

Artificial Intelligence: Foundations & Applications

Introduction to Constraint Satisfaction Problem



Prof. Partha P. Chakrabarti & Arijit Mondal
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

Examples of CSP

- Crossword puzzle ✓
- N-queens on chess board ✓
- Knapsack ✓
- Assembly scheduling ✓
- Operations research ✓
- Map coloring ✓
- Time tabling ✓
- Airline/train scheduling ✓
- Cryptic puzzle ✓
- Boolean satisfiability ✓
- Car sequencing ✓
- Scene labeling ✓
- etc.



CENTRAL TIMETABLE: SPRING SEMESTER (2019- 2020)

TABLE-1 - TIME TABLE SLOTTING PATTERN

| Period | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|--------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--|---|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Time | 8:00 AM -8:55 AM | 9:00 AM -9:55AM | 10:00AM -10:55AM | 11:00 AM 11:55 AM | 12:00 Noon -12:55 PM | | 2:00 PM - 2:55 PM | 3:00 PM - 3:55 PM | 4:00 PM - 4:55 PM | 5:00 PM 5:55 PM |
| Day | | | | | | | | | | |
| | A3(1) | 1 st Year LAB SLOT Q-1 | | | D3 (1) | | H3(1) | U3(1, 2) | | S3(1) |
| | A2 | | C3 (1) C4 (1) | B3(1) | D4 (1) | | | U4(1, 2) | | |
| | A3(1, 2) | | LAB SLOT:Q | | | | LAB SLOT:J | | | |
| | | 1 st Year LAB SLOT K-1 | | | | L | | U3(3) | H2 | |
| TUE | B2 | | D2 D3(2, 3) D4(2, 3) | | A3(3) | U | U4(3, 4) | | H3(2, 3) | |
| | B3(2, 3) | | LAB SLOT:K | | | N | LAB SLOT:L | | | |
| | | 1 st Year LAB SLOT R-1 | | | E3(1) | C | | | | |
| WED | C2 | | F3(1) F4(1) | G3(1) | E4(1) | H | X4(1) | X4(2) | X4(3) | X4(4) |
| | C3(2, 3) C4(2, 3) | | LAB SLOT:R | | | | LAB SLOT:X | | | |
| | | 1 st Year LAB SLOT M-1 | | | | H | | | | |
| THU | D4(4) | F3(2) | C4(4) | E3(2) E4(2) | G3(2) | O | I2(1) | V2 V3(1, 2) V4(1, 2) | | S3(2) |
| | | F4(2) | LAB SLOT:M | | | U | LAB SLOT:N | | | |
| | | 1 st Year LAB SLOT O-1 | | | | R | | V3(3) | I2(2) | |
| FRI | G3(3) | E3(3) | | F3(3) | | | V4(3, 4) | | I2(2) | S3(3) |
| | | E4(3, 4) | | F4(3, 4) | | | LAB SLOT:P | | | |
| SAT | EAA | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2 Hour Slot | 3 hour slot | 4 Hour Slot | Lab Slot | Lab Slot for 1 st year only | | Special Slot for EAA | Officially No Class | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | 8 |
| | | | | | | | | 7 |
| | | | | | | | | 6 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 |
| | | | | | | | | 4 |
| | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | | | | | | | | 1 |
| a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | |



CSP formulation

- Variables ✓
 - A set of decision variables x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n

CSP formulation

- Variables

- A set of decision variables x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n

$\rightarrow \{0, 1\}$
 $\rightarrow \{0, \dots, 10\}$

- Domain of variables

- Each variable has a domain (discrete or continuous) D_1, D_2, \dots, D_n from which it can take a value.

$\rightarrow \{0-1\}$

CSP formulation

- Variables
 - A set of *decision variables* x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n
- Domain of variables
 - Each variable has a domain (discrete or continuous) D_1, D_2, \dots, D_n from which it can take a value.
- Satisfaction constraint
 - A finite set of satisfaction constraints C_1, C_2, \dots, C_m
 - A constraint can be unary, binary or among many variables. Given a value of variables, any constraint will yield *yes* or *no* only

$$x_1 < 5$$
$$x_1 < x_2$$


$$\underline{x_1 + x_2 + x_3 < 5} \rightarrow \text{T/F}$$

CSP formulation

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- Cost function for optimization (optional)
 - A set of optimization functions (typically min, max) O_1, O_2, \dots, O_p

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- Solution

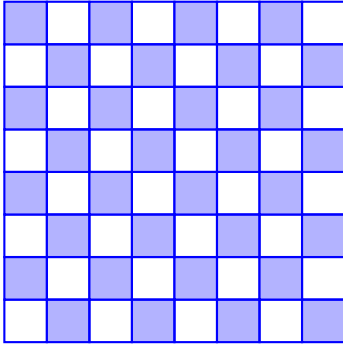
- A consistent assignment of domain values to each variable so that all constraints are satisfied and the optimization criteria (if any) are met.

