



**RICE**

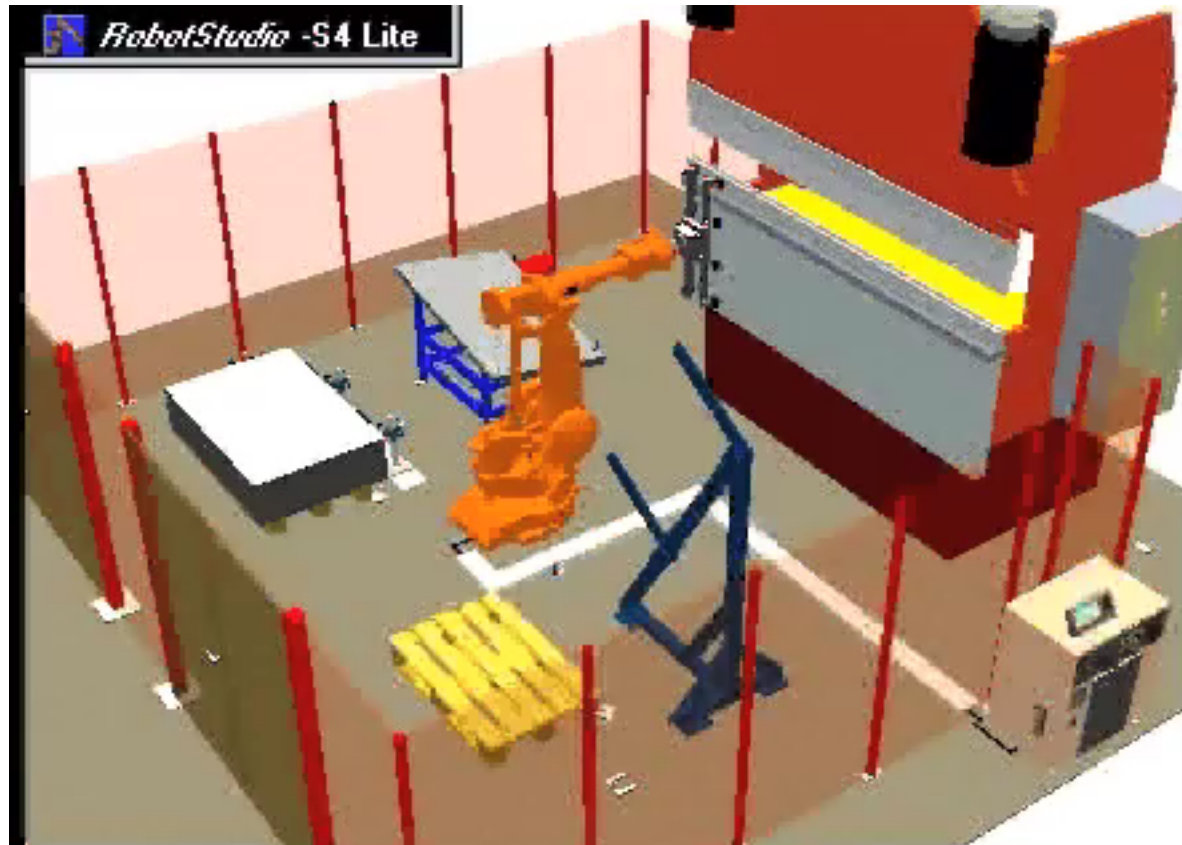
**Motion Planning for  
Physical Systems**

**Lydia E. Kavraki  
Department of Computer Science  
Rice University**

**Informatics and Telematics Institute  
June 6, 2011**



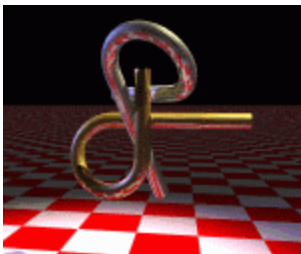
# Motion Planning



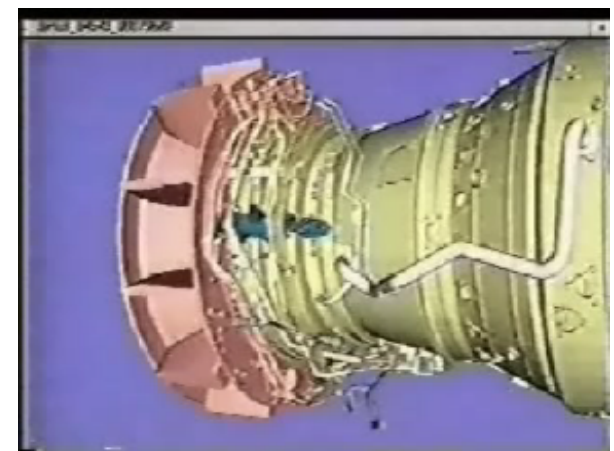
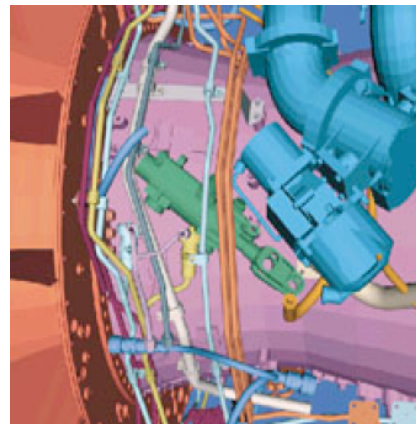
[Bohlin, Kavraki]



# Motion Planning



Geometric Puzzles [from Kuffner]



[from Latombe]

# Motion-planning Problems are Hard

## PROBLEM

## COMPLEXITY

### Geometric Constraints

Sofa Mover (3DOF)	$O(n^{2+\epsilon})$ - not implemented [HS96]
Piano Mover (6DOF)	Polynomial – no practical algorithm [SS83]
n Disks in the Plane	NP-Hard [SS83]
n Link Chain in 3D	PSPACE-Complete [HSS87]
Generalized Mover	PSPACE-Complete [Canny88]

### Dynamics Constraints

Point with Newtonian Dynamics	NP-Hard [DXCR93]
Polygon Dubin's Car (Linear)	Decidable [CPK08]
Nonlinear	Unknown, probably undecidable

### Discrete Transitions and Dynamics Constraints

Hybrid Systems	Undecidable [Alur et. al 95]
----------------	------------------------------

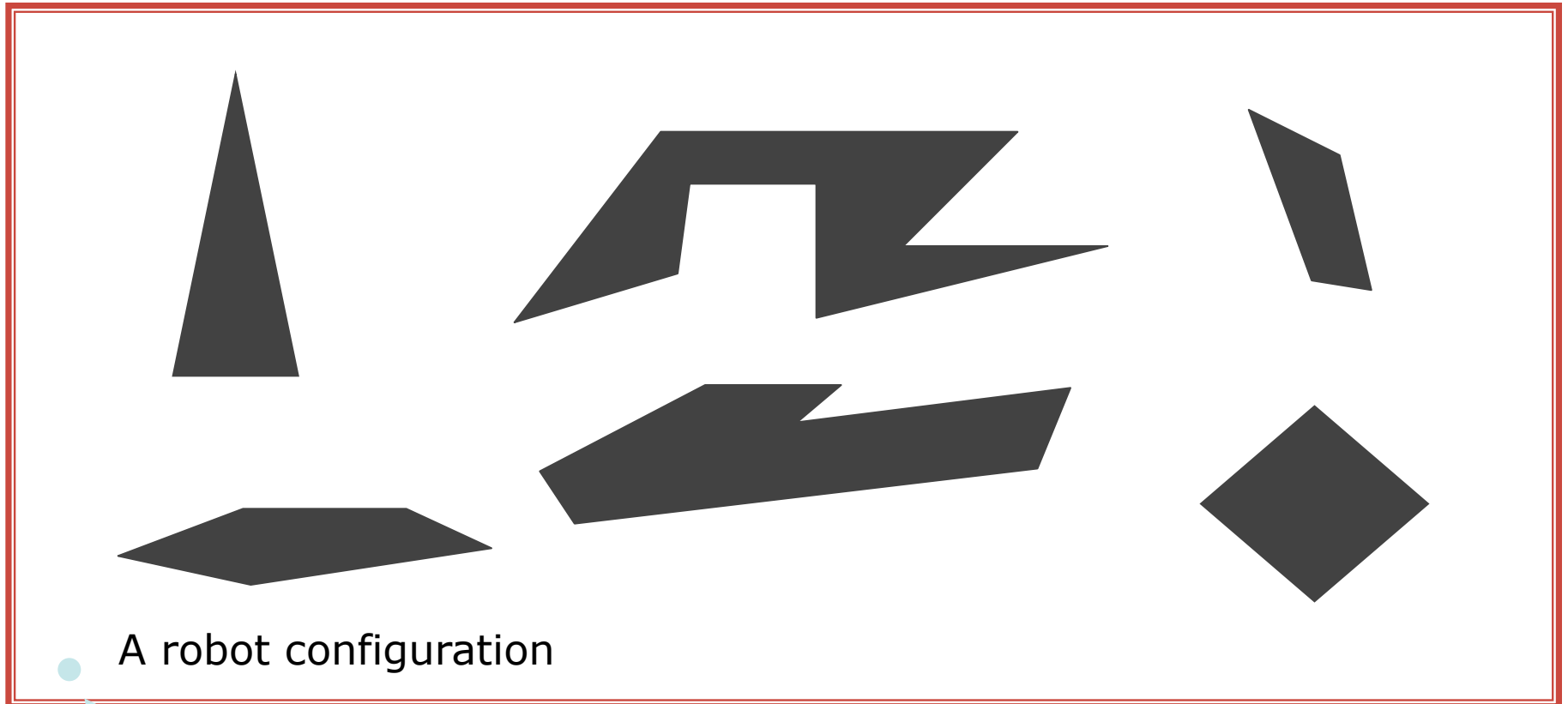


# Exact, Approximate and Heuristic

Method	Advantage	Disadvantage
Exact	theoretically insightful	impractical
Cell Decomposition	easy	does not scale
Control-Based	online, very robust	requires good trajectory
Potential Fields	online, easy	slow or fail
Sampling-based	fast and effective	cannot recognize impossible query



# Probabilistic RoadMap (PRM)



Robot is a point

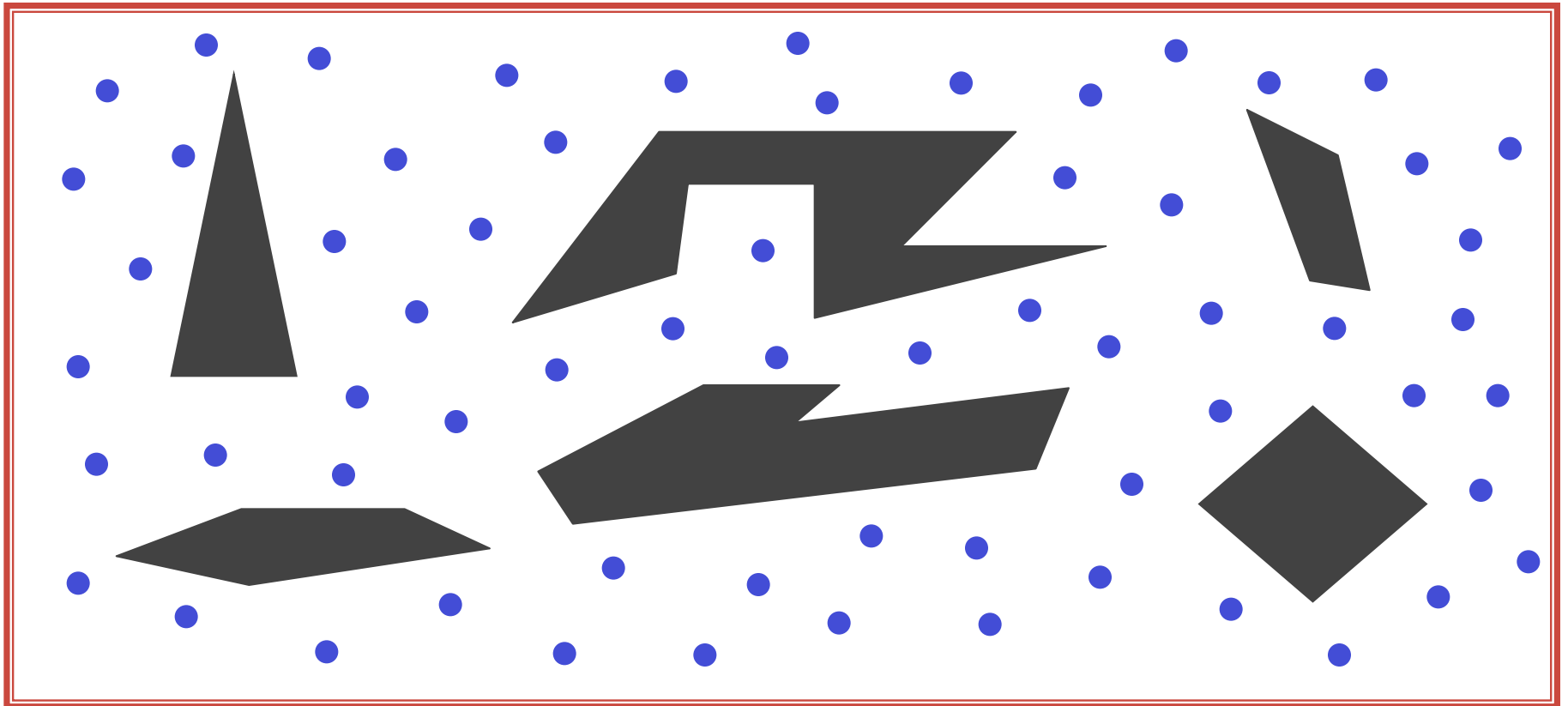


# Probabilistic RoadMap (PRM)





# Probabilistic RoadMap (PRM)

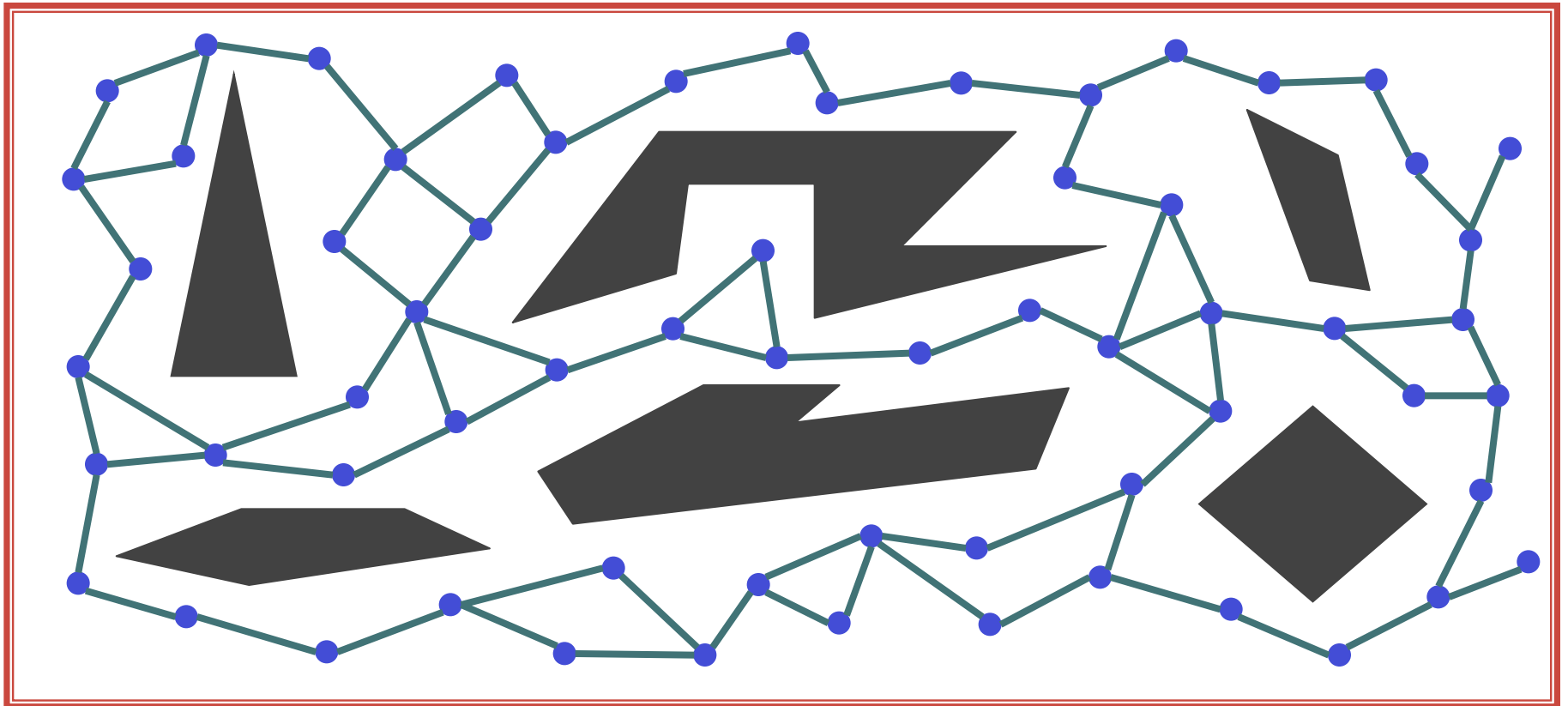


- Nodes: random configurations





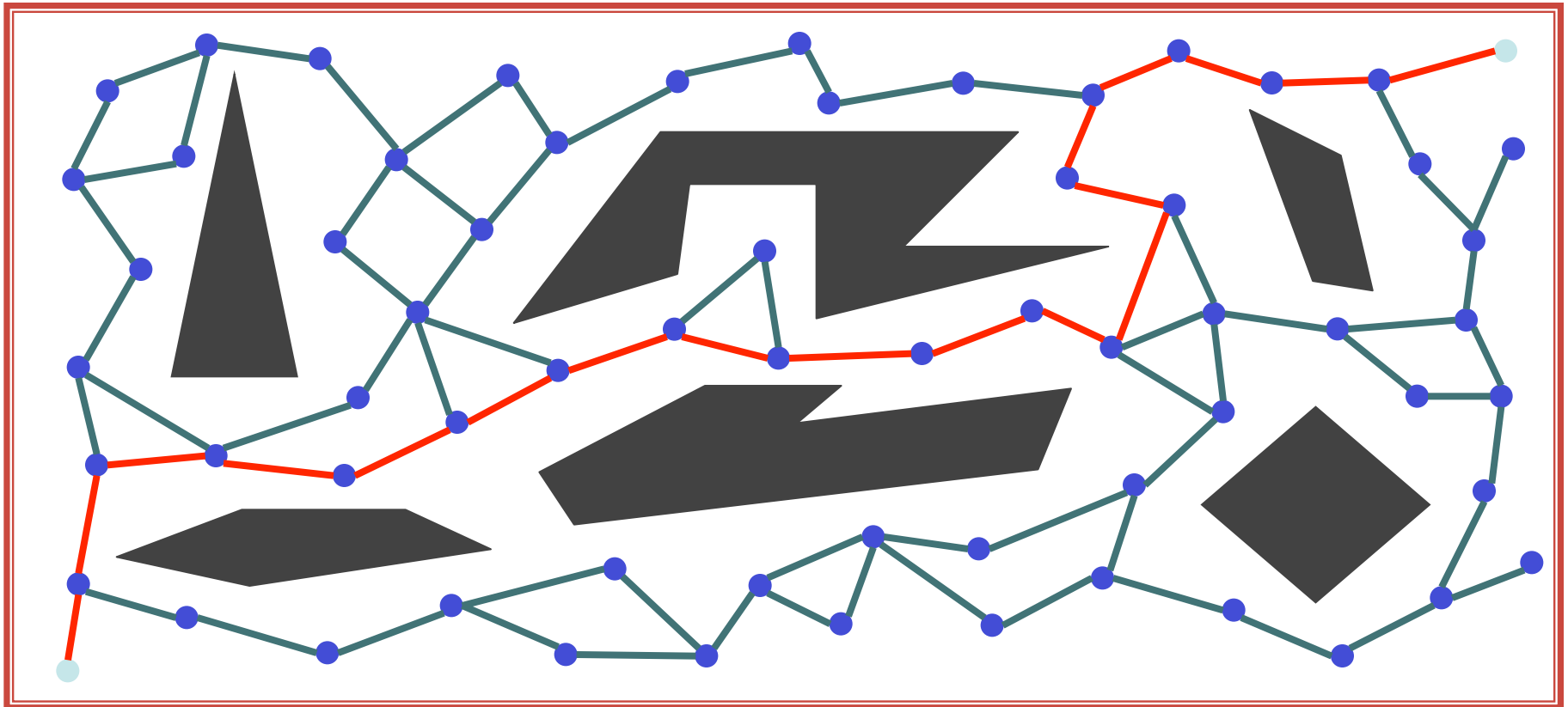
# Probabilistic RoadMap (PRM)



— Edges: computed by some local planner



# Probabilistic RoadMap (PRM)



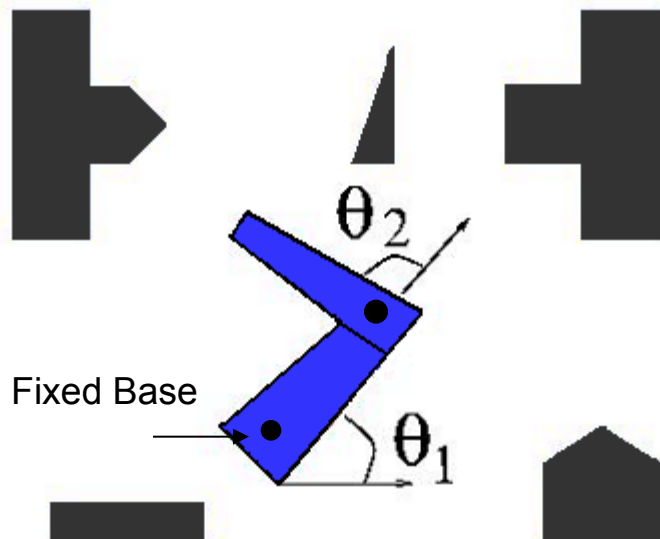
Plan a path

Connect start & goal to roadmap

Perform graph search



# Degrees of Freedom (DOF)

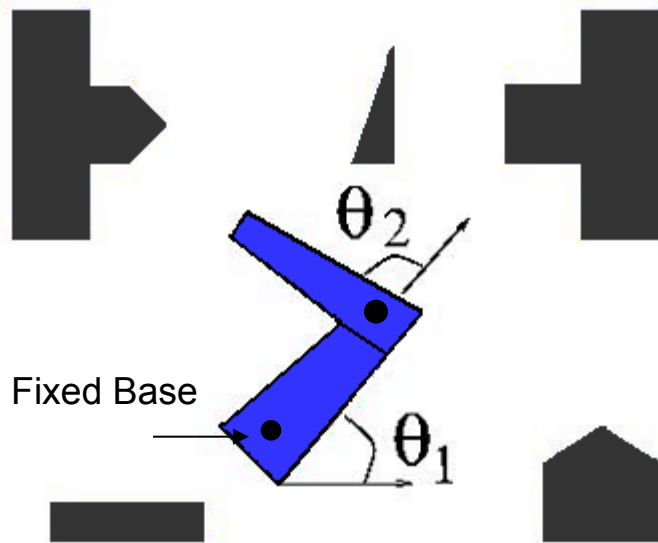


Workspace

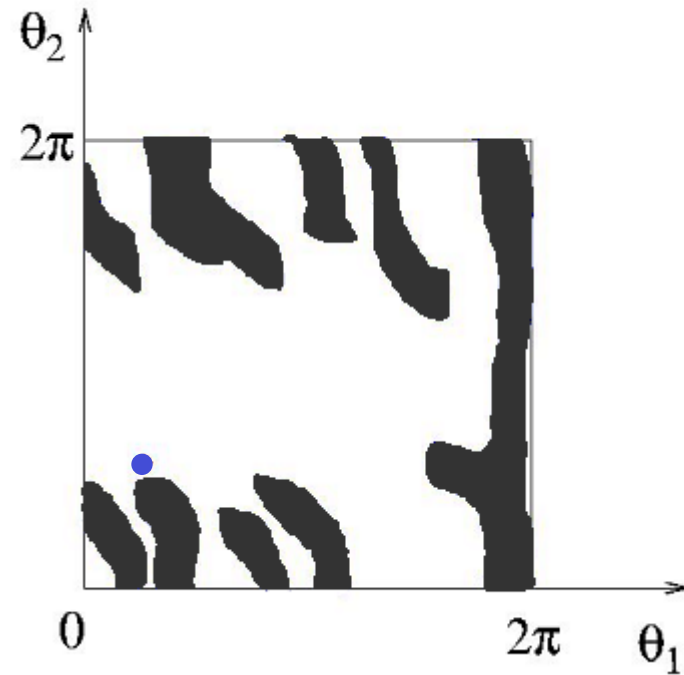
Planar Arm: 2 Degrees of Freedom (DOF)



