Solving the Multiple Variable Order Problem for Binary Decision Diagrams by Use of Dynamic Reordering Techniques

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Abstract
Reduced Ordered Binary Decision Diagrams (ROBDDs) gained widespread use in logic design verification, test generation, fault simulation, and logic synthesis [17, 7]. Since the size of an ROBDD heavily depends on the variable order used, there is a strong need to find variable orders that minimize the number of nodes in an ROBDD. In certain applications we have to cope with ROBDDs with different variable orders, whereas further manipulations of these ROBDDs require common variable orders. In this paper we solve the problem to transform ROBDDs with different variable orders into a good common variable order. To do so, we make use of dynamic variable ordering techniques.

1 Introduction
Binary Decision Diagrams (BDDs) as a data structure for representation of Boolean functions were first introduced by Lee [16] and further popularized by Akers [1] and Moret [19]. In the restricted form of ROBDDs they gained widespread use, because ROBDDs are a canonical representation and allow efficient manipulations [6]. Some fields of application are logic design verification, test generation, fault simulation, and logic synthesis [17, 7]. Most of the algorithms using ROBDDs have run time polynomial in the size of the ROBDDs. The sizes themselves depend on the variable order used. Thus, there is a need to find a variable order that minimizes the number of nodes in an ROBDD.

The existing heuristic methods for finding good variable orders can be classified into two categories: initial heuristics which derive an order by inspection of a logic circuit [17, 13, 14, 12] and dynamic reordering heuristics which try to improve on a given order [15, 21, 11, 3, 10]. Sifting introduced by Rudell [21] has emerged so far as the most successful algorithm for dynamic reordering of variables. This algorithm is based on finding the local optimum position of a variable, assuming all other variables remain fixed. The position of a variable in the order is determined by moving the variable to all possible positions while keeping the other variables fixed.

In this paper we deal with the fact that certain applications have to cope with ROBDDs represented with different variable orders. Then we have to solve the problem to transform ROBDDs with different variable orders into a common variable order. This problem is called multiple variable order problem in [9].

One application of this type is reachability analysis and formal verification using partitioned-ROBDDs [20]: ROBDDs are partitioned, i.e., decomposed into sub-ROBDDs. In this way the application can deal with each ROBDD separately and optimize their sizes independently. For image computation however Boolean operations for ROBDDs represented with different variable orders have to be performed. Thus, at first they are transformed into the same variable order.

Moreover, it has been suggested [8] that ROBDDs are used to communicate between different synthesis and verification tools. ROBDDs are dumped to files by one tool and undumped by other tools. If the ROBDDs originate from different tools, it is clear that they can have different variable orders.

Another application for the multiple variable order problem occurs in connection with functional simulation [2, 18, 22] using binary decision diagrams. In these approaches ROBDDs for circuits are computed and then used for compiler-driven simulation. To control the ROBDD sizes intermediate variables are introduced as cut points based on size limits for the ROBDD sizes. The result of this process is a partition of the circuit into clusters. To speed up cycle based functional simulation for the output functions of
these clusters (primary outputs or cut points) the ROBDDs of the corresponding characteristic functions $\chi$ are computed $\chi(t_1, \ldots, t_n, o_1, \ldots, o_m) = \bigwedge_{i=1}^{m}(o_i \equiv f_i(t_1, \ldots, t_n))$, where $f_i$ are the output functions and $o_i$ are corresponding output variables. Then the characteristic functions of the clusters are evaluated in topological order.

In the partitioning approach of [22] variable reordering is used to minimize the sizes of the characteristic functions separately. However, to minimize the evaluation time the number of clusters has to be minimized, i.e. it is checked whether pairs of clusters can be merged into one. To do so, the ROBDDs for the characteristic functions are transformed into the same variable orders and then an AND operation is applied to the ROBDDs. The merging is accepted, when the result is smaller than a certain size limit. (In this special application the fact, that it is not possible to transform the ROBDDs for the characteristic functions into a common variable order within a certain node limit for the ROBDDs, can be accepted, since the algorithm still works although the quality of the result might decrease. For reasons of run time efficiency it can make sense to decide early, if the transformation into a common variable order works or should be aborted.

