5.223 nclass

DESCRIPTION LINKS GRAPH

Origin Derived from nvalue.

Constraint nclass(NCLASS, VARIABLES, PARTITIONS)

Type
```
VALUES : collection(val−int)
```

Arguments
```
NCLASS      : dvar
VARIABLES   : collection(var−dvar)
PARTITIONS  : collection(p − VALUES)
```

Restrictions
```
|VALUES| ≥ 1
required(VALUES, val)
distinct(VALUES, val)
NCLASS ≥ 0
NCLASS ≤ min(|VARIABLES|, |PARTITIONS|)
required(VARIABLES, var)
required(PARTITIONS, p)
|PARTITIONS| ≥ 2
```

Purpose Number of partitions of the collection PARTITIONS such that at least one value is assigned to at least one variable of the collection VARIABLES.

Example

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} 2, \langle 3,2,7,2,6\rangle, \\ \left\langle \begin{array}{l} \mathtt{p} - \langle 1,3\rangle, \\ \mathtt{p} - \langle 4\rangle, \\ \mathtt{p} - \langle 2,6\rangle \end{array} \right\rangle \end{array}\right)$$

Note that the values of $\langle 3,2,7,2,6\rangle$ occur within partitions $\mathtt{p} - \langle 1,3\rangle$ and $\mathtt{p} - \langle 2,6\rangle$ but not within $\mathtt{p} - \langle 4\rangle$. Consequently, the nclass constraint holds since its first argument NCLASS is set to value 2.

Symmetries

- Items of VARIABLES are permutable.
- Items of PARTITIONS are permutable.
- Items of PARTITIONS.p are permutable.
- An occurrence of a value of VARIABLES.var can be replaced by any other value that also belongs to the same partition of PARTITIONS.
- All occurrences of two distinct tuples of values in VARIABLES.var or PARTITIONS.p.val can be swapped; all occurrences of a tuple of values in VARIABLES.var or PARTITIONS.p.val can be renamed to any unused tuple of values.

Algorithm [26, 36].

See also **related:** nequivalence *(*variable ∈ partition *replaced by* variable mod constant*)*, ninterval *(*variable ∈ partition *replaced by* variable/constant*)*, npair *(*variable ∈ partition *replaced by* pair *of* variables*)*.

specialisation: nvalue *(*variable ∈ partition *replaced by* variable*)*.

used in graph description: in_same_partition.

Keywords **characteristic of a constraint:** partition.

constraint type: counting constraint, value partitioning constraint.

final graph structure: strongly connected component, equivalence.

modelling: number of distinct equivalence classes.

Arc input(s)	VARIABLES
Arc generator	$CLIQUE \mapsto$ collection(variables1, variables2)
Arc arity	2
Arc constraint(s)	in_same_partition(variables1.var, variables2.var, PARTITIONS)
Graph property(ies)	NSCC= NCLASS

Graph model Parts (A) and (B) of Figure 5.429 respectively show the initial and final graph associated with the **Example** slot. Since we use the **NSCC** graph property we show the different strongly connected components of the final graph. Each strongly connected component corresponds to a class of values that was assigned to some variables of the VARIABLES collection. We effectively use two classes of values that respectively correspond to values $\{3\}$ and $\{2, 6\}$. Note that we do not consider value 7 since it does not belong to the different classes of values we gave: all corresponding arc constraints do not hold.

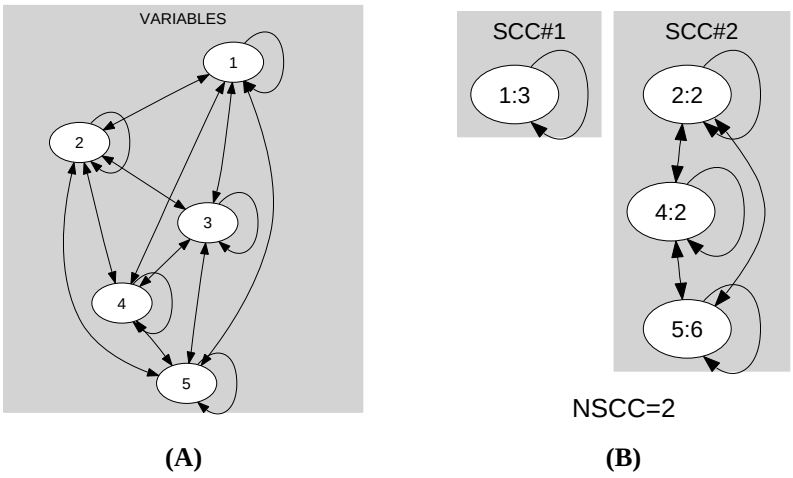

Figure 5.429: Initial and final graph of the nclass constraint