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Master-Thesis von Lina Jukonyte aus Utena, Litauen
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Darmstadt, den 6. Januar 2019

(Lina Jukonyte)

Thesis Statement

I herewith formally declare that I have written the submitted thesis independently. I did not use any outside support except for the quoted literature and other sources mentioned in the paper. I clearly marked and separately listed all of the literature and all of the other sources which I employed when producing this academic work, either literally or in content. This thesis has not been handed in or published before in the same or similar form.

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Darmstadt, January 6, 2019

(Lina Jukonyte)

Abstract

Decision-making task is one of the most determinant bonds for constructing an autonomous system. Making solid decisions by foreseeing and estimating future consequences on its own, it what makes autonomous systems intelligent. Decision making on its own is already complex task, but for vehicles, it makes more complex because of the uncertainty of the real world and continues vehicles' interaction with other vehicles and obstacles. Sensors which are using for real-world understanding and features as speed, position, other objects of traffic, etc. are noisy and very dependables from external conditions. But again, it is very hard to measure others road users' intentions due to its randomness, additionally, completely or partially visible obstacles of the road can make any received measurements and information useless. The unit responsible for decision making has to be sensible for these issues and be able to foresee the future conditions that could develop in an endless number of ways to achieve the final goal with the maximum reward or, in other words, with a minimum cost of the process.

TODO: add part about what was done in the thesis (at the very end).

Removing a driver from behind the wheel takes away more than just the physical responses. It also eliminates the complex decision-making that goes into even routine journeys – choosing whether to swerve into a neighboring lane to avoid a possible obstacle or navigating ambiguous intersections.

Zusammenfassung

Hier können Sie Ihre deutsche Zusammenfassung schreiben.

Acknowledgments

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Abbreviations, Symbols and Operators

1 Introduction

People nowadays can hardly imagine their life without driving. And it is natural since traveling brings independence and freedom to human life. For example, an average American person makes 2.2 driving trips per day and spends 50.6 minutes on the road, which makes over 300 hours every year people spend in their cars [2]. Despite the joy driving brings to people, traffic safety is a major aspect which cannot be ignored. With increasing time which people spend on the cars, a number of a vehicle-related accident is far away from being perfect. The World Health Organization (WHO) annually announce a report which includes a total number of people lives which were taken away due to car accidents. The latest report was published in December of 2018 and stated that during this year there was more than 1.35 million death worldwide [3].

Recent years were full of massive developments towards autonomous driving in autonomous industry. Achievements in one area can be helpful in developing other areas, i.e. great success in image recognition and perception can allow computers to achieve super-human performance [4], etc. Unfortunately, image recognition and environmental perception alone are not enough to solve all the problems of autonomous cars. In ideal circumstances achieving full autonomy of the cars would help not only to save the environment, as well it would benefit traffic participants with more smoothly traffic and more safety on the roads. Industrial innovation experts from ARK Invest strongly believe that with fully autonomous cars accidents on the road would drop to 80% [5].

Although autonomous cars are something that engaging a wide range of engineers for some time already, this area not fully developed yet and will continue engage engineers even more in the future. At the moment big achievement which is equipped into the majority of new cars is Automotive Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), which for the fact does not enable yet full autonomy of the cars, but it successfully assists driver while driving a car.

It is not a secret that all drivers need to interact with each other non-stop in one way or another while they are driving. This communication together with the individual behaviour of a driver is the main key to traffic safety. The behaviour of the driver can be considered as a combination of current traffic observations, short future forecast, decision making and completing actions. The driver should make decisions and actions with full safety concept for himself and other traffic participants. The same is with fully autonomous vehicles: algorithm which is running while a car is driving should ensure all passengers in the car and other traffic participants safety while making decisions and maneuvering through traffic. It is not hard to understand that one of the biggest problem with both the ADAS systems and the full autonomous cars is the human factor. To improve ADAS systems and achieve safety in fully autonomous cars, prediction methods are essential. Requirements for prediction are precision preciseness (with some time in advance), efficiency and reliability. This thesis will focus on the movement and intention prediction of humans in other cars.

