Logic and Mechanized Reasoning

Conflict-Driven Clause-Learning Solving

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Carnegie Mellon University

First Midterm Exam

Tuesday, February 17 at 6pm in Porter Hall 100

- No class on February 17

Material covered in the exam:

- All lectures up to (and including) February 5
- All homework through Assignment 4
- Textbook chapters 1-7, excluding Sections 6.3, 6.5, 7.4

Practice exam and solutions on the course website

No new homework assigned this week

The Satisfiability (SAT) problem

$$
\begin{array}{l}
(\ p_5 \vee\ p_8 \vee \neg p_2) \wedge (\ p_2 \vee \neg p_1 \vee \neg p_3) \wedge (\neg p_8 \vee \neg p_3 \vee \neg p_7) \wedge \\
(\neg p_5 \vee\ p_3 \vee\ p_8) \wedge (\neg p_6 \vee \neg p_1 \vee \neg p_5) \wedge (\ p_8 \vee \neg p_9 \vee\ p_3) \wedge \\
(\ p_2 \vee\ p_1 \vee\ p_3) \wedge (\neg p_1 \vee\ p_8 \vee\ p_4) \wedge (\neg p_9 \vee \neg p_6 \vee\ p_8) \wedge \\
(\ p_8 \vee\ p_3 \vee \neg p_9) \wedge (\ p_9 \vee \neg p_3 \vee\ p_8) \wedge (\ p_6 \vee \neg p_9 \vee\ p_5) \wedge \\
(\ p_2 \vee \neg p_3 \vee \neg p_8) \wedge (\ p_8 \vee \neg p_6 \vee \neg p_3) \wedge (\ p_8 \vee \neg p_3 \vee \neg p_1) \wedge \\
(\neg p_8 \vee\ p_6 \vee \neg p_2) \wedge (\ p_7 \vee\ p_9 \vee \neg p_2) \wedge (\ p_8 \vee \neg p_9 \vee\ p_2) \wedge \\
(\neg p_1 \vee \neg p_9 \vee\ p_4) \wedge (\ p_8 \vee\ p_1 \vee \neg p_2) \wedge (\ p_3 \vee \neg p_4 \vee \neg p_6) \wedge \\
(\neg p_1 \vee \neg p_7 \vee\ p_5) \wedge (\neg p_7 \vee\ p_1 \vee\ p_6) \wedge (\neg p_5 \vee\ p_4 \vee \neg p_6) \wedge \\
(\neg p_4 \vee\ p_9 \vee \neg p_8) \wedge (\ p_2 \vee\ p_9 \vee\ p_1) \wedge (\ p_5 \vee \neg p_7 \vee\ p_1) \wedge \\
(\neg p_7 \vee \neg p_9 \vee \neg p_6) \wedge (\ p_2 \vee\ p_5 \vee\ p_4) \wedge (\ p_8 \vee \neg p_4 \vee\ p_5) \wedge \\
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(\ p_7 \vee \neg p_5 \vee \neg p_2) \wedge (\ p_4 \vee\ p_7 \vee\ p_3) \wedge (\ p_4 \vee \neg p_9 \vee \neg p_7) \wedge \\
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(\neg p_8 \vee \neg p_6 \vee \neg p_7) \wedge (\ p_6 \vee\ p_2 \vee\ p_3) \wedge (\neg p_8 \vee\ p_2 \vee\ p_5)
\end{array}
$$

Does there exist an assignment satisfying all clauses?

Search for a satisfying assignment (or proof none exists)

$$
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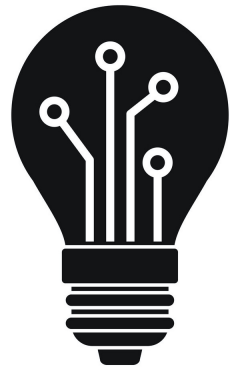
SAT Solver Paradigms Overview

DPLL: Aims at finding a small search-tree by selecting effective splitting variables (e.g. via looking ahead).

Strength: Effective on small, hard formulas.

Weakness: Expensive.



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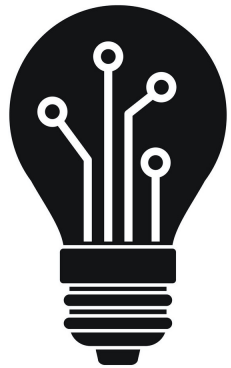
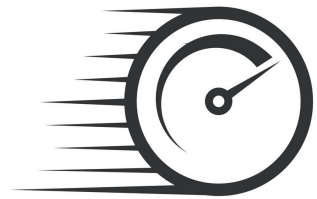


Local search: Given a full assignment for a formula Γ, flip the truth values of variables until satisfying Γ.

Strength: Can quickly find solutions for hard formulas.

Weakness: Cannot prove unsatisfiability.



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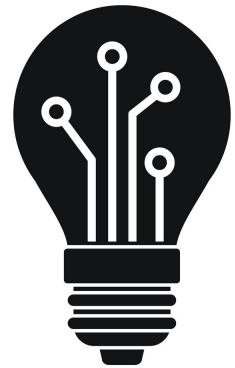

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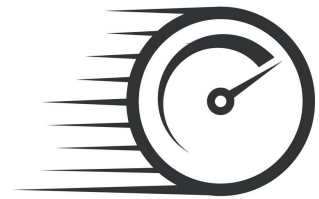
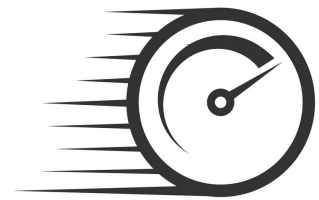


Conflict-driven clause learning (CDCL): Makes fast decisions and converts conflicts into learned clauses.

Strength: Effective on large, "easy" formulas.

Weakness: Hard to parallelize.



Conflict-driven Clause Learning Highlights

- Most successful architecture

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- Most successful architecture
- Superior on industrial benchmarks
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- Complete local search (for a refutation)?
- State-of-the-art (sequential) CDCL solvers: CaDiCaL, Glucose, CryptoMiniSAT

Clause Learning

Data-structures

Heuristics

Proofs of Unsatisfiability

Clause Learning

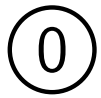
Data-structures

Heuristics

Proofs of Unsatisfiability

Conflict-driven SAT solvers: Search and Analysis

$$(p_1 \vee p_4) \wedge$$
$$(p_3 \vee \neg p_4 \vee p_5) \wedge$$
$$(\neg p_2 \vee \neg p_3 \vee \neg p_4) \wedge$$
$$\Gamma_{\text{extra}}$$



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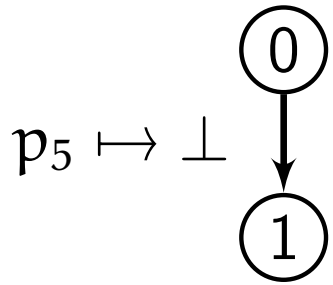

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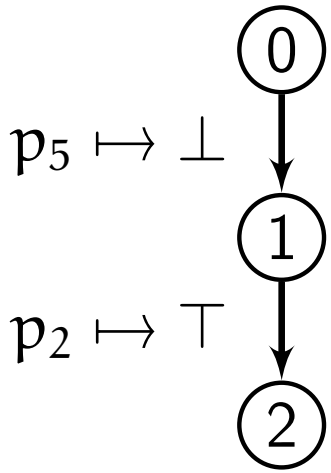

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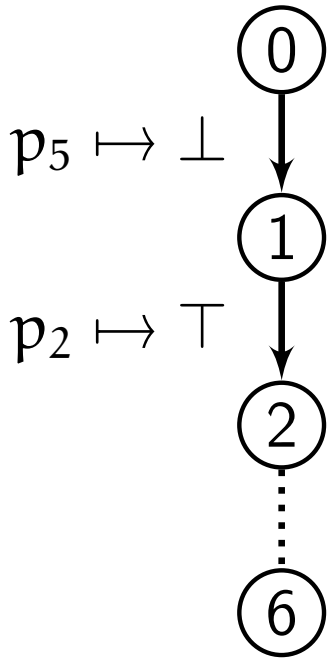

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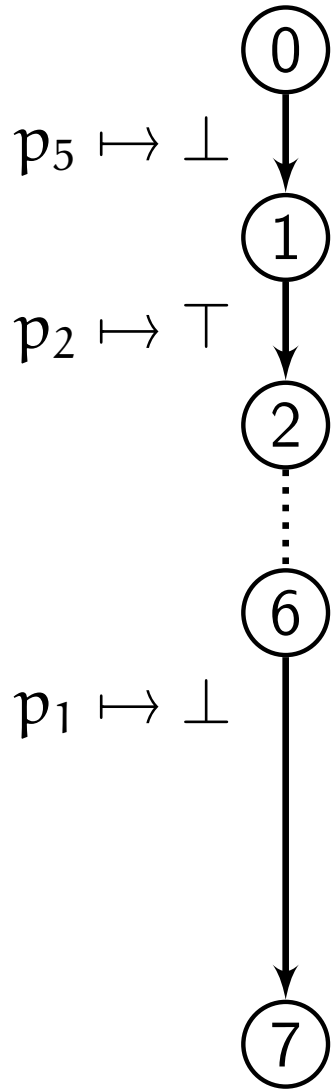

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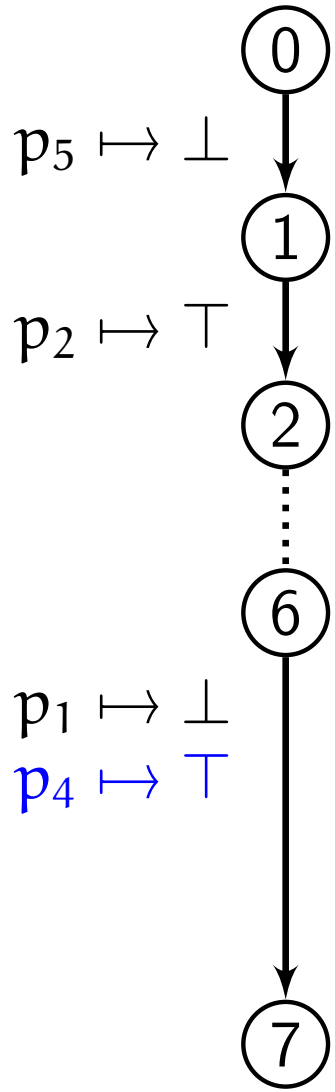

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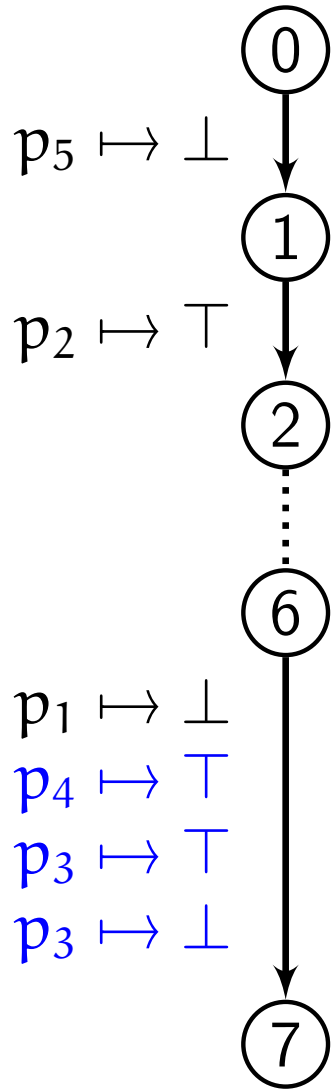

