

# S4. Queen Domination Problem

(Some Notes On William Herbert Bird's Thesis)

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## Some Clarifications

- ▶ The work is a good one, but it is easy to be misinterpreted. Thus, this work should be approached with caution; otherwise, it is easy to misunderstand what he actually did and what he actually intended to do.
- ▶ The Goal was to develop a specific solver for domination set problems. [not for other problems, not for any specific class of domination set problem (e.g., queen domination problem), etc.]
- ▶ The formulation was based on seeing the problem as an optimization problem (not a decision problem). [Thus, for example, their approach might not be best suited for domination set problems that we already know the size of minimum dom. set, but one configuration]

## Some Clarifications

- ▶ In a large portion of the thesis, this work evaluates the proposed method on several classes of domination set problems. [Therefore, in any sense, Queen Dom. Problem was not the only interest of this work]
- ▶ However, after showing the general power of the proposed method, they dedicated some sections to solve open cases of a few particular classes of Dom. Set Problem, i.e.,  $\gamma(Q_n)$ ,  $i(Q_n)$ , and  $b(Q_n)$ . [The reason is unclear, but they might wanted to assess the ability of their method to solve open cases.]
- ▶ To solve open-cases of  $\gamma(Q_n)$ , and  $i(Q_n)$  they literally used their proposed methods without any modification. However, To solve open cases of  $b(Q_n)$ , they proved some theorems and modified their methods considering some border rotation symmetries. [The reasons for their particular decisions are unclear]

## Some Clarifications

- ▶ Regarding Queen Dom. and its first open case: "The smallest open case of the queen domination and independent domination problems is now  $n = 26$ . This case should be within the reach of the algorithm used for the open cases in this thesis with currently available research computing clusters (which, for funding reasons, were not leveraged for this research). Such clusters typically have thousands of processors, and all of the infrastructure for massive parallelization is already available in the implementations presented by this research (including the unidom program)."

# "Framework 3.1 Framework for a Backtracking Search"

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**Framework 3.1** Framework for a Backtracking Search

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```
1: procedure FINDDOMINATINGSET( $G, P, C, B, \text{desired\_size}$ )
2:   if  $P$  is a dominating set then
3:     if  $|P| < |B|$  then
4:       Overwrite  $B$  with a copy of  $P$ 
5:     end if
6:     return
7:   end if
8:   Compute a lower bound  $k$  on the size of a dominating set  $D$ 
9:   such that  $P \subseteq D \subseteq P \cup C$ .
10:  if  $k \geq |B|$  or  $k > \text{desired\_size}$  then return
11:   $T \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
12:   $v \leftarrow$  An undominated vertex of  $G$ 
13:  for each vertex  $u \in N[v] \cap C$  do
14:     $T \leftarrow T \cup \{u\}$ 
15:    FINDDOMINATINGSET( $G, P \cup \{u\}, C - T, B, \text{desired\_size}$ )
16:  end for
17: end procedure
```

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## "Framework 3.1 Framework for a Backtracking Search" (Cont.)

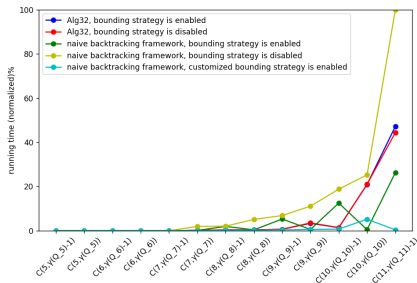
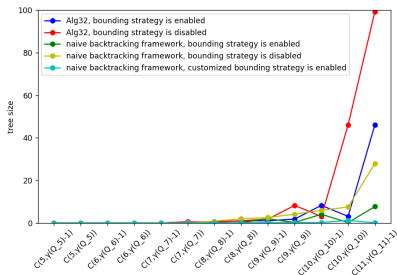
- ▶ The problem formulation (opt. vs dec.) and targeting diff. classes can make a significant diff
- ▶ If optimization without a particular focus on specific classes like Queen Dom was intended, initialization of B using an approximation algorithm could probably significantly enhance the algorithm's running time in practice.
- ▶ their vertex ordering/selection heuristics are not optimized for queen dom. [for non-existence, it should not make much of a difference, but for existence, a key observation is that in optimal queen dom sol, queens are not placed in a row]

## "Bounding Strategy 3.1." + A custom Bounding Strategy

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
2	22	24	24	24	24	24	24	22
3	22	24	26	26	26	26	24	22
4	22	24	26	28	28	26	24	22
5	22	24	26	28	28	26	24	22
6	22	24	26	26	26	26	24	22
7	22	24	24	24	24	24	24	22
8	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22

# Eval

- ▶ When comp. two algos, bigger/smaller tree size does not necessarily mean higher/lower running time.
- ▶ Below algorithms all are exponential/sub-exponential.
- ▶ The following evals. might not be valid for larger n





## "Bounding Strategy 3.3."

5	10		9	8	9	7	5
12	9	10	10	12	10	11	6
12	13	6	13	11	13	9	9
11	11	13	11	14	10	12	7
10	13	10	15	10	13	9	9
13	12	13	11	15	10	12	5
11	14	9	13	10	13	9	9
10	8	6	7	9	7	9	

## "Bounding Strategy 3.6."

14	10	9	7	9	7	10	8	11	13
10	12	8	7	8	7	10	9	11	10
10	6	11	👑	5	3	10	8	7	5
9	11	6	10	8	7	12	7	8	8
11	11	9	6	13	10	12	5	8	9
8	8	7	7	9	8	5	👑	6	6
10	9	8	8	9	👑	10	2	4	6
10	11	11	7	8	6	10	9	7	8
14	15	10	7	9	9	11	6	11	9
15	12	10	7	9	7	10	9	8	12

# Some Bugs

