

PA-4 [21F] [Benjamin Cape] [CSP]

Description

My Algorithms work almost identically to the psuedocode provided in the book. In order to make copying data structure simpler, and consolidate references into a single location, I created a map in the specific problem definition from variable objects to integers. In this way, behind the scenes, in the CSP logic we are always dealing with integers, while in the implementation of each specific problem, and to the viewer we see the actual variable names.

Constraints are represented as binary pairs. Since both of the problems we needed to implement only rely on binary relations this is OK for our implementation. An extension of this could easily create triples, and quadruples, name them with an Enum differently, that way the `is_consistent` function would know how to determine whether an assignment were consistent. Since each constrain in our definition is the same, the `is_consistent` is very simple, and runs in $O(n)$ time.

This is the only function that each specific problem needs to implement. Otherwise, the algorithm for finding a consistent and complete assignment is standardized for all CSPs that can define a BinaryCSP with the following structure:

```
{
    variables: List[int],
    constraints: Mapping[Tuple[int, int], str],
    Mapping[int, Set[int]],
}
```

Given these defined ways, where each variable is an `int`, each domain value is also an `int`, and each type of constraint is a `str`, we can easily calculate a CSP solution.

There are two toggle-able values, `var_h` and `val_h`. The first allows for specifying a heuristic for next variable selection, and the latter allows for specifying a heuristic for calculating the next value. You can either input an enum value to specify a generic heuristic, or you can pass a function in to specify a unique, user-specified heuristic. I decided to do this because it allows for experimentation on possibly better heuristics.

The `backtracking` function is the biggest component of the CSP logic. Here we make sure to do correct influencing. There are three things that the inference function can return:

- `{}` - an empty dictionary, meaning we have a valid (or based on AC-3 we think it's valid) assignment.
- `None` - we know we have an invalid assignment (this is equivalent to *failure* in the textbook)
- `{...}` - a dictionary with some values. These are the values for which the size of the remaining domain is 1, meaning we can add them into our

assignment.

If we don't get a None value, we continue down the DFS search tree continuing to add to our assignments. If we have values in our dictionary, GREAT, if not, then keep going but we haven't increased efficiency yet. (It might happen later)

Since we change the domains of the variables in the inference, if we get a None value because we removed too many values, when we don't realize a solution, we need to reset the domain values. That is why we `deepcopy(.)` the `self` (CSP). This way we can simply reset to what we had before and try again with the next value for the current variable.

Since we don't ever mutate the assignment, we only ever copy it (essentially created a persistent data structure within the DFS search tree) we don't need to reset the assignment such as in the pseudocode.

I laid out the problem such that you can define any CSP, with a definite set of variables, a board, or anything. The only things that need to change are how you structure the constraints, the variables, and then check if the assignment is consistent. Since you define the constraint shape, and you define the consistency check. almost all the power is in the hands of the developer.

Evaluation

Yes, my algorithms work. And they work quite well it appears. With heuristics we can solve the color game in checks linear to the number of variables, even fewer sometimes. We see a dramatic decrease in running time and in values checked when we use heuristics and when we use inference checking.

Discussion

1. (map coloring test) Describe the results from the test of your solver with and without heuristic, and with and without inference on the map coloring problem.

Without Inference:

```
|-----  
|- Solution:  
|-  
|- Variables: ['WA', 'OR', 'CA', 'ID', 'MT', 'BC', 'WY']  
|- Colors: 3  
|- Assignment: {'WA': 0, 'OR': 1, 'CA': 0, 'ID': 2, 'MT': 0, 'BC': 1, 'WY': 1}  
|- Variable Heuristic: None  
|- Value Heuristic: None  
|- Time Taken: 1.909 ms  
|- Values Checked: 12  
|-----
```

With Inference:

```
|-----  
|- Solution:  
|-  
|- Variables: ['WA', 'OR', 'CA', 'ID', 'MT', 'BC', 'WY']  
|- Colors: 3  
|- Assignment: {'WA': 0, 'OR': 1, 'CA': 0, 'ID': 2, 'MT': 0, 'BC': 1, 'WY': 1}  
|- Variable Heuristic: None  
|- Value Heuristic: None  
|- Time Taken: 1.547 ms  
|- Values Checked: 10  
|-----
```

