



# SAT and SMT Solving

**Sarah Winkler**

KRDB

Department of Computer Science  
Free University of Bozen-Bolzano

lecture 2  
WS 2022

- Summary of Last Week
- From DPLL to Conflict Driven Clause Learning
- Application: Test Case Generation

## Approach

- ▶ most state-of-the-art SAT solvers use variation of Davis - Putnam - Logemann - Loveland (DPLL) procedure (1962)
- ▶ DPLL is sound and complete backtracking-based search algorithm
- ▶ can be described abstractly by transition system (Nieuwenhuis, Oliveras, Tinelli 2006)

## Definition (Abstract DPLL)

- ▶ **decision literal** is annotated literal  $l^d$
- ▶ **state** is pair  $M \parallel F$  for
  - ▶ list  $M$  of (decision) literals
  - ▶ formula  $F$  in CNF
- ▶ transition rules

$$M \parallel F \quad \Longrightarrow \quad M' \parallel F' \quad \text{or} \quad \text{FailState}$$

## Definition (DPLL Transition Rules)

- ▶ **unit propagation**  $M \parallel F, C \vee I \implies M I \parallel F, C \vee I$   
if  $M \models \neg C$  and  $I$  is undefined in  $M$
- ▶ **pure literal**  $M \parallel F \implies M I \parallel F$   
if  $I$  occurs in  $F$  but  $I^c$  does not occur in  $F$ , and  $I$  is undefined in  $M$
- ▶ **decide**  $M \parallel F \implies M I^d \parallel F$   
if  $I$  or  $I^c$  occurs in  $F$ , and  $I$  is undefined in  $M$
- ▶ **backtrack**  $M I^d N \parallel F, C \implies M I^c \parallel F, C$   
if  $M I^d N \models \neg C$  and  $N$  contains no decision literals
- ▶ **fail**  $M \parallel F, C \implies \text{FailState}$   
if  $M \models \neg C$  and  $M$  contains no decision literals
- ▶ **backjump**  $M I^d N \parallel F, C \implies M I' \parallel F, C$   
if  $M I^d N \models \neg C$  and  $\exists$  clause  $C' \vee I'$  such that
  - ▶  $F, C \models C' \vee I'$  backjump clause
  - ▶  $M \models \neg C'$  and  $I'$  is undefined in  $M$ , and  $I'$  or  $I'^c$  occurs in  $F$  or in  $M I^d N$

## Definition

basic DPLL  $\mathcal{B}$  consists of unit propagation, decide, fail, and backjump

## Theorem (Termination)

there are *no infinite derivations*  $\parallel F \implies_{\mathcal{B}} S_1 \implies_{\mathcal{B}} S_2 \implies_{\mathcal{B}} \dots$

## Theorem (Correctness)

for derivation with *final* state  $S_n$ :

$$\parallel F \implies_{\mathcal{B}} S_1 \implies_{\mathcal{B}} S_2 \implies_{\mathcal{B}} \dots \implies_{\mathcal{B}} S_n$$

- ▶ if  $S_n = \text{FailState}$  then  $F$  is *unsatisfiable*
- ▶ if  $S_n = M \parallel F'$  then  $F$  is *satisfiable* and  $M \models F$

## Definition

polarity of subformula  $\varphi$  in  $\psi$  is  $+$  if number of negations above  $\varphi$  in  $\psi$  is even, and  $-$  otherwise

## Example (Efficient Transformations to CNF)

- ▶  $\varphi = \neg(p \vee q) \vee (p \wedge (p \vee q))$
- ▶ use fresh propositional variable for every connective

$$a_0: \neg(p \vee q) \vee (p \wedge (p \vee q)) \quad a_1: \neg(p \vee q)$$

$$a_2: p \vee q \quad a_3: p \wedge (p \vee q)$$

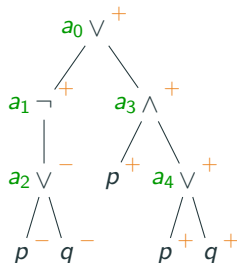
- ▶ Tseitin: add clause  $a_0$  plus  $(a_i \leftrightarrow \dots)$  for every subformula

$$\varphi \approx a_0 \wedge (a_0 \leftrightarrow a_1 \vee a_3) \wedge (a_1 \leftrightarrow \neg a_2) \wedge (a_2 \leftrightarrow p \vee q) \wedge (a_3 \leftrightarrow p \wedge a_2)$$

