

# Symbolic Al

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# Outline





- 2 The model and solve approach
- Symbolic Formalisms
- Examples of encodings
- 5 Experiment yourselves

## 6 Conclusions

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## 1 Introduction

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# AI and Problem Solving



- One of the first objectives of AI was to simulate human intelligence.
- Reasoning and problem solving were one of the first challenges faced.
- Reasoning: logic and automated theorem proving.
- Problem solving as searching in a space of states (puzzles, chess, ...)
- **Combinatorial explosion**: First winter (toy examples).

Symbolic problem solving operates on the principle of representing knowledge and reasoning through symbols and logical rules. By manipulating abstract symbols, machines gain the ability to analyze relationships, infer new information, and arrive at logical conclusions.

Two Problem Solving Approaches





P is, for instance, MIP, SAT, CSP, SMT, MaxSAT, ...

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# Model & Solve Paradigm



- Input problem P
- Encoding (MODEL)
- Feed encoding to solver (SOLVE)
- Generate solution for P

Specialized versus Generic



- In the generic approach, emphasis is on encoding.
- In the specialized approach, the human cost is bigger.
- In the generic approach, encodings can compensate for much of the loss due to going to a uniform representation formalism like SAT, CSP or MIP.
- In the specialized approach, it is difficult to duplicate efforts put in developing fast solvers for SAT, CSP or MIP.

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## Model and solve





# Constraint Satisfaction Problem (CSP)



- There exist many symbolic formalism (modelling languages) to formulate problems.
- Every symbolic formalism has its own nomenclature.
- Constraint Satisfaction Problems (CSP) capture most of them.
- A CSP is a tuple (X, D, C):
  - $X = \{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$  is a set of variables.
  - $D = \{D_1, \ldots, D_n\}$  is the domain of each variable.
  - $C = \{c_1, \ldots, c_m\}$  is a set of constraints.
- The solver must find an assignment  $I(x_i)$  to every variable  $x_i$  such that:
  - The value given to a variable is in its domain:  $I(x_i) \in D_i$ .
  - All constraints must be satisfied by I.

# Constraint Satisfaction Problem (CSP)



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  - $C = \{c_1, \ldots, c_m\}$  is a set of constraints.
- The modeller must define:
  - Viewpoint: what variables there are, what are their domains, and what are their meaning.
  - Constraints: what properties must satisfy an assignment.

## Model and solve





# Model and solve: Boolean Satisfiability (SAT)





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Existing symbolic formalisms



#### **Generic:**

- Boolean Satisfiability (SAT) and MaxSAT
- Satisfiabilit Modulo Theories (SMT)
- Constraint Programming (CP)
- Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP)
- Pseudo-Boolean Constraints (PB)

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## **Domain-specific:**

• Planning Domain Definition Language (PDDL)

Θ...

# Boolean Satisfiability (SAT) and MaxSAT



#### Variables:

• Boolean: value True or False

#### **Constraints:**

• Propositional logic, usually in Conjunctive Normal Form.

## Example:

$$(x_1 \lor x_2) \land (\neg x_1 \lor x_3) \land (\neg x_2 \lor \neg x_3 \lor x_4)$$

#### MaxSAT: maximize the number of satisfied clauses. Used for optimization problems.

Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)



#### Variables:

• Different domains: Boolean, integer, bitvectors, ...

#### **Constraints:**

• Propositional logic modulo formal theories.

#### Example:

$$(a > b \lor x) \land (f(c) < f(d)) \land (i - j \le 3 \lor i - k \le 3)$$

Constraint Programming (CP)



#### Variables:

• Finite domain, e.g.  $\{0, 1, ..., 10\}$ .

#### **Constraints:**

- There are many languages: Minizinc, Essence', ...
- Logic, arithmetic, global constraints

## Example:

## allDifferent(a, b, c, d, e)

# Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP)



#### Variables:

• Real and integer. If all variables are  $\{0,1\}$ , we have Pseudo-Boolean (PB).

