

Machine Intelligence

Lecture 3: Constraint satisfaction problems

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Topics:

- Introduction
- Search-based methods
- **Constraint satisfaction problems**
- Logic-based knowledge representation
- Representing domains endowed with uncertainty.
- Bayesian networks
- Machine learning
- Planning
- Reinforcement learning
- Multi-agent systems

Features and Possible Worlds

Describing the world (environment) by features:

Name (Algebraic Variable)	Domain
<i>Symbol_on_square_1</i>	$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, \text{empty}\}$
<i>Robot_battery</i>	$\{\text{full}, \text{half}, \text{empty}\}$
<i>Robot_position</i>	$\{r131, \dots, 0111\}$
<i>Coffee_ready</i>	$\{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$
<i>No._of_undelivered_packages</i>	$\{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$
<i>Temperature</i>	$[-25, 40]$

- We will be mostly concerned with (algebraic) variables that have a *finite* domain.
- Special interest: **boolean** variable with domain $\{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$
- Numerical variables can be approximated:

$$\begin{aligned}\{1, 2, 3, \dots\} &\mapsto \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, > 5\} \\ [-25, 40] &\mapsto \{-25, -24, \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots 40\}\end{aligned}$$

From variables to possible worlds

A **possible world** for a set of variables is an assignment of a value to each variable.

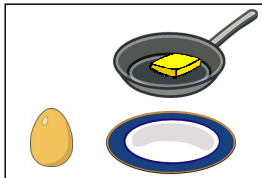
Connection with state spaces

The set of all possible worlds for a given set of variables defines a state space (we can also call a possible world simply a state).

Variables:

<i>egg</i>	<i>{ whole, broken }</i>
<i>butter_in</i>	<i>{ pan, plate, table }</i>
<i>egg_in</i>	<i>{ pan, plate, table }</i>

One out of $2 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 = 18$ possible worlds:

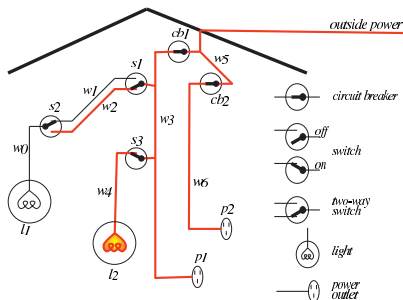


egg=whole
butter_in=pan
egg_in=table

Variables:

S_1_pos	{ <i>up</i> , <i>down</i> }	S_1_st	{ <i>ok</i> , <i>broken</i> , <i>short</i> }
S_2_pos	{ <i>up</i> , <i>down</i> }	S_2_st	{ <i>ok</i> , <i>broken</i> , <i>short</i> }
W_1_st	{ <i>ok</i> , <i>broken</i> }	$W_1_current$	{ <i>yes</i> , <i>no</i> }
...

One out of many possible worlds:



$S_1_pos = \textit{down}$
 $S_1_st = \textit{ok}$
 $S_2_pos = \textit{up}$
 $S_2_st = \textit{ok}$
 $W_1_st = \textit{ok}$
 $W_1_current = \textit{no}$
 ...

Example: Schedule

Variables:

<i>Teacher_MI</i>	$\{PD, MJ, TDN\}$
<i>Time_MI</i>	$\{Mo_m, Mo_a, \dots, Fr_m, Fr_a\}$
<i>Room_MI</i>	$\{0.2.12, 0.2.13, 0.2.90\}$
<i>Teacher_AD</i>	$\{PD, MJ, TDN\}$
<i>Time_AD</i>	$\{Mo_m, Mo_a, \dots, Fr_m, Fr_a\}$
<i>Room_AD</i>	$\{0.2.12, 0.2.13, 0.2.90\}$

One possible world:

Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fr
	MI, TDN, 0.2.13			
			AD, PD, 0.2.90	

Teacher_MI=TDN
Time_MI=Tue_m
Room_MI=0.2.13
Teacher_AD=PD
Time_AD=Thu_a
Room_AD=0.2.90

Constraint Satisfaction Problems

A **constraint** is a condition on the values of variables in a possible world.

Extensional Constraint Specification

Explicitly list all allowed (or disallowed) combination of values:

<i>Teacher_MI</i>	<i>Time_MI</i>	<i>Room_MI</i>	<i>Teacher_AD</i>	<i>Time_AD</i>	<i>Room_AD</i>
PD	<i>Mo_m</i>	0.2.12	PD	<i>Mo_a</i>	0.2.12
PD	<i>Mo_m</i>	0.2.12	PD	<i>Mo_a</i>	0.2.13
...

Not on the list of allowed possible worlds:

<i>Teacher_MI</i>	<i>Time_MI</i>	<i>Room_MI</i>	<i>Teacher_AD</i>	<i>Time_AD</i>	<i>Room_AD</i>
PD	<i>Mo_m</i>	0.2.12	PD	<i>Mo_m</i>	0.2.12
PD	<i>Mo_m</i>	0.2.12	MJ	<i>Mo_m</i>	0.2.12
...

