To Explore or Not to Explore: Regret-Based LTL Planning in Partially-Known Environments *

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Abstract: In this paper, we investigate the optimal robot path planning problem for high-level specifications described by co-safe linear temporal logic (LTL) formulae. We consider the scenario where the map geometry of the workspace is partially-known. Specifically, we assume that there are some unknown regions, for which the robot does not know their successor regions a priori unless it reaches these regions physically. In contrast to the standard game-based approach that optimizes the worst-case cost, in the paper, we propose to use regret as a new metric for planning in such a partially-known environment. The regret of a plan under a fixed but unknown environment is the difference between the actual cost incurred and the best-response cost the robot could have achieved if it realizes the actual environment with hindsight. We provide an effective algorithm for finding an optimal plan that satisfies the LTL specification while minimizing its regret. A case study on firefighting robots is provided to illustrate the proposed framework. We argue that the new metric is more suitable for the scenario of partially-known environment since it captures the trade-off between the actual cost spent and the potential benefit one may obtain for exploring an unknown region.

Keywords: Discrete event systems, regret, autonomous robots, LTL planning.

1. INTRODUCTION

Path planning is one of the central problems in autonomous robots. In this context, one needs to design a finite or infinite path for the robot, according to its dynamic and the underlying environment, such that some desired requirements can be fulfilled. In the past years, robot path planning for *high-level specifications* using formal logics has been drawing increasingly more attentions in the literature; see, e.g., Mahulea et al. (2020); Kloetzer and Mahulea (2020); Yu et al. (2022).

Linear temporal logic (LTL) is one of the most popular languages for describing high-level specifications. In the context of robotic applications, path planning and decision-making for LTL specifications have been investigated very extensively recently. For example, Smith et al. (2011) studied how to generate an optimal open-loop plan such that a given LTL formula is fulfilled. When the results of control actions are non-deterministic, algorithms for synthesizing reactive strategies have been developed using two-player games (Fu and Topcu, 2016). The LTL path planning problem has also been studied for multi-robot systems (Yu and Dimarogonas, 2022) under both global and local tasks.

The aforementioned works on LTL path planning all assume that the environment is known in the sense that the map geometry and the semantic structure are both available at the planning stage. For partially-known environment, in Guo and Dimarogonas (2015), the authors

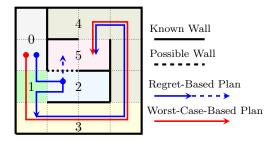


Fig. 1. A motivating example, where a robot needs to reach region 5 from regin 0 with partially-known environment information.

provided a re-planning algorithm based on the system model updated online. In Lahijanian et al. (2016), the authors proposed an iterative planning algorithm in uncertain environments. Recently, Kantaros et al. (2022) investigated the LTL planning problem under environments with known map geometries but with semantic uncertainties.

In this paper, we also investigate the LTL path planning for robots in partially-known environments. Specifically, here we assume that the location of each region in the map is perfectly known but, for some regions, the robot does not know their successor regions a priori unless it reaches these regions physically. For example, in Figure 1, the dashed line between regions 2 and 5 denotes a possible wall that may prevent the robot from reaching region 5 directly from region 2. Initially, the robot knows the possibility of the wall, but it will actually know the (non-)existence of the wall only when reaching region 2. Here, we distinguish between the terminologies of non-determinstic environ-

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ments and partially-known environments. Specifically, the former is referred to the scenario where the outcome of the environment is purely random in the sense that even for the same visit, the environment may behave differently. However, the partially-known environment is referred to the case where the robot has information uncertainty regarding the true world initially, but the underlying actual environment is still fixed and deterministic.

To solve the path planning problem in partially-known environments, a direct approach is to follow the same idea for planning in non-deterministic environments, where game-based approaches are usually used to minimize the worst-case cost. Still, let us consider Figure 1, where the robot aims to reach target region 5 with shortest distance. Using a worst-case-based approach, the robot will follow the red trajectory. This is because the short-cut from regions 2 to 5 may not exist; if it goes to region 2, then in the worst-case, it will spend additional effort to go back. However, by taking the red trajectory, the robot may heavily regret by thinking that it should have taken the short-cut at region 2 if it knows with hindsight that the wall does not exist. Therefore, a more natural and human-like plan is to first go to region 2 to take a look at whether there is a wall. If not, then it can take the short-cut, which saves 7 units cost. Otherwise, the robot needs to go back to the red trajectory. Compared with the red path, although this approach may have two more units cost than the worst-case, it takes the potential huge advantage of exploring the unknown regions.

In this paper, we formulate and solve a new type of LTL optimal path planning problem for robots working in an aforementioned partially-known environment. We adopt the notion of regret from game theory as the optimality metric. We propose the structure of partially-known weighted transition systems (PK-WTS) as the model that contains the set of all possible actual environments. The regret of a plan under a fixed but unknown environment is defined as the difference between its actual cost and the best-response cost it could have achieved after it knows the actual environment with hindsight. A value iteration algorithm is developed for computing an optimal strategy. We illustrate by case studies that, compared with the worstcase-based synthesis for non-deterministic environments, the proposed regret-based synthesis is more suitable for partially-known environments.

The regret minimization problem is an emerging topic in the context of graph games; see, e.g., Filiot et al. (2010); Hunter et al. (2017). Particularly, Filiot et al. (2010) is most related to our problem setting, where it solves a reachability game, via a graph-unfolding algorithm, with minimal regret for a player while the other player plays unrestricted strategies or regret-minimizing strategies as well. Furthermore, in the context of robotic applications, the recent work Muvvala et al. (2022) uses regret to optimize human-robot collaboration strategies, based on the algorithm in Filiot et al. (2010). However, when it refers to the exploration problem, since the actual environment is fixed, two critical issues arise in the two-player graph game: i) the environment-player plays a positional strategy rather than the unrestricted manner in Filiot et al. (2010); Muvvala et al. (2022); and ii) to this end, the agent-player needs to "memorize" the choices of the environmentplayer, which renders the mechanism of knowledge update. Therefore, it still remains open in the literature of reactive synthesis/graph game to solve a regret-minimizing reachability game against the environment-player playing positional strategies. In this work, we use regret to capture the issue of exploration in partially-known environments and present an efficient algorithm to solve the regret-minimizing planning problem.

