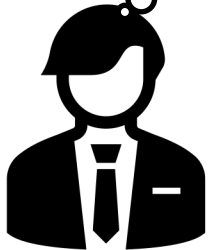
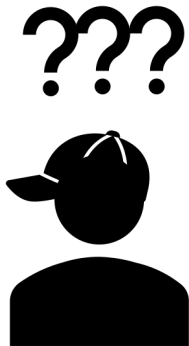


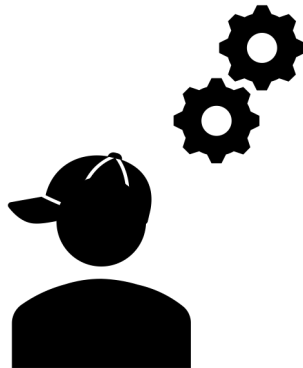
problem

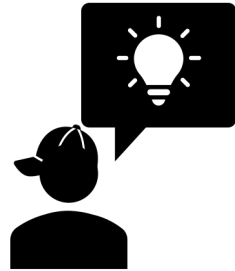
I want **YOU** to  
encode this CP  
problem



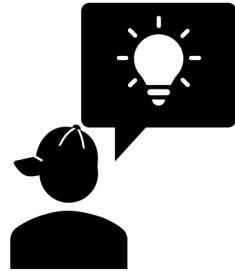
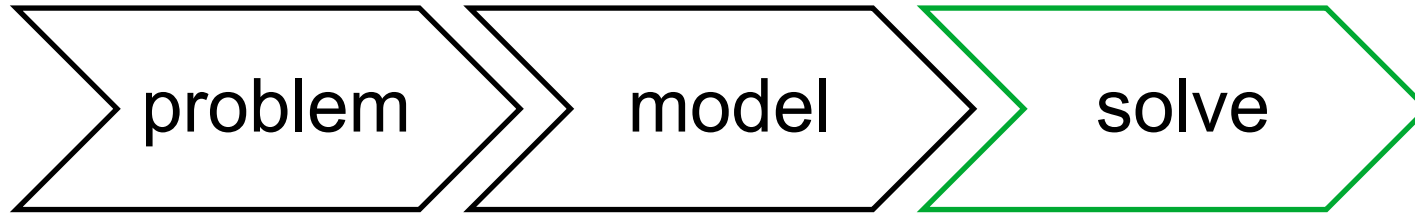
problem



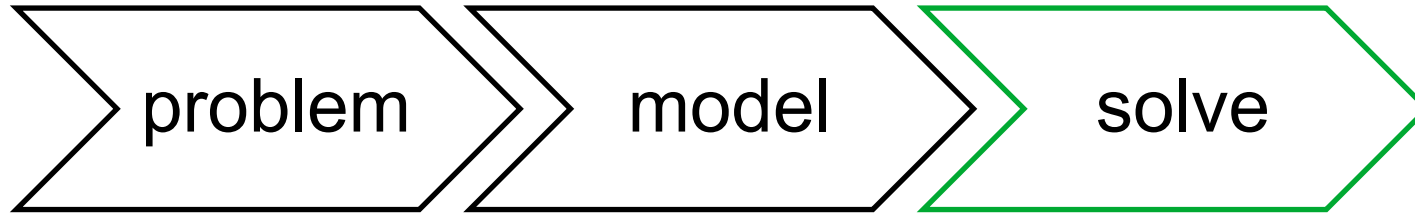




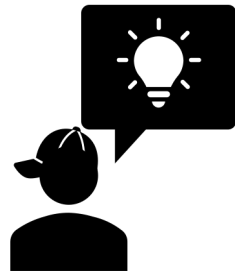
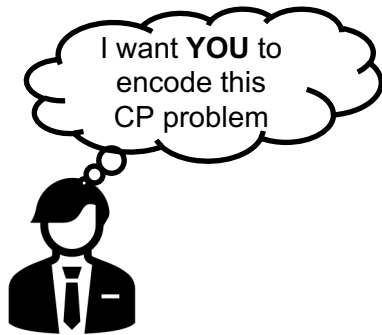
```
x = intvar(-9, 9, name="x")
y = intvar(-9, 9, name="y")
m = Model(
    x < 0,
    x < 1,
    x > 2,
    (x + y > 0) | (y < 0),
    (y >= 0) | (x >= 0),
    (y < 0) | (x < 0),
    (y > 0) | (x < 0),
    AllDifferent(x,y)
)
```



```
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y = intvar(-9, 9, name="y")
m = Model(
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    (y < 0) | (x < 0),
    (y > 0) | (x < 0),
    AllDifferent(x,y)
)
```



UNSAT



```
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  (y >= 0) | (x >= 0),
  (y < 0) | (x < 0),
  (y > 0) | (x < 0),
  AllDifferent(x,y)
)
```

# Solver says UNSAT, what now?

- (Human) modeling error ?
- Problem is over-constrained or unsatisfiable ?

# Talk consists of

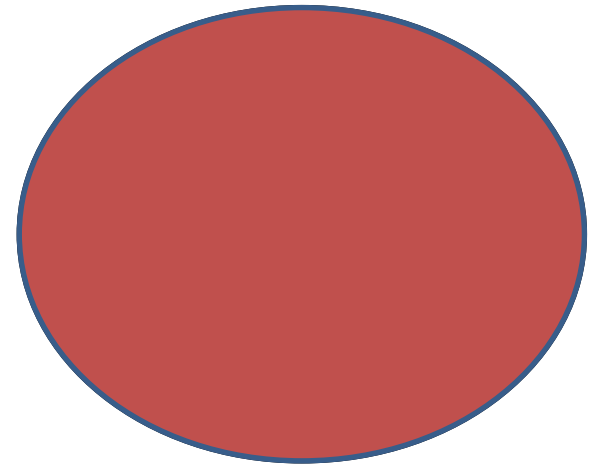
1. Using Constraint Solvers as an oracle, with CPMpy
- 2. Explaining (un)satisfiability: examples of master/sub-problem solving**
3. Advanced examples: Explaining Optimality (using logic cutting-planes)