- ▶ Plaisted & Greenbaum:  $(a_i \rightarrow \dots)$  if polarity of  $a_i$  is  $+$  and  $(a_i \leftarrow \dots)$  if  $-$

$$\varphi \approx a_0 \wedge (a_0 \rightarrow a_1 \vee a_3) \wedge (a_1 \rightarrow \neg a_2) \wedge (a_2 \leftarrow p \vee q) \wedge (a_3 \rightarrow p \wedge a_2) \wedge (a_4 \rightarrow p \vee q)$$

- ▶ replace  $\leftrightarrow$  and  $\rightarrow$  by 2 or 3 clauses each



- Summary of Last Week
- From DPLL to Conflict Driven Clause Learning
  - Conflict Analysis
  - Heuristics and Data Structures
- Application: Test Case Generation

## Conflict Driven Clause Learning (CDCL)

```
function dpll( $\varphi$ )  
  M = []  
  while (true)  
    if all_variables_assigned(M)  
      return satisfiable  
  M = decide( $\varphi$ , M)  
  M = unit_propagate( $\varphi$ , M)  
  if (conflict( $\varphi$ , M))  
    try  
      M, C = backjump( $\varphi$ , M)  
       $\varphi = \varphi \cup \{C\}$   
    catch (fail_state)  
      return unsatisfiable  
   $\varphi$  = forget( $\varphi$ )  
  if (do_restart(M))  
    return dpll( $\varphi$ )
```

choice of decision literals  
matters for performance

more than 90% of time  
spent in unit propagation

backjump clauses are useful:  
learn them!

forgetting implied clauses  
improves performance

occasional restarts  
improve performance



## Definition (CDCL)

CDCL system  $\mathcal{R}$  extends DPLL system  $\mathcal{B}$  by following three rules:

- ▶ **learn** 
$$M \parallel F \implies M \parallel F, C$$
if  $F \models C$  and all atoms of  $C$  occur in  $M$  or  $F$
- ▶ **forget** 
$$M \parallel F, C \implies M \parallel F$$
if  $F \models C$
- ▶ **restart** 
$$M \parallel F \implies \parallel F$$

## Theorem (Termination)

any derivation  $\parallel F \Longrightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} S_1 \Longrightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} S_2 \Longrightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} \dots$  is finite if

- ▶ it contains *no infinite subderivation* of *learn* and *forget* steps, and
- ▶ *restart* is applied with *increasing periodicity*

## Theorem (Correctness)

for derivation with final state  $S_n$ :

$$\parallel F \Longrightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} S_1 \Longrightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} S_2 \Longrightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} \dots \Longrightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} S_n$$

- ▶ if  $S_n = \text{FailState}$  then  $F$  is *unsatisfiable*
- ▶ if  $S_n = M \parallel F'$  then  $F$  is *satisfiable* and  $M \models F$

- Summary of Last Week
- From DPLL to Conflict Driven Clause Learning
  - Conflict Analysis
  - Heuristics and Data Structures
- Application: Test Case Generation

## Backjump: Idea

- ▶ backjump clause  $C' \vee I'$  is entailed by formula (magically detected)
- ▶ prefix  $M$  of current literal list entails  $\neg C'$

## Backjump to Definition

- ▶ **backjump**  $M I^d N \parallel F, C \implies M I' \parallel F, C$   
 if  $M I^d N \models \neg C$  and  $\exists$  clause  $C' \vee I'$  such that
  - ▶  $F, C \models C' \vee I'$  backjump clause
  - ▶  $M \models \neg C'$  and  $I'$  is undefined in  $M$ , and  $I'$  or  $I'^c$  occurs in  $F$  or in  $M I^d N$

