A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: Language Models Plan from Pixels

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Abstract

Planning is an important capability of artificial agents that perform long-horizon tasks in real-world environments. In this work, we explore the use of pre-trained language models (PLMs) to reason about plan sequences from text instructions in embodied visual environments. Prior PLM based approaches for planning either assume observations are available in the form of text (e.g., provided by a captioning model), reason about plans from the instruction alone, or incorporate information about the visual environment in limited ways (such as a pre-trained affordance function). In contrast, we show that PLMs can accurately plan even when observations are directly encoded as input prompts for the PLM. We show that this simple approach outperforms prior approaches in experiments on the ALFWorld and VirtualHome benchmarks.

1 Introduction

The ability to reason about plans is critical for performing long-horizon tasks (Erol, 1996; Sohn et al., 2018; Sharma et al., 2022), compositional generalization (Corona et al., 2021) and generalization to unseen tasks and environments (Shridhar et al., 2020). Consider a simple long-horizon planning scenario where a robot is tasked with preparing a meal and serving it on the table. This presents a non-trivial planning problem since the agent needs to understand the sequence of operations required to perform the task and search for the relevant objects in the unfamiliar environment by interacting with various objects.

Large language models have been recently shown to possess commonsense knowledge about the world such as object affordances and physical dynamics (Ouyang et al., 2022; Chowdhery et al., 2022). Early approaches considered text based

environments and fine-tuned PLMs to predict actions given the history of past observations and actions (Jansen, 2020; Micheli and Fleuret, 2021; Yao et al., 2020). Recent work has used this ability to reason about plans from text instructions in simulated household environments with simplifying assumptions such as text-only environment observations or feedback (Huang et al., 2022; Ahn et al., 2022; Li et al., 2022; Logeswaran et al., 2022).

We focus on *visually grounded planning* with PLMs — the ability to adapt plans based on interaction and visual feedback from the environment. While PLMs have strong planning commonsense priors, predictions from a PLM may not be directly realizable in the environment since the observation and action spaces are unknown. This requires *grounding* the PLM in the environment and adapting it to observe visual feedback, which is highly non-trivial. Some prior works assume the availability of a pre-trained affordance function (Ahn et al., 2022) or a success detector (Mirchandani et al., 2021). Notably, SayCan (Ahn et al., 2022) completely decouples the PLM from observation information by selecting actions that have both high affordability (through a pre-trained affordance model) and high PLM likelihood. Although this partially addresses the grounding problem, the use of visual feedback for action affordance alone is limited. Often an agent must choose one of many affordable actions using information from observations. For example, a driving agent should re-navigate and possibly turn around when encountering a "road closed" sign, but both turning around and driving forward are indistinguishable to SayCan because they are both affordable and the PLM is blind to observations.

Another workaround explored in prior work is translating the information in the visual observations to text using a pre-trained captioning system (Shridhar et al., 2021; Huang et al., 2022). However, it can be difficult to faithfully describe an

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image in words and information is lost in this inherently noisy process, which limits the information available to the planner.

Recent work shows that PLMs can be adapted for various natural language tasks by inserting tunable embeddings or soft prompts at the input of the PLM (also called prompt tuning or prefix tuning) (Li and Liang, 2021; Lester et al., 2021). This approach also extends to multi-modal understanding tasks such as image captioning (Mokady et al., 2021) and VQA (Tsimpoukelli et al., 2021) where images are encoded as soft prompts and finetuned for the target task. Transformer based architectures have also been successfully applied to offline Reinforcement Learning in recent work (Chen et al., 2021; Janner et al., 2021; Li et al., 2022; Reid et al., 2022).

Taking inspiration from these works, we propose the simple approach of embedding visual observations ('visual prompts') and *directly inserting them as PLM input embeddings*. The visual encoder and PLM are jointly trained for the target task, an approach we call **Visual Prompt Planning** (VP^2). By teaching the PLM to use observations for planning in an end to end manner, we remove the dependency on external data such as captions and affordability information that was used in prior work. We show that this simple approach performs better than prior PLM-based planning approaches on two embodied planning benchmarks based on ALFWorld (Shridhar et al., 2021) and Virtualhome (Puig et al., 2018).

