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# Designing Behavior Trees from Goal-Oriented LTLf Formulas

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# Goal Specification and Planning



**Specify a Goal**

Natural Language, State-machine, LTLf, Rewards, Objective Functions



**Plan**

RRT\*, A\*, Policy Iteration, MPC, PPO, Q-Learning



**Measure Performance**

F-Score, Precision, Recall, PAC, Resilience, Success Rate

# Goal Specification and Planning



**Specify a Goal:  
Finite Trace LTL**



**Plan:  
Behavior Tree**



**Measure Performance:  
Successful BT  $\Rightarrow$  Satisfied Goal**

# LTL<sub>f</sub> Overview

# Finite Trace Linear Temporal Logic (LTL<sub>f</sub>)

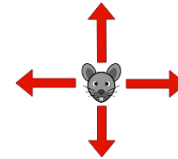
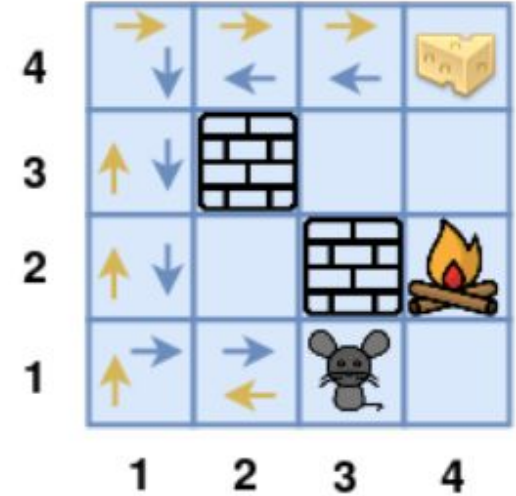
- Define state transition systems  $S \times A \rightarrow S$
- Each state is a vector of propositions
- Define a *trace* is a sequence of states  $\langle S_0, S_1, \dots, S_T \rangle$ .

$$\sigma = [S_0, S_1, \dots, S_n]$$

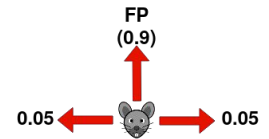
- Trace is **valid** only if LTL formula satisfied

# Finite Trace Linear Temporal Logic (LTL<sub>f</sub>)

- Propositions:
  - **c** (cheese)
  - **f** (fire)
  - **h** (home)
- Transitions: Mouse movements in Markov process
- Start:  $S_0 = \{ 'h': \text{True}, 'c': \text{False}, 'f': \text{False} \}$
- Goal:  $S_n = \{ 'h': \text{True}, 'c': \text{True}, 'f': \text{False} \}$
- Constraint:  $\forall i S_i = \{ 'h': ??, 'c': ??, 'f': \text{False} \}$



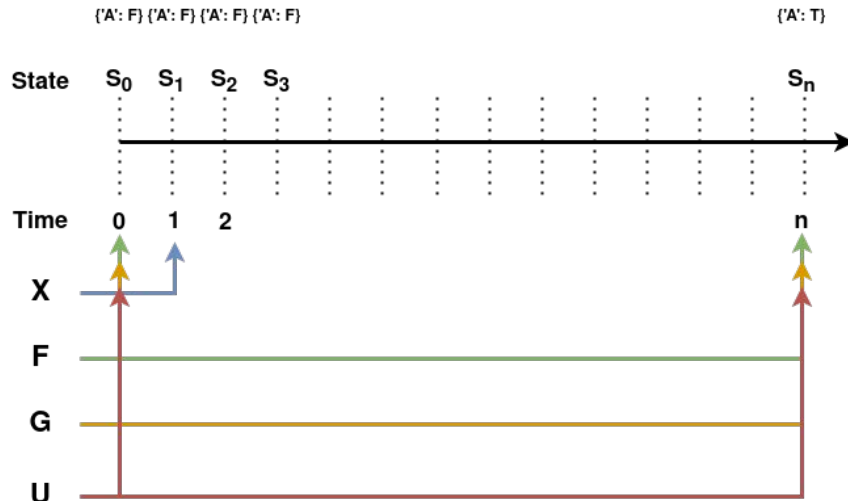
Agent Actions



Intended Action Probability

# LT<sub>f</sub> Syntax and Semantics

- Given a trace  $\sigma$  of some finite length  $m$  and LTL<sub>f</sub> goal specification  $\varphi$
- $\varphi = \mathbf{A}$ , where  $A$  is a proposition variable that checks if the current state is True or False.

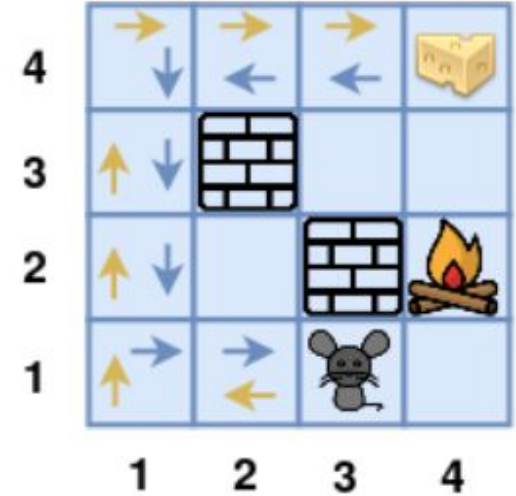


Textual	Explanation	Example
$X \varphi$	neXt: $\varphi$ has to hold at the next state	$\sigma = [A:F, A:F, A:F]$ . $X \varphi$ is False
$F \varphi$	Finally: $\varphi$ eventually has to hold	$\sigma = [A:F, A:T, A:F]$ . $F \varphi$ is True
$G \varphi$	Globally: $\varphi$ has to hold on the entire trace	$\sigma = [A:F, A:T, A:F]$ . $G \varphi$ is False
$\varphi_1 U \varphi_2$	Until: $\varphi_1$ has to hold at least until $\varphi_2$ becomes true, which must hold at current or future positions	Suppose $\varphi = \varphi_1 = \varphi_2$ , $\sigma = [A:F, B:F, A:F, B:T]$ . $\varphi_1 U \varphi_2$ is False

