


# Task and Motion Planning (TAMP)

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Slides modified from: Caelan Reed Garrett  
[github.com/caelan/pddlstream](https://github.com/caelan/pddlstream)



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# Introduction

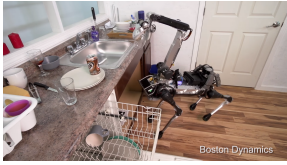
- “Robot, cook me a bowl of tomato soup”
- Must find out a sequence of grasps and motions that will result in a cooked can of soup
- In this case: grabs soup, pours it out into the red bowl, puts the red bowl on the stove, and then takes it off.
- Easy, right?




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# Planning for Autonomous Robots


- Robot must select both **high-level** actions & **low-level** controls
- Application areas:** semi-structured and human environments




Household



Warehouse fulfilment



Food service

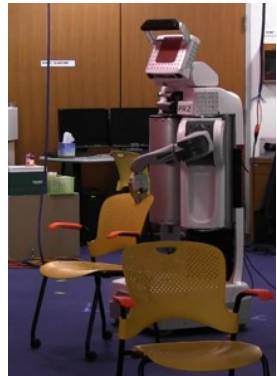


Construction

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# Task and Motion Planning (TAMP)

- Plan in a **factored, hybrid** space
  - Discrete** and **continuous** variables & actions
- Variables**
  - Continuous:** robot configuration, object poses, door joint positions,
  - Discrete:** is-on, is-in-hand, is-holding-water, is-cooked, ...
- Actions:** move, pick, place, push, pull, pour, detect, cook, ...



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## (Probable) Roadmap

### 1. Background

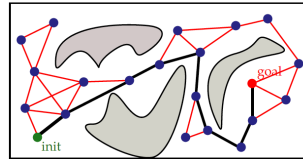
1. Task Planning
2. Motion Planning

### 2. Hybrid Planning

1. Prediscretized & Numeric Planning
2. Multi-Modal Motion Planning
3. Integrated TAMP

### 3. STRIPStream

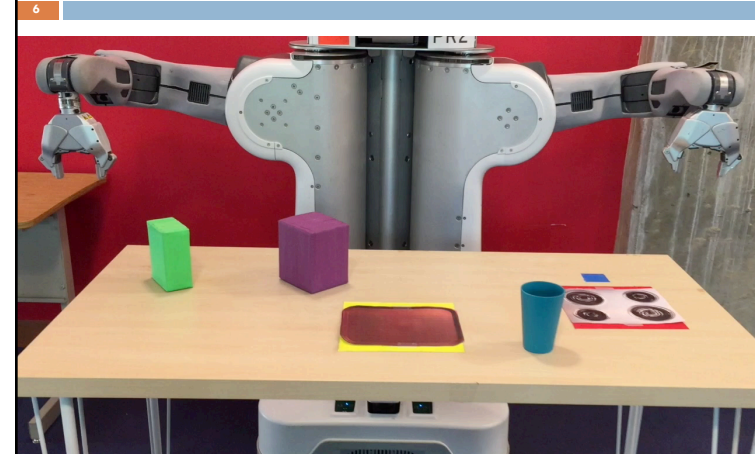
4. Temporal TAMP
5. TAMP under Uncertainty



[Fig from Erion Plaku]

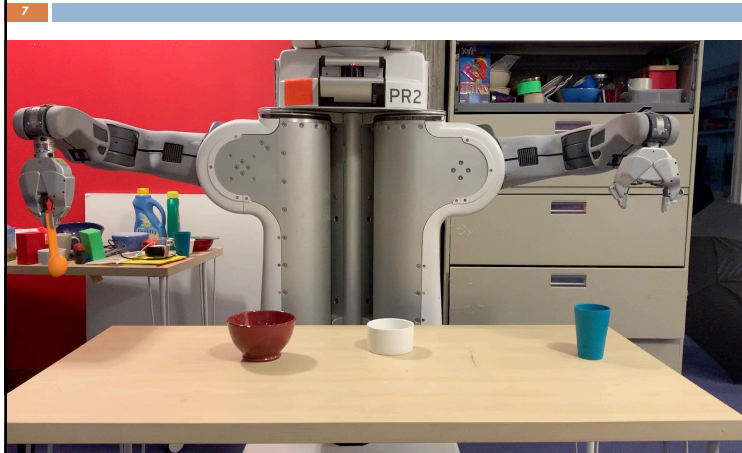
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## Cooking and Stacking



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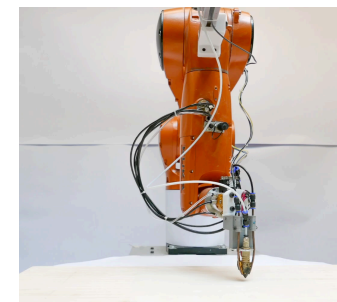
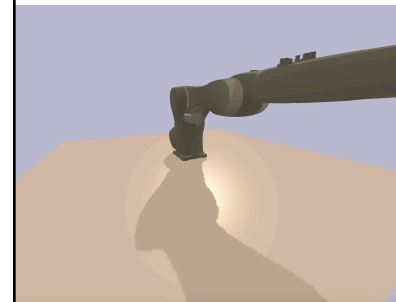
## Preparing Coffee



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## Automated Fabrication

- Plan sequence of **306** 3D printing extrusions (actions)
- Collision, kinematic, **stability** and **stiffness** constraints



[Huang, Garrett, & Mueller 2018]

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## Problem Class

- **Discrete-time**
  - Plans are finite sequences of controls
- **Deterministic** (for now)
  - Actions always produce the intended effect
  - Solutions are **plans** (instead of policies)
- **Observable** (for now)
  - Access to the full world state
- **Hybrid**
  - States & controls composed of **mixed discrete-continuous variables**

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## Classical (Task) Planning

- Key focus: **discrete** problems with **many variables**
  - Often enormous, but **finite**, state-spaces
- Problems typically described using an **action language**
  - **Propositional Logic** (STRIPS) [Fikes 1971] [Aeronautiques 1998]
  - **Planning Domain Description Language** (PDDL)
- Develop **domain-independent** algorithms
  - Can apply to **any problem** expressible using PDDL
- Exploit **factored** and **sparse** structure to develop efficient algorithms

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## Classical Planning Representations

Initial State                      Goal State

- **Facts:**  $on(x, y)$ ,  $onTable(x)$ ,  $clear(x)$ ,  $holding(x)$ ,  $armEmpty()$ .
- **Initial state:**  $\{onTable(E), clear(E), \dots, onTable(C), on(D, C), clear(D), armEmpty()\}$ .
- **Goal:**  $\{on(E, C), on(C, A), on(B, D)\}$ .
- **Actions:**  $stack(x, y)$ ,  $unstack(x, y)$ ,  $putdown(x)$ ,  $pickup(x)$ .
- $stack(x, y)?$   $pre : \{holding(x), clear(y)\}$   
 $add : \{on(x, y), armEmpty()\}$   
 $del : \{holding(x), clear(y)\}$ .

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## First-Order Action Languages

- **Predicate:** boolean function  $(On ?b1 ?b2)=True/False$
- **Facts (literals):** instantiated predicates  $(On D C)=True$
- **State:** set of facts  $\{(On A B)=False, (On D C)=True, \dots\}$ 
  - Equivalently, boolean state variables
  - **Closed-world** assumption: unspecified facts are **false**
- Example: **Blockworld** domain

Initial State                      Goal State

**Facts:**  $on(x, y)$ ,  $onTable(x)$ ,  $clear(x)$ ,  $holding(x)$ ,  $armEmpty()$ .  
**Initial state:**  $\{onTable(E), clear(E), \dots, onTable(C), on(D, C), clear(D), armEmpty()\}$ .  
**Goal:**  $\{on(E, C), on(C, A), on(B, D)\}$ . [Figs from Hector Geffner]  
**Actions:**  $stack(x, y)$ ,  $unstack(x, y)$ ,  $putdown(x)$ ,  $pickup(x)$ .

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## (Lifted) Action Schema

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- A tuple of free **parameters**
- A **precondition** formula tests applicability
- An **effect** formula modifies the state
- Logical **conjunctions** enable factoring
- Effects are **deltas**

```

(:action unstack
  :parameters (?b1 ?b2)
  :precondition (and
    (ArmEmpty) (On ?b1 ?b2)
    (Clear ?b1))
  :effect (and
    (Holding ?b1) (Clear ?b2)
    (not (Clear ?b1))
    (not (On ?b1 ?b2))))

(:action stack
  :parameters (?b1 ?b2)
  :precondition (and
    (Holding ?b1) (Clear ?b2))
  :effect (and
    (ArmEmpty)
    (On ?b1 ?b2) (Clear ?b1)
    (not (Holding ?b1))
    (not (Clear ?b2))))

```

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## Planning Approaches

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- **State-space** search: [Bonet 2001] [Hoffman 2001] [Helmert 2006]
  - **Progression** (forward) or regression (backward)
  - Best-first **heuristic search** algorithms
- **Partial-order** planning [Penberthy 1992]
  - Search directly over plans (**plan-space**)
- Planning as **Satisfiability** [Kautz 1999]
  - Compile to **fixed-horizon** SAT instance
  - SAT is **NP-Complete**
  - Planning is **PSPACE-Complete**
  - **Increase horizon if formula unsatisfiable**

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## Forward Best-First Search

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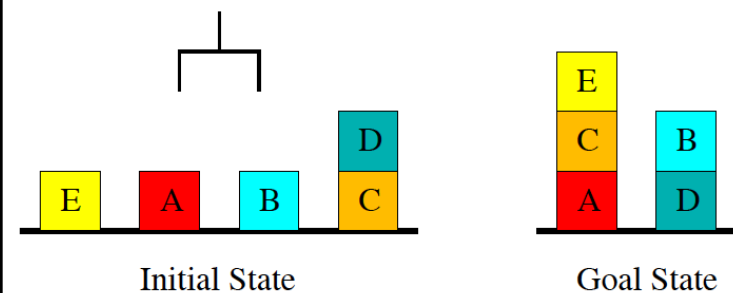
- For a state  $s$ 
  - Path **cost**:  $g(s)$
  - **Heuristic estimate**:  $h(s)$
  - Open list **sorted** by priority  $f(s)$
- **Weighted A\***:  $f(s) = g(s) + wh(s)$ 
  - Uniform cost search:  $w = 0 \implies f(s) = g(s)$
  - A\* search:  $w = 1 \implies f(s) = g(s) + h(s)$
  - **Greedy best-first search**:  $w = \infty \implies f(s) = h(s)$
- How do we estimate  $h(s)$ ?
  - No obvious metric (no metric-space embedding)

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## Predict the Minimum Plan Length

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- Can stack / unstack anywhere on the ground
- Hint: is an **even number**

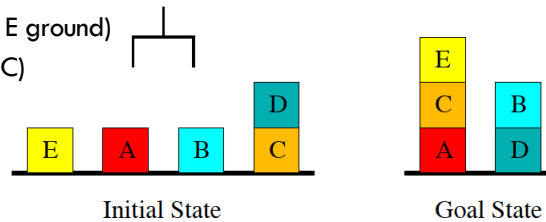


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## Predict the Minimum Plan Length

18

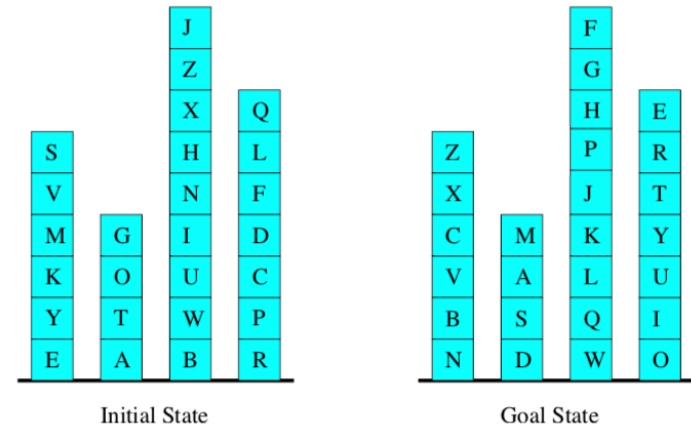
- **Solution** (length=6):
  - (unstack D C)
  - (stack D B)
  - (unstack C ground)
  - (stack C A)
  - (unstack E ground)
  - (stack E C)



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## Predict the Minimum Plan Length

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## Domain-Independent Heuristics

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- Estimating  $h(s)$  is **nontrivial**
- Can we do it in an **domain-independent** manner?
- Solve a related, **approximate** planning problem
  - Primary focus for almost all of classical planning
- Suggestions for how to do this?
  - **Independently** plan for each goal
  - **Remove** some action preconditions [Helmert 2006]
  - **Remove negative (delete) effects** [Bonet 2001] [Hoffman 2001]
  - ...

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## Delete-Relaxation Heuristics

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- Remove all negative (**not**) effects
- Solving optimally is **NP-Complete**
- Can greedily find a short plan in polynomial time
- Basis for both **admissible** and **greedier**, non-admissible heuristics

```

(:action unstack
  :parameters (?b1 ?b2)
  :precondition (and
    (ArmEmpty) (On ?b1 ?b2)
    (Clear ?b1))
  :effect (and
    (Holding ?b1) (Clear ?b2)
    (not (Clear ?b1))
    (not (ArmEmpty))
    (not (On ?b1 ?b2))))

(:action stack
  :parameters (?b1 ?b2)
  :precondition (and
    (Holding ?b1) (Clear ?b2))
  :effect (and
    (ArmEmpty)
    (On ?b1 ?b2) (Clear ?b1)
    (not (Holding ?b1))
    (not (Clear ?b2))))

```

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### Predict the Minimum Delete-Relaxed Plan Length

22

- Can stack / unstack anywhere on the ground
- Hint: is **no greater** than 6

Initial State: E, A, B, C, D

Goal State: E, C, A, B, D

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### Predict the Minimum Delete-Relaxed Plan Length

23

- Solution** (length=6):
  - (unstack D C)
  - (stack D B)
  - (unstack C ground)
  - (stack C A)
  - (unstack E ground)
  - (stack E C)

Initial State: E, A, B, C, D

Goal State: E, C, A, B, D

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### Predict the Minimum Plan Length

24

- Can stack / unstack anywhere on the ground
- Hint: is an **even** number

Initial State: E, C, A, B, D

Goal State: E, C, B, D, A

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### Predict the Minimum Plan Length

25

- Solution** (length=12):
  - (unstack E C)
  - (stack E ground)
  - (unstack C A)
  - (stack C ground)
  - (unstack E ground)
  - (stack E C)
  - (unstack B D)
  - (stack B ground)
  - (unstack D ground)
  - (stack D A)
  - (unstack B ground)
  - (stack B D)

Initial State: E, C, A, B, D

Goal State: E, C, B, D, A

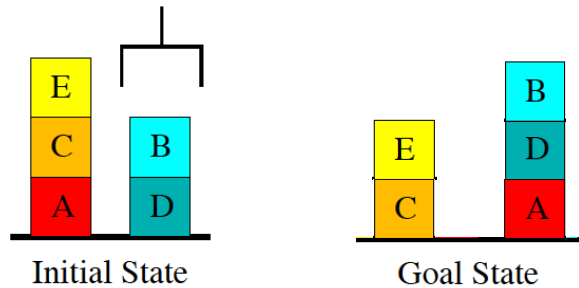
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## Predict the Minimum Delete-Relaxed Plan Length

26

- Can stack / unstack anywhere on the ground
- Hint: is **no greater** than 12

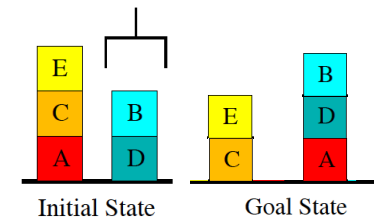


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## Predict the Minimum Delete-Relaxed Plan Length

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- Solution** (length=5):
  - (unstack E C)
  - (unstack C A)
  - (unstack B D)
  - (unstack D ground)
  - (stack D A)

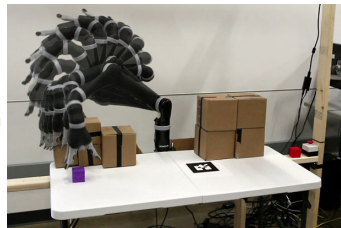


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## Review: Motion Planning

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- Plan a **path** for a robot from an initial configuration to a goal configuration that **avoids obstacles**
- Sequence of **continuous** configurations
- Configurations often are **high-dimensional**
  - Example: 7 DOFs
- High-level approaches:
  - Geometric decomposition
  - Sampling-based**
  - Optimization-based

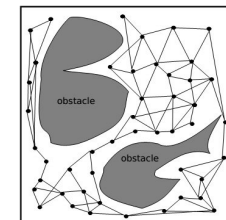


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## Sampling-Based Motion Planning

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- Discretize** configuration space by **sampling**
  - Sampling be deterministic or **random**
- Implicitly** represent the collision-free configuration space using an blackbox **collision checker**
  - Abstracts away** complex robot geometry
- Algorithms
  - Probabilistic Roadmap (PRM)
  - Rapidly-Exploring Random Tree (RRT)
  - Bidirectional RRT (BiRRT)

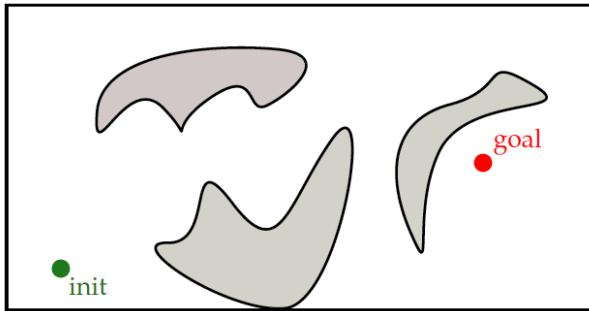


[Kavraki 1994][Kuffner 2000][LaValle 2006]

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## Probabilistic Roadmap (1/7)

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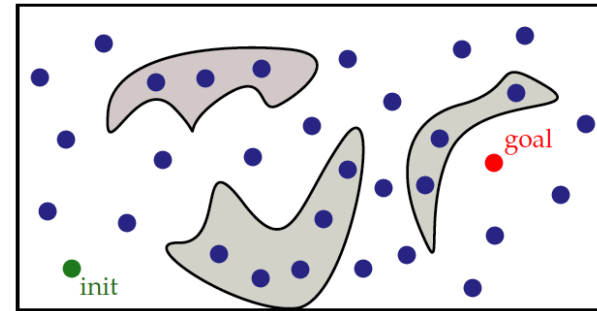
[Fig from Erion Plaku]

Find a path from **init** to **goal** that avoids the obstacles

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## Probabilistic Roadmap (2/7)

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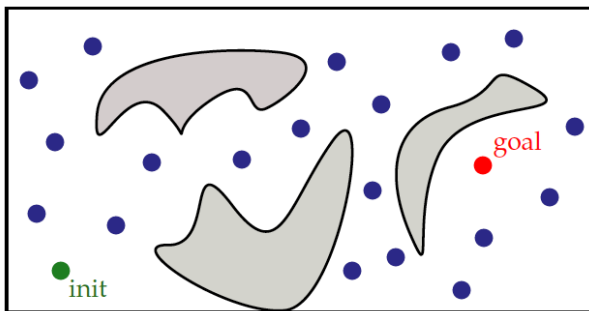
[Fig from Erion Plaku]

Sample a set of **configurations**

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## Probabilistic Roadmap (3/7)

35



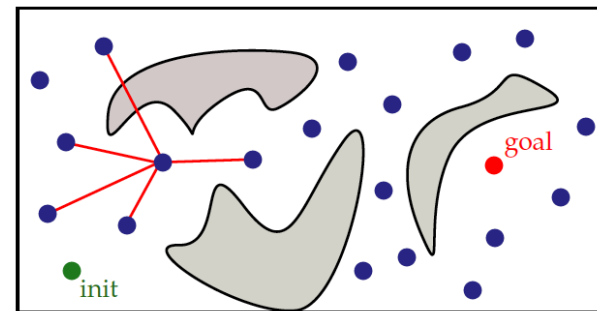
[Fig from Erion Plaku]

Remove configurations that collide with the obstacles

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## Probabilistic Roadmap (4/7)

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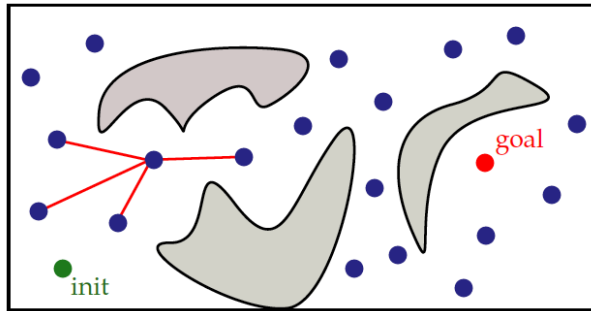
[Fig from Erion Plaku]

**Connect** nearby configurations

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## Probabilistic Roadmap (5/7)

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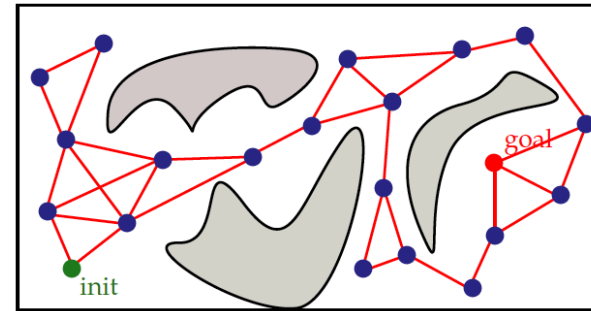
[Fig from Erion Plaku]

Prune **connections** that collide with the obstacles

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## Probabilistic Roadmap (6/7)

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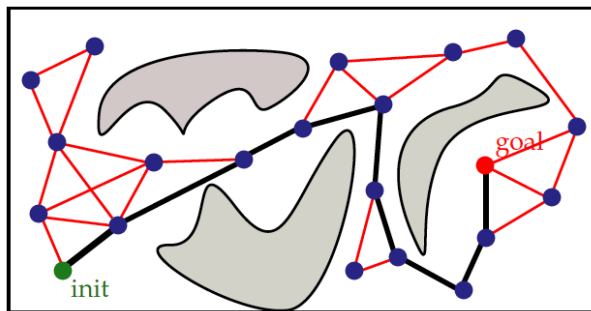
[Fig from Erion Plaku]

The resulting structure is a finite roadmap (graph)

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## Probabilistic Roadmap (7/7)

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[Fig from Erion Plaku]

Search for the shortest-path on the roadmap

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## Task and Motion Planning (TAMP)

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## Shakey the Robot (1969)

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- **First autonomous mobile manipulator** (via pushing)
- Visibility graph, A\* search, and STRIPS!
- **Decoupled** task and motion planning
- Task planning **then** motion planning

[Fikes 1971]

[Nilsson 1984]

```

type(robot robot)  type(object object)
name(robot shakey) name(object box1)
at(robot 4.1 7.2)  at(object 3.1 5.2)
theta(robot 90.1) inroom(object r1)
                    shape(object wedge)
                    radius(object 3.1)

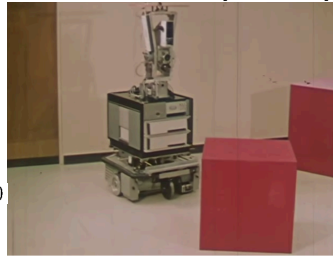
```

GOTHRU(d,r1,r2)

Precondition INROOM(ROBOT,r1)  $\wedge$  CONNECTS(d,r1,r2)

Delete List INROOM(ROBOT,\$)

Add List INROOM(ROBOT,r2)

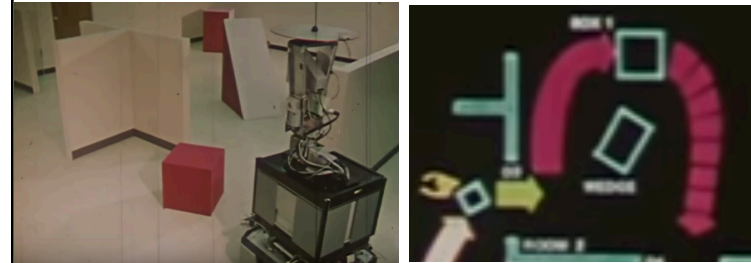


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## Obstacle Blocks Shakey's Path

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- What if a movable block **prevented** Shakey from safely moving into the adjacent room?
- Shakey could **push** it out of the way or **go around** it
- What's more efficient? How to push it? ...

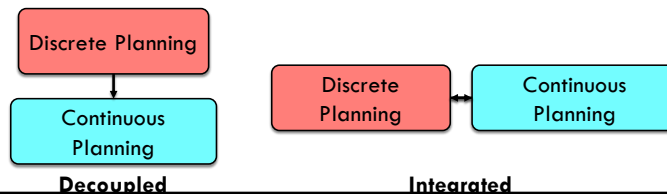


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## Decoupled vs Integrated TAMP

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- **Decoupled**: discrete (task) planning **then** continuous (motion) planning
- Requires a strong **downward refinement** assumption
- **Every** correct discrete plan can be **refined** into a correct continuous plan (from hierarchal planning)
- **Integrated**: simultaneous discrete & continuous planning

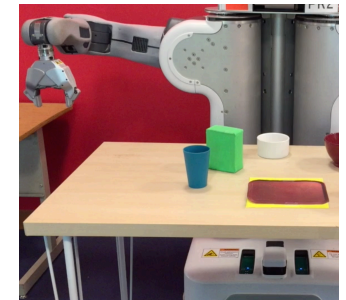


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## Geometric Constraints Affect Plan

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- **Inherits challenges** of both motion & classical planning
  - **High-dimensional, continuous** state-spaces
  - State-space **exponential** in number of variables
  - **Long horizons**
- Continuous constraints **limit high-level strategies**
- Kinematics, reachability, joint limits, collisions grasp, visibility, stability, stiffness, torque limits, ...

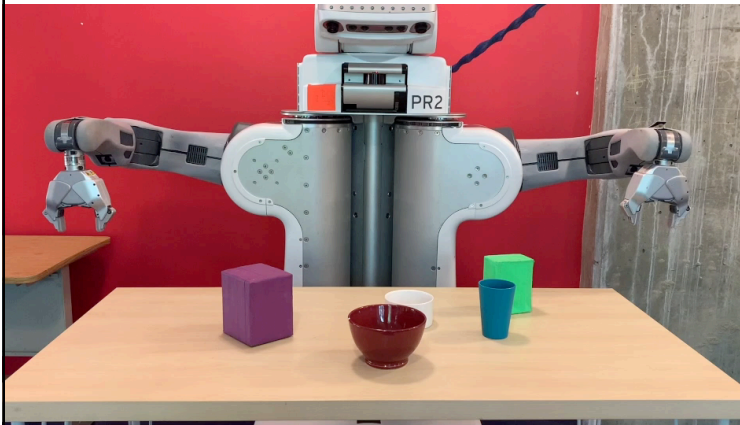


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## Pouring Among Obstacles

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## Preparing a Meal for Two

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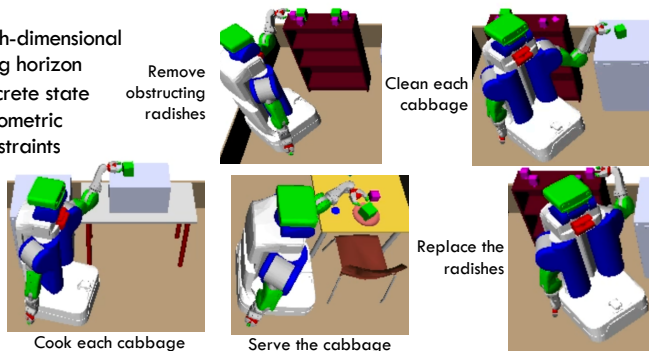
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## Breaking Down “Preparing a Meal”

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- Clean 3 blue cups and clean/cook 2 green cabbages
- 64 continuous and 10 discrete variables

1. High-dimensional
2. Long horizon
3. Discrete state
4. Geometric constraints



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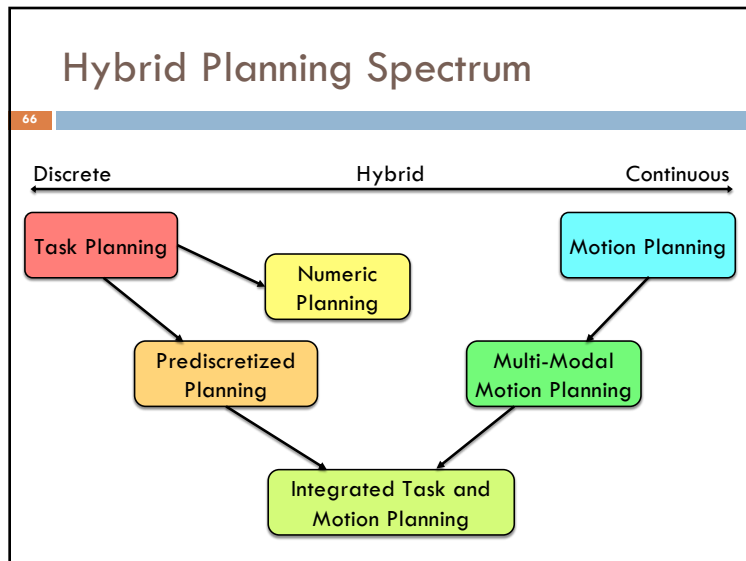
## Block in Left Cabinet & Doors Closed

64

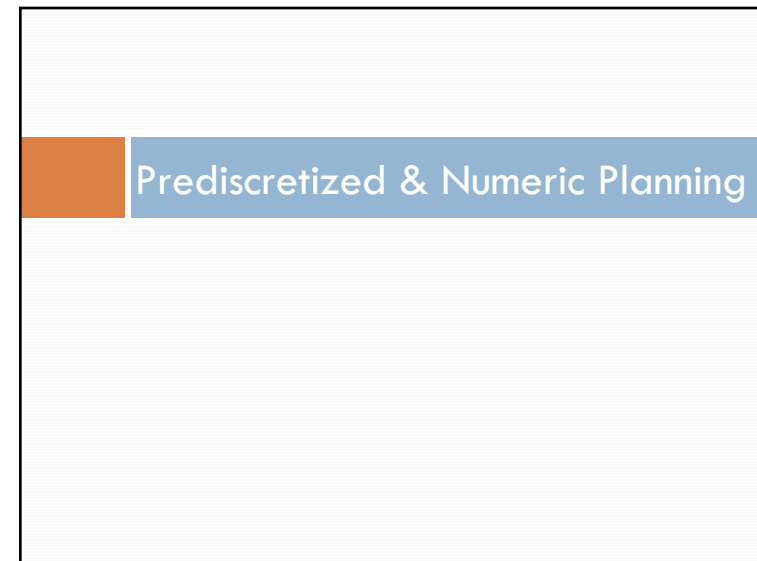


- Robot forced to **regrasp** the object
- Change from a **top** grasp to a **side** grasp
- **Non-monotonic** problem
- Plan must **undo goals** to solve
- **Open** then **close** the cabinet door
- Physical constraints can be subtle!

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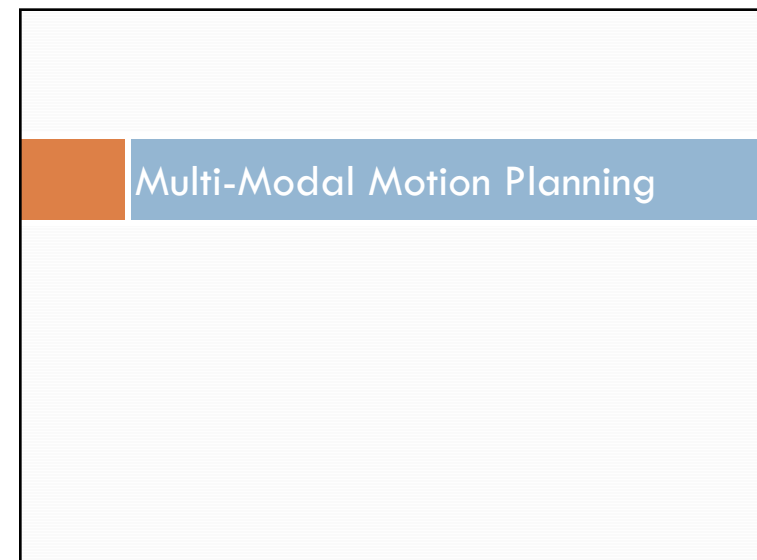


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## Prediscretized Planning

- Assumes that a **finite set** of object placements, object grasps, and (sometimes) robot configurations are **given**
- Can **directly** perform discrete task planning
- Still need to evaluate **reachability**
  - Eagerly in **batch** [Lozano-Pérez 2014][Garrett 2017][Ferrer-Mestres 2017]
  - Eagerly during **search** [Dornhege 2009]
  - Lazily** [Erdem 2011][Dantam 2018][Lo 2018]

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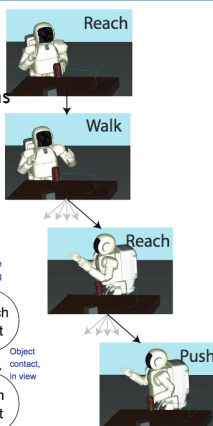
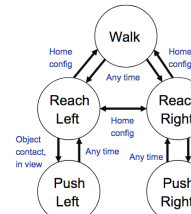


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## Multi-Modal Motion Planning

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- Collision-free configuration space **changes** when objects are manipulated
- Use a **sequence** of motion planning problems each defined by a **mode**
- **Mode**: a set of motion constraints
  - Gripper is empty
  - Relative object pose remains **constant**

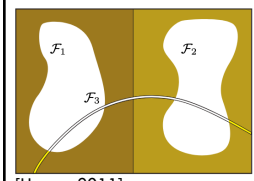
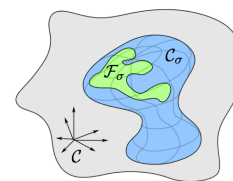
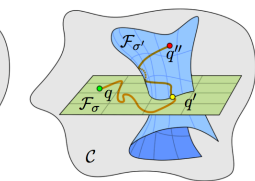
[Alami 1994][Siméon 2004][Hauser 2011][Barry 2013][Vega-Brown 2016]

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## Low-dimensional Intersections

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- Need samples that **connect** adjacent modes
- Intersection of two modes is often **low-dimensional**
  - **Special-purpose** samplers are needed
  - **Example**: transition from gripper **empty** to **holding**
  - Configurations at the **intersection** obtained using **inverse kinematics (IK)**

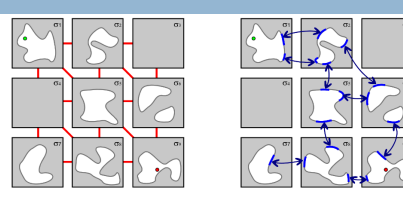
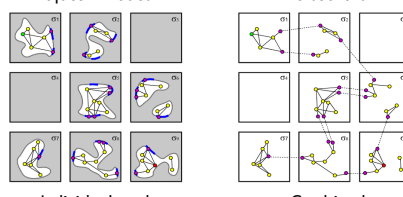
[Hauser 2011]

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## Sampling-Based Multi-Modal Planning

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1. Sample from the set of **modes**
2. Sample at the **low-dimensional intersection** of adjacent modes
3. Sample a roadmap **within** each mode
4. Discrete search on the multi-modal **roadmap**

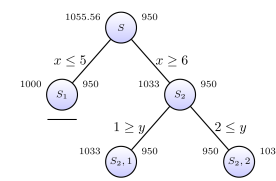
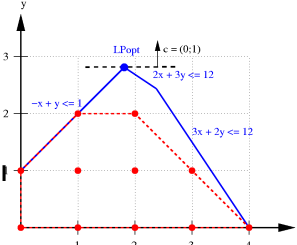
[Hauser 2011]

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## Mixed Integer Programming (MIP)

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- Continuous and integer variables
- Convex constraints and costs
- **Branch-and-bound**
  - Split on integer variables
  - **Integrity relaxation**
    - Lower bound on cost
    - Loose when **logical** operations
- Planning limitation
  - # of variables may be **exponential** in problem size

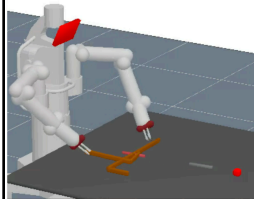



76

## Optimization-Based Multi-Modal Motion Planning

77

- Discrete search over sequences of **mode switches**
- Sequences have **varying length**
- Each sequence induces a **non-convex constrained optimization problem**
- Sequences can be pruned using **lower bounds** obtained by **relaxing** some constraints [Lagriffoul 2014]



[Toussaint 2015]  
[Toussaint 2018]

$$\min_{x, \alpha_{1:K}, s_{1:K}} \int_0^T f_{\text{path}}(\bar{x}(t)) dt + f_{\text{goal}}(x(T))$$

$$\text{s.t. } x(0) = x_0, h_{\text{goal}}(x(T)) = 0, g_{\text{goal}}(x(T)) \leq 0,$$

$$\forall t \in [0, T]: h_{\text{path}}(\bar{x}(t), s_{k(t)}) = 0,$$

$$g_{\text{path}}(\bar{x}(t), s_{k(t)}) \leq 0$$

$$\forall k \in \{1, \dots, K\}: h_{\text{switch}}(\bar{x}(t_k), a_k) = 0,$$

$$g_{\text{switch}}(\bar{x}(t_k), a_k) \leq 0,$$

$$s_k \in \text{succ}(s_{k-1}, a_k).$$

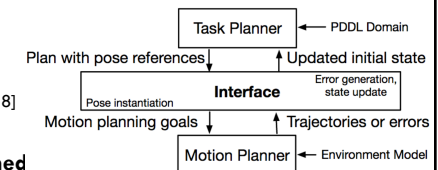
77

## Integrated TAMP

78

- Geometric search **guided** by classical planning
- Both heuristic and sampling guidance [Gravot 2005][Plaku 2010]
- Task and motion planning **interface**
- Maintain **separate** discrete and continuous descriptions
- Custom interface to communicate between the two
- How are failures **diagnosed**?

[Erdem 2011][De Silva 2013]  
[Srivastava 2014][Dantam 2018]



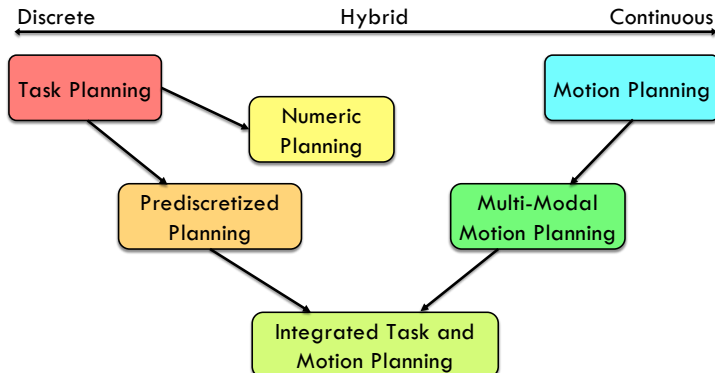
- Direct search in **combined**

[Kaelbling 2011] [Garrett 2018a] [Garrett 2018b]

78

## Hybrid Planning Spectrum Revisited

81



81

## One Approach: STRIPStream

83

- No general-purpose, flexible framework** for planning in a variety of TAMP domains
- Extends **PDDL** to incorporate **sampling procedures**
  - Can model domains with **infinitely-many** actions
- Develop **domain-independent** algorithms that treat the samplers as **blackbox inputs**
- Algorithms solve a **sequence of finite** PDDL problems
  - Leverage existing **classical planners** as subroutines
- Algorithms are particularly **fast when downward refinement holds** while remaining **complete**

83



## STRIPStream Language

85

## Benefits of Extending PDDL

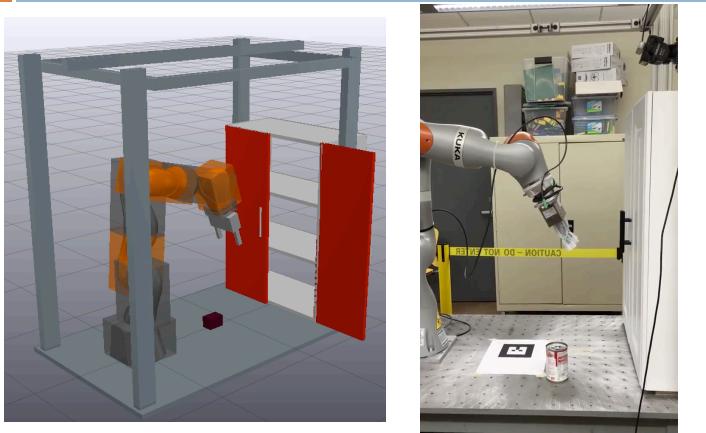
- **Standardized** action description language
- Emphasis on describing and solving problems in a **domain-independent** way
- Large wealth of efficient, **existing algorithms** that exploit **factored** state & action structure
- Encodes the **difference** between two states using preconditions & effects
  - Most variables are **unchanged**
  - Actions can be described using **few parameters**

86

## STRIPStream + Drake



88

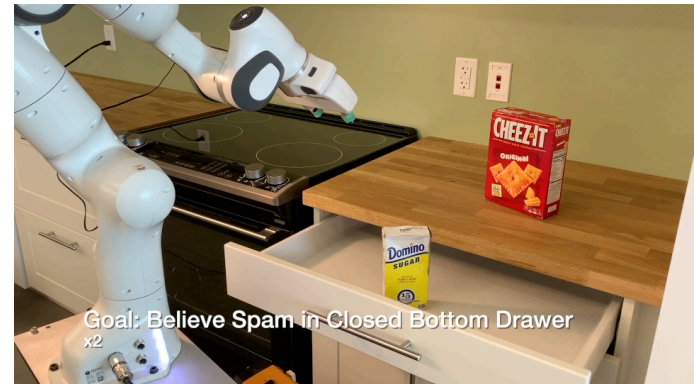


88

## Solved Using the Same Algorithm

89

Framework not specific to a single robot or robotics at all!



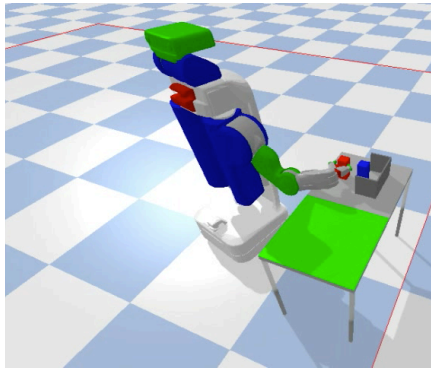
Goal: Believe Spam in Closed Bottom Drawer  
x2

89

## Motivating Pick & Place Example

91

- Single object **prevents** a goal object from being reachable
- Focus on a compact 2D version
- Formulation almost the same for 3D
- Algorithms agnostic to number of DOFs

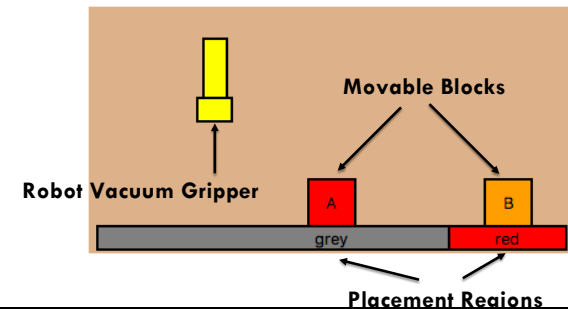


91

## 2D Pick-and-Place Example

92

- Goal:** block **A** within the **red** region
- Robot and block poses are continuous  $(x, y)$  pairs
- Block **B** obstructs the placement of **A**



92

## 2D Pick-and-Place Solution

93

- One (of infinitely many) possible solutions
- move, pick **B**, move, place **B**, move, pick **A**, move, place **A**



93

## 2D Pick-and-Place Initial & Goal

94

- Some constants are **numpy arrays**
- Static initial facts** - value is **constant** over time
  - (Block, A), (Block, B), (Region, red), (Region, grey), (Conf, [-7.5 5.]), (Pose, A, [0. 0.]), (Pose, B, [7.5 0.]), (Grasp, A, [0. -2.5]), (Grasp, B, [0. -2.5])
- Fluent initial facts** - value **changes** over time
  - (AtConf, [-7.5 5.]), (HandEmpty), (AtPose, A, [0. 0.]), (AtPose, B, [7.5 0.])
- Goal formula:**  $(\text{exists } (?p) (\text{and } (\text{Contained A } ?p \text{ red}) (\text{AtPose A } ?p)))$

94

## 2D Pick-and-Place Actions

95

- Typical PDDL action description except that arguments are **high-dimensional & continuous!**
- To use the actions, must **prove** the following **static facts**:  
(Motion ?q1 ?t ?q2), (Kin ?b ?p ?g ?q)

```
(:action move
:parameters (?q1 ?t ?q2)
:precondition (and (Motion ?q1 ?t ?q2) (AtConf ?q1))
:effect (and (AtConf ?q2) (not (AtConf ?q1))))

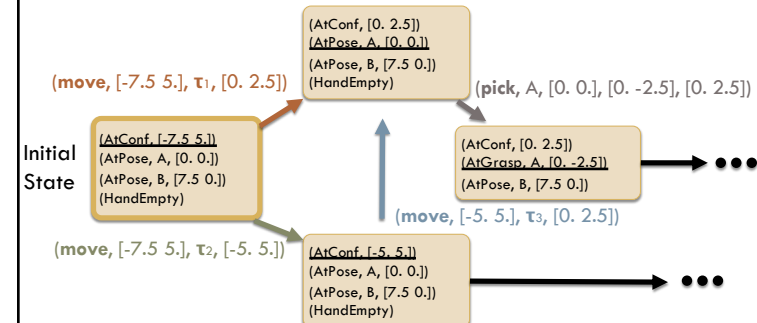
(:action pick
:parameters (?b ?p ?g ?q)
:precondition (and (Kin ?b ?p ?g ?q)
                  (AtConf ?q) (AtPose ?b ?p) (HandEmpty))
:effect (and (AtGrasp ?b ?g)
            (not (AtPose ?b ?p)) (not (HandEmpty))))
```

95

## BFS in Discretized State-Space

96

- Suppose we were **given** the following additional static facts:  
(Motion, [-7.5 5.],  $\tau_1$ , [0. 2.5]), (Motion, [-7.5 5.],  $\tau_2$ , [-5. 5.]),  
(Motion, [-5. 5.],  $\tau_3$ , [0. 2.5]), (Kin, A, [0. 0.], [0. -2.5], [0. 2.5]), ...



96

## No a Priori Discretization

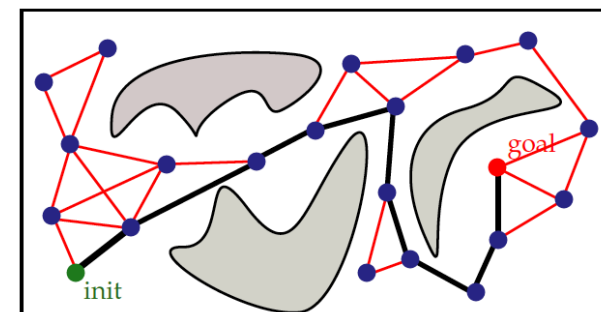
97

- Values given at start:**
  - 1 initial configuration: (Conf, [-7.5 5.])
  - 2 initial poses: (Pose, A, [0. 0.]), (Pose, B, [7.5 0.])
  - 2 grasps: (Grasp, A, [0. -2.5]), (Grasp, B, [0. -2.5])
- Planner needs to find:**
  - 1 pose within a region: (Contain A ?p red)
  - 1 collision-free pose: (CFree A ?p ? B ?p2)
  - 4 grasping configurations: (Kin ?b ?p ?g ?q)
  - 4 robot trajectories: (Motion ?q1 ?t ?q2)

97

## Intuition: Build a Roadmap

98



[Fig from Erion Plaku]

Search for the shortest-path on the roadmap

98

### What Samplers Do We Need?

- **Low-dimensional** placement stability constraint (Contain)
  - i.e. 1D manifold embedded in 2D pose space
  - Directly **sample values that satisfy the constraint**
  - May need **arbitrarily many** samples
  - Gradually enumerate an **infinite sequence**

99

### Intersection of Constraints

- **Kinematic constraint** ( $K_{in}$ ) involves poses, grasps, and configurations
- **Conditional samplers** - samplers with inputs

100

### Composing Conditional Samplers

- **Outputs** of one conditional sampler are the **inputs** to another
- **Directed acyclic graph (DAG)** of conditional samplers

101

### Stream: a function to a generator

- **Advantages**
  - Programmatic implementation
  - Compositional
  - Supports infinite sequences
- **Stream** - function from an **input object tuple**  $(x_1, x_2, x_3)$  to a (potentially infinite) sequence of **output object tuples**  $[(y_1, y_2), (y'_1, y'_2), \dots]$

```
def stream(x1, x2, x3):
    i = 0
    while True:
        y1 = i*(x1 + x2)
        y2 = i*(x2 + x3)
        yield (y1, y2)
        i += 1
```

[Kaelbling 2011][Srivastava 2014]  
[Garrett 2018a][Garrett 2018b]

102



## Stream Certified Facts

103

- Objects alone aren't helpful: **what do they represent?**
  - Communicate semantics using **predicates!**
- Augment stream specification with:
  - Domain facts** - static facts declaring legal **inputs**
    - e.g. only configurations can be motion inputs
  - Certified facts** - static facts that all **outputs** satisfy with their corresponding **inputs**
    - e.g. poses sampled from a region are within it

103

## Sampling Contained Poses

104

```
(:stream sample-region
 :inputs (?b ?r)
 :domain (and (Block ?b) (Region ?r))
 :outputs (?p)
 :certified (and (Pose ?b ?p) (Contain ?b ?p ?r)))
```



```
def sample_region(b, r):
    x_min, x_max = REGIONS[r]
    w = BLOCKS[b].width
    while True:
        x = random.uniform(x_min + w/2, x_max - w/2)
        p = np.array([x, 0.])
        yield (p,)
```



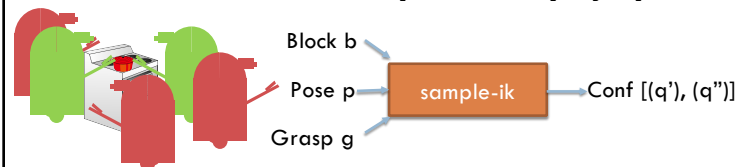
104

## Sampling IK Solutions

105

- Inverse kinematics (IK)** to produce robot grasping configuration
  - Trivial in 2D, non-trivial in general (e.g. 7 DOF arm)

```
(:stream sample-ik
 :inputs (?b ?p ?g)
 :domain (and (Pose ?b ?p) (Grasp ?b ?g))
 :outputs (?q)
 :certified (and (Conf ?q) (Kin ?b ?p ?g ?q)))
```



105

## Calling a Motion Planner

106

- "Sample" (e.g. via a PRM) **multi-waypoint trajectories**
- Include **joint limits & fixed obstacle collisions**, but not **movable object collisions**

```
(:stream sample-motion
 :inputs (?q1 ?q2)
 :domain (and (Conf ?q1) (Conf ?q2))
 :outputs (?t)
 :certified (and (Traj ?t) (Motion ?q1 ?t ?q2)))
```



106

## 2D Place Collisions

107

- Add parameters for the pose of each block - **bad!**
- Use a **derived predicate** for whether currently **unsafe**
  - Predicate defined by **logical formula** <sup>[Fox 2003]</sup> <sub>[Thiébaux 2005]</sub>
  - Enables lightweight **logical inference**
  - Decomposes collision checking into a logical **AND**

```
(:action place
:parameters (?b ?p ?g ?q)
:precondition (and ... (not (UnsafePose ?b ?p)))
:effect (and ...))

(:derived (UnsafePose ?b1 ?p1)
(exists (?b2 ?p2) (and (Pose ?b1 ?p1) (Pose ?b2 ?p2)
(not (= ?b1 ?b2)) (AtPose ?b2 ?p2)
(not (CFree ?b1 ?p1 ?b2 ?p2))))))
```

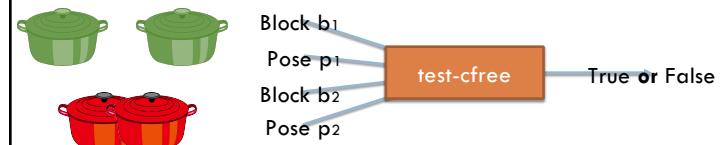
107

## Check Block Collisions

108

- **Test stream:** stream without output objects
- Return True if **collision-free** placement (e.g. via querying a collision checker)

```
(:stream test-cfree
:inputs (?b1 ?p1 ?b2 ?p2)
:domain (and (Pose ?b1 ?p1) (Pose ?b2 ?p2))
:outputs ()
:certified (CFree ?b1 ?p1 ?b2 ?p2))
```

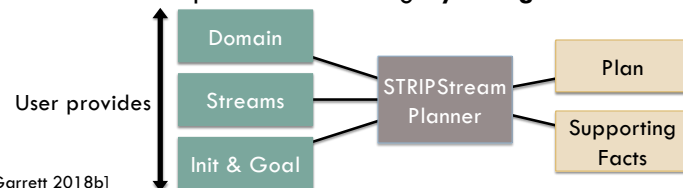


108

## STRIPStream = STRIPS + Streams

109

- **Domain dynamics** (*domain.pddl*): declares actions
- **Stream properties** (*stream.pddl*)
  - Declares stream inputs, outputs, and certified facts
- **Problem and stream implementation** (*problem.py*)
  - Initial state, **Python constants**, & goal formula
  - Stream implementation using **Python generators**



[Garrett 2018b]

109

## STRIPStream Algorithms

110

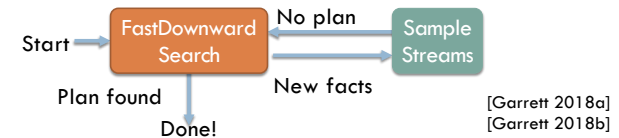
## Two STRIPStream Algorithms

- **STRIPStream planners decide** which streams to use
- Algorithms alternate between **searching & sampling**:
  1. **Search** a finite PDDL problem for plan
  2. **Modify** the PDDL problem (depending on the plan)
- Search implemented using **off-the-shelf algorithms**
  - **Off-the-shelf AI planner** - FastDownward
    - Exploits factoring in its search heuristics (e.g. hFF)
    - <http://www.fast-downward.org/>
- **Probabilistically complete** given *sufficient* samplers  
[Garrett 2018a]  
[Garrett 2018b]

111

## Incremental Algorithm

- Incrementally construct all possible initial facts
- Periodically check if a solution exists
- Repeat:
  1. **Compose** and **evaluate** a finite number of streams to unveil more facts in the initial state
  2. **Search** the current PDDL problem for plan
  3. **Terminate** when a plan is found



112

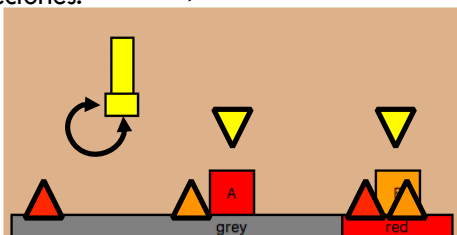
## Incremental: Sampling Iteration 1

113

**Iteration 1** - 14 stream evaluations

- **Sampled:**

- 2 new robot configurations:
- 4 new block poses:
- 2 new trajectories:

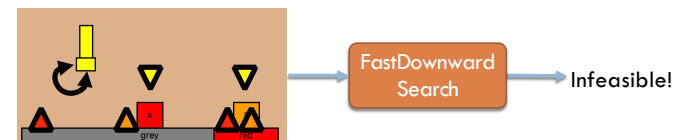


113

## Incremental: Search Iteration 1

114

- Pass current discretization to FastDownward
- If **infeasible**, the current set of samples is insufficient






114

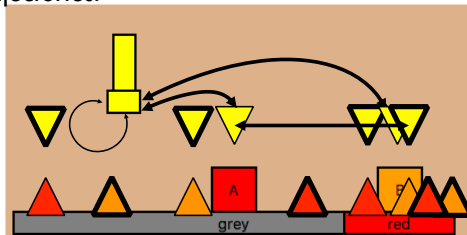
## Incremental: Sampling Iteration 2

115

**Iteration 2** - 54 stream evaluations

- **Sampled:**

- 4 new robot configurations: 
- 4 new block poses: 
- 10 new trajectories: 

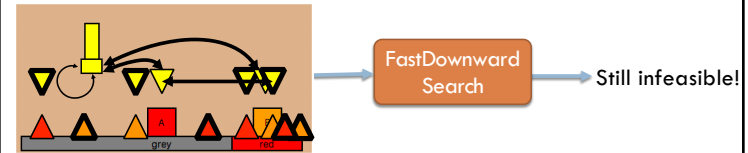


115

## Incremental: Search Iteration 2

116

- Pass current discretization to FastDownward
- If **infeasible**, the current set of samples is insufficient



116

## Incremental Example: Iterations 3-4

117

**Iteration 3** - 118 stream evaluations

**Iteration 4** - 182 stream evaluations

**Solution:**

- 1) move [-7.5 5. ] [[-7.5 5. ], [-7.5 5. ], [7.5 5. ], [7.5 2.5]] [7.5 2.5]
- 2) pick B [7.5 0. ] [0. -2.5] [7.5 2.5]
- 3) move [7.5 2.5] [[7.5 2.5], [7.5 5. ], [10.97 5. ], [10.97 2.5 ]] [10.97 2.5 ]
- 4) place B [10.97 0. ] [0. -2.5] [10.97 2.5 ]
- 5) move [10.97 2.5 ] [[10.97 2.5 ], [10.97 5. ], [0. 5.], [0. 2.5]] [0. 2.5]
- 6) pick A [0. 0.] [0. -2.5] [0. 2.5]
- 7) move [0. 2.5] [[0. 2.5], [0. 5.], [7.65 5. ], [7.65 2.5 ]] [7.65 2.5 ]
- 8) place A [7.65 0. ] [0. -2.5] [7.65 2.5 ]

- **Drawback** - many unnecessary samples produced
  - **Computationally expensive** to generate
  - Induces **large discrete-planning problems**

117

## Optimistic Stream Outputs

118

- Many TAMP streams are exceptionally **expensive**
  - Inverse kinematics, motion planning, collision checking
- **Only** query streams that are **identified** as useful
  - Plan with **optimistic hypothetical** outputs [Srivastava 2014]
- Inductively create **unique placeholder** output objects for each stream instance (has # as its prefix)

**Optimistic evaluations:**

1. s-region:(b0, red)->(**#p0**)
2. s-ik:(b0, [0. 0.], [0. -2.5])->(**#q0**),
3. s-ik:(b0, **#p0**, [0. -2.5]) ->(**#q2**)

[Garrett 2018a]  
[Garrett 2018b]

118

## Focused Algorithm

119

- **Lazily** plan using optimistic outputs **before** real outputs
- **Recover** set of streams used by the optimistic plan
- Repeat:
  1. Construct active **optimistic** objects
  2. **Search** with **real & optimistic** objects
  3. If **only real objects** used, **return plan**
  4. **Sample** used streams
  5. **Disable** used streams

[Garrett 2018a][Garrett 2018b]

119

## Focused Example 1

120

**Optimistic Plan:**  
**move**([-5. 5.], #t0, #q0), **pick**(A, [0. 0.], [-0. -2.5], #q0),  
**move**(#q0, #t2, #q1), **place**(A, #p0, [-0. -2.5], #q1)

**Constraints:**  
 (kin, A, #q0, #p0, [-0. -2.5]),  
 (kin, A, #q1, [0. 0.], [-0. -2.5]),  
 (motion, [-5. 5.], #t1, #q1),  
 (motion, #q1, #t2, #q0),  
 (contain, A, #p0, red),

s-region:(A, red)->(#p0)

s-ik:(A, #p0, [-0. -2.5])->(#q0)

s-ik:(A, [0. 0.], [-0. -2.5])->(#q1)

s-motion:(#q1, #q0)->(#t2)

s-motion:([-5. 5.], #q1)->(#t1)

120

## Focused Example 2: Iteration 1

121

**Optimistic Plan:**  
**move**([-5. 5.], #t0, #q0), **pick**(A, [0. 0.], [-0. -2.5], #q0), **move**(#q0, #t2,  
 #q1), **place**(A, #p0, [-0. -2.5], #q1)

**Constraints:**  
(cfree, A, #p0, B, [7.5 0. ]), (contain, A, #p0, red),  
 (kin, A, #q0, [0. 0.], [-0. -2.5]), (kin, A, #q1, #p0, [-0. -2.5]),  
 (motion, #q0, #t2, #q1), (motion, [-5. 5.], #t0, #q0)

s-region:(A, red)->(#p0)

t-cfree:(A, #p0, B, [7.5 0. ])->0

s-ik:(A, #p0, [-0. -2.5])->(#q1) ...

s-motion:(#q0, #q1)->(#t2)

**Stream evaluations:**  
 1. s-region:(A, red)->[[[8.21 0. ]]]  
 2. t-cfree:(A, [8.21 0. ], B, [7.5 0. ])=**False**  
 These stream instances are **removed** from subsequent searches

121

## Focused Example: Iteration 2

122

**Optimistic Plan:**  
**move**([-5. 5.], #t4, #q2), **pick**(B, [7.5 0. ], [-0. -2.5], #q2),  
**move**(#q2, #t9, #q3), **place**(B, #p1, [-0. -2.5], #q3),  
**move**(#q3, #t6, #q0), **pick**(A, [0. 0.], [-0. -2.5], #q0),  
**move**(#q0, #t8, #q4), **place**(A, [8.21 0. ], [-0. -2.5], #q4)

t-cfree:(A, [8.21 0. ], B, [7.5 0. ]) **previously failed**  
 t-cfree:(A, [8.21 0. ], B, #p1) **might succeed**

s-region:(B, grey)->(#p1)

t-cfree:(B, #p1, A, [0. 0. ])->0

t-cfree:(A, [8.21 0. ], B, #p1)->0

s-ik:(B, [7.5 0. ], [-0. -2.5])->(#q3) ...

s-motion:([-5. 5.], #q3)->(#t4)

122

### Focused Outperforms Incremental

Incremental ~20 s  
**Focused ~10 s**

Incremental N/A  
**Focused ~25s**

Incremental N/A  
**Focused ~20s**

[Garrett 2018a]

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### Diverse Experiments

126

### Diverse Experiments

Problem	Incr.		Incr. - H		Focus		Focus - H	
	%	t	%	t	%	t	%	t
Regrasp	98	1	100	2	98	1	95	1
Push	100	11	100	13	100	13	100	9
Wall	95	10	98	13	100	6	100	8
Stacking	100	9	100	9	100	2	100	3
Nonmon.	25	21	98	15	0	-	88	43
Dinner	0	-	100	27	0	-	98	22

Success percentage (%), Average runtime in sec. (t)

127

### Cost-Minimizing Planning

- Actions costs specified as **nonnegative functions**

```

(:action move                                (:function (Length ?t)
:parameters (?q1 ?t ?q2)                    (Traj ?t))
:precondition (and (Motion ?q1 ?t ?q2)
                   (AtConf ?q1))
:effect (and (AtConf ?q2)
             (not (AtConf ?q1)))
          (increase (total-cost) (Length ?t)))
    
```

- Function specification similar to derived predicates

```

def Length(t):
  return sum(np.linalg.norm(q2 - q1)
            for q1, q2 in zip(t[:-1], t[1:]))
    
```

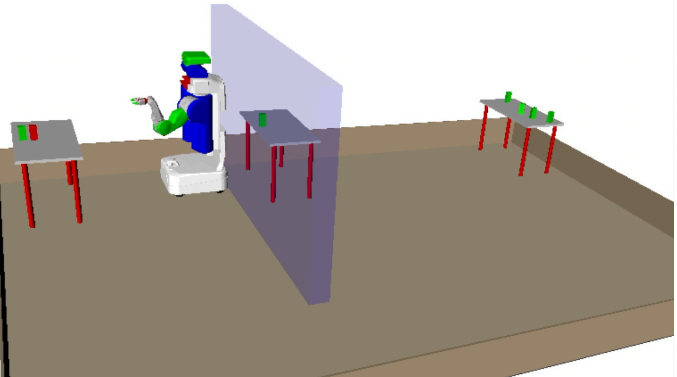
- Asymptotically optimal algorithms**

128

## Goal: Hold Any Green Block

129

- Lower bounds on costs improve focused performance




129

## TAMP Under Uncertainty

141

## A Real World Example

Task: Cook Spam  
Prior: Uniform over Counter  
Goal: Spam Cooked



143

## In the real world...

Three big problems:

- Partially observability:** we don't have full knowledge of the world; objects not visible.
- Stochastic actions:** objects or the robot will not appear where we expect when grasped, placed, or detected. This means we must be able to **re-plan** efficiently.
- Problem complexity:** plans are long, with many free parameters. It's impossible to explore all possible results of our actions.

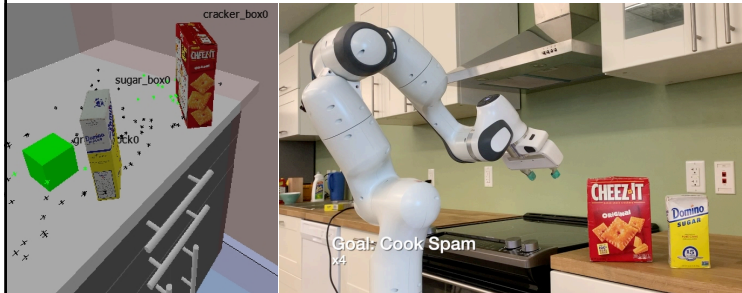
144



## POMDP: Partially-Observable State

145

- Update a **belief** (probability distribution) over states
- Plan in the **space of beliefs** (belief space planning)
- Intentionally take observation actions



145

## MDP: Stochastic Action Effects

146

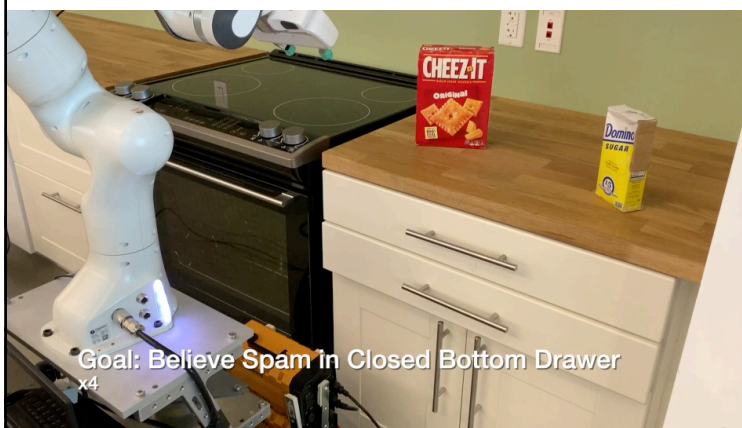
- Approximate as cost-sensitive **deterministic** problem
- **Policy** computed online via **replanning**



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## Geometric & Probabilistic Constraints

147



147

## Three Insights

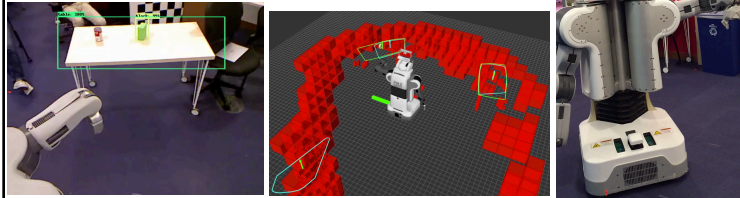
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- 1) **Particle-based belief representation:** allows us to represent belief over where objects might be, given a prior based on the environment. Determinize this belief before planning.
- 2) **Online replanning:** we constrain new plans to be decreasing in length, and re-use elements of the plan structure. This prevents issues with (1).
- 3) **Deferred evaluation:** only evaluate *streams*, i.e. find continuous values, for actions that occur before the next time we will need to replan.

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## Belief-Space TAMP System

- Convolutional Neural Network (**CNN**) Object Detector
- Point cloud **plane estimation** to identify surfaces
- Point cloud **pose estimation** for objects
- **Occupancy grid** for non-manipulable
- Plan, execute, & observe in **real time**



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## Takeaways

- **Task and Motion Planning (TAMP)**: hybrid planning where continuous constraints affect discrete decisions
- **Sampling** is powerful for exploring continuous spaces
- **STRIPStream**: planning language that supports **sampling procedures** as blackbox streams
- **Domain-independent** algorithms
- **Lazy/optimistic** planning intelligently queries only a small number of samplers (focused algorithm)
- Ongoing work involving **cost-sensitive, multi-agent, probabilistic & partially observable TAMP**

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## Other Directions

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## Robustness and Reactivity

Task-Level Disturbances



Action-Level Disturbances

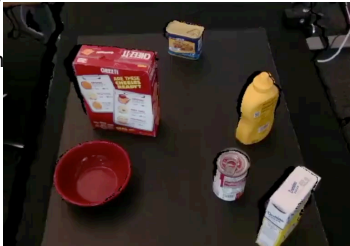


Sensors can be wrong, actions can have unpredictable effects, and external factors can interfere with execution.

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## Goal-Based Imitation Learning

- Goal-based imitation allows us to map from human demonstrations to dramatically different environments.
- Take a human demonstration in one environment, use motion planning to determine what their intentions were.




Huang, D., Chao, Y., Paxton, C., Deng, X., Li, F., Neebles, J., Garg, A., Fox, D. Motion Reasoning for Goal-Based Imitation Learning. ICRA 2020

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## Goal-Based Imitation Learning

- Goal-based imitation allows us to map from human demonstrations to dramatically different environments.
- Take a human demonstration in one environment, use motion planning to determine what their intentions were.
- Use the inferred logical goal and execute robustly in the new environment.

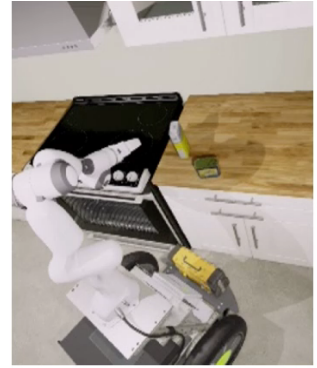


Huang, D., Chao, Y., Paxton, C., Deng, X., Li, F., Neebles, J., Garg, A., Fox, D. Motion Reasoning for Goal-Based Imitation Learning. ICRA 2020

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## Deep Planning Domain Learning

- Learn symbols for high-level task planning, as well as low-level policies for reactive execution.
- Advantage: highly reactive learned hierarchical architecture that can generate plans for held-out tasks.

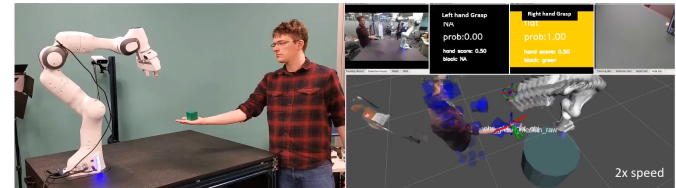




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## Collaborating with Humans

### Human Grasp Classification for Reactive Human-to-Robot Handovers

Wei Yang<sup>1</sup>, Chris Paxton<sup>1</sup>, Maya Cakmak<sup>1,2</sup>, and Dieter Fox<sup>1,2</sup>



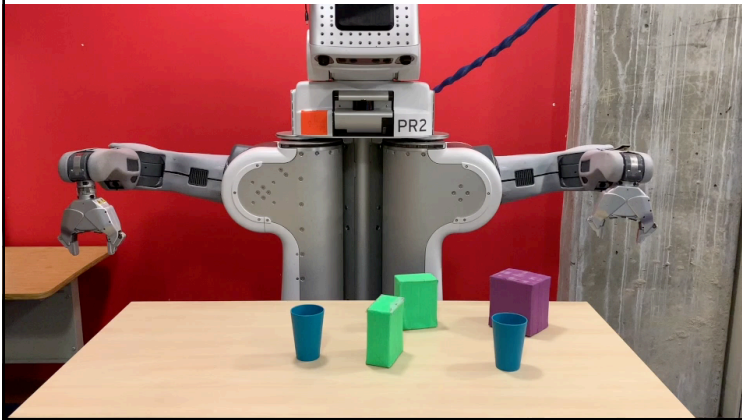



\* Equal contribution | <sup>1</sup>NVIDIA, USA | <sup>2</sup>University of Washington, USA

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## Questions? (and Outtakes!)

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