Implicit coordination for epistemic planning and human-robot collaboration

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Epistemic planning =

automated *planning* (AI) + *epistemic* reasoning (epistemic logic)

Aim: To compute plans that can take the mental states of other agents into account.

Essentially: (Decentralised) **multi-agent planning** in environments with (potentially higher-order) **information asymmetry**.



Automated planning

Epistemic reasoning about the mental states of others

Classical automated planning: state space search and domain descriptions



Action schema describing the Put(x, y) action for put object x on top of object y:



[Ghallab et al., 2004, Baltag et al., 1998, van Ditmarsch and Kooi, 2008]



Link to movie (clickable): http://www2.compute.dtu.dk/~tobo/komdigital_pepper_video.mov

Thomas Bolander, Professor DTU Compute Technical University of Denmark

DTU

KomDigital: R2DTU - A Pepper robot, 25 November 2020 [?]



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But...



(poor person 2)

Sally-Anne with a twist (in GPT-4 = ChatGPT+)

Sally and Anne are playing with a marble. Sally puts the marble into her basket. Then she goes outside to play. While she is outside, Anne drinks a coke. Now Sally comes back. Sally sees Anne taking the marble from the basket and putting it into her box. Where will Sally look for her marble?

ASSISTANT

USER

Sally will look for her marble in her basket. Since that was where she originally placed it before leaving, and she did not see Anne move the marble, she would expect it to still be there.



B A









C C B A B B b















Epistemic states: Multi-pointed epistemic models of multi-agent S5. Nodes are **worlds**, edges are **indistinguishability relations**. **Designated worlds**: **O** (those considered possible by planning agent).

Agent b: "Which letter does the middle block have?"



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 a_1 : open is an event model (representing an action). In these, nodes are events, and each event has a **precondition** (epistemic formula) and **postconditions** for all atoms (also epistemic formulas).



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Second-order false-belief tasks



Full formalisation of second-order chocolate task:

boy:+In(choc, drawer); boy:-boy⊲girl, -girl⊲boy; boy:+boy⊲girl; girl:-In(choc, drawer); girl:+In(choc, box).

True in resulting state: $B_{girl}box \wedge B_{boy}box \wedge B_{girl}B_{boy}drawer$.

Planning based on DEL: epistemic planning tasks

Definition. An **(epistemic) planning task** $T = (s_0, A, \varphi_g)$ consists of

- A multipointed Kripke model *s*₀ called the **initial state**.
- A finite set of multipointed event models A called actions.
- A goal formula φ_g of epistemic logic.

Definition. A (sequential) **plan** for a planning task $T = (s_0, A, \varphi_g)$ is a sequence of actions $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_n$ from A such that for all $1 \le i \le n$, α_i is applicable in $s_0 \otimes \alpha_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \alpha_{i-1}$ and

$$s_0 \otimes \alpha_1 \otimes \alpha_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes \alpha_n \models \varphi_g.$$

Defining $((\alpha))\varphi := \langle \alpha \rangle \top \land [\alpha]\varphi$, this can be reformulated as $s_0 \models ((\alpha_1))((\alpha_2)) \cdots ((\alpha_n))\varphi_{\sigma}.$

Definition. A plan $i_1:\alpha_1, \ldots i_n:\alpha_n$ (using notation $i:\alpha$ for agent i performing action α) is **implicitly coordinated** if it furthermore holds that :

$$s_0 \models K_{i_1}((i_1:\alpha_1))K_{i_2}((i_2:\alpha_2))\cdots K_{i_n}((i_n:\alpha_n))\varphi_g.$$

[Bolander and Andersen, 2011, Engesser et al., 2017, Bolander et al., 2020] Thomas Bolander - p. 13/22










Conflicting implicitly coordinated plans: Move to (nondeterministic) policies



[Bolander et al., 2018]

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[Bolander et al., 2018]

Implicit coordination: multi-agent pathfinding with destination uncertainty



[Nebel et al., 2019, Bolander et al., 2021]

Towards forward induction in implicit coordination



Atomic propositions:

- *I*: There's a goal in the leftmost position (pos. 1)
- r: There's a goal is the rightmost position (pos. 5)
- p_i: The lever is at position i

Goal: $\varphi_g = (l \wedge p_1) \lor (r \wedge p_5)$ Alice (a) can only pull left (a:L), Bob (b) can only pull right (b:R).

$$l, p_3$$
 a l, r, p_3 b r, p_3













Each agent plans from their local perspective, i.e., we close the set of designated worlds under the accessibility relation of that agent. Below the perspective of *a*.





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- Gives a somewhat "realistic" solution concept for multiagent systems.



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Work in progress with Victoria Nuñez Romero

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Implicit coordination in multi-agent pathfinding revisited



Towards depth-bounded reasoning in epistemic planning: *k*-bisimulation contractions

k-**bisimilarity**, $s \bigoplus_k t$: Models *s* and *t* satisfy the back and forth conditions of bisimilarity up to distance *k* from the designated world(s).

Theorem [Blackburn et al., 2001]. If $s \bigoplus_k t$ then s and t are modally equivalent to modal depth k (agree on all formulas up to modal depth k).

k-bisimulation contraction, $\lfloor s \rfloor_k$: Quotient of *s* wrt. \Leftrightarrow_k .

Note: A k-bisimulation contraction is not necessarily minimal among models preserving modal equivalence to depth k. A recent revised notion of k-contraction remedies this [Bolander and Burigana, 2024].

Theorem [Bolander and Lequen, 2023]. If $s \bigoplus_k t$ then $s \otimes \alpha \bigoplus_{k-md(\alpha)} t \otimes \alpha$, where $md(\alpha)$ is the maximal modal depth of any pre- or post-condition of α .



Theorem. The plan existence problem in epistemic planning is decidable when all actions have propositional pre- and postconditions (i.e., m = 0). (Orig. proof by [Yu et al., 2013])

Epistemic planning with depth-bounded reasoning

Paper currently under submission. We present a planning algorithm BOUNDEDSEARCH(T, b) with bound b (simplified version):

- "Approximate" initial state s_0 with $\lfloor s_0 \rfloor_b$. Define bound $b(s_0) = b$.
- For each computed product update s ⊗ α, let
 b(s ⊗ α) = b(s) md(α) (cf. theorem on previous slide).
- If $b(s) < modal-depth(\varphi_g)$, delete s.

Parameters of planning task T (we study parameterised complexity).

- a: # agents p: # propositional variables
- o: modal depth of goal formula u: maximal length of plan
- c: max. modal depth of action preconditions

Theorem (Soundness and completeness). BOUNDEDSEARCH(T, b) is sound, and if T is solvable, a solution will be found when $b \ge cu + o$.

Theorem (Complexity). BOUNDEDSEARCH(T, b) runs in time $|T|^{O(1)} \exp_2^{b+1} O(a + p)$. (So fixed-parameter tractable in $\{a, c, o, p, u\}$) For any proper subset of the parameters $\{a, c, o, p, u\}$, even plan verification is fixed-parameter intractable. [Bolander and Lequen, 2023]

Appendix: References I



Appendix: References II



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