1.1 Background

Beyond trendy names like Tesla, Google, Aptiv, etc., chasing driverless cars, beyond a large number of automobile brands and other tech engineers, University of Darmstadt (TuD) has its own Autonomous Driving Darmstadt for Students (aDDa) working group [6]. aDDa initiative started on **October 2017**. A group of students and their supervisors from eight different departments at TuD are working for one purpose to develop fully autonomous car by themselves, here, at University. All participants of the working group closely cooperate bringing together interdisciplinary know-how experience to jointly set up and operate an autonomous vehicle. One special feature of aDDa is that the main work is done in the context of student projects (final thesis, semester work, permanent work at the team, etc.). By working together on the complex tasks of autonomous driving, participants are solving problems for tomorrow.

In not so long period of glsaDDa existing, it is made a lot of developments and improvement of existing systems. Some works to mention: "Development and Implementation of a Long-Term Dynamics Control for Automated Driving", "Collision Avoidance in Uncertain Environments for Autonomous Vehicles using POMDPs", "Conception and Design of a Camera Mounting and Calibration for Test Vehicle", "Development of an IT Security Concept for an Automated Vehicle, Pedestrian Detection", "Tracking and Intention Prediction in the Context of Autonomous Driving" and much more [6]. This thesis is also a part of aDDa project.

1.2 Purpose

Humans are very irrational and unpredictable and because of that, it is very hard to model them. Moreover, there are no two exact same people, what makes the task to model human behavior almost impossible, since every possible scenario as an endless possible outcome. When an individual is driving it is nearly always necessary to take into account surrounding cars and other traffic participants due to ensure safe, fast and energy optimized journey.

Due to the irrationality of humans and recent success and a still big interest in autonomous cars, the purpose of this thesis is to provide an initial step in a probabilistic collision prediction and decision-making system which aims at producing a risk field for the vehicle that predicts upcoming risks. This step will include creating an algorithm which will use a probabilistic approach and tries to predict future movement and intention of surrounding cars in urban areas.[add picture and explain more about thesis approach in general.](#)

The overall research question is defined as:

- How can probabilistic movement prediction using future estimations be applied for an autonomous vehicle?

This research question is then subdivided into smaller questions.[Three](#) of these questions, which are the focus of this thesis, are defined as

- [IN THE NOTES](#)
- [IN THE NOTES](#)
- How feasible is a probabilistic future movement estimation system, in terms of accuracy and computational time, for real-time applications?

The most important thing in driving independent of the car is driverless or need a driver is safety. Safety is not possible without security, and considering this, this thesis will provide an overview of the main security and privacy issues on autonomous driving considering movement prediction. Which leads us to the forth and the final research question for this thesis:

- [FINALLY DECIDE](#)

1.2.1 Scope of the Thesis

Autonomous systems are very complex by its' nature and it is natural to make substantial limitations to obtain a reasonable scope for a master's thesis. This thesis has been decided to use Robot Operating System (ROS) environment system, RViz as its' simulation visualization tool, programming part is done in Python and C++ programming languages. Additionally, the evaluated scenarios have been chosen to be T-intersections and crossroads (four-way intersection) with a known environment, limited to only include a single vehicle in addition to the ego vehicle. This choice has been made due to the system complexity, concerning interactions, that multiple cars would introduce. The vehicles in these scenarios are considered to be cars.

Furthermore, some research areas which include image processing, object tracking, mapping and trajectory planning will not be addressed since these areas constitute research areas single-handedly. Incorporating any of these areas would make this thesis even more complex and remove attention from what should be the main focus of the thesis: the probabilistic future movement estimation.

1.3 Thesis Outline

This study focuses on developing and evaluating probabilistic based movement and intention prediction algorithm. This the algorithm uses external cues to predict surrounding vehicles movement in urban situation.

The thesis is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2. **Fundamentals and Related works** focuses foundation of the work and presents a theory behind the scope of the thesis.
- Chapter 3. **Approach** describes approaches of the thesis.

-
- Chapter 4. **Simulation Setup** defines how and why simulation was set in the way in was. Defines inputs for the system and experiments.
 - Chapter 5. **Experiments and Results** describes experiments done during the thesis writing period and evaluate results which were received by performing various experiments.
 - Chapter 6. **Security Aspects** is based on the fact that "there is no safety without security" and tries to explain the main security and privacy issues of autonomous cars related to movement predictions.
 - Chapter 7. **Conclusion and Future Works** wind up this thesis with conclusions and future works based on the findings of previous chapters.

