Planning and Optimization C4. General Regression

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October 8, 2025 — C4. General Regression

- C4.1 Regressing State Variables
- C4.2 Regressing Formulas Through Effects
- C4.3 Regressing Formulas Through Operators
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Content of the Course Prelude **Foundations** Introduction Approaches Explicit Search Planning Delete Relaxation SAT Planning Abstraction Symbolic Search Constraints

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Regression for General Planning Tasks

- ▶ With disjunctions and conditional effects, things become more tricky. How to regress $a \lor (b \land c)$ with respect to $\langle q, d \rhd b \rangle$?
- ▶ In this chapter, we show how to regress general sets of states through general operators.
- ▶ We extensively use the idea of representing sets of states as formulas.

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C4. General Regression Regressing State Variables

C4.1 Regressing State Variables

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C4. General Regression

Regressing State Variables

Regressing State Variables: Motivation

Key question for general regression:

- Assume we are applying an operator with effect *e*.
- ▶ What must be true in the predecessor state for propositional state variable v to be true in the successor state?

If we can answer this question, a general definition of regression is only a small additional step.

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Regressing State Variables

Regressing State Variables: Key Idea

Assume we are in state s and apply effect eto obtain successor state s'.

Propositional state variable v is true in s' iff

- effect e makes it true, or
- it remains true, i.e., it is true in s and not made false by e.

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Regressing State Variables

Regressing a State Variable Through an Effect

Definition (Regressing a State Variable Through an Effect)

Let e be an effect of a propositional planning task, and let v be a propositional state variable.

The regression of v through e, written regr(v, e), is defined as the following logical formula:

 $regr(v, e) = effcond(v, e) \lor (v \land \neg effcond(\neg v, e)).$

Does this capture add-after-delete semantics correctly?

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Regressing State Variables: Example

Example

Let $e = (b \triangleright a) \land (c \triangleright \neg a) \land b \land \neg d$.

V	$\mathit{effcond}(v,e)$	$\textit{effcond}(\neg v, e)$	
а	b	С	$b \lor (a \land \neg c)$
b	Τ	\perp	$\top \lor (b \land \neg \bot) \equiv \top$
С	丄	\perp	$\perp \vee (c \wedge \neg \perp) \equiv c$
d	上	Т	$b \lor (a \land \neg c)$ $\top \lor (b \land \neg \bot) \equiv \top$ $\bot \lor (c \land \neg \bot) \equiv c$ $\bot \lor (d \land \neg \top) \equiv \bot$

Reminder: $regr(v, e) = effcond(v, e) \lor (v \land \neg effcond(\neg v, e))$

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Lemma (Correctness of regr(v, e))

Let s be a state, e be an effect and v be a state variable of a propositional planning task.

Regressing State Variables: Correctness (1)

Then $s \models regr(v, e)$ iff $s[e] \models v$.

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Regressing State Variables

Regressing State Variables: Correctness (2)

Proof.

 (\Rightarrow) : We know $s \models regr(v, e)$, and hence $s \models effcond(v, e) \lor (v \land \neg effcond(\neg v, e)).$

Do a case analysis on the two disjuncts.

Case 1: $s \models effcond(v, e)$.

Then $s[e] \models v$ by the first case in the definition of s[e] (Ch. B3).

Case 2: $s \models (v \land \neg effcond(\neg v, e))$.

Then $s \models v$ and $s \not\models effcond(\neg v, e)$.

We may additionally assume $s \not\models effcond(v, e)$

because otherwise we can apply Case 1 of this proof.

Then $s[e] \models v$ by the third case in the definition of s[e].

Regressing State Variables

Regressing State Variables: Correctness (3)

Proof (continued)

(⇐): Proof by contraposition.

We show that if regr(v, e) is false in s, then v is false in s[e].

- ▶ By prerequisite, $s \not\models effcond(v, e) \lor (v \land \neg effcond(\neg v, e))$.
- ▶ Hence $s \models \neg effcond(v, e) \land (\neg v \lor effcond(\neg v, e))$.
- ▶ From the first conjunct, we get $s \models \neg effcond(v, e)$ and hence $s \not\models effcond(v, e)$.
- ▶ From the second conjunct, we get $s \models \neg v \lor effcond(\neg v, e)$.
- ▶ Case 1: $s \models \neg v$. Then v is false before applying eand remains false, so $s[e] \not\models v$.
- ▶ Case 2: $s \models effcond(\neg v, e)$. Then v is deleted by e and not simultaneously added, so $s[e] \not\models v$.