2 Preliminary: Prompt Tuning

Given a sequence of tokens $x_1, \ldots, x_t$, an autoregressive language model predicts a probability distribution over the next token $p_{\text{LM}}(\cdot | x_1, \ldots, x_t)$. While a PLM expects to see natural language tokens in its context, the model can be extended to process a sequence of input embeddings. The input layer of a PLM converts tokens $x_1, \ldots, x_t$ into token embeddings $e_1, \ldots, e_t$ which are passed on to subsequent layers. Soft prompt tuning introduces additional tunable embeddings $p_1, \ldots, p_k$ in the input layer $p_{\text{LM}}(\cdot | e_1, \ldots, e_t, p_1, \ldots, p_k)$[1] which can be optimized with respect to a target training objective using gradient descent. In addition, for cross modal reasoning tasks the soft embeddings p_i can be a function of data-modalities other than text such as images (e.g., $p_i = f_i(v; \theta)$ where v is an image and θ are trainable parameters). We use this approach to augment the language model context with visual observations.

3 Approach

Problem Setting. We assume a goal-based MDP setting, parameterized by $\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{G}, P, R_{\mathcal{G}})$: a state space $\mathcal{S}$, action space $\mathcal{A}$, a goal space $\mathcal{G}$, transition probabilities P, and reward $R_{\mathcal{G}}$. The planner is given N expert demonstrations $\mathcal{D} = \{(g^{(i)}, o_0^{(i)}, a_0^{(i)}, o_1^{(i)}, a_1^{(i)}, \ldots, o_T^{(i)}, a_T^{(i)})\}_{i=1}^N$ where goals $g^{(i)} \in \mathcal{G}$ and actions $a^{(i)} \in \mathcal{A}$ are available as text and observations $o^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times C}$ are images of size $H \times W \times C$. Further, we do not assume the list of possible actions available to the agent is known, or any pretrained admissibility or affordance function is known. Given goal description g, past actions $a_1, \ldots, a_{t-1}$ and observations $o_1, \ldots, o_t$, we seek to build a policy π which models the next action probability $\pi(a_t | g, a_{1 \cdots t-1}, o_{1 \cdots t})$.

Visual Prompt Planning. If goal description, actions and observations are available in the form of discrete token sequences, predicting the next action is similar to a language modeling task and a PLM can be fine-tuned for next action prediction: maximize $\log p_{\text{LM}}(a_t \mid \text{cxt}_t)$, where $\text{cxt}_t = \text{concat}(g, o_1, a_1, o_2, a_2, \ldots, a_{t-1}, o_t)$. However, observations may not be available in the form of text or discrete tokens in practice and we attempt to tackle this scenario.

As we discuss in Section 2, PLMs are capable of processing a sequence of embeddings (which may not necessarily correspond to actual text tokens). The context can be rewritten in terms of embedding sequences as $\text{cxt}_t = \text{concat}(g^e, o_1^e, a_1^e, o_2^e, a_2^e, \ldots, a_{t-1}^e, o_t^e)$[2] where g^e, o_i^e, a_i^e respectively represent *embedding sequences* corresponding to the goal description, observations and actions. We assume that the goal description and actions are available in the form of text and g^e, a_i^e can be obtained as the corresponding token embedding sequences.

Observation Encoder. To obtain observation embeddings o_i^e, we propose to learn an observation encoder $f : \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times C} \to \mathbb{R}^{m \times E}$. f maps visual observations o to a sequence of m embeddings each of size E, where m is a hyperparameter

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[1] In an abuse of notation, we will use p_{LM} with token inputs or embedding inputs interchangeably.