Intensional Constraint Specification

Use logical expressions:

$$\begin{aligned}Teacher_AD = Teacher_MI &\rightarrow Time_AD \neq Time_MI \\Time_AD = Time_MI &\rightarrow Room_AD \neq Room_MI\end{aligned}$$

Example: Sudoku

<i>A1</i>	<i>A2</i>	1	<i>A4</i>	<i>A5</i>	<i>A6</i>	<i>A7</i>	<i>A8</i>	<i>A9</i>
<i>B1</i>	<i>B2</i>	2	<i>B4</i>	3	<i>B6</i>	<i>B7</i>	<i>B8</i>	4
<i>C1</i>	<i>C2</i>	<i>C3</i>	5	<i>C5</i>	<i>C6</i>	6	<i>C8</i>	7
5	<i>D2</i>	<i>D3</i>	1	4	<i>D6</i>	<i>D7</i>	<i>D8</i>	<i>D9</i>
<i>E1</i>	7	<i>E3</i>	<i>E4</i>	<i>E5</i>	<i>E6</i>	<i>E7</i>	2	<i>E9</i>
<i>F1</i>	<i>F2</i>	<i>F3</i>	<i>F4</i>	7	8	<i>F7</i>	<i>F8</i>	9
8	<i>G2</i>	7	<i>G4</i>	<i>G5</i>	9	<i>G7</i>	<i>G8</i>	<i>G9</i>
4	<i>H2</i>	<i>H3</i>	<i>H4</i>	6	<i>H6</i>	3	<i>H8</i>	<i>H9</i>
<i>I1</i>	<i>I2</i>	<i>I3</i>	<i>I4</i>	<i>I5</i>	<i>I6</i>	5	<i>I8</i>	<i>I9</i>

Constraints:

$$A1 = 2 \vee A2 = 2 \vee A4 = 2 \vee A5 = 2 \vee A6 = 2 \vee A7 = 2 \vee A8 = 2 \vee A9 = 2$$

$$A1 = 3 \vee A2 = 3 \vee A4 = 3 \vee A5 = 3 \vee A6 = 3 \vee A7 = 3 \vee A8 = 3 \vee A9 = 3$$

...

$$A1 = 3 \vee A2 = 3 \vee B1 = 3 \vee B2 = 3 \vee C1 = 3 \vee C2 = 3 \vee C3 = 3$$

...

A **Constraint Satisfaction Problem (CSP)** is given by

- a set of variables
- a set of constraints (usually intensional)

A **solution** to a CSP consists of a possible world that satisfies all the constraints (also called a **model** of the constraints).

Other tasks:

- Determine the number of models of the constraints
- Find an *optimal* model (given also a value function on possible worlds).
- ...

A CSP can be represented as a state space problem:

- States are all partial assignments of values to variables that are consistent with the constraints
- For a state s : select some variable V not assigned a value in s , and let the neighbors of s be all states that assign a value to V (if any exist).
- The start state is the state that does not assign any values
- A goal state is a state that assigns values to all variables

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Solving the CSP

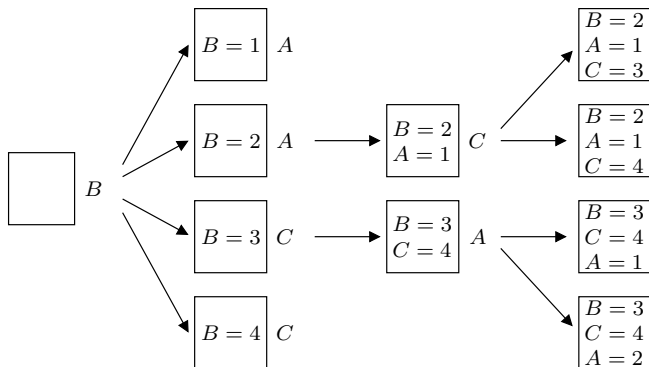
- A solution to the state space problem is a path with a goal state at the end: a solution to the CSP problem
- To solve the state space problem need only be able to:
 - enumerate all partial assignments that assign a value to one more variable than s
 - check whether a partial assignment is consistent with the constraints(that is sufficient to implement the *get_neighbors* and *goal* functions needed in the generic search algorithm)

Example [PM 4.13]

Variables A, B, C ; all with domain $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$.

Constraints: $A < B, B < C$.

State Space Graph (showing at each node which variable was selected to generate the neighbors):



- The state space graph is a tree (= search tree)

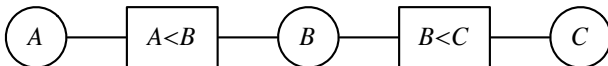
Consistency Algorithms

Example: Variables A, B, C ; all with domain $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$.

Constraints: $A < B, B < C$.

Observation: There is no solution with $A = 4$.

Approach to solving CSPs: iteratively eliminate value assignments that cannot be part of a solution.



The **constraint network** for a CSP consists of

- One (oval) node for each variable X
- One (rectangular) node for each constraint c
- An (undirected) arc $\langle X, c \rangle$ between every constraint and every variable involved in the constraint

With each variable node X is associated a **(reduced) domain** D_X :

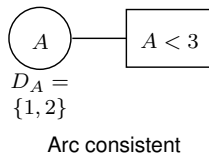
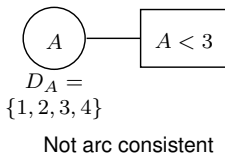
- Initially the domain of the variable
- Reduced by successively deleting values that cannot be part of a solution

An arc $\langle X, c \rangle$ is **arc consistent**, if

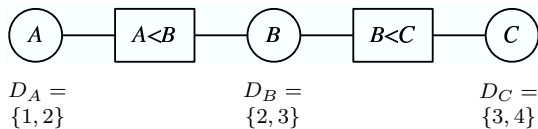
- for all $x \in D_X$ there exists values y_1, \dots, y_k for the other variables involved in c , such that x, y_1, \dots, y_k is consistent with c .

