

# **CONSTRAINT Networks**

## **Chapters 1-2**

Compsci-275

Spring 2014

# Class Information

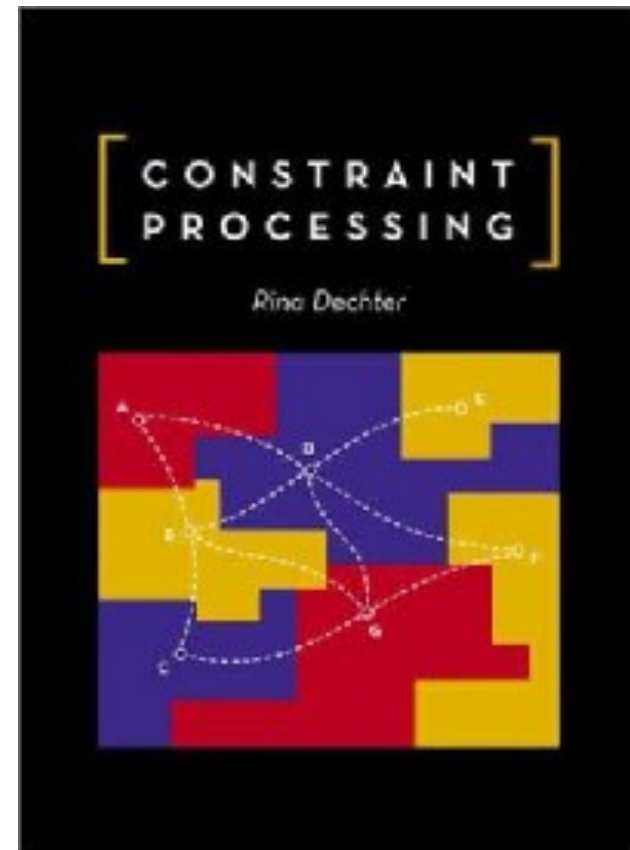
- Instructor: Rina Dechter
- Lectures: Monay & Wednesday
- Time: 11:00 - 12:20 pm
- Discussion (optional): Wednesdays 12:30-1:20
- Class page:  
<http://www.ics.uci.edu/~dechter/courses/ics-275a/spring-2014/>

# Text book (required)

Rina Dechter,

Constraint Processing,

Morgan Kaufmann



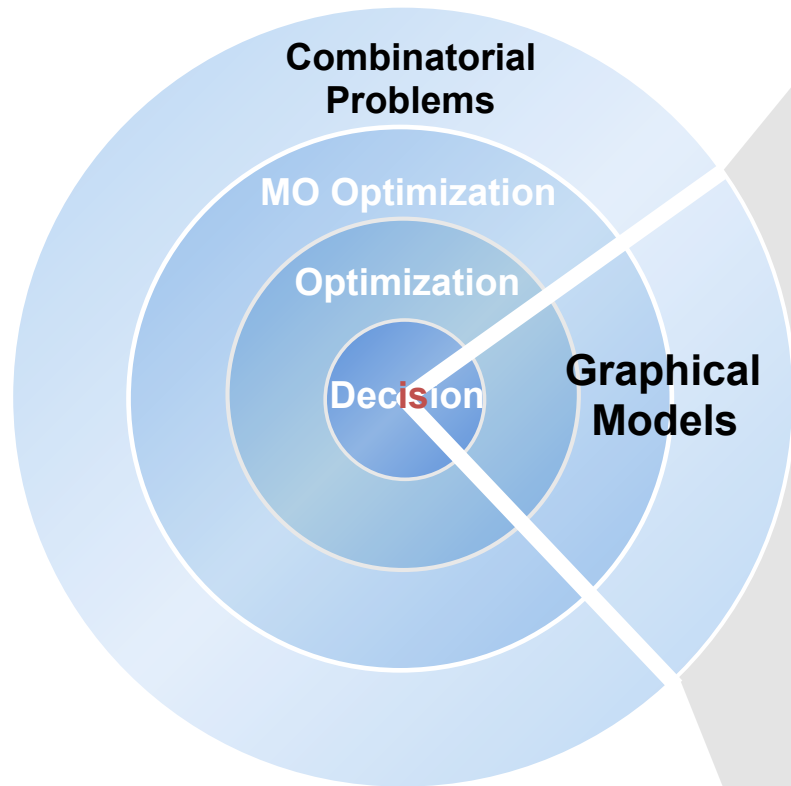
# Outline

- ✓ Motivation, applications, history
- ✓ CSP: Definition, and simple modeling examples
- ✓ Mathematical concepts (relations, graphs)
- ✓ Representing constraints
- ✓ Constraint graphs
- ✓ The binary Constraint Networks properties

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# Combinatorial Problems



## Graphical Models

Those problems that can be expressed as:

A set of **variables**

Each variable takes its values from a **finite set of domain values**

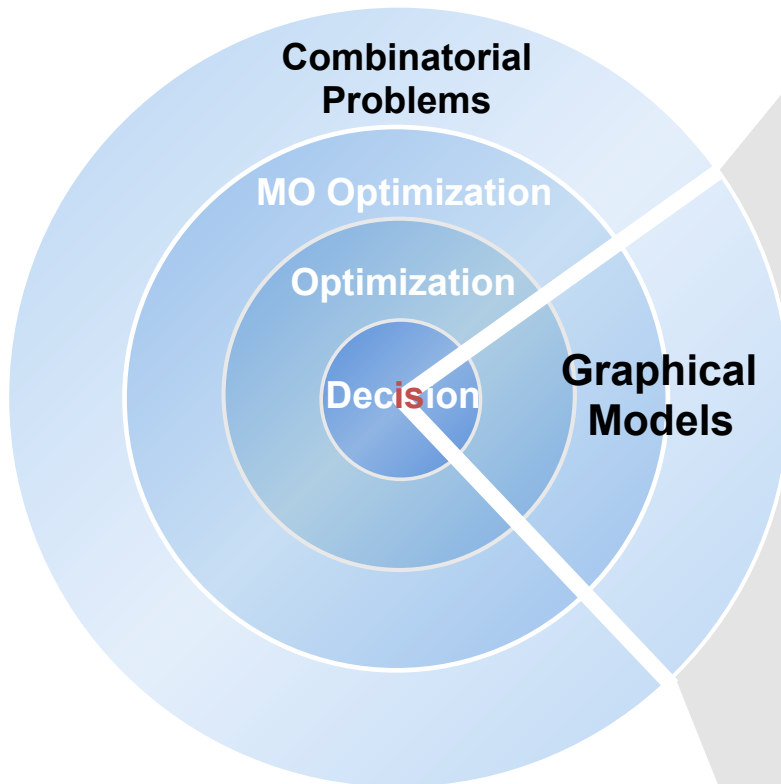
A set of **local functions**

Main advantage:

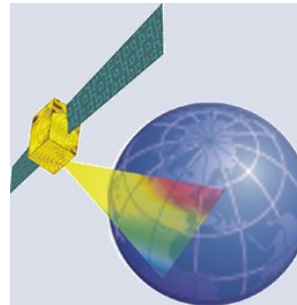
They provide **unifying algorithms**:

- o Search
- o Complete Inference
- o Incomplete Inference

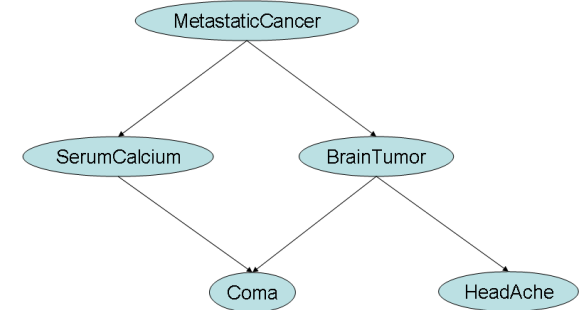
## Combinatorial Problems



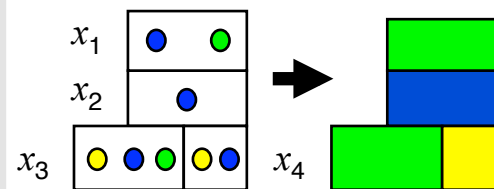
Many Examples



## EOS Scheduling



## Bayesian Networks



## Graph Coloring

	Monday May 25, 2015	Tuesday May 26, 2015	Wednesday May 27, 2015	Thursday May 28, 2015
07:40 - 18:00	Registration	Registration	Registration	
08:00	Prenary	Prenary	Prenary	Prenary
09:00	Breakfast	Lactation	Lactation	Lactation
10:00	Breakfast	Lactation	Lactation	Lactation
11:00	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
12:00	Lactation	Lactation	Lactation	Lactation
13:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14:00	Prenary	Lactation		Lactation
15:00	Lactation		Excursion optional	
16:00	Lactation	Breakfast		Breakfast
17:00	Breakfast	Prenary Presentations		Lactation
18:00	Prenary Reception			Prenary Reception
19:00				
20:00		Dinner (seated if you wish)		Lactation session
21:00				

## Timetabling

... and many others.

