Basic Modelling

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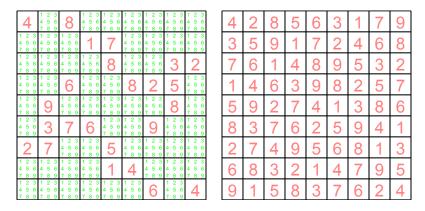
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Example 2: Sudoku

- · Global Constraints
 - Powerful modelling abstractions
 - Non-trivial propagation
 - Different consistency levels
- Example: Sudoku puzzle

1 Problem

Figure 1: Example Problem and Solution



Model

- A variable for each cell, ranging from 1 to 9
- A 9x9 matrix of variables describing the problem
- Preassigned integers for the given hints
- alldifferent constraints for each row, column and 3x3 block

Sudoku Models

- ECLiPSe Show
- MiniZinc Show
- NumberJack Show
- CPMpy Show
- · Choco-solver Show

ECLiPSe Sudoku Model (from https://eclipseclp.org/)

```
:- lib(ic).
:- import alldifferent/l from ic_global.

top :-
    problem(Board),
    print_board(Board),
    sudoku(Board),
    labeling(Board),
    print_board(Board),
    sudoku(Board),
    sudoku(Board):-
    dim(Board, [N,N]),
    Board :: l.N,
    (for(I,1,N), param(Board) do
        alldifferent(Board[I,*]),
        alldifferent(Board[*,1])
    ),
    NN is integer(sqrt(N)),
    (multifor([I,J],1,N,NN), param(Board,NN) do
        alldifferent(concat(Board[I..I+NN-1, J..J+NN-1]))
    ).

print_board(Board):-
    dim(Board, [N,N]),
    (for(I,1,N), param(Board,N) do
        (for(J,1,N), param(Board,I) do
        X is Board[I,J],
        (var(X) -> write(" _"); printf(" %2d", [X]) )
    ), nl
    )
}
```

ECLiPSe Data Definition

Continue

MiniZinc Sudoku Model

```
int: s;
int: n=s*s;
array[l.n,l.n] of var l.n: puzzle;
include "sudoku.dzn";

predicate alldifferent(array[int] of var int: x) =
    forall(i,j in index_set(x) where i < j)
        (x[i] != x[j]);

constraint forall(i in l.n)
        (alldifferent([puzzle[i,j]| j in l.n]));
constraint forall(j in l.n)
        (alldifferent([puzzle[i,j]| i in l.n]));
constraint forall(i,j in l.s)
        (alldifferent([puzzle[i,j]| i in l.n]));
solve satisfy;</pre>
```

MiniZinc Output

```
output [ "sudoku:\\n" ] ++
  [ show(puzzle[i,j]) ++
  if j = n then
   if i mod s = 0 /\ i < n then "\n\n"
   else "\n"
  endif
  else
   if j mod s = 0 then " "
   else " "
  endif
  endif
  i,j in l..n ];</pre>
```

MiniZinc Data File (sudoku.dzn)

```
s=3;
puzzle=[|
4, ..., 8, ..., ..., ..., ..., ...|
4, ..., 1, 7, ..., ..., ..., ...|
1, ..., 1, 7, ..., ..., ..., ..., ...]
2, ..., 6, ..., 8, 2, 5, ..., ..., ..., 8, ..., ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..., 8, ..
```

Continue

NumberJack Sudoku Model

NumberJack Data File

Continue

CPMpy Sudoku Model(from https://github.com/CPMpy/)

```
import numpy as np
from cpmpy import *

# Variables
puzzle = intvar(1,9, shape=given.shape, name="puzzle")
model = Model(
    # Constraints on values (cells that are not empty)
    puzzle[given!=e] == given[given!=e], # numpy's indexing, vectorized equality
    # Constraints on rows and columns
    [AllDifferent(row) for row in puzzle],
    [AllDifferent(col) for col in puzzle.T], # numpy's Transpose
}

# Constraints on blocks
for i in range(0,9, 3):
    for j in range(0,9, 3):
        model += AllDifferent(puzzle[i:i+3, j:j+3]) # python's indexing
model.solve()
```

CPMpy Data Definition

```
e = 0 # value for empty cells
given = np.array([
    [4, e, 8, e, e, e, e, e, e],
    [e, e, e, 1, 7, e, e, e, e],
    [e, e, e, e, 1, 7, e, e, e, e],
    [e, e, e, e, e, e, e, e, e, e],
    [e, 9, e, e, e, e, e, e, e],
    [e, 3, 7, 6, e, e, e, e, e],
    [e, e, e, e, e, e, e, e],
    [e, e, e, e, e, e, e, e],
    [e, e, e, e, e, e, e, e]]
])
```

