



/ANITA  
B.ORG

2022

GRACE HOPPER  
CELEBRATION

NEXT IS  
NOW



ANITA  
B.ORG 2022  
GRACE HOPPER  
CELEBRATION

NEXT IS  
NOW

AI takes Autonomous Navigation to Mars and Beyond

# AI takes Autonomous Navigation to Mars and Beyond



Kritika Ramani

Senior Manager, Quality  
Engineering  
MathWorks



Maria Gavilan-Alfonso

Technical Program Manager,  
Education Marketing  
MathWorks



Chinmayi Lanka

Manager, Quality  
Engineering  
MathWorks

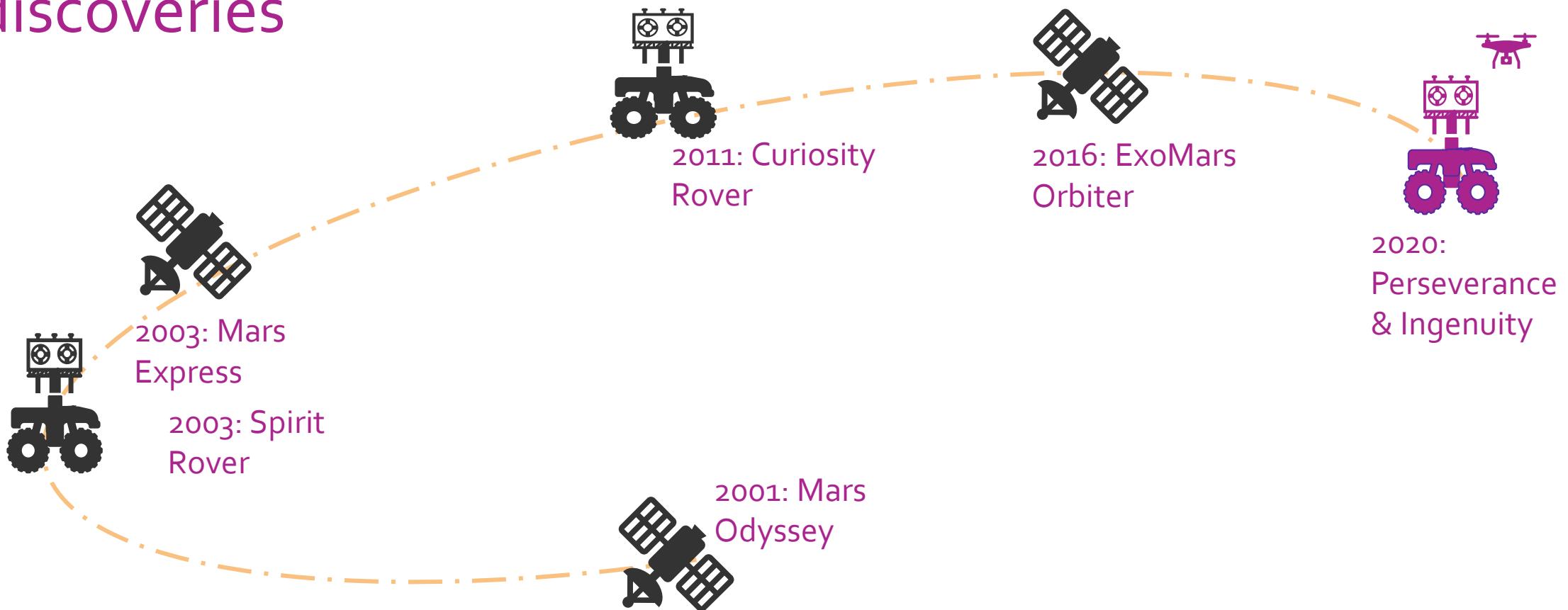


Why explore Mars?

Exploring Mars helps us understand ancient life and water activity by collecting soil/rock samples



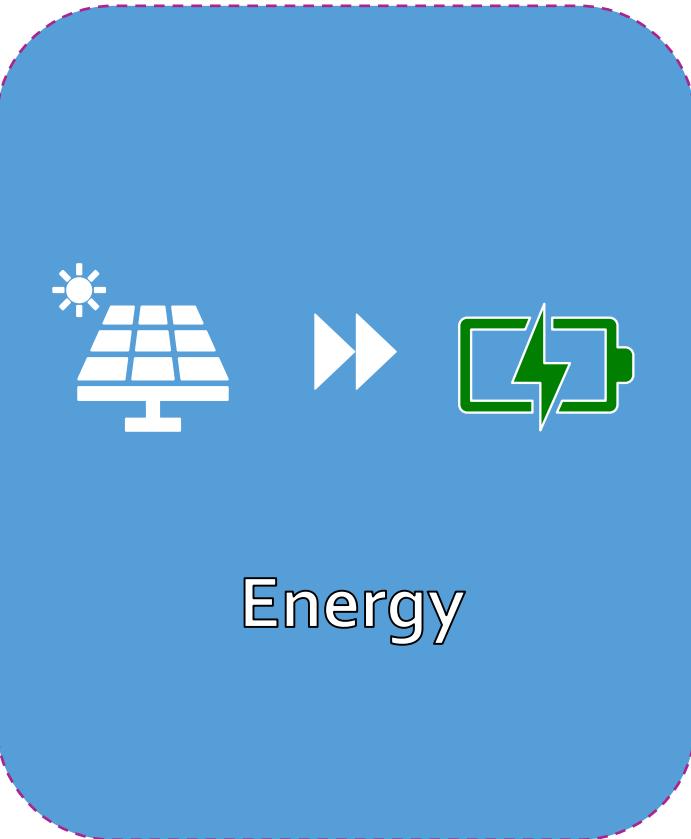
We have learnt a great deal from past missions and major discoveries



There are multiple challenges when we navigate Mars



Communication



Energy



Mapping

# Simulations help in validating rover's capability to complete missions successfully

Expensive  
Hardware



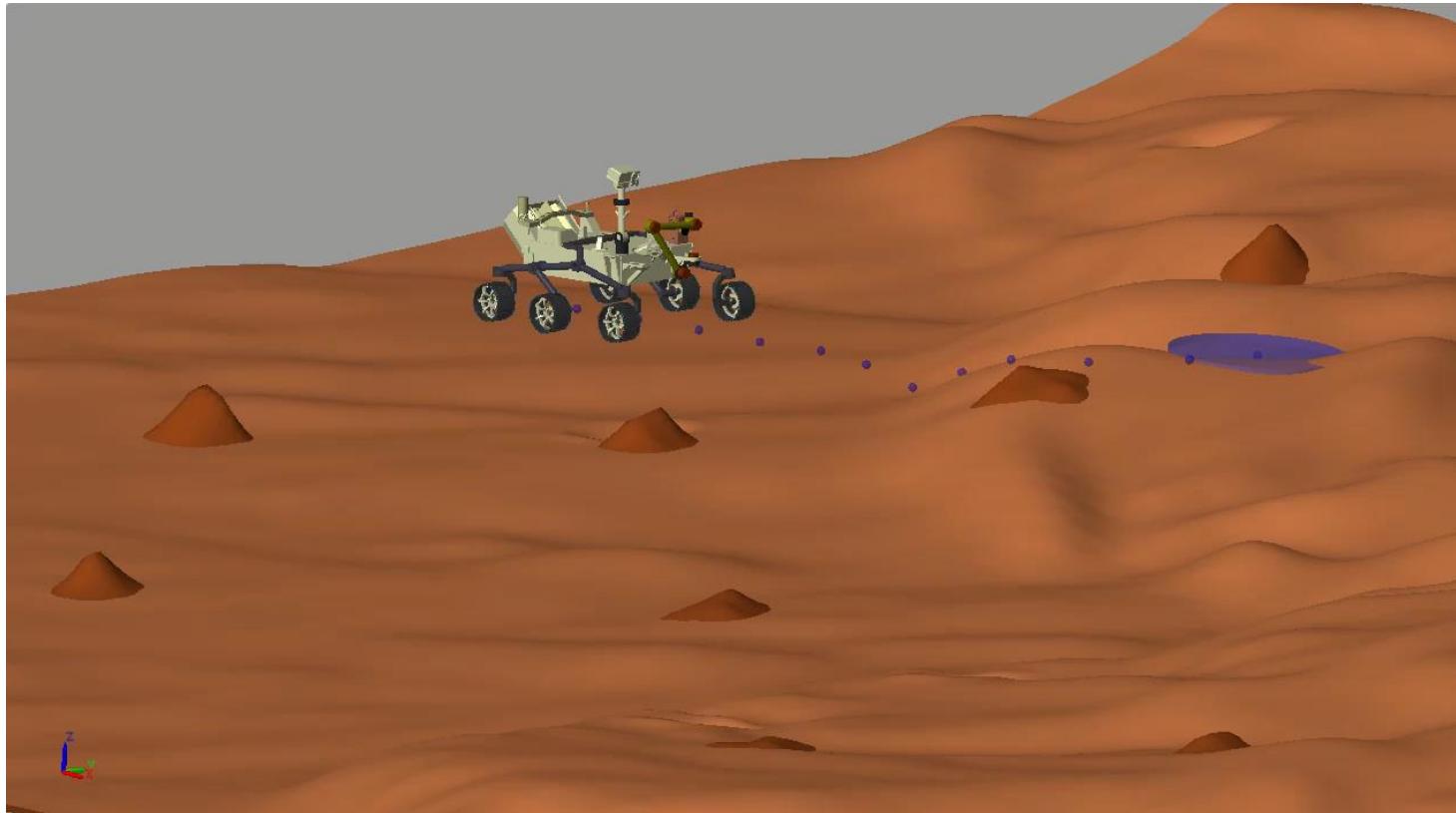
Uncharted  
territories



Mission  
critical

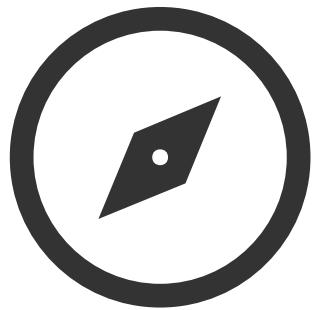


# Today's mission

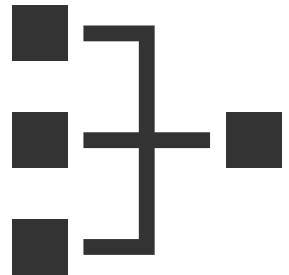


Simulate navigation of an  
autonomous rover on a virtual  
Mars environment

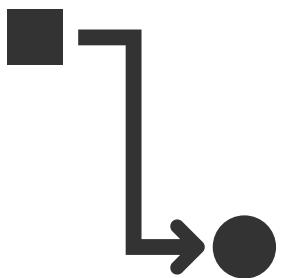
# Our mission can be split into multiple tasks



*Where am I?*  
Calibration



*What do I see?*  
Object Detection



*Where can I go?*  
Navigation

Join us on  slack

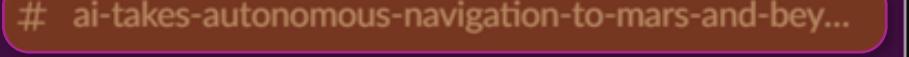


<https://tinyurl.com/mwtechhelpghc22>

**MathWorks at GHC22** 

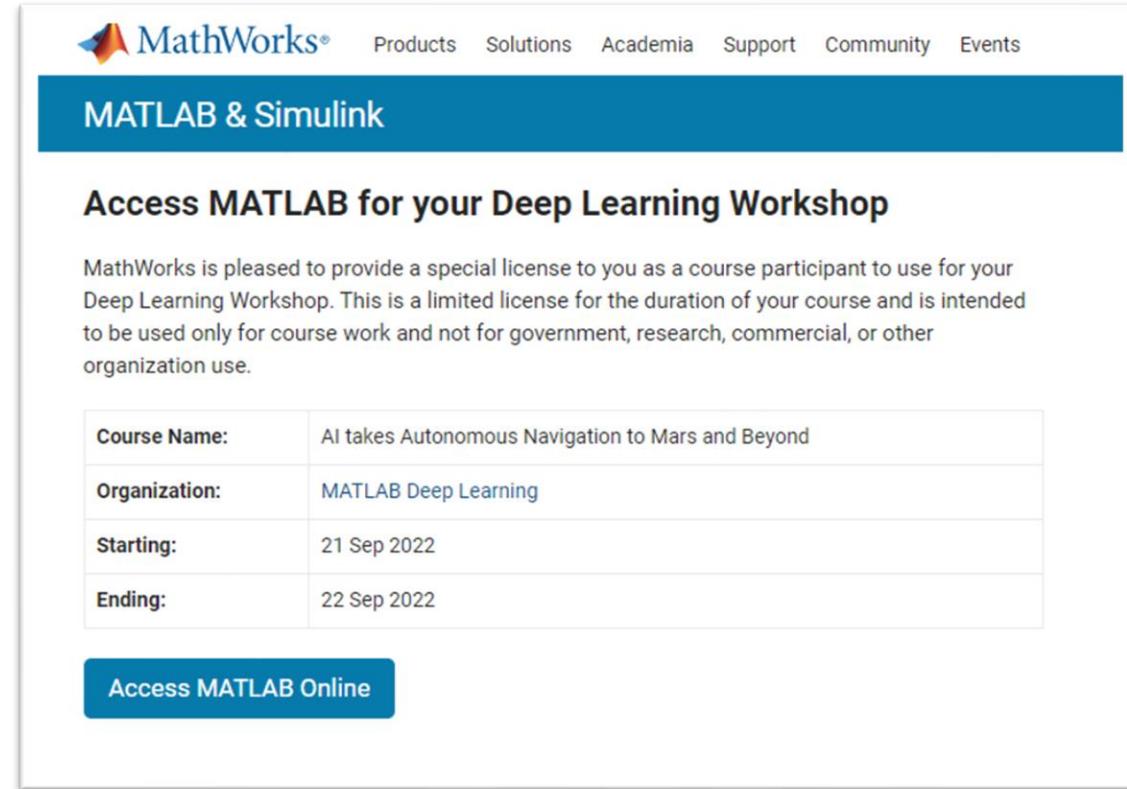
- @ Mentions & reactions
- ✍ Drafts 1
- 🔗 Slack Connect
- ⋮ More

▼ Channels

- # ai-takes-autonomous-navigation-to-mars-and-bey... 
- # catching-fire-autonomous-drones-for-wildfire-dete...
- # general
- # general-questions-for-workshops-at-ghc22
- # how-can-we-make-sense-of-the-unseen-world-

All necessary workshop materials /  
links will be available here

# Today we will be using **MATLAB Online**



The screenshot shows the MathWorks website with a blue header bar containing the MathWorks logo and navigation links: Products, Solutions, Academia, Support, Community, and Events. Below the header is a blue bar with the text "MATLAB & Simulink". The main content area has a white background. It features a section titled "Access MATLAB for your Deep Learning Workshop" with a descriptive paragraph about the special license provided for the Deep Learning Workshop. Below this is a table with four rows of course information:

Course Name:	AI takes Autonomous Navigation to Mars and Beyond
Organization:	MATLAB Deep Learning
Starting:	21 Sep 2022
Ending:	22 Sep 2022

At the bottom of the content area is a blue button labeled "Access MATLAB Online".

<https://tinyurl.com/mw-ghc-mars-rover>

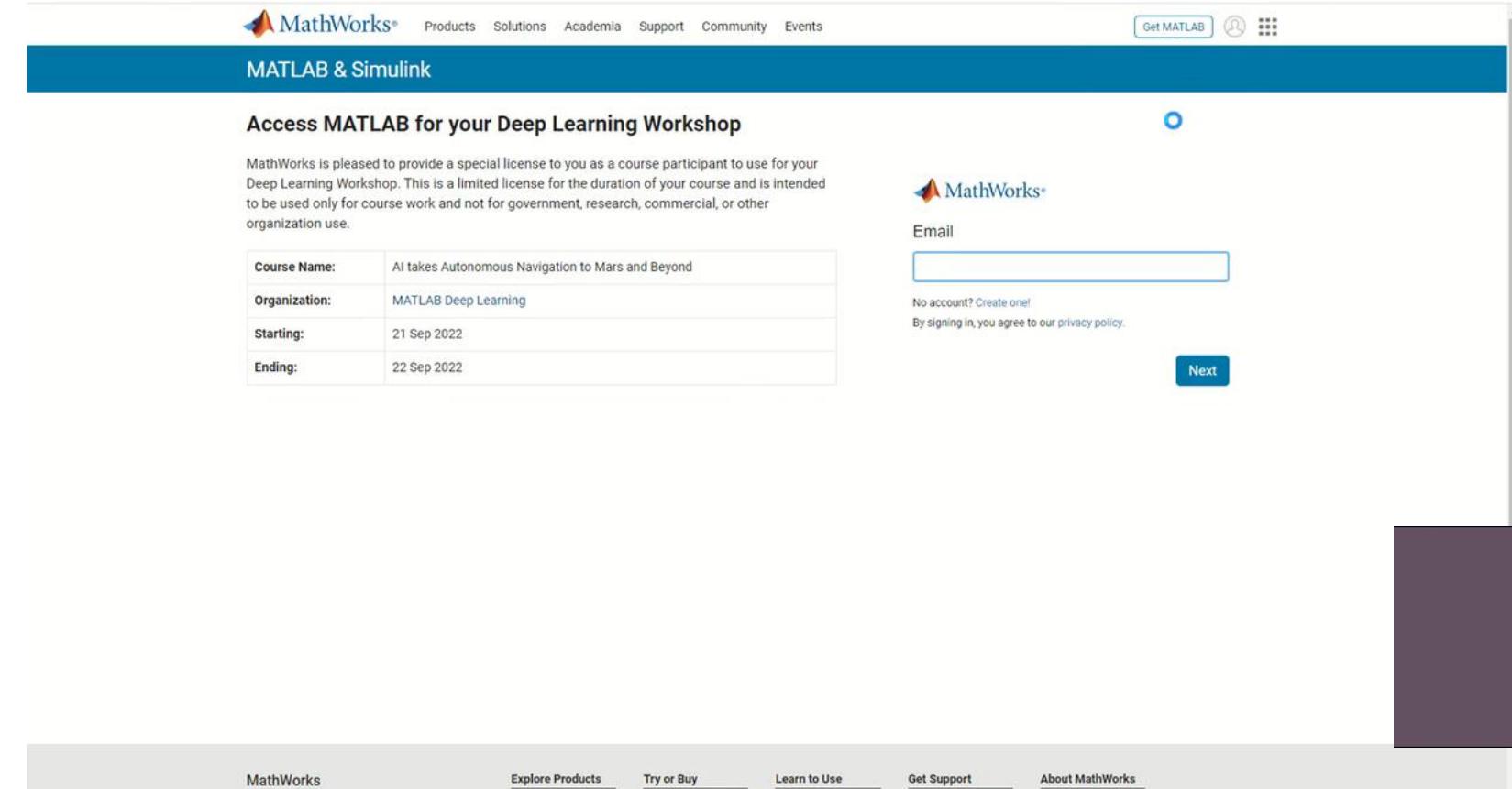
# Get Access And Open Workshop exercises

SLACK link

<https://tinyurl.com/mwtechhelpghc22>

MATLAB Online link

<https://tinyurl.com/mw-ghc-mars-rover>



The screenshot shows the MathWorks website with a blue header bar containing the MathWorks logo and navigation links: Products, Solutions, Academia, Support, Community, and Events. Below the header is a teal bar with the text "MATLAB & Simulink". The main content area has a white background. At the top of this area, the text "Access MATLAB for your Deep Learning Workshop" is displayed. Below it, a paragraph of text states: "MathWorks is pleased to provide a special license to you as a course participant to use for your Deep Learning Workshop. This is a limited license for the duration of your course and is intended to be used only for course work and not for government, research, commercial, or other organization use." To the right of this text is a large input field for an email address, preceded by the MathWorks logo. Below the input field, there is a "Next" button. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with links: MathWorks, Explore Products, Try or Buy, Learn to Use, Get Support, and About MathWorks.