A constraint network is **arc consistent**, if all its arcs are arc consistent.

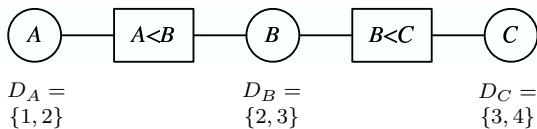
Examples



Arc Consistency Examples

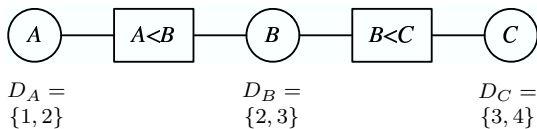


Arc Consistency Examples

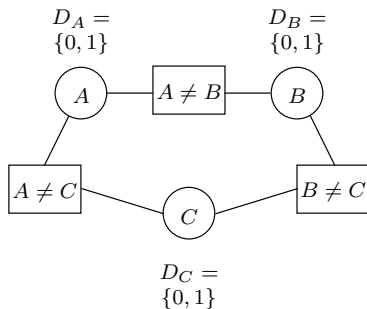


Arc consistent. Not every combination of values from D_A, D_B, D_C is a solution!

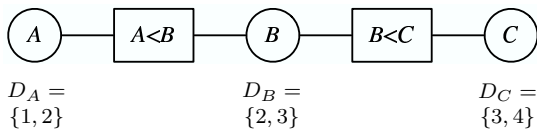
Arc Consistency Examples



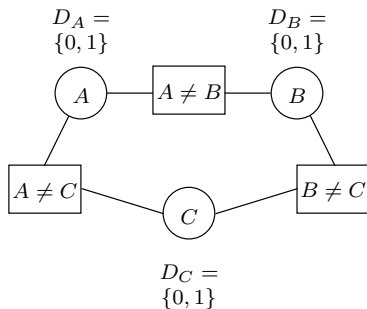
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Arc Consistency Examples



Arc consistent. Not every combination of values from D_A, D_B, D_C is a solution!



Arc consistent. There exists no solution!

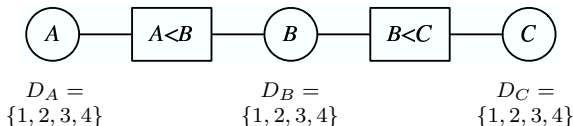
Algorithm Outline

1. *To-do-arcs* = all arcs in constraint network // Potentially inconsistent arcs
2. **while** *To-do-arcs* $\neq \emptyset$
3. select and delete one arc $\langle X, c \rangle$ from *To-do-arcs*
4. make arc consistent by deleting values from D_X , if necessary
5. **if** values were deleted: add all other arcs $\langle Z, c' \rangle$ ($c \neq c', X \in \text{dom}(c')$) to *To-do-arcs*

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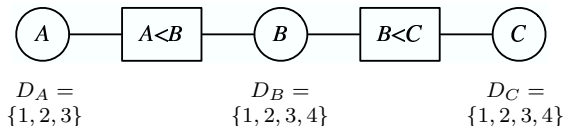


- *To-do-arcs* = $\{\langle A, A < B \rangle, \langle B, A < B \rangle, \langle B, B < C \rangle, \langle C, B < C \rangle\}$
- Selecting $\langle A, A < B \rangle$: For $A = 4$, no value of B satisfies $4 < B$.
 - Remove $\langle A, A < B \rangle$ from *To-do-arcs*.
 - Update D_A .

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Example

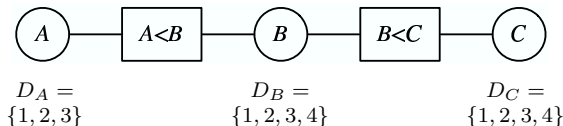


- *To-do-arcs* = $\{\langle B, A < B \rangle, \langle B, B < C \rangle, \langle C, B < C \rangle\}$

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Example

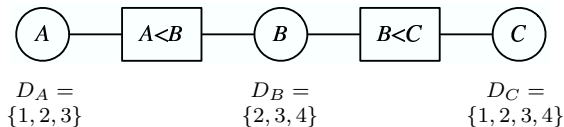


- *To-do-arcs* = $\{\langle B, A < B \rangle, \langle B, B < C \rangle, \langle C, B < C \rangle\}$
- Selecting $\langle B, A < B \rangle$: $B = 1$ can be pruned.
 - Remove $\langle B, A < B \rangle$ from *To-do-arcs*.
 - Update D_B .

