

Motion Planning for Mobile Robots



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Introduction



About this Course

- **This course is about:**
 - Academism (old school) planning pipeline
 - Path finding algorithm
 - Trajectory generation/optimization
 - Real-time software implementation
- **This course is NOT about:**
 - Dynamics Modelling ☹
 - Robot design ☹
 - End-to-end navigation ☹
 - Learning-based method ☹
 - Mathematical/theoretical proof ☹
- **This course may also cover:**
 - Autonomy for mobile robots
 - Paper recommendations
 - Cutting-edge research direction/ethics



Basic Expectation

- **Discipline:**

- Every researcher has his own taste/style. Since you choose this course, please follow my style.
- Q&A only at appointed office time.
- Finish your homework by yourself.

- **Project:**

- Basic algorithm validation (MATLAB)
- Sophisticated engineering implementation (ROS/C++)

每位研究者都有自己的风格和品味，如果你们选择了这门课，那请你们在这门课的范围內，尽量follow我们的风格。我相信，如果大家跟随老师的风格，无论如何，大家最后都会收获很多很多。

我简单说一下我的风格：**我的风格一定是实用第一**，任何算法如果没有很好的实用价值，那我就认为它在实际的机器人系统上没有太大实际意义。我教给大家的算法，希望不要仅停留在Matlab的数值验证层面，更要在C++或者ROS里面跑起来，在嵌入式系统中跑起来。这就是我的风格！



Teaching Team



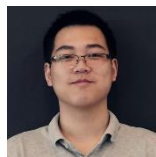
Instructor 1: Fei Gao

Ph.D. in Robotics
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Assistant Professor, Zhejiang University



Instructor 2: Hongkai Ye

D. Eng. in Robotics
Zhejiang University



Instructor 3: Zhepei Wang

Ph.D. in Robotics
Zhejiang University



Instructor 4: Jialin Ji

D. Eng. Candidate in Robotics
Zhejiang University



Instructor 5: Xin Zhou

D. Eng. Candidate in Robotics
Zhejiang University



Instructor 6: Qianhao Wang

Ph.D. Candidate in Robotics
Zhejiang University



Workload

- **Expected Student Background:**

- Linear algebra
- Probability
- MATLAB programming skills
- C++ programming skills (VERY IMPORTANT)
- Linux
- Love robots 😊

- **Workload:**

- Attend lectures
- Lots of project work
- Have fun with robots 😊

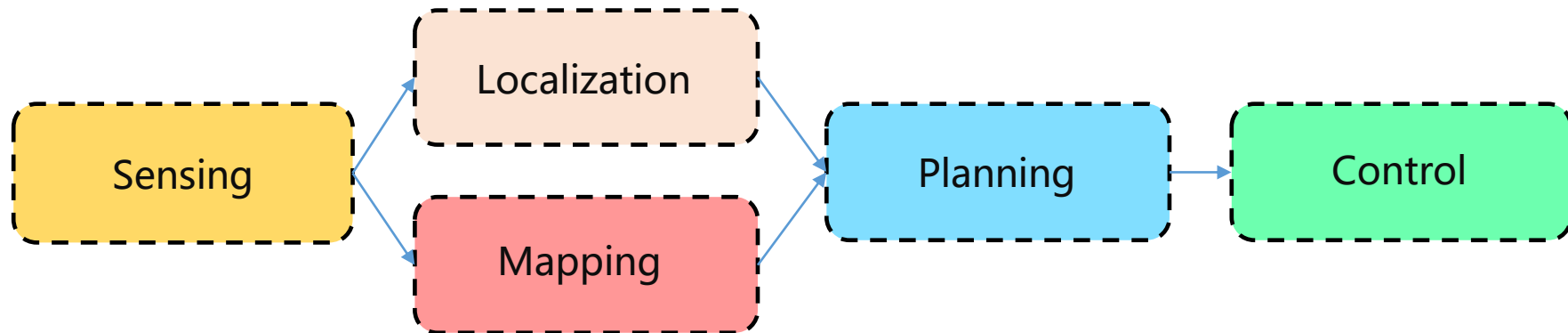


What is autonomous robot

Definition: an autonomous robot is a robot that performs behaviors or tasks with a high degree of autonomy (without external influence).

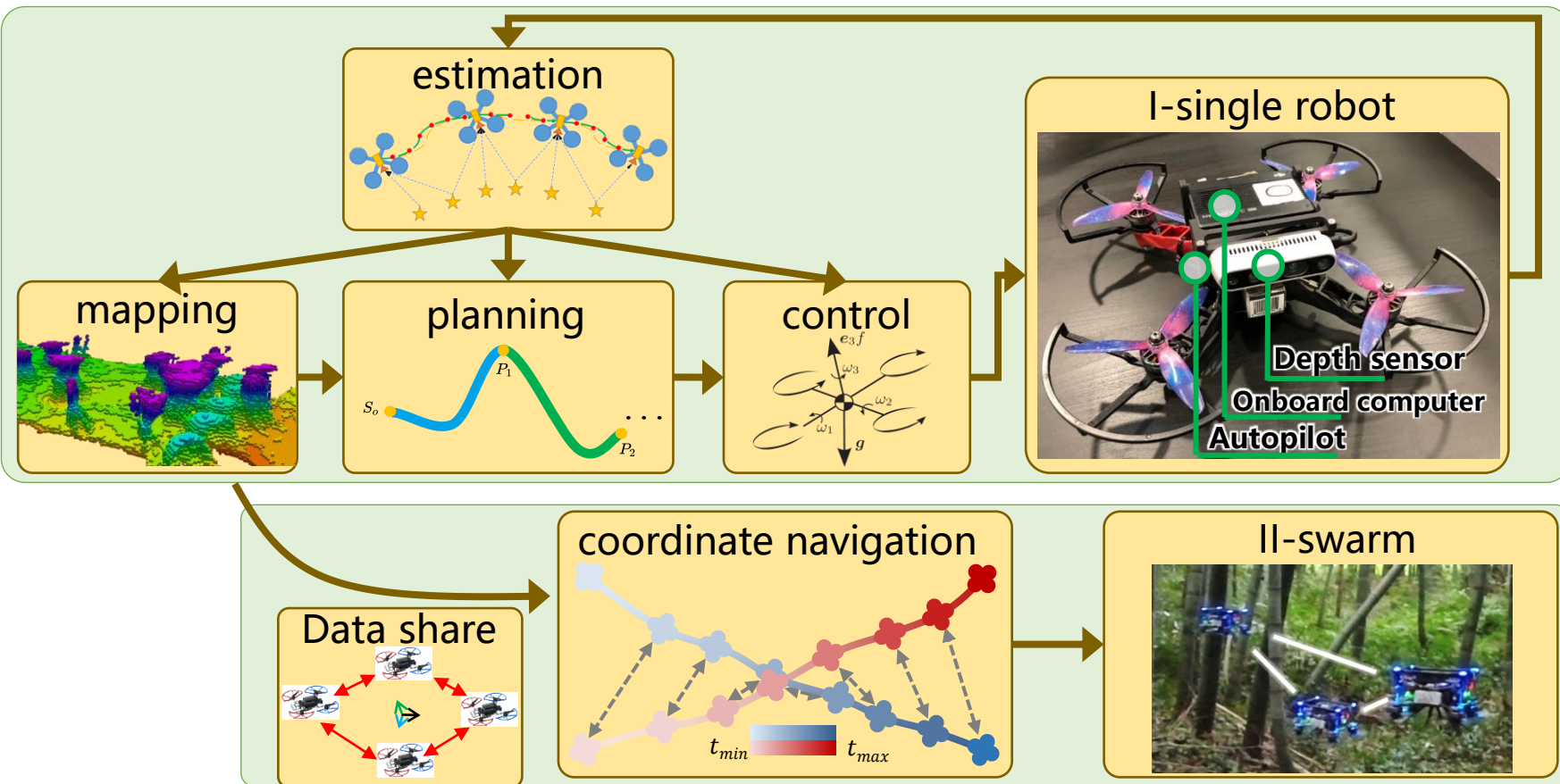
Subjects: Computer Science, Automation, Mechanism, Electronics ...

