

Optimistic Best-First Search with Goal-preferred Actions in Fast Downward

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- 2. Delete-Relaxation**
- 3. Heuristics**
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2. Implementation

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Searching...

Planning in Artificial Intelligence is the search for a sequence of applicable actions to reach a given goal from the initial state.

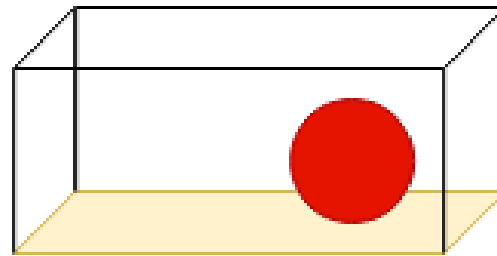
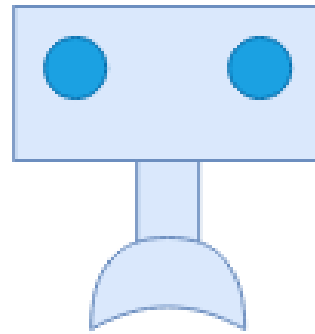
STRIPS Gripper: Initial state

State Variables:

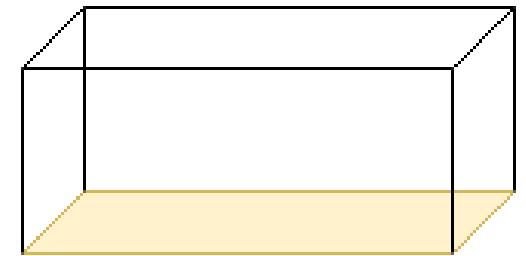
Robot at room A: **at_gA**

Ball at room A: **at_1A**

Robot arm free: **free**



Room A



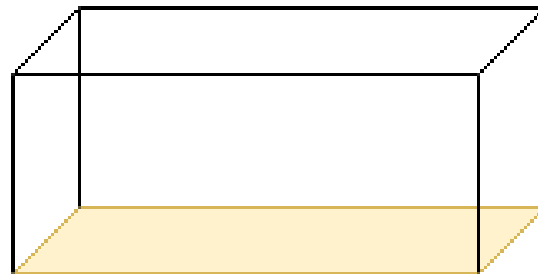
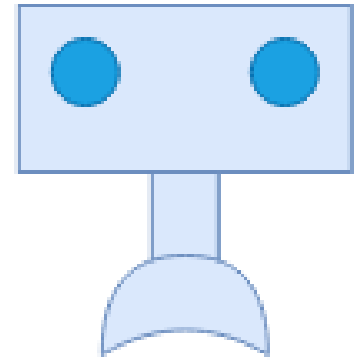
Room B

STRIPS Gripper: Goal state

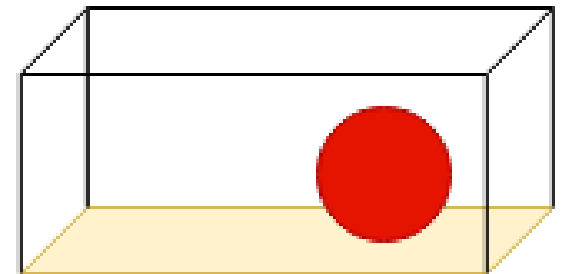
State Variables:

Robot at room B: **at_gB**

Ball at room B: **at_1B**



Room A



Room B

STRIPS Gripper: Actions

	Move		Pick		Drop	
Action	move_AB	move_BA	pick_1A	pick1B	drop_1A	drop_1B
Preconditions	at_gA	at_gB	at_gA, at_1A, free	at_gB, at_1B, free	at_gA, at_1A, in	at_gB, at_1B, in
Add effects	at_gB	at_gA	in	in	at_1A	at_1B
Delete effects	at_gA	at_gB	at_1A, free	at_1B, free	in	in
Cost	2		3		1	

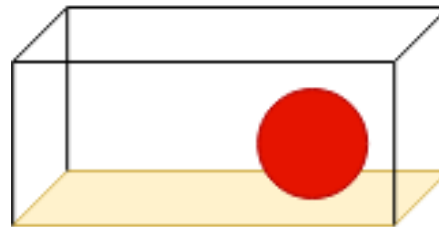
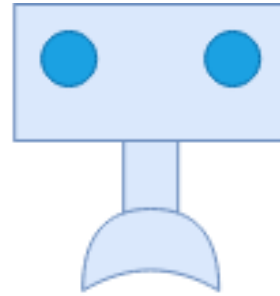
Delete-relaxation: Initial state

