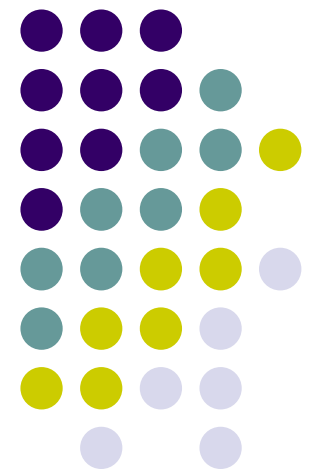
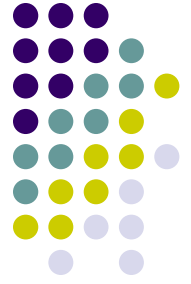


SAT Solvers: A Condensed History

Sharad Malik
Princeton University
COS 598d
3/1/2010





Where are we today?

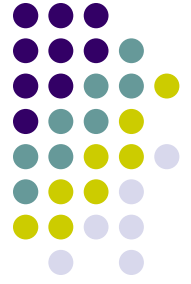
- Intractability of the problem no longer daunting
 - Can regularly handle practical instances with millions of variables and constraints
- SAT has matured from theoretical interest to practical impact
 - Electronic Design Automation (EDA)
 - Widely used in many aspects of chip design
 - Automated logic design, verification
 - Used by every EDA vendor
 - Cadence, Synopsys, Mentor Graphics...
 - Used in in-house tools at leading semiconductor vendors
 - Intel, IBM, ...
 - Increasing use in software verification
 - Reported commercial use at Microsoft, NEC,...



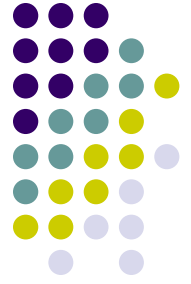
Where are we today (contd.)

- Significant SAT community
 - SatLive and SAT competitions
 - SAT Conference
- Emboldened researchers to take on even harder problems
 - Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)
 - Max-SAT
 - Quantified Boolean Formulas (QBF)

SAT Solvers: A Condensed History

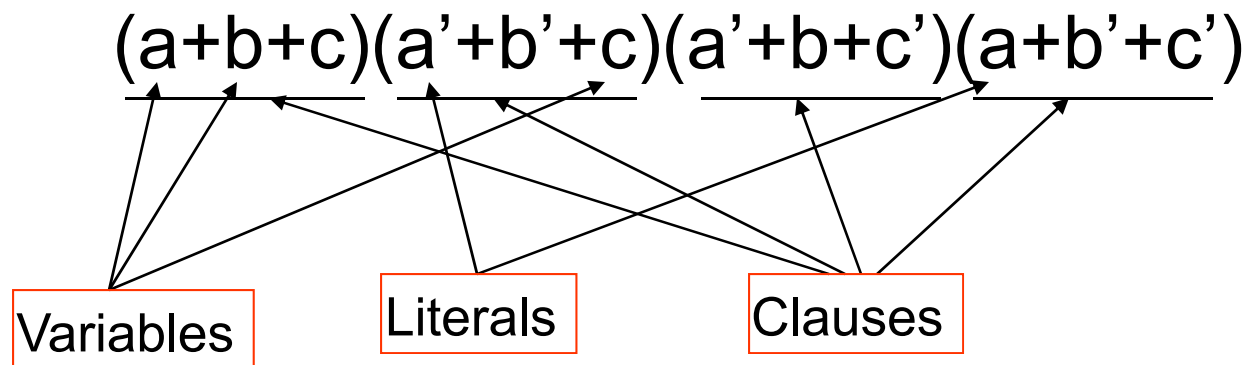


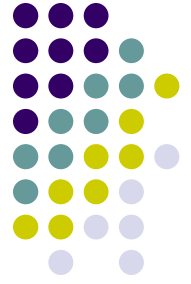
- Deductive
 - Davis-Putnam 1960 [DP]
 - Iterative existential quantification by “resolution”
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 - Exhaustive search for satisfying assignment
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 - GRASP: Integrate a constraint learning procedure, 1996
- Locality Based Search
 - Emphasis on exhausting local sub-spaces, e.g. Chaff, Berkmin, miniSAT and others, 2001 onwards
 - Added focus on efficient implementation
 - Boolean Constraint Propagation, Decision Heuristics, ...



Problem Representation

- Conjunctive Normal Form
 - Representation of choice for modern SAT solvers





Circuit to CNF Conversion

- Tseitin Transformation

$$d \equiv (a + b)$$

$$(a + b + d')$$

$$(a' + d)$$

$$(b' + d)$$

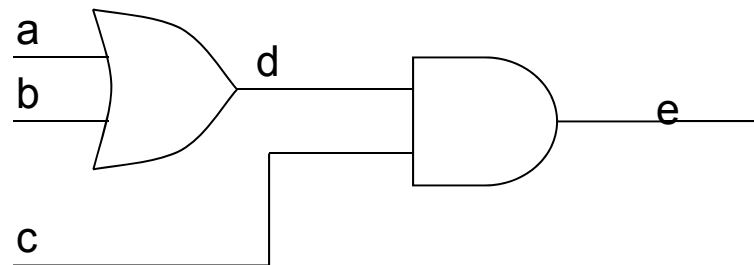
$$e \equiv (c \cdot d)$$

$$(c' + d' + e)$$

$$(d + e')$$

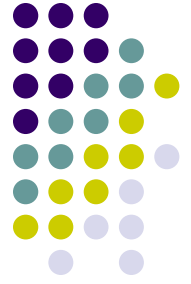
$$(c + e')$$

Consistency conditions
for circuit variables



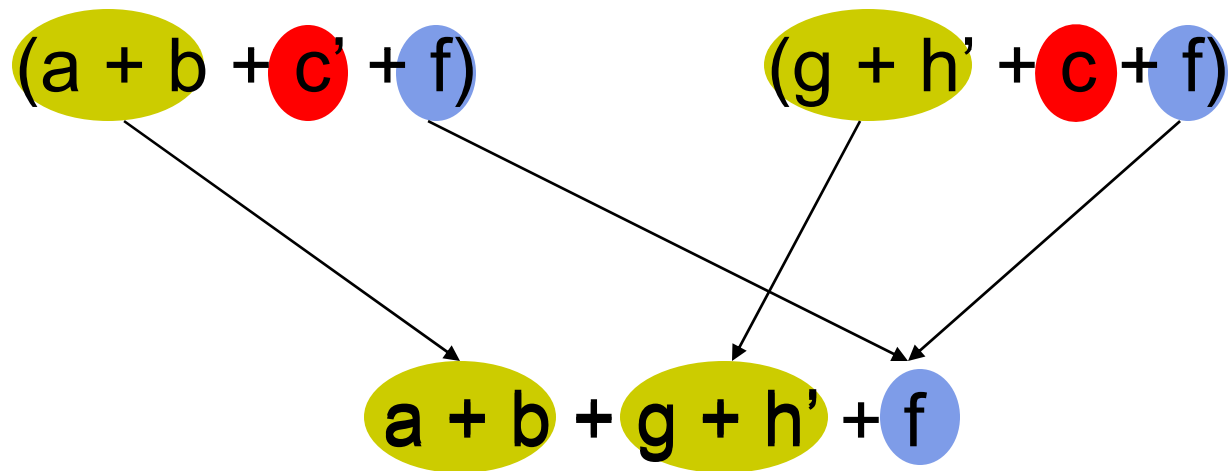
- Can 'e' ever become true?

Is $(e)(a + b + d')(a' + d)(b' + d)(c' + d + e)(d + e')(c + e')$ satisfiable?



Resolution

- Resolution of a pair of distance-one clauses



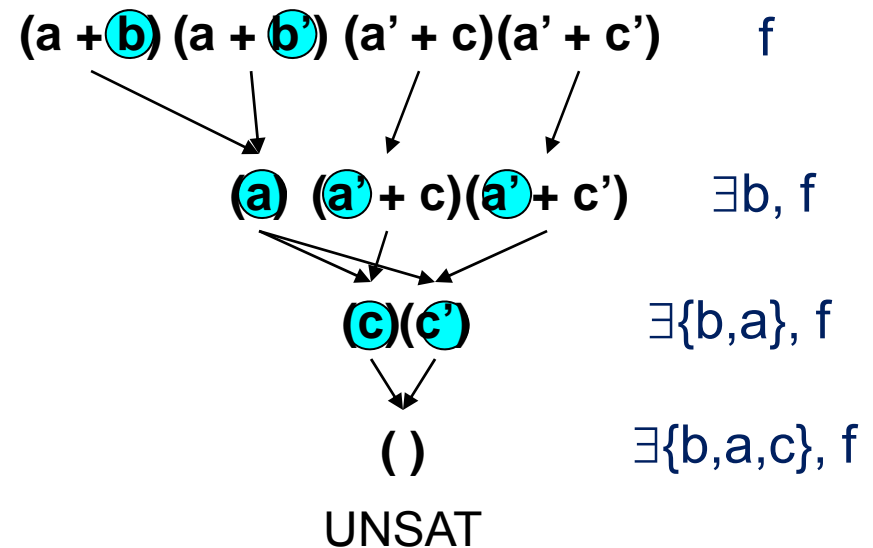
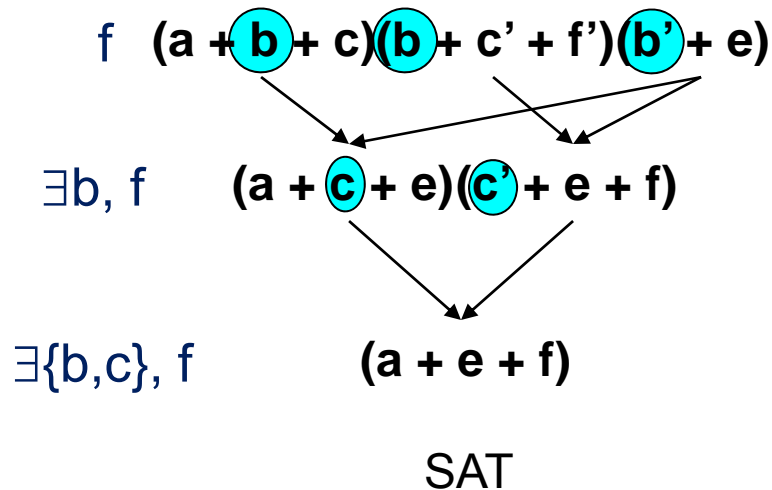
Resolvent implied by the original clauses



Davis Putnam Algorithm

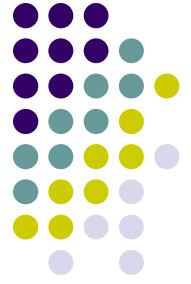
M .Davis, H. Putnam, "A computing procedure for quantification theory", *J. of ACM*, Vol. 7, pp. 201-214, 1960

- Iterative existential quantification of variables



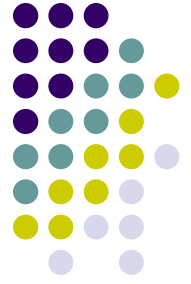
Potential memory explosion problem!

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Basic DLL Search



(a' + b + c)

(a + c + d)

(a + c + d')

(a + c' + d)

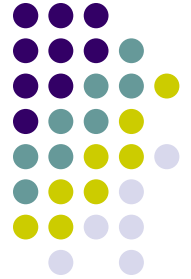
(a + c' + d')

(b' + c' + d)

(a' + b + c')

(a' + b' + c)

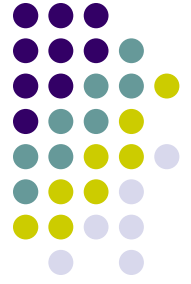
Basic DLL Search



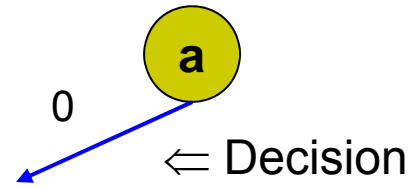
a

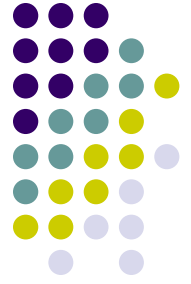
- $(a' + b + c)$
- $(a + c + d)$
- $(a + c + d')$
- $(a + c' + d)$
- $(a + c' + d')$
- $(b' + c' + d)$
- $(a' + b + c')$
- $(a' + b' + c)$

Basic DLL Search



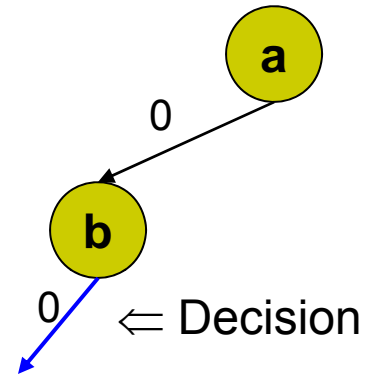
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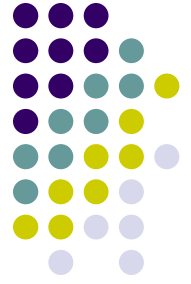




Basic DLL Search

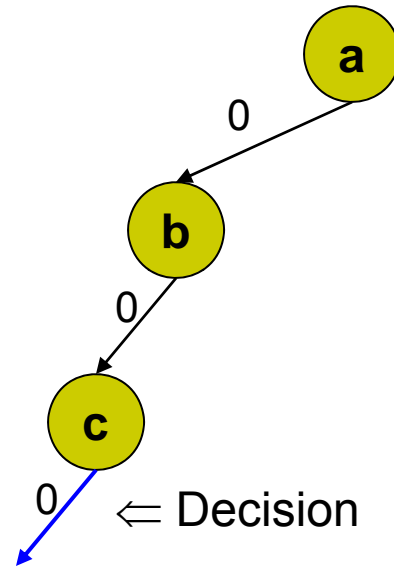
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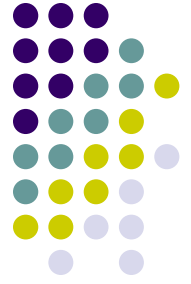




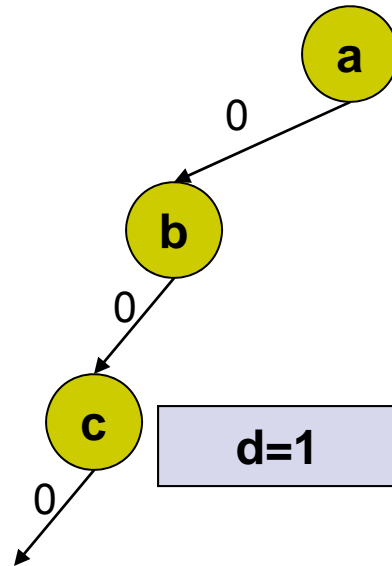
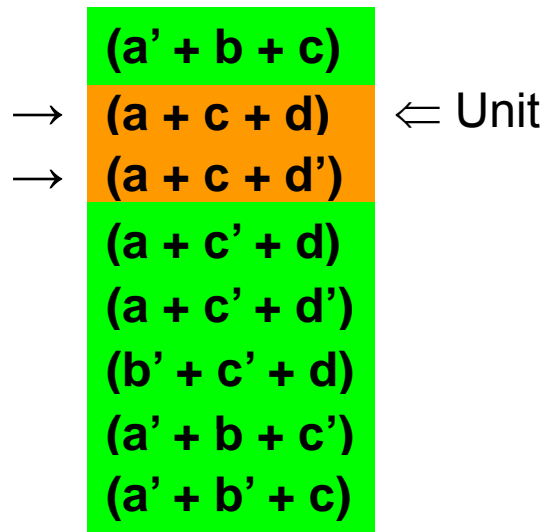
Basic DLL Search

- $(a' + b + c)$
- $(a + c + d)$
- $(a + c + d')$
- $(a + c' + d)$
- $(a + c' + d')$
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- $(a' + b + c')$
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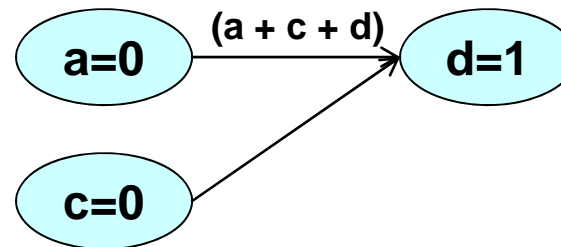


