



Universität  
Basel

# **Efficient Implementation of $h^2$ in the Fast Downward Planning System**

Master's Thesis Presentation

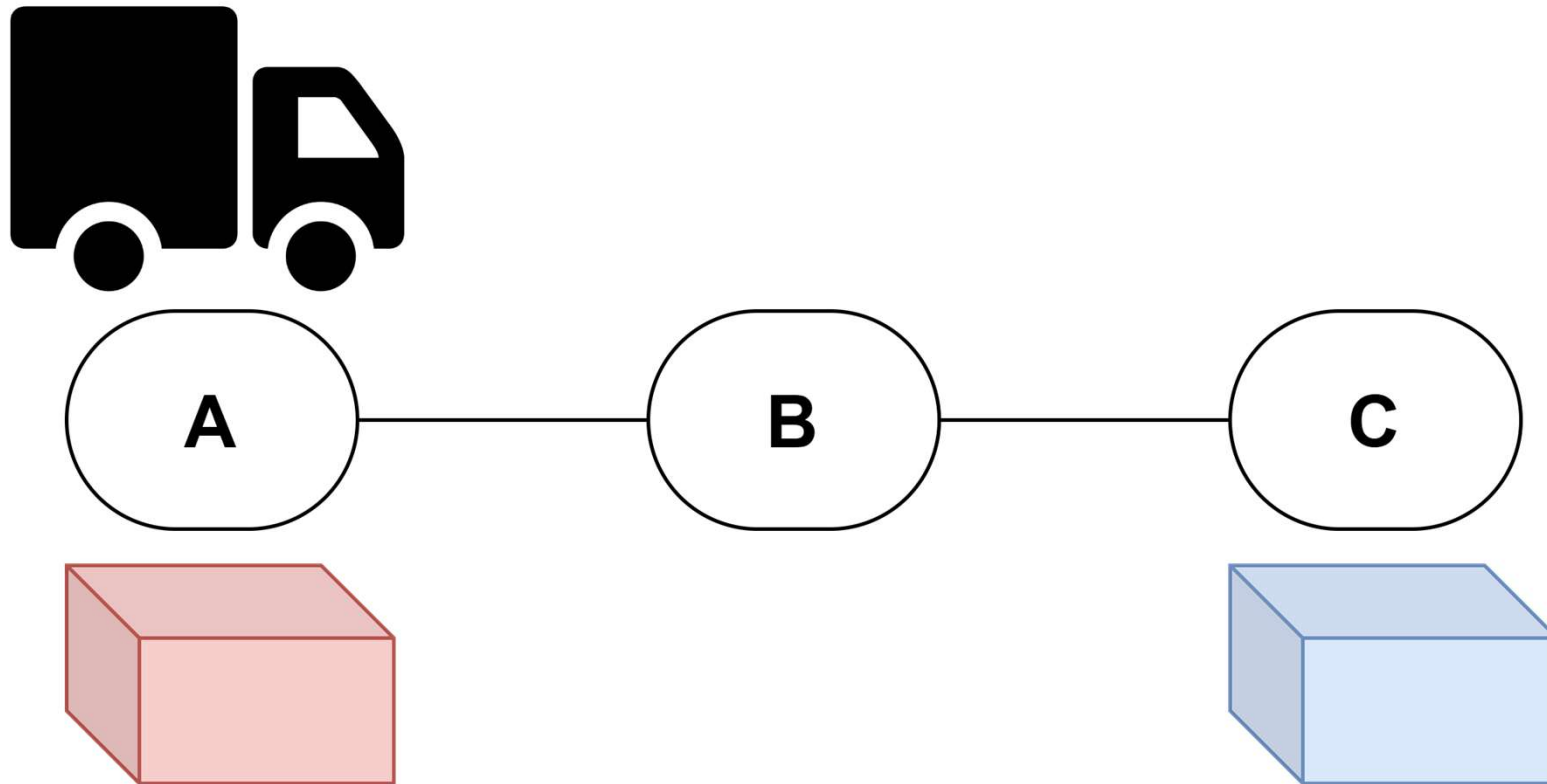
Elia Hänggi

June 11, 2025

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| 5 | Results & Conclusions                     |

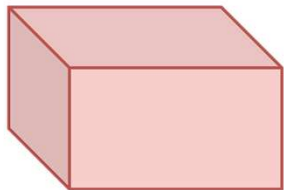
# Example Problem Domain



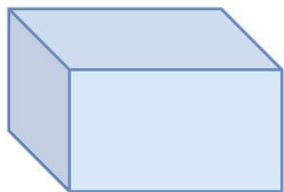
# SAS<sup>+</sup> Representation



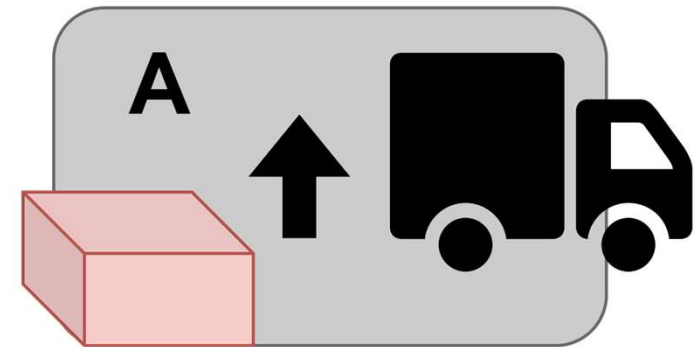
= {A, B, C}



= {A, B, C, 



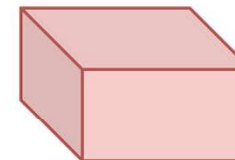
= {A, B, C, 



## Preconditions

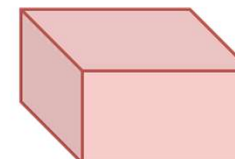


= A



= A

## Effects



= 

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1 Introduction

2 Implementation of  $h^2$  Heuristic

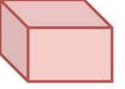
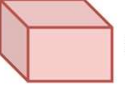
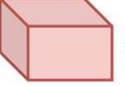
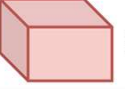
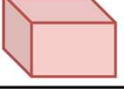
3 SAS<sup>+</sup> to STRIPS Transformation

