

Normal form for effects

- 1 Similarly to normal forms in propositional logic (DNF, CNF, NNF, ...) we can define **a normal form** for effects.
- 2 Nesting of conditionals, as in $a \triangleright (b \triangleright c)$, can be eliminated.
- 3 Restriction to atomic effects e in conditional effects $\phi \triangleright e$ can be made.
- 4 Only a small polynomial increase in size by transformation to normal form.
Compare: transformation to CNF or DNF may increase formula size exponentially.

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Equivalences on effects

AI Planning

Normal form

STRIPS operators

State-space
search

$$c \triangleright (e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_n) \equiv (c \triangleright e_1) \wedge \cdots \wedge (c \triangleright e_n) \quad (1)$$

$$c_1 \triangleright (c_2 \triangleright e) \equiv (c_1 \wedge c_2) \triangleright e \quad (2)$$

$$(c_1 \triangleright e) \wedge (c_2 \triangleright e) \equiv (c_1 \vee c_2) \triangleright e \quad (3)$$

$$e \wedge (c \triangleright e) \equiv e \quad (4)$$

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Equivalences on effects

AI Planning

Normal form

STRIPS operators

State-space
search

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Normal form for operators and effects

AI Planning

Definition

An operator $\langle c, e \rangle$ is in **normal form** if for all occurrences of $c' \triangleright e'$ in e the effect e' is either a or $\neg a$ for some $a \in A$, and there is at most one occurrence of any atomic effect in e .

Normal form

STRIPS operators

State-space
search

Theorem

For every operator there is an equivalent one in normal form.

Proof is constructive: we can transform any operator into normal form by using the equivalences from the previous slide.

Normal form for effects

Example

$$(a \triangleright (b \wedge (c \triangleright (\neg d \wedge e)))) \wedge (\neg b \triangleright e)$$

transformed to normal form is

$$(a \triangleright b) \wedge ((a \wedge c) \triangleright \neg d) \wedge ((\neg b \vee (a \wedge c)) \triangleright e)$$

AI Planning

Normal form

STRIPS operators

State-space
search

STRIPS operators

Definition

An operator $\langle c, e \rangle$ is a **STRIPS operator** if

- 1 c is a conjunction of literals, and
- 2 e does not contain \triangleright .

Hence every STRIPS operator is of the form

$$\langle l_1 \wedge \dots \wedge l_n, l'_1 \wedge \dots \wedge l'_m \rangle$$

where l_i are literals and l'_j are atomic effects.

STRIPS

Stanford Research Institute Planning System, Fikes & Nilsson, 1971.

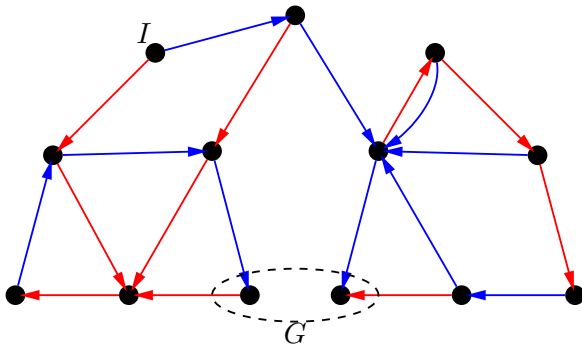
Planning by state-space search

There are many alternative ways of doing planning by state-space search.

- 1 different ways of expressing planning as a search problem:
 - 1 **search direction**: forward, backward
 - 2 **representation** of search space: states, sets of states
- 2 different **search algorithms**: depth-first, breadth-first, informed (heuristic) search (**systematic**: A*, IDA*,...; **local**: hill-climbing, simulated annealing, ...), ...
- 3 different ways of controlling search:
 - 1 **heuristics** for heuristic search algorithms
 - 2 **pruning techniques**: invariants, symmetry elimination,...

Planning by forward search

with depth-first search



AI Planning

Normal form

State-space
search

Ideas

Progression

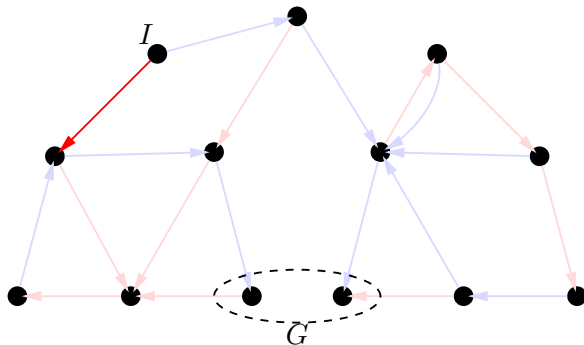
Regression

Complexity

Branching

Planning by forward search

with depth-first search



AI Planning

Normal form

State-space search

Ideas

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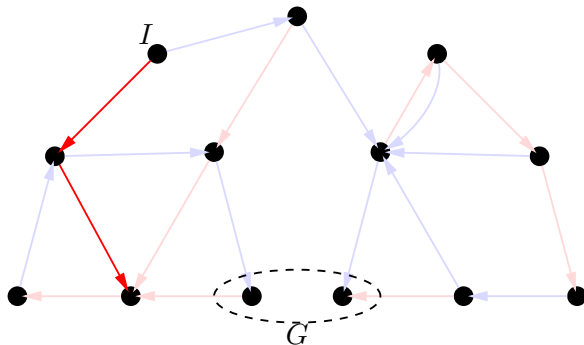
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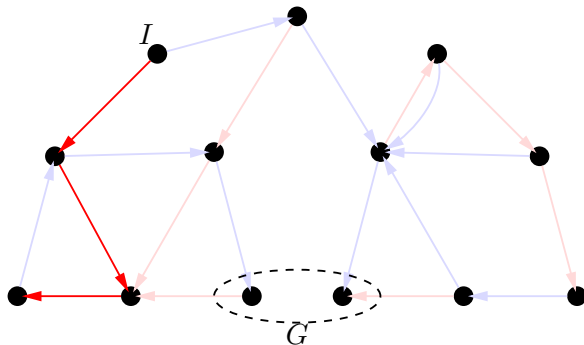
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AI Planning