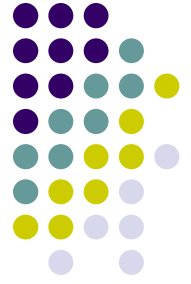
Basic DLL Search



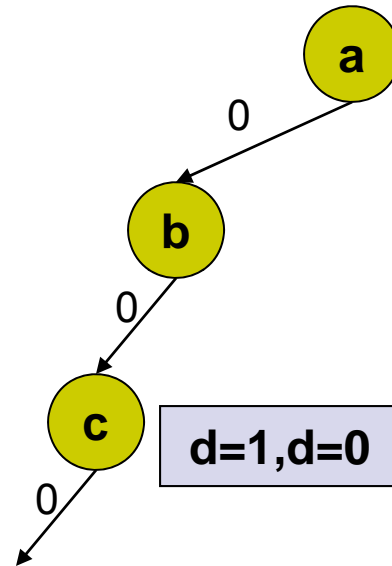
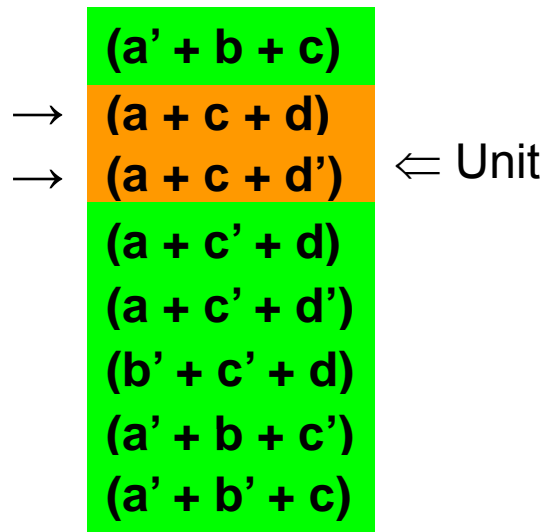
Unit Clause Rule

Implication Graph

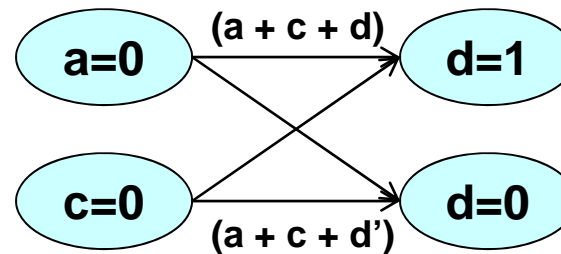


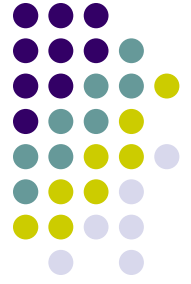


Basic DLL Search



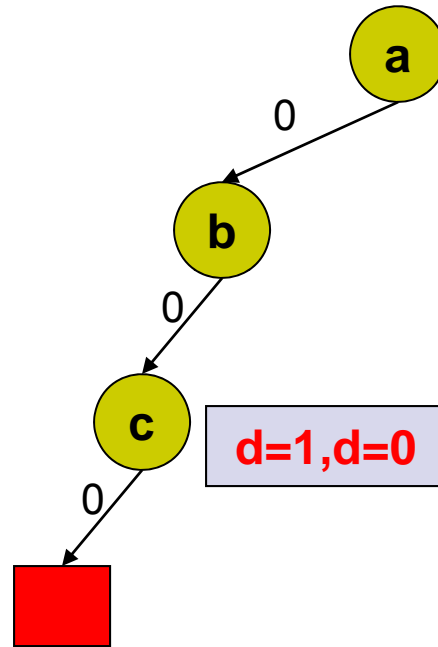
Implication Graph



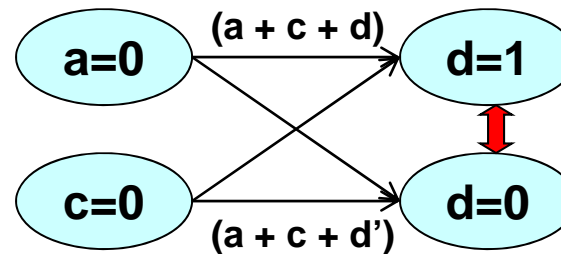


Basic DLL Search

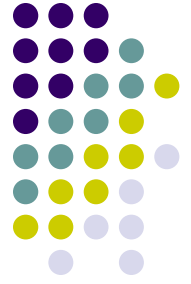
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- $(a + c + d)$
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- $(a + c' + d)$
- $(a + c' + d')$
- $(b' + c' + d)$
- $(a' + b + c')$
- $(a' + b' + c)$



Implication Graph

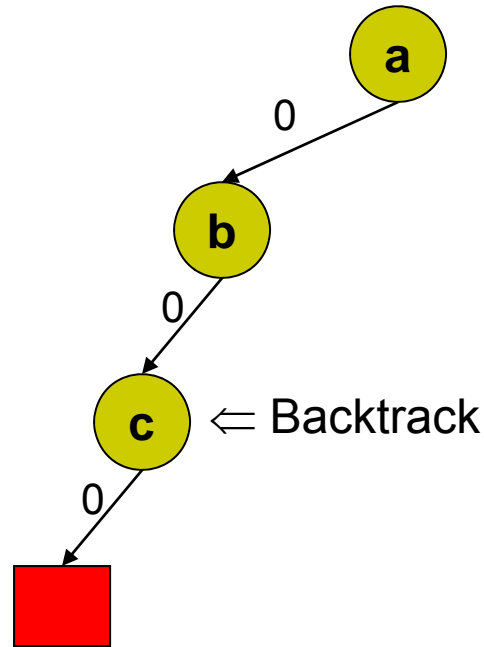


Conflict!



Basic DLL Search

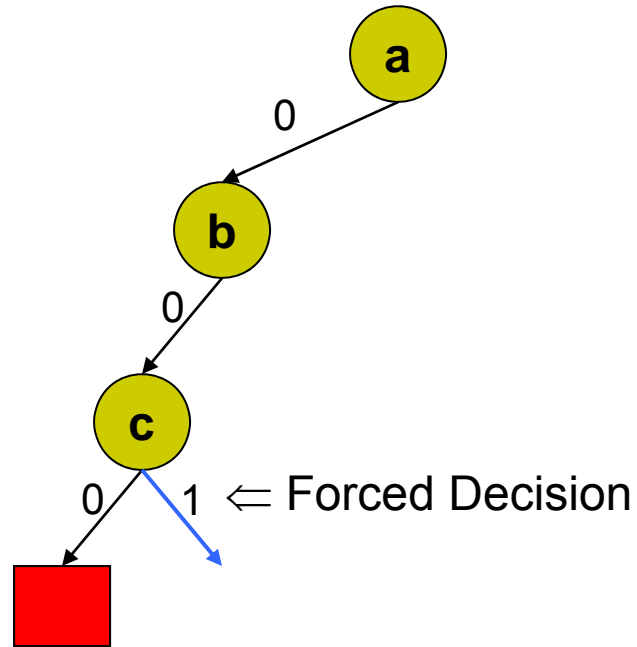
- $(a' + b + c)$
- $(a + c + d)$
- $(a + c + d')$
- $(a + c' + d)$
- $(a + c' + d')$
- $(b' + c' + d)$
- $(a' + b + c')$
- $(a' + b' + c)$





Basic DLL Search

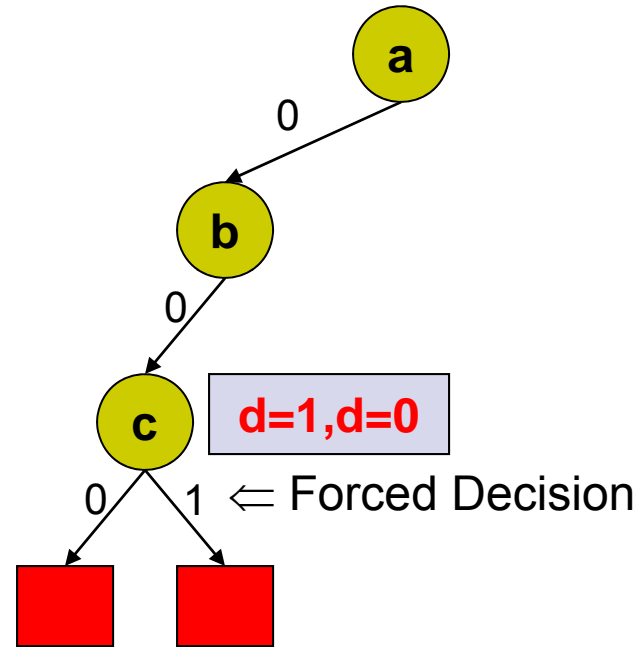
- $(a' + b + c)$
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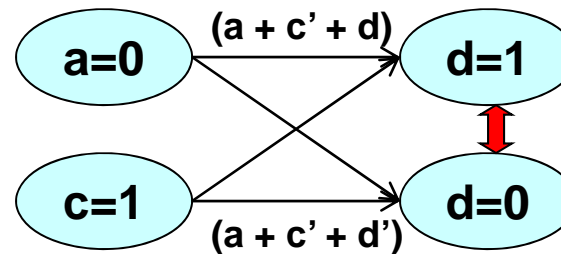


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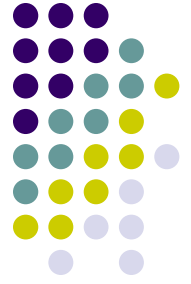
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Implication Graph

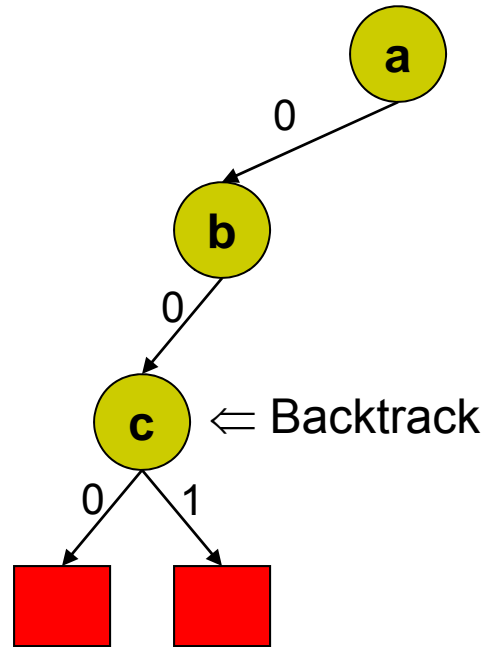


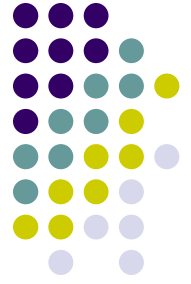
Conflict!



Basic DLL Search

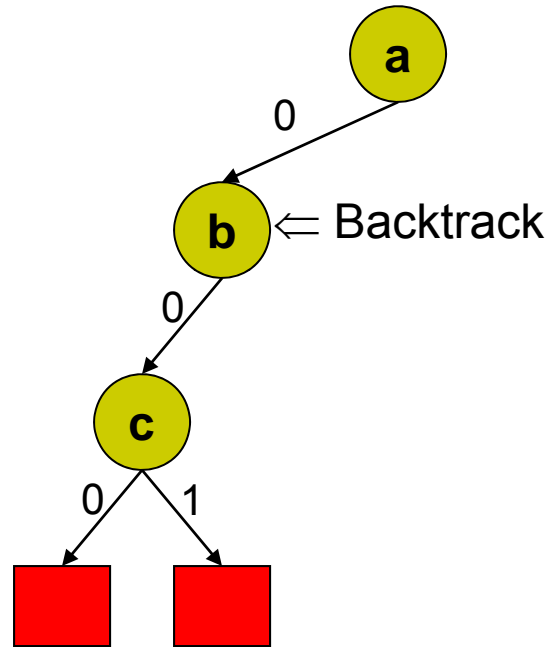
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- $(a + c' + d')$
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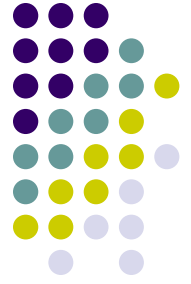




Basic DLL Search

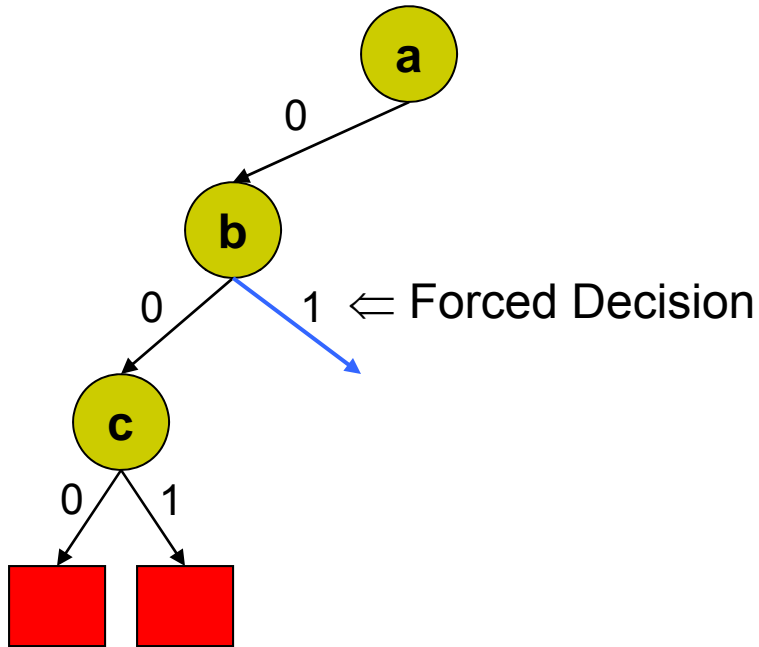
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- $(a + c' + d)$
- $(a + c' + d')$
- $(b' + c' + d)$
- $(a' + b + c')$
- $(a' + b' + c)$





Basic DLL Search

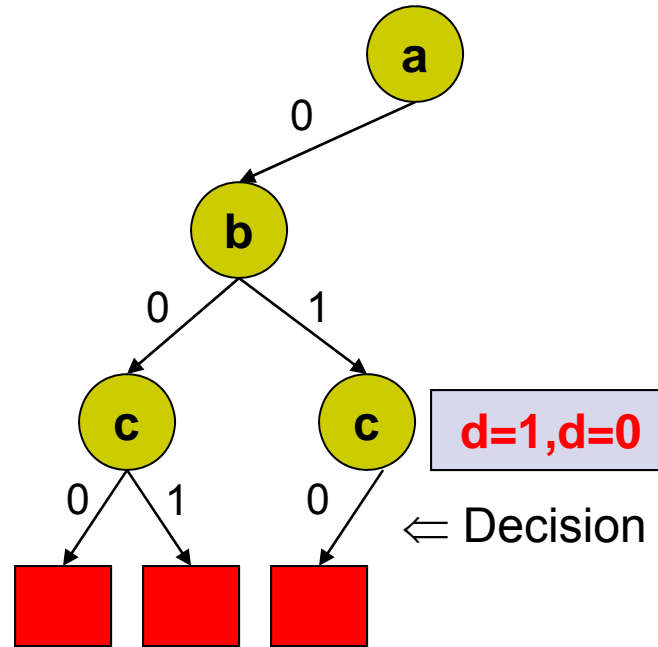
$(a' + b + c)$
 $(a + c + d)$
 $(a + c + d')$
 $(a + c' + d)$
 $(a + c' + d')$
 $(b' + c' + d)$
 $(a' + b + c')$
 $(a' + b' + c)$



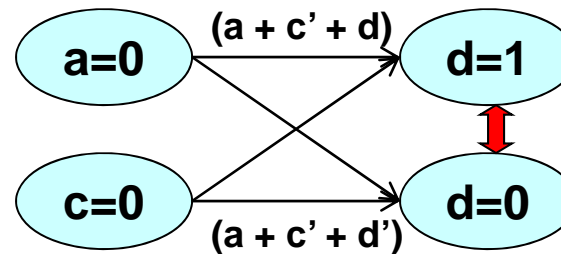


Basic DLL Search

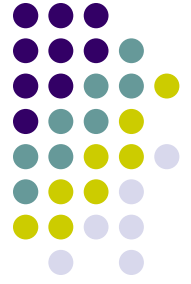
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Implication Graph

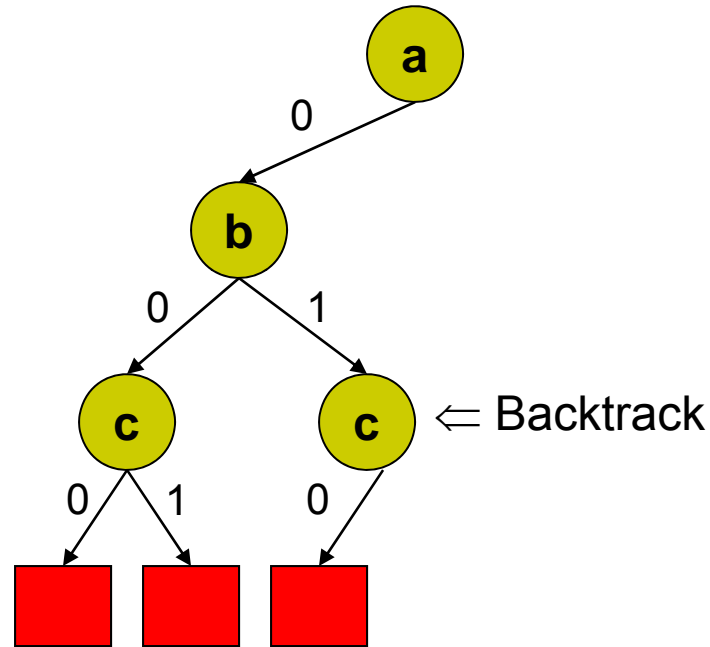


Conflict!



