

SEGClobber - A Linear Clobber Solver

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University of Alberta

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- White can move to: ■□__□
- Must clobber an opponent stone! Illegal White move: ■■□□_
- Breaks into subgames frequently: ■□■□_■□ = ■□■□ + ■■□

Conjectures

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- Chen et al. recently proposed a proof of $(\blacksquare\square)^n$ conjecture

Transposition Table

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- 64 bit Zobrist hashes

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 - Age, depth (for replacement policy)

Database (DB)

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 - Link to SEG (Simplest Equal Game)

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 - Nondominated moves for each player
 - Among equal moves, only the “simplest” option is kept
 - Complexity score
 - Simplest (nondominated) move
 - Link to SEG (Simplest Equal Game)
 - The board itself

Normal Form

Normal Form

● ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ □ _ _ _ ■ □ _

Normal Form

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ □ _ _ _ ■ □ _
- Shape: (3, 4, 3, 1, 2)

Normal Form

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ □ _ _ _ ■ □ _

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1. Remove subgames of length 1

Normal Form

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ □ _ _ _ ■ □ _

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1. Remove subgames of length 1

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ _ _ _ ■ □ _

Normal Form

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ □ _ _ _ ■ □ _
 - Shape: (3, 4, 3, 1, 2)
1. Remove subgames of length 1
 - ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ _ _ ■ □ _
 2. Omit redundant empty squares

Normal Form

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ □ _ _ _ ■ □ _
- Shape: (3, 4, 3, 1, 2)
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 - ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ _ _ ■ □ _
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 - ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □

Normal Form

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ □ _ _ _ ■ □ _

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- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ _ _ ■ □ _

2. Omit redundant empty squares

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □

3. Sort subgames so that the shape is in decreasing order

Normal Form

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ □ _ _ _ ■ □ _
 - Shape: (3, 4, 3, 1, 2)
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- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ □ _ _ _ ■ □ _

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1. Remove subgames of length 1

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2. Omit redundant empty squares

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □

3. Sort subgames so that the shape is in decreasing order

- ■ ■ □ ■ _ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □

- (4, 3, 3, 2)

Normal Form

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ □ _ _ _ ■ □ _

- Shape: (3, 4, 3, 1, 2)

1. Remove subgames of length 1

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ _ _ _ ■ □ _

2. Omit redundant empty squares

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □

3. Sort subgames so that the shape is in decreasing order

- ■ ■ □ ■ _ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □

- (4, 3, 3, 2)

- Relaxed normal form

Normal Form

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ □ _ _ _ ■ □ _

- Shape: (3, 4, 3, 1, 2)

1. Remove subgames of length 1

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ _ _ ■ □ _

2. Omit redundant empty squares

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □

3. Sort subgames so that the shape is in decreasing order

- ■ ■ □ ■ _ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □

- (4, 3, 3, 2)

- Relaxed normal form

4. Flip subgames

Normal Form

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ □ _ _ _ ■ □ _

- Shape: (3, 4, 3, 1, 2)

1. Remove subgames of length 1

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ _ _ ■ □ _

2. Omit redundant empty squares

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □

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- ■ ■ □ ■ _ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □

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Normal Form

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ □ _ _ _ ■ □ _

- Shape: (3, 4, 3, 1, 2)

1. Remove subgames of length 1

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- ■ ■ □ ■ _ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □

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4. Flip subgames

- ■ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ □ ■

5. Sort equal length subgames in decreasing order

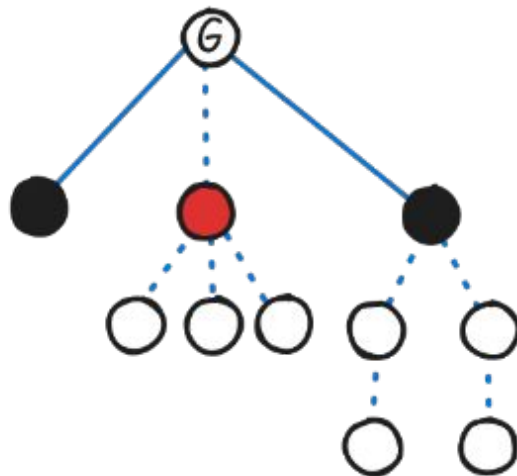
Normal Form

- ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ □ _ _ _ ■ □ _
- Shape: (3, 4, 3, 1, 2)
 1. Remove subgames of length 1
 - ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ _ _ _ ■ □ _
 2. Omit redundant empty squares
 - ■ □ ■ _ ■ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □
 3. Sort subgames so that the shape is in decreasing order
 - ■ ■ □ ■ _ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □
 - (4, 3, 3, 2)
 - Relaxed normal form
 4. Flip subgames
 - ■ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ □ ■
 5. Sort equal length subgames in decreasing order
 - ■ □ ■ ■ _ □ ■ ■ _ ■ □ ■ _ □ ■

Complexity Score

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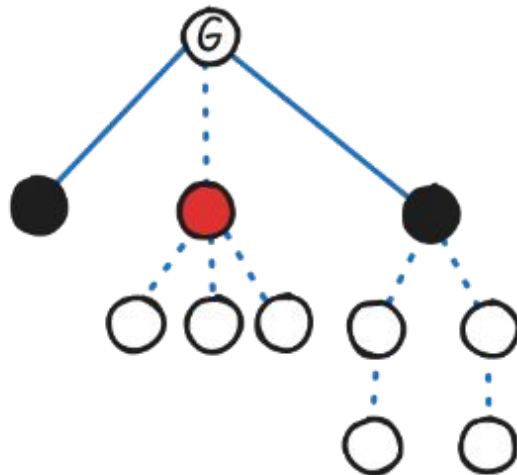
- Non-strictly-dominated move
- Strictly-dominated move



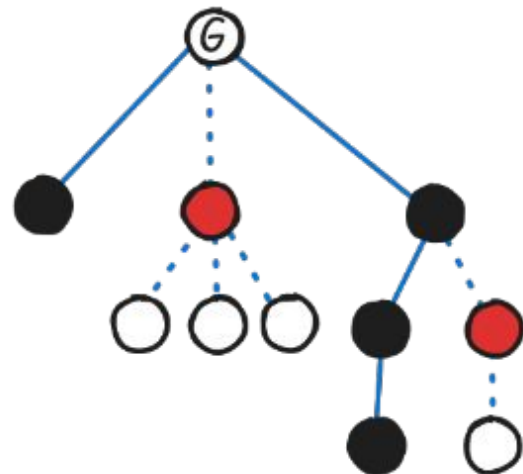
$$\text{CS3}(G) = 2$$

Complexity Score

- Non-strictly-dominated move
- Strictly-dominated move



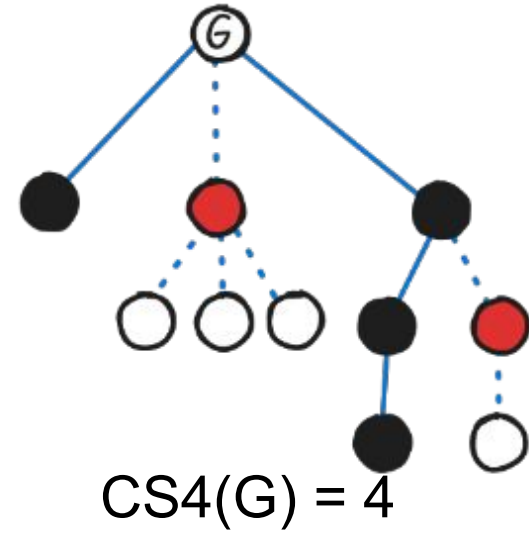
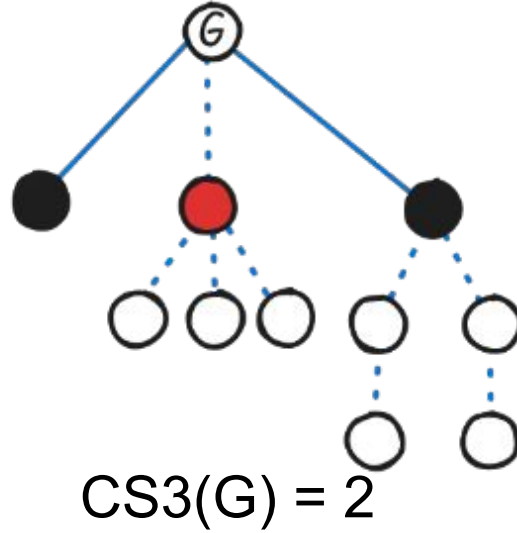
$$CS3(G) = 2$$