Algorithm Outline

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Example

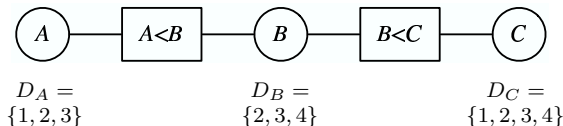


- *To-do-arcs* = $\{\langle B, B < C \rangle, \langle C, B < C \rangle\}$

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Example

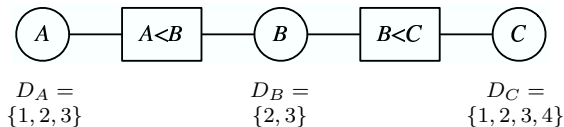


- *To-do-arcs* = $\{\langle B, B < C \rangle, \langle C, B < C \rangle\}$
- Selecting $\langle B, B < C \rangle$: $B = 4$ can be pruned.
 - Add $\langle A, A < B \rangle$ to *To-do-arcs* and remove $\langle B, B < C \rangle$.
 - Update D_B .

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Example

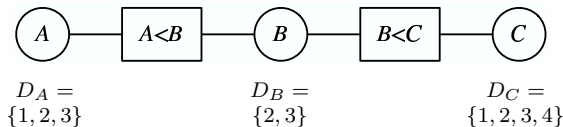


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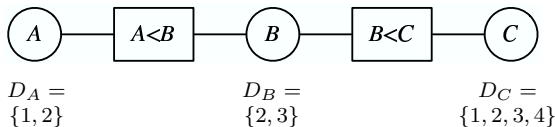


- *To-do-arcs* = $\{\langle A, A < B \rangle, \langle C, B < C \rangle\}$
- Selecting $\langle A, A < B \rangle$: $A = 3$ can be pruned.
 - Remove $\langle A, A < B \rangle$ from *To-do-arcs*.
 - Update D_A .

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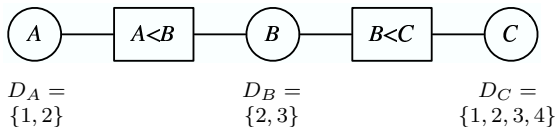


- *To-do-arcs* = $\{\langle C, B < C \rangle\}$

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Example

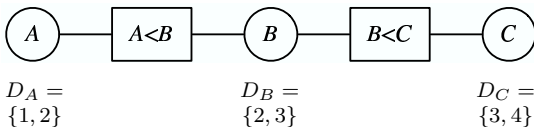


- *To-do-arcs* = $\{\langle C, B < C \rangle\}$
- Selecting $\langle C, B < C \rangle$: $C = 1$ and $C = 2$ can be pruned.
 - Remove $\langle B, B < C \rangle$ from *To-do-arcs*.
 - Update D_C .

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Example



- *To-do-arcs* = $\{\}$
- DONE!

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Algorithm Outcomes

Algorithm is guaranteed to terminate. Result independent of order in which arcs are processed.
Possible cases at termination:

- $D_X = \emptyset$ for some X : CSP has no solution
- D_X contains exactly one value for each X : CSP has unique solution, given by the D_X values.
- Other: if the CSP has a solution, then the solution can only consist of current D_X values.

Variable Elimination

- Arc Consistency: simplify problem by eliminating values
- Variable Elimination: simplify problem by eliminating variables

Variable Elimination operates on extensional (table) representations of constraints:

$A < B$:

A	B
1	2
1	3
1	4
2	3
2	4
3	4

$B < C$:

B	C
1	2
1	3
1	4
2	3
2	4
3	4

Algorithm requires **projection** and **join** operations on tables.

Projection of a table:

Course	Year	Student	Grade
cs322	2008	fran	77
cs111	2009	billie	88
cs111	2009	jess	78
cs444	2008	fran	83
cs322	2009	jordan	92

$\pi \{ \textit{Student}, \textit{Year} \}$
→

Student	Year
fran	2008
billie	2009
jess	2009
jordan	2009

Given two tables r_1, r_2 for variables $vars_1, vars_2$. The **join** is the table $r_3 = r_1 \bowtie r_2$ for variables $vars_1 \cup vars_2$ that

- contains all tuples, which restricted to $vars_1$ are in r_1 , and restricted to $vars_2$ are in r_2 .

Example

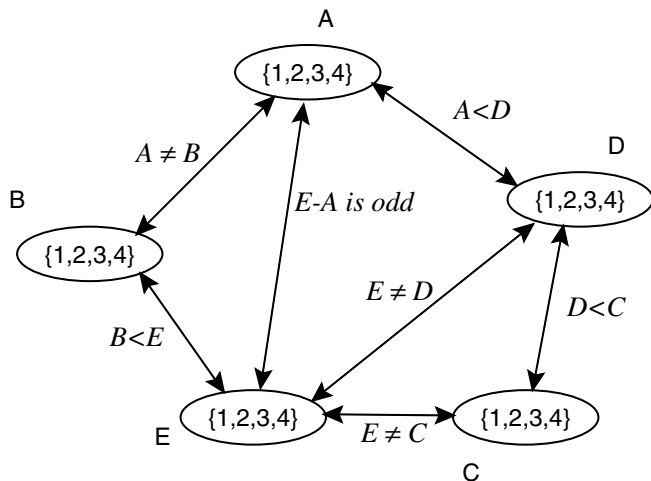
Course	Year	Student	Grade		Course	Year	TA	
cs322	2008	fran	77	\bowtie	cs322	2008	yuki	=
cs111	2009	billie	88		cs111	2009	sam	
cs111	2009	jess	78		cs111	2009	chris	
cs444	2008	fran	83		cs322	2009	yuki	
cs322	2009	jordan	92					

