

# COURSE "AUTOMATED PLANNING: THEORY AND PRACTICE"

## CHAPTER 17: TEMPORAL PLANNING

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# CLASSICAL PLANNING - RECAP LECTURE 1

**Assumption 3:** Every action results in a discrete state transition

No concept of time

No concept of continuous change (crane swinging from A to B), only:

before pickup, the container is on truck y;

after, the container is carried by crane z

Implicit time!

Actions **have no duration!**

State transitions are **instantaneous!**

The world is always in a given state, which we want to affect

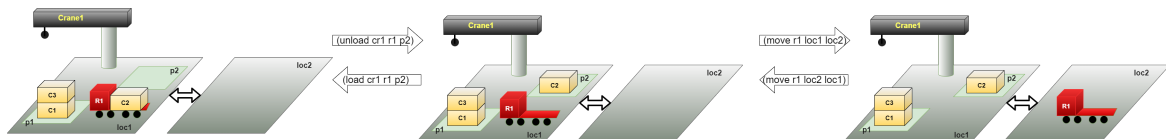


Another possible state

• We must know **when an action is executable** and **what it achieves**

- $\gamma : S \times A \rightarrow 2^S$      $\gamma(s, a)$  is the **set of states you may end-up in** if you execute  $a$  in  $s$ ;
- $\gamma(s, a) = \emptyset$     means  **$a$  cannot be executed in  $s$** ;
- $\gamma(s, a) = \{s'\}$     means **executing  $a$  in  $s$  leads to  $s'$** ;

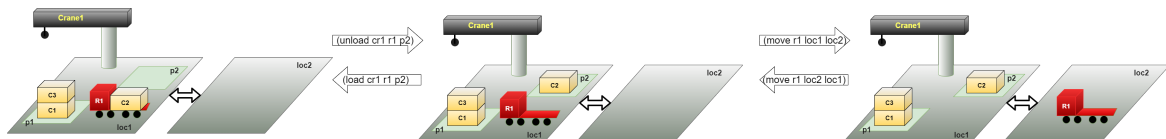
# WHY EXPLICIT TIME?



- In reality:

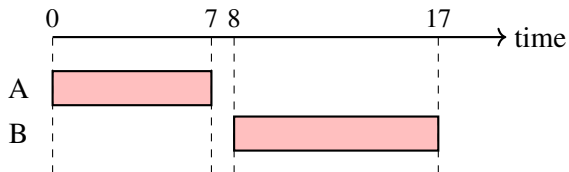
- actions and events do occur over a time span
- preconditions not only at beginning
- effects during or even after the action
- actions may need to maintain partial states
- actions may overlap
  - 2nd starts before 1st ends
  - 2nd ends before 1st ends
- events expected to occur in future time periods
- goals must be achieved within time bound

# TEMPORAL PLANNING: INTUITION

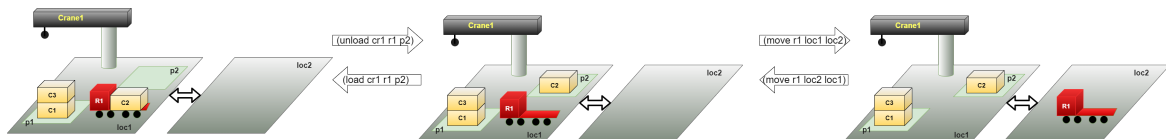


- Time and temporal constraints must be considered

- A: `(move r1 loc2 loc1)`  
at 0 with duration 7
- B: `(load cr1 r1 p2)`  
at 8 with duration 9

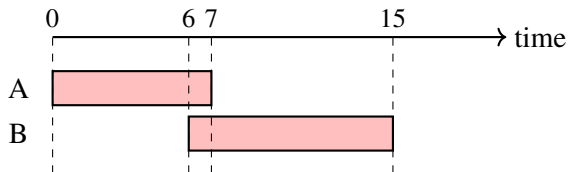


# TEMPORAL PLANNING: INTUITION (CONT.)

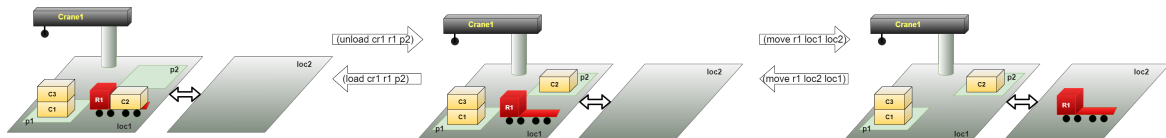


- Actions can **overlap** and **interfere**

- A: (move r1 loc2 loc1)  
at 0 with duration 7
- B: (load cr1 r1 p2)  
at 6 with duration 9

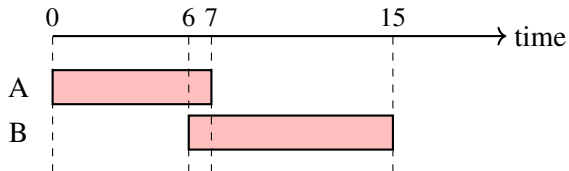


# TEMPORAL PLANNING: INTUITION (CONT.)

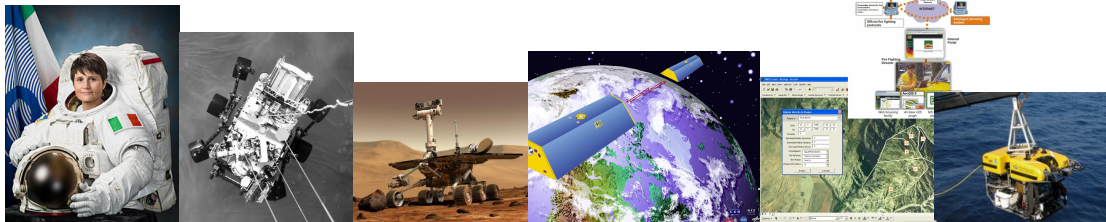


- **Temporal Planning**  $\implies$  we want to decide **what to do** and **when to do it!**

- A: (move r1 loc2 loc1)  
at 0 with duration 7
- B: (load cr1 r1 p2)  
at 6 with duration 9



# WHY TEMPORAL PLANNING?

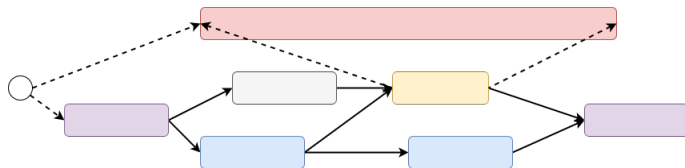


- Space Mission Planning – Create daily activity plans for Spirit, Opportunity, Perseverance and for the International Space Station
- Optimal control – logistics, greenhouse logistics, modular printing control, factories
- Safety critical applications – activity plans for satellite earth observations, plans for firefighting considering limited resources, plans for autonomy in hostile environments



# TIME AND TEMPORAL REASONING

- Time is a **first-class citizen** - mathematical structure:
  - set with transitive, asymmetric ordering operations
  - discrete, dense, or continuous
  - bounded or unbounded
  - totally ordered or branching
- Temporal references:
  - time points
  - time intervals
- Temporal relations:
  - examples: before, during
- Answering questions about a plan
  - Consistency (meet deadlines, ...), Occurrence times (latest start time, ...), Ordering (Action A before B, Action A within B, ...), Dispatchability...
  - How many (non-overlapping) actions with duration  $> 0$  can you fit in 10 time-units?



# TEMPORAL REFERENCE - TIME INTERPRETATION

## DISCRETE TIME

- Events happen at discrete steps (e.g.  $\mathbb{Z}$ )
- What happens between two steps is not modeled!
- A temporal planner has to find a way to schedule events in the discrete steps

## DENSE TIME

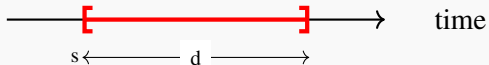
- Events can happen in a dense continuum (e.g.  $\mathbb{Q}$  or  $\mathbb{R}$ )

- Remark: Discrete time seems "simpler" ...
  - ... but integer linear programming is **NP-complete**...
  - while linear programming over the rationals is **polynomial**!

# TEMPORAL REFERENCES: INTERVALS AND TIMEPOINTS

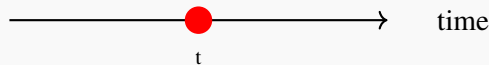
## INTERVAL

A **contiguous** subset of time, characterized by a start time  $s$  and a duration  $d$ .



## TIME POINT

A **single point in time**, typically associated to a particular **instantaneous event**.