# Configuration Space



Workspace

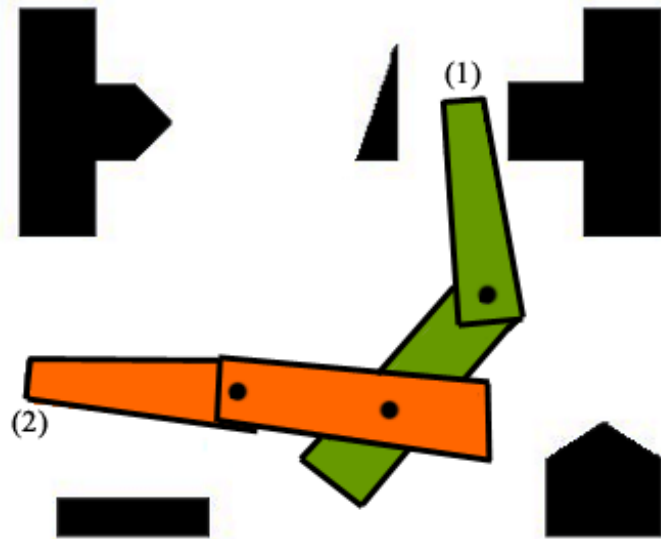


Configuration Space

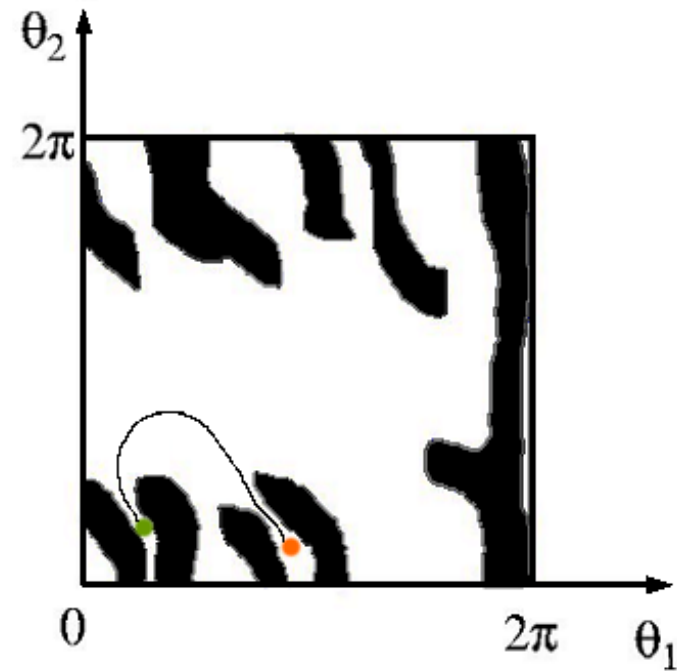
Most Interesting Problems are High Dimensional



# Configuration Space



Workspace

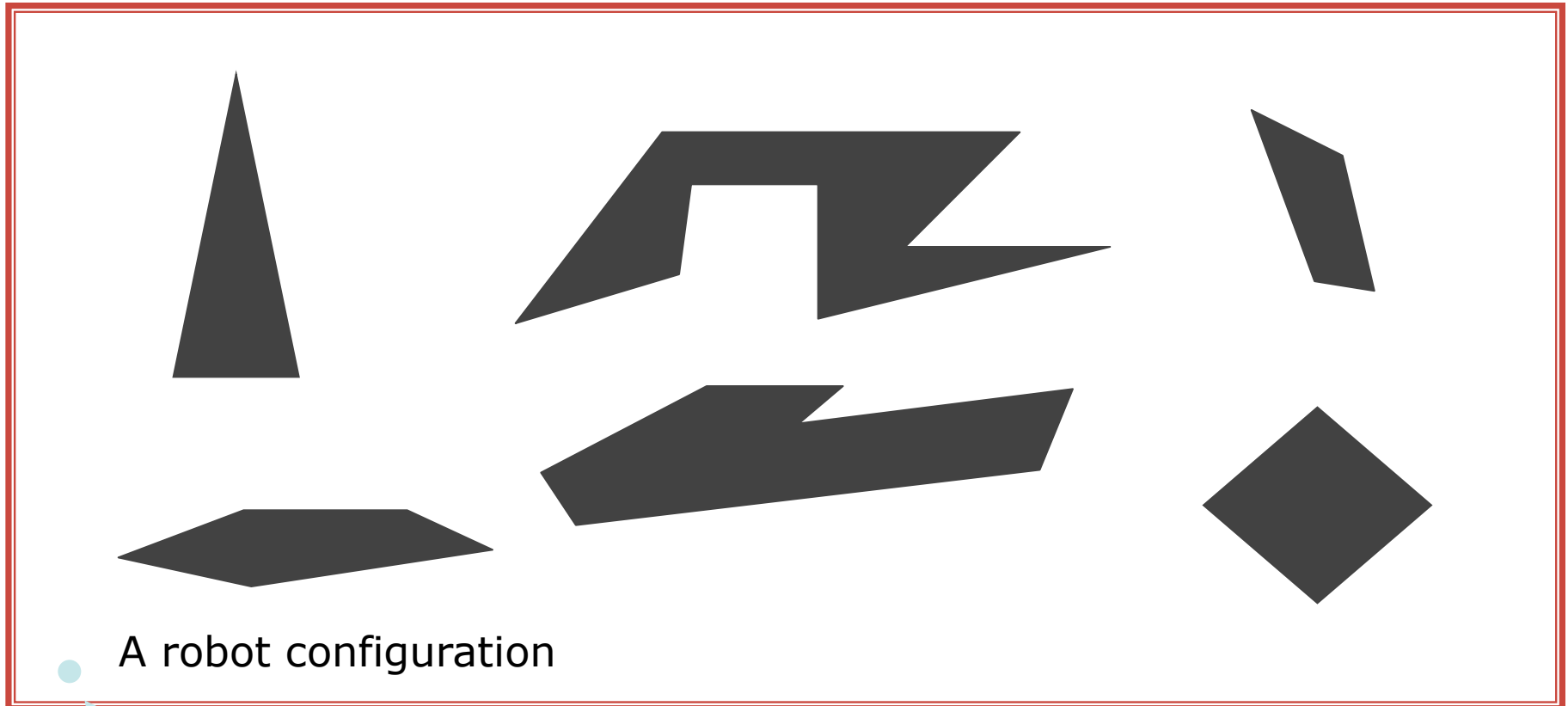


Configuration Space

Most Interesting Problems are High Dimensional



# Probabilistic RoadMap (PRM)



Robot is a point

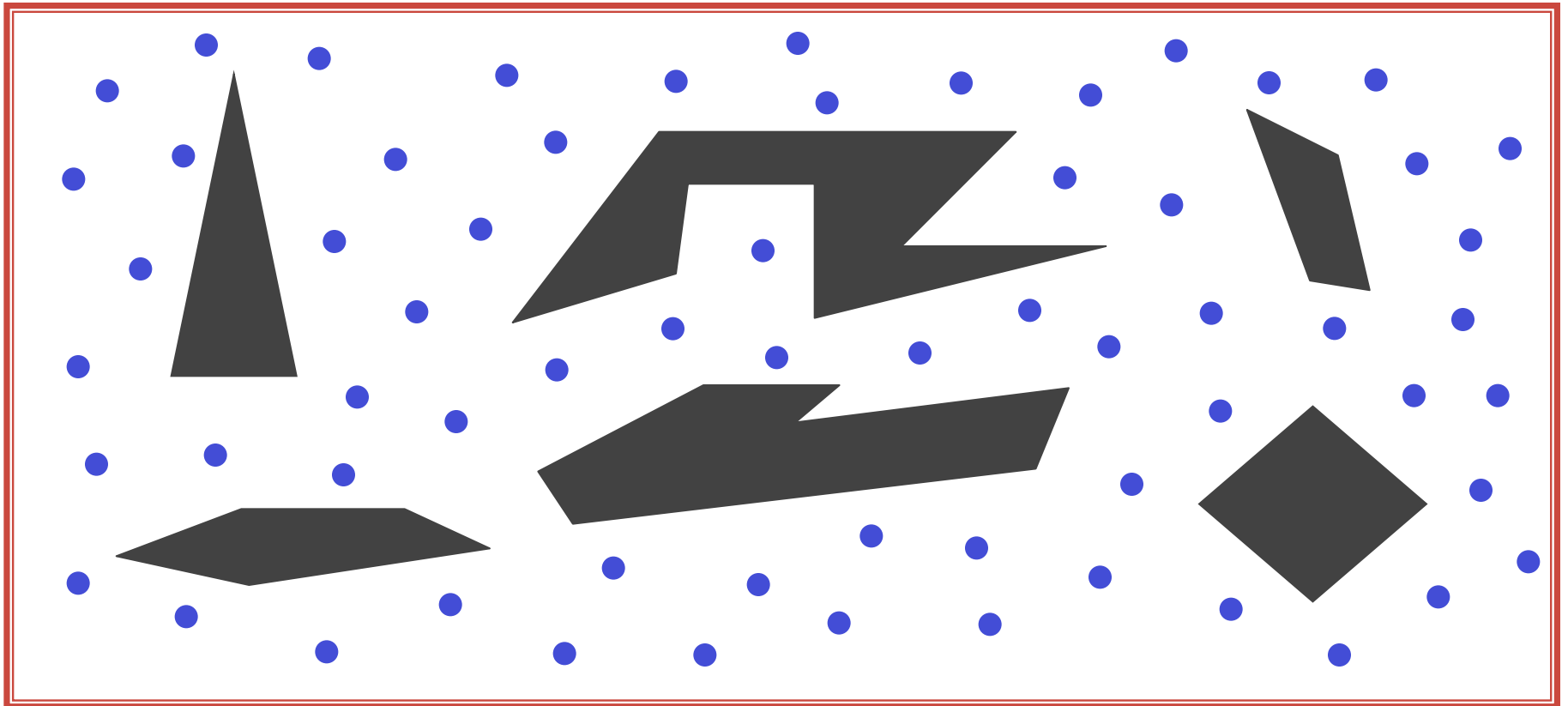


# Probabilistic RoadMap (PRM)





# Probabilistic RoadMap (PRM)

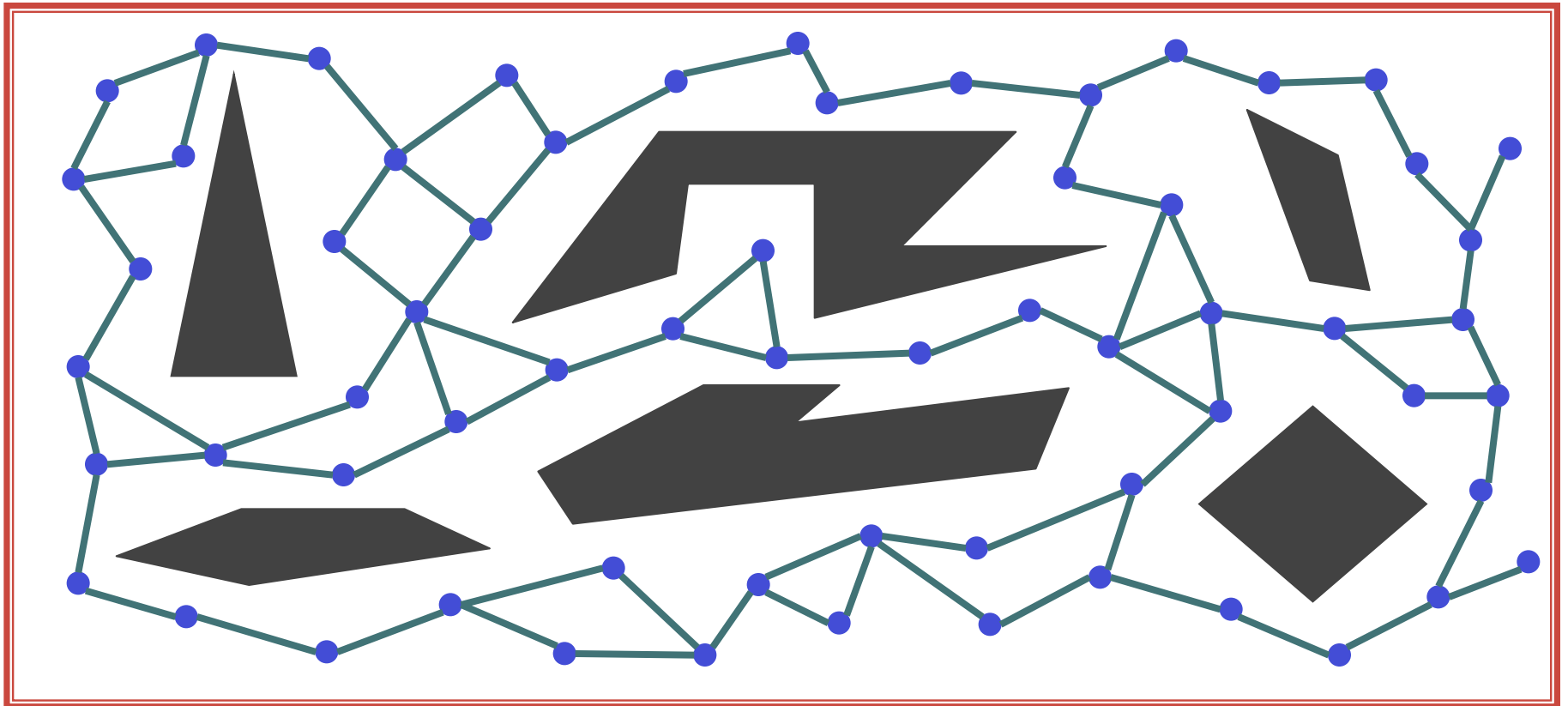


- Nodes: random configurations





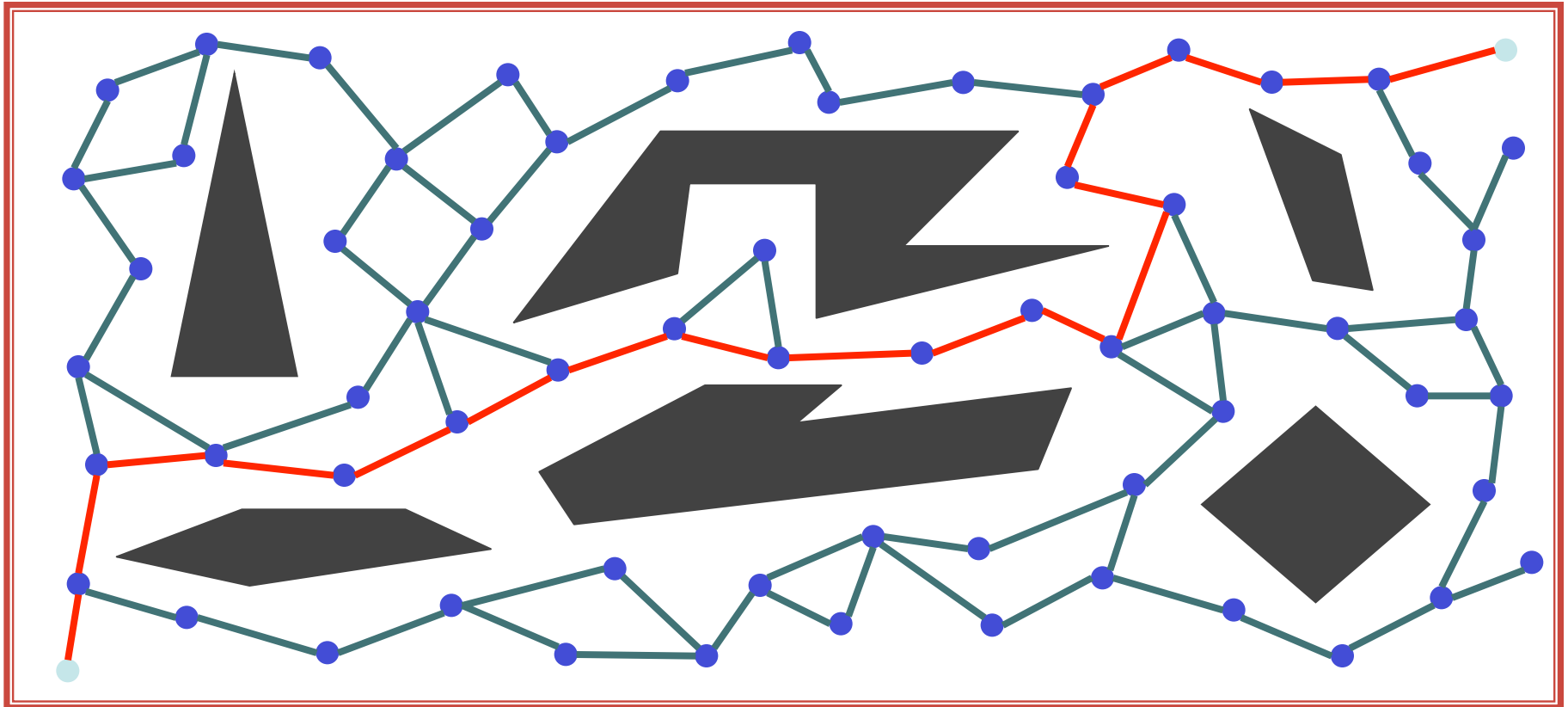
# Probabilistic RoadMap (PRM)



— Edges: computed by some local planner



# Probabilistic RoadMap (PRM)



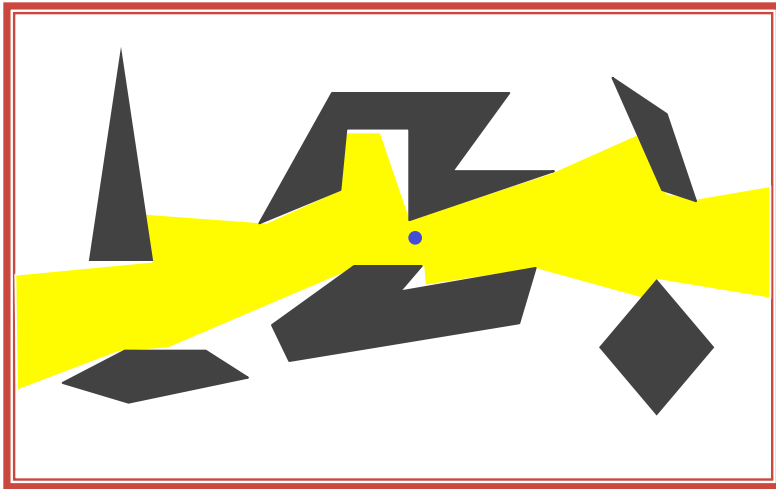
Plan a path

Connect start & goal to roadmap

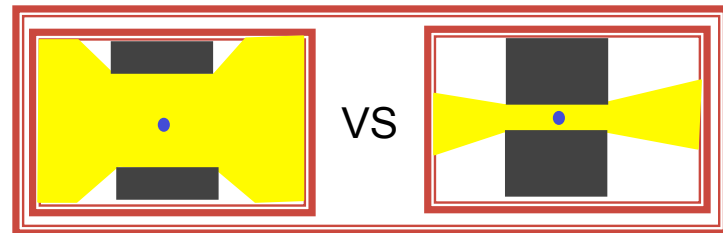
Perform graph search



# Theoretical Analysis of PRM



$\epsilon$ -goodness property



- Tradeoff: planner may fail with probability  $\alpha$
- Number of nodes

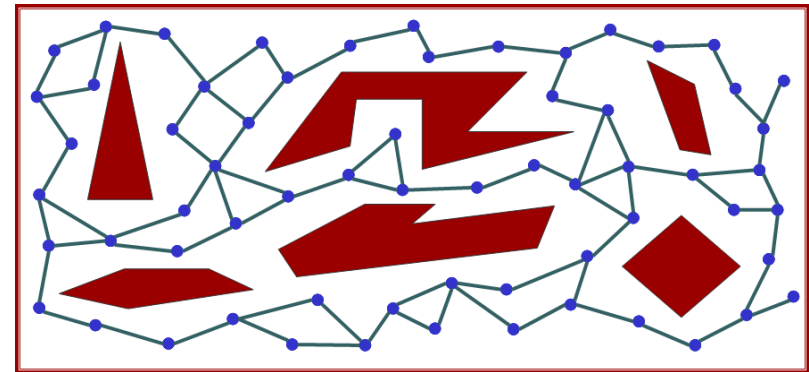
$$N \approx \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left[ \log\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right) + \log\left(\frac{4}{\alpha}\right) \right]$$

- Important: Performance related to properties of the space

# Sampling-based Methods

- Roadmap-based
  - Sample valid states
  - Connect neighboring samples

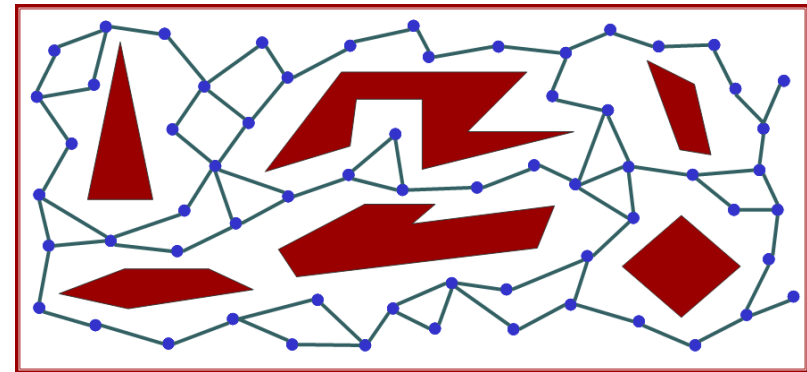
[Kavraki, Svetska, Latombe, Overmars and many others]



# Sampling-based Methods

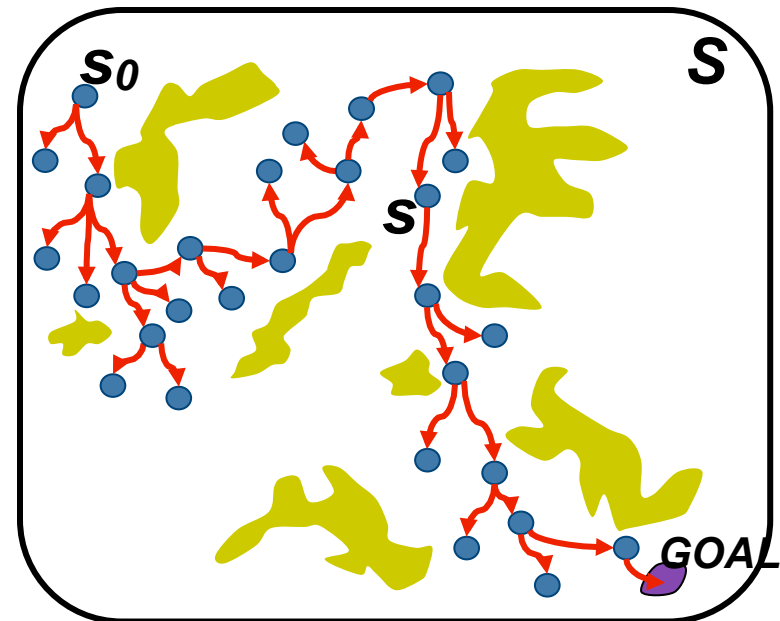
- Roadmap-based
  - Sample valid states
  - Connect neighboring samples

[Kavraki, Svetska, Latombe, Overmars and many others]



- Tree-based
  - Grow tree  $T$  rooted at initial state

[LaValle, Kuffner, Hsu, Ladd, Plaku, Bekris and many others]



# A Few Sampling-Based Planners

EST [Hsu et al.'97, '00]  
RRT [Kuffner, LaValle '99]  
RRT-Connect [Kuffner, LaValle '00]  
SBL [Sanchez, Latombe '01]  
Guided EST [Phillips et al. '03]  
PDRRT [Ranganathan, Koenig '04]  
SRT [Plaku et al. '05]  
DDRRT [Yershova et al. '05]  
ADDRRT [Jaillet et al. '05]  
RRT-Blossom [Kalisiak, van Panne '06]  
PDST [Ladd, Kavraki '06]  
Utility RRT [Burns, Brock '07]  
GRIP [Bekris, Kavraki '07]  
Multiparticle RRT [Zucker et al. '07]  
TC-RRT [Stillman et al. '07]  
RRT-JT [Vande Wege et al '07]  
DSLX [Plaku, Kavraki, Vardi '08]  
KPIECE [Şucan, Kavraki '09]

RPDST [Tsianos, Kavraki '08]  
BiSpace [Diankov et al. '08]  
GRRT [Chakravorty, Kumar '09]  
IKBiRRT [Berenson et al.'09]  
CBiRRT [Berenson et al.'09]  
J+RRT [Vahrenkamp '09]  
RRT\*[Kamran et al.11]  
and many others

....