## Example

$$\underbrace{1^d 2}_M \underbrace{3^d}_I \underbrace{4^d \bar{5}}_N \parallel \bar{1} \vee 2, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee 4 \vee 5, \bar{2} \vee \bar{4} \vee \bar{5}, 4 \vee \bar{5}, \boxed{4 \vee 5}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{5} \vee 6, \bar{2} \vee \bar{5} \vee \bar{6}$$

$$\implies 1^d 2 \bar{5} \parallel \bar{1} \vee 2, \bar{1} \vee 3 \vee 4 \vee 5, \bar{2} \vee 4 \vee \bar{5}, \bar{4} \vee \bar{5}, 4 \vee 5, \bar{1} \vee \bar{5} \vee 6, \bar{2} \vee \bar{5} \vee \bar{6}$$

$$M = 1^d 2 \quad I = 3 \quad N = 4^d \bar{5} \quad C = \bar{4} \vee 5 \quad C' = \bar{1} \quad I' = \bar{5}$$

- ▶  $1^d 2 3^d 4^d \bar{5} \models \neg(\bar{4} \vee 5)$
- ▶ backjump clause  $C' \vee I' = \bar{1} \vee \bar{5}$  satisfies  $F, C \models C' \vee I'$
- ▶  $1^d 2 \models 1$ , and  $5$  is undefined in  $1^d 2$  but occurs in  $F$

- Summary of Last Week
- From DPLL to Conflict Driven Clause Learning
  - Conflict Analysis
  - Heuristics and Data Structures
- Application: Test Case Generation

## **Desirable Properties of Backjump Clauses**

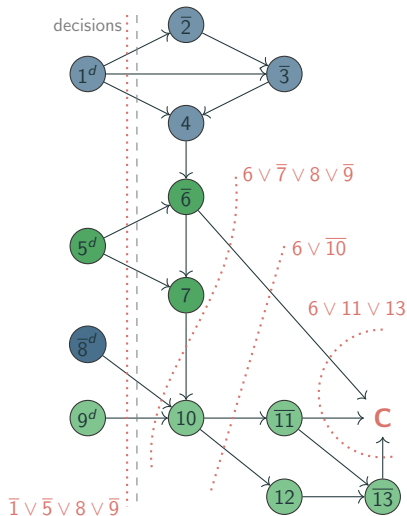
- ▶ small
- ▶ should trigger progress

## **How to Determine Backjump Clauses?**

- ▶ implication graph
- ▶ resolution

# Example: Implication Graph

$$\varphi = (\bar{1} \vee \bar{2}) \wedge (\bar{1} \vee 2 \vee \bar{3}) \wedge (\bar{1} \vee 3 \vee 4) \wedge (\bar{4} \vee \bar{5} \vee \bar{6}) \wedge (\bar{5} \vee 6 \vee 7) \wedge (\bar{7} \vee 8 \vee \bar{9} \vee 10) \wedge (\bar{10} \vee \bar{11}) \wedge (\bar{10} \vee 12) \wedge (\bar{12} \vee \bar{13}) \wedge (6 \vee 11 \vee 13)$$



level	literal	reason
1	1	decision
	$\bar{2}$	$\bar{1} \vee \bar{2}$
	$\bar{3}$	$\bar{1} \vee 2 \vee \bar{3}$
	4	$\bar{1} \vee 3 \vee 4$
2	5	decision
	$\bar{6}$	$\bar{4} \vee \bar{5} \vee \bar{6}$
	7	$\bar{5} \vee 6 \vee 7$
3	$\bar{8}$	decision
4	9	decision
	10	$\bar{7} \vee 8 \vee \bar{9} \vee 10$
	$\bar{11}$	$\bar{10} \vee \bar{11}$
	12	$\bar{10} \vee 12$
	$\bar{13}$	$\bar{12} \vee \bar{13}$

