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SECJ3553 Artificial Intelligence
Section 07

Progress 2: State Space Search

Project Theme:

Smart City - Traffic & Parking Advisor Application ([Parkora.ai](#))

Team: TriSpark Tech

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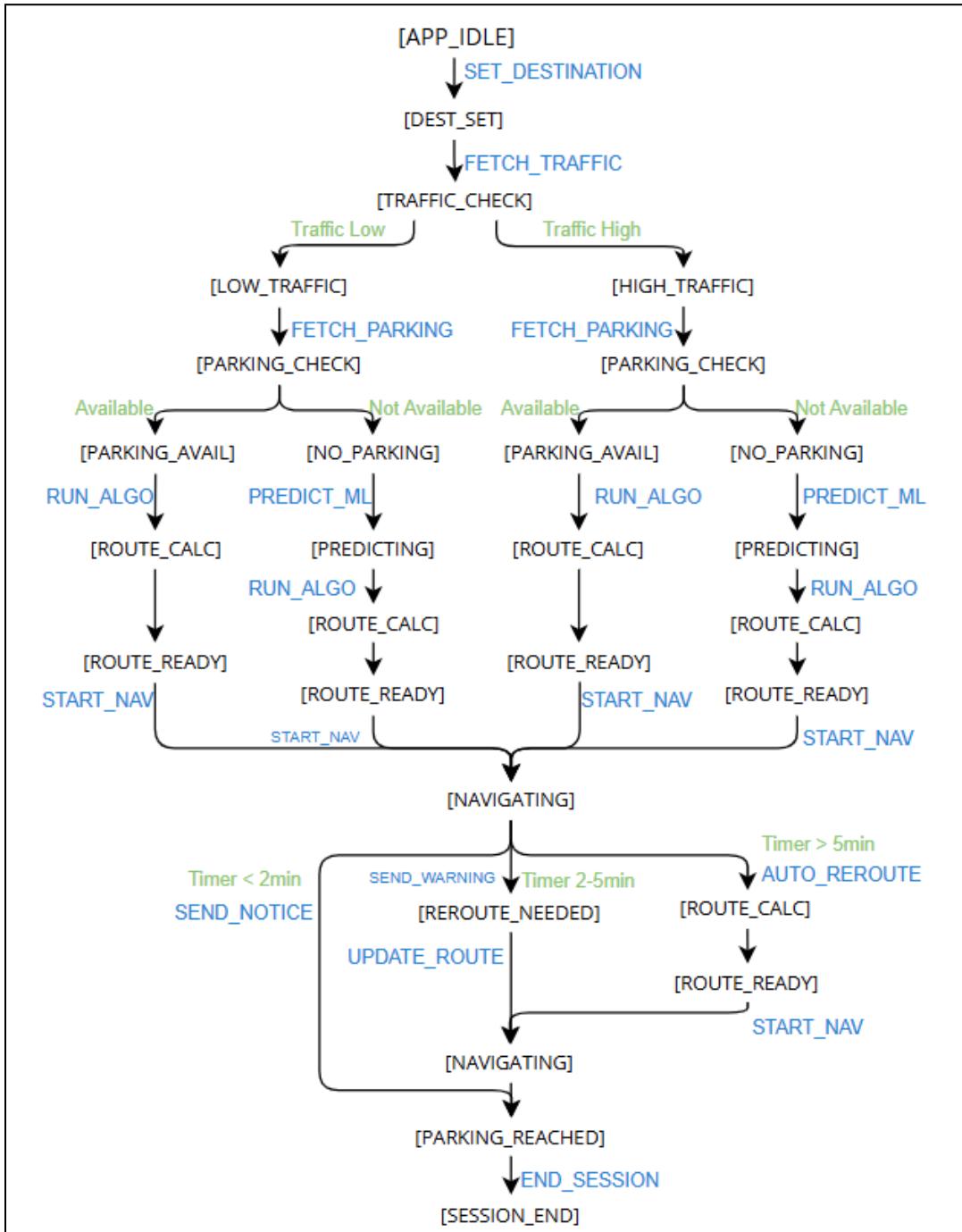
Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| 1.0 Introduction..... | 3 |
| 2.0 State Space Graph..... | 3 |
| 3.0 State Space Definition..... | 4 |
| 3.1 States..... | 4 |
| 3.2 Actions..... | 5 |
| 4.0 Detailed State Space Search Write-Up..... | 6 |
| 4.1 State Space Structure..... | 6 |
| 4.2 Search Methodology..... | 6 |
| 4.3 Decision-Making Process..... | 6 |
| 5.0 Problem Formulation Components..... | 7 |
| 5.1 Initial State..... | 7 |
| 5.2 Actions..... | 7 |
| 5.3 Goal State..... | 7 |
| 5.4 Path Cost..... | 7 |
| 6.0 Solution: Sequence Of Actions..... | 8 |
| 7.0 How the Problem Formulation Supports the Proposed Knowledge Representation..... | 9 |
| 8.0 Conclusion..... | 9 |