**Color Code :** Trace Scope (light green), Valid (dark green), Invalid (red)

# Finite Trace Linear Temporal Logic ( $LTL_f$ )

- Propositions:
  - **c** (cheese)
  - **f** (fire)
  - **h** (home)
- Transitions: Mouse movements in Markov process
- Start:  $S_0 = \{c': \text{False}, h': \text{True}, f': \text{False}\}$
- Goal:  $S_n = \{c': \text{True}, h': \text{True}, f': \text{False}\}$
- Constraint:  $\forall i S_i = \{c': ??, h': ??, f': \text{False}\}$






$$\psi^{Cheese} = \wedge \mathbf{F}(\wedge Cheese Home) \mathbf{G}(\neg Fire)$$



# Behavior Tree Overview

# Behavior Tree

BT Node	BT Symbol	Behavior	Operator
Selector	?	Or	$\vee$
Sequence		And	$\wedge$
Condition		True/False	
Action		User Defined	

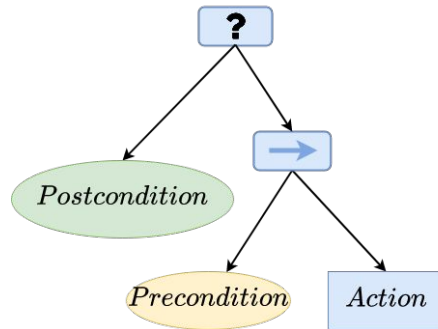
- BTs are modular, readable and reactive
- Formally equivalent to the Hierarchical State Machine and Or-And Trees.

# Behavior Tree: PPA Form

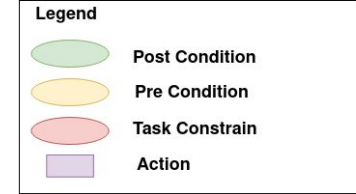
## Postcondition-Precondition-Action (PPA) BT

- Postcondition OR plan execution
- Ensures planner is not (re)executed if post condition is already met

BT Node	BT Symbol	Behavior	Operator
Selector	?	Or	$\vee$
Sequence	→	And	$\wedge$
Condition	○	True/False	
Action	□	User Defined	



a) Standard PPA BT

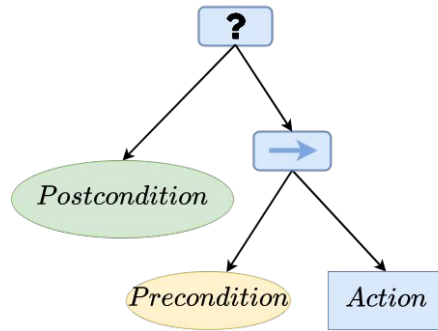


# Behavior Tree: PPA Form w/ constraint

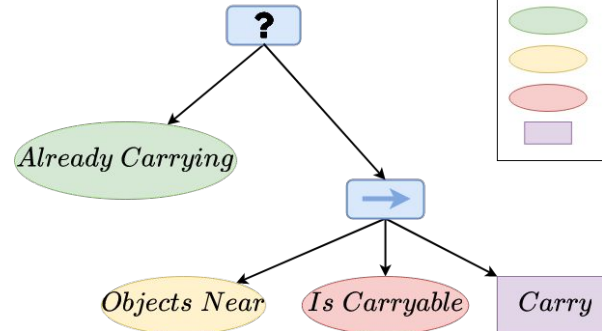
## Postcondition-Precondition-Action (PPA) BT

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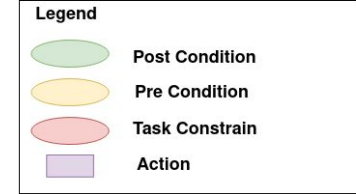
BT Node	BT Symbol	Behavior	Operator
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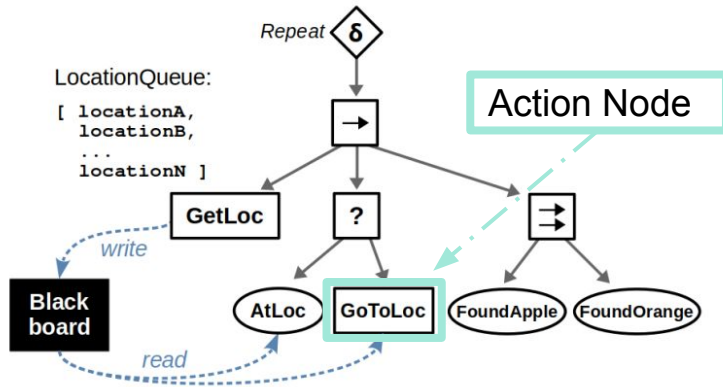
a) Standard PPA BT