# Sampling-Based Planners Today

## Universities:

- Rice University
- Texas A & M University
- Stanford University
- University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign
- University of Washington
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Simon Fraser, Canada
- Oxford, UK
- Göteborg University, Sweden
- Tel-Aviv University, Israel
- Carnegie Mellon
- University of Utrecht, The Netherlands
- National University of Singapore
- Institut Polytechnique de Toulouse, France

and others

## Companies:

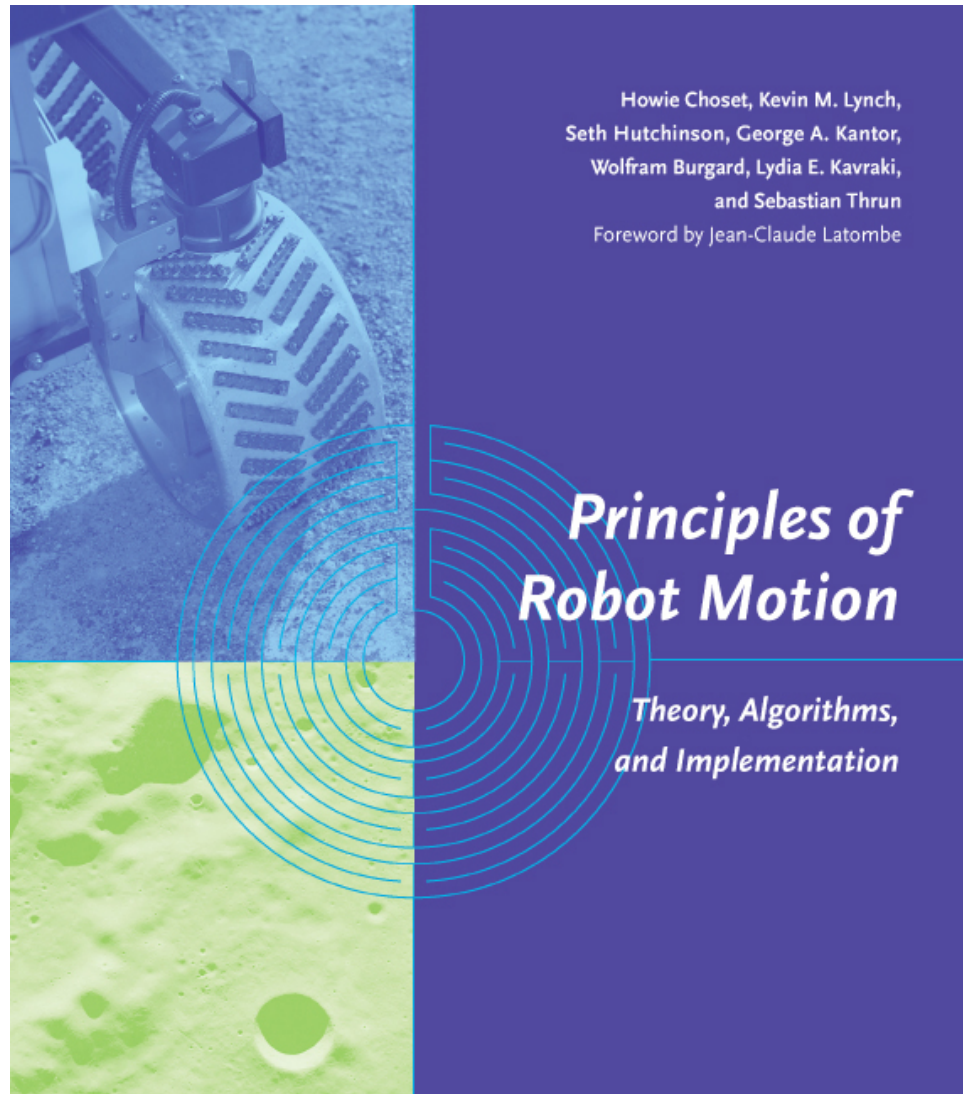
- General Electric
- General Motors
- ABB Robotics
- Prosolvia
- Amrose Automation
- Electricité de France
- Honda
- Volvo
- Draper Laboratories

## Research Laboratories

- LAAS CNRS, France
- INRIA, France
- NASA



# A New Textbook



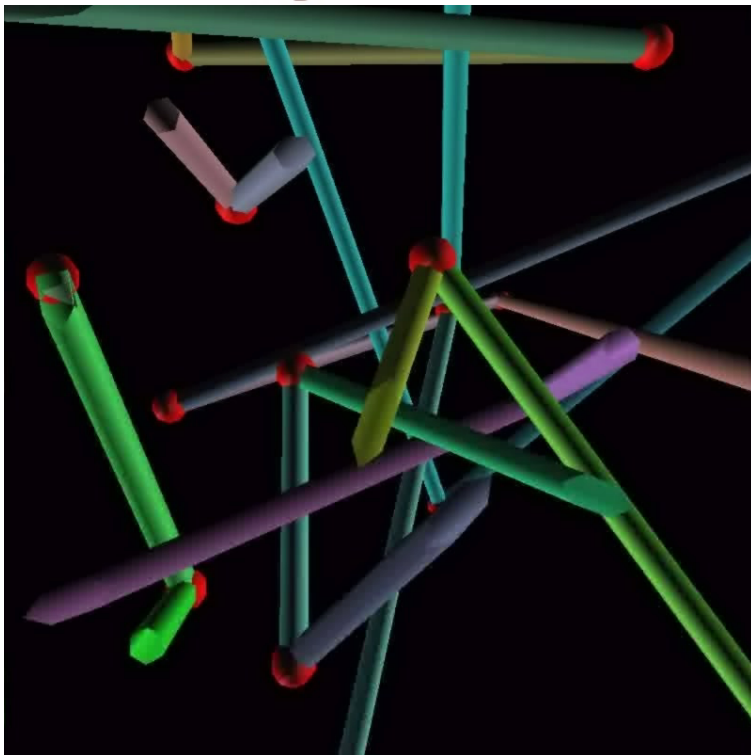
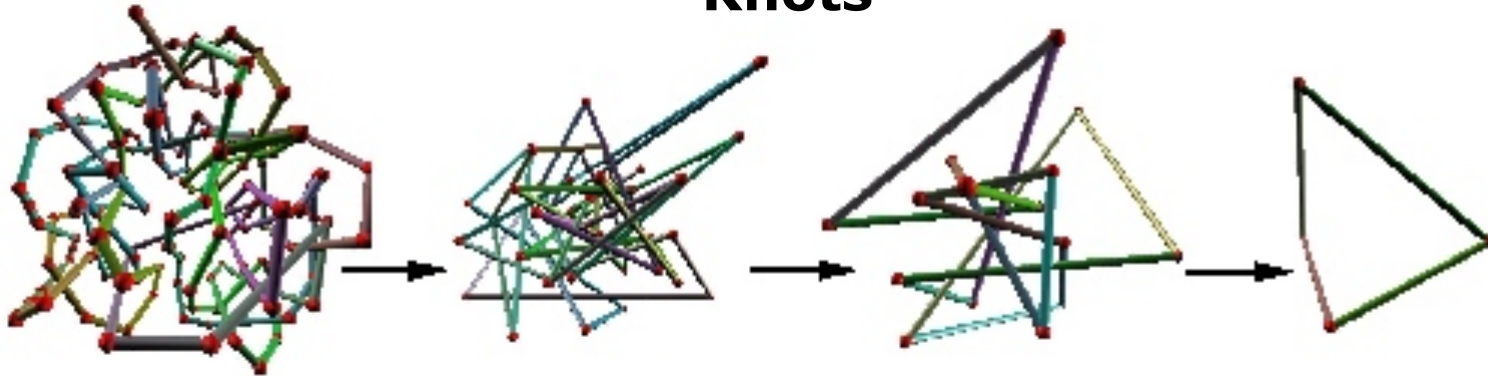
MIT Press





# Many Degrees of Freedom

## Knots



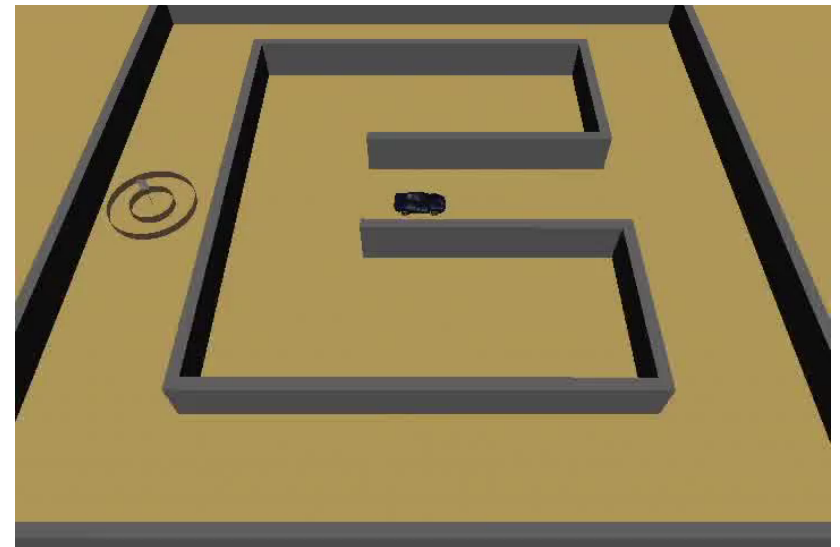
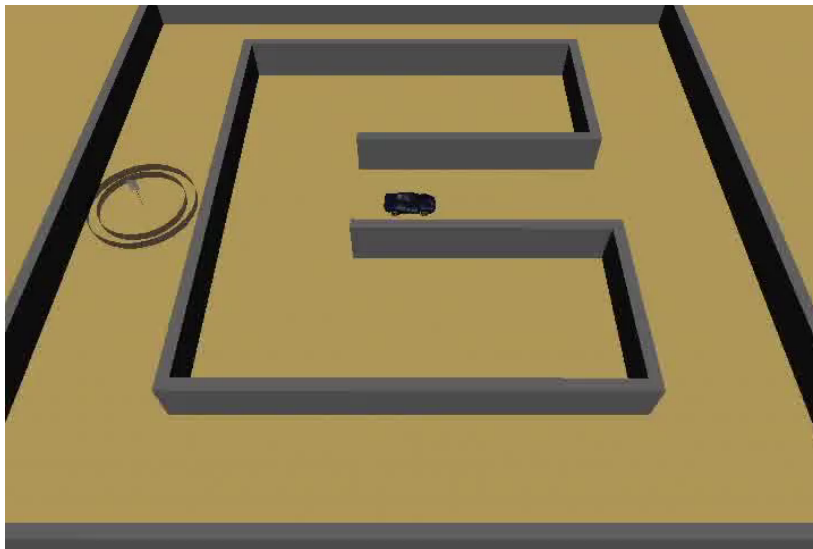
[Ladd, Kavraki]

**139 vertices (over 400 DOFs)**



# Increasing the Complexity of the Robot

- Geometry/Dimension
- Differential constraints  
(maneuver automata,  
integrators)

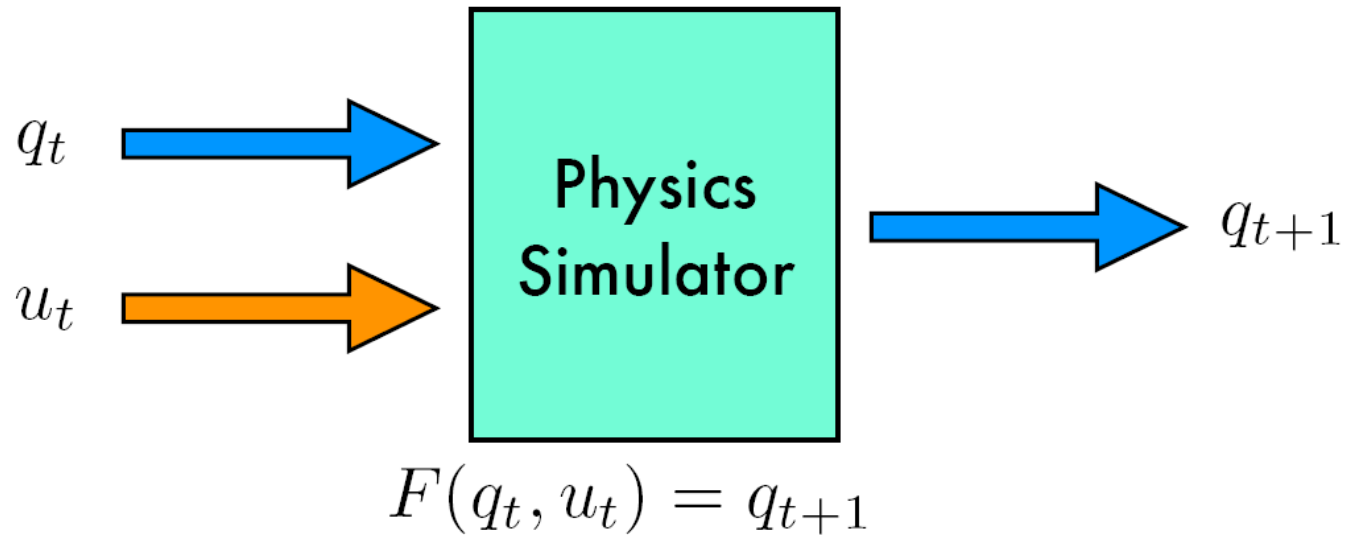


[Bekris, Kavraki]



# Increasing the Complexity of the Robot

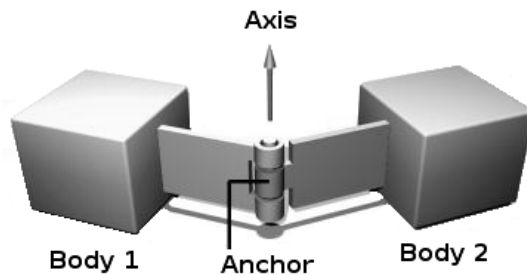
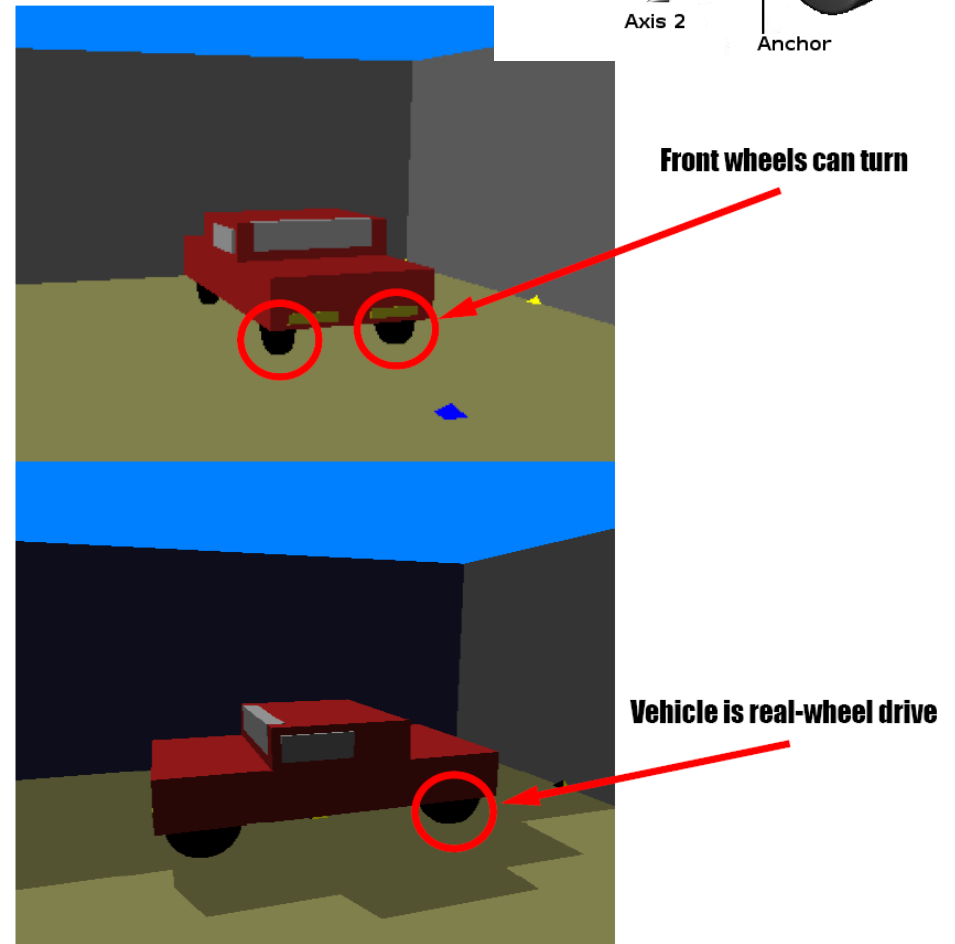
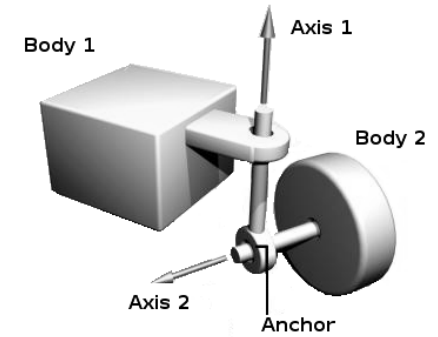
- Geometry/Dimension
- Differential constraints (integrators, maneuver automata)
- Simulation





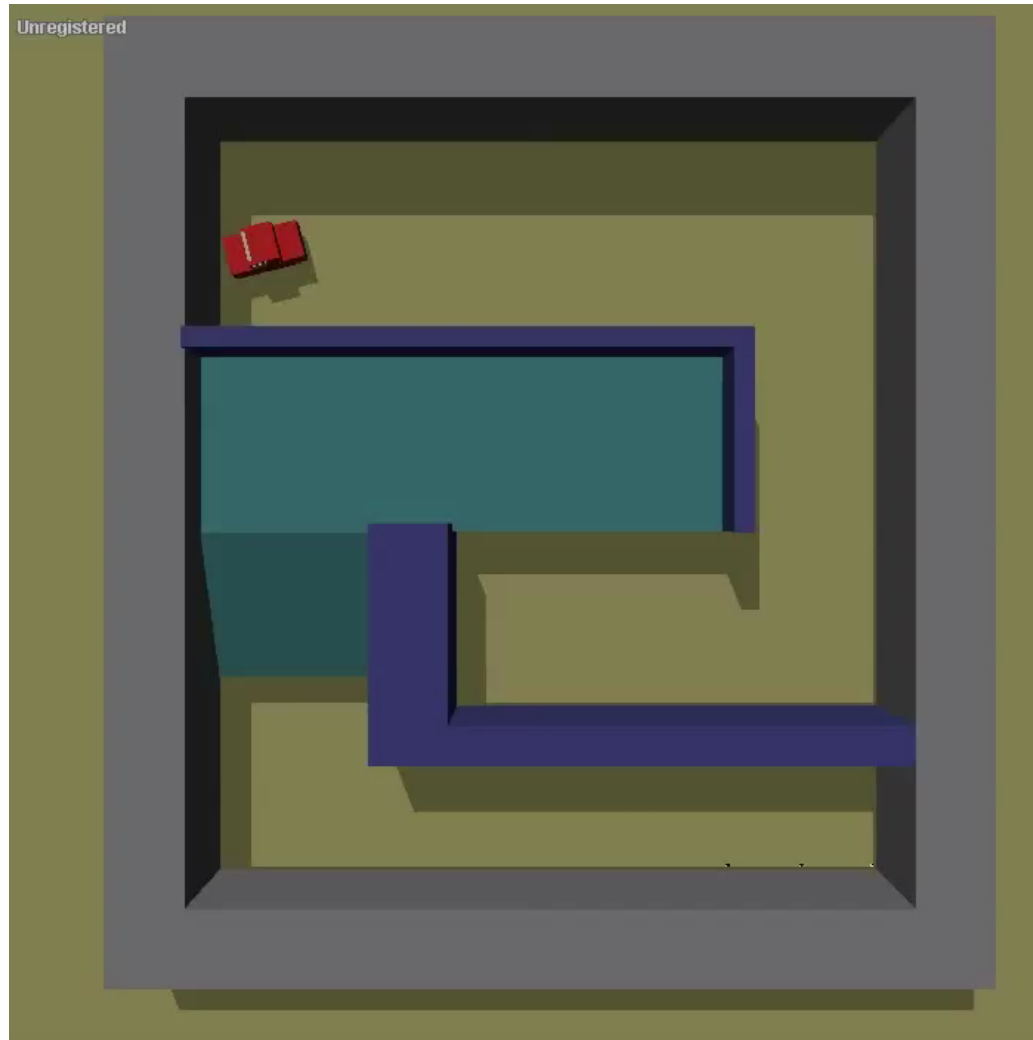
# Simulated Car

- 3D rigid body dynamics
- Car consists of the body and 4 wheels
- Wheels form friction contacts
- Wheel torques are bounded
- Physical Simulator: ODE
- Stewart-Trinkle model