2 Fundamentals and Related Work

2.1 State of the Art

2.2 Probabilistic Estimation Methods

TO DO

2.3 Movement Prediction

Foresee future moments and trajectories for dynamical objects in traffic scenarios is vital in order to obviate risks which occur on the roads. Prediction despite of short or long term they are, must have sufficient time in advance to avoid traffic situations we, as traffic participants, don't want. In this section, relevant researches for trajectory and movement predictions are introduced.

There is numerous research made on a trajectory and movement predictions with a vehicle as interest on traffic scenarios. [1] suggesting a one way of classifying methods for motion prediction. The main three categories with an increased rate of flexibility were defined: *physical-based*, *maneuver-based* and *interaction aware*.

- **Physics-based** motion models are the most simple of all categories. It is considered that the movement of vehicles depends only on the laws of physics. A wider description is in subsection 2.3.1.
- **Maneuver-based** motion models are more advanced than physics-based because maneuver-based motion models also consider future movements of a car which also depends on the maneuver which is intended to perform by a driver. A wider description is in subsection 2.3.2.
- **Interaction-aware** motion models take into account consideration connections between maneuvers of the car, as well as rules of the traffic. This method as not so popular as previous ones due its complicity to adapt to the real life scenarios. A wider description is in subsection 2.3.3.

Figure 2.1 summarizes motion models defined in [1].

Together with above-mentioned categories, authors of [7] introduced one more category to predict movements - *data-driven based*.

- **Data-driven** based motion and trajectory prediction can be classified into clustering-based and probabilistic approaches. A wider description is in subsection 2.3.4.

2.3.1 Movement Prediction Using Physics-Based Models

Physics-based movement prediction models imply vehicles as a dynamic item, controlled by the physics' laws. Movements are predicted using dynamic and kinematic models with control inputs (e.g. acceleration, deceleration, steering), properties of the car (e.g. length, weight) and some external conditions (e.g. the friction coefficient of the road surface) to the process state of the vehicle (e.g. position, speed, direction). Great work has been done using *physics-based* motion models and it still remains the most commonly used motion models for motion prediction in the context of road safety. The complexity of the models depends on a representation of the dynamics and kinematics of a vehicle, as well as, how uncertainties are handled, whether or not the road geometry is taken into account, etc.

Dynamic and kinematic models can be used for movement prediction in a lot of different ways, the main difference is how uncertainties are handled. Three main approaches will be described as follow: *single trajectory simulation*, *Gaussian noise simulation* and *Monte Carlo simulation* [1].

