

Intention Interleaving Via Classical Replanning

Mengwei Xu, Kim Bauters, Kevin McAreavey, Weiru Liu



Extending Belief-Desire-Intention (BDI) Agents to Managing Intention Interleaving



Intention Resolution: to avoid negative interference



Guarantee the achievability of intentions when interleaving the steps in different intentions



Intention Merging: to facilitate positive interference

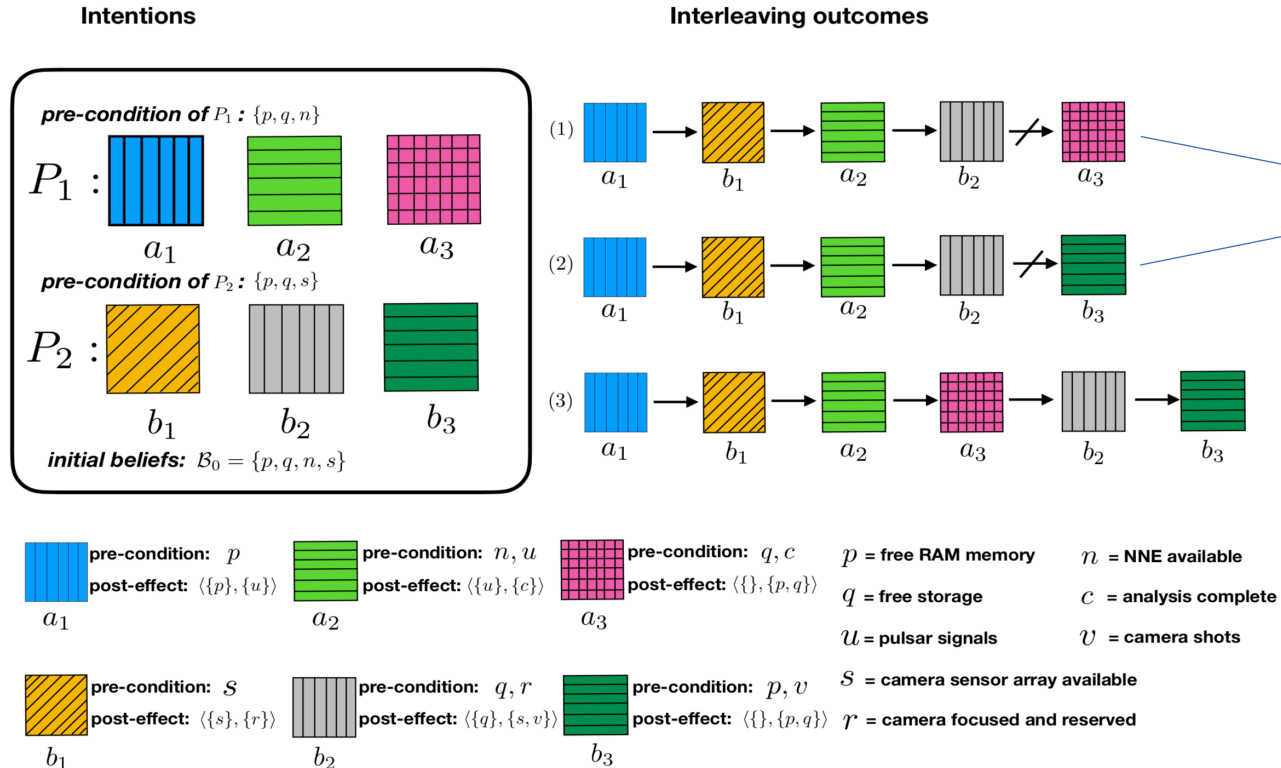


Perform one task once for at least two goals, i.e. “kill two birds with one stone”

Motivation to Manage Intention Interleaving



Intention Resolution

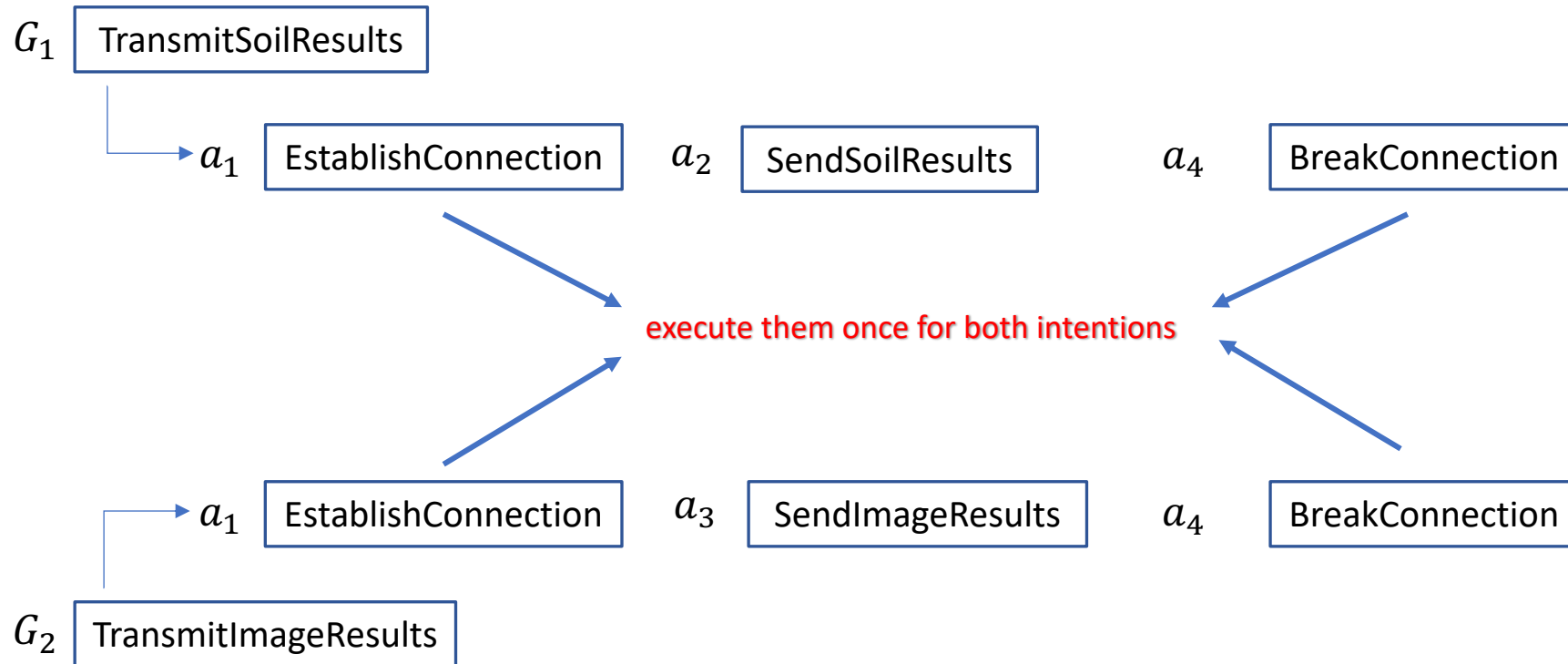


Careless interleaving could result in that neither of its intention can be completed.