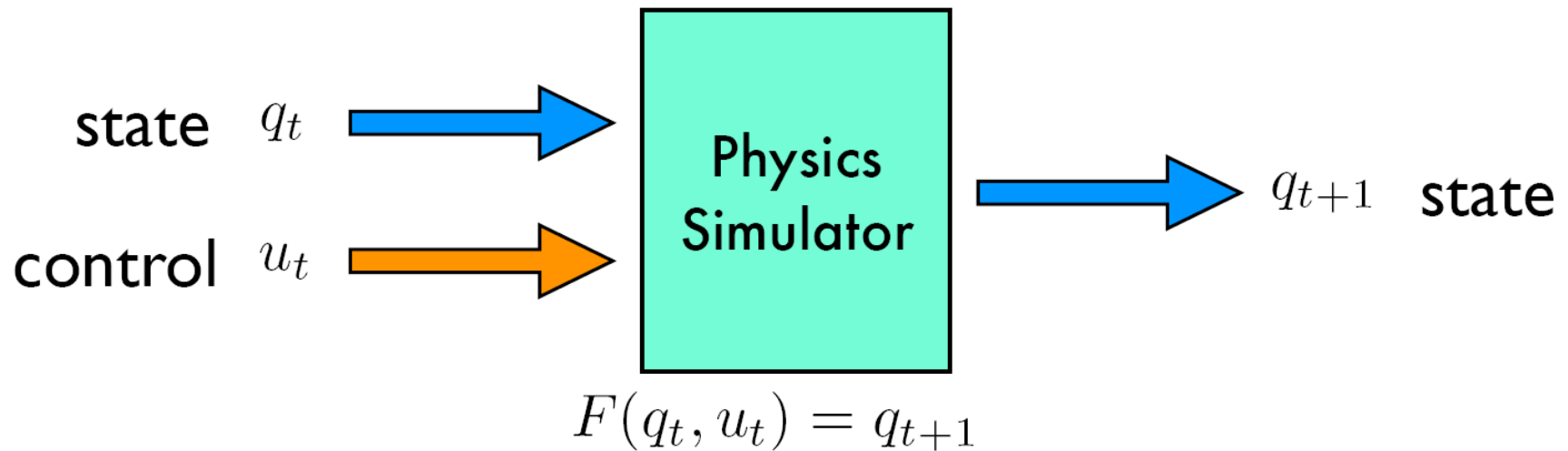
# Ramp



[Ladd, Kavraki, PDST]



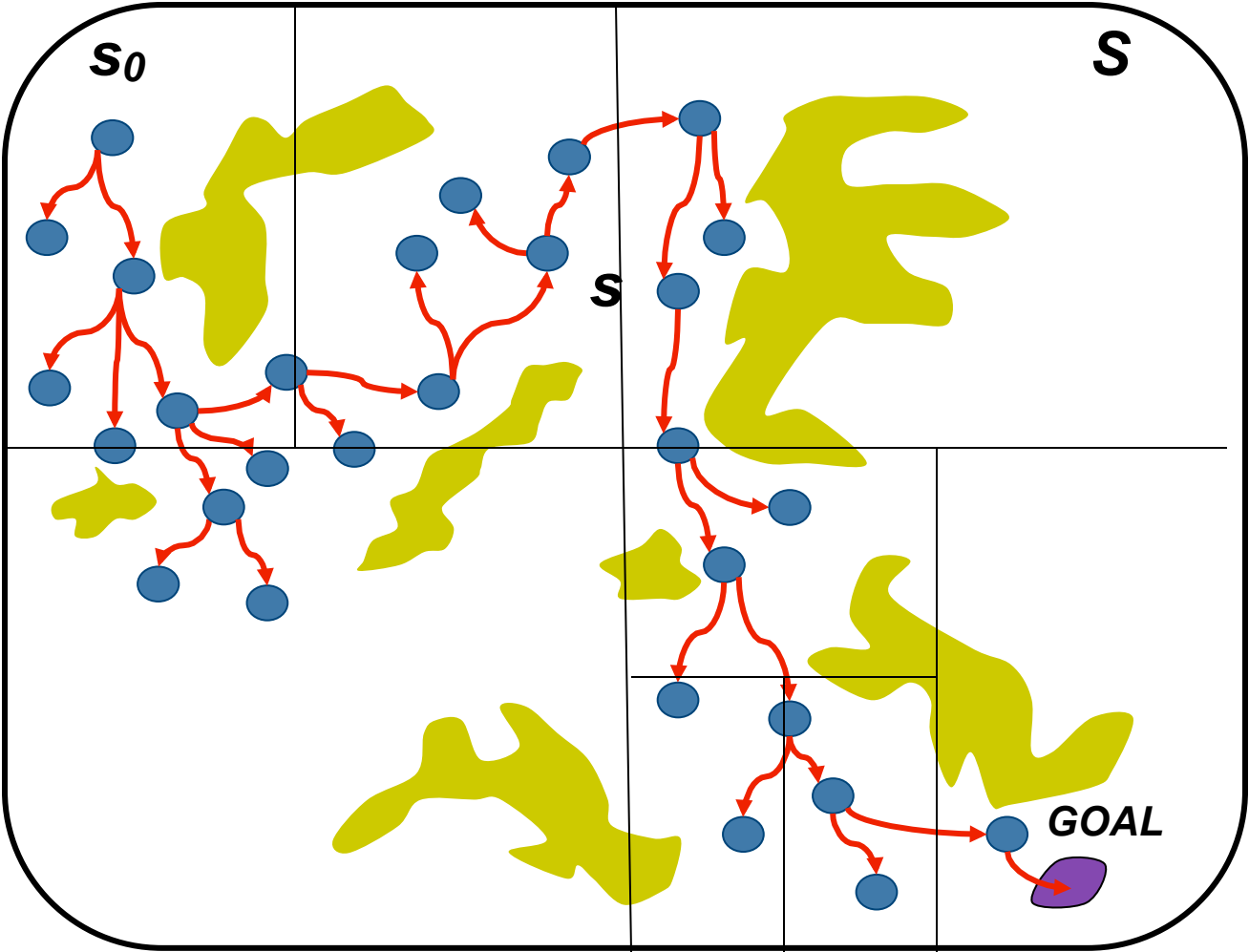
# Physical System Model



$q$  is a state in the state space  $Q$

$u$  is a control in the control space  $U$

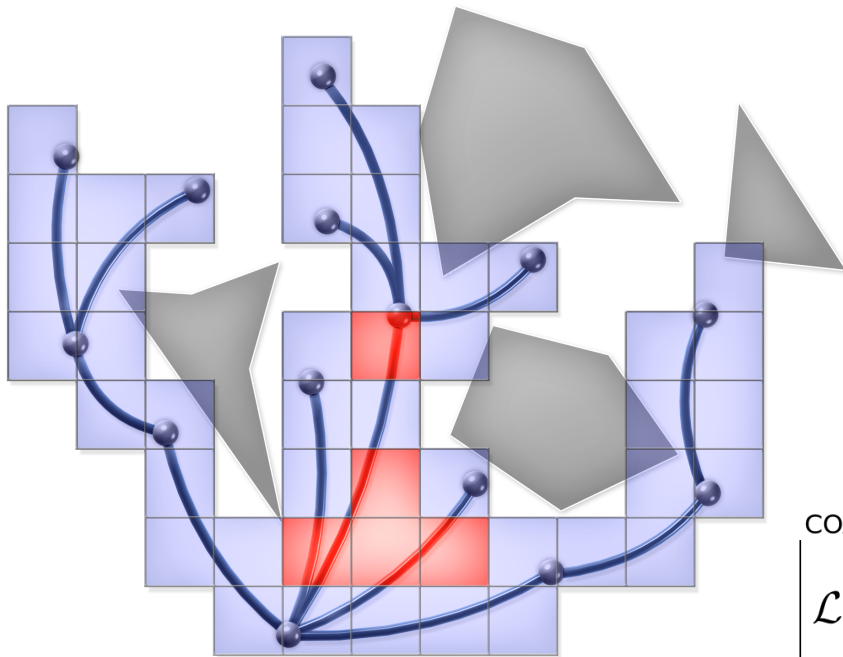
# PDST-EXPLORE: Search Combined with Some Decomposition of the Space



[Ladd, Kavradi]

# KPIECE

[Sucan, Kavraki]



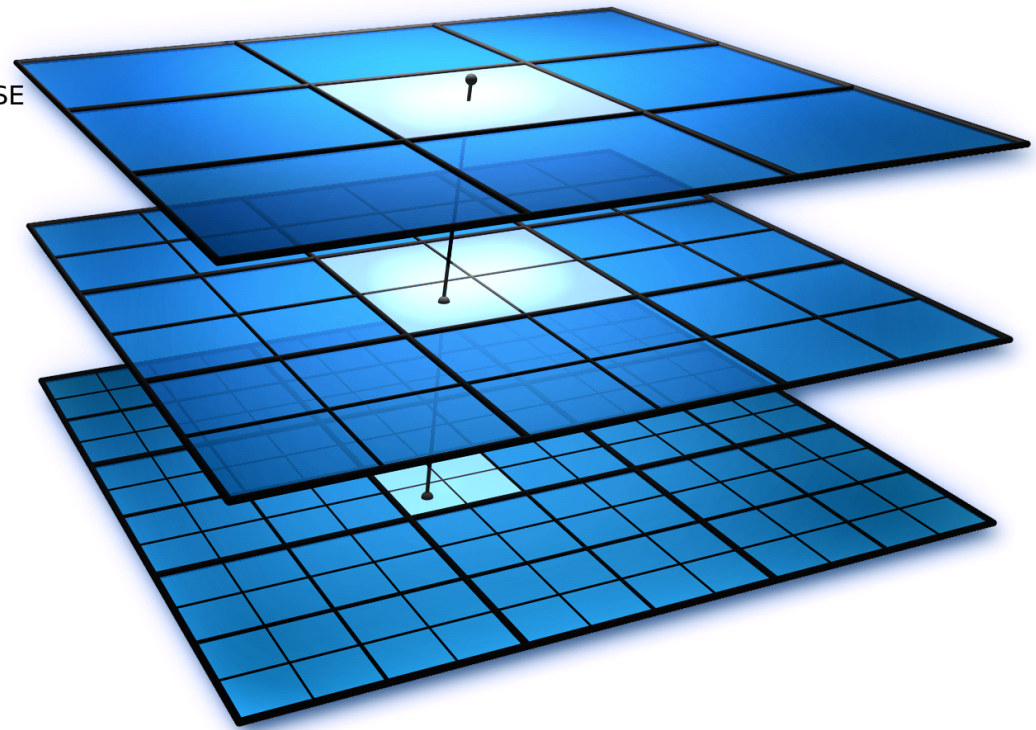
COARSE

$\mathcal{L}_3$

$\mathcal{L}_2$

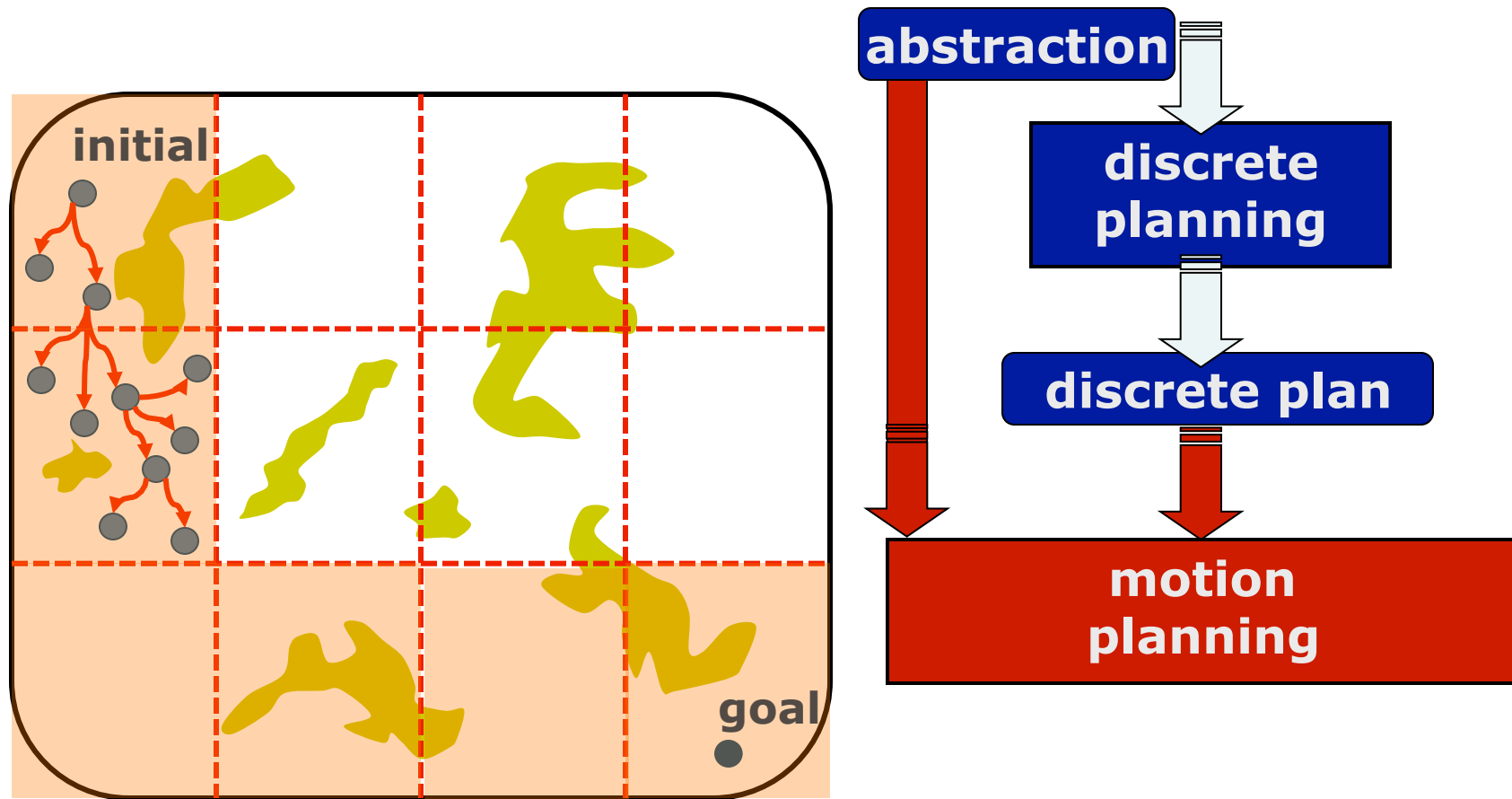
$\mathcal{L}_1$

FINE





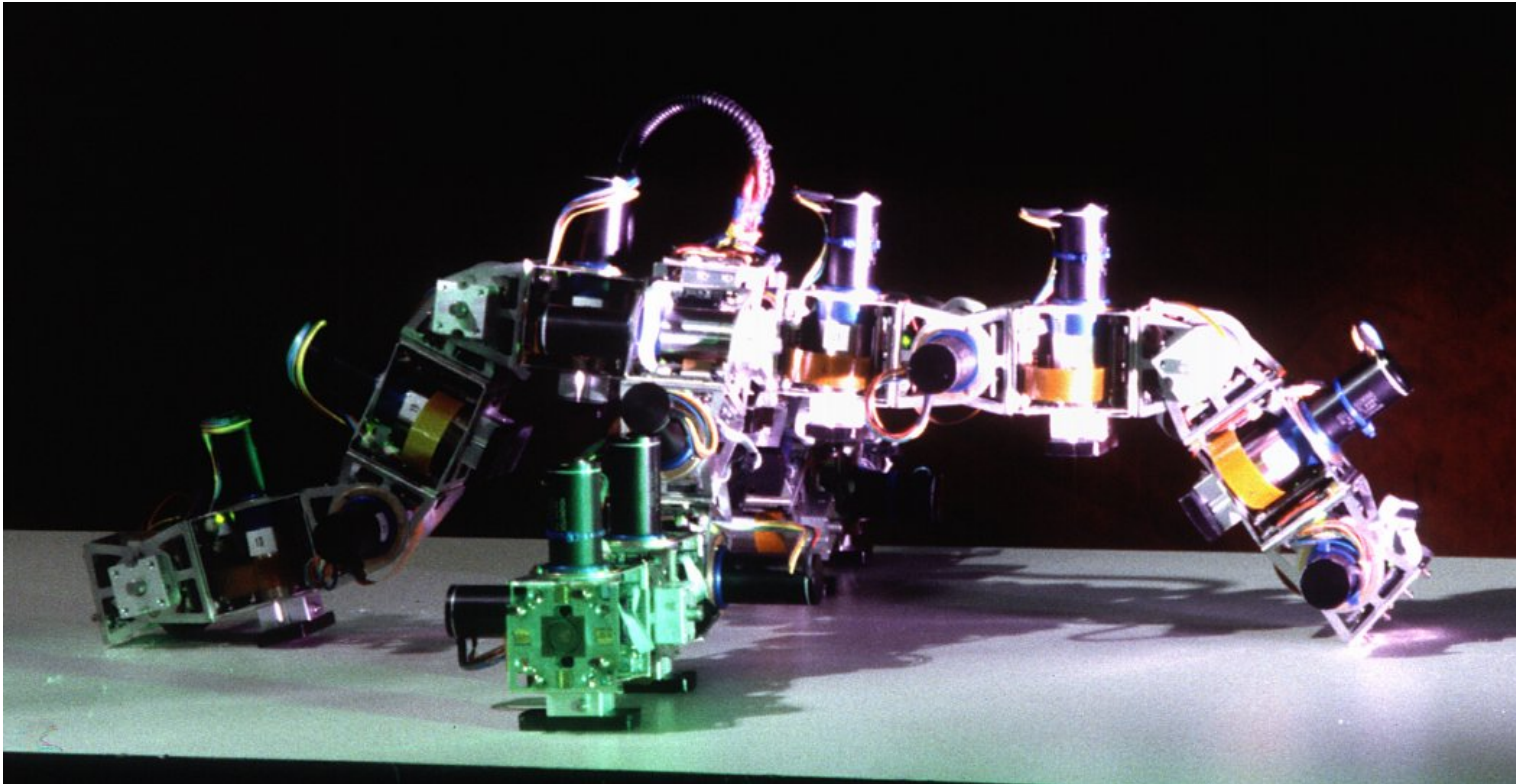
# SyCLOP: Synergistic Combination of Discrete and Continuous Search



Extend tree branches along regions specified by current discrete plan

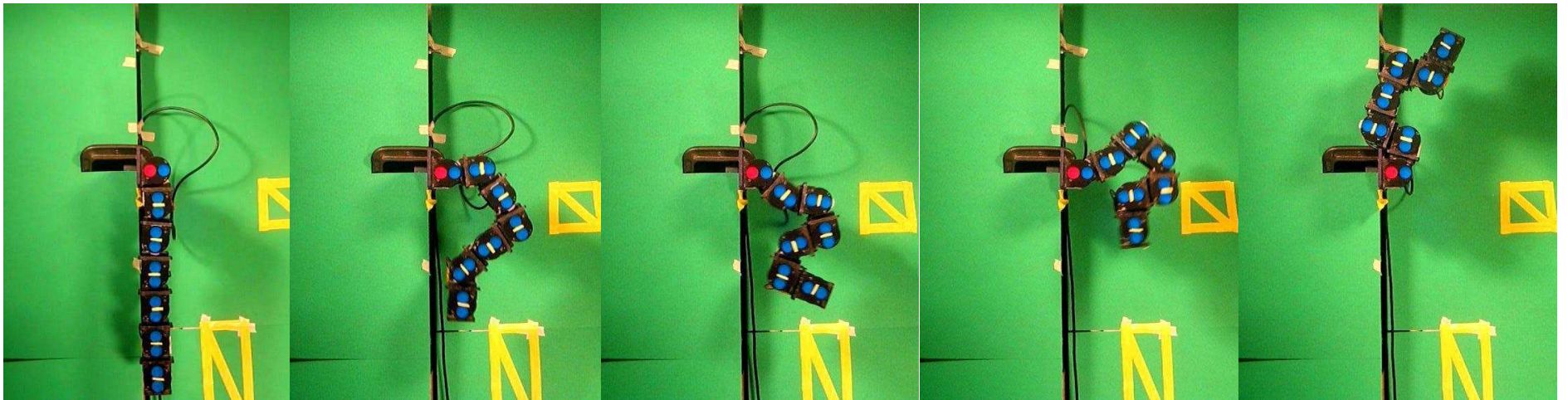
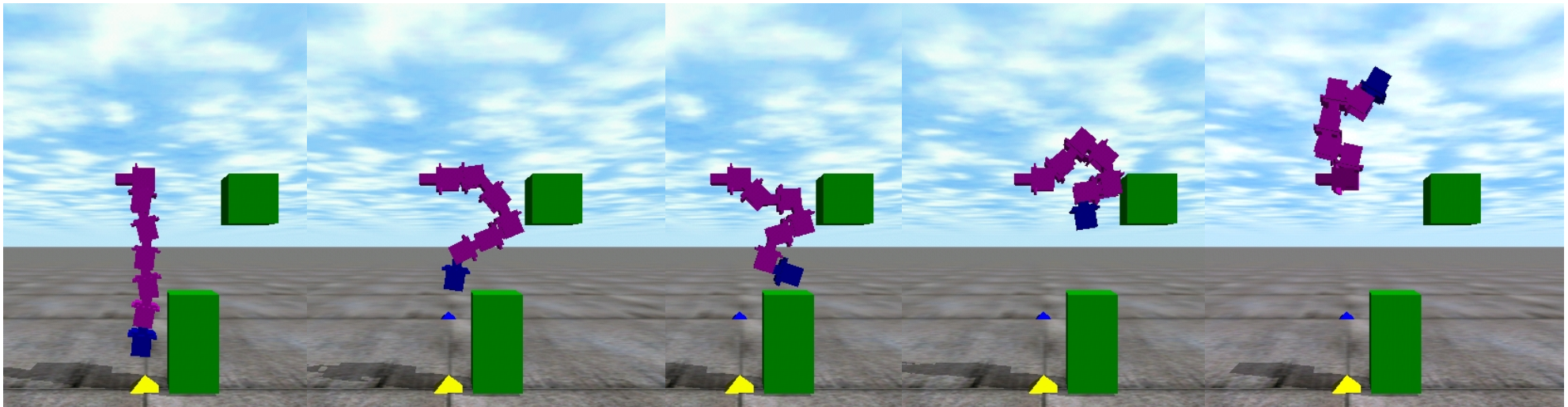
[Plaku, Kavraki]

