Last update: 11:09 PM, March 7, 2025

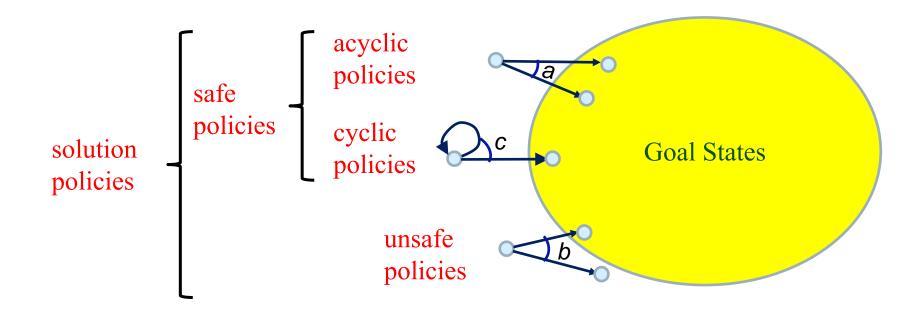
Acting, Planning, and Learning

Malik Ghallab, Dana Nau, and Paolo Traverso

Chapter 12 Planning with Nondeterministic Models

Dana S. Nau University of Maryland

Kinds of Solution Policies



Finding (Unsafe) Solutions

For comparison:

Forward-search (Σ , s_0 , g)

 $s \leftarrow s_0; \quad \pi \leftarrow \langle \rangle$

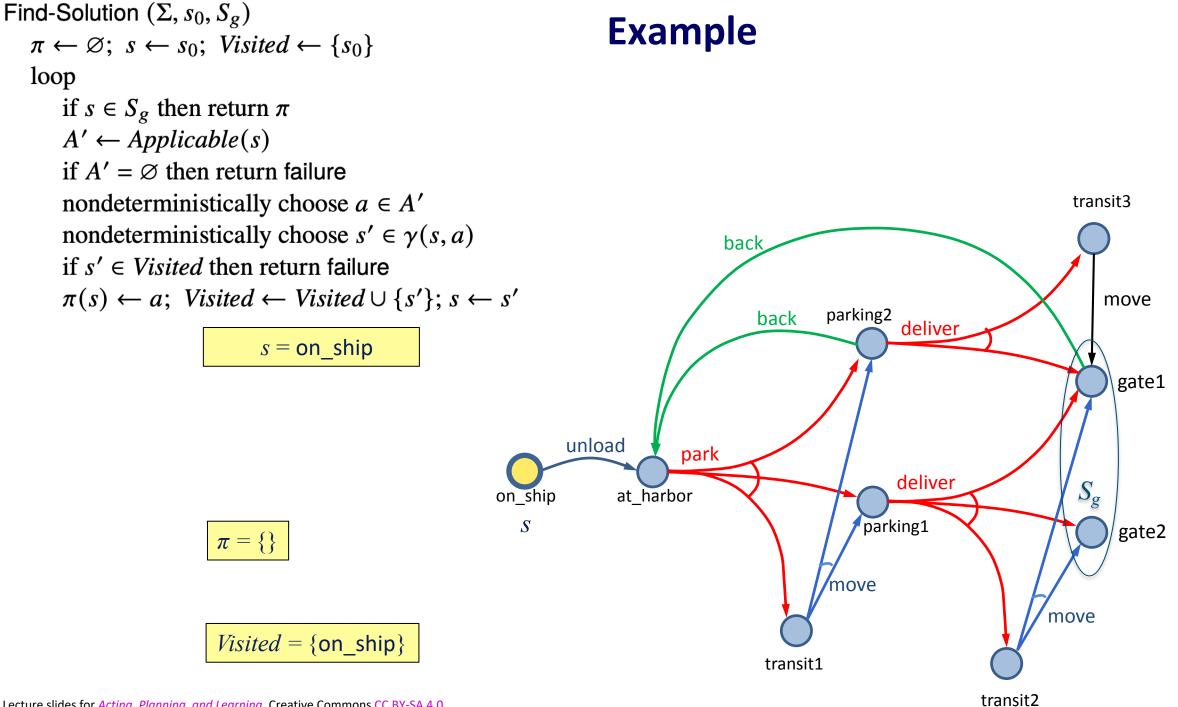
while $s \not\models g$ do

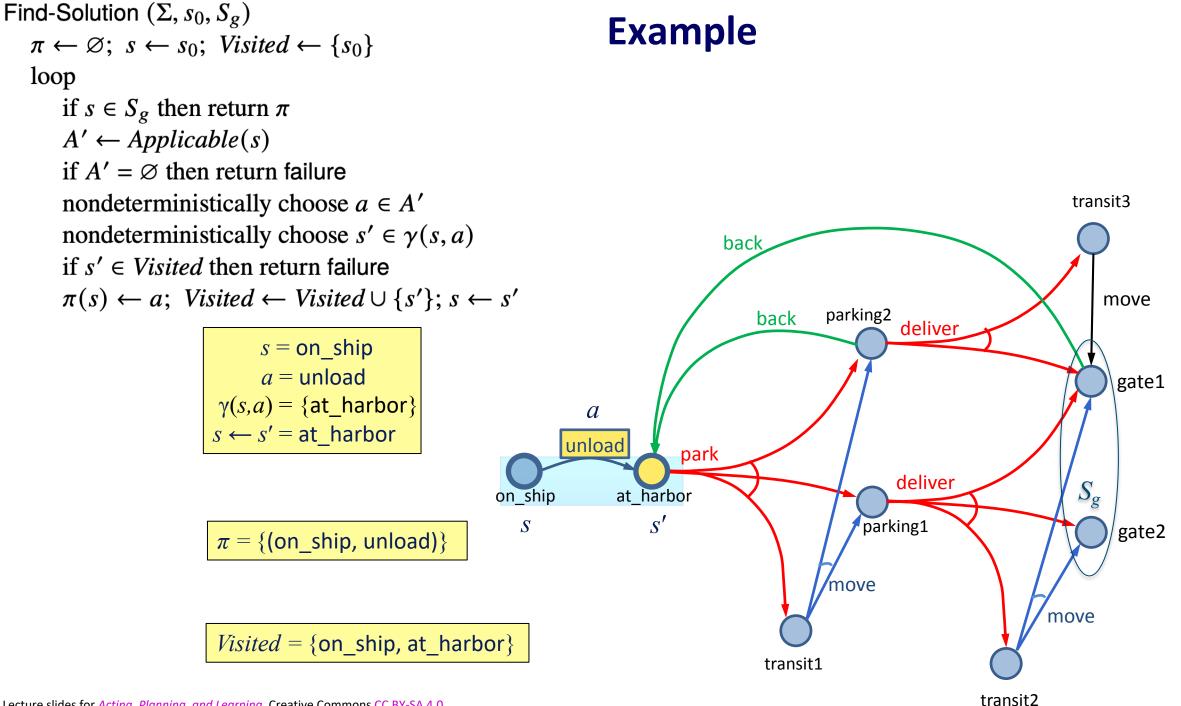
if *Applicable*(*s*) = Ø **then return** failure Find-Solution (Σ, s_0, S_g) nondeterministically choose $a \in Applicable(s)$ $\pi \leftarrow \emptyset$; $s \leftarrow s_0$; Visited $\leftarrow \{s_0\}$ $s \leftarrow \gamma(s,a); \quad \pi \leftarrow \pi \cdot a$ loop return π if $s \in S_g$ then return π $A' \leftarrow Applicable(s)$ if $A' = \emptyset$ then return failure nondeterministically choose $a \in A'$ Decide which state to plan for (*) nondeterministically choose $s' \in \gamma(s, a)$ if $s' \in Visited$ then return failure Cycle-checking $\pi(s) \leftarrow a$; Visited \leftarrow Visited $\cup \{s'\}$; $s \leftarrow s'$

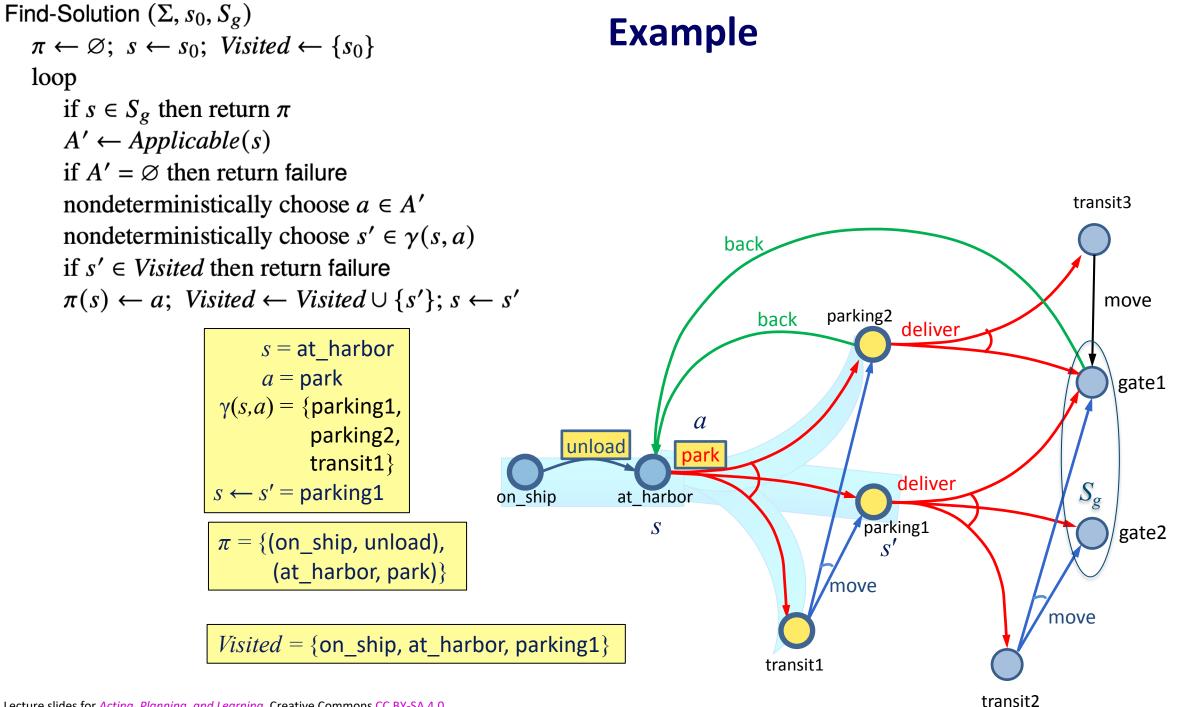
Finding (Unsafe) Solutions

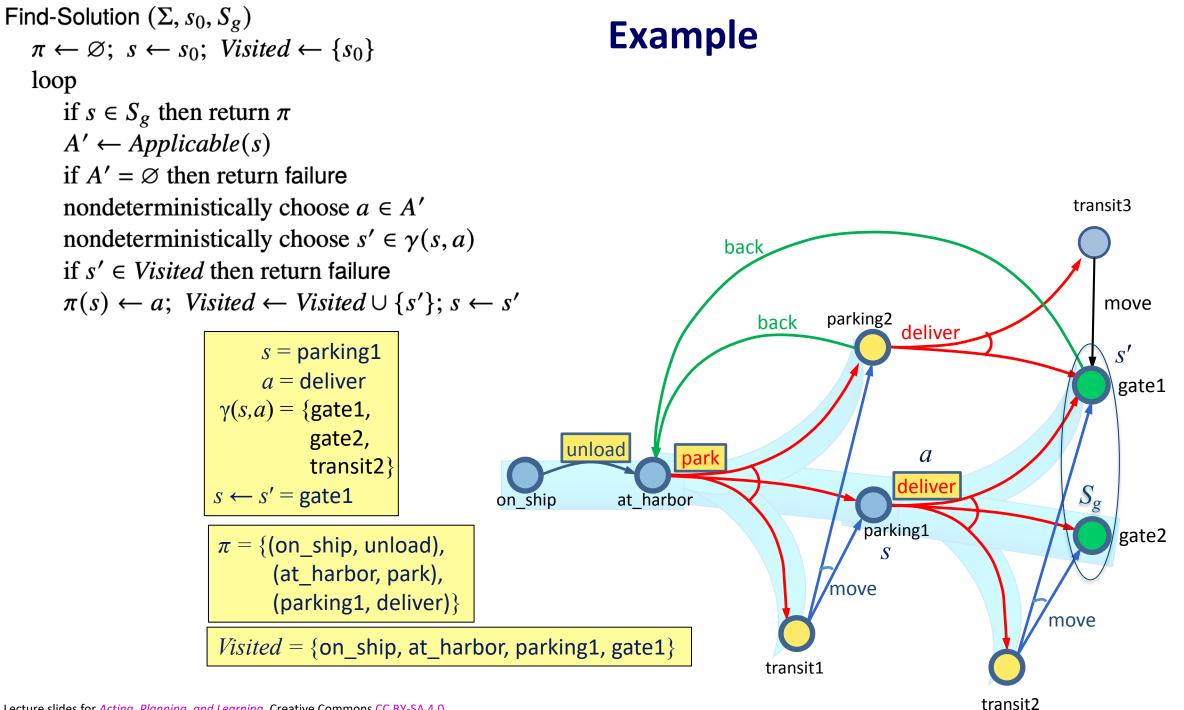
back **Poll**: which should (*) be? move A. nondeterministically choose parking2 back deliver B. arbitrarily choose gate1 C. don't know unload park deliver Find-Solution (Σ, s_0, S_g) at_harbor on_ship $\pi \leftarrow \emptyset$; $s \leftarrow s_0$; Visited $\leftarrow \{s_0\}$ parking1 gate2 loop move if $s \in S_g$ then return π move $A' \leftarrow Applicable(s)$ transit1 if $A' = \emptyset$ then return failure transit2 nondeterministically choose $a \in A'$ Decide which state to plan for (*) nondeterministically choose $s' \in \gamma(s, a)$ if $s' \in Visited$ then return failure Cycle-checking $\pi(s) \leftarrow a$; Visited \leftarrow Visited $\cup \{s'\}$; $s \leftarrow s'$

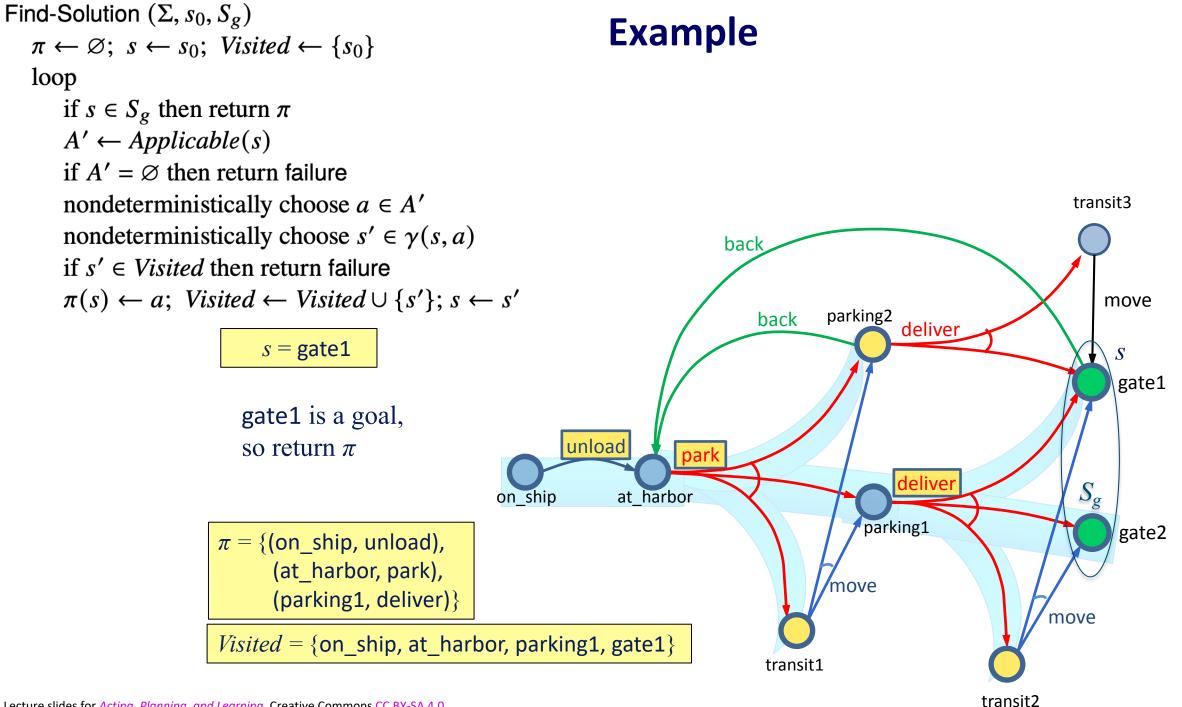
transit3









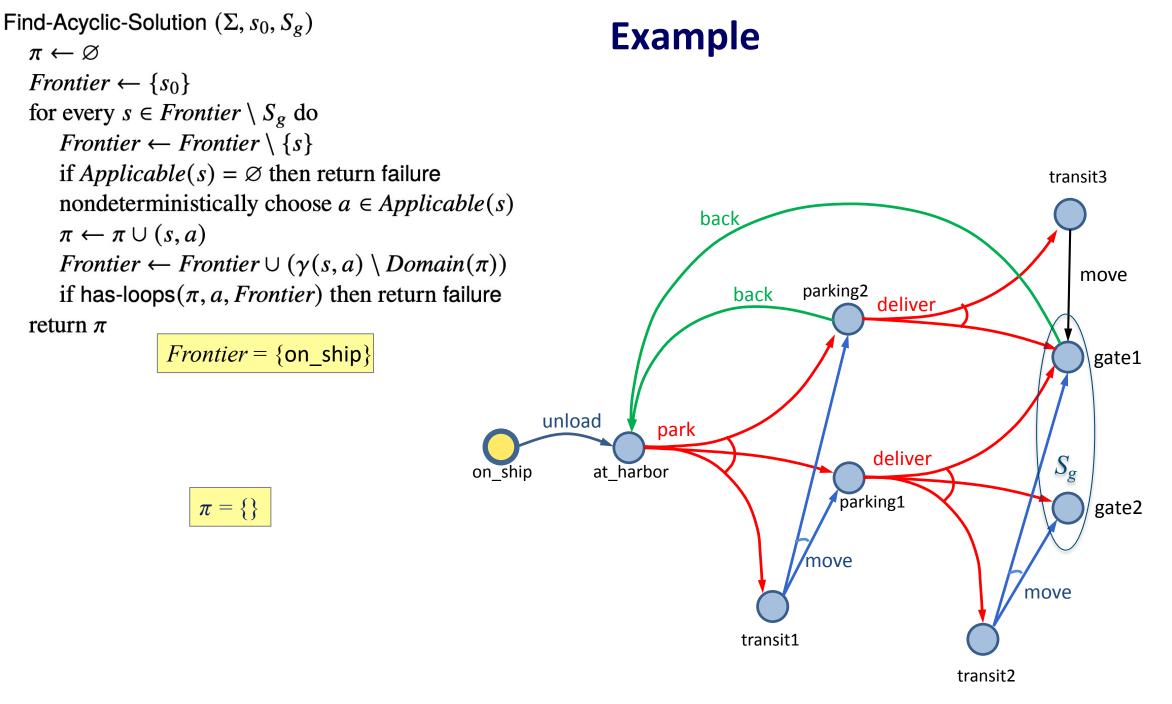


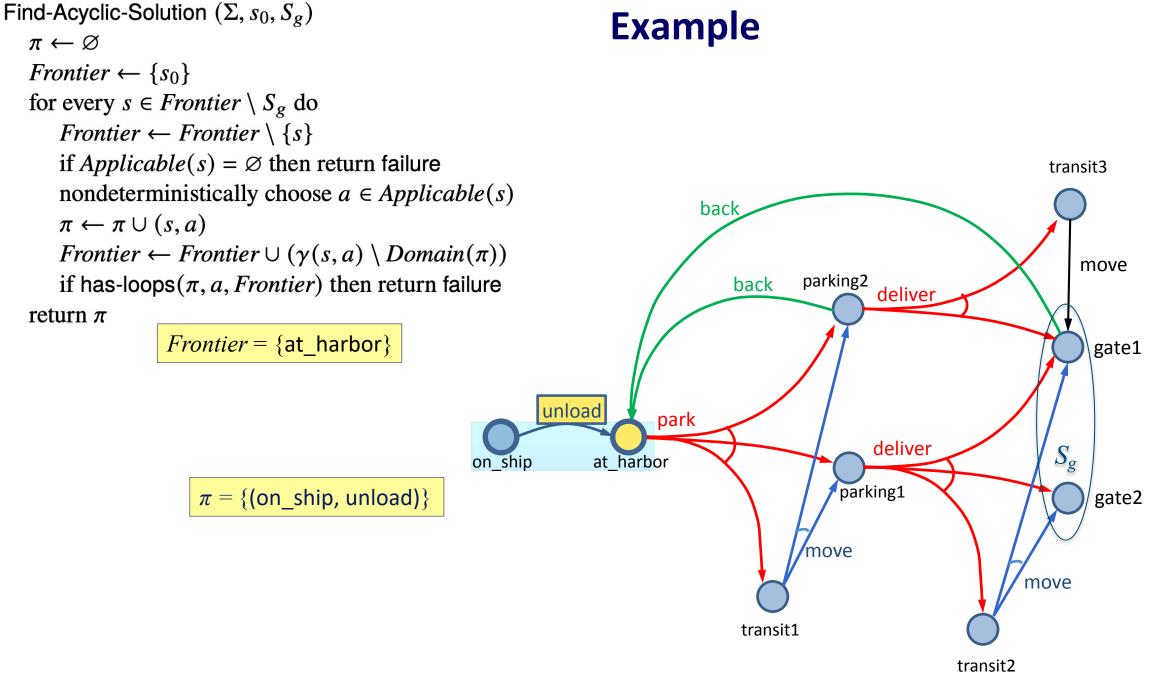
Find-Acyclic-Solution

Find-Acyclic-Solution (Σ, s_0, S_g) $\pi \leftarrow \varnothing$ Frontier $\leftarrow \{s_0\}$ for every $s \in Frontier \setminus S_g$ do Frontier $\leftarrow Frontier \setminus \{s\}$ if Applicable(s) = \varnothing then return failure nondeterministically choose $a \in Applicable(s)$ $\pi \leftarrow \pi \cup (s, a)$ Frontier $\leftarrow Frontier \cup (\gamma(s, a) \setminus Domain(\pi))$ if has-loops($\pi, a, Frontier$) then return failure return π

