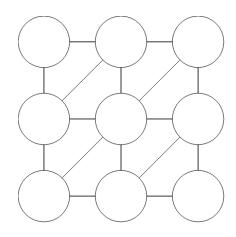
Warm-up as You Walk In

Assign Red, Green, or Blue Neighbors must be different



Sudoku

| 1 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | 1 | |
| | | 3 | |
| | | | 4 |

- 1) What is your brain doing to solve these?
- 2) How would you solve these with search (BFS, DFS, etc.)?

Announcements

Assignments:

- HW2 (written)
 - Due Tonight, 10 pm
- HW3 (online)
 - Out Tonight, Due 2/7 at 10 pm
- P1: Search and Games
 - Due Monday 2/6, 10 pm (NOTE THE CLOSE DEADLINES)
 - Recommended to work in pairs
 - Submit to Gradescope early and as often as you like
 - Don't submit separately; Enter your partner's name when submitting

Plan

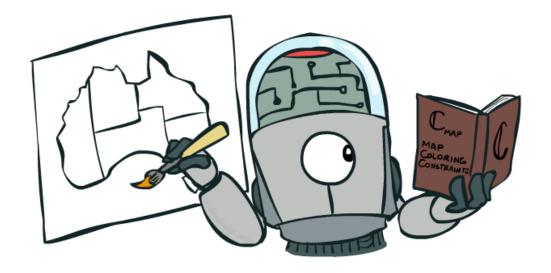
Last Time

- Adversarial search
 - Minimax
 - Evaluation functions
 - Pruning
 - Expectimax

Today

Constraint Satisfaction Problems

AI: Representation and Problem Solving Constraint Satisfaction Problems (CSPs)



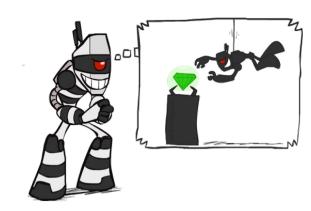
Instructor: Stephanie Rosenthal

Slide credits: CMU AI, http://ai.berkeley.edu

What is Search For?

- Planning: sequences of actions
 - The path to the goal is the important thing
 - Paths have various costs, depths
 - Heuristics give problem-specific guidance
- Identification: assignments to variables
 - The goal itself is important, not the path
 - All paths at the same depth (for some formulations)

Are the warm-up assignments (i.e., sudoku) planning or identification problems?





Constraint Satisfaction Problems

CSP is a special class of search problems

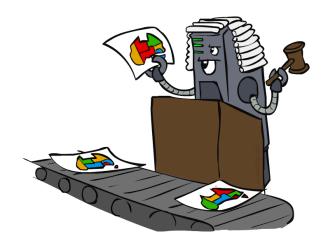
- Mostly identification problems
- Have specialized algorithms for them

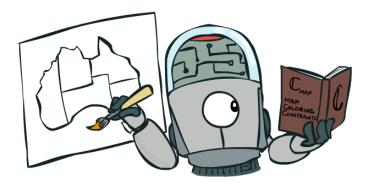
Standard search problems:

- State is an arbitrary data structure
- Goal test can be any function over states

Constraint satisfaction problems (CSPs):

- State is defined by variables X_i with values from a domain D (sometimes D depends on i)
- Goal test is a set of constraints specifying allowable combinations of values for subsets of variables

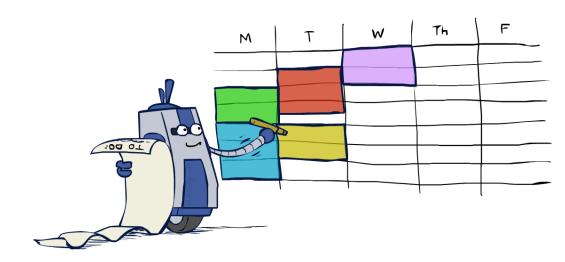




Why study CSPs?

Many real-world problems can be formulated as CSPs

- Assignment problems: e.g., who teaches what class
- Timetabling problems: e.g., which class is offered when and where?
- Hardware configuration
- Transportation scheduling
- Factory scheduling
- Circuit layout
- Fault diagnosis
- ... lots more!



Sometimes involve real-valued variables...

Varieties of CSPs and Constraints



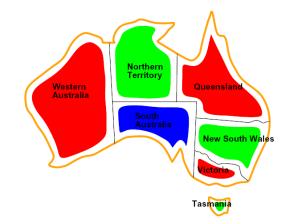
Example: Map Coloring

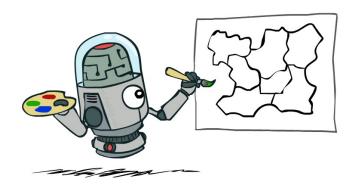
- Variables: WA, NT, Q, NSW, V, SA, T
- Domains: $D = \{red, green, blue\}$
- Constraints: adjacent regions must have different colors

Implicit: $WA \neq NT$

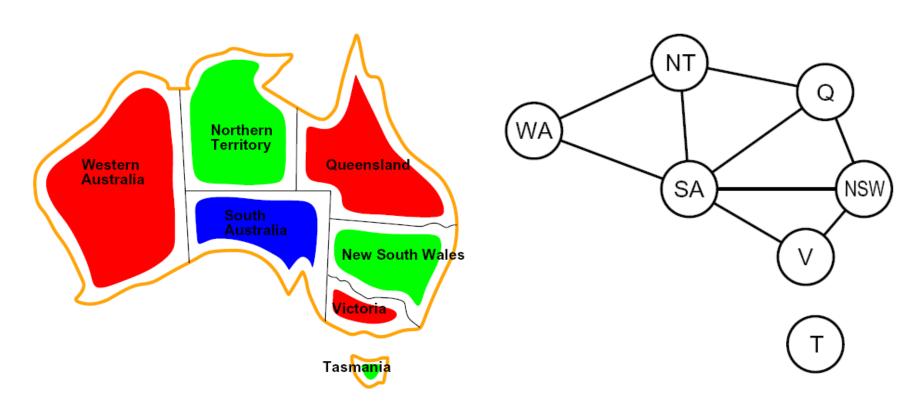
Explicit: $(WA, NT) \in \{(red, green), (red, blue), \ldots\}$

• Solutions are assignments satisfying all constraints, e.g.:



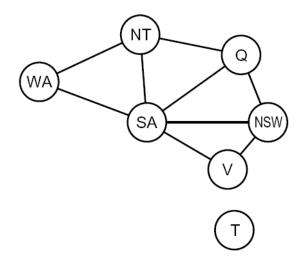


Constraint Graphs



Constraint Graphs

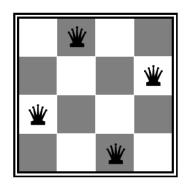
- Binary CSP: each constraint relates (at most) two variables
- Binary constraint graph: nodes are variables, arcs show constraints
- General-purpose CSP algorithms use the graph structure to speed up search. E.g., Tasmania is an independent subproblem!