b) PPA-style

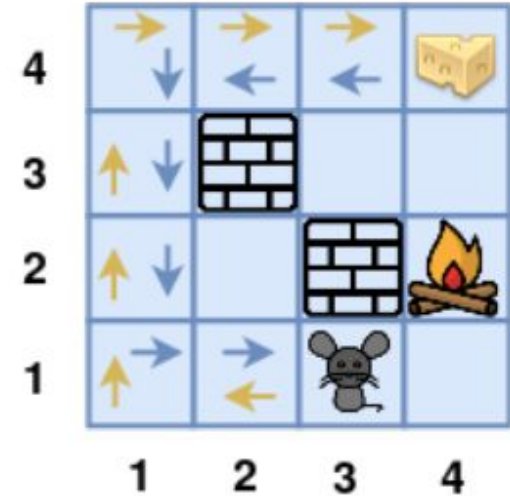
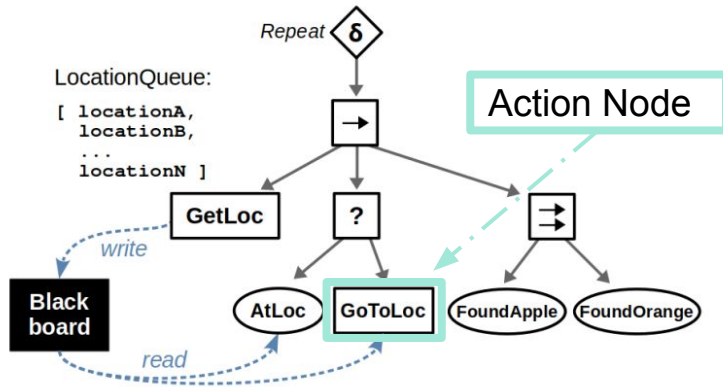


# BT as Trace Generator



- Plans are stored in **action** nodes
- State changes when plans execute actions
- Trace is sequential accumulation of states

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- State changes when plans execute actions
- Trace is sequential accumulation of states

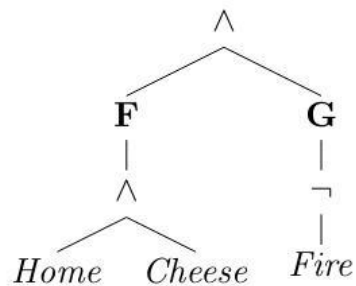
$$\sigma = [\{c':F, 'h':F, 'f':F\}, \{c':F, 'h':F, 'f':F\}, \{c':F, 'h':F, 'f':F\}, \dots, \{c':F, 'h':F, 'f':T\}]$$

# Convert Goal in $LTL_f$ to a PPA-Style Behavior Tree ...

# Idea: LTL<sub>f</sub> to BT

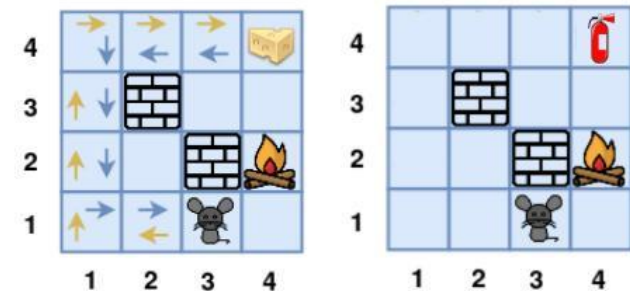
## Mouse and Cheese

$$\psi^{Cheese} = \wedge \mathbf{F}(\wedge \text{Cheese Home}) \mathbf{G}(\neg \text{Fire})$$

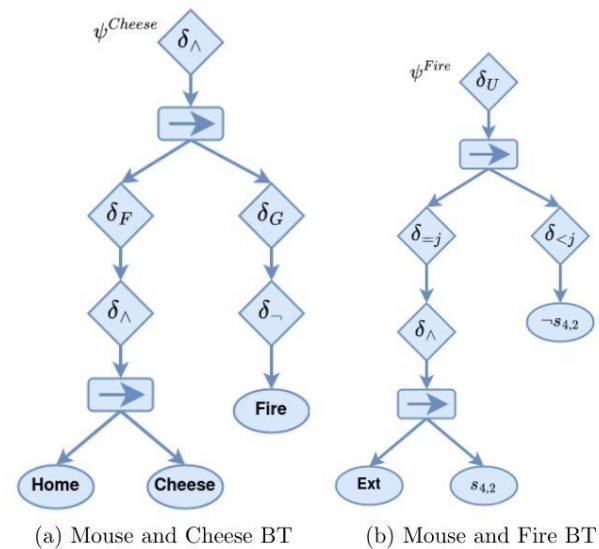


## Mouse and Fire

$$\psi^{Fire} = \mathbf{U} \neg s_{4,2} \left( \wedge \text{Ext } s_{4,2} \right)$$



(a) Mouse and cheese (b) Mouse and fire



(a) Mouse and Cheese BT

(b) Mouse and Fire BT

Existing LTL<sub>f</sub> to BT decomposition algorithm problems

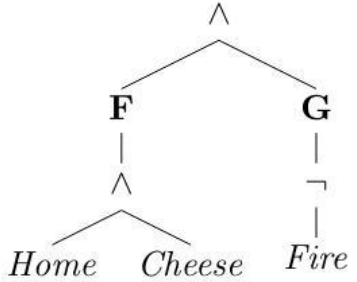
- Coupled algorithm for verification and synthesis
- Unable to use existing planners



# Idea: LTL<sub>f</sub> to BT

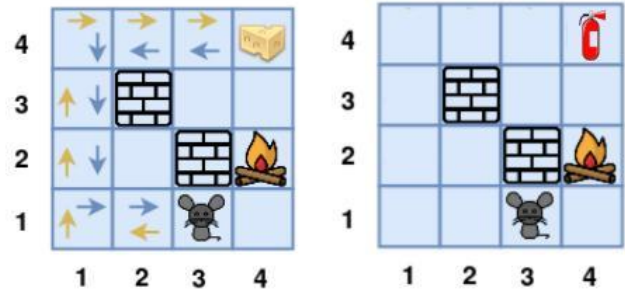
## Mouse and Cheese

$$\psi^{Cheese} = \wedge \mathbf{F}(\wedge \text{Cheese Home}) \mathbf{G}(\neg \text{Fire})$$

