

Recursive Backdoors for SAT

Nikolas Mählmann, Sebastian Siebertz, Alexandre Vigny

23.08.2021



University
of Bremen

The SAT Problem

Input: a formula ϕ of propositional logic

Output: does there exists a satisfying assignment for ϕ ?

The SAT Problem

Input: a formula ϕ of propositional logic

Output: does there exists a satisfying assignment for ϕ ?

Examples:

$$(x_- \vee y_+) \wedge (x_+ \vee z_+)$$

The SAT Problem

Input: a formula ϕ of propositional logic

Output: does there exists a satisfying assignment for ϕ ?

Examples:

$(x_- \vee y_+) \wedge (x_+ \vee z_+)$ is SAT

The SAT Problem

Input: a formula ϕ of propositional logic

Output: does there exists a satisfying assignment for ϕ ?

Examples:

$(x_- \vee y_+) \wedge (x_+ \vee z_+)$ is SAT

$(x_+ \vee y_+) \wedge (x_-) \wedge (y_-)$

The SAT Problem

Input: a formula ϕ of propositional logic

Output: does there exists a satisfying assignment for ϕ ?

Examples:

$(x_- \vee y_+) \wedge (x_+ \vee z_+)$ is SAT

$(x_+ \vee y_+) \wedge (x_-) \wedge (y_-)$ is UNSAT

There exist tractable base classes of formulas:

- 2CNF: each clause contains at most two literals
- Horn: each clause contains at most one positive literal

However real world instances are often less homogenous!

Tractable Base Classes

There exist tractable base classes of formulas:

- 2CNF: each clause contains at most two literals
- Horn: each clause contains at most one positive literal

However real world instances are often less homogenous!

$$\phi = (x_{1-} \vee x_{2-} \vee x_{3+} \vee x_{4+}) \wedge (x_{4+} \vee x_{5+}) \wedge (x_{5+} \vee x_{6+}) \wedge \dots$$

Tractable Base Classes

There exist tractable base classes of formulas:

- 2CNF: each clause contains at most two literals
- Horn: each clause contains at most one positive literal

However real world instances are often less homogenous!

$$\phi = (x_{1-} \vee x_{2-} \vee x_{3+} \vee x_{4+}) \wedge (x_{4+} \vee x_{5+}) \wedge (x_{5+} \vee x_{6+}) \wedge \dots$$

ϕ is not in 2CNF but very *close* to 2CNF.

Backdoors for SAT

A *backdoor* B of ϕ to \mathcal{C} is a set of variables that reduces ϕ to a formula from \mathcal{C} **no matter which assignment is chosen**.

Backdoors for SAT

A *backdoor* B of ϕ to \mathcal{C} is a set of variables that reduces ϕ to a formula from \mathcal{C} **no matter which assignment is chosen**.

Example:

$$\phi = (x_{1-} \vee x_{2-} \vee x_{3+} \vee x_{4+}) \wedge (x_{4+} \vee x_{5+}) \wedge (x_{5+} \vee x_{6+}) \wedge \dots$$

$\{x_1, x_2\}$ is a backdoor of ϕ to 2CNF.

Backdoors for SAT

A *backdoor* B of ϕ to \mathcal{C} is a set of variables that reduces ϕ to a formula from \mathcal{C} **no matter which assignment is chosen**.

Example:

$$\phi = (x_{1-} \vee x_{2-} \vee x_{3+} \vee x_{4+}) \wedge (x_{4+} \vee x_{5+}) \wedge (x_{5+} \vee x_{6+}) \wedge \dots$$

$\{x_1, x_2\}$ is a backdoor of ϕ to 2CNF.

$$\phi[x_{1+}, x_{2+}] =$$

$$\phi[x_{1-}, x_{2+}] =$$

$$\phi[x_{1+}, x_{2-}] =$$

$$\phi[x_{1-}, x_{2-}] =$$

Backdoors for SAT

A *backdoor* B of ϕ to \mathcal{C} is a set of variables that reduces ϕ to a formula from \mathcal{C} **no matter which assignment is chosen**.

