Planning

- Search vs. planning
- STRIPS operators
- Partial-order planning

What we have so far

- Can TELL KB about new percepts about the world
- KB maintains model of the current world state
- Can ASK KB about any fact that can be inferred from KB

How can we use these components to build a planning agent,

i.e., an agent that constructs plans that can achieve its goals, and that then executes these plans?

Example: Robot Manipulators

- Example: (courtesy of Martin Rohrmeier)
  - Puma 560
  - Kr6

Remember: Problem-Solving Agent

```
function SIMPLE-PROBLEM-SOLVING-AGENT( p) returns an action
   inputs: p, a percept
   static: s, an action sequence, initially empty
           state, some description of the current world state
           g, a goal, initially null
           problem, a problem formulation

   state ← UPDATE-STATE(state, p)
   if s is empty then
       g ← FORMULATE-GOAL(state)
       problem ← FORMULATE-PROBLEM(state, g)
       s ← SEARCH( problem)
   action ← RECOMMENDATION(s, state)
   s ← REMAINDER(s, state)
   return action
```

Note: This is *offline* problem-solving. *Online* problem-solving involves acting w/o complete knowledge of the problem and environment

Simple planning agent

- Use percepts to build model of current world state
- IDEAL-PLANNER: Given a goal, algorithm generates plan of action
- STATE-DESCRIPTION: given percept, return initial state description in format required by planner
- MAKE-GOAL-QUERY: used to ask KB what next goal should be

A Simple Planning Agent

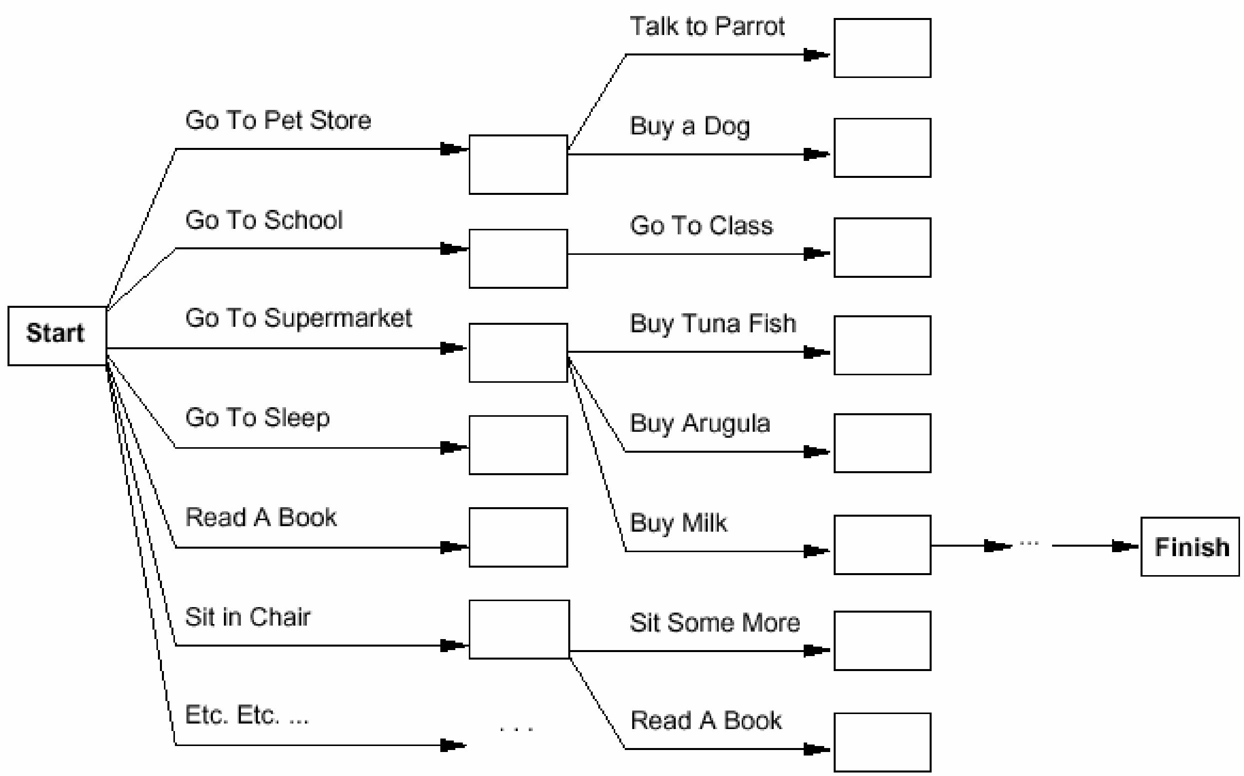
```
function SIMPLE-PLANNING-AGENT(percept) returns an action
    static:              KB, a knowledge base (includes action descriptions)
                         p, a plan (initially, NoPlan)
                         t, a time counter (initially 0)
    local variables:G, a goal
                         current, a current state description
    TELL(KB, MAKE-PERCEPT-SENTENCE(percept, t))
    current ← STATE-DESCRIPTION(KB, t)
    if p = NoPlan then
         G ← ASK(KB, MAKE-GOAL-QUERY(t))
         p ← IDEAL-PLANNER(current, G, KB)
    if p = NoPlan or p is empty then
         action ← NoOp
    else
         action ← FIRST(p)
         p ← REST(p)
    TELL(KB, MAKE-ACTION-SENTENCE(action, t))
    t ← t+1
    return action
```

