

# Workflows

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Some Slides Contributed by the University of  
Wisconsin HTCondor Team, Scot Kronenfeld and  
Kyle Gross



# Before we begin...

- Any questions on the lectures or exercises up to this point?

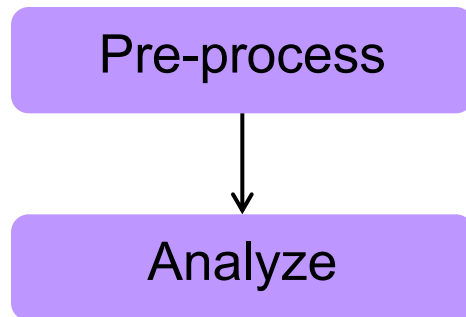


# Workflows

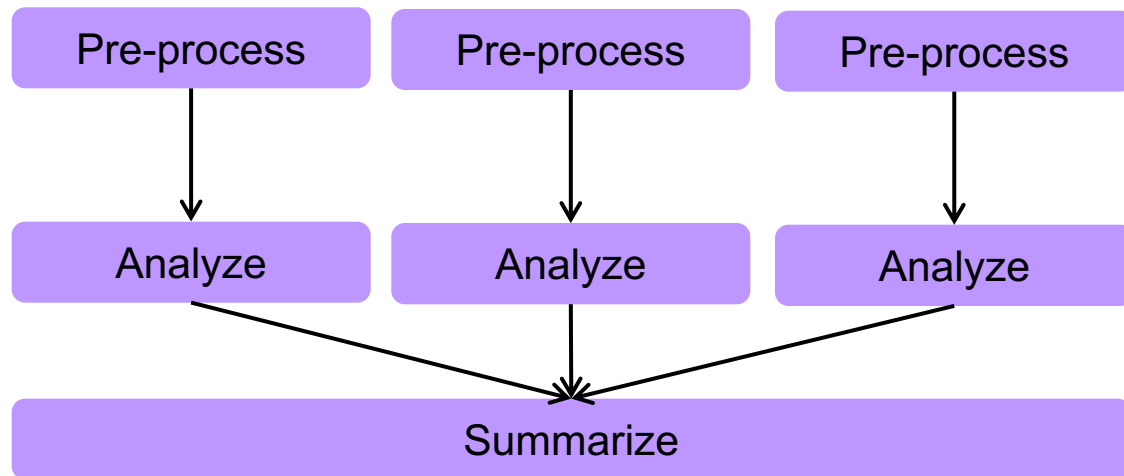
- What if you have a complex set of programs to run for your science?
- For example:
  - You want to analyze a set of images
  - Each image needs to be pre-processed
  - Each image needs to be analyzed
  - You need to summarize the results of all the analyses
  - Each of these is done with a separate application



## One Image:



## Three Images:



## Definition 1:

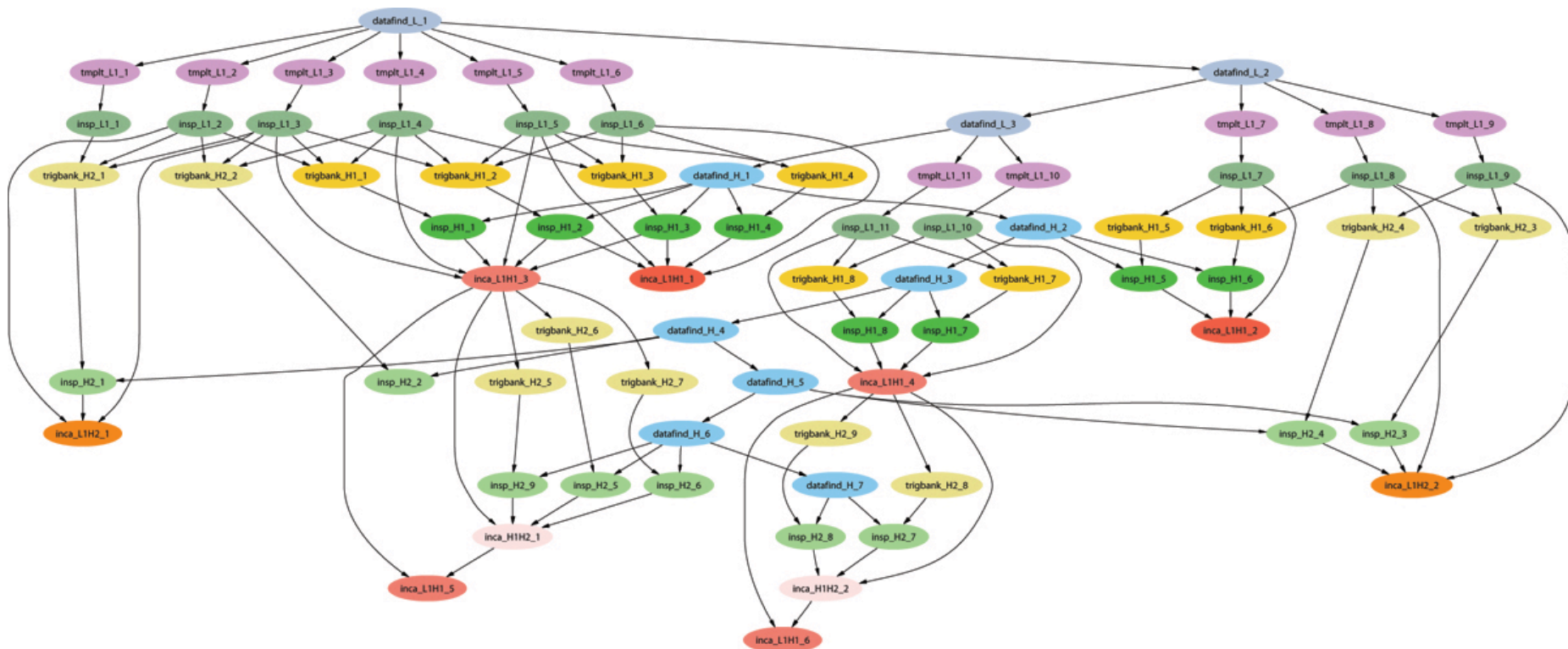
A set of steps to complete a complex task

