

Knowledge Compilation for Online Decision-Making: Application to the Control of Autonomous Systems

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Autonomous System

- Autonomous system: must be able to **make decisions**, depending on the current situation
 - current observations
 - current goals

Example (Explorer robot)

- explores a zone
- gather samples
- when enough samples have been gathered, go to another zone

→ finding a **decision policy**

- Problem hard to solve in the general case

Control of an Autonomous System

- Solving the problem online:
 - limited by the embedded computational power

→ reactivity not ensured
- Solving the problem offline:
 - anticipate all decisions for every possible situation
 - embed a set of “decision rules”

→ ensures a good reactivity... but limited by the embedded memory space

Looking for a Compromise

- Need for a tradeoff between reactivity and spatial compactness
- maximizing reactivity under memory space constraints
- This is the object of **knowledge compilation**

Principle of Knowledge Compilation

- Idea: transforming the problem into a **compiled form** that
 - makes its resolution tractable
 - is as compact as possible
- Can be seen as a **translation** of the problem into some **target compilation language**.
- The choice of the target language is crucial

Principle of Knowledge Compilation

- Translation step: may be hard
 - but done offline
 - and done only once
 - Resolution step: tractable
 - fast even online
 - and done countless times
- Knowledge compilation shifts as much as possible of the computational effort before the system's launching

Goal of the Thesis

- There exists numerous target compilation languages:
 - the decision diagrams family (BDDs, FBDDs, OBDDs...);
 - finite-state automata (MDDs);
 - the NNF family (DNNFs, d-DNNFs...).

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- Proven useful in various domains:
 - model-checking
 - product configuration
 - diagnostic
 - planning

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Goal of the thesis

Study whether KC can be applied to **realistic** problems of aeronautical or spatial autonomous system control.

Outline

- 1 Introduction to the problem
- 2 Knowledge Compilation for Decision-Making
 - Decision Policy
 - Knowledge Compilation
- 3 Interval Automata
 - Structure and semantics
 - Exploitation of a Policy Using IAs
 - Building FIAs
- 4 Set-labeled Diagrams
- 5 Conclusion

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Planning Problem

- Framework: **non-deterministic planning**
 - state variables, decision variables
 - initial states, goal states
 - transition relation

Example (Transition relation)

current state	decision	next state
<i>light,</i>	<i>press_button</i>	$\neg light, \neg button$
$\neg light, \neg button, bulb_OK$	<i>press_button</i>	<i>light, button, bulb_OK</i>
$\neg light, \neg button, bulb_OK$	<i>press_button</i>	$\neg light, button, \neg bulb_OK$
$\neg bulb_OK$	<i>change_bulb</i>	<i>bulb_OK</i>
...

Decision Policy

- Solution: **decision policy** (relation associating actions to each reachable state)

Example (Decision policy)

if you observe that...	then...
there is no light and the button is off	press the button
there is no light and the button is on	change the bulb
there is light	enjoy

→ Boolean function δ , involving two kinds of variables:

- **state** variables S ;
- **decision** variables D .
- $\delta(\vec{s}, \vec{d}) = \top \quad \rightarrow \quad \vec{d}$ is a suitable decision in state \vec{s} .

Decision Policy as a Boolean Function

Example (Decision policy)

\vec{s}	\vec{d}
$\neg light, \neg button$	$press_button, \neg change_bulb$
$\neg light, button$	$\neg press_button, change_bulb$
$light, button$	$\neg press_button, \neg change_bulb$
$light, \neg button$	$\neg press_button, \neg change_bulb$

Decision Policy as a Boolean Function

Example (Decision policy)

\vec{s}	\vec{d}	$\delta(\vec{s}, \vec{d})$
$\neg light, \neg button$	$press_button, \neg change_bulb$	\top
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$light, button$	$\neg press_button, \neg change_bulb$	\top
$light, \neg button$	$\neg press_button, \neg change_bulb$	\top
$\neg light, \neg button$	$\neg press_button, \neg change_bulb$	\perp
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$light, \neg button$	$press_button, \neg change_bulb$	\perp
...	...	\perp
...	...	\perp

Exploiting a Policy

Two operations needed:

- assign state variables according to observations: **conditioning**

Example (Exploiting a policy)

\vec{s}	\vec{d}	$\delta(\vec{s}, \vec{d})$
$\neg \text{light}, \neg \text{button}$	<i>press_button</i> , $\neg \text{change_bulb}$	\top
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...	...	⊥

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Exploiting a Policy

Two operations needed:

- assign state variables according to observations: **conditioning**
- produce one action among the possible ones: **model extraction**

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Knowledge Compilation

- A problem is a set of **operations** on a **knowledge base**
 - knowledge base: propositional formula, constraint network, ...
 - operations: combining formulas, checking properties, ...
- Compilation of a problem: translation of the knowledge base into a **target language** such that
 - operations on the compiled form are tractable
 - the compiled form is as compact as possible

Knowledge Compilation for Planning

Applying KC to the control of autonomous systems:

- planning problem solved **online**
 - compilation of a **transition relation**
 - operations on the compiled form: conditioning, variable elimination. . .

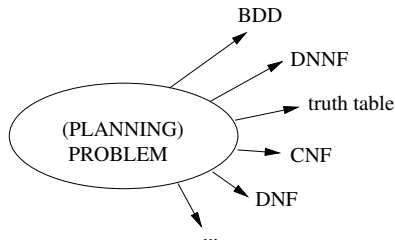
Knowledge Compilation for Planning

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- planning problem solved **online**
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- planning problem solved **offline**
 - compilation of a **decision policy**
 - operations on the compiled form: conditioning, model extraction

Target Languages

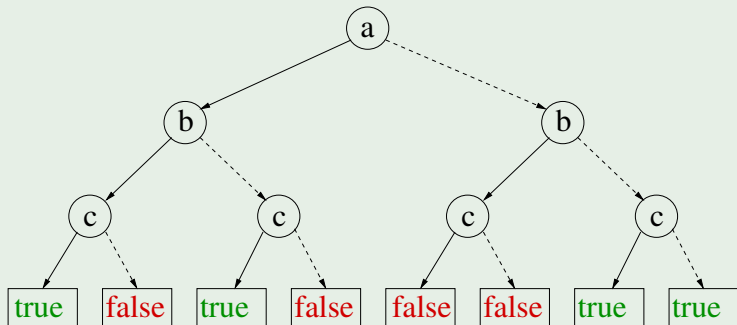
- Various target compilation languages are suitable



- An example: binary decision diagrams (BDDs)