4  $\Pi^2$  Compilation

5 Results & Conclusions

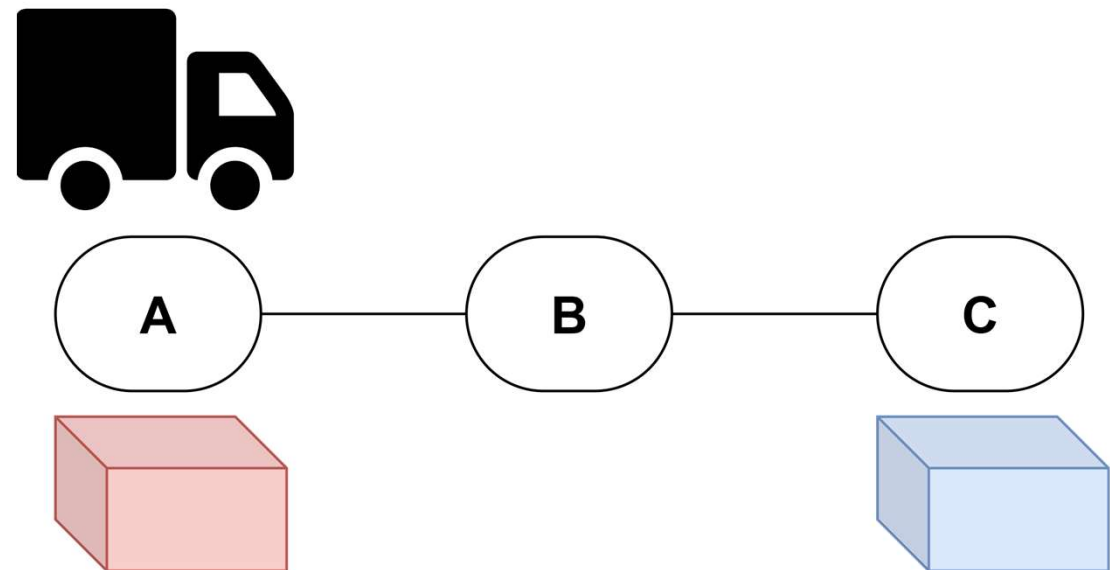
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# Heuristic Table Initialization

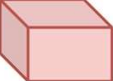
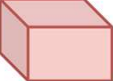
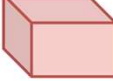
| Heuristic Table                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
|  = A                                                                                                                                                                       | 0        |
|  = A  = A                                                                                 | 0        |
|  = A  = B                                                                                 | $\infty$ |
|  = A  = C                                                                                 | $\infty$ |
|  = A  =  | $\infty$ |
|  = A  = A                                                                               | $\infty$ |
|  = A                                                                                                                                                                     | 0        |
|  =                                                                                    | $\infty$ |

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

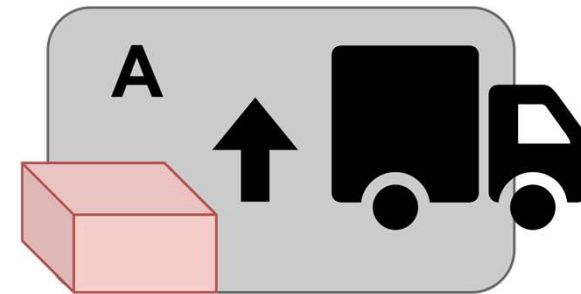
## Initial State



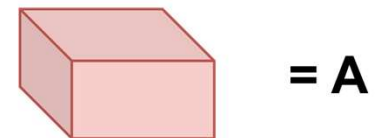
# Operator Evaluation

| Heuristic Table                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
|  = A                                                                                                                                                                       | 0        |
|  = A  = A                                                                                 | 0        |
|  = A  = B                                                                                 | $\infty$ |
|  = A  = C                                                                                 | $\infty$ |
|  = A  =  | $\infty$ |
|  = A  = A                                                                               | $\infty$ |
|  = A                                                                                                                                                                     | 0        |
|  =                                                                                    | $\infty$ |

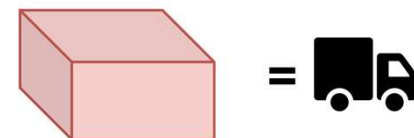
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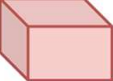
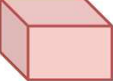
Preconditions



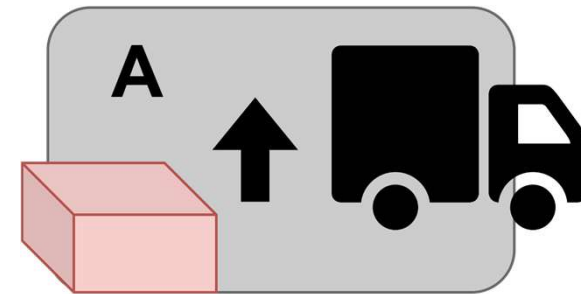
Effects



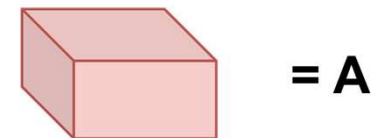
# Operator Evaluation

| Heuristic Table                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
|  = A                                                                                                                                                                       | 0        |
|  = A  = A                                                                                 | 0        |
|  = A  = B                                                                                 | $\infty$ |
|  = A  = C                                                                                 | $\infty$ |
|  = A  =  | $\infty$ |
|  = A  = A                                                                               | $\infty$ |
|  = A                                                                                                                                                                     | 0        |
|  =                                                                                    | 1        |