## INTERVALS AS TIME POINTS



# TEMPORAL REFERENCES: EXAMPLE

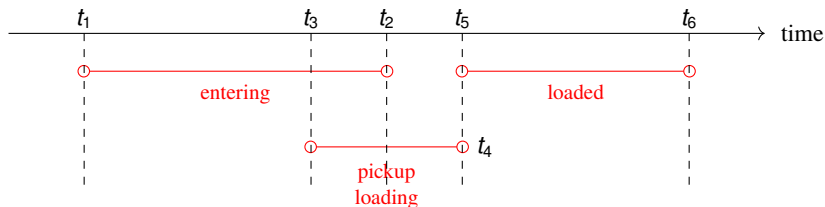
- Load a container  $c$  onto robot  $r$  at location  $l$  with crane  $k$ :  $\text{load}(k, c, r, l, I4)$ 
  - $t_1$ : instant at which robot  $r$  enters location  $l$
  - $t_2$ : instant at which robot  $r$  stops at location  $l$
  - $i_1 = [t_1, t_2]$ : interval corresponding to  $r$  entering  $l$
  - $t_3$ : instant at which the crane  $k$  starts picking up  $c$
  - $t_4$ : instant at which crane  $k$  finishes putting  $c$  on  $r$
  - $i_2 = [t_3, t_4]$ : interval corresponding to picking up and loading  $c$
  - $t_5$ : instant at which  $c$  begins to be loaded onto  $r$
  - $t_6$ : instant at which  $c$  is no longer loaded onto  $r$
  - $i_3 = [t_5, t_6]$ : interval corresponding to  $c$  being loaded onto  $r$
  - $i_4 = [t_1, t_6]$ : interval corresponding to  $\text{load}(k, c, r, l, I4)$

# TEMPORAL RELATIONS

- Specify (temporal) constraints among temporal references
  - $<$ ,  $>$ ,  $\geq$ ,  $\leq$ ,  $=$ ,  $\neq$
  - before, after, meets, contains,
  - starts, ends, overlap, contains,
  - ...

## TEMPORAL RELATIONS: EXAMPLE

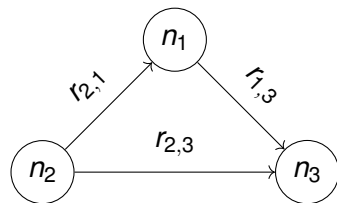
- Load a container  $c$  onto robot  $r$  at location  $l$  with crane  $k$ :  $\text{load}(k, c, r, l, I4)$ 
  - **Assumption:** crane is allowed to pick up container as soon as robot has entered location
  - Possible temporal sequences:
    - $t_1 < t_3 < t_2 < t_4 = t_5 < t_6$  (see figure) or  $t_1 = t_3$  or  $t_2 = t_3$  or  $t_2 < t_3$



- No absolute information about durations or time positions, only binary constraints between instants or intervals

# TEMPORAL NETWORKS

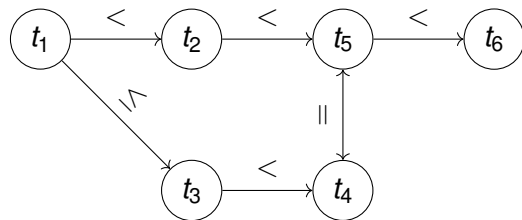
- A tuple  $\langle V, E \rangle$  where
  - $V$  is a **finite set of temporal references** (i.e. timepoints, intervals)
  - $E$  is a **finite set of temporal relations** among temporal references
    - $E = \{r_{i,j} | r_{i,j} = n_i \otimes n_j\}$  where  $n_i, n_j \in V$  and  $\otimes \in \{<, \leq, >, \geq, \dots, \text{before}, \text{after}, \dots\}$
- **Temporal Network Consistency**: there is an **instantiation** (concrete value) of all temporal references (nodes) that **satisfies all the temporal relations**.



# TEMPORAL NETWORK: EXAMPLE

- Load a container  $c$  onto robot  $r$  at location  $l$  with crane  $k$ :  $\text{load}(k, c, r, l, I4)$

- $V = \{t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4, t_5, t_6\}$
- $E = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \langle t_1 < t_2 \rangle, \langle t_1 \leq t_3 \rangle, \langle t_2 < t_5 \rangle, \\ \langle t_3 < t_4 \rangle, \langle t_4 = t_5 \rangle, \langle t_5 = t_4 \rangle, \\ \langle t_5 < t_6 \rangle \end{array} \right\}$

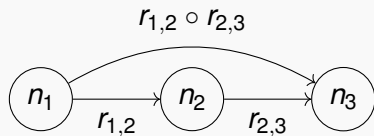


- Consistent:  $t_1 = 2.0, t_2 = 3.0, t_3 = 3.0, t_4 = 4.0, t_5 = 4.0, t_6 = 5.0$

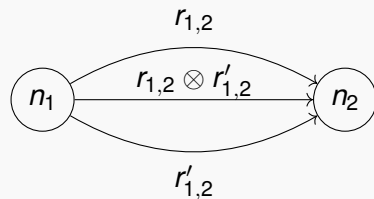


# TEMPORAL REASONING RULES

## COMPOSITION



## SET OPERATIONS ( $\otimes \in \{\cup, \cap, \dots\}$ )



# POINT ALGEBRA: RELATIONS AND CONSTRAINTS

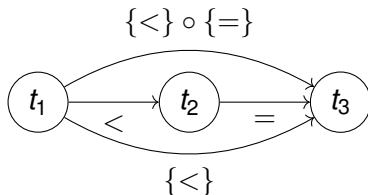
- Point Algebra is a symbolic calculus that enables us to relate in time a set of instants with qualitative constraints without necessarily ordering them.
- Possible **primitive relations**  $P$  between 2 timepoints  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ :  $P = \{<, =, >\}$ 
  - Exactly one of the following will be true:
    - $t_1 < t_2$ :  $t_1$  before  $t_2$
    - $t_1 = t_2$ :  $t_1$  equal  $t_2$  (i.e. same time instant)
    - $t_1 > t_2$ :  $t_1$  after  $t_2$
- Possible **qualitative constraints**  $R$  between timepoints:  $t_1 \xrightarrow{r \in R} t_2$ 
  - Sets of the above relations (interpreted as disjunctions)
  - $R = 2^P = \{\emptyset, \{<\}, \{=\}, \{>\}, \{<, =\}, \{<, >\}, \{=, >\}, P\}$

R	Meaning	R	Meaning
$\{<\}$	before	$\{<, =\}$	before or equal ( $\leq$ )
$\{>\}$	after	$\{>, =\}$	after or equal ( $\geq$ )
$\{=\}$	equal	$\{>, <\}$	different ( $\neq$ )
$\{\}$	contradiction	$\{>, =, <\}$	tautology

# POINT ALGEBRA: COMPOSITION

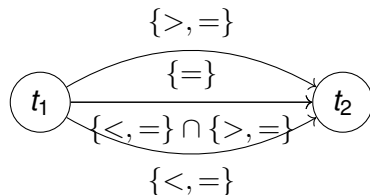
- Given  $t_1 \xrightarrow{r_{1,2}} t_2 \xrightarrow{r_{2,3}} t_3$ 
  - infer  $t_1 \xrightarrow{r_{1,3}} t_3$  where
  - $r_{1,3} = r_{1,2} \circ r_{2,3}$

$\circ$		$<$	$=$	$>$
$<$		$<$	$<$	$\{<, =, >\}$
$=$		$<$	$=$	$>$
$>$		$\{<, =, >\}$	$>$	$>$



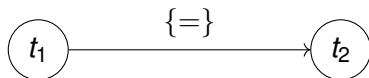
# POINT ALGEBRA: SET OPERATIONS ( $\cap, \cup, \dots$ )

- Given  $t_1 \xrightarrow{r_{1,2}} t_2$  and  $t_1 \xrightarrow{r'_{1,2}} t_2$ 
  - infer  $t_1 \xrightarrow{r} t_2$  where
  - $r = r_{1,2} \cap r'_{1,2}$
- Remark:  $t_1 \xrightarrow{r_{1,2}} t_2$  and  $t_1 \xrightarrow{r'_{1,2}} t_2$ 
  - are **weaker** than  $t_1 \xrightarrow{r_{1,2} \cap r'_{1,2}} t_2$
  - $\implies$  they are **redundant**, and can be removed!



# POINT ALGEBRA: SET OPERATIONS ( $\cap, \cup, \dots$ )

- Given  $t_1 \xrightarrow{r_{1,2}} t_2$  and  $t_1 \xrightarrow{r'_{1,2}} t_2$ 
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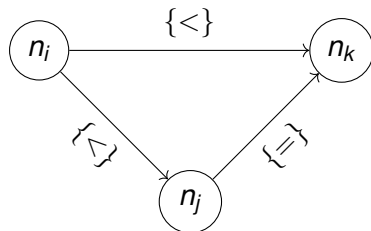


# POINT ALGEBRA: PROPERTIES OF COMBINED CONSTRAINTS

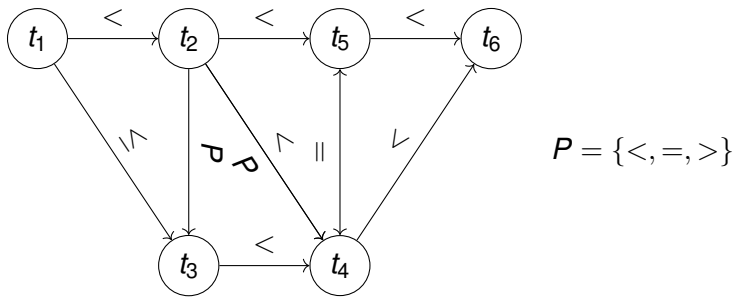
- Distributive:
  - $(r_1 \cup r_2) \circ r_3 = (r_1 \circ r_3) \cup (r_2 \circ r_3)$
  - $r_1 \circ (r_2 \cup r_3) = (r_1 \circ r_2) \cup (r_1 \circ r_3)$
- Symmetrical constraint  $r'$  of  $r$ 
  - obtained replacing  $<$  with  $>$  and vice-versa
  - $(r_1 \circ r_2)' = r_2' \circ r_1'$
  - $t_1 \ r \ t_2 \leftrightarrow t_2 \ r' \ t_1$
- $(R, \cup, \circ)$  is an algebra:
  - $R$  is closed under  $\cup$  and
  - $\cup$  is an associative and commutative operation
  - identity element for  $\cup$  is  $\emptyset$
  - $\circ$  is an associative operation
  - identity element for  $\circ$  is  $\{=\}$

