

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Higher School of Computer Science and Digital Technologies

AI 3rd Mini-Project Report

Theme:

Constraint Satisfaction Problem for Semester 2 Timetable Scheduling

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Mrs. LEKEHALI Soumia Mr BECHAR amine

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Introduction

This project aims to tackle the intricate challenge of scheduling the Semester 2 timetable for first-year Computer Science students. Crafting a timetable that satisfies both the constraints and preferences of students and faculty alike is a daunting task that requires a systematic and rigorous approach.

The primary objective of this project is to formulate the problem in a manner that defines the variables, domains, and constraints, thereby ensuring the feasibility of the generated timetable. To achieve this, we will develop an application using a Constraint Satisfaction Problem (CSP) framework, a well-established approach for solving such problems. This application will integrate backtracking algorithms, such as the AC3 algorithm, which will aid in reducing variable domains by eliminating incompatible options, as well as heuristics such as MRV (Minimum Remaining Values), MCV (Most Constraining Variable), and LCV (Least Constraining Value) to enhance solution efficiency.

The ultimate goal is to generate a timetable that satisfies all constraints imposed by the scheduling problem while striving to adhere to optional constraints as much as possible. Although optional, these constraints are crucial for optimizing aspects such as the equitable distribution of faculty workload.

In this report, we will elaborate on the methodology followed to formulate the problem, implement constraints, and develop the scheduling application. We will also address the challenges encountered along the way and the solutions devised to overcome them. Finally, we will evaluate the performance of our scheduling algorithm and analyze the results obtained in our quest to solve this complex scheduling problem.

Problem Formulation, Variable Domains, and Constraints

2.1 Problem Formulation

The problem involves scheduling various courses for Semester 2 within a week consisting of five days (Sunday to Thursday). Each day has multiple work slots. The goal is to allocate these slots to different courses while satisfying several constraints.

2.2 Variables

The variables in this problem are the time slots for each course and tutorial. Each course requires a specific number of slots, and these slots must be assigned in a way that satisfies all constraints.

2.3 Variable Domains

The domains for these variables are the available time slots across the week:

- Days: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
- Slots:
 - Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 5 slots each day
 - Tuesday: 3 morning slots

2.4 Constraints

Constraints ensure that the timetable adheres to the given requirements. They are divided into hard constraints and soft constraints.

2.4.1 Hard Constraints

1. The week consists of five days: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

- 2. Each day has five work slots, except Tuesday which has only three in the morning.
- 3. A maximum of three successive slots is allowed.
- 4. Lectures of different courses should not be scheduled in the same slot.
- 5. Different courses for the same group should have different slot allocations.

2.4.2 Soft Constraints (Optional for Extra Grades)

• Each teacher should have a maximum of two days of work.

Task

The task is to develop an application that:

- Formulates the problem
- Defines variable domains
- Implements constraints
- Employs backtracking algorithms, AC3, MRV, MCV, and LCV
- Generates a feasible timetable that satisfies the hard constraints and aims to satisfy as many soft constraints as possible

Problem Description

The scheduling involves the following courses and their corresponding requirements for 1st-year Computer Science students:

- **Sécurité**: one lecture + one TD (Teacher 1)
- Méthodes formelles: one lecture + one TD (Teacher 2)
- Analyse numérique: one lecture + one TD (Teacher 3)
- Entrepreneuriat: one lecture (Teacher 4)
- Recherche opérationnelle 2: one lecture + one TD (Teacher 5)
- Distributed Architecture & Intensive Computing: one lecture + one TD (Teacher 6)
- Réseaux 2: one lecture + one TD (Teacher 7), one TP (Teachers 8, 9, 10)
- Artificial Intelligence: one lecture + one TD (Teacher 11), one TP (Teachers 12, 13, 14)

Application Development

5.1 Approach

5.1.1 Problem Formulation

We identified the variables (time slots for each course) and their respective domains (available time slots in a week). The constraints were then clearly defined to guide the allocation of these slots.

