

Lecture 6

SOFT AND HARD CONSTRAINED TRAJECTORY OPTIMIZATION



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Outline



1. Introduction



2. Soft-constrained Optimization



3. Hard-constrained Optimization



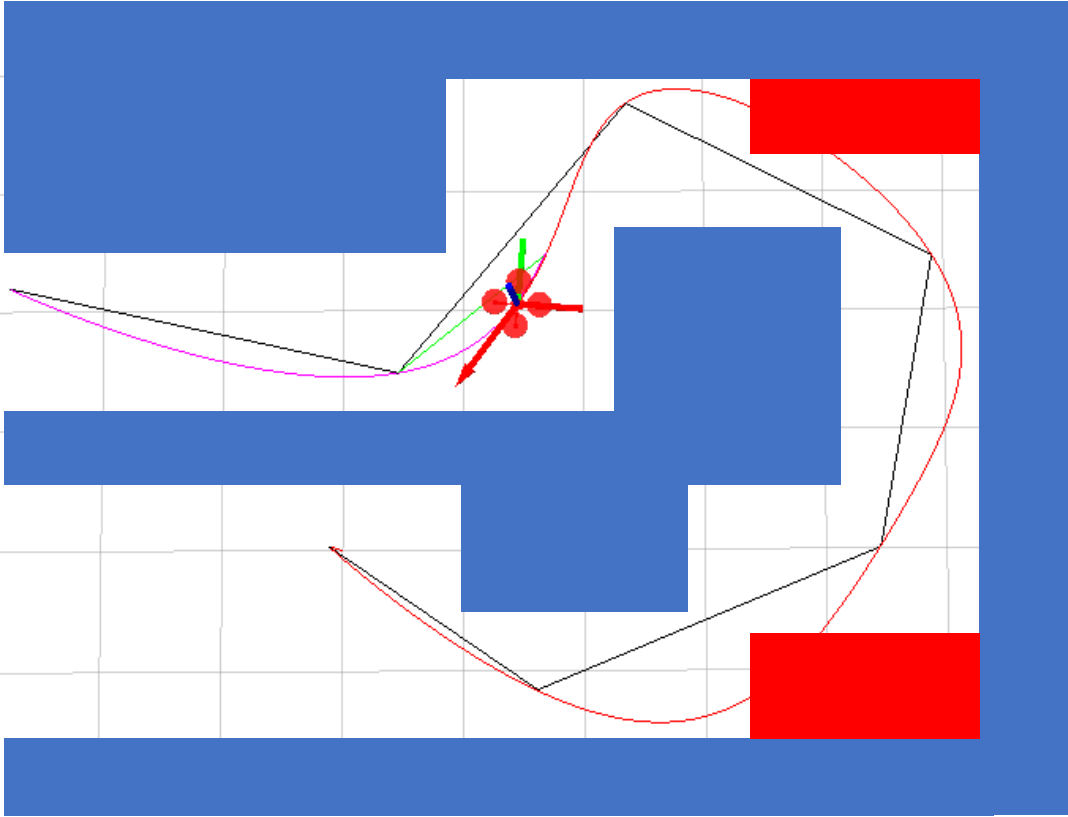
4. Case Study



5. Homework

Introduction

Minimum snap trajectory optimization

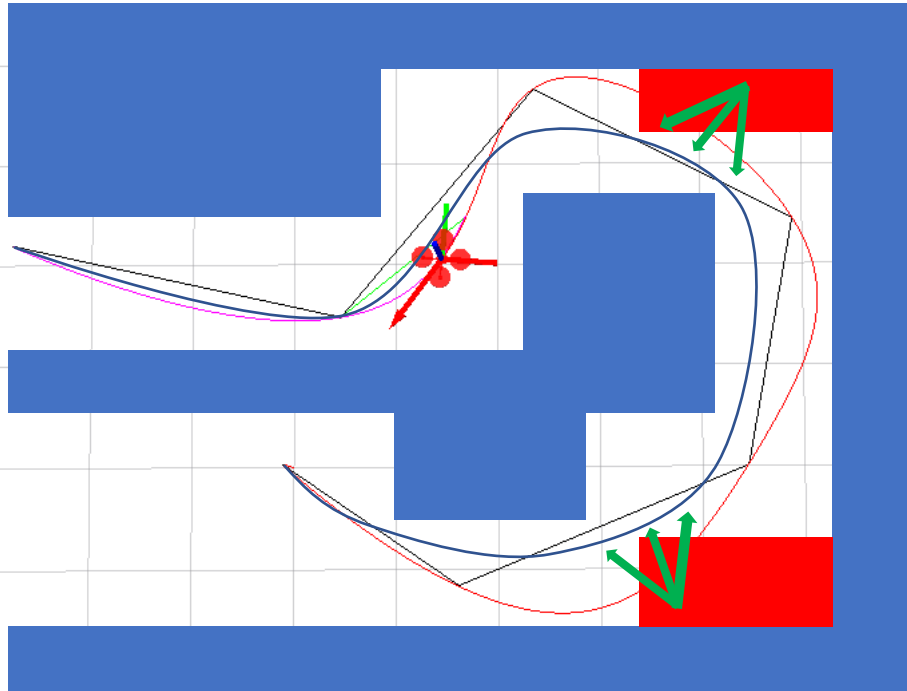


- We only constrain intermediate waypoints of the trajectory should pass.
- Computational cheap and easy to implement.
- No constraints on the trajectory itself.
- The “overshoot” of the trajectory unavoidable.

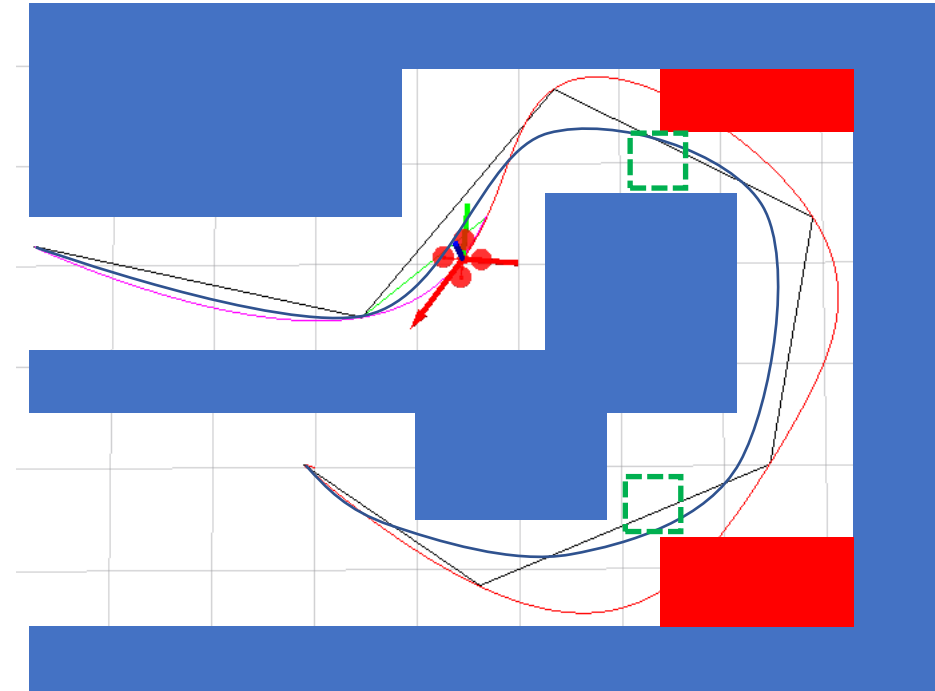
The basic minimum snap framework is good for smooth curve generation, not for collision avoidance.

Minimum snap with safety constraints

Adding forces



Adding bounds



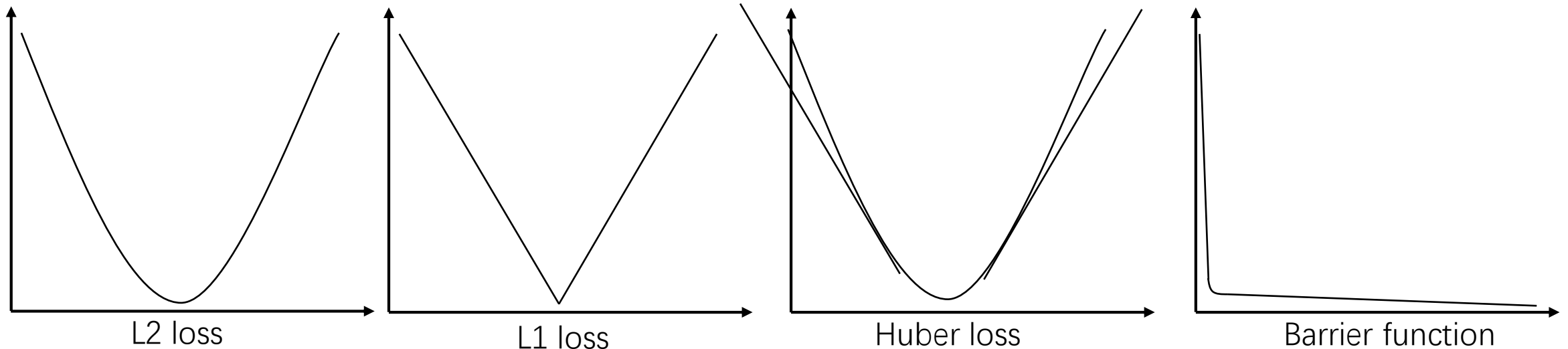


Hard/ Soft constraints

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & f(x) \\ \text{s.t.} & \boxed{\begin{array}{ll} g_i(x) = c_i, & i = 1, \dots, n \quad \text{Equality constraints} \\ h_j(x) \geq d_j, & j = 1, \dots, n \quad \text{Inequality constraints} \end{array}} \end{array} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{Required to be strictly satisfied.}$$

$$\min \quad f(x) + \boxed{\lambda_1 \cdot g(x) + \lambda_2 \cdot h(x)}$$

- Penalty terms / loss functions.
- Constraints which are preferred but not strictly required.
- Various kinds of loss functions.

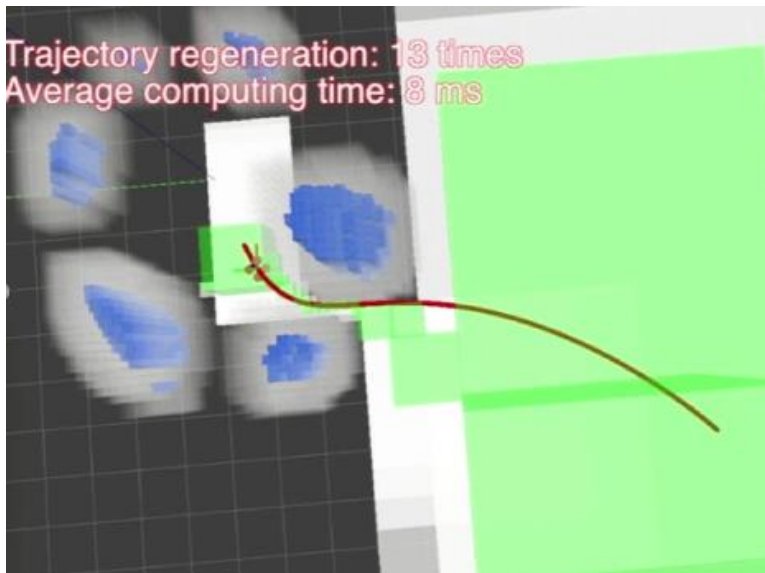


Hard-constrained Optimization

Corridor-based Trajectory Optimization



Corridor-based Smooth Trajectory Generation

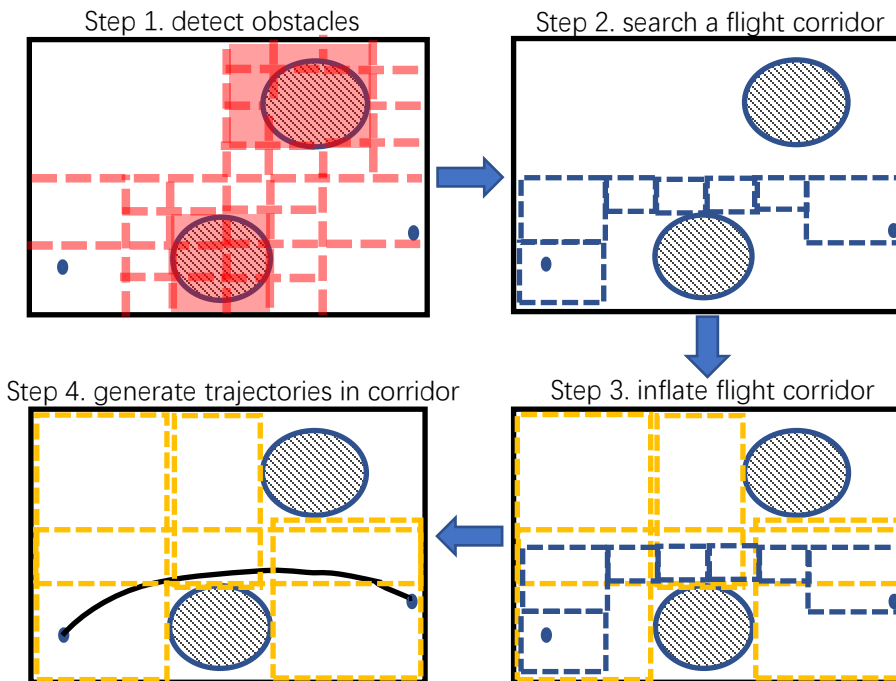


- Differential flatness property

$$\{x, y, z, \dot{x}, \dot{y}, \dot{z}, \phi, \theta, \varphi, p, q, r\} \rightarrow \{x, y, z, \varphi\}$$