## Definition 2:

A graph of jobs to run: some jobs need to run before others while other jobs can run in parallel

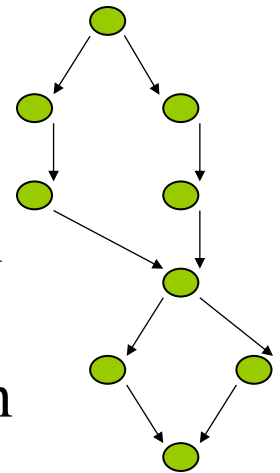


# Example of a LIGO Inspiral DAG



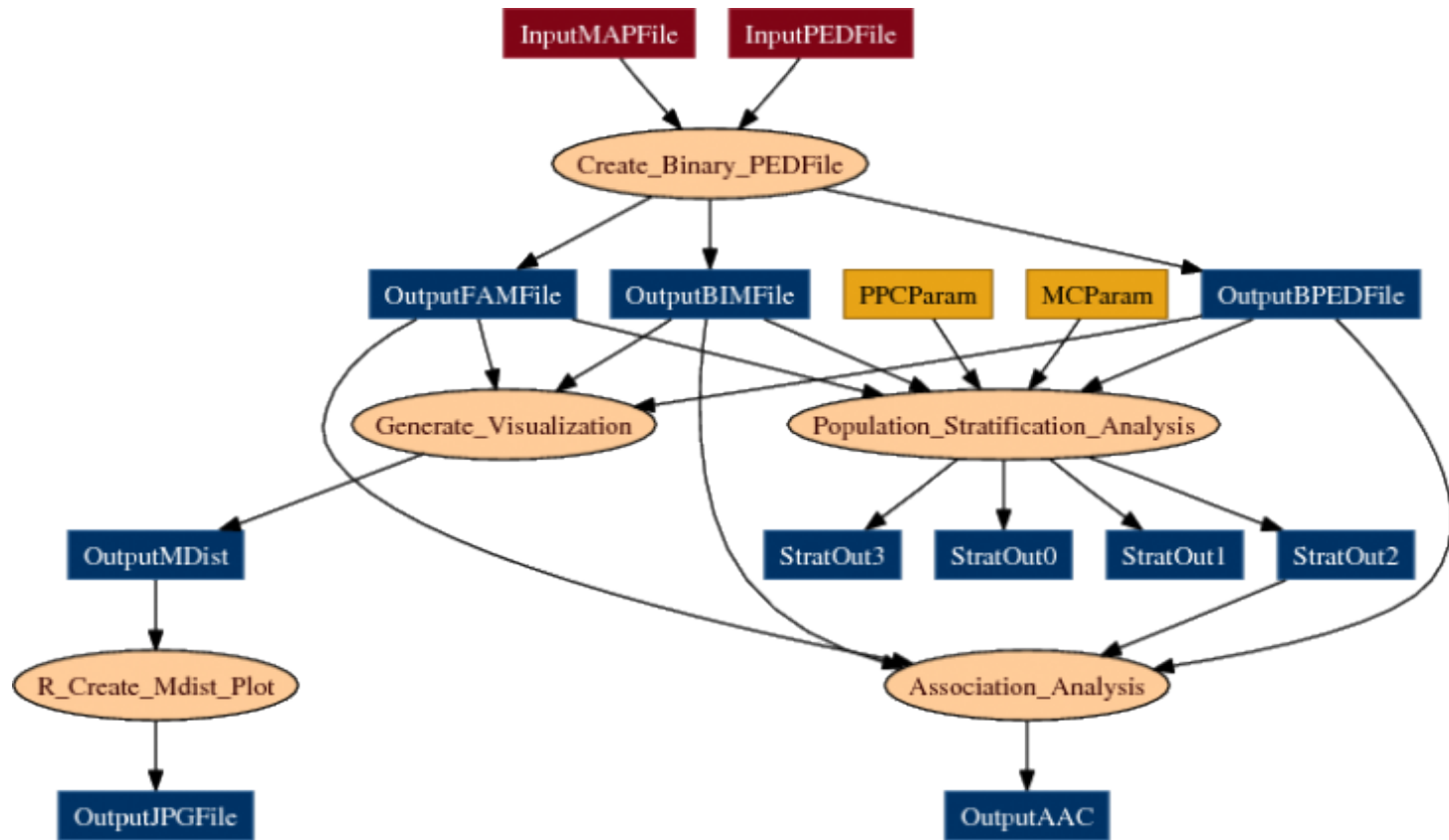
# Use of Condor by the LIGO Scientific Collaboration

