
A MĪMĀMSĀ INSPIRED FRAMEWORK FOR INSTRUCTION SEQUENCING IN AI AGENTS

ABSTRACT.

1. INTRODUCTION

Assume a robot is given the task of “*cooking tomato noodles stir-fry*”. Though it may appear simple at first glance, there are several intricate details that must be considered before executing each instruction. For instance, this task may consist of several steps such as “*pick noodles, cook noodles in pot, chop tomato, fry tomato, and add the cooked noodle to a dish*”. The robot must determine what actions to perform, which objects to use, and the appropriate order in which to execute them. To logically determine the sequence with the integration of objects is a challenge.

This paper addresses this challenge through novel framework for instruction sequencing inspired by principles from the Indian philosophical system of Mīmāṃsā¹. In this approach, each instruction is represented as an $\langle \text{action}, \text{object} \rangle$ pair, which serves as the foundation for evaluating consistency across subsequent instructions. An initial version of this work was presented and published in the proceedings of ICLA 2025, where the fundamental representation of instructions as action–object pairs was introduced [?]. The present paper significantly extends that work by formalizing the criteria for valid instruction sequencing, including the introduction of an object consistency theorem with soundness and completeness.

The remainder of the paper is structured as follows: Section ?? outlines the logical formalism of MIRA with syntax and semantics, which forms the basis for the sequencing methods. Section ?? presents the representation of instructions as **action**, **object** pairs with sequencing mechanisms. The various sequencing strategies—including Direct Assertion, Purpose-Based Sequencing, and the Sequential Completion / Iterative Procedure—are formally described in Section 3. The validity of these sequencing methods is established in Section ?. Related work is reviewed in Section ?, and the specific advancements made over prior approaches are summarized in Section ?. Finally, Section ?? presents the conclusion.

¹Mīmāṃsā is a classical Indian philosophical system that developed a detailed theory of imperatives (vidhi), focusing on their function, classification, and execution of actions in a systematic procedure. Its procedural system has recently attracted attention in computational contexts due to its fine-grained treatment of instruction structure and intent.

2. EXTENSION OF SYNTAX AND SEMANTICS FOR ACTION-OBJECT IMPERATIVE LOGIC

This section extends the formal syntax and semantics framework of Srinivasan and Parthasarathi (2021) [?] by refining imperative instructions to explicit action-object pairs.

2.1. Syntax. The language of imperatives is given by $\mathcal{L}_i = \langle I, R, P, B \rangle$, where:

- $I = \{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n\}$ is the set of imperatives,
- $R = \{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n\}$ is the set of reasons or Preconditions
- $P = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\}$ is the set of purposes (goals),
- $B = \{\wedge, \vee, \rightarrow_r, \rightarrow_i, \rightarrow_p\}$ is the set of binary connectives.

Here, R and P are propositions, following propositional formula syntax. They combine with imperatives I in several forms to build Imperative Formulas \mathcal{F}_i , specified by Equation 2.1:

$$\mathcal{F}_i = \{i \mid i \rightarrow_p p \mid (i \rightarrow_p p_1) \wedge (j \rightarrow_p p_2) \mid (i \rightarrow_p \theta) \oplus (j \rightarrow_p \theta) \mid (\varphi \rightarrow_i \psi) \mid (\tau \rightarrow_r \varphi)\} \quad (2.1)$$

The fundamental unit of an imperative, denoted i , decomposes into an action and a set of objects. For example, the instruction “Take a book” associates the action “take” with the object “book”.

Formally, this association is a function:

$$f : I \rightarrow A \times \mathcal{P}(O),$$

where $I = \{i_1, i_2, i_3, \dots, i_n\}$ is a set of instructions, $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k\}$ is a set of actions, and $O = \{o_1, o_2, \dots, o_m\}$ is a set of objects.

Each instruction $i_j \in I$ can be represented as:

$$i_j = (a_j, o_j) \quad (2.2)$$

where $a_j \in A$, and $o_j \subseteq O$.

Here, each action can stand alone, or be paired with zero, one, or multiple objects as summarized in Table 2.1.

