Game Creation DSL

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1 DSL Documentation as of February 1, 2022

Color-coding

- Undefined terms (red): a term that appears somewhere that I forgot to provide a definition for
- Unused terms (gray): a term that appears in the definitions I documented but does not appear in any games
- New terms (teal): a term that appears for the first time in the newest batch of games I translated

1.1 Game Definition

```
 \langle game \rangle ::= (\text{define } (\text{game } \langle name \rangle) \\ (:\text{domain } \langle name \rangle) \\ (:\text{setup } \langle setup \rangle) \\ (:\text{constraints } \langle constraints \rangle) \\ (:\text{terminal } \langle terminal \rangle) \\ (:\text{scoring } \langle scoring \rangle) \\ )   \langle name \rangle ::= /[\text{A-z}] + ([\text{A-z0-9}] +)^* / \text{\# a letter, optionally followed by letters, numbers, and underscores}
```

1.2 Setup

PDDL doesn't have any close equivalent of this, but when reading through the games participants specify, they often require some transformation of the room from its initial state before the game can be played. We could treat both as parts of the gameplay, but we thought there's quite a bit to be gained by splitting them – for example, the policies to setup a room are quite different from the policies to play a game (much more static).

The one nuance here came from the (game-conserved ...) and (game-optional ...) elements. It seemed to us that some setup elements should be maintained throughout gameplay (for example, if you place a bin somewhere to throw into, it shouldn't move unless specified otherwise). Other setup elements can, or often must change – for example, if you set the balls on the desk to throw them, you'll have to pick them up off the desk to throw them. These elements provide that context, which could be useful for verifying that agents playing the game don't violate these conditions.

```
 \langle setup \rangle ::= (\text{and } \langle setup \rangle \langle setup \rangle^+) \\ | (\text{or } \langle setup \rangle \langle setup \rangle^+) \\ | (\text{not } \langle setup \rangle) \\ | (\text{exists } (\langle typed \ list(variable) \rangle) \langle setup \rangle) \\ | (\text{forall } (\langle typed \ list(variable) \rangle) \langle setup \rangle) \\ | \langle setup\text{-}statement \rangle \\ | (setup\text{-}statement \rangle ::= (\text{game-conserved } \langle setup\text{-}predicate \rangle) \\ | (\text{game-optional } \langle setup\text{-}predicate \rangle) \\ | (\text{setup-predicate} \rangle ::= (\text{and } \langle setup\text{-}predidcate \rangle^+) \\ | (\text{or } \langle setup\text{-}predicate \rangle^+) \\ | (\text{not } \langle setup\text{-}predicate \rangle \\ | (\text{exists } (\langle typed \ list(variable) \rangle) \langle setup\text{-}predicate \rangle) \\ | (\text{forall } (\langle typed \ list(variable) \rangle) \langle setup\text{-}predicate \rangle) \\ | \langle f\text{-}comp \rangle \\ | \langle predicate \rangle
```

```
⟨f-comp⟩ ::= (⟨comp-op⟩ ⟨function-eval-or-number⟩ ⟨function-eval-or-number⟩)
| (= ⟨function-eval-or-number⟩+)
| (= ⟨function-eval-or-number⟩+)
| ⟨comp-op⟩ ::= ⟨ | ⟨= | = | ⟩ | ⟩=
| ⟨function-eval-or-number⟩ ::= ⟨function-eval⟩ | ⟨number⟩
| ⟨function-eval⟩ ::= (⟨name⟩ ⟨function-term⟩+)
| ⟨function-eval⟩ ::= ⟨name⟩ | ⟨variable⟩ | ⟨number⟩ | ⟨predicate⟩
| ⟨variable-list⟩ ::= ⟨variable-type-def⟩+)
| ⟨variable-list⟩ ::= ⟨variable⟩+ - ⟨type-def⟩
| ⟨variable⟩ ::= /\?[a-z][a-z0-9]*/ # a question mark followed by a letter, optionally followed by additional letters or numbers
| ⟨type-def⟩ ::= ⟨name⟩ | ⟨either-types⟩ |
| ⟨either-types⟩ ::= (either ⟨name⟩+)
| ⟨predicate⟩ ::= (⟨name⟩ ⟨predicate-term⟩*)
⟨predicate-term⟩ ::= ⟨name⟩ | ⟨variable⟩ | ⟨predicate⟩ # In at least one case, I wanted to have a predicate act on other predicates, but that doesn't really make sense. See the discussion of the (side ...) predicate below.
```

1.3 Gameplay Preferences

The gameplay preferences specify the core of a game's semantics, capturing how a game should be played by specifying temporal constraints over predicates.

