

# **Day 5**

# **Searching algorithms for problem solvings**

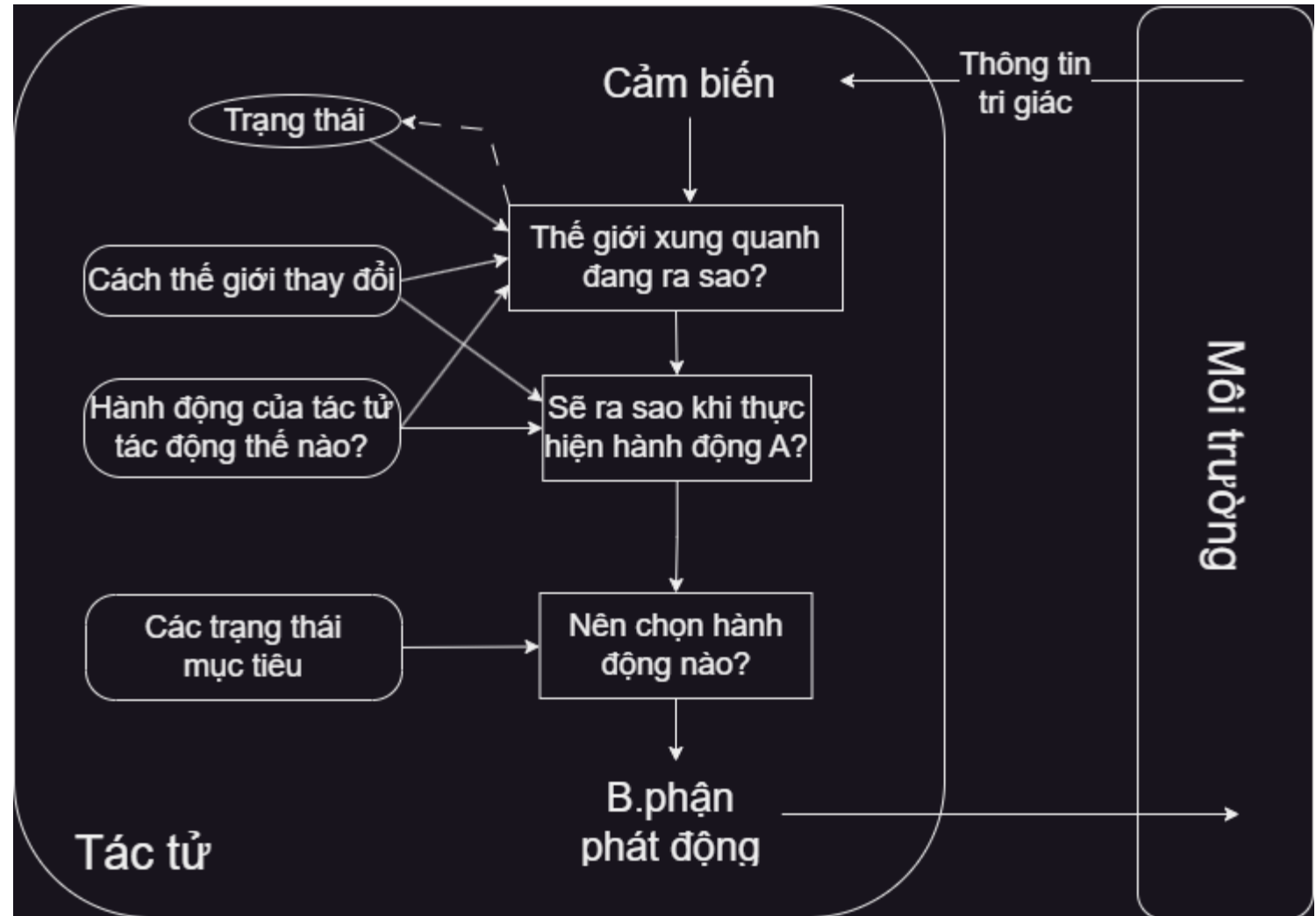
Lecturer: Msc. Minh Tan Le

# Contents

- I. Goal-based agents & Utility-based agents
- II. Environment abstraction
- III. Searching for goals
  - 1. Best first search (BFS)
  - 2. A\* search

# Goal-based agent

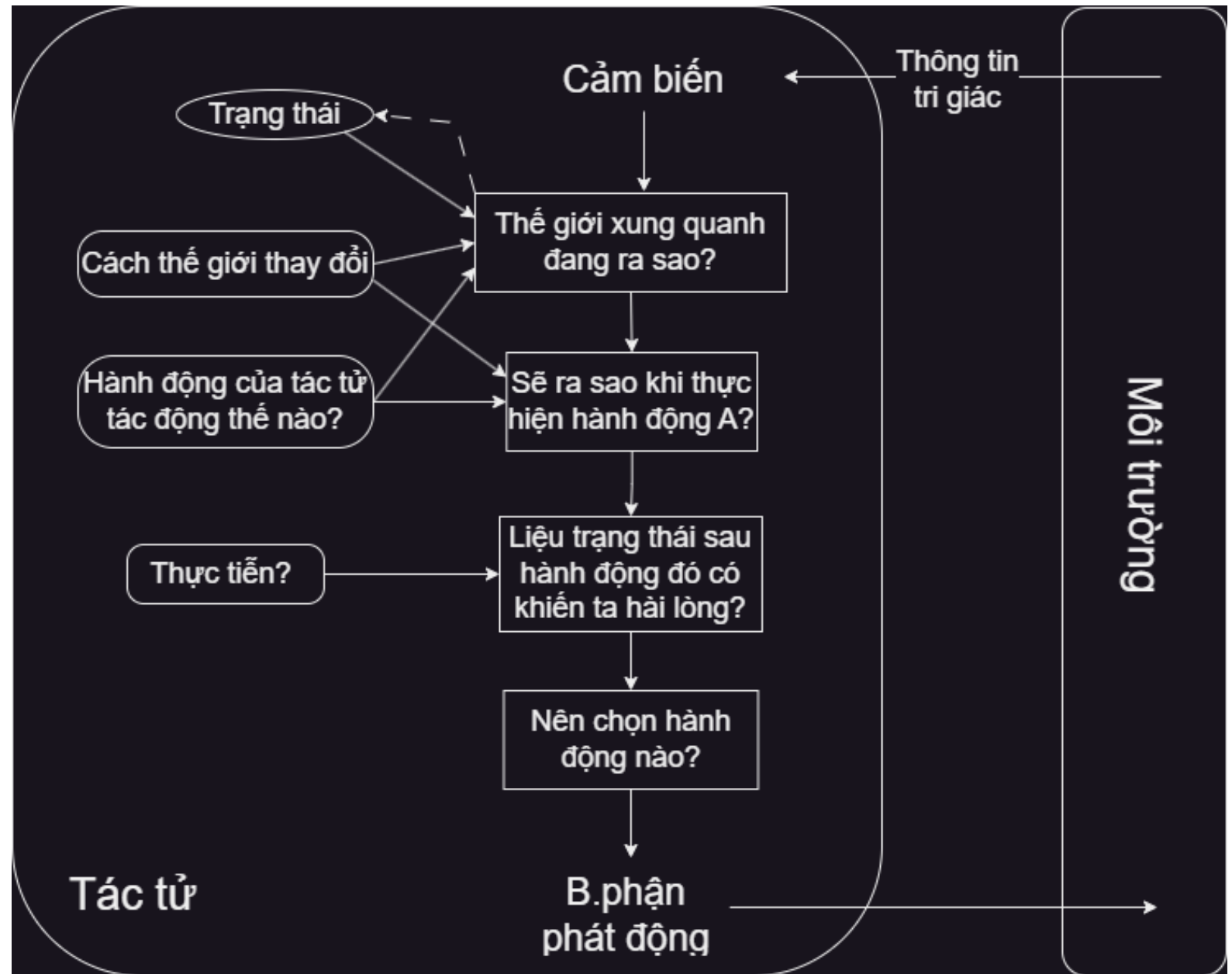
- The agent learn the goal and find a way to meet.

