

COURSE "AUTOMATED PLANNING: THEORY AND PRACTICE"

CHAPTER 16: PLANNING WITH CONTROL FORMULAS

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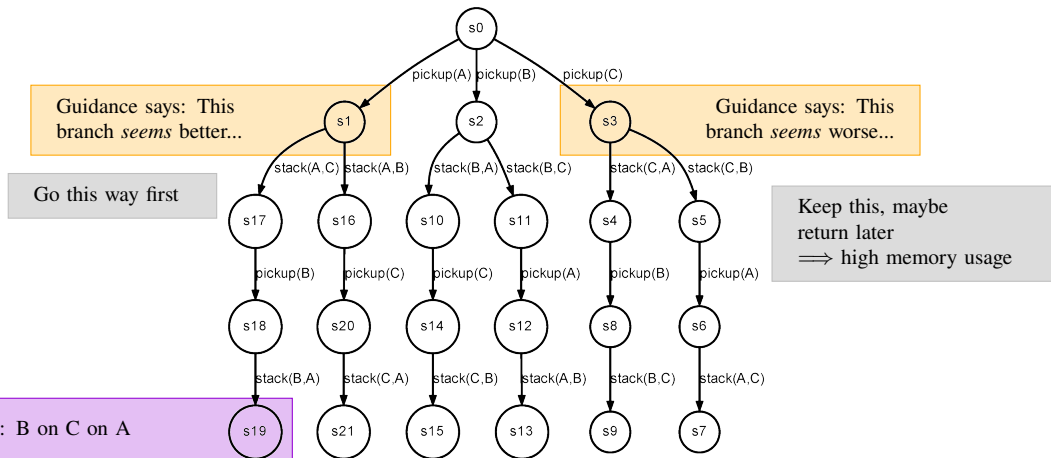
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TWO KINDS OF SEARCH GUIDANCE

Prioritization: Which part of a search tree should be visited **first**?

Could use heuristic functions, could use other methods...



PRIORITIZATION

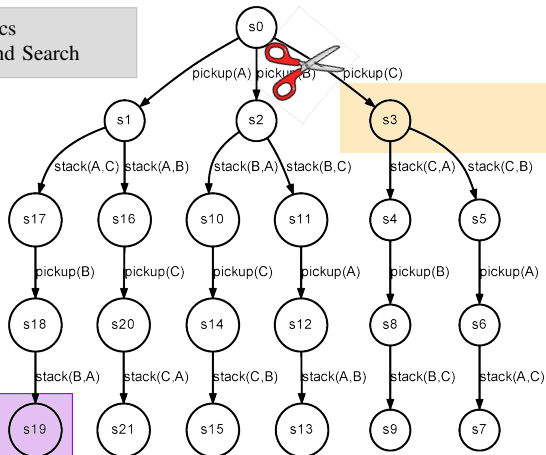
- Properties of prioritization:
 - We can always **return** to a node later
 - No need to be **absolutely** certain of your priorities
- **This** is why many domain-independent heuristics work well
 - Provide **reasonable** advice in most cases

TWO KINDS OF SEARCH GUIDANCE

Pruning: Which part of a search tree are **definitely useless**?

Prune them!

Can be done using heuristics
example: Branch and Bound Search



cost $g(n) = 1$
Admissible heuristic $h(n) = 4$

Any solution below
s3 will cost at least 5

Prune!
Never consider the
node or its descendants
again...

We found a
solution of cost 4

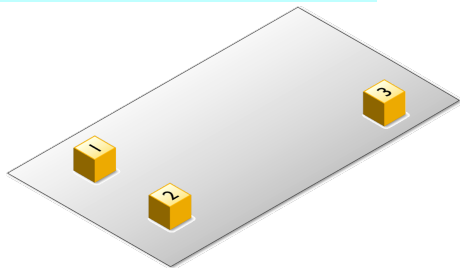
PRUNING

- Can we prune when we search for the **first** solution?
 - A single mistake may **remove all paths to solutions**
 - \implies Difficult to find good **domain-independent** pruning criteria

EXAMPLE: EMERGENCY SERVICE LOGISTICS

- Emergency Service Logistics

- Goal: `(at crate1 loc1), (at crate2 loc2), (at crate3 loc3)`
- Now: `(at crate1 loc1), (at crate2 loc2)`



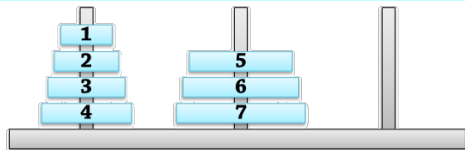
- Picking up again is **physically possible**
- It "destroys" `(at crate1 loc1)`, which is a goal – **obviously stupid!**

The **branch** beginning with `(pickup crate1)` could be **pruned** from the tree!
How do we **detect** this in a domain-independent way?

EXAMPLE: TOWER OF HANOI

Should we **always** prevent the destruction of achieved goals?

- Goal: (on 1 2), (on 2 3), (on 3 4), (on 5 6), (on 6 7), (on 4 5)
- Now: (on 1 2), (on 2 3), (on 3 4), (on 5 6), (on 6 7)

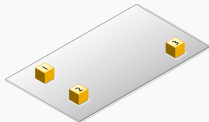


- Moving disk 1 to the third peg is **possible** but "destroys" a goal fact: (on 1 2)
 - Is this also **obviously stupid**?
 - No, **it is necessary**! Disk 1 is blocking us from moving disk 4, ...

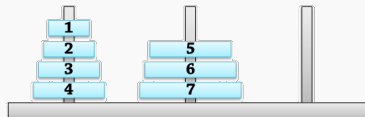
HEURISTICS

⇒ Heuristics **may or may not** detect:

PICKING UP CRATE 1 IS BAD



MOVING DISK 1 IS GOOD

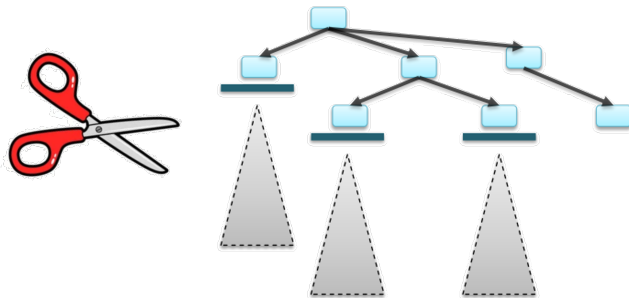


Will generally depend on **the entire state**
+ which **alternative states** exist,
not just the fact that you "destroy goal achievement"