2. LTL PLANNING IN FULLY-KNOWN ENVIRONMENTS

2.1 Weighted Transition Systems

When the environment of the workspace is fully-known, the mobility of the agent (or map geometry) is usually modeled as a weighted transition system (WTS)

$$T = (X, x_0, \delta_T, w_T, \mathcal{AP}, L),$$

where X is a set of states representing different regions of the workspace; $x_0 \in X$ is the initial state representing the starting region of the agent; $\delta_T : X \to 2^X$ is the transition function such that, starting from each state $x \in X$, the agent can move directly to any of its successor state $x' \in \delta_T(x)$. We also refer $\delta_T(x)$ to as the successor states of x; $w: X \times X \to \mathbb{N}$ is a cost function such that w(x, x') represents the cost incurred when the agent moves from x to x'; \mathcal{AP} is the set of atomic propositions; and $L: X \to 2^{\mathcal{AP}}$ is a labeling function assigning each state a set of atomic propositions.

Given WTS T, an infinite path of T is an infinite sequence of states $\rho = x_0x_1x_2\cdots \in X^\omega$ such that $x_{i+1}\in \delta_T(x_i), i\geq 0$. A finite path is defined analogously. We denote by $\mathsf{Path}^\omega(T)$ and $\mathsf{Path}^*(T)$ the sets of all infinite paths and finite paths in T, respectively. Given a finite path $\rho = x_0x_1\cdots x_n\in \mathsf{Path}^*(T)$, its cost is defined as the sum of all transition weights in it, which is denoted by $\mathsf{cost}(\rho) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} w(x_i, x_{i+1})$. The trace of a path $\rho = x_0x_1x_2\cdots \in X^\omega$ is an infinite sequence over $2^{\mathcal{AP}}$ denoted by $L(\rho) = L(x_0)L(x_1)\cdots$. Analogously, we denote by $\mathsf{Trace}^\omega(T)$ and $\mathsf{Trace}^*(T)$ the sets of all infinite traces and finite traces in T, respectively. We assume that T is fixed and connected, i.e., there exists a path between any two states.

2.2 Linear Temporal Logic Specifications

The syntax of general LTL formula is given as follows

$$\phi = \top \mid a \mid \neg \phi \mid \phi_1 \land \phi_2 \mid \bigcirc \phi \mid \phi_1 U \phi_2$$

where \top stands for the "true" predicate; $a \in \mathcal{AP}$ is an atomic proposition; \neg and \land are Boolean operators "negation" and "conjunction", respectively; \bigcirc and U denote temporal operators "next" and "until", respectively. One can also derive other temporal operators such as "eventually" by $\Diamond \phi = \top U \phi$. LTL formulae are evaluated over infinite words; the readers are referred to Baier and Katoen (2008) for the semantics of LTL. Specifically, an infinite word $\tau \in (2^{\mathcal{AP}})^{\omega}$ is an infinite sequence over alphabet $2^{\mathcal{AP}}$. We write $\tau \models \phi$ if τ satisfies LTL formula ϕ .

In this paper, we focus on a widely used fragment of LTL formulae called the $co\text{-}safe\ LTL$ (scLTL) formulae. Specifically, an scLTL formula requires that the negation

operator \neg can only be applied in front of atomic propositions. Consequently, one cannot use "always" \square in scLTL. Although the semantics of LTL are defined over infinite words, it is well-known that any infinite word satisfying a co-safe LTL formula has a *finite good prefix*. Specifically, a good prefix is a finite word $\tau' = \tau_1 \cdots \tau_n \in (2^{AP})^*$ such that $\tau'\tau'' \models \phi$ for any $\tau'' \in (2^{AP})^{\omega}$. We denote by $\mathcal{L}_{pref}^{\phi}$ the set of all finite good prefixes of scLTL formula ϕ .

For any scLTL formula ϕ , its good prefixes $\mathcal{L}_{pref}^{\phi}$ can be accepted by a deterministic finite automaton (DFA). Formally, a DFA is a 5-tuple $\mathcal{A}=(Q,q_0,\Sigma,f,Q_F)$, where Q is the set of states; $q_0\in Q$ is the initial state; Σ is the alphabet; $f:Q\times\Sigma\to Q$ is a transition function; and $Q_F\subseteq Q$ is the set of accepting states. The transition function can also be extended to $f\colon Q\times\Sigma^*\to Q$ recursively. A finite word $\tau\in\Sigma^*$ is said to be accepted by \mathcal{A} if $f(q_0,\tau)\in Q_F$; we denote by $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$ the set of all accepted words. Then for any scLTL formula ϕ defined over \mathcal{AP} , we can always build a DFA over alphabet $\Sigma=2^{\mathcal{AP}}$, denoted by $\mathcal{A}_{\phi}=(Q,q_0,2^{\mathcal{AP}},f,Q_F)$, such that $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}_{\phi})=\mathcal{L}_{pref}^{\phi}$ Given a WTS T and an scLTL formula ϕ , the path planning problem is to find an finite path (a.k.a. a plan) $\rho\in \operatorname{Path}^*(T)$ such that $L(\rho)\in\mathcal{L}_{pref}^{\phi}$ and, at the same time, its cost $\operatorname{cost}(\rho)$ is minimized.

