



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI
FACULTY OF SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
PHD THESIS

IMPLICIT HITTING SET ALGORITHMS FOR **CONSTRAINT OPTIMIZATION**

PAUL SAIKKO

What?

Implicit Hitting Set Algorithms for Constraint Optimization

What?

Implicit Hitting Set Algorithms for Constraint Optimization

Algorithms

Focus of the thesis

Design, implement, and evaluate *algorithms*.

Algorithm

A sequence of instructions that solves a class of problems.

Problems

Decision

Are there any solutions?

Optimization

Find a best solution, for example:

- ▶ Fastest route
- ▶ Most efficient schedule
- ▶ Most probable cause
- ▶ etc...

Complexity

This thesis: Optimization when the corresponding decision problem is NP-complete (or harder)

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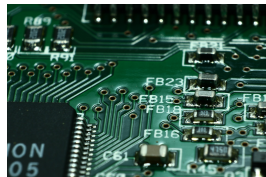
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Complexity

This thesis: Optimization when the corresponding decision problem is NP-complete (or harder)

Applications

- ▶ Route planning:
e.g. autonomous vehicles in warehouses
- ▶ Scheduling:
e.g. assigning terminals, timeslots, or runways for air traffic
- ▶ Hardware design:
e.g. chip layout optimization



Declarative Approach

Alternative to special-purpose algorithms:

1. **Model** problem in a constraint language as a *set of constraints*
2. **Solve** using a generic algorithm (solver) for that constraint language
3. **Reconstruct** a solution for the original problem

Benefits

- ▶ Easy to refine and extend problem definition
- ▶ Solver development benefits many different problem domains

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Constraint Languages

Many approaches to model and solve constrained optimization problems:

- ▶ Integer and linear programming (ILP / LP)
- ▶ Finite-domain constraint satisfaction/optimization (CP)
- ▶ Boolean satisfiability (SAT)
- ▶ Satisfiability modulo theories (SMT)
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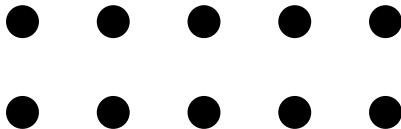
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Implicit Hitting Set Algorithms for Constraint Optimization

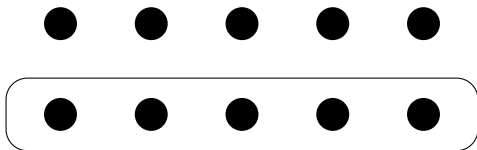
Hitting Sets

- ▶ Set of elements: circles



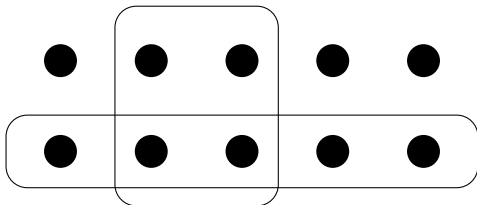
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- ▶ Set of elements: circles
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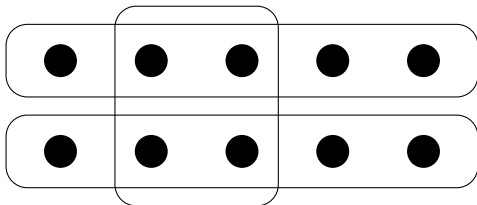
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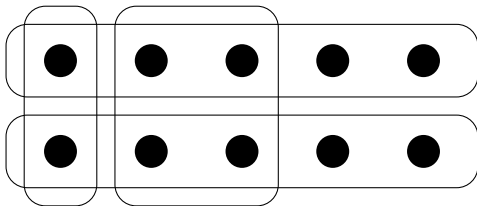
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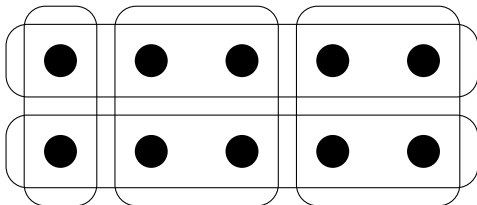
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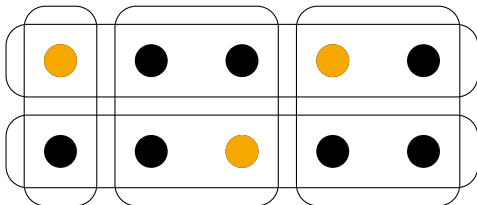
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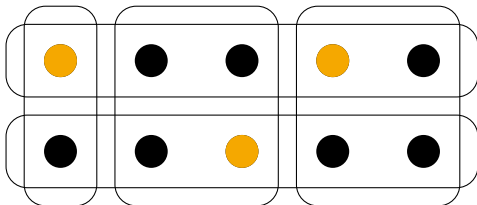
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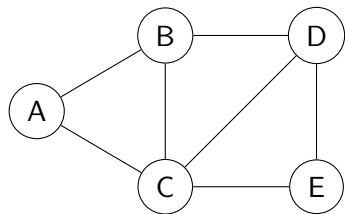
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NP-hard problem: Find smallest or minimum-cost hitting set

