

# CS-E4800 Artificial Intelligence

## Algorithms for Planning with Partial Observability

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# Problem Definition

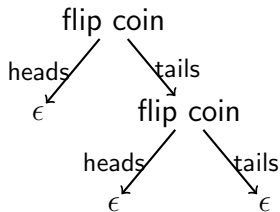
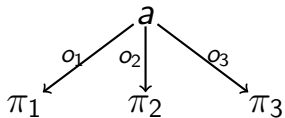
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Approaches to planning with partial observability (non-probabilistic):

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- Others exist

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- Set  $I \subseteq S$  of **initial states**
- Set  $G \subseteq S$  of **goal states**

# The Observation Model

## Example

We cannot observe which weekday it is, but we can observe

- $\text{DayOff} = \{\text{Saturday}, \text{Sunday}\}$
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- “No observations” corresponds to  $e_\top \in E$  such that  $S_{e_\top} = S$
- We *do not assume* the disjointness of observations:  $S_e \cap S_{e'} = \emptyset$  for  $e \in E$  and  $e' \in E$  such that  $e \neq e'$

# Image Operations

Successors of states w.r.t. an action:

Image

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Predecessors of states w.r.t. an action:

(Weak) Pre-Image

$$\text{preimg}_a(B) = \{s | s' \in B, sR_as'\}$$

Strong Pre-Image

$$\text{spreimg}_a(B) = \{s \in S | \emptyset \subset \text{img}_a(\{s\}) \subseteq B\}$$

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Given current belief state  $B \subseteq S$  and action  $a$ , the **successor belief states**  $B'$  of  $B$  are all non-empty  $\text{succ}_a^o(B) = \text{img}_a(B) \cap S_o$  for some  $o \in E_a$

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If  $|E_a| = 1$ , that is, action  $a$  has only one observation, then there is only one successor belief state.

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- Search for plans by algorithms for AND-OR trees:
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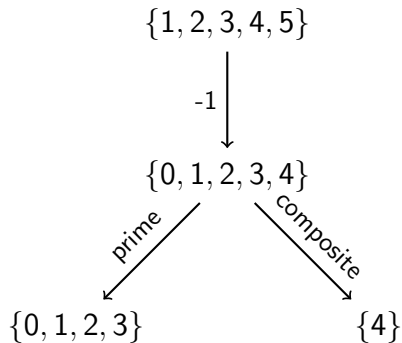
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  - belief state for root node  $I$
  - belief state for leaf nodes  $\subseteq G$
  - Algorithms:
    - Standard **Depth First-Search (DFS)** generalized to AND-OR trees
    - Informed algorithms: **AO\*** (Nilsson 1980) and its various improvements



# Example

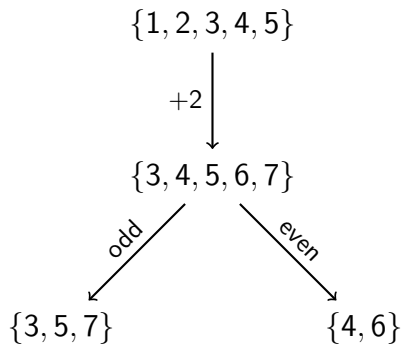


Actions:

- Effect: -1, Observations: prime, composite
- Effect: +2, Observations: even, odd
- Effect: mod 2, Observations: -

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# Example

$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

mod 2  
↓

$\{0, 1\}$

↓

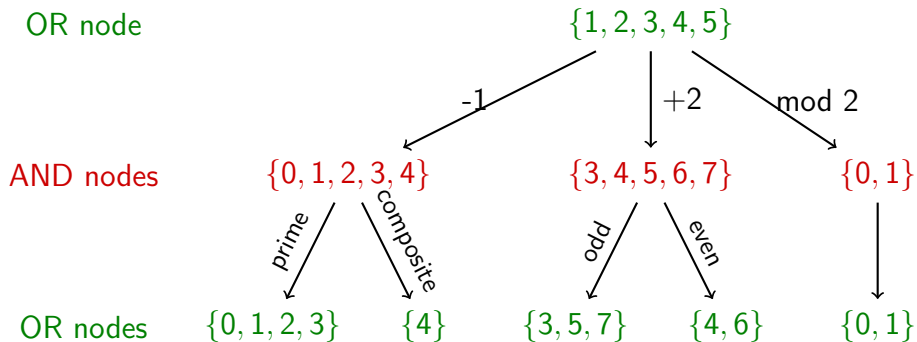
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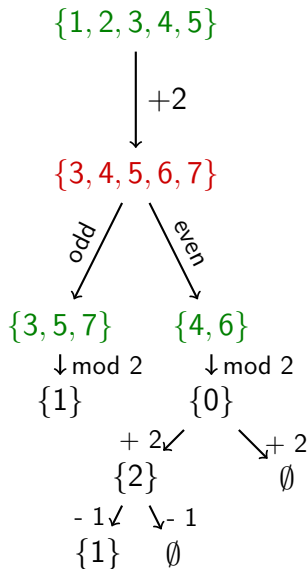


