

# Acting on Language Instructions

Martin Funkquist, PhD student, Linköping University  
MRLAB, AIICS, IDA  
Supervisors: Prof. Hector Geffner, Simon Ståhlberg

## Motivation & Research Goals

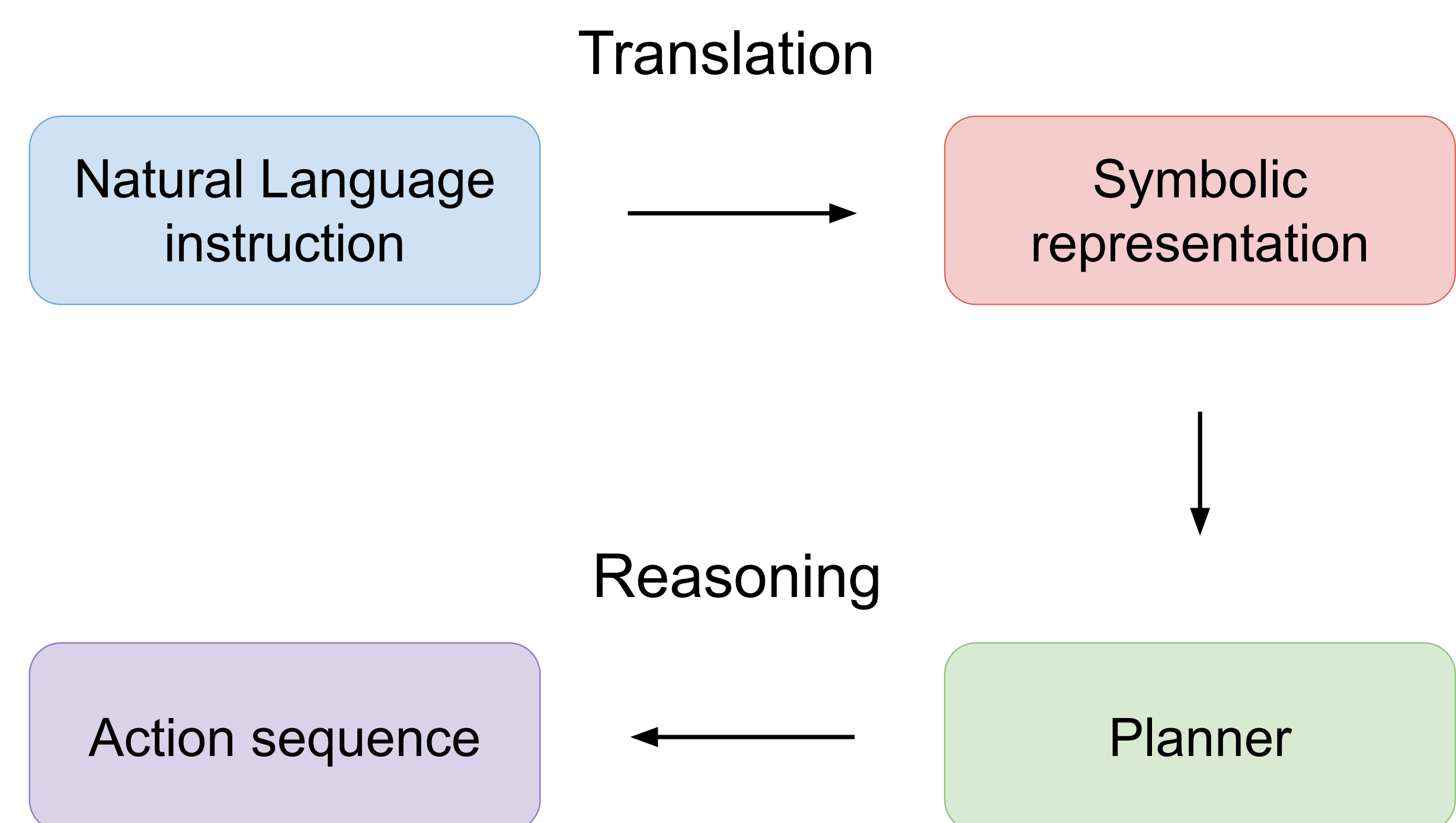
### How do we make AI agents **understand** language instructions?

#### Our approach

- **Hybrid** approach
- Leverage strengths:
  - **Translation** abilities of **LLMs**
  - **Reasoning** abilities of **symbolic planners**

