

# Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence

## Chapter 11: Planning in the Real World

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- 1 Time, Schedules & Resources
- 2 Hierarchical Planning
- 3 Planning & Acting in Non-Deterministic Domains
  - Generalities
  - Sensorless Planning (aka Conformant Planning)
  - Conditional Planning (aka Contingent Planning)

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# Planning with Time, Schedules and Resources

- Planning so far: choice of actions
- Real world: **Planning with time/schedules**
  - actions occur at certain moments in time
  - actions have a **beginning** and an **end**
  - actions have a **duration**

⇒ **Scheduling**
- Real world: **Planning with resources**
  - actions may require **resources**
  - ex: limited number of staff, planes, hoists, ...
- Preconditions and effects can include
  - logical inferences
  - numeric computations
  - interactions with other software packages
- Approach “plan first, schedule later”:
  - **planning phase**: build a (partial) plan, regardless action durations
  - **scheduling phase**: add temporal info to the plan, s.t. to meet resource and deadline constraints

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# Planning with Time & Resources: Example

## Planning Phase

*Init*(*Chassis*(*C1*)  $\wedge$  *Chassis*(*C2*)  $\wedge$  *Engine*(*E1*, *C1*, 30)  $\wedge$   
*Engine*(*E1*, *C2*, 60)  $\wedge$  *Wheels*(*W1*, *C1*, 30)  $\wedge$  *Wheels*(*W2*, *C2*, 15))

*Goal*(*Done*(*C1*)  $\wedge$  *Done*(*C2*))

*Action*(*AddEngine*(*e*, *c*, *d*))

*PRECOND* : *Engine*(*e*, *c*, *d*)  $\wedge$  *Chassis*(*c*)  $\wedge$   $\neg$ *EngineIn*(*c*)

*EFFECT* : *EngineIn*(*c*)  $\wedge$  *Duration*(*d*)

*Consume* : *LugNuts*(20), *Use* : *EngineHoists*(1))

*Action*(*AddWheels*(*w*, *c*, *d*))

*PRECOND* : *Wheels*(*w*, *c*, *d*)  $\wedge$  *Chassis*(*c*)

*EFFECT* : *WheelsOn*(*c*)  $\wedge$  *Duration*(*d*)

*Consume* : *LugNuts*(20), *Use* : *WheelStations*(1))

*Action*(*Inspect*(*c*, 10))

*PRECOND* : *EngineIn*(*c*)  $\wedge$  *WheelsOn*(*c*)  $\wedge$  *Chassis*(*c*)

*EFFECT* : *Done*(*c*)  $\wedge$  *Duration*(10)

*Use* : *Inspectors*(1))

Solution (partial plan):

{ *AddEngine*(*E1*, *C1*, 30)  $\prec$  *AddWheels*(*W1*, *C1*, 30)  $\prec$  *Inspect*(*C1*, 10);  
*AddEngine*(*E2*, *C2*, 60)  $\prec$  *AddWheels*(*W2*, *C2*, 15)  $\prec$  *Inspect*(*C2*, 10) }

# Planning with Time & Resources: Example

## Planning Phase

$Init(Chassis(C1) \wedge Chassis(C2) \wedge Engine(E1, C1, 30) \wedge$   
 $Engine(E1, C2, 60) \wedge Wheels(W1, C1, 30) \wedge Wheels(W2, C2, 15))$

$Goal(Done(C1) \wedge Done(C2))$

$Action(AddEngine(e, c, d))$

$PRECOND : Engine(e, c, d) \wedge Chassis(c) \wedge \neg EngineIn(c)$

$EFFECT : EngineIn(c) \wedge Duration(d)$

$Consume : LugNuts(20), Use : EngineHoists(1))$

$Action(AddWheels(w, c, d))$

$PRECOND : Wheels(w, c, d) \wedge Chassis(c)$

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$Consume : LugNuts(20), Use : WheelStations(1))$

$Action(Inspect(c, 10))$

$PRECOND : EngineIn(c) \wedge WheelsOn(c) \wedge Chassis(c)$

$EFFECT : Done(c) \wedge Duration(10)$

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# Job-Shop Scheduling

- **Problem:**

- complete a set of **jobs**,
- a job consists of a **collection of actions** with **ordering constraints**
- an action has a **duration** and is subject to **resource constraints**
- resource constraints specify
  - **the type** of resource (e.g., bolts, wrenches, or pilots),
  - **the number** of that resource required
  - if the resource is **consumable** (e.g., **bolts**) or **reusable** (e.g. **pilot**)
  - resources can be **produced** by actions with negative consumption