Motivation to Manage Intention Interleaving



Intention Merging



Belief-Desire-Intention: Literature

Logics

[Cohen & Levesque, 1990]

[Rao & Georgeff, 1991]

[Shoham, 2009]

Programming Languages

AgentSpeak [Rao, 1996]

CAN [Winikoff et al., 2002]

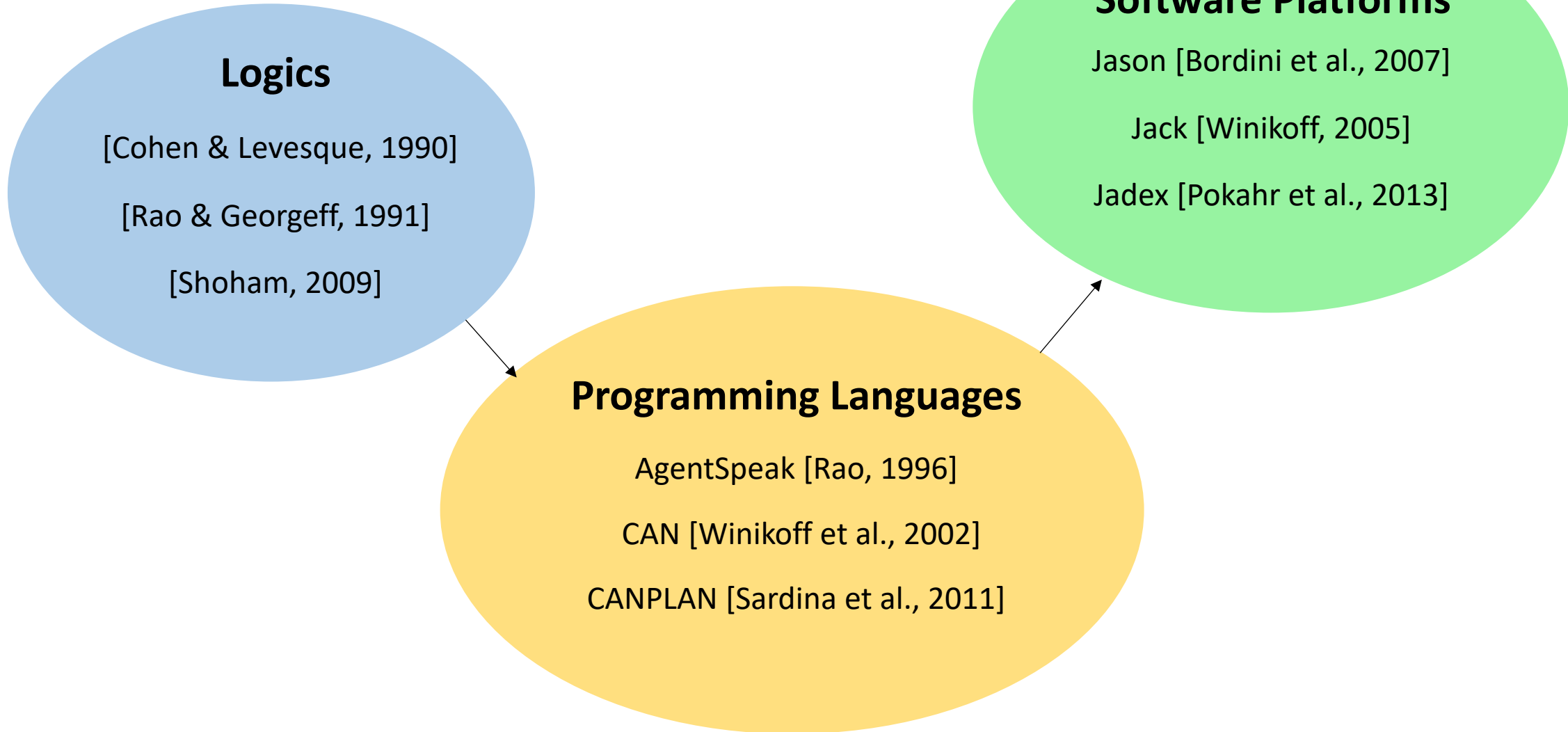
CANPLAN [Sardina et al., 2011]

Software Platforms

Jason [Bordini et al., 2007]

Jack [Winikoff, 2005]

Jadex [Pokahr et al., 2013]



BDI Agent ($\mathcal{B}, \Lambda, \Pi$)

Initial belief base

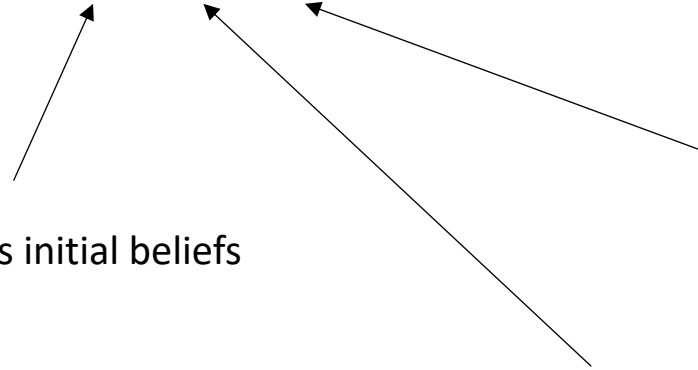
Belief base specifying agent's initial beliefs

Plan library

Set of plan rules

Action library

Set of STRIPS-style action descriptions



BDI Agent ($\mathcal{B}, \Lambda, \Pi$)

