Topic 8: Inference & Search in CP & LCG
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Course 1DL448:
Modelling for Combinatorial Optimisation
Outline

1. Annotations

2. Inference Annotations for CP & LCG

3. Search Annotations for CP & LCG

4. Case Studies
   Warehouse Location
   Sport Scheduling
Outline

1. Annotations

2. Inference Annotations for CP & LCG

3. Search Annotations for CP & LCG

4. Case Studies
   Warehouse Location
   Sport Scheduling
Annotations:

- Annotations provide information to the backend or to the MiniZinc-to-FlatZinc compiler.
- Annotations are optional.
- A backend may ignore any of the annotations.
- The compiler may introduce further annotations.
- Annotations are attached with `::` to model items.
  
  **Example:** `var int: x :: is_defined_var;`

- Annotations do not affect the model semantics.

Annotations to a variable declaration:

- `is_defined_var`
  The variable is functionally defined by some constraint.

- `var_is_introduced`
  The variable has been introduced by the compiler.
Annotation to a function definition:

- `promise_total`
  The function is total.

Annotations to a constraint:

- `defines_var(x)`
  Variable \( x \) is functionally defined by this constraint.

  **Example:** `constraint x = y[z] :: defines_var(x)`

  This can be exploited, say by a CBLS backend.

- Other annotations suggest a propagator to use for the constraint by a CP or LCG backend: see slide 9.

Annotations to the objective:

- Annotations suggest a search strategy to use by a CP or LCG backend: see slide 15.
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Domains (reminder)

Definition

The domain of a variable \( \alpha \), denoted by \( \text{dom}(\alpha) \), is the set of values that \( \alpha \) can still take during search:

- The domains of the variables are reduced by search and by inference (see the next two slides).
- A variable is said to be fixed if its domain is a singleton.
- A model is unsatisfiable if a variable domain is empty.

Note the difference between:

- a domain as a technology-independent declarative entity at the modelling level; and
- a domain as a procedural data structure for CP solving.
CP Solving (reminder)

Tree Search:

**Satisfaction problem:**

1. At the root, set each variable domain as in the model.
2. Perform inference (see the next slide).
3. If some variable domain is empty, then backtrack.
4. If all variables are fixed, then we have a solution.
5. Pick an unfixed variable $\alpha$, partition its domain into two parts $\pi_1$ and $\pi_2$, and make two branches: one with $\alpha \in \pi_1$, and the other one with $\alpha \in \pi_2$.
6. Recursively explore each of the two branches.

**Optimisation problem:** when a solution is found, add the constraint that the next solution must have a better objective value (see step 3 of branch-and-bound for IP).
CP Inference

Definition

A propagator for a predicate $\gamma$ removes from the current domains of the variables of a $\gamma$-constraint the values that cannot be part of a solution to that constraint.

Not all impossible values need to be removed:

- A domain-consistency propagator removes all impossible values from the domains.
- A bounds-consistency propagator only removes all impossible min and max values from the domains.

There exist other, unnamed consistencies for propagators. There is a trade-off between the time & space complexity of a propagator and its achieved removal of domain values.
Example (Linear equality constraints)

Consider the linear constraint $3 \times x + 4 \times y = z$
with $\text{dom}(x) = 0..1 = \text{dom}(y)$ and $\text{dom}(z) = 0..10$:

- A bounds-consistency propagator reduces $\text{dom}(z)$ to $0..7$.
- A domain-consistency propagator reduces $\text{dom}(z)$ to $\{0, 3, 4, 7\}$.

Time complexity:

- A bounds-consistency propagator for a linear equality
  constraint can be implemented to run in $\mathcal{O}(n)$ time,
  where $n$ is the number of variables in the constraint.
- A domain-consistency propagator for a linear equality
  constraint can be implemented to run in $\mathcal{O}(n \cdot d^2)$ time,
  where $n$ is the number of variables in the constraint
  and $d$ is the sum of their domain sizes, hence in time
  pseudo-polynomial = exponential in input magnitude.
Controlling the CP Inference

The choice of the right propagator for each constraint may be critical for performance.

Each CP solver and LCG solver has a default propagator for each available constraint predicate.