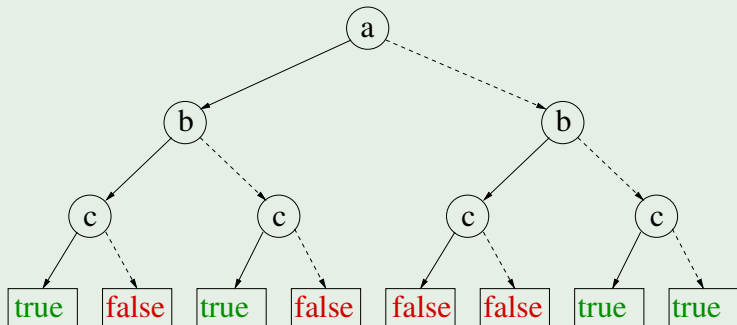
Compilation: Example of BDDs

Example : $(b \rightarrow a) \wedge (a \rightarrow c)$



Compilation: Example of BDDs

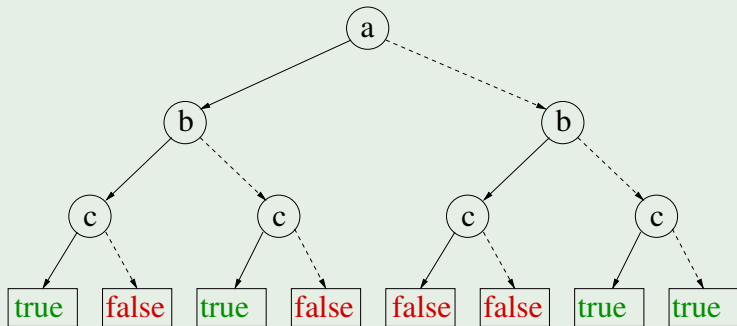
Example : $(b \rightarrow a) \wedge (a \rightarrow c)$



- Each **path** in the tree: assignment of all variables.
- The leaf is the value of the function for this assignment.

Compilation: Example of BDDs

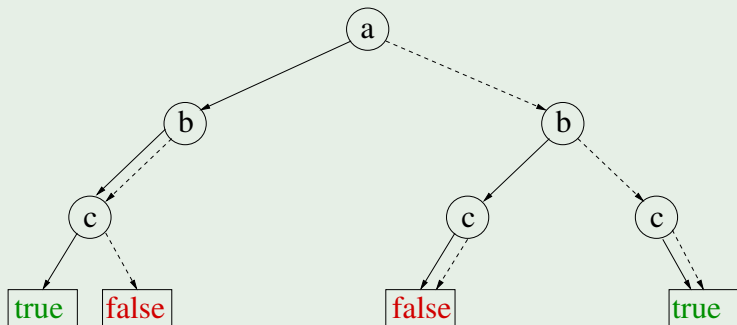
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- Merging isomorphic subgraphs...

Compilation: Example of BDDs

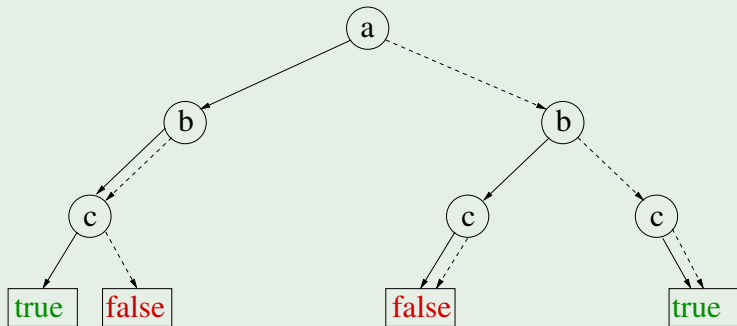
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- Isomorphic subgraphs merged

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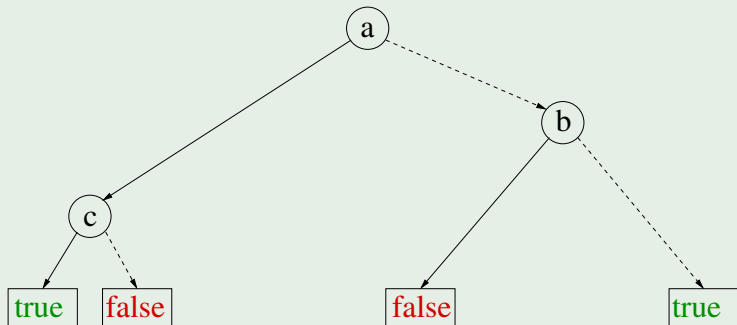
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- Removing redundant nodes...

Compilation: Example of BDDs

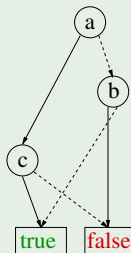
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- Redundant nodes removed

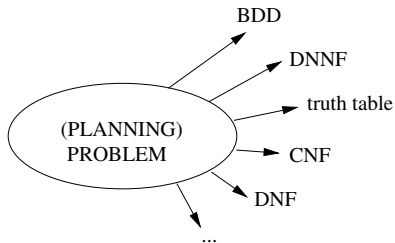
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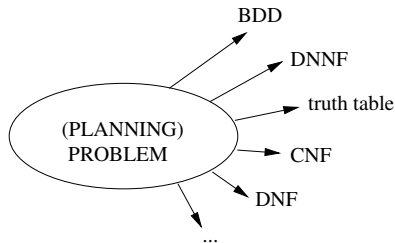
- The BDD can be exponentially more compact than the tree

Choosing a Target Language



- What is the most appropriate for my application?

Choosing a Target Language



- What is the most appropriate for my application? → use the **knowledge compilation map** [Darwiche and Marquis, 2002]
- Compares target languages according to their:
 - efficiency on operations
 - succinctness.

Knowledge Compilation Map: Operations

- All online manipulations boil down to elementary **queries** and **transformations**

L	CO (consistency) VA (validity)	MX (model extr.)	CE (clause entailmt.) IM (implicant check)	EQ (equivalence) SE (entailment)	CT (model count) ME (model enum.)
NNF	○	○	○	○	○
DNNF	✓	✓	✓	○	✓
BDD	○	○	○	○	○
FBDD	✓	✓	✓	?	✓
OBDD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DNF	✓	✓	✓	○	○
CNF	○	✓	✓	○	○

L	CD (conditioning)	FO (forgetting) SFO (single forg.)	∧C (conjunction) ∧BC (bounded conj.)	∨C (disjunction) ∨BC (bounded disj.)	¬C (negation)
NNF	✓	○	✓	✓	✓
DNNF	✓	✓	○	✓	○
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OBDD	✓	✓	●	○	✓
DNF	✓	✓	●	✓	●
CNF	✓	○	✓	✓	●

- ✓ polytime
- not polytime unless $P = NP$
- not polytime

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Knowledge Compilation Map: Operations

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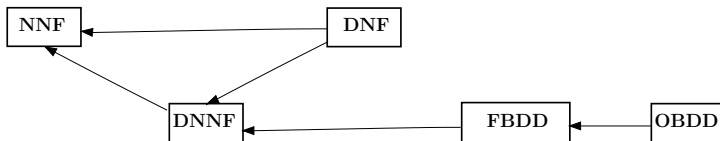
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Knowledge Compilation Map: Succinctness

- Succinctness relation: orders target languages w.r.t. their compacity



- $L_1 \longleftarrow L_2$: L_1 is strictly more succinct than L_2

Target Languages for Planning Applications?

- Many target languages can be used for our application
- Boolean or enumerated variables only
- Real applications often involve continuous variables (time, energy. . .)

Our work

Define languages representing Boolean functions over variables with continuous or large enumerated domains.

