

Contents

Foreword

Abstract

Agraïments

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Problem Statement	2
1.2	Challenges	4
1.3	Contributions	7
1.4	Guide to the reader	10
2	Problem definition	13
2.1	DCOP Definition	13
2.2	Quality guarantees	14
2.3	Motivating domains	15
2.3.1	Indoor lighting control	15
2.3.2	Gathering information in sensor networks	17
2.3.3	Traffic light control	18
2.3.4	Task allocation in distributed scenarios	19
3	Related work	23
3.1	Complete DCOP algorithms	23
3.1.1	Fully decentralised approaches	24
3.1.2	Partially centralized approaches	27
3.2	Incomplete DCOP algorithms	28
3.2.1	Decision-based algorithms	28
3.2.2	GDL-based algorithms	30
3.3	Beyond the scope of this book	31
3.4	Limitations of the current approaches	31
3.4.1	On exploring efficient problem representations for optimal DCOP solving	31
3.4.2	On assessing agents' quality guarantees	32
3.4.3	On characterising local optimal solutions that allow system designer's quality guarantees	32

3.4.4	Quality guarantees for the Max-Sum algorithm	33
4	Action-GDL: Extending GDL to solve DCOPs	35
4.1	Notation	36
4.2	Background: The Generalized Distributive Law	37
4.2.1	Junction trees	37
4.2.2	GDL operation	39
4.2.3	Relationship with the Cluster Tree Elimination algorithm	41
4.3	The Action-GDL Algorithm	42
4.3.1	Extending GDL to solve DCOPs	42
4.3.2	Computation and communication complexity	46
4.3.3	Distributed Junction Tree Generator	47
4.4	Generality of Action-GDL	50
4.4.1	Action-GDL generalizes DPOP	51
4.4.2	Action-GDL generalizes DCPOP	57
4.5	Characterizing Action-GDL usefulness	63
4.5.1	Theoretical improvements with respect to DPOP	64
4.5.2	Postprocessing junction trees	67
4.6	Empirical evaluation	68
4.6.1	Measures of interest	69
4.6.2	Experimental design and results	69
4.6.3	Generic DCOP instances	70
4.6.4	Meeting scheduling dataset	72
4.7	Conclusions	72
5	Divide-and-Coordinate	75
5.1	Divide-and-Coordinate framework	76
5.1.1	Divide-and-Coordinate: the approach	76
5.1.2	Divide-and-Coordinate: formal foundations	78
5.2	A generic DaC algorithm	81
5.3	DaCSA: Divide and Coordinate Subgradient Algorithm	87
5.3.1	Formal foundations	88
5.3.2	DaCSA algorithm	91
5.3.3	Complexity analysis	94
5.4	EU-DaC: Egalitarian Utilities Divide And Coordinate algorithm	95
5.4.1	Formal foundations	95
5.4.2	EU-DaC algorithm	97
5.4.3	Complexity analysis	100
5.5	Empirical evaluation	100
5.5.1	Empirical settings	101
5.5.2	Results	103
5.6	Conclusions	108
6	Region Optimality	111
6.1	Background: size and distance optimality	112
6.2	Generalizing size and distance optimality	114

6.2.1	Region optimality	115
6.2.2	Fine quality guarantees for region optima	116
6.2.3	Coarse quality guarantees for region optima	119
6.2.4	Size-optimal bounds as a specific case of region optimal bounds	121
6.2.5	Distance-optimal bounds as a specific case of region optimal bounds	122
6.3	Empirical Evaluation	122
6.3.1	Analysis of size and distance regions	123
6.3.2	Size-bounded distance optimality	124
6.3.3	DALO for region optimality	125
6.3.4	Empirical results	126
6.4	Per-reward region optimal bounds	128
6.4.1	Exploiting the minimum fraction reward	128
6.4.2	Exploiting the extreme relation rewards	131
6.4.3	Comparing per-reward region optimal bounds	132
6.5	Conclusions	134
7	Max-sum as a region optimal algorithm	137
7.1	Background: the Max-Sum algorithm	138
7.1.1	Max-Sum in Pairwise Markov Random Fields	138
7.1.2	Region optimal characterisation of Max-Sum solutions	140
7.2	Fine Single Loops and Trees region optimal bounds	141
7.3	Coarse Single Loops and Trees region optimal bounds	141
7.3.1	Problem-independent Single Loops and Trees region optimal bounds	142
7.3.2	Per-structure coarse SLT region optimal bounds	144
7.4	Conclusions	147
8	Conclusions and Future work	151
8.1	Conclusions	151
8.1.1	On exploring efficient problem representations for optimal DCOP solving	154
8.1.2	On assessing agent's quality guarantees	155
8.1.3	On extending the set of local optimal solutions that allow sys- tem designer's quality guarantees	158
8.1.4	Quality guarantees for the Max-Sum algorithm	160
8.2	Future work	161
A	Action-GDL generality proofs	165
B	Region Optimality proofs	171
C	Max-Sum bounds proofs	175
	Bibliography	179
	Monografies	