Example:

$$\phi = (x_{1-} \vee x_{2-} \vee x_{3+} \vee x_{4+}) \wedge (x_{4+} \vee x_{5+}) \wedge (x_{5+} \vee x_{6+}) \wedge \dots$$

$\{x_1, x_2\}$ is a backdoor of ϕ to 2CNF.

$$\phi[x_{1+}, x_{2+}] = (x_{3+} \vee x_{4+}) \wedge (x_{4+} \vee x_{5+}) \wedge (x_{5+} \vee x_{6+}) \wedge \dots$$

$$\phi[x_{1-}, x_{2+}] =$$

$$\phi[x_{1+}, x_{2-}] =$$

$$\phi[x_{1-}, x_{2-}] =$$

Backdoors for SAT

A *backdoor* B of ϕ to \mathcal{C} is a set of variables that reduces ϕ to a formula from \mathcal{C} **no matter which assignment is chosen**.

Example:

$$\phi = (x_{1-} \vee x_{2-} \vee x_{3+} \vee x_{4+}) \wedge (x_{4+} \vee x_{5+}) \wedge (x_{5+} \vee x_{6+}) \wedge \dots$$

$\{x_1, x_2\}$ is a backdoor of ϕ to 2CNF.

$$\phi[x_{1+}, x_{2+}] = (x_{3+} \vee x_{4+}) \wedge (x_{4+} \vee x_{5+}) \wedge (x_{5+} \vee x_{6+}) \wedge \dots$$

$$\phi[x_{1-}, x_{2+}] = (x_{4+} \vee x_{5+}) \wedge (x_{5+} \vee x_{6+}) \wedge \dots$$

$$\phi[x_{1+}, x_{2-}] = (x_{4+} \vee x_{5+}) \wedge (x_{5+} \vee x_{6+}) \wedge \dots$$

$$\phi[x_{1-}, x_{2-}] = (x_{4+} \vee x_{5+}) \wedge (x_{5+} \vee x_{6+}) \wedge \dots$$

Using Backdoors to Solve SAT

Algorithm: Given a backdoor of ϕ of size k to some tractable class \mathcal{C} , test every of the 2^k possible assignments.

Runtime complexity:

$$2^k \cdot \text{poly}(|\phi|)$$

Using Backdoors to Solve SAT

Algorithm: Given a backdoor of ϕ of size k to some tractable class \mathcal{C} , test every of the 2^k possible assignments.

Runtime complexity:

$$2^k \cdot \text{poly}(|\phi|)$$

Fixed Parameter Tractability: Running times of the form:

$$\mathcal{O}(f(k) \cdot |\phi|^c)$$

are efficient for small k .

Using Backdoors to Solve SAT

Algorithm: Given a backdoor of ϕ of size k to some tractable class \mathcal{C} , test every of the 2^k possible assignments.

Runtime complexity:

$$2^k \cdot \text{poly}(|\phi|)$$

Fixed Parameter Tractability: Running times of the form:

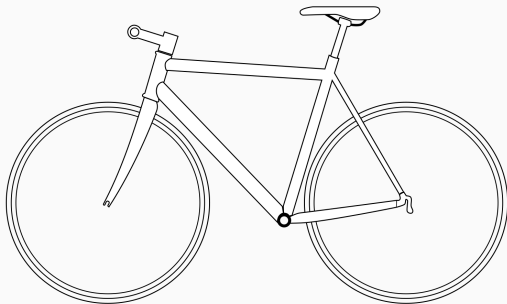
$$\mathcal{O}(f(k) \cdot |\phi|^c)$$

are efficient for small k .

There exists fpt backdoor detection algorithms to 2CNF, Horn, ...

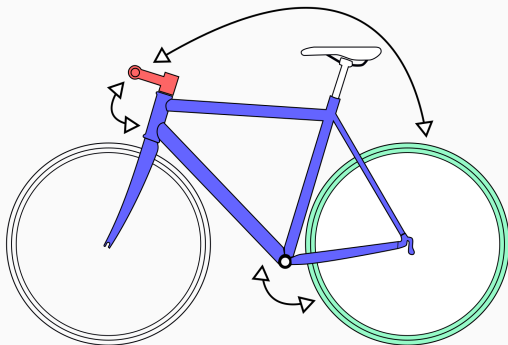
Motivation for Recursive Backdoors

handlebars : {straight, riser, drops, wide}
frameset : {city, racing, mtb}
tire width : {21mm, 23mm, 28mm, 30mm, 35mm, 50mm}



