

---

# Adaptive Parameterized Consistency for Non-Binary CSPs by Counting Supports

R.J. Woodward<sup>1,2</sup>, A. Schneider<sup>1</sup>, B.Y. Choueiry<sup>1</sup>, C. Bessiere<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Constraint Systems Laboratory, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

<sup>2</sup>LIRMM-CNRS, University of Montpellier

## Acknowledgements

- Experiments conducted at UNL's Holland Computing Center
- Woodward supported by a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship grant number 1041000
- NSF Grant No. RI-111795 and EU project ICON (FP7-284715)



UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln

---

*Constraint Systems Laboratory*

# Motivation

---

- Solvers maintain local consistency
- Standard level of consistency is AC
- Sometimes, AC is not enough
- Others, higher level may be too expensive
- Issue
  - Adapt the consistency level dynamically
  - On every variable-value pair + constraint

# Outline

---

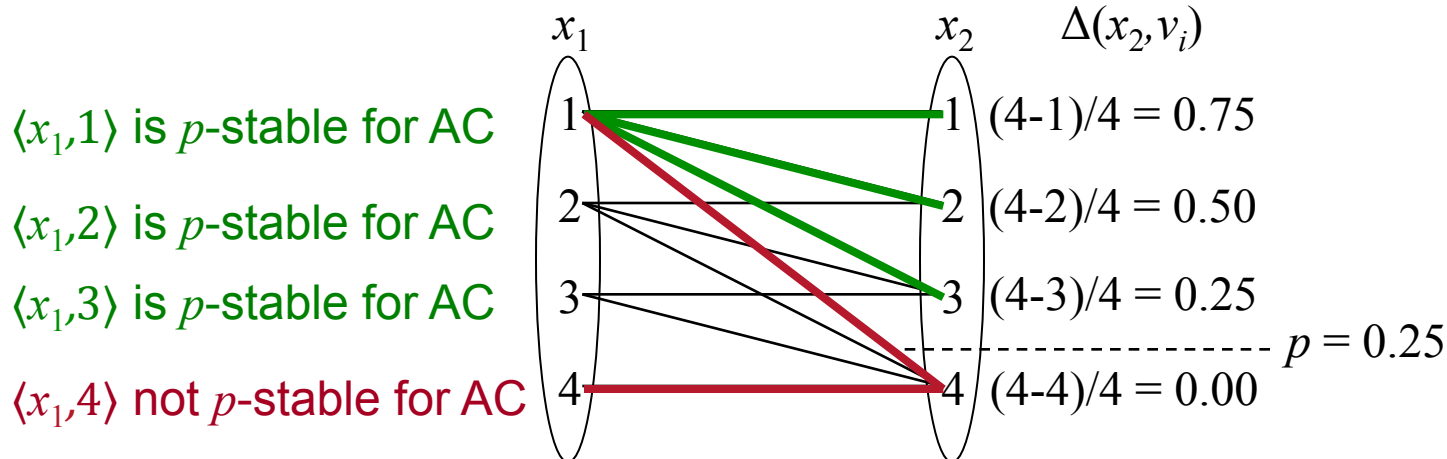
- Background
  - $p$ -stability for AC [Balafrej+ CP2013]
  - Parameterized consistency [Balafrej+ CP2013]
  - Local consistency properties
- $p$ -stability for GAC
- Empirical evaluations
- Conclusions

# $p$ -stable for AC

[Balafrej+ CP2013]

- For  $x_2$ , relative position of  $v_i$  in  $\text{dom}(x_2)$

$$\Delta(x_2, v_i) = \frac{|\text{dom}^o(x_2)| - \text{rank}(v_i, \text{dom}^o(x_2))}{|\text{dom}^o(x_2)|}$$



- $\langle x_1, v_i \rangle$   $p$ -stable for AC on  $x_2$  iff it has an AC-support with  $\Delta(x_2, v_j) \geq p$