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = d_1 \in D_1 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} d_1 \quad d_2 \quad d_3 \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ c_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) \\ \hline \text{yes} \end{array}$$

$$c_1 \rightarrow \text{True}$$

N-Queens

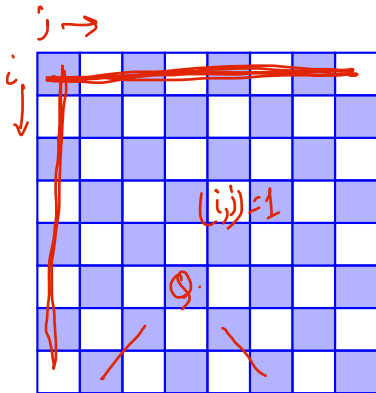


Need to place N-queens on this board

Rules:

- No queens are attacking each other

N-Queens



Need to place N-queens on this board

Rules:

- No queens are attacking each other

8x8

64 \rightarrow 2

- Variables: x_{ij} - queen is in cell (i, j) ; $j, i \leq N$

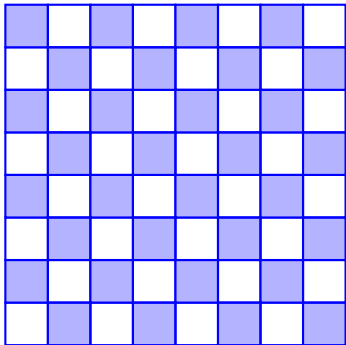
- Domains: $D_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$

- Constraints: $\sum_i x_{ij} = 1, \sum_j x_{ij} = 1, \sum_{i,j} x_{ij} = N,$
 $x_{ij} + x_{(i+k)(j+k)} \leq 1, \quad x_{ij} + x_{(i+k)(j-k)} \leq 1,$

k is in appropriate range

- Search space $2^{64} = 18, 446, 744, 073, 709, 551, 616$

N-Queens (alternative model)

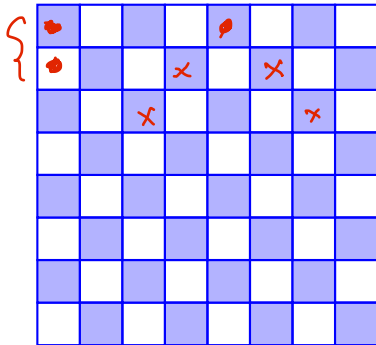


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N-Queens (alternative model)



Need to place N-queens on this board

Rules:

- No queens are attacking each other

• Variables: x_i $(x_1) \dots x_8$!

• Domains: $D_i \in \{1, 2, \dots, 8\}$

• Constraints: ...

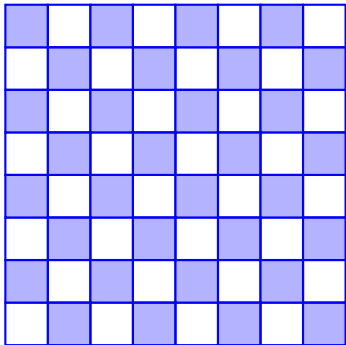
• Search space $8^8 = 16,777,216$!

x_1 - position of queen in row 1

$$(x_1=1) \neq (x_2=1)$$

$$\underline{x_1 \neq x_2}$$

N-Queens (alternative model)



Need to place N-queens on this board

Rules:

- No queens are attacking each other

- Variables: x_i

- Domains: $D_i \in \{1, 2, \dots, 8\}$

- Constraints: ...

- Search space $8^8 = 16,777,216$

Other variants:

- At least a queen on the main diagonal ✓✓✓
- Two queens on the two main diagonals ✓✓✓
- Enumeration of all solutions ✓

Examination schedule

| Student | Subjects |
|---------|-----------------|
| S_1 | C_1, C_2, C_3 |
| S_2 | C_2, C_3, C_4 |
| S_3 | C_3, C_4 |
| S_4 | C_3, C_4, C_5 |
| S_5 | C_1, C_5, C_6 |

Examination schedule

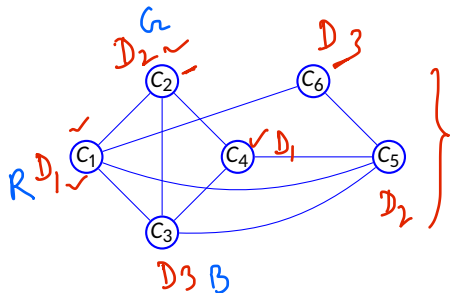
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| S_1 | C_1, C_2, C_3 |
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| S_3 | C_3, C_4 |
| S_4 | C_3, C_4, C_5 |
| S_5 | C_1, C_5, C_6 |