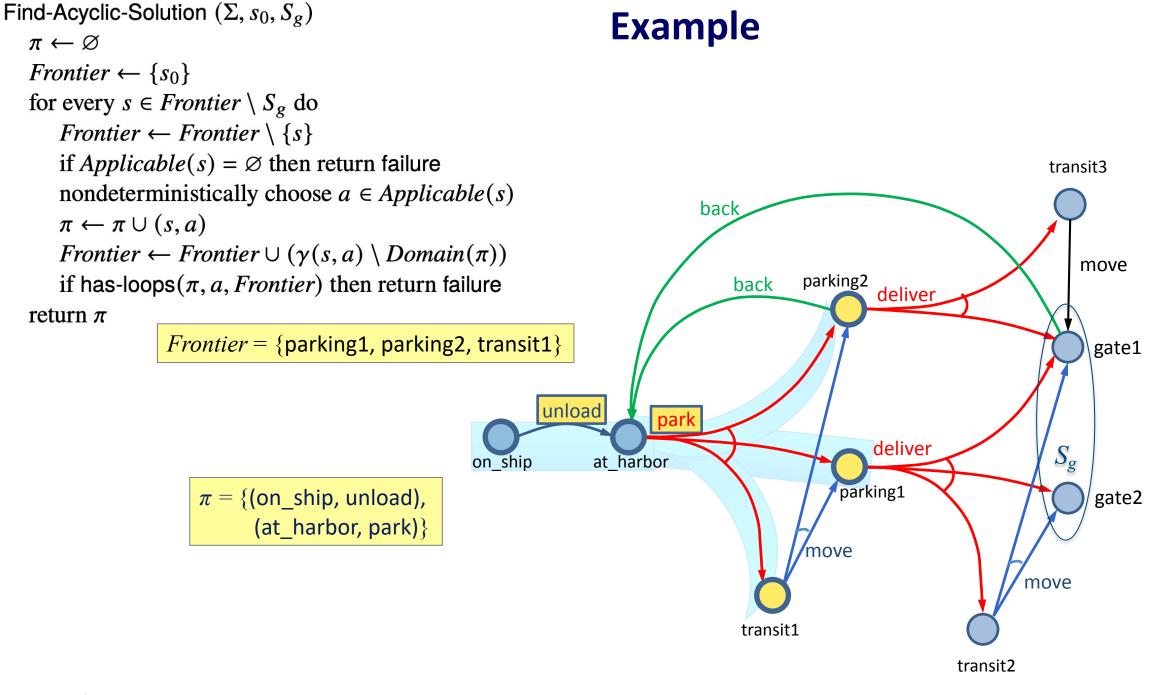
Check for cycles:

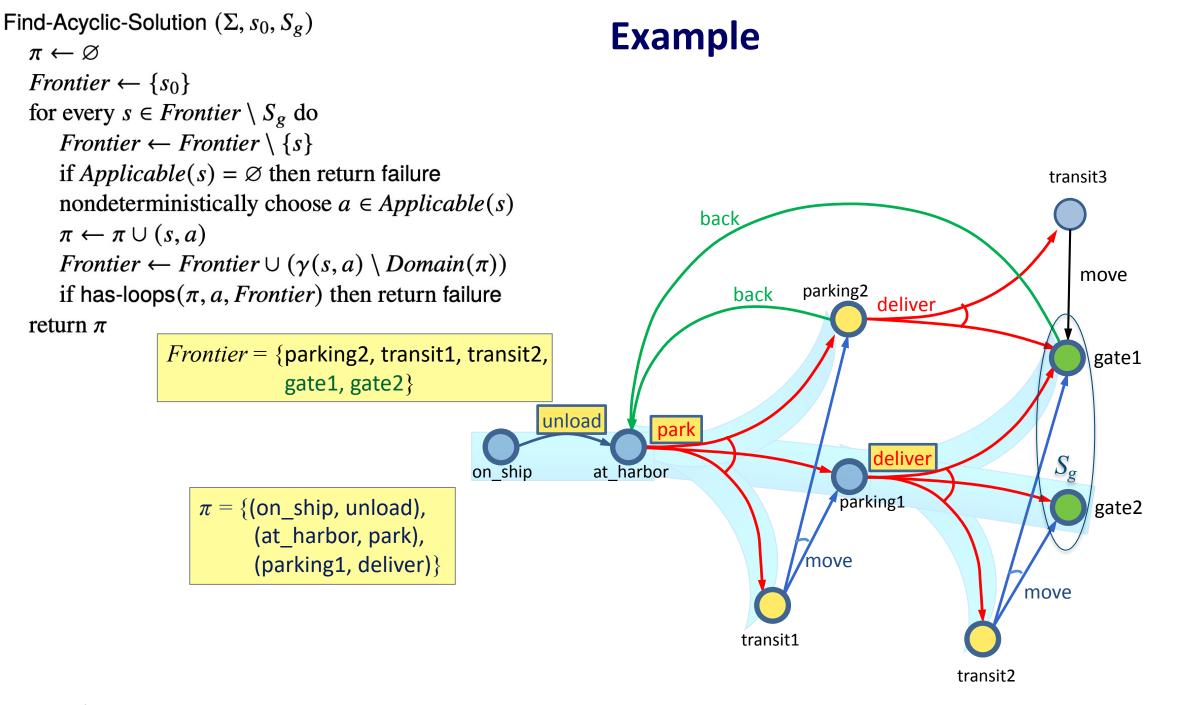
- Does $\gamma(s,a)$ include a state s' that is a π -ancestor of s?
 - for each $s' \in \gamma(s, a) \cap \text{Domain}(\pi)$, is $s \in \hat{\gamma}(s', \pi)$?

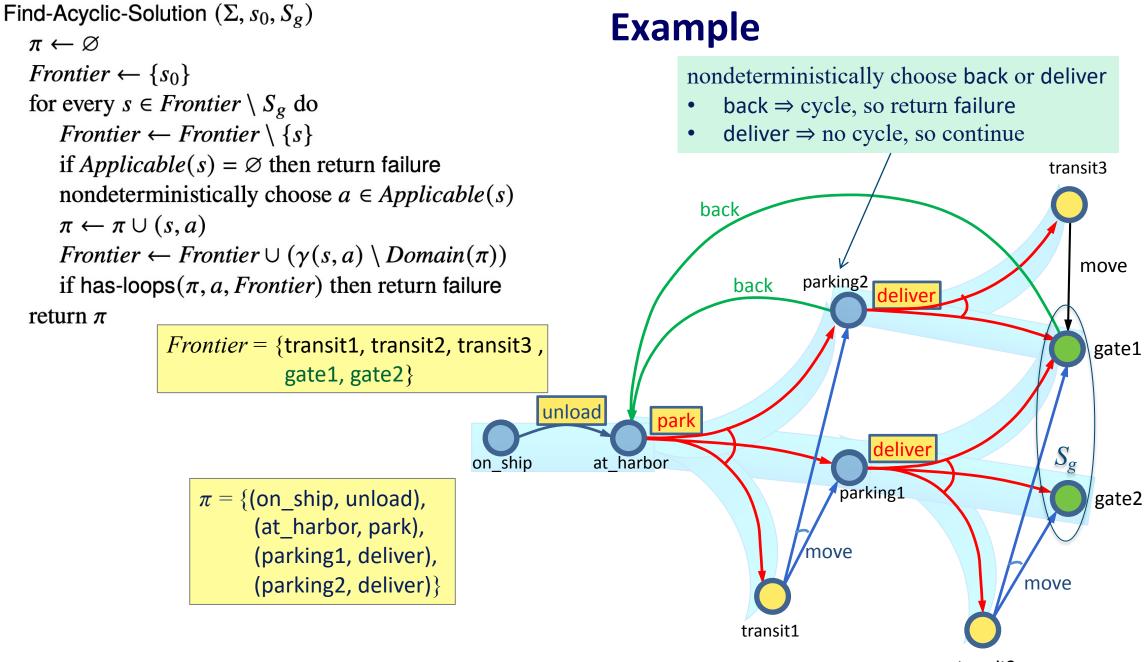


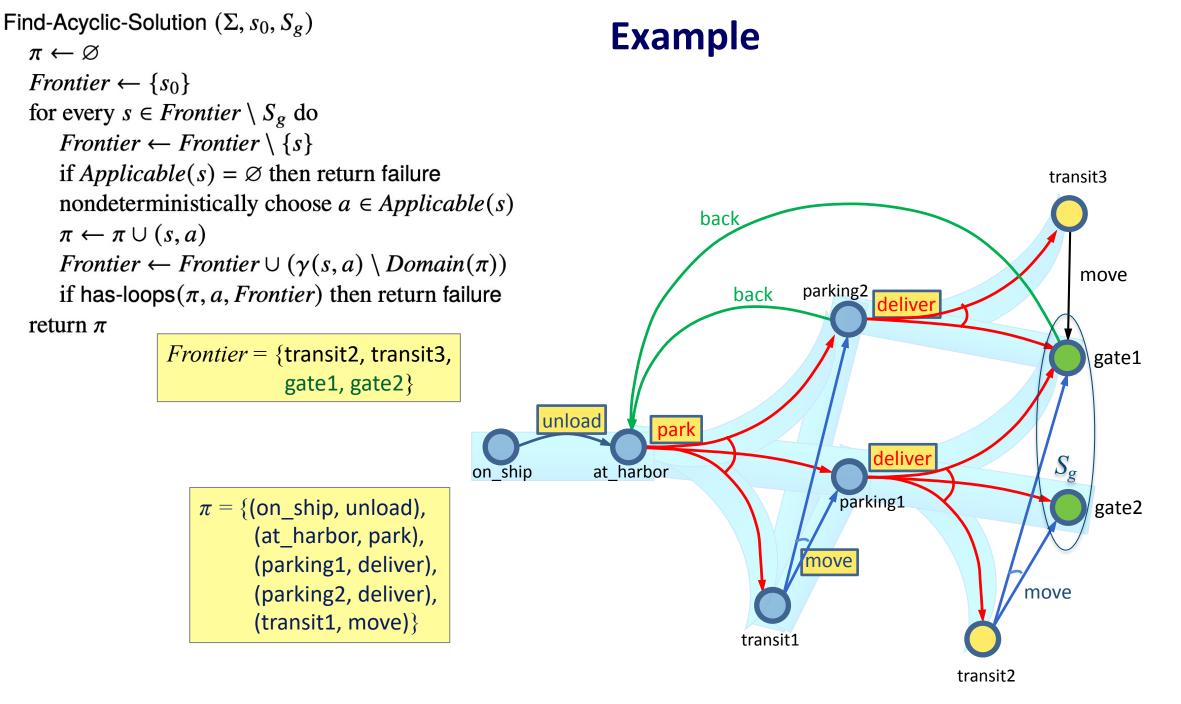


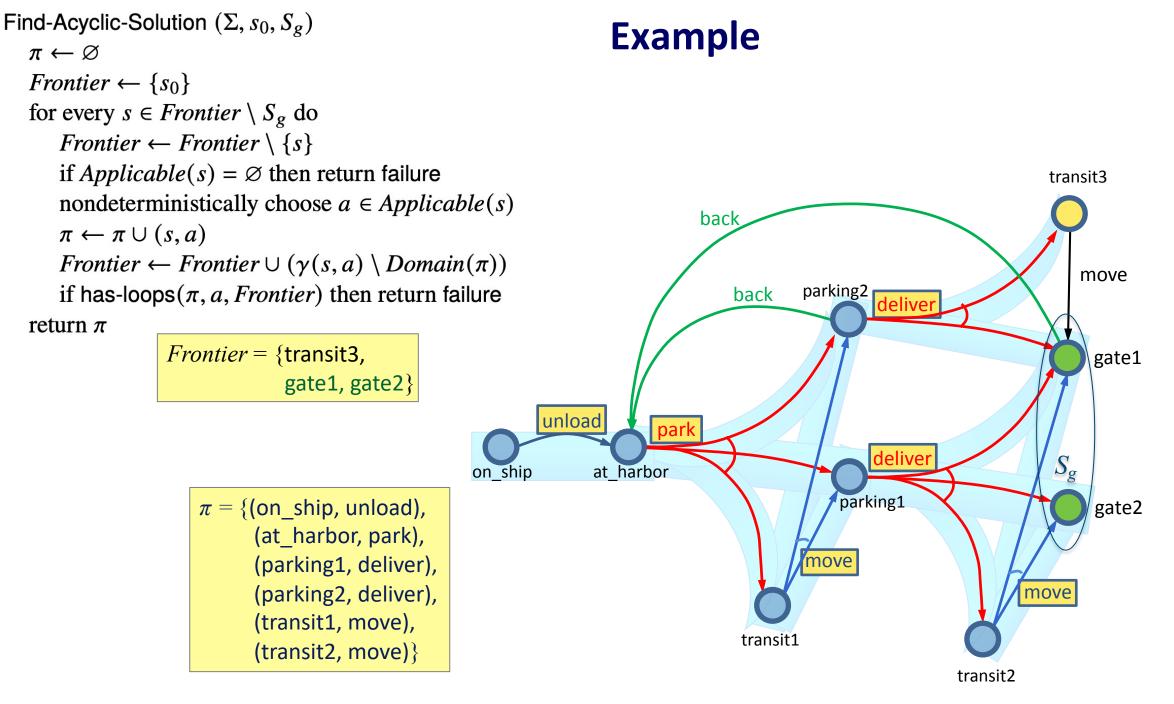
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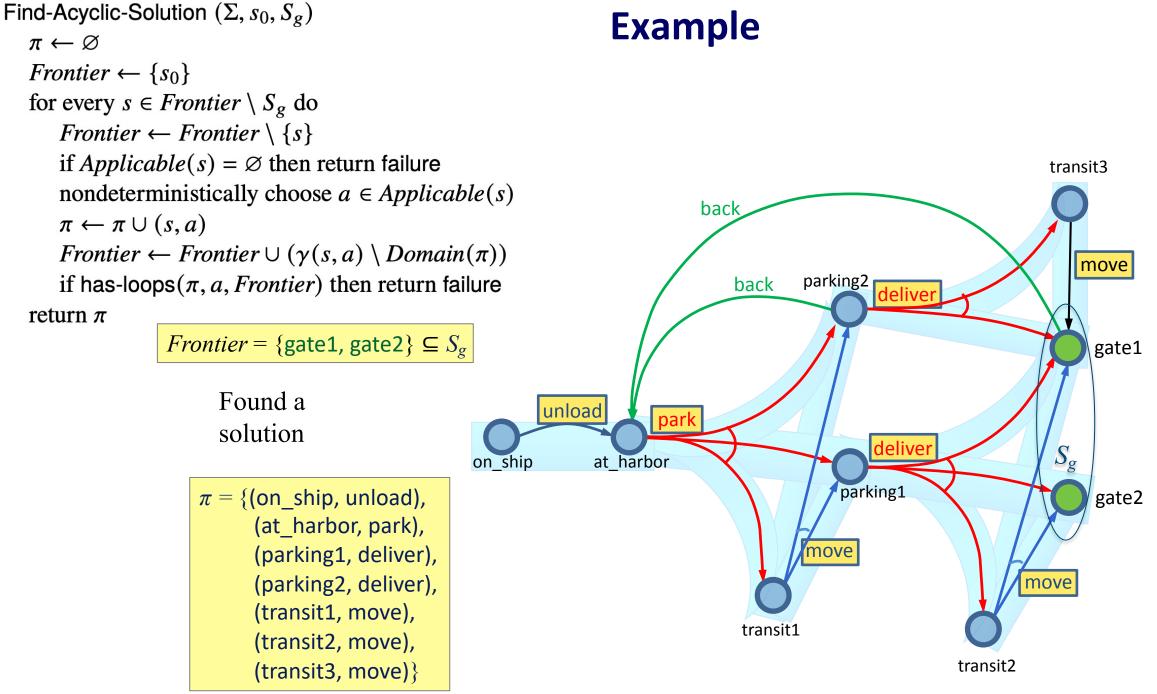








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Like Find-Acyclic-Solution except here:

Find-Safe-Solution

```
Find-Safe-Solution (\Sigma, s_0, S_g)

\pi \leftarrow \varnothing

Frontier \leftarrow \{s_0\}

for every s \in Frontier \setminus S_g do

Frontier \leftarrow Frontier \setminus \{s\}

if Applicable(s) = \varnothing then return failure

nondeterministically choose a \in Applicable(s)

\pi \leftarrow \pi \cup (s, a)

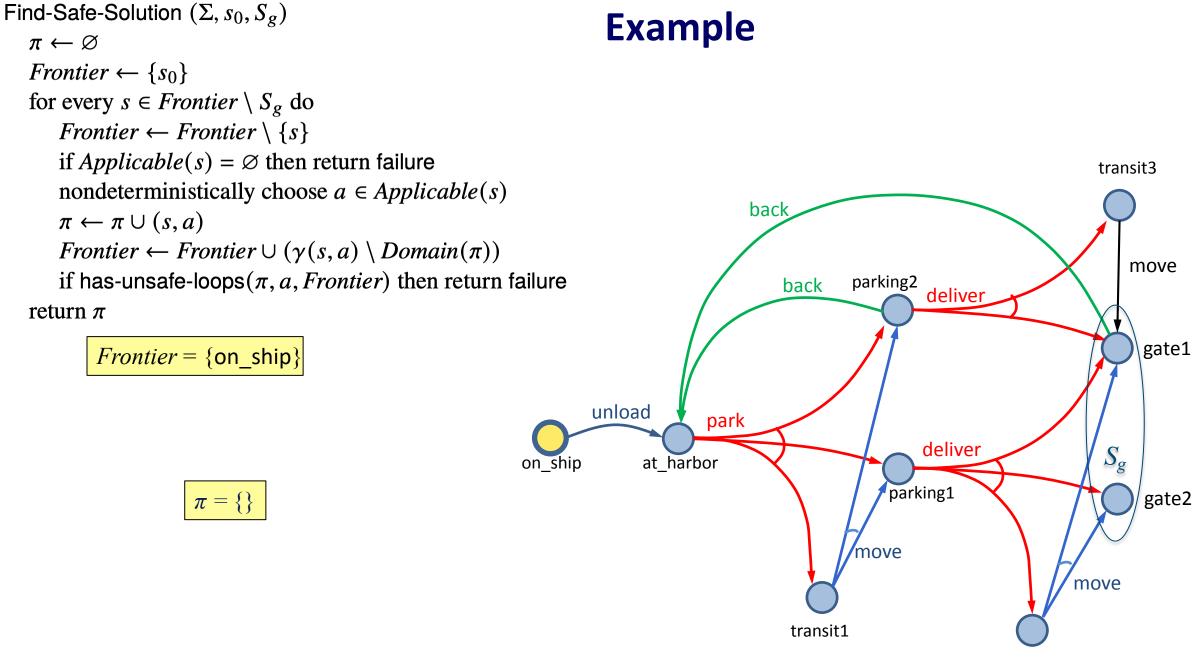
Frontier \leftarrow Frontier \cup (\gamma(s, a) \setminus Domain(\pi))

if has-unsafe-loops(\pi, a, Frontier) then return failure

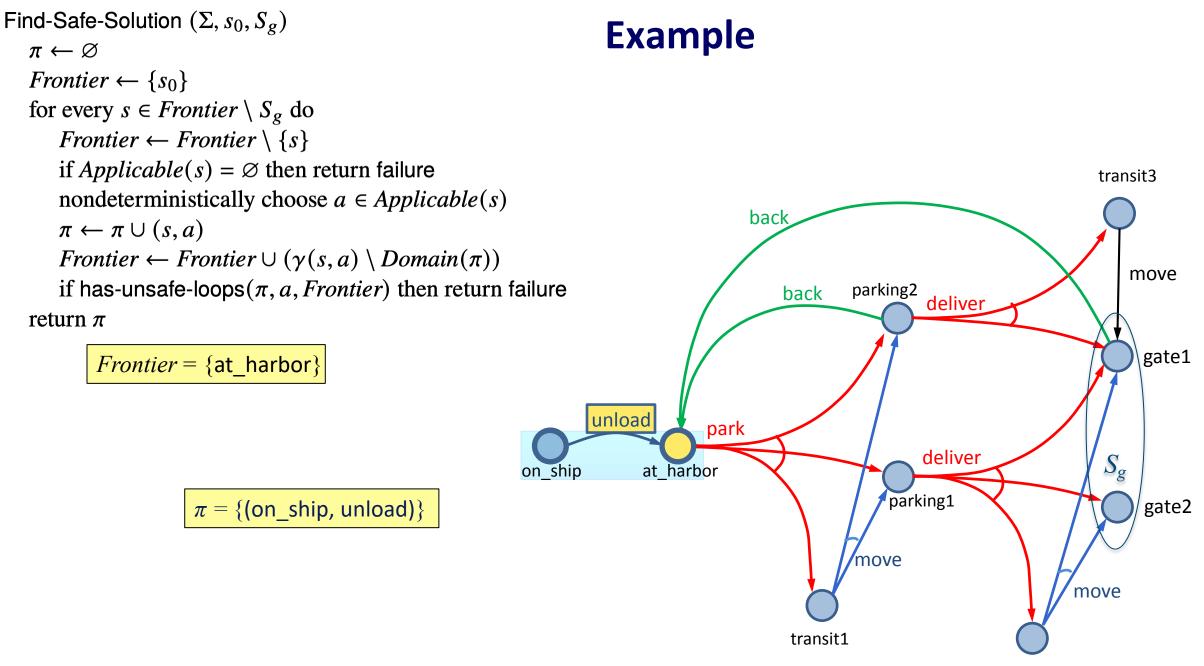
return \pi
```

Check for *unsafe* cycles:

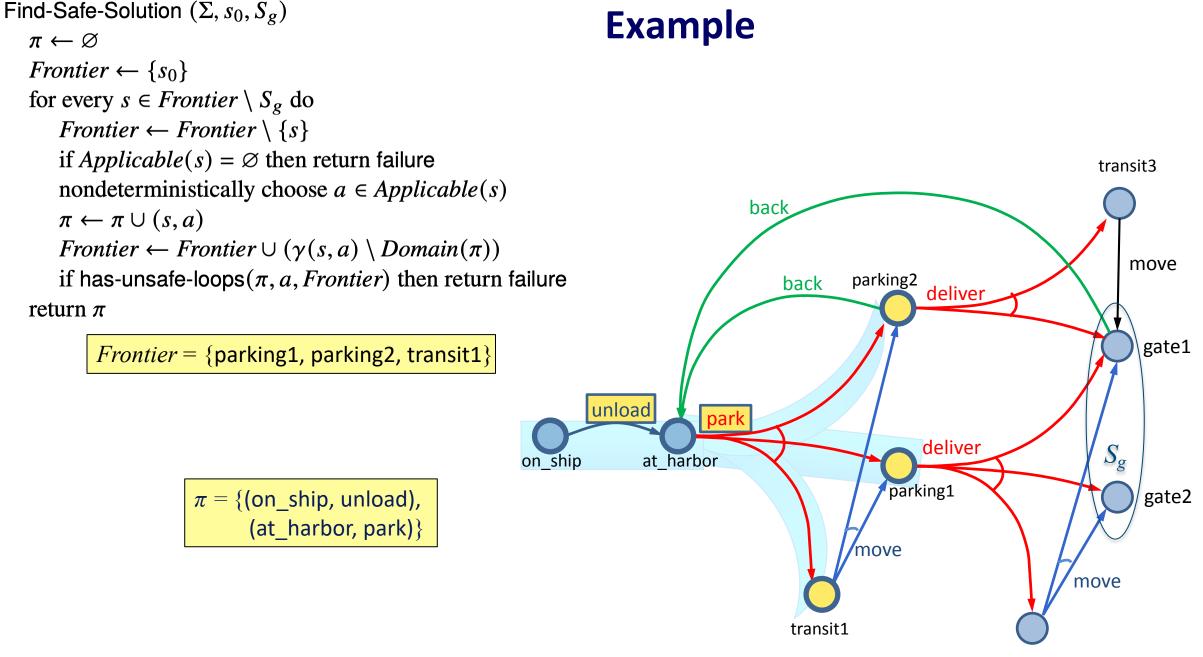
- Does $\gamma(s,a)$ include a state s' from which π can't take us to the frontier?
 - For each $s' \in \gamma(s,a) \cap \text{Dom}(\pi)$, is $\hat{\gamma}(s',\pi) \cap Frontier = \emptyset$?
- If so, then π contains a cycle that can't be escaped

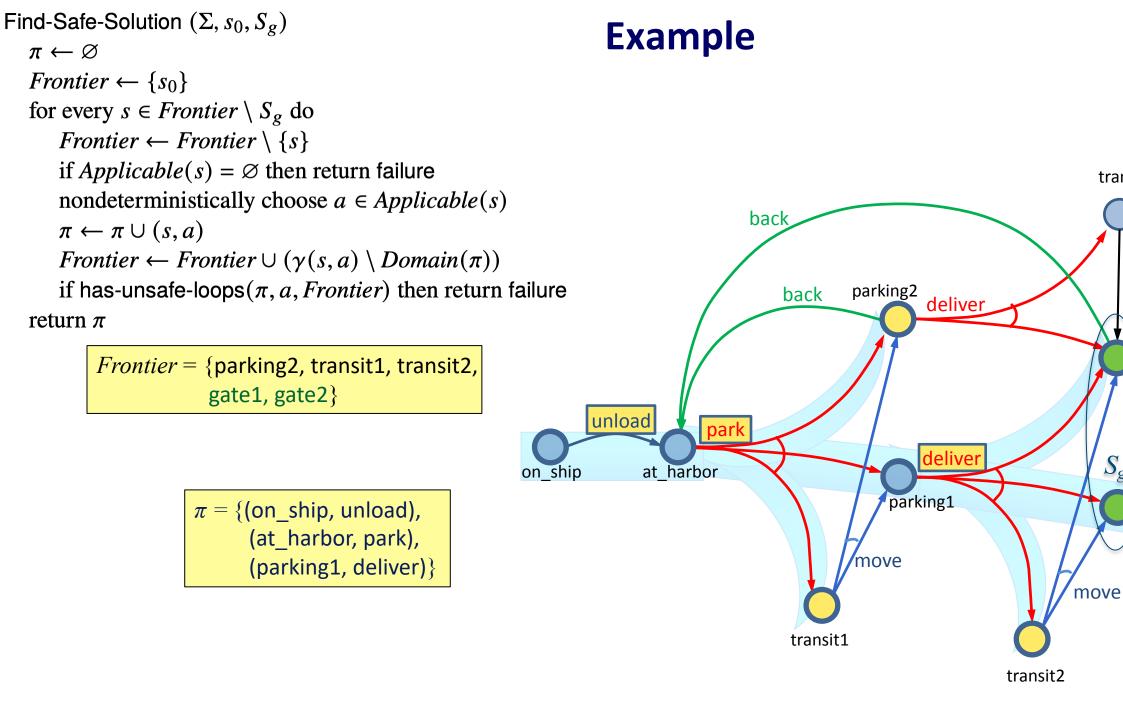


transit2



transit2





transit3

 S_g

move

gate1

gate2

Find-Safe-Solution (Σ, s_0, S_g) $\pi \leftarrow \emptyset$ *Frontier* \leftarrow {*s*₀} for every $s \in Frontier \setminus S_g$ do *Frontier* \leftarrow *Frontier* \setminus {*s*} if $Applicable(s) = \emptyset$ then return failure nondeterministically choose $a \in Applicable(s)$ $\pi \leftarrow \pi \cup (s, a)$ *Frontier* \leftarrow *Frontier* \cup ($\gamma(s, a) \setminus Domain(\pi)$) if has-unsafe-loops(π , a, Frontier) then return failure return π *Frontier* = {parking2, transit1, transit2,

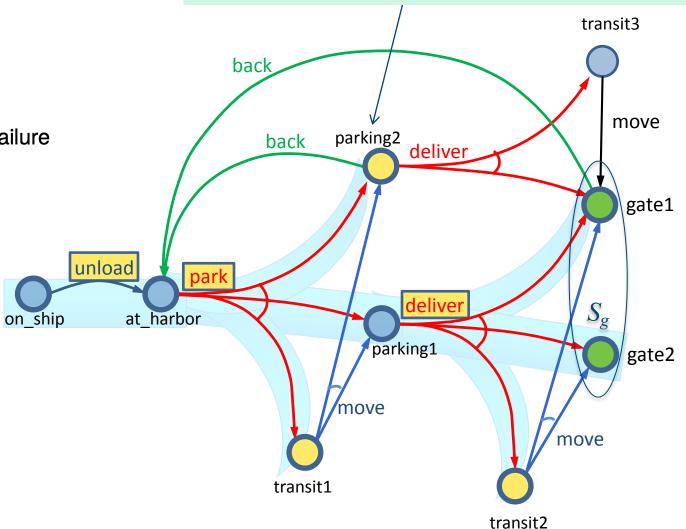
π = {(on_ship, unload),
 (at_harbor, park),
 (parking1, deliver)}

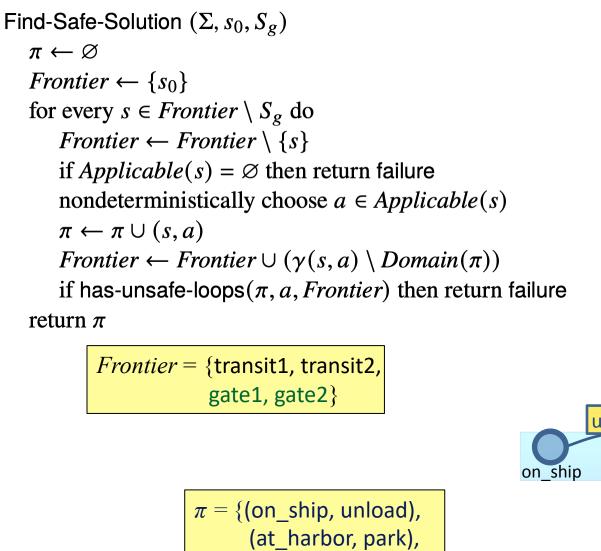
gate1, gate2

Example

Nondeterministically choose either back or deliver

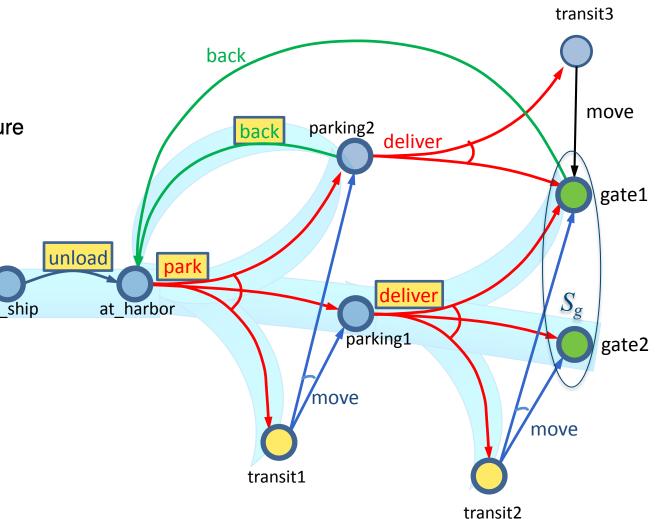
• back is OK because cycle is escapable

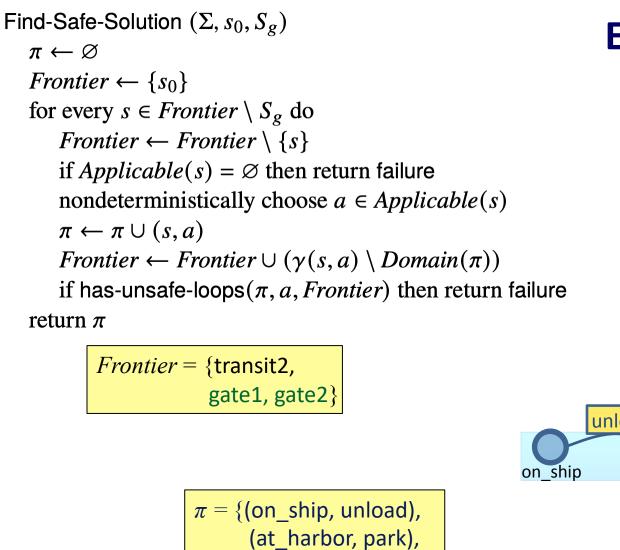




(parking1, deliver),

(parking2, back)}

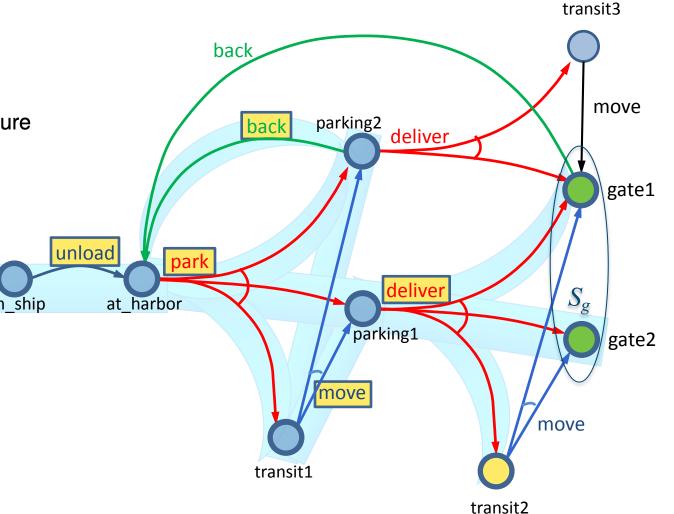




(parking1, deliver),

(parking2, back),

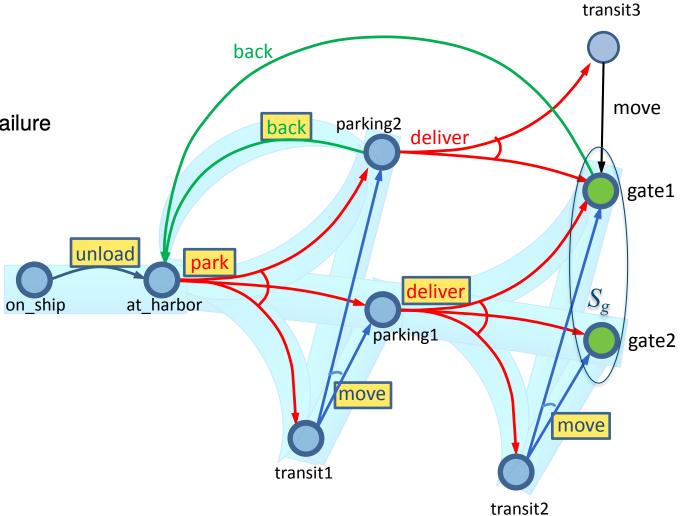
(transit1, move)



Find-Safe-Solution
$$(\Sigma, s_0, S_g)$$

 $\pi \leftarrow \varnothing$
Frontier $\leftarrow \{s_0\}$
for every $s \in Frontier \setminus S_g$ do
Frontier $\leftarrow Frontier \setminus \{s\}$
if Applicable(s) = \varnothing then return failure
nondeterministically choose $a \in Applicable(s)$
 $\pi \leftarrow \pi \cup (s, a)$
Frontier $\leftarrow Frontier \cup (\gamma(s, a) \setminus Domain(\pi))$
if has-unsafe-loops($\pi, a, Frontier$) then return failure
return π
Frontier = {gate1, gate2} $\subseteq S_g$

 $\pi = \{(on_ship, unload), \\ (at_harbor, park), \\ (parking1, deliver), \\ (parking2, back), \\ (transit1, move), \\ (transit2, move)\}$