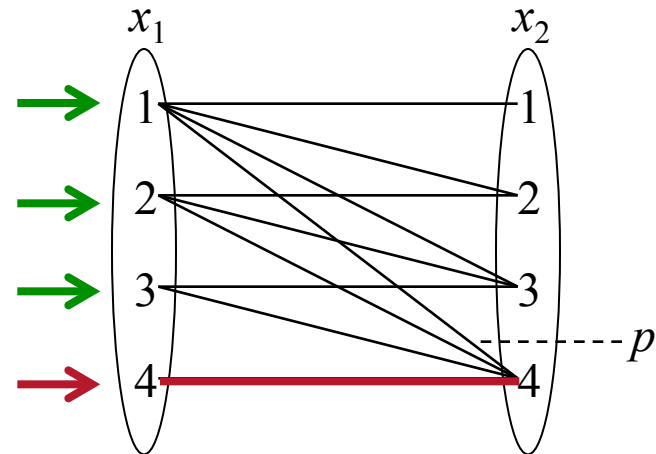
# Parameterized Consistency [Balafrej+ CP2013]

- LC: Some local consistency stronger than AC

- *pc*-LC:  $\forall c_{ij}$  on  $x_i, x_j$ 
  - $\langle x_j, v_j \rangle$  is *p*-stable for AC on  $c_{ij}$  or
  - $\langle x_j, v_j \rangle$  is LC on  $c_{ij}$

- *apc*-LC: adaptive

- Use weight of constraint, like dom/wdeg
- Low weight  $\Rightarrow$  Low  $p(c_{ij}) \Rightarrow$  Low consistency
- High weight  $\Rightarrow$  High  $p(c_{ij}) \Rightarrow$  High consistency



- **Issue: position is not a precise measure of support**

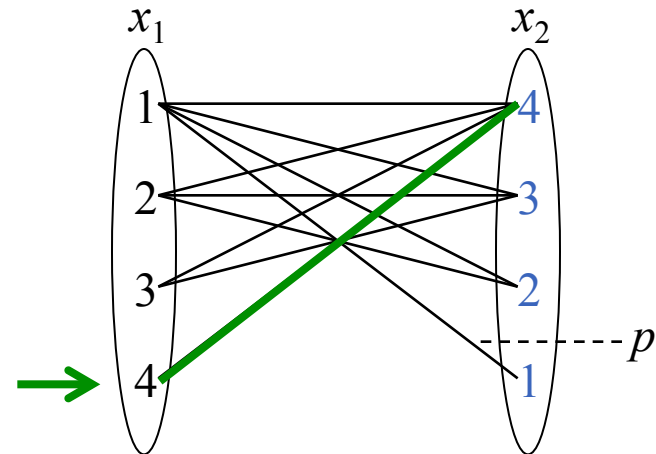
# Parameterized Consistency [Balafrej+ CP2013]

- LC: Some local consistency stronger than AC

- *pc*-LC:  $\forall c_{ij}$  on  $x_i, x_j$ 
  - $\langle x_j, v_j \rangle$  is  $p$ -stable for AC on  $c_{ij}$  or
  - $\langle x_j, v_j \rangle$  is LC on  $c_{ij}$

- *apc*-LC: adaptive

- Use weight of constraint, like dom/wdeg
- Low weight  $\Rightarrow$  Low  $p(c_{ij}) \Rightarrow$  Low consistency
- High weight  $\Rightarrow$  High  $p(c_{ij}) \Rightarrow$  High consistency



- **Issue: position is not a precise measure of support**

# Non-Binary CSPs: Local Consistency

---

- Generalized Arc Consistent: STR
  - GAC (domain filtering)
  - Removes unsupported tuples (relation filtering)
- $m$ -wise consistency
  - $R(*, m)C$
  - $m = 2 \equiv$  pair-wise consistent
- Algorithms maintain count of supports alive

# Outline

---

- Background
  - $p$ -stability for AC [Balafrej+ CP2013]
  - Parameterized Consistency [Balafrej+ CP2013]
  - Local consistency properties
- $p$ -stability for GAC
- Empirical evaluations
- Conclusions



# $p$ -stability for GAC

- Recall  $p$ -stable for AC

$$- \Delta(x_i, v_i) = \frac{|dom^o(x_i)| - rank(v_i, dom^o(x_i))}{|dom^o(x_i)|} \geq p$$

- $p$ -stable for GAC:

$$- \forall c_j \text{ on } x_i \frac{|\sigma_{x_i=v_i}(c_j)|}{|c_j^o|} \geq p$$

- $\sigma_{x_i=v_i}(c_j)$  selection operator

- Stored in  $gacSupports[c_j](\langle x_i, v_i \rangle)$

$\langle x_1, 1 \rangle$  is 0.25-stable for GAC ( $4/10 \geq 0.25$ )