Example: N-Queens

Formulation 1:

- Variables: X_{ij}
- Domains: $\{0, 1\}$
- Constraints





$$\forall i, j, k \ (X_{ij}, X_{ik}) \in \{(0,0), (0,1), (1,0)\}$$

 $\forall i, j, k \ (X_{ij}, X_{kj}) \in \{(0,0), (0,1), (1,0)\}$
 $\forall i, j, k \ (X_{ij}, X_{i+k,j+k}) \in \{(0,0), (0,1), (1,0)\}$
 $\forall i, j, k \ (X_{ij}, X_{i+k,j-k}) \in \{(0,0), (0,1), (1,0)\}$

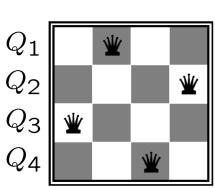
$$\sum_{i,j} X_{ij} = N$$

Example: N-Queens

• Formulation 2:

• Variables: Q_k

• Domains: $\{1,2,3,\ldots N\}$



• Constraints:

Implicit: $\forall i,j$ non-threatening (Q_i,Q_j)

Explicit: $(Q_1, Q_2) \in \{(1, 3), (1, 4), \ldots\}$

• • •

Example: Cryptarithmetic

• Variables:

$$F T U W R O X_1 X_2 X_3$$

• Domains:

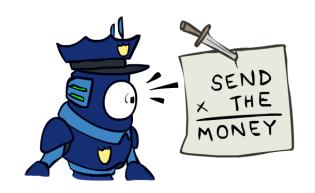
$$\{0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9\}$$

• Constraints:

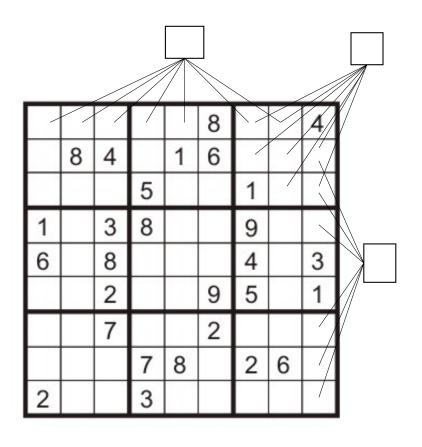
$$\mathsf{alldiff}(F, T, U, W, R, O)$$

$$O + O = R + 10 \cdot X_1$$

• • •



Example: Sudoku



• Variables: Each (open) square

• Domains: {1,2,...,9}

• Constraints:

9-way alldiff for each column
9-way alldiff for each row
9-way alldiff for each region
(or can have a bunch
of pairwise inequality
constraints)

Varieties of CSPs

Discrete Variables

We will cover today

- Finite domains
 - Size d means $O(d^n)$ complete assignments
 - E.g., Boolean CSPs, including Boolean satisfiability (NPcomplete)
- Infinite domains (integers, strings, etc.)
 - E.g., job scheduling, variables are start/end times for each job
 - Linear constraints solvable, nonlinear undecidable

We will cover in a later lecture (linear programming)

- Continuous variables
 - E.g., start/end times for Hubble Telescope observations
 - Linear constraints solvable in polynomial time



Varieties of Constraints

- Varieties of Constraints
 - Unary constraints involve a single variable (equivalent to reducing domains), e.g.:

 $SA \neq green$

Focus of today

- Binary constraints involve pairs of variables, e.g.: $SA \neq WA$
- Higher-order constraints involve 3 or more variables: e.g., cryptarithmetic column constraints $O+O=R+10\cdot X_1$



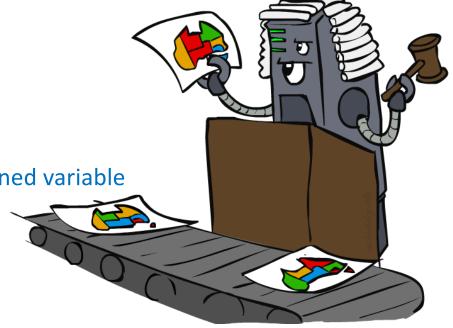
- Preferences (soft constraints):
 - E.g., red is better than green
 - Often representable by a cost for each variable assignment
 - Gives constrained optimization problems

Solving CSPs



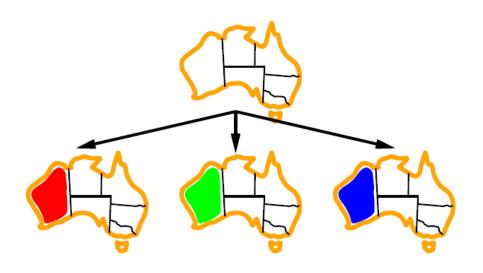
Standard Search Formulation

- Standard search formulation of CSPs
- States defined by the values assigned so far (partial assignments)
 - Initial state: the empty assignment, {}
 - Successor function: assign a value to an unassigned variable →Can be any unassigned variable
 - Goal test: the current assignment is complete and satisfies all constraints
- We'll start with the straightforward, naïve approach, then improve it



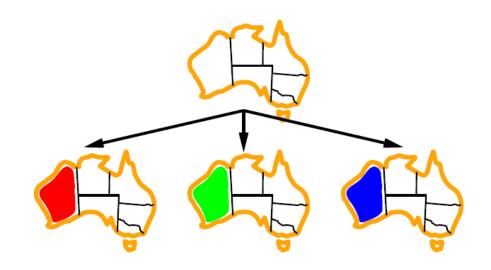
Question: Search for CSPs

Should we use BFS or DFS?

