

Problem Demarcation



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Problem demarcation

How to proceed?

1. Starting point
2. Means-ends analysis
3. Several problem statements
4. Objectives trees + System boundaries
5. Compare & Choose

1. Choose one issue as a starting point



1. Choose one issue as a starting point

An aerial photograph of a large port facility. In the foreground, there are several large gantry cranes used for loading and unloading containers from ships. The water is dark, and several ships are docked at the piers. In the background, a city skyline is visible across a body of water. The sky is overcast.

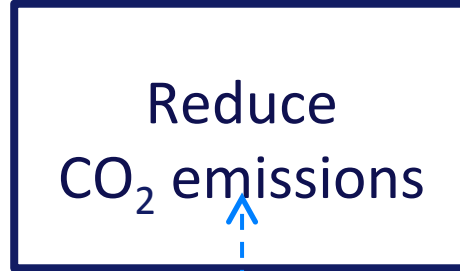
Reduce
CO₂
emissions

Deepen
harbor

Increase
capacity of
container stack

2. Perform a means-ends analysis

“means-ends box”



a single verb phrase

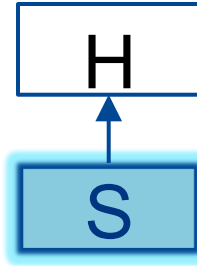
Why?



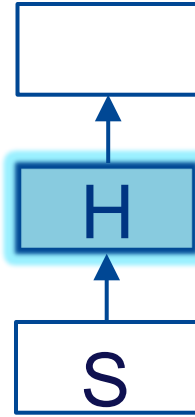
Reduce
CO₂ emissions

How?

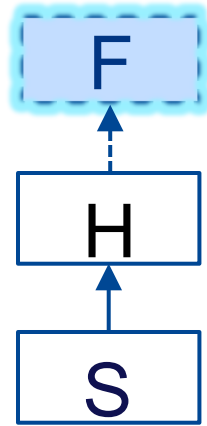




Why?

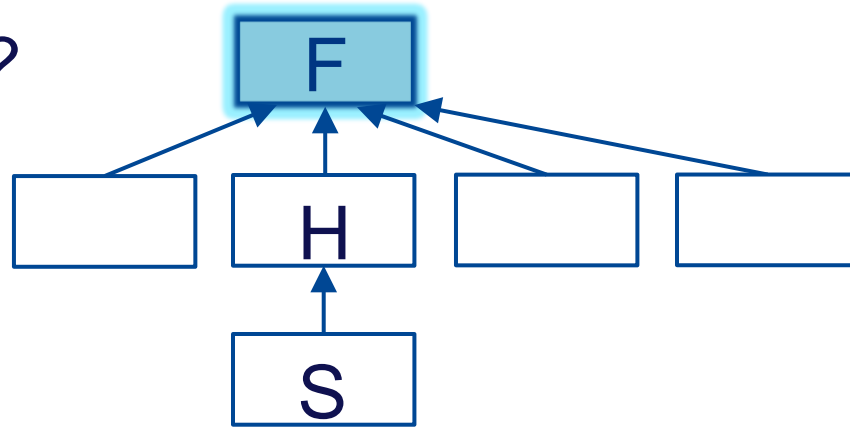


Why?

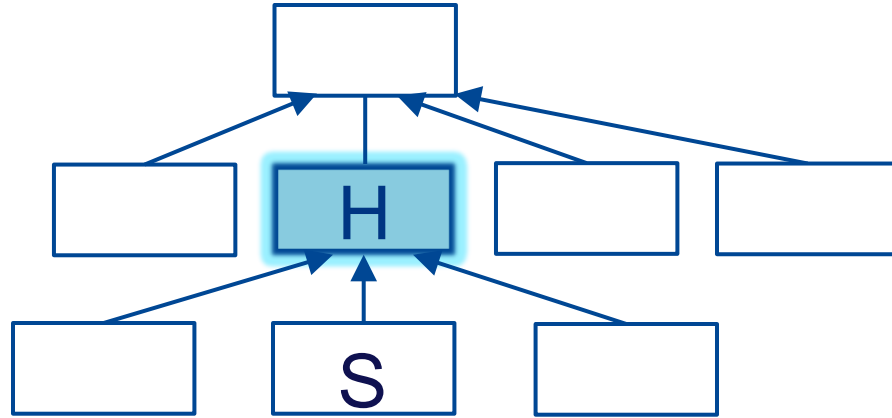


Why? (and so on)