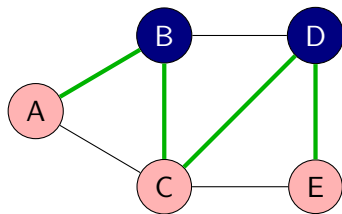
Optimizing with Hitting Sets



Max Cut

Partition vertices into two sets, maximizing the number of edges between them.

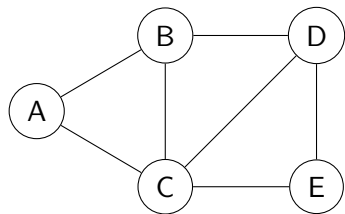
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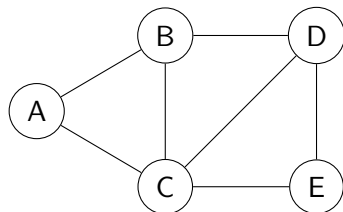
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For each edge: endpoints in different partitions (e.g. " $A \neq B$ ")

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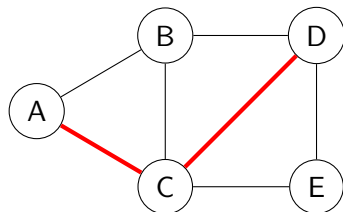
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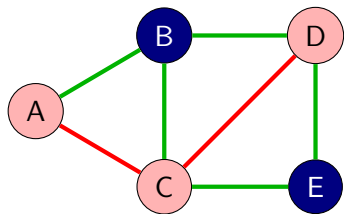
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Hitting Set

$A \neq C$ and $C \neq D$

Optimizing with Hitting Sets



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Generalizing

- ▶ **Core:** A subset of constraints that cannot be simultaneously satisfied
- ▶ A **solution** must leave out a part of each core
- ▶ Unsatisfied constraints form a **hitting set** of the set of all cores
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Developing a Viable Approach

- ▶ Finding even one core is often a complex task.
(We need to solve NP-complete problems)
- ▶ Problem can have exponential number of cores.
(Even in the simple Max Cut example)
- ▶ Can we find a hitting set of all cores *without knowing all cores?*

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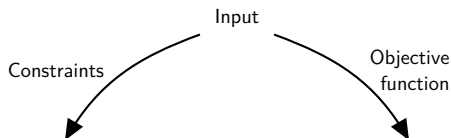
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Implicit Hitting Set Algorithms

- ▶ Alternate between finding cores and computing hitting sets
- ▶ Solve hitting set problems with e.g. integer programming
- ▶ Find cores with a solver for the corresponding decision problem