- Condor handles 10' s of millions of jobs per year running on the LDG, and up to 500k jobs per DAG.
- Condor standard universe check pointing widely used, saving us from having to manage this.
- At Caltech, 30 million jobs processed using 22.8 million CPU hrs. on 1324 CPUs in last 30 months.
- For example, to search 1 yr. of data for GWs from the inspiral of binary neutron star and black hole systems takes ~2 million jobs, and months to run on several thousand ~2.6 GHz nodes.



(Statement from 2010—"last 30 months" isn't from now. Also, I think they do up to 1 million jobs per DAG now.)

# Example workflow: Bioinformatics



From Mason, Sanders, State (Yale)

[http://pegasus.isi.edu/applications/association\\_test](http://pegasus.isi.edu/applications/association_test)

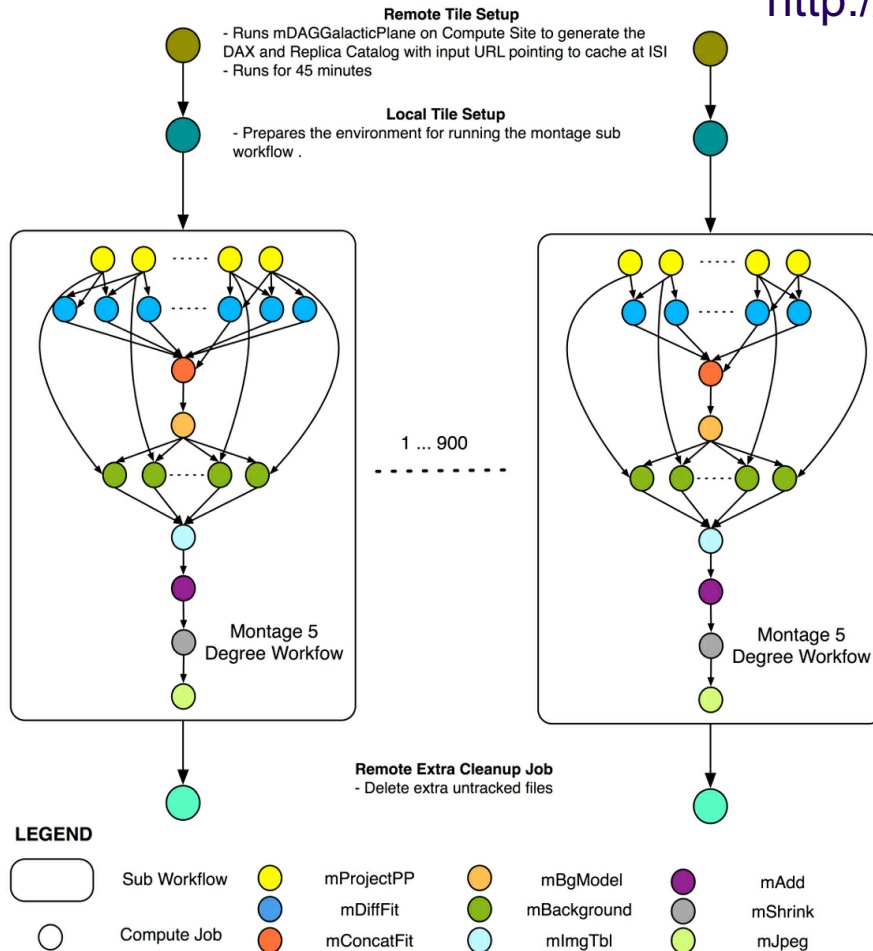


# Example workflow: Astronomy

## Montage Galactic Plane Workflow

From Berriman & Good (JPAC)

<http://pegasus.isi.edu/applications/galactic-plane>



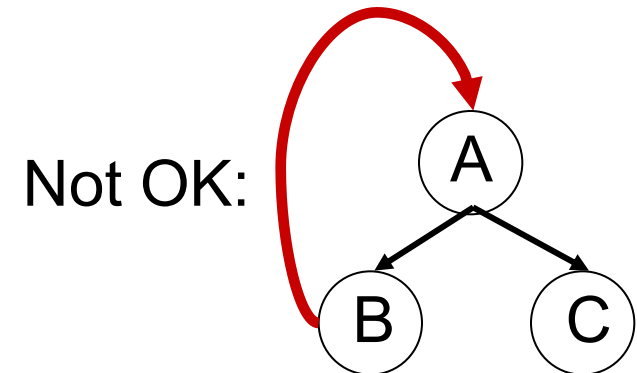
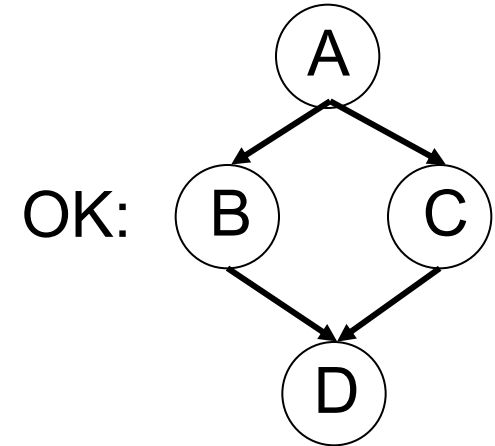
# DAGMan

- DAGMan:  
Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG)  
Manager (Man)
- Allows you to specify the dependencies between your jobs
- Manages the jobs and their dependencies
- That is, it manages a workflow of jobs



# What is a DAG?

- A DAG is the structure used by DAGMan to represent these dependencies.
- Each job is a node in the DAG.
- Each node can have any number of “parent” or “children” nodes – as long as there are no loops!

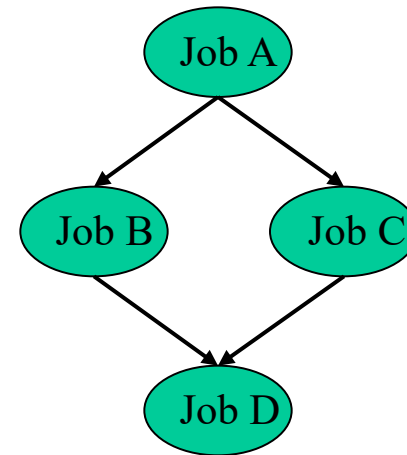


# Defining a DAG

- A DAG is defined by a *.dag file*, listing each of its nodes and their dependencies. For example:

```
Job A a.sub  
Job B b.sub  
Job C c.sub  
Job D d.sub
```

```
Parent A Child B C  
Parent B C Child D
```



- This complete DAG has five files

One DAG File:

```
Job A a.sub
Job B b.sub
Job C c.sub
Job D d.sub

Parent A Child B C
Parent B C Child D
```

Four Submit Files:

```
Universe = Vanilla
Executable = analysis...
```

```
Universe = ...
```

# Submitting a DAG

- To start your DAG, just run `condor_submit_dag` with your `.dag` file, and Condor will start a DAGMan process to manage your jobs:

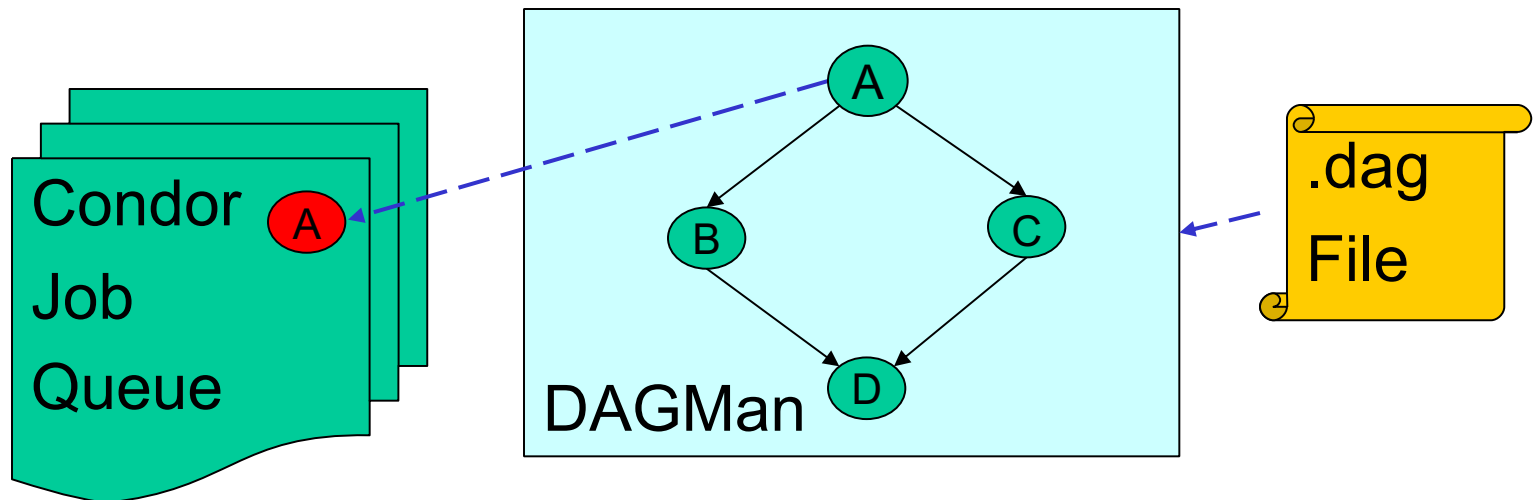
```
% condor_submit_dag diamond.dag
```

- `condor_submit_dag` submits a Scheduler Universe job with DAGMan as the executable
- Thus the DAGMan daemon itself runs as a Condor job, so you don't have to baby-sit it



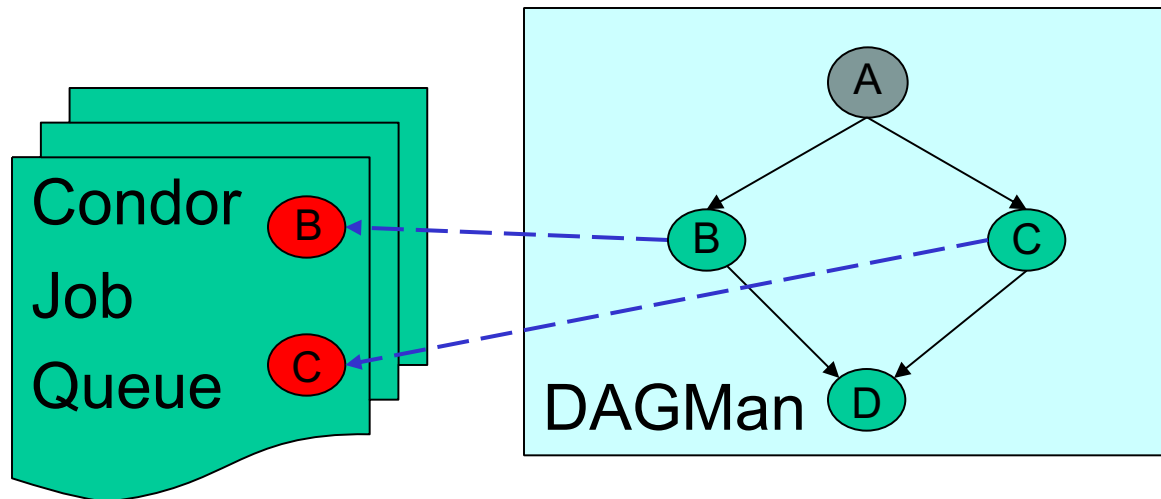
# Running a DAG

- DAGMan acts as a scheduler, managing the submission of your jobs to Condor based on the DAG dependencies