- **Solution** (aka **Schedule**):

- specify the start times for each action
- must satisfy all the temporal ordering constraints and resource constraints

- **Cost function**

- may be very complicate (e.g. non-linear constraints)
- we assume is the total duration of the plan (**makespan**)

⇒ Determine a schedule that minimizes the makespan, respecting all temporal and resource constraints

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# Solving Scheduling Problems

## Critical-Path Method

- A **path** is a ordered sequence of actions from Start to Finish
- The **critical path** is the path with maximum total duration
  - delaying the start of any action on it slows down the whole plan $\implies$  determines the duration of the entire plan
  - shortening other paths does not shorten the plan as a whole
- Actions off the critical path have a window of time in which they can be executed: **[ES, LS]**
  - **ES**: earliest possible start time
  - **LS**: latest possible start time
  - **LS-ES**: **slack** of the action
- LS & ES for all actions can be computed recursively:

$$ES(\text{Start}) = 0$$

$$ES(B) = \max_{\{A \mid A \prec B\}} (ES(A) + \text{Duration}(A))$$

$$LS(\text{Finish}) = ES(\text{Finish})$$

$$LS(A) = \min_{\{B \mid B \succ A\}} (LS(B) - \text{Duration}(A))$$

- Complexity:  $O(Nb)$ , N: #actions, b: max branching factor

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# Planning with Time & Resources: Example [cont.]

## Scheduling Phase

*Jobs*( $\{AddEngine1 \prec AddWheels1 \prec Inspect1\}$ ,  
 $\{AddEngine2 \prec AddWheels2 \prec Inspect2\}$ )

*Resources*(*EngineHoists*(1), *WheelStations*(1), *Inspectors*(2), *LugNuts*(500))

*Action*(*AddEngine1*, DURATION:30,  
USE: *EngineHoists*(1))

*Action*(*AddEngine2*, DURATION:60,  
USE: *EngineHoists*(1))

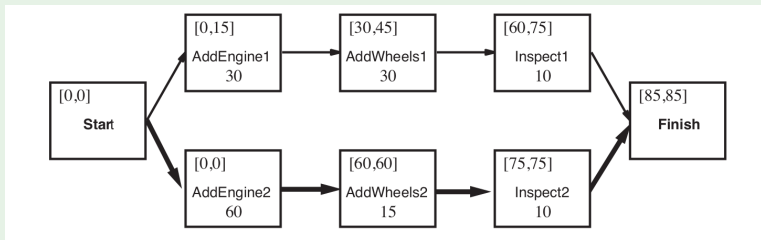
*Action*(*AddWheels1*, DURATION:30,  
CONSUME: *LugNuts*(20), USE: *WheelStations*(1))

*Action*(*AddWheels2*, DURATION:15,  
CONSUME: *LugNuts*(20), USE: *WheelStations*(1))

*Action*(*Inspect<sub>i</sub>*, DURATION:10,  
USE: *Inspectors*(1))

# Planning with Time & Resources: Example [cont.]

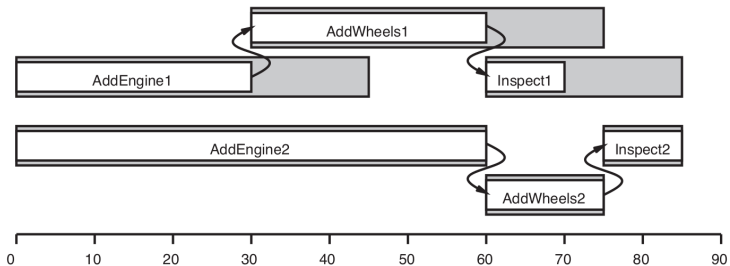
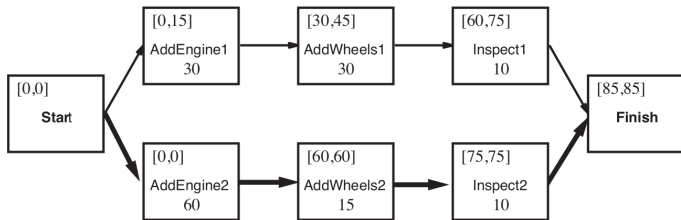
## Scheduling Phase





