



# Planning Challenges in Human-Machine Collaboration

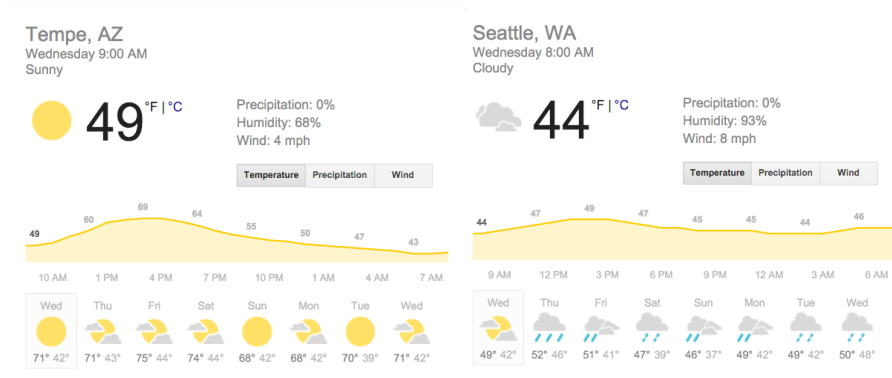
**Subbarao Kambhampati**  
Arizona State University

Funding from ONR, ARO and NSF  
gratefully acknowledged <sup>1</sup>



# Planning Challenges in Human-Machine Collaboration

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Arizona State University



Funding from ONR, ARO and NSF  
gratefully acknowledged <sup>2</sup>

A circular frame containing a forest scene with a lake and a boat, with the word 'FLASHBACK' overlaid in a white box.

FLASHBACK

# 590 A - Research Seminar in Artificial Intelligence

Autumn Quarter 2007

Faculty organizer: [Mausam](#)

Day / Time: Fridays 3:30-4:20

Location: [EEB 003](#)



## Theme: The Future of AI

The theme for CSE590A will be 'The Future of AI'. We will present talks from several seasoned researchers regarding their vision for AI. The hope is that the seminars will excite all of us regarding the role of AI in our future, intrigue and puzzle us by the burning open research questions and hopefully also provoke us in thinking about a broader, long-term vision for our own research. The format will be informal and interactive and we expect to have fun discussions after the talks.

## Mailing List

We will not use the cse590a mailing list. Instead, announcements about the seminar will go to uw-ai. If you do not already subscribe to uw-ai, then join by sending mail to [uw-ai-request@cs.washington.edu](mailto:uw-ai-request@cs.washington.edu), with the line "subscribe listname" in the body of the message. You are **encouraged** to discuss the presentations on the mailing list.

## Calendar

	Speaker	Title
September 28	No class, Welcome TGIF!	
October 5	<a href="#">Eric Horvitz</a> , Microsoft Research	The Future of AI
October 12	<a href="#">Wolfram Burgard</a> , University of Freiburg	<a href="#">The Future of AI: a Robotics Perspective</a>
October 19	<a href="#">Benjamin Grosz</a> , Semantic Technologies, Vulcan Inc.	The Future of AI, with a Semantic and Business Focus
October 26	<a href="#">Pedro Domingos</a> , University of Washington	<a href="#">How We're Going to Solve the AI Problem</a>
November 2	<a href="#">Subbarao Kambhampati</a> , Arizona State University	<a href="#">Future of AI: Darned Humans--can't live with them and can't live without them (Audio)</a>
November 9	<a href="#">Thomas Dietterich</a> , Oregon State University	<a href="#">The Future of AI: Learning, Manipulating, Generating, and Recognizing Activities</a>
November 16	<a href="#">Dieter Fox</a> , University of Washington	<a href="#">Future of AI: Interacting with the physical world</a>
November 23	No class. Happy Thanksgiving!	
November 30	<a href="#">Dan Weld</a> , University of Washington	The Future of AI
December 7	<a href="#">Oren Etzioni</a> , University of Washington	<a href="#">Paradigm Shift in AI</a>





Future of AI

# Human-Aware AI

(aka Darned Humans:

Can't Live with them. Can't Live without them)

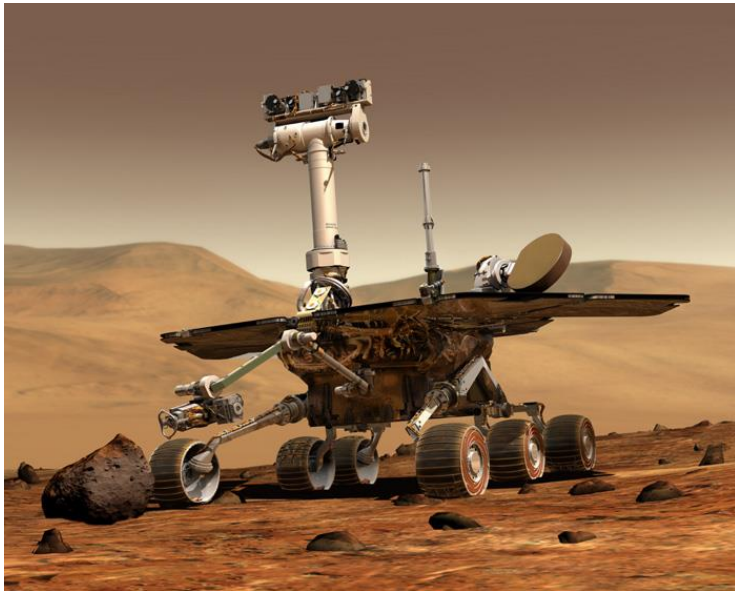
Subbarao Kambhampati  
Arizona State University



Given at U. Washington on 11/2/2007

# AI's Curious Ambivalence to humans..

- Our systems seem happiest
  - either far away from humans
  - or in an adversarial stance with humans



*You want to help humanity, it is the people that you just can't stand...*

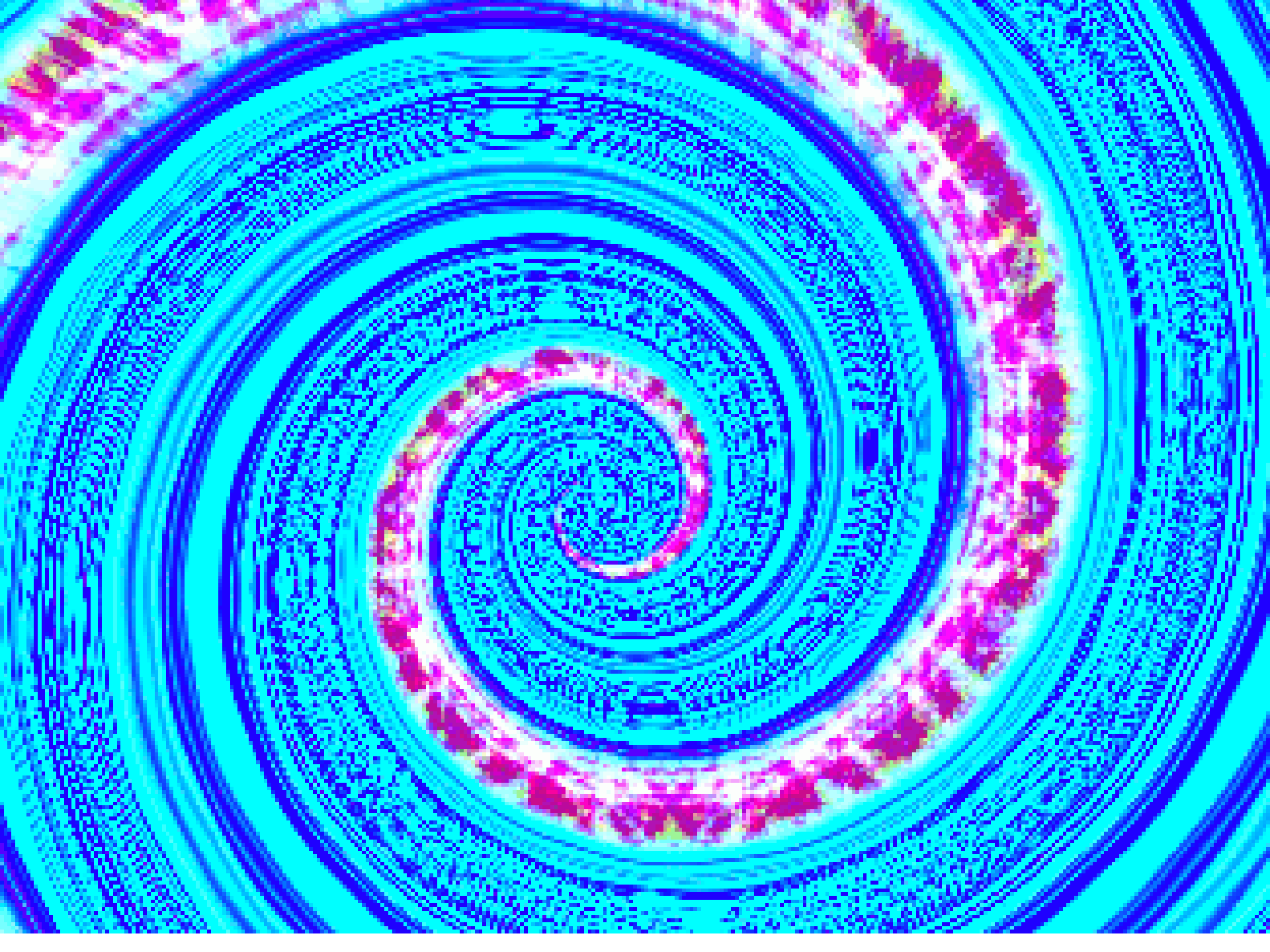
# What happened to Co-existence?

- Whither McCarthy's advice taker?
- ..or Janet Kolodner's house wife?
- ...or even Dave's HAL?
  - (with hopefully a less sinister voice)



HAA!

Human-aware AI





# Musk, Wozniak and Hawking urge ban on warfare AI and autonomous weapons

More than 1,000 experts and warning of military artificial i



## Netflix's Hastings: B machines and genet

CHRIS O'BRIEN JANUARY 18, 2016 3:41 AM  
TAGS: AI, GENETICS, NETFLIX, REED HASTINGS



Image Credit: Flickr/tpSos.de

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Facebook icon: "Some people worry about what happens when machine intelligence is too strong," Hastings said. "That's like worrying about our Mars colony and people

# HAAI

there



Zero Gravity Solutions, Inc. Signs Space Act Agreement with NASA Ames Research Center

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C++

September 05, 2007

# AI: It's OK Again!

## Is AI on the rise again?

(Page [1](#) of [2](#))

Michael Swaine

**Over the last half century, AI has had its ups and down. But for now, it's on the rise again.**

In 1956, John McCarthy, Marvin Minsky, Nathaniel Rochester, and Claude Shannon organized the

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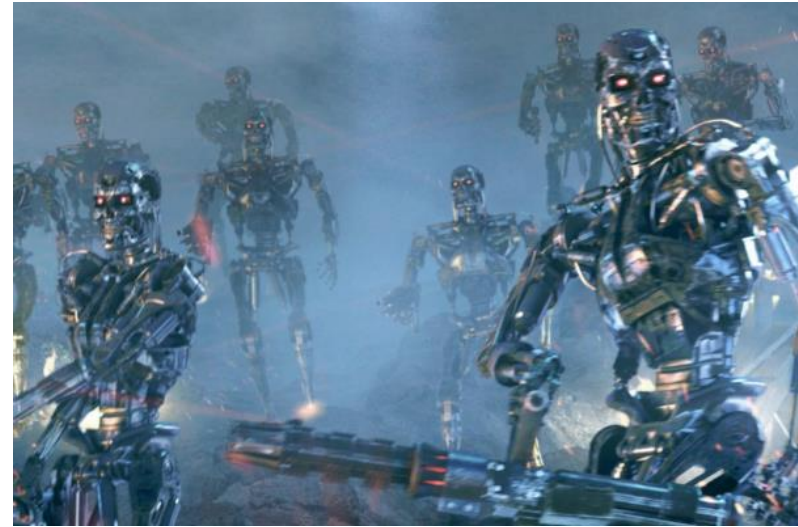
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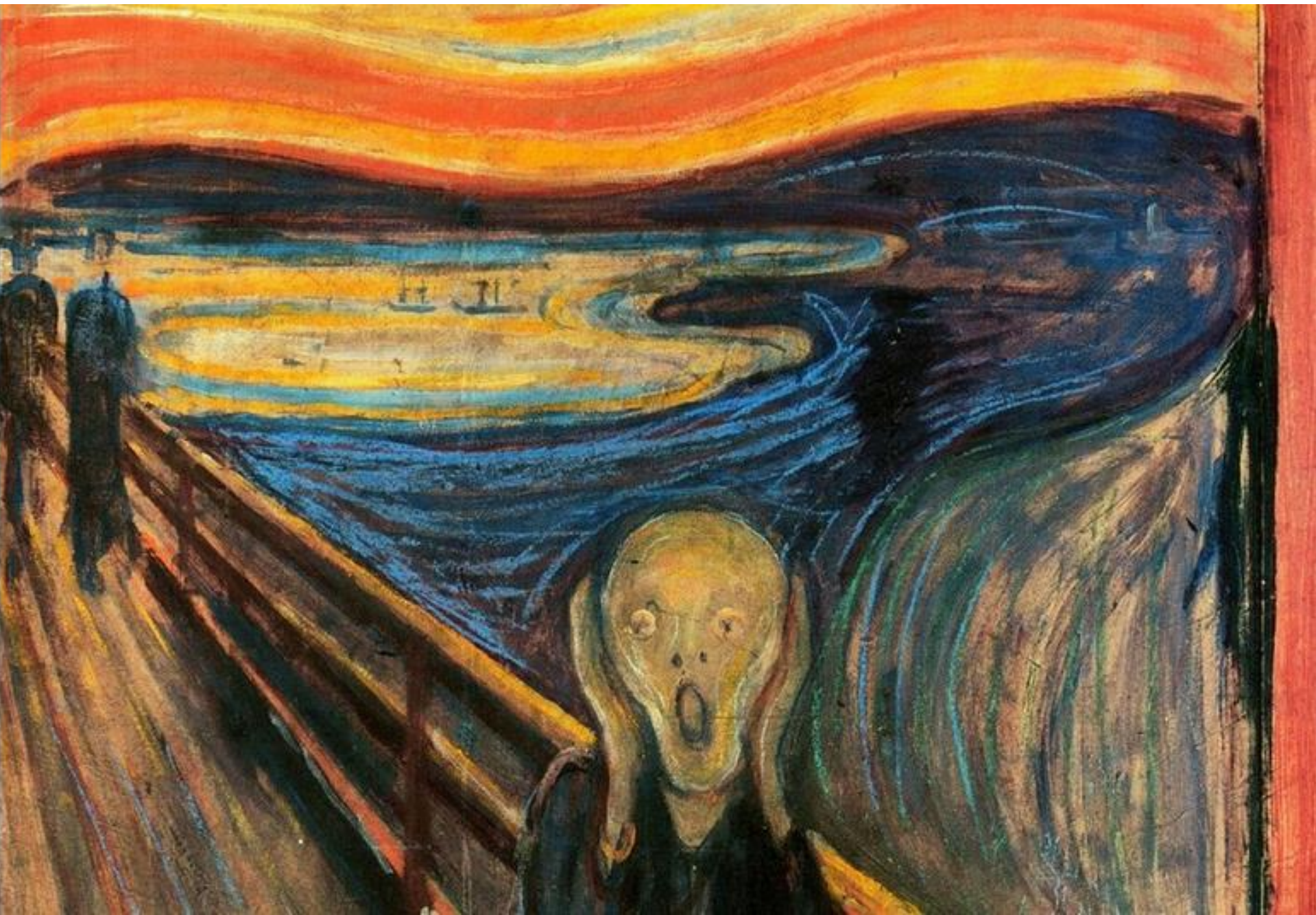
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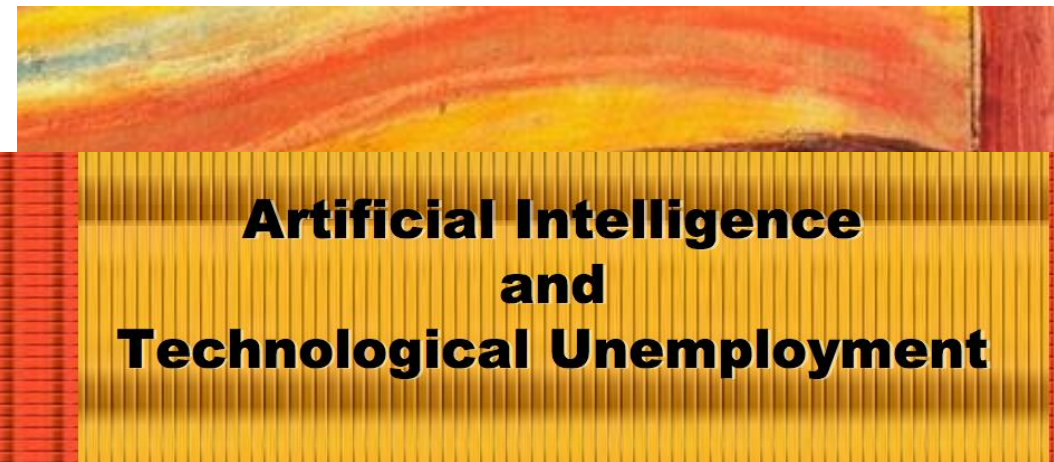
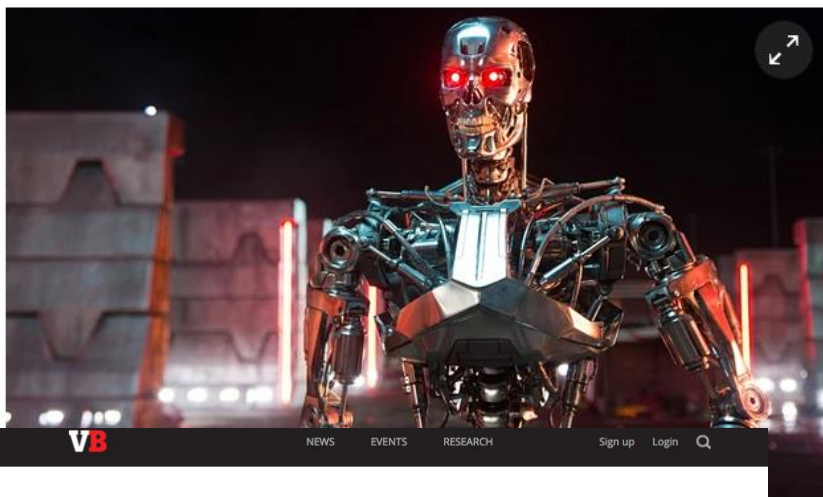






# Musk, Wozniak and Hawking urge ban on warfare AI and autonomous weapons

More than 1,000 experts and leading robotics researchers sign open letter warning of military artificial intelligence arms race



## Artificial Intelligence and Technological Unemployment

### Netflix's Hastings: Battle for Earth will be between AI machines and genetically modified humans

CHRIS O'BRIEN JANUARY 18, 2016 3:41 AM  
TAGS: AI, GENETICS, NETFLIX, REED HASTINGS



Image Credit: Flickr/Sos.de

Before Reed Hastings cofounded a little company called Netflix, which is now changing the way we watch TV, he was an artificial intelligence engineer.