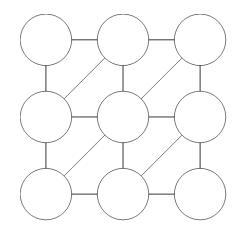


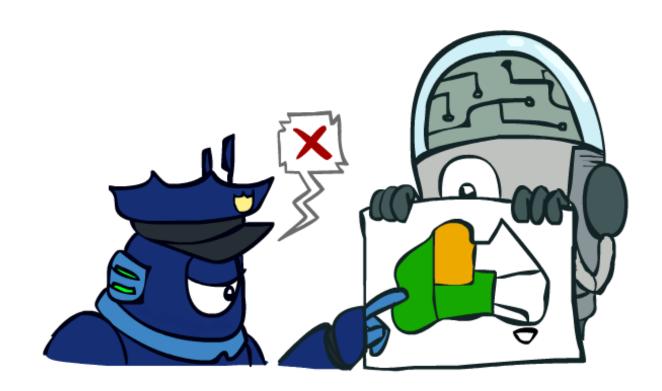
Depth First Search

- At each node, assign a value from the domain to the variable
- Check feasibility (constraints) when the assignment is complete



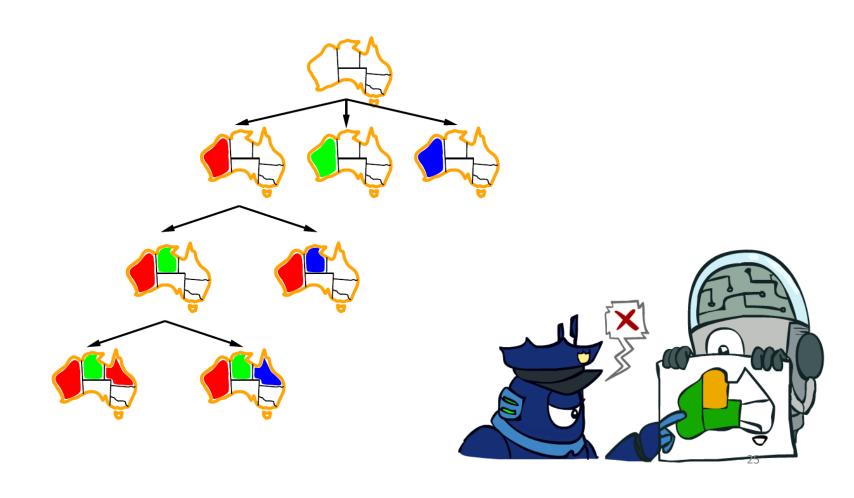
Demo – Naïve Search





- Backtracking search is the basic uninformed algorithm for solving CSPs
- Backtracking search = DFS + two improvements
- Idea 1: One variable at a time
 - Variable assignments are commutative
 - [WA = red then NT = green] same as [NT = green then WA = red]
 - Only need to consider assign value to a single variable at each step
- Idea 2: Check constraints as you go
 - Consider only values which do not conflict previous assignments
 - May need some computation to check the constraints
 - "Incremental goal test"
- Can solve n-queens for n ≈ 25

Backtracking Example



```
function Backtracking-Search(csp) returns solution/failure return Recursive-Backtracking(\{\}, csp)

function Recursive-Backtracking(assignment, csp) returns soln/failure if assignment is complete then return assignment var \leftarrow Select-Unassigned-Variable(Variables[csp], assignment, csp) for each value in Order-Domain-Values(var, assignment, csp) do if value is consistent with assignment given Constraints[csp] then add \{var = value\} to assignment result \leftarrow Recursive-Backtracking(assignment, csp) if result \neq failure then return result remove \{var = value\} from assignment return failure
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```

No need to check constraints for a complete assignment

```
function Backtracking-Search(csp) returns solution/failure return Recursive-Backtracking(\{\}, csp)

function Recursive-Backtracking(assignment, csp) returns soln/failure if assignment is complete then return assignment var \leftarrow Select-Unassigned-Variable(Variables[csp], assignment, csp) for each value in Order-Domain-Values(var, assignment, csp) do if value is consistent with assignment given Constraints[csp] then add \{var = value\} to assignment result \leftarrow Recursive-Backtracking(assignment, csp) if result \neq failure then return result remove \{var = value\} from assignment return failure
```

Checks consistency at each assignment

```
function Backtracking-Search(csp) returns solution/failure return Recursive-Backtracking(\{\}, csp)

function Recursive-Backtracking(assignment, csp) returns soln/failure if assignment is complete then return assignment

var \leftarrow \text{Select-Unassigned-Variable}(\text{Variables}[csp], assignment, csp)
for each value in Order-Domain-Values(var, assignment, csp) do

if value is consistent with assignment given Constraints[csp] then

add \{var = value\} to assignment

result \leftarrow \text{Recursive-Backtracking}(assignment, csp)