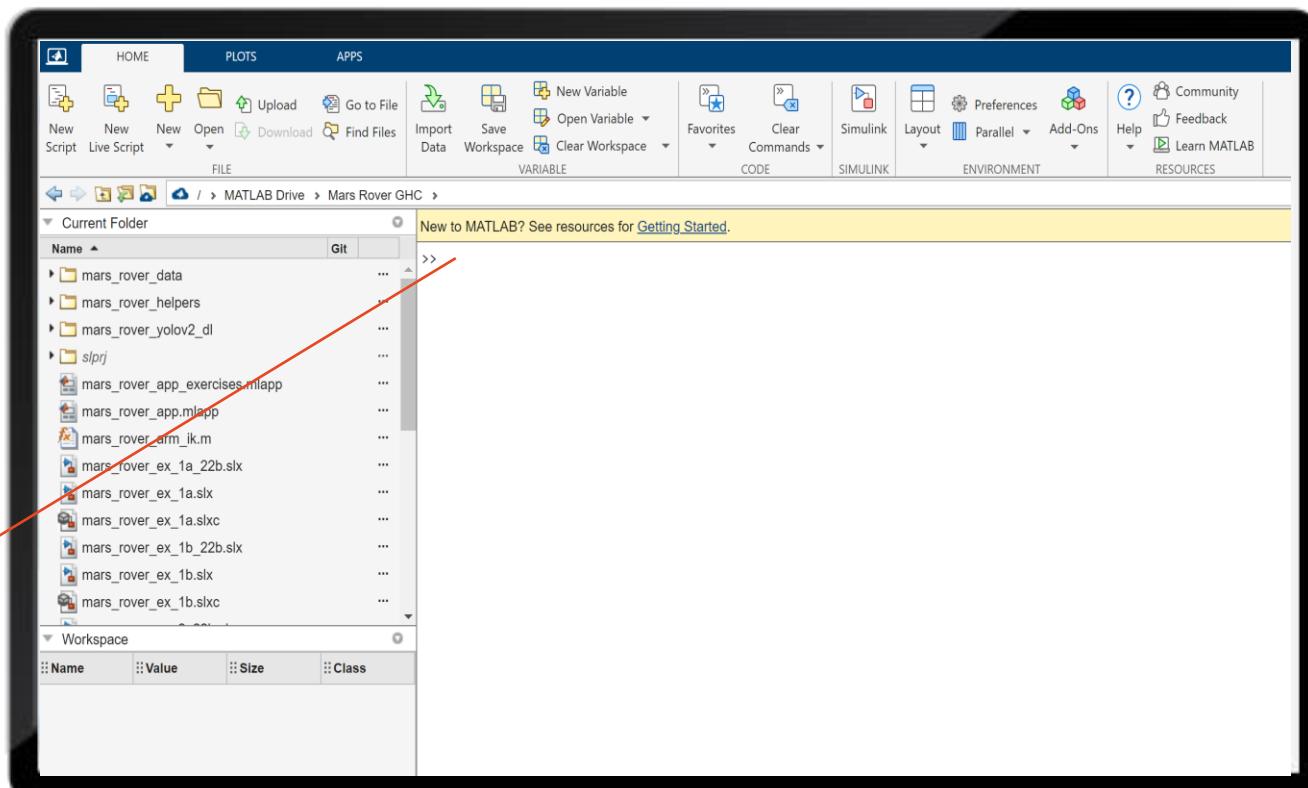
# Open MATLAB Online

Once MATLAB Online is open,  
**maximize the browser window**

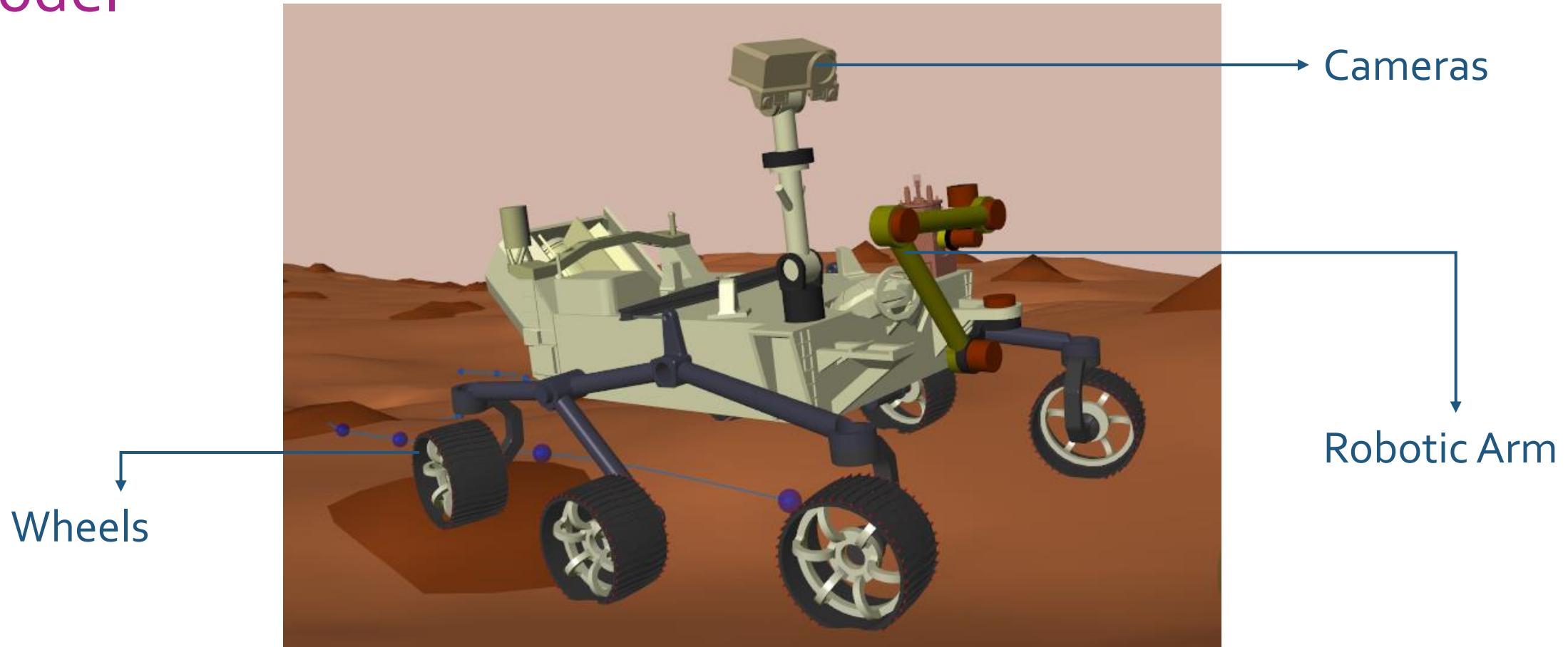
We also strongly recommend

- **100% zoom for your browser**
- **Do not use Dark Mode in the browser**

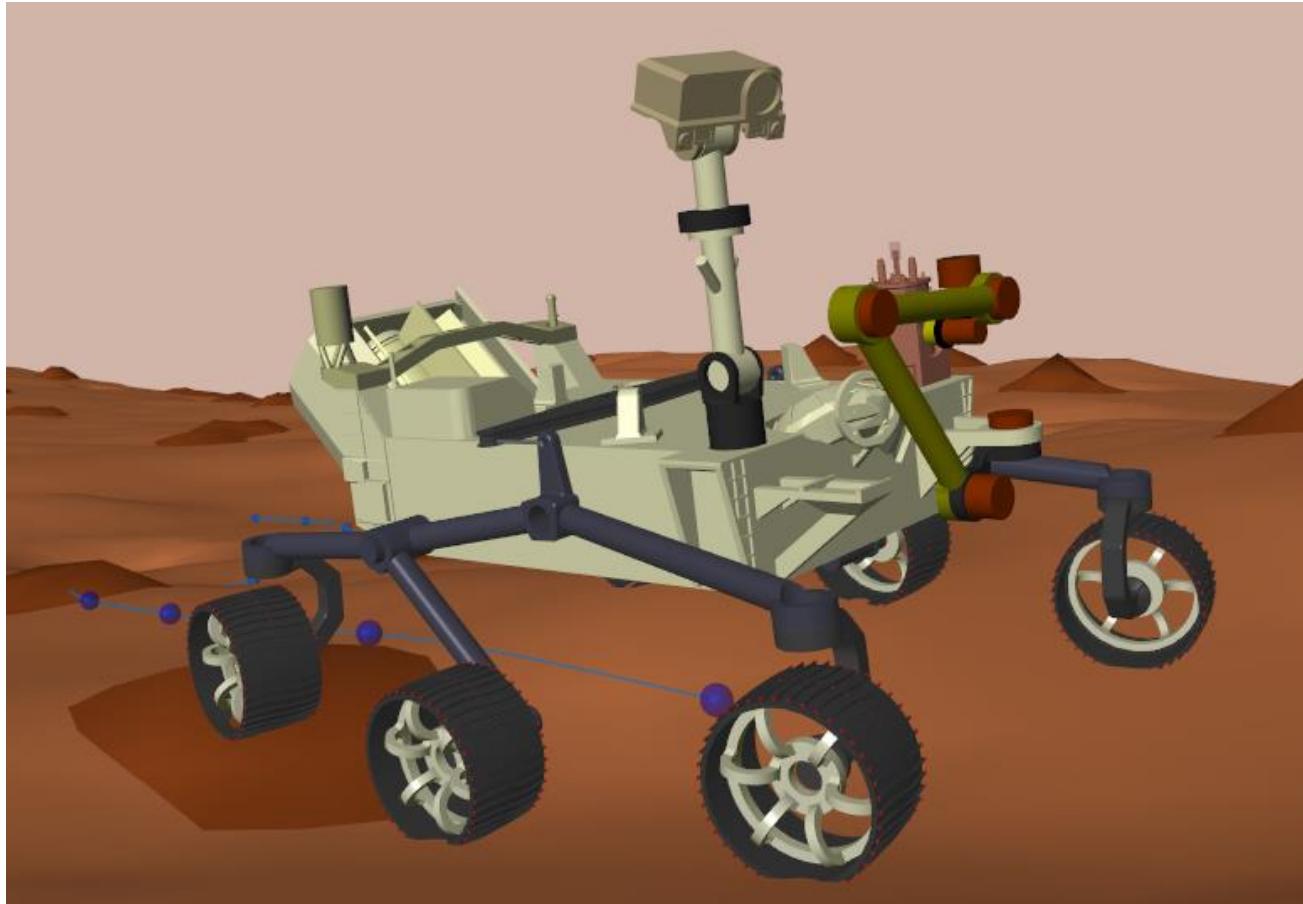
```
>> mars_rover_startup
```



Multiple components are used to construct a physical model



# Multiple components are used to construct a physical model



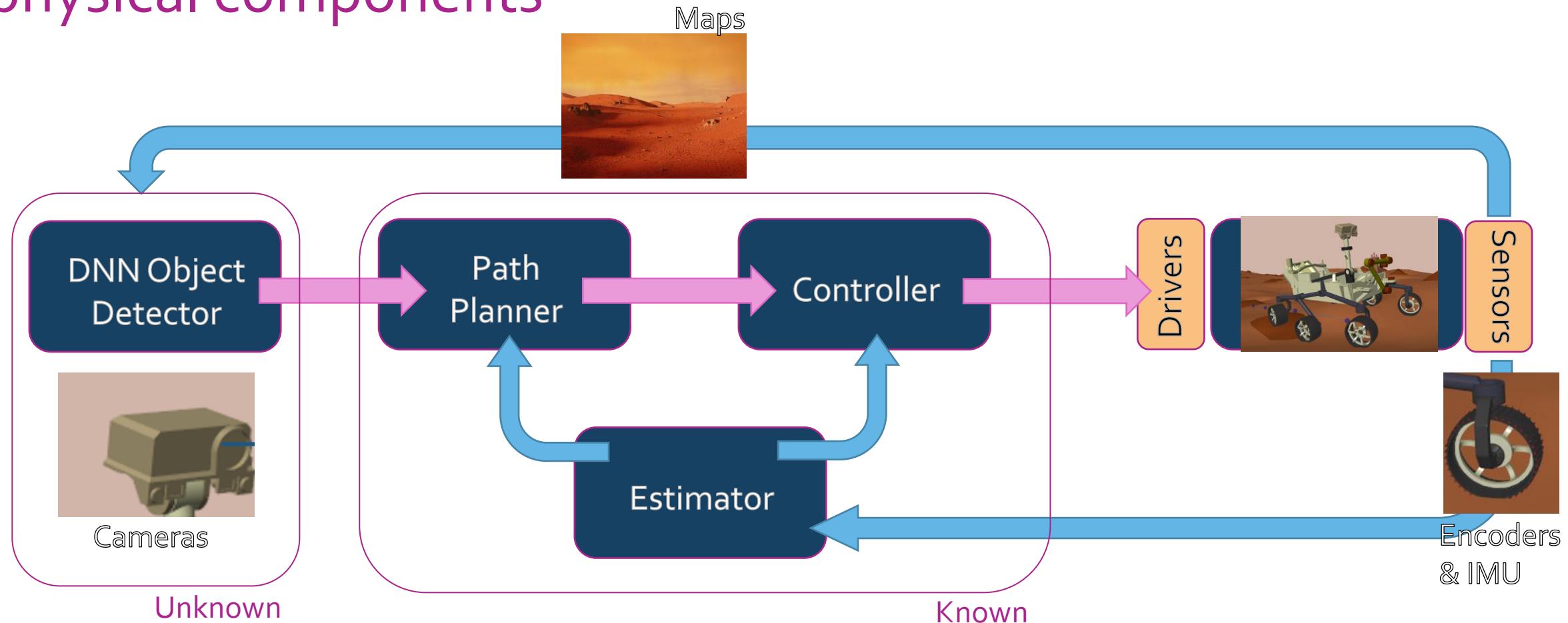
Chassis, Steering

Spatial Contact forces

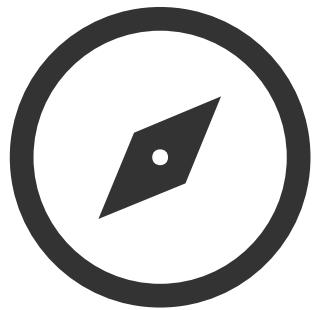
Max velocity (~0.1 mph)

Mapping Environment

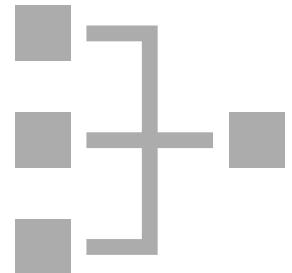
# Software components serve as the backbone of the physical components



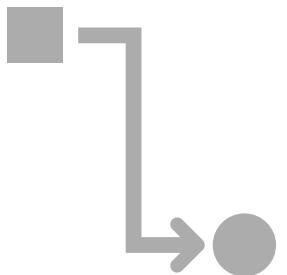
# Missions can be split into multiple tasks



*Where am I?*  
Calibration



*What do I see?*  
Object Detection



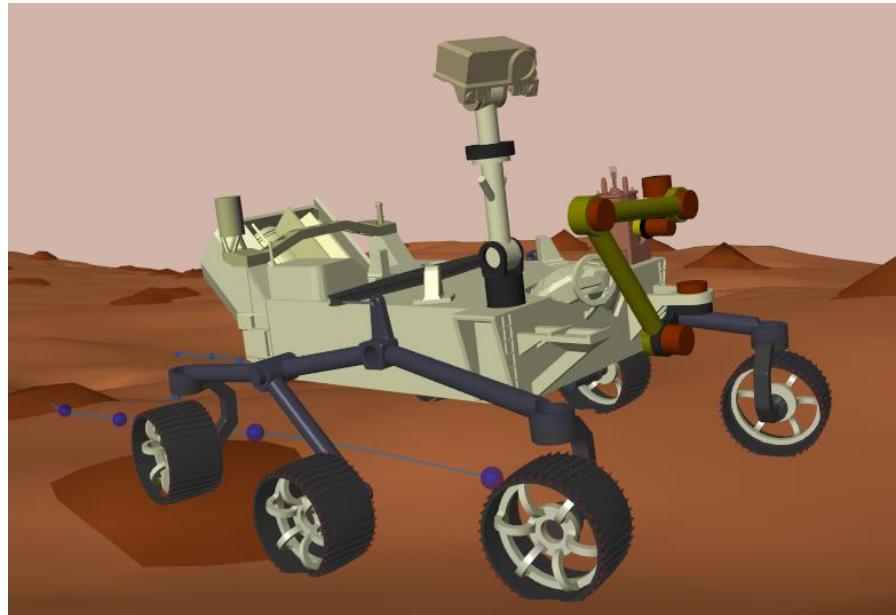
*Where can I go?*  
Navigation



# Exercise 1

## Rover: Where am I? (Calibration)

Autonomous systems can calibrate and orient using cached maps and other instruments



### *Rover Egress Phase*

- Check instruments
- Check surroundings
- Rover boot up
- *Calibration Path*

## Rovers have a difficult time understanding their location



Imagine you are given a command to walk from your desk to the podium

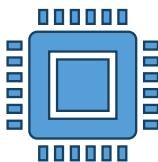
BUT... scan area, eyes closed and now pursue walking



## Rovers have a difficult time understanding their location



Like vehicles on earth, rovers on Mars also use **wheel odometers** to measure the distance it has traveled



**IMU (Inertial Measurement Unit)** returns accurate pose estimate but suffers on large drift due to integration

Wheel Odometer + IMU = Better Pose Estimation

# Kalman Filter helps in fusing multi-sensor measurement

A Kalman filter is an **optimal estimation algorithm**.