# Example

OR node

AND nodes

OR nodes



# Forward Search

```
1: procedure findplan( $B, \text{path}, G$ )
2: if  $B \subseteq G$  then return  $\epsilon$ ;
3: if  $B_0 \subseteq B$  for some  $B_0 \in \text{path}$  then return NONE;
4: for each  $a \in A$  do
5:     if  $a$  not applicable in some  $s \in B$  then continue;
6:     success := true;
7:     subplans :=  $\emptyset$ ;
8:     for each  $o \in E_a$ 
9:         subplan := findplan( $\text{img}_a(B) \cap S_o, \text{path} \cup \{B\}, G$ );
10:        if subplan = NONE then success := false; break;
11:        subplans := subplans  $\cup \{(o, \text{subplan})\}$ ;
12:    if success then return ( $a$ ; subplans);
13: return NONE;
```

# Backward Search: Full Observability

Algorithm much simpler when problem fully observable

## Algorithm (Full Observability)

- 1  $P := G$
- 2  $P_{\text{old}} := P$
- 3  $P := P \cup \bigcup_{a \in A} \text{spreimg}_a(P)$
- 4 If  $I \subseteq P$ , then return TRUE Solution found.
- 5 If  $P = P_{\text{old}}$  then return FALSE No more states reached.
- 6 Go to 2

# Backward Search: Idea

- Generate more and bigger belief states from which goals can be reached (with bigger/longer plans)



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- Generate more and bigger belief states from which goals can be reached (with bigger/longer plans)
- Starting point: the set of goal states  $G$  (goals reachable by  $\epsilon$ )
- Given belief states  $\mathcal{B}$  from which goals reachable by  $\leq i$  steps:  
Find state sets  $B$  and actions  $a$  such that
  - for every  $o \in E$ ,  $\text{succ}_a^o(B) \subseteq B_0$  for some  $B_0 \in \mathcal{B}$ , and
  - $B \not\subseteq B_0$  for all  $B_0 \in \mathcal{B}$

Goals reachable from  $B$  by  $\leq i + 1$  steps

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backup( $P$ ): Find a plan that can reach goals from a new set of states

- Let  $P = \{(\pi_1^*, B_1^*), \dots, (\pi_n^*, B_n^*)\}$
- Try every action  $a \in A$ 
  - ① Let  $E_a = \{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$  (observations possible after action  $a$ )
  - ② Try every  $\{(\pi_1, B_1), \dots, (\pi_m, B_m)\} \subseteq P$ 
    - ① Let  $B = \text{spreimg}_a((S_{e_1} \cap B_1) \cup \dots \cup (S_{e_m} \cap B_m))$
    - ② If  $B \not\subseteq B_i^*$  for every  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , then return  $(a; \{(e_1, \pi_1), \dots, (e_m, \pi_m)\}, B)$

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- Return  $\emptyset$  (No new plan could be found)

# Example

For state space  $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ ,  
from  $P = \{(\epsilon, \{1\})\}$ , *backup* produces