5.1.2 Constraints Implementation

Hard constraints were implemented first to ensure the timetable's feasibility. Soft constraints were implemented to improve the quality of the timetable.

5.1.3 Algorithm Implementation

We used backtracking algorithms enhanced with preprocessing and heuristics:

- AC3 Algorithm: Used as a preprocessing step to reduce variable domains by eliminating inconsistent values.
- Heuristics (MRV, MCV, LCV): Applied during backtracking to efficiently select the next variable to assign and the value to assign to it.

5.2 Tools and Technologies

- Programming Languages: Python (Django), HTML, CSS, JavaScript
- Technologies and Tools: Postman, Django, VS Code
- Constraint Package: python-constraint or similar packages suitable for CSP problems

Challenges and Solutions

6.1 Challenges

- **Domain Reduction**: Managing the domains of variables to ensure constraints are met and the solution space is feasible.
- Constraint Propagation: Efficiently propagating constraints to reduce the search space and improve the algorithm's performance.

6.2 Solutions

- AC3 Algorithm: Implemented as a preprocessing step to reduce domains by removing values that are inconsistent with constraints.
- Heuristics (MRV, MCV, LCV): Utilized to select variables and values that minimize the remaining search space and handle the most constrained variables first.

Results and Discussion

The application successfully generated feasible timetables that satisfied all hard constraints and maximized the satisfaction of soft constraints.

Note: The schedule shows one course per group, but in principle, the same time and lecture hall are used for all groups.

Below are screenshots of the application interface and code snippets to illustrate the functionality and workings of the developed application.