# Planning with Time & Resources: Example [cont.]

## Scheduling Phase



# Adding Resources

- Critical-path problems (without resources) computationally easy:
  - conjunction of linear inequalities on the start and end times:  
ex:  $(ES_2 \geq ES_1 + duration_1) \wedge (ES_3 \geq ES_2 + duration_2) \wedge \dots$
- Reusable resources: R(k) (ex: Use: EngineHoists(1))
  - k units of resource are required by the action.
  - is a pre-requisite before the action can be performed.
  - resource can not be used for k time units by other.
- Adding resources makes problems much harder
  - “cannot overlap” constraint is disjunction of linear inequalities  
ex:  $((ES_2 \geq ES_1 + duration_1) \vee (ES_1 \geq ES_2 + duration_2)) \wedge \dots$   
 $\Rightarrow$  NP-hard
- Various techniques:
  - branch-and-bound, simulated annealing, tabu search, ...
  - reduction to constraint optimization problems
  - reduction to optimization modulo theories (combined SAT+LP)
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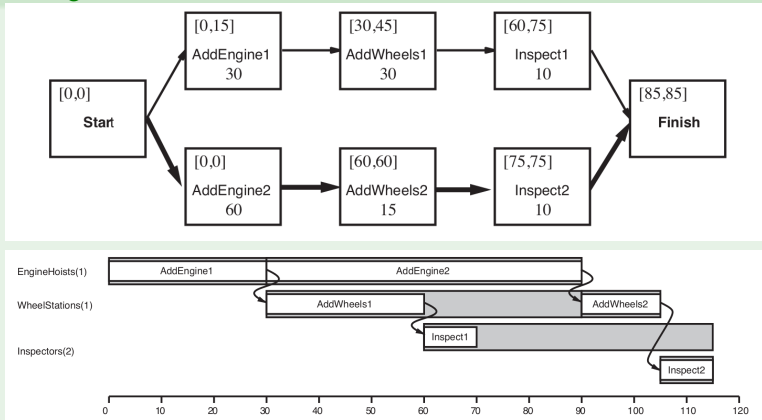
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ex:  $((ES_2 \geq ES_1 + duration_1) \vee (ES_1 \geq ES_2 + duration_2)) \wedge \dots$   
 $\Rightarrow$  **NP-hard**
- Various techniques:
  - **branch-and-bound, simulated annealing, tabu search, ...**
  - reduction to **constraint optimization problems**
  - reduction to **optimization modulo theories** (combined SAT+LP)
- Integrate planning and scheduling

# Adding Resources

- Critical-path problems (without resources) computationally easy:
  - **conjunction of linear inequalities** on the start and end times:  
ex:  $(ES_2 \geq ES_1 + duration_1) \wedge (ES_3 \geq ES_2 + duration_2) \wedge \dots$
- Reusable resources:  $R(k)$  (ex: **Use: EngineHoists(1)**)
  - $k$  units of resource are required by the action.
  - is a pre-requisite before the action can be performed.
  - resource can not be used for  $k$  time units by other.
- Adding resources makes problems much harder
  - “cannot overlap” constraint is **disjunction of linear inequalities**  
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# Planning with Time & Resources: Example [cont.]

## Scheduling Phase



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- left-hand margin lists the three reusable resources
- two possible schedules: which assembly uses the hoist first
- shortest-duration solution, which takes 115 minutes



# Exercise

- Consider the previous example
  - find another solution
  - draw the diagram
  - check its length and compare it with that in the previous slide

- 1 Time, Schedules & Resources
- 2 Hierarchical Planning**
- 3 Planning & Acting in Non-Deterministic Domains
  - Generalities
  - Sensorless Planning (aka Conformant Planning)
  - Conditional Planning (aka Contingent Planning)