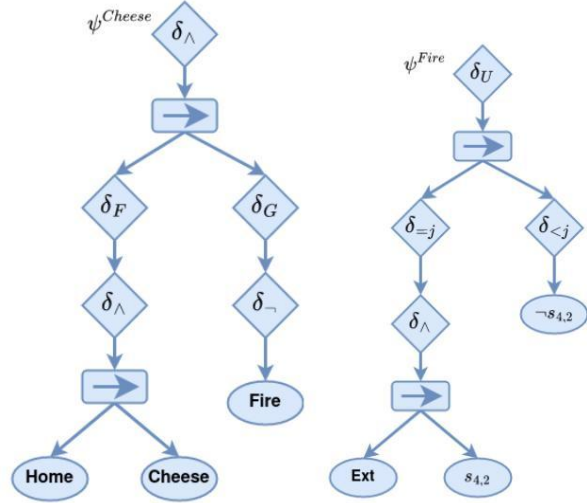


## Mouse and Fire

$$\psi^{Fire} = \mathbf{U} \neg s_{4,2} (\wedge \text{Ext } s_{4,2})$$



(a) Mouse and cheese (b) Mouse and fire



(a) Mouse and Cheese BT (b) Mouse and Fire BT

True or False

Success, Running, or Failure

# Creating PPA-Style BT from $LTL_f$ formula

Robot Tasks

Task grammar uses  $LTL_v$  style operators

Robot Mission

Mission grammar uses  $LTL_f$  style operators to combine tasks

$LTL_f$  Goal

$LTL_f$  Formula constrained to structures compatible with robot plans

# Robot Task Grammar and PPA-Style BT

$\langle \text{PPATask} \rangle ::= \vee (\wedge (\mathbf{G} \text{ GC}) \text{ PoC}) (\wedge (\wedge (\mathbf{G} \text{ GC}) (\text{PrC})) (\mathbf{U} (\text{TC}) (\wedge (\text{Action}) (\mathbf{G} \text{ GC}))))$

$\langle \text{PPATask} \rangle ::= \vee \langle \text{PostBlk} \rangle \langle \text{Task} \rangle$

$\langle \text{PostBlk} \rangle ::= \wedge \langle \text{GCnstr} \rangle \langle \text{PostCon} \rangle$

$\langle \text{Task} \rangle ::= \wedge \langle \text{PreBlk} \rangle \langle \text{ExecBlk} \rangle$

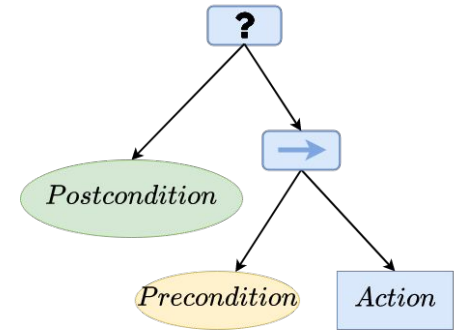
$\langle \text{PreBlk} \rangle ::= \wedge \langle \text{GCnstr} \rangle \text{ PreCon}$

$\langle \text{ExecBlk} \rangle ::= \mathbf{U} (\text{TCnstr}) (\wedge \text{Action} \langle \text{GCnstr} \rangle)$

$\langle \text{A} \rangle ::= a \mid \langle \text{A} \rangle \wedge \langle \text{A} \rangle \mid \langle \text{A} \rangle \vee \langle \text{A} \rangle$

$\langle \text{PostCon} \rangle ::= \langle \text{A} \rangle$

$\langle \text{GCnstr} \rangle ::= \mathbf{G} \langle \text{A} \rangle$



# Robot Task Grammar and PPA-Style BT

$\langle \text{PPATask} \rangle ::= \vee (\wedge (\mathbf{G} \text{ GC}) \text{ PoC}) (\wedge (\wedge (\mathbf{G} \text{ GC}) (\text{PrC})) (\mathbf{U} (\text{TC}) (\wedge (\text{Action}) (\mathbf{G} \text{ GC}))))$