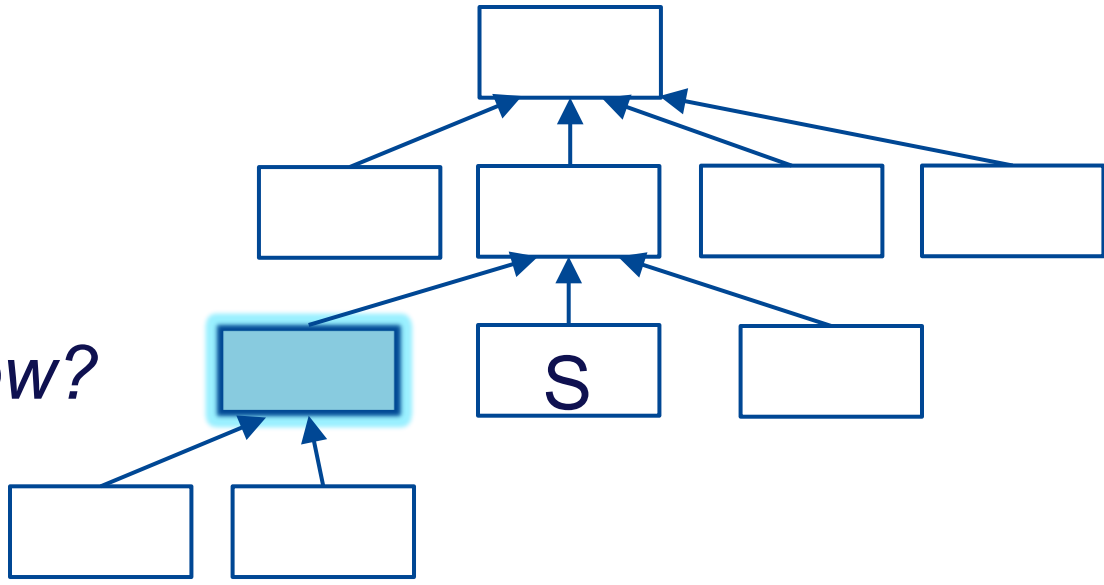
How?



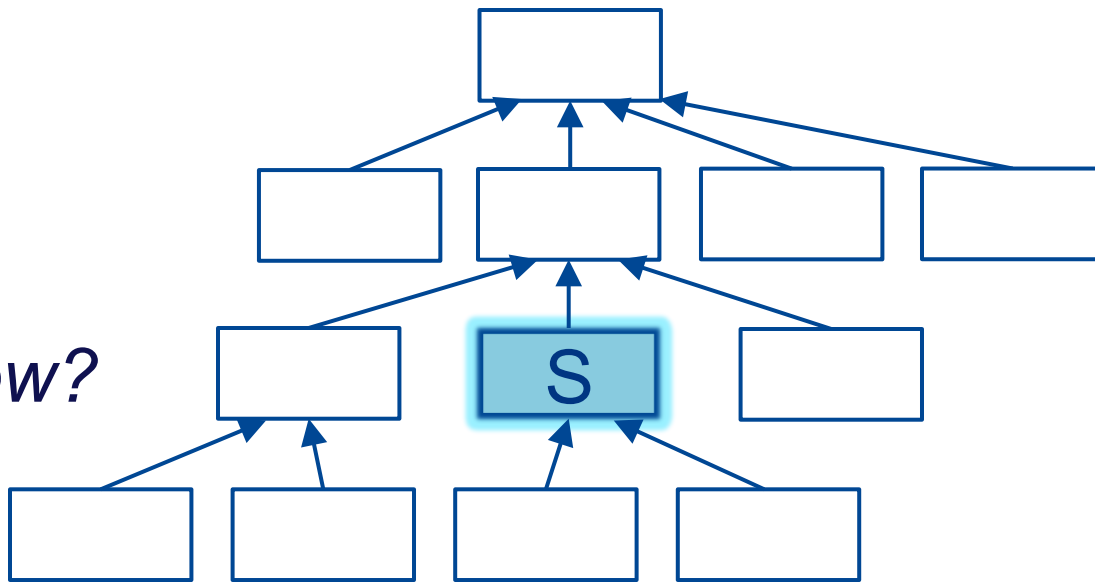
How?