Might **delay** investigating either alternative for a while,
return to try this later

PRUNING

- With a domain-configurable planner:
 - We **could** provide **domain-specific heuristics**
 - Strongly discouraging the destruction of goals in Emergency Services Logistics
 - Would keep the **option** to investigate such actions later (not necessary!)
 - We can directly provide stronger domain-specific **pruning criteria**



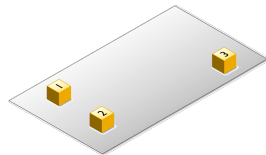
CONTROL FORMULAS

- Control formulas: One way of specifying when to prune
 - Motivation
 - Examples
 - Formalism
 - Evaluation of control formulas

PRECONDITION CONTROL

Simplest control information: **Precondition Control**

- **operator** (pickup ?robot ?crate ?location)
- **precond:**
 - (at ?robot ?location), (at ?crate ?location)
 - (handempty)
 - ... and **the goal doesn't require that ?crate should end up at ?location!**
How to express this, given that the goal requires (at ?crate ?location)?
- Alternative 1: **New predicate** "(destination ?crate ?location)"
 - Duplicates the information already specified in the goal
 - **precond:** \neg (destination ?crate ?location))
- Alternative 2: **New language extension** "goal(φ)"
 - Evaluated in the set of goal states, not in the current state
 - **precond:** \neg (goal (at ?crate ?location))



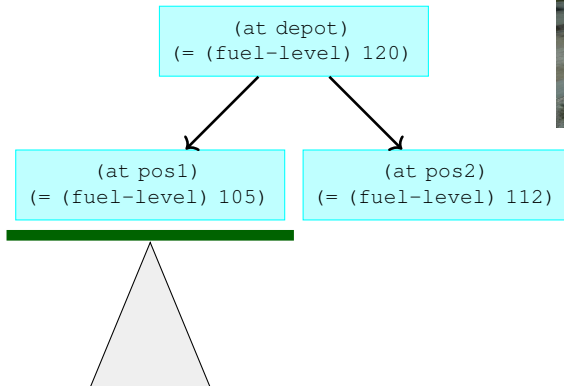
Supported by
all planners

Requires extensions,
but more convenient

STATE CONSTRAINTS

- A UAV should never be where it **can't reach** a refueling point
 - Can't possibly extend such plans into solutions

Reaching nearest
refueling point
requires 108 fuel



STATE CONSTRAINTS (CONT.)

- A UAV should never be where it **can't reach** a refueling point
 - If this happens in a plan, we can't possibly extend it into a solution satisfying the goal
- How to express this?



USING PRECONDITIONS AGAIN?

- Must be verified for every action: `fly`, `scan-area`, `take-off`, ...
- Must be checked even when the UAV is idle, hovering
- Inconvenient!

USING STATE CONSTRAINTS?

- Defined **once**, applied to **every generated state**

```


$$\forall ?u : \text{uav} [$$


$$\quad \exists ?rp : \text{refueling-point} [$$


$$\quad \quad (< (* (\text{dist } ?u ?rp) (\text{fuel-usage } ?u))$$


$$\quad \quad (\text{fuel-avail } ?u)) \ ]$$

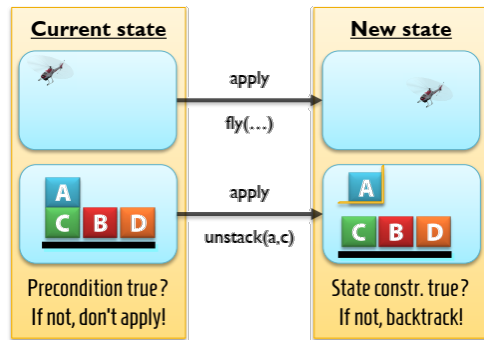

$$]$$


```

- Comparatively simple extension!

TESTING STATE CONSTRAINTS

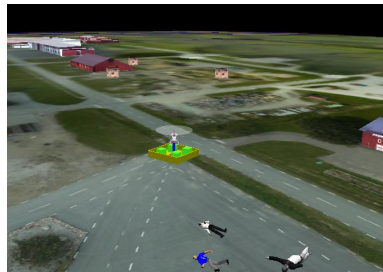
- Testing such **state constraints** is simple
 - Apply an action \Rightarrow new state is generated
 - Formula false in that state \Rightarrow Prune!
 - Similar to preconditions
 - But tested in the state **after** an action is applied, not **before**!



TEMPORAL CONDITIONS

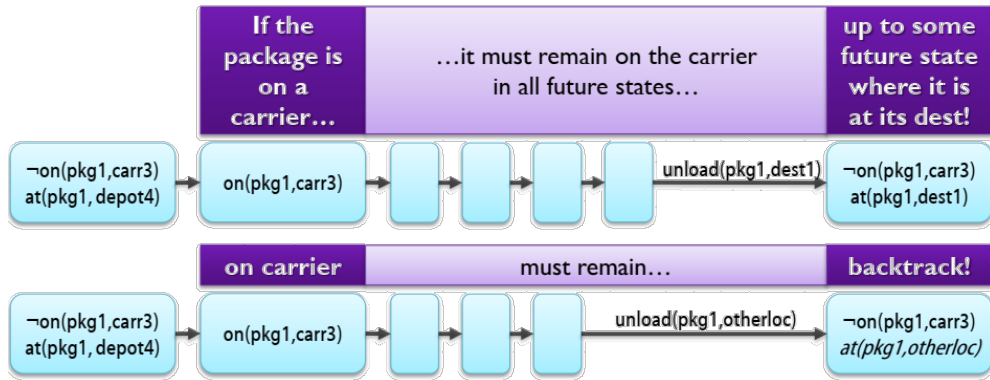
- A package on a carrier should **remain there** until it reaches its destination
 - For any plan π where we move it prematurely, there is a more efficient plan π' where we don't

How to express this as a single formula?



TEMPORAL CONDITIONS (CONT.)

- "A package on a carrier should **remain** there **until** it reaches its destination"

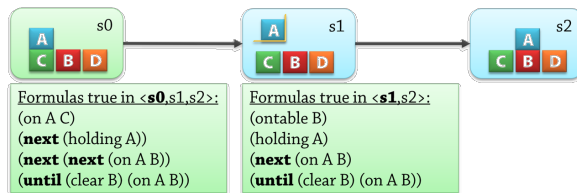


We need a formula constraining an entire **state sequence**, not a single state!
 In planning, this is called a **control formula** or **control rule**

LINEAR TEMPORAL LOGIC

We need to extend the logical language!