It is possible to override the defaults with annotations:

- :: domain asks for a domain-consistency propagator.
- :: bounds asks for a bounds-consistency propagator.

Annotations may be ignored, only partially followed, or just approximated: annotations are just suggestions.
Example (n-Queens)

1. array[1..n] of var 1..n: Row;
2. constraint alldifferent(Row) :: domain;
3. constraint alldifferent
   ([ Row[q]+q | q in 1..n]) :: domain;
4. constraint alldifferent
   ([ Row[q]-q | q in 1..n]) :: domain;

Experimental results with Gecode (CP) for n=35:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>inference</th>
<th># nodes</th>
<th>seconds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>default (no annotation)</td>
<td>333,164</td>
<td>5.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bounds on alldifferent</td>
<td>333,164</td>
<td>5.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>domain on alldifferent</td>
<td>333,164</td>
<td>4.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example (\(n\)-Queens)

1. \(\text{array}[1..n] \text{ of var } 1..n: \text{Row};\)
2. \(\text{constraint alldifferent(Row)} :: \text{domain};\)
3. \(\text{constraint alldifferent} \)
4. \(\left(\text{[(Row[q]+q)::domain | q in } 1..n\right)] :: \text{domain};\)
5. \(\text{constraint alldifferent} \)
6. \(\left(\text{[(Row[q]-q)::domain | q in } 1..n\right)] :: \text{domain};\)

Experimental results with Gecode (CP) for \(n=35\):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>inference</th>
<th># nodes</th>
<th>seconds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>default (no annotation)</td>
<td>333,164</td>
<td>5.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bounds on alldifferent</td>
<td>333,164</td>
<td>5.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>domain on alldifferent</td>
<td>333,164</td>
<td>4.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>domain on the linear constraints</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>domain on all constraints</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Asking for domain consistency on the implicit linear equality constraints pays off here, as they involve very few variables, but will backfire in general.
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Search Strategies

Search Strategies:

- On which variable to branch next?
- How to split the current domain of the chosen variable?
- Which search (depth-first, breadth-first, . . . ) to use?

The strategy is usually depth-first left-to-right search.

One can suggest to a CP or LCG backend on which variable to branch and how, by making an annotation with:

- a variable selection strategy, and
- a value selection strategy.
Variable Selection Strategy

The variable selection strategy has an impact on the size of the search tree, especially if the constraints are processed with propagation at every node of the search tree or if the whole search tree is explored: for example, when it is an optimisation problem or when there are no solutions.

Example (Impact of the variable selection strategy)

Consider \texttt{var 1..2: x, var 1..4: y, var 1..6: z}, branching on all domain values, but no constraints:

- If selecting the variables in the order \texttt{x, y, z}, then the CP search tree has \(1 + 2 + 2 \cdot 4 + 2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 = 59\) nodes and \(2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 = 48\) leaves.

- If selecting the variables in the order \texttt{z, y, x}, then the CP search tree has \(1 + 6 + 6 \cdot 4 + 6 \cdot 4 \cdot 2 = 79\) nodes and also \(6 \cdot 4 \cdot 2 = 48\) leaves.
Definition (First-Fail Principle)
To succeed, first try where you are most likely to fail.
In practice:
- Pick a variable with the smallest current domain.
- Pick a variable involved in the largest number of constraints.
- Pick a variable causing the largest number of recent backtracks.

Example (Impact of the variable selection strategy)
Finding the first solution to 20-queens with Gecode (CP):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search Method</th>
<th># Nodes</th>
<th>Seconds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>default (no annotation)</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smallest domain</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>largest domain</td>
<td>38,599</td>
<td>0.229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>input order</td>
<td>41,033</td>
<td>0.268</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See slide 19 why no annotation has paid off yet.
Value Selection Strategy

The value selection strategy has an impact on the size of the search tree when optimising, when only searching for the first solution, or when performing incomplete search (using a time-out or MiniSearch).

