

# Planning and Optimization

## E7. Pattern Databases: Multiple Patterns

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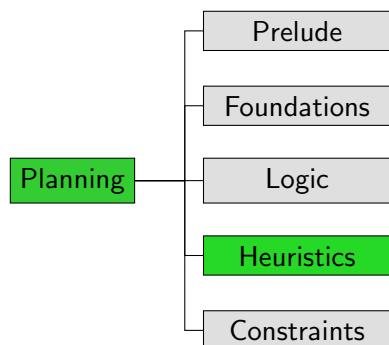
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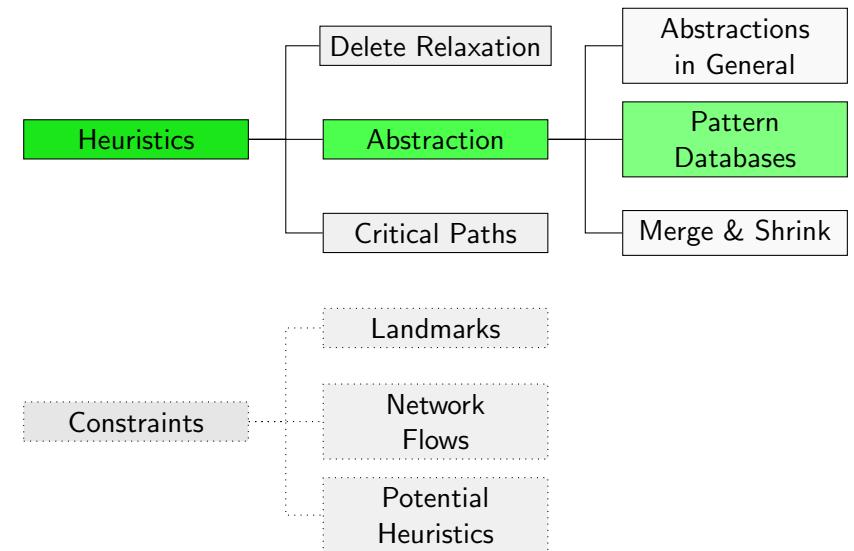
## November 14, 2022 — E7. Pattern Databases: Multiple Patterns

- E7.1 Additivity & the Canonical Heuristic
- E7.2 Dominated Additive Sets
- E7.3 Redundant Patterns
- E7.4 Summary

## Content of this Course



## Content of this Course: Heuristics



## E7.1 Additivity & the Canonical Heuristic

## Pattern Collections

- ▶ The space requirements for a pattern database grow **exponentially** with the **number of state variables** in the pattern.
- ▶ This places severe limits on the usefulness of single PDB heuristics  $h^P$  for larger planning task.
- ▶ To overcome this limitation, planners using pattern databases work with **collections of multiple patterns**.
- ▶ When using two patterns  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ , it is always possible to use the **maximum** of  $h^{P_1}$  and  $h^{P_2}$  as an admissible and consistent heuristic estimate.
- ▶ However, when possible, it is much preferable to use the **sum** of  $h^{P_1}$  and  $h^{P_2}$  as a heuristic estimate, since  $h^{P_1} + h^{P_2} \geq \max\{h^{P_1}, h^{P_2}\}$ .

## Criterion for Additive Patterns

### Theorem (Additive Pattern Sets)

Let  $P_1, \dots, P_k$  be disjoint patterns for an FDR planning task  $\Pi$ .

If there exists no operator that has an effect

on a variable  $v_i \in P_i$  and on a variable  $v_j \in P_j$  for some  $i \neq j$ ,  
then  $\sum_{i=1}^k h^{P_i}$  is an admissible and consistent heuristic for  $\Pi$ .

### Proof.

If there exists no such operator, then no label of  $\mathcal{T}(\Pi)$  affects both  $\mathcal{T}(\Pi)^{\pi_{P_i}}$  and  $\mathcal{T}(\Pi)^{\pi_{P_j}}$  for  $i \neq j$ . By the theorem on affecting transition labels, this means that any two projections  $\pi_{P_i}$  and  $\pi_{P_j}$  are orthogonal. The claim follows with the theorem on additivity for orthogonal abstractions.  $\square$

A pattern set  $\{P_1, \dots, P_k\}$  which satisfies the criterion of the theorem is called an **additive pattern set** or **additive set**.

## Finding Additive Pattern Sets

The theorem on additive pattern sets gives us a simple criterion to decide which pattern heuristics can be admissibly added.