# Example: student course selection

- **Context:** You are a senior in college
- **Problem:** You need to register in 4 courses for the Spring semester
- **Possibilities:** Many courses offered in Math, CSE, EE, CBA, etc.
- **Constraints:** restrict the choices you can make
  - Courses have prerequisites you have/don't have      Courses/instructors you like/dislike
  - Courses are scheduled at the same time
  - In CE: 4 courses from 5 tracks such as at least 3 tracks are covered
- **You have choices, but are restricted by constraints**
  - Make the right decisions!!
  - [ICS Graduate program](#)



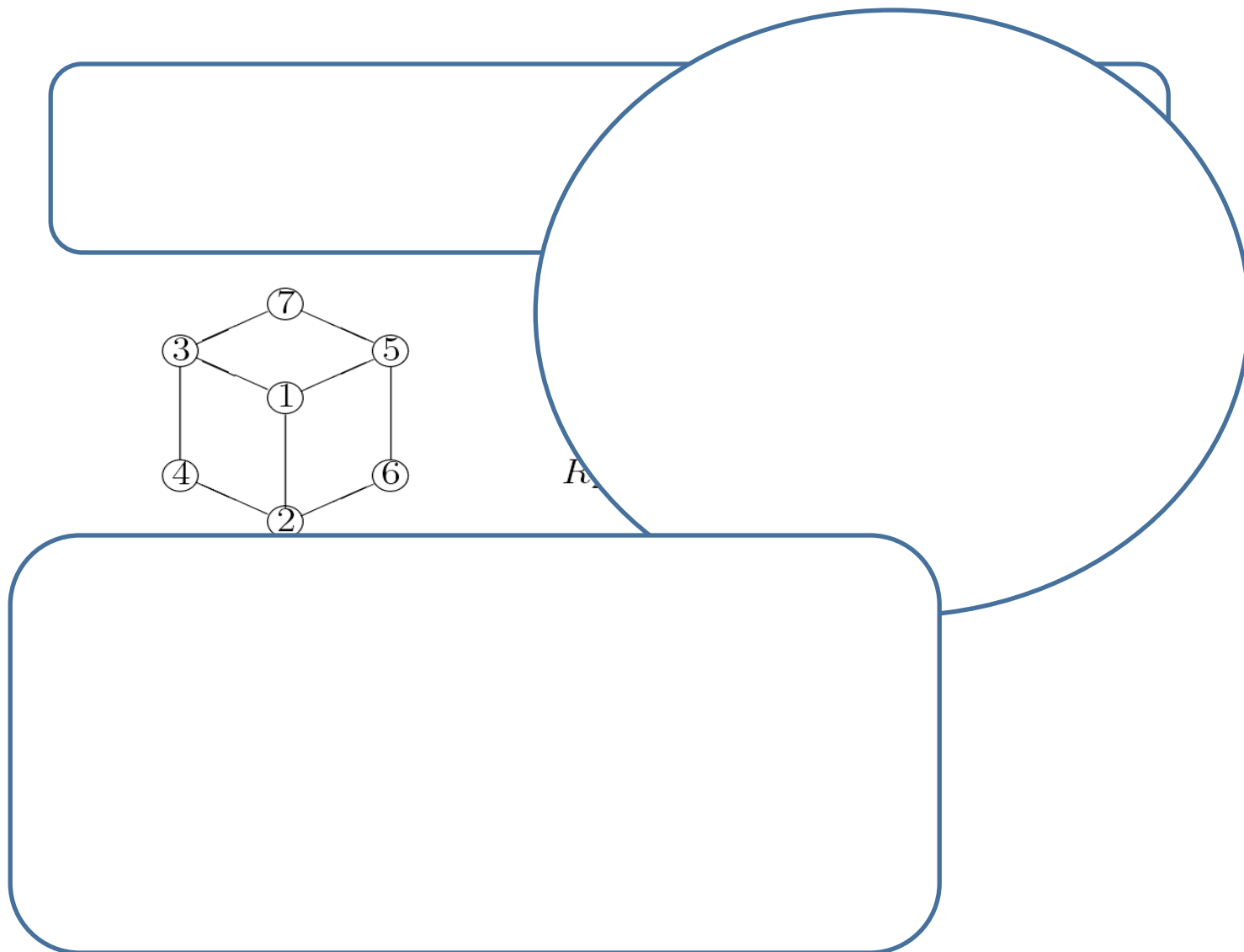
# Student course selection (continued)

- **Given**
  - A set of variables: 4 courses at your college
  - For each variable, a set of choices (values): the available classes.
  - A set of constraints that restrict the combinations of values the variables can take at the same time
- **Questions**
  - Does a solution exist? (classical decision problem)
  - How many solutions exists? (counting)
  - How two or more solutions differ?
  - Which solution is preferable?
  - etc.

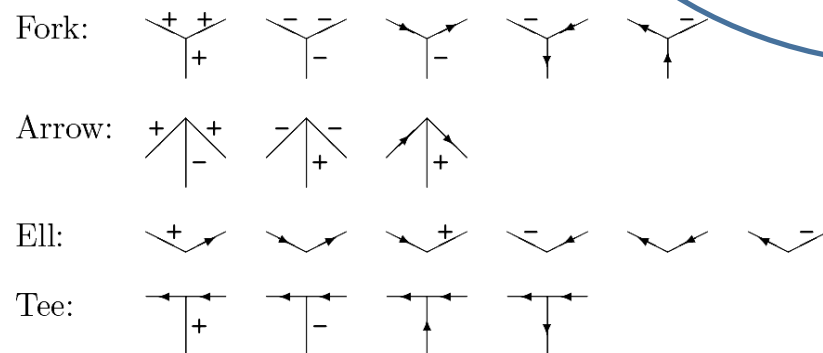
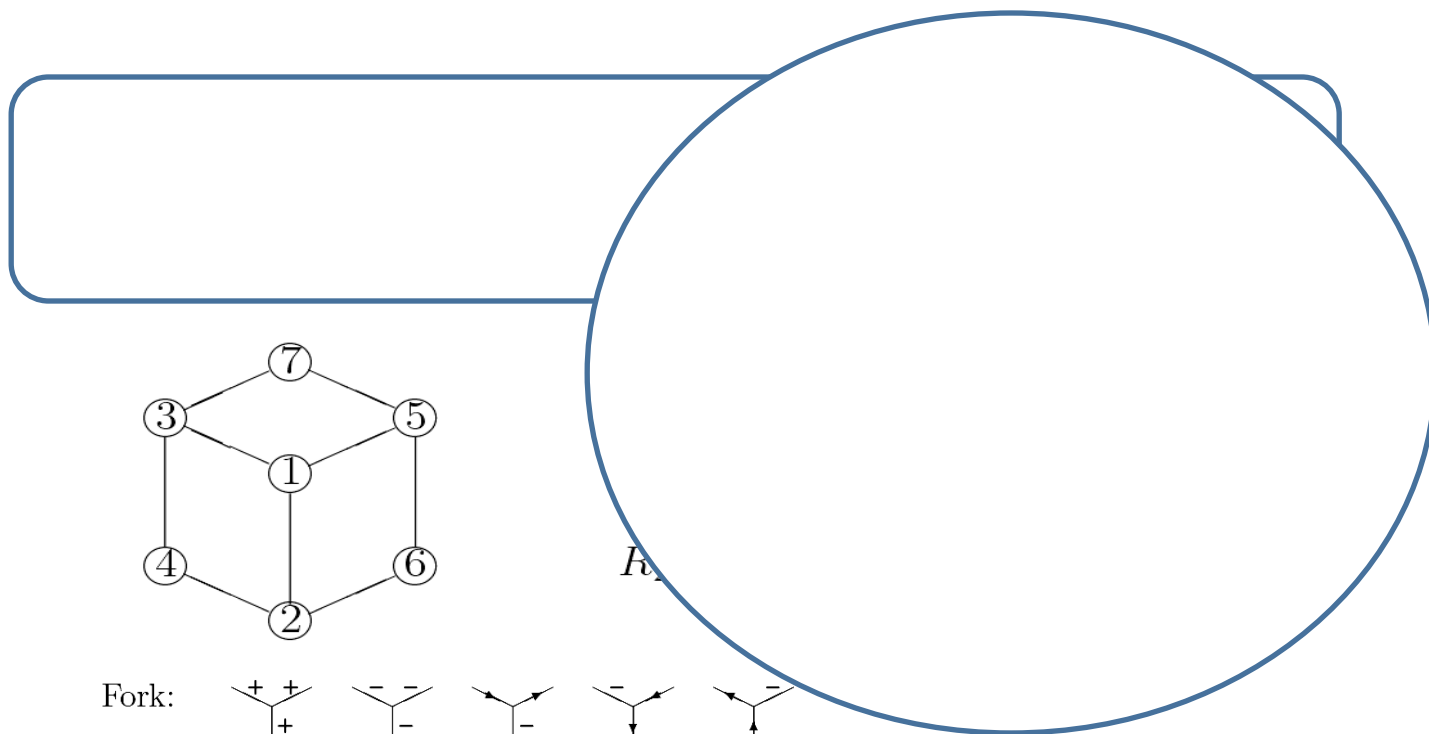
# The field of Constraint Programming