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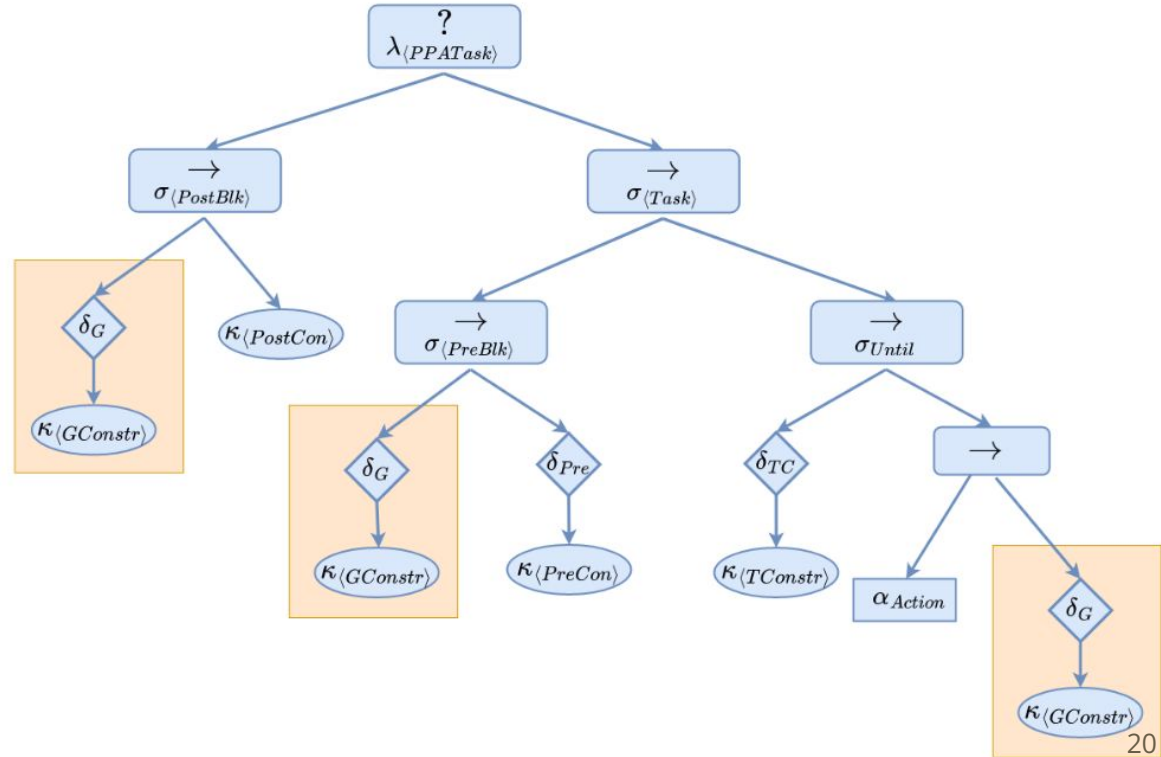
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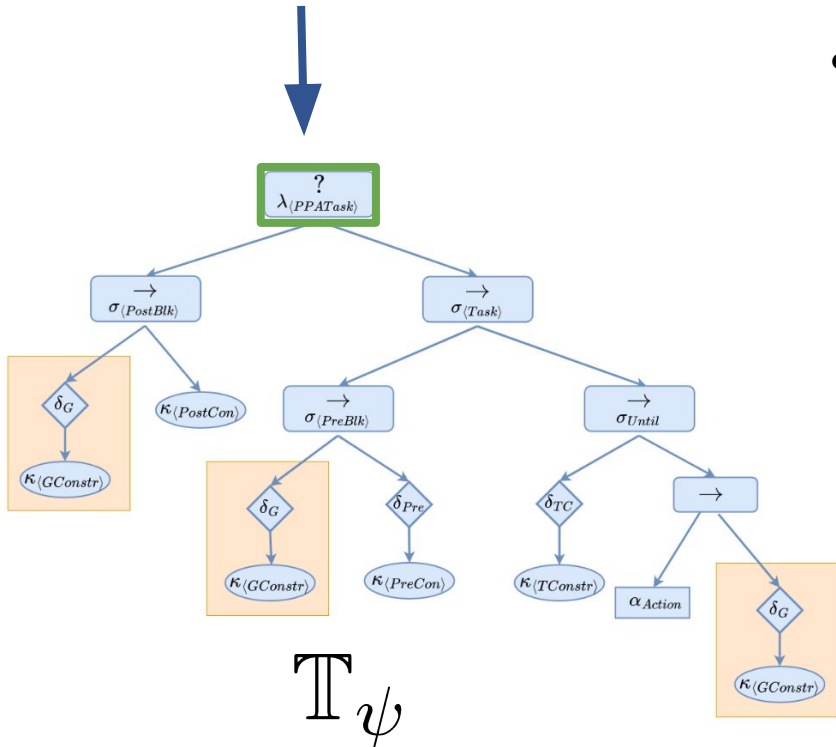
$\langle \text{PostCon} \rangle ::= \langle \text{A} \rangle$

$\langle \text{GCnstr} \rangle ::= \mathbf{G} \langle \text{A} \rangle$



# Robot Task Grammar Theorem

$$\langle \text{PPATask} \rangle ::= \forall (\wedge (\mathbf{G} \text{GC}) \text{PoC}) (\wedge (\wedge (\mathbf{G} \text{GC}) (\text{PrC})) (\mathbf{U} (\text{TC}) (\wedge (\text{Action}) (\mathbf{G} \text{GC}))))$$



- PPATask BT structures ensure that when BT returns **Success**, the trace is a **satisfies** the LTLf formula.

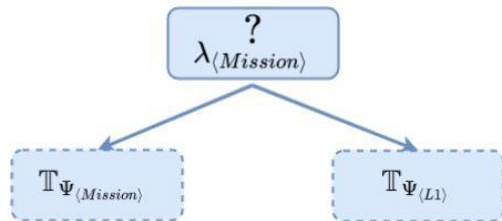
$$\text{success} \leftarrow \lambda_{\text{PPATask}} \implies \tau \models \psi$$

- PPATask BT structure and system constraints only generate a **subset of valid traces**

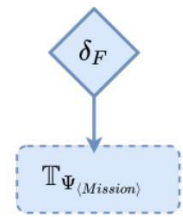
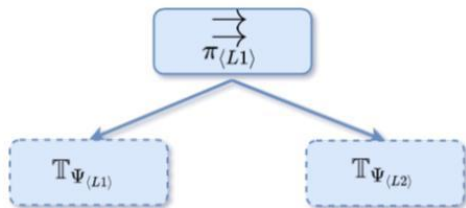
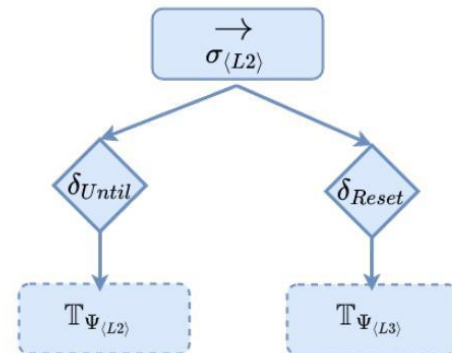
$$L(\mathbb{T}_\psi) \subseteq L(\psi)$$

