

On Division Versus Saturation in Cutting Planes

Jakob Nordström

University of Copenhagen
and KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing
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Joint work with Stephan Gocht and Amir Yehudayoff

SAT in Theory and Practice

Computational complexity

- Satisfiability fundamental problem in theoretical computer science
- SAT canonical NP-complete problem [Coo71, Lev73]
- Hence totally intractable in worst case (probably)
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- Enormous progress in performance last 15–20 years
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Limitations of CDCL

- 1 **Clauses weak formalism** for encoding constraints
- 2 Also **weak method of reasoning** (resolution)

Pseudo-Boolean Reasoning (a.k.a. 0-1 Linear Programming)

- Pseudo-Boolean (PB) linear constraints are stronger than clauses

Compare

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 + x_6 \geq 3$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} & (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3 \vee x_6) \\ & \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4 \vee x_6) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \\ & \wedge (x_1 \vee x_3 \vee x_4 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_3 \vee x_4 \vee x_6) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_3 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \\ & \wedge (x_1 \vee x_4 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_3 \vee x_4 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_3 \vee x_4 \vee x_6) \\ & \wedge (x_2 \vee x_3 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_4 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (x_3 \vee x_4 \vee x_5 \vee x_6) \end{aligned}$$

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- And pseudo-Boolean reasoning exponentially more powerful in theory
- But PB solvers less efficient than CDCL in practice!?

Our Work

- Study pseudo-Boolean rules of reasoning used in practice
- How do they compare to cutting planes proof system?
- In particular, what is the power of **division** versus **saturation**?

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Broader message

- For many (most?) computational problems worst-case Turing machine model not terribly relevant
- But there are lots of interesting algorithms in need of rigorous analysis
- Can help out more applied colleagues, and at the same time do complexity theory for bounded computational models (what's not to like?)

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Convenient to use non-negative linear combinations of literals, a.k.a. **normalized form**

$$\sum_i a_i \ell_i \geq A$$

- coefficients a_i : non-negative integers
- **degree (of falsity)** A : positive integer
- literals ℓ_i : x_i or \bar{x}_i (where $x_i + \bar{x}_i = 1$)

(In what follows, all constraints assumed to be implicitly normalized)

Some Types of Pseudo-Boolean Constraints

- 1 **Clauses** are pseudo-Boolean constraints

$$x \vee \bar{y} \vee z \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad x + \bar{y} + z \geq 1$$

Refer to collection of such constraints as “CNF formula”

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- 3 **General constraints**

$$x_1 + 2\bar{x}_2 + 3x_3 + 4\bar{x}_4 + 5x_5 \geq 7$$

Approaches to Pseudo-Boolean Solving

Conversion to disjunctive clauses

- Lazy approach: learn clauses from PB constraints
 - *Sat4j* [LP10] (one of versions in library)
- Eager approach: re-encode to clauses and run CDCL
 - *MiniSat+* [ES06]
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Native reasoning with pseudo-Boolean constraints

- *PRS* [DG02]
- *Galena* [CK05]
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Conflict-Driven Search in a Pseudo-Boolean Setting

“Forward phase” — variable assignments

- ① Always propagate forced assignment if possible
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“Backward phase” — conflict analysis

- 1 When constraint violated (= **conflict**), derive new constraint that explains what went wrong
- 2 Add new constraint to instance \Rightarrow avoid same mistake again
- 3 Backtrack until no constraint violated

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At conflict, derive new constraint from conflict and propagating constraints

The Cutting Planes Proof System [CCT87]

Literal axioms $\frac{}{l_i \geq 0}$

Linear combination $\frac{\sum_i a_i l_i \geq A \quad \sum_i b_i l_i \geq B}{\sum_i (c_A a_i + c_B b_i) l_i \geq c_A A + c_B B} \quad [c_A, c_B \geq 0]$

Division $\frac{\sum_i a_i l_i \geq A}{\sum_i \lceil a_i/c \rceil l_i \geq \lceil A/c \rceil} \quad [c > 0]$

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Setting in this talk

Input: Set of pseudo-Boolean constraints without 0-1 solution

Goal: Prove unsatisfiability by deriving $0 \geq 1$ using cutting planes

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Ignore algorithmic aspects — heuristics beyond rigorous analysis — and **assume optimal use** of derivation rules

More About Cutting Planes

A toy example:

$$6x + 2y + 3z \geq 5 \qquad x + 2y + w \geq 1$$

$$(6x + 2y + 3z) + 2(x + 2y + w) \geq 5 + 2 \cdot 1$$

Linear combination

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-
- Literal axioms and linear combinations sound also over the reals
 - **Division** is where the power of cutting planes lies
 - Exponentially stronger than resolution/CDCL [Hak85, CCT87]

Generalized Resolution

In conflict-driven search, linear combination always made to **cancel variable** (on which constraints disagree)

Generalized resolution rule [Hoo88, Hoo92]

$$\frac{a_j x_j + \sum_{i \neq j} a_i l_i \geq A \quad b_j \bar{x}_j + \sum_{i \neq j} b_i l_i \geq B}{\sum_{i \neq j} \left(\frac{c}{a_j} a_i + \frac{c}{b_j} b_i \right) l_i \geq \frac{c}{a_j} A + \frac{c}{b_j} B - c} \quad [c = \text{lcm}(a_j, b_j)]$$

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Another toy example:

$$\frac{2x + y + z \geq 2 \quad 3\bar{x} + 2y + u + w \geq 3}{3(y + z) + 2(2y + u + w) \geq 3 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 3 - 6(x + \bar{x})} \quad \text{General resolution on } x$$

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Another toy example:

$$\frac{2x + y + z \geq 2 \quad 3\bar{x} + 2y + u + w \geq 3}{7y + 3z + 2u + 2w \geq 6} \quad \text{General resolution on } x$$

Saturation

What's more, pseudo-Boolean solvers based on [CK05] do **not** do division

Instead use that no variable coefficient need be larger than maximum contribution required from that variable

Saturation rule

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Continuing our example:

$$\frac{7y + 3z + 2u + 2w \geq 6}{6y + 3z + 2u + 2w \geq 6}$$

Theoretical Understanding of Applied PB Reasoning?