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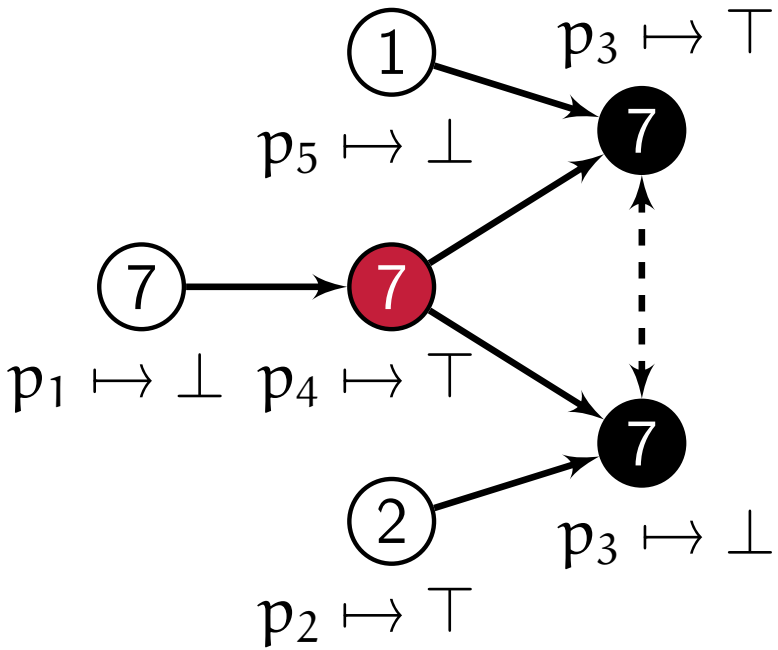

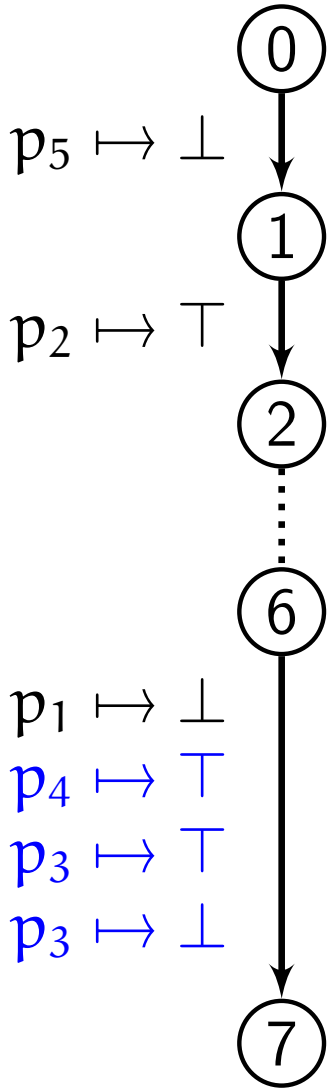

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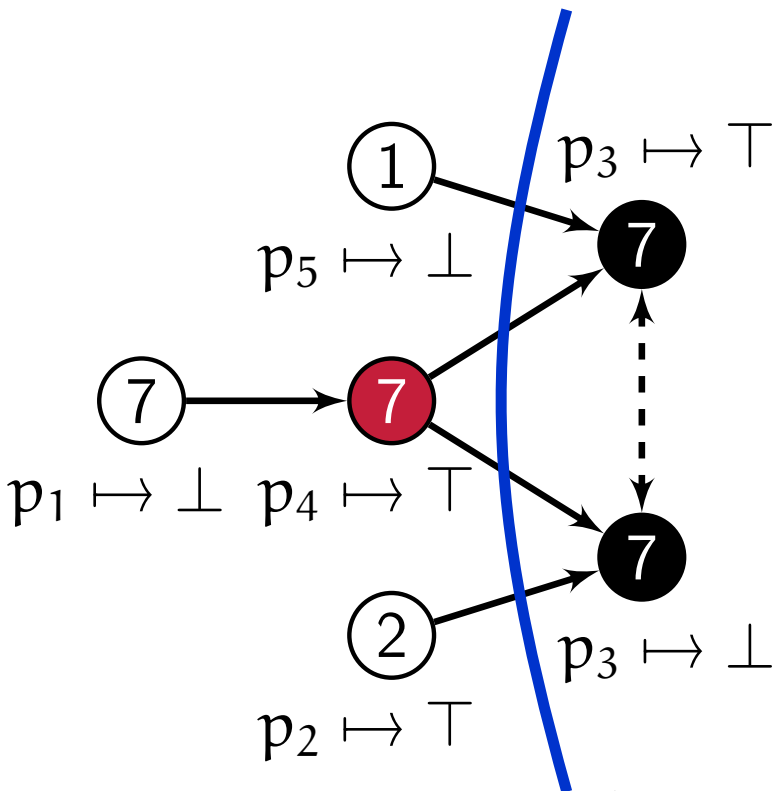

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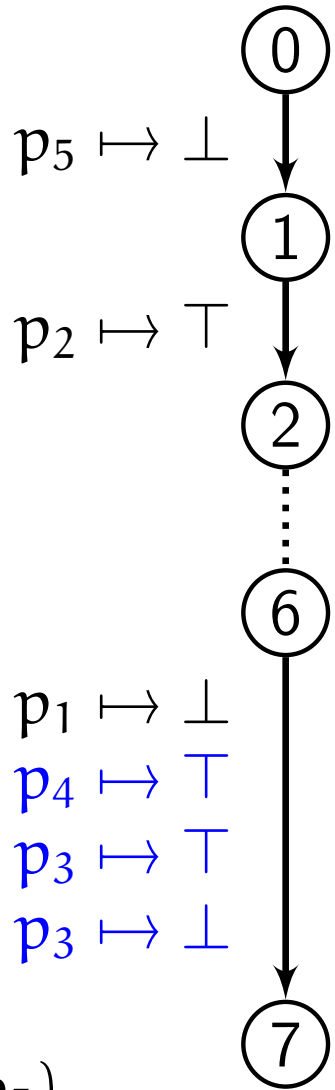

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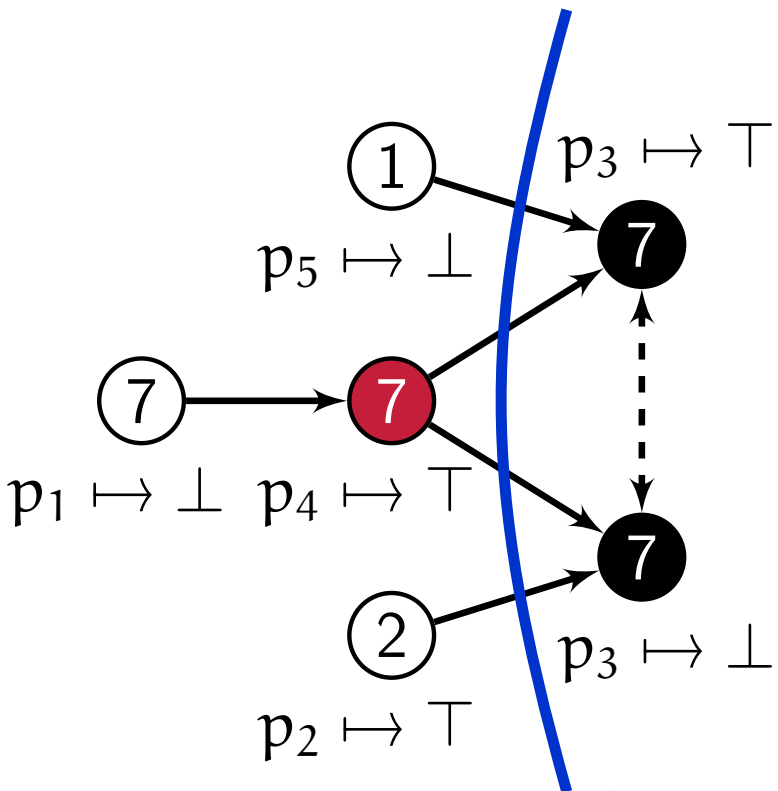

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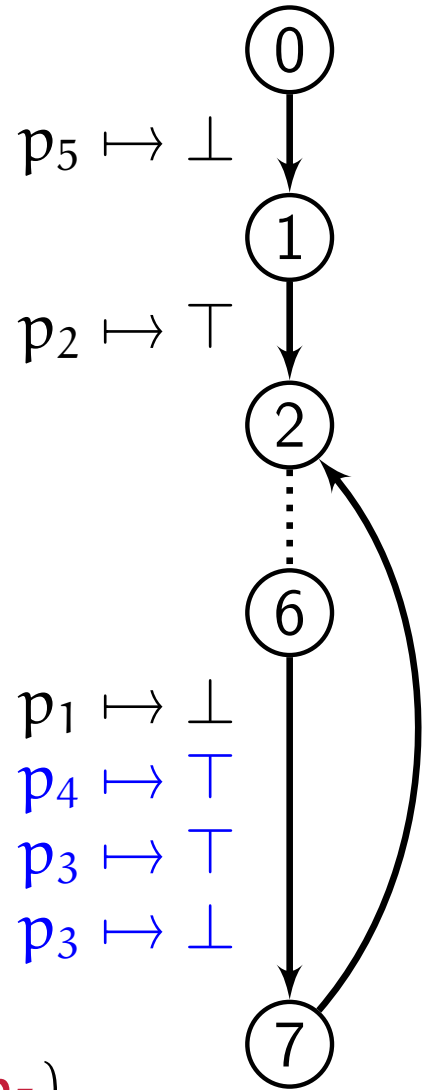

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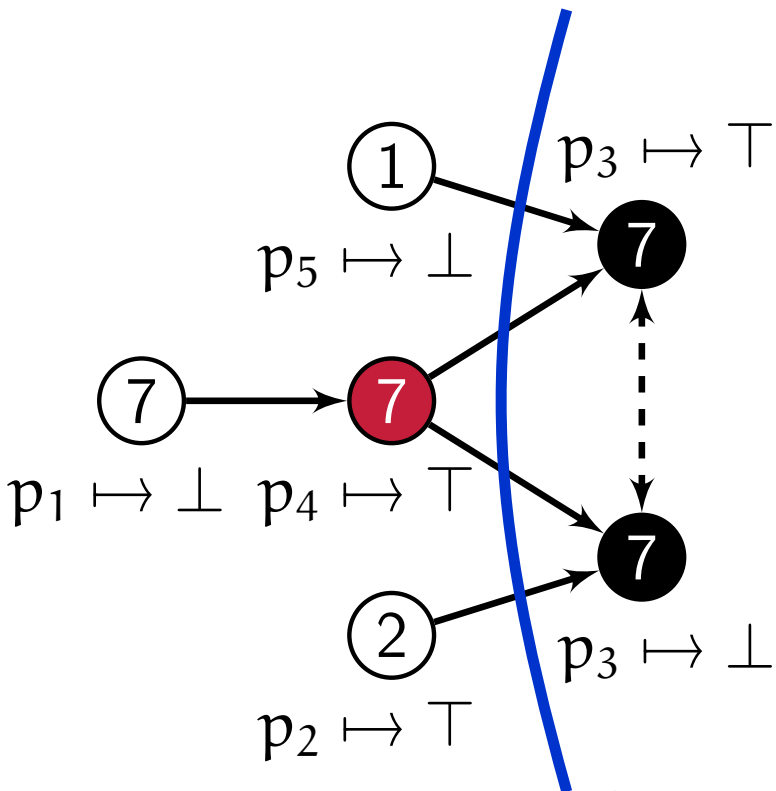

