## Chapter 5: General Search Strategies: Look-ahead

ICS 275 Winter 2016

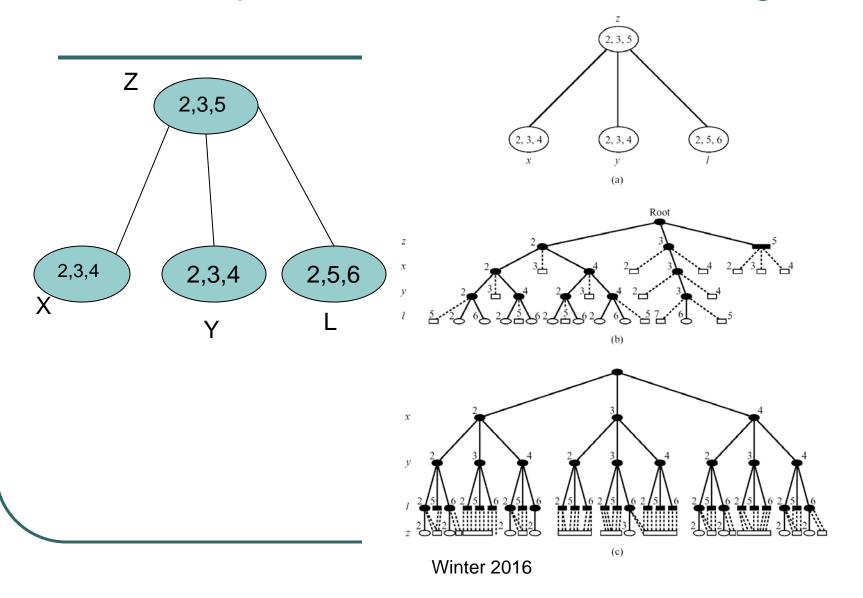
## What if the constraint network is not backtrack-free?

- Backtrack-free in general is too costly, so what to do?
- Search?
- What is the search space?
- How to search it? Breadth-first? Depth-first?

## The search space for a CN

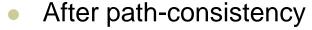
- A tree of all partial solutions
- A partial solution: (a<sub>1</sub>,..., a<sub>j</sub>) satisfying all relevant constraints
- The size of the underlying search space depends on:
  - Variable ordering
  - Level of consistency possessed by the problem

## Search spaces: the effect of ordering

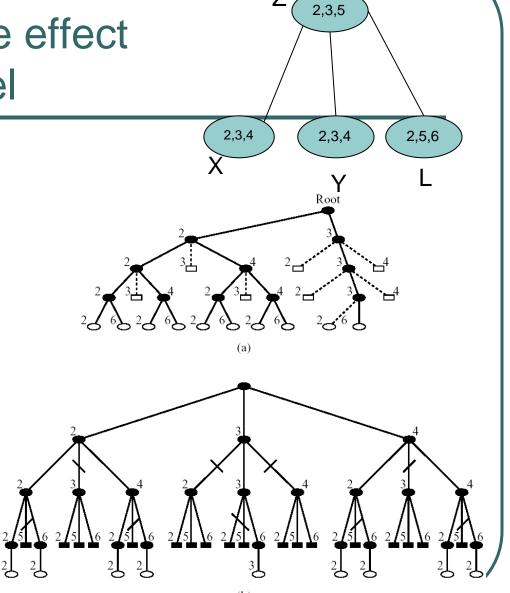


# Search spaces: the effect of consistency level

 After arc-consistency z=5 and l=5 are removed



- R'\_zx
- R'\_zy
- R'\_zl
- R'\_xy
- R'\_xl
- R'\_yl



#### The effect of consistency level on search

Theorem 5.1.3 Let  $\mathcal{R}'$  be a tighter network than  $\mathcal{R}$ , where both represent the same set of solutions. For any ordering d, any path appearing in the search graph derived from  $\mathcal{R}'$  also appears in the search graph derived from  $\mathcal{R}$ .  $\square$ 

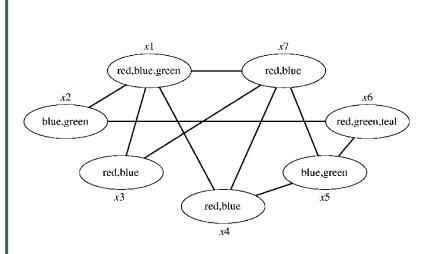
## Cost of node's expansion

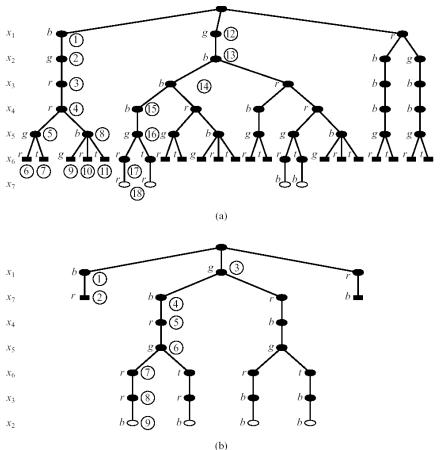
- Number of consistency checks for toy problem:
  - For d1: 19 for R, 43 for R'
  - For d2: 91 on R and 56 on R'

#### Reminder:

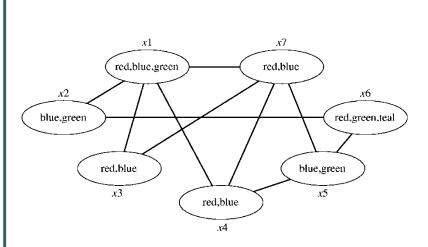
Definition 5.1.5 (backtrack-free network) A network R is said to be backtrack-free along ordering d if every leaf node in the corresponding search graph is a solution.