7.1 Screenshots

7.1.1 Application Interface

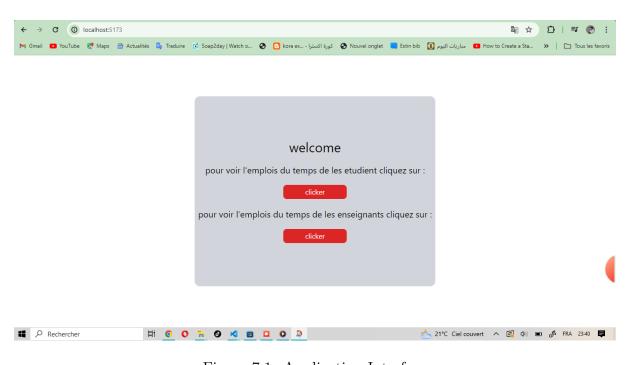


Figure 7.1: Application Interface

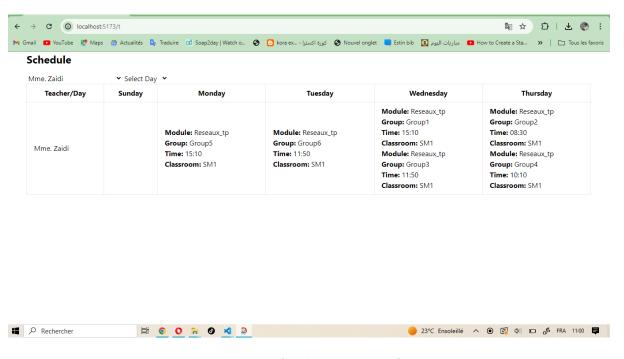


Figure 7.2: Application Interface

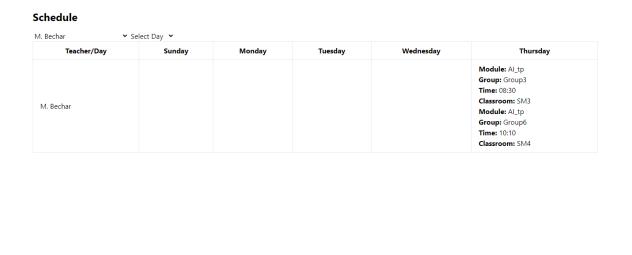


Figure 7.3: Application Interface

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Schedule

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Schedule

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: 08:30	Teacher: Dr. Djebari	Teacher: Dr. Djebari	Time: 08:30
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: 11:50	Teacher: Mme. Djenane	Teacher: Mme. Khelouf	Time: 15:10
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: 08:30	Time: 08:30	Time: 08:30	Time: 08:30
room: Amphi7	Classroom: Amphi7		
ule: Entrepreneuriat_lecture	Module: Entrepreneuriat_lecture	Classroom: Amphi7	Classroom: Amphi7
ner: Dr. Kaci	Teacher: Dr. Kaci	Module: Entrepreneuriat_lecture	Module: Entrepreneuriat_lecture
: 10:10	Time: 10:10	Teacher: Dr. Kaci	Teacher: Dr. Kaci
		Time: 10:10	Time: 10:10
room: Amphi7	Classroom: Amphi7	Classroom: Amphi7	Classroom: Amphi7
ule: Methodes_formelles_td	Module: Analyse_numerique_td	Module: Reseaux td	Module: Reseaux td
1er: Dr. Zedek	Teacher: Dr. Alkama	Teacher: Mr. Sahli	Teacher: Dr. Zenadji
: 15:10	Time: 15:10	Time: 11:50	Time: 11:50
room: S1	Classroom: S2	Classroom: S5	Classroom: S6
ule:	Module:		
buted_architecture_td	Recherche_operationnelle_td	Module: Reseaux_tp	Module: Al_td
1er: Dr. Djenadi	Teacher: Dr. Issadi	Teacher: Mme. Zaidi	Teacher: Dr. Lekehali
: 11:50	Time: 11:50	Time: 15:10	Time: 15:10
room: S4	Classroom: S3	Classroom: SM1	Classroom: S5
ule:	Module:	Module:	Module:
erche_operationnelle_lecture	Recherche_operationnelle_lecture	Recherche_operationnelle_lecture	Recherche_operationnelle_lecture
ner: Dr. Issadi	Teacher: Dr. Issadi	Teacher: Dr. Issadi	Teacher: Dr. Issadi
: 08:30	Time: 08:30	Time: 08:30	Time: 08:30
room: Amphi7	Classroom: Amphi7	Classroom: Amphi7	Classroom: Amphi7
ule:	Module:	Module:	Module:
buted architecture lecture	Distributed architecture lecture	Distributed architecture lecture	Distributed_architecture_lecture
1er: Dr. Djenadi	Teacher: Dr. Djenadi	Teacher: Dr. Djenadi	Teacher: Dr. Djenadi
: 10:10	Time: 10:10	Time: 10:10	Time: 10:10
room: Amphi7	Classroom: Amphi7	Classroom: Amphi7	Classroom: Amphi7
ule: Analyse_numerique_td	Module: Reseaux_td	Module: Methodes_formelles_td	Module: Reseaux_tp
ner: Dr. Alkama	Teacher: Dr. Zenadji	Teacher: Dr. Zedek	Teacher: Mme. Zaidi
: 11:50	Time: 11:50	Time: 11:50	Time: 11:50
room: S2	Classroom: S5	Classroom: S1	Classroom: SM1
	Module: Reseaux_lecture	Module: Reseaux_lecture	l
ule: Reseaux_lecture	Teacher: Dr. Zenadji	Teacher: Dr. Zenadji	Module: Reseaux_lecture
1er: Dr. Zenadji	Time: 08:30	Time: 08:30	Teacher: Dr. Zenadji
: 08:30	Classroom: Amphi7	Classroom: Amphi7	Time: 08:30
room: Amphi7	·	Module: Al_lecture	Classroom: Amphi7
ule: Al_lecture	Module: Al_lecture	Teacher: Dr. Lekehali	Module: Al_lecture
ner: Dr. Lekehali	Teacher: Dr. Lekehali	Time: 10:10	Teacher: Dr. Lekehali
: 10:10	Time: 10:10	Classroom: Amphi7	Time: 10:10
room: Amphi7	Classroom: Amphi7	Module:	Classroom: Amphi7
ule: Reseaux_td	Module:	Recherche_operationnelle_td	Module: Methodes_formelles_td
ne: Reseaux_to	Distributed_architecture_td	Teacher: Dr. Issadi	Teacher: Dr. Zedek
	Teacher: Dr. Djenadi		
: 15:10	Time: 11:50	Time: 11:50	Time: 11:50
room: S3	Classroom: S3	Classroom: S2	Classroom: S1
ule: Reseaux_tp	Module: Al_tp	Module:	Module: Analyse_numerique_td
ner: Mme. Zaidi	- •	Distributed_architecture_td	Teacher: Dr. Alkama
: 11:50	Teacher: Mme. Hamma	1 Teacher: Dr. Djenadi	Time: 15:10
room: SM1	Time: 15:10	Time: 15:10	Classroom: S1
	Classroom: SM2	Classroom: S2	
			Module: AL+d
	Module: Al td	Module: Al_td	Module: Al_td

