Learning Objectives

At the end of the class you should be able to:

- show how constraint satisfaction problems can be solved with generate-and-test
- show how constraint satisfaction problems can be solved with search
- explain and trace arc-consistency of a constraint graph
- show how domain splitting can solve constraint problems

Generate-and-Test Algorithm

- Generate the assignment space $\mathbf{D} = dom(V_1) \times dom(V_2) \times \ldots \times dom(V_n)$. Test each assignment with the constraints.
- Example:

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\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{D} &= dom(A) \times dom(B) \times dom(C) \times dom(D) \times dom(E) \\
&= \{1,2,3,4\} \times \{1,2,3,4\} \times \{1,2,3,4\} \times \{1,2,3,4\} \times \{1 \\
&= \{\langle 1,1,1,1,1 \rangle, \langle 1,1,1,1,2 \rangle, \ldots, \langle 4,4,4,4,4 \rangle\}.
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for A in dom_A:
    for B in dom_B:
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       if constraints are satisfied: return (A,B,...)
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- How many assignments need to be tested for n variables each with domain size d?

Backtracking Algorithms

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Example Variables A, B, C, domains $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$,
constraints $A < B, B < C$.
Assignment $A = 1 \wedge B = 1$ is inconsistent with constraint $A < B$ regardless of the value of the other variables.

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- The start node is the empty assignment.
- A goal node is a total assignment that satisfies the constraints.
- The search space depends on which variable is selected to be assigned for each node. There are no cycles or multiple paths to a node.

Simple Example 1

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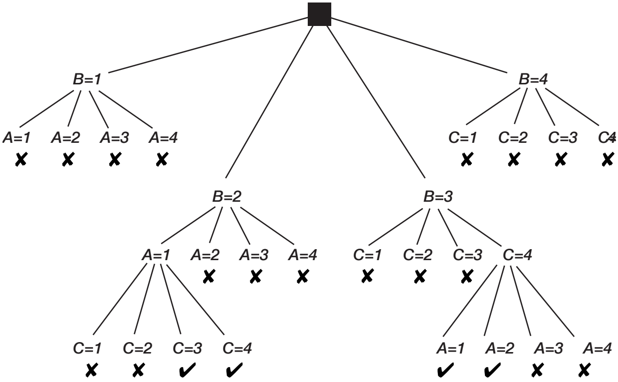

Simple Example 2

- Variables: A, B, C, D
- Domains: $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$
- Constraints $A < B$, $B < C, C < D$

Simple Example 3

- Variables: A, B, C, D, E
- Domains: $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$
- Constraints $A < B$, $B < C, C < D, D < E$

Example: scheduling activities

- Variables: A, B, C, D, E that represent the starting times of various activities.
- Domains: $dom(A) = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, $dom(B) = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, $dom(C) = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, $dom(D) = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, $dom(E) = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$
- Constraints:

$$
\begin{aligned}
&(B \neq 3) \wedge (C \neq 2) \wedge (A \neq B) \wedge (B \neq C) \wedge \\
&\quad (C < D) \wedge (A = D) \wedge (E < A) \wedge (E < B) \wedge \\
&\quad (E < C) \wedge (E < D) \wedge (B \neq D).
\end{aligned}
$$

Consistency Algorithms

- Idea: prune the domains as much as possible before selecting values from them.
- A variable is domain consistent if no value of the domain of the variable is ruled impossible by any of the constraints.
- Example: Is the scheduling example domain consistent?

Consistency Algorithms

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- A variable is domain consistent if no value of the domain of the variable is ruled impossible by any of the constraints.
- Example: Is the scheduling example domain consistent?
  $dom(B) = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ isn't domain consistent as $B = 3$ violates the constraint $B \neq 3$.

Constraint Network

- There is a oval-shaped node for each variable.

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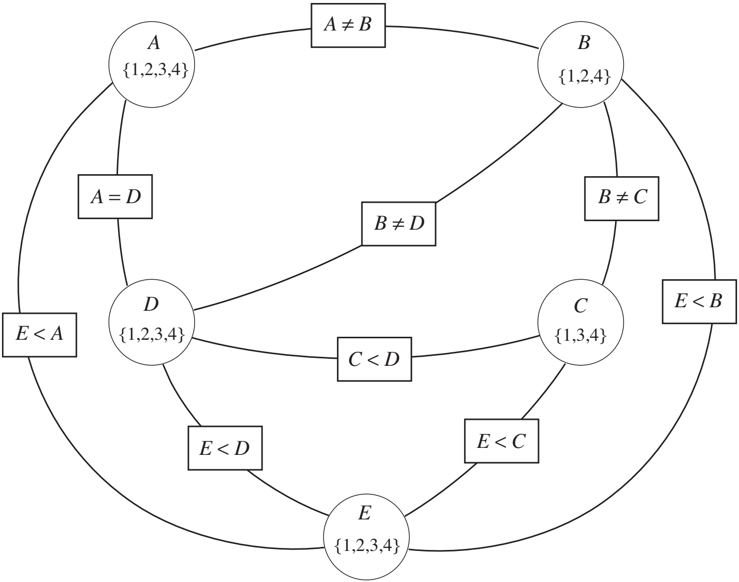
- There is a domain of values associated with each variable node.
- There is an arc from variable X to each constraint that involves X.
  An arc is written as $\langle X, r(X, \overline{Y})\rangle$
  E.g., $\langle X, X < Y\rangle$, $\langle Y, X < Y\rangle$
  $\langle X, X + Y = Z\rangle$, $\langle Y, X + Y = Z\rangle$, $\langle Z, X + Y = Z\rangle$