Example (Impact of the value selection strategy)

Consider \( \text{var 1..2: } x, \text{var 1..4: } y, \text{var 1..6: } z \), domain consistency for \( x \times y = z, x \neq y, x \neq z, \text{ and } y \neq z \), smallest-domain variable selection, and depth-first search:

- If the values are selected by increasing order, then 6 CP nodes are explored before finding a solution.
- If the values are selected by decreasing order, then only 2 CP nodes (the root and a leaf) are explored before finding the solution, without backtracking.
Definition (Best-First Principle)
Pick a value that is most likely to lead to a solution. Ideally pick a value that participates in solutions.

Example (Impact of the value selection strategy)
Finding the first solution to $20$-queens with Gecode (CP):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>search</th>
<th># nodes</th>
<th>seconds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>default (no annotation)</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smallest domain, minimum value</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smallest domain, median value</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>input order, minimum value</td>
<td>41,033</td>
<td>0.265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>input order, median value</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Motivation for First-Fail and Best-First\textsuperscript{1}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finding a solution</th>
<th>Detecting inconsistency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Variable selection</td>
<td>Must consider all the remaining variables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Need not consider all the remaining variables:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>\ding{110} try to detect unsatisfiability a.s.a.p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value selection</td>
<td>Need not consider all the values:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>\ding{110} try to find a solution a.s.a.p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Must consider all the values</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{1}Based on material by Yves Deville and Pascal Van Hentenryck
A brancher \texttt{int\_search}(X, \phi, \psi, \text{complete}) selects an unfixed variable in the array \( X \) of integer decision variables, using as variable selection strategy \( \phi \) one of the following:

- **input\_order**: Select the next variable by order in \( X \).
- **first\_fail**: Select a variable with smallest domain.
- **smallest**: Select a variable with smallest minimum.
- **largest**: Select a variable with largest maximum.
- **occurrence**: Select a variable involved in the largest number of active propagators.
- **most\_constrained**: Use **first\_fail** and break ties with **occurrence**.
- **max\_regret**: Select a variable with the largest difference between its two smallest domain values.

... (see the MiniZinc documentation)

Ties are broken by the order in \( X \). (Continued on next slide)
Definition (Integer Brancher, continued)

Then, for the chosen variable, say $\alpha$, the brancher selects a value in $\text{dom}(\alpha) = \{\delta_1, \ldots, \delta_n\}$, with $\delta_1 < \cdots < \delta_n$, and adds guesses, which are constraints, using as value selection strategy $\psi$ one of the following ($n \geq 2$ by construction):

- **indomain_min**: Branch left on $\alpha = \delta_1$, right on $\alpha \neq \delta_1$.
- **indomain_middle**: Select $\delta_i$ nearest $\hat{m} = \lfloor (\delta_1 + \delta_n)/2 \rfloor$; branch left on $\alpha = \delta_i$ and right on $\alpha \neq \delta_i$.
- **indomain_median**: Select median $\delta_i = \delta_{\lfloor (n+1)/2 \rfloor}$; branch left on $\alpha = \delta_i$ and right on $\alpha \neq \delta_i$.
- **indomain**: Branch left-to-right on $\alpha = \delta_1, \ldots, \alpha = \delta_n$.
- **indomain_random**: Select a random value $\delta_i$; branch left on $\alpha = \delta_i$ and right on $\alpha \neq \delta_i$.
- **indomain_split**: Branch left on $\alpha \leq \hat{m}$, right $\alpha > \hat{m}$.
- **indomain_reverse_split**: left $\alpha > \hat{m}$ right $\alpha \leq \hat{m}$.
- ... (see the MiniZinc documentation)
Definition (Boolean Brancher)

A brancher `bool_search(X, φ, ψ, complete)` selects an unfixed variable in the array `X` of Boolean decision variables, using variable selection strategy `φ` and value selection strategy `ψ`, with the same choices as for integer variables, under the convention `false < true`.

Definition (Chaining of Branchers)

A brancher `seq_search([β₁, ..., βₙ])` chains branchers `β₁, ..., βₙ`: when brancher `βᵢ` is finished, branch with `βᵢ₊₁`.

**Careful:** A brancher annotation goes between the `solve` and `satisfy`, `minimize`, or `maximize` keywords, and it is ignored elsewhere. See the example on slide 34.
**Definition**

A **set (decision) variable** takes an integer set as value, and has a set of integer sets as domain. For its domain to be finite, a set variable must be a subset of a finite universe $U$.

