



CS 4649/7649 Robot Intelligence: Planning

Constraints III: Activity Planning

Slides adapted from:
16.410 Brian Williams
Russell and Norvig AIMA

CS 4649/7649 – Asst. Prof. Matthew Gombolay

Assignments

- Due Wednesday, 9/09
 - Pset 3 due at 11:59 PM Eastern
- Due Monday, 9/14
 - Chapter 11 from Russel & Norvig
- Due Wednesday, 9/16
 - Pset 4 due at 11:59 PM Eastern

Outline

- Graph Plan
 - Problem Statement
 - Planning Graph Construction
 - Plan Extraction
 - Memos
 - Properties
 - Termination with Failure

Graph Plan

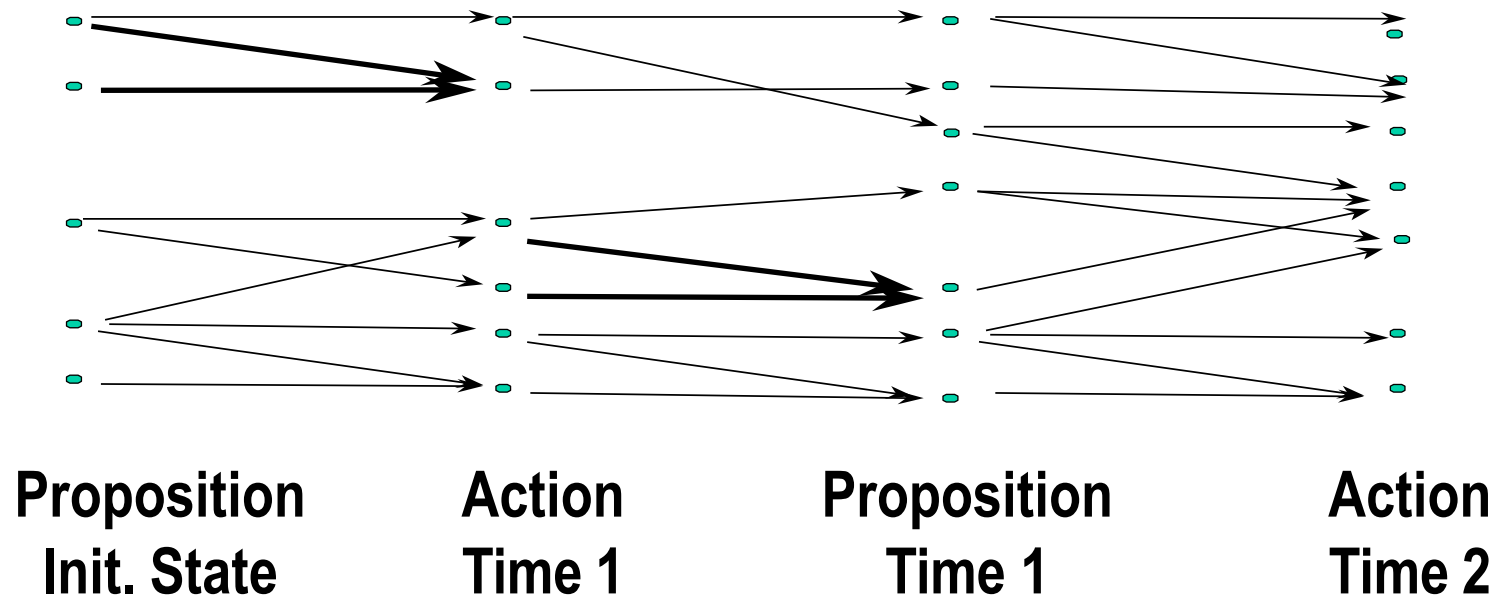
- Developed in 1995 by Avrim Blum and Merrick Furst, at CMU.
- The Plan Graph compactly encodes all possible plans.
 - has been a key to scaling up to realistic problems.
- Plan Graph representation used for:
 - An encoding method for formulating planning as a CSP.
 - Relaxed planning as an admissible heuristic (state space search + A^*).
- Approach has been extended to reason with temporally extended actions, metric and non-atomic preconditions and effects.

Approach: Graph Plan

1. Construct compact constraint encoding of state space from operators and the initial state.

- *Planning Graph*

2. Generate plan by searching for a consistent subgraph that achieves the goals.



Representing States

- State
 - A consistent conjunction of propositions (positive literals).
 - E.g., (and (cleanhands) (quiet) (dinner) (present) (noGarbage))
 - All unspecified propositions are false.
- Initial State
 - Problem state at time $i = 0$.
 - E.g., (and (cleanHands) (quiet)).
- Goal State
 - A partial state.
 - E.g., (and (noGarbage) (dinner) (present)).
- A Plan moves a system from its initial state to a final state that extends the goal state.

Representing Operators

Note: STRIPS (among other techniques) does not allow for “derived effects”; you must enumerate effects completely!

(:operator cook :precondition (cleanHands)
:effect ((dinner)]

E.g., the computer doesn't understand that cooking makes dinner

Preconditions: Propositions that must be true to apply the operator.

- A conjunction of propositions (no negated propositions).

Effects: Propositions that the operator changes, given that the preconditions are satisfied.

- A conjunction of propositions (called **adds**) and their negation (called **deletes**).

(Parameterized) Operator Schemata

- Instead of defining many operator instances:

pickup-A and **pickup-B** and ...

- Define a schema:

(:operator **pick-up**

:parameters ((**?ob1 - block**))

:precondition (and (clear ?ob1)

(on-table ?ob1)

(arm-empty))

:effect (and (not (clear ?ob1))

(not (on-table ?ob1))

(not (arm-empty))

(holding ?ob1)))

Example Problem: Dinner Date

Goal: (:goal (noGarbage) (dinner) (present))

Actions:

(:operator **carry** :precondition
:effect (and (noGarbage) (not (cleanHands))))

(:operator **dolly** :precondition
:effect (and (noGarbage) (not (quiet))))

(:operator **cook** :precondition (cleanHands)
:effect (dinner))

(:operator **wrap** :precondition (quiet)
:effect (present))

+ noops



Plan: (Cook, Wrap, Carry)

Visualizing Actions

(:operator **cook** :precondition (cleanHands)
:effect (dinner))

cleanHands  cook  dinner

(:operator **carry** :precondition
:effect (and (noGarbage) (not (cleanHands))))

carry  noGarb
 cleanH

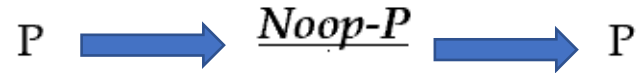
Dashed arrows indicates "delete"

Visualizing Actions

Persistence actions (No-ops)

- Every literal has a no-op action, which maintains it from time i to $i+1$.

(:operator noop- P :precondition (P) :effect (P))



Operator Execution Semantics

If **all propositions** of **:precondition** appear in state i , Then create state $i+1$ from i , by

- **adding** to i , all "add" propositions in **:effects**,
- **removing** from i , all "delete" propositions in **:effects**.

(:operator **dolly** *:precondition*
:effect (and (noGarbage) (not (quiet))))

(cleanHands)
(quiet)

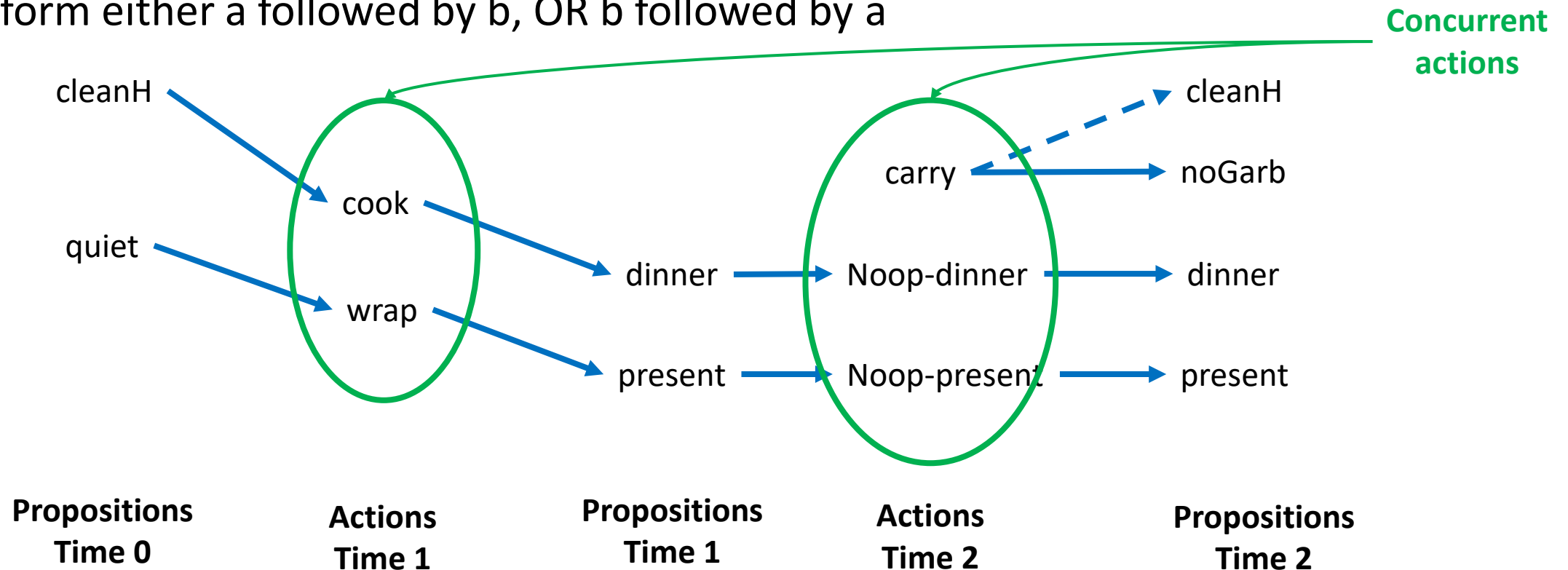


(cleanHands)
(noGarbage)

Representing Plans:

Sets of concurrent actions that are performed at each time [i]

- Concurrent actions can be interleaved in any order.
→ Actions a and b occur at time i, then it must be valid to perform either a followed by b, OR b followed by a



A Complete, Consistent Plan

Given an initial state that holds at time 0, and goal propositions, a plan is a solution *iff* it is:

- Complete:
- Consistent:

A Complete, Consistent Plan

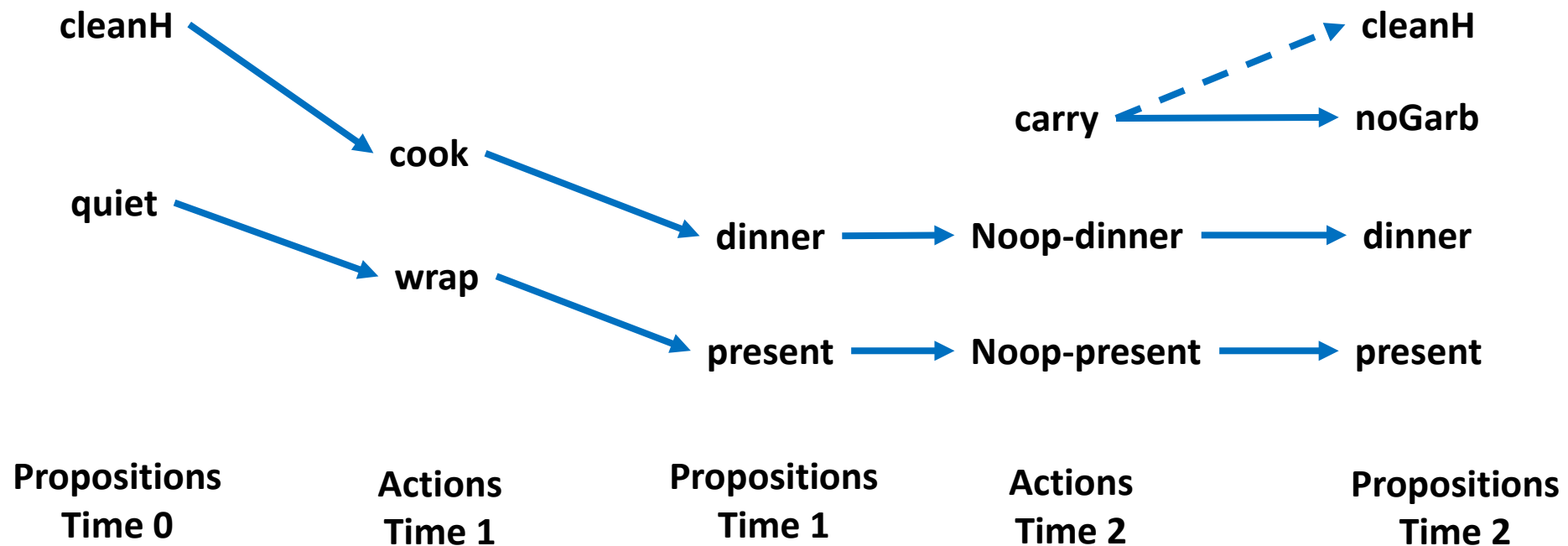
Given an initial state that holds at time 0, and goal propositions, a plan is a solution *iff* it is:

- Complete:
 - The **goal propositions** all hold in the **final state**.
 - The **preconditions** of every operator at time i , are **satisfied** by **propositions** at time i .
- Consistent:

Example of a Complete Plan

Initial Conditions: (and (cleanHands) (quiet))

Goal: (and (noGarbage) (dinner) (present))



A Complete, Consistent Plan

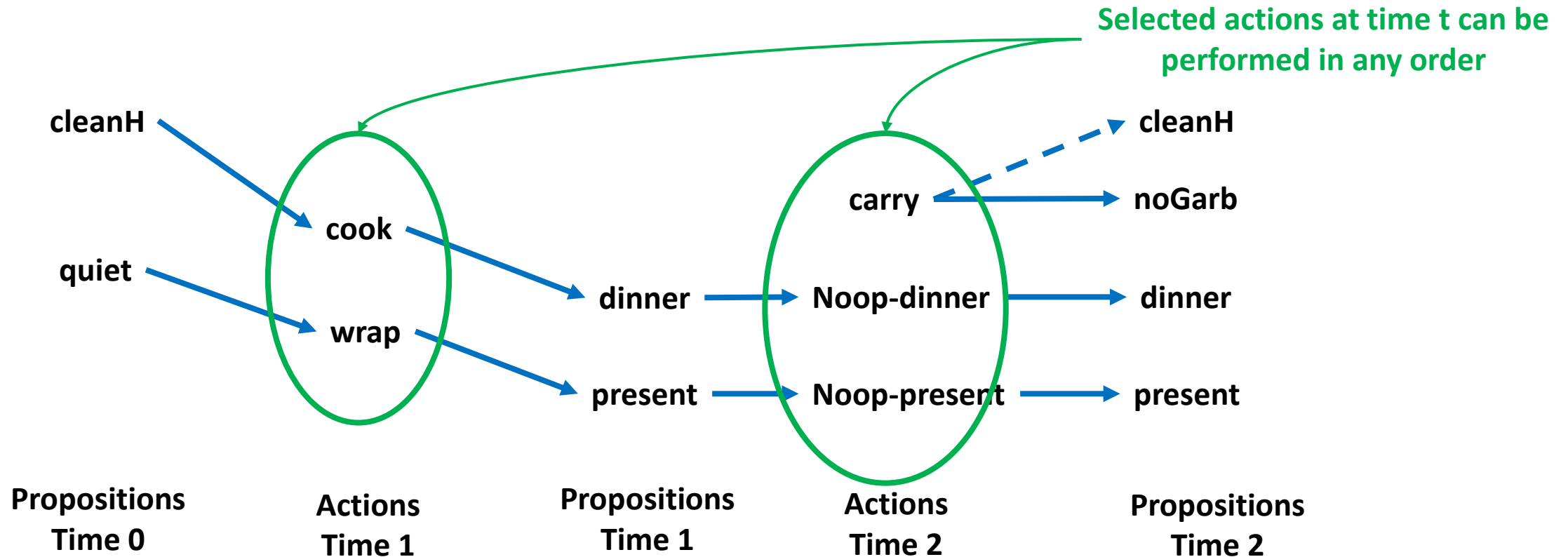
Given an initial state that holds at time 0, and goal propositions, a plan is a solution *iff* it is:

- Complete:
 - The **goal propositions** all hold in the **final state**.
 - The **preconditions** of every operator at time i , are **satisfied** by **propositions** at time i .
- Consistent:
 - The operators at any time i can be **executed** in **any order**, without one of these operators **undoing**:
 - The **preconditions** of another operator at time i .
 - The **effects** of another operator at time i .

