5.51 change_pair

DESCRIPTION LINKS GRAPH AUTOMATON

Origin Derived from change.

Constraint change_pair(NCHANGE, PAIRS, CTRX, CTRY)

Arguments

NCHANGE	:	dvar
PAIRS	:	collection(x−dvar, y−dvar)
CTRX	:	atom
CTRY	:	atom

Restrictions

NCHANGE ≥ 0
NCHANGE $<$ |PAIRS|
required(PAIRS, [x, y])
CTRX $\in [=, \neq, <, \geq, >, \leq]$
CTRY $\in [=, \neq, <, \geq, >, \leq]$

Purpose NCHANGE is the number of times that the following disjunction holds: $(X_1$ CTRX $X_2) \vee (Y_1$ CTRY $Y_2)$, where (X_1, Y_1) and (X_2, Y_2) correspond to consecutive pairs of variables of the collection PAIRS.

Example

$$\left(\begin{array}{cccc} & \mathtt{x}-3 & \mathtt{y}-5, & \\ & \mathtt{x}-3 & \mathtt{y}-7, & \\ & \mathtt{x}-3 & \mathtt{y}-7, & \\ & \mathtt{x}-3 & \mathtt{y}-8, & \\ 3, \left\langle \begin{array}{cc} \mathtt{x}-3 & \mathtt{y}-4, \\ \mathtt{x}-3 & \mathtt{y}-7, \end{array} \right\rangle, & \neq, & > \\ & \mathtt{x}-1 & \mathtt{y}-3, & \\ & \mathtt{x}-1 & \mathtt{y}-6, & \\ & \mathtt{x}-1 & \mathtt{y}-6, & \\ & \mathtt{x}-3 & \mathtt{y}-7 & \end{array}\right)$$

In the example we have the following 3 changes:

- One change between pairs x − 3 y − 8 and x − 3 y − 4 since $3 \neq 3 \vee 8 > 4$,
- One change between pairs x − 3 y − 7 and x − 1 y − 3 since $3 \neq 1 \vee 7 > 3$,
- One change between pairs x − 1 y − 6 and x − 3 y − 7 since $1 \neq 3 \vee 6 > 7$.

Consequently the change_pair constraint holds since its first argument NCHANGE is assigned to 3.

Typical

NCHANGE > 0
|PAIRS| > 1
range(PAIRS.x) > 1
range(PAIRS.y) > 1

Symmetries

- One and the same constant can be added to the `x` attribute of all items of `PAIRS`.
- One and the same constant can be added to the `y` attribute of all items of `PAIRS`.

Usage

Here is a typical example where this constraint is useful. Assume we have to produce a set of cables. A given quality and a given cross-section that respectively correspond to the `x` and `y` attributes of the previous pairs of variables characterise each cable. The problem is to sequence the different cables in order to minimise the number of times two consecutive wire cables C_1 and C_2 verify the following property: C_1 and C_2 do not have the same quality or the cross section of C_1 is greater than the cross section of C_2.

See also

specialisation: `change` *(*`pair` *of* `variables` *replaced by* `variable`*)*.

Keywords

characteristic of a constraint: pair, automaton, automaton with counters.

constraint network structure: sliding cyclic(2) constraint network(2).

constraint type: timetabling constraint.

final graph structure: acyclic, bipartite, no loop.

modelling: number of changes.

Arc input(s)	PAIRS
Arc generator	$PATH \mapsto$ collection(pairs1, pairs2)
Arc arity	2
Arc constraint(s)	pairs1.x CTRX pairs2.x $\vee$ pairs1.y CTRY pairs2.y
Graph property(ies)	NARC$=$ NCHANGE
Graph class	• ACYCLIC • BIPARTITE • NO_LOOP

Graph model Same as change, except that each item has two attributes x and y.

Parts (A) and (B) of Figure 5.112 respectively show the initial and final graph associated with the **Example** slot. Since we use the NARC graph property, the arcs of the final graph are stressed in bold.