# POINT ALGEBRA: CONSISTENCY

- For each node  $n_i, n_j, n_k$ :
  - $r_{n_i, n_k} = r_{n_i, n_k} \cap (r_{n_i, n_j} \circ r_{n_j, n_k})$
  - repeat to fix point
- Intuition
  - Infers all pair-wise orderings
  - Network is consistent if all pairs of edges have a valid ordering
    - $\implies$  there are no  $n_i \xrightarrow{\{\}} n_j$
- Properties
  - This algorithm is:
    - incomplete for general CSPs
    - complete for PA networks



# POINT ALGEBRA: CONSISTENCY EXAMPLE

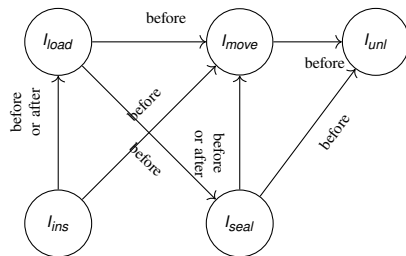


- path:  $t_4 - t_5 - t_6$ :  $[t_4 = t_5] \circ [t_5 < t_6]$  implies  $[t_4 < t_6]$
- path:  $t_2 - t_1 - t_3$ :  $[t_2 > t_1] \circ [t_1 \leq t_3]$  implies  $[t_2 \{<, =, >\} t_3]$
- path:  $t_2 - t_5 - t_4$ :  $[t_2 < t_5] \circ [t_5 = t_4]$  implies  $[t_2 < t_4]$
- path:  $t_2 - t_3 - t_4$ :  $[t_2 \{<, =, >\} t_3] \circ [t_3 < t_4]$  implies  $[t_2 \{<, =, >\} t_4]$
- last two give  $[t_2 < t_4]$



# ALLEN'S INTERVAL ALGEBRA

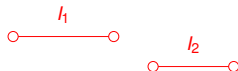
- Qualitative orderings between intervals
  - Let  $I$  be an interval:
    - $I.b$  and  $I.e$  denote the **begin** and **end** time points of the interval
    - $I.b \leq I.e$ : beginning before end!
- Example:
  - Every container must be inspected and sealed:
    - inspection: carried out by the crane, must be performed before or after loading
    - sealing: carried out by robot before or after unloading, not while moving
  - Intervals:  $I_{load}$ ,  $I_{move}$ ,  $I_{unl}$ ,  $I_{ins}$ ,  $I_{seal}$ 
    - $[I_{load} \text{ before } I_{move}]$ :  $[I_{load}.b \leq I_{load}.e]$  and  $[I_{move}.b \leq I_{move}.e]$  and  $[I_{load}.e < I_{move}.b]$
    - $[I_{move} \text{ before-or-after } I_{seal}]$ :  $[I_{move}.e < I_{seal}.b]$  or  $[I_{seal}.e < I_{move}.b]$



**Remark:** Disjunction cannot be translated into a binary PA constraint!

# ALLEN'S INTERVAL ALGEBRA: RELATIONS

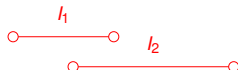
- $l_1$  before  $l_2$ :  $l_1 \text{ b } l_2$



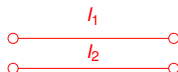
- $l_1$  meets  $l_2$ :  $l_1 \text{ m } l_2$



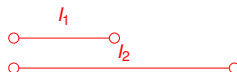
- $l_1$  overlaps  $l_2$ :  $l_1 \text{ o } l_2$



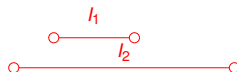
- $l_1$  equal  $l_2$ :  $l_1 \text{ e } l_2$



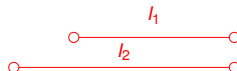
- $l_1$  starts  $l_2$ :  $l_1 \text{ s } l_2$



- $l_1$  during  $l_2$ :  $l_1 \text{ d } l_2$



- $l_1$  finishes  $l_2$ :  $l_1 \text{ f } l_2$



- + all the 6 inverse ( $\otimes'$  s.t.  $\otimes \in \{b, s, m, d, o, f\}$ ):
  - $l_1 \text{ before } l_2 \leftrightarrow l_2 \text{ before } l_1$

# ALLEN'S INTERVAL ALGEBRA: OPERATIONS ON RELATIONS

- Set operations:  $\cap, \cup, \dots$
- Composition:  $\circ$

$\circ$	e	b	m	o	s	d	f	b'	d'	f'
e	e	b	m	o	s	d	f	b'	d'	f'
b	b	b	b	b	b	$u \cup v$	$u \cup v$	P	b	b
m	m	b	b	b	m	v	v	$u' \cup v'$	b	b
o	o	b	b	u	o	v	v	$u' \cup v'$	$u \cup w'$	u
s	s	b	b	u	s	d	d	b'	$u \cup w'$	u
d	d	b	b	$u \cup v$	d	d	d	b'	P	$u \cup v$
f	f	m	m	o	d	d	f	b'	$u' \cup v'$	x
b'	b'	P	$w \cup u'$	o	$w \cup u'$	$w \cup u'$	b'	b'	b'	b'
d'	d'	$u \cup w'$	v'	o	$o \cup w'$	y	v'	$u' \cup v'$	d'	d'
f'	f'	b	m	o	o	v	x	$u' \cup v'$	d'	f'
s'	s'	$u \cup w'$	$o \cup w'$	$o \cup w'$	$\{s, e, s'\}$	$o' \cup w$	o'	b'	d'	d'

$$u=\{b,m,o\}; v=\{o,s,d\}; w=\{d,f\}, x=\{e,f'\}$$

# ALLEN'S INTERVAL ALGEBRA: OPERATIONS ON RELATIONS (CONT.)

## • Properties of composition

### • transitive

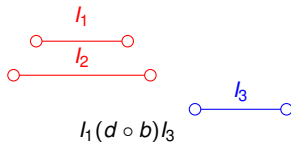
- if  $[l_1 \ r \ l_2]$  and  $[l_2 \ q \ l_3]$  then  $[l_1 (r \circ q) l_3]$

### • distributive

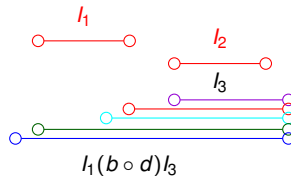
- $(r \cup q) \circ s = (r \circ s) \cup (q \circ s)$
- $s \circ (r \cup q) = (s \circ r) \cup (s \circ q)$

### • not commutative

- $[l_1 (r \circ q) l_2]$  does not imply  $[l_1 (q \circ r) l_2]$
- example:  $(l_1 \{d\} l_2) \circ (l_2 \{b\} l_3) = l_1 \{b\} l_3$  while  $(l_1 \{b\} l_2) \circ (l_2 \{d\} l_3) = l_1 \{b, m, o, s, d\} l_3$

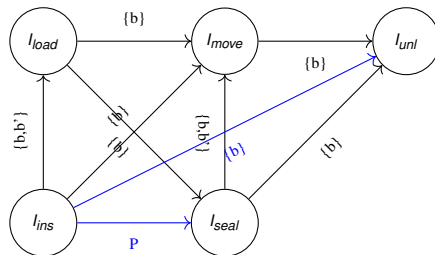


$l_3$  could start only **after**  $l_1$



$l_3$  could start **before**, at **the same time** as, **during**, at **the end of**, or **after**  $l_1$

# ALLEN'S INTERVAL ALGEBRA: EXAMPLE



- $I_{ins} - I_{move} - I_{unl}$ :  $[I_{ins}\{b\} \circ \{b\}I_{unl}] = [I_{ins}\{b\}I_{unl}]$
- $I_{ins} - I_{load} - I_{seal}$ :  $[I_{ins}\{b, b'\} \circ \{b\}I_{seal}] = [I_{ins} P I_{seal}]$

# ALLEN'S INTERVAL ALGEBRA: CONSISTENCY

- For each node  $n_i, n_j, n_k$ :
  - $r_{n_i, n_k} = r_{n_i, n_k} \cap (r_{n_i, n_j} \circ r_{n_j, n_k})$
  - repeat to fix point
- Intuition
  - Filter out redundant primitives using path consistency algorithms until
    - either: no more redundant primitive relations can be found
    - or: we find a constraint that is reduced to  $\emptyset$  (inconsistency)
- Properties
  - Path consistency is not complete for IA networks!
- Reduce to Point Algebra by considering relations between timepoints  $l.b$  and  $l.e$

# SIMPLE TEMPORAL NETWORKS: EXAMPLE

- Quantitative Temporal Relations between timepoints

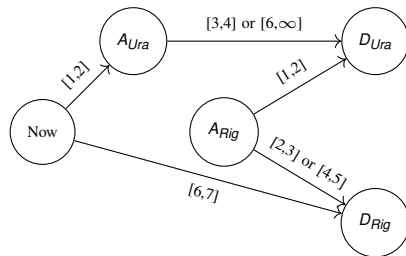
- ship: Uranus

- arrives within 1 or 2 days
- will leave either with
  - light cargo (stay docked 3 to 4 days) or
  - full load (stay docked at least six day)