Outline

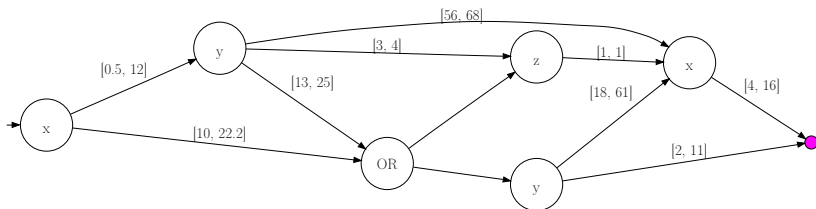
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Interval Automata

- The first language we described: **interval automata** (IAs).

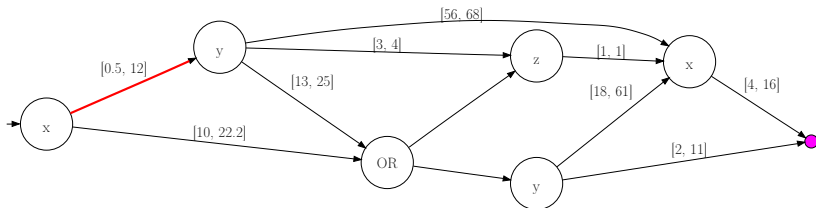


Definition (Interval automaton)

An **interval automaton** (IA) is a directed acyclic graph with at most one root and at most one leaf, with nodes labeled with a variable or with “OR”, and edges labeled by a closed interval from \mathbb{R} .

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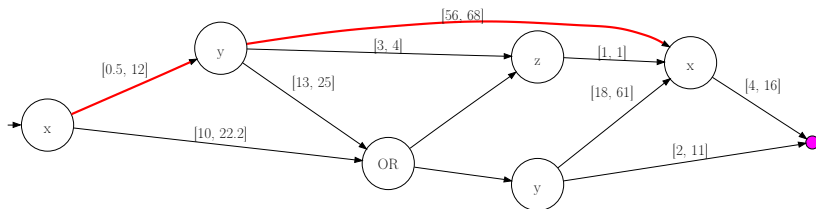
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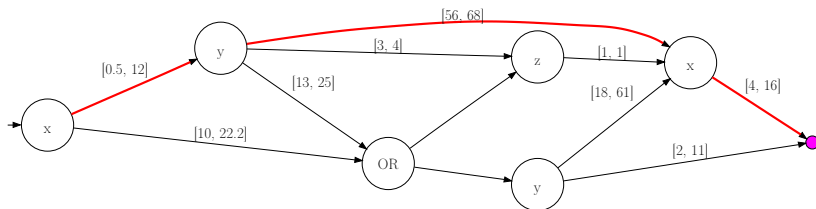
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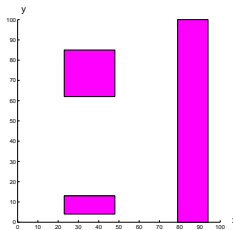
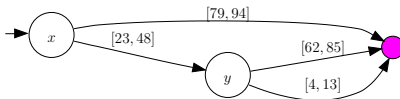
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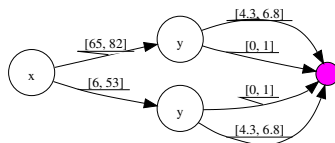
Semantics of Interval Automata

- Each interval automaton represents a Boolean function, or equivalently a **set of solutions**



Reduction: merging of isomorphic nodes

The size of IAs can be **reduced** thanks to several operations



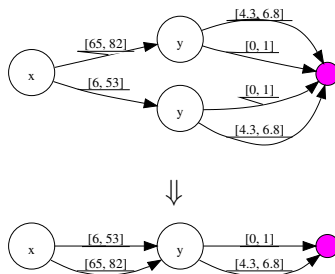
Isomorphic nodes

Two nodes N_1, N_2 of an IA φ are **isomorphic** iff $\text{Var}(N_1) = \text{Var}(N_2)$ and there exists a bijection σ from $\text{Out}(N_1)$ onto $\text{Out}(N_2)$, s.t.

$\forall E \in \text{Out}(N_1), \text{Lbl}(E) = \text{Lbl}(\sigma(E))$ and $\text{Dest}(E) = \text{Dest}(\sigma(E))$.

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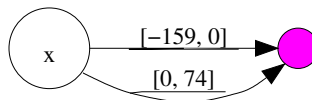


Isomorphic nodes

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$\forall E \in \text{Out}(N_1), \text{Lbl}(E) = \text{Lbl}(\sigma(E))$ and $\text{Dest}(E) = \text{Dest}(\sigma(E))$.

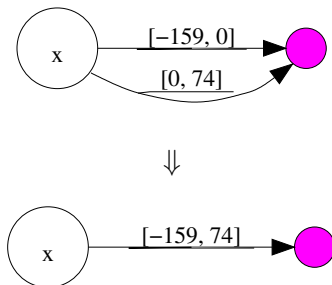
Reduction: merging of contiguous edges



Contiguous edges

Two edges E_1, E_2 of an IA φ are **contiguous** iff $\text{Src}(E_1) = \text{Src}(E_2)$, $\text{Dest}(E_1) = \text{Dest}(E_2)$ and there exists an interval $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $\text{Lbl}(E_1) \cup \text{Lbl}(E_2) = I \cap \text{Dom}(\text{Var}(E_1))$.

Reduction: merging of contiguous edges

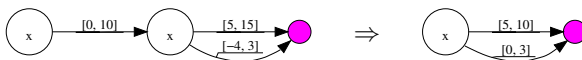


Contiguous edges

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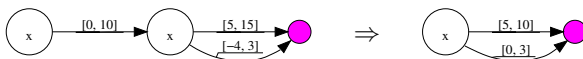
Reduction of an IA

Merging of stammering nodes:

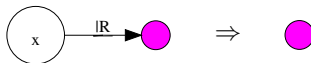


Reduction of an IA

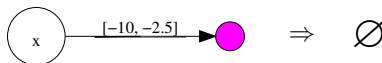
Merging of stammering nodes:



Elimination of undecisive nodes:

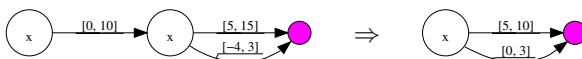


Elimination of unreachable edges (here $\text{Dom}(x) = \mathbb{R}_+$):

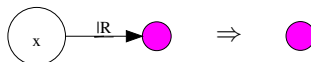


Reduction of an IA

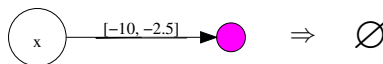
Merging of stammering nodes:



Elimination of undecisive nodes:



Elimination of unreachable edges (here $\text{Dom}(x) = \mathbb{R}_+$):

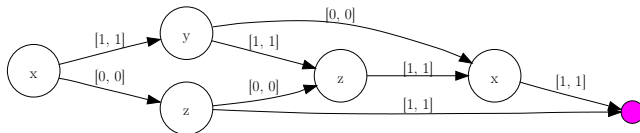
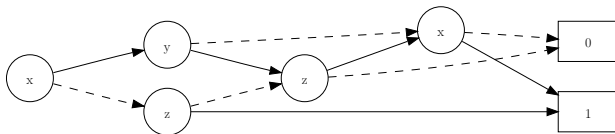


Theorem (Reduction of an IA)

There exists a polytime algorithm transforming any IA into an equivalent reduced IA.