**Definition (Set var domain in most CP & LCG solvers)**

The domain of a set variable $S$ is a pair $\langle \ell, u \rangle$ of finite sets, and denotes the set of all sets $\sigma$ such that $\ell \subseteq \sigma \subseteq u \subseteq U$:

- $\ell$ is the **current** set of mandatory elements of $S$.
- $u \setminus \ell$ is the **current** set of optional elements of $S$.

**Example**

The domain of a set var represented as $\langle \{1\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \rangle$ has the sets $\{1\}$, $\{1, 2\}$, $\{1, 3\}$, $\{1, 4\}$, $\{1, 2, 3\}$, $\{1, 2, 4\}$, $\{1, 3, 4\}$, and $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$. Removing $\{1, 2, 3\}$ is impossible!
### Definition (Set Brancher)

A brancher \texttt{set_search}(X, \phi, \psi, \text{complete}) selects an unfixed variable \(S \doteq \langle \ell, u \rangle\) in the array \(X\) of set variables, using a variable selection strategy \(\phi\) on slide 21:

- **first_fail**: Select a variable with smallest \(|u \setminus \ell|\).
- **smallest**: Select a variable with smallest \(\min(u \setminus \ell)\).
- \ldots (see the MiniZinc documentation)

Then, for the chosen variable, say \(S \doteq \langle \ell, u \rangle\), it selects an element in \(u \setminus \ell = \{\delta_1, \ldots, \delta_n\}\), with \(\delta_1 < \cdots < \delta_n\), and adds guesses using a value selection strategy \(\psi\) on slide 22:

- **indomain_min**: Branch left on \(\delta_1 \in S\), right on \(\delta_1 \notin S\).
- **outdomain_max**: Left on \(\delta_n \notin S\), right on \(\delta_n \in S\).
- **outdomain_median**: Select median \(\delta_i = \delta_{\lfloor (n+1)/2 \rfloor}\); branch left on \(\delta_i \notin S\) and right on \(\delta_i \in S\).
- \ldots (see the MiniZinc documentation)
Designing Search Strategies

Problem-specific strategies:
Beside general principles (first-fail and best-first), there are often good strategies that can be designed using problem-specific knowledge. In MiniZinc, it is often easy to express such strategies in terms of problem-specific concepts.

Interaction with symmetry-breaking constraints:
For higher solving speed, do not pick a value selection strategy that drives the search towards solutions ruled out by the symmetry-breaking constraints.

Example
For $a+b+c=38$, with all variables in $1..19$, and symmetry breaking by $a<b \land b<c$, do not use `indomain_max` with `input_order`. 
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Example (The Warehouse Location Problem, WLP)

A company considers opening warehouses at some candidate locations in order to supply its existing shops:

- Each candidate warehouse has the same maintenance cost.
- Each candidate warehouse has a supply capacity, which is the maximum number of shops it can supply.
- The supply cost to a shop depends on the warehouse.

Determine which warehouses to open, and which of them should supply the various shops, so that:

1. Each shop must be supplied by exactly one actually opened warehouse.
2. Each actually opened warehouse supplies at most a number of shops equal to its capacity.
3. The sum of the actually incurred maintenance costs and supply costs is minimised.
WLP: Sample Instance Data

Shops = \{Shop_1, Shop_2, \ldots, Shop_{10}\}


maintCost = 30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Berlin</th>
<th>London</th>
<th>Ankara</th>
<th>Paris</th>
<th>Rome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SupplyCost =

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Berlin</th>
<th>London</th>
<th>Ankara</th>
<th>Paris</th>
<th>Rome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shop_1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shop_2</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shop_3</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shop_4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\vdots</td>
<td>\vdots</td>
<td>\vdots</td>
<td>\vdots</td>
<td>\vdots</td>
<td>\vdots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shop_{10}</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is an optimal solution where Shop_4 is supplied by Rome, not by Berlin.
Automatic enforcement of the total-function constraint (1):

\[
\text{Supplier} = \begin{array}{cccc}
\text{Shop}_1 & \text{Shop}_2 & \cdots & \text{Shop}_{10} \\
\in \text{WHS} & \in \text{WHS} & \cdots & \in \text{WHS}
\end{array}
\]

\text{Supplier}[^s] \text{ denotes the supplier warehouse for shop } s.

