Pretty good behavior in pretty big domains

or

How to stop worrying and love being wrong

Leslie Pack Kaelbling Tomas Lozano-Perez MIT CSAIL

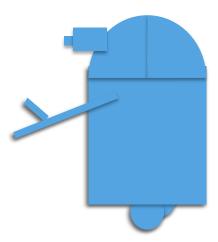
Flexible intelligence in complex domains



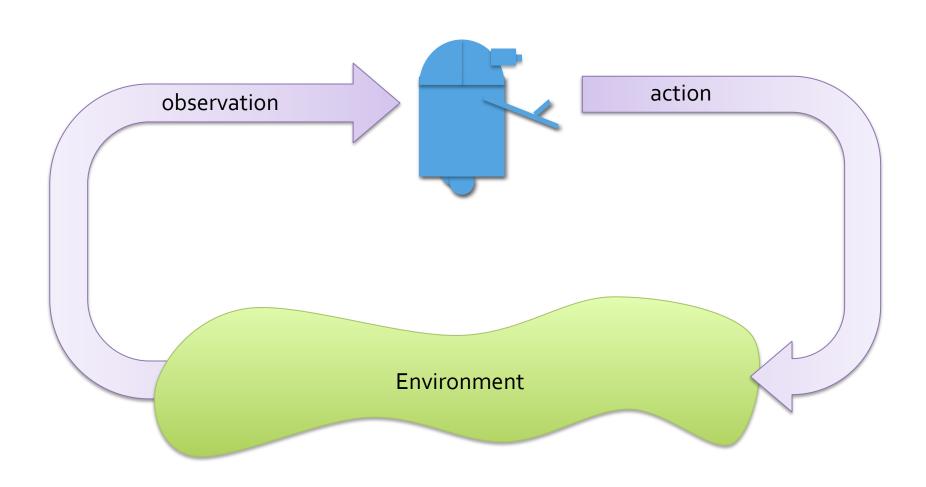
Our problem

How to build the 'central' computational mechanisms for

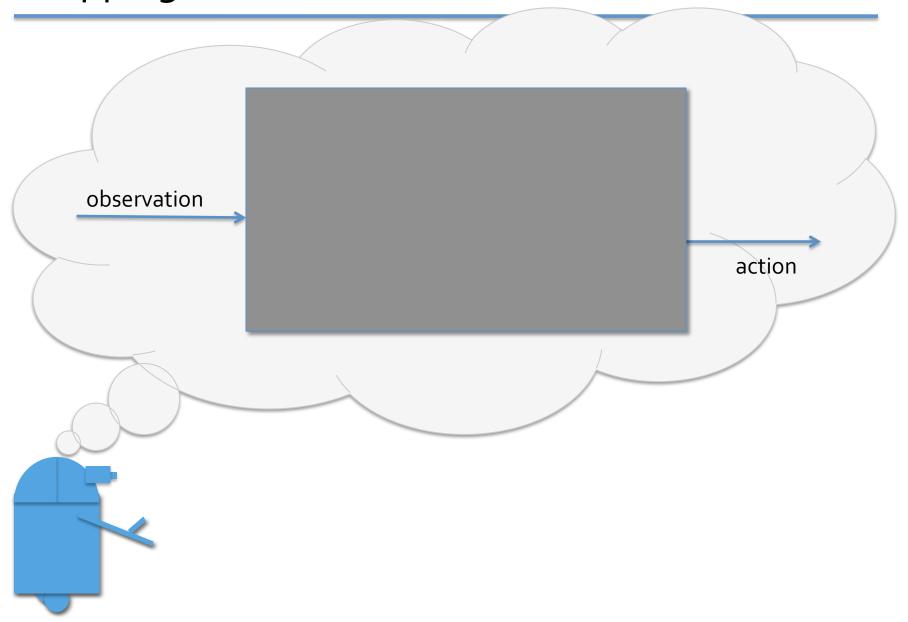
- closed-loop control of a system with
- sensors and actuators that has
- long-term goal-directed interactions with
- a complex
- imperfectly predictable external environment



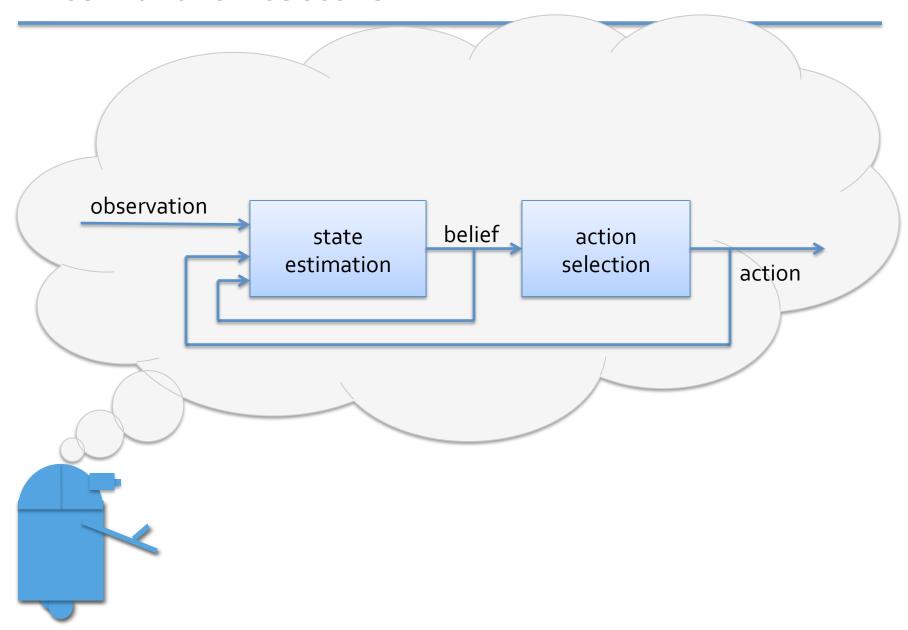
Interaction with an external environment



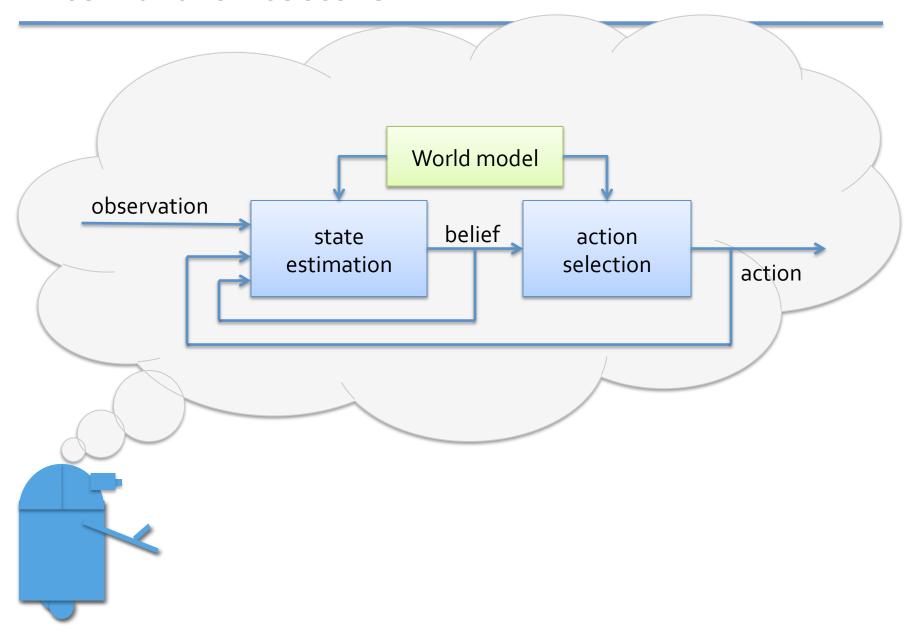
Mapping observation histories to actions



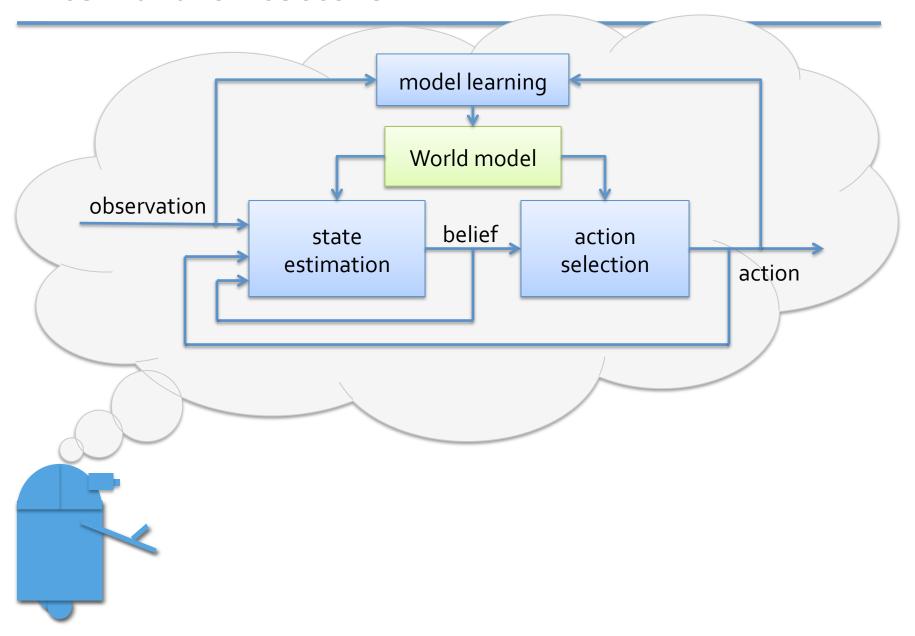
Internal architecture



Internal architecture



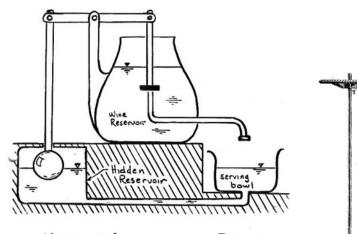
Internal architecture



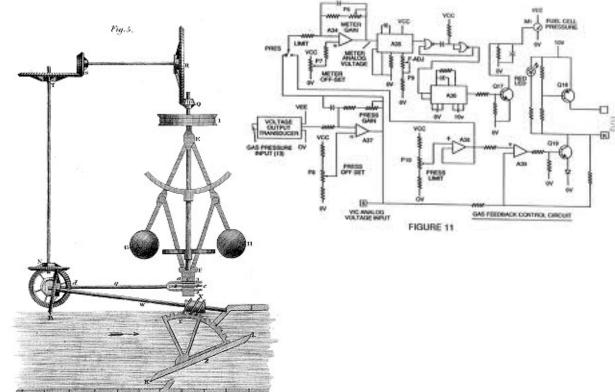
Feedback control

Loop:

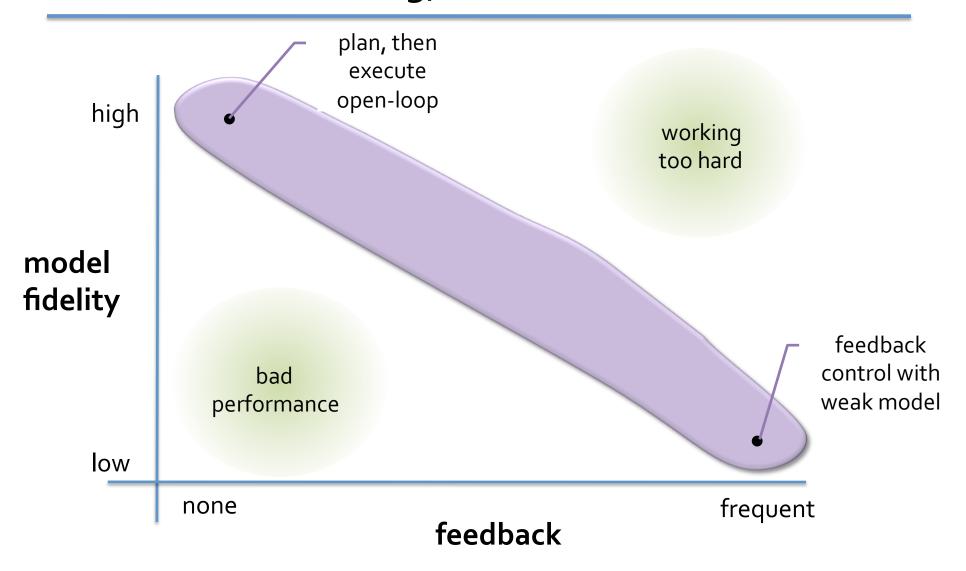
- select an action based on (estimated) world state
- see what effect it has in the world



HERO'S SELF-LEVELING BOWL ca. 30 B.C.