Continue

Choco-solver Sudoku Model

```
}
}
for(int i=0;i<m;i++){
    model.allDifferent(row(i,m,vars)).post();
    model.allDifferent(column(i,m,vars)).post();
}
for(int i=0;i<m;i+=blockSize){
    for(int j=0;j<m;j+=blockSize){
        model.allDifferent(block(i,j,blockSize,vars)).post();
}
Solver solver = model.getSolver();
solver.solve();</pre>
```

Choco-solver Data

Choco-solver Utilities

```
IntVar[] row(int row, int size, IntVar[][] array){
    return array[row];
}
IntVar[] column(int col,int size,IntVar[][] array){
    IntVar[] column = new IntVar[size];
    for(int i=0; i<size; i++){
        column[i] = array[i][col];
    }
    return column;
}
IntVar[] block(int x,int y,int blockSize,IntVar[][] array){
    IntVar[] block = new IntVar[blockSize*blockSize];
    int k=0;
    for(int i=0;i<blockSize;i++){
        for(int j=0;j<blockSize;i++){
            block[k++] = array[x+i][y+j];
        }
    return block;
}</pre>
```

Continue

Domain Visualizer

- Problem shown as matrix
- Each cell corresponds to a variable
- Instantiated: Shows integer value (large)
- Uninstantiated: Shows values in domain

2 Initial Propagation (Forward Checking)

Figure 2: Initial State (Forward Checking)

4	1 2 3	1 2 3 1 2 3 1	1 2 3 1 2 3	1 2 3 1 2 3
	4 5 6	4 5 6 4 5 6 4	4 5 6 4 5 6	4 5 6 4 5 6
	7 8 9	7 8 9 7 8 9 7	7 8 9 7 8 9	7 8 9 7 8 9
1 2 3	1 2 3 1 2 3	1 7	1 2 3 1 2 3	1 2 3 1 2 3
4 5 6	4 5 6 4 5 6		4 5 6 4 5 6	4 5 6 4 5 6
7 8 9	7 8 9 7 8 9		7 8 9 7 8 9	7 8 9 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 4 5 6 7 8 9 7 8 9		1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 4 5 6 7 8 9 7 8 9	3 2
1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3 1 2 3	8 2	5 1 2 3
4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6 4 5 6		4 5 6
7 8 9	7 8 9	7 8 9 7 8 9		7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 4 5 6 4 7 8 9 7 8 9 7	1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 4 5 6 7 8 9 7 8 9	8 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	3 7	6 1 2 3 4 5 6 4 7 8 9 7	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 4 5 6 7 8 9 7 8 9
2	7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 4 5 6 7 8 9 7 8 9	1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 4 5 6 7 8 9 7 8 9
1 2 3	1 2 3 1 2 3	1 2 3	4 1 2 3	1 2 3 1 2 3
4 5 6	4 5 6 4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6 4 5 6
7 8 9	7 8 9 7 8 9	7 8 9	7 8 9	7 8 9 7 8 9
1 2 3	1 2 3 1 2 3	1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 4 5 6 4 7 8 9 7 8 9 7	1 2 3	1 2 3
4 5 6	4 5 6 4 5 6		4 5 6	4 5 6
7 8 9	7 8 9 7 8 9		7 8 9	7 8 9

Figure 3: Propagation Steps (Forward Checking)

4	1 2 5 6	8	2 3 5 9	2 3 6 9	2 3 5 6 9	1 5 7	1 6 7 9	1 5 6 7 9
3 6 9	2 5 6	3 5 9	1	7	2 3 5 6 9	4 5	4 6 9	5 6 8 9
6 7 9	1 5 6	1 5 9	4 5 9	8	5 6 9	1 4 5 7	3	2
1	4	6	3 7 9	3 9	8	2	5	3 7 9
5	တ	2	3 4 7	3 4 6	1 3 6 7	1 3 4 7	8	1 3 6 7
8	3	7	6	4	1 2 5	9	1 2	1 5
2	7	1 3 4 9	3 4 8 9	5	1 3 6 9	1 3 4 8	1 4 6 9	1 3 6 8 9
3 6 7 9	2 5 6 8	3 5 9	2 3 5 7 8 9	1	4	5 7 8	2 6 7 9	3 5 6 7 8 9
7 9	1 2 5 8	1 3 5 9	2 3 5 7 8 9	2 3	1 2 3 5 7 9	6	1 2 7 9	4