Given a **pattern collection  $\mathcal{C}$**  (i.e., a set of patterns), we can use this information as follows:

- ① Build the **compatibility graph** for  $\mathcal{C}$ .
  - ▶ Vertices correspond to patterns  $P \in \mathcal{C}$ .
  - ▶ There is an edge between two vertices iff no operator affects both incident patterns.
- ② Compute **all maximal cliques** of the graph. These correspond to maximal additive subsets of  $\mathcal{C}$ .
  - ▶ Computing large cliques is an NP-hard problem, and a graph can have exponentially many maximal cliques.
  - ▶ However, there are **output-polynomial** algorithms for finding all maximal cliques (Tomita, Tanaka & Takahashi, 2004) which have led to good results in practice.

## Finding Additive Pattern Sets: Example

### Example

Consider a planning task with state variables  $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_5\}$  and the pattern collection  $\mathcal{C} = \{P_1, \dots, P_5\}$  with  $P_1 = \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ ,  $P_2 = \{v_1, v_2\}$ ,  $P_3 = \{v_3\}$ ,  $P_4 = \{v_4\}$  and  $P_5 = \{v_5\}$ .

There are operators affecting each individual variable, variables  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ , variables  $v_3$  and  $v_4$  and variables  $v_3$  and  $v_5$ .

What are the maximal cliques in the compatibility graph for  $\mathcal{C}$ ?

Answer:  $\{P_1\}$ ,  $\{P_2, P_3\}$ ,  $\{P_2, P_4, P_5\}$

## The Canonical Heuristic Function

### Definition (Canonical Heuristic Function)

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a pattern collection for an FDR planning task.

The **canonical heuristic  $h^{\mathcal{C}}$**  for pattern collection  $\mathcal{C}$  is defined as

$$h^{\mathcal{C}}(s) = \max_{\mathcal{D} \in \text{cliques}(\mathcal{C})} \sum_{P \in \mathcal{D}} h^P(s),$$

where  $\text{cliques}(\mathcal{C})$  is the set of all maximal cliques in the compatibility graph for  $\mathcal{C}$ .

For all choices of  $\mathcal{C}$ , heuristic  $h^{\mathcal{C}}$  is admissible and consistent.

## How Good is the Canonical Heuristic Function?

- ▶ The canonical heuristic function is the **best possible** admissible heuristic we can derive from  $\mathcal{C}$  using **our additivity criterion**.
- ▶ Even better heuristic estimates can be obtained from projection heuristics using a **more general additivity criterion** based on an idea called **cost partitioning**.
- ~~ We will return to this topic in Part F.

## Canonical Heuristic Function: Example

### Example

Consider a planning task with state variables  $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_5\}$  and the pattern collection  $\mathcal{C} = \{P_1, \dots, P_5\}$  with  $P_1 = \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ ,  $P_2 = \{v_1, v_2\}$ ,  $P_3 = \{v_3\}$ ,  $P_4 = \{v_4\}$  and  $P_5 = \{v_5\}$ .

There are operators affecting each individual variable, an operator that affects  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  and an operator that affects  $v_3$ ,  $v_4$  and  $v_5$ .

What are the maximal cliques in the compatibility graph for  $\mathcal{C}$ ?

Answer:  $\{P_1\}$ ,  $\{P_2, P_3\}$ ,  $\{P_2, P_4, P_5\}$

What is the canonical heuristic function  $h^{\mathcal{C}}$ ?

Answer:

$$\begin{aligned} h^{\mathcal{C}} &= \max \{h^{P_1}, h^{P_2} + h^{P_3}, h^{P_2} + h^{P_4} + h^{P_5}\} \\ &= \max \{h^{\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}}, h^{\{v_1, v_2\}} + h^{\{v_3\}}, h^{\{v_1, v_2\}} + h^{\{v_4\}} + h^{\{v_5\}}\} \end{aligned}$$

## E7.2 Dominated Additive Sets

## Computing $h^C$ Efficiently: Motivation

Consider

$$h^C = \max \{h^{\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}}, h^{\{v_1, v_2\}} + h^{\{v_3\}}, h^{\{v_1, v_2\}} + h^{\{v_4\}} + h^{\{v_5\}}\}.$$

- ▶ We need to evaluate this expression for **every search node**.
- ▶ It is thus worth to spend some effort in precomputations to make the evaluation **more efficient**.

A naive implementation requires **5 PDB lookups** (one for each pattern) and maximizes over **3 additive sets**.

Can we do better?

## Dominated Sum Theorem

### Theorem (Dominated Sum)

Let  $\{P_1, \dots, P_k\}$  be an additive pattern set for an FDR planning task  $\Pi$ , and let  $P$  be a pattern with  $P_i \subseteq P$  for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ .

Then  $\sum_{i=1}^k h^{P_i} \leq h^P$ .