- Perception-Planning-Control action loop



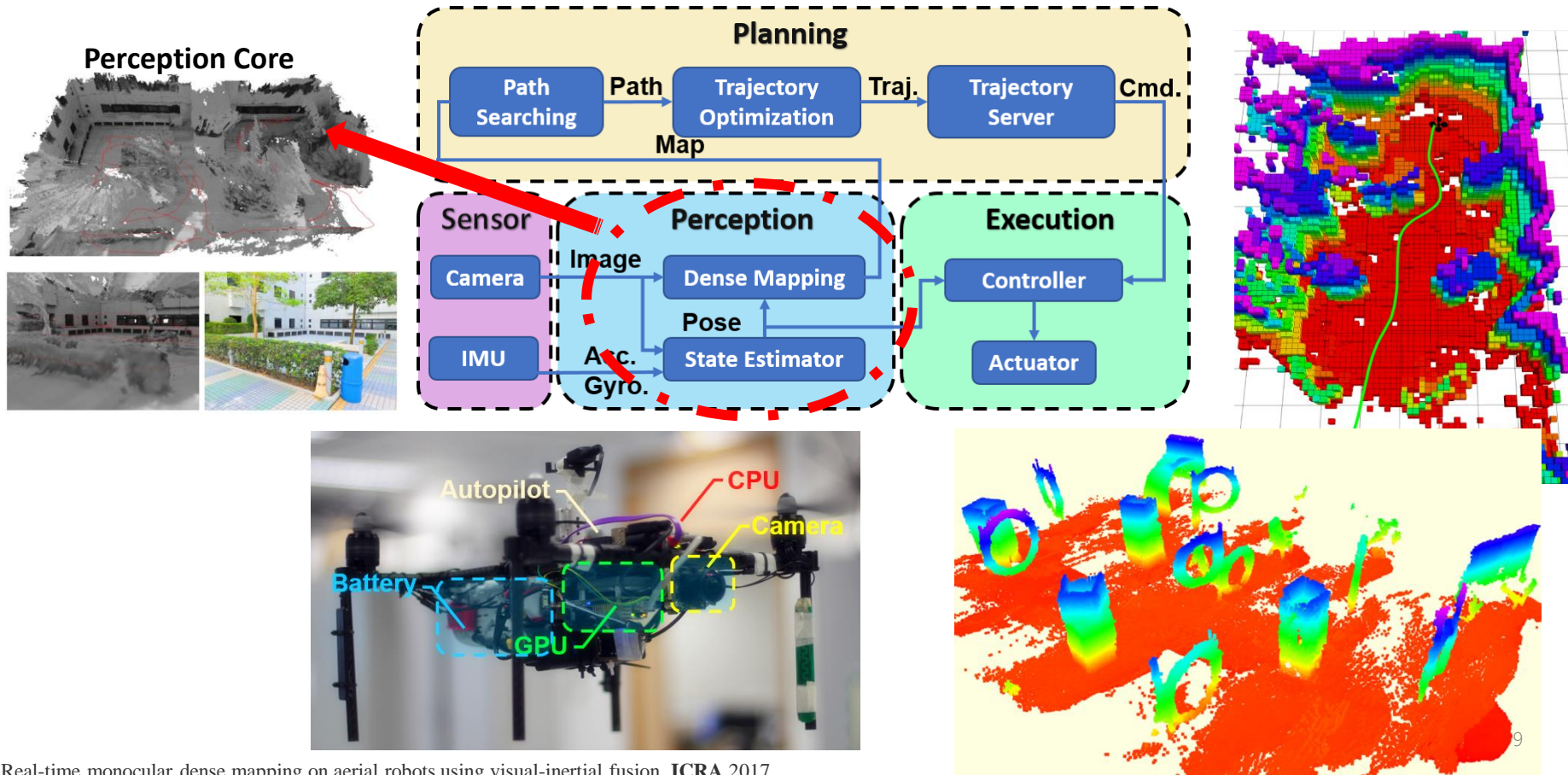


What is autonomous robot



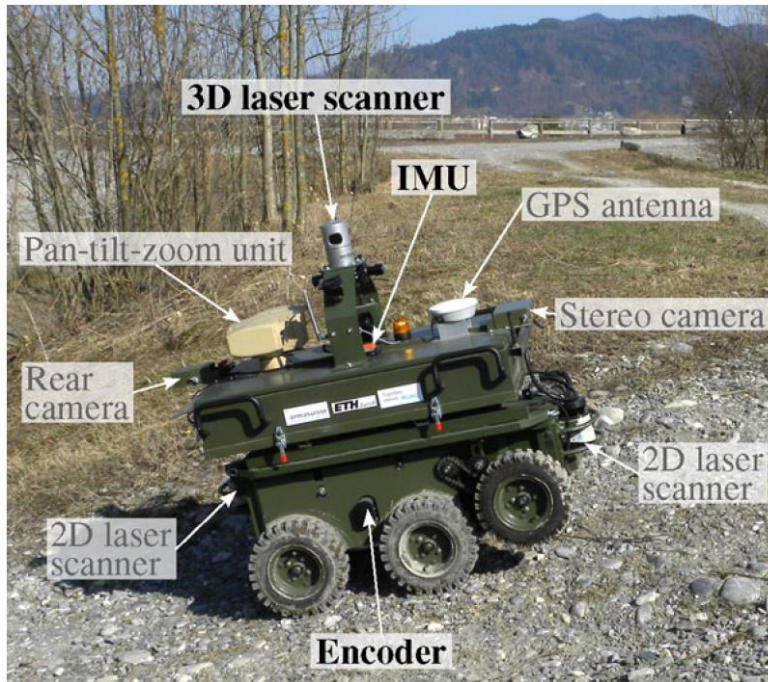


Vision-based Autonomous Drone





Autonomous robot: applications

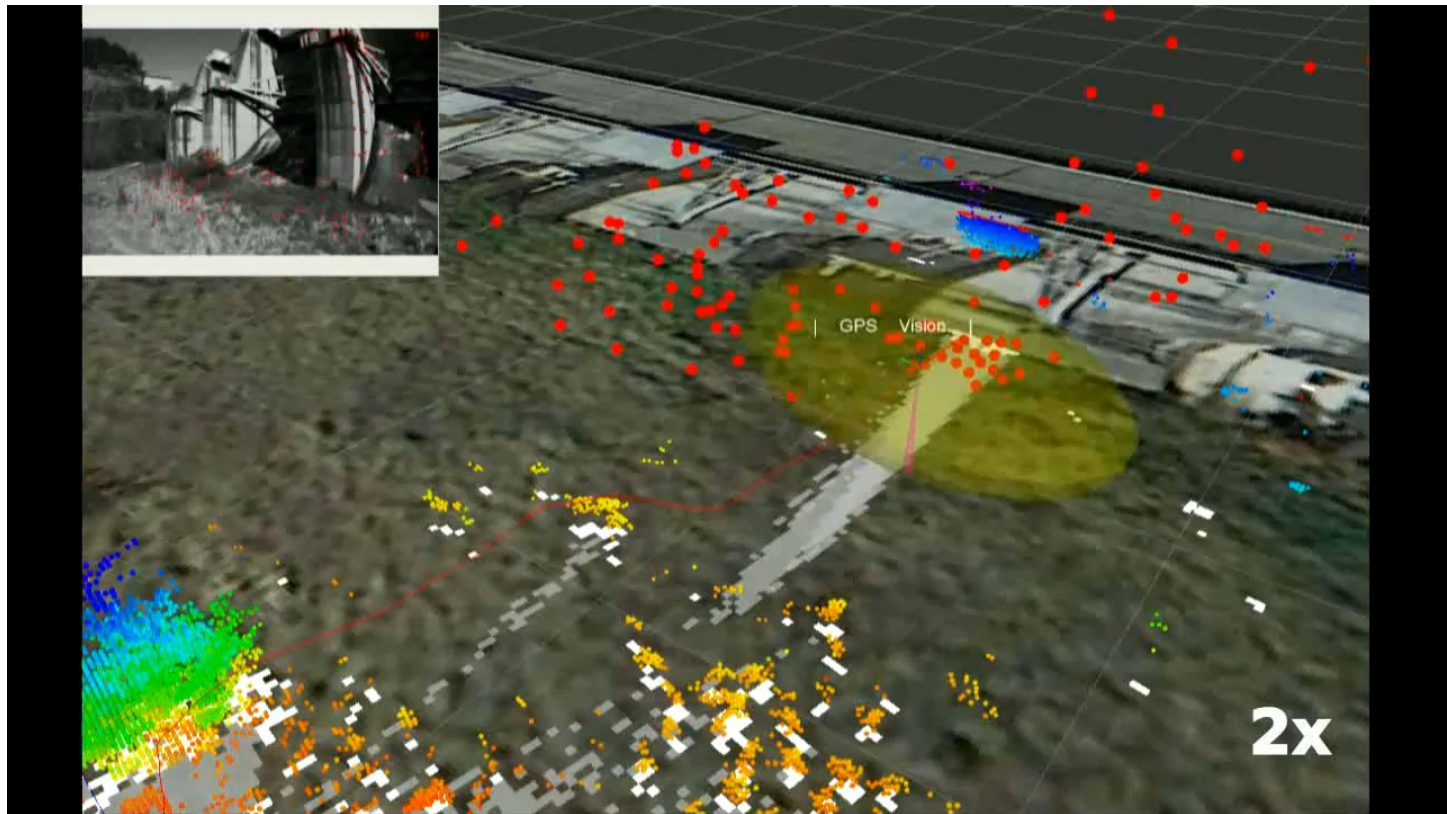




Aerial Robots



Dam Inspection





Dam Inspection



Ozaslan, et al, 2014

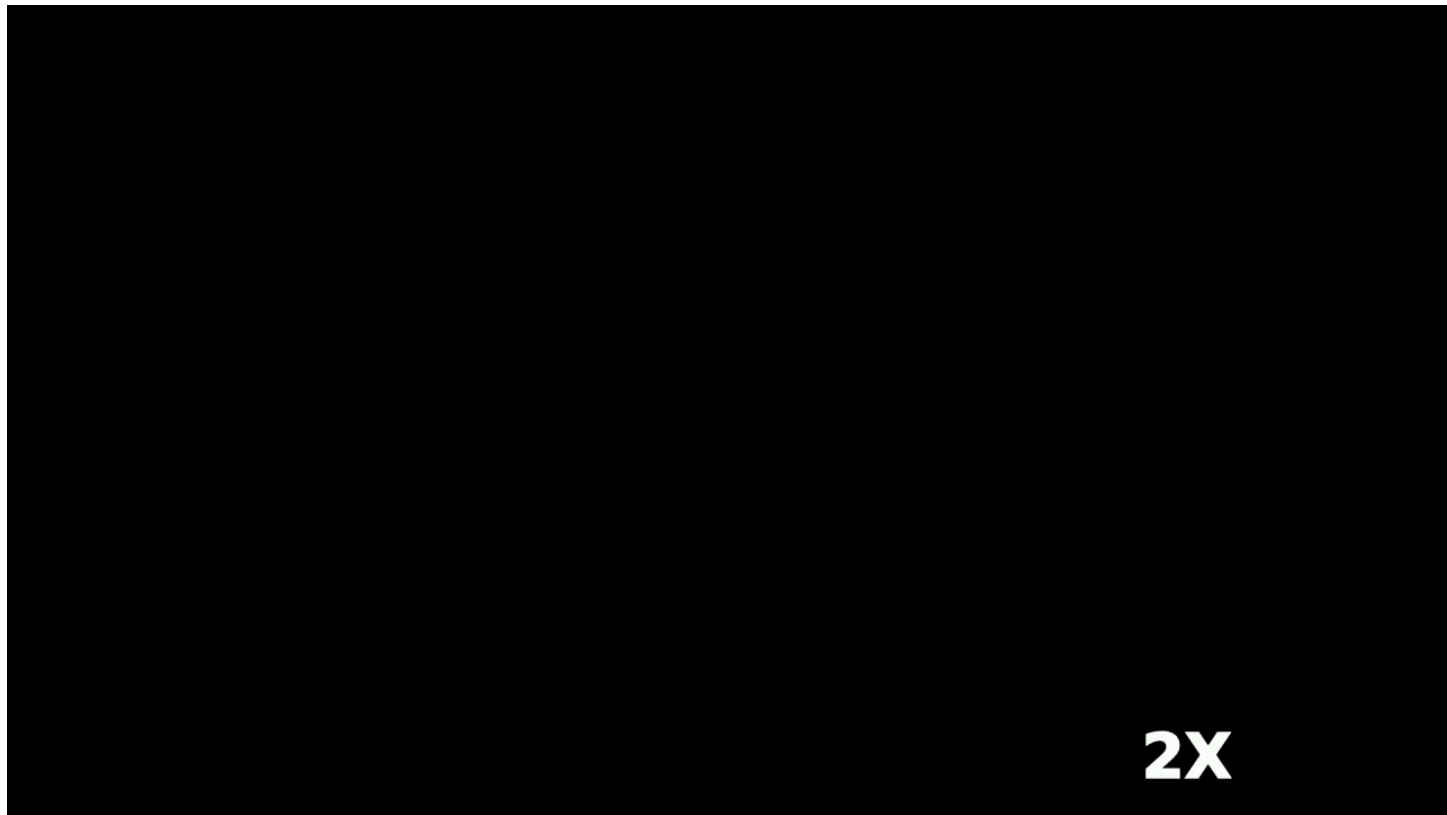


Cellular Tower Inspection





Precision Farming





Delivery

30SESSION



Ground Robots



Search and Rescue



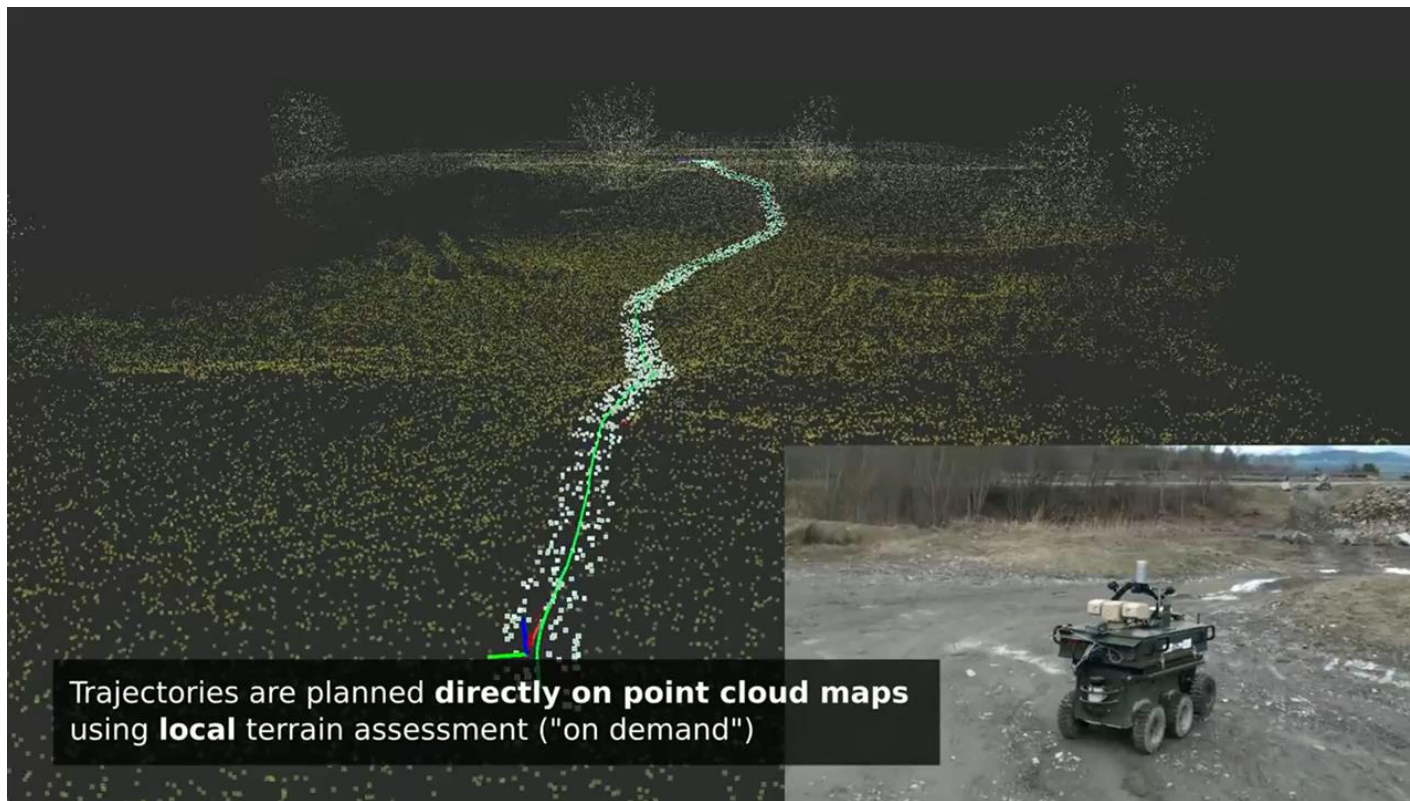


Housekeeping



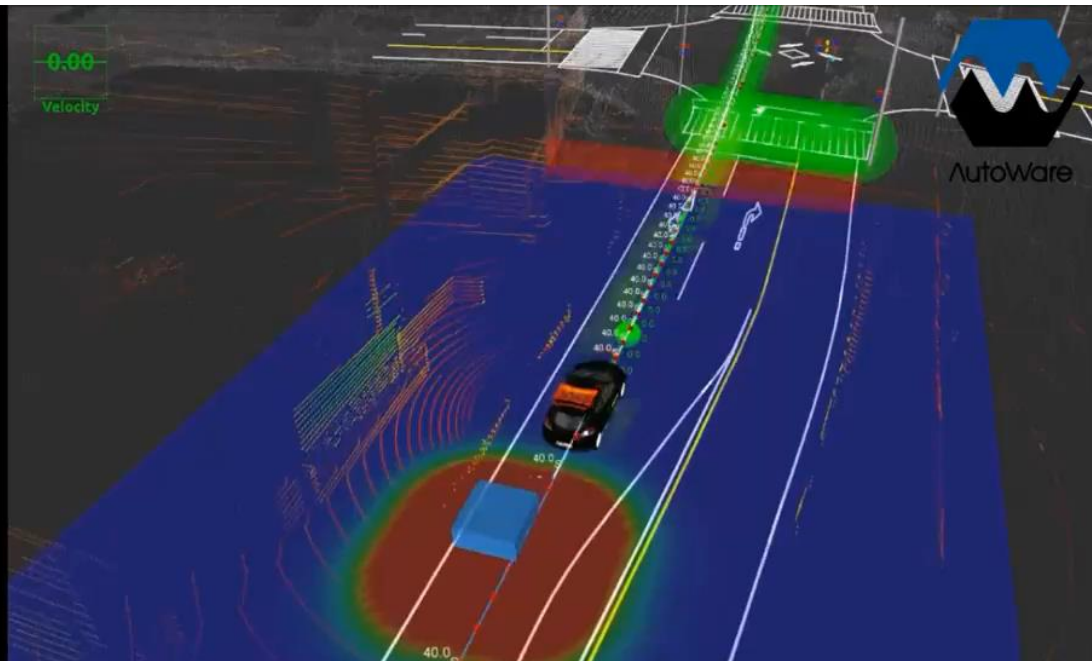


Hills Driving





Urban Driving



Tier IV
Intelligent Vehicle



アイサツテクノロジー株式会社





Crowd Driving





What is autonomous robot

• Estimation

- Low latency
- High accuracy & consistency

• Perception

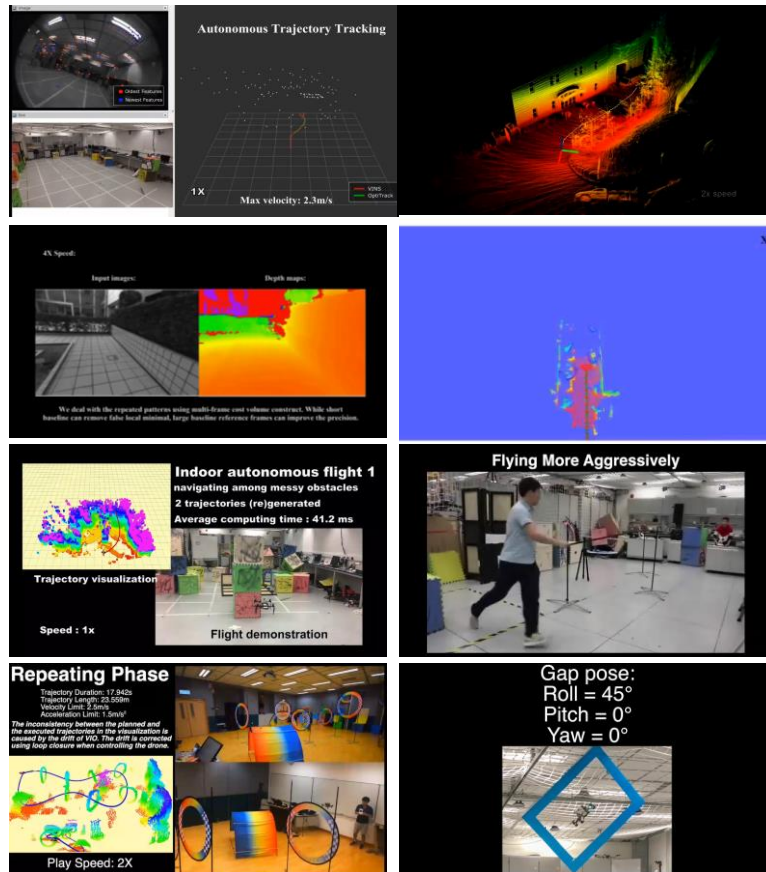
- 3D sensing & dense perception
- Map fusion & integration for planning

• Planning

- Complex & unknown environments
- Safety & dynamical feasibility
- Limited sensing & computation

• Control

- Aggressive maneuvers
- Smooth trajectory tracking





What is motion planning

- Basic requirements
 - Safety: collision avoidance