Like popping from a stack

Search vs. planning

Consider the task *get milk, bananas, and a cordless drill*

Standard search algorithms seem to fail miserably:



After-the-fact heuristic/goal test inadequate

Search vs. planning

Planning systems do the following:

1) open up action and goal representation to allow selection
2) divide-and-conquer by subgoaling
3) relax requirement for sequential construction of solutions

	Search	**Planning**
States	Lisp data structures	Logical sentences
Actions	Lisp code	Preconditions/outcomes
Goal	Lisp code	Logical sentence (conjunction)
Plan	Sequence from S_0	Constraints on actions

Planning in situation calculus

$PlanResult(p, s)$ is the situation resulting from executing p in s

$$PlanResult([], s) = s$$
$$PlanResult([a|p], s) = PlanResult(p, Result(a, s))$$

Initial state $At(Home, S_0) \wedge \neg Have(Milk, S_0) \wedge \ldots$

Actions as Successor State axioms

$Have(Milk, Result(a, s)) \;\; \Leftrightarrow$

$[(a = Buy(Milk) \wedge At(Supermarket, s)) \vee (Have(Milk, s) \wedge a \neq \ldots)]$

Query

$$s = PlanResult(p, S_0) \wedge At(Home, s) \wedge Have(Milk, s) \wedge \ldots$$

Solution

$$p = [Go(Supermarket), Buy(Milk), Buy(Bananas), Go(HWS), \ldots]$$

Principal difficulty: unconstrained branching, hard to apply heuristics

Basic representation for planning

- Most widely used approach: uses STRIPS language

- states: conjunctions of function-free ground literals (I.e., predicates applied to constant symbols, possibly negated); e.g.,

  $\text{At(Home)} \wedge \neg\text{Have(Milk)} \wedge \neg\text{Have(Bananas)} \wedge \neg\text{Have(Drill)} \ldots$

- goals: also conjunctions of literals; e.g.,

  $\text{At(Home)} \wedge \text{Have(Milk)} \wedge \text{Have(Bananas)} \wedge \text{Have(Drill)}$

  but can also contain variables (implicitly universally quant.); e.g.,

  $\text{At(x)} \wedge \text{Sells(x, Milk)}$

Planner vs. theorem prover

- Planner: ask for sequence of actions that makes goal true if executed

- Theorem prover: ask whether query sentence is true given KB

STRIPS operators

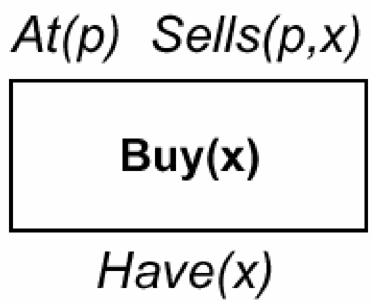
Tidily arranged actions descriptions, restricted language

ACTION: $Buy(x)$
PRECONDITION: $At(p), Sells(p, x)$
EFFECT: $Have(x)$

[Note: this abstracts away many important details!]

Restricted language $\Rightarrow$ efficient algorithm
Precondition: conjunction of positive literals
Effect: conjunction of literals

Graphical notation:



Types of planners

- Situation space planner: search through possible situations
- Progression planner: start with initial state, apply operators until goal is reached

  Problem: high branching factor!
- Regression planner: start from goal state and apply operators until start state reached

  Why desirable? usually many more operators are applicable to initial state than to goal state.