To solve the scLTL planning problem, the standard approach is to build the product system between WTS $T=(X,x_0,\delta_T,w,\mathcal{AP},L)$ and DFA $\mathcal{A}_\phi=(Q,q_0,\Sigma,f,Q_F)$, which is a WTS $P=T\otimes\mathcal{A}_\phi=(S,s_0,\delta_P,w_P,S_F)$, where $S=X\times Q$ is the set of states; $s_0=(x_0,q_0)$ is the initial state; $\delta_P:S\to 2^S$ is the transition function defined by: for any $s=(x,q)\in S$, we have $\delta_P(s)=\{(x',q')\in S\mid x'\in\delta_T(x)\wedge q'=f(q,L(x))\};\ w_P:S\times S\to \mathbb{N}$ is the weight function defined by: for any $s=(x,q),s'=(x',q')\in S$, we have $w_P(s,s')=w(x,x');$ and $S_F=X\times Q_F$ is the set of accepting states. By construction, for any path $\rho=(x_0,q_0)\cdots(x_n,q_n)$ in the product system, $(x_n,q_n)\in S_F$ implies $\rho=x_0\cdots x_n\in \mathsf{Path}^*(T)$ and $L(\rho)\in \mathcal{L}_{pref}^\phi$. Therefore, to solve the scLTL planning problem, it suffices to find a path with minimum weight from the initial state to accepting states S_F in the product system.

3. PLANNING IN PARTIALLY-KNOWN ENVIRONMENTS

The above reviewed shortest-path-search-based LTL planning method crucially depends on that the mobility of the robot, or the environment map T is perfectly known. This method, however, is not suitable for the case of partially-known environments. To be specific, we consider a partially-known environment in the following setting:

- A1 The agent knows the existence of all regions in the environment as well as their semantics (atomic propositions hold at each region);
- A2 The successor regions of each region are fixed, but the agent may not know, *a priori*, what are the actual successor regions it can move to;
- A3 Once the agent physically reaches a region, it will know the successor regions of this region precisely.

In this section, we will provide a formal model for such a partially-known environment using the new structure of

partially-known weighted transition systems and use regret as a new metric for evaluating the performance of the agent's plan in a partially-known environment.

3.1 Partially-Known Weighted Transition Systems

Definition 1. (Partially-Known WTS). A partially-known weighted transition system (PK-WTS) is a 6-tuple

$$\mathbb{T} = (X, x_0, \Delta, w, \mathcal{AP}, L),$$

where, similar to a WTS, X is the set of states with initial state $x_0 \in X$, $w: X \times X \to \mathbb{N}$ is the cost function and $L: X \to 2^{A\mathcal{P}}$ is a labeling function that assigns each state a set of atomic propositions. Different from the WTS, $\Delta: X \to 2^{2^X}$ is called a *successor-pattern function* that assigns each state $x \in X$ a family of successor states.

In PK-WTS \mathbb{T} , for each state $x \in X$, we have $\Delta(x) =$ $\{o_1,\ldots,o_{|\Delta(x)|}\}$, where each $o_i \in 2^X$ is called a successorpattern representing a possible set of actual successor states at state x. Hereafter, we will also refer each $o_i \in$ $\Delta(x)$ to as an observation at state x since the agent "observes" its successor states when exploring state x. Therefore, for each state $x \in X$, we say x is a known state if $|\Delta(x)| = 1$; and unknown state if $|\Delta(x)| > 1$. We assume that the initial state x_0 is known since the agent has already stayed at x_0 so that it has the precise information regarding the successor states of x_0 . Therefore, we can partition the state space as $X = X_{kno} \dot{\cup} X_{un}$, where X_{kno} is the set of known states and X_{un} is the set of unknown states. In reality, the agent is moving in a specific environment that is compatible with the possible world \mathbb{T} , although itself does not know this a priori. Formally, we say a WTS $T = (X, x_0, \delta_T, w, \mathcal{AP}, L)$ is compatible with PK-WTS \mathbb{T} , denoted by $T \in \mathbb{T}$, if $\forall x \in X : \delta_T(x) \in \Delta(x)$. Clearly, if all states in T are known, then its compatible WTS is unique. We still assume that each compatible environment $T \in \mathbb{T}$ is fixed and connected.

3.2 History and Knowledge Updates

In the partially-known setting, the agent cannot make decision only based on the finite sequence of states it has visited. In addition, it should also consider what it observed (successor-pattern) at each state visited. Note that, when the agent visits a known state $x \in X_{kno}$, it will not gain any useful information about the environment since $\Delta(x)$ is already a singleton. Only when the agent visits an unknown state, it will gain new information and successor-pattern at this state will become known from then on. Therefore, we refer the visit to an unknown state to as an exploration.

To capture the result of an exploration, we call a tuple $\kappa = \langle x, o \rangle \in X \times 2^X$, where $o \in \Delta(x)$, a knowledge obtained when exploring state x, which means the agent knows that the successor states of x are o. For each knowledge κ , we denote by $\kappa(x)$ and $\kappa(o)$, respectively, its first and second components, i.e., $\kappa = \langle \kappa(x), \kappa(o) \rangle$. We denote by

$$\mathsf{Kw} = \{ \kappa \in X \times 2^X \mid \kappa(o) \in \Delta(\kappa(x)) \}, \tag{1}$$

the set of all possible knowledges. A history in $\mathbb T$ is a finite sequence of knowledges

$$\hbar = \kappa_0 \kappa_1 \cdots \kappa_n = \langle x_0, o_0 \rangle \langle x_1, o_1 \rangle \cdots \langle x_n, o_n \rangle \in \mathsf{Kw}^* \quad (2)$$
 such that

- (1) for any $i = 0, \ldots, n-1$, we have $x_{i+1} \in o_i$; and
- (2) for any i, j = 1, ..., n, we have $x_i = x_j \Rightarrow o_i = o_j$.

For $\hbar = \kappa_0 \kappa_1 \cdots \kappa_n \in \mathsf{Kw}^*$, we call $\kappa_0(x) \kappa_1(x) \cdots \kappa_n(x)$ its path. We denote by $\mathsf{Path}^*(\mathbb{T})$ and $\mathsf{Hist}^*(\mathbb{T})$ the set of all paths and histories of \mathbb{T} , respectively.