Initial belief base

Belief base specifying agent's initial beliefs

Belief base $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{L}$

Set of formulas from **logical language** \mathcal{L}

\mathcal{B} must support:

- $\mathcal{B} \models \varphi$ (Entailment)
- $\mathcal{B} \cup \{\varphi\}$ (Addition)
- $\mathcal{B} \setminus \{\varphi\}$ (Deletion)

Assume \mathcal{B} is a set of atoms

CAN: Agent $(\mathcal{B}, \Lambda, \Pi)$

Action library
Set of STRIPS-style action descriptions

Action description $\text{act} : \varphi \leftarrow \mathcal{B}^- ; \mathcal{B}^+$

Primitive action symbol

Precondition $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}$

Set of "delete" atoms $\mathcal{B}^- \subseteq \mathcal{L}$

Set of "add" atoms $\mathcal{B}^+ \subseteq \mathcal{L}$

BDI Agent ($\mathcal{B}, \Lambda, \Pi$)

Plan library

Set of plan rules

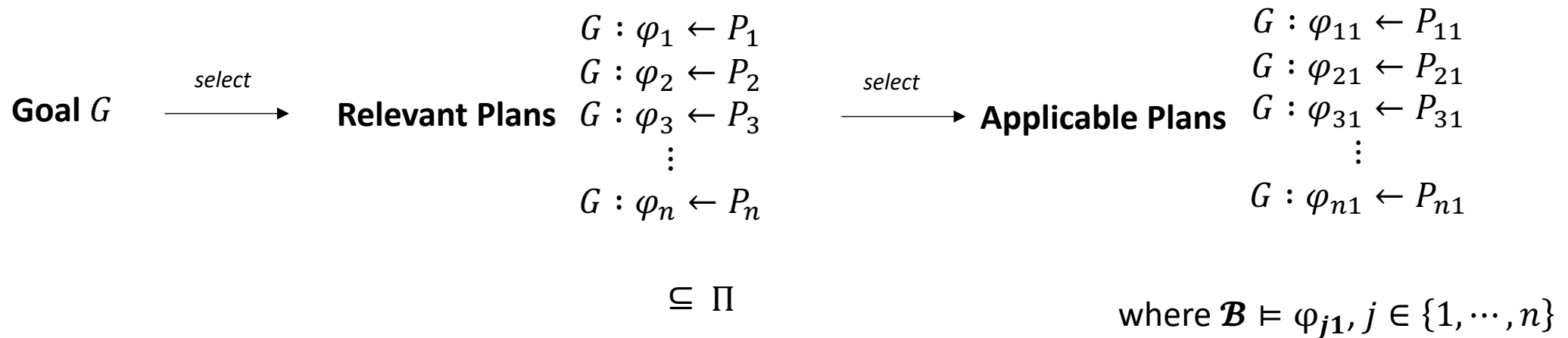
Head(P): G
e.g. new goal

Context(P): $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}$
Formula from \mathcal{L}

body(P): $h_1; \dots; h_n$
e.g. a sequence of actions or goals

Plan rule $P = G: \varphi \leftarrow h_1; \dots; h_n$

BDI Operational Mechanism Sketch



repeat for the subgoals

A **tree structure** representing all possible ways of achieving a goal G

Our Intention Interleaving Framework in BDI

1. Intention Formalisation

- Model an intention as an AND/OR graph
- Define the execution trace for multiple intentions
- Define the conflict-free and maximal-merged execution trace for multiple intentions

2. Intention Interleaving Planning Preparation

- Indexing nodes
- Defined terminal, initial node sets, and progression links of intentions
- Computing overlapping programs between multiple intentions