**Is it possible to conduct all these exams
in 3 days assuming one exam per day?**

Examination schedule

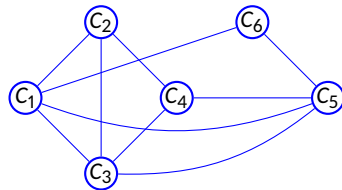
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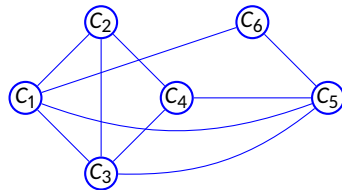


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- Variables: x_i - slot for subject C_i
- Domains: $D_i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$
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Graph coloring problem.

Airport gate scheduling

| Flight | Arrv. time | Dept. time |
|--------|------------|------------|
| F1 | 0715 | 0815 |
| F2 | 0800 | 0900 |
| F3 | 0830 | 0930 |
| F4 | 0845 | 0945 |
| F5 | 0915 | 1015 |
| F6 | 0845 | 0945 |

Airport gate scheduling

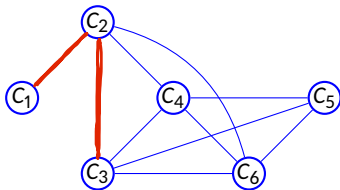
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Is it possible to schedule all flights using 3 gates?

Airport gate scheduling

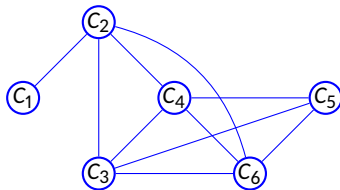
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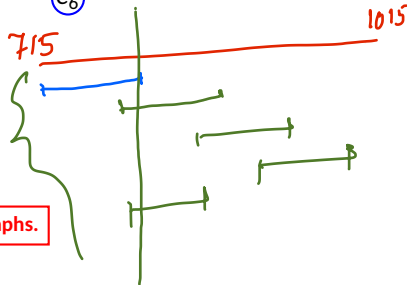
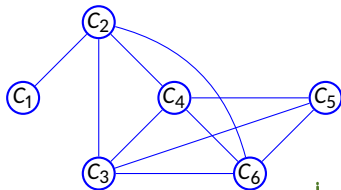
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Cryptarithmic

$$\begin{array}{r} S E D \\ + M R \\ \hline M N Y \end{array}$$

Cryptarithmic

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \overset{C_{1000}}{S} \overset{C_{100}}{E} \overset{C_{10}}{N} D \\
 + M R \\
 \hline
 \underline{M} N Y
 \end{array}$$

• Variables: S, E, N, D, M, O, R, Y,

• Domains: $D_i \in \{0, 1, \dots, 9\}$

• Constraints: All different, $10 \times M + O = S + M + C_{1000}, \dots$

$$C_0 \dots C_{1000} \in \{0, 9\}$$

$$D + E = 10 \times C_0 + Y$$

$$C_{10} + N + R = E + 10 \times C_{100}$$

Cryptarithmic

$$\begin{array}{r} S E D \\ + M O R \\ \hline M O E \end{array}$$

- Variables: $S, E, N, D, M, O, R, Y,$
- Domains: $D_i \in \{0, 1, \dots, 9\}$
- Constraints: All different, $10 \times M + O = S + M + C_{1000}, \dots$

MiniZinc implementation:

```
include "alldifferent.mzn";

var 1..9: S; var 0..9: E; var 0..9: N; var 0..9: D;
var 1..9: M; var 0..9: O; var 0..9: R; var 0..9: Y;

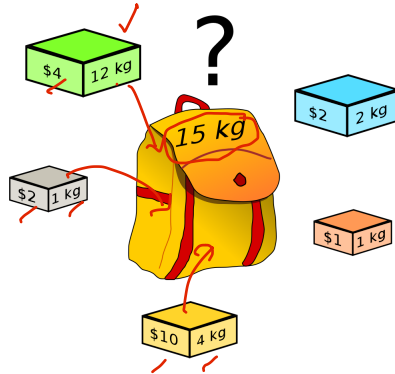
constraint
    1000 * S + 100 * E + 10 * N + D
    + 1000 * M + 100 * O + 10 * R + E
    = 10000 * M + 1000 * O + 100 * N + 10 * E + Y;

constraint alldifferent([S,E,N,D,M,O,R,Y]);

solve satisfy;
```

Knapsack

- There are n items namely, O_1, O_2, \dots, O_n . Item O_i weighs w_i and provides profit of p_i . Target is to select a subset of the items such that the total weight of the items does not exceed W and profit is maximized.