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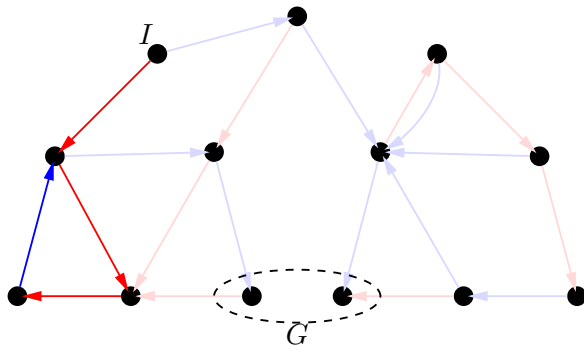
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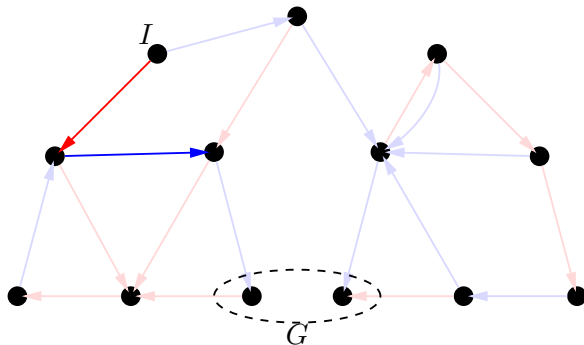
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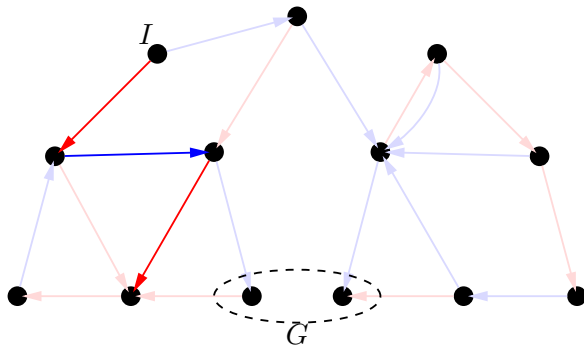
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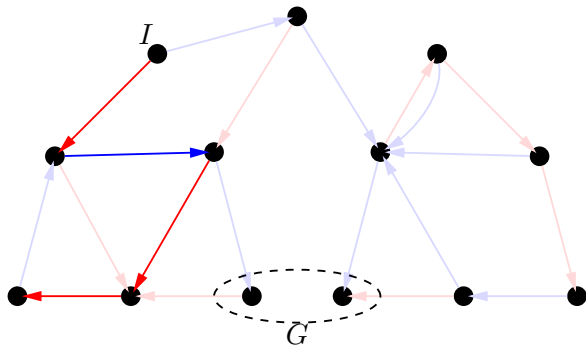
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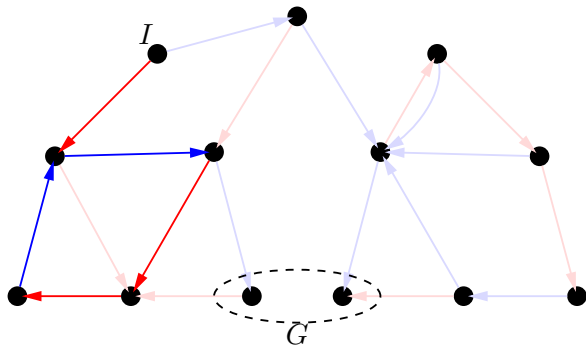
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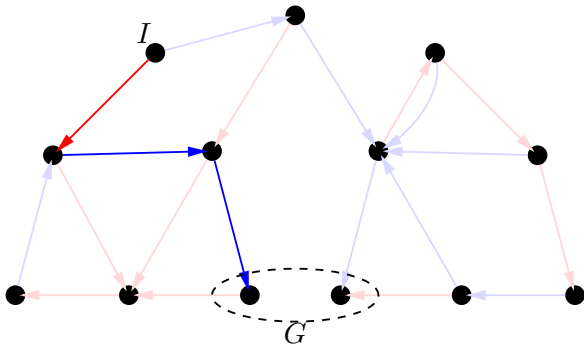
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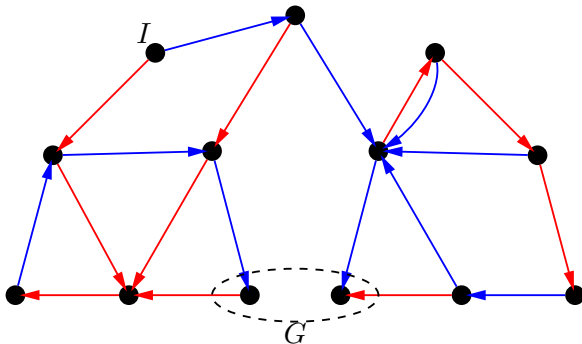
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Planning by backward search

with depth-first search, one state at a time



AI Planning

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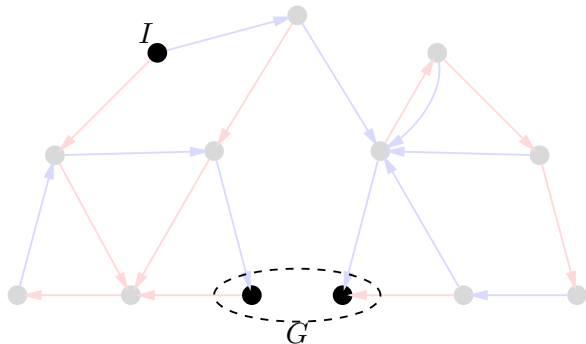
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AI Planning

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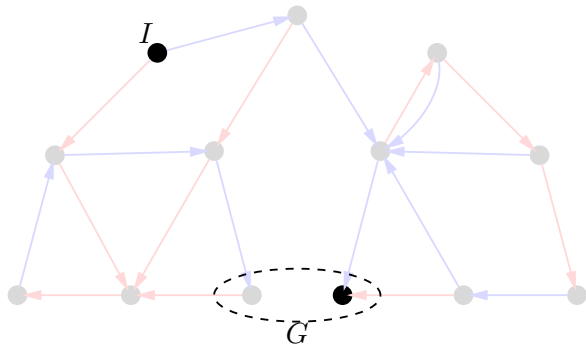
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AI Planning