[2] Note that each of g^e, o_i^e, a_i^e are embedding sequences and the concat operation concatenates these sequences.

and E is the PLM's embedding dimensionality. In our experiments we consider an observation encoder of the form shown in Equation (1) where $f_{\text{pretrained}}$ is a pre-trained visual encoder and f_{FFN} is a feedforward network.

$$f_{\text{obs-enc}}(o) = f_{\text{FFN}}(f_{\text{pretrained}}(o)) \qquad (1)$$

Training Objective. We learn to model the next action given previous actions, observations, and the goal. Similar to prior approaches (Micheli and Fleuret, 2021; Huang et al., 2022), we define the loss as in Equation (2), where $\text{cxt}_t^{(i)}$ is a concatenation of goal, action and observation embeddings as previously described.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}} = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i,t} \log p_{\text{LM}}(a_t^{(i)} \mid \text{cxt}_t^{(i)}) \qquad (2)$$

4 Experiments

4.1 Environments

We experiment with embodied agent tasks that involve navigating and manipulating objects in a simulated household environment. The agent acts by feeding text commands to a low-level controller that executes various pretrained skills (such as *go to cabinet* or *take apple from cabinet*).

VizALF. This environment is based on ALF-World (Shridhar et al., 2021) and contains 6 types of tasks that are compositional and contain multiple subgoals that must be completed. In contrast to ALFWorld which is a purely text based environment, we consider the same set of tasks but with **only** visual observations from the AI2-Thor simulator (Kolve et al., 2017). We used the training and evaluation task split provided in ALFWorld which consists of 4620 training tasks, 187 in distribution evaluation tasks, and 192 out of distribution evaluation tasks. However, we found 64/187 and 52/190 of the ID and OD evaluation tasks respectively were impossible to complete, due to errors in the ALFWorld low level action implementations. So, we normalized the success rate of all agents by the oracle agent's success rate.

VirtualHome. We experiment with tasks from LID (Li et al., 2022) which are based on the VirtualHome simulator (Puig et al., 2018). Each task is specified using a set of goal conditions that must be met at the end of the episode (e.g., There must be two pancakes in the fridge and the stove must

be turned on). We use the in distibution and novel scene splits from LID. 2000 in distribution tasks were used for training and 200 novel scene tasks were used for evaluation.

4.2 Models

We use the GPT2$_{\text{med}}$ language model (355M parameters) in all our experiments. We consider the following baselines for comparison.

Ignore. A simple baseline inspired by Jansen (2020) that ignores the visual observations and predicts the entire text action sequence only from the goal text description. This baseline is finetuned with the same objective as in Equation (2) but without observations in the context.

Captions. Instead of feeding visual observations to the planner language model, we use text captions predicted by a captioning model as a proxy (Shridhar et al., 2021). We train a ClipCap (Mokady et al., 2021) model on ground-truth captions from the respective environment's training demonstrations and use them for captioning. The captioning model is trained on 70k and 60k captions on VizALF and VirtualHome respectively.

SayCan. The SayCan (Ahn et al., 2022) architecture has two components: a) A PLM that ranks actions and b) An affordance function that predicts what actions are affordable from a given state. SayCan evaluates a given action by combining its likelihood under the PLM (ignoring visual observations) with its affordance score as shown in Equation (3).

$$\text{Score}(a_t) = p_{\text{LM}}(a_t|g, a_{t-1}, \ldots, a_1) \cdot p_{\text{aff}}(a_t|o_t) \qquad (3)$$

We consider different design choices for each of these components. We consider two variations for the PLM: 1) A frozen FLAN-T5$_{\text{xxl}}$ (11B) model that is few-shot prompted similar to the original work. 2) A GPT2$_{\text{med}}$ model fine-tuned for next action prediction (details in the appendix).