Knapsack

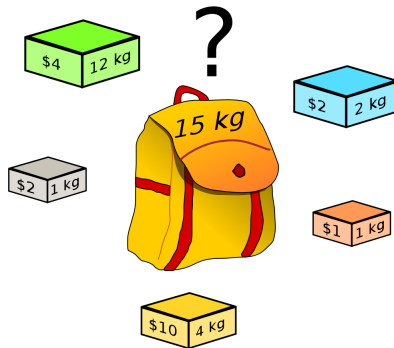
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- Variables: x_i - selection of i th item

- Domains: $\{0, 1\}$

- Constraints: $\sum_i x_i \times w_i \leq W$

- Optimization function: $\sum_i x_i \times p_i$



Warehouse planning

- There are n possible locations to setup warehouses (W) which will deliver goods to m customers (C). Cost to setup W_j warehouse is f_j . Customer C_i has a demand of d_i which needs to be fulfilled by the warehouses. Delivery cost per unit item from W_j to C_i is c_{ji} . Target is to minimize total cost to serve the required demands.

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 - Variables: x_j - warehouse location, y_{ji} - amount served by W_j to C_i
 - Domains: $x_j \in \{0, 1\}$, $y_{ji} \in \{0, \infty\}$
 - Constraints: $\sum_j y_{ji} = d_i$,

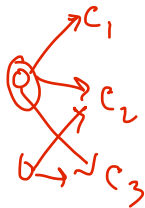
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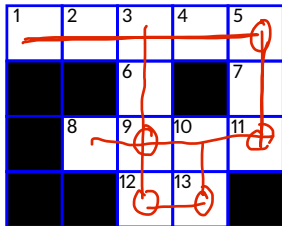
- Constraints:** $\sum_j y_{ji} = d_i$, $\sum_i y_{ji} - x_j \left(\sum_i d_i \right) \leq 0$



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 - Optimization function: $\sum_i \underbrace{x_j \times f_j} + \sum_{i,j} \underbrace{c_{ji} \times y_{ji}}$

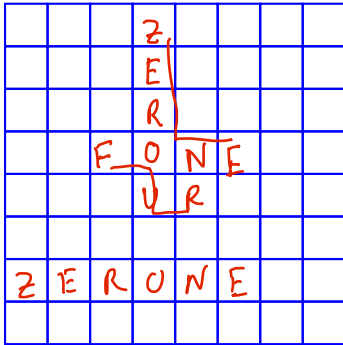
Crossword puzzle



Fill in words from the list in the given 8×8 board:
HOSES, LASER, SHEET, SNAIL, STEER, ALSO, EARN, HIKE,
IRON, SAME, EAT, LET, RUN, SUN, TEN, YES, BE, IT, NO,
US

- Variables: $R_1, C_3, C_5, R_8, \dots$ /
- Domains: $R_1 \in \{\text{HOSES, LASER, SHEET, SNAIL, STEER}\}, C_3 \in \{\text{ALSO, SAME, ...}\}$ /
- Constraints: $R_1[3] = C_3[1], \dots$

Variant of crossword puzzle (practice problem)



Pack the following words in the given 8×8 board:

ZERO, ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE, TEN

Rules:

- All words must read either across or down, as in a crossword puzzle. ✓
- No letters are adjacent unless they belong to one of the given words.
- The words are rookwise connected. |
- Words overlap only when one is vertical and the other is horizontal. |

Thank you!

Artificial Intelligence: Foundations & Applications

Solving Constraint Satisfaction Problem



Prof. Partha P. Chakrabarti & Arijit Mondal
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

Solution overview

- CSP graph creation
 - Create a *node* for every variable. All possible domain values are initially assigned to the variable
 - Draw *edges* between nodes if there is a *binary Constraint*. Otherwise draw a *hyper-edge* between nodes with constraints involving more than two variables
- Constraint propagation
 - Reduce the *valid domains* of each variable by applying **node consistency, arc / edge Consistency, K-Consistency**, till no further reduction is possible. If a solution is found or the problem found to have no consistent solution, then terminate
- Search for solution
 - Apply *search algorithms* to find solutions
 - There are interesting properties of CSP graphs which lead of efficient algorithms in some cases: *Trees, Perfect Graphs, Interval Graphs, etc.*
 - Issues for Search: Backtracking Scheme, Ordering of Children, Forward Checking (Look-Ahead) using Dynamic Constraint Propagation
 - Solving by converting to *satisfiability (SAT)* problems