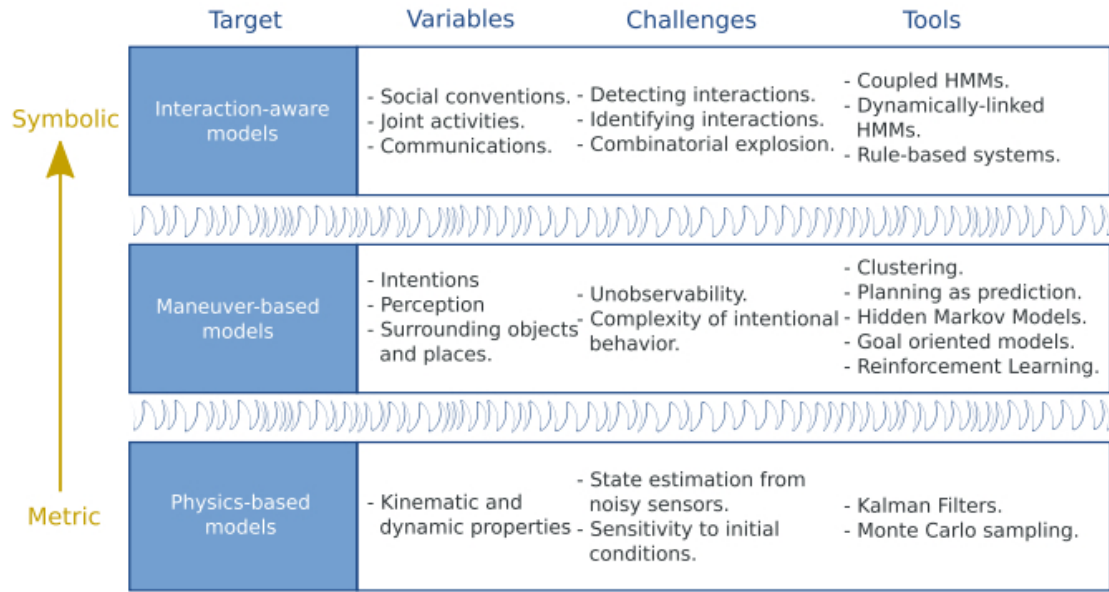


Figure 2.1.: Motion Modeling Overview [1]

- **Single Trajectory Simulation.** The simplest method to predict future movements and trajectory of a car is to apply simple dynamic or/and kinematic models for the current state of a car while assuming that the current state of the car is determined with absolutely highest confidence and applied model (dynamic, kinematic or both) is the perfect representation for the movement of the car. This simple approach was used in [8] using dynamic and [9, 10] kinematic models. The main benefit of this straightforward approach is computational efficiency, that allows this method to be used in real time. On the other hand, predictions made by this method do not consider uncertainties of the current state and as a result, predicted movements and trajectories are not trustworthy for use in a long term (> 1 sec.) predictions.
- **Gaussian Noise Simulation.** The uncertainty of the current state of a vehicle and its evolution during the time is a very important factor in movement or trajectory prediction and it can't be avoided. In [11, 12, 10] this is modelled using a normal distribution. Gaussian Noise function is very popular because of its uncertainty representation in Kalman Filter (KF), which is still a conventional method for vehicle state estimation having noisy sensors measurements in account. There are some cases where dynamic, kinematic and sensor models are linear and uncertainty is modelled using a normal distribution instead of KF Bayesian filter is used. Filtering mainly contains of two steps: prediction and update steps. In the first time step at time step t , a current state of the vehicle is given to the dynamic or kinematic model, which gives predicted state for the next time step which has a Gaussian distribution shape. In the following step, predicted state of the next time step is combined with sensor measurements of the same time step, which is Gaussian distribution as well. Filtering is a looping of these two steps every time when new measurements are available.

By looping the first step, it is possible to get a mean and covariance matrix for every future timestep for the vehicle state. This can be modified into a trajectory mean with linked uncertainty (i.e. normal distribution in each timestep), as showed in [13, 11]. As compared to the approached of *single trajectory simulation*, Gaussian Noise simulation techniques have the benefit of uncertainty representation on the predicted trajectory or movements. However, there are some limitaitons as well: modelling uncertainties employing normal distribution is not quite enough to show the different possible maneuvers. A possible solution for this could be uncertainty representation using Variational Gaussian Mixture Model (VGMM). Author of [14] used Switching Kalman Filter (SKF) for this exact purpose. [12] depends on mass of KF to show possible models for movement evolution for vehicle and be able to freely change between them. [10] introduced an alternative approach: to use heuristics and change different kinematic model depending on the current situation.
- **Monte Carlo Simulation.** In generic case when no assumptions in advance are made about models linearity or uncertainty model, distribution expresion on predicted vehicle states are not clear. Monte Carlo method is the right tool for this kind of situation. The idea under the Monte Carlo method is to randomly sample the input of the dynamic or kinematic model and to generate potential future trajectories. If the road topology is taken into account, various mass can be added to the generated trajectories and movements to penalize the ones

which do not respect the restriction of the road design. Kinematic and dynamic models can be used for Monte Carlo method by categorizing inputs instead of considering them as a constant. Typical inputs are categorized to acceleration, steering angle or lateral deviation. To be able to take into account eligibility of the movement, generated trajectory samples, which has a bigger acceleration than physically is allowed can be removed, as it was done in [15] or consider limitations which vehicle has (weight, length, etc.) and distribute dynamic and kinematic models in a more realistic manner and remove all impracticable trajectories from predefined trajectories list as it was done in [16]. Monte Carlo method can be used to foresee trajectory or movements for a vehicle with a very well known current state or for vehicle which has uncertainty in the current state, which was estimated by one of the filtering algorithms.