- ship: Rigel

- to be serviced on
  - express dock (stay docked 2 to 3 days)
  - normal dock (stay docked 4 to 5 days)
- must depart 6 to 7 days from now

- Uranus must depart 1 to 2 days after Rigel arrives

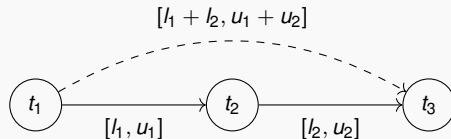


- 5 instants related by quantitative constraints

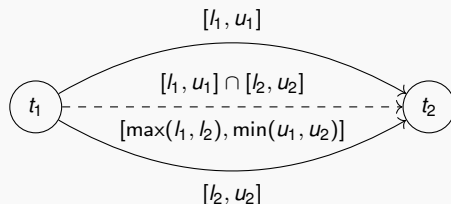
- e.g.  $(2 \leq D_{Rig} - A_{Rig} \leq 3) \vee (4 \leq D_{Rig} - A_{Rig} \leq 5)$

# SIMPLE TEMPORAL NETWORKS: COMPOSITION & INTERSECTION

## COMPOSITION



## INTERSECTION





# SIMPLE TEMPORAL NETWORKS: DISTANCE GRAPH

• Equivalent =  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \leq t_b - t_a \leq 2 \\ -2 \leq t_a - t_b \leq -1 \end{array} \right.$

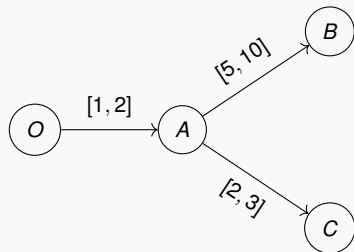
- Distance Graphs: only allow upper bounds on differences

•  $t_b - t_a \leq 2$

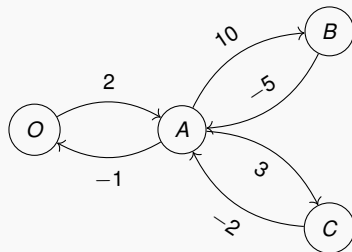
•  $t_a - t_b \leq -1$

## SIMPLE TEMPORAL NETWORKS: DISTANCE GRAPH (CONT.)

ORIGINAL STN



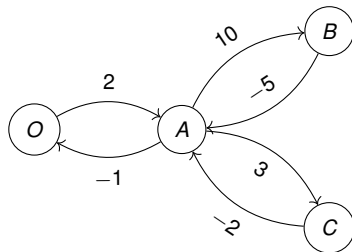
DISTANCE GRAPH



- Composition:  $(A \xrightarrow{x} B) \circ (B \xrightarrow{y} C) = A \xrightarrow{x+y} C$
- Intersection:  $(A \xrightarrow{x} B) \cap (A \xrightarrow{y} B) = A \xrightarrow{\min(x,y)} B$

# SIMPLE TEMPORAL NETWORK: CONSISTENCY

- An STN is **consistent** if and only if there is **no cycle of negative length** in the distance graph!
- Length of shortest path from A to B:
  - = max delay from A to B
  - =  $-\min$  delay from B to A
- Intuition
  - Path is a composition (i.e. the sum) of edges
  - Shortest path is the one with minimum length (intersection = min)



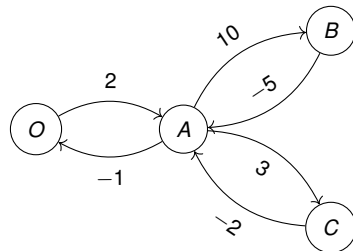
# SIMPLE TEMPORAL NETWORK: CONSISTENCY (CONT.)

## EARLIEST/LATEST START TIME OF TIMEPOINTS

- Bellman-Ford Algorithm:
  - One-to-All shortest path
    - forward graph: max delay
    - backward graph: min delay
  - From  $O$  timepoint
  - Complexity:  $O(|N| \times |E|)$
  - Incremental: Cesta and Oddi [9]

Possible delay from  $O$ :

A	[1,2]
B	[6,12]
C	[3,5]



# SIMPLE TEMPORAL NETWORK: CONSISTENCY (CONT.)

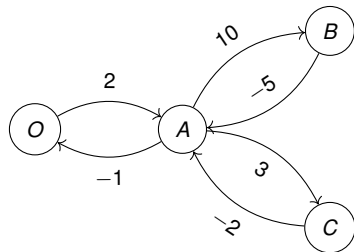
## MIN/MAX DELAYS BETWEEN ALL PAIRS OF TIMEPOINTS

### • Floyd-Warshall Algorithm

- All-Pairs shortest path
- Complexity:  $O(|N|^3)$
- Incremental: Planken et al. [31]

Max delay from-to:

	O	A	B	C
O	0	2	12	5
A	-1	0	10	3
B	-6	-5	0	-2
C	-3	-2	8	0

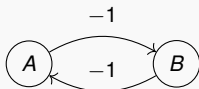


# SIMPLE TEMPORAL NETWORK: CONSISTENCY (CONT.)

- An STN is **consistent** if and only if there is **no cycle of negative length** in the distance graph!

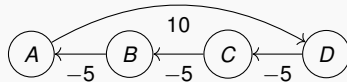
## DEADLOCK

- $(A\{b\}B) \wedge (B\{b\}A)$



## DEADLINE

- $D$  at most 10 after  $A$



- Edges of a negative cycle constitute an **unsatisfiable subset** of constraints.
  - To make the STN consistent, at least one of those constraints must be relaxed
  - Can be provided by classical algorithms (Bellman-Ford,... )

# STN AND BEYOND

- STN with Uncertainty by Vidal and Fargier [41]
- Disjunctive STN by Tsamardinos and Pollack [39]
- Conditional STN by Combi et al. [15]
- Multi-Agent STN by Casanova et al. [8]
- Time-Dependent STN by Pralet and Verfaillie [32]

# TEMPORAL PLANNING

- Key questions in Temporal Planning
  - What actions?
  - Which parameters?
  - **When?**

} Tied by grounding into operators

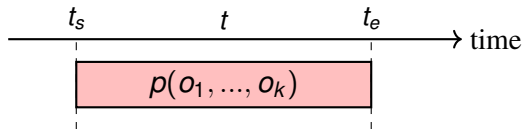
} Fixed by progression of the search
- Two complementary approaches
  - Time-oriented approaches
  - State-oriented approaches





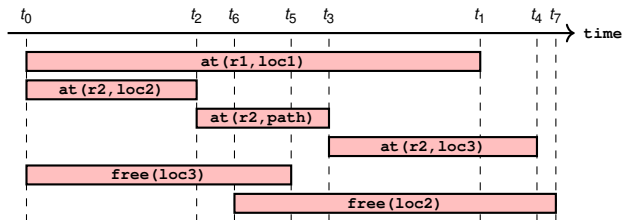
# TEMPORALLY QUALIFIED EXPRESSIONS (TQE)

- TQEs are expressions of the form:  $p(o_1, \dots, o_k)@[t_b, t_e]$  where:
  - $p$  is a flexible relation in the planning domain,
  - $o_1, \dots, o_k$  are object constants or variables, and
  - $t_b, t_e$  are temporal variables such that  $t_b < t_e$ .
- TQE  $p(o_1, \dots, o_k)@[t_b, t_e]$  asserts that:
  - for every time point  $t$ :  $t_b \leq t < t_e$  implies that  $p(o_1, \dots, o_k)$  holds
  - $[t_b, t_e]$  is semi-open to avoid inconsistencies



# TEMPORAL DATABASE

- A **temporal database** is a pair  $\Phi = (\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{C})$  where:
  - $\mathcal{F}$  is a finite set of TQEs,
  - $\mathcal{C}$  is a finite set of temporal and object constraints
    - temporal constraints: e.g. time point algebra
    - object constraints: rigid relations
  - $\mathcal{C}$  has to be consistent,
    - there exist possible values for the variables that meet all the constraints.
- Example:
  - robot `r1` is at location `loc1`, robot `r2` moves from location `loc2` to location `loc3`



$$\Phi = (\{ \text{at}(r1, \text{loc1})@[t_0, t_1), \\ \text{at}(r2, \text{loc2})@[t_0, t_2), \\ \text{at}(r2, \text{path})@[t_2, t_3), \\ \text{at}(r2, \text{loc3})@[t_3, t_4), \\ \text{free}(\text{loc3})@[t_0, t_5), \\ \text{free}(\text{loc2})@[t_6, t_7) \}, \\ \{ \text{adjacent}(\text{loc2}, \text{loc3}), \\ t_2 < t_6 < t_5 < t_3 \})$$