$\langle x_1, 2 \rangle$  is 0.25-stable for GAC ( $3/10 \geq 0.25$ )

$\langle x_1, 3 \rangle$  not 0.25-stable for GAC ( $2/10 < 0.25$ )

$\langle x_1, 4 \rangle$  not 0.25-stable for GAC ( $1/10 < 0.25$ )

$gacSupports[\sigma_{x_1=1}(c_j)] = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$

$gacSupports[c_j](\langle x_1, 2 \rangle) = \{4, 5, 6\}$

$gacSupports[c_j](\langle x_1, 3 \rangle) = \{7, 8\}$

$gacSupports[c_j](\langle x_1, 4 \rangle) = \{9\}$

	$x_1$	$x_2$
0	1	1
1	1	2
2	1	3
3	1	4
4	2	2
5	2	3
6	2	4
7	3	3
8	3	4
9	4	4

# Algorithm for *apc*-LC

*Input:* A constraint  $R_j$

*Output:* Set of variables whose domain have been modified

$X_{modified} \leftarrow \emptyset$

$\forall \langle x_i, v_i \rangle \mid x_i \in \text{scope}(R_j), v_i \in \text{dom}(x_i)$

**if**  $|\text{gacSupports}[R_j][\langle x_i, v_i \rangle]| \neq 0$  **and**  $\frac{|\text{gacSupports}[R_j][\langle x_i, v_i \rangle]|}{|R_j^o|} \geq p(R_j)$

└ APPLY-LC( $R_j, \text{gacSupports}[R_j][\langle x_i, v_i \rangle]$ )

**if**  $|\text{gacSupports}[R_j][\langle x_i, v_i \rangle]| = 0$

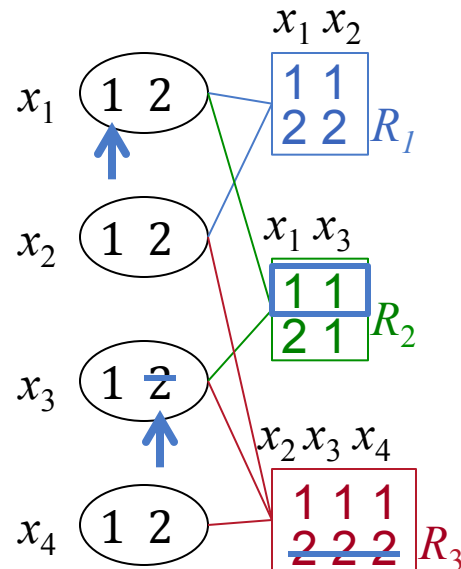
└  $\text{dom}(x_i) \leftarrow \text{dom}(x_i) \setminus \{v_i\}$

└ PROPAGATE-STR

**if**  $\text{dom}(x_i) = \emptyset$  **then** throw INCONSISTENCY

└  $X_{modified} \leftarrow X_{modified} \cup \{x_i\}$

return  $X_{modified}$



$\text{gacSupports}[R_2](\langle x_3, 2 \rangle) = \{\}$

$\text{gacSupports}[R_2](\langle x_1, 2 \rangle) = \{1\}$

# Empirical Evaluations (I)

- BT, first solution, dom/wdeg
- Maintain: STR,  $R(*,2)C$ ,  $apc-R(*,2)C$
- Number of instances: 623

	✓ STR	✗ $R(*,2)C$	✗ $apc-R(*,2)C$
Number of instances solved by	504	550	552
# instances solved only by	10	5	0
# instances solved by STR, but missed by	0	18	11
# instances solved by $R(*,2)C$ , but missed by	64	0	6
# instances solved by $apc-R(*,2)C$ , but missed by	59	8	0
Average CPU time (sec.) over 458 instances	328.41	378.12	<b>313.31</b>
Median CPU time (sec.) over 458 instances	7.23	17.35	<b>7.21</b>

# Empirical Evaluations (I)

- BT, first solution, dom/wdeg
- Maintain: STR,  $R(*,2)C$ ,  $apc-R(*,2)C$
- Number of instances: 623