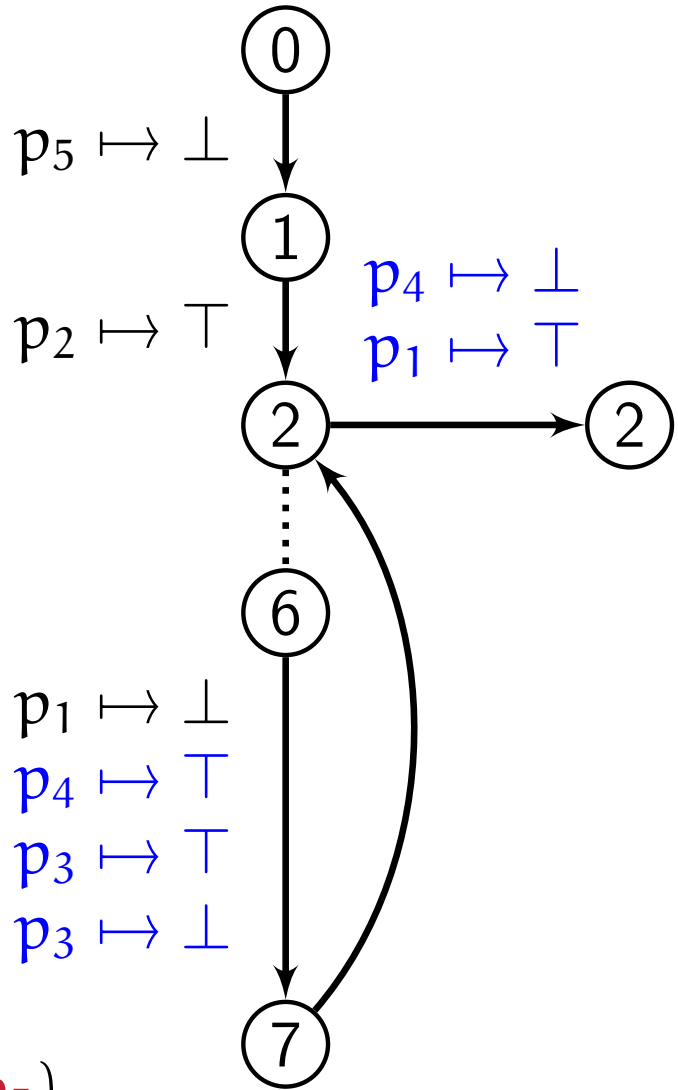

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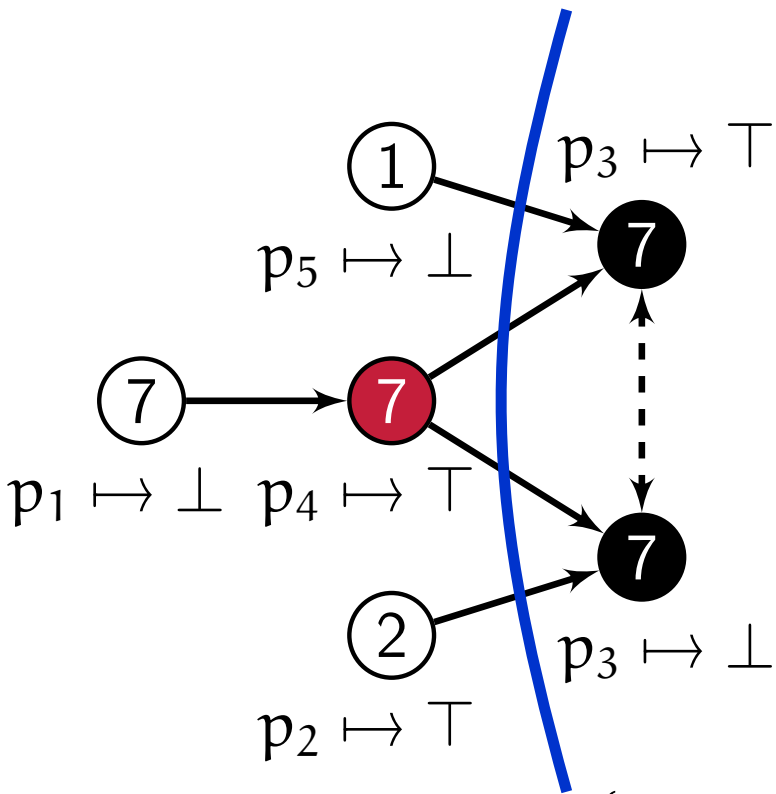

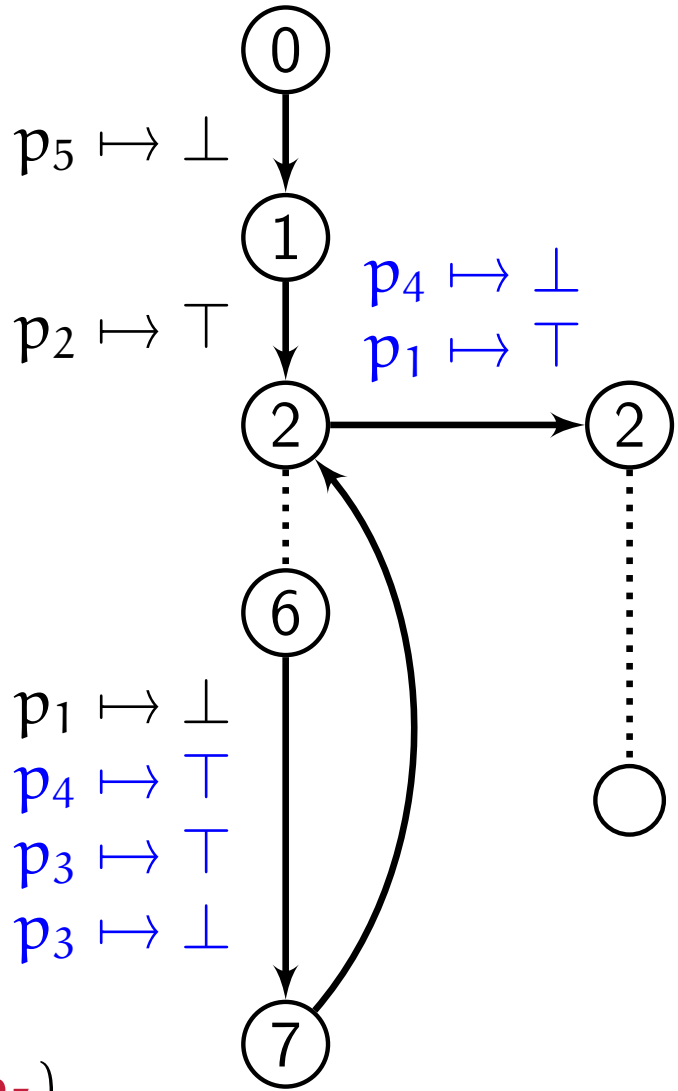

Reverse Unit Propagation

Let Γ be a formula. A clause C is implied by Γ via unit propagation (UP) if UP on $\Gamma \wedge \neg C$ results in a conflict.

Example

$$\Gamma = (p_1 \vee p_4) \wedge (p_3 \vee \neg p_4 \vee p_5) \wedge (\neg p_2 \vee \neg p_3 \vee \neg p_4) \wedge \ldots$$

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$$\frac{\text{clause}}{\text{units } \neg p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge \neg p_5}$$

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units $\neg p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge \neg p_5$	p_4

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clause		$(p_1 \vee p_4)$	$(p_3 \vee \neg p_4 \vee p_5)$	$(\neg p_2 \vee \neg p_3 \vee \neg p_4)$
units	$\neg p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge \neg p_5$	p_4	p_3	$\bot$

$$\dfrac{\dfrac{(\neg p_2 \vee \neg p_3 \vee \neg p_4) \qquad (p_3 \vee \neg p_4 \vee p_5)}{(\neg p_2 \vee \neg p_4 \vee p_5)} \qquad (p_1 \vee p_4)}{(p_1 \vee \neg p_2 \vee p_5)}$$

CDCL Overview

CDCL in a nutshell:

1. Main loop combines efficient problem simplification with cheap, but effective decision heuristics; ($> 90\%$ of time)
2. Reasoning kicks in if the current state is conflicting;
3. The current state is analyzed and turned into a constraint;
4. The constraint is added to the problem, the heuristics are updated, and the algorithm (partially) restarts.

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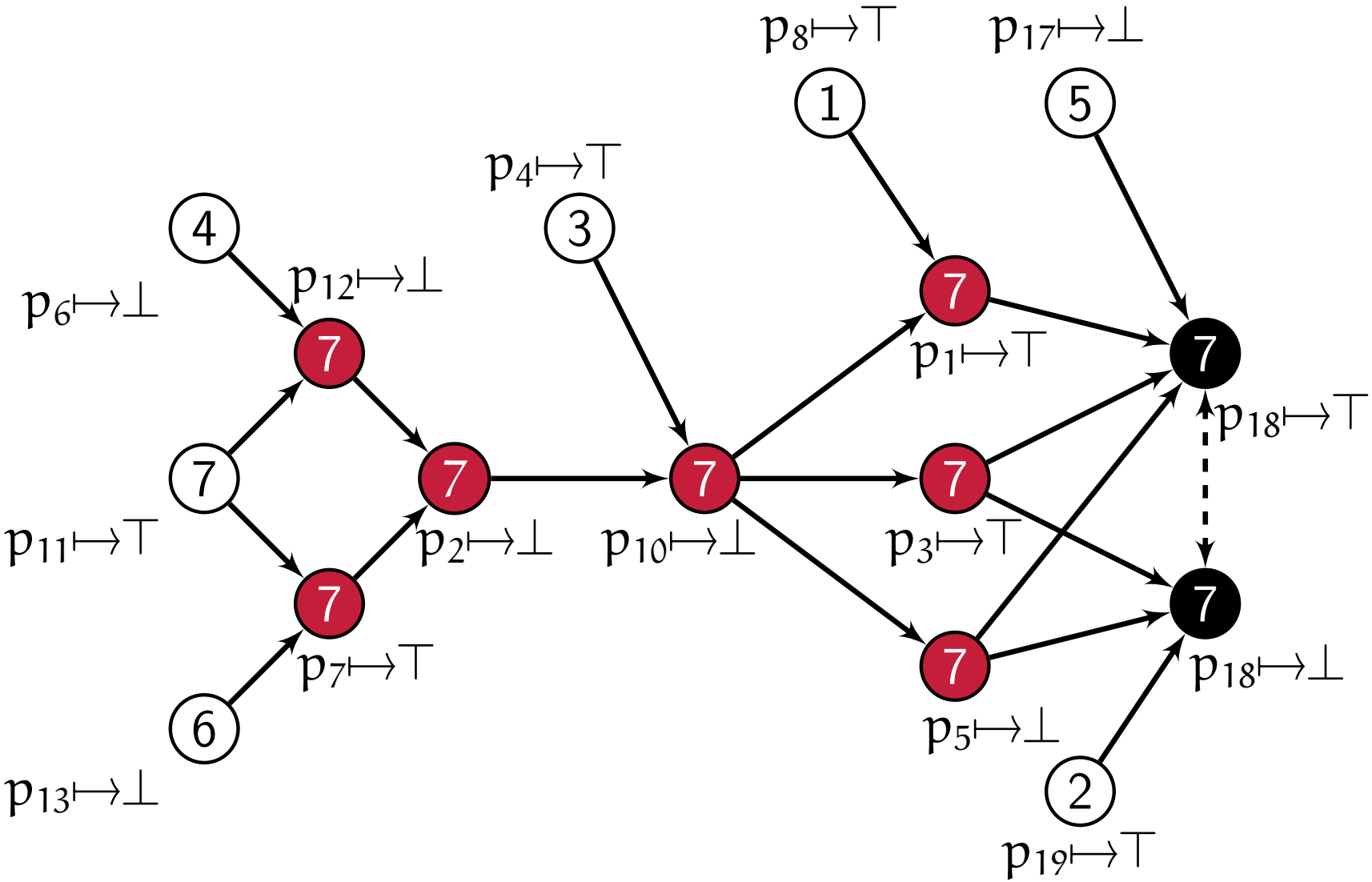
However, it has three weaknesses:

- CDCL is notoriously hard to parallelize;
- the representation impacts CDCL performance; and
- CDCL has exponential runtime on some "simple" problems.