AI has come a long way since Hastings got his masters from Stanford University in 1988. But he still follows developments in the field closely. And during a conversation on stage today at the DLD Conference in Munich, Germany, Hastings said he was far less worried about looming threats of an AI-triggered apocalypse than are many other observers, such as Tesla's Elon Musk.

"Some people worry about what happens when machine intelligence is too strong," Hastings said. "That's like worrying about our Mars colony and people

#### Press Releases

As Tax Season is Set to Take off, Taxhub™ a NYC Startup, Offers Disruptive New Take on the Personal Income Tax Filing Industry

Zero Gravity Solutions, Inc. Signs Space Act Agreement with NASA Ames Research Center



January 19, 2016

Stephen Hawking says he believes the key to saving humanity will be colonizing other planets. But the renowned physicist, whose recent lecture will be broadcast next week, does not think that will happen soon.

BBC News ↗





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Image Credit: Flickr/Sos.de

America is the only country that went from barbarism to decadence without civilization in between

~ Oscar Wilde ~

*AI is the only technology that is going from disappointment to deadly without touching beneficial.. (?)*

www.StatusMind.com



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# HAAI

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## 25<sup>th</sup> International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence

New York City, July 9–15, 2016  
[www.ijcai-16.org](http://www.ijcai-16.org)

Special Theme: Human Aware AI



Conference  
Chair

**Berhard  
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Leipzig University,  
Germany

Program  
Chair

**Subbarao  
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Arizona State  
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**AAAI**

The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

## My Plan today: Talk to you about what we have been doing about HAAI

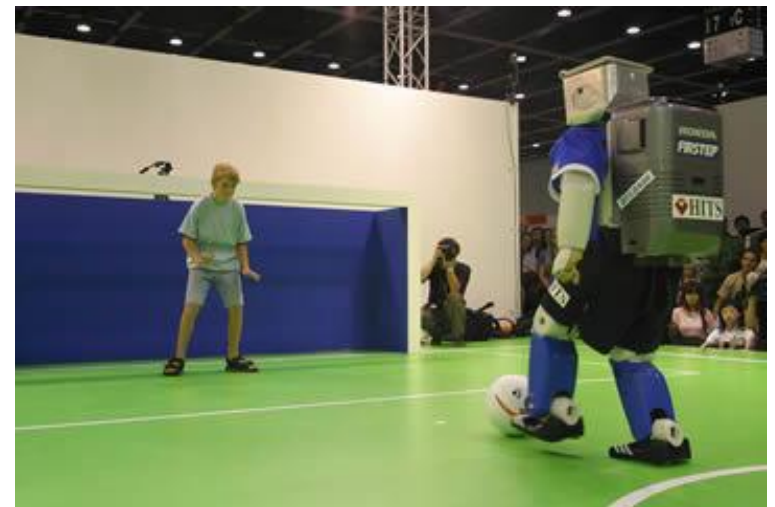
Our specific interest: Understand  
how the planning & decision-  
making aspects of AI agents  
change in Human-Machine  
cohabitation Scenarios





# AI's Curious Ambivalence to humans..

- Our systems seem happiest
  - either far away from humans
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*You want to help humanity, it is the people that you just can't stand...*



# Planning: The Canonical View

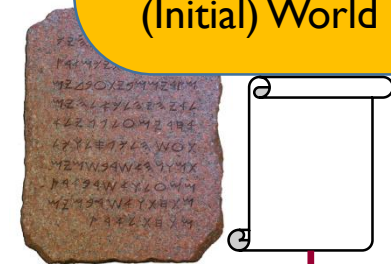


## PLANNER

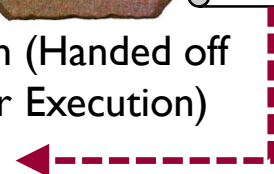
Fully Specified  
Action Model

Fully Specified  
Goals

Completely Known  
(Initial) World State



Plan (Handed off  
for Execution)



### Assumption:

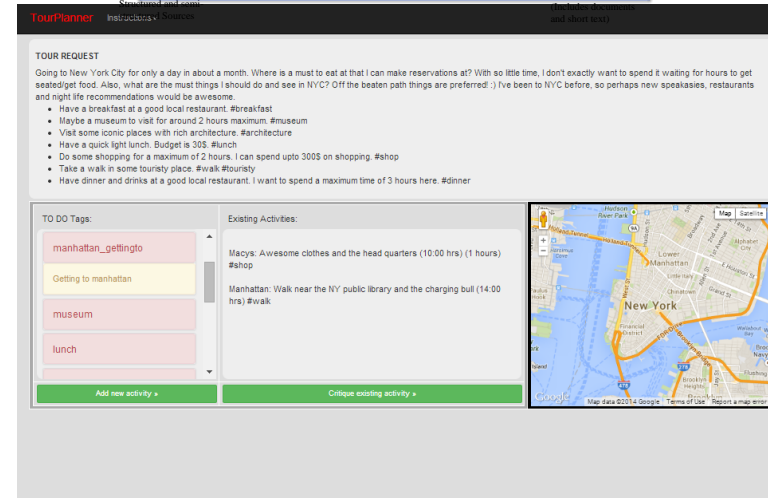
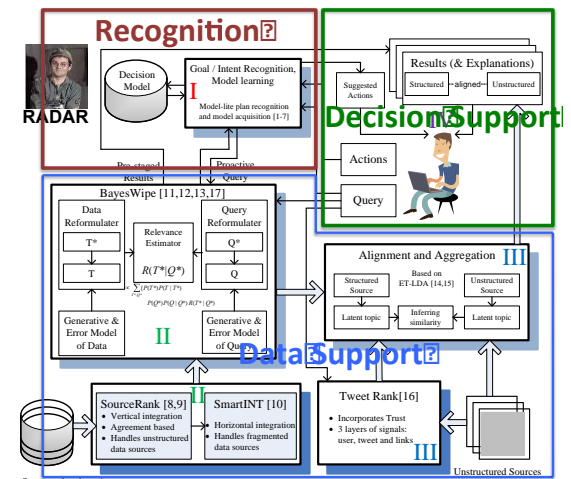
- Complete Action Descriptions
- Fully Specified Preferences
- All objects in the world known up front
- One-shot planning

Allows planning to be a pure inference problem

☹ But humans in the loop can ruin a really a perfect day ☹

# Human-in-the-Loop Planning

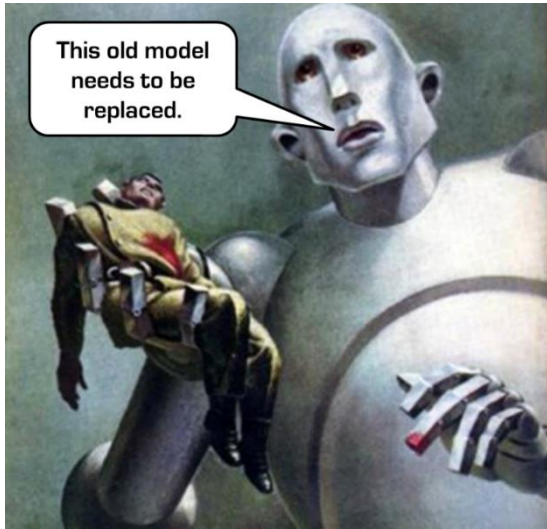
- In many scenarios, humans are part of the planning loop, because the planner:
  - Needs to plan to avoid them
    - Human-Aware Planning
  - Needs to provide decision support to humans
    - Because “planning” in some scenarios is too important to be left to automated planners
    - “Mixed-initiative Planning”;
    - “Human-Centered Planning”;
    - “Crowd-Sourced Planning”
  - (May need) help from humans
    - Mixed-initiative planning; “Symbiotic autonomy”
  - Needs to team with them
    - Human-robot teaming; Collaborative planning



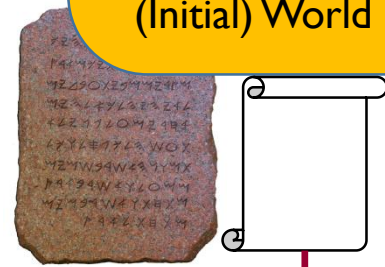


# Planning: The ~~Classical~~ View

Full Problem Specification



- Violated Assumptions:
- Complete Action Descriptions (**Split knowledge**)
  - Fully Specified Preferences (**uncertain users**)
  - Packaged planning problem (**Plan Recognition**)
  - One-shot planning (**continual revision**)
- Planning is no longer a pure inference problem ☹**



Plan (Handed off for Execution)

☹ But humans in the loop can ruin a really a perfect day ☹





# Human-in-the-Loop Planning & Decision Support

AAAI 2015 Tutorial

[rakaposhi.eas.asu.edu/hilp-tutorial](http://rakaposhi.eas.asu.edu/hilp-tutorial)

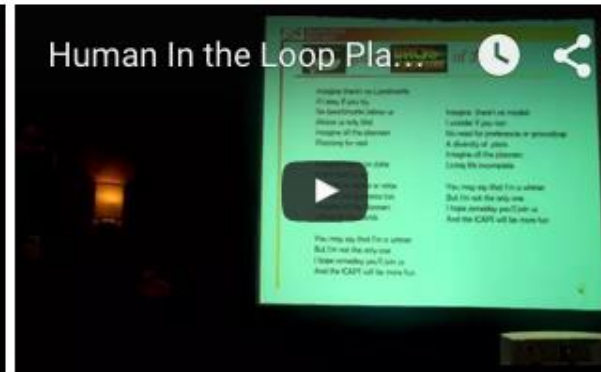
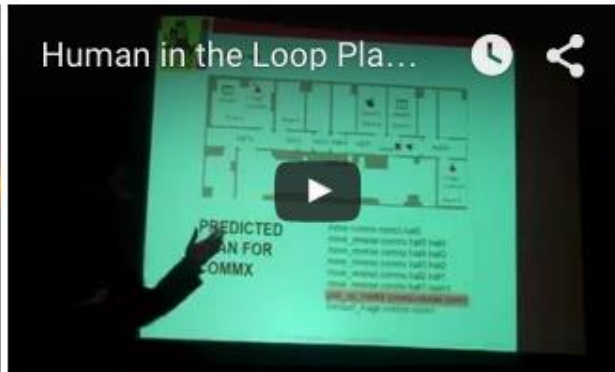
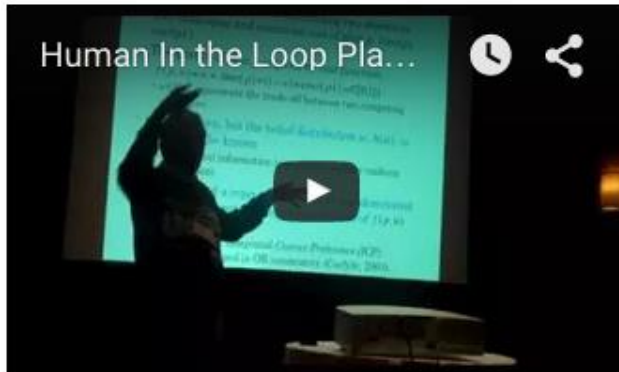
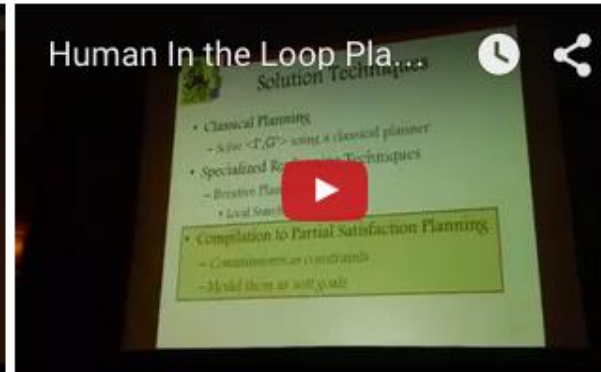
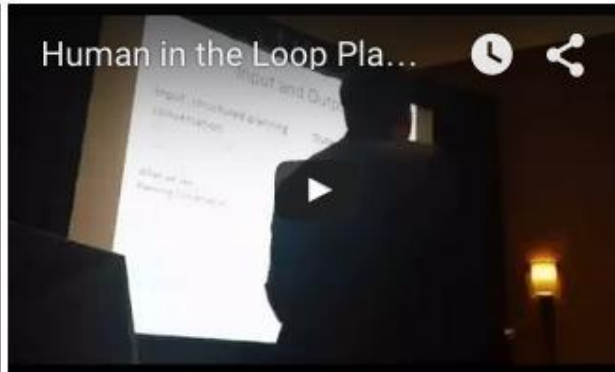
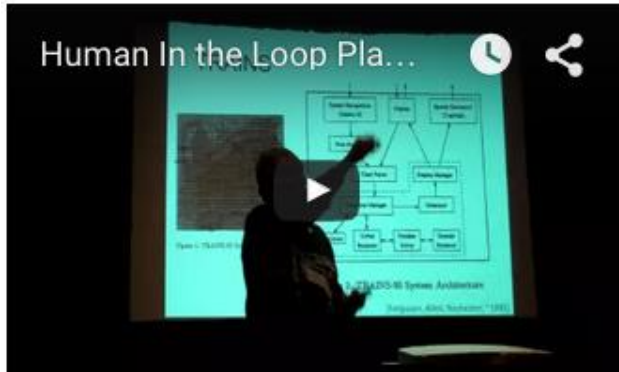
**Subbarao Kambhampati**  
Arizona State University

**Kartik Talamadupula**  
IBM T.J. Watson Research Center



AAAI-15 Austin, Texas USA  
The First *Winter* AI Conference!