V_0

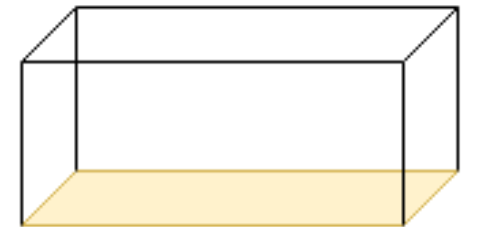
at_1A

at_gA

free

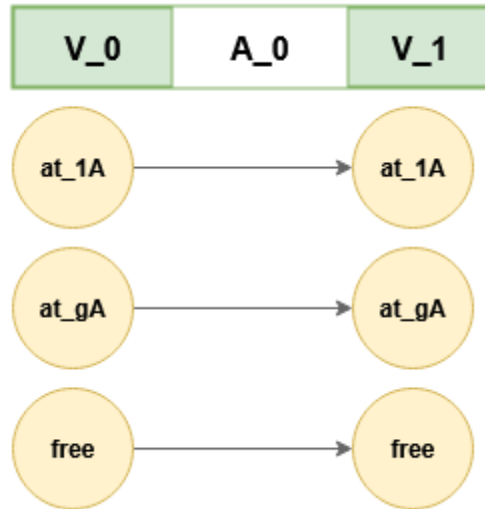


Room A



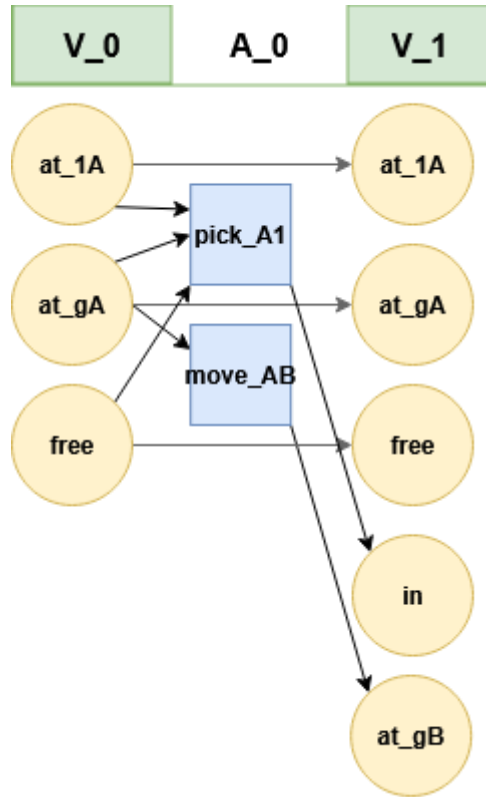
Room B

Delete-relaxation: Vertices



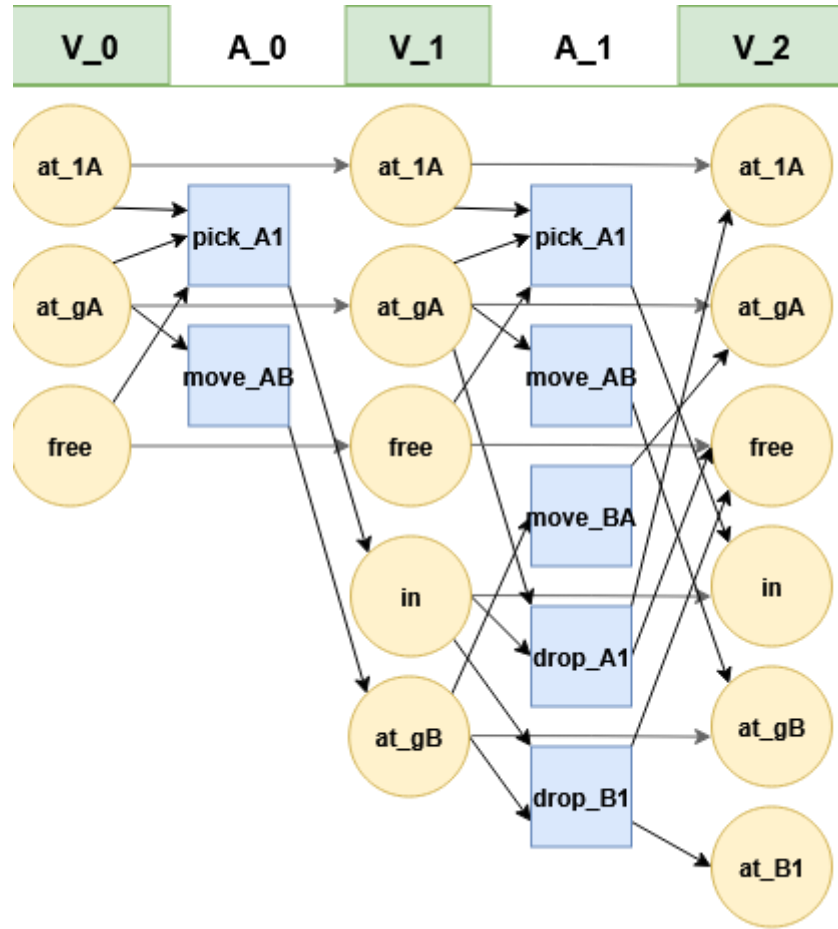
- No delete effects: vertices stay

Delete-relaxation: Action Layer

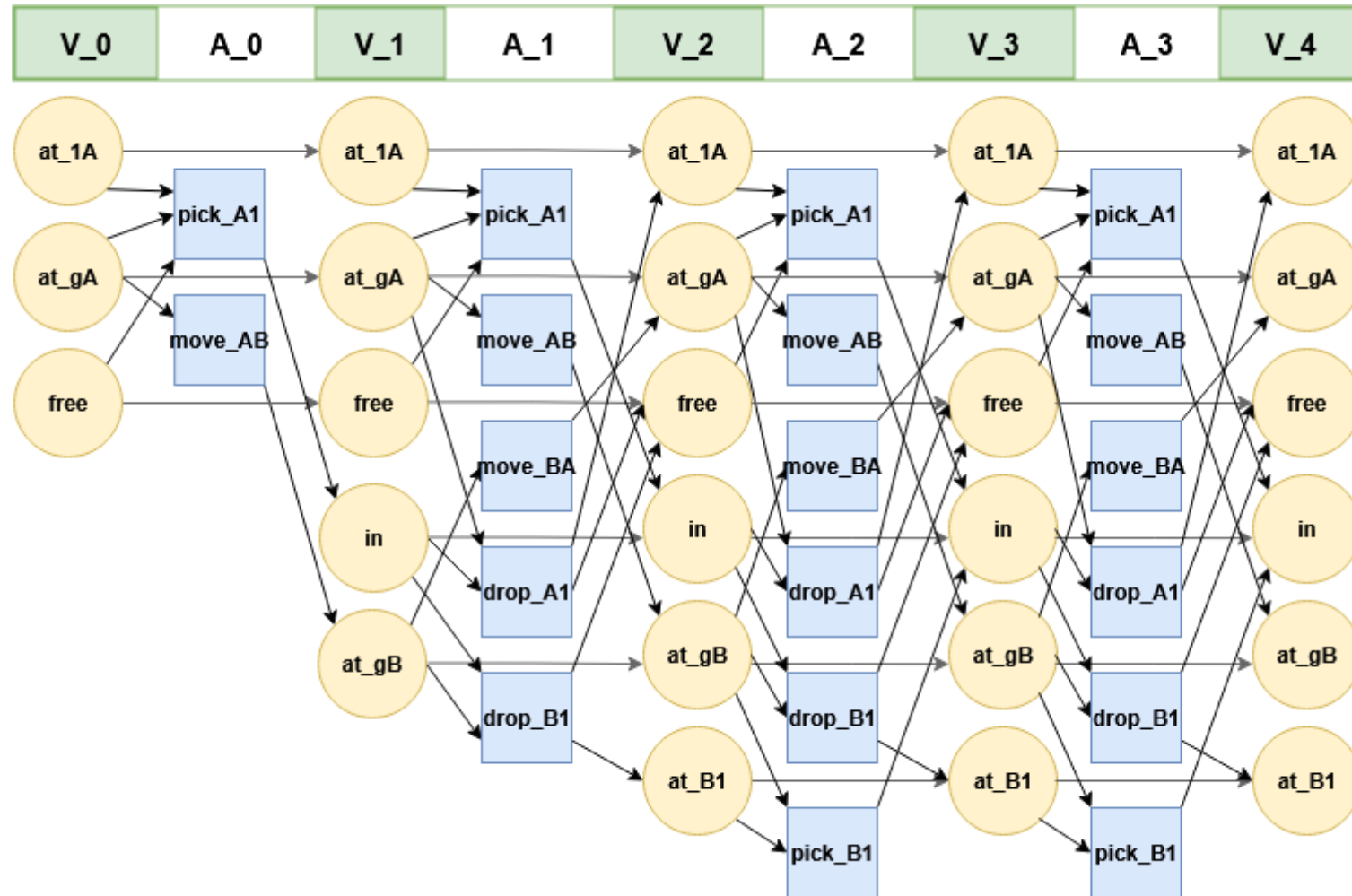


- Preconditions to pick the ball from Room A fulfilled
- Preconditions to move the robot from room A to room B fulfilled