Conflict-driven Clause Learning: Pseudo-code

1: **while** TRUE **do**
2: $\quad l_{\text{decision}} := \text{Decide}\ ()$
3: $\quad$ **if** no l_{decision} **then return** `satisfiable`
4: $\quad \tau := \text{Simplify}\ (\tau \cup (l_{\text{decision}} \mapsto \top), \Gamma)$
5: $\quad$ **while** $[\![\Gamma]\!]_\tau$ contains $C_{\text{falsified}}$ **do**
6: $\quad\quad C_{\text{conflict}} := \text{Analyze}\ (C_{\text{falsified}}, \tau)$
7: $\quad\quad$ **if** $C_{\text{conflict}} = \bot$ **then return** `unsatisfiable`
8: $\quad\quad \Gamma := \Gamma \cup \{C_{\text{conflict}}\}$
9: $\quad\quad \tau := \text{BackTrack}\ (\tau, C_{\text{conflict}})$
10: $\quad\quad \tau := \text{Simplify}\ (\tau, \Gamma)$
11: $\quad$ **end while**
12: **end while**

Learning conflict clauses [Marques-Silva,Sakallah'96]



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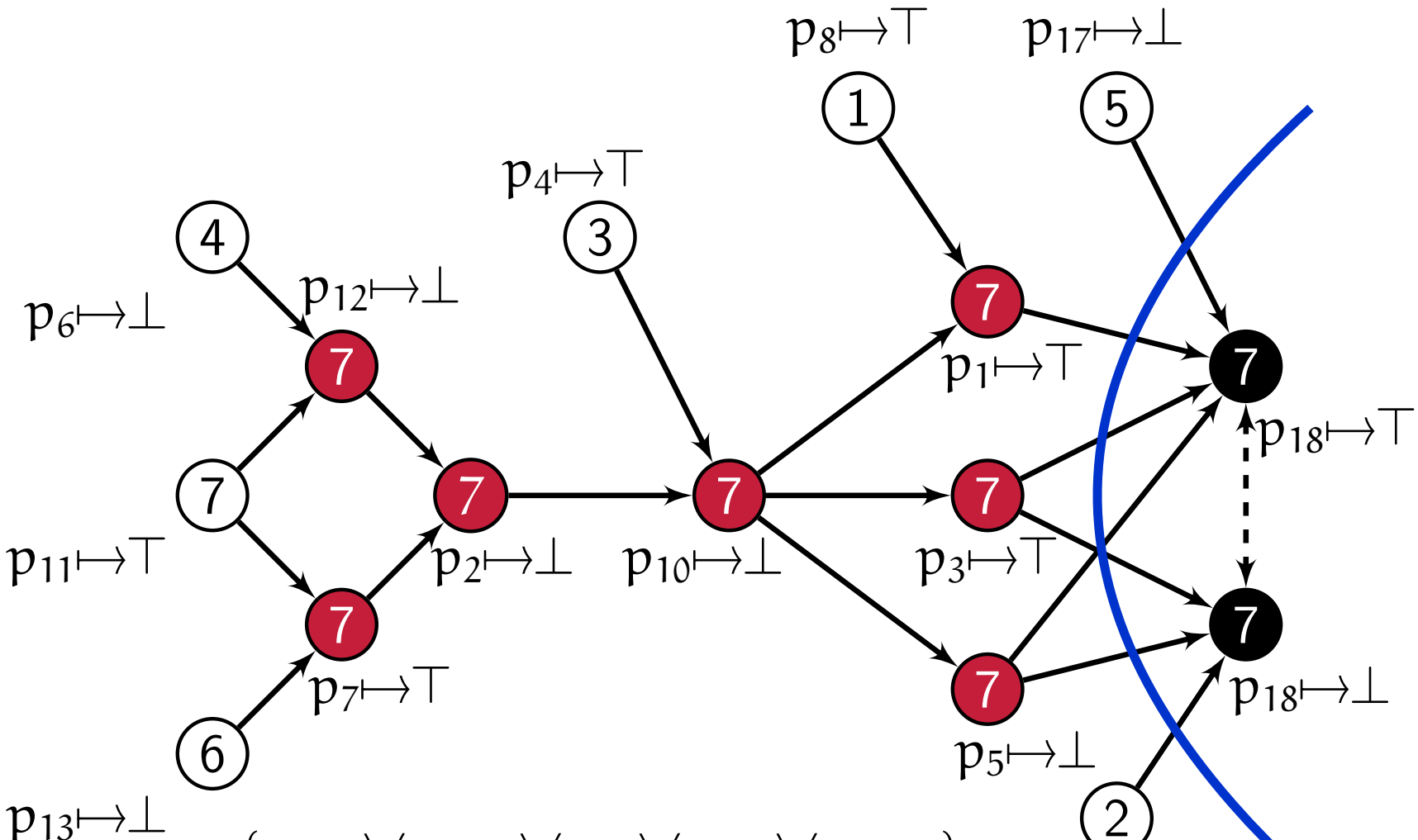
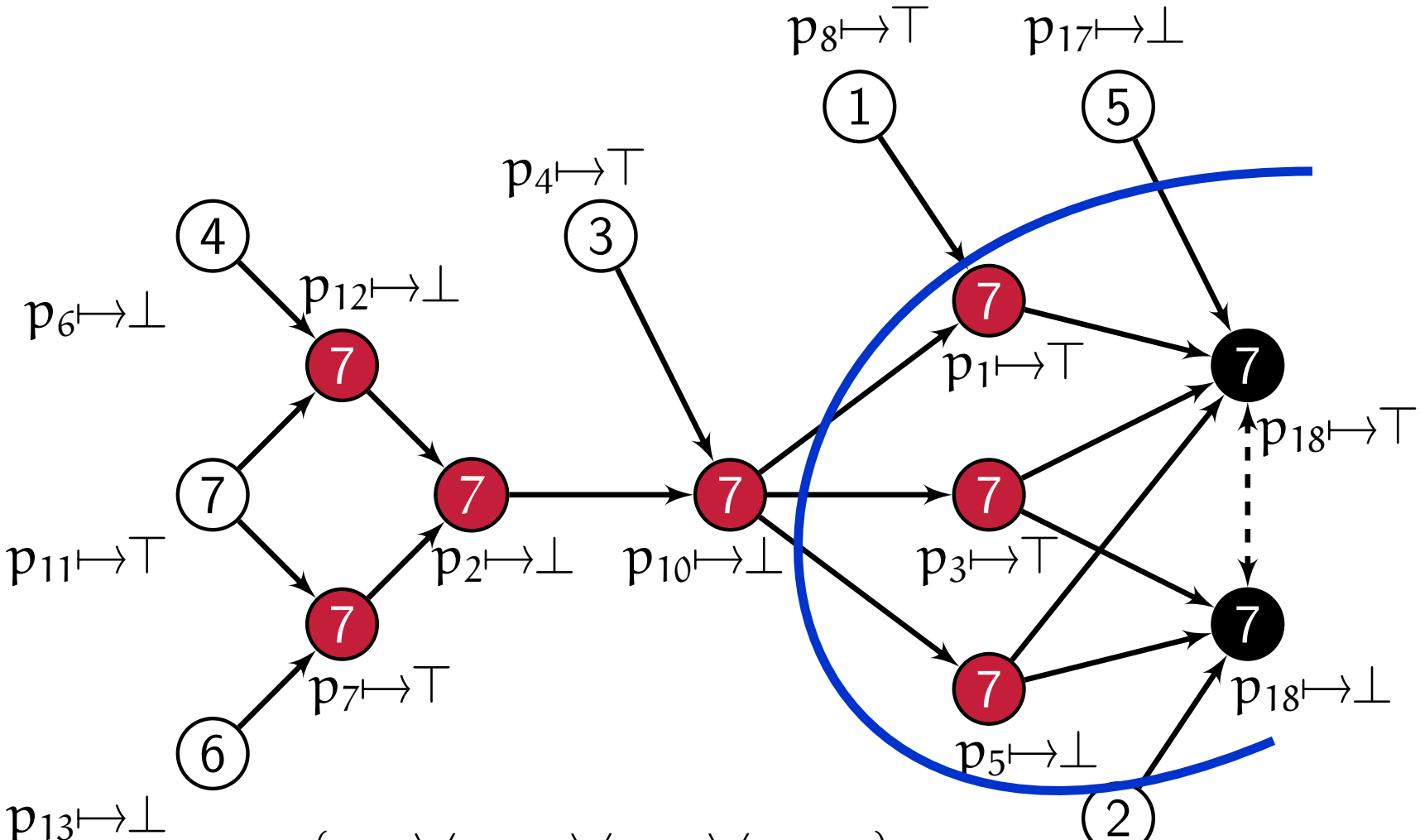


tri-asserting clause

Learning conflict clauses [Marques-Silva,Sakallah'96]