# Hierarchical Planning: Generalities

- Real-World planning problems often too complex to handle
- **Hierarchical Planners** manage the creation of complex plans **at different levels of abstraction**, by considering the simplest details only after finding a solution for the most difficult ones.
- **Hierarchical plan**: hierarchy of action sequences (or partial orders) **at distinct abstraction levels**
  - each action, in turn, can be decomposed further, until we reach the level of actions that can be directly executed
  - designed by **hierarchical decomposition** (like, e.g., SW design)
- Ex (vacation plan): “Go to San Francisco airport; take Hawaiian Airlines flight 11 to Honolulu; do vacation for two weeks; take Hawaiian Airlines flight 12 back to San Francisco; go home.”
  - “Go to San Francisco airport” can be viewed as a planning task
  - ⇒ “Drive to the long-term parking lot; park; take the shuttle to the terminal.” or (simplier): “take a taxi to San Francisco airport”
  - “Drive to the long-term parking lot”: plan a route
- We need a **language** that enables operators at different levels

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# High-Level Actions & Refinements

## Hierarchical Task Networks (HTN)

- We assume **full observability**, **determinism** and the **availability of a set of actions** (primitive actions, PAs)
- **High-level action (HLA)**:
  - has one or more possible **refinements**
  - each refinement is **a sequence (or p.o.) of actions** (PAs or HLAs)
  - may be recursive
- A HLA refinement containing only primitive actions is an **implementation** of the HLA
- An **implementation of a high-level plan** is the concatenation/p.o. of implementations of each HLA in the plan.
- **A high-level plan achieves the goal from a given state if at least one of its implementations achieves the goal from that state**
  - note: **“at least one”** implementation, not **“all”** implementations
  - implicitly, we trust our capability to achieve lower-level sub-plans

Q: How do we deal with multiple implementations?

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# High-Level Actions & Refinements: Examples

*Refinement*(*Go*(*Home*, *SFO*),  
  *STEPS*: [*Drive*(*Home*, *SFO**LongTermParking*),  
          *Shuttle*(*SFO**LongTermParking*, *SFO*)] )

*Refinement*(*Go*(*Home*, *SFO*),  
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*Refinement*(*Navigate*([*a*, *b*], [*x*, *y*]),  
 PRECOND:  $a = x \wedge b = y$   
 STEPS: [ ] )

*Refinement*(*Navigate*([*a*, *b*], [*x*, *y*]),  
 PRECOND: *Connected*([*a*, *b*], [*a* - 1, *b*])  
 STEPS: [*Left*, *Navigate*([*a* - 1, *b*], [*x*, *y*])] )

*Refinement*(*Navigate*([*a*, *b*], [*x*, *y*]),  
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 STEPS: [*Right*, *Navigate*([*a* + 1, *b*], [*x*, *y*])] )

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# Searching for Primitive Solutions

## Formulation of HTN Planning

- Often formulated with a single “top level” HLA **Act** s.t.
  - for each  $a_i$ , provide one refinement of  $a_i$  with steps:  $[a_i, Act]$
  - one refinement of **Act** with empty steps and a goal as precondition

⇒ when goal is achieved, do nothing  
hint: “one plan is given by an action, followed by a plan”
- General Algorithm Schema:  
**Repeat**
  - choose an HLA in the current plan
  - replace it with one of its refinements**Until the plan achieves the goals**
- Many variants: breadth-first (next slide), depth-first, iterative-deepening, graph-based, ...

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# Hierarchical Forward-Planning Search

## A breadth-first implementation

**function** HIERARCHICAL-SEARCH(*problem, hierarchy*) **returns** a solution, or failure

*frontier*  $\leftarrow$  a FIFO queue with [*Act*] as the only element

**loop do**

**if** EMPTY?(*frontier*) **then return** failure

*plan*  $\leftarrow$  POP(*frontier*) /\* chooses the shallowest plan in *frontier* \*/

*hla*  $\leftarrow$  the first HLA in *plan*, or *null* if none

*prefix, suffix*  $\leftarrow$  the action subsequences before and after *hla* in *plan*

*outcome*  $\leftarrow$  RESULT(*problem*.INITIAL-STATE, *prefix*)

**if** *hla* is null **then** /\* so *plan* is primitive and *outcome* is its result \*/

**if** *outcome* satisfies *problem*.GOAL **then return** *plan*

**else for each** *sequence* **in** REFINEMENTS(*hla, outcome, hierarchy*) **do**

*frontier*  $\leftarrow$  INSERT(APPEND(*prefix, sequence, suffix*), *frontier*)

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## REFINEMENTS(HLA, OUTCOME, HIERARCHY)

returns a set of action sequences, one for each refinement of the HLA, whose preconditions are satisfied by the specified state: *outcome*.