- One possibility: Use Linear Temporal Logic (LTL) Pnueli [6] (as in TLP1an Bacchus and Kabanza [1])
 - All formulas evaluated relative to a **state sequence** and a **current state**
 - Assuming that f is an LTL formula:
 - $\mathbf{X} f$ (next f) f is true in the next state
 - $\mathbf{F} f$ (eventually f) f is true either now **or** in some future state
 - $\mathbf{G} f$ (globally f) f is true now **and** in all future states
 - $f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2$ (until $f_1 f_2$) (f_1 is true now), **or** (f_2 is true in some future state s' **and** f_1 is true in all states until/before then)



CONTROL FORMULA (CONT.)

- "A package on a carrier should **remain** there **until** it reaches its destination"

$$(\text{forall } (?var) (\text{type-predicate } ?var) \Phi):$$

$$\forall v. \text{type} - \text{predicate}(v) \rightarrow \Phi$$

For all values of ?var that satisfy type-predicate, ϕ must be true

```
(always (forall (?c) (carrier ?c)      ;; for all carriers
  (forall (?p) (package ?p)          ;; for all packages
    (implies
      (on-carrier ?p ?c)              ;; if the package is on the carrier
      (until                          ;; ... then it remains on the carrier
        (on-carrier ?p ?c)            ;; until there exists a location
        (exists (?loc) (at ?p ?loc)   ;; where it is, and the goal
          (goal (at ?p ?loc))))))     ;; says it should be
```

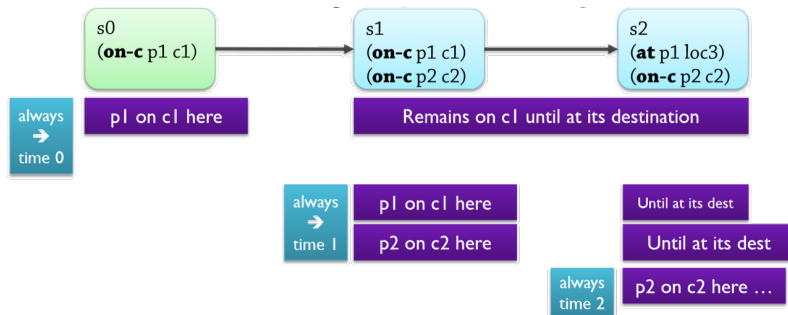
- Should be true starting in the initial state

CONTROL FORMULA (CONT.)

- ```

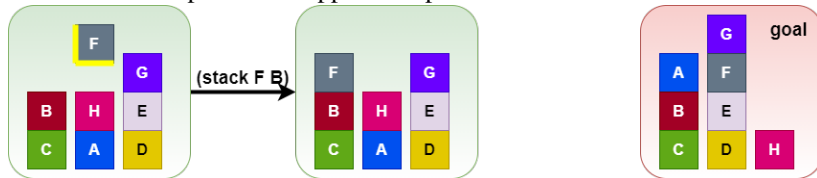
(always (forall (?c) (carrier ?c) ;; for all carriers
 (forall (?p) (package ?p) ;; for all packages
 (implies
 (on-carrier ?p ?c) ;; if the package is on the carrier
 (until ;; ... then it remains on the carrier
 (on-carrier ?p ?c) ;; until there exists a location
 (exists (?loc) (at ?p ?loc) ;; where it is, and the goal
 (goal (at ?p ?loc)))))))) ;; says it should be

```



## BLOCKS WORLD

- How do we come up with **good control rules**?
  - Good starting point: "**Don't be stupid!**"
  - Trace** the search process – suppose the planner tries this:

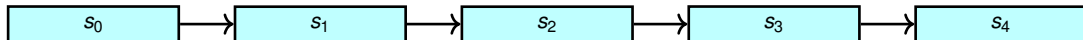


- Placing **F on top of B** is stupid, because we'll have to remove it later
  - Would have been better to put F on the table!
- Conclusion: Should not **extend** a **good tower** the wrong way
  - Good tower**: a tower of blocks that will never need to be moved

# BLOCKS WORLD (CONT.)

## • Rule 1: Every goodtower must always **remain a goodtower**

- ```
(forall (?x) (clear ?x) ;; for all blocks that are clear (at the top of a
tower)
(implies
  (goodtower ?x)          ;; if the tower is good (no need to move any block)
  (next (or                ;; ... then in the next state, either
    (clear ?x)            ;; ?x remain clear (didn't extend the tower)
    (exists (?y)          ;; or there is a block ?y
      (on ?y ?x)          ;;   which is on ?x
      (goodtower ?y)      ;;   which is a goodtower
    )))))
```



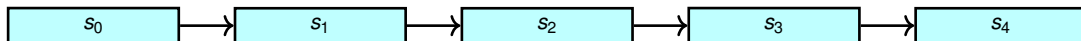
$(\text{goodtower } x) ? \implies (\text{clear } x) \text{ or } (\text{goodtower } y)$

What about the rest?

BLOCKS WORLD (CONT.)

● Rule 1: second attempt

- ```
(forall (?x) (clear ?x) ;; for all blocks that are clear (at the top of a
tower)
(implies
 (goodtower ?x) ;; if the tower is good (no need to move any block)
 (next (or ;; ... then in the next state, either
 (clear ?x) ;; ?x remain clear (didn't extend the tower)
 (exists (?y) ;; or there is a block ?y
 (on ?y ?x) ;; which is on ?x
 (goodtower ?y) ;; which is a goodtower
)))))
```



$(\text{goodtower } x)? \implies (\text{clear } x) \text{ or } (\text{goodtower } y)$

$(\text{goodtower } x)? \implies (\text{clear } x) \text{ or } (\text{goodtower } y)$

$(\text{goodtower } x)? \implies (\text{clear } x) \text{ or } (\text{goodtower } y)$

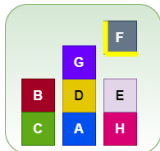
# SUPPORTING PREDICATES

- Some planners allow us to **define** a predicate recursively
  - (goodtowerbelow x) means we **will not have to move x**

