### **Routing under Constraints**

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## Outline

Goal: Design a Scalable Design Rule-aware Router

**Routing under Constraints (RUC): Problem Formalization** 

**Bit-Vector / SAT Encoding** 

Doesn't scale

#### **DRouter through SAT Solver Surgery**

A\*-based decision strategy (emulates constraints!)

Graph conflict analysis

Net restarting & net swapping

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#### **Unsolved crafted and industrial RUC instances are routed!**





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Fig. 3 Bottom side of a printed circuit board

### Input







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### Input







7

#### Input







### Input







### Input









#### Input







## Routing: Output

#### Input











## Routing: Output

#### Input

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- Each net is spanned by a tree, called the **net routing**
- 2. Net routings can't intersect
- 3. Optimization: minimize the total
  - routing length

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## **Routing:** Output

It is **NP-hard** to find:

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- 1. Shortest solution for one multi-terminal net (Steiner tree problem)
- 2. Any solution for many multi-terminal nets



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## **Design Rules**

Routing is to satisfy design rules
Originating in the manufacturing requirement





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- Example "short" rule:
  - The 2 vertices of any edge can't belong to two distinct net routings



Short rule is violated for these edges



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Short rule is violated for these edges

When the short rule is on, this example is UNSAT



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## Industrial Approach: Rip-Up and Reroute

#### Nets are routed one-by-one

- Using A\*
  - s-t shortest-path given costs' under-approximation
  - A\*=Dijkstra if no costs' under-approximation is provided
- Trying to heuristically obey design rules
- Violations are allowed, hence the initial solution might be problematic
  - Net routings might intersect
  - Design rules might be violated
- Clean-up is applied
  - Rip-up: problematic net routings are removed
  - Reroute: un-routed nets are attempted again





## The Problem with the Current Solution

Design rule violations persist

- Manual clean-up is carried out

Some violations still persist



#### Time-to-market is impacted







### **Potential Solution**

#### **Constraint Solving**







### **Potential Solution**

#### **Constraint Solving**



Next: formalizing Routing under Constraints





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## **Routing Induces Assignment**



Edge variables Bool e: edge activity









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## **Routing Induces Assignment**

Vertex variables

Bool v: activity status Bit-vector n: net id (∅ for inactive vertices)







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## Modeling Routing under Constraints

Design rules can be easily expressed in BV logic

- Variables:
  - Edge & vertex activities
  - Vertex nids
  - Any auxiliary variables
- Short rule example

- For every edge  $e=(v,u): \neg v \lor \neg u \lor nid(v)=nid(u)$ 



Short rule is violated for these edges











<u>Input</u>





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1. Graph G(V,E) 2. Disjoint Nets  $N_i \subseteq V$ 







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A quantifier-free bit-vector formula  $F(V \cup E \cup N \cup A)$ 

- V : vertex activity
- E : edge activity
- N : vertex net id
- A : any auxiliary variables

(represents the design rules)





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<u>Input</u>

1. Graph G(V,E) 2. Disjoint Nets  $N_i \subseteq V$ 





A quantifier-free bit-vector formula  $F(V \cup E \cup N \cup A)$ 

- V : vertex activity
- E : edge activity
- N : vertex net id
- A : any auxiliary variables

(represents the design rules)

Output: a model to F, which induces a routing:

- e=(v,u) is active  $\rightarrow$ 
  - v and u are active, and
  - nid(v) = nid(u)
- For each net i: active vertices with nid i and active edges span the net's terminals
- Optional optimization requirement. the overall weight of active edges is as small as possible

## Solving Attempt: Encoding into Bitvector Logic / SAT

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## Solving Attempt: Encoding into Bitvector Logic / SAT

• For 2-terminal nets:

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  - A terminal has one active neighbor edge





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    - v and u are active, and
    - nid(v) = nid(u)
  - A terminal has one active neighbor edge
  - An active non-terminal has two active neighbor edges
- For n-terminal nets:
  - Encode directed trees
    - Using edge directions



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- For 2-terminal nets:
  - e=(v,u) is active  $\rightarrow$

two active neighbor edges











Decision Strategy (Conflict-driven)





Boolean Constraint Propagation

Decision Strategy (Conflict-driven)





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Boolean Constraint Propagation

Decision Strategy (Conflict-driven) Conflict Analysis & Learning





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# SAT → DRouter through Surgery

















#### SAT → DRouter







#### **Encoded constraints:**

1. Edge consistency

Net

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- e=(v,u) is active  $\rightarrow$ 
  - v and u are active

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Net

Swapping Restarting

• nid(v) = nid(u)

#### Router







- 1. Edge consistency
  - e=(v,u) is active  $\rightarrow$ 
    - v and u are active
    - nid(v) = nid(u)
- 2. User-provided constraints modelling design rules

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Net

Swapping Restarting

#### Router



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Net



the decision strategy!

Net

Swapping Restarting

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restart?

Backtracking

Graph-based Learning



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s: (0, 0) t: (3, 0)

 $\neg(1,0) \lor \neg(2,0)$   $\neg(1,0) \lor \neg(1,1)$   $\neg(3,2) \lor \neg(3,1)$ 

Initial path: A\* from s->t

(intel Leap ahead"



σ (sugg.) – – – –



s: (0, 0) t: (3, 0)

 $\neg (1,0) \lor \neg (2,0) \\
\neg (1,0) \lor \neg (1,1) \\
\neg (3,2) \lor \neg (3,1)$ 

Initial path: A\* from s->t Activate edge in sugg.





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σ (sugg.) – – – -

Real path — \_ \_ \_





A\* from s->t Activate edge in sugg.





Solutions
































Route the nets one-by-one

- Order is critical!





