

Solving K-SAT by going slowly down

Mikko Alava

Helsinki University of Technology, Finland

Department of Engineering Physics

In collaboration with: Erik Aurell, John Ardelius,

Supriya Krishnamurty [here](#)

Petteri Kaski, Pekka Orponen, Sakari Seitz [in Helsinki](#)

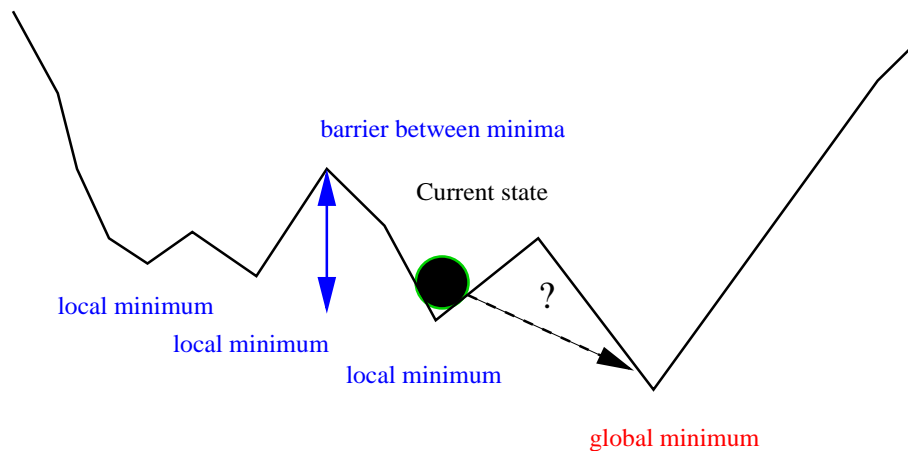
Why or background

Solving K-Satisfiability problems: why and why do not algorithms work?

Structure of “energy landscape”? Or, solution landscape?

Here, a Focused Stochastic Local Search, ChainSAT.

Energy landscape?



There are local and global minima (solutions).

How does a local algorithm (“flipping spins” or variables) utilize local landscapes?

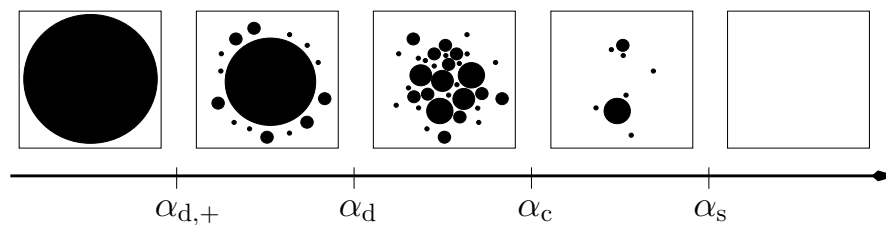
Simulated annealing,

Focused Metropolis Search, ASAT,

Focused Walk-SAT vs.

Survey Propagation....

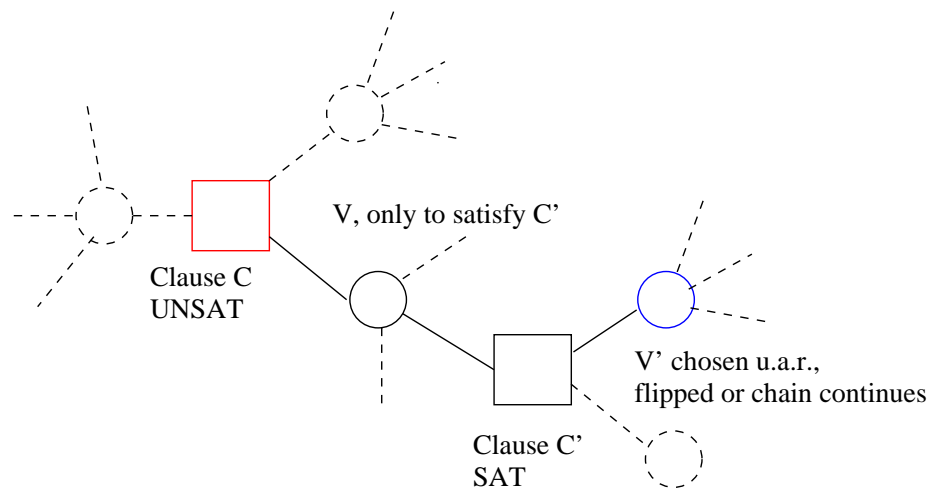
Phase Diagram



Dynamic, clustering transitions. Rigidity transition? (Krzakala et al., PNAS 104, 10318 (2007)).
Effect of these on algorithms?