#### **Constraints:**

- System of linear inequalities.
- Objective function.

## Example:

Maximize:

$$2x + 3y + 4z$$

Subject to:

$$x + y \le 2$$
$$2y + 3z \le 20$$

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# Encoding Sudoku into SAT: viewpoint





**Viewpoint**:  $9^3 = 729$  Boolean variables  $x_{ij}^k$ , with  $i, j, k \in 1..9$ :  $x_{ii}^k = True \text{ means "at row } i, \text{ column } j, \text{ the value is } k$ "

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• Some number must be assigned to each cell.

For each cell located in row i and column j, we add the clause:

$$x_{ij}^1 \lor x_{ij}^2 \lor \cdots \lor x_{ij}^9$$



- Some number must be assigned to each cell.
- **2** No number is repeated in the same row.

For each number k and for each row i, we add the clauses:



- Some number must be assigned to each cell.
- On No number is repeated in the same row.
- No number is repeated in the same column.

For each number k and for each column j, we add the clauses:



- Some number must be assigned to each cell.
- 2 No number is repeated in the same row.
- No number is repeated in the same column.
- No number is repeated in the 3x3 square.



- Some number must be assigned to each cell.
- 2 No number is repeated in the same row.
- On the same column.
- On the second second
- There are predefined values.

# DIMACS Format for SAT



$$(\neg r \lor \neg f \lor \neg j) \land (r \lor f \lor j) \land (\neg f \lor j)$$

Sudoku example:

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# Pseudo-Boolean Encoding of the Knapsack Problem

Problem: Given a set of items, select a subset to fill a knapsack. We want to reach profit K. Viewpoint:  $p_i \in \{0, 1\}$  is 1 if we put item *i* inside the knapsack.

$$Var = \{p_i \mid 1 \le i \le n\}$$

Constraints:

• Respect maximum load:

$$w_1p_1+w_2p_2+\cdots+w_np_n\leq L$$

• Obtain required profit:

$$b_1p_1+b_2p_2+\cdots+b_np_n\geq K$$





# Constraint Programming for SEND+MORE=MONEY



Problem:

Viewpoint: All variables in  $\{S, E, N, D, M, O, R, Y\}$  take a value  $\{0, 1, \dots, 9\}$ . Constraints:

 $\begin{aligned} \texttt{allDifferent}(\{S, E, N, D, M, O, R, Y\}) \\ & 1000 * S + 100 * E + 10 * N + D \\ & + 1000 * M + 100 * O + 10 * R + E \\ = 10000 * M + 1000 * O + 100 * N + 10 * E + Y \end{aligned}$ 



# **Experiment with Symbolic AI**

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# Try it yourselves!



#### online sat solver



Wonderings of a SAT geek https://www.msoos.org > mini... · Tradueix aquesta pàgina

#### MiniSat in your browser

29 de set. 2013 — I'm talking about KLEE, the symbolic virtual execution machine. ... It's relatively easy to compile any C or C++-based **SAT solver** to javascript ...

#### MiniSat in your browser

🕲 September 29, 2013 👘 Development, SAT 👘 🖋 html, javascript, MiniSat, web

# CLICK HERE to run CyrptoMiniSat in your browser

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# Try it yourselves!



CryptoMiniSat Blog	i i	Ready 🕨
c Click on the PLAY button or	the top right corner to solve	
c This is a very simply examp c Thi is a very simply examp c It encodes that: c v1 OR v2 = True c v1 OR v2 = True c -v1 OR v2 = True c -v1 OR -v2 = True	le CNF.	
<ul> <li>Which cannot be satisfied. The solution should therefore be UNSATISFIABLE</li> <li>Note that this problem is solved with Strongly Connected Component analysis (scc)</li> </ul>		
c 1 2 0 1 -2 0 -1 2 0 -1 -2 0		
CryptoMiniSat Output		
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Problem: Given a set of gears joined either directly or by a chain, how will they rotate?





