



# Transforming Fact Landmarks to Action Landmarks for Heuristic Search

Bachelor Thesis Presentation

University of Basel - AI Research Group

**Yaowen Rui**

Supervisor: Dr. Florian Pommerening, Esther Mugdan

# Introduction

What is classical planning ?

**a sequence of actions**

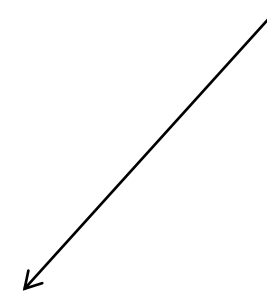


**plan**

**search algorithm**

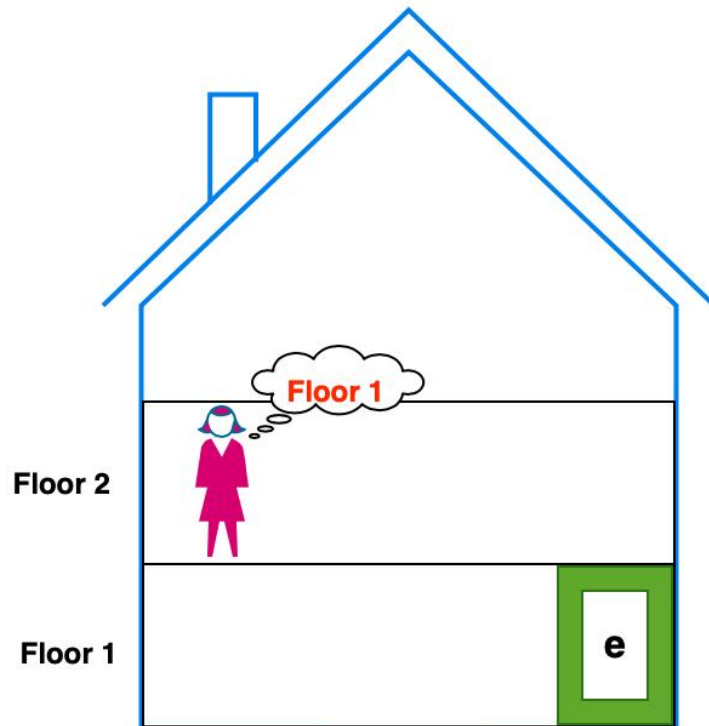
**heuristic**

**landmarks**



# Background - Example

## Elevator problem



## State variable

p-at, e-at, p-in  
 $\text{dom}(p\text{-at}) = \{1, 2\}$ ,  $\text{dom}(e\text{-at}) = \{1, 2\}$ ,  $\text{dom}(p\text{-in}) = \{e, \neg e\}$

## Initial state

Passenger on floor 2:  $\langle p\text{-at}, 2 \rangle$

Elevator on floor 1:  $\langle e\text{-at}, 1 \rangle$

Passenger not inside the elevator:  $\langle p\text{-in}, \neg e \rangle$

## The goal

Passenger on floor 1:  $\langle p\text{-at}, 1 \rangle$

## Action

p-leave-e-1

**pre:**  $\langle p\text{-in}, e \rangle$ ,  $\langle e\text{-at}, 1 \rangle$

**eff:**  $\langle p\text{-at}, 1 \rangle$

# Background - Landmark

## Definition - Disjunctive Fact Landmark

A disjunctive **fact** landmark  $l^F$  for state  $s$  is a set of **atoms** such that all  $s$ -plans  $\pi$  **visit a state containing some atom in  $l^F$** .