Motivation for Recursive Backdoors

handlebars : {straight, riser, drops, wide}
frameset : {city, racing, mtb}
tire width : {21mm, 23mm, 28mm, 30mm, 35mm, 50mm}



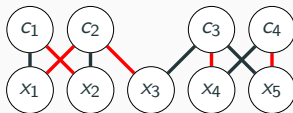
Motivation for Recursive Backdoors

handlebars : {straight, riser, drops}
frameset : racing
tire width : {21mm, 23mm, 28mm}



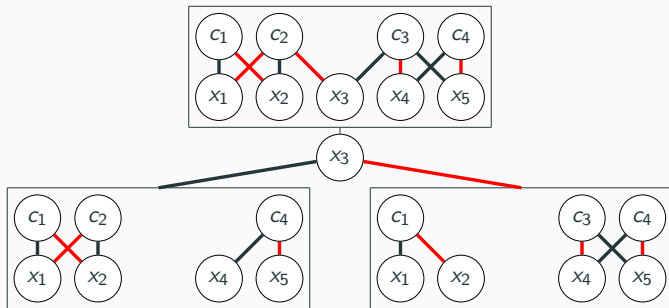
Recursive Backdoors

$$(x_{1+} \vee x_{2-}) \wedge (x_{1-} \vee x_{2+} \vee x_{3-}) \wedge (x_{3+} \vee x_{4-} \vee x_{5+}) \wedge (x_{4+} \vee x_{5-})$$



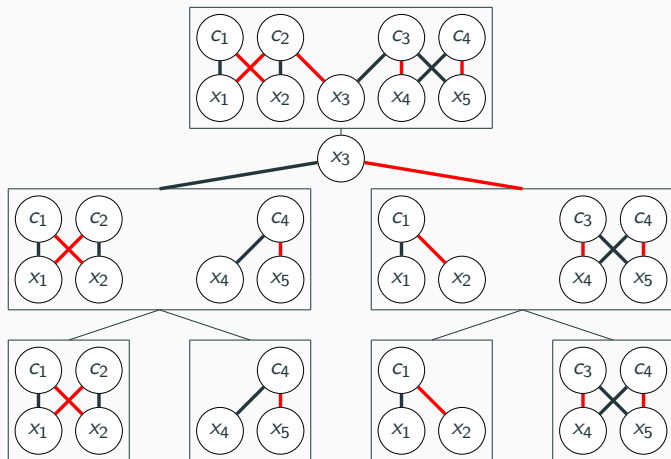
Recursive Backdoors

$$(x_{1+} \vee x_{2-}) \wedge (x_{1-} \vee x_{2+} \vee x_{3-}) \wedge (x_{3+} \vee x_{4-} \vee x_{5+}) \wedge (x_{4+} \vee x_{5-})$$



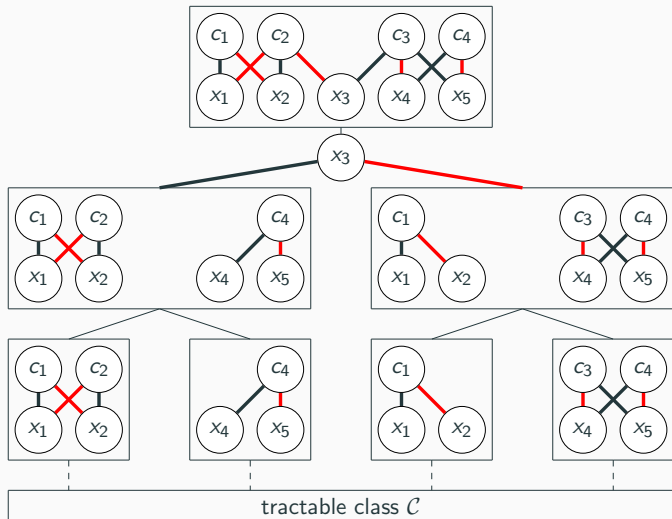
Recursive Backdoors

$$(x_{1+} \vee x_{2-}) \wedge (x_{1-} \vee x_{2+} \vee x_{3-}) \wedge (x_{3+} \vee x_{4-} \vee x_{5+}) \wedge (x_{4+} \vee x_{5-})$$