Schedule

Teacher/Day	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
				Module: Al_lecture	
				Group: Group1	
				Time: 10:10	
				Classroom: Amphi7	
				Module: Al_lecture	
				Group: Group2	
				Time: 10:10	Module: Al_td
				Classroom: Amphi7	Group: Group1
				Module: Al_lecture	Time: 08:30
				Group: Group3	Classroom: S2
				Time: 10:10	Module: Al_td
				Classroom: Amphi7	Group: Group3
		Module: Al_td		Module: Al_lecture	Time: 10:10
Lekehali		Group: Group6		Group: Group4	Classroom: S1
Lekelidii		Time: 15:10		Time: 10:10	Module: Al_td
		Classroom: S5		Classroom: Amphi7	Group: Group4
				Module: Al_lecture	Time: 11:50
				Group: Group5	Classroom: S1
				Time: 10:10	Module: Al_td
				Classroom: Amphi7	Group: Group5
				Module: Al_lecture	Time: 15:10
				Group: Group6	Classroom: S1
				Time: 10:10	
				Classroom: Amphi7	
				Module: Al_td	
				Group: Group2	
				Time: 15:10	
				Classroom: S4	

Figure 7.6: Application Interface

7.1.2 Code Snippets

Figure 7.7: Implementation

```
★ File Edit Selection View Go Run …
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          EXPLORER
Ф
                           ✓ BACKEND-CLASS-SCHEDU... Time > ♦ csp_utils.py > ♦ generate_timetable
                                                                                                                                                            GROUPS = [f'Group{num}' for num in range(1, 7)]
ID_ROOMS = [f"TD{room}" for room in range(1, 26)]
IP_ROOMS = [f"TP{room}" for room in range(1, 12)]
LECTURE_ROOMS = [f"Amphi{room}" for room in range(7, 8)]
CLASSROOMS = ID_ROOMS + ID_ROOMS + LECTURE_ROOMS
DAYS = ['Sunday', 'Monday', 'Tuesday', 'Wednesday', 'Thursday']
                               ∨ Time

✓ migrations

                                     0001_initial.py
                                                                                                                                                                                   generate_time_slots():
start_time = datetime.strptime("08:30", "%H:%M").time()
slots = []
for i in range(5): # 5 sessions per day
    end_time = (datetime.combine(datetime.today(), start_time) + timedelta(minutes=90)).time()
    slots.append((start_time.strftime("%H:%M"), f"{start_time.strftime("%H:%M")}) - {end_time.strftime("%H:%M")}"))
    start_time = (datetime.combine(datetime.today(), end_time) + timedelta(minutes=10)).time()
    return | file | fil
                                 admin.pv
                                apps.py
                                models.pyserializers.py
                                urls.pyviews.py
                                                                                                                                                               def generate_timetable(constraints=None):
    slots = []
                                gitignore
                                                                                                                                                                                   saves - []
lecture modules = [module for module in MODULES if '_lecture' in module]
other_modules = [module for module in MODULES if '_lecture' not in module]
                             (i) README.md
                                                                                                                                                                                   # Track the sessions assigned to each group and teacher
sessions_assigned_per_group = {group: [] for group in GROUPS}
sessions_assigned_per_teacher = {teacher: [] for teacher in TEACHERS.keys()}
lectures_per_day_per_group = {group: {day: 0 for day in DAYS} for group in GROUPS}
lectures_per_day_per_teacher = {teacher: {day: 0 for day in DAYS} for teacher in TEACHERS.keys()}

≡ requirements.txt
```