1.0 Introduction

Parkora.ai tackles urban parking inefficiencies by implementing a state space search model that transforms real-time traffic and parking data into an actionable AI decision-making framework, guiding drivers optimally from start to parked destination.

2.0 State Space Graph



3.0 State Space Definition

3.1 States

The state space consists of 15 distinct states representing the system's condition at any moment:

| State ID | State Name | Description |
|----------|---------------|---|
| S0 | APP_IDLE | Application open, no destination set. Initial state. |
| S1 | DEST_SET | Destination entered by the user |
| S2 | TRAFFIC_CHECK | System is fetching live traffic data. System analyses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Real-time congestion- Road conditions- Travel time estimates |
| S3 | LOW_TRAFFIC | Traffic congestion below threshold. Clear paths. Normal travel. |
| S4 | HIGH_TRAFFIC | Traffic congestion above threshold. Congested. Delays expected. |
| S5 | PARKING_CHECK | System checking parking availability. Query sensors. Check the database. |
| S6 | PARKING_AVAIL | Available parking spots detected. |
| S7 | NO_PARKING | No parking spot is available around the destination. |
| S8 | PREDICTING | ML model predicting future availability. |
| S9 | ROUTE_CALC | Running Dijkstra/A* algorithm. |
| S10 | ROUTE_READY | Optimal route computed. |
| S11 | NAVIGATING | User following guided route. Timer starts. |

| | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| S12 | REROUTE_NEEDED | Traffic/parking change detected. |
| S13 | PARKING_REACHED | User successfully parked. Goal State. |
| S14 | SESSION_END | Journey completed |

3.2 Actions

| Action ID | Action Name | Description | Trigger Condition |
|-----------|-----------------|---|--------------------|
| A1 | SET_DESTINATION | User inputs destination | From S0 |
| A2 | FETCH_TRAFFIC | Call Google Maps API | From S1 |
| A3 | FETCH_PARKING | Query IoT parking sensors | From S3/S4 |
| A4 | RUN_ALGO | Execute Dijkstra/A* | From S6/S8 |
| A5 | PREDICT_ML | Run ML prediction model | From S7 |
| A6 | START_NAV | Begin turn-by-turn guidance | From S10 |
| A7 | SEND_NOTICE | Send mild notification. “On track”. “Good time”. | Timer < 2 mins |
| A8 | SEND_WARNING | Send urgent alert. “Consider alternatives”. “Parking may be limited”. | Timer 2-5 mins |
| A9 | AUTO_REROUTE | System finds new route automatically | Timer > 5 mins |
| A10 | UPDATE_ROUTE | Manual route update | From warning state |
| A11 | END_SESSION | Complete journey | From S13 |

4.0 Detailed State Space Search Write-Up

4.1 State Space Structure

The state space operates as a directed graph where each state represents a specific configuration of the system, and transitions between states occur through well-defined actions.

4.2 Search Methodology

The system performs a real-time search through this state space, aiming to find the optimal path from the initial state to the goal state. The search considers:

1. Real-time constraints (traffic conditions, parking availability)
2. Temporal factors (timer-based service activation)
3. Cost optimisation (minimising time, distance, fuel consumption)

4.3 Decision-Making Process

The search process makes decisions at key branching points:

1. Traffic assessment ($S_2 \rightarrow S_3/S_4$)
2. Parking availability ($S_5 \rightarrow S_6/S_7$)
3. Timer-based interventions ($S_{11} \rightarrow$ various alert states)
4. Rerouting decisions (back to S_9 for recalculation)

5.0 Problem Formulation Components

5.1 Initial State

S0: APP_IDLE - The application is open but inactive, awaiting user input.