Conclusion, outlook and questions



# Debugging a model

= Need for an explanation of UNSAT



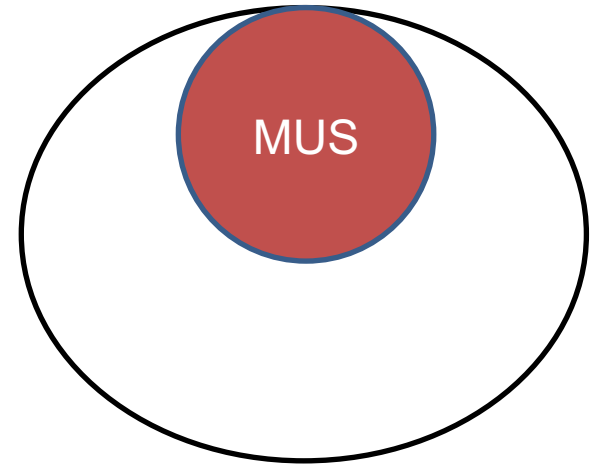
Model

# Debugging a model

= Need for an explanation of UNSAT

1. Identify conflicting constraints as explanation for UNSAT

→ Extract Minimum Unsatisfiable Subset (MUS)  
a.k.a Irreducible Inconsistent Subsystem (IIS)

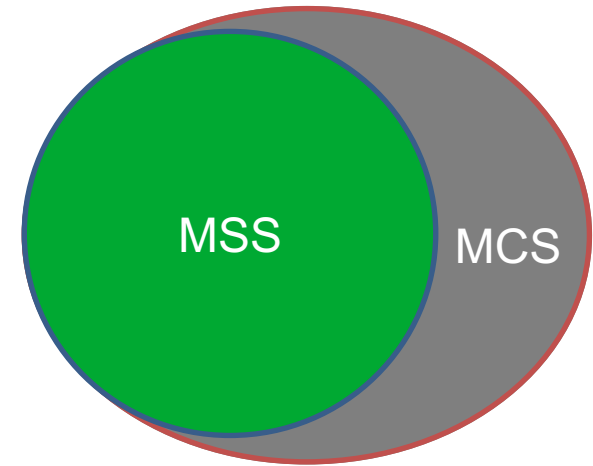


Model

# Debugging a model

= Need for an explanation of UNSAT

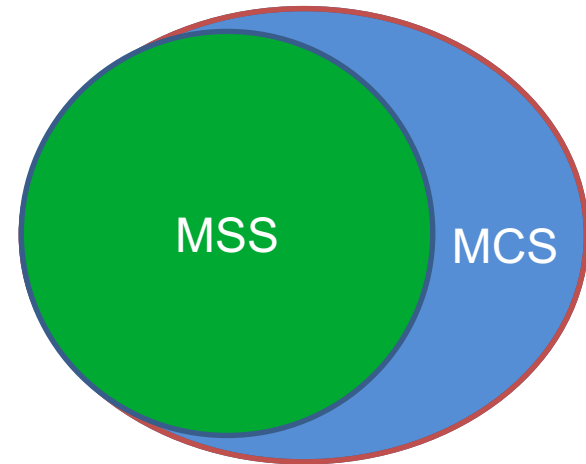
1. Identify conflicting constraints as explanation for UNSAT  
→ Extract Minimum Unsatisfiable Subset (MUS)  
a.k.a Irreducible Inconsistent Subsystem (IIS)
2. Identify **Maximal Satisfiable Subset** (MSS)



# Debugging a model

= Need for an explanation of UNSAT

1. Identify conflicting constraints as explanation for UNSAT  
→ Extract a Minimum Unsatisfiable Subset (MUS)  
a.k.a Irreducible Inconsistent Subsystem (IIS)
2. Identify **Maximal Satisfiable Subset** (MSS)
3. “Correct” the infeasibility in the model  
→ Extract **Minimum Correction Subsets** (MCS)  
*Complement of some MSS, removal/correction leads to a satisfiable subset*



# Debugging a model

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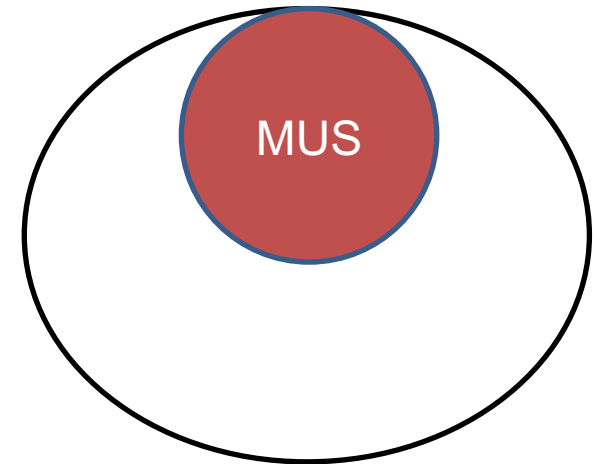
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2. Identify Maximal Satisfiable Subset (MSS)

3. “Correct” the infeasibility in the model

→ Extract Minimum Correction Subsets (MCS)

*Complement of some MSS, removal/correction leads to a satisfiable subset*



Model

# Explaining UNSAT with MUSes

## Methods

1. Some solvers provide an implementation for extracting unsatisfiable cores as explanations of UNSAT.
2. **Deletion-based** Minimal unsatisfiable subsets
  - Iterate over constraints
  - Delete constraints if removing them leaves the model UNSAT

```
def mus(constraints):
    m = Model(constraints)
    assert ~m.solve(), "MUS: model must be UNSAT"

    core = m.get_core() # or all constraints ← 1
    i = 0
    while i < len(core):
        subcore = core[:i] + core[i+1:] # check if all but i makes core SAT

        if Model(subcore).solve():
            i += 1 # removing it makes it SAT, must keep
        else:
            core = subcore # overwrite core, so core[i] is next one ← 2

    return core
```

# *Example of MUS extraction*

[examples/tutorial\\_ijcai22/3\\_musx.ipynb](#)



```
x = IntVar(0,3, shape=4, name="x")
# circular 'bigger than', UNSAT
mus_cons = [
    x[0] > x[1],
    x[1] > x[2],
    x[2] > x[0],

    x[3] > x[0],
    (x[3] > x[1]).implies(x[3] > x[2]) & ((x[3] == 3) | (x[1] == x[2]))
]
```

```
core = m.get_core() # or all constraints
```