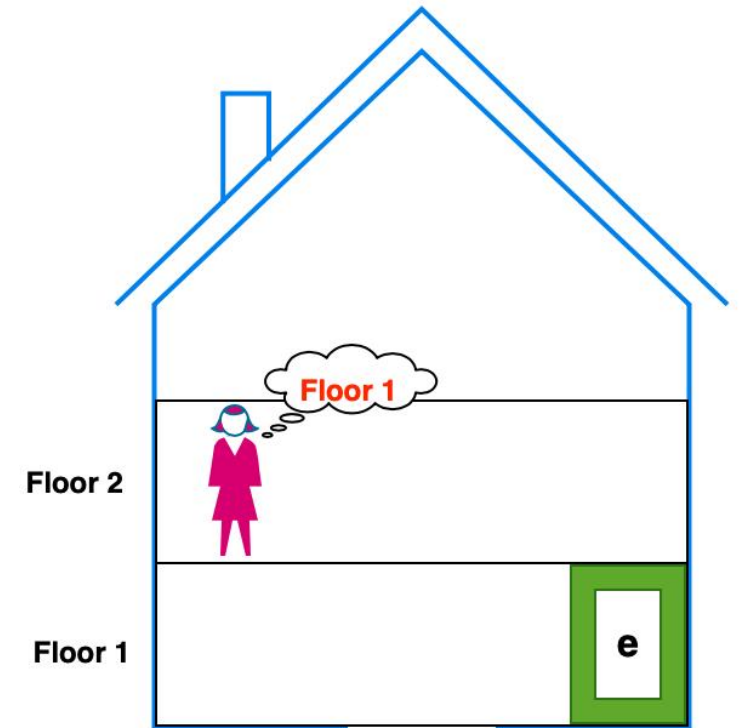
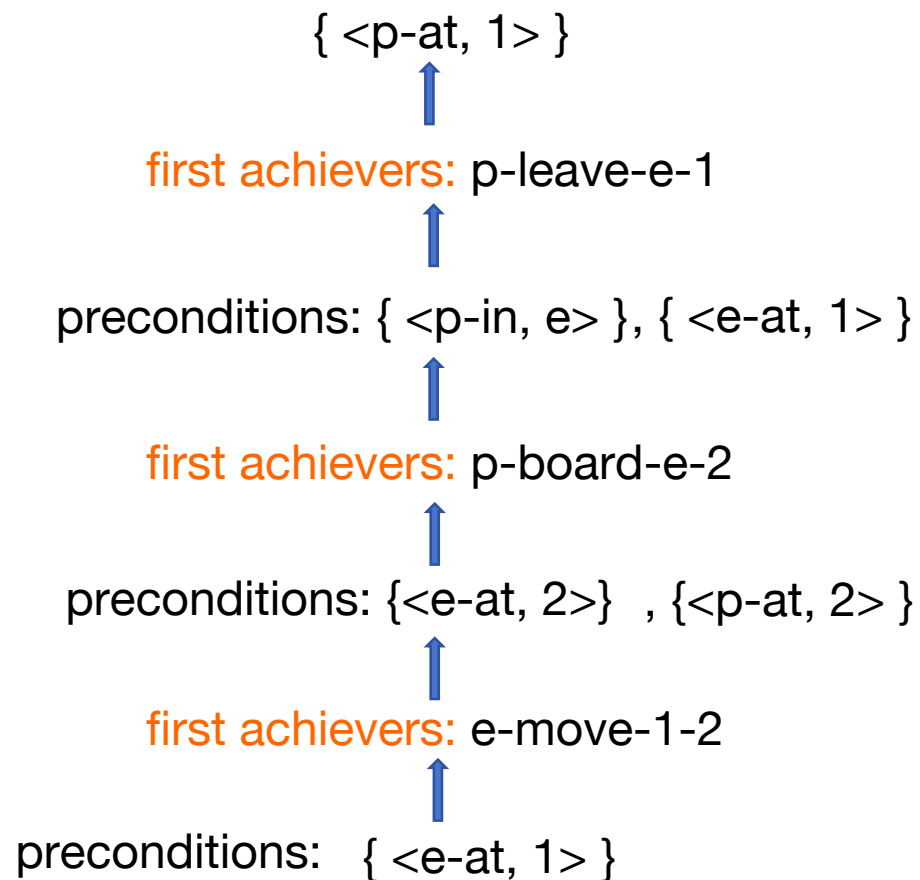
## Definition - Disjunctive Action Landmark

A disjunctive **action** landmark  $l^A$  for state  $s$  is a set of **actions** such that all  $s$ -plans  $\pi$  **satisfy  $l^A \cap \pi \neq \emptyset$** .

# Fact Landmark Generation

Preparation: **Fact landmarks**

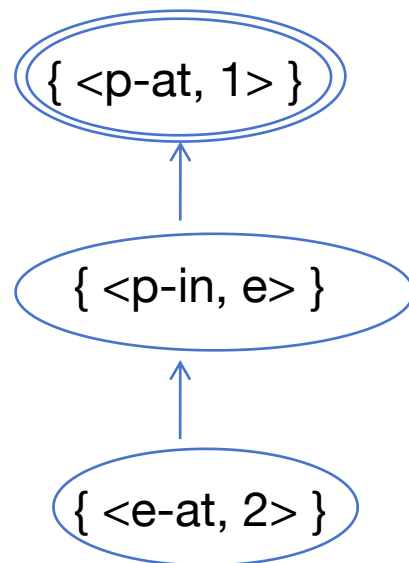
Generation of fact landmarks: Backchaining + Fact landmark candidates test



# Action Landmark Generation

## Fact Landmark Graph (V, E)

V: a set of fact landmarks, E: a set of edges labeled with natural orderings.