  Difficulty: when want to achieve a conjunction of goals

Initial STRIPS algorithm: situation-space regression planner

State space vs. plan space

Standard search: node = concrete world state

Planning search: node = partial plan

Search space of plans rather than of states.

Defn: open condition is a precondition of a step not yet fulfilled

Operators on partial plans:

- add a link from an existing action to an open condition
- add a step to fulfill an open condition
- order one step wrt another

Gradually move from incomplete/vague plans to complete, correct plans

Operations on plans

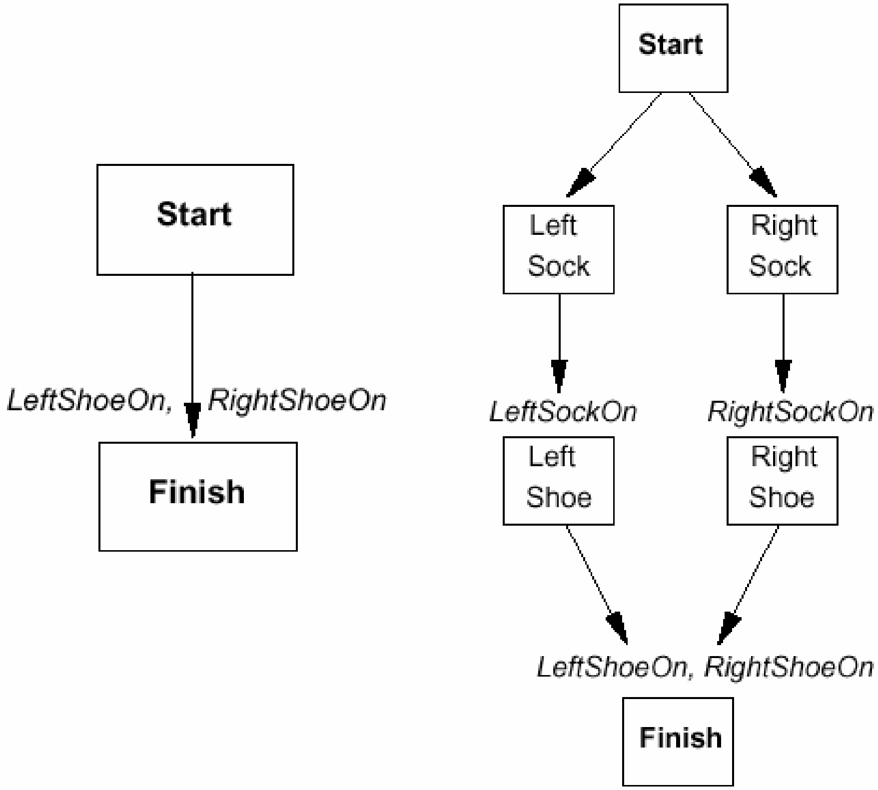
- Refinement operators: add constraints to partial plan

- Modification operator: every other operators

Types of planners

- Partial order planner: some steps are ordered, some are not
- Total order planner: all steps ordered (thus, plan is a simple list of steps)
- Linearization: process of deriving a totally ordered plan from a partially ordered plan.

Partially ordered plans



A plan is complete iff every precondition is achieved

A precondition is achieved iff it is the effect of an earlier step and no possibly intervening step undoes it

Plan

We formally define a plan as a data structure consisting of:

- Set of plan steps (each is an operator for the problem)
- Set of step ordering constraints

  e.g., A Ⅱ B means "A before B"

- Set of variable binding constraints

  e.g., v = x where v variable and x constant or other variable

- Set of causal links

  e.g., $A \xrightarrow{c} B$ means "A achieves c for B"

POP algorithm sketch

```
function POP(initial, goal, operators) returns plan
    plan ← MAKE-MINIMAL-PLAN(initial, goal)
    loop do
        if SOLUTION?(plan) then return plan
        S_need, c ← SELECT-SUBGOAL(plan)
        CHOOSE-OPERATOR(plan, operators, S_need, c)
        RESOLVE-THREATS(plan)
    end
```

```
function SELECT-SUBGOAL(plan) returns S_need, c
    pick a plan step S_need from STEPS(plan)
        with a precondition c that has not been achieved
    return S_need, c
```

POP algorithm (cont.)

