

# Machine Learning based SAT Solvers for Cryptanalysis

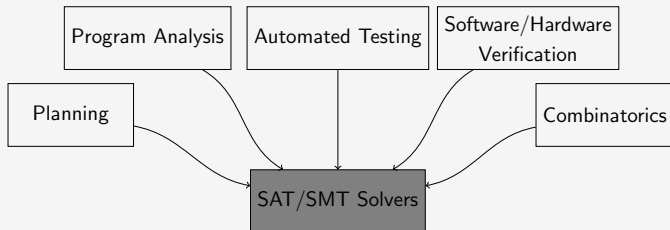
Saeed Nejati



April 2nd, 2020

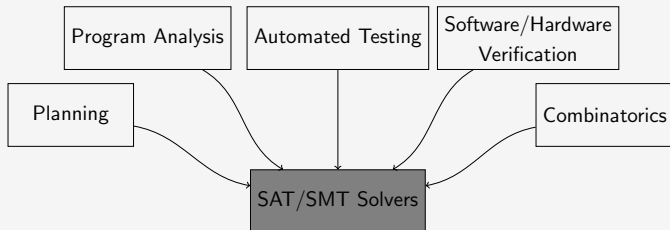
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- **Cryptanalysis:** Searching a huge **search** space for a secret key/value



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- SAT/SMT solvers have increasingly been used in Cryptographic tasks
  - Finding cryptographic keys [Mas99, MM00]
  - Modular root finding [FMM03]
  - A collision attack [MZ06]
  - Preimage attacks [MS13], [Nos12]
  - Differential cryptanalysis [Pro16]
  - RX-differentials [Ashur2017], [DW17]
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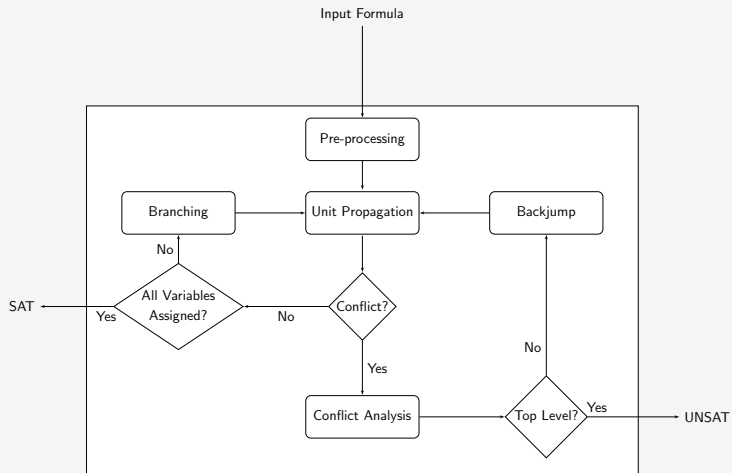
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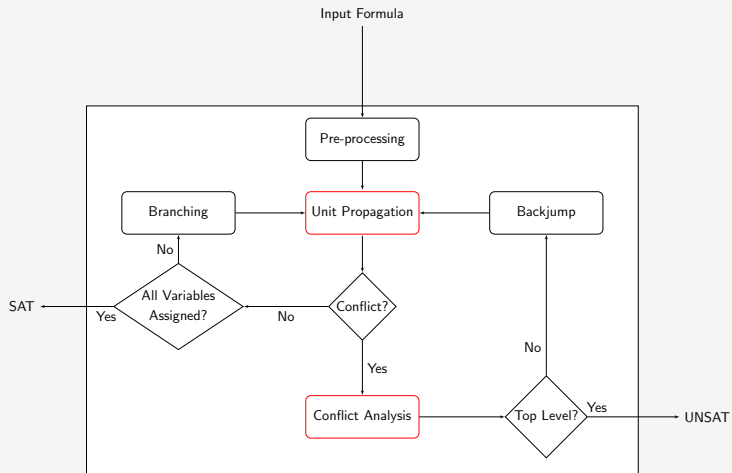
Can we use SAT solvers in a **white-box** fashion?  
(Tailor internals for a specific cryptographic problem)