Recursive Backdoors

$$(x_{1+} \vee x_{2-}) \wedge (x_{1-} \vee x_{2+} \vee x_{3-}) \wedge (x_{3+} \vee x_{4-} \vee x_{5+}) \wedge (x_{4+} \vee x_{5-})$$



Definition (Mählmann, Siebertz, Vigny)

$$\text{rbd}_{\mathcal{C}}(G) = \begin{cases} \text{if } G \in \mathcal{C}: \\ 0 \end{cases}$$

Definition (Mählmann, Siebertz, Vigny)

$$\text{rbd}_{\mathcal{C}}(G) = \begin{cases} \text{if } G \in \mathcal{C}: \\ 0 \\ \text{if } G \notin \mathcal{C} \text{ and } G \text{ is connected:} \\ 1 + \min_{x \in \text{var}(G)} \max_{\star \in \{+, -\}} \text{rbd}_{\mathcal{C}}(G[x_{\star}]) \end{cases}$$

Definition (Mählmann, Siebertz, Vigny)

$$\text{rbd}_{\mathcal{C}}(G) = \begin{cases} \text{if } G \in \mathcal{C}: \\ 0 \\ \\ \text{if } G \notin \mathcal{C} \text{ and } G \text{ is connected:} \\ 1 + \min_{x \in \text{var}(G)} \max_{\star \in \{+, -\}} \text{rbd}_{\mathcal{C}}(G[x_{\star}]) \\ \\ \text{otherwise:} \\ \max \{ \text{rbd}_{\mathcal{C}}(H) : H \text{ connected component of } G \} \end{cases}$$

depth of a RB $\hat{=}$ maximal number of variables on a path between the root and a leaf

depth of a RB $\hat{=}$ maximal number of variables on a path between the root and a leaf

RBs with a limited depth can contain an **unbounded** number of variables!

depth of a RB $\hat{=}$ maximal number of variables on a path between the root and a leaf

RBs with a limited depth can contain an **unbounded** number of variables!

Given a RB of ϕ of depth k to a tractable class \mathcal{C} we can decide satisfiability of ϕ in time:

$$2^k \cdot \text{poly}(|\phi|)$$

Again we need an fpt detection algorithm for RBs:

Input: (ϕ, k)

Output:

- There exists no RB of depth at most k for ϕ , or
- a RB of depth $g(k)$.

Again we need an fpt detection algorithm for RBs:

Input: (ϕ, k)

Output:

- There exists no RB of depth at most k for ϕ , or
- a RB of depth $g(k)$.

Base Class: $\mathcal{C}_0 \hat{=}$ the class of edgeless incidence graphs

Again we need an fpt detection algorithm for RBs:

Input: (ϕ, k)

Output:

- There exists no RB of depth at most k for ϕ , or
- a RB of depth $g(k)$.

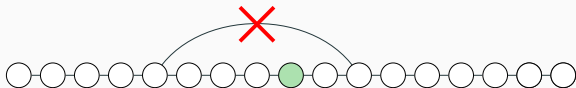
Base Class: $\mathcal{C}_0 \triangleq$ the class of edgeless incidence graphs

Theorem (Mählmann, Siebertz, Vigny)

RB detection to \mathcal{C}_0 is fixed parameter tractable.

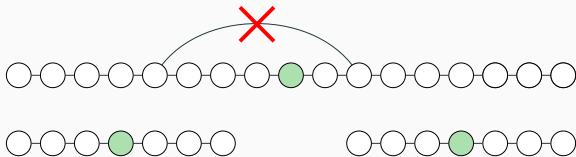
Bounded Diameter

RB to \mathcal{C}_0 of depth $\leq k$ implies diameter $\leq \lambda_k := 4 \cdot 2^k$.



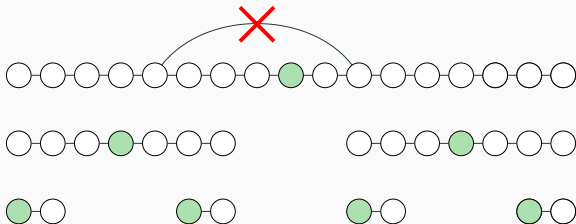
Bounded Diameter

RB to \mathcal{C}_0 of depth $\leq k$ implies diameter $\leq \lambda_k := 4 \cdot 2^k$.