Course	Year	Student	Grade	TA
cs322	2008	fran	77	yuki
cs111	2009	billie	88	sam
cs111	2009	jess	78	sam
cs111	2009	billie	88	chris
cs111	2009	jess	78	chris
cs322	2009	jordan	92	yuki

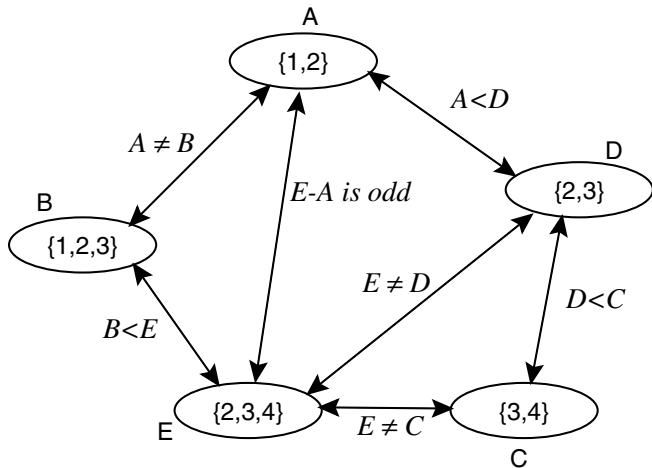
Algorithm Outline

1. **Input:** C : set of constraints on variables $vars$
2. **while** C contains more than one element
3. select a variable $X \in vars$
4. delete X from $vars$
5. remove all constraints involving X from C and construct their join
6. **if** $vars$ is not empty
7. project the join onto the variables other than X
8. add the (projected) join to C

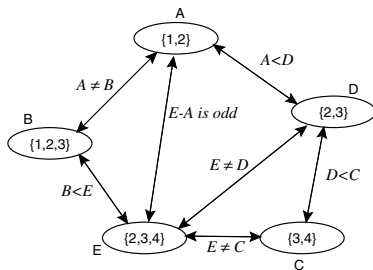
Intuition: the constraint constructed in line 5. summarizes the effect that all the constraints involving X have on variables other than X .



...now arc-consistent



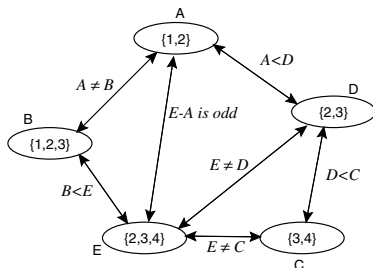
Example: eliminating C



$r_1 : C \neq E$	C	E
	3	2
	3	4
	4	2
	4	3

$r_2 : C > D$	C	D
	3	2
	4	2
	4	3

Example: eliminating C

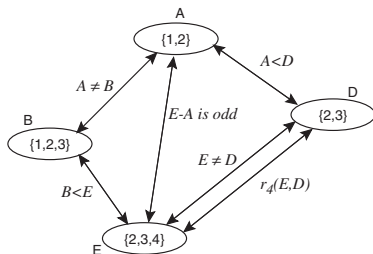


$r_1 : C \neq E$	C	E
	3	2
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$r_2 : C > D$	C	D
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$r_3 : r_1 \bowtie r_2$	C	D	E
	3	2	2
	3	2	4
	4	2	2
	4	2	3
	4	3	2
	4	3	3

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	3	2
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$r_3 : r_1 \bowtie r_2$	C	D	E
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	3	2	4
	4	2	2
	4	2	3
	4	3	2
	4	3	3

$r_4 : \pi_{\{D,E\}} r_3$	D	E
	2	2
	2	3
	2	4
	3	2
	3	3

↪ new constraint

Properties

- The algorithm terminates
- The CSP has a solution if and only if the final constraint is non-empty
- The set of all solutions can be generated by joining the final constraint with the intermediate “summarizing” constraints generated in line 5.
- Algorithm operates on extensional constraint representations, therefore
 - constraints must not contain too many tuples (initial and constructed constraints)
- Worst case: VE is not more efficient than enumerating all possible worlds and checking whether they are solutions.

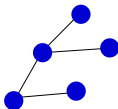
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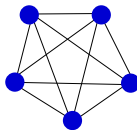
Constraint Graph

Consider the graph where

- there is one node for each variable
- two variables are connected when they appear together in one constraint



sparse



dense

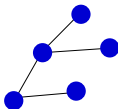
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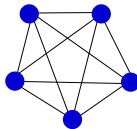
Constraint Graph

Consider the graph where

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sparse



dense

Then: VE will work better if the constraint graph is sparsely connected

Local Search

So far: all methods systematically explored the state space (possible worlds).

Problem: Time and space when search space is large.