$$CS4(G) = 4$$

Complexity Score

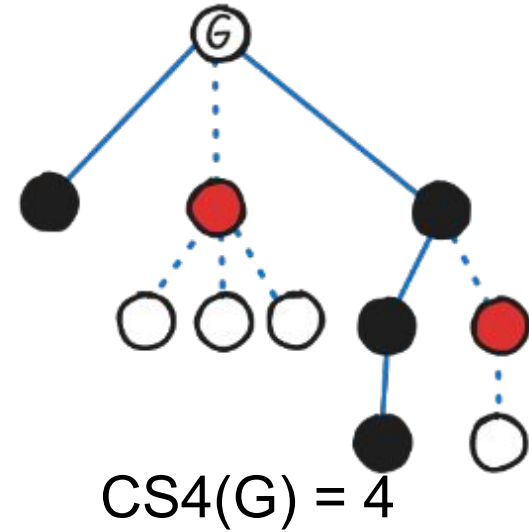
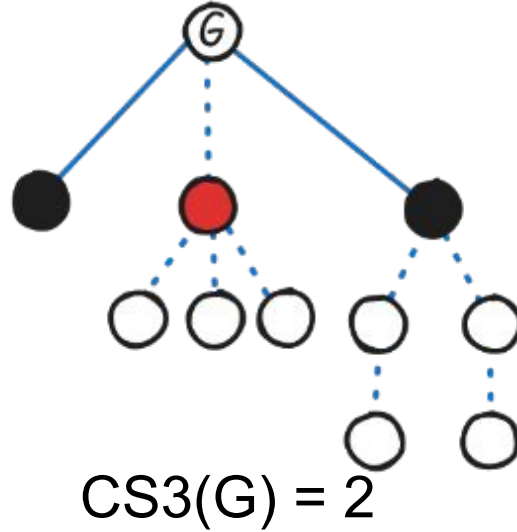
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- $G1$ may replace $G2$ during search if:

Complexity Score

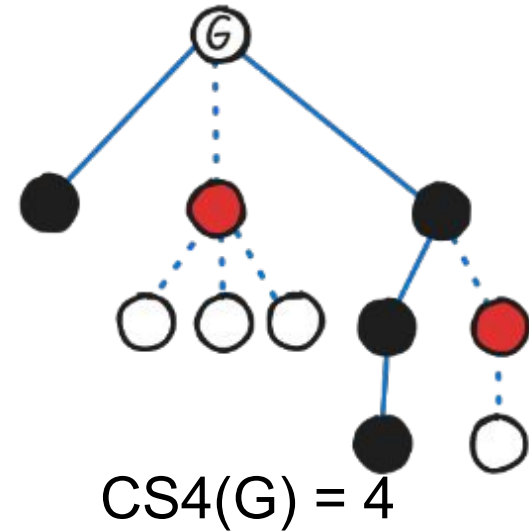
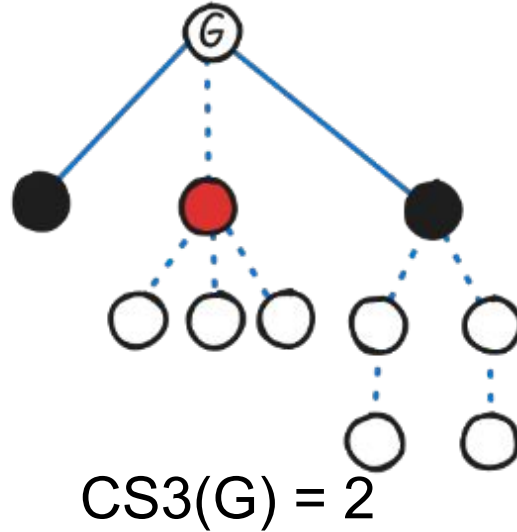
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- $G1$ may replace $G2$ during search if:
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Complexity Score

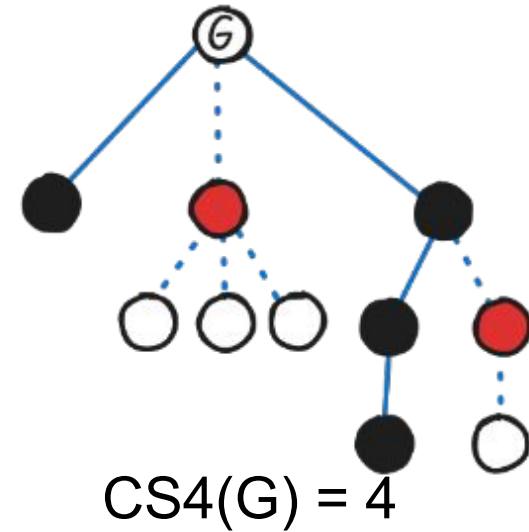
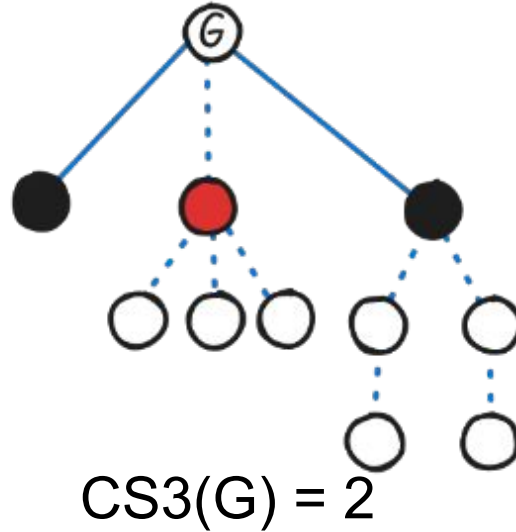
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- $G1$ may replace $G2$ during search if:
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 - **AND** $G1$ comes **before** $G2$ in the database

Complexity Score

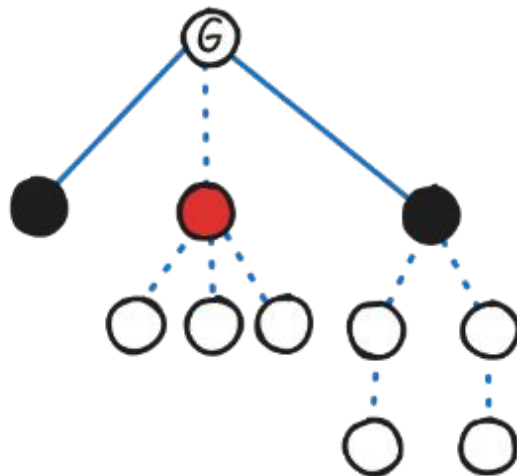
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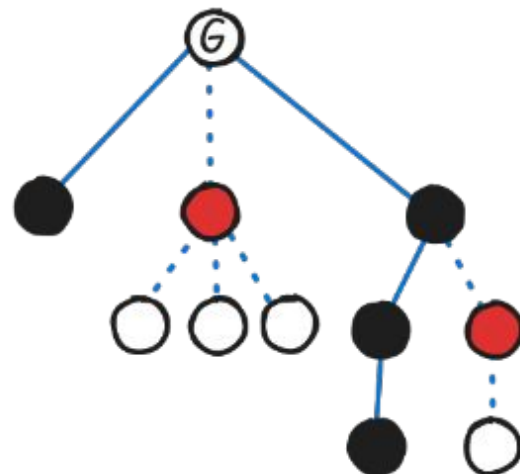
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 - **AND** $G1$ comes **before** $G2$ in the database
 - To prevent cycles

Complexity Score

- Non-strictly-dominated move
- Strictly-dominated move



$$CS3(G) = 2$$

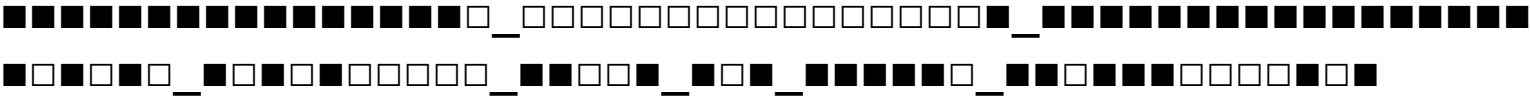


$$CS4(G) = 4$$

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 - **AND** $G1$ comes **before** $G2$ in the database
 - To prevent cycles
 - A database entry contains the **simplest** such game, if it exists

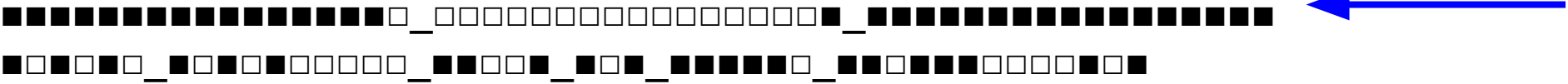
Sum Simplification

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1. Set aside large subgames (those not in DB)