derive  
action  
landmarks



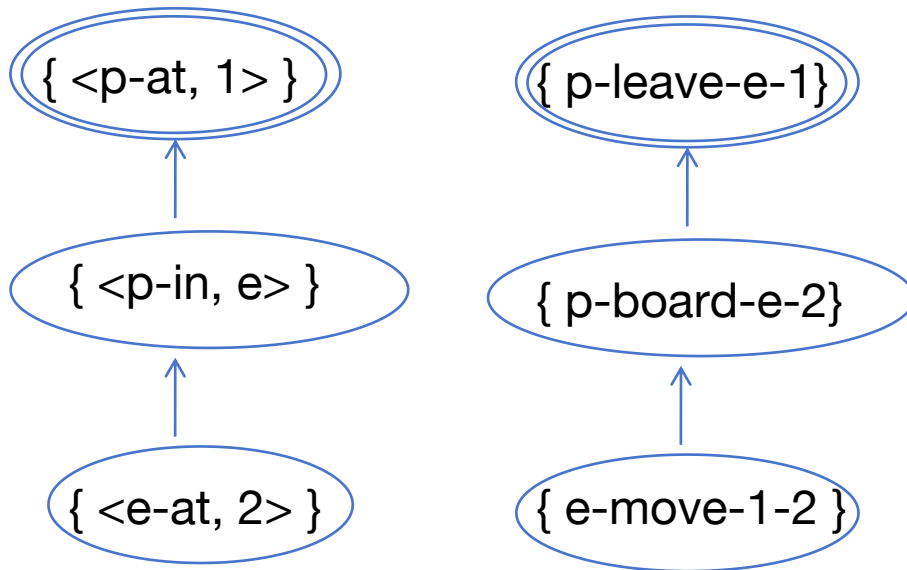
$$F = \{f_1, \dots, f_k\},$$

$$L^A(F) = \bigcup_{i=1}^k \text{first-achievers}(f_i)$$

# Action Landmark Generation

## Action Landmark Graph (V, E)

V: a set of action landmarks, E: a set of edges labeled with natural orderings.



Fact landmarks F and F':

$$F \rightarrow F'$$

Corresponding action landmarks  $L^A(F)$  and  $L^A(F')$ :

$$L^A(F) \rightarrow L^A(F')$$

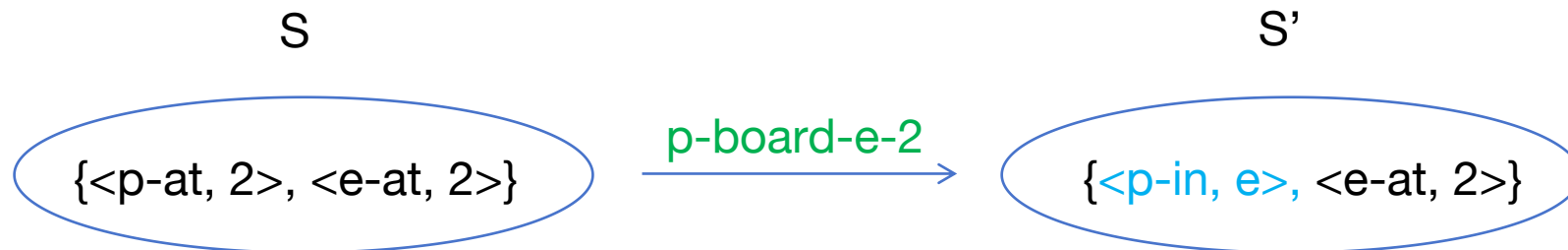
# Status of Action Landmarks in Search

How a fact landmark holds in a state?

How an action landmark holds in a state?

$F = \{ \langle \text{p-in}, e \rangle \}$

$A = \{ \text{p-board-e-2}, \text{e-move-2-1} \}$





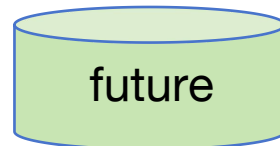
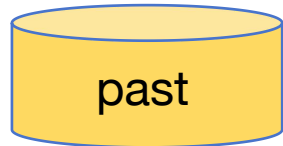
# Status of Action Landmarks in Search