	<span style="color: red;">X</span> STR	<span style="color: green;">✓</span> $R(*,2)C$	<span style="color: red;">X</span> $apc-R(*,2)C$
Number of instances solved by	504	550	552
# instances solved only by	10	5	0
# instances solved by STR, but missed by	0	18	11
# instances solved by $R(*,2)C$ , but missed by	64	0	6
# instances solved by $apc-R(*,2)C$ , but missed by	59	8	0
Average CPU time (sec.) over 458 instances	328.41	378.12	<b>313.31</b>
Median CPU time (sec.) over 458 instances	7.23	17.35	<b>7.21</b>

# Empirical Evaluations (I)

- BT, first solution, dom/wdeg
- Maintain: STR, R(\*,2)C, *apc*-R(\*,2)C
- Number of instances: 623

	X	X	✓
	STR	R(*,2)C	<i>apc</i> -R(*,2)C
Number of instances solved by	504	550	552
# instances solved only by	10	5	0
# instances solved by STR, but missed by	0	18	11
# instances solved by R(*,2)C, but missed by	64	0	6
# instances solved by <i>apc</i> -R(*,2)C, but missed by	59	8	0
Average CPU time (sec.) over 458 instances	328.41	378.12	313.31
Median CPU time (sec.) over 458 instances	7.23	17.35	7.21

# Empirical Evaluations (II)

Average CPU Time (sec.)											
benchmark	# Instances	All Comp.	STR	$R(*,2)C$	$apc-R(*,2)C$	benchmark	# Instances	All Comp.	STR	$R(*,2)C$	$apc-R(*,2)C$
a) $apc-R(*,2)C$ is the best						b) $apc-R(*,2)C$ is competitive					
aim-50	24	24	<b>0.04</b>	0.07	<b>0.04</b>	aim-100	24	24	0.38	<b>0.26</b>	0.41
allIntervalSeries	25	22	7.09	141.85	<b>6.00</b>	aim-200	24	22	414.48	<b>6.52</b>	286.27
jnhSat	16	16	13.07	357.66	<b>11.74</b>	jnhUnsat	34	34	<b>13.61</b>	294.77	13.95
modifiedRenault	50	50	6.39	11.17	<b>6.29</b>	lexVg	63	63	<b>69.81</b>	341.87	338.74
rand-3-20-20	50	31	1,666.10	939.88	<b>932.77</b>	pret	8	4	<b>117.89</b>	347.03	136.04
						rand-3-20-20-fcd	50	39	928.06	<b>546.84</b>	615.23
c) $apc-R(*,2)C$ is the worst						rand-8-20-5	20	9	2,564.94	<b>355.57</b>	372.76
dubois	13	6	1,000.54	<b>451.91</b>	1,456.01	rand-10-20-10	20	12	6.72	<b>1.67</b>	2.76
TSP-20	15	15	<b>101.20</b>	318.37	335.13	ssa	8	5	<b>64.60</b>	100.64	69.59
						TSP-25	15	10	<b>232.38</b>	1,072.72	743.33
						ukVg	65	31	<b>166.82</b>	796.90	421.35
d) Not solved by STR						varDimacs	9	6	<b>89.23</b>	587.55	319.20
dag-rand	25	0	-	<b>123.70</b>	149.64	wordsVg	65	58	<b>119.76</b>	532.05	400.22

# Empirical Evaluations (III)

---

Number of calls to STR and  $R(*,2)C$  by *apc*- $R(*,2)C$

benchmark	STR Calls	$R(*,2)C$ Calls
allIntervalSeries	38,281,694	0
modifiedRenault	4,618,778	601,641
rand-3-20-20	489,441,126	3,480,216,943

# Conclusions

---

- Contributions
  - Extended  $p$ -stability for AC to GAC
  - A more precise mechanism for computing it
  - Algorithm for enforcing *apc*-LC
- Future work
  - Investigate an adaptive criterion that operates also during pre-processing
  - Extend to more than 2 consistency levels