PDDL calls their temporal preferences 'constraints', but that's not entirely the right name for us. Maybe we should rename?

```
\langle constraints \rangle ::= \langle pref-def \rangle \mid (and \langle pref-def \rangle^+)
\langle pref-def \rangle ::= \langle pref-forall \rangle \mid \langle preference \rangle
\langle pref-forall \rangle ::= (\text{forall } \langle variable-list \rangle \langle preference \rangle) # this syntax is used to specify variants of the same preference for different
       object, which differ in their scoring. These are specified using the \langle pref-name-and-types \rangle syntax element's optional types,
       see scoring below.
\langle preference \rangle ::= (preference \langle name \rangle \langle preference-quantifier \rangle)
\langle preference-quantifier \rangle ::= (exists (\langle variable-list \rangle) \langle preference-body \rangle
       (forall (\langle variable-list \rangle) \langle preference-body \rangle)
       \langle preference-body \rangle
\langle preference\text{-}body \rangle ::= \langle then \rangle \mid \langle at\text{-}end \rangle \mid \langle always \rangle
\langle at\text{-}end \rangle ::= (at\text{-}end \langle pref\text{-}predicate \rangle)
\langle then \rangle ::= (then \langle seq-func \rangle \langle seq-func \rangle^+)
\langle seq\text{-}func \rangle ::= \langle once \rangle \mid \langle once\text{-}measure \rangle \mid \langle hold \rangle \mid \langle hold\text{-}while \rangle
\langle once \rangle ::= (once \langle pref-predicate \rangle) # The predicate specified must hold for a single world state
\langle once\text{-}measure \rangle ::= (once \langle pref\text{-}predicate \rangle \langle function\text{-}eval \rangle) \# The predicate specified must hold for a single world state, and
       record the value of the function evaluation
```

```
\langle hold \rangle ::= \text{(hold } \langle pref\text{-}predicate \rangle) \text{ # The predicate specified must hold for every state between the previous temporal operator and the next one}
\langle hold\text{-}while \rangle ::= \text{(hold-while } \langle pref\text{-}predicate \rangle \langle pref\text{-}predicate \rangle^+) \text{ # The predicate specified must hold for every state between}
```

the previous temporal operator and the next one. While it does, at least one state must satisfy each of the predicates

```
\langle pref\text{-}predicate \rangle ::= \langle pref \ predicate \ and \rangle
        \langle pref-predicate-or \rangle
        \langle pref-predicate-not \rangle
        \langle pref-predicate-exists \rangle
        \langle pref-predicate-forall \rangle
        \langle predicate \rangle \langle f\text{-}comp \rangle
\langle pref\text{-}predicate\text{-}and \rangle ::= (and \langle pref\text{-}predicate \rangle^+)
\langle pref\text{-}predicate\text{-}or \rangle ::= (or \langle pref\text{-}predicate \rangle^+)
\langle pref-predicate-not \rangle ::= (not \langle pref-predicate \rangle)
\langle pref-predicate-exists \rangle ::= (exists \langle variable-list \rangle \langle pref-predicate \rangle)
\langle pref-predicate-forall \rangle ::= (forall \langle variable-list \rangle \langle pref-predicate \rangle)
\langle f\text{-}comp \rangle ::= (\langle comp\text{-}op \rangle \langle function\text{-}eval\text{-}or\text{-}number} \rangle \langle function\text{-}eval\text{-}or\text{-}number} \rangle)
  (=\langle function\text{-}eval\text{-}or\text{-}number\rangle^+)
\langle comp - op \rangle ::= \langle | \langle = | = | \rangle | \rangle =
\langle function\text{-}eval\text{-}or\text{-}number \rangle ::= \langle function\text{-}eval \rangle \mid \langle number \rangle
\langle function\text{-}eval \rangle ::= (\langle name \rangle \langle function\text{-}term \rangle^+)
\langle function\text{-}term \rangle ::= \langle name \rangle \mid \langle variable \rangle \mid \langle number \rangle \mid \langle predicate \rangle
\langle variable\text{-}list\rangle ::= (\langle variable\text{-}type\text{-}def\rangle^+)
\langle variable\text{-}type\text{-}def \rangle ::= \langle variable \rangle^+ - \langle type\text{-}def \rangle
\langle variable \rangle ::= /?[a-z][a-z0-9]^* # a question mark followed by a letter, optionally followed by additional letters or numbers
\langle type\text{-}def \rangle ::= \langle name \rangle \mid \langle either\text{-}types \rangle
\langle either\text{-}types \rangle ::= (either \langle name \rangle^+)
\langle predicate \rangle ::= (\langle name \rangle \langle predicate-term \rangle^*)
\langle predicate-term \rangle ::= \langle name \rangle \mid \langle variable \rangle \mid \langle predicate \rangle # In at least one case, I wanted to have a predicate act on other
        predicates, but that doesn't really make sense. See the discussion of the (side ...) predicate below.
```