Transition produced by some action  $a$ :  $s \xrightarrow{a} s'$

$L = \{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k\}$

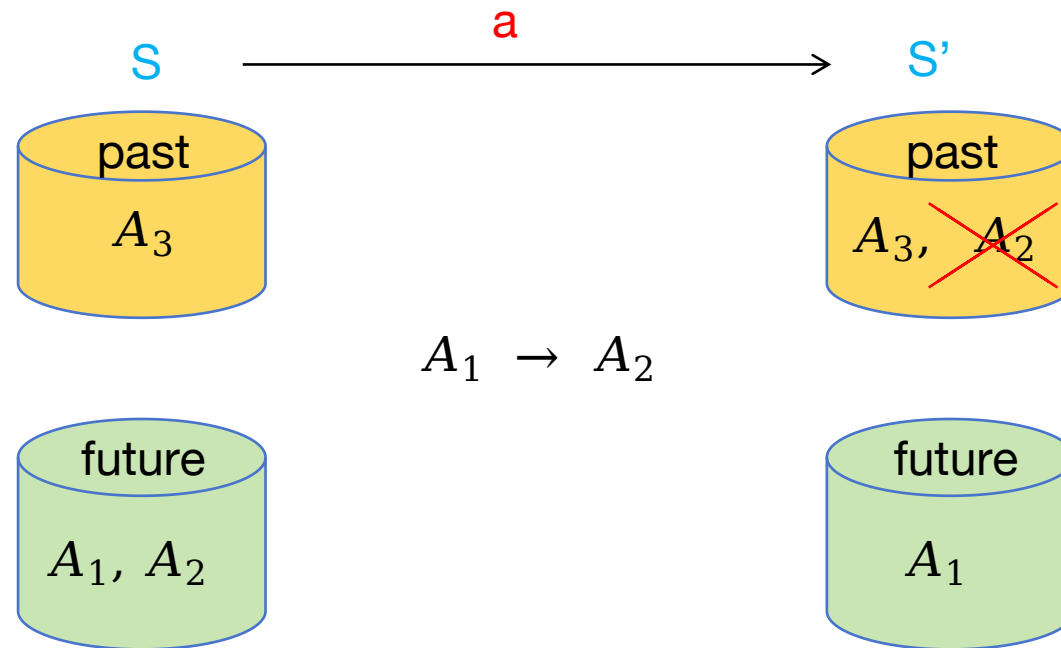
$\text{Hit}(a) = \{A \in L \mid a \in A\}$

To track action landmarks' status at each state  $s$



Example:  $L = \{A_1, A_2, A_3\}$ ,  
 $A_1 = \{b, c\}$ ,  $A_2 = \{a\}$ ,  $A_3 = \{a, d\}$

# Status of Action Landmarks in Search

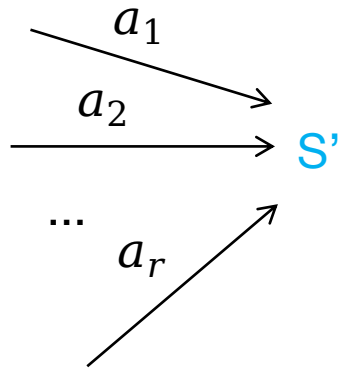


Conflict occurs.

$A_2 \in \text{Hit}(a)$  is not considered as achieved.

Example:  $L = \{A_1, A_2, A_3\}$ ,  
 $A_1 = \{b, c\}$ ,  $A_2 = \{a\}$ ,  $A_3 = \{a, d\}$

# Status of Action Landmarks in Search



**Conservative merge at  $s'$ :**

$$past(s') = \bigcap_{i=1}^r past^{a_i}(s')$$

$$future(s') = \bigcup_{i=1}^r future^{a_i}(s')$$

**Optimistic merge at  $s'$ :**

$$past(s') = \bigcup_{i=1}^r past^{a_i}(s')$$

$$future(s') = \bigcap_{i=1}^r future^{a_i}(s')$$

====> not valid

Example:  $L = \{A_1, A_2, A_3\}$ ,  $A_1 = \{\textcolor{red}{b}, c\}$ ,  $A_2 = \{a\}$ ,  $A_3 = \{a, \textcolor{red}{d}\}$

$s_1 \xrightarrow{\textcolor{red}{b}} s'$ ,  $s_2 \xrightarrow{\textcolor{red}{d}} s'$

After the first transition:  $past(s') = \{A_1\}$ ,  $future(s') = \{A_2, A_3\}$

After the second transition:  $past(s') = \{A_3\}$ ,  $future(s') = \{A_1, A_2\}$

Merge at  $s'$  :  $past(s') = \emptyset$ ,  $future(s') = \{A_1, A_2, A_3\}$

# Landmark Count Heuristic

Original landmark count heuristic  $h^{sum}$

$L^F$ : a set of fact landmarks that need to be achieved at state  $s$ ,  $F \in L^F$  is a fact landmark,  $F$ 's first achievers is  $o^F = \{o \mid o \in o_F\}$ .

$$h^{sum}(s) = \sum_{F \in L^F} C(o_F)$$

$$C(o_F) = \min_{o \in o_F} cost(o)$$

Adaptation  $h^{a-sum}$

$L^A$ : a set of action landmarks that need to be achieved at state  $s$ ,  $A \in L^A$  is an action landmark

$$h^{a-sum}(s) = \sum_{A \in L^A} C(A)$$

$$C(A) = \min_{a \in A} cost(a)$$

# Experimental results

What do we compare?