# Exercise

Consider the refinements of  $Go(Home, SFO)$  of last example

- Apply Hierarchical-Search procedure to that example

## The key to HTN planning

The construction of a plan library containing known methods for implementing complex, high-level actions

- One method: learn them via problem-solving experience
- key issue: the ability to **generalize the methods** that are constructed,
  - eliminating detail that is specific to the problem instance
- Ex:  $Drive(Home, ParkingOf(SFO)), Shuttle(ParkingOf(SFO), SFO)]$   
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## Generalities [also recall Ch.04]

- Assumptions so far:

- the environment is deterministic
- the environment is fully observable
- the environment is static
- the agent knows the effects of each action

⇒ The agent does not need perception:

- can calculate which state results from any sequence of actions
- always knows which state it is in

- In the real world, the environment may be uncertain

- partially observable and/or nondeterministic environment
- incorrect information (differences between world and model)

⇒ If one of the above assumptions does not hold, use percepts

- the agent's future actions will depend on future percepts
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- Use percepts:

- perceive the changes in the world
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find plan that achieves goal in all possible circumstances  
(regardless of initial state and action effects)
  - for environments with no observations
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construct conditional plan with different branches for possible contingencies
  - for partially-observable and nondeterministic environments
- **Execution monitoring and replanning**:  
while constructing plan, judge whether plan requires revision
  - for partially-known or evolving environments

## Differences wrt. general Search (Ch.04)

- planners deal with factored representations rather than atomic
- different representation of actions and observation
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# Open-World vs. Closed-World Assumption

- Classical Planning based on **Closed-World Assumption (CWA)**
  - states contain only positive fluents
  - we assume that every fluent not mentioned in a state is false

- Sensorless & Partially-observable Planning based on **Open-World Assumption (OWA)**

- states contain both positive and negative fluents
- if a fluent does not appear in the state, its value is unknown

- A belief state is represented by a **logical formula** (instead of an explicitly-enumerated set of states)

⇒ The belief state corresponds exactly to the set of possible worlds that satisfy the formula representing it

- The unknown information can be retrieved via **sensing actions** (aka **percept actions**) added to the plan

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# A Case Study

## The table & chair painting problem

Given a chair and a table, the goal is to have them of the same color. In the initial state we have two cans of paint, but the colors of the paint and the furniture are unknown.

Only the table is initially in the agent's field of view

# A Case Study [cont.]

## The table & chair painting problem [cont.]

- Initial state:

$Init(Object(Table) \wedge Object(Chair) \wedge Can(C1) \wedge Can(C2) \wedge InView(Table))$

- Goal:  $Goal(Color(Chair, c) \wedge Color(Table, c))$

- recall: in goal, variable  $c$  existentially quantified

- Actions:

$Action(RemoveLid(can),$

$Precond : Can(can)$

$Effect : Open(can))$

$Action(Paint(x, can),$

$Precond : Object(x) \wedge Can(can) \wedge Color(can, c) \wedge Open(can)$

$Effect : Color(x, c))$

$c$  not part of action's variable list (partially observable only)

- Add an action causing objects to come into view (one at a time):

$Action(LookAt(x),$

$Precond : InView(y) \wedge (x \neq y)$

$Effect : InView(x) \wedge \neg InView(y))$

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- **Partially-Observable Problems:**

**need to reason about percepts obtained during action**

⇒ Augment PDDL with **percept schemata** for each fluent. Ex:

- *Percept(*Color(*x, c*),

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"if an object is in view, then the agent will perceive its color"

⇒ perception will acquire the truth value of *Color(x, c)*, for every *x, c*

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"if an open can is in view, then the agent perceives the color of the paint in the can"

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- **Sensorless planning** (aka **conformant planning**):  
find plan that achieves goal in all possible circumstances  
(regardless of initial state and action effects)
  - for environments with no observations
  - ex: "Open any can of paint and apply it to both chair and table"
- **Conditional planning** (aka **contingency planning**):  
construct conditional plan with different branches for possible contingencies
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  - ex: "Sense color of table and chair;  
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- **Execution monitoring and replanning**:  
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- 1 Time, Schedules & Resources
- 2 Hierarchical Planning
- 3 **Planning & Acting in Non-Deterministic Domains**
  - Generalities
  - **Sensorless Planning (aka Conformant Planning)**
  - Conditional Planning (aka Contingent Planning)