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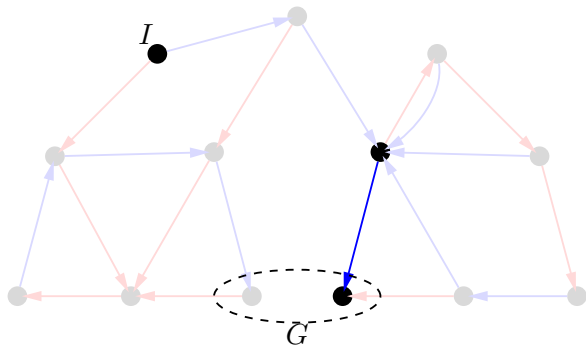
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AI Planning

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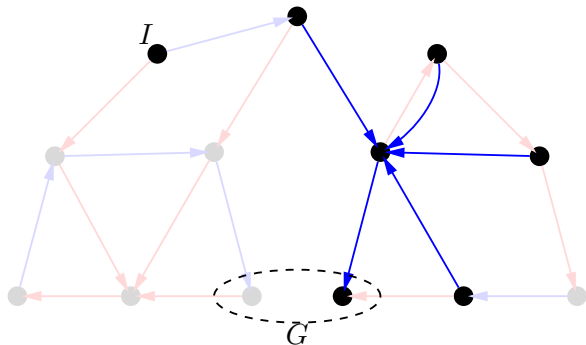
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AI Planning

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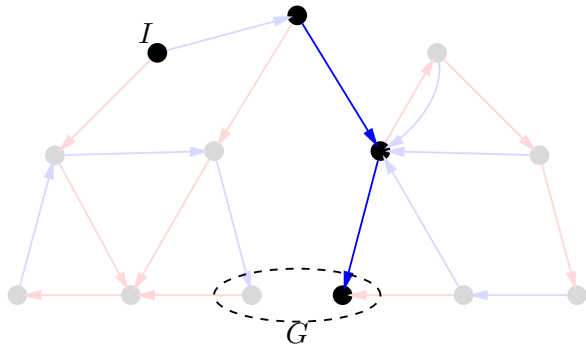
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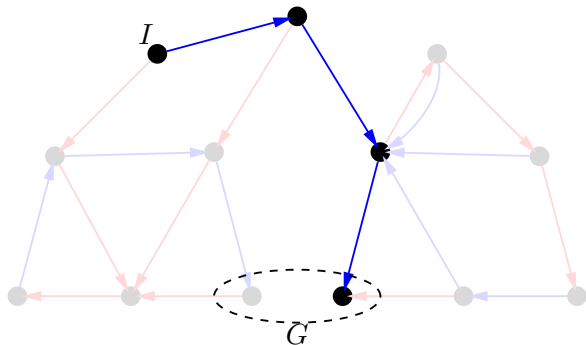
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AI Planning

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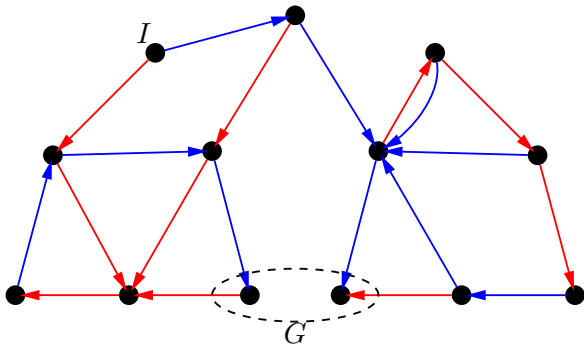
Regression

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Planning by backward search

with depth-first search, for state sets (represented as formulae)



AI Planning

Normal form

State-space
search

Ideas

Progression

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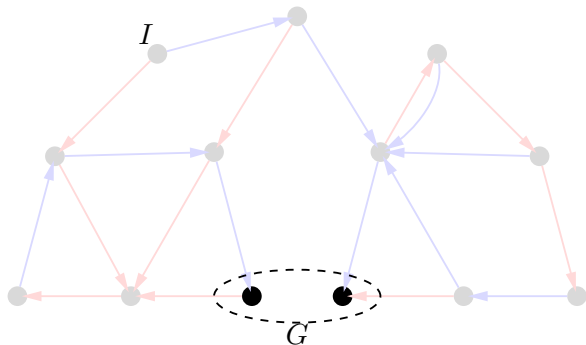
Complexity

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G



AI Planning

Normal form

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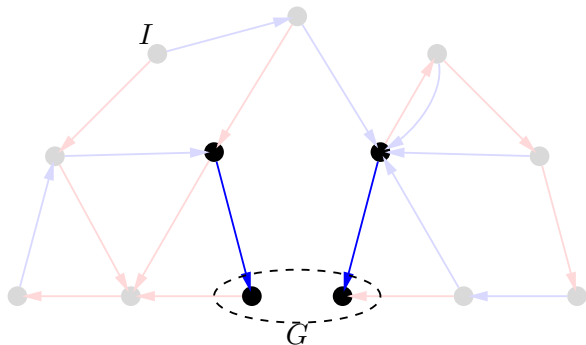
Branching

Planning by backward search

with depth-first search, for state sets (represented as formulae)

$$\phi_1 = \text{regr} \rightarrow (G)$$

$$\phi_1 \rightarrow G$$



AI Planning

Normal form

State-space
search

Ideas

Progression

Regression

Complexity

Branching

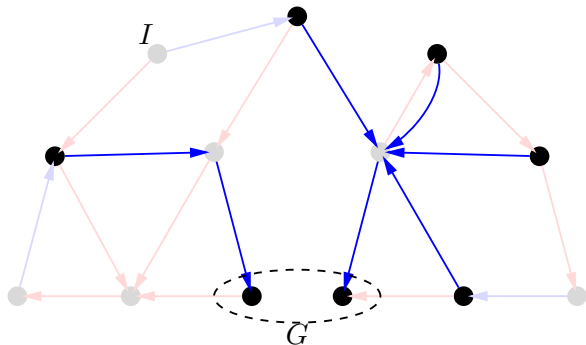
Planning by backward search

with depth-first search, for state sets (represented as formulae)

$$\phi_1 = \text{regr} \rightarrow (G)$$

$$\phi_2 = \text{regr} \rightarrow (\phi_1)$$

$$\phi_2 \rightarrow \phi_1 \rightarrow G$$



AI Planning

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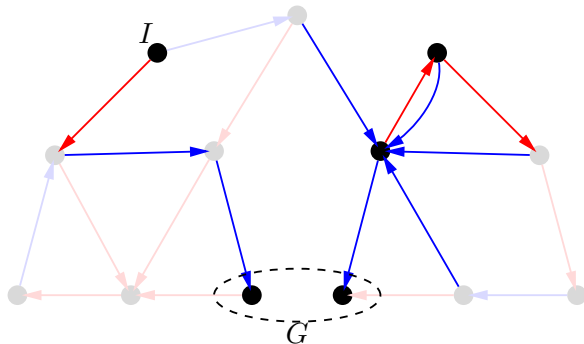
Complexity