1.4 Terminal Conditions

specified in the second arumgnet onward

Some participants explicitly specify terminal conditions, but we consider this to be optional.

```
\langle terminal \rangle ::= (\text{and } \langle terminal \rangle^+)

\mid (\text{or } \langle terminal \rangle +)

\mid (\text{not } \langle terminal \rangle)

\mid \langle terminal - comp \rangle
```

```
\langle terminal\text{-}comp \rangle ::= (\langle comp\text{-}op \rangle \langle scoring\text{-}expr \rangle \langle scoring\text{-}expr \rangle)
\langle comp\text{-}op \rangle ::= \langle | \langle = | = | \rangle | \rangle =
```

For a full specification of the (scoring-expr) token, see the scoring section below.

1.5 Scoring

the $\langle once\text{-}measure \rangle$

Scoring rules specify how to count preferences (count once, once for each unique objects that fulfill the preference, each time a preference is satisfied, etc.), and the arithmetic to combine counted preference statisfactions to get a final score.

PDDL calls their equivalent section (:metric ...), but we renamed because it made more sense to in the context of games.

```
\langle scoring \rangle ::= (maximize \langle scoring-expr \rangle)
     (minimize \langle scoring-expr \rangle)
\langle scoring\text{-}expr\rangle ::= (\langle multi\text{-}op\rangle \langle scoring\text{-}expr\rangle^+)
       (\langle binary-op \rangle \langle scoring-expr \rangle \langle scoring-expr \rangle)
       (-\langle scoring-expr \rangle)
       (total-time)
       (total-score)
       \langle scoring\text{-}comp \rangle
       \langle preference-eval \rangle
\langle scoring\text{-}comp \rangle ::= (\langle comp\text{-}op \rangle \langle scoring\text{-}expr \rangle \langle scoring\text{-}expr \rangle)
     (=\langle scoring\text{-}expr\rangle^+)
\langle preference\text{-}eval \rangle ::= \langle count\text{-}nonoverlapping \rangle
       \langle count\text{-}once \rangle
       ⟨count-once-per-objects⟩
       ⟨count-nonoverlapping-measure⟩
       \langle count\text{-}unique\text{-}positions \rangle
       \langle count\text{-}same\text{-}positions \rangle
       \langle count-maximal-nonoverlapping\rangle
       \langle count\text{-}maximal\text{-}overlapping \rangle
       ⟨count-maximal-once-per-objects⟩
       \langle count\text{-}maximal\text{-}once \rangle
       ⟨count-once-per-external-objects⟩
\langle count\text{-}nonoverlapping \rangle ::= \text{(count-nonoverlapping } \langle pref\text{-}name\text{-}and\text{-}types \rangle) \# \text{count how many times the preference is satisfied}
       by non-overlapping sequences of states
\langle count\text{-}once \rangle ::= (count\text{-}once \langle pref\text{-}name\text{-}and\text{-}types \rangle) \# count whether or not this preference was satisfied at all
\langle count\text{-}once\text{-}per\text{-}objects \rangle ::= \text{(count-once-per-objects } \langle pref\text{-}name\text{-}and\text{-}types \rangle) \# \text{ count once for each unique combination of}
       objects quantified in the preference that satisfy it
```