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]
```

```
core = m.get_core() # or all constraints
i = 0 # we will dynamically shrink mus vars
while i < len(core):
    # add all other remaining constraints
    subcore = core[:i] + core[i+1:]
```

```
if Model(subcore).solve():
    # with all but 'i' it is SAT, so 'i' belongs to the MUS
    print("\tSAT so in MUS", core[i])
    i += 1
```

```
else:
    # still UNSAT, 'i' does not belong to the MUS
    print("\tUNSAT so not in MUS", core[i])
    # overwrite current 'i' and continue
    core = subcore
```

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SAT so in MUS: (x[0]) > (x[1])

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```

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```

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```

```

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    # overwrite current 'i' and continue
    core = subcore

```

```

SAT so in MUS: (x[0]) > (x[1])
SAT so in MUS: (x[1]) > (x[2])
SAT so in MUS: (x[2]) > (x[0])
UNSAT so not in MUS: (x[3]) > (x[0])
UNSAT so not in MUS: ((x[3]) > (x[1])) -> ((x[3]) > (x[2])) and ((x[3] == 3) or ((x[1] == (x[2])))

```

# Explaining UNSAT with MUSes

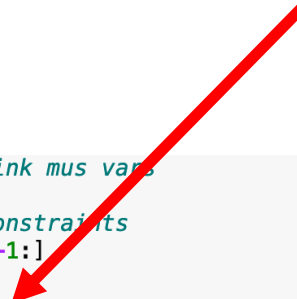
## Methods & Insights

- Some solvers provide unsatisfiable cores as a starting point for debugging
- Deletion-based Minimal unsatisfiable subsets

### KEY Insights

- ✓ Faster if the solver supports unsat core extraction and assumptions especially for larger problems
  - ❑ Most solvers provide an assumption interface
  - ❑ Does not require many modifications
- X Depends on the ordering of the clauses