Branching

Planning by backward search

with depth-first search, for state sets (represented as formulae)

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_1 &= \text{regr} \rightarrow (G) & \phi_3 &\xrightarrow{\text{red}} \phi_2 \xrightarrow{\text{blue}} \phi_1 \xrightarrow{\text{blue}} G \\ \phi_2 &= \text{regr} \rightarrow (\phi_1) \\ \phi_3 &= \text{regr} \rightarrow (\phi_2), I \models \phi_3\end{aligned}$$



AI Planning

Normal form

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search

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Complexity

Branching

- **Progression** means computing the successor state $app_o(s)$ of s with respect to o .
- Used in **forward search**: from the initial state toward the goal states.
- Very easy and efficient to implement.

Regression

- **Regression** is computing the possible predecessor states of a set of states.
- The formula $regr_o(\phi)$ represents the states from which a state represented by ϕ is reached by operator o .
- Used in **backward search**: from the goal states toward the initial states.
- Regression is powerful because it allows handling sets of states (progression: only one state at a time.)
- Handling formulae is more complicated than handling states: many questions about regression are **NP-hard**.

Regression for STRIPS operators

AI Planning

Normal form

State-space
search

Ideas

Progression

Regression

Complexity

Branching

- Regression **for STRIPS operators** is very simple.
- Goals are conjunctions of literals $l_1 \wedge \dots \wedge l_n$.
- **First step**: Choose an operator that makes some of l_1, \dots, l_n true and makes none of them false.
- **Second step**: Form a new goal by removing the fulfilled goal literals and adding the preconditions of the operator.

Regression for STRIPS operators

Definition

Definition

The **STRIPS-regression** $\text{regr}_o^{\text{str}}(\phi)$ of $\phi = l'_1 \wedge \dots \wedge l'_{m'}$, with respect to

$$o = \langle l_1 \wedge \dots \wedge l_n, l'_1 \wedge \dots \wedge l'_{m'} \rangle$$

is the conjunction of literals

$$\bigwedge ((\{l''_1, \dots, l''_{m'}\} \setminus \{l'_1, \dots, l'_{m'}\}) \cup \{l_1, \dots, l_n\})$$

provided that $\{l'_1, \dots, l'_{m'}\} \cap \{\overline{l''_1}, \dots, \overline{l''_{m'}}\} = \emptyset$.

AI Planning

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Regression for STRIPS operators

Example



NOTE: Predecessor states are in general not unique.
This picture is just for illustration purposes.

$$o_1 = \langle \text{blue on green} \wedge \text{blue clr}, \neg \text{blue on green} \wedge \text{blue on top} \wedge \text{green clr} \rangle$$

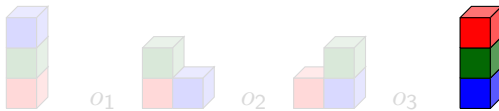
$$o_2 = \langle \text{green on red} \wedge \text{green clr} \wedge \text{blue clr}, \neg \text{blue clr} \wedge \neg \text{green on red} \wedge \text{green on blue} \wedge \text{red clr} \rangle$$

$$o_3 = \langle \text{red on top} \wedge \text{red clr} \wedge \text{green clr}, \neg \text{green clr} \wedge \neg \text{red on top} \wedge \text{red on green} \rangle$$

$$G = \text{red on green} \wedge \text{green on blue}$$

Regression for STRIPS operators

Example



$$G = \text{red on green} \wedge \text{green on blue}$$

AI Planning

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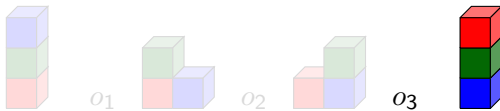
Regression

Complexity

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Regression for STRIPS operators

Example



$$o_3 = \langle \text{red on T} \wedge \text{red clr} \wedge \text{green clr}, \neg \text{green clr} \wedge \neg \text{red on T} \wedge \text{red on green} \rangle$$

$$G = \text{red on green} \wedge \text{green on purple}$$

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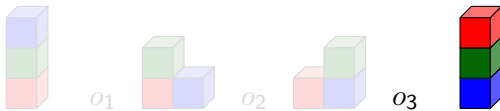
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Example



$$o_3 = \langle \text{red on T} \wedge \text{red clr} \wedge \text{green clr}, \neg \text{green clr} \wedge \neg \text{red on T} \wedge \text{red on green} \rangle$$

$$G = \text{red on green} \wedge \text{green on blue}$$

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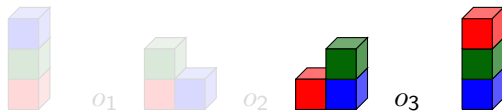
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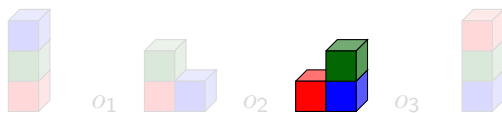
$$o_3 = \langle \text{red on T} \wedge \text{red clr} \wedge \text{green clr}, \neg \text{green clr} \wedge \neg \text{red on T} \wedge \text{red on green} \rangle$$

$$G = \text{red on green} \wedge \text{green on blue}$$

$$\phi_1 = \text{regr}_{o_3}^{str}(G) = \text{green on blue} \wedge \text{red on T} \wedge \text{red clr} \wedge \text{green clr}$$

Regression for STRIPS operators

Example



$$\phi_1 = \text{regr}_{o_3}^{\text{str}}(G) = \text{green on blue} \wedge \text{red on top} \wedge \text{red clear} \wedge \text{green clear}$$

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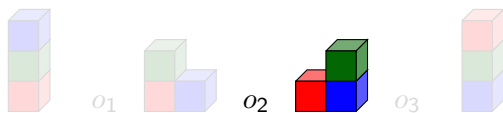
Regression