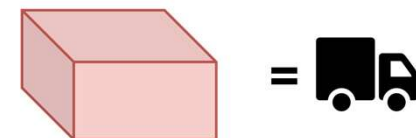
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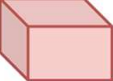
Preconditions



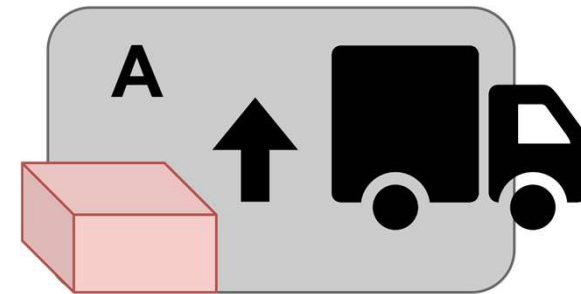
Effects



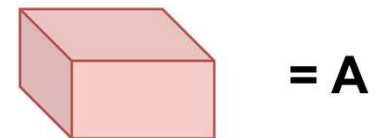
# Operator Evaluation

| Heuristic Table                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
|  = A                                                                                                                                                                       | 0        |
|  = A  = A                                                                                 | 0        |
|  = A  = B                                                                                 | $\infty$ |
|  = A  = C                                                                                 | $\infty$ |
|  = A  =  | 1        |
|  = A  = A                                                                               | $\infty$ |
|  = A                                                                                                                                                                     | 0        |
|  =                                                                                    | 1        |

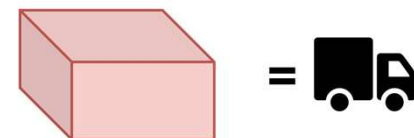
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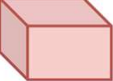
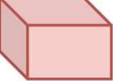
Preconditions

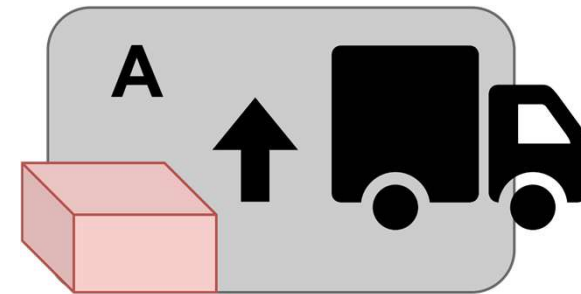


Effects

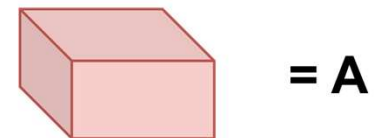


# Operator Evaluation

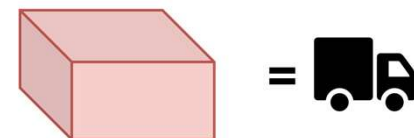
| Heuristic Table                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
|  = A                                                                                                                                                                             | 0        |
|  = A  = A                                                                                       | 0        |
|  = A  = B                                                                                       | $\infty$ |
|  = A  = C                                                                                       | $\infty$ |
|  = A  =        | 1        |
|  = A  = A                                                                                     | $\infty$ |
|  = A                                                                                                                                                                           | 0        |
|  =                                                                                          | 1        |
|  =   = C | $\infty$ |



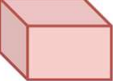
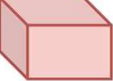
Preconditions

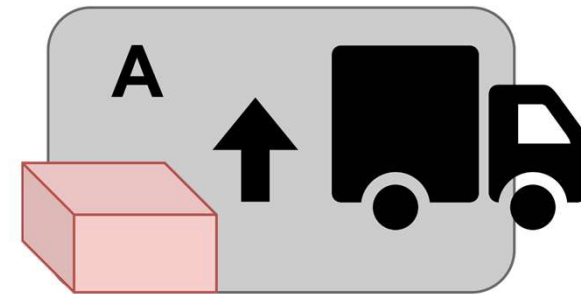


Effects

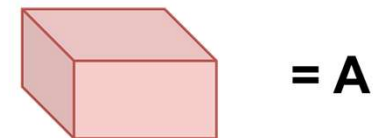


# Operator Evaluation

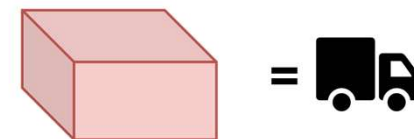
| Heuristic Table                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
|  = A                                                                                                                                                                             | 0        |
|  = A  = A                                                                                       | 0        |
|  = A  = B                                                                                       | $\infty$ |
|  = A  = C                                                                                       | $\infty$ |
|  = A  =        | 1        |
|  = A  = A                                                                                     | $\infty$ |
|  = A                                                                                                                                                                           | 0        |
|  =                                                                                          | 1        |
|  =   = C | 1        |



Preconditions



Effects



# Optimizations to Existing Implementation

- Store Evaluation of Operator Preconditions
- Optimize Data Structures (`std::unordered_map`)
- Introduce Operator Queue
- Cache Operator Information in Sorted Order
- Track List of Changed Entries

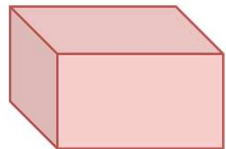
- 
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-