 - Smoothness: energy saving, comfort
 - Kinodynamic feasibility: executable, controllable
- Old-school pipeline
 - Front-end path finding
 - ❑ Search for an initial safe path
 - ❑ Low dimensional
 - ❑ Discrete space
 - Back-end trajectory generation
 - ❑ Search for an executable trajectory
 - ❑ High dimensional
 - ❑ Continuous space



How to do robotics research

- Find a problem

- ✓ A problem only in your imagination is not a problem at all.
- ✓ A roboticist must be an engineer first.
- ✓ Hot topic is just hot.
- ✓ Be honest.

- Solve a problem

- ✓ Don't intentionally making things complicated.
- ✓ Simple but effective solution is always preferable.
- ✓ Simulation tells nothing, show everyone real robots.
- ✓ Solve real problems.
- ✓ Solve it 100%, or not.



How to do motion planning

- Overall knowledge of planning
 - ✓ Choose suitable methods for different scenarios.
 - ✓ Design customized strategy.
- Dirty hands
 - ✓ Don't wait, don't just read papers. Do it yourself.
 - ✓ A lot of coding work.
 - ✓ A lot of field work.
- Know the whole system well
 - ✓ Take care every component in your robot.



Course Outline



Front-end: Path finding

- **SEARCH-BASED PATH FINDING**