- Piecewise polynomial trajectory

$$f_{\mu}(t) = \begin{cases} \sum_{j=0}^N p_{1j}(t - T_0)^j & T_0 \leq t \leq T_1 \\ \sum_{j=0}^N p_{2j}(t - T_1)^j & T_0 \leq t \leq T_1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \sum_{j=0}^N p_{Mj}(t - T_{M-1})^j & T_0 \leq t \leq T_1 \end{cases}$$



- Cost function (minimum jerk)

$$J = \sum_{\mu \in \{x, y, z\}} \int_0^T \left(\frac{d^k f_{\mu}(t)}{dt^k} \right)^2 dt$$

- Boundary constraints
- Continuity constraints
- Safety constraints

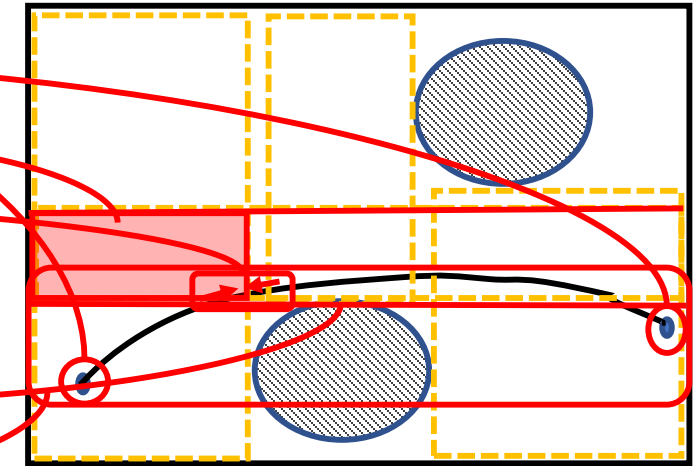
$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{H} \mathbf{p} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{A}_{eq} \mathbf{p} = \mathbf{b}_{eq} \\ & \mathbf{A}_{lq} \mathbf{p} \leq \mathbf{b}_{lq} \end{aligned}$$

Quadratic Program



Problem formulation

- **Instant** linear constraints:
 - Start, goal state constraint ($\mathbf{A}\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{b}$)
 - Transition point constraint ($\mathbf{A}\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{p} \leq \mathbf{b}$)
 - Continuity constraint ($\mathbf{A}\mathbf{p}_i = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{p}_{i+1}$)
- **Interval** linear constraints:
 - Boundary constraint ($\mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{p} \leq \mathbf{b}, \forall t \in [t_l, t_r]$)
 - Dynamic constraint ($\mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{p} \leq \mathbf{b}, \forall t \in [t_l, t_r]$)
 - Velocity constraints
 - Acceleration constraints

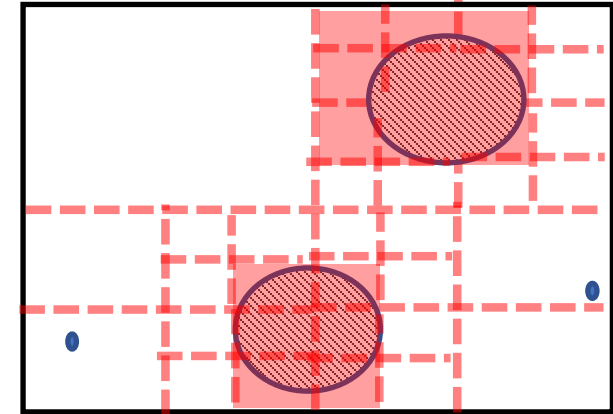
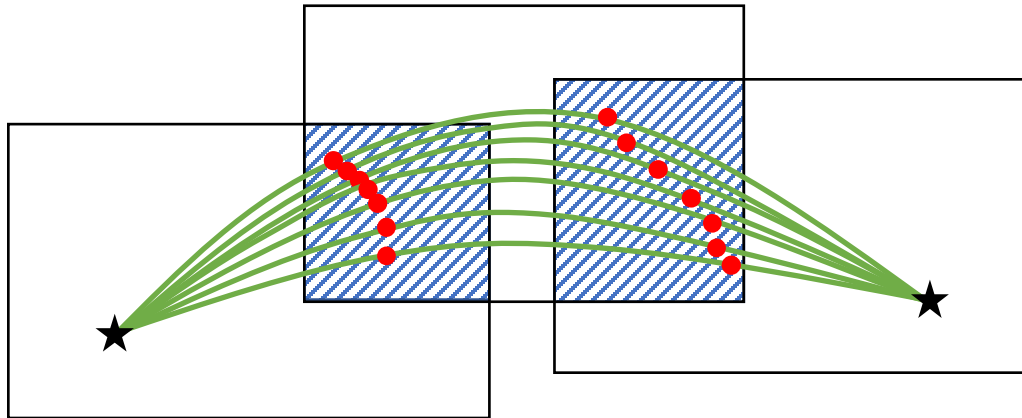




Advantages

Many advantages:

- Efficiency: path search in the reduced graph, convex optimization in the corridor are efficient.
- High quality: corridor provides large optimization freedom.



$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{H} \mathbf{p} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{A}_{eq} \mathbf{p} = \mathbf{b}_{eq} \\ & \mathbf{A}_{lq} \mathbf{p} \leq \mathbf{b}_{lq} \end{aligned}$$

Quadratic Program

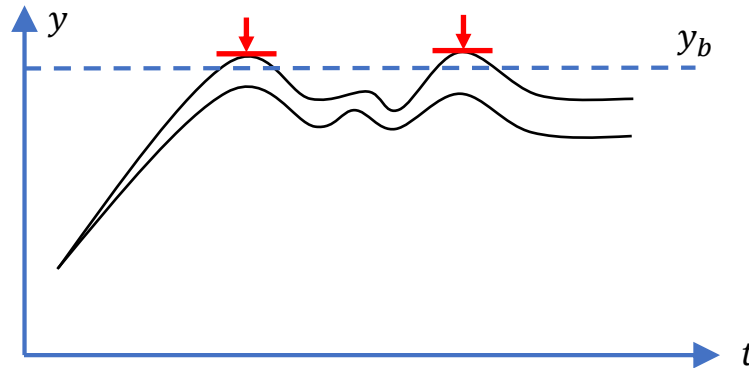


Disadvantages

Problem:

All constraints are enforced on piecewise joint points only, how to guarantee they are active along all the trajectory ?

- Iteratively check extremum and add extra constraints.



- Iterative solving is time consuming.
- If strictly no feasible solution meets all constraints. We have to run 10 iterations to determine the status of the solution ?

- Checking extremum is yet another polynomial root finding problem.
 - Up to quartic function, it's easy.
 - Higher order polynomials need numerical solutions.

$$f(x) = ax^4 + bx^3 + cx^2 + dx + e$$



Polynomial roots finding

Matlab function “roots”

For a general polynomial function: $p(x) = x^n + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1x + a_0$,
It has the **companion matrix**:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -a_0 \\ 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -a_1 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & -a_2 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & -a_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

The characteristic polynomial $\det(xI - A)$ of A is the polynomial $p(x)$.

roots

Polynomial roots

Syntax

```
r = roots(p)
```

Description

`r = roots(p)` returns the roots of the polynomial represented by `p` as a column vector. Input `p` is a vector containing `n+1` polynomial coefficients, starting with the coefficient of x^n . A coefficient of 0 indicates an intermediate power that is not present in the equation. For example, `p = [3 2 -2]` represents the polynomial $3x^2 + 2x - 2$.

The `roots` function solves polynomial equations of the form $p_1x^n + \dots + p_nx + p_{n+1} = 0$. Polynomial equations contain a single variable with nonnegative exponents.

Algorithms

The `roots` function considers `p` to be a vector with `n+1` elements representing the `n`th degree characteristic polynomial of an `n`-by-`n` matrix, `A`. The roots of the polynomial are calculated by computing the eigenvalues of the companion matrix, `A`.

```
A = diag(ones(n-1,1),-1);  
A(1,:) = -p(2:n+1)./p(1);  
r = eig(A)
```

The results produced are the exact eigenvalues of a matrix within roundoff error of the companion matrix, `A`. However, this does not mean that they are the exact roots of a polynomial whose coefficients are within roundoff error of those in `p`.

Bezier Curve Optimization



Trajectory basis changing

- Use **Bernstein** polynomial basis.
- Change to basis of the trajectory from **monomial** polynomial to **Bernstein** polynomial

$$P_j(t) = p_j^0 + p_j^1 t + p_j^2 t^2 + \dots + p_j^n t^n$$



$$B_j(t) = c_j^0 b_n^0(t) + c_j^1 b_n^1(t) + \dots + c_j^n b_n^n(t) = \sum_{i=0}^n c_j^i b_n^i(t)$$

$$b_n^i(t) = \binom{n}{i} \cdot t^i \cdot (1-t)^{n-i}$$

Bézier curve

- Bézier curve is just a special polynomial, it can be mapped to monomial polynomial by: $p = M \cdot c$. And all previous derivations still hold.

For 6 order: $M =$

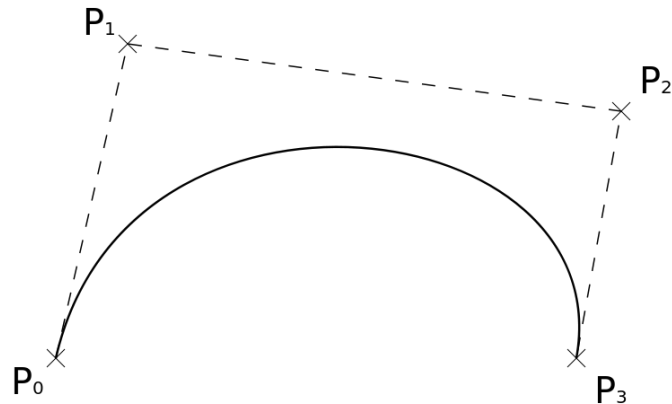
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -6 & 6 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 15 & -30 & 15 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -20 & 60 & -60 & 20 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 15 & -60 & 90 & -60 & 15 & 0 & 0 \\ -6 & 30 & -60 & 60 & -30 & 6 & 0 \\ 1 & -6 & 15 & -20 & 15 & -6 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



Trajectory basis changing

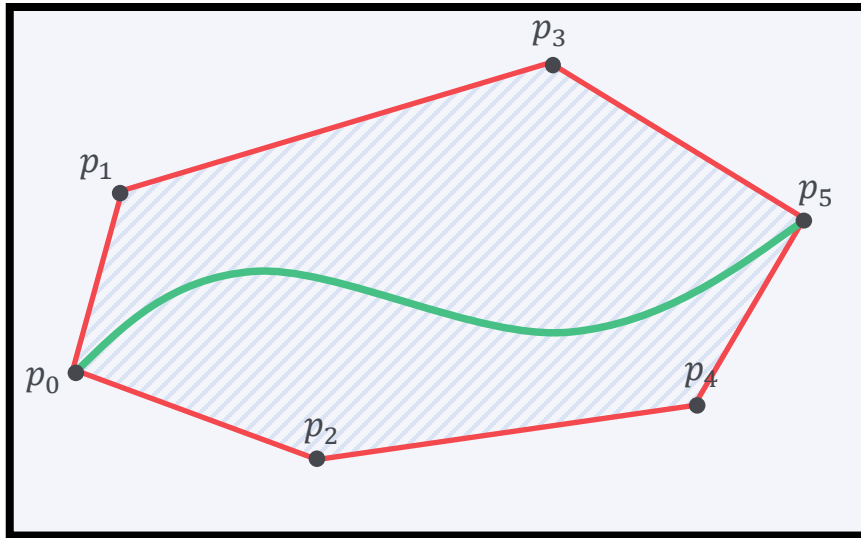
Properties:

- **Endpoint interpolation.** The Bezier curve always starts at the first control point, ends at the last control point, and never pass any other control points.
- **Convex hull.** The Bezier curve $B(t)$ consists of a set of control points c_i are entirely confined within the convex hull defined by all these control points.
- **Hodograph.** The derivative curve $B'(t)$ of a Bezier curve $B(t)$ is called as hodograph, and it is also a Bezier curve with control points defined by $n \cdot (c_{i+1} - c_i)$, where n is the degree.
- **Fixed time interval.** A Bezier curve is always defined on $[0,1]$





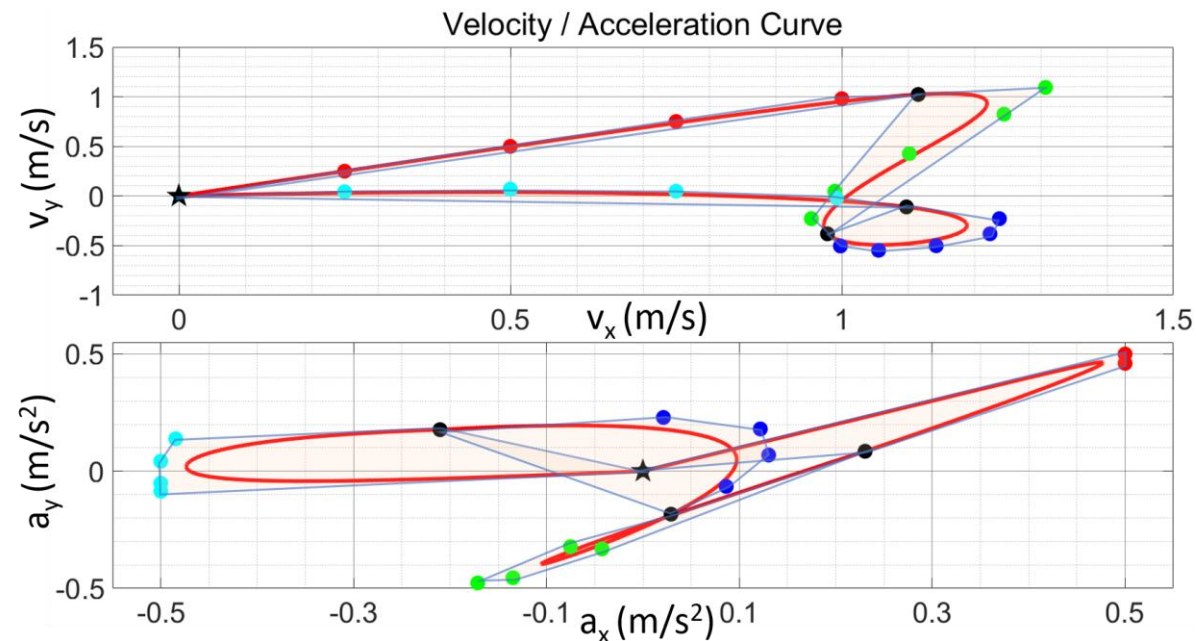
Convex hull property



- The flight corridor consists of convex polygons.
- Each cube corresponds to a piece of Bezier curve.
- Control points of this curve are enforced inside the polygon.
- The trajectory is entirely inside the convex hull of all points.



The trajectory is entirely inside the flight corridor.



Trajectory Generation Formulation

Define higher order (l^{th}) control points:

$$a_{\mu j}^{0,i} = c_{\mu j}^i, a_{\mu j}^{l,i} = \frac{n!}{(n-l)!} \cdot (a_{\mu j}^{l-1,i+1} - a_{\mu j}^{l-1,i}), \quad l \geq 1$$

- Boundary Constraints:

$$a_{\mu j}^{l,0} \cdot s_j^{(1-l)} = d_{\mu j}^{(l)}$$

- Continuity Constraints:

$$a_{\mu j}^{\phi,n} \cdot s_j^{(1-\phi)} = a_{\mu,j+1}^{\phi,0} \cdot s_{j+1}^{(1-\phi)}, \quad a_{\mu j}^{0,i} = c_{\mu j}^i.$$

- Safety Constraints:

$$\beta_{\mu j}^- \leq c_{\mu j}^i \leq \beta_{\mu j}^+, \quad \mu \in \{x, y, z\}, \quad i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

- Dynamical Feasibility Constraints:

$$v_m^- \leq n \cdot (c_{\mu j}^i - c_{\mu j}^{i-1}) \leq v_m^+,$$

$$a_m^- \leq n \cdot (n-1) \cdot (c_{\mu j}^i - 2c_{\mu j}^{i-1} + c_{\mu j}^{i-2})/s_j \leq a_m^+$$

Stack all of these

min

$$\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{Q}_o \mathbf{c}$$

s.t.

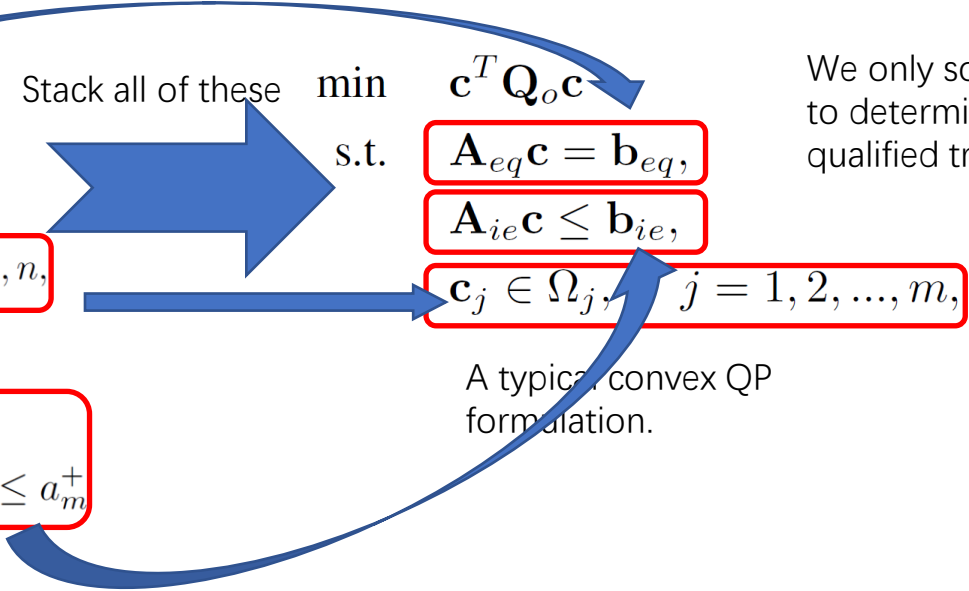
$$\mathbf{A}_{eq} \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{b}_{eq},$$

$$\mathbf{A}_{ie} \mathbf{c} \leq \mathbf{b}_{ie},$$

$$\mathbf{c}_j \in \Omega_j, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, m,$$

A typical convex QP formulation.

We only solve this program once to determine whether there is a qualified trajectory exists.





Simulation results

**Blue curve : trajectory
in execution horizon**

**Red curve :
current trajectory**

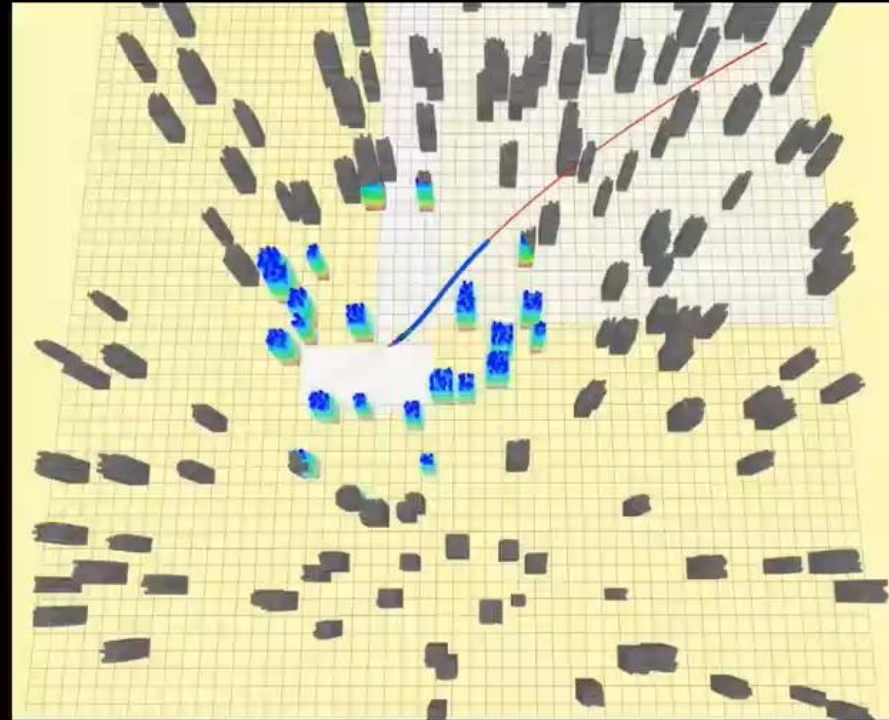
**White cube :
flight corridor**

**Colorful voxels :
mapped obstacles**

**Grey voxels :
un-mapped obstacles**

Green arrow : velocity

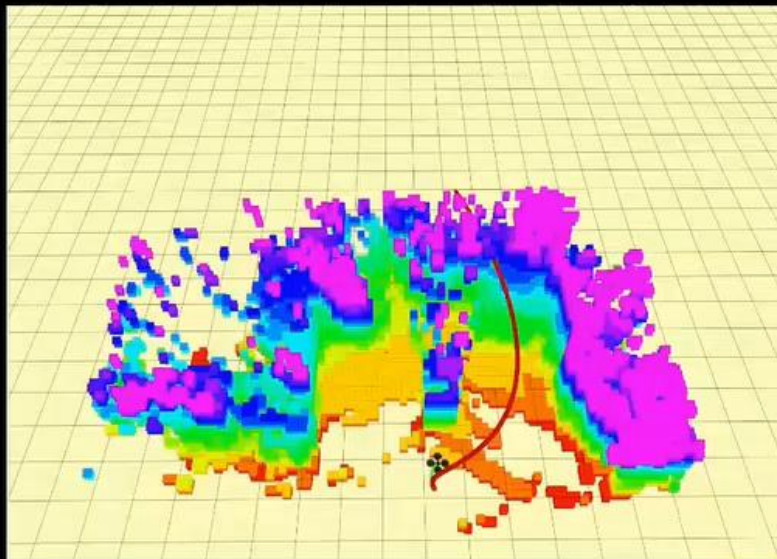
Yellow arrow : acceleration



**Flight corridor is projected to
x-y plane for visualization**



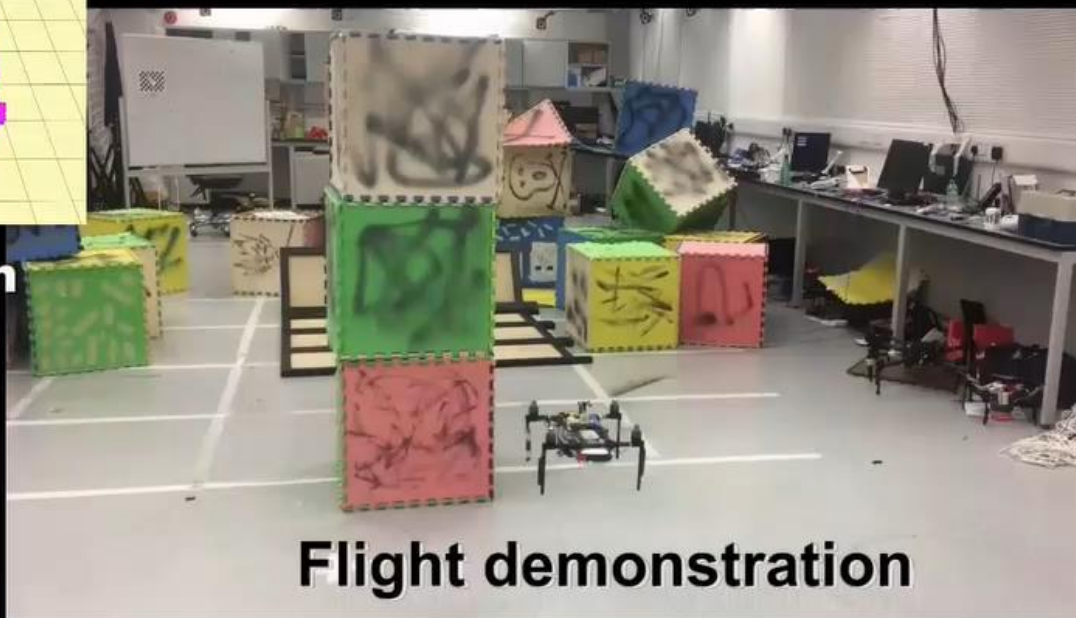
Experimental results



Trajectory visualization

Speed : 1x

Indoor autonomous flight 1
navigating among messy obstacles
2 trajectories (re)generated
Average computing time : 41.2 ms



Flight demonstration

Online Safe Trajectory Generation For Quadrotors Using Fast Marching Method and Bernstein Basis Polynomial, Fei Gao et al.