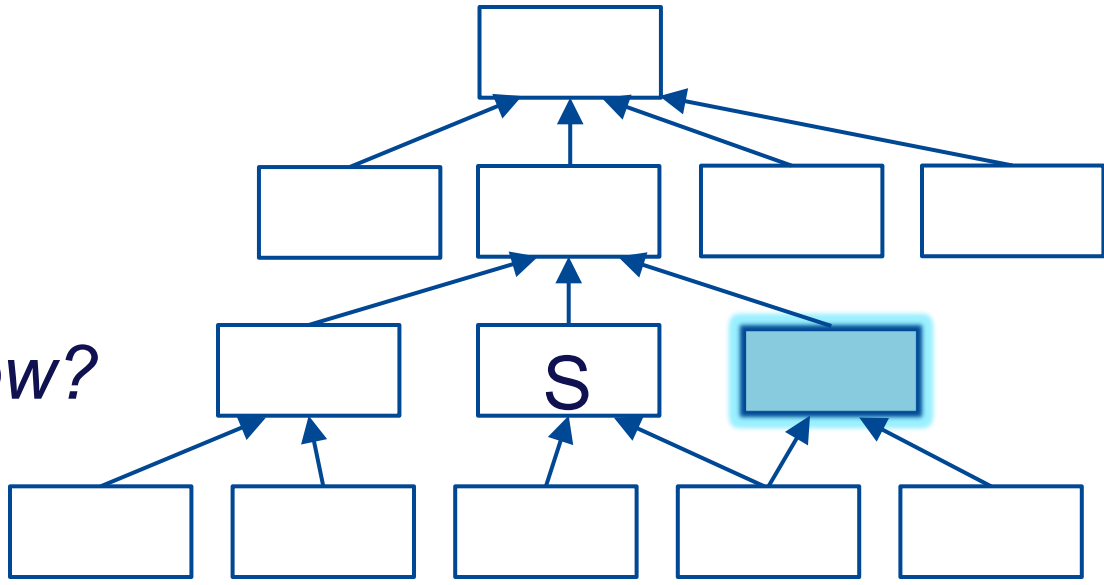
How?



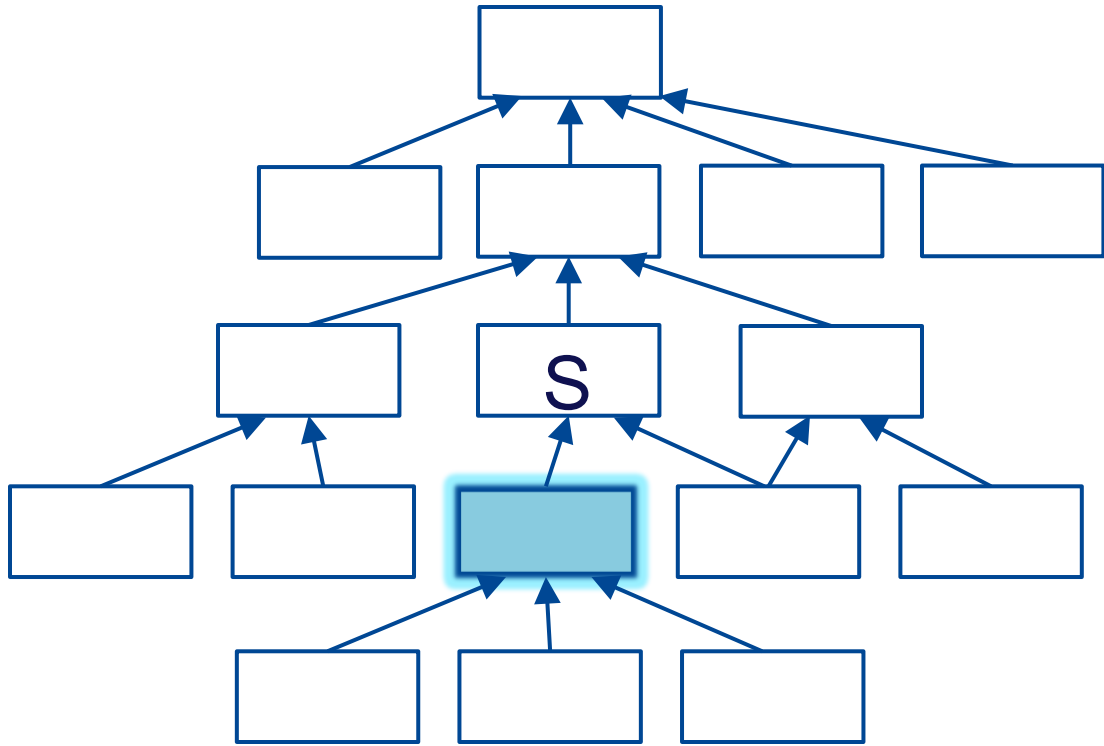
How?



How?