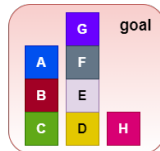
$$\bullet \text{ goodtowerbelow}(x) \leftrightarrow [\text{ontable}(x) \wedge \neg \exists [y : \text{GOAL}(\text{on}(x, y))]]$$

$$\vee$$

$$\exists [y : \text{on}(x, y)] \{ \begin{aligned} &\neg \text{GOAL}(\text{ontable}(x)) \wedge \\ &\neg \text{GOAL}(\text{holding}(y)) \wedge \\ &\neg \text{GOAL}(\text{clear}(y)) \wedge \\ &\forall [z : \text{GOAL}(\text{on}(x, z))](z = y) \wedge \\ &\forall [z : \text{GOAL}(\text{on}(z, y))](z = x) \wedge \\ &\text{goodtowerbelow}(y) \end{aligned} \}$$



goodtowerbelow: B, C, H



x is on the table, and  
shouldn't be on anything else

x is on something else

Shouldn't be on the table,  
shouldn't be holding it,  
shouldn't be clear

If x should be on z, then it is (z is y)

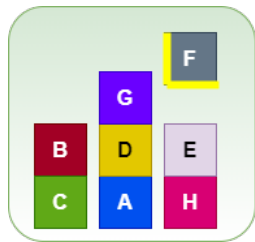
If z should be on y, then it is (z is x)

The remainder of the tower is also good

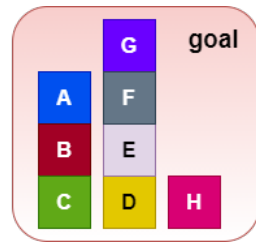


## SUPPORTING PREDICATES (CONT.)

- `goodtower(x)` means `x` is the block at the top of a good tower
  - $goodtower(x) \leftrightarrow clear(x) \wedge \neg GOAL(holding(x)) \wedge goodtowerbelow(x)$
- `badtower(x)` means `x` is the top of a tower that isn't good
  - $badtower(x) \leftrightarrow clear(x) \wedge \neg goodtower(x)$

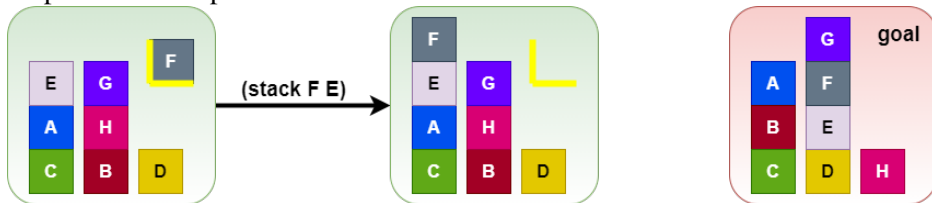


`goodtower: B`  
`goodtowerbelow: B, C, H`  
`badtower: G, F`  
 (neither: D, A)



## BLOCKS WORLD

- Step 2: Is this stupid?



- Placing **F** on **top of E** is stupid, because we have to move E later...
  - Would have been better to put F on the table!
  - But E was not a goodtower, so the previous rule didn't detect the problem
- Never put anything on a badtower!

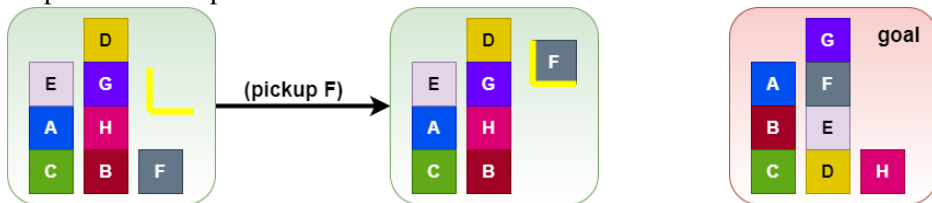
```

• (always (forall (?x)
 (clear ?x) ;; for all blocks on top of a tower
 (implies
 (badtower ?x) ;; if the tower is bad (must be dismantled)
 (next (not (exists (?y) (on ?y ?x)))))) ;; don't extend it!

```

## BLOCKS WORLD (CONT.)

- Step 3: Is this stupid?



- Picking up F is stupid!

- It is on the table, so we can wait until its destination is ready:



- ```
(always (forall (?x)
  (clear ?x)           ;; for all blocks on top of a tower
  (implies
    (and (ontable ?x)
      (exists (?y) (goal (on ?x ?y)) (not (goodtower ?y))))
    (next (not (holding ?x))))))
```

PRUNING USING CONTROL FORMULAS

- How do we decide **when to prune** the search tree?
 - Obvious idea:
 - Take the **state sequence** corresponding to the **current action sequence**
 - **Evaluate** the formula over that sequence
 - If it is false: Prune / backtrack!

EVALUATION

- ```

(always (forall (?c) (carrier ?c) ;; for all carriers
 (forall (?p) (package ?p) ;; for all packages
 (implies
 (on-carrier ?p ?c) ;; if the package is on the carrier
 (until ;; ... then it remains on the carrier
 (on-carrier ?p ?c) ;; until there exists a location
 (exists (?loc) (at ?p ?loc) ;; where it is, and the goal
 (goal (at ?p ?loc))))))))) ;; says it should be

```

No package on a carrier  
in the initial state:  
Everything is OK

"Every boat I own  
is a billion-dollar yacht  
(because I own zero boats)"

$s_0$

## EVALUATION (CONT.)

```

(always (forall (?c) (carrier ?c) ;;; for all carriers
 (forall (?p) (package ?p) ;;; for all packages
 (implies
 (on-carrier ?p ?c) ;; if the package is on the carrier
 (until ;;; ... then it remains on the carrier
 (on-carrier ?p ?c) ;;; until there exists a location
 (exists (?loc) (at ?p ?loc) ;;; where it is, and the goal
 (goal (at ?p ?loc)))))))) ;;; says it should be

```

When we add an action  
placing a package  
on a carrier...

...there is no future state  
where the package is  
at its destination!

$s_0$

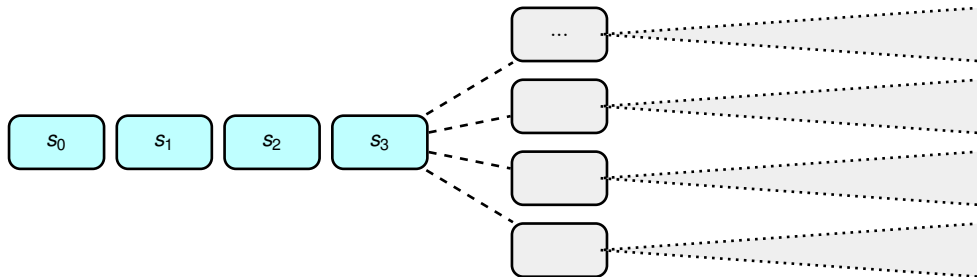
$s_1$

The formula is violated,  
but only because the solution is not complete yet!  
We must be allowed to continue,  
generating new states...