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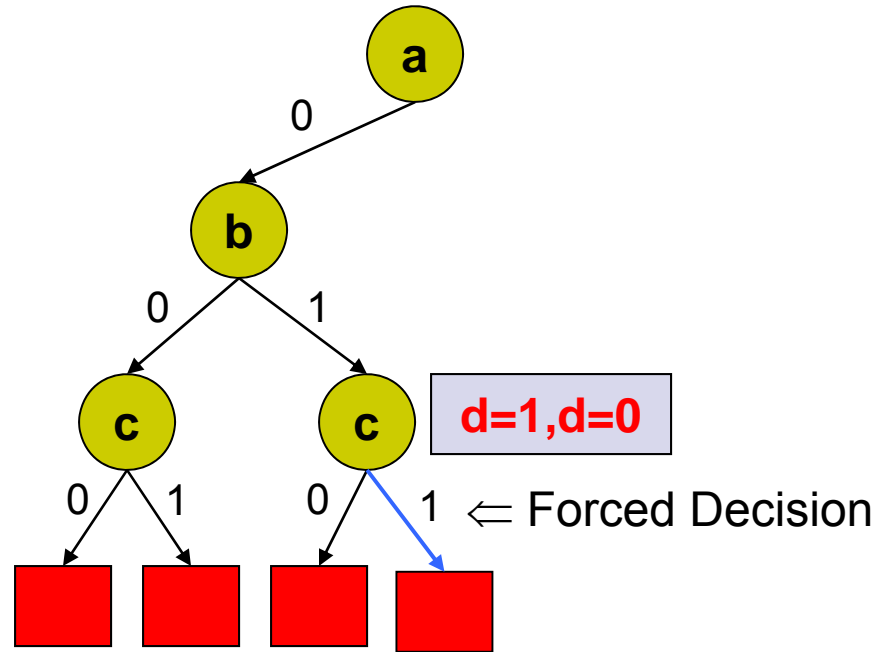
- **$(a' + b + c)$**
- $(a + c + d)$
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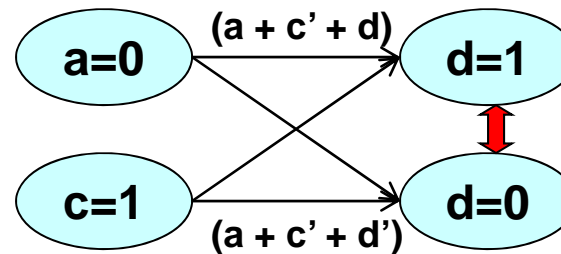


Basic DLL Search

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Implication Graph

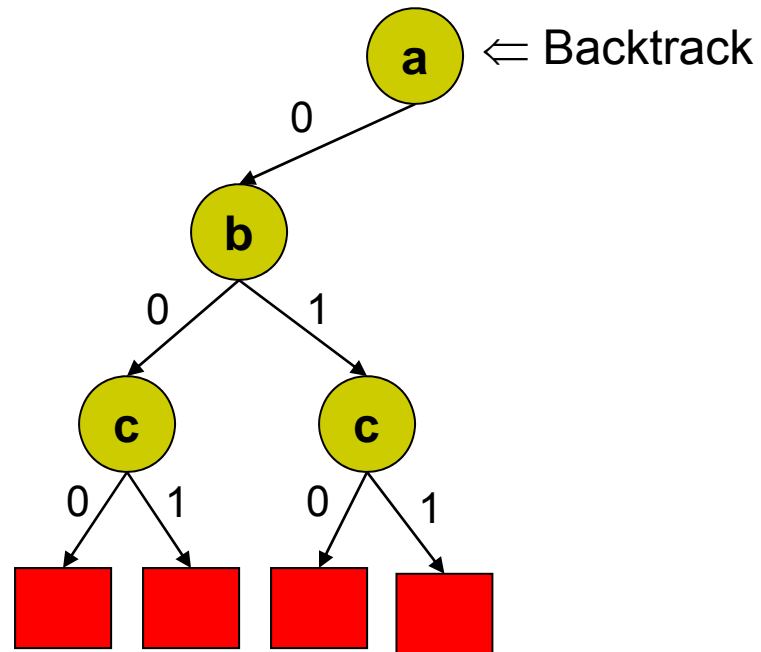


Conflict!



Basic DLL Search

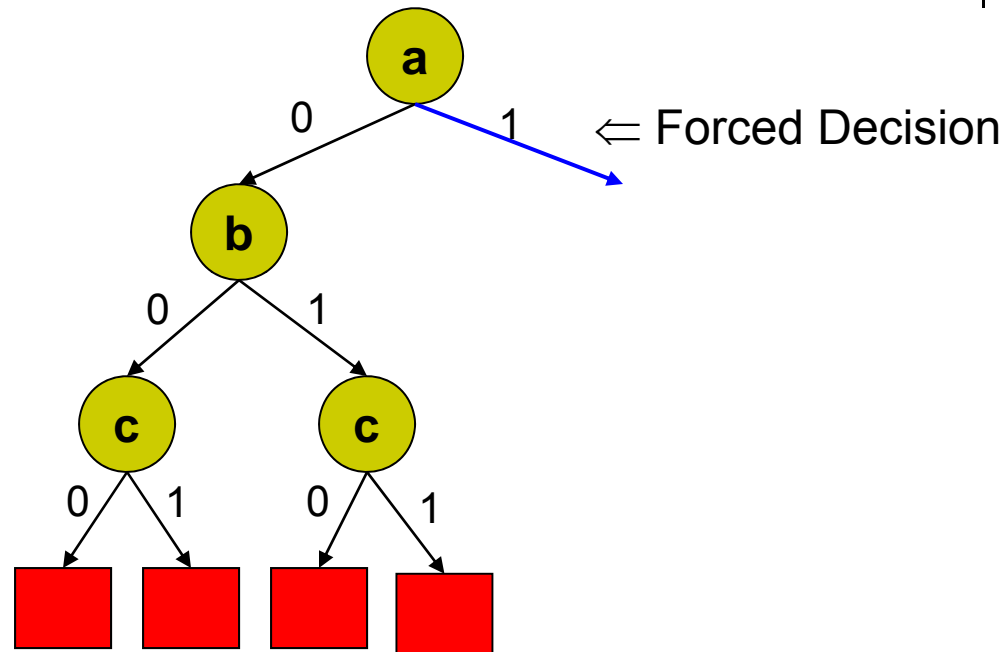
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Basic DLL Search

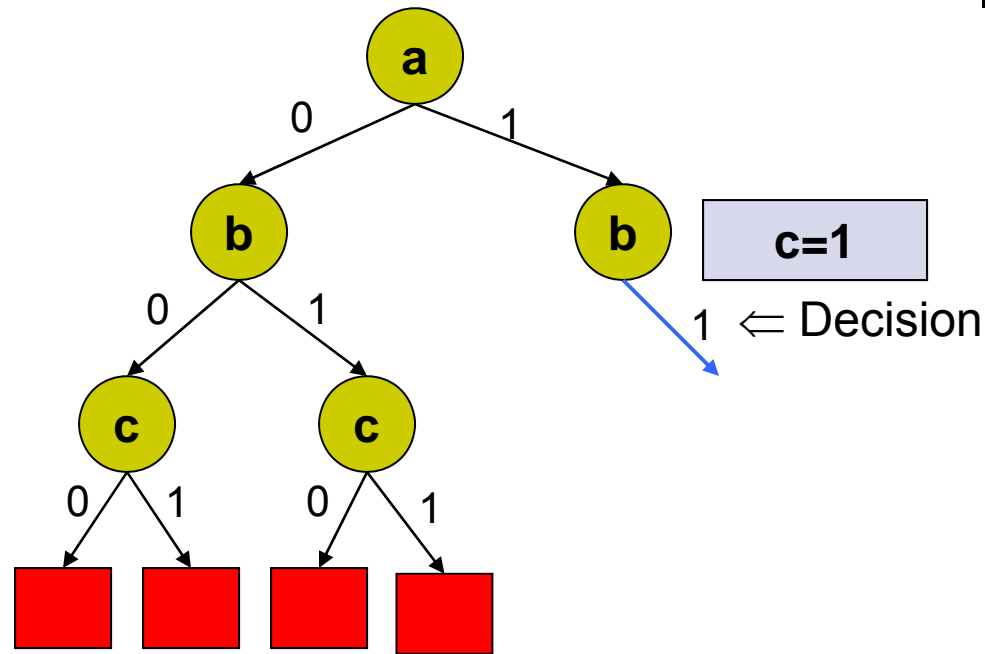
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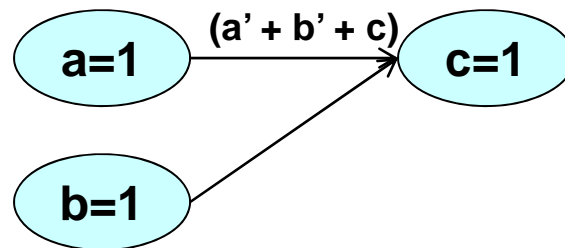


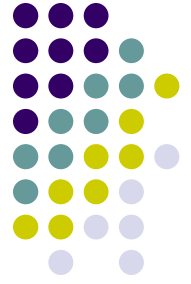
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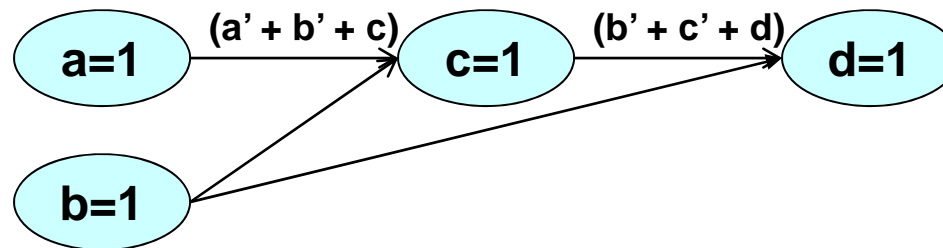
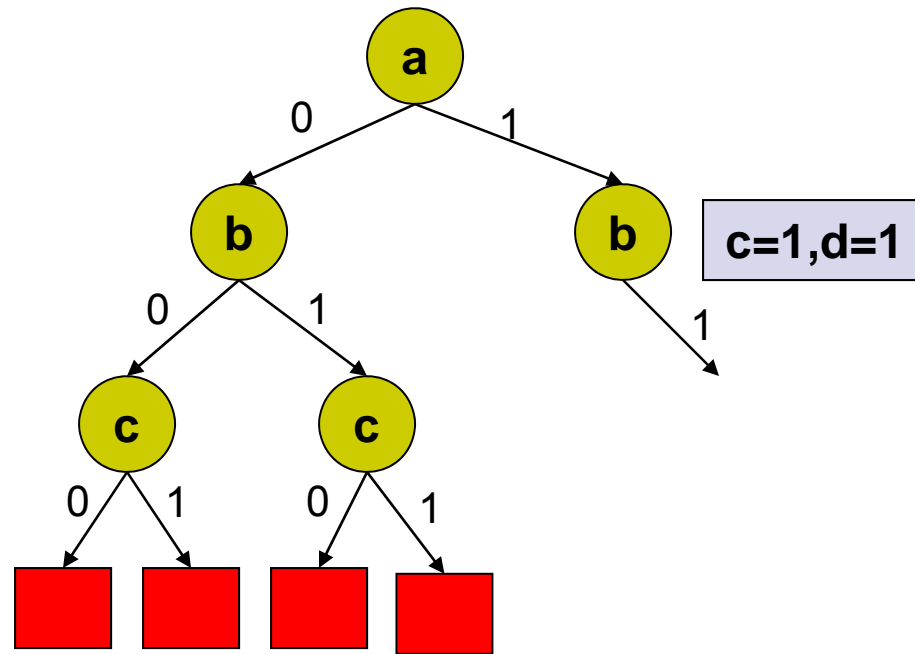
Implication Graph



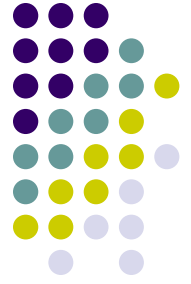


Basic DLL Search

-
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 - $(a + c' + d')$
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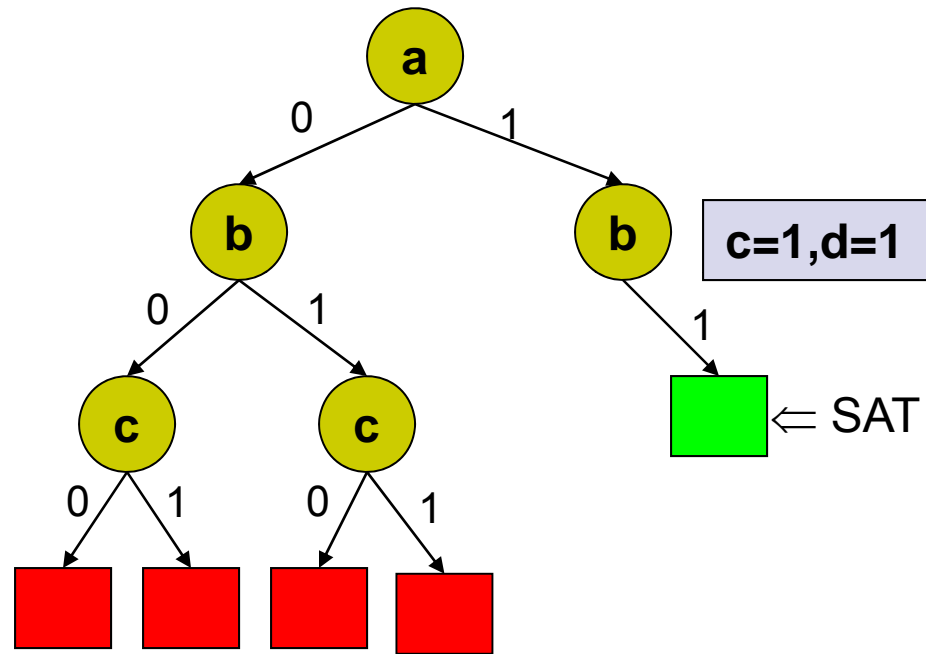
Implication Graph



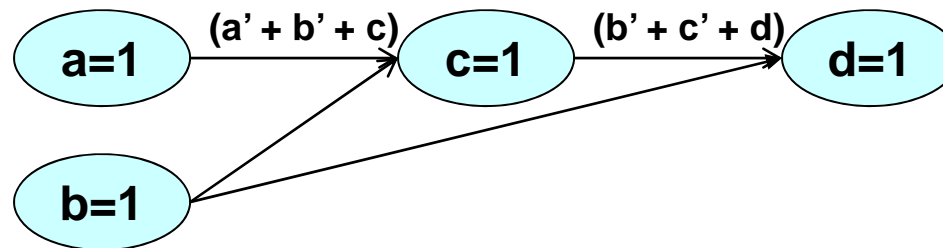
Basic DLL Search

→

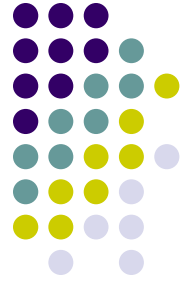
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Implication Graph

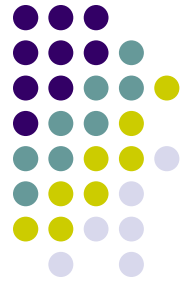


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Conflict Driven Learning and Non-chronological Backtracking