Complexity

Branching

Regression for STRIPS operators

Example

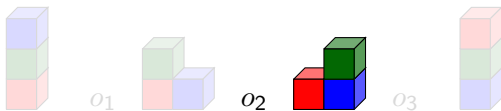


$$o_2 = \langle \text{green on red} \wedge \text{green clr} \wedge \text{blue clr}, \neg \text{blue clr} \wedge \neg \text{green on red} \wedge \text{green on blue} \wedge \text{red clr} \rangle$$

$$\phi_1 = \text{regr}_{o_3}^{\text{str}}(G) = \text{green on blue} \wedge \text{red on top} \wedge \text{red clr} \wedge \text{green clr}$$

Regression for STRIPS operators

Example

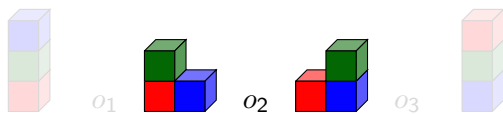


$$o_2 = \langle \text{green on red} \wedge \text{green clr} \wedge \text{blue clr}, \neg \text{light blue clr} \wedge \neg \text{light green on light red} \wedge \text{light green on light blue} \wedge \text{light red clr} \rangle$$

$$\phi_1 = \text{regr}_{o_3}^{\text{str}}(G) = \text{light green on light blue} \wedge \text{red on top} \wedge \text{light red clr} \wedge \text{green clr}$$

Regression for STRIPS operators

Example



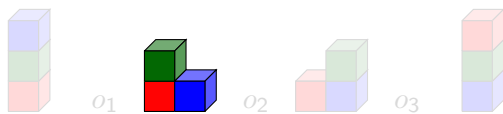
$$o_2 = \langle \text{green on red} \wedge \text{green clr} \wedge \text{blue clr}, \neg \text{purple clr} \wedge \neg \text{green on pink} \wedge \text{green on purple} \wedge \text{pink clr} \rangle$$

$$\phi_1 = \text{regr}_{o_3}^{str}(G) = \text{green on purple} \wedge \text{red on top} \wedge \text{pink clr} \wedge \text{green clr}$$

$$\phi_2 = \text{regr}_{o_2}^{str}(\phi_1) = \text{red on top} \wedge \text{green clr} \wedge \text{green on red} \wedge \text{blue clr}$$

Regression for STRIPS operators

Example



$$\phi_2 = \text{regr}_{o_2}^{\text{str}}(\phi_1) = \text{red on T} \wedge \text{green clr} \wedge \text{green on red} \wedge \text{blue clr}$$

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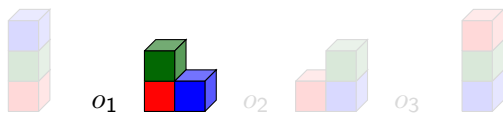
Regression

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Regression for STRIPS operators

Example



$$\phi_1 = \langle \text{blue on green} \wedge \text{blue clr}, \neg \text{blue on green} \wedge \text{blue on top} \wedge \text{green clr} \rangle$$

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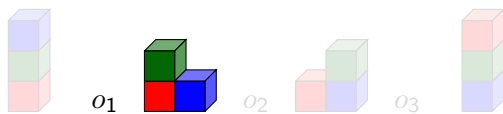
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$$\phi_1 = \langle \text{blue on green} \wedge \text{blue clr}, \neg \text{purple on green} \wedge \text{purple on top} \wedge \text{green clr} \rangle$$

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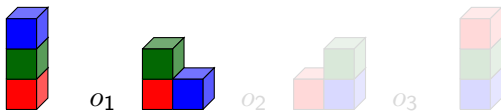
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Regression for STRIPS operators

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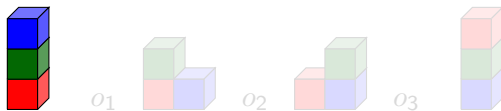
$$o_1 = \langle \text{blue on green} \wedge \text{blue clr}, \neg \text{light blue on light green} \wedge \text{light blue on T} \wedge \text{light green clr} \rangle$$

$$\phi_2 = \text{regr}_{o_2}^{str}(\phi_1) = \text{red on T} \wedge \text{light green clr} \wedge \text{green on red} \wedge \text{blue clr}$$

$$\phi_3 = \text{regr}_{o_1}^{str}(\phi_2) = \text{red on T} \wedge \text{green on red} \wedge \text{blue clr} \wedge \text{blue on green}$$

Regression for STRIPS operators

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$$\phi_3 = \text{regr}_{O_1}^{str}(\phi_2) = \text{red on T} \wedge \text{green on red} \wedge \text{blue clr} \wedge \text{blue on green}$$

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Regression for general operators

- With disjunction and conditional effects, things become more tricky. How to regress $A \vee (B \wedge C)$ with respect to $\langle Q, D \triangleright B \rangle$?
- The story about goals and subgoals and fulfilling subgoals, as in the STRIPS case, is no longer useful.
- We present a general method for doing regression for any formula and any operator.
- Now we extensively use the idea of *representing sets of states as formulae*.

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Precondition for effect l to take place: $EPC_l(e)$

Definition

Definition

The condition $EPC_l(e)$ for **literal l to become true under effect e** is defined as follows.

$$EPC_l(l) = \top$$

$$EPC_l(l') = \perp \text{ when } l \neq l' \text{ (for literals } l')$$

$$EPC_l(\top) = \perp$$

$$EPC_l(e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_n) = EPC_l(e_1) \vee \cdots \vee EPC_l(e_n)$$

$$EPC_l(c \triangleright e) = EPC_l(e) \wedge c$$

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Precondition for effect l to take place: $EPC_l(e)$

Example

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$$EPC_a(b \wedge c) = \perp \vee \perp \equiv \perp$$

$$EPC_a(a \wedge (b \triangleright a)) = \top \vee (\top \wedge b) \equiv \top$$

$$EPC_a((c \triangleright a) \wedge (b \triangleright a)) = (\top \wedge c) \vee (\top \wedge b) \equiv c \vee b$$

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Precondition for effect l to take place: $EPC_l(e)$

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Precondition for effect l to take place: $EPC_l(e)$

Connection to $[e]_s$

Lemma (B)

Let s be a state, l a literal and e an effect. Then $l \in [e]_s$ if and only if $s \models EPC_l(e)$.

Proof.

Induction on the structure of the effect e .