- Graph Search Basis
- Dijkstra and A*
- Jump Point Search
- Homework

- **SAMPLING-BASED PATH FINDING**

- Probabilistic Road Map
- Rapidly-exploring Random Tree (RRT)
- Optimal Sampling-based Methods
- Advanced Sampling-based Methods
- Homework

- **KINODYNAMIC PATH FINDING**

- Introduction
- State-state Boundary Value Optimal Control Problem
- State Lattice Search
- Kinodynamic RRT*
- Hybrid A*
- Homework



Back-end: Trajectory Generation

- MINIMUM SNAP TRAJECTORY GENERATION

- Differential Flatness
- Minimum Snap Optimization
- Closed-form Solution to Minimum Snap
- Time Allocation
- Implementation in Practice
- Homework



- **MODEL PREDICTIVE CONTROL FOR ROBOTICS PLANNING**
 - Introduction
 - Linear MPC
 - Non-linear MPC
 - Homework



Overview

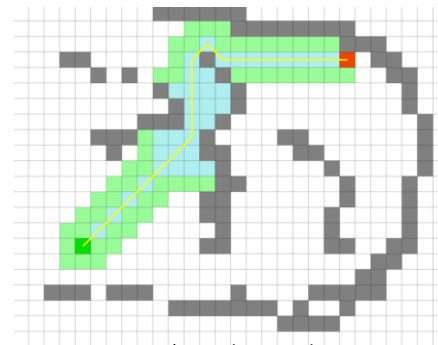


Front-end: Path Finding

- Sampling-based methods
 - Probabilistic roadmap (PRM)
 - Rapidly exploring random tree (RRT)
 - RRT*, informed RRT*
- Search-based methods
 - General graph search: DFS, BFS
 - Dijkstra and A* search
 - Jump point search



RRT example

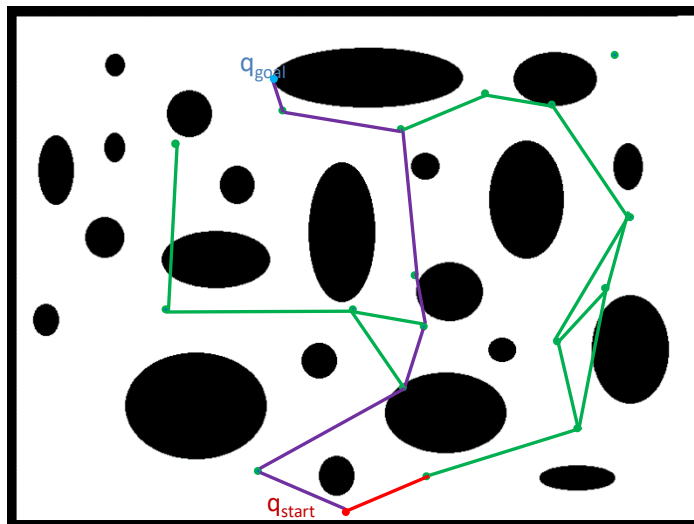


A* search example



Sampling-based Method

Probabilistic Roadmap (PRM)