 $\langle count\text{-}unique\text{-}positions \rangle ::= (count\text{-}unique\text{-}positions \langle pref\text{-}name\text{-}and\text{-}types \rangle) \# count how many times the preference was satisfied with quantified objects that remain stationary within each preference satisfication, and have different positions between different satisfactions.$

 $\langle count\text{-}nonoverlapping\text{-}measure}\rangle ::= (count\text{-}nonoverlapping\text{-}measure} \langle pref\text{-}name\text{-}and\text{-}types}\rangle) # Can only be used in preferences including a <math>\langle once\text{-}measure}\rangle$ modal, maps each preference satisfiaction to the value of the function evaluation in

 $\langle count\text{-}same\text{-}positions \rangle ::= \text{(count-same-positions } \langle pref\text{-}name\text{-}and\text{-}types \rangle)}$ # count how many times the preference was satisfied with quantified objects that remain stationary within each preference satisfication, and have (approximately) the same position between different satisfactions.

- (note): # All of the count-maximal-... operators refer to counting only for preferences inside a (forall ...), and count only for the object quantified externally that has the most preference satisfactions to it. If there exist multiple preferences in a single (forall ...) block, score for the single object that satisfies the most over all such preferences.
- $\langle count$ -maximal-nonoverlapping \rangle ::= (count-maximal-nonoverlapping $\langle pref$ -name-and-types \rangle) # For the single externally quantified object with the most satisfications, count non-overlapping satisfactions of this preference
- $\langle count\text{-}maximal\text{-}overlapping} \rangle ::= (count\text{-}maximal\text{-}overlapping } \langle pref\text{-}name\text{-}and\text{-}types} \rangle) \text{ # For the single externally quantified object with the most satisfications, count how many satisfactions of this preference with different objects overlap in their states$
- $\langle count\text{-}maximal\text{-}once\text{-}per\text{-}objects \rangle ::= (count\text{-}maximal\text{-}once\text{-}per\text{-}objects } \langle pref\text{-}name\text{-}and\text{-}types \rangle) \# For the single externally quantified object with the most satisfications, count this preference for each set of quantified objects that satisfies it$
- $\langle count\text{-}maximal\text{-}once \rangle ::= (count\text{-}maximal\text{-}once \langle pref\text{-}name\text{-}and\text{-}types \rangle) \# For the externally quantified object with the most satisfications (across all preferences in the same (for all ...) block), count this preference at most once$
- $\langle count\text{-}once\text{-}per\text{-}external\text{-}objects \rangle ::= (count\text{-}once\text{-}per\text{-}external\text{-}objects } \langle pref\text{-}name\text{-}and\text{-}types \rangle)$ # Similarly to count-once-per-objects, but counting only for each unique object or combination of objects quantified in the (forall ...) block including this preference
- $\langle pref-name-and-types \rangle ::= \langle name \rangle \langle pref-object-type \rangle^* \# the optional \langle pref-object-type \rangle s are used to specify a particular variant of the preference for a given object, see the <math>\langle pref-forall \rangle$ syntax above.

```
\langle pref-object-type \rangle ::= : \langle name \rangle
```

1.6 Predicates

The predicates are not defined as part of the DSL, but rather we envision them is being specific to a domain and being specified to any model as an input or something to be conditioned on.