# Application to Modular Systems



[with Mark Yim, UPenn]

# Actual Systems

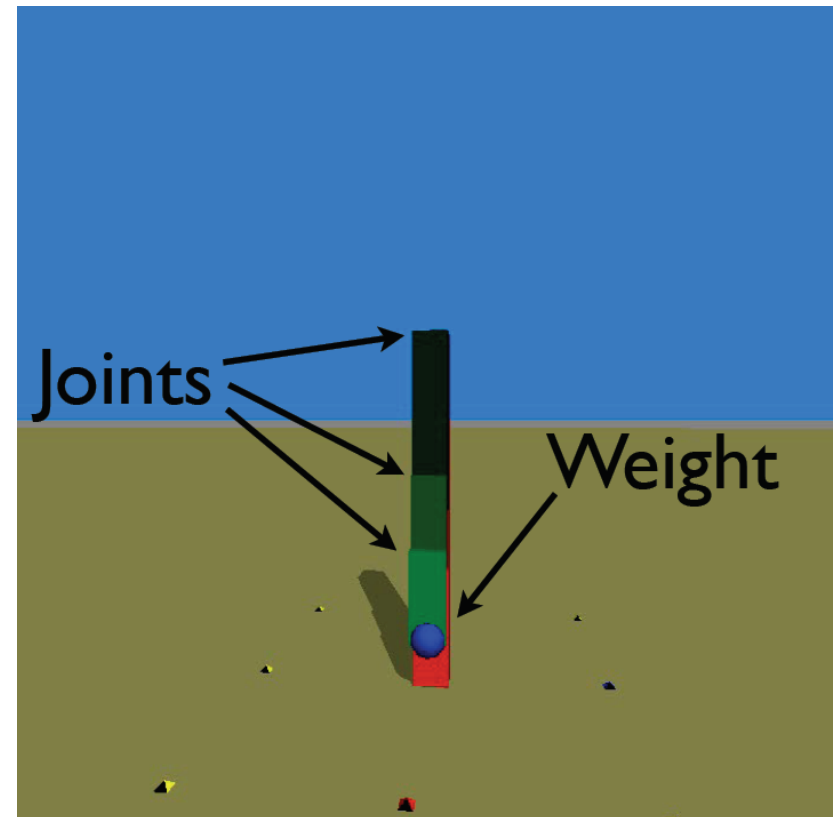


[Sucan, Kavraki - Rice, Yim]



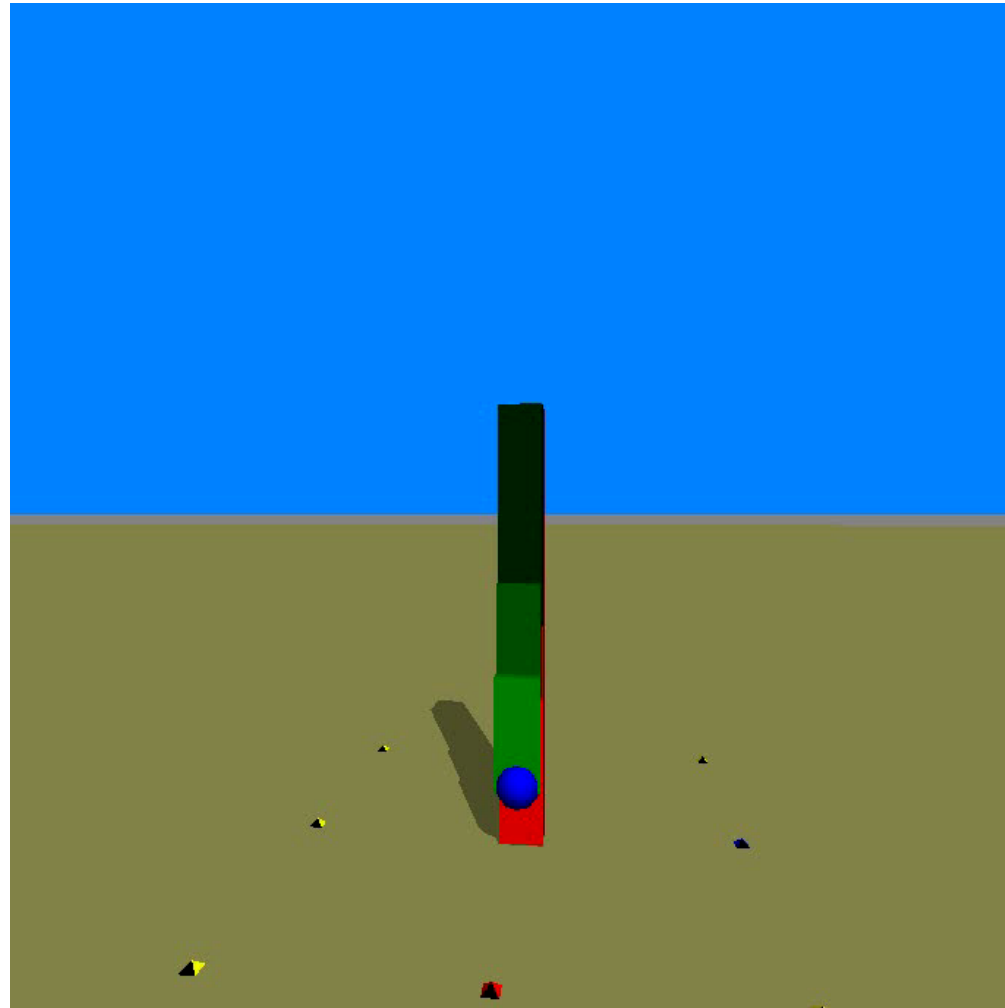
# Weight Lifter

- 8 kg weight
- 2 kg arm
- 20 N/m torque at each motor
- Physical Simulator: ODE





# Solution Video



Solve time: 10 seconds



# OMPL and OMPL app

OMPL: Open Motion Planning Library:

- Under sourceforge
- Works with ROS



[PR2 – Willow Garage]



OMPL app:

<http://www.kavrakilab.org>



# **Planning with High-Level Goals**

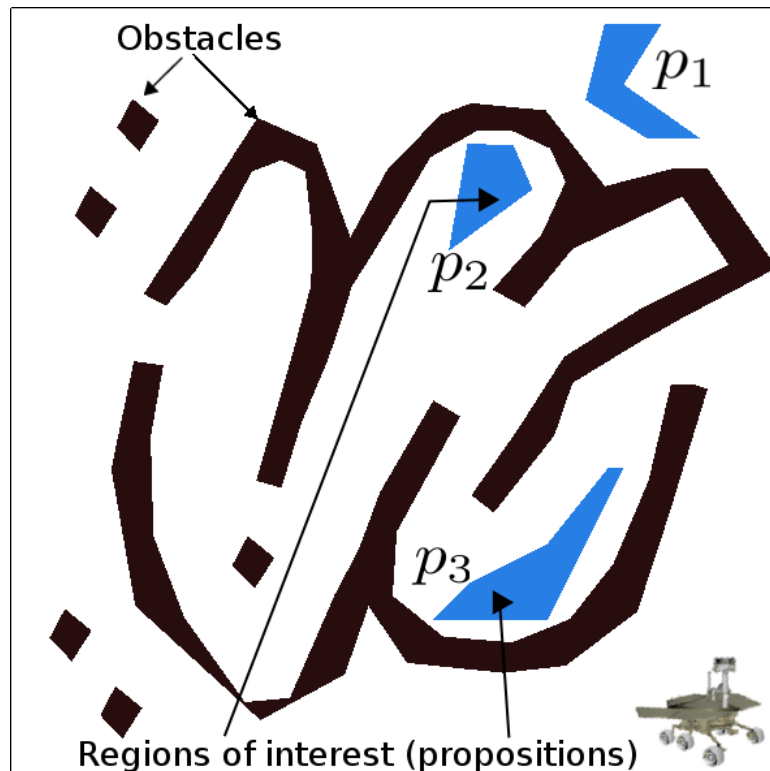
**Applications:  
Motion Planning  
Falsification of Hybrid Systems**

[with Vardi, Plaku, Bhatia]



# Motion Planning with Temporal Goals

- **Problem:** Design a motion plan for a given robot model, such that the plan satisfies a prescribed high-level specification.



**Example:** In future visit  $p_1$ , and then visit region  $p_2$  or  $p_3$ .





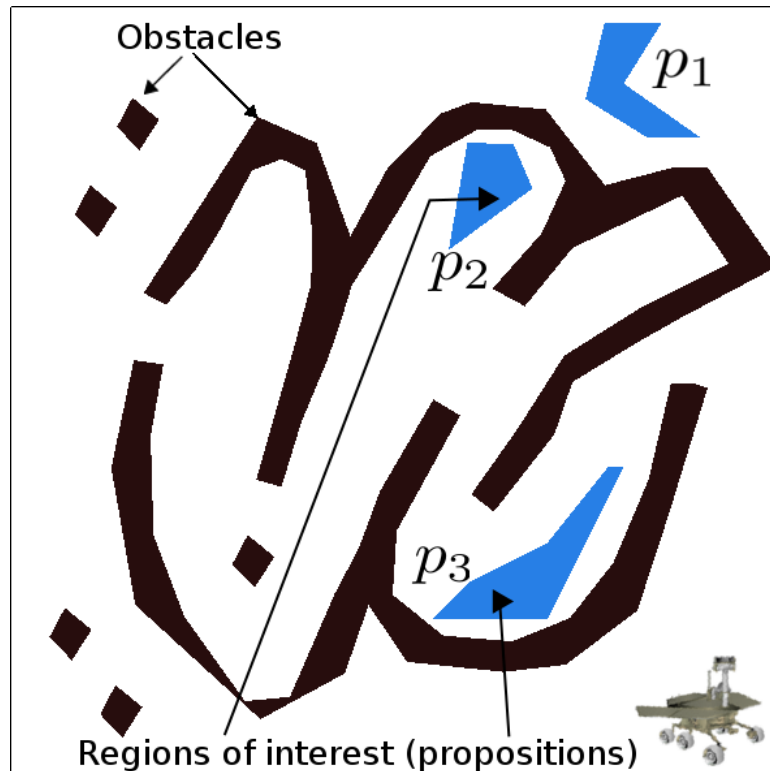
# Temporal Logics for Complex Behaviors

- Pnueli introduced Linear Temporal Logic (LTL) in 1977 as a specification mechanism for reactive systems
- Built from:
  - A set of  $\Pi$  of propositional variables:  $\Pi = \{p_0, p_1, \dots, p_N\}$
  - Boolean operators: **And (&), Or (|), Not ( $\neg$ )**
  - Temporal operators:  
**Next (X), Eventually (F), Always (G), Until (U), Release (R).**
- Used to model check properties of computer programs  
[Vardi et al, STOC'84, LICS'86, Clarke et al., '99; Behrmann et al., '01]



# Describing High-level Goals using LTL

- Focus on finite-time horizon planning problems
- Describe high-level goals using a finite-horizon LTL formula  $\phi$
- $\phi$  is defined over a set of propositions  $\Pi = (p_0, p_1, \dots, p_N)$



**Example:** In future visit  $p_1$ ,  
and then visit region  $p_2$  or  $p_3$ .  
 $\phi = F (p_1 \ \& \ F (p_2 \ | \ p_3))$



# Earlier LTL-related Work

- Automated LTL planning for multi-agent systems: Loizou *et al.*, 04; Kloetzer *et al.*, 07, 08; Karaman *et al.*, 08
- Automated approaches to LTL planning: Kloetzer *et al.*, 06; Fainekos *et al.*, 09, Belta *et al.*, 09
- Sampling-based approach for  $\mu$ -calculus: Karaman *et al.*, 09
- Receding horizon approach to LTL planning, Wongpiromsarn *et al.*, 09
- Multi-layered approach to LTL planning: Plaku, Kavraki, Vardi, 09
- and many more.....



# Distinguishing Features of Our Work

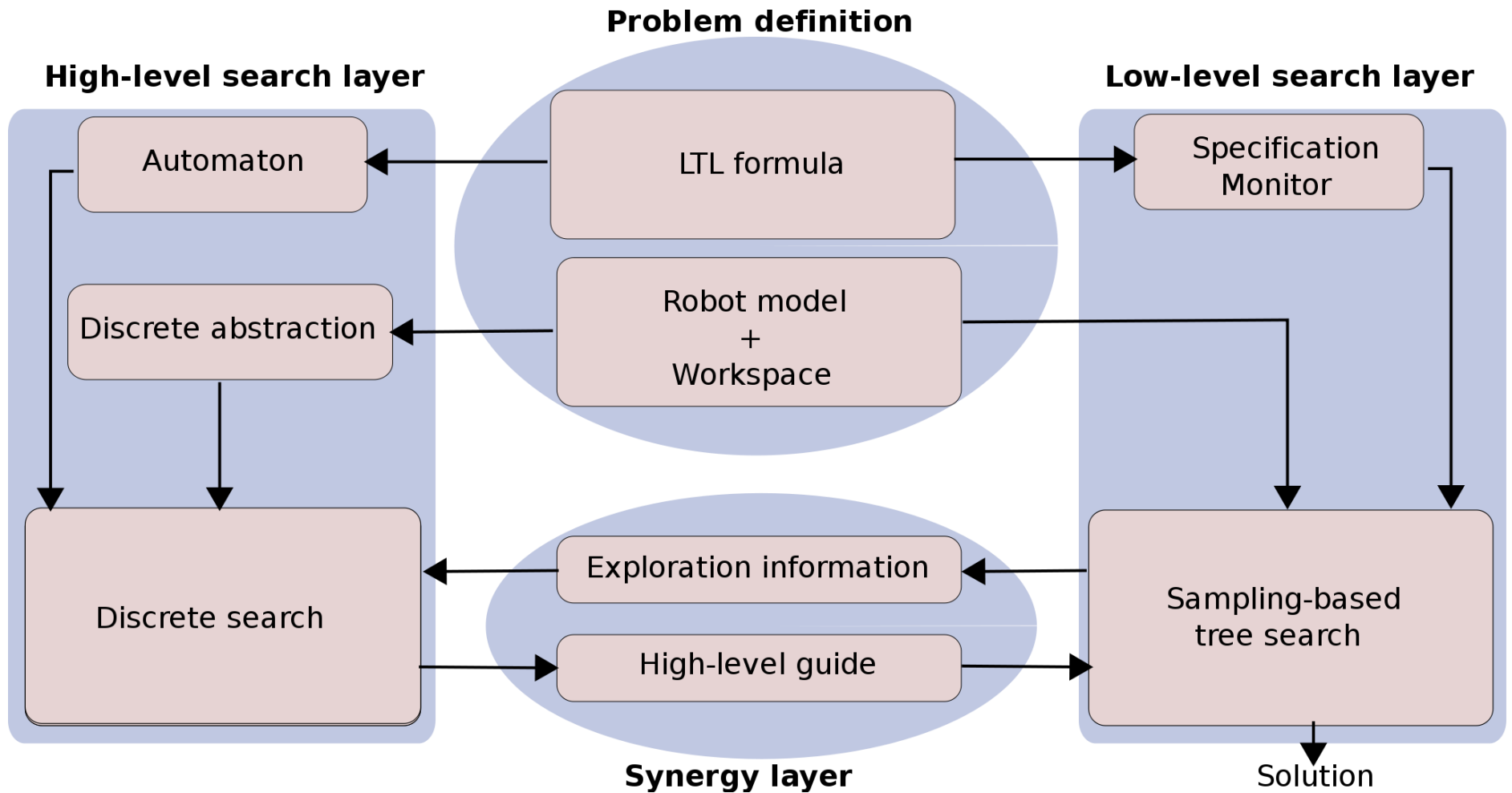
- Focus on complex models
- **Complexity at the physical level:**
  - Nonlinearity of robot model
  - Geometric constraints
  - Possibly hybrid dynamics
- **Complexity at the task level:** operators of the LTL specification

## **Our approach:**

- Relax strong completeness guarantees
- Address both the discrete and continuous nature of problem
- Use a multi-layered synergistic approach

