Assignment 2: Control

DELIVERABLES:

- `assignment_3` package with your code

- link to video for excerceise 1.4

- two images for excerceise 2

1   Control

In this part of the assignment, your goal is to program a robot to drive in an arbitrary polygon shape. The polygon will depend on two parameters: the number of sides to the polygon, and the length of each side. Your nodes will have to read these parameters from the command line (`-n` for number of sides and `-d` for the length of each side.). For example the following command will drive the robot in a hexagon with side length 1 using open loop control:

```
rosrun assignment_2 open_polygon.py -n 6 -d 1
```

To drive the robot, you will need to publish `geometry_msgs/Twist` messages, setting `linear.x` for forward motion and `angular.z` for turning. These speeds correspond to v and ω from the Kinematics lecture notes. Velocity messages should be published on the `/cmd_vel_mux/input/navi` topic. Robot mobile base node will then figure out how to convert these velocities to wheel angular velocities $\dot{\phi}_l$ and $\dot{\phi}_r$. Note that the top linear speed is 0.5 m/s and the top angular speed if 0.5 radians/s.

1.1   Open loop control

The first version of the algorithm will be open loop in `assignment_2/src/open_polygon.py`. It will figure out what velocity it needs to move for the specified angle/distance, and drive that velocity for a set period of time. The structure of the algorithm should be the following:

1. Drive distance d

2. Rotate by angle α

3. Go to step 1

- To manage the time aspect of the first script, use the rospy Time library. For instance, one way to publish a message for a set amount of time is as follows:
    ```
    r = rospy.Rate(10)
    t = rospy.Time.now()

    while rospy.Time.now() - t < rospy.Duration(number_of_seconds):
      pub.publish( msg )
      r.sleep()
    ```

1.2 Proportional control

The second version of the algorithm will have proportional control in `assignment_2/src/prop_polygon.py`. Implement the closed loop feed-back control law described in Control lecture notes slide 29:

$$v = k_\rho \rho \tag{1}$$
$$\omega = k_\alpha \alpha + k_\beta \beta \tag{2}$$

where v and ω are the linear and angular speeds of the robot, ρ, α, β is the configuration of the robot expressed in polar coordinates. You must choose appropriate values for k_ρ, k_α and k_β to ensure that your system is stable.

- To get the robot's current position you can query `tf` package:
    ```
    # Initialize transform listener
    tfListener = tf.TransformListener()
    ...
    # Get current transform between robot base and robot start point
    (position, orinetation) = tfListener.lookupTransform("/odom", "/base_footprint", rospy.
        Time(0))

    # Convert pose orientation from quaternion to Euler angles
    orientation = tf.transformations.euler_from_quaternion(orientation)
    ```

    For more details on how to use `tf`:

    `http://wiki.ros.org/tf/Tutorials/Writing%20a%20tf%20listener%20%28Python%29`

1.3 Testing in simulation

To test your open loop and proportional control programs you can use the Turtlebot simulator. To launch the simulator use

```
roslaunch assignment_2 assignment_2_world.launch
```

This will open a Gazebo simulator windows with a Turtlebot on an empty infinite plane. To test your code just run it in a new terminal window and see if the robot moves as you expect. If you get the following errors:

```
Warning [gazebo.cc:215] Waited 1seconds for namespaces.
Error [gazebo.cc:220] Waited 11 seconds for namespaces. Giving up.
Error [Node.cc:90] No namespace found
```

simply relaunch the simulator until it works.

1.4 Testing on a real robot

Once you have made sure that everything works fine in the simulator you will have to test your code on a real robot. You will use your proportional control program to drive a robot in a square with side length of 1.5 meters. You will have to submit a link to a video of your robot driving. See course webpage for instructions on how to setup the robot and an example video.

2 Potential fields based Control

We model the potential function U and its gradient field $F = -\nabla U$ as a sum of the attractive field of the goal and the repulsive field of the obstacles as given in the lecture slides (Planing and Control: slides 22 and

23). Consider a point like robot in the workspace with the area $[0, 100][0, 100]$. Represent the obstacles in the environment as circles with centers at $[50, 20]$ and $[80, 35]$ each with radius 5. Assume that the initial position of the robot is $x_0 = [20, 20]$. In `potential_field_nav.py` write a function which takes as input arbitrary goal position in the workspace and returns the trajectory which the robot followed to get to the goal using potential field based method. The parameters of the potential functions can be set as variables inside of the function. The control commands generated by potential field based controller are $(\dot{x}, \dot{y})^T = F$. Create two plots demonstrating the capability of the robot to avoid obstacles and reach the goal. Your plots should include the potential field together with the path taken by your robot. Use the `matplotlib` library (`http://matplotlib.org/`) to make the plots.

3 Grading

Grading for undergraduates:

Open loop control	30 points
Proportional control	30 points
Real robot video	20 points
Potential fields control	20 points

Grading for graduates:

Open loop control	20 points
Proportional control	20 points
Real robot video	30 points
Potential fields control	30 points