procedure CHOOSE-OPERATOR(*plan*, *operators*, S_{need}, c)

choose a step S_{add} from *operators* or STEPS(*plan*) that has c as an effect
if there is no such step **then fail**
add the causal link $S_{add} \xrightarrow{c} S_{need}$ to LINKS(*plan*)
add the ordering constraint $S_{add} \prec S_{need}$ to ORDERINGS(*plan*)
if S_{add} is a newly added step from *operators* **then**
    add S_{add} to STEPS(*plan*)
    add $Start \prec S_{add} \prec Finish$ to ORDERINGS(*plan*)

---

procedure RESOLVE-THREATS(*plan*)

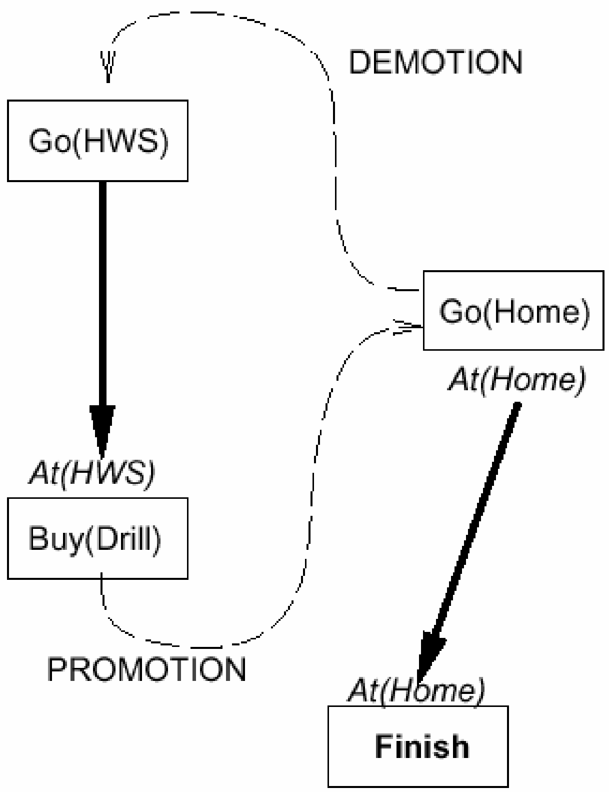
for each S_{threat} that threatens a link $S_i \xrightarrow{c} S_j$ in LINKS(*plan*) **do**
    choose either
        Demotion: Add $S_{threat} \prec S_i$ to ORDERINGS(*plan*)
        Promotion: Add $S_j \prec S_{threat}$ to ORDERINGS(*plan*)
    if not CONSISTENT(*plan*) **then fail**
end

POP is sound, complete, and <u>systematic</u> (no repetition)

Extensions for disjunction, universals, negation, conditionals

Clobbering and promotion/demotion

A clobberer is a potentially intervening step that destroys the condition achieved by a causal link. E.g., $Go(Home)$ clobbers $At(HWS)$:

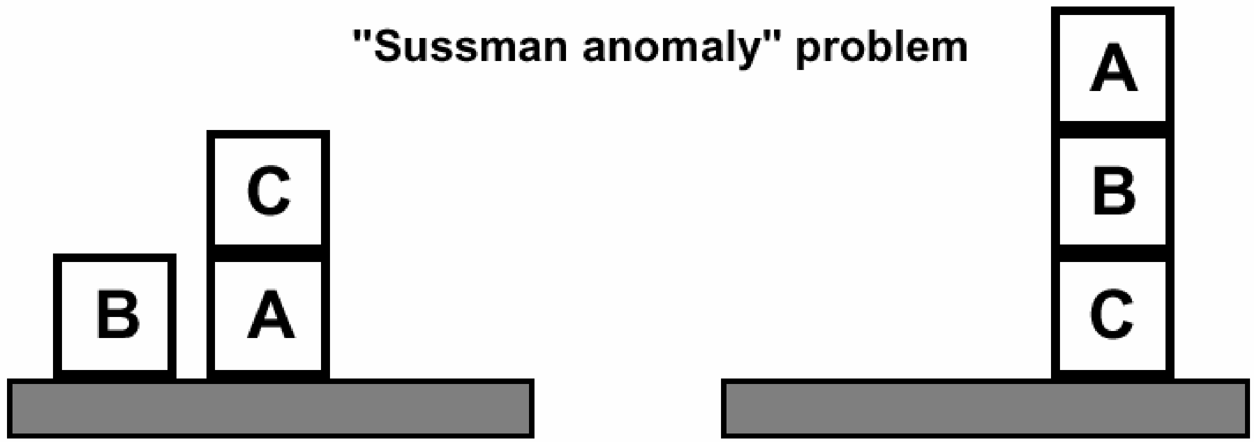


Demotion: put before $Go(HWS)$

Promotion: put after $Buy(Drill)$

Example: block world

"Sussman anomaly" problem



Start State

Goal State

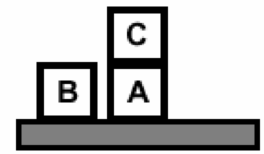
Preconditions	Action	Effects
Clear(x) On(x,z) Clear(y)	PutOn(x,y)	*~On(x,z) ~Clear(y) Clear(z) On(x,y)*
Clear(x) On(x,z)	PutOnTable(x)	*~On(x,z) Clear(z) On(x,Table)*

+ several inequality constraints

Example (cont.)

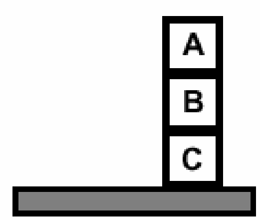
START

On(C,A) On(A,Table) Cl(B) On(B,Table) Cl(C)