# Opening up a SAT solver

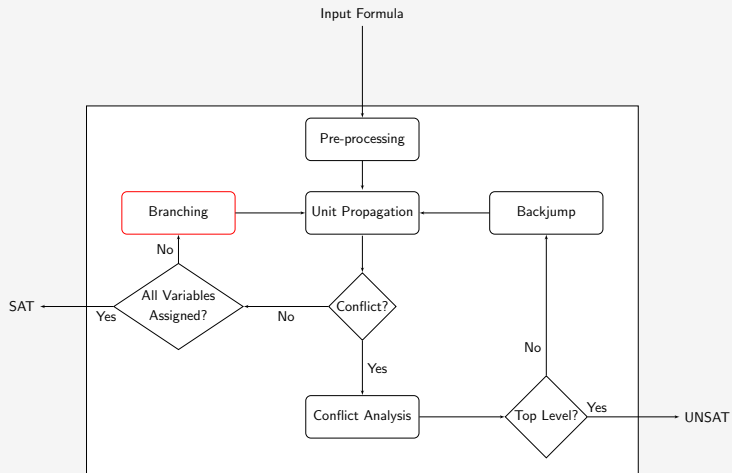




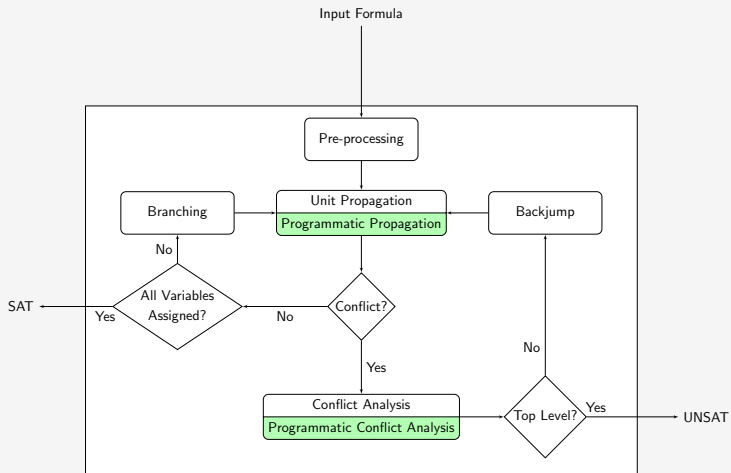
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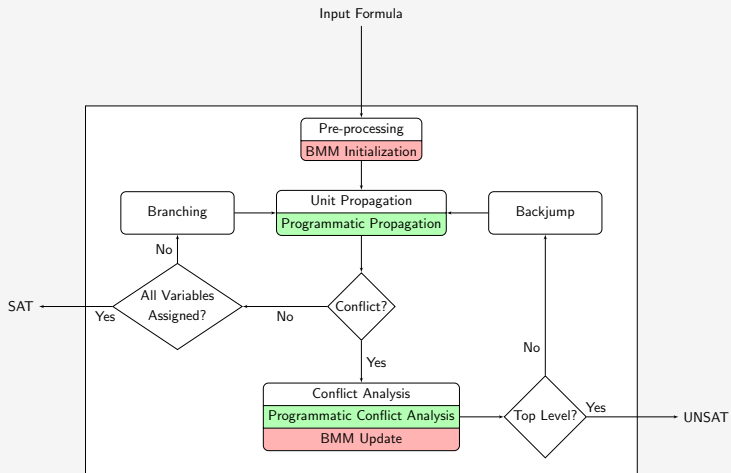
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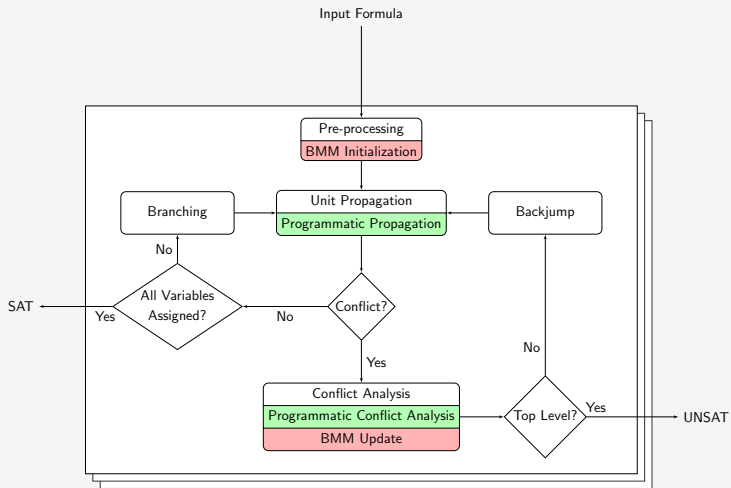