Base case 1, $e = \top$: By definition of $[\top]_s$ we have $l \notin [\top]_s = \emptyset$ and by definition of $EPC_l(\top)$ we have $s \not\models EPC_l(\top) = \perp$: Both sides of the equivalence are false.

Base case 2, $e = l$: $l \in [l]_s = \{l\}$ by definition, and $s \models EPC_l(l) = \top$ by definition. Both sides are true.

Base case 3, $e = l'$ for some literal $l' \neq l$: $l \notin [l']_s = \{l'\}$ by definition, and $s \not\models EPC_l(l') = \perp$ by definition. Both sides are false.

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Precondition for effect l to take place: $EPC_l(e)$

Connection to $[e]_s$

proof continues...

Inductive case 1, $e = e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_n$:

$l \in [e]_s$ iff $l \in [e_1]_s \cup \dots \cup [e_n]_s$ (Def $[e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_n]_s$)

iff $l \in [e']_s$ for some $e' \in \{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$

iff $s \models EPC_l(e')$ for some $e' \in \{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ (IH)

iff $s \models EPC_l(e_1) \vee \dots \vee EPC_l(e_n)$

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Inductive case 2, $e = c \triangleright e'$:

$l \in [c \triangleright e']_s$ iff $l \in [e']_s$ and $s \models c$ (Def $[c \triangleright e']_s$)

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□

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Precondition for effect l to take place: $EPC_l(e)$

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proof continues...

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Precondition for effect l to take place: $EPC_l(e)$

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Precondition for effect l to take place: $EPC_l(e)$

Connection to $[e]_s$

proof continues...

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Precondition for effect l to take place: $EPC_l(e)$

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proof continues...

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Precondition for effect l to take place: $EPC_l(e)$

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proof continues...

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Precondition for effect l to take place: $EPC_l(e)$

Connection to the normal form

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Remark

Notice that in terms of $EPC_a(e)$ any operator $\langle c, e \rangle$ can be expressed in normal form as

$$\left\langle c, \bigwedge_{a \in A} (EPC_a(e) \triangleright a) \wedge (EPC_{\neg a}(e) \triangleright \neg a) \right\rangle.$$

Regression: definition for state variables

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Regressing a state variable

The formula $EPC_a(e) \vee (a \wedge \neg EPC_{\neg a}(e))$ expresses the value of $a \in A$ after applying o in terms of values of state variables before applying o : Either

- a was true before and it did not become false, or
- a became true.

Regression: definition for state variables

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Example

Let $e = (b \triangleright a) \wedge (c \triangleright \neg a) \wedge b \wedge \neg d$.

<i>variable</i>	$\frac{EPC_{\dots}(e) \vee (\dots \wedge \neg EPC_{\neg\dots}(e))}{}$
a	$b \vee (a \wedge \neg c)$
b	$\top \vee (b \wedge \neg \perp) \equiv \top$
c	$\perp \vee (c \wedge \neg \perp) \equiv c$
d	$\perp \vee (d \wedge \neg \top) \equiv \perp$

Regression: definition for state variables

Lemma (C)

Let a be a state variable, $o = \langle c, e \rangle \in O$ an operator, s a state and $s' = \text{app}_o(s)$. Then
 $s \models \text{EPC}_a(e) \vee (a \wedge \neg \text{EPC}_{\neg a}(e))$ if and only if $s' \models a$.

Proof.

First prove the implication from left to right.

Assume $s \models \text{EPC}_a(e) \vee (a \wedge \neg \text{EPC}_{\neg a}(e))$. Do a case analysis on the two disjuncts.

- 1 Assume that $s \models \text{EPC}_a(e)$. By Lemma B $a \in [e]_s$ and hence $s' \models a$.
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In the first part we showed that if the formula is **true** in s , then a is **true** in s' .

For the second part of the equivalence we show that if the formula is **false** in s , then a is **false** in s' .

- 1 So assume $s \not\models EPC_a(e) \vee (a \wedge \neg EPC_{\neg a}(e))$.
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Regression: general definition

We base the definition of regression on formulae $EPC_l(e)$.

Definition

Let ϕ be a propositional formula and $o = \langle c, e \rangle$ an operator. The **regression of ϕ with respect to o** is

$$\text{regr}_o(\phi) = \phi_r \wedge c \wedge f$$

where

- 1 ϕ_r is obtained from ϕ by replacing each $a \in A$ by $EPC_a(e) \vee (a \wedge \neg EPC_{\neg a}(e))$, and
- 2 $f = \bigwedge_{a \in A} \neg(EPC_a(e) \wedge EPC_{\neg a}(e))$.

The formula f says that no state variable may become simultaneously true and false.

Regression: examples

$$1 \quad \mathit{regr}_{\langle a, b \rangle}(b) = (a \wedge (\top \vee (b \wedge \neg \perp))) \equiv a$$

$$2 \quad \mathit{regr}_{\langle a, b \rangle}(b \wedge c \wedge d) = \\ (a \wedge (\top \vee (b \wedge \neg \perp)) \wedge (\vee \perp (c \wedge \neg \perp)) \wedge (\perp \vee (d \wedge \neg \perp))) \equiv a \wedge c \wedge d$$

$$3 \quad \mathit{regr}_{\langle a, c \triangleright b \rangle}(b) = (a \wedge (c \vee (b \wedge \neg \perp))) \equiv a \wedge (c \vee b)$$

$$4 \quad \mathit{regr}_{\langle a, (c \triangleright b) \wedge (b \triangleright \neg b) \rangle}(b) = (a \wedge (c \vee (b \wedge \neg b)) \wedge \neg(c \wedge b)) \equiv \\ a \wedge c \wedge \neg b$$

$$5 \quad \mathit{regr}_{\langle a, (c \triangleright b) \wedge (d \triangleright \neg b) \rangle}(b) = (a \wedge (c \vee (b \wedge \neg d)) \wedge \neg(c \wedge d)) \equiv \\ a \wedge (c \vee b) \wedge (c \vee \neg d) \wedge (\neg c \vee \neg d)$$