3. Intention Interleaving Planning Formalism

- Formalise FPP problem of interleaving intentions
- Correctness Proof

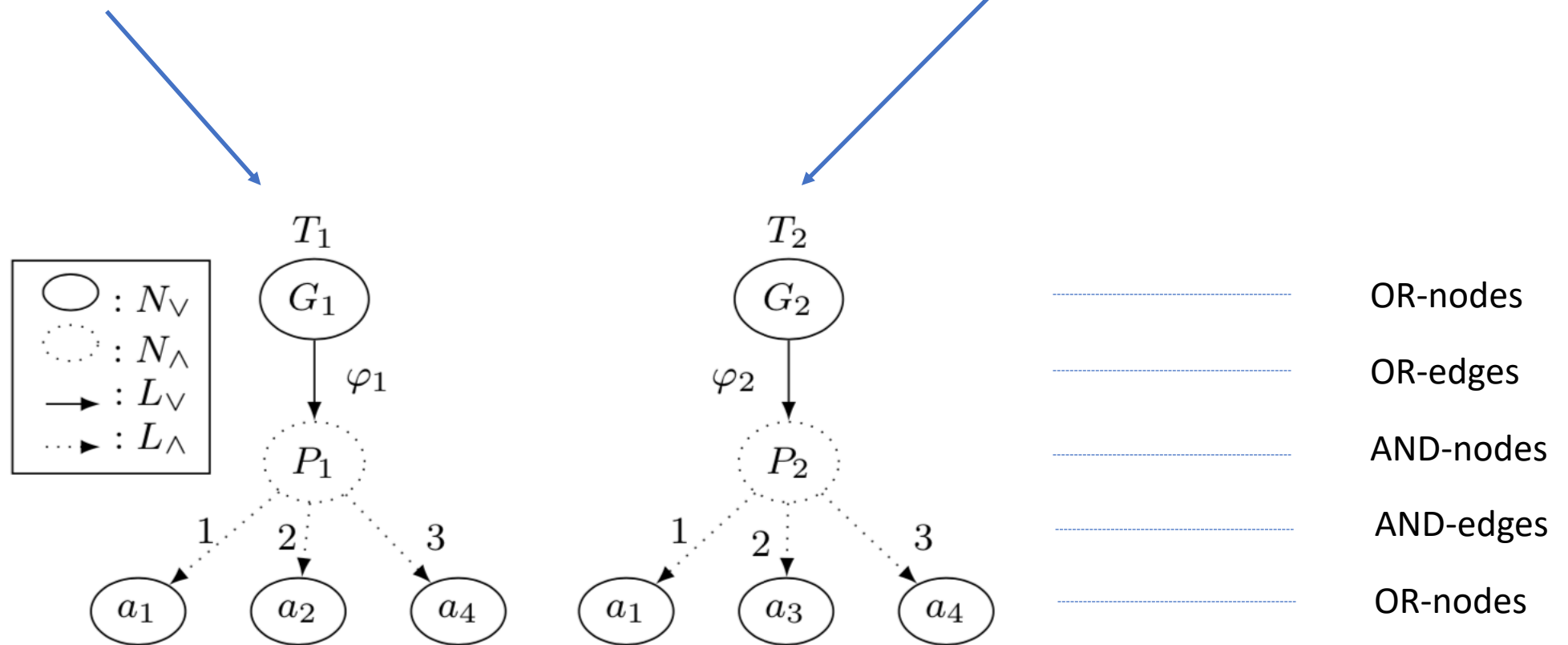
4. Implementation

5. Evaluation

AND/OR Graphs for Intentions

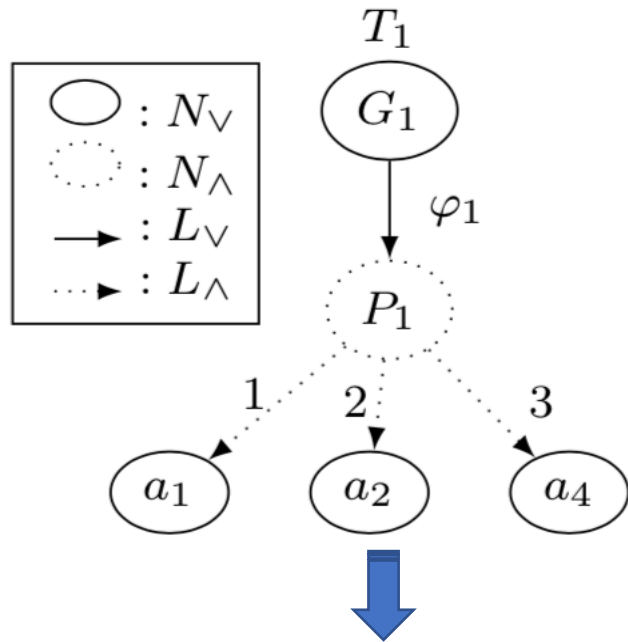
$$P_1 = G_1: \varphi_1 \leftarrow a_1; a_2; a_4$$

$$P_2 = G_2: \varphi_2 \leftarrow a_1; a_3; a_4$$

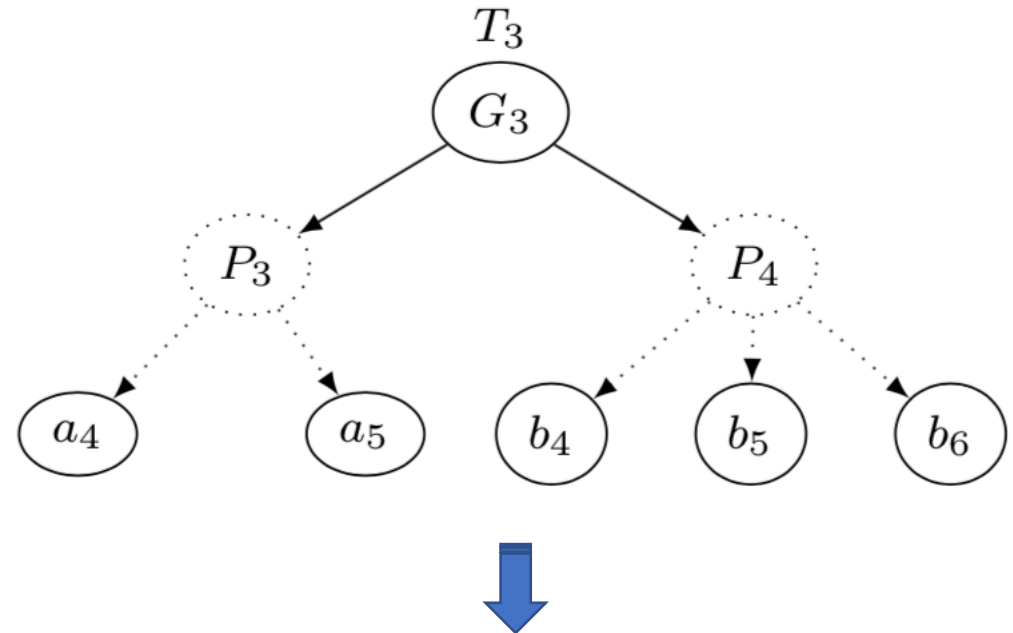


Execution Trace for An Intention

To identifies every unique way in which a given intention can be achieved



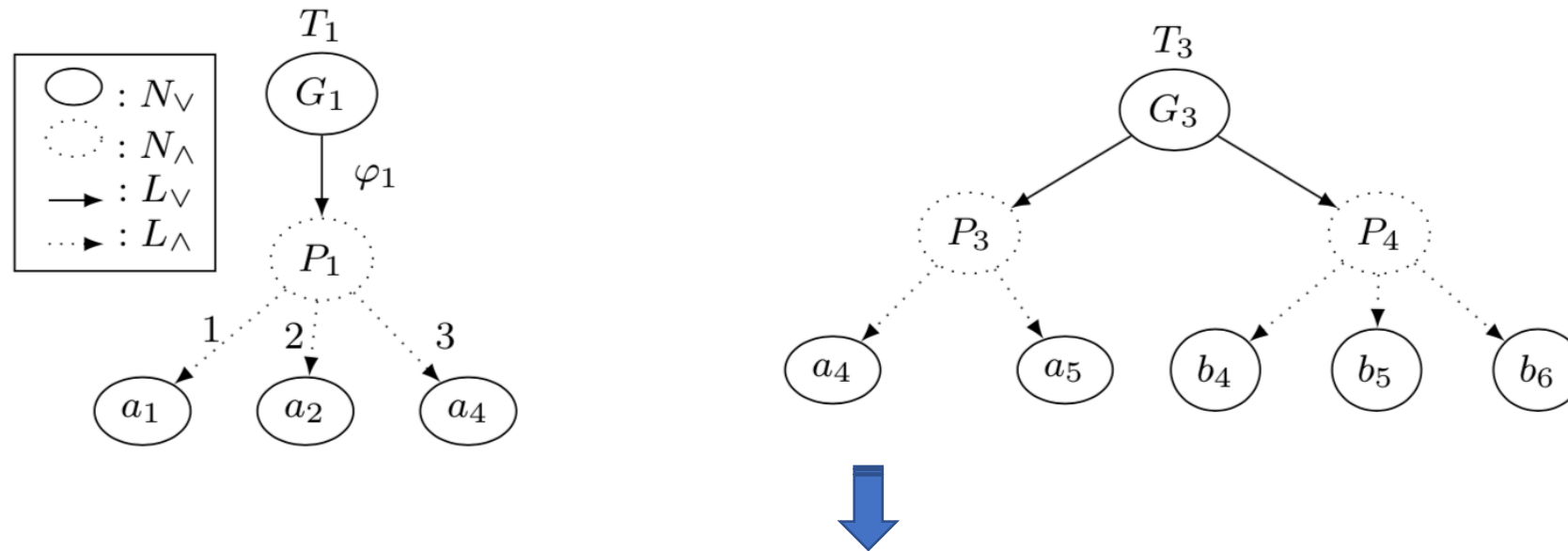
Execution trace for T_1 : $\tau(T_1) = G_1; P_1; a_1; a_2; a_4$