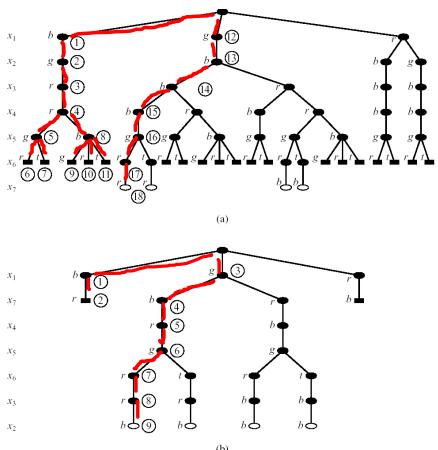
#### Backtracking search for a solution



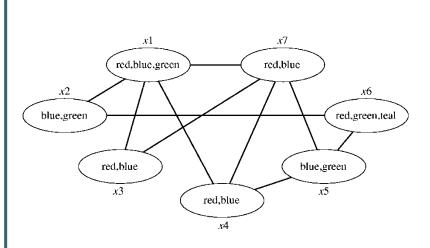


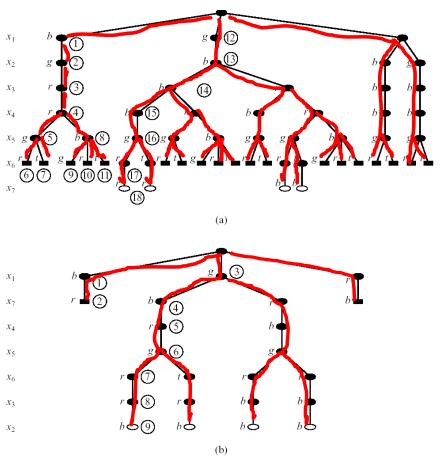
#### **Backtracking Search for a single Solution**



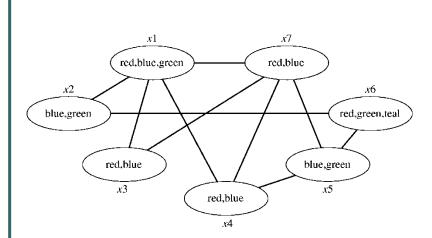


#### Backtracking search for \*all\* solutions

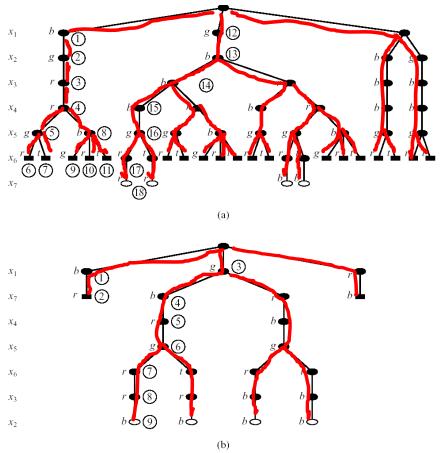




#### Backtracking search for \*all\* solutions

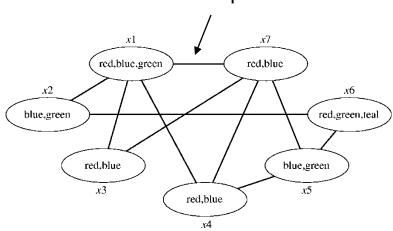


For all tasks
Time: O(exp(n))
Space: linear

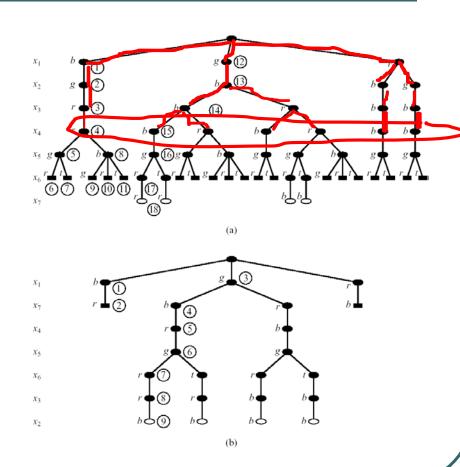


#### Traversing breadth-first (BFS)?

#### Not-equal



BFS space is exp(n) while no Time gain  $\rightarrow$  use DFS



#### Backtracking

```
procedure BACKTRACKING
Input: A constraint network P = (X, D, C).
Output: Either a solution, or notification that the network is inconsistent.
                                  (initialize variable counter)
    i \leftarrow 1
    D'_i \leftarrow D_i
                                  (copy domain)
    while 1 \le i \le n
       instantiate x_i \leftarrow \text{SELECTVALUE}
                                  (no value was returned)
       if x_i is null
          i \leftarrow i - 1
                                  (backtrack)
       else
                                  (step forward)
          i \leftarrow i + 1
          D'_i \leftarrow D_i
    end while
    if i = 0
       return "inconsistent"
    else
       return instantiated values of \{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}
end procedure
subprocedure selectValue (return a value in D'_i consistent with \vec{a}_{i-1})
    while D'_i is not empty
       select an arbitrary element a \in D'_i, and remove a from D'_i
       if Consistent (\vec{a}_{i-1}, x_i = a)
          return a
    end while
    return null
                                  (no consistent value)
end procedure
```

- Complexity of extending a partial solution:
  - Complexity of consistent
     O(e log t), t bounds tuples,
     e constraints
  - Complexity of selectValue O(e k log t)

Winter 2016

## Improving backtracking

- Before search: (reducing the search space)
  - Arc-consistency, path-consistency
  - Variable ordering (fixed)
- During search:
  - Look-ahead schemes:
    - value ordering,
    - variable ordering (if not fixed)
  - Look-back schemes:
    - Backjump
    - Constraint recording
    - Dependency-directed backtacking