# INFERENCE OVER TQES

- A set  $\mathcal{F}$  of TQEs supports a (single) TQE  $e = p(v_1, \dots, v_k)@[t_b, t_e]$  iff:
  - there is a TQE  $p(o_1, \dots, o_k)@[t_1, t_2]$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  and
  - there is a substitution  $\sigma$  such that:  $\sigma(p(v_1, \dots, v_k)) = p(o_1, \dots, o_k)$ .
- An **enabling condition for  $e$  in  $\mathcal{F}$**  is the conjunction of the following constraints:
  - $t_1 \leq t_b, t_e \leq t_2$  and
  - the variable binding constraints in  $\sigma$ .
- Example:  $\mathcal{F} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} at(r1, loc1)@[t_0, t_1), at(r2, loc2)@[t_0, t_2), at(r2, path)@[t_2, t_3), \\ at(r2, loc3)@[t_3, t_4), free(loc3)@[t_0, t_5), free(loc2)@[t_6, t_7) \end{array} \right\}$ 
  - $\mathcal{F}$  supports  $free(l)@[t, t']$  with enabling conditions:
    - $t_0 \leq t, t' \leq t_5$ , and  $l = loc3$ , or
    - $t_6 \leq t, t' \leq t_7$ , and  $l = loc2$ .
- **Note:** if  $p(o_1, \dots, o_k)$  holds during  $[t_1, t_2]$  it must also hold over any sub-interval

# INFERENCE OVER SETS OF TQEs

- A set  $\mathcal{F}$  of TQEs supports a set  $\mathcal{E}$  of TQEs iff:
  - there is a substitution  $\sigma$  such that:
    - $\mathcal{F}$  supports every TQE  $e \in \mathcal{E}$  using substitution  $\sigma$ .
- The set of enabling conditions for a single TQE  $e$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  is denoted  $\Theta(e/\mathcal{F})$ .
- The set of enabling conditions for a set of TQEs  $\mathcal{E}$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  is denoted  $\Theta(\mathcal{E}/\mathcal{F})$ .

# INFERENCE OVER TEMPORAL DATABASES

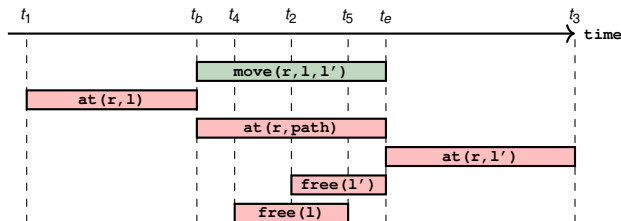
- A temporal database  $\Phi = (\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{C})$  **supports** a set  $\mathcal{E}$  of TQEs iff:
  - $\mathcal{F}$  supports  $\mathcal{E}$  and
  - there is an enabling condition  $\mathbf{c} \in \Theta(\mathcal{E}/\mathcal{F})$  that is consistent with  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- A temporal database  $\Phi = (\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{C})$  **supports** another temporal database  $\Phi' = (\mathcal{F}', \mathcal{C}')$  iff:
  - $\mathcal{F}$  supports  $\mathcal{F}'$  and
  - there is an enabling condition  $\mathbf{c} \in \Theta(\mathcal{F}'/\mathcal{F})$  such that
    - $\mathcal{C}' \cup \mathbf{c}$  is consistent with  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- A temporal database  $\Phi = (\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{C})$  **entails** another temporal database  $\Phi' = (\mathcal{F}', \mathcal{C}')$  iff:
  - $\mathcal{F}$  supports  $\mathcal{F}'$  and
  - there is an enabling condition  $\mathbf{c} \in \Theta(\mathcal{F}'/\mathcal{F})$  such that
    - $\mathcal{C}$  entails  $\mathcal{C}' \cup \mathbf{c}$ .

# TEMPORAL PLANNING OPERATORS

- A **temporal planning operator**  $o$  is a tuple  $(name(o), precondition(o), effects(o), constr(o))$ , where:
  - $name(o)$  is an expression of the form  $a(x_1, \dots, x_k, t_b, t_e)$  such that:
    - $a$  is a unique operator symbol,
    - $x_1, \dots, x_k$  are the object variables appearing in  $o$ , and
    - $t_b, t_e$  are temporal variables in  $o$ ,
  - $precond(o)$  and  $effects(o)$  are sets of TQEs, and
  - $constr(o)$  is a conjunction of the following constraints:
    - temporal constraints on  $t_b, t_e$  and possibly further time points,
    - rigid relations between objects, and
    - binding constraints of the form  $x = y$ ,  $x \neq y$ , or  $x \in D$ .

# TEMPORAL PLANNING OPERATORS: EXAMPLE

- $move(r, l, l') @ [t_b, t_e]$ 
  - preconditions:  $at(r, l) @ [t_1, t_b)$ ,  $free(l') @ [t_2, t_e]$
  - effects:  $at(r, path) @ [t_b, t_e)$ ,  $at(r, l') @ [t_e, t_3)$ ,  $free(l) @ [t_4, t_5)$
  - constraints:  $t_b < t_4 < t_2$ ,  $adjacent(l, l')$

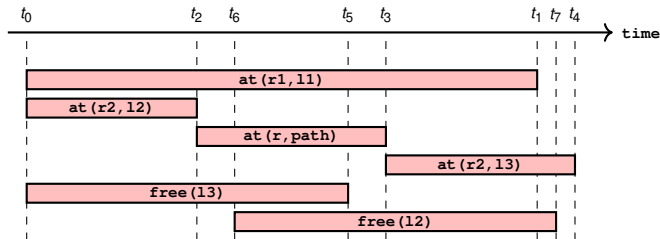




# APPLICABILITY OF TEMPORAL PLANNING OPERATORS

- A temporal planning operator  $o$  is **applicable** to a temporal database  $\Phi = (\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{C})$  iff:
  - $precond(o)$  is supported by  $\mathcal{F}$  and
  - there is an enabling condition  $c$  in  $\Theta(precond(o)/\mathcal{F})$  such that:
    - $\mathcal{C} \cup constr(o) \cup c$  is consistent.
- The **result of applying an applicable action**  $a$  (i.e. an instance of an operator  $o$ ) to  $\Phi$  is a set of possible temporal databases
  - $\gamma_0(\Phi, a) = \{(\mathcal{F} \cup effects(a), \mathcal{C} \cup constr(a) \cup c) \mid c \in \Theta(precond(a)/\mathcal{F})\}$
- Note 1: Result is a set not because of non-determinism but different ways in which  $a$  can be inserted
- Note 2: applying an action  $a$  does not remove anything from the temporal database

# APPLICABILITY OF TEMPORAL PLANNING OPERATORS: EXAMPLE



- Operator:  $move(r, l, l')@[t_b, t_e)$ 
  - $at(r1, l1)@[t_0, t_1)$  supports  $at(r, l)@[t'_1, t_b)$
  - $free(l2)@[t_6, t_7)$  supports  $free(l')@[t'_2, t_e)$
  - enabling condition:  $\{r = r1, l = l1, l' = l2, t_0 \leq t'_1, t_b \leq t_1, t_6 \leq t'_2, t_e \leq t_7\}$  consistent
- $\implies move(r1, l1, l2)$  is applicable
- Another possibility:  $move(r2, l3, l2)$

# DOMAIN AXIOMS

- A **domain axiom**  $\alpha$  is an expression of the form:  $cond(\alpha) \rightarrow disj(\alpha)$  where:
  - $cond(\alpha)$  is a set of TQEs and
  - $disj(\alpha)$  is a disjunction of temporal and object constraints.
- A **temporal database**  $\Phi = (\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{C})$  is **consistent with**  $\alpha$  iff:
  - $cond(\alpha)$  is supported by  $\mathcal{F}$  and
  - for every enabling condition  $c_1 \in \Theta(cond(\alpha)/\mathcal{F})$ 
    - there is at least one disjunct  $c_2 \in disj(\alpha)$  such that  $\mathcal{C} \cup c_1 \cup c_2$  is consistent.
- **Example**
  - no object can be in two places at the same time
 
$$\{at(r, l)@[t_b, t_e], at(r', l')@[t'_b, t'_e]\} \rightarrow (r \neq r') \vee (l = l') \vee (t_e \leq t'_b) \vee (t'_e \leq t_b)$$
  - every location can be occupied by one robot only:
 
$$\{at(r, l)@[t_1, t'_1], free(l')@[t_2, t'_2]\} \rightarrow (l \neq l') \vee (t'_1 \leq t_2) \vee (t'_2 \leq t_1)$$

# TEMPORAL PLANNING DOMAINS AND PROBLEMS

- A **temporal planning domain** is a triple  $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{S}_\Phi, \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{X})$  where:
  - $\mathcal{S}_\Phi$  is the set of all temporal databases that can be defined with the constraints and the constant, variable, and relation symbols in our representation,
  - $\mathcal{O}$  is the set of temporal planning operators, and
  - $\mathcal{X}$  is a set of domain axioms.
- A **temporal planning problem** in  $\mathcal{D}$  is a triple  $\mathcal{P} = (\mathcal{D}, \Phi_0, \Phi_g)$  where:
  - $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{S}_\Phi, \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{X})$  is a temporal planning domain,
  - $\Phi_0 = (\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{C})$  is a database in  $\mathcal{S}_\Phi$  that satisfies the axioms in  $\mathcal{X}$ .
    - Represents the initial scenario including:
      - initial state of the world
      - predicted evolution independent of planned actions
  - $\Phi_g = (\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{C}_g)$  is a database in  $\mathcal{S}_\Phi$  where:
    - $\mathcal{G}$  is a set of TQEs representing the goals of the problem
    - $\mathcal{C}_g$  are object and temporal constraints on variables in  $\mathcal{G}$ .