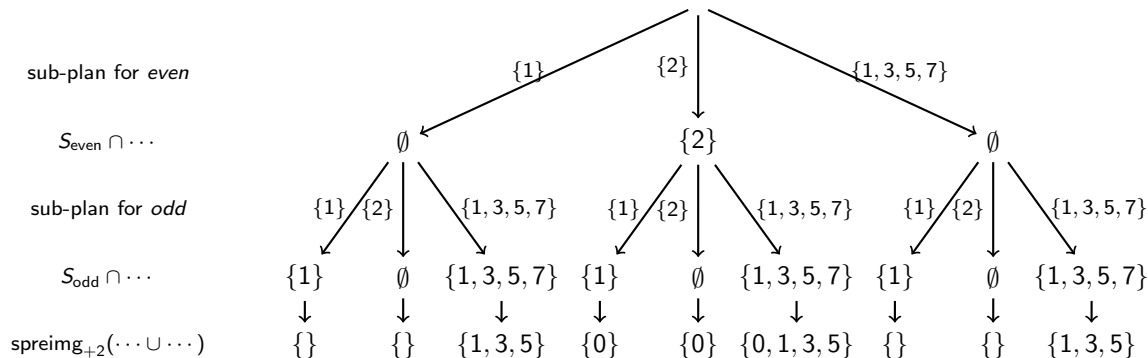
- $\{2\}$  by action  $-1$ ,
- $\emptyset$  by action  $+2$ , and
- $\{1, 3, 5, 7\}$  by action  $\text{mod } 2$ .

This results in

$$P = \{(\epsilon, \{1\}), ((+1, \{(\text{prime}, \epsilon)\}), \{2\}), ((\text{mod } 2, \{(\text{odd}, \epsilon)\}), \{1, 3, 5, 7\})\}$$

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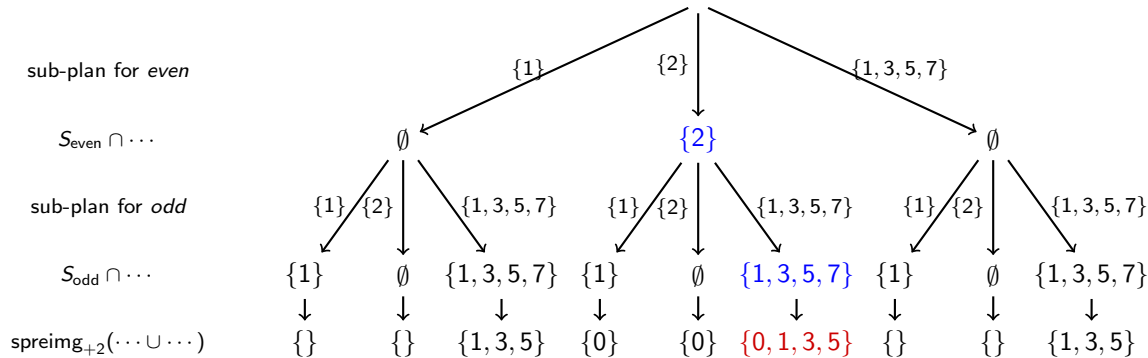
Given  $P = \{(\epsilon, \{1\}), ((-1, \{(prime, \epsilon)\}), \{2\}), ((\textcolor{red}{mod } 2, \{(odd, \epsilon)\}), \{1, 3, 5, 7\})\}$   
and action  $\textcolor{red}{+2}$ , *backup* goes through the following search tree.





# Example

Given  $P = \{(\epsilon, \{1\}), ((-1, \{(prime, \epsilon)\}), \{2\}), ((mod\ 2, \{(odd, \epsilon)\}), \{1, 3, 5, 7\})\}$  and action  $+2$ , *backup* goes through the following search tree.



Only  $spreimg_{+2}((S_{even} \cap \{2\}) \cup (S_{odd} \cap \{1, 3, 5, 7\})) = \{0, 1, 3, 5\}$  not already covered by  $P$

It corresponds to plan  $(+2, \{(even, (-1, \{(prime, \epsilon)\})), (odd, (mod\ 2, \{(odd, \epsilon)\}))\})$

# Backward Search: Algorithm

## Algorithm

- 1  $P := \{(\epsilon, G)\}$
- 2  $(\pi, B_{\text{new}}) := \text{backup}(P)$
- 3 If  $B_{\text{new}} = \emptyset$ , stop No new set could be found. No solution exists.
- 4 If  $I \subseteq B_{\text{new}}$ , then return  $\pi$  Solution found.
- 5  $P := \{(\pi, B) \in P \mid B \not\subseteq B_{\text{new}}\} \cup \{(\pi, B_{\text{new}})\}$
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# Example