Search formulation of CSP

- **Standard** *search* formulation of CSP
 - Initial state: all unassigned variables
 - State: partial assignment of the variables
 - Successor function: assign a value to unassigned variables
 - Goal state: all variables are assigned and satisfies all constraints
 - Path cost: uniform path cost

Constraint propagation

- **Constraints**
 - Unary constraints or node constraints (eg. $x_i \neq 9$)
 - Binary constraints or edge between nodes (eg. $x_i \neq x_j$)
 - Higher order or hyper-edge between nodes (eg. $x_1 + x_2 = x_3$)
- **Node consistency**
 - For every variable V_i , remove all elements of D_i that do not satisfy the unary constraints for the variable
 - First step is to reduce the domains using node consistency
- **Arc consistency**
 - For every element x_{ij} of D_i , for every edge from V_i to V_j , remove x_{ij} if it has no consistent value(s) in other domains satisfying the Constraints
 - Continue to iterate using arc consistency till no further reduction happens.
- **Path consistency**
 - For every element y_{ij} of D_i , choose a path of length L with L variables, use a consistency checking method similar to above to reduce domains if possible

Arc consistency check (AC-3)

AC-3(*csp*) // inputs - CSP with variables, domains, constraints

1. *queue* \leftarrow local variable initialized to all arcs in *csp*
2. **while** *queue* is not empty **do**
3. (X_i, X_j) \leftarrow pop(*queue*)
4. **if** Revise(*csp*, X_i, X_j) **then**
5. **if** size of $D_i = 0$ **then return false**
6. **for each** X_k **in** X_i .neighbors- $\{X_j\}$ **do**
7. add (X_k, X_i) to *queue*
8. **return true**

Revise(*csp*, X_i, X_j)

1. *revised* \leftarrow *false*
2. **for each** x **in** D_i **do**
3. **if** no value y in D_j allows (x, y) to satisfy constraint between X_i and X_j **then**
4. delete x from D_i
5. *revised* \leftarrow *true*
6. **return revised**

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8. **return true**

Revise(*csp*, X_i, X_j)

1. *revised* \leftarrow *false*
2. **for each** x **in** D_i **do**
3. **if** no value y in D_j allows (x, y) to satisfy constraint between X_i and X_j **then**
4. delete x from D_i
5. *revised* \leftarrow *true*
6. **return revised**

Complexity?

AC-3 example

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

AC-3 example

- Variables: A, B, C, D

- Domain: $\{1, 2, 3\}$

- Constraints: $A \neq B$, $C < B$, $C < D$

queue: AB, BA, BC, CB, CD, DC

AC-3 example

- Variables: A, B, C, D

- Domain: {1, 2, 3}

- Constraints: $A \neq B$, $C < B$, $C < D$

queue: AB, BA, BC, CB, CD, DC

pop(queue) // AB

AC-3 example

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

queue: AB, BA, BC, CB, CD, DC

pop(queue) // AB

No change in queue. queue=BA, BC, CB, CD, DC

AC-3 example

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

queue: AB, BA, BC, CB, CD, DC

pop(queue) // AB

No change in queue. queue=BA, BC, CB, CD, DC

pop(queue) // BA

AC-3 example

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

queue: AB, BA, BC, CB, CD, DC

pop(queue) // AB

No change in queue. queue=BA, BC, CB, CD, DC

pop(queue) // BA

No change in queue. queue=BC, CB, CD, DC

AC-3 example

- Variables: A, B, C, D

- Domain: {1, 2, 3}

- Constraints: $A \neq B$, $C < B$, $C < D$

queue: AB, BA, BC, CB, CD, DC

pop(queue) // AB

No change in queue. queue=BA, BC, CB, CD, DC

pop(queue) // BA

No change in queue. queue=BC, CB, CD, DC

pop(queue) // BC

AC-3 example

- Variables: A, B, C, D

- Domain: {1, 2, 3}

- Constraints: $A \neq B$, $C < B$, $C < D$

queue: AB, BA, BC, CB, CD, DC

pop(queue) // AB

No change in queue. queue=BA, BC, CB, CD, DC

pop(queue) // BA

No change in queue. queue=BC, CB, CD, DC

pop(queue) // BC

Remove 1. $D_B = \{2, 3\}$

AC-3 example

- Variables: A, B, C, D

- Domain: $\{1, 2, 3\}$

- Constraints: $A \neq B$, $C < B$, $C < D$

queue: AB, BA, BC, CB, CD, DC

pop(queue) // AB

No change in queue. queue=BA, BC, CB, CD, DC

pop(queue) // BA

No change in queue. queue=BC, CB, CD, DC

pop(queue) // BC

Remove 1. $D_B = \{2, 3\}$

Add AB to queue. queue=CB, CD, DC, AB

pop(queue) // CB

Remove 3. $D_C = \{1, 2\}$

No change in queue. queue=CD, DC, AB

pop(queue) // CD

No change. queue=DC, AB

pop(queue) // DC

Remove 1. $D_D = \{2, 3\}$

No change. queue=AB

pop(queue) // AB

No change in queue. queue= \emptyset

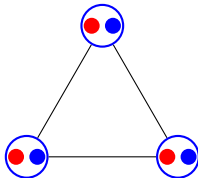
$A = \{1, 2, 3\}$, $B = \{2, 3\}$,
 $C = \{1, 2\}$, $D = \{2, 3\}$.

Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | | 3 | | 2 | | 6 | | |
| 9 | | | 3 | | 5 | | | 1 |
| | | 1 | 8 | | 6 | 4 | | |
| | | 8 | 1 | | 2 | 9 | | |
| 7 | | | | | X | | | 8 |
| | | 6 | 7 | | 8 | 2 | | |
| | | 2 | 6 | | 9 | 5 | | |
| 8 | | | 2 | | 3 | | | 9 |
| | | 5 | | 1 | Y | 3 | | |

AC-3 limitations

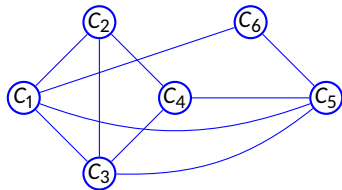
- After successful run of AC-3
 - There can be only one solution
 - There can be more than one solutions
 - There may be no solution and it fails to identify



Examination schedule

| Student | Subjects |
|---------|-----------------|
| S_1 | C_1, C_2, C_3 |
| S_2 | C_2, C_3, C_4 |
| S_3 | C_3, C_4 |
| S_4 | C_3, C_4, C_5 |
| S_5 | C_1, C_5, C_6 |

Is it possible to conduct all these exams in 3 days assuming one exam per day?



- How does naive BFS & DFS perform?

Backtracking search

- Backtracking is a basic search methodology for solving CSP
- Basic steps:
 - Assign one variable at a time
 - Fix ordering of variables (eg. $C_1 = 1, C_2 = 3$ is same as $C_2 = 3, C_1 = 1$)
 - Check constraint
 - Check with previously assigned variables

Backtracking search

Backtrack(*assignment*)

if assignment is complete then return success, assignment

var \leftarrow Choose-unassigned-variable()

for each *value* of Domain(*var*) **do**

if value is consistent with the assignment then

add var = value to assignment

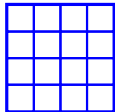
result = Backtrack(assignment)

if result \neq failure return result, assignment

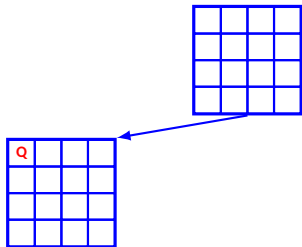
return failure

- Choices:
 - Variable to be assigned next
 - Value to be assigned to the variable next
 - Early detection of failure