Relation with BDD

- BDDs are **particular IAs** (Boolean variables, deterministic nodes).



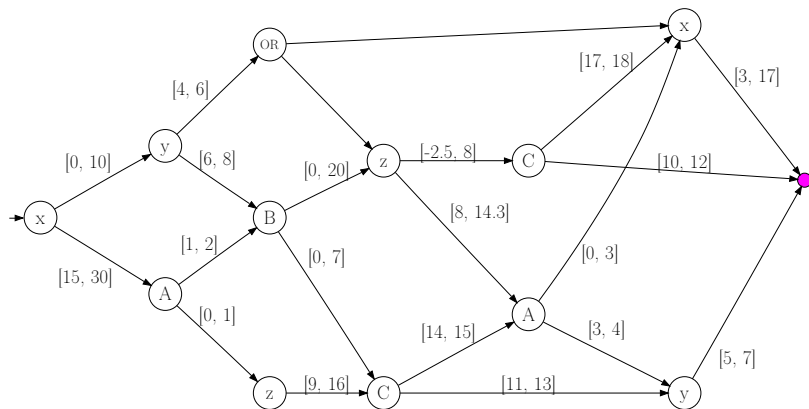
Outline

- 1 Introduction to the problem
- 2 Knowledge Compilation for Decision-Making
 - Decision Policy
 - Knowledge Compilation
- 3 Interval Automata**
 - Structure and semantics
 - Exploitation of a Policy Using IAs**
 - Building FIAs
- 4 Set-labeled Diagrams
- 5 Conclusion

Conditioning an IA

We observe the state $x = 17, y = 6, z = 8$.

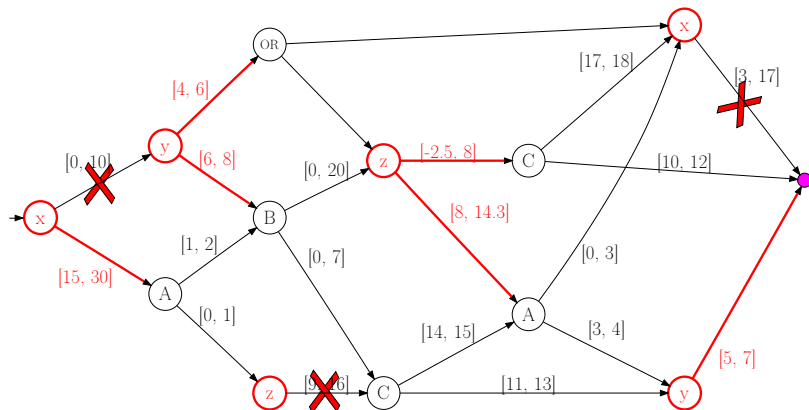
→ Conditioning of the policy :



Conditioning an IA

We observe the state $x = 17, y = 6, z = 8$.

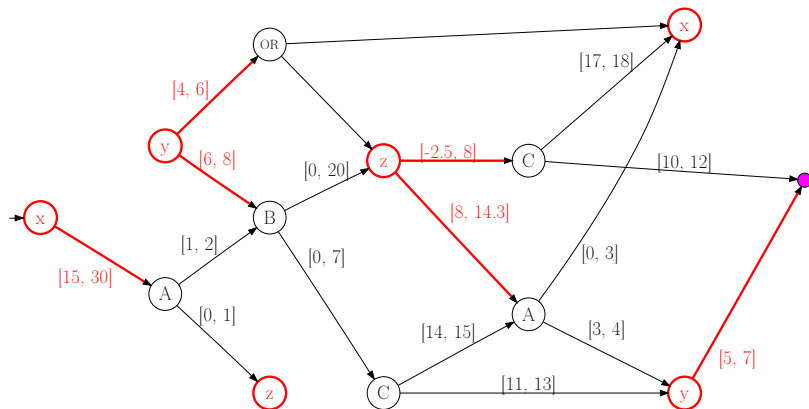
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Conditioning an IA

We observe the state $x = 17, y = 6, z = 8$.

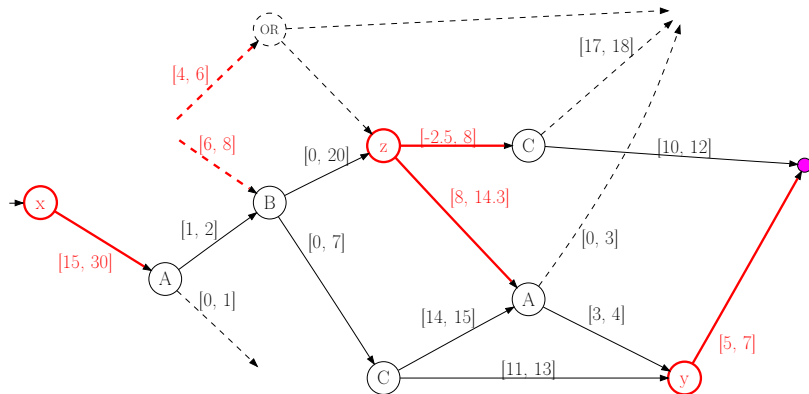
→ Conditioning of the policy :



Conditioning an IA

We observe the state $x = 17, y = 6, z = 8$.

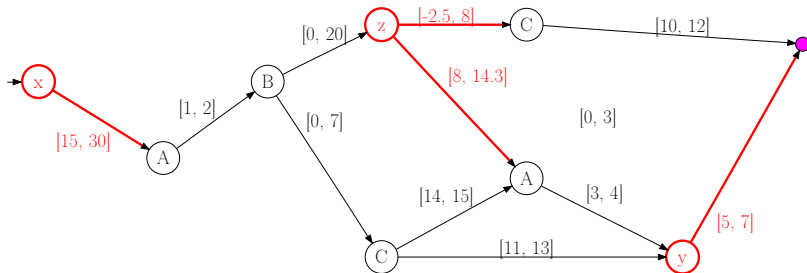
→ Conditioning of the policy :



Conditioning an IA

We observe the state $x = 17, y = 6, z = 8$.

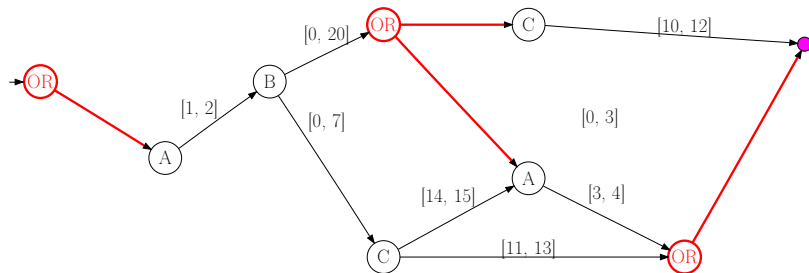
→ Conditioning of the policy :



Conditioning an IA

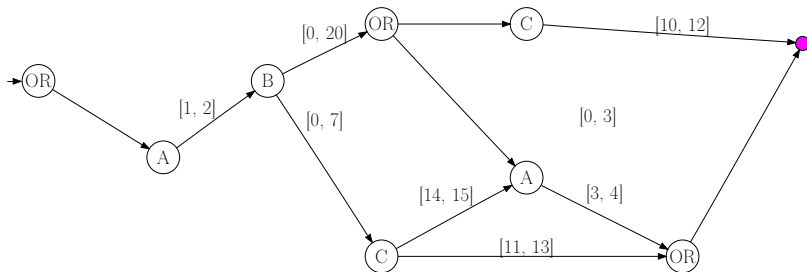
We observe the state $x = 17, y = 6, z = 8$.