Along each history $\hbar = \kappa_0 \kappa_1 \cdots \kappa_n \in \mathsf{Kw}^*$, the agent obtain a set of knowledges (or simply, a knowledge-set)

$$\mathcal{K} = \{ \kappa_i \mid i = 0, \dots, n \} \subseteq \mathsf{Kw}, \tag{3}$$

which is an unordered set of knowledges. We define

$$\mathbb{KW} = \{ \mathcal{K} \in 2^{\mathsf{Kw}} \mid \forall \kappa, \kappa' \in \mathcal{K} : \kappa(x) = \kappa'(x) \Rightarrow \kappa(o) = \kappa'(o) \}$$

as the set of knowledge-sets. Therefore, given a knowledgeset $K \in \mathbb{KW}$, we say state $x \in X$ has been explored in \mathcal{K} , if $\langle x,o\rangle \in \mathcal{K}$ for some o; we denote by $X(\mathcal{K})$ the set of explored states in K. If x has been explored in K, we denote by $o_{\mathcal{K}}(x) \in 2^X$ the unique observation such that $\langle x, o_{\mathcal{K}}(x) \rangle \in \mathcal{K}.$

Then the agent can maintain a finer possible world by incorporating with the knowledges it obtained. Specifically, by having knowledge-set $K \in \mathbb{KW}$, the agent can update the PK-WTS $\mathbb{T} = (X, x_0, \Delta, w, \mathcal{AP}, L)$ to a finer PK-WTS

$$\mathbb{T}' = \mathsf{update}(\mathbb{T}, \mathcal{K}) = (X, x_0, \Delta', w, \mathcal{AP}, L),$$

where for any $x \in X$, we have

$$\Delta'(x) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \{o_{\mathcal{K}}(x)\} \text{ if } x \in X(\mathcal{K}) \\ \Delta(x) \text{ if } x \notin X(\mathcal{K}) \end{array} \right..$$

Note that, the above update function is well-defined since conflict knowledges $\langle x, o \rangle, \langle x, o' \rangle \in \mathsf{Kw}$ such that $o \neq o'$ cannot belong to the same knowledge-set by the definition of history and Equation (4).

3.3 Strategy and Regret

Under the setting of partially-known environment, the plan is no longer an open-loop sequence. Instead, it is a strategy that determines the next state the agent should go to based what has been visited and what has known, which are environment dependent. Formally, a strategy is a function $\xi: \mathsf{Hist}^*(\mathbb{T}) \to X \cup \{stop\}$ such that for any $\hbar = \kappa_1 \cdots \kappa_n$, where $\kappa_i = \langle x_i, o_i \rangle$, either (i) $\xi(\hbar) \in o_n$, i.e., it decides to move to some successor state; or (ii) $\xi(\hbar) = stop$, i.e., the plan is terminated. We denote by $\mathsf{Stra}(\mathbb{T})$ the set of all strategies for \mathbb{T} .

Although a strategy is designed to handle all possible actual environments in the possible world T, when it is applied to an actual environment $T \in \mathbb{T}$, the outcome of the strategy can be completely determined. We denote by $\rho_{\xi}^T = x_0 x_1 \cdots x_n \in X^*$ the finite path induced by strategy ξ in environment $T \in \mathbb{T}$, which is the unique path such that

- $\forall i < n : \xi(\langle x_0, \delta_T(x_0) \rangle \cdots \langle x_i, \delta_T(x_i) \rangle) = x_{i+1}$; and $\xi(\langle x_0, \delta_T(x_0) \rangle \cdots \langle x_n, \delta_T(x_n) \rangle) = stop$.

Note that the agent does not know a priori which $T \in \mathbb{T}$ is the actual environment. To guarantee the accomplishment of the LTL task, a strategy ξ should satisfy

$$\forall T \in \mathbb{T} : \rho_{\xi}^T \in \mathcal{L}_{pref}^{\phi}. \tag{5}$$

 $\forall T \in \mathbb{T} : \rho_{\xi}^T \in \mathcal{L}_{pref}^{\phi}.$ We denote by $\mathsf{Stra}_{\phi}(\mathbb{T})$ all strategies satisfying (5).

To evaluate the performance of strategy ξ , one approach is to consider the worst-case cost of the strategy among all possible environment, i.e., $cost_{worst}(\xi) :=$ $\max_{T\in\mathbb{T}} \mathsf{cost}(\rho_{\xi}^T)$. However, as we have illustrated by the example in Figure 1, this metric cannot capture the potential benefit obtained from exploring unknown states and the agent may regret due to the unexploration. To capture this issue, in this work, we adopt the notion of regret as the metric to evaluate the performance of a strategy.

Definition 2. (Regret). Given a partially-known environment described by PK-WTS $\mathbb T$ and a task described by an scLTL ϕ , the regret of strategy ξ is defined by

$$\operatorname{reg}_{\mathbb{T}}(\xi) = \max_{T \in \mathbb{T}} \left(\operatorname{cost}(\rho_{\xi}^T) - \min_{\xi' \in \operatorname{Stra}_{\phi}(\mathbb{T})} \operatorname{cost}(\rho_{\xi'}^T) \right) \tag{6}$$

3.4 Problem Formulation

After presenting the PK-WTS modeling framework as well as the regret-based performance metric, we are now ready to formulate the problem that we solve in this work.

Problem 1. (Regret-Based LTL Planning). Given a possible world represented by PK-WTS $\mathbb T$ and an scLTL task ϕ , synthesize a strategy ξ such that i) $\rho_{\xi}^T \in \mathcal{L}_{pref}^{\phi}$ for any $T \in \mathbb{T}$; and ii) $\operatorname{reg}_{\mathbb{T}}(\xi)$ is minimized.

4. GAME-BASED SYNTHESIS ALGORITHM

In this section, we solve the regret-based LTL planning problem. Our approach is to first build a knowledgebased game arena that is consistent with all possible histories. Then, based on the game arena, an effective value iteration algorithm is developed, which provides the optimal strategy with minimum regret.