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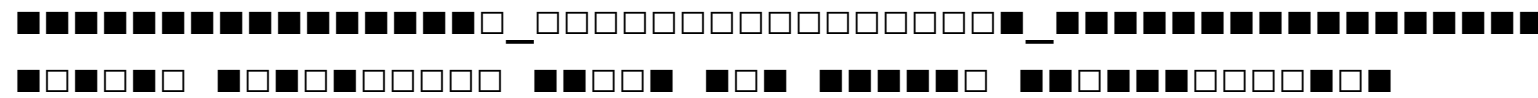
Top row not
in DB



2. Using DB, delete single P positions (= 0)

Sum Simplification

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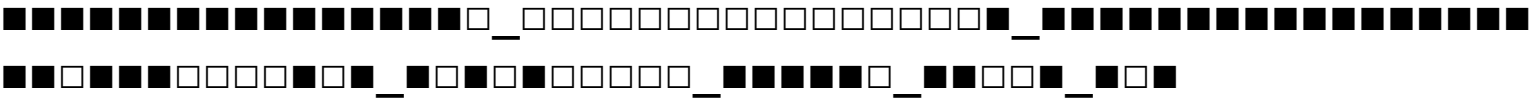
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2. Using DB, delete single P positions (= 0)

Sum Simplification (Continued)

3. Sort remaining subgames in order of decreasing length



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4. Replace sums of 3+ (using sliding window of length 16)

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3. Sort remaining subgames in order of decreasing length

[illegible]

1011010101 + 0101010101 = 1001001010

4. Replace sums of 3+ (using sliding window of length 16)

Sum Simplification (Continued)

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[illegible]

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[illegible]

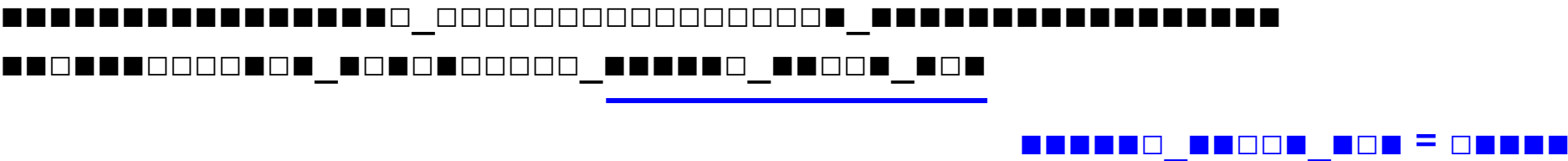
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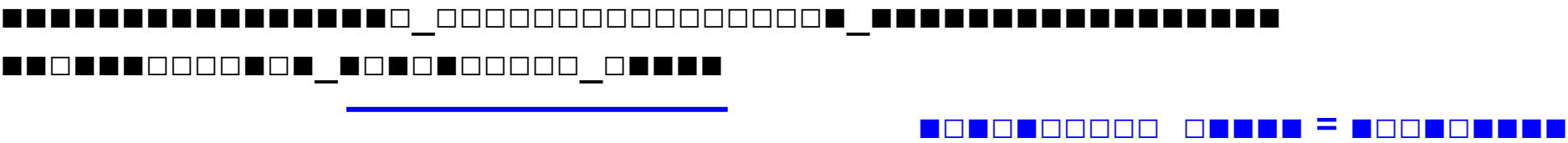
5. Replace pairs

Sum Simplification (Continued)

3. Sort remaining subgames in order of decreasing length



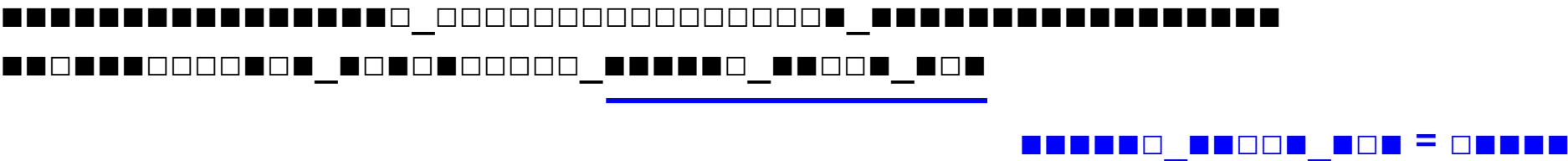
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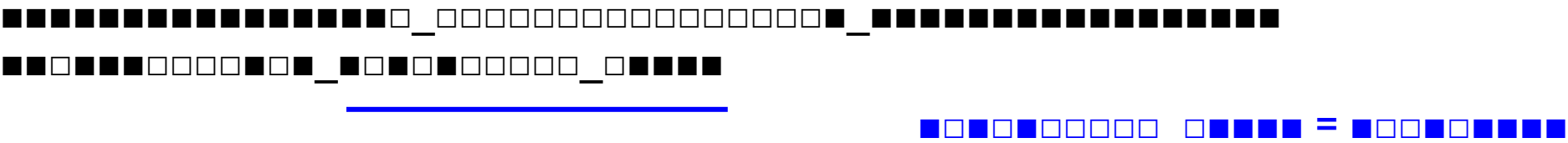
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Sum Simplification (Continued)

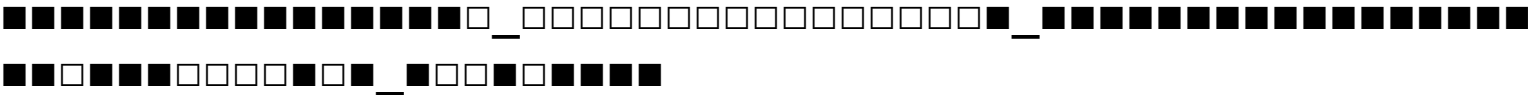
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4. Replace sums of 3+ (using sliding window of length 16)



5. Replace pairs



Sum Simplification (Continued)

3. Sort remaining subgames in order of decreasing length

4. Replace sums of 3+ (using sliding window of length 16)

 =

5. Replace pairs

The image shows a 3x16 grid of colored squares. The first row contains 15 black squares followed by 1 white square. The second row contains 15 white squares followed by 1 black square. The third row contains 16 black squares.

6. Replace singles

Sum Simplification (Continued)

3. Sort remaining subgames in order of decreasing length




 =
 

4. Replace sums of 3+ (using sliding window of length 16)












5. Replace pairs

6. Replace singles

$$\begin{array}{r} 101101010101 \\ + 010101010101 \\ \hline 100101010101 \end{array}$$

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☒ ☐

 ☒ ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

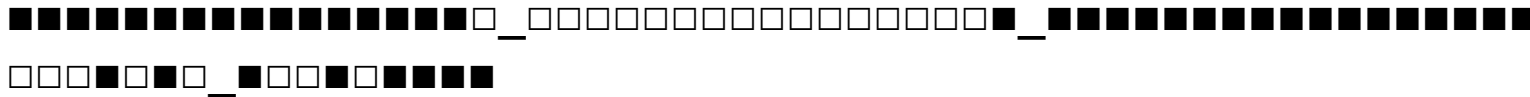
Sum Simplification (Continued)

6. Replace singles

Sum Simplification (Continued)

6. Replace singles

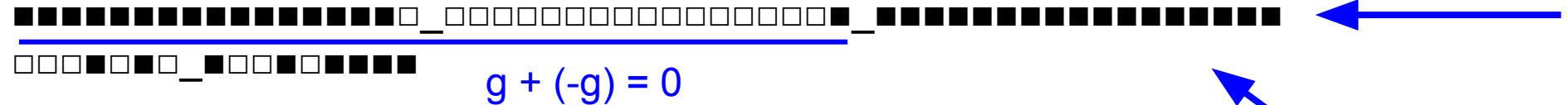
Resume
considering
top row



7. Now also consider previously set aside games.

Sum Simplification (Continued)

6. Replace singles

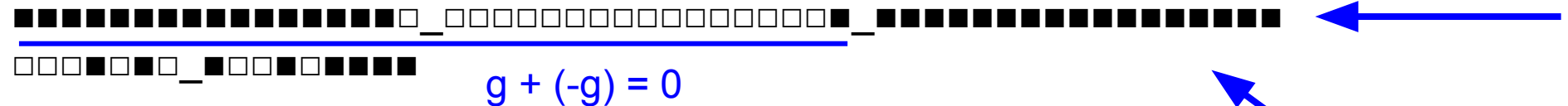


7. Now also consider previously set aside games.

8. Delete subgames with no moves, and pairs of visually identifiable inverses

Sum Simplification (Continued)

6. Replace singles



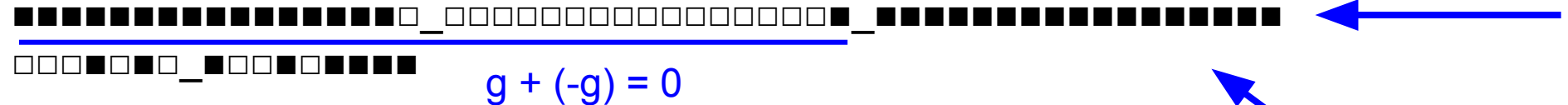
7. Now also consider previously set aside games.