#### Look-ahead: value orderings

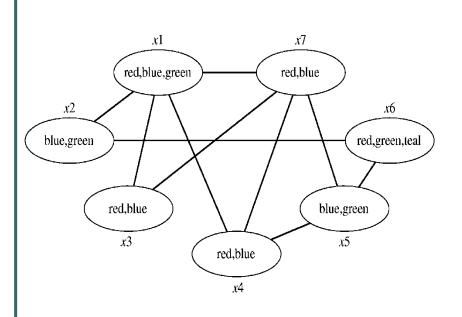
- Intuition:
  - Choose value least likely to yield a dead-end
  - Approach: apply constraint propagation at each node in the search tree
- Forward-checking
  - (check each unassigned variable separately
- Maintaining arc-consistency (MAC)
  - (apply full arc-consistency)
- Full look-ahead
  - One pass of arc-consistency (AC-1)
- Partial look-ahead
  - directional-arc-consistency

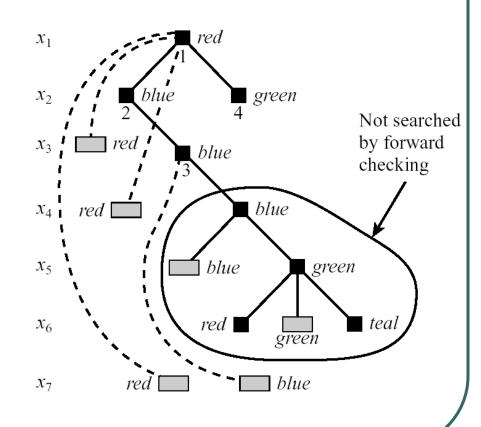
#### Generalized look-ahead

```
procedure generalized-lookahead
Input: A constraint network P = (X, D, C)
Output: Either a solution, or notification that the network is inconsis-
tent.
   D'_i \leftarrow D_i \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq n \qquad \text{(copy all domains)}
   i \leftarrow 1
                                  (initialize variable counter)
   while 1 \le i \le n
       instantiate x_i \leftarrow \text{SELECTVALUE-XXX}
      if x_i is null
                                 (no value was returned)
         i \leftarrow i - 1 (backtrack)
         reset each D'_k, k > i, to its value before x_i was last instantiated
       else
         i \leftarrow i + 1
                                 (step forward)
   end while
   if i = 0
       return "inconsistent"
   else.
       return instantiated values of \{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}
end procedure
```

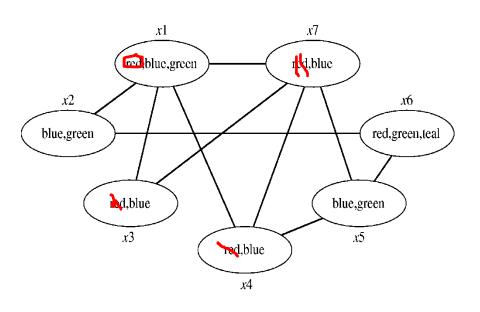
Figure 5.7: A common framework for several look-ahead based search algorithms. By replacing SELECTVALUE-XXX with SELECTVALUE-FORWARD-CHECKING, the forward checking algorithm is obtained. Similarly, using SELECTVALUE-ARC-CONSISTENCY yields

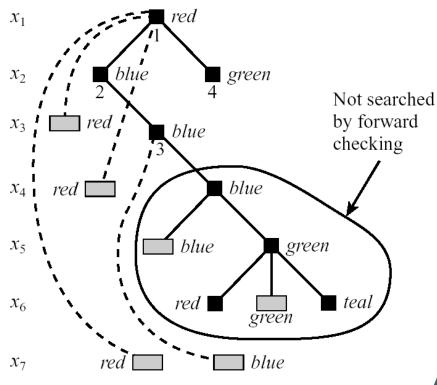
#### Forward-checking example



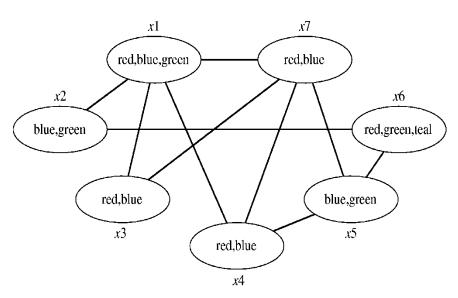


#### Forward-checking for value rejection



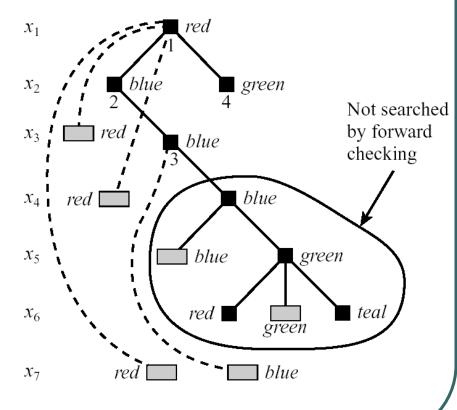


#### Forward-checking for value rejection

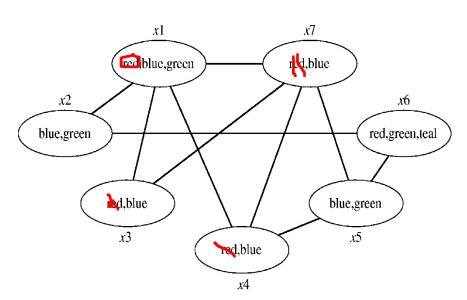


FC overhead:  $O(ek^2)$ 

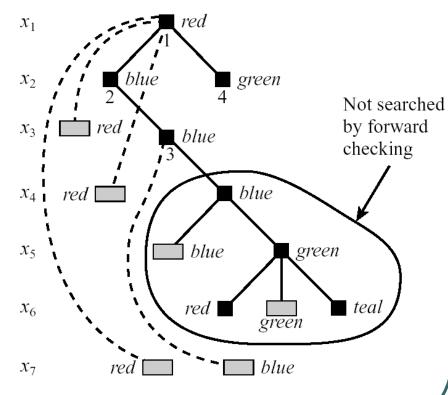
For each value of a future variable e\_u Tests: O(k e\_u), for all future variables O(ke) For all current domain O(k^2 e)



