

# Foundations of Artificial Intelligence

## 32. Propositional Logic: Local Search and Outlook

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# Propositional Logic: Overview

## Chapter overview: propositional logic

- 29. Basics
- 30. Reasoning and Resolution
- 31. DPLL Algorithm
- 32. Local Search and Outlook

Local Search: GSAT  
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Local Search: Walksat  
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How Difficult Is SAT?  
oooooooo

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# Local Search: GSAT

# Local Search for SAT

- Apart from systematic search, there are also successful **local search methods** for SAT.
- These are usually not complete and in particular cannot prove **unsatisfiability** for a formula.
- They are often still interesting because they can find models for hard problems.
- However, all in all, DPLL-based methods have been more successful in recent years.

# Local Search for SAT: Ideas

local search methods directly applicable to SAT:

- **candidates:** (complete) assignments
- **solutions:** satisfying assignments
- **search neighborhood:** change assignment of **one** variable
- **heuristic:** depends on algorithm; e.g., #unsatisfied clauses

# GSAT (Greedy SAT): Pseudo-Code

auxiliary functions:

- $\text{violated}(\Delta, I)$ : number of clauses in  $\Delta$  not satisfied by  $I$
- $\text{flip}(I, v)$ : assignment that results from  $I$  when changing the valuation of proposition  $v$

**function** GSAT( $\Delta$ ):

**repeat** *max-tries* **times**:

$I :=$  a random assignment

**repeat** *max-flips* **times**:

**if**  $I \models \Delta$ :

**return**  $I$

$V_{\text{greedy}} :=$  the set of variables  $v$  occurring in  $\Delta$

for which  $\text{violated}(\Delta, \text{flip}(I, v))$  is minimal

randomly select  $v \in V_{\text{greedy}}$

$I := \text{flip}(I, v)$

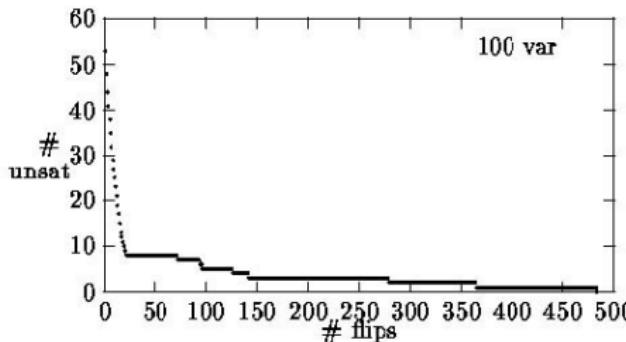
**return** no solution found

# GSAT: Discussion

GSAT has the usual ingredients of local search methods:

- hill climbing
- randomness (although **relatively little!**)
- restarts

empirically, much time is spent on plateaus:



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# Local Search: Walksat

# Walksat: Pseudo-Code

**lost**( $\Delta, I, v$ ): #clauses in  $\Delta$  satisfied by  $I$ , but not by  $\text{flip}(I, v)$

**function** Walksat( $\Delta$ ):

**repeat** *max-tries* **times**:

$I :=$  a random assignment

**repeat** *max-flips* **times**:

**if**  $I \models \Delta$ :

**return**  $I$

$C :=$  randomly chosen unsatisfied clause in  $\Delta$

**if** there is a variable  $v$  in  $C$  with  $\text{lost}(\Delta, I, v) = 0$ :

$V_{\text{choices}} :=$  all such variables in  $C$

**else** with probability  $p_{\text{noise}}$ :

$V_{\text{choices}} :=$  all variables occurring in  $C$

**else**:

$V_{\text{choices}} :=$  variables  $v$  in  $C$  that minimize  $\text{lost}(\Delta, I, v)$

randomly select  $v \in V_{\text{choices}}$

$I := \text{flip}(I, v)$

**return** no solution found

# Walksat vs. GSAT

Comparison GSAT vs. Walksat:

- much more randomness in Walksat  
because of random choice of considered clause
- “counter-intuitive” steps that temporarily increase  
the number of unsatisfied clauses are possible in Walksat
- ↝ smaller risk of getting stuck in local minima

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# How Difficult Is SAT?

# How Difficult is SAT in Practice?

- SAT is NP-complete.
- ↝ known algorithms like DPLL  
need exponential time in the worst case
- What about the **average case**?
- depends on **how** the average is computed  
(no “obvious” way to define the average)

# SAT: Polynomial Average Runtime

## Good News (Goldberg 1979)

construct random CNF formulas  
with  $n$  variables and  $k$  clauses as follows:

In every clause, every variable occurs

- positively with probability  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,
- negatively with probability  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,
- not at all with probability  $\frac{1}{3}$ .