if result \neq failure then return result

remove \{var = value\} from assignment

return failure
```

- Backtracking = DFS + variable-ordering + fail-on-violation
- What are the decision points?

Improving Backtracking

- General-purpose ideas give huge gains in speed
- Filtering: Can we detect inevitable failure early?
 Today
- Ordering:
 - Which variable should be assigned next?

 Thursday
 - In what order should its values be tried?





Filtering



Filtering: Forward Checking

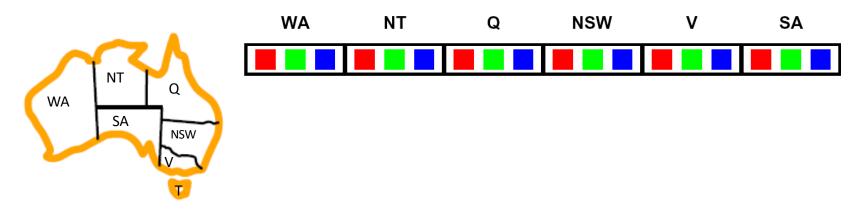
Filtering: Keep track of domains for unassigned variables and cross off bad options

Forward checking: A simple way for filtering

- After a variable is assigned a value, check related constraints and cross off values of unassigned variables which violate the constraints
- Failure detected if some variables have no values remaining

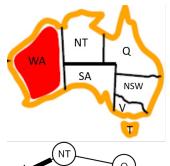
Filtering: Forward Checking

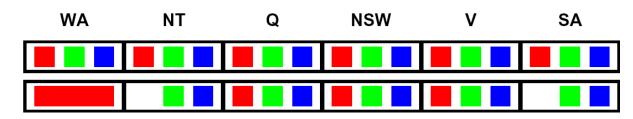
- Filtering: Keep track of domains for unassigned variables and cross off bad options
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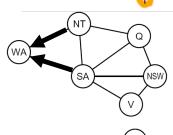


Filtering: Forward Checking

- Filtering: Keep track of domains for unassigned variables and cross off bad options
- Forward checking: A simple way for filtering
 - After a variable is assigned a value, check related constraints and cross off values of unassigned variables which violate the constraints
 - Failure detected if some variables have no values remaining







Recall: Binary constraint graph for a binary CSP (i.e., each constraint has most two variables): nodes are variables, edges show constraints 36

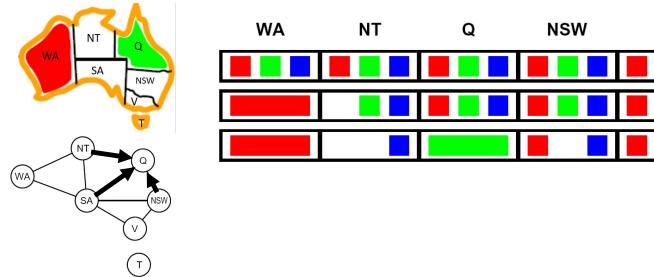
Filtering: Forward Checking

- Filtering: Keep track of domains for unassigned variables and cross off bad options
- Forward checking: A simple way for filtering
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V

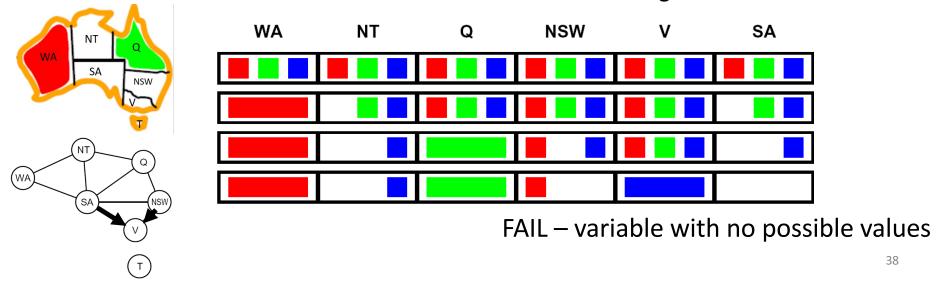
SA

• Failure detected if some variables have no values remaining

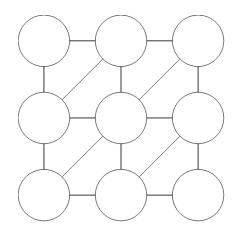