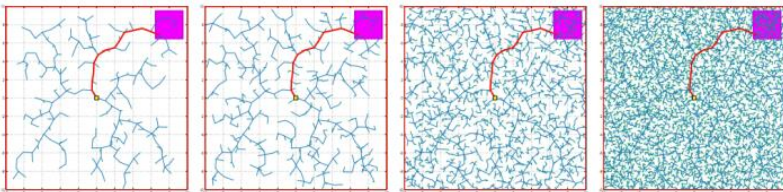
C-space



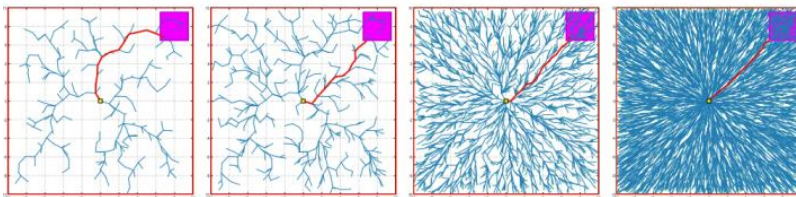
Sampling-based Method

RRT* vs RRT

RRT

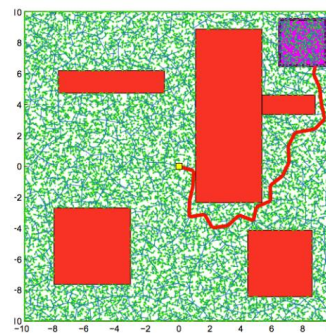


RRT*

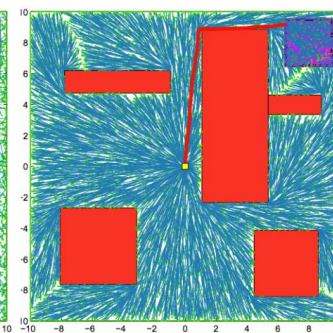


Source: Karaman and Frazzoli

RRT



RRT*

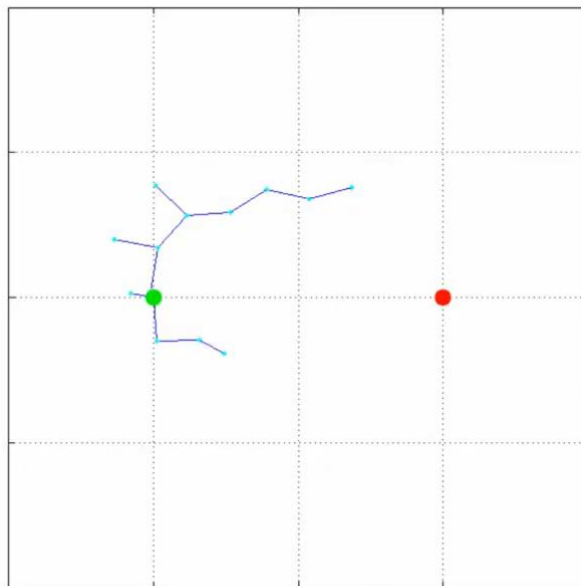




Sampling-based Method

Informed RRT*

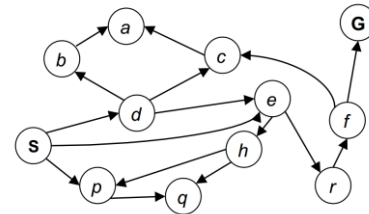
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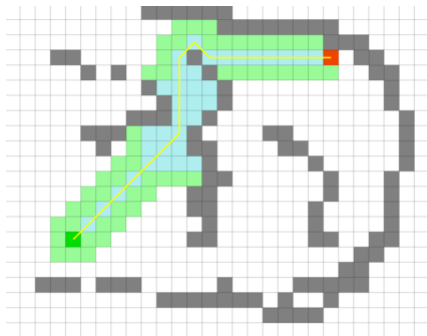


Search-based Method

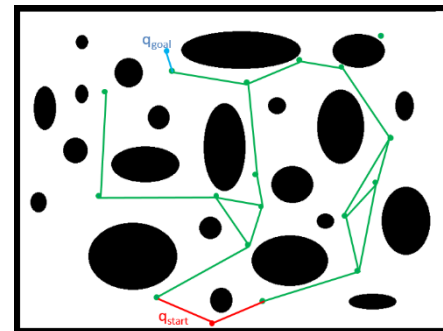
- For every search problem, there's a corresponding state space graph
- Connectivity between nodes in the graph is represented by (directed or undirected) edges



*Ridiculously tiny search graph
for a tiny search problem*



Grid-based graph: use grid as vertices and grid connections as edges



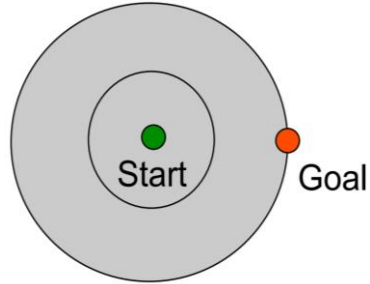
The graph generated by probabilistic roadmap (PRM)



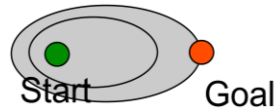
Search-based Method

Dijkstra's vs. A*

- Dijkstra's algorithm expanded in all directions



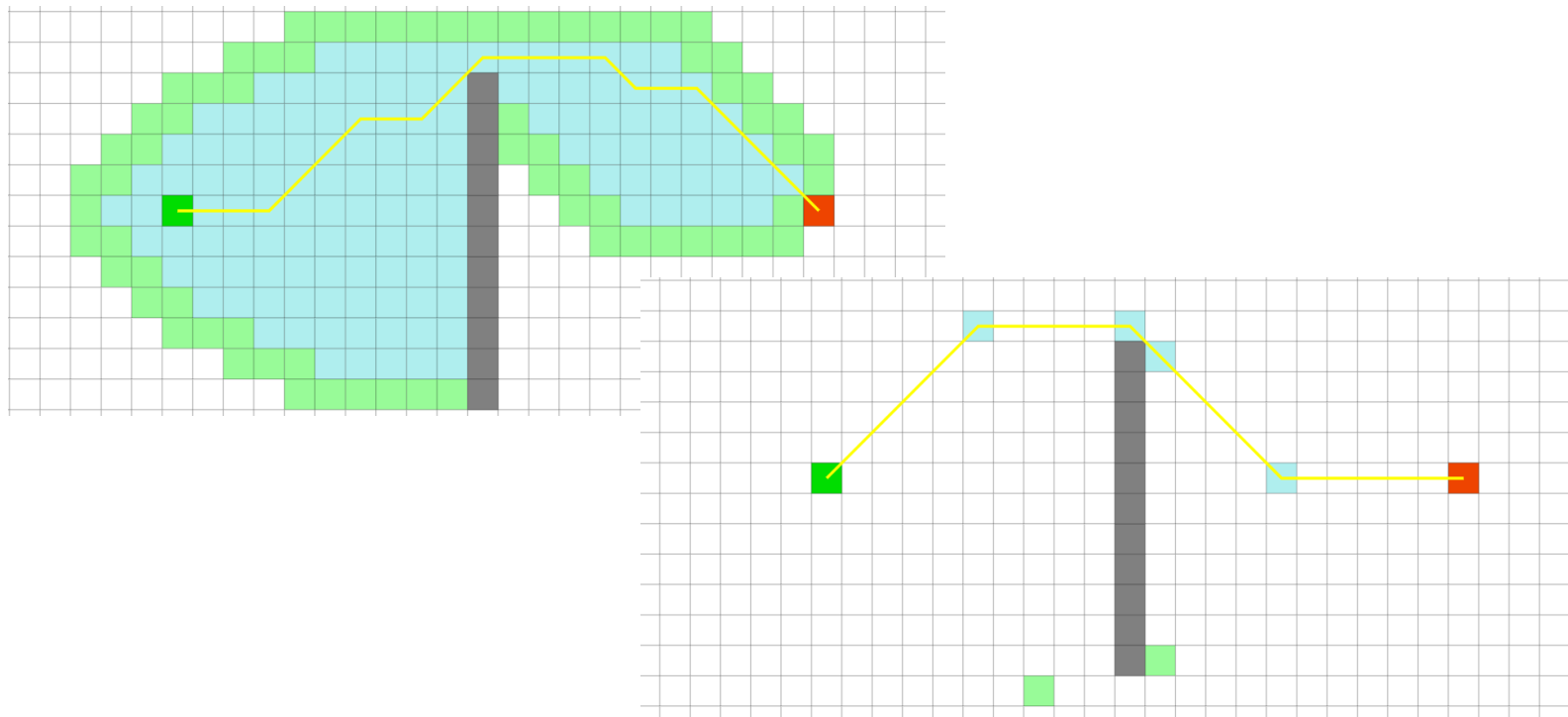
- A* expands mainly towards the goal, but does not hedge its bets to ensure optimality