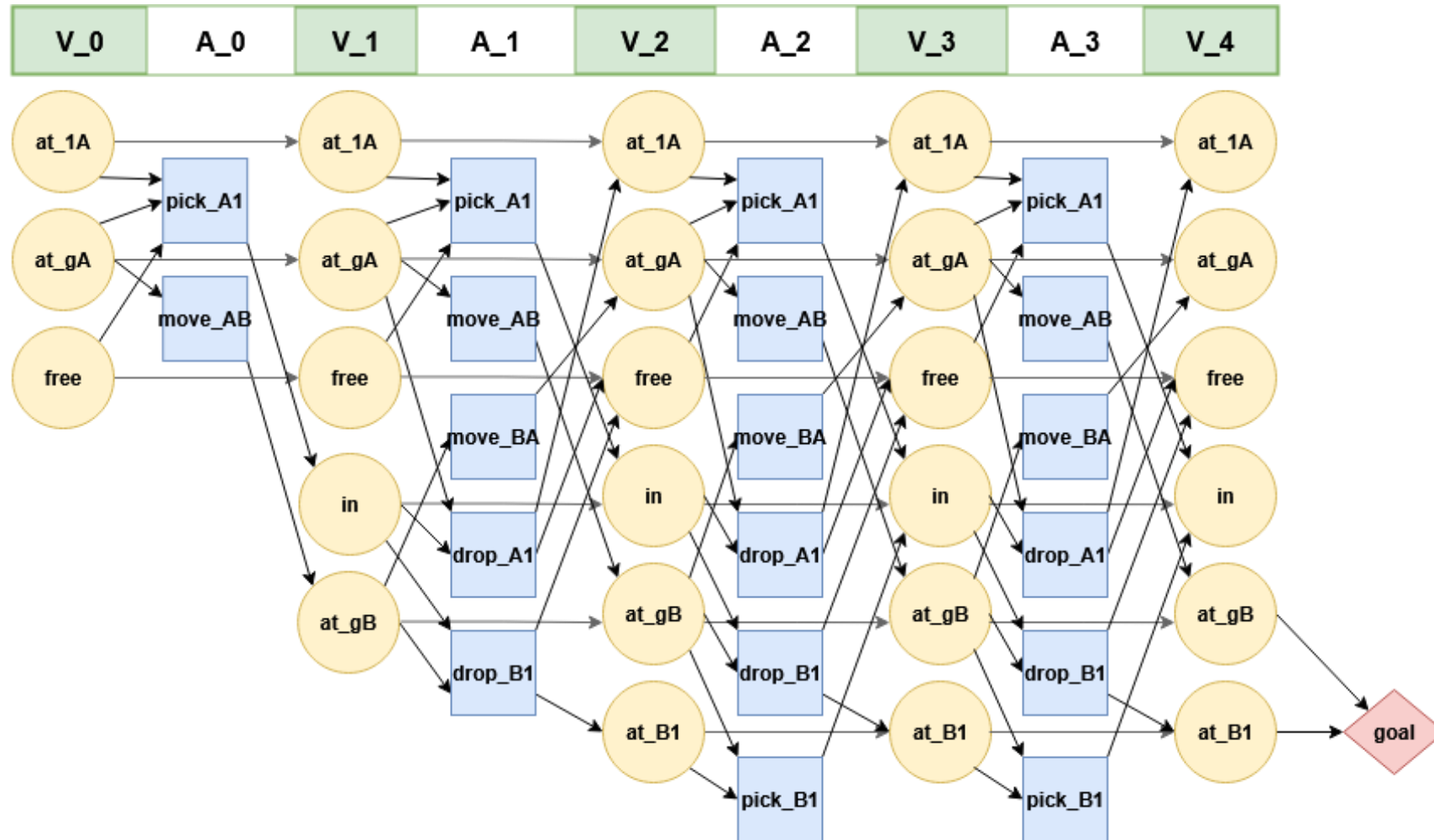
Delete-relaxation



Delete-relaxation: Termination



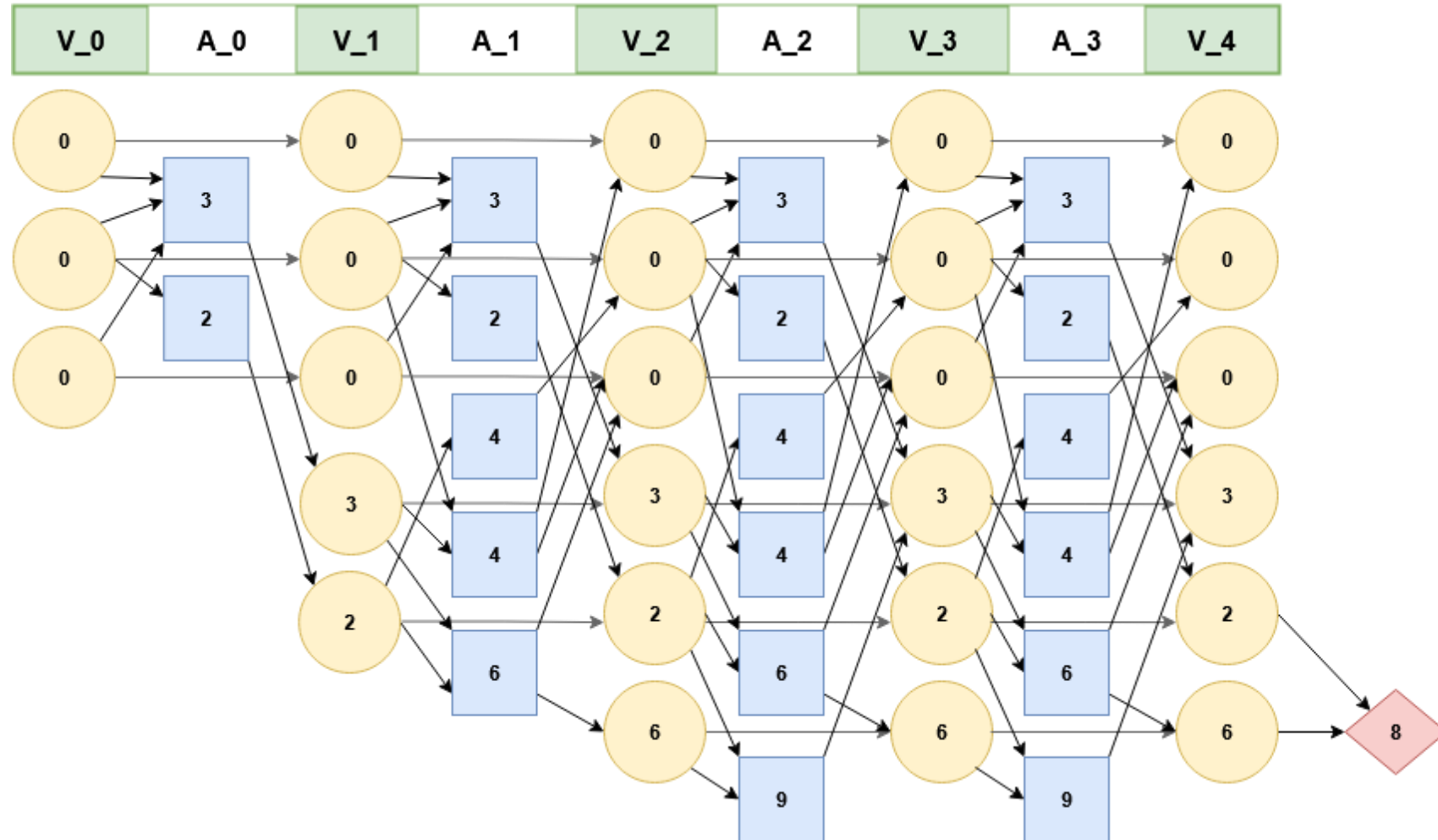
Delete-relaxation: Goal



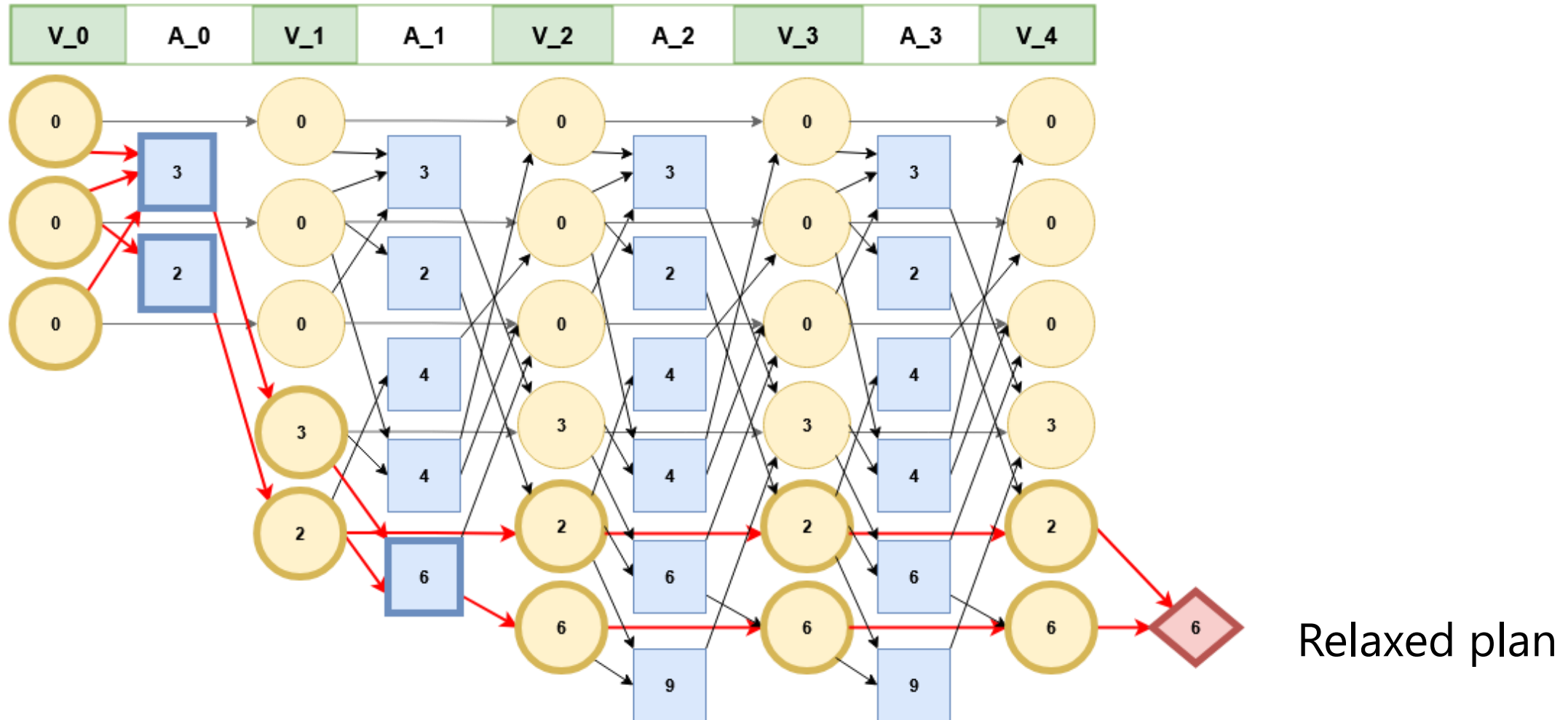
Heuristics

How do we estimate how far we are from the goal from a given node from the delete-relaxation graph?

hadd Heuristic

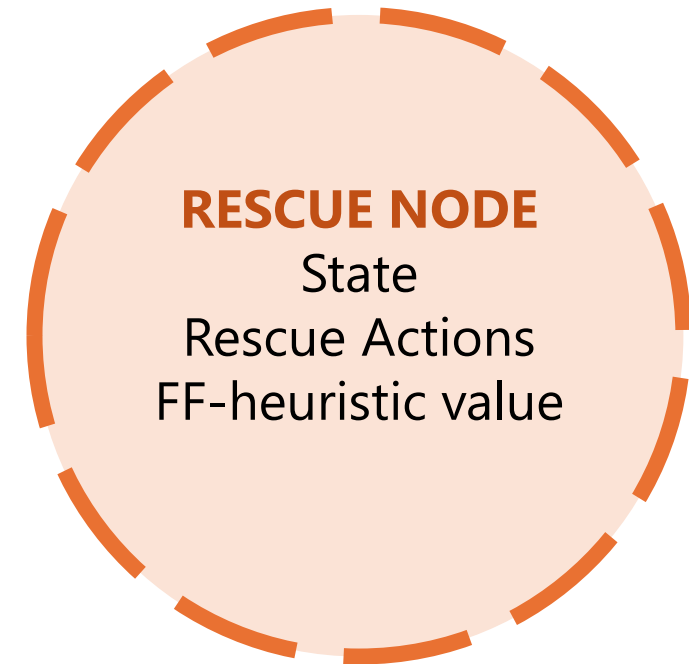


FF-heuristic: Helpful Actions & Nodes



Rescue Actions & Nodes

- Not helpful applicable actions
- Helpful Actions \cup Rescue Actions
= All applicable actions
- Completeness
- Node stores state, Rescue Actions,
heuristic value



Goal-preferred Actions

«Actions that do not delete a state variable that belongs to the goal and do not belong in the initial state» -*Vincent Vidal*

- Goal-preferred actions....
 - Are free to delete any state variables present in the initial state, regardless of whether they too are in the goal
 - Otherwise cannot delete state variables present in the goal

Delete-Effects: STRIPS vs. SAS+

- Delete effects, Add effects vs. Effects
- Reassignment of variables, erasure of value

at_gA

at_gB

vs.

**{gripper \mapsto at_A,
gripper \mapsto at_B}**

Goal-preferred Actions Algorithm

Naive Algorithm:

- Effect variable, value pair not in initial state
 - Effect variable in the goal
 - Effect value not the goal value
- > *Not goal-preferred action***

Goal-preferred Actions Algorithm

Naive Algorithm:

- Effect variable, value pair not in initial state
- Effect variable in the goal
- Effect value not the goal value

-> ***Not goal-preferred action***

Reworked Algorithm:

- Effect variable, value pair not in initial state
- Effect variable in the goal
- Effect value not the goal value

• Goal variable not in preconditions
or goal variable, value pair in preconditions

-> ***Not goal-preferred action***

What does OBFS with goal-pref do?

