

## How to use?

The following steps are required in order to use the planning frame work. For examples, see /test:

1. Start the mongoDB service. Under Linux: `sudo service mongod start`
2. Start a mongo client using pymongo
  - a. `pymongo.MongoClient(host, port)`
  - b. The standard host address and port is `localhost:27017`
3. Create an instance of the desired planner interface (eg. PANDAInterface). The constructor needs the following arguments:
  - a. `kb_database_name`: Name of the mongo database name. Chose any name you like or use an existing database.
  - b. `domain_file`: Name of the domain file (.hddl for the PANDA planner)
  - c. `planner_cmd`: Shell command to execute the planner. "DOMAIN" and "PROBLEM" will be replaced by domain and problem files
  - d. `plan_file_path`: directory where planner output will be generated temporarily.
4. For convenience, you can use yaml files to store the planner config. The yaml file are located in /config.
5. Use `planner_interface.kb_interface.insert_facts()` or `insert_fluents()` in order to add knowledge.
6. If planning is required, use `planner_interface.plan()` to start the planning. The function returns a bool value stating whether a plan was found as well as a list of actions. The parameters of the plan function are the following:
  - a. `task_request`: this is a piece of heritage from the ropod project used to add more information to a task. At least the PANDAInterface does not use this parameter, so you can pass an empty `TaskRequest()` object.
  - b. `robot`: Name of the robot (only used for logging)
  - c. `task_goals`: list of task goals (htn tasks for the PANDA planner). List elements can be tuple, list or Task objects.
7. If a plan was found, the actions contained in the plan can be dispatched by `ActionDispatcher().dispatch_action()`, which takes an action and a timeout (in seconds) as arguments. The dispatcher will publish the `kcl_rosplan/action_dispatch` message and subscribe to `kcl_rosplan/action_feedback`.
8. If no robot is available to actually execute the action, the `action/action_execution_dummy.py` can be used in order to test the planning system. The dummy will just send a positive feedback to every received action (just execute it in a terminal).
9. **Important Note:** The planning framework will not update the knowledge with respect to the action effects. The responsibility for this is with the higher-level system.

## How to adapt to a new domain?

- All predicates in the domain have to be added to the (HDDL)PredicateLibrary, (HDDL)FluentLibrary or (HDDL)NumericFluentLibrary. Whether a predicate is represented as a Predicate or Fluent is purely a design decision. A Fluent for example is the preferred choice to represent a robot's position, allowing a robot only to be at one position at the same time.
- All actions in the domain have to be added to the ActionModelLibrary. If an action has to be modified, before being sent to the dispatcher, for example add some default parameters or

convert different actions in the domain to the same action with a different parameter (e.g. PickFromPlane, PickFromContainer), this can be done here.

**Note:** When editing the domain file, one has to be very careful for typos. In case of typos in the domain file the planner will (of course) return an error, but the error message is not very helpful in most cases.

It is not allowed to mix up tasks and methods. First all tasks have to be defined and then all methods.