Action Type	Representation	Example
Action with object	$(a_j, \{o_k\})$	$(\text{pick}, \{\text{rice}\})$ - <i>pick rice</i>
Action with multiple objects	$(a_j, \{o_k, o_m\})$	$(\text{cook}, \{\text{rice}, \text{pot}\})$ - <i>cook rice in pot</i>
Action without object	(a_j, \emptyset)	(wait, \emptyset) - <i>wait</i>

Table 1: Instruction representations for actions paired with zero, one, or multiple objects.

2.2. Semantics. The semantics defines how each imperative formula is interpreted over the model, assigning it a satisfaction status based on system states, actions, objects, and goal-directed intentions. A semantic model \mathcal{M} is defined as:

$$\mathcal{M} = \langle \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{G}, \text{intention}, \text{eval} \rangle, \quad (2.3)$$

where

- \mathcal{R} is the set of Preconditions,
- \mathcal{A} is the set of actions,
- \mathcal{O} is the set of objects,

- \mathcal{G} is the set of goals,
- $intention : \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \{true, false\}$,
- $eval : \mathcal{S} \times (\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{O}) \rightarrow \{S, V, N\}$.

The semantic evaluations for different imperatives are given as follows:

- **Unconditional Imperatives:**

$$eval(r, (a, o)) = \begin{cases} S, & \text{if the action } a \text{ is successfully performed on } o \text{ in } r, \\ V, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- **Imperative Enjoining Goal:**

$$eval(r, (a, o) \rightarrow_p g) = \begin{cases} S, & \text{if the agent intends } g \text{ and } (a, o) \text{ is satisfied in } r, \\ V, & \text{if the agent intends } g \text{ and } (a, o) \text{ is violated in } r, \\ N, & \text{if there is no intention to achieve goal } g. \end{cases}$$

- **Imperatives in Sequence:**

$$eval(s, (a_1, o_1) \rightarrow_i (a_2, o_2)) = \begin{cases} S, & \text{if } eval(r, (a_1, o_1)) = S, eval(s', (a_2, o_2)) = S \text{ and object consistency holds,} \\ V, & \text{if } eval(r, (a_1, o_1)) = V \text{ or } eval(s', (a_2, o_2)) = V. \end{cases}$$

- **Imperatives in Parallel:**

$$eval((r_1, (a_1, o_1)) \wedge (r_2, (a_2, o_2))) = \begin{cases} S, & \text{if } eval(r_1, (a_1, o_1)) = S, eval(r_2, (a_2, o_2)) = S, \\ & \text{and object consistency does not hold,} \\ V, & \text{if } eval(r_1, (a_1, o_1)) = V \text{ or } eval(r_2, (a_2, o_2)) = V. \end{cases}$$

- **Imperatives with Choice:**

$$eval((r_1, (a_1, o_1)) \oplus (r_2, (a_2, o_2))) = \begin{cases} S, & \text{if } eval(r_1, (a_1, o_1)) = S \text{ or } eval(r_2, (a_2, o_2)) = S, \\ V, & \text{if } eval(r_1, (a_1, o_1)) = V \text{ and } eval(r_2, (a_2, o_2)) = V. \end{cases}$$

This formal action-object representation provides a foundation for capturing the ordering and dependency relationships among instructions. The philosophy of Mīmāṃsā includes several principled methods for sequencing such instructions to achieve coherent execution. The next section introduces these methods and formally develops three sequencing strategies by extending this representation.

3. SEQUENCING METHODS

According to the Indian philosophical system of Mīmāṃsā, a set of instructions can be sequenced using six distinct ordering principles to ensure coherent and uninterrupted execution. These are: Direct Assertion (*Śrutikrama*), Purpose-Based Sequencing (*Arthakrama*), Order as Given (*Pāṭhakrama*), Position-Based Order (*Sthānakrama*), Principal Activity-Based Order (*Mukhyakrama*), and Iterative Procedure (*Pravṛttikrama*). For more details on the sequencing aspects from the philosophy, the reader may refer to the prior work on temporal ordering of instructions [?]. Among these, three methods—Direct Assertion, Purpose-Based Sequencing, and Iterative Procedure—are formalized in this paper and discussed in Sections 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, respectively.