Local Search approach:

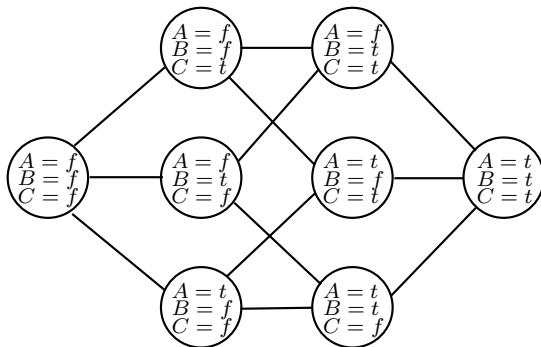
- explore state space without 'bookkeeping' (where have we been? what still needs to be explored?).
- no success/termination guarantees
- in practice, often the only thing that works

State Space Graph for CSP

(Another) state space graph representation for CSPs:

- Nodes are possible worlds
- Neighbors are possible worlds that differ in the value of exactly one variable

State space graph for 3 boolean variables:

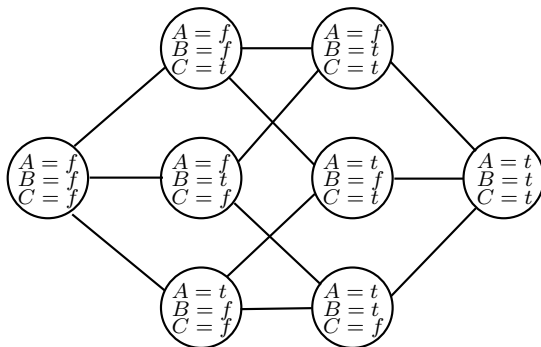


Algorithm Outline

1. Select some node in state space graph as *current state*
2. **while** *current state* is not a solution
3. *current state* = some neighbor of *current state*

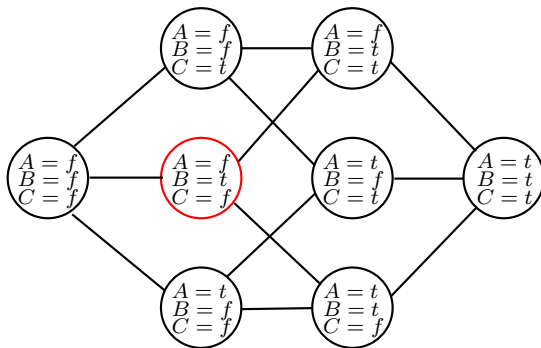
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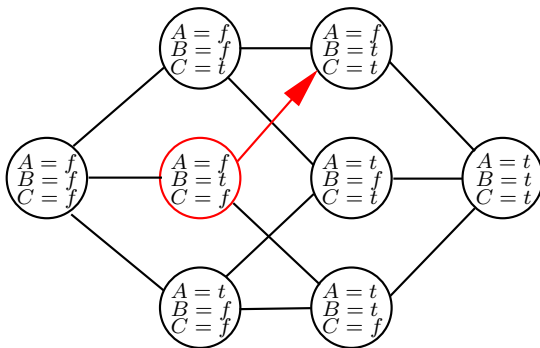
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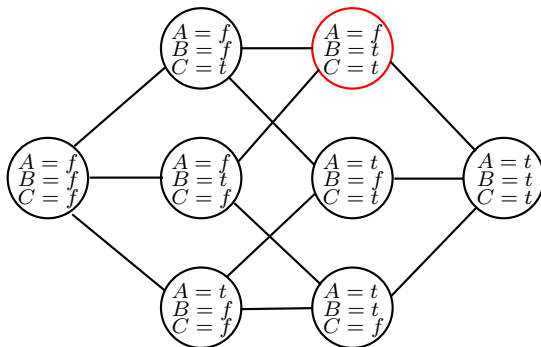
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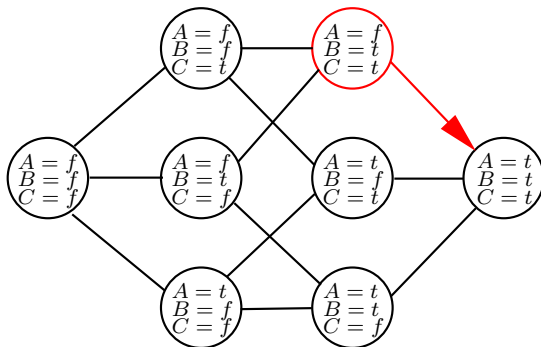
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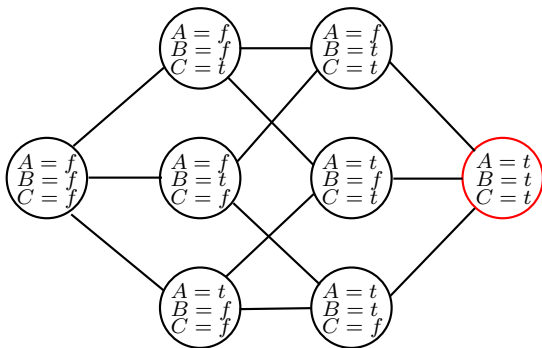
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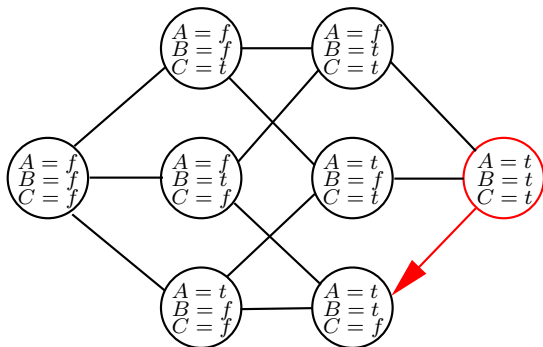
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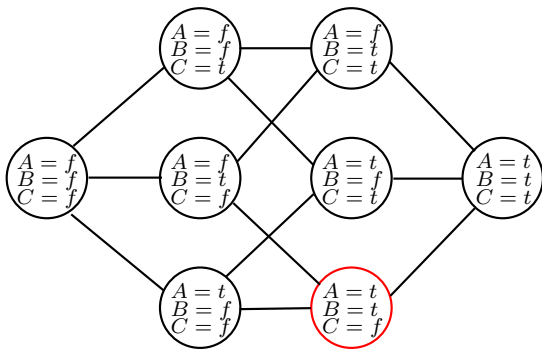
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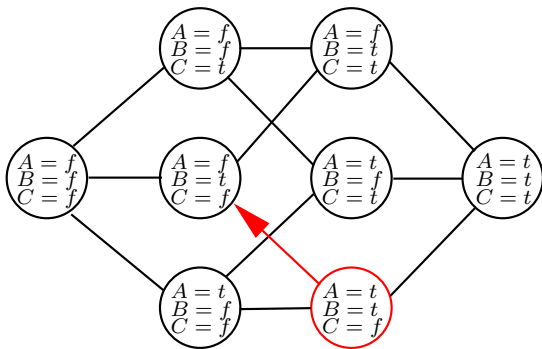
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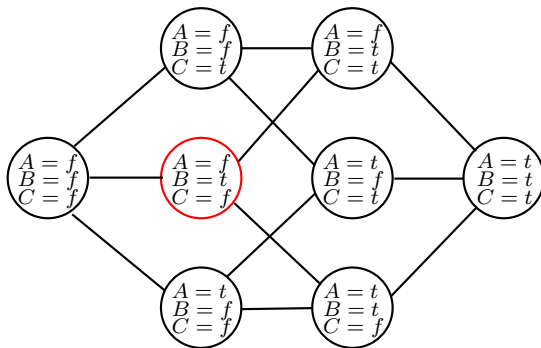
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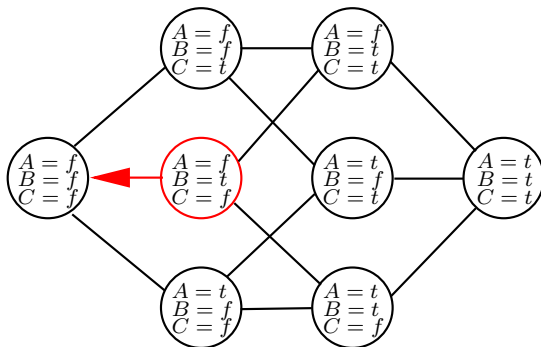
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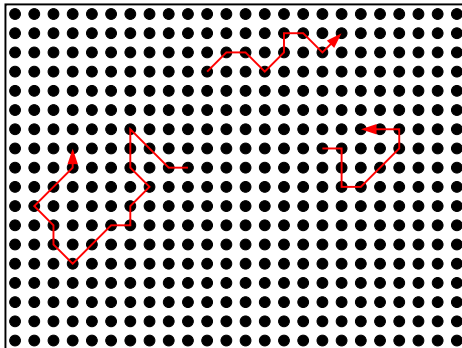