```
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        # overwrite current 'i' and continue
        core = subcore
```



# *Example of using assumptions for MUS extraction*

[\*examples/tutorial\\_ijcai22/3\\_musx.  
ipynb\*](#)





# Explaining UNSAT with MUSes

## *Methods & Insights*

- Some solvers provide unsatisfiable cores as a starting point for debugging.
- Deletion-based Minimal unsatisfiable subsets

### **KEY Insights**

- ✓ Depends on the ordering of the clauses
- ✓ Faster if the solver supports unsat core extraction and assumptions especially for larger problems
  - ❑ Most solvers provide an assumption interface
  - ❑ Does not require many modifications

*Enumerate all Minimal Unsatisfiable Subsets and  
Maximal Satisfiable Subsets*

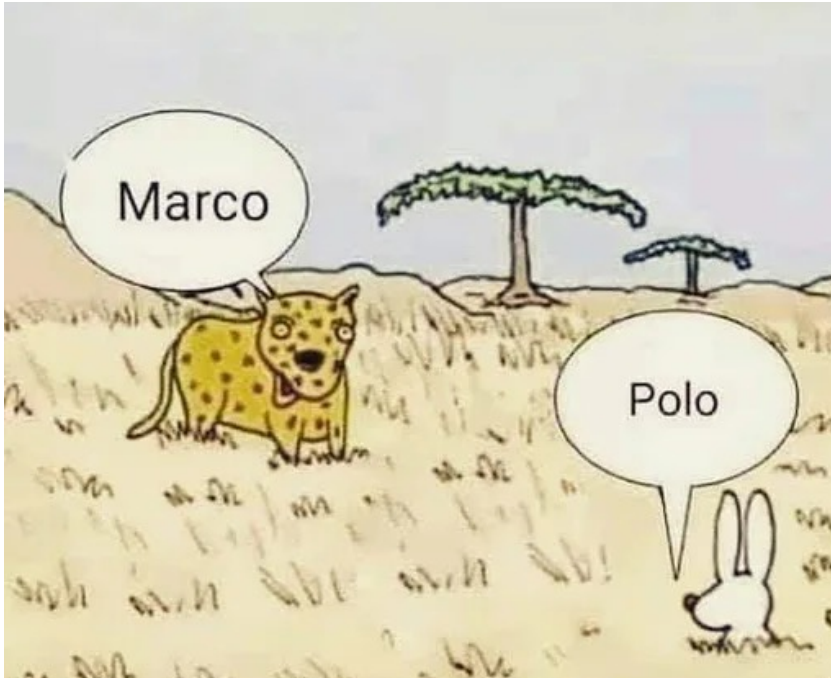
Master  $\leftrightarrow$  sub-problem



Marco Polo  
(1254 – 1324)

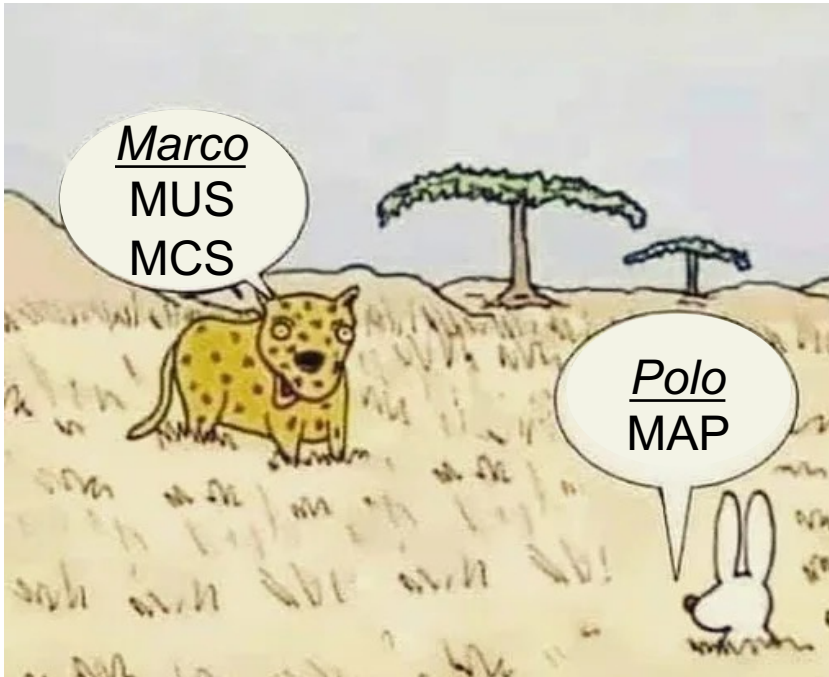
# Marco-Polo

*An example of Master  $\leftrightarrow$  Sub-problem approach*



# Marco-Polo

*An example of Master  $\leftrightarrow$  Sub-problem approach*



**MARCO**: Mapping Regions of Constraints sets

- MUS enumeration algorithm

**POLO**: Power Logic

- “Map” of the powerset as a propositional logic Formula

## MARCO Algorithm

Input: Constraint system  $C$

$Map \leftarrow T$

**while**  $Map$  is satisfiable:

$seed \leftarrow \text{getUnexplored}(Map)$

**if**  $seed$  is satisfiable:

$MSS \leftarrow \text{grow}(seed, C)$

**output**  $MSS$

$Map \leftarrow Map \wedge \text{blockDown}(MSS)$

**else:**

$MUS \leftarrow \text{shrink}(seed, C)$

**output**  $MUS$

$Map \leftarrow Map \wedge \text{blockUp}(MUS)$



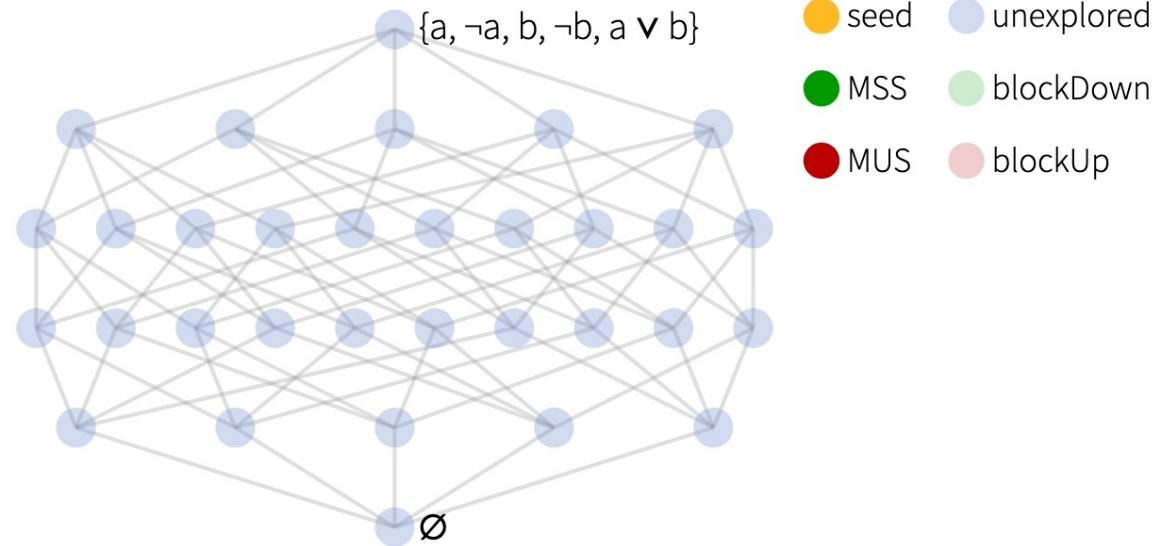
Example input:  $C = \{a, \neg a, b, \neg b, a \vee b\}$

$seed$  :

$Map$  :

$MUSes$  :

$MSSes$  :



# MarcoPolo MUS/MSS enumeration

[examples/tutorial\\_ijcai22/4\\_marco-mus-mcs-enumeration.ipynb](#)