Execution trace for T_3 :
 $\tau_1(T_3) = G_3; P_3; a_4; a_5$
 $\tau_2(T_3) = G_3; P_4; b_4; b_5; b_6$

Execution Trace for Multiple Intentions

The construction of an execution trace of a set of intentions is to interleave elements in the execution traces of different intentions



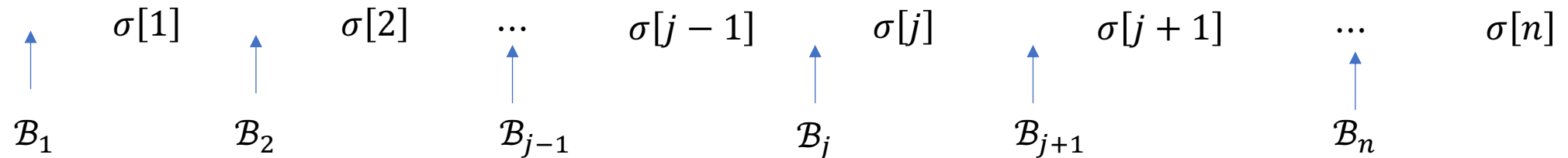
Potential execution trace for T_1 and T_3 : $\sigma = \mathbf{G}_1; \mathbf{P}_1; \mathbf{G}_3; \mathbf{P}_3; \mathbf{a}_1; \mathbf{a}_4; \mathbf{a}_2; \mathbf{a}_4; \mathbf{a}_5$

by interleaving $\tau(T_1) = \mathbf{G}_1; \mathbf{P}_1; \mathbf{a}_1; \mathbf{a}_2; \mathbf{a}_4$ and $\tau_1(T_3) = \mathbf{G}_3; \mathbf{P}_3; \mathbf{a}_4; \mathbf{a}_5$

Execution Trace for Intentions (Cont.)

Conflict-free Execution Trace:

To model the successful interleaving which achieves all intentions



where \mathcal{B}_j is the belief base **before** the execution of the j^{th} element of an execution trace (i.e. $\sigma[j]$)

An execution trace σ is **conflict-free** if and only if the following hold:

1. if $\sigma[j] = P \in \Pi$, then $\mathcal{B}_j \models \text{context}(P)$, i.e. the context of plan P must be met before selection
2. if $\sigma[j] = a \in \Lambda$, then $\mathcal{B}_j \models \psi(a)$, i.e. the pre-condition of action a must be met before selection

Execution Trace for Intentions (Cont.)

Mergeable Execution Trace of $\{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$

To capture the overlapping programs of different intentions

σ : $\sigma[1]$ $\sigma[2]$ \dots $\underbrace{\sigma[j] \quad \sigma[j+1] \quad \dots \quad \sigma[j+k-1] \quad \sigma[j+k]}_{k \text{ consecutive same element from all difference intentions in } \sigma}$ \dots $\sigma[n]$

k consecutive same element from all difference intentions in σ



σ^m : $\sigma[1]$ $\sigma[2]$ \dots $\sigma[j]$ \dots $\sigma[j+k+1]$ \dots $\sigma[n]$

An execution trace σ is a **mergeable execution trace** if and only if the following hold:

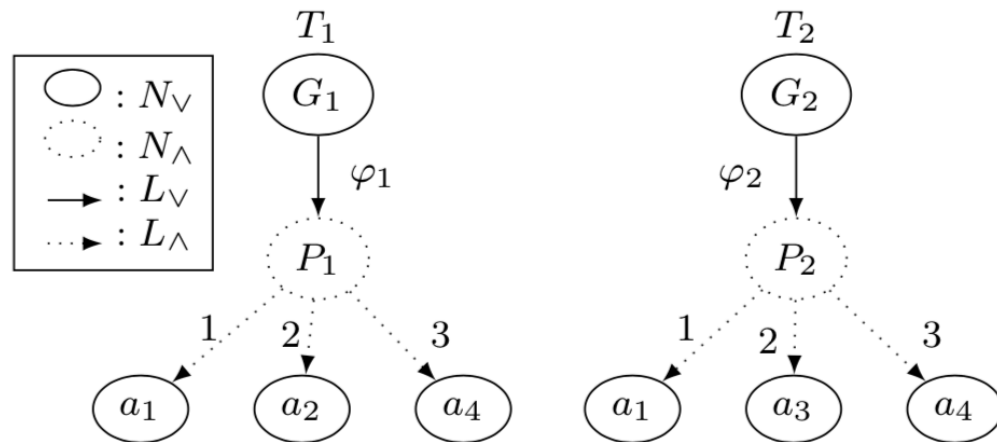
1. $\exists j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $\sigma[j] = \sigma[j+1] = \dots = \sigma[j+k]$ where $2 \leq k \leq n-j$;
2. $\forall l \in \{1, \dots, m\}, \nexists s, t \in \{j, \dots, j+k\}$ where $s \neq t$ such that $\sigma[s] \subseteq \tau(T_l) \subseteq \sigma$ and $\sigma[t] \subseteq \tau(T_l) \subseteq \sigma$;
3. σ^m is a **conflict-free execution trace** where σ^m is the merged execution trace of σ by reducing each subsequence consisting of consecutive identical elements characterized by 1 and 2 in σ to only one element left.