Funding from ONR, ARO and NSF  
gratefully acknowledged <sup>1</sup>



## Materials

[Tutorial Slides \(Final version, as given\) \[PDF\]](#)

gratefully acknowledged <sup>1</sup>

# Dimensions of Variation in Human in the Loop Planning

- Cooperation Modality
  - Awareness, Interaction, Teaming
- Communication Modality
  - Stigmergic, Custom Interfaces, Speech/NLP
- What is Communicated
  - Goals, preferences, plan constraints, new goals
- Knowledge Level (Who knows what)
  - Incomplete knowledge about human's goals as well as capabilities

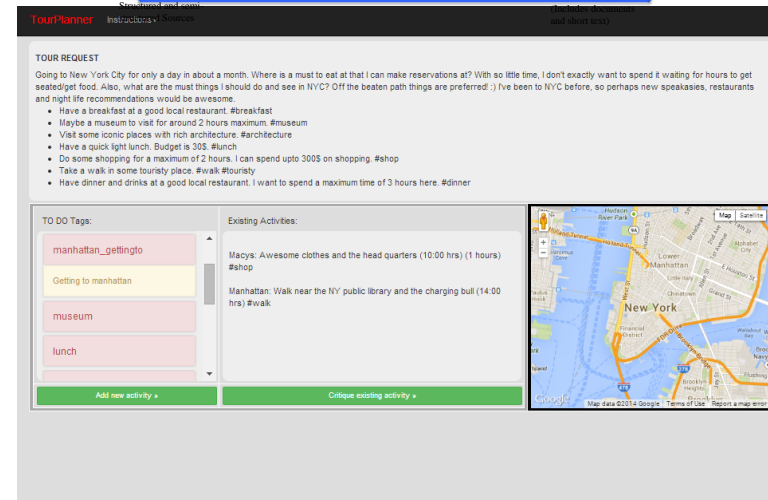
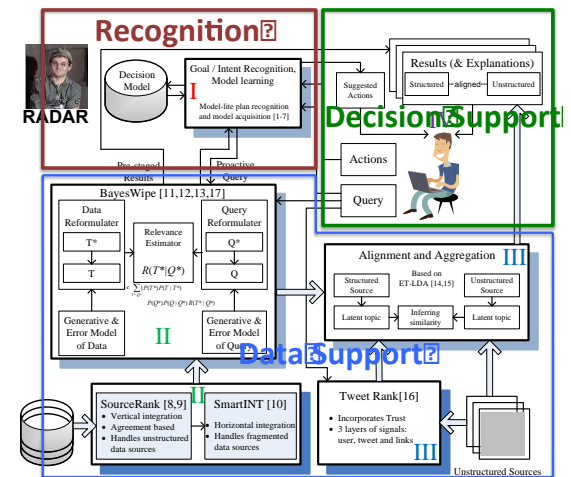
# Challenges in Human-in-the-loop Planning

- Interpret what humans are doing based on incomplete human and domain models (Modeling)
  - Plan/goal/intent recognition
- Plan with incomplete domain models (Decision Making)
  - Robust planning/execution support with “lite” models
  - Proactive teaming support
- Explanations/Excuses (Interaction/Communication)
  - How should the human and robot coordinate
- Understand effective interactions between humans and machines (Evaluation)
  - Human factor study



# Human-in-the-Loop Planning

- In many scenarios, humans are part of the planning loop, because the planner:
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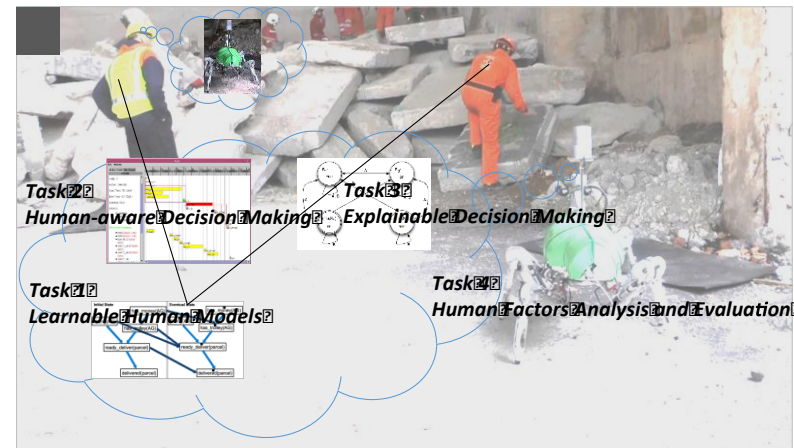


# Agenda for Today

- How to learn and plan with incomplete domain models
  - Complete--Approximate--Shallow
- How to plan to be useful to the human
  - Avoiding conflicts and offering serendipitous help
- How to make planned behavior explainable to the human in the loop
  - Humans will parse the behavior in terms of their understanding of the Robot's model
- How to recognize and evaluate what are the desiderata for fluent teaming with humans
  - As the “paper clip” assistant shows, we AI'ers are not great at guessing what humans “like” 😞

# Manipulative (proximal) vs. Cognitive (remote) Teaming

- Much of the work in human-robot teaming has been focused on manipulation tasks where the human and the robot are in close proximity
  - Here the plans are mostly path planning/manipulator planning.
- Our focus has been on tasks that require cognitive (in addition to manipulative) decisions—as is typically the case with remote human-robot collaboration in urban search and rescue scenarios.





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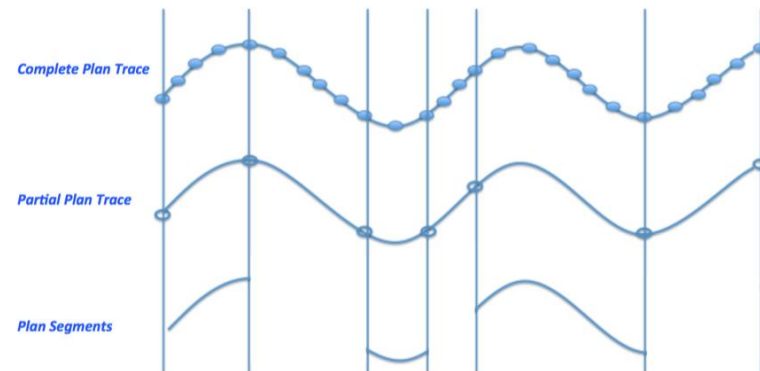
# How do we get the Planning Models? (e.g. of the human in the loop)

- Typically multi-agent planning methods assume all agents use similar models
  - E.g. All agents with STRIPS action models
- Unreasonable to expect similar sorts of action models for the robot and the human..
  - Human models (from the Robot's point of view) are likely to be highly incomplete (as, of course, Robot's model from the human point of view)
- So how do we represent (and handle) incomplete models of human capabilities?

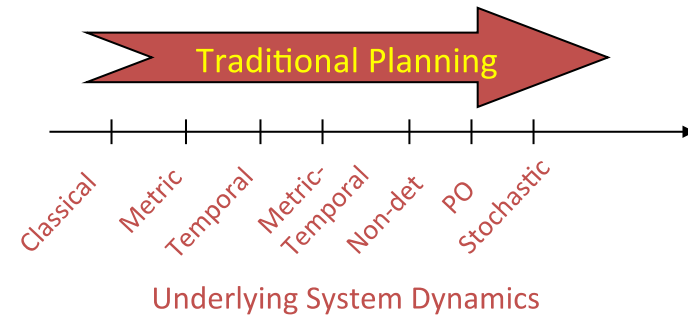
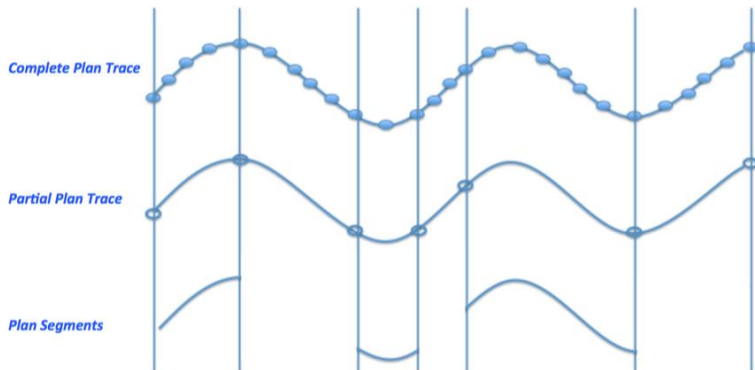
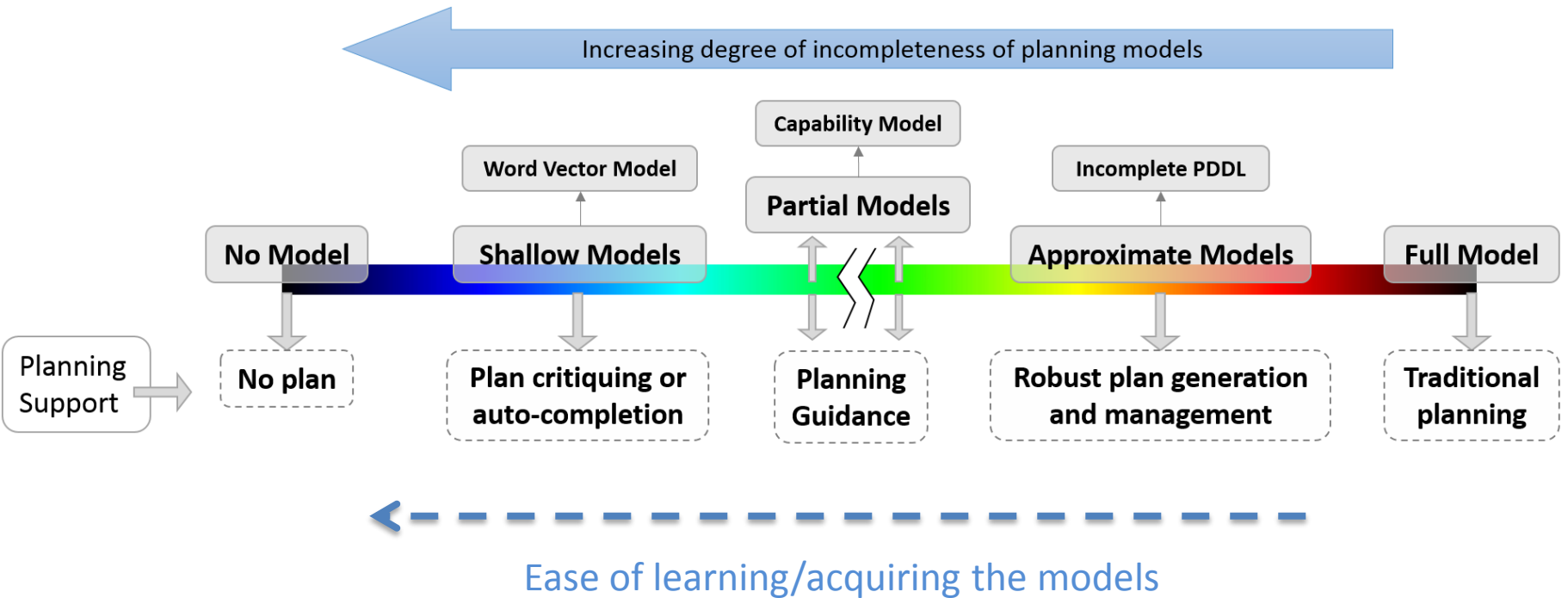


# Challenges in acquiring Human Models

- The temptation is to go with existing action models & introduce incompleteness
  - Atomic: MDP/POMDP
  - Factored: STRIPS, RDDL, HTN etc
    - Example work by Garland&Lesh(2002)
- While they are fine if someone hand-specifies them, they are much harder to learn, given the kinds of information that is likely to be available.
  - Significant incompleteness in observations
    - Sensor occlusion, noisy observations,
      - [Zhuo & Kambhampati, IJCAI 2013]
  - There may be significant gaps between observations



# Spectrum of Domain Models

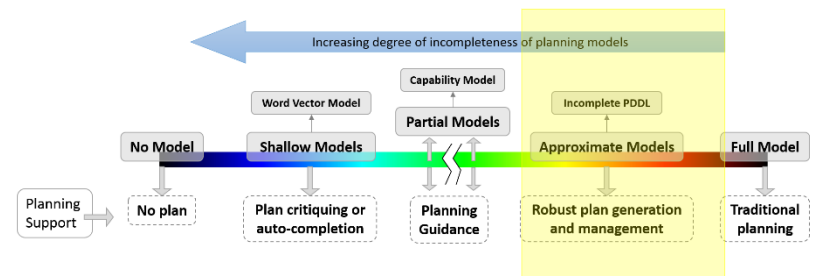
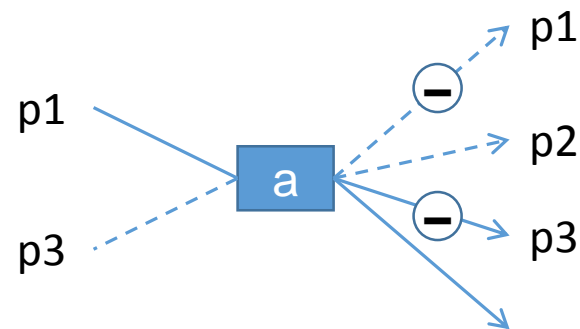


# Partial PDDL Domain Models

Each action **a** is associated with *possible* precond and effects (in addition to the normal precond/eff):

- **PreP(a) [p]:** set of propositions that **a** *might* depend on during execution
- **AddP(a) [p]:** : set of propositions that **a** *might* add after execution
- **DelP(a) [p]:** : set of propositions that **a** *might* delete after execution

Example: An action **a** that is known to depend on **p1**, add **p4** and delete **p3**. In addition, it might have **p3** as its precondition, might add **p2** and might delete **p1** after execution.





There are known knowns;  
there are things we know  
that we know. There are  
known unknowns; that is  
to say, there are things  
that we now know we  
don't know. But there are  
also unknown unknowns;  
there are things we do not  
know we don't know.



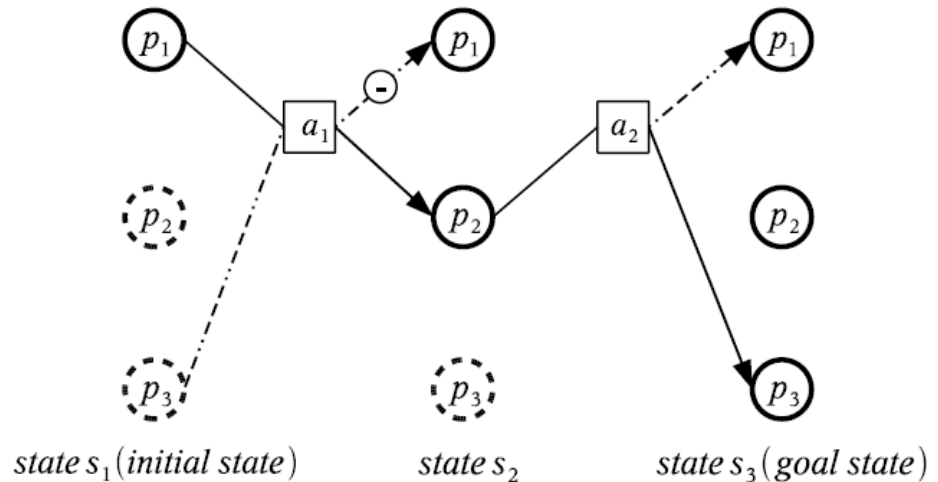
# Solution Concept: Robust Plans

- Solution concept:
  - Robust plan
  - Plan is highly robust if executable in large number of most-likely candidate models
- Robustness measure
  - Set of candidate domain models **S** (consistent with the given deterministic partial domain model **D**)
  - A complete but unknown domain model **D\***
    - Can be any model in **S**

$$R(\pi) = \frac{|\Pi|}{2^K}$$

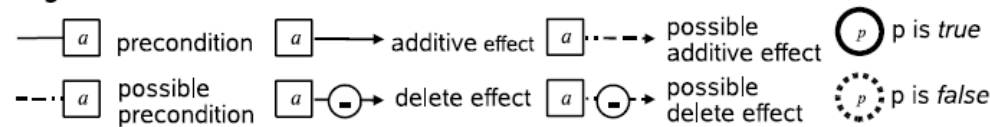
$|\Pi|$  Number of candidate models with which the plan succeeds

$$K = \sum_a \text{PreP}(a) + \text{AddP}(a) + \text{DeIP}(a)$$



Candidate models of plan	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
$a_1$ relies on $p_3$	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no
$a_1$ deletes $p_1$	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
$a_2$ adds $p_2$	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
Plan status	fail	fail	fail	fail	succeed	fail	succeed	succeed

## Legend



Robustness value: 3/8

Easily generalized to consider model likelihood

# Generating Robust Plans

D. Bryce et al. / Artificial Intelligence 172 (2008) 685–715

- **Compilation approach:** Compile into a *(Probabilistic) Conformant Planning* problem
  - One “unobservable” variable per each possible effect/precondition
    - Significant initial state uncertainty
  - Can adapt a probabilistic conformant planner such as POND [JAIR, 2006; AIJ 2008]

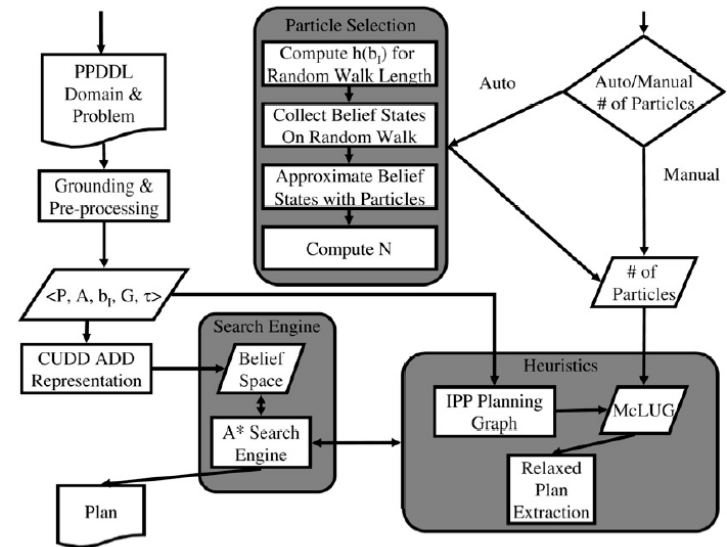
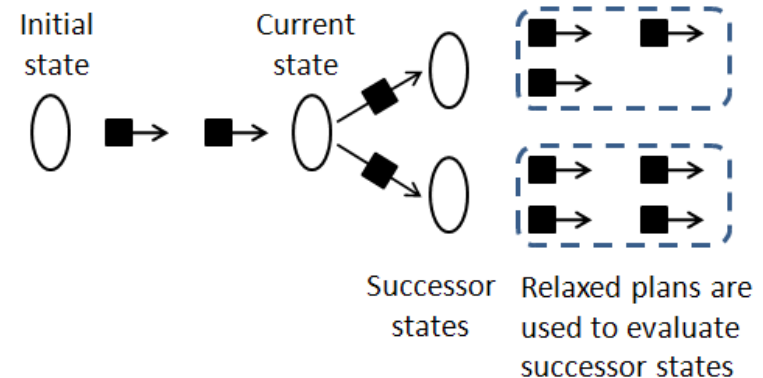


Fig. 6. POND architecture.