# STATEMENT OF TEMPORAL PLANNING PROBLEM

- A statement of a planning problem is a tuple  $\mathcal{P} = (\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{X}, \Phi_0, \Phi_g)$  where:
  - $\mathcal{O}$  is a set of temporal planning operators,
  - $\mathcal{X}$  is a set of domain axioms,
  - $\Phi_0 = (\mathcal{F}_0, \mathcal{C}_0)$  is a temporal database in  $\mathcal{S}_\Phi$  representing the initial scenario, and
  - $\Phi_g = (\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{C}_g)$  is a temporal database in  $\mathcal{S}_\Phi$  representing the goals of the problem.

# TEMPORAL PLANNING: REMARK

- **Concurrent actions**
  - Example: swap locations of two robots
    - only one robot at each location at any time
    - path may hold multiple robots
  - Problem:
    - `move(r1, loc1, loc2)`: not applicable
    - `move(r2, loc2, loc1)`: not applicable
  - Solution: Apply both at the same time: applicable
- Temporal planning can handle such concurrent actions!
  - It provides a higher expressivity!

# TEMPORAL PLANNING SEARCH PROCEDURE: SEARCH SPACE

- $\Omega = (\Phi, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{K}, \pi)$  where
  - $\Phi = (\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{C})$ : current temporal database, initially  $\Phi_0$
  - $\mathcal{G}$ : set of current open goals, initially taken from  $\Phi_g = (\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{C}_g)$
  - $\mathcal{K} = \{\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_i\}$ : set of pending conditions (initially empty):
    - sets of enabling conditions of actions and
    - sets of consistency conditions of axioms,
  - $\pi$ : set of actions in the current plan, initially empty.

# TEMPORAL PLANNING: SEARCH PROCEDURE

## ● Intuition

- Start from a state associated to the empty plan, containing only the information about the initial facts and goals
- Such partial plan is flawed: it might contains violations of the consistency rules
  - unsupported condition
  - conflicting assignment
  - ...
- TPS algorithm: refines the partial plan until no flaw remains

## **function** TPS( $\Omega$ )

```
  flaws  $\leftarrow$   $\Omega$ .GETFLAWS()
  if flaws =  $\emptyset$  then
    return  $\Omega$ 
  end if
  flaw  $\leftarrow$  FLAWS.CHOOSEONE()
  resolvers  $\leftarrow$  FLAW.GETRESOLVERS()
  if resolvers =  $\emptyset$  then
    return failure
  end if
  resolver  $\leftarrow$  RESOLVERS.CHOOSEONE()
   $\Omega'$   $\leftarrow$   $\Omega$ .REFINE(resolver)
  return TPS( $\Omega'$ )
end function
```



# TEMPORAL PLANNING: FLAW TYPES

- Open Goal - Existing TQE
  - unsupported TQE  $e$  in  $\mathcal{G}$
  - assumption: exists a TQE in  $\mathcal{F}$  that can support  $e$
  - resolver:  $\mathcal{K} \leftarrow \mathcal{K} \cup \{\Theta(e/\mathcal{F})\}$   
 $\mathcal{G} \leftarrow \mathcal{G} \setminus \{e\}$
  
- Open Goal - New Action
  - unsupported TQE  $e$  in  $\mathcal{G}$
  - action  $a$  (instance of operator  $o$ )
    - has  $effects(a)$  that support  $e$  and
    - $constr(a)$  are consistent with  $\mathcal{C}$
  - resolver:  $\pi \leftarrow \pi \cup \{a\}$   
 $\mathcal{F} \leftarrow \mathcal{F} \cup effects(a)$   
 $\mathcal{C} \leftarrow \mathcal{C} \cup constr(a)$   
 $\mathcal{G} \leftarrow (\mathcal{G} \setminus \{e\}) \cup precondition(a)$   
 $\mathcal{K} \leftarrow \mathcal{K} \cup \{\Theta(precondition(a)/\Phi)\}$

# TEMPORAL PLANNING: FLAW TYPES (CONT.)

- Unsatisfied Axiom - Add Conditions

- axiom  $\alpha$ :  $\text{cond}(\alpha) \rightarrow \text{disj}(\alpha)$  and
  - $\text{cond}(\alpha)$  is supported by  $\mathcal{F}$
  - $\text{disj}(\alpha)$  is not supported by  $\mathcal{F}$
- assumption: there are consistency conditions  $\Theta(\alpha/\Phi)$  such that  $\text{disj}(\alpha)$  is supported by  $\mathcal{F}$
- resolver:  $\mathcal{K} \leftarrow \mathcal{K} \cup \{\Theta(\alpha/\Phi)\}$

- Threat - Add Constraints

- consistency condition  $\mathcal{C}_i \in \mathcal{K}$  that is not entailed by  $\Phi$
- assumption:  $\mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{C}_i$  is consistent with  $\mathcal{C}$
- resolver:  $\mathcal{C} \leftarrow \mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{C}$   
 $\mathcal{K} \leftarrow \mathcal{K} \setminus \{\mathcal{C}_i\}$

# TEMPORAL PLANNING: SEARCH STRATEGIES

- TPS generates a search tree which can be explored:
  - In Depth-First, Breadth-First
  - Through heuristic search ( $A^*$ , weighted  $A^*$ , greedy-best-first, ...)
- Choices to make:
  - Which flaw to fix?
    - (often) with least resolvers (minimize branching factor)
  - Which partial plan ( $A^*$ ) or resolver (DFS) ?
    - Domain specific
    - Least-commitment
    - Distance to consistency Bit-Monnot [5] and Bit-Monnot et al. [6]

# ACTION-BASED LANGUAGES WITH TIME

- PDDL 2.1 by Fox and Long [21]
- Action Notation Modeling Language - ANML - by Smith et al. [38]
- Natural Definition Language - NDL - by Rintanen [35]

## PDDL-2.1 - SUPPORT FOR DURATIVE ACTIONS (CONT.)

```
(define (domain travel)
  (:requirements :strips :typing :durative-actions)
  (:types truck location cargo crane)
  (:predicates (at ?t - truck) ...))

(:durative-action load-truck
  :parameters (?t - truck) (?l - location) (?o - cargo) (?c - crane)
  :duration (and (>= ?duration 5) (<= ?duration 10))
  :condition (and (at start (at ?t ?l))
                  (at start (at ?o ?l))
                  (at start (empty ?c))
                  (over all (at ?t ?l))
                  (at end (holding ?c ?o)))
  :effect (and (at start (holding ?c ?o))
               (at start (not (at ?o ?l)))
               (at end (not (holding ?c ?o)))
               (at end (in ?o ?t))))
```

## PDDL-2.1 - SUPPORT FOR DURATIVE ACTIONS

```
(define (domain floor-tile)
  (:requirements :strips :typing :durative-actions)
  (:types robot tile color-object)
  (:predicates (robotAt ?r-robot ?x-tile) (up ?x-tile ?y-tile) (down ?x-tile ?y-tile)
    (right ?x-tile ?y-tile) (left ?x-tile ?y-tile) (clear ?x-tile)
    (painted ?x-tile ?c-color) (robot-has ?r-robot ?c-color)
    (availableColor ?c-color) (free-color ?r-robot ))

  (:durative-action change-color
    :parameters (?r-robot ?c-color ?c2-color)
    :duration (= ?duration 5)
    :condition (and (at start (robot-has ?r ?c ))
      (over all (availableColor ?c2)))
    :effect (and (at start (not(robot-has ?r ?c )))
      (at end (robot-has ?r ?c2))))

  (:durative-action paintUp
    :parameters (?r-robot ?y-tile ?x-tile ?c-color)
    :duration (= ?duration 2)
    :condition (and (over all (robot-has ?r ?c )) (over all (up ?y ?x))
      (at start (robotAt ?r ?x)) (at start (clear ?y)))
    :effect (and (at start (not(clear ?y)))
      (at end (painted ?y ?c))))
  ...)
```

## $\epsilon$ -SEPARATION

- Some languages (like e.g. PDDL 2.1) require " $\epsilon$ -separation"
  - When two events interfere<sup>1</sup> they need to be separated by a minimum quantum of time  $\epsilon > 0$ 
    - For instance, the event of preparing the coffee and the event of drinking the coffee, the first shall causally happen before the second!
  - If  $\epsilon$  is fixed a-priori, the time interpretation can be considered discrete
  - On the other hand, if the planner needs to find an  $\epsilon$  that works, then time interpretation might be dense

---

<sup>1</sup>e.g. they cannot be freely reordered

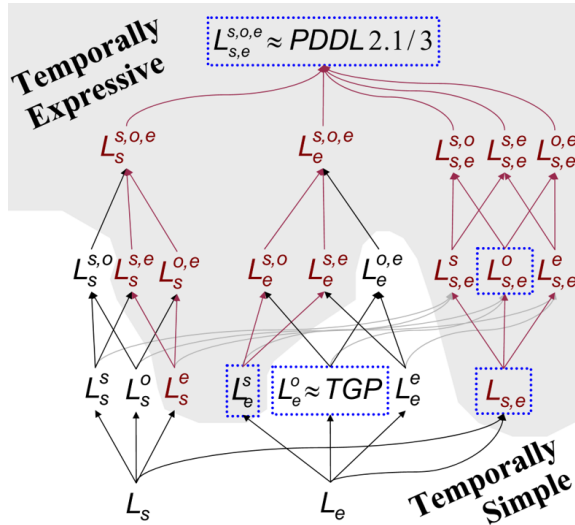
# REQUIRED CONCURRENCY CUSHING ET AL. [16]

- A plan is said **concurrent** when there exists a time  $t$  at which more than one action is running, otherwise the plan is sequential.
- A solvable planning problem has **required concurrency** when all solutions are concurrent.
- Many different modeling languages have been proposed for planning with durative actions (see previous slides)
- Cushing et al. [16] studied various restrictions of PDDL 2.1.3, characterized by the times at which preconditions and effects may be 'placed' within an action.
- $L_{\text{effects}}^{\text{preconditions}}$ :
  - $s$  "at-start"
  - $e$  "at-end"
  - $o$  "over-all"

preconditions  $\in \{s, e, o\}$ , effects  $\in \{s, e\}$
- Example:
  - $L_{s,e}^o$  is a language where every action precondition must hold over all of its execution, and effects may occur at start or at end.

