

DM826 – Spring 2011  
Modeling and Solving Constrained Optimization Problems

Lecture 11  
**Global Variables**

Marco Chiarandini

Department of Mathematics & Computer Science  
University of Southern Denmark

- Modelling in IP and CP
- Global constraints
- Local consistency notions
- Filtering algorithms for global constraints
- Search
- Symmetries
- Set variables
- Integrated/Advanced Approaches:
  - Branch and price
  - Logic-based Benders decomposition
- Scheduling

**Global variables:** complex variable types representing combinatorial structures in which problems find their most natural formulation

Eg:

sets, multisets, strings, functions, graphs

bin packing, set partitioning, mapping problems

We will see:

- Set variables
- Graph variables

1. Global Variables

2. Graph Variables

- A finite-domain integer variable takes values from a finite set of integers.
- A finite-domain set variable takes values from the power set of a finite set of integers.

Eg.:

domain of  $x$  is the set of subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ :

$\{\{\}, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}$

# Finite-Set Variables

Recall the shift-assignment problem

We have a lower and an upper bound on the number of shifts that each worker is to staff (symmetric cardinality constraint)

- one variable for each worker that takes as value the **set** of shifts covered by the worker.  $\rightsquigarrow$  exponential number of values
- **set variables** with domain  $D(x) = [lb(x), ub(x)]$   
 $D(x)$  consists of only two sets:
  - $lb(x)$  **mandatory elements**
  - $ub(x) \setminus lb(x)$  of **possible elements**

The value assigned to  $x$  should be a set  $s(x)$  such that  
 $lb \subseteq s(x) \subseteq ub(x)$

In practice good to keep dual views with channelling

# Finite-Set Variables

Example:

domain of  $x$  is the set of subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ :

$$\{\{\}, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}$$

can be represented in space-efficient way by:

$$[\{\}.. \{1, 2, 3\}]$$

The representation is however an approximation!

Example:

domain of  $x$  is the set of subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ :

$$\{\{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}\}$$

cannot be captured exactly by an interval. The closest interval would be still:

$$[\{\}.. \{1, 2, 3\}]$$

↪ we store additionally cardinality bounds:  $\#[i..j]$

# Set Variables

## Definition

set variable is a variable with domain  $D(x) = [lb(x), ub(x)]$

$D(x)$  consists of only two sets:

- $lb(x)$  mandatory elements (intersection of all subsets)
- $ub(x) \setminus lb(x)$  of possible elements (union of all subsets)

The value assigned to  $x$  must be a set  $s(x)$  such that  $lb \subseteq s(x) \subseteq ub(x)$

We are not interested in domain consistency but in bound consistency:

## Enforcing bound consistency

A bound consistency for a constraint  $C$  defined on a set variable  $x$  requires that we:

- Remove a value  $v$  from  $ub(x)$  if there is no solution to  $C$  in which  $v \in s(x)$ .
- Include a value  $v \in ub(x)$  in  $lb(x)$  if in all solutions to  $C$ ,  $v \in s(x)$ .



```
import cotfd;  
Solver cp();  
var<CP>{set{int}} S(cp,1..5,2..4);  
var<CP>{set{int}} S1(cp,{3,5,7,8,9},2..4);
```

*lb(x)* cannot be specified. It can be stated in the CP model.

```
boolean bound();  
set{int} getValue();  
set{int} evalIntSet();  
  
var<CP>{int} getCardinalityVariable();  
set{int} getRequiredSet(); //lb(x)  
set{int} getPossibleSet(); //ub(x)  
boolean isRequired(int v);  
boolean isExcluded(int v);
```

```
import cotfd;
Solver<CP> cp();
var<CP>{set{int}} S(cp,1..5,2..4);
cp.post(S.getCardinalityVariable()!=3);
cp.post(requiresValue(S,3));
cp.post(excludesValue(S,2));
cout << S.getRequiredSet() << endl;
cout << S.getPossibleSet() << endl;
cout << S.isRequired(4) << endl;
cout << S.isExcluded(2) << endl;
```

What are the possible values of the variable  $S$ ?

And the state of the variable  $S$ ?