3.1. Direct Assertion (Śrutikrama). In this type, instructions are provided in a direct and sequential manner. Following the notation from the work of sequencing methods based on Mīmāṃsā [?], let:

- $i_t = (a_t, o_t)$: instruction at the first instant t , with action a_t and object(s) o_t
- $i_{t+1} = (a_{t+1}, o_{t+1})$: instruction at the next instant $t + 1$

Then, Instruction in sequence can be expressed by Equation 3.1.

$$(a_t o_t) \rightarrow_i (a_{t+1} o_{t+1}) \quad (3.1)$$

where \rightarrow_i denotes temporal sequencing of actions on objects. The indication can be read as “perform a_t on o_t , then perform a_{t+1} on o_{t+1} ”.

For a sequence of n instructions, the temporal order and precedence can be formally represented using nested left brackets as shown in Equation 3.2.

$$(\cdots ((a_1 o_1) \rightarrow_i (a_2 o_2)) \rightarrow_i (a_3 o_3) \cdots) \rightarrow_i (a_n o_n) \quad (3.2)$$

This representation indicates that each instruction must be completed before the next instruction.

For example, consider three statements “*pick rice*”, “*cook rice in pot*”, “*add rice to dish*”. These can be represented as:

$$(((pick\{rice\}) \rightarrow_i (cook\{rice, pot\})) \rightarrow_i (add\{rice, dish\})) \quad (3.3)$$

Here, objects are progressively updated across instructions. For instance, “rice” becomes “cooked rice” after executing the instruction “cook rice.” This transformation indicates that the instructions are linked through evolving object states, a relationship known as **object dependency**.

This type of representation serves two major purposes.

- (1) It indicates the temporal order of the actions.
- (2) The dependencies of objects the across each step is enforced.

3.2. Sequencing based on purpose. In this type, each instruction is of the form $(\tau \rightarrow_r (i \rightarrow_p p))$ [?], indicating there is a precondition (τ) for the instruction (i) to take place, in order to achieve the goal (p) . Here, \rightarrow_r and \rightarrow_p denote “because of reason (indicating precondition)” and “in order to achieve goal”, respectively.

This representation can be extended to a series of instructions as given by Equation 3.4.

$$(r_1 \rightarrow_r (i_1 \rightarrow_p p_1)), (r_2 \rightarrow_r (i_2 \rightarrow_p p_2)), \dots, (r_n \rightarrow_r (i_n \rightarrow_p p_n)) \quad (3.4)$$

If the purpose p_k of instruction i_k becomes the precondition r_{k+1} for the next instruction i_{k+1} , then i_k precedes i_{k+1} , because $r_{k+1} = p_k$. This relation signifies that the second instruction (i_{k+1}) depends on the first (i_k) and is referred to as **functional dependency** and has already been used in task analysis for special education [?].

Extending this further into the representation of i_j as (a_j, o_j) pair, Equation 3.4 can be formalized as shown in Equation 3.5.

$$\forall j \in \{1, \dots, n-1\} : r_j \rightarrow_r ((a_j, o_j) \rightarrow_p p_j), r_{j+1} = p_j \quad (3.5)$$

3.3. Sequential and Parallel Execution Methods for Repetitive Tasks. In some tasks, it is necessary to repeat the same action multiple times across different items. Two common approaches to sequence such repetitive actions have been identified in previous work with LLMs [?], reiterated here for clarity.

Consider the task of a teacher grading answer scripts from 20 students, each answer script containing 5 questions. In the **Sequential Completion Method**, the teacher grades all five questions of the first student’s script before moving on to completely grade the second student’s script, continuing this process sequentially for all students. Alternatively, the **Step-by-Step Parallel Method**, also known as the **Iterative Procedure**, involves the teacher grading the first question across all 20 scripts before proceeding to grade the second question for all scripts, and so forth.