#### Forward-checking for value rejection



**FW** overhead: :  $O(ek^2)$ 



#### Forward-checking

```
procedure selectValue-forward-checking
   while D_i' is not empty
      select an arbitrary element a \in D'_i, and remove a from D'_i
       empty-domain \leftarrow false
      for all k, i < k \le n
         for all values b in D'_k
            if not consistent (\vec{a}_{i-1}, x_i = a, x_k = b)
               remove b from D'_k
         end for
          if D'_k is empty (x_i = a \text{ leads to a dead-end})
            empty\text{-}domain \leftarrow \textit{true}
      if empty-domain (don't select a)
         reset each D'_k, i < k \le n to value before a was selected
      else
         return a
   end while
   return null
                                 (no consistent value)
end procedure
```

Figure 5.8: The SELECTVALUE subprocedure for the forward checking algorithm.

Complexity of selectValue-forward-checking at each node:  $O(ek^2)$ 

#### Arc-consistency look-ahead

(Gashnig, 1977)

- Applies full arc-consistency on all uninstantiated variables following each value assignment to the current variable.
- Complexity:
  - If optimal arc-consistency is used:
  - What is the complexity overhead when AC-1 is used at each node?

Forward-checking:  $O(ek^2)$ 

 $O(ek^3)$ Full arc-consistency look-ahead

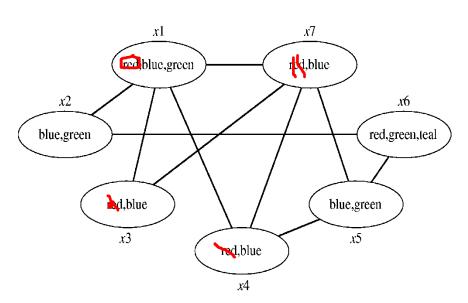
With optimal AC:

#### MAC: Maintaining arc-consistency

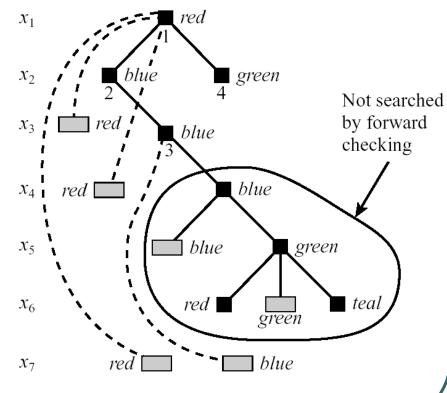
(Sabin and Freuder 1994)

- Perform arc-consistency in a binary search tree: Given a domain X={1,2,3,4} the algorithm assigns X=1 (and apply arcconsistency) and if x=1 is pruned, it applies arc-consistency to X={2,3,4}
- If inconsistency is not discovered, a new variable is selected (not necessarily X)

## MAC for value rejection

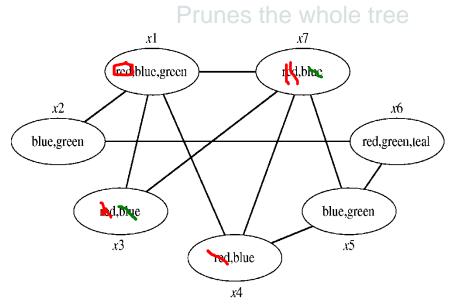


FW overhead:  $O(ek^2)$ 

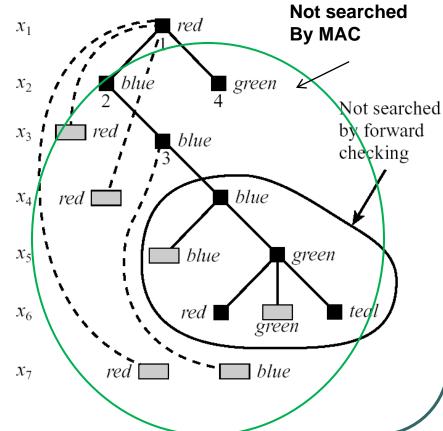


## MAC for value rejection

Arc-consistency prunes x1=red



FW overhead:  $O(ek^2)$ 



## Arc-consistency look-ahead: (a variant: maintaining arc-consistency MAC)

```
subprocedure selectValue-arc-consistency
   while D'_i is not empty
      select an arbitrary element a \in D'_i, and remove a from D'_i
      repeat
       removed-value \leftarrow false
          for all j, i < j \le n
            for all k, i < k \le n
               for each value b in D'_i
                  if there is no value c \in D'_k such that
                         Consistent (\vec{a}_{i-1}, x_i = a, x_i = b, x_k = c)
                     remove b from D'_i
                     removed-value \leftarrow true
               end for
             end for
          end for
      until removed-value = false
      if any future domain is empty (don't select a)
         reset each D'_i, i < j \le n, to value before a was selected
       else
          return a
   end while
   return null
                                 (no consistent value)
end procedure
```

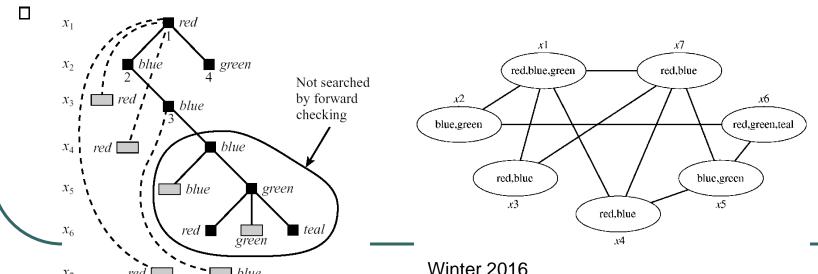
Figure 5.10: The SelectValue subprocedure for arc-consistency, based on the AC-1 algorithm.

