Therefore, taking an action in a state results in two (possibly absorbing) new states. This one-to-two state transition violates the standard MDP definition, but it can be thought of as cloning the MDP and creating one copy for each transition. The two copies continue independently thereafter. The immediate cost paid for choosing a branching rule is computed in two different ways. The total number of search nodes that results from unit propagations, between the original and the two new states, is the node cost paid for the decision at the original node. That is the immediate cost for choosing the branching rules MAXO, MOMS, MAMS, and JW. The other three branching rules perform trial partial searches to determine the branching variable. The total number of nodes created during these trial searches is added to the above node cost for branching rules UP, GUP, and SUP. The definition of the cost function implies that the total accumulated cost after a complete run of the DPLL procedure will be the size of the entire search tree (in terms of nodes) plus the total count of nodes created during the trial searches. Minimizing this total cost is a way to minimize the total running time, which is proportional to the total number of nodes explored.