- **How did it started:**
  - Artificial Intelligence (vision)
  - Programming Languages (Logic Programming),
  - Databases (deductive, relational)
  - Logic-based languages (propositional logic)
  - SATisfiability
- **Related areas:**
  - Hardware and software verification
  - Operation Research (Integer Programming)
  - Answer set programming
- **Graphical Models; deterministic**

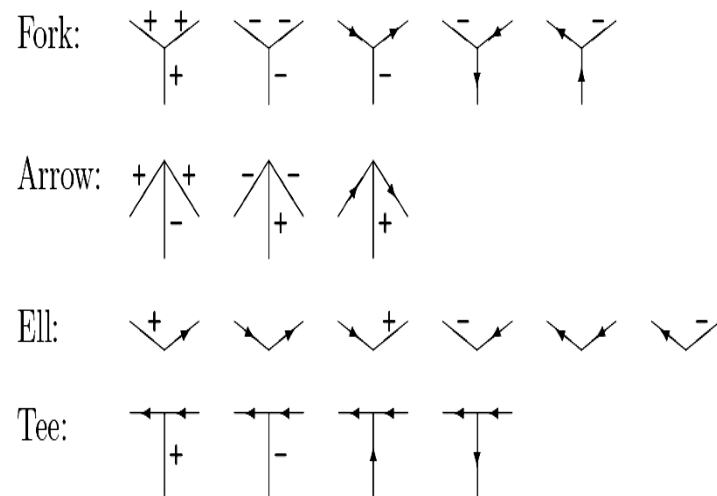
# Scene labeling constraint network



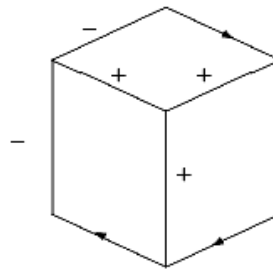
# Scene labeling constraint network



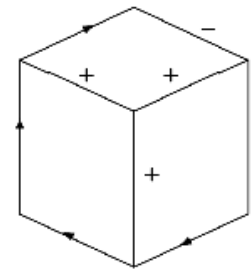
# 3-dimentional interpretation of 2-dimentional drawings



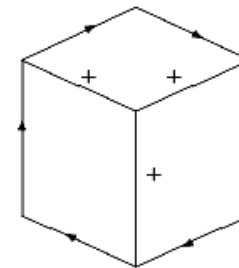
(a)



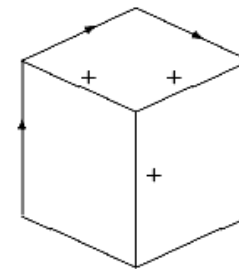
(b)



(c)



(d)



# The field of Constraint Programming

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# Applications

- Radio resource management (RRM)
- Databases (computing joins, view updates)
- Temporal and spatial reasoning
- Planning, scheduling, resource allocation
- Design and configuration
- Graphics, visualization, interfaces
- Hardware verification and software engineering
- HC Interaction and decision support
- Molecular biology
- Robotics, machine vision and computational linguistics
- Transportation
- Qualitative and diagnostic reasoning

# Outline

- ✓ Motivation, applications, history
- ✓ **CSP: Definitions and simple modeling examples**
- ✓ Mathematical concepts (relations, graphs)
- ✓ Representing constraints
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# Constraint Networks

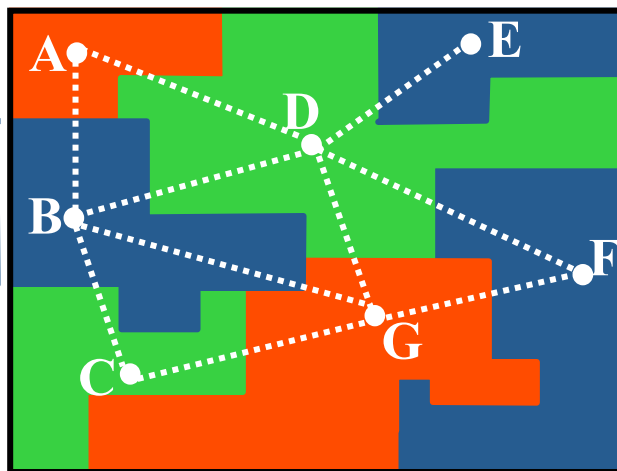
## Example: map coloring

Variables - countries (A,B,C,etc.)

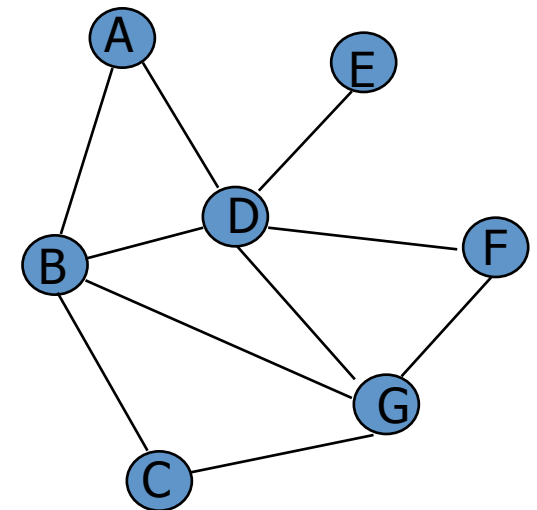
Values - colors (red, green, blue)

Constraints:  **$A \neq B$** ,  $A \neq D$ ,  $D \neq E$ , etc.

A	B
red	green
red	yellow
green	red
green	yellow
yellow	green
yellow	red



Constraint graph



# Constraint Satisfaction Tasks

## Example: map coloring

Variables - countries (A,B,C,etc.)

Values - colors (e.g., red, green, yellow)

Constraints:


$A \neq B$ ,  $A \neq D$ ,  $D \neq E$ , *etc.*

**Are the constraints consistent?**

**Find a solution, find all solutions**

**Count all solutions**

**Find a good solution**



A	B	C	D	E...
red	green	red	green	blue
red	blue	green	green	blue
...	...	...	...	green
...	...	...	...	red
red	blue	red	green	red

# Information as Constraints

- I have to finish my class in 50 minutes
- 180 degrees in a triangle
- Memory in our computer is limited
- The four nucleotides that makes up a DNA only combine in a particular sequence
- Sentences in English must obey the rules of syntax
- Susan cannot be married to both John and Bill
- Alexander the Great died in 333 B.C.

# Constraint Network; Definition

- A constraint network is:  $\mathbf{R}=(\mathbf{X},\mathbf{D},\mathbf{C})$ 
  - **X variables**  $X = \{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$
  - **D domain**  $D = \{D_1, \dots, D_n\}, D_i = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$
  - **C constraints**  $C = \{C_1, \dots, C_t\}, C_i = (S_i, R_i)$
  - **R expresses allowed tuples over scopes**
- **A solution** is an assignment to all variables that satisfies all constraints (join of all relations).
- **Tasks:** consistency?, one or all solutions, counting, optimization

# The N-queens problem

The network has four variables, all with domains  $D_i = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ .

(a) The labeled chess board. (b) The constraints between variables.