$x_1 + x_4$

$x_1 + x_3' + x_8'$

$x_1 + x_8 + x_{12}$

$x_2 + x_{11}$

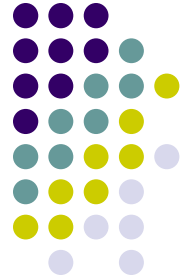
$x_7' + x_3' + x_9$

$x_7' + x_8 + x_9'$

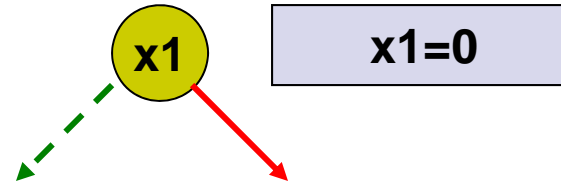
$x_7 + x_8 + x_{10}'$

$x_7 + x_{10} + x_{12}'$

Conflict Driven Learning and Non-chronological Backtracking

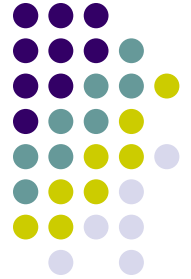


- x1** + x4
- x1** + x3' + x8'
- x1** + x8 + x12
- x2 + x11
- x7' + x3' + x9
- x7' + x8 + x9'
- x7 + x8 + x10'
- x7 + x10 + x12'

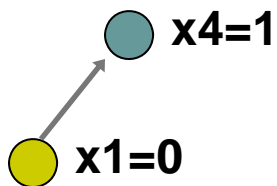
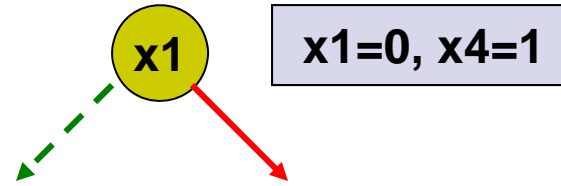


 $x_1=0$

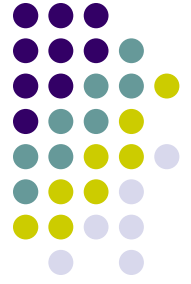
Conflict Driven Learning and Non-chronological Backtracking



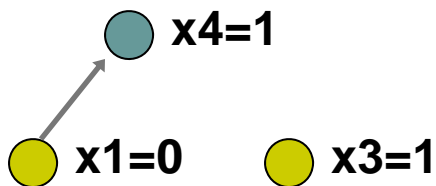
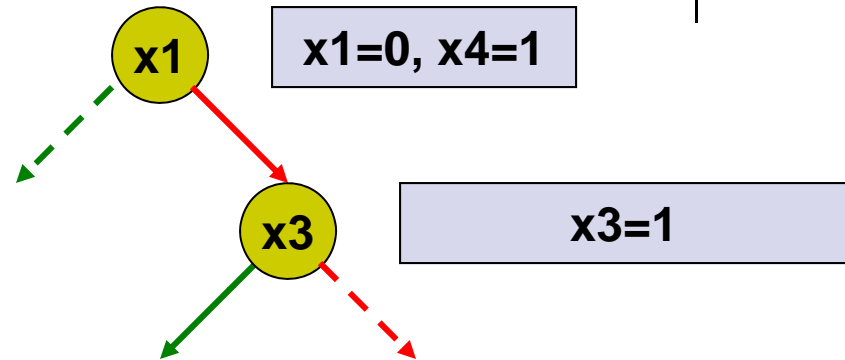
- $x1 + x4$
- $x1 + x3' + x8'$
- $x1 + x8 + x12$
- $x2 + x11$
- $x7' + x3' + x9$
- $x7' + x8 + x9'$
- $x7 + x8 + x10'$
- $x7 + x10 + x12'$



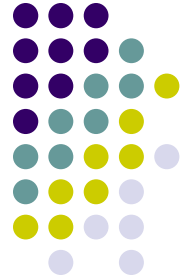
Conflict Driven Learning and Non-chronological Backtracking



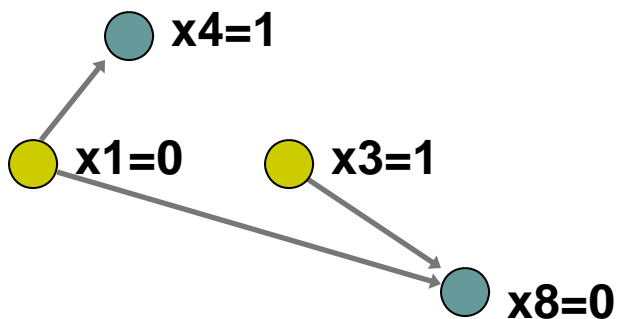
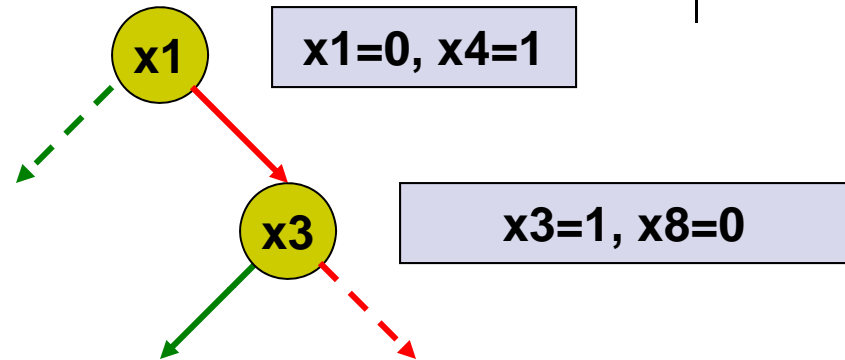
- $x1 + x4$
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- $x1 + x8 + x12$
- $x2 + x11$
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- $x7 + x8 + x10'$
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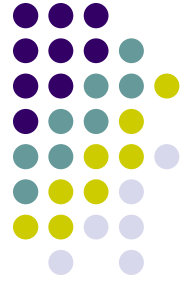
Conflict Driven Learning and Non-chronological Backtracking



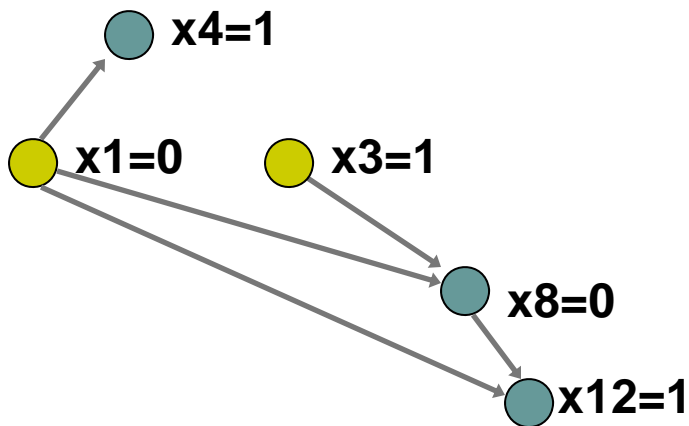
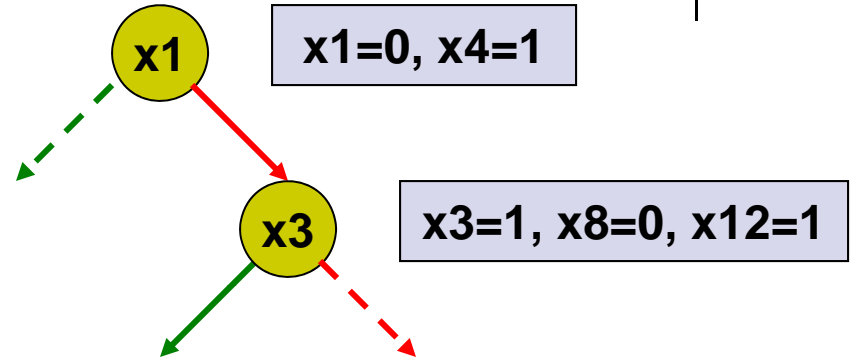
- $x1 + x4$
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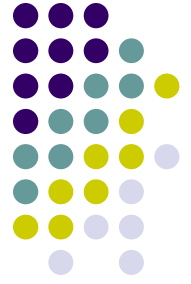
Conflict Driven Learning and Non-chronological Backtracking



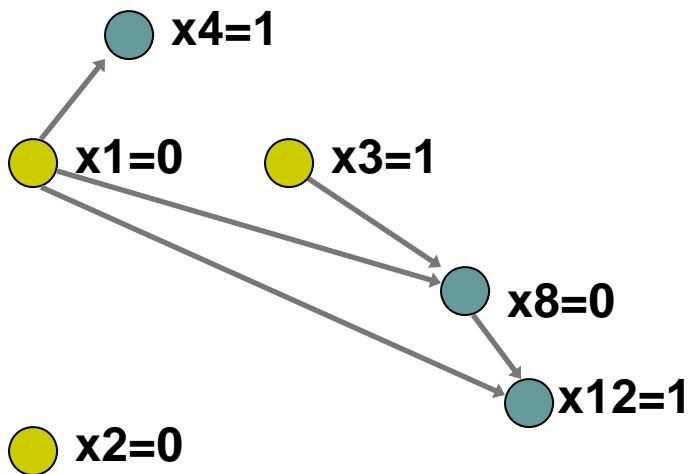
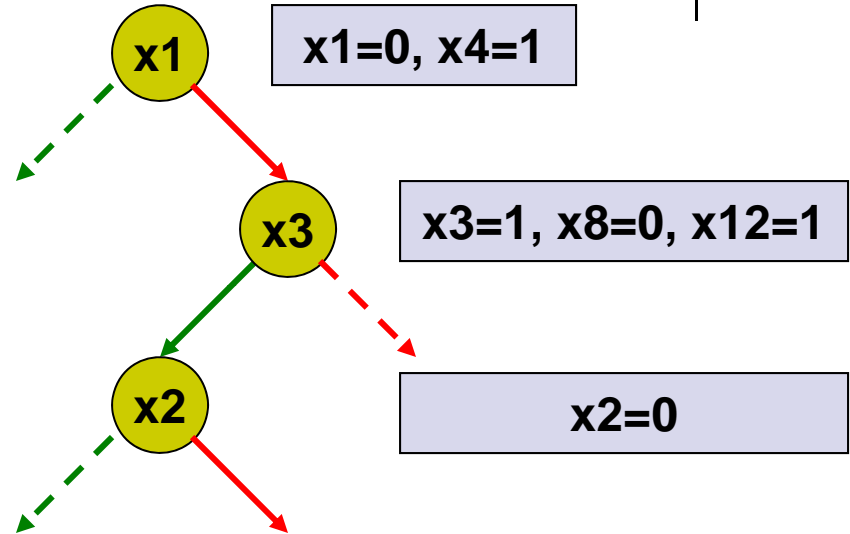
- $x1 + x4$
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- $x2 + x11$
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- $x7 + x8 + x10'$
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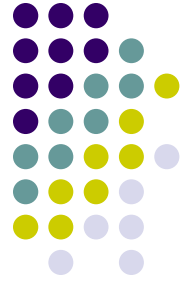
Conflict Driven Learning and Non-chronological Backtracking



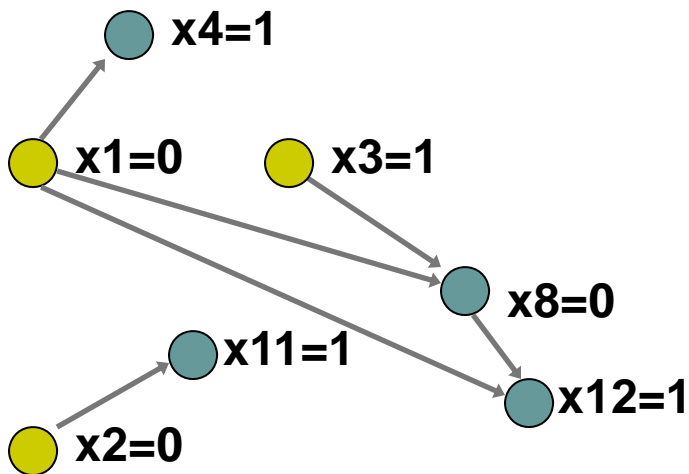
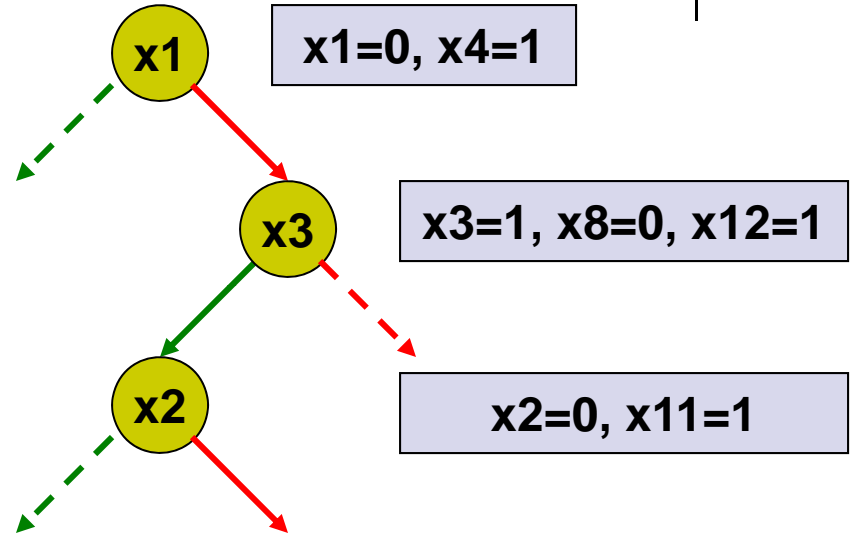
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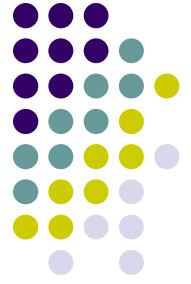
Conflict Driven Learning and Non-chronological Backtracking