In [9] the problem to transform two ROBDDs into a common variable order is solved by inspection of the two variable orders, computation of an intermediate variable order based on these two variable orders and a transformation of the two ROBDDs into the intermediate variable order by level exchanges. In contrast to this approach we use dynamic reordering techniques [21] to transform the two ROBDDs into a common variable order and thereby dynamically adapt the ordering to the resulting new ROBDDs. Experimental results demonstrate that in our approach time efficiency it can make sense to decide early, if the transformation into a common variable order works or should be aborted. The operation is aborted, when the node number would exceed some reordering limit. Usually, the reordering limit is initialized to some smaller number to reorder also ROBDDs at the beginning of a series of BDD computations, which are typically smaller, and is increased step by step during the computation until it reaches an absolute node limit [23].

3 The Multiple Variable Order Problem

Suppose we have two Boolean functions $f$ and $g$, which are represented by BDDs $BDD_{\pi_1}(f)$ and $BDD_{\pi_2}(g)$, respectively. Then the solution of the Multiple Variable Order problem (MVO) for $BDD_{\pi_1}(f)$ and $BDD_{\pi_2}(g)$ means the following:

Find a variable order $\pi_{f,g}$, such that the sizes of $BDD_{\pi_{f,g}}(f)$ and $BDD_{\pi_{f,g}}(g)$ as shared BDD [5] are minimized.

3.1 Theoretical background

From the NP completeness of the variable ordering problem for single BDDs [24, 4] we can easily conclude that the task to solve MVO exactly is a hard problem.

Theorem 1 MVO is an NP complete problem.

Proof: To transform an arbitrary instance of the variable ordering problem for single BDDs into a corresponding instance of MVO in polynomial time, we simply add the BDD for the constant 1 function, which does not depend on the variable order, to the original (single) BDD. A solution of MVO for this problem also solves the original problem. □

Furthermore it can be shown that there are pairs of Boolean functions, where a blow up of the BDD sizes compared to the BDD sizes of the single BDDs can not be avoided, since it is not possible to find an efficient common variable order for the two BDDs. The following theorem gives an example for such a case.
**Theorem 2** Let \( f = \bigvee_{i=1}^{n} \bigwedge_{j=1}^{n} x_{ij} \) and \( g = \bigvee_{j=1}^{n} \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n} x_{ij} \). There are variable orders \( \pi_f \) and \( \pi_g \) such that \( BDD_{\pi_f}(f) \) and \( BDD_{\pi_g}(g) \) have (optimal) sizes \( n^2 + 2 \), respectively, but for all variable orders \( \pi \) \( BDD_{\pi}(f) \) or \( BDD_{\pi}(g) \) has a size of at least \( 2^\frac{n^2}{2} \).

I.e. \( f \) and \( g \) in Theorem 2 can be represented efficiently, when different orders for \( f \) and \( g \) are allowed, but there is no common variable order, which leads to efficient representations for both \( f \) and \( g \).

Theorem 2 can be proved using communication complexity arguments:

**Proof:** To prove the lower bound for the size of \( BDD_{\pi}(f) \) or \( BDD_{\pi}(g) \) we introduce a cut line after the first \( \frac{n^2}{2} \) variables and prove that for \( BDD_{\pi_f}(f) \) or \( BDD_{\pi_g}(g) \) the number of nodes immediately below this cut line (i.e. nodes below the cut line, which are connected by an edge to the upper part of the BDD) is at least \( 2^\frac{n^2}{2} \).

To do so we define two sets of input variables:

\[ L = \{ \pi(1), \ldots, \pi\left(\frac{n^2}{2}\right) \} \]

(the first input variables in the order) and

\[ R = \{ \pi\left(\frac{n^2}{2} + 1\right), \ldots, \pi(n^2) \} \]

(the last input variables in the order). Then we define a set of cofactors of \( f \) (or \( g \)) with respect to variables from \( L \). Cofactors with respect to variables from \( L \) correspond to nodes in the BDD immediately below the cut line after the variables in \( L \) and if we can prove that there are \( 2^\frac{n^2}{2} \) different cofactors with respect to variables from \( L \), it is easy to see that there are (at least) \( 2^\frac{n^2}{2} \) different nodes immediately below this cut line.