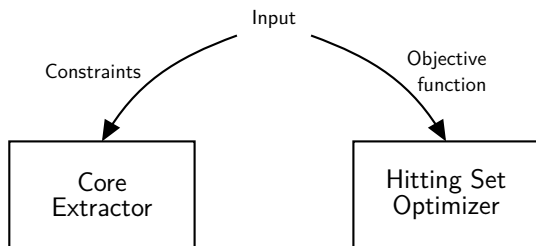
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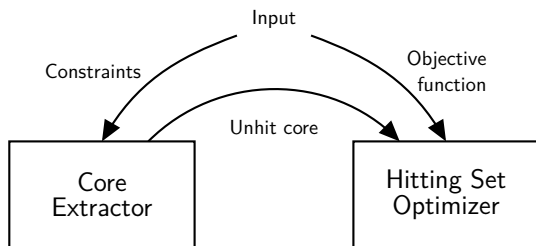
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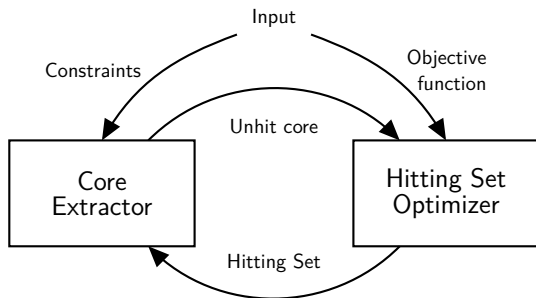
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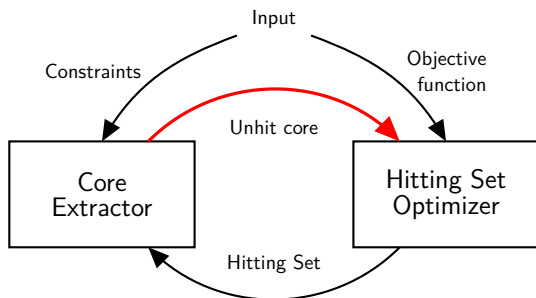
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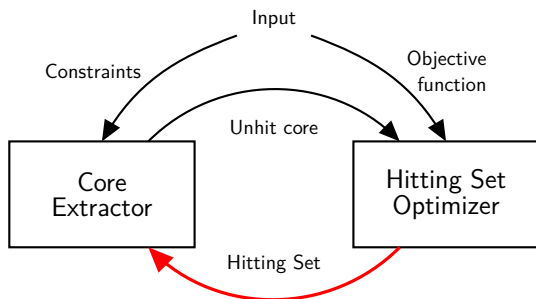
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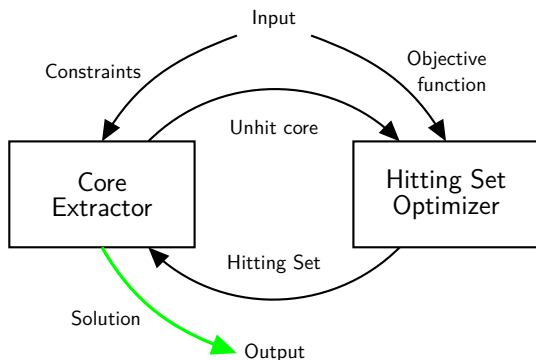
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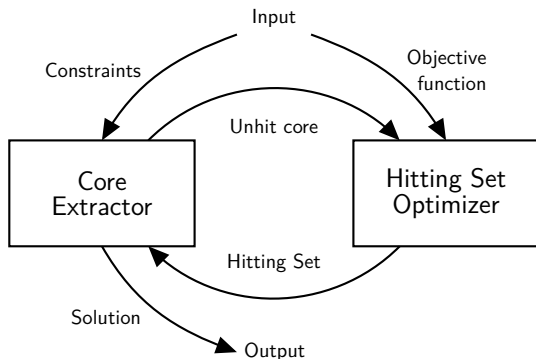
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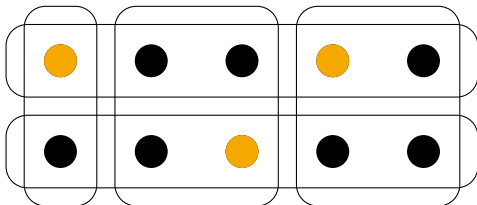