Store expansion candidates:

1. Build a relaxed plan with only Goal-preferred Actions
2. If it **succeeds**, store Helpful Node & Rescue Node
3. If it **fails**, build relaxed plan and store as Rescue Node

Search Expansion Criteria:

1. Helpful Nodes preferred over Rescue Nodes
2. Low FF-heuristic value preferred

Results

Comparison of performance against related benchmarks

Results: What are we looking for?

- For suboptimal algorithms, if possible:
 - Few expansions
 - Memory efficiency
 - Fast search
- Further analysis:
 - Completeness
 - % of goal-preferred actions

Results: What are we comparing?

- Related planners:
 - Eager greedy FF
 - Greedy FF with preferred actions
- Our implementation:
 - Naive goal-preferred algorithm
 - Reworked goal-preferred algorithm

Results: Implementation differences

Sum	Naive Goalpref	Goalpref
Goal-preferred actions	22'143'251	35'433'194
Goal-preferred ratio arithmetic average %	64%	92%

What does this mean for the behavior of the search?

- Possibility that goal-preferred actions only relaxed plan fails less with more goal-preferred actions
- Thus FF-heuristic value tie-breaker comes less into play

Results: Completeness

Sum	Eager Greedy FF	Greedy FF with pref	Naive Goalpref	Goalpref
Error: Search unsolvable	4	4	119	97

Implementation is incomplete

Results: Coverage, 1st run

Sum	Eager Greedy FF	Greedy FF with pref	Naive Goal-pref	Goal-pref
Out of memory	87	70	829	760
Out of time	506	393	0	0
Other errors	5	6	4	9
Coverage	1117	1246	882	946
Coverage %	65.13%	72.65%	51.4%	55.16%

Implementation is memory inefficient

Can we be more memory efficient?

Store expansion candidates:

1. Build a relaxed plan with only Goal-preferred Actions
2. If it succeeds, store Helpful Node & Rescue Node
3. If it fails, build relaxed plan and store all as Rescue Node

Search Expansion Criteria:

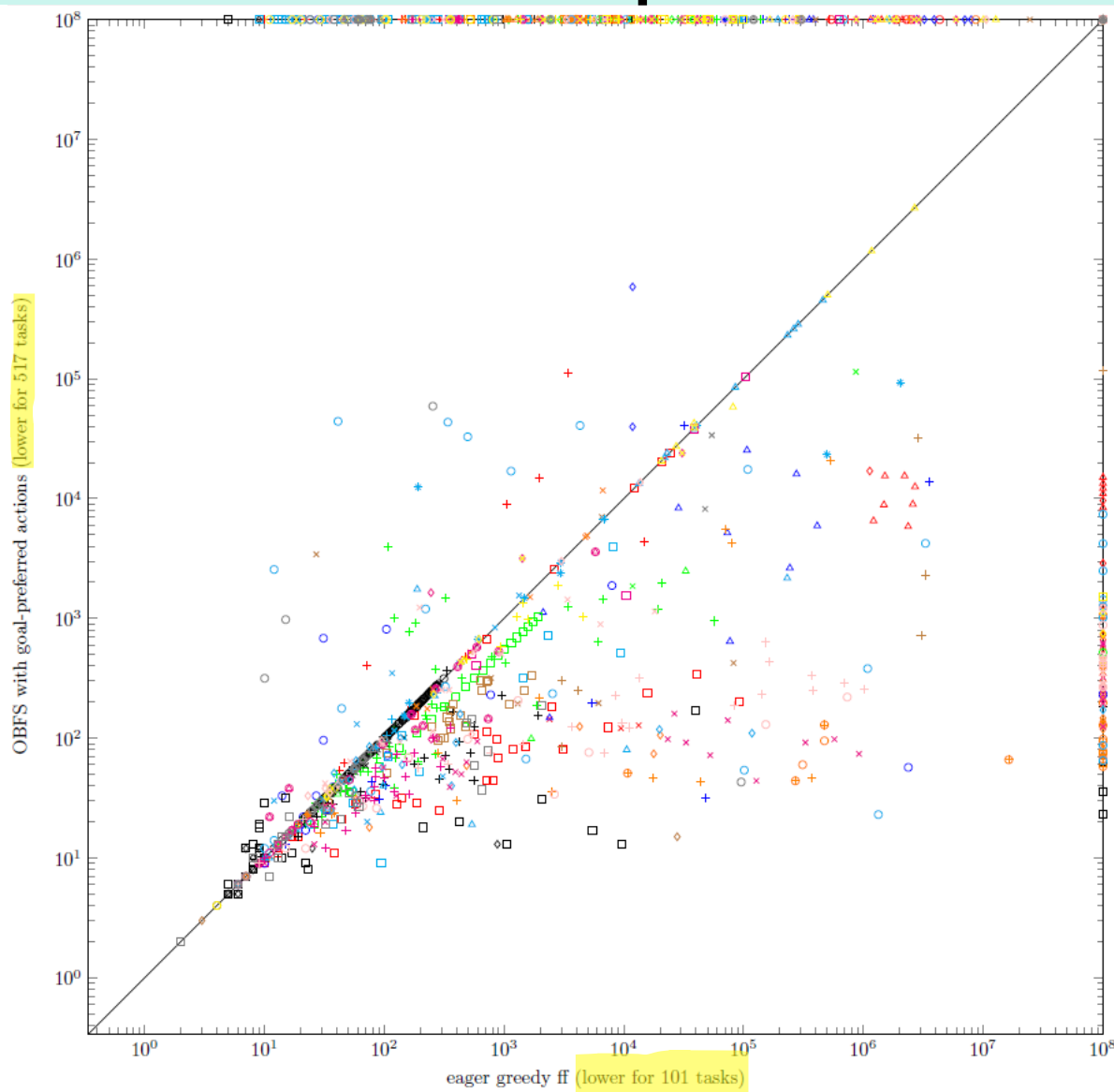
1. Helpful Nodes preferred over Rescue Nodes
2. Low FF-heuristic value preferred

Results: Coverage, Take 2

Sum	Eager Greedy FF	Greedy FF with pref	Naive Goal-pref	Goal-pref
Out of memory	85	68	661	301
Out of time	513	399	67	363
Other errors	7	4	8	8
Coverage	1227	1361	981	1067
Unsolveable	4	4	119	97