# What to Learn from That?

## Definitions

- ▶ **cut** of implication graph has at least all decision literals on the left, and at least the conflict node on the right
- ▶ literal  $l$  in implication graph is **unique implication point (UIP)** if all paths from last decision literal to conflict node go through  $l$
- ▶ **first UIP** is UIP closest to conflict node

## Key Observations

- ▶ if  $l_1 \rightarrow l'_1, \dots, l_k \rightarrow l'_k$  are cut edges then  $l_1^c \vee \dots \vee l_k^c$  is entailed clause
- ▶ last decision literal is UIP
- ▶ backjump clause: cut with exactly **one** literal  $l$  at last decision level ( $l$  is UIP)

## Example

- ▶ cuts:  $\bar{1} \vee \bar{5} \vee 8 \vee \bar{9}$      $6 \vee 11 \vee 13$      $6 \vee \bar{10}$      $6 \vee \bar{7} \vee 8 \vee \bar{9}$
- ▶ UIPs are 9 and 10
- ▶ first UIP is 10



## Definition (Implication Graph)

Consider DPLL derivation to  $\parallel F \implies^*_B M \parallel F$ .

Implication graph is a directed acyclic graph constructed as follows:

- ▶ add node labelled  $l$  for every decision literal  $l$  in  $M$
- ▶ repeat until there is no change:
  - if  $\exists$  clause  $l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_m \vee l'$  in  $F$  such that there are already nodes  $l_1^c, \dots, l_m^c$ 
    - ▶ add node  $l'$  if not yet present
    - ▶ add edges  $l_i^c \rightarrow l'$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq m$  if not yet present
  - if  $\exists$  clause  $l'_1 \vee \dots \vee l'_k$  in  $F$  such that there are nodes  $l_1^c, \dots, l_k^c$ 
    - ▶ add conflict node labeled  $C$
    - ▶ add edges  $l_i^c \rightarrow C$

potential backjump clause

## Lemma

if edges intersected by cut are  $l_1 \rightarrow l'_1, \dots, l_k \rightarrow l'_k$  then  $F \models l_1^c \vee \dots \vee l_k^c$

# Resolution

## Remarks

- ▶ keeping track of implication graph is too expensive in practice
- ▶ compute clauses associated with cuts by resolution instead

## Definition (Resolution)

$$\frac{C \vee I \quad C' \vee \neg I}{C \vee C'}$$

(assuming literals in clauses can be reordered)

## Example

$$\frac{6 \vee 11 \vee 13 \quad \overline{12} \vee \overline{13}}{6 \vee 11 \vee \overline{12}}$$

## How to Derive Backjump Clause by Resolution

- ▶ let  $C_0$  be the conflict clause
- ▶ let  $l$  be last assigned literal such that  $l^c$  is in  $C_0$
- ▶ while  $l$  is no decision literal:
  - ▶  $C_{i+1}$  is resolvent of  $C_i$  and clause  $D$  that led to assignment of  $l$
  - ▶ let  $l$  be last assigned literal such that  $l^c$  is in  $C_{i+1}$

### Observation

every  $C_i$  corresponds to cut in implication graph

### Example

- ▶  $C_0 = 6 \vee 11 \vee 13$
  - ▶  $C_1 = 6 \vee 11 \vee \overline{12}$
  - ▶  $C_2 = 6 \vee 11 \vee \overline{10}$
  - ▶  $C_3 = 6 \vee \overline{10}$
  - ▶  $C_4 = 6 \vee \overline{7} \vee 8 \vee \overline{9}$
- Resolution diagram:
- |                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| $6 \vee 11 \vee 13$            | $\overline{12} \vee 13$ |
| <hr/>                          |                         |
| $6 \vee 11 \vee \overline{12}$ | $\overline{10} \vee 12$ |

# Decision Variable Selection

## Observations

- ▶ choice of next decision variable is critical
- ▶ prefer variables that participated in recent conflict