Example of a Complete, Consistent Plan

Initial Conditions: (and (cleanHands) (quiet))

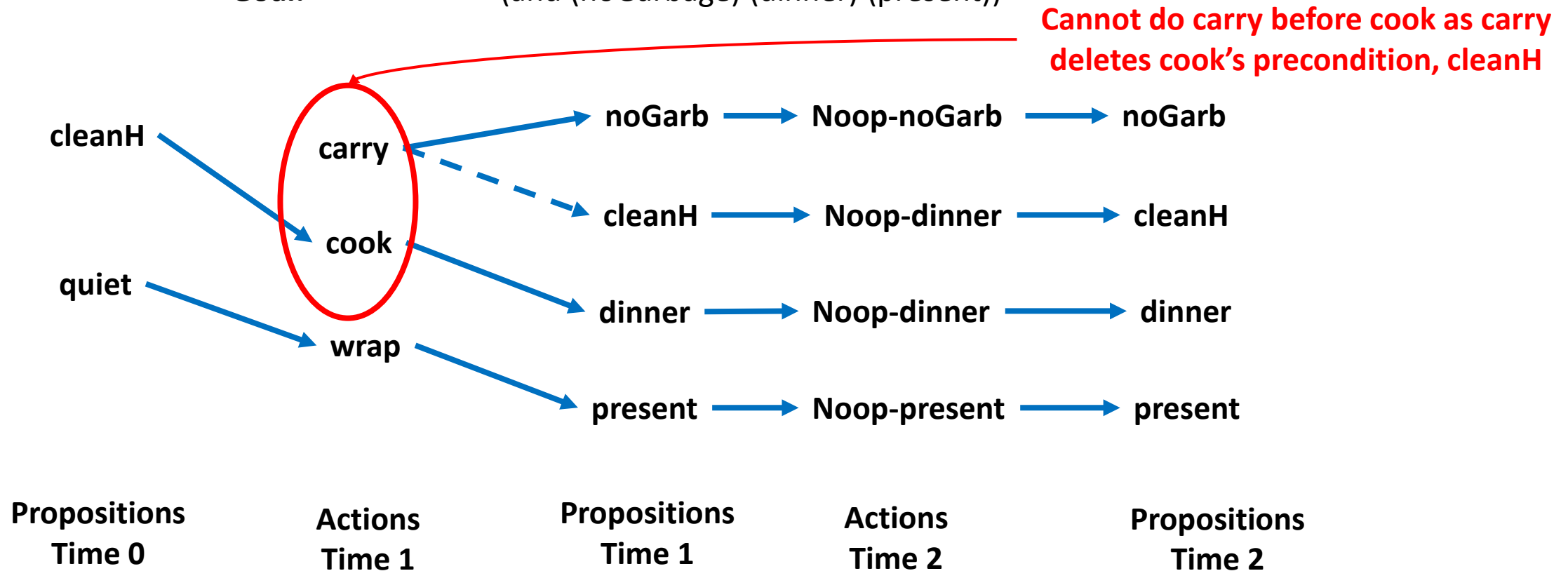
Goal: (and (noGarbage) (dinner) (present))



Example of a Complete, **Inconsistent** Plan

Initial Conditions: (and (cleanHands) (quiet))

Goal: (and (noGarbage) (dinner) (present))



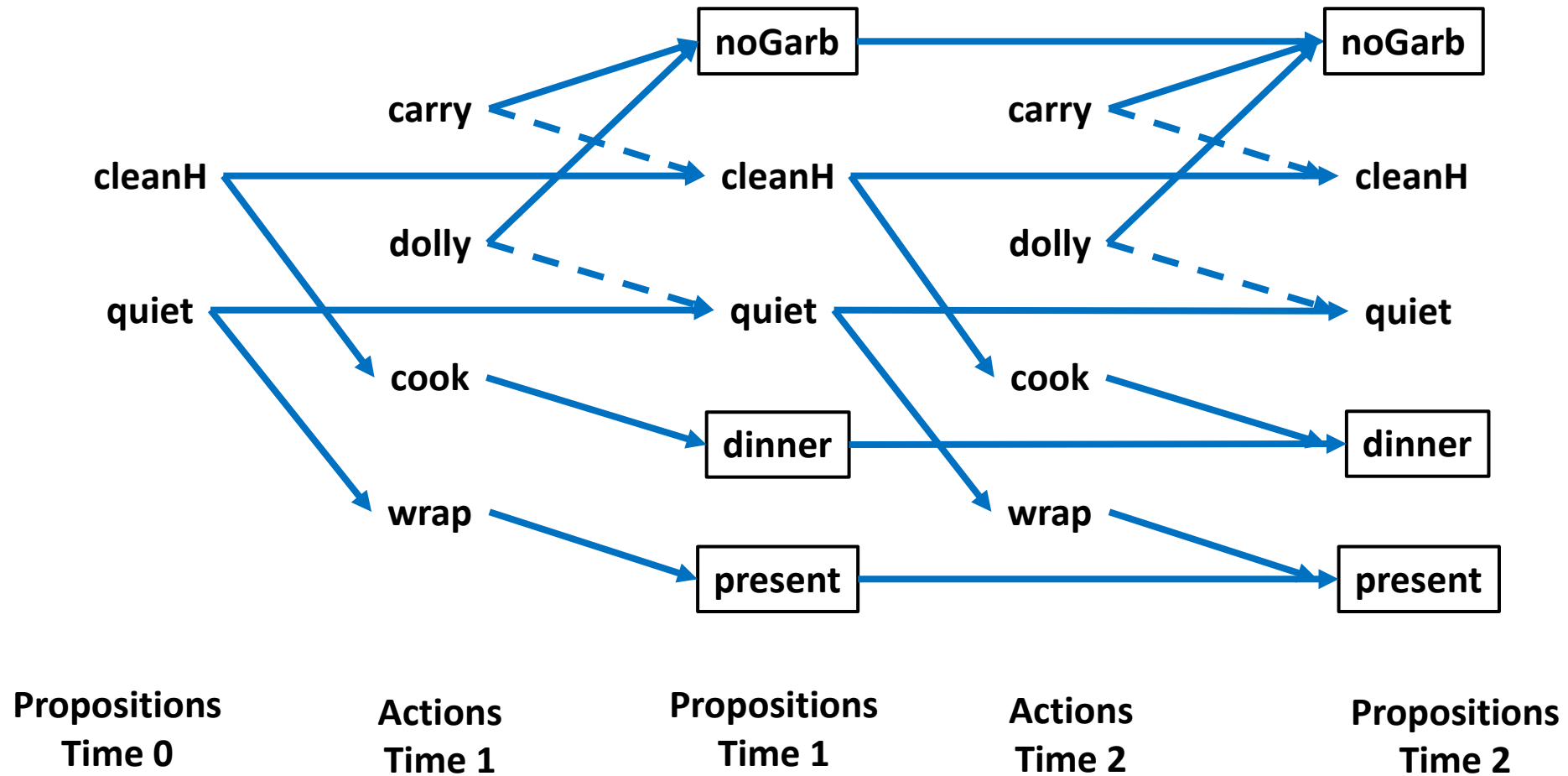
Outline

- Graph Plan
 - Problem Statement
 - Planning Graph Construction
 - Plan Extraction
 - Memos
 - Properties
 - Termination with Failure

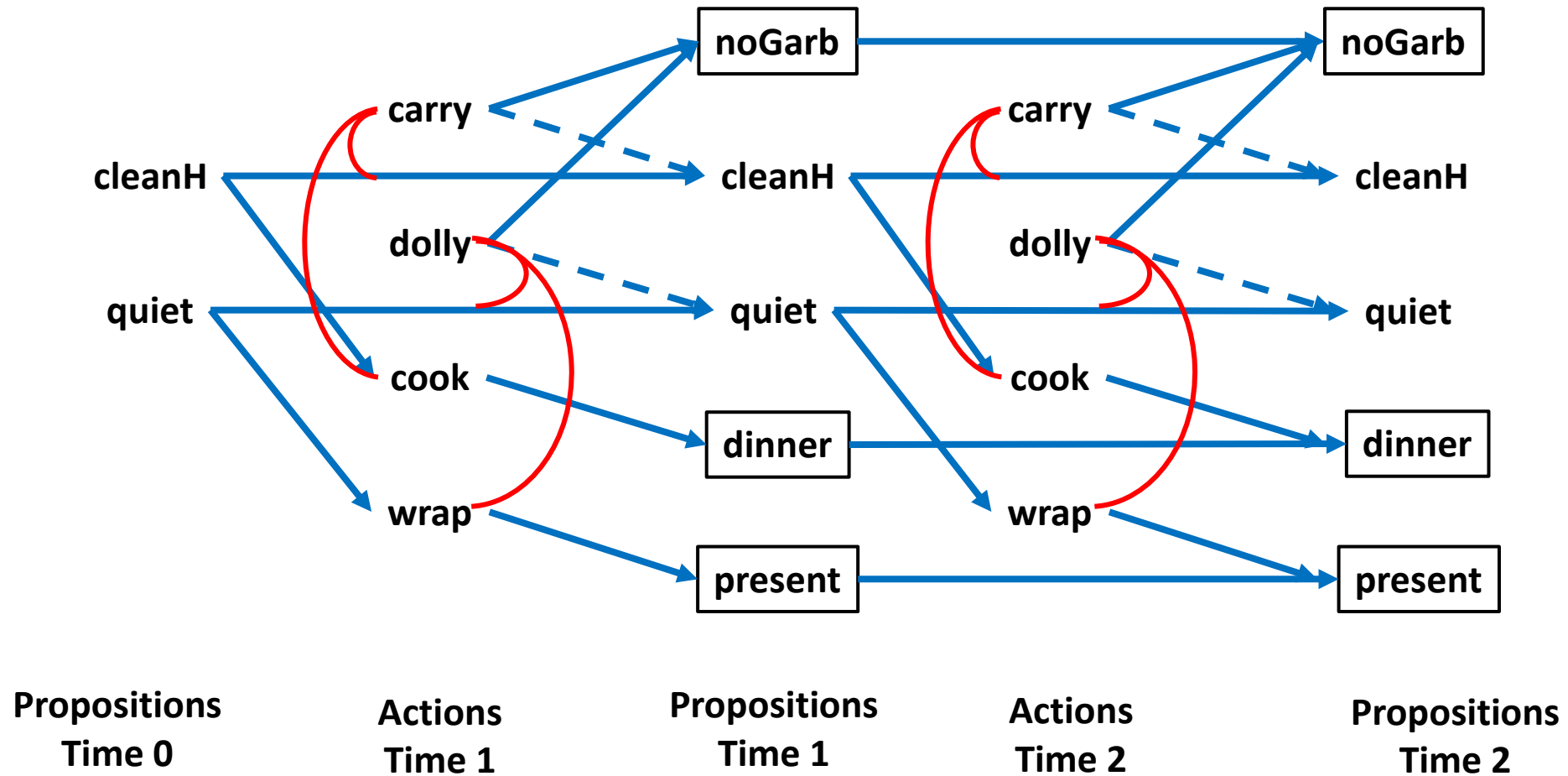
Graph Plan Algorithm

- Phase 1 – Plan Graph Expansion
 - Graph **includes all plans** that are complete and consistent.
 - Graph prunes many infeasible plans.
- Phase 2 - Solution Extraction
 - Graph frames a kind of **constraint satisfaction problem** (CSP).
 - Extraction **selects** actions to perform at each time point, **by assigning variables** and by testing consistency.

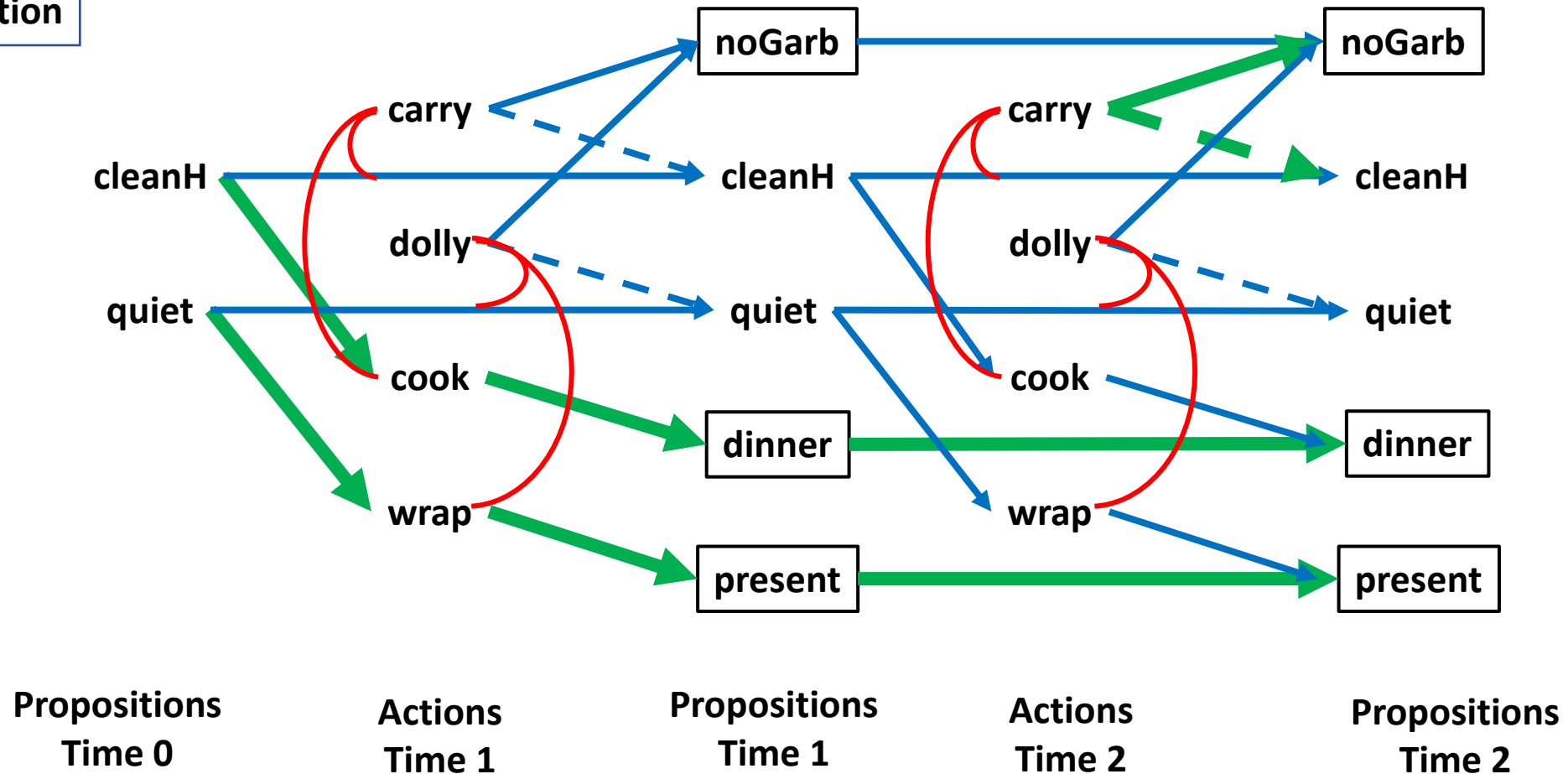
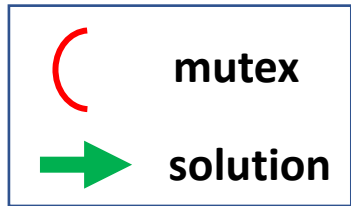
Example: Planning Graph and Solution



Example: Planning Graph and Solution



Example: Planning Graph and Solution



Graph Plan Algorithm

- Phase 1 – Plan Graph Expansion
 - Graph **includes all plans** that are complete and consistent.
 - Graph prunes many infeasible plans.
- Phase 2 - Solution Extraction
 - Graph frames a kind of **constraint satisfaction problem** (CSP).
 - Extraction **selects** actions to perform at each time point, **by assigning variables** and by testing consistency.
- Repeat Phases 1 and 2 for planning graphs with an increasing numbers of action layers.

Planning Graphs Prune

Initial state reachability:

Prunes partial states and actions at each time i that are not reachable from the initial state,

Consistency:

Prunes pairs of propositions and actions that are mutually inconsistent at time i , and

Goal state reachability:

plans that cannot reach the goals.

Graph Properties

- Plan graphs are constructed in polynomial time and are of polynomial in size.
 - Plan graphs do not eliminate all infeasible plans.
- Plan generation requires *focused* search.

Constructing the Planning Graph... (Reachability)

- Initial proposition layer
 - Contains propositions that hold in the initial state.

Example: Initial State, Layer 1



cleanH

quiet

**Propositions
Time 0**

**Actions
Time 1**

**Propositions
Time 1**

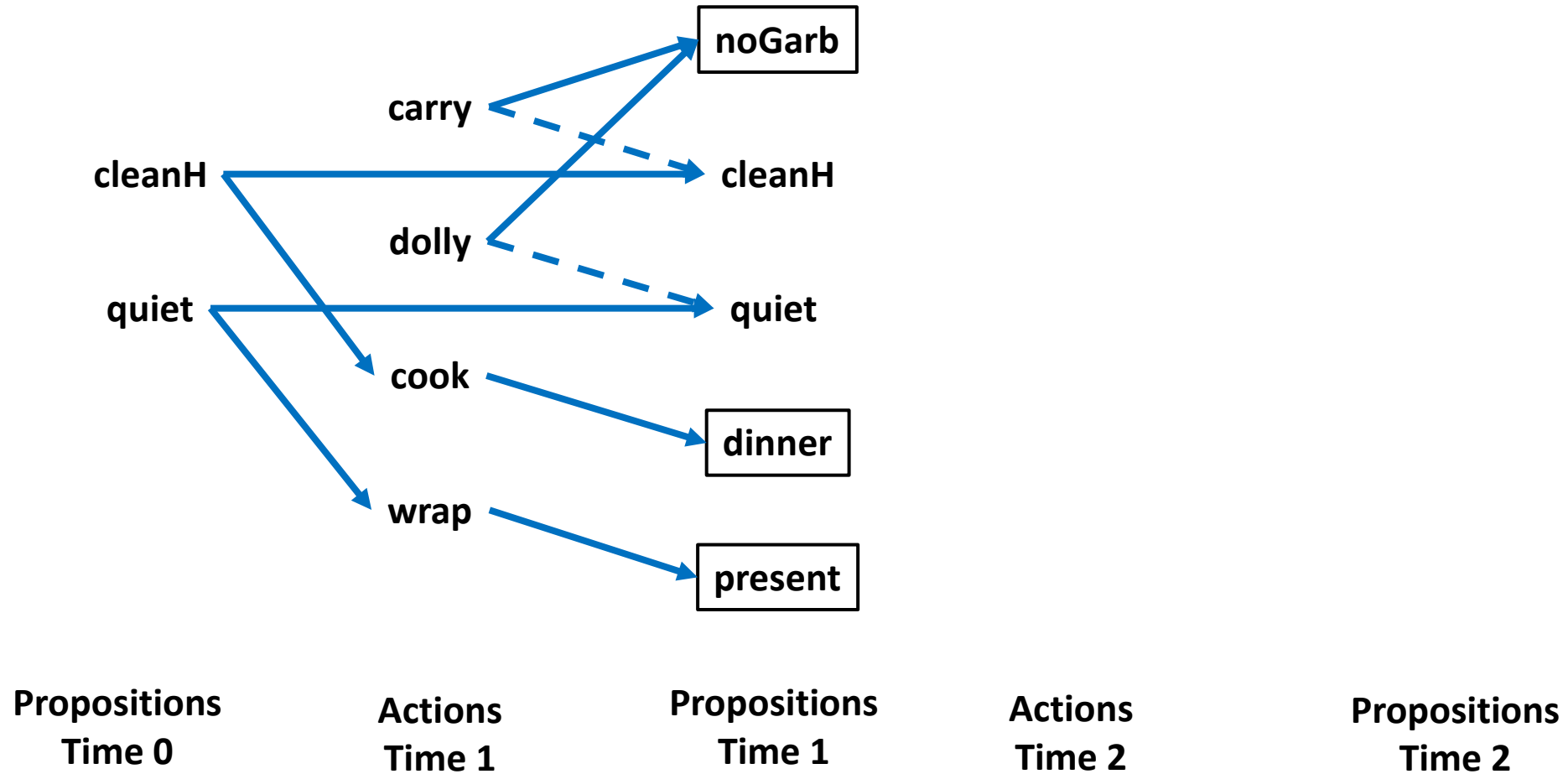
**Actions
Time 2**

**Propositions
Time 2**

Constructing the Planning Graph... (Reachability)

- Initial proposition layer
 - Contains propositions that hold in the initial state.
- Action layer i
 - If all of an action's preconditions appear in proposition layer i ,
 - Then add action to layer i .
- Proposition layer $i+1$
 - For each action at layer i ,
 - Add all its effects at layer $i+1$.

