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# SAT (Modulo Theories) = Resolution

## Questions and Challenges

### Invited talk, IJCAR 2012 - Manchester

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# The objective of this talk is to explain:

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- Current **SAT** and **SAT Modulo Theories** (SMT) technology.
- Our current aim:  
extend applications from **verification** to other industrial **combinatorial optimization** problems: **scheduling**, **timetabling...**
- theoretical limitations
- ways to overcome these limitations
- trade-offs
- challenges

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- CP-like theories and  $T$ -solvers. Examples.

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What's BAD?

- Very low-level language: need modeling and encoding tools
- Sometimes no adequate/compact encodings: arithmetic...
- Answers “unsat” or model. Optimization not as well studied.

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More rules: Backjump, Learn, Forget, Restart [M-S,S,M,...]!

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**Backjump** =

- Conflict Analysis:** “Find” a **backjump clause**  $C \vee l$  (here,  $\bar{2} \vee \bar{5}$ )
  - that is a logical consequence of  $F$
  - that reveals a unit propagation of  $l$  at earlier decision level  $d$  (i.e., where its part  $C$  is false)
- Return to decision level  $d$  and do the propagation.

# Conflict Analysis: find backjump clause

**Example.** Consider assignment: ...6... $\bar{7}$ ...9 and let  $F$  contain:

$\bar{9} \vee \bar{6} \vee 7 \vee \bar{8}$ ,  $8 \vee 7 \vee \bar{5}$ ,  $\bar{6} \vee 8 \vee 4$ ,  $\bar{4} \vee \bar{1}$ ,  $\bar{4} \vee 5 \vee 2$ ,  $5 \vee 7 \vee \bar{3}$ ,  $1 \vee \bar{2} \vee 3$ .

**UnitPropagate** gives ...6... $\bar{7}$ ...9  $\bar{8}$   $\bar{5}$  4  $\bar{1}$  2  $\bar{3}$ . **Conflict w/  $1 \vee \bar{2} \vee 3$ !**

**C.An.** = do **resolutions** in reverse order backwards from conflict:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\bar{6} \vee 8 \vee 4}{8 \vee 7 \vee \bar{5}}}{\bar{6} \vee 8 \vee 7 \vee \bar{5}}}{\bar{4} \vee \bar{1}}}{\bar{4} \vee 5 \vee 2}}{5 \vee 7 \vee \bar{3}}}{\bar{4} \vee 5 \vee 7 \vee 1}}{5 \vee 7 \vee 1 \vee \bar{2}}}{1 \vee \bar{2} \vee 3} \\
 \hline
 8 \vee 7 \vee \bar{6}
 \end{array}$$

until reaching clause with only 1 literal of last decision level.

Can use this backjump clause  $8 \vee 7 \vee \bar{6}$  for **Backjump** to ...6... $\bar{7}$  8.

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3. **Forget** from time to time **low-activity lemmas**:
  - **crucial** to keep **UnitPropagate** fast and memory affordable
  - idea: lemmas from **worked-off clusters** no longer needed!

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Towards a solution... see the next slide...

# What is SAT Modulo Theories (SMT)?

---

**Origin:** Reasoning about equality, arithmetic, data structures such as arrays, etc., in Software/Hardware verification.

**What is SMT?** Deciding satisfiability of an (existential) SAT formula with atoms over a background theory  $T$

**Example 1:**  $T$  is Equality with Uninterpreted Functions (EUF):

3 clauses:  $f(g(a)) \neq f(c) \vee g(a) = d, \quad g(a) = c, \quad c \neq d$

**Example 2:** several (how many?) combined theories:

2 clauses:  $A = write(B, i+1, x), \quad read(A, j+3) = y \vee f(i-1) \neq f(j+1)$

Typical verification examples, where SMT is method of choice.

# The **Lazy** approach to SMT

---

Aka Lemmas on demand [dMR,2002].

Same EUF example:

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SAT solver says UNSAT

# Improved Lazy approach

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Since state-of-the-art SAT solvers are all DPLL-based...

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- Upon a  $T$ -inconsistency, do **conflict analysis** of the **explanation** and **Backjump**

# DPLL(*T*) approach ('04) ([NOT], JACM Nov06)

---

DPLL(**T**) = DPLL(**X**) engine + **T-Solvers**

- **Modular** and **flexible**: can plug in any **T-Solvers** into the DPLL(**X**) engine.
- **T-Solvers** specialized and fast in **Theory Propagation**:
  - Propagate input literals that are theory consequences
  - **more pruning** in improved lazy SMT
  - **T-Solver** also **guides** search, instead of only **validating** it
  - fully exploited in conflict analysis (non-trivial)

# DPLL( $T$ ) Example (the same EUF one)

---

Notation used: **Abstract DPLL Modulo Theories:**

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$$\emptyset \quad \parallel \quad \bar{1} \vee 2, \quad 3, \quad \bar{4} \quad \Rightarrow \quad (\text{UnitPropagate})$$

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$$\begin{array}{l} \emptyset \\ 3 \end{array} \quad \parallel \quad \bar{1} \vee 2, \quad 3, \quad \bar{4} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{(UnitPropagate)} \\ \text{(T-Propagate)} \end{array}$$

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3 1 2 4		$\bar{1} \vee 2, 3, \bar{4}$	$\Rightarrow$	

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Conflict at decision level zero. No search in this example.