## VSIDS: Variable State Independent Decaying Sum

- ▶ first presented in SAT solver [Chaff](#) (2001)
- ▶ variant of this heuristic nowadays implemented in most CDCL solvers
- ▶ compute score for each variable, select variable with highest score
  - ▶ initial variable score is number of literal occurrences
  - ▶ learned (conflict) clause  $C$ : increment score for all variables in  $C$
  - ▶ periodically divide all scores by constant

## Example (VSIDS)

$$\parallel 1 \vee \bar{2}, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee 4, \bar{4} \vee 3 \vee 5, 3 \vee \bar{5}, \bar{3} \vee 1, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, 2 \vee 3, \bar{4} \vee \bar{5}$$

initial scores:  $\{1 \mapsto 4, 2 \mapsto 4, 3 \mapsto 5, 4 \mapsto 4, 5 \mapsto 2\}$

$$\Rightarrow 3^d \parallel 1 \vee \bar{2}, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee 4, \bar{4} \vee 3 \vee 5, 3 \vee \bar{5}, \bar{3} \vee 1, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, 2 \vee 3, \bar{4} \vee \bar{5}$$

$$\Rightarrow 3^d 1 \parallel 1 \vee \bar{2}, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee 4, \bar{4} \vee 3 \vee 5, 3 \vee \bar{5}, \bar{3} \vee 1, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, 2 \vee 3, \bar{4} \vee \bar{5}$$

$$\Rightarrow 3^d 1 4^d \parallel 1 \vee \bar{2}, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee 4, \bar{4} \vee 3 \vee 5, 3 \vee \bar{5}, \bar{3} \vee 1, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, 2 \vee 3, \bar{4} \vee \bar{5}$$

$$\Rightarrow^* 3^d 1 \bar{4} \parallel 1 \vee \bar{2}, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee 4, \bar{4} \vee 3 \vee 5, 3 \vee \bar{5}, \bar{3} \vee 1, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, 2 \vee 3, \bar{4} \vee \bar{5}, \bar{4} \vee \bar{3}$$

after adding learned clause:  $\{1 \mapsto 4, 2 \mapsto 4, 3 \mapsto 6, 4 \mapsto 5, 5 \mapsto 2\}$

division by 2:  $\{1 \mapsto 2, 2 \mapsto 2, 3 \mapsto 3, 4 \mapsto \frac{5}{2}, 5 \mapsto 1\}$

$$\Rightarrow^* \bar{3} \parallel 1 \vee \bar{2}, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee 4, \bar{4} \vee 3 \vee 5, 3 \vee \bar{5}, \bar{3} \vee 1, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, 2 \vee 3, \bar{4} \vee \bar{5}, \bar{4} \vee \bar{3}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee 4$$

after adding learned clause:  $\{1 \mapsto 3, 2 \mapsto 2, 3 \mapsto 4, 4 \mapsto \frac{7}{2}, 5 \mapsto 1\}$

$$\Rightarrow^* \bar{3} 2 4^d \parallel 1 \vee \bar{2}, 2 \vee \bar{3} \vee 4, \bar{1} \vee 4, \bar{4} \vee 3 \vee 5, 3 \vee \bar{5}, \bar{3} \vee 1, \bar{1} \vee \bar{2}, 2 \vee 3, \bar{4} \vee \bar{5}, \bar{4} \vee \bar{3}, \bar{1} \vee \bar{3} \vee 4$$

$\Rightarrow^*$  FailState

# Efficient Unit Propagation?

Suppose input formula  $\varphi$  has  $n$  clauses and  $m$  literals in total.