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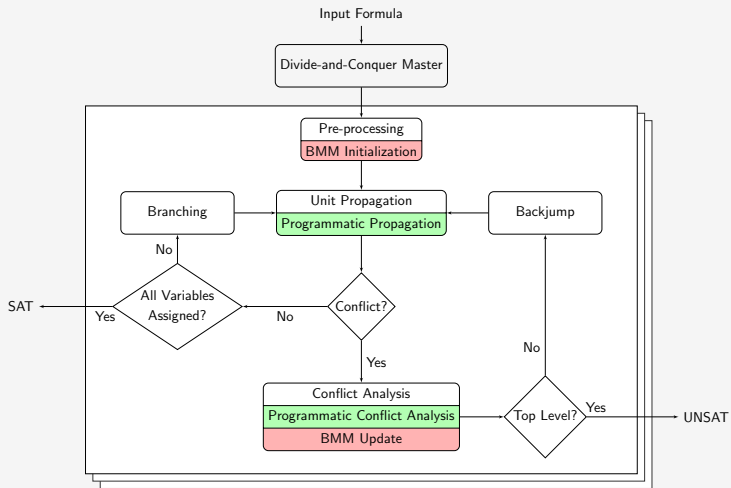
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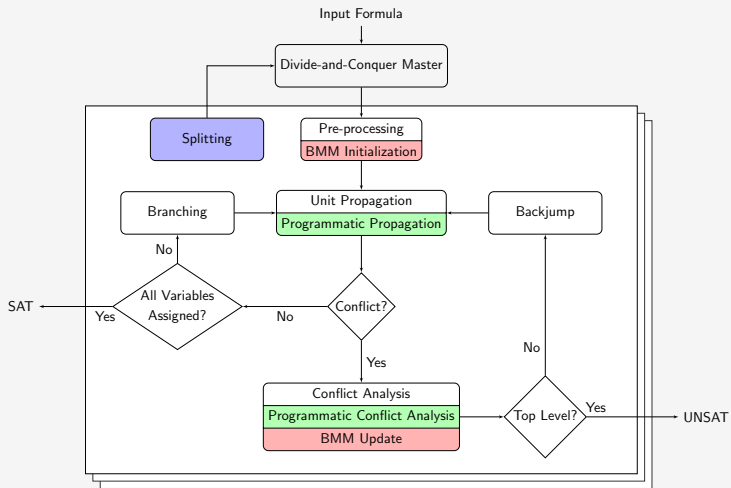
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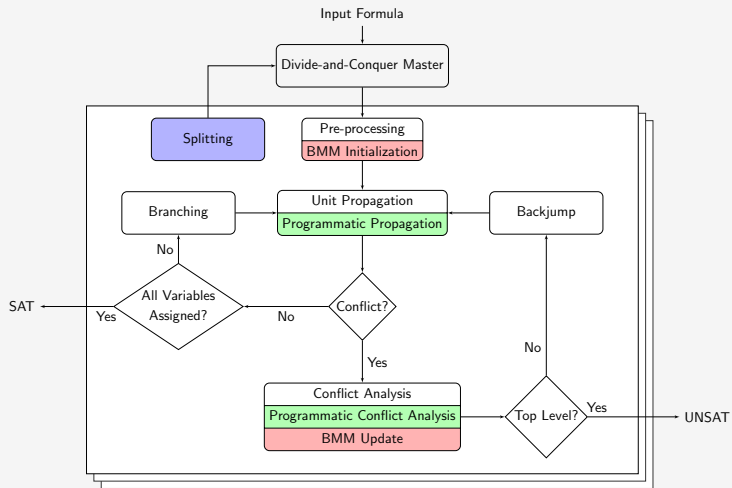
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MAPLECRYPT



