

# Conflict Resolution

Konstantin Korovin, Nestan Tsiskaridze, Andrei Voronkov

The University of Manchester

# Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Fourier-Motzkin elimination
- 3 Conflict Resolution
- 4 Implementation
- 5 Experimental Results
- 6 Conclusions

# Our Main Problem

Checking satisfiability of systems of linear constraints over the rationals.

## Example (i)

$$\begin{array}{rcccccc} 3x_1 & + & 4x_2 & - & 1 & > & 0 \\ -x_1 & + & x_2 & + & 1 & \geq & 0 \\ & & 2x_2 & - & x_3 & = & 0 \end{array}$$

**Satisfiable:**  $x_1 = 0, x_2 = 1, x_3 = 2$

## Example (ii)

$$\begin{array}{rcccccc} -x_1 & + & x_2 & + & 1 & \geq & 0 \\ & & -x_2 & - & x_3 & \geq & 0 \\ x_1 & + & x_3 & - & 2 & \geq & 0 \end{array}$$

**Unsatisfiable.**

# Applications of linear constraint solving

- Combinatorial and optimisation problems;
- Linear Programming;
- Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT): software and hardware verification, constraint satisfaction;
- Constraint Programming;
- Hybrid Systems.

# Existing Methods

There is a handful of methods for solving systems of linear inequalities:

- Fourier-Motzkin elimination (1820's)
- Simplex method (1950's)
- Interior point method (1970's)
- Various modifications of these methods

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### Example (iii)

$$x_4 - 2x_3 + x_1 + 5 \geq 0 \quad (1)$$

$$x_4 + 2x_3 + x_2 + 3 \geq 0 \quad (2)$$

$$-x_4 - x_3 - 3x_2 - 3x_1 + 1 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$-x_4 + 2x_3 + 2x_2 + x_1 + 6 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

$$x_3 + 3x_1 - 1 \geq 0 \quad (5)$$

$$-x_3 + x_2 - 2x_1 + 5 \geq 0 \quad (6)$$

## Fourier-Motzkin elimination

$$x_4 - 2x_3 + x_1 + 5 \geq 0 \quad (1)$$

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$$x_4 \succ x_3 \succ x_2 \succ x_1$$

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$$x_3 + 4x_2 + x_1 + 9 \geq 0$$

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$$x_1 \in \left[-\frac{15}{11}; \frac{59}{26}\right]$$

## Fourier-Motzkin elimination

$$x_4 - 2x_3 + x_1 + 5 \geq 0 \quad (1)$$

$$x_4 + 2x_3 + x_2 + 3 \geq 0 \quad (2)$$

$$x_4 \succ x_3 \succ x_2 \succ x_1$$

$$-x_4 - x_3 - 3x_2 - 3x_1 + 1 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$-x_4 + 2x_3 + 2x_2 + x_1 + 6 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

$$x_3 + 3x_1 - 1 \geq 0 \quad (5)$$

$$x_3 - 2x_2 - 3x_1 + 4 \geq 0$$

$$x_3 + 4x_2 + x_1 + 9 \geq 0$$

$$-x_3 + x_2 - 2x_1 + 5 \geq 0 \quad (6)$$

$$-3x_3 - 3x_2 - 2x_1 + 6 \geq 0$$

$$2x_2 + 2x_1 + 11 \geq 0$$

$$x_2 + x_1 + 4 \geq 0$$

$$5x_2 - x_1 + 14 \geq 0$$

$$9x_2 + x_1 + 21 \geq 0$$

$$-3x_2 + 7x_1 + 3 \geq 0$$

$$-x_2 - 5x_1 + 9 \geq 0$$

$$-9x_2 - 11x_1 + 18 \geq 0$$

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$$x_2 \in \left[-\frac{21}{9}; 1\right] \quad x_2 = 0$$

$$5x_1 + 9 \geq 0$$

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$$-8x_1 + 27 \geq 0$$

$$x_1 \in \left[-\frac{15}{11}; \frac{59}{26}\right] \quad x_1 = 0$$

*Satisfiable* :  $x_4 = 0; x_3 = 1; x_2 = 0; x_1 = 0$

# Fourier-Motzkin elimination

Iteratively eliminates variables, one at each step.

$$\frac{x + \bar{a}\bar{y} \geq 0 \quad -x + \bar{b}\bar{y} \geq 0}{\bar{a}\bar{x} + \bar{b}\bar{y} \geq 0}$$

## The main issues

- Very quickly becomes large and hard to deal with
- Generates many redundant inequalities
- Even if a trivial solution exists, we need to make all possible inferences

# Fourier-Motzkin elimination

Iteratively eliminates variables, one at each step.