Source code released at: <https://github.com/HKUST-Aerial-Robotics/Btraj>



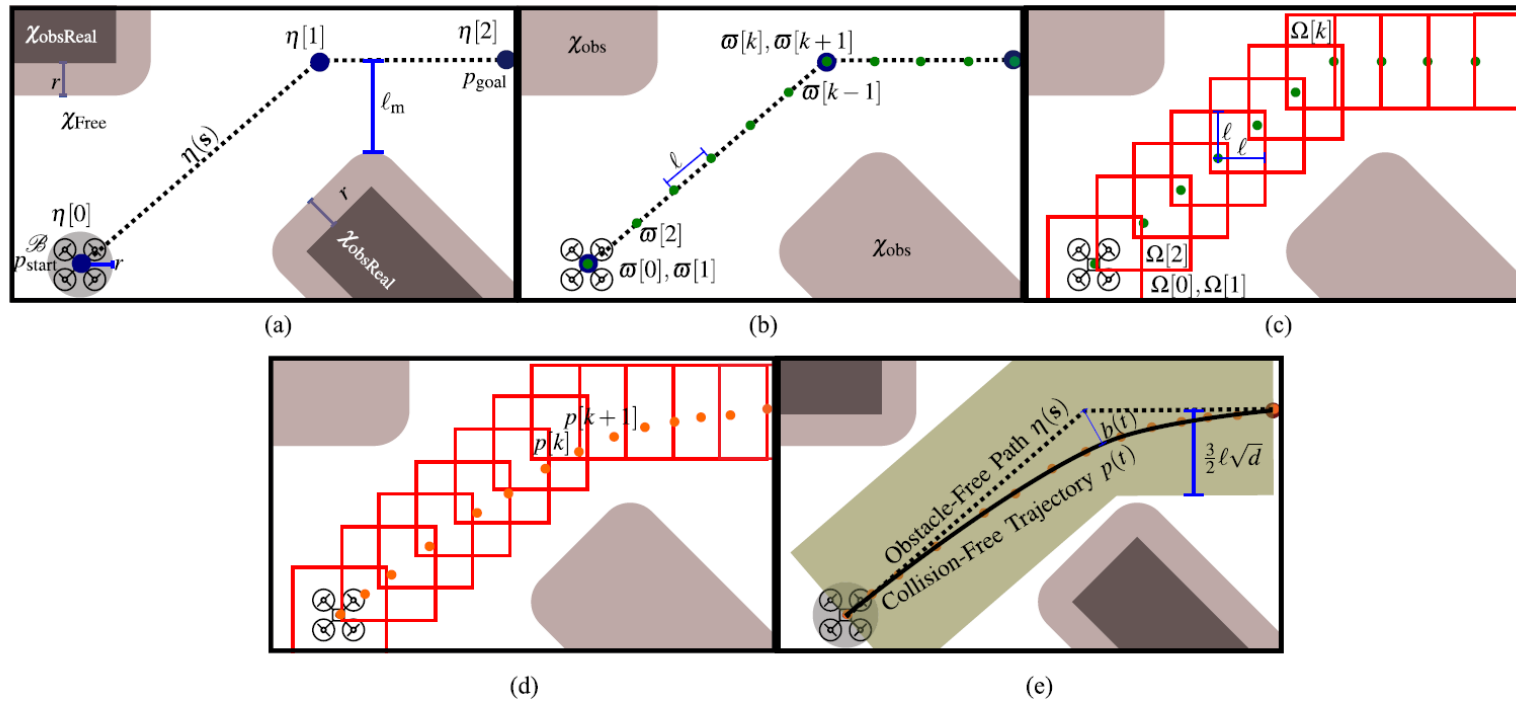
A complete UAV online motion planning framework

Other Options



Dense constraints

- Adding numerous constraints at discrete time ticks.
- Piecewise-constant accelerations at each tick.
- QP program solution.



- Always generates over-conservative trajectories.
- Too many constraints, the computational burden is high.



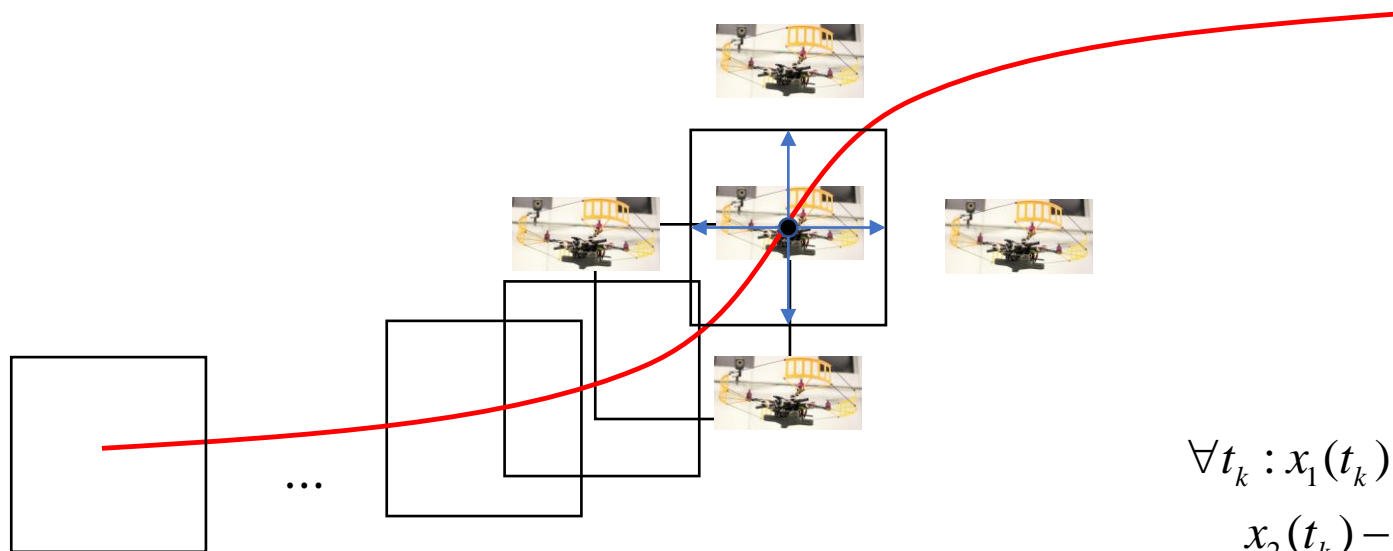
Dense constraints



A hybrid method for online trajectory planning of mobile robots in cluttered environments, L Campos-Macías et. al



Mixed integer optimization



$$\forall t_k : x_1(t_k) - x_2(t_k) \leq d_x$$

$$\text{or } x_2(t_k) - x_1(t_k) \leq d_x$$

$$\text{or } y_1(t_k) - y_2(t_k) \leq d_y$$

$$\text{or } y_2(t_k) - y_1(t_k) \leq d_y$$

$$\text{or } z_1(t_k) - z_2(t_k) \leq d_z$$

$$\text{or } z_2(t_k) - z_1(t_k) \leq d_z$$

- Mixed-integer QP.
- 'Big M' method.
- Super slow.

$$\forall t_k : x_1(t_k) - x_2(t_k) - c_0 \cdot M \leq d_x$$

$$x_2(t_k) - x_1(t_k) - c_1 \cdot M \leq d_x$$

$$y_1(t_k) - y_2(t_k) - c_2 \cdot M \leq d_y$$

$$y_2(t_k) - y_1(t_k) - c_3 \cdot M \leq d_y$$

$$z_1(t_k) - z_2(t_k) - c_4 \cdot M \leq d_z$$

$$z_2(t_k) - z_1(t_k) - c_5 \cdot M \leq d_z$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^5 c_i = 5, M = 100000$$

$$c_i \in \{0, 1\}$$



Dense constraints



Mixed-integer quadratic program trajectory generation for heterogeneous quadrotor teams, D. Mellinger et al.

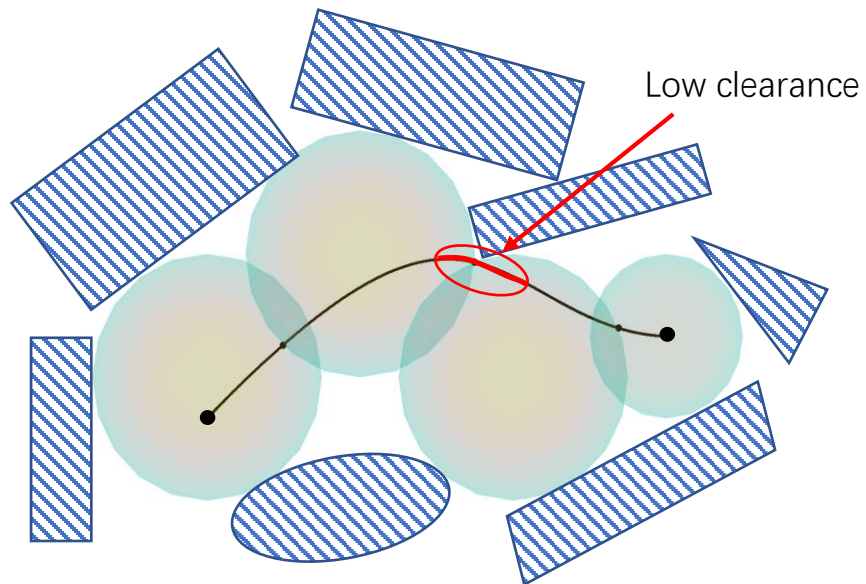
Soft-constrained Optimization

Distance-based Trajectory Optimization

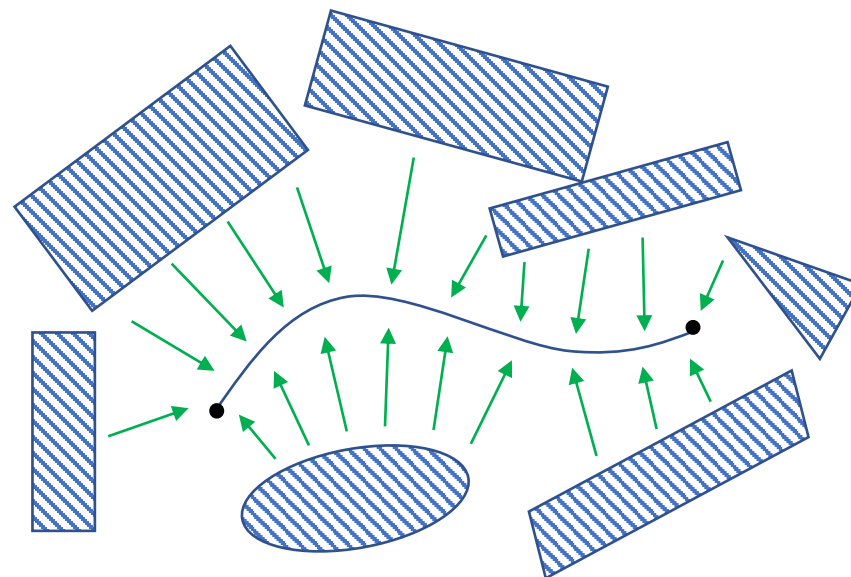


Motivation

Hard-constrained methods



Soft-constrained methods

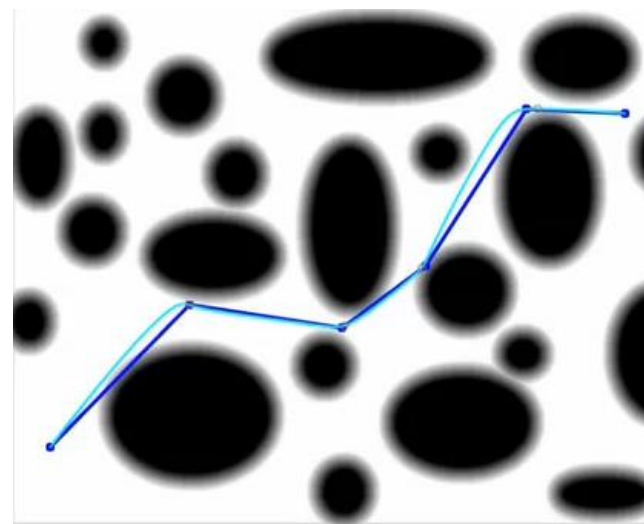


Vision-based drone:

- Limited sensing range and quality
- Noisy depth estimation

Hard-constrained method:

- Treat all free space equally
- Solution space is sensitive to noise





Problem formulation

- Differential flatness property

$$\{x, y, z, \dot{x}, \dot{y}, \dot{z}, \phi, \theta, \varphi, p, q, r\} \rightarrow \{x, y, z, \varphi\}$$

- Piecewise polynomial trajectory

$$f_{\mu}(t) = \begin{cases} \sum_{j=0}^N p_{1j}(t - T_0)^j & T_0 \leq t \leq T_1 \\ \sum_{j=0}^N p_{2j}(t - T_1)^j & T_0 \leq t \leq T_1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \sum_{j=0}^N p_{Mj}(t - T_{M-1})^j & T_0 \leq t \leq T_1 \end{cases}$$

- Objective function

$$J = J_s + J_c + J_d$$

$$= \underbrace{\lambda_1 J_1}_{\text{Smoothness cost}} + \underbrace{\lambda_2 J_2}_{\text{Collision cost}} + \underbrace{\lambda_3 J_3}_{\text{Dynamical cost}}$$

- Smoothness cost: minimum snap formulation

$$J_s = \sum_{\mu \in \{x, y, z\}} \int_0^T \left(\frac{d^k f_{\mu}(t)}{dt^k} \right)^2 dt$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{d}_F \\ \mathbf{d}_P \end{bmatrix}^T \mathbf{C}^T \mathbf{M}^{-T} \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{C} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{d}_F \\ \mathbf{d}_P \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{d}_F \\ \mathbf{d}_P \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R}_{FF} & \mathbf{R}_{FP} \\ \mathbf{R}_{PF} & \mathbf{R}_{PP} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{d}_F \\ \mathbf{d}_P \end{bmatrix}$$

- Collision cost: penalize on the distance to nearest obstacle

$$J_c = \int_{T_0}^{T_M} c(p(t)) ds$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{T/\delta t} c(p(T_k)) \|v(t)\| \delta t, \quad T_k = T_0 + k \delta t$$

- Dynamical Cost: penalize on the velocity and acceleration where exceeds limits (similar to collision term).



Objective/Jacobian evaluation

- Smoothness cost: minimum snap formulation

$$J_s = \sum_{\mu \in \{x, y, z\}} \int_0^T \left(\frac{d^k f_\mu(t)}{dt^k} \right)^2 dt$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{d}_F \\ \mathbf{d}_P \end{bmatrix}^T \mathbf{C}^T \mathbf{M}^{-T} \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{C} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{d}_F \\ \mathbf{d}_P \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{d}_F \\ \mathbf{d}_P \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R}_{FF} & \mathbf{R}_{FP} \\ \mathbf{R}_{PF} & \mathbf{R}_{PP} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{d}_F \\ \mathbf{d}_P \end{bmatrix}$$

- Collision cost: penalize on the distance to nearest obstacle

$$J_c = \int_{T_0}^{T_M} \underbrace{c(p(t))}_{\text{Distance penalty at a point along the trajectory}} ds$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{T/\delta t} c(p(T_k)) \|v(t)\| \delta t, \quad T_k = T_0 + k\delta t$$

- The Jacobian with respect to free derivatives $\mathbf{d}_{p\mu}$ is:

$$\frac{\alpha J_c}{\alpha \mathbf{d}_{p\mu}} = \sum_{k=0}^{T/\delta t} \left\{ \nabla_\mu c(p(T_k)) \|v\| \mathbf{F} + c(p(T_k)) \frac{v_\mu}{\|v\|} \mathbf{G} \right\} \delta t, \quad \mu \in \{x, y, z\}$$

- The Jacobian with respect to free derivatives $\mathbf{d}_{p\mu}$ is:

$$\frac{\alpha J_s}{\alpha \mathbf{d}_{p\mu}} = 2 \mathbf{d}_F^T \mathbf{R}_{FP} + 2 \mathbf{d}_P^T \mathbf{R}_{PP}$$

L_{dp} is the right block of matrix $\mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{C}$ which corresponds to the free derivatives on the μ axis $\mathbf{d}_{p\mu}$.

$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{T} L_{dp}, \quad \mathbf{G} = \mathbf{T} V_m L_{dp}.$$

$\nabla_\mu c(\cdot)$ is the gradient in μ axis of the collision cost.

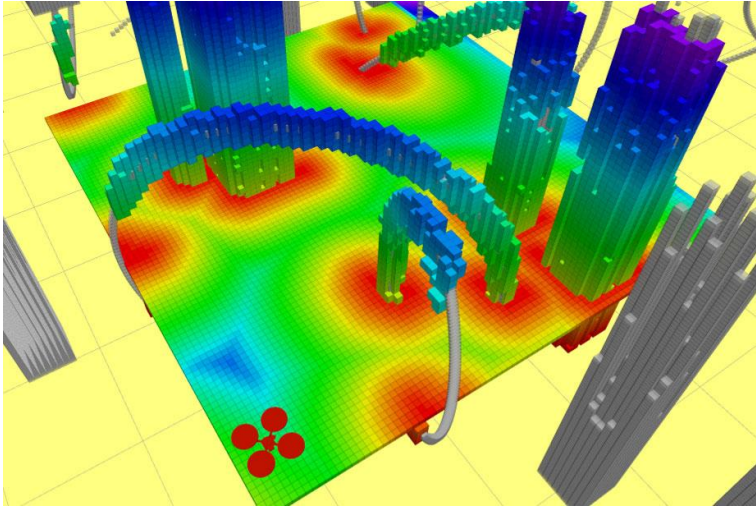
V_m maps the coefficients of the position to the coefficients of the velocity. $\mathbf{T} = [T_k^0, T_k^1, \dots, T_k^n]$

$$\mathbf{H}_o = \left[\frac{\partial^2 f_o}{\partial \mathbf{d}_{P_x}^2}, \frac{\partial^2 f_o}{\partial \mathbf{d}_{P_y}^2}, \frac{\partial^2 f_o}{\partial \mathbf{d}_{P_z}^2} \right],$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f_o}{\partial \mathbf{d}_{P\mu}^2} = \sum_{k=0}^{\tau/\delta t} \left\{ \mathbf{F}^T \nabla_\mu c(p(T_k)) \frac{v_\mu}{\|v\|} \mathbf{G} + \mathbf{F}^T \nabla_\mu^2 c(p(T_k)) \|v\| \mathbf{F} \right. \\ \left. + \mathbf{G}^T \nabla_\mu c(p(T_k)) \frac{v_\mu}{\|v\|} \mathbf{F} + \mathbf{G}^T c(p(T_k)) \frac{v_\mu^2}{\|v\|^3} \mathbf{G} \right\} \delta t, \quad (10)$$

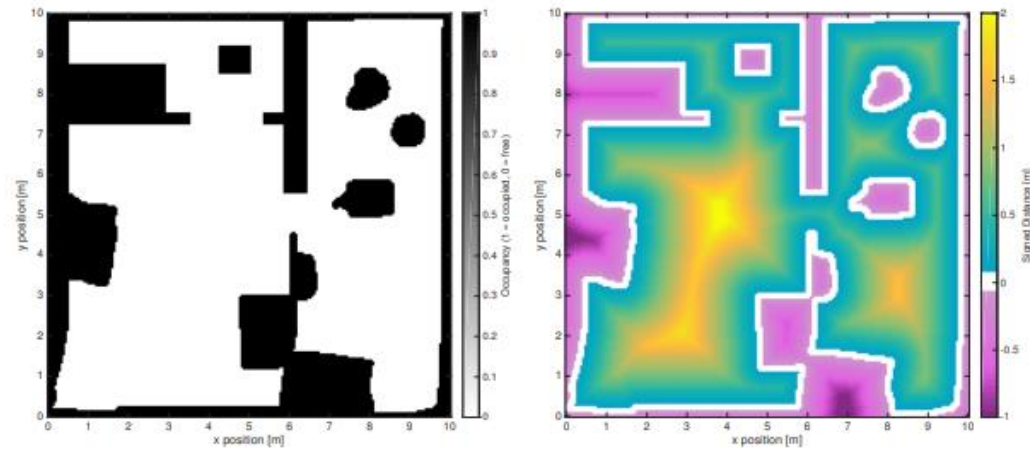
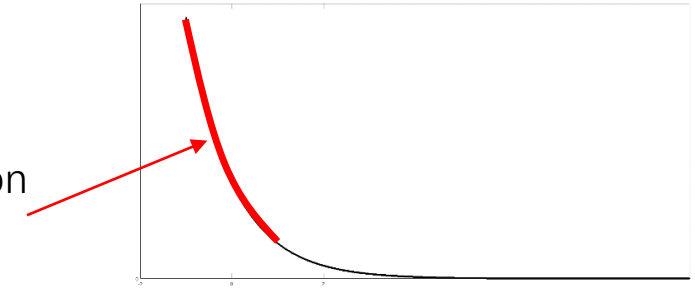


Euclidean signed distance field (ESDF)

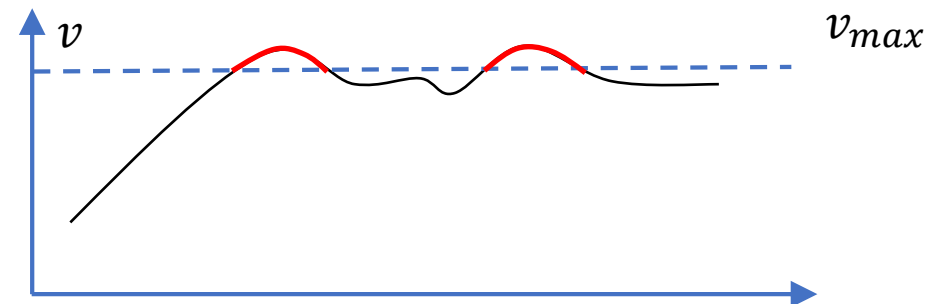


Use **exponential** function as cost function c , to prevent trajectory from be near to obstacle

Penalty explosion
near obstacles



- Dynamical Cost





Numerical optimization

minimize $f(x)$

- Produce sequence of points $x^{(k)} \in \text{dom } f, k = 0, 1, \dots$ with

$$f(x^{(k)}) \rightarrow p^*$$

- Can be interpreted as iterative methods for solving optimality condition

$$\nabla f(x^*) = 0$$



Descent method

$$x^{k+1} = x^k + t^k \Delta x^k \quad \text{with } f(x^{k+1}) < f(x^k)$$

- Other notations: $x^+ = x + t\Delta x$, $x := x + t\Delta x$
- Δx is the step, or search direction; t is the step size, or step length

General descent method

given a starting point $x \in \text{dom } f$.

repeat

1. Determine a descent direction Δx .
2. Line search. Choose a step size $t > 0$.
3. Update. $x := x + t\Delta x$.

until stopping criterion is satisfied.



Line search

Line search types

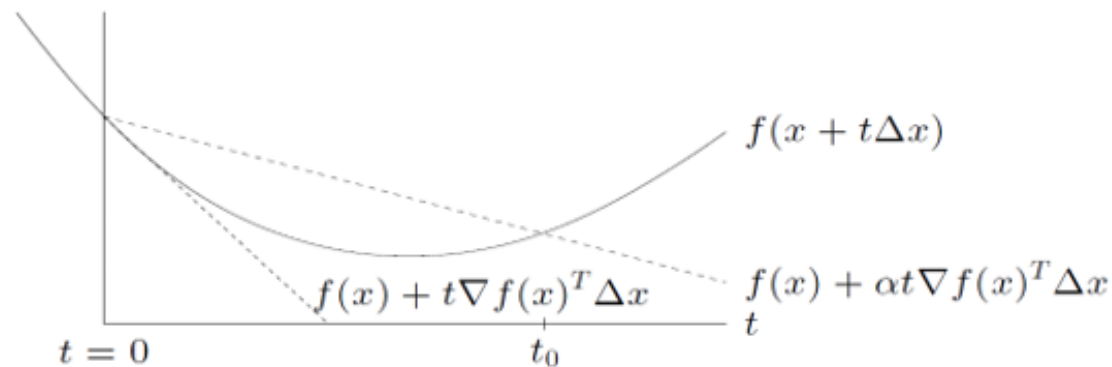
exact line search: $t = \operatorname{argmin}_{t>0} f(x + t\Delta x)$

backtracking line search (with parameters $\alpha \in (0, 1/2), \beta \in (0, 1)$)

- starting at $t = 1$, repeat $t := \beta t$ until

$$f(x + t\Delta x) < f(x) + \alpha t \nabla f(x)^T \Delta x$$

- graphical interpretation: backtrack until $t \leq t_0$





First-order method

Gradient descent method

General descent method with $\Delta x = -\nabla f(x)$

given a starting point $x \in \text{dom } f$.