Example: Add Actions and Effects

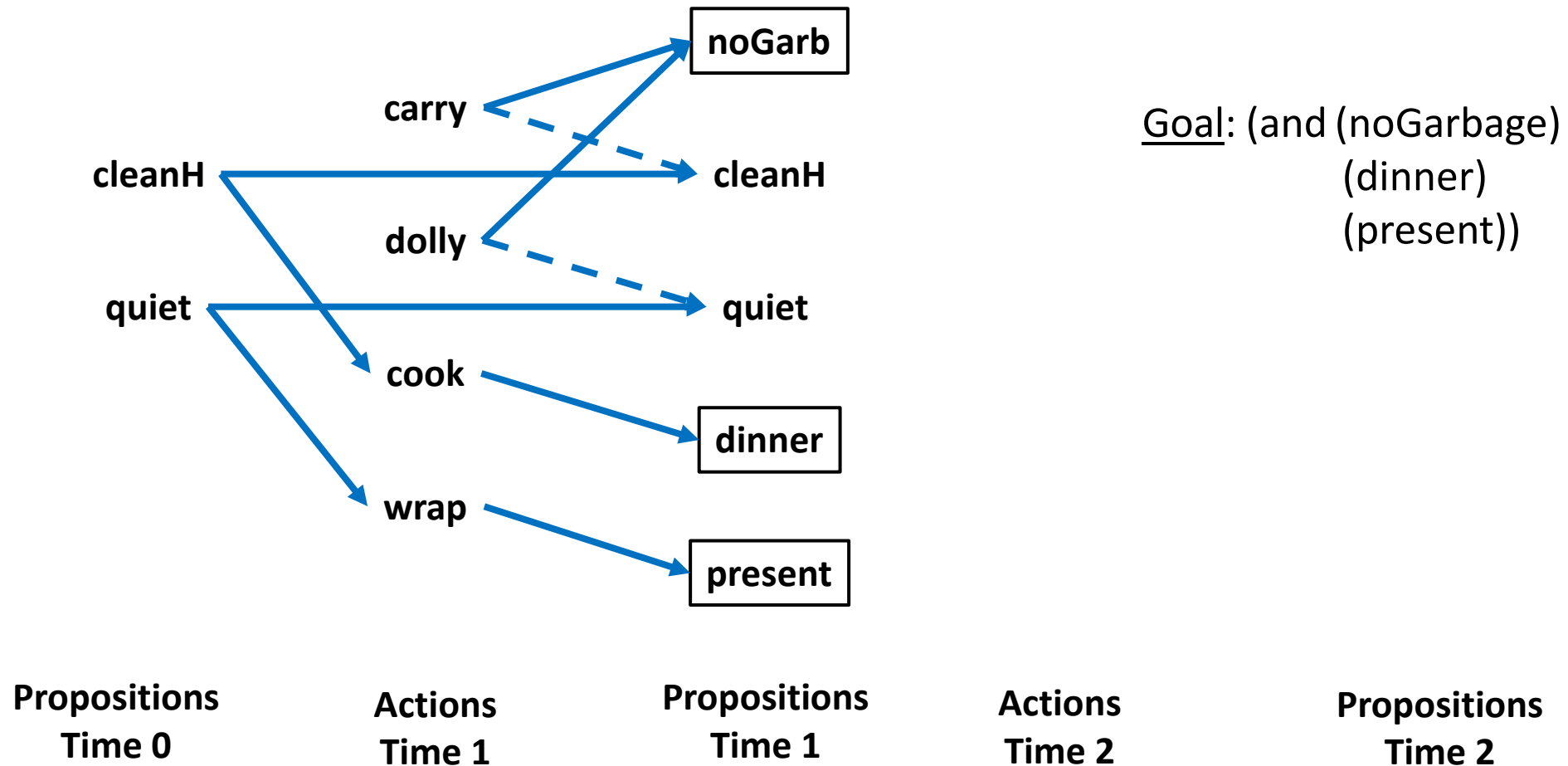


Constructing the Planning Graph... (Reachability)

- Initial proposition layer
 - Contains propositions that hold in the initial state.
- Action layer i
 - If all of an action's preconditions appear in proposition layer i ,
 - Then add action to layer i .
- Proposition layer $i+1$
 - For each action at layer i ,
 - Add all its effects at layer $i+1$.
- Repeat adding layers until all goal propositions appear.

Round 1: Stop at Proposition Layer 1?

Do all goal propositions appear?



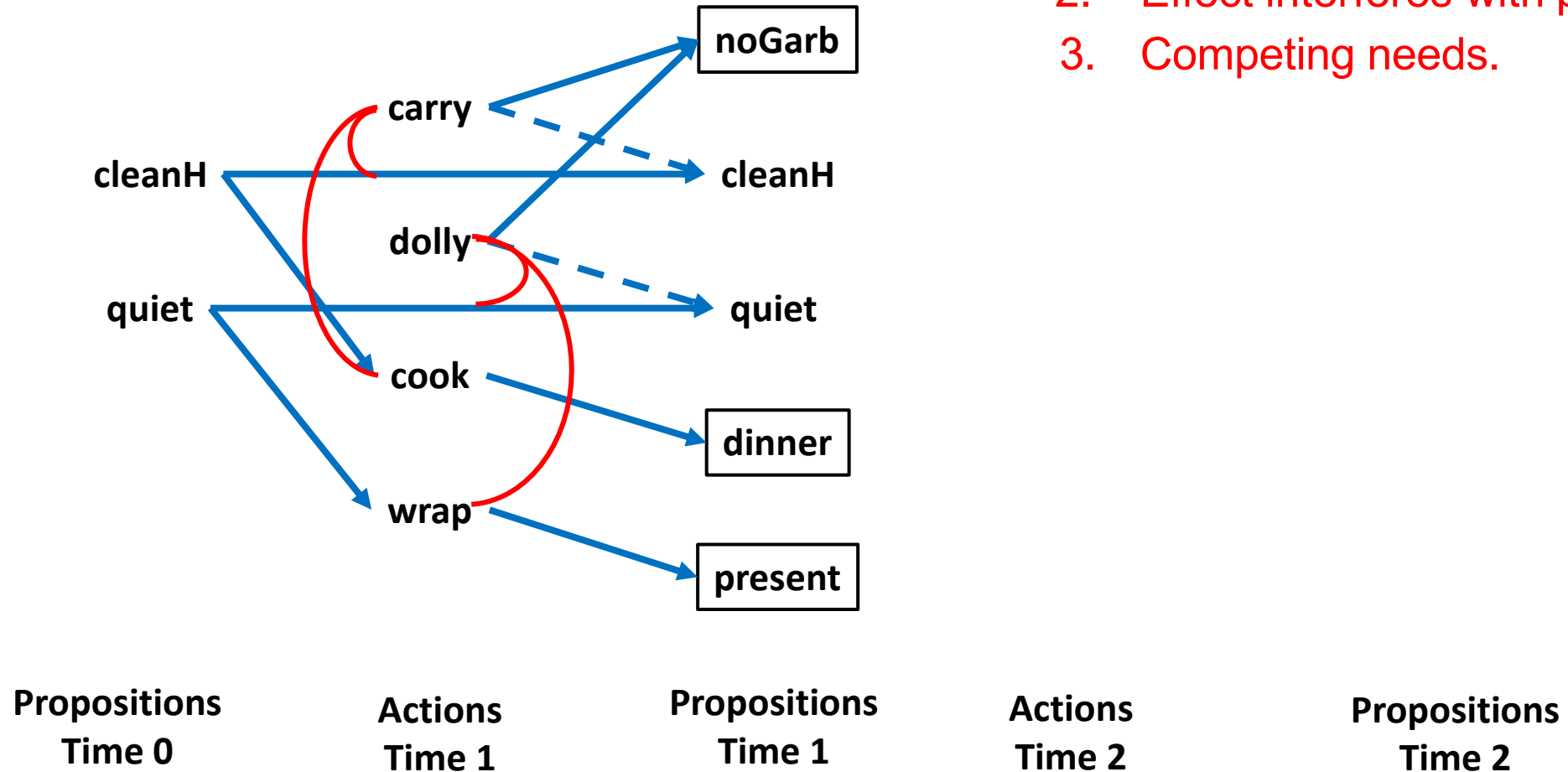
Constructing the Planning Graph... (Consistency)

- Initial proposition layer
 - Contains propositions that hold in the initial state.
- Action layer i
 - If action's preconditions appear **consistent** in i [**non-mutex**],
 - Then add action to layer i .
- Proposition layer $i+1$
 - For each action at layer i ,
 - Add all its effects at layer $i+1$.
- **Identify mutual exclusions**
 - Between actions in layer i , and
 - Between propositions in layer $i + 1$.
- Repeat until all goal propositions appear **non-mutex**.

Mutual Exclusion: Actions

- Actions A,B are **mutually exclusive at level i** if
no valid plan could consistently contain both at i :
 - They have inconsistent effects.
 - A **deletes** B's **effects**.
 - Effects interfere with preconditions.
 - A **deletes** B's **preconditions**, or
 - vice-versa.
 - Their preconditions compete for needs.
 - A and B have **inconsistent preconditions**.

Layer 1: Complete Action Mutexs

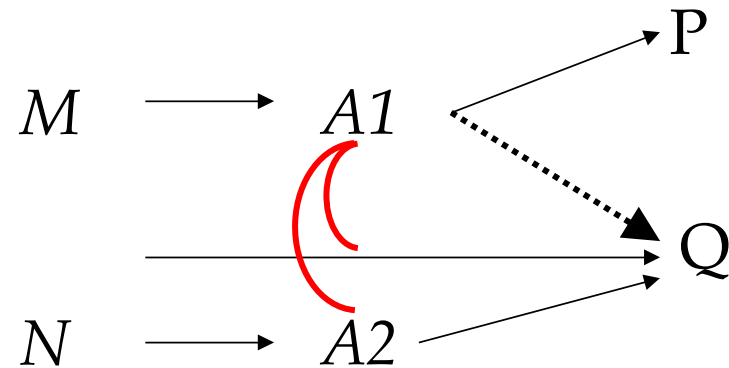


Mutual Exclusion: Proposition Layer

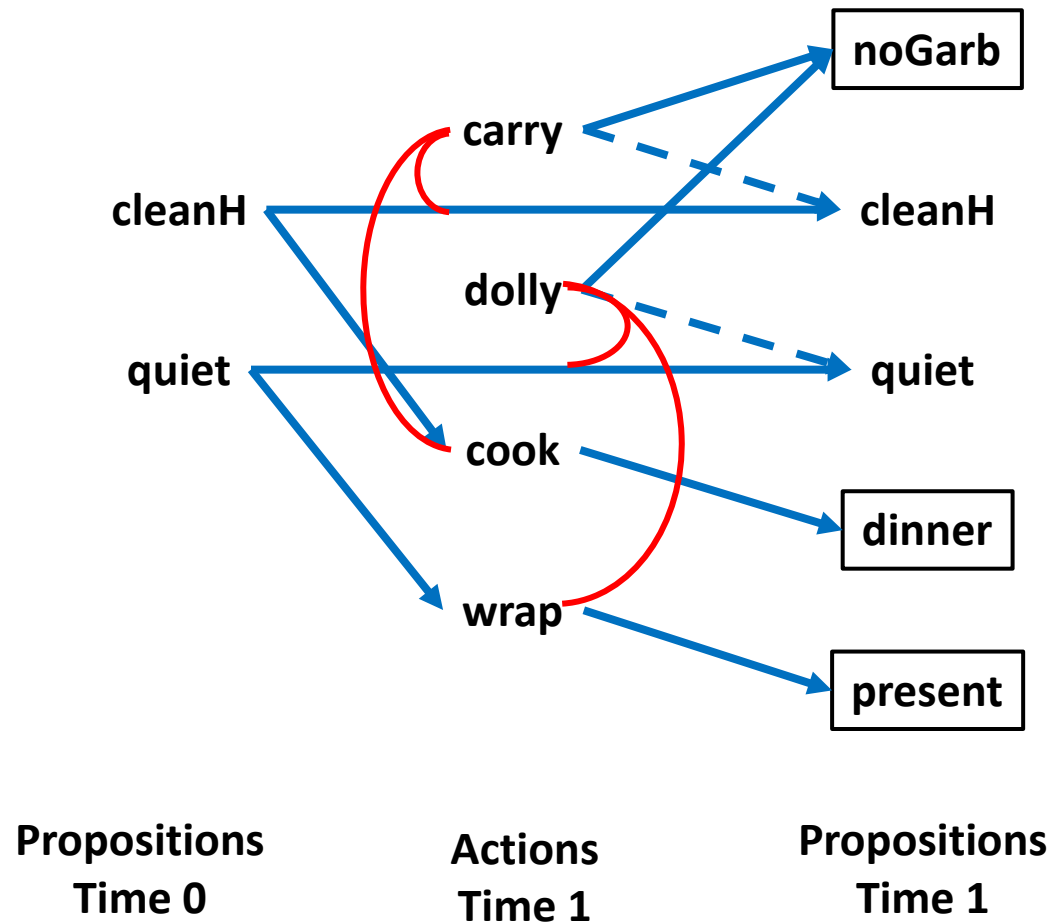
Propositions P,Q are *inconsistent at i*

if no valid plan could possibly contain both at i,

→ if at i, all ways to achieve P exclude each way to achieve Q.



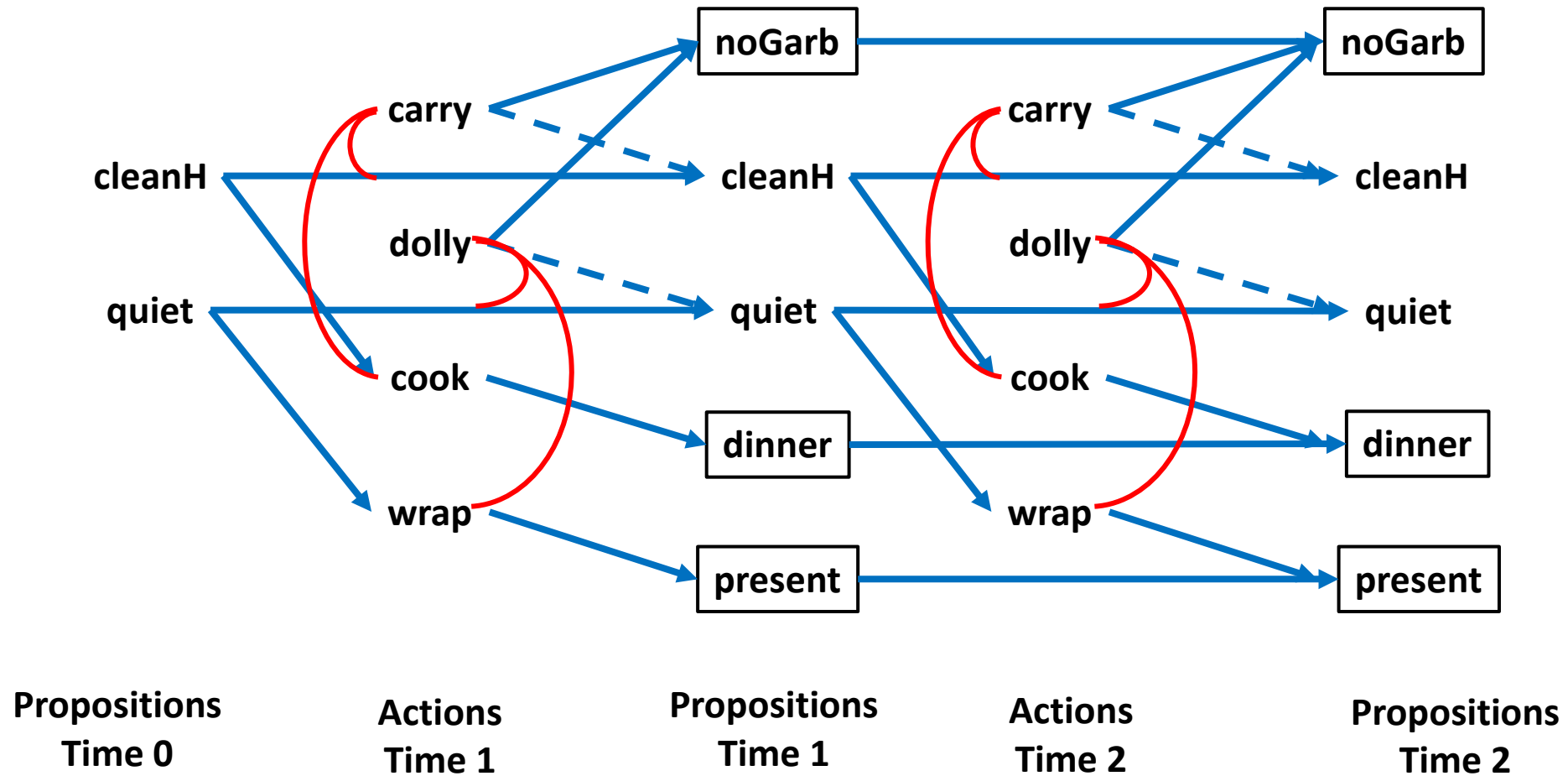
Layer 1: Add Proposition Mutexs



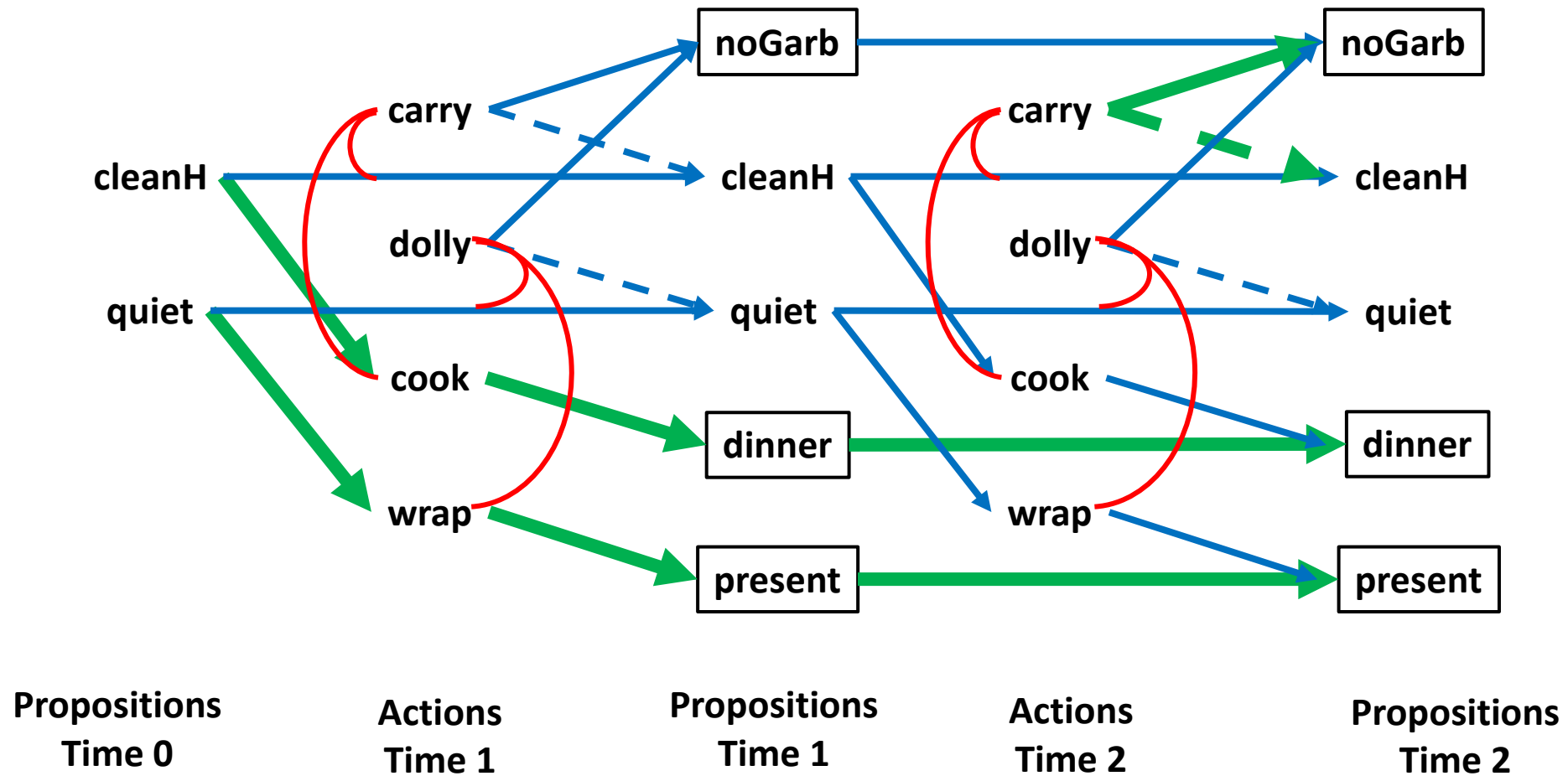
Do all goal propositions appear non-mutex?