Problem: Given a set of gears joined either directly or by a chain, how will they rotate? Viewpoint: p<sub>i</sub> is *True* if and only if gear *i* rotates clockwise.

$$p_1 = True$$
  $p_2 = False$ 

#### Constraints:

• Two gears connected by a chain rotate in the same direction.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} p_1 & & & & & \\ p_1 & & & \\$$

$$p_1 \leftrightarrow p_2$$

• Two gears connected directly rotate in opposite directions.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{n} \frac{p_1}{p_2} \sum_{n=1}^{n} \frac{p_2}{p_2} \qquad \neg (p_1 \leftrightarrow p_2)$$



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• Two gears connected directly rotate in opposite directions.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{i$$

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$$\neg(p_1 \leftrightarrow p_2) \equiv (p_1 \lor p_2) \land (\neg p_1 \lor \neg p_2)$$

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Problem: Given a set of gears joined either directly or by a chain, how will they rotate? Viewpoint:  $p_i$  is *True* if and only if gear *i* rotates clockwise.

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & &$$

• Two gears connected directly rotate in opposite directions.

$$\int_{\mathcal{F}_{2}}^{\mathcal{F}_{2}} \frac{p_{1}}{p_{2}} \int_{\mathcal{F}_{2}}^{\mathcal{F}_{2}} \frac{p_{2}}{p_{2}} \int_{\mathcal{F}_{2}}^{\mathcal{F}_{2}} (p_{1} \leftrightarrow p_{2}) \equiv (p_{1} \lor p_{2}) \land (\neg p_{1} \lor \neg p_{2}) \stackrel{\text{DIMACS}}{\equiv} \begin{array}{c} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ -1 & -2 & 0 \end{array}$$




• Two gears connected by a chain rotate in the same direction.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & & \\ P_1 & & & \\ P_2 & & & \\ P_1 & & \\ P_2 & & \\ P_1 & & \\ P_1 & & \\ P_2 & & \\ P_1 & & \\ P_2 & & \\ P_1 & & \\ P_1 & & \\ P_2 & & \\ P_1 &$$

• Two gears connected directly rotate in opposite directions.

$$\int_{2}^{2} \int_{2}^{2} \int_{2$$





Solution: -1 2 3 -4  $\stackrel{\text{DIMACS}}{\equiv}$   $p_1 = False, p_2 = True, p_3 = True, p_4 = False$ 







Solution 2: 1 -2 -3 4  $\stackrel{\text{DIMACS}}{\equiv}$   $p_1 = True, p_2 = False, p_3 = False, p_4 = True$ 







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#### Solution: UNSATISFIABLE



#### Truth table:

$p_1$	$p_2$	$p_3$	$p_4$	$ eg(p_1 \leftrightarrow p_2)$	$p_2 \leftrightarrow p_3$	$\neg(p_3\leftrightarrow p_4)$	SAT?
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	NO
0	0	0	1	0	1	1	NO
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	NO
0	0	1	1	0	0	1	NO
0	1	0	0	1	0	1	NO
0	1	0	1	1	0	0	NO
0	1	1	0	1	1	1	YES
0	1	1	1	1	1	0	NO
•••					•••		•••



#### Truth table: Exponential size, 2<sup>n</sup>, prohibitive!

$p_1$	<i>p</i> <sub>2</sub>	$p_3$	<i>p</i> <sub>4</sub>	$ eg(p_1 \leftrightarrow p_2)$	$p_2 \leftrightarrow p_3$	$ egin{array}{c} egi$	SAT?
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	NO
0	0	0	1	0	1	1	NO
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	NO
0	0	1	1	0	0	1	NO
0	1	0	0	1	0	1	NO
0	1	0	1	1	0	0	NO
0	1	1	0	1	1	1	YES
0	1	1	1	1	1	0	NO
							•••

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Search tree:





Search tree + pruning:





Search tree + pruning + propagation:





Inference with resolution rule:

$$egreentrian \neg (p_1 \leftrightarrow p_2) \equiv (p_1 \lor p_2) \land (\neg p_1 \lor \neg p_2)$$
 $p_2 \leftrightarrow p_3 \equiv (\neg p_2 \lor p_3) \land (p_2 \lor \neg p_3)$ 



Inference with resolution rule:

$$\neg (p_1 \leftrightarrow p_2) \equiv (p_1 \lor p_2) \land (\neg p_1 \lor \neg p_2)$$

$$p_2 \leftrightarrow p_3 \equiv (\neg p_2 \lor p_3) \land (p_2 \lor \neg p_3)$$

$$\frac{\neg p_1 \lor \neg p_2}{p_1 \lor p_3} \xrightarrow{\neg p_1 \lor \neg p_3} \frac{\neg p_1 \lor \neg p_2}{\neg p_1 \lor \neg p_3}$$

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Inference with resolution rule:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \neg(p_1\leftrightarrow p_2) &\equiv & (p_1\vee p_2)\wedge(\neg p_1\vee \neg p_2) \\ & p_2\leftrightarrow p_3 &\equiv & (\neg p_2\vee p_3)\wedge(p_2\vee \neg p_3) \end{array} \\ \\ \hline \frac{p_1\vee p_2}{p_1\vee p_3} & & \frac{\neg p_1\vee \neg p_2}{\neg p_1\vee \neg p_3} \\ & \neg(p_1\leftrightarrow p_3) &\equiv & (p_1\vee p_3)\wedge(\neg p_1\vee \neg p_3) \end{array}$$





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#### Viewpoint

1 2 3 4 5 0

 $a_1/b_2/c_3/d_4/e_5$ : Alice/Bob/Carol/David/Eve is the impostor

### Constraints

At least one impostor:  $a_1 \lor b_2 \lor c_3 \lor d_4 \lor e_5$ At most one impostor:

0

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#### Viewpoint

 $a_1/b_2/c_3/d_4/e_5:$  Alice/Bob/Carol/David/Eve is the impostor

Constraints

**Exactly one impostor** 





#### Viewpoint

 $a_1/b_2/c_3/d_4/e_5:$  Alice/Bob/Carol/David/Eve is the impostor

Constraints

Exactly one impostor

What if we add  $a_1 \stackrel{\text{DIMACS}}{\equiv} 1$  0?





#### Viewpoint

 $a_1/b_2/c_3/d_4/e_5\colon$  Alice/Bob/Carol/David/Eve is the impostor

Constraints

Exactly one impostor

What if we add  $a_1 \stackrel{\text{DIMACS}}{\equiv} 1$  0? Yes, Alice **can be** the impostor.

 $a_1 = True, b_2 = False, c_3 = False, d_4 = False, e_5 = False$ 





#### Viewpoint

 $a_1/b_2/c_3/d_4/e_5\colon$  Alice/Bob/Carol/David/Eve is the impostor

Constraints

#### Exactly one impostor

What if we add  $a_1 \stackrel{\text{DIMACS}}{\equiv} 1$  0? Yes, Alice **can be** the impostor.

$$a_1 = True, b_2 = False, c_3 = False, d_4 = False, e_5 = False$$

Is Alice the impostor?





#### Viewpoint

 $a_1/b_2/c_3/d_4/e_5\colon$  Alice/Bob/Carol/David/Eve is the impostor

Constraints

### Exactly one impostor

What if we add  $a_1 \stackrel{\text{DIMACS}}{\equiv} 1$  0? Yes, Alice **can be** the impostor.

$$a_1 = True, b_2 = False, c_3 = False, d_4 = False, e_5 = False$$

Is Alice the impostor? Now add  $\neg a_1 \stackrel{\text{DIMACS}}{\equiv} -1$  0 instead.