Filtering: Forward Checking

- Filtering: Keep track of domains for unassigned variables and cross off bad options
- Forward checking: A simple way for filtering
 - After a variable is assigned a value, check related constraints and cross off values of unassigned variables which violate the constraints
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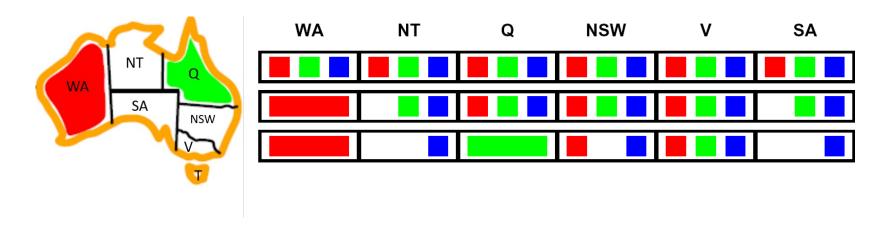


Demo – Backtracking with Forward Checking



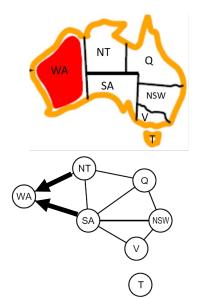
Filtering: Constraint Propagation

- Limitations of simple forward checking: propagates information from assigned to unassigned variables, but doesn't provide early detection for all failures
 - NT and SA cannot both be blue! Why didn't we detect this yet?
- Constraint propagation: reason from constraint to constraint

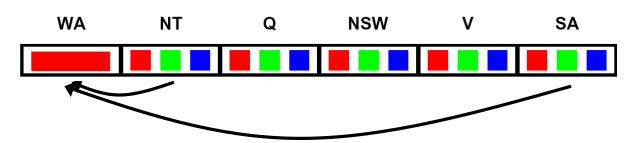


Consistency of A Single Arc

- An arc X → Y is consistent iff for every x in the tail there is some y in the head which could be assigned without violating a constraint
- Enforce arc consistency: Remove values in domain of X if no corresponding legal Y exists
- Forward checking: Only enforce $X \to Y$, $\forall (X,Y) \in E$ and Y newly assigned



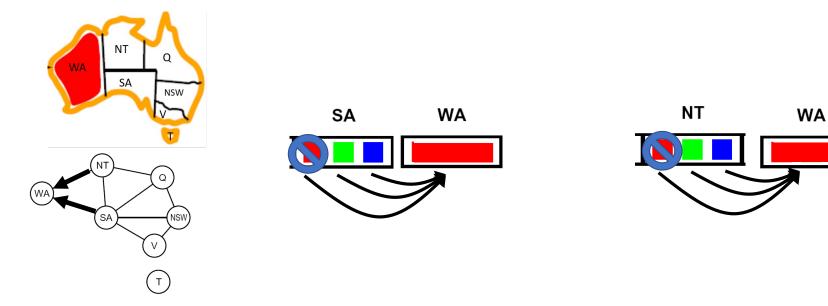
(Remove values from the tail!)



Recall: Binary constraint graph for a binary CSP (i.e., each constraint has most two variables): nodes are variables, edges show constraints 41

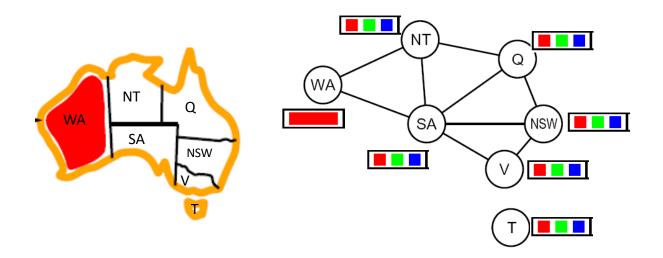
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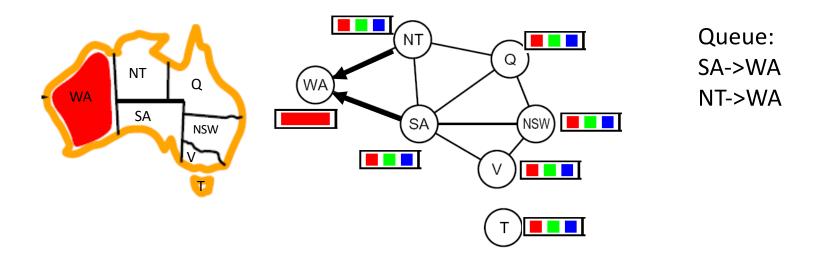
How to Enforce Arc Consistency of Entire CSP

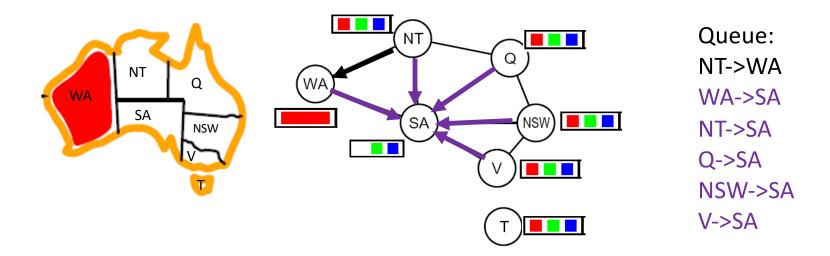
- A simplistic algorithm: Cycle over the pairs of variables, enforcing arc-consistency, repeating the cycle until no domains change for a whole cycle
- AC-3 (short for Arc Consistency Algorithm #3): A more efficient algorithm ignoring constraints that have not been modified since they were last analyzed

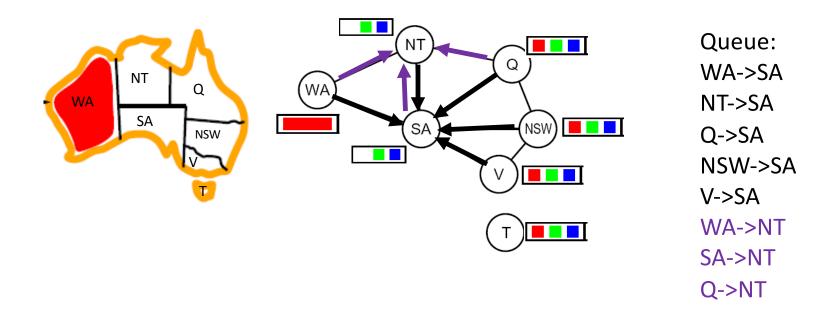


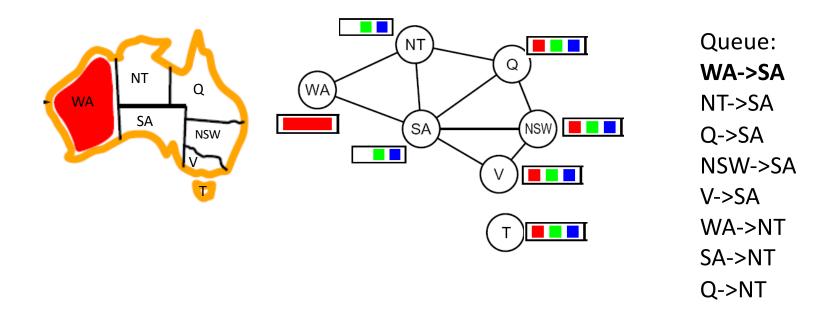
```