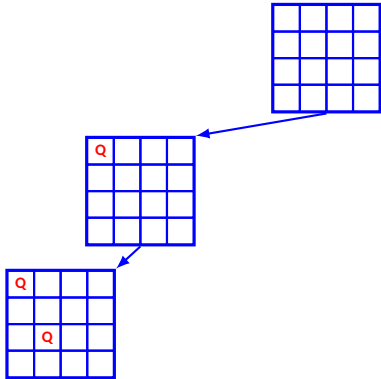
4 Queens



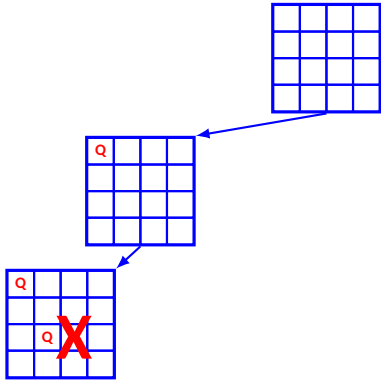
4 Queens



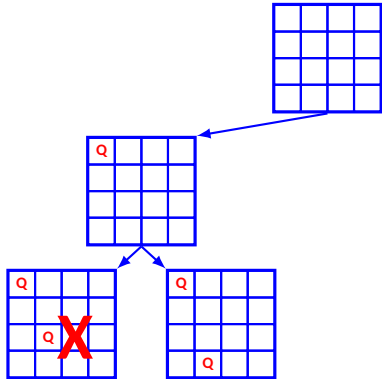
4 Queens



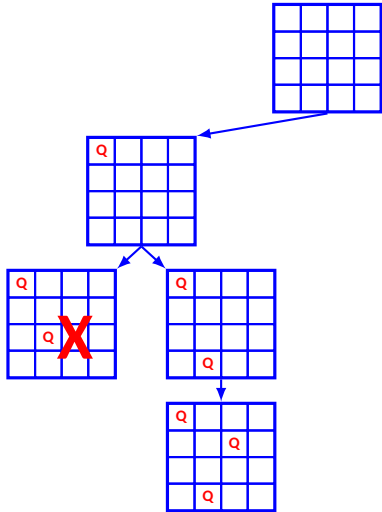
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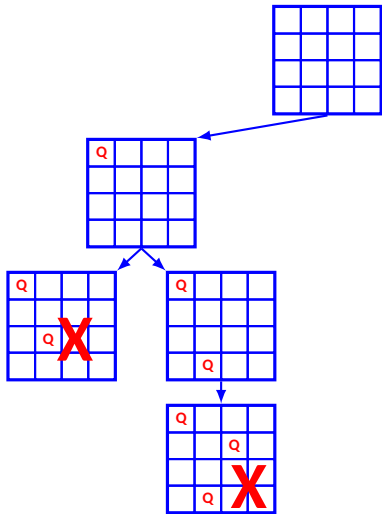
4 Queens



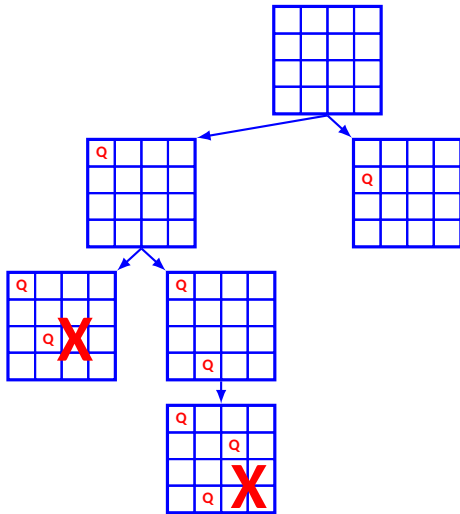
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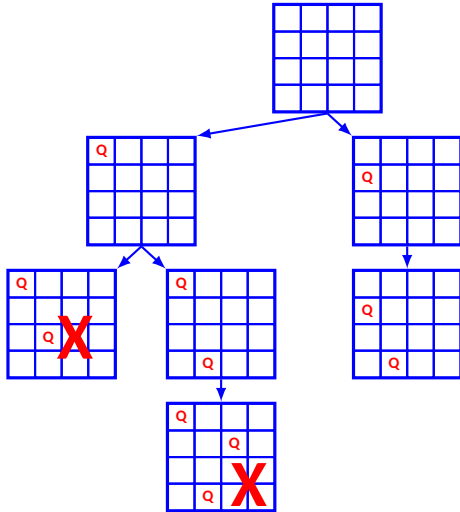
4 Queens