- Three packages 1, 2 and 3, of different unknown weights
- The heaviest package contains an expensive item
- Choose the package that contains the item

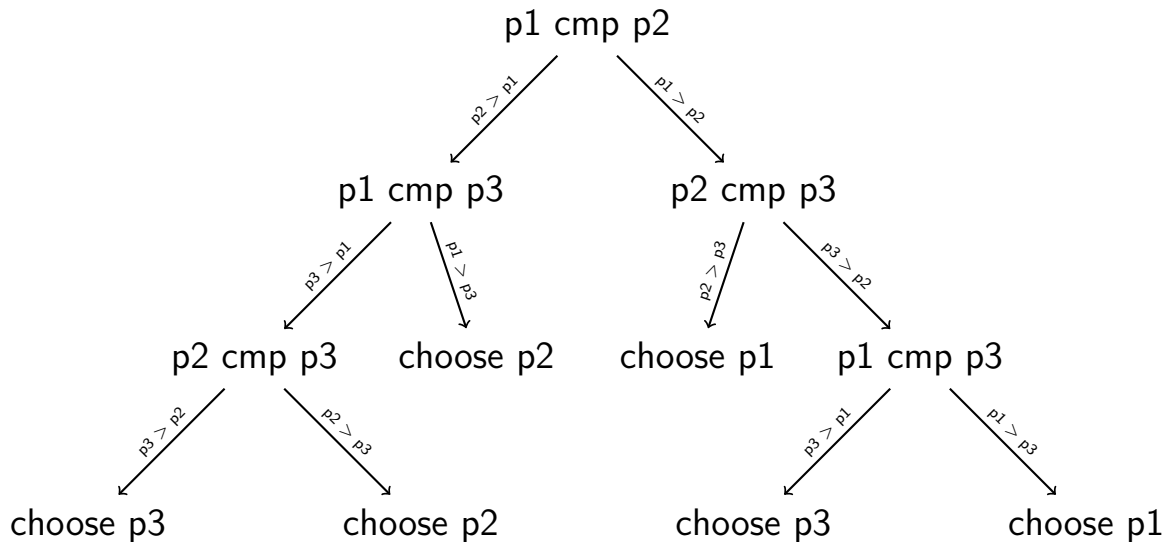
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  - Choose package  $i$ , with  $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$
- Plan: Weigh packages to identify the heavy one, and choose it

# Example



## Example: Problem Representation

- State space  $S$  consists of all  $(w_1, w_2, w_3, p)$  such that
  - $w_i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  for  $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  (weights of packages)
  - $w_1 \neq w_2, w_1 \neq w_3, w_2 \neq w_3$  (all of different weight)
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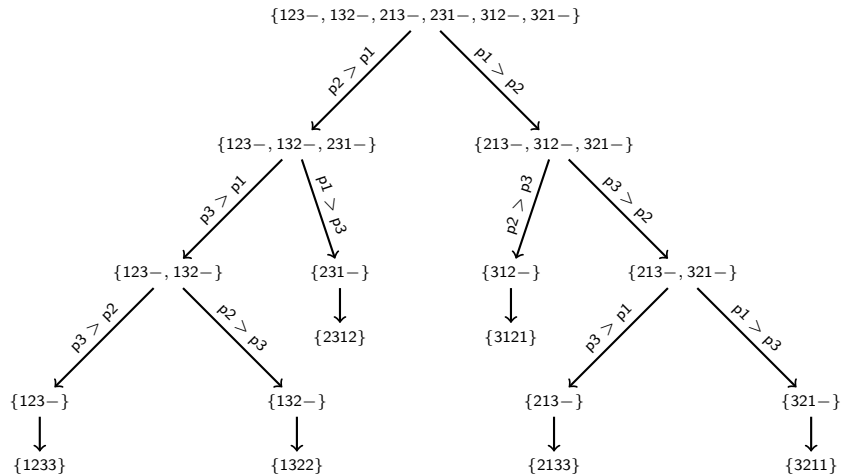
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- Initial states  $I = S$  (weights are not known)
- Goal states are  $(w_1, w_2, w_3, p) \in S$  such that  $p = i$  and  $w_i = 3$ :  
 $G = \{(1, 2, 3, 3), (1, 3, 2, 2), (2, 1, 3, 3), (2, 3, 1, 2), (3, 1, 2, 1), (3, 2, 1, 1)\}$



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- Action: **Choose  $i$** , turns state  $(w_1, w_2, w_3, p)$  to  $(w_1, w_2, w_3, i)$
- Action: **Compare  $i$ - $j$**  produces the observations
  - **GT** if  $w_i > w_j$
  - **LT** if  $w_i < w_j$from  $(w_1, w_2, w_3, p)$ , and does not change the state

# Example



There are 18 initial states. Above, 123- is all sequences with prefix 123, that is  $\{1231, 1232, 1233\}$ .