function AC-3( csp) returns the CSP, possibly with reduced domains inputs: csp, a binary CSP with variables \{X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n\} local variables: queue, a queue of arcs, initially all the arcs in csp while queue is not empty do (X_i, X_j) \leftarrow \text{REMOVE-FIRST}(queue) if REMOVE-INCONSISTENT-VALUES(X_i, X_j) then for each X_k in NEIGHBORS[X_i] do add (X_k, X_i) to queue function REMOVE-INCONSISTENT-VALUES(X_i, X_j) returns true iff succeeds removed \leftarrow false for each x in DOMAIN[X_i] do if no value y in DOMAIN[X_j] allows (x,y) to satisfy the constraint X_i \leftrightarrow X_j then delete x from DOMAIN[X_i]; removed \leftarrow true return removed
```

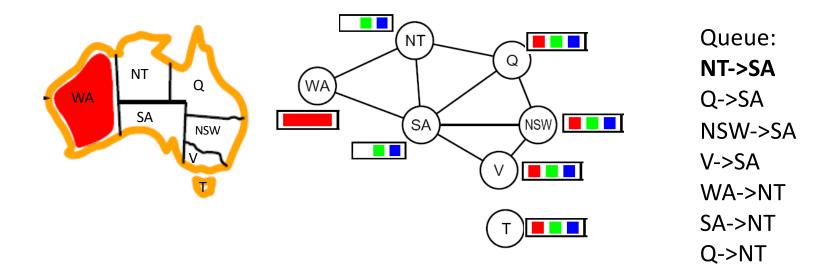
Constraint Propagation!

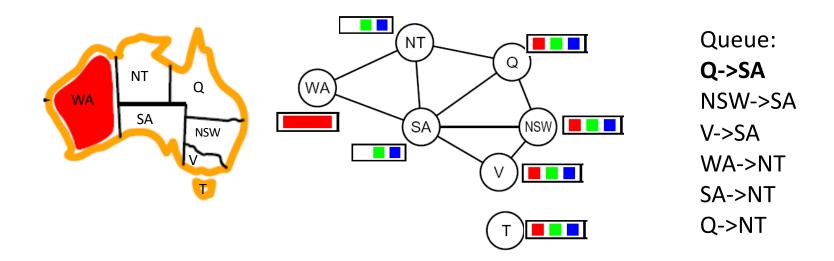


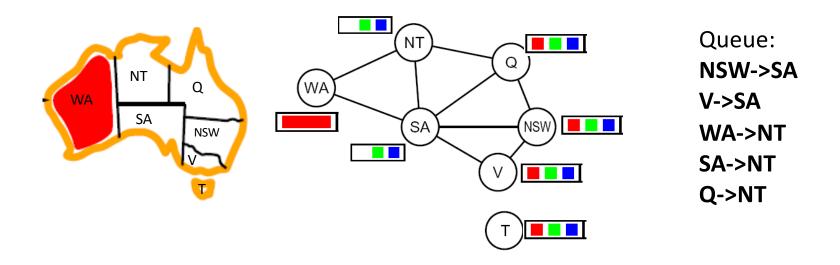


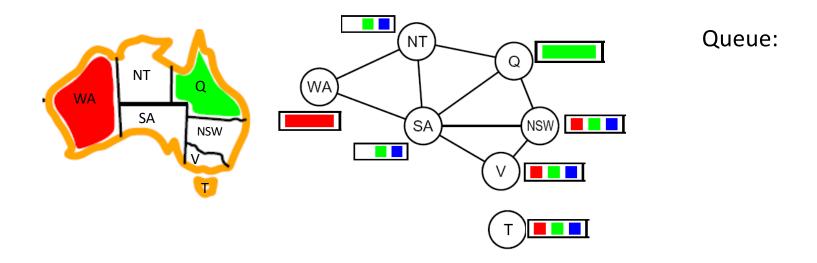




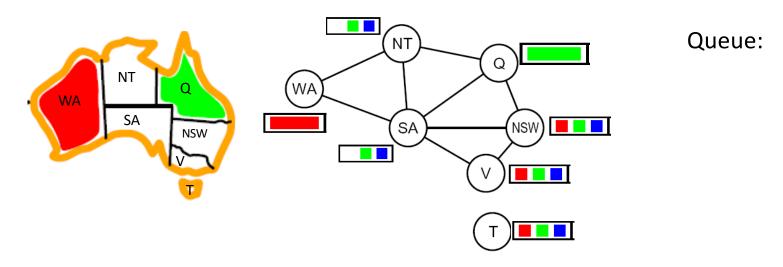






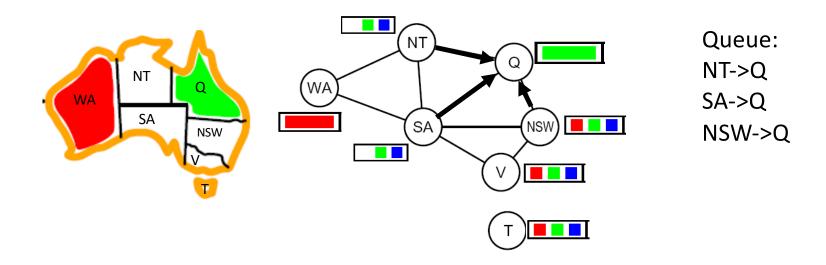


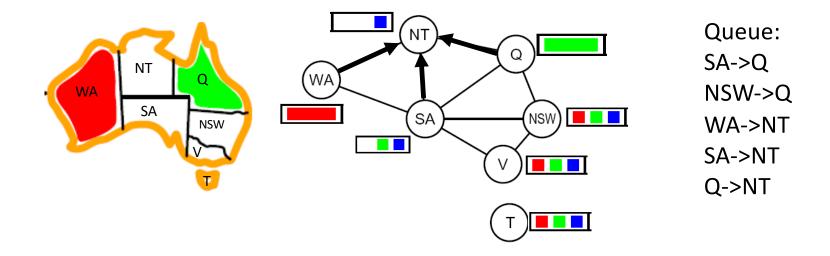
Poll 1: After assigning Q to Green, what gets added to the Queue?

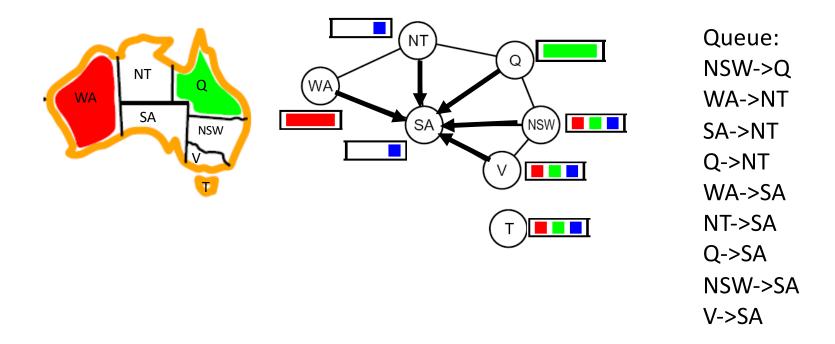


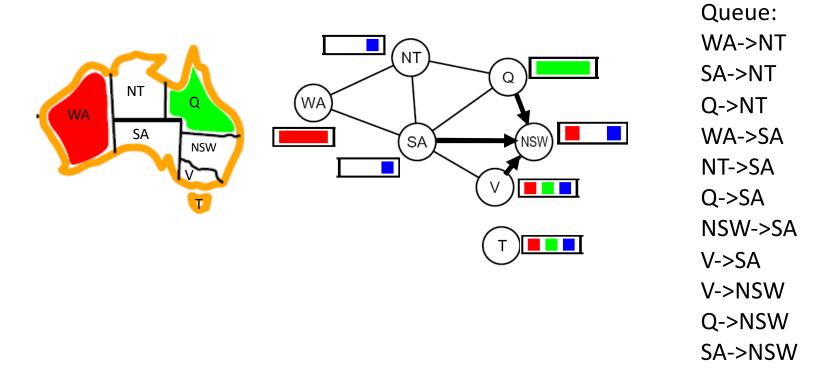
A: NSW->Q, SA->Q, NT->Q

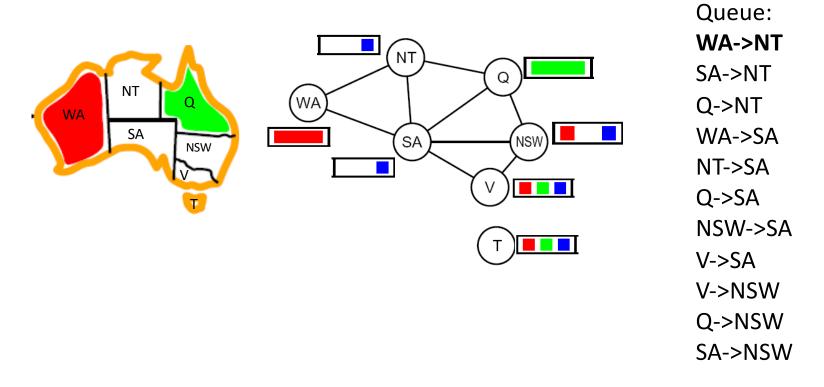
B: Q->NSW, Q->SA, Q->NT

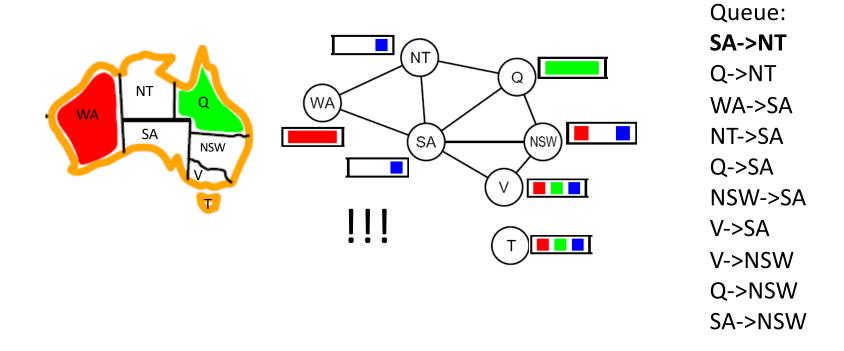


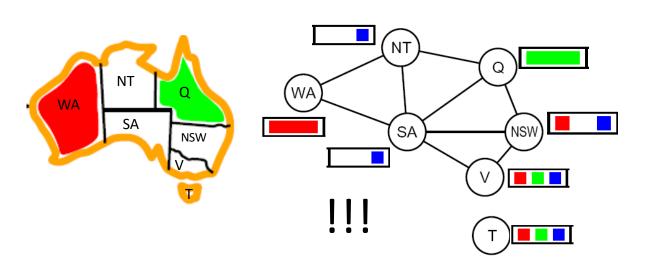












- Backtrack on the assignment of Q
- Arc consistency detects failure earlier than forward checking
- Can be run as a preprocessor or after each assignment
- What's the downside of enforcing arc consistency?

Queue:

SA->NT

Q->NT

WA->SA

NT->SA

Q->SA

NSW->SA

V->SA

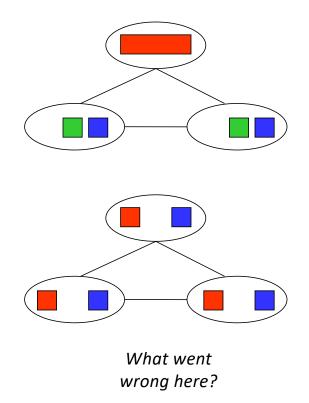
V->NSW

Q->NSW

SA->NSW

Limitations of Arc Consistency

- After enforcing arc consistency:
 - Can have one solution left
 - Can have multiple solutions left
 - Can have no solutions left (and not know it)
- Arc consistency only checks local consistency conditions
- Arc consistency still runs inside a backtracking search!



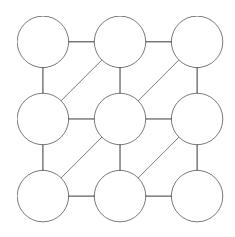
Backtracking Search with AC-3