No proposition mutexs.

Round 2: Extending The Planning Graph



Search Graph for Solution



Mid-lecture break



An Apple employee who died after his Tesla car hit a concrete barrier was playing a video game at the time of the crash, investigators believe.

The US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said the car had been driving semi-autonomously using Tesla's Autopilot software.

Outline

- Graph Plan
 - Problem Statement
 - Planning Graph Construction
 - Plan Extraction
 - Memos
 - Properties
 - Termination with Failure

Graph Plan Algorithm

- Phase 1 – Plan Graph Expansion
 - Graph **includes all plans** that are complete and consistent.
 - Graph prunes many infeasible plans.
- Phase 2 - Solution Extraction
 - Graph frames a kind of **constraint satisfaction problem** (CSP).
 - Extraction **selects** actions to perform at each time point, **by assigning variables** and by testing consistency.

2. Search for a Solution

Recursively find consistent actions that achieve all goals at time $t, t-1, \dots$:

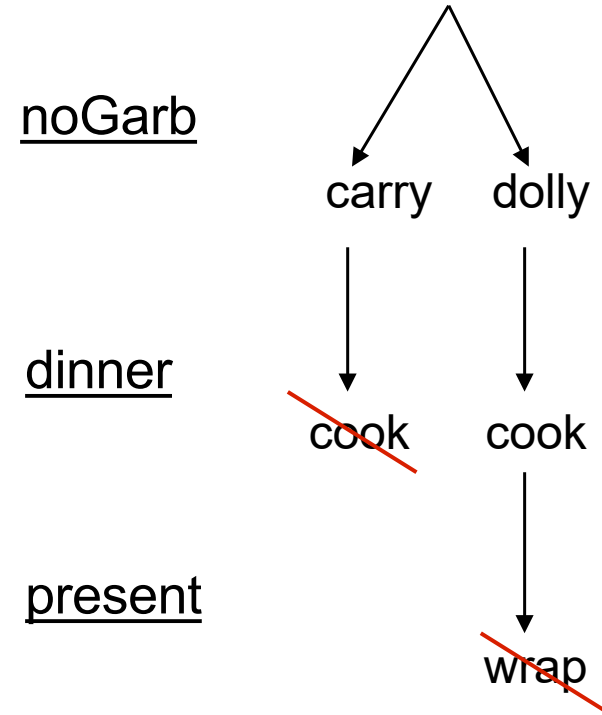
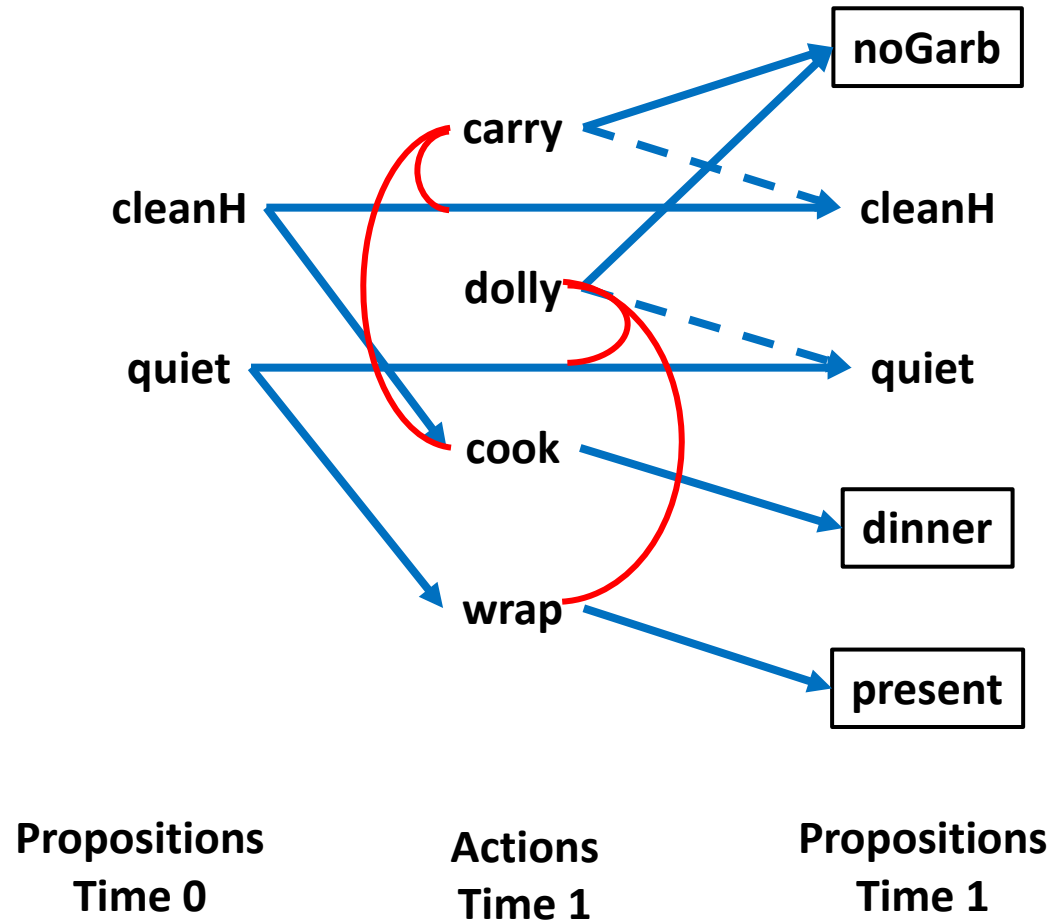
- Find actions to achieve each goal G_i at time t :
 - For each action A_i that makes G_i true at t :
 - If A_i isn't mutex with a previously chosen action at t , Then select it.
 - Finally,
 - If no action that achieves G_i is consistent,
 - Then backtrack to the predecessor goal G_{i-1} , at t .
- Finally
 - If actions are found for all goals at time t ,
 - Then recurse on $t-1$, using the action preconditions as goals,
 - Else backtrack to the next candidate solution at $t+1$.
 - Return plan if $t = 0$.

2. Search for a Solution (Alternatively)

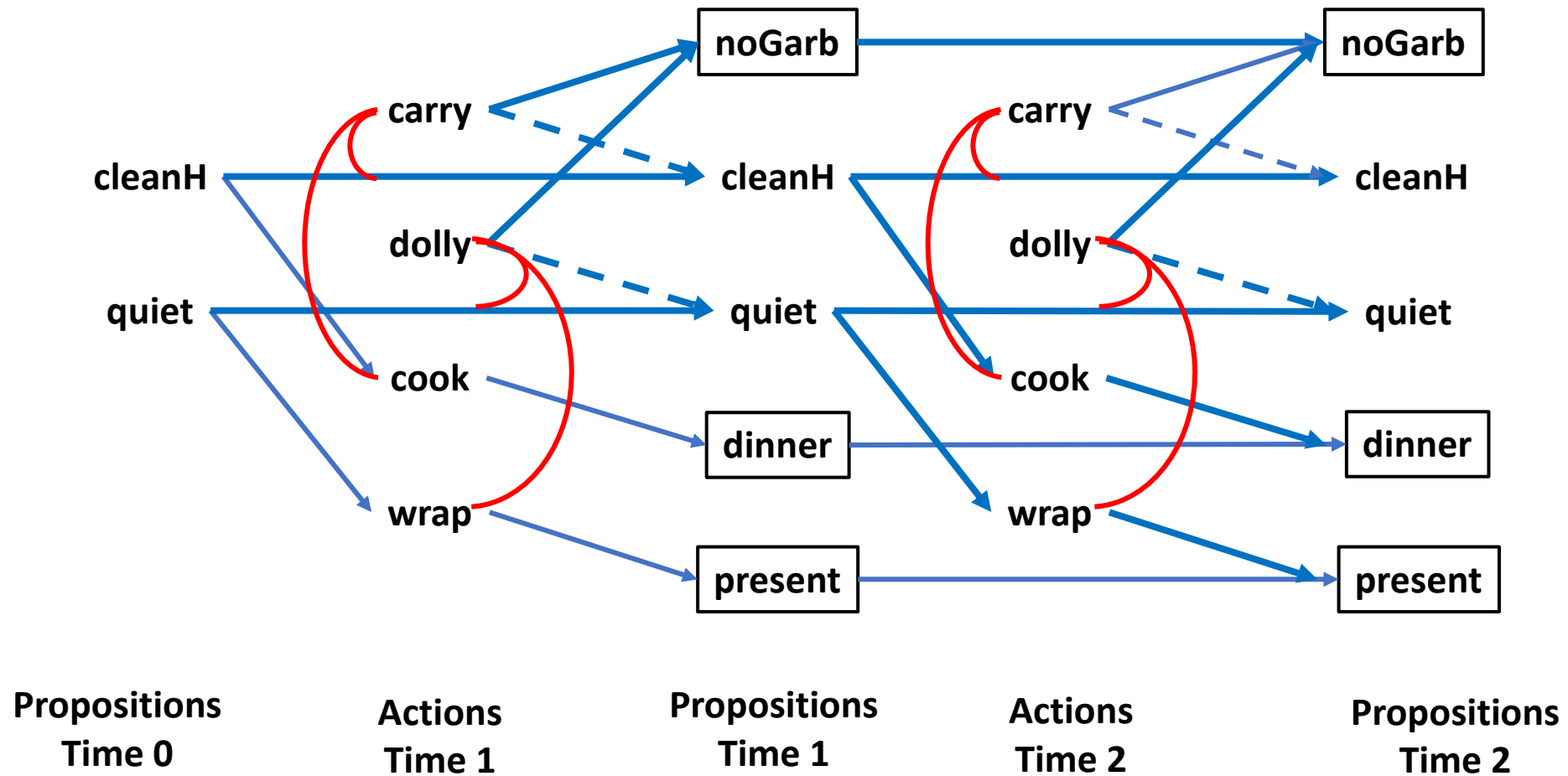
- Recursively find consistent actions that achieve all goals at time $t, t-1, \dots$:
- Find actions at $t-1$ to achieve each goal G_i at t , **by solving CSP_t** :
 - Variables: One for each goal G_i
 - Domain: For variable G_i , all actions in layer $t-1$ that add G_i .
 - Constraints: Action mutex of layer $t-1$
- Finally
 - **If** solution to CSP_t found,
 - **Then** recurse on preconditions of actions selected for layer $t-1$,
 - **Else**, backtrack to next candidate solution at $t+1$.
 - **Return** plan if $t = 0$.

- Favor No-ops over other actions.
 - guarantees the plan will avoid redundant plan steps.