# Running a DAG (cont'd)

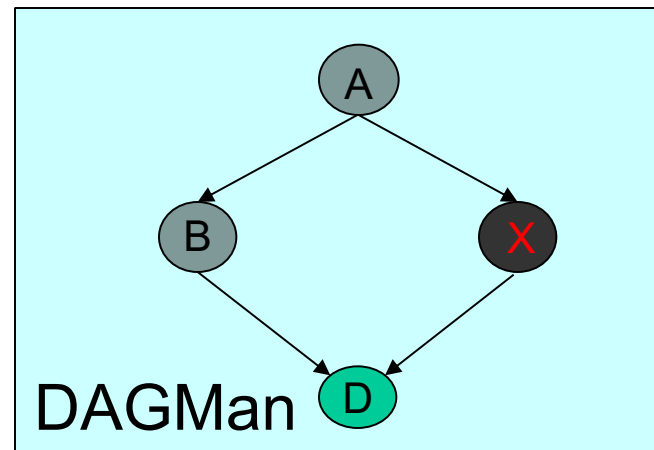
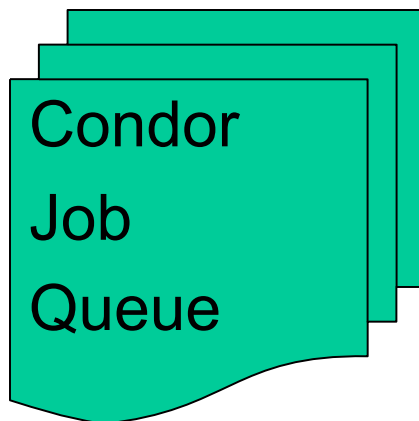
- DAGMan submits jobs to Condor at the appropriate times
- For example, after A finishes, it submits B & C





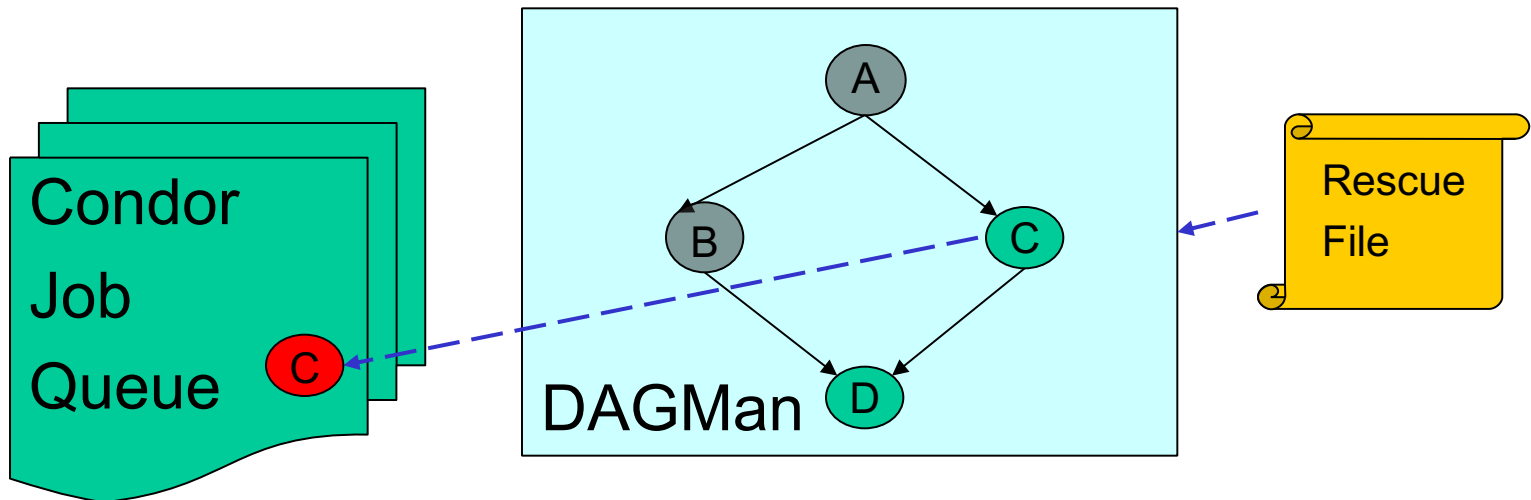
# Running a DAG (cont'd)

- A job *fails* if it exits with a non-zero exit code
- In case of a job failure, DAGMan runs other jobs until it can no longer make progress, and then creates a “*rescue*” file with the current state of the DAG