#### Viewpoint

 $a_1/b_2/c_3/d_4/e_5:$  Alice/Bob/Carol/David/Eve is the impostor

Constraints

#### Exactly one impostor

What if we add  $a_1 \stackrel{\text{DIMACS}}{\equiv} 1$  0? Yes, Alice **can be** the impostor.

$$a_1 = True, b_2 = False, c_3 = False, d_4 = False, e_5 = False$$

Is Alice the impostor? Now add  $\neg a_1 \stackrel{\text{DIMACS}}{\equiv} \neg 1$  0 instead. Alice **can also be** the real mother.

$$a_1 = False, b_2 = False, c_3 = False, d_4 = True, e_5 = False$$



Let's add more clues: recessive treats! E.g.: blue eyes are recessive.







### Viewpoint

 $A_6/B_7/C_8/D_9/E_{10}:$  Alice/Bob/Carol/David/Eve has blue eyes.

#### Constraints

If neither the parent nor the child are impostor, and the parents have blue eyes, then the child has blue eyes.

$$eg a_1 \wedge \neg b_2 \wedge \neg c_3 \wedge A_6 \wedge B_7 \rightarrow C_8$$





### Viewpoint

 $A_6/B_7/C_8/D_9/E_{10}:$  Alice/Bob/Carol/David/Eve has blue eyes.

### Constraints

If neither the parent nor the child are impostor, and the parents have blue eyes, then the child has blue eyes.

 $a_1 \lor b_2 \lor c_3 \lor \neg A_6 \lor \neg B_7 \lor C_8$ 





#### Viewpoint

 $A_6/B_7/C_8/D_9/E_{10}:$  Alice/Bob/Carol/David/Eve has blue eyes.

#### Constraints

If neither the parent nor the child are impostor, and the parents have blue eyes, then the child has blue eyes.







c Inheritance of blue eyes rules 1 2 3 -6 -7 8 0 1 2 4 -6 -7 9 0 1 2 5 -6 -7 10 0 c Eye color of the family members 6 0 70 8 0 -9 0 -10 0



- Can Alice be the impostor? 1 0
- Can Alice be a real family member? -1 0
- Can Bob be the impostor? 2 0
- Can Bob be a real family member? -2 0
- Can Carol be the impostor? 3 0
- Can Carol be a real family member? -3 0
- Can David be the impostor? 4 0
- Can David be a real family member? -4 0
- Can Eve be the impostor? 5 0
- Can Eve be a real family member? -5 0



- Can Alice be the impostor? 1 0 YES
- Can Alice be a real family member? -1 0 YES
- Can Bob be the impostor? 2 0 YES
- Can Bob be a real family member? -2 0 YES
- Can Carol be the impostor? 3 0 NO
- Can Carol be a real family member? -3 0 YES
- Can David be the impostor? 4 0 NO
- Can David be a real family member? -4 0 YES
- Can Eve be the impostor? 5 0 NO
- Can Eve be a real family member? -5 0 YES





c Inheritance of blue eyes rules 1 2 3 -6 -7 8 0 1 2 4 -6 -7 9 0 1 2 5 -6 -7 10 0 c Eye color of the family members 6 0 70 8 0 -9 0 -10 0c Extra: either Alice or Carol are impostor С 1 3 0 э

Bob

Eve



- Can Alice be the impostor? 1 0
- Can Alice be a real family member? -1 0
- Can Bob be the impostor? 2 0
- Can Bob be a real family member? -2 0
- Can Carol be the impostor? 3 0
- Can Carol be a real family member? -3 0
- Can David be the impostor? 4 0
- Can David be a real family member? -4 0
- Can Eve be the impostor? 5 0
- Can Eve be a real family member? -5 0



- Can Alice be the impostor? 1 0 YES
- Can Alice be a real family member? -1 0 NO
- Can Bob be the impostor? 2 0 NO
- Can Bob be a real family member? -2 0 YES
- Can Carol be the impostor? 3 0 NO
- Can Carol be a real family member? -3 0 YES
- Can David be the impostor? 4 0 NO
- Can David be a real family member? -4 0 YES
- Can Eve be the impostor? 5 0 NO
- Can Eve be a real family member? -5 0 YES