# Thank You!

---

Enjoy Lunch 😊

# Empirical Evaluations (III)

# Completions									
benchmark	# Instances	STR	R(*,2)C	apc-R(*,2)C	benchmark	# Instances	STR	R(*,2)C	apc-R(*,2)C
a) <i>apc-R(*,2)C</i> is the best					b) <i>apc-R(*,2)C</i> is competitive				
aim-50	24	24	24	24	aim-100	24	24	24	24
allIntervalSeries	25	22	22	22	aim-200	24	22	24	24
jnhSat	16	16	16	16	jnhUnsat	34	34	34	34
modifiedRenault	50	50	50	50	lexVg	63	63	63	63
rand-3-20-20	50	31	43	41	pret	8	4	4	4
					rand-3-20-20-fcd	50	39	48	47
c) <i>apc-R(*,2)C</i> is the worst					rand-8-20-5	20	9	20	20
dubois	13	7	8	6	rand-10-20-10	20	12	12	12
TSP-20	15	15	15	15	ssa	8	6	5	6
					TSP-25	15	13	10	13
					ukVg	65	37	31	34
d) Not solved by STR					varDimacs	9	6	6	6
dag-rand	25	0	25	25	wordsVg	65	65	58	58

Constraint Sy

benchmark	# Instances	Completed				Average CPU Time (sec)		
		STR	R(*,2)C	apc-R(*,2)C	All	STR	R(*,2)C	apc-R(*,2)C
a) <i>apc-R(*,2)C</i> is the best								
aim-50	24	24	24	24	24	<b>0.04</b>	0.07	<b>0.04</b>
allIntervalSeries	25	22	22	22	22	7.09	141.85	<b>6.00</b>
inhSat	16	16	16	16	16	13.07	357.66	<b>11.74</b>
modifiedRenault	50	50	50	50	50	6.39	11.17	<b>6.29</b>
rand-3-20-20	50	31	43	41	31	1,666.10	939.88	<b>932.77</b>
b) <i>apc-R(*,2)C</i> is competitive								
aim-100	24	24	24	24	24	0.38	<b>0.26</b>	0.41
aim-200	24	22	24	24	22	414.48	<b>6.52</b>	286.27
inhUnsat	34	34	34	34	34	<b>13.61</b>	294.77	13.95
lexVg	63	63	63	63	63	<b>69.81</b>	341.87	338.74
pret	8	4	4	4	4	<b>117.89</b>	347.03	136.04
rand-3-20-20-fcd	50	39	48	47	39	928.06	<b>546.84</b>	615.23
rand-8-20-5	20	9	20	20	9	2,564.94	<b>355.57</b>	372.76
rand-10-20-10	20	12	12	12	12	6.72	<b>1.67</b>	2.76
ssa	8	6	5	6	5	<b>64.60</b>	100.64	69.59
TSP-25	15	13	10	13	10	<b>232.38</b>	1,072.72	743.33
ukVg	65	37	31	34	31	<b>166.82</b>	796.90	421.35
varDimacs	9	6	6	6	6	<b>89.23</b>	587.55	319.20
wordsVg	65	65	58	58	58	<b>119.76</b>	532.05	400.22
c) <i>apc-R(*,2)C</i> is the worst								
dubois	13	7	8	6	6	1,000.54	<b>451.91</b>	1,456.01
TSP-20	15	15	15	15	15	<b>101.20</b>	318.37	335.13
d) Not solved by STR								
dag-rand	25	0	25	25	0	-	<b>123.70</b>	149.64