It helps estimate a system state when it cannot be measured directly

Our goal is to setup a filter to estimate the overall state of the robot:

$$States = [x \ y \ \theta \ v \ \omega]$$

*Wheel Encoder  
measurements*

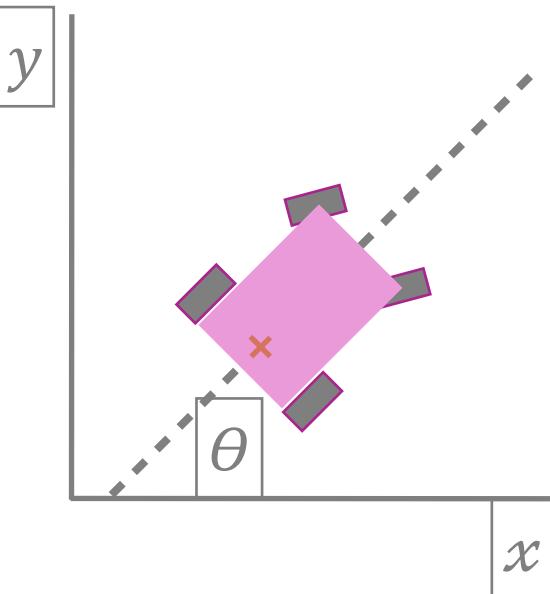
$$x \ y \ v$$

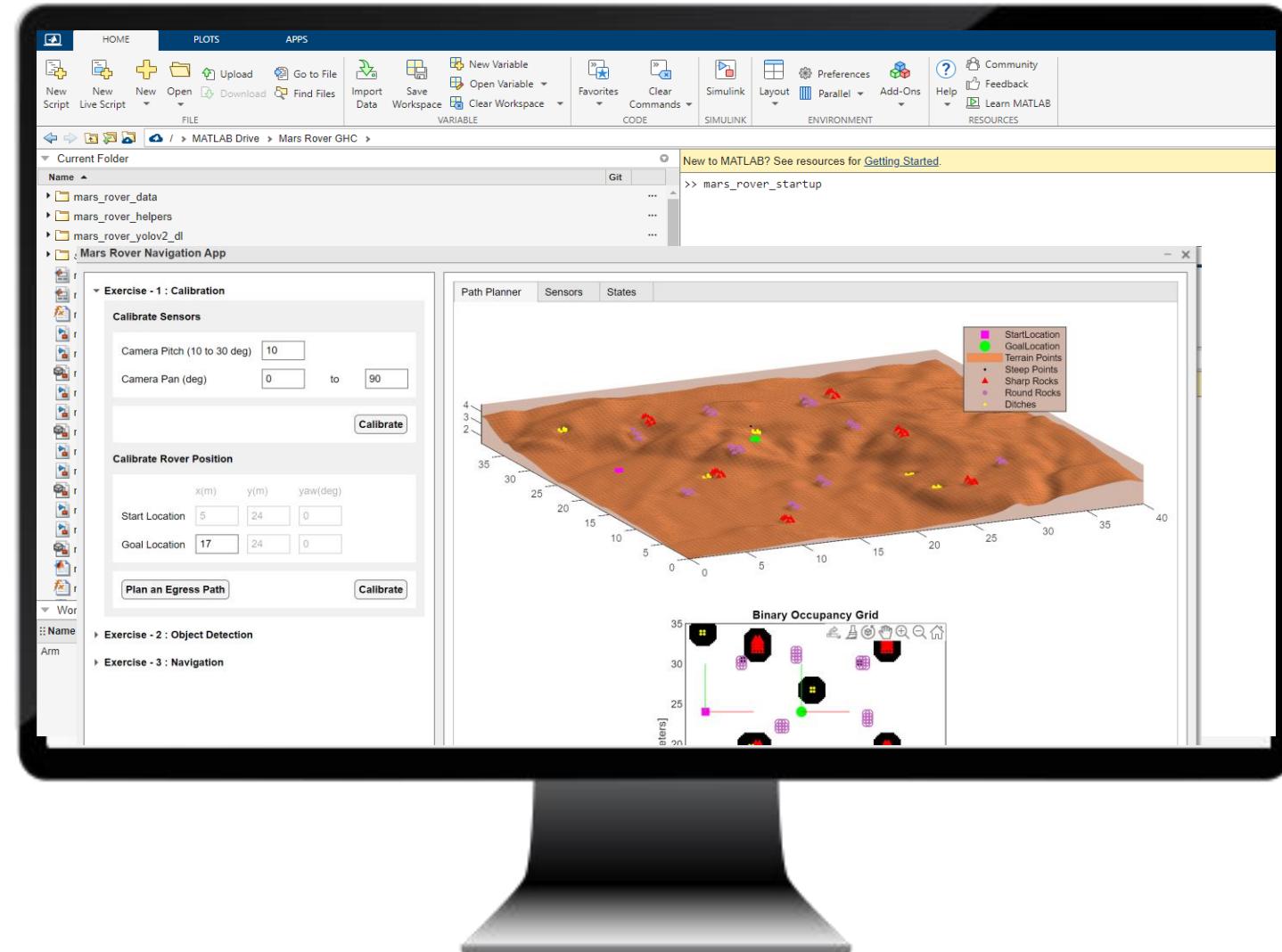
Linear position and  
linear velocity

*IMU  
measurements*

$$\theta \ \omega$$

Angular position and  
angular velocity





Let's dive into our hands-on exercise

Your Interactive App should now be open

```
>> mars_rover_startup
```

Mars Rover Navigation App

Exercise - 1 : Calibration

Calibrate Sensors

Camera Pitch (10 to 30 deg)  Camera Pan (deg)  to

**Calibrate**

Calibrate Rover Position

x(m) y(m) yaw(deg)

Start Location     
 Goal Location

**Plan an Egress Path** **Calibrate**

Exercise - 2 : Object Detection

Exercise - 3 : Navigation

Path Planner Sensors States

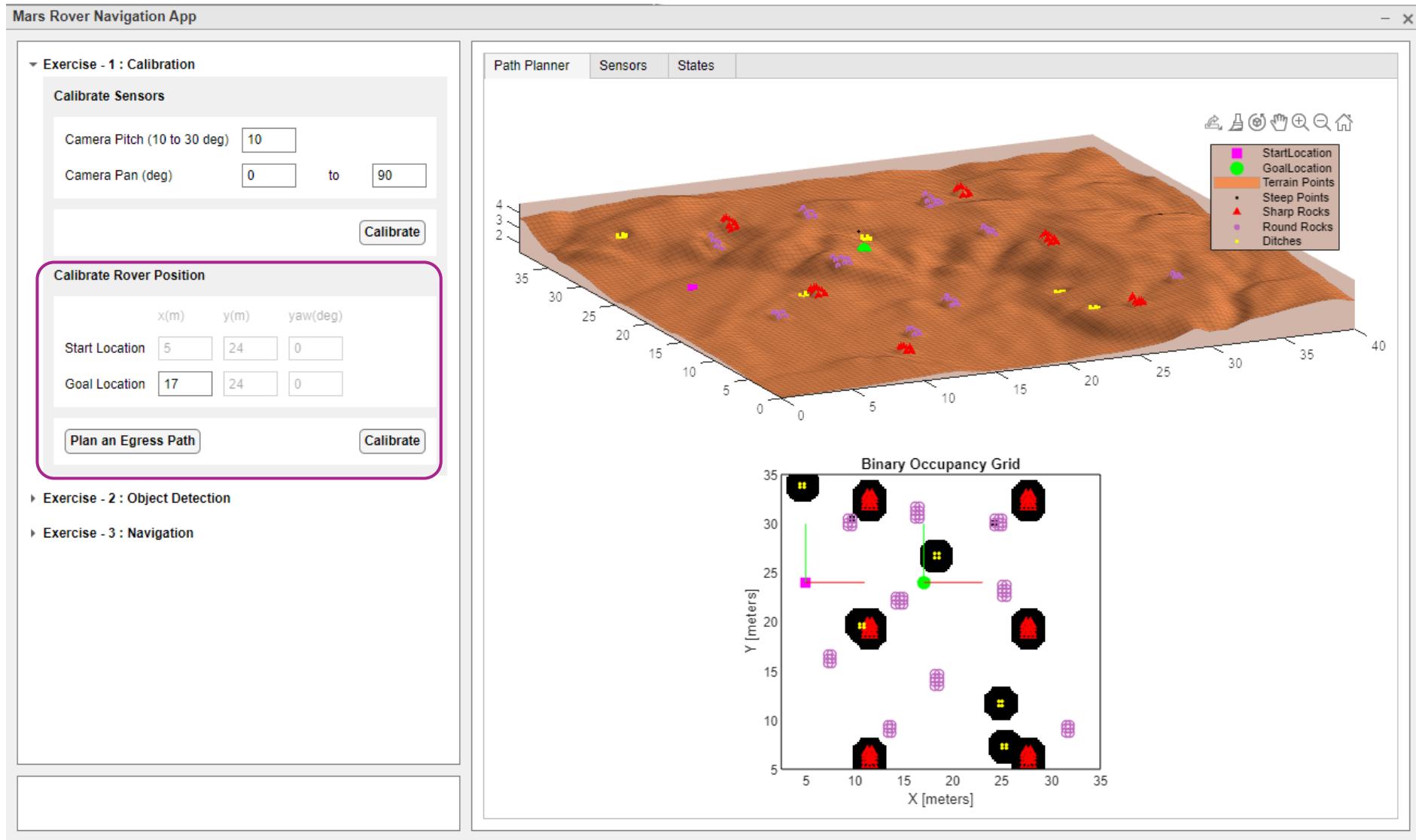
Binary Occupancy Grid

X [meters] Y [meters]

## Calibrate sensors

Simulate the cameras to pan 360 degrees while the rover being stationary

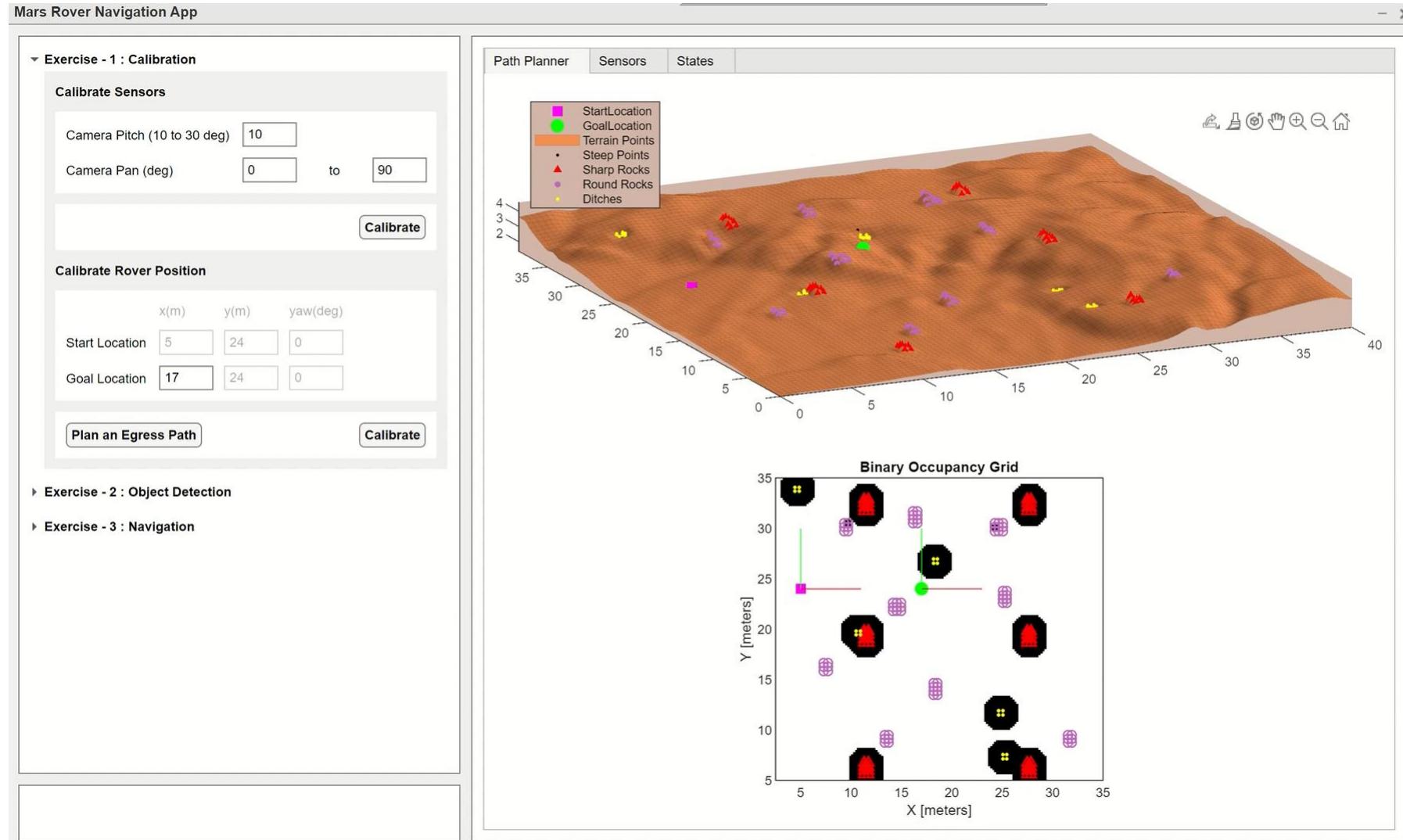
Observe the camera views and processed frames in the app to ensure they are calibrated



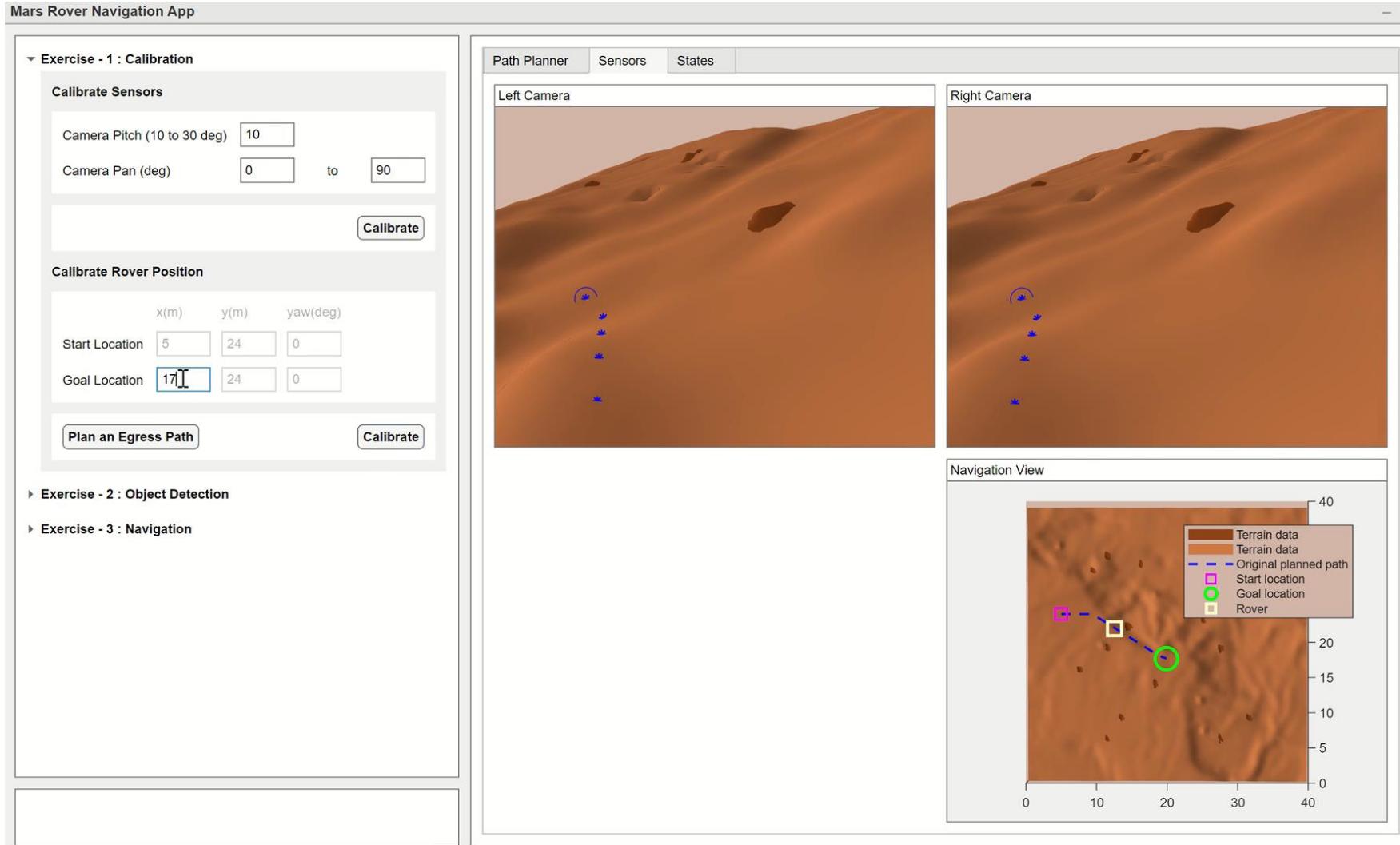
## Calibrate linear positions

Simulate a straight path for the rover to move

Observe the state estimates for linear values such as x, y and heading angle

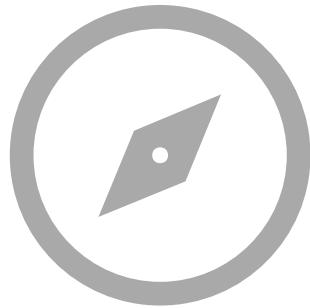


How was sensor calibration?