Redundant decision variables:

\[
\text{Open} = \begin{array}{ccccc}
\text{Berlin} & \text{London} & \text{Ankara} & \text{Paris} & \text{Rome} \\
\in 0..1 & \in 0..1 & \in 0..1 & \in 0..1 & \in 0..1
\end{array}
\]

\text{Open}[w]=1 \text{ if and only if (iff) warehouse } w \text{ is opened.}
WLP Model 1: Search Annotation

The capacity constraint and the channelling constraint of Supplier with Open are as in Topic 4: Modelling.

Let the new, redundant variable $\text{Cost}[s]$ represent the actual supply cost for shop $s$, with channelling constraint:

\[
\text{forall (s in Shops) (Cost}[s] = \text{SupplyCost}[s, \text{Supplier}[s]])
\]

The objective becomes:

\[
\text{minimize } \text{sum}(\text{Cost}) + \text{maintCost} \times \text{sum}(\text{Open})
\]

For shop $s$, let $\text{dom}(\text{Cost}[s]) = \{\delta_1, \delta_2, \ldots, \delta_n\}$, with $n \geq 2$ and $\delta_1 < \delta_2 < \cdots < \delta_n$: the regret of shop $s$ is $\delta_2 - \delta_1$, that is the difference in supply cost between its currently cheapest and second-cheapest suppliers.
The maximal-regret strategy recommends:

- **Variable selection:**
  Choose a decision variable \( \text{Cost}[s] \) such that the shop \( s \) currently has the maximal regret.

- **Value selection and guesses:**
  Choose the smallest value \( \delta \) in \( \text{dom}(\text{Cost}[s]) \). Branch left on \( \text{Cost}[s] = \delta \) and right on \( \text{Cost}[s] \neq \delta \).

The Supplier\([s]\) decision variables are then branched on by increasing order of \( s \) and by increasing value. This step is necessary only if, for some shop \( s \), some values in SupplyCost\([s, \ldots]\) are equal.

Upon one-way channelling from Supplier to Open, the Open\([w]\) decision variables are then branched on by increasing order of \( w \) and by increasing value, in order to set any still unassigned variables to 0.
This search strategy is expressed in MiniZinc as follows:

```mini
solve :: seq_search([  int_search(Cost,max_regret,indomain_min,complete),  int_search(Supplier,input_order,indomain_min,complete),  int_search(Open,input_order,indomain_min,complete)]
minimize sum(Cost) + maintCost * sum(Open)
```

Objective values, upon the three seen ways of channelling, within 35 seconds by Gecode (CP) on a MacBook-Air laptop, on a hard instance with 16 warehouses of capacity 4 supplying 50 shops, of minimal cost at most 1,190,733:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>search</th>
<th>one-way</th>
<th>two-way</th>
<th>none</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>default (no annotation)</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>1,869,494</td>
<td>1,864,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>first-fail on Supplier</td>
<td>1,520,326</td>
<td>1,524,034</td>
<td>1,524,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>first-fail on Cost</td>
<td>1,218,079</td>
<td>1,223,704</td>
<td>1,218,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>max-regret on Cost</td>
<td>1,193,637</td>
<td>1,198,276</td>
<td>1,193,637</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Example (The Sport Scheduling Problem, SSP)

Find schedule in $\text{Periods} \times \text{Weeks} \rightarrow \text{Teams} \times \text{Teams}$ for

- $|\text{Teams}| = n$
- $|\text{Weeks}| = n - 1$
- $|\text{Periods}| = n \div 2$

subject to the following constraints:

1. Each game is played exactly once.
2. Each team plays exactly once per week.
3. Each team plays at most twice per period.