Search-based Method

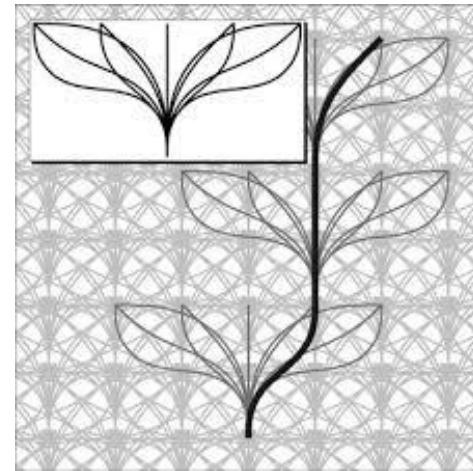
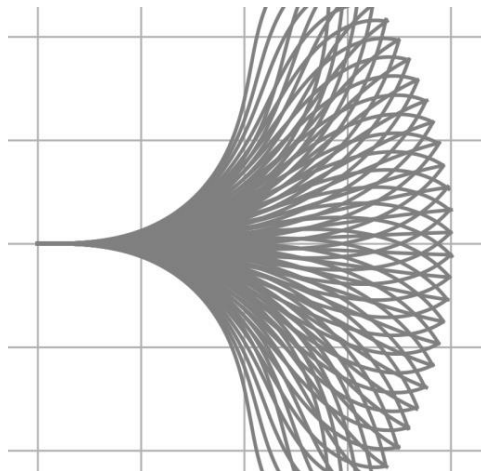
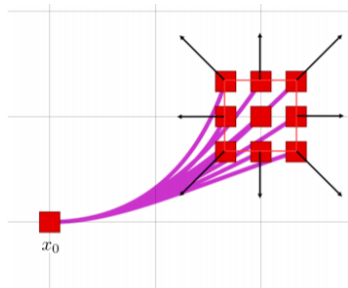
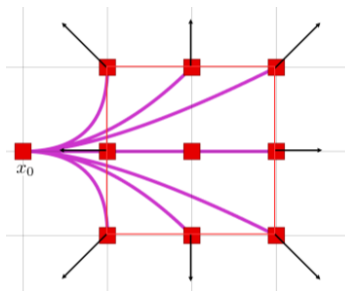
A* vs. JPS





Kinodynamic Path Finding

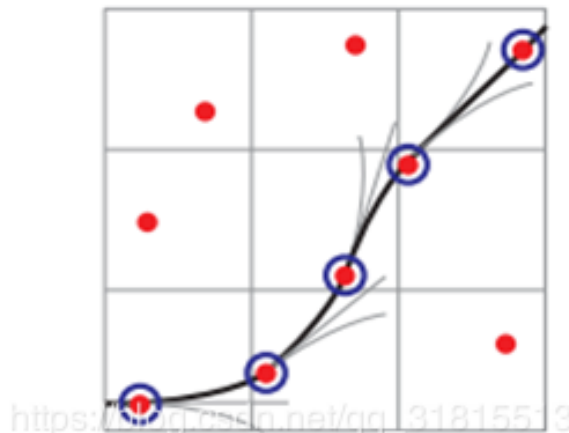
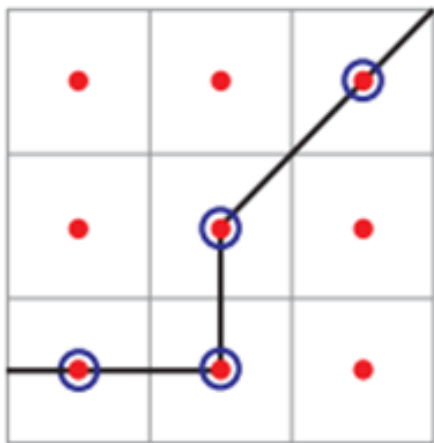
State Lattice Search





Kinodynamic Path Finding

Hybrid A*



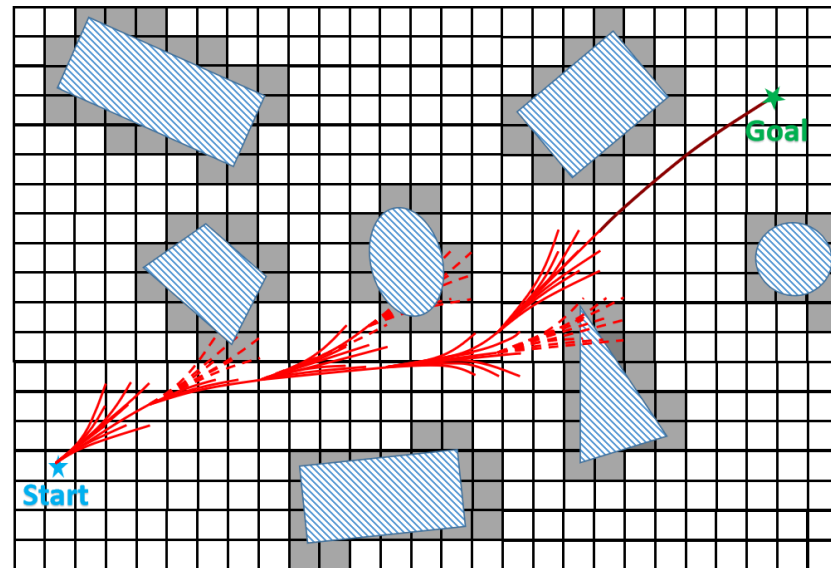
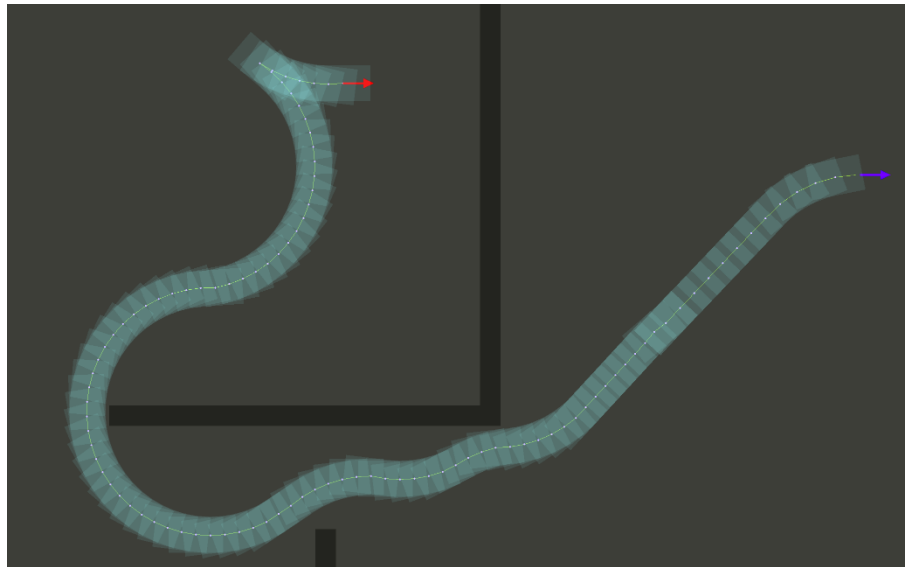
1. Follow A* algorithm
2. Forward simulate states with different discrete control inputs
3. Keep only 1 state in each grid