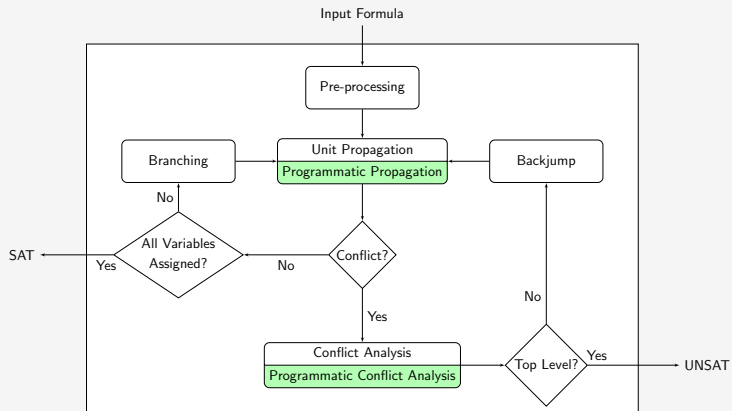
# Outline of Contributions

- 1 Extending reasoning components for cryptographic problems
  - CDCL(Crypto) framework ([NG19])
  - Algebraic fault attack ([NHGG18])
  - Differential cryptanalysis ([NG19])
- 2 Improving search heuristics
  - Machine learning for search heuristics optimization problems
  - Sequencing: Splitting heuristics ([NLFG20, NNS<sup>+</sup>17])
  - Initializing: Variable order and value selection (Branching heuristics) ([NDT<sup>+</sup>20])

## Part 1: CDCL(Crypto) Solvers

---

# Overview



CDCL(CRYPTO): CDCL SAT solver with custom cryptographic reasoning

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- When encoding a constraint into SAT, some higher level properties might be lost
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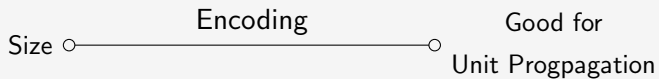
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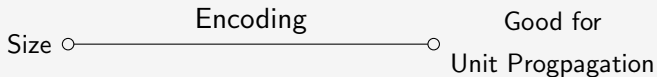
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  - No unit clause to propagate!



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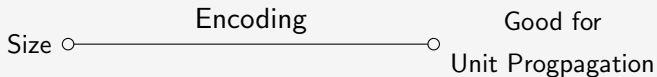


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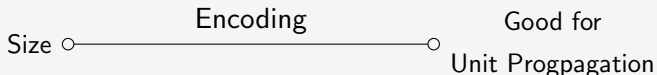
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- Using Programmatic SAT architecture [GOS<sup>+</sup>12]

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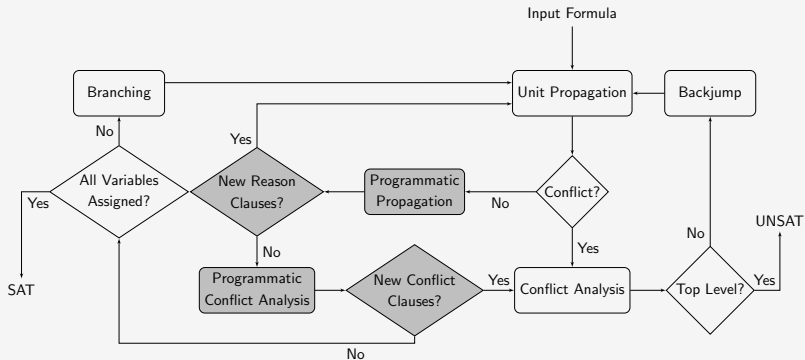
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- It can be seen as as solver for hybrid “CNF+C” constraints.