## Full and partial look-ahead

- Full looking ahead:
  - Make one pass through future variables (delete, repeat-until)
- Partial look-ahead:
  - Applies (similar-to) directional arc-consistency to future variables.
  - Complexity: also  $O(ek^3)$
  - More efficient than MAC

#### Example of partial look-ahead

Example 5.3.3 Conside the problem in Figure 5.3 using the same ordering of variables and values as in Figure 5.9. Partial-look-ahead starts by considering  $x_1 = red$ . Applying directional arc-consistency from  $x_1$  towards  $x_7$  will first shrink the domains of  $x_3$ ,  $x_4$  and  $x_7$ , (when processing  $x_1$ ), as was the case for forward-checking. Later, when directional arc-consistency processes  $x_4$  (with its only value, "blue") against  $x_7$  (with its only value, "blue"), the domain of  $x_4$  will become empty, and the value "red" for  $x_1$  will be rejected. Likewise, the value  $x_1 = blue$  will be rejected. Therefore, the whole tree in Figure 5.9 will not be visited if either partial-look-ahead or the more extensive look-ahead schemes are used. With this level of look-ahead only the subtree below  $x_1 = green$  will be expanded.



 $\chi_7$ 

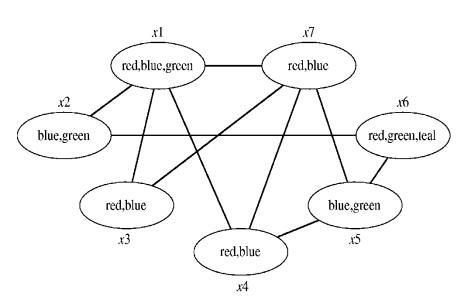
#### Branching-ahead: dynamic value ordering

#### Rank order the promise in non-rejected values

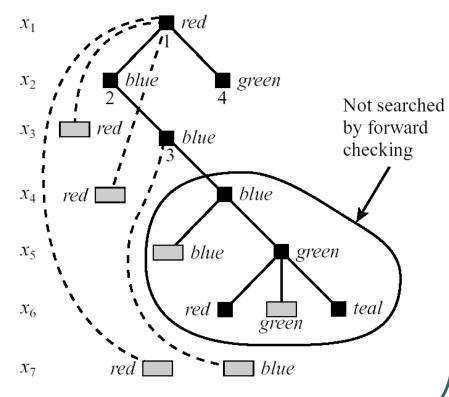
- Rank functions
  - MC (min conflict) counts the number of conflicts with each future domain that are otherwise consistent.
  - MD (min domain) score is the largest domain size of future variables.
  - ES (expected solution counts)
- MC results (Frost and Dechter, 1996)
- ES currently shows good performance using IJGP (Kask, Dechter and Gogate, 2004)

## Dynamic variable ordering (DVO)

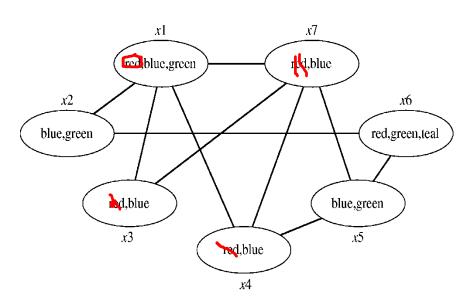
- Following constraint propagation, choose the most constrained variable
- Intuition: early discovery of dead-ends
- Highly effective: the single most important heuristic to cut down search space
- Most popular with FC
- Dynamic search rearrangement (Bitner and Reingold, 1975) (Purdon, 1983)



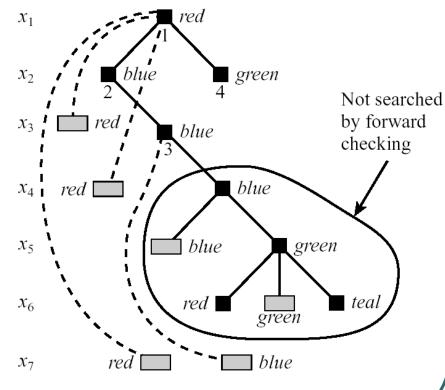
FW overhead:  $O(ek^2)$ 



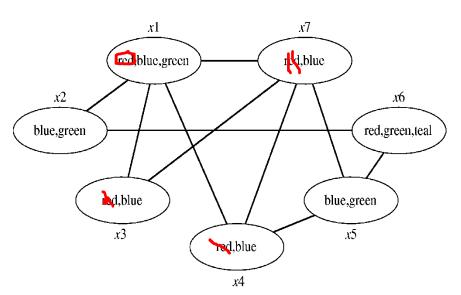
#### After X1 = red choose X3 and not X2



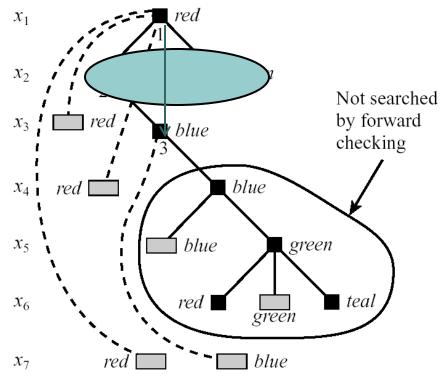
FW overhead:  $O(ek^2)$ 



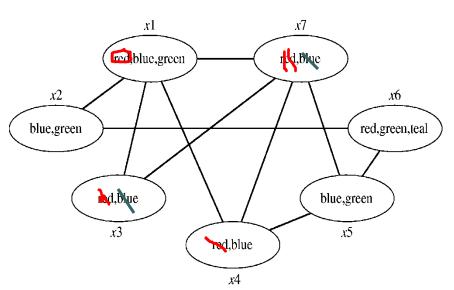
#### After X1 = red choose X3 and not X2