4.1 Knowledge-Based Game Arena

Given $\mathbb{T} = (X, x_0, \Delta, w, \mathcal{AP}, L)$, its skeleton system is a WTS $\mathcal{T} = (X, x_0, \delta_{\mathcal{T}}, w, \mathcal{AP}, L)$, where for any $x \in X$, we have $\delta_{\mathcal{T}}(x) = \bigcup \{o \in \Delta(x)\}\$, i.e., the successor states of x is defined as the union of all possible successorpatterns. To incorporate with the task information, let $\mathcal{A}_{\phi} = (Q, q_0, \Sigma, f, Q_F)$ be the DFA that accepts all goodprefixes of scLTL formula ϕ . We construct the product system between \mathcal{T} and \mathcal{A}_{ϕ} , denoted by

$$\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{T} \otimes \mathcal{A}_{\phi} = (S, s_0, \delta_{\mathcal{P}}, w_{\mathcal{P}}, S_F),$$

where the product "\oing" has been defined before and recall that its state-space is $S = X \times Q$.

However, the state-space of \mathcal{P} is still not sufficient for the purpose of decision-making since the explored knowledges along the trajectory are missing. Therefore, we further incorporate the knowledge-set into the product state-space and explicitly split the movement choice of the agent and the non-determinism of the environment. This leads to the following knowledge-based game arena.

Definition 3. (Knowledge-Based Game Arena). Given \mathbb{T} , the knowledge-based game arena is a bipartite graph

$$G = (V = V_a \dot{\cup} V_e, v_0, E),$$

where

- $V_a = X \times Q \times \mathbb{KW}$ is the set of agent vertices;
- $V_e = X \times Q \times \mathbb{KW} \times X$ is the set of environment

- $v_0 = (x_0, q_0, \kappa_0) \in V_a$ is the initial (agent) vertex, where $\kappa_0 \in \mathsf{Kw}$ is the initial knowledge of the agent, i.e., $\kappa_0(x) = x_0$ and $\Delta(x_0) = {\kappa_0(o)};$
- $E \subseteq V \times V$ is the set of edges defined by: for any $v_a = (x_a, q_a, \mathcal{K}_a) \in V_a \text{ and } v_e = (x_e, q_e, \mathcal{K}_e, \hat{x}_e) \in V_e,$
 - · $\langle v_a, v_e \rangle \in E$ whenever (i) $(x_e, q_e, \mathcal{K}_e) = (x_a, q_a, \mathcal{K}_a)$; and (ii) $\hat{x}_e \in o_{\mathcal{K}_a}(x_a)$. $\langle v_e, v_a \rangle \in E$ whenever (i) $x_a = \hat{x}_e$; and (ii) $(x_a, q_a) \in \delta_{\mathcal{P}}(x_e, q_e)$; and (iii-1) if $x_a \in X(\mathcal{K}_e)$, then $\mathcal{K}_a = \mathcal{K}_e$;

(iii-2) if $x_a \notin X(\mathcal{K}_e)$, then we have $\mathcal{K}_a \in \{\mathcal{K}_e \cup \{\langle x_a, o \rangle\} \mid o \in \Delta(x_a)\}.$

Note that since x_a is the current state, it has been explored and we have $x_a \in X(\mathcal{K}_a)$, i.e., we know that the actual successor states of x_a are $o_{\mathcal{K}_a}(x_a)$. Therefore, it can move to any environment state $v_e = (x_a, q_a, \mathcal{K}_a, \hat{x})$ by "remembering" the successor state $\hat{x} \in o_{\mathcal{K}_a}(x_a)$ it chooses. Now, at each environment state $v_e = (x_e, q_e, \mathcal{K}_e, \hat{x}_e)$, the meanings of the first three components are the same as those for agent state. The last component \hat{x}_e denotes the state it is moving to. Therefore, v_e can reach agent state $v_a = (x_a, q_a, \mathcal{K}_a)$, where the first two components are just the transition in the product system synchronizing the movements of the WTS and the DFA. Note that we have $x_a = \hat{x}_e$ since the movement has been decided by the agent. However, for the last component of knowledge-set \mathcal{K}_a , we need to consider the following two cases: i) if state $x_a = \hat{x}_e$ has already been explored, then the agent must observe the same successor-pattern as before. Therefore, the knowledge-set is not updated; ii) if state $x_a = \hat{x}_e$ has not yet been explored, then the new explored knowledge $\langle x_a, o \rangle \in \mathsf{Kw}$ should be added to the knowledge-set \mathcal{K}_e . However, since this is the first time the agent visits x_a , any possible observations $o \in \Delta(x_a)$ consistent with the prior information are possible. Therefore, the resulting knowledge-set \mathcal{K}_e is non-deterministic.

4.2 Strategies and Plays in the Game Arena

We call a finite sequence of vertices $\pi = v_0 v_1 \cdots v_n \in V^*$ a play on G if $\langle v_i, v_{i+1} \rangle \in E$ and we denote by $\mathsf{Play}^*(G)$ the set of all finite plays on G. We call π a complete play if $\mathsf{last}(\pi) \in V_a$, where $\mathsf{last}(\pi)$ denotes the last vertex in π . Then for a complete play $\pi = v_0 v_1 \cdots v_{2n} \in V^* V_a$, where $v_{2i} = (x_i, q_i, \mathcal{K}_i), i = 0, \dots, n$, it induces a path denoted by $\pi_{path} = x_0 x_1 \cdots x_n$ as well as a history

$$\pi_{his} = \langle x_0, o_{\mathcal{K}_0}(x_0) \rangle \langle x_1, o_{\mathcal{K}_1}(x_1) \rangle \cdots \langle x_n, o_{\mathcal{K}_n}(x_n) \rangle.$$

Note that, in the above, we have $\mathcal{K}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{K}_1 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq \mathcal{K}_n$ and the knowledge-set constructed along history π_{his} is exactly \mathcal{K}_n . On the other hand, for any history $\hbar = \kappa_0 \kappa_1 \cdots \kappa_n \in$ Kw^* , there exists a unique complete play in G, denoted by π_{\hbar} , such that its induced history is \hbar .