## Unit propagation in practice

- ▶ each unit propagation step requires to traverse entire formula  $\varphi$   $\mathcal{O}(m)$
- ▶ takes 90% of computation time when implemented naively

## Observation

at any point of DPLL run, literal in clause is either **true**, **false**, or **unassigned**

## First idea

- ▶ maintain counter how many false literals are in every clause  $C$
- ▶ when assigning false to literal in clause, increment counter
- ▶ if counter is  $|C| - 1$  and remaining literal unassigned, unit propagate  $\mathcal{O}(n)$

## Drawbacks

- ▶ upon backjump, must adjust all counters
- ▶ overhead to adjust counter if not yet  $|C| - 1$

# Two-Watched Literal Scheme

## Idea

- ▶ maintain two pointers  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  for each clause  $C$
- ▶ each pointer points to a literal in the clause that is: unassigned or true if possible, otherwise false
- ▶ ensure invariant that  $p_1(C) \neq p_2(C)$

## Key properties

- ▶ clause  $C$  enables **unit propagation** if  $p_1(C)$  is false and  $p_2(C)$  is unassigned literal  
or vice versa  $\mathcal{O}(n)$
- ▶ clause  $C$  is **conflict clause** if  $p_1(C)$  and  $p_2(C)$  are false literals

## Setting pointers

- ▶ **initialization**: set  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  to different (unassigned) literals in clause
- ▶ **assigning variables** by decide or unit propagate:  
when assigning literal  $l$  true, redirect all pointers to  $l^c$  to other literal in their clause if possible
- ▶ **backjump**: no need to change pointers!

# Example (Two-Watched literal scheme)





- Summary of Last Week
- From DPLL to Conflict Driven Clause Learning
- Application: Test Case Generation

## Problem

given software system with  $n$  parameters, generate set of test cases which covers all problematic situations while being as small as possible

## Pairwise Testing

- ▶ well-practiced software testing method
- ▶ **observation**: most faults are caused by interaction of at most two parameters

## Example (Testing on Mobile Phones)

property	values	some combinations may be infeasible					
		storage	cores	camera	SIM	OS	
storage	32GB, 64GB, 128GB	1 128GB	4	12MP	single	Android	
cores	2, 4, 8	2 32GB	2	8MP	single	Android	
camera	8MP, 12MP, 16MP	3 64GB	2	12MP	dual	iOS	
SIM	single, dual	4 32GB	4	16MP	dual	iOS	
OS	Android, iOS	5 64GB	8	16MP	single	Android	
		6 128GB	8	8MP	dual	iOS	
		7 128GB	2	12MP	dual	Android	
		8 32GB	8	16MP	single	iOS	
		9 64GB	4	8MP	single	iOS	

(a) testing model for mobile phones

(b) test case set with pairwise coverage

## Encode Test Set of Fixed Size in SAT

- ▶ have  $n$  parameters, and parameter  $i$  has  $C_i$  values
- ▶ for all  $m$  test cases use variables  $x_{ij}$  meaning that parameter  $i$  has value  $j$
- ▶ parameter  $j$  has exactly one value

$$\text{one\_value}(x_{j1}, \dots, x_{jC_j}) = \bigvee_{1 \leq k \leq C_j} x_{jk} \wedge \bigwedge_{1 \leq k < k' \leq C_j} \neg x_{jk} \vee \neg x_{jk'}$$

- ▶ in test case every parameter has one value

$$\text{test\_case}(x_{11}, \dots, x_{nC_n}) = \bigwedge_{1 \leq j \leq n} \text{one\_value}(x_{j1}, \dots, x_{jC_j})$$

- ▶ constraints on test case can be expressed by formula  $\text{constraints}(x_{11}, \dots, x_{nC_n})$
- ▶ use overall encoding assuming set of parameter pairs  $P$

$$\bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq m} \text{test\_case}(\overline{x^i}) \wedge \text{constraints}(\overline{x^i}) \wedge \bigwedge_{(j,k),(j',k') \in P} \bigvee_{1 \leq i \leq m} x_{jk}^i \wedge x_{j'k'}^i$$

- ▶ Minimal test set can be found by repeating approach with smaller  $m$

## CDCL



João Marques-Silva, Inês Lynce, Sharad Malik.  
**Conflict-Driven Clause Learning SAT Solvers.**  
Handbook of Satisfiability 2021: 133-182.



Matthew W. Moskewicz, Conor F. Madigan, Ying Zhao, Lintao Zhang, Sharad Malik.  
**Chaff: Engineering an Efficient SAT Solver**  
DAC 2001: 530-535.