

THÈSE

En vue de l'obtention du

DOCTORAT DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE TOULOUSE

Délivré par : Institut Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace (ISAE)

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Exploiting Imprecise Information Sources in Sequential Decision Making Problems under Uncertainty

JURY

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STATE OF THE ART

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- [2] Nicolas Drougard, Florent Teichteil-Konigsbuch, Jean-Loup Farges, and Didier Dubois. Qualitative possibilistic mixed-observable MDPs. In *Proceedings of the Twenty-Ninth Conference Annual Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI-13)*, pages 192–201, Corvallis, Oregon, 2013. AUAI Press. (Quoted on page 21.)
- [3] Nicolas Drougard, Florent Teichteil-Königsbuch, Jean-Loup Farges, and Didier Dubois. Structured possibilistic planning using decision diagrams. In *Proceedings of the Twenty-Eighth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, July 27-31, 2014, Québec City, Québec, Canada.*, pages 2257–2263, 2014. (Quoted on page 21.)

NOTATIONS

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f: \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}
                    f is a function from \mathcal{X} to \mathcal{Y}
                    the function f maps the element x \in \mathcal{X} to the element y \in \mathcal{Y}
f: x \mapsto y
f(.,x)
                    function f^x: y \mapsto f(x,y) if f is defined on \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} and x \in \mathcal{X}
                    indicator function of the set A
\mathbb{1}_A
                    function equal to one if the formula F(s) is true, and zero otherwise
\mathbb{1}_{F(s)}
                    (Kronecker delta)
\#A
                    size of set A
\overline{A}
                    complementary set of A: if the working set is \Omega, A \cup \overline{A} = \Omega and A \cap \overline{A} = \emptyset
\mathbb{N}.\mathbb{N}^*
                    set of non negative integers, of positive integers
\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}_{+}
                    set of real numbers, non negative real numbers
\mathbb{R}^d
                    real vector space with d dimensions
\mathcal{P}(\Omega)
                    the set of all subsets of the set \Omega
                    parents and descendants of a variable (node) S in a Bayesian Network
parents(S)
descend(S)
\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{E}
                    probability and expectation
\mathcal{F}_B(\mathcal{S},\mathbb{R})
                    the set of the bounded functions from the set \mathcal S to the set \mathbb R
X \perp \!\!\! \perp Y|Z
                    X is independent from Y conditional on Z
S \sim b
                    b is the probability distribution of the random variable S: \forall s, \mathbb{P}(S=s) = b(s)
\overline{b} \propto b
                    \bar{b} is the probabilistic normalization of b: \bar{b}(s) = b(s) / \sum_{\tilde{s}} b(\tilde{s})
b^{\pi} \propto^{\pi} b
                    b^{\pi} is the possibilistic nomalization of b:
                    b^{\pi}(s) = 1 if b(s) = \max_{s'} b(s'), b(s) otherwise
                    the scalar product of two vectors x and y from \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{S}}
\langle x,y\rangle_{\mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{S}}}
                    function composition operator
\mathbb{P}^{\mathcal{S}}
                   set of the probability distributions over \mathcal{S}
\Pi_{\mathcal{L}}^{\mathcal{S}}
                    set of the possibilistic distributions over \mathcal{S} when the possibilistic scale is \mathcal{L}
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Related Research Material

This PhD thesis has led to the development of following materials:

Conference papers

- Qualitative Possibilistic Mixed-Observable MDPs, Proceedings of the Twenty-Ninth Annual Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI-13) with Florent Teichteil-Konigsbuch, Jean-Loup Farges, and Didier Dubois, (2013) [2]. Presentation: poster and 2 minute speech in english.
- Structured Possibilistic Planning Using Decision Diagrams, Proceedings of the Twenty-Eighth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, (AAAI-14) with Florent Teichteil-Königsbuch, Jean-Loup Farges and Didier Dubois, (2014) [3]. Presentation: poster and 20 minute speech in english.
- Planning in Partially Observable Domains with Fuzzy Epistemic States and Probabilistic Dynamics, Proceedings of the Ninth International Conference on Scalable Uncertainty Management (SUM-15) with Didier Dubois, Jean-Loup Farge and Florent Teichteil-Königsbuch, (2015) [1]. Presentation: 30 minute speech in english.
- Processus Décisionnels de Markov Possibilistes à Observabilité Mixte, Eighth Journées Francophones sur la Planification, la Décision et l'Apprentissage pour la conduite de systèmes (JFPDA-13), with Florent Teichteil-Konigsbuch, Jean-Loup Farges, and Didier Dubois, (2013). Presentation: poster and 30 minute speech in french.
- Planification dans des domaines partiellement observables avec des états épistémiques flous et une dynamique probabiliste., Tenth Journées Francophones sur la Planification, la Décision et l'Apprentissage pour la conduite de systèmes (JFPDA-15), with Didier Dubois, Jean-Loup Farge and Florent Teichteil-Königsbuch, (2015). Presentation: 30 minute speech in french.

Workshop paper

• Structured Possibilistic Planning Using Decision Diagrams, Workshop "Models and Paradigms for Planning under Uncertainty: a Broad Perspective" of the Twenty-Fourth International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling (ICAPS-14). Presentation by Florent Teichteil-Königsbuch.

Journal papers

- A Possibilistic Estimation of Human Attentional Errors, submitted to the IEEE Transactions on Fuzzy Systems (TFS), with Sergio Pizziol, Catherine Tessier, Jean-Loup Farges, Didier Dubois and Frédéric Dehais.
- Processus Décisionnels de Markov Possibilistes à Observabilité Mixte, submitted to a special edition of the Revue d'Intelligence Artificielle (RIA), with Florent Teichteil-Konigsbuch, Jean-Loup Farges, and Didier Dubois.