2.3.2 Movement Prediction Using Maneuver-Based Models

Maneuver-based motion models show vehicles as independent moving entities, i.e. it is assumed that the movement of a vehicle on the road match to a series of independently executed movements from the other vehicles on the same road. Oxford dictionary [17] a movement/maneuver as “a physical movement or series of moves requiring skill and care”. Term behaviour in literature often is used meaning the same meaning, e.g. in [18, 19, 20], for the sake of simplicity word “movement” or “maneuver” will be used in this work with defined meaning. Movement and trajectory prediction using maneuver-based motion models work with in advance recognized movements which driver possibly intend to perform. If an algorithm can recognize intended movement, the algorithm can assume that future actions of the driver will match the recognized movement. Due to this *a priori* information, trajectories received with this method are more relevant and reliable than the ones received using physics-based motion models. Maneuver-based motion models rely on prototype trajectories or on movement intention estimation.

Vehicle motion classification into maneuver/movement classes has been extremely widely applied not only in driver assistance systems but into natural driving studies [21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30]. Authors of the majority of approaches are using heuristic [24] or training classifiers like Support Vector Machines (SVMs) in [25], Hidden Markov Models (HMMs) [21, 26, 27]. Long Short Term Memorys (LSTMs) in [28], Bayesian networks [29], etc., as movement-based features using speed, deceleration, acceleration, yaw rate, lane position, turn signals, distance from other vehicle and other road context information. Authors of [24] classified vehicle’s movement into class “keep lane” or “change lane” grounded on how far the closest car is and predicted future trajectory by applying quintic polynomial of the current car movement state and pre-defined ultimate movement state for each movement class, defined before. Authors of [29] used six different movement classes, which were defined before and using Dynamic Bayesian Networks (DBN) based on multiple movements and context based features selected the potentially right future movement. Authors of [30] defined an individual Gaussian process for three movement classes and established a multi-modal distribution for possible future trajectories using each model. However, in the study, only one case-based prediction has been introduced. Authors of [21] also determined separate Gaussian processes, this time for four different movement classes, which were classified using a hierarchical HMM. This method was tested on real highway data. Authors of another study [22] used a random forest classifier for movements classification into pre-defined movement classes: left or right lane changes or keep lane. Authors used a separate Gaussian Mixture Regression (GMR) model for predicting lateral movement for vehicles using each class. Method was tested on real highway data. Similar method, but without predefined movements classes for prediction longitudinal motion for vehicles were used in [23].

2.3.3 Movement Prediction Using Intention Aware Models

Interaction-aware motion models introduce cars as manoeuvring items which co-operate with each other, i.e. a movement of a vehicle is considered to be affected by a movement of the other moving object in the traffic scene. Keeping into account the dependencies between the separate moving objects leads to a much better explanation of their movement compared with **maneuver-based** motion models described in the previous subsection. As a result, it gives a better perception of the current situation.

Despite this, a relatively small amount of researches is done considering inter-moving-objects interaction in movement prediction. Authors of [31] assigned two movement classes for vehicles approaching an intersection together, applying a polynomial classifier which “punishes” cases that potentially would lead to near-collisions situations. Authors of [32] worked with a much complex scenario and assigned movement classes to multiple together interacting vehicles in a highway scenario. However, foreseen movements, trajectories of a vehicle are assumed to be given in advance. Results reported using a simulated environment. [7] in their work considered multiple interacting vehicles together with the difficulty of estimating their future motion. Authors of [22] not directly used inter-moving-objects interaction by including comparative positions and velocities of vehicles close by as features for movement and trajectory prediction.

2.3.4 Movement Prediction Using Data-Driven Model

As mentioned earlier *data-driven* movement prediction can be generally classified into clustering-based and probabilistic approaches. **Clustering-based** approaches group the training data in order to provide a set of possible prototype trajectories [33, 34]. Partially observed trajectories are checked and compared with a prototype trajectory using various distance measurements, as Dynamic Time Warping (DTW), Longest Common Subsequence (LCSS), Hausdorff distance, etc. and after matching movement trajectory with prototype trajectory, later one is used as a model for future movement. Clustering approach is quite easy, but the main disadvantage of this method is the deterministic nature of the predictions.