# Mission Grammar BT

Connects PPATask with LTLf operators



$\langle Mission \rangle ::= \langle L1 \rangle$   
 $::= \vee \langle Mission \rangle \langle L1 \rangle$   
 $\langle L1 \rangle ::= \langle L2 \rangle$   
 $::= \wedge \langle L1 \rangle \langle L2 \rangle$   
 $\langle L2 \rangle ::= \langle L3 \rangle$   
 $::= \mathbf{U} \langle L2 \rangle \langle L3 \rangle$   
 $\langle L3 \rangle ::= \mathbf{F} (\langle Mission \rangle)$   
 $::= (\langle PPATask \rangle)$



# Mission Grammar BT and Theorem

Connects PPATask with LTLf operators

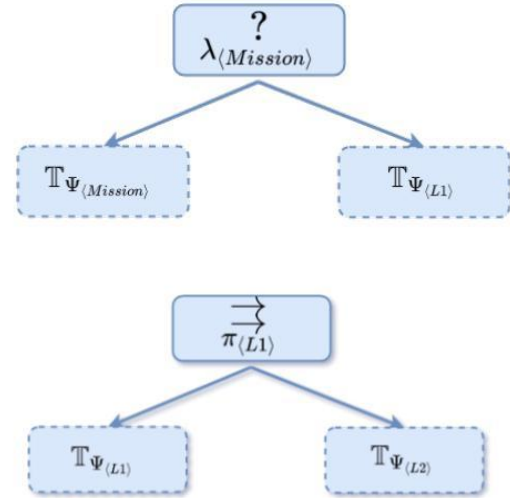
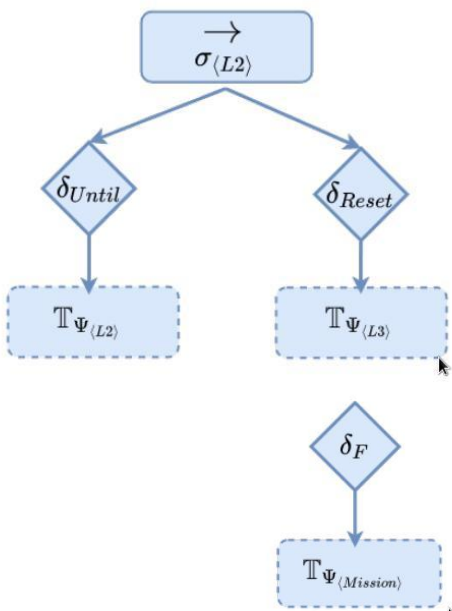
- Mission BT structures ensures that when mission BT returns **Success**, the trace **satisfies** the mission LTLf formula.

$$success \leftarrow \mathbb{T}_\Psi \implies \tau \models \Psi$$

- Mission structure and environmental constraints only allow a **subset of valid traces** to be generated

$$L(\mathbb{T}_\Psi) \subseteq L(\Psi)$$

- $\langle Mission \rangle ::= \langle L1 \rangle$  (M1)
- $::= \vee \langle Mission \rangle \langle L1 \rangle$  (M2)
- $\langle L1 \rangle ::= \langle L2 \rangle$  (M3)
- $::= \wedge \langle L1 \rangle \langle L2 \rangle$  (M4)
- $\langle L2 \rangle ::= \langle L3 \rangle$  (M5)
- $::= \mathbf{U} \langle L2 \rangle \langle L3 \rangle$  (M6)
- $\langle L3 \rangle ::= \mathbf{F} (\langle Mission \rangle)$  (M7)
- $::= (\langle PPATask \rangle)$  (M8)



# Creating BT from $LTL_f$ formula

Robot Tasks

Task grammar uses  $LTL_v$  style operators

Robot Mission

Mission grammar uses  $LTL_f$  style operators to combine tasks

$LTL_f$  Goal

$LTL_f$  Formula constrained to structures compatible with robot plans

Theorem: Every successful trace generated by the Behavior Tree satisfies the  $LTL_f$  formula ...

... but not conversely



# Goal Specification and Planning



**Specify a Goal:  
Finite Trace LTL**



**Plan:  
Behavior Tree**



**Measure Performance:  
Successful BT  $\Rightarrow$  Satisfied Goal**

# Applications

# Reward Misalignment

$$\Psi^{C2H} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{F} \psi^{\text{Cheese}} \mathbf{F} \psi^{\text{Home}}$$

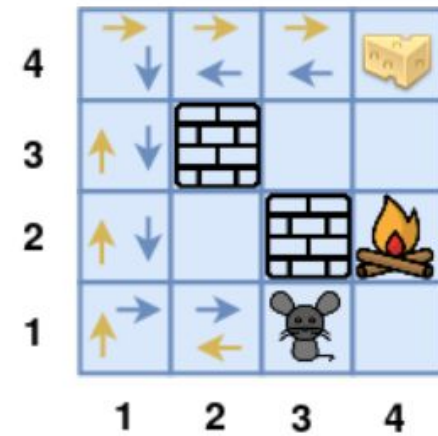
$$\psi^{\text{Cheese}} = \forall (\wedge \neg \text{Fire Cheese}) (\wedge (\wedge \neg \text{Fire True}))$$

$$(\mathbf{U} \text{ True} \wedge \boxed{\text{Action}_{\text{Cheese}}} \neg \text{Fire})$$