# Explaining UNSAT with MUSes

## *Methods & Insights*

- Deletion-based MUS extracts only 1MUS
- Efficiently enumerate all Minimal Unsatisfiable Subsets and Maximal Satisfiable Subsets
- No guarantee of **cardinal-minimality** (only subset minimal)
  - **Smallest** Minimal Unsatisfiable Subset (SMUS)

or **optimality** with weighted constraints

→ **Optimal (Constrained)** Unsatisfiable Subset (OCUS)



Master  $\leftrightarrow$  Sub-problem

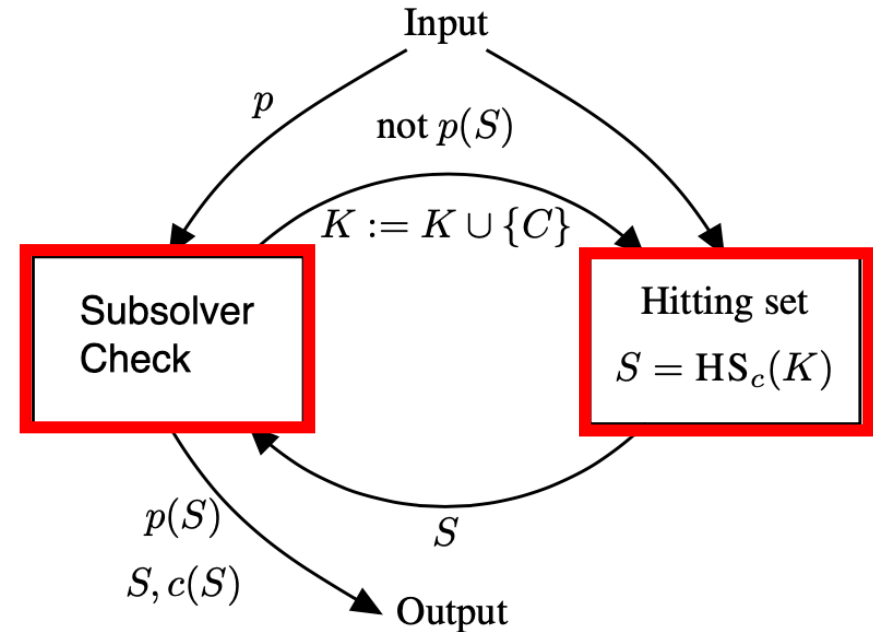
*Implicit hitting set algorithms*

# Master $\leftrightarrow$ Sub-problem approach

## Implicit hitting set algorithms

General Structure:

1. Find minimum hitting set
2. Call subsolver for checking (SAT, UNSAT ....)



# Master $\leftrightarrow$ Sub-problem approach

## *Implicit hitting set algorithms*

### ***Smallest MUS [1] and Optimal (C)US [2]:***

- Deciding whether a MUS of size  $\leq k$  is  $\Sigma_p^2$ -complete
- Extracting a smallest MUS (OCUS/SMUS) is in  $FP^{\Sigma_p^2}$

Based on the implicit hitting set duality between **MCSs** and **MUSs**:

- Also used for MaxSAT, the dual of the OCUS-problem, i.e. MaxHS [3]

A set  $S \subseteq F$  is a MCS of  $F$  if and only if it is a *minimum hitting set* of  $MUSs(F)$ .

A set  $S \subseteq F$  is a MUS of  $F$  if and only if it is a *minimum hitting set* of  $MCSs(F)$ .

[1] E. Gamba, B. Bogaerts, T. Guns, Efficiently Explaining CSPs with Unsatisfiable Subset Optimization, IJCAI 2021

[2] A. Ignatiev, et al. "Smallest MUS extraction with minimal hitting set dualization." CP 2015.

[3] J. Davies, and B.Fahiem. "Exploiting the power of MIP solvers in MAXSAT." SAT 2013.

# Optimal Constrained Unsatisfiable Subsets

## *Implicit hitting set-based algorithm*

→ uses an implicit hitting set algorithm (like SMUS and MaxHS)

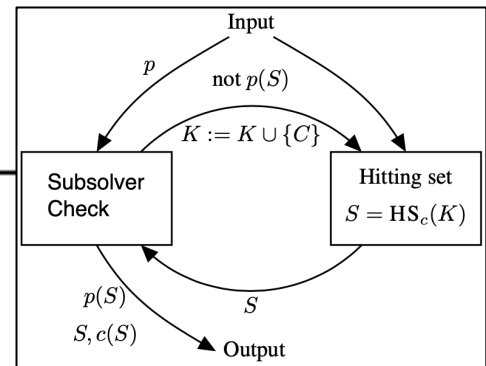
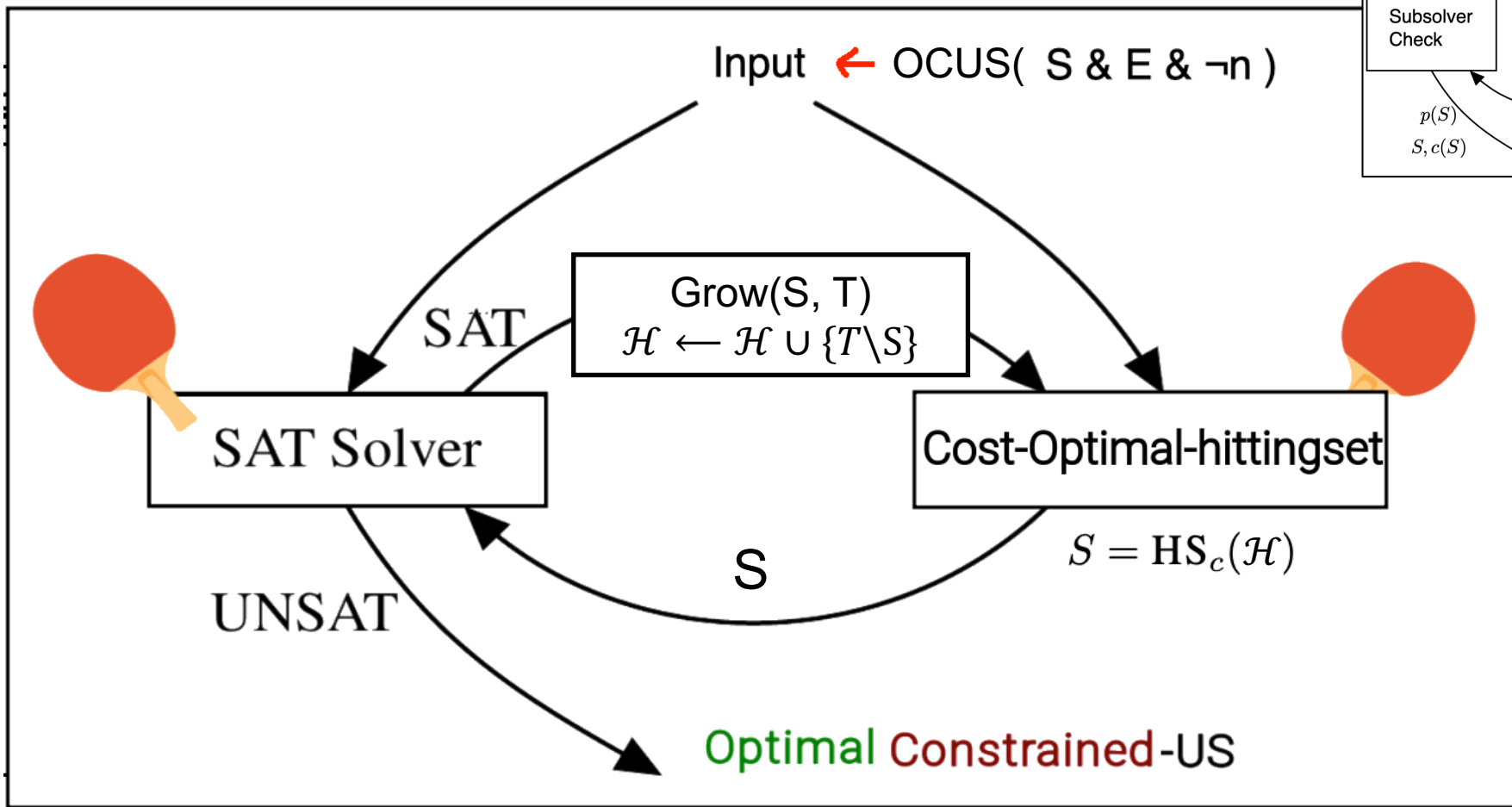
---

**Algorithm 4:** OCUS( $T, f, p$ )

---