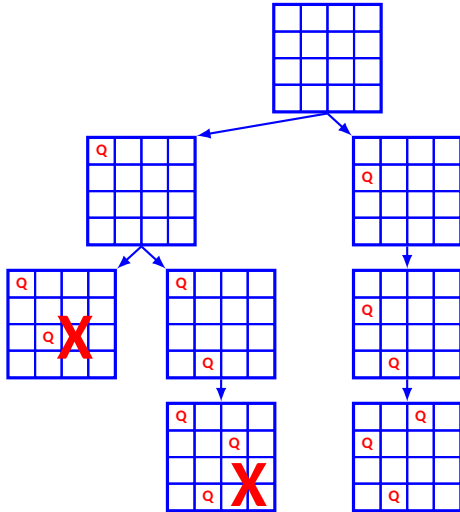
4 Queens



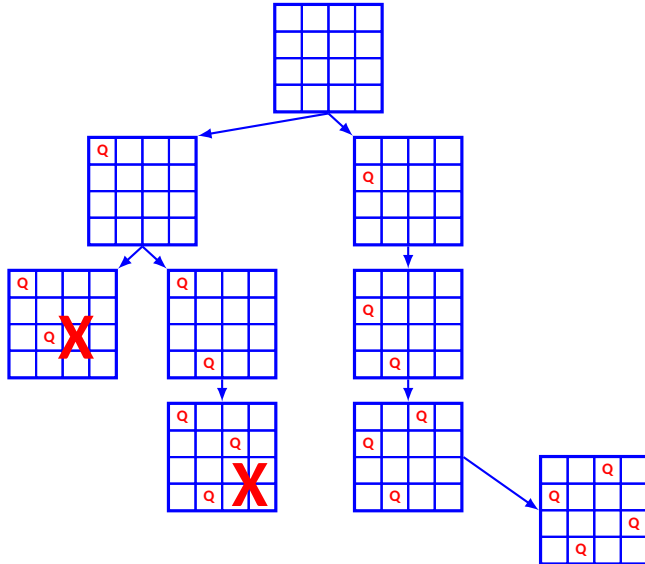
4 Queens



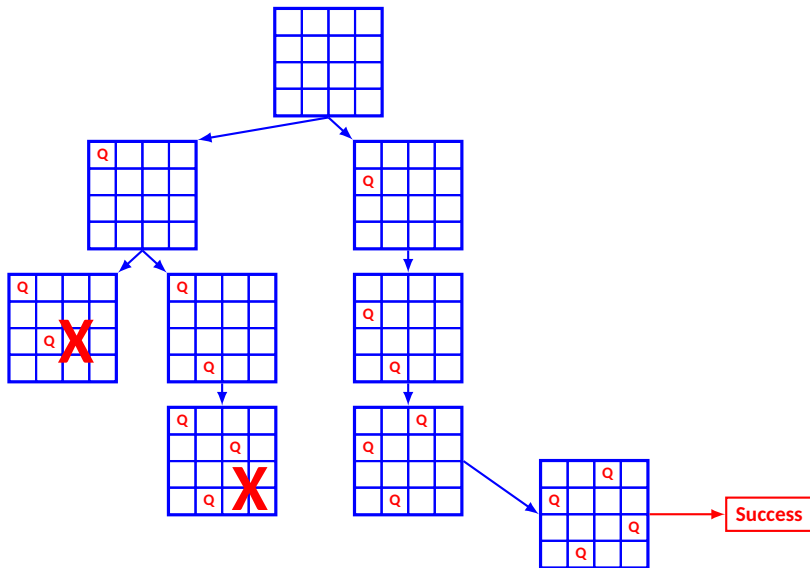
4 Queens



4 Queens



4 Queens

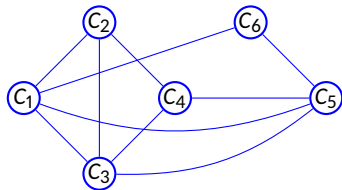


Heuristic strategy

- Variable ordering
 - Static or random
 - Minimum remaining values
 - Variable with fewest legal values (also known as most constrained variable)
 - Degree heuristic
 - Variable with the largest number of constraints on other unassigned variables
- Choice of value
 - Least constraining value
 - Value that leaves most choices for the neighboring variables in the constraint graph

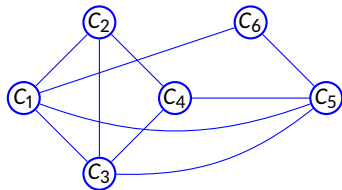
Forward checking

- Forward checking propagates information from assigned to unassigned variables



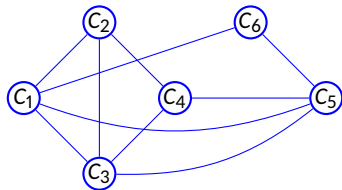
Forward checking

- Forward checking propagates information from assigned to unassigned variables



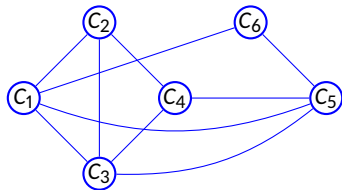
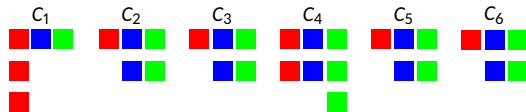
Forward checking

- Forward checking propagates information from assigned to unassigned variables



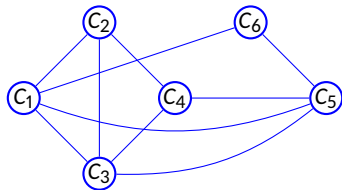
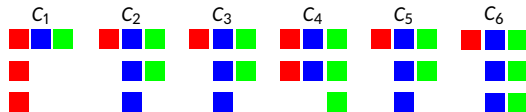
Forward checking

- Forward checking propagates information from assigned to unassigned variables



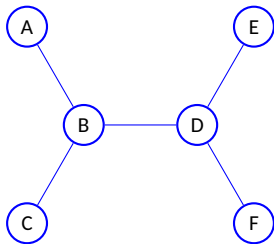
Forward checking

- Forward checking propagates information from assigned to unassigned variables



Special cases

- General CSP problem is NP-Complete
- For *perfect graphs*, *chordal graphs*, *interval graphs*, the graph coloring problem can be solved in polynomial time
- Tree structured CSP can be solved in polynomial time



Thank you!