Example Constraint Network



Arc Consistency

- An arc $\langle X, r(X, \overline{Y})\rangle$ is arc consistent if, for each value $x \in dom(X)$, there is some value $\overline{y} \in dom(\overline{Y})$ such that $r(x, \overline{y})$ is satisfied.

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- A network is arc consistent if all its arcs are arc consistent.
- What if arc $\langle X, r(X, \overline{Y})\rangle$ is *not* arc consistent?
  All values of X in $dom(X)$ for which there is no corresponding value in $dom(\overline{Y})$ can be deleted from $dom(X)$ to make the arc $\langle X, r(X, \overline{Y})\rangle$ consistent.

Arc Consistency Algorithm

- The arcs can be considered in turn making each arc consistent.
- When an arc has been made arc consistent, does it ever need to be checked again?

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- When an arc has been made arc consistent, does it ever need to be checked again?
  An arc $\langle X, r(X, \overline{Y})\rangle$ needs to be revisited if the domain of one of the Y's is reduced.

Generalized Arc Consistency

for each variable X:

$\quad D_X := dom(X)$

$to\_do := \{\langle X, c\rangle \mid c \in C$ and $X \in scope(c)\}$

while *to_do* is not empty:

$\quad$ **select** and **remove** path $\langle X, c\rangle$ from *to_do*

$\quad$ **suppose** scope of c is $\{X, Y_1, \ldots, Y_k\}$

$\quad ND_X := \{x \mid x \in D_X$ and

$\qquad\qquad$ exists $y_1 \in D_{Y_1}, \ldots, y_k \in D_{Y_k}$

$\qquad\qquad$ s.th. $c(X = x, Y_1 = y_1, \ldots, Y_k = y_k) = true\ \}$

$\quad$ if $ND_X \neq D_X$:

$\qquad to\_do := to\_do \cup \{\langle Z, c'\rangle \mid X \in scope(c'),$

$\qquad\qquad c'$ is not c, $Z \in scope(c') \setminus \{X\}\}$

$\qquad D_X := ND_X$

return $\{D_X \mid X$ is a variable$\}$

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Three possible outcomes when all arcs are made arc consistent:

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- Each domain has a single value $\Longrightarrow$
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- Consider binary constraints
- Each variable domain is of size d
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- But it can be made arc consistent in polynomial time. How?

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- Give a solution it can be checked in polynomial time
- But it can be made arc consistent in polynomial time. How?
  Making the network arc consistent does not solve the problem. We need to search for a solution.

Finding solutions with AC and domain splitting

To solve a CSP:

- Simplify with arc-consistency
- If a domain is empty, return no solution
- If all domains have size 1, return solution found
- Else split a domain, and recursively solve each half.

Finding one solutions with AC and domain splitting

$Solve\_one(CSP, domains)$:
    simplify CSP with arc-consistency
    if one domain is empty:
        return False
    else if all domains have one element:
        return solution of that element for each variable
    else:
        select variable X with domain D and $|D| > 1$
        partition D into D_1 and D_2
        return $Solve\_one(CSP, domains$ with $dom(X) = D_1)$ or
                $Solve\_one(CSP, domains$ with $dom(X) = D_2)$

Finding set of all solutions with AC and domain splitting

$Solve\_all(CSP, domains)$:

simplify CSP with arc-consistency

if one domain is empty:

  return

else if all domains have one element:

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else:

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  partition D into D_1 and D_2

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Finding set of all solutions with AC and domain splitting

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AC and domain splitting as search

Domain splitting leads to search space

- Nodes:
- Neighbors
- Goal:
- Start node:

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Domain splitting leads to search space

- Nodes: CSP with arc-consistent domains
- Neighbors of CSP:
  if all domains are non-empty:
    select variable X with domain D and $|D| > 1$
    partition D into D_1 and D_2
    neighbors are
    - $make\_AC(CSP \mid dom(X) = D_1)$
    - $make\_AC(CSP \mid dom(X) = D_2)$
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    select variable X with domain D and $|D| > 1$
    partition D into D_1 and D_2
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    - $make\_AC(CSP \mid dom(X) = D_1)$
    - $make\_AC(CSP \mid dom(X) = D_2)$
- Goal: all domains have size 1
- Start node: $make\_AC(CSP)$