→ Conditioning of the policy :



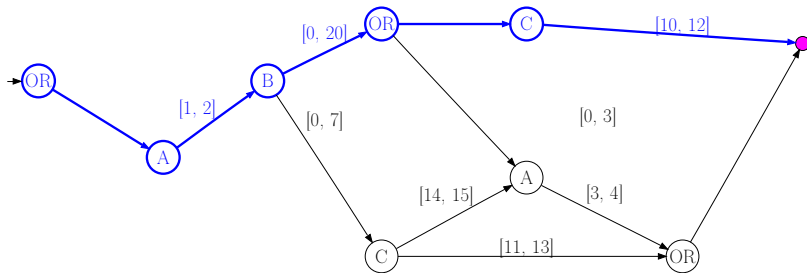
Model Extraction on an IA

We obtain a set of suitable decisions; we need to choose one
 → Model extraction



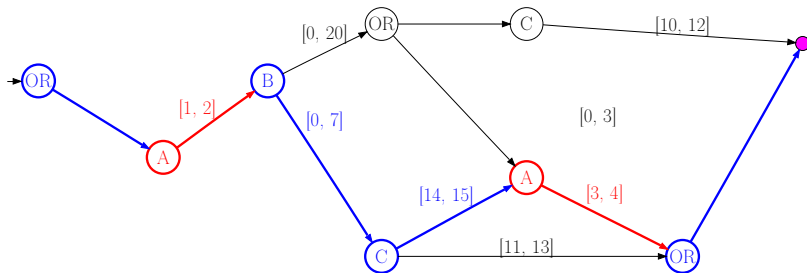
Model Extraction on an IA

We obtain a set of suitable decisions; we need to choose one
 → Model extraction



Model Extraction on an IA

We obtain a set of suitable decisions; we need to choose one
 → Model extraction



Model Extraction is Hard

- Paths in an IA can be inconsistent

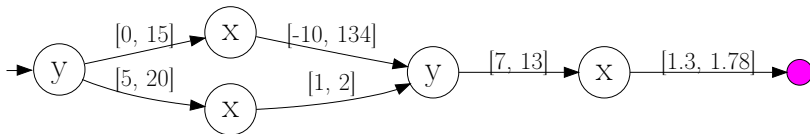
Theorem

Interval automata do not support model extraction in polytime.

→ we look for a **restriction** on IAs, making this operation easier.

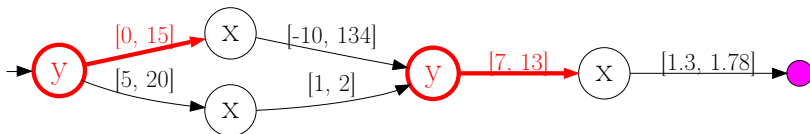
Focusing Interval Automata

- Idea: along a path, intervals can only **shrink** → **focusing** IAs



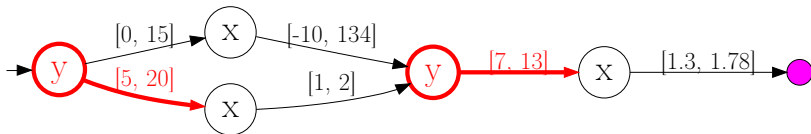
Focusing Interval Automata

- Idea: along a path, intervals can only **shrink** → **focusing** IAs



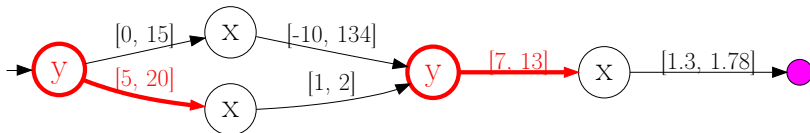
Focusing Interval Automata

- Idea: along a path, intervals can only **shrink** → **focusing** IAs



Focusing Interval Automata

- Idea: along a path, intervals can only **shrink** → **focusing** IAs



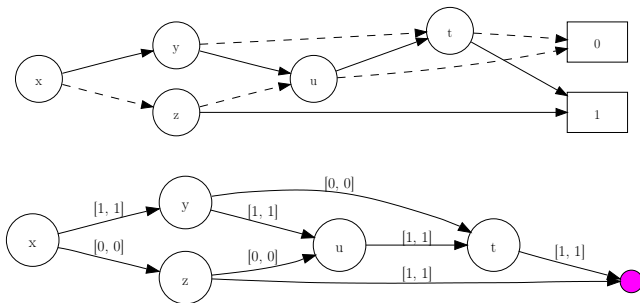
- Each path of a reduced FIA corresponds to **at least one model**

Theorem

FIAs support model extraction in polytime.

Read-once \Rightarrow Focusing

- Parallel with the “read-once” restriction on BDDs
- Read-once BDDs (FBDDs and OBDDs) are **particular FIAs**.



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Compiling List of Boxes

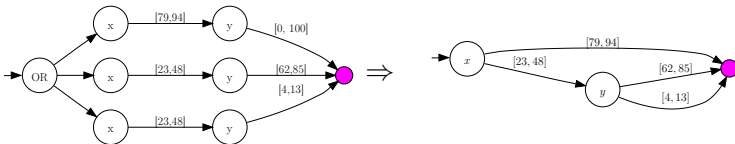
- Compilation of decision policies, obtained with an external algorithm:
list of “boxes” \mapsto FIA

- Build the FIA representing each “box”

$$[0, 1] \times [8.7, 34.5] \times [11, 43] \times [1, 1.2]$$



- Make the disjunction of the boxes (\vee C easy on FIAs)

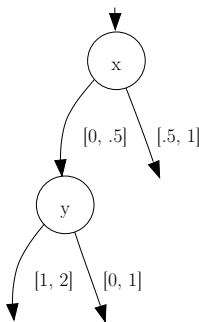
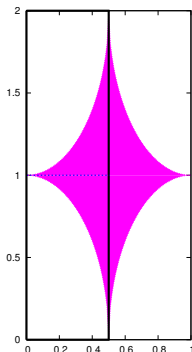