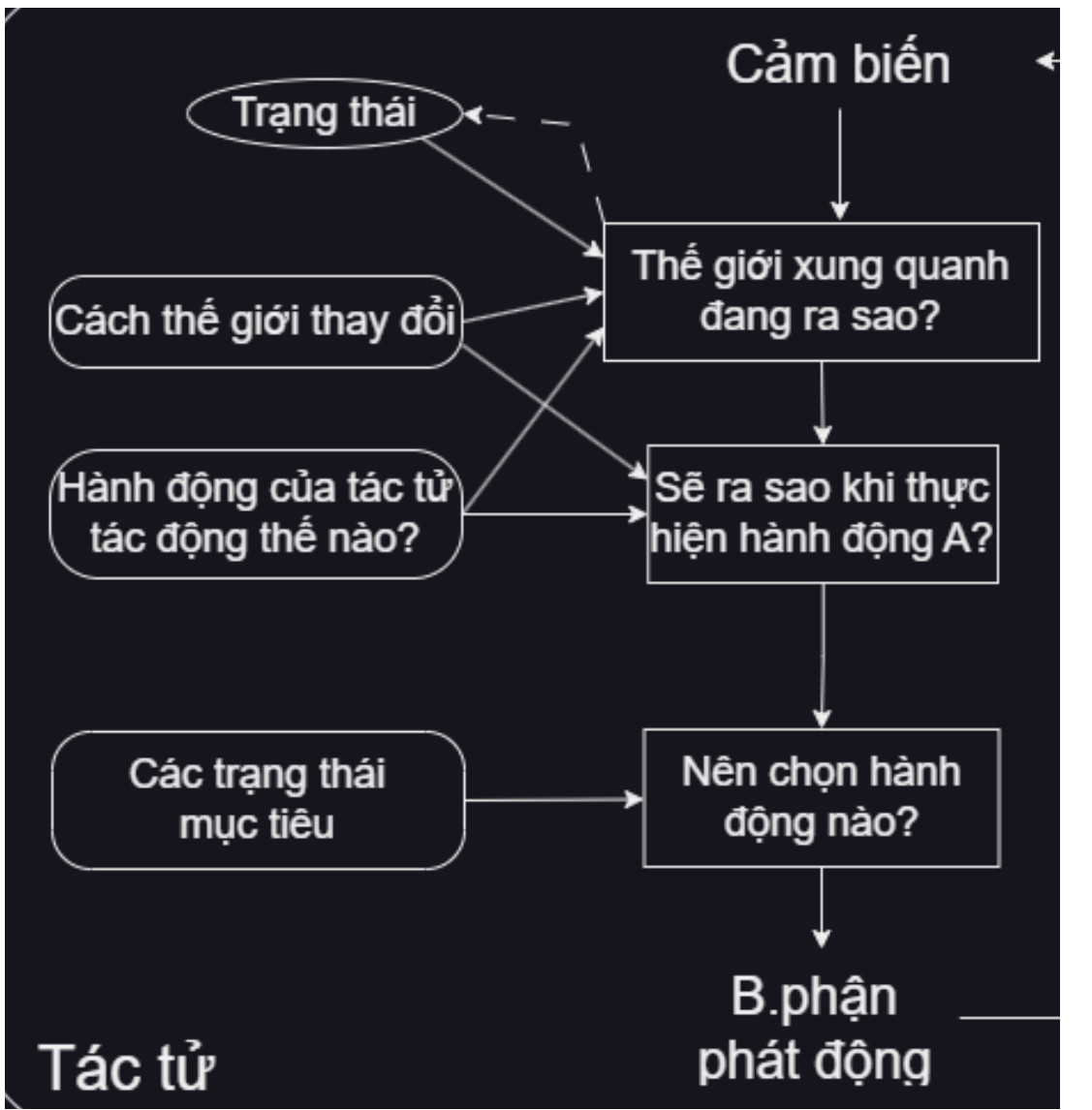
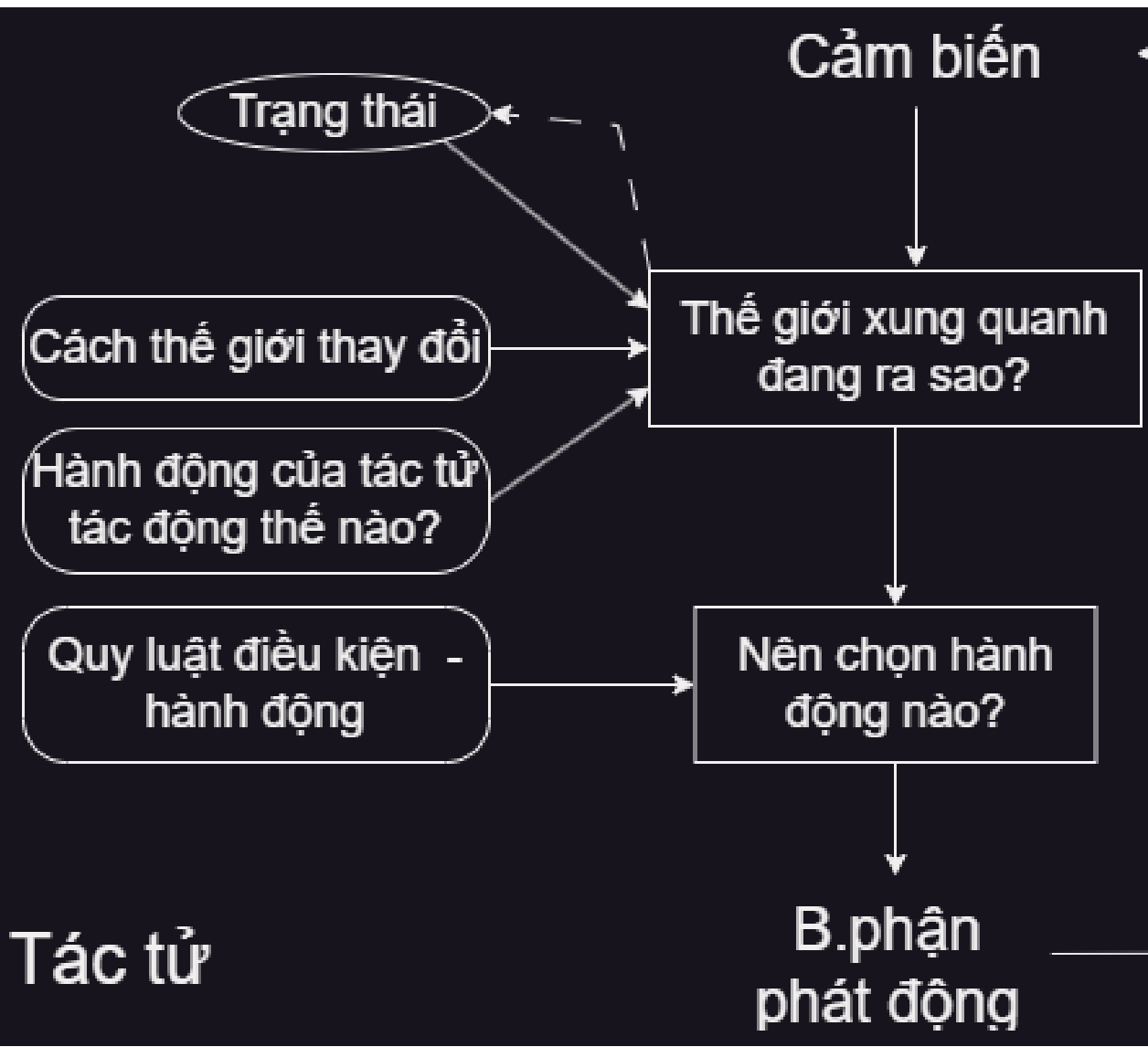