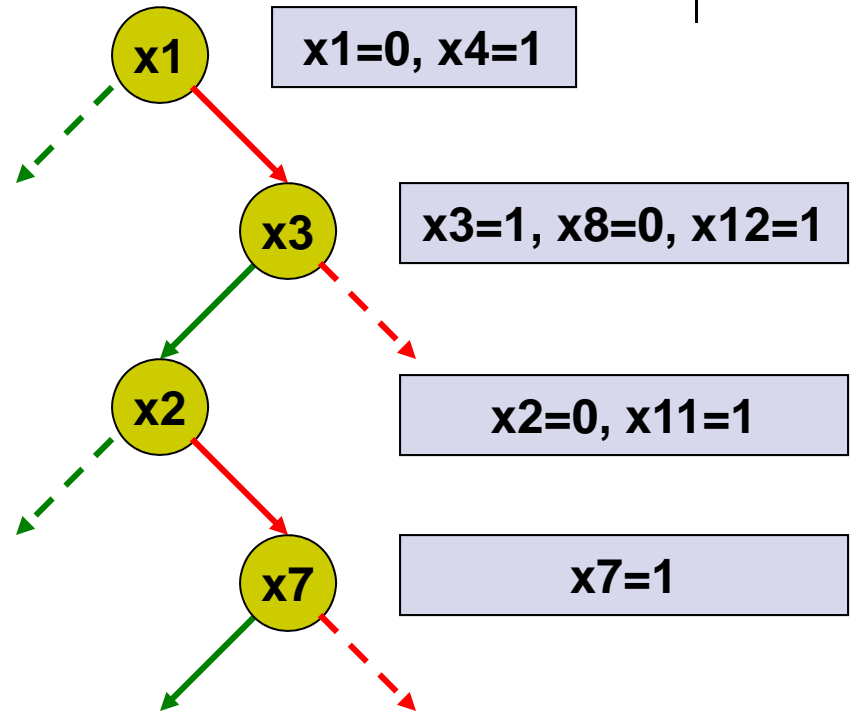
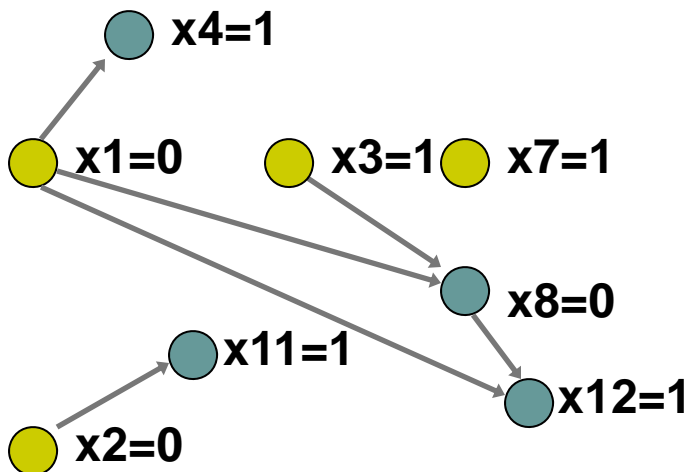
- $x1 + x4$
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- $x2 + x11$
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- $x7' + x8 + x9'$
- $x7 + x8 + x10'$
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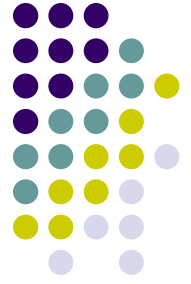
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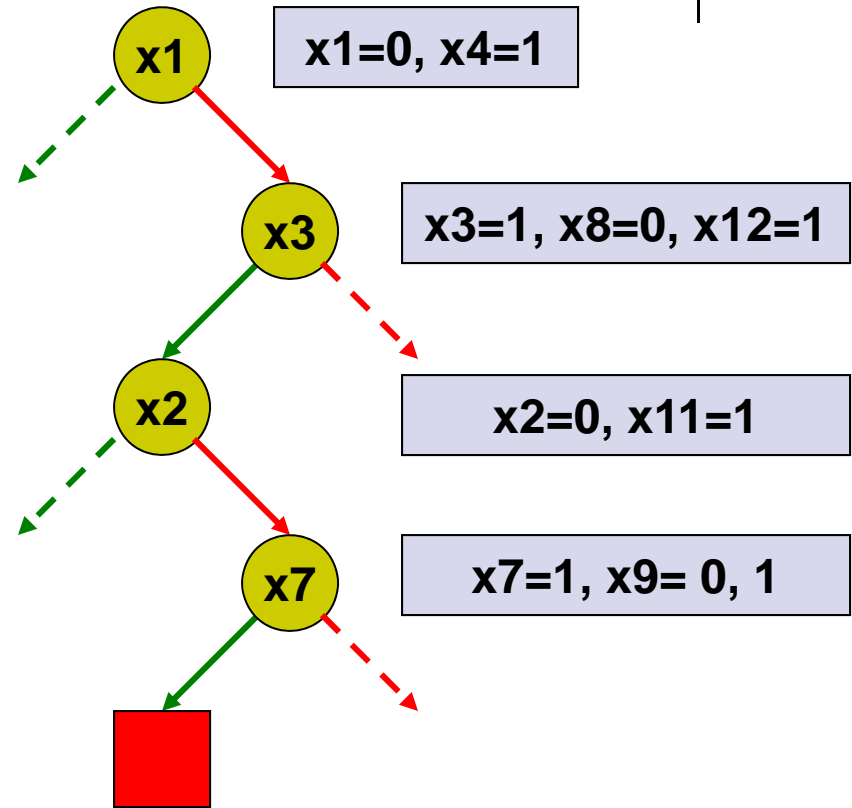
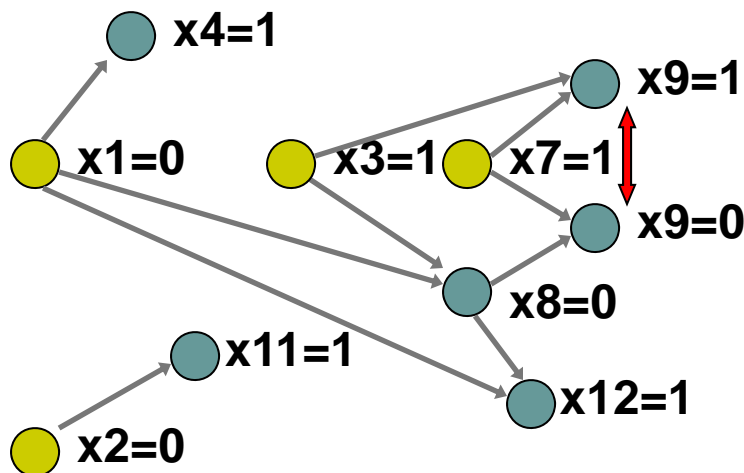
- $x1 + x4$
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- $x1 + x8 + x12$
- $x2 + x11$
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- $x7' + x8 + x9'$
- $x7 + x8 + x10'$
- $x7 + x10 + x12'$



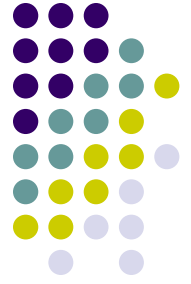
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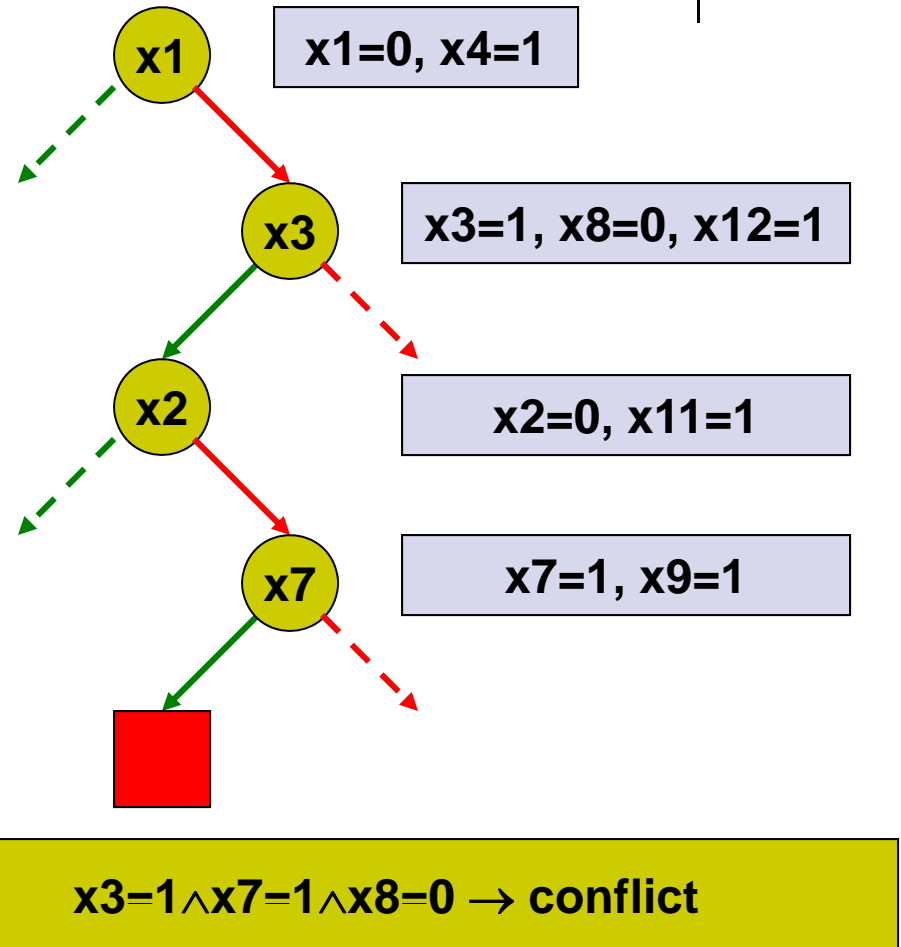
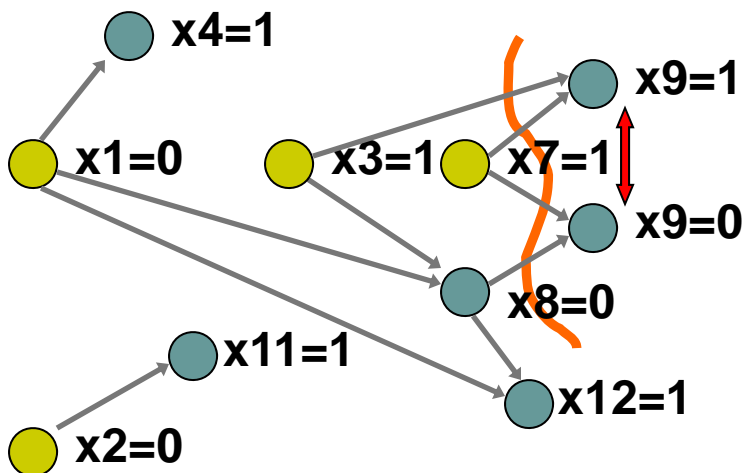
- $x_1 + x_4$
- $x_1 + x_3' + x_8'$
- $x_1 + x_8 + x_{12}$
- $x_2 + x_{11}$
- $x_7' + x_3' + x_9$
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- $x_7 + x_{10} + x_{12}'$



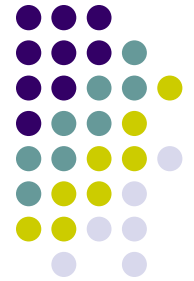
Conflict Driven Learning and Non-chronological Backtracking



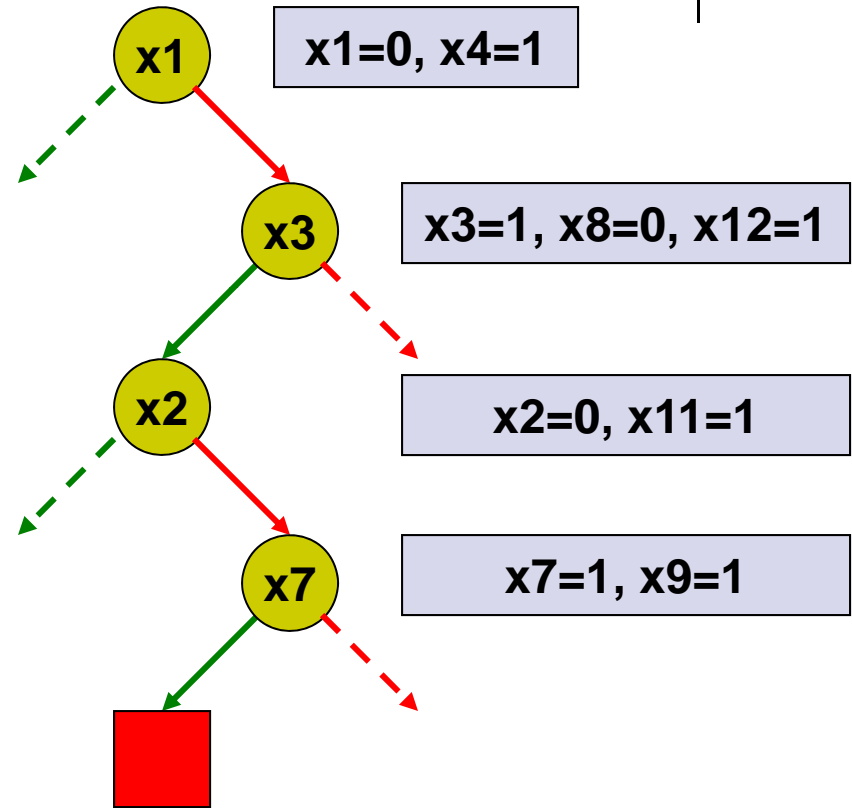
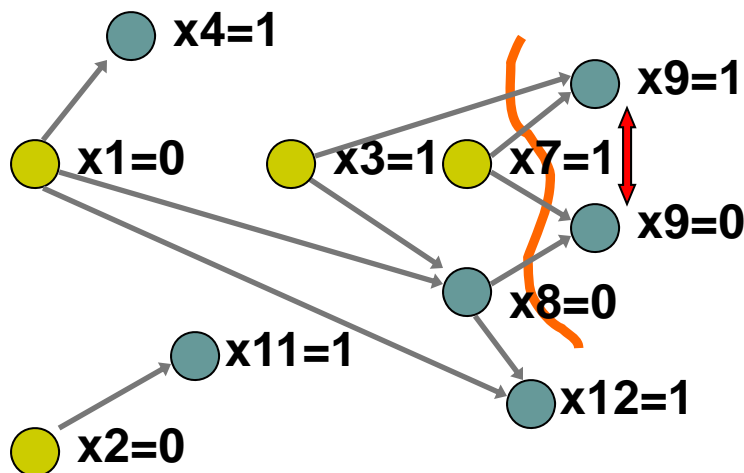
- $x1 + x4$
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Conflict Driven Learning and Non-chronological Backtracking



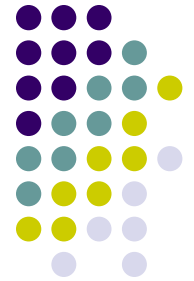
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- $x7' + x8 + x9'$
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- $x7 + x10 + x12'$



$x3=1 \wedge x7=1 \wedge x8=0 \rightarrow \text{conflict}$

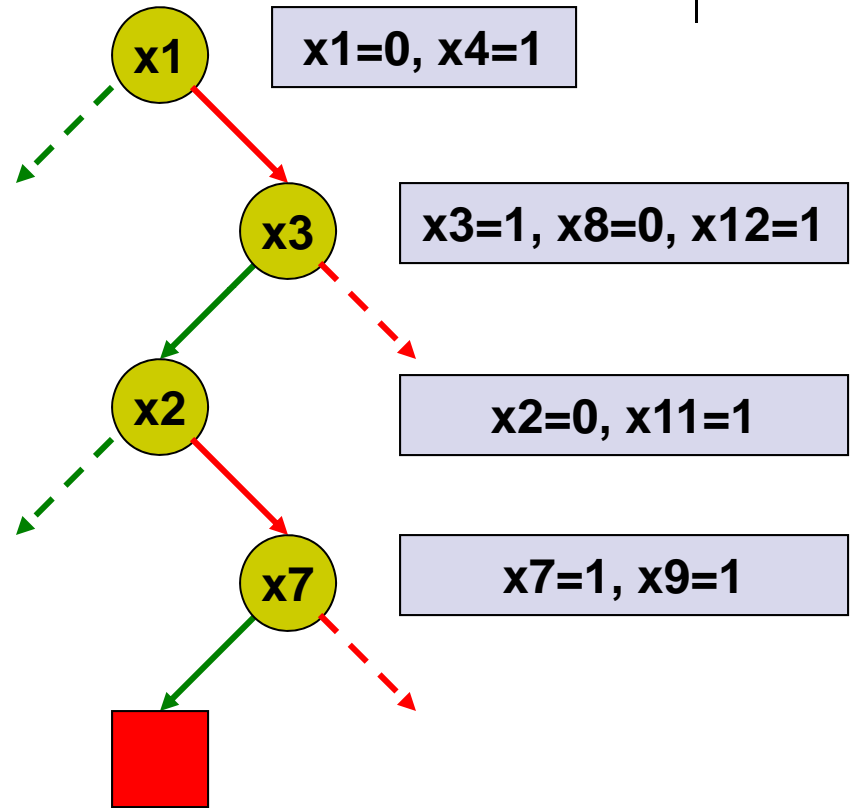
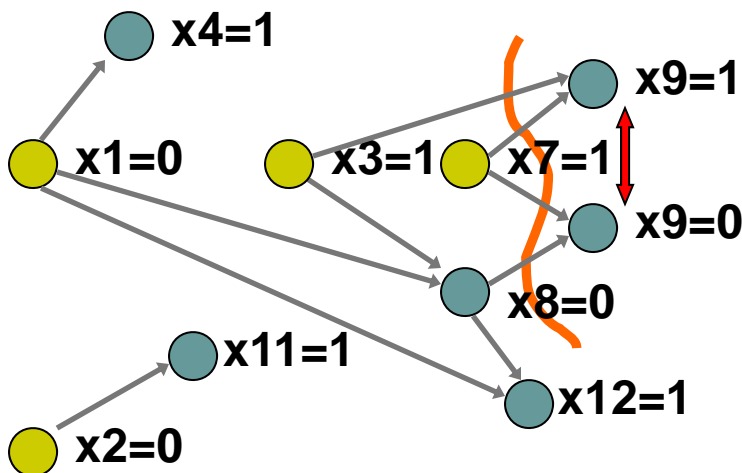
Add conflict clause: $x3' + x7' + x8$

Conflict Driven Learning and Non-chronological Backtracking



- $x_1 + x_4$
- $x_1 + x_3' + x_8'$
- $x_1 + x_8 + x_{12}$
- $x_2 + x_{11}$
- $x_7' + x_3' + x_9$
- $x_7' + x_8 + x_9'$
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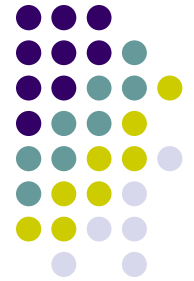
$x_3' + x_7' + x_8$