benchmark	# Instances	Completed				Average CPU Time (sec)			Median CPU Time (sec)		
		STR	R(*,2)C	apc-R(*,2)C	All	STR	R(*,2)C	apc-R(*,2)C	STR	R(*,2)C	apc-R(*,2)C
a) apc-R(*,2)C is the best											
aim-50	24	24	24	24	24	<b>0.04</b>	0.07	<b>0.04</b>	0.02	0.04	<b>0.03</b>
allIntervalSeries	25	22	22	22	22	7.09	141.85	<b>6.00</b>	0.13	0.31	0.12
jnhSat	16	16	16	16	16	13.07	357.66	<b>11.74</b>	8.15	142.24	7.21
modifiedRenault	50	50	50	50	50	6.39	11.17	<b>6.29</b>	7.24	8.79	6.98
rand-3-20-20	50	31	43	41	31	1,666.10	939.88	<b>932.77</b>	1,211.50	822.54	811.74
b) apc-R(*,2)C is competitive											
aim-100	24	24	24	24	24	0.38	<b>0.26</b>	0.41	0.18	0.25	<b>0.16</b>
aim-200	24	22	24	24	22	414.48	<b>6.52</b>	286.27	2.39	1.37	<b>2.60</b>
jnhUnsat	34	34	34	34	34	<b>13.61</b>	294.77	13.95	10.74	153.50	<b>9.78</b>
lexVg	63	63	63	63	63	<b>69.81</b>	341.87	338.74	0.50	1.38	0.89
pret	8	4	4	4	4	<b>117.89</b>	347.03	136.04	115.81	354.82	145.70
rand-3-20-20-fcd	50	39	48	47	39	928.06	<b>546.84</b>	615.23	501.30	422.24	464.00
rand-8-20-5	20	9	20	20	9	2,564.94	<b>355.57</b>	372.76	1,987.35	314.26	<b>261.68</b>
rand-10-20-10	20	12	12	12	12	6.72	<b>1.67</b>	2.76	6.40	1.66	2.75
ssa	8	6	5	6	5	<b>64.60</b>	100.64	69.59	1.51	1.60	1.58
TSP-25	15	13	10	13	10	<b>232.38</b>	1,072.72	743.33	69.00	211.41	131.69
ukVg	65	37	31	34	31	<b>166.82</b>	796.90	421.35	36.29	54.65	<b>30.39</b>
varDimacs	9	6	6	6	6	<b>89.23</b>	587.55	319.20	1.56	6.43	2.94
wordsVg	65	65	58	58	58	<b>119.76</b>	532.05	400.22	0.39	0.95	0.59
c) apc-R(*,2)C is the worst											
dubois	13	7	8	6	6	1,000.54	<b>451.91</b>	1,456.01	552.13	255.25	779.57
TSP-20	15	15	15	15	15	<b>101.20</b>	318.37	335.13	23.32	61.55	<b>46.34</b>
d) Not solved by STR											
dag-rand	25	0	25	25	0	-	<b>123.70</b>	149.64	-	124.47	151.33

# Algorithm for *apc*-LC

---

**Algorithm 1:** LIVING-STR( $c_i$ ): set of variables

---

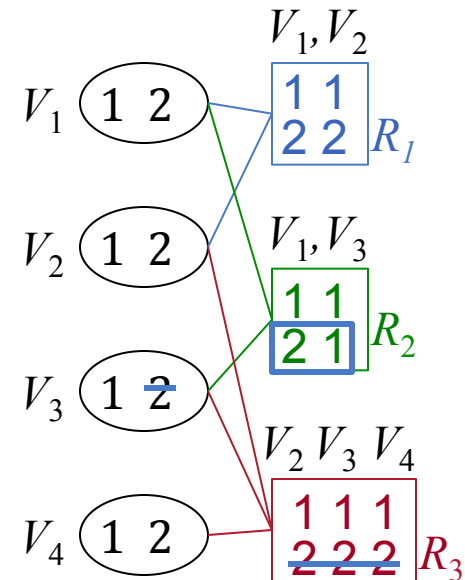
**Input:**  $c_j$ : a constraint of  $\mathcal{P}$

**Output:** Set of variables in  $scope(c_j)$  whose domains have been modified

```

1  $X_{modified} \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
2 foreach  $x_i \in scope(c_j) \mid x_i \notin past(\mathcal{P})$  do
3   foreach  $v_i \in dom(x_i)$  do
4     if  $|gacSupports[R_j](\langle x_i, v_i \rangle)| \neq 0$  and  $\frac{|gacSupports[R_j](\langle x_i, v_i \rangle)|}{|R_j|} \not\geq p(c_j)$ 
5       then
6          $\text{APPLY-LC}(R_j, gacSupports[R_j](\langle x_i, v_i \rangle))$ 
7       if  $|gacSupports[R_j](\langle x_i, v_i \rangle)| = 0$  then
8         foreach  $c_k \in cons(x_i)$  do
9            $\text{delTuples}(c_k, gacSupports[R_k](\langle x_i, v_i \rangle), |past(\mathcal{P})|)$ 
10           $dom(x_i) \leftarrow dom(x_i) \setminus \{v_i\}$ 
11          if  $dom(x_i) = \emptyset$  then throw INCONSISTENCY
12           $X_{modified} \leftarrow X_{modified} \cup \{x_i\}$ 
12 return  $X_{modified}$ 

```



$gacSupports[R_2](\langle V_3, 2 \rangle) = \{\}$

$gacSupports[R_2](\langle V_1, 2 \rangle) = \{2\}$