Figure 7.8: Implementation

```
csp_utils.py × manage.py
                                                                          def generate_timetable(constraints=None):
   ∨ Time
                                                                                   if constraints:
    teacher_availability = constraints.get('teacher_availability', {})
                                                                                  else:
teacher_availability = {}
      > _pycache_
                                                                                  __init__.pyadmin.py
     csp_utils.py
     tests.py
                                                                                              udy lin DATS.

for slot_index, slot in enumerate(TIME_SLOTS):

if day == 'Tuesday' and slot_index >= 3:

break  # Stop generating slots after the third session on Tuesday
    views.pyTimeTable
                                                                                                     # Assign lectures

if lecture_modules:

module = lecture_modules.pop(0)

teacher = None

for t, modules in TEACHERS.items():

if module in modules:

teacher = t

break

if teacher and is_teacher_available(teacher, day, slot_index):

for classroom in LECTURE ROOMS:

    README.md

≡ requirements.txt

                                                                                                                           teacher and is_teacher_available(teacher, rep)
for classroom in LECTURE ROOMS:
    if classroom not in classroom_usage[day][slot]:
    if not any(s[0] == day and s[1] == slot_index for s in sessions_assigned_per_teacher[teacher])
    if not any(s[0] == day and s[1] == slot_index for s in sessions_assigned_per_teacher[teacher])
    if not any(s[0] == day and s[1] == slot_index for s in sessions_assigned_per_teacher[teacher])
    if not any(s[0] == day and s[1] == slot_index for s in sessions_assigned_per_teacher[teacher])
    if not any(s[0] == day and s[1] == slot_index for s in sessions_assigned_per_teacher[teacher])
    if not any(s[0] == day and s[1] == slot_index for s in sessions_assigned_per_teacher[teacher])
    if not any(s[0] == day and s[1] == slot_index for s in sessions_assigned_per_teacher[teacher])
> OUTLINE
> TIMELINE
  main ↔ ⊗ 0 🛦 0 💖 0
```

Figure 7.9: Implementation

```
csp_utils.py ×
                                          def generate_timetable(constraints=None):

→ migrations

                                                     teacher_availability = constraints.get('teacher_availability', {})
                                                 else:
    teacher_availability = {}
    __init__.py
   0001_initial.py
                                                def is_teacher_available(teacher, day, slot_index):
    if teacher in teacher_availability:
        unavailable_slots = teacher_availability[teacher].get(day, [])
    if slot_index in unavailable_slots:
   __init__.py
   admin.py
   apps.py
   models.py
   serializers.py
   tests.pv
   urls.py
                                                      for slot_index, slot in enumerate(TIME_SLOTS):
    if day == 'Tuesday' and slot_index >= 3:
        break # Stop generating slots after the third session on Tuesday
  views.py
  > TimeTable
 gitignore
                                                            # Assign lectures
if lecture_modules:
    module = lecture_modules.pop(0)
 manage.py
 (i) README.md
                                                                   teacher = N

≡ requirements.txt

                                                                        if module in modules:
teacher = t
                                                                   if teacher and is_teacher_available(teacher, day, slot_index):
                                                                              if classroom not in classroom_usage[day][slot]:
   if not any(s[0] == day and s[1] == slot_index for s in sessions_assigned_per_teacher[teacher])
 OUTLINE
> TIMELINE
```