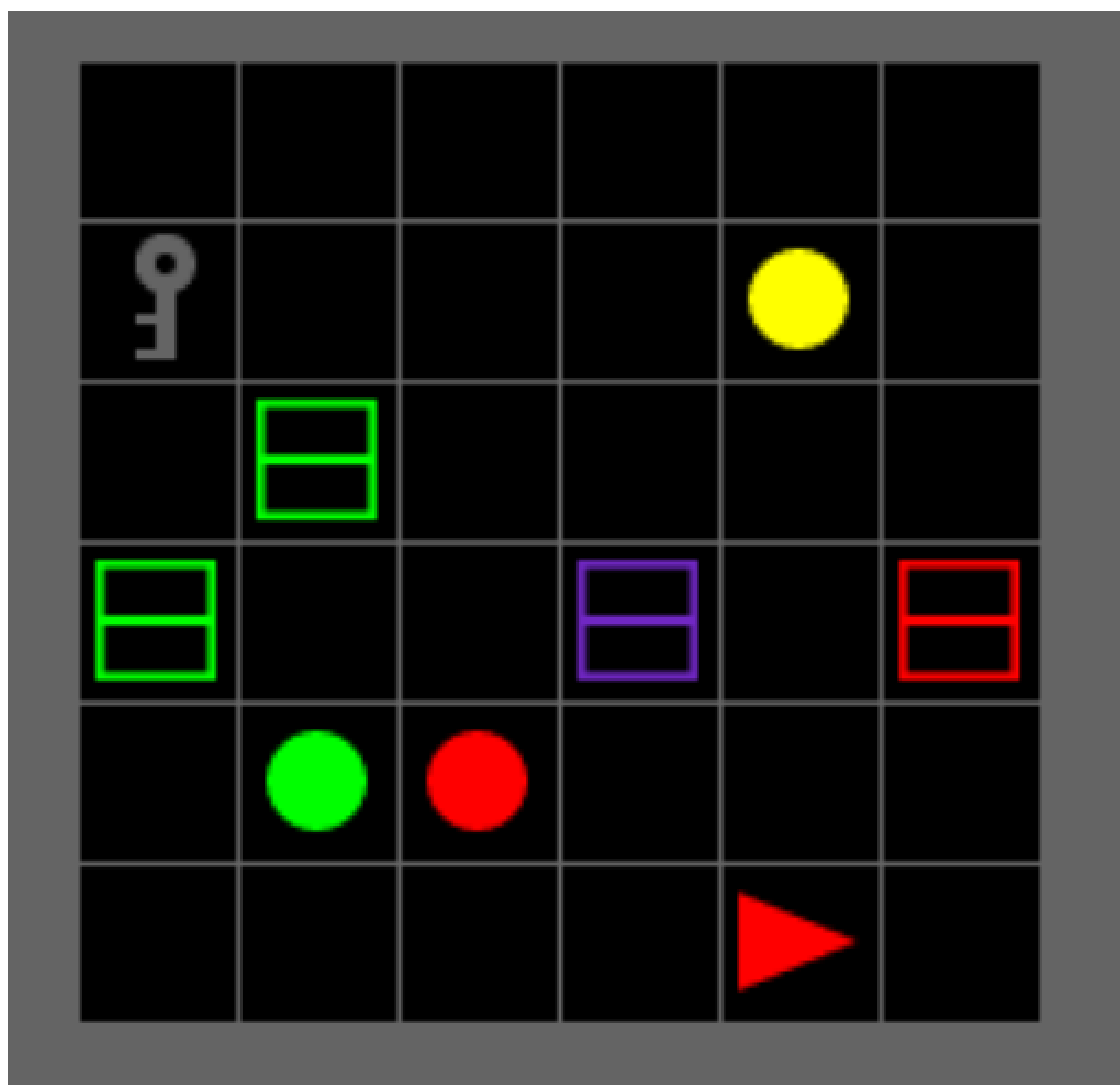
#### Research goals

- Having an agent acting **correctly** on human language instructions



## Methods

Go to the red ball



Action sequence: Left, Forward, Left, Forward

- Translating Natural Language (NL) instruction into a **symbolic** goal, using an **LLM**.
  - go to the red ball  $\rightarrow$   $\text{at-robot}(4, 5) \wedge \text{direction}(\text{left})$
- The **prompt** consists of: *domain description, domain PDDL, one example, PDDL instance and NL goal*
- The **PDDL goal** is combined with the *PDDL instance* and a **planner** produces a sequence of actions that are executed in the environment

## Results

### Example goals:

- GoTo: "go to the yellow ball"
- PutNext: "put a green box next to the red ball"
- PickupLoc: "pick up the green ball behind you"

### Preliminary results

- The LLM consistently selects an object of the correct **type** and **color**
- Important to **disambiguate** the NL instructions e.g. "go to the red ball" can have multiple meanings
- **Syntax errors** can be fixed by re-prompting with the error message
- The LLM seems to be bad at determining **object locations** e.g. given the instruction "go to the ball on your right" it is equally likely to pick the ball on the left and right.

Model	# correct	Env	Example
gpt-4o	20	GoToRedBall	GoTo
gpt-4o	20	PutNext	PutNext
gpt-4o	17	Synth	PutNext
gpt-4o	17	Unreach	GoTo
gpt-4o	9	PickupLoc	GoTo
gpt-4o	14	PickupLoc	PickupLoc
o1-mini	9	PickupLoc	PickupLoc
o1-preview	11	PickupLoc	PickupLoc

Table: Results for different environments.