	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$
1				
2				
3				
4				

(a)

$$R_{12} = \{(1,3), (1,4), (2,4), (3,1), (4,1), (4,2)\}$$

$$R_{13} = \{(1,2), (1,4), (2,1), (2,3), (3,2), (3,4), (4,1), (4,3)\}$$

$$R_{14} = \{(1,2), (1,3), (2,1), (2,3), (2,4), (3,1), (3,2), (3,4), (4,2), (4,3)\}$$

$$R_{23} = \{(1,3), (1,4), (2,4), (3,1), (4,1), (4,2)\}$$

$$R_{24} = \{(1,2), (1,4), (2,1), (2,3), (3,2), (3,4), (4,1), (4,3)\}$$

$$R_{34} = \{(1,3), (1,4), (2,4), (3,1), (4,1), (4,2)\}$$

(b)

# A solution and a partial consistent tuple

**Not all consistent instantiations are part of a solution:**

- (a) A consistent instantiation that is not part of a solution.**
- (b) The placement of the queens corresponding to the solution (2, 4, 1, 3).**
- (c) The placement of the queens corresponding to the solution (3, 1, 4, 2).**

Q			
		Q	
	Q		

(a)

		Q	
Q			
			Q
	Q		

(b)

	Q		
			Q
Q			
		Q	

(c)

# Example: Crossword puzzle

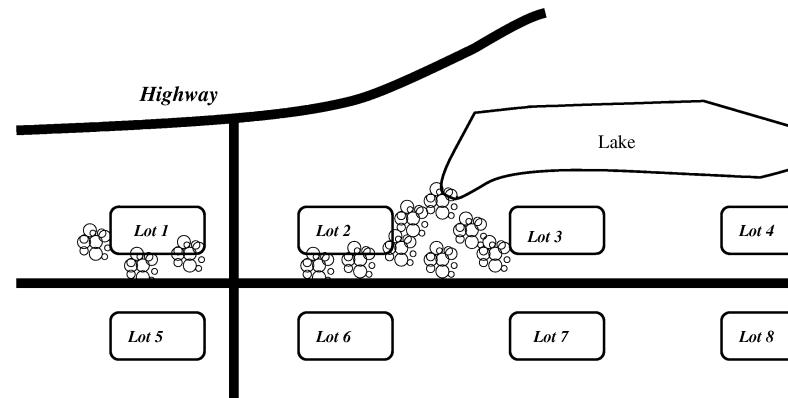
- Variables:  $x_1, \dots, x_{13}$
- Domains: letters
- Constraints: words from

1	2	3	4	5
		6		7
	8	9	10	11
		12	13	

{HOSES, LASER, SHEET, SNAIL, STEER, ALSO, EARN, HIKE, IRON, SAME, EAT, LET, RUN, SUN, TEN, YES, BE, IT, NO, US}

# Configuration and Design

- Want to build: recreation area, apartment complex, a cluster of 50 single-family houses, cemetery, and a dump
  - Recreation area near lake
  - Steep slopes avoided except for recreation area
  - Poor soil avoided for developments
  - Highway far from apartments, houses and recreation
  - Dump not visible from apartments, houses and lake
  - Lots 3 and 4 have poor soil
  - Lots 3, 4, 7, 8 are on steep slopes
  - Lots 2, 3, 4 are near lake
  - Lots 1, 2 are near highway





# Example: Sudoku (constraint propagation)

## Constraint propagation

		2	4		6			
8	6	5	1			2		
	1				8	6		9
9				4		8	6	
	4	7				1	9	
	5	8		6				3
4		6	9				7	<del>2</del> <del>4</del> <del>6</del>
		9			4	5	8	1
			3		2	9		

•Variables: 81 slots

•Domains =  
{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9}

•Constraints:  
•27 not-equal

Each row, column and major block must be all different

“Well posed” if it has unique solution: 27 constraints

# Sudoku (inference)

		2	1	5				6
			3	6	8		1	
6	1	8			2			4
		5		2				3
	9	3				5	4	
1				3		6		
3			8			4		7
	8		6	4	3			
5				1	7	9		

Each row, column and major block must be all different

“Well posed” if it has unique solution

# Outline

- ✓ Motivation, applications, history
- ✓ CSP: Definition, representation and simple modeling examples
- ✓ **Mathematical concepts (relations, graphs)**
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# Mathematical background

- Sets, domains, tuples
- Relations
- Operations on relations
- Graphs
- Complexity

**Two Representations of a relation:**  
 **$R = \{(\text{black}, \text{coffee}), (\text{black}, \text{tea}), (\text{green}, \text{tea})\}.$**

Variables: Drink, color

$x_1$	$x_2$
black	coffee
black	tea
green	tea

(a) table



**Two Representations of a relation:**  
 **$R = \{(\text{black}, \text{coffee}), (\text{black}, \text{tea}), (\text{green}, \text{tea})\}.$**

Variables: Drink, color

$x_1$	$x_2$
black	coffee
black	tea
green	tea

(a) table

		$\underline{x_2}$	
		apple	juice
			coffee
			tea
	black	0	1
$\underline{x_1}$	green	0	0
		1	1

(b) (0,1)-matrix

## Three Relations

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$
a	b	c
b	b	c
c	b	c
c	b	s

(a) Relation  $R$

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$
b	b	c
c	b	c
c	n	n

(b) Relation  $R'$

$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$
a	a	1
b	c	2
b	c	3

(c) Relation  $R''$



# Operations with relations

- Intersection
- Union
- Difference
- Selection
- Projection
- Join
- Composition



## Relations are Local Functions

- Relations are special case of a Local function

$$f : \prod_{x_i \in Y} D_i \rightarrow A$$

where

$\text{var}(f) = Y \subseteq X$ : **scope** of function  $f$

$A$ : is a set of **valuations**

- In **constraint networks**: functions are boolean

$x_1$	$x_2$	$f$	relation →	$x_1$	$x_2$
a	a	true		a	a
a	b	false		b	b
b	a	false			
b	b	true			

## Example of Set Operations: intersection, union, and difference applied to relations.

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$
a	b	c
b	b	c
c	b	c
c	b	s

(a) Relation  $R$

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$
b	b	c
c	b	c
c	n	n

(b) Relation  $R'$

$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$
a	a	1
b	c	2
b	c	3

(c) Relation  $R''$

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$
b	b	c
c	b	c

(a)  $R \cap R'$

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$
a	b	c
b	b	c
c	b	c
c	b	s
c	n	n

(b)  $R \cup R'$

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$
a	b	c
c	b	s

(b)  $R - R'$

# Selection, Projection, and Join

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$
a	b	c
b	b	c
c	b	c
c	b	s

(a) Relation  $R$

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$
b	b	c
c	b	c
c	n	n

(b) Relation  $R'$

$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$
a	a	1
b	c	2
b	c	3

(c) Relation  $R''$

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$
b	b	c
c	b	c

(a)  $\sigma_{x_3=c}(R')$

$x_2$	$x_3$
b	c
n	n

(b)  $\pi_{\{x_2, x_3\}}(R')$

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$
b	b	c	2
b	b	c	3
c	b	c	2
c	b	c	3

(c)  $R' \bowtie R''$

# Local Functions

## Combination

- Join :  $f \bowtie g$

$x_1$	$x_2$		$x_2$	$x_3$		$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$
a	a		a	a		a	a	a
b	b	$\bowtie$	a	b	=	a	a	b
			b	a		b	b	a

- Logical AND:  $f \wedge g$

$x_1$	$x_2$	f		$x_2$	$x_3$	g		$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	h
a	a	true		a	a	true		a	a	a	true
a	b	false	$\wedge$	a	b	true	=	a	a	b	true
b	a	false		b	a	true		a	b	a	false
b	b	true		b	b	false		a	b	b	false
								b	a	a	false
								b	a	b	false
								b	b	a	true
								b	b	b	false

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- ✓ **Representing constraints/ Languages**
- ✓ Constraint graphs
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# Modeling; Representing a problems

- If a CSP  $M = \langle X, D, C \rangle$  represents a real problem  $P$ , then every solution of  $M$  corresponds to a solution of  $P$  and every solution of  $P$  can be derived from at least one solution of  $M$
- The variables and values of  $M$  represent entities in  $P$
- The constraints of  $M$  ensure the correspondence between solutions
- The aim is to find a model  $M$  that can be solved as quickly as possible
- **goal of modeling: choose a set of variables and values that allows the constraints to be expressed easily and concisely**

	$x_4$	$x_3$	$x_2$	$x_1$
$a$				
$b$				
$c$				
$d$				

## Examples

### *Propositional Satisfiability*

Given a proposition theory  $\varphi = \{(A \vee B), (C \vee \neg B)\}$  does it have a model?