# Programmatic SAT



- Applied this framework to two cryptographic problems:
  - Algebraic Fault Attack on SHA-1 and SHA-256
  - Differential Cryptanalysis of round-reduced version of SHA-256

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- and repeat  $SHA''(m) = H''$

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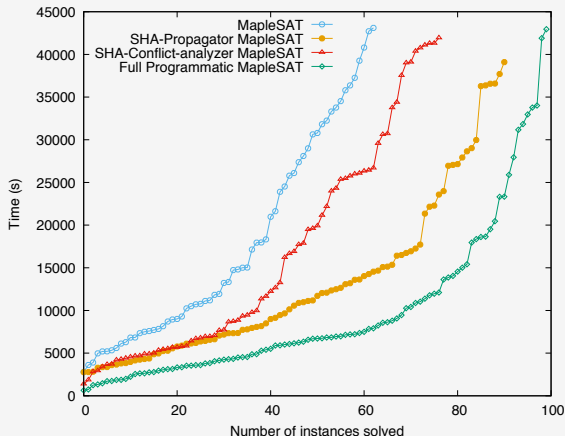
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- Unaffected parts are just repeated. Abstract them away.

## Algebraic Fault Analysis - Programmatic Approach

- Base SAT solver: MapleSAT
- Programmatic conflict analyzer
  - Embedding the verification loop
  - As soon as message word variables are set, they are ready to be verified
  - Early embedded check vs. Straightforward check after solving completely
- Programmatic propagator
  - Improving the propagation flow of multi-operand additions
  - Generating *reason clauses* in each column addition when output bits are missed

# Algebraic Fault Analysis - Results

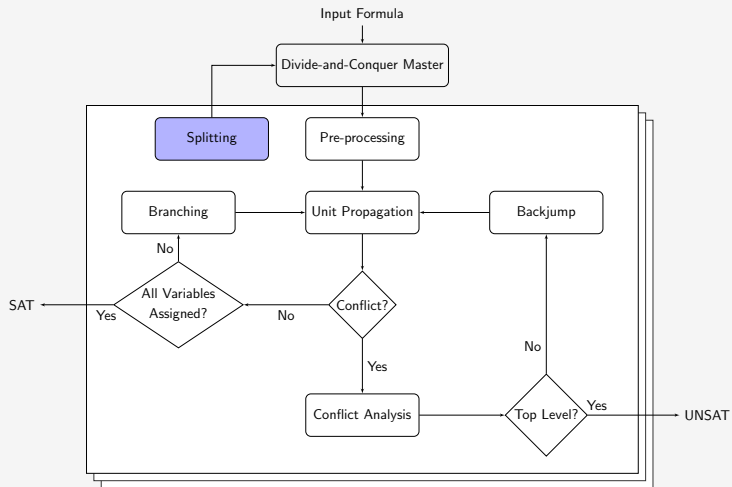
- Recovering SHA-256 message bits
- 14.3x speed-up on average
- 17 fewer faults were needed compared to the previous works



## **Part 2: Machine Learning based Splitting Heuristics in Parallel SAT Solvers**

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# Overview





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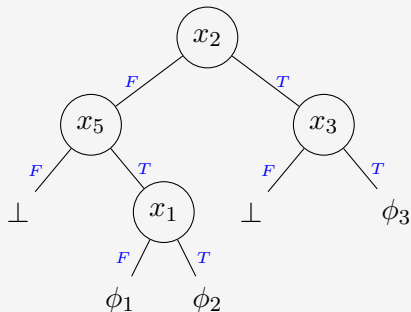
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- $\phi$  is SAT: At least one solver returns SAT
- $\phi$  is UNSAT: All solvers return UNSAT

## Search Space Splitting

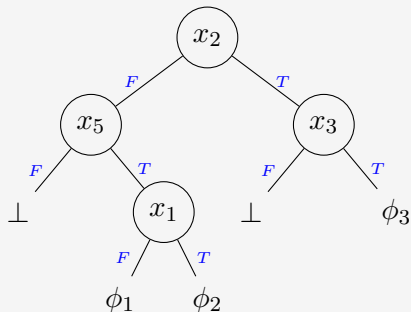
- $\phi_1 = \phi \wedge \neg x_2 \wedge x_5 \wedge \neg x_1$
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### Question (Splitting Heuristic)

How to “divide” so the “conquer” becomes easier?

- Q: How do we know a splitting variable is good?

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- We define  $pm(\phi, v)$ : Total wall-clock runtime of solving  $\phi$  when splitting once and solving  $\phi[v]$  and  $\phi[\neg v]$  in parallel.