$x_3=1 \wedge x_7=1 \wedge x_8=0 \rightarrow \text{conflict}$

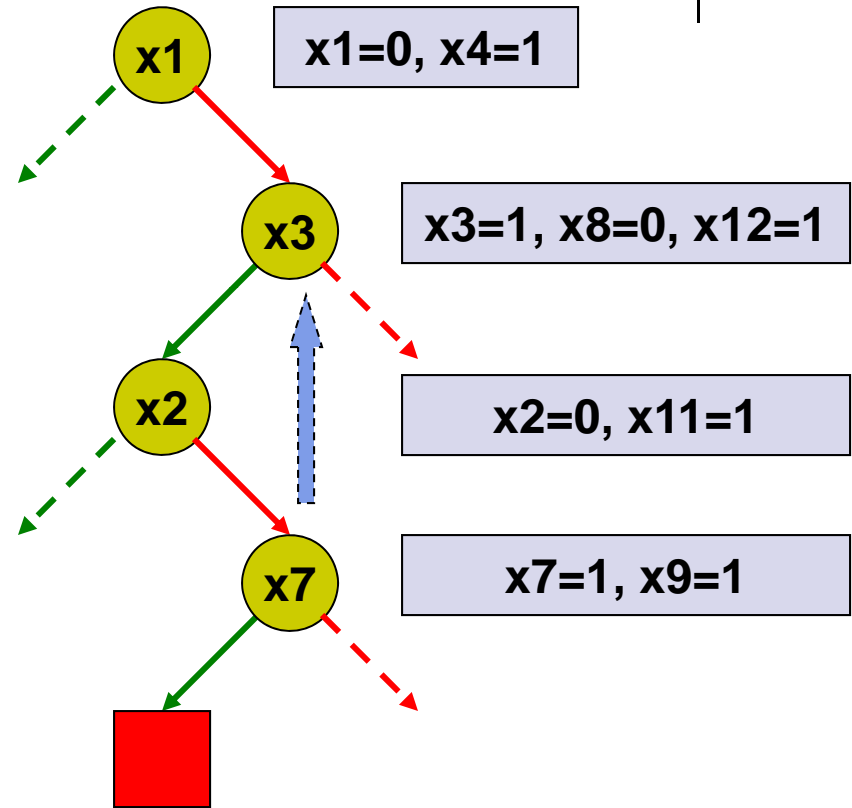
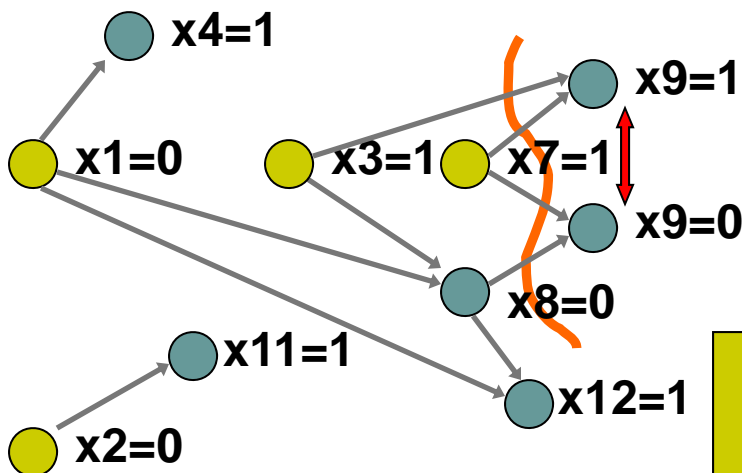
Add conflict clause: $x_3' + x_7' + x_8$

Conflict Driven Learning and Non-chronological Backtracking



- $x1 + x4$
- $x1 + x3' + x8'$
- $x1 + x8 + x12$
- $x2 + x11$
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- $x7' + x8 + x9'$
- $x7 + x8 + x10'$
- $x7 + x10 + x12'$

$x3' + x7' + x8$

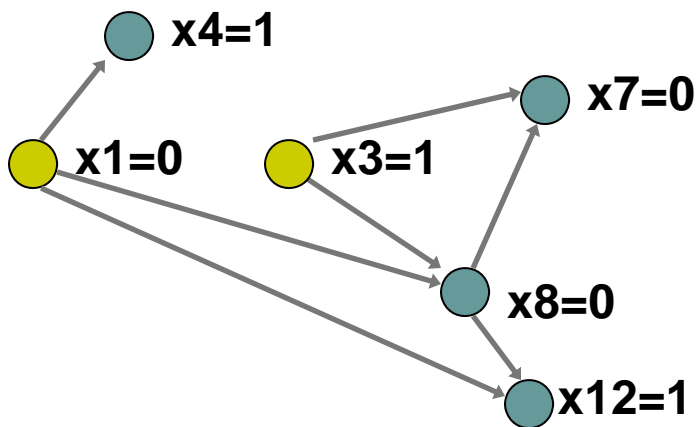
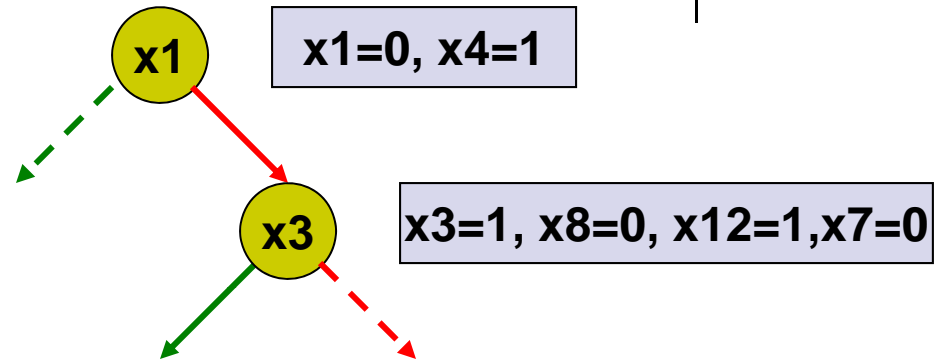


Backtrack to the decision level of $x3=1$

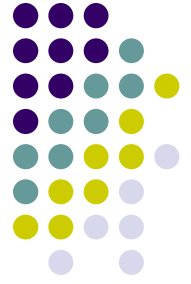
Conflict Driven Learning and Non-chronological Backtracking



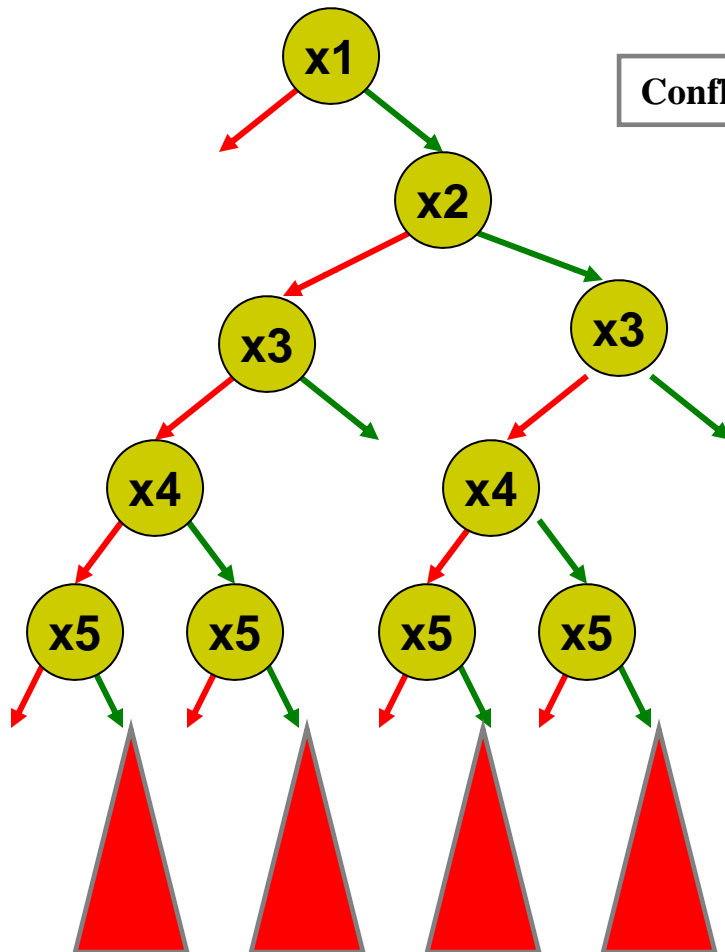
- $x_1 + x_4$
- $x_1 + x_3' + x_8'$
- $x_1 + x_8 + x_{12}$
- $x_2 + x_{11}$
- $x_7' + x_3' + x_9$
- $x_7' + x_8 + x_9'$
- $x_7 + x_8 + x_{10}'$
- $x_7 + x_{10} + x_{12}'$
- $x_3' + x_7' + x_8$ ←new clause



**Backtrack to the decision level of $x_3=1$
Assign $x_7 = 0$**



What's the big deal?



Conflict clause: $x1' + x3 + x5'$

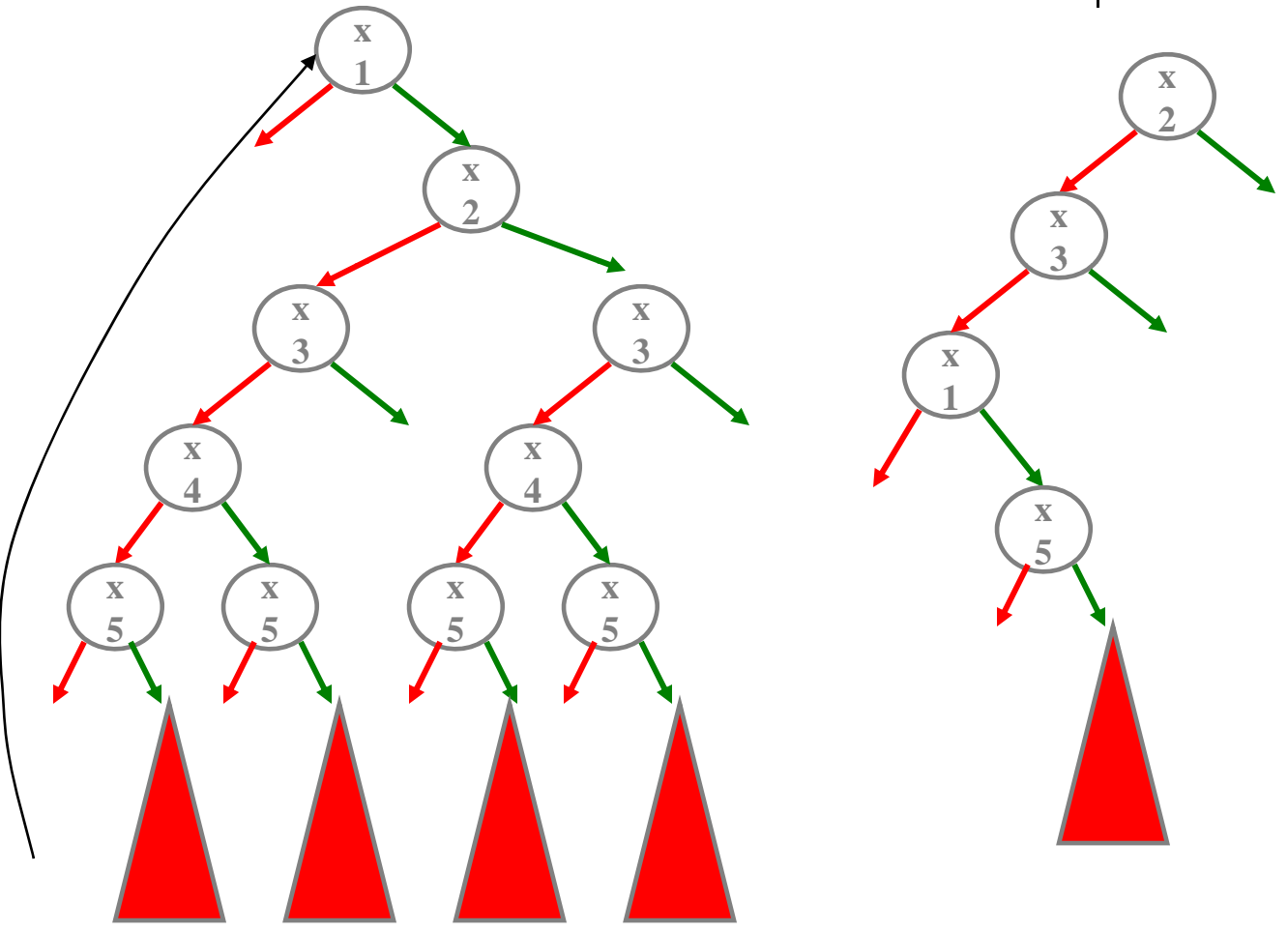
Significantly prune the search space –
learned clause is useful forever!

Useful in generating future conflict
clauses.

Restart

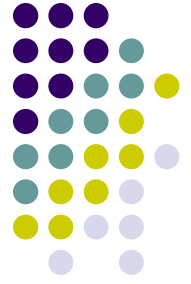


- Abandon the current search tree and reconstruct a new one
- The clauses learned prior to the restart are *still there* after the restart and can help pruning the search space
- Adds to robustness in the solver



Conflict clause: $x1'+x3+x5'$

SAT Solvers: A Condensed History



- Deductive
 - Davis-Putnam 1960 [DP]
 - Iterative existential quantification by “resolution”
- Backtracking Search
 - Davis, Logemann and Loveland 1962 [DLL]
 - Exhaustive search for satisfying assignment
- Conflict Driven Clause Learning [CDCL]
 - GRASP: Integrate a constraint learning procedure, 1996
- Locality Based Search
 - Emphasis on exhausting local sub-spaces, e.g. Chaff, Berkmin, miniSAT and others, 2001 onwards
 - Added focus on efficient implementation
 - Boolean Constraint Propagation, Decision Heuristics, ...



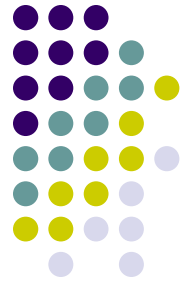
Success with Chaff (2000)

- First major instance: Tough
- Industrial Processor Verification
 - Bounded Model Checking, 14 cycle behavior
- Statistics
 - 1 million variables
 - 10 million literals initially
 - 200 million literals including added clauses
 - 30 million literals finally
 - 4 million clauses (initially)
 - 200K clauses added
 - 1.5 million decisions
 - 3 hour run time

[MMZ+01]

Constants Matter

Motivating Metrics: Decisions, Instructions, Cache Performance and Run Time



	1dlx_c_mc_ex_bp_f
Num Variables	776
Num Clauses	3725
Num Literals	10045

	zChaff	SATO	GRASP
# Decisions	3166	3771	1795
# Instructions	86.6M	630.4M	1415.9M
# L1/L2 accesses	24M / 1.7M	188M / 79M	416M / 153M
% L1/L2 misses	4.8% / 4.6%	36.8% / 9.7%	32.9% / 50.3%
# Seconds	0.22	4.41	11.78

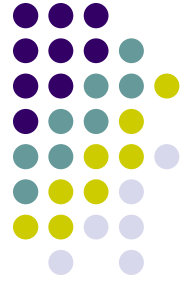
Chaff Contribution 1:

2 Literal Watching



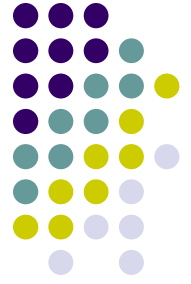
- N-literal clause can be unit or conflicting only after N-1 of the literals have been assigned to F
 - $(v_1 + v_2 + v_3)$: implied cases: $(0 + 0 + v_3)$ or $(0 + v_2 + 0)$ or $(v_1 + 0 + 0)$
- So, (theoretically) we could completely ignore the first N-2 assignments to this clause
- In reality, we pick two literals in each clause to “watch” and thus can ignore any assignments to the other literals in the clause.
 - Example: $(v_1 + v_2 + v_3 + v_4 + v_5)$
 - $(v_1=X + v_2=X + v_3=? \text{ {i.e. X or 0 or 1}} + v_4=? + v_5=?)$
- If a clause can become newly implied via any sequence of assignments, then this sequence will include an assignment of one of the watched literals to F