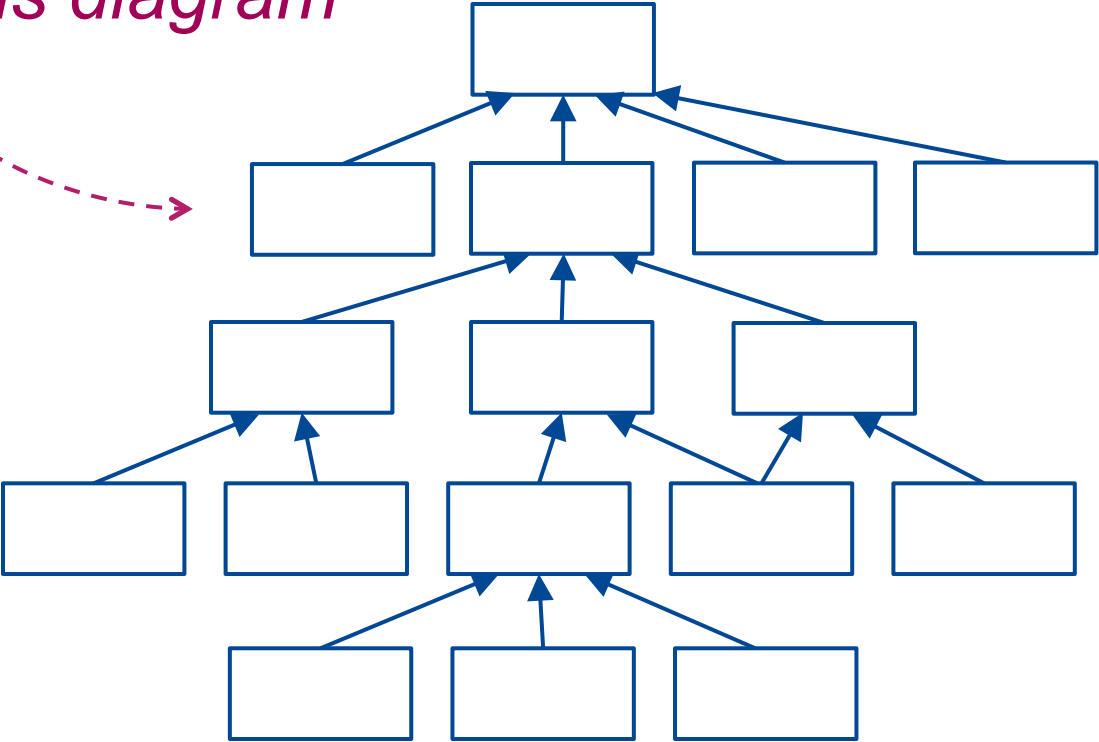


How?



(and so on...)

“means-ends diagram”