Execution Trace for Intentions (Cont.)

Maximal-merged Trace of $\{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$

To capture the most merged execution trace of multiple intentions

The merged execution trace σ^m of a mergeable execution trace σ of $\{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$ is **maximal-merged** if there is no another mergeable execution trace σ' of $\{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$ such that $|\sigma'^m| < |\sigma^m|$ where $|\sigma|$ stands for the length of σ .



the potential maximal-merged trace of $\{T_1, T_2\}$

$$\sigma^m = G_1; P_1; G_2; P_2; a_1; a_2; a_3; a_4$$

Perform action a_1 and a_4 once for both two goals T_1 and T_2

Indexing Nodes

To ensure that e.g. the same actions in distinct plans is seen as different

A node n is a top-level goal of intention T : $T(\bar{n})$

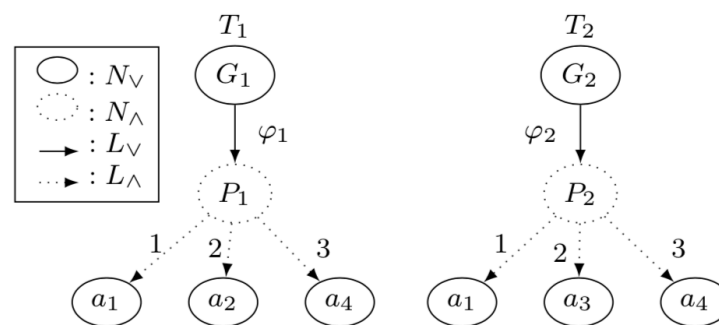
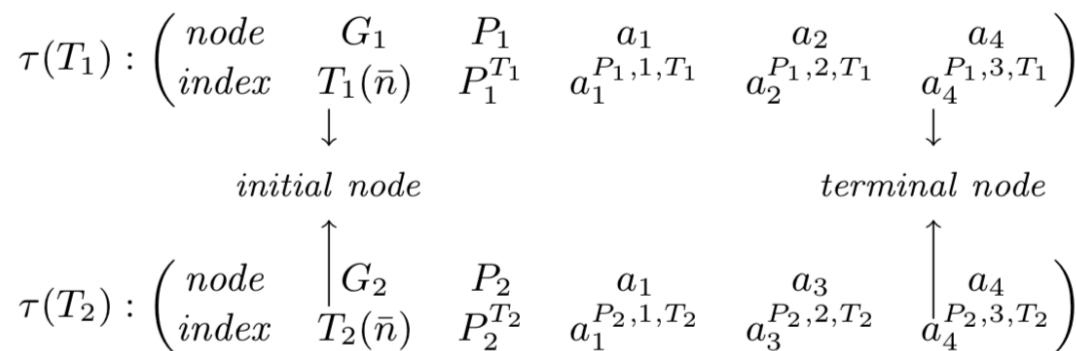
The nodes of actions and subgoals of intention T : $n^{P,j,T}$ to denote the j^{th} member of $body(P)$ in T

A plan node in intention T : n^T

Initial node set for intentions $\{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$: $z_0 = \{T_1(\bar{n}), \dots, T_m(\bar{n})\}$

Terminal node set for a goal node: a collection of the last element of each execution trace of a goal

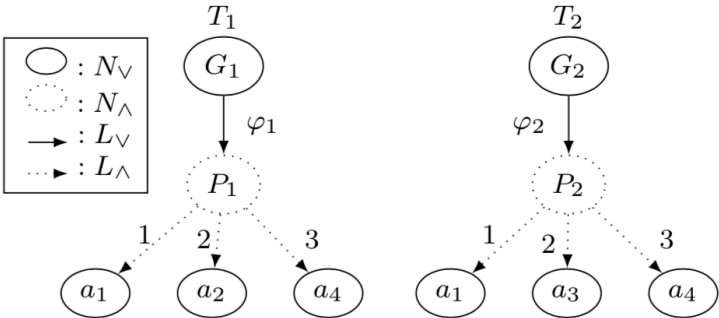
Terminal node set for intentions $I = \{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$ $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} z_g = \{tn_1, \dots, tn_m\} \text{ where } tn_i \text{ is a terminal node of } T_i(\bar{n}) \\ z_g \triangleright_{tn} I \text{ if } z_g \text{ is a terminal node set of } I \end{array} \right.$



Progression Links

To visualise the progression order of execution elements in the context of indexes

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \tau(T_1) : \left(\begin{array}{cccccc}
 \text{node} & G_1 & P_1 & a_1 & a_2 & a_4 \\
 \text{index} & T_1(\bar{n}) & P_1^{T_1} & a_1^{P_1,1,T_1} & a_2^{P_1,2,T_1} & a_4^{P_1,3,T_1}
 \end{array} \right) \\
 \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \\
 \text{initial node} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{terminal node} \\
 \uparrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \uparrow \\
 \tau(T_2) : \left(\begin{array}{cccccc}
 \text{node} & G_2 & P_2 & a_1 & a_3 & a_4 \\
 \text{index} & T_2(\bar{n}) & P_2^{T_2} & a_1^{P_2,1,T_2} & a_3^{P_2,2,T_2} & a_4^{P_2,3,T_2}
 \end{array} \right)
 \end{array}$$



The progression links of execution trace $\tau(T_1)$

- $(T_1(\bar{n}) \rightarrow P_1^{T_1})$
- $(P_1^{T_1} \rightarrow a_1^{P_1,1,T_1})$
- $(a_1^{P_1,1,T_1} \rightarrow a_2^{P_1,2,T_1})$
- $(a_2^{P_1,2,T_1} \rightarrow a_4^{P_1,3,T_1})$

They are also called **primitive progression links**

The progression links of execution trace $\tau(T_2)$

- $(T_2(\bar{n}) \rightarrow P_2^{T_2})$
- $(P_2^{T_2} \rightarrow a_1^{P_2,1,T_2})$
- $(a_1^{P_2,1,T_2} \rightarrow a_3^{P_2,2,T_2})$
- $(a_3^{P_2,2,T_2} \rightarrow a_4^{P_2,3,T_2})$