Probabilistic approach contrary learn probability distribution of every movement trajectory class and gives the conditional distribution for future movements, given current trajectory. This lets us avoid some degree of natural uncertainty of predicting the future.

Authors of [35, 21] for modelling trajectories and for motion prediction use Gaussian Processes which are the most popular approaches solving prediction problems so far. [22] uses GMR for prediction longitudinal movement of a vehicle, while [23] uses the same method for lateral movement prediction. [36] uses VGMMs for conditional distribution within snippets of future having snippets of movement history models. The latest approach is much easier and computationally more effective when compared to Gaussian Process Regression. Authors proved the efficiency of method predicting non-linear movements in turns at the intersection scenarios.

2.3.5 Limitations of Methods for Movement Prediction

Subsections 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3 and 2.3.4 described movement prediction with different feature based model. This subsection will introduce limitations of all these methods.

- **Physics-based approach.** Predictions using physics-based motion models are restricted to very short-term (< 1 sec.) motion prediction due to low-level motion (dynamic and kinematic) properties this method relies on. Usually using this method it is unable to foresee any change in the vehicle movement which happens due to an execution of a particular maneuver (e.g. speed up, slow down, make a turn, etc.), or changes caused by external factors (e.g. slowing down due to traffic lights, signs, other vehicles, etc).
- **Maneuver-based approach.** For a very long time, the biggest limitation of prototype trajectories was time representation. When the movement models are showed using a finite set of trajectories it takes a very large number of prototypes to represent the large variation in the implementation of an every possible movement pattern. Handling subtle situation in traffic, as movements with waiting time at a stop line, not constant velocity caused by traffic is a very big issue for such models. For a certain extent, Gaussian Processes (GP) were introduced. They solved this kind of problem by introducing time-independent movement patterns [35]. On the other hand, GPs have some other limitations as well. First of all to be able to take into account all possible traffic scenarios, has very heavy computational time, despite that they are not considering the physical limitations of a vehicle and due to that may generate or predict unrealistic trajectories and movements. To solve these problems the best solution so far was proposed in [38]. Authors used Rapidly-exploring Random Tree (RRT) to be able to "randomly sample points toward dynamically feasible trajectories, using as inputs the current state of the vehicle and the sample trajectories generated by the GPs" [38]. Another issue with using predefined prototype trajectories is an adaptation to a different road, i.e. for different intersections. Each movement model is defined for a specific road/intersection geometry and topology, what means that prototype models only can be used with the same or very similar topology.

Maneuver-based approach contains similar limitations which described under limitations of data-driven approach.

- **Interaction-aware approach.** Prediction using interaction-aware motion models are the most exhaustive method suggested in the literature so far. Using it, is possible to predict for a longer-term as compared to physics-based motion prediction models, and predictions are more trustworthy than using maneuver-based motion models in predictions due to taking dependencies between the surrounding cars into consideration. However this completeness has some disadvantages as well: calculation of all possible trajectories with all possible models take a lot of time and because of that, it is not very compatible with using in real-time situations. For this reason, using interaction-aware motion predictions are not so popular.
- **Data-driven approach.** The assumption that movement of vehicles do not depend on each other and other traffic participants is not accurate. All vehicles without any exceptions use a road together with other traffic participants and movement performed by one vehicle directly or indirectly effects others. Dependencies with each other are

quite strong at intersection, where road rules, not only movement of other cars must be taken into account. Ignoring these reliances can lead to wrong interpretations of the situations, and affects the evaluation of the risk. A data-driven approach is quite easy, but not always it pays attention to these critical dependabilities and it is quite difficult to pre-define all possible action of other traffic participants, i.e. the main disadvantage of this method is the deterministic nature of the predictions.



3 Approach

3.1 1st Simple Approach

TODO

4 Simulation Setup

TODO

5 Experiments and Results

TODO

6 Security Aspects

TODO

7 Conclusions and Future Works

TODO

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A Some Appendix

Use letters instead of numbers for the chapters.