8. Delete subgames with no moves, and pairs of visually identifiable inverses



Sum Simplification (Continued)

6. Replace singles



7. Now also consider previously set aside games.

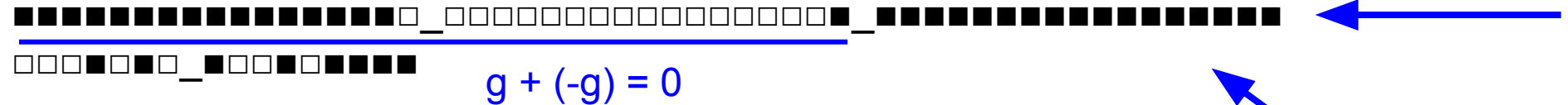
8. Delete subgames with no moves, and pairs of visually identifiable inverses



9. Convert to normal form

Sum Simplification (Continued)

6. Replace singles



7. Now also consider previously set aside games.

8. Delete subgames with no moves, and pairs of visually identifiable inverses



9. Convert to normal form



Search Algorithm

Search Algorithm

1. Simplify board

Search Algorithm

1. Simplify board
2. Check database, then transposition table

Search Algorithm

1. Simplify board
2. Check database, then transposition table
3. Try outcome class and bounds to solve

Search Algorithm

1. Simplify board
2. Check database, then transposition table
3. Try outcome class and bounds to solve
4. Speculative subgame removal

Search Algorithm

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 - For subgame G_i with certain known outcome classes, try to solve $G - G_i$ instead

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5. Generate and play moves

Search Algorithm

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Search Algorithm

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Search Algorithm

1. Simplify board
2. Check database, then transposition table
3. Try outcome class and bounds to solve
4. Speculative subgame removal
 - For subgame G_i with certain known outcome classes, try to solve $G - G_i$ instead
5. Generate and play moves
 - Move ordering informed by:
 - Outcome classes
 - DB “simplest moves”

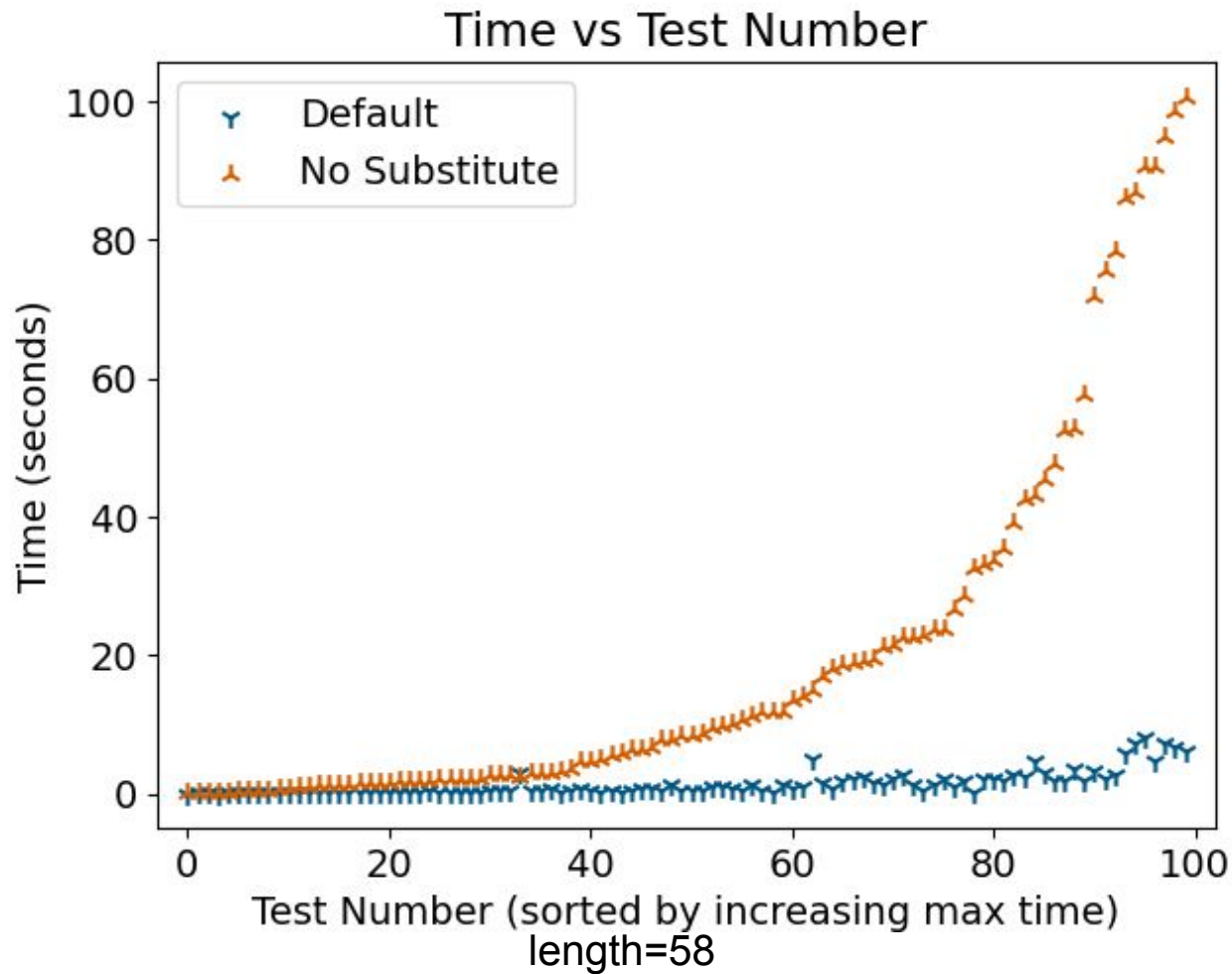
Search Algorithm

1. Simplify board
2. Check database, then transposition table
3. Try outcome class and bounds to solve
4. Speculative subgame removal
 - For subgame G_i with certain known outcome classes, try to solve $G - G_i$ instead
5. Generate and play moves
 - Move ordering informed by:
 - Outcome classes
 - DB “simplest moves”
 - Heuristic “best moves”

Search Algorithm

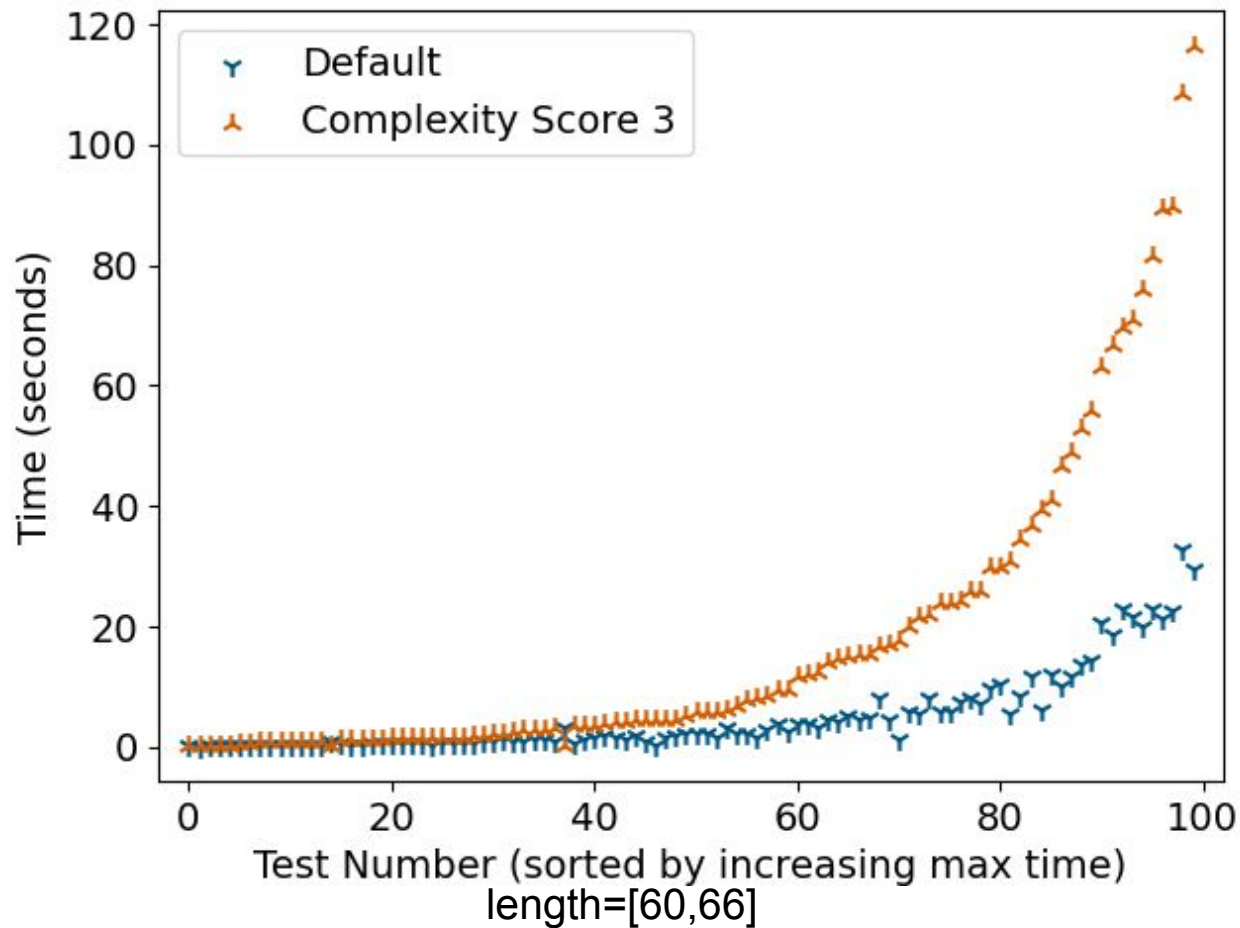
1. Simplify board
2. Check database, then transposition table
3. Try outcome class and bounds to solve
4. Speculative subgame removal
 - For subgame G_i with certain known outcome classes, try to solve $G - G_i$ instead
5. Generate and play moves
 - Move ordering informed by:
 - Outcome classes
 - DB “simplest moves”
 - Heuristic “best moves”
 - Middle of subgames