Then the runtime of DPLL in the average case  
is polynomial in  $n$  and  $k$ .

~ not a realistic model for practically relevant CNF formulas  
(because almost all of the random formulas are satisfiable)

# Phase Transitions

How to find **interesting** random problems?

conjecture of Cheeseman et al.:

Cheeseman et al., IJCAI 1991

Every NP-complete problem has at least one **size parameter** such that the difficult instances are close to a **critical value** of this parameter.

This so-called **phase transition** separates two problem regions, e.g., an **over-constrained** and an **under-constrained** region.

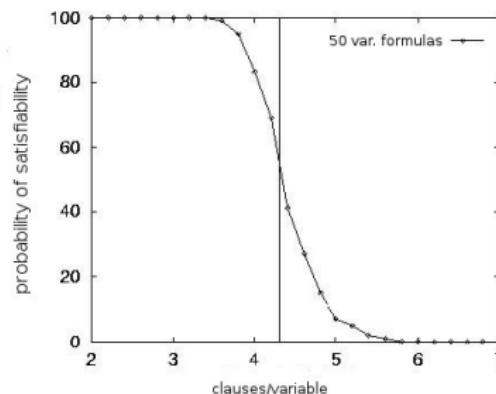
→ confirmed for, e.g., graph coloring, Hamiltonian paths and **SAT**

# Phase Transitions for 3-SAT

Problem Model of Mitchell et al., AAAI 1992

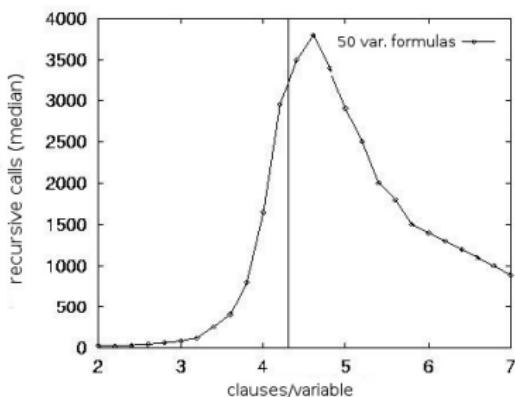
- fixed clause size of 3
- in every clause, choose the variables randomly
- literals positive or negative with equal probability

**critical parameter:** #clauses divided by #variables  
**phase transition** at ratio  $\approx 4.3$



# Phase Transition of DPLL

DPLL shows high runtime close to the phase transition region:



# Phase Transition: Intuitive Explanation

- If there are **many** clauses and hence the instance is unsatisfiable with high probability, this can be shown efficiently with unit propagation.
- If there are **few** clauses, there are many satisfying assignments, and it is easy to find one of them.
- Close to the **phase transition**, there are many “almost-solutions” that have to be considered by the search algorithm.

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# Outlook

# State of the Art

- research on SAT in general:  
~~> <http://www.satlive.org/>
- conferences on SAT since 1996 (annually since 2000)  
~~> <http://www.satisfiability.org/>
- competitions for SAT algorithms since 1992  
~~> <http://www.satcompetition.org/>
  - largest instances have more than 1 000 000 literals
  - different tracks (e.g., SAT vs. SAT+UNSAT;  
industrial vs. random instances)

# More Advanced Topics

## DPLL-based SAT algorithms:

- efficient implementation techniques
- accurate variable orders
- clause learning

## local search algorithms:

- efficient implementation techniques
- adaptive search methods (“difficult” clauses are recognized after some time, and then prioritized)

## SAT modulo theories:

- extension with background theories  
(e.g., real numbers, data structures, . . . )

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# Summary

# Summary (1)

- local search for SAT searches in the space of interpretations; neighbors: assignments that differ only in one variable
- has typical properties of local search methods: evaluation functions, randomization, restarts
- example: GSAT (Greedy SAT)
  - hill climbing with heuristic function: #unsatisfied clauses
  - randomization through tie-breaking and restarts
- example: Walksat
  - focuses on randomly selected unsatisfied clauses
  - does not follow the heuristic always, but also injects noise
  - consequence: more randomization as GSAT and lower risk of getting stuck in local minima

## Summary (2)

- more detailed analysis of SAT shows: the problem is NP-complete, but not all instances are difficult
- randomly generated SAT instances are easy to satisfy if they contain few clauses, and easy to prove unsatisfiable if they contain many clauses
- in between: phase transition