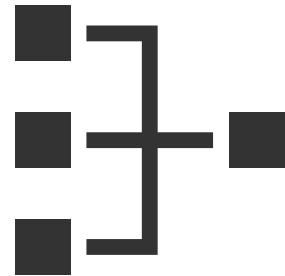


How was position calibration?

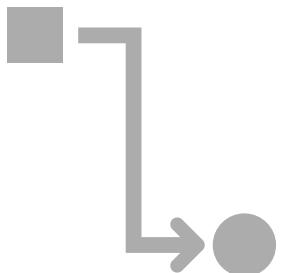
After calibration, the rover is ready to complete its assigned tasks using AI



*Where am I?*  
Calibration



*What do I see?*  
Object Detection



*Where can I go?*  
Navigation



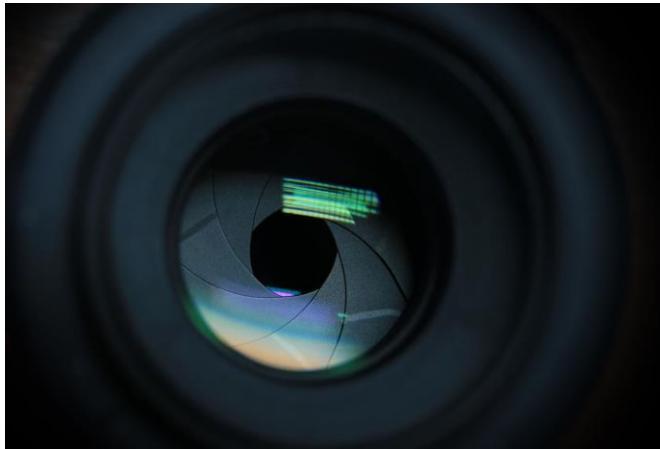
## Exercise 2

# Rover: What do I see? (Obstacle Detection)

## After calibration, the rover needs to traverse the terrain

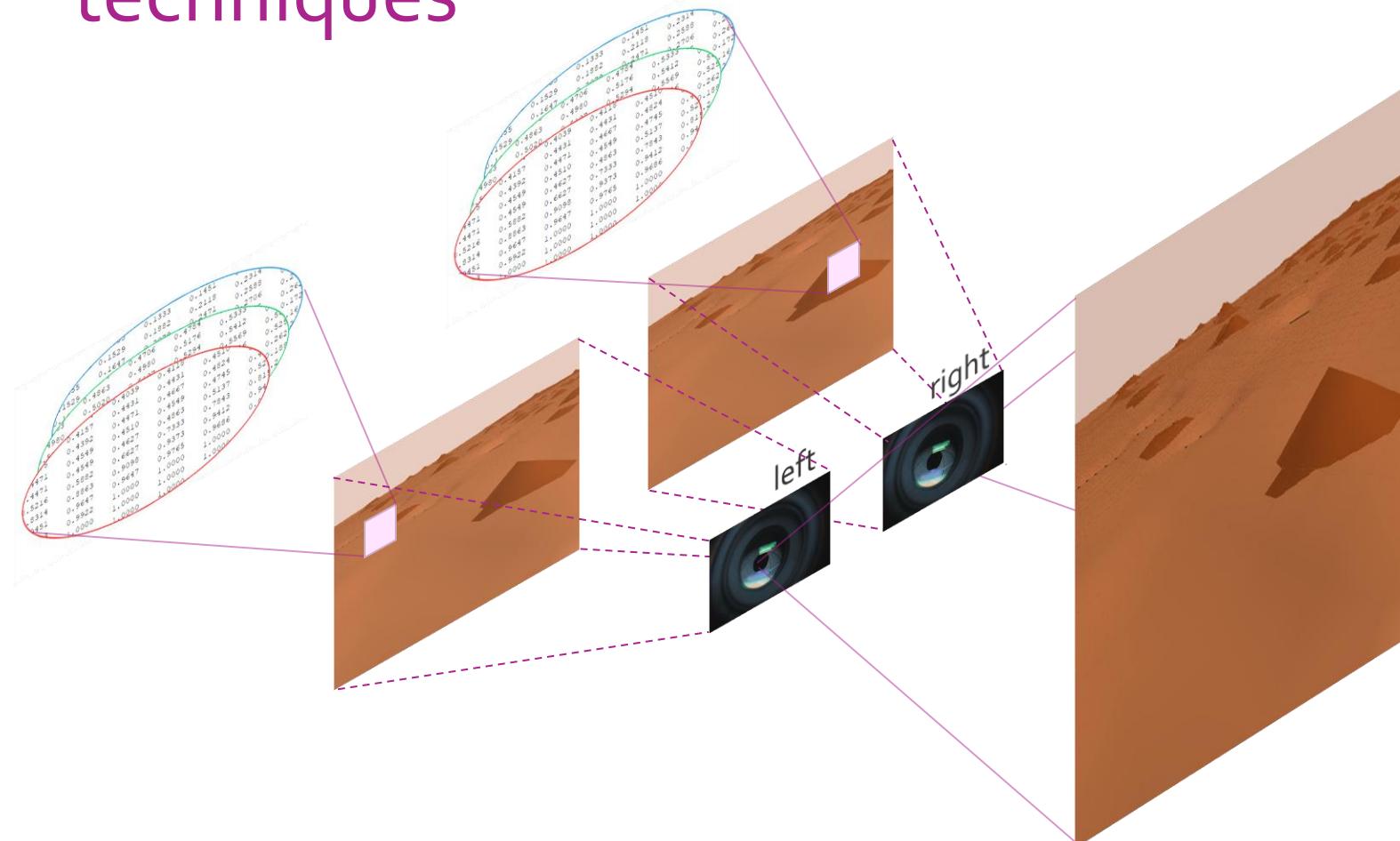


Recall our mental exercise...  
scan area, eyes closed and now pursue walking



Camera sensors on the calibrated rover serve as the eyes

# We can identify objects with vision sensors using AI techniques

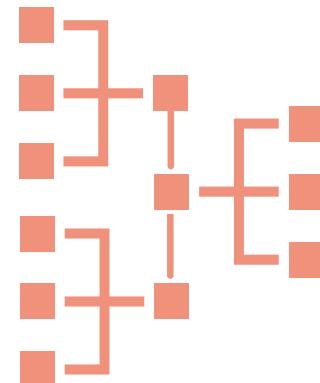
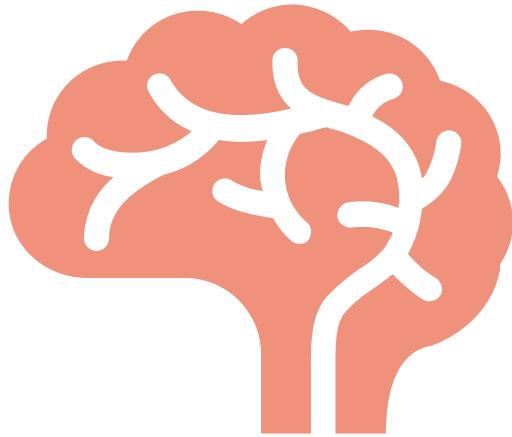


The rover collects image data using both left & right sensors

Once images are collected, they will be modified into RGB matrices to preserve the features in an image.

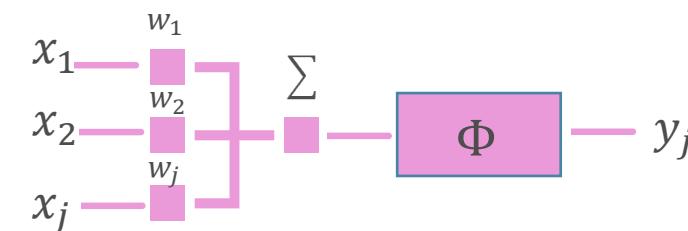
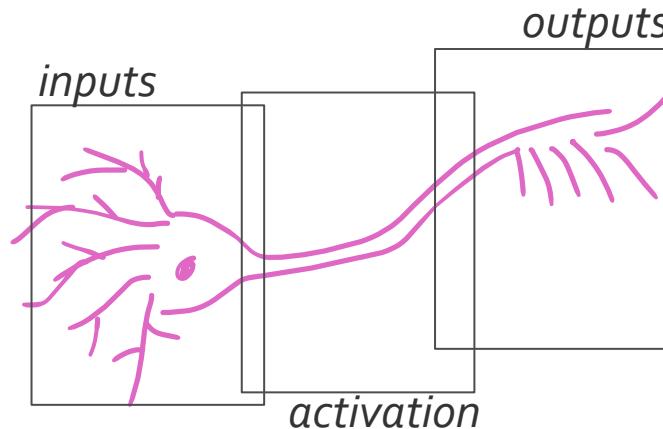
*These RGB matrices are then fed into a DNN to identify obstacles and other dangerous locations*

# Artificial neural network forms the basis of DNN



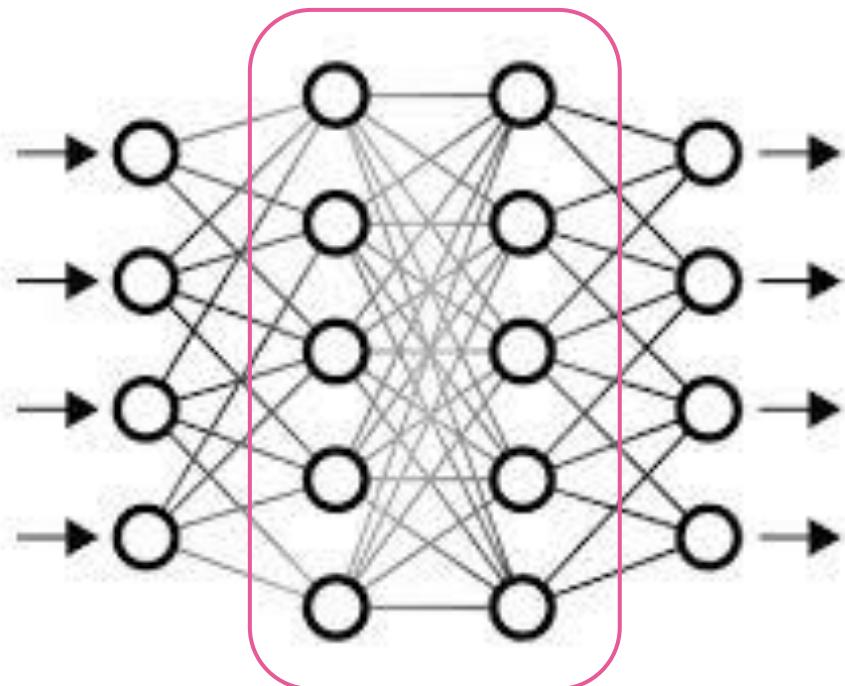
Similar to neurons in brains, artificial neurons make up neural networks