Ablation: Substitution

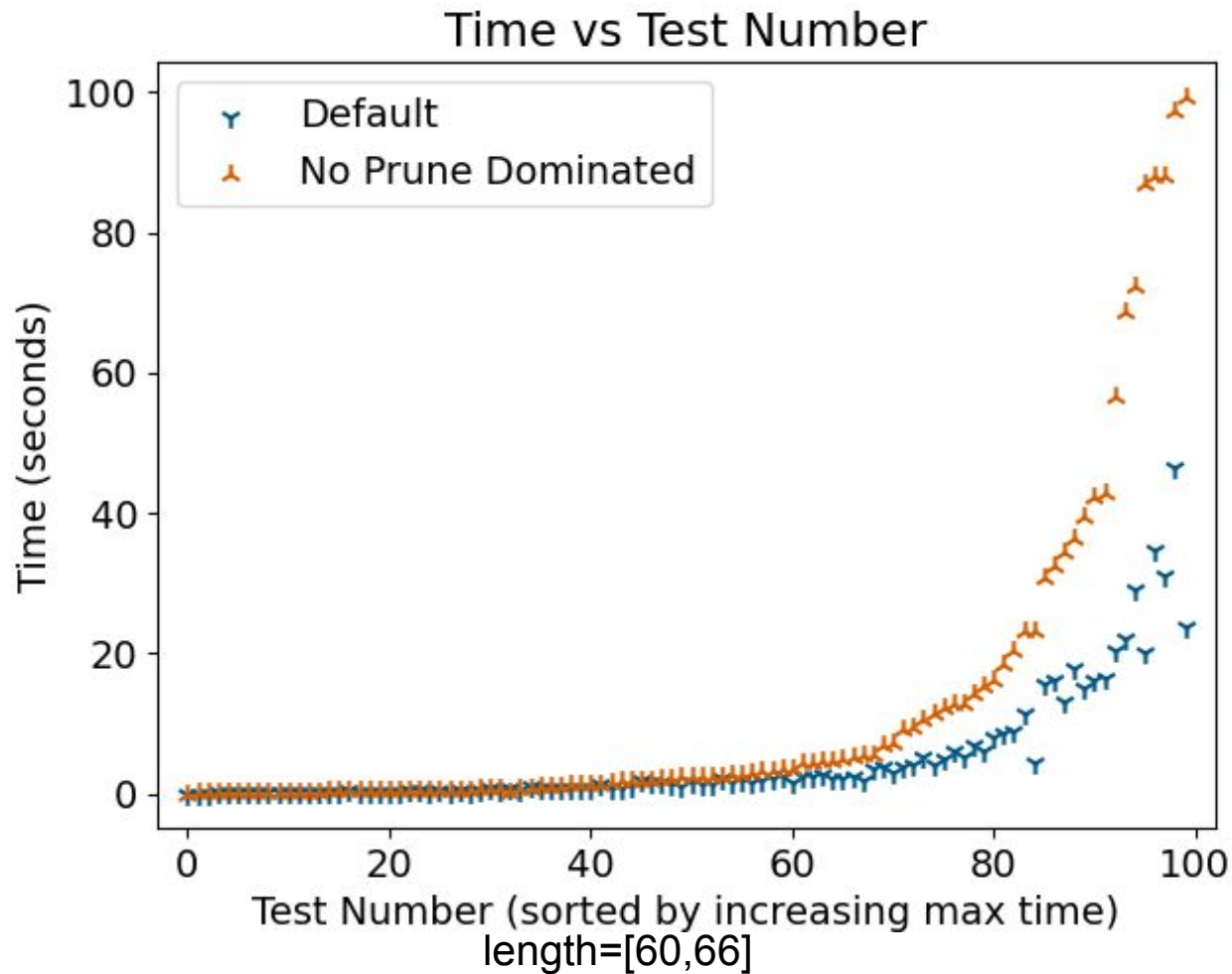


Ablation: Complexity Score (CS4 vs CS3)