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- Route the nets one-by-one
  - Order is critical!
- Example Order 1:
  - Violet
  - Black
  - Red







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  - Violet







#### **Graph conflict**

- black is blocked

#### - Early conflict detection

- Check for graph conflicts after routing each terminal
- Learn a conflict clause &



#### Exal, re-route

- Violet
- Black

#### • Example Order 2:

- Black
- Violet





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  - Black
  - Red
- Example Order 2:
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- Route the nets one-by-one
  - Order is critical!
- Example Order 1:
  - Violet
  - Black
  - Red
- Example Order 2:
  - Red
  - Black
  - Violet
- Too slow! Solution: dynamic net reordering!





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# Net Swapping

- Example Order 2:
  - Red
  - Black
  - Violet



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# Net Swapping

- Example Order 2:
  - Red
  - Black
  - Violet






- Example Order 2:
  - Red
  - Black
  - Violet



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  - Black
  - Violet



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#### • Example Order 2:

- Red
- Black
- Violet

Net Swapping: After N conflicts, swap the order between: the first blocked net i the blocking net j  $\{A,j,B,i,C\} \rightarrow \{A,i,j,B,C\}$ 





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#### • Example Order 2:

- Red
- Black
- Violet
- Flip:
  - Black
    Swapped
  - Violet

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- Example Order 2:
  - Red
  - Black
  - Violet



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- Example Order 2:
  - Red
  - Black
  - Violet







- Example Order 2:
  - Red
  - Black
  - Violet



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- Example Order 2:
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  - Black
  - Violet



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- Example Order 2:
  - Red
  - Black
  - Violet







#### • Example Order 2:

- Red
- Black
- Violet

Net Restarting Restart and move the blocked net to the top (after M conflicts for that net)



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#### • Example Order 2:

- Red
- Black
- Violet
- Flip:
  - Black -
- Moved to the top
- Violet

#### Net Restarting

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Restart and move the blocked net to the top (after M conflicts for that net)





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- Flip:
  - Black -
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#### Net Restarting

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Restart and move the blocked net to the top (after M conflicts for that net)





#### • Example Order 2:

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- Flip:
  - Black -

Moved to the top

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- Flip:
  - Black -
- Moved to the top
- Violet

#### Net Restarting

Restart and move the blocked net to the top (after M conflicts for that net)







### Net Swapping vs. Net Restarting

- Swapping is local
- Restarting is global
- In practice both techniques are crucial
- Strategy:
  - Swap for some time
  - If it doesn't work, restart











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Reduction to finding bounded-path in graph





Reduction to finding bounded-path in graph

 SAT solver surgery: graph-aware decision strategy & graph conflict analysis





- Reduction to finding bounded-path in graph
- SAT solver surgery: graph-aware decision strategy & graph conflict analysis

#### The decision strategy:

- Emulates constraints!
- Guides the solver towards the solution
- Considers additional optimization requirements









Can reason about graph predicates & SAT/BV





Can reason about graph predicates & SAT/BV

Graph conflict analysis





- Can reason about graph predicates & SAT/BV
- Graph conflict analysis
- Shortest-path decision heuristic can be optionally applied





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- Can reason about graph predicates & SAT/BV
- Graph conflict analysis
- Shortest-path decision heuristic can be optionally applied
- Path-finding (routing for one 2-terminal net) is conceptually similar in Monosat and DRouter
  - Main difference:
    - Lazy A\* in DRouter vs.
    - Eager incremental Ramalingam-Reps in Monosat
- RUC can be easily expressed in Monosat language









- Monosat's algorithms are not routing-aware
  - No net re-ordering
  - Graph conflict analysis for routing is inefficient





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Routing in DRouter (net swapping&restarting are off)



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Routing in Monosat Routing in DRouter (net swapping&restarting are off) 162

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Routing in Monosat



### Experimental Results on Crafted Instances

- Solvers:
  - Drouter (default)
  - Drouter R: no net restarting
  - Drouter S: no net swapping
  - Drouter SR: no net swapping, no net restarting
  - Monosat (default)
  - Monosat + D: shortest-path decision strategy is on
  - BV: reduction to BV
- Instances:
  - 120 solid grid graphs of size  $M\times20$ 
    - $-M \in \{3,5,7\}$
  - 20 random 2-terminal nets
  - Generate C \* [V] random binary clauses  $\neg v \lor \neg u$ 
    - $-v, u \in V$
    - $-\ C \in \{0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3\}$





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- Full-fledged DRouter only can solves all the instances
  - Both net restarting and net swapping are essential!





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- Full-fledged DRouter only can solves all the instances
  - Both net restarting and net swapping are essential!
  - Monosat and BV can't solve a single instance





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### DRouter on Industrial Instances

Run DRouter on difficult clips from Intel designs
Couldn't be routed cleanly by 2 industrial routers





### DRouter on Industrial Instances

Run DRouter on difficult clips from Intel designs
Couldn't be routed cleanly by 2 industrial routers

Area in $\mu$ m <sup>2</sup>	Nets	Vertices	Constraints	Time in sec.	Memory in Gb.
24	110	42,456	484,008	25	0.7
24	230	42,456	484,008	391	1.0
32	352	63,740	667,764	705	2.2
129	788	127,480	2,669,056	14,733	6.5
129	891	127,480	2,669,056	92,950	6.5





### Conclusion

- DRouter: design-rule-aware router
  - SAT solver surgery:
    - Decision heuristic  $\rightarrow$  A\*-based router
    - Conflict analysis enhanced with graph reasoning
    - Restarts → net swapping & net restarting
- Solves instances which can't be solved by existing tools
  - Including clips from real Intel designs





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