A First Practical Algorithm for High Levels of Relational Consistency

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A First Practical Algorithm for High Levels of Relational Consistency

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Outline

• Introduction
• Relational Consistency $R(*,m)C$ :
  – Definition, Naïve algorithm, Properties
• Preliminaries: Dual CSP
• Our Approach
  – Algorithm
  – Index-Tree Data Structure
  – Advantages
• A weakened version of $R(*,m)C$: $wR(*,m)C$
• Experimental Evaluations
• Conclusions & Future Work
Introduction

• Local consistency techniques are at the heart of solving CSPs
• Low level consistency properties such as GAC are easy to apply & are effective for many problems
• There are problems that require higher levels of consistency for finding a solution in a reasonable amount of time
• We present a practical algorithm for enforcing relational $m$-wise consistency: $R(*,m)C$
Definition of $R(\ast, m)C$

- A CSP is $R(\ast, m)C$ iff
  - Every tuple in a relation can be extended to the variables in the scope of any $(m-1)$ other relations in an assignment satisfying all $m$ relations simultaneously.
Naïve Algorithm for R(*,m)C

• R(*,m)C can be enforced on a CSP by
  – joining every combination of m relations and
  – projecting the product on the individual relations

\[
\forall R_i \in \{R_1, \ldots, R_m\}, R_i \leftarrow \pi_{\text{scope}(R_i)} (\Join_{j=1..m} R_j)
\]
Properties of $R(*,m)C$

- It does not change the structure of the constraint network
- $R(*,m)C \prec RmC$ [Dechter & van Beek ’97]
- It filters the relations by removing tuples
- It is parameterized
  - We can control the level of consistency ($m$)
Preliminaries

• The **dual graph** of a CSP is a graph where
  – The nodes represent the relations
  – The edges are added between two relations with at least one common variable

\[ m = 3 \]

• **Connected combination** of \( m \) relations is a set of relations that induce a connected component in the dual graph
The Induced Dual CSP

- Consider $\omega = \{R_1, R_2, ..., R_m\}$ a set of $m$ relations
- $P_\omega$ is the dual CSP **induced** by $\omega$ where
  - The dual variables represent the $m$ relations
  - The domains are the tuples of the relations $R_i$
  - The constraints in $P_\omega$ are binary & enforce equality on the CSP variables shared by the two relations
Enforcing R(*,m)C on the Induced Dual CSP $P_\omega$

For each $\tau$ in $R$

Assign $\tau$ as a value for $R$

Solve $P_\omega$ (with $\tau$ fixed) with forward checking

If no solution found: delete $\tau$

Add $<\omega', R'>$ to $Q$: $R_i \neq R'$, $R_i \in \omega'$ and $R' \in \omega'$
Index-Tree Data Structure

• When solving $P_\omega$, for a tuple $\tau$, Forward checking requires identifying all tuples matching $\tau$ in the neighboring relations

• We propose a new data structure: index-tree
  – Given a tuple $\tau$ of $R_1$ and a relation $R_2$
  – Identifies all the tuples of $R_2$ that match $\tau
Advantages of Our Approach

• The memory requirement of the operation

\[ \forall R_i \in \{R_1, ..., R_m\}, R_i = \pi_{\text{scope}(R_i)} (\Join_{j=1...m} R_j) \]

– \(O(t^m)\), \(t\): max number of tuples in a relation
– For relations with 10,000 tuples, enforcing \(R(*,3)C\) requires in the order of 1TB of memory

• With our approach, the memory requirement is dominated by the index-tree structures

– \(O(kte^2)\), \(k\): max arity of relations, \(e\): number of relations
– While slightly decreasing the time complexity
Weakening Relational Consistency: \( wR(\ast,m)C \)

- Some edges are redundant for \( m=2 \)
- Removing them reduces the number of combinations
- For \( m>2 \), removal of these edges weakens \( R(\ast,m)C \)
- Example
  - Assume that no assignment satisfies variables A, B & C simultaneously
  - To detect this inconsistency, need to consider \( R_1R_2R_4 \) simultaneously
  - This inconsistency is not detected because we removed the combination \( R_1R_2R_4 \)
$R(*,m)C$ versus $wR(*,m)C$

$R(*,m)C$ is defined for $m \geq 2$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$m$</th>
<th>$R(*,m)C$ is defined for $m \geq 2$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$m = 2$</td>
<td>$R(<em>,2)C \equiv wR(</em>,2)C$ [Janssen+ ‘89]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$m &gt; 2$</td>
<td>$R(<em>,2)C \prec wR(</em>,m)C \prec R(*,m)C$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| $m < n$ | $R(*,m)C \prec R(*,n)C$  
          | $wR(*,m)C \prec wR(*,n)C$ |

$A \prec B$: $A$ is strictly weaker than $B$
## Experimental Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Algorithm</th>
<th>#Nodes Visited</th>
<th>Time [sec]</th>
<th>#Completed in 1 hour</th>
<th>#Fastest</th>
<th>#Backtrack Free</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>modifiedRenault</td>
<td>GAC</td>
<td>1,324,309.8</td>
<td>402.44</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max #tuples: 48,721</td>
<td>maxRPWC</td>
<td>2,110.8</td>
<td>305.37</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wR(*,2)C</td>
<td>192.5</td>
<td>2.99</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>41/50</td>
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<tr>
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<td>wR(*,3)C</td>
<td>82.5</td>
<td>7.55</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>48/50</td>
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<td>wR(*,4)C</td>
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<td>33.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>rand-8-20-5</td>
<td>GAC</td>
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<td>1,795.26</td>
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<td>Max #tuples: 78,799</td>
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<td>Max #tuples: 150,000</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>wR(*,2)C</td>
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<tr>
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<td>wR(*,3)C</td>
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<td>wR(*,4)C</td>
<td>443.8</td>
<td>240.13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions & Future Work

• We studied the relational consistency property $R(\ast,m)C$
  – Proposed a weaker variant $wR(\ast,m)C$
  – Presented a parameterized algorithm for enforcing it
  – Designed a new data structure (index tree) for efficiently checking the consistency of tuples between two relations
  – Evaluated it against GAC & maxRPWC

• Future work:
  – Handle relations defined as conflicts or in intension by domain filtering
  – Automatically identify the appropriate consistency level
  – Use $R(\ast,m)C$ in a solver to identify tractable classes of CSPs
Thank You for Your Attention

Questions?