## Utility-based agent

Find a useful & satisfying (best) solution.

Ex.: Root-finding problem





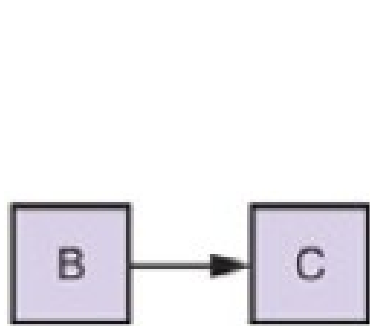
# Model-free agent

- An opposite of model-based one.
- Does not estimate the transition.
- Possible solution: Trial-and-error (greedy).

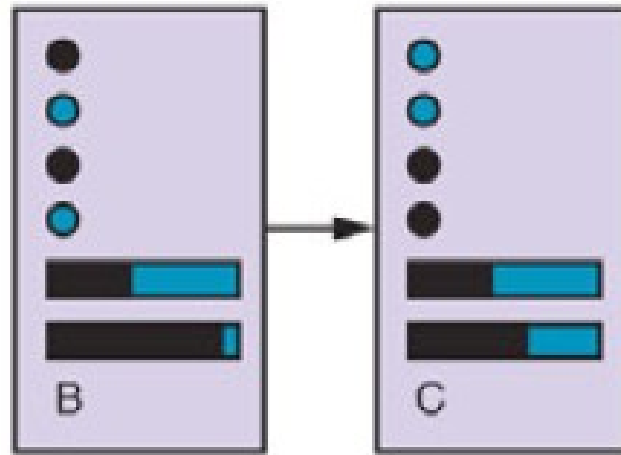
# Learning agents

- The preferred type nowadays.
- The idea popped up by Turing in 1950:
  - A model that can be taught time by time.
- Many agents of other types can be upgraded to be learnable.

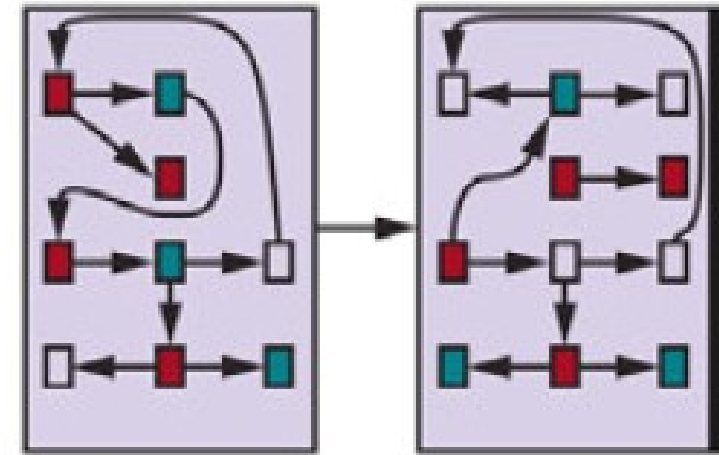
## II. Environment abstraction



Atomic  
List/Array  
Tuple  
Str  
Num...