## [Recall from Ch.04]: Search with No Observation

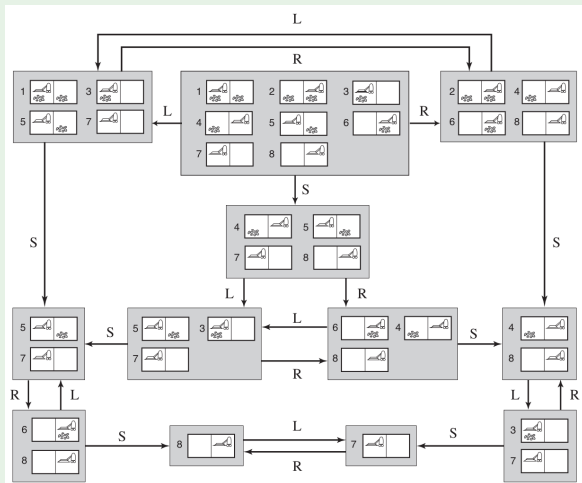
### Search with No Observation

- aka **Sensorless Search** or **Conformant Search**
- Idea: To solve sensorless problems, **the agent searches in the space of belief states** rather than in that of physical states
  - **fully observable**, because the agent knows its own belief space
  - **solutions are always sequences of actions** (no contingency plan), because percepts are always empty and thus predictable
- Main drawback:  **$2^N$  candidate states rather than  $N$**

# [Recall from Ch.04]: Belief-State Problem Formulation

## Example: Sensorless Vacuum Cleaner: Belief State Space

(note: self-loops are omitted)



(© S. Russell & P. Norwig, AIMA)

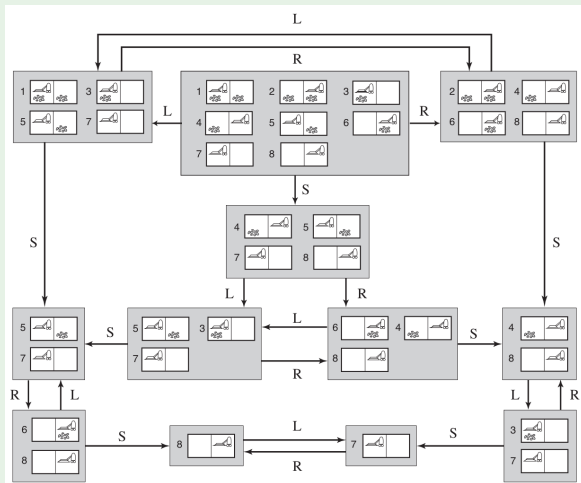
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# Sensorless Planning

- Main idea [see ch.04]: see a sensorless planning problem as a belief-state planning problem
- Main differences:
  - planners deal with factored representations rather than atomic
  - physical transition model is a collection of action schemata
  - the belief state represented by a logical formula instead of an explicitly-enumerated set of states
- Open-World Assumption  $\implies$  a belief state corresponds to the set of possible worlds that satisfy the formula representing it
- All belief states (implicitly) include unchanging facts (invariants)  
ex:  $Object(Table) \wedge Object(Chair) \wedge Can(C_1) \wedge Can(C_2)$
- Initial belief state includes facts that part of the agent's domain knowledge
  - Ex: "objects and cans have colors"  
 $\forall x. \exists c. Color(x, c) \implies$  (Skolemization)  
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## Sensorless Planning [cont.]

- In belief state  $b$ , it is possible to apply every action  $a$  s.t.  
 $b \models \text{Precond}(a)$ 
  - e.g.,  $\text{RemoveLid}(Can_1)$  applicable in  $b_0$  since  $\text{Can}(C_1)$  true in  $b_0$
- $\text{Result}(b, a)$  is computed:
  - start from  $b$
  - set to false any atom that appears in  $\text{Del}(a)$  (after unification)
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### Property

If the belief state starts as a conjunction of literals, then any update will yield a conjunction of literals

- with  $n$  fluents, any belief state can be very-compactly represented by a conjunction of size  $O(n)$

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- with  $n$  fluents, any belief state can be very-compactly represented by a conjunction of size  $O(n)$

