

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Boosting Distributed Constraint Networks	5
2.1	Introduction	5
2.2	Previous Work	6
2.3	Technical Background	8
2.3.1	Distributed Constraint Satisfaction Problems	8
2.3.2	DisCSP Algorithms	9
2.3.3	Performance of DisCSP Algorithms	10
2.4	Risks in Search	11
2.4.1	Randomization Risk	11
2.4.2	Selection Risk	13
2.5	Boosting Distributed Constraint Satisfaction	14
2.5.1	Utilizing Competition with Portfolios	15
2.5.2	Utilizing Cooperation with Aggregation	16
2.5.3	Categories of Knowledge	16
2.5.4	Interpretation of Knowledge	17
2.5.5	Implementation of the Knowledge Sharing Policies	17
2.5.6	Complexity	18
2.6	Empirical Evaluation	20
2.6.1	Basic Performance	20
2.6.2	Randomization Risk	21
2.6.3	Selection Risk	22
2.6.4	Performance with Aggregation	23
2.6.5	Scalability	24
2.6.6	Idle Time	25
2.7	Summary	26
3	Parallel Tree Search for Satisfiability	27
3.1	Introduction	27
3.2	Previous Work	28

3.3	Technical Background	29
3.3.1	DPLL Search	30
3.3.2	Modern SAT Solvers	30
3.3.3	Multicore Architectures	31
3.3.4	AIMD Feedback Control-Based Algorithm	31
3.4	ManySAT: A Parallel SAT Solver	32
3.4.1	Restart Policies	32
3.4.2	Heuristic	34
3.4.3	Polarity	34
3.4.4	Learning	35
3.4.5	Clause Sharing	37
3.4.6	Summary	39
3.5	Evaluation	39
3.5.1	Performance Against a Sequential Algorithm	39
3.5.2	Performance Against Other Parallel SAT Solvers	41
3.6	Control-Based Clause Sharing	42
3.6.1	Throughput and Quality-Based Control Policies	43
3.6.2	Experiments	45
3.7	Summary	46
4	Parallel Local Search for Satisfiability	49
4.1	Introduction	49
4.2	Previous Work	50
4.2.1	Incomplete Methods for Parallel SAT	50
4.2.2	Cooperative Sequential Algorithms	50
4.3	Technical Background	51
4.3.1	Local Search for SAT	51
4.3.2	Refinements	52
4.4	Knowledge Sharing in Parallel Local Search for SAT	55
4.4.1	Using Best Known Configurations	55
4.4.2	Weighting Best Known Configurations	55
4.4.3	Restart Policy	56
4.5	Experiments	57
4.5.1	Experimental Settings	57
4.5.2	Practical Performances with Four Cores	58
4.5.3	Practical Performances with Eight Cores	62
4.5.4	Analysis of the Diversification/Intensification Trade-off	63
4.5.5	Analysis of the Limitations of the Hardware	68
4.6	Summary	69
5	Learning Variable Dependencies	71
5.1	Introduction	71
5.2	Previous Work	71
5.3	Technical Background	72
5.4	Exploiting Weak Dependencies in Tree-Based Search	74
5.4.1	Weak Dependencies	74

5.4.2	Example	74
5.4.3	Computing Weak Dependencies	75
5.4.4	The domFD Dynamic Variable Ordering	75
5.4.5	Complexities of domFD	76
5.5	Experiments	77
5.5.1	The Problems	78
5.5.2	Searching for All Solutions or for an Optimal Solution	78
5.5.3	Searching for a Solution with a Classical Branch-and-Prune Strategy	79
5.5.4	Searching for a Solution with a Restart-Based Branch-and-Prune Strategy	80
5.5.5	Synthesis	81
5.6	Summary	82
6	Continuous Search	83
6.1	Introduction	83
6.2	Related Work	84
6.3	Technical Background	85
6.3.1	Constraint Satisfaction Problems	85
6.3.2	Supervised Machine Learning	86
6.4	Continuous Search in Constraint Programming	87
6.5	Dynamic Continuous Search	88
6.5.1	Representing Instances: Feature Definition	88
6.5.2	Feature Pre-processing	90
6.5.3	Learning and Using the Heuristics Model	90
6.5.4	Generating Examples in Exploration Mode	91
6.5.5	Imbalanced Examples	91
6.6	Experimental Validation	92
6.6.1	Experimental Settings	92
6.6.2	Practical Performances	93
6.6.3	The Power of Adaptation	96
6.7	Summary	97
7	Autonomous Search	99
7.1	Introduction	99
7.2	Solver Architecture	101
7.2.1	Problem Modeling/Encoding	102
7.2.2	The Evaluation Function	103
7.2.3	The Solving Algorithm	103
7.2.4	Configuration of the Solver: The Parameters	104
7.2.5	Control	105
7.2.6	Existing Classifications and Taxonomies	105
7.3	Architecture of Autonomous Solvers	107
7.3.1	Control by Self-adaptation	107
7.3.2	Control by Supervised Adaptation	108
7.3.3	Searching for a Solution vs. Solutions for Searching	108

- 7.3.4 A Rule-Based Characterization of Solvers 109
- 7.4 Case Studies 115
 - 7.4.1 Tuning Before Solving 115
 - 7.4.2 Control During Solving 117
 - 7.4.3 Control During Solving in Parallel Search 121
- 7.5 Summary 122
- 8 Conclusion and Perspectives 123**
- References 127**