Flavours of cutting planes in practice:

- 1 Boolean rule: (a) saturation or (b) division
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But what about Boolean rule?

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Striking contrast to long line of work on resolution and CDCL
([BKS04, HBPV08, BHJ08, AFT11, PD11] ...)

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1st result strengthens [VEG⁺18]

Focus on 2nd and 3rd results — first of its kind

Cutting Planes and Implicational Completeness

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- Full cutting planes **implicationally complete** — can recover, e.g., cardinality constraints from CNF

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 x + & z \geq & 1 \\
 & y + z \geq & 1 \\
 \hline
 2x + 2y + 2z & \geq & 3 \quad [2 \text{ non-cancelling additions}] \\
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Division + Resolution Can Be Stronger Than Saturation

Take formula requiring recovery of cardinality constraints from CNF

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 \hline
 x + y + z \geq 2 \quad [\text{Divide by } 2]
 \end{array}$$

Division + Resolution Can Be Stronger Than Saturation

Take formula requiring recovery of cardinality constraints from CNF

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 h_1 + h_2 + x + y & \geq & 1 \\
 \bar{h}_1 + x + z & \geq & 2 \\
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 2x + 2y + 2z & \geq & 3 \quad [2 \text{ generalized resolution steps}] \\
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Add **helper variables** to make all linear combinations cancelling

⇒ Now **easy for division + resolution**, since easy for full cutting planes

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Add **helper variables** to make all linear combinations cancelling
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Assigning helper variables = 0 gives back CNF encoding
 \Rightarrow Cutting planes proofs preserved under partial assignments
 \Rightarrow Still **hard for saturation**, even with unrestricted linear combinations

“Cheating” Applied To Subset Cardinality Formulas

Variables = 1s in matrix with four 1s per row/column + extra 1
 Row \Rightarrow majority of variables true; column \Rightarrow majority false

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Exponentially hard for resolution for expanding matrices [MN14]

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Easy for cutting planes: recover cardinality constraints and count

Simulating Saturation by Division

Division can simulate saturation by completeness — but **how efficiently?**

$$200x + 51y + 50z + 49w \geq 100$$

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Our result: **Impossible to get rid of exponential dependence** in general!

Division Can't Simulate Saturation Efficiently

Consider derivation

$$\begin{array}{r}
 Rx + Ry + \sum_{i=1}^R z_i \geq R \quad \quad Rx + R\bar{y} + \sum_{i=R+1}^{2R} z_i \geq R \\
 \hline
 2Rx + \sum_{i=1}^{2R} z_i \geq R \\
 \hline
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Theorem

Deriving

- $Rx + \sum_{i=1}^{2R} z_i \geq R$

from

- $Rx + Ry + \sum_{i=1}^R z_i \geq R$ and
- $Rx + R\bar{y} + \sum_{i=R+1}^{2R} z_i \geq R$

requires $\Omega(\sqrt{R})$ division steps (even with unrestricted linear combinations)

Proof Sketch

Define **potential function**

$$\mathcal{P}(ax + by + b'\bar{y} + \sum c_i z_i \geq A) = \ln((2a + b + b')/A)$$

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Hence $\Omega(\sqrt{R})$ division steps needed

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- Only shows that saturation step can't be simulated efficiently
- Doesn't rule out that cutting planes with division could prove unsatisfiability of benchmarks in completely different way
- But if division is always as good as saturation, then it seems like proof of this can't be simple step-by-step simulation

Some Experimental Results

Strength of Division

- When division better than saturation, *RoundingSat* [EN18] can run much faster than *Sat4j* [LP10]
- But very sensitive to how helper variables encoded

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Caveat: obviously artificial benchmarks — we just want to see if separations can happen in actual solvers

Directions for Future Research

Division versus saturation

- Can cutting planes with **saturation** be **more powerful than division** at proving unsatisfiability?
- Can we find good algorithms **combining division and saturation**?
- Can **potential functions** be a more general approach for proving lower bounds?

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Fundamental challenges

- All PB solvers **degenerate to resolution** for **CNF inputs**
- Sometimes very **poor performance** even when **LP relaxation infeasible!**
Combine with mixed integer linear programming (MIP) techniques?
- Ongoing work [DGN19, EN20]. . .

Take-Home Message

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 - Efficient implementation
 - Theoretical understanding
- This work: Show that division and saturation rules are incomparable
- Future research: Better algorithms and lower bounds needed
- Along the way lots of fun questions to work on! 😊

Take-Home Message

- Porting conflict-driven paradigm to **pseudo-Boolean solving (0-1 ILP)** has **potential for exponential gains**
- Mostly haven't materialized — instead **nontrivial challenges** regarding
 - **Efficient implementation**
 - **Theoretical understanding**
- This work: Show that division and saturation rules are incomparable
- Future research: Better algorithms and lower bounds needed
- Along the way **lots of fun questions to work on!** 😊

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Take-Home Message

- Porting conflict-driven paradigm to **pseudo-Boolean solving (0-1 ILP)** has **potential for exponential gains**
- Mostly haven't materialized — instead **nontrivial challenges** regarding
 - **Efficient implementation**
 - **Theoretical understanding**
- This work: Show that division and saturation rules are incomparable
- Future research: Better algorithms and lower bounds needed
- Along the way **lots of fun questions to work on!** 😊

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Thank you for your attention!

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