$h^{sum}$

$h^{a-sum}$

4 fact landmark factories: hm, rhw, exhaust, zg

What search algorithm do we use?

greedy best first search (lazy) algorithm

Resource limit?

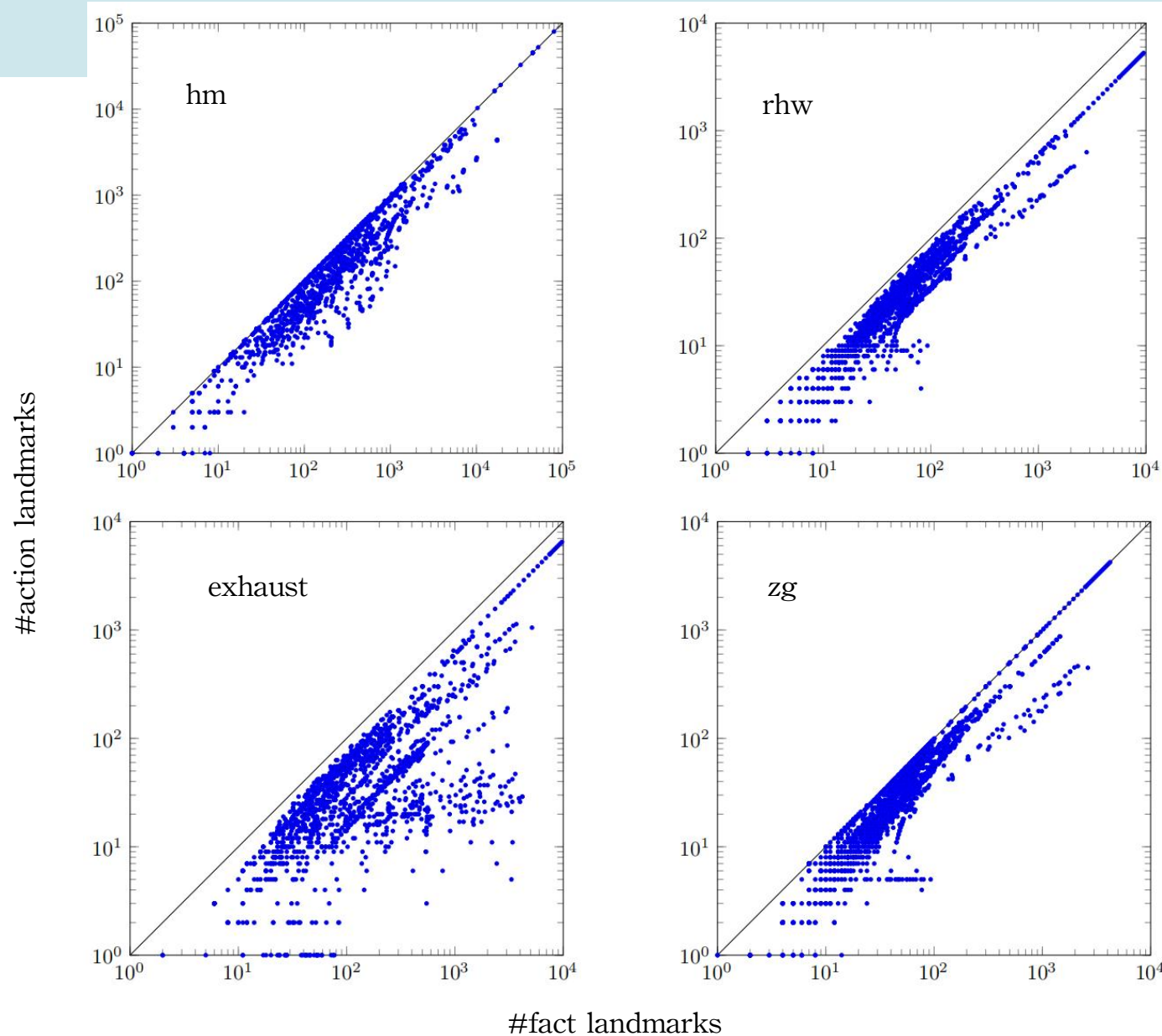
- Search time limit: 5 minutes
- Memory limit: 3584MB