Discrete control



Kinodynamic Path Finding

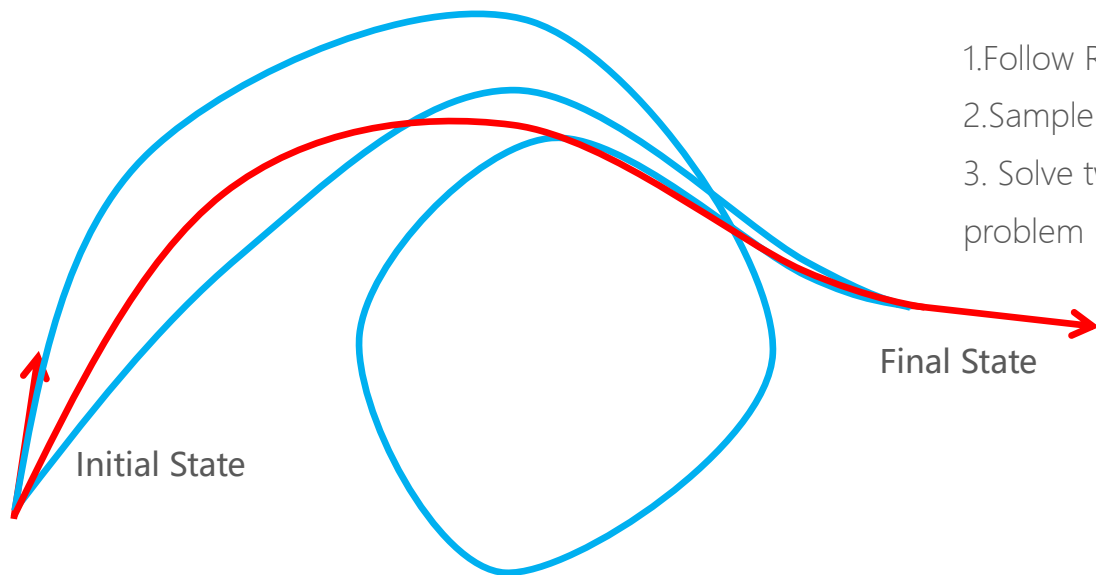
Hybrid A*





Kinodynamic Path Finding

Kinodynamic RRT*



1. Follow RRT* algorithm
2. Sample a random state
3. Solve two state boundary optimal control problem

Final State

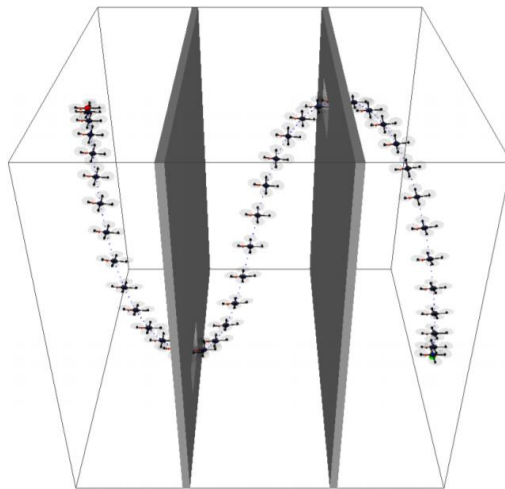
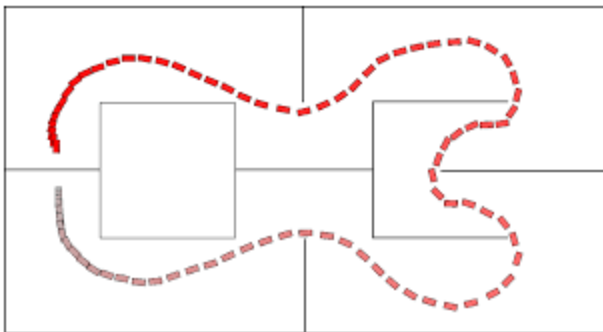
Initial State

Discrete state



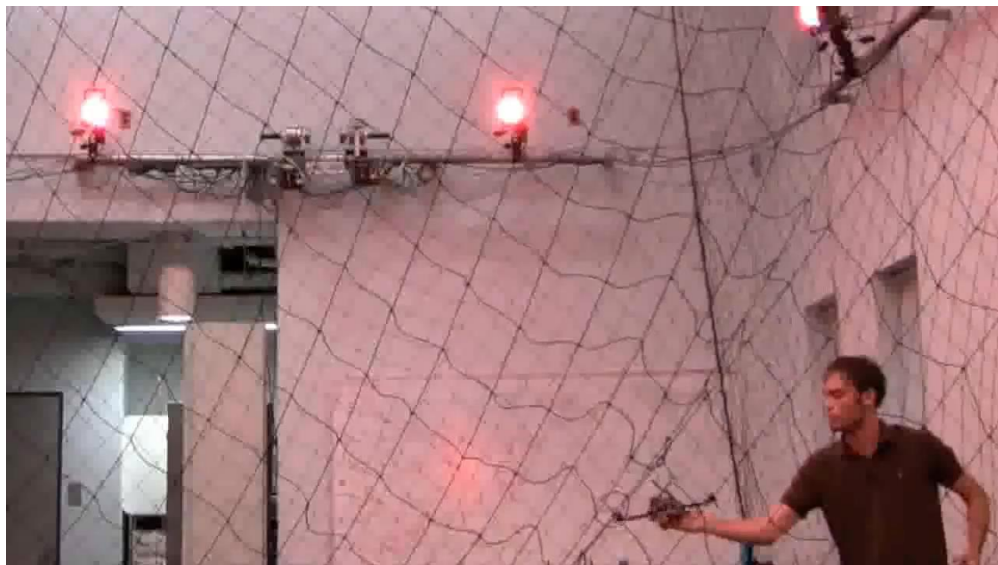
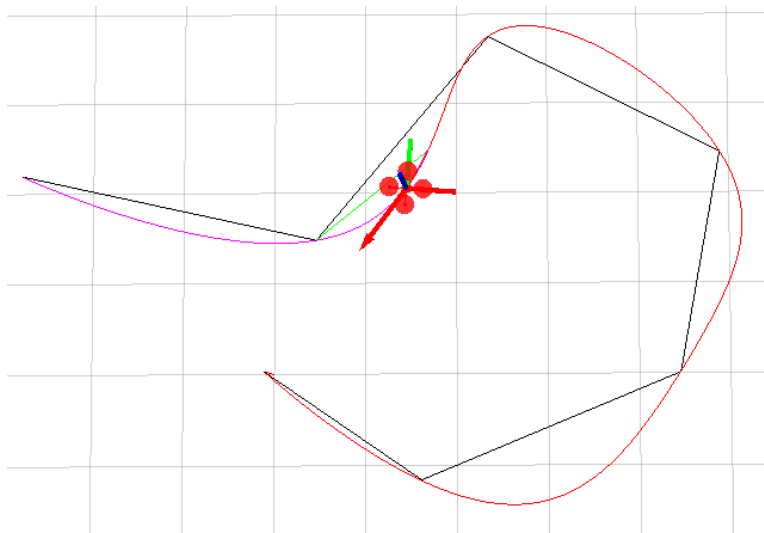
Kinodynamic Path Finding

Kinodynamic RRT*



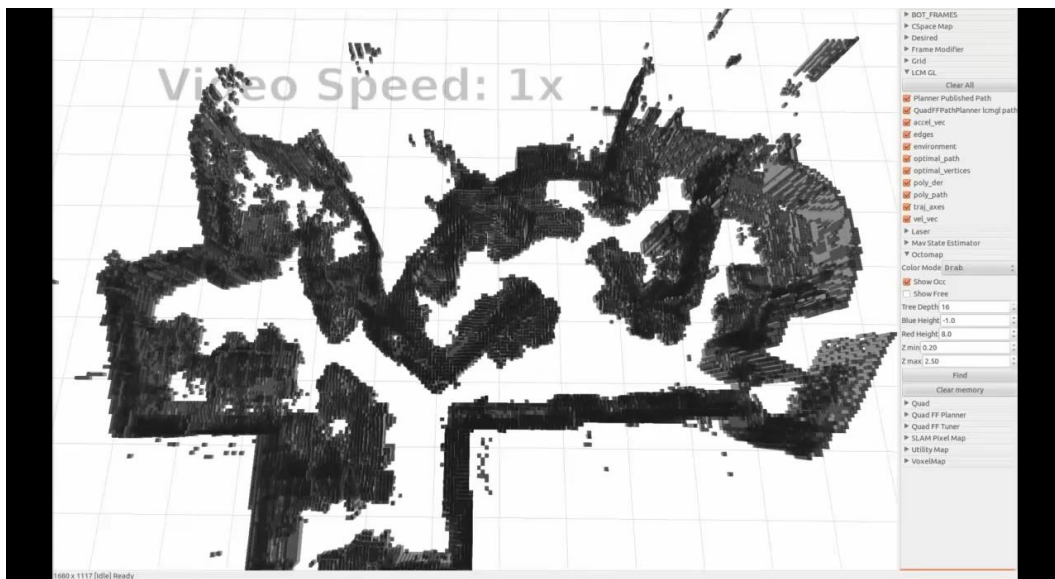
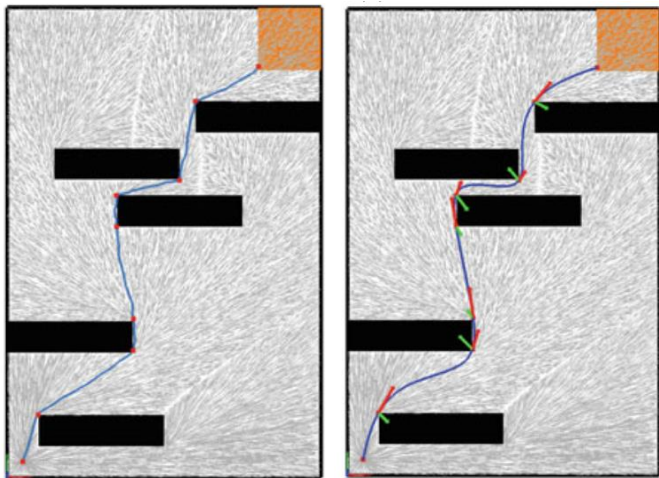
Back-end: Trajectory Optimization