To define the set of cofactors mentioned above we need the sets

\[ L_{\text{rows}} = \{ i \mid \forall j, x_{ij} \in L \} \]

and

\[ \text{mixed}_{\text{rows}} = \{ i \mid \exists j, k \text{ with } x_{ij} \in L \text{ and } x_{ik} \in R \} \]

Now we consider two cases:

**Case 1:** \( L_{\text{rows}} = \emptyset \).

Since \( |L| = \frac{n^2}{2} \) input variables, it is clear that

\[ mr := |\text{mixed}_{\text{rows}}| > \frac{n^2}{2} \]

We consider a set of \( 2^{mr} > 2^\frac{n^2}{2} \) cofactors of \( f \). For \( (e_1, \ldots, e_{mr}) \in \{0, 1\}^{mr} \) \( \text{cof}_{e_1, \ldots, e_{mr}}^f \) is defined as

\[ \text{cof}_{e_1, \ldots, e_{mr}}^f := f_{\pi(1)}(e_1, \ldots, e_{mr})_{\pi(\frac{n^2}{2})} \]

\[ \text{val}(\pi(k)) = \begin{cases} e_i \text{ if } \pi(k) = x_{ij} \text{ with } i \in \text{mixed}_{\text{rows}} & (1) \\ 0, \text{ otherwise} & (2) \end{cases} \]

It remains to show that

\[ \text{cof}_{e_1, \ldots, e_{mr}}^f \neq \text{cof}_{e_1', \ldots, e_{mr}'}^f \text{ if } (e_1, \ldots, e_{mr}) \neq (e_1', \ldots, e_{mr}'). \]

Assume w.l.o.g. \( e_{i_{\text{diff}}} = 1, e_{i_{\text{diff}}} = 0 \).

We give an assignment to the remaining \( \frac{n^2}{2} \) variables, which shows that \( \text{cof}_{e_1, \ldots, e_{mr}}^f \) and \( \text{cof}_{e_1', \ldots, e_{mr}'}^f \) are different:

For all \( \frac{n^2}{2} < k \leq n^2 \)

\[ \text{val}(\pi(k)) = \begin{cases} 1, \text{ if } \pi(k) = x_{i_{\text{diff}}j} & (3) \\ 0, \text{ otherwise} & (4) \end{cases} \]

Now we have

\[ \text{cof}_{e_1, \ldots, e_{mr}}^f = \begin{cases} \text{val}(\pi_{\frac{n^2}{2}+1}), \ldots, \text{val}(\pi(n^2)) & (5) \\ \text{val}(\pi_{\frac{n^2}{2}+1}), \ldots, \text{val}(\pi(n^2)) & (6) \end{cases} \]

because in \( \text{cof}_{e_1, \ldots, e_{mr}}^f \) all \( x_{i_{\text{diff}}j} \) set to 1 by lines (1) and (3) and

\[ \text{cof}_{e_1', \ldots, e_{mr}'}^f = \begin{cases} \text{val}(\pi_{\frac{n^2}{2}+1}), \ldots, \text{val}(\pi(n^2)) & (7) \\ \text{val}(\pi_{\frac{n^2}{2}+1}), \ldots, \text{val}(\pi(n^2)) & (8) \end{cases} \]

because for all \( i \) there is a \( j \), such that \( x_{ij} \) is set to 0 in \( \text{cof}_{e_1, \ldots, e_{mr}}^f \) if \( i = i_{\text{diff}} \), \( j \in \text{mixed}_{\text{rows}} \) set to 0 because of line (1),

if \( i \neq i_{\text{diff}} \) \( i \in \text{mixed}_{\text{rows}} \) \( \exists j \) with \( x_{ij} \) set to 0 because of line (4),

if \( i \neq i_{\text{diff}} \) \( i \notin \text{mixed}_{\text{rows}} \) \( x_{ij} \) set to 0 for all \( 1 \leq j \leq n \) because of line (4).