# Experimental results - loss of landmarks

$$\text{landmark loss percentage} = \frac{\# \text{fact landmarks} - \# \text{action landmarks}}{\# \text{fact landmarks}}$$

	<i>hm</i>	<i>rhw</i>	<i>exhaust</i>	<i>zg</i>
Average loss per task	33.9%	46.6%	64.5%	37.9%

## Experimental results - loss of landmarks



a high loss  $\neq$  error

# Experimental results - Initial heuristic values

Whether the loss of landmarks introduced by the transformer affects the initial heuristic value ?

$$h^{sum}(s_I) = h^{a-sum}(s_I)$$

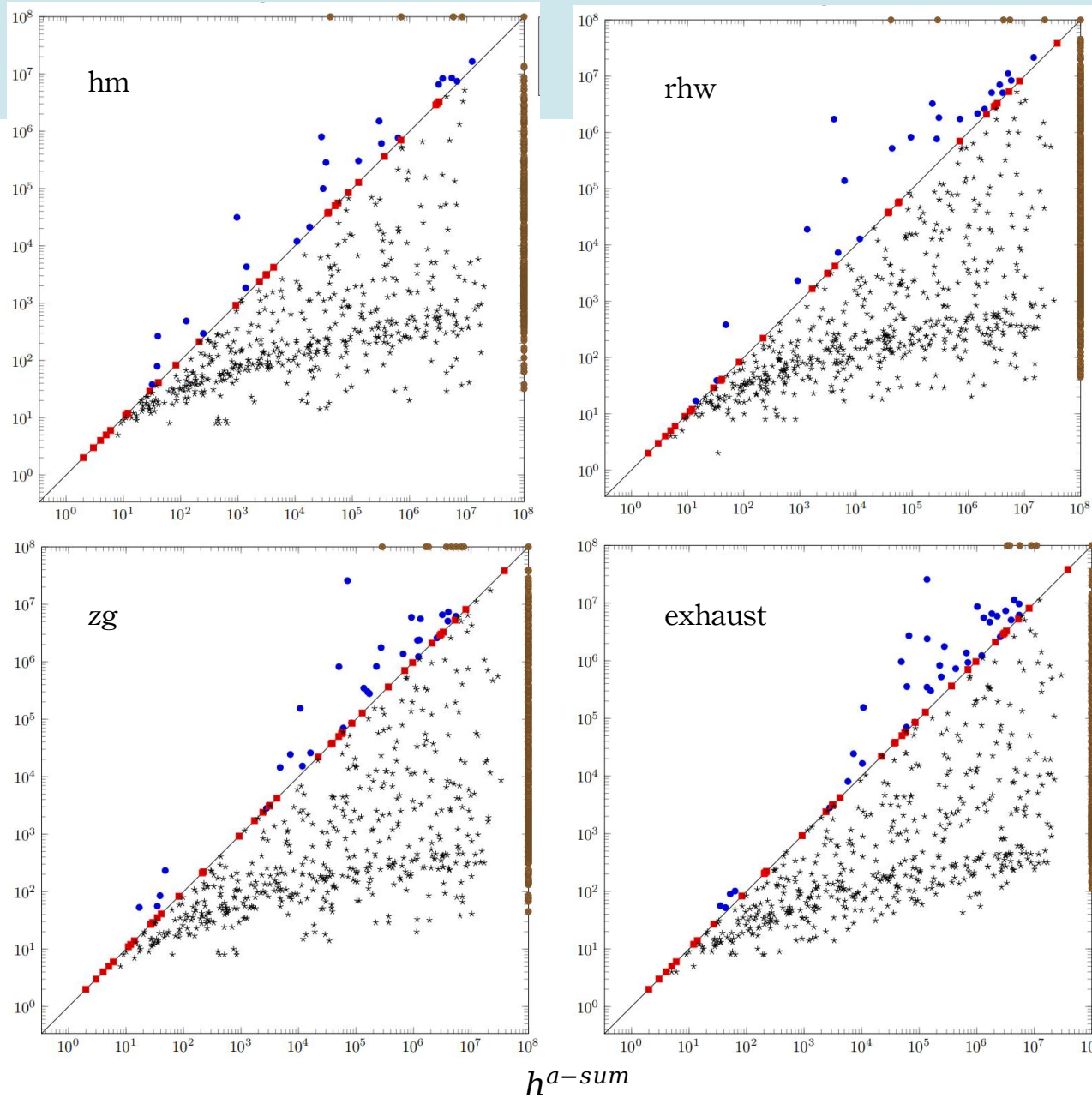
	<i>hm</i>	<i>rhw</i>	<i>exhaust</i>	<i>zg</i>
Average initial heuristic value	1765518	59245	79547	34448