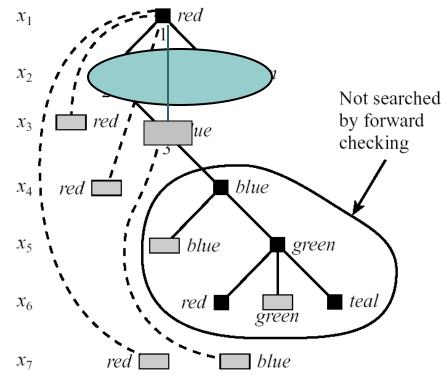
FW overhead:  $O(ek^2)$ 



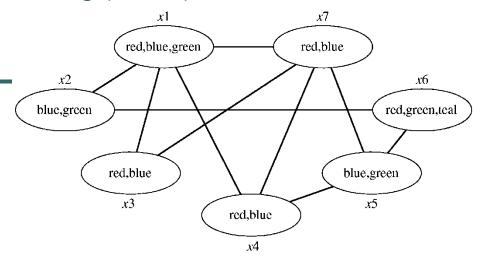
#### After X1 = red choose X3 and not X2



FW overhead:  $O(ek^2)$ 



#### Example: DVO with forward-checking (DVFC)



Example 5.3.4 Consider again the example in Figure 5.3. Initially, all variables have domain size of 2 or more. DVFC picks  $x_7$ , whose domain size is 2, and the value  $< x_7, blue >$ . Forward-checking propagation of this choice to each future variable restricts the domains of  $x_3, x_4$  and  $x_5$  to single values, and reduces the size of  $x_1$ 's domain by one. DVFC selects  $x_3$  and assigns it its only possible value, red. Subsequently, forward-checking causes variable  $x_1$  to also have a singleton domain. The algorithm chooses  $x_1$  and its only consistent value, green. After propagating this choice, we see that  $x_4$  has one value, red; it is selected and assigned the value. Then  $x_2$  can be selected and assigned its only consistent value, blue. Propagating this assignment does not further shrink any future domain. Next,  $x_5$  can be selected and assigned green. The solution is then completed, without dead-ends, by assigning red or teal to  $x_6$ .

#### Algorithm DVO (DVFC)

```
procedure DVFC
Input: A constraint network R = (X, D, C)
Output: Either a solution, or notification that the network is inconsistent.
    D_i' \leftarrow D_i \text{ for } 1 \le i \le n (copy all domains)
                                   (initialize variable counter)
             s = \min_{i < j < n} |D'_i| (find future var with smallest domain)
             x_{i+1} \leftarrow x_s (rearrange variables so that x_s follows x_i)
    while 1 \le i \le n
       instantiate x_i \leftarrow \text{SELECTVALUE-FORWARD-CHECKING}
                                   (no value was returned)
       if x_i is null
          reset each D' set to its value before x_i was last instantiated
                                   (backtrack)
          i \leftarrow i - 1
       else
          if i < n
          i \leftarrow i + 1
                                   (step forward to x_s)
             s = \min_{i < j < n} |D'_i| (find future var with smallest domain)
             x_{i+1} \leftarrow x_s (rearrange variables so that x_s follows x_i)
          i \leftarrow i + 1
                                   (step forward to x_s)
    end while
    if i = 0
       return "inconsistent"
    else
       return instantiated values of \{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}
end procedure
```

Figure 5.12: The DVFC algorithm. It uses the SELECT VALUE-FORWARD-CHECKING subprocedure given in Fig. 5.8.

# DVO: Dynamic variable ordering, more involved heuristics

- dom: choose a variable with min domain
- deg: choose variable with max degree
- dom+deg: dom and break ties with max degree
- dom/deg (Bessiere and Ragin, 96): choose min dom/deg
- dom/wdeg: domain divided by weighted degree.
   Constraints are weighted as they get involved in more conflicts. wdeg: sum the weights of all constraints that touch x.

# Implementing look-aheads

- Cost of node generation should be reduced
- Solution: keep a table of viable domains for each variable and each level in the tree.

- Space complexity  $O(n^2k)$
- Node generation = table updating  $O(e_d k) \Rightarrow O(ek)$

# Branching strategies (selecting the search space)

(see vanBeek, chapter 4 in Handbook)

- Enumeration branching: the naïve backtracking search choice
- A branching strategy in the search tree: a set of branching constraints  $p(b_1,...b_i)$  where  $b_i$  is a branching constraint
- Branches are often ordered using a heuristic.
- To ensure completeness, the constraints that are ordered on the branches should be exclusive and exhaustive.
- Most common are unary constraints:
  - Enumeration: (x=1,x=2,x=3...)
  - Binary choices: (x=1, x != 1 )
  - Domain spliting: (x>3,x<3)</li>
- Using domain-specific formulas
  - Scheduling: one job before or after: (x\_1 +d\_1 < x\_2, x\_2+d\_2 < x\_1)</p>
  - Can be simulated by auxiliary variables.
  - Searching the dual problem
  - Formula-based splitting in SAT

### Randomization

- Randomized variable selection (for tie breaking rule)
- Randomized value selection (for tie breaking rule)
- Random restarts with increasing time-cutoff
- Capitalizing on huge performance variance
- All modern SAT solvers that are competitive use restarts.

