

# Answer Set Solving in Practice

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<sup>1</sup>Standing on the shoulders of a great research group and community!

# Heuristic-driven solving: Overview

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Heuristically modified ASP
- 3 Summary

# Outline

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## Motivation

- **Observation** Sometimes it is advantageous to take a more application-oriented approach by including domain-specific information
  - domain-specific knowledge can be added for improving propagation
  - domain-specific heuristics can be used for making better choices
- **Idea** Incorporation of domain-specific heuristics by extending
  - input language and/or solver options for expressing domain-specific heuristics
  - solving capacities for integrating domain-specific heuristics

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  - input language and/or solver options for expressing domain-specific heuristics
  - solving capacities for integrating domain-specific heuristics

## CDCL-style solving

```
loop  
  propagate // deterministically assign literals  
  if no conflict then  
    if all variables assigned then return solution  
    else decide // non-deterministically assign some literal  
  else  
    if top-level conflict then return unsatisfiable  
    else  
      analyze // analyze conflict and add conflict constraint  
      backjump // unassign literals until conflict constraint is unit
```

Inside *decide*

## ■ Basic concepts

■ Atoms,  $\mathcal{A}$ ■ Assignments,  $A : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \{\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{F}\}$ 

$$A^{\mathbf{T}} = \{a \in \mathcal{A} \mid \mathbf{T}a \in A\} \quad \text{and} \quad A^{\mathbf{F}} = \{a \in \mathcal{A} \mid \mathbf{F}a \in A\}$$

## ■ Heuristic functions

$$h : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow [0, +\infty) \quad \text{and} \quad s : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \{\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{F}\}$$

## ■ Algorithmic scheme

- 1  $h(a) := \alpha \times h(a) + \beta(a)$  for each  $a \in \mathcal{A}$
- 2  $U := \mathcal{A} \setminus (A^{\mathbf{T}} \cup A^{\mathbf{F}})$
- 3  $C := \operatorname{argmax}_{a \in U} h(a)$
- 4  $a := \tau(C)$
- 5  $A := A \cup \{a \mapsto s(a)\}$



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## Heuristic language

### ■ Heuristic directive

```
#heuristic a : l1, ..., ln. [k@p, m]
```

where

- $a$  is an atom, and  $l_1, \dots, l_n$  are literals
- $k$  and  $p$  are integers
- $m$  is a heuristic modifier

### ■ Heuristic modifiers

```
init   for initializing the heuristic value of  $a$  with  $k$ 
factor for amplifying the heuristic value of  $a$  by factor  $k$ 
level  for ranking all atoms; the rank of  $a$  is  $k$ 
sign   for attributing the sign of  $k$  as truth value to  $a$ 
```

### ■ Example

```
#heuristic occurs(A,T) : action(A), time(T). [T, factor]
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`true/false` combine `level` and `sign`

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### ■ Example

`#heuristic occurs(mv,5) : action(mv), time(5). [5, factor]`

## Simple STRIPS planning

```
time(1..k).  
  
holds(P,0) :- init(P).  
  
{ occ(A,T) : action(A) } = 1 :- time(T).  
:- occ(A,T), pre(A,F), not holds(F,T-1).  
  
holds(F,T) :- occ(A,T), add(A,F).  
holds(F,T) :- holds(F,T-1), time(T), not occ(A,T) : del(A,F).  
  
:- query(F), not holds(F,k).
```

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:- query(F), not holds(F,k).

#heuristic occurs(A,T) : action(A), time(T). [2, factor]
```

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time(1..k).

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holds(F,T) :- occ(A,T), add(A,F).
holds(F,T) :- holds(F,T-1), time(T), not occ(A,T) : del(A,F).

:- query(F), not holds(F,k).

#heuristic occurs(A,T) : action(A), time(T). [1, level]
```

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:- query(F), not holds(F,k).

#heuristic holds(F,T-1) :      holds(F,T). [t-T+1, true]
#heuristic holds(F,T-1) : not holds(F,T) [t-T+1, false]
                           fluent(F), time(T).
```

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## Heuristic options

### ■ Alternative for specifying structure-oriented heuristics in *clasp*

`--dom-mod=<arg>` : Default modification for  
domain heuristic

`<arg>: <mod>[,<pick>]`

`<mod>` : Modifier

`{1=level|2=pos|3=true|4=neg|  
5=false|6=init|7=factor}`

`<pick>` : Apply `<mod>` to

`{0=all|1=scc|2=hcc|4=disj|  
8=min|16=show} atoms`

Engage heuristic modifications (in both settings!)

`--heuristic=Domain`

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## Inclusion-minimal stable models

- Consider a logic program containing a minimize statement of form
  - `#minimize{ $a_1, \dots, a_n$ }`
- Computing one inclusion-minimal stable model can be done either via
  - `#heuristic  $a_i$  [1,false].` for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , or
  - `--dom-mod=5,16`
- Computing all inclusion-minimal stable model can be done
  - by adding `--enum-mod=domRec` to the two options

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## ■ TBF



Auf Wiedersehen!

*"Tomorrow isn't staying out  
I'll be back, without a doubt!"*

Pink panther

## Bibliography

- The following list of references is compiled from the open source bibliography available at

`https://github.com/krr-up/bibliography`

- Feel free to submit corrections via pull requests !

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