This proves the fact that

\[ \text{cof}_{e_1, \ldots, e_{mr}}^f \neq \text{cof}_{e_1', \ldots, e_{mr}'}^f \]

such that we have defined a set of \( 2^{mr} > 2^\frac{n^2}{2} \) different cofactors of \( f \) with respect to \( L \).

**Case 2:** \( L_{\text{rows}} \neq \emptyset \).

Then we can conclude that the set

\[ \text{mixed}_{\text{columns}} = \{ j \mid \exists i, k \text{ with } x_{ij} \in L \text{ and } x_{kj} \in R \} \]

has a cardinality

\[ mc := |\text{mixed}_{\text{columns}}| > \frac{n}{2} \]

and with analogous arguments as in Case 1 we can define a set of \( 2^{mc} > 2^\frac{n}{2} \) different cofactors of \( g \) which correspond to different nodes in \( BDD_{\pi}(g) \) below a cut line after the variables in \( L \). \( \square \)

If we find such a case, where a transformation into a common variable order will definitely lead to a blow-up of the BDD sizes, the transformation should be aborted as early as possible without wasting space and time.
3.2 Solution of MVO

Here we present a heuristic to solve MVO approximately.

The same problem was already studied by Cabodi et al. in [9]. They solve the problem by computation of an intermediate variable order \( \pi_{fg} \) based on \( \pi_f \) and \( \pi_g \). Then a transformation of \( \text{BDD}_{\pi_f}(f) \) and \( \text{BDD}_{\pi_g}(g) \) to \( \pi_{fg} \) by level exchanges is performed. In contrast to this approach we use dynamic reordering techniques [21] to transform the two BDDs into a common variable order \( \pi_{fg} \) which thereby is dynamically adapted to the currently involved BDDs.

First of all, we choose one of the two BDDs to start with (e.g., the larger one). W.l.o.g. we start with \( \text{BDD}_{\pi_f}(f) \). Now we transform cofactors of \( g \) step by step to the order of the BDD for \( f \).

More precisely, we traverse \( \text{BDD}_{\pi_g}(g) \) in a depth first manner and transform cofactors of \( g \), which correspond to nodes in \( \text{BDD}_{\pi_g}(g) \) into the order of the BDD for \( f \). Suppose the current order of the BDD \( \text{BDD}_{\pi_{old}}(f) \) for \( f \) is \( \pi_{old} \) and suppose we have reached node \( v \) of \( \text{BDD}_{\pi_g}(g) \) labeled by variable \( x_i \). Since we traverse \( \text{BDD}_{\pi_g}(g) \) depth first, we have already computed for low–son \( \text{low}(v) \) and high–son \( \text{high}(v) \) \( \text{BDD}_{\pi_{old}}(\text{low}(v)) \) and \( \text{BDD}_{\pi_{old}}(\text{high}(v)) \), which have the same variable order as \( \text{BDD}_{\pi_{old}}(f) \). Now we simply compute in variable order \( \pi_{old} \) the if–then–else operation \( i e(x_i; \text{BDD}_{\pi_{old}}(\text{low}(v)), \text{BDD}_{\pi_{old}}(\text{high}(v))) \). The result is a representation for the function \( g_v \) represented at node \( v \) of \( \text{BDD}_{\pi_g}(g) \), now in same variable order as the BDD for \( f \).

During the computation of the new BDD for \( g_v \) by \( i e(x_i; \text{BDD}_{\pi_{old}}(\text{low}(v)), \text{BDD}_{\pi_{old}}(\text{high}(v))) \), we use dynamic reordering. If the reordering limit is exceeded during this computation, dynamic reordering (sifting) is applied to simultaneously minimize the BDDs for \( f \) and all BDDs computed in variable order \( \pi_{old} \) so far. If dynamic reordering does not give up, after the call of operation \( i e \) we have BDDs for \( f, g_v \) and all other functions for nodes of \( g \) visited so far in a (possibly new) variable order \( \pi_{new} \).