Repeat

1. $\Delta x := -\nabla f(x)$.
2. Line search. Choose step size t via exact or backtracking line search.
3. Update. $x := x + t\Delta x$.

until stopping criterion is satisfied.

- Stopping criterion usually of the form $\|\nabla f(x)\|_2 \leq \epsilon$



Second-order method

Newton method

Taylor expansion at $x^{(k)}$, and second – order similarity $\Delta x = -\nabla^2 f(x)^{-1} \nabla f(x)$

given a starting point $x \in \text{dom } f$.

Repeat

1. $\Delta x := -\nabla^2 f(x)^{-1} \nabla f(x)$.
2. Line search. $t = \text{argmin}_{t>0} f(x^{(k)} - t \nabla^2 f(x)^{-1} \nabla f(x))$.
3. Update. $x := x + t \Delta x$.

until stopping criterion is satisfied.

- Stopping criterion usually of the form $\|\nabla f(x)\|_2 \leq \epsilon$
- $\nabla^2 f(x)$ is the Hessian matrix of the $f(x)$ at x
- For Gauss-newton: $\nabla^2 f(x) \approx J_f^T J_f$, J_f is Jacobi matrix, $\Delta x = -(J_f^T J_f)^{-1} J_f^T$



Second-order method

Levenberg-Marquardt method

Improvement of Gauss-newton method: $\Delta x = -(J_f^T J_f + \lambda I)^{-1} J_f^T$

given a starting point $x \in \text{dom } f$, start $\lambda_0 > 0$.

Repeat

1. $\Delta x = -(J_f^T J_f + \lambda I)^{-1} J_f^T$.
2. Update. λ , the updating is controlled by the gain ratio
3. Update. $x := x + \Delta x$.

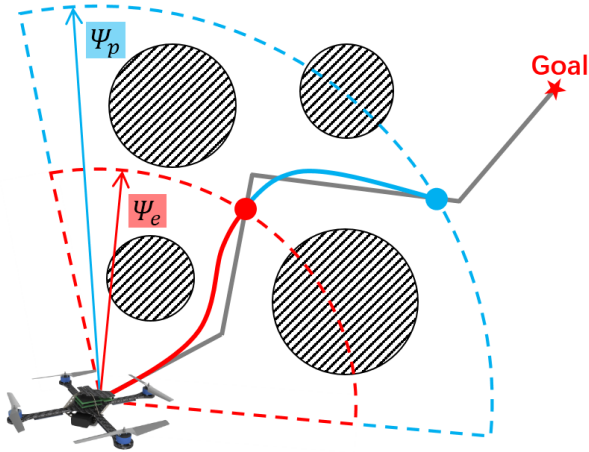
until stopping criterion is satisfied.

- Stopping criterion usually of the form $\|\nabla f(x)\|_2 \leq \epsilon$
- When $\lambda \rightarrow 0$, LM method \rightarrow Gauss-newton method
- When $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$, LM method \rightarrow Gradient descent method



Planning strategy

- **Receding horizon re-planning** ψ_p : *planning horizon* ψ_e : *execution horizon*



- Get a global plan, search at the beginning of the navigation, or initialize as a straight line.
- Find a local path a local target by using the front-end.
- Generate a local trajectory by using the back-end.
- Track the trajectory within the execution horizon

- **Exploration strategy**

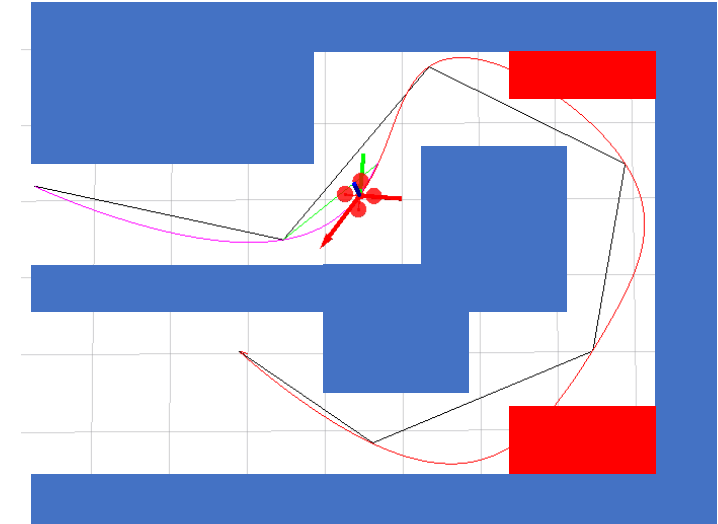


- Activated when outlier in mapping module blocks the way.
- Generate safe but short trajectories in nearby regions.
- Hover and observe.

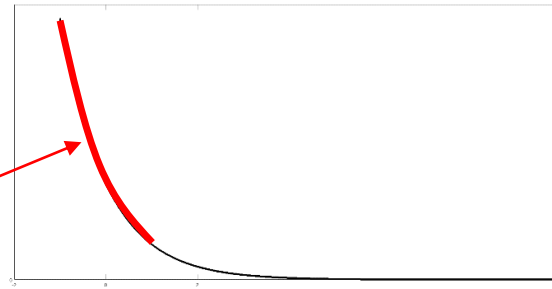


Planning strategy

- Initialize as minimum snap trajectory
 - Good smoothness.
 - Collision may cost by overshoot. Unsafe initial value.
- Initialize as straight-line trajectory following the path
 - Poor smoothness.
 - Collision free. Safe initial value.
- ✓ • Given collision-free initial trajectory, safety is achieved by using a **exponential penalty function** on collision cost.



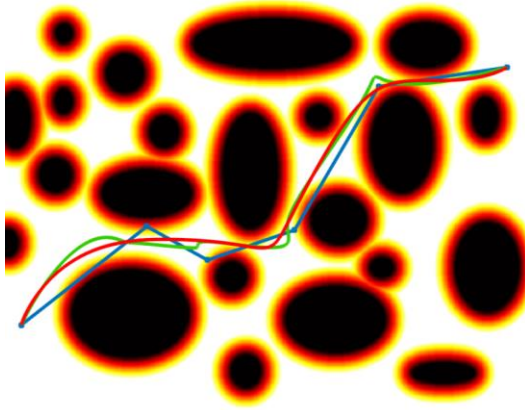
Penalty explosion
near obstacles



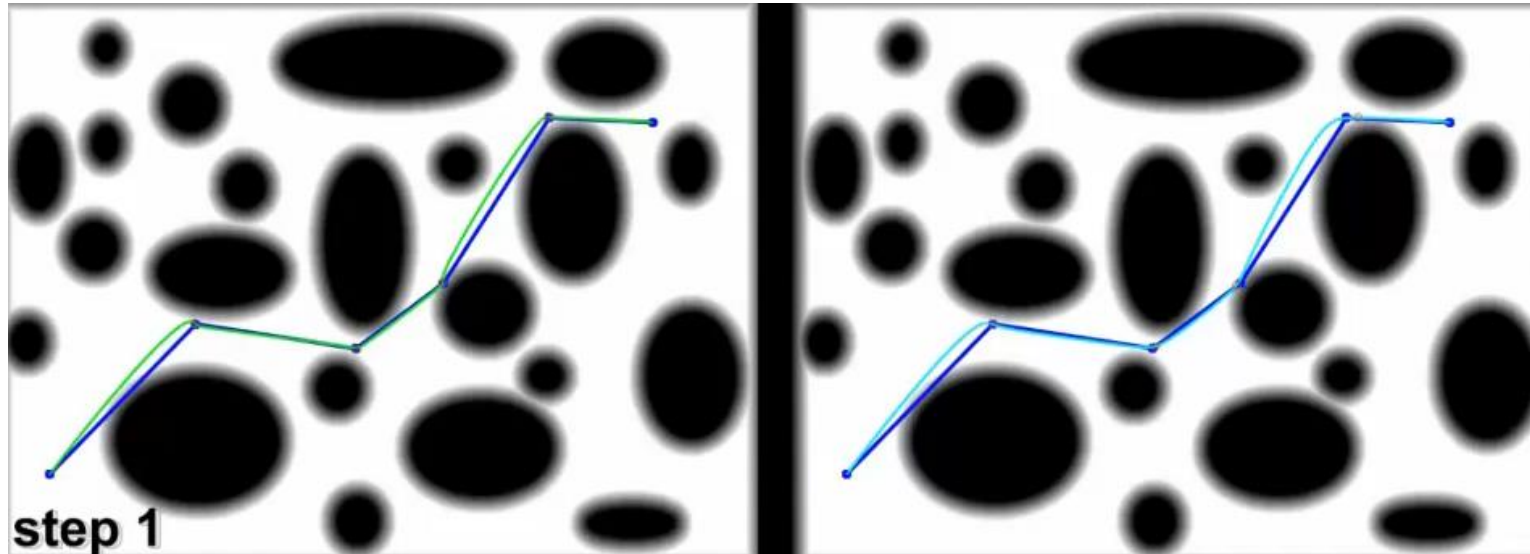


Optimization strategy

- two-step optimization

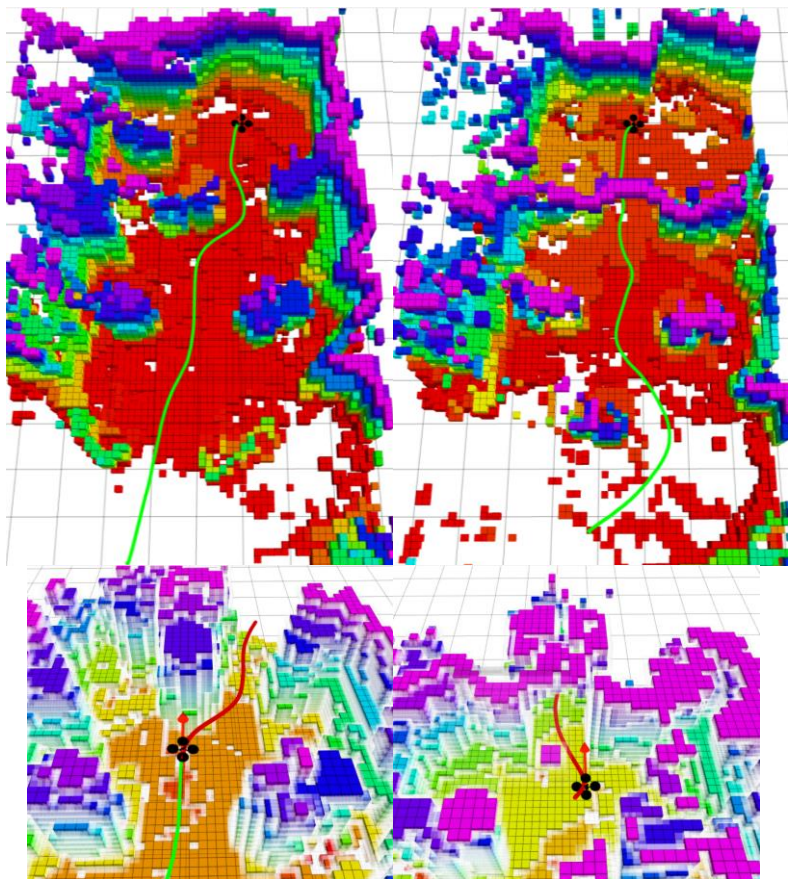


- Optimize the trajectory with collision cost only.
- Re-allocate time and re-parametrize the trajectory.
- Optimize the objective with a smoothness term and dynamical penalty term added.