ChainSAT

(Focused) ChainSAT



Idea of an algorithm:
go down - accept or
create slack.

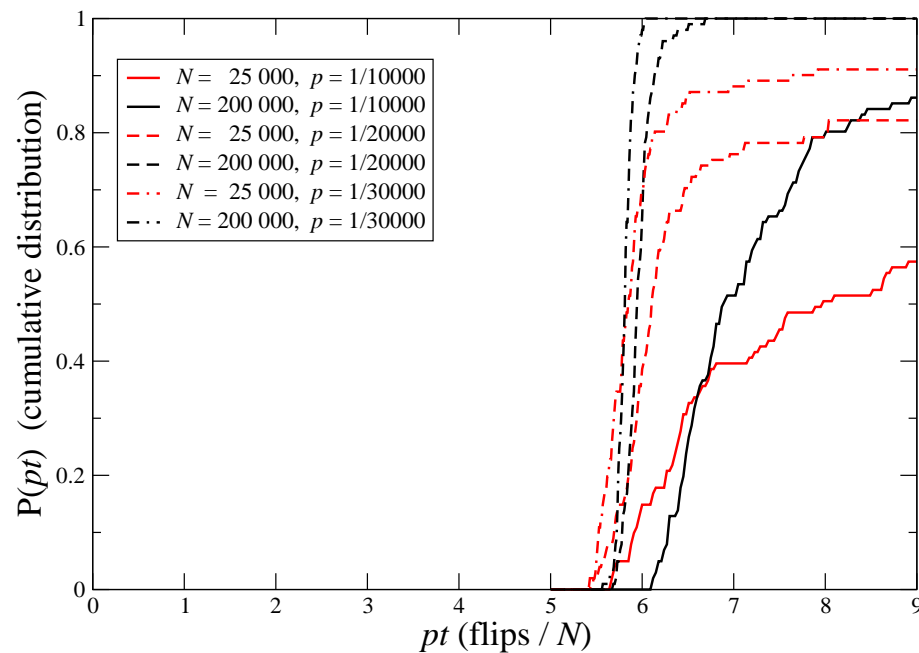
Never Goes Up in Energy

More Detail

- 1: S = random assignment of values to the variables
- 2: chaining = FALSE
- 3: **while** S is not a solution **do**
- 4: **if not** chaining **then**
- 5: C = a clause not satisfied by S selected uniformly at random
- 6: V = a variable in C selected u.a.r.
- 8: **end if**
- 9: ΔE = change in number of unsatisfied clauses if V is
 flipped in S
- 10: chaining = FALSE
- 11: **if** $\Delta E = 0$ **then**
- 12: flip V in S

```
13:   else if  $\Delta E < 0$ 
14:     with probability  $p_1$ 
15:       flip  $V$  in  $S$ 
16:     end with
17:   else
18:     with probability  $1 - p_2$ 
19:        $C =$  a clause satisfied only by  $V$  selected u.a.r.
20:        $V' =$  a variable in  $C$  other than  $V$  selected u.a.r.
21:        $V = V'$ 
22:       chaining = TRUE
23:     end with
24:   end if
25: end while
```