3.3.1. Sequential Completion Method. In this method, the full sequence is performed on one object and the same sequence is repeated for all other objects.

Formally, it can be represented as follows:

Let there be n actions $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ and T objects for each action, $O_k = \{o_{k1}, o_{k2}, \dots, o_{kT}\}$ for $1 \leq k \leq n$.

For each object $o_j (1 \leq j \leq T)$, the sequence is given by Equation 3.6.

$$(a_1 o_{1j} \rightarrow_i a_2 o_{2j} \rightarrow_i \dots \rightarrow_i a_n o_{nj}) \quad (3.6)$$

This is repeated for all j as shown below.

$$\prod_{j=1}^T (a_1 o_{1j} \rightarrow_i \dots \rightarrow_i a_n o_{nj}) \quad (3.7)$$

Equation 3.7 can be interpreted as:

- For each object j , all actions are performed in sequence before moving to the next object.
- The objects involved in sequence are $(o_{1j}, o_{2j}, \dots, o_{nj})$ for j .

3.3.2. Step-by-Step Parallel Method (Iterative Procedure). The step-by-step parallel method can be formalized using a parallel composition connective \parallel_i , which groups actions performed independently on different objects without enforcing temporal sequencing or object dependency among them.

Formally, this method is represented as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left((a_1 o_{11} \parallel_i a_1 o_{12} \parallel_i \dots \parallel_i a_1 o_{1T}) \rightarrow_i \right. \\ & (a_2 o_{21} \parallel_i a_2 o_{22} \parallel_i \dots \parallel_i a_2 o_{2T}) \rightarrow_i \dots \rightarrow_i \\ & \left. (a_n o_{n1} \parallel_i a_n o_{n2} \parallel_i \dots \parallel_i a_n o_{nT}) \right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.8)$$

Here:

- \parallel_i groups the same action a_k applied to objects o_{k1}, \dots, o_{kT} in parallel, without a strict order or dependency between object-specific actions.
- \rightarrow_i imposes a temporal ordering between these groups, requiring all actions in a given group to complete before the next group begins.

In this method, the first action is performed on all objects, followed by second action and so on. Same action is grouped and distributed across objects before moving to the next action.

In both the Sequential Completion and Step-by-Step Parallel Methods, object dependency is preserved in accordance with the principle of direct assertion (śrutikrama). Specifically, within the sequential composition \rightarrow_i , each instruction group or action sequence enforces the temporal order and dependency relations established by direct assertion, ensuring coherent and consistent execution even when tasks are performed repetitively over multiple objects.

Using these sequencing mechanisms, validity can be logically determined through object dependency and consistency across subsequent instructions, as detailed in the following section.

4. OBJECT DEPENDENCY AND FUNCTIONAL DEPENDENCY IN INSTRUCTION SEQUENCING

The validity of an instruction sequence relies on two main conditions: **object dependency** and **functional dependency** across instructions. These ensure that the instruction sequence respects the logical dependencies and state transformations of objects involved.

4.1. Object Dependency Condition.

Definition 1. Object Dependency Condition

A sequence of instructions $I = \{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n\}$, where each $i_j = (a_j, O_j)$, exhibits valid object dependency if for every pair of consecutive instructions (i_j, i_{j+1}) , there exists at least one object o^* such that:

$$o^* \in O_j \cap O_{j+1}.$$

This signifies that the two instructions share at least one object, establishing a valid dependency consistent with direct assertion (śrutikrama).

4.2. Functional Dependency Condition.

Definition 2. Functional Dependency Condition

For instructions $i_j = (a_j, O_j)$ and $i_{j+1} = (a_{j+1}, O_{j+1})$ with shared objects $o^* \in O_j \cap O_{j+1}$, the sequence maintains functional dependency if:

$$s_j(o^*) = s_{j+1}^{\text{req}}(o^*).$$

Here:

- $s_j(o^*)$ is the state of object o^* immediately after executing instruction i_j ,
- $s_{j+1}^{\text{req}}(o^*)$ is the required state of o^* to start executing i_{j+1} .