$(p_{10} \vee \neg p_8 \vee p_{17} \vee \neg p_{19})$

first unique implication point

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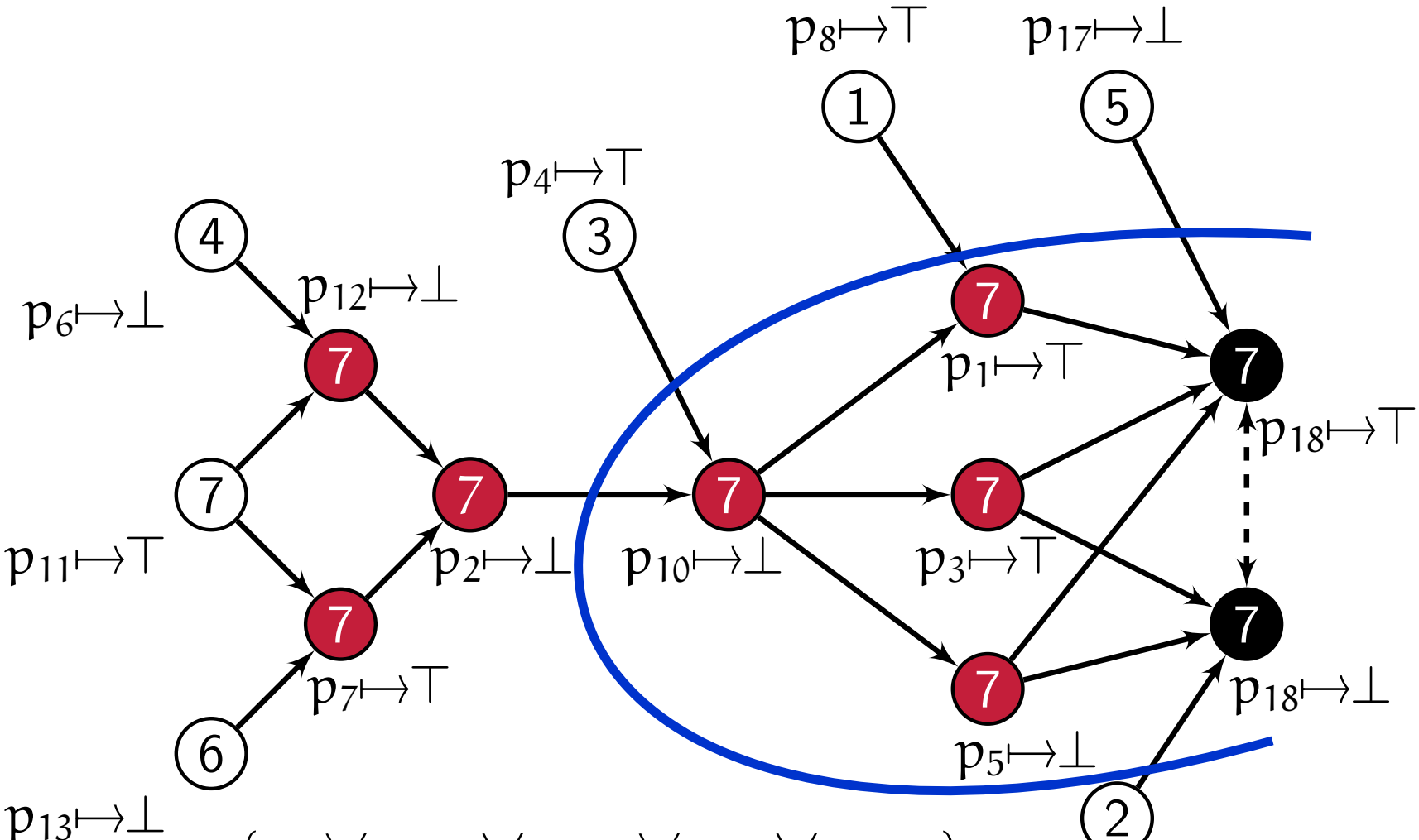
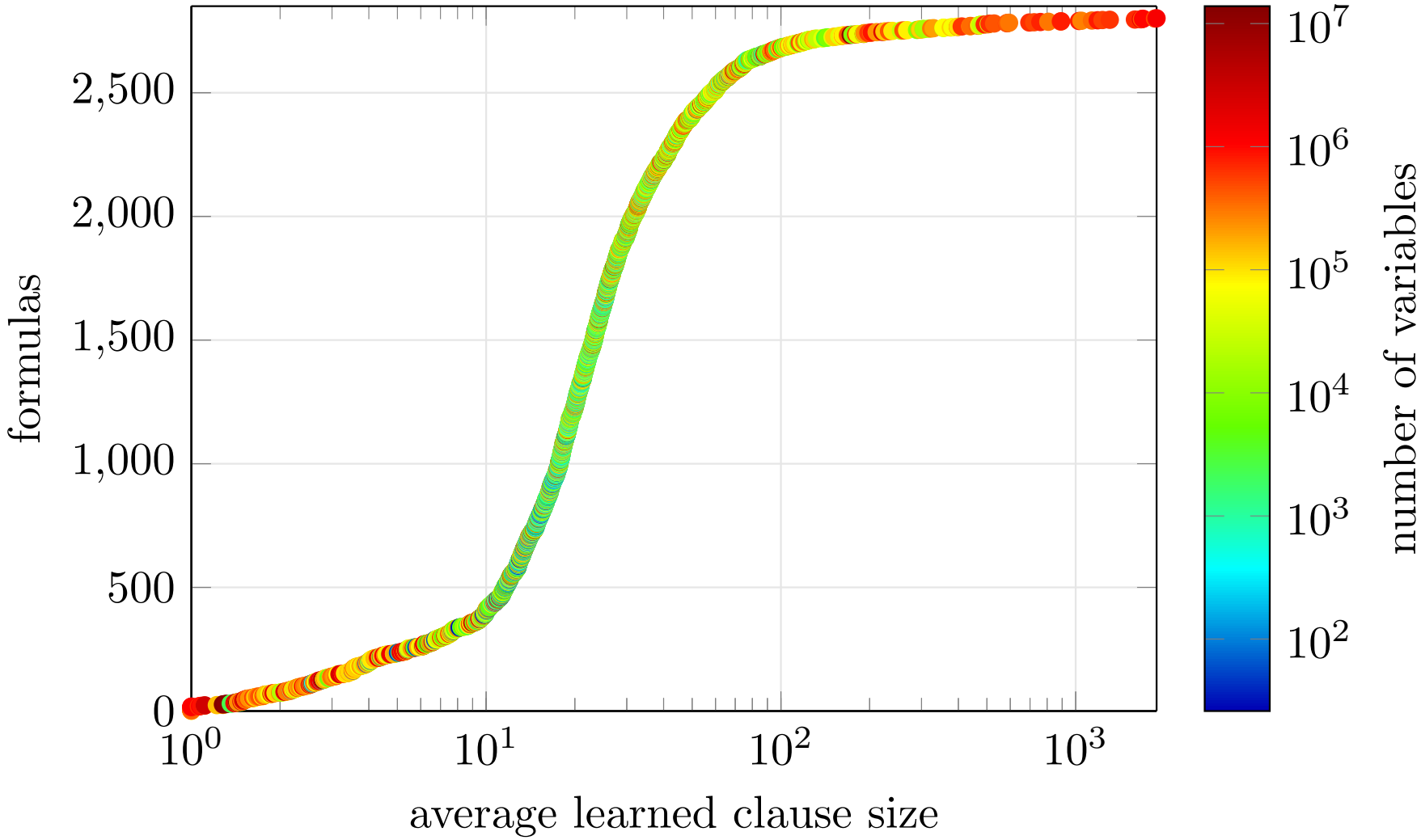


$(p_2 \vee \neg p_4 \vee \neg p_8 \vee p_{17} \vee \neg p_{19})$

second unique implication point

Average Learned Clause Length



Clause Learning

Data-structures

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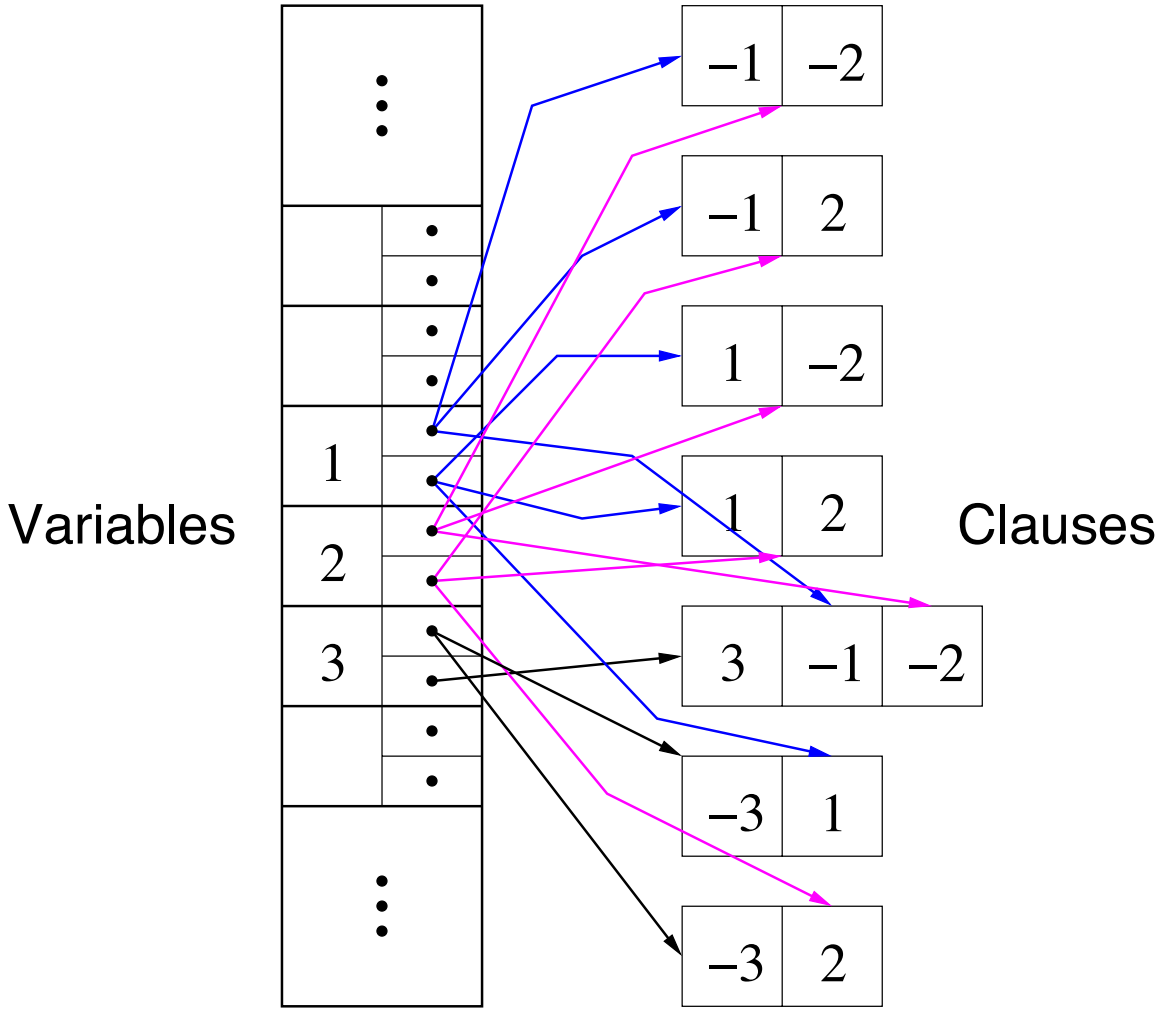
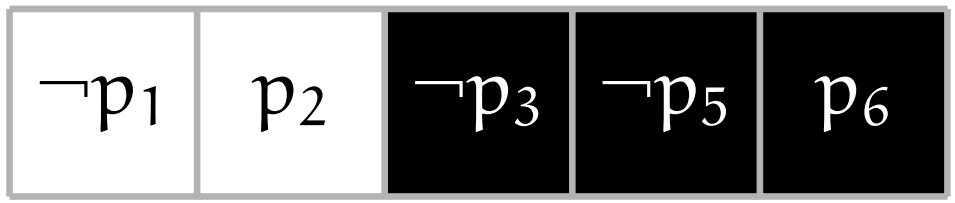
Proofs of Unsatisfiability

Simple data structure for unit propagation



Conflict-driven: Watch pointers (1) [MoskewiczMZZM'01]

$$\tau := \{p_1 \mapsto \ , p_2 \mapsto \ , p_3 \mapsto \ , p_4 \mapsto \ , p_5 \mapsto \ , p_6 \mapsto \ \}$$



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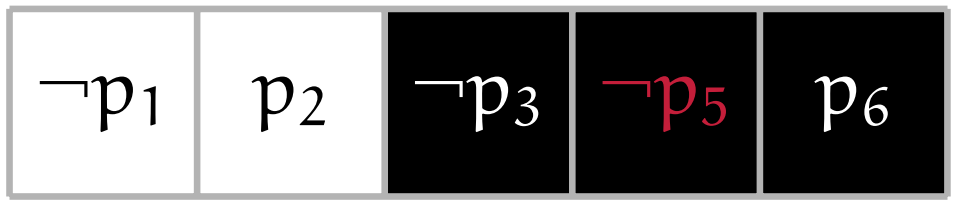

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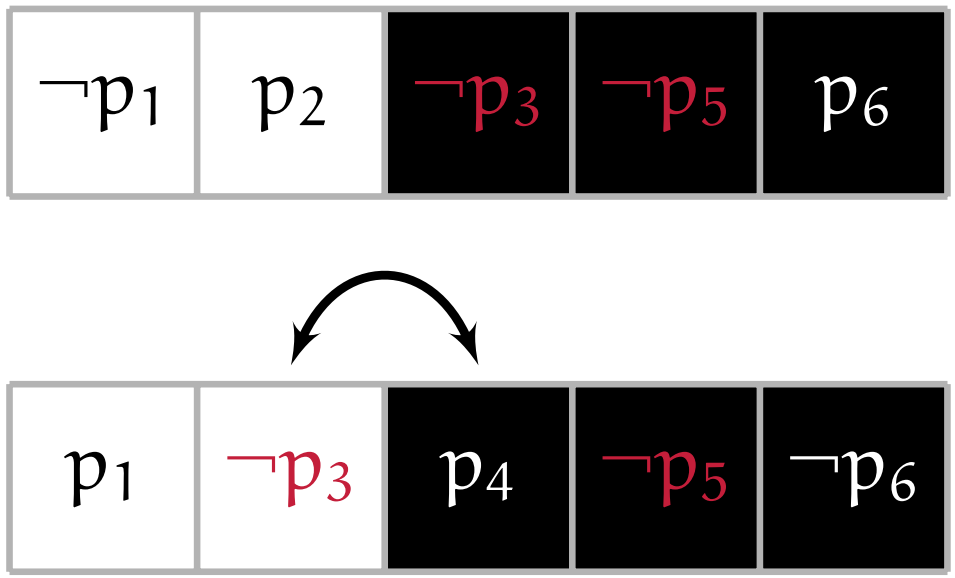