Since the first two components of G are from the product of \mathcal{T} and \mathcal{A}_{ϕ} , for any complete play π , we have $L(\pi_{path}) \in$ $\mathcal{L}^{\phi}_{pref}$ iff the second component of $\mathsf{last}(\pi)$ is an accepting state in the DFA. Therefore, we define

$$V_F = \{ (x_a, q_a, \mathcal{K}_a) \in V_a \mid q_a \in Q_F \}$$

the set of accepting vertices representing the satisfaction of the scLTL task. Also, since only edges from V_e to V_a represent actual movements, we define a weight function for Gas $w_G: V \times V \to \mathbb{N}$, where for any $v_a = (x_a, q_a, \mathcal{K}_a)$ and $v_e =$ $(x_e, q_e, \mathcal{K}_e, \hat{x}_e)$, we have $w_G(v_a, v_e) = 0$ and $w_G(v_e, v_a) = w(x_e, x_a)$. The the cost of a play $\pi = v_0 v_1 \cdots v_n \in V^*$ is defined as $\mathsf{cost}_G(\pi) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} w_G(v_i, v_{i+1})$.

A strategy for the agent-player is a function σ_a : $V^*V_a \to V_e \cup \{stop\}$ such that for any $\pi \in V^*V_a$, either $\langle \mathsf{last}(\pi), \sigma_a(\pi) \rangle \in E$ or $\sigma_a(\pi) = stop$. Analogously, a strategy for the environment-player is a function $\sigma_e: V^*V_e \to V_a$ such that for any $\pi \in V^*V_e$, we have $\langle \mathsf{last}(\pi), \sigma_e(\pi) \rangle \in E$. We denote by $\Sigma_a(G)$ and $\Sigma_e(G)$ the sets of all strategies for the agent and the environment respectively. In particular, a strategy $\sigma \in \Sigma_a(G) \cup \Sigma_e(G)$ is said to be positional if $\forall \pi, \pi' : \mathsf{last}(\pi) = \mathsf{last}(\pi') \Rightarrow \sigma(\pi) = \sigma(\pi')$ and we denote by $\Sigma_a^1(G)$ and $\Sigma_e^1(G)$ the corresponding sets of all positional strategies respectively. Given strategies $\sigma_a \in \Sigma_a(G)$ and $\sigma_e \in \Sigma_e(G)$, the outcome play π_{σ_a,σ_e} is the unique sequence $v_0v_1\cdots v_n\in V^*V_a$ s.t.

- $\forall i < n : v_i \in V_a \Rightarrow \sigma_a(v_0v_1 \cdots v_i) = v_{i+1}$; and $\forall i < n : v_i \in V_e \Rightarrow \sigma_e(v_0v_1 \cdots v_i) = v_{i+1}$; and
- $\sigma_a(v_0v_1\cdots v_n) = stop$.

For the environment-player, under assumption A3, we can further characterize its set of strategies as

$$\mathfrak{S}_e = \left\{ \sigma_e \in \Sigma_e^1(G) : \begin{cases} \forall v_e, v_e' \in V_e : X(v_e) = X(v_e') \\ \Rightarrow X(\sigma_e(v_e)) = X(\sigma_e(v_e')) \end{cases} \right\}$$
(7)

where we denote by $X(\cdot)$ the first component of an agent vertex $v_a = (x_a, q_a, \mathcal{K}_a) \in V_a$ as well as an environment vertex $v_e = (x_e, q_e, \mathcal{K}_e, \hat{x}_e) \in V_e$, i.e., for such v_a, v_e , we have $X(v_a) = x_a$ and $X(v_e) = x_e$. For the agent-player, we say σ_a is winning if for any $\sigma_e \in \mathfrak{S}_e$, we have $\mathsf{last}(\pi_{\sigma_a,\sigma_e}) \in$ V_F . We denote by $\mathfrak{S}_a \subseteq \Sigma_a(G)$ the set of all winning strategies. By assumption, we know $|\mathfrak{S}_a^F| \geq 1$. Similarly to Definition 2, we can also define the regret of strategy $\sigma_a \in \mathfrak{S}_a$ in G by

$$\operatorname{reg}_{G}(\sigma_{a}) = \max_{\sigma_{e} \in \mathfrak{S}_{e}} \left(\operatorname{cost}_{G}(\pi_{\sigma_{a}, \sigma_{e}}) - \min_{\sigma'_{a} \in \mathfrak{S}_{a}} \operatorname{cost}_{G}(\pi_{\sigma_{a}, \sigma_{e}}) \right) \tag{8}$$

In particular, we denote by $\operatorname{reg}_G^{\sigma_e}(\sigma_a) := \operatorname{cost}_G(\pi_{\sigma_a,\sigma_e})$ – $\min_{\sigma'_a \in \mathfrak{S}_a} \mathsf{cost}_G(\pi_{\sigma_a,\sigma_e})$ the regret of agent strategy $\sigma_a \in \mathfrak{S}_a$ w.r.t. an environment strategy $\sigma_e \in \mathfrak{S}_e$.

Essentially, an agent-player's strategy $\sigma_a \in \mathfrak{S}_a$ uniquely defines a corresponding strategy in \mathbb{T} , denoted by $\xi_{\sigma_a} \in \mathsf{Stra}_{\phi}(\mathbb{T})$ as follows: for any $\hbar \in \mathsf{Hist}^*(\mathbb{T})$, we have $\xi_{\sigma_a}(\hbar) =$ $\sigma_a(\pi_h)$. The environment-player's strategy $\sigma_e \in \mathfrak{S}_e$ essentially corresponds to a possible actual environment $T \in \mathbb{T}$ since it needs to specify an observation $o \in \Delta(x)$ for each unexplored x, and once x is explored, the observation is fixed based on the construction of G. Since $cost_G(\cdot)$ is defined only according to its first component, for any play $\pi \in V^*V_a$, we have $\mathsf{cost}_G(\pi) = \mathsf{cost}(\pi_{path})$.