Factored  
Class  
Structured



Structured  
Relationship



# Structured environment



*A cow is drinking milk stored in a bottle.*





# III. Searching for goals

- **Searching:** An action to find the **goals**.
- **Searching** is for **problem-solving agents**.
  - The states must be **atomic**.
- For **factored or structured** ones, we build **planning agents**.
- **Tree** searching >< **Graph** searching.

4 steps:

1. Formulize the goal(s): The states that must be achieved.
2. Formulize the environment.
3. Searching.
4. Execute.



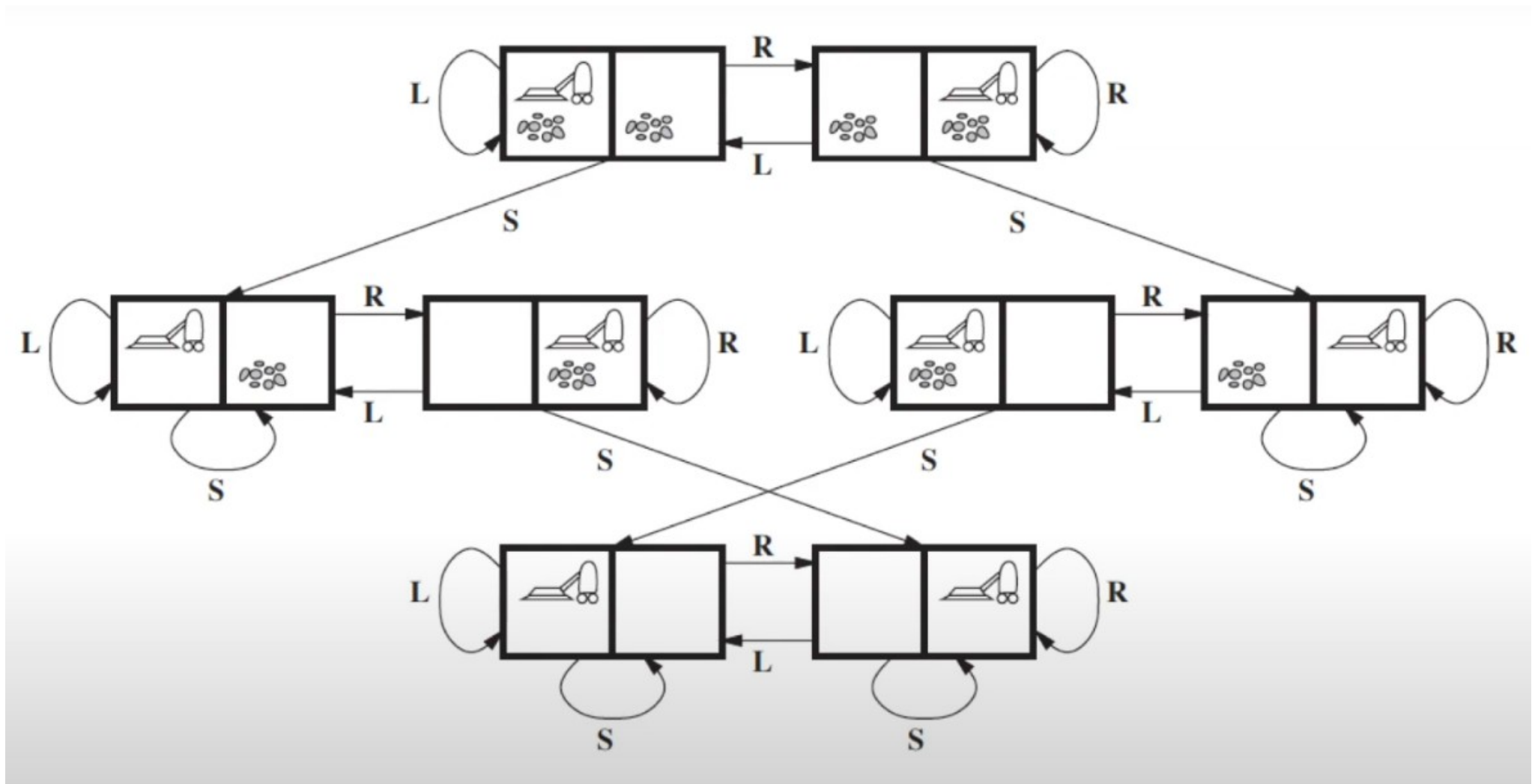




- State space: ...
- Initial state: ...
- Actions: ...
- Transition model: ...
- Cost: ...