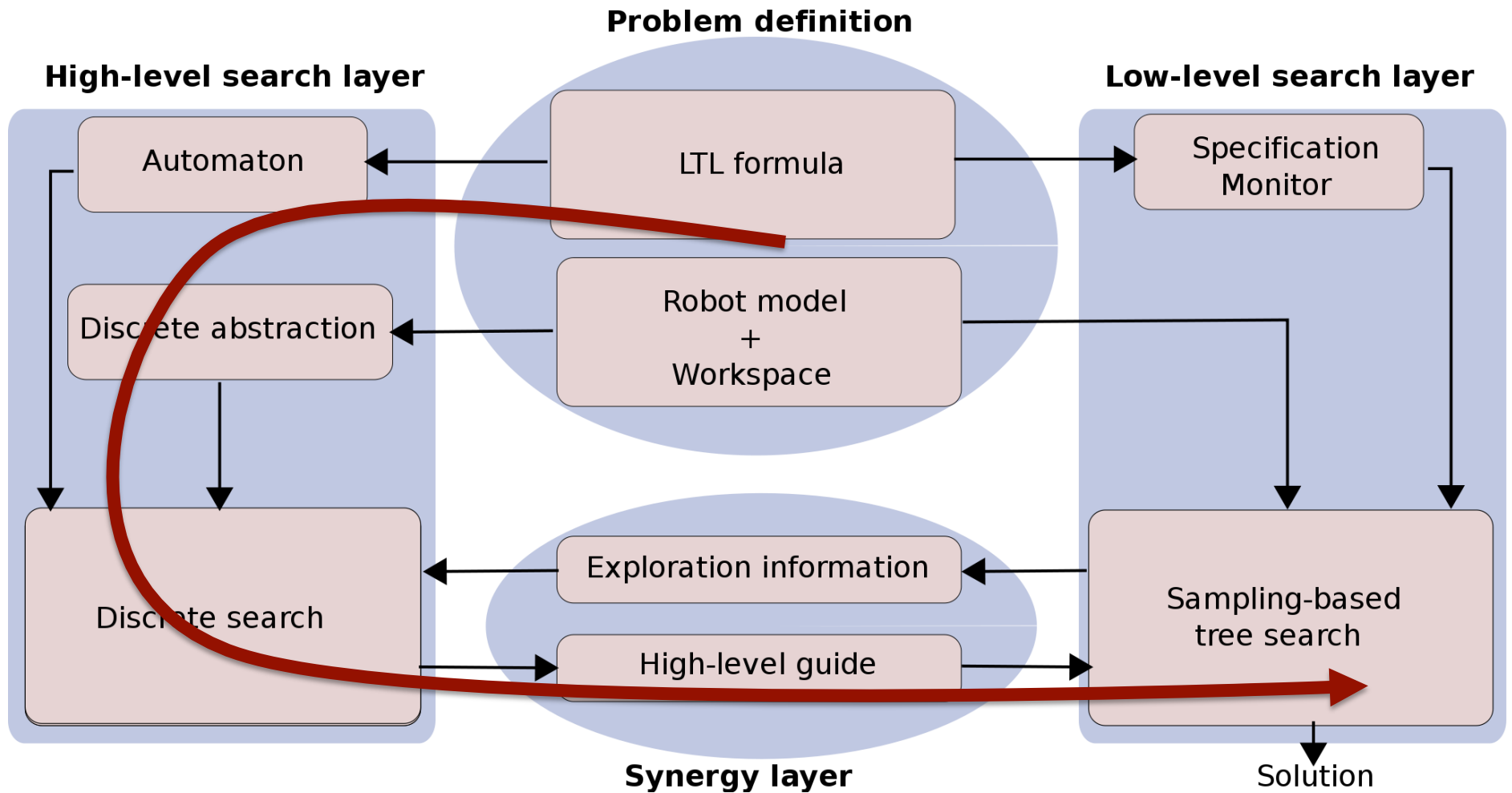


# Our Solution



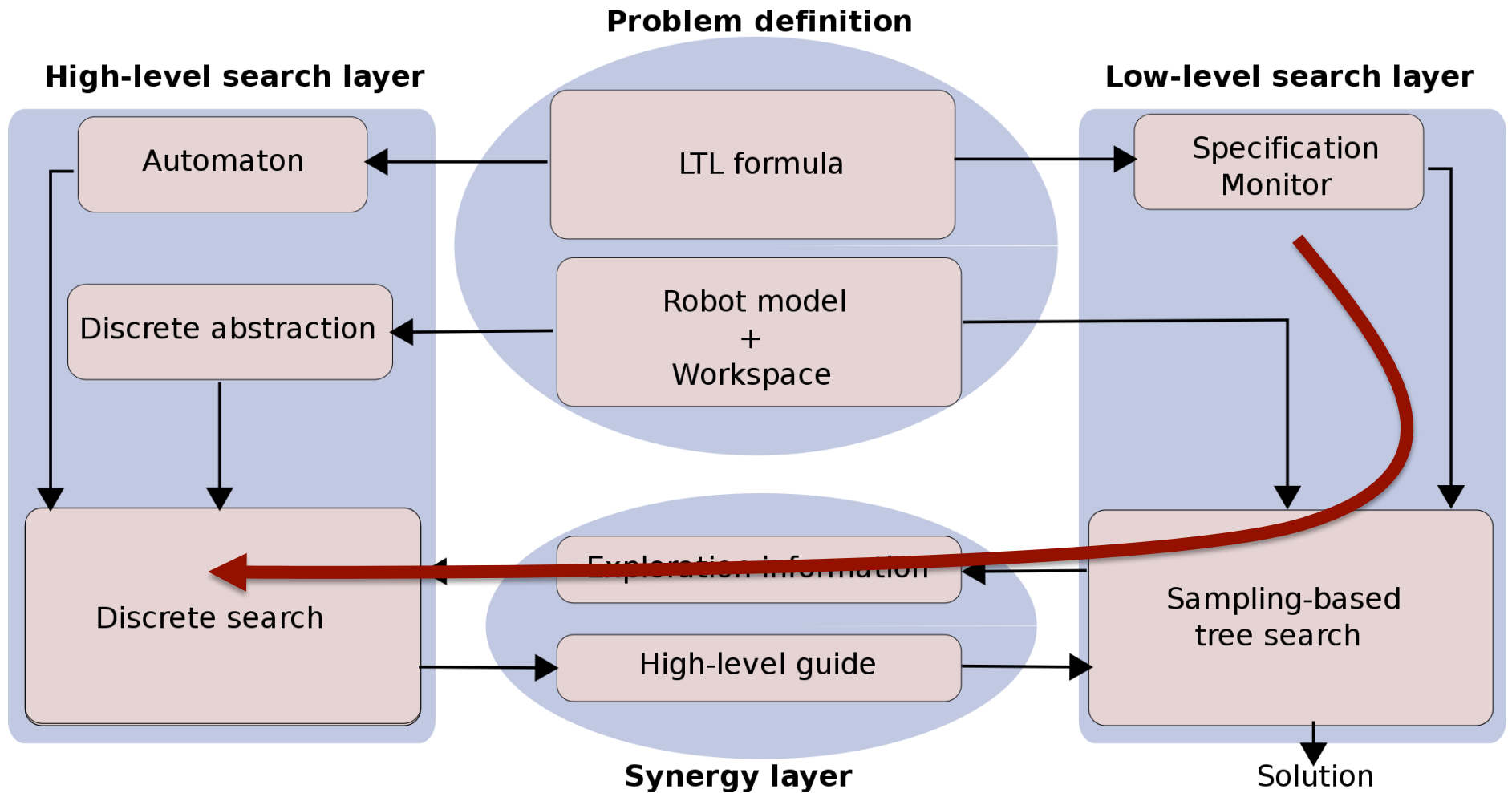


# Our Solution





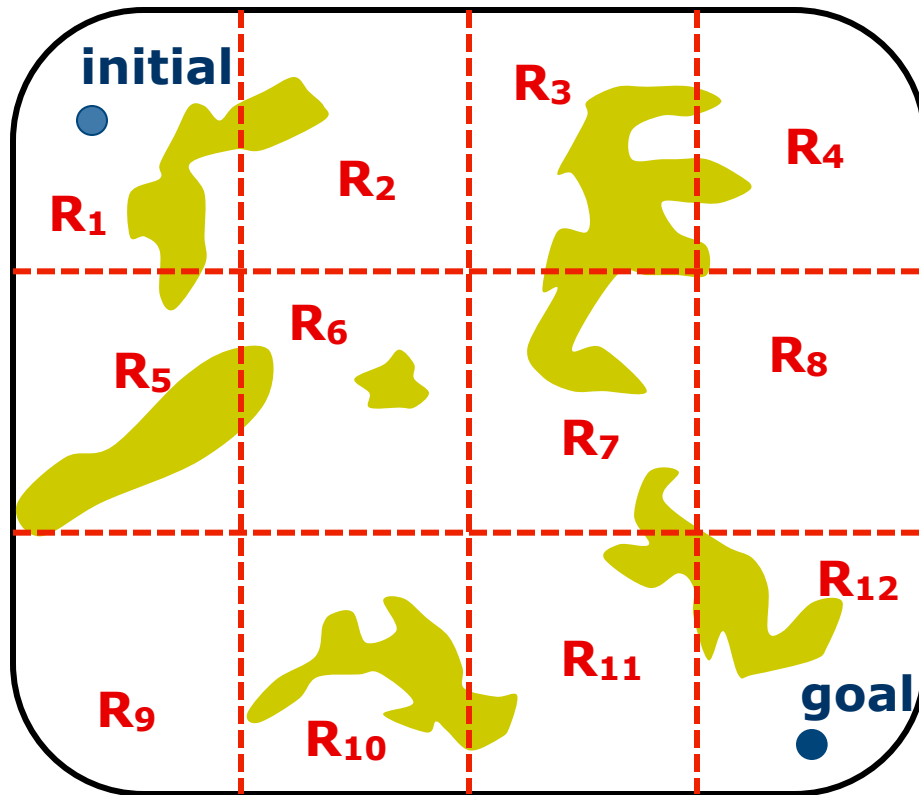
# Our Solution



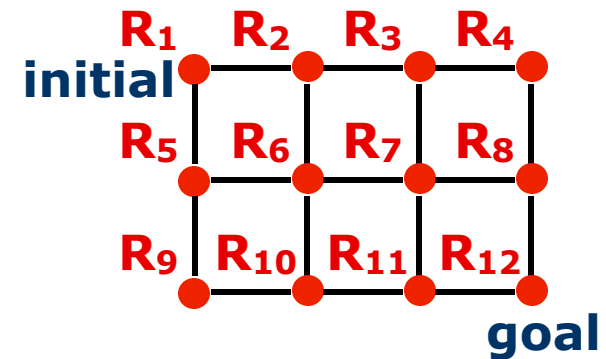




# SyCLOP: Discrete Abstraction

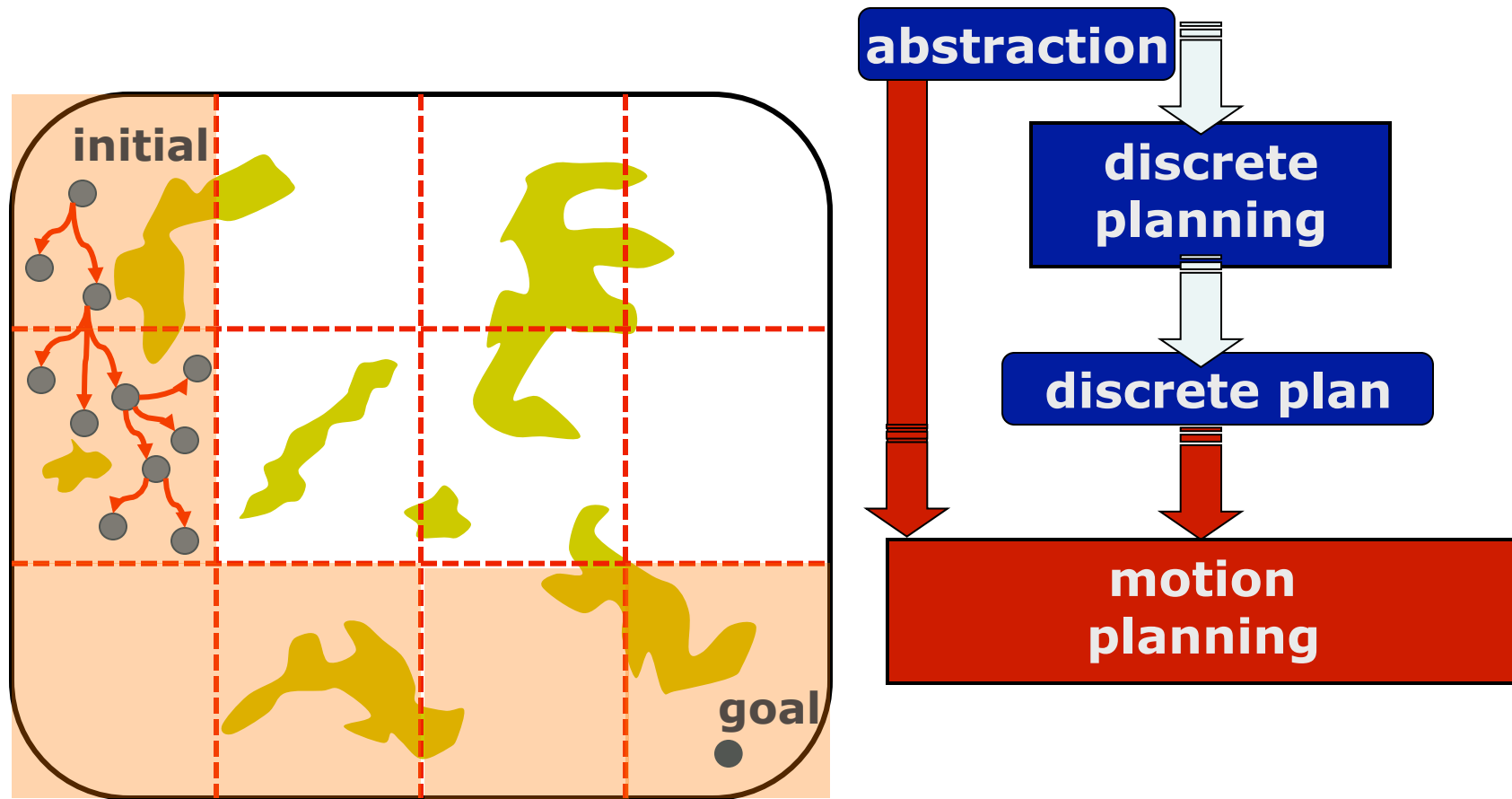


- Decomposition of state space into regions
- Abstraction graph encodes adjacency of regions



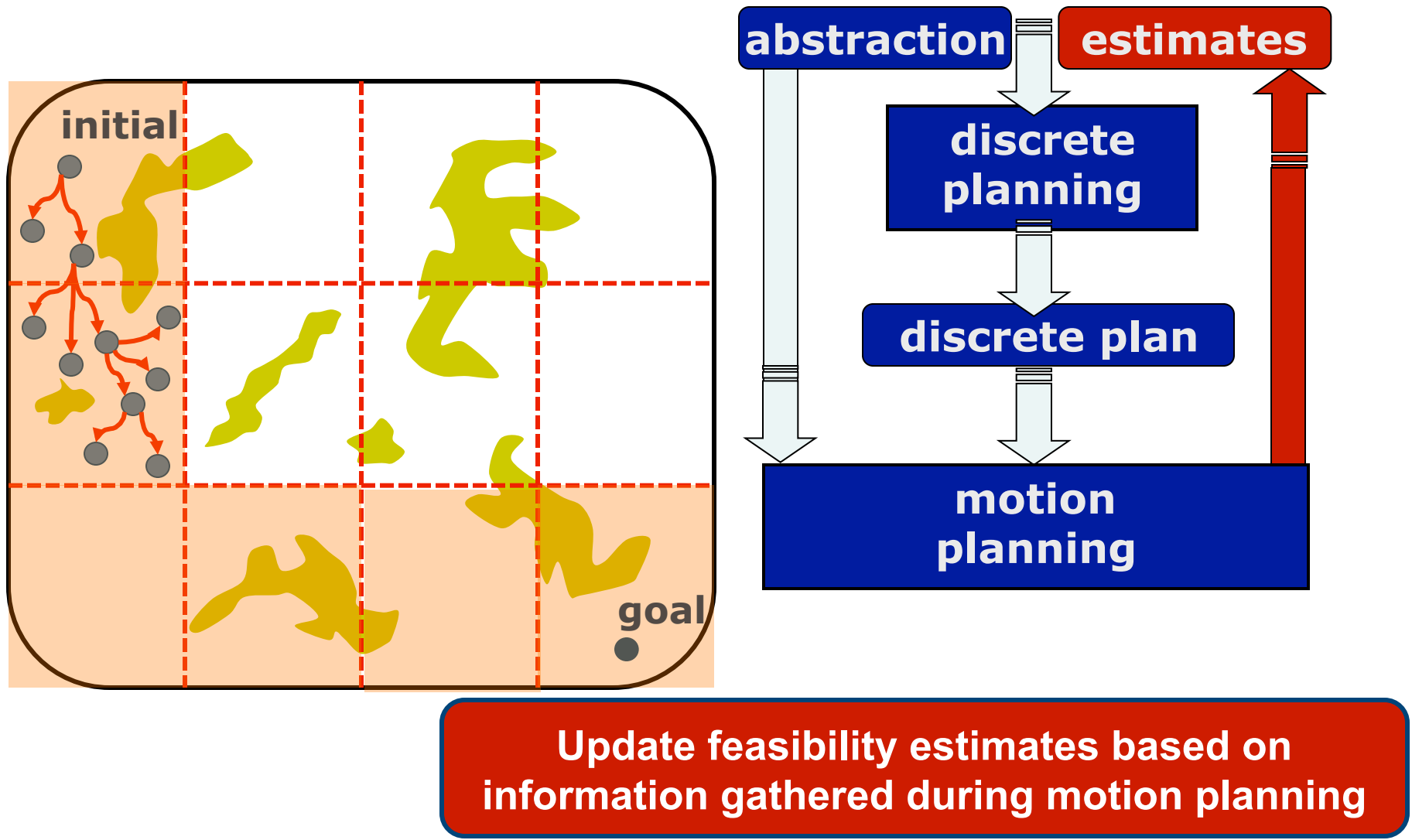
Abstraction provides *discrete plans*: sequences of regions connecting initial to goal

# SyCLOP: Synergistic Combination of Discrete and Continuous Search

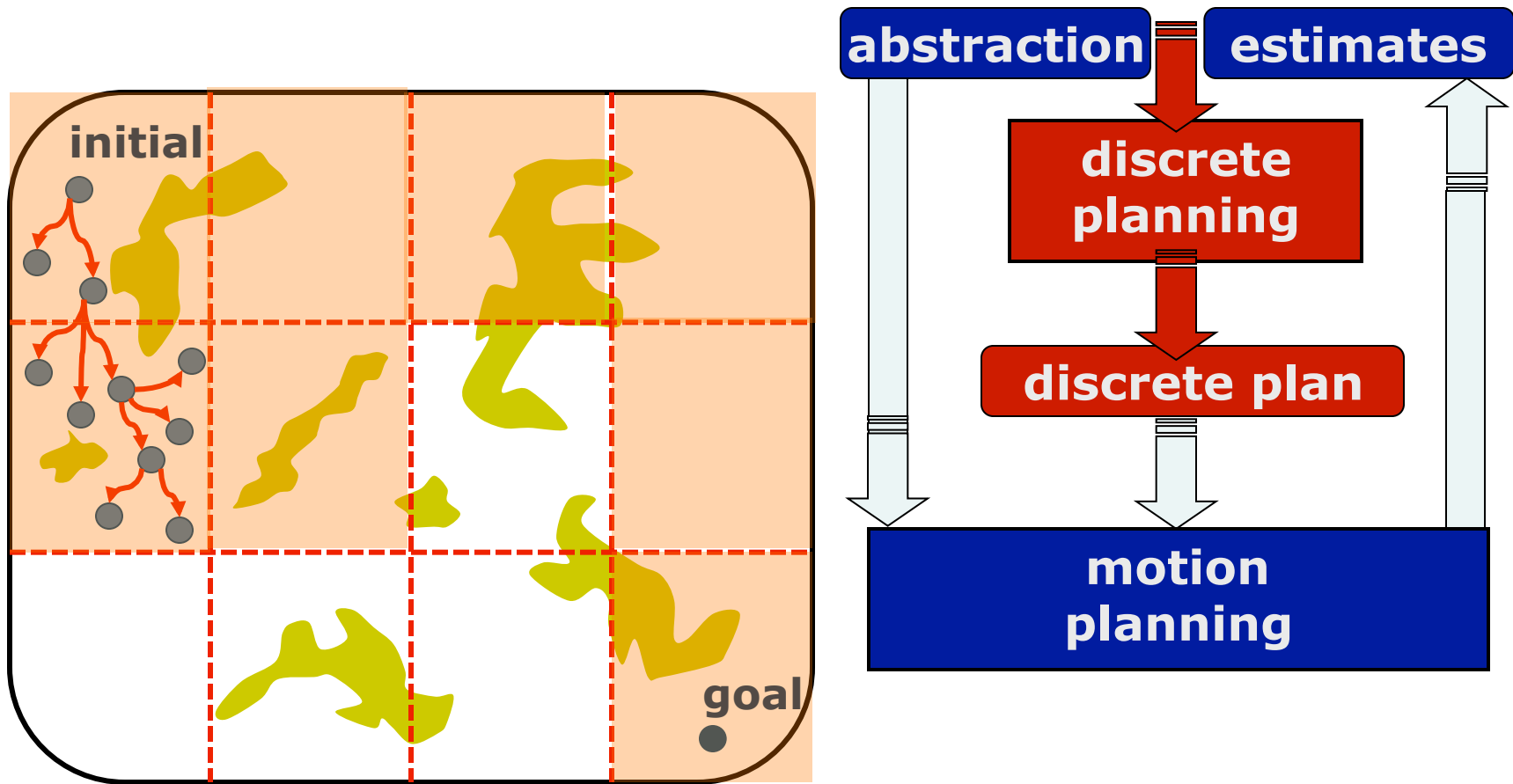


Extend tree branches along regions specified by current discrete plan

# SyCLoP: Synergistic Combination of Discrete and Continuous Search

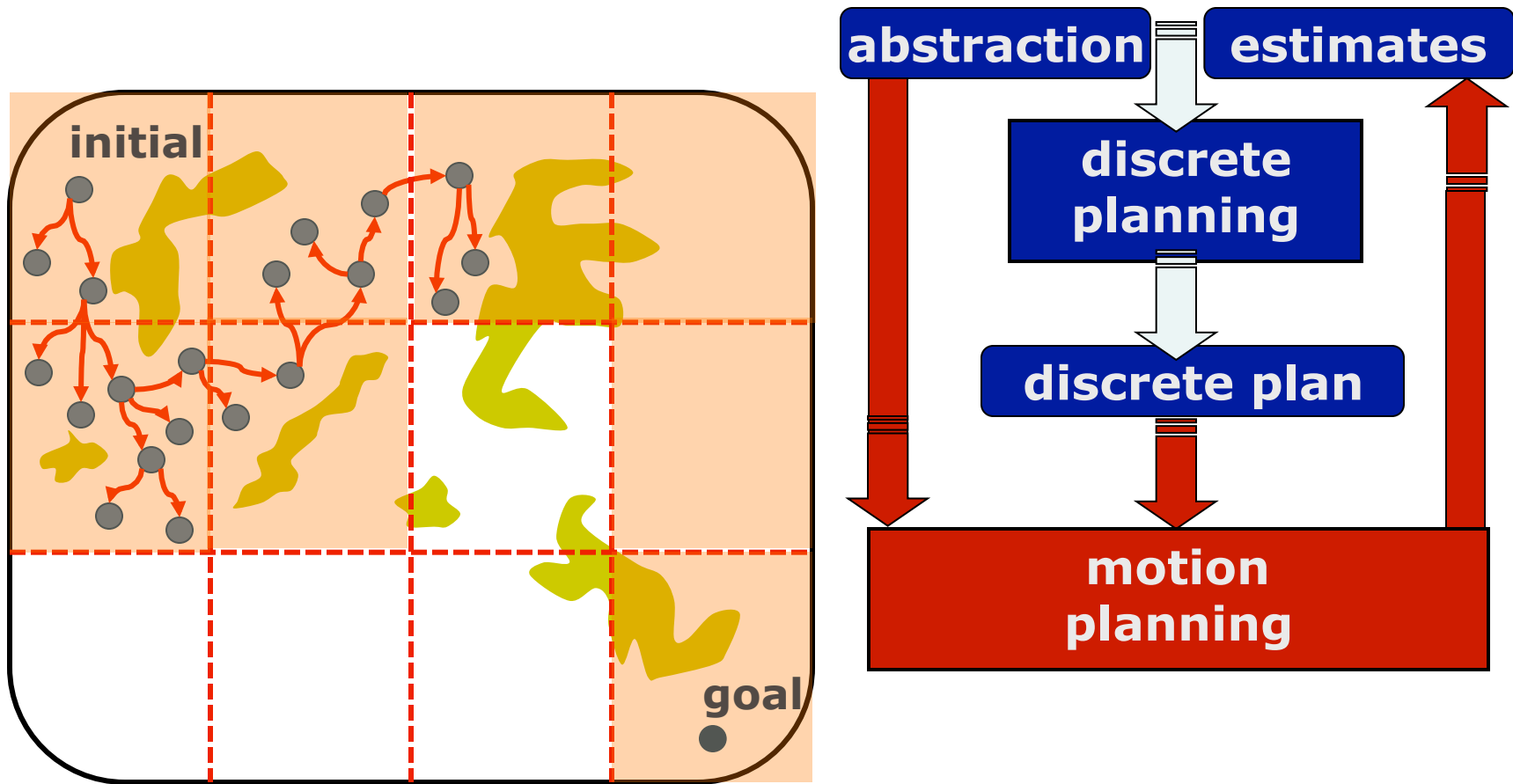


# SyCLoP: Synergistic Combination of Discrete and Continuous Search



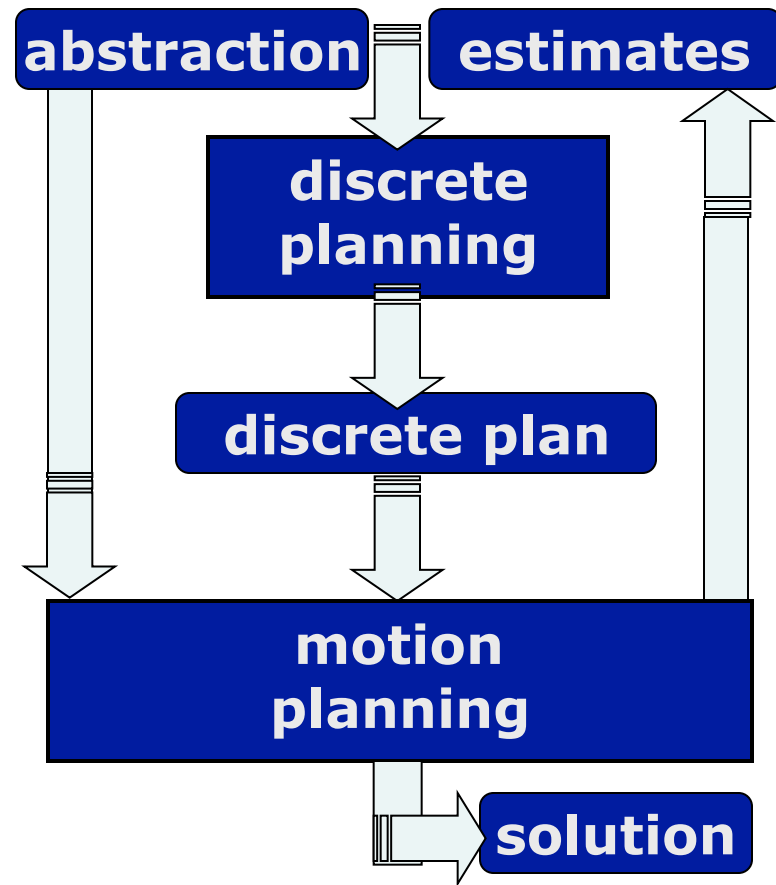
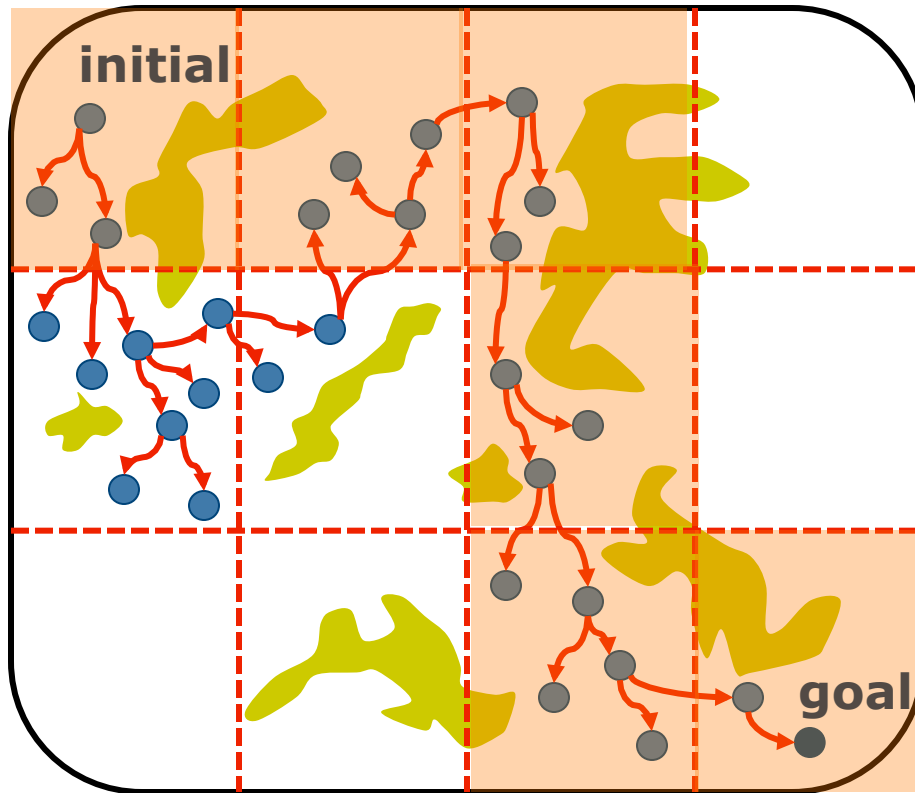
Compute new discrete plan based on updated feasibility estimates