We also consider two variations for the affordance model: 1) An *oracle affordance* function which assumes knowledge about ground-truth affordable actions. 2) A *trained affordance* function trained to predict whether an action is affordable from a given visual observation using supervised learning on training demonstrations annotated with affordance information. In both versions, we use a PLM to predict action sequences from the goal text

Approach	VizALF		VirtualHome	
	ID	OD	ID	OD
Ignore (Jansen, 2020)	35.4	22.4	6.0	1.5
Captions (Shridhar et al., 2021)	53.2	20.3	7.0	2.5
SayCan (Ahn et al., 2022)				
- GPT2$_{med}$ (*Finetuned PLM, Trained affordance*)	36.6	19.3	7.0	1.0
- GPT2$_{med}$ (*Finetuned PLM, Oracle affordance*)	51.2	27.8	13.6	5.0
- FLAN-T5$_{xxl}$ (*Few-shot PLM, Oracle affordance*)	40.6	26.1	3.9	0.0
VP^2 (ours)	**55.3**	**27.8**	**20.6**	**7.5**

Table 1: Success rates of approaches on VizALF and VirtualHome (VH) benchmarks. We present the average success rate for in distribution (ID) and out of distribution (OD) tasks.

and select an action based on the SayCan score in Equation (3).

4.3 Results

Table 1 compares the performance of our method against baselines. Our simple approach (VP^2) performs better than all baselines, despite not using external data (caption and affordance information). VP^2 benefits from direct coupling between the planner language model and environment observations.

The Ignore baseline performs worse compared to other methods that make use of observations. However, on out of distribution tasks it suffers less from domain-shift compared to some of the other grounding baselines such as Captions. The Captions baseline performs better than Ignore, but suffers from information loss in the captioning process.

In comparison, SayCan with oracle affordance is comparable to or better than Ignore and Captions (slightly worse than Captions on VizALF ID) in spite of incorporating observation information only through the affordance function (both FLAN-T5$_{xxl}$ and GPT2$_{med}$). SayCan using the trained affordance only performs slightly better than Ignore on in distribution, and similarly suffers from domain-shift on out of distribution tasks. FLAN-T5$_{xxl}$ performs well on VizALF despite no training. However, it performs poorly on VirtualHome due to demonstration trajectories in VirtualHome being relatively long, which inhibits SayCan from using many examples for few-shot prompting.

4.4 Ablations

Table 2 presents ablations we perform to identify the importance of each component of our approach.

Visual Encoder. Replacing the CLIP visual encoder with a Resnet50 (He et al., 2016) significantly

Ablation		VizALF	
		ID	OD
	VP^2	55.3	27.8
visual enc.	resnet50	30.1	12.9
prompt	CLIPCap	50.5	15.9
base LM	GPT2$_{med}$ Frozen	48.0	16.5
	GPT2$_{XL}$ Frozen	48.0	16.7
	GPTJ Frozen	50.0	15.8

Table 2: Select ablations on the VizALF benchmark, with average success rate for in distribution (ID) and out of distribution (OD) tasks. We tested our approach VP^2 with and without different components. A full ablation table is included in the appendix (Table 4).

degrades the performance. This suggests that the image-text alignment pre-training of CLIP helps produce observation features that are more easily interpreted by the language model. In contrast to prior methods that consider auxiliary alignment objectives to match the distribution of inputs (Reid et al., 2022), it could be more beneficial to use powerful encoders such as CLIP pre-trained for image-text alignment.

Pretrained Prompt Model. We also test how using pre-trained visual prompts can affect performance. We used visual prompts pre-trained with the CLIPCap captioning objective on the Conceptual Captions dataset (Sharma et al., 2018). However, using this pre-trained visual prompt hurts the success rate. We hypothesize that the knowledge aquired by the LM during captioning isn't directly useful for action prediction.

Prompt Tuning on frozen language models. Finally, we consider an ablation where the lan-
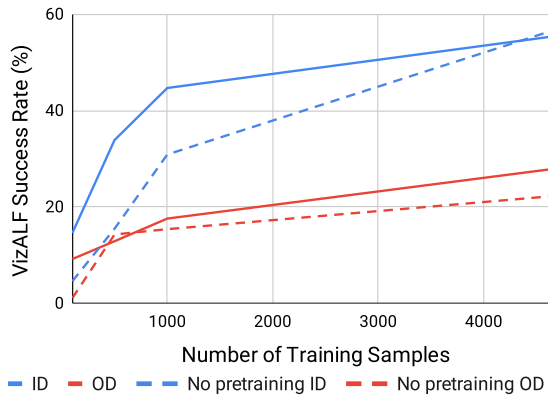
Figure 1: Ablation showing the learning efficiency (a) with and without language model pre-training and (b) varying the number of training demonstrations.

guage model backbone is held fixed and only visual prompts and task prompt tokens are tuned (similar to Frozen (Tsimpoukelli et al., 2021)). We found that freezing the language model generally performs worse than fine-tuning it. The drop in performance can be attributed to the limited influence of prompt tokens alone in controlling the language model's behavior.