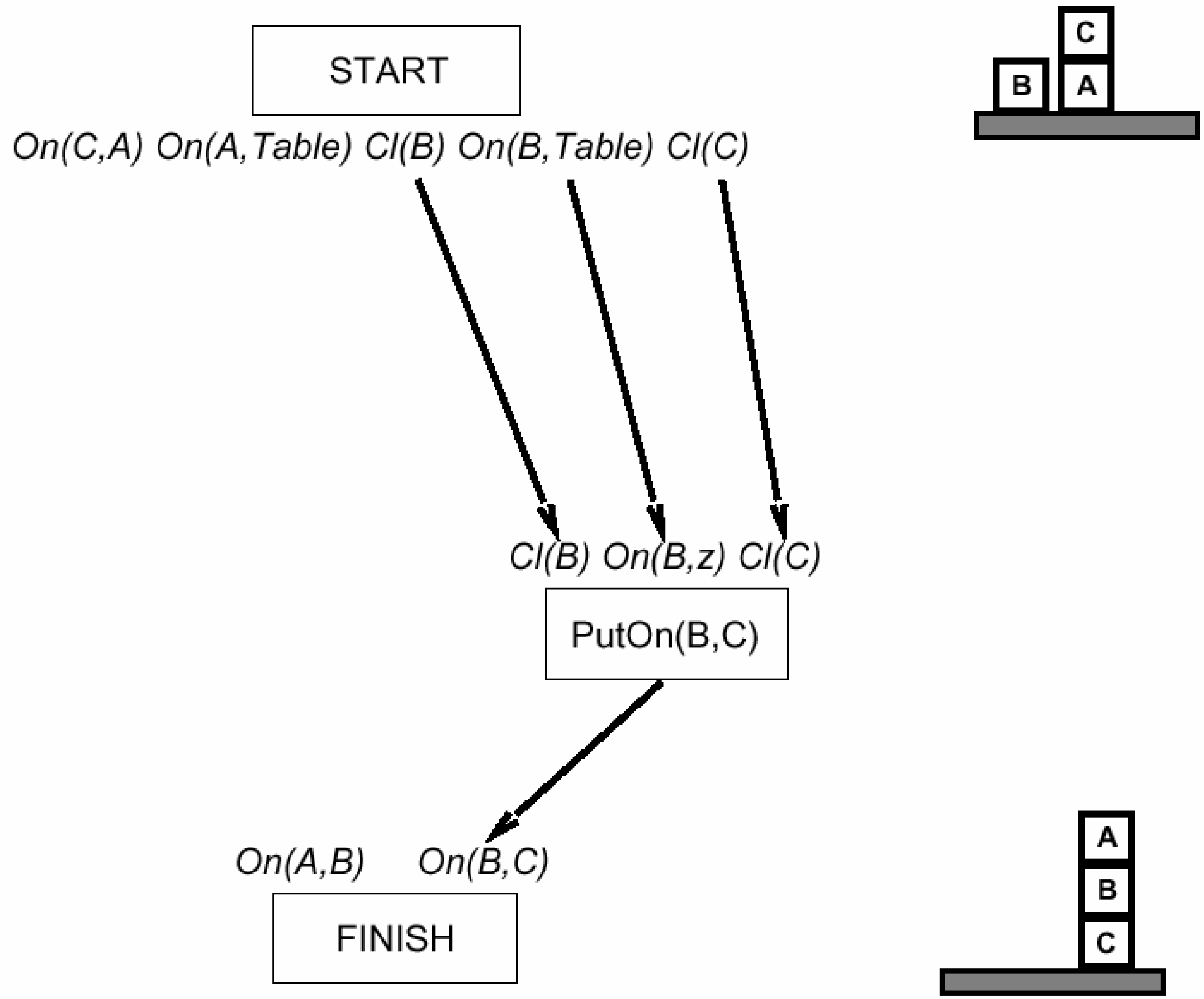


On(A,B) *On(B,C)*

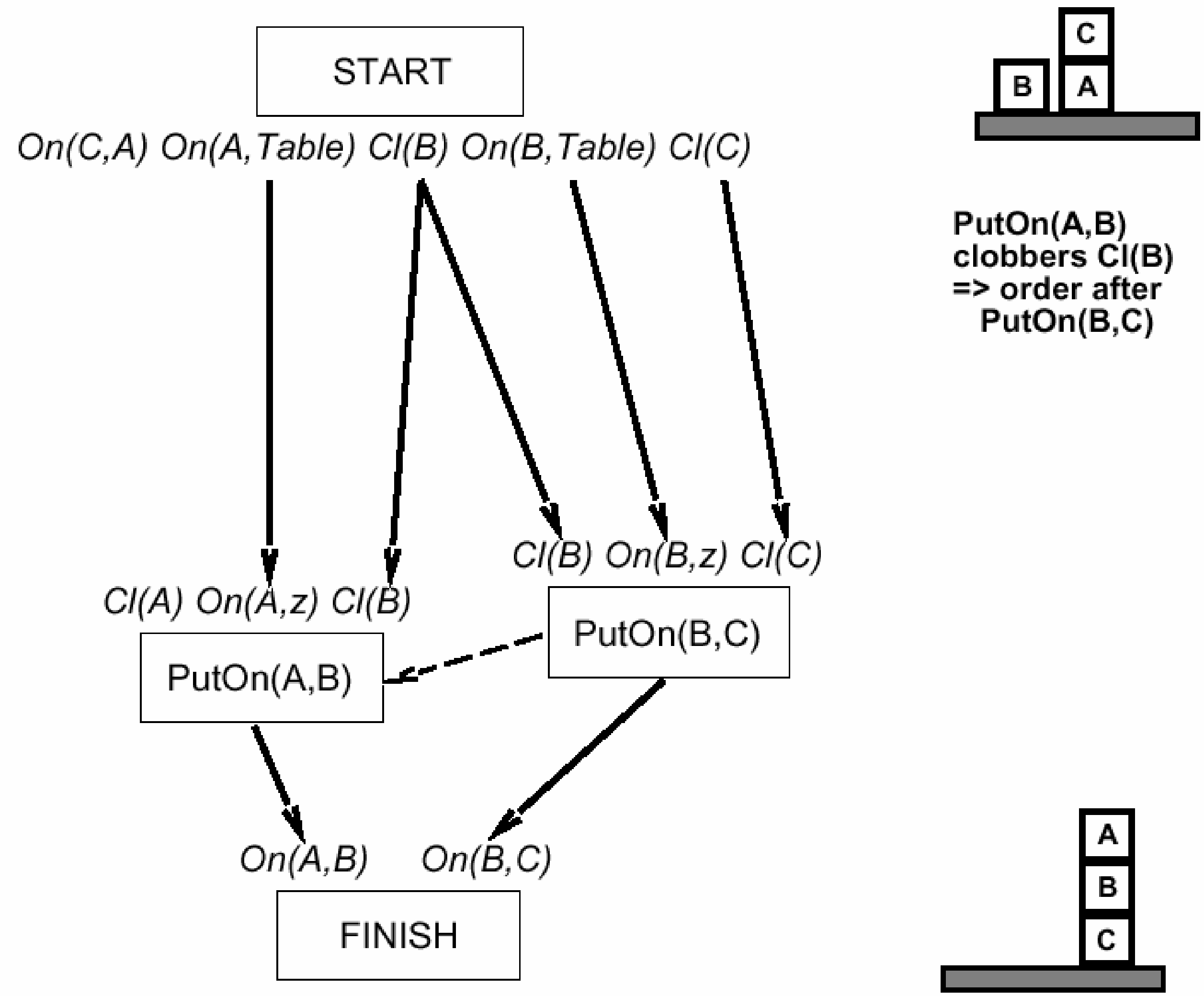
FINISH



Example (cont.)

