

Intro

- really busy airport in atlanta, how do they schedule flight
 - constraint satisfaction
- the techniques we can go over to make “TWO” + “TWO” = “FOUR”
 - Backtracking, forward checking, minimum remaining values, least constraining value
 - $734 + 734 = 1468$

Map Coloring

- classic example of constraint satisfaction
- minimum colors as possible without coloring two adjacent territory the same color
 - Variables: WA, NT, Q, NSW, V, SA, T (territories)
 - Domains $D_i = \{\text{green, blue, orange}\}$
 - Constraints: adjacent regions must have different colors
 - Can list all the individual pair constraints (like $Q \neq \text{NSW}$)
 - Can list all the accepted pair constraints (like $WA \text{ can } == Q$)

Constraint Graph

- * binary constraints, 2 variables, represented by the constraint graph
- * the arcs show the constraints between variables

CSP Examples

- possible to have constraints with 3 or more variables or soft constraints (prefer something rather than require it)
- constraint optimization problems (solved by linear programming)
 - constraint satisfaction problems (sudoku, floor planing)

Constraint Hypergraph

- two + two = four problem
 - global constraint: none of the letters can == each other
 - hypergraph contains boxes for constraints (like $O+O = R+10*X1$)

Backtracking search

- This stupid algorithm brute force
- recursively: see if we reached solution, if not then get next unassigned variable and try out a number, if it meets constraints then call function again with new assignment, if not then try something else
 - if we reach a dead end, then we backtrack
- not too efficient, can make it more efficient

Improving Backtracking efficiency

- least constraining value
 - select options that minimize constraints for future variables (choose to paint with a color that's already been used instead of a new color)

- minimum remaining values
 - chose options that have the tightest constraints or options and take care of them first
- choose variables to look at with the most constraints

Forward checking

- when assigning a variable, keep track of the other variables to ensure that we don't fuck them over
- early warning system that a search is going down the wrong path

Constraint propagation and Arc Consistency

- can use constraint propagation with forward checking
- arc consistent, remove colors from neighbors if it's the only one color left with forward checking.
 - this can cause chain reaction
- can save a lot of unnecessary deep searching in complicated problems

Structured CSPs

- look at the structure and see if we can make smaller separate problems
- instead of 80 variables (binary), can make it 4 20 variable subproblems
 - goes from 2^{80} to $4 \cdot 2^{20}$, much fucking better
- if there's a CSP with no loops, can solve in $O(n \cdot d^2)$ instead of $O(d^n)$
 - choose a root and order variables from root to leaves such that parents precede in the ordering
 - then keep going up the tree being all arc compliant, if you fail then report failure
- if shit isn't a tree, then you can solve for one node, then the rest of the nodes can be structured into tree

Iterative Algorithms

- algorithms work well when there are a lot of moves and very little. Didn't really understand this section :S

Readings on Constraint satisfaction

- AIMA: Chapter 6

Lab

- n-queens except more badass