Effect of LM pre-training. We examine the benefit of LM pre-training by training a model from scratch on varying amounts of training data in Figure 1. We find that the pre-trained model converges faster and is more sample efficient compared to the model trained from scratch. This confirms findings from prior work about how language model pre-training benefits learning sequential decision making tasks (Reid et al., 2022).

5 Conclusion

We present a simple approach for planning from pixels building on the planning commonsense knowledge acquired by large language models. Compared to prior work, which indirectly incorporates observation information by captions or affordance, our approach is simpler, does not use external data, and benefits from directly coupling the planner language model and environment observations. Experimentally, we showed our approach performs better than these prior methods on two embodied agent benchmarks.

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A Appendix

A.1 Experimental Setup Details

Visual Observations, Text Actions. VizALF uses the same action set defined in ALFWorld with the following difference. ALFWorld is a text-based environment and it references multiple instances of an object type with object identifiers (cabinet 1, cabinet 2, etc.). These object identifiers are no longer meaningful in the visual setting as the grounding of cabinet 1 to the physical cabinet is unknown to the agent. We thus removed these numeric identifiers in the action and ground-truth

text observation (*e.g.*, "cabinet 1" becomes "cabinet"). The set of valid actions and objects is defined in (Shridhar et al., 2021). We use the same procedure for removing object numeric identifiers from VirtualHome.

Ground Truth Captions. Ground truth captions are needed to train the captions baseline and needed for the captioning auxiliary task. In VizALF, we use the ground truth captions provided in ALF-World (Shridhar et al., 2021), which are generated from visible objects and a pre-defined template. We define ground truth captions for VirtualHome using a similar template on the environment's list of interactable objects for each observation.

Ground Truth Affordability. Ground truth labels for affordability are needed to train the Say-Can trained affordance model. As the trained affordance is a binary classifier, we create a training set of observation-action-affordability pairs. To do this, for each observation, we sampled all affordable actions, and a subset of non-affordable actions (as there are vastly more non-affordable actions in each state). We tested two methods for sampling non-affordable actions: 1) We used a hand-coded heuristic that selects non-affordable actions based on actions that are likely to be predicted by the LM but are not affordable. 2) We use actions that are predicted with high likelihood from the Ignore baseline but are not affordable. We did not find a significant difference in non-affordable examples on performance.

A.2   SayCan Baseline Details

In the original SayCan (Ahn et al., 2022), the PLM gives a score for every possible action at each timestep. When the oracle action affordances are known (around 15 actions affordable) at a given time, we can evaluate the PLM score on all affordable actions. However, when oracle affordances are not available, in our trained affordance setting, each step has *thousands* of possible actions (actions are a combinatorial product on action type and objects). Evaluating the LM on each action is infeasible. Instead, we use a beam search on the PLM to generate the top-k most likely actions, rank these likely actions using the SayCan score. Specifically, for a given observation o, predict the next action a by:

1. Sample top-k actions $a_1, \ldots, a_k$ from PLM.

2. Compute

$$\text{Score}(a_t) = p_{\text{LM}}(a_t|g, a_{t-1}, \ldots a_1) \cdot p_{\text{aff}}(a_t|o_t)$$

3. Return $\text{argmax}(\text{Score}(a))$

In addition, the original SayCan does not perform any finetuning on the PLM. However, we found that SayCan improved in our environment tasks when finetuning a smaller model.

A.3   Code Implementation Details

Our approaches and baselines were implemented using the Huggingface Transformers Python library (Wolf et al., 2019). Code for the VizALF environment was modified from the ALFWorld codebase (Shridhar et al., 2021). Code for the VirtualHome environment was modified from the LID codebase (Li et al., 2022).