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## The main issues

- Very quickly becomes large and hard to deal with
- Generates many redundant inequalities
- Even if a trivial solution exists, we need to make all possible inferences

# Fourier-Motzkin elimination

Generates over **280 million** linear inequalities!

## Example (iv)

$$x_5 \succ x_4 \succ x_3 \succ x_2 \succ x_1$$

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccc} 2x_5 & - & 3x_4 & + & x_3 & - & 3x_2 & - & 2x_1 & + & 3 & \geq & 0 \\ 2x_5 & + & x_4 & - & 2x_3 & & & & - & 2x_1 & + & 2 & \geq & 0 \\ -x_5 & & & & & + & 3x_2 & + & x_1 & + & 2 & \geq & 0 \\ -3x_5 & & & + & 2x_3 & & & & - & 3x_1 & - & 2 & \geq & 0 \\ x_5 & - & 2x_4 & & & - & 2x_2 & + & 3x_1 & - & 2 & \geq & 0 \\ -2x_5 & + & 2x_4 & - & 3x_3 & - & x_2 & + & 2x_1 & + & 3 & > & 0 \\ 3x_5 & - & 2x_4 & + & 2x_3 & + & 3x_2 & + & 2x_1 & + & 1 & > & 0 \\ x_5 & & & & & & & + & 2x_1 & + & 2 & > & 0 \\ & & 2x_4 & - & x_3 & - & 3x_2 & - & x_1 & + & 3 & = & 0 \end{array}$$

# Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Fourier-Motzkin elimination
- 3 Conflict Resolution**
- 4 Implementation
- 5 Experimental Results
- 6 Conclusions

# Conflict Resolution

$$2x_4 + 4x_3 - x_1 + 5 \geq 0$$

Normalised:

$$x_4 + 2x_3 - \frac{1}{2}x_1 + \frac{5}{2} \geq 0$$

Assignment  $\sigma : \{x_4 \mapsto 1; x_3 \mapsto -3; x_2 \mapsto -\frac{1}{3}; x_1 \mapsto 4\}$

$$p\sigma = 1 + 2 * (-3) - \frac{1}{2} * 4 = -8$$

$\sigma$  is a solution of  $p \geq 0$  if  $p\sigma \geq 0$  is true.

# Conflict Resolution

$$2x_4 + 4x_3 - x_1 + 5 \geq 0$$

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$$2x_4 + 4x_3 - x_1 + 5 \geq 0$$

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$$\underbrace{x_4 + 2x_3 - \frac{1}{2}x_1 + \frac{5}{2}}_p \geq 0$$

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$$p\sigma = 1 + 2 * (-3) - \frac{1}{2} * 4 = -8$$

$\sigma$  is a solution of  $p \geq 0$  if  $p\sigma \geq 0$  is true.

# Conflict Resolution

A state  $\mathbb{S} = (\mathcal{S}, \sigma)$ :

$\mathcal{S}$  - a system of linear constraints

$\sigma$  - an assignment

The main idea behind CRA

- 1 Start with an initial state  $(\mathcal{S}, \sigma)$
- 2 Repeatedly transform  $\mathbb{S}$  applying the transformation rules:
  - Conflict Resolution rule (CR)
  - Assignment Refinement rule (AR)
- 3 Until either  $\sigma$  is a solution or a contradiction is derived.

# Conflict Resolution

## Example (iii)

$$x_4 - 2x_3 + x_1 + 5 \geq 0 \quad (1)$$

$$x_4 + 2x_3 + x_2 + 3 \geq 0 \quad (2)$$

$$-x_4 - x_3 - 3x_2 - 3x_1 + 1 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$-x_4 + 2x_3 + 2x_2 + x_1 + 6 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

$$x_3 + 3x_1 - 1 \geq 0 \quad (5)$$

$$-x_3 + x_2 - 2x_1 + 5 \geq 0 \quad (6)$$

# Conflict Resolution (Example)

$$x_4 \succ x_3 \succ x_2 \succ x_1; \quad \sigma : \{x_4 \mapsto 0; x_3 \mapsto 0; x_2 \mapsto 0; x_1 \mapsto 0\}$$