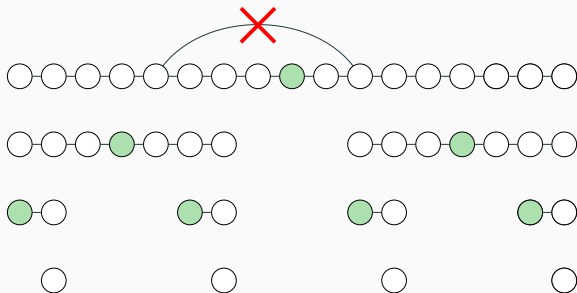
Bounded Diameter

RB to \mathcal{C}_0 of depth $\leq k$ implies diameter $\leq \lambda_k := 4 \cdot 2^k$.



Bounded Diameter

RB to \mathcal{C}_0 of depth $\leq k$ implies diameter $\leq \lambda_k := 4 \cdot 2^k$.



Bounded Clause Degree

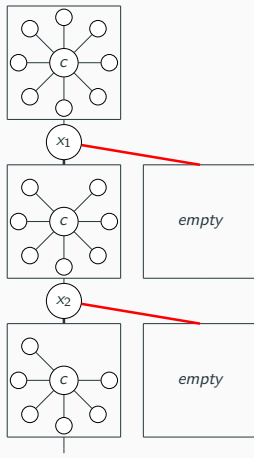
RB to \mathcal{C}_0 of depth $\leq k$ implies clause degree $\leq k$.

$(x_{1-} \vee x_{2-} \vee \dots \vee x_{k-})$

Bounded Clause Degree

RB to \mathcal{C}_0 of depth $\leq k$ implies clause degree $\leq k$.

$(x_{1_} \vee x_{2_} \vee \dots \vee x_{k_})$



Obstruction-Trees: $k = d$

Given: an incidence graph G with maximal clause degree $d \leq k$

Obstruction-Trees: $k = d$

Given: an incidence graph G with maximal clause degree $d \leq k$

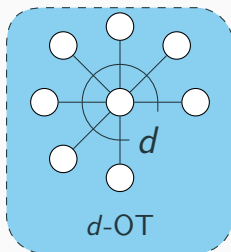
A k -obstruction-tree is a subgraph that guarantees G to have RB depth at least k .

Obstruction-Trees: $k = d$

Given: an incidence graph G with maximal clause degree $d \leq k$

A k -obstruction-tree is a subgraph that guarantees G to have RB depth at least k .

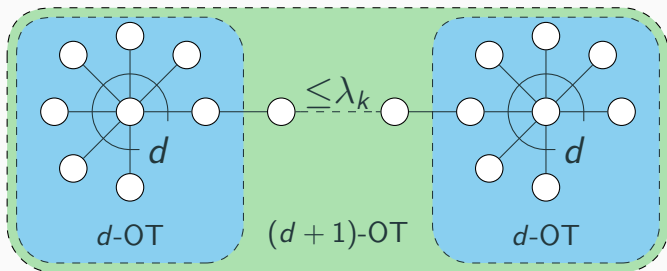
For $k = d$:



→ a d -clause in G is a d -obstruction-tree.

Obstruction-Trees: $k = d + 1$

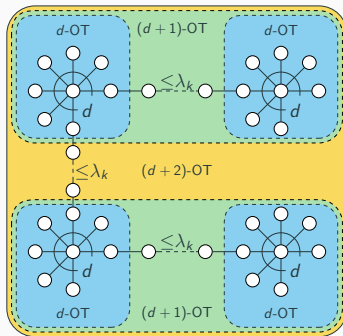
For $k = d + 1$:



→ two connected and **variable disjoint** d -clauses in G form a $(d+1)$ -obstruction-tree.

Obstruction-Trees: $k = i$

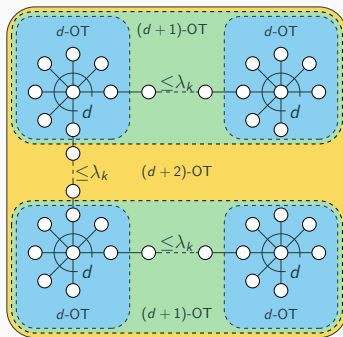
For $k = i + 1$:



→ two connected i -OTs with disjoint “neighborhoods” in G form an $(i+1)$ -OT.