# Propositional Variables

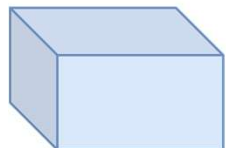
## SAS<sup>+</sup>



= {A, B, C}



= {A, B, C, 



= {A, B, C, 

## STRIPS

A



= {true, false}

B



= {true, false}

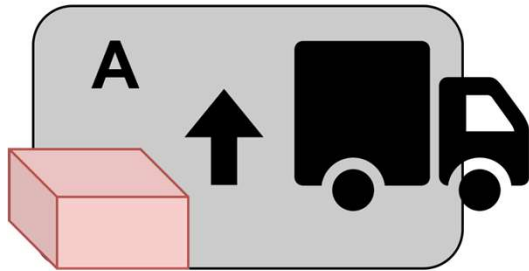
C



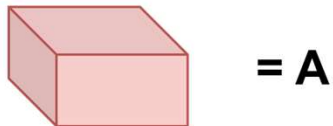
= {true, false}

# STRIPS Operators

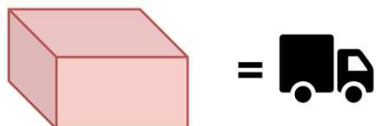
## SAS<sup>+</sup>



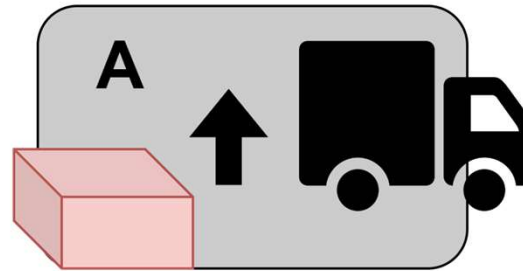
### Preconditions



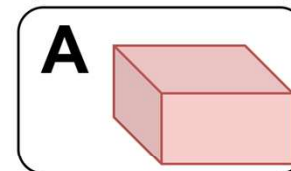