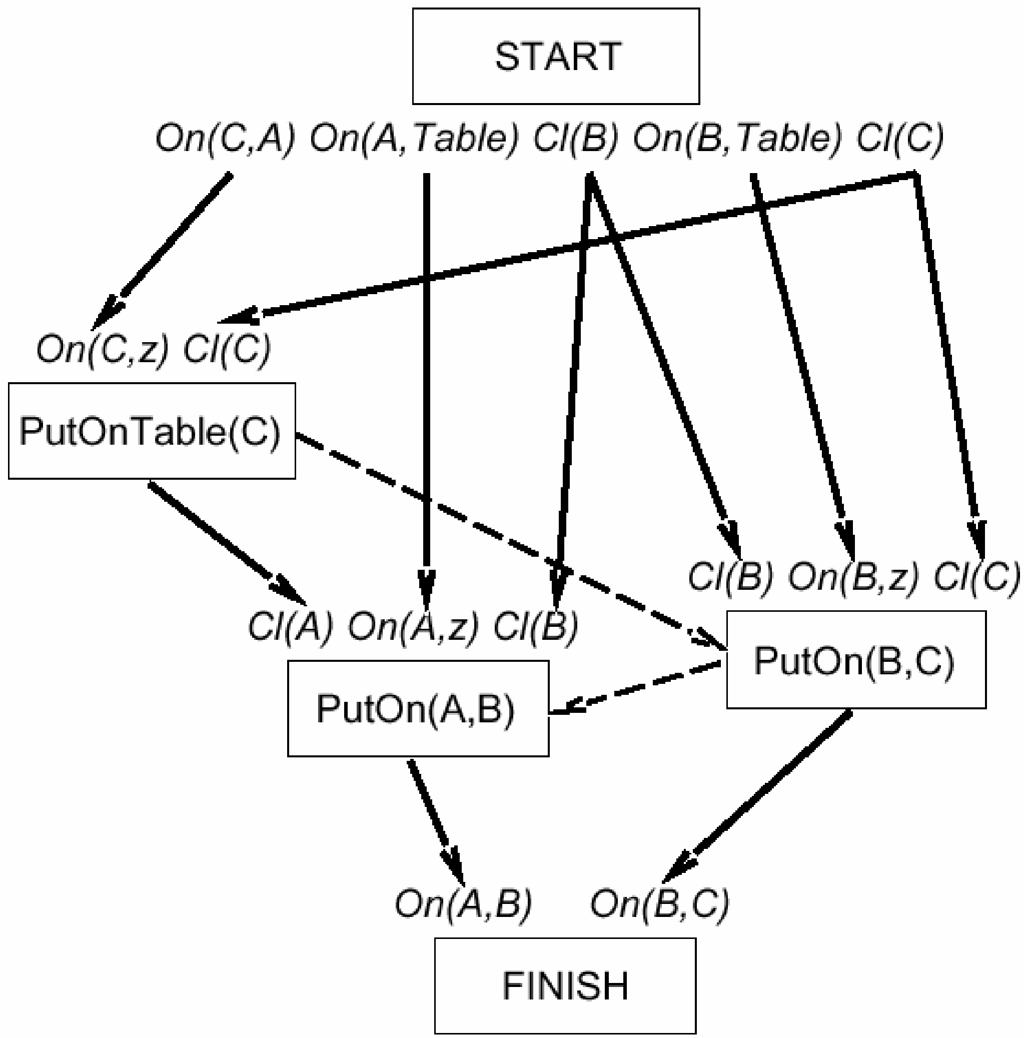


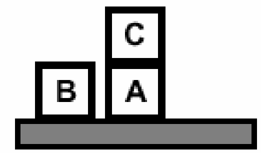
Example (cont.)



PutOn(A,B) clobbers Cl(B) => order after PutOn(B,C)

Example (cont.)





PutOn(A,B) clobbers Cl(B) => order after PutOn(B,C)

PutOn(B,C) clobbers Cl(C) => order after PutOnTable(C)