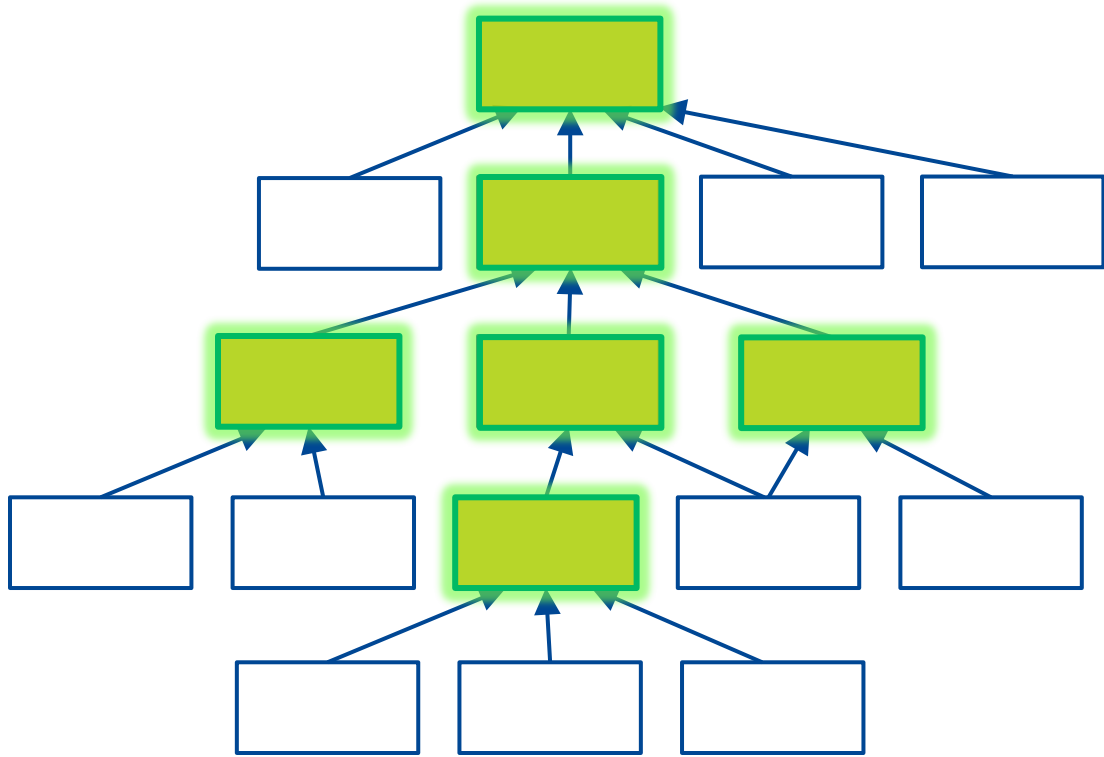


problem 1

problem 2

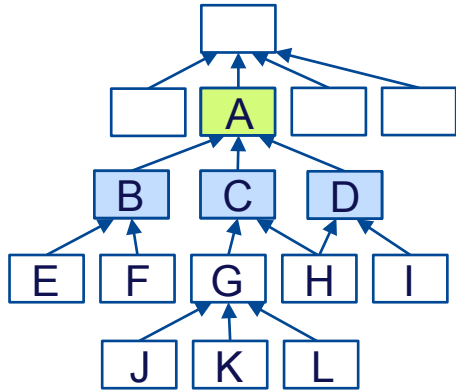
problem 3, 4, 5

problem 6



3. Problem statements for several “focal means/ends”

means-ends diagram:

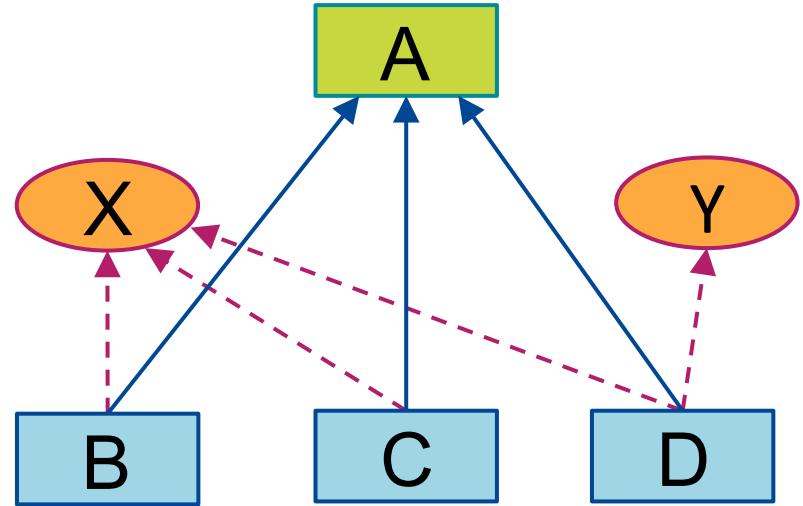


“focal objective”

undesirable side effects of means

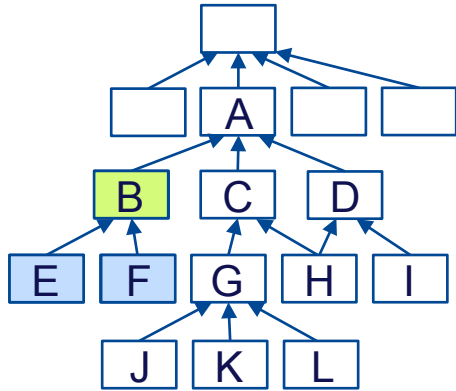


problem statement:



(1) “How can the client achieve **A** without (too much) **X** or **Y** ?”

means-ends diagram:

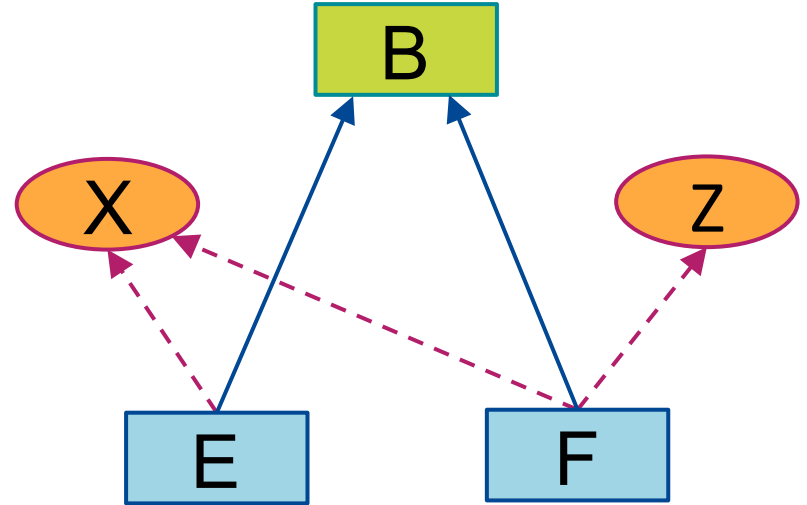


“focal
objective”