### Effects



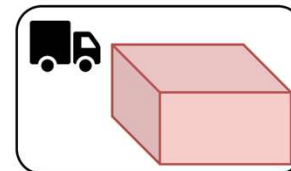
## STRIPS



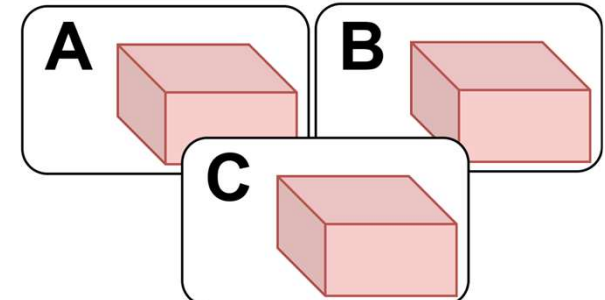
### Preconditions



### Add Effects



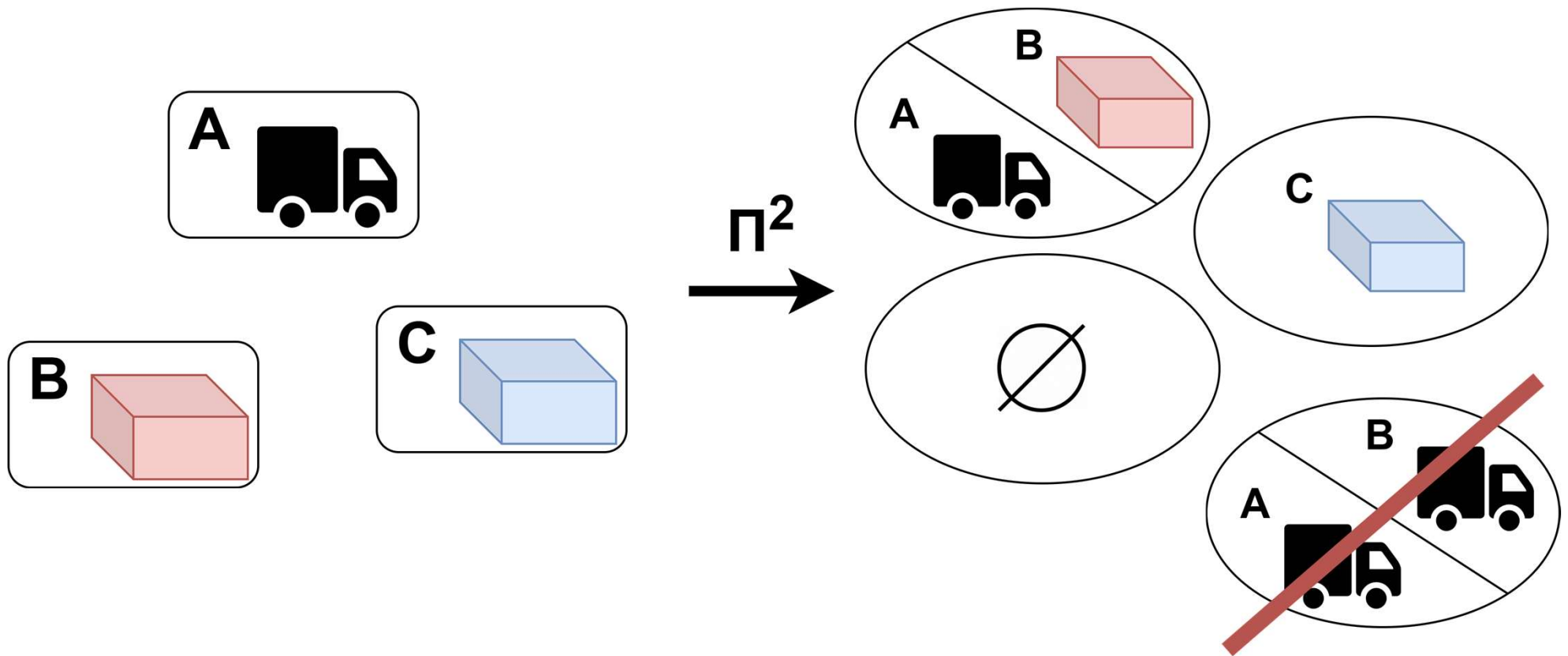
### Delete Effects



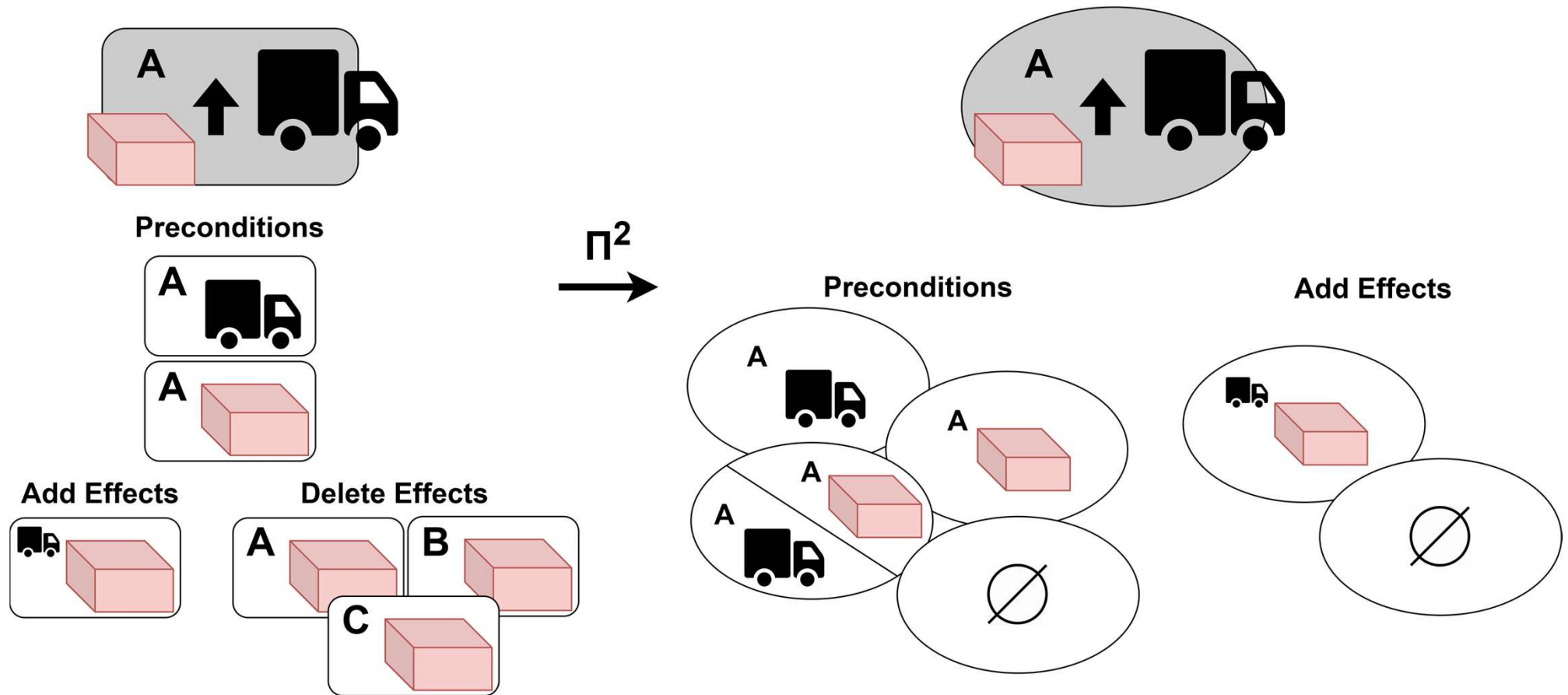
- 
- 1 Introduction
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-

# Introducing Meta-Variables

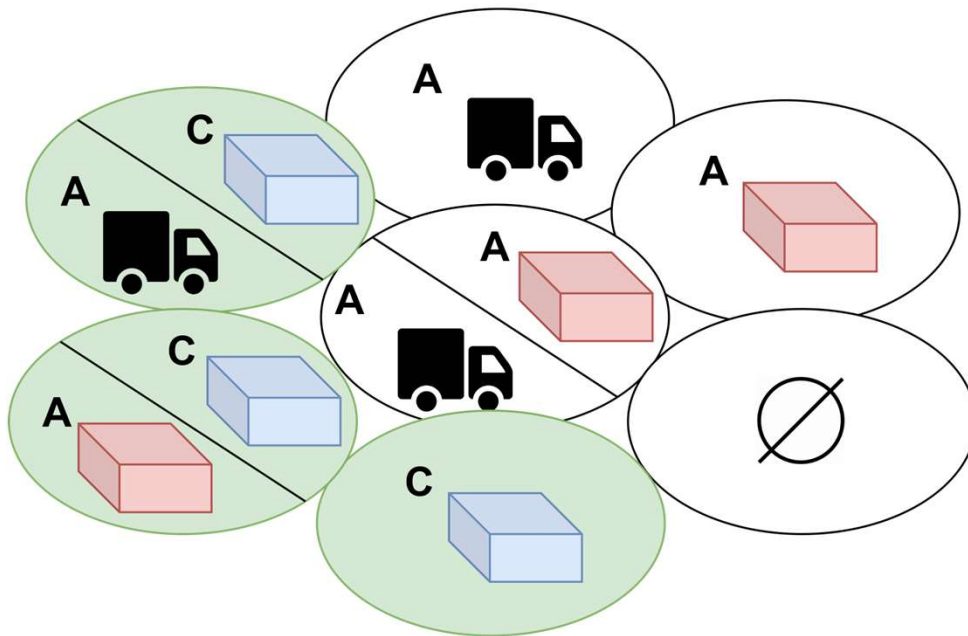
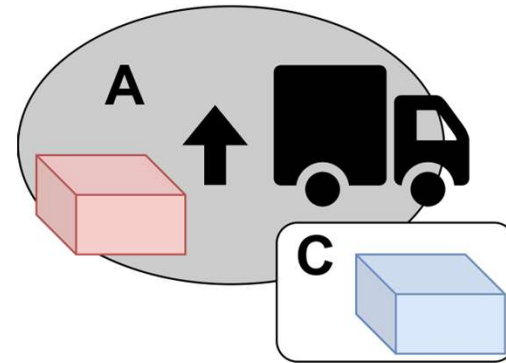
- $h^{\max}(\Pi^2) = h^2(\Pi)$