Artificial Neuron:  
Input -> Activation Layer -> Output

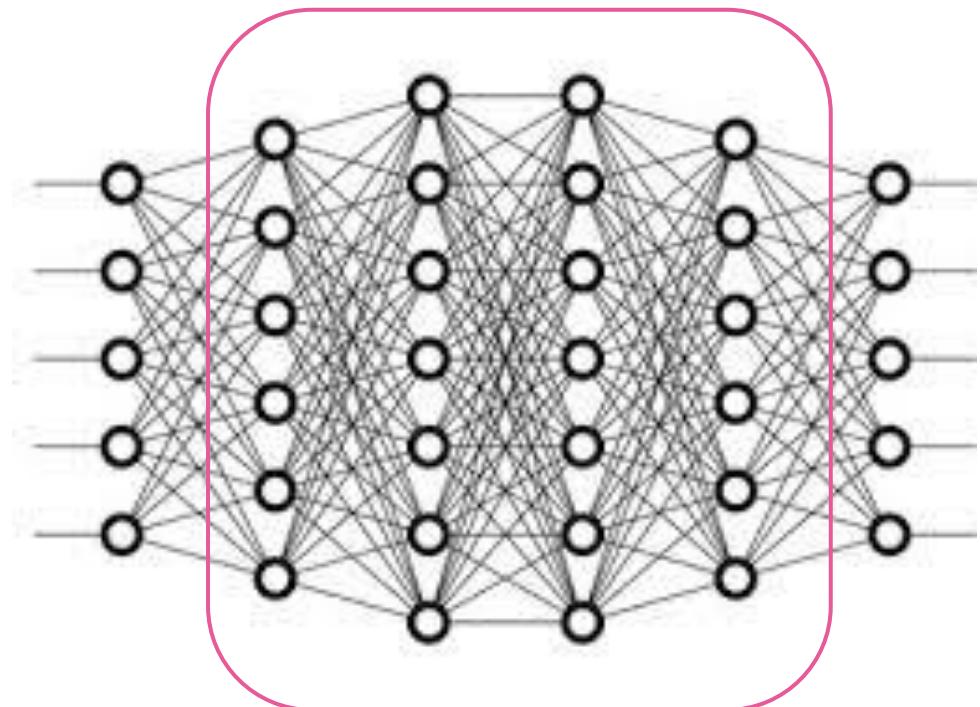


$$y_k = \phi \left( \sum_{j=0}^m w_{kj} x_j \right)$$

## Deep Neural Networks are stacked neural networks

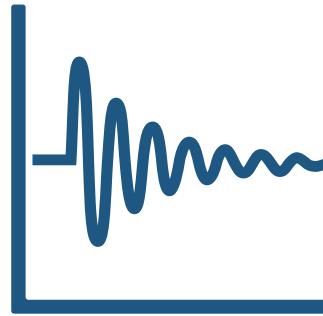


Simple Neural Network



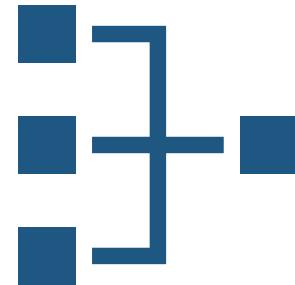
Deep Neural Network

# Deep Neural Network plays a pivotal role in identifying objects



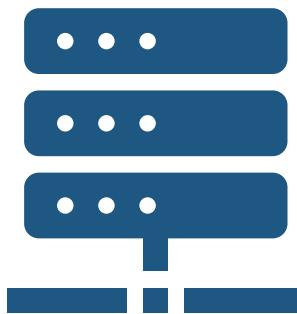
## Preprocessing Data

Network is as good as your data



## Object Detection Network

Resnet50 – feature extraction



## Train Network

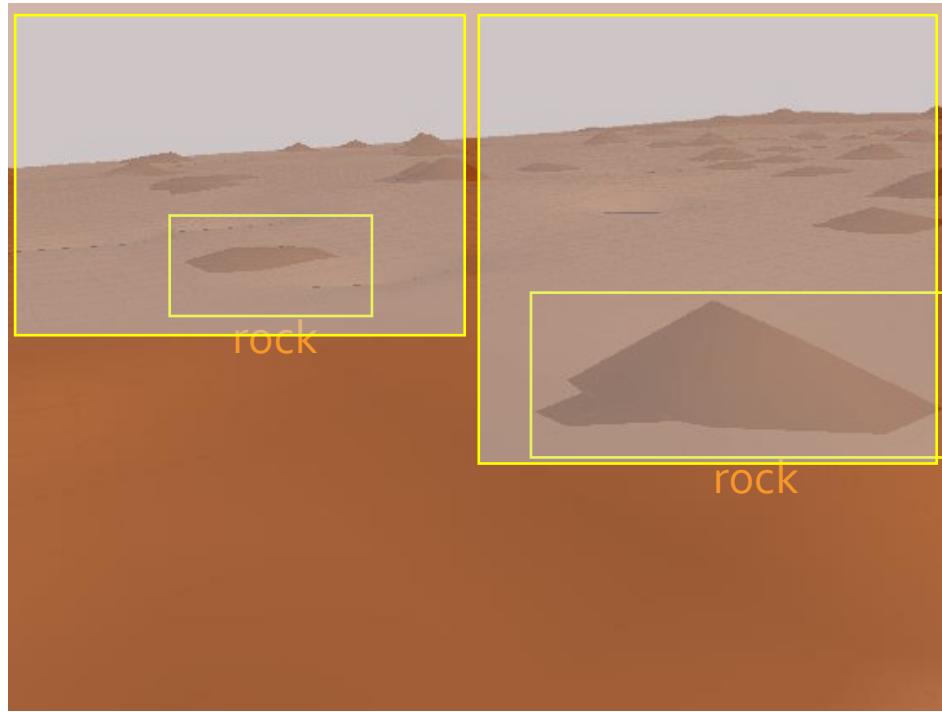
60:20:20 ratio



## Validate

Use the last 20%

# There are two main tasks in Object Detection

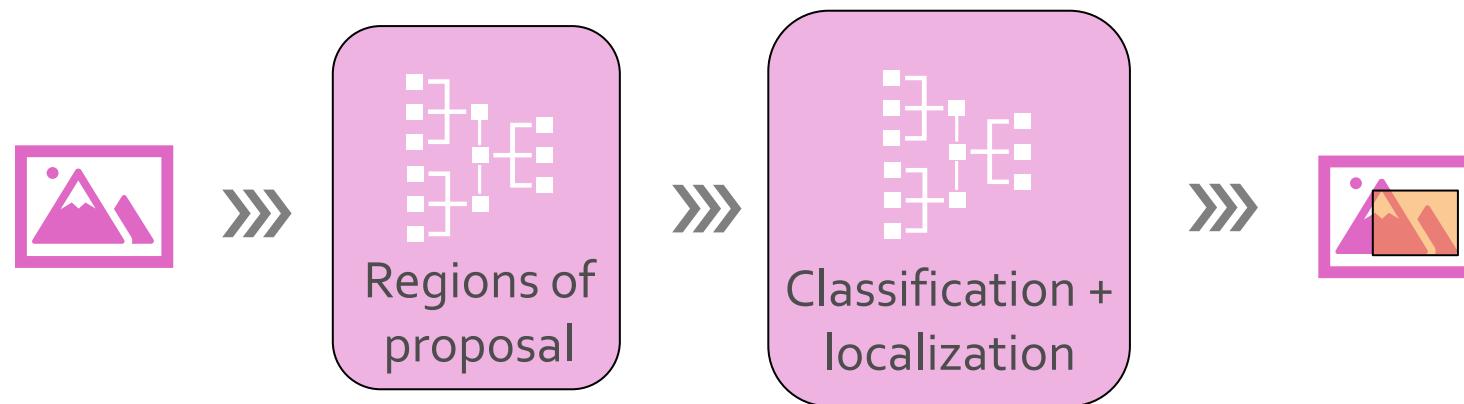


Regions of proposal

Classification + localization

# There are different approaches in DNN for Object Detection

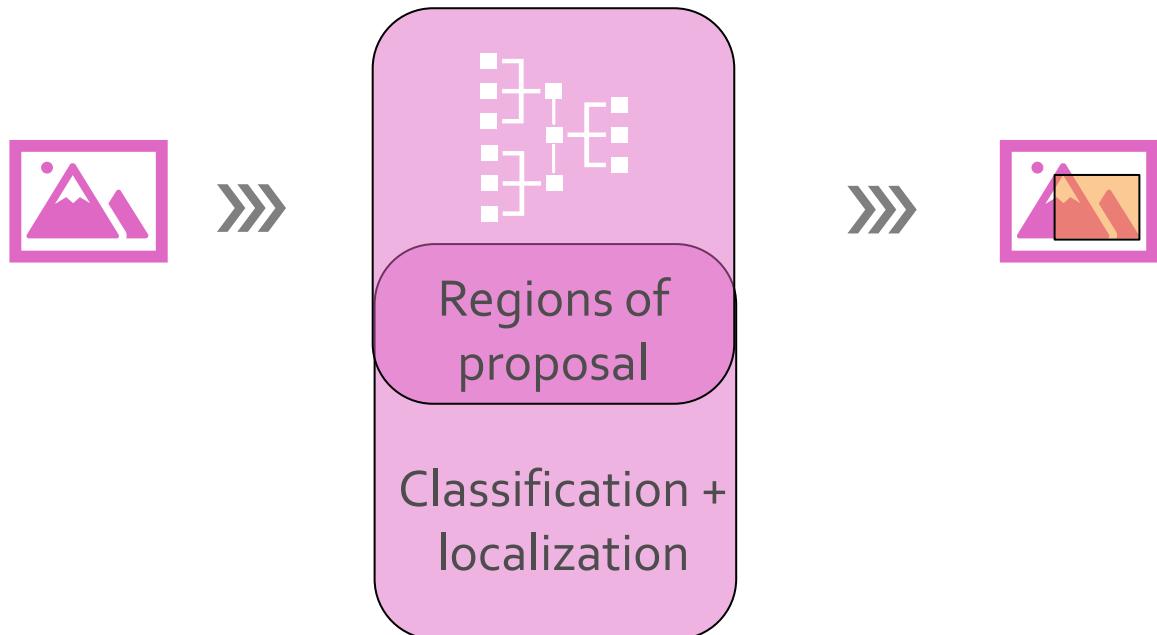
## *Two Stage Detection*



Greater accuracy

Low inference speeds

# Single stage detection is gaining popularity

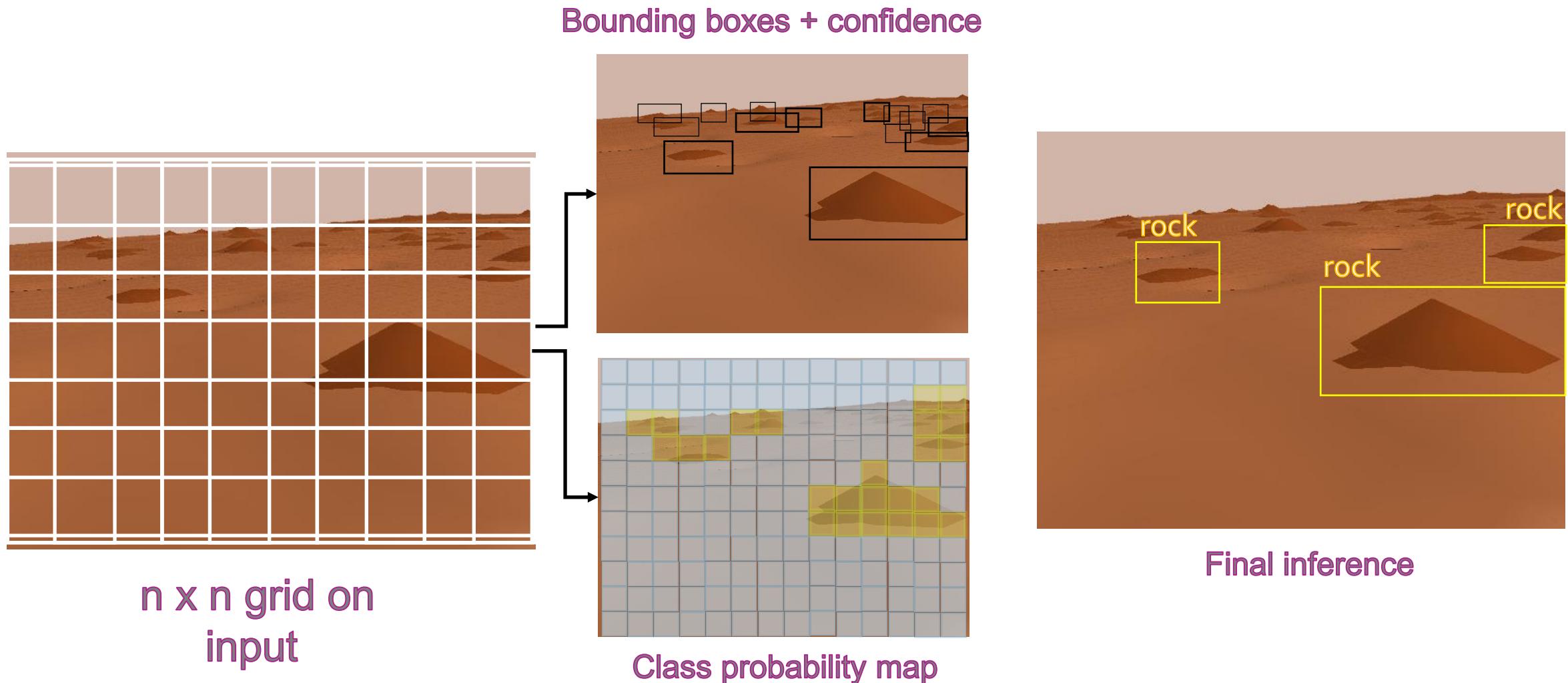


*Single - Stage Detection*

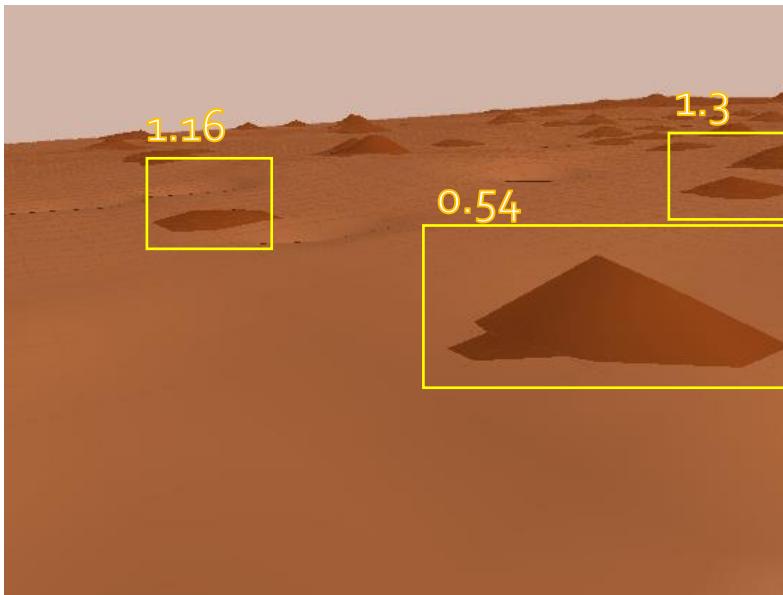
*Lower accuracy*  
*High inference speeds*

**YOLOv2**  
You Only Look Once

# We pass image only once into the Deep Network (YOLOv2)



# Stereo Vision algorithms help us estimate distances



Final inference (DNN)

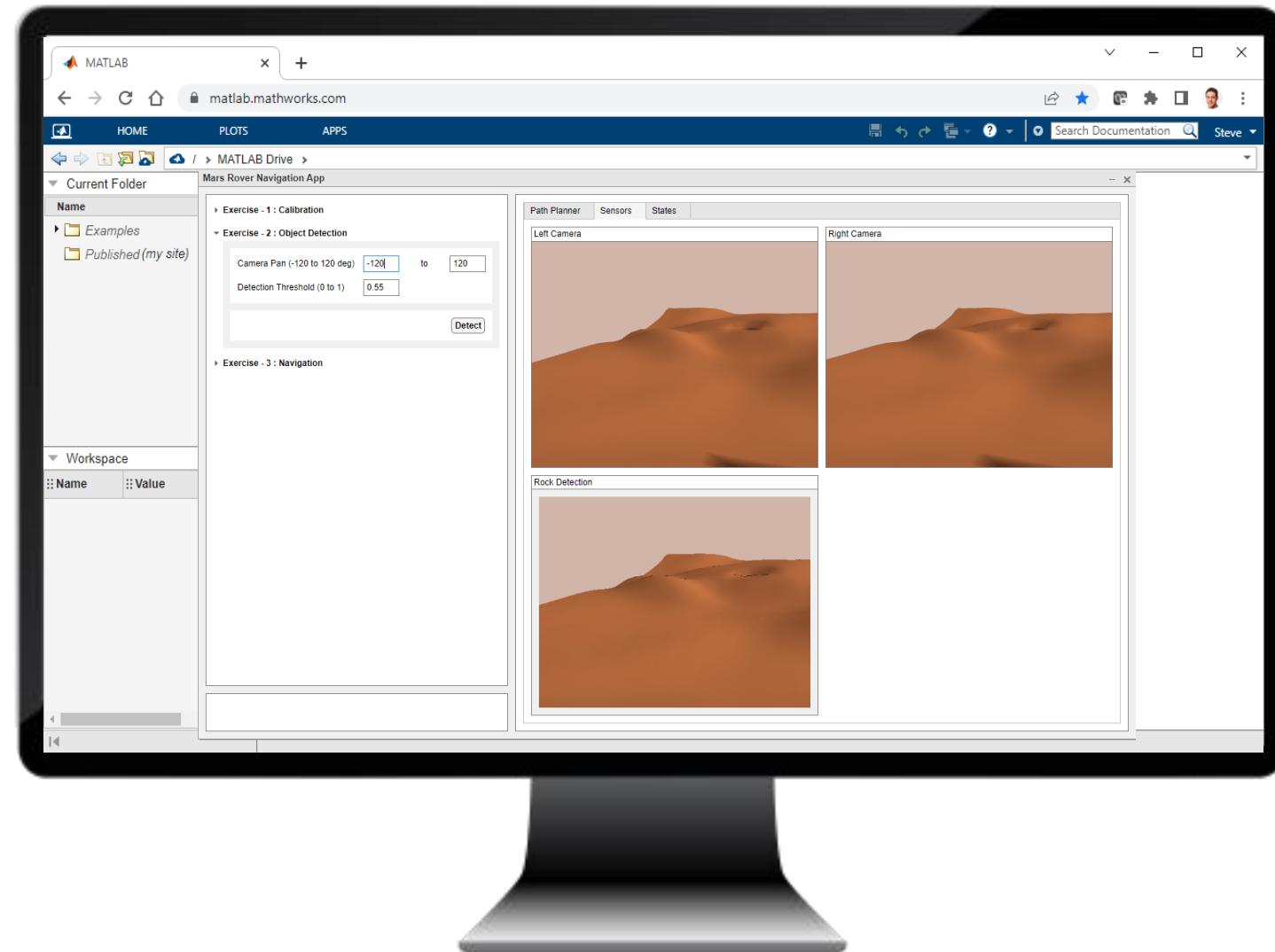
*Point Cloud & Disparity Map for Depth Estimation*