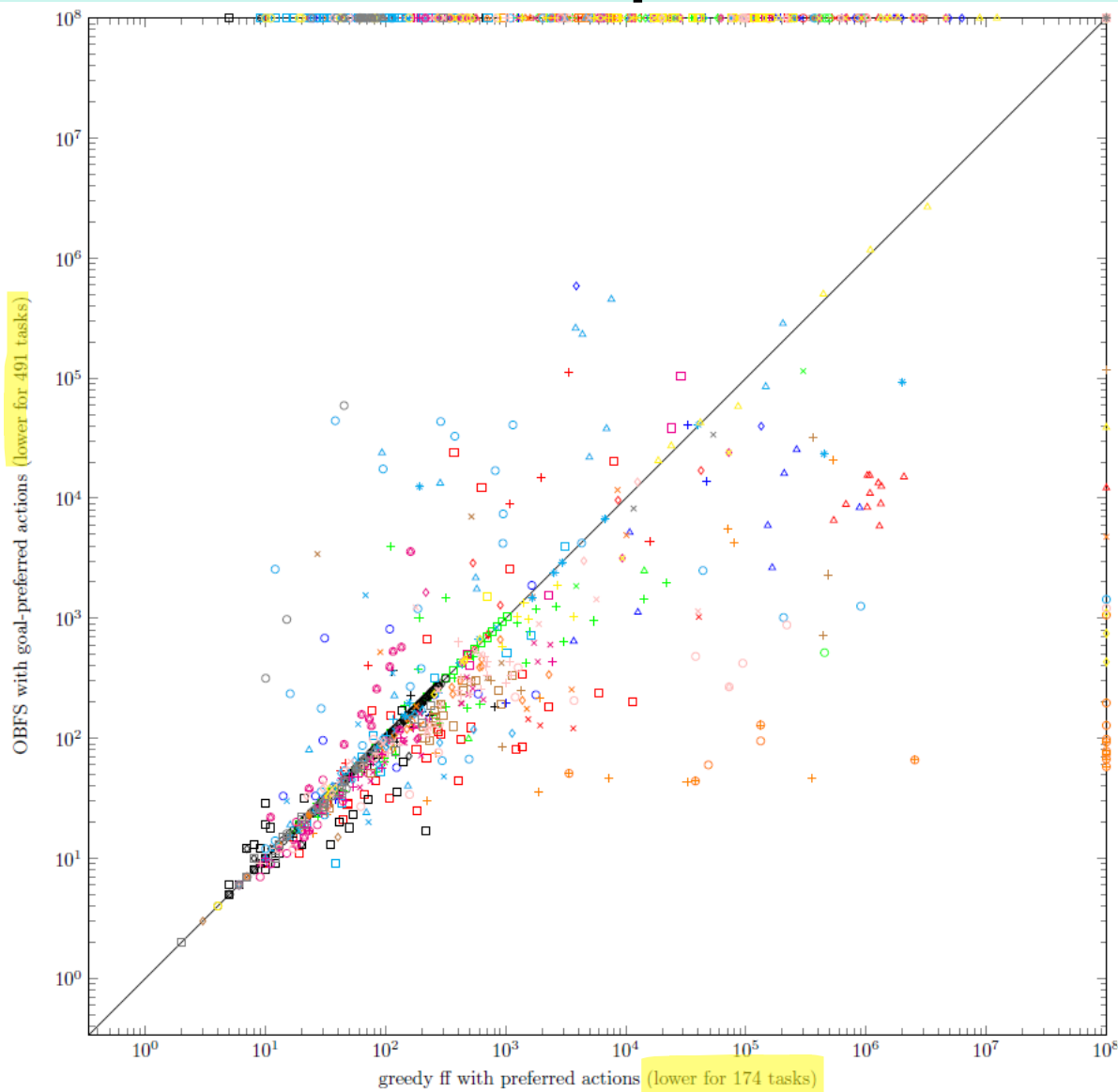
Implementation is less memory inefficient

Results: Expansions (Eager Greedy FF)



× agricola-sat18-strips	+ airport	○ barman-sat11-strips
△ barman-sat14-strips	□ blocks	◇ childsnack-sat14-strips
× data-network-sat18-strips	+ depot	○ driverlog
△ elevators-sat08-strips	□ elevators-sat11-strips	◇ floortile-sat11-strips
× floortile-sat14-strips	+ freecell	○ ged-sat14-strips
△ grid	□ gripper	◇ hiking-sat14-strips
× logistics00	+ logistics98	○ miconic
△ movie	□ mprime	◇ mystery
× nomystery-sat11-strips	+ openstacks-sat08-strips	○ openstacks-sat11-strips
△ openstacks-sat14-strips	□ openstacks-strips	◇ organic-synthesis-sat18-strips
× organic-synthesis-split-sat18-strips	+ parcprinter-08-strips	○ parcprinter-sat11-strips
△ parking-sat11-strips	□ parking-sat14-strips	◇ pathways
× pegsol-08-strips	+ pegsol-sat11-strips	○ pipesworld-notankage
△ pipesworld-tankage	□ psr-small	◇ quantum-layout-sat23-strips
× rovers	+ satellite	○ scanalyzer-08-strips
△ scanalyzer-sat11-strips	□ snake-sat18-strips	◇ sokoban-sat08-strips
× sokoban-sat11-strips	+ spider-sat18-strips	○ storage
△ termes-sat18-strips	□ tetris-sat14-strips	◇ thoughtful-sat14-strips
× tidybot-sat11-strips	+ tpp	○ transport-sat08-strips
△ transport-sat11-strips	□ transport-sat14-strips	◇ trucks-strips
× visitall-sat11-strips	+ visitall-sat14-strips	○ woodworking-sat08-strips
△ woodworking-sat11-strips	□ zenotravel	

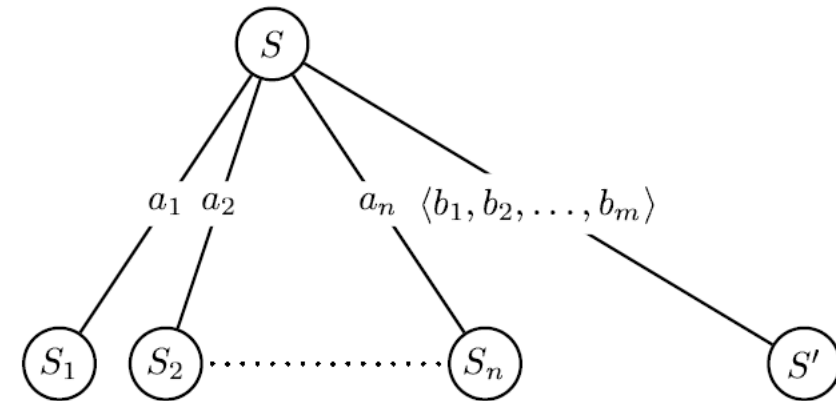
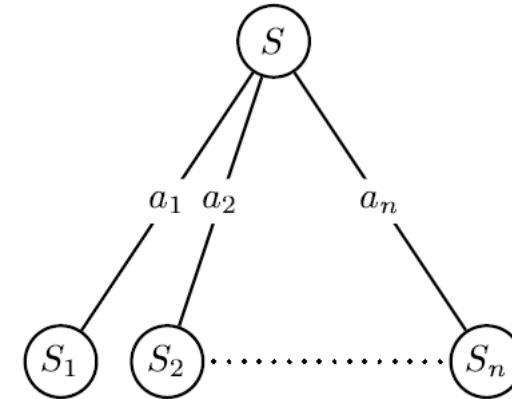
Results: Expansions (Greedy FF with pref)