## Building the Splitting Heuristic

- Computing this  $pm$  needs knowing the runtime and status of sub-formulas
- We don't know the runtime a priori
- We can build a machine learning model to predict runtime
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- Observation: We are looking for a minimum element in a list of elements ordered by  $pm$

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$$PW(\phi, v_i, v_j) = \begin{cases} 1, & pm(\phi, v_i) < pm(\phi, v_j) \\ 0, & otherwise \end{cases}$$

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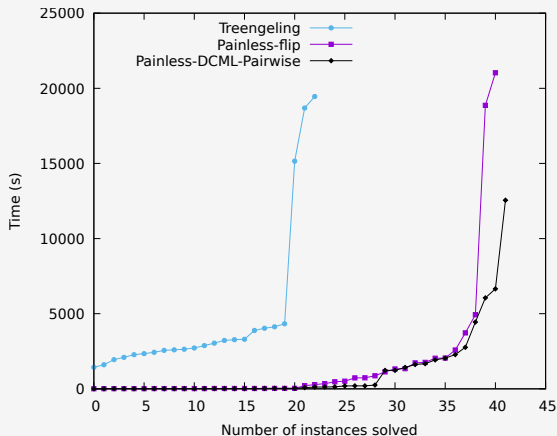
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- Feature selection:
  - Addition pass: sorted by importance
  - Deletion pass: sorted by computation time

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- Variable Features:
  - #inBinaryClause, #inTernaryClause, ...
  - CombinedLRB, PropagationRate, #Flips, ...
- Feature selection:
  - Addition pass: sorted by importance
  - Deletion pass: sorted by computation time
- Random Forest: accuracy 80.72%

## Experimental Results - Cryptographic benchmark

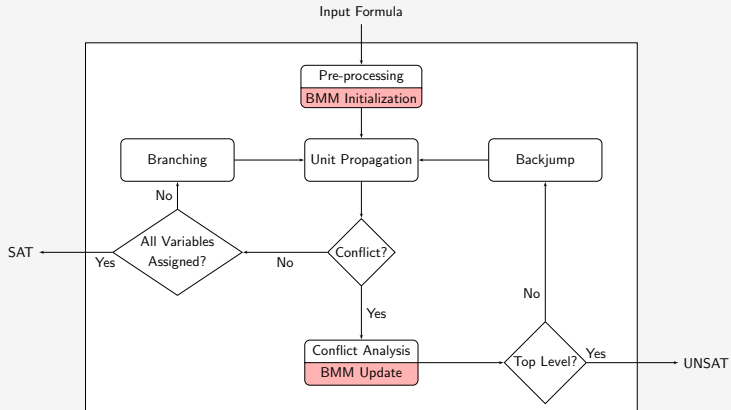
- Framework: Painless
- Baseline: Painless-DC w/ flip splitting heuristic
- SHA-1 preimage



## Part 3: BMM-based Heuristic Initialization

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# Overview



## Heuristic Initialization

- Branching heuristics: variable selection and value selection (polarity)

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- Branching heuristics: variable selection and value selection (polarity)
- Usually *look-back*: make a decision based on the gathered search statistics
- At the start of search: no statistics available
- Goal: **derive variable score and preferred value initial values**, s.t. the runtime is improved.

## Bayesian Moment Matching (BMM) for SAT

- For each variable:  $P(x = T)$ : probability of setting  $x$  to True

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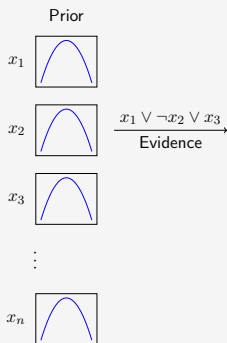
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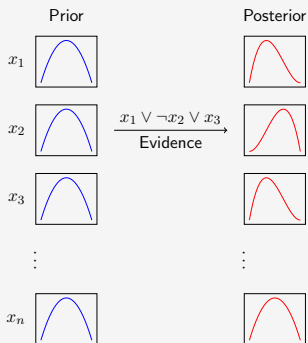
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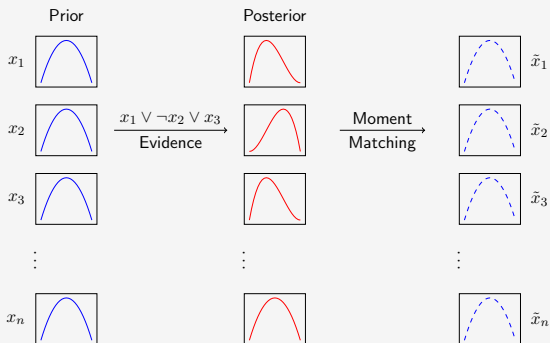
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# Heuristic Initialization