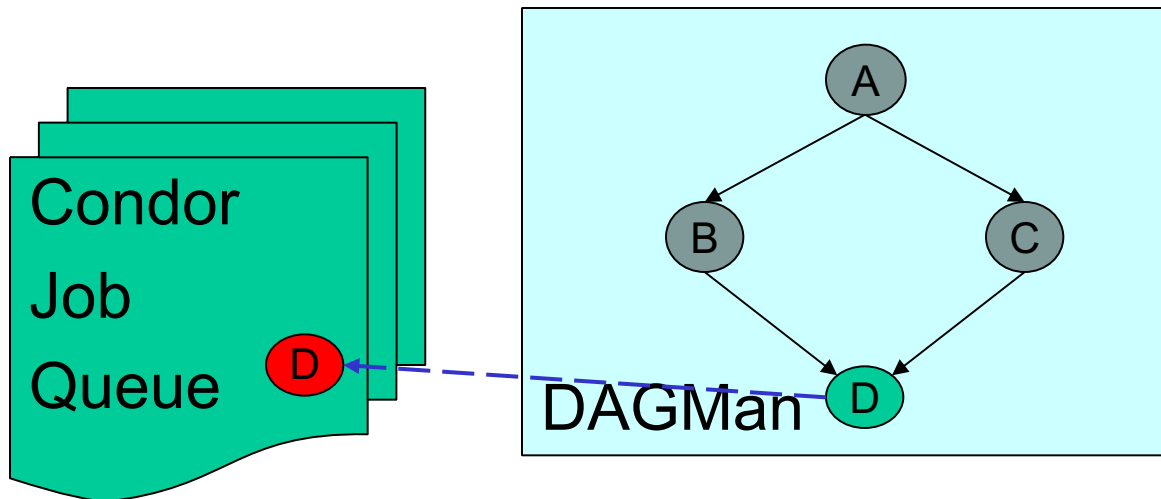
# Recovering a DAG

- Once the failed job is ready to be re-run, the rescue file can be used to restore the prior state of the DAG
  - Another example of reliability for HTC!



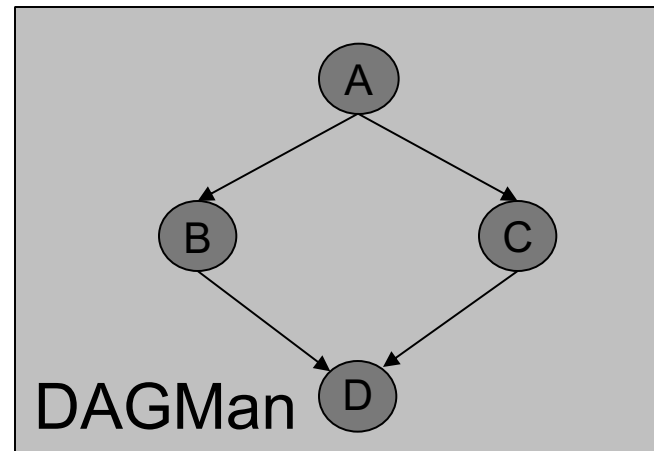
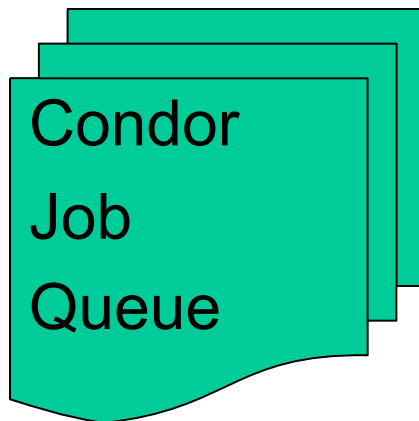
# Recovering a DAG (cont'd)

- Once that job completes, DAGMan will continue the DAG as if the failure never happened



# Finishing a DAG

- Once the DAG is complete, the DAGMan job itself is finished, and exits



# DAGMan & Fancy Features

- DAGMan doesn't have a lot of “fancy features”
  - No loops
  - Not much assistance in writing very large DAGs (script it yourself)
- Focus is on solid core
  - Add the features people need in order to run large DAGs well
  - People build systems on top of DAGMan



## **Pegasus: <http://pegasus.isi.edu/>**

- Writes DAGs based on abstract description
- Runs DAG on appropriate resource (Condor, OSG, EC2...)
- Locates data, coordinates execution
- Uses DAGMan, works with large workflows

## **Makeflow: <http://nd.edu/~ccl/software/makeflow/>**

- User writes *make* file, not DAG
- Works with Condor, SGE, Work Queue...
- Handles data transfers to remote systems
- Does not use DAGMan

# DAGMan: Reliability

- For each job, Condor generates a log file
- DAGMan reads this log to see what has happened
- If DAGMan dies (crash, power failure, etc...)
  - Condor will restart DAGMan
  - DAGMan re-reads log file
  - DAGMan knows everything it needs to know
  - Principle: DAGMan can recover state from files and without relying on a service (Condor queue, database...)
- Recall: HTC requires reliability!