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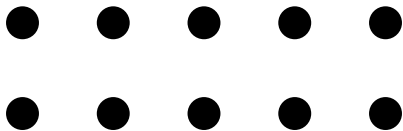
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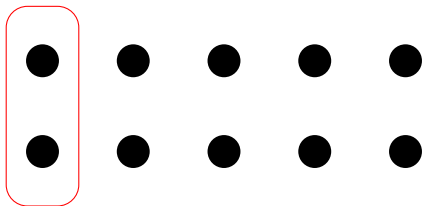
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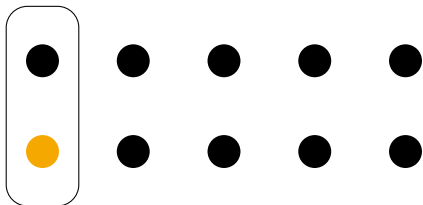
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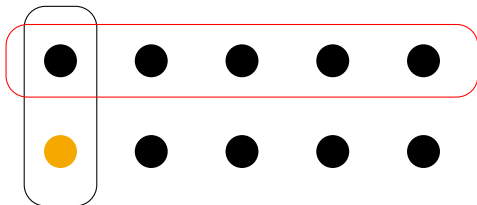
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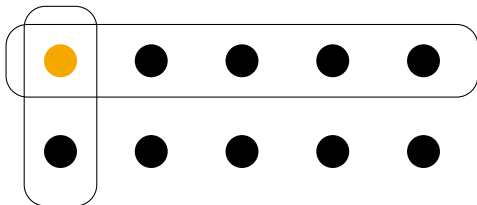
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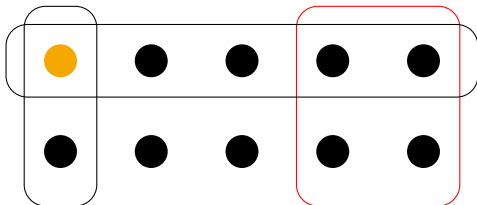
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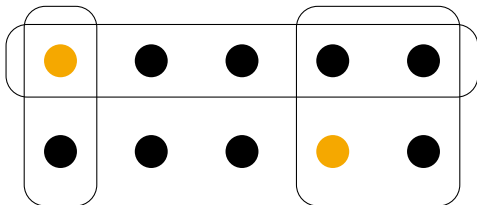
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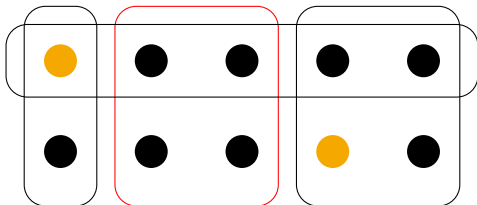
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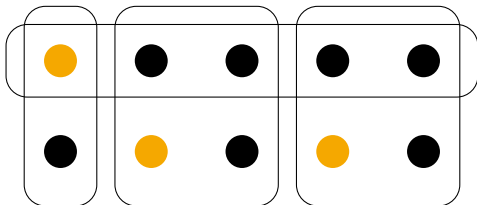
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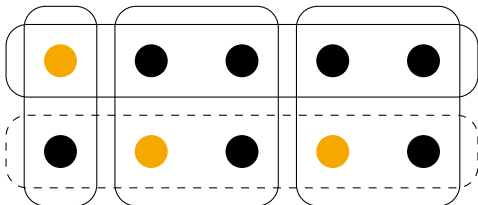
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Instantiations of the IHS algorithms to 4 constraint optimization domains:

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IHS for Constraint Languages

General purpose constraint optimization languages

- ▶ Applications in various domains

MaxSAT

- ▶ Constraints: CNF clauses " $l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_n$ "
- ▶ Core extractor: SAT solver (NP-complete)

Answer set optimization

- ▶ Constraints: inference rules " $p_1 \vee \dots \vee p_m \leftarrow l_1 \wedge \dots \wedge l_n$ "
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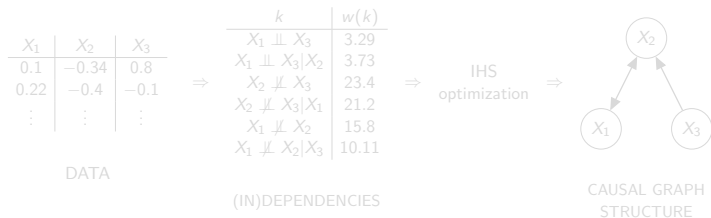
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Causal Structure Learning