$((1)\{3\}, (1)\{2\}, (4)\{1,3,4,5\} \mid (\text{DOM}:2)[2,4])$

In addition, create variables on the presence of values:

```
var<CP>{boolean}  
var<CP>{boolean}  
boolean  
boolean  
getRequired(int v);  
getExcluded(int v);  
hasRequiredVariable(int v);  
hasExcludedVariable(int v);
```

# Constraints on FS variables

## Basic operations

```
cp.post(S1==S2);  
cp.post(subset(S1,S2));  
cp.post(setunion(S1,S2,RES));  
cp.post(setinter(S1,S2,RES));  
cp.post(setdifference(S1,S2,RES));
```

```
RES = setunion(S1,S2);  
RES = setinter(S1,S2);  
RES = setdifference(S1,S2);
```

# Constraints on FS variables

## Set cardinality

```
cp.post(cardinality(S1,k));  
cp.post(S1.getCardinalityVariable() !=k);
```

```
cp.post(atleastIntersection(S1,S2,k));  
cp.post(atmostIntersection(S1,S2,k));  
cp.post(exactIntersection(S1,S2,k));
```

```
cp.post(disjoint(S1,S2));  
cp.post(allDisjoint(SA));
```

where S1 and S2 are set variables and SA is an array of set variables.

# Constraints on FS variables

## Requirement and exclusion constraints

```
cp.post(requiresValue(S,k1));  
cp.post(excludesValue(S,k2));
```

```
cp.post(requiresVariable(S,x1));  
cp.post(excludesVariable(S,x2));
```

# Constraints on FS variables

## Channeling constraints

$SA_1$  and  $SA_2$  two arrays of set variables

```
cp.post(channeling(SA1,SA2));
```

$$SA_1[i] = s \iff \forall j \in s : i \in SA_2[j]$$

$$SA_1[i] = \{j \mid SA_2[j] \text{ contains } i\}$$

$$SA_2[j] = \{i \mid SA_1[i] \text{ contains } j\}$$

Example:

$$SA_1 = [\{1,2\}, \{3\}, \{1,2\}]$$

$$SA_2 = [\{1,3\}, \{1,3\}, \{2\}]$$

# Constraints on FS variables

## Channeling constraints

$SA$  an array of set variables,  $X$  an array of integer variables

```
cp.post(channeling(SA,X));
```

$$SA[i] = s \iff \forall j \in s : X[j] = i$$

$SA = [\{1,2\},\{3\}]$

$X = [1,1,2]$



# Constraints on FS variables

## Set Global Cardinality

bounds the minimum and maximum number of occurrences of an element in an array of set variables:

$$\forall v \in U : l_v \leq |S_v| \leq u_v$$

where  $S_v$  is the set of set variables that contain the element  $v$ , i.e.,  
 $S_v = \{s \in S : v \in s\}$

```
cp.post(setGlobalCardinality(l,SA,u));
```

**Table 1.** Intersection  $\times$  Cardinality.

$\forall k \dots$	$\forall i < j \dots$			
	$ X_i \cap X_j  = 0$	$ X_i \cap X_j  \leq k$	$ X_i \cap X_j  \geq k$	$ X_i \cap X_j  = k$
-	Disjoint polynomial <i>decomposable</i>	Intersect $\leq$ polynomial <i>decomposable</i>	Intersect $\geq$ polynomial <i>decomposable</i>	Intersect $=$ NP-hard <i>not decomposable</i>
$ X_k  > 0$	NEDisjoint polynomial <i>not decomposable</i>	NEIntersect $\leq$ polynomial <i>decomposable</i>	NEIntersect $\geq$ polynomial <i>decomposable</i>	FCIntersect $=$ NP-hard <i>not decomposable</i>
$ X_k  = m_k$	FCDisjoint poly on sets, NP-hard on multisets <i>not decomposable</i>	FCIntersect $\leq$ NP-hard <i>not decomposable</i>	FCIntersect $\geq$ NP-hard <i>not decomposable</i>	NEIntersect $=$ NP-hard <i>not decomposable</i>

**Table 2.** Partition + Intersection  $\times$  Cardinality.

$\forall k \dots$	$\bigcup_i X_i = X \wedge \forall i < j \dots$			
	$ X_i \cap X_j  = 0$	$ X_i \cap X_j  \leq k$	$ X_i \cap X_j  \geq k$	$ X_i \cap X_j  = k$
-	Partition: polynomial <i>decomposable</i>	?	?	?
$ X_k  > 0$	NEPartition: polynomial <i>not decomposable</i>	?	?	?
$ X_k  = m_k$	FCPartition polynomial on sets, NP-hard on multisets <i>not decomposable</i>	?	?	?

Optical fiber network design

## Sonet problem

**Input:** weighted undirected demand graph  $G = (N, E; d)$ , where each node  $u \in N$  represents a **client** and weighted edges  $(u, v) \in E$  correspond to **traffic demands** of a pair of clients.