### ALICE IS THE IMPOSTOR

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Image: A matched and A matc

Who is the impostor?





$$\frac{\begin{array}{c}a_{1} \lor b_{2} \lor d_{4} \lor \neg A_{6} \lor \neg B_{7} \lor D_{9} & A_{6}\\\hline a_{1} \lor b_{2} \lor d_{4} \lor \neg B_{7} \lor D_{9} & B_{7}\\\hline a_{1} \lor b_{2} \lor d_{4} \lor D_{9} & \neg D_{9}\\\hline a_{1} \lor b_{2} \lor d_{4} \lor D_{9} & \end{array}}{}$$

If Alice,Bob,David are not impostor, and Alice,Bob have blue eyes  $\rightarrow$  David has blue eyes Alice has blue eyes Bob has blue eyes David has not blue eyes Either Alice, Bob or David is impostor

Who is the impostor?





$$\frac{a_1 \lor b_2 \lor e_5 \lor \neg A_6 \lor \neg B_7 \lor E_{10} \qquad A_6}{\underline{a_1 \lor b_2 \lor e_5 \lor \neg B_7 \lor E_{10}} \qquad B_7} \\
\underline{a_1 \lor b_2 \lor e_5 \lor E_{10}} \\
\underline{a_1 \lor b_2 \lor e_5 \lor E_{10}} \qquad \neg E_{10}$$

If Alice,Bob,Eve are not impostor, and Alice,Bob have blue eyes  $\rightarrow$  Eve has blue eyes Alice has blue eyes Bob has blue eyes Eve has not blue eyes Either Alice, Bob or Eve is impostor





Either Alice, Bob or David is impostor Either Alice, Bob or Eve is impostor Either Alice or Carol impostor There is at most one impostor Alice is impostor
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## Conclusions and remarks



#### • There exist many symbolic formalisms to solve challenging problems.

- They are usually interreducible.
- Different underlying solving techniques.
- No approach is the best in all fields.
- They are used to solve computationally hard problems.
- They can handle huge numbers of variables and constraints.

• Having a good encoding is as much important as having a good solver.

## Conclusions and remarks



• Puzzle problems are suitable for learning on symbolic Al.

- Solving CSPs is an increasing (and never ending?) challenge:
  - Solve the problem correctly.
  - Solve the problem more efficiently.

• Model and solve is a good exercise to train abstraction and reasoning capacities.

# Some Challenges of Problem Solving



- Complete versus incomplete solvers.
- Hybrid approaches to increase scalability.
- Combining machine learning and symbolic reasoning.
- Improved modeling tools.
- Providing human-understandable explanations for the derived solutions.
- Publicly available solvers and benchmarks. Competitions of solvers.
- Green algorithms.

# Resources



#### CSPLib: A problem library for constraints

• CSP library: https://www.csplib.org/

## SAT and MaxSAT

- SAT solver online:
  - https://msoos.github.io/cryptominisat\_web/
- Python library OptiLog:
  - https://ulog.udl.cat/static/doc/optilog/html/index.html
- Competitions (Dimacs format, instances, solvers, ...):
  - https://satcompetition.github.io/2022/
  - https://maxsat-evaluations.github.io/2022/

## SMT

- Competition (SMTLIB format, benchmarks, solvers, ...):
  - https://smt-comp.github.io/2022/

## Resources



#### Mixed Integer Linear Programming

Solvers:

- GNU Linear Programming Kit: https://www.gnu.org/software/glpk/
- IBM ILOG CPLEX:

https://www.ibm.com/es-es/products/ilog-cplex-optimization-studio

• SCIP: https://www.scipopt.org/

## **Constraint Programming**

- CP languages and solvers:
  - Essence' and SavileRow: https://savilerow.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/
  - Minizinc: https://www.minizinc.org/
  - IBM ILOG CP Optimizer:

https://www.ibm.com/es-es/analytics/cplex-cp-optimizer



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