- **Direct approach:** Bias a planner’s search towards more robust plans
  - Heuristically assess the robustness of partial plans
    - Need to use the (approximate) robustness assessment procedures
    - A novel extension to relaxed planning heuristics to take robustness into account





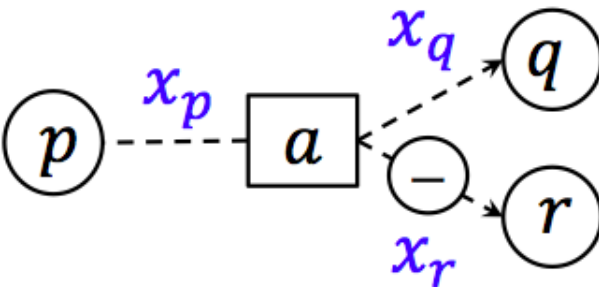
# Synthesizing Robust Plans: A Compilation

Incomplete model  
Complete world state



Complete model  
Belief state

(Conformant Probabilistic  
Planning)



$x_p (0.5)$   $x_q (0.7)$   $x_r (0.2)$

Resulting action  $a'$  with eight  
conditional effects.

**Cond:**  $x_p \wedge p \wedge x_q \wedge x_r$  **Eff:**  $q \wedge \neg r$

# Synthesizing Robust Plans: A Heuristic Search

## ❖ Anytime approach

1. Initialize:  $\delta = 0$

## 2. Repeat

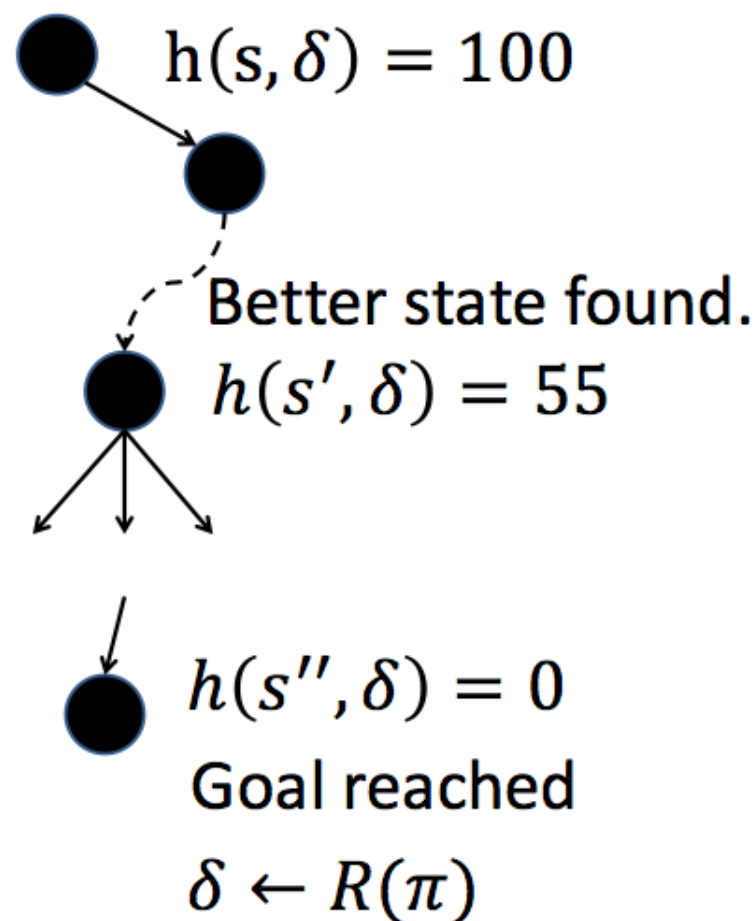
❖ Find plan  $\pi$  s.t.  $R(\pi) > \delta$

❖ If plan found:  $\delta = R(\pi)$

**Until** time bound reaches

3. Return  $\pi$  and  $R(\pi)$  if plan found

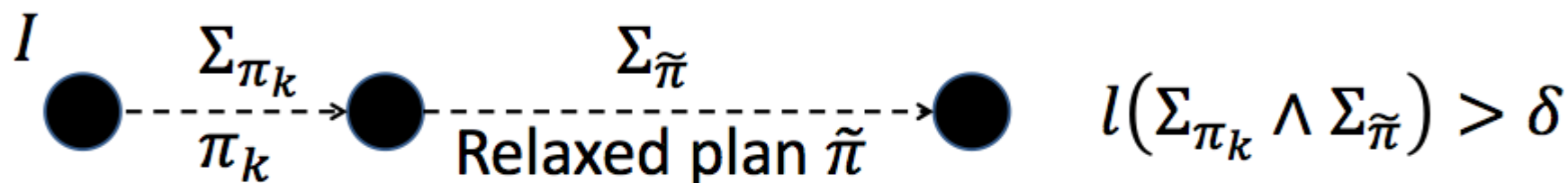
$h(s, \delta)$ : how far it is approximately from  $s$  to a goal state so that the resulting plan has approximate robustness  $> \delta$ .



## ❖ Approximate plan robustness

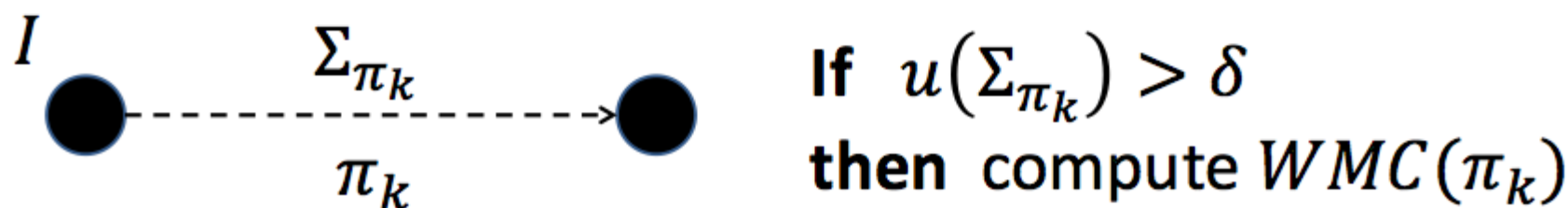
### ➤ Lower bound

$$l(\Sigma) = \prod_{c \in \Sigma} \Pr(c) \leq WMC(\Sigma)$$



### ➤ Upper bound: divide $\Sigma$ into independent sets $\Sigma^i$

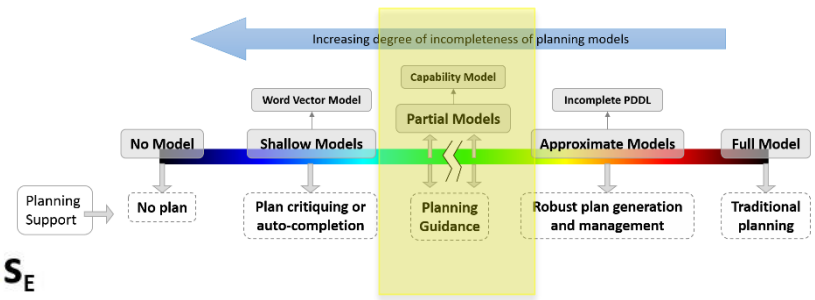
$$u(\Sigma) = \prod_{\Sigma^i} \min_{c \in \Sigma^i} \Pr(c) \geq WMC(\Sigma)$$



# Capability Model

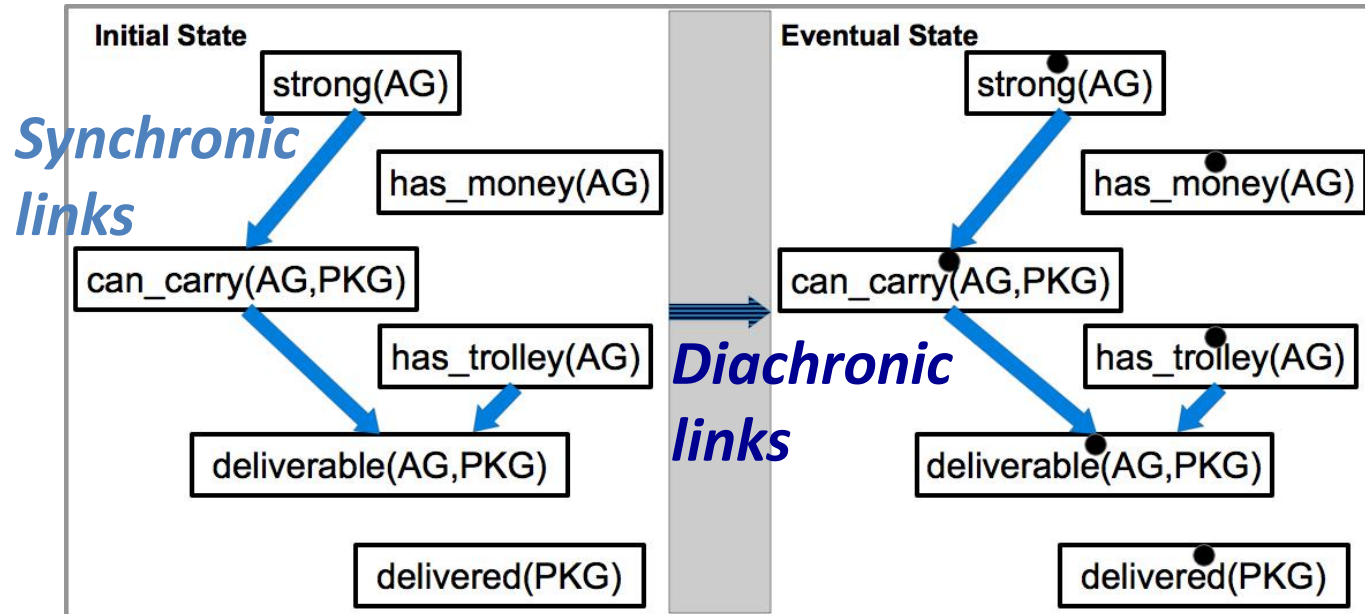
**A capability:**

$$P(\dot{X}_\phi = s_E \mid X_\phi = s_I) \longleftrightarrow S_I \Rightarrow S_E$$



**A conditional probability**  
*(specified by a partial initial and eventual state)*

## T-gap capability model



[AAMAS 2015]

(Generalization of 2-TBN model used in RDDDL)  
 (Imperfect analogy to) HTN Models. A capability can be thought of as an abstract task



# Capability Models

We start with the “default assumption” that domain models are **incomplete**

- **DEFINITION (CAPABILITY)** – Given an agent, a capability is a mapping  $S_\phi \times S_\phi \rightarrow [0, 1]$ , which is an assertion about the probability of the existence of a plan in fewer than or equal to  $T$  atomic state changes that can connect the two partial states.

->: denote an atomic state change

{has\_water(AG), has\_coffee\_beans(AG)}

-> {has\_boiling\_water(AG), has\_coffee\_beans(AG)}

-> {has\_boiling\_water(AG), has\_ground\_coffee\_beans(AG)}

-> {has\_coffee(AG)}

**When  $T = 2$**  { has\_water(AG) => has\_ground\_coffee\_beans(AG)  
has\_boiling\_water(AG) => has\_coffee(AG)...

**When  $T = 3$**  { ... (including all capabilities when  $T = 2$ )  
has\_water(AG) => has\_coffee(AG)

**Partial states**

**Bound on the gaps between observations**

# Parameter Learning



*We assume that the maximum number of missing state observations between any two observations in the partial plan trace is upper bounded by  $T$*

**DEFINITION (T-GAP PARTIAL PLAN TRACE).** A T-gap partial plan trace is a partial plan trace in which all  $k_{[1, 2\dots]} \leq T$

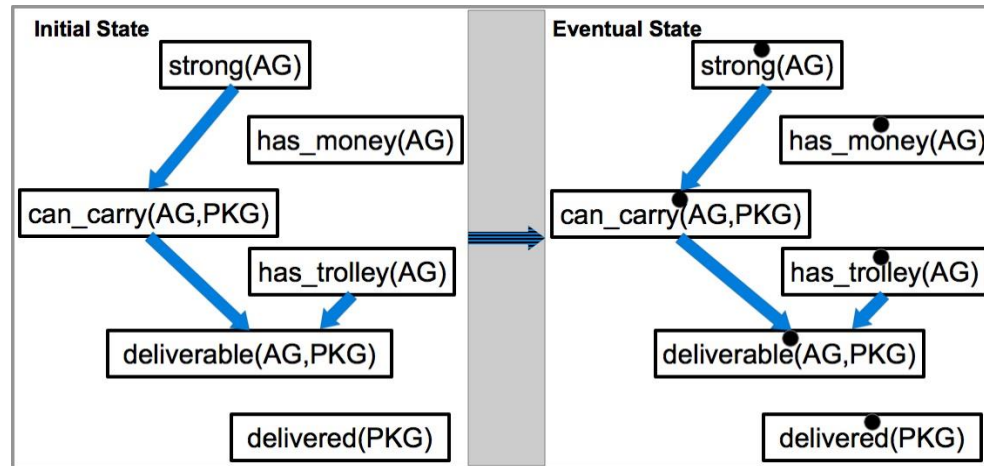
$$\mathcal{T} = \langle s_i, s_{i+k_1}, s_{i+k_2}, \dots \rangle$$

*Learning samples*

*Apply Bayesian learning (assuming beta distributions):*

$$\rho(f_{ij} | D) = \text{beta}(f_{ij}; a_{ij} + s_{ij}, b_{ij} + t_{ij})$$

# Planning with Capability Models



## *T-gap capability model*

- Any planning state is a set of complete states: a **belief state**

{(complete state 1), (complete state 2)...}

- Select a capability to apply:  $\mathbf{s}_I \Rightarrow \mathbf{s}_E = P(\dot{X}_\phi = s_E | X_\phi = s_I)$

- For each  $\mathbf{s}^*$  in the belief state,

- Applicable  $\mathbf{s}_I \sqsubseteq \mathbf{s}^*$

Success: compute a set of resulting states  $\mathbf{s}$ ,  $\mathbf{s}_E \sqsubseteq \mathbf{s}$ .

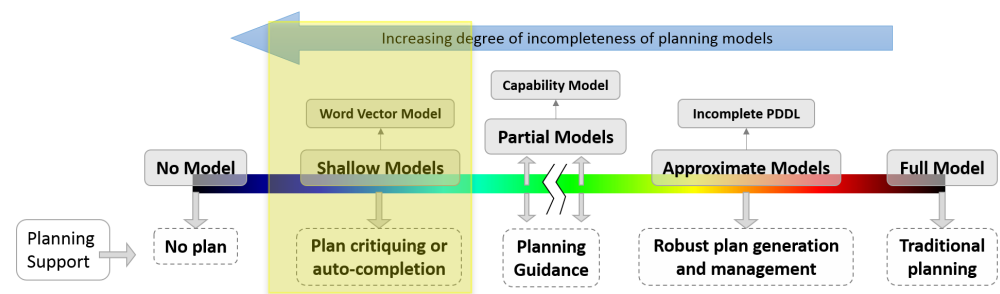
Failure: no change  $P(s) = \frac{P(s^* \Rightarrow s)}{P(s^* \Rightarrow s_E)} = \frac{P(\dot{X}_\phi = s | X_\phi = s^*)}{P(\dot{X}_\phi = s_E | X_\phi = s^*)}$

- Inapplicable – no change to  $\mathbf{s}^*$

$$\sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} P(s) = 1$$

# Action Vector Models

- View observed action sequences as “sentences” in a language whose “words” are the actions
- Apply skip-gram models to these sequences and embed the action “words” in a higher dimensional space
  - The proximity of the action words in that space is seen as their “affinity”
- Use the action affinities as a way to drive planning and plan recognition





# Problem Formulation

- The recognition problem defined by:  
(L, O, A)

- L: a plan library, e.g.,

*plan 1: pick-up-B stack-B-A pick-up-D stack-D-C*  
*plan 2: unstack-B-A put-down-B unstack-D-C put-down-D*  
*plan 3: pick-up-B stack-B-A pick-up-C stack-C-B pick-up-D*  
*stack-D-C*

- O: a sequence of observations, e.g.,

*pick-up-B NULL unstack-D-C put-down-D NULL*  
*stack-C-B NULL NULL*

- A: A set of actions

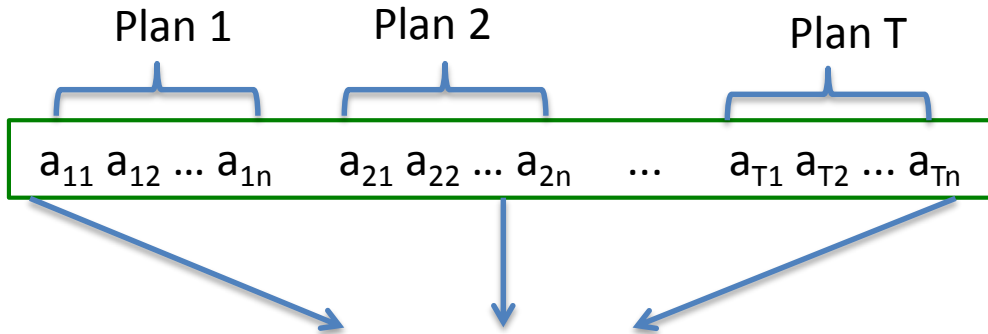
- Task: find a plan to best explain O:

*pick-up-B stack-B-A unstack-D-C put-down-D*  
*pick-up-C stack-C-B pick-up-D stack-D-C*

## Note that:

- without initial states/goals/intermediate states in L
- $|p| = |O|$
- p is not necessarily in L

# Learn vectors of actions



- $T = |L|$
- $c$  is the window size of action context

Learn vectors  $w_i$  for  $a_i$  in  $A$  by optimizing

$$\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{-c \leq j \leq c, j \neq 0} \log p(w_{t+j} | w_t)$$

The basic probability defined by hierarchical softmax, [cf. Mikolov et al. NIPS-13]

# Action Vector Models can be used to Recognize Plans

With the learnt vectors  $w_i$ , we can predict the target plan (as the most consistent with the affinities). We use an EM procedure to speedup the prediction.

$$\mathcal{F}(\tilde{p}) = \sum_{k=1}^M \sum_{-c \leq j \leq c, j \neq 0} \log p(w_{k+j} | w_k) \quad \bullet \quad M = |\text{the target plan}|$$

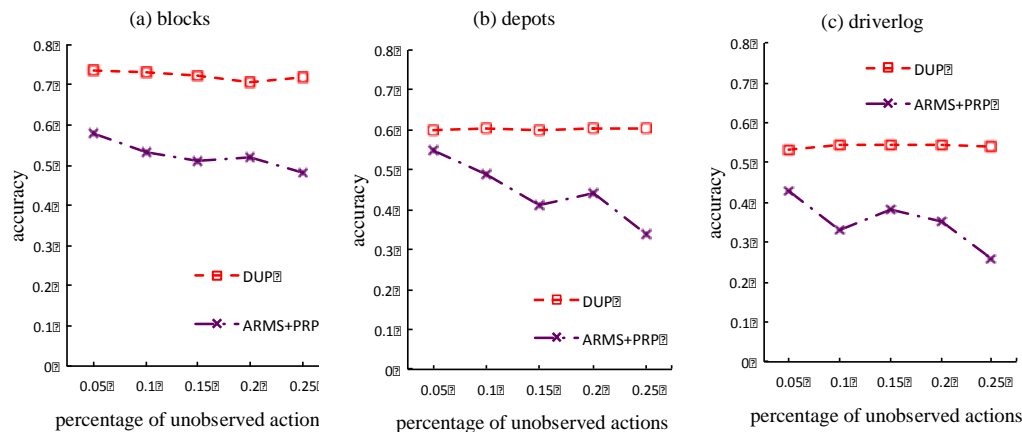
The target plan to be recognized

## Algorithm 1 Framework of our DUP algorithm

**Input:** plan library  $\mathcal{L}$ , observed actions  $\mathcal{O}$

**Output:** plan  $\tilde{p}$

- 1: learn vector representation of actions
- 2: initialize  $\Gamma_{o,k}$  with  $1/M$  for all  $o \in \bar{\mathcal{A}}$ , when  $k$  is an unobserved action index
- 3: **while** the maximal number of repetitions is not reached **do**
- 4:   sample unobserved actions in  $\mathcal{O}$  based on  $\Gamma$
- 5:   update  $\Gamma$  based on Equation (6)
- 6:   project  $\Gamma$  to  $[0,1]$
- 7: **end while**
- 8: select actions for unobserved actions with the largest weights in  $\Gamma$
- 9: **return**  $\tilde{p}$



# Agenda for Today

- How to learn and plan with incomplete domain models
  - Complete--Approximate--Shallow
- How to plan to be useful to the human
  - Avoiding conflicts and offering serendipitous help
- How to make planned behavior explainable to the human in the loop
  - Humans will parse the behavior in terms of their understanding of the Robot's model
- How to recognize and evaluate what are the desiderata for fluent teaming with humans
  - As the “paper clip” assistant shows, we AI'ers are not great at guessing what humans “like” 😞



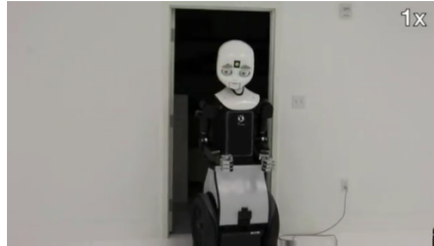
# How to plan to be useful?

- Depends on the modality of interaction between the humans and the robot
  - Are they in an explicit team vs. cohabiting the same environment?
  - Are they communicating or is it stigmergic collaboration?
- Our early work focused on issues in explicit teaming and full communication

# Planning for Human-Robot Teaming

## Open World Goals

- › When to start sensing?
  - › Indicator to start sensing
- › What to look for?
  - › Object type
  - › Object properties
- › When to stop sensing?
  - › When does the planner know the world is closed?
- › Why should the robot sense?
  - › Does the object fulfill a goal?
  - › What is the reward? Is it a bonus?



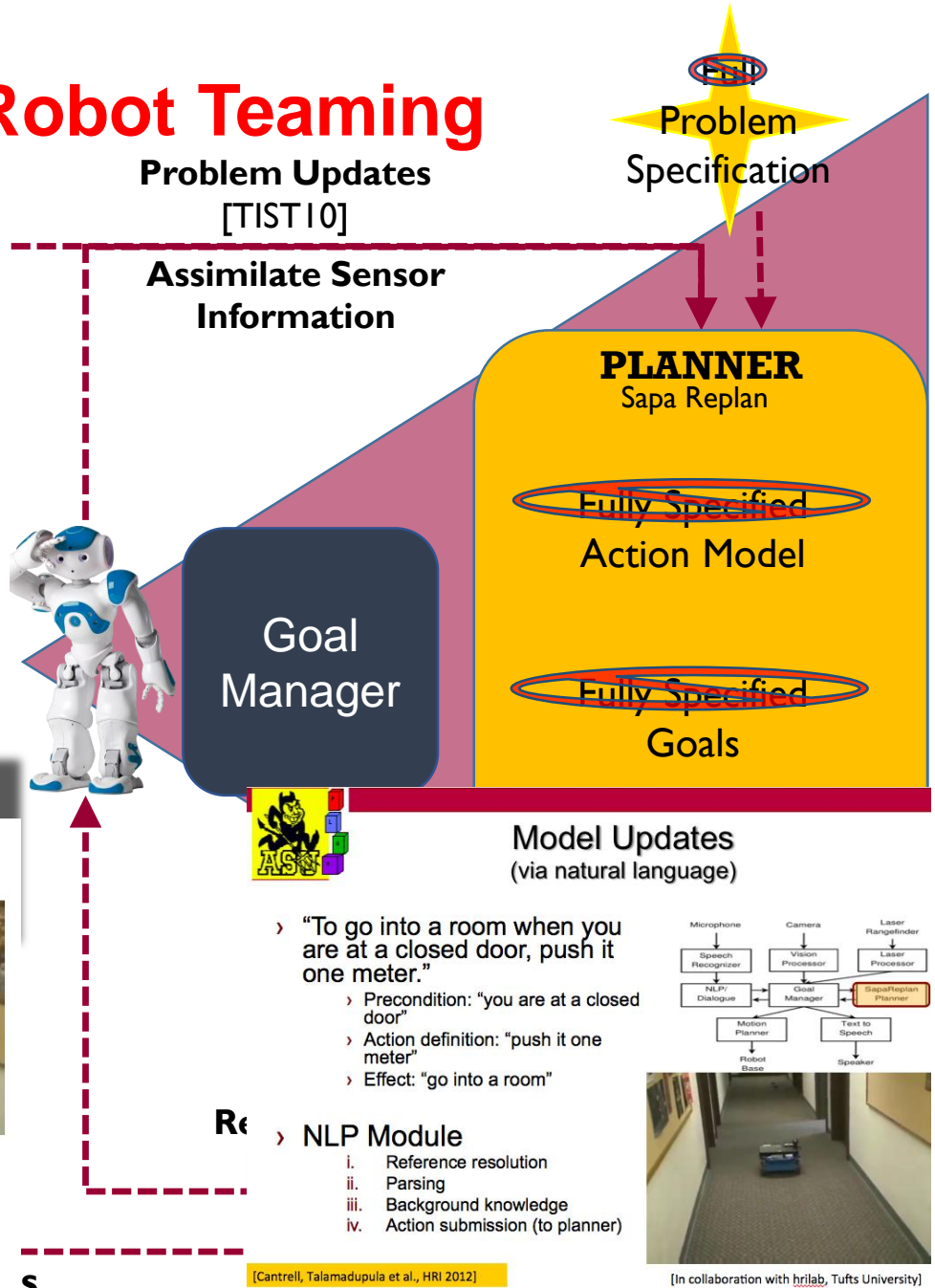
Talamadupula, Benton et al., ACM TIST 2010

## Planning for Replanning for Changing Worlds

- › New Information
  - › Sensors
  - › Human teammate
- › New Goals
  - › Orders: Humans
  - › Requests
- › Requirement
  - › New plan that works in new world (state)
  - › Achieves the changed goals



Talamadupula et al. AAI10



S

[Cantrell, Talamadupula et al., HRI 2012]

[In collaboration with hrlab, Tufts University]

# Human-Robot Cohabitation

## Behavior Modeling – Human Aware Planning

- Humans and robots sharing workspace (not necessarily as a team).
- Need for **human-aware planning** for modeling a robot's interactions with its human colleagues.



# Stigmergic Collaboration

## in human robot cohabitation

- The robot directly interacts with the human's plans to assist/coordinate by making **positive interventions**
  - e.g. planning for serendipity
- The robot coordinates it's own behavior to suit the human's predicted plans to **minimize conflicts**
  - e.g. planning with conflicts on shared resources

Much of the planning challenge is about defining the **interaction constraints** that affect the robot's planning process.

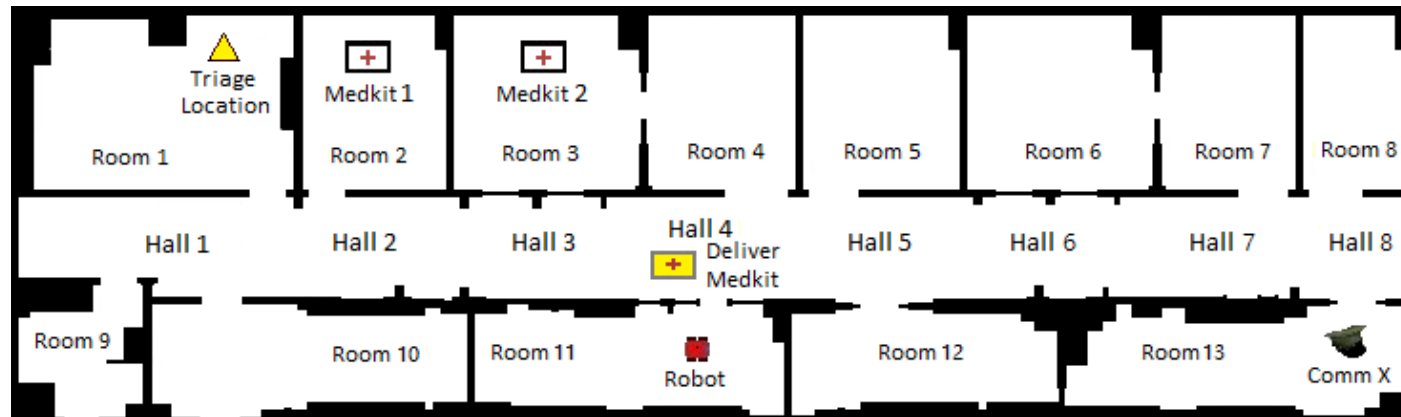




# Current Use Case

## Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) scenario

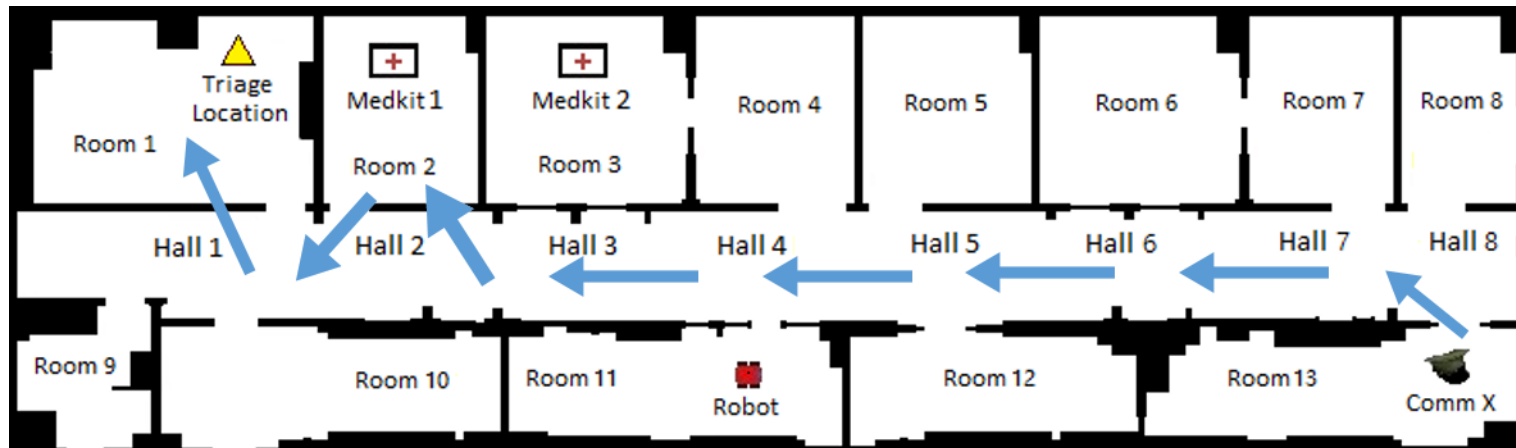
- Commander can perform triage (needs to get a medkit to do so)
- The Robot can also conduct triage or deliver medkits if requested
  - The medkits are the shared resources here – the robot must de-conflict its plans to use the medkit with that of the human's.



# Planning for Serendipity

## A running example

CommX has to conduct triage in `room1`.



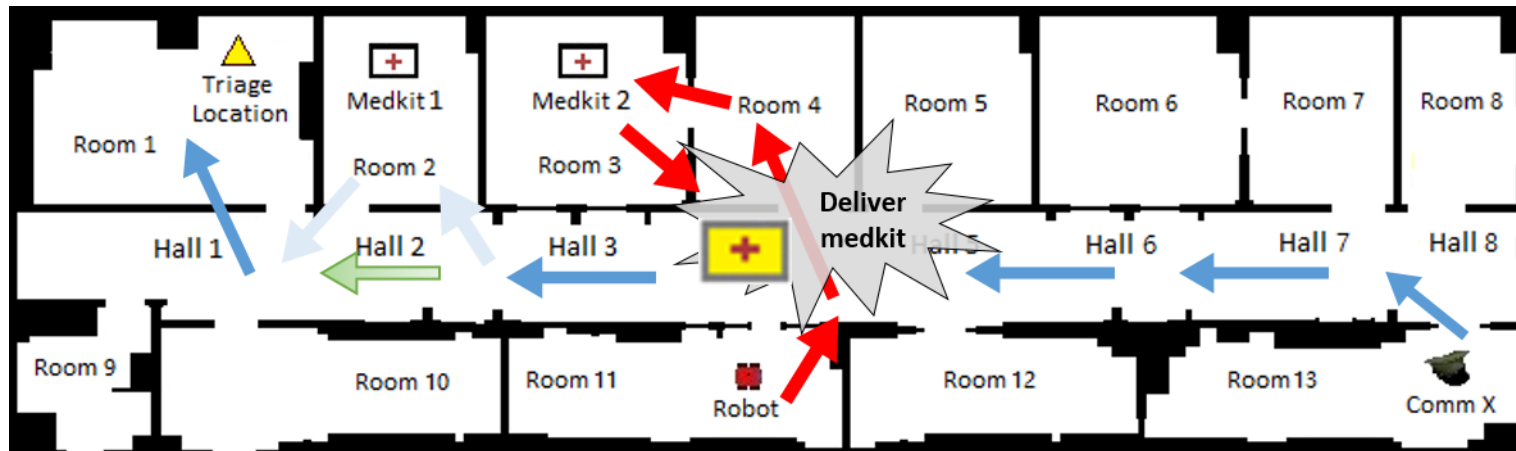
Optimal plan for CommX involves picking up `medkit1` in `room2`.



# Planning for Serendipity

## A running example

CommX has to conduct triage in room1.



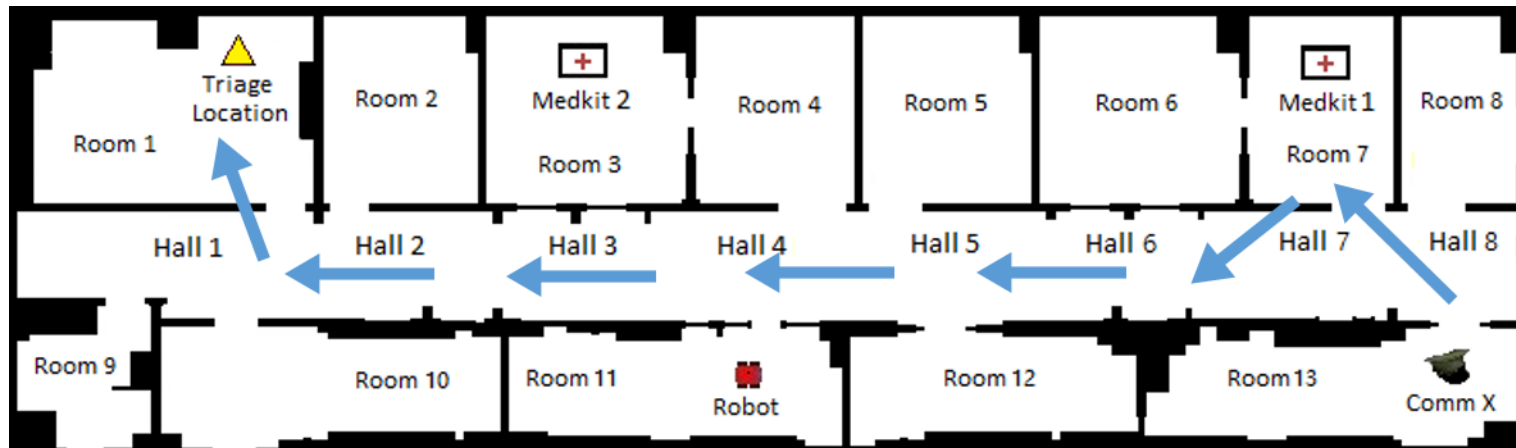
The robot fetches `medkit2` from `room3` and drops it off in `hall3` before CommX passes by, thus saving him the effort to get a medkit himself.



# Planning for Serendipity

## A running example

CommX has to conduct triage in `room1`.



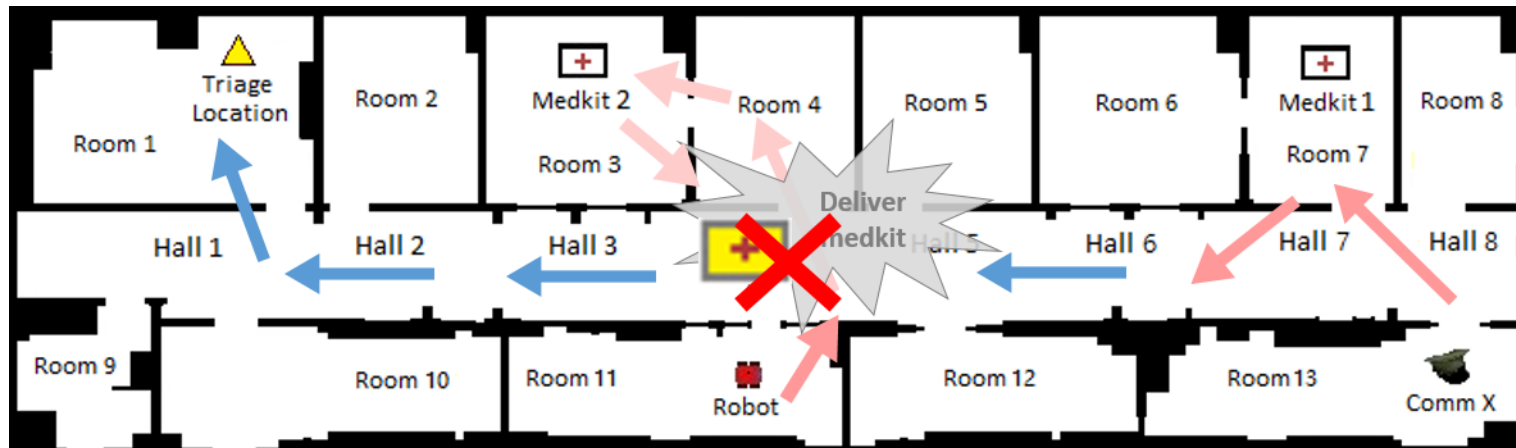
For the current configuration, the optimal plan for `CommX` involves picking up `medkit1` in `room7`.



# Planning for Serendipity

## A running example

CommX has to conduct triage in room1.



The previous serendipitous intervention becomes redundant here because CommX has already acquired a medkit by the time the robot can intervene.

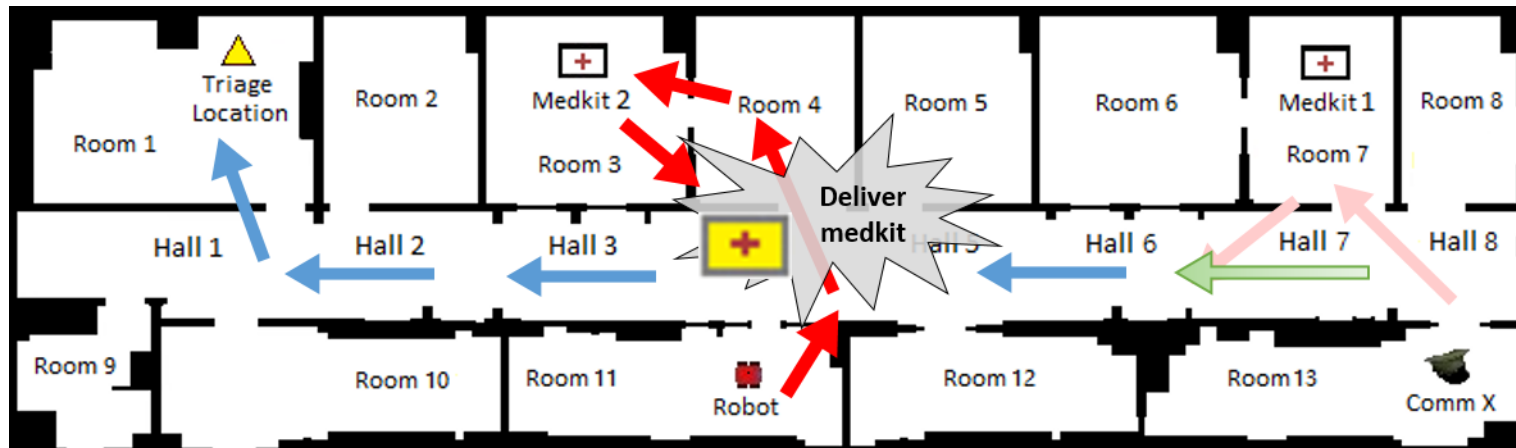




# Planning for Serendipity

## A running example

CommX has to conduct triage in room1.



However, if the robot were able to communicate it's intention to intervene, the previous plan for a serendipitous interception still holds.



# Plan Interruptibility

## Positively removable subplan

*Definition 2.0* : If plan  $\pi_H = \langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_T \rangle$  of the human  $H$  with  $\delta(\mathbb{I}_H, \pi_H) \models \mathbb{G}_H$ , then any subplan  $\pi_H^{ij} = \langle a_i, \dots, a_j \rangle, 1 \leq i < j \leq |\pi_H|$  is **positively removable** iff  $\exists \pi_{\mathbb{A}}$  for the set of agents  $\mathbb{A} = \{R, H\}$  ( $R$  being the robot) such that  $\delta'(\bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathbb{A}} \mathbb{I}_{\alpha}, \pi_{\mathbb{A}}) \models \mathbb{G}_H$  where, for some  $i' > i$ ,  $\pi_{\mathbb{A}}(H) = (\subseteq \pi_H[1 : i - 1]) \cdot \pi_{\mathbb{A}}(H)[i : i'] \cdot (\subseteq \pi_H[j + 1 : |\pi_H|])$  and  $C(\pi_{\mathbb{A}}(H)) < C(\pi_H)$  (here  $\cdot$  means concatenation).

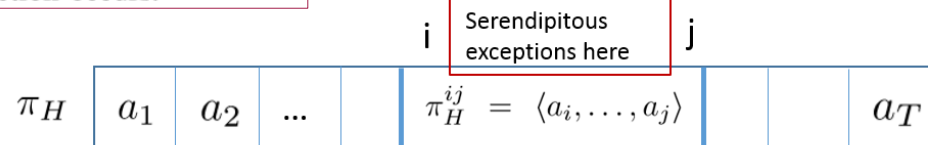
A plan is *interruptible* iff it has at least one positively removable subplan.

time steps  $i \leq t \leq i'$  is when the (serendipitous) interactions can occur

we specify the rest of the plan to be subsequences of the original plan which ensures that the human does not need to go outside his original plan sans the part where the actual interaction occurs.

Human's individual plan  
(as predicted)

Human's component in  
the composite plan



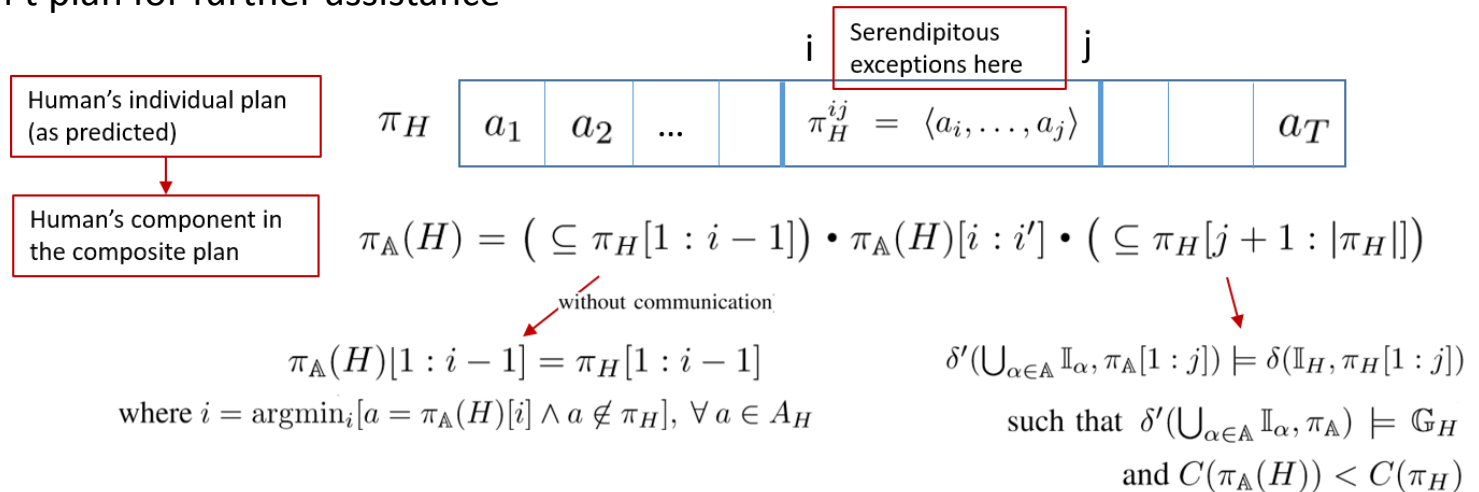
$$\pi_{\mathbb{A}}(H) = (\subseteq \pi_H[1 : i - 1]) \cdot \pi_{\mathbb{A}}(H)[i : i'] \cdot (\subseteq \pi_H[j + 1 : |\pi_H|])$$



# Plan Preservation

## Removable subplans $\neq$ Serendipitous exceptions

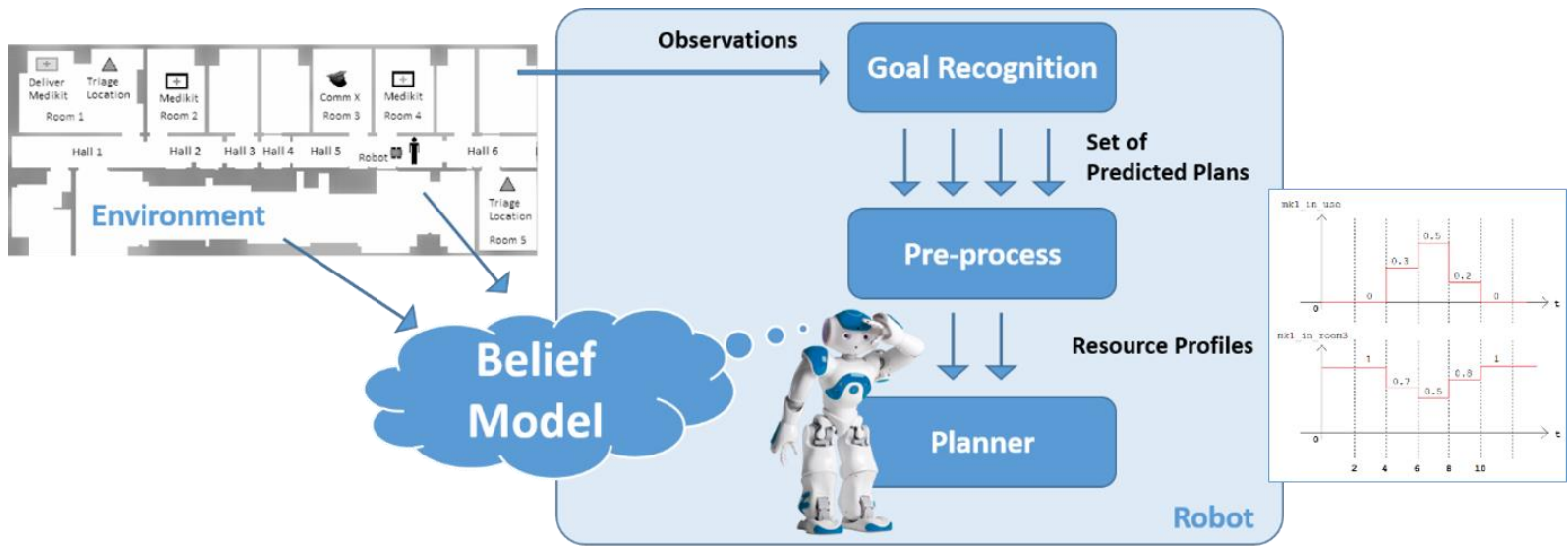
- Don't disturb the plan prefix before the serendipitous intervention
  - not necessary if the robot is able to communicate intentions
- The resulting world state after the serendipitous intervention models the original intended state of the human at that point
  - doesn't plan for further assistance



# Planning with Resource Conflicts

## Overview & System Components

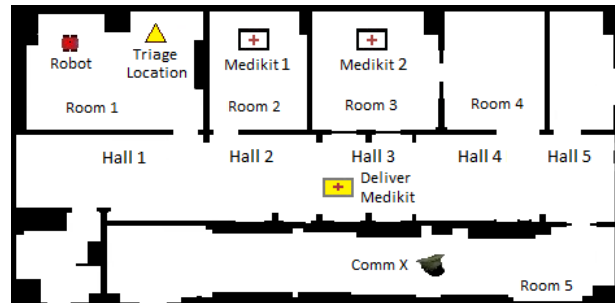
- Information from the predicted plans concisely represented as resource profiles and fed to the planning stage.



# Resource Profiles

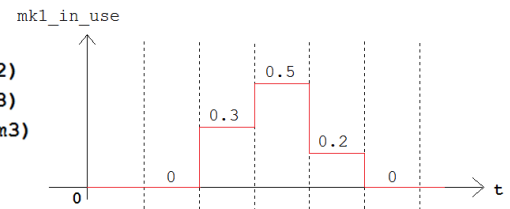
## different levels of abstraction

- We can have profiles at different levels of abstraction to reason about different aspects of the plan
  - Yes/no of resource usage
  - Profiles over actual groundings of the resource variables

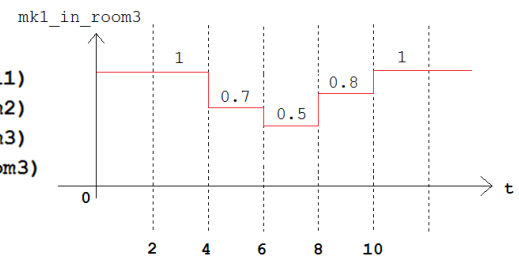


```
I = {at(commX, room1), at(mk1, room3), connected(room1, room2),
connected(room2, room3), connected(room1, hall1), connected(hall1, room2)}
```

Plan 1 -  $p(\pi_1) = 0.6$   
 0 sec: move(room1, room2)  
 2 sec: move(room2, room3)  
 4 sec: pick-up(mk1, room3)  
 5 sec: triage(room3)  
 8 sec: ~end~



Plan 2 -  $p(\pi_2) = 0.4$   
 0 sec: move(room1, hall1)  
 2 sec: move(hall1, room2)  
 4 sec: move(room2, room3)  
 6 sec: pick-up(mk1, room3)  
 7 sec: triage(room3)  
 10 sec: ~end~





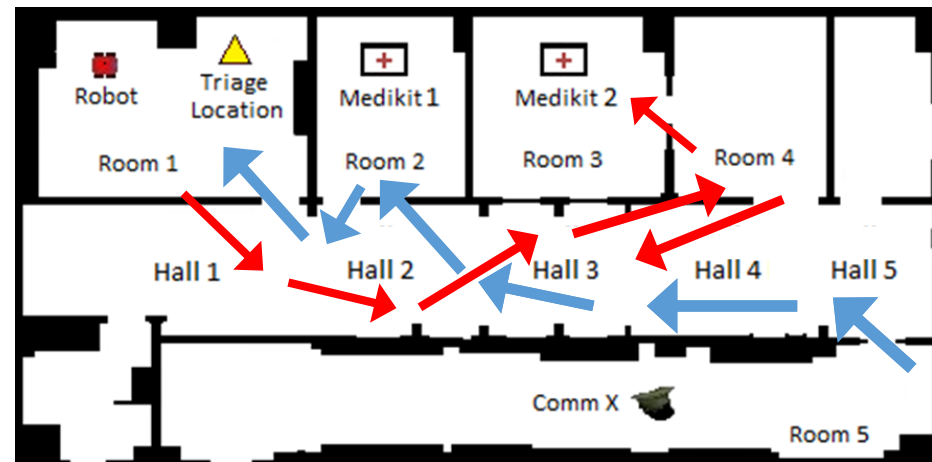
# Modeling Behavior – Compromise

## Robot settles for a suboptimal plan

CommX has to do triage in room1, Robot is tasked to conduct triage in hall3 – optimal plans require **medkit1** from **room2** for both agents.

```

01 - MOVE_ROBOT_ROOM1_HALL1
02 - MOVE_ROBOT_HALL1_HALL2
03 - MOVE_ROBOT_HALL2_HALL3
04 - MOVE_ROBOT_HALL3_HALL4
05 - MOVE_REVERSE_ROBOT_HALL4_ROOM4
06 - MOVE_REVERSE_ROBOT_ROOM4_ROOM3
07 - PICK_UP_MEDKIT_ROBOT_MK2_ROOM3
08 - MOVE_ROBOT_ROOM3_ROOM4
09 - MOVE_ROBOT_ROOM4_HALL4
10 - MOVE_REVERSE_ROBOT_HALL4_HALL3
11 - CONDUCT_TRIAGE_ROBOT_HALL3
12 - DROP_OFF_ROBOT_MK2_HALL3
  
```



# Modeling Behavior – Opportunism

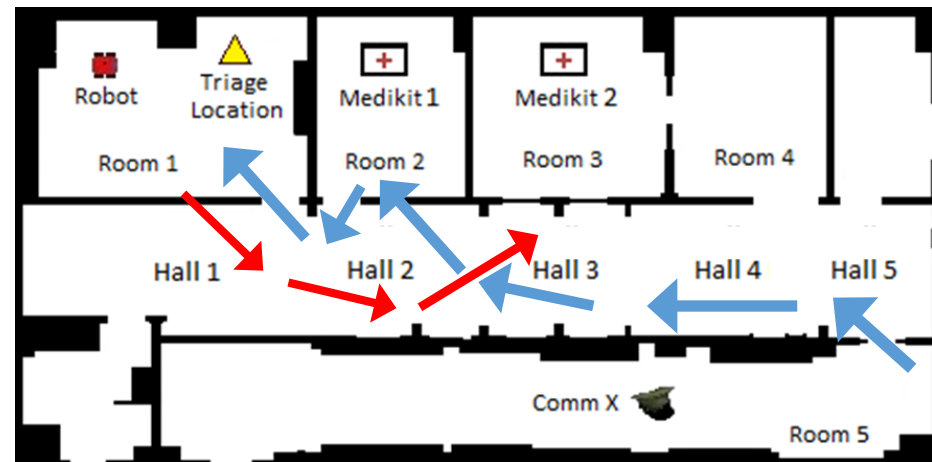
## Robot senses favourable turn of events

CommX has to do triage in room1, Robot is tasked to conduct triage in hall13 – optimal plans require **medkit1** from **room2** for both agents.

```

01 - NOOP
02 - NOOP
03 - NOOP
...
12 - NOOP
13 - NOOP
14 - PICK_UP_MEDKIT_ROBOT_MK1_ROOM1
15 - MOVE_ROBOT_ROOM1_HALL1
16 - MOVE_ROBOT_HALL1_HALL2
17 - MOVE_ROBOT_HALL2_HALL3
18 - CONDUCT_TRIAGE_ROBOT_HALL3
19 - DROP_OFF_ROBOT_MK1_HALL3
  
```

When planning horizon is increased...



# Plan Generation

## Integer Programs to model interaction constraints

- We use IP-based planners to model the interaction constraints discussed so far

- Planning with Resource Conflicts

Minimize **overlap** between profiles produced by the robot's plans with those predicted from the human's

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \min k_1 \sum_{a \in A_R} \sum_{t \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\}} C_a \times x_{a,t} \\
 & + k_2 \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \sum_{f \in \Gamma(\lambda)} \sum_{t \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\}} g_{f,t} \times G^\lambda(f) \\
 & - k_3 \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \sum_{f \in \Gamma(\lambda)} \sum_{t \in \{0, 1, \dots, T-1\}} h_{f,t} \times G^{f^\lambda}(t) \\
 & h_{f,t-1} = x_{f,t} \quad \forall a \text{ s.t. } f \in \mathbb{P}_a, \forall f \in \xi, t \in \{1, \dots, T\} \quad (5) \\
 & \sum_{a \in \Omega_f^+} \sum_t x_{a,t} \leq 1 \quad \forall f \in \xi, t \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\} \quad (9) \\
 & g_{f,t} = \sum_{a \in \Omega_f^+} x_{a,t} \\
 & + (1 - \sum_{a \in \Omega_f^+} x_{a,t} - \sum_{a \in \Omega_f^-} x_{a,t}) \times g_{f,t-1} \\
 & \forall f \in \xi, t \in \{1, \dots, T\} \quad (10) \\
 & h_{f,t} \times G^{f^\lambda}(t) \geq \epsilon \quad \forall f \in \xi, t \in \{0, 1, \dots, T-1\} \quad (11)
 \end{aligned}$$

- Planning for Serendipity

Compute positively removable sub-plans that uphold the two **preservation constraints**

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Obj : } \min \sum_{a \in A_h} \sum_{t \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\}} C_a \times x_{a,t} + K \|\xi_2 - \xi_1\| \\
 & \xi_1 \leq \sum_t (t \times x_{a,t}) (1 - \sum_t \sum_{a \in \pi_{\alpha_1}} x_{a,t}) \\
 & + T(1 - \sum_t x_{a,t}) + T(\sum_t \sum_{a \in \pi_{\alpha_1}} x_{a,t}) \\
 & \forall a \in A_H, t \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\} \quad (7a) \\
 & x_{a,t} \geq \frac{1}{T}(\xi_1 - t) \quad \forall a \in \pi_H, t \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\} \quad (7b) \\
 & x_{a,t} \leq 1 + \frac{1}{T}(\xi_2 - t) \quad \forall a \in A_R, t \in \{1, \dots, T\} \quad (8) \\
 & x_{a,t} + x_{a_\phi,t} \geq \frac{1}{T}(t - \xi_2) \quad \forall a \in \pi_H, t \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\} \quad (9) \\
 & \sum_{a \in A_\alpha} x_{a,t} + \sum_{a \in A_h \setminus \bigcup_{\alpha \in A} A_\alpha} x_{a,t} \leq 1 \\
 & \forall \alpha \in A, t \in \{1, \dots, T\} \quad (10) \\
 & \sum_{a \in A_h} \sum_{t \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\}} C_a \times x_{a,t} \leq \text{cost}(\pi_H) \quad (11) \\
 & \xi_1, \xi_2 \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\}, \xi_2 \leq \xi_1 + 1 \quad (12) \\
 & y_{f,t} \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall f \in S_h, t \in \{0, 1, \dots, T\} \quad (13) \\
 & x_{a,t} \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall a \in A_h, t \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\} \quad (14)
 \end{aligned}$$



# Evaluations – Planning for Serendipity

- We compare the reduction in cost of (overall) team plans from individual optimal plans to planning for serendipity, with and without communication.
- The robot's actions costs are discounted with respect to those of the human's to demonstrate how more and more situations become conducive to serendipitous interventions as the robot's actions become relatively cheaper.
  - Number of serendipitous plans indicate that there are plenty of opportunities for such serendipitous interventions.

Discount	w/o comm.	w/ comm.
0%	9.82 (1)	9.72 (13)
10%	9.81 (7)	9.65 (23)
30%	9.79 (7)	9.48 (34)
50%	9.76 (12)	9.25 (40)
70%	9.68 (29)	8.93 (62)
90%	9.55 (32)	8.51 (70)

Average individual plan cost = 9.825



# Evaluations – Planning with Resource Conflicts

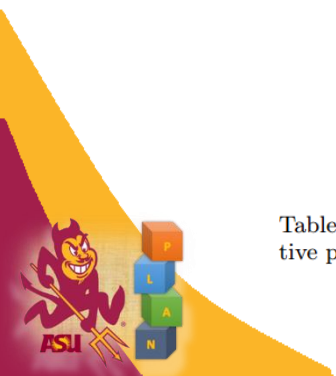
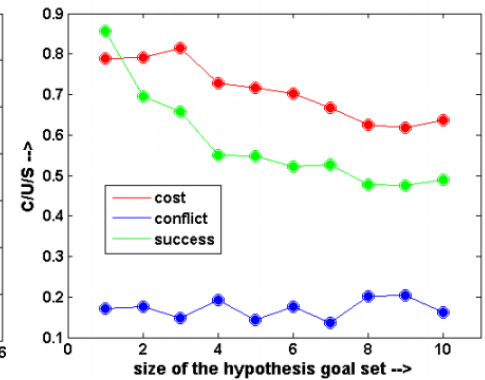
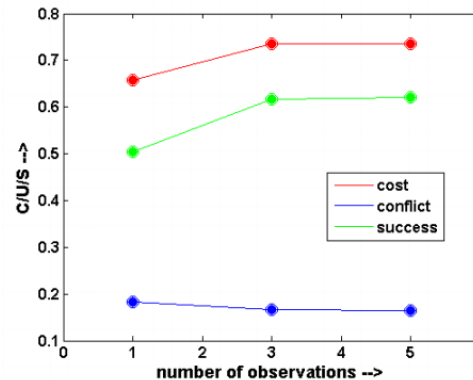
- We contrast the effect of the parameters of the IP-formulation on the plans produced.
  - Increasing the planning horizon makes the robot more opportunistic
  - Increasing the relative penalty for overlaps in profiles makes the robot more conservative and lowers utility
  - Algorithm is robust to number of observations, but larger hypothesis sets effect the planner negatively as expected
- Complexity of the planner stage only is independent of the number of agents, and size of the hypothesis set – advantage of the modular approach and profile representation of plans.

$T$	10	13	16	Optimal
C	9.0	5.6	4.53	9.0
U	0.46	0.04	$\approx 0$	n/a
S	1.0	0.48	0.25	n/a
F	53.3	11.9	6.6	53.3

Table 2: Quality of plans produced w.r.t.  $T$ . Opportunities for opportunism explored, conflicts minimized.

$k_1/k_3$	0.05	0.5	5.0
C	9.47	6.37	6.31
U	0.18	0.17	0.17
S	0.85	0.579	0.578
F	27.5	23.0	21.3

Table 1: Quality of plans produced w.r.t.  $k_1/k_2$ . Conservative plans result in lowered utility.



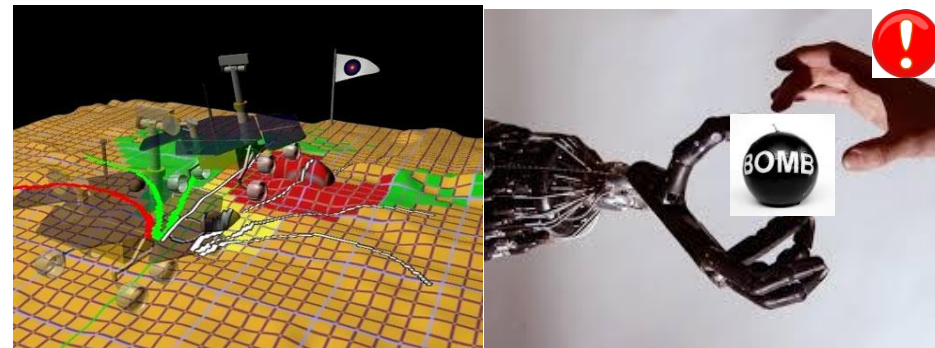
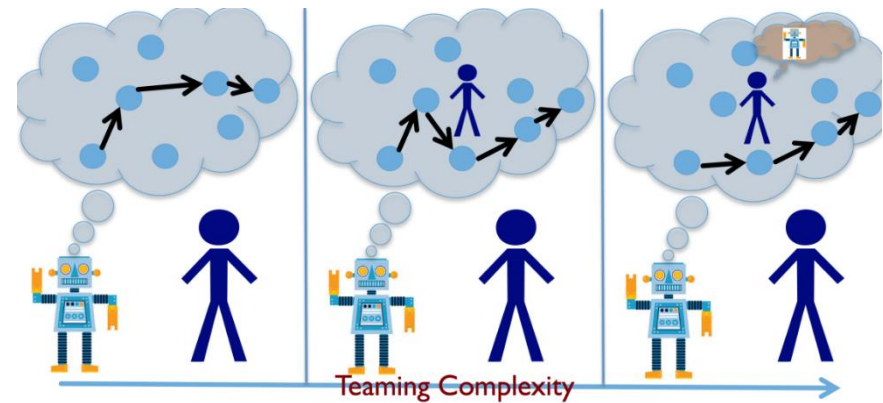


# Agenda for Today

- How to learn and plan with incomplete domain models
  - Complete--Approximate--Shallow
- How to plan to be useful to the human
  - Avoiding conflicts and offering serendipitous help
- How to make planned behavior explainable to the human in the loop
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# When is a plan “Explainable” to the human in the loop?

- The robot generates its plan of action using its model  $M_R$
- The human “interprets” this plan in light of her understanding of the Robot’s model  $M_R^*$
- $M_R$  and  $M_R^*$  can be quite different..
- Differences can be a result of:
  - ◇ Different capabilities (e.g., possible actions)
  - ◇ Different knowledge (e.g., level of modeling)
  - ◇ Different interpretation of behaviors (e.g., plans) interacting with the world -- **more than just trajectory planning!**



$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\pi_{M_R}} \operatorname{cost}(\pi_{M_R}) + \alpha \cdot \operatorname{dist}(\pi_{M_R}, \pi_{M_R^*})$$

**But, alas,  $M_R^*$  is not known!**

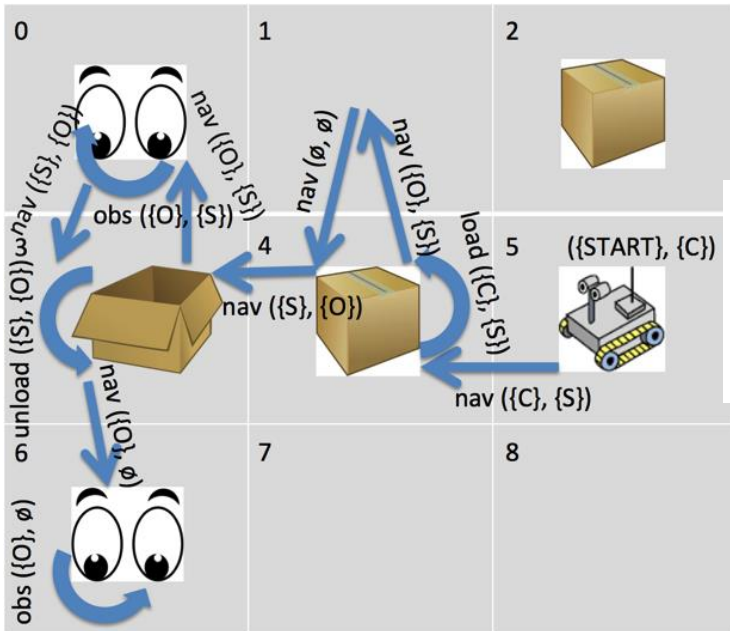
# Explainability Labeling

Problem:  $M_R^*$  is not known  
 Solution: Learn it, but indirectly  
 as a labeling scheme..

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\pi_{M_R}} \text{cost}(\pi_{M_R}) + \alpha \cdot \text{dist}(\pi_{M_R}, \pi_{M_R^*})$$

$$\text{dist}(\pi_{M_R}, \pi_{M_R^*}) = F \circ \mathcal{L}^*(\pi_{M_R})$$

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\pi_{M_R}} \text{cost}(\pi_{M_R}) + \alpha \cdot F \circ \mathcal{L}_{CRF}^*(\pi_{M_R} | \{S_i | S_i = \mathcal{L}^*(\pi_{M_R}^i)\})$$



Analogy: Think of learning how to write address labels so the postal carrier can understand..



- Task labels (to associate with actions).  
 For example:

- ◇ Collect
- ◇ Store
- ◇ Observe

More than one label is allowed for actions

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\pi_{M_R}} \text{cost}(\pi_{M_R}) + \alpha \cdot F \circ \mathcal{L}_{CRF}^*(\pi_{M_R} | \{S_i | S_i = \mathcal{L}^*(\pi_{M_R}^i)\})$$

# Learning the Labeling Scheme using CRF

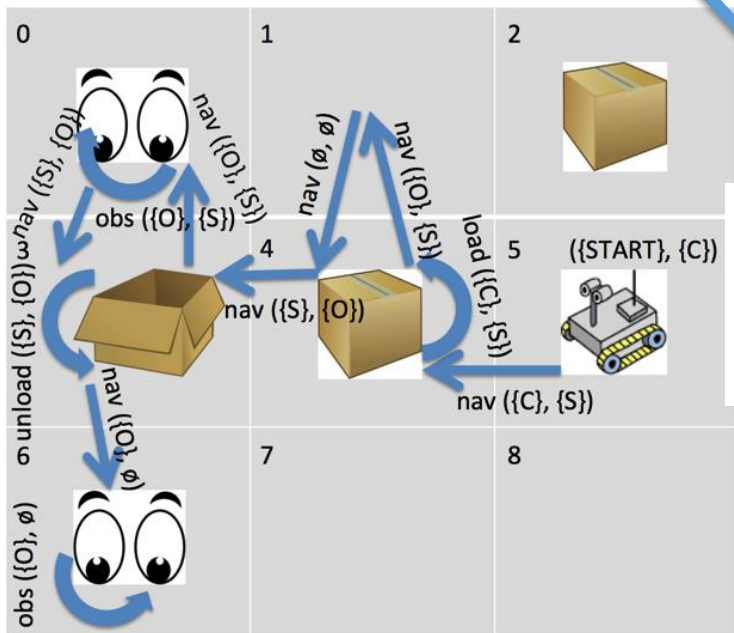
## Model:

- Conditional Random Fields (CRF)

$$p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_A \Phi(\mathbf{x}_A, \mathbf{y}_A)$$

## Features:

- Plan features: e.g., at rover L5
- Action/trajectory Features: e.g., action type
- Interaction features: e.g., distance to the human



Task labels (to associate with actions).  
For example:

- Collect
- Store
- Observe

More than one label is allowed for actions

$$\underset{\pi_{M_R}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \operatorname{cost}(\pi_{M_R}) + \alpha \cdot F \circ \mathcal{L}_{CRF}^*(\pi_{M_R} | \{S_i | S_i = \mathcal{L}^*(\pi_{M_R}^i)\})$$

# Using Explainability Model

Preliminary results indicate that such a scheme is reasonably effective in picking explainable plans..

## Plan selection

- Robot can generate a set of plans and select the most explainable/predictable plan

## Plan heuristic

- Robots can use it to directly synthesize more explainable/predictable plans

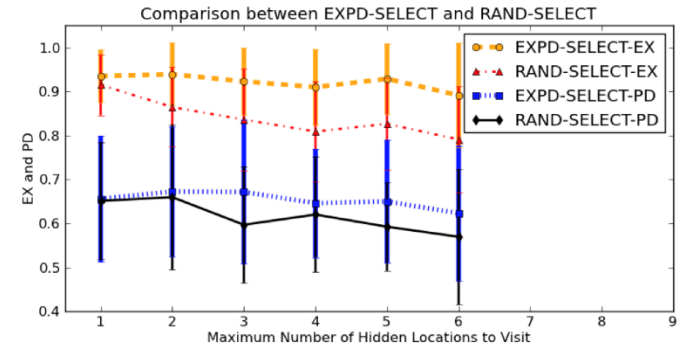


Figure 5: Comparison of EXPD-SELECT and RAND-SELECT

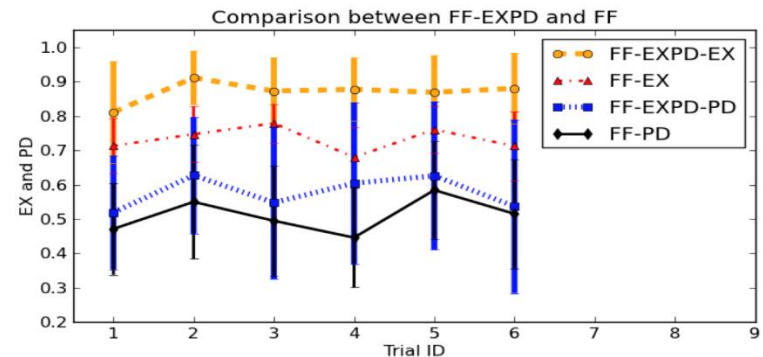


Figure 6: Comparison of FF-EXPD and FF considering  $u_{exp}$  in Alg. 1.

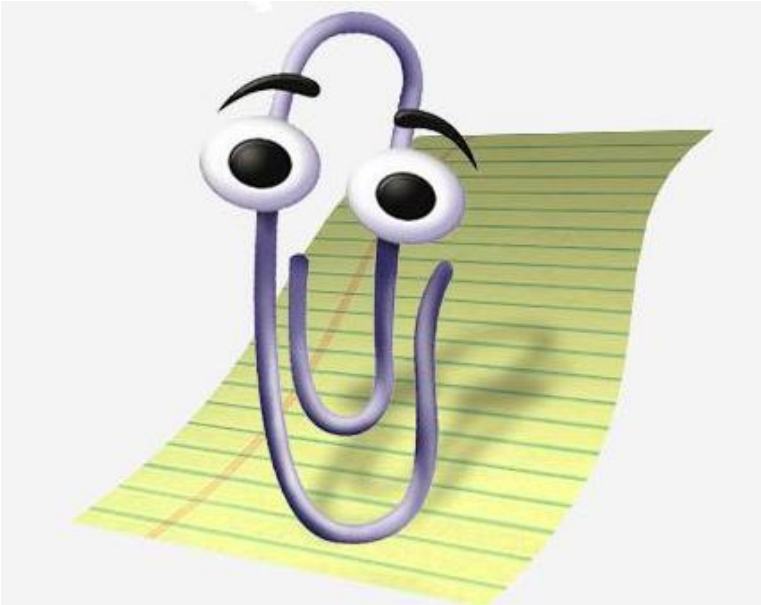




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Do we really know what  
(sort of assistance)  
humans want?



*We dance round in a ring and suppose,  
But the Secret sits in the middle and knows.*

Proactive Help Can  
be Disconcerting!



# Human Factor Studies

- To understand whether human-robot teams perform better with more intelligent/proactive robot teammates or not
- Two studies
  - Wizard-of-Oz Human-Human studies
    - With Cade Bartlett and Nancy Cooke
      - Cade Bartlett's M.S. thesis (in preparation for Journal submission)
  - Human-Planner studies
    - To see if proactive robots that use plan recognition to anticipate human actions help or hinder team performance
      - [IROS 2015][HRI2015]

# Human-human Teaming Analysis in Urban Search and Rescue

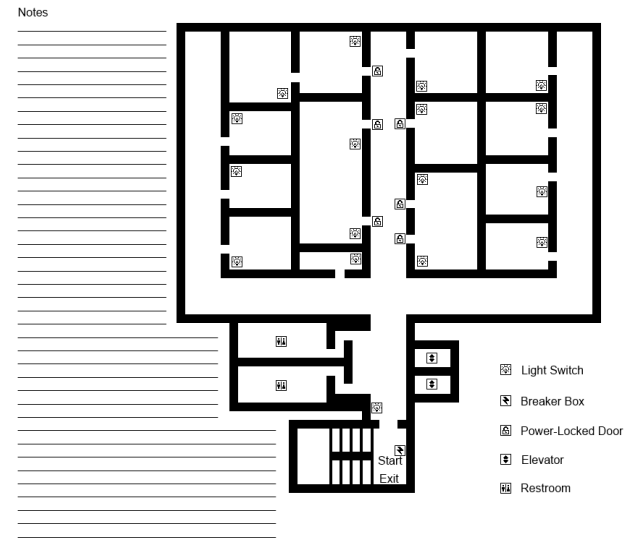
Simulated search task (Minecraft) with human playing role of USAR robot

- 20 internal/external dyads tested
- Conditions of autonomous/intelligent or remotely controlled robot
- Differences in SA, performance, and communications



# Measures

- Performance:
  - $((\text{Rooms Marked Correctly} + \text{Correct Presses}) - (\text{Repeated presses} + \text{Incorrect Presses}))$ .
- SA
  - External – Rooms marked correctly
  - Internal – Repeated presses
- Covariates
  - Spatial ability task
  - Demographics
  - Experience
    - Robotics
    - Minecraft
    - Gaming





# Procedure

1. Random role assignment
2. Consent
3. Spatial ability test
4. Seated with divider between
5. Instructions (according to condition)
6. Search plan
7. Internal training
8. USAR task (15 minutes)
9. Notified of end of time targets (8 minutes in)
10. Demographics/experience/TLX
11. Debrief
12. Compensation



# Summary of Key Findings

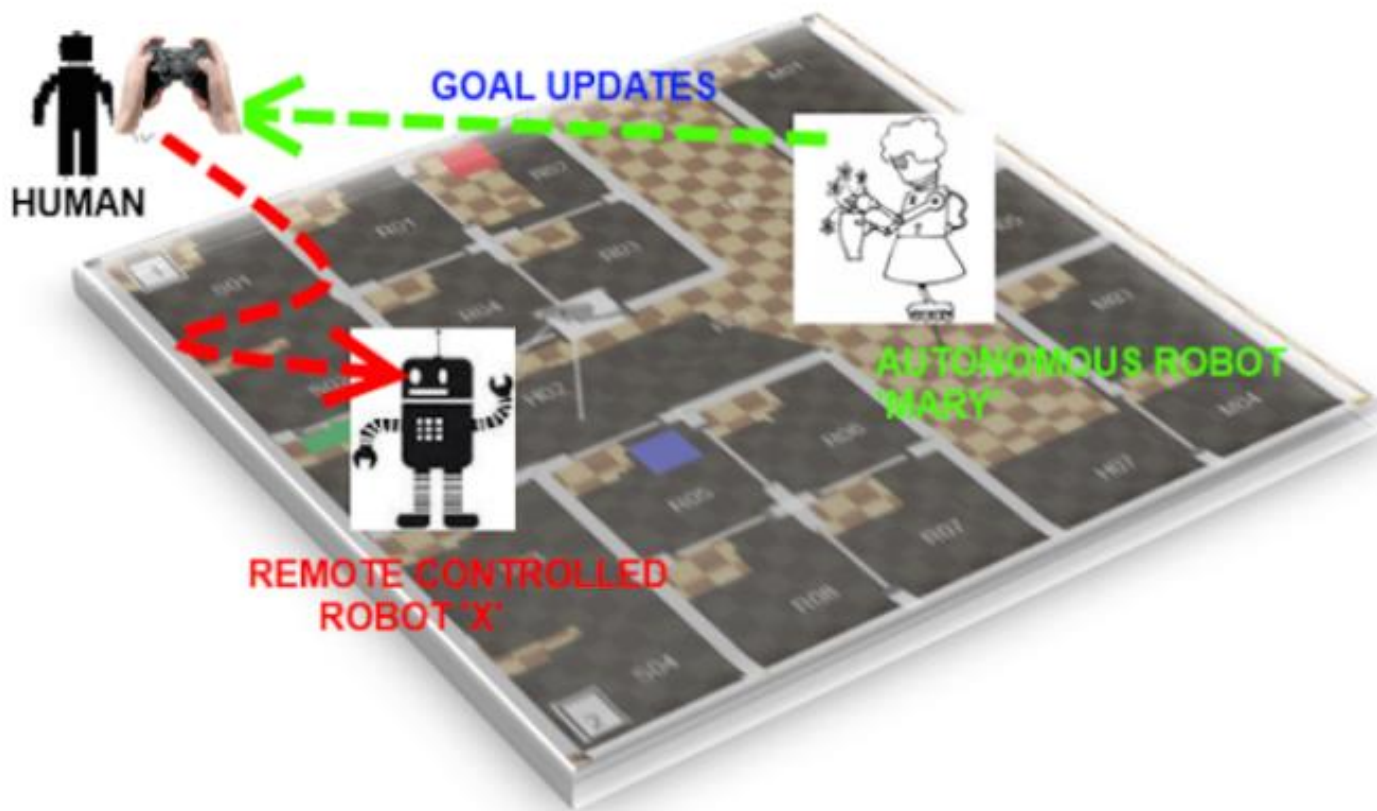
- **Intelligent condition (vs. Remote):**
  - Higher dyad performance
  - Lower external workload
  - Less communications (especially from external)
  - Tendency for Higher External SA (non-significant)
    - Higher Levels of External SA driven by
      - Greater percent excuses
      - Lower difference in spatial ability between internal and external
      - Higher internal SA (low repeat button presses)
- **Communications associated with most effective dyad performance**
  - Higher percent excuses (A flag for whether the communication was related to one of the environment's inconsistencies with the provided map)

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# Analysis of Proactive Support in Human-robot teaming

Simulated search task (Webots) with human remotely controlling a robot while collaborating with an intelligent robot 'Mary':



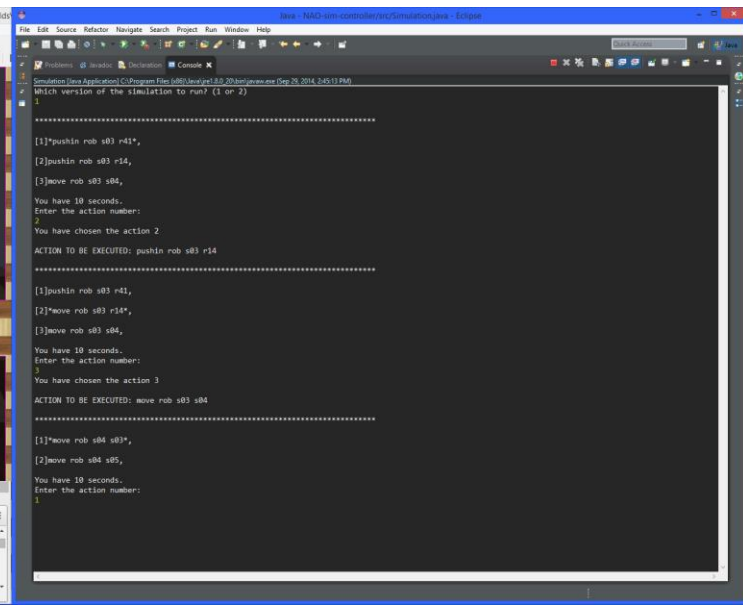
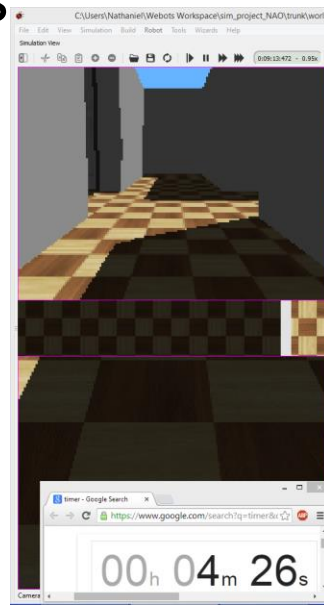
# Measures

## Performance:

- Time taken to treat the critically injured casualty; time taken to treat both

## Task settings:

- Monitoring cameras that can provide observations
- Casualties to be treated using medical kits in medical rooms
- Environment segmented by doors





# Summary of Key Findings

- Mary with a proactive support capability (vs. without):
  - Higher dyad performance
  - Lower communication
  - Slightly (non-significant) increased mental workload
- Mary with a proactive support capability in our USAR task scenario is generally preferred

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- **Until my next update** e to  
**@2025 AI Seminar** air
- How to recognize and evaluate what are the desiderata for fluent teaming with humans
  - As the “paper clip” assistant shows, we AI’ers are not great at guessing what humans “like” ☹️