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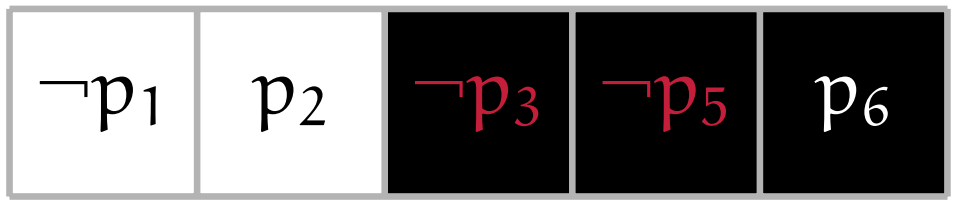

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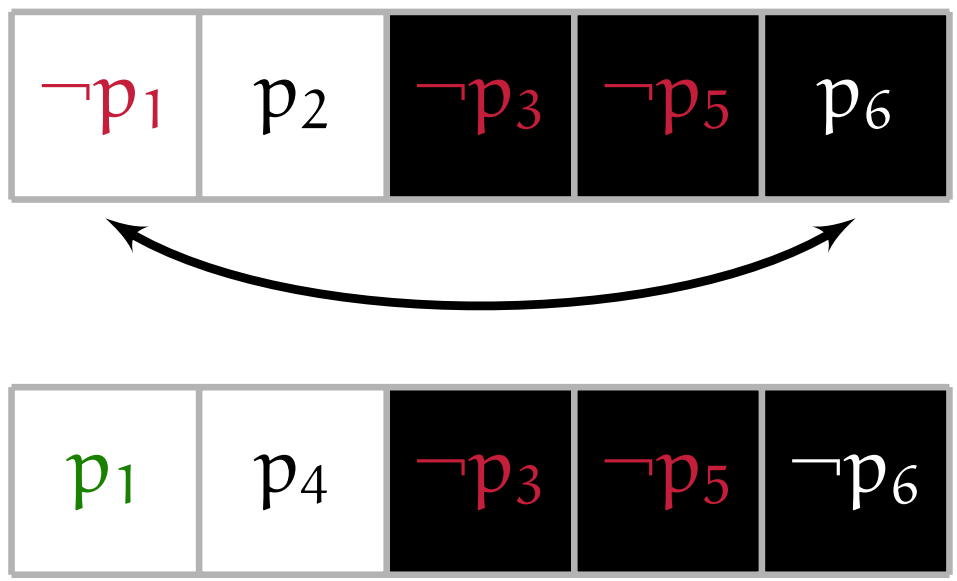

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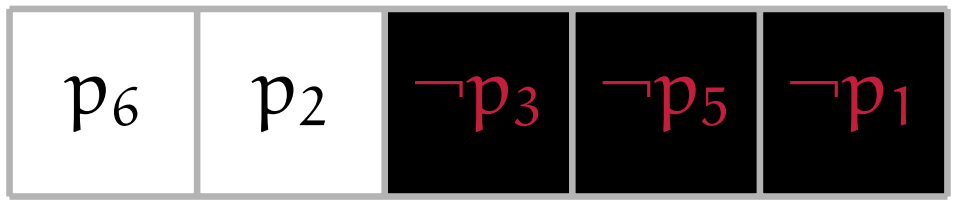

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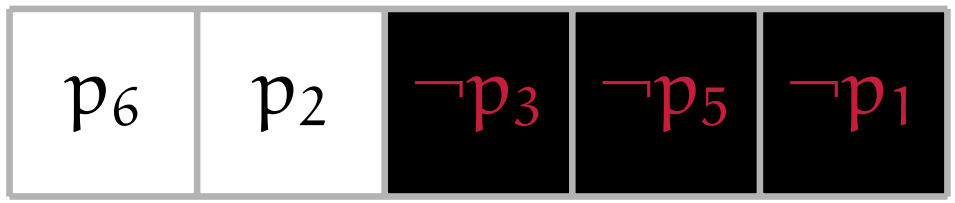

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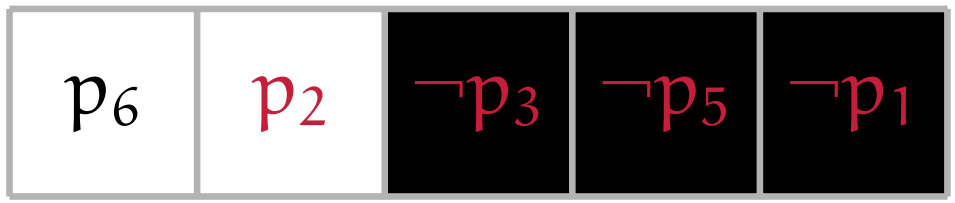

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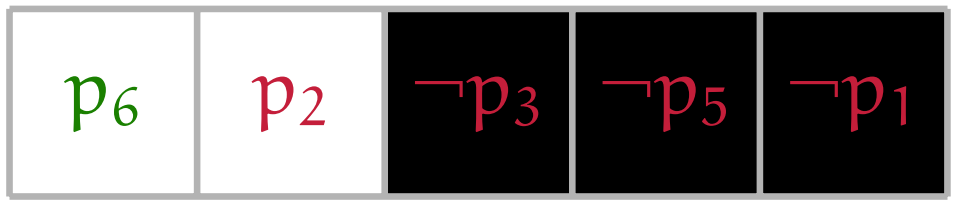


Conflict-driven: Watch pointers (2) [MoskewiczMZZM'01]

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

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

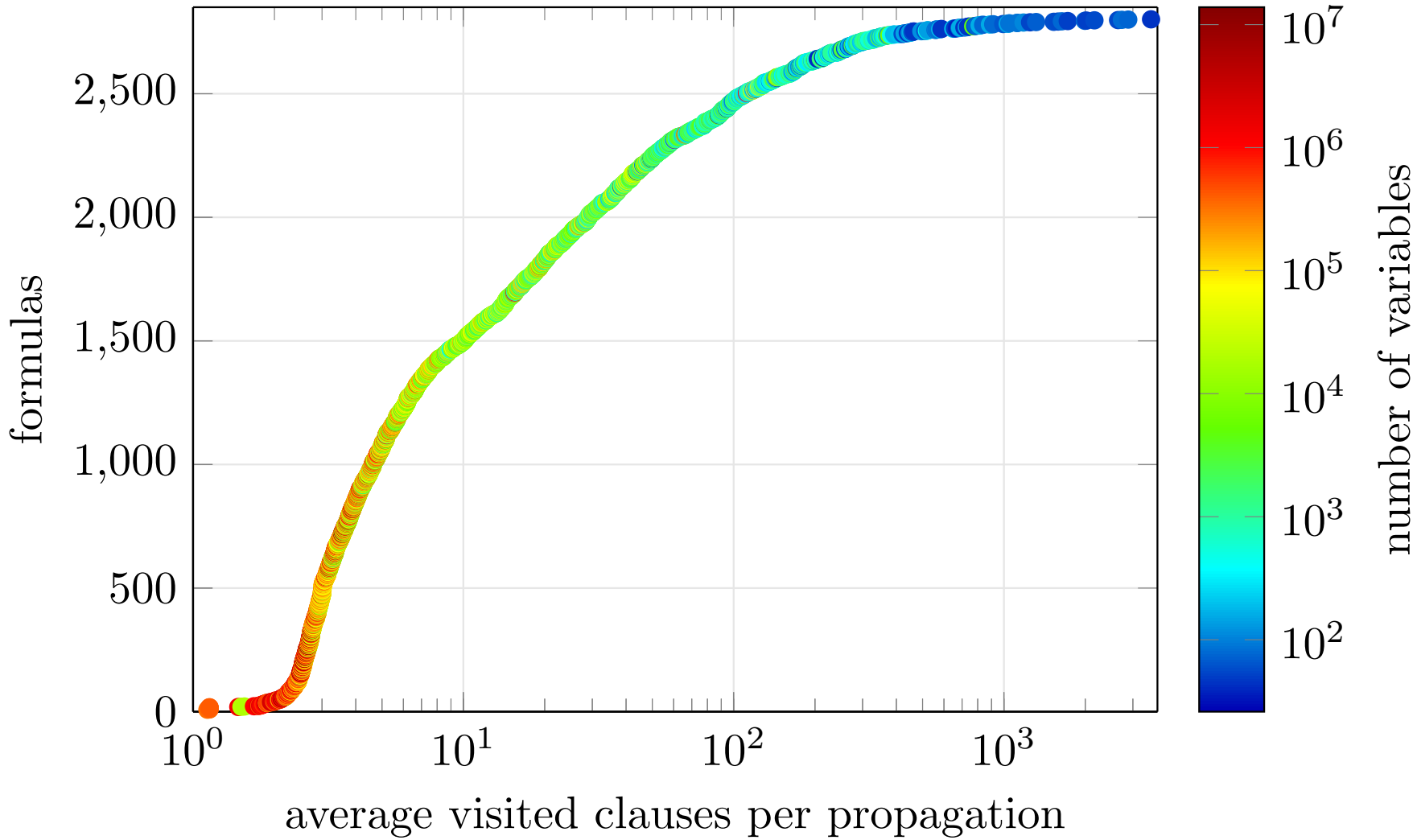
While backjumping, just unassign variables