Overlap Set of Multiple Intentions

To compute all potential overlapping programs among a set of intentions

The overlap set of $\{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$ is a set of tuples of the form $\langle (idx_b^1 \rightarrow idx_e^1), \dots, (idx_b^k \rightarrow idx_e^k) \rangle$ if:

1. $J(idx_e^1) = \dots = J(idx_e^k)$ where $J(idx_e^i)$ represents the actual node of the ending index idx_e^i ;
2. $\forall l \in \{1, \dots, m\}, \nexists s, t \in \{j, \dots, j+k\}$ where $s \neq t$ s.t. $(idx_b^s \rightarrow idx_e^s) \in \tau(T_l)$ and $(idx_b^t \rightarrow idx_e^t) \in \tau(T_l)$;

The progression links of execution trace $\tau(T_1)$

The progression links of execution trace $\tau(T_2)$

$$(T_1(\bar{n}) \rightarrow P_1^{T_1})$$

$$(P_1^{T_1} \rightarrow \mathbf{a}_1^{P_1,1,T_1})$$

$$(T_2(\bar{n}) \rightarrow P_2^{T_2})$$

$$(P_2^{T_2} \rightarrow \mathbf{a}_1^{P_2,1,T_2})$$

$$(a_1^{P_1,1,T_1} \rightarrow a_2^{P_1,2,T_1})$$

$$(a_2^{P_1,2,T_1} \rightarrow a_4^{P_1,3,T_1})$$

$$(a_1^{P_2,1,T_2} \rightarrow a_3^{P_2,2,T_2})$$

$$(a_3^{P_2,2,T_2} \rightarrow a_4^{P_2,3,T_2})$$

The overlap set of intention $\{T_1, T_2\}$ has two elements as follows:

1. $\langle (P_1^{T_1} \rightarrow \mathbf{a}_1^{P_1,1,T_1}), (P_2^{T_2} \rightarrow \mathbf{a}_1^{P_2,1,T_2}) \rangle$ where $J(a_1^{P_1,1,T_1}) = J(a_1^{P_2,1,T_2}) = a_1$;
2. $\langle (a_2^{P_1,2,T_1} \rightarrow \mathbf{a}_4^{P_1,3,T_1}), (a_3^{P_2,2,T_2} \rightarrow \mathbf{a}_4^{P_2,3,T_2}) \rangle$ where $J(a_4^{P_1,3,T_1}) = J(a_4^{P_2,3,T_2}) = a_4$

Overlap Progression Links

Let an element of overlap set of $\{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$ be $\langle (idx_b^1 \rightarrow idx_e^1), \dots, (idx_b^k \rightarrow idx_e^k) \rangle$.

Then we have a corresponding overlap progression link $\alpha^o = (\{idx_b^1, \dots, idx_b^k\} \rightarrow \{idx_e^1, \dots, idx_e^k\})$

such that the side of α^o is $size(\alpha^o) = k - 1$, i.e. merging $k - 1$ extra primitive progression links.
by fault, the size of a primitive progression link α^p is $size(\alpha^o) = 0$, i.e. no merging at all.

The overlap set of intention $\{T_1, T_2\}$ has two elements as follows:

- $\langle (P_1^{T_1} \rightarrow a_1^{P_1,1,T_1}), (P_2^{T_2} \rightarrow a_1^{P_2,1,T_2}) \rangle \longrightarrow (\{P_1^{T_1}, P_2^{T_2}\} \rightarrow \{a_1^{P_1,1,T_1}, a_1^{P_2,1,T_2}\})$
- $\langle (a_2^{P_1,2,T_1} \rightarrow a_4^{P_1,3,T_1}), (a_3^{P_2,2,T_2} \rightarrow a_4^{P_2,3,T_2}) \rangle \longrightarrow (\{a_2^{P_1,2,T_1}, a_3^{P_2,2,T_2}\} \rightarrow \{a_4^{P_1,3,T_1}, a_4^{P_2,3,T_2}\})$

Intention Interleaving Planning Formalism

A First-principles Planning (FPP) problem of interleaving intentions $I = \{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$ is a tuple

$$\Omega = \langle \Sigma, X, O, s_0, S_G \rangle$$

a finite set of (propositional) atoms

$X = \bigcup_{j=1}^m T_j(N_V \cup N_\Lambda)$ is the set of node indexes of I

$O = O^p \cup O^o$ is a set of progression links

where O^p (resp. O^o) is the collection of primitive (resp. overlap) progression links

$s_0 = \mathcal{B}_0 \cup z_0$ is the initial state

where \mathcal{B}_0 is the initial belief base and z_0 is the initial node set of I

$S_G = \{z_g | z_g \triangleright_{tn} I\}$ is the goal state
where z_g is the terminal node set of I

Intention Interleaving Planning Formalism (Cont.)

A FPP problem of interleaving intentions $I = \{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$ is a tuple

$$\Omega = \langle \Sigma, X, O, s_0, S_G \rangle$$

$$O = O^p \cup O^o$$

STRIPS PROGRESSION LINKS

link α^p	$pre(\alpha^p)$	$del(\alpha^p)$	$add(\alpha^p)$
$(idx_b \rightarrow P^T)$	$idx_b \cup \varphi$	$\{idx_b\}$	$\{P^T\}$
$(idx_b \rightarrow a^{P,j,T})$	$idx_b \cup \psi(a^{P,j,T})$	$\phi^- \cup \{idx\}$	$\phi^+ \cup \{a^{P,j,T}\}$
$(idx_b \rightarrow G^{P,j,T})$	idx_b	$\{idx\}$	$\{G^{P,j,T}\}$

$$\alpha^o = (\{idx_b^1, \dots, idx_b^k\} \rightarrow \{idx_e^1, \dots, idx_e^k\}) \in O^o$$

in which $\alpha_i^p = (idx_b^i \rightarrow idx_e^i) \in O^p$

- $pre(\alpha^o) = pre(\alpha_1^p) \cup \dots \cup pre(\alpha_k^p)$
- $del(\alpha^o) = del(\alpha_1^p) \cup \dots \cup del(\alpha_k^p)$
- $add(\alpha^o) = add(\alpha_1^p) \cup \dots \cup add(\alpha_k^p)$

Intention Interleaving Planning Formalism (Cont.)