undesirable
side effects
of means

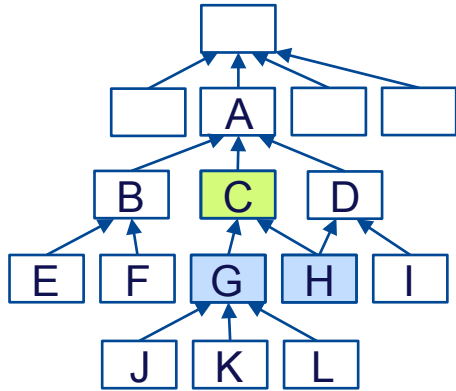


problem statement:



(2) “How can the client achieve **B** without (too much) **X** or **Z** ?”

means-ends diagram:

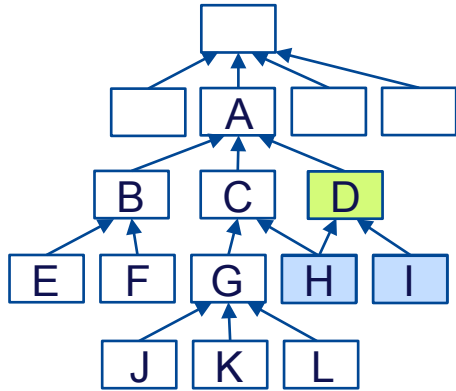


*undesirable side effects
of means **G** and **H***



(3) “How can the client achieve **C** without (too much) ... ?”

means-ends diagram:

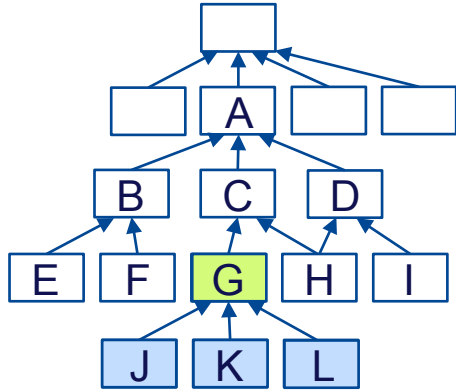


*undesirable side effects
of means H and I*



(4) “How can the client achieve **D** without (too much) ... ?”

means-ends diagram:

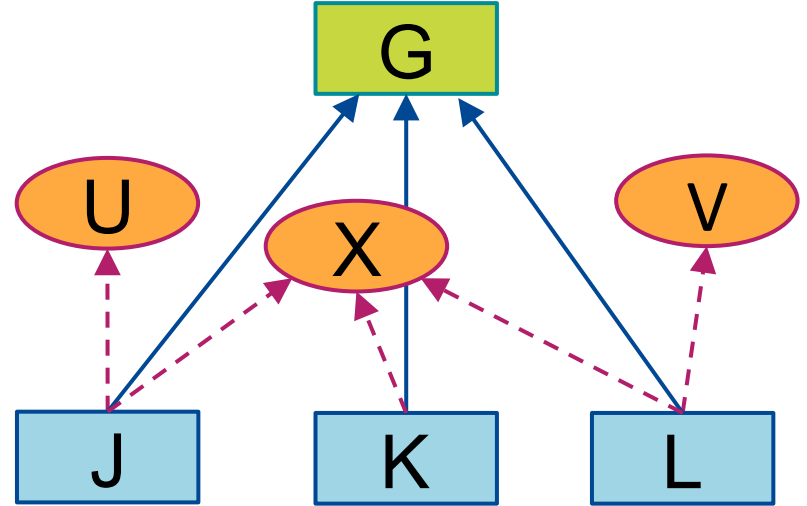


“focal objective”
+

undesirable
side effects
of means



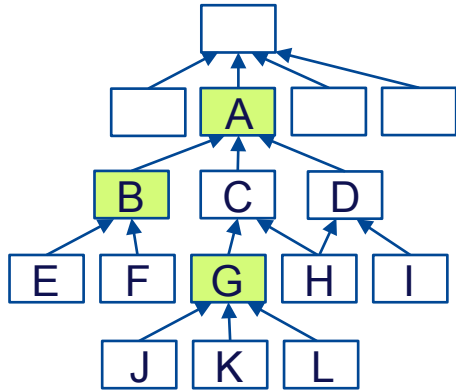
problem statement:



(5) “How can the client achieve G without (too much) U, X or V ?”