## Level 4

$$(1) \quad 2x_3 - x_1 - 5 \leq x_4 \quad x_4 \leq -x_3 - 3x_2 - 3x_1 + 1 \quad (3)$$

$$(2) \quad -2x_3 - x_2 - 3 \leq x_4 \quad x_4 \leq 2x_3 + 2x_2 + x_1 + 6 \quad (4)$$

---

## Level 3

$$(5) \quad -3x_1 + 1 \leq x_3 \quad x_3 \leq x_2 - 2x_1 + 5 \quad (6)$$

---

Level 2 is empty

---

Level 1 is empty

# Conflict Resolution (Example)

$$x_4 \succ x_3 \succ x_2 \succ x_1; \quad \sigma : \{x_4 \mapsto 0; x_3 \mapsto 0; x_2 \mapsto 0; x_1 \mapsto 0\}$$

Level 4

$$(1) \quad 2x_3 - x_1 - 5 \leq x_4 \quad x_4 \leq -x_3 - 3x_2 - 3x_1 + 1 \quad (3)$$

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Level 3

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Level 2 is empty

---

Level 1 is empty

# Conflict Resolution (Example)

$$x_4 \succ x_3 \succ x_2 \succ x_1; \quad \sigma : \{x_4 \mapsto 0; x_3 \mapsto 0; x_2 \mapsto 0; x_1 \mapsto 0\}$$

Level 4

$$(1) \quad 2x_3 - x_1 - 5 \leq x_4 \quad x_4 \leq -x_3 - 3x_2 - 3x_1 + 1 \quad (3)$$

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Level 3

$$(5) \quad -3x_1 + 1 \leq x_3 \quad x_3 \leq x_2 - 2x_1 + 5 \quad (6)$$

$$x_3 \in [1; 5]$$

---

Level 2 is empty

---

Level 1 is empty



# Conflict Resolution (Example)

$$x_4 \succ x_3 \succ x_2 \succ x_1; \quad \sigma : \{x_4 \mapsto 0; x_3 \mapsto 4; x_2 \mapsto 0; x_1 \mapsto 0\}$$

Level 4

$$(1) \quad 2x_3 - x_1 - 5 \leq x_4 \quad x_4 \leq -x_3 - 3x_2 - 3x_1 + 1 \quad (3)$$

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---

Level 3

$$(5) \quad -3x_1 + 1 \leq x_3 \quad x_3 \leq x_2 - 2x_1 + 5 \quad (6)$$

$$x_3 \in [1; 5] \quad x_3 = 4 \quad (AR)$$

---

Level 2 is empty

---

Level 1 is empty

# Conflict Resolution (Example)

$$x_4 \succ x_3 \succ x_2 \succ x_1; \quad \sigma : \{x_4 \mapsto 0; x_3 \mapsto 4; x_2 \mapsto 0; x_1 \mapsto 0\}$$

Level 4

$$(1) \quad 2x_3 - x_1 - 5 \leq x_4 \quad x_4 \leq -x_3 - 3x_2 - 3x_1 + 1 \quad (3)$$

$$(2) \quad -2x_3 - x_2 - 3 \leq x_4 \quad x_4 \leq 2x_3 + 2x_2 + x_1 + 6 \quad (4)$$

$$x_4 \in [3; -3]$$

---

Level 3

$$(5) \quad -3x_1 + 1 \leq x_3 \quad x_3 \leq x_2 - 2x_1 + 5 \quad (6)$$

$$x_3 \in [1; 5] \quad x_3 = 4 \quad (AR)$$

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# Conflict Resolution (Example)

$$x_4 \succ x_3 \succ x_2 \succ x_1; \quad \sigma : \{x_4 \mapsto 0; x_3 \mapsto 4; x_2 \mapsto 0; x_1 \mapsto 0\}$$

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$$x_3 \leq -x_2 - \frac{2}{3}x_1 + 2 \quad (CR)$$

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# Conflict Resolution (Example)

$$x_4 \succ x_3 \succ x_2 \succ x_1; \quad \sigma : \{x_4 \mapsto 0; x_3 \mapsto 4; x_2 \mapsto 0; x_1 \mapsto 0\}$$