Obstruction-Trees: $k = i$

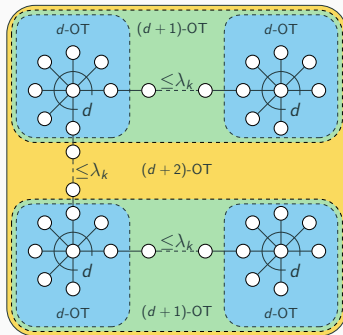
For $k = i + 1$:



→ two connected i -OTs with disjoint “neighborhoods” in G form an $(i+1)$ -OT.

→ the neighborhood of an obstruction-tree contains at most $f(k)$ variables

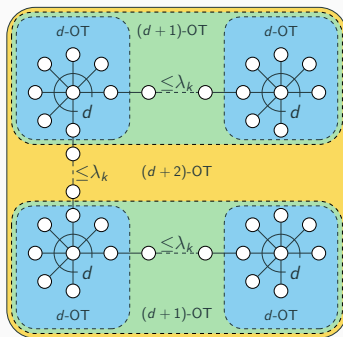
Searching for Obstruction-Trees



Given ϕ with maximal clause degree d , there exists an algorithm SEARCH_i that either:

- finds an i -obstruction-tree, or

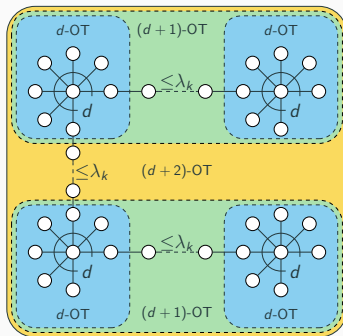
Searching for Obstruction-Trees



Given ϕ with maximal clause degree d , there exists an algorithm SEARCH_i that either:

- finds an i -obstruction-tree, or
- finds an RB with bounded depth to \mathcal{C}_{d-1} , or

Searching for Obstruction-Trees



Given ϕ with maximal clause degree d , there exists an algorithm SEARCH_i that either:

- finds an i -obstruction-tree, or
- finds an RB with bounded depth to \mathcal{C}_{d-1} , or
- concludes that no RB of depth $\leq k$ to \mathcal{C}_0 exists

Summary

What we have seen:

- Backdoors classify tractable SAT instances
- RBs generalize SAT backdoors and extend their power
- RB detection to \mathcal{C}_0 is fixed parameter tractable

Summary

What we have seen:

- Backdoors classify tractable SAT instances
- RBs generalize SAT backdoors and extend their power
- RB detection to \mathcal{C}_0 is fixed parameter tractable

What's next?

Theorem (Jan Dreier, Sebastian Ordyniak, Stefan Szeider)

RB detection to 2CNF is fixed parameter tractable.

- Further base classes are still open: Horn, Antihorn, Bounded Treewidth
- RBs to heterogeneous base classes

Summary

What we have seen:

- Backdoors classify tractable SAT instances
- RBs generalize SAT backdoors and extend their power
- RB detection to \mathcal{C}_0 is fixed parameter tractable

What's next?

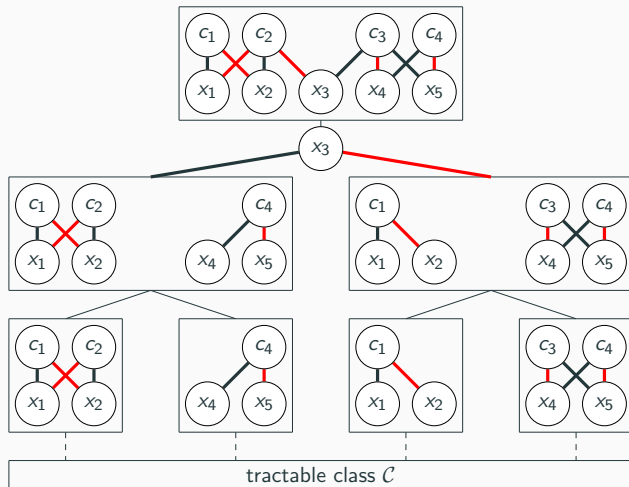
Theorem (Jan Dreier, Sebastian Ordyniak, Stefan Szeider)

RB detection to 2CNF is fixed parameter tractable.