This relation captures the classical notion of functional dependency, where the post-state of an object after one instruction determines the input state required for the next.

4.3. Validity Theorem for Object and Functional Dependencies.

Theorem 1. *Validity of Instruction Sequence with Object and Functional Dependencies*

Let $I = \{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n\}$ be a sequence of instructions with $i_j = (a_j, O_j)$. The sequence is valid if:

$$\forall j \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}, \quad \text{if } D(i_j, i_{j+1}) = \text{True},$$

then:

$$O_j \cap O_{j+1} \neq \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad \forall o^* \in O_j \cap O_{j+1}, \quad s_j(o^*) = s_{j+1}^{\text{req}}(o^*),$$

where $D(i_j, i_{j+1})$ expresses a dependency between i_j and i_{j+1} .

Proof. We prove the theorem by induction on the instruction sequence length, focusing on maintenance of functional dependency (state consistency) between consecutive instructions.

Base Case:

Consider the first instruction $i_1 = (a_1, O_1)$:

- Each object $o \in O_1$ is initially in state $s_1^{\text{init}}(o)$.
- There are no preceding instructions, so no dependencies are checked.
- Instruction i_1 is executable as long as its required preconditions on object states are satisfied by the initial states.

Inductive Step:

Assume that for all instructions up to step j , the following holds: For every pair (i_k, i_{k+1}) with $1 \leq k \leq j-1$,

$$O_k \cap O_{k+1} \neq \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad \forall o^* \in O_k \cap O_{k+1}, \quad s_k(o^*) = s_{k+1}^{\text{req}}(o^*)$$

That is, both object dependency and functional dependency are satisfied for all previous pairs in the sequence.

Now consider the next instruction $i_{j+1} = (a_{j+1}, O_{j+1})$:

- **Dependency Check:** If $\exists o^* \in O_j \cap O_{j+1}$, then i_{j+1} depends on i_j through object o^* .
- **Functional Dependency Check:** The state of o^* after executing i_j , denoted $s_j(o^*)$, must match the required state for i_{j+1} , denoted $s_{j+1}^{\text{req}}(o^*)$:

$$s_j(o^*) = s_{j+1}^{\text{req}}(o^*).$$

This ensures that the functional dependency condition is preserved for (i_j, i_{j+1}) , allowing i_{j+1} to be validly executed. By the principle of induction, the functional dependency holds for all pairs of instructions in the sequence, thus establishing validity. \square

This theorem can be formalized as follows:

$$\forall j \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}, \text{ if } D(i_j, i_{j+1}) = \text{True} \implies \left(O_j \cap O_{j+1} \neq \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad \forall o^* \in O_j \cap O_{j+1}, \quad s_j(o^*) = s_{j+1}^{\text{req}}(o^*) \right)$$

where $D(i_j, i_{j+1})$ indicates a dependency from i_j to i_{j+1} .

4.3.1. *Corollary.* A sequence is invalid if there exists a pair (i_j, i_{j+1}) such that:

- $O_j \cap O_{j+1} = \emptyset$, indicating no common object and thus no dependency.
- Or, there exists an object $o^* \in O_j \cap O_{j+1}$ for which:

$$s_j(o^*) \neq s_{j+1}^{\text{req}}(o^*),$$

violating the functional dependency condition.

5. SOUNDNESS AND COMPLETENESS OF DEDUCTION RULES

The previous section established the formal requirements for valid instruction sequencing, namely object dependency and functional dependency. Having defined these criteria and their role in the semantics of imperative logic, we now turn to the relationship between the deduction system and the semantic model.

In particular, we show that the deduction rules for sequential and purpose-based composition are both *sound* (every derivable sequence is semantically valid) and *complete* (every semantically valid sequence is derivable), provided the relevant dependency conditions hold. The following theorems formalize these properties for both sequential composition and functional dependency.