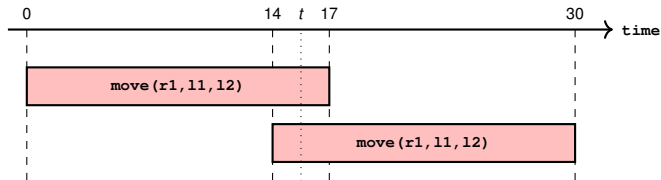


# REQUIRED CONCURRENCY CUSHING ET AL. [16] (CONT.)



# PLAN WITH ACTION SELF-OVERLAPPING

- A plan contains **action self-overlapping** if there exists a time  $t$  at which two or more instances of the same ground action  $A$  are executing at the same time



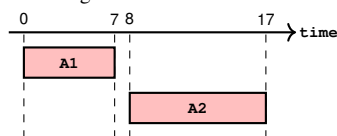
- Remarks
  - Action self-overlapping is rarely useful in practice as shown by Fox and Long [22]
  - Action-based temporal planning without action self-overlapping is PSPACE-Complete as shown by Rintanen [33]

# TEMPORAL PLANNING: TEMPORALLY SIMPLE PROBLEMS

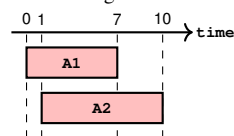
- For temporally-simple problems, one can ignore time and temporal constraints
  - Find a plan  $\pi$  for the classical planning problem having one instantaneous action for each durative action with the same (pre)conditions and effects
  - Post-process the plan, attaching durations to actions and de-ordering the events to reduce the makespan.
- This is what performed in the YAHSP2 planner by Vidal [42]
- Example:

- Time Abstracted Plan: A1;A2
- start(A1) supports start(A2)

Attaching durations to actions



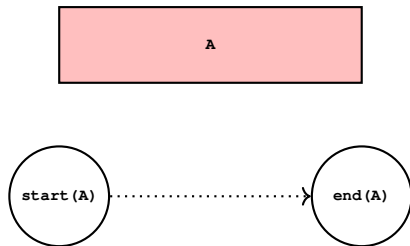
De-ordering to reduce makespan



- Remark:** Incomplete for problems with required concurrency; no guarantee to get makespan optimal solutions!

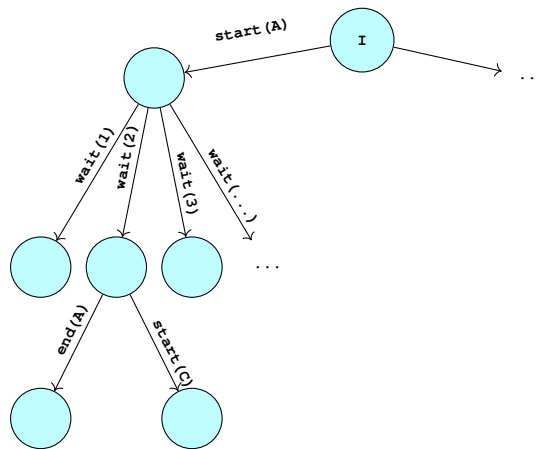
# SNAP ACTIONS: INTUITION

- Split each durative action  $A$  into two instantaneous actions:  $\text{start}(A)$  and  $\text{end}(A)$

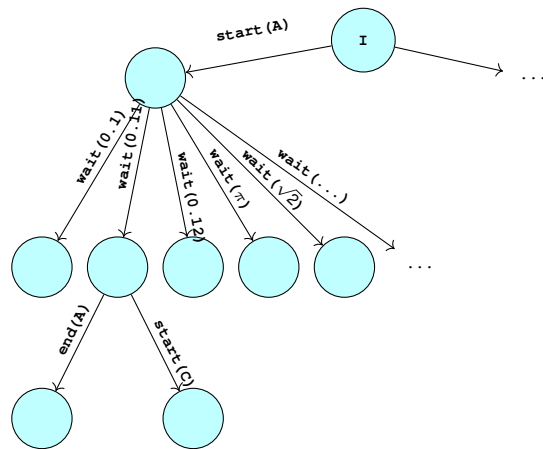


- The search method needs to ensure that **for each  $\text{start}(A)$  there exists exactly one  $\text{end}(A)$**  and that **durative conditions are respected**.

# SEARCH: SPLITTING OVER DENSE/DISCRETE TIME



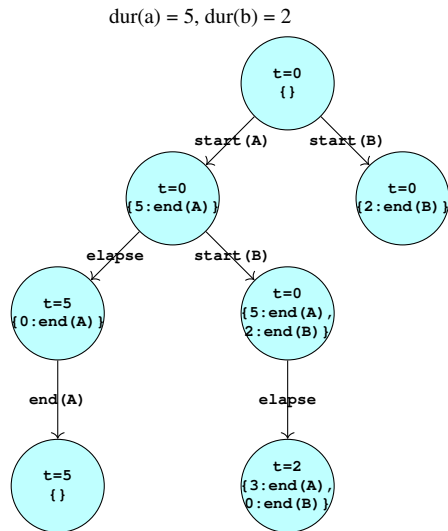
Split over discrete time



Split over dense time

# TEMPORAL PLANNING WITH DECISION EPOCHS

- Augment the planning state with
  - a **timestamp  $t$**
  - an **agenda of open actions**
- At each expansion step, we can either
  - start a new action instance
  - advance time
- Time can advance only to the first (with a closer deadline) event in the agenda:
  - the agenda is then updated to reflect this time pass
- A goal state must satisfy the goal conditions and have an empty agenda



# TEMPORAL PLANNING WITH DECISION EPOCHS (CONT.)

- Many planners adopt decision epochs:
  - TLPlan by Bacchus and Ady [2]
  - SAPA by Do and Kambhampati [19]
  - Temporal Fast Downward (TFD) by Eyerich et al. [20]
  - ...
- Remark: Decision Epoch is incomplete as shown by Cushing et al. [16]
  - Decision Epoch planners cannot start actions at arbitrary times: *only at the start or end of another action in the agenda*

# TEMPORAL PLANNING WITH SYMBOLIC STN

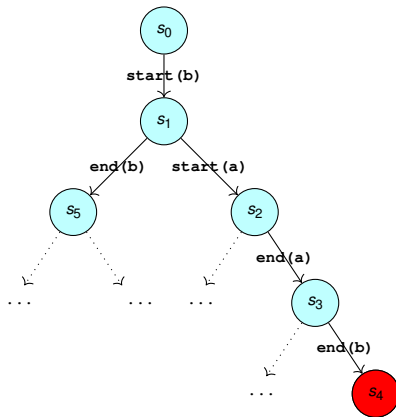
- Augment the planning state with
  - an **STN of past and future time-points**
  - an **agenda of future events**
- Time advance is implicit:
  - a path in the search tree represents a total (or a partial) order of the events
- A goal state
  - must satisfy the goal conditions,
  - have an empty agenda
  - have a consistent STN



$$\begin{array}{l} \text{STN}_{s_i}: \\ t_0 - t_1 = c_1 \\ t_2 - t_1 \leq c_2 \\ t_2 = t_4 \\ \dots \end{array}$$



# TEMPORAL PLANNING WITH SYMBOLIC STN: EXAMPLE



$$\text{dur}(a) = 5, \text{dur}(b) = 2$$

$$\text{STN}_{s_1} : \\ \text{end}(b) - \text{start}(b) = 2$$

$$\text{STN}_{s_2} : \\ \text{end}(b) - \text{start}(b) = 2 \\ \text{end}(a) - \text{start}(a) = 5 \\ \text{start}(b) \leq \text{start}(a)$$

$$\text{STN}_{s_3} : \\ \text{end}(b) - \text{start}(b) = 2 \\ \text{end}(a) - \text{start}(a) = 5 \\ \text{start}(b) \leq \text{start}(a) \leq \text{end}(a)$$

$$\text{STN}_{s_4} : \\ \text{end}(b) - \text{start}(b) = 2 \\ \text{end}(a) - \text{start}(a) = 5 \\ \text{start}(b) \leq \text{start}(a) \leq \text{end}(a) \leq \text{end}(b)$$

# TEMPORAL PLANNING WITH SYMBOLIC STN (CONT.)

- A family of planners use this approach:
  - Crikey by Coles et al. [14]
  - POPF by Coles et al. [12]
  - COLIN by Coles et al. [13]
  - OPTIC by Benton et al. [4]
  - ...

