

Solving edge CSP with even delta-matroid constraints

Alexandr Kazda, Vladimir Kolmogorov, and Michal Rolínek

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Boolean Constraint Satisfaction Problem

- A finite set of variables V ...
- ...to which we want to assign values 0 or 1...
- ...so that a set \mathcal{C} of constraints is satisfied.
- Examples: Graph 2-coloring, linear equations over \mathbb{Z}_2 , 3-SAT, finding a perfect matching in a graph, ...

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Perfect matchings

- Given a set of edges V and a set of vertices \mathcal{C}
- Goal: Find $f: V \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ that is a **perfect matching**:

$\forall C \in \mathcal{C}$ we have 

- Poly-time algorithm by Jack Edmonds (1965).
- Strategy: Start with an empty matching and keep improving it.

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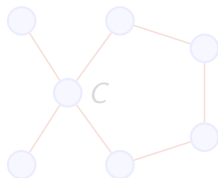
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Boolean edge CSP

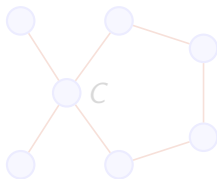
- Boolean CSP where each variable appears in exactly two constraints.
- Constraints = vertices, variables = edges:



$$C = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \\ \text{blue} \\ \text{red} \end{array} \right\}, \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{green} \\ \text{green} \\ \text{blue} \\ \text{green} \end{array} \right\}, \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{green} \\ \text{red} \\ \text{blue} \\ \text{green} \end{array} \right\}, \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{green} \\ \text{green} \\ \text{blue} \\ \text{green} \end{array} \right\} \right\}$$

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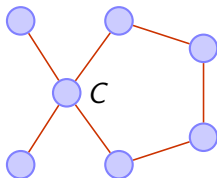
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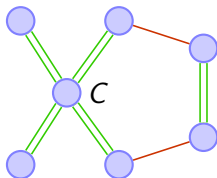
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- T. Feder, 2001: Edge CSP is only interesting when all constraint relations are Δ -matroids (if we have constants).
- A (nonempty) relation $M \subset \{0, 1\}^n$ is a Δ -matroid if it satisfies a certain exchange axiom.
- Previous algorithms for special classes of Δ -matroids: co-independent (Feder, 2001), compact (Istrate, 1997), local (Dalmau and Ford, 2003), binary (Geelen, Iwata and Murota, 2003; Dalmau and Ford, 2003).
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- M is an even Δ -matroid if $M \subset \{0, 1\}^n$, all members of M have same parity and M satisfies this **exchange axiom**:
- The result of switching the two positions in the second tuple needs to stay within M .
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Solving edge CSP for even Δ -matroids

- Similar to perfect matchings in graphs, but much more delicate.
- Label variables with 0s and 1s, some variables inconsistent.
- Exchange axiom \Rightarrow we can walk.
- Want: Augmenting walk from one inconsistent variable to another.
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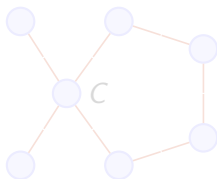
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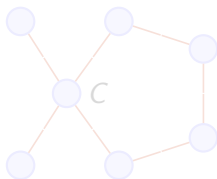
- Explore the instance starting from inconsistent variables.
- If we don't reach any variable from both directions, everything is easy.



$$C = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \text{green} \\ \text{green} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{c} \text{green} \\ \text{green} \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \text{green} \\ \text{green} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{c} \text{green} \\ \text{green} \end{array} \right\}$$

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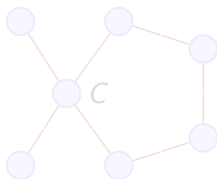
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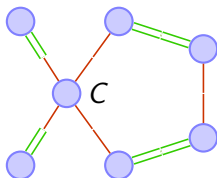
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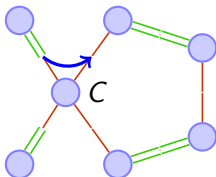
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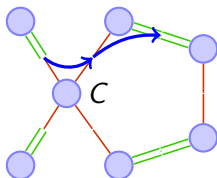
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Example

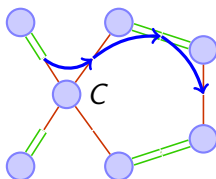
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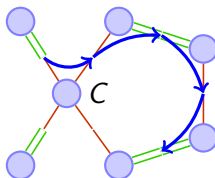
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$$C = \{ \text{red X}, \text{green X}, \text{red X}, \text{green X} \}$$

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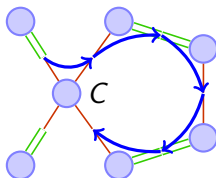
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$$C = \{ \text{node with 2 red edges}, \text{node with 2 green edges}, \text{node with 1 red and 1 green edge}, \text{node with 4 green edges} \}$$

Example

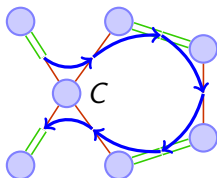
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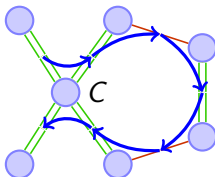
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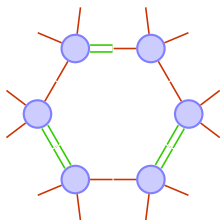
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Contracting blossoms

- If we can reach a variable from both sides, we have a blossom.
- If that happens we **contract the blossom** and recursively solve a “smaller” edge CSP instance.
- Example:
- Proving correctness requires work (eg. keeping track of the order in which we visited variables).

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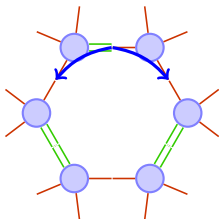
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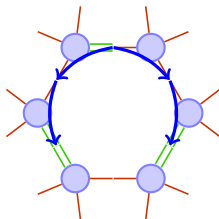
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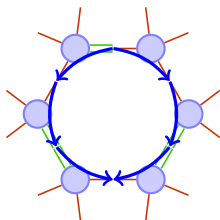
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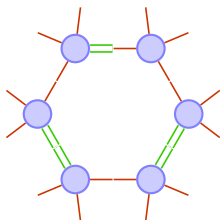
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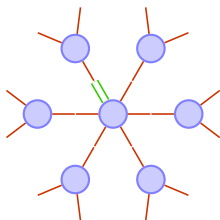
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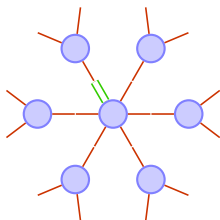
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- Proving correctness requires work (eg. keeping track of the order in which we visited variables).

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Open problems

- How to find a solution of minimal cost?
- We can handle **effectively coverable** Δ -matroids \supseteq previously known tractable classes.
- Algorithm for general Δ -matroids?
- Generalization to value sets larger than 2?
- Where is the algebraic approach hiding?!

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Thank you for your attention.