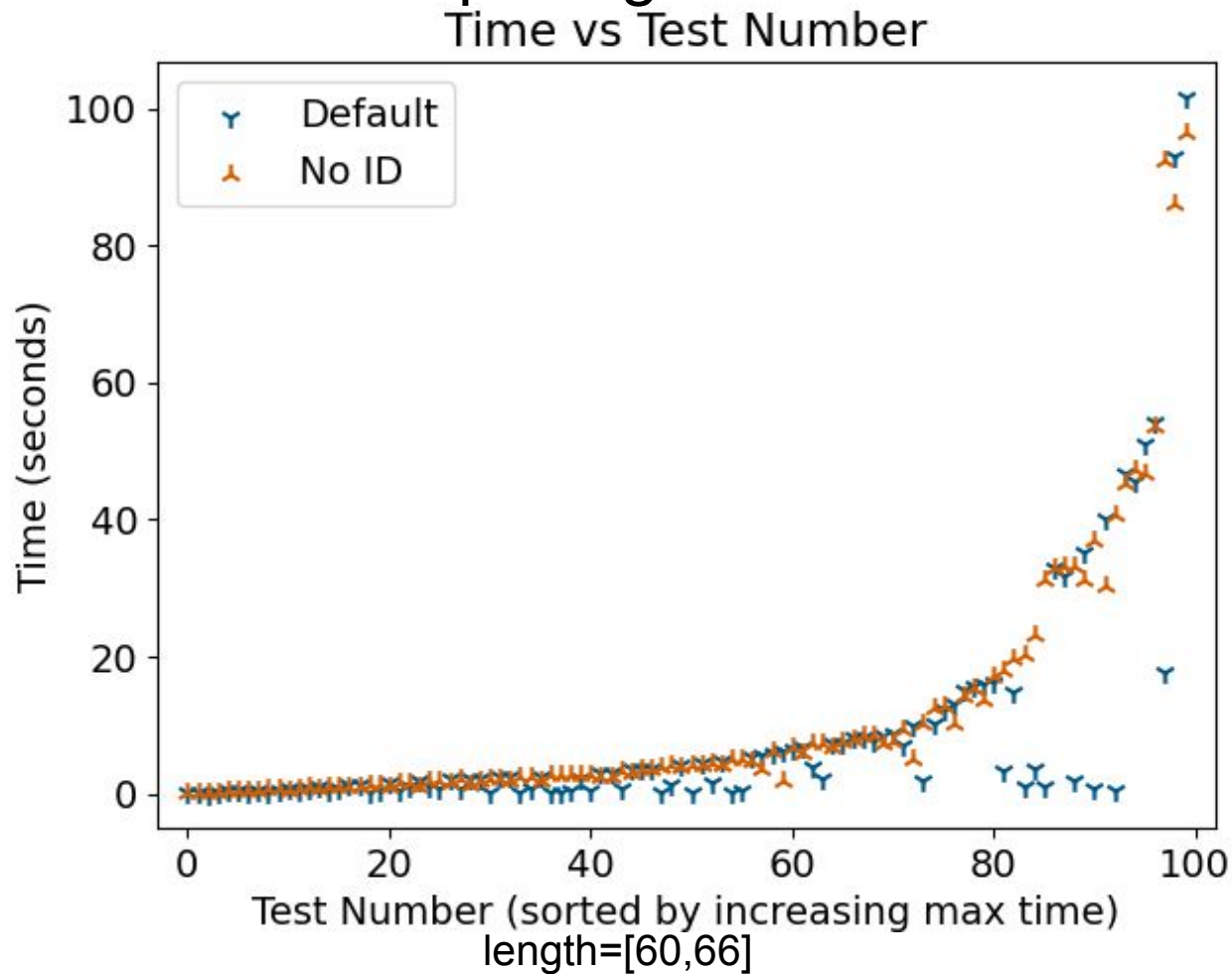
Time vs Test Number



Ablation: Prune Dominated Moves

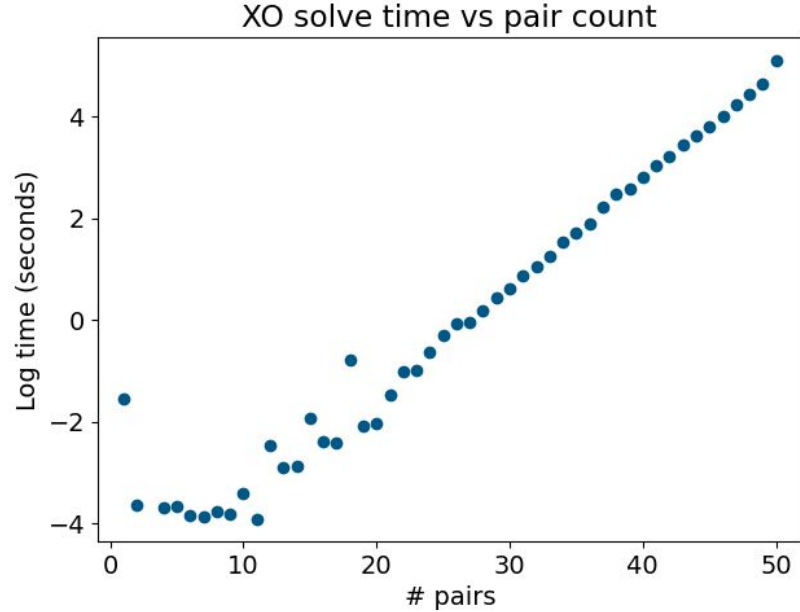


Ablation: Iterative Deepening



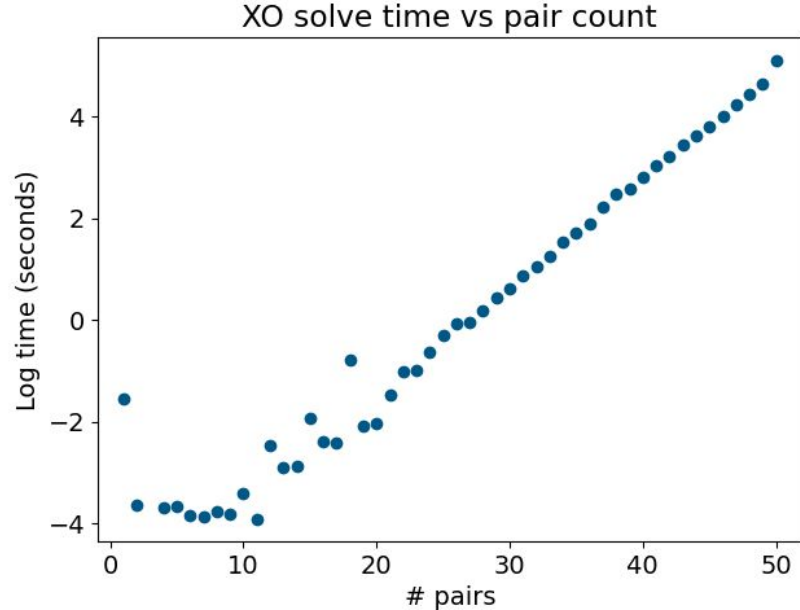
Verifying $(\blacksquare\Box)^n$ Conjecture

Verifying $(\blacksquare\blacksquare)^n$ Conjecture



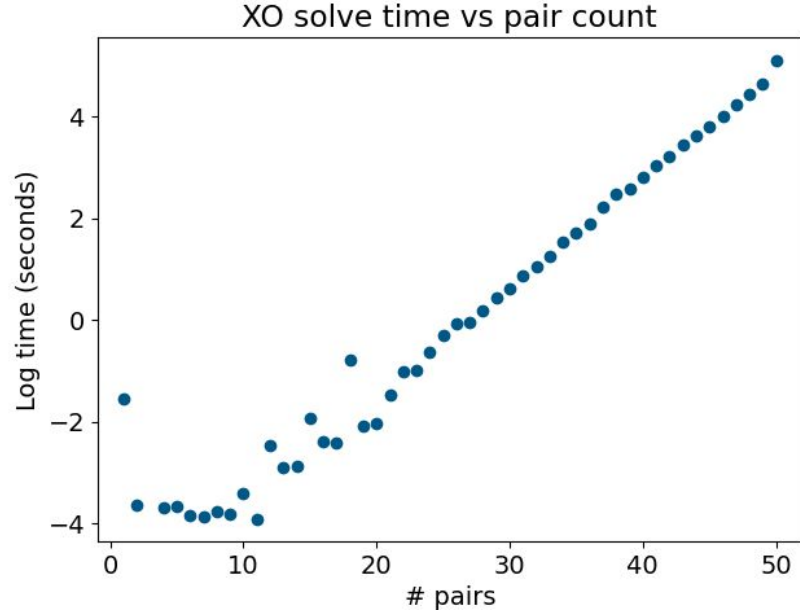
Verifying (■□)^n Conjecture

- Transposition table not cleared between runs



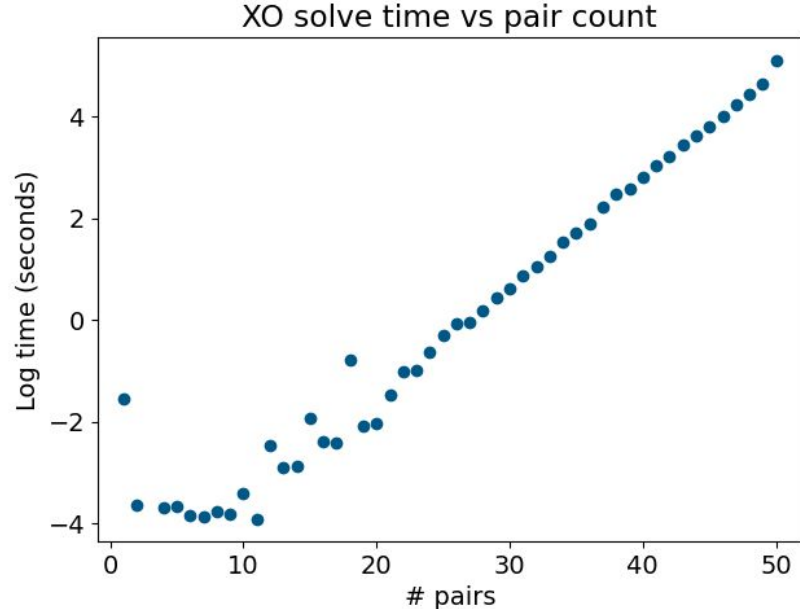
Verifying (■□)^n Conjecture

- Transposition table not cleared between runs
- $4 \cdot 2^{29}$ table entries



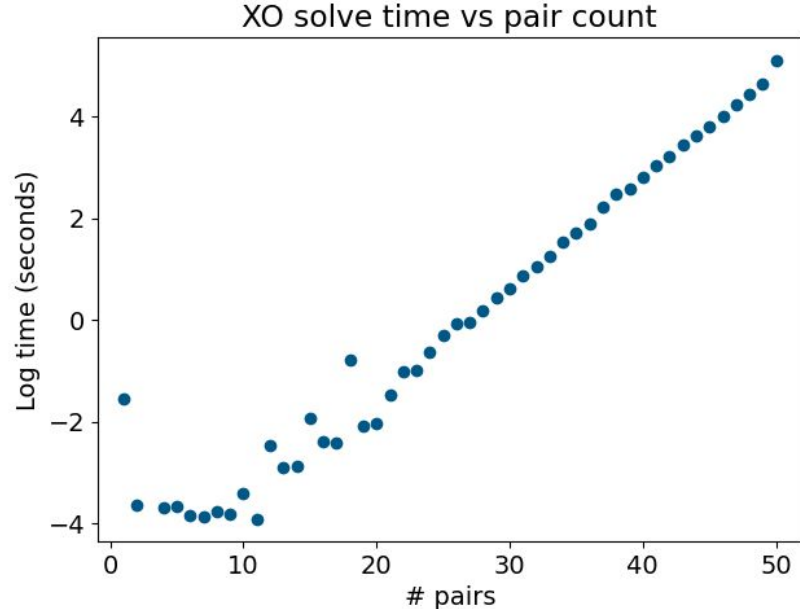
Verifying (■□)^n Conjecture

- Transposition table not cleared between runs
- $4 \cdot 2^{29}$ table entries
- Root node plays hardcoded move: 13 -> right



