

Assignment 5: Escape the Wumpus Cave

AI-1 Systems Project (Summer Semester 2026)

Jan Frederik Schaefer

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Department Informatik

Topic: Planning
Due on: September 10, 2025
Version from: July 1, 2026
Author: Jan Frederik Schaefer

Make sure you sign up before working on this assignment.^a

Using someone else's solution code, even as inspiration, is not allowed!
Sharing your solution code with other AISysProj students is not allowed.

^aYou can still decide to postpone the assignment. Signing up includes an eligibility check, which avoids situations where you invest work into an assignment that you are not supposed to take.

1 Task summary

Your agent is trapped in the Wumpus world. Find a way for your agent to leave it using a PDDL planner. The assignment repository [[AR](#)] contains maps for you to solve. It also contains a script for checking your solutions.

Didactic objectives

1. Get to know the PDDL format,
2. learn how to encode a problem as a planning problem.

Prerequisites and useful methods

1. Planning and the PDDL format.

2 The Wumpus world

Maps of the Wumpus world are encoded as a text file, where each line corresponds to a row of cells and each character describes the properties of an individual cell. Here is an example map:

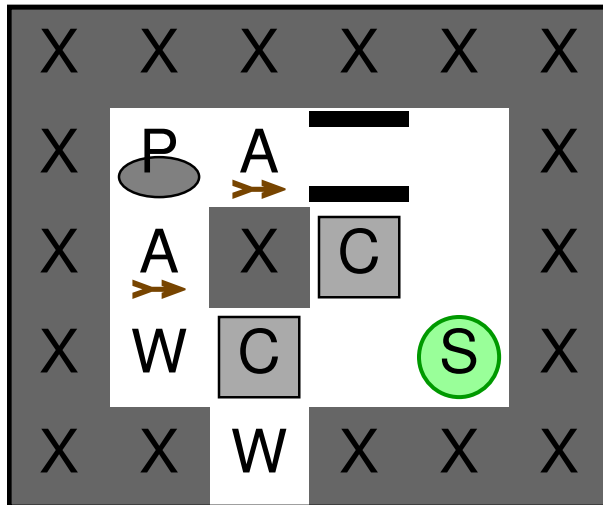


Figure 1: Example map of the Wumpus world.

```

XXXXXX
XPA- X
XAXC X
XWC SX
XXWXXX

```

Your starting position is marked with an `S`. Leaving the wumpus world is not easy because cells can be blocked by e.g. walls (`X`) or a wumpus (`W`). Section 2.2 describes the different cells in more detail. Figure 1 shows a visualization of the example map.

2.1 Plans

Your plan is a sequence of actions. After performing those actions, your agent should be “off the map”. You can use the following actions:

- **walk** [`north|east|south|west`]: The agent walks to the neighboring cell in the indicated direction. If there is no cell in that direction, the agent has left the map (which is the goal). Whether you are allowed to walk to a cell depends of course on the map – for example, you cannot walk into a wall. Section 2.2 has more details.
- **push** [`north|east|south|west`]: The agent pushes an object to the neighboring cell in the indicated direction. The agent will also walk one step in the indicated direction. Section 2.2 describes what things can be pushed under what circumstances.
- **shoot** [`north|east|south|west`]: Shoot a Wumpus. This requires a Wumpus to be

in the neighboring cell in the indicated direction. You also must have at least one arrow. Afterwards, you have one arrow less and the Wumpus is gone.

- **turn** [**north**|**east**|**south**|**west**]: Turn a turntable 90 degrees. This requires that you are standing next to a turntable. The direction (**north/east/...**) indicates in which direction the turntable is, relative to the agent. Turntables can also be turned if something is on them.

Note that these actions do not have to correspond to the actions that you use for the planning itself. Instead, you can convert the planner actions to the ones above in a post-processing step (however, it should be a fairly simple transformation, i.e. the planner has to do the hard work).

2.2 Cell properties

As mentioned earlier, the properties of each cell are summarized by a single character:

- **S**: The starting position of the agent. Otherwise the cell is empty. Note that we also use **S** to mark the current position of the agent in visualizations.
- **␣** (a single whitespace): An empty cell.
- **X**: A wall. Your agent cannot walk into a cell with a wall.
- **W**: A wumpus. Your agent cannot walk into a cell with a Wumpus. However, the Wumpus can be shot with an arrow. Afterwards, the cell is free.
- **A**: An arrow. If you walk into a cell with an arrow, you automatically pick it up (and have one more arrow). Afterwards, the cell is empty.
- **C**: A crate. Your agent cannot walk into a cell with a crate. However, your agent can push (see Section 2.1) the crate to an adjacent cell if the adjacent cell fulfills one of the following conditions:
 - It is empty.
 - It contains only an item that can be picked up. The adjacent cell will then contain both the item and the crate.
 - It has a pit (see the description of pits for details).
- **P**: A pit. Your agent cannot walk into a cell with a pit. However, a pit can be filled by pushing objects into it:
 - If you push a crate into an empty pit, it gets filled. You can now treat the cell like an empty cell.
- **-**, **|**: A turntable (inspired by railway turntables). A horizontal turntable, **-**, can only be passed horizontally, i.e. in east/west direction. Basically, they can be treated like

an empty cell in horizontal direction and like a wall in vertical direction. Similarly, there are vertical turntables, |, which can only be passed vertically. Turntables can be turned with the `turn` action (see Section 2.1), which turns a horizontal turntable into a vertical one and vice versa.

3 Planners

You should use a PDDL planner for this problem. PDDL planners require two files: a domain file and a problem file. The domain file should describe the rules of the Wumpus world in general and the problem file specifies the details of a particular map. A planner can then find a plan that solves the problem. The plan may use different actions than the expected solution format, so you can convert the planner output to the expected format in a post-processing step.

The assignment repository [AR] describes different planners that you can use and how to run them.

4 What to submit

You should submit

- All your code for solving this assignment.
- A `README.md` file explaining
 - i. dependencies (programming language, version, external libraries and how to get them),
 - ii. what planner you used (there are differences in what PDDL subset they support),
 - iii. how to run your code on different environments,
 - iv. the repository structure,
 - v. anything else we should know.
- A solution summary (see [SoS] for more details – it should describe the main ideas, not document the code).
- Your domain file(s).
- Solutions to all the example maps in the assignment repository [AR]. Concretely, you should submit for every map `mapXYZ.txt` the problem file `mapXYZ.pddl`, the solution of the PDDL problem `mapXYZ.pddl.soln`, and the actual plan as specified in Section 2.1 listed line by line in a file `mapXYZ-solution.txt`.

Maps	Used cell types
map000.txt – map009.txt	S □ X
map010.txt – map019.txt	S □ A W X
map020.txt – map029.txt	S □ C X
map030.txt – map039.txt	S □ C P X
map040.txt – map049.txt	S □ - X
map050.txt – map059.txt	S □ - A W X
map060.txt – map069.txt	S □ - A C W X
map070.txt – map079.txt	S □ - A C P W X

Figure 2: Overview of cell types used in maps.

5 Points

The total number of points for this assignment is 100. You can get up to 20 points for the quality of the submission (README, evaluation, ...). Furthermore, you will get 1 point for every correctly solved map, which means that you can get up to 80 points for the solutions.

References

- [AR] *Repository for Assignment 5: Escape the Wumpus Cave*. URL: <https://gitlab.rrze.fau.de/wrv/AISysProj/ss26/a1.5-escape-wumpus-cave/assignment>.
- [SoS] *Solution Summary*. URL: <https://gitlab.rrze.fau.de/wrv/AISysProj/admin/general/-/blob/main/solution-summary.md>.

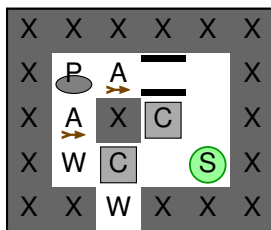
A Solution to the Example Problem

A solution to the example problem from Section 2 would be:

```
walk north
walk north
turn west
walk south
walk south
walk west
push north
turn north
walk east
walk north
push west
push west
walk west
walk south
shoot south
walk south
push east
shoot south
walk south
walk south
```

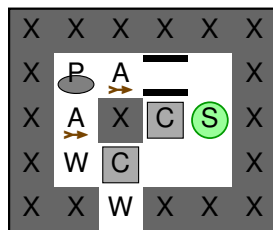
which could be visualized as

0) Initial state:



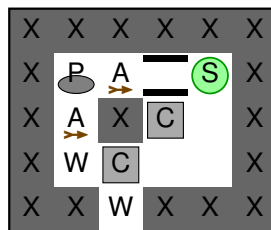
>>: 0

1) walk north:



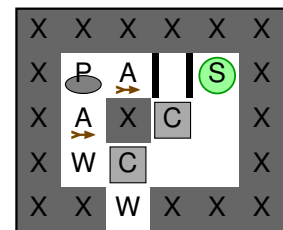
>>: 0

2) walk north:



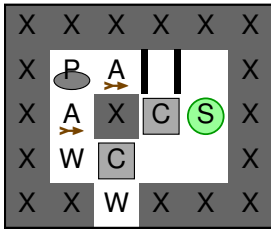
>>: 0

3) turn west:



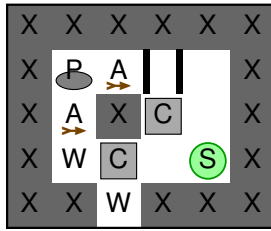
>>: 0

4) walk south:



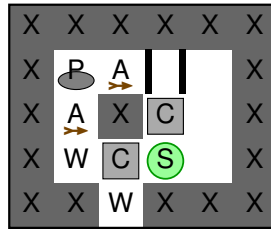
>>: 0

5) walk south:



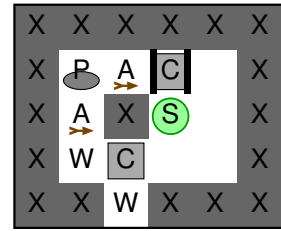
>>: 0

6) walk west:



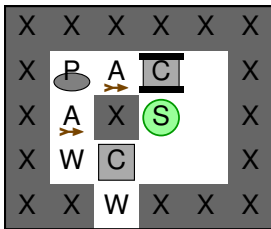
>>: 0

7) push north:



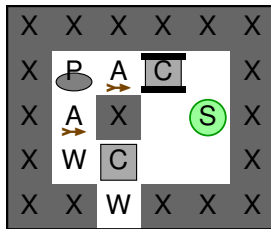
>>: 0

8) turn north:



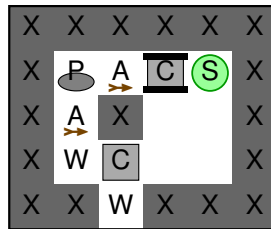
>>: 0

9) walk east:



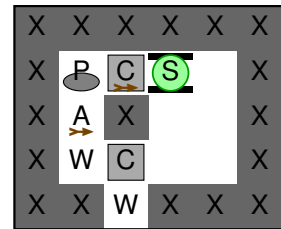
>>: 0

10) walk north:



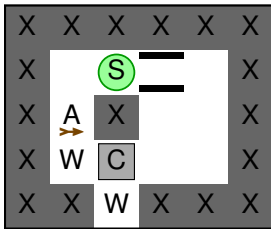
>>: 0

11) push west:



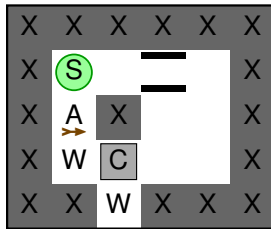
>>: 0

12) push west:



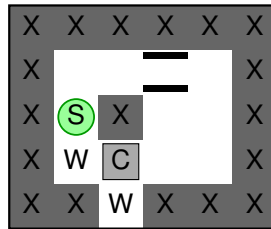
>>: 1

13) walk west:



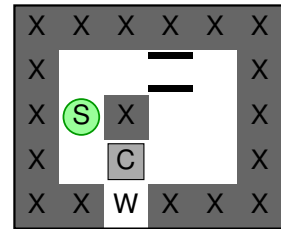
>>: 1

14) walk south:



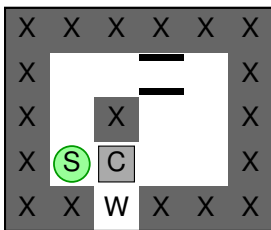
>>: 2

15) shoot south:



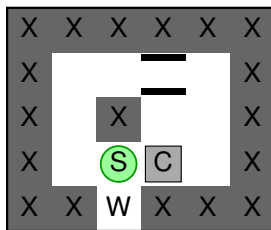
>>: 1

16) walk south:



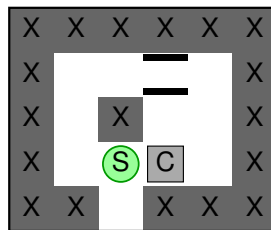
>>: 1

17) push east:



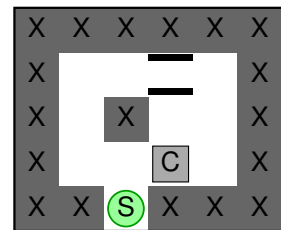
>>: 1

18) shoot south:



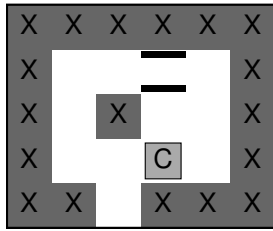
>>: 0

19) walk south:



>>: 0

20) walk south:



→: 0