5.2 Actions

The complete action set: $A = \{A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11\}$

5.3 Goal State

S11: PARKING_REACHED - User has successfully found and reached a parking spot.

5.4 Path Cost

The cost function is multi-dimensional:

$$C(\text{path}) = w_1 \times \text{Travel_Time} + w_2 \times \text{Distance} + w_3 \times \text{Fuel_Cost} + w_4 \times \text{Congestion_Score}$$

Where:

- $w_1 = 0.4$ (Time weight - most important)
- $w_2 = 0.3$ (Distance weight)
- $w_3 = 0.2$ (Fuel cost weight)
- $w_4 = 0.1$ (Congestion/Stress weight)
- All weights sum to 1.0

6.0 Solution: Sequence Of Actions

Scenario 1: Optimal Path (Low traffic + Available parking)

The best-case scenario is when there is low traffic and available parking.

Action sequence: A1(SET_DESTINATION) → A2(FETCH_TRAFFIC) →
A3(FETCH_PARKING) → A4(RUN_ALGO) → A6(START_NAV) → A7(SEND_NOTICE)
→ A11(END_SESSION)

State Path: S0 → S1 → S2 → S3 → S5 → S6 → S9 → S10 → S11 → S13 → S14

Scenario 2: High traffic + No parking (Predict & Reroute)

Use when FETCH_PARKING returns NO_PARKING at high traffic and no immediate parking situation.

Action sequence: A1(SET_DESTINATION) → A2(FETCH_TRAFFIC) →
A3(FETCH_PARKING) → A5(PREDICT_ML) → A4(RUN_ALGO) → A6(START_NAV) →
A8(SEND_WARNING) → A10(UPDATE_ROUTE) → A11(END_SESSION)

State Path : S0 → S1 → S2 → S4 → S5 → S7 → S8 → S9 → S10 → S11 [Timer 3min] → S12
→ S13 → S14

Scenario 3: Mid-route Reroute (Parking Becomes Unavailable)

Use when navigating to a chosen route, the chosen parking becomes unavailable.

Action sequence: A1(SET_DESTINATION) → A2(FETCH_TRAFFIC) →
A3(FETCH_PARKING) → A4(RUN_ALGO) → A6(START_NAV) → A8(SEND_WARNING)
→ A8(UPDATE_ROUTE) → A11(END_SESSION)

State Path: S0 → S1 → S2 → S3 → S5 → S6 → S9 → S10 → S11 [Parking lost] → S12 → S11
→ S13 → S14

Scenario 4: Severe Delay with Auto-reroute

When a parking slot is lost and the timer exceeds the critical threshold, the system will automatically reroute.

Action sequence: A1(SET_DESTINATION) → A2(FETCH_TRAFFIC) →
A3(FETCH_PARKING) → A5(PREDICT_ML) → A4(RUN_ALGO) → A6(START_NAV) →
A9(AUTO_REROUTE) → A6(START_NAV) → A11(END_SESSION)

State Path: S0 → S1 → S2 → S4 → S5 → S7 → S8 → S9 → S10 → S11 [Timer >5min] → S9
→ S10 → S11 → S13 → S14

7.0 How the Problem Formulation Supports the Proposed Knowledge Representation

The problem formulation directly supports the proposed KR by mapping real-world conditions to formal states and actions. States explicitly represent traffic levels and parking availability, while actions model system operations and user interactions. The graph structure clarifies decision flow, and timer-based transitions implement urgency logic.

Search algorithms integrate seamlessly: Action A4 directly implements Dijkstra/A*, State S9 represents algorithm completion, the path cost function guides optimisation, and graph search finds optimal sequences from start to goal.

Predictive ML is embedded through Action A5, which triggers model execution, and State S8, which represents ML processing. ML outcomes intelligently determine transitions between waiting and rerouting for NO_PARKING scenarios.

Smart notifications are formalised as Actions A7–A9, creating a tiered alert system triggered by timer thresholds (2 min, 5 min). Notifications are treated as first-class actions, enabling context-aware, timely communication with the user throughout the navigation process.

8.0 Conclusion

In summary, this state space search formulation successfully transforms Parkora.ai's real-world parking problem into a structured AI search framework, enabling systematic scenario exploration, optimal pathfinding via search algorithms, intelligent ML predictions, timely risk-based notifications and measurable performance through comprehensive cost functions—creating an implementable, robust system for smart urban parking guidance.