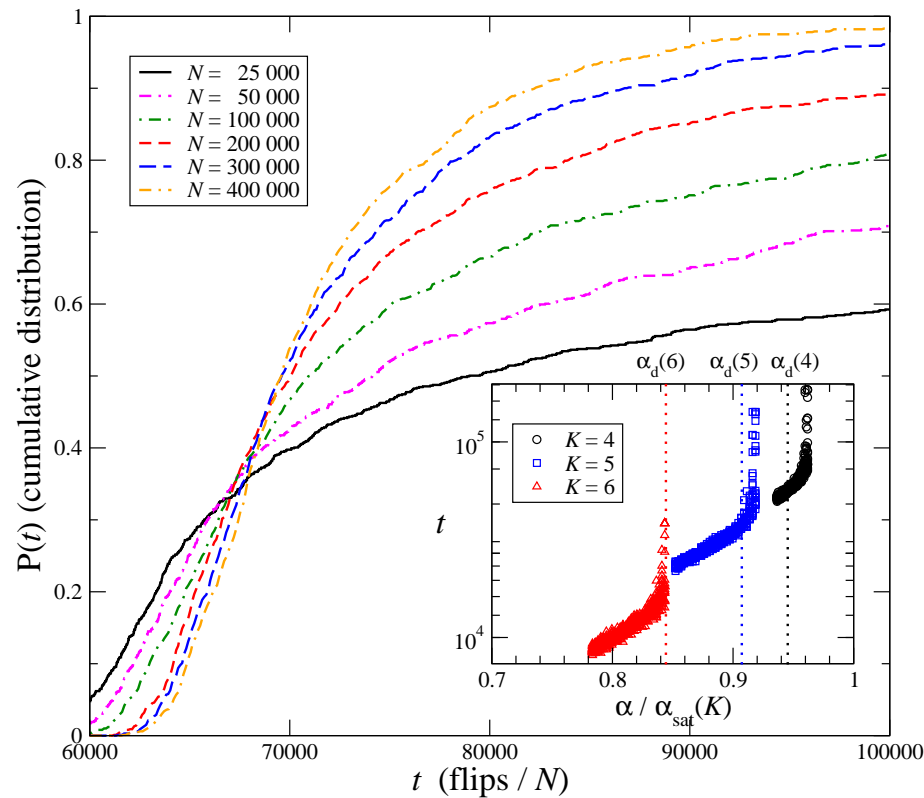
Studying ChainSAT



What is the optimal parameter value for p_1 , p_2 ?

ChainSAT seems to be robust... compared to ASAT, FMS?

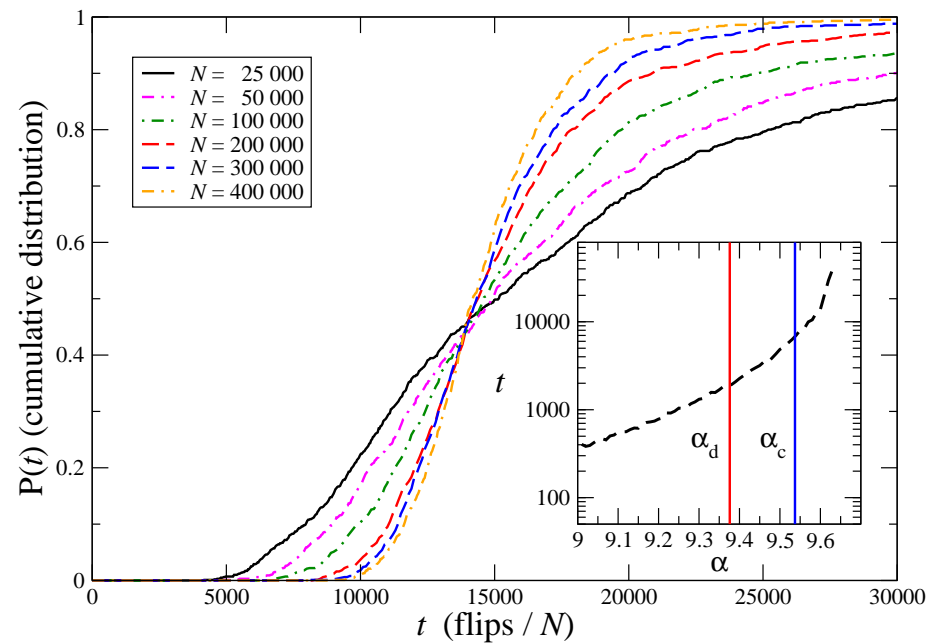
Chain/K-SAT



ChainSAT is linear in
 N for $K = 4 \dots 5 \dots 6$.

It works beyond the
dynamical and condensation
transitions.