3. Problem statements for *several* “focal means/ends”

means-ends diagram:



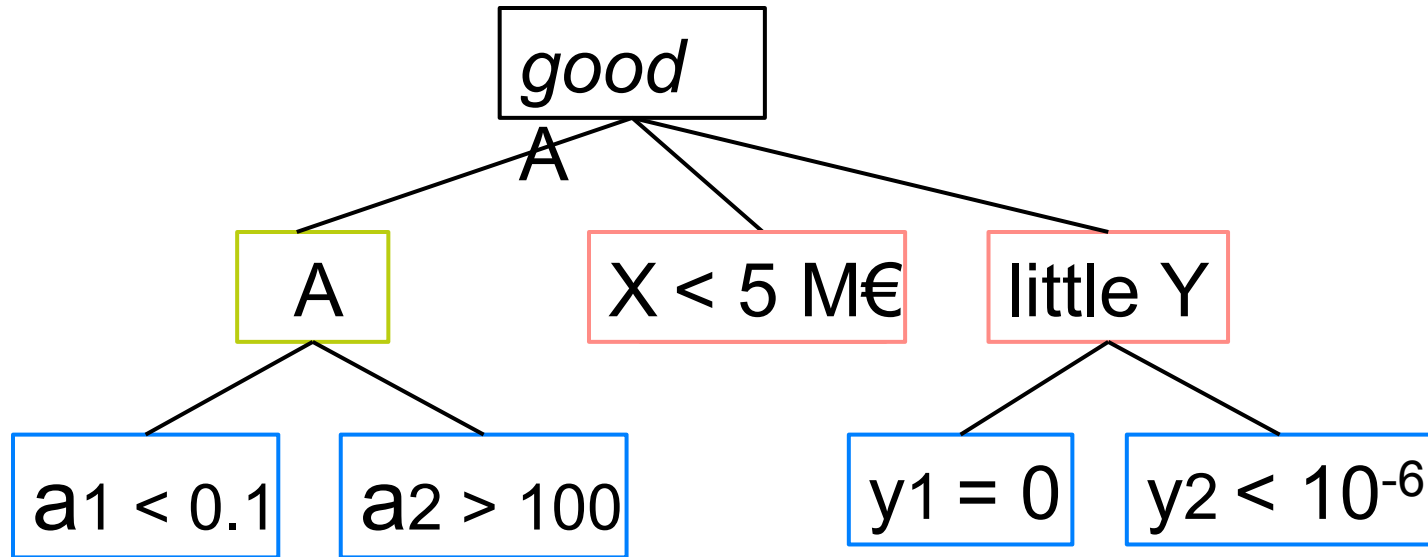
(1) “How can the client achieve **A** without (too much) **X** or **Y** ?”

(2) “How can the client achieve **B** without (too much) **X** or **Z** ?”

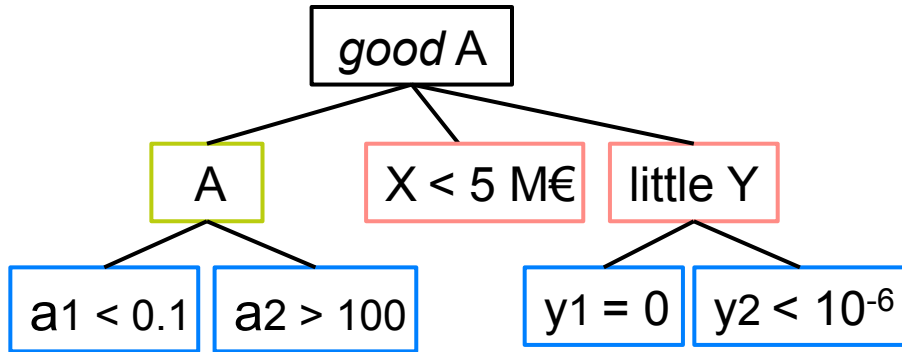
(5) “How can the client achieve **G** without (too much) **U**, **X** or **V** ?”