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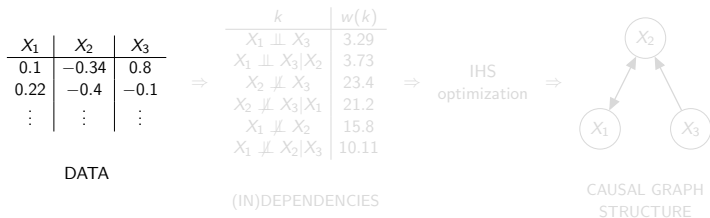
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3. Constraint encoding of d-separation conditions
4. Computing *globally optimal* causal structure



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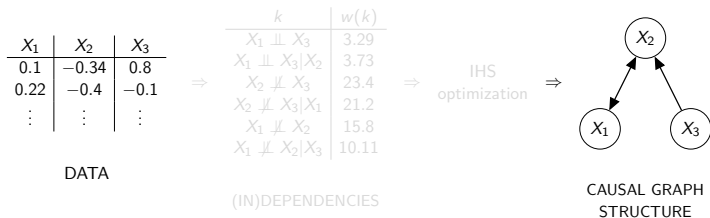
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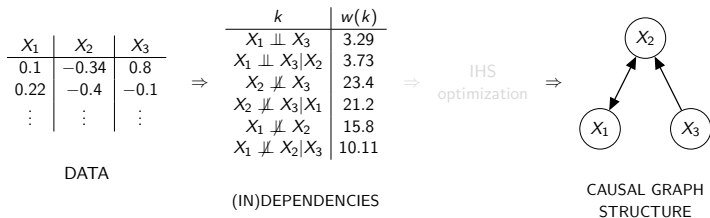
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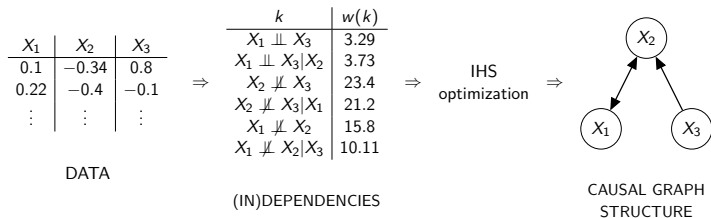
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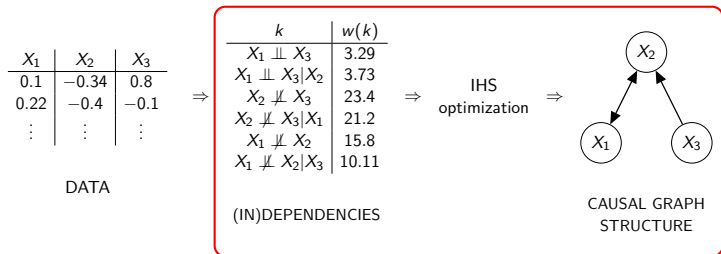
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Causal Structure Learning

Connection to IHS

$Q \not\perp\!\!\!\perp X$	$Y \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Z X, W$	$X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Z Y, W$	$Q \perp\!\!\!\perp Z$
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$X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp W$	$X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp W Z$	$X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y W, Q$	$Q \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y X$
$W \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Z$	$Q \perp\!\!\!\perp W$	$Y \perp\!\!\!\perp Q W$	$Q \perp\!\!\!\perp Z W$

Causal Structure Learning

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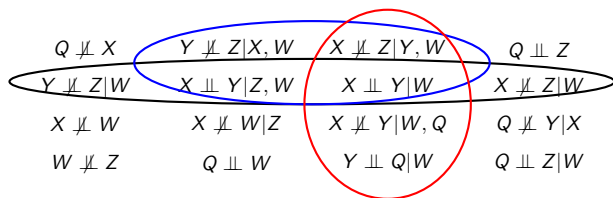
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$Q \not\perp\!\!\!\perp X$	$Y \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Z X, W$	$X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Z Y, W$	$Q \perp\!\!\!\perp Z$
$Y \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Z W$	$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y Z, W$	$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y W$	$X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Z W$
$X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp W$	$X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp W Z$	$X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y W, Q$	$Q \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y X$
$W \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Z$	$Q \perp\!\!\!\perp W$	$Y \perp\!\!\!\perp Q W$	$Q \perp\!\!\!\perp Z W$