Basic Minimum-snap



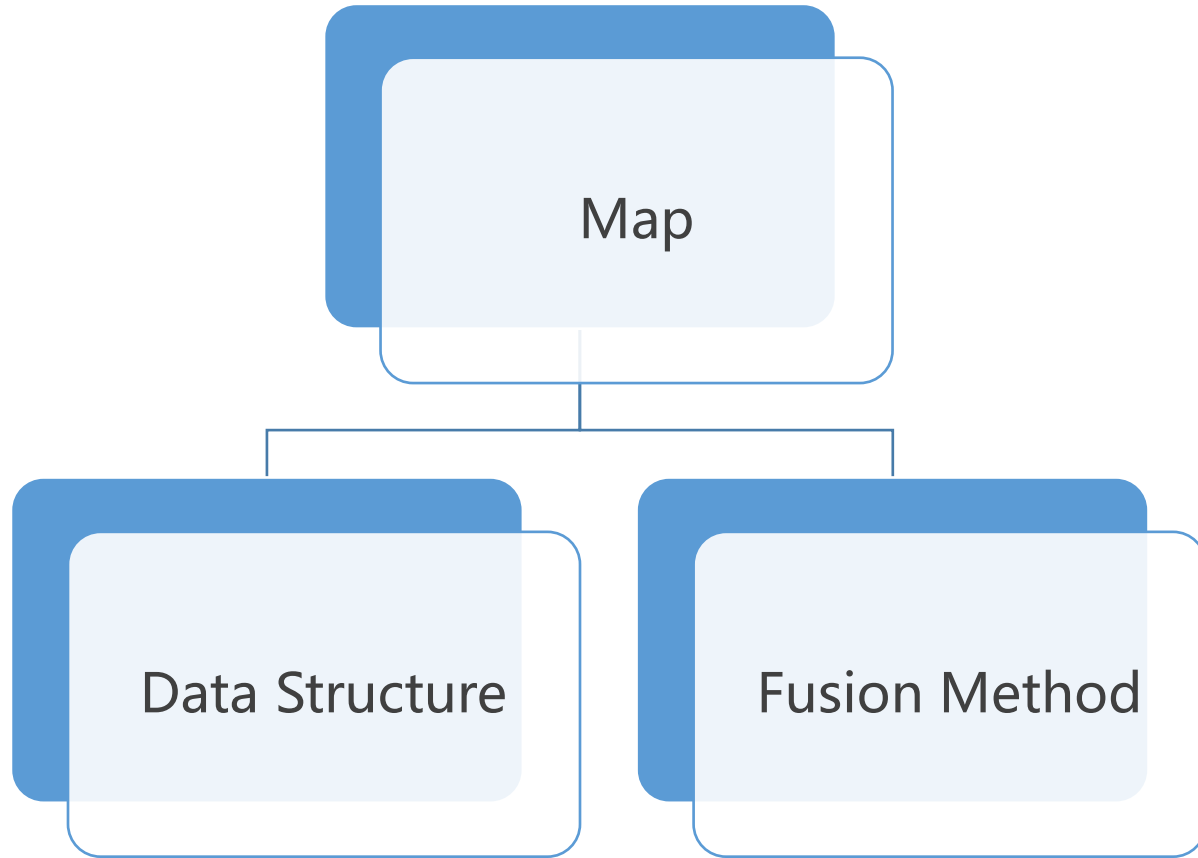
Back-end: Trajectory Optimization

Basic Minimum-snap



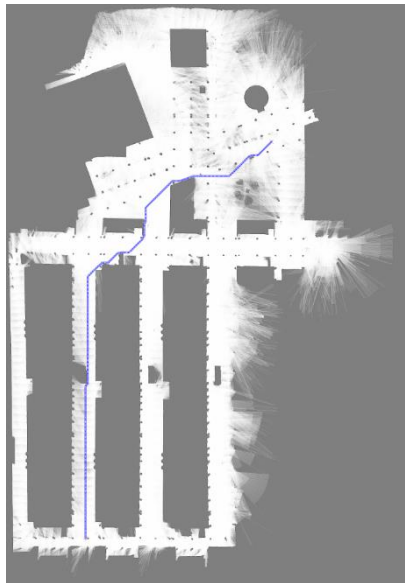
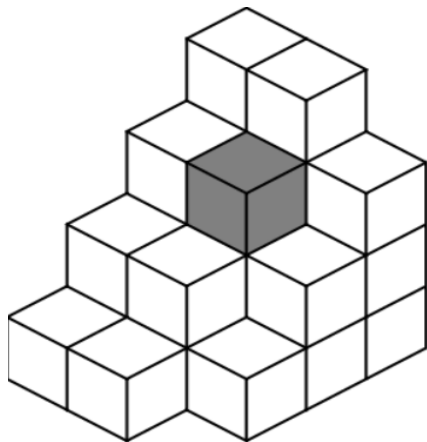


Map Representation

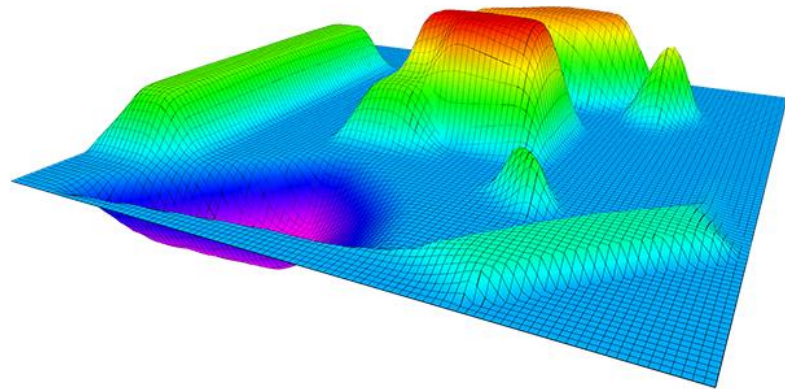




Occupancy grid map



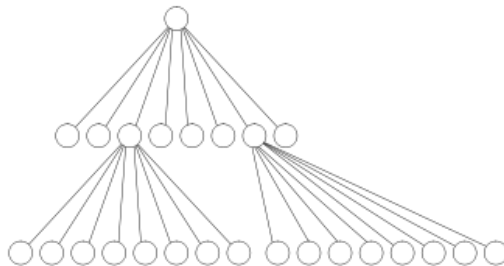
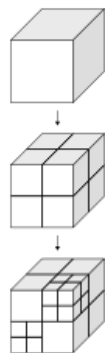
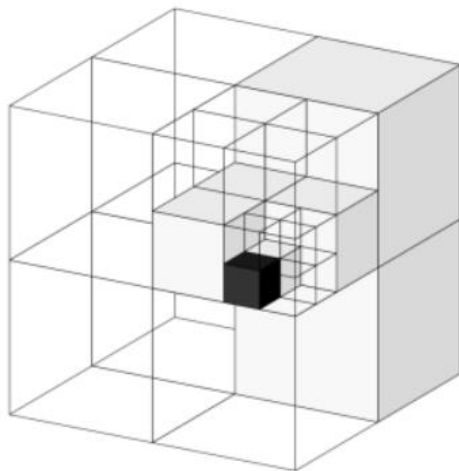
- Most Dense
- Structural
- Direct Index Query



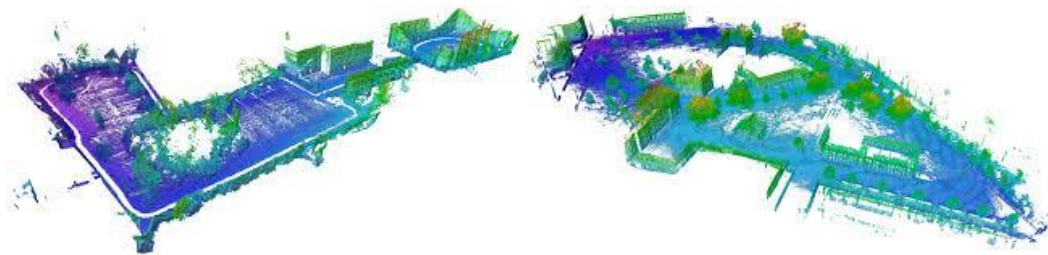
https://github.com/ANYbotics/grid_map



Octo-map



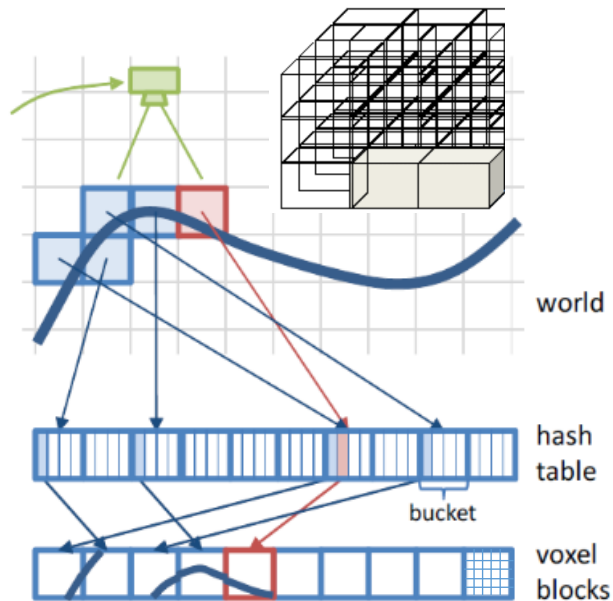
- Sparse
- Structural
- Indirect Index Query



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