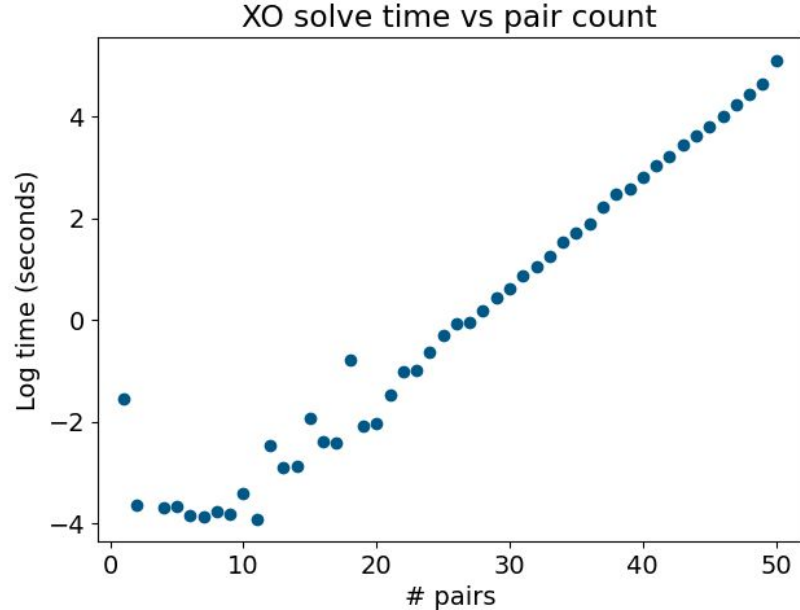
Verifying (■□)^n Conjecture

- Transposition table not cleared between runs
- $4 \cdot 2^{29}$ table entries
- Root node plays hardcoded move: 13 -> right
- From n to $n+1$ -> $\sim 1.6x$ time



Verifying (■□)^n Conjecture

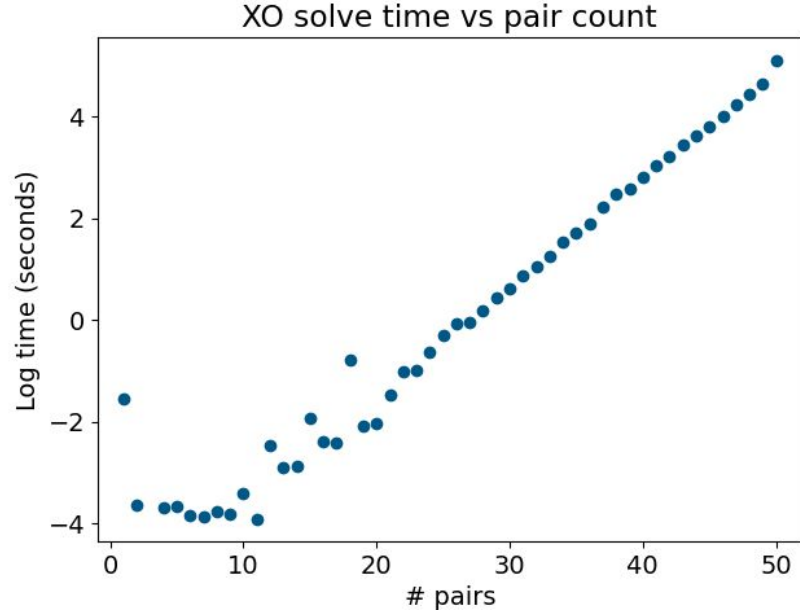
- Transposition table not cleared between runs
- $4 \cdot 2^{29}$ table entries
- Root node plays hardcoded move: 13 -> right
- From n to $n+1$ -> $\sim 1.6x$ time
- Solve only for Black



Verifying (■□)ⁿ Conjecture

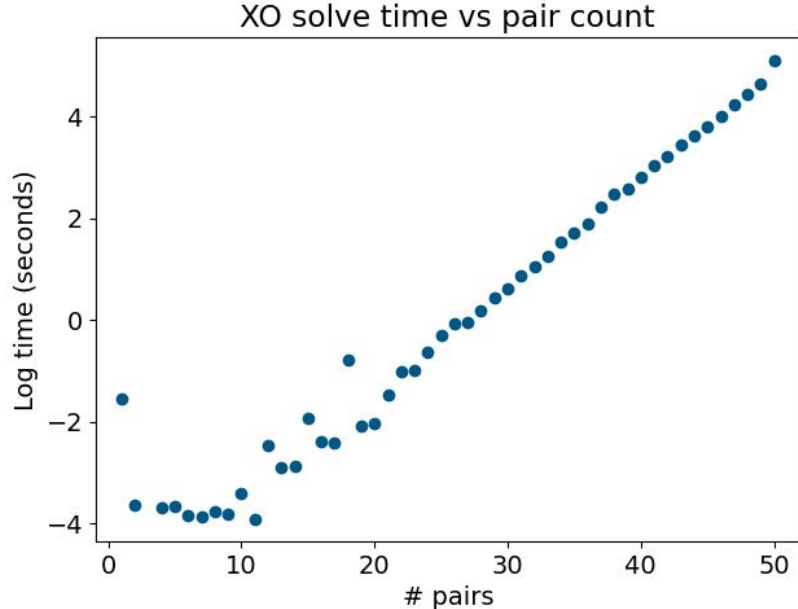
- Transposition table not cleared between runs
- 4*2²⁹ table entries
- Root node plays hardcoded move: 13 -> right
- From n to n+1 -> ~1.6x time
- Solve only for Black

(■□)¹⁹ = previous record



Verifying $(\blacksquare\Box)^n$ Conjecture

- Transposition table not cleared between runs
- $4 \cdot 2^{29}$ table entries
- Root node plays hardcoded move: 13 $\rightarrow$ right
- From n to $n+1 \rightarrow \sim 1.6x$ time
- Solve only for Black



$(\blacksquare\square)^{19} = \text{previous record}$

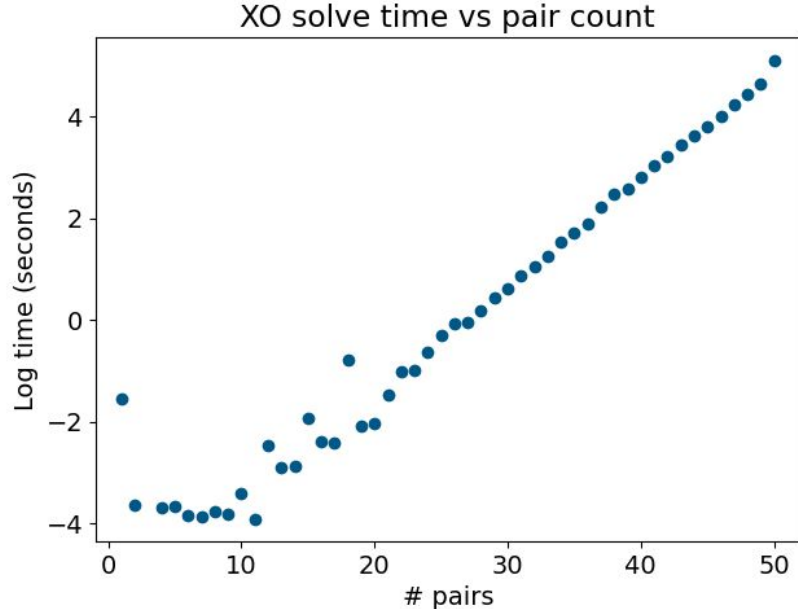
0 **1** **2** **3** **4** **5** **6** **7** **8** **9** **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G** **H** **I** **J** **K** **L** **M** **N** **O** **P** **Q** **R** **S** **T** **U** **V** **W** **X** **Y** **Z**

0.084 seconds on clean start!

$$(\blacksquare\square)^{50} = \text{new record}$$

Verifying $(\blacksquare\Box)^n$ Conjecture

- Transposition table not cleared between runs
- $4 \cdot 2^{29}$ table entries
- Root node plays hardcoded move: 13 -> right
- From n to $n+1$ -> $\sim 1.6x$ time
- Solve only for Black