Two nodes can communicate, only if they join the same **ring**; nodes may join more than one ring. We must respect:

- maximum number of rings  $r$
- maximum number of clients per ring  $a$
- maximum bandwidth capacity of each ring  $c$

**Task:** find a topology that minimizes the sum, over all rings, of the number of nodes that join each ring while clients' traffic demands are met.

## Sonet problem

A solution of the SONET problem is an assignment of rings to nodes and of capacity to demands such that

- all demands of each client pairs are satisfied;
- the ring traffic does not exceed the bandwidth capacity;
- at most  $r$  rings are used;
- at most  $a$  ADMs on each ring;
- the total number of ADMs used is minimized.

- Set variable  $X_i$  represents the set of nodes assigned to ring  $i$
- Set variable  $Y_u$  represents the set of rings assigned to node  $u$
- Integer variable  $Z_{ie}$  represents the amount of bandwidth assigned to demand pair  $e$  on ring  $i$ .

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \min & \sum_{i \in R} |X_i| \\
 \text{s.t.} & |Y_u \cap Y_v| \geq 1, & \forall (u, v) \in E, \\
 & Z_{i,(u,v)} > 0 \Rightarrow i \in (Y_u \cap Y_v), & \forall i \in R, (u, v) \in E, \\
 & Z_{ie} = d(e), & \forall e \in E, \\
 & u \in X_i \Leftrightarrow i \in Y_u, & \forall e \in R, u \in N, \\
 & |X_i| \leq a, & \forall i \in R \\
 & \sum_{e \in E} Z_{ie} \leq c, & \forall i \in R. \\
 & X_i \preceq X_j, & \forall i, j \in R : i < j.
 \end{array}$$

1. Global Variables

2. Graph Variables

# Graph Variables

## Definition

A **graph variable** is simply two set variables  $V$  and  $E$ , with an inherent constraint  $E \subseteq V \times V$ .

Hence, the domain  $D(G) = [lb(G), ub(G)]$  of a graph variable  $G$  consists of:

- **mandatory** vertices and edges  $lb(G)$  (**the lower bound graph**) and
- **possible** vertices and edges  $ub(G) \setminus lb(G)$  (**the upper bound graph**).

The value assigned to the variable  $G$  must be a subgraph of  $ub(G)$  and a super graph of the  $lb(G)$ .



Graph variables are convenient for possibility of efficient filtering algorithms

Example:

## Subgraph( $G, S$ )

specifies that  $S$  is a subgraph of  $G$ . Computing **bound consistency** for the subgraph constraint means the following:

1. If  $lb(S)$  is not a subgraph of  $ub(G)$ , the constraint has no solution (**consistency check**).
2. For each  $e \in ub(G) \cap lb(S)$ , **include**  $e$  in  $lb(G)$ .
3. For each  $e \in ub(S) \setminus ub(G)$ , **remove**  $e$  from  $ub(S)$ .

# Constraint on Graph Variables

- **Tree constraint:** enforces the partitioning of a digraph into a set of vertex-disjoint anti-arborescences. (see, [Beldiceanu2005])
- **Weighted Spanning Tree constraint:** given a weighted undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$  and a weight  $K$ , the constraint enforces that  $T$  is a spanning tree of cost at most  $K$  (see, [Regin2008,2010] and its application to the TSP [Rousseau2010]).
- **Shorter Path constraint:** given a weighted directed graph  $G = (N, A)$  and a weight  $K$ , the constraint specifies that  $P$  is a subset of  $G$ , corresponding to a path of cost at most  $K$ . (see, [Sellmann2003, Gellermann2005])
- (Weighted) **Clique Constraint**, (see, [Regin2003]).

- Bessiere C., Hebrard E., Hnich B., and Walsh T. (2004). **Disjoint, partition and intersection constraints for set and multiset variables**. In *Principles and Practice of Constraint Programming – CP 2004*, edited by M. Wallace, vol. 3258 of **Lecture Notes in Computer Science**, pp. 138–152. Springer Berlin / Heidelberg.
- Gervet C. (2006). **Constraints over structured domains**. In *Handbook of Constraint Programming*, edited by F. Rossi, P. van Beek, and T. Walsh, chap. 10, pp. 329–376. Elsevier.
- van Hoeve W. and Katriel I. (2006). **Global constraints**. In *Handbook of Constraint Programming*, chap. 6. Elsevier.