Decision Heuristics – Conventional Wisdom



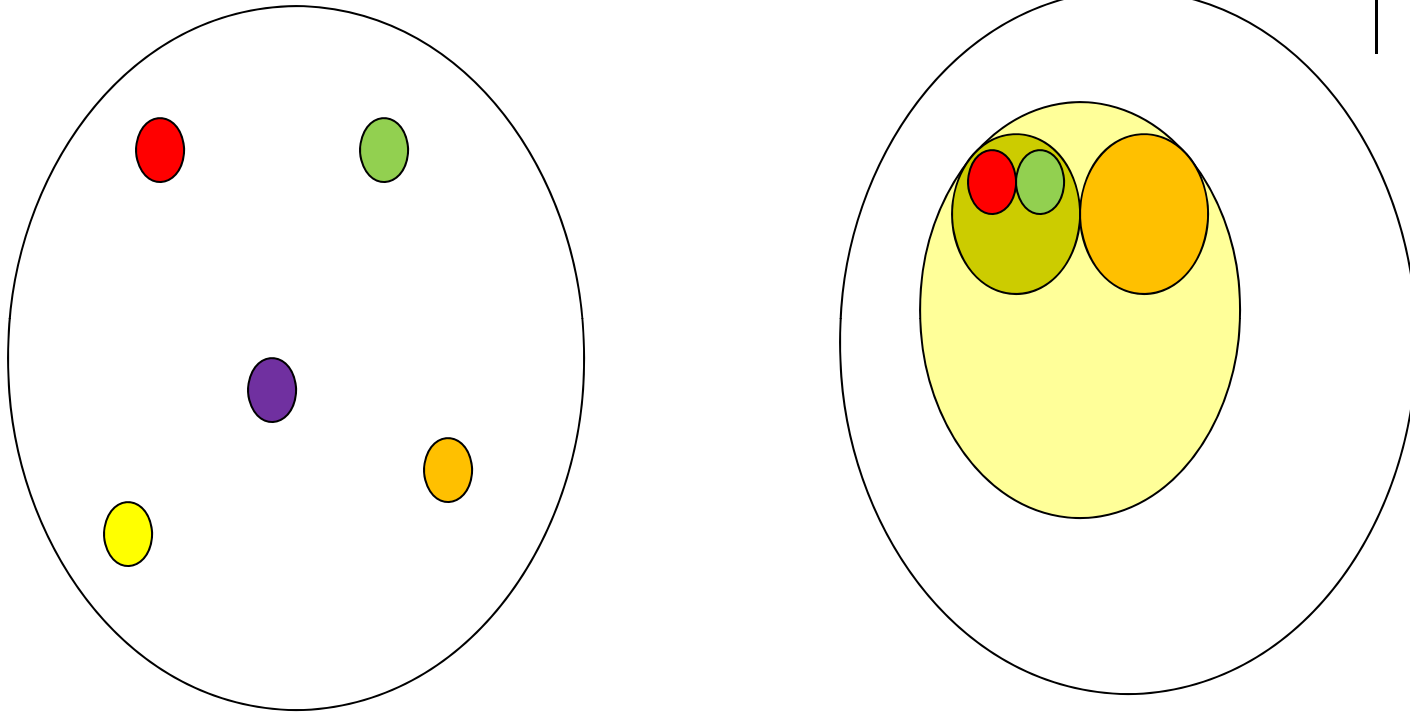
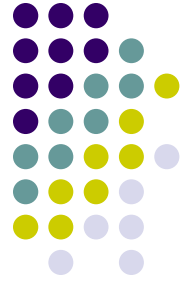
- “Assign most tightly constrained variable” : e.g. DLIS (Dynamic Largest Individual Sum)
 - Simple and intuitive: At each decision simply choose the assignment that satisfies the most unsatisfied clauses.
 - **Expensive book-keeping** operations required
 - Must touch **every** clause that contains a literal that has been set to true. Often restricted to initial (not learned) clauses.
 - Need to reverse the process for un-assignment.
- Look ahead algorithms even more **compute intensive**
C. Li, Anbulagan, “Look-ahead versus look-back for satisfiability problems” *Proc. of CP*, 1997.
- Take a more “global” view of the problem

Chaff Contribution 2: Modern Decision Heuristics – Variable Activity Based



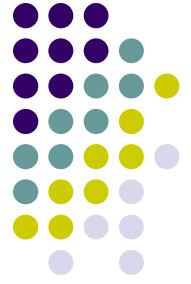
- VSIDS: **V**ariable **S**tate **I**ndependent **D**ecaying **S**um
 - Rank variables by literal count in the initial clause database
 - Only increment counts as new (learnt) clauses are added
 - Periodically, divide all counts by a constant
- Quasi-static:
 - Static because it doesn't depend on variable state
 - Not static because it gradually changes as new clauses are added
 - Decay causes bias toward *recent* conflicts.
 - Has a beneficial interaction with 2-literal watching

Activity Based Heuristics and Locality Based Search



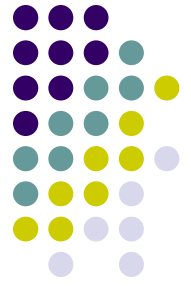
- By focusing on a sub-space, the covered spaces tend to coalesce
 - More opportunities for resolution since most of the variables are common.
 - Variable activity based heuristics lead to locality based search

SAT Solvers: Related Capabilities

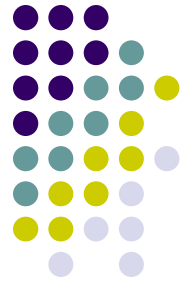


- Independent Checkers and UNSAT Cores
- minCostSAT
- partialMaxSAT

Extracting an Unsatisfiable Core: Motivation



- Debugging and redesign: SAT instances are often generated from real world applications with certain expected results:
 - If the expected result is **unsatisfiable**, but the instance is satisfiable, then the solution is a “stimulus” or “input vector” or “counter-example” for debugging
 - Combinational Equivalence Checking
 - Bounded Model Checking
 - What if the expected results is **satisfiable**?
 - SAT Planning
 - FPGA Routing
- Relax constraints:
 - If several constraints make a safety property hold, are there any redundant constraints in the system that can be removed without violating the safety property?



Extract Unsatisfiable Core

Given an unsatisfiable Boolean Formula in CNF

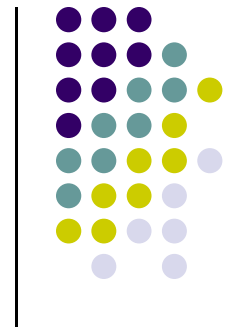
$$F = C_1 C_2 \dots C_n$$

Find a formula

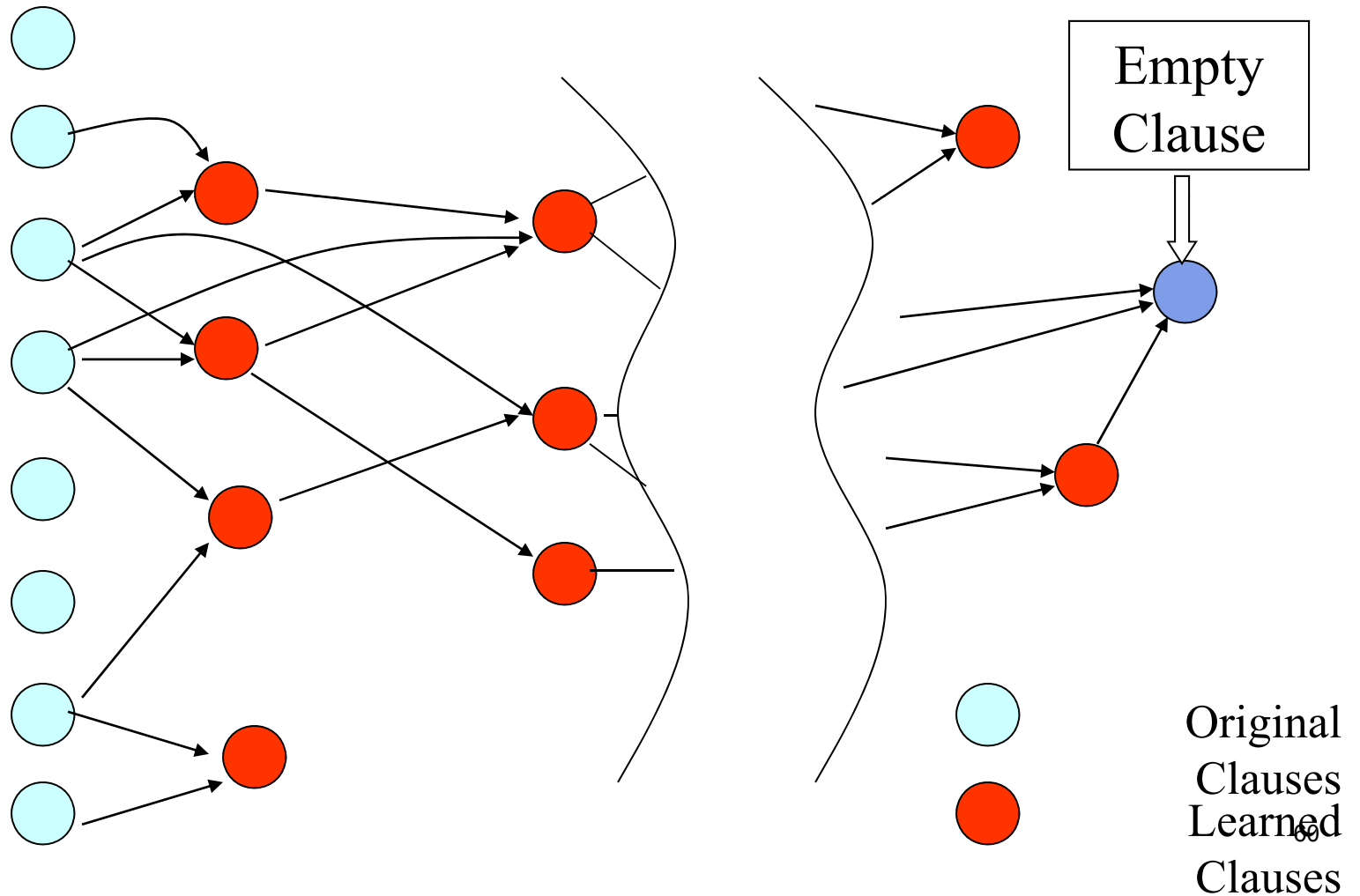
$$G = C_1' C_2' \dots C_m'$$

Such that G is unsatisfiable, $C_i' \in \{C_i \mid i=1 \dots n\}$ with $m \leq n$

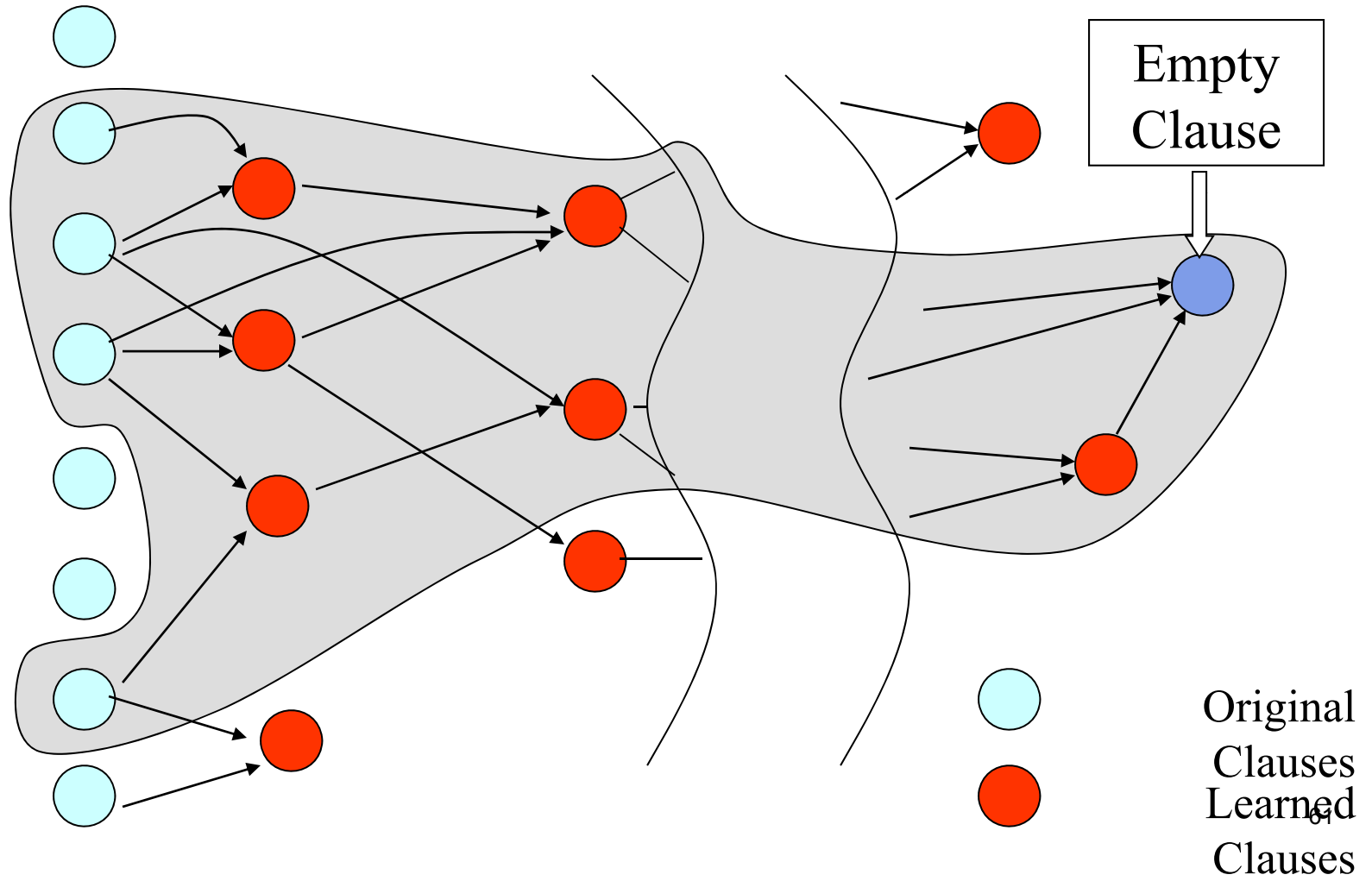
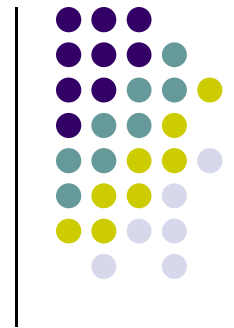
Proof of Unsatisfiability and Unsat Core



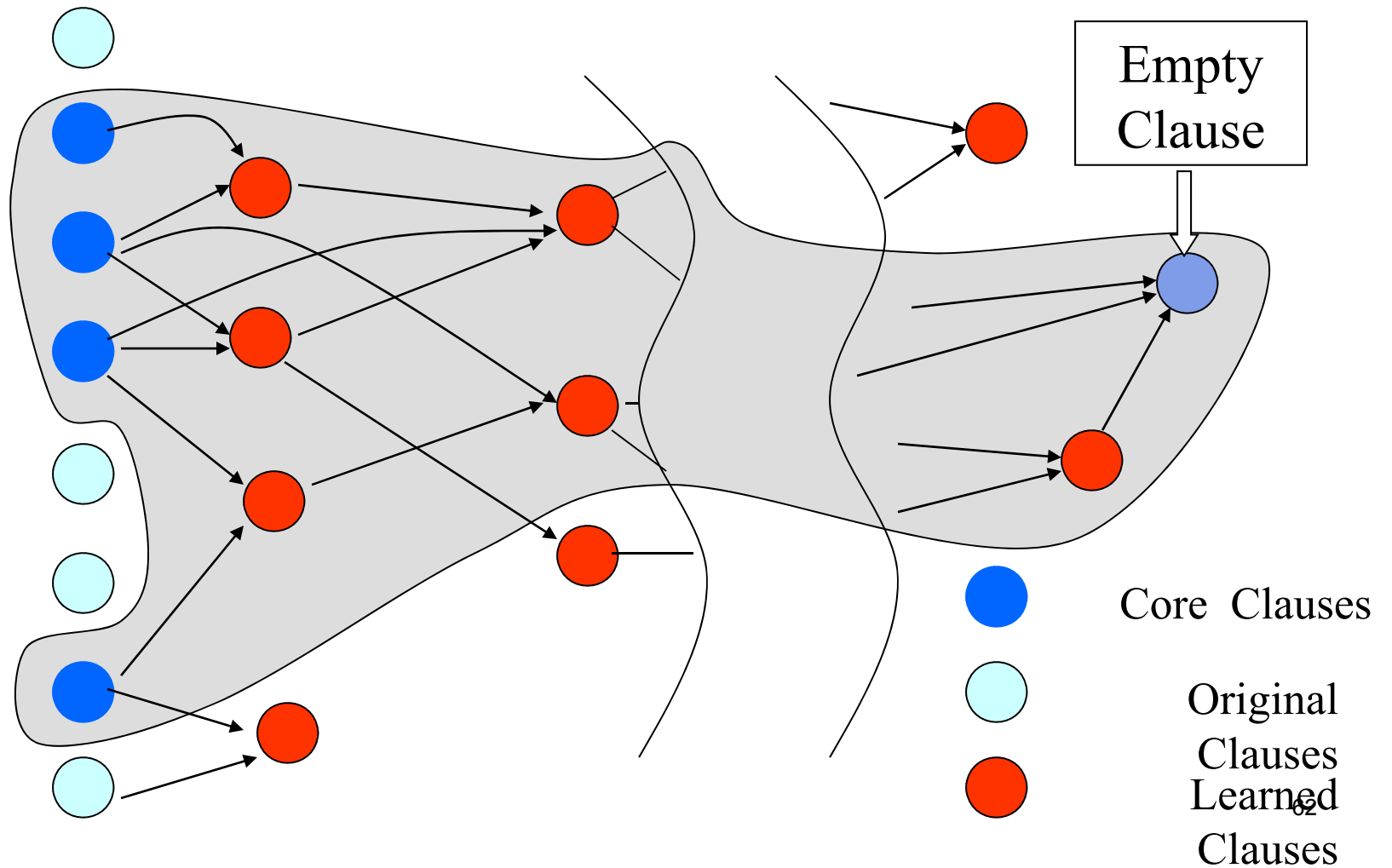
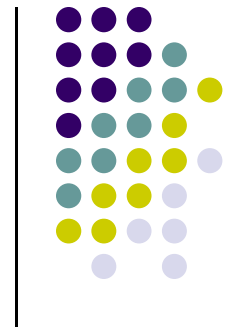
Resolution Graph for UNSAT Instance