In summary, in order to solve Problem 1, it suffices to find a winning strategy $\sigma_a \in \mathfrak{S}_a$ of the agent-player in the knowledge-based game arena G, such that $\operatorname{reg}_G(\sigma_a)$ as defined in (8) is minimized. Then, based on the optimal strategy $\sigma_a \in \mathfrak{S}_a$, we can induce a strategy $\xi_{\sigma_a} \in \mathsf{Stra}(\mathbb{T})$ for PK-WTS \mathbb{T} . Therefore, hereafter, we will only focus on the game graph G without considering \mathbb{T} . Furthermore, it suffices to find a positional winning strategy $\sigma_a \in \mathfrak{S}_a \cap$ $\Sigma_a^1(G) := \mathfrak{S}_a^1$ for the agent-player since it is unnecessary to record the choices of the environment-player based on the construction of the knowledge-based game arena G.

4.3 Synthesis via Min-Max Games

Since the optimal strategy on the arena G, we denote by σ_a^* , satisfies $\operatorname{reg}(\sigma_a^*) = \min_{\sigma_a \in \mathfrak{S}_a} \operatorname{reg}_G(\sigma_a)$, it is natural for us to reduce the strategy synthesis problem to the solution of a min-max reachability game Brihaye et al. (2017) in which the optimal strategy σ^* satisfies

$$\max_{\sigma_e \in \mathfrak{S}_e} W(\pi_{\sigma^*, \sigma_e}) = \min_{\sigma_a \in \mathfrak{S}_a} \max_{\sigma_e \in \mathfrak{S}_e} W(\pi_{\sigma_a, \sigma_e})$$
(9)

where $W: \mathsf{Play}^*(G) \to \mathbb{N}$ is some cost function. To this end, **procedure SolveMinMax** (\hat{G}, μ) given knowledge-based game arena G, we first define the 11 for $\hat{v} \in \hat{V}$ do best response w.r.t. a knowledge $\mathcal{K}_a \in \mathbb{KW}$ as

$$br(\mathcal{K}_a) = \text{ShortestPath}(V_{x_0}(\mathcal{K}_a), V_F) \qquad (10) \\ \text{13} \\ \text{where } V_{x_0}(\mathcal{K}_a) := \{v_a \in V_a \mid X(v_a) = x_0 \land \mathcal{K}(v_a) = 14 \\ \mathcal{K}_a\} \text{ is the set of agent vertices whose first component are } x_0 \text{ and third component is } \mathcal{K}_a \text{ and we denote by} \\ \mathcal{K}(\cdot) \text{ the third component of an agent vertex. Given two}_{16} \\ \text{ShortestPath}(V_1, V_2 \subseteq V \text{ on } G, \text{ the shortest path between them}_{17} \\ \text{ShortestPath}(V_1, V_2) \text{ can be directly computed via a}_{18} \\ \text{Dijkstra's algorithm.} \\ \text{In } \mathcal{C} V_F \text{ then} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop_{20} \\ | W^{(0)}(\hat$$

For the agent-player, the cost of all its positional winning $_{\mathbf{19}}$ strategies is bounded by a constant $B = M^G |V| \in \mathbb{N}$, where $M^G := \max_{(v,v') \in E} w_G(v,v')$ denotes the largest cost of the transitions in G. To this end, we define $\hat{G} = (\hat{V}, \hat{v}_0, \hat{E})_{22}^{21}$ as the information game arena, where $\hat{V} \subseteq V \times [0, B]$, as the information game arena, where $\hat{V} \subseteq V \times [0, B]$, $\hat{v} = \hat{v} \cdot \hat{v$ $\hat{v}_0 = (v_0, 0), \hat{E} \subseteq \hat{V} \times \hat{V}$ is defined by: for any $\hat{v} = (v, u), \hat{v}' = v$ $(v',u')\in \hat{V}$, we have $(\hat{v},\hat{v}')\in \hat{E}$ if i) $(v,v')\in E$ and ii) ₂₄ $u' = u + w_G(v, v')$. We also have partition $\hat{V} = \hat{V}_a \dot{\cup} \hat{V}_e$, based on whether the first component of each vertex belongs to $\hat{}_{25}$ V_a or V_e . Given \hat{G} , we define cost function $\mu: \hat{E} \to \mathbb{N}$ by 26 return $\sigma_a^{(k)}$;

- for any $(\hat{v}, \hat{v}') \in \hat{E} : \hat{v}' \notin \hat{V}_F$, we have $\mu(\hat{v}, \hat{v}') = 0$;
- for any $(\hat{v}, \hat{v}') \in \hat{E} : \hat{v}' = ((x, q, \mathcal{K}), u) \in \hat{V}_F$, we have $\mu(\hat{v}, \hat{v}') = u - br(\mathcal{K}).$

Based on the above construction, one can easily build the "one-to-one correspondence" between a play ρ in G and the play $\hat{\rho}$ in \hat{G} , as well as strategies σ and $\hat{\sigma}$, which is omitted here. Given a play $\hat{\rho} = \hat{v}_0 \hat{v}_1 \cdots \hat{v}_n \in \mathsf{Play}^*(\hat{G})$, we denote its cost w.r.t μ by $\mathsf{cost}^{\mu}_{\hat{G}}(\hat{\rho}) := \sum_{i=0} \mu(\hat{v}_i, \hat{v}_{i+1})$. Then we obtain the following result and the detailed proof is given in Zhao et al. (2022).

Proposition 1. Given game arena G with the information game arena \hat{G} and cost function $\mu: E \to \mathbb{N}$, for each $\sigma_a \in \mathfrak{S}_a^1$, we have

$$\operatorname{reg}_{G}(\sigma_{a}) = \max_{\hat{\sigma}_{e} \in \hat{\mathfrak{S}}_{e}} \operatorname{cost}_{\hat{G}}^{\mu}(\pi_{\hat{\sigma}_{a},\hat{\sigma}_{e}})$$
 (12)

With the result of Proposition 1, to obtain the optimal regret-minimizing strategy, it suffices for us to solve a minmax reachability game on \hat{G} w.r.t. cost function μ . Now, we summarize our solution as Algorithm 1 and obtain the following result and the proof is given in Zhao et al. (2022).