The following describes all predicates currently found in our game dataset.

```
(= <arg1> <arg2>) [7 references]; Are these two objects the same object?
(above <arg1> <arg2>) [5 references] ; Is the first object above the second object?
(adjacent <arg1> <arg2>) [76 references] ; Are the two objects adjacent? [will probably be
   implemented as distance below some threshold]
(adjacent_side <3 or 4 arguments>) [14 references] ; Are the two objects adjacent on the sides
   specified? Specifying a side for the second object is optional, allowing to specify <obj1> <
   side1> <obj2> or <obj1> <side1> <obj2> <side2>
(agent_crouches ) [2 references]; Is the agent crouching?
(agent_holds <arg1>) [327 references] ; Is the agent holding the object?
(between <arg1> <arg2> <arg3>) [7 references]; Is the second object between the first object and the third
   object?
(broken <arg1>) [2 references]; Is the object broken?
(equal x position <arg1> <arg2>) [2 references]; Are these two objects (approximately) in the same x position?
   (in our environment, x, z are spatial coordinates, y is the height)
(equal_z_position <arg1> <arg2>) [5 references] ; Are these two objects (approximately) in the
   same z position? (in our environment, x, z are spatial coordinates, y is the height)
(faces <arg1> <arg2>) [6 references] ; Is the front of the first object facing the front of the
    second object?
(game_over ) [4 references] ; Is this the last state of gameplay?
(game_start ) [3 references] ; Is this the first state of gameplay?
(in <2 or 3 arguments>) [121 references]; Is the second argument inside the first argument? [a
    containment check of some sort, for balls in bins, for example]
(in_motion <arg1>) [311 references]; Is the object in motion?
(is_setup_object <arg1>) [10 references] ; Is this the object of the same type referenced in the setup?
(object_orientation <arg1> <arg2>) [15 references]; Is the first argument, an object, in the
   orientation specified by the second argument? Used to check if an object is upright or
   upside down
```

1.7 Types

The types are also not defined as part of the DSL, but we envision them as operating similarly to the predicates.

The following describes all types currently found in our game dataset.

```
game_object [33 references] ; Parent type of all objects
agent [87 references]; The agent
building [21 references]; Not a real game object, but rather, a way to refer to structures the
    agent builds
----- Blocks -----
block [27 references]; Parent type of all block types:
bridge_block [11 references]
cube_block [40 references]
blue cube block [8 references]
tan cube block [1 reference]
vellow cube block [8 references]
flat_block [5 references]
pyramid_block [14 references]
red_pyramid_block [2 references]
triangle_block [3 references]
yellow pyramid block [2 references]
cylindrical_block [12 references]
tall_cylindrical_block [7 references]
----- Balls -----
ball [40 references]; Parent type of all ball types:
beachball [23 references]
basketball [18 references]
dodgeball [110 references]
blue_dodgeball [6 references]
red_dodgeball [4 references]
pink_dodgeball [18 references]
golfball [28 references]
green_golfball [2 references]; Do we want to specify colored objects or not?
----- Colors -----
color [6 references] ; Likewise, not a real game object, mostly used to refer to the color of
   the rug under an object
blue [1 reference]
brown [1 reference]
green [5 references]
pink [14 references]
orange [3 references]
purple [4 references]
red [8 references]
tan [1 reference]
white [1 reference]
yellow [14 references]
```

```
----- Other moveable/interactable objects ------
alarm clock [8 references]
book [11 references]
blinds [2 references] ; The blinds on the windows (which for a while I did not know you could
    open and close)
chair [17 references]
cellphone [6 references]
cd [6 references]
credit_card [1 reference]
curved_wooden_ramp [17 references]
desktop [6 references]
doggie_bed [26 references]
hexagonal_bin [124 references]
key_chain [5 references]
lamp [2 references]
laptop [7 references]
main_light_switch [3 references] ; The main light switch on the wall
mug [3 references]
triangular_ramp [10 references]
green_triangular_ramp [1 reference]; Do we want to specify colored objects or not?
pen [2 references]
pencil [2 references]
pillow [12 references]
teddy_bear [14 references]
watch [2 references]
----- Immoveable objects -----
bed [48 references]
corner [N/A references]; Any of the corners of the room
south west corner [2 references]; The corner of the room where the south and west walls meet
door [9 references] ; The door out of the room
desk [40 references]
desk_shelf [2 references]; The shelves under the desk
drawer [5 references]; Either drawer in the side table
top_drawer [6 references] ; The top of the two drawers in the nightstand near the bed. Do we
   want to specify this differently?
floor [24 references]
rug [37 references]
shelf [10 references]
bottom shelf [1 reference]
top_shelf [5 references]
side_table [4 references] ; The side table/nightstand next to the bed
sliding_door [2 references] ; The sliding doors on the south wall (big windows)
east_sliding_door [1 reference] ; The eastern of the two sliding doors (the one closer to the desk)
wall [17 references] ; Any of the walls in the room
south_wall [1 reference] ; The wall with the sliding doors
west_wall [2 references] ; The wall the bed is aligned to
----- Non-object-type predicate arguments ------
back [3 references]
front [8 references]
left [2 references]
right [2 references]
sideways [3 references]
upright [10 references]
upside_down [2 references]
front_left_corner [1 reference]; The front-left corner of a specific object (as determined by its front)
----- Undescribed types ------
north_wall [1 reference]
blue_pyramid_block [3 references]
```