Can it be encoded as a constraint network?

Variables:  $\{A, B, C\}$

Domains:  $D_A = D_B = D_C = \{0, 1\}$

Relations:

A	B	B	C
0	1	0	0
1	0	0	1
1	1	1	1

If this constraint network has a solution, then the propositional theory has a model

# Constraint's representations

- Relation: allowed tuples

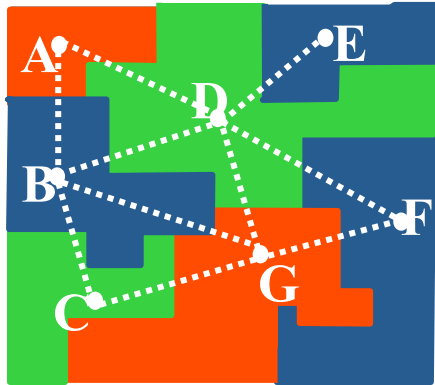
$X$	$Y$	$Z$
1	3	2
2	1	3

- Algebraic expression:  $X + Y^2 \leq 10, X \neq Y$
- Propositional formula:  $(a \vee b) \rightarrow \neg c$
- A decision tree, a procedure
- Semantics: by a relation



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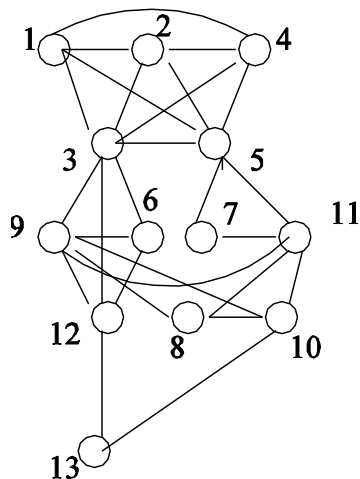


# Constraint Graphs:

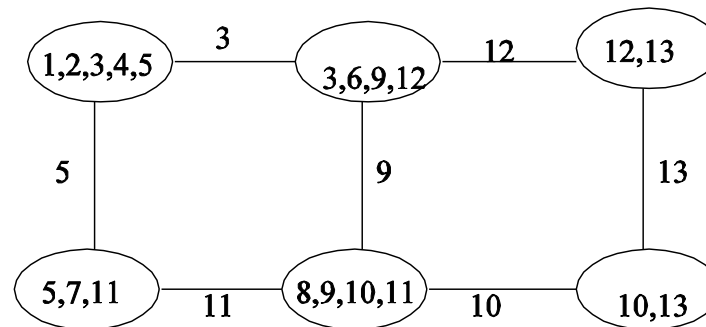
## Primal, Dual and Hypergraphs

- **A (primal) constraint graph:** a node per variable, arcs connect constrained variables.
- **A dual constraint graph:** a node per constraint's scope, an arc connect nodes sharing variables =hypergraph

1	2	3	4	5
		6		7
	8	9	10	11
		12	13	



(a)



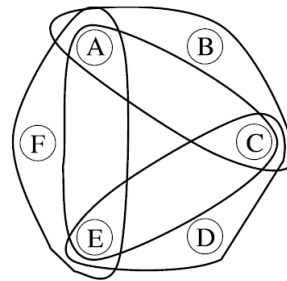
{HOSES, LASER, SHEET, SNAIL, STEER,  
ALSO, EARN, HIKE, IRON, SAME, EAT, LET,  
RUN, SUN, TEN, YES, BE, IT, NO, US}

(b)

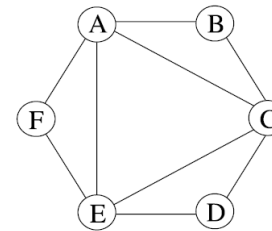
# Graph Concepts Reviews:

## Hyper Graphs and Dual Graphs

A hypergraph



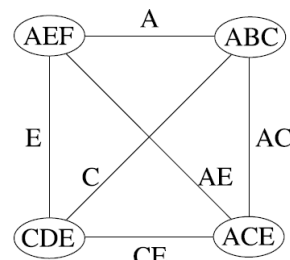
(a)



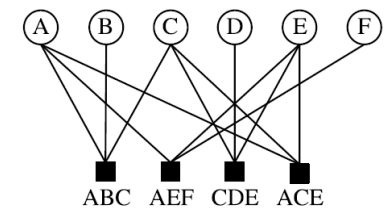
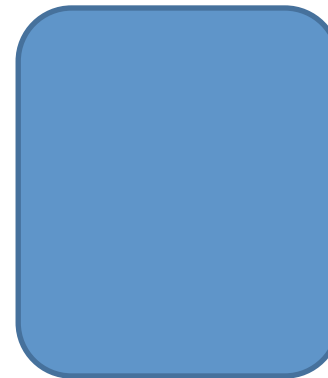
(b)

Primal graphs

Dual graph



(c)



(e)

Factor graphs

# Example: Cryptarithmic

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{TWO} \\ + \text{TWO} \\ \hline \text{FOUR} \end{array}$$

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

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

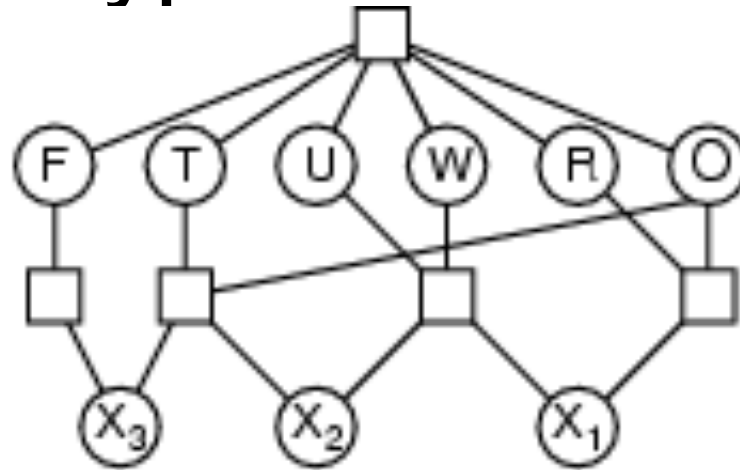
Constraints: *Alldiff* ( $F, T, U, W, R, O$ )

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

$$X_1 + W + W = U + 10 \cdot X_2$$

$$X_2 + T + T = O + 10 \cdot X_3$$

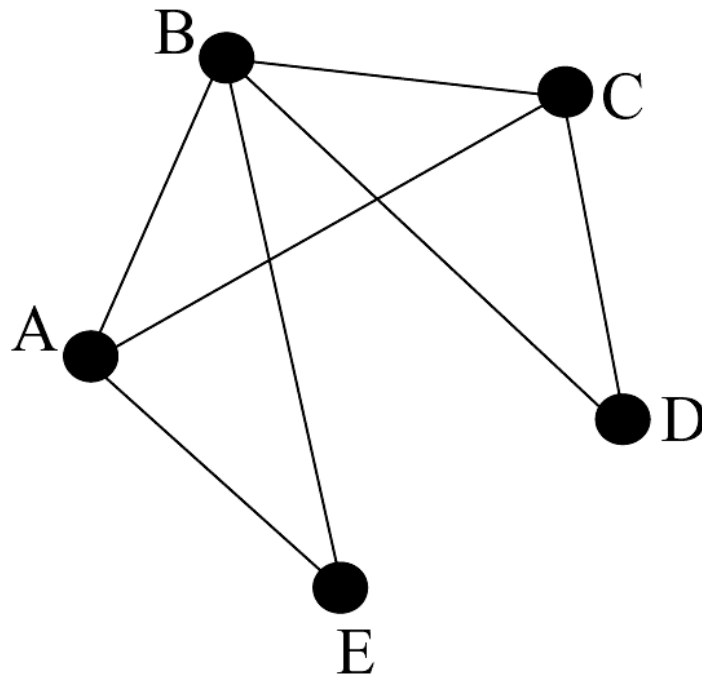
$$X_3 = F, T \neq 0, F \neq 0$$



What is the primal graph?  
 What is the dual graph?

