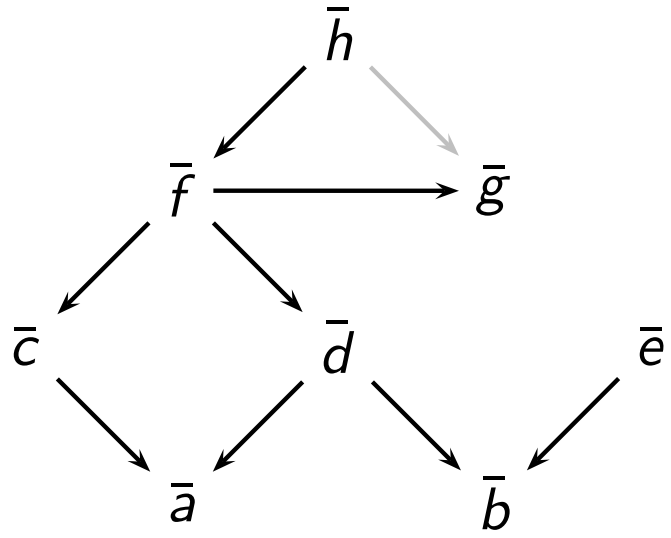
HTE

$c \rightarrow f \rightarrow h$

Unhide: Hidden literal elimination (HLE)

HLE removes literal using the implication in BIG





$$(\bar{a} \vee c) \wedge (\bar{a} \vee d) \wedge (\bar{b} \vee d) \wedge (\bar{b} \vee e) \wedge$$
$$(\bar{c} \vee f) \wedge (\bar{d} \vee f) \wedge (\bar{g} \vee f) \wedge (\bar{f} \vee h) \wedge$$

$$(\cancel{a \vee b \vee c \vee d} \vee e \vee \cancel{f \vee g} \vee h)$$

HLE

all but e imply h

also b implies e

Conclusions: state-of-the-art SAT solver

Key contributions to SAT search engine:

- adding conflict clauses (grasp) [Marques-Silva'96]
- restart strategies [GomesSC'97,LubySZ'93]
- 2-watch pointers and VSIDS (zChaff) [MoskewiczMZZM'01]
- efficient implementation (Minisat) [EenSörensson'03]
- variable elimination (SatElite) [EenBiere'05]
- phase-saving (Rsat) [PipatsrisawatDarwiche'07]

Recent progress: pre- and in-processing

- removal of redundant clauses and literals [JinSomenzi'05]
- removal of blocked clauses [JärvisaloBiereHeule'10]
- unhiding redundancy [HeuleJärvisaloBiere'11]

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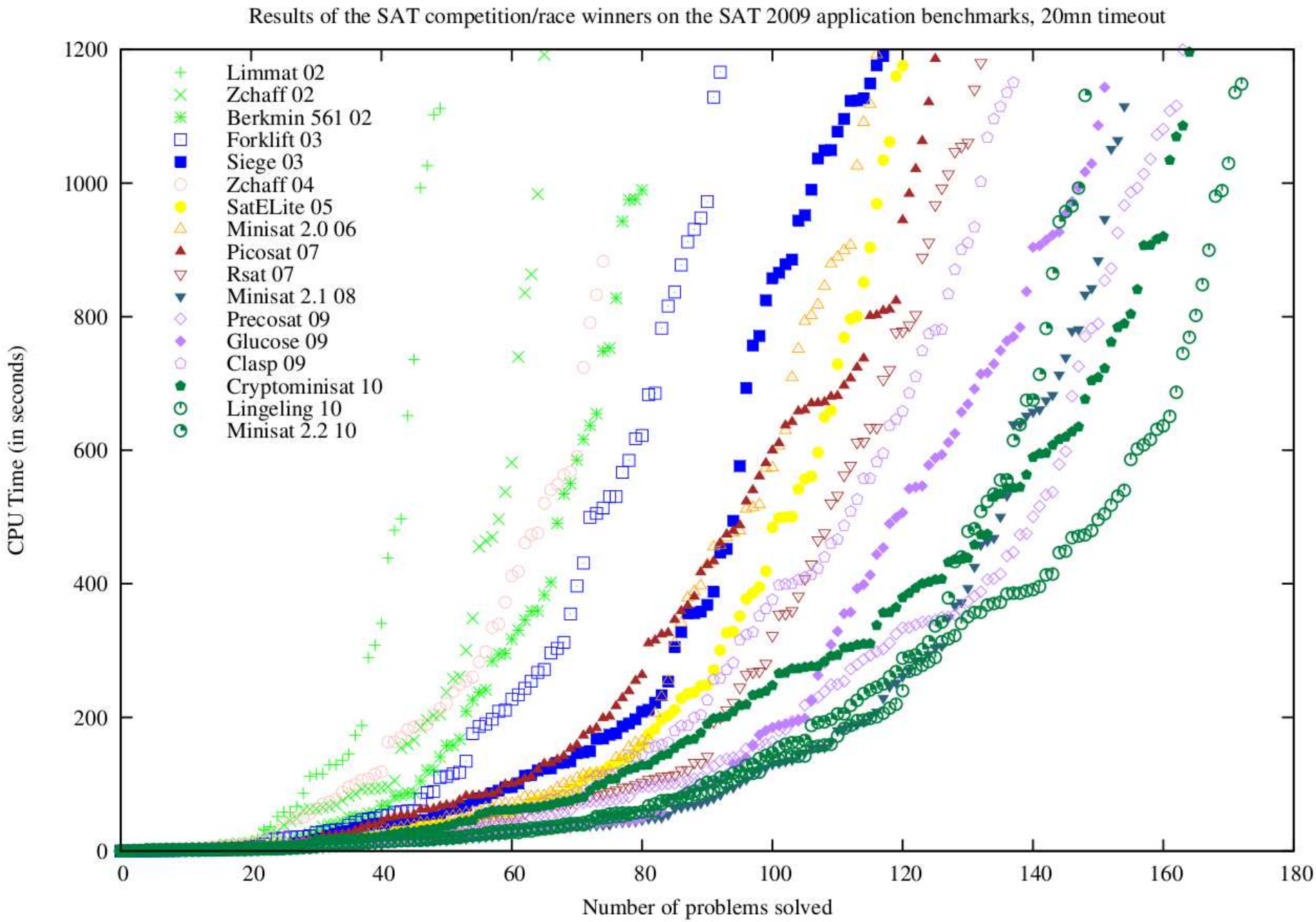
Cactus plot: Lingeling [Biere'10] contains all features



Call for PhD Students and Postdocs

The RiSE project is a National Research Network funded by the Austrian National Science Foundation (FWF) on the topic of Rigorous Systems Engineering.

RiSE is looking for several postdocs and PhD students in formal methods, systems engineering and related fields such as programming languages and distributed systems, to work on topics such as:

- design and verification of concurrent and real-time software;
- reactive synthesis and game theory;
- logical decision procedures.

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