Problem Session Week 6

Constraint Satisfaction Problems (CSPs)

Trevor Maxfield
maxfit@stanford.edu

Andrew Lee
alee2022@stanford.edu

April 28th, 2023

CS 221 - Spring 2023, Stanford University

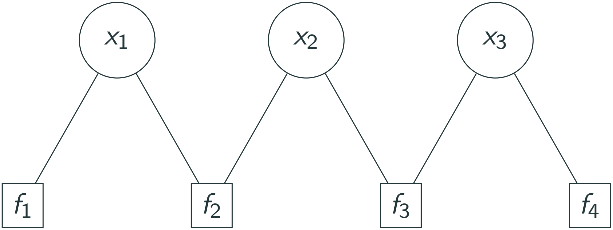
Reviewing Lecture Material

Reviewing Lecture Material

Defining CSPs

Variable-Based Models

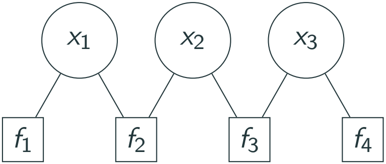
Search, MDPs, and games are state-based models. CSPs are variable-based models. Think in terms of **variables** (x_i), **factors** (f_i), and **weights**.



Solution to problems are assignments to variables. Use inference to make decisions (algorithms do more work now, compare to search where states did work).

Definition
Factor Graph

- Variables: $X = (X_1, \ldots, X_n)$ where $X_i \in \text{Domain}_i$
- Factors: $f_1, \ldots, f_m$, with each $f_j(X) \geq 0$.
  - How good is assignment X



- Scope of factor f_j: set of variables it depends on.
- Arity of f_j: number of variables in scope.
  - **Unary** (1 variables); **Binary** (2 variables)
- Constraints: factors that return 0 or 1.

Assignment Weights

Definition
Assignment Weight: Every assignment $x = (x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ has weight

$$\text{Weight}(x) = \prod_{j=1}^{m} f_j(x)$$

- Consistent if $\text{Weight}(x) > 0$.
- A CSP is satisfiable if $\max_x \text{Weight}(x) > 0$.

Objective: Find the maximum weight assignment:

$$\text{argmax}_x \text{Weight}(x)$$

Test Your Understanding

If a CSP has an assignment $\hat{x}$ such that $\text{Weight}(\hat{x}) = 5$, is the CSP satisfiable? Recall that a CSP is satisfiable if

$$\max_x \text{Weight}(x) > 0$$

Test Your Understanding

If a CSP has an assignment $\hat{x}$ such that $\text{Weight}(\hat{x}) = 5$, is the CSP satisfiable? Recall that a CSP is satisfiable if

$$\max_x \text{Weight}(x) > 0$$

Yes, $\hat{x}$ implies that the weight of the maximizing x is greater than zero.

Test Your Understanding

If a CSP has a factor $\hat{f}(x) = 0$ for all x, is the CSP satisfiable?

Test Your Understanding

If a CSP has a factor $\hat{f}(x) = 0$ for all x, is the CSP satisfiable?

No, the weight is the product of all factors and $\hat{f}$ is always zero. Hence the weight will always be zero.

Reviewing Lecture Material

Solving CSPs

Dependent Factors

Definition
Dependent Factors: $D(x, X_i)$ is the set of factors depending on X_i (a single variable) and x (partial assignment) but not on unassigned variables.

- If you have assigned x_1 and x_2 in x, then $D(x, X_3)$ will be all factors that depend on x_3 and one/both of x_1 and x_2.
  - i.e. if we want to assign x_3 next, what constraints (factors) are relevant?
- Idea: choose x_3 to satisfy all factors in $D(x, X_3)$!

Backtracking Search

Backtrack(x,w,Domains):

- If x is completely assigned, check if best and return.
- Choose unassigned variable X_i (component in x)
- Order Domain$_i$ (corresponds to chosen X_i)
- For each $v \in$ Domain$_i$:
  - Compute value of newly resolvable factors, setting $x_i = v$:

$$\delta = \prod_{f_j \in D(x, X_i)} f_j(x \cup \{X_i : v\})$$

  - If $\delta = 0$? Continue (at least one factor not satisfied).
  - (Optional) Shrink domain to Domains$'$ (Lookahead).
    - If any Domains$'_i$ is empty, continue.
  - Backtrack($x \cup \{X_i : v\}, w\delta, \text{Domains}'$)

Forward Checking (One-Step Lookahead)

- We consider an assignment for variable X_i.
- We can remove any values from neighbors of X_i that would violate factors. If any of these neighboring domains become empty, no solution, can skip this assignment.
    - Note that these 'neighbors' are only X_j that are not assigned in x.