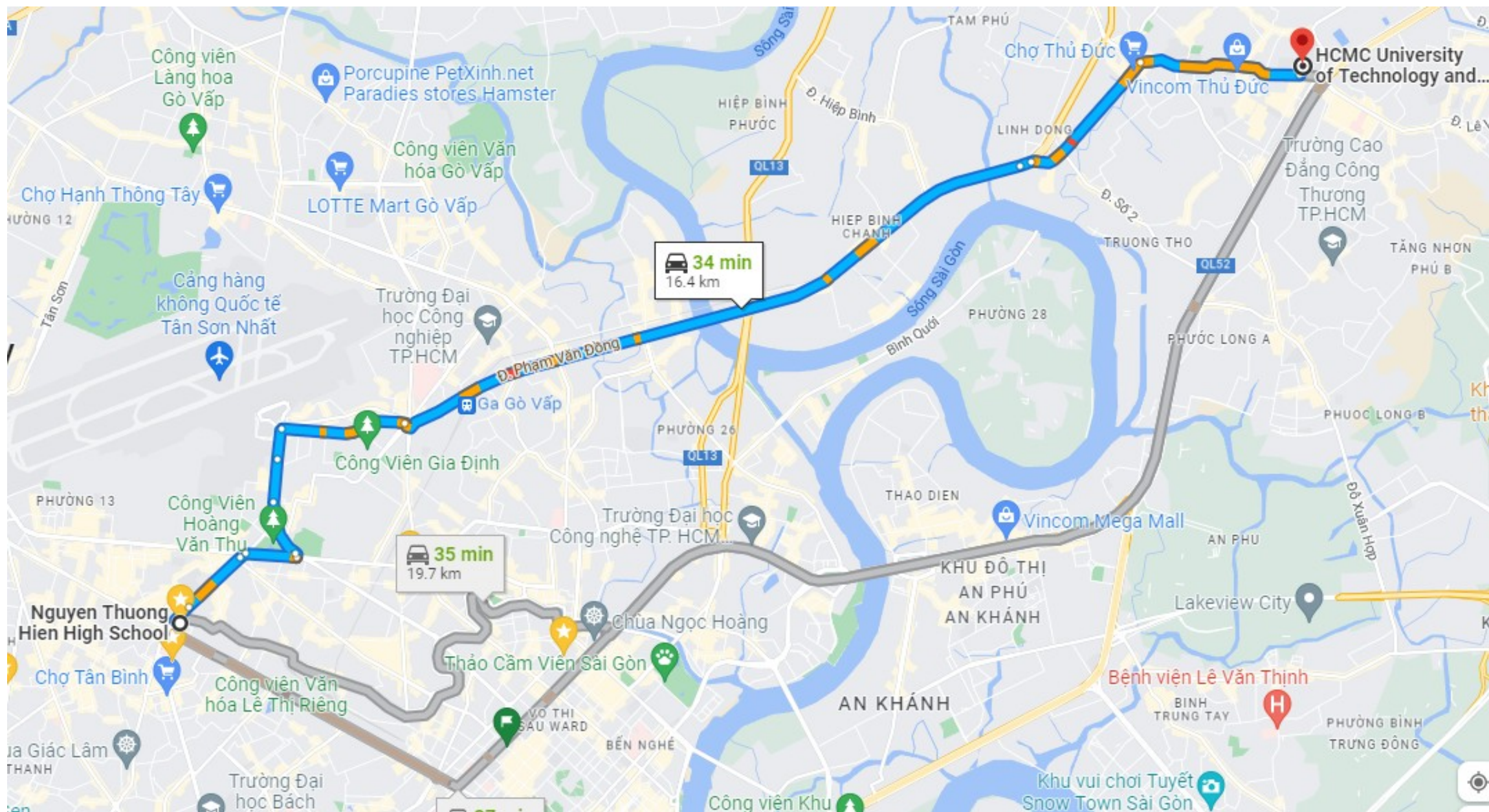


- State space: Position of tiles and blank.
- Initial state: Any.
- Actions: Move the blank.
- Transition model:
- Cost: 1 step == 1 unit of cost.