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$$x_3 \leq -x_2 - \frac{2}{3}x_1 + 2 \quad (CR)$$

$$x_3 \in [1; 2]$$

---

Level 2 is empty

---

Level 1 is empty

# Conflict Resolution (Example)

$$x_4 \succ x_3 \succ x_2 \succ x_1; \quad \sigma : \{x_4 \mapsto 0; x_3 \mapsto 1; x_2 \mapsto 0; x_1 \mapsto 0\}$$

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$$x_4 \in [-3; 0]$$

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Level 3

$$(5) \quad -3x_1 + 1 \leq x_3 \quad x_3 \leq x_2 - 2x_1 + 5 \quad (6)$$

$$x_3 \leq -x_2 - \frac{2}{3}x_1 + 2 \quad (CR)$$

$$x_3 \in [1; 2] \quad x_3 = 1 \quad (AR)$$

---

Level 2 is empty

---

Level 1 is empty



# Conflict Resolution (Example)

$$x_4 \succ x_3 \succ x_2 \succ x_1; \quad \sigma : \{x_4 \mapsto 0; x_3 \mapsto 1; x_2 \mapsto 0; x_1 \mapsto 0\}$$

Level 4

$$(1) \quad 2x_3 - x_1 - 5 \leq x_4 \quad x_4 \leq -x_3 - 3x_2 - 3x_1 + 1 \quad (3)$$

$$(2) \quad -2x_3 - x_2 - 3 \leq x_4 \quad x_4 \leq 2x_3 + 2x_2 + x_1 + 6 \quad (4)$$

$$x_4 \in [-3; 0] \quad x_4 = 0$$

---

Level 3

$$(5) \quad -3x_1 + 1 \leq x_3 \quad x_3 \leq x_2 - 2x_1 + 5 \quad (6)$$

$$x_3 \leq -x_2 - \frac{2}{3}x_1 + 2 \quad (CR)$$

$$x_3 \in [1; 2] \quad x_3 = 1 \quad (AR)$$

---

Level 2 is empty

---

Level 1 is empty

*Satisfiable!*  $\sigma : \{x_4 \mapsto 0; x_3 \mapsto 1, x_2 \mapsto 0; x_1 \mapsto 0\}$

# Transformation Rules

## Assignment Refinement rule (AR)

(at the level  $k$ ) is the following rule:

$$(S, \sigma) \Rightarrow (S, \sigma_{x_k}^v),$$

where

- 1  $\sigma$  satisfies all constraints in  $S$  of the levels  $0, \dots, k - 1$ .
- 2  $\sigma$  violates at least one constraint in  $S$  of the level  $k$ .
- 3  $\sigma_{x_k}^v$  satisfies all constraints in  $S$  of the level  $k$ .

# Transformation Rules

## $k$ -conflict

$\mathbb{S} = (S, \sigma)$  - a state,

$k$  - a positive integer.

$\mathbb{S}$  contains a  $k$ -conflict  $(x_k + p \geq 0, -x_k + q \geq 0)$  if

- 1  $x_k + p \geq 0 \in S$  and  $-x_k + q \geq 0 \in S$
- 2  $p\sigma + q\sigma < 0$ .

## Conflict Resolution rule (CR)

(at the level  $k$ ) is the following rule:

$$(S, \sigma) \Rightarrow (S \cup \{p + q \geq 0\}, \sigma),$$

where  $(S, \sigma)$  contains a  $k$ -conflict  $(x_k + p \geq 0, -x_k + q \geq 0)$ .

# Conflict Resolution

Conflict Resolution Algorithm (CRA) is **correct** and **terminating**.

## Theorem

Given a set of constraints  $S$ ,

- If CRA returns 'unsatisfiable', then  $S$  is **unsatisfiable**
- If CRA outputs an assignment  $\sigma$ , then  $\sigma$  is **a solution** of  $S$

# Properties of CRA

## Redundancy

A CR-inference at a level  $k$  is **redundant** w.r.t. a state  $(S, \sigma)$ :

If the conclusion of this inference is a consequence of constraints in  $S_{<k}$ .

## Key Properties

- Every CR-inference performed by CRA is **non-redundant**;
- In particular, the same constraint will **never be added twice** to  $S$ ;
- The CRA can be easily made **incremental** (important for SMT);
- Can easily generate explanations for unsatisfiability;
- See the next slide...