A.4   Computational Budget

Experiments were conducted on A100 GPUs. Most approaches used a GPT2$_{\text{med}}$ as a base LM, totalling 400M parameters. Prompt tuning ablations with larger frozen models had 1.5B and 6B parameters in total. For the FLAN-T5$_{\text{xxl}}$-SayCan experiments (using an 11B model) we did no training.

A.5   Hyperparameters

In general we used similar hyperparameters for the PLM and visual prompts across approaches, but adjusted the epochs to account for learning visual prompts vs. learning text only and number of training samples.

VP^2. We show relevant hyperparameters for VP^2 in Table 3.

Ignore Baseline. We used the same hyperparameters as in Table 3 but remove visual prompt parameters.

Caption Baseline. To train a captioning model, we use the same hyperparameters as Table 3 but set {epochs = 10}. We train a separate PLM for the action prediction model (which uses predicted captions as input) using the same hyperparameters as Table 3 but set {epochs = 20}. For the context of the captions, we add goal text to encourage the PLM to produce captions: "Your task is to: caption the following observation". We also tested finetuning a CLIPCap captioning model for this baseline, but found this decreased captioning performance.

Hyperparameter	Value
Epochs	50
Batch Size	8
Seed	{0, 1}
Grad Accum. Steps	1
LM	GPT2$_{med}$
LM learning rate	5e-5
LM weight decay	1e-3
Gradient clipping	None
Weight decay	0.01
VP learning rate	1e-2
VP size	10
VP visual encoder	CLIP ViT-B/32
VP arch.	2-hidden-layer MLP
Max context tokens	1000

Table 3: Hyperparameters for VP^2 in VizALF and VirtualHome.

SayCan Baseline. For the frozen FLAN-T5$_{xxl}$-SayCan model, we performed prompt engineering similar to Ahn et al. (2022). For every task, we sample k examples for few shot prompting (as many can fit in the context length) in the following format:

```
Here are some step by step instructions
for example tasks.
Example: <g1>. 1. <a1> 2. [...] [...]
Example: <gk>. 1. <a1> 2. [...]
Give step by step instructions for the
following task.
<goal>
```

To retrieve examples, we sampled k samples from the training dataset that are similar to the current goal. For VizALF, we took samples that are the same task type (pick-place, heat, etc.) and for VirtualHome, we took samples where the goals were most similar according to a simple bag of words heuristic. We found the best value for $k = 30$ from a grid search on $k \in \{1, 5, 10, 15, 30\}$.

For the fine-tuned action prediction model GPT2$_{med}$-SayCan, we use the same hyperparameters as Table 3 but set {epochs = 20}. For the trained affordance model, we use the same hyperparameters as Table 3 but set {epochs = 2}. For the context of the trained affordance, we add goal text to encourage the PLM to predict affordance: "Your task is to: predict whether the following action is valid." The PLM must either output the token "valid" or "invalid", given the observations and action contexts.

Ablation		VizALF	
		ID	OD
	VP^2	55.3	27.8
visual enc.	resnet50	30.1	12.9
prompt	CLIPCap	50.5	15.9
base LM	GPT2$_{med}$ Frozen	48.0	16.5
	GPT2$_{XL}$ Frozen	48.0	16.7
	GPTJ Frozen	50.0	15.8
prompt size	1	48.8	14.9
	5	54.4	17.1
	20	54.8	20.0
aux. task	inv-dyn.	58.8	20.7
	captions	58.5	21.4
	goal-pred.	52.9	17.8
samples	100	14.6	9.2
	500	33.9	12.9
	1000	44.7	17.6
samples, no pre-train	100	4.6	1.1
	500	15.5	14.3
	1000	30.9	15.4
	4620 (all)	56.4	22.2

Table 4: All ablations on the VizALF benchmark, with average success rate for in distribution (ID) and out of distribution (OD) tasks. We tested our approach VP^2 with various components added or removed.

A.6 Full Ablations

We present more detailed ablations in Table 4 presents additional ablations for prompt size, training samples, and LM pretraining (more comprehensive version of Table 2 in the main text).

Prompt Size. We tested visual prompt sizes {1, 5, 10, 20}, where 10 is the prompt size used in VP^2. Lowering the prompt size to 1 and 5 lowers the success rate in VizALF, as less visual information can be contained in each prompt. However, raising the prompt size to 20 may allow more information in a visual prompt, but also causes the LM's context to increase. This can harm the LM as the context needs to be trimmed to fit within the limited context window. From Table 4, this seems to harm the success rate.

A.7 Auxiliary Tasks

In VP^2, the LM is only trained on the action prediction loss function $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}}$. We hypothesized
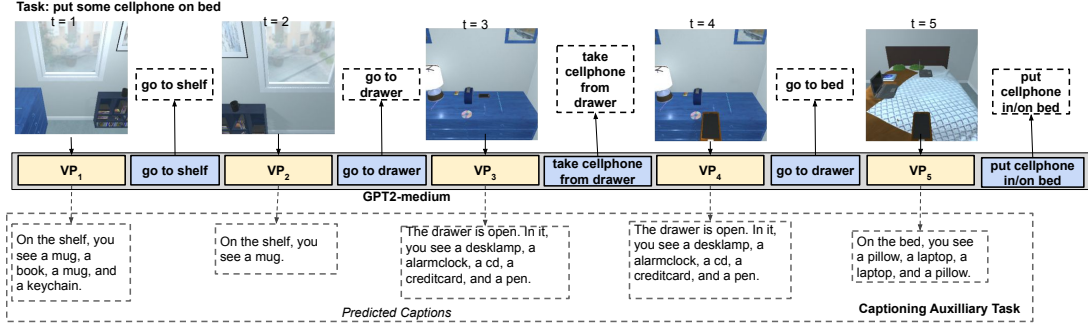
Figure 2: Example of VP^2 with the captioning auxiliary task in VizALF. Each observation is encoded into a visual prompt VP$_t$ and used to predict the next action. The LM is also trained to predict a caption for each VP$_t$.

that auxiliary tasks that train visual prompts in additional ways can help ground and improve the visual prompts for planning. To do this, we trained the LM concurrently on $\mathcal{L}_\mathcal{D}$ and a loss derived for each auxiliary task. 1) Inverse Dynamics (inv-dyn.). The LM must predict the action that is executed between two observations: $\mathcal{L}_{\text{inv-dyn}} = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i,t} \log p_{\text{LM}}(a_t^{(i)}|o_t^{(i)}, o_{t+1}^{(i)})$. 2) Captions. The LM must predict the ground truth caption text for each observation. This is the same training objective used in CLIPCap (Mokady et al., 2021): $\mathcal{L}_{\text{cap}} = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i,t} \log p_{\text{LM}}(\text{caption}_t^{(i)}|o_t^{(i)})$. 3) Goal Prediction (goal-pred). The LM must predict the goal text given action-observation context. $\mathcal{L}_{\text{goal-pred}} = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_i \log p_{\text{LM}}(g^{(i)}|o_1^{(i)}, a_1^{(i)}, \ldots, o_T^{(i)}, a_T^{(i)})$.

Results. We show an example of the captioning auxiliary task in Figure 2. We find auxiliary tasks (inv-dyn. and captions) can help ground visual prompts and improve success rate for in distribution tasks. However they also cause VP^2 to overfit and perform worse on out of distribution tasks. The last auxiliary task goal pred. seems to decrease performance in both ID and OD.

Hyperparameters. For auxiliary tasks, we add a tunable task embedding to each context, where each task (action prediction vs. auxiliary task) has a separate task embedding. This embedding helps the LM to learn multiple tasks. We used a task embedding length = 10. To compute the loss, we add a weight parameter to control the loss between action prediction and auxiliary task: $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{D} + \alpha \mathcal{L}_{\text{aux}}$. In our experiments, we tested $\alpha = \{0.1, 1.0\}$ and found $\alpha = 0.1$ works the best. Otherwise, we used the same hyperparameters as Table 3.