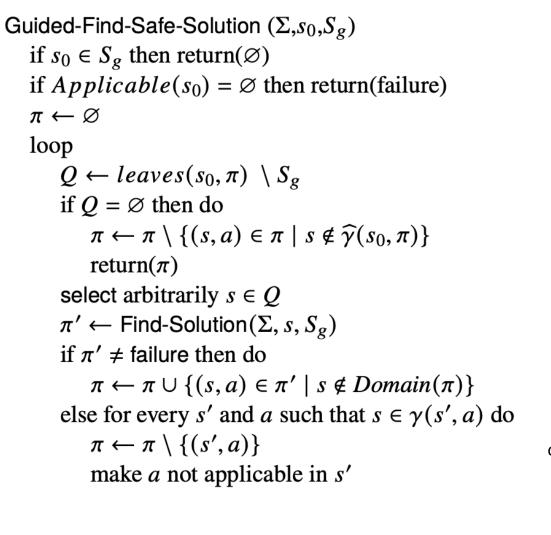


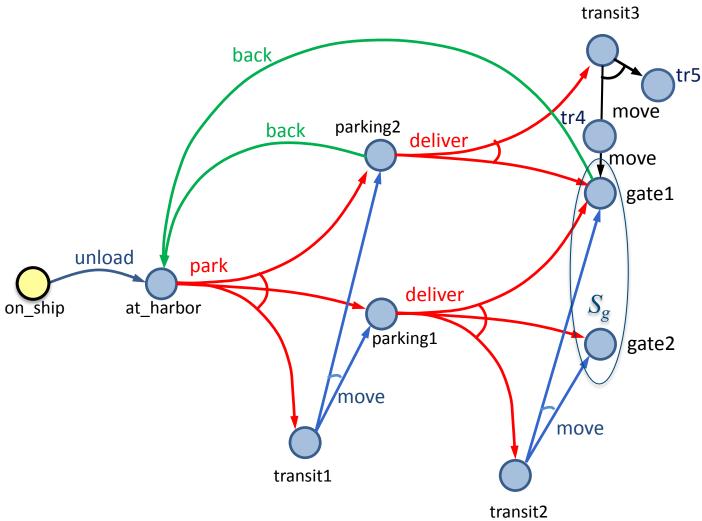
Guided-Find-Safe-Solution

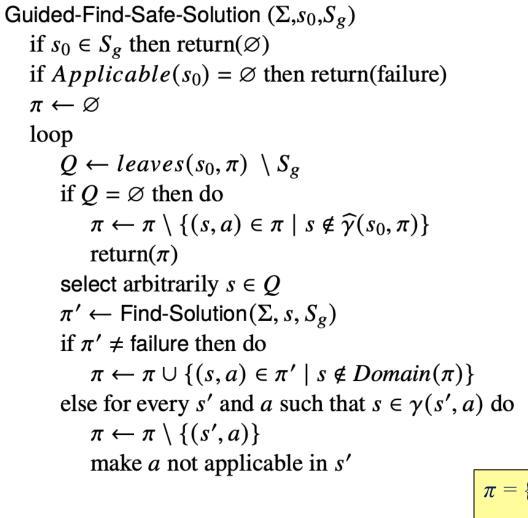
- Motivation: much easier to find solutions if they don't have to be safe
 - Find-Safe-Solution needs plans for all possible outcomes of actions
 - Find-Solution only needs a plan for one of them
- Idea:
 - ► loop
 - Find a (possibly unsafe) solution π
 - For each each leaf node of π
 - If the leaf node isn't a goal,
 - find a (possibly unsafe) solution and incorporate it into π

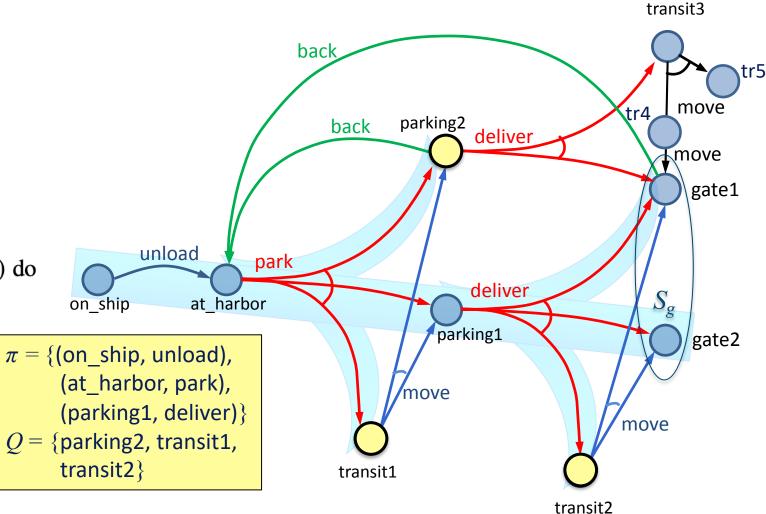
Guided-Find-Safe-Solution

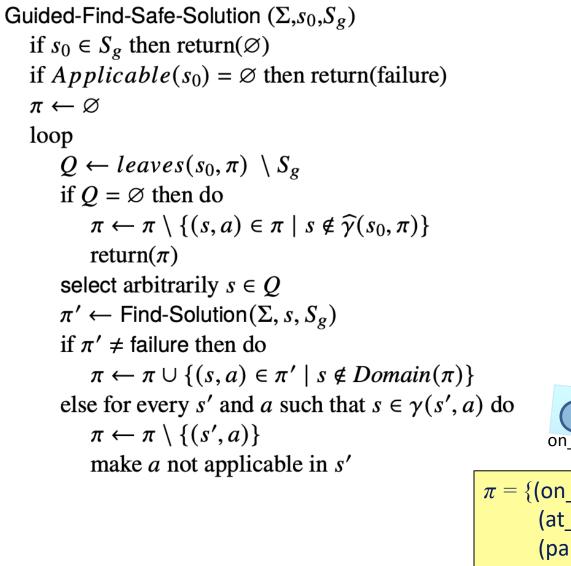
```
Guided-Find-Safe-Solution (\Sigma, s_0, S_g)
   if s_0 \in S_g then return(\emptyset)
   if Applicable(s_0) = \emptyset then return(failure)
   \pi \leftarrow \emptyset
   loop
                                                                      \pi is a solution. Return the part
       Q \leftarrow leaves(s_0, \pi) \setminus S_g
                                                                      that's reachable from s_0.
       if Q = \emptyset then do
           \pi \leftarrow \pi \setminus \{(s,a) \in \pi \mid s \notin \widehat{\gamma}(s_0,\pi)\}
                                                                      Choose any leaf s that isn't a goal.
           return(\pi)
                                                                      Find a (possibly unsafe) solution \pi' for s.
       select arbitrarily s \in Q
       \pi' \leftarrow \text{Find-Solution}(\Sigma, s, S_g)
                                                                             For each (s,a) in \pi', add to \pi
       if \pi' \neq failure then do
                                                                             unless \pi already has an action at s
           \pi \leftarrow \pi \cup \{(s, a) \in \pi' \mid s \notin Domain(\pi)\}
       else for every s' and a such that s \in \gamma(s', a) do
                                                                                 s is unsolvable. For each (s',a) that
           \pi \leftarrow \pi \setminus \{(s', a)\}
                                                                                 can produce s, modify \pi and \Sigma so
           make a not applicable in s'
                                                                                 we'll never use a at s'
```