Figure 4: After Setup (Forward Checking)

4	1 2 5 6	8	2 3 5 9	3 6 9	2 3 6 9	1 5 7	1 6 7 9	5 6 7 9
3 6 9	2 5 6	5 9	$\overline{}$	7	2 3 6 9	4 5 8	6 9	5 6 8 9
6 7 9	1 5 6	1 5 9	4 5 9	8	6 9	1 4 5 7	3	2
1	4	6	3 7 9	3	80	2	5	7
5	9	2	3 4 7	4	1 3	7	8	3 6 7
8	3	7	6	2	5	9	4	1
2	7	1 3 4 9	3 8 9	5	3 6 9	1 3	1 9	8 9
3 6 9	5 6 8	5 9	2 3 7 8 9	1	4	5 7 8	2 7 9	5 7 8 9
3	1 5 8	1 3 5 9	2 3 7 8 9	3	2 3 7 9	6	 1 2 7 9 	4

3 Improved Reasoning

Can we do better?

- The alldifferent constraint is missing propagation
 - How can we do more propagation?
 - Do we know when we derive all possible information from the constraint?
- Constraints only interact by changing domains of variables

3.1 Bounds Consistency

A Simpler Example

```
include "alldifferent.mzn";

var 1..2:X;
var 1..2:Y;
var 1..3:Z;

constraint alldifferent([X,Y,Z]);

solve satisfy;
```

Using Forward Checking

- · No variable is assigned
- · No reduction of domains
- But, values 1 and 2 can be removed from Z
- This means that Z is assigned to 3

Visualization of all different as Graph

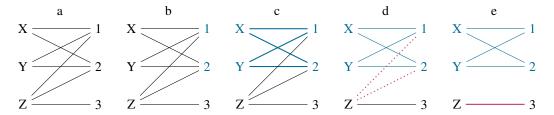
- Show problem as graph with two types of nodes
 - Variables on the left
 - Values on the right
- If value is in domain of variable, show link between them
- This is called a bipartite graph

Figure 5: Visualization of all different as bipartite graph



A Simpler Example

Figure 6: A Simpler Example



Idea (Hall Intervals)

- Take each interval of possible values, say size ${\cal N}$
- Find all K variables whose domain is completely contained in interval
- If K > N then the constraint is infeasible
- If K = N then no other variable can use that interval
- Remove values from such variables if their bounds change
- If K < N do nothing
- · Re-check whenever domain bounds change

Implementation

- Problem: Too many intervals $(O(n^2))$ to consider
- Solution:
 - Check only those intervals which update bounds
 - Enumerate intervals incrementally
 - Starting from lowest(highest) value
 - Using sorted list of variables
- Complexity: $O(n \log(n))$ in standard implementations
- Important: Only looks at min/max bounds of variables

Bounds Consistency

Definition

A constraint achieves *bounds consistency*, if for the lower and upper bound of every variable, it is possible to find values for all other variables between their lower and upper bounds which satisfy the constraint.

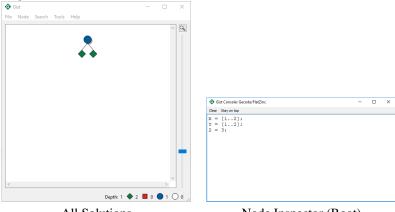
Annotation: :: bounds

```
include "alldifferent.mzn";

var 1..2:X;
var 1..2:Y;
var 1..3:Z;

constraint alldifferent([X,Y,Z]) :: bounds;
solve satisfy;
```

Running with Gecode Gist



All Solutions

Node Inspector (Root)

Can we do even better?

- Bounds consistency only considers min/max bounds
- Ignores "holes" in domain
- Sometimes we can improve propagation looking at those holes

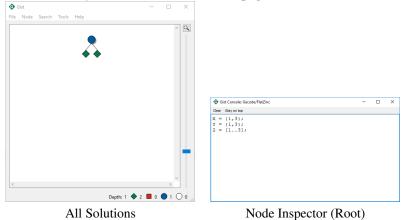
Another Simple Example

```
include "alldifferent.mzn";

var {1,3}:X; % note enumerated domain
var {1,3}:Y;
var 1..3:Z; % note domain as interval

% annotated constraint
constraint alldifferent([X,Y,Z]) :: bounds;
solve satisfy;
```