- Polarity

- BMM probabilities collectively represent an assignment

- $$Polarity[x] = \begin{cases} False, & P(x = T) < 0.5 \\ True, & P(x = T) \geq 0.5 \end{cases}$$

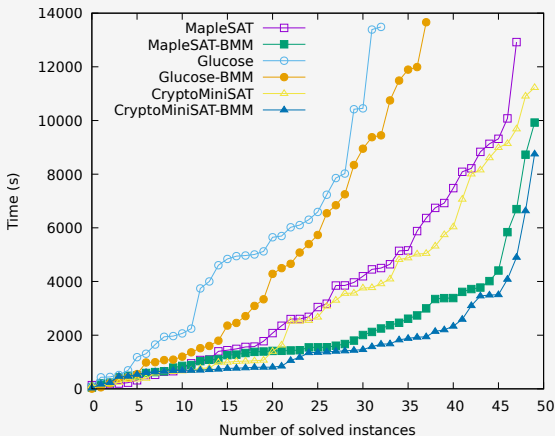
- Activity

- Give higher priority to variables that BMM is more *confident* about its polarity

- $$Activity[x] = \begin{cases} 1 - P(x = T), & P(x = T) < 0.5 \\ P(x = T), & P(x = T) \geq 0.5 \end{cases}$$

# Experimental Results

- SHA-1 preimage benchmark
- Apple-to-apple comparison
- BMM on MapleSAT, Glucose and CryptoMiniSAT



# Summary and Takeaways

## Extending Reasoning Components

## Improving Search Heuristics

- Key insights from literature
- Our designs
- Our results

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Programmatic  
SAT

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CDCL(Crypto) framework

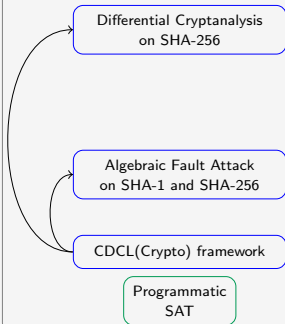
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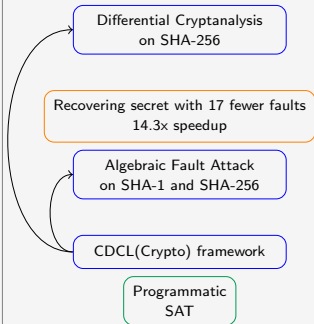


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SAT-based SHA-256 collision: 1 more round

Differential Cryptanalysis  
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Recovering secret with 17 fewer faults  
14.3x speedup

Algebraic Fault Attack  
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2x speedup on  
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# Publications

- [NLG<sup>+</sup>17] Nejati, Liang, Gebotys, Czarnecki, Ganesh  
*Adaptive restart and CEGAR-based solver for inverting cryptographic hash functions*  
**VSTTE 2017**
- [NNS<sup>+</sup>17] Nejati, Newsham, Scott, Liang, Gebotys, Poupart, Ganesh  
*A propagation rate based splitting heuristic for divide-and-conquer solvers*  
**SAT 2017**
- [NHGG18] Nejati, Horáček, Gebotys, Ganesh  
*Algebraic fault attack on SHA hash functions using programmatic SAT solvers*  
**CP 2018**
- [NG19] Nejati, Ganesh  
*CDCL(Crypto) SAT solvers for cryptanalysis*  
**CASCON 2019**
- [NDT<sup>+</sup>20] Nejati/Duan, Trimponias, Poupart, Ganesh  
*Online bayesian moment matching based SAT solver heuristics*  
**ICML 2020**
- [NLFG20] Nejati, Le Frioux, Ganesh  
*A machine learning based splitting heuristic for divide-and-conquer solvers*  
**CP 2020**



Thanks!  
Questions?



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