Compiling Continuous Constraint Networks

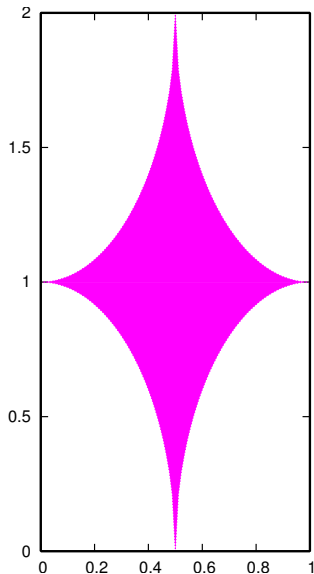
- Compilation of transition relations:

continuous constraint networks \mapsto FIA

- Following the “DPLL with a trace” approach: use the trace of the interval-based CSP solver RealPaver



RealPaver with a Trace



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y \geq 2\sqrt{\max(0, 0.25 - x^2)} \\ y \leq 2 - 2\sqrt{\max(0, 0.25 - x^2)} \\ y \geq 2\sqrt{\max(0, 0.25 - (x - 1)^2)} \\ y \leq 2 - 2\sqrt{\max(0, 0.25 - (x - 1)^2)} \end{array} \right.$$

Problem
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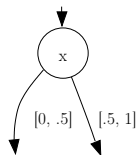
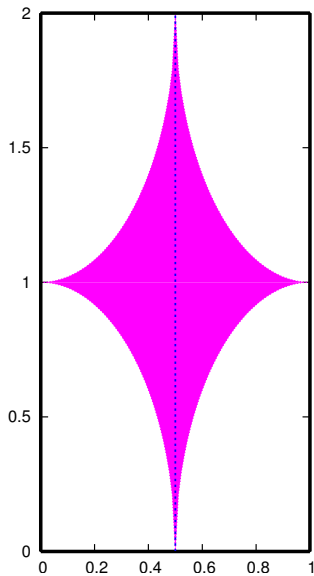
KC for Decision
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IAs
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SDs
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Conclusion
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RealPaver with a Trace



Problem
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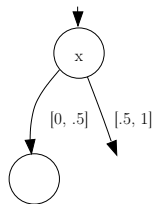
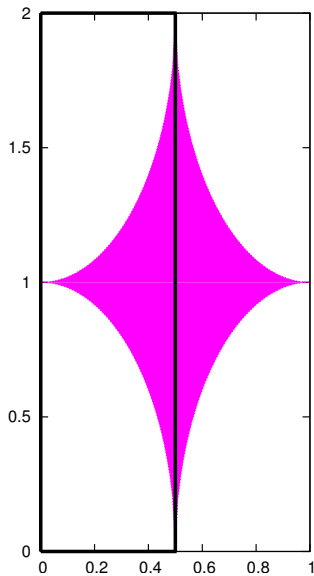
KC for Decision
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Conclusion
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RealPaver with a Trace



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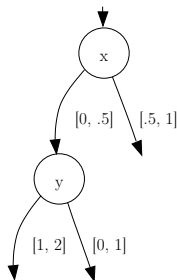
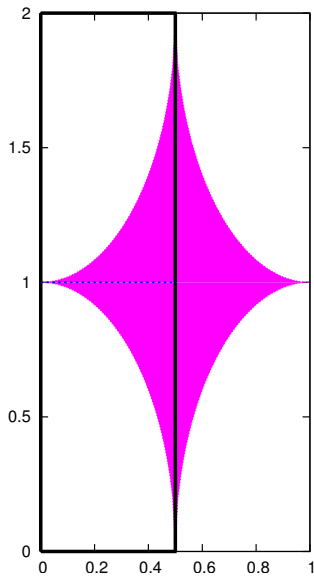
KC for Decision
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Conclusion
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RealPaver with a Trace



Problem
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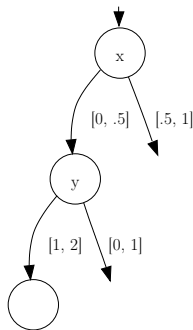
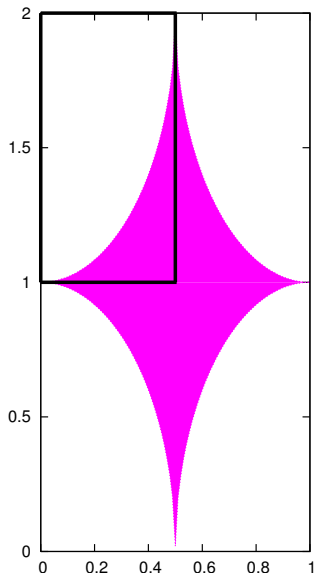
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RealPaver with a Trace



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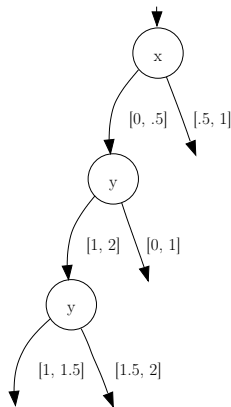
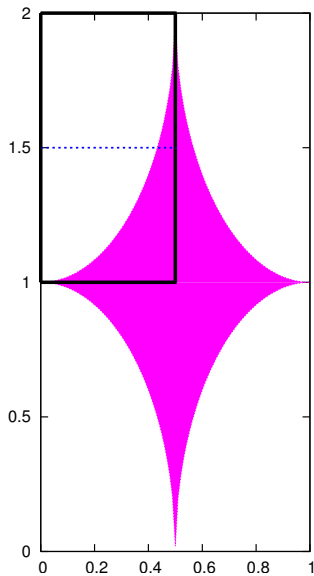
KC for Decision
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Conclusion
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RealPaver with a Trace



Problem
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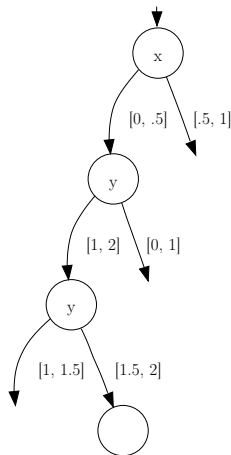
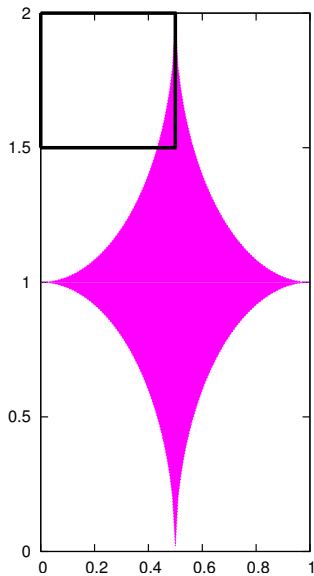
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Conclusion
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RealPaver with a Trace



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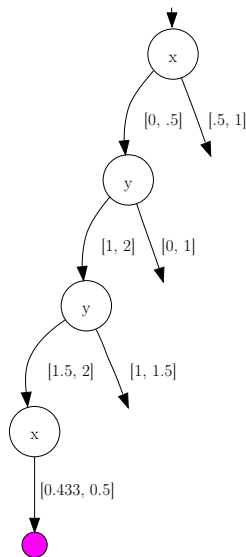
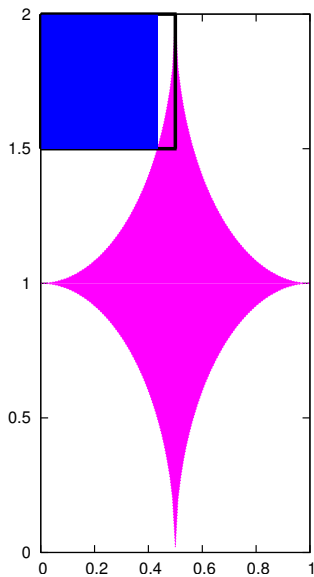
KC for Decision
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RealPaver with a Trace