⇒ much simplifies complexity of belief-state reasoning

# Sensorless Planning: Example

- Start from  $b_0 : Color(x, C(x))$
  - Apply  $RemoveLid(Can_1)$  in  $b_0$  and obtain:  
 $b_1 : Color(x, C(x)) \wedge Open(Can_1)$
  - Apply  $Paint(Chair, Can_1)$  in  $b_1$  using  $\{x/Can_1, c/C(Can_1)\}$ :  
 $b_2 : Color(x, C(x)) \wedge Open(Can_1) \wedge Color(Chair, C(Can_1))$
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# Exercise

- Provide a novel formalization of the above problem with distinct predicates for the color of an object and for the color the paint in a can
  - find step-by-step a plan with the new formalization

- 1 Time, Schedules & Resources
- 2 Hierarchical Planning
- 3 **Planning & Acting in Non-Deterministic Domains**
  - Generalities
  - Sensorless Planning (aka Conformant Planning)
  - **Conditional Planning (aka Contingent Planning)**

# [Recall from Ch.4]:Searching with Nondeterministic Actions

## Generalized notion of transition model

- $RESULTS(S,A)$  returns a set of possible outcomes states
  - Ex:  $RESULTS(1,SUCK)=\{5, 7\}$ ,  $RESULTS(5,SUCK)=\{1, 5\}$ , ...
- A solution is a contingency plan (aka conditional plan, strategy)
  - contains nested conditions on future percepts (if-then-else, case-switch, ...)
  - Ex: from state 1 we can act the following contingency plan:  
[SUCK, IF STATE = 5 THEN [RIGHT, SUCK] ELSE [ ]]
- Can cause loops (see later)

# [Recall from Ch.4]: Searching with Nondeterministic Actions [cont.]

## And-Or Search Trees

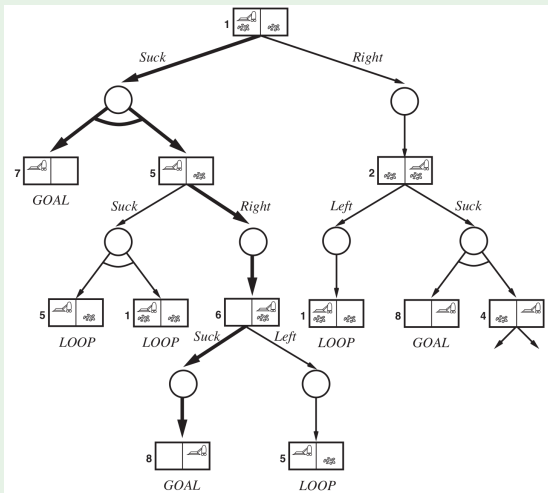
- In a **deterministic environment**, branching on **agent's choices**
  - ⇒ **OR nodes**, hence **OR search trees**
    - **OR nodes correspond to states**
- In a **nondeterministic environment**, branching also on **environment's choice of outcome for each action**
  - the agent has to handle all such outcomes
  - ⇒ **AND nodes**, hence **AND-OR search trees**
    - **AND nodes correspond to actions**
    - leaf nodes are **goal**, **dead-end** or **loop** OR nodes
- A **solution** for an AND-OR search problem is a subtree s.t.:
  - has a goal node at every leaf
  - specifies **one action** at each of its OR nodes
  - includes **all outcome branches** at each of its AND nodes

OR tree: AND-OR tree with 1 outcome each AND node (determinism)

# [Recall from Ch.4]: And-Or Search Trees: Example

(Part of) And-Or Search Tree for Erratic Vacuum Cleaner Example.

Solution for [SUCK, IF STATE = 5 THEN [RIGHT, SUCK] ELSE [ ]]



# [Recall from Ch.4]: AND-OR Search

## Recursive Depth-First (Tree-based) AND-OR Search

**function** AND-OR-GRAPH-SEARCH(*problem*) **returns** a conditional plan, or failure  
OR-SEARCH(*problem*.INITIAL-STATE, *problem*, [])

---

**function** OR-SEARCH(*state*, *problem*, *path*) **returns** a conditional plan, or failure  
**if** *problem*.GOAL-TEST(*state*) **then return** the empty plan  
**if** *state* is on *path* **then return** failure  
**for each** *action* **in** *problem*.ACTIONS(*state*) **do**  
    *plan*  $\leftarrow$  AND-SEARCH(RESULTS(*state*, *action*), *problem*, [*state* | *path*])  
    **if** *plan*  $\neq$  failure **then return** [*action* | *plan*]  
**return** failure