Bounds Consistency with Gecode Gist: No Propagation



Solutions and Maximal Matchings

- A Matching is subset of edges which do not coincide in any node
- No matching can have more edges than number of variables

Figure 7: Another Example

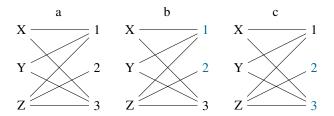
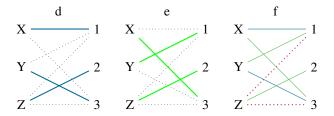


Figure 8: Another Example (Continued)



- Every solution corresponds to a maximal matching and vice versa
- If a link does not belong to some maximal matching, then it can be removed

Implementation

- Possible to compute all links which belong to some matching
 - Without enumerating all of them!
- Enough to compute one maximal matching
- Requires algorithm for strongly connected components
- Extra work required if more values than variables
- All links (values in domains) which are not supported can be removed
- Complexity: $O(n^{1.5}d)$

Domain Consistency

Definition

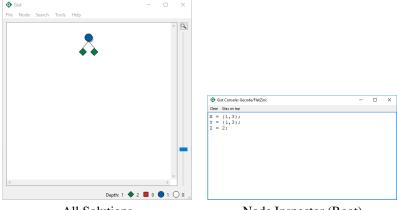
A constraint achieves *domain consistency*, if for every variable and for every value in its domain, it is possible to find values in the domains of all other variables which satisfy the constraint.

- Also called generalized arc consistency (GAC)
- or hyper arc consistency

Simple Example Revisited

```
include "alldifferent.mzn";
var {1,3}:X; % note enumerated domain
var {1,3}:Y;
var 1..3:Z; % note domain as interval
% note different annotation
constraint alldifferent([X,Y,Z]) :: domain;
solve satisfy;
```

Domain Consistency with Gecode Gist: Propagation



All Solutions

Node Inspector (Root)

Can we still do better?

- NO! This extracts all information from this one constraint
- We could perhaps improve speed, but not propagation
- But possible to use different model
- Or model interaction of multiple constraints

Should all constraints achieve domain consistency?

- Domain consistency is usually more expensive than bounds consistency
 - Overkill for simple problems
 - Nice to have choices
- For some constraints achieving domain consistency is NP-hard
 - We have to live with more restricted propagation

3.2 Domain Consistency

Modified MiniZinc Program

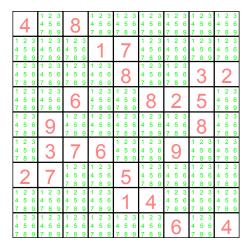
```
int: s;
int: n=s*s;
array[1..n,1..n] of var 1..n: puzzle;
include "sudoku.dzn";
```

Modified Choco-solver Sudoku Model

```
Model model = new Model("Sudoku");
int blockSize = 3;
int m = blockSize = New IntVar[m][m];
for (int i = 0;i < m; i++) {
    for (int j = 0; j < m; j++) {
        vars[i][j] = model.intVar("X"+i+""+j, l, m);
        if (data[i][j]>0) {
            model.arithm(vars[i][j], "=", data[i][j]).post();
        }
}

// Consistency level AC: domain consistency, BC: bounds consistency, default: mix
for(int i = 0; i < m; i++) {
    model.allDifferent(row(i, m, vars), AC).post();
    model.allDifferent(column(i, m, vars), AC).post();
}
for(int i = 0; i < m; i += blockSize) {
    for(int j = 0; j < m; j += blockSize) {
        model.allDifferent(block(i, j, blockSize, vars), AC).post();
    }
}
Solver solver = model.getSolver();
solver.solve();</pre>
```

Figure 9: Initial State (Domain Consistency)



3.3 Comparison

Typical?

- This does not always happen
- Sometimes, two methods produce same amount of propagation
- Possible to predict in certain special cases

Figure 10: Propagation Steps (Domain Consistency)

4	2	8	5	6	3	1	1 6 7 9	1 5 6 7 9
3 6 9	5	3 5 9	~	7	2	4	6	8
7	6	1	4	8	9	5	3	2
1	4	6	3 7 9	3 9	8	2	5	7 9
5	9	2	3 7	4	1	1 3 4 7	8	6
8	3	7	6	2	5	9	4	1
2	7	4	3 8 9	5	6	8	1	1 3 6 8 9
6	8	5 9	2	1	4	5 7 8	2 6 7 9	5
3 9	1	5	8	2 3	7	6	2	4