A FPP problem of interleaving intentions $I = \{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$ is a tuple $\Omega = \langle \Sigma, X, O, s_0, S_G \rangle$

Definition 1: The result of applying a progression link $\alpha \in O$ to a state $s = \mathcal{B} \cup z$ is described by the transition function $f: 2^\Sigma \cup 2^X \times O \rightarrow 2^\Sigma \cup 2^X$ defined as follows:

$$f(s, \alpha) = \begin{cases} (s \setminus \text{del}(\alpha)) \cup \text{add}(\alpha) & \text{if } s \models \text{pre}(\alpha) \\ \text{undefined} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Definition 2: The result of applying a sequence of progression links to a state specification s is defined inductively:

$$\text{Res}(s, \langle \rangle) = s$$

$$\text{Res}(s, \langle \alpha_0; \dots; \alpha_n \rangle) = \text{Res}(f(s, \alpha_0), \langle \alpha_1; \dots; \alpha_n \rangle)$$


Definition 3: A sequence of progression links $\Delta = \langle \alpha_0; \alpha_1; \dots; \alpha_n \rangle$ is a solution to a FPP problem $\Omega = \langle \Sigma, X, O, s_0, S_G \rangle$, denoted as $\Delta = \text{sol}(\Omega)$, iff $\text{Res}(s_0, \Delta) \models S_G$. We also say that Δ is optimal if the sum of the size of the progression link $\text{size}(\alpha_i)$ is maximum where $i = 0, \dots, n$.

Theorem: we have a maximal-merged trace σ^m of intention $I = \{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$ if and only if there exists an optimal solution Δ to Ω .

Intention Interleaving Planning Formalism (Cont.)

A FPP problem of interleaving intentions $I = \{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$ is a tuple $\Omega = \langle \Sigma, X, O, s_0, S_G \rangle$

Algorithm 1: Intention Interleaving Replanning

 To adapt to the dynamic environment

Input: Planning problem $\Omega = \langle \Sigma, X, O, s_0, S_G \rangle$

```
1  $\alpha_0; \dots; \alpha_n \leftarrow sol(\Omega)$  /* FPP solution */
2  $i \leftarrow 0, \alpha \leftarrow \alpha_0, s \leftarrow s_0$  /* initialisation */
3 while  $s \notin \Upsilon$  do
4   if  $f(s, \alpha) = \text{undefined}$  then
5      $idx_b \leftarrow \text{BEGINNING-INDEX}(\alpha)$ 
6      $G \leftarrow \text{BACKTRACK}(idx_b)$  /* backtrack */
7      $s_0 \leftarrow \mathcal{B} \cup z \setminus \{idx_b\} \cup \{G\}$  /* modify state */
8      $sol'(\Omega) \leftarrow \text{FPP}(\langle \Sigma, X, O, s_0, S_G \rangle)$  /* replan */
9      $\alpha_0; \dots; \alpha_n \leftarrow sol'(\Omega)$ 
10     $\alpha \leftarrow \alpha_0, i \leftarrow 0$  /* re-initialisation */
11    EXECUTE  $\alpha$ 
12     $s \leftarrow f(s, \alpha)$ 
13     $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
14     $\alpha \leftarrow \alpha_{i+1}$ 
```

line 5-7 instruct the procedures for failure backtracking and initial node state modification

Implementation

Operator Files

(containing progression links)



Planning Domain Definition Language
(PDDL)



Fact Files

(containing initial/goal state description)

primitive progression links:

```
(:action (idx_b → PT)
:precondition (and idx_b context(P) )
:effect (and (not idx_b) PT)
(:action (idx_b → aP,j,T)
:precondition (and idx_b ψ(aP,j,T) )
:effect (and (not φ-) φ+ (not idx_b) aP,j,T)
(:action (idx_b → GP,j,T)
:precondition idx_b
:effect (and (not idx_b) GP,j,T))
```

overlap progression links:

```
(:action ({idx_b1, ..., idx_bk} → {idx_e1, ..., idx_ek})
:precondition (and pre(α1p) ... pre(αkp) )
:effect (and add(α1p) ... add(αkp)
(not del(α1p) ) ... (not del(αkp) )
(increase (efficiency-utility) size(αo)))
```

```
(:objects ∀x ∈ X, ∀ BELIEF_ATOMS ∈ Σ)
```



declare all **objects** in the
plan problem instance

```
(:init B0, ∀T ∈ I, T( $\bar{n}$ ))
```







initial **belief base** and the **top-level goals of intentions**

```
(:goal (and (or tn11 ... tnk11) ... (or tn1m ... tnkmm))
```



reach any **terminal node**
of each intention

Evaluation: A Manufacturing Scenario

		Operation 1	Operation 2	Operation 3
block 1		twisting-drilling 10cm	reaming	boring
block 2		twisting-drilling 15cm	reaming	boring
block 3		twisting-drilling 20cm	reaming	boring
block 4		twisting-drilling 25cm	reaming	boring

EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS OF APPROACH

	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	3.3	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4
2	17%	33%	11%	22%	33%	8%	17%	25%	33%
3	22%	44%	15%	30%	44%	11%	22%	33%	44%
4	25%	50%	17%	33%	50%	13%	25%	38%	50%
5	27%	53%	18%	36%	53%	13%	27%	40%	53%
6	28%	56%	19%	37%	56%	14%	28%	42%	56%
7	29%	57%	19%	38%	57%	14%	29%	43%	57%
8	29%	58%	19%	39%	58%	15%	29%	44%	58%

Details can be found in my github

<https://github.com/Mengwei-Xu/manufacturing-evaluation>

Summary:

1. Formalise an intention as AND/OR graph
2. Formalise the conflict-free execution trace of multiple intentions
3. Formalise the maximal-merged execution trace of multiple intentions
4. Define the concept of overlapping programs between different intentions
5. Both formally and practically compile the intention interleaving problem into a planning problem
6. Provide a preliminary evaluation of a planning-centric intention interleaving problem

Future Work:

1. A complete algorithm of computing overlap set of intentions
2. Further test the costs and benefits of our approach empirically in a wider range of applications
3. Investigate the collaboration between multi-BDI agents, e.g. how to discover and exploit collaboration opportunities