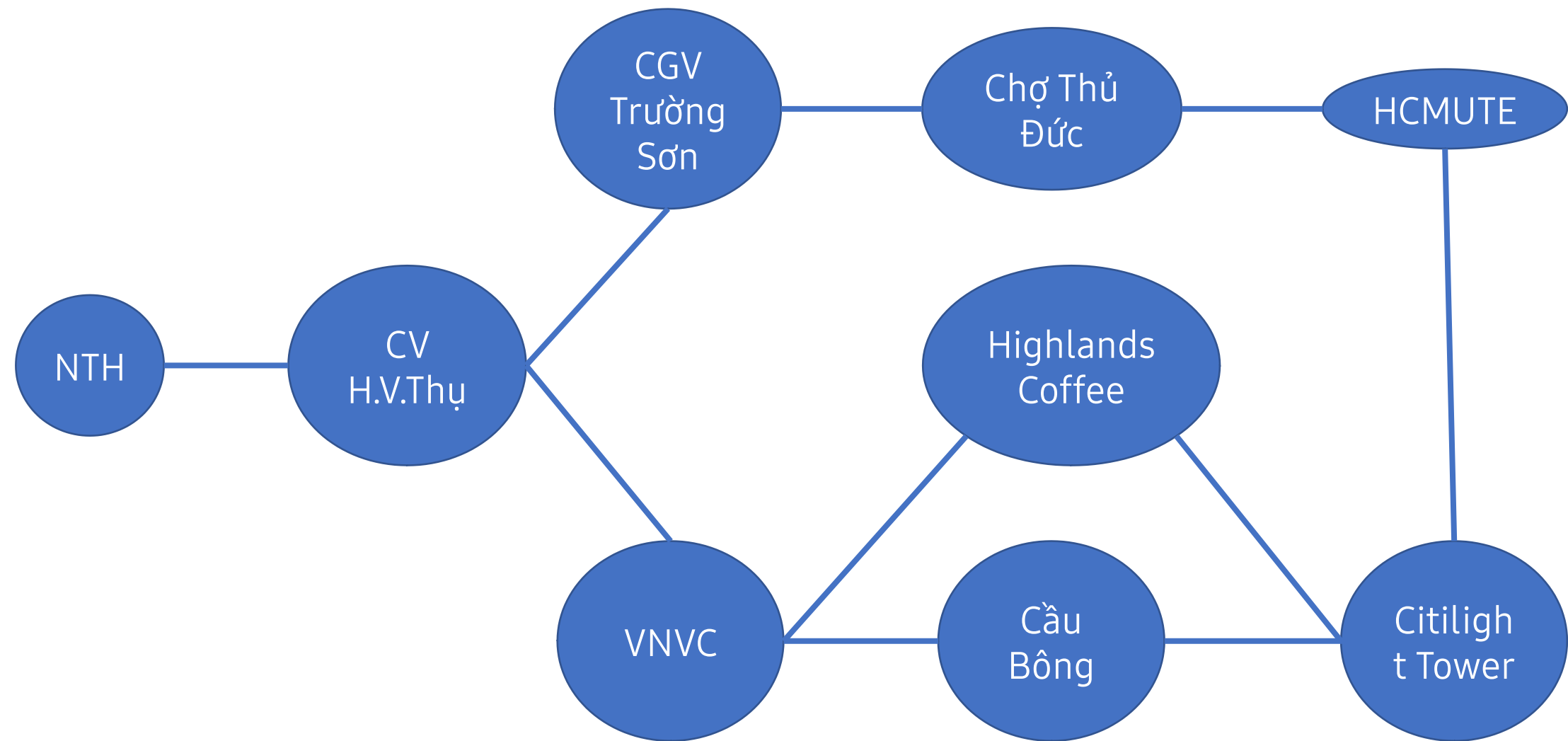


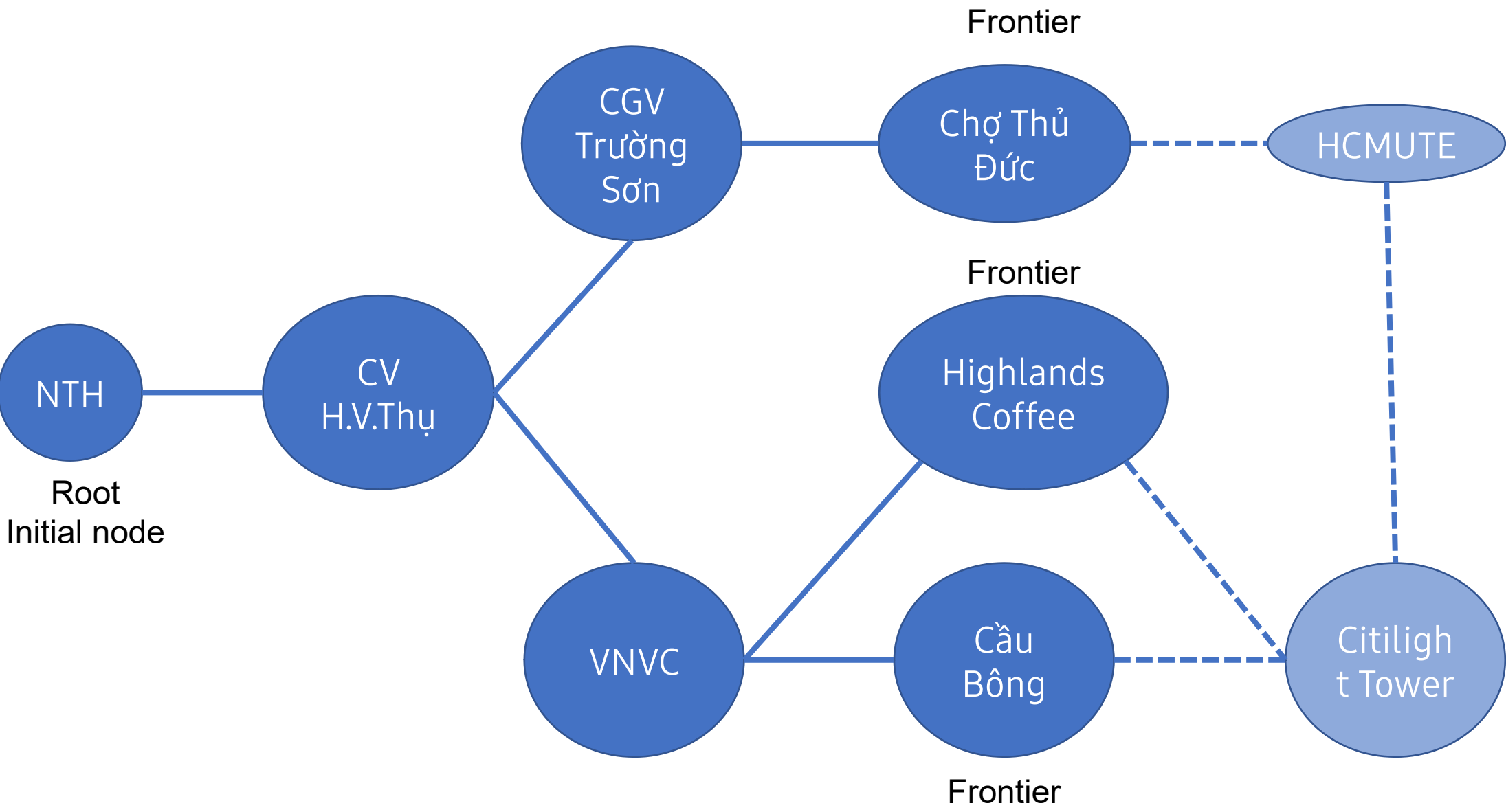
*Cleaner problem*

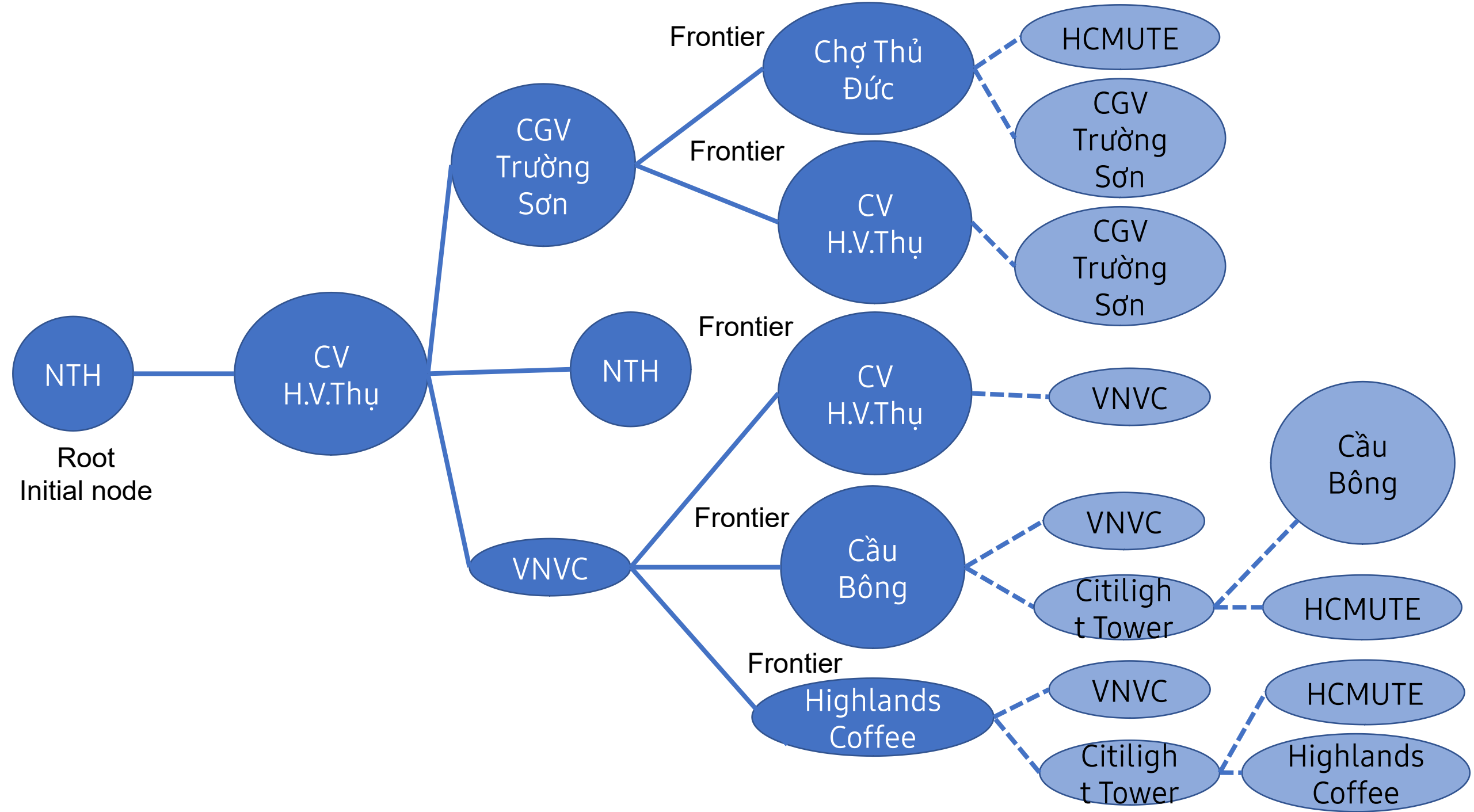












- Evaluation function: Return values to evaluate for comparing, frontier selection.
- The function presents the strategies.
- Types of func: Cost, performance (metric), loss, score,...
- Other names: Objective func, heuristic evaluation func.



1. Create an empty list L of frontiers.
2. Add the root to L.
3. Loop:
  1. If there is no frontiers, return no result.
  2. Get the target T, which is the best frontier judged by **evaluation function**.
  3. If T is goal, return the action(s).
  4. Else, expand T and add new frontiers to L.