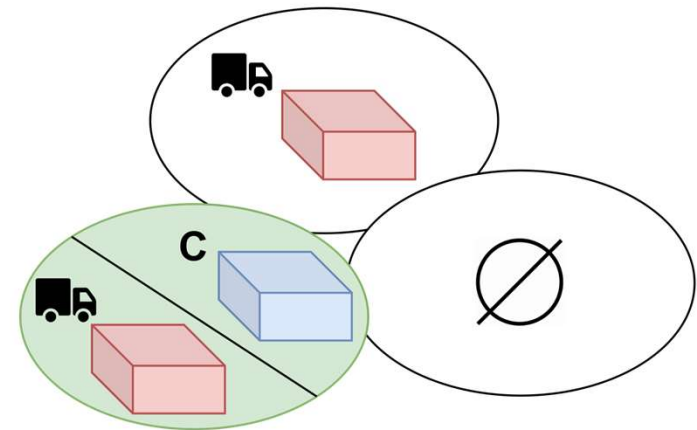
# Introducing Meta-Operators



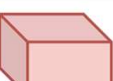
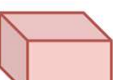
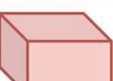
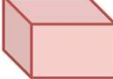
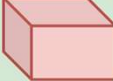
# Introducing Meta-Operators

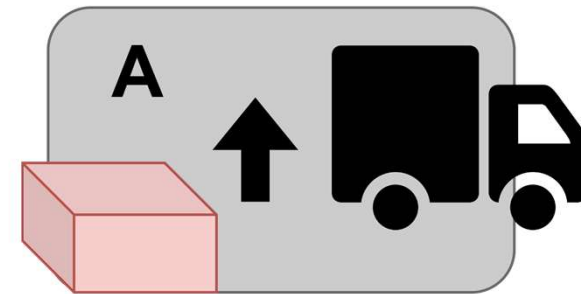


## Add Effects

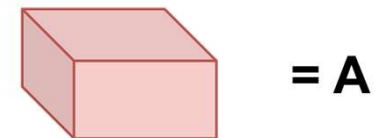


# Comparison Operator Evaluation

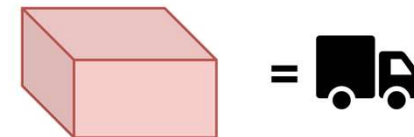
| Heuristic Table                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
|  = A                                                                                                                                                                             | 0        |
|  = A  = A                                                                                       | 0        |
|  = A  = B                                                                                       | $\infty$ |
|  = A  = C                                                                                       | $\infty$ |
|  = A  =        | 1        |
|  = A  = A                                                                                     | $\infty$ |
|  = A                                                                                                                                                                           | 0        |
|  =                                                                                          | 1        |
|  =   = C | 1        |