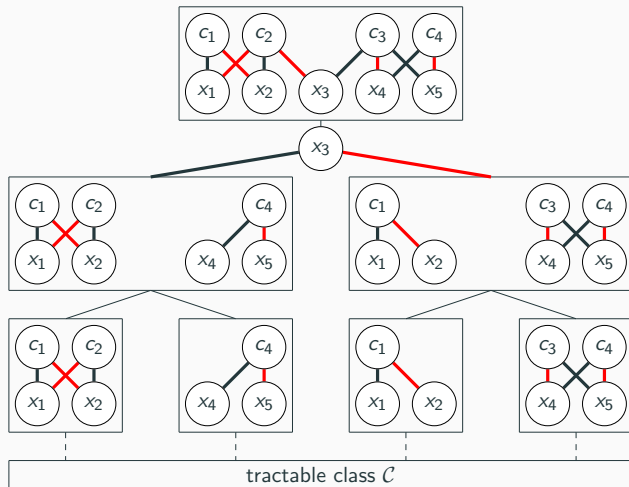
- Further base classes are still open: Horn, Antihorn, Bounded Treewidth
- RBs to heterogeneous base classes

Thank you for listening!

Using RBs to Solve SAT

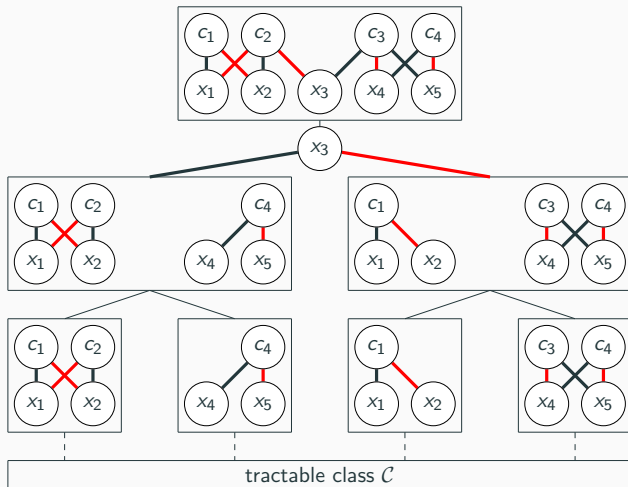


Using RBs to Solve SAT



solve leaves
in $poly(|\phi|)$

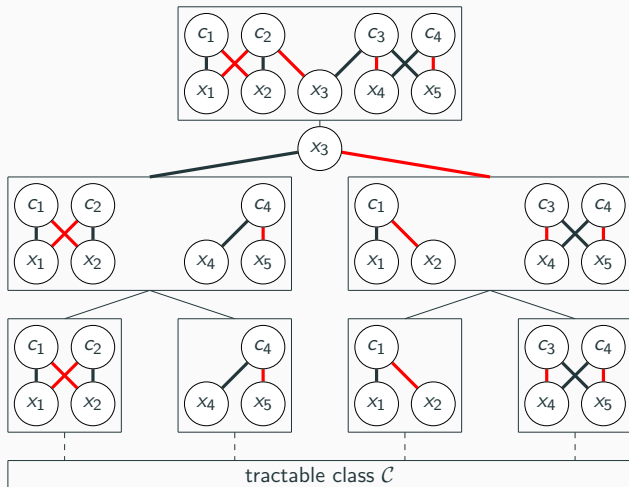
Using RBs to Solve SAT



solve both children
in $2 \cdot 2^{k-1} \cdot \text{poly}(|\phi|)$

solve leaves
in $\text{poly}(|\phi|)$

Using RBs to Solve SAT



solve both children
in $2 \cdot 2^{k-1} \cdot \text{poly}(|\phi|)$

solve all children
using superadditivity:
 $f(n_1 + n_2 + \dots) \geq$
 $f(n_1) + f(n_2) + \dots$

solve leaves
in $\text{poly}(|\phi|)$