Disparity Map Creation

Point Cloud Creation

Centroid Identification

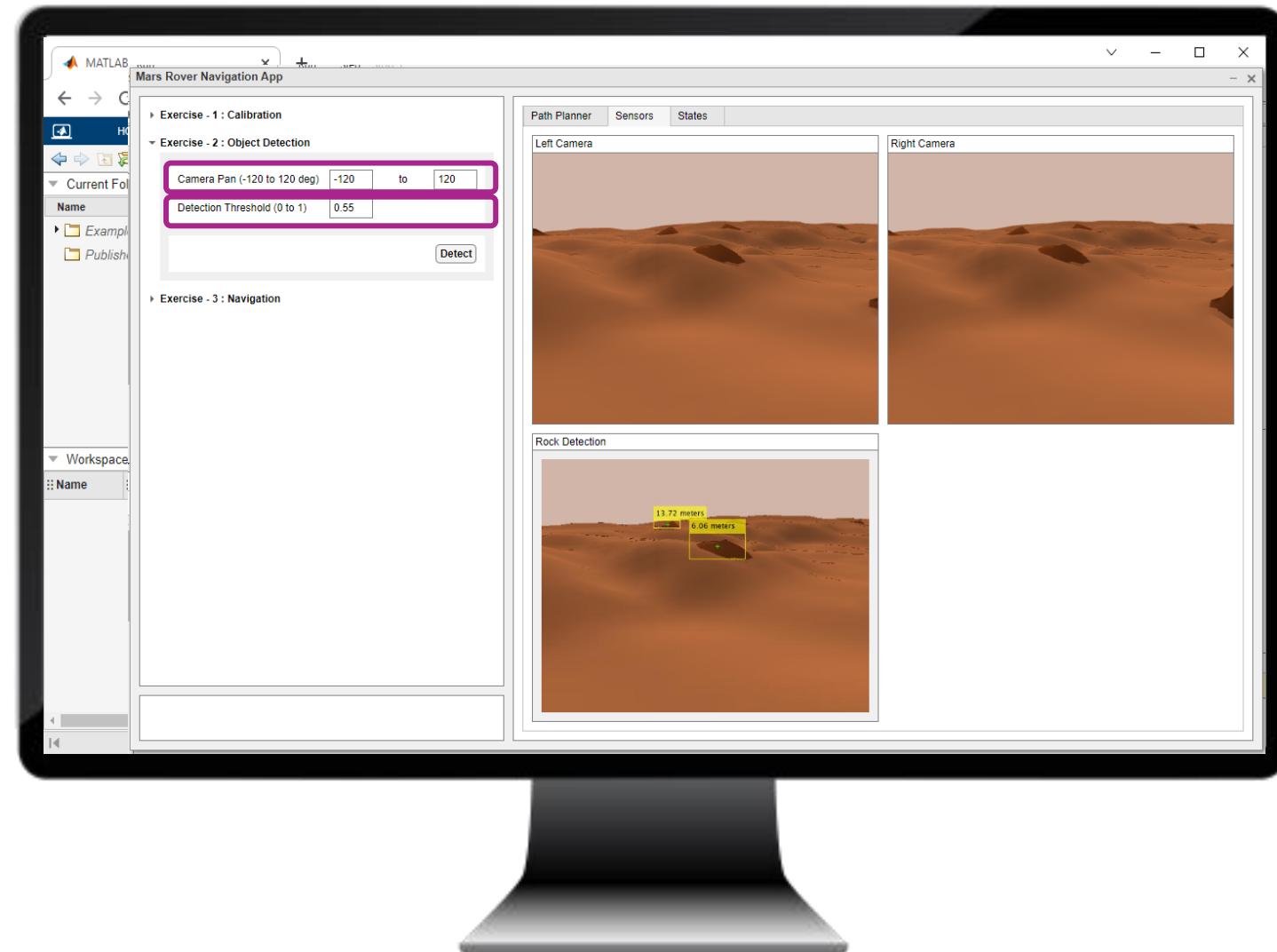
Depth Calculation



Let's dive into our hands-on exercise

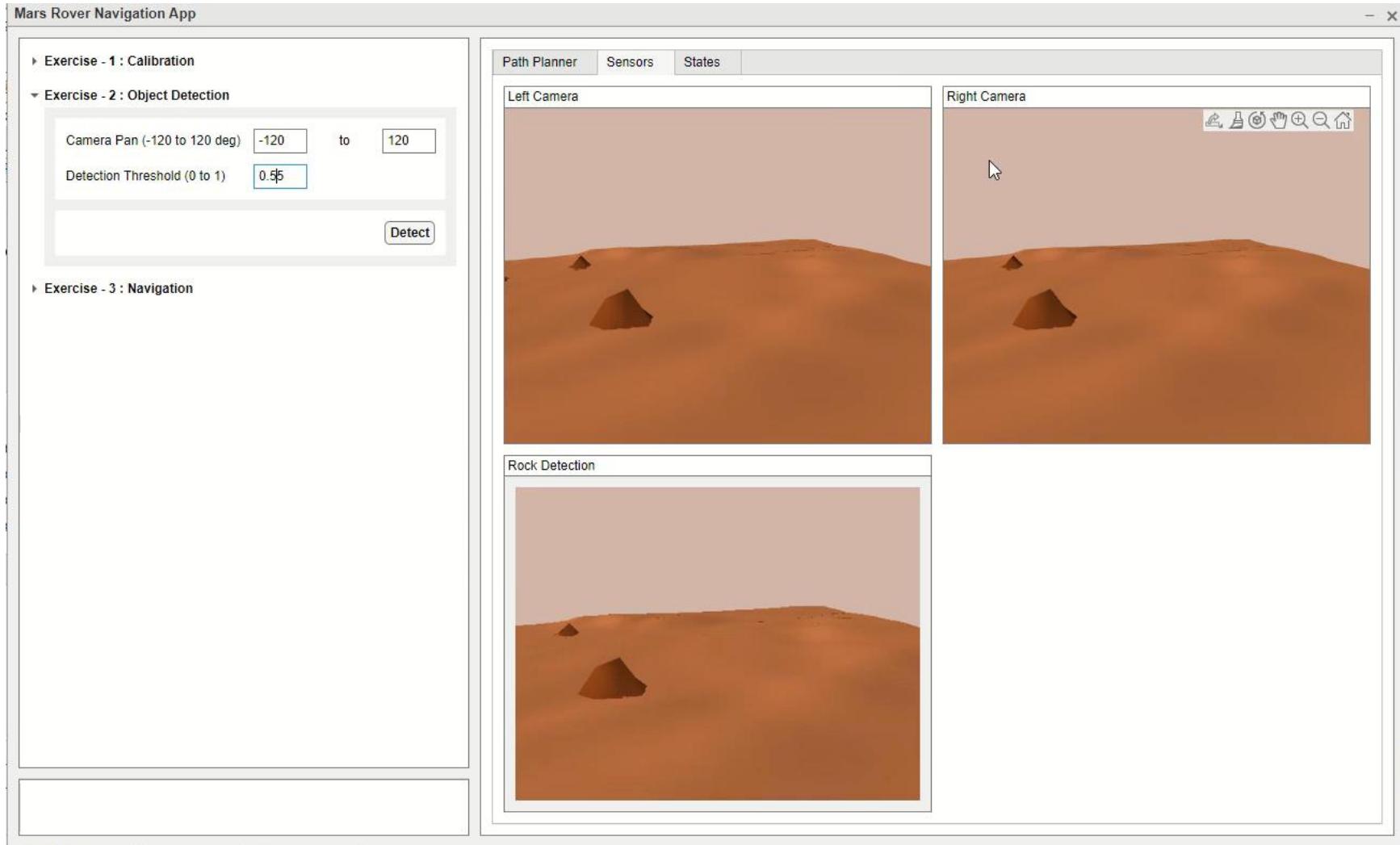
Access Ex2 in your interactive App

Explore the controls and identify objects on the Martian Environments



## Scan and change detection threshold

- Decide on your Pan values for your camera. This determines the width of your scanned area.
  - It can range from -120 deg to 120 deg
- Now try to modify the value for your Detection Threshold. The initial value is set to 0.55 which seemed to be optimal.
  - This can range from 0 to 1



How did your network react?

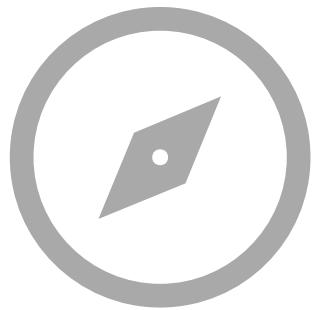
- What objects did you detect?
- Any false positives?
- Any false negatives?



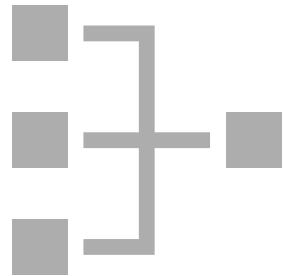
# Exercise 3

## Rover: Where can I go? (Path Planning)

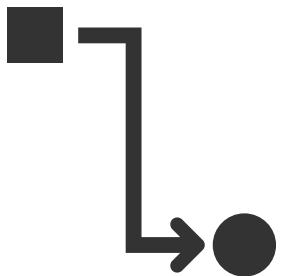
Onto the next task...



*Where am I?*  
Calibration

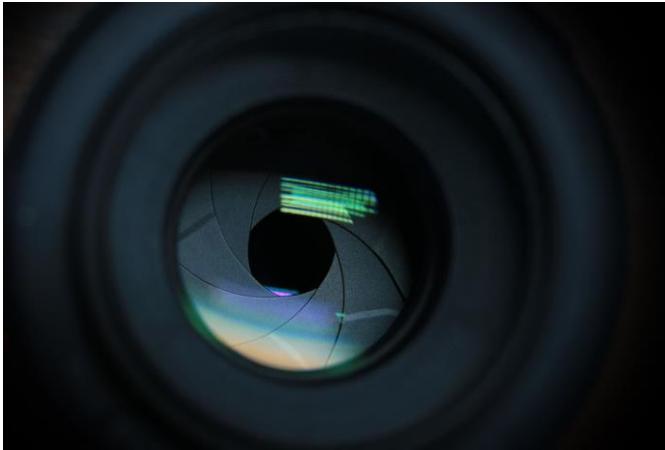


*What do I see?*  
Object Detection

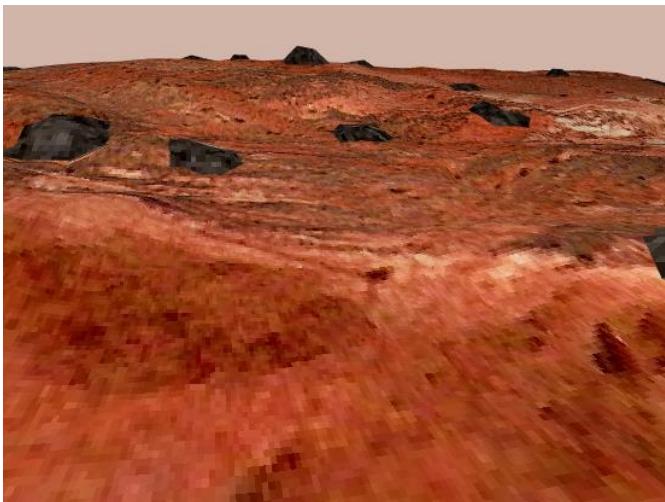


*Where can I go?*  
Navigation

## After correctly identifying objects, we need to traverse



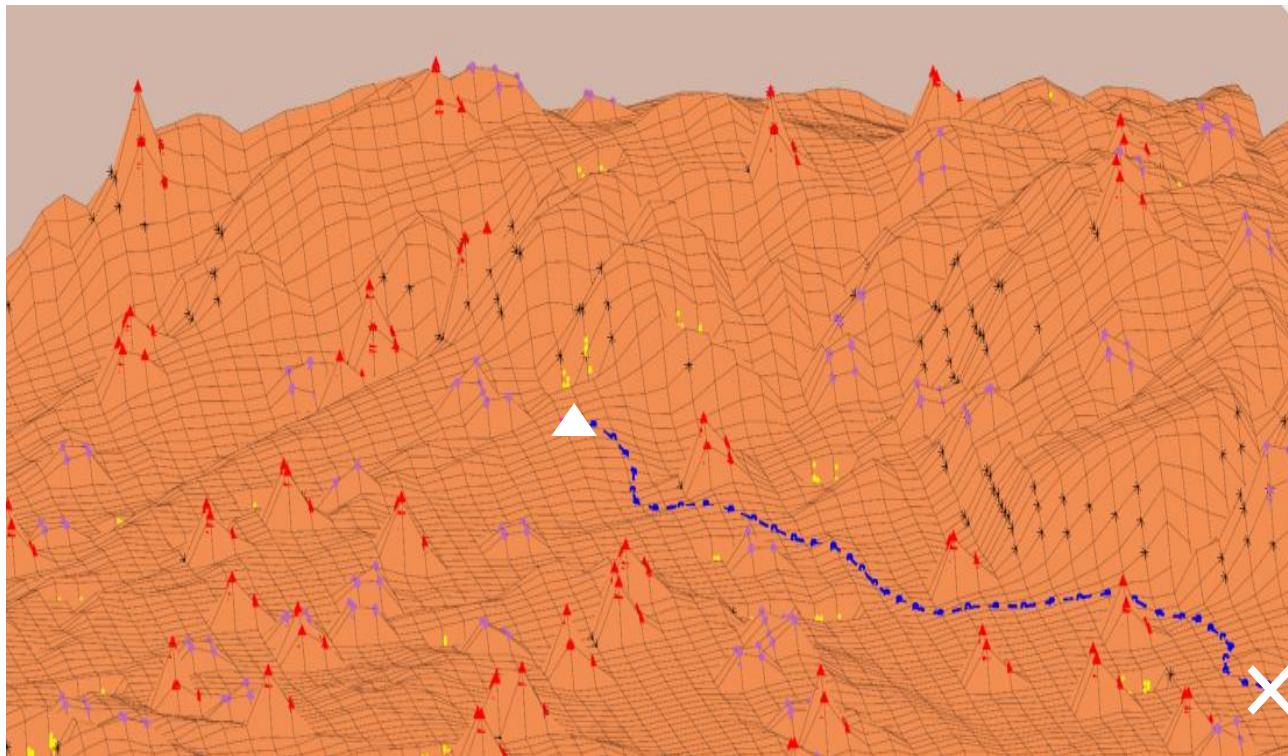
Recall our previous exercise, we can now detect objects in our path



With predetermined maps and updates from DNN, the rover should be able to carry out its mission successfully

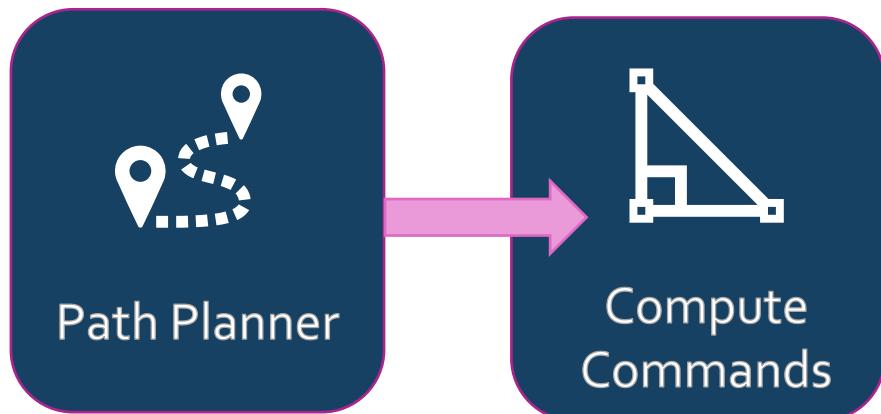
# Navigating unknown terrains is complex and challenging

*How do we solve the problem?*



- We perceive surroundings
  - Rocks
  - Sand
  - Unknown objects
- Also consider details from our maps
- We determine the target pose to plan an optimal path

# Obstacle Avoidance helps navigate in unknown terrains



A to B?