```
1  $\mathcal{H} \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
2 while true do
3    $S \leftarrow \text{COST-OPTIMAL-HITTINGSET}(\mathcal{H}, f, p)$  → MIP solver
4   if  $\neg\text{SAT}(S)$  then → SAT/CP solver
5     return  $S$  → as an oracle
6   end
7    $S \leftarrow \text{GROW}(S, T)$ 
8    $\mathcal{H} \leftarrow \mathcal{H} \cup \{T \setminus S\}$ 
9 end
```

---



# OCUS with assumptions

```
def OCUS_assum(soft, soft_weights, hard=[], solver='ortools', verbose=1):  
    # init with hard constraints  
    assum_model = Model(hard)  
  
    # make assumption indicators, add reified constraints  
    ind = BoolVar(shape=len(soft), name="ind")  
    for i,bv in enumerate(ind):  
        assum_model += [bv.implies(soft[i])]  
    # to map indicator variable back to soft_constraints  
    indmap = dict((v,i) for (i,v) in enumerate(ind))  
  
    assum_solver = SolverLookup.lookup(solver)(assum_model)  
  
    if assum_solver.solve(assumptions=ind):  
        return []  
  
    ##  
    hs_model = Model(  
        # Objective: min sum(x_l * w_l)  
        minimize=sum(x_l * w_l for x_l, w_l in zip(ind, soft_weights))  
    )  
  
    # instantiate hitting set solver  
    hittingset_solver = SolverLookup.lookup(solver)(hs_model)  
  
    while(True):  
        hittingset_solver.solve()  
        # Get hitting set  
        hs = ind[ind.value() == 1]  
  
        if not assum_solver.solve(assumptions=hs):  
            return soft[ind.value() == 1]  
  
        # compute complement of model in formula F  
        C = ind[ind.value() != 1]  
  
        # Add complement as a new set to hit: sum x[j] * hij >= 1  
        hittingset_solver += (sum(C) >= 1)
```

Hitting set Solver

repeatedly  
compute  
hitting sets

CP/SAT  
as an oracle

Extract  
Correction Subset

# *OUS extraction*

[examples/tutorial\\_ijcai22/5\\_ocus\\_explanations.ipynb](#)



# Optimal Constrained Unsatisfiable Subsets

## *Implicit hitting set-based algorithm*

- Example of multi-solver incremental solving
  - *Made easier and efficient with assumptions*
- 1. Need to repeatedly compute hitting sets.**
    - Problem becomes hard as collection of sets-to-hits expands.
    - Big efficiency gains if incremental (and not restart)!
  - 2. CP/SAT is used as an oracle**
    - (OCUS) CP/SAT checking satisfiability of a subset
    - (OCUS) Grow solves a MaxSAT problem, s.t. complement is a (small) MCS



# Talk consists of

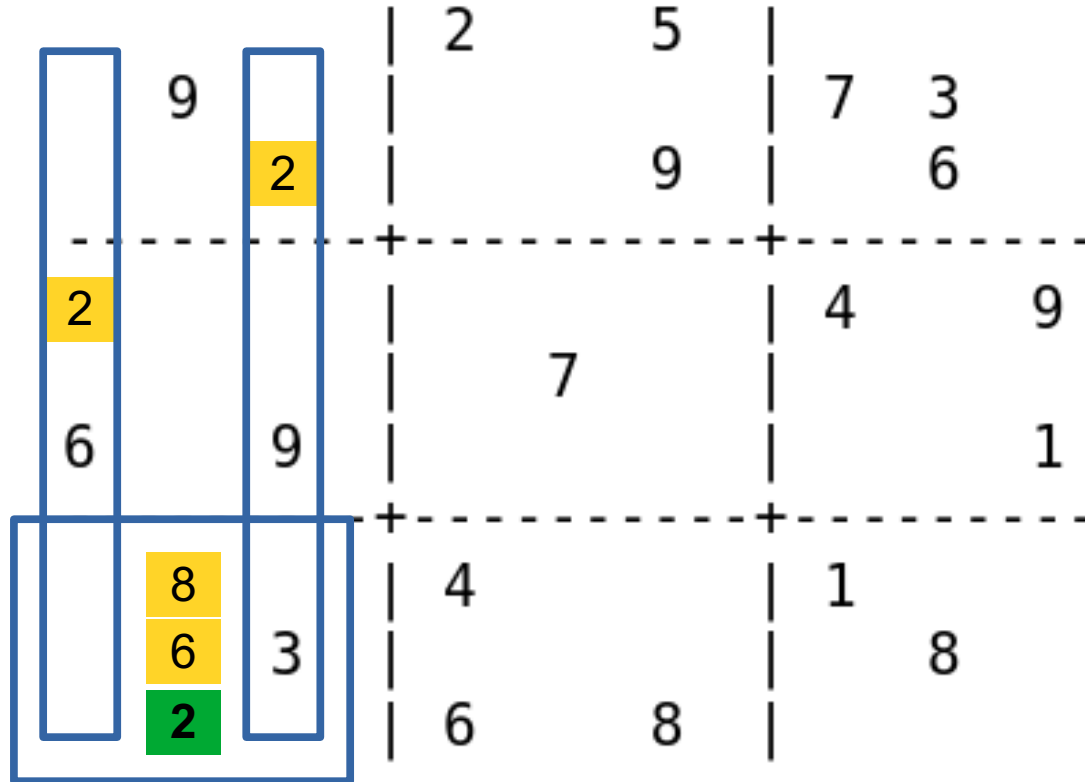
1. Using Constraint Solvers as an oracle, with CPMpy
- 2. Explaining (un)satisfiability: examples of master/sub-problem solving**
3. Advanced examples: Explaining Optimality (using logic cutting-planes)

Conclusion, outlook and questions

# What if a model is SAT?

			2		5			
	9						7	3
		2			9			6
-----+-----+-----								
2							4	9
				7				
6		9						1
-----+-----+-----								
	8			4			1	
	6	3						8
				6	8			

# What if a model is SAT?



# What if a model is SAT?

- User may not understand all derivations
- Or wants to learn about it

			2	5		7	3	
	9			9			6	
		2				4		9
2			7					1
6		9						
	8		4			1		
	6						8	
	2	3	6	8				

*“**Explain** in a human-understandable way how to solve constraint satisfaction problems”*

# Explanation step

Let  $E'$  &  $S'$   $\Rightarrow$   $n$  be one explanation step.

2	5	7	3
9	4	9	
6	8	1	8

$E'$  = a subset of previously derived facts E  
*(Sudoku) Given and derived digits in the grid*

$S'$  = a minimal subset of constraints S such that  $E' \& S' \Rightarrow n$   
*(Sudoku) All different column, row, box constraints*

$n$  = a newly derived fact (from the solution)

**How?  $MUS(\neg n \& E \& S)$  is a valid explanation step**

# The best/easiest explanation step...

Let  $f(S)$  be a *cost function* that quantifies how good (e.g. easy to understand) an explanation step is.

Simple MUS-based algo:

```
sol-to-explain = propagate( E & S ) \ E
```

```
X_best = None
```

```
for n in sol-to-explain:
```

```
    X = MUS( ~n & E & S )
```

```
    if f(X) < f(X_best):
```

```
        X_best = X
```

```
return X_best
```

	9		2	5		7	3
				9			6
2					7	4	9
6			9				1
		8				1	
		6		4			8
		2	3	6	8		

MUS gives no guarantees on quality, only subset minimal (SMUS)

# The best/easiest explanation step...

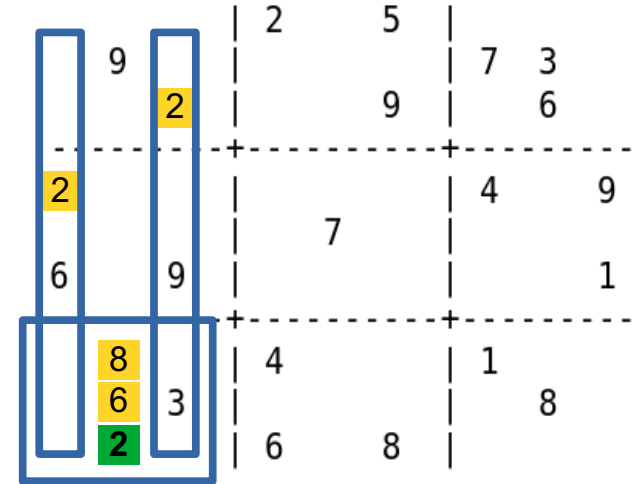
Let  $f(S)$  be a *cost function* that quantifies how good (e.g. easy to understand) an explanation step is.

## Explain 1 step with OCUS

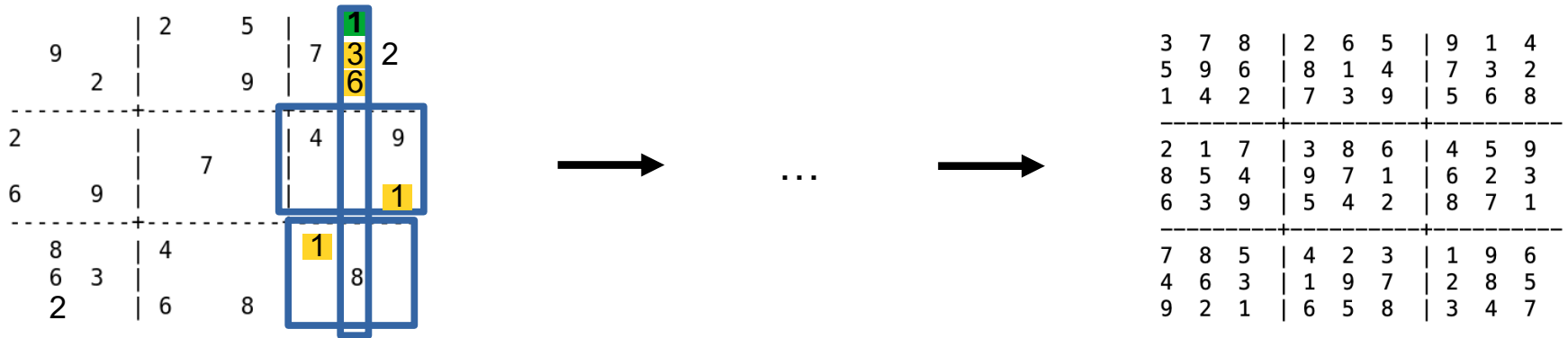
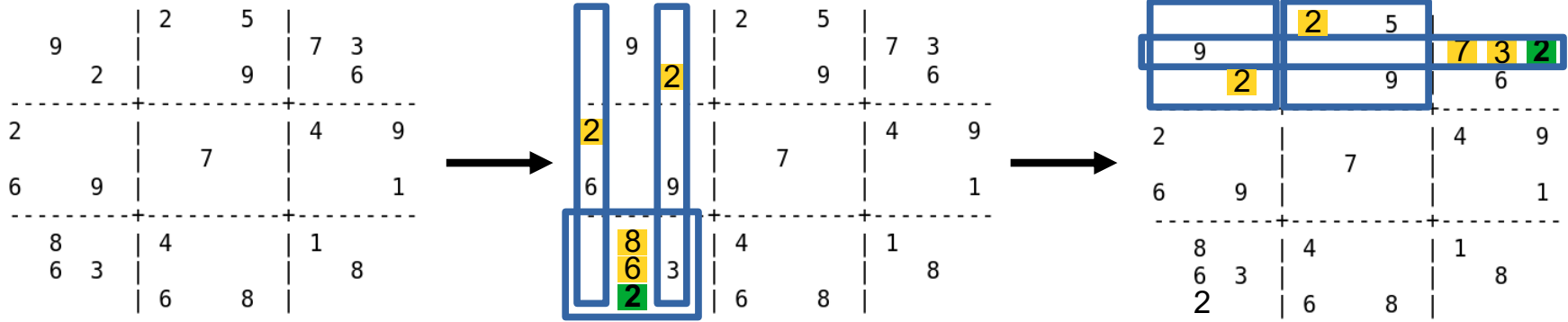
$sol\text{-}to\text{-}explain = propagate(E \ \& \ S) \setminus E$

$p = exactly\text{-}one(\{\sim n \mid n \in sol\text{-}to\text{-}explain\})$ ,

return  $OCUS(n \mid n \in sol\text{-}to\text{-}explain) \ \& \ S \ \& \ E \ \& \ \{\sim, f, p\}$



# A sequence of explanations to explain SAT





# OCUS for explaining SUDOKU

*Demo*

[examples/tutorial\\_ijcai22/6\\_explain\\_sudoku.ipynb](#)



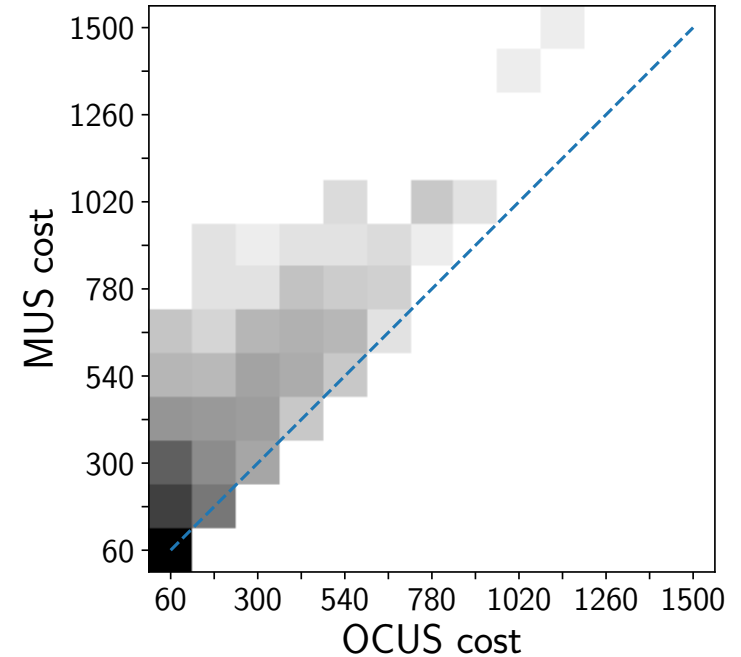
# The best/easiest explanation step...

*sol-to-explain* = propagate( **E** & **S** ) \ E

