CSP Planning; Propositional Logic Intro

CPSC 322 Lecture 18

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Textbook §4.0 – 4.2

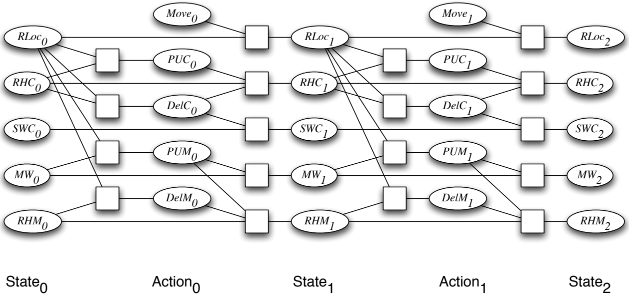
Lecture Overview

1. CSP Planning
2. Logic Intro
3. Representation and Reasoning Systems
4. Propositional Definite Clauses

Planning as a CSP

- We can go forwards and backwards at the same time, if we set up a planning problem as a CSP
- To do this, we need to “unroll” the plan for a fixed number of steps
  - this is called the horizon
- To do this with a horizon of k:
  - construct a variable for each feature at each time step from 0 to k
  - construct a boolean variable for each action at each time step from 0 to $k-1$.

CSP Planning: Robot Example



Do you see why CSP planning is both forwards and backwards?

CSP Planning: Constraints

As usual, we have to express the preconditions and effects of actions:

- precondition constraints
  - hold between state variables at time t and action variables at time t
  - specify when actions may be taken
- effect constraints
  - between state variables at time t, action variables at time t and state variables at time $t+1$
  - explain how state variables at time $t+1$ are affected by the action taken at time t
  - this includes both causal and frame axioms
    - basically, it goes back to the feature-centric representation we had before STRIPS
    - of course, solving the problem this way doesn't mean we can't *encode* the problem using STRIPS

CSP Planning: Constraints

Other constraints we must/may have:

- initial state constraints constrain the state variables at time 0
- goal constraints constrain the state variables at time k
- action constraints
    - specify which actions cannot occur simultaneously
        - note that without these constraints, there's nothing to stop the planner from deciding to take several actions simultaneously
        - when the order between several actions doesn't matter, this is a good thing
    - these are sometimes called mutual exclusion (mutex) constraints
- state constraints
    - hold between variables at the same time step
    - they can capture physical constraints of the system
    - they can encode maintenance goals

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Logic: A more general framework for reasoning

- Let's now think about how to represent a world about which we have only partial (but certain) information
- Our tool: propositional logic
- General problem:
    - tell the computer how the world works
    - tell the computer some facts about the world
    - ask a yes/no question about whether other facts must be true

Why Propositions?

We'll be looking at problems that could still be represented using CSPs. Why use propositional logic?

- Specifying logical formulae is often more natural than constructing arbitrary constraints
- It is easier to check and debug formulae than constraints
- We can exploit the Boolean nature for efficient reasoning
- We need a language for asking queries that may be more complicated than asking for the value of one variable
- It is easy to incrementally add formulae
- Logic can be extended to infinitely many variables (using logical quantification)
- This is a starting point for more complex logics (e.g., first-order logic) that do go beyond CSPs.

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Representation and Reasoning System

Definition (RSS)

A Representation and Reasoning System (RRS) is made up of:

- syntax: specifies the symbols used, and how they can be combined to form legal sentences
- semantics: specifies the meaning of the symbols
- reasoning theory or proof procedure: a (possibly nondeterministic) specification of how an answer can be produced.

Using an RRS

1. Begin with a task domain.
2. Distinguish those things you want to talk about (the ontology).
3. Choose symbols in the computer to denote propositions
4. Tell the system knowledge about the domain.
5. Ask the system whether new statements about the domain are true or false.

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Propositional Definite Clauses

- Propositional Definite Clauses: our first representation and reasoning system.
- Two kinds of statements:
  - that a proposition is true
  - that a proposition is true if one or more other propositions are true
- To define this RSS, we'll need to specify:
  - syntax
  - semantics
  - proof procedure