# Properties of CRA

$$x_4 \succ x_3 \succ x_2 \succ x_1; \quad \sigma : \{x_4 \mapsto 0; x_3 \mapsto 4; x_2 \mapsto 0; x_1 \mapsto 0\}$$

Level 4

$$(1) \quad 2x_3 - x_1 - 5 \leq x_4 \quad x_4 \leq -x_3 - 3x_2 - 3x_1 + 1 \quad (3)$$

$$(2) \quad -2x_3 - x_2 - 3 \leq x_4 \quad x_4 \leq 2x_3 + 2x_2 + x_1 + 6 \quad (4)$$

$$x_4 \in [3; -3] \quad \textit{Conflict!}$$

---

Level 3

$$(5) \quad -3x_1 + 1 \leq x_3 \quad x_3 \leq x_2 - 2x_1 + 5 \quad (6)$$

$$x_3 \in [1; 5] \quad x_3 = 4 \quad (AR)$$

---

Level 2 is empty

---

Level 1 is empty

# Properties of CRA

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# Properties of CRA

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$$(1), (4) \Rightarrow x_2 + x_1 \geq -\frac{11}{2}$$

Level 4

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# Properties of CRA

$$x_4 \succ x_3 \succ x_2 \succ x_1; \quad \sigma : \{x_4 \mapsto 0; x_3 \mapsto 4; x_2 \mapsto 0; x_1 \mapsto 0\}$$

$$(1), (4) \Rightarrow x_2 + x_1 \geq -\frac{11}{2} \quad (5), (6) \Rightarrow x_2 + x_1 \geq -4$$

Level 4

$$(1) \quad 2x_3 - x_1 - 5 \leq x_4 \quad x_4 \leq -x_3 - 3x_2 - 3x_1 + 1 \quad (3)$$

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Level 2 is empty

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Level 1 is empty

# Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Fourier-Motzkin elimination
- 3 Conflict Resolution
- 4 Implementation**
- 5 Experimental Results
- 6 Conclusions

# Implementation

Linear constraints of the form

$q \diamond 0$ , where  $\diamond \in \{\geq, >, =, \neq\}$

Key parameters fore fine-tuning the CRA algorithm:

- 1 strategies for selecting conflicts,
- 2 strategies for selecting values in the assignment refinement rule,
- 3 order on variables.

# Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Fourier-Motzkin elimination
- 3 Conflict Resolution
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# Random Problems

Linux laptop, CPU 2.8GHz and memory 4Gb. Two sets of benchmarks:

- 1 Randomly generated
- 2 Extracted from real-life SMT problems  
using our [Hard Reality tool \(HRT\)](#)

4000 problems vars 3-12 (unsat/sat)				
	CRA	CVC3	FM	Ch
timeout (20s)	0/0	11/9	790/329	149/10
av. time (s)	0/0	0/0	0.4/0.1	0.6/0.1

400 problems vars 13-22 (unsat/sat)				
	CRA	CVC3	FM	Ch
timeout (20s)	5/2	21/33	183/144	155/65
av. time (s)	0.2/0.3	0/0	0.1/0.5	1.9/0.6

Table: Randomly Generated Problems

# Hard Reality Problems

304 problems (unsat)				
	CRA	CVC3	FM	Ch
timeout (60s)	1	4	44	42
av. time	0.2	0.13	0.1	0.12

Table: Hard Reality Problems

400 problems vars 13-22 (unsat/sat)				
	faster	same	av. time	timeout (20s)
Barcelogic	28/29	146/167	0.04/0	0/0
CRA	23/7	146/167	0.2/0.3	5/2
400 problems vars 23-32 (unsat/sat)				
Barcelogic	110/67	31/88	0.25/1.0	0/0
CRA	63/41	31/88	0.7/1.6	60/37

Table: CRA vs Barcelogic

# Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Fourier-Motzkin elimination
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# Conclusions

- New algorithm for solving systems of linear constraints **CRA**;
- Works good for both satisfiable and unsatisfiable problems;
- Is blocking redundant inferences;
- Is orders of magnitude better than the Fourier-Motzkin method and Chernikov algorithm;
- Shows good potential when compared to the Simplex algorithm;
- Can be easily made incremental and easily generate explanations for unsatisfiability (important for SMT).

## Future Work

- Optimised implementation;
- Integration into SMT solving;
- Solving linear systems over the integers.

*Thank you!*

*Any questions?*