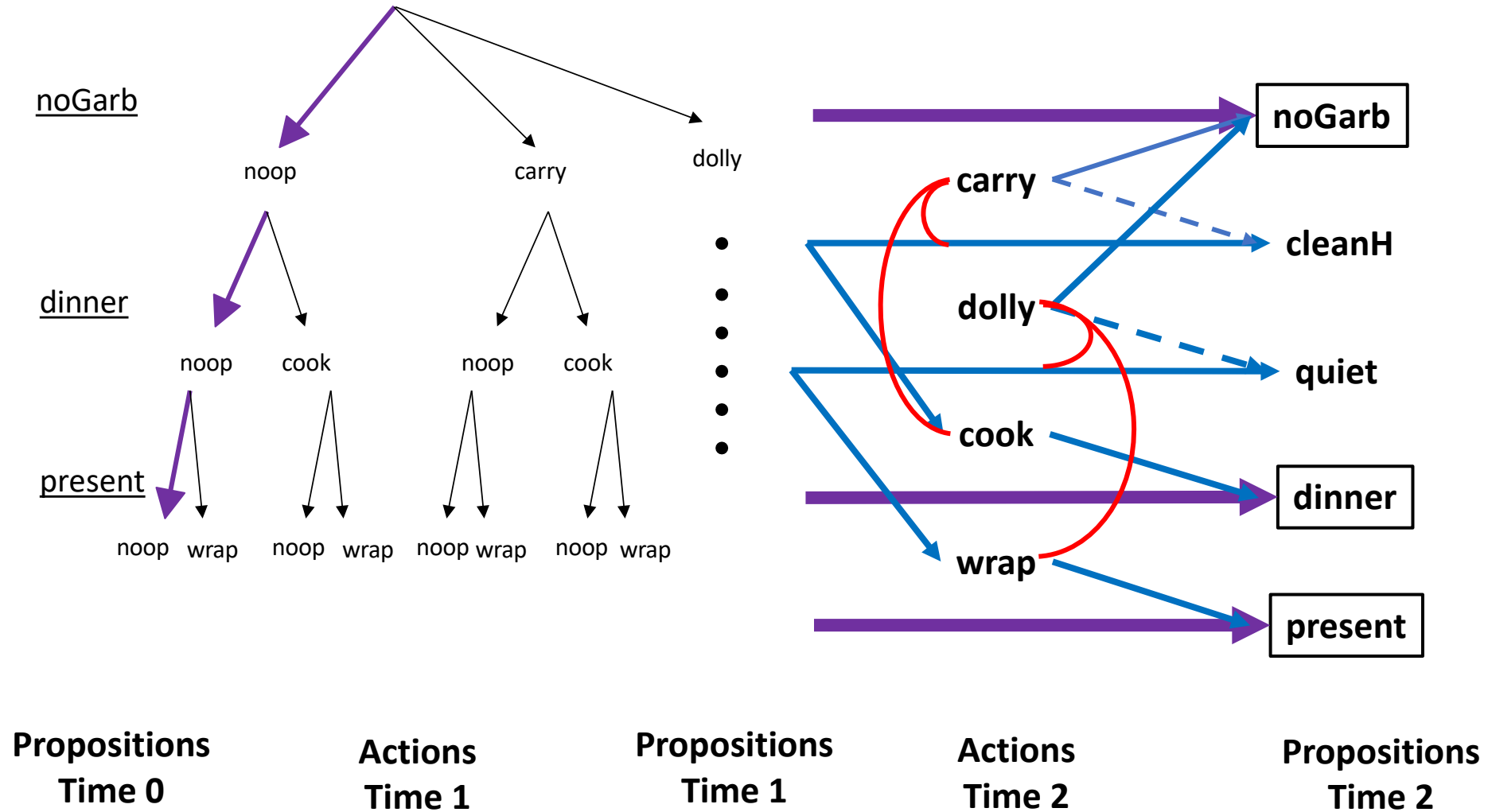
Search Action Layer 1



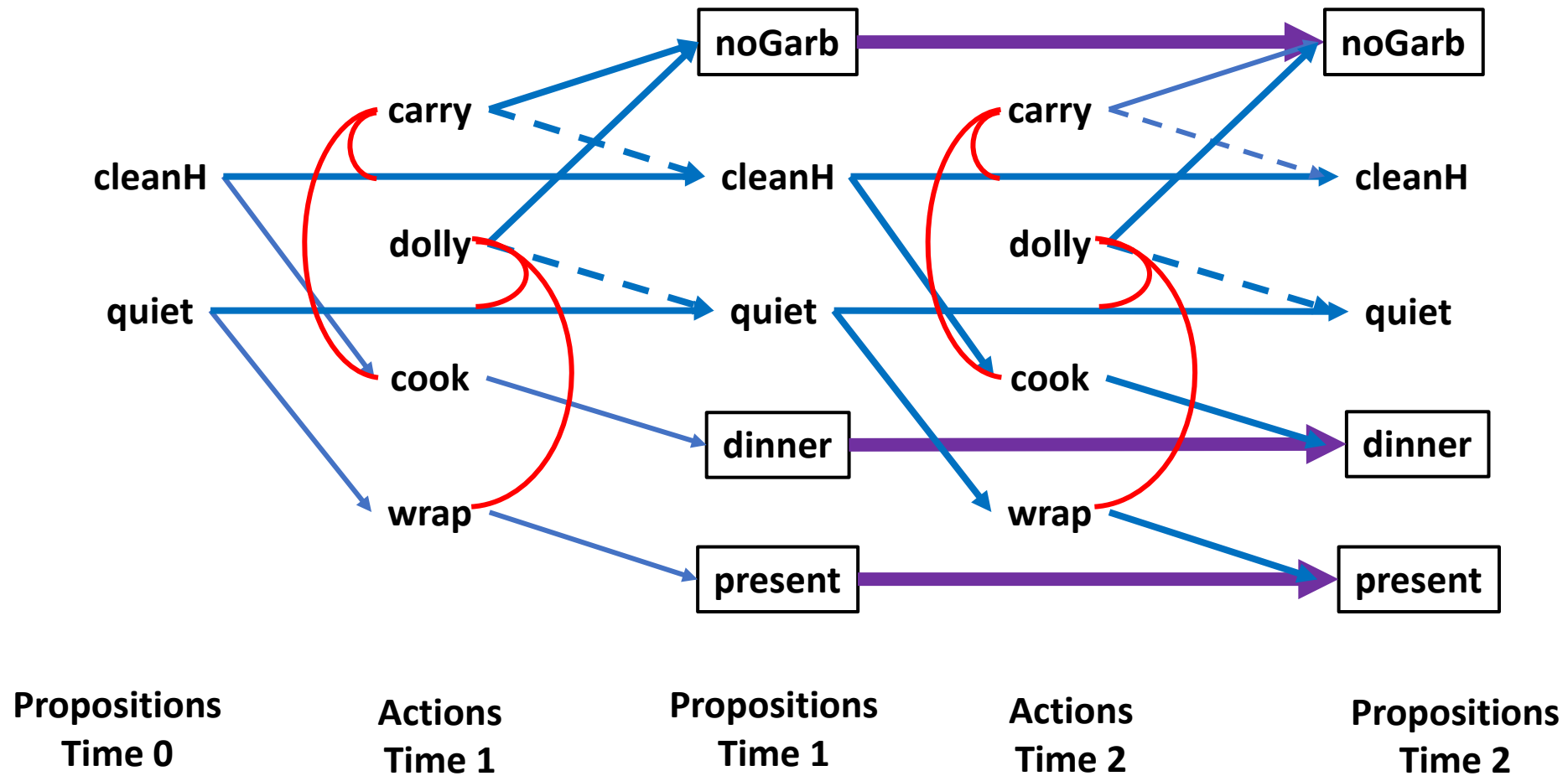
Extend & Search Action Layer 2



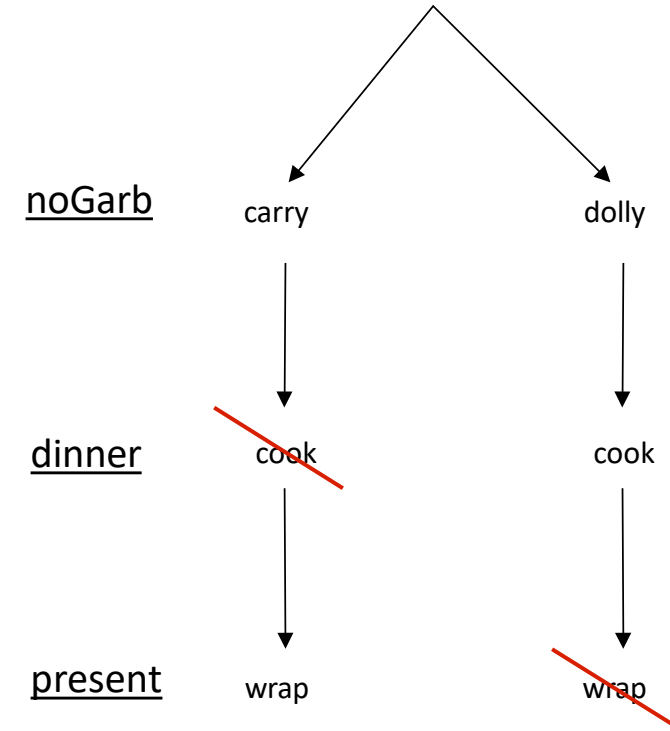
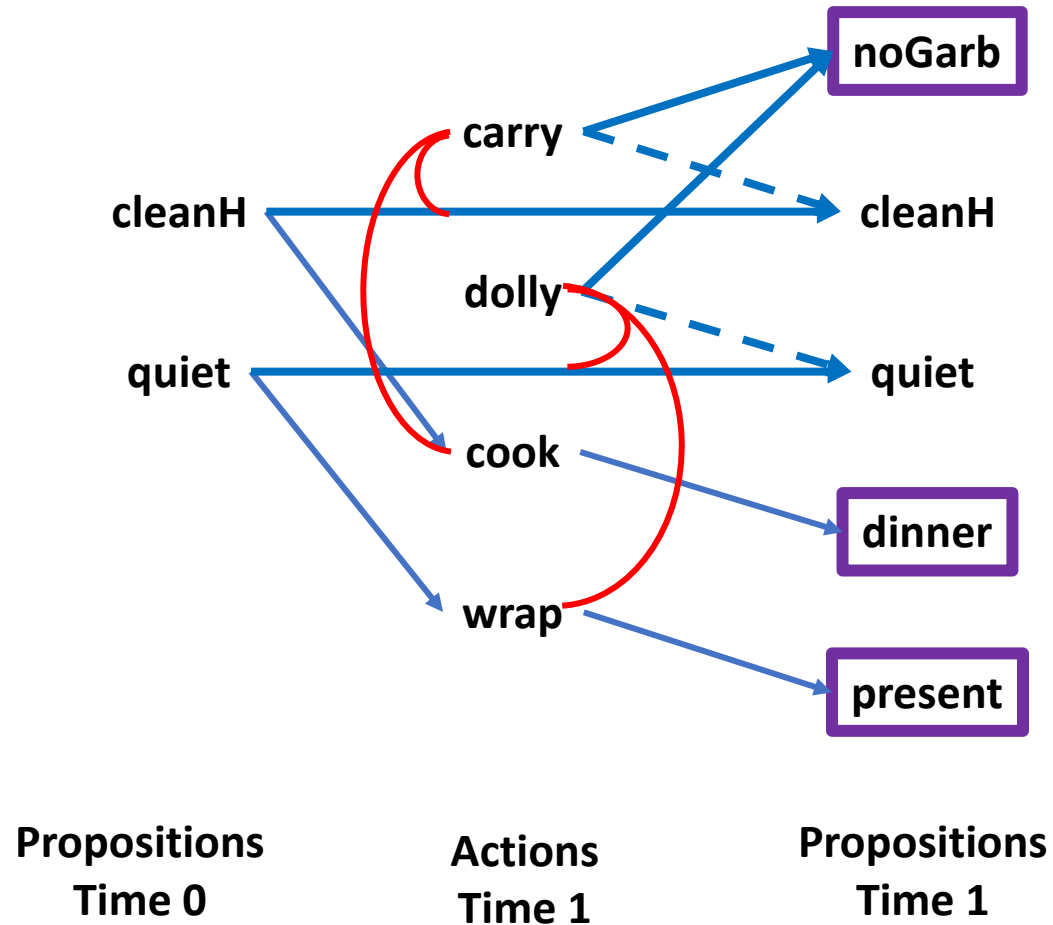
Search Action Layer 2



Backup and Search Action Layer 1

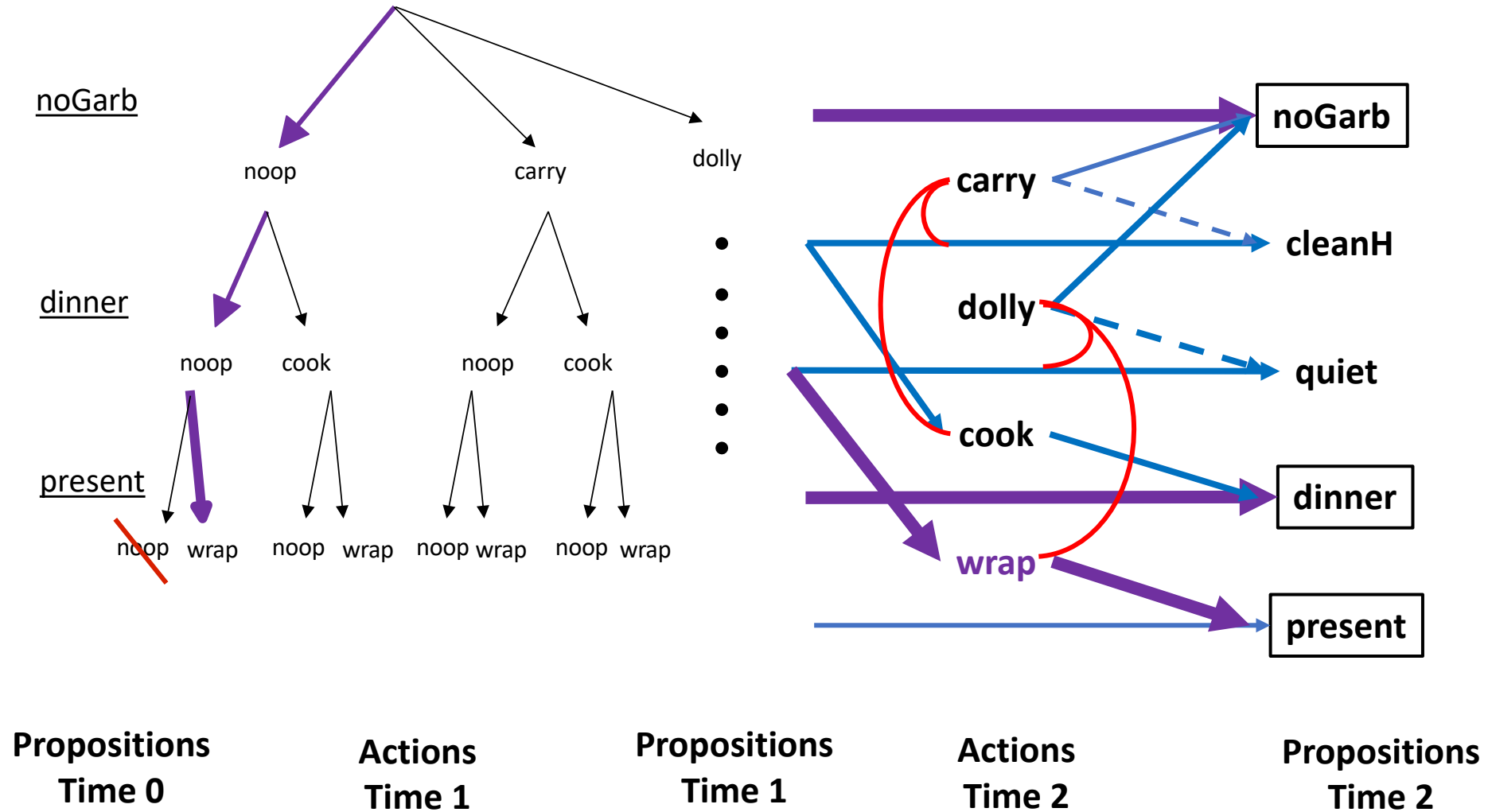


Backup and Search Action Layer 1

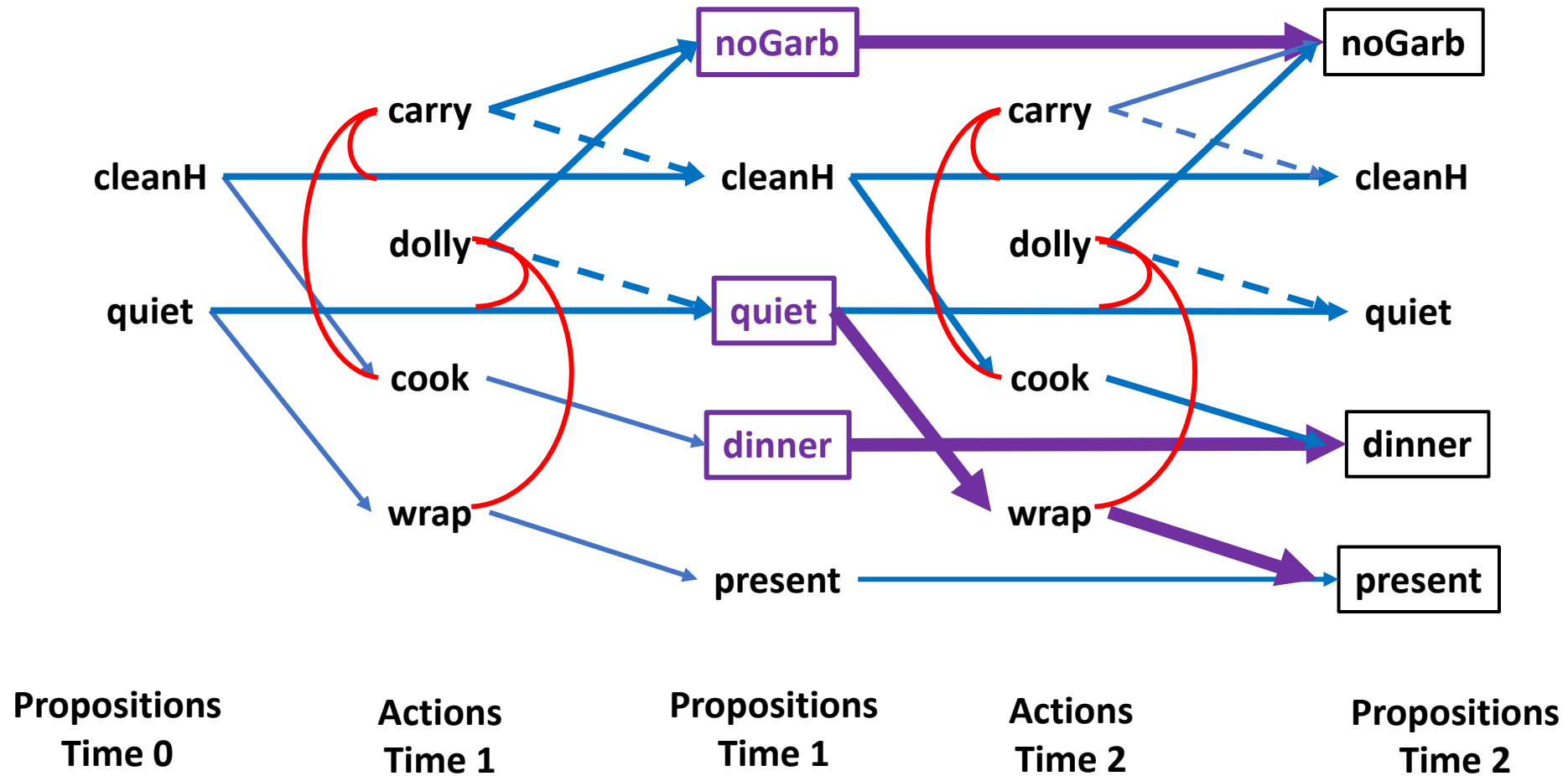


Backtrack!

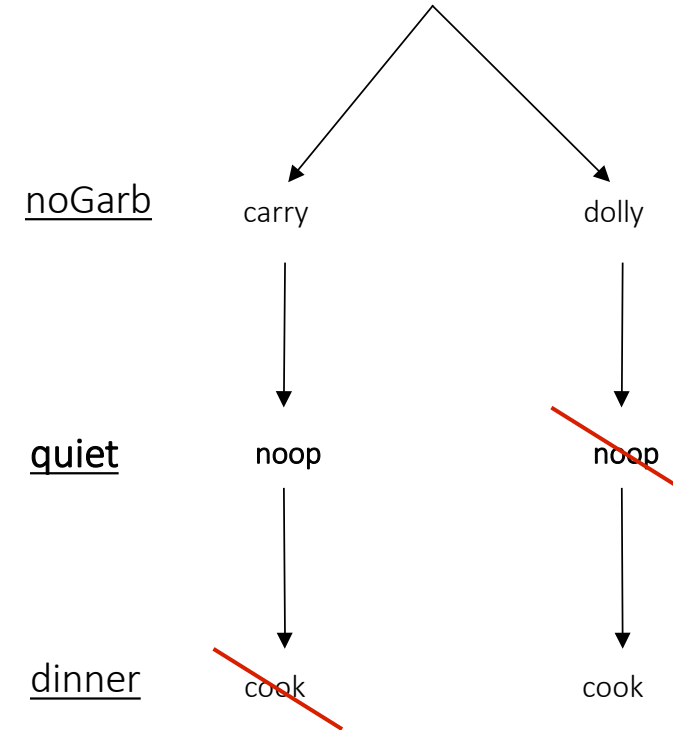
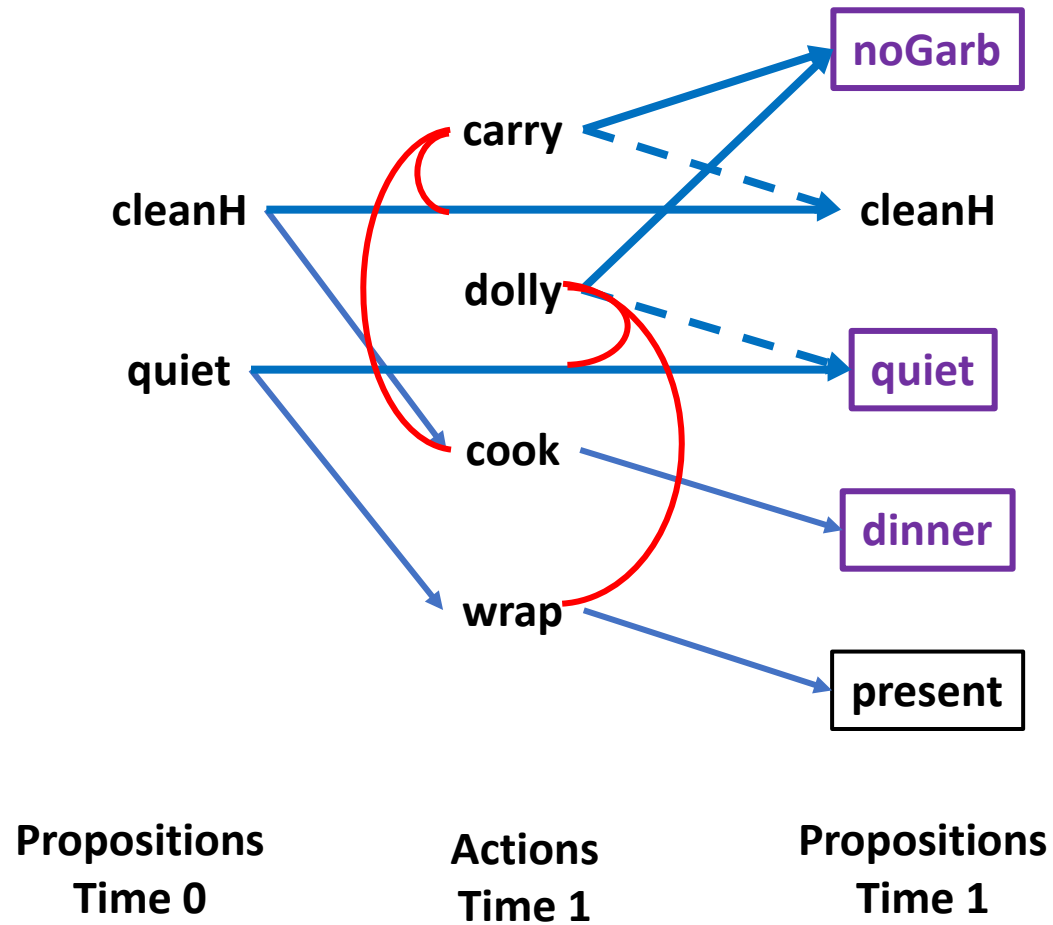
Search Action Layer 2 Again!