# Experimental results - Expansions

$h^{sum}$  VS  $h^{a-sum}$  (with conservative merge rule)

$h^{sum}$



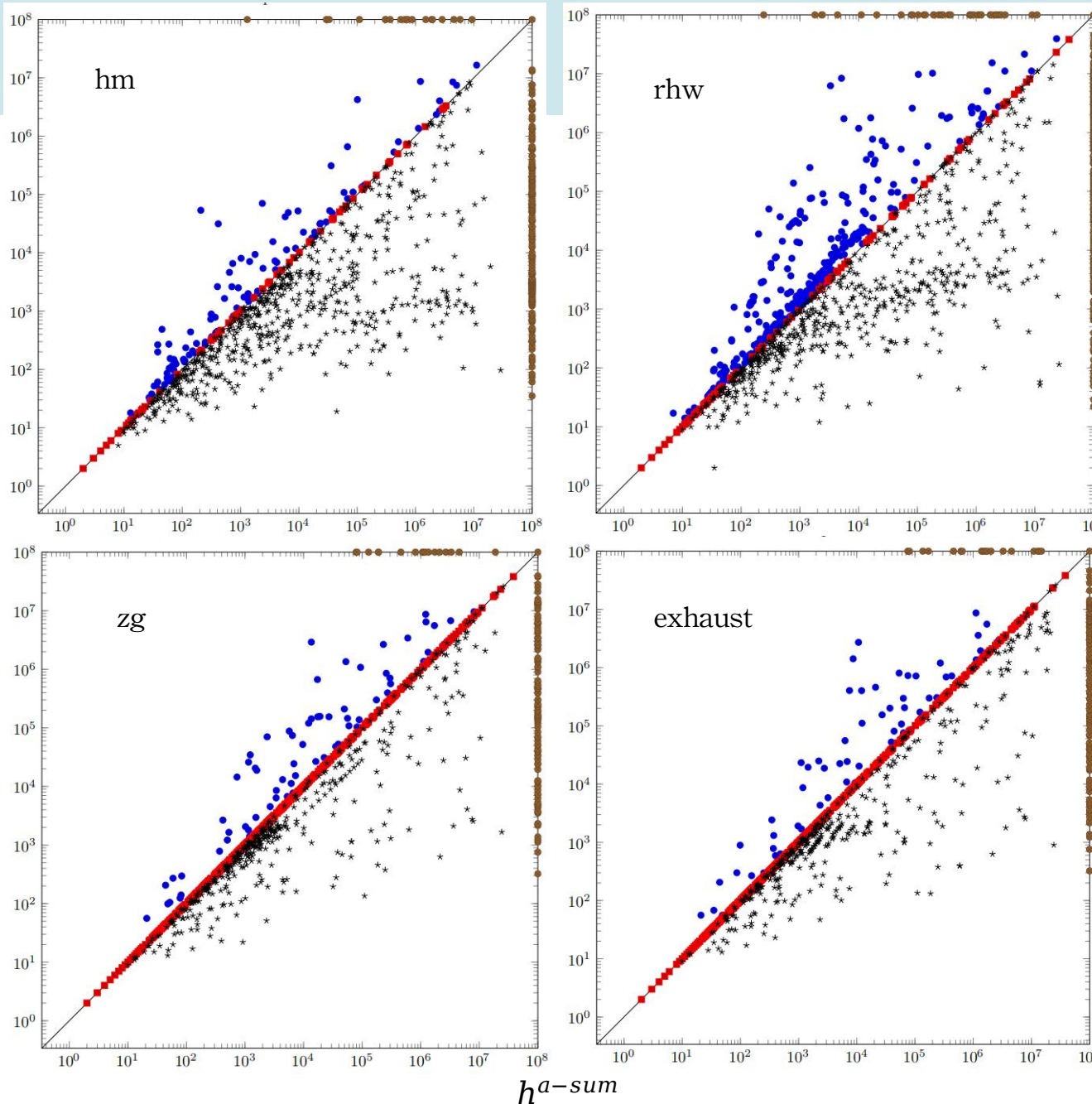
When a heuristic can better guide the search, the search algorithm expands fewer states.