Without Inference:

```
|-----  
|- Solution:  
|-  
|- Variables: ['WA', 'OR', 'CA', 'ID', 'MT', 'BC', 'WY']  
|- Colors: 3  
|- Assignment: {'WY': 0, 'BC': 0, 'MT': 1, 'ID': 2, 'CA': 1, 'OR': 0, 'WA': 1}  
|- Variable Heuristic: VarHeuristic.DEGREE_TIEBREAKER  
|- Value Heuristic: None  
|- Time Taken: 2.635 ms  
|- Values Checked: 18  
|-----
```

With Inference:

```
|-----  
|- Solution:  
|-  
|- Variables: ['WA', 'OR', 'CA', 'ID', 'MT', 'BC', 'WY']  
|- Colors: 3  
|- Assignment: {'WY': 0, 'MT': 1, 'ID': 2, 'BC': 0, 'WA': 1, 'OR': 0, 'CA': 1}  
|- Variable Heuristic: VarHeuristic.DEGREE_TIEBREAKER  
|- Value Heuristic: None  
|- Time Taken: 1.119 ms  
|- Values Checked: 6  
|-----
```

Without Inference:

```
|-----
```

```

|- Solution:
|-
|- Variables: ['WA', 'OR', 'CA', 'ID', 'MT', 'BC', 'WY']
|- Colors: 3
|- Assignment: {'WY': 0, 'BC': 0, 'MT': 1, 'ID': 2, 'CA': 1, 'OR': 0, 'WA': 1}
|- Variable Heuristic: VarHeuristic.DEGREE_TIEBREAKER
|- Value Heuristic: ValHeuristic.LCV
|- Time Taken: 2.94 ms
|- Values Checked: 21
|-----

```

With Inference:

```

|-----
|- Solution:
|-
|- Variables: ['WA', 'OR', 'CA', 'ID', 'MT', 'BC', 'WY']
|- Colors: 3
|- Assignment: {'WY': 0, 'MT': 1, 'ID': 2, 'BC': 0, 'WA': 1, 'OR': 0, 'CA': 1}
|- Variable Heuristic: VarHeuristic.DEGREE_TIEBREAKER
|- Value Heuristic: ValHeuristic.LCV
|- Time Taken: 1.102 ms
|- Values Checked: 7
|-----

```

Here are my results from the coloring problem with and without heuristics and with and without inferences. It is interesting to note that with the heuristic and without inference we sometimes do worse than otherwise. This is probably because we are on such a small graph that we aren't seeing the benefits of the heuristic.

Note that we always do better though with inferences.

2. (circuit-board) In your write-up, describe the domain of a variable corresponding to a component of width w and height h , on a circuit board of width n and height m . Make sure the component fits completely on the board.

I consider each piece to be a variable. The domain of the variable is described by the following set.

$$\{(x, y) | x \in [0, n - w + 1] \wedge y \in [0, m - h + 1]\}$$

The $n - w + 1$ and $m - h + 1$ ensures that the pieces will always be on the board. The (x, y) that gets assigned to a piece is the bottom left location for the piece.

3. (circuit-board) Consider components a and b above, on a 10x3 board. In your write-up, write the constraint that enforces the fact that the two

components may not overlap. Write out legal pairs of locations explicitly.

There are a few ways to do this. If we want to think of each piece as a tetris piece, then we need a most costly measure.

This costly measure is calculating every interior coordinate of any two given pieces and checking if there is any overlap.

An easier solution of all pieces are rectangular is to do a similar overlapping rectangular check.

I implemented the former so that I can extend the problem to tetris pieces and not just rectangular pieces. Because of this extension I cannot explicitly write out the legal pairs. BUT, if we were talking about rectangles then check out the `doOverlap` function in `circuit.py`

4. (circuit-board) Describe how your code converts constraints, etc, to integer values for use by the generic CSP solver.

This is already described in the description, and it is specific to each problem. For example, with coloring we actually don't need to do this because strings are the same as integers according to python (both primitives),