Search Action Layer 0

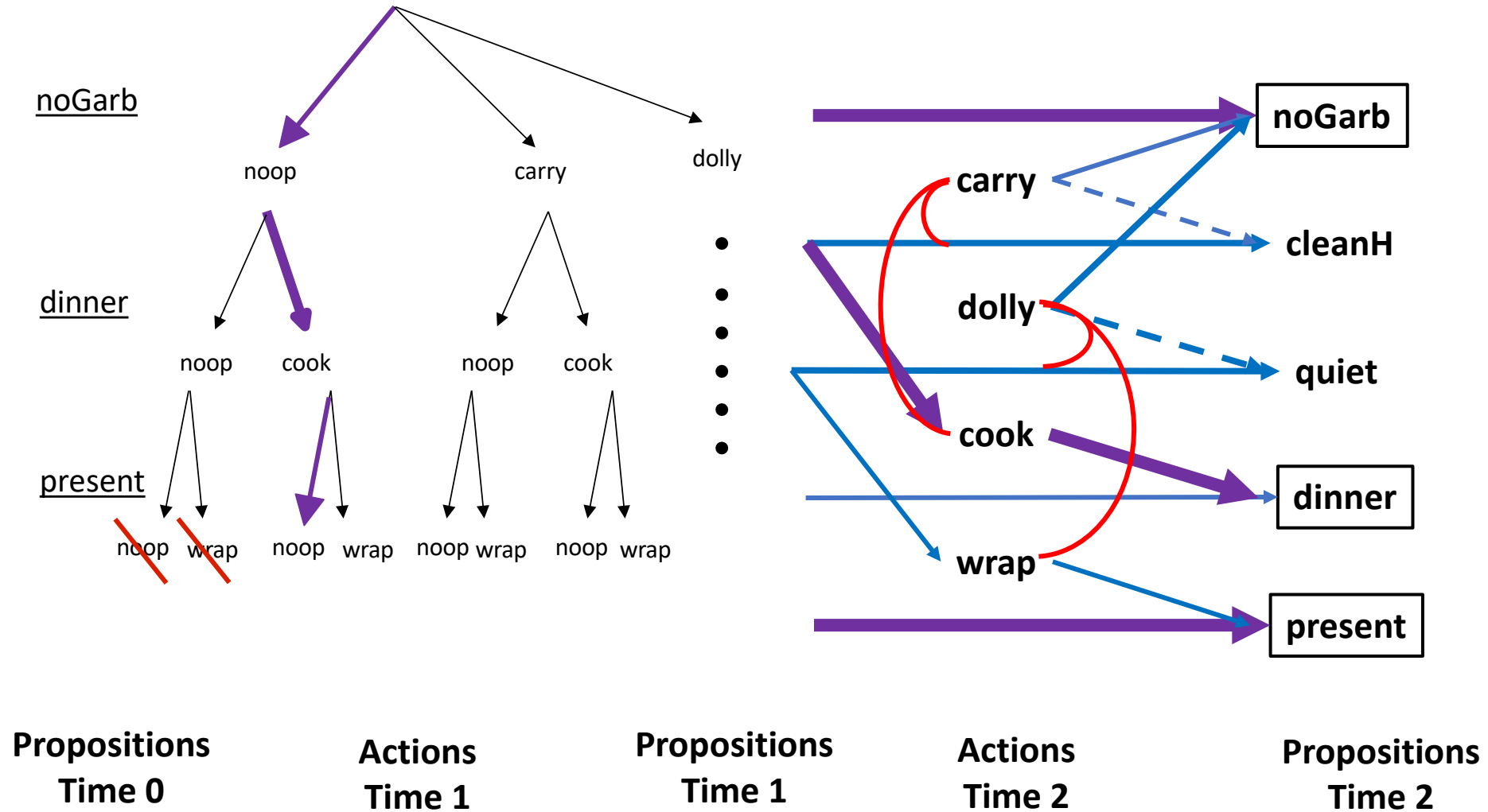


Search Action Layer 0

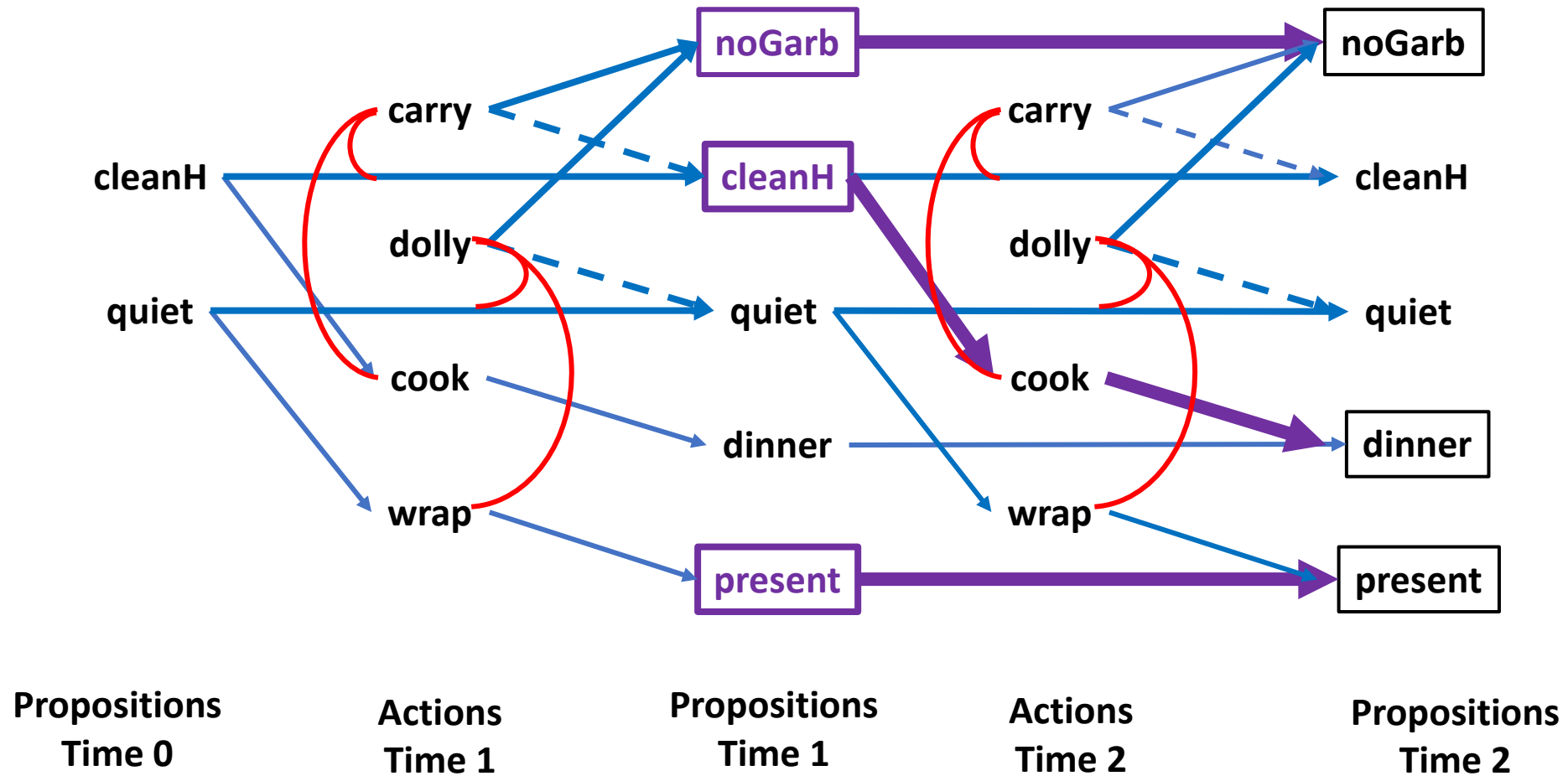


Backtrack!

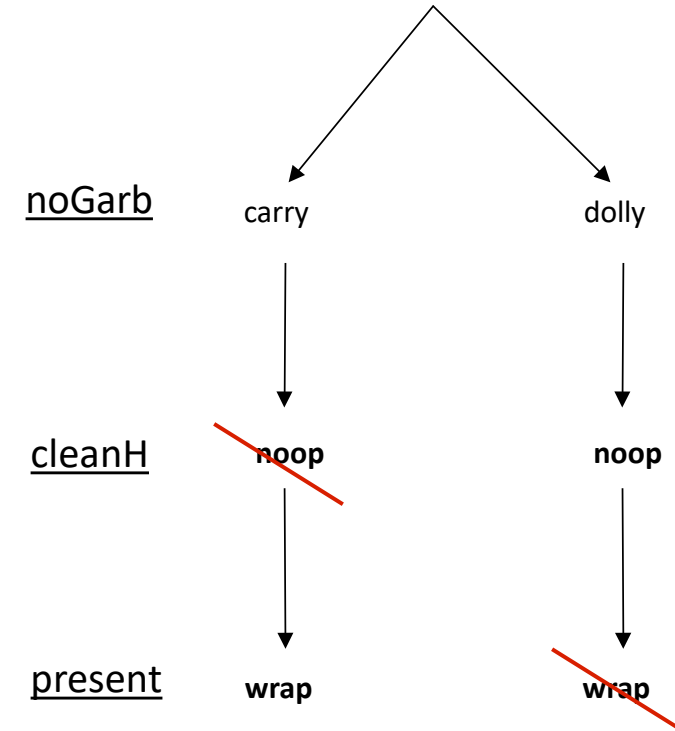
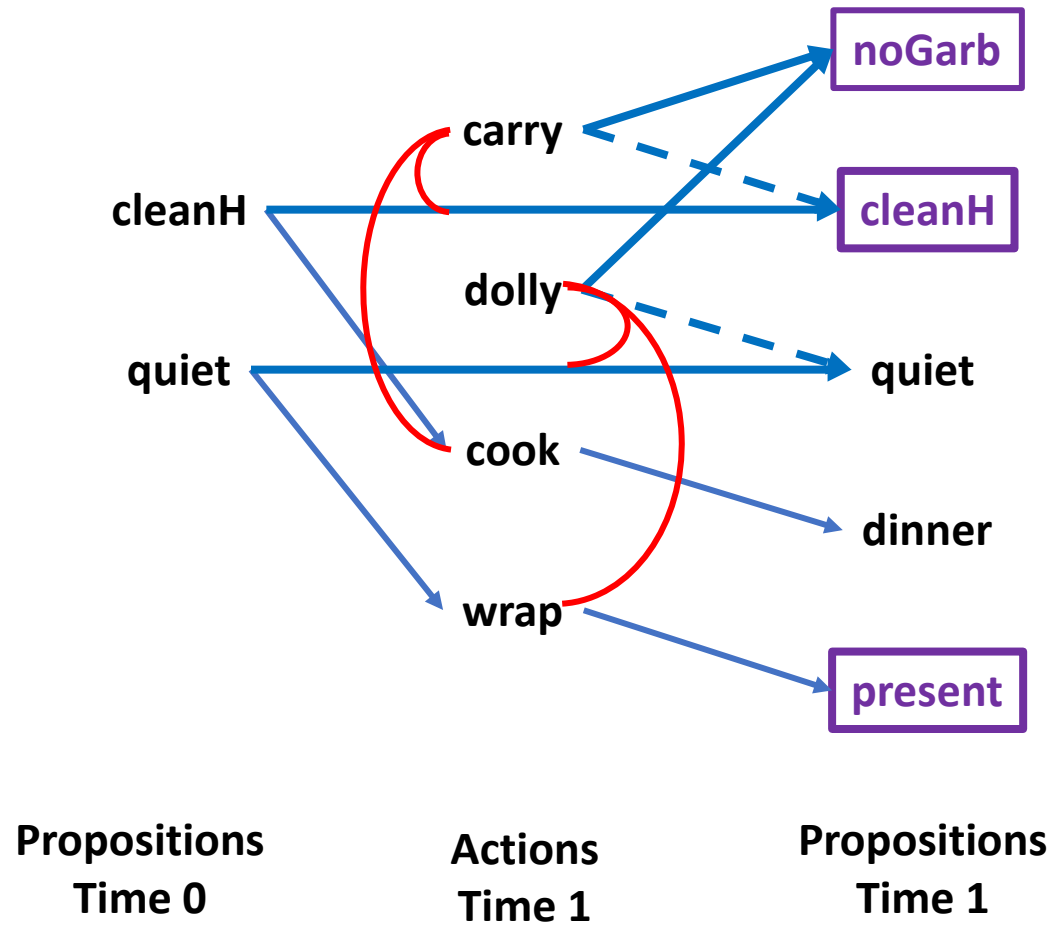
Search Action Layer 2 Again!



Search Action Layer 0

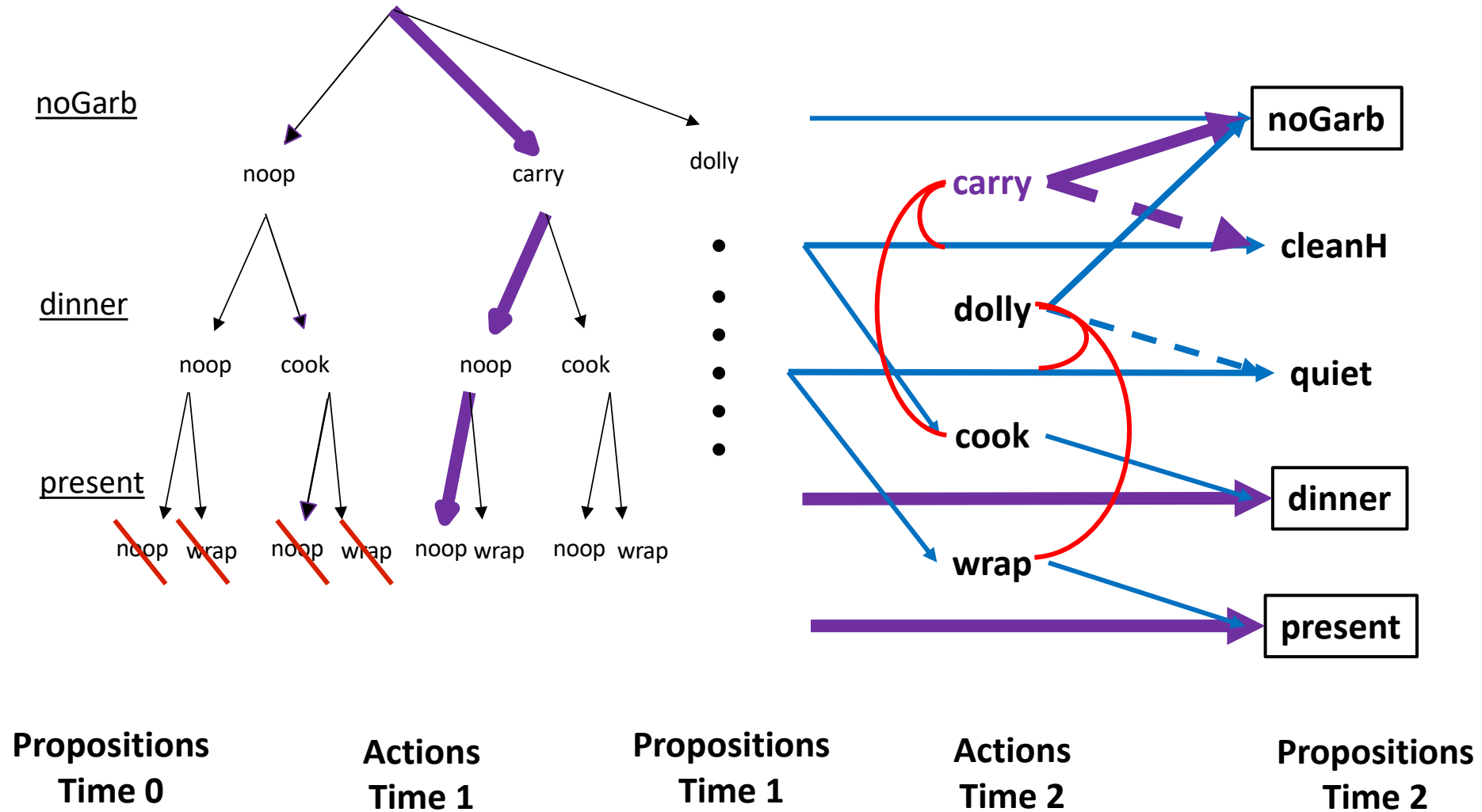


Search Action Layer 0

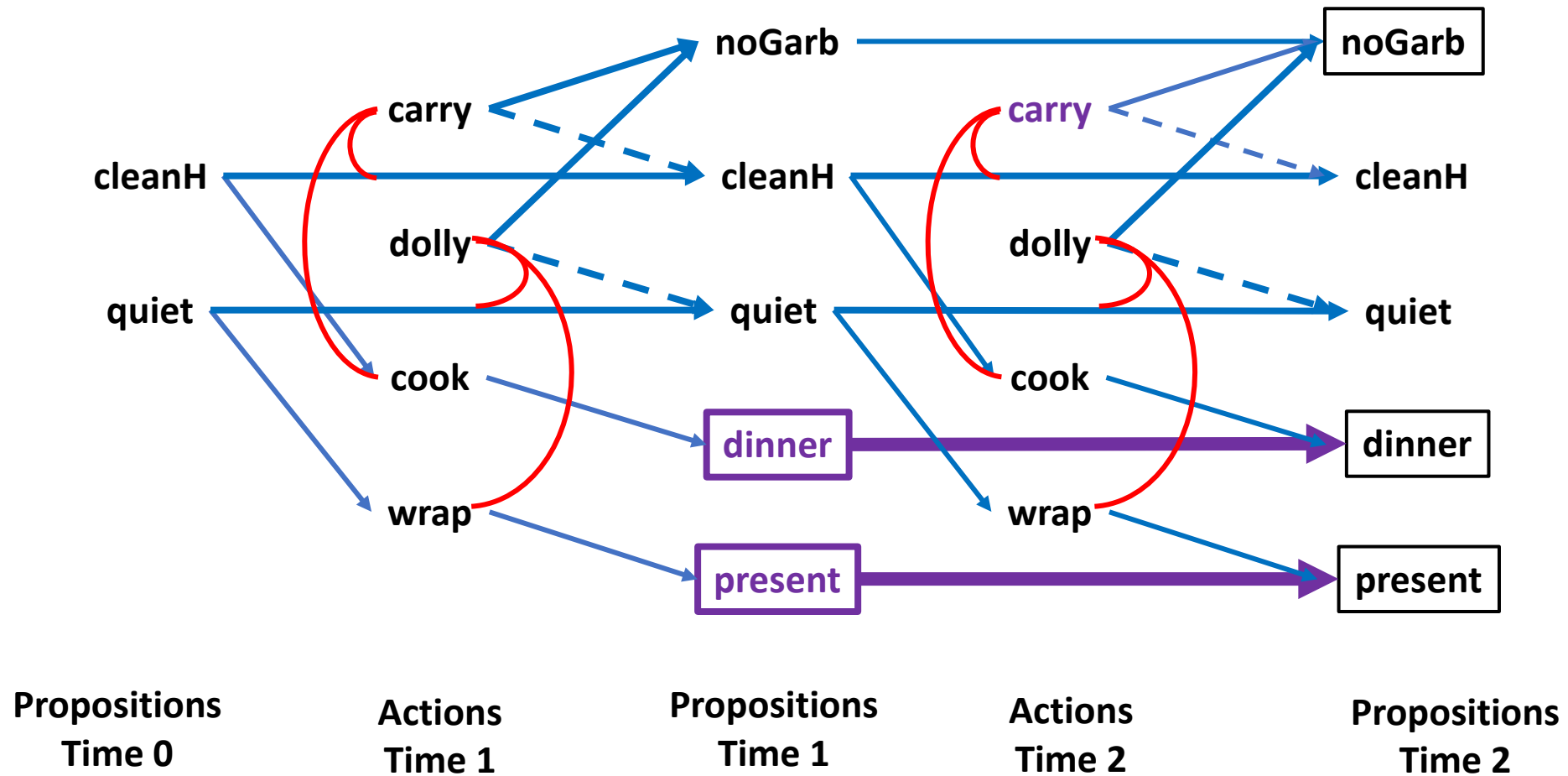


Backtrack!