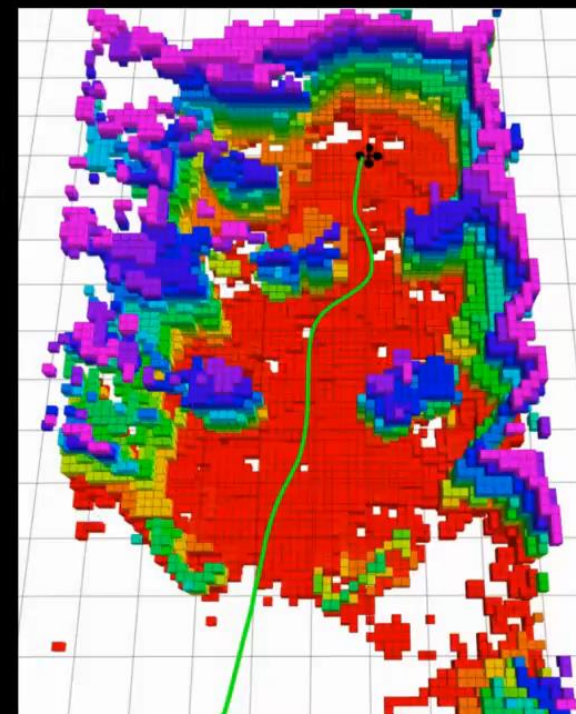


Results



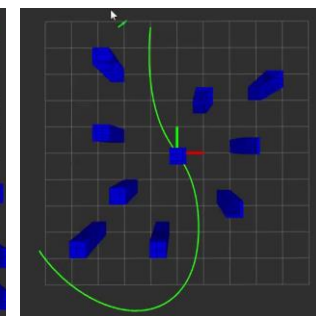
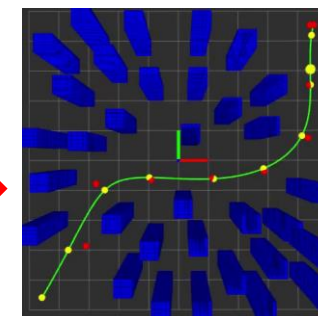
香港科技大學
THE HONG KONG
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY

Color code : height
Green curve:
previous trajectory
Red curve:
current trajectory



Source code released at:
https://github.com/HKUST-Aerial-Robotics/grad_traj_optimization

A tool for local UAV trajectory optimization



Case Study

Fast Planner



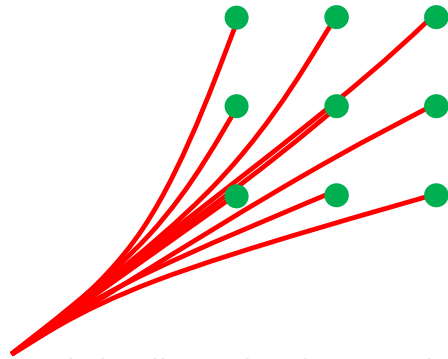
Kinodynamic path searching
+ B-Spline trajectory optimization
+ time adjustment



B-Spline trajectory optimization

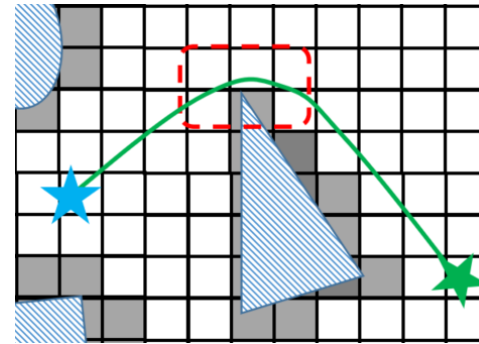
- Limitations of initial path

a) Suboptimality



only search in discretized control space

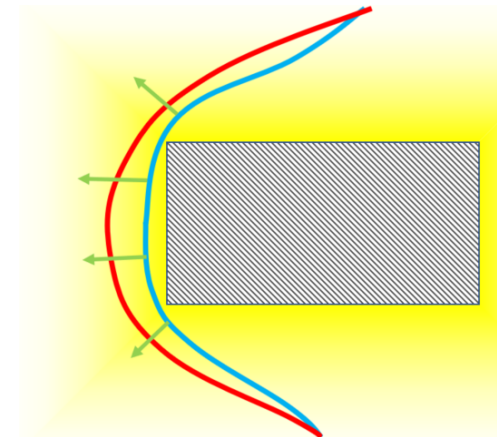
b) Low clearance / high collision risk



some segments may be very close to obstacles

- Gradient-based trajectory optimization

- Improve smoothness
- Use Euclidean distance field (EDF) to improve clearance





B-Spline trajectory optimization

- Drawbacks of previous gradient-based methods:
 - Expensive computation of collision cost

$$f_{collision} = \int_{T_1}^{T_2} c(p(t)) ds = \int_{T_1}^{T_2} c(p(t)) \|v(t)\| dt = \sum_{k=0}^{(T_2-T_1)/\delta t} c(p(T_k)) \|v(t)\| \delta t$$

small δt for accuracy \rightarrow large $(T_2-T_1)/\delta t \rightarrow$ high complexity

- Also so for dynamic feasibility costs

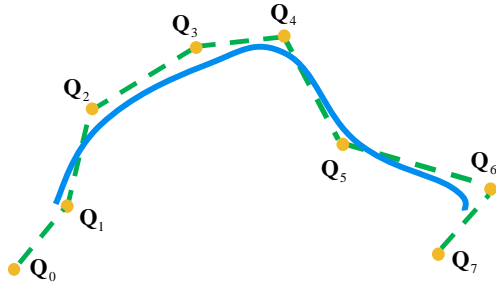
$$f_{vel} = \sum_{\mu \in \{x,y,z\}} \int_{T_1}^{T_2} c_v(v_\mu(t)) ds = \sum_{\mu \in \{x,y,z\}} c_v(v_\mu(t)) \|a_\mu(t)\| dt$$

$$f_{acc} = \sum_{\mu \in \{x,y,z\}} \int_{T_1}^{T_2} c_a(a_\mu(t)) ds = \sum_{\mu \in \{x,y,z\}} c_a(a_\mu(t)) \|j_\mu(t)\| dt$$



B-Spline trajectory optimization

- Solution: B-Spline trajectory representation
 - Uniform B-Spline



Determined by its degree p_b , time interval Δt , and a set of $\{Q_0, Q_1, \dots, Q_N\}$.

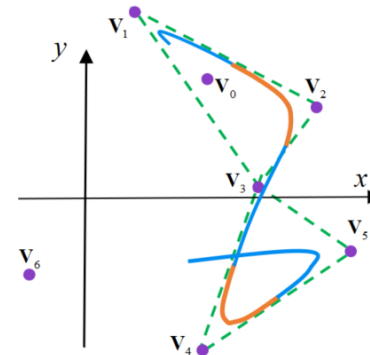
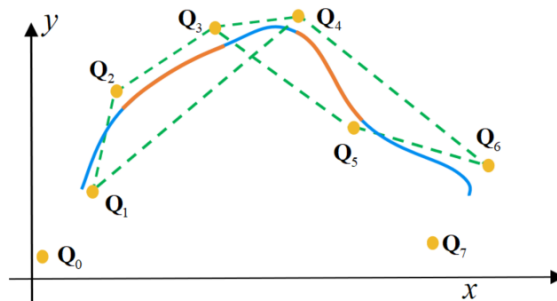
$$t \in [t_i, t_{i+1}) \xrightarrow{\text{normalize}} s(t) = (t - t_i)/\Delta t$$

$$p(s(t)) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ s \\ s^2 \\ \vdots \\ s^{p_b} \end{pmatrix}^T M_{p_b+1} \begin{pmatrix} Q_{i-p_b} \\ Q_{i-p_b+1} \\ Q_{i-p_b+2} \\ \vdots \\ Q_i \end{pmatrix}$$

- Advantages

- a) Convex hull property: simplify safety & dynamic constraints
- b) Continuity: no need of constraints at segments joints

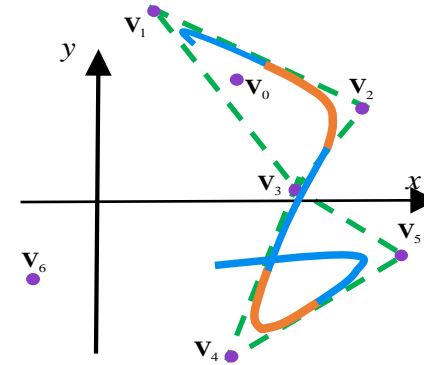
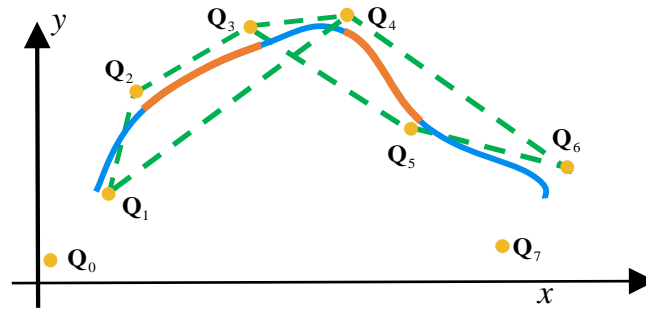
} \rightarrow Speed up optimization





B-Spline trajectory optimization

- Convex hull property



Each segment of a B-spline is **bounded** by the corresponding convex hull of control points (left), and so is the derivative (right).

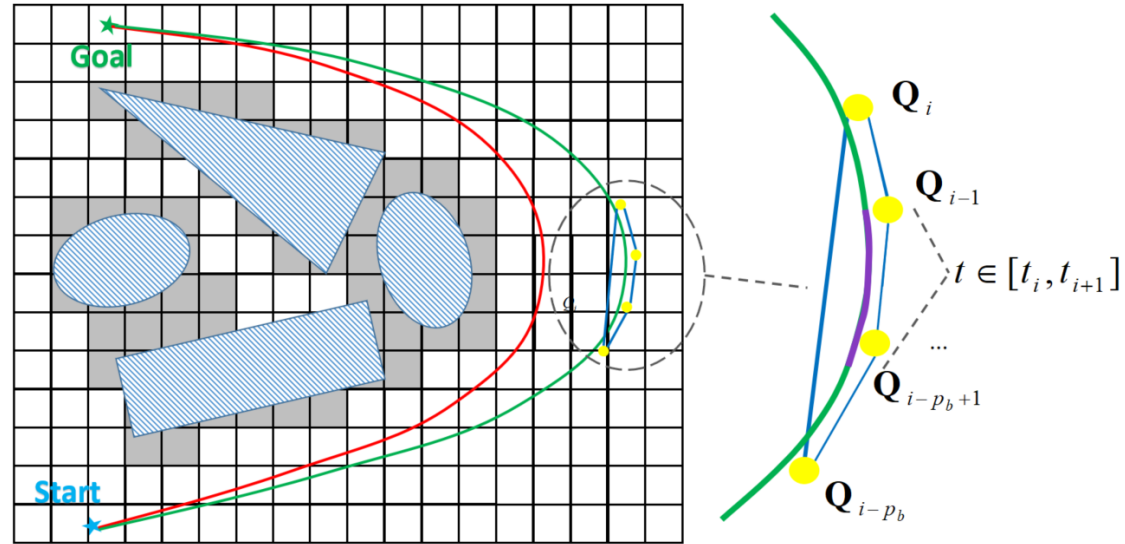
- Simplify safety & dynamic constraints

Convex hulls are within feasible space → ^{convex hull property} The whole trajectory is feasible!



