

# Activity Planning and Execution: Introduction to Operator-based Planning



Slides draw upon  
material from:  
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NASA Ames Research  
Center

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16.410-13  
September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## Assignments

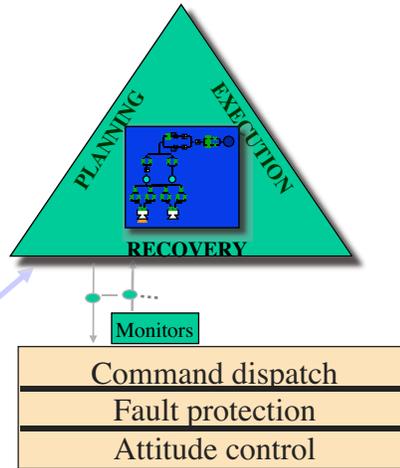
- **Remember:**
  - Problem Set #3: Analysis and Constraint Programming, due today Wednesday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
  - Problem Set #4: Constraint Satisfaction and Activity Planning, out today, due Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- **Reading:**
  - Today: Operator-based Planning [*AIMA*] Ch. 10.  
“Graph Plan,” by Blum & Furst.
  - Monday: Advanced Planning [*AIMA*] Ch. 11.

# Autonomous Agents

Self-commanding  
Self-diagnosing  
Self-repairing

Commanded in terms of

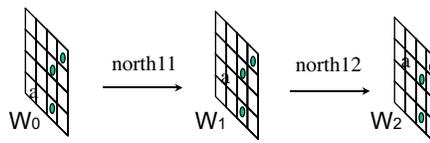
- Mission goals
- Engineering goals



Mission Goal Scenario

# Operator-based Planning

- Input
  - Set of world states
  - Action operators
    - Fn: world-state→world-state
  - Initial state of world
  - Goal
    - A partial state (set of world states)
- Output
  - Sequence of actions that is
    - Complete: Achieve goals
    - Consistent: No negative side-effects



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# Operators in STRIPS Representation

```
Turn (?target):  
  Pre: Pointing(?direction),  
       ?direction ≠ ?target  
  Eff: ¬Pointing(?direction),  
       Pointing(?target)
```

## Outline

- Example: DS1 and MER Mission-Planning
- Overview of Operator-based Planning
- Graph Plan

Mars Rover slides removed due to copyright restrictions.

## Outline

- Example: MER Mission Planning
- [Overview of Operator-based Planning](#)
- Graph Plan

# Planning

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**Find:**

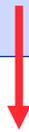
**program of actions that achieves the objective**

# Planning

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**Find:**

**program** of actions that achieves the **objective**



**partially-ordered set of actions**



**goals**

**typically unconditional**

**no loops**

# Paradigms

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## Classical planning

(STRIPS, operator-based, first-principles)

“generative”

## Hierarchical Task Network planning

“practical” planning

## MDP & POMDP planning

planning under uncertainty

# Classical Problem Statement

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Propositions:

P<sub>1</sub>

Initial Conditions:

P<sub>1</sub>

P<sub>2</sub>

P<sub>3</sub>

P<sub>4</sub>

Operators:

pre<sub>1</sub>

pre<sub>2</sub>

pre<sub>3</sub>

Op

eff<sub>1</sub>

eff<sub>2</sub>

Goals:

Goal<sub>1</sub>

Goal<sub>2</sub>

Goal<sub>3</sub>

# Simple Spacecraft Problem

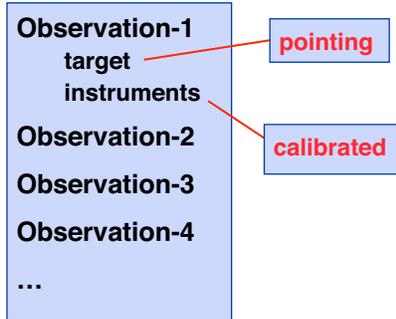
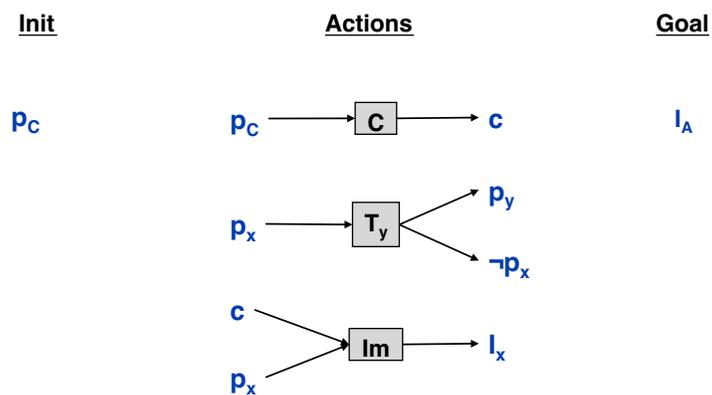


Image credit: NASA.

Propositions: Target Pointed To, Camera Calibrated?, Has Image?  
Operators: Calibrate, Turn to Y, and Take Image.

# Example



Propositions: Target Pointed To, Camera Calibrated?, Has Image?  
Operators: Calibrate, Turn to y, and Take Image.

# Operators in STRIPS Representation

**TakeImage** (?target, ?instr):  
 Pre: **Status**(?instr, Calibrated),  
**Pointing**(?target)  
 Eff: **Image**(?target)

**Calibrate** (?instrument):  
 Pre: **Status**(?instr, On),  
**Calibration-Target**(?target),  
 Pointing(?target)  
 Eff:  $\neg$ **Status**(?instr, On),  
**Status**(?instr, Calibrated)

**Turn** (?target):  
 Pre: **Pointing**(?direction),  
 ?direction  $\neq$  ?target  
 Eff:  $\neg$ **Pointing**(?direction),  
**Pointing**(?target)

By convention,  
 parameters start with  
 "?", as in ?var.