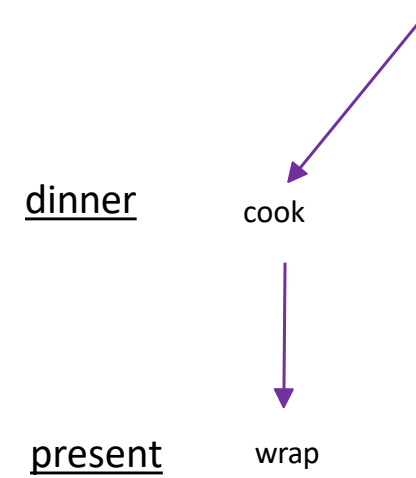
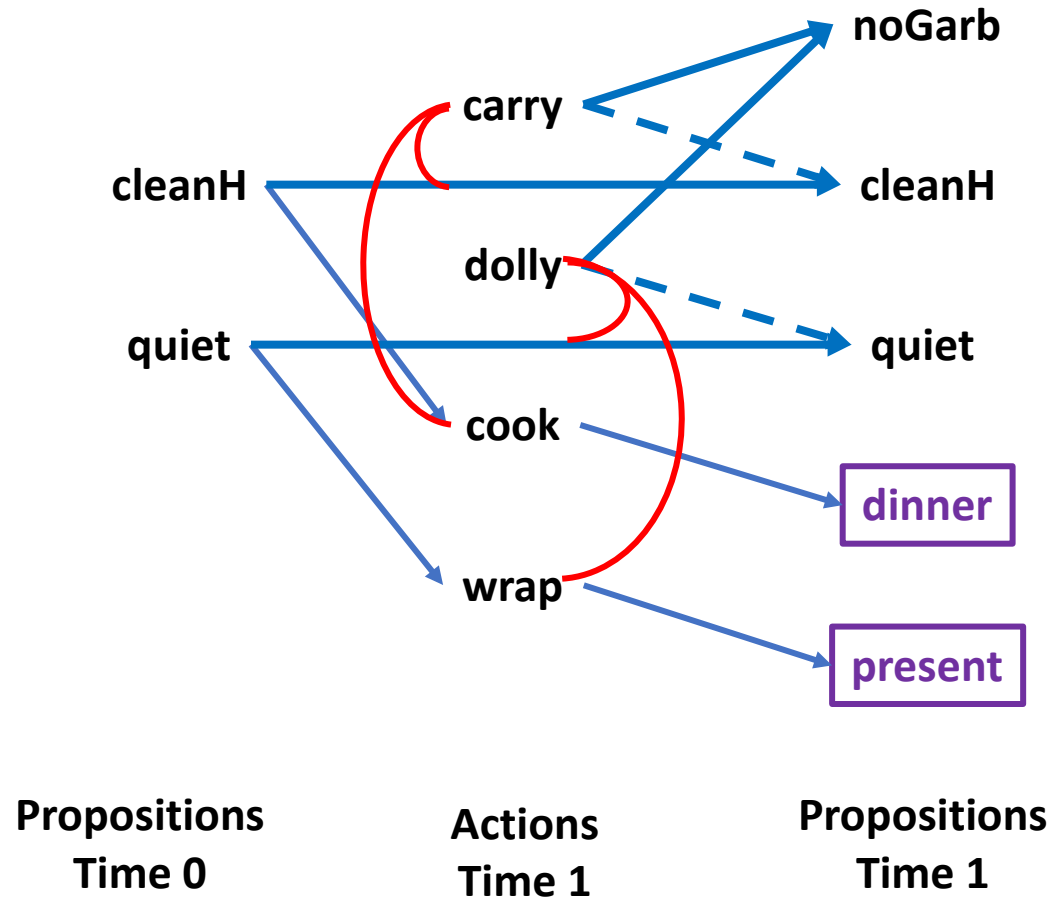
Search Action Layer 2 Again!



Search Action Layer 0

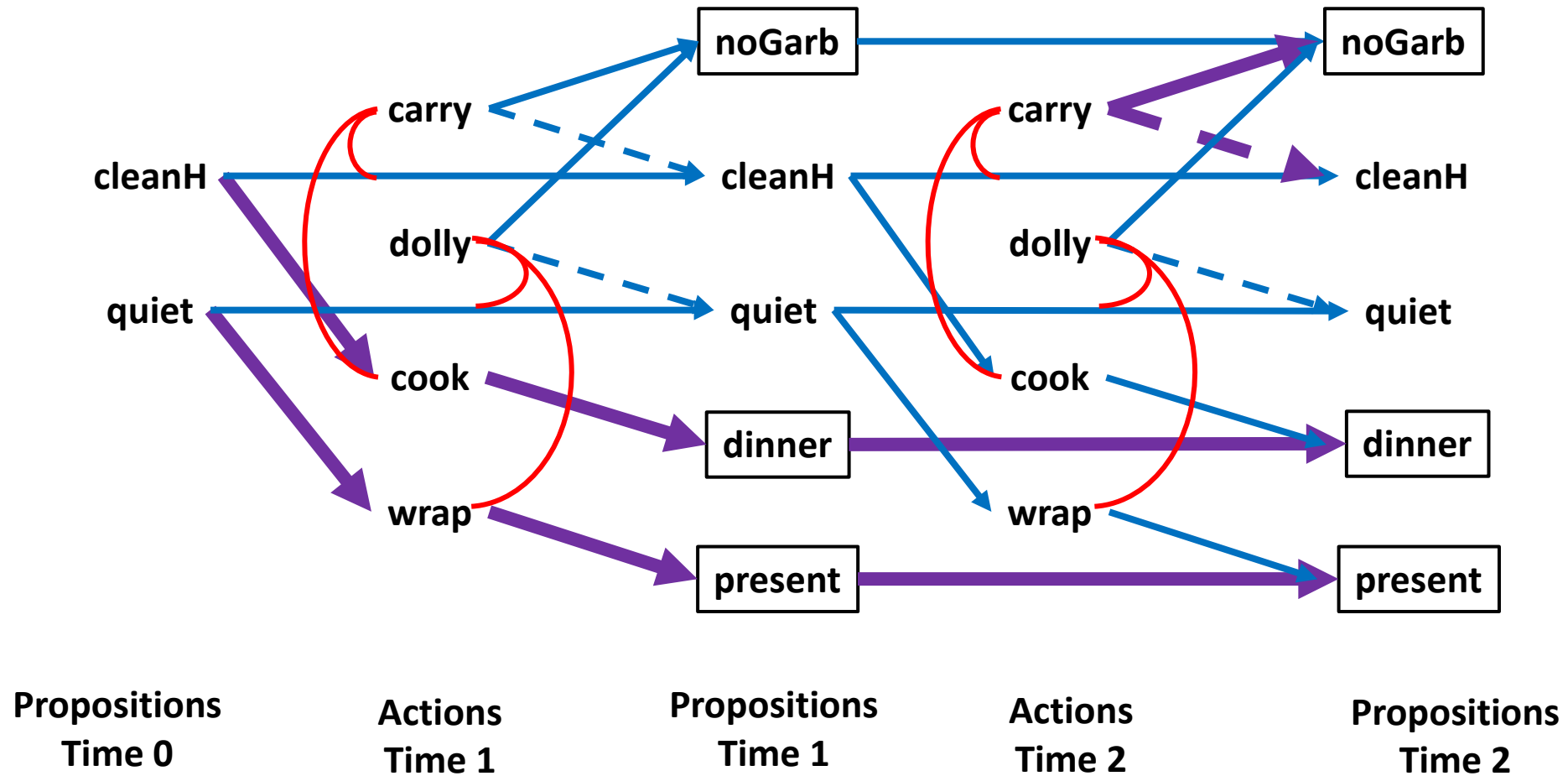


Search Action Layer 0



Consistent!

Solution: Cook & Wrap, then Carry



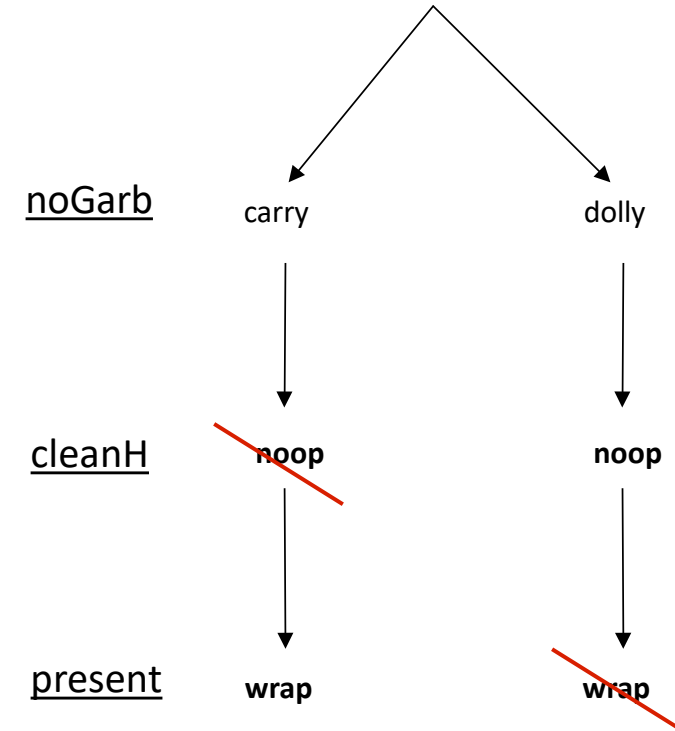
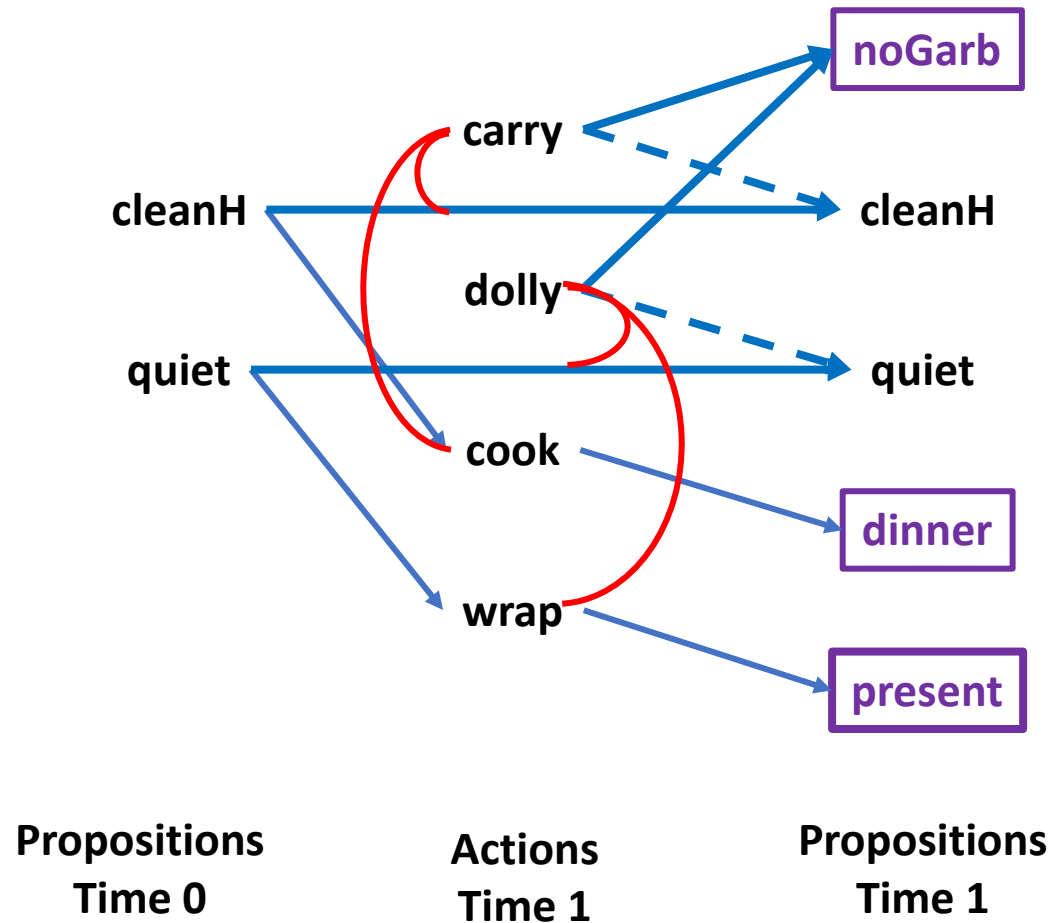
Outline

- Graph Plan
 - Problem Statement
 - Planning Graph Construction
 - Plan Extraction
 - Memos
 - Properties
 - Termination with Failure

Memos of Inconsistent Subgoals

- To prevent wasted search effort:
 - If a goal set at layer k cannot be achieved, then memorize the set at k
 - Check each new goal set at k against memos.
 - IF memo THEN
 - Fail
 - ELSE
 - Test by solving a CSP