# EVALUATION: WHAT'S WRONG?

- We had an **obvious** idea:
  - Take the state sequence corresponding to the current plan
  - Evaluate the formula over that sequence
  - If it is false: Prune / backtrack!
- This is actually **wrong**!
  - Formulas should hold in the state sequence of the **solution**
  - But they don't have to hold in every **intermediate** action sequence...

## ANALYSIS



We have applied some actions,  
yielding a sequence of states

We intend to generate additional actions and  
states, but right now we don't know which ones

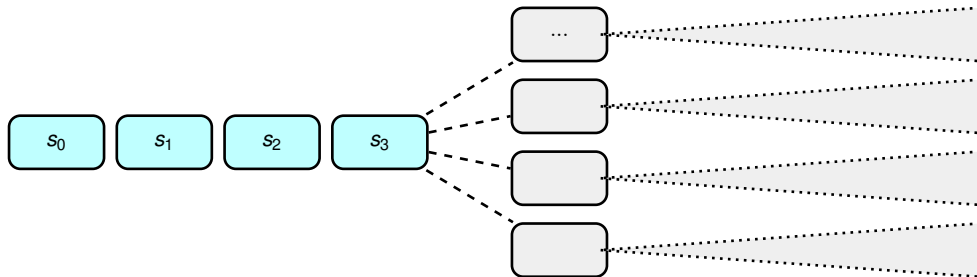
The control formula should be satisfied  
by the **entire** state sequence corresponding to a solution

We only know **some** of  
those states

Should only backtrack if we can prove that you **can't** find  
**additional** states so that the control formula becomes true



## ANALYSIS (CONT.)



The control formula should be satisfied  
by the **entire** state sequence corresponding to a solution

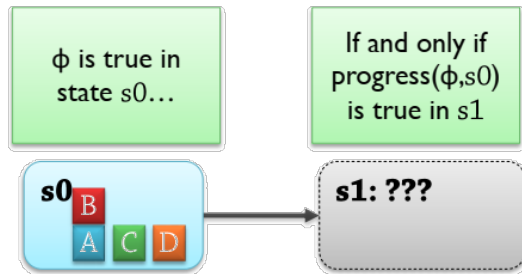
Evaluate those **parts** of the  
formula that refer to known states

Leave other parts of the formula  
to be evaluated later

If the result can be proven to be FALSE, then backtrack

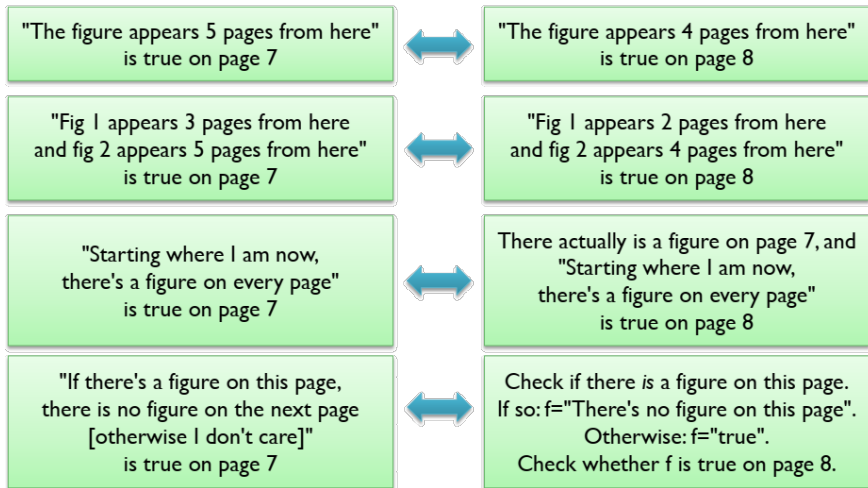
# PROGRESSING TEMPORAL FORMULAS

- We use **formula progression**
  - We **progress** a formula  $\Phi$  through a single **state**  $s$  at a time
    - First the initial state, then each state generated by adding an action
  - The result is a **new formula**
    - Containing conditions that we must "postpone", evaluate starting in the **next** state



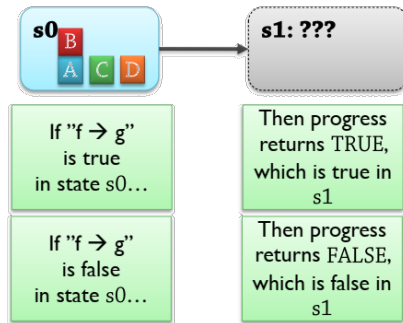
## PROGRESSING TEMPORAL FORMULAS (CONT.)

- Suppose you are reading a book. A page is analogous to a state.



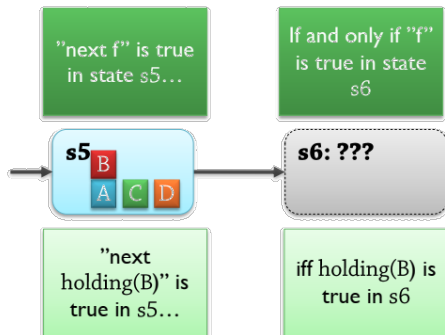
# PROGRESSING TEMPORAL FORMULAS (CONT.)

- Base case: Formulas **without** temporal operators (" $(\text{on } A \ B) \rightarrow (\text{on } C \ D)$ ")
  - Must be true **here**, in **this** state
  - $\text{progress}(\Phi, s) = \text{TRUE}$  if  $\Phi$  holds in  $s$  (we already know how to test this)
  - $\text{progress}(\Phi, s) = \text{FALSE}$  otherwise



# PROGRESSING TEMPORAL FORMULAS (CONT.)

- Simple case: **next**
  - $\text{progress}((\text{next } f), s) = f$ 
    - Because " $\text{next } f$ " is true in this state iff  $f$  is true in the next state
    - This is by definition what  $\text{progress}()$  should return!