B-Spline trajectory optimization

- Ensure safety by convex hull



Push control points away
from obstacles



Convex hulls are
pushed to safe space



The whole trajectory
is bounded in safe region



B-Spline trajectory optimization

- Problem formulation $f_{total} = \lambda_1 f_s + \lambda_2 f_c + \lambda_3 (f_v + f_a)$

- Smoothness - elastic band cost function

$$f_s = \sum_{i=p_b-1}^{N-p_b+1} \left\| \underbrace{(\mathbf{Q}_{i+1} - \mathbf{Q}_i)}_{F_{i+1,i}} - \underbrace{(\mathbf{Q}_{i-1} - \mathbf{Q}_i)}_{F_{i-1,i}} \right\|^2$$

- Safety - potential function in EDF

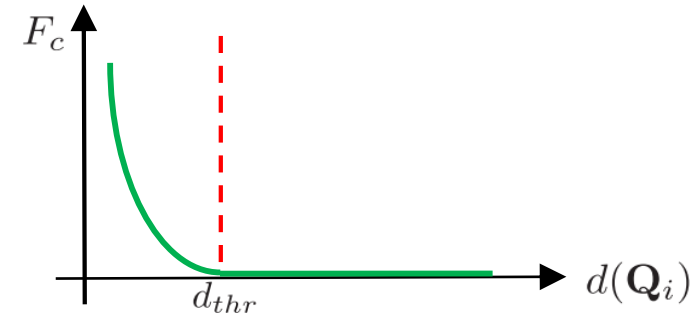
$$f_c = \sum_{i=p_b}^{N-p_b} F_c(d(\mathbf{Q}_i))$$

$$F_c(d(\mathbf{Q}_i)) = \begin{cases} (d(\mathbf{Q}_i) - d_{thr})^2 & d(\mathbf{Q}_i) \leq d_{thr} \\ 0 & d(\mathbf{Q}_i) > d_{thr} \end{cases}$$

- Dynamic feasibility

$$f_v = \sum_{\mu \in \{x,y,z\}} \sum_{i=p_b}^{N-p_b} F_v(V_{i\mu}), \quad f_a = \sum_{\mu \in \{x,y,z\}} \sum_{i=p_b-2}^{N-p_b} F_a(A_{i\mu})$$

$$F_v(v_\mu) = \begin{cases} (v_\mu^2 - v_{\max}^2)^2 & v_\mu^2 > v_{\max}^2 \\ 0 & v_\mu^2 \leq v_{\max}^2 \end{cases}$$



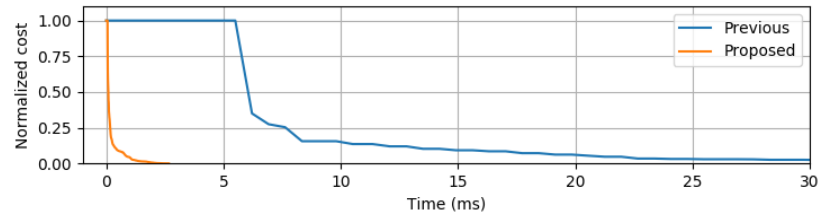
Solve this non-linear optimization by the L-BFGS algorithm



Results

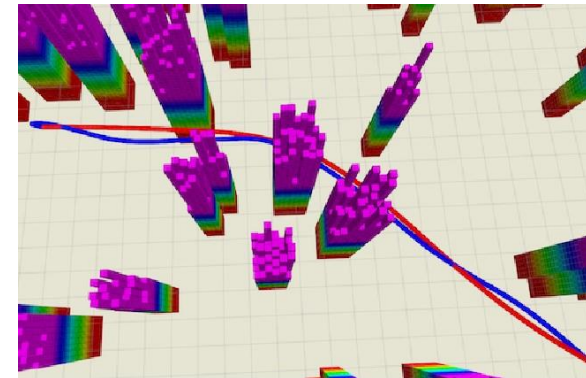
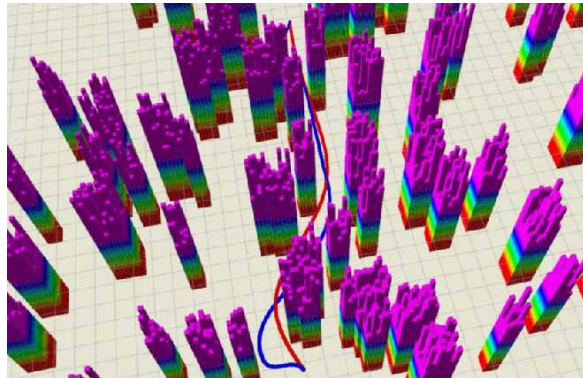
- Comparisons

a) Faster convergence



b) Higher trajectory quality

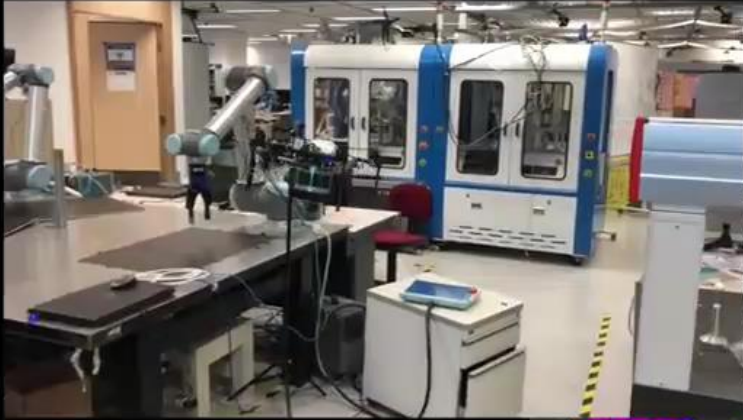
	Integral of Jerk ² (m^2/s^5)			Comp. Time(s)
	Mean	Max	Std	
Previous [1]	43.913	181.495	18.394	0.010
Proposed	35.932	131.913	13.118	0.001



Trajectories generated by the proposed (red) and previous [1] (blue) method. Computation time for proposed method is 10 times shorter!

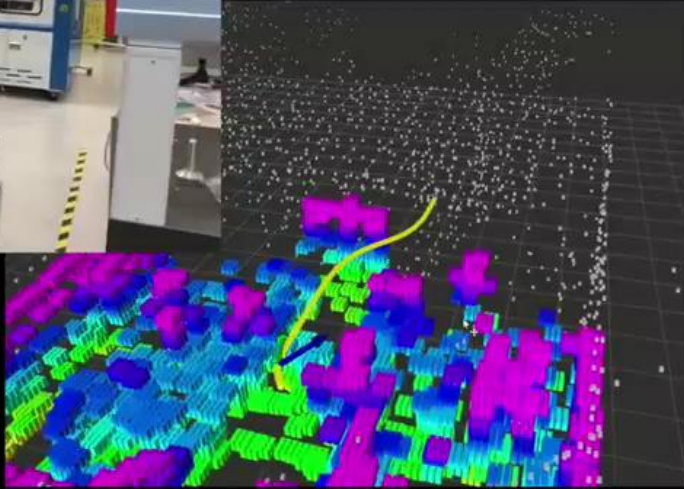


Results

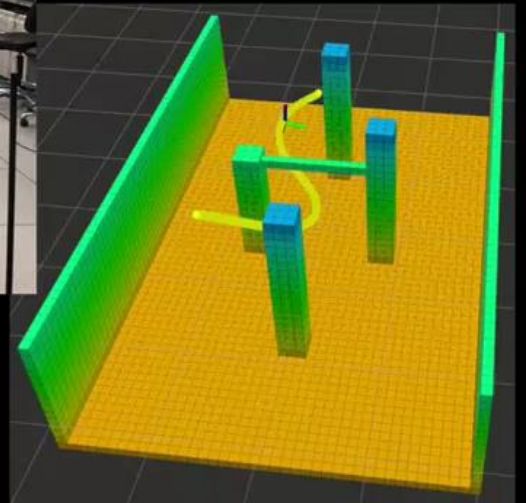


Average Speed: 1.27m/s
Maximum Speed: 1.77m/s

**Autonomous
Flight 1**



Play Speed: 2X



The goal positions are set manually by the stick.



Homework

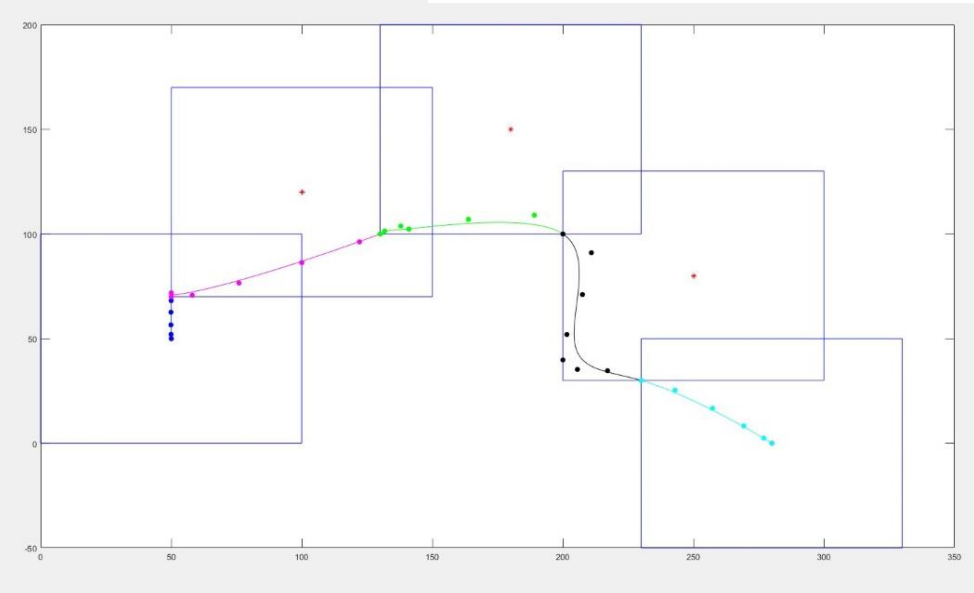
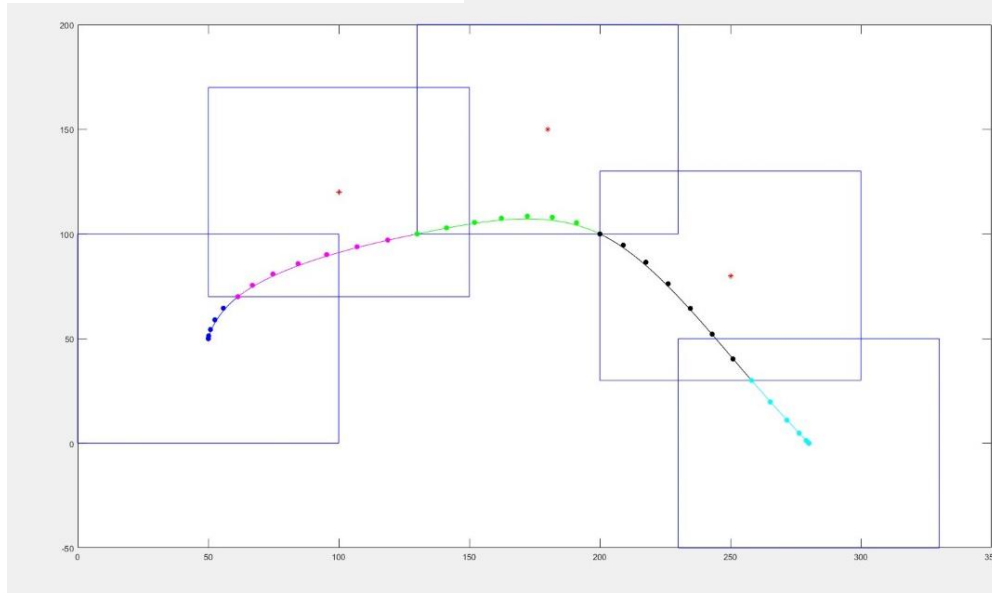
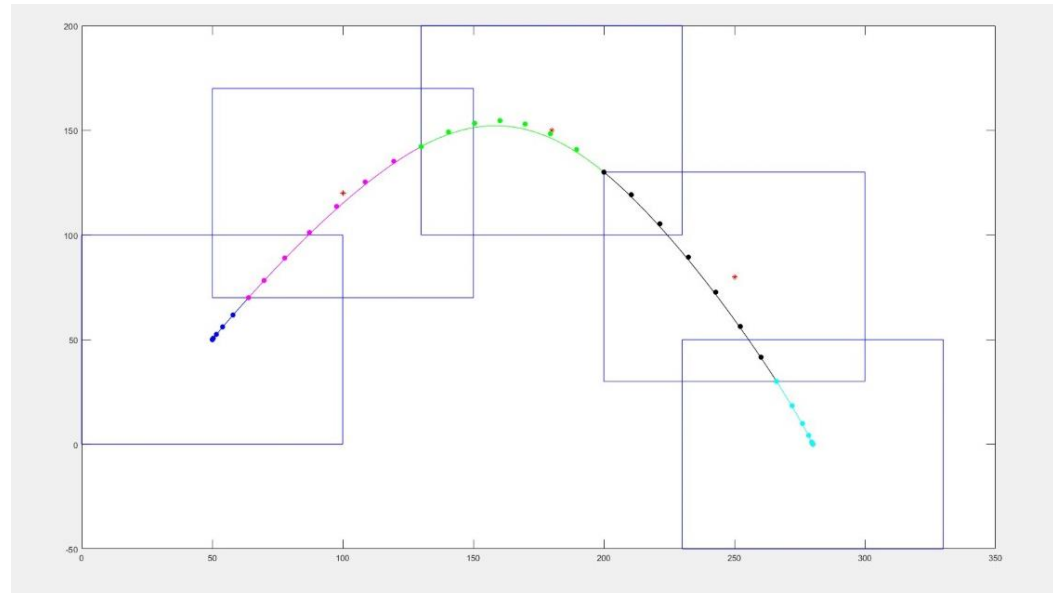


Homework

- In matlab, write a corridor-constrained piecewise Bezier curve generation.
- The conversion between Bezier to monomial polynomial is given.
- The corridor is pre-defined.
- Only position needs to be constrained.
- TA provides a video tutorial.



Homework





Thanks for Listening!