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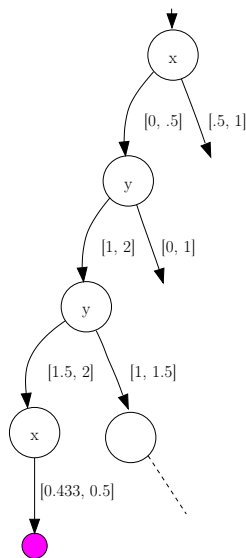
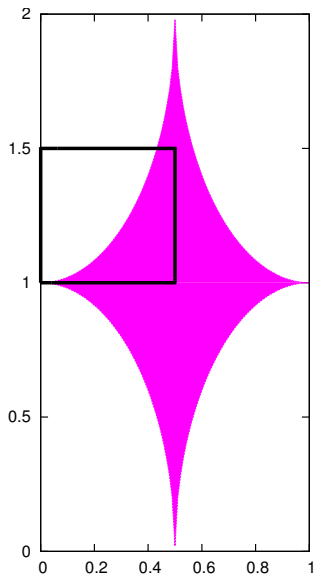
KC for Decision
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Conclusion
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RealPaver with a Trace



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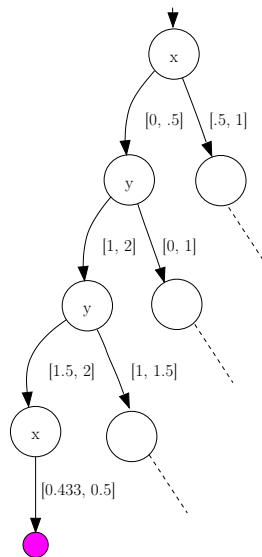
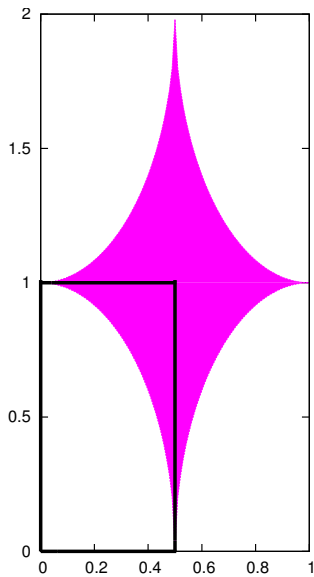
KC for Decision
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SDs
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Conclusion
○○

RealPaver with a Trace



Implementation

- Prototype of “RealPaver with a trace”
- Toolbox for manipulating IAs/FIAs (CO, MX, CD, FO, $\wedge C$, ...)
- Experimenting exploitation of a transition table

problem	#edges	CDFOMX	CDMX	RealPaver
<i>Drone4-5-3</i>	61 596	< 1 ms	1 ms	23 ms
<i>Drone4-10-3</i>	81 290	< 1 ms	< 1 ms	21 ms
<i>Drone4-15-3</i>	269 913	1 ms	1 ms	25 ms
<i>Drone4-20-3</i>	350 818	1 ms	1 ms	25 ms
<i>Drone4-25-3</i>	354 772	3 ms	3 ms	28 ms

→ compatible with an online use

Knowledge Compilation Map of IAs and FIAs

Query	IA	FIA	DNNF
CO	○	✓	✓
VA	○	○	○
MC	✓	✓	✓
CE	○	✓	✓
IM	○	○	○
EQ	○	○	○
SE	○	○	○
MX	○	✓	✓
CX	○	✓	✓
CT	○	○	○
ME	○	✓	✓

Transfo.	IA	FIA	DNNF
CD	✓	✓	✓
TR	○	✓	✓
FO	○	✓	✓
SFO	✓	✓	✓
EN	○	○	○
SEN	✓	○	○
∨C	✓	✓	✓
∨BC	✓	✓	✓
∨clC	✓	✓	✓
∧C	✓	○	○
∧BC	✓	○	○
∧tC	✓	✓	✓

- ✓ polytime
- not polytime unless $P = NP$
- not polytime

Back to Enumerated Variables

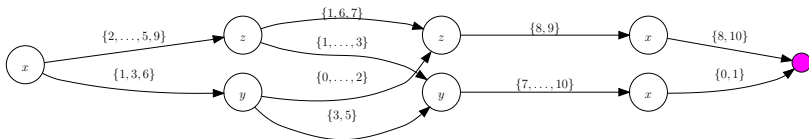
- Focusing IAs are not **decomposable**
 - Yet the operations they support are similar to DNNF
- We study how we can apply focusingness to languages on **discrete variables**

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Set-labeled Diagrams

- We described a discrete counterpart to IAs: **set-labeled diagrams** (SDs)



- Edges of IAs labeled by intervals of real numbers
→ Edges of SDs labeled by **sets of integers**

The SD Family

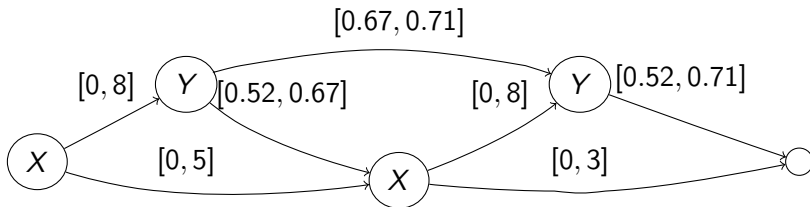
- We considered a number of sublanguages of SDs, based on the following properties:
 - focusingness
 - FSDs
 - exclusive decision: imposes sets of sister edges to be disjoint
 - SDDs (set-labeled decision diagrams), FSDDs
 - fixed order on variables
 - OSDs and OSDDs

Relationship with Other Languages

- MDDs are particular OSDDs (all sets are singletons)

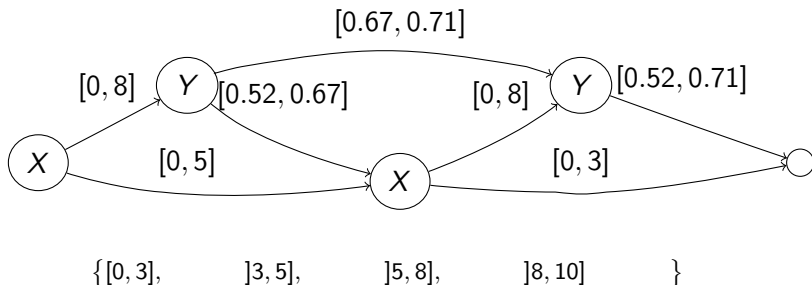
Relationship with Other Languages

- MDDs are particular OSDDs (all sets are singletons)
- FIAs can be “further compiled” into FSDs: judicious discretization