Additional cases are discussed in the book (**always, eventually, until, ...**)

# PROGRESSION IN DEPTH FIRST SEARCH

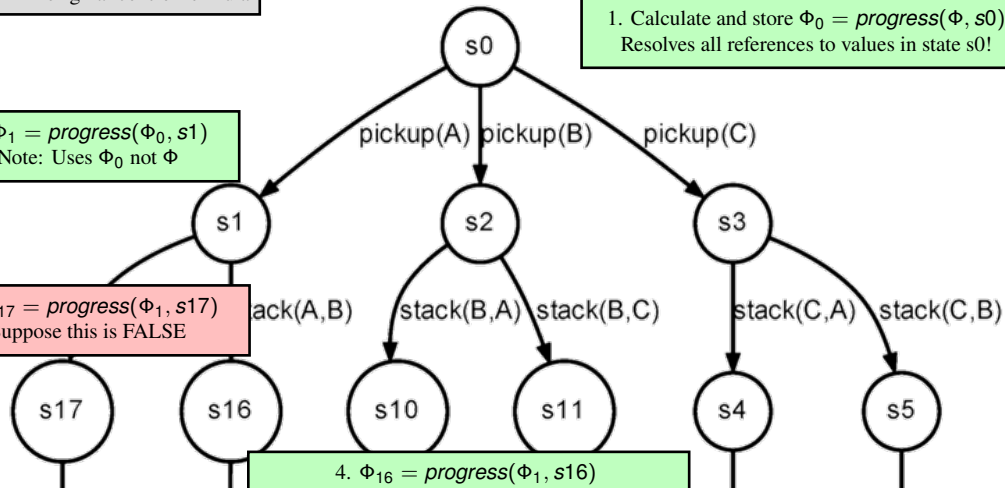
$\Phi$  = original control formula

1. Calculate and store  $\Phi_0 = \text{progress}(\Phi, s_0)$   
Resolves all references to values in state  $s_0$ !

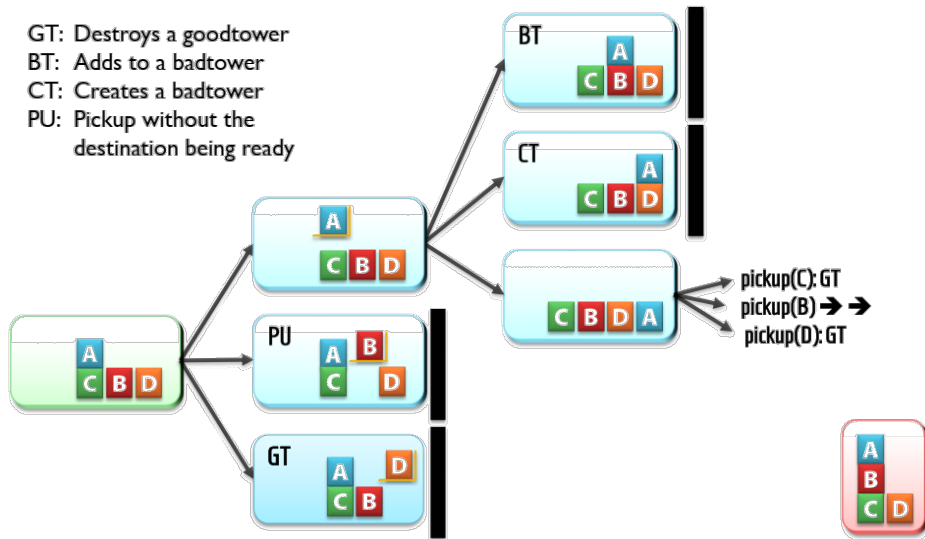
2.  $\Phi_1 = \text{progress}(\Phi_0, s_1)$   
Note: Uses  $\Phi_0$  not  $\Phi$

3.  $\Phi_{17} = \text{progress}(\Phi_1, s_{17})$   
Suppose this is FALSE

4.  $\Phi_{16} = \text{progress}(\Phi_1, s_{16})$   
Non need to "restart" evalaution from scratch



# DEPTH FIRST SEARCH WITH PRUNING



# PERFORMANCE

- International Planning Competition
  - 2000 TALplanner by Doherty and Kvarnström [2] received the top award for a "hand-tailored" (i.e., domain-configurable) planner
- 2002 International Planning Competition
  - TLplan by Bacchus and Kabanza [1] won the same award
- Both of them (as well as SHOP, an HTN planner):
  - Ran **several orders of magnitude** faster than the "fully automated" (i.e., not domain-configurable) planners
    - especially on large problems
  - Solved problems on which other planners ran out of time/memory
  - Required a **considerably greater modeling effort** for each planning domain



# CONCLUSIONS

- Control Rules or Hierarchical Task Networks?
  - Both can be very efficient and expressive
  - If you have "**recipes**" for everything, HTN can be more convenient
    - **Can** be modeled with control rules, but not intended for this purpose
    - You have to forbid everything that is "outside" the recipe
  - If you have knowledge about "some things that shouldn't be done":
    - With control rules, the default is to "try everything"
    - Can more easily express localized knowledge about what should and shouldn't be done
    - Doesn't require knowledge of all the ways in which the goal can be reached

## HELPFUL ACTIONS: RUNNING EXAMPLE

- Seen when discussing Relaxed Plan Graph Heuristic
- Prepare and serve a surprise dinner,  
take out the garbage,  
and make sure the present is wrapped before waking your sweetheart!

|                                                                 |                      |                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| • $s_0 = \{\text{clean, garbage, asleep}\}$                     |                      |                               |
| • $g = \{\text{clean, } \neg \text{garbage, served, wrapped}\}$ |                      |                               |
| • <b>Action</b>                                                 | <b>Preconditions</b> | <b>Effects</b>                |
| (cook)                                                          | clean                | dinner                        |
| (serve)                                                         | dinner               | served                        |
| (wrap)                                                          | asleep               | wrapped                       |
| (carry)                                                         | garbage              | $\neg$ garbage, $\neg$ clean  |
| (roll)                                                          | garbage              | $\neg$ garbage, $\neg$ asleep |
| (clean)                                                         | $\neg$ clean         | clean                         |
| (buy)                                                           | -                    | dinner                        |



# HELPFUL ACTIONS: RUNNING EXAMPLE (CONT.)

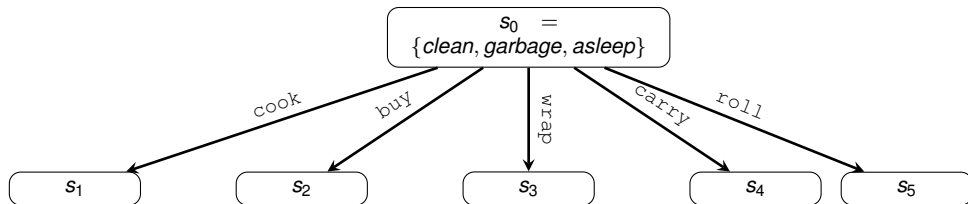
- Let's do **heuristic forward state space search** with  $h_{FF}$  ...