Oral presentations

- "Possibilistic MDP and POMDP". Seminar in english of the SequeL team at INRIA Lille, France (2012).
- "Modèles possibilistes pour la décision séquentielle dans l'incertain". Seminar in french of the MAD team at GREYC Caen, France (2013).
- EDSYS days, doctoral school conference: 30 minute speech in french at ISAE-SUPAERO, Toulouse France (2014).
- PhD student days (JDD), 20 minute speech in french at Onera The French Aerospace Lab, Toulouse France (2014 and 2015).
- Onera-DLR Aerospace Symposium, (ODAS 2015), 30 minute speech in english, at Onera
 The French Aerospace Lab, Toulouse France (2015).

Code

- Participation in the International Probabilistic Planning Competition 2014 MDP track, with the algorithm PPUDD.
- Github repository http://www.github.com/drougui/ppudd.

Title: Exploiting Imprecise Information Sources for Sequential Decision Making under Uncertainty

Abstract: Partially Observable Markov Decision Processes (POMDPs) define a useful formalism to express probabilistic sequential decision problems under uncertainty. When this model is used for a robotic mission, the system is defined as the features of the robot and its environment, needed to express the mission. The system state is not directly seen by the agent (the robot). Solving a POMDP consists thus in computing a strategy which, on average, achieves the mission best i.e. a function mapping the information known by the agent to an action. Some practical issues of the POMDP model are first highlighted in the robotic context: it concerns the modeling of the agent ignorance, the imprecision of the observation model and the complexity of solving real world problems. A counterpart of the POMDP model, called π -POMDP, simplifies uncertainty representation with a qualitative evaluation of event plausibilities. It comes from Qualitative Possibility Theory which provides the means to model imprecision and ignorance. After a formal presentation of the POMDP and π -POMDP models, an update of the possibilistic model is proposed. Next, the study of factored π -POMDPs allows to set up an algorithm named PPUDD which uses Algebraic Decision Diagrams to solve large structured planning problems. Strategies computed by PPUDD, which have been tested in the context of the competition IPPC 2014, can be more efficient than those produced by probabilistic solvers when the model is imprecise or for high dimensional problems. We show next that the π -Hidden Markov Processes (π -HMP), i.e. π -POMDPs without action, produces useful diagnosis in the context of Human-Machine interactions. Finally, a hybrid POMDP benefiting from the possibilistic and the probabilistic approach is built: the qualitative framework is only used to maintain the agent's knowledge. This leads to a strategy which is pessimistic facing the lack of knowledge, and computable with a solver of fully observable Markov Decision Processes (MDPs). This thesis proposes some ways of using Qualitative Possibility Theory to improve computation time and uncertainty modeling in practice.

Keywords: POMDP, Planning under Uncertainty, Possibility Theory, Autonomous Robotics, Imprecise Knowledge

Titre: Tirer Profit de Sources d'Information Imprécises pour la Décision Séquentielle dans l'Incertain

Résumé: Les Processus Décisionnels de Markov Partiellement Observables (PDMPOs) permettent de modéliser facilement les problèmes probabilistes de décision séquentielle dans l'incertain. Lorsqu'il s'agit d'une mission robotique, les caractéristiques du robot et de son environnement nécessaires à la définition de la mission constituent le système. Son état n'est pas directement visible par l'agent (le robot). Résoudre un PDMPO revient donc à calculer une stratégie qui remplit la mission au mieux en moyenne, i.e. une fonction prescrivant les actions à exécuter selon l'information reçue par l'agent. Ce travail débute par la mise en évidence, dans le contexte robotique, de limites pratiques du modèle PDMPO: elles concernent l'ignorance de l'agent, l'imprécision du modèle d'observation ainsi que la complexité de résolution. Un homologue du modèle PDMPO appelé π -PDMPO, simplifie la représentation de l'incertitude: il vient de la Théorie des Possibilités Qualitatives qui définit la plausibilité des événements de manière qualitative, permettant la modélisation de l'imprécision et de l'ignorance. Une fois les modèles PDMPO et π -PDMPO présentés, une mise à jour du modèle possibiliste est proposée. Ensuite, l'étude des π -PDMPOs factorisés permet de mettre en place un algorithme appelé PPUDD utilisant des Arbres de Décision Algébriques afin de résoudre plus facilement les problèmes structurés. Les stratégies calculées par PPUDD, testées par ailleurs lors de la compétition IPPC 2014, peuvent être plus efficaces que celles des algorithmes probabilistes dans un contexte d'imprécision ou pour certains problèmes à grande dimension. Nous montrons ensuite que les Processus de Markov Cachés possibilistes (π -PMCs), i.e. les π -PDMPOs sans les actions, produisent de bons diagnostics dans le contexte de l'intéraction Homme-Machine. Enfin, un PDMPO hybride tirant profit des avantages des modèles probabilistes et possibilistes est présenté: seule la connaissance de l'agent est maintenue sous forme qualitative. Ce modèle mène à une stratégie qui réagit de manière pessimiste au défaut de connaissance, et calculable avec des algorithmes de résolution des Processus Décisionnels de Markov entièrement observables (PDM). Cette thèse propose d'utiliser les possibilités qualitatives dans le but d'obtenir des améliorations en termes de temps de calcul et de modélisation de l'incertitude en pratique.

Mots-clés: PDMPO, Planification dans l'Incertain, Théorie des Possibilités, Robotique Autonome, Connaissance Imprecise