# SyCLOP: Synergistic Combination of Discrete and Continuous Search



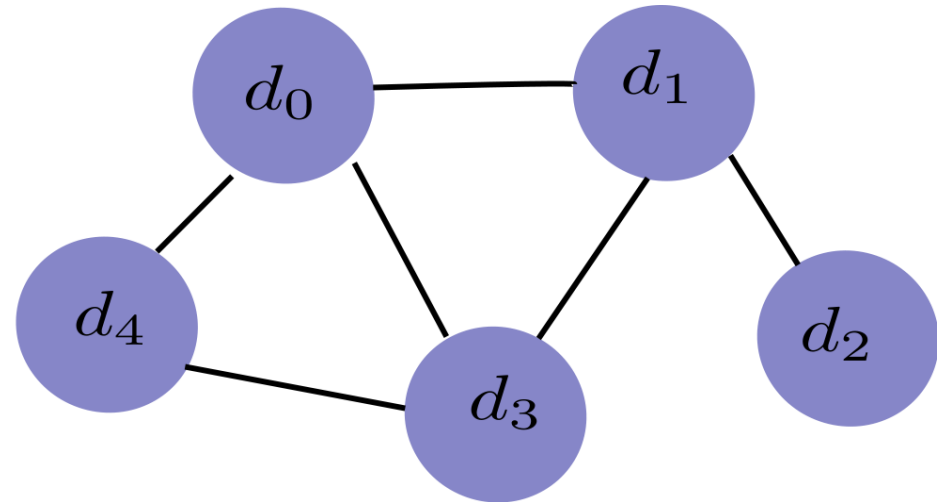
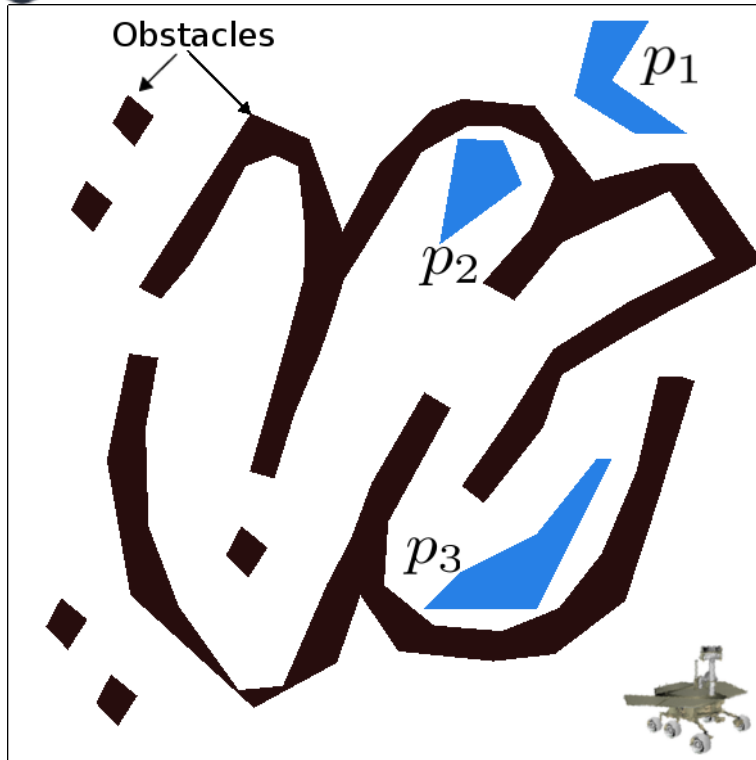
Extend tree branches along regions specified by new discrete plan & Update feasibility estimates

# SyCLoP: Synergistic Combination of Discrete and Continuous Search





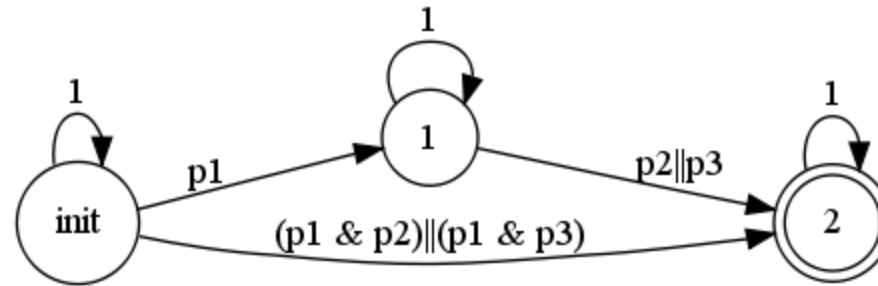
# Discrete Abstraction



- **Abstraction:**  $M = (\mathbf{D}, d_0, \rightarrow_{\mathbf{D}}, h_{\mathbf{D}})$
- **States:**  $\mathbf{D}$ ,  $d_0 \in \mathbf{D}$  is the initial state
- **Transitions:**  $\rightarrow_{\mathbf{D}} \subset \mathbf{D} \times \mathbf{D}$ , is the transition relation
- **Observation map:**  $h_{\mathbf{D}} : \mathbf{D} \rightarrow \mathbf{2}^{\Pi}$ , maps states to propositions



# Co-safe LTL Specifications



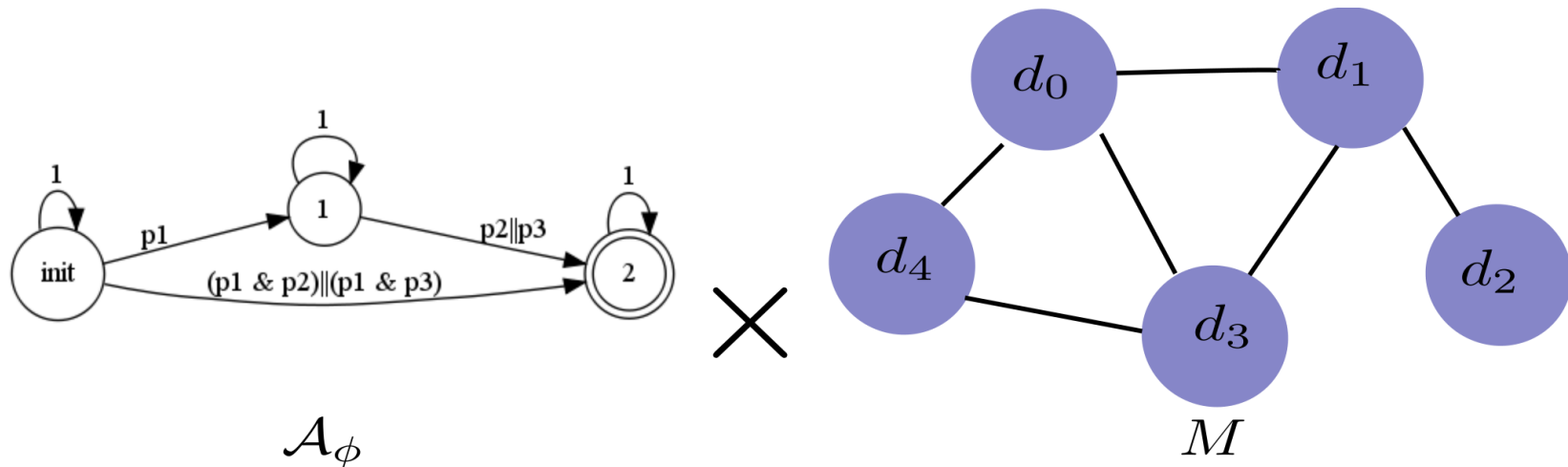
$A_\phi$  for  $\phi = F (p1 \ \& \ F (p2 \ | \ p3))$

- **Co-safe LTL** : Good trace satisfying  $\phi$  has a finite good prefix
- **Syntactically co-safe LTL formulas:**
  - Write  $\phi$  in Positive Normal Form (PNF)
  - Check the temporal operators in the formula
  - **Next, Eventually, Until** operators only  $\Rightarrow \phi$  is syntactically co-safe (and hence co-safe)
- **Automaton representation:** An NFA  $A_\phi$  describes all the good prefixes for  $\phi$  (automaton on finite words; Vardi, Kupferman, FMSSD 01)
- Model checking tools produce a minimized DFA used in this work





# High-level Layer

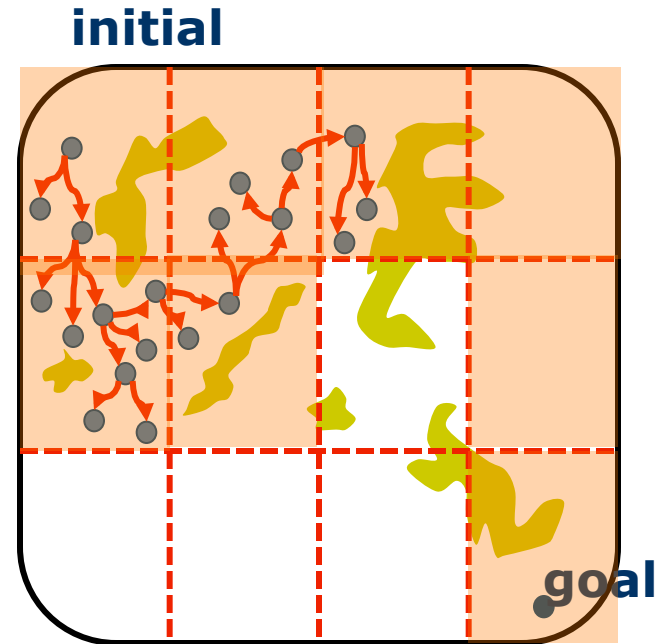


- **Model:** High-level planning for abstraction  $M$
- **Planning space:** Automaton states ( $\mathbf{A}_\phi.\mathbf{Z}$ )  $\times$  Abstract states ( $\mathbf{D}$ )
- **High-level state:**  $(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{d}) \in \mathbf{A}_\phi.\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{D}$
- **High-level plan:** Sequence of high-level states,  $\zeta = (\mathbf{z}_i, \mathbf{d}_i)_{i=1}^k$ 
  - $\mathbf{d}_i \rightarrow_{\mathbf{D}} \mathbf{d}_{i+1} \forall i \in [1, k-1]$  (feasible transition for abstraction)
  - $\mathbf{z}_i \in \lambda(\mathbf{z}_{i-1}, \mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{D}}(\mathbf{d}_i))$  (feasible transition for automaton)
  - $\mathbf{z}_k \in \mathbf{A}_\phi.\mathbf{Z}_{\text{acc}}$  (last automaton state is an accepting state)



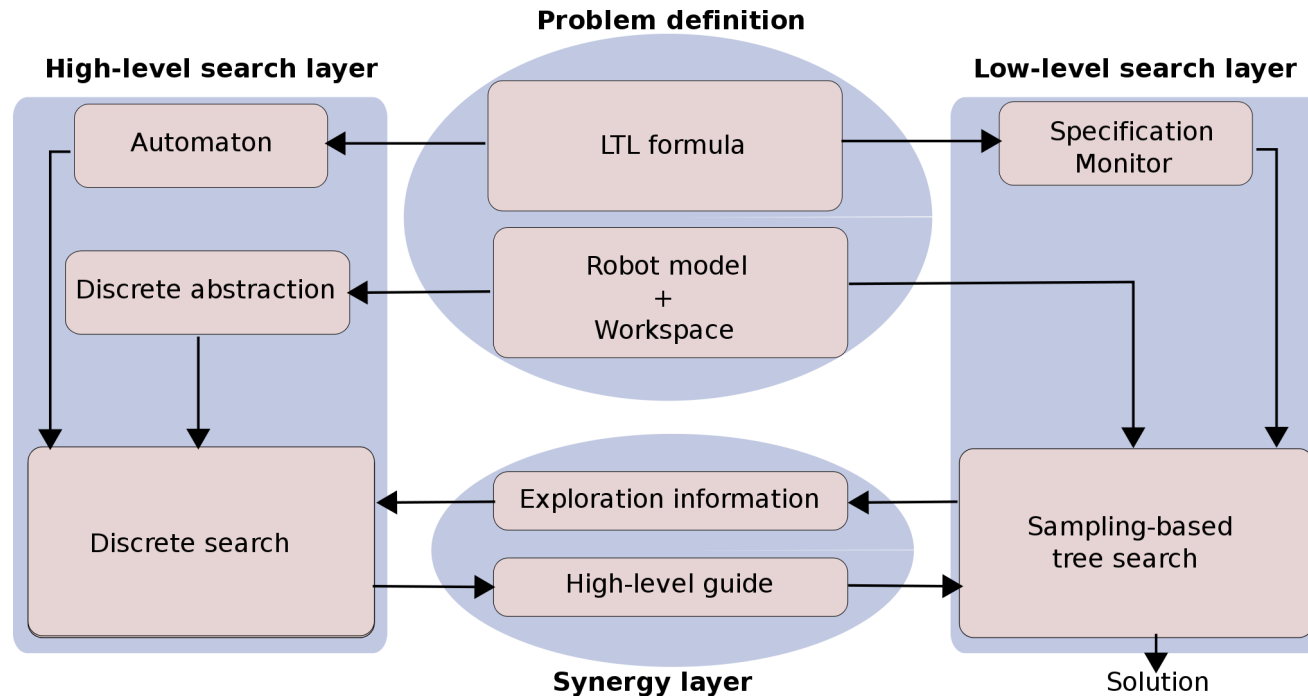
# Low-level Layer

- **Exploration space:** Robot's state space
- **Guide:** High-level plan  $\zeta$
- **Data structures:** Tree vertices store edges, automaton state, state of system and other bookkeeping information
- **Search procedure:**
  1. Pick a feasible high-level state  $(z,d)$
  2. Select a tree vertex from  $(z, d).vertices$
  3. Simulate system dynamics, using heuristics of choice
  4. Update feasibility estimates
  5. Raise a flag if accepting state of automaton reached
  6. Repeat from Step 1





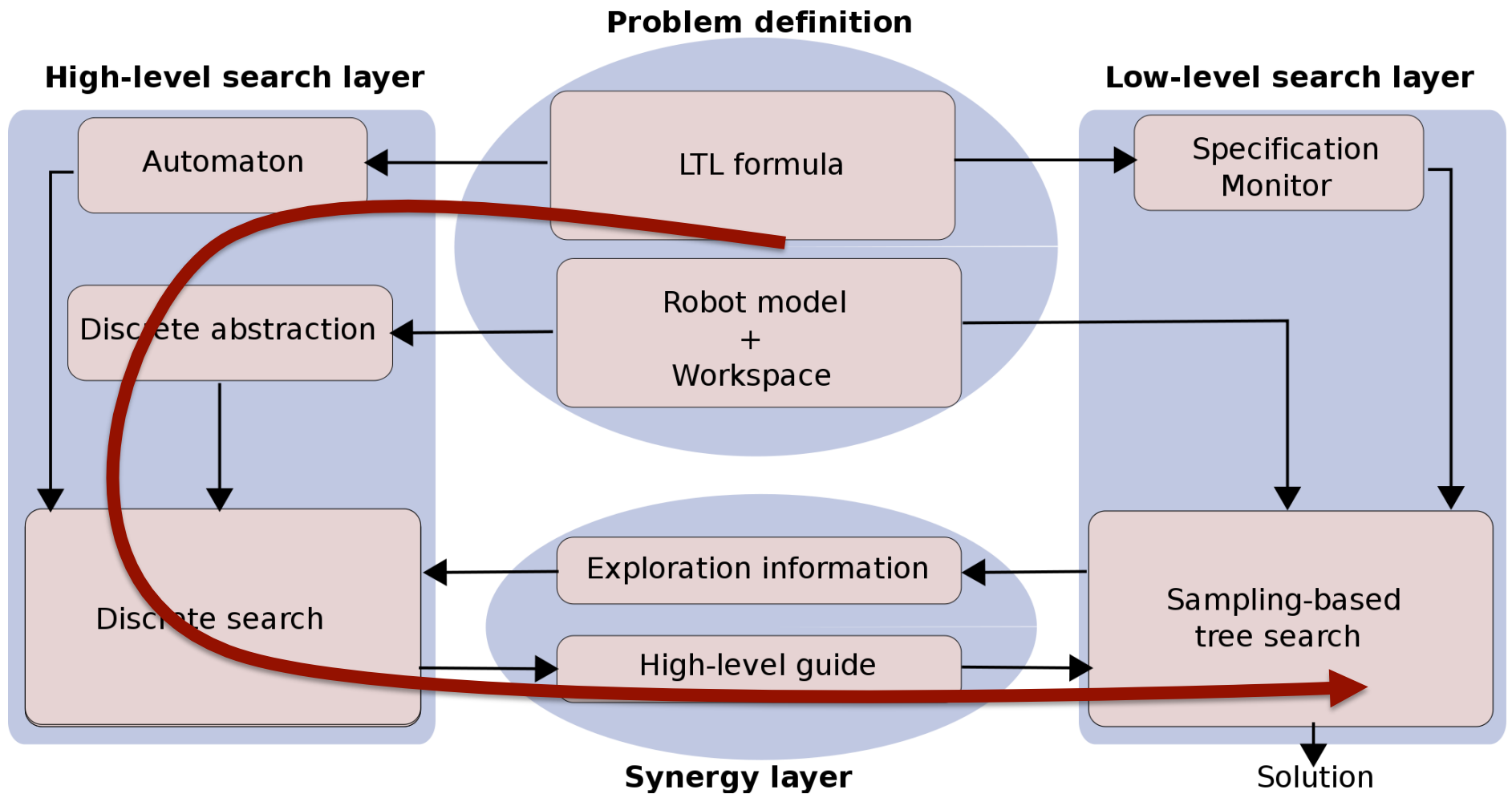
# Synergy Layer



- **Synergy:**  $\mathbf{A}_\phi \cdot \mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{D}$  represented as weighted graph
- Edge weights represent feasibility of transitions
- Feasibility captured through the notion of feasibility estimate  $\rho$
- $\rho(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{d}) = \frac{\text{Region Coverage}(\mathbf{d}) \times \text{Region volume}(\mathbf{d})}{\text{Automaton state}(\mathbf{z}) \times \text{Past history}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{d})}$