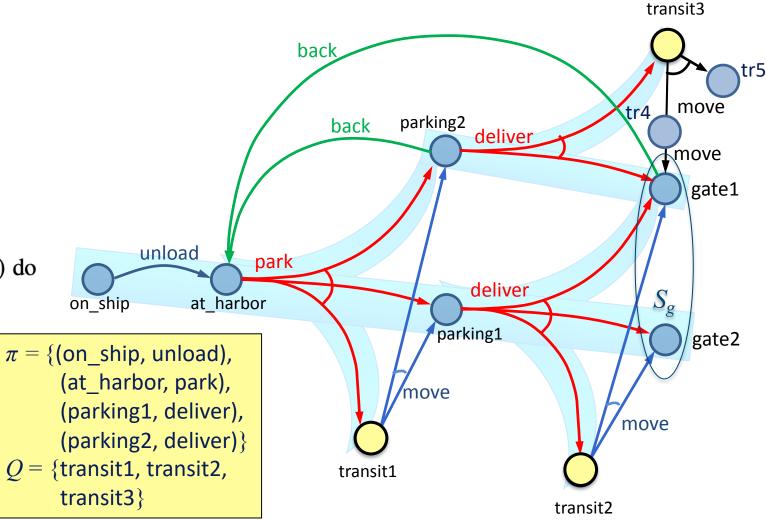


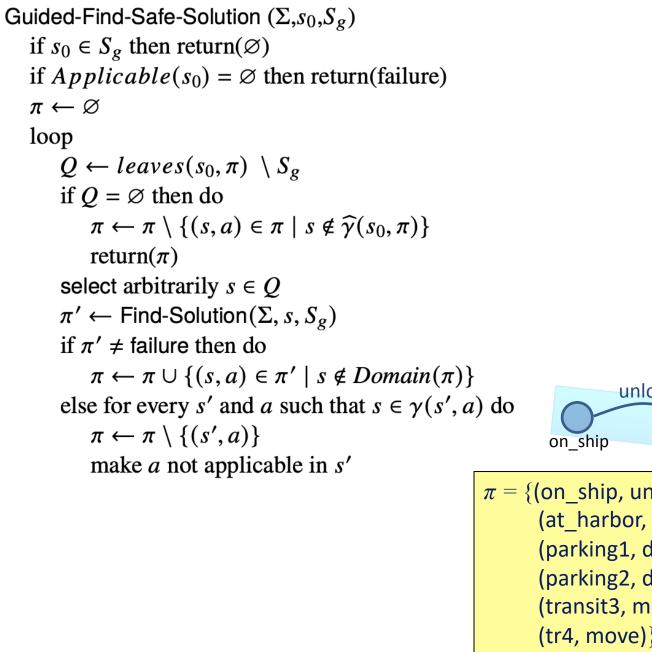


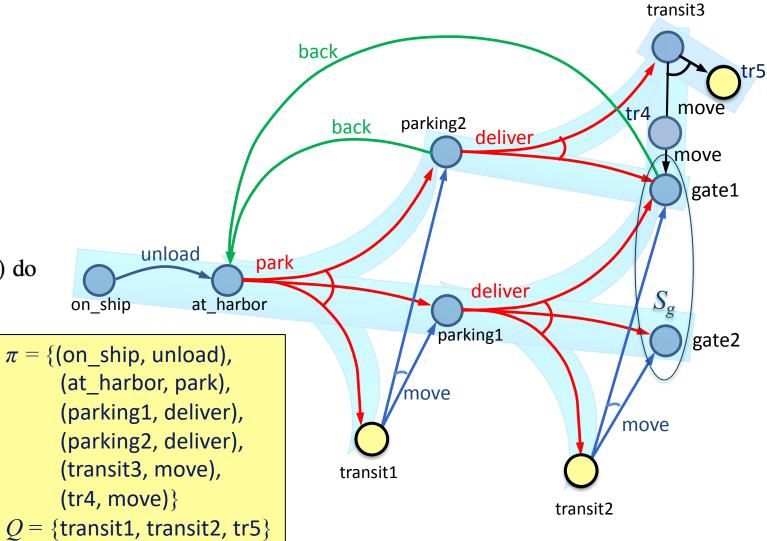


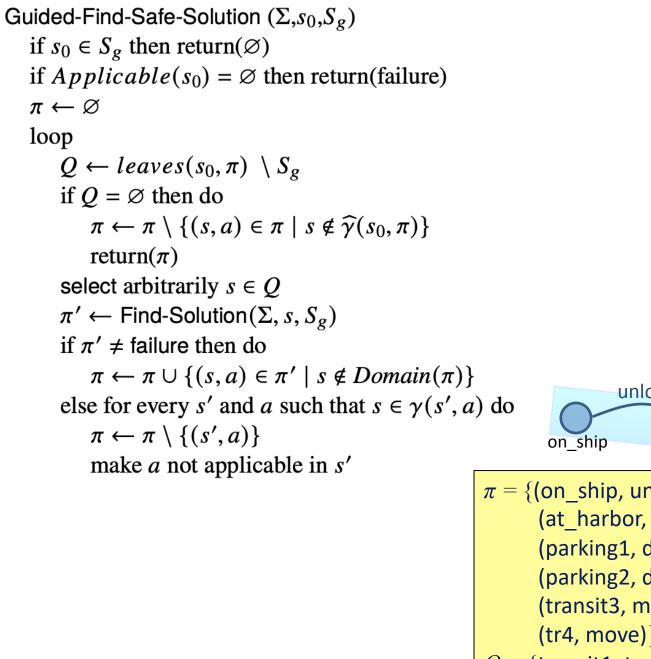


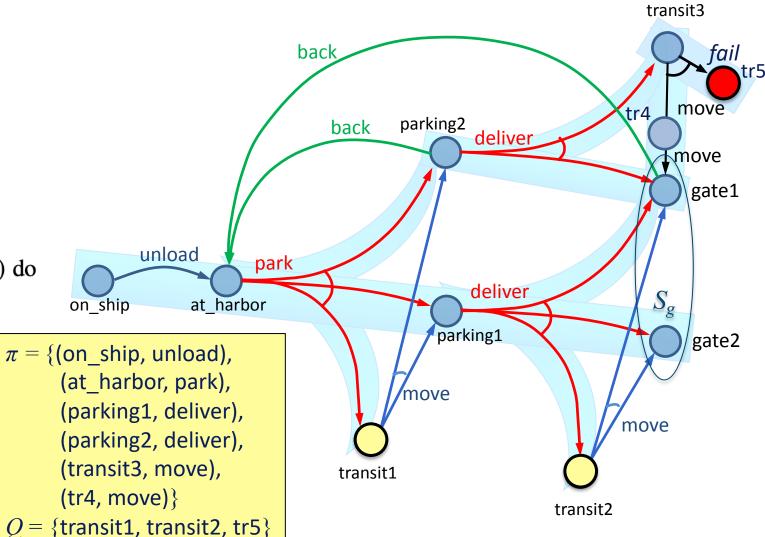


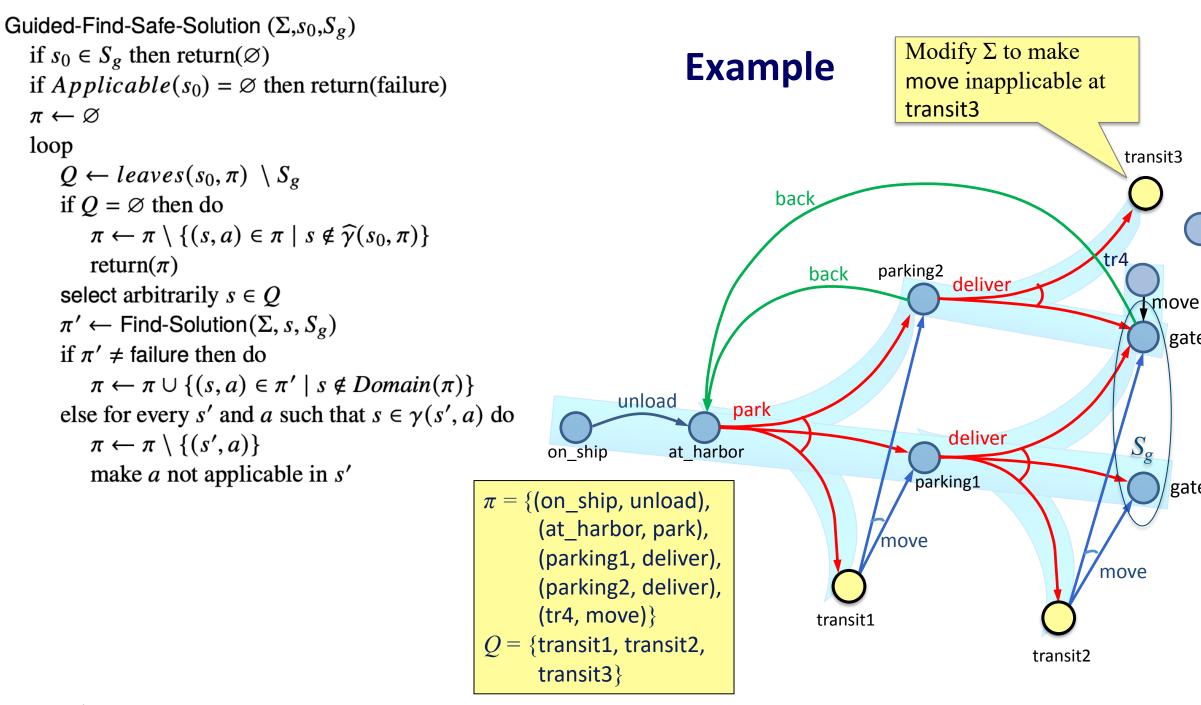








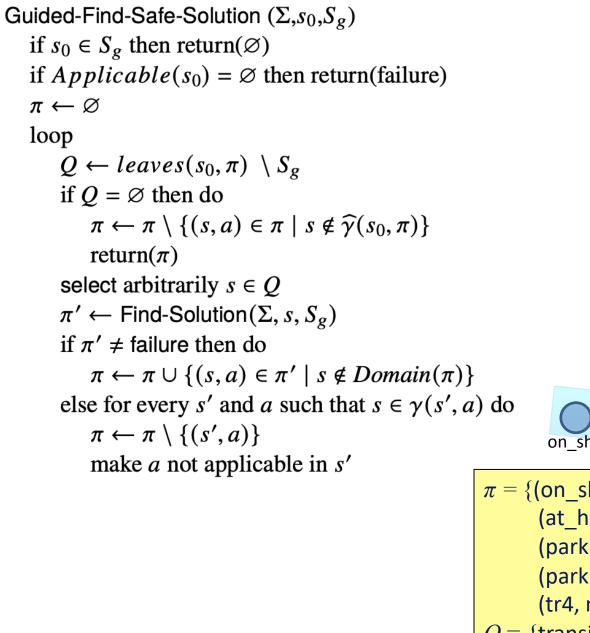


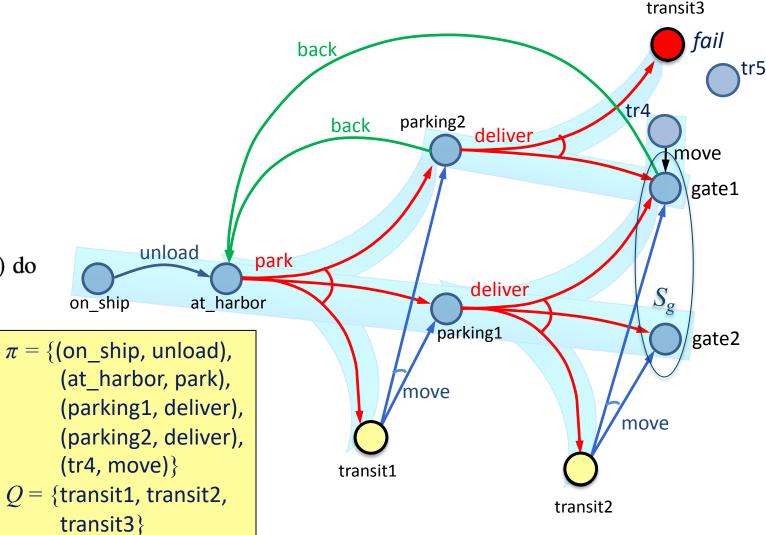


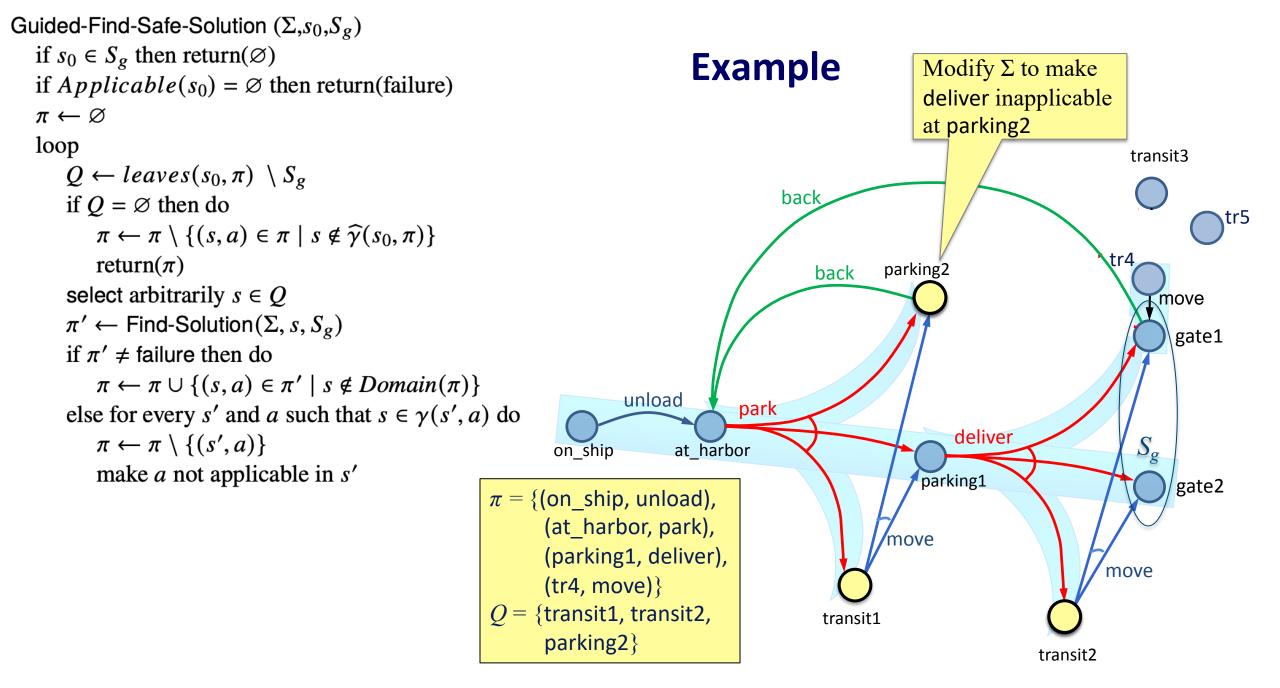
tr5

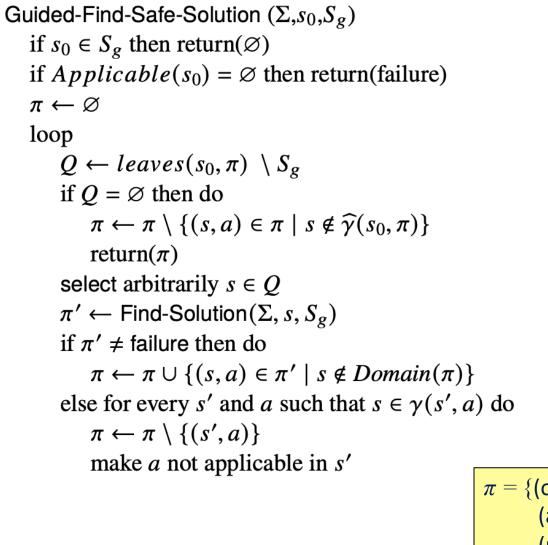
gate1

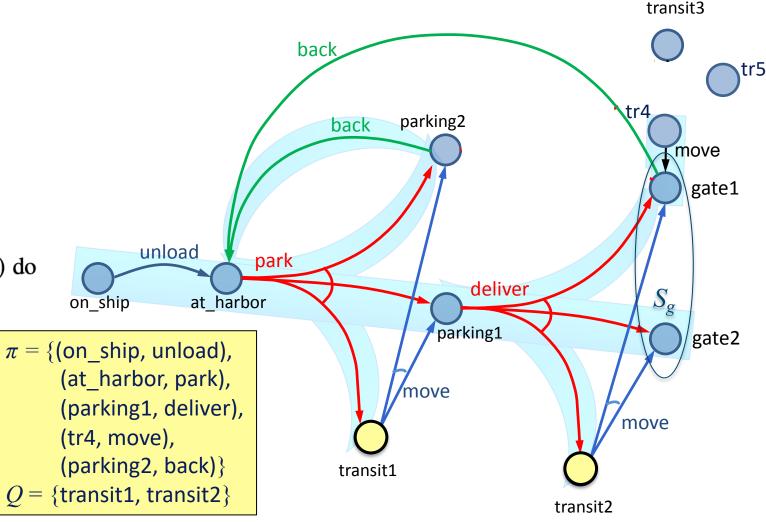
gate2

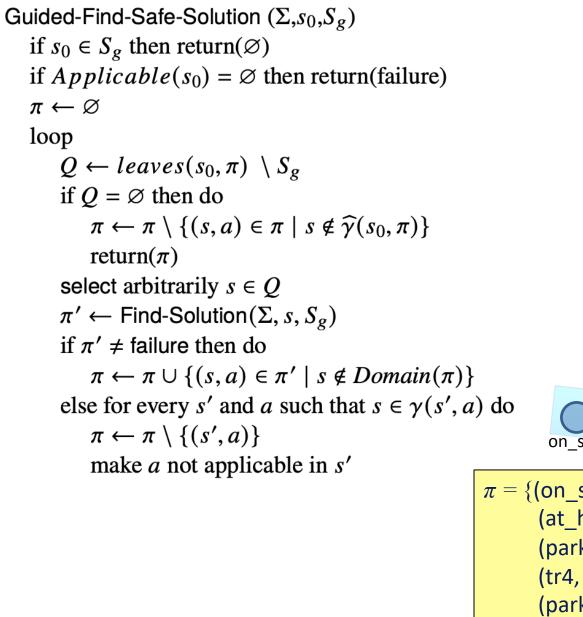


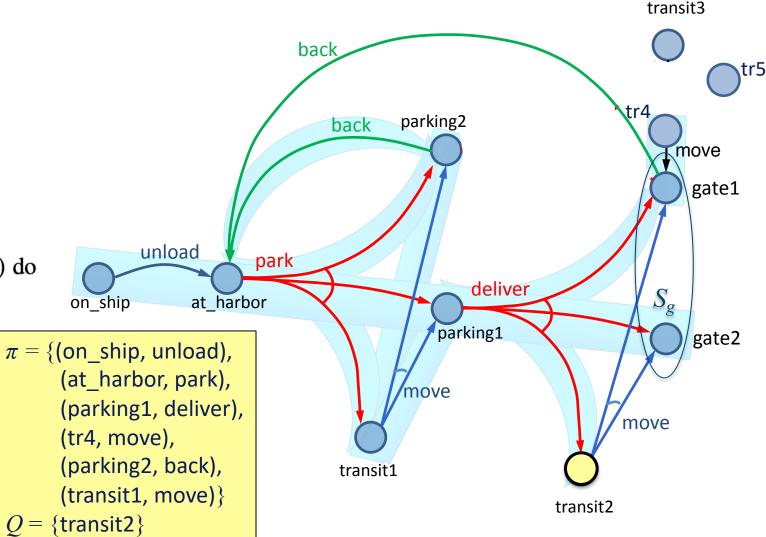


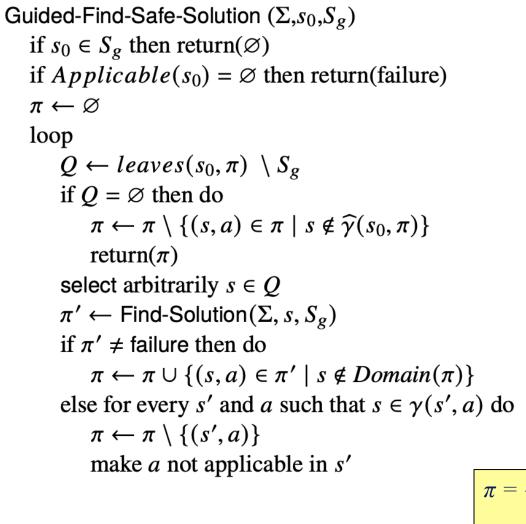


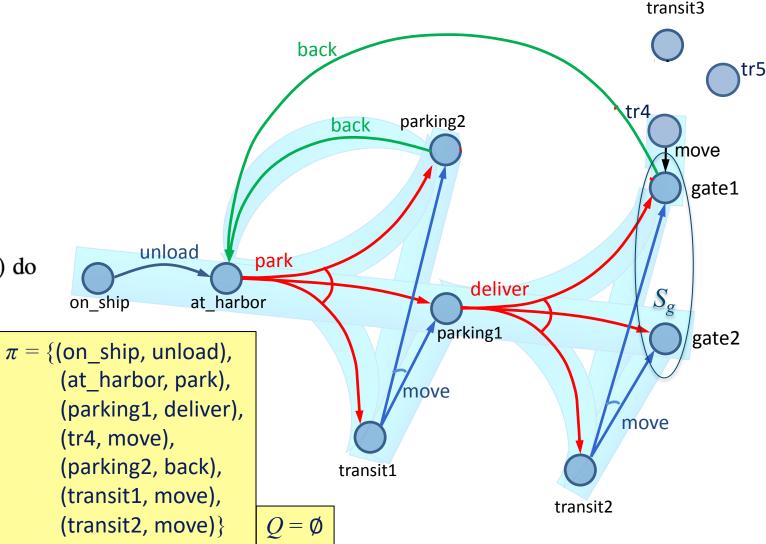


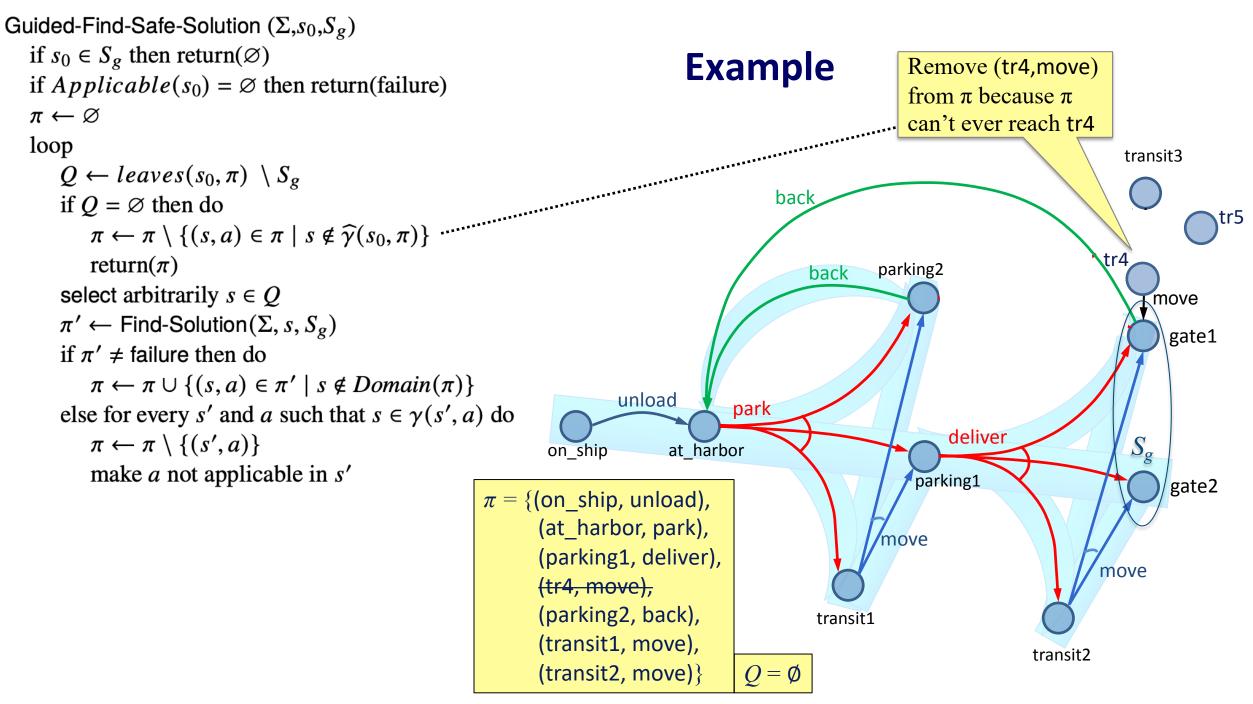












```
Guided-Find-Safe-Solution (\Sigma, s_0, S_g)
    if s_0 \in S_g then return(\emptyset)
    if Applicable(s_0) = \emptyset then return(failure)
    \pi \leftarrow \emptyset
   loop
        Q \leftarrow leaves(s_0, \pi) \setminus S_g
        if Q = \emptyset then do
             \pi \leftarrow \pi \setminus \{(s,a) \in \pi \mid s \notin \widehat{\gamma}(s_0,\pi)\}
             return(\pi)
        select arbitrarily s \in Q
        \pi' \leftarrow \text{Find-Solution}(\Sigma, s, S_g)
        if \pi' \neq failure then do
             \pi \leftarrow \pi \cup \{(s, a) \in \pi' \mid s \notin Domain(\pi)\}
        else for every s' and a such that s \in \gamma(s', a) do
             \pi \leftarrow \pi \setminus \{(s', a)\}
             make a not applicable in s'
```

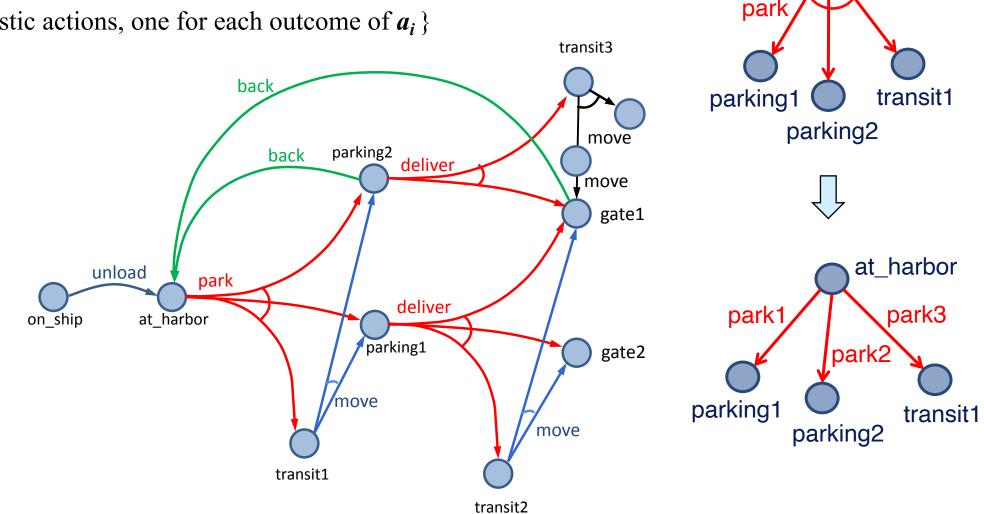
Discussion

- How to implement it?
 - Need implementation of Find-Solution
 - Need it to be very efficient
 - We'll call it many times
- Idea: instead of Find-Solution, use a classical planner
 - Any of the algorithms from Chapter 2
 - Efficient algorithms, search heuristics
- Need to convert the actions into something the classical planner can use ...

Determinization

- Let a_i be a nondeterministic action with *n* possible outcomes • L
- *Determinization* of $a_i =$

{*n* deterministic actions, one for each outcome of a_i }



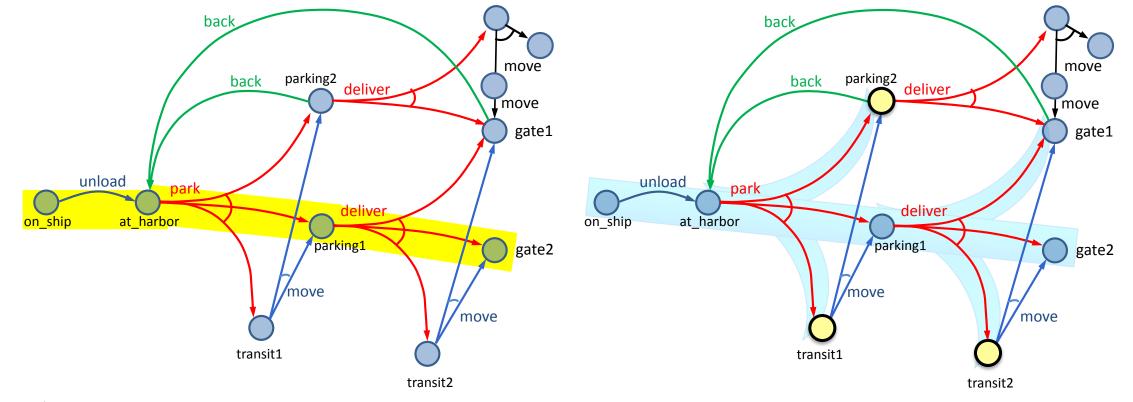
at_harbor

Determinization

- Suppose a classical planner returns an acyclic plan $p = \langle a_1, a_2, ..., a_n \rangle$
- Actions and states: $\langle s_0, a_1, s_1, a_2, s_2, a_3, ..., a_n, s_n \rangle$
- Convert *p* to a policy $\langle (s_0, a_1), (s_1, a_2), ..., (s_{n-1}, a_n) \rangle$
 - a_1 = the nondeterministic action whose determinization includes a_i

```
\begin{aligned} \mathsf{Plan2policy}(p = \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle, s) \\ \pi \leftarrow \varnothing \\ \text{loop for } i \text{ from 1 to } n \text{ do} \\ \pi \leftarrow \pi \cup (s, \mathsf{det2nondet}(a_i)) \\ s \leftarrow \gamma_d(s, a_i) \end{aligned}
```