$(\blacksquare\square)^{19} = \text{previous record}$

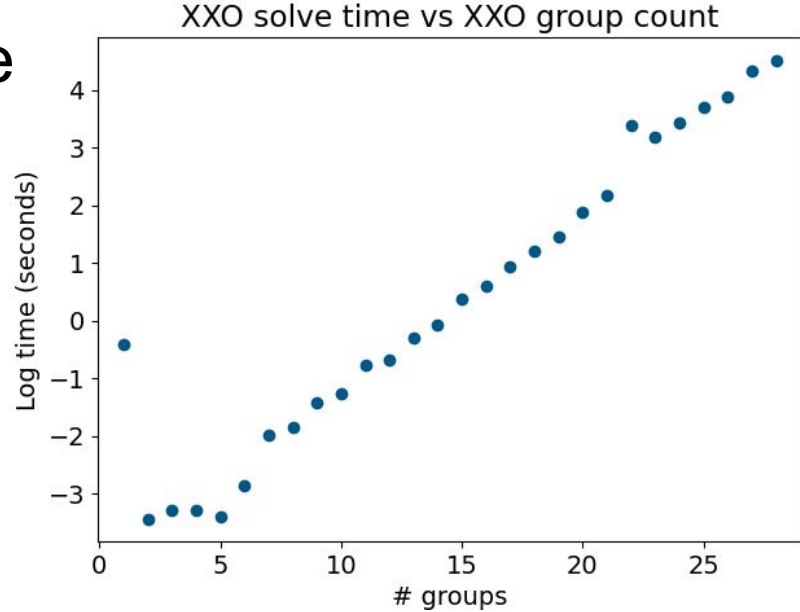
[illegible]

0.084 seconds on clean start!

$$(\blacksquare\square)^{50} = \text{new record}$$
☐

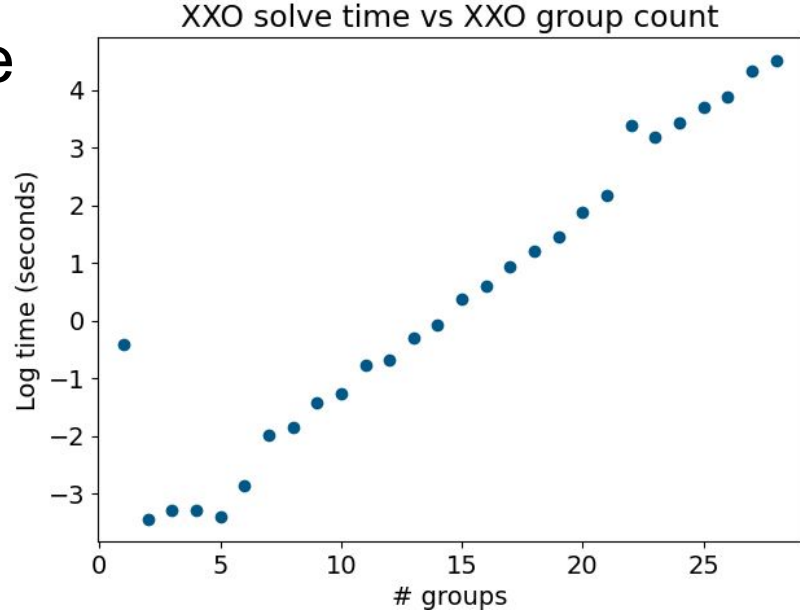
Verifying $(\blacksquare\blacksquare\square)^n$ Conjecture

Verifying (■■■)^n Conjecture



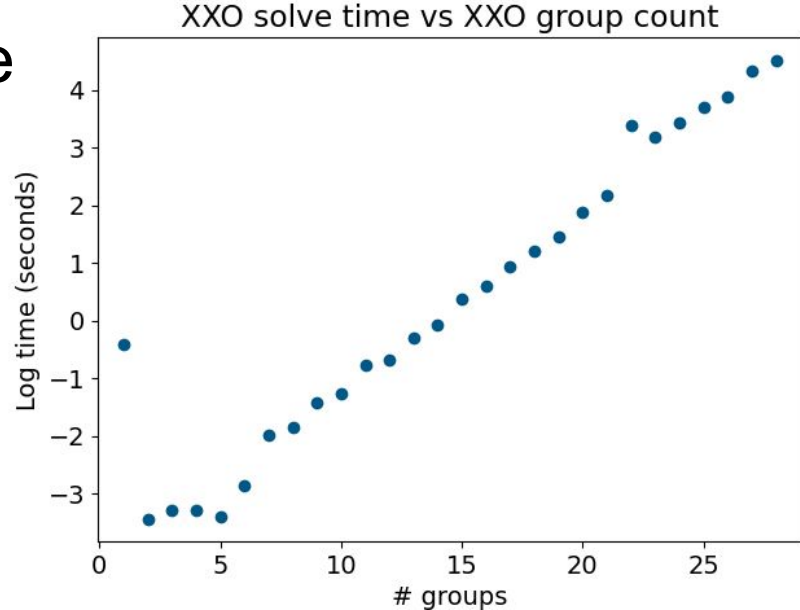
Verifying (■■■)^n Conjecture

- Transposition table not cleared between runs
- $4 \cdot 2^{29}$ table entries



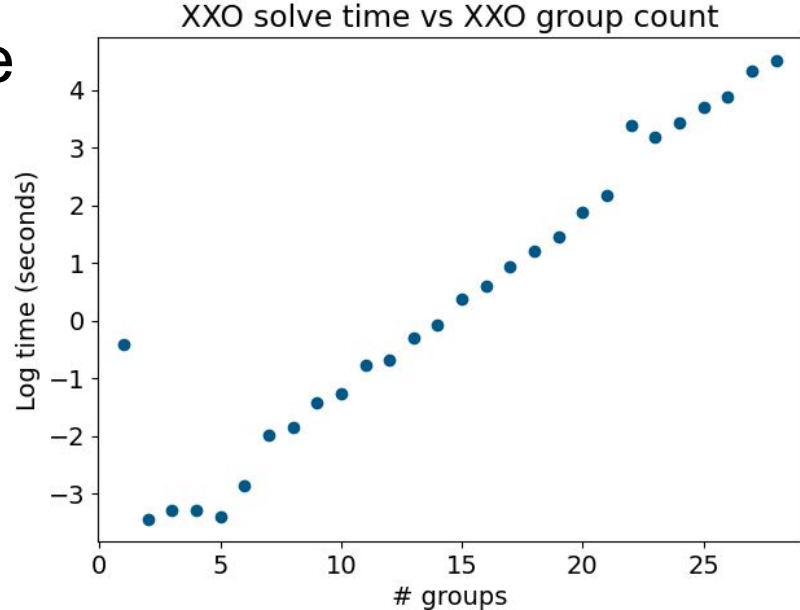
Verifying (■■■□)^n Conjecture

- Transposition table not cleared between runs
- $4 \cdot 2^{29}$ table entries
- From n to $n+1 \rightarrow \sim 2.12x$ time



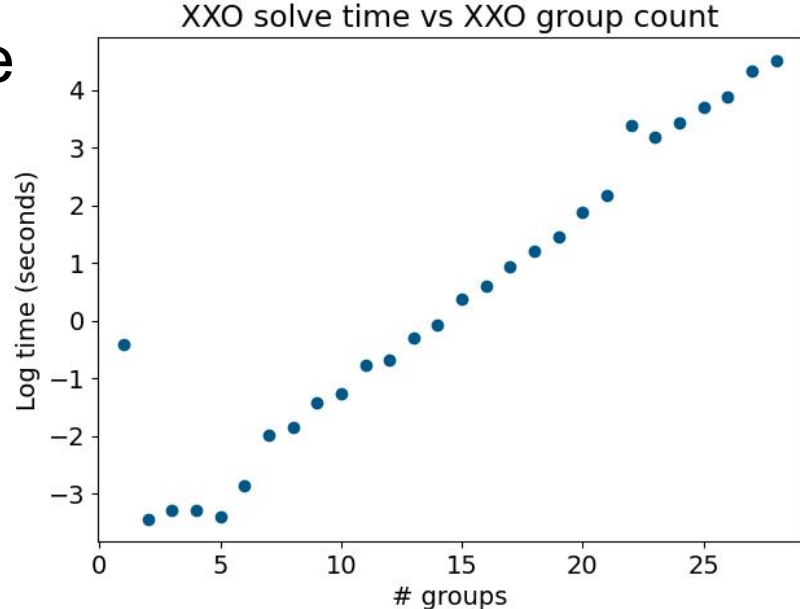
Verifying (■■■)^n Conjecture

- Transposition table not cleared between runs
- $4 \cdot 2^{29}$ table entries
- From n to $n+1 \rightarrow \sim 2.12x$ time
- Solve for both Black and White



Verifying (■■■)^n Conjecture

- Transposition table not cleared between runs
- $4 \cdot 2^{29}$ table entries
- From n to $n+1 \rightarrow \sim 2.12x$ time
- Solve for both Black and White



$(■■■)^{17} + 9(□□■) = \text{previous record}$

SEGClobber Download

- <https://github.com/tfolkersen/SEGClobber>
- MIT license
- Thanks for listening!