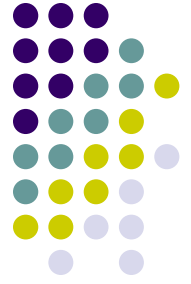


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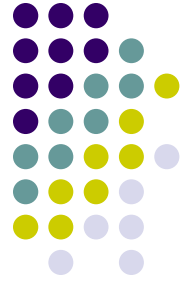


Problem Definition

- MinCostSAT: Given a Boolean formula φ with
 - n variables x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n $x_i \in \{0, 1\}$
each costs $c_i \geq 0$ $1 \leq i \leq n$
- Find a variable assignment $X \in \{0, 1\}^n$
 - X satisfies φ
 - X minimizes

$$C = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i x_i$$

Partial MAX-SAT (PM-SAT) Problem Definition



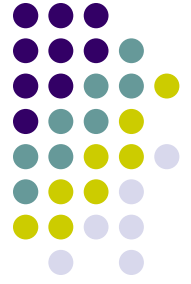
- Two sets of clauses
 - Non-relaxable or hard
 - Relaxable or soft

$$(x'_1 + x_2)(x'_1 + x'_2)[x_1 + x_3][x_1]$$

- Objective – A truth assignment that
 - Satisfies all non-relaxable clauses
 - Satisfies maximum number of relaxable clauses

$$x_1 = 0, x_2 = 0, x_3 = 1$$

- Along the spectrum of SAT and MAX-SAT
 - All clauses are non-relaxable → Classical SAT
 - All clauses are relaxable → MAX-SAT

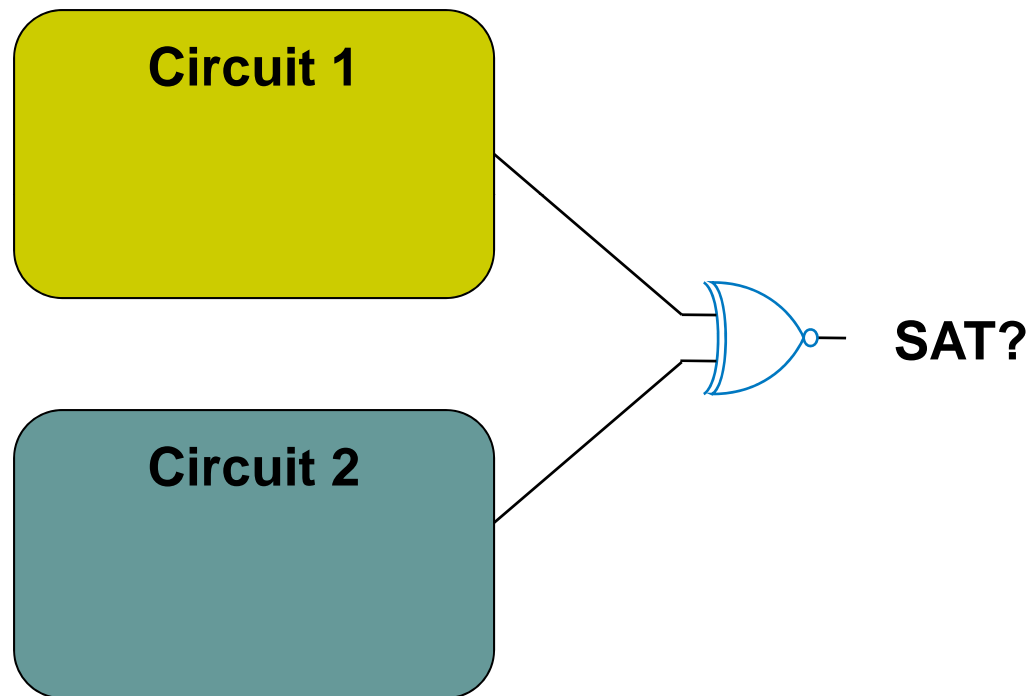
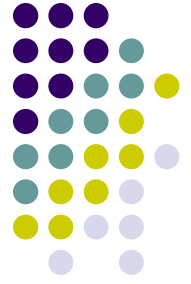


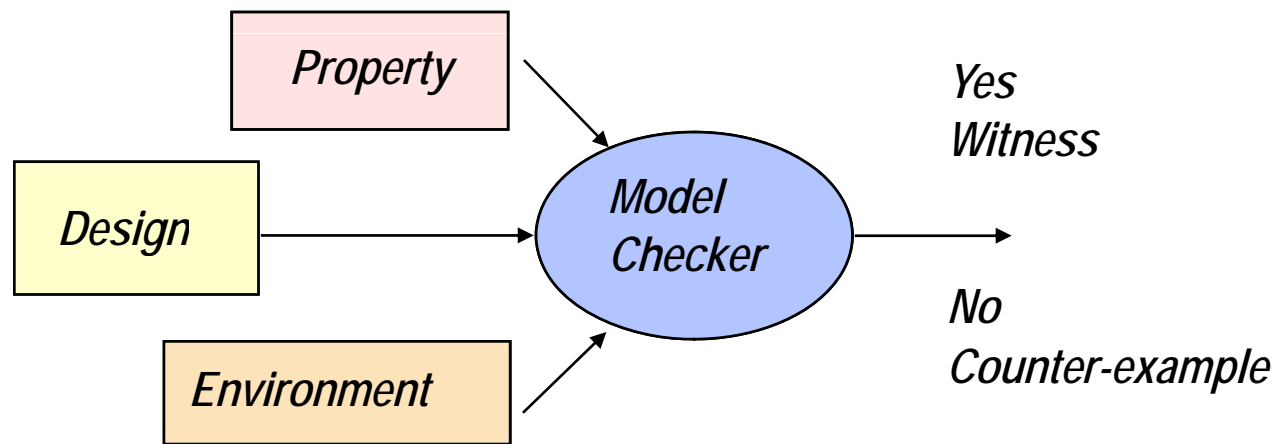
SAT Applications:

**Equivalence Checking, Model
Checking, Bounded Model
Checking**

**in Hardware and Software
Verification**

Equivalence Checking





- ❑ **Model checker:** Checks whether the design satisfies the property by exhaustive state space traversal [Clarke *et al.* 82]
- ❑ **Advantages**
 - Automatic verification method
 - Provides error traces for debugging
 - No test vectors required: all inputs are automatically considered
 - Sound and complete (no false proofs, no false bugs)
- ❑ **Practical Issues**
 - **State space explosion** (exponential in number of state elements)
 - The system needs to be **closed**
i.e. we need to model the environment (constraints on design inputs, or models)

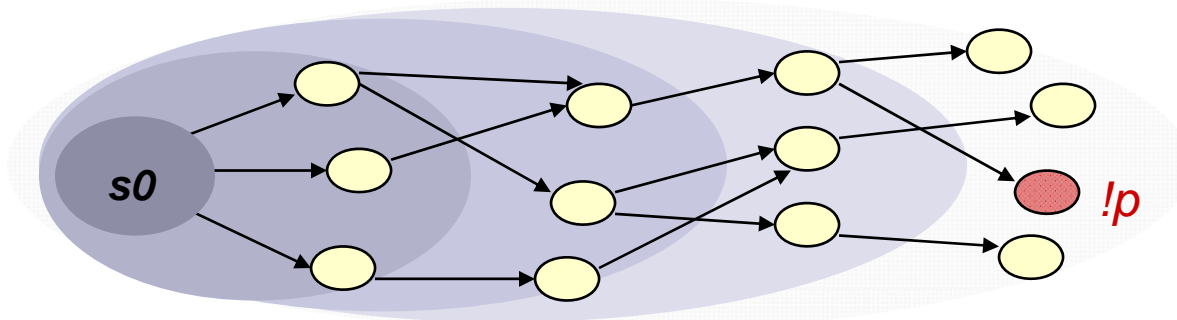
□ Verification Approach: e.g. Model Checking

- Exhaustive state space exploration
- Maintains a representation of visited states (explicit states, BDDs, ckt graphs ...)
- **Expensive**, need abstractions and approximations

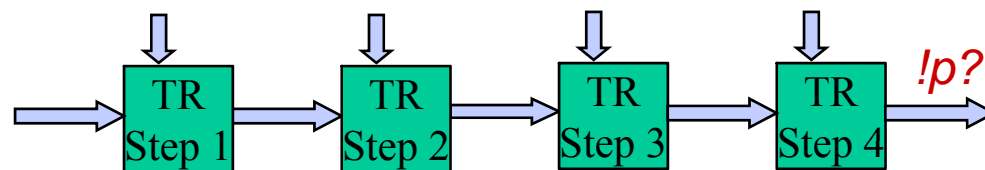
□ Falsification Approach: e.g. *Bounded Model Checking*

- State space search for bugs (counter-examples) or test case inputs
- Typically does not maintain representation of visited states
- Less expensive, but **need good search heuristics**

Model Checking $AG\ p$
Does the set of states
reachable from s_0
contain a bad state(s)?



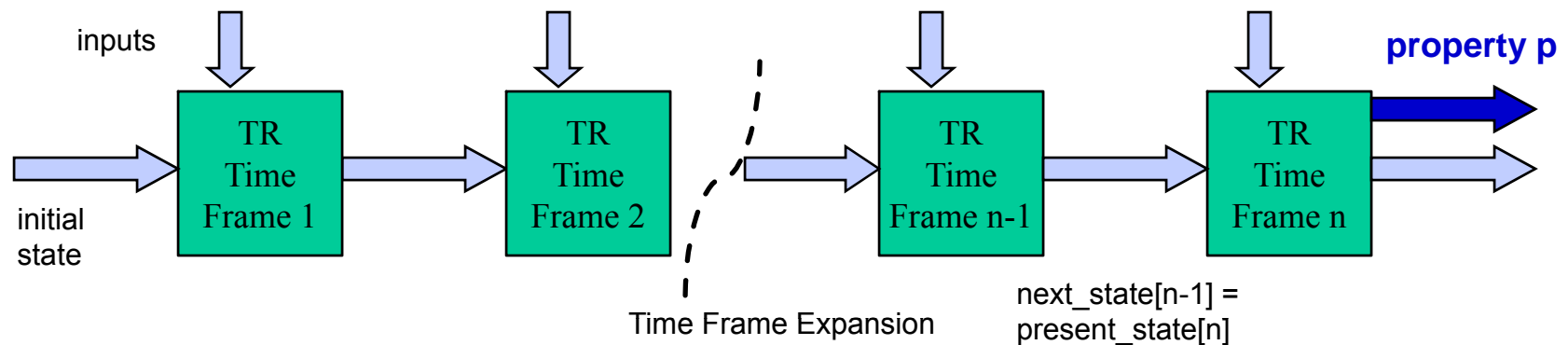
Bounded Model Checking
Is there is a path from
the initial state s_0
to the bad state(s)?



Bounded Model Checking (BMC)

(Slides courtesy:
A. Gupta, NEC)

- **Main idea: Unroll transition relation logic up to some *bounded length* to check p**



- **BMC problem translated to a Boolean formula f**

[Biere *et al.* 00]

- A bug exists of length $k \Leftrightarrow SAT(f_k)$ (formula is satisfiable)
- Satisfiability of f_k is checked by a standard SAT solver

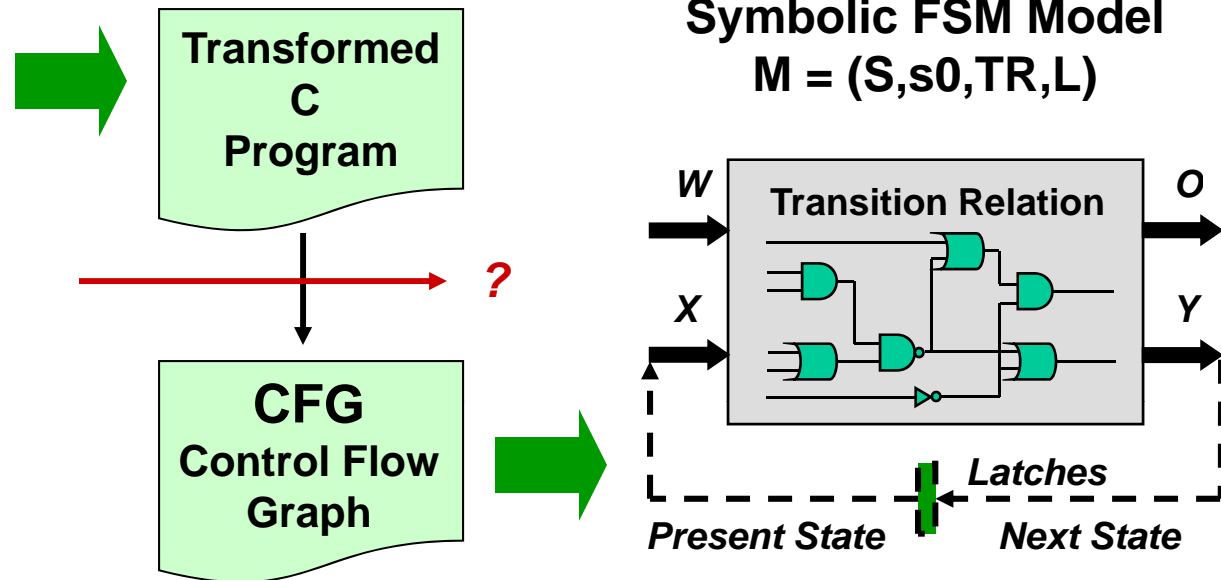
- **Falsification: Can check for bounded length bugs**

- Scales much better than use of Binary Decision Diagrams (BDDs)
 - BDDs: 100s of state elements
 - SAT-based BMC: 10k of state elements

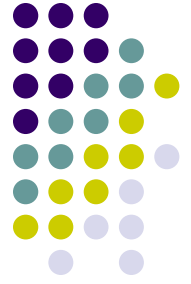
- **SMT-based BMC can potentially improve performance due to word-level reasoning**

C Program

```
1: void bar() {  
2:   int x = 3 , y = x-3 ;  
3:   while ( x <= 4 ) {  
4:     y++ ;  
5:     x = foo(x);  
6:   }  
7:   y = foo(y);  
8: }  
9:  
10: int foo ( int l ) {  
11:   int t = l+2 ;  
12:   if ( t>6 )  
13:     t - = 3;  
14:   else  
15:     t --;  
16:   return t;  
17: }
```

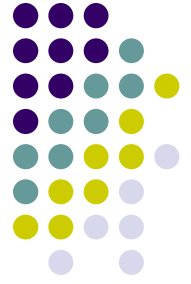


- ❑ **Source-to-source transformations**
 - For modeling pointers, arrays, structures ...
- ❑ **Control Flow Graph: Intermediate Representation**
 - Well-studied optimizations provide simplification and reduction in size of verification models
 - Allows separation of model *building* phase from model *checking* phase



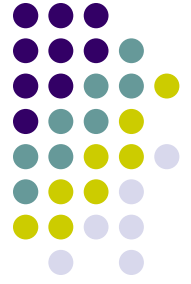
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