- | | | |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| × agricola-sat18-strips | + airport | ○ barman-sat11-strips |
| △ barman-sat14-strips | □ blocks | ◇ childsnack-sat14-strips |
| × data-network-sat18-strips | + depot | ○ driverlog |
| △ elevators-sat08-strips | □ elevators-sat11-strips | ◇ floortile-sat11-strips |
| × floortile-sat14-strips | + freecell | ○ ged-sat14-strips |
| △ grid | □ gripper | ◇ hiking-sat14-strips |
| × logistics00 | + logistics98 | ○ miconic |
| △ movie | □ mprime | ◇ mystery |
| × nomystery-sat11-strips | + openstacks-sat08-strips | ○ openstacks-sat11-strips |
| △ openstacks-sat14-strips | □ openstacks-strips | ◇ organic-synthesis-sat18-strips |
| × organic-synthesis-split-sat18-strips | + parcprinter-08-strips | ○ parcprinter-sat11-strips |
| △ parking-sat11-strips | □ parking-sat14-strips | ◇ pathways |
| × pegsol-08-strips | + pegsol-sat11-strips | ○ pipesworld-notankage |
| △ pipesworld-tankage | □ psr-small | ◇ quantum-layout-sat23-strips |
| × rovers | + satellite | ○ scanalyzer-08-strips |
| △ scanalyzer-sat11-strips | □ snake-sat18-strips | ◇ sokoban-sat08-strips |
| × sokoban-sat11-strips | + spider-sat18-strips | ○ storage |
| △ termes-sat18-strips | □ tetris-sat14-strips | ◇ thoughtful-sat14-strips |
| × tidybot-sat11-strips | + tpp | ○ transport-sat08-strips |
| △ transport-sat11-strips | □ transport-sat14-strips | ◇ trucks-strips |
| × visitall-sat11-strips | + visitall-sat14-strips | ○ woodworking-sat08-strips |
| △ woodworking-sat11-strips | □ zenotravel | |

Conclusion

- Results:
 - Incomplete
 - Memory inefficient
 - Few expansions
 - Reworked version more faithful & better
- Possible additions:
 - Achieve completeness
 - Lookahead algorithm
 - 3rd expansion tiebreaker
 - YAHSP2 & 3



lookahead-node development, YAHSP Vincent Vidal

Backup

STRIPS Gripper: Goal-preferred Actions

	Move		Pick		Drop	
Action	move_AB	move_BA	pick_A1	pickB1	drop_A1	drop_B1
Preconditions	at_gA	at_gB	at_gA, at_1A, Free	at_gB, at_1B, free	at_gA, at_1A, in	at_gB, at_1B, in
Add effects	at_gB	at_gA	in	in	at_1A	at_1B
Delete effects	at_gA	at_gB	at_1A, free	at_1B, free	in	in
Cost	2		3		1	

SAS+ Gripper: Goal-preferred Actions

Initial state: Gripper \mapsto at_A,

Arm \mapsto Free, Ball \mapsto at_A

Goal: Gripper \mapsto at_B,

Ball \mapsto at_B

Naive Algorithm:

- Effect variable, value pair not in initial state
 - Effect variable in the goal
 - Effect value not the goal value
- > ***Not goal-preferred action***

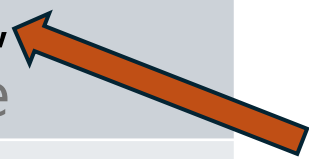
Action	pick_A1
Preconditions	Gripper \mapsto at_A, Ball \mapsto at_A, Arm \mapsto Free
Effects	Ball \mapsto in

SAS+ Gripper: Goal-preferred Actions

Initial state: Gripper \mapsto at_A,,
Arm \mapsto Free, Ball \mapsto at_A

Goal: Gripper \mapsto at_B,
Ball \mapsto at_B

Action	pick_A1
Preconditions	Gripper \mapsto at_A, Ball \mapsto at_A, Arm \mapsto Free
Effects	Ball \mapsto in

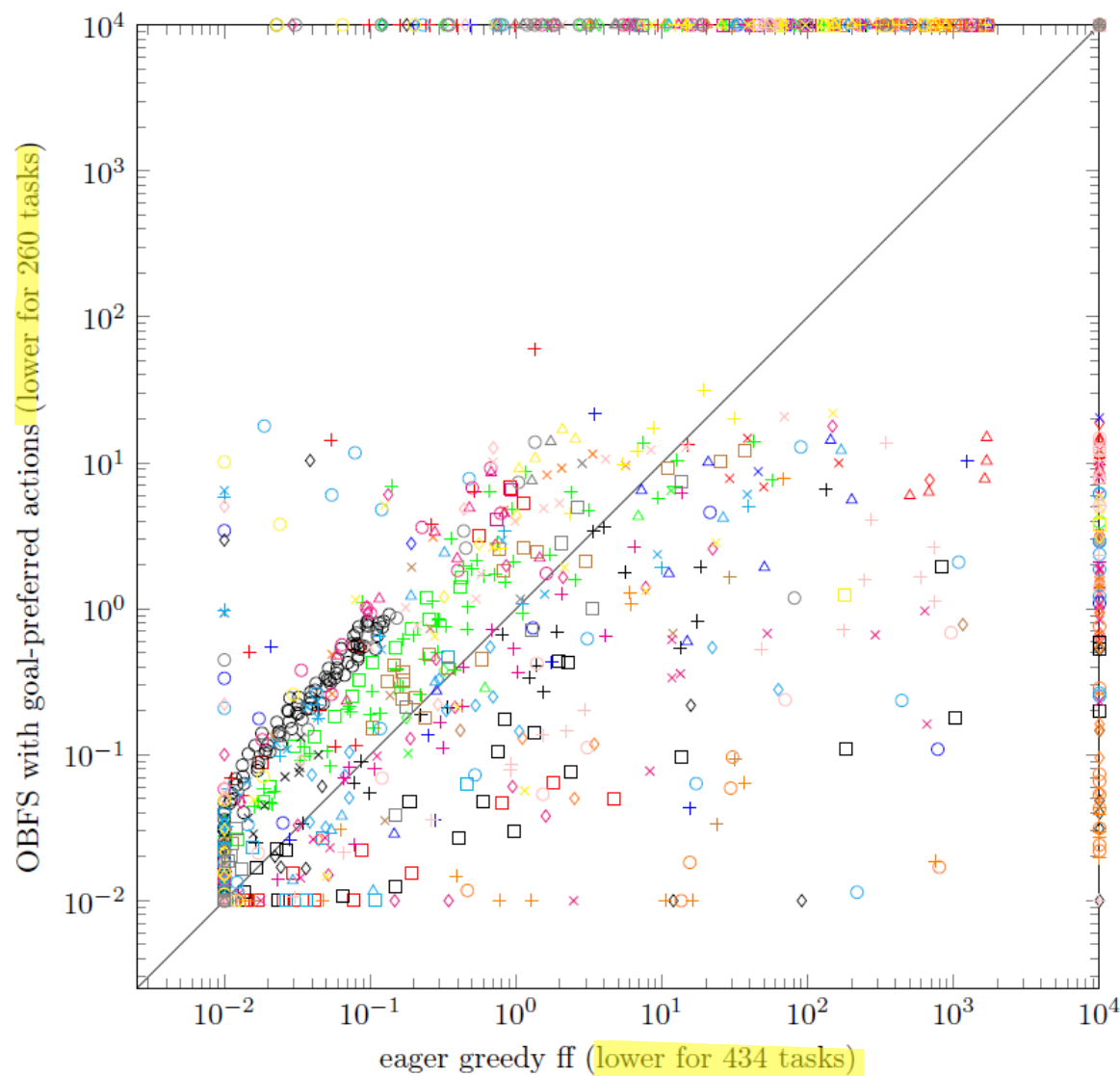


Reworked Algorithm:

- Effect variable, value pair not in initial state
- Effect variable in the goal
- Effect value not the goal value
- Goal variable not in preconditions or goal variable value pair in preconditions

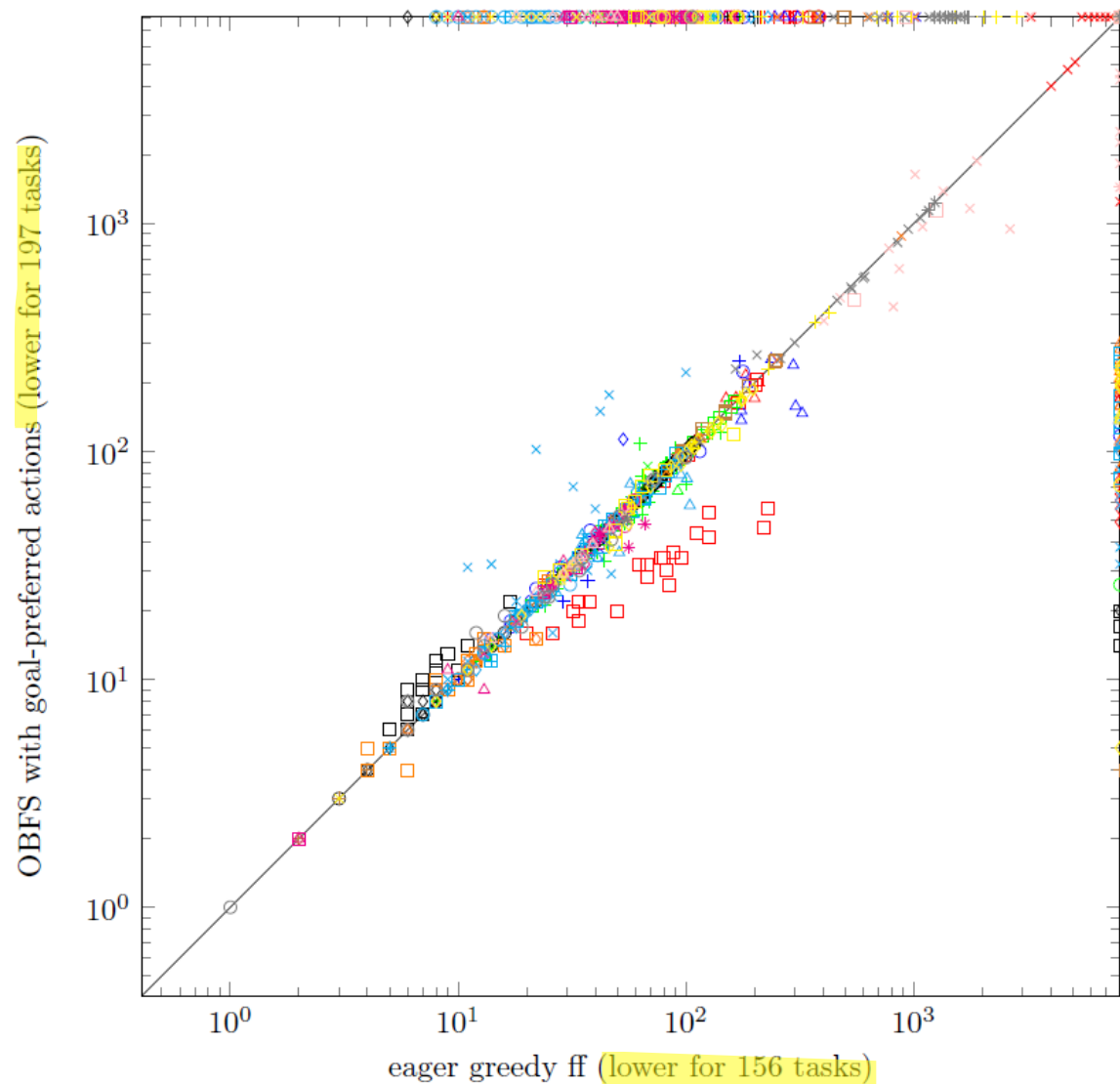
-> ***Not goal-preferred action***

Results: Search Time (Eager Greedy FF)



× agricola-sat18-strips	+ airport	○ barman-sat11-strips
△ barman-sat14-strips	□ blocks	◇ childsnack-sat14-strips
× data-network-sat18-strips	+ depot	○ driverlog
△ elevators-sat08-strips	□ elevators-sat11-strips	◇ floortile-sat11-strips
× floortile-sat14-strips	+ freecell	○ ged-sat14-strips
△ grid	□ gripper	◇ hiking-sat14-strips
× logistics00	+ logistics98	○ miconic
△ movie	□ mprime	◇ mystery
× nomystery-sat11-strips	+ openstacks-sat08-strips	○ openstacks-sat11-strips
△ openstacks-sat14-strips	□ openstacks-strips	◇ organic-synthesis-sat18-strips
× organic-synthesis-split-sat18-strips	+ parcprinter-08-strips	○ parcprinter-sat11-strips
△ parking-sat11-strips	□ parking-sat14-strips	◇ pathways
× pegsol-08-strips	+ pegsol-sat11-strips	○ pipesworld-notankage
△ pipesworld-tankage	□ psr-small	◇ quantum-layout-sat23-strips
× rovers	+ satellite	○ scanalyzer-08-strips
△ scanalyzer-sat11-strips	□ snake-sat18-strips	◇ sokoban-sat08-strips
× sokoban-sat11-strips	+ spider-sat18-strips	○ storage
△ termes-sat18-strips	□ tetris-sat14-strips	◇ thoughtful-sat14-strips
× tidybot-sat11-strips	+ tpp	○ transport-sat08-strips
△ transport-sat11-strips	□ transport-sat14-strips	◇ trucks-strips
× visitall-sat11-strips	+ visitall-sat14-strips	○ woodworking-sat08-strips
△ woodworking-sat11-strips	□ zenotravel	

Results: Cost (Eager Greedy FF)



× agricola-sat18-strips	+ airport	○ barman-sat11-strips
△ barman-sat14-strips	□ blocks	◇ childsnack-sat14-strips
× data-network-sat18-strips	+ depot	○ driverlog
△ elevators-sat08-strips	□ elevators-sat11-strips	◇ floortile-sat11-strips
× floortile-sat14-strips	+ freecell	○ ged-sat14-strips
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21.10.2025