# Experimental results - Expansions

Percentage of tasks on which the  
heuristics have identical expansions

	<i>hm</i>	<i>rhw</i>	<i>exhaust</i>	<i>zg</i>
Percentage of tasks	7.2%	8.0%	46.1%	45.7%

$h^{sum}$



$h^{sum}$  VS  $h^{a-sum}$  (with optimistic merge rule)

# Experimental results - Search time

$h^{sum}$  VS  $h^{a-sum}$  (with conservative merge rule)

- Search time score
- Search time per expansion

	$h^{a-sum}$				$h^{sum}$			
	<i>hm</i>	<i>rhw</i>	<i>exhaust</i>	<i>zg</i>	<i>hm</i>	<i>rhw</i>	<i>exhaust</i>	<i>zg</i>
Mean of search time score	0.22	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.45	0.56	0.50	0.52
Time per expansion	1.43	1.19	0.99	0.10	4.61	4.92	2.88	2.64

Second row: Time per expansion, numbers are multiplied by  $10^{-5}$  and measured in second.

Mean of search time score    0.37   0.47   0.46   0.48

$h^{a-sum}$  (with optimistic merge rule)

# Experimental results - Search memory

$h^{sum}$  VS  $h^{a-sum}$  (with conservative merge rule)

- Memory score
- Memory per expansion

	$h^{a-sum}$				$h^{sum}$			
	<i>hm</i>	<i>rhw</i>	<i>exhaust</i>	<i>zg</i>	<i>hm</i>	<i>rhw</i>	<i>exhaust</i>	<i>zg</i>
Mean of memory score	0.15	0.17	0.24	0.24	0.27	0.40	0.50	0.52
Memory per expansion	74.1	38.5	27.4	28.4	681.8	203.7	112.0	109.9

Second row: Memory per expansion is measured in KB

Mean of memory score 0.23 0.36 0.33 0.34

$h^{a-sum}$  (with optimistic merge rule)

# Experimental results - Coverage

Coverage records #tasks that search algorithm can solve within the resource limits.

with conservative merge rule

with optimistic merge rule

	$h^{\text{a-sum}}$	$h^{\text{sum}}$	difference	$h^{\text{a-sum}}$	$h^{\text{sum}}$	difference
<i>hm</i>	577	1088	511	913	1088	175
<i>rhw</i>	658	1399	741	1174	1399	225
<i>exhaust</i>	637	1280	643	1160	1280	120
<i>zg</i>	641	1294	653	1180	1294	114

# Conclusion and Future work

- action landmark heuristic: less time/memory per state expansion; more expansions; longer search times; higher memory consumption; lower coverages

## Future work:

- Let other landmark heuristics use the action landmarks.
- Refine the evaluation of status of action landmarks.
- Build the action landmarks directly on tasks.



```
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 17
g=0, 1 evaluated, 0 expanded
Initial heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 17
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 16
g=1, 2 evaluated, 1 expanded
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 15
g=2, 3 evaluated, 2 expanded
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 14
g=3, 5 evaluated, 4 expanded
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 13
g=4, 6 evaluated, 5 expanded
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 12
g=5, 7 evaluated, 6 expanded
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 11
g=6, 12 evaluated, 11 expanded
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 10
g=7, 13 evaluated, 12 expanded
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 9
g=8, 19 evaluated, 18 expanded
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 8
g=9, 20 evaluated, 19 expanded
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 7
g=10, 28 evaluated, 27 expanded
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 6
g=11, 29 evaluated, 28 expanded
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 5
g=12, 30 evaluated, 29 expanded
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 4
g=13, 40 evaluated, 39 expanded
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 3
g=15, 50 evaluated, 49 expanded
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 2
g=17, 61 evaluated, 60 expanded
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 1
g=19, 74 evaluated, 73 expanded
Solution found!
Actual search time: 0.001113s
```

$h^{a-sum}$

optimistic merge rule VS conservative merge rule

```
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 17
g=0, 1 evaluated, 0 expanded
Initial heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 17
New best heuristic value for landmark_sum_action_heuristic: 16
g=1, 2 evaluated, 1 expanded
Solution found!
Actual search time: 0.148163s
```

$h^{a-sum}$ 

optimistic merge rule VS conservative merge rule

```
Expanded 83 state(s).  
Reopened 0 state(s).  
Evaluated 84 state(s).  
Evaluations: 84  
Generated 815 state(s).  
Dead ends: 0 state(s).  
Number of registered states: 84  
Int hash set load factor: 84/128 = 0.656250  
Int hash set resizes: 7  
Search time: 0.001158s  
Total time: 0.009879s
```

```
Expanded 6849 state(s).  
Reopened 0 state(s).  
Evaluated 6850 state(s).  
Evaluations: 6850  
Generated 66647 state(s).  
Dead ends: 0 state(s).  
Number of registered states: 6850  
Int hash set load factor: 6850/8192 = 0.836182  
Int hash set resizes: 13  
Search time: 0.148205s  
Total time: 0.157168s
```