# Example: Running the Algorithm

Goal states:

$$P_0 = \{(\epsilon, \{(1, 2, 3, 3), (1, 3, 2, 2), (2, 1, 3, 3), (2, 3, 1, 2), (3, 1, 2, 1), (3, 2, 1, 1)\})\}$$

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Add states from which goals reached with *Choose 3*:

$$P_1 = P_0 \cup \{((\text{Choose } 3; \{(e_{\top}, \epsilon)\}), \{(1, 2, 3, 1), (2, 1, 3, 1), (1, 2, 3, 2), (2, 1, 3, 2), (1, 2, 3, 3), (2, 1, 3, 3)\})\}$$

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Add states from which goals reached with *Choose 2*:

$$P_2 = P_1 \cup \{((\text{Choose } 2; \{(e_{\top}, \epsilon)\}), \{(1, 3, 2, 1), (2, 3, 1, 1), (1, 3, 2, 2), (2, 3, 1, 2), (1, 3, 2, 3), (2, 3, 1, 3)\})\}$$

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Add states from which goals reached with *Choose 1*:

$$P_3 = P_2 \cup \{((\text{Choose } 1; \{(e_{\top}, \epsilon)\}), \{(3, 1, 2, 1), (3, 2, 1, 1), (3, 1, 2, 2), (3, 2, 1, 2), (3, 1, 2, 3), (3, 2, 1, 3)\})\}$$

## Example: Running the Algorithm

$$P_3 = \{(\epsilon, G), ((\text{Choose } 1; \pi_1), B_1), ((\text{Choose } 2; \pi_2), B_2), ((\text{Choose } 3; \pi_3), B_3)\}$$

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Add states from which belief states in  $P_3$  reached with *Compare 2-3*:

$$P_4 = P_3 \cup \{((\text{Compare } 2-3; \{(e_{GT}, \pi_2), (e_{LT}, \pi_3)\}), B_2 \cup B_3)\}$$



## Example: Running the Algorithm

$$P_3 = \{(\epsilon, G), ((\text{Choose } 1; \pi_1), B_1), ((\text{Choose } 2; \pi_2), B_2), ((\text{Choose } 3; \pi_3), B_3)\}$$

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Add states from which belief states in  $P_3$  reached with *Compare 1-3*:

$$P_5 = P_4 \cup \{((\text{Compare } 1-3; \{(e_{GT}, \pi_1), (e_{LT}, \pi_3)\}), B_1 \cup B_3)\}$$

## Example: Running the Algorithm

$$P_3 = \{(\epsilon, G), ((\text{Choose } 1; \pi_1), B_1), ((\text{Choose } 2; \pi_2), B_2), ((\text{Choose } 3; \pi_3), B_3)\}$$

Add states from which belief states in  $P_3$  reached with *Compare 2-3*:

$$P_4 = P_3 \cup \{((\text{Compare } 2-3; \{(e_{GT}, \pi_2), (e_{LT}, \pi_3)\}), B_2 \cup B_3)\}$$

Add states from which belief states in  $P_3$  reached with *Compare 1-3*:

$$P_5 = P_4 \cup \{((\text{Compare } 1-3; \{(e_{GT}, \pi_1), (e_{LT}, \pi_3)\}), B_1 \cup B_3)\}$$

This now includes the two bottom levels of the plan given earlier  
Additional steps will construct the rest of that plan...

# Conclusion

- We have discussed algorithm for planning with partial observability
- Based on three basic operations:
  - Compute successor state set with respect to a given **action**
  - Compute successor state set with respect to a given **observation**
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- Complexity exponentially higher than with full-observability
- Number of belief states exponentially higher than number of states