

PythonRobotics: a Python code collection of robotics algorithms

Atsushi Sakai

<https://atsushisakai.github.io/>

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, USA

Abstract

This paper describes an Open Source Software(OSS): PythonRobotics[[1](#)]. This OSS is a Python code collection of robotics algorithms, especially focusing on autonomous navigation. It aims for beginners of robotics to understand basic ideas of each algorithm. The algorithms which is widely used in academia and industry and practical are selected. Each sample code only depends some standard modules on Python 3.x. In this paper, related works of this project, some key ideas about this OSS project, and brief structure of this repository are introduced. I also discuss future works of this project.

1 Introduction

2 Related works

3 Philosophy

In this section, the philosophy of this project is described. This project based on three philosophies.

The first one is that the codes have to be easy to read for understanding each algorithm's basic idea. This project aims for beginners of robotics to understand basic ideas of each algorithm. Therefore, the code have to be easy to read and understand the algorithm. Programming language, Python[[2](#)] is adopted in this project because it has good code readability and it allows us to focus on algorithm itself. Python has great libraries for matrix operation, mathematical and scientific operation, and visualization. These libraries also allows us to focus on algorithm itself.

The second one is the algorithms which is widely used in academia and industry and practical are selected. For example, Kalman filters and particle filter for localization, grid mapping for mapping, dynamic programming based approaches and sampling based approaches for path planning, and optimal control based approach for path tracking.

The last philosophy is minimum dependency. It allows us to use the codes easily and to convert the codes to other programming languages such as C++, Java for practical usage. Each sample code only depends some modules on Python3 as bellows.

- numpy[[3](#)] for matrix operation
- scipy[[4](#)] for mathematics, science, and engineering computing

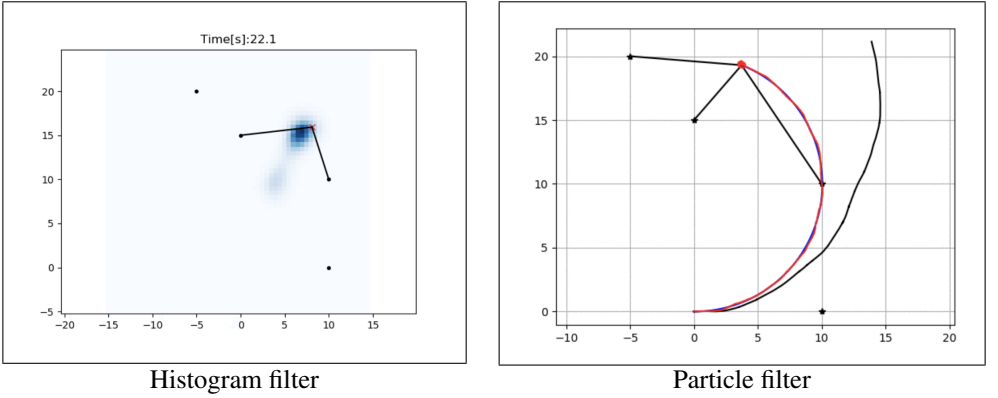


Figure 1: Localization simulation results

- matplotlib[8] for visualization
- pandas[9] for data analysis
- cvxpy[10] for convex optimization

These modules are OSS and could be used for free. This repository doesn't include any commercial software.

4 Repository structure

In this section, the brief structure of this project is described.

This repository has five directories which means five technical categories in autonomous navigation, Localization, Mapping, SLAM, Path planning, and Path tracking. Each directory includes several directories which has each sample code with different algorithms.

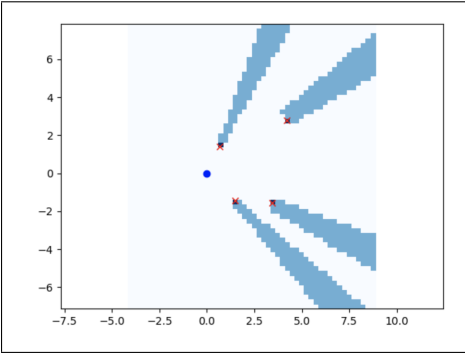
In the following subsections, some algorithms and some simulation examples described.

4.1 Localization

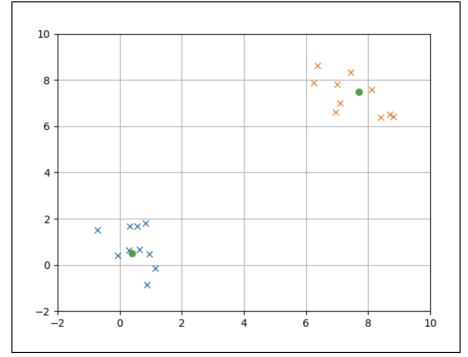
Localization is an ability of a robot to know it's position and orientation with sensors such as GNSS and IMU. In localization, Bayesian Filters such as Kalman filters, histogram filter, and particle filter are widely used[11]. This repository includes some sample codes using these algorithms. Fig.1 shows localization simulation results using histogram filter and particle filter.

4.2 Mapping

Mapping is an ability of a robot to understand surroundings with sensors such as LIDAR and imaging sensor. Robots have to recognize obstacle positions and it' shape for obstacle avoidance. In mapping, Grid map, machine learning algorithms are widely used[12][13]. This repository includes some sample codes using these algorithms. Fig.2 shows mapping simulation results using Grid mapping with 2D ray casting and 2D object clustering with k-means algorithm.

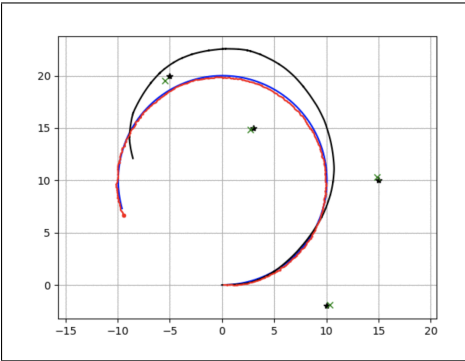


Grid mapping with 2D ray casting

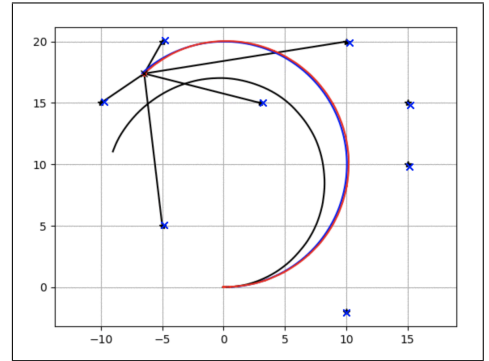


2D object clustering with k-means algorithm

Figure 2: Mapping simulation results



Extended Kalman Filter based SLAM



FastSLAM 2.0 based SLAM

Figure 3: SLAM simulation results

4.3 SLAM

4.4 Path planning

4.5 Path tracking

5 Conclusion and future work

In this paper, I introduced an OSS which is a Python code collection of robotics algorithms, especially for autonomous navigation. Related works of this project, some key ideas about this OSS project, and brief structure of this repository were described.

The future works of this project is as followed:

- Technical and mathematical documentation with Jupyter notebook[[1](#)].
- Simple image processing samples for autonomous navigation only using OpenCV[[2](#)].
- Simple multi-robots simulations.

If readers were interested in these future projects, contributions are welcome.

6 Acknowledgments

I appreciate all contributors: Daniel Ingram[[13](#)], Joe Dinius[[11](#)], Karan Chala[[10](#)], Antonin RAFFIN[[15](#)], and Alexis Paques[[14](#)]. This is my GitHub account[[16](#)]

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