```
X_best = None
for n in sol-to-explain:
    X = MUS( ~n & E & S )
    if f(X) < f(X_best):
        X_best = X
return X_best
```

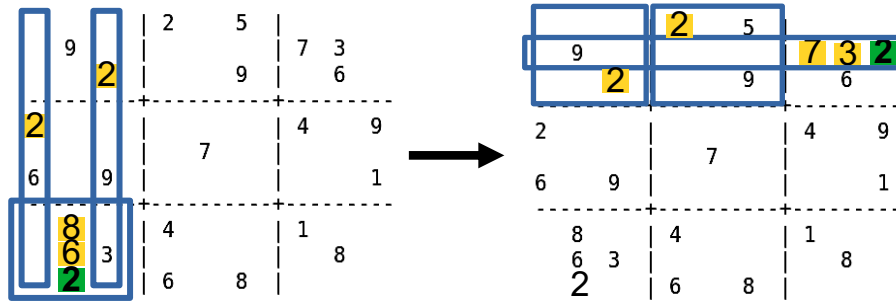


```
p = exactly-one( { ~n | n ∈ sol-to-explain } ),
OCUS( { ~n | n ∈ sol-to-explain } & E & S, f, p)
```



# Incrementality at the Sequence-level

OCUS( **S** & **E** &  $\neg$  **n** ,  $f$  ,  $p$  )



**S** Model constraints

- Do not change from an explanation step to another

**E** Derived facts of E

- Precision-increasing!

# Incrementality at the Sequence-level

*In practice*

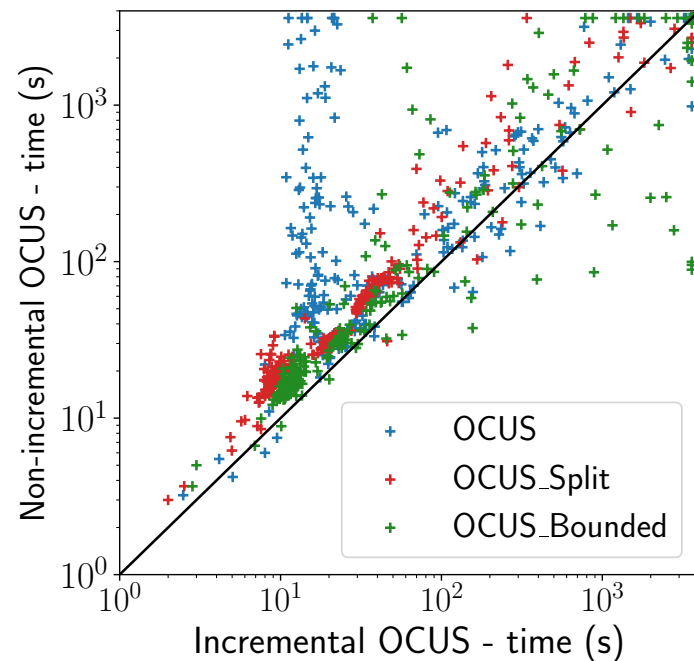
$$\text{OCUS}( \boxed{S} \ \& \ \boxed{E} \ \& \neg \ \boxed{n} , f, p )$$

Incremental OCUS works with the full unsatisfiable formula of step 0

$$\boxed{S} \ \& \ \boxed{E_{end}} \ \& \ \{ \neg \ \boxed{n} \mid \boxed{n} \in \text{sol-to-explain} \}$$

Initialize hitting set solver **once** and modify objective at every explanation step  $i$  such that

- Underived facts cannot be taken
- Negated facts ( $\neg \boxed{n}$ ) already explained should not be selected
- Assumptions are used to deactivate unused clauses



# Summary observations

(OCUS) Multi-solver Incremental solving

## Multi-solver

- MIP – highly effective solving hittingset problem
- CP/SAT is used as an oracle for checking satisfiability of a subset

## Incremental

- Need to *repeatedly compute hitting sets*.
- Problem becomes hard as collection of sets-to-hits expands.
- Big efficiency gains if incremental (and not restart)!
- (*Sequence*) Sets-to-hit re-used between explanation steps