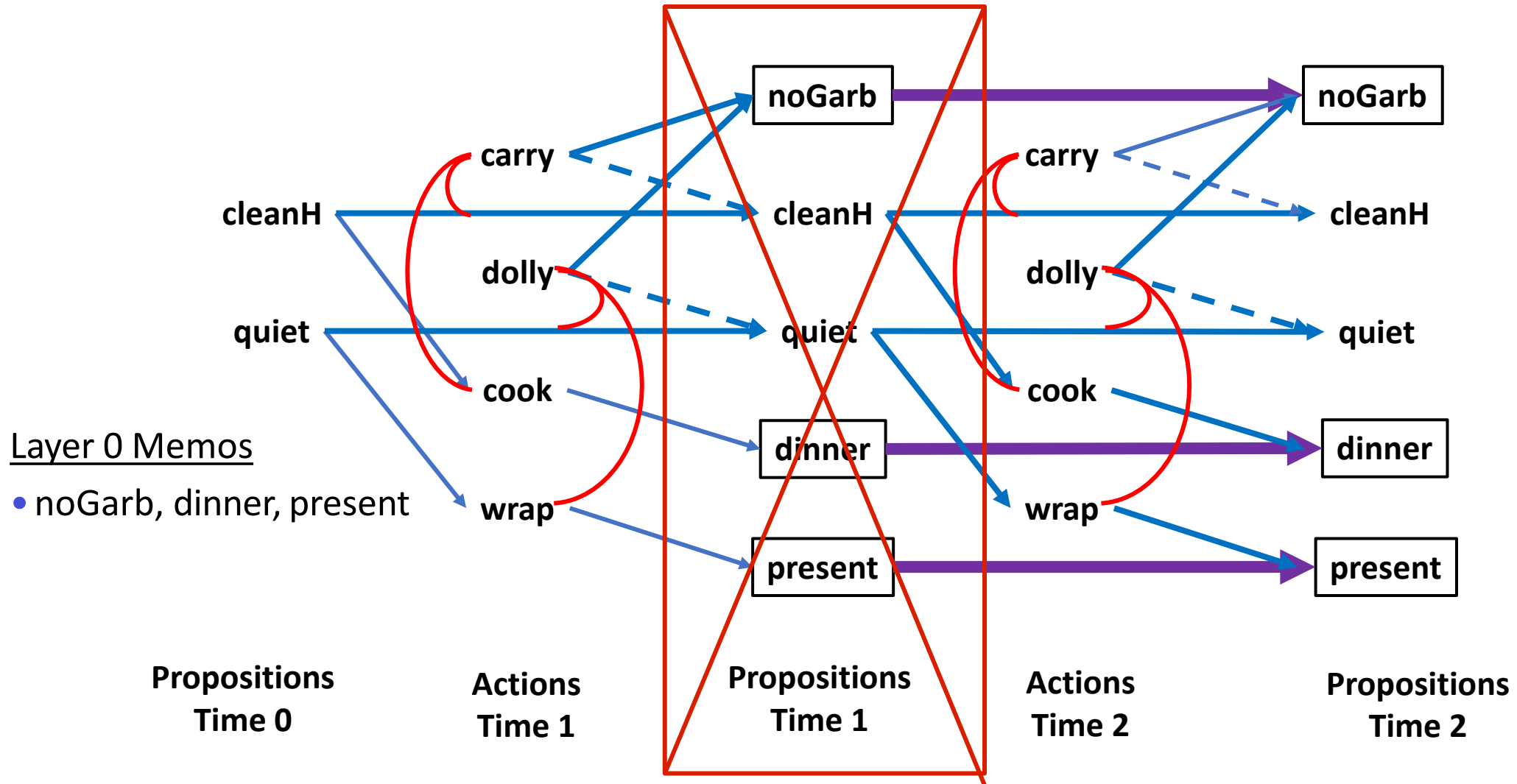
Search Action Layer 0



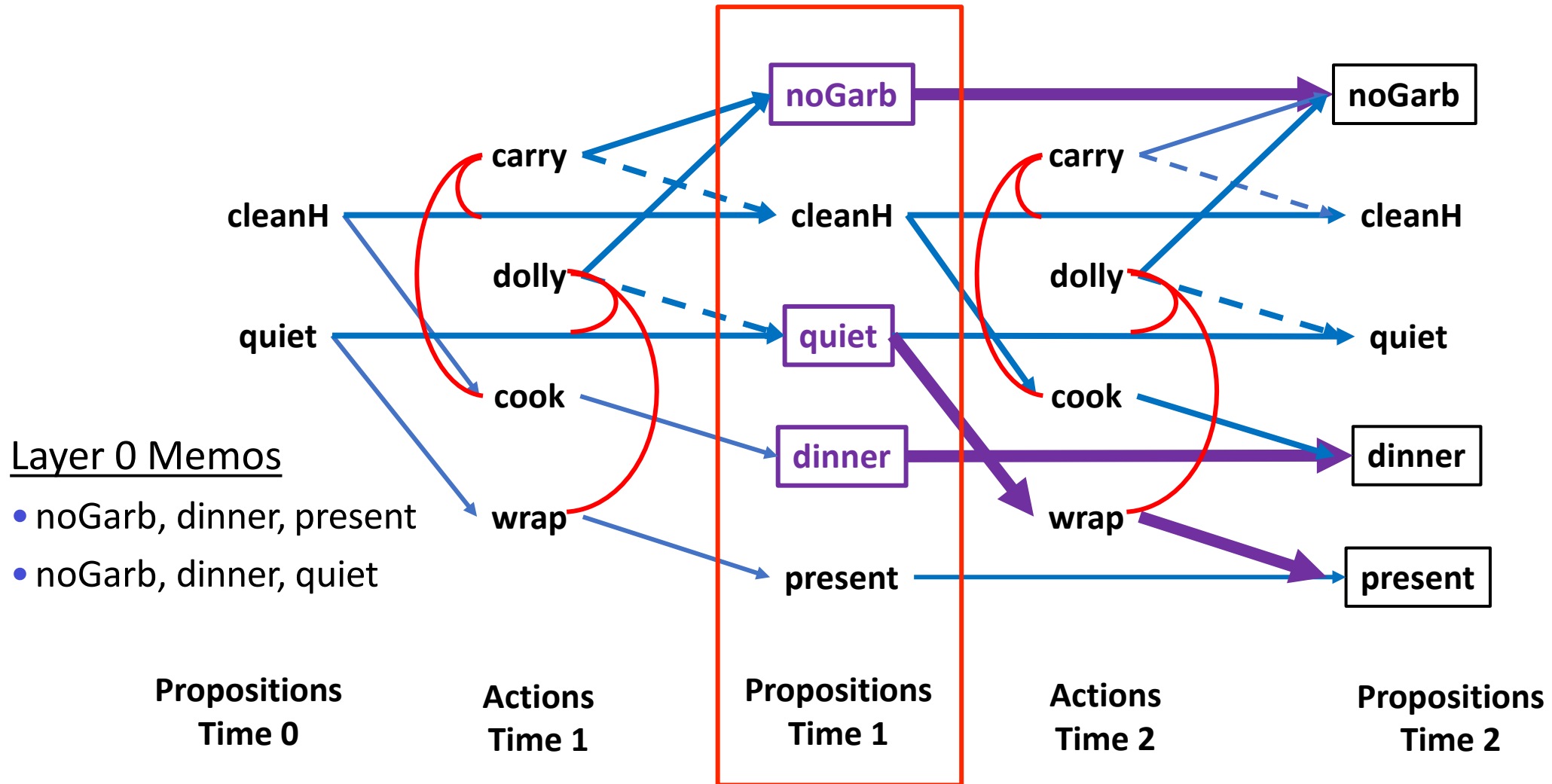
Layer 0 Memos

- noGarb, dinner, present

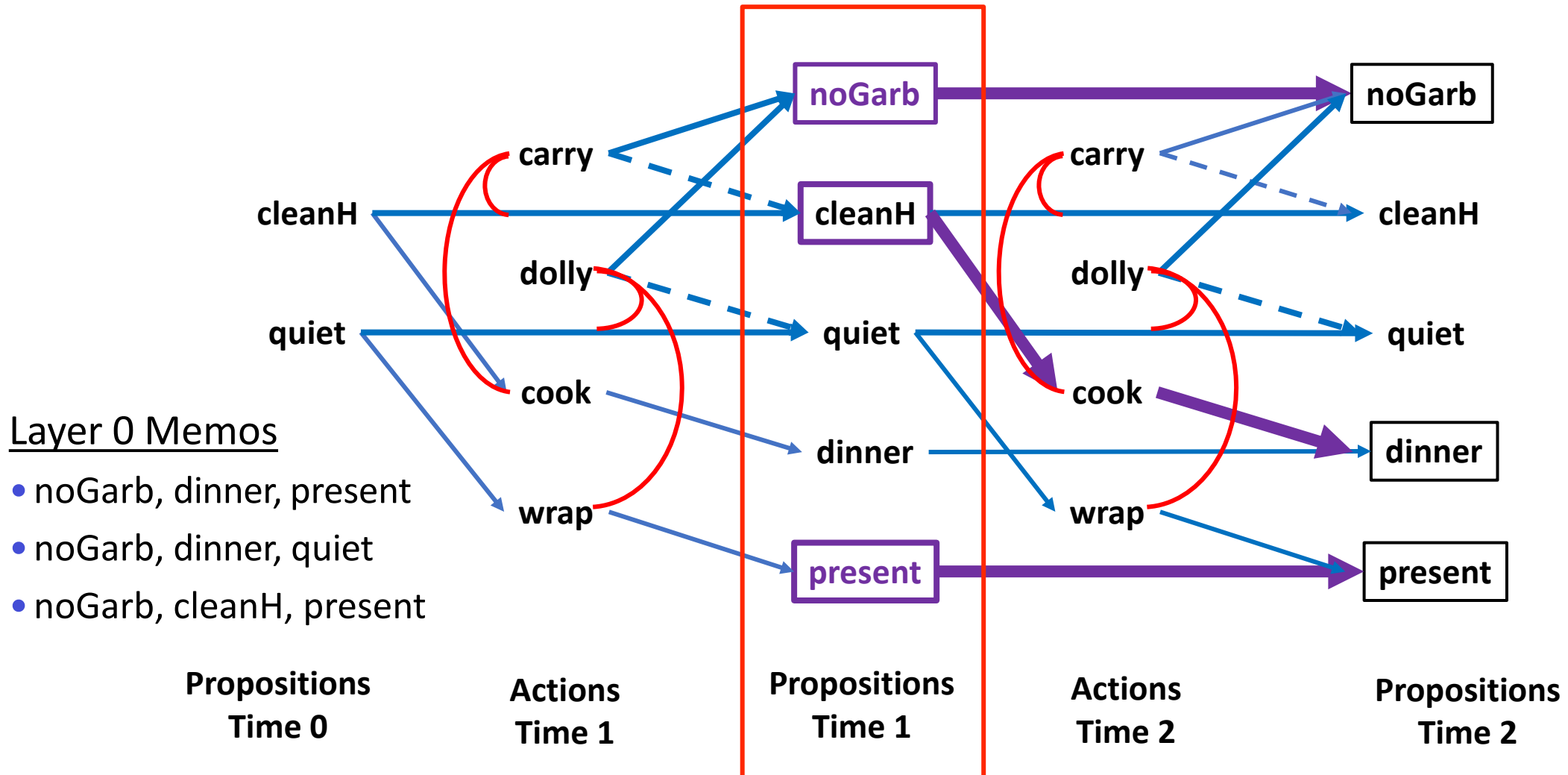
Search Layer 1: Check L0 memos



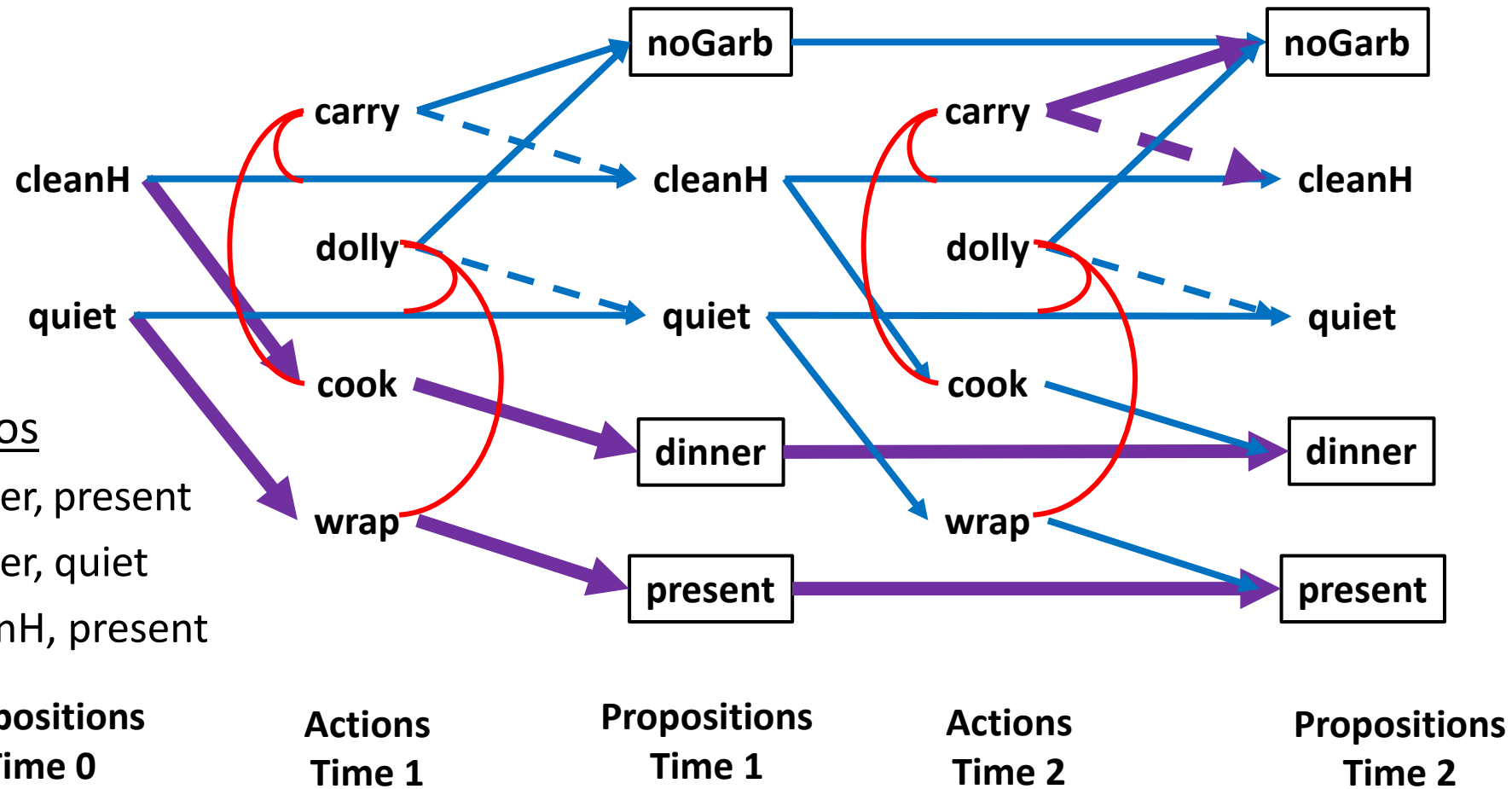
Search Layer 1: New Memo 2



Search Layer 1: New Memo 3



Solution Found: (Not a Memo)



Outline

- Graph Plan
 - Problem Statement
 - Planning Graph Construction
 - Plan Extraction
 - Memos
 - Properties
 - Termination with Failure

Properties: Optimality and Redundancy

- Plans guarantee **parallel optimality**.
 - Parallel plan will take as short a time as possible.
- Plans don't guarantee **sequential optimality**.
 - Might be possible to achieve all goals at a later layer using fewer actions.
- Plans do not contain **redundant steps**.
 - Achieved by preferring no-ops.

Plan Graph Properties: Fixed Points

- Propositions monotonically increase.
 - Once added to a layer they remain in successive layers.
 - Mutexes monotonically decrease.
 - Once a mutex has decayed it never reappears.
- Graph eventually reaches a fix point.
- Level where propositions and mutexes no longer change.

Fix point Example: Door Domain

Move from room ?X to room ?Y

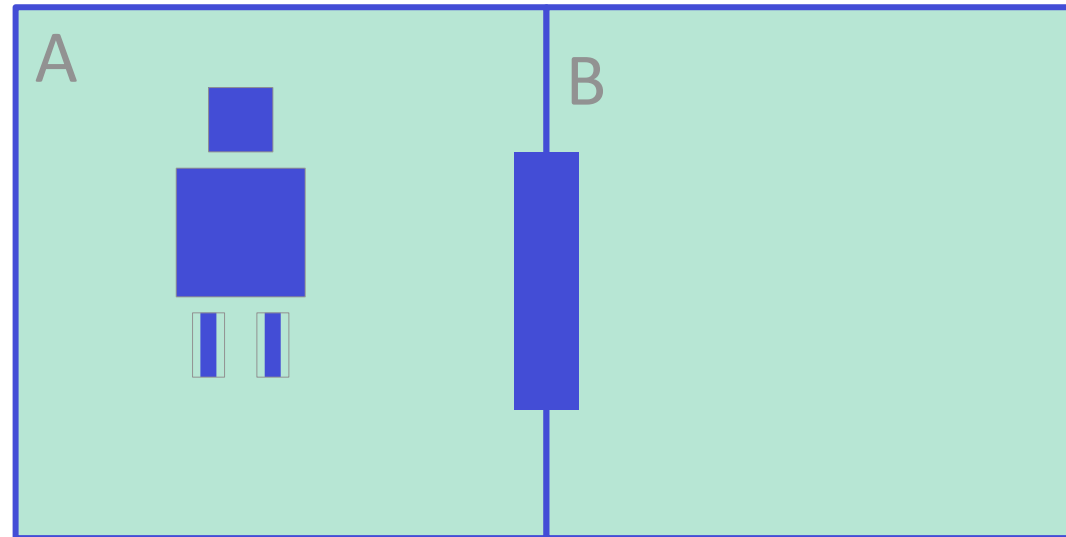
- pre: robot in ?X, door is open
- add: robot in ?Y
- del: robot in ?X

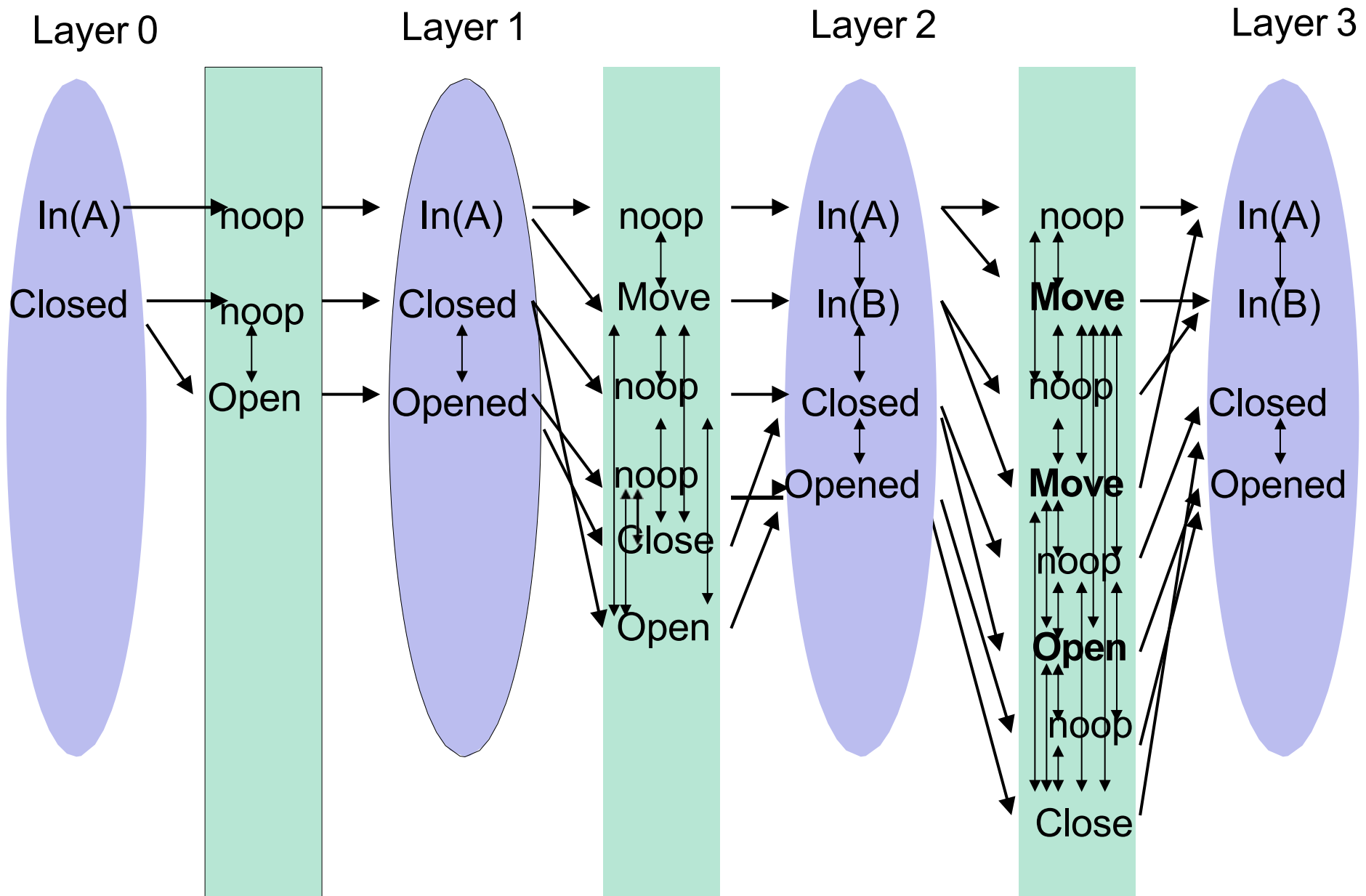
Open door

- pre: door closed
- add: door open
- del: door closed

Close door

- pre: door open
- add: door closed
- del: door open





Layer 3 is the fixed point of the graph – called "level out."

Graph Search Properties

- Graphplan may need to expand well beyond the fix point to find a solution.
- Why?

Graph Search Properties

Move from one room to another

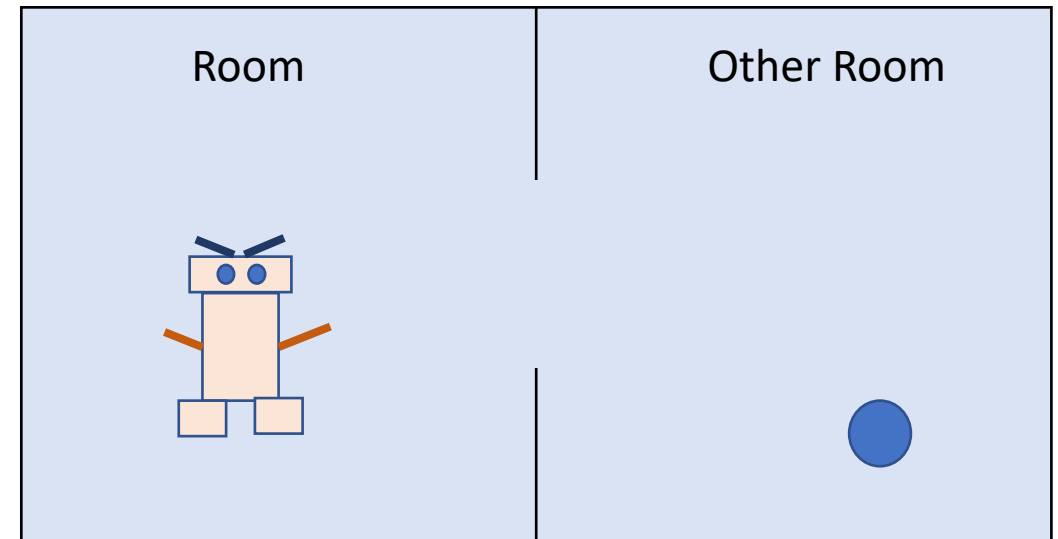
- pre: robot in first room
- add: robot in second room
- del: robot in first room

Pick up ball

- pre: gripper free, ball in room
- add: holding ball
- del: gripper free, ball in room

Drop ball

- pre: holding ball, in room
- add: ball in room, gripper free
- del: holding ball



Gripper Example

- Fix point occurs at Layer 4.
 - All propositions concerning ball and robot locations are pairwise non-mutex after 4 steps.
- Solution layer depends on # balls moved.
 - E.g., for 30 balls,
 - solution is at layer 59;
 - 54 layers with identical propositions, actions and mutexes.

Outline

- Graph Plan
 - Problem Statement
 - Planning Graph Construction
 - Plan Extraction
 - Memos
 - Properties
 - Termination with Failure

Termination Property

Graphplan returns failure if and only if no plan exists.

How?

Simple Termination

- If the fix point is reached and:
 - a goal is not asserted OR
 - two goals are mutex,

→ Then return "No solution," without any search.
- Otherwise, there may be higher order exclusions (memos) that prevent a solution.

→ Requires a more sophisticated termination test.

Key Take-aways

- Defining activity planning problems in a formal language
- Constructing a plan graph and searching for a solution
 - E.g., depth-first search, mutex, backtrack, memos
- Terminating search
 - “leveling out”