Figure 7.10: Implementation

```
csp_utils.py X manage.py
                                            Time > ♥ csp_utils.py > ۞ generate_timetable

50 def generate_timetable(constraints=None):
 BACKE... 「ユロン 何
                                                                                                                     traints=None):
if not any(s[0] == day and s[1] == slot_index for s in sessions_assigned_per_teacher[teacher])
    all(lectures_per_day_per_group[group][day] < 2 for group in GROUPS) and \
    lectures_per_day_per_teacher[teacher][day] < 2:
    slots.append(TimetableSlot.objects.create(
        day=day,
        start_time=slot,</pre>
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             BOLLON STATES

→ migrations

   __init__.py
                                                                                                                                      module_name=module,
teacher_name=teacher,
                                                                                                                                      group_name="; ".join(GROUPS), # All groups
classroom_name=classroom
 admin.py
 apps.py
                                                                                                                            classroom_name

for group in GROUPS:
    sessions_assigned_per_group[group].append((day, slot_index))
    lectures_per_day_per_group[group][day] += 1

sessions_assigned_per_teacher[teacher].append((day, slot_index))
lectures_per_day_per_teacher[teacher][day] += 1
classroom_usage[day][slot].append(classroom)
  csp_utils.py
 models.py
 serializers.py
 tests.py
 > TimeTable
 gitignore
                                                                                             if module.endswith('_td') or module.endswith('_tp'):
manage.py
                                                                                                     | teacher = t
(i) README.md

≡ requirements.txt

                                                                                                     if teacher and is_teacher_available(teacher, day, slot_index):
    for classroom in (TD_ROOMS if module.endswith('_td') else TP_ROOMS):
        if classroom not in classroom_usage[day][slot]:
            for group in GROUPS:
OUTLINE
```

Figure 7.11: Implementation

```
File Edit Selection View Go Run
                                                                                    csp_utils.py × anage.py
           EXPLORER
                                                                                     Time > ◆ csp_utils.py > 分 generate_timetable

50 def generate_timetable(constraints=None):
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       group_name=group,
classroom_name=classroom

→ migrations

                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ))
sessions_assigned_per_group[group].append((day, slot_index))
sessions_assigned_per_teacher(teacher].append((day, slot_index))
classroom_usage[day][slot].append(classroom)
break
               __init__.py0001_initial.py
                                                                                                                                                    # Check if a teacher or group has more than three tonsecution.

if slot_index >= 2:

for teacher, sessions in sessions assigned_per_teacher.items():

if len(sessions) >= 3 and all((day, i) in sessions for i in range(slot_index - 2, slot_index + 1)):

# Remove the last session from the assigned sessions

last_session = sessions[-1]

slots = [s for s in slots if not (s.day == last_session[0] and s.start_time == TIME_SLOTS[last_sess for group in GROUDS:

if (last_session[0], last_session[1]) in sessions_assigned_per_group[group]:

sessions_assigned_per_group[group].remove((last_session[0], last_session[1]))

sessions_assigned_per_teacher[teacher].remove((last_session[0], last_session[1]))
             admin.py
             csp_utils.pymodels.py
             serializers.pytests.py
             views.py
                                                                                                                                                                    for group, sessions in sessions_assigned_per_group.items():
    if len(sessions) >= 3 and all((day, i) in sessions for i in range(slot_index - 2, slot_index + 1)):
    # Remove the last session from the assigned sessions
    last_session = sessions[-1]
    slots = [s for s in slots if not (s.day == last_session[0] and s.start_time == TIME_SLOTS[last_sess sessions_assigned_per_group[group].remove((last_session[0], last_session[1)))
    for teacher in TEACHERS.keys():
        if (last_session[0], last_session[1]) in sessions_assigned_per_teacher[teacher]:
            sessions_assigned_per_teacher[teacher].remove((last_session[0], last_session[1]))

    README.md
```

Figure 7.12: Implementation

Conclusion

This assignment successfully demonstrated the application of CSP techniques to real-world scheduling problems. The developed application efficiently generated feasible timetables using backtracking algorithms with AC3 preprocessing and heuristics, ensuring adherence to hard constraints and optimizing for soft constraints.