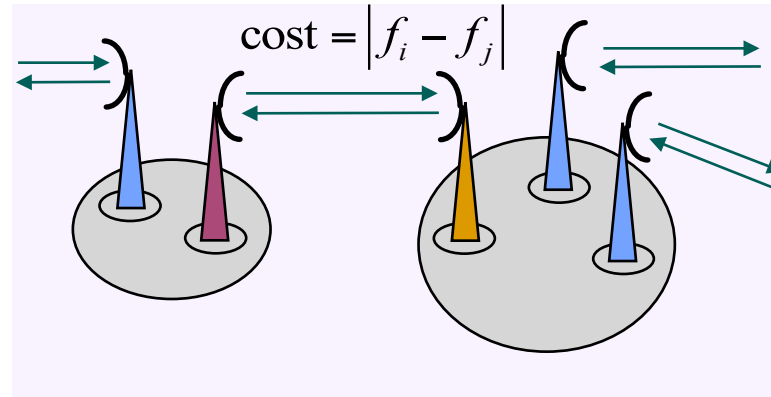
# Propositional Satisfiability

$$\varphi = \{(\neg C), (A \vee B \vee C), (\neg A \vee B \vee E), (\neg B \vee C \vee D)\}.$$



## Examples

### *Radio Link Assignment*



Given a telecommunication network (where each communication link has various antennas) , assign a frequency to each antenna in such a way that all antennas may operate together without noticeable interference.

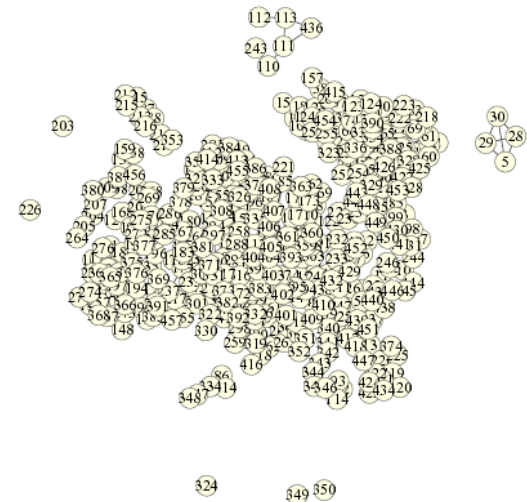
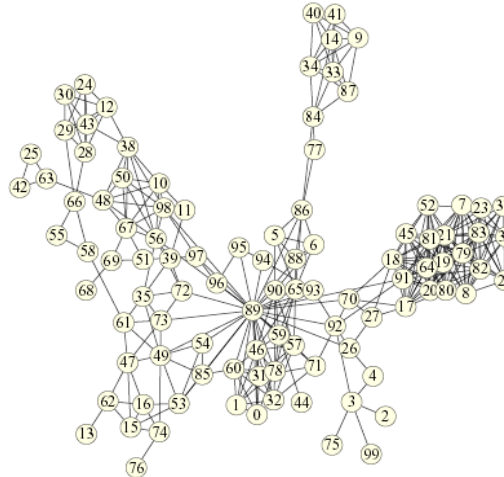
## Encoding?

Variables: one for each antenna

Domains: the set of available frequencies

Constraints: the ones referring to the antennas in the same communication link

# Constraint graphs of 3 instances of the Radio frequency assignment problem in CELAR's benchmark



## Examples

### *Scheduling problem*

Five tasks: T1, T2, T3, T4, T5

Each one takes one hour to complete

The tasks may start at 1:00, 2:00 or 3:00

Requirements:

T1 must start after T3

T3 must start before T4 and after T5

T2 cannot execute at the same time as T1 or T4

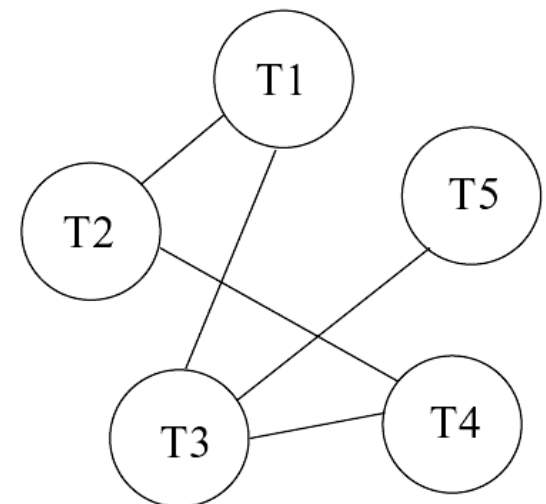
T4 cannot start at 2:00

### Encoding?

Variables: one for each task

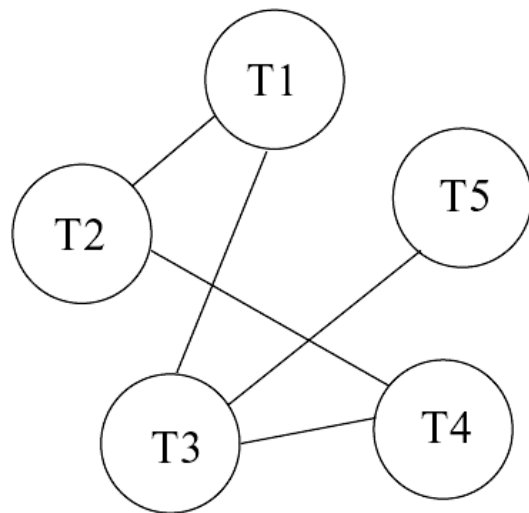
Domains:  $D_{T1} = D_{T2} = D_{T3} = D_{T4} = \{1:00, 2:00, 3:00\}$

Constraints:

$$\begin{array}{c} T4 \\ \hline 1:00 \\ 3:00 \end{array}$$




# The constraint graph and relations of scheduling problem



*Unary constraint*

$$D_{T_4} = \{1:00, 3:00\}$$

*Binary constraints*

$$R_{\{T_1, T_2\}}: \{(1:00, 2:00), (1:00, 3:00), (2:00, 1:00), (2:00, 3:00), (3:00, 1:00), (3:00, 2:00)\}$$

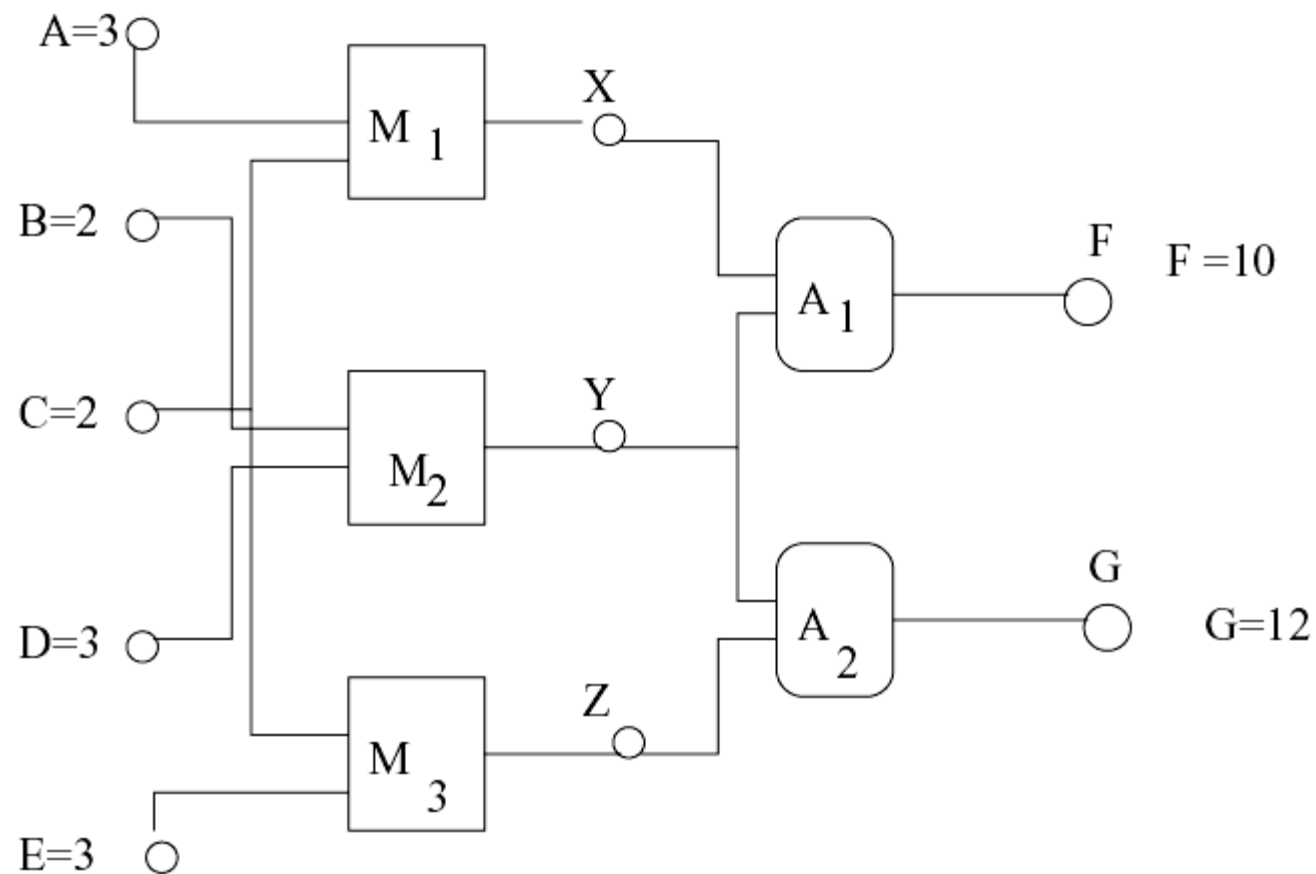
$$R_{\{T_1, T_3\}}: \{(2:00, 1:00), (3:00, 1:00), (3:00, 2:00)\}$$