Regression: examples

- 1 $regr_{\langle a, b \rangle}(b) = (a \wedge (\top \vee (b \wedge \neg \perp))) \equiv a$
- 2 $regr_{\langle a, b \rangle}(b \wedge c \wedge d) =$
 $(a \wedge (\top \vee (b \wedge \neg \perp))) \wedge (\vee \perp (c \wedge \neg \perp)) \wedge (\perp \vee (d \wedge \neg \perp)) \equiv a \wedge c \wedge d$
- 3 $regr_{\langle a, c \triangleright b \rangle}(b) = (a \wedge (c \vee (b \wedge \neg \perp))) \equiv a \wedge (c \vee b)$
- 4 $regr_{\langle a, (c \triangleright b) \wedge (b \triangleright \neg b) \rangle}(b) = (a \wedge (c \vee (b \wedge \neg b)) \wedge \neg(c \wedge b)) \equiv$
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Regression: examples

Blocks World with conditional effects

Moving blocks A and B onto the table from any location if they are clear.

$$o_1 = \langle \top, (AonB \wedge Aclear) \triangleright (AonT \wedge Bclear \wedge \neg AonB) \rangle$$

$$o_2 = \langle \top, (BonA \wedge Bclear) \triangleright (BonT \wedge Aclear \wedge \neg BonA) \rangle$$

Plan for putting both blocks onto the table **from any blocks world state** is o_2, o_1 . Proof by regression:

$$G = AonT \wedge BonT$$

$$\phi_1 = regr_{o_1}(G) = (AonT \vee (AonB \wedge Aclear)) \wedge BonT$$

$$\phi_2 = regr_{o_2}(\phi_1) = (AonT \vee (AonB \wedge (Aclear \vee (BonA \wedge Bclear)))) \wedge (BonT \vee (BonA \wedge Bclear))$$

All three 2-block states satisfy ϕ_2 . Similar plans exist for any number of blocks.

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Incrementing a binary number

$$\begin{aligned} & (\neg b_0 \triangleright b_0) \wedge \\ & ((\neg b_1 \wedge b_0) \triangleright (b_1 \wedge \neg b_0)) \wedge \\ & ((\neg b_2 \wedge b_1 \wedge b_0) \triangleright (b_2 \wedge \neg b_1 \wedge \neg b_0)) \end{aligned}$$

$$EPC_{b_2}(e) = \neg b_2 \wedge b_1 \wedge b_0 \quad EPC_{\neg b_2}(e) = \perp$$

$$EPC_{b_1}(e) = \neg b_1 \wedge b_0 \quad EPC_{\neg b_1}(e) = \neg b_2 \wedge b_1 \wedge b_0$$

$$\begin{aligned} EPC_{b_0}(e) &= \neg b_0 \\ EPC_{\neg b_0}(e) &= (\neg b_1 \wedge b_0) \vee (\neg b_2 \wedge b_1 \wedge b_0) \\ &\equiv (\neg b_1 \vee \neg b_2) \wedge b_0 \end{aligned}$$

Regression replaces state variables as follows.

$$b_2 \text{ by } (b_2 \wedge \neg \perp) \vee (\neg b_2 \wedge b_1 \wedge b_0) \equiv b_2 \vee (b_1 \wedge b_0)$$

$$\begin{aligned} b_1 \text{ by } & (b_1 \wedge \neg(\neg b_2 \wedge b_1 \wedge b_0)) \vee (\neg b_1 \wedge b_0) \\ & \equiv (b_1 \wedge (b_2 \vee \neg b_0)) \vee (\neg b_1 \wedge b_0) \end{aligned}$$

$$b_0 \text{ by } (b_0 \wedge \neg((\neg b_1 \vee \neg b_2) \wedge b_0)) \vee \neg b_0 \equiv (b_1 \wedge b_2) \vee \neg b_0$$

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Regression: properties

Lemma (D)

Let ϕ be a formula, o an operator, s any state and $s' = \text{app}_o(s)$. Then $s \models \text{regr}_o(\phi)$ if and only if $s' \models \phi$.

Proof.

Let e be the effect of o . We show by structural induction over subformulae ϕ' of ϕ that $s \models \phi'_r$ iff $s' \models \phi'$, where ϕ'_r is ϕ' with every $a \in A$ replaced by $EPC_a(e) \vee (a \wedge \neg EPC_{\neg a}(e))$. Rest of $\text{regr}_o(\phi)$ just states that o is applicable in s .

Induction hypothesis $s \models \phi'_r$ if and only if $s' \models \phi'$.

Base cases 1 & 2 $\phi' = \top$ or $\phi' = \perp$: Trivial as $\phi'_r = \phi'$.

Base case 3 $\phi' = a$ for some $a \in A$: Now
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Let e be the effect of o . We show by structural induction over subformulae ϕ' of ϕ that $s \models \phi'_r$ iff $s' \models \phi'$, where ϕ'_r is ϕ' with every $a \in A$ replaced by $EPC_a(e) \vee (a \wedge \neg EPC_{\neg a}(e))$. Rest of $\text{regr}_o(\phi)$ just states that o is applicable in s .

Induction hypothesis $s \models \phi'_r$ if and only if $s' \models \phi'$.

Base cases 1 & 2 $\phi' = \top$ or $\phi' = \perp$: Trivial as $\phi'_r = \phi'$.

Base case 3 $\phi' = a$ for some $a \in A$: Now
 $\phi'_r = EPC_a(e) \vee (a \wedge \neg EPC_{\neg a}(e))$.
By Lemma C $s \models \phi'_r$ iff $s' \models \phi'$.

Regression: properties

Lemma (D)

Let ϕ be a formula, o an operator, s any state and $s' = \text{app}_o(s)$. Then $s \models \text{regr}_o(\phi)$ if and only if $s' \models \phi$.

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proof continues...

Inductive case 1 $\phi' = \neg\psi$: By the induction hypothesis $s \models \psi_r$ iff $s' \models \psi$. Hence $s \models \phi'_r$ iff $s' \models \phi'$ by the truth-definition of \neg .

Inductive case 2 $\phi' = \psi \vee \psi'$: By the induction hypothesis $s \models \psi_r$ iff $s' \models \psi$, and $s \models \psi'_r$ iff $s' \models \psi'$. Hence $s \models \phi'_r$ iff $s' \models \phi'$ by the truth-definition of \vee .

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Regression: properties

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Regression: complexity issues

The following two tests are useful when generating a search tree with regression.

- 1 Testing that a formula $regr_o(\phi)$ does not represent the empty set (= search is in a blind alley).
For example, $regr_{\langle a, \neg p \rangle}(p) = a \wedge \perp \equiv \perp$.
- 2 Testing that a regression step does not make the set of states smaller (= more difficult to reach).
For example, $regr_{\langle b, c \rangle}(a) = a \wedge b$.