Conflict clauses $\longrightarrow$ watch pointers

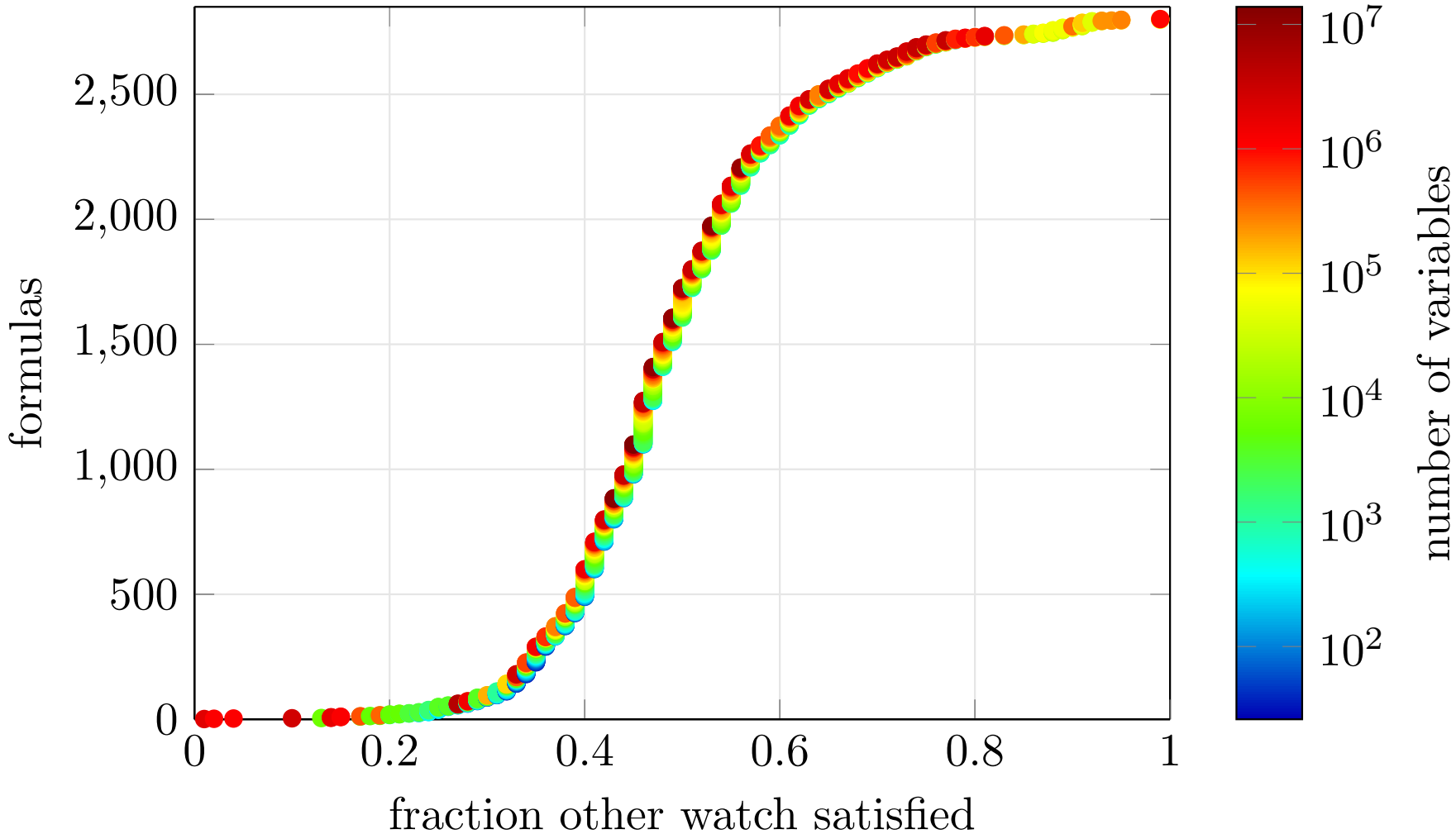
No detailed information available

Not used for binary clauses

Average Number Clauses Visited Per Propagation



Percentage visited clauses with other watched literal true



Clause Learning

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Proofs of Unsatisfiability

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- aim: minimize the search space
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Restart strategies

- aim: avoid heavy-tail behavior [GomesSelmanCrato'97]
- plus: focus search on recent conflicts when combined with dynamic heuristics

Variable selection heuristics

Based on the occurrences in the (reduced) formula

- examples: Jeroslow-Wang, Maximal Occurrence in clauses of Minimal Size (MOMS), look-aheads
- not practical for CDCL solver due to watch pointers

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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 [MoskewiczMZZM'01]
- improvement (MiniSAT): for each conflict, increase the score of involved variables by δ and increase $\delta := 1.05\delta$ [EenSörensson'03]

Visualization of VSIDS in PicoSAT

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOjhFywLre8

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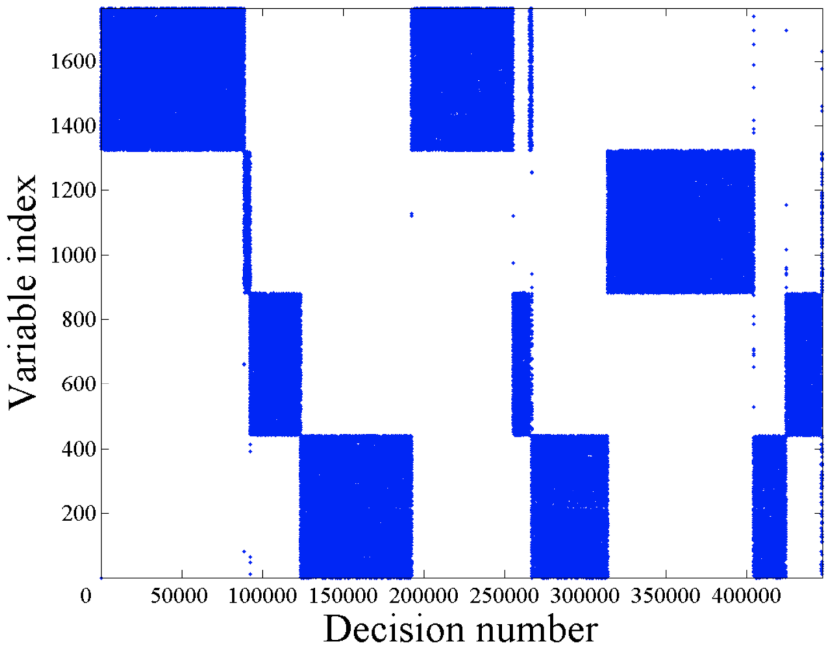
Based on the last implied value (phase-saving)

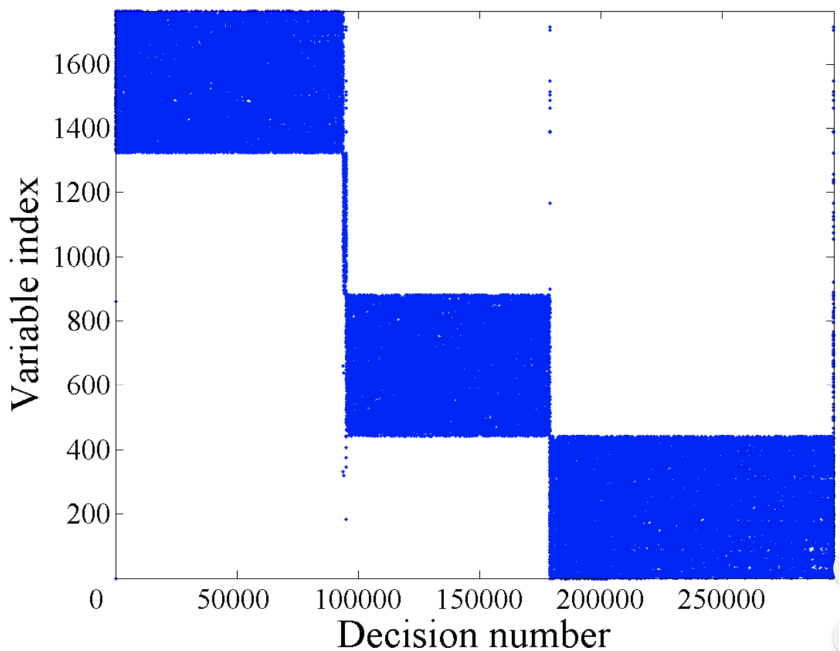
- introduced to CDCL [PipatsrisawatDarwiche'07]
- already used in local search [HirschKojevnikov'01]

Heuristics: Phase-saving [PipatsrisawatDarwiche'07]

Selecting the last implied value remembers solved components



negative branching



phase-saving

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

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Rapid restarts by reusing trail: [vanderTakHeuleRamos'11]

- Partial restart same effect as full restart
- Optimal strategy Luby-1: $1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 2, 4, \ldots$

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Proofs of Unsatisfiability

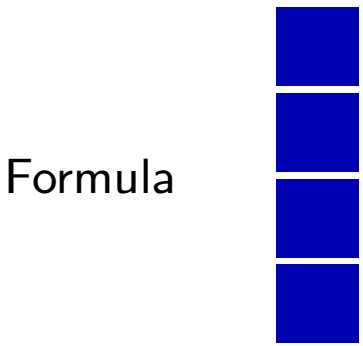
Motivation for Proofs of Unsatisfiability

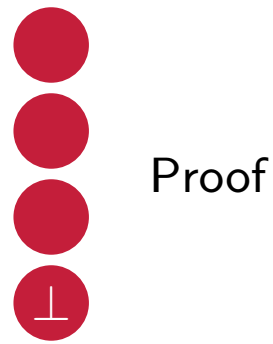
SAT solvers may have errors and only return yes/no.

- Documented bugs in SAT, SMT, and QSAT solvers;
  [Brummayer and Biere, 2009; Brummayer et al., 2010]
- Competition winners have contradictory results
  (HWMCC winners from 2011 and 2012)
- Implementation errors often imply conceptual errors;
- Proofs now mandatory for the annual SAT Competitions;
- Mathematical results require a stronger justification than a simple yes/no by a solver. UNSAT must be verifiable.

Clausal Proofs of Unsatisfiability

Reduce the size of the proof by only storing added clauses





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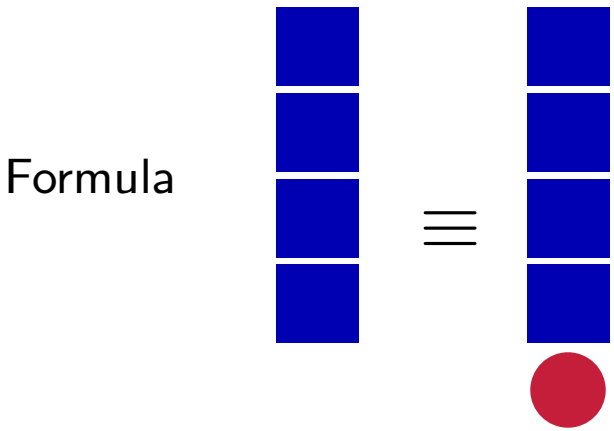

Proof

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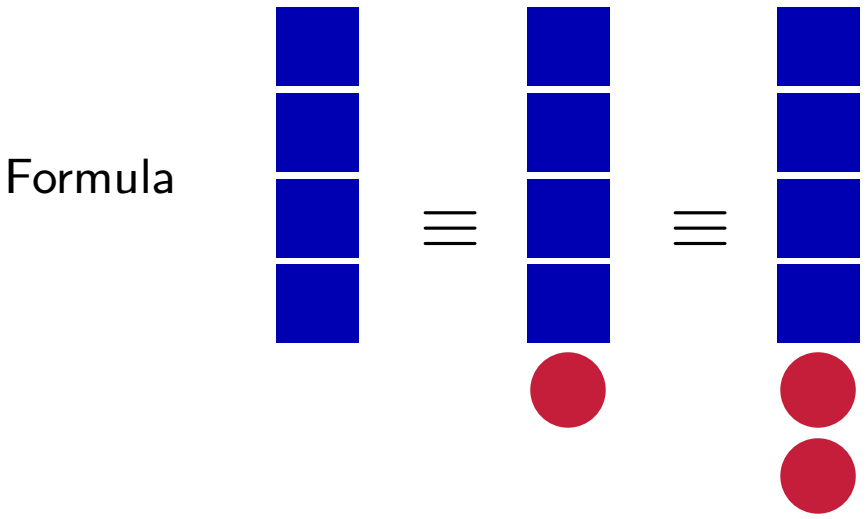