- Make choices in line 1. and 3. completely random
- “Random walk”
- Unlikely to find a solution if state space large with only few solutions

Greedy Search or Hill Climbing:

- Use an *evaluation function* on states
- Example for evaluation function: number of constraints not satisfied by state
- Always choose neighbor with minimal evaluation function value
- Terminates when all neighbors have higher value than current state: current state is a **local minimum**.

Possible greedy search paths starting from different states:



Problem

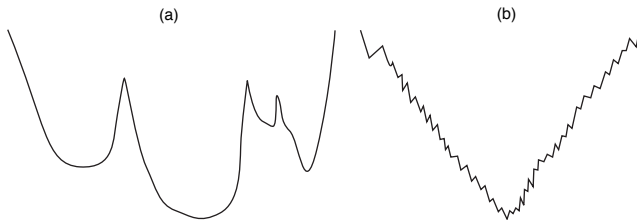
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Solution Approaches

- Random restarts: repeat greedy search with several randomly chosen initial states
- Random moves: combine greedy moves with random steps

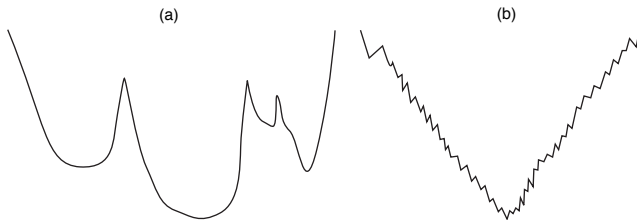


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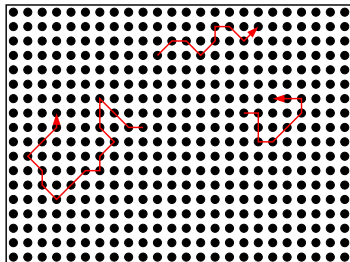
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Solution Approaches

- Random restarts: repeat greedy search with several randomly chosen initial states
- Random moves: combine greedy moves with random steps
- **Example (a):** Small number of random restarts will find global minimum
- **Example (b):** Make random move when local minimum reached



- Maintain an assignment of a value to each variable.
- At each step, select a “neighbor” of the current assignment (e.g., one that improves some heuristic value).
- Stop when a satisfying assignment is found, or return the best assignment found.