4. Problem statement \rightarrow objectives tree

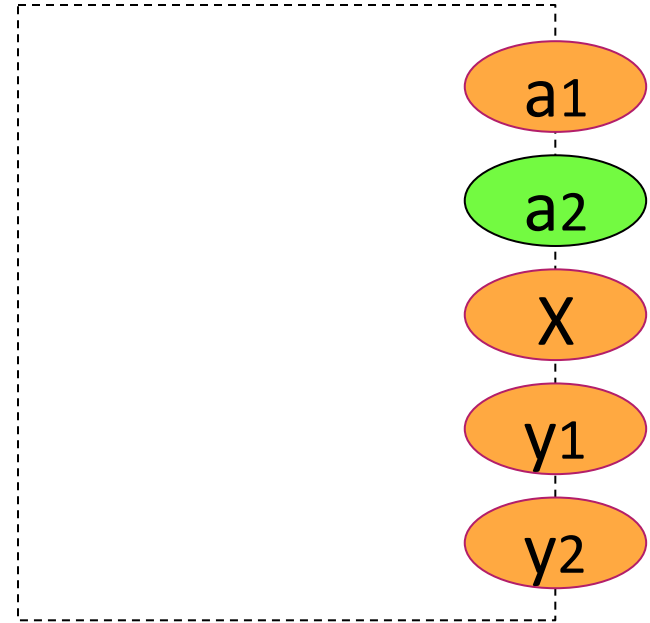
(1) “How can the client achieve A without (too much) X or Y ?”



4. Objectives tree \rightarrow system diagram

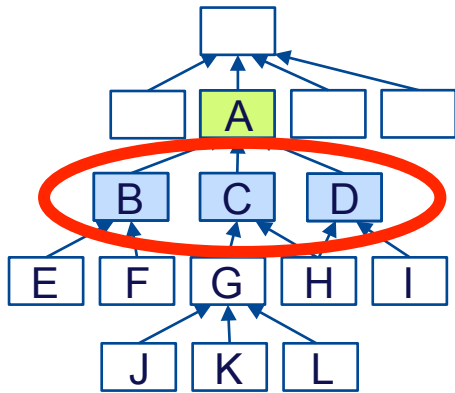


objectives tree

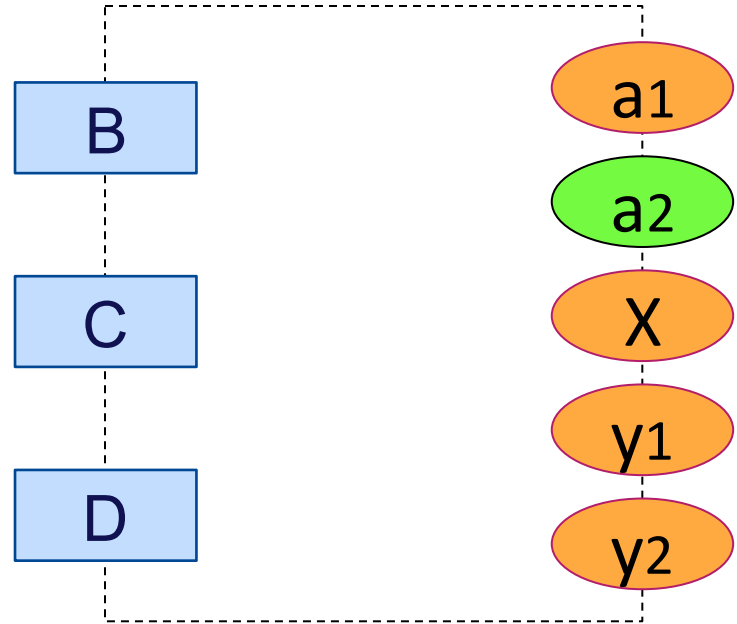


criteria

4. Add means to system diagram



means-ends diagram

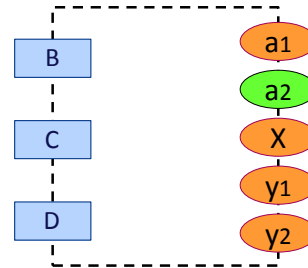


means

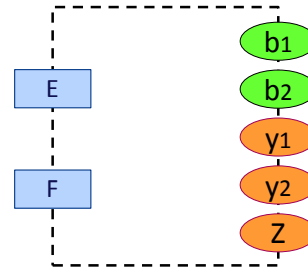
criteria

5. Choose one problem + associated system

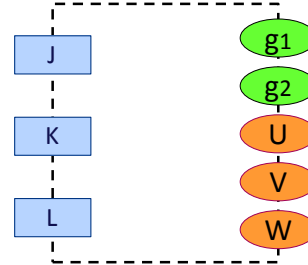
(1) “How can the client achieve **A** without (too much) **X** or **Y** ?”



(2) “How can the client achieve **B** without (too much) **Y** or **Z** ?”



(5) “How can the client achieve **G** without (too much) **U**, **V** or **W** ?”



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How to proceed?

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Involve your client in this process!