$$R_{\{T_2, T_4\}}: \{(1:00, 2:00), (1:00, 3:00), (2:00, 1:00), (2:00, 3:00), (3:00, 1:00), (3:00, 2:00)\}$$

$$R_{\{T_3, T_4\}}: \{(1:00, 2:00), (1:00, 3:00), (2:00, 3:00)\}$$

$$R_{\{T_3, T_5\}}: \{(2:00, 1:00), (3:00, 1:00), (3:00, 2:00)\}$$

**A combinatorial circuit:  $M$  is a multiplier,  $A$  is an adder**



# More examples

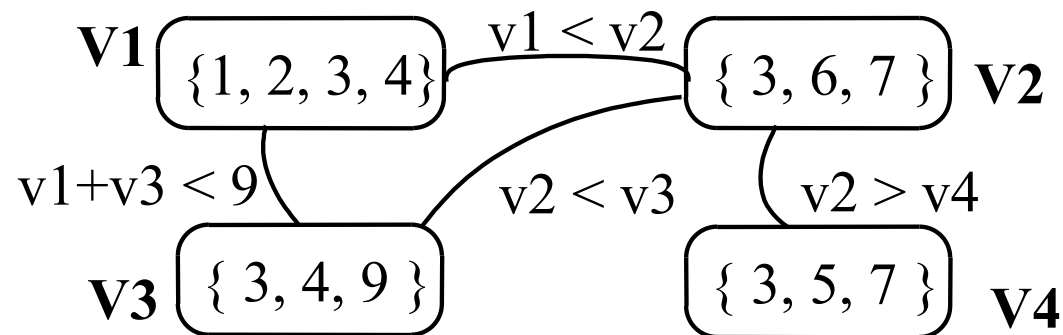
- Given  $P = (V, D, \mathcal{C})$ , where

$$V = \{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n\}$$

$$D = \{D_{V_1}, D_{V_2}, \dots, D_{V_n}\}$$

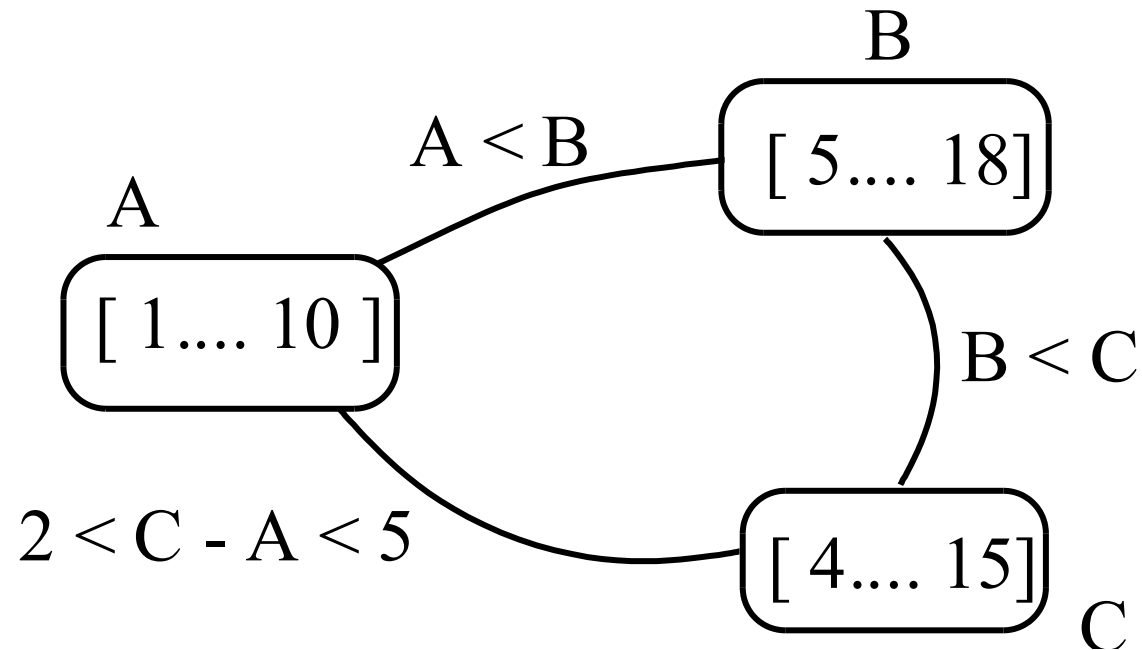
$$\mathcal{C} = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_l\}$$

## Example I:



- Define  $\mathcal{C}$  ?

## Example: Temporal Reasoning



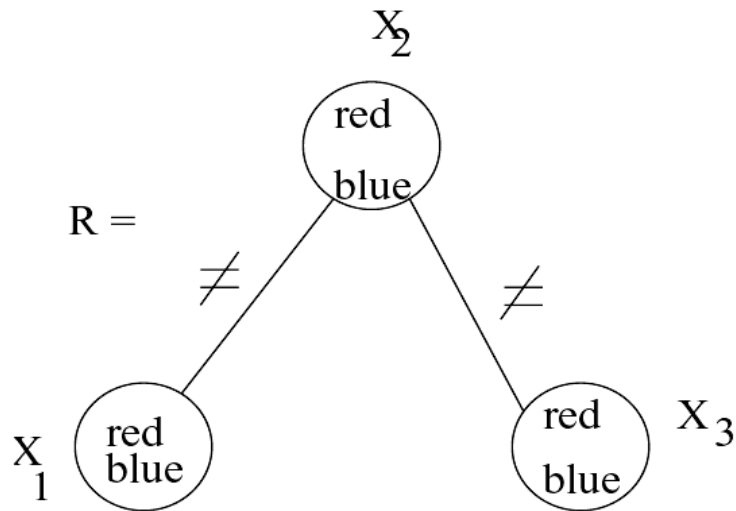
- Give one solution: .....
- Satisfaction, yes/no: decision problem

# Outline

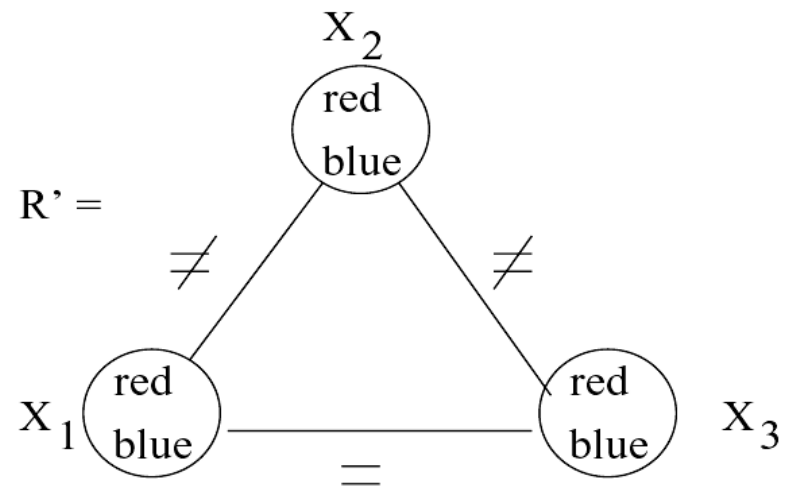
- ✓ Motivation, applications, history
- ✓ CSP: Definition, representation and simple modeling examples
- ✓ Mathematical concepts (relations, graphs)
- ✓ Representing constraints
- ✓ Constraint graphs
- ✓ **The binary Constraint Networks properties**

# Properties of Binary Constraint Networks

A graph  $\mathfrak{R}$  to be colored by two colors,  
an equivalent representation  $\mathfrak{R}'$  having a newly inferred constraint  
between  $x_1$  and  $x_3$ .



a



b

Equivalence and deduction with constraints (composition)

# Composition of relations (*Montanari'74*)

**Input:** two binary relations  $R_{ab}$  and  $R_{bc}$  with 1 variable in common.

**Output:** a new induced relation  $R_{ac}$  (to be combined by intersection to a pre-existing relation between them, if any).