Requires:

- What is a neighbor?
- Which neighbor should be selected?

Principle

Select the variable-value pair that gives the highest improvement.

Naive approach

- Linearly scan all variables and for each value of each variable determine the improvement (how many fewer constraints are violated).

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Alternative

- Maintain a priority queue with variable-value pairs not part of the current assignment.
- $\text{Weight}\langle X, v \rangle = \text{eval}(\text{current assignment}) - \text{eval}(\text{current assignment but with } X = v)$.
- If X is given a new value, update the weight of all pairs participating in a changed constraint.

Principle

- First: choose variable
- Second: choose state

Data structure

- Maintain priority queue of variables; weight is the number of participating conflicts.
- After selecting a variable, pick the value minimizes the number of conflicts.
- Update weights of variables that participate in a conflict that is changed.

Algorithm

- Pick a variable at random and a new value at random.
- If it is an improvement, adopt it.
- If it isn't an improvement, adopt it probabilistically depending on a temperature parameter, T .
 - With current assignment n and proposed assignment n' we move to n' with probability

$$e^{(h(n') - h(n)) / T}$$

- Reduce the temperature.

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Probability of accepting a change

Temperature	1-worse	2-worse	3-worse
10	0.91	0.81	0.74
1	0.37	0.14	0.05
0.25	0.02	0.0003	0.000005
0.1	0.00005	0	0

Algorithm

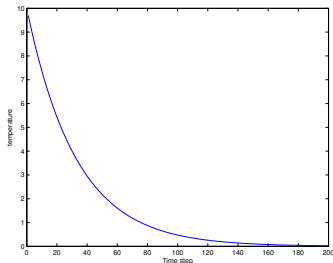
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$$y = 10 \cdot 0.97^x$$

Propositional Logic Basics

Previously ...

Intensional representation of constraints:

$$\begin{aligned} &A < B \\ &Teacher_AD = Teacher_MI \rightarrow Time_AD \neq Time_MI \\ &\dots \end{aligned}$$

CSP algorithms (arc-consistency algorithm) need to perform certain operations:

- *test* whether a certain value for one variable is *consistent* with a given constraint (and certain values for other variables)

To implement this:

- need a **formal language for representing constraints**

Propositional Logic

- provides a formal language for representing constraints on *binary variables*.

Atomic Propositions

Boolean variables are now seen as **atomic propositions**. Convention: start with lowercase letter.

Constraints	Logic
$A = \text{true}$	a
$A = \text{false}$	$\neg a$

Propositions

Using **logical connectives** more complex propositions are constructed:

$\neg p$	not p
$(p \wedge q)$	p and q
$(p \vee q)$	p or q
$(p \rightarrow q)$	p implies q

A set of propositions is also called a **Knowledge Base**

Example

“If it rains I’ll take my umbrella, or I’ll stay home”

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“If it rains I’ll take my umbrella, or I’ll stay home”

$$\text{rains} \rightarrow (\text{umbrella} \vee \text{home})$$

An **interpretation** π for a set of atomic propositions a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n is an assignment of a truth value to each proposition (= possible world when atomic propositions seen as boolean variables):

$$\pi(a_i) \in \{true, false\}$$

An interpretation defines a truth value for all propositions:

$\pi(p)$	$\pi(\neg p)$
<i>true</i>	<i>false</i>
<i>false</i>	<i>true</i>

$\pi(p)$	$\pi(q)$	$\pi(p \wedge q)$
<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>
<i>true</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>
<i>false</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>false</i>
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$\pi(p)$	$\pi(q)$	$\pi(p \vee q)$
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<i>true</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>true</i>
<i>false</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>
<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>

$\pi(p)$	$\pi(q)$	$\pi(p \rightarrow q)$
<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>
<i>true</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>
<i>false</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>
<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>true</i>

Models

A **model** of a proposition (a knowledge base) is an interpretation in which the proposition (all the propositions in the knowledge base) is true.

Propositions as constraints: a model is a possible world that satisfies the constraint.

Logical consequence

A proposition g is a **logical consequence** of a knowledge base KB , if every model of KB is a model of g . Written:

$$KB \models g$$

(whenever KB is true, then g also is true).

Example

$KB = \{man \rightarrow mortal, man\}$. Then

$$KB \models mortal$$

$$KB = \begin{cases} p \leftarrow q. \\ q. \\ r \leftarrow s. \end{cases}$$

	<i>p</i>	<i>q</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>s</i>	Model?
<i>I</i> ₁	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>	
<i>I</i> ₂	<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>	
<i>I</i> ₃	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>	
<i>I</i> ₄	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>false</i>	
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$$KB = \begin{cases} p \leftarrow q. \\ q. \\ r \leftarrow s. \end{cases}$$

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<i>I</i> ₂	<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>	not a model of <i>KB</i>
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Which of *p*, *q*, *r*, *s* logically follow from *KB*?

$$KB = \begin{cases} p \leftarrow q. \\ q. \\ r \leftarrow s. \end{cases}$$

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$$KB \models p, KB \models q, KB \not\models r, KB \not\models s$$