Informatics 2D Tutorial 7
Planning and Acting in the Real World *
Week 8

Problem description
This week’s tutorial builds on last week’s tea making domain. Your personal robotic assistant who helps you make tea has the following information:

- a set of predicates:
  - cup(c), kettle(k), containsWater(x) where x is either a cup or a kettle, containsTeabag(x) where x is usually a cup, waterIsHot() which takes no arguments.

- a set of actions:

  - Action(FillWithWaterFromTap(k),
    Precond: kettle(k) \land \neg containsWater(k),
    Effect: containsWater(k))

  - Action(AddTeabagToCup(c),
    Precond: cup(c) \land \neg containsTeabag(c),
    Effect: containsTeabag(c))

  - Action(PourWaterToCupFromKettle(c, k),
    Precond: kettle(k) \land cup(c) \land waterIsHot \land containsWater(k) \land \neg containsWater(c),
    Effect: containsWater(c))

  - Action(BoilWaterInKettle(k),
    Precondition: kettle(k) \land \neg waterIsHot() \land \prod containsWater(k)
    Effect: waterIsHot())

You ask the robot to make you two cups of tea $C_1$ and $C_2$. This goal state can be represented as follows:

\[
\text{containsWater}(C_1) \land \text{containsWater}(C_2) \land \text{containsTeabag}(C_1) \land \text{containsTeabag}(C_2) \land \text{waterIsHot}()
\]

* Credits: Mihai Dobre, Alex Lascarides

1 now corrected, sorry.
1 Planning with certainty

With an initial state of:
\[ \text{kettle}(K) \land \text{cup}(C_1) \land \text{cup}(C_2) \]
and everything else being false, since we are operating under a closed world assumption, produce
a plan that takes you from the initial state to the goal state described above.

2 Conformant Planning

Assume that your robot does not have complete information about the state of the world at the
start of the problem, and has no sensing abilities either. Let’s assume that in the initial state
the robot knows that \( K \) is a kettle, \( C_1 \) and \( C_2 \) are cups, but does not know whether any of the
containers contain water or tea, or whether or not the water is hot.

1. Represent the agent’s belief state as a compact logical representation, which expresses the
agent’s ignorance about predicates by not mentioning them, and by explicitly mentioning
everything else in the world whether true or false.

2. Modify the description of your world by introducing new actions or by making changes to
existing actions to enable your robot to produce a conformant plan, i.e. a plan that works
regardless of what the true state of the world is at the start of the problem.

3. Give an example of a conformant plan to make two cups of tea for your updated domain.

3 Contingent Planning

Assume that your robot has incomplete information about the state of the world at the start of
the problem, but is equipped with sensing abilities that allow it to detect the true value of the
unknown predicates.

1. Add sensing actions to the original domain (which excludes changes you’ve made in step
2) to allow your agent to produce contingent plans that examine the different possibilities
for the predicates \( \text{containsWater}(x) \), \( \text{containsTeabag}(x) \), and \( \text{waterIsHot}() \).

2. Let’s say that the agent’s initial belief state is as follows:
\[ \text{kettle}(K) \land \text{cup}(C) \land \text{containsTeabag}(C) \land \lnot \text{containsWater}(C) \land \text{containsWater}(K) \]
this means that the agent does not know whether or not the water is hot. Write an example
of a contingent plan that should result in a cup of tea in cup \( C \).