```
function Backtracking-Search(csp) returns solution/failure return Recursive-Backtracking(\{\}, csp)

function Recursive-Backtracking(assignment, csp) returns soln/failure if assignment is complete then return assignment var \leftarrow Select-Unassigned-Variable(Variables[csp], assignment, csp) for each value in Order-Domain-Values(var, assignment, csp) do if value is consistent with assignment given Constraints[csp] then add \{var = value\} to assignment Ac-3(csp) result \leftarrow Recursive-Backtracking(assignment, csp) if result \neq failure then return result remove \{var = value\} from assignment return failure
```

Where do you run AC-3?

Demo – Backtracking with AC-3



```
function AC-3(csp) returns the CSP, possibly with reduced domains
   inputs: csp, a binary CSP with variables \{X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n\}
  local variables: queue, a queue of arcs, initially all the arcs in csp
   while queue is not empty do
      (X_i, X_j) \leftarrow \text{REMOVE-FIRST}(queue)
      if Remove-Inconsistent-Values(X_i, X_i) then
         for each X_k in Neighbors [X_i] do
            add (X_k, X_i) to queue
function Remove-Inconsistent-Values (X_i, X_i) returns true iff succeeds
  removed \leftarrow false
  for each x in DOMAIN[X_i] do
      if no value y in DOMAIN[X<sub>i</sub>] allows (x,y) to satisfy the constraint X_i \leftrightarrow X_i
         then delete x from Domain[X_i]; removed \leftarrow true
   return removed
```

```
function AC-3( csp) returns the CSP, possibly with reduced domains inputs: csp, a binary CSP with variables \{X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n\} local variables: queue, a queue of arcs, initially all the arcs in csp while queue is not empty do (X_i, X_j) \leftarrow \text{REMOVE-FIRST}(queue) if REMOVE-INCONSISTENT-VALUES(X_i, X_j) then for each X_k in NEIGHBORS[X_i] do add (X_k, X_i) to queue function REMOVE-INCONSISTENT-VALUES(X_i, X_j) returns true iff succeeds removed \leftarrow false for each x in DOMAIN[X_i] do if no value y in DOMAIN[X_i] allows (x,y) to satisfy the constraint X_i \leftrightarrow X_j then delete x from DOMAIN[X_i]; removed \leftarrow true return removed
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- An arc is added after a removal of value at a node
- n node in total, each has $\leq d$ values
- Total times of removal: O(nd)