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Regressing Formulas Through Effects

C4.2 Regressing Formulas Through Effects

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Regressing Formulas Through Effects

Regressing Formulas Through Effects: Idea

- ► We can now generalize regression from state variables to general formulas over state variables.
- The basic idea is to replace every occurrence of every state variable v by regr(v, e) as defined in the previous section.
- ► The following definition makes this more formal.

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Regressing Formulas Through Effects

Regressing Formulas Through Effects: Definition

Definition (Regressing a Formula Through an Effect)

In a propositional planning task, let e be an effect, and let φ be a formula over propositional state variables.

The regression of φ through e, written $regr(\varphi, e)$, is defined as the following logical formula:

$$\begin{split} \mathit{regr}(\top, e) &= \top \\ \mathit{regr}(\bot, e) &= \bot \\ \mathit{regr}(v, e) &= \mathit{effcond}(v, e) \lor (v \land \neg \mathit{effcond}(\neg v, e)) \\ \mathit{regr}(\neg \psi, e) &= \neg \mathit{regr}(\psi, e) \\ \mathit{regr}(\psi \lor \chi, e) &= \mathit{regr}(\psi, e) \lor \mathit{regr}(\chi, e) \\ \mathit{regr}(\psi \land \chi, e) &= \mathit{regr}(\psi, e) \land \mathit{regr}(\chi, e). \end{split}$$

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Regressing Formulas Through Effects

Regressing Formulas Through Effects: Example

Example

Let
$$e = (b \rhd a) \land (c \rhd \neg a) \land b \land \neg d$$
.

Recall:

- ▶ $regr(b, e) \equiv \top$
- $ightharpoonup regr(c,e) \equiv c$
- $ightharpoonup regr(d, e) \equiv \bot$

We get:

$$regr((a \lor d) \land (c \lor d), e) \equiv ((b \lor (a \land \neg c)) \lor \bot) \land (c \lor \bot)$$
$$\equiv (b \lor (a \land \neg c)) \land c$$
$$\equiv b \land c$$

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Regressing Formulas Through Effects: Correctness (1)

Lemma (Correctness of $regr(\varphi, e)$)

Let φ be a logical formula, e an effect and s a state of a propositional planning task.

Then $s \models regr(\varphi, e)$ iff $s[e] \models \varphi$.

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Proof.

The proof is by structural induction on φ .

Induction hypothesis: $s \models regr(\psi, e)$ iff $s[e] \models \psi$ for all proper subformulas ψ of φ .

Base case $\varphi = \top$:

We have $regr(\top, e) = \top$, and $s \models \top$ iff $s[e] \models \top$ is correct.

Regressing Formulas Through Effects: Correctness (2)

Base case $\varphi = \bot$:

We have $regr(\bot, e) = \bot$, and $s \models \bot$ iff $s[e] \models \bot$ is correct.

Base case $\varphi = v$:

We have $s \models regr(v, e)$ iff $s[e] \models v$ from the previous lemma. . . .

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Regressing Formulas Through Effects: Correctness (3)

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Proof (continued).
Inductive case \varphi = \neg \psi:
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$$s \models regr(\neg \psi, e) \text{ iff } s \models \neg regr(\psi, e)$$

 $\text{iff } s \not\models regr(\psi, e)$
 $\text{iff } s\llbracket e \rrbracket \not\models \psi$
 $\text{iff } s\llbracket e \rrbracket \models \neg \psi$

Inductive case $\varphi = \psi \vee \chi$:

$$s \models \mathit{regr}(\psi \lor \chi, e) \text{ iff } s \models \mathit{regr}(\psi, e) \lor \mathit{regr}(\chi, e)$$
 iff $s \models \mathit{regr}(\psi, e) \text{ or } s \models \mathit{regr}(\chi, e)$ iff $s[e] \models \psi \text{ or } s[e] \models \chi$ iff $s[e] \models \psi \lor \chi$

Inductive case $\varphi = \psi \wedge \chi$:

Like previous case, replacing "∨" by "∧" and replacing "or" by "and".