2 Modal Definitions in Linear Temporal Logic

2.1 Linear Temporal Logic definitions

Linear Temporal Logic (LTL) offers the following operators, and using φ and ψ as the symbols (in our case, predicates). I'm trying to translate from standard logic notation to something that makes sense in our case, where we're operating sequence of states S_0, S_1, \dots, S_n .

- Next, $X\psi$: at the next timestep, ψ will be true. If we are at timestep i, then $S_{i+1} \vdash \psi$
- Finally, $F\psi$: at some future timestep, ψ will be true. If we are at timestep i, then $\exists j > i : S_i \vdash \psi$
- Globally, $G\psi$: from this timestep on, ψ will be true. If we are at timestep i, then $\forall j: j \geq i: S_j \vdash \psi$
- Until, $\psi U \varphi$: ψ will be true from the current timestep until a timestep at which φ is true. If we are at timestep i, then $\exists j > i : \forall k : i < k < j : S_k \vdash \psi$, and $S_i \vdash \varphi$.
- Strong release, $\psi M \varphi$: the same as until, but demanding that both ψ and φ are true simultaneously: If we are at timestep i, then $\exists j > i : \forall k : i \leq k \leq j : S_k \vdash \psi$, and $S_j \vdash \varphi$.

Aside: there's also a **weak until**, $\psi W \varphi$, which allows for the case where the second is never true, in which case the first must hold for the rest of the sequence. Formally, if we are at timestep i, $if \exists j > i : \forall k : i \leq k < j : S_k \vdash \psi$, and $S_j \vdash \varphi$, and otherwise, $\forall k \geq i : S_k \vdash \psi$. Similarly there's **release**, which is the similar variant of strong release. I'm leaving those two as an aside since I don't know we'll need them.

2.2 Satisfying a (then ...) operator

Formally, to satisfy a preference using a (then ...) operator, we're looking to find a sub-sequence of S_0, S_1, \dots, S_n that satisfies the formula we translate to. We translate a (then ...) operator by translating the constituent sequence-functions (once, hold, while-hold)¹ to LTL. Since the translation of each individual sequence function leaves the last operand empty, we append a 'true' (\top) as the final operand, since we don't care what happens in the state after the sequence is complete.

```
(\text{once } \psi) := \psi X \cdots(\text{hold } \psi) := \psi U \cdots
```

(hold-while $\psi \alpha \beta \cdots \nu$) := $(\psi M\alpha)X(\psi M\beta)X\cdots X(\psi M\nu)X\psi U\cdots$ where the last $\psi U\cdots$ allows for additional states satisfying ψ until the next modal is satisfied.

For example, a sequence such as the following, which signifies a throw attempt:

If we translate each predicate to the letter appearing in blue at the end of the line, this translates to: $\alpha X(\beta M\gamma)X\beta U\delta X\top$

¹These are the ones we've used so far in the interactive experiment dataset, even if we previously defined other ones, too.

2.3 Satisfying (at-end ...) or (always ...) operators

Thankfully, the two other types of temporal specifications we find ourselves using as part of preferences are simpler to translate. Satisfying an (at-end ...) operator does not require any temporal logic, since the predicate it operates over is evaluated at the terminal state of gameplay. The (always ...) operator is equivalent to the LTL globally operator: (always ψ) := $G\psi$, with the added constraint that we begin at the first timestep of gameplay.