# TEMPORAL PLANNING WITH SYMBOLIC STN: HEURISTICS

- Classical planning relaxations by Vidal [42] and Valentini et al. [40]
  - Relax the temporal aspects of the planning domain and use  $h^+$ ,  $h^{add}$ , ...
- Context-enhanced Additive Heuristic for Temporal Planning by Eyerich et al. [20]
  - Transform decision-epoch times into action costs and use  $h^{cea}$  by Helmert and Geffner [28]
- Temporal Relaxed Planning Graph by Coles and Coles [11]
  - Compute approximation of the plan length using TRPG generated by computing minimal time of fact and action layers

## REMARK: STATE EQUIVALENCE

- In classical planning we adopted graph search spaces.
- How can we recognize that two plan search states with temporal information are equal?
- Decision-epoch
  - Two states are equal if they have the same fluent assignment, the same agenda and the same timestamp
- Forward heuristic search with STN:
  - We need to check if two STNs are isomorphic
    - We can under-approximate equality as proposed by Coles and Coles [10]

# TEMPORAL PLANNING AS SATISFIABILITY (MODULO THEORY)

- Encode the bounded planning problem as a formula (as in SATPLAN by Kautz and Selman [29]):
  - Any model of the formula encodes a valid plan
  - If the formula is unsatisfiable, either the problem is unsolvable or the bound is insufficient and needs to be increased
  - In order to encode time we need numeric quantities and linear arithmetic:  $SMT(\mathcal{LA})$

# SMT AT A GLANCE

- Satisfiability Modulo Theory (SMT) Barrett et al. [3] is the problem of deciding the satisfiability of a first-order formula expressed in a given (decidable) theory  $\mathcal{T}$ .
- Example:  $\psi = (x > 2) \wedge (x < 8) \wedge ((x < 1) \vee (x > 7))$ 
  - Is satisfiable in the theory of linear rational arithmetic because  $\{x = 7.5\} \models \psi$
  - Is unsatisfiable in the theory of integer arithmetic
- Practical features
  - Many theories are supported
  - Efficient and well-supported implementations
  - Common language to express problems (SMT-LIB) <http://smtlib.cs.uiowa.edu/>
  - Annual solver competitions since 2003 <https://smt-comp.github.io/>

# TEMPORAL PLANNING AS SMT

- Two main encodings in the literature:
  - by Shin and Davis discussed in [36] and [37]
  - by Rintanen [34]
  - Each encoding is different and has strengths and weaknesses
- Here we discuss the most important features and the general approach

# TEMPORAL PLANNING AS SMT: NAÏVE ENCODING

- Fluent values are represented at each step by SMT variables:  $v^i$  for each  $i \in \{1; \dots; k\}$ 
  - A step corresponds to one time point in the timeline
- For every action  $a$  and every step  $i$  there is a Boolean state variable  $a^i$  (snap actions  $s_a^i, e_a^i$ ) indicating if the action is taken at that step
- The absolute time of each step needs to be represented (e.g.  $t^i \in \mathbb{Q}$ )
- Action durations are enforced with  $\mathcal{LRA}/\mathcal{LIA}$  constraints
  - e.g.  $\bigwedge_{i=0}^k s_a^i \rightarrow \bigvee_{j=i+1}^k (e_a^j \wedge t^j - t^i = dur(a))$
- Snap action conditions are checked at the correct step (e.g.  $\bigwedge_{i=0}^k a^i \rightarrow \llbracket pre(a) \rrbracket^i$ )
- The effects of an action are expressed as condition of the (next step) values
  - e.g.  $\bigwedge_{i=0}^k a^i \rightarrow \llbracket eff(a) \rrbracket^{i+1}$
- There are constraints preventing a co-occurrence of two actions that interfere
  - $\bigwedge_{i=0}^k a^i \leftrightarrow \neg b^i$
- A "frame-axiom" enforces that values can only change when there is an effect
  - e.g.  $\bigwedge_{i=0}^{k-1} v^i \neq v^{i+1} \rightarrow a^i$



# TEMPORAL PLANNING AS SMT: APPROACH

```
function TEMPORALSATPLAN(P)
  for each k = 0, 1, 2, ... do
     $\phi_k \leftarrow \text{ENCODE}(P, k)$ 
     $\mu, \text{Status} \leftarrow \text{SAT}(\phi_k)$ 
    if Status == SAT then
       $\pi \leftarrow \text{EXTRACTPLAN}(\mu)$ 
      return  $\pi$ 
    end if
  end for
end function
```

→ Create an SMT encoding up to k

→ Check whether the encoding is SAT

→ Extract plan from the SAT assignment

# TEMPORAL PLANNING AS SMT: PLANNERS

- MIP-based temporal planning by Dimopoulos and Gerevini in [18], and [17]
- TM-LPSAT by Shin and Davis [37] - planning with processes and continuous change using SMT
- Planning with clock variables in SMT by Rintanen [34]
- LCP by Bit-Monnot [5] - an SMT-based planner for ANML

# COMPUTATIONAL COMPLEXITY

- Temporal planning with **discrete time** is **EXPSpace-Complete** as shown by Rintanen [33] and by Gigante et al. [26]
- Temporal planning with **dense time** is **undecidable** as shown by Bozzelli et al. [7]

# TIPS FOR UPDATING PLANUTILS

- `pip2,3 install planutils --upgrade`  
This will update planutils to the latest version
- `planutils setup`  
To be sure the new planners are properly added to the search path directory
- `planutils install optic`  
To install the optic planner (it might be needed to run the command twice since first time it fails)
- `planutils install tfd`  
To install the tfd planner (it might be needed to run the command twice since first time it fails)

# THE OPTIC TEMPORAL PLANNER

- OPTIC (by Benton et al. [4]) is a temporal planner for use in problems where plan cost is determined by preferences or time-dependent goal-collection costs.
- To install it (with planutils)
 

```
command> planutils install optic
```
- How to run OPTIC:
  - `optic -N domain.pddl problem.pddl`  
Avoids optimizing initial found solution!  
Run weighted A\* with  $W = 1.000$ , not restarting with goal states
  - `optic -N -W1,1 domain.pddl problem.pddl`  
Run weighted A\* with  $W = 1.000$ , not restarting with goal states
  - `optic -N -E -W1,1 domain.pddl problem.pddl`  
Run weighted A\* with  $W = 1.000$ , not restarting with goal states  
Skip EHC: go straight to best-first search
- Remarks
  - OPTIC does not support predicates with the same name of a name of an action (other planners do)!

# THE TEMPORAL FAST DOWNWARD (TFD) PLANNER

- TFD is a temporal planning system based on the Fast Downward. It uses an adaptation of the context-enhanced additive heuristic to guide the search in the temporal state space with decision epochs induced by the given planning problem.
- To install it (with `planutils`)  

```
command> planutils install tfd
```
- How to run TFD:
  - `tfd domain.pddl problem.pddl`  
No particular flags supported
  - It can be enabled anytime as follows:  

```
export ANYTIMEOPTS="a T 10 t 5"
tfd domain.pddl problem.pddl
```

 This way anytime is enable (a), and it is considered a timeout of 5 seconds to optimize the solution if a plan has been found (t 5) and a timeout of 10 seconds to find a solution (T 10).

## FLOOR TILES PAINTING

A set of robots use different colors to paint patterns in floor tiles. The robots can move around the floor tiles in four directions (up, down, left, and right). Robots paint with one color at a time but can change their spray guns to any available color. However, robots can only paint the tile that is in front (up) and behind (down) them, and once a tile has been painted, no robot can stand on it. Author: Tomás de la Rosa

- Domain:  
{ Examples/FT/floor-tile.pddl }
- Problem Instance 1:  
{ Examples/FT/instance-1.pddl }
- Problem Instance 2:  
{ Examples/FT/instance-10.pddl }
- Problem Instance 3:  
{ Examples/FT/instance-20.pddl }

# MAP ANALYZER

A temporal version of the \*city car\* domain. In this domain, cars have different speed, and the time needed for building or removing roads depend on their length. Authors: Mauro Vallati and Lukas Chrpá

- Domain:  
{ Examples/MapA/domain.pddl }
- Problem Instance 1:  
{ Examples/MapA/instance-1.pddl }
- Problem Instance 2:  
{ Examples/MapA/instance-5.pddl }
- Problem Instance 3:  
{ Examples/MapA/instance-10.pddl }



# MATCH CELLAR

You have some matches and a number of fuses to mend in a dark room. You can only mend a fuse while a match is lit. Domain inspired by [30]. Author Bharat Ranjan Kavuluri.

- Domain:  
{ Examples/MatchC/domain.pddl }
- Problem Instance 1:  
{ Examples/MatchC/instance-1.pddl }
- Problem Instance 2:  
{ Examples/MatchC/instance-5.pddl }
- Problem Instance 3:  
{ Examples/MatchC/instance-10.pddl }

## TURN AND OPEN

In this domain, there are a number of robots with two gripper hands and a set of rooms containing balls. The goal is to find a plan to transport balls from a given room to another. There are doors that must be open to move from one room to another. In order to open a given door, the robot must turn the doorknob and open the door at the same time. Author: Sergio Jiménez Celorrio

- Domain:  
  { Examples/TO/domain.pddl }
- Problem Instance 1:  
  { Examples/TO/instance-1.pddl }
- Problem Instance 2:  
  { Examples/TO/instance-5.pddl }
- Problem Instance 3:  
  { Examples/TO/instance-10.pddl }

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