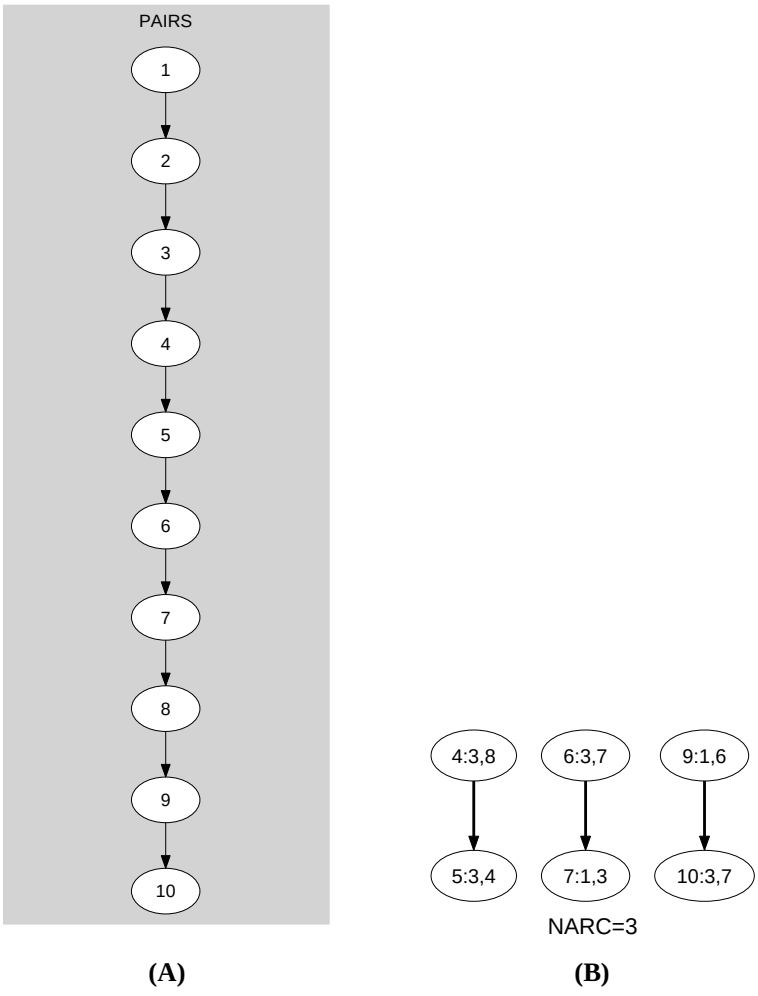

Figure 5.112: Initial and final graph of the `change_pair` constraint

Automaton

Figure 5.113 depicts the automaton associated with the change_pair constraint. To each pair of consecutive pairs $((\mathtt{X}_i, \mathtt{Y}_i), (\mathtt{X}_{i+1}, \mathtt{Y}_{i+1}))$ of the collection PAIRS corresponds a 0-1 signature variable $\mathtt{S}_i$. The following signature constraint links $\mathtt{X}_i$, $\mathtt{Y}_i$, $\mathtt{X}_{i+1}$, $\mathtt{Y}_{i+1}$ and $\mathtt{S}_i$: $(\mathtt{X}_i \ \mathtt{CTRX} \ \mathtt{X}_{i+1}) \vee (\mathtt{Y}_i \ \mathtt{CTRY} \ \mathtt{Y}_{i+1}) \Leftrightarrow \mathtt{S}_i$.

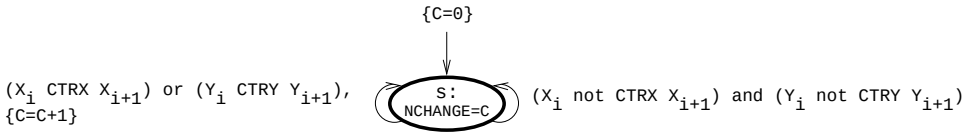

Figure 5.113: Automaton of the change_pair constraint

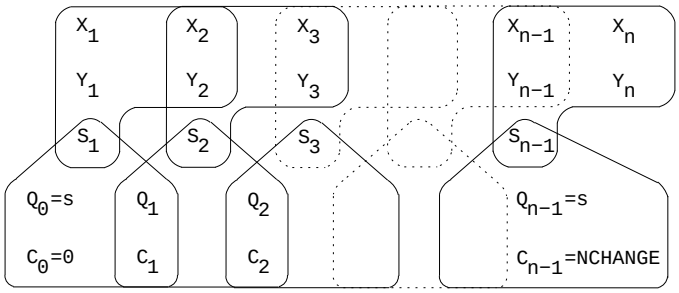

Figure 5.114: Hypergraph of the reformulation corresponding to the automaton of the change_pair constraint