# The cycle-cutset effect

 A cycle-cutset is a subset of nodes in an undirected graph whose removal results in a graph with no cycles

• A constraint problem whose graph has a cycle-cutset of size c can be solved by partial look-ahead in time  $O((n-c)k^{(c+2)})$ 

### Extensions to stronger look-ahead

 Extend to path-consistency or i-consistency or generalized-arc-consistency

Definition 5.3.7 (general arc-consistency) Given a constraint C = (R, S) and a variable  $x \in S$ , a value  $a \in D_x$  is supported in C if there is a tuple  $t \in R$  such that t[x] = a. t is then called a support for x, a > in C. C is arc-consistent if for each variable x, in its scope and each of its values,  $a \in D_x$ , x, a > a has a support in C. A CSP is arc-consistent if each of its constraints is arc-consistent.

# Search for SAT

### What is SAT?

#### Given a sentence:

- Sentence: conjunction of clauses  $(c_1 \lor \neg c_4 \lor c_5 \lor c_6) \land (c_2 \lor \neg c_3) \land (\neg c_4)$
- **Clause**: disjunction of literals  $(c_2 \lor \neg c_3)$
- Literal: a term or its negation  $C_1, \neg C_6$
- **Term**: Boolean variable  $c_1 = 1 \Leftrightarrow \neg c_1 = 0$

**Question**: Find an assignment of truth values to the Boolean variables such the sentence is satisfied.

#### **SAT from Darwiche chapter 3**

### Representation:

$$(A \lor B \lor \neg C) \land (\neg A \lor D) \land (B \lor C \lor D)$$

A convenient way to notate sentences in CNF is using sets. Specifically, a clause  $l_1 \vee l_2 \vee \ldots \vee l_m$  is expressed as a set of literals  $\{l_1, l_2, \ldots, l_m\}$ . Moreover, a conjunctive normal form  $\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2 \wedge \ldots \wedge \alpha_n$  is expressed as a set of clauses  $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_n\}$ . For example, the CNF given above would be expressed as:

$$\{ \{A, B, \neg C\}, \{\neg A, D\}, \{B, C, D\} \}.$$

#### Resolution

- {¬P, R}
- 2.  $\{\neg Q, R\}$
- 3.  $\{\neg R\}$
- 4.  $\{P, Q\}$
- {¬P}
   1, 3
- 6.  $\{\neg Q\}$  2, 3
- {Q}
   4, 5
- 8. {} 6, 7

The clauses before the line represent initial clauses, while clauses below the line represent resolvents, together with the identifiers of clauses used to obtain them. The above resolution trace shows that we can derive the empty clause from the initial set of Clauses (1–4). Hence, the original clauses, together, are unsatisfiable.

# DP (Davis Putnam) or Directional resolution (Dechter and Rish, 1994)

The DP algorithm, also known as directional resolution [DR94], uses the above observation to existentially quantify all variables from a CNF, one at a time. One way to implement the DP algorithm is using a mechanism known as bucket elimination [Dec97], which proceeds in two stages: constructing and filling a set of buckets, and then processing them in some order. Specifically, given a variable ordering  $\pi$ , we construct and fill buckets as follows:

- A bucket is constructed for each variable P and is labeled with variable P.
- Buckets are sorted top to bottom by their labels according to order π.
- Each clause α in the CNF is added to the first Bucket P from the top, such that variable P appears in clause α.

$$\Delta = \{ \{ \neg A, B \}, \{ \neg A, C \}, \{ \neg B, D \}, \{ \neg C, \neg D \}, \{ A, \neg C, E \} \},$$

and the variable order C, B, A, D, E. Constructing and filling buckets leads to:<sup>3</sup>

$$\begin{array}{l} C: \{ \neg A, C \}, \ \{ \neg C, \neg D \}, \ \{ A, \neg C, E \} \\ B: \{ \neg A, B \}, \ \{ \neg B, D \} \\ A: \\ D: \\ E: \end{array}$$

#### DP (continued)

to Bucket A:

$$\begin{array}{l} C: \{ \neg A, C \}, \ \{ \neg C, \neg D \}, \ \{ A, \neg C, E \} \\ B: \{ \neg A, B \}, \ \{ \neg B, D \} \\ A: \qquad \qquad \{ \neg A, \neg D \} \\ D: \\ E: \end{array}$$

The buckets below Bucket C will now contain the result of existentially quantifying variable C. Processing Bucket B adds one B—resolvent to Bucket A:

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\begin{array}{ll} C: \{ \neg A, C \}, \ \{ \neg C, \neg D \}, \ \{ A, \neg C, E \} \\ B: \{ \neg A, B \}, \ \{ \neg B, D \} \\ A: & \{ \neg A, \neg D \}, \ \{ \neg A, D \} \\ D: & E: \end{array}
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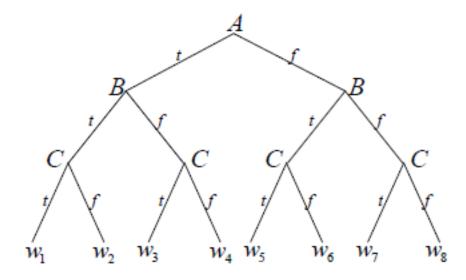


Figure 3.3. A search tree for enumerating all truth assignments over variables A, B and C.

### Look-ahead for sat: DPLL

(Davis-Putnam, Logeman and Laveland, 1962)

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\mathrm{DPLL}(\varphi)
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Input: A cnf theory  $\varphi$ 

Output: A decision of whether  $\varphi$  is satisfiable.