Idea for a model, and a solution for $n=8$:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk 1</th>
<th>Wk 2</th>
<th>Wk 3</th>
<th>Wk 4</th>
<th>Wk 5</th>
<th>Wk 6</th>
<th>Wk 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P 1</td>
<td>1 vs. 2</td>
<td>1 vs. 3</td>
<td>2 vs. 6</td>
<td>3 vs. 5</td>
<td>4 vs. 7</td>
<td>4 vs. 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P 2</td>
<td>3 vs. 4</td>
<td>2 vs. 8</td>
<td>1 vs. 7</td>
<td>6 vs. 7</td>
<td>6 vs. 8</td>
<td>2 vs. 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P 3</td>
<td>5 vs. 6</td>
<td>4 vs. 6</td>
<td>3 vs. 8</td>
<td>1 vs. 8</td>
<td>1 vs. 5</td>
<td>3 vs. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P 4</td>
<td>7 vs. 8</td>
<td>5 vs. 7</td>
<td>4 vs. 5</td>
<td>2 vs. 4</td>
<td>2 vs. 3</td>
<td>1 vs. 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SSP Model 1: Variables (reminder)

A 3D matrix $\text{Team}[\text{Periods}, \text{ExtendedWeeks}, \text{Slots}]$ of variables in Teams, denoted $T$ below, over a schedule extended by a dummy week where teams play fictitious duplicate games in the period where they would otherwise play only once, thereby transforming constraint (3) into:

(3') Each team plays exactly twice per period.

$$\text{Team} =$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\text{Wk 1} & \cdots & \cdots & \text{Wk } n-1 & \text{Wk } n \\
1 & 2 & \cdots & 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\
\text{P 1} & \in T & \in T & \cdots & \in T & \in T & \in T & \in T \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\
\text{P } n/2 & \in T & \in T & \cdots & \in T & \in T & \in T & \in T
\end{array}$$

$\text{Team}[p, w, s]$ is the number of the team that plays in period $p$ of week $w$ in game slot $s$. 
SSP Model 1: More Variables (reminder)

Declare a 2D matrix $\text{Game}[\text{Periods}, \text{Weeks}]$ of redundant decision variables in $\text{Games}$ over the non-extended weeks:

$$
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Period 1} \\
\vdots \\
\text{Period } n/2
\end{array}
\begin{array}{ccc}
\in \text{Games} & \cdots & \in \text{Games} \\
\vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
\in \text{Games} & \cdots & \in \text{Games}
\end{array}
$$

$\text{Game}[p, w]$ is the game played in period $p$ of week $w$. 
SSP Model 1: Search Annotation

It suffices to follow the first-fail principle:

- **Variable selection:**
  Choose a decision variable $\text{Game}[p, w]$ with the currently smallest domain.

- **Value selection and guesses:**
  Choose the smallest value $\delta$ in $\text{dom}(\text{Game}[p, w])$. Branch left on $\text{Game}[p, w] = \delta$ and right on $\text{Game}[p, w] \neq \delta$.

The redundant $\text{Team}[p, w, s]$ decision variables need not be considered in the decision variable selection, as they take their values through the 2-way channelling constraint.

This search strategy is expressed in MiniZinc as follows:

```
:: int_search(Game, first_fail, indomain_min, complete)
```
SSP Model 2: Smaller Domains for Game

A round-robin schedule suffices to break many of the remaining symmetries:

- Fix the games of the first week to the set 
  \((1, 2)\) \(\cup\) \(\{(t + 1, n + 2 - t) \mid 1 < t \leq n/2\}\)
- For the remaining weeks, transform each game \((f, s)\) of the previous week into a game \((f', s')\), where

\[
    f' = \begin{cases} 
        1 & \text{if } f = 1 \\
        2 & \text{if } f = n \\
        f + 1 & \text{otherwise}
    \end{cases}, \quad \text{and} \quad
    s' = \begin{cases} 
        2 & \text{if } s = n \\
        s + 1 & \text{otherwise}
    \end{cases}
\]

Determine the period of each game, but not its week!

**Search strategy:**

Choose games for the first period across all the weeks, then for the first week across all the remaining periods, then for the second period across all the remaining weeks, then for the second week across all the remaining periods, etc.
Interested in More Details?

For more details on WLP & SSP and their strategies, see:

Van Hentenryck, Pascal. 
The OPL Optimization Programming Language. 

Van Hentenryck, Pascal. 
Constraint and integer programming in OPL. 

Van Hentenryck, Pascal; Michel, Laurent; Perron, Laurent; and Régin, Jean-Charles. 
Constraint programming in OPL. 