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- Total times of adding arcs: $O(n^2d)$

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- n node in total, each has $\leq d$ values
- Total times of removal: O(nd)
- After a removal, $\leq n$ arcs added
- Total times of adding arcs: $O(n^2d)$
- Check arc consistency per arc: $O(d^2)$

Complexity of a single run of AC-3 is at most $O(n^2d^3)$ (Not required) Zhang&Yap (2001) show that its complexity is $O(n^2d^2)$

Ordering



Backtracking Search

```
function Backtracking-Search(csp) returns solution/failure
return Recursive-Backtracking(\{\}, csp)

function Recursive-Backtracking(assignment, csp) returns soln/failure
if assignment is complete then return assignment

var \leftarrow \text{Select-Unassigned-Variable}(\text{Variables}[csp], assignment, csp)
for each value in Order-Domain-Values(var, assignment, csp) do

if value is consistent with assignment given Constraints[csp] then
add \{var = value\} to assignment
result \leftarrow \text{Recursive-Backtracking}(assignment, csp)
if result \neq failure then return result
remove \{var = value\} from assignment
return failure
```

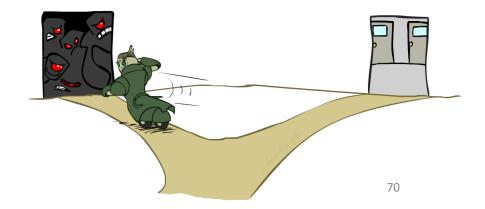
- Backtracking = DFS + variable-ordering + fail-on-violation
- What are the decision points?

Ordering: Minimum Remaining Values

- Variable Ordering: Minimum remaining values (MRV):
 - Choose the variable with the fewest legal left values in its domain

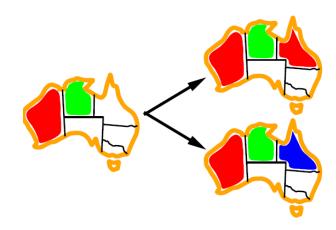


- Why min rather than max?
- Also called "most constrained variable"
- "Fail-fast" ordering



Ordering: Least Constraining Value

- Value Ordering: Least Constraining Value
 - Given a choice of variable, choose the *least* constraining value
 - i.e., the one that rules out the fewest values in the remaining variables
 - Note that it may take some computation to determine this! (E.g., rerunning filtering)



Ordering: Least Constraining Value

- Value Ordering: Least Constraining Value
 - Given a choice of variable, choose the *least* constraining value
 - i.e., the one that rules out the fewest values in the remaining variables
 - Note that it may take some computation to determine this! (E.g., rerunning filtering)
- Why least rather than most?
- Combining these ordering ideas makes 1000 queens feasible



Demo – Coloring with a Complex Graph

Compare

- Backtracking with Forward Checking
- Backtracking with AC-3
- Backtracking + Forward Checking + Minimum Remaining Values (MRV)
- Backtracking + AC-3 + MRV + LCV

How to deal with non-binary CSPs?

• Variables:

$$F T U W R O X_1 X_2 X_3$$

• Domains:

$$\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9\}$$

• Constraints:

$$\mathsf{alldiff}(F, T, U, W, R, O)$$

$$O + O = R + 10 \cdot X_1$$

• • •

Constraint graph for non-binary CSPs

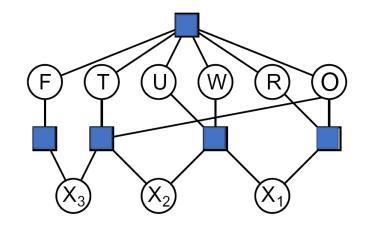
- Variable nodes: nodes to represent the variables
- Constraint nodes: auxiliary nodes to represent the constraints
- Edges: connects a constraint node and its corresponding variables

Constraints:

alldiff(F, T, U, W, R, O)

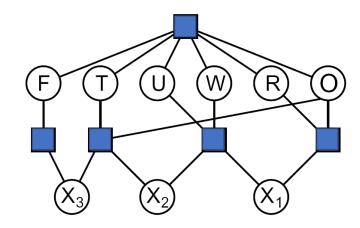
$$O + O = R + 10 \cdot X_1$$

• • •



Solve non-binary CSPs

- Naïve search?
 - Yes!
- Backtracking?
 - Yes!
- Forward Checking?
 - Need to generalize the original FC operation
 - (nFC0) After a variable is assigned a value, find all constraints with only one unassigned variable and cross off values of that unassigned variable which violate the constraint
 - There exist other ways to do generalized forward checking

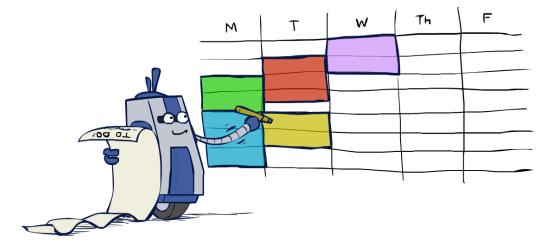


Solve non-binary CSPs

- (Bonus material, not required)
- AC-3? Need to generalize the definition of AC and enforcement of AC
- Generalized arc-consistency (GAC)
 - A non-binary constraint is GAC iff for every value for a variable there exist consistent value combinations for all other variables in the constraint
 - Reduced to AC for binary constraints
- Enforcing GAC
 - Simple schema: enumerate value combination for all other variables
 - $O(d^k)$ on k-ary constraint on variables with domains of size d
- There are other algorithms for non-binary constraint propagation, e.g., (i,j)-consistency [Freuder, JACM 85]

Summary: CSPs

- CSPs are a special kind of search problem:
 - States are partial assignments
 - Goal test defined by constraints
- Basic solution: backtracking search
- Speed-ups:
 - Ordering
 - Filtering
 - Structure



Additional Resources (Not required)

References

- Zhang, Yuanlin, and Roland HC Yap. "Making AC-3 an optimal algorithm." In *IJCAI*, vol. 1, pp. 316-321. 2001.
- Freuder, Eugene C. "A sufficient condition for backtrack-bounded search." *Journal of the ACM (JACM)* 32, no. 4 (1985): 755-761.