- Unit\_propagate(φ);
- 2. If the empty clause is generated, return(false);
- Else, if all variables are assigned, return(true);
- 4. Else
- 5. Q = some unassigned variable;
- 6. return( DPLL(  $\varphi \wedge Q$ )  $\vee$  DPLL( $\varphi \wedge \neg Q$ ) )

Figure 5.13: The DPLL Procedure

## Example of DPLL

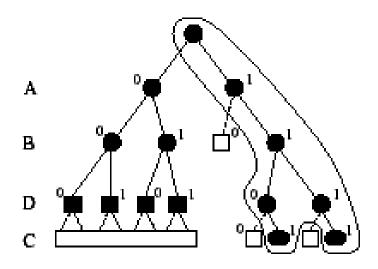


Figure 5.14: A backtracking search tree along the variables A, B, D, C for a cnf theory  $\varphi = \{(\neg A \lor B), (\neg C \lor A), (A \lor B \lor D), C\}$ . Hollow nodes and bars in the search tree represent illegal states, triangles represent solutions. The enclosed area corresponds to DPLL with unit-propagation.

### Using Conditioned CNF at each node

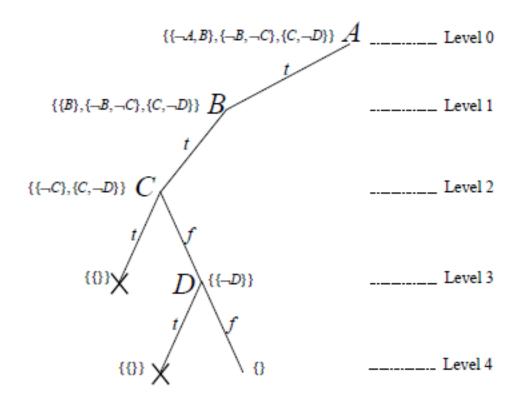


Figure 3.5. A termination tree, where each node is labelled by the corresponding CNF. The last node visited during the search is labelled with {}. The label × indicates the detection of a contradiction at the corresponding node.

#### On Unit Resolution

To incorporate unit resolution into our satisfiability algorithms, we will introduce a function UNIT-RESOLUTION, which applies to a CNF  $\Delta$  and returns two results:

- I: a set of literals that were either present as unit clauses in Δ, or were derived from Δ by unit resolution.
- Γ: a new CNF which results from conditioning Δ on literals I.

For example, if the CNF

$$\Delta = \{ \{ \neg A, \neg B \}, \{ B, C \}, \{ \neg C, D \}, \{ A \} \},$$

then  $I = \{A, \neg B, C, D\}$  and  $\Gamma = \{\}$ . Moreover, if

$$\Delta = \{ \{ \neg A, \neg B \}, \{ B, C \}, \{ \neg C, D \}, \{ C \} \},$$

then  $I = \{C, D\}$  and  $\Gamma = \{\{\neg A, \neg B\}\}$ . Unit resolution is a very important component of search-based SAT solving algorithms. Part 1, Chapter 4 discusses in details the modern implementation of unit resolution employed by many SAT solvers of this type.

### **Chronological Backtracking**

Chapter 3. Complete Algorithms

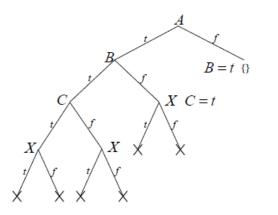


Figure 3.6. A termination tree. Assignments shown next to nodes are derived using unit resolution.

To consider a concrete example, let us look at how standard DPLL behaves on the following CNF, assuming a variable ordering of A, B, C, X, Y, Z:

1. 
$$\{A, B\}$$
  
2.  $\{B, C\}$   
3.  $\{\neg A, \neg X, Y\}$   
 $\Delta = 4 \cdot \{\neg A, X, Z\}$   
5.  $\{\neg A, \neg Y, Z\}$   
6.  $\{\neg A, X, \neg Z\}$   
7.  $\{\neg A, \neg Y, \neg Z\}$ 

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### Reduction from CSP to SAT

### **Example:** CSP into SAT

Notation: variable-value pair =  $\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}\mathbf{p}$ 

- vvp → term
  - $V_1 = \{a, b, c, d\}$  yields  $x_1 = (V_1, a), x_2 = (V_1, b), x_3 = (V_1, c), x_4 = (V_1, d),$
  - $V_2 = \{a, b, c\} \text{ yields } x_5 = (V_2, a), x_6 = (V_2, b), x_7 = (V_2, c).$
- The vvp's of a variable → disjunction of terms
  - $V_1 = \{a, b, c, d\}$  yields  $X_1 \vee X_2 \vee X_3 \vee X_4$
- (Optional) At most one VVP per variable

$$(x_1 \wedge \neg x_2 \wedge \neg x_3 \wedge \neg x_4) \vee (\neg x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge \neg x_3 \wedge \neg x_4) \vee (\neg x_1 \wedge \neg x_2 \wedge x_3 \wedge \neg x_4) \vee (\neg x_1 \wedge \neg x_2 \wedge x_3 \wedge x_4)$$

# CSP into SAT (cont.)

Constraint: 
$$C_{V_1V_2} = \{(a,a), (a,b), (b,c), (c,b), (d,a)\}$$

- Way 1: Each inconsistent tuple  $\rightarrow$  one disjunctive clause
  - For example:  $\neg x_1 \lor \neg x_7$  how many?
- 2. Way 2:
  - (a) Consistent tuple  $\rightarrow$  conjunction of terms  $x_1 \wedge x_5$
  - b) Each constraint → disjunction of these conjunctions

$$(x_1 \wedge x_5) \vee (x_1 \wedge x_6) \vee (x_2 \wedge x_7)$$

$$\vee (x_3 \wedge x_6) \vee (x_4 \wedge x_5)$$

→ transform into conjunctive normal form (CNF)

Question: find a truth assignment of the Boolean variables such that the sentence is satisfied