All models are wrong; but some are useful. - Box



Using simplified models for action selection

ICAPS 2004: First probabilistic planning competition

Entries: Many sophisticated MDP planning algorithms

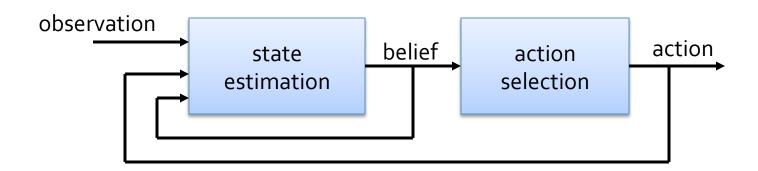
Winner: FF-Replan

- determinimized model + classical forward planner
- replan on unexpected outcomes

Result: New definition of probabilistically interesting problems

can't be solved effectively by FF-Replan

Action selection with partial observability



Plan in belief space:

- every action gains information and changes the world
- · changes are reflected in new belief via estimation
- goal is to believe that the environment is in a desired state

Using simplified models for action selection

Three examples:

Continuous control with state-dependent observation noise:

- deterministic dynamics
- most likely observation

Robot grasping with tactile sensing:

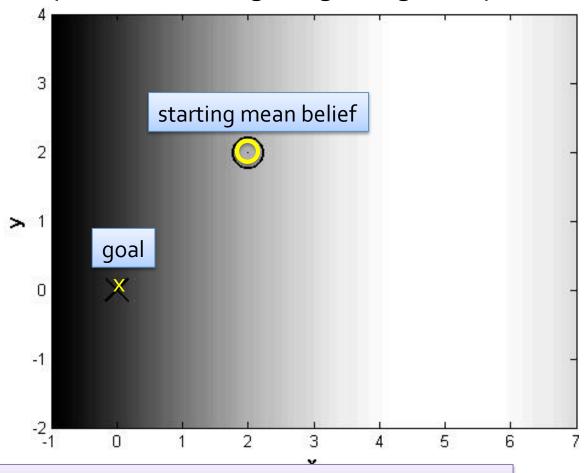
- shortened horizon
- reduced action space

Household robot with local sensing:

- assume subtask serializability
- assume desired observations

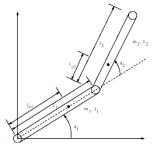
State-dependent observation noise

- robot in x, y space
- good position sensing in light regions; poor in dark

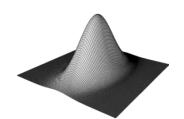


Joint work with Rob Platt, Russ Tedrake and Tomás Lozano-Pérez

Control in belief space: underactuated



Acrobot



Gaussian belief:

$$x = \begin{pmatrix} \theta \\ \dot{\theta} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$b = \binom{m}{\Sigma}$$

$$x_g = \begin{pmatrix} \pi \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$b_g = \begin{pmatrix} x_g \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\ddot{\theta} = f(\theta, \dot{\theta}, u)$$

Belief space dynamics

Dynamics specify next belief state, as a function of previous belief state and action

state update: generalized Kalman filter

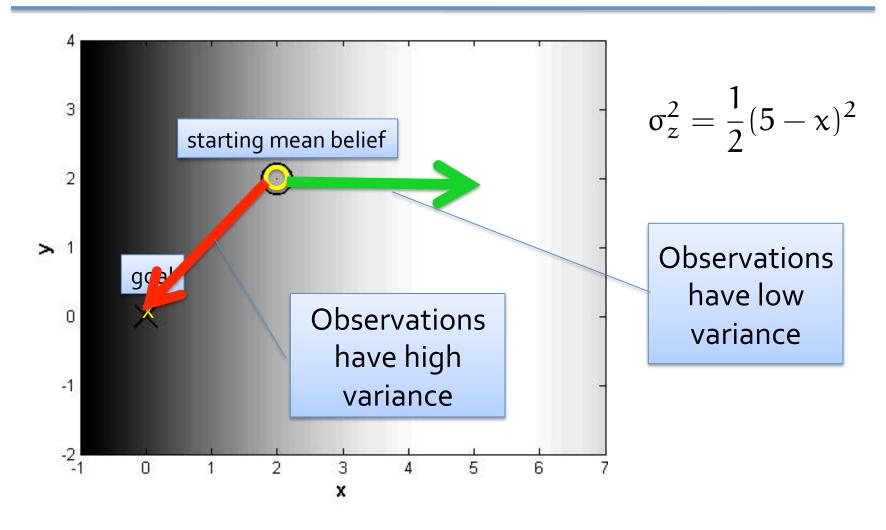
$$(\mu_{t+1}, \Sigma_{t+1}) = \mathsf{GKF}(o_t, \alpha_t, \mu_t, \Sigma_t)$$

 substitute expected observation in for actual one add Gaussian noise

$$\begin{split} (\mu_{t+1}, \Sigma_{t+1}) &= F(\alpha_t, \mu_t, \Sigma_t) + N \\ &= GKF(\bar{o}(\mu_t), \alpha_t, \mu_t, \Sigma_t) + N \end{split}$$

 continuous Gaussian non-linear dynamics: apply tools from control theory

Information gathering



Belief space planning

Find path $\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_T$ that minimizes the cost function:

$$J = \sum_{i=i}^{k} n_i^T \Sigma_T n_i + \sum_{i=1}^{T} \alpha_t^T R \alpha_t$$

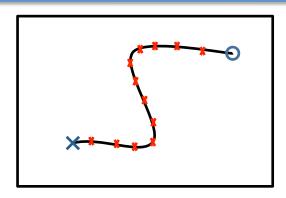
covariance at final state

action cost along path

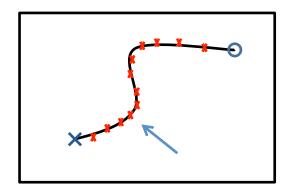
subject to $\mu_T = \chi_{goal}$

Planning by local optimization

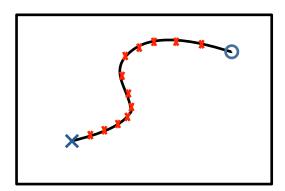
Parameterize initial trajectory by "via" points



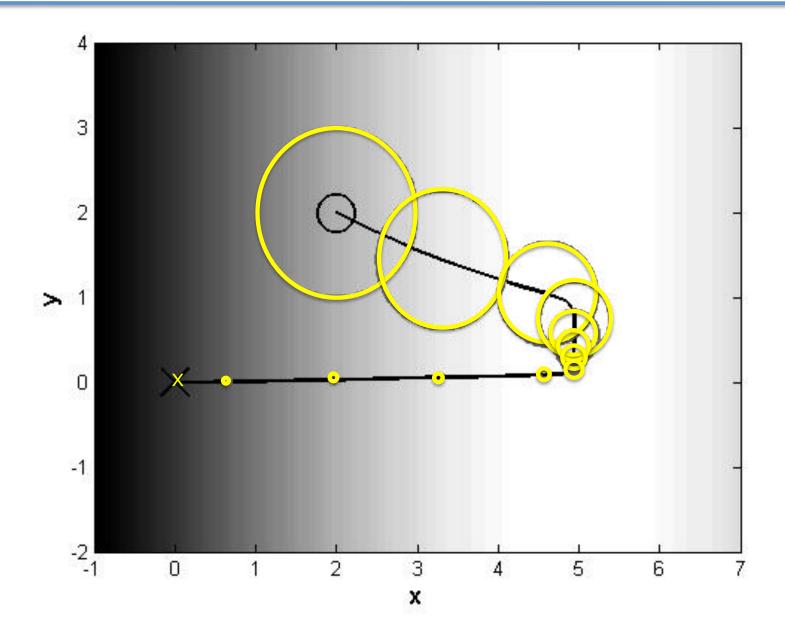
2. Shift "via" points while enforcing dynamic constraints



3. Stop when local minimum is reached

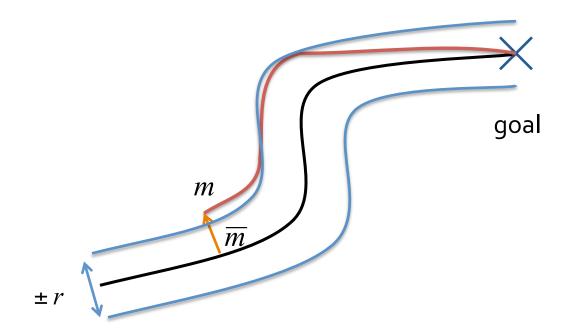


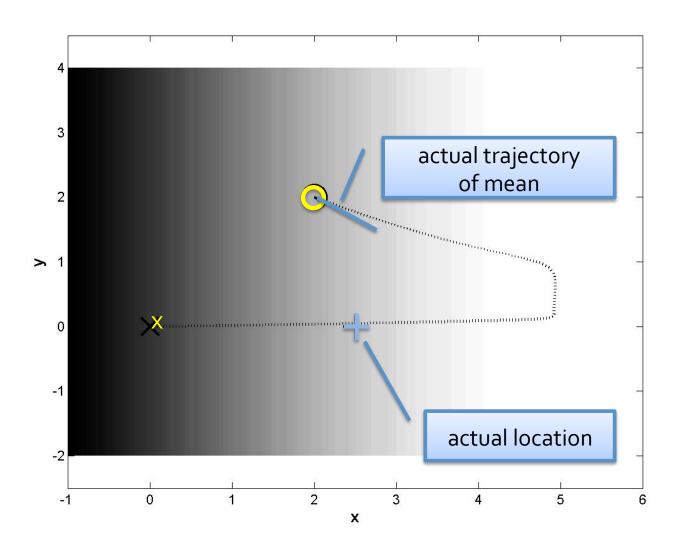
Light-dark plan

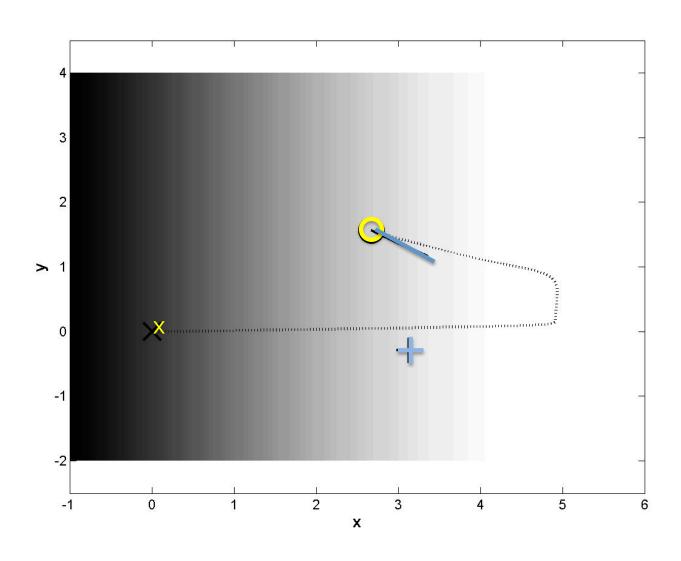


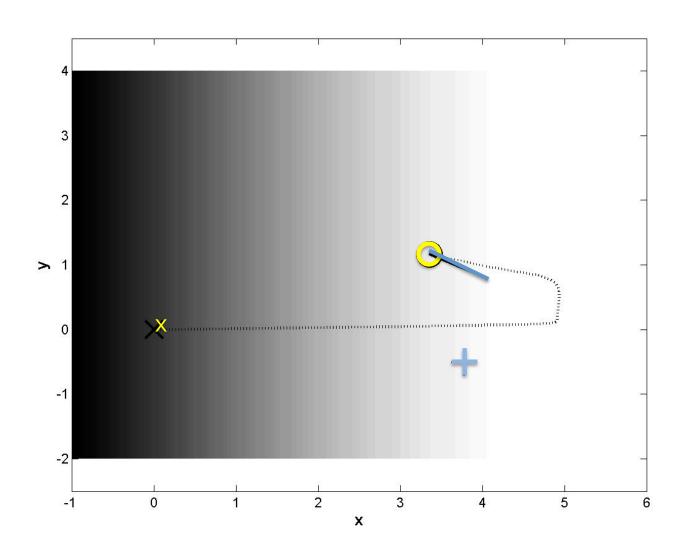
Replanning

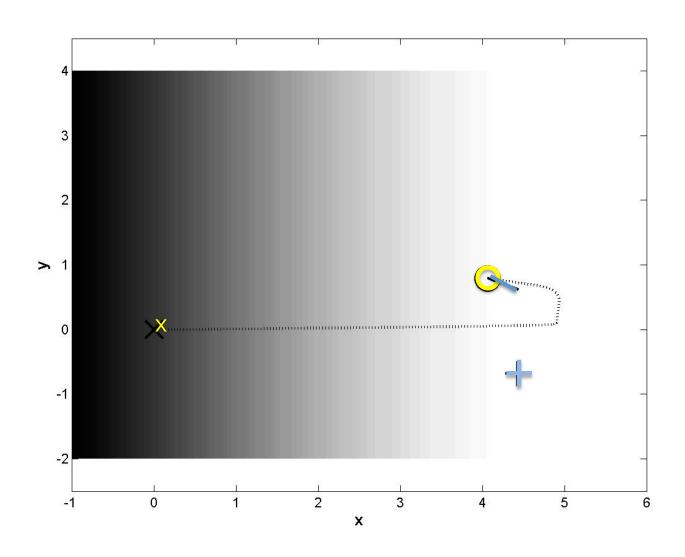
Replan when new belief state deviates too far from planned trajectory

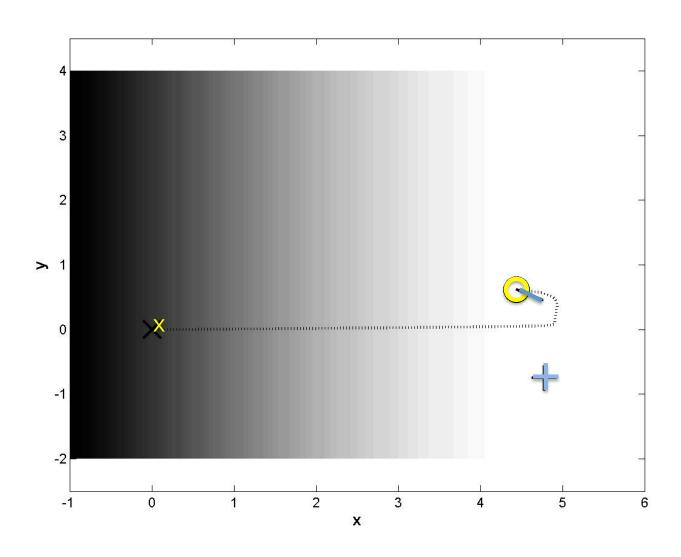


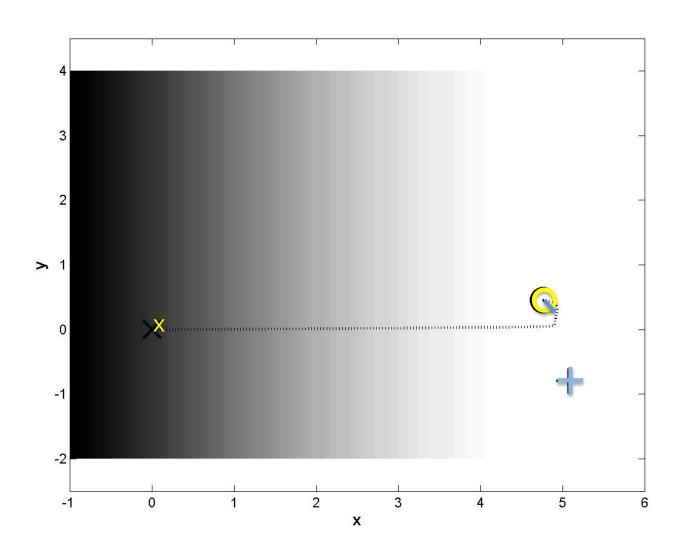


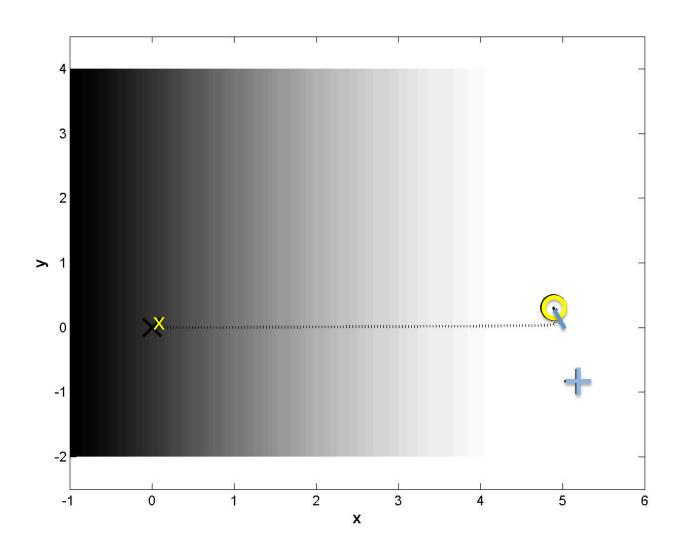


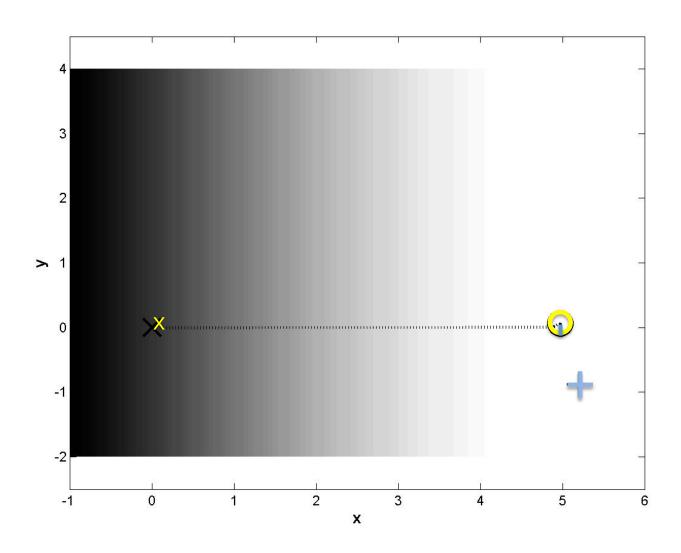


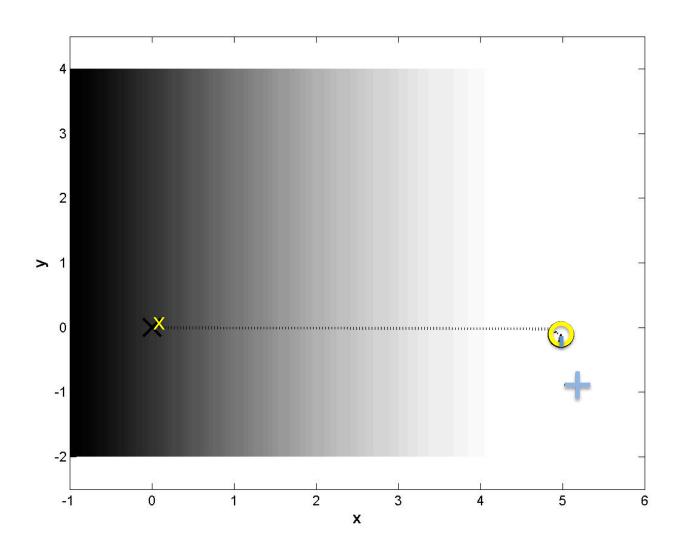


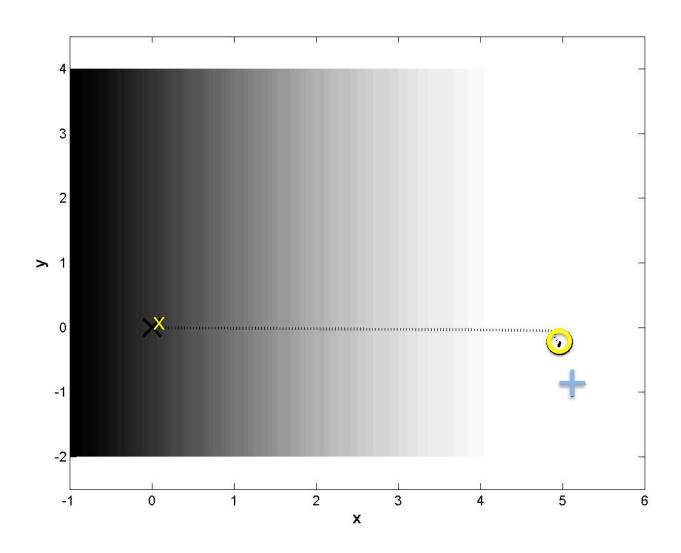


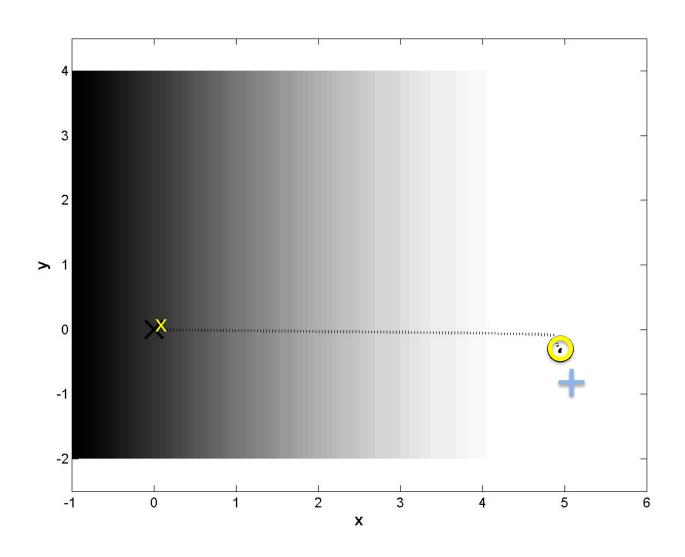


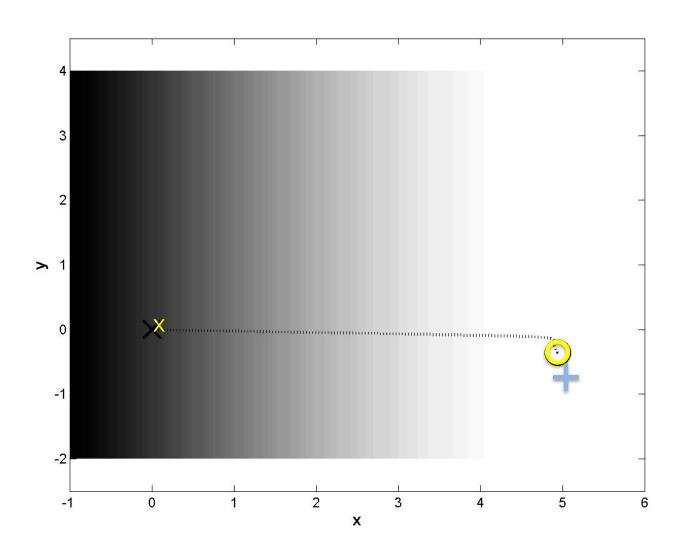


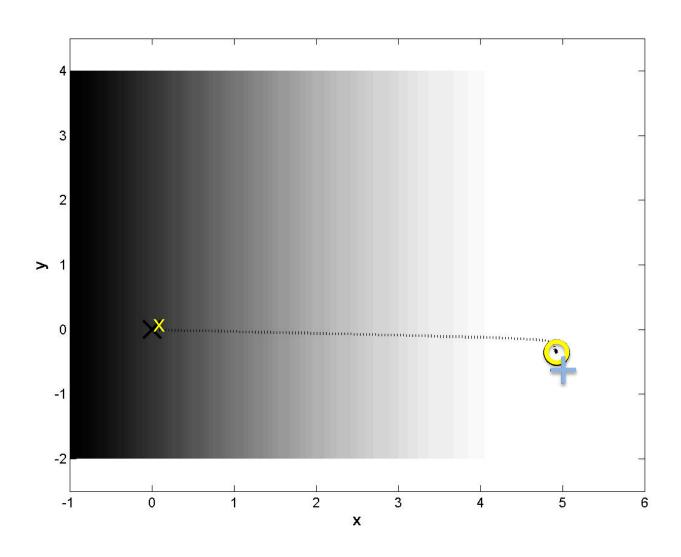


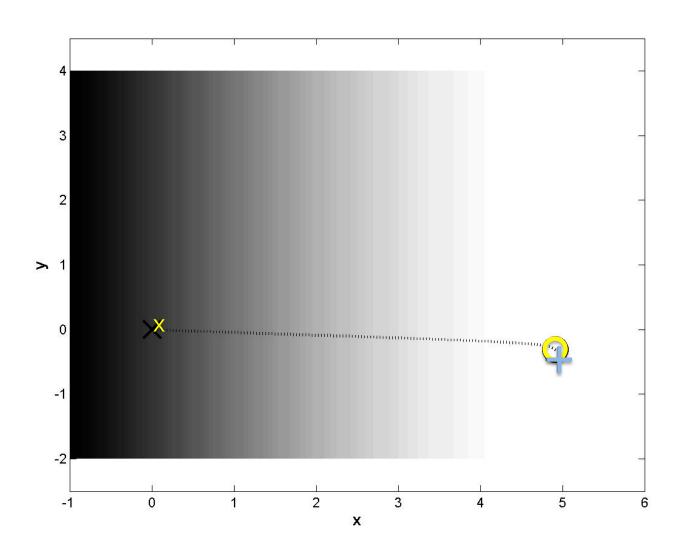


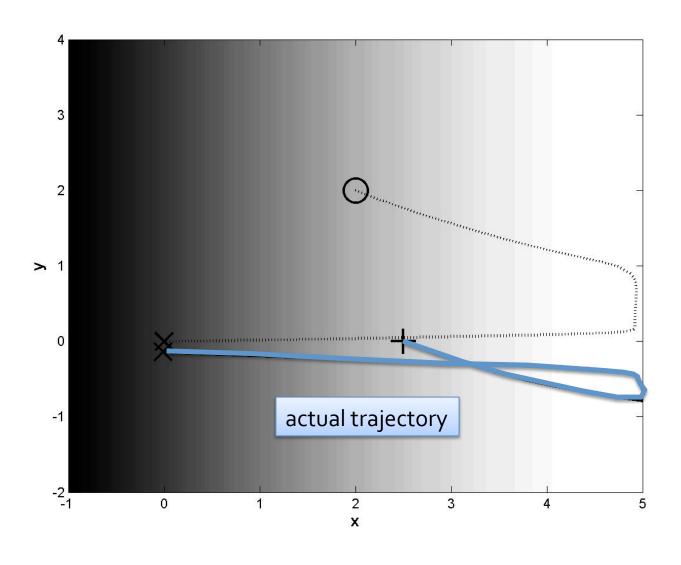




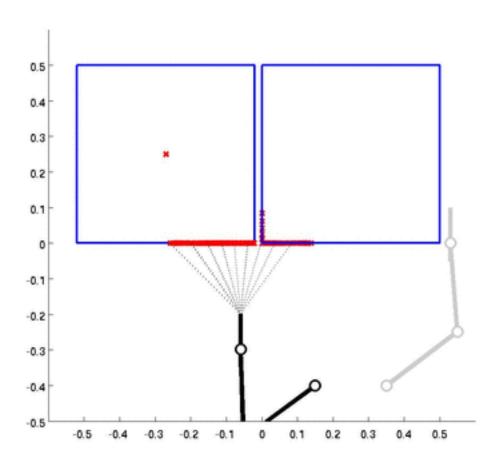






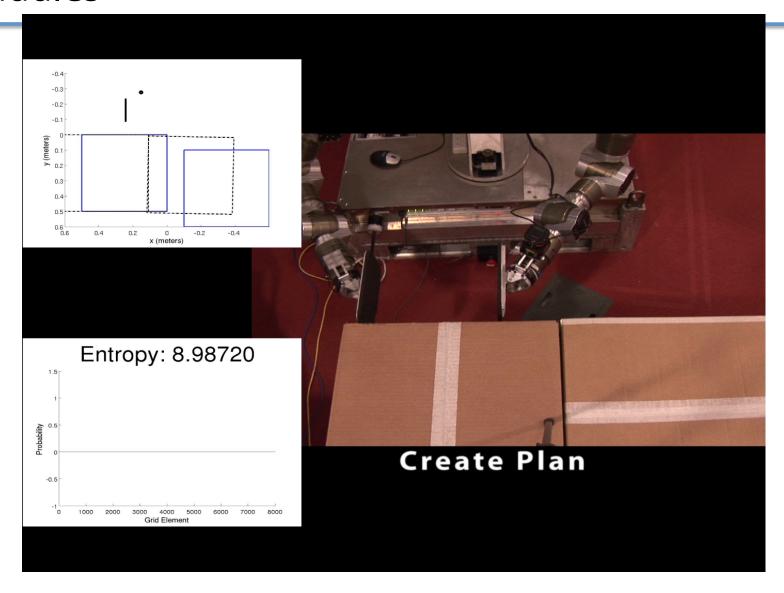


Box Pushing





Paddles



Using simplified models for action selection

Three examples in partially observable domains

Continuous control with state-dependent observation noise:

- deterministic dynamics
- most likely observation

Robot grasping with tactile sensing:

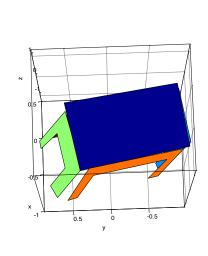
- shortened horizon
- reduced action space

Household robot with local sensing:

- assume subtask serializability
- assume desired observations

Goal: pick up object of known shape with specific grasp

Visual localization and detection works moderately well...





Joint work with Kaijen Hsiao and Tomás Lozano-Pérez

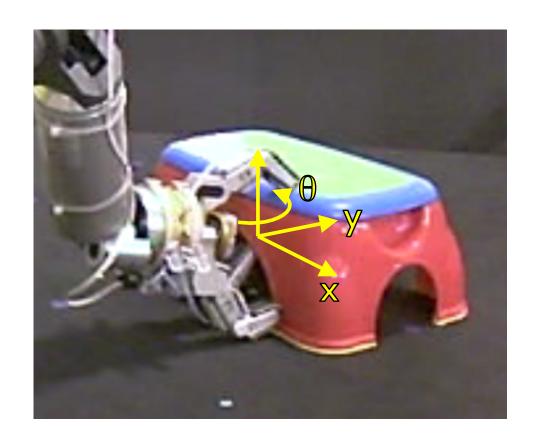
Hypothesis space

Robot pose:

- 11 DOF
- model as fully observable

Object pose:

- 3 DOF
- model as partially observable

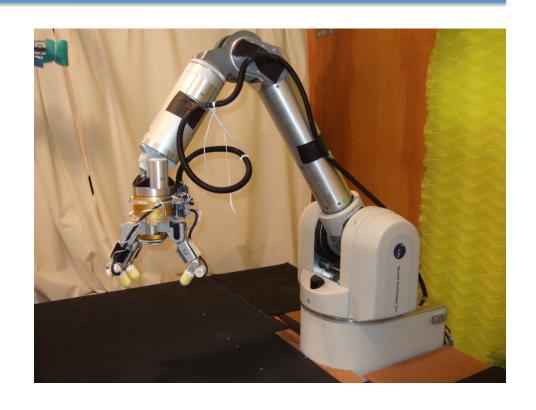


State estimate: probability distribution over object pose

Macro actions

Execute a trajectory:

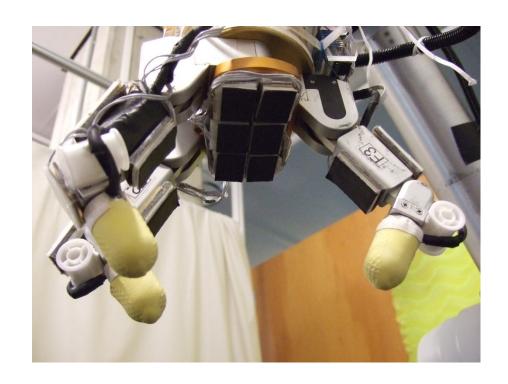
- stop moving arm if any contact is felt
- close each finger until it makes contact



Fixed set of parameterized trajectories, always executed with respect to most likely state

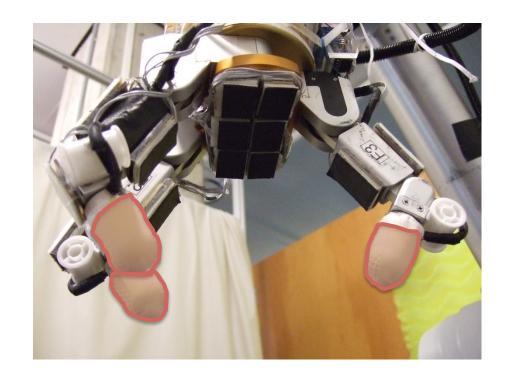
Observations

 Arm trajectory according to proprioception



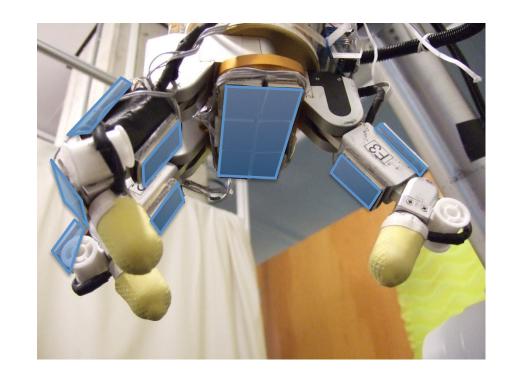
Observations

- Arm trajectory according to proprioception
- 6-axis force-torque sensors on fingertips



Observations

- Arm trajectory according to proprioception
- 6-axis force-torque sensors on fingertips
- Binary contact sensors



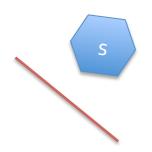
Observation model: $Pr(o \mid s, a)$

Nominal observation for s, a: o*

	Contact	no contact
Contact	Gaussian density on dist to closest a' that would not have caused interpenetration X Gaussian density on dist between contact positions and normals	Gaussian density on dist to closest a' that would have caused contact X Gaussian density on dist between contact positions and normals
no	Gaussian density on dist to closest a' that would not have caused contact	Max value of Gaussian density used for nominal contact case
contact	s a	s a

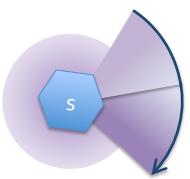
Transition model: $Pr(s_{t+1} \mid s_t, a_t)$

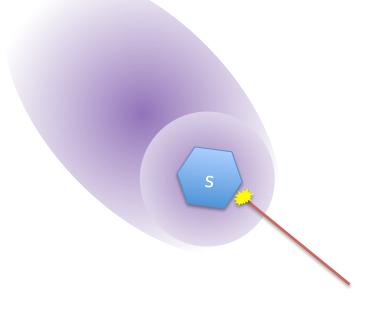
No contact: no change



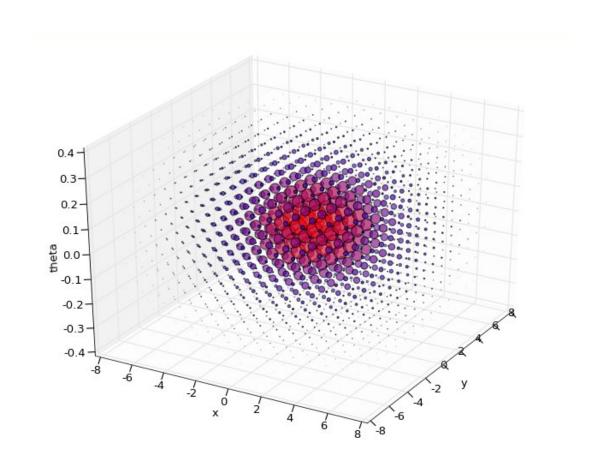
Contact: probability of being bumped depends on observation

Reorientation: similar to contact with large rotational variances

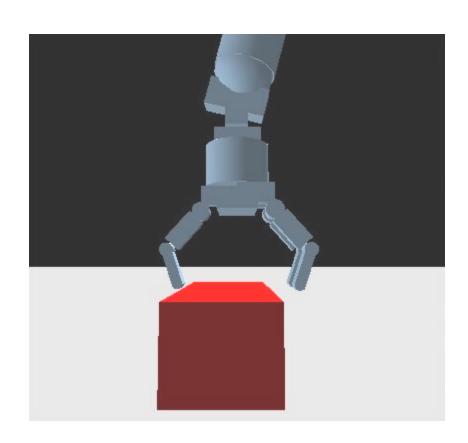




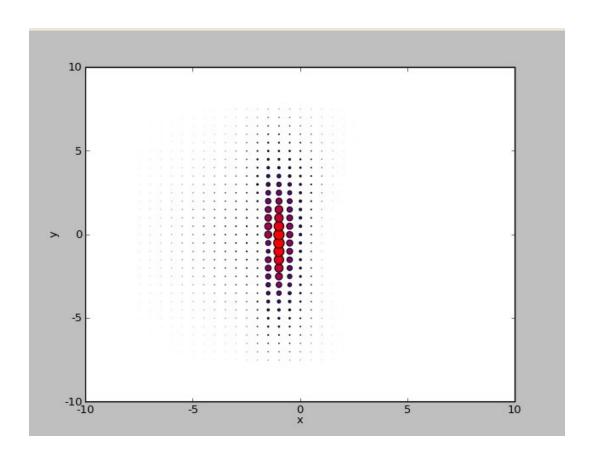
Initial belief state



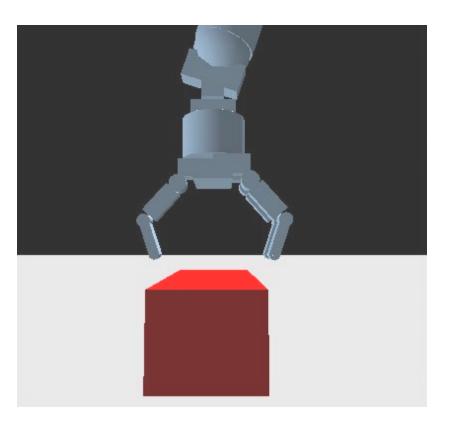
Tried to move down — finger hit corner

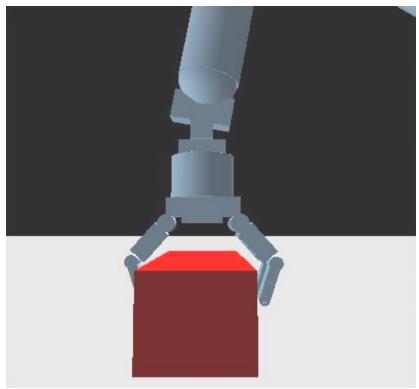


Updated belief



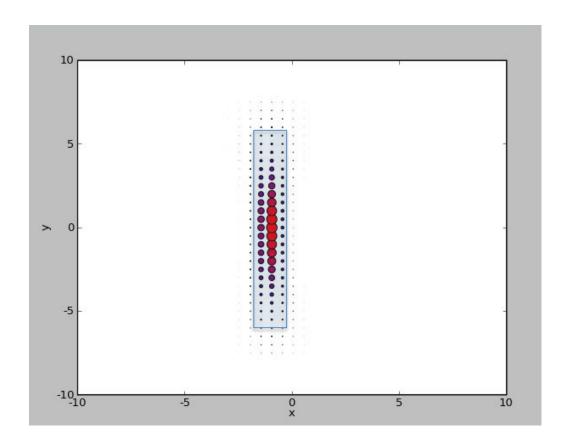
Another grasp attempt



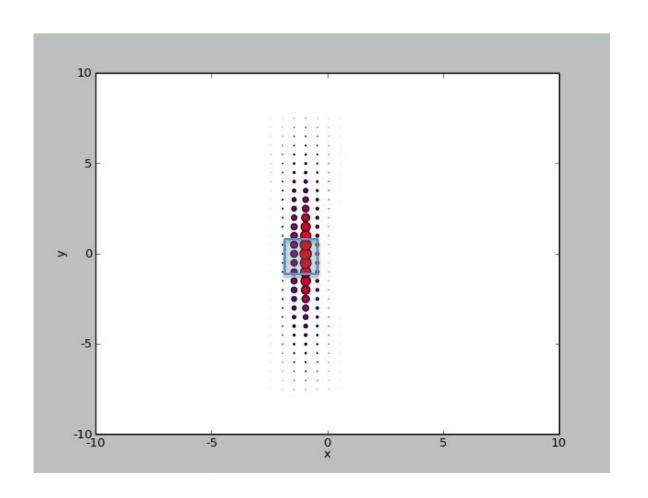


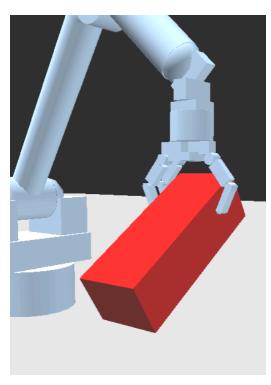
Goals in belief space

- Specify set of desirable ranges in X, Y, Θ
- Satisfied if probability that the pose is in that set is high



What if Y coordinate of grasp matters?





Action selection

How to select among the actions?

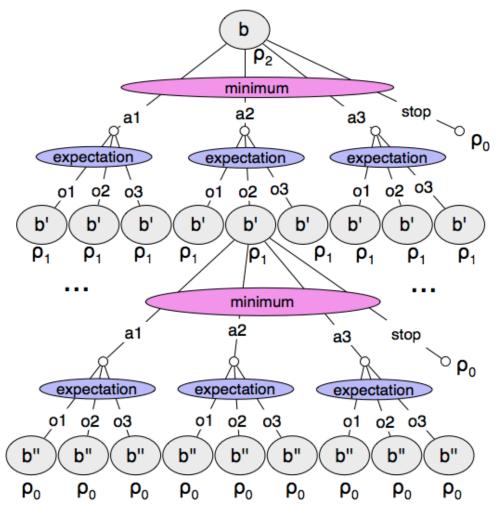
- Until probability of failure given belief is < eps
 - Select WRT by searching forward from belief
 - Execute WRT, and get observations o
 - Update belief

WRTs include:

- target grasp
- information-gain trajectories
- re-orientation

Forward search

- Compute k-step risk using backward induction
- Prune and cluster to decrease observation branching
- Depth 2 sufficed in our problems
- Risk at leaves is likelihood of failure of target grasp



Objects and desired grasps











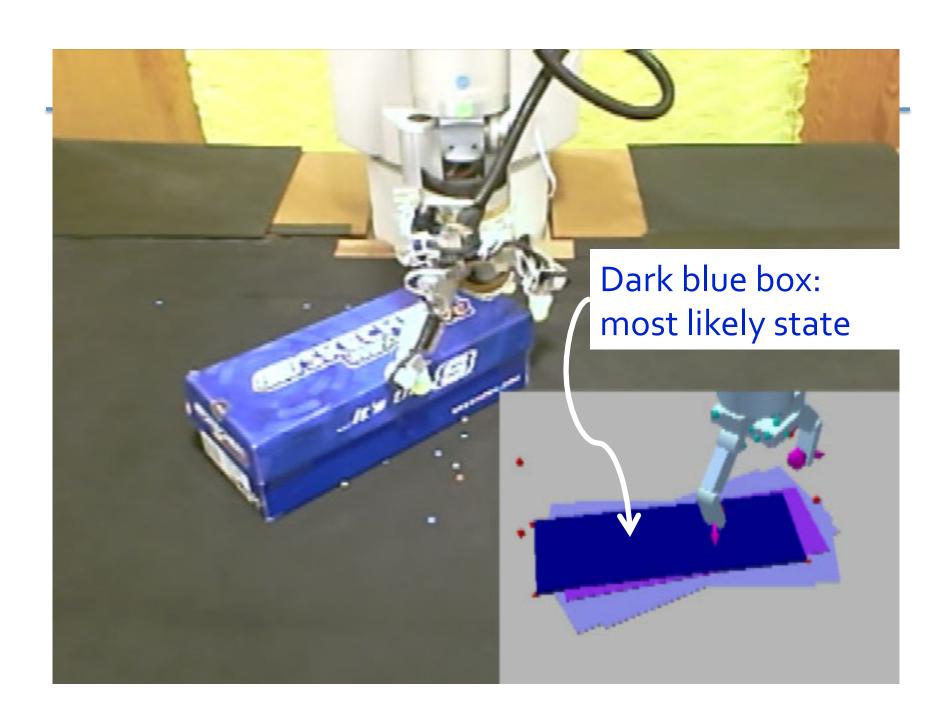


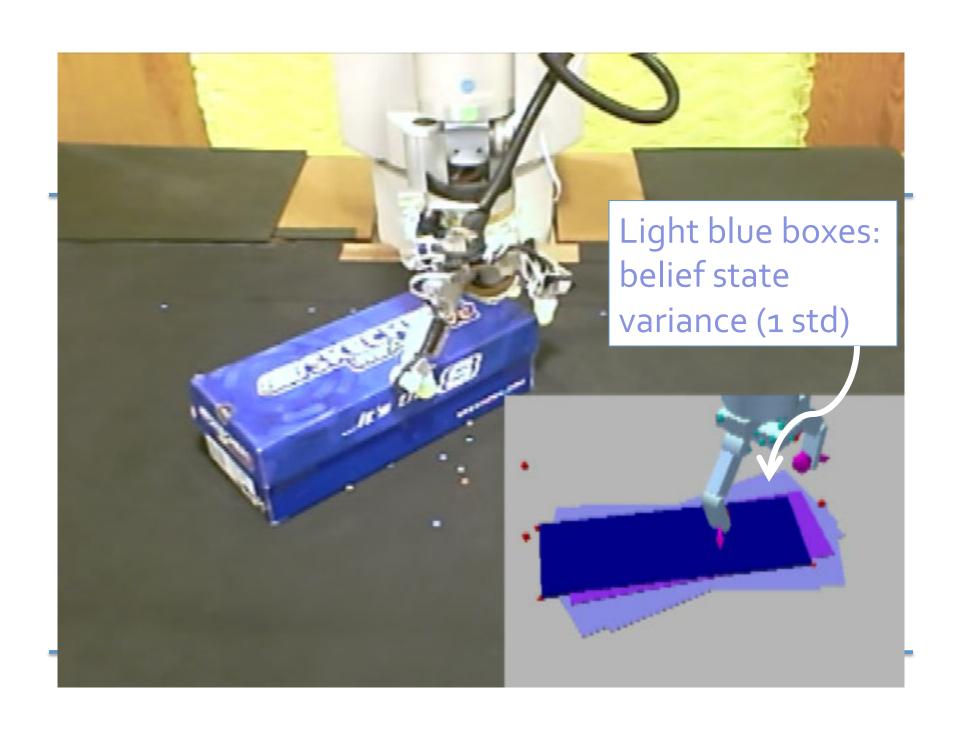








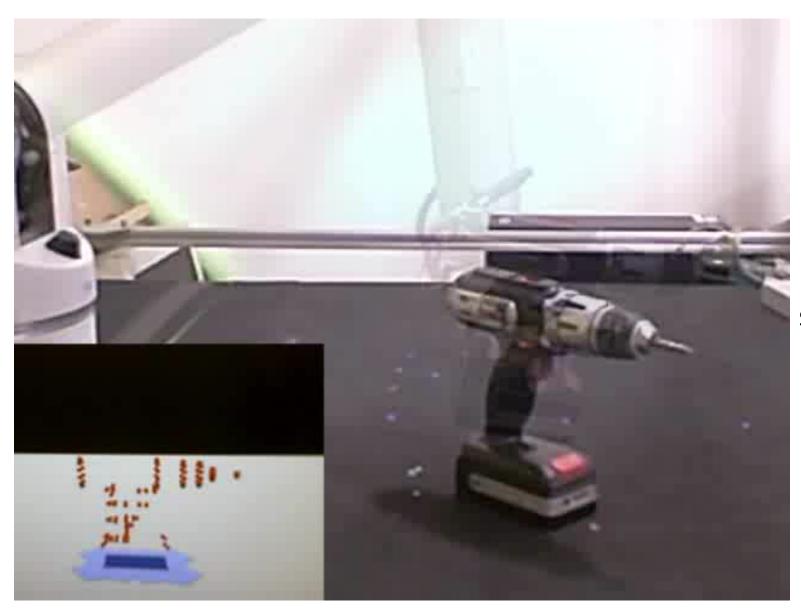




Brita results: 10 / 10 successful grasps

Grasping a
Brita Pitcher
50x
Low deviation

Powerdrill: 10 / 10 successful grasps



25x speed

Using simplified models for action selection

Three examples in partially observable domains

Continuous control with state-dependent observation noise:

- deterministic dynamics
- most likely observation

Robot grasping with tactile sensing:

- shortened horizon
- reduced action space

Household robot with local sensing:

- assume subtask serializability
- assume desired observations

Real robot meets real world: large spaces



Configuration space

- joint angles of robot
- base pose
- positions and orientations of all objects in house
- are the dishes clean?
- is the stove on?
- are the leftovers edible?

Real robot meets real world: long horizon



Steps to clean kitchen:

- put away food (10 items)
- wash dishes (40 items)
- put away dishes (40 items)
- clean surfaces (10 items)

Or:

• 1,000 pick, place, or wipe

Or:

• 100,000 linearly interpolated joint motions

Real robot meets real world: uncertainty



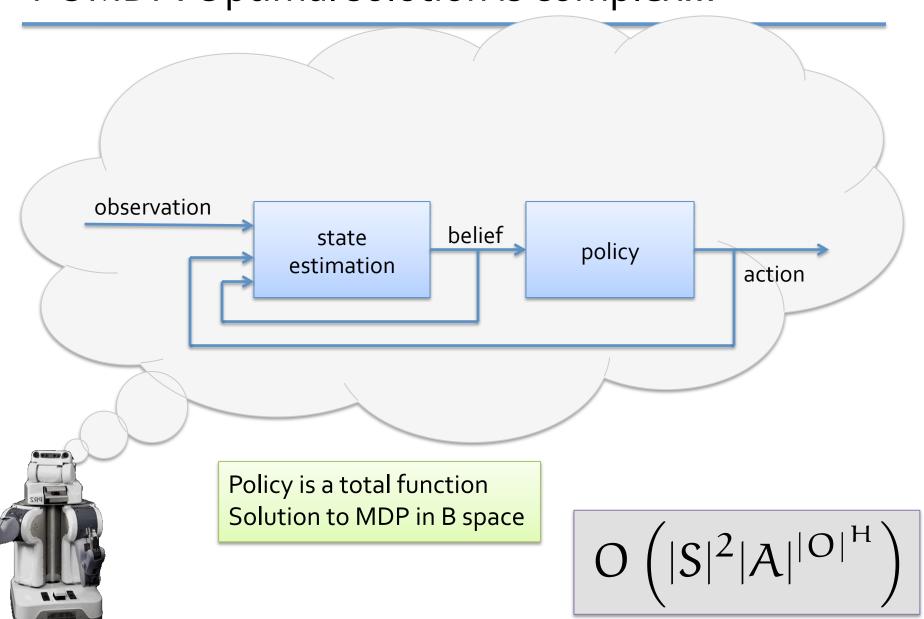
Current-state uncertainty

- What is inside the tupperware?
- Is the dishwasher clean?
- What is the exact pose of the pot?
- What's the friction of a wet dish?

Predictive uncertainty

- What will happen when the robot lifts the cookie sheet?
- What is the error in the motor control?
- When will the inhabitants come home?

POMDP: Optimal solution is complex...



Addressing real world challenges

Large continuous and discrete state spaces



Symbolic and geometric descriptions of state sets

Long planning and execution horizon



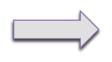
Temporal hierarchical decomposition

Present and predictive uncertainty



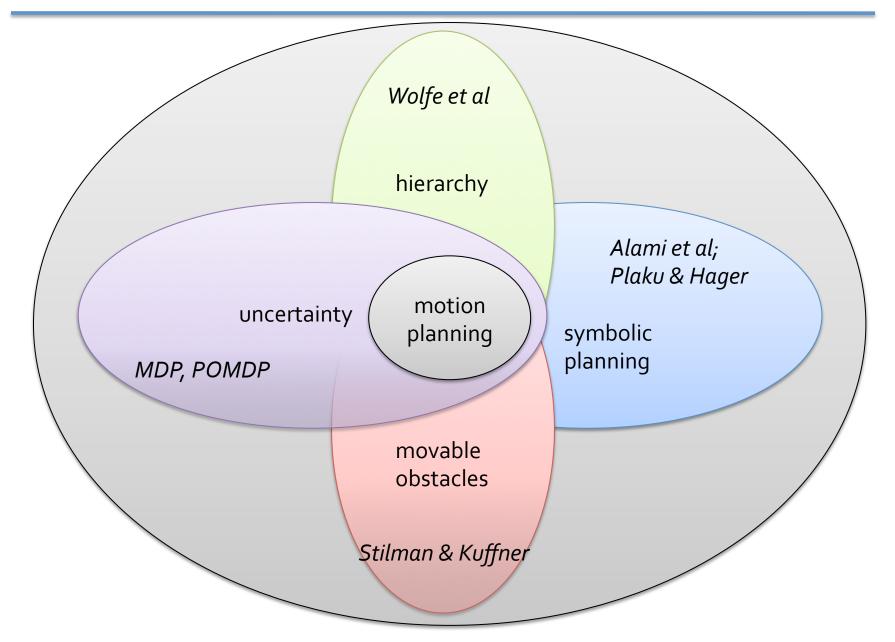
Replanning with determinized models in belief space

$$O\left(|S|^2|A|^{|O|^H}\right)$$



 $O(ra^h)$

Some related approaches



Addressing real world challenges

Large continuous and discrete state space



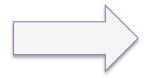
Symbolic and geometric descriptions of state sets

Long planning and execution horizon



Temporal hierarchical decomposition

Present and predictive uncertainty



Replanning with determinized models in belief space

Symbolic and geometric descriptions of state sets

Symbols for non-geometric properties

• are the dishes clean? *Clean(dish24)*

• is the stove on? *On(stove)*

• are the leftovers edible? *Edible(lasagna)*

Symbols for geometric and physical abstractions

• is the beer in the refrigerator? *In(beer, refrigerator)*

region containment

• is the robot holding the pot? *Holding(pot)*

• contacts, force closure, ...

Specific start state; abstract goal

Initial state known in geometric detail



Cannot represent all geometric and continuous aspects of the current state symbolically

Goal set is abstract, symbolic

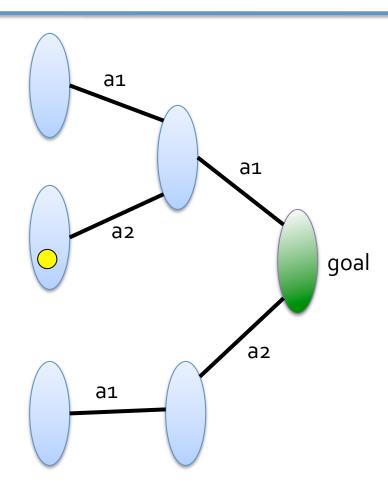
tidy(house) ^ charged(robot)

Goal Regression / Pre-image backchaining

Weakest precondition of goal set under each action sequence

Test whether start state is in a pre-image

Represent goal and pre-images as conjunctions of fluents



Planning operator: Place

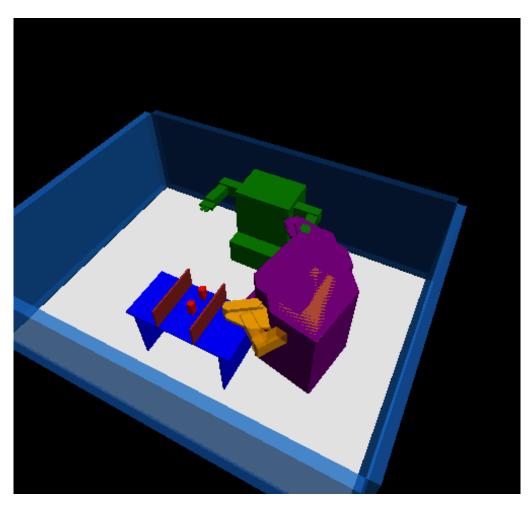
```
Place(0, Target):
  exists: P \in generatePlacePaths(0, Target)
  pre: ClearX(sweptVol(P), 0), Holding(0)
  result: In(0, Target)
  prim: PlacePrim(0, Target)
                                               Target
                  sweptVol(P
```

Stilman and Kuffner

Generators

Place(0, Target): exists: P ∈ generatePlacePaths(0, Target)

- visibility graph planner
- fail fast
- conservative
- not the path we'll use: certificate that one exists

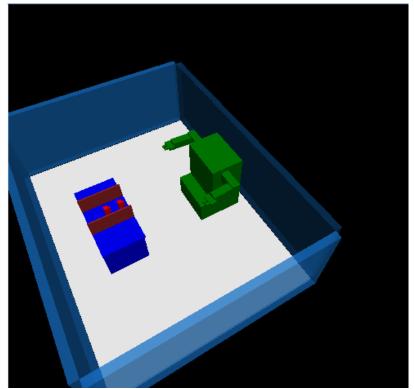


Generators

Primitives

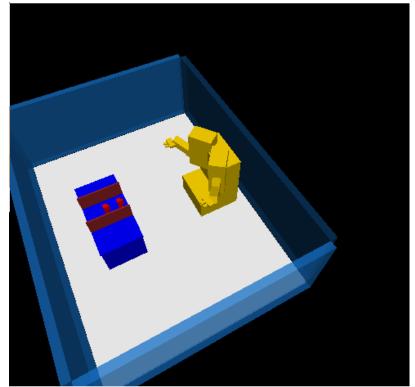
Efficient conservative planner

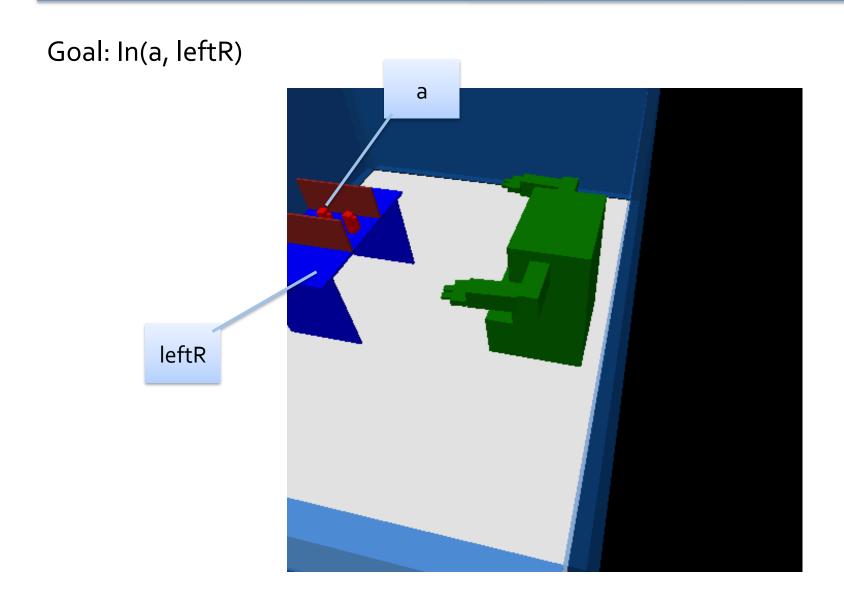
- Simplified robot model
- Objects: x, y, z, th
- Grasp selection



Your favorite motion planner

- Accurate robot model
- No reasoning about objects
- Grasps from generator

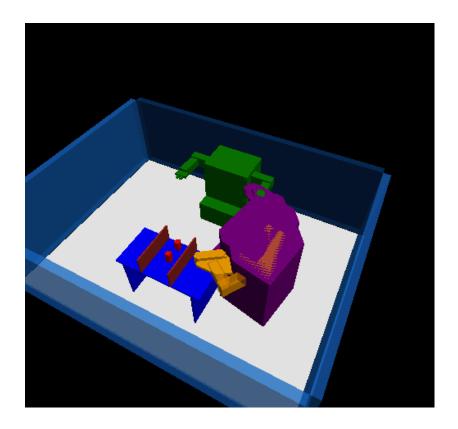




Goal: In(a, leftR)

O: Place(a, leftR)

G: Holding(a), ClearX(Swept(PlacePath(a, leftR)))



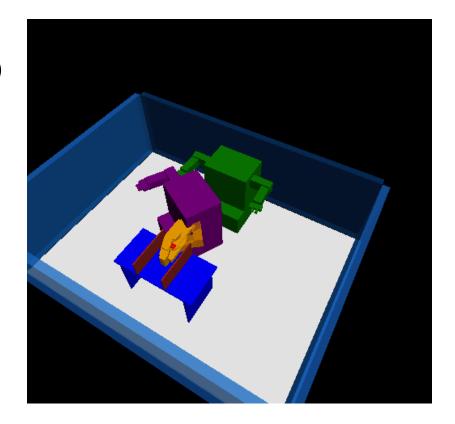
Goal: In(a, leftR)

O: Place(a, leftR)

G: Holding(a), ClearX(Swept(PlacePath(a, leftR)))

O: Pick(a)

G: ClearX(Swept(PickPath(a)), ClearX(Swept(PlacePath(a, leftR))



Goal: In(a, leftR)

O: Place(a, leftR)

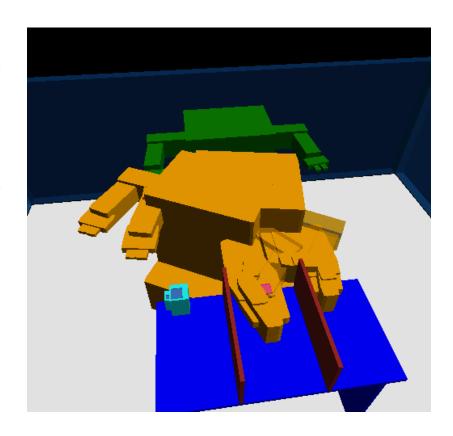
G: **Holding(a)**, ClearX(Swept(PlacePath(a, leftR)))

O: Pick(a)

G: ClearX(Swept(PickPath(a)), ClearX(Swept(PlacePath(a, leftR))

O: Remove(b, Swept(PickPath(a))

G: In(b, Parking(b)), ClearX(Swept(PlacePath(a, leftR))



Goal: In(a, leftR)

O: Place(a, leftR)

G: Holding(a), ClearX(Swept(PlacePath(a, leftR)))

O: Pick(a)

G: ClearX(Swept(PickPath(a)), ClearX(Swept(PlacePath(a, leftR))

O: Remove(b, Swept(PickPath(a))

G: In(b, Parking(b)), ClearX(Swept(PlacePath(a, leftR))

O: Place(b, Parking(b))

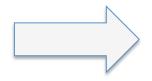
G: Holding(b), ClearX(Sw(PP(b, Park(b)))), ClearX(Sw(PlaceP(a, leftR))

O: Pick(b)

G: ClearX(Sw(PickP(b))), ClearX(Sw(PP(b, Park(b)))), ClearX(Sw(PlaceP(a, leftR))

Addressing real world challenges

Large continuous and discrete state space



Symbolic and geometric descriptions of state sets

Long planning and execution horizon



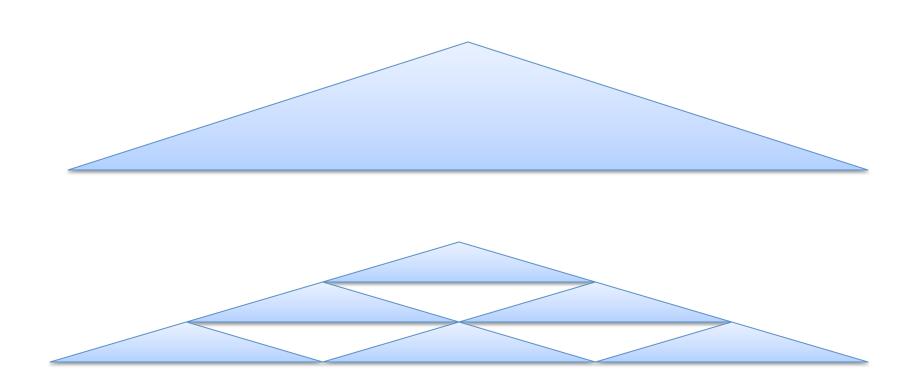
Temporal hierarchical decomposition

Present and predictive uncertainty



Replanning with determinized models in belief space

Hierarchy crucial for large problems



Reduce effective time horizon for planning

Postponing preconditions creates hierarchy

Pick(0):

pre: ...

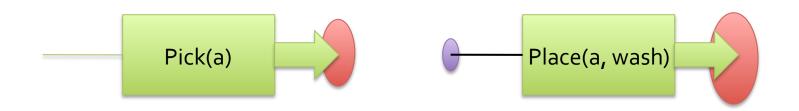
res: Holding(0)

Place(0, R):

pre: 0.Holding(0)

1.InRobot(room(R))

res: In(0, R)



Hierarchical plan

Pick(0): Place0(0, R): pre: Holding(0) pre: ... res: Holding(0) res: In(0, R) Place0(a, wash) Pick(a) MoveTo(room(wash)) Place(a, wash)

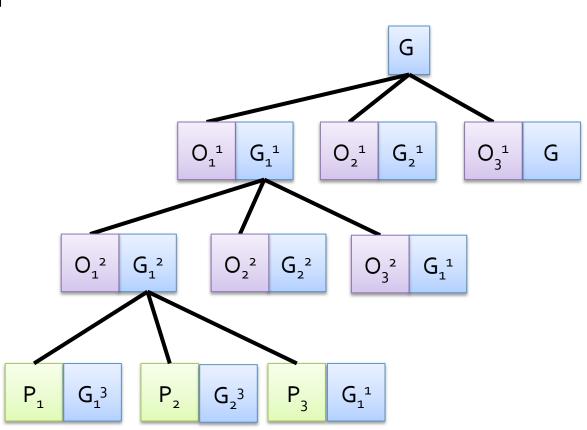
In the now



- Don't consider all the ways pick(a) could terminate: grasp of object, location of robot,
- When it is time to plan for Place@(a, wash), actual world state is start state

Planning in the now

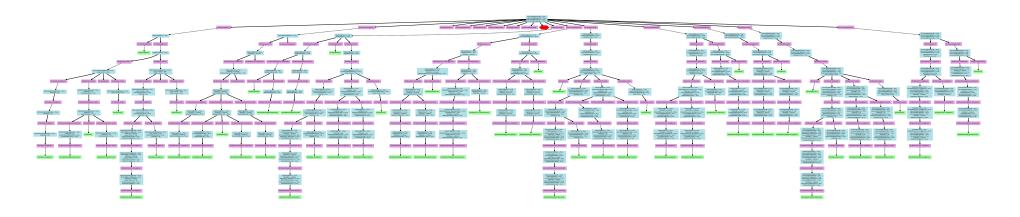
- maintain left expansion of plan tree
- each level uses a higher-fidelity model
- keep track of preimage for each operation
- recursively plan to achieve those preconditions
- execute primitives



Cleaning house

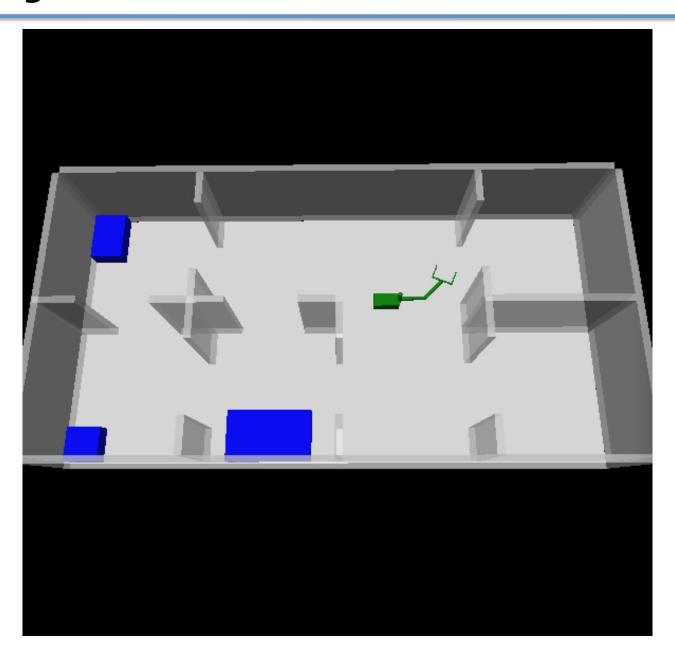
Goal: mop four of the rooms in the house

- have to vacuum before mopping
- have to put away junk items before vacuuming

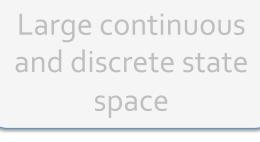


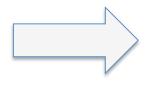
Trace of interleaved planning and execution

Cleaning house



Addressing real world challenges





Symbolic and geometric descriptions of state sets

Long planning and execution horizon



Temporal hierarchical decomposition

Present and predictive uncertainty



Replanning with determinized models in belief space

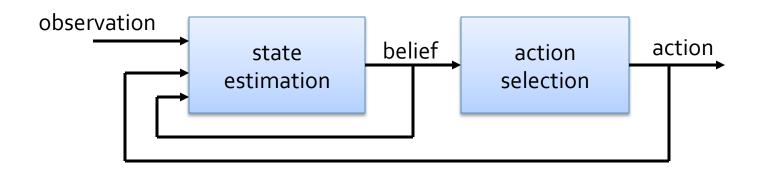
Pay attention to M&M paying attention



Pay attention to M&M paying attention



Action selection with partial observability



Plan in belief space:

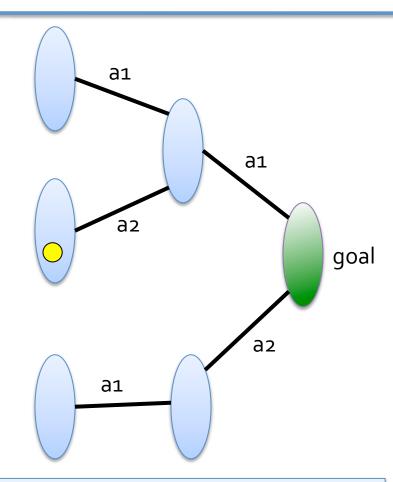
- every action gains information and changes the world
- · changes are reflected in new belief via estimation
- goal is to believe that the environment is in a desired state

Pre-image back-chaining in belief space

Weakest precondition of goal set under each action sequence

Test whether start belief is in a pre-image

Represent goal and pre-images as conjunctions of logical expressions



Belief-space pre-image of goal set G under action a:

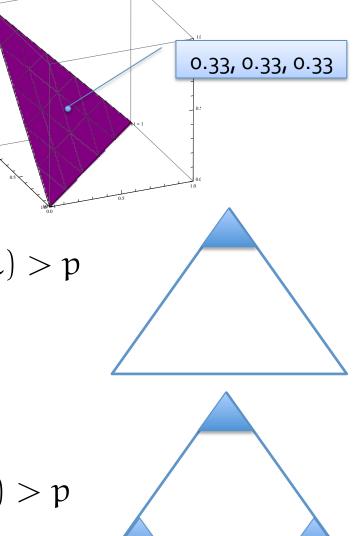
$$R(G, \alpha) = \{b \mid SE(b, \alpha, o^*(b, \alpha)) \in G\}$$

Fluents describe **sets** of belief states

Simple example:

- three possible states
- belief space is 3-simplex

$$KLoc(o, l, p) \equiv Pr(Loc(o) = l) > p$$



$$KVLoc(o, p) \equiv \exists l. Pr(Loc(o) = l) > p$$

Tiny domain

State: object is in Lo, L1, or L2

Actions:

- Look in Lo, L1, or L2
 - FalsePos = 0.1, FalseNeg = 0.2
- Move obj from Start to Goal
 - Fails w.p. 1.0 if obj not in Start
 - Fails w.p. o.2 otherwise

Observations:

• After look action, **see** the object, or **not see** it

Goal:

• **Believe**, with probability > 0.95, that object is in Lo





Planning operators in belief space



```
Move(0, TargetLoc):
```

result: KLoc(0, TargetLoc, Prob)

exists: StartLoc

pre: KLoc(0, StartLoc, Prob / (1-MoveFailProb))

cost: -log(Prob / (1-MoveFailProb))

Look(Loc):

result: KLoc(0, Loc, Prob)

pre: Kloc(0, Loc, lookRegres.

cost: -log(lookRegressPret

Same operators for any number of objects and locations!