Preconditions



Effects



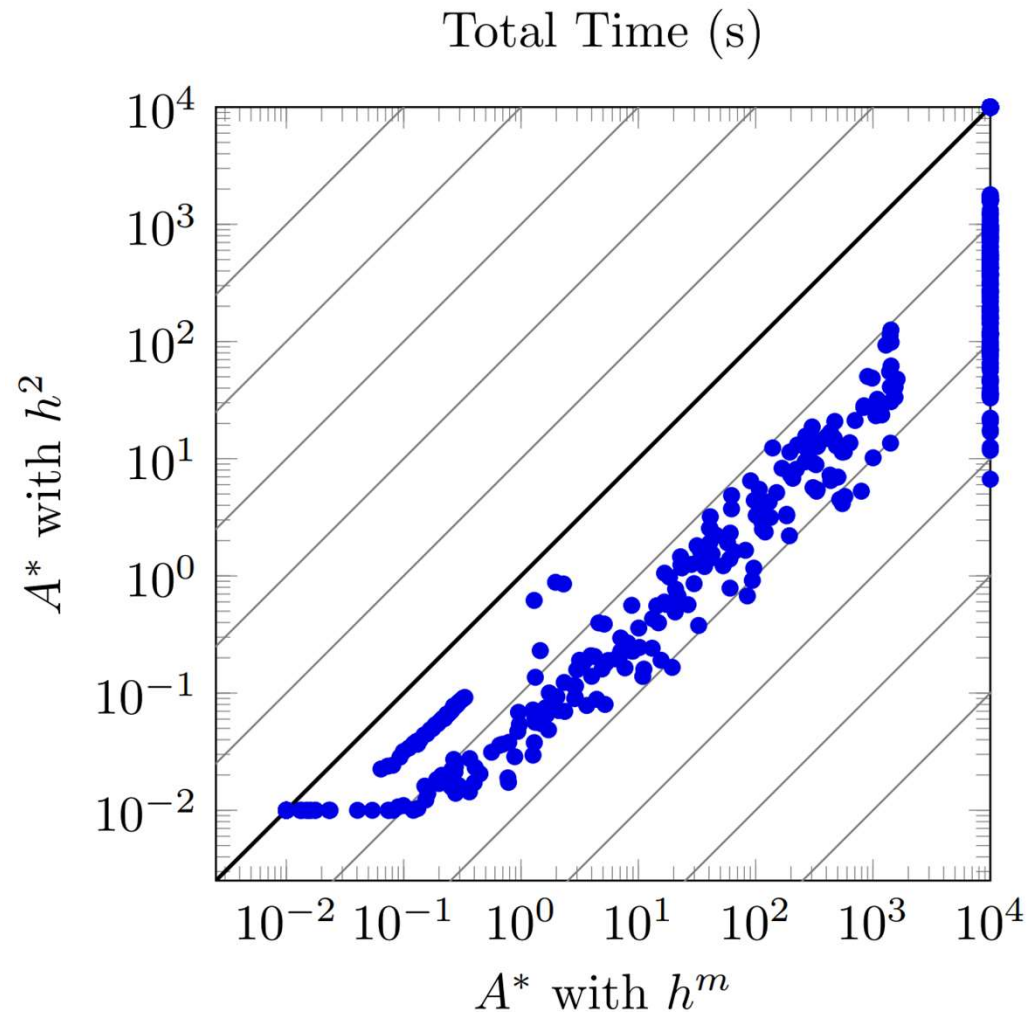
# $\Pi^2$ Compilation

- Combine STRIPS Transformation with  $\Pi^2$  Compilation
- Compile Task once in Preprocessing Step
- Use Existing  $h^{\max}$  Implementation
- Unary Operators Require Duplicate Detection

- 
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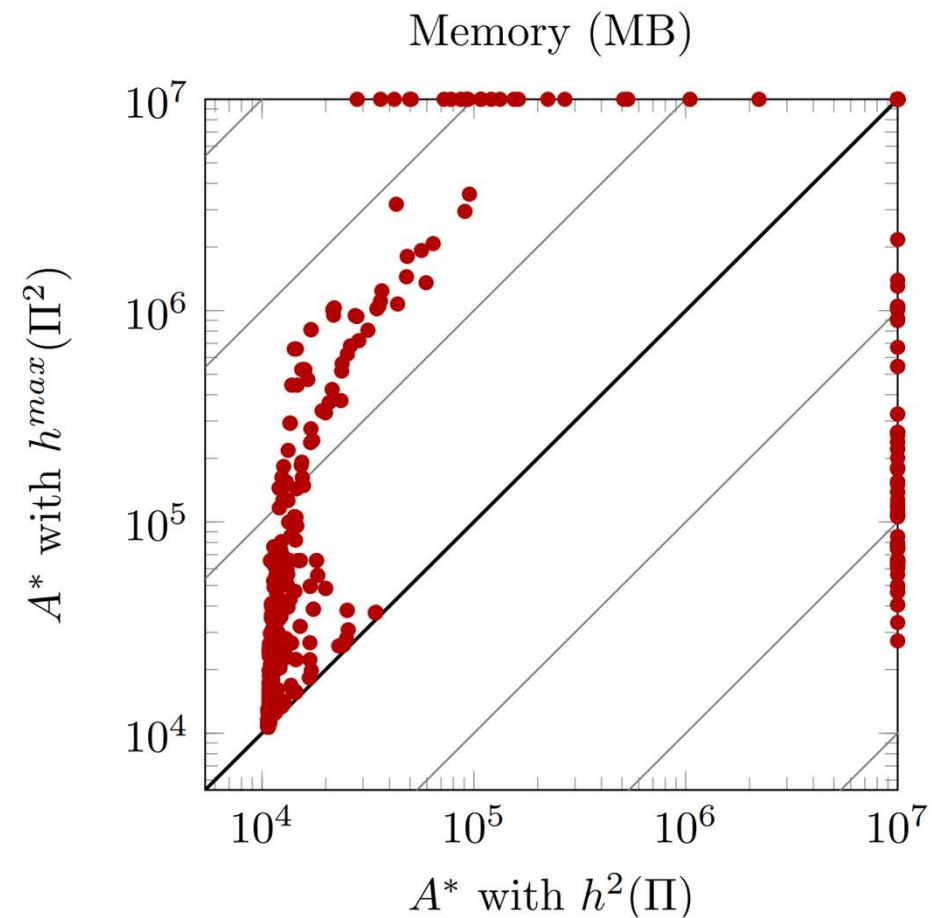
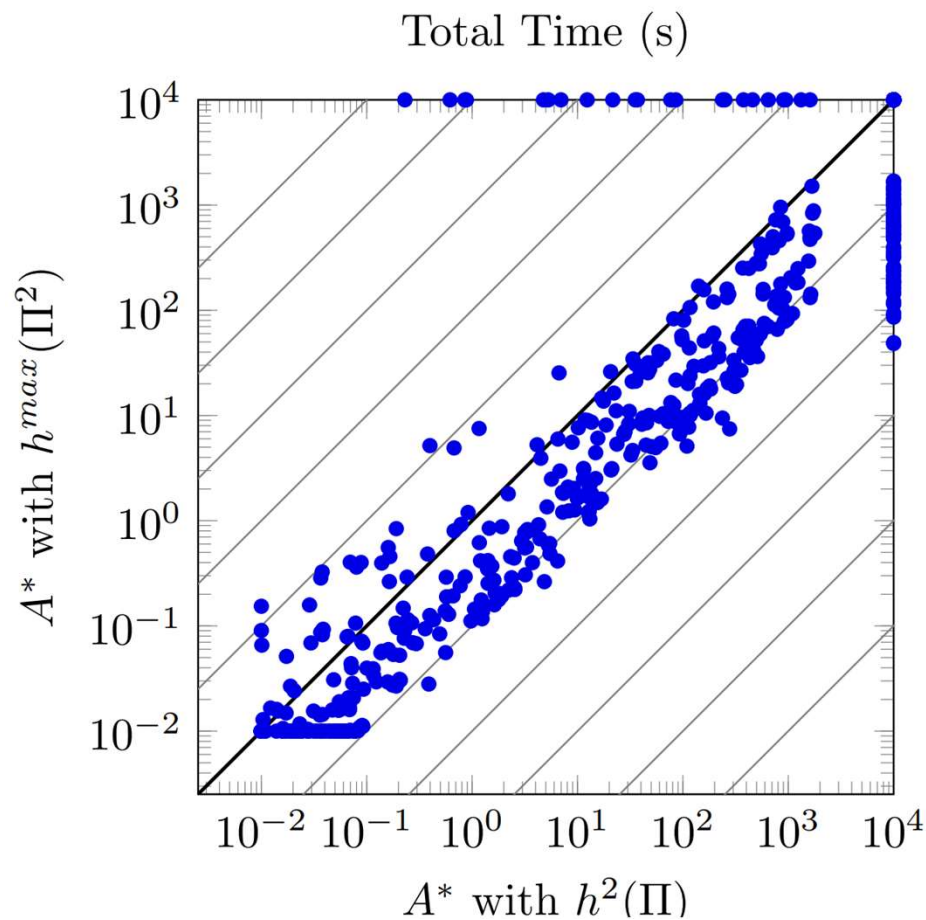
# Results & Conclusions