**Bit-matrix operation:** matrix multiplication

$$R_{ac} = R_{ab} \cdot R_{bc}$$

$$R_{ab} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad R_{bc} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad R_{ac} = ?$$

# Equivalence, Redundancy, Composition

- Equivalence: Two constraint networks are equivalent if they have the same set of solutions.
- Composition in matrix notation
- $R_{xz} = R_{xy} \times R_{yz}$
- Composition in relational operation

$$R_{xz} = \pi_{xz} (R_{xy} \otimes R_{yz})$$



# Relations vs networks

- Can we represent by binary constraint networks the relations
- $R(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \{(0,0,0)(0,1,1)(1,0,1)(1,1,0)\}$
- $R(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = \{(1,0,0,0)(0,1,0,0)(0,0,1,0)(0,0,0,1)\}$
- Number of relations  $2^{(k^n)}$
- Number of networks:  $2^{((k^2)(n^2))}$
- Most relations cannot be represented by binary networks

# The minimal and projection networks

- The **projection network** of a relation is obtained by projecting it onto each pair of its variables (yielding a binary network).
- $Relation = \{(1,1,2)(1,2,2)(1,2,1)\}$ 
  - *What is the projection network?*
- What is the relationship between a relation and its projection network?
- $\{(1,1,2)(1,2,2)(2,1,3)(2,2,2)\}$ , solve its projection network?

# The N-queens constraint network.

The network has four variables, all with domains  $D_i = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ .

(a) The labeled chess board. (b) The constraints between variables.

	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$
1				
2				
3				
4				

(a)

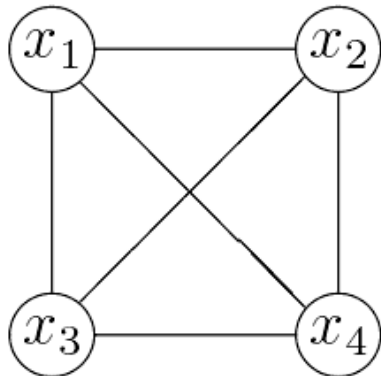
$$\begin{aligned}R_{12} &= \{(1,3), (1,4), (2,4), (3,1), (4,1), (4,2)\} \\R_{13} &= \{(1,2), (1,4), (2,1), (2,3), (3,2), (3,4), (4,1), (4,3)\} \\R_{14} &= \{(1,2), (1,3), (2,1), (2,3), (2,4), (3,1), (3,2), (3,4), \\&\quad (4,2), (4,3)\} \\R_{23} &= \{(1,3), (1,4), (2,4), (3,1), (4,1), (4,2)\} \\R_{24} &= \{(1,2), (1,4), (2,1), (2,3), (3,2), (3,4), (4,1), (4,3)\} \\R_{34} &= \{(1,3), (1,4), (2,4), (3,1), (4,1), (4,2)\}\end{aligned}$$

(b)

**The 4-queens constraint network:**

**(a) The constraint graph. (b) The minimal binary constraints.**

**(c) The minimal unary constraints (the domains).**



(a)

$$M_{12} = \{(2,4), (3,1)\}$$

$$M_{13} = \{(2,1), (3,4)\}$$

$$M_{14} = \{(2,3), (3,2)\}$$

$$M_{23} = \{(1,4), (4,1)\}$$

$$M_{24} = \{(1,2), (4,3)\}$$

$$M_{34} = \{(1,3), (4,2)\}$$

(b)

$$D_1 = \{1,3\}$$

$$D_2 = \{1,4\}$$

$$D_3 = \{1,4\}$$

$$D_4 = \{1,3\}$$

(c)

Solutions are: (2,4,1,3) (3,1,4,2)

# Projection network (continued)

- **Theorem:** *Every relation is included in the set of solutions of its projection network.*
- **Theorem:** *The projection network is the tightest upper bound binary networks representation of the relation.*

Therefore, If a network cannot be represented by its projection network it has no binary network representation

# Partial Order between networks, The Minimal Network

**Definition 2.3.10** *Given two binary networks,  $\mathcal{R}'$  and  $\mathcal{R}$ , on the same set of variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ ,  $\mathcal{R}'$  is at least as tight as  $\mathcal{R}$  iff for every  $i$  and  $j$ ,  $R'_{ij} \subseteq R_{ij}$ .*

- An intersection of two networks is tighter (as tight) than both
- An intersection of two equivalent networks is equivalent to both

**Definition 2.3.14** *Let  $\{\mathcal{R}_1, \dots, \mathcal{R}_l\}$  be the set of all networks equivalent to  $\mathcal{R}_0$  and let  $\rho = \text{sol}(\mathcal{R}_0)$ . Then the minimal network  $M$  of  $\mathcal{R}_0$  is defined by  $M(\mathcal{R}_0) = \bigcap_{i=1}^l \mathcal{R}_i$ .*

**Theorem 2.3.15** *For every binary network  $\mathcal{R}$  s.t.  $\rho = \text{sol}(\mathcal{R})$ ,  $M(\rho) = P(\rho)$ .*

# The N-queens constraint network.

The network has four variables, all with domains  $D_i = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ .

(a) The labeled chess board. (b) The constraints between variables.

	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$
1				
2				
3				
4				

(a)

$$R_{12} = \{(1,3), (1,4), (2,4), (3,1), (4,1), (4,2)\}$$

$$R_{13} = \{(1,2), (1,4), (2,1), (2,3), (3,2), (3,4), (4,1), (4,3)\}$$

$$R_{14} = \{(1,2), (1,3), (2,1), (2,3), (2,4), (3,1), (3,2), (3,4), (4,2), (4,3)\}$$

$$R_{23} = \{(1,3), (1,4), (2,4), (3,1), (4,1), (4,2)\}$$

$$R_{24} = \{(1,2), (1,4), (2,1), (2,3), (3,2), (3,4), (4,1), (4,3)\}$$

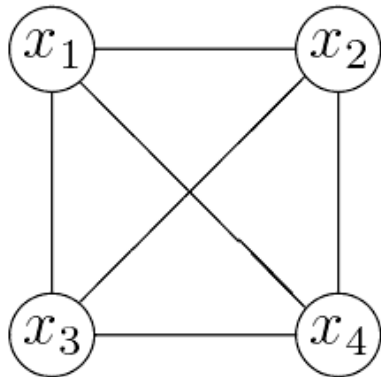
$$R_{34} = \{(1,3), (1,4), (2,4), (3,1), (4,1), (4,2)\}$$

(b)

**The 4-queens constraint network:**

**(a) The constraint graph. (b) The minimal binary constraints.**

**(c) The minimal unary constraints (the domains).**



(a)

$$M_{12} = \{(2,4), (3,1)\}$$

$$M_{13} = \{(2,1), (3,4)\}$$

$$M_{14} = \{(2,3), (3,2)\}$$

$$M_{23} = \{(1,4), (4,1)\}$$

$$M_{24} = \{(1,2), (4,3)\}$$

$$M_{34} = \{(1,3), (4,2)\}$$

(b)

$$D_1 = \{1,3\}$$

$$D_2 = \{1,4\}$$

$$D_3 = \{1,4\}$$

$$D_4 = \{1,3\}$$

(c)

Solutions are: (2,4,1,3) (3,1,4,2)



# The Minimal vs Binary decomposable networks

- The minimal network is perfectly explicit for binary and unary constraints:
  - Every pair of values permitted by the minimal constraint is in a solution.
- **Binary-decomposable networks:**
  - A network whose all projections are binary decomposable
  - Ex:  $(x,y,x,t) = \{(a,a,a,a)(a,b,b,b,)(b,b,a,c)\}$ :  
is binary representable? and what about its projection on  $x,y,z$ ?
  - Proposition: The minimal network represents fully binary-decomposable networks.