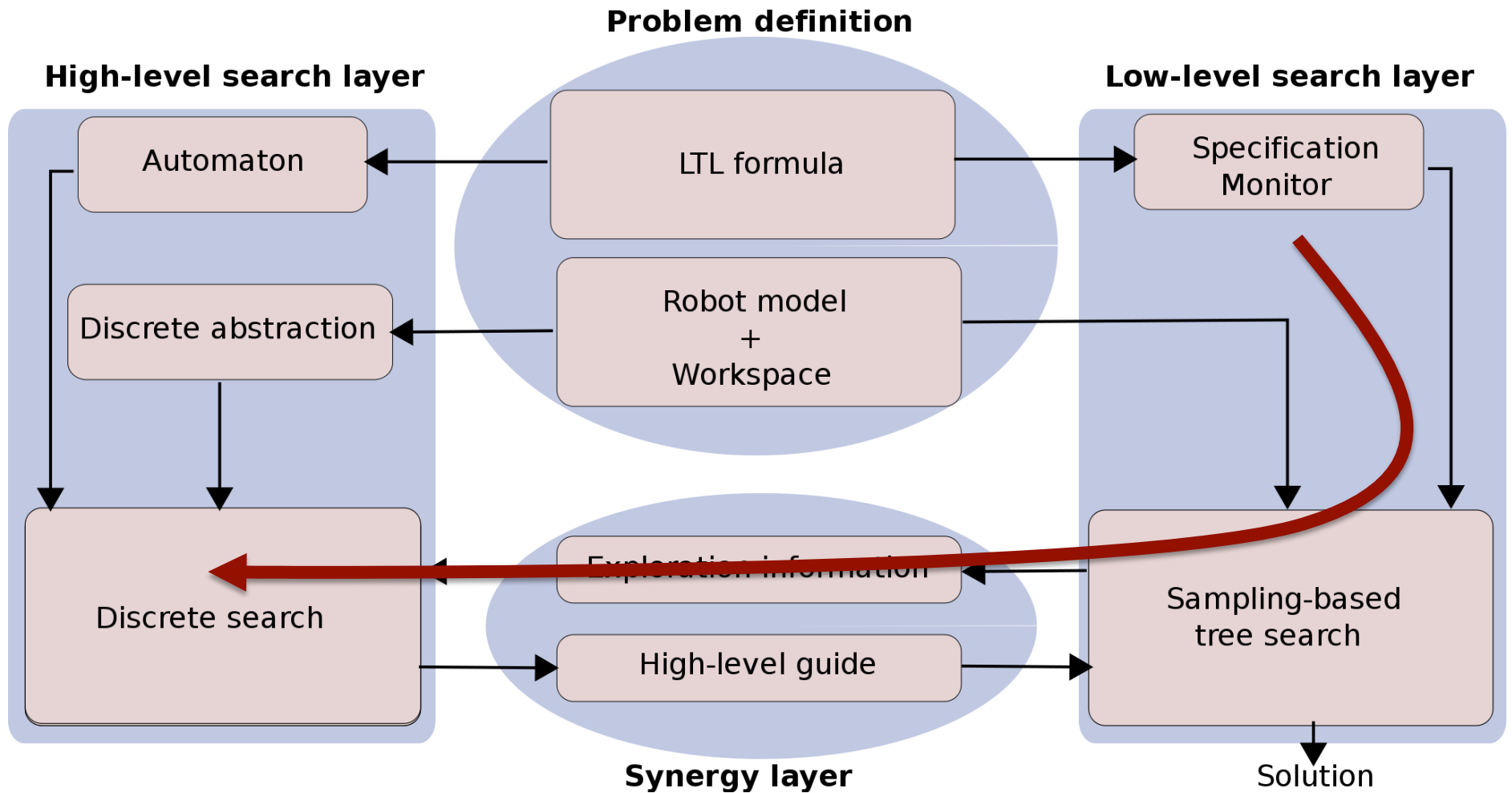


# Our Solution



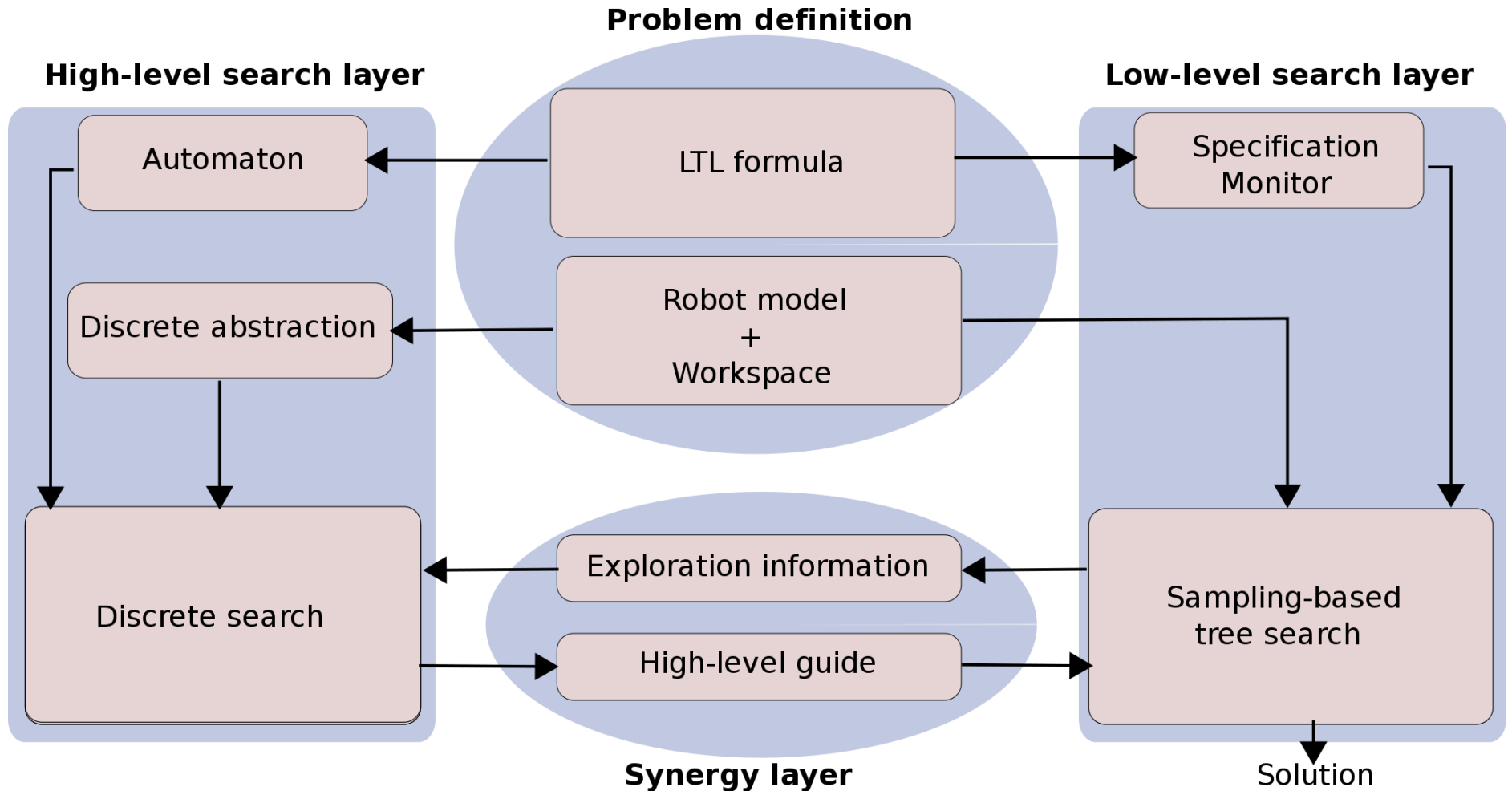


# Our Solution





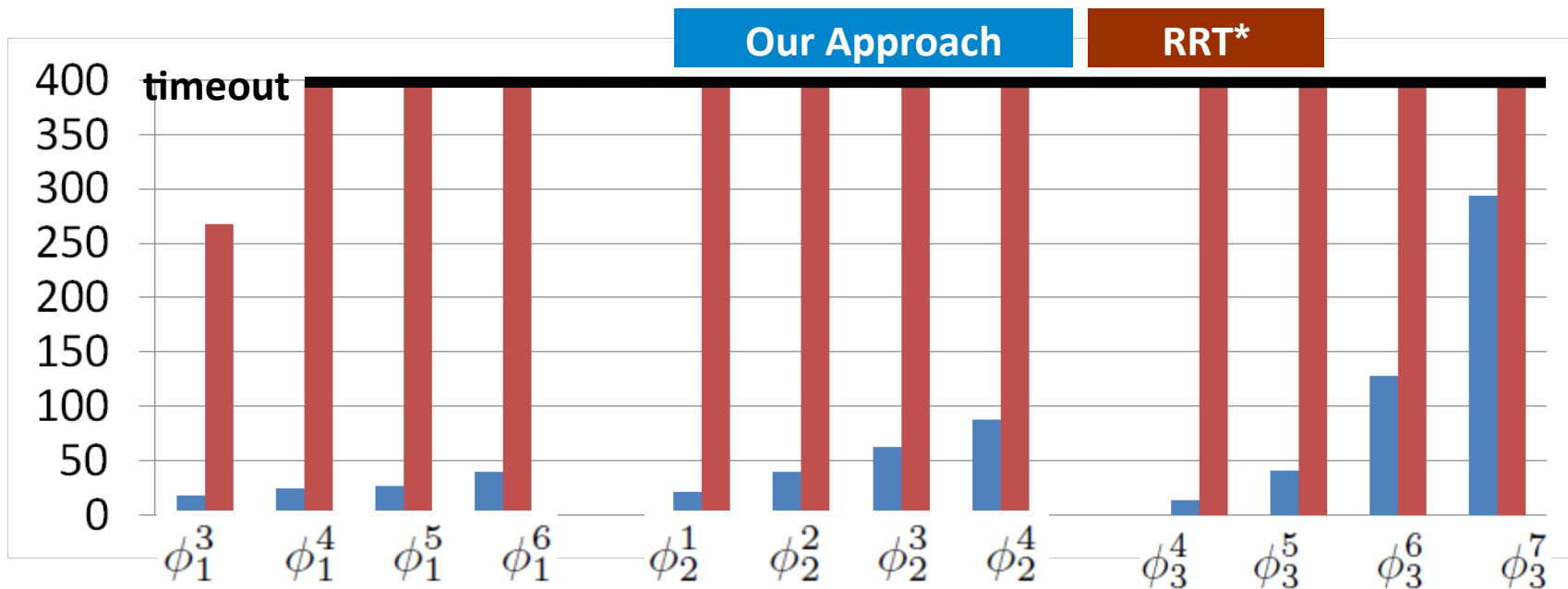
# Initial Validation



TACAS2009 (abstraction is provided by the user)

# Augmented Tree-based Approach

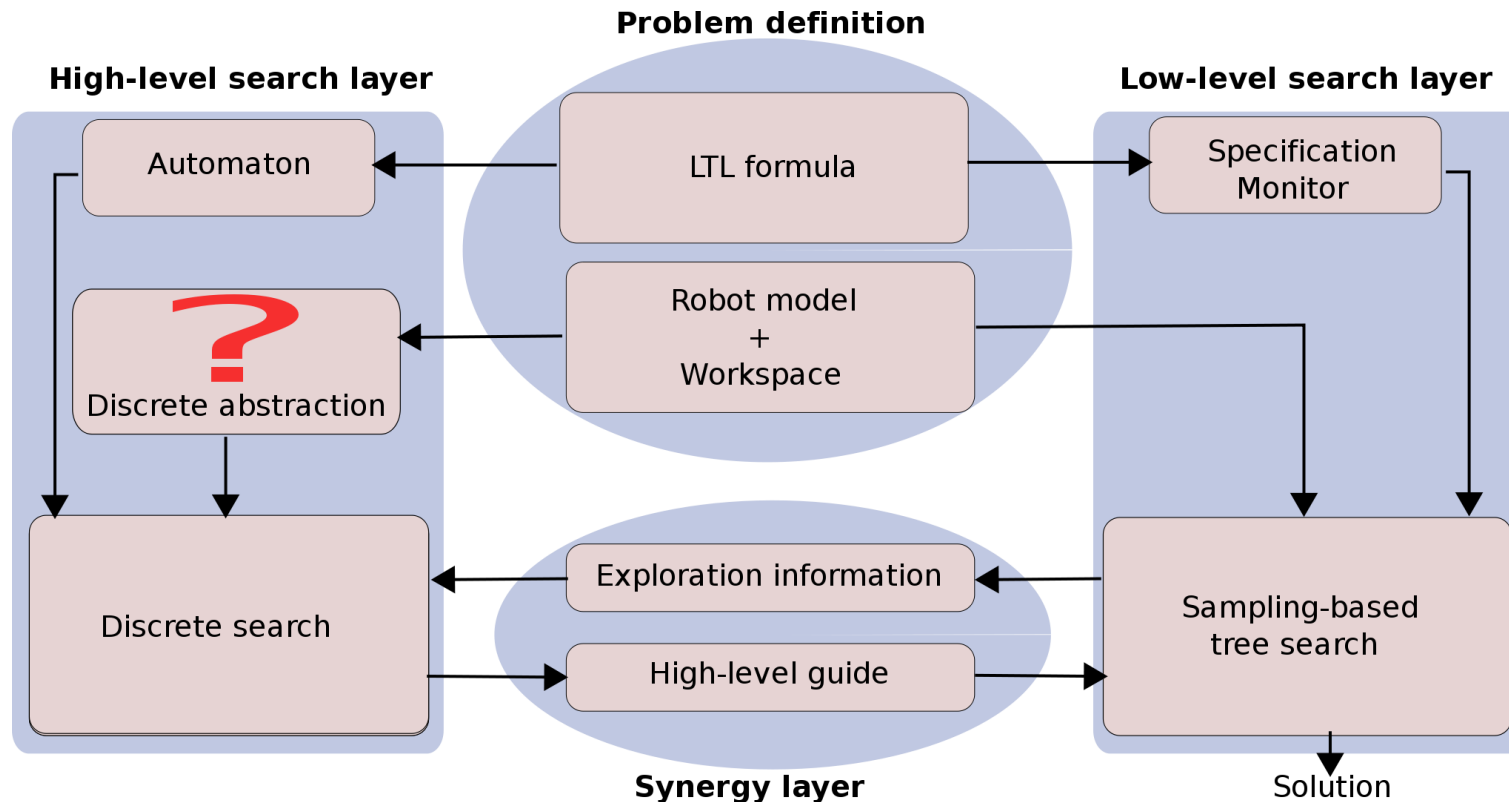
- The approach lacks guidance
- Difficult to discover new promising search directions
- Experiments show the approach is impractical



Reported is the average time [seconds] to solve 100 problem instances for each of the LTL safety formulas. Timeout set to 400s. LTL formulas translated to minimized DFA [TACAS 2009]



# Ongoing Work

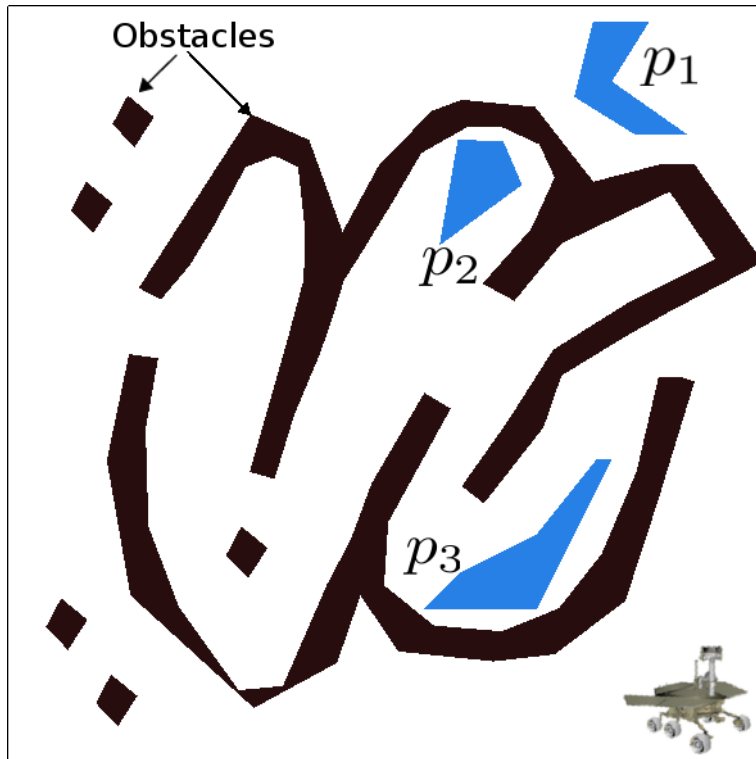


- TACAS'09 did not address the issue of abstraction construction
- **Ongoing work:** Automated construction of discrete abstraction

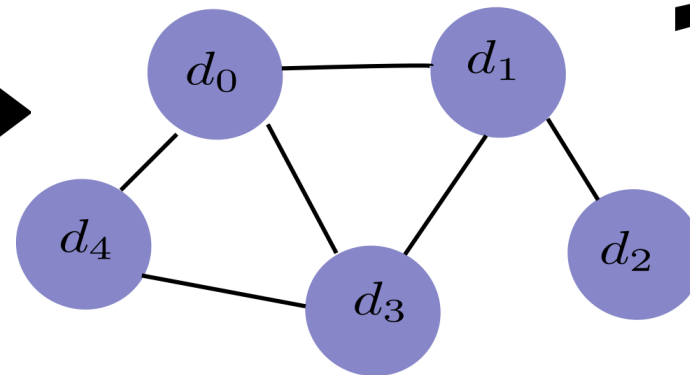




# Construction of Discrete Abstraction



Robot model + Workspace

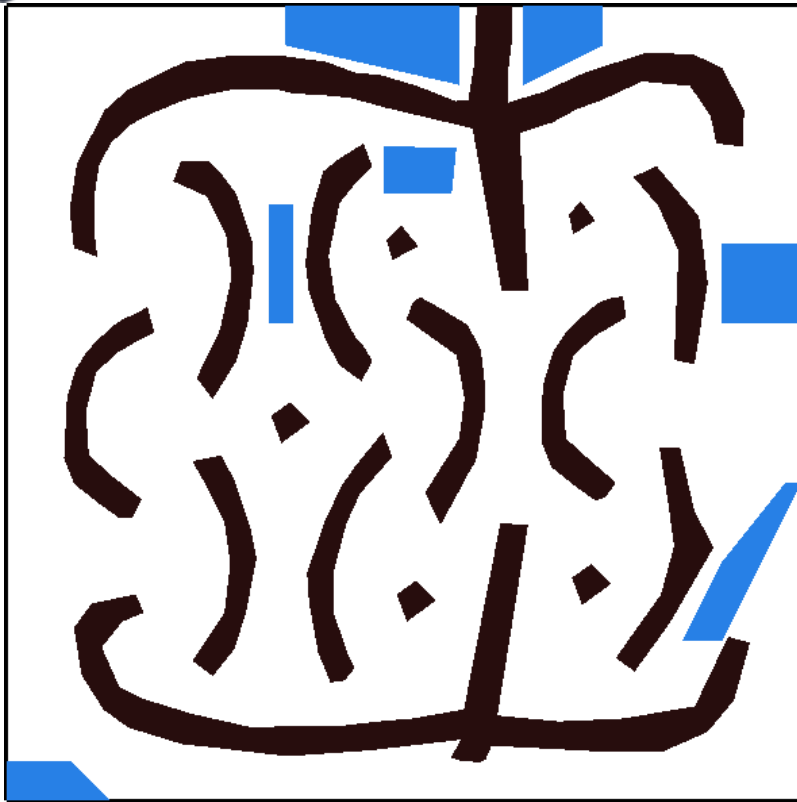


Discrete abstraction (M)

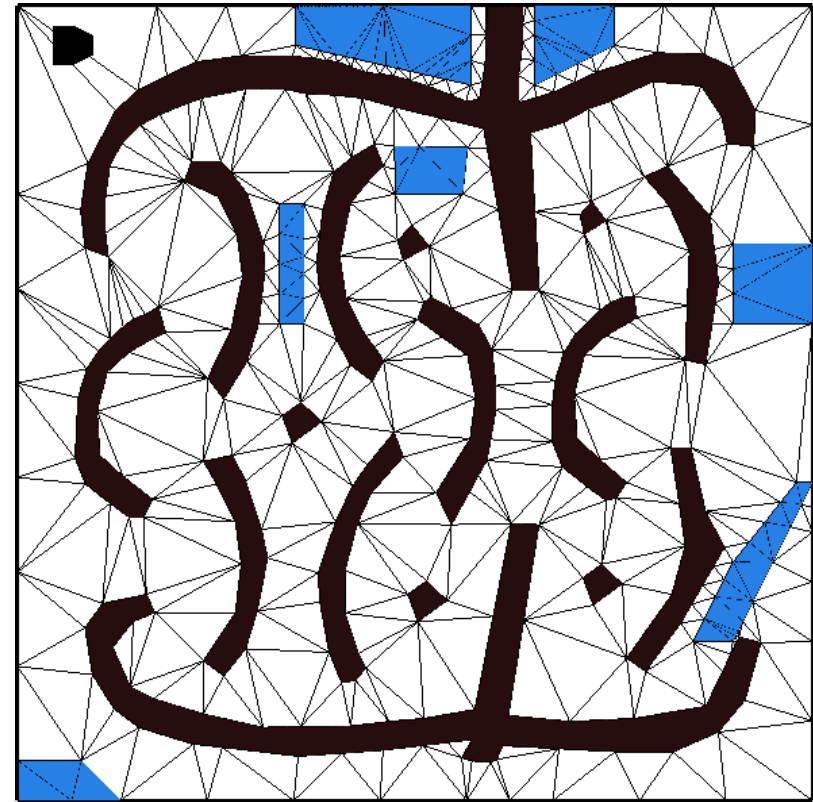
- **Design goal:** Address scalability issues
- **Challenges:**
  - Temporal logic constraints
  - Workspace constraints (obstacles, propositional sets)
- **Proposal:** Use geometry of specifications and workspace



# Discrete Abstraction: Geometric Approach



Workspace

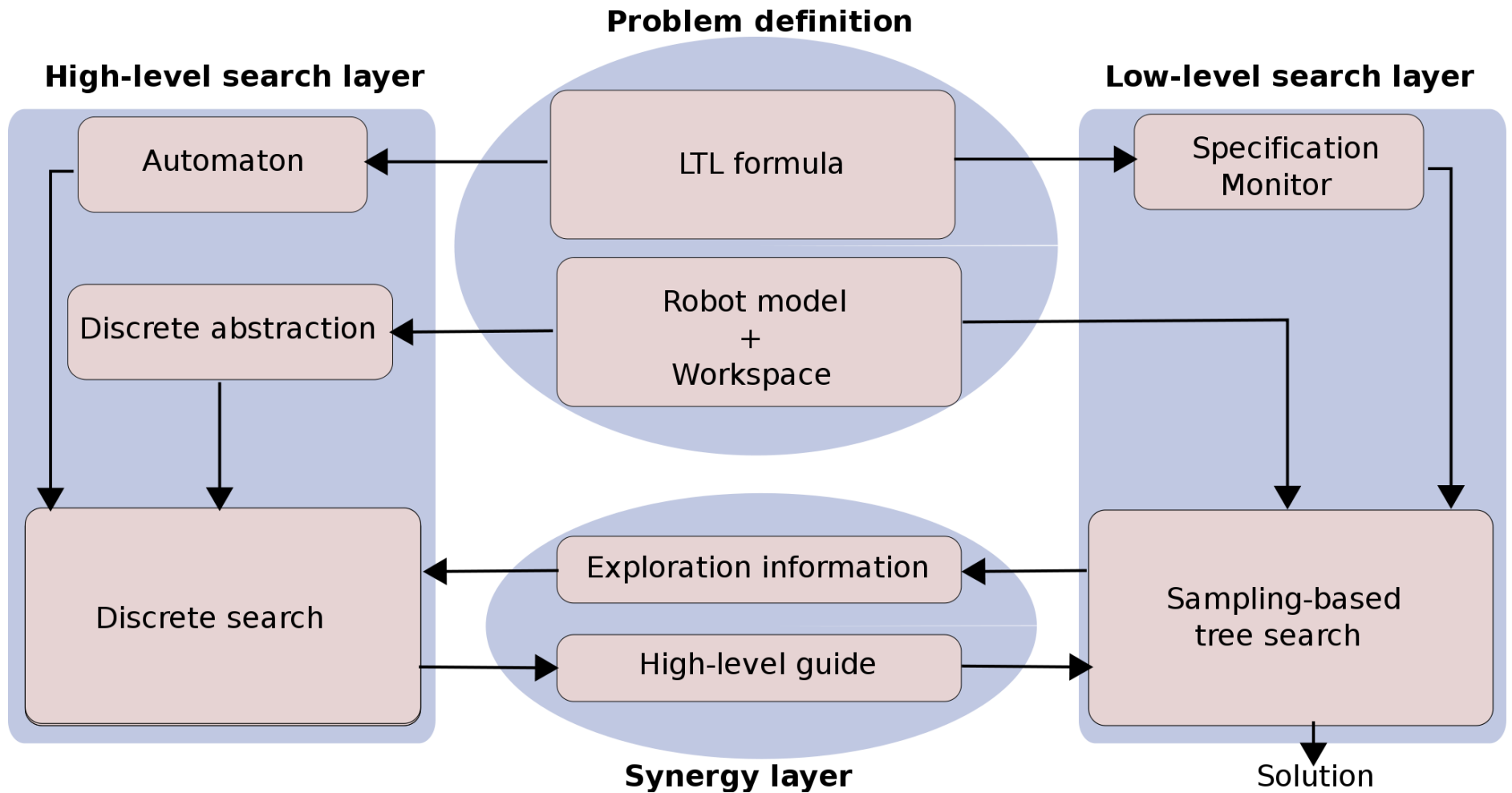


Geometry-using (**618 states**)

[Bhatia, Kavraki, Vardi, ICRA 2010]



# Our Solution





# Acknowledgments

## Kavraki's Group:

Amit Bhatia

Drew Bryant

Devin Grady

Allison Heath

Mark Moll

Ioan Sucan

## Undergraduate students:

N. Feltman, N. Briddle, C. Pen

## Credits to past members of the group:

PDST: A. Ladd, K. Bekris, K. Tsianos

Hybrid Systems, SyCLoP: E. Plaku

Str. Bio: A. Shehu, B. Chen, N. Haspel

## Collaborators:

Dr. George Bennett (Rice)

Dr. Wah Chiu (Baylor)

Dr. Cecilia Clementi (Chemistry, Rice)

Dr. Marek Kimmel (Statistics, Rice)

Dr. John Lambris (UPenn)

Dr. Dan Sorensen (CAAM, Rice)

Dr. Mark Yim (UPenn)

Dr. Joe Warren (Computer Science, Rice)

Dr. Moshe Vardi (Computer Science, Rice)

## Funding:

NSF, NIH, ARL (MURI),

Sloan and Hamil Foundations

IEEE RAS Distinguished Lecturer Program

For More Information:

<http://www.cs.rice.edu/~kavraki>

<http://www.kavrakilab.org>

# THANK YOU