### Proof.

Because  $P_i \subseteq P$ , all projections  $\pi_{P_i}$  are **coarsenings** of the projection  $\pi_P$ . Let  $\mathcal{T}' := \mathcal{T}(\Pi)^{\pi_P}$ .

We can view each  $h^{P_i}$  as an abstraction heuristic for solving  $\mathcal{T}'$ .

By the argumentation of the previous theorem,  $\{P_1, \dots, P_k\}$  is an additive pattern set and hence  $\sum_{i=1}^k h^{P_i}$  is an **admissible heuristic** for solving  $\mathcal{T}'$ . Hence,  $\sum_{i=1}^k h^{P_i}$  is bounded by the optimal goal distances in  $\mathcal{T}'$ , which implies  $\sum_{i=1}^k h^{P_i} \leq h^P$ .



## Dominated Sum Corollary

### Corollary (Dominated Sum)

Let  $\{P_1, \dots, P_n\}$  and  $\{Q_1, \dots, Q_m\}$  be additive pattern sets of an FDR planning task such that each pattern  $P_i$  is a subset of some pattern  $Q_j$  (not necessarily proper).

Then  $\sum_{i=1}^n h^{P_i} \leq \sum_{j=1}^m h^{Q_j}$ .

### Proof.

$$\sum_{i=1}^n h^{P_i} \stackrel{(1)}{\leq} \sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{P_i \subseteq Q_j} h^{P_i} \stackrel{(2)}{\leq} \sum_{j=1}^m h^{Q_j},$$

where (1) holds because each  $P_i$  is contained in some  $Q_j$  and (2) follows from the dominated sum theorem. □

## Dominance Pruning

- ▶ We can use the dominated sum corollary to simplify the representation of  $h^C$ : sums that are dominated by other sums can be pruned.
- ▶ The dominance test can be performed in polynomial time.

### Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \{h^{\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}}, h^{\{v_1, v_2\}} + h^{\{v_3\}}, h^{\{v_1, v_2\}} + h^{\{v_4\}} + h^{\{v_5\}}\} \\ &= \max \{h^{\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}}, h^{\{v_1, v_2\}} + h^{\{v_4\}} + h^{\{v_5\}}\} \end{aligned}$$

~≈ number of PDB lookups reduced from 5 to 4;  
number of additive sets reduced from 3 to 2

## E7.3 Redundant Patterns

## Redundant Patterns

- ▶ The previous example shows that sometimes, not all patterns in a pattern collection are **useful**.
  - ▶ Pattern  $\{v_3\}$  could be removed because it does not affect the heuristic value.
- ▶ In this section, we will show that certain patterns are **never** useful and should thus **never** be considered.
- ▶ Knowing about such **redundant** patterns is useful for algorithms that try to find good patterns automatically.
- ~≈ It allows us to focus on the useful ones.

## Non-Goal Patterns

### Theorem (Non-Goal Patterns are Trivial)

Let  $\Pi$  be a  $SAS^+$  planning task, and let  $P$  be a pattern for  $\Pi$  such that no variable in  $P$  is mentioned in the goal formula of  $\Pi$ . Then  $h^P(s) = 0$  for all states  $s$ .

### Proof.

All states in the abstraction are goal states. □

~≈ Patterns with no goal variables are redundant.  
They should not be included in a pattern collection.

## Causal Graphs: Motivation

- ▶ For more interesting notions of redundancy, we need to introduce **causal graphs**.
- ▶ Causal graphs describe the **dependency structure** between the **state variables** of a planning task.
- ▶ Causal graphs are a general tool for analyzing planning tasks.
- ▶ They are used in many contexts besides abstraction heuristics.

## Causally Relevant Variables

### Definition (Causally Relevant)

Let  $\Pi = \langle V, I, O, \gamma \rangle$  be an FDR planning task, and let  $P \subseteq V$  be a pattern for  $\Pi$ .

We say that  $v \in P$  is **causally relevant for  $P$**  if  $CG(\Pi)$ , restricted to the variables of  $P$ , contains a directed path from  $v$  to a variable  $v' \in P$  that is mentioned in the goal formula  $\gamma$ .

**Note:** The definition implies that variables in  $P$  mentioned in the goal are always causally relevant for  $P$ .

## Causal Graphs

### Definition (Causal Graph)

Let  $\Pi = \langle V, I, O, \gamma \rangle$  be an FDR planning task.

The **causal graph** of  $\Pi$ , written  $CG(\Pi)$ , is the directed graph whose vertices are the state variables  $V$  and which has an arc  $\langle u, v \rangle$  iff  $u \neq v$  and there exists an operator  $o \in O$  such that:

- ▶  $u$  appears anywhere in  $o$  (in precondition, effect conditions or atomic effects), and
- ▶  $v$  is modified by an effect of  $o$ .