- First step: compute  $h_{FF}(s_0)$  where

$s_0 =$   
 $\{clean, garbage, asleep\}$

- Does not satisfy the goal
- Let's create successors
  - 5 applicable actions
  - 5 successor states

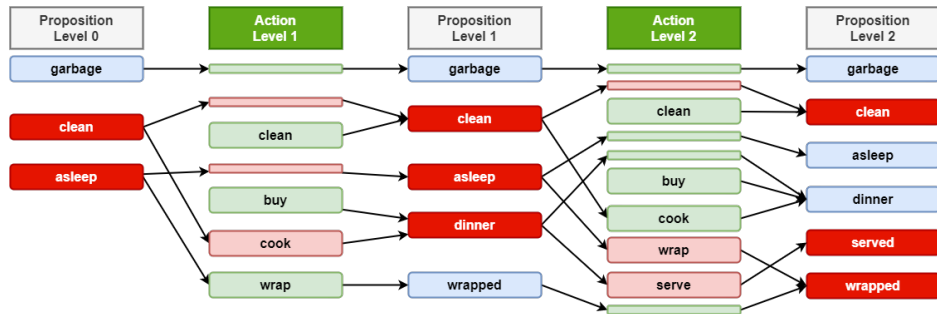
| Action  | Prec.        | Effects                       |
|---------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| (cook)  | clean        | dinner                        |
| (serve) | dinner       | served                        |
| (wrap)  | asleep       | wrapped                       |
| (carry) | garbage      | $\neg$ garbage, $\neg$ clean  |
| (roll)  | garbage      | $\neg$ garbage, $\neg$ asleep |
| (clean) | $\neg$ clean | clean                         |
| (buy)   | -            | dinner                        |



Are all successors equally likely to be "useful"?

# HELPFUL ACTIONS: RUNNING EXAMPLE (CONT.)

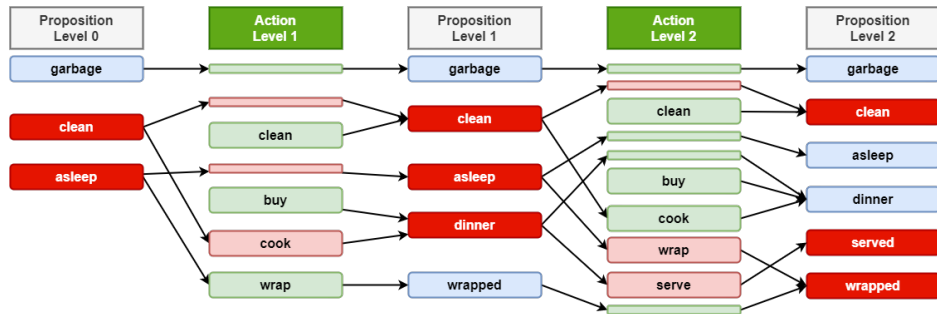
- What did we do when we computed  $h_{FF}(s_0)$ ?
  - Construct a relaxed planning graph starting in  $s_0$
  - Extract a relaxed plan (sufficient for achieving the goal in the relaxed problem)
  - $h_{FF}(s_0)$  = the cost of the relaxed plan



Example: There are *other* plans that could be generated

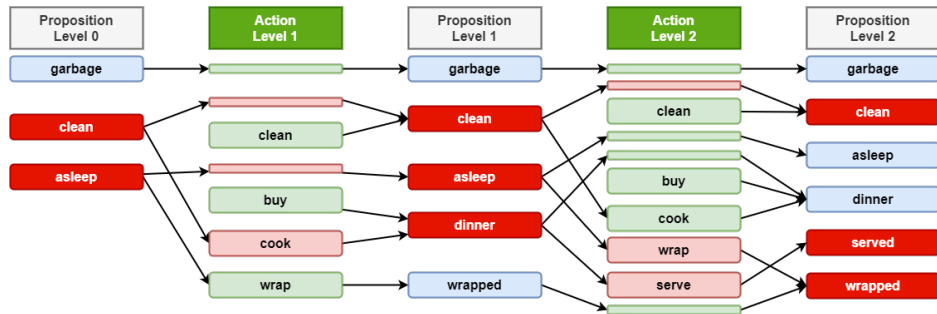
# HELPFUL ACTIONS: RUNNING EXAMPLE (CONT.)

- Consider the actions **selected** at **action level 1**
  - Might be more likely to be useful as **first** actions ...
    - Were useful in the **relaxed** problem, where you found a **complete** relaxed plan!
  - $\Rightarrow$  First action **cook**?
    - No, too restrictive!



# HELPFUL ACTIONS: RUNNING EXAMPLE (CONT.)

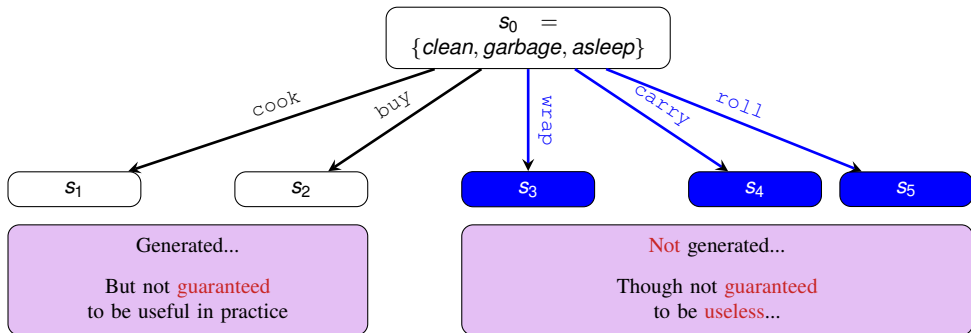
- Consider the actions **selected** at **action level 1**
  - Then consider all **alternative actions** that could **achieve the same facts**
  - $H(s) = \{a | pre(a) \subseteq s \wedge eff^+(a) \cap PropLevel_1 \neq \emptyset\} = \{\text{cook}, \text{buy}\}$
  - Called **helpful actions** or **preferred operators**