---

**function** AND-SEARCH(*states*, *problem*, *path*) **returns** a conditional plan, or failure  
**for each**  $s_i$  **in** *states* **do**  
    *plan*<sub>*i*</sub>  $\leftarrow$  OR-SEARCH( $s_i$ , *problem*, *path*)  
    **if** *plan*<sub>*i*</sub> = failure **then return** failure  
**return** [if  $s_1$  **then** *plan*<sub>1</sub> **else if**  $s_2$  **then** *plan*<sub>2</sub> **else** ... if  $s_{n-1}$  **then** *plan* <sub>$n-1$</sub>  **else** *plan* <sub>$n$</sub> ]

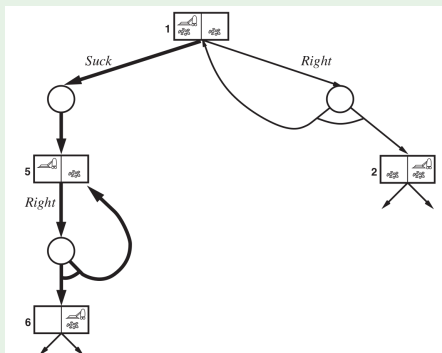
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Note: nested if-then-else can be rewritten as case-switch

# [Recall from Ch.4]: Cyclic Solution: Example

## Example: Slippery Vacuum Cleaner

- Movement actions may fail: e.g.,  $Results(1, Right) = \{1, 2\}$
- A cyclic solution
- Use labels: [Suck, L1 : Right, if State = 5 then L1 else Suck]
- Use cycles: [Suck, While State = 5 do Right, Suck]



# Contingent Planning

- **Contingent Planning: generation of plans with conditional branching based on percepts** [see Ch.04]
  - appropriate for partial observability, non-determinism, or both
- Main differences:
  - planners deal with factored representations rather than atomic
  - physical transition model is a collection of action schemata
  - the belief state represented by a logical formula instead of an explicitly-enumerated set of states
  - sets of belief states represented as disjunctions of logical formulas representing belief states
- When executing a contingent plan, the agent:
  - maintain its belief state as a logical formula
  - evaluate each branch condition:
    - if the belief state entails the condition formula, then proceed with the “then” branch
    - if the belief state entails the negation of the condition formula, then proceed with the “else” branch
  - Note: The planning algorithm must guarantee that the agent never ends in a belief state where the condition’s truth value is unknown



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# Computing $Result(a, b)$ with Conditional Steps

## Three steps (aka prediction-observation-update)

- 1 **Prediction:** (same as for sensorless):  $\hat{b} = b \setminus Del(a) \cup Add(a)$
- 2 **Observation prediction:** determines the set of percepts that could be observed in the predicted belief state  
 $P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} PossiblePercepts(\hat{b}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{p \mid \hat{b} \models Precond(p)\}$
- 3 **Update:**  $Result(b, a) = \hat{b} \wedge \bigwedge_{p \in P} b_p$ , s.t.:

- if  $p$  has one percept schema,  $Percept(p, Precond : c)$ , s.t.  $\hat{b} \models c$ , then  $b_p \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} p \wedge c$
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$\implies Result(b, a)$  CNF formula, not simply conjunction of literals (cubes)

$\implies$  much harder to deal with

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# Contingent Planning: Example

- Possible contingent plan for previous problem described below
  - variables in the plan to be considered existentially quantified
  - ex ( $2^{nd}$  row): “if there exists some color  $c$  that is the color of the table and the chair, then do nothing” (goal reached)
- “Color(Table, $c$ )”, “Color(Chair, $c$ )” and “Color(Can, $c$ )” percepts  
⇒ must be matched against percept schemata

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  else [RemoveLid(Can1), LookAt(Can1), RemoveLid(Can2), LookAt(Can2),  
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# Exercises

- Try to draw an execution the conditiona plan in previous slide against an imaginary phisical state of the wrld of your choice
  - track step by step the belief states, the logical inferences, the actions performed

Is the above plan (from AIMA book) correct?

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