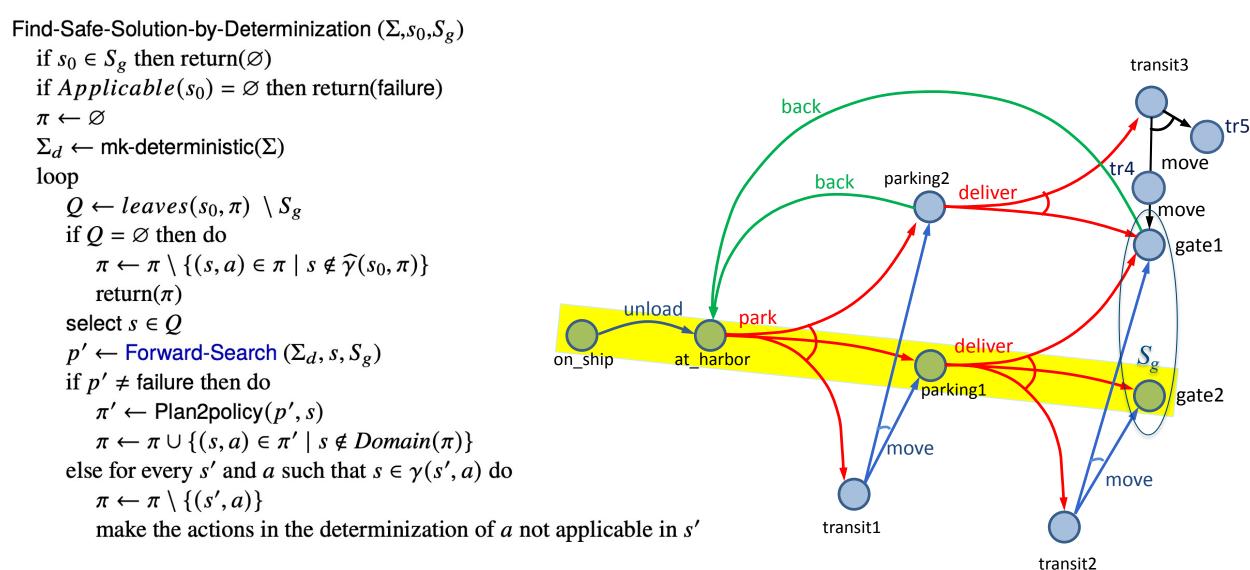
return π

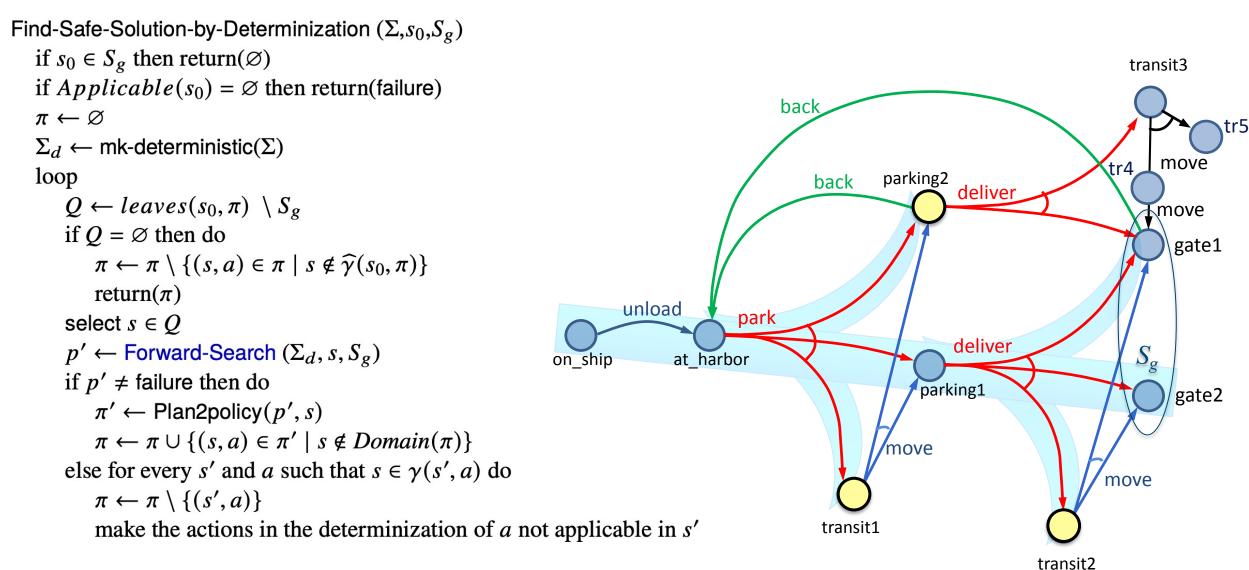


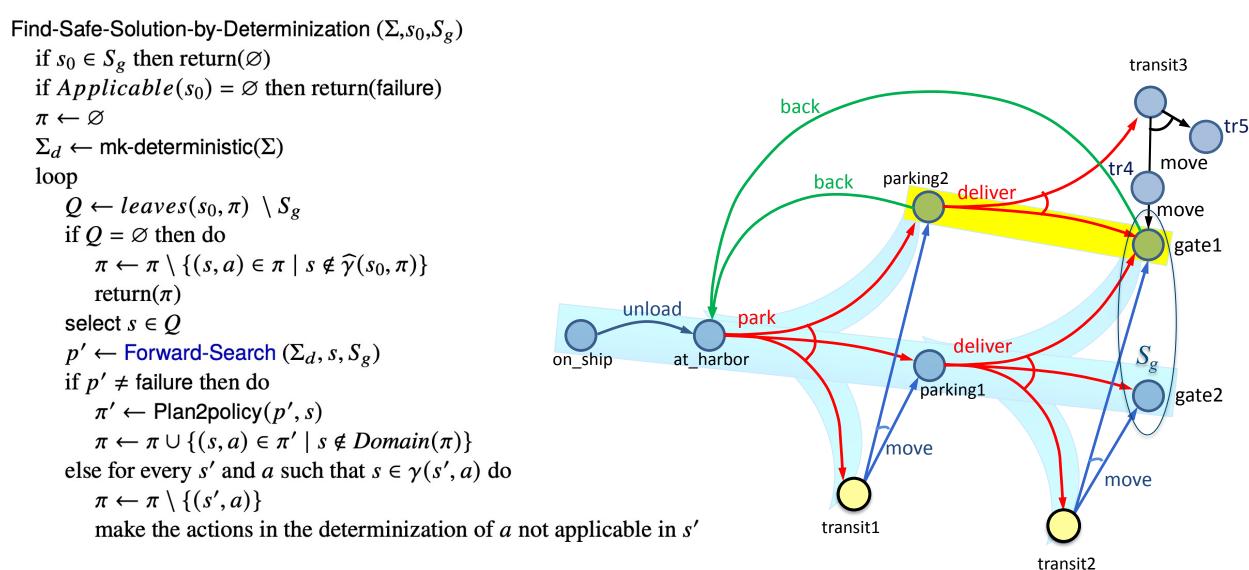
Find-Safe-Solution-by-Determinization

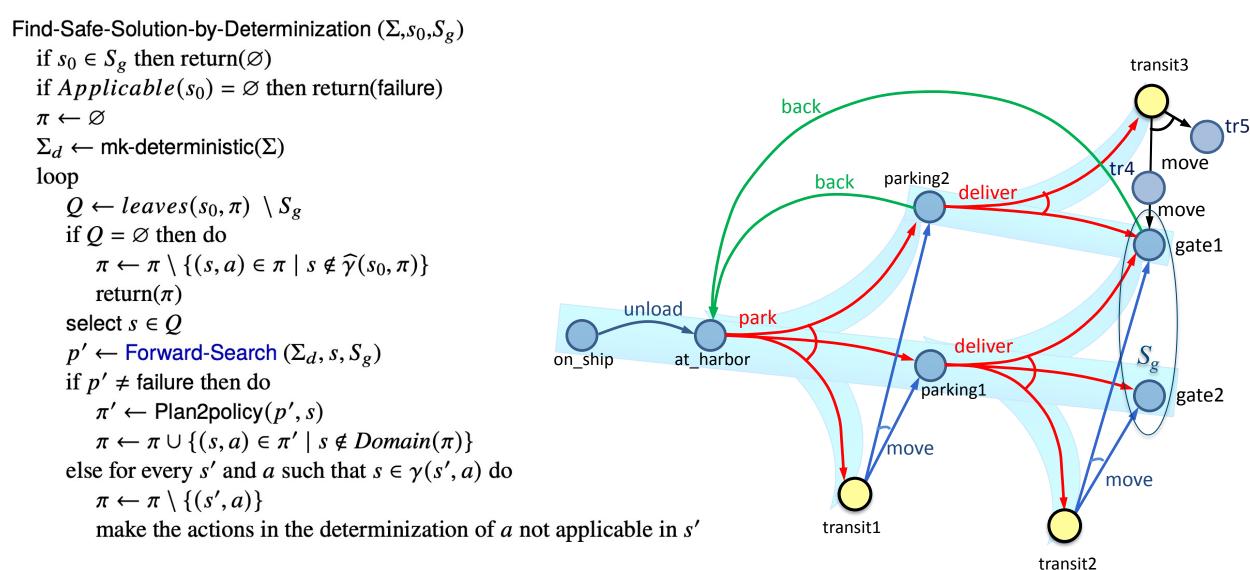
Guided-Find-Safe-Solution (Σ, s_0, S_g) if $s_0 \in S_g$ then return(\emptyset) if $Applicable(s_0) = \emptyset$ then return(failure) $\pi \leftarrow \emptyset$ loop $Q \leftarrow leaves(s_0, \pi) \setminus S_{\sigma}$ if $Q = \emptyset$ then do $\pi \leftarrow \pi \setminus \{(s,a) \in \pi \mid s \notin \widehat{\gamma}(s_0,\pi)\}$ return(π) select arbitrarily $s \in Q$ $\pi' \leftarrow \text{Find-Solution}(\Sigma, s, S_g)$ if $\pi' \neq$ failure then do $\pi \leftarrow \pi \cup \{(s, a) \in \pi' \mid s \notin Domain(\pi)\}$ else for every s' and a such that $s \in \gamma(s', a)$ do $\pi \leftarrow \pi \setminus \{(s', a)\}$ make a not applicable in s'

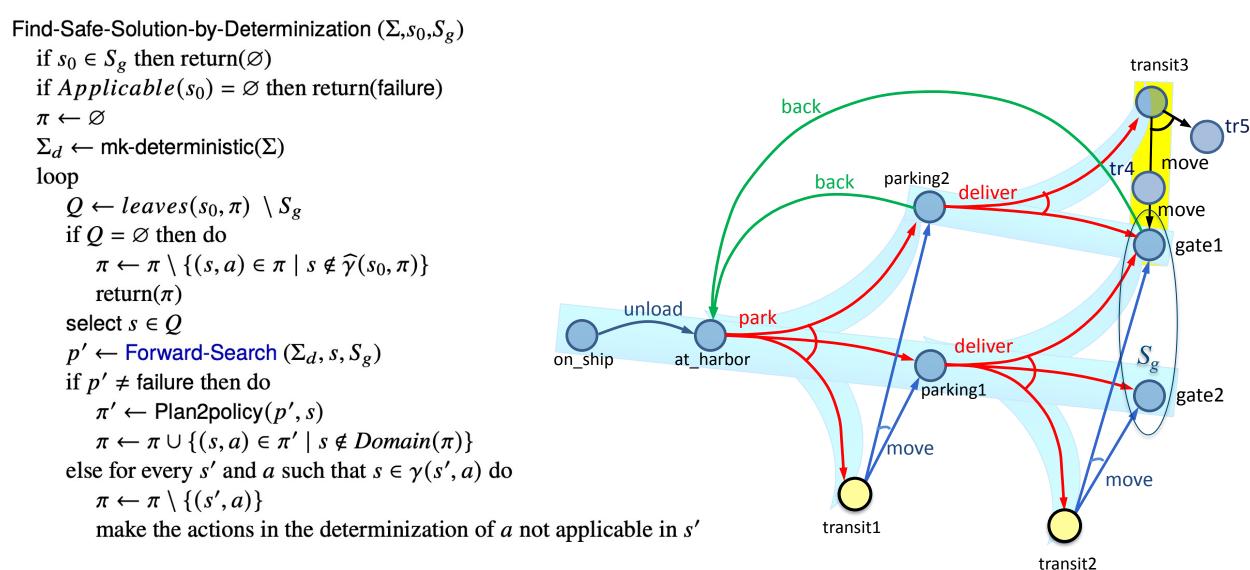
Find-Safe-Solution-by-Determinization (Σ, s_0, S_g) if $s_0 \in S_{\varphi}$ then return(\emptyset) if $Applicable(s_0) = \emptyset$ then return(failure) $\pi \leftarrow \emptyset$ $\Sigma_d \leftarrow \mathsf{mk}\operatorname{-deterministic}(\Sigma)$ loop $Q \leftarrow leaves(s_0, \pi) \setminus S_{g}$ Any classical if $Q = \emptyset$ then do planner that doesn't $\pi \leftarrow \pi \setminus \{(s,a) \in \pi \mid s \notin \widehat{\gamma}(s_0,\pi)\}$ return cyclic plans return(π) select $s \in Q$ $p' \leftarrow \text{Forward-Search}(\Sigma_d, s, S_g)$ if $p' \neq$ failure then do $\pi' \leftarrow \text{Plan2policy}(p', s)$ $\pi \leftarrow \pi \cup \{(s, a) \in \pi' \mid s \notin Domain(\pi)\}$ else for every s' and a such that $s \in \gamma(s', a)$ do $\pi \leftarrow \pi \setminus \{(s', a)\}$ make the actions in the determinization of a not applicable in s'