Theorem 2 (Soundness of Sequential Composition). *Let $i_1 = (a_1, o_1)$ and $i_2 = (a_2, o_2)$ be instructions. If*

$$\vdash i_1 \rightarrow_i i_2$$

is derivable using the deduction rules and object consistency holds, then for any state s ,

$$\text{eval}(s, i_1 \rightarrow_i i_2) = S.$$

Proof. By the deduction rule, both i_1 and i_2 are derivable. By induction, $\text{eval}(s, i_1) = S$. Let $s' = \text{resultState}(s, i_1)$. By induction, $\text{eval}(s', i_2) = S$. Object consistency holds: the state of shared objects after i_1 matches the state before i_2 . By the semantic clause for sequence,

$$\text{eval}(s, i_1 \rightarrow_i i_2) = S.$$

Thus, the rule is sound. □

Theorem 3 (Soundness of Functional Dependency). *Let $i_1 = (a_1, o_1)$ and $i_2 = (a_2, o_2)$ be instructions. If*

$$\vdash i_1 \rightarrow_p i_2$$

is derivable using the deduction rules and functional dependency holds (state after i_1 equals state before i_2), then for any state s ,

$$\text{eval}(s, i_1 \rightarrow_p i_2) = S.$$

Proof. By the deduction rule, both i_1 and i_2 are derivable. By induction, $\text{eval}(s, i_1) = S$. Functional dependency: $\text{resultState}(s, i_1) = s''$, and s'' is the state before i_2 . By induction, $\text{eval}(s'', i_2) = S$. By the semantic clause for functional dependency,

$$\text{eval}(s, i_1 \rightarrow_p i_2) = S.$$

Thus, the rule is sound. □

Theorem 4 (Completeness of Sequential Composition). *Let $i_1 = (a_1, o_1)$ and $i_2 = (a_2, o_2)$ be instructions. If for every state s ,*

$$\text{eval}(s, i_1 \rightarrow_i i_2) = S,$$

and object consistency holds, then

$$\vdash i_1 \rightarrow_i i_2.$$

Proof. By the semantic clause for sequence,

$$\text{eval}(s, i_1 \rightarrow_i i_2) = S \implies \text{eval}(s, i_1) = S, \quad \text{eval}(s', i_2) = S,$$

where $s' = \text{resultState}(s, i_1)$, and object consistency holds.

By induction on the structure of instructions, since $\text{eval}(s, i_1) = S$ for all s , we have $\vdash i_1$.

Similarly, since $\text{eval}(s', i_2) = S$ for all s' , we have $\vdash i_2$.

By the deduction rule for sequence composition, and object consistency, we conclude

$$\vdash i_1 \rightarrow_i i_2.$$

□

Theorem 5 (Completeness of Functional Dependency). *Let $i_1 = (a_1, o_1)$ and $i_2 = (a_2, o_2)$ be instructions. If for every state s ,*

$$\text{eval}(s, i_1 \rightarrow_p i_2) = S,$$

and functional dependency holds (state after i_1 equals state before i_2), then

$$\vdash i_1 \rightarrow_p i_2.$$

Proof. By the semantic clause for functional dependency,

$$\text{eval}(s, i_1 \rightarrow_p i_2) = S \implies \text{eval}(s, i_1) = S, \quad \text{eval}(s'', i_2) = S,$$

where $s'' = \text{resultState}(s, i_1)$, and functional dependency holds.

By induction on the structure of instructions, since $\text{eval}(s, i_1) = S$ for all s , we have $\vdash i_1$.

Similarly, since $\text{eval}(s'', i_2) = S$ for all s'' , we have $\vdash i_2$.

By the deduction rule for functional dependency, and the state equality condition, we conclude

$$\vdash i_1 \rightarrow_p i_2.$$

□

6. IMPLEMENTATION

The proposed framework is computationally instantiated through the MIRA AI Agent, a system leveraging Large Language Models (e.g., Groq, Gemini) for instruction generation and sequence validation. This agent, detailed in future work, demonstrates the practical feasibility of our semantic model, with real-time deployment as a web application. Current efforts focus on formal verification, with implementation specifics to be elaborated in a forthcoming paper.