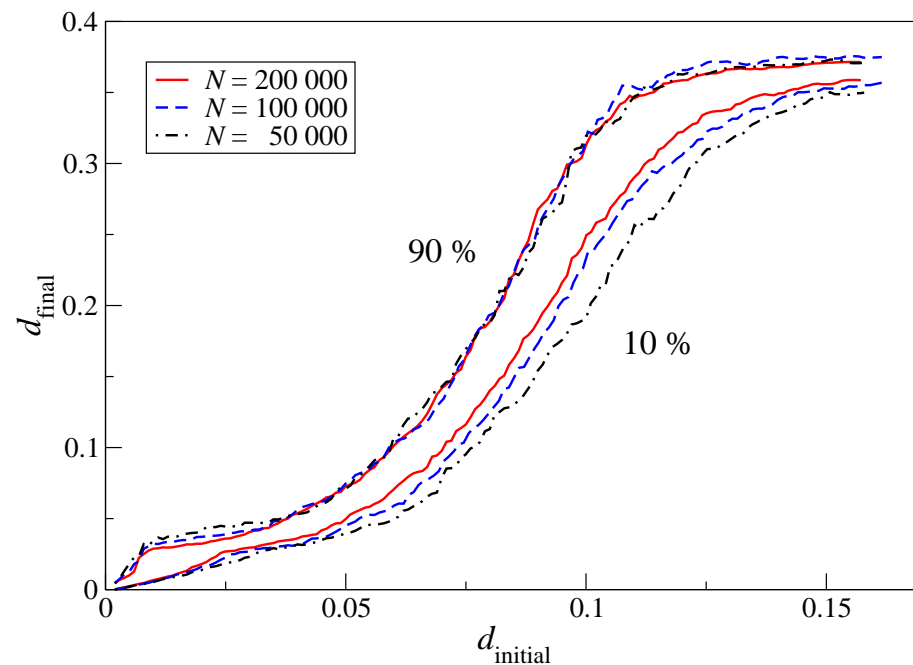
FMS comparison



For FMS (Focused Metropolis),
 $\alpha = 9.6$ and $K = 4$ similar behavior
is found.

Here one can go over barriers.

Solution space

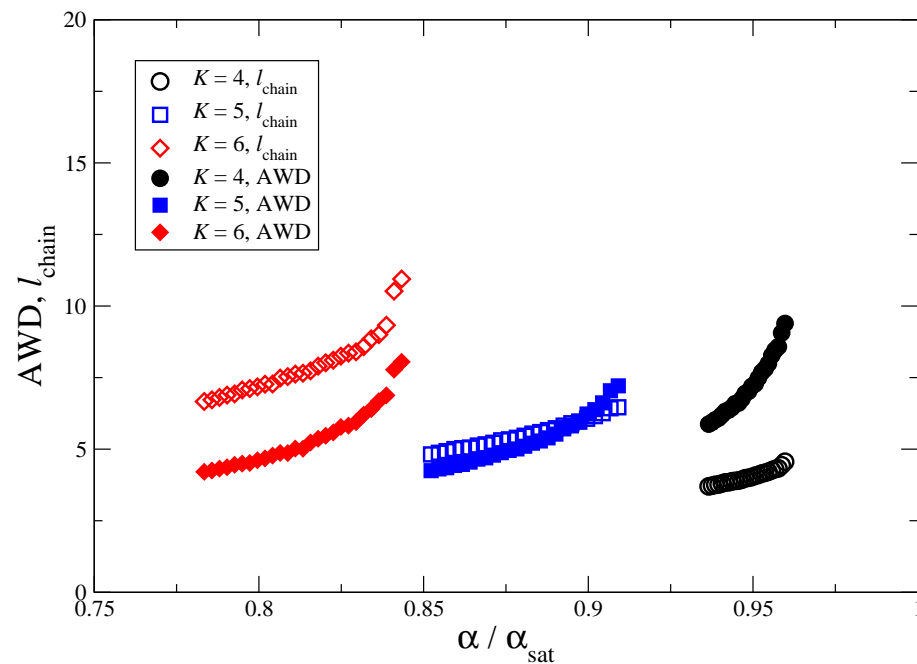


Trials: solve, flip a fraction of variables to get to d_{initial} from original. Re-solve.

d_{final} continuous, concentrates.

Here $\alpha = 9.6$, $K = 4$.

Chain/K-SAT



How does the ChainSAT work?

White solutions (with slack).

Chain lengths do not diverge:

“chainable” variables found.

Conclusions

SLS algorithms find regardless of solution space structures
“white” solutions.

Local minima irrelevant in K-SAT.

“rigid” solutions? Finite correlation length:
mosaic solution - linearity?

ChainSAT: extensions to other members of the CSP
family. See arXiv:0711.4902.

Understanding algorithms in the average sense?

RandomWalkSAT, J. Ardelius lic. defence last Wed.