In this way we compute step by step variable orders, which are good both for \( f \) and cofactors of \( g \) and finally we have a variable order, which is also good for \( g \). The adaptation of the variable orders for the BDDs for \( f \) and \( g \) proceeds step by step during the computation of the BDD for \( g \) based on cofactors of \( g \).

There still remains one point: In many applications dynamic reordering produces good results, but tends to slow down computation times by frequent reorderings.

For this reason we restrict dynamic reordering here. We introduce an upper limit for the number of reordering steps. We count the number of reorderings during the adaption of the variable orders for \( f \) and \( g \) and if this limit would be exceeded, the operation fails with the parameters currently used. This decision is motivated by our clustering approach for functional simulation [22]: We do not want to spend too much time on the computation of a common variable order for two clusters, which is likely to fail in the end or to produce huge BDDs. Moreover, it is clear, that the introduction of such a limit for the number of reorderings defines a trade-off between run time and the quality of the result in this application.

Finally, we have to adjust the initial reordering limit, if we restrict the number of reorderings. If we have chosen only a small number of reorderings, we do not want to waste the limited number of reordering steps by too early reorderings, which are performed for small BDDs and which are not yet absolutely necessary. Therefore we choose the higher initial reordering limit the smaller the allowed number of reorderings is. The initial reordering limit is chosen based on the allowed number of reorderings \( \text{maxreorder} \) and on the sizes of the BDDs for which a common variable order has to be computed. For our practical experiments we use \( \text{size}(\text{BDD}_{\pi_f}(f)) + \frac{(\text{size}(\text{BDD}_{\pi_g}(g)))}{\text{maxreorder} + 1} \) as initial reordering limit.

4 Experimental Results

To evaluate our heuristic for the MVO problem, we integrated our heuristic in the CUDD package [23]. In a first experiment we use data originating from our approach for functional simulation [22] for larger circuits. We selected the last tries for cluster merging for different circuits (successful or not in our original algorithm), since at the end of the algorithm clusters are getting larger and therefore harder problems must be solved.

The experiments were performed on a SPARC Ultra 2 (256MB memory). The CPU time was limited to 2 hours and the node limit for the BDD package was 2000000.

We tried several choices for the maximum number of reorderings during the computation of common variable orders. The algorithm of Section 3 was started with the larger one of the two BDDs. The results are summarized in Table 1. In the second column the sizes of the two BDDs (number of nodes) are given for which MVO has to be solved. (Note that the BDDs represent not the output functions, but the characteristic functions for the clusters.) Columns dyn< \( n \) > show the results for our approach with \( n \) as the maximum number of reorderings. dyn0, e.g., is the algorithm, when absolutely no reordering is allowed and the second BDD is simply transformed to the order of the first BDD. dyn\( \infty \) is the algorithm, when the number of reorderings is not restricted at all\(^1\). The results are compared to the “greedy gradual” heuristic and the “greedy at

\(^1\) dyn\( \infty \) corresponds to the command Cudd_SddTransfer in [23].
once” heuristic from [9] (columns gradual and atonce). For each example there are four lines in the table. The first line gives the size of the result as a shared BDD. The second line gives the run time for the algorithm (in format

| sizes | dyn0 | dyn1 | dyn2 | dyn3 | dyn4 | dyn5 | dyn6 | dyn7 | dyn8 | dyn9 | dyn10 | dyn11 | dyn12 | dyn13 | dyn14 | dyn15 | dyn16 | dyn17 | dyn18 | dyn19 | dyn20 |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 89492 | 912  | 11851| 10964| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180|
| 4127 | 244  | 11900| 10760| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180| 101180|
| 196  | 52756| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004| 50004|
| 84388| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688|
| 9156 | 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688| 21688|
| 18890 | 18890 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 | 15383 |
| 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 | 8637 |
| 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 | 2398 |
| 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 | 1151 |
| 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 | 55034 |
| 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 | 18097 |
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Table 1. Experimental results for different solution strategies for MVO (characteristic functions of circuit clusters for functional simulation), largest BDD first.
The "greedy at once" heuristic gives the smallest run times (if successful), but has a tendency to exceed the node limit. If it does finish, the BDD sizes are relatively large. In contrast, the "greedy gradual" heuristic is slow (there are many time outs). Also, even in the cases, when it does finish, BDD sizes are relatively large compared to our dyn< n > approach even for smaller values of n. The dyn< n > approach is able to provide a good trade-off between run time and quality. While for smaller values of n the run times are smaller, there are still cases, when the computation does not finish. For n equal to seven or larger all problems could be solved with a reasonable amount of runtime.