Relationship with Other Languages

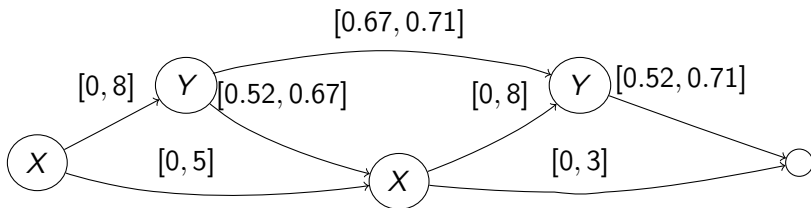
- MDDs are particular OSDDs (all sets are singletons)
- FIAs can be “further compiled” into FSDs: judicious discretization



$\{ [0, 0.52[, [0.52, 0.67[, \{0.67\}, [0.67, 0.71], [0.71, 1] \}$

Relationship with Other Languages

- MDDs are particular OSDDs (all sets are singletons)
- FIAs can be “further compiled” into FSDs: judicious discretization

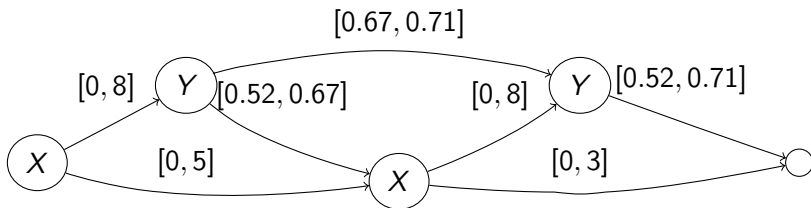


$\{[0, 3], \quad [3, 5], \quad [5, 8], \quad [8, 10] \quad \}$
 $\{x_1, \quad x_2, \quad x_3, \quad x_4 \quad \}$

$\{[0, 0.52[, \quad [0.52, 0.67[, \quad \{0.67\}, \quad [0.67, 0.71] \quad [0.71, 1] \quad \}$

Relationship with Other Languages

- MDDs are particular OSDDs (all sets are singletons)
- FIAs can be “further compiled” into FSDs: judicious discretization

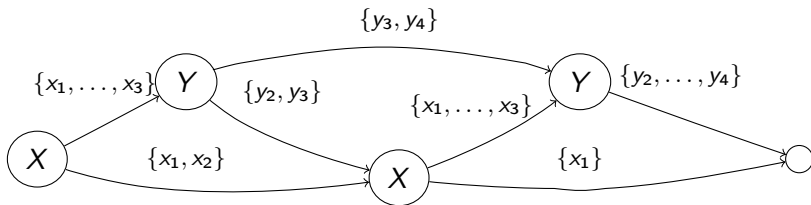


$\{[0, 3], \quad [3, 5], \quad [5, 8], \quad [8, 10] \quad \}$
 $\{x_1, \quad x_2, \quad x_3, \quad x_4 \quad \}$

$\{[0, 0.52[, \quad [0.52, 0.67[, \quad \{0.67\}, \quad [0.67, 0.71], \quad [0.71, 1] \quad \}$
 $\{y_1, \quad y_2, \quad y_3, \quad y_4, \quad y_5 \quad \}$

Relationship with Other Languages

- MDDs are particular OSDDs (all sets are singletons)
- FIA's can be "further compiled" into FSDs: judicious discretization



$[0, 3],$	$[3, 5],$	$[5, 8],$	$[8, 10]$	}
$\{x_1,$	$x_2,$	$x_3,$	x_4	}

$[0, 0.52[,$	$[0.52, 0.67[,$	$\{0.67\},$	$]0.67, 0.71]$	$]0.71, 1]$	}
$\{y_1,$	$y_2,$	$y_3,$	$y_4,$	$y_5,$	}

KC Map of the SD Family: Queries

Query	SD	SDD	FSD	FSDD	OSD	OSDD	OSD _{<}	OSDD _{<}	DNNF
CO	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
VA	○	○	○	✓	○	✓	○	✓	○
MC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CE	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IM	○	○	○	✓	○	✓	○	✓	○
EQ	○	○	○	?	○	✓	○	✓	○
SE	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	✓	○
MX	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CX	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CT	○	○	○	?	○	✓	○	✓	○
ME	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

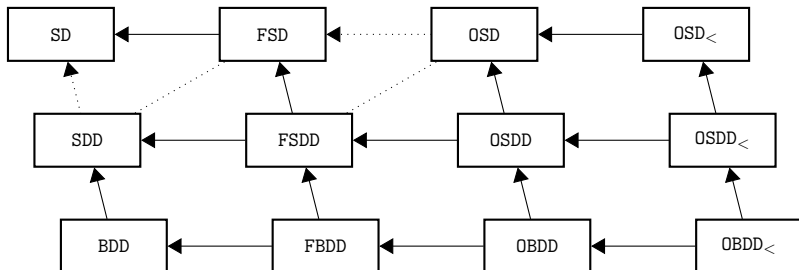
- ✓ polytime
- not polytime unless $P = NP$
- not polytime

KC Map of the SD Family: Transformations

Transfo.	SD	SDD	FSD	FSDD	OSD	OSDD	OSD _{<}	OSDD _{<}	DNNF
CD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TR	○	○	✓	○	✓	●	✓	●	✓
FO	○	○	✓	○	✓	●	✓	●	✓
SFO	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	●	✓	●	✓
EN	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	●	○
SEN	✓	✓	○	○	○	●	○	●	○
∨C	✓	✓	✓	○	?	●	✓	●	✓
∨BC	✓	✓	✓	○	?	○	✓	✓	✓
∨clC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
∧C	✓	✓	○	○	○	●	○	●	○
∧BC	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	○
∧tC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
¬C	?	✓	○	?	○	✓	○	✓	○

- ✓ polytime
- not polytime unless $P = NP$
- not polytime

KC Map of the SD Family: Succinctness



- $L_1 \leftarrow L_2$: L_1 is strictly more succinct than L_2
- $L_1 \leftarrow\!\!\!-\!\!\! L_2$: unknown relationship

Choco with a Trace

- To compile discrete CSPs into FSDDs: “Choco with a trace”
- Different settings of Choco → different sublanguages
 - if variables are examined in fixed order → OSDDs
 - to get “pure” FSDDs, we can design heuristics for dynamic variable choice

Outline

- 1 Introduction to the problem
- 2 Knowledge Compilation for Decision-Making
 - Decision Policy
 - Knowledge Compilation
- 3 Interval Automata
 - Structure and semantics
 - Exploitation of a Policy Using IAs
 - Building FIAs
- 4 Set-labeled Diagrams
- 5 Conclusion

Contributions

- Definition of interval automata and set-labeled diagrams
- Identification of the focusingness property
- KC map of IAs and FIAs / of the SD family
- “RealPaver/Choco with a trace” algorithms
- Implementation (compilers and toolboxes)

Perspectives

- Approximate compilation
- AND-nodes
- compilation modulo theory: more expressive literals

$$x \in [1, 4] \longrightarrow x - y < 3$$
- Other data structures as compiled forms:
 R^* -trees, hashtables. . .
- Study comparison of languages w.r.t. a representation change