Both of these problems are **NP-hard**.

Regression: complexity issues

The formula $\text{regr}_{o_1}(\text{regr}_{o_2}(\dots \text{regr}_{o_{n-1}}(\text{regr}_{o_n}(\phi))))$ may have size $\mathcal{O}(|\phi| |o_1| |o_2| \dots |o_{n-1}| |o_n|)$, i.e. the product of the sizes of ϕ and the operators.

The size in the worst case $\mathcal{O}(2^n)$ is hence exponential in n .

Logical simplifications

- 1 $\perp \wedge \phi \equiv \perp, \top \wedge \phi \equiv \phi, \perp \vee \phi \equiv \phi, \top \vee \phi \equiv \top$
- 2 $a \vee \phi \equiv a \vee \phi[\perp/a], \neg a \vee \phi \equiv a \vee \phi[\top/a],$
 $a \wedge \phi \equiv a \wedge \phi[\top/a], \neg a \wedge \phi \equiv a \wedge \phi[\perp/a]$

To obtain the maximum benefit from the last equivalences, e.g. for $(a \wedge b) \wedge \phi(a)$, the equivalences for associativity and commutativity are useful: $(\phi_1 \vee \phi_2) \vee \phi_3 \equiv \phi_1 \vee (\phi_2 \vee \phi_3)$,
 $\phi_1 \vee \phi_2 \equiv \phi_2 \vee \phi_1, (\phi_1 \wedge \phi_2) \wedge \phi_3 \equiv \phi_1 \wedge (\phi_2 \wedge \phi_3)$,
 $\phi_1 \wedge \phi_2 \equiv \phi_2 \wedge \phi_1$.

Regression: generation of search trees

Problem Formulae obtained with regression may become very big.

Cause **Disjunctivity** in the formulae. Formulae **without disjunctions** easily convertible to small formulae $l_1 \wedge \dots \wedge l_n$ where l_i are literals and n is at most the number of state variables.

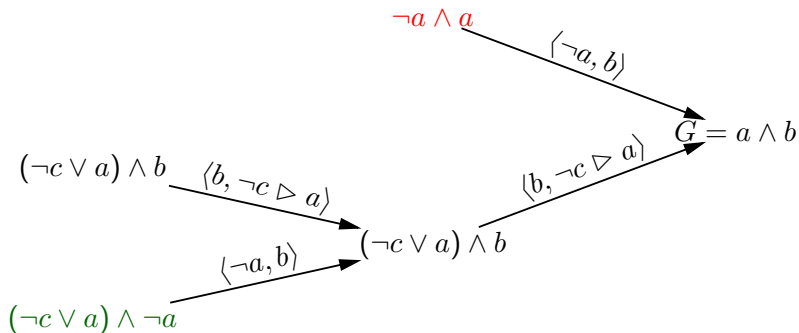
Solution Handle disjunctivity when generating search trees.
Alternatives:

- 1 Do nothing. (May lead to very big formulae!!!)
- 2 Always eliminate all disjunctivity.
- 3 Reduce disjunctivity if formula becomes too big.

Regression: generation of search trees

Unrestricted regression (= do nothing about formula size)

Reach goal $a \wedge b$ from state I such that $I \models \neg a \wedge \neg b \wedge \neg c$.



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Full splitting (= eliminate all disjunctivity)

- Planners for STRIPS operators only need to use formulae $l_1 \wedge \dots \wedge l_n$ where l_i are literals.
- Some PDDL planners also restrict to this class of formulae. This is done as follows.
 - 1 $regr_o(\phi)$ is transformed to **disjunctive normal form (DNF)**: $(l_1^1 \wedge \dots \wedge l_{n_1}^1) \vee \dots \vee (l_1^n \wedge \dots \wedge l_{n_n}^n)$.
 - 2 Each disjunct $l_1^i \wedge \dots \wedge l_{n_i}^i$ is handled in its own subtree of the search tree.
 - 3 The DNF formulae need not exist in its entirety explicitly: generate one disjunct at a time.
- Hence **branching** is both on the **choice of operator** and on the **choice of the disjunct** of the DNF formula.
- This leads to an **increased branching factor** and bigger search trees, but **avoids big formulae**.

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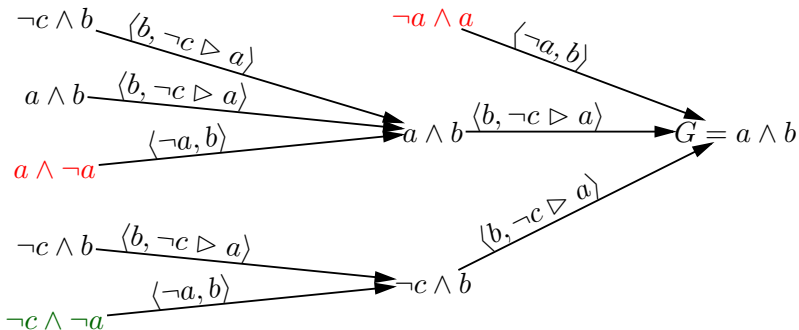
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Full splitting

Reach goal $a \wedge b$ from state I such that $I \models \neg a \wedge \neg b \wedge \neg c$.

$(\neg c \vee a) \wedge b$ in DNF is $(\neg c \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge b)$.

It is split to $\neg c \wedge b$ and $a \wedge b$.



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Restricted splitting

- With **full splitting** search tree can be **exponentially bigger** than without splitting. (But it is not necessary to construct the DNF formulae explicitly!)
- **Without splitting** the formulae may have **size that is exponential** in the number of state variables.
- A compromise is to split formulae only when necessary: combine benefits of the two extremes.
- There are several ways to split a formula ϕ to ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_n such that $\phi \equiv \phi_1 \vee \dots \vee \phi_n$. For example:
 - 1 Transform ϕ to $\phi_1 \vee \dots \vee \phi_n$ by equivalences like distributivity $(\phi_1 \vee \phi_2) \wedge \phi_3 \equiv (\phi_1 \wedge \phi_3) \vee (\phi_2 \wedge \phi_3)$.
 - 2 Choose state variable a , set $\phi_1 = a \wedge \phi$ and $\phi_2 = \neg a \wedge \phi$, and simplify with equivalences like $a \wedge \psi \equiv a \wedge \psi[T/a]$.