Find an optimal path using A\*

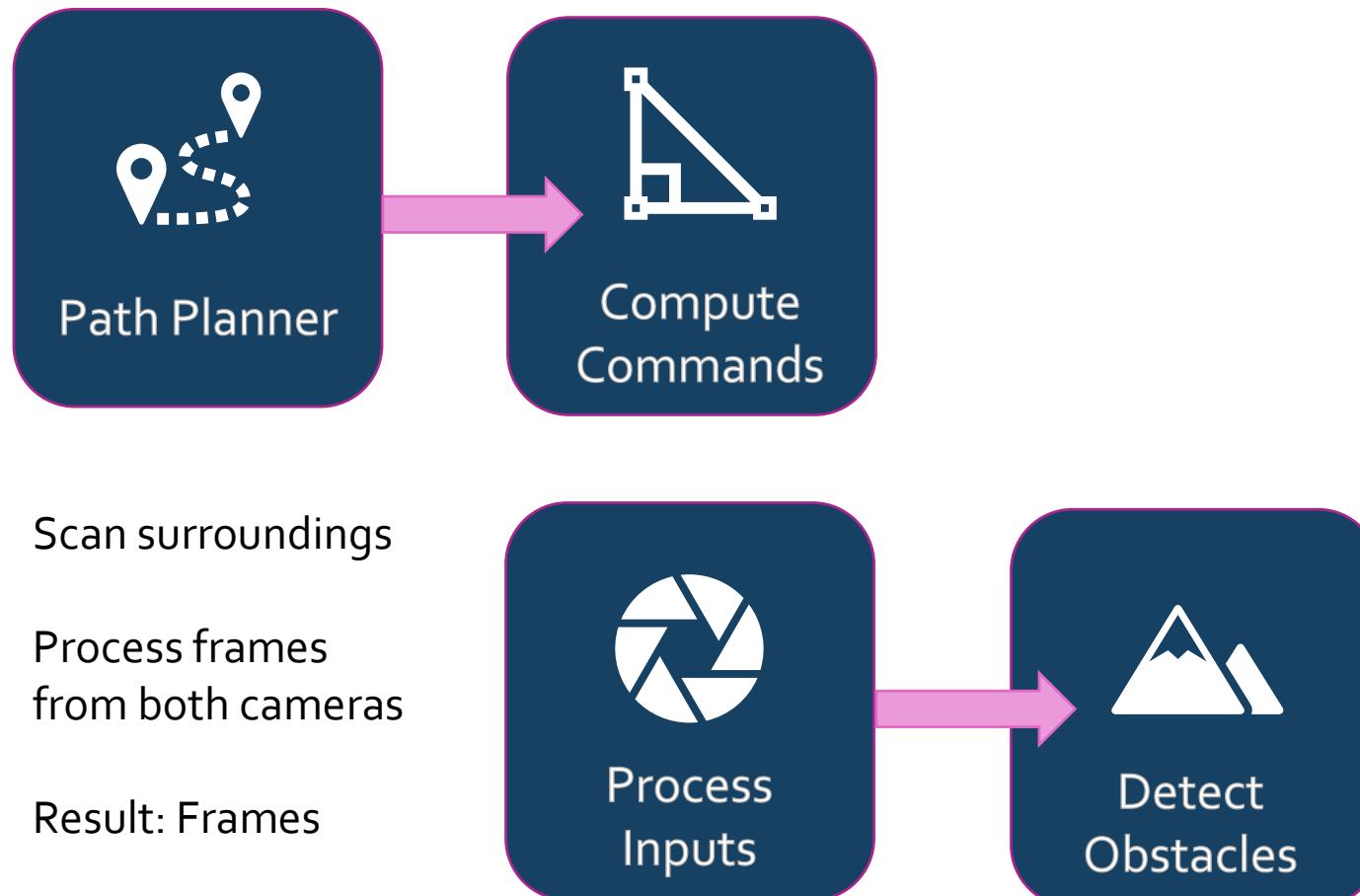
Result: Waypoints

Waypoints are a set of coordinates

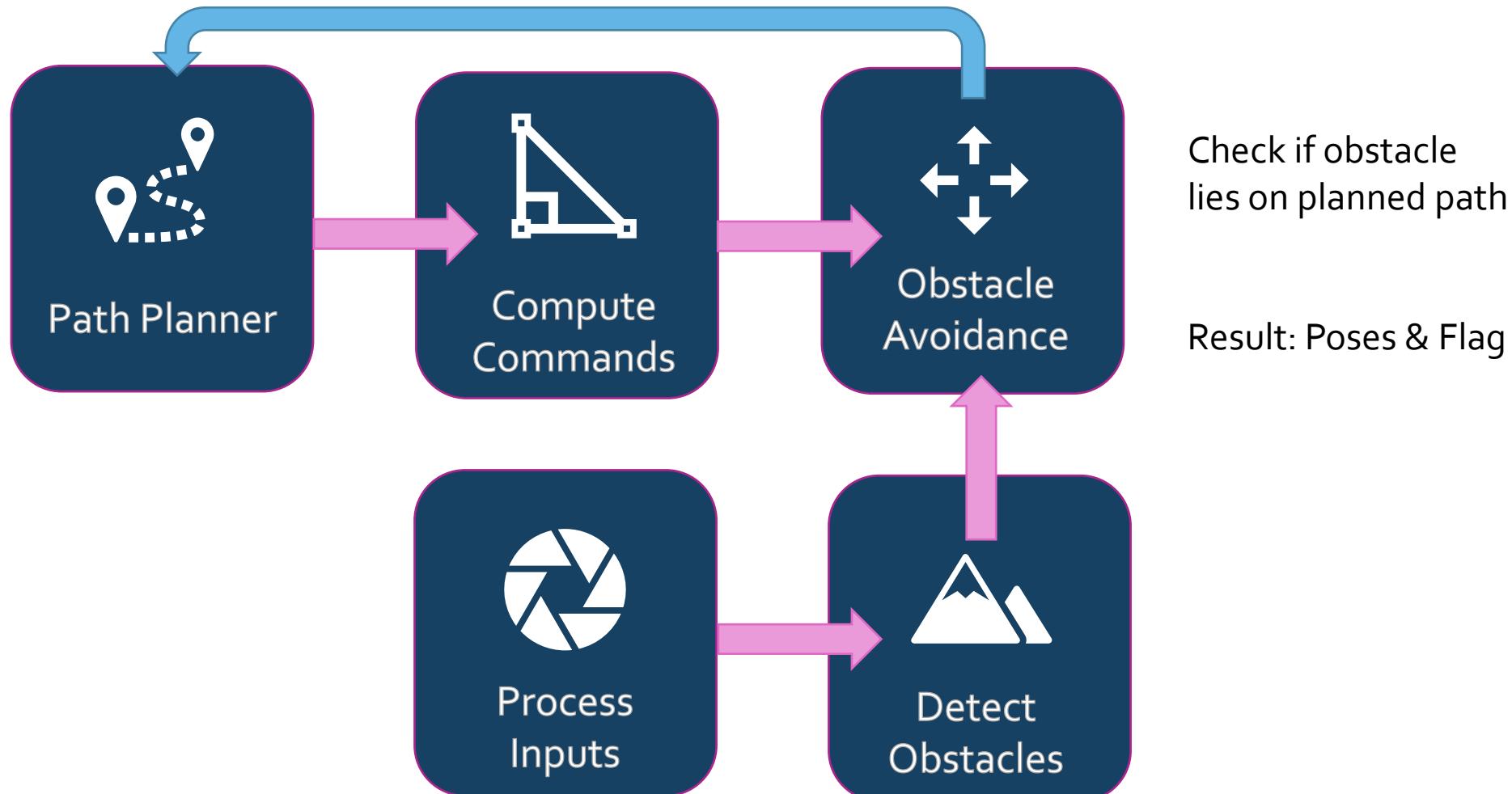
Compute commands using Pure Pursuit

Result: Velocity and Theta

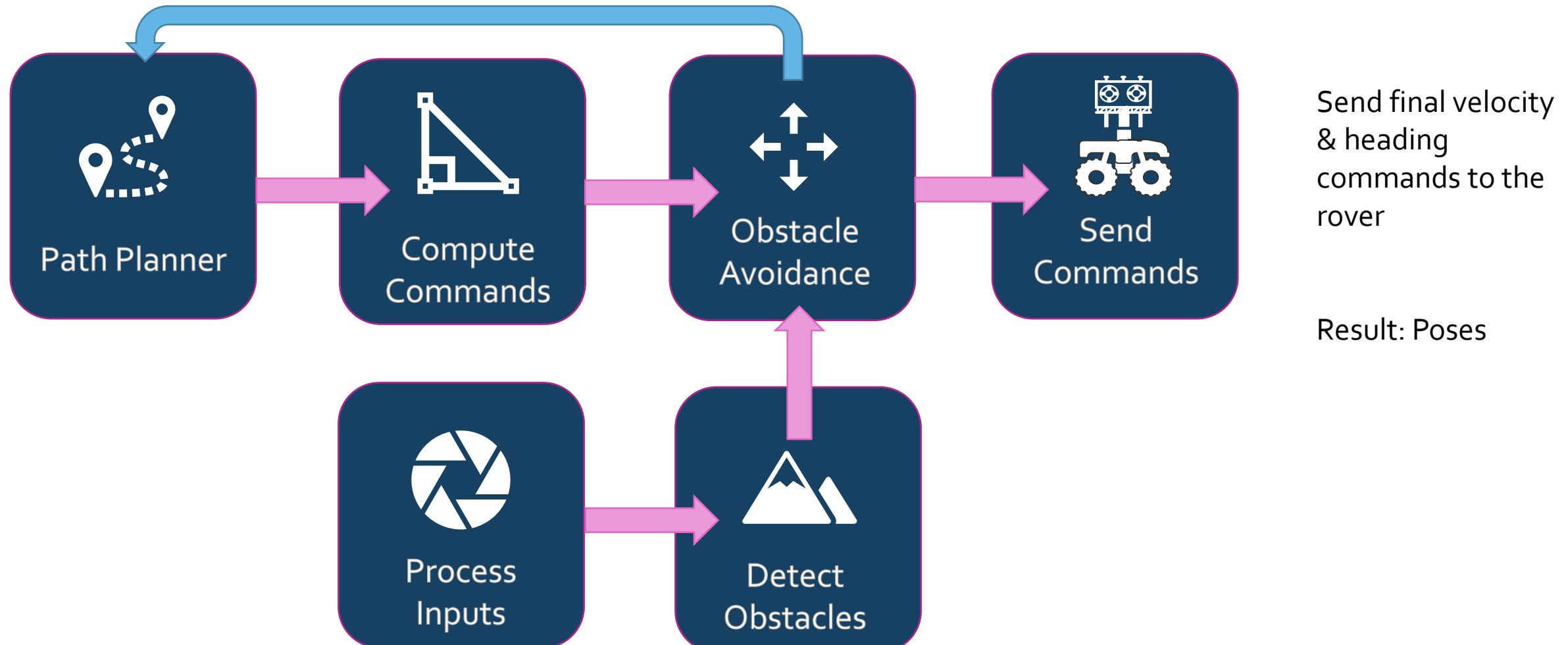
# Obstacle Avoidance helps navigate in unknown terrains