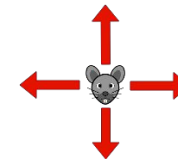
$$\psi^{\text{Home}} = \forall (\wedge \neg \text{Fire Home}) (\wedge (\wedge \neg \text{NotFire Cheese}))$$

$$(\mathbf{U} \text{ True} \wedge \boxed{\text{Action}_{\text{Home}}})$$

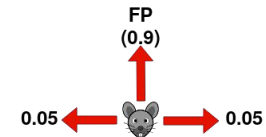
- Separate policies were trained using policy iteration
  - Various reward structures
  - Various intended action probabilities
- Policies are used by the action node to take action in the environment



(a) Mouse and cheese



Agent Actions



Intended Action Probability

# Reward Misalignment

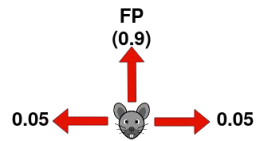
$$\Psi^{C2H} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{F} \psi^{\text{Cheese}} \mathbf{F} \psi^{\text{Home}}$$

$$\psi^{\text{Cheese}} = \vee (\wedge \neg \text{Fire Cheese}) (\wedge (\wedge \neg \text{Fire True}) (\mathbf{U} \text{ True} \wedge \text{Action}_{\text{Cheese}} \neg \text{Fire}))$$

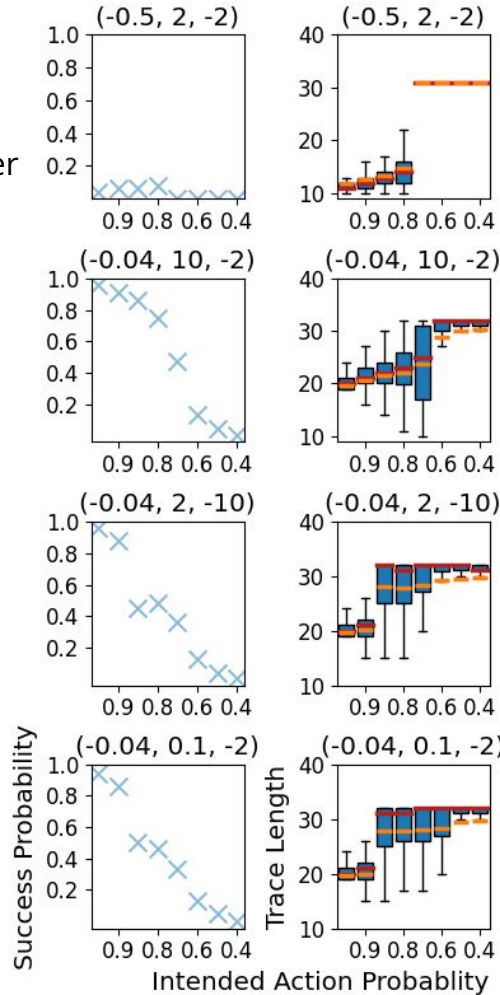
$$\psi^{\text{Home}} = \vee (\wedge \neg \text{Fire Home}) (\wedge (\wedge \neg \text{NotFire Cheese}) (\mathbf{U} \text{ True} \wedge \text{Action}_{\text{Home}}))$$

- Points in **First column**, **Higher** is Better
- Boxes in **Second column**, **Lower** is Better
- Each row, different reward structures

- Higher negative rewards leads to lower mission accomplishment rate
- Designing rewards is tricky



**Intended Action Probability**



# Learning using Mission BT

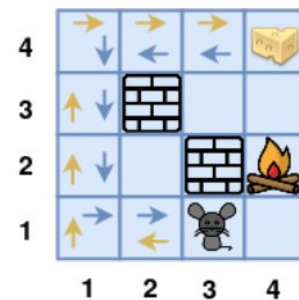
$$\Psi^{C2H} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{F} \psi^{\text{Cheese}} \mathbf{F} \psi^{\text{Home}}$$

$$\psi^{\text{Cheese}} = \forall (\wedge \neg \text{Fire Cheese}) (\wedge (\wedge \neg \text{Fire True}))$$

$$(\mathbf{U} \text{ True} \wedge \boxed{\text{Action}_{\text{Cheese}}} \neg \text{Fire}))$$

$$\psi^{\text{Home}} = \forall (\wedge \neg \text{Fire Home}) (\wedge (\wedge \neg \text{NotFire Cheese}))$$

$$(\mathbf{U} \text{ True} \wedge \boxed{\text{Action}_{\text{Home}}}))$$



(a) Mouse and cheese

## GenRecProp Learning Algorithm

For episode in max\_run:

    For step in episode:

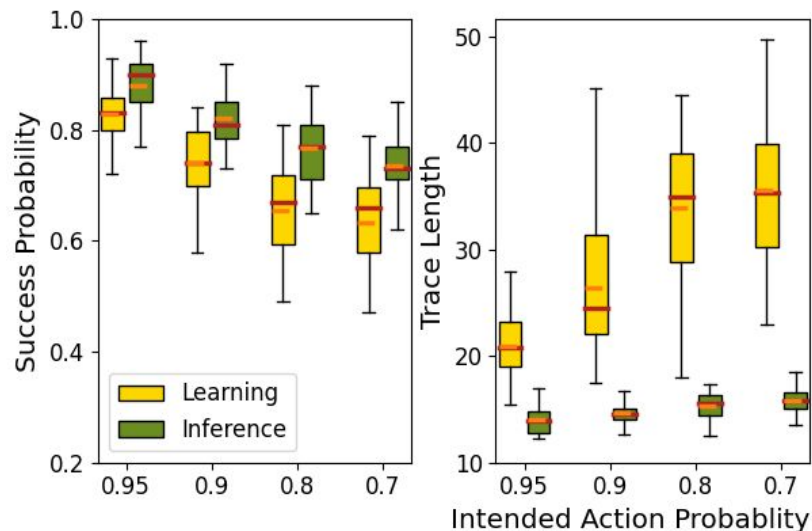
        state, done = env.step(action)