**Idea:** an arc  $\langle u, v \rangle$  in the causal graph indicates that variable  $u$  is in some way relevant for modifying the value of  $v$

## Causally Irrelevant Variables are Useless

### Theorem (Causally Irrelevant Variables are Useless)

Let  $P \subseteq V$  be a pattern for an FDR planning task  $\Pi$ , and let  $P' \subseteq P$  consist of all variables that are causally relevant for  $P$ .

Then  $h^P(s) = h^{P'}(s)$  for all states  $s$ .

⇒ Patterns  $P$  where not all variables are causally relevant are redundant. The smaller subpattern  $P'$  should be used instead.

## Causally Irrelevant Variables are Useless: Proof

### Proof Sketch.

( $\geq$ ): holds because  $\pi_P$  is a refinement of  $\pi_{P'}$

( $\leq$ ): Obvious if  $h^{P'}(s) = \infty$ ; else, consider an optimal abstract plan  $\langle o_1, \dots, o_n \rangle$  for  $\pi_{P'}(s)$  in  $\mathcal{T}(\Pi)^{\pi_{P'}}$ .

W.l.o.g., each  $o_i$  modifies some variable in  $P'$ .

(Other  $o_i$  are redundant and can be omitted.)

Because  $P'$  includes all variables causally relevant for  $P$ , no variable in  $P \setminus P'$  is mentioned in any  $o_i$  or in the goal.

Then the same abstract plan also is a solution for  $\pi_P(s)$  in  $\mathcal{T}(\Pi)^{\pi_P}$ .

Hence, the optimal solution cost under abstraction  $\pi_P$  is no larger than under  $\pi_{P'}$ .

## Causally Connected Patterns

### Definition (Causally Connected)

Let  $\Pi = \langle V, I, O, \gamma \rangle$  be an FDR planning task, and let  $P \subseteq V$  be a pattern for  $\Pi$ .

We say that  $P$  is **causally connected** if the subgraph of  $CG(\Pi)$  induced by  $P$  is weakly connected (i.e., contains a path from every vertex to every other vertex, ignoring arc directions).

## Disconnected Patterns are Decomposable

### Theorem (Causally Disconnected Patterns are Decomposable)

Let  $P \subseteq V$  be a pattern for a SAS<sup>+</sup> planning task  $\Pi$  that is not causally connected, and let  $P_1, P_2$  be a partition of  $P$  into non-empty subsets such that  $CG(\Pi)$  contains no arc between the two sets.

Then  $h^P(s) = h^{P_1}(s) + h^{P_2}(s)$  for all states  $s$ .

⇒ Causally disconnected patterns  $P$  are redundant.

The smaller subpatterns  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  should be used instead.

## Disconnected Patterns are Decomposable: Proof

### Proof Sketch.

( $\geq$ ): There is no arc between  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  in the causal graph, and thus there is no operator that affects both patterns.

Therefore, they are additive, and  $h^P \geq h^{P_1} + h^{P_2}$  follows from the dominated sum theorem.

( $\leq$ ): Obvious if  $h^{P_1}(s) = \infty$  or  $h^{P_2}(s) = \infty$ . Else, consider optimal abstract plans  $\rho_1$  for  $\mathcal{T}(\Pi)^{\pi_{P_1}}$  and  $\rho_2$  for  $\mathcal{T}(\Pi)^{\pi_{P_2}}$ .

Because the variables of the two projections do not interact, concatenating the two plans yields an abstract plan for  $\mathcal{T}(\Pi)^{\pi_P}$ .

Hence, the optimal solution cost under abstraction  $\pi_P$  is at most the sum of costs of  $\rho_1$  and  $\rho_2$ , and thus  $h^P \leq h^{P_1} + h^{P_2}$ .

## E7.4 Summary

### Summary (1)

- ▶ When faced with multiple PDB heuristics (a **pattern collection**), we want to **admissibly add** their values where possible, and **maximize** where addition is inadmissible.
- ▶ A set of patterns is **additive** if each operator affects (i.e., assigns to a variable from) at most one pattern in the set.
- ▶ The **canonical heuristic function** is the **best possible** additive/maximizing combination for a given pattern collection given this additivity criterion.

### Summary (2)

Not all patterns need to be considered, as some are **redundant**:

- ▶ Patterns should include a **goal variable** (else  $h^P = 0$ ).
- ▶ Patterns should only include **causally relevant** variables (others can be dropped without affecting the heuristic value).
- ▶ Patterns should be **causally connected** (disconnected patterns can be split into smaller subpatterns at no loss).