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**Explanation** for last **T-Propagate**:

$$2 \wedge 3 \rightarrow 4 \quad \text{or, equivalently,} \quad \bar{2} \vee \bar{3} \vee 4$$

Explanations are  **$T$ -lemmas**, i.e., **tautologies (valid clauses)** in  $T$

# Conflict analysis in DPLL(*T*)

---

Need to do backward resolution with two kinds of clauses:

- **UnitPropagate** with clause *C*: **resolve** with *C* (as in SAT)
- **T-Propagate** of *lit* : **resolve** with (small) **explanation**  
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Implementation ideas (see again [NOT], JACM'06)

- **UnitPropagate**: store pointer to clause  $C$ , as in SAT solvers
- **T-Propagate**: (pre-)compute explanations at each **T-Propagate**?
  - usually **better** only **on demand**, during conflict analysis  
then: need to avoid too new  $T$ -explanations
  - typically only one Explain per approx. 250 **T-Propagates**.
  - depends on  $T$ , etc.

# What does DPLL( $T$ ) need from $T$ -Solver?

---

- $T$ -consistency check of a set of literals  $M$ , with:
  - Explain of  $T$ -inconsistency: find **small**  $T$ -inconsistent subset of  $M$
  - **Incrementality**: if  $l$  is added to  $M$ , check for  $M l$  **faster** than reprocessing  $M l$  from scratch.
- **Theory propagation**: find input  $T$ -consequences of  $M$ , with:
  - Explain **T-Propagate of  $l$** : find (**small**) subset of  $M$  that  $T$ -entails  $l$  (needed in conflict analysis).
- **Backtrack  $n$** : undo last  $n$  literals added

# The *Barcelologic* SMT solver

---

- DPLL(X) = the Barcelologic SAT solver.

+

- *T-Solvers* for:
  - Congruences (EUF)
  - Integer/Real Difference Logic
  - Linear Integer/Real Arithmetic
  - Arrays
  - ...
- Last few years, main activity on:  
typical CP filtering algorithms (next)

# A DPLL(**alldifferent**) example

Example:

Quasi-Group Completion (QGC)

Each row and column must contain  $1 \dots n$ .

Good method: 3-D encoding in SAT

where  $p_{ijk}$  means “row  $i$  col  $j$  has value  $k$ ”:

	3	4		
3	4	5		
4	5			
5				

- at least one  $k$  per  $[i, j]$ : clauses like  $p_{ij1} \vee \dots \vee p_{ijn}$
- at most one  $k$  per  $[i, j]$ : 2-lit clauses like  $\overline{p_{ij1}} \vee \overline{p_{ij2}}$
- same for **exactly one**  $j$  per  $[i, k]$  and  $i$  per  $[j, k]$
- 1 unit clause per filled-in value, e.g.,  $p_{313}$

In our 5x5 example, DPLL's **UnitPropagate** infers no value  
but **alldifferent** does. **Which one?**



# SMT for the theory of `alldifferent`

QGC Example continued:

`alldifferent` infers that  $x, y$  will consume 1, 2 and hence  $z = 3$ .

Idea:

$x$	$y$	$z$		
	3	4		
3	4	5		
4	5			
5				

- Use 3-D encoding + SMT where  $T$  is `alldifferent`.  
As usual in SMT,  $T$ -solver knows what  $p_{ijk}$ 's mean.
- From time to time invoke  $T$ -solver before `Decide`, but do always cheap SAT stuff first: `UnitPropagate`, `Backjump`, etc.
- $T$ -solver e.g., incremental filtering [Regin'94] but with `Explain`:  
in our example, the literal  $p_{133}$  (meaning  $z = 3$ ) is entailed by  $\{ \overline{p_{113}} \ \overline{p_{114}} \ \dots \ \overline{p_{135}} \}$  (meaning  $x \neq 3, x \neq 4, \dots, z \neq 5$ ).

# SMT for the theory of `alldifferent`

---

Get CP with special-purpose global filtering algorithms, learning, backjumping, automatic variable selection heuristics...

Application to real-world professional `round-robin` sports scheduling

Sometimes better results with weaker `alldiff` propagation

# Another example: DPLL(cumulative)

---

Plan  $N$  tasks. Each has a **duration** and uses certain **finite resources**.