```
43: procedure FINDDOMINATINGSET( $G, P, C, B, \text{desired\_size}$ )
44:    $n \leftarrow |V(G)|$ 
45:   if  $|N[P]| = n$  then
46:     if  $|P| < |B|$  then
47:       Overwrite  $B$  with a copy of  $P$ 
48:     end if
49:     return
50:   end if
51:    $k \leftarrow \text{MINVERTICESNEEDED}(G, P, C)$ 
52:   if  $k \geq |B|$  or  $k > \text{desired\_size}$  then return
53:    $v \leftarrow \text{CHOOSENEXTVERTEX}(G, P, C)$ 
54:   NeighbourList  $\leftarrow N[v]$ 
55:   Sort NeighbourList by domination degree
56:    $F \leftarrow$  Empty stack
57:   for each vertex  $v_j$  in NeighbourList do
58:     if  $v_j \in C$  then
59:       Remove  $v_j$  from  $C$ 
60:       force_stop  $\leftarrow \text{FINDDOMINATINGSET}(G, P \cup \{u\}, C, B, \text{desired\_size})$ 
61:       Push  $j$  onto  $F$ 
62:       if force_stop = true then
63:         Break
64:       end if
65:     end if
66:   end for
67:   while  $F$  is non-empty do
68:      $j \leftarrow \text{POP}(F)$ 
69:      $\text{RESTORECANDIDATE}(G, P, C, B, \text{desired\_size}, j)$ 
70:   end while
71: end procedure
```

non-trivial bug

trivial bug

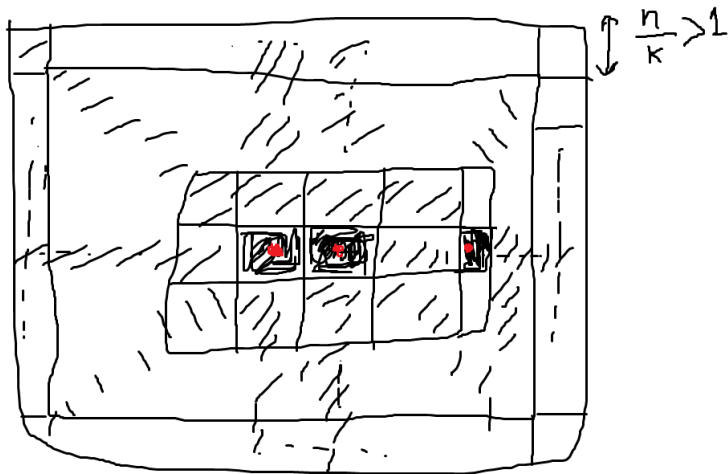
## Conclusion and Potential Future Directions

- ▶ In Queen Dom. Problem, adding new constraints is a tricky task. This is because, in addition to the power of the constraints in terms of reducing the state space, they should also be lightweight for computation. Otherwise, their potential benefit can be outweighed by the required computational overhead.
- ▶ TODO: "Practical algorithms to compute automorphism groups (as a set of generators) are already widely used (notably, the nauty program [49]). Previous research by Myrvold and Fowler [50] and Bird and Myrvold [5] has presented practical approaches to isomorphism elimination in backtracking searches."
- ▶ Mathematicians and computer scientists work on this problem. Though it is admiring, the upper bounds and lower bounds that mathematicians have established are not always applicable to those tackling the problem practically and using computers. [cause, e.g.,  $\gamma(Q_{n+1}) = \gamma(Q_n) + (0 \text{ or } 1)$ ]

## Conclusion and Potential Future Directions

- ▶ Despite this, some parts of their proofs or their ideas might be reusable. [req. W.D. Weakley, "Domination in the queen's graph," Graph Theory, Combinatorics, and Algorithms, pp. 1223–1232, 1995.]
- ▶ More practical questions might be: max num queens that in an optimal sol can share the same row/ col/ diag? max num queens that can attack each other in an optimal sol?
- ▶ Manual proof is possible, but computer-based proof (and potentially more powerful theorems) might also be possible in this particular problem.

## Conclusion and Potential Future Directions (Cont.)



Empty

## Next Week

- ▶ Degrees, Deadlines, short trip [Q. apply only/others?]
- ▶ Might retake, but w/o prep [show pre-loaded link to TOEFL req @ uwindsor [link](#)]
- ▶ But reading papers and presentations + continuing work on Bird's thesis [Can we have their prog?]
- ▶ State-of-the-art SAT solvers did not work better than maplesat
- ▶ Linux/C [why postponed applying for cloud] [current skills vs developing ones]
- ▶ e.g., [Satisfiability: Theory, Practice, and Beyond Boot Camp](#), SAT-Solving by Armin Biere [figuring out which one best suited here? Backtracking, DPLL, CDCL]



# References I

- [1] W. H. Bird, "Computational methods for domination problems," Doctoral dissertation, 2017.