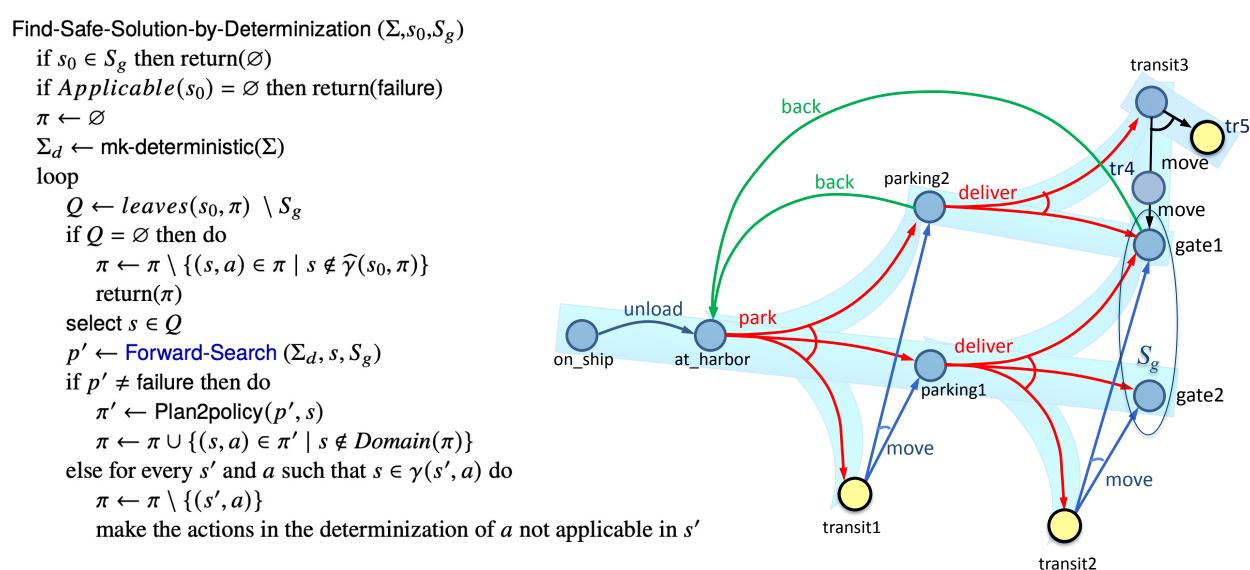


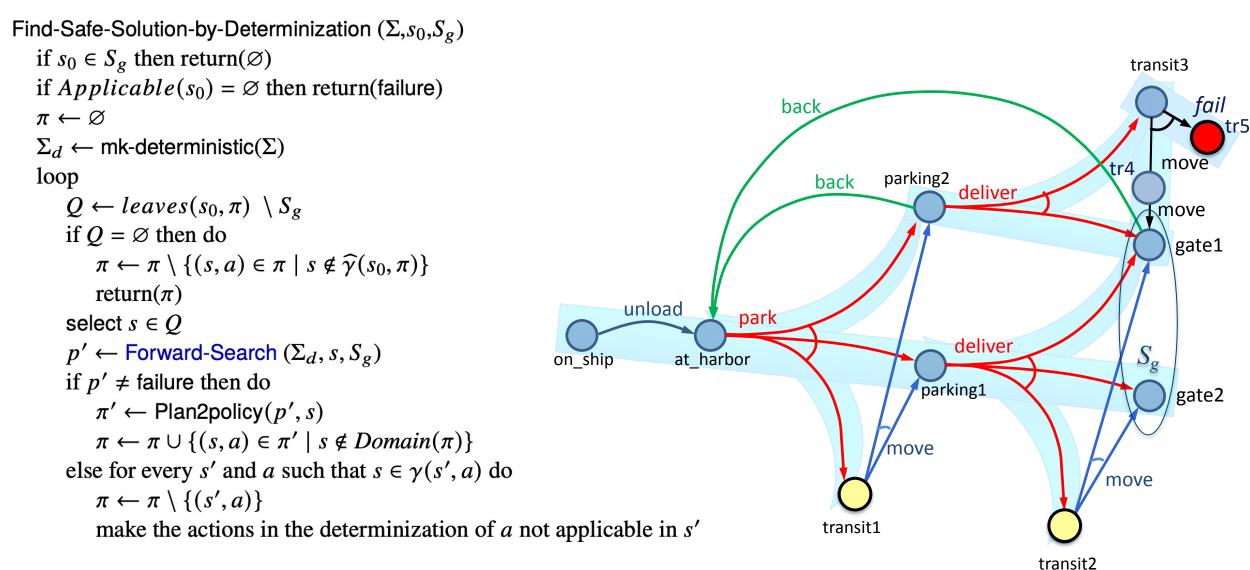


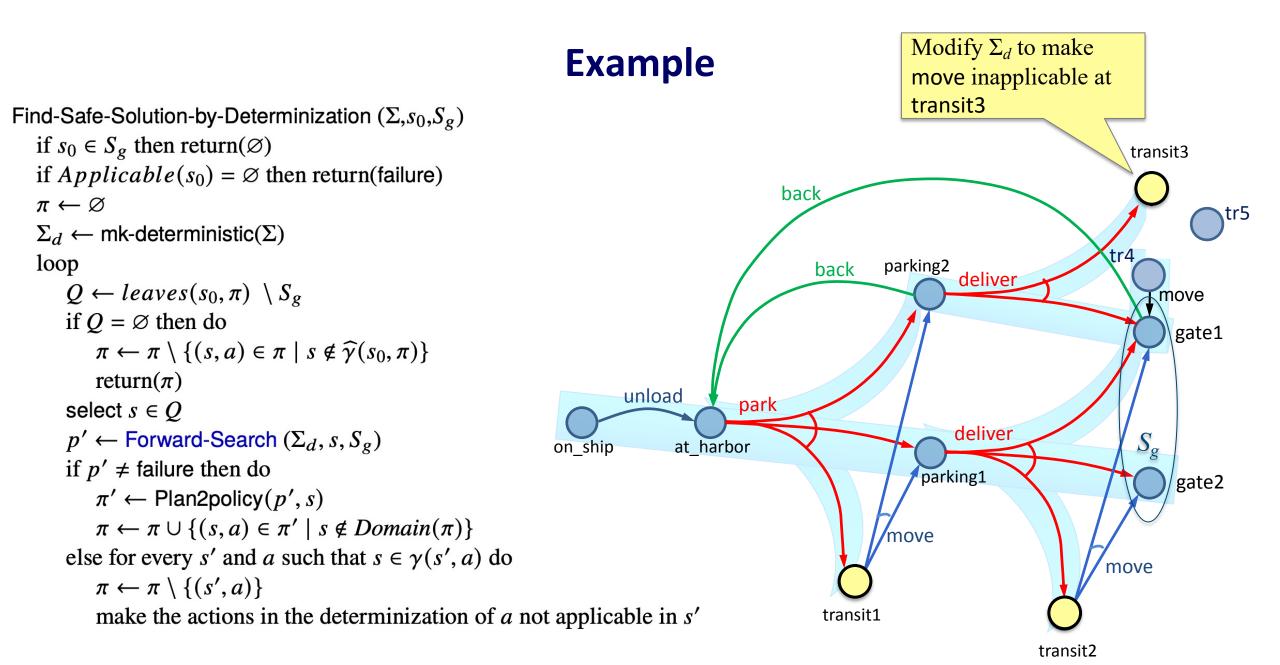


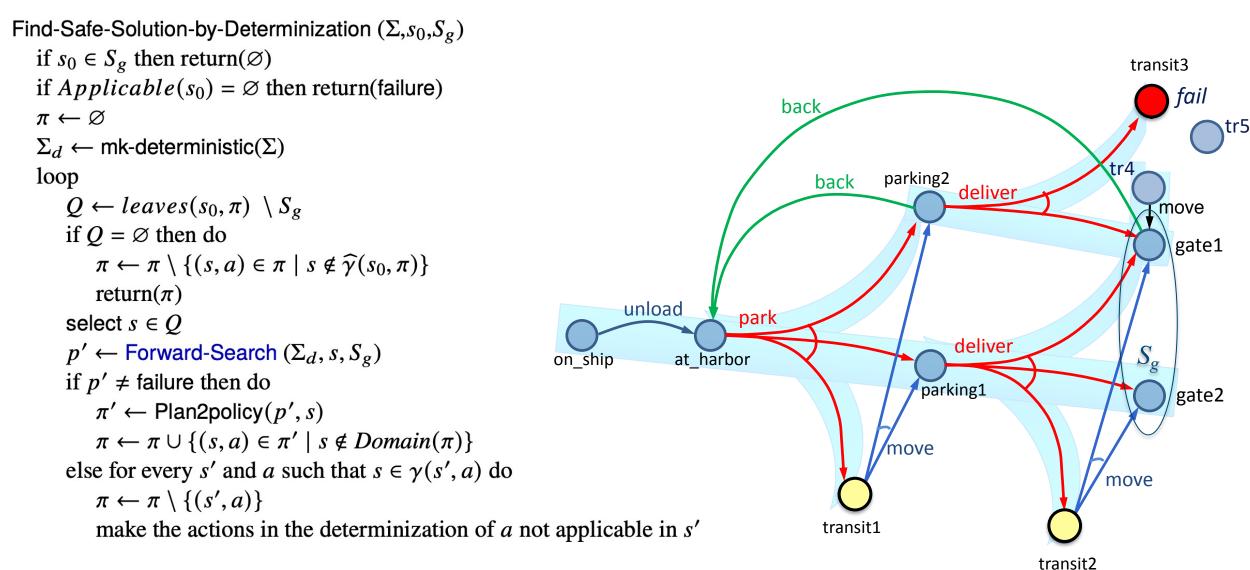


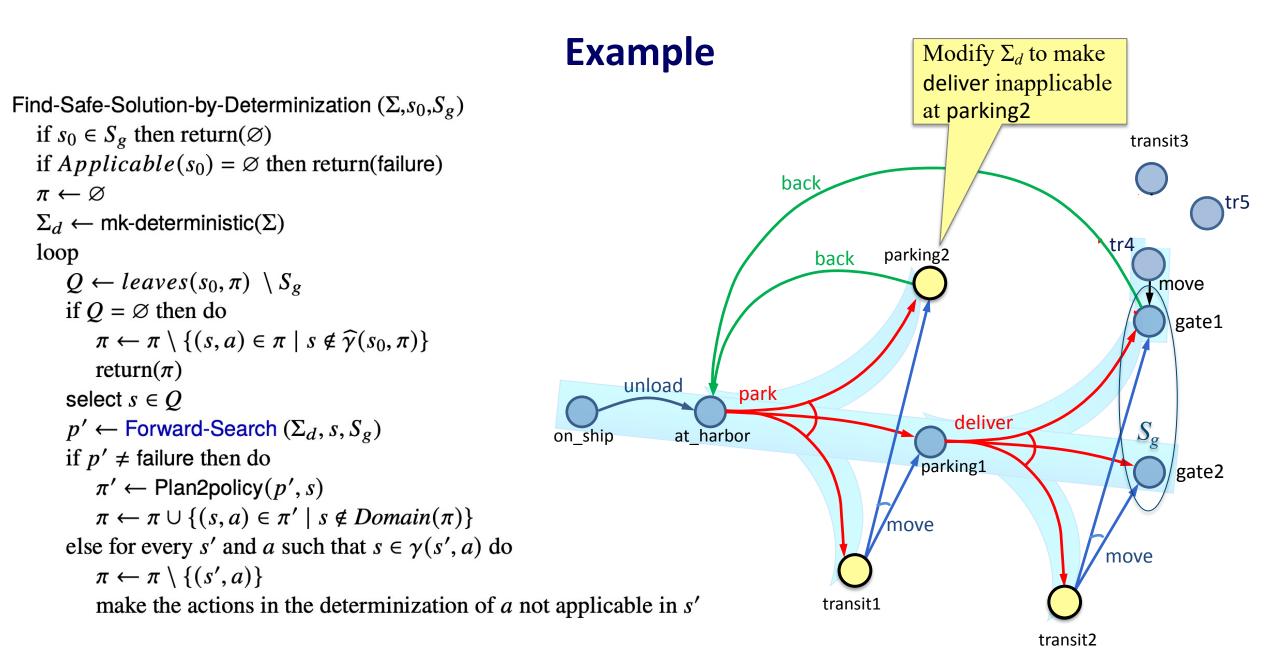


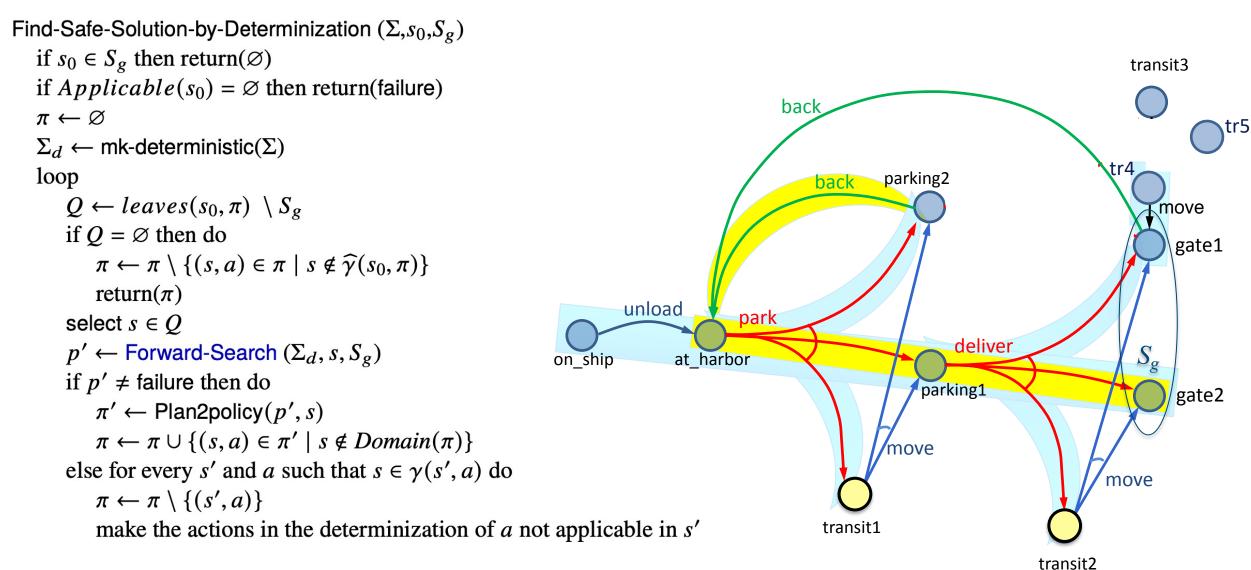


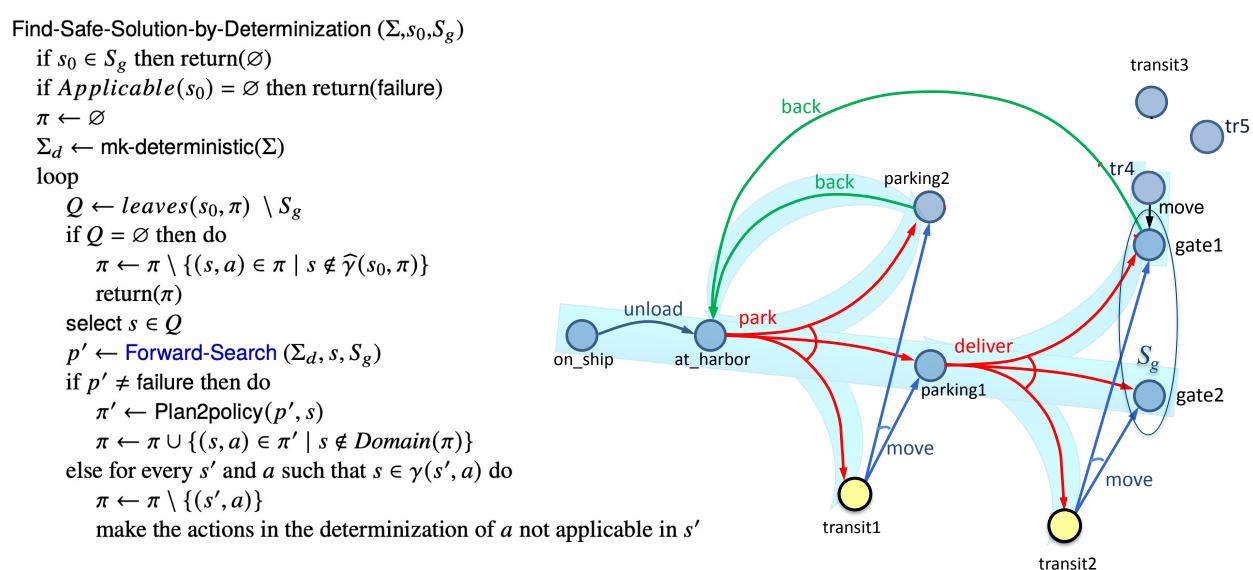


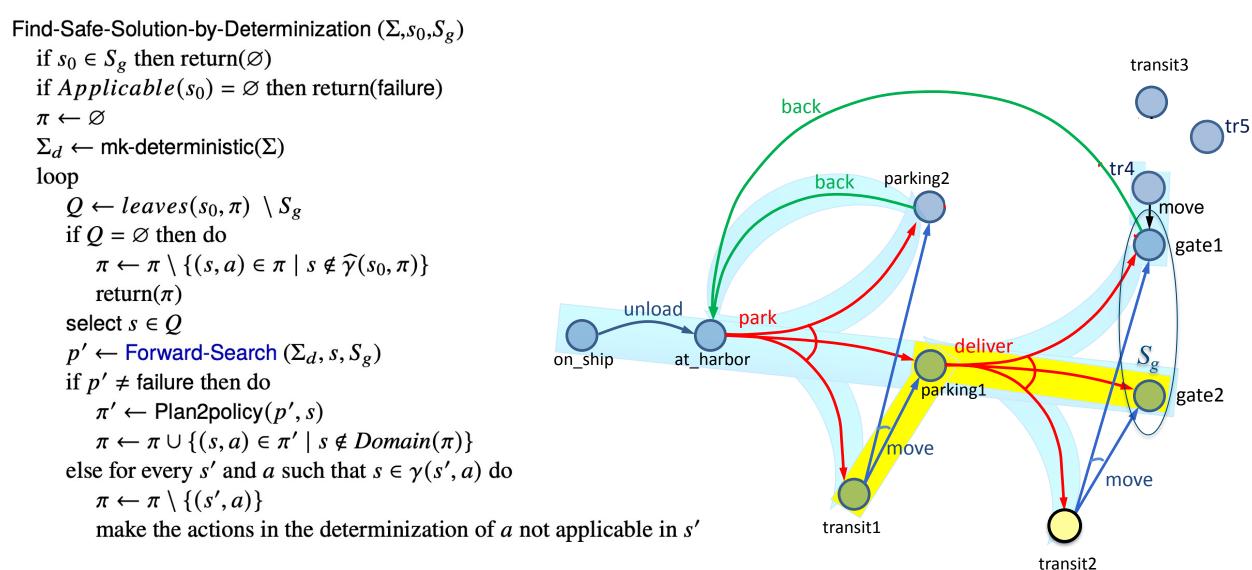


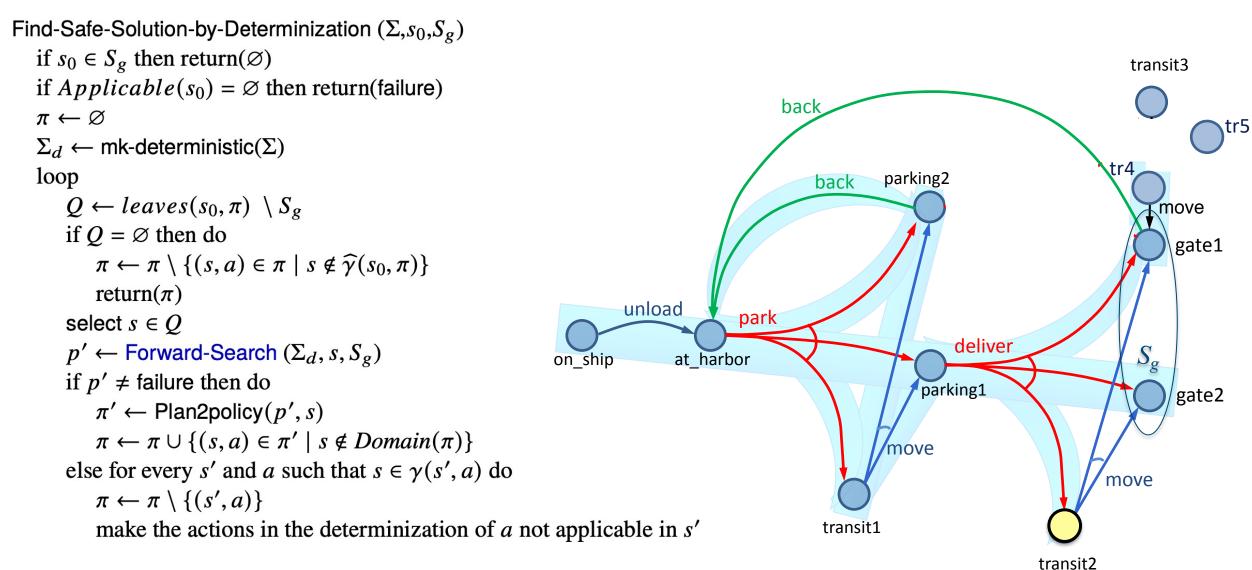


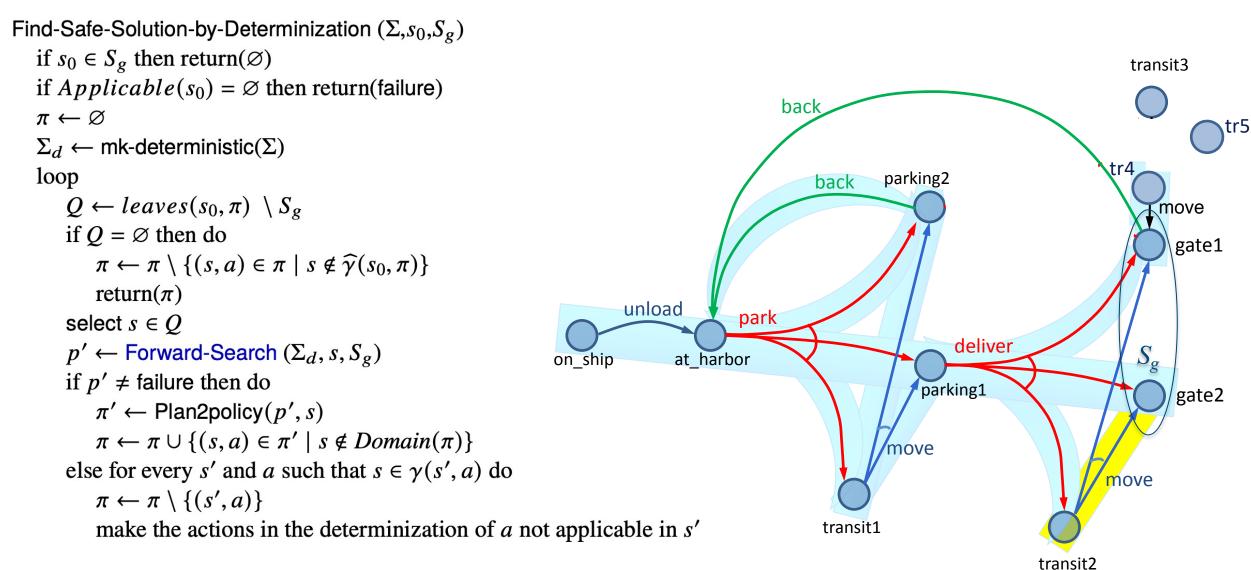


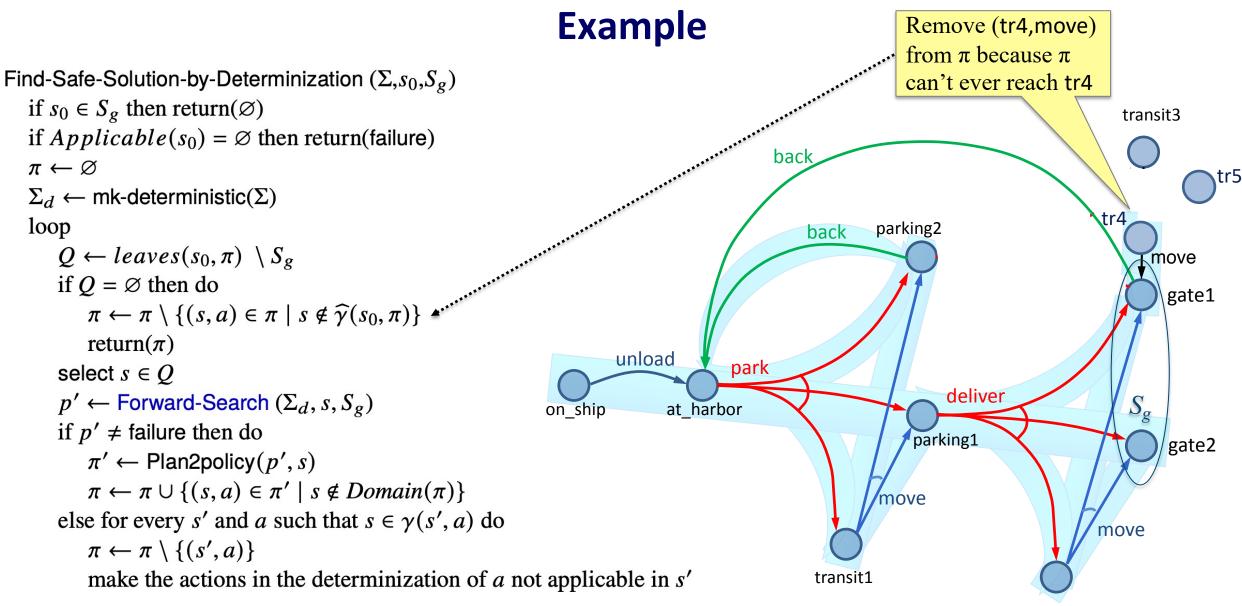












transit2

Making Actions Inapplicable

```
Find-Safe-Solution-by-Determinization (\Sigma, s_0, S_g)
   if s_0 \in S_g then return(\emptyset)
   if Applicable(s_0) = \emptyset then return(failure)
                                                                        • Modify \Sigma_d to make a inapplicable at s
   \pi \leftarrow \emptyset
   \Sigma_d \leftarrow \mathsf{mk}-deterministic(\Sigma)

    worst-case exponential time

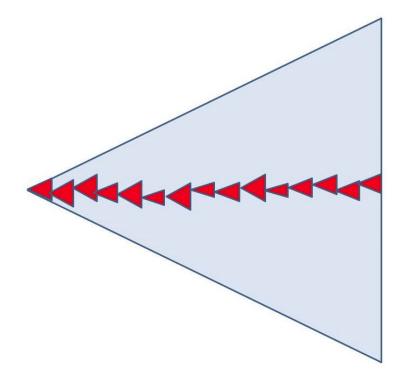
   loop
                                                                        • Better: hash table of bad state-action pairs
       Q \leftarrow leaves(s_0, \pi) \setminus S_g
                                                                             For every (s',a) such that s \in \gamma(s',a),
       if Q = \emptyset then do
                                                                                Bad[s'] \leftarrow Bad[s'] \cup determinization(a)
            \pi \leftarrow \pi \setminus \{(s,a) \in \pi \mid s \notin \widehat{\gamma}(s_0,\pi)\}

    Modify classical planner to take the table

            return(\pi)
                                                                                 as an argument
       select s \in Q
                                                                                  • if s is current state, only choose
       p' \leftarrow \text{Forward-Search}(\Sigma_d, s, S_g)
                                                                                     actions in Applicable(s) \setminus Bad[s]
       if p' \neq failure then do
            \pi' \leftarrow \text{Plan2policy}(p', s)
            \pi \leftarrow \pi \cup \{(s, a) \in \pi' \mid s \notin Domain(\pi)\}
       else for every s' and a such that s \in \gamma(s', a) do
            \pi \leftarrow \pi \setminus \{(s', a)\}
            make the actions in the determinization of a not applicable in s'
```