# HELPFUL ACTIONS: RUNNING EXAMPLE (CONT.)

- New beginning of the search tree:
  - 2 applicable helpful actions
  - 2 successor states

| Action  | Prec.        | Effects                       |
|---------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| (cook)  | clean        | dinner                        |
| (serve) | dinner       | served                        |
| (wrap)  | asleep       | wrapped                       |
| (carry) | garbage      | $\neg$ garbage, $\neg$ clean  |
| (roll)  | garbage      | $\neg$ garbage, $\neg$ asleep |
| (clean) | $\neg$ clean | clean                         |
| (buy)   | -            | dinner                        |



# HEURISTIC SEARCH WITH HELPFUL ACTION PRUNING

```
function SEARCH(problem)
 initial-node \leftarrow MAKE-INITIAL-NODE(problem)
 open \leftarrow {initial-node}
 while (open $\neq \emptyset$) do
 node \leftarrow SEARCH-STRATEGY-REMOVE-FROM(open)
 if IS-SOLUTION(node) then
 return EXTRACT-PLAN-FROM(node)
 end if
 for each newnode \in SUCCESSORS(node) do
 open \leftarrow open \cup {newnode}
 end for
 end while
 return Failure
end function
```

- **SUCCESSORS(node)** is tweaked to **only** generate successors using actions in  $H(node)$ !
- **Incomplete** if there are dead ends!
  - Actions not in  $H(node)$  may be required;
  - not detected due to relaxation...
- If the search fails (e.g. via EHC) fall back on best first search using e.g.  $h(node) = h_{FF}(node)$  or any other heuristic!

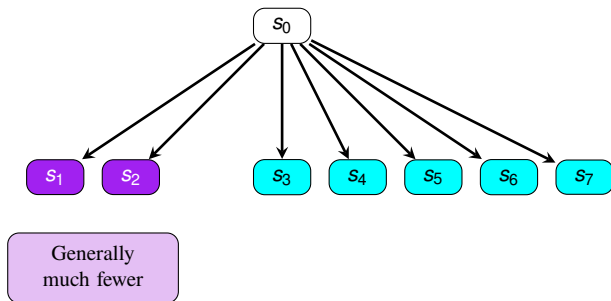


# HELPFUL ACTIONS AND COMPLETENESS

- Using **helpful actions** for **pruning** leads to **incompleteness**
  - May search for a long time, exhaust the search space, **then** start over using complete search
- "Helpful actions" are **more likely** to be helpful
  - But skipping the other actions **completely** is too strict!

# PRUNING VS PRIORITIZATION

- Many state of the art planners (e.g. Fast Downward) **prioritize** helpful actions
  - Successors created by **helpful actions** in  $H(s)$  are **preferred** successors
  - Successors created by **other actions** are **ordinary** successors



# DUAL QUEUES

- Use **dual queues** (two "open lists")
  - One for states generated as **preferred** successors
  - One for the **ordinary** states

## Preferred

S<sub>299</sub>S<sub>99</sub>S<sub>19</sub>S<sub>149</sub>S<sub>119</sub>

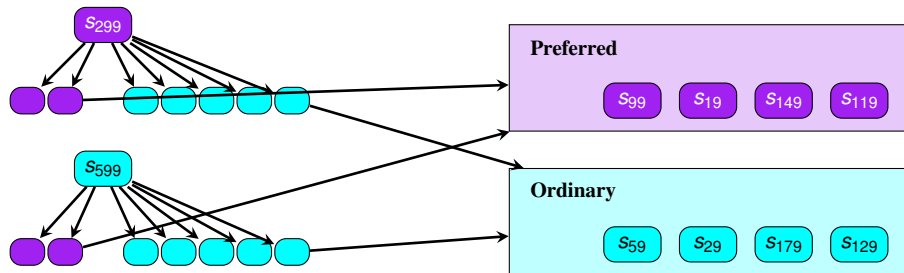
## Ordinary

S<sub>599</sub>S<sub>59</sub>S<sub>29</sub>S<sub>179</sub>S<sub>129</sub>

**Priority queues!**

## DUAL QUEUES (CONT.)

- To expand a state
  - Pick the **best** state from the **preferred** queue, and expand it
  - Pick the **best** state from the **ordinary** queue, and expand it
  - Place all new states where they belong



## DUAL QUEUES (CONT.)

- **Fewer** states are preferred
  - Reached more quickly in the queue
- If we "**misclassified**" an action as non-helpful:
  - Don't have to exhaust the "preferred part" of the search space before we can "recover"
  - Search is **complete**

### Preferred

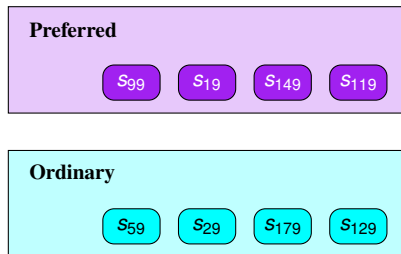
S<sub>99</sub>S<sub>19</sub>S<sub>149</sub>S<sub>119</sub>

### Ordinary

S<sub>59</sub>S<sub>29</sub>S<sub>179</sub>S<sub>129</sub>

# BOOSTED DUAL QUEUES

- Whenever progress is made (better h-value reached):
  - Choose e.g. 1000 times from the preferred queue
  - (Each chosen state is expanded as usual, *modifying* both queues... Then you pick again)
- If progress is made again within these e.g. 1000 successors:
  - Add another e.g. 1000, accumulating
  - (Progress made after e.g. 300  $\implies$  keep expanding e.g. 1700 more)
- After reaching the preferred successor limit:
  - Expand a **single** node from the non-preferred queue
- Still complete
  - More aggressive than ordinary dual queues
  - Less aggressive than pure pruning



# DEFERRED EVALUATION

## • Standard best-first search:

- Remove the "best" (most promising) state from the open list / priority queue
- Check whether it satisfies the goal
- Generate all successors
- Calculate their heuristic values
- Place in priority queue(s)

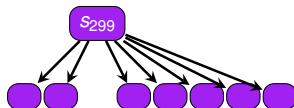
## • Deferred Evaluation (Fast Downward, ...)

- Remove the "best" state from the priority queue
- Check whether it satisfies the goal
- Calculate **its** heuristic value (**only one!**)
- Generate all successors
- Place in priority queue using the **parent's** heuristic value

## • Takes less time, but less accurate heuristic - "one step behind"

- Often faster but lower-quality plans

Typically takes most of the time



Queue

S<sub>99</sub>

S<sub>19</sub>

S<sub>149</sub>

S<sub>119</sub>

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