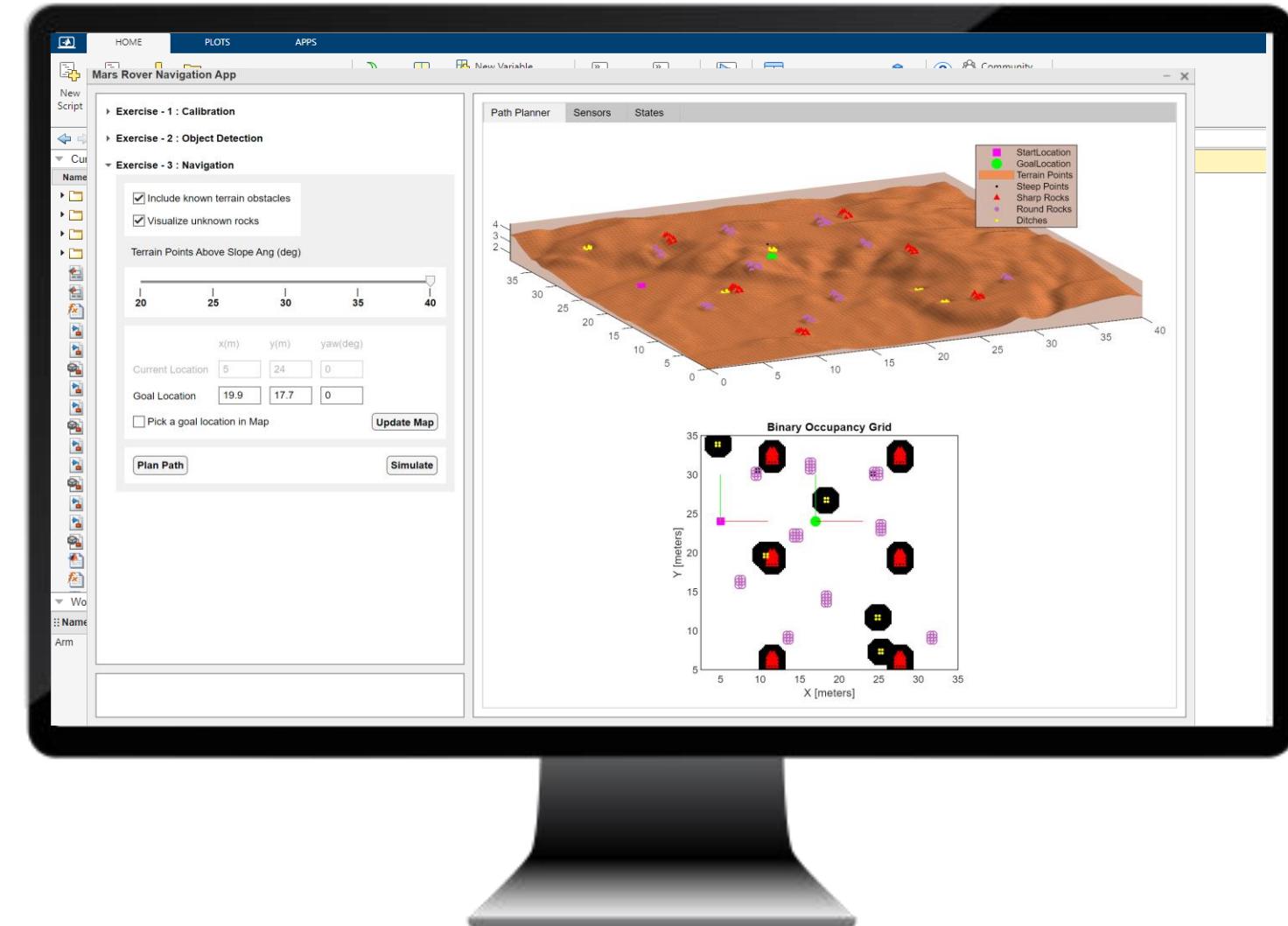


# Obstacle Avoidance helps navigate in unknown terrains



## Obstacle Avoidance helps navigate in unknown terrains

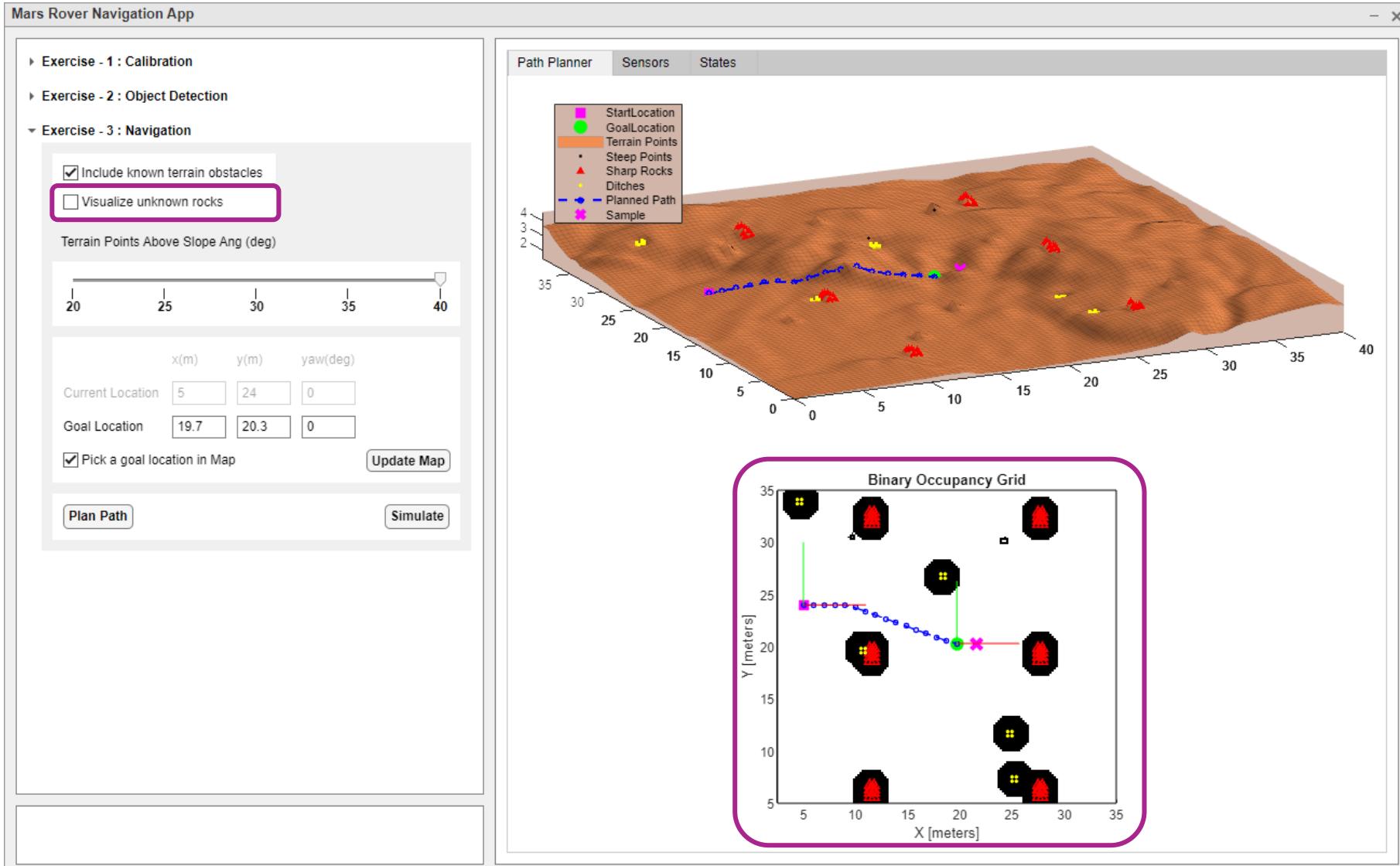




# Let's dive into our hands-on exercise

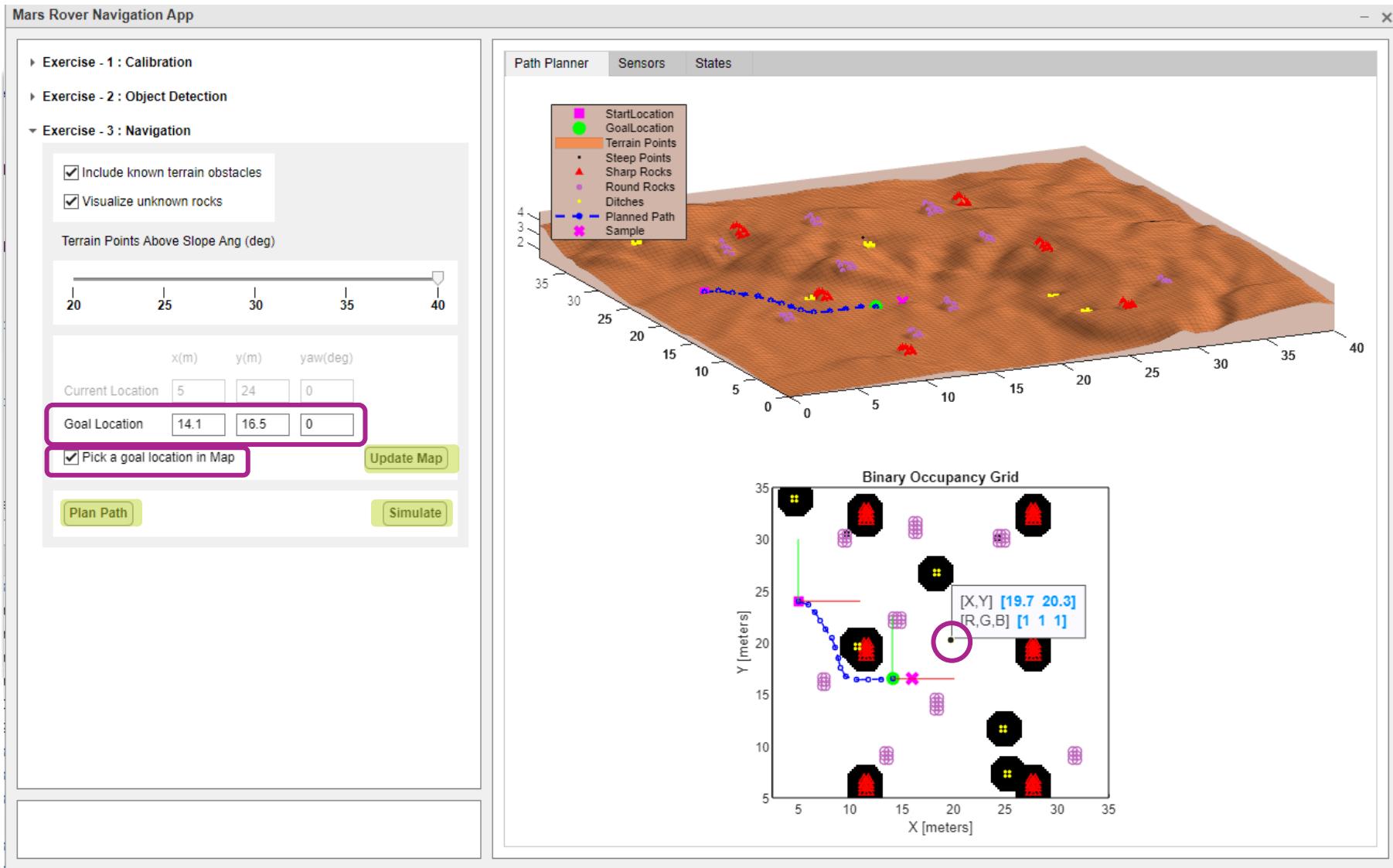
Navigate to a specific goal location

Let's explore the app and help navigate the rover



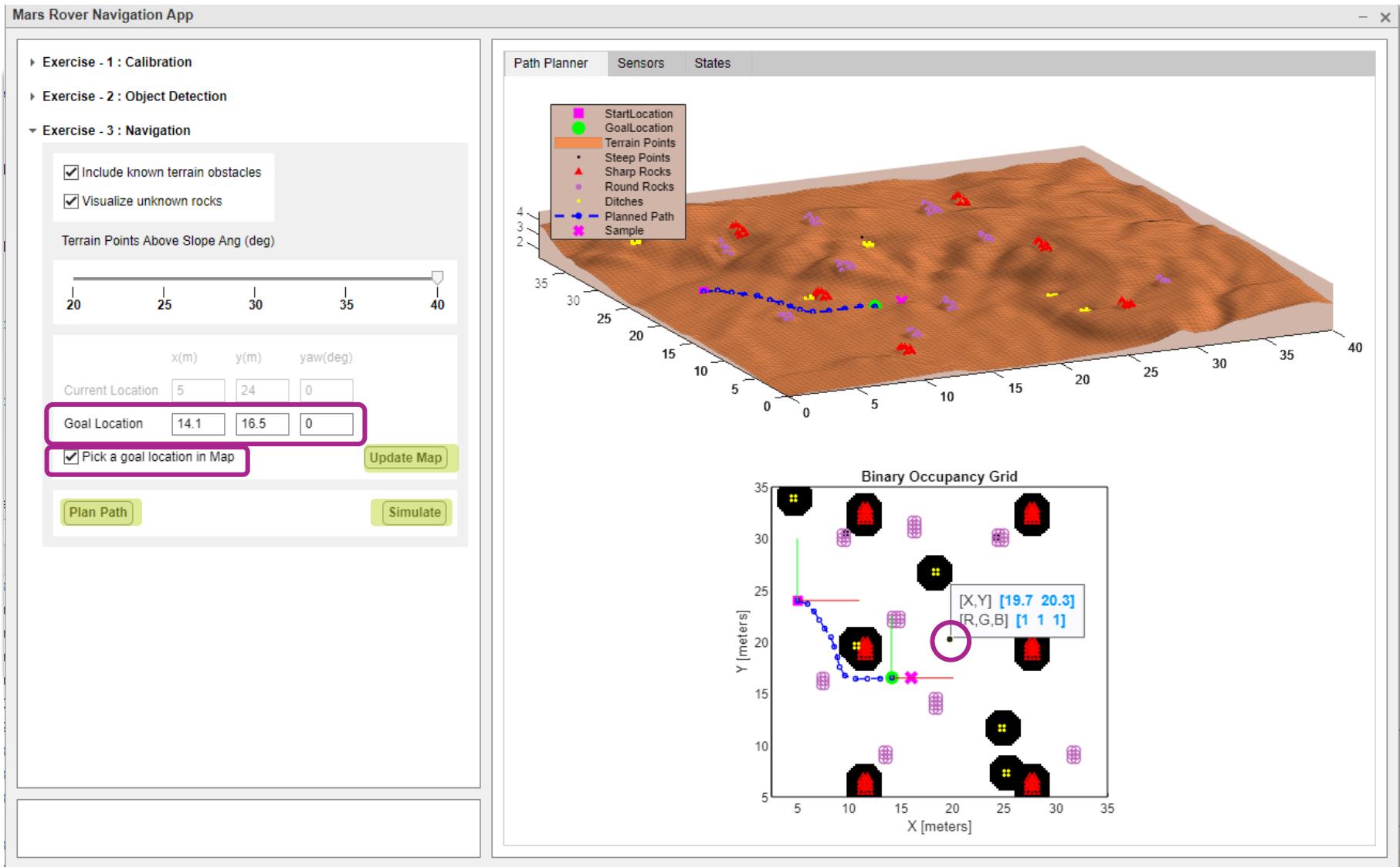
Choose to include/exclude unknown rocks

1. Select the checkbox
2. Observe the updates in the plot area



## Specify Goal Position and plan a path

1. Either pick a point for goal location or modify them in the edit fields
2. Hit “Update Map” to observe the results in the map area
3. Hit “Plan Path” to visualize the planned path on the Occupancy map.
4. Then press “Simulate” to get your rover moving.



Mars Rover Navigation App

- ▶ Exercise - 1 : Calibration
- ▶ Exercise - 2 : Object Detection
- ▶ Exercise - 3 : Navigation
  - Include known terrain obstacles
  - Visualize unknown rocks

Terrain Points Above Slope Ang (deg)

20    25    30    35    40

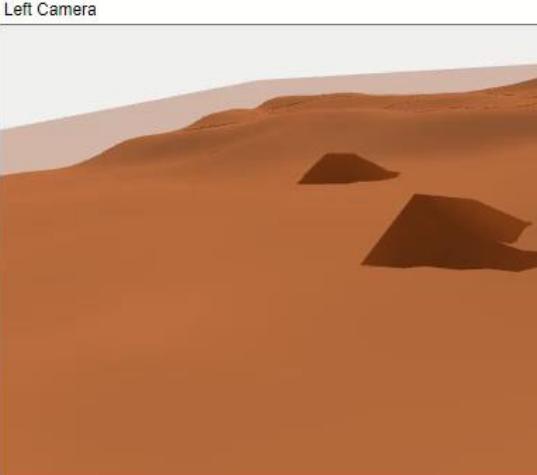
x(m)	y(m)	yaw(deg)
Current Location	5	24
Goal Location	20	30

Pick a goal location in Map      **Update Map**

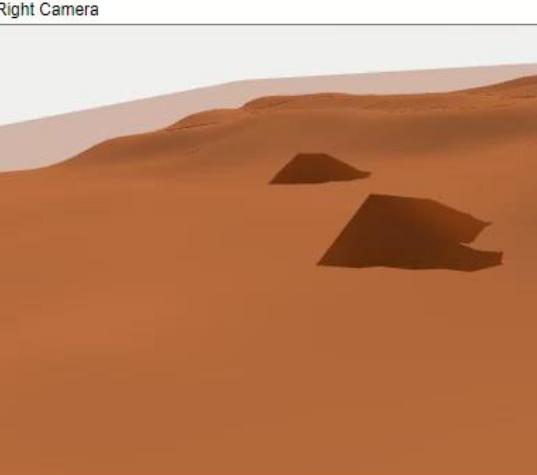
**Plan Path**      **Simulate**

Path Planner   Sensors   States

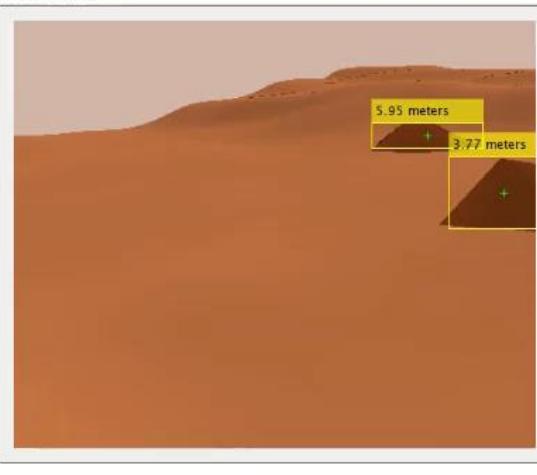
Left Camera



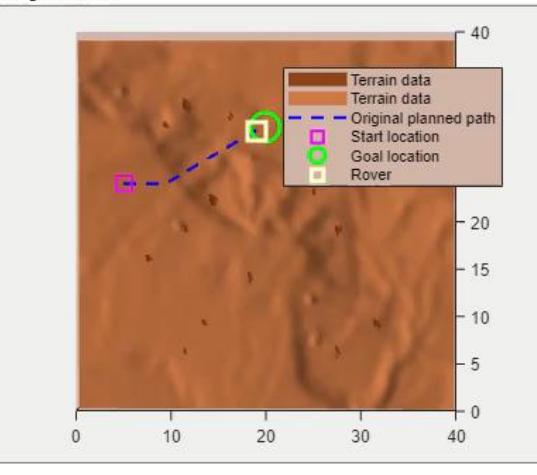
Right Camera



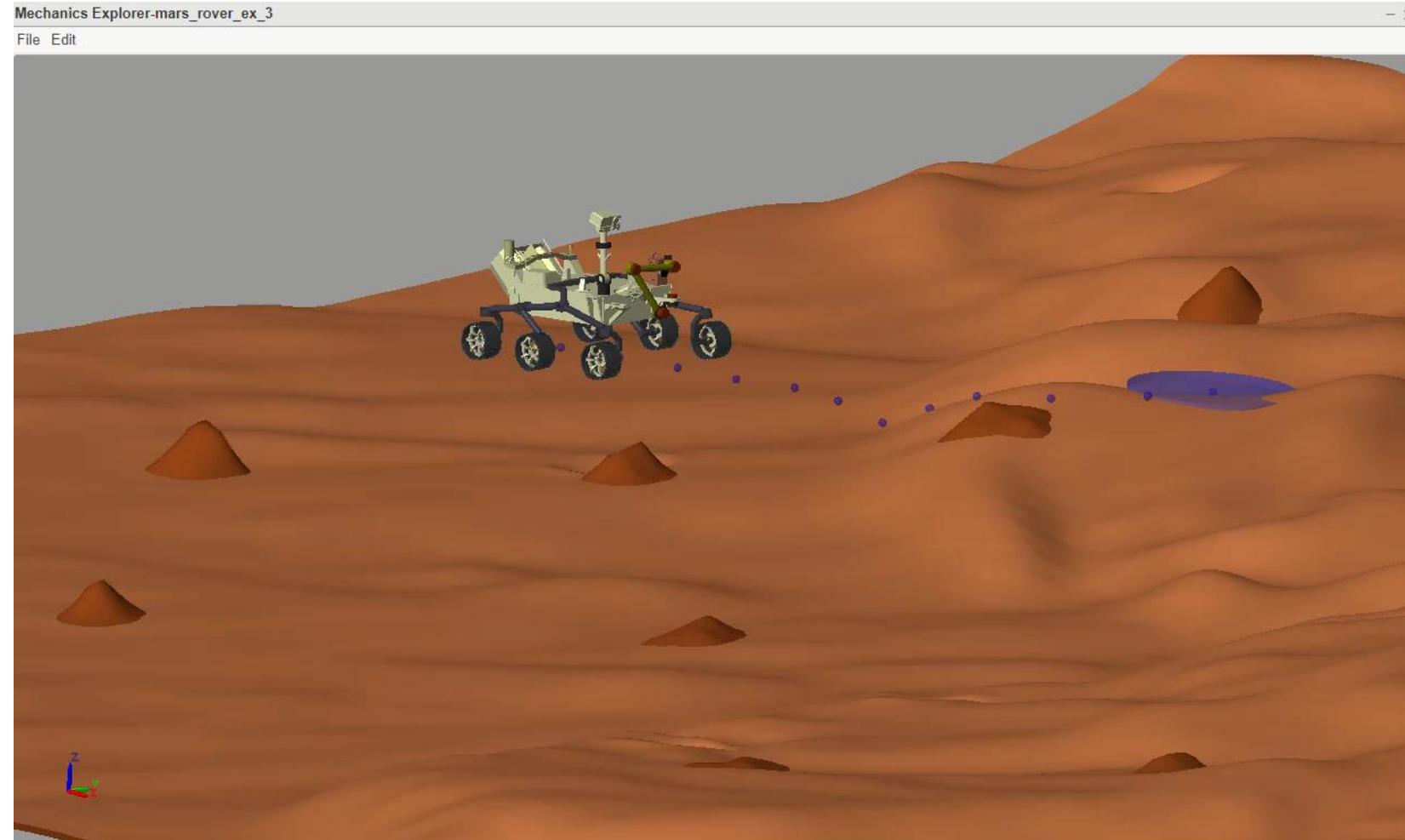
Rock Detection



Navigation View



How did your workflow go?



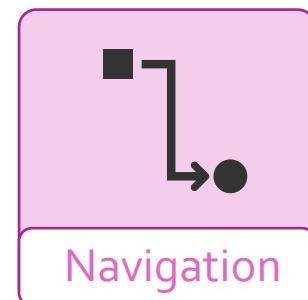
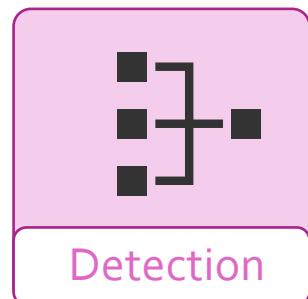
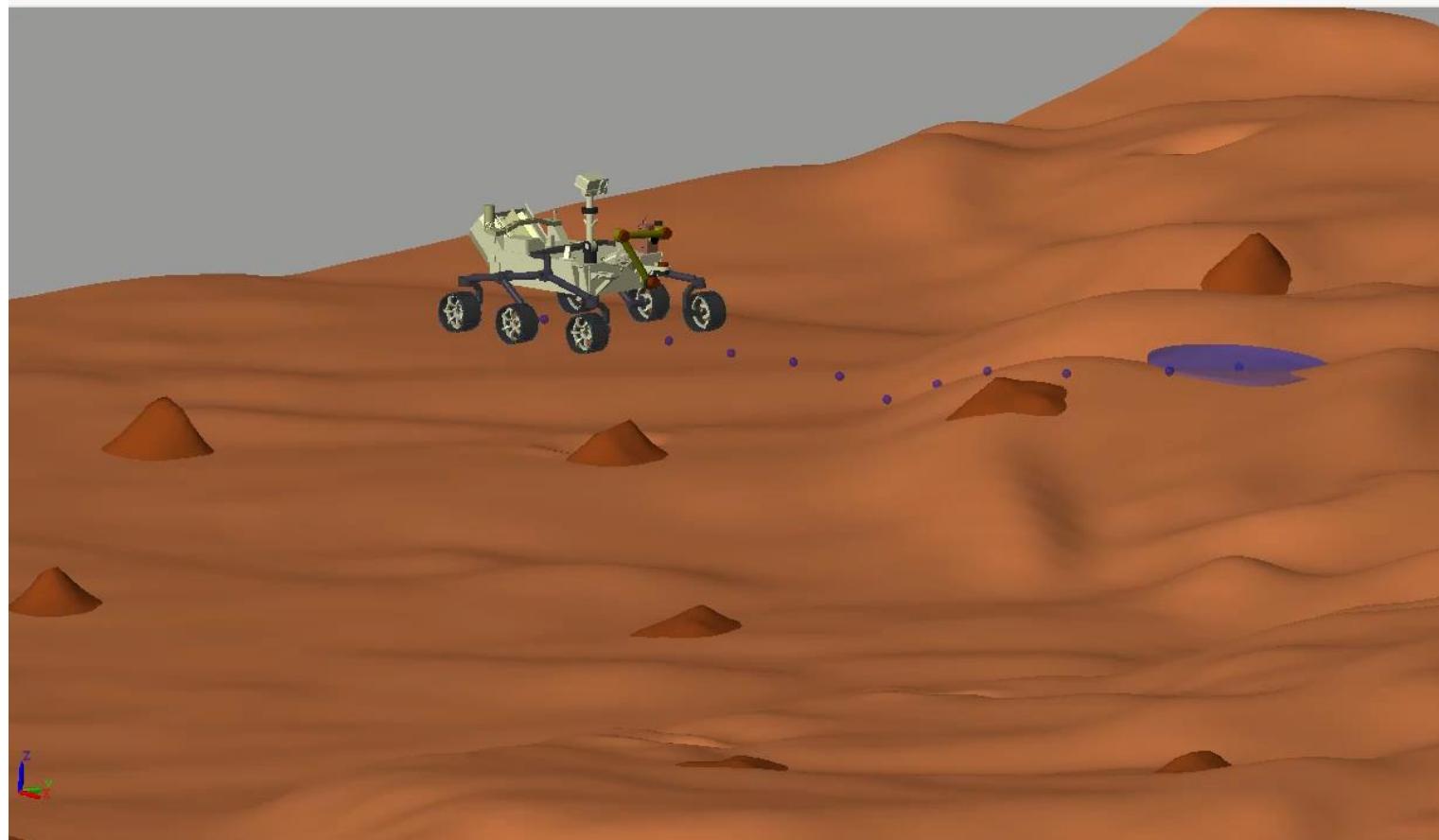
## How did your rover perform?

- What objects did you detect?
- Did you avoid obstacles?



What did you learn  
today?

# Navigating the Mars terrain using AI in a simulated environment



# Science drives exploration, exploration benefits humankind



## Want to learn more?

### **Robotics and Autonomous Systems**

<https://www.mathworks.com/solutions/robotics.html>

### **Deep Learning for Image Analysis**

<https://www.mathworks.com/solutions/deep-learning.html>

# Thank you for the support



Ameya Godbole



Shruti Karulkar



Antonio Hidalgo



Harshal Upadhyay



Anoush Najarian



Gabija Marsalkaite



Sara Nambi

# Shout out to the TA team!



Swetha Murali



Tharikaa R Kumar



Mahendra S Bisht



Xiao Liu



Carissa Gadson



Vaishnavi Katukollu



Timothy Kyung



Jayalekshmi V P



Anuja Pharse



Bonita Vormawor



Elvira Osuna-Highley



GRACE HOPPER

# Thank You

Continue the conversation with

#shelovesmatlab

#shelovessimulink

#NavigateOnMarsWithAI



@MathWorks | [MathWorks](#)



@RamaniKritika | [Kritika Ramani](#)



| [Chinmayi Lanka](#)



@MariaEGavilanA | [Maria Gavilan](#)