Figure 11: After Setup (Domain Consistency)

4	2	8	5	6	3	~	7 9	7 9
3	15	3 9	\leftarrow	7	2	4	6	8
7	6	~	4	8	9	15	3	2
1	4	6	3 7 9	3	8	2	5	7
5	9	2	7	4	1	7	8	6
8	3	7	6	2	5	9	4	1
2	7	4	3	5	6	8	1	3
6	8	3	2	1	4	7	7 9	5
3	1	5	8	3 9	7	6	2	4

- In general, tradeoff between speed and propagation
- Not always fastest to remove inconsistent values early
- But often required to find a solution at all

Figure 12: Comparison

Forward Checking					Bounds Consistency								Domain Consistency														
4	1 2 5 6	8	2 3 5 9	3 6 9	2 3 6 9	1 5 7	1 6 7 9	5 6 7 9	4	1 2	8	5	6	2 3	7	7 9	7 9		4	2	8	5	6	3	1	7 9	,
3 6 9	2 5 6	5 9	1	7	2 3 6 9	4 5 8	6 9	5 6 8 9	3 9	5	3	1	7	2 3	4 5 8	6 9	5 8 9		3	5	3	1	7	2	4	6	8
6 7 9	5 6	1 5 9	4 5 9	8	6 9	1 4 5 7	3	2	7	6	5	4	8	9	5	3	2		7	6	1	4	8	9	5	3	2
1	4	6	7 9	3	8	2	5	7	1	4	6	7 9	3	8	2	5	7		1	4	6	7 9	3	8	2	5	7
5	9	2	3 4 7	4	1 3	7	8	3 6 7	5	9	2	7	4	1	7	8	6		5	9	2	7	4	1	7	8	6
8	3	7	6	2	5	9	4	1	8	3	7	6	2	5	9	4	1		8	3	7	6	2	5	9	4	1
2	7	1 3	8 9	5	3 6 9	1 3	1 9	8 9	2	7	4	8 9	5	6	1 3	1 9	8 9		2	7	4	3	5	6	8	1	
3 6 9	5 6 8	5 9	2 3 7 8 9	1	4	5 7 8	2 7 9	5 7 8 9	6	5 8	3	2 3 8 9	l 1	4	5 7 8	2 7 9	5 7 8 9		6	8	3	2	1	4	7	7 9	5
3	1 5 8	1 3 5 9	2 3 7 8 9	3	2 3 7 9	6	1 2 7 9	4	3	1 5 8	5	8	3	7	6	1 2	4		3	1	5	8	3	7	6	2	4

4 Search

Simple search routine

- Enumerate variables in given order
- Try values starting from smallest one in domain
- Complete, chronological backtracking
- Advantage: Results can be compared with each other
- Disadvantage: Usually not a very good strategy

Asking for Naive Search in MiniZinc

```
solve :: int_search(
  puzzle,
  input_order,
  indomain_min)
satisfy;
```

Figure 13: Search Tree (Forward Checking)

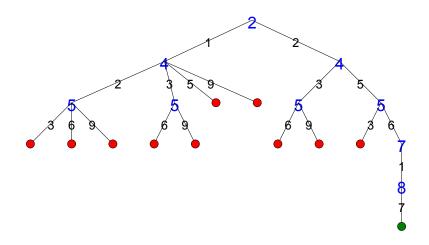


Figure 14: Search Tree (Bounds Consistency)



Trading Propagation Against Search

- If we perform more propagation, search is more constrained
- Fewer values left, fewer alternatives to explore in search
- Best compromise is not obvious
- But can be learned from examples or during search
- Annotations are optional
 - Some MiniZinc back-end solvers do the search they want, not the one you specify
 - Some solvers simply do not work in a way that these search annotations apply

5 Other Global Constraints

Are there other Global Constraints?

- all different is the most commonly used constraint
- Propagation methods can be explained
- But there are many more

Figure 15: Search Tree (Domain Consistency)



Global Constraint Catalog

- https://sofdem.github.io/gccat/
- Description of 354 global constraints, 2800 pages
- Not all of them are widely used
- Detailed, meta-data description of constraints in Prolog

Families of Global Constraints

- Value Counting
 - alldifferent, global cardinality
- Scheduling
 - cumulative
- Properties of Sequences
 - sequence, no_valley
- Graph Properties
 - circuit, tree

Common Algorithmic Techniques

- Bi-Partite Matchning
- Flow Based Algorithms
- Automata
- Task Intervals
- Reduced Cost Filtering
- Decomposition