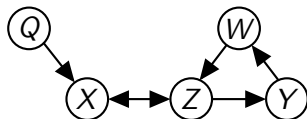
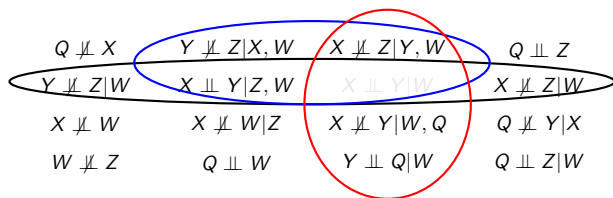
Causal Structure Learning

Connection to IHS



Causal Structure Learning

Connection to IHS



Abductive Reasoning



- ▶ Abduction:
Explanation finding problem
- ▶ Optimization:
What is the simplest explanation?
- ▶ Formalization:
CNF propositional formulas

Abductive Reasoning



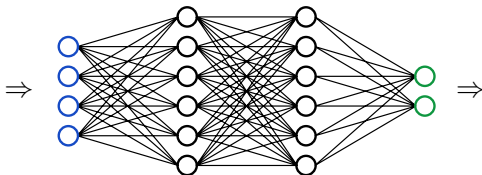
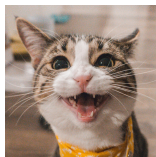
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Abductive Reasoning



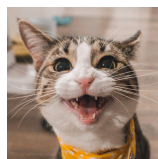
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Abductive Reasoning

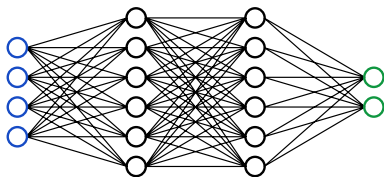


“cat”

Abductive Reasoning



Set of hypothesis



Theory



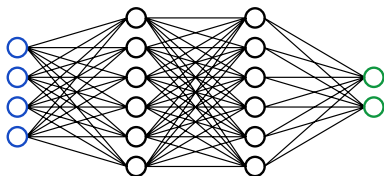
“cat”

Observation

Abductive Reasoning



Set of hypothesis



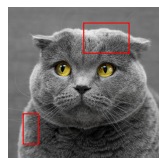
Theory



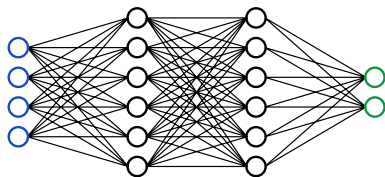
“bicycle”

Observation

Abductive Reasoning



Set of hypothesis



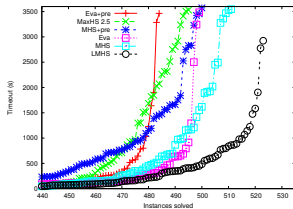
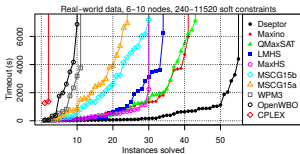
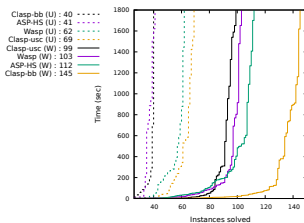
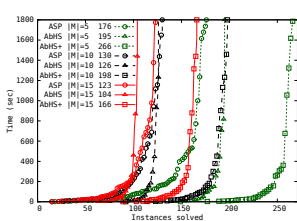
Theory



“bicycle”

Observation

Contributions



- ▶ Practical implementations of optimization algorithms
- ▶ Empirical evaluations show performance
- ▶ Open source code



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI
FACULTY OF SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
PHD THESIS

IMPLICIT HITTING SET ALGORITHMS FOR **CONSTRAINT OPTIMIZATION**

PAUL SAIKKO