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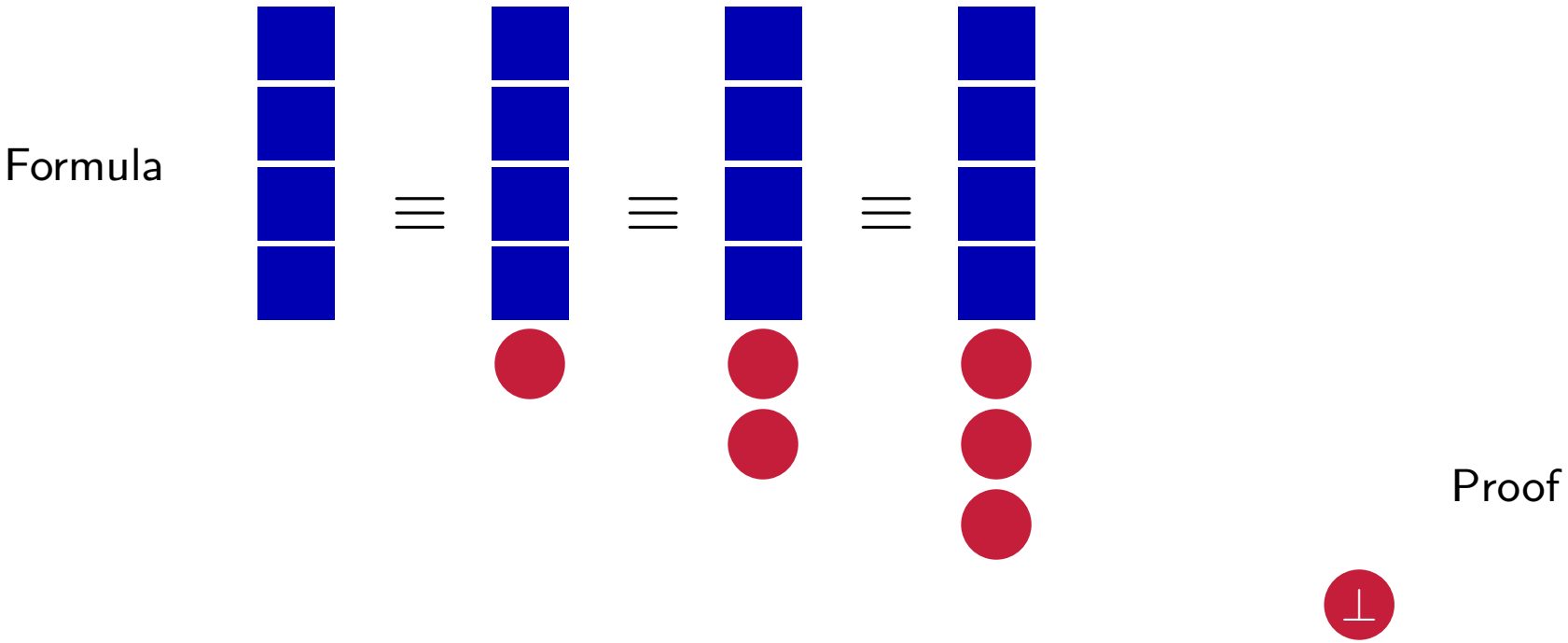

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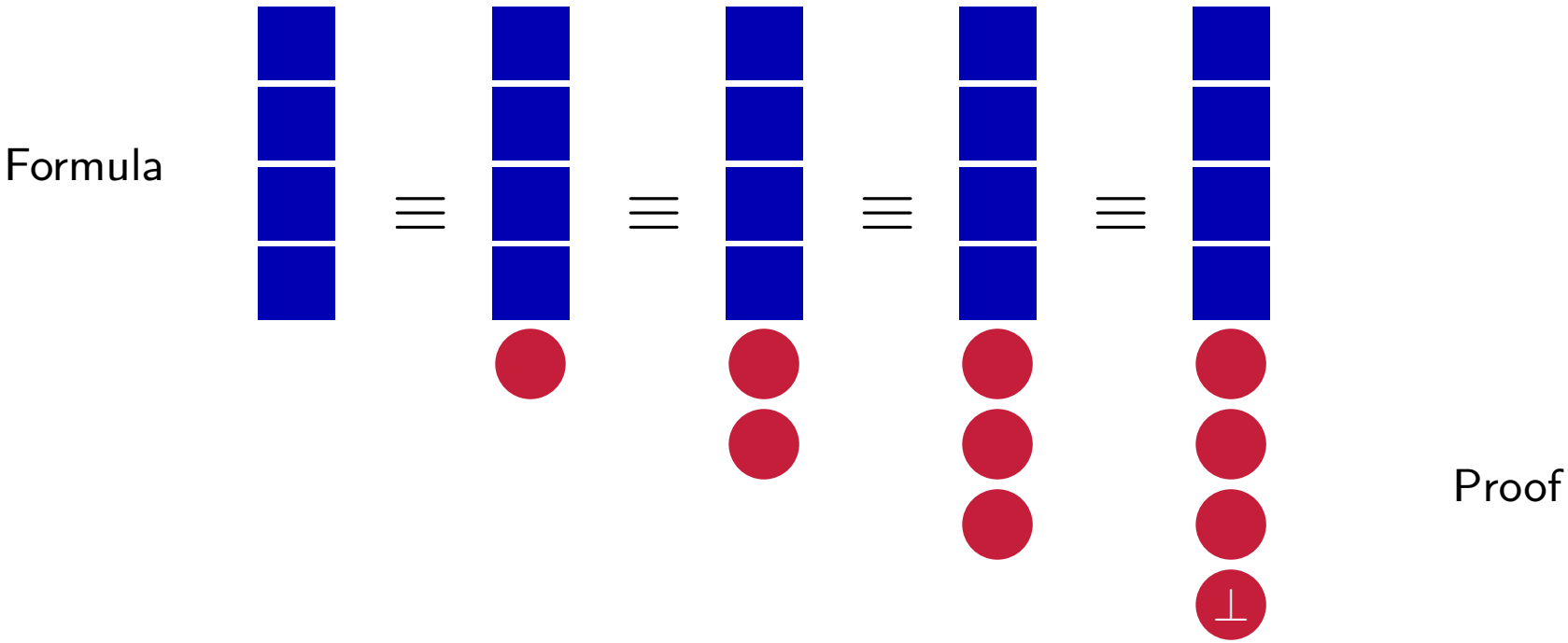

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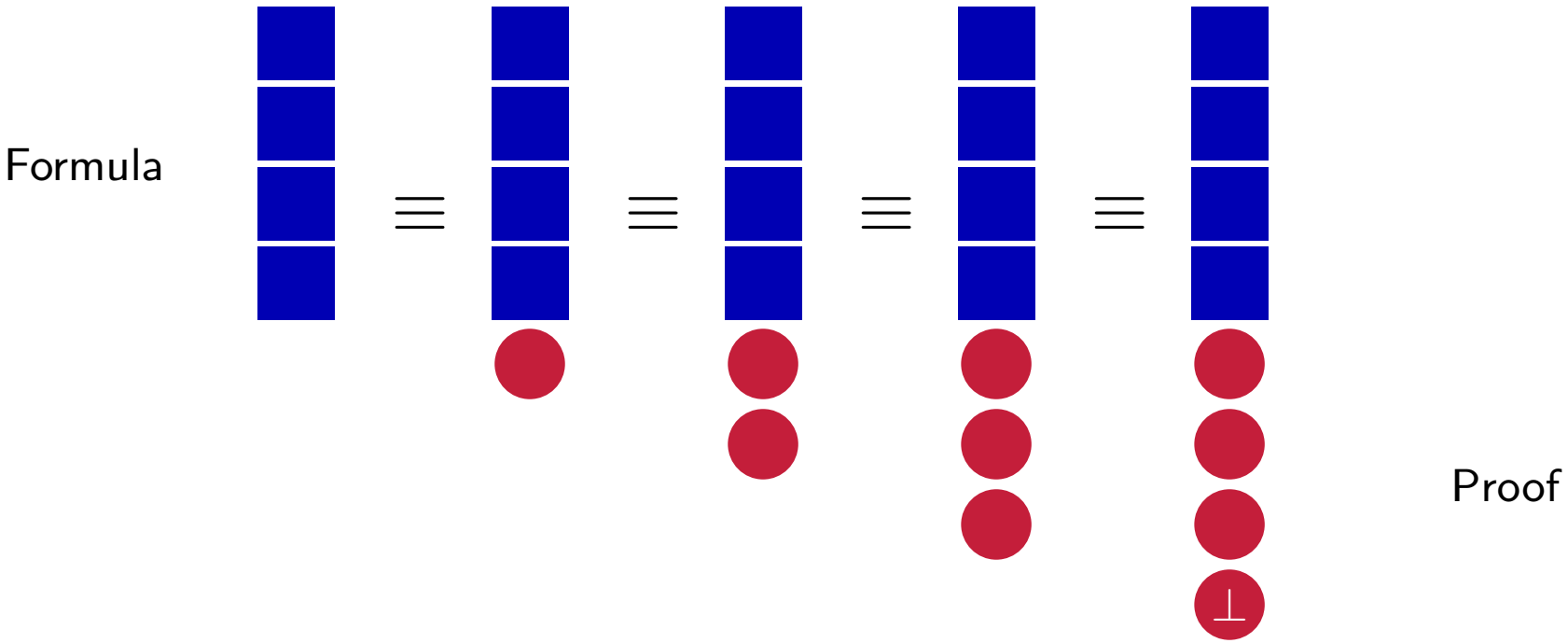

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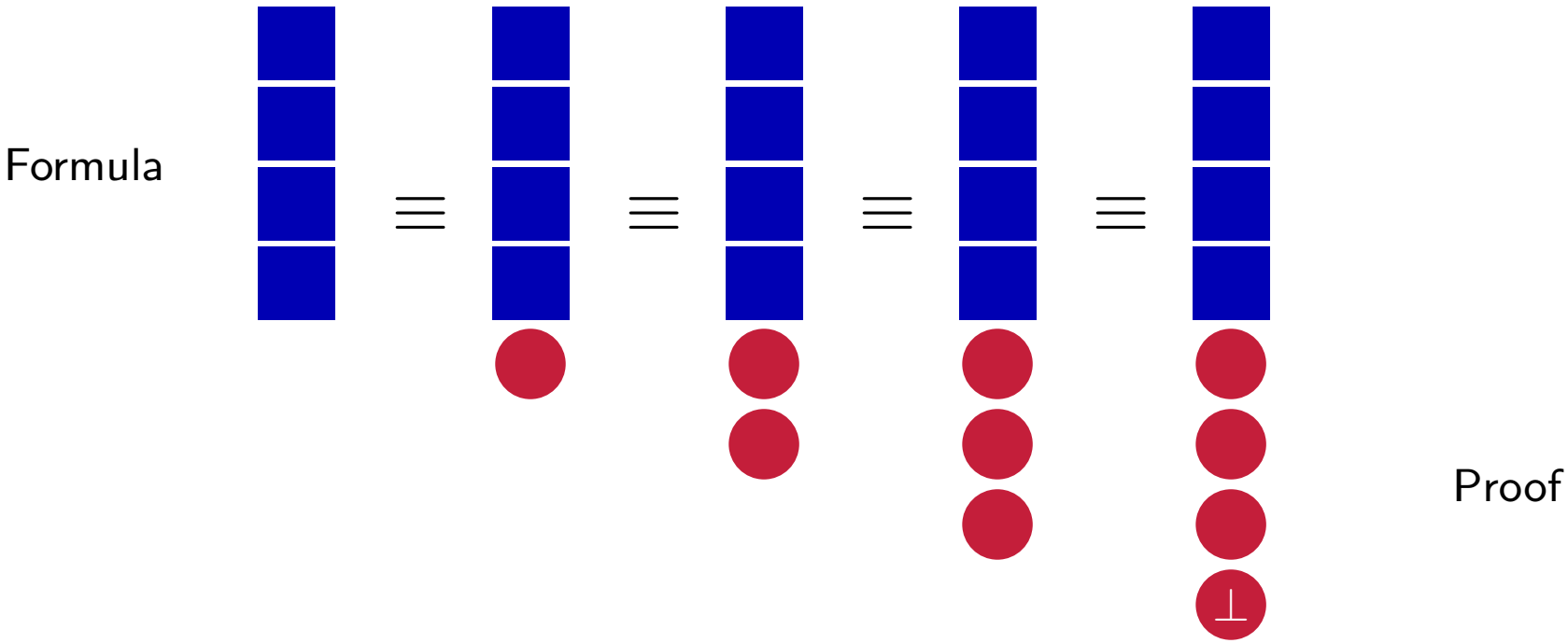

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- Proof systems for this purpose in upcoming lectures.