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**Pure SMT approach**, modeling with variables  $s_{t,h}$ :

- $s_{t,h}$  means  $start(t) \leq h$  ( so  $\overline{s_{t,h-1}} \wedge s_{t,h}$  means  $start(t) = h$  ).
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**Better “hybrid” approach**, adding variables  $a_{t,h}$ :

- $a_{t,h}$  means **task  $t$  is active at hour  $h$**
- Time-resource decomposition (AgounBel93, Schutt+09):  
quadratic no. of clauses like  $\overline{s_{t,h-duration(t)}} \wedge s_{t,h} \longrightarrow a_{t,h}$
- **T-solver** handles, for each **hour  $h$**  and each **resource  $r$** , one Pseudo-Boolean constr. like  $3a_{t,h} + 4a_{t',h} + \dots \leq capacity(r)$

**Very** good results.

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But... why can SAT sometimes still beat SMT? See below!

# Proof complexity and other insights (I)

---

The pigeon-hole principle for  $n$  pigeons and  $n - 1$  holes:

Let  $PHP_{n-1}^n$  denote the set of clauses:

- $x_{i,1} \vee \dots \vee x_{i,n-1}$  for  $i = 1 \dots n$   
(every pigeon is in at least one hole)
- $\overline{x_{i,k}} \vee \overline{x_{j,k}}$  for  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$  and  $1 \leq k \leq n - 1$   
(no two pigeons are in the same hole)

[Haken'85]:

Any resolution refutation of  $PHP_{n-1}^n$  requires size exponential in  $n$ .

**Note:** pigeon-hole-like situations **do** occur in practice. E.g., hidden in scheduling/timetabling:  $n-1$  (human) resources for  $n$  tasks...

# Proof complexity and other insights (II)

---

[Zhang&Malik'03]:

CDCL SAT solvers can generate a **proof trace** file, from which one can extract, for each lemma, a **resolution proof** from input clauses:

$$\frac{\frac{id_3 \dots \quad \frac{id_2: 5 \vee 7 \vee \bar{3} \quad id_1: 1 \vee \bar{2} \vee 3}{5 \vee 7 \vee 1 \vee \bar{2}}}{id_k \dots \quad \ddots}}{id: lemma}$$

One trace line per conflict/lemma:  $id \leftarrow \{id_1 \dots id_k\}$

If **input is unsat**, conflict at DL zero: last lemma is the empty clause:

trace file  $\geq$  (binary) resolution refutation:

SAT solver runtime  $\geq$  size of smallest resolution refutation.



# Proof complexity and other insights (III)

---

SMT solvers can also generate such traces.

SMT **unsat proofs** are modular, with two parts:

- A (purely propositional) resolution refutation from:
  - the clauses of the input CNF
  - the generated explanations  
(these clauses are written in the trace as well)
- For each explanation clause, an independent proof in (its) *T*.

So, after all, SMT does generate a SAT encoding, but lazily.

SMT solver runtime  $\geq$  size of smallest resolution refutation.

# In which cases can SAT beat SMT?

---

- SMT's **lazy** SAT encoding could end up being a **full** one
- And... this full encoding could be a rather **naive** one!

## Example:

$T$  = cardinality constraint  $x_1 + \dots + x_n \leq k$ .

$T$ -solver is just a counter.

Input: propositional clauses implying  $x_1 + \dots + x_n > k$ .

Refutation requires **all**  $\binom{n}{k+1}$  explanations of the form

$$y_1 \wedge \dots \wedge y_k \rightarrow \bar{y}$$

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For  $T$ -constraints triggering **many** explanations, i.e., **bottle necks**, better use good SAT encoding with **auxiliary variables**!

Here, e.g., Cardinality Networks:  $O(n \log^2 k)$  clauses and aux. vars.

# When to use SAT, and when SMT?

---

- Most constraints are no bottle necks and generate very few explanations  $\implies$  handle with SMT.
- For bottle necks, better use SAT encoding with aux vars

**Little detail....** problems have many constraints, and cannot predict at encoding time which one will be a bottle neck!

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Solution from [Abío and Stuckey, CP 2012]:

- Start with SMT, but generate SAT encoding with aux vars **on the fly** for those constraint (parts) appearing in many conflicts
- Usually improves best of SAT/SMT, and **never** really worse.

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Challenges/questions:

- Generalize beyond cardinality and pseudo-boolean constraints
- Whether/how SAT solver should split (decide) on aux vars?

# Auxiliary variables & proof complexity

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Two ways to (try to) exploit this:

- Use encoding with aux. vars. and split/decide on them?  
Compatible with [AS'12] on-the-fly SMT  $\rightarrow$  SAT encodings.  
Limitation: No P-size domain-consistent SAT encoding, not even with aux vars, for, e.g., alldiff [BessiereEtal'09].
- CDCL SAT solvers that introduce aux var definitions [AudemardKS'10,Huang'10]



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Also, between resolution and extended resolution: **cutting planes**.  
DPLL-like linear integer arithmetic solvers like [JdM'11]

# Concluding remarks

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Apart from the challenges we have mentioned...

- Need more CP filtering algorithms with explain.
- Progress (but need more) in **optimization** problems:
  - Branch and bound is just another SMT theory [SAT'06]
  - Framework for branch and bound w/ lower bounding and optimality proof certificates [SAT'09, JAR'11].
  - MAX-SMT.
- ...

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Barcelogic looks for industrial problems, partners, (EU) projects...

**Thank You!**