# Advanced DAGMan Tricks

- Throttles
- DAGs without dependencies
- Sub-DAGs
- Pre and Post scripts: editing your DAG





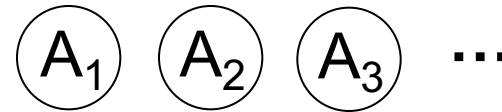
# Throttles

- Failed nodes can be automatically retried a configurable number of times
  - Helps recover from jobs that crash some percentage of the time
- Throttles to control job submissions
  - Max jobs submitted
  - Max scripts running
  - These are important when working with large DAGs



# DAGs without dependencies

- Submit DAG with:
  - 200,000 nodes
  - No dependencies
- Use DAGMan to throttle the job submissions:
  - Condor is scalable, but it will have problems if you submit 200,000 jobs simultaneously
  - DAGMan can help you with scalability even if you don't have dependencies

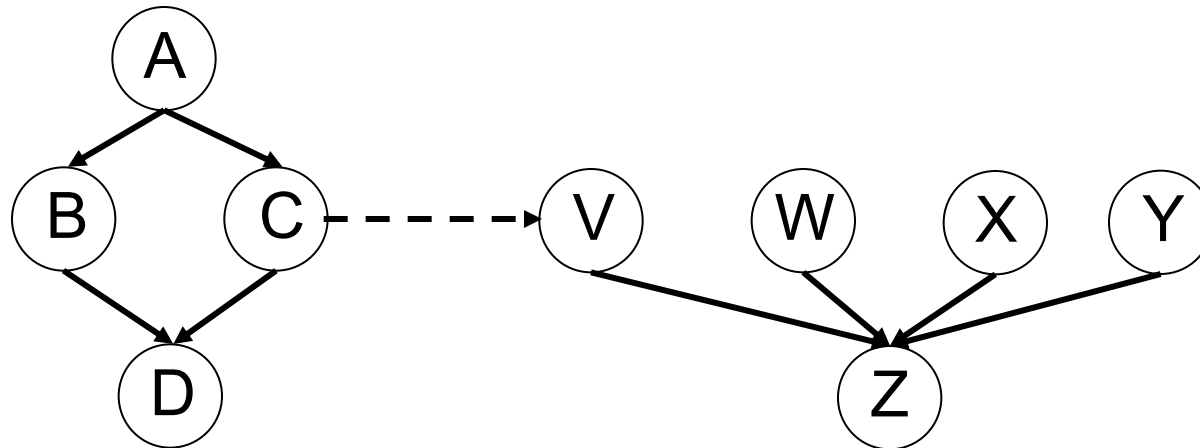


# Sub-DAG

- Idea: any given DAG node can be another DAG
  - SUBDAG External Name DAG-file
- DAG node will not complete until sub-dag finishes
- Interesting idea: A previous node could *generate* this DAG node
- Why?
  - Simpler DAG structure
  - Implement a fixed-length loop
  - Modify behavior on the fly



# Sub-DAG



# DAGMan scripts

- DAGMan allows pre & post scripts
  - Run before (pre) or after (post) job
  - Run on the same computer you submitted from
  - Don't have to be scripts: any executable
- Syntax:

```
JOB A a.sub
```

```
SCRIPT PRE A before-script $JOB
```

```
SCRIPT POST A after-script $JOB $RETURN
```



# So What?

- Pre script can make decisions
  - Where should my job run? (Particularly useful to make job run in same place as last job.)
  - What should my job do?
  - Generate Sub-DAG
- Post script can change return value
  - DAGMan decides job failed in non-zero return value
  - Post-script can look at {error code, output files, etc} and return zero or non-zero based on deeper knowledge.



# Quick UNIX Refresher Before We Start

---

- \$
- nano, vi, emacs, cat >, etc.
- module, scp, cp, watch, cat, ls, rm



# Let's try it out!

- Exercises with DAGMan.





# Questions?

- Questions? Comments?
- Feel free to ask me questions now or later:  
Rob Quick - [rquick@iu.edu](mailto:rquick@iu.edu)