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Regressing Formulas Through Operators

C4.3 Regressing Formulas Through **Operators**

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C4. General Regression

Regressing Formulas Through Operators

Regressing Formulas Through Operators: Idea

- ► We can now regress arbitrary formulas through arbitrary effects.
- ► The last missing piece is a definition of regression through operators, describing exactly in which states s applying a given operator o leads to a state satisfying a given formula φ .
- ► There are two requirements:
 - ► The operator o must be applicable in the state s.
 - ▶ The resulting state s[o] must satisfy φ .

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Regressing Formulas Through Operators

Regressing Formulas Through Operators: Definition

Definition (Regressing a Formula Through an Operator)

In a propositional planning task, let o be an operator, and let φ be a formula over state variables.

The regression of φ through o, written $regr(\varphi, o)$, is defined as the following logical formula:

$$regr(\varphi, o) = pre(o) \land regr(\varphi, eff(o)).$$

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Regressing Formulas Through Operators

Regressing Formulas Through Operators: Correctness (1)

Theorem (Correctness of $regr(\varphi, o)$)

Let φ be a logical formula, o an operator and s a state of a propositional planning task.

Then $s \models regr(\varphi, o)$ iff o is applicable in s and $s[o] \models \varphi$.

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Regressing Formulas Through Operators

Regressing Formulas Through Operators: Correctness (2)

Reminder: $regr(\varphi, o) = pre(o) \land regr(\varphi, eff(o))$

Proof.

Case 1: $s \models pre(o)$.

Then o is applicable in s and the statement we must prove simplifies to: $s \models regr(\varphi, e)$ iff $s[e] \models \varphi$, where e = eff(o). This was proved in the previous lemma.

Case 2: $s \not\models pre(o)$.

Then $s \not\models regr(\varphi, o)$ and o is not applicable in s. Hence both statements are false and therefore equivalent.

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Regressing Formulas Through Operators

Regression Examples (1)

Examples: compute regression and simplify to DNF

- ► $regr(b, \langle a, b \rangle)$ $\equiv a \land (\top \lor (b \land \neg \bot))$ $\equiv a$
- ► regr($b \land c \land d, \langle a, b \rangle$) $\equiv a \land (\top \lor (b \land \neg \bot)) \land (\bot \lor (c \land \neg \bot)) \land (\bot \lor (d \land \neg \bot))$ $\equiv a \land c \land d$
- ► $regr(b \land \neg c, \langle a, b \land c \rangle)$ $\equiv a \land (\top \lor (b \land \neg \bot)) \land \neg (\top \lor (c \land \neg \bot))$ $\equiv a \land \top \land \bot$ $\equiv \bot$

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Regressing Formulas Through Operators

Regression Examples (2)

Examples: compute regression and simplify to DNF

- ► $regr(b, \langle a, c \rhd b \rangle)$ $\equiv a \land (c \lor (b \land \neg \bot))$ $\equiv a \land (c \lor b)$ $\equiv (a \land c) \lor (a \land b)$
- ► regr(b, $\langle a, (c \rhd b) \land ((d \land \neg c) \rhd \neg b) \rangle$)

 ≡ $a \land (c \lor (b \land \neg (d \land \neg c)))$ ≡ $a \land (c \lor (b \land (\neg d \lor c)))$ ≡ $a \land (c \lor (b \land \neg d) \lor (b \land c))$ ≡ $a \land (c \lor (b \land \neg d))$ ≡ $(a \land c) \lor (a \land b \land \neg d)$

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C4. General Regression

C4.4 Summary

C4. General Regression

Summary

Summary

- ► Regressing a propositional state variable through an (arbitrary) operator must consider two cases:
 - state variables made true (by add effects)
 - > state variables remaining true (by absence of delete effects)
- Regression of propositional state variables can be generalized to arbitrary formulas φ by replacing each occurrence of a state variable in φ by its regression.
- Regressing a formula φ through an operator involves regressing φ through the effect and enforcing the precondition.

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