- Optimized  $h^2$  Clearly Outperforms Existing Implementation



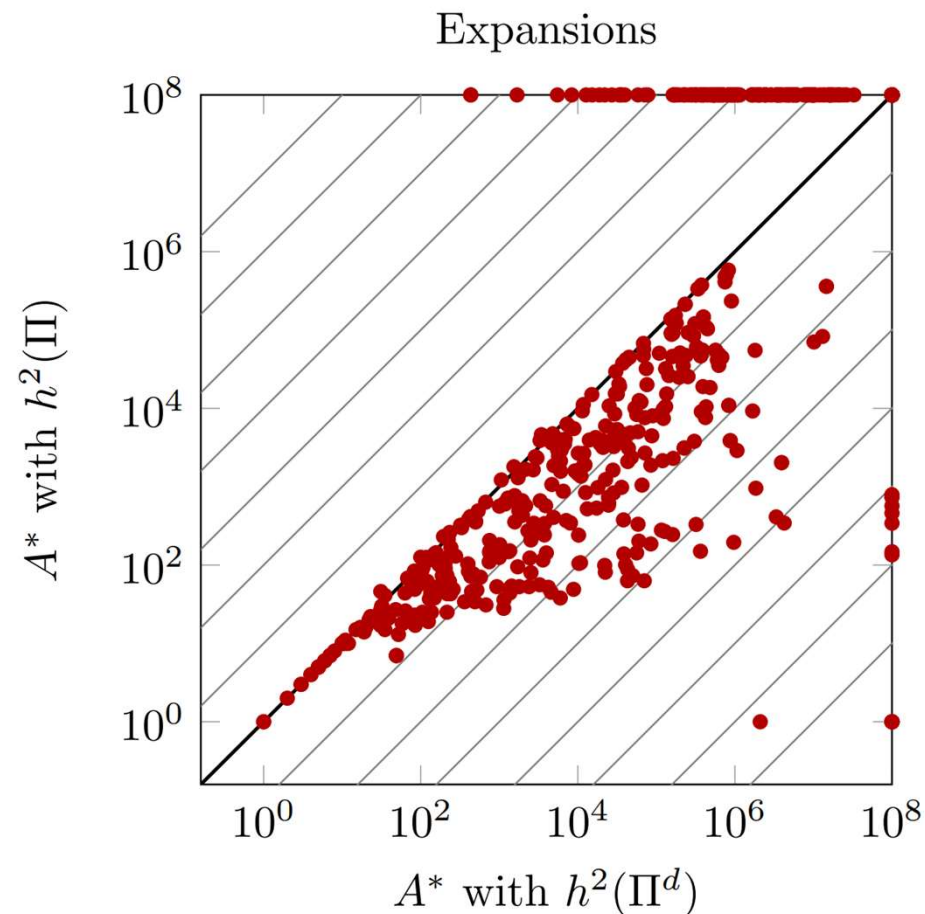
# Results & Conclusions

- Optimized  $h^2$  Clearly Outperforms Existing Implementation
- $\Pi^2$  Compilation Yields Best Results Despite High Memory Consumption



# Results & Conclusions

- Optimized  $h^2$  Clearly Outperforms Existing Implementation
- $\Pi^2$  Compilation Yields Best Results Despite High Memory Consumption
- Regression Simulation With Duality Yields Uninformed Heuristic



# Results & Conclusions

- Optimized  $h^2$  Clearly Outperforms Existing Implementation
- $\Pi^2$  Compilation Yields Best Results Despite High Memory Consumption
- Regression Simulation With Duality Yields Uninformed Heuristic
- Majority of Benchmark Problems Unsolved (1827 Total Tasks)

|                  |                        |                         |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>276</b> Tasks | $h^m(\Pi)$ for $m = 2$ | Existing Implementation |
| <b>431</b> Tasks | $h^2(\Pi)$             | Optimized $h^2$         |
| <b>493</b> Tasks | $h^{\max}(\Pi^2)$      | $\Pi^2$ Compilation     |

# Results & Conclusions

- Optimized  $h^2$  Clearly Outperforms Existing Implementation
- $\Pi^2$  Compilation Yields Best Results Despite High Memory Consumption
- Regression Simulation With Duality Yields Uninformed Heuristic
- Majority of Benchmark Problems Unsolved (1827 Total Tasks)
- Regression Search Theoretically Better Suited for  $h^m$

Progression Search:  $h^m(s, G)$

Regression Search:  $h^m(I, S)$



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**Thank You**  
for Listening.