To confirm this analysis we summarize the results at the bottom of Table 1. We compare dyn3 and dyn7 to the "greedy gradual" heuristic and the "greedy at once" heuristic. In lines 1–4 we give the sums of the final BDD sizes, the run times, BDD sizes after sifting and total run times including sifting for all examples, for which both compared algorithms do not fail.

However, since both the "greedy gradual" heuristic and the "greedy at once" heuristic fail for 8 out of 14 examples, whereas dyn3 fails only for 3 examples and dyn7 does not fail for any example, we conclude that – in contrast to our dyn< n > heuristic – both the "greedy gradual" heuristic and the "greedy at once" heuristic seem not to be suitable for this set of examples.

For a second experiment we have chosen pairs of benchmark circuits, for which BDDs were constructed and optimized separately. After that we transformed the BDDs into a common variable order. We used all those pairs of circuits from [9] which were at our disposal. Table 2 shows the results. As in Table 1, for each pair of circuits the first line gives the size of the result as a shared BDD, the second line gives the run time for the algorithm, the third line gives the BDD sizes after a final sifting step, and the fourth line gives the total run time including sifting.

Here all algorithms could finish all examples. Again, at the bottom of the table the results are summarized. The first line gives the sum of the BDD sizes, the second the sum of run times, the third line gives the sum of BDD sizes after sifting and, finally, the last line the sum of the total run times including sifting. In columns 2–5 these sums are given for dyn3, dyn7, "greedy gradual" and "greedy at once".

In columns 6–9 we give the ratios dyn3 to "greedy gradual", dyn3 to "greedy at once", dyn7 to "greedy gradual" and dyn7 to "greedy at once".

Table 2. Experimental results for different solution strategies for MVO (pairs of circuits), largest BDD first.

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The differences of sizes compared to [9] are apparently due to different initial variable orders for the circuits.
compared to the “greedy gradual” heuristic. The “greedy at once” heuristic gives the best run times, but this is achieved at the cost of much larger BDDs. If we apply a final sifting step to optimize the variable orders of the results, the advantage of “greedy at once” with respect to run time is lost, because larger BDDs have to be sifted.

If we have a closer look at Table 2 we can observe again that the dyn\(< n >\) is able to provide a good trade–off between run time and quality.

For completeness we repeated the experiments from Table 1 and Table 2 starting the algorithm of Section 3 with the smaller one of the two BDDs. Results are given in Tables 3 and 4. They are comparable to the results of Tables 1 and 2. However, since the number of reordering steps, which we have to allow if we require the transformation into a common variable order to be successful, has a slight tendency to increase in this case, we can conclude that our decision to start with the larger BDD is confirmed.

5 Conclusions

We presented a heuristic to solve the multiple variable order problem (MVO) for binary decision diagrams. In contrast to [9] we do not precompute a common variable order and transform the two BDDs into this variable order afterwards, rather we make use of dynamic reordering techniques. The adaption of the variable orders for the two BDDs proceeds step by step during the computation of the second BDD based on its cofactors. Experimental results prove our approach to be successful in solving the MVO problem. They also prove, that our approach defines a good trade–off between run time and quality of the result. In particular our heuristic dyn\(< n >\) with small values for \(n\) can also be used for a fast check if it makes sense to transform two BDDs into the same variable order or not.

References


Table 3. Experimental results for different solution strategies for MVO (characteristic functions of circuit clusters for functional simulation), smallest BDD first.


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Table 4. Experimental results for different solution strategies for MVO (pairs of circuits), smallest BDD first.