        If done:

            Break

        For t in len(trace):

$$\pi(a(t)|s(t)) \leftarrow \pi(a(t)|s(t)) + \mu^{m-t} * b$$



- **Left** plot, **Higher** is better
- **Right** plot, **Lower** is better

# Resilient Robot Execution

## Key Door Problem

**Mission:** use the key to open the door and then get to the goal

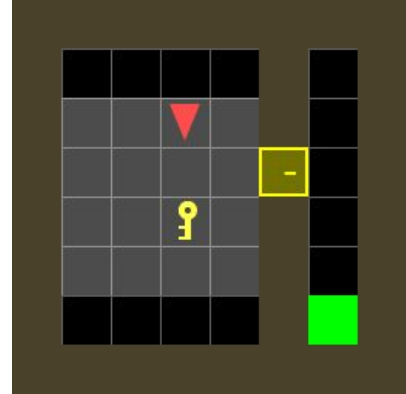
Mission LTLf:  $\Psi^{KD} = \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{F} \psi^{Key})(\mathbf{U} \mathbf{F} \psi^{Door} \mathbf{F} \psi^{Prize})$

Tasks LTLf:

$$\psi^{Key} = \forall(\wedge \text{NoErr } KeyStacked)(\wedge(\wedge \text{NoErr } IsKeyDoor) \\ (\mathbf{U} \text{VisibleKeyDoor} \wedge \text{Action}_{KeyStacked} \text{NoErr}))$$

$$\psi^{Door} = \forall(\wedge \text{NoErr } KeyDoorPassive)(\wedge(\wedge \text{NoErr } KeyStacked) \\ (\mathbf{U} \text{KeyStacked} \wedge \text{Action}_{KeyDoorPassive} \text{NoErr}))$$

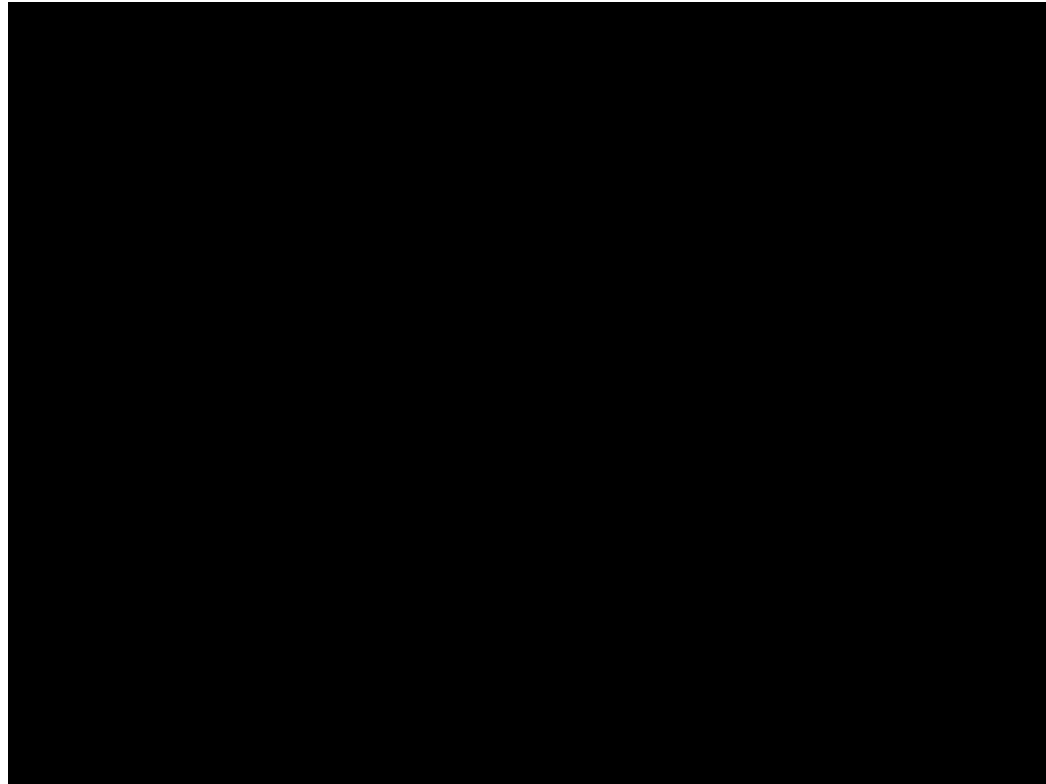
$$\psi^{Prize} = \forall(\wedge \text{NoErr } PrizePassive)(\wedge(\wedge \text{NoErr } Prize \text{Visible}) \\ (\mathbf{U} \text{KeyDoorPassive} \wedge \text{Action}_{PrizePassive} \text{NoErr}))$$



# Fetch Robot in Action

**Mission:** Move the **Key block** and stack up the Door block Until carry both blocks to staging area until carry the **prize block** to staging area

Mission LTLf:  $\Psi^{KD} = \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{F} \psi^{Key})(\mathbf{U} \mathbf{F} \psi^{Door} \mathbf{F} \psi^{Prize})$



**Thank you. I'm happy to take questions.**

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