Example: x_1, x_2, and x_3. Domain is $\{-1, 0, 1\}$. Constraints $f(x) = x_1 x_2 = -1$. See that choosing $x_1 = 0$ leads to an empty lookahead domain for x_2.

Backtracking Search

Backtrack(x,w,Domains):

- If x is completely assigned, check if best and return.
- Choose unassigned variable X_i (component in x)
- Order Domain$_i$ (corresponds to chosen X_i)
- For each $v \in$ Domain$_i$:
  - Compute value of newly resolvable factors, setting $x_i = v$:

$$\delta = \prod_{f_j \in D(x, X_i)} f_j(x \cup \{X_i : v\})$$

  - If $\delta = 0$? Continue (at least one factor not satisfied).
  - (Optional) Shrink domain to Domains$'$ (Lookahead).
    - If any Domains$'_i$ is empty, continue.
  - Backtrack($x \cup \{X_i : v\}, w\delta$, Domains$'$)

Variable Choices

Choosing Unassigned Variable:

- Choose the variable with the smallest domain.
- Heuristic - most constrained (smaller branching factors)

Ordering Domain$_i$:

- What order do we try values of X_i?
- Try the ones with the largest number of consistent values of neighboring variables.
- i.e. descending order of total size of possible *consistent* options for neighbors after selecting $x_i = v$.
- Impose fewest constraints on neighbors.

Definition
Arc Consistency: A variable X_i is *arc consistent* with respect to X_j if for each $x_i \in \text{Domain}_i$ there exists $x_j \in \text{Domain}_j$ such that

$$f(\{X_i : x_i, X_j : x_j\}) \neq 0$$

for all f whose scope contains X_i and X_j

If there is some choice for X_i that has no viable X_j, we don't need it! Can use this to shrink domain in lookahead.

AC-3

Algorithm: AC-3

$S \leftarrow \{X_j\}$.
While S is non-empty:
  Remove any X_j from S.
  For all neighbors X_i of X_j:
    Enforce arc consistency on X_i w.r.t. X_j.
    If Domain_i changed, add X_i to S.

Be careful, this is only a **local** view!

Beam Search

Greedy search is like DFS, but choose the assignment that gives the largest weight and explore from there.

- Will finish in $|X|$ steps.
- Cannot guarantee optimal whatsoever.
- Compromise: Greedy DFS but keep track of K best candidates at each depth.
- Still not guaranteed, but better!

Denote the size of the beam as K. Then:

- $K = 1$ is what?

Beam Search

Greedy search is like DFS, but choose the assignment that gives the largest weight and explore from there.

- Will finish in $|X|$ steps.
- Cannot guarantee optimal whatsoever.
- Compromise: Greedy DFS but keep track of K best candidates at each depth.
- Still not guaranteed, but better!

Denote the size of the beam as K. Then:

- $K = 1$ is what? Greedy
- $K = \infty$ is what?

Beam Search

Greedy search is like DFS, but choose the assignment that gives the largest weight and explore from there.

- Will finish in $|X|$ steps.
- Cannot guarantee optimal whatsoever.
- Compromise: Greedy DFS but keep track of K best candidates at each depth.
- Still not guaranteed, but better!

Denote the size of the beam as K. Then:

- $K = 1$ is what? Greedy
- $K = \infty$ is what? BFS

Beam search is like a pruned BFS. Backtracking is DFS.

Backtracking and beam search build up assignments. Funnily enough, backtracking can't 'backtrack' information found deeper in a tree to earlier assignments. If we reach a state that would be feasible with just one variable change earlier, nothing we can do.

Solution: Local Search.

Local Search

Consider a completed assignment x. Try to improve it.

- Locality: To re-assign X_i, only need to consider factors that depend on X_i.
- Iterated Conditional Modes (ICM) For each variable, try all feasible re-assignments and pick the one with the highest wait.
- Keep looping to convergence.
- Not guaranteed optimal, local minima.
    - However, Weight(x) does monotonically increase.

Reviewing Lecture Material

Summary

Summary

To solve CSPs we use variations of backtracking.

- Can use one-step lookahead to reduce domains after assigning a variable.
- Heuristics for choosing which variable to assign next, and what order to consider the values in the domain of that variable.
- Arc Consistency (AC-3) reduces domains to be consistent before starting the problem.
- Beam Search reduces the number of things to try in backtracking (branching) but decreases accuracy.
- Local Search given an assignment, iteratively try to improve it.

Algorithms

Algorithm	Strategy	Optimality	Time Complexity
Backtracking	Extend partial assignment	Exact	exponential
Beam Search	Extend partial assignment	Approximate	linear
Local Search	Modify complete assignment	Approximate	linear