12.1.3 Online Approaches

- Motivation
 - Planning models are approximate execution seldom works out as planned
 - Large problems may require too much planning time
- 2nd motivation even more stronger in nondeterministic domains
 - Nondeterminism makes planning exponentially harder
 - Exponentially more time, exponentially larger policies

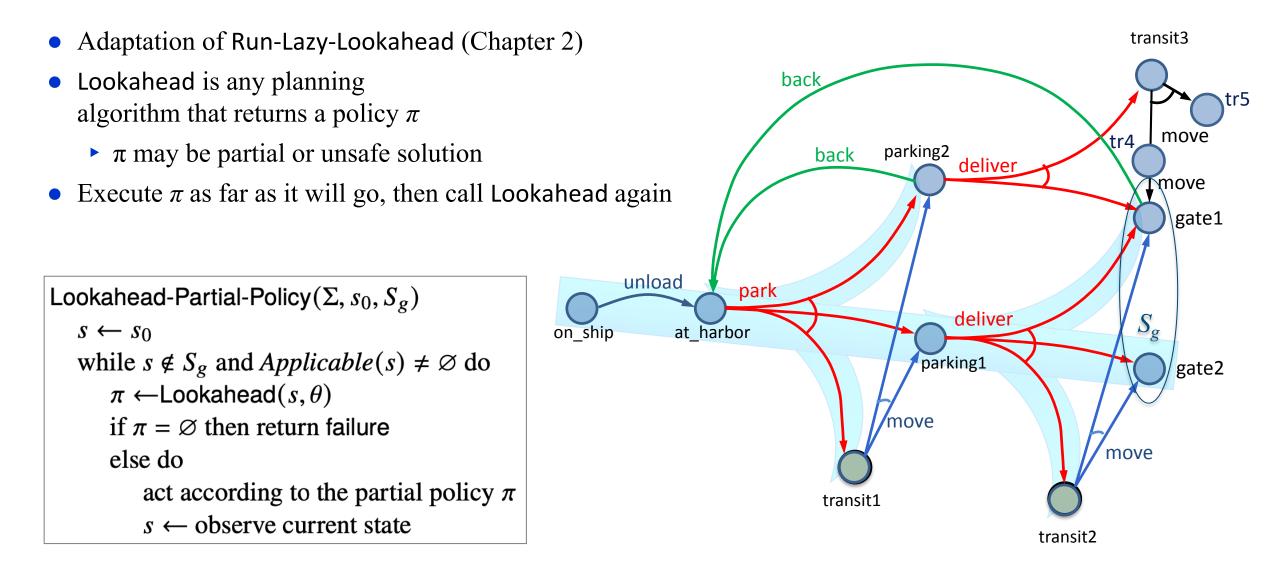


Offline vs Runtime Search Spaces

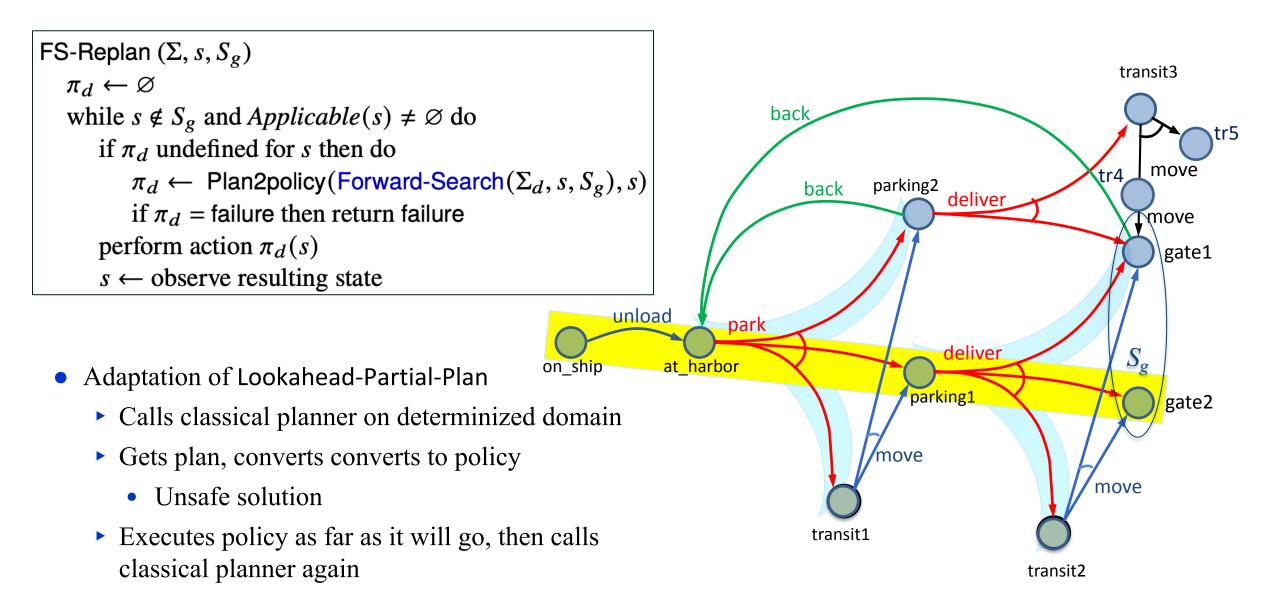
Online Approaches

- Need to identify *good* actions without exploring entire search space
 - Can be done using heuristic estimates
- Some domains are *safely explorable*
 - Safe to create partial plans, because goal states are always reachable
- In domains with dead-ends, partial planning won't guarantee success
 - Can get trapped in dead ends that we would have detected if we had planned fully
 - No applicable actions
 - robot's battery goes dead
 - Applicable actions, but caught in a loop
 - robot goes into a collection of rooms from which there's no exit
 - But partial planning can still make success more likely

Lookahead-Partial-Plan

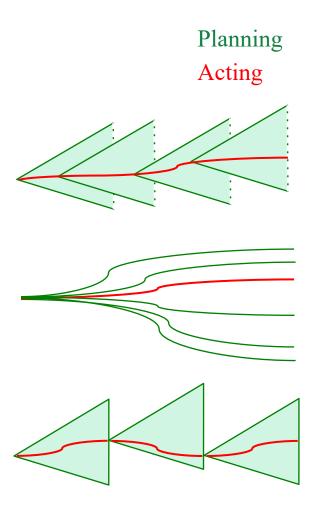


FS-Replan



More Possibilities for Lookahead

- What if Lookahead doesn't have time to run to completion?
 - Can use the same techniques we discussed in Chapter 3
 - Receding horizon
 - Sampling
 - Subgoaling
 - Iterative deepening
 - A few others ...

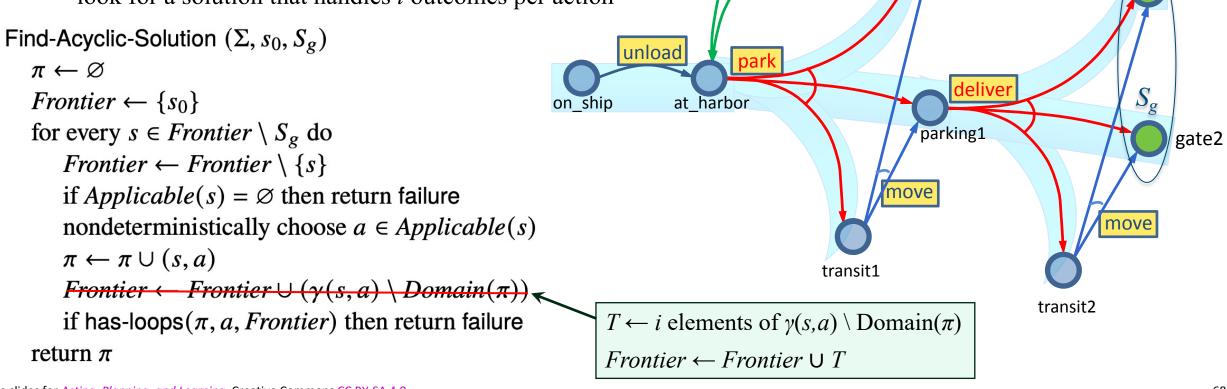


More Possibilities for Lookahead

- Full horizon, limited breadth:
 - look for solution that works for *some* of the outcomes
 - E.g., modify Find-Acyclic-Solution to examine *i* outcomes of each action^{back}
- Iterative broadening:

for i = 1 by 1 until time runs out

look for a solution that handles *i* outcomes per action



transit3

parking2

delive

back

move

gate1

Safely Explorable Domains

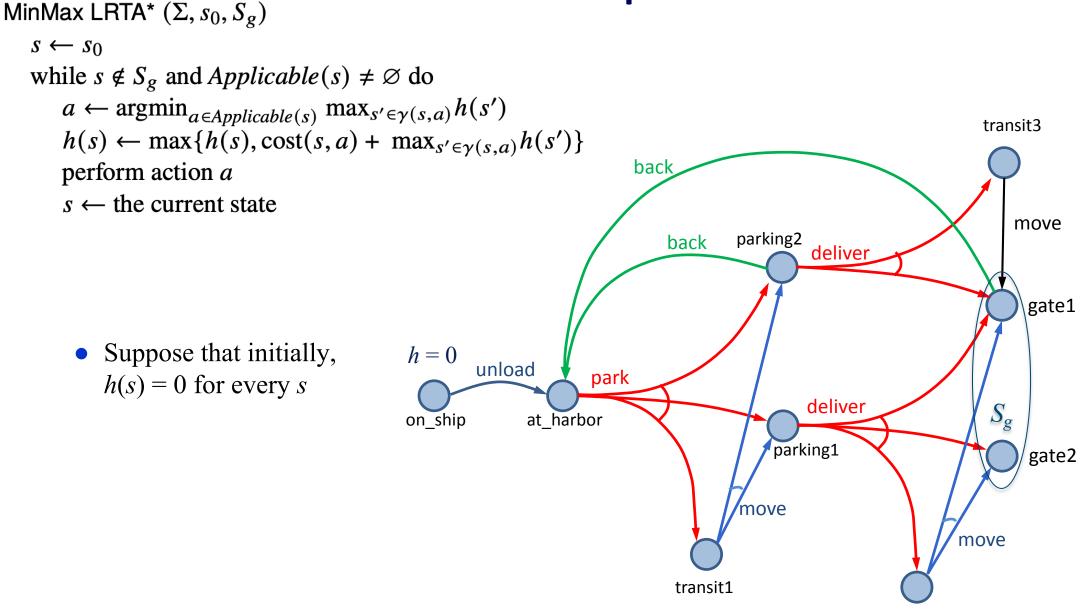
- *Safely explorable* domain
 - for every state s, at least one goal state is reachable from s
- For Lookahead, suppose we use Lookahead-Partial-Plan or FS-Replan
 - Then Lookahead never returns failure
- Every "fair" execution will eventually reach a goal

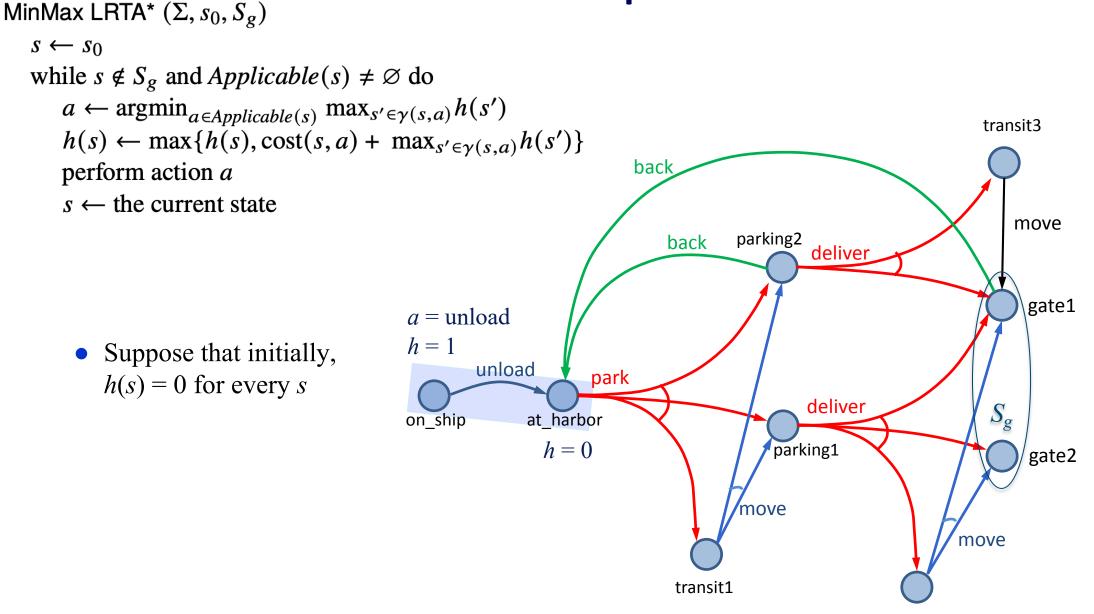
Poll: Suppose we just choose a random action each time. Is every "fair" execution guaranteed to reach a goal?

Min-Max LRTA*

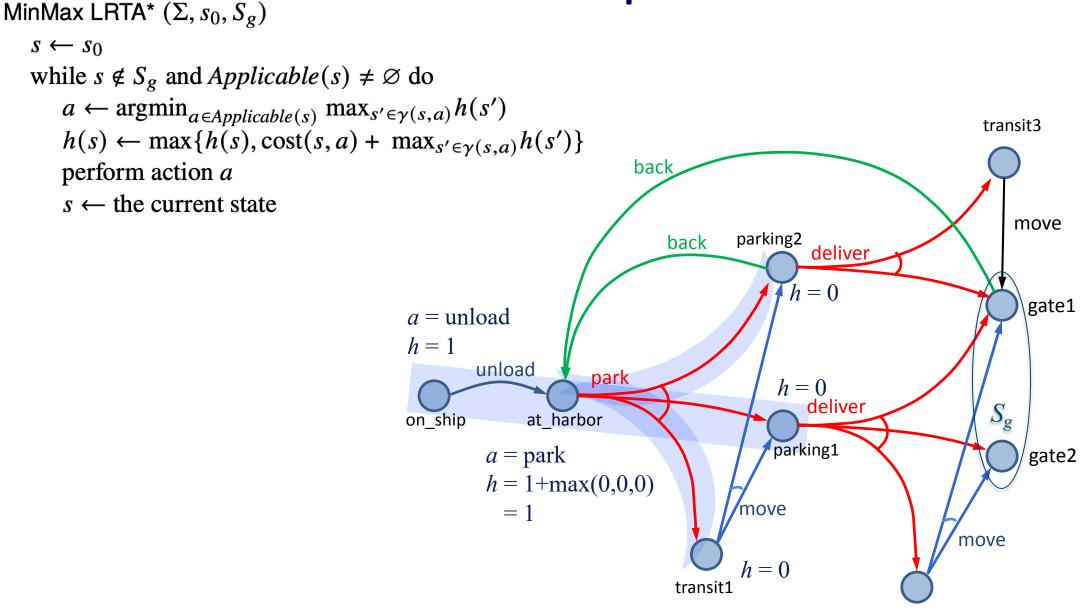
 $\begin{aligned} & \mathsf{MinMax LRTA}^* \left(\Sigma, s_0, S_g \right) \\ & s \leftarrow s_0 \\ & \mathsf{while} \ s \notin S_g \ \mathsf{and} \ Applicable(s) \neq \varnothing \ \mathsf{do} \\ & a \leftarrow \mathrm{argmin}_{a \in Applicable(s)} \ \max_{s' \in \gamma(s,a)} h(s') \\ & h(s) \leftarrow \max\{h(s), \operatorname{cost}(s, a) + \max_{s' \in \gamma(s,a)} h(s')\} \\ & \mathsf{perform action} \ a \\ & s \leftarrow \mathsf{the current state} \end{aligned}$

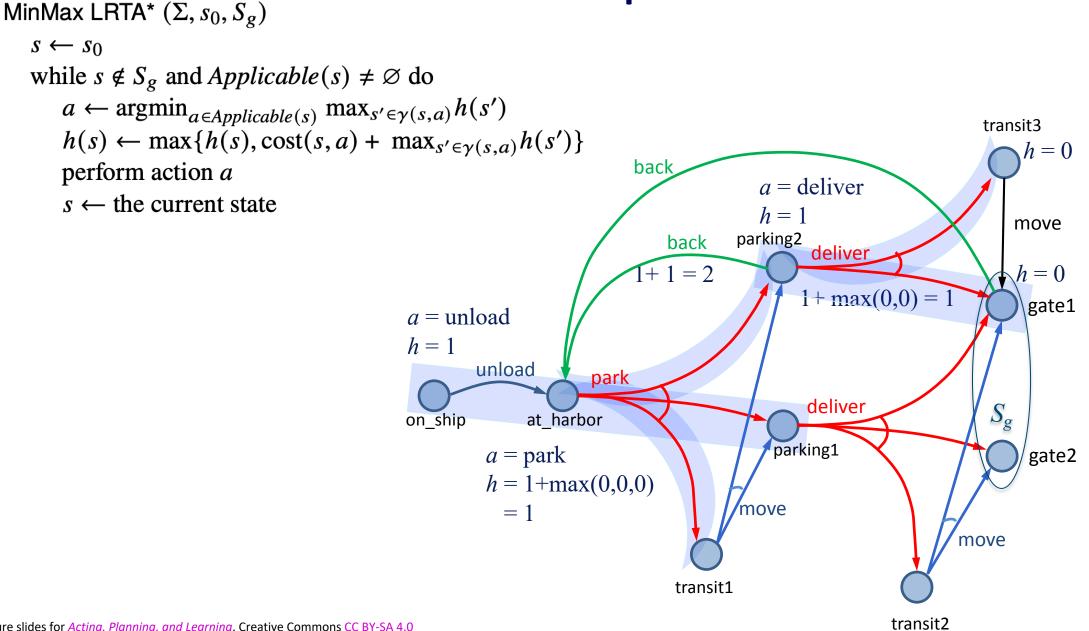
- loop
 - choose an action a that (according to h) has optimal worst-case cost
 - Update *h*(*s*) to use *a*'s worst-case cost
 - Perform *a*
- In safely explorable domains with no "unfair" executions, guaranteed to reach a goal





transit2





Summary

- Types of solutions: unsafe, safe (acyclic, cyclic)
- Find-Solution,
- Find-Acyclic-Solution
- Find-Safe-Solution
- Guided-Find-Safe-Solution
 - call Find-Solution to get an unsafe solution
 - call Find-Solution again on the leaves
 - if dead-ends are encountered, modify actions that lead to them
- Find-Safe-Solution-by-Determinization
 - Like Guided-Find-Safe-Solution, but call classical planner on determinized domain, convert plan into policy

- Online approaches
 - Lookahead-Partial-Plan
 - adaptation of Run-Lazy-Lookahead
 - FS-Replan
 - adaptation of Run-Lookahead
- Ways to do the lookahead
 - full breadth with limited depth,
 - iterative deepening
 - full depth with limited breadth
 - iterative broadening
 - convergence in safely explorable domains
- Min-Max LRTA*