Theorem 1. The strategy ξ^* obtained from Algorithm 1 correctly solves the Regret-Based LTL Planning Problem defined in Problem 1.

```
Algorithm 1: Optimal Regret-Minimizing LTL Plan
      Input: PK-WTS \mathbb{T} and scLTL \phi;
      Output: Optimal Regret-Minimizing Plan \xi^*
 1 Construct skeleton-WTS \mathcal{T} and DFA \mathcal{A}_{\phi} from \phi;
 2 Construct product system \mathcal{P} = \mathcal{T} \otimes \mathcal{A}_{\phi};
 3 Construct knowledge-based game arena G;
 4 Construct information game arena \hat{G};
 5 for (\hat{v}, \hat{v}') \in \hat{E} do
             define its cost \mu(\hat{v}, \hat{v}');
7 Obtain strategy \hat{\sigma}_a^* = \mathtt{SolveMinMax}(\hat{G}, \mu);8 Obtain strategy \sigma_a^* from \hat{\sigma}_a^*;9 Obtain strategy \xi^* = \xi_{\sigma_a^*};
             if \hat{v} \in \hat{V}_F then
                  W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = 0 and \hat{\sigma}_a^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = stop;
                W^{(0)}(\hat{v}) = \infty;
             for \hat{v}_e \in \hat{V}_e do
 W^{(k+1)}(\hat{v}_e) = \max_{\hat{v}_a \in \text{Succ}(\hat{v}_e)} \left( W^{(k)}(\hat{v}_a) + \mu(\hat{v}_e, \hat{v}_a) \right); 
              for \hat{v}_a \in \hat{V}_a do
                     if \hat{v}_a \in \hat{V}_a then
                           W^{(k+1)}(\hat{v}_a) = 0 \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}_a^{(k+1)}(\hat{v}_a) = stop;
                         \begin{split} W^{(k+1)}(\hat{v}_a) &= \min_{\hat{v}_e \in \operatorname{Succ}(\hat{v}_a)} \left( W^{(k)}(\hat{v}_e) + \mu(\hat{v}_e, \hat{v}_a) \right); \\ \hat{\sigma}_a^{(k+1)}(\hat{v}_a) &= \underset{\hat{v}_e \in \operatorname{Succ}(v_a)}{\operatorname{arg \, min}} \left( W^{(k)}(\hat{v}_e) + \mu(\hat{v}_e, \hat{v}_a) \right); \end{split}
```

5. CASE STUDY: A TEAM OF FIREFIGHTING ROBOTS

 $k \leftarrow k + 1;$

We consider a team of firefighting robots consisting of a ground robot and a UAV working in an urban district shown in Figure 2. Specifically, the blue regions are *rivers*, the black regions are *bridges*, the grey regions are *squares*, the green regions are parks, the brown regions are buildings and the yellow region is the base of the team of robots. The firefighting mission in this district is undertaken by the collaboration of the UAV and the ground robot. Specifically, we assume that the district map is completely unknown to the robotic system initially. When a fire alarm is reported, the UAV takes off first and reconnoiters over the district, which allows the system to obtain some rough information of the distinct and leads to a possible world map. More detailed connectivities for some unknown regions in the possible world still remain to be explored by the ground robot. In order to accomplish the firefighting mission, the ground robot needs to first go to some regions with extinguisher to get fire-extinguishers and then move to the region with fire. Let $\mathcal{AP} = \{\text{fire, extinguisher}\}$. The mission can be described by the following scLTL formula:

$$\phi = (\neg \mathsf{fire}\ U\ \mathsf{extinguisher}) \land \Diamond \mathsf{fire} \tag{13}$$

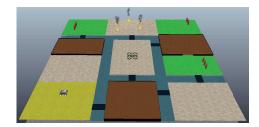
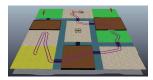


Fig. 2. Firefighting Scenario.





(a) Trajectory in T_1 Fig. 3. Simulation Results

(b) Trajectory in T_2

Suppose that, after the reconnaissance, the UAV will get a look down picture of the entire district. According to the distinct picture, the system will know the map geometry and the semantics. Specifically, it knows that there is a fire in Square 4 and there are extinguishers in Parks 1-3. The connectivities of all open regions including rivers, bridges, squares, parks and the base are known. However, the UAV cannot tell if each building has corresponding doors connecting with its adjacent open regions. To figure out the (non-)existence of those potential doors, the ground robot has to move to the adjacent areas to explore.

Now, the environment is partially-known in the sense that the accessibility of the buildings are unknown to the robotic system until the ground robot reaches their adjacent regions. Then based on the possible world model \mathbb{T} and the scLTL ϕ , we can synthesize an strategy ξ^* that minimizes the regret while achieving ϕ . We have implemented our algorithm in robot simulator V-REP (Videos are available at https://youtu.be/lLRT2pLfABA). As shown in Figure 3, we consider two different actual environments $T_1, T_2 \in \mathbb{T}$ compatible to the possible world \mathbb{T} when applying the same strategy ξ^* . To minimize its regret, the ground robot needs to first go to Square 2 to explore if there exists a door connecting Building 3. Environment T_1 in Figure 3(a) actually corresponds to the case of the existence of such a door. Then by passing through this door, the ground robot can easily find a extinguisher in Park 3 and then quench the fire in Square 4. This actual path is shorter than the path planned based on the worst-case by assuming no such a door exists. However, environment T_2 in Figure 3(b) corresponds to the case, where there is no door between Square 2 and Building 3. Note that, the ground robot will still first go to Square 2. However, when it realizes that there is no such a door, it will turn back and go to Park 1, where it finds a extinguisher and luckily, there is a door to Building 2. Then the ground robot will cross through Building 2 and finally reaches Square 4 to quench the fire. Although this actual path is longer than the path planned based on the worst-case, the robot will not regret that much since it does not know, a priori, the non-existence of such a door.

6. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we proposed a new approach for optimal path planning for scLTL specifications under partially-

known environments. We adopted the notion of regret to evaluate the trade-off between cost incurred in an actual environment and the potential benefit of exploring unknown regions. A knowledge-based model was developed to formally describe the partially-known scenario and an effective algorithm was proposed to synthesize an optimal strategy with minimum regret. In the future, we would like to extend our results to multi-agent systems with general LTL specifications.

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