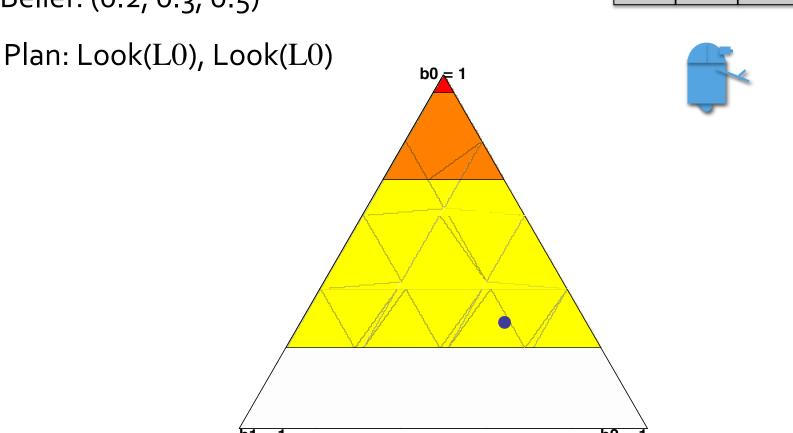
lookRegressProb(p) = falsePos

(falsePos * p + (1 alseNeg) * (1-p))

Goal: KLoc(o, L0, 0.95)

Belief: (0.2, 0.3, 0.5)





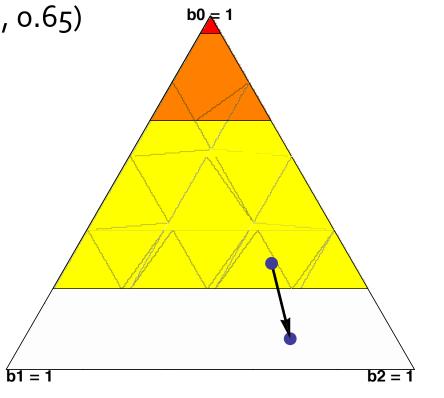
Goal: KLoc(o, L0, 0.95)

Action: Look(L0)

Observation: No see





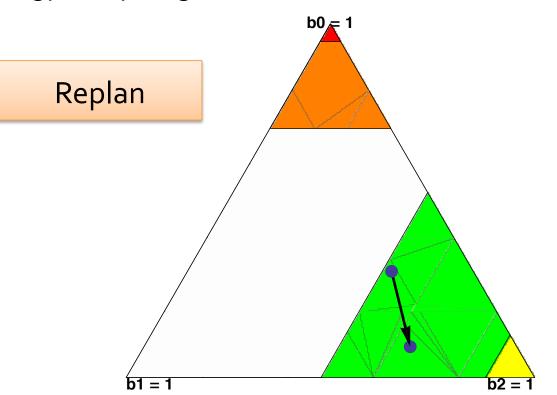


Goal: KLoc(o, L0, 0.95)

Plan: Look(L2), Move(L2, L0), Look(L0)

Belief: (0.09, 0.26, 0.65)





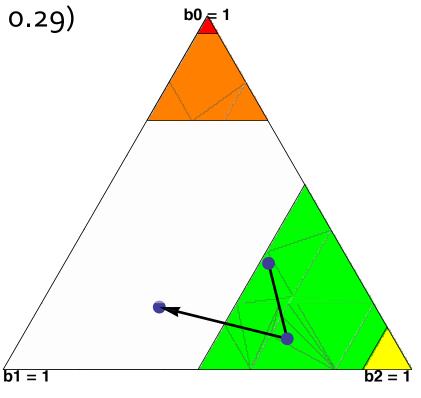
Goal: KLoc(o, L0, 0.95)

Action: Look(L2)

Observation: No see

Belief: (0.18, 0.53, 0.29)



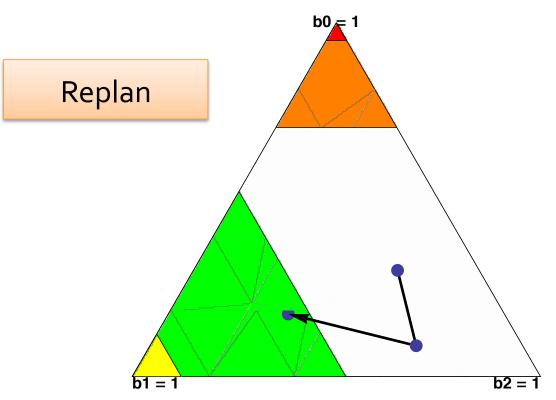


Goal: KLoc(o, L0, 0.95)

Plan: Look(L1), Move(L1, L0), Look(L0)

Belief: (0.18, 0.53, 0.29)





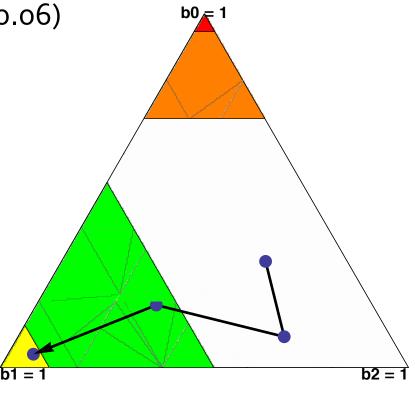
Goal: KLoc(o, L0, 0.95)

Action: Look(L1)

Observation: See object

Belief: (0.04, 0.9, 0.06)

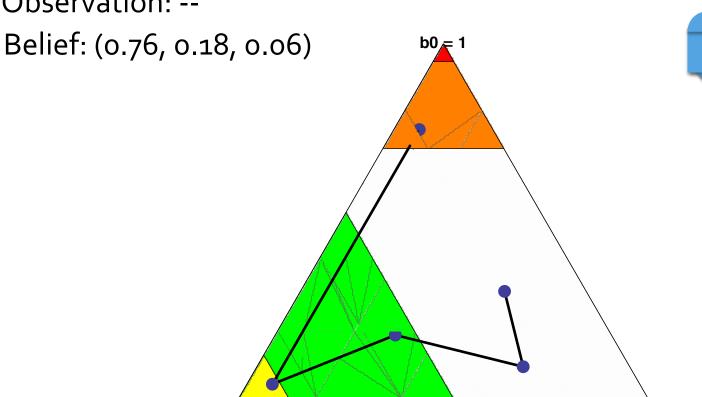




Goal: KLoc(o, L0, 0.95)

Action: Move(L1, L0)

Observation: --



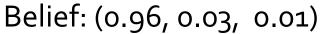




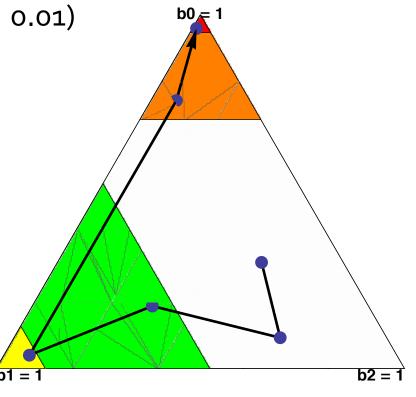
Goal: KLoc(o, L0, 0.95)

Action: Look(L0)

Observation: see object







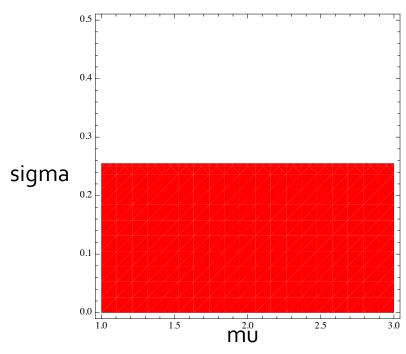
Fluents for beliefs on continuous spaces

$$BVLoc(O, \epsilon, \delta) \equiv Pr(|Loc(O) - \mu(Loc(O))| > \delta) \le \epsilon$$

For a one-D Gaussian, probability near mean:

$$PNM(X, \delta) = \Phi\left(\frac{\delta}{\sigma}\right) - \Phi\left(-\frac{\delta}{\sigma}\right) = erf\left(\frac{\delta}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}\right)$$

Set of distributions: PNM(X, 0.05) > 0.95

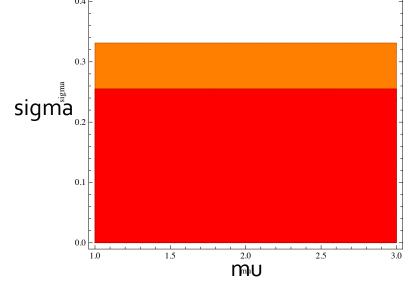


PNM Regression after observation

To guarantee $\operatorname{PNM}(X, \delta) > 1 - \epsilon_{t+1}$ after **observation** action, require $\operatorname{PNM}(X, \delta) > 1 - \epsilon_t$ before observation

$$\varepsilon_t = 1 - \operatorname{erf}\left(\sqrt{\operatorname{erf}^{-1}(1 - \varepsilon_{t+1})^2 - \frac{\delta^2}{2\sigma_o^2}}\right)$$

Set of distributions in pre-image of obs with stdev 0.4:

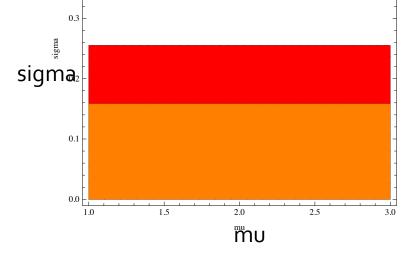


PNM Regression after transition

To guarantee $\mathrm{PNM}(X,\delta) > 1 - \epsilon_{t+1}$ after **transition** action, require $\mathrm{PNM}(X,\delta) > 1 - \epsilon_{t}$ before observation

$$\varepsilon_{t} = 1 - \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{\delta \operatorname{erf}^{-1}(1 - \varepsilon_{t+1})}{\sqrt{\delta^{2} - 2\sigma_{Y}^{2} \operatorname{erf}^{-1}(1 - \varepsilon_{t+1})^{2}}} \right)$$

Set of distributions in pre-image of trans with stdev 0.2: PNM(X, 0.05) > PNMRegress(0.05, 0.4, 0.95)

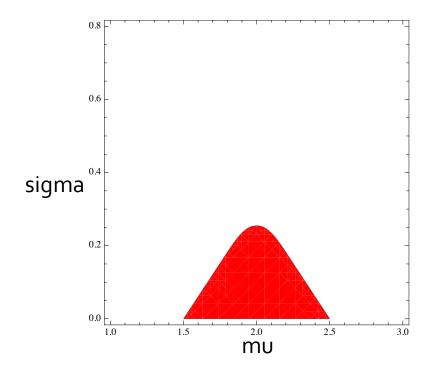


Probability near desired value

$$KLoc(O, L, \epsilon, \delta) \equiv Pr(|Loc(O) - L|) > \delta) < \epsilon$$

For a one-D Gaussian, probability near value 2:

Set of distributions: PNV(X, 2, 0.5) > 0.95

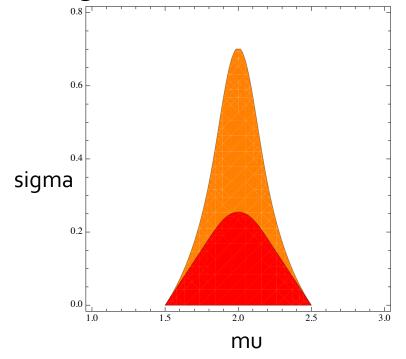


PNV Regression: Observation

$$KLoc(O, L, \epsilon, \delta) \equiv Pr(|Loc(O) - L|) > \delta) < \epsilon$$

Set of distributions such that:

- after observation with sigma 0.4
- PNV(2, 0.5) > 0.95



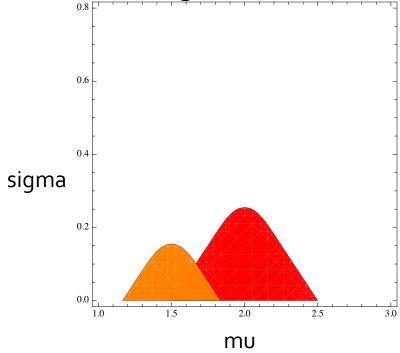
PNV Regression: Transition

$$KLoc(O, L, \epsilon, \delta) \equiv Pr(|Loc(O) - L|) > \delta) < \epsilon$$

Set of distributions such that:

after transition with mean 0.5, sigma 0.1

PNV(2, 0.5) > 0.95

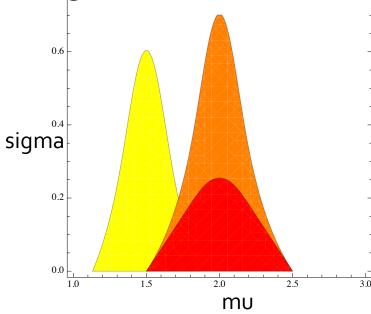


PNV Regression: Transition

$$KLoc(O, L, \epsilon, \delta) \equiv Pr(|Loc(O) - L|) > \delta) < \epsilon$$

Set of distributions such that:

- after transition with mean 0.5, sigma 0.1
- then observation with sigma 0.4
- PNV(2, 0.5) > 0.95



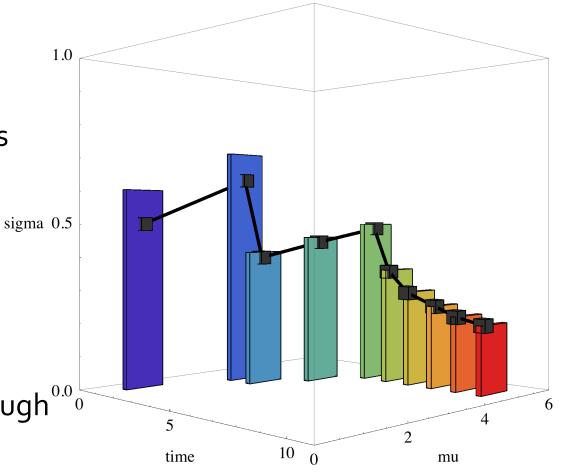
Goal:

- ModeNear(5, 0.2)
- BV(0.05, 0.4)

Observation fails if stdev is too high

Low transition error **High observation** error

Initial plan is followed through belief space



Goal:

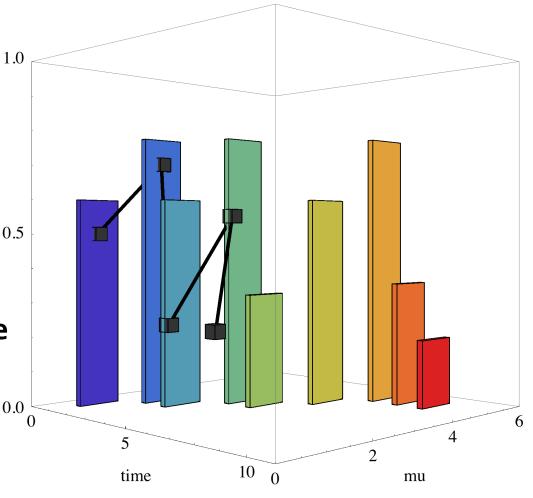
ModeNear(5, 0.05)

• BV(0.05, 0.4)

Observation fails if stdev is 1.0 too high

High transition error **sigma** 0.5

After 4 steps, we fall off the plan



Goal:

ModeNear(5, 0.05)

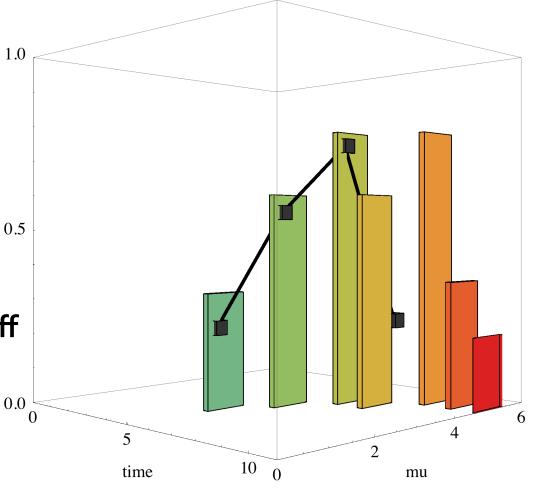
• BV(0.05, 0.4)

Observation fails if stdev is too high

High transition error

Low observation error sigma 0.5

Replan: after 3 steps, fall off again



Goal:

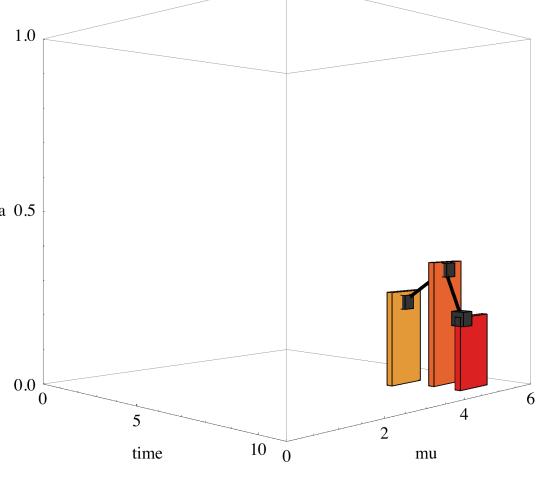
- ModeNear(5, 0.05)
- BV(0.05, 0.4)

Observation fails if stdev is too high

High transition error

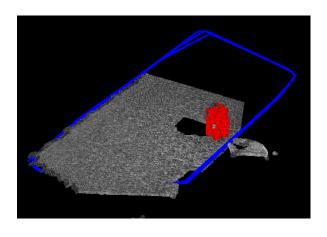
Low observation error sigma 0.5

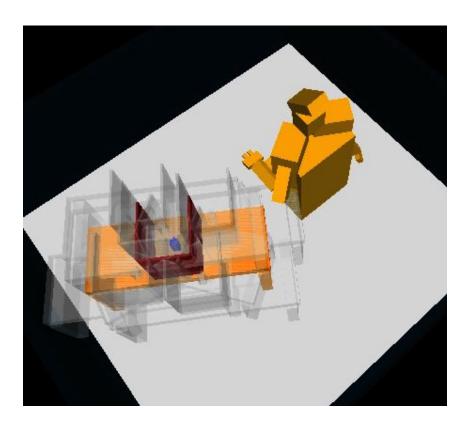
Replan: move, look, look succeeds



State estimation in the world

- Joint tangent-space Gaussian distribution on (X,Y,Z,Theta) poses of robot base and all objects
- Updated based on transitions and observations using EKF
- Assumes objects are recognizable in point cloud data





Fluents for mobile manipulation

Conditional distribution: e.g., dist on object given robot pose

- KVCondPose(Obj, Ref, Eps, Delta)
- KCondPose(Obj, Pose, Ref, Eps, Delta)
- PoseMeanNear(Obj, Pose, Delta)
- KCondRobotConf(Conf, Ref, Eps, Delta)
- RobotConfNear(Conf, Delta)
- KContents(Region)
- NotKNotClear(Region)
- KClearX(Region, Exceptions)

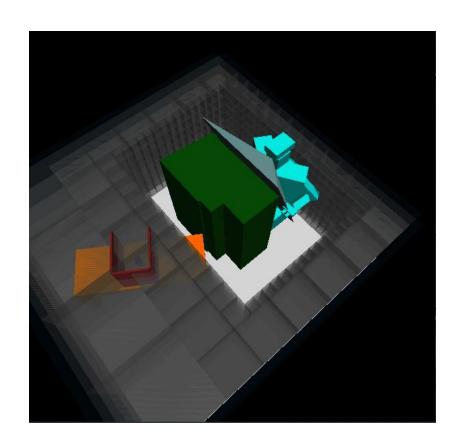
not KContents(Region) or KClear(Region)

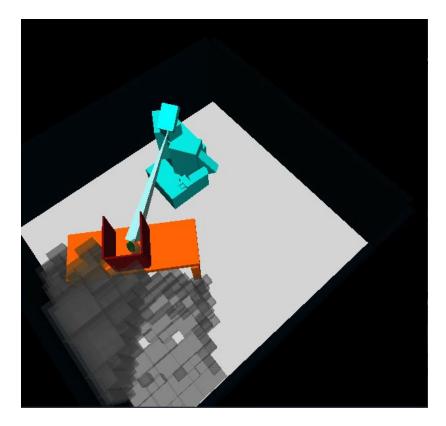
Logical fluents only need to be:

- tested in a detailed continuous representation of the belief
- regressed backward through actions

Kcontents(Region) and nothing overlaps

Representing known space





Geometric reasoning about visibility

Planning operator in belief space: Pick

Need to know O pose roughly before further planning

Pick(0, ObjPose):

pre: KVCondPose(0, 'table', bigEps, planDelta)

exists: ObjPose ∈ {modeObjPose} U generateParking(0)

P ∈ generatePickPaths(ObjPose)

Suggest approximate robot path quickly

pre: KClearX(sweptVol(P), 0)

KHolding(None)

KCondPose(0, ObjLoc, 'table', eps, graspDelta)

KCondRobotConf(0, baseConf(P), smallEps,grspDelta)

result: KHolding(0)

Object is close to where we first saw it

Detailed prim execution depends on detailed beliefs: pose, shape, mass, etc

Robot base is in position and well localized wrt O

Planning operator in belief space: Look

Object mean is close to desired pose

Look(0):

pre: PoseMeanNear(0, OPose, Delta)

We think the view is clear

exists: (Rconf, ViewCone) ∈ generateViewPose(0, 0Pose)

pre: NotKNotClear(ViewCone)
 KCondPose(0, OPose, RefObj,

We are somewhat sure of object's pose

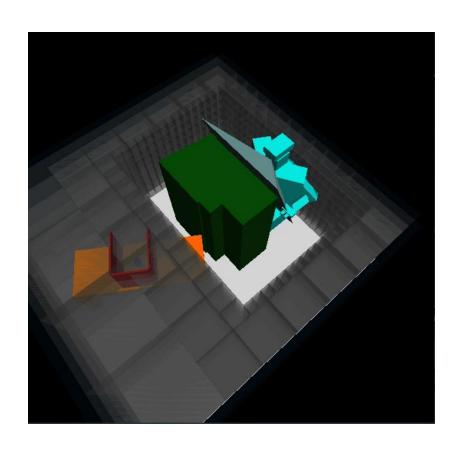
PNRegress(eps, obsVar, Delta), Delta) KCondRobotConf(O, RobotConf, smallEps, lookDelta)

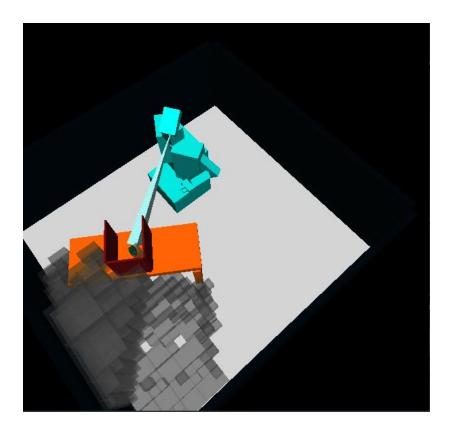
result: KCondPose(0, OPose, RefObj, Eps, Delta)

We are more sure of object's pose

Robot is in a good configuration for viewing

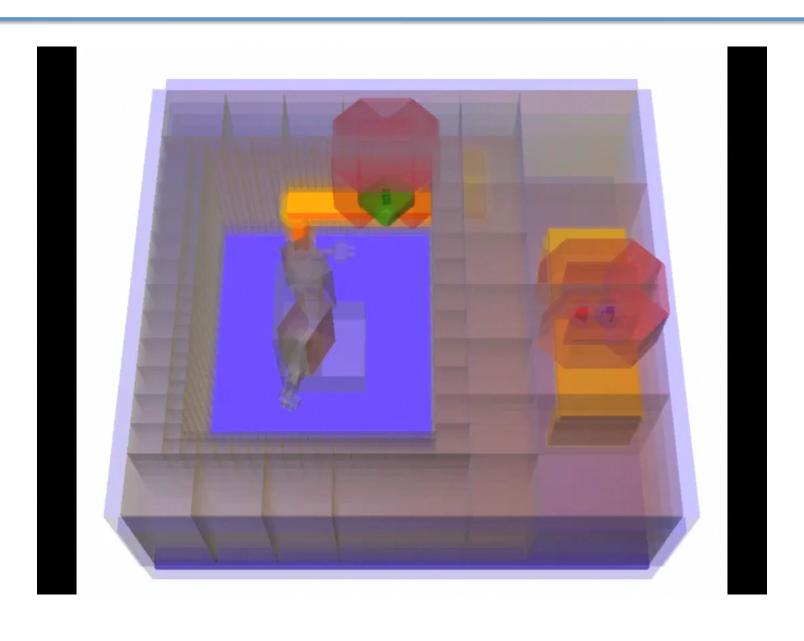
Representing known space



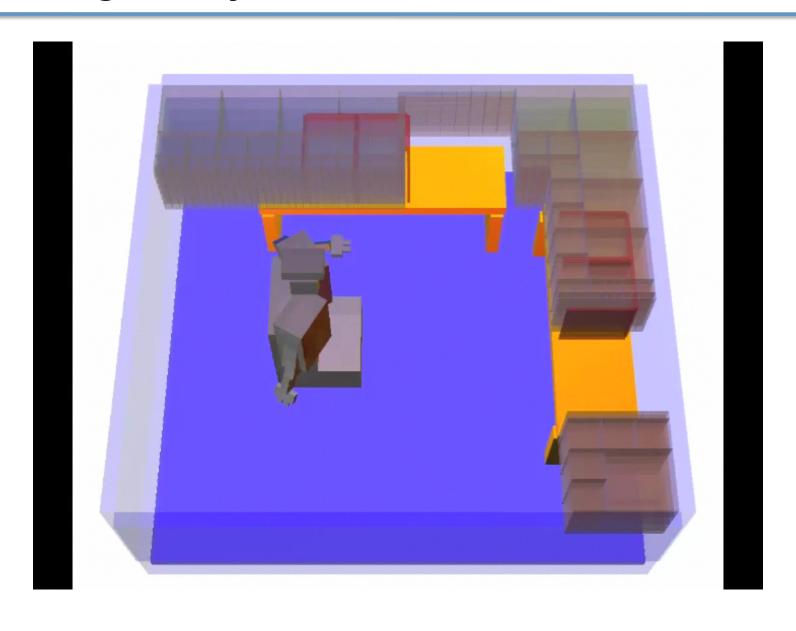


Geometric reasoning about visibility

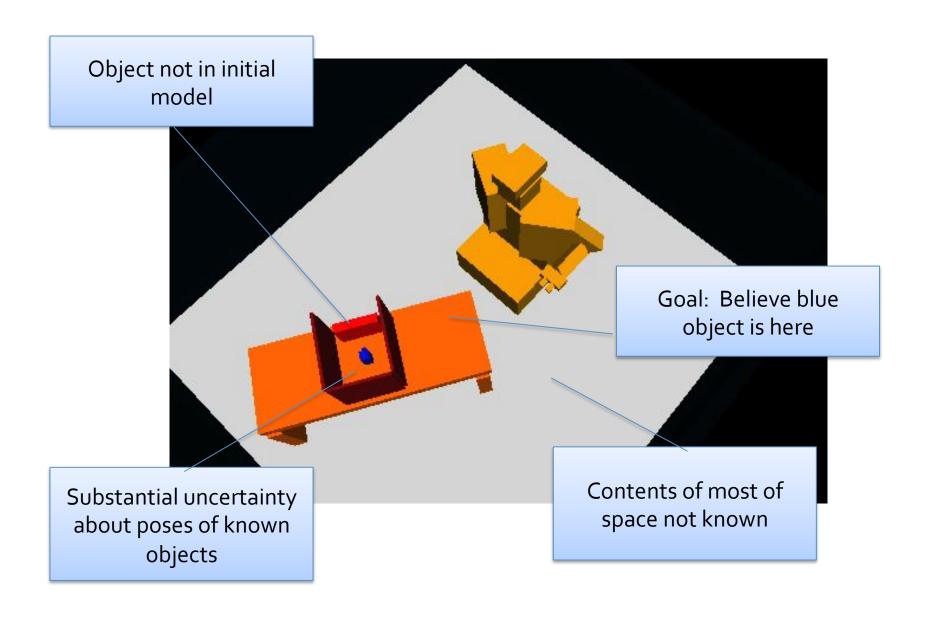
Belief movie



Looking for objects



Example problem



Execution: observation and motion



Execution: belief and planning