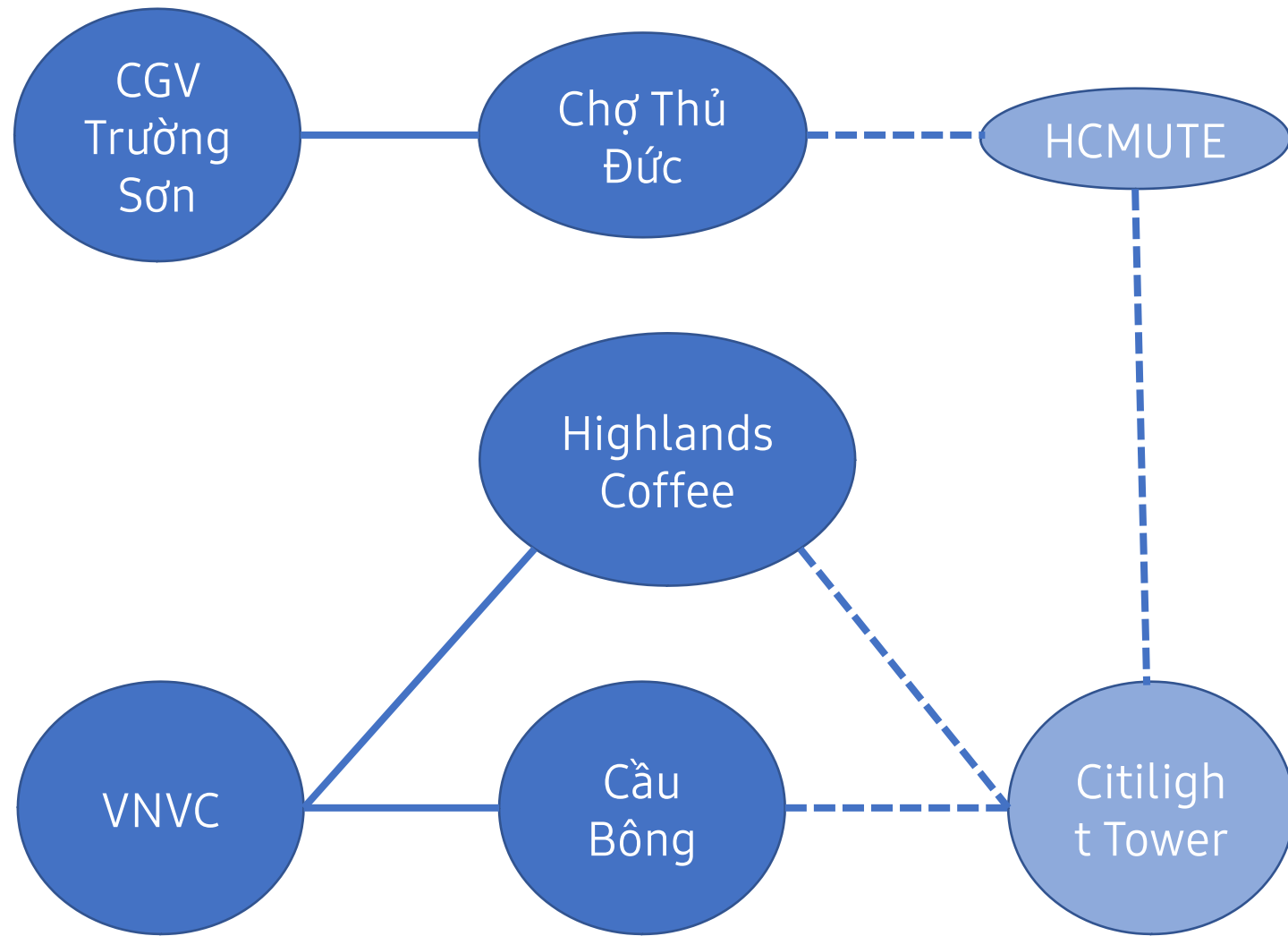


Figure 3.7

---

**function** BEST-FIRST-SEARCH(*problem*, *f*) **returns** a solution node or *failure*  
  *node*  $\leftarrow$  NODE(STATE=*problem*.INITIAL)  
  *frontier*  $\leftarrow$  a priority queue ordered by *f*, with *node* as an element  
  *reached*  $\leftarrow$  a lookup table, with one entry with key *problem*.INITIAL and value *node*  
  **while not** IS-EMPTY(*frontier*) **do**  
    *node*  $\leftarrow$  POP(*frontier*)  
    **if** *problem*.IS-GOAL(*node*.STATE) **then return** *node*  
    **for each** *child* **in** EXPAND(*problem*, *node*) **do**  
      *s*  $\leftarrow$  *child*.STATE  
      **if** *s* is not in *reached* **or** *child*.PATH-COST < *reached*[*s*].PATH-COST **then**  
        *reached*[*s*]  $\leftarrow$  *child*  
        add *child* to *frontier*  
  **return** *failure*

**function** EXPAND(*problem*, *node*) **yields** nodes  
  *s*  $\leftarrow$  *node*.STATE  
  **for each** *action* **in** *problem*.ACTIONS(*s*) **do**  
    *s'*  $\leftarrow$  *problem*.RESULT(*s*, *action*)  
    *cost*  $\leftarrow$  *node*.PATH-COST + *problem*.ACTION-COST(*s*, *action*, *s'*)  
    **yield** NODE(STATE=*s'*, PARENT=*node*, ACTION=*action*, PATH-COST=*cost*)

## *Best-first search*

- 2 group of algorithms:
  - Informed: Pick the better way by evaluating.
    - **Greedy best-first search**
    - $A^*$  search
  - Uninformed: Only based on goals and states.
    - Breadth-first search
    - depth-first search

## Tree search

- + Memory saving.
- + Natively inf. Loop avoidance.

## Graph search

- Can cause inf. Loop.
- Use more memory.

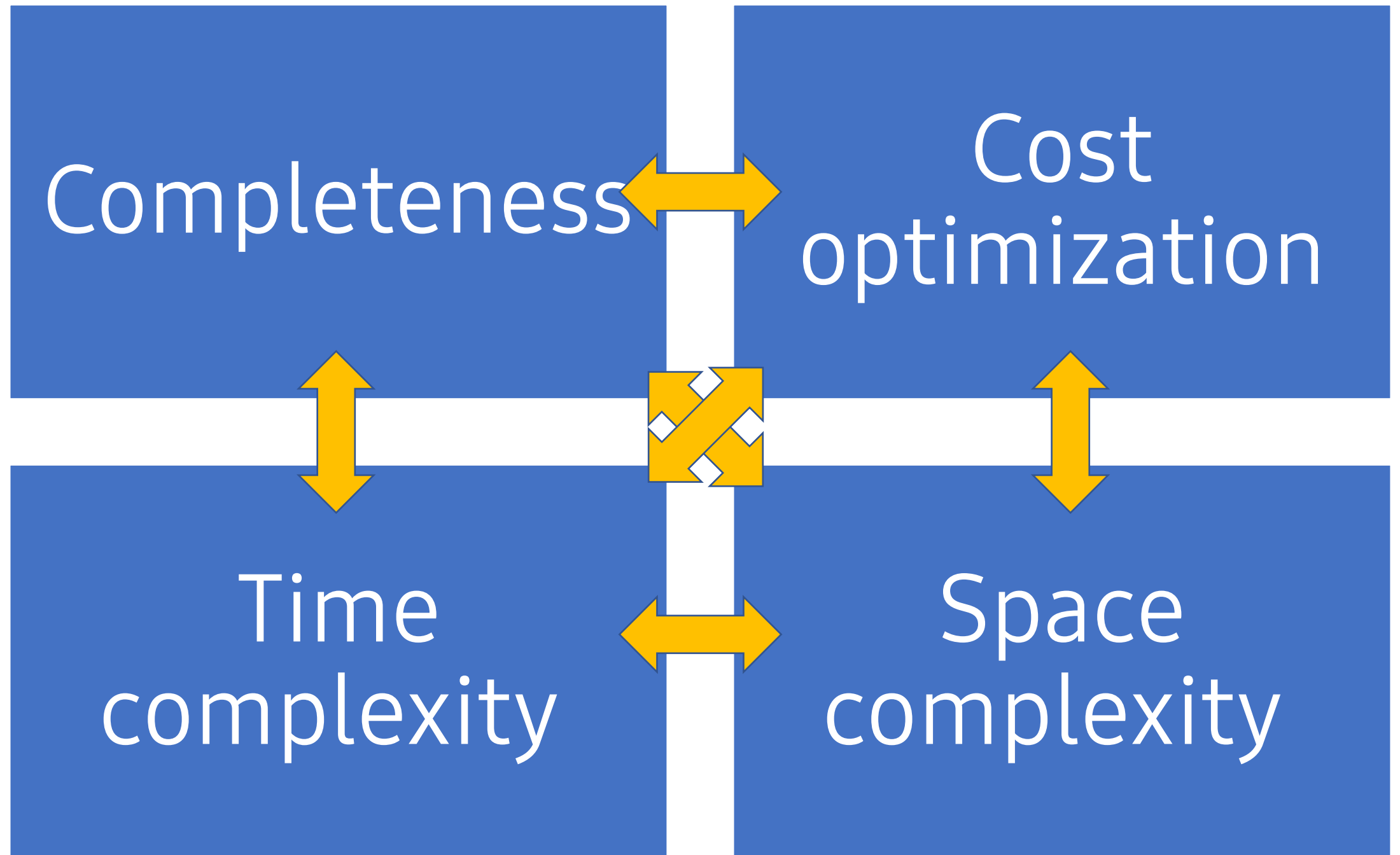


Completeness

Cost  
optimization

Time  
complexity

Space  
complexity



# III. A\* search

- Using the evaluating function:

$$f(n) = g(n) + h(n)$$

- In which:
  - is the cost determinator from the beginning to .
  - is the lowest cost estimator from to goal.