Based on slides by Dave Smith, NASA Ames

# Planning Domain Description Language (PDDL)

(:action **TakeImage** :parameters (?target, ?instr)  
 :precondition (and (**Status** ?instr Calibrated)  
 (**Pointing** ?target))  
 :effect (**Image** ?target))

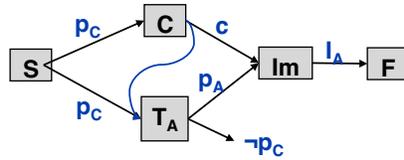
(:action **Calibrate** :parameters (?instrument)  
 :precondition (and (**Status** ?instr On)  
 (**Calibration-Target** ?target),  
 (Pointing ?target))  
 :effect (and (not (**Status** ?instr On))  
 (**Status** ?instr Calibrated)))

(:action **Turn** :parameters (?target)  
 :precondition (and (**Pointing** ?direction)  
 ?direction  $\neq$  ?target)  
 :effect (and (not (**Pointing** ?direction))  
 (**Pointing** ?target)))

By convention,  
 parameters start with  
 "?", as in ?var.

Based on slides by

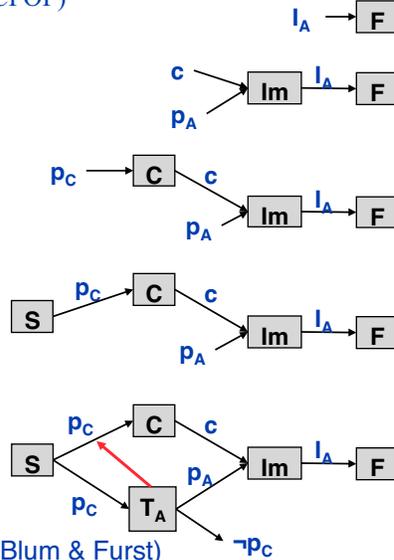
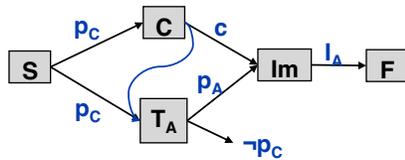
# Partial Order Plan



# Planning in the Past: Partial Order Causal Link Planning

(SNLP, UCPOP)

1. Select an open condition
2. Choose an op that can achieve it  
Link to an existing instance or  
Add a new instance
3. Resolve threats



Current Planning: Graph-based Planners (Blum & Furst)

# What assumptions are implied by the STRIPS representation?

```
TakeImage (?target, ?instr):
  Pre: Status(?instr, Calibrated),
       Pointing(?target)
  Eff: Image(?target)

Calibrate (?instrument):
  Pre: Status(?instr, On),
       Calibration-Target(?target),
       Pointing(?target)
  Eff: ¬Status(?instr, On),
       Status(?instr, Calibrated)

Turn (?target):
  Pre: Pointing(?direction),
       ?direction ≠ ?target
  Eff: ¬Pointing(?direction),
       Pointing(?target)
```

## STRIPS Assumptions:

- Atomic time.
- Agent is omniscient (no sensing necessary).
- Agent is sole cause of change.
- Actions have deterministic effects.
- No indirect effects.

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# The Simple Spacecraft Revisited: Complications

**Observation-1**  
priority  
time window  
target  
instruments  
duration

**Observation-2**

**Observation-3**

**Observation-4**

...

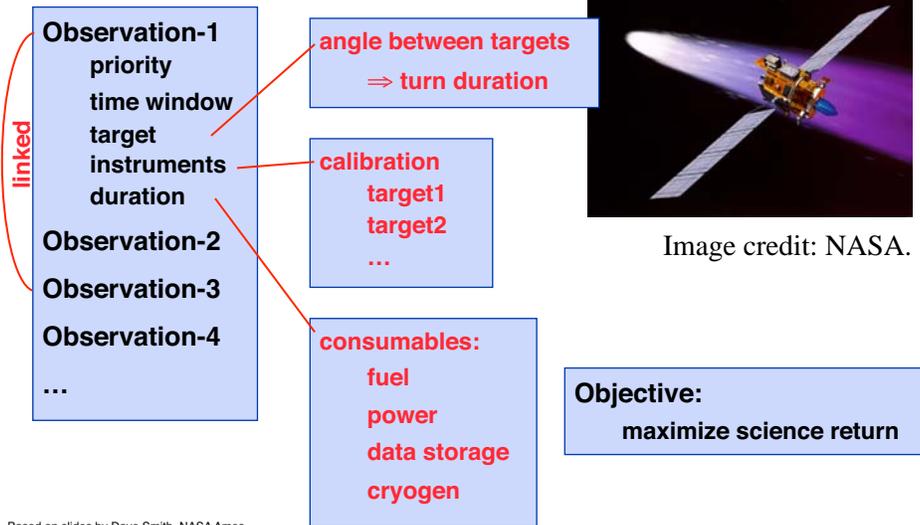


Image credit: NASA.

**Objective:**  
maximize science return

Based on slides by Dave Smith, NASA Ames

# The Simple Spacecraft Revisited: Complications



# More Expressive Planners Include

**Time**  
**Resources**  
**Utility**  
**Uncertainty**  
**Hidden State**  
**Indirect Control**

**Reasoning methods:**  
**STNs or CSPs**  
**LPs or CSPs**  
**MDPs or MILPs**  
**HMMs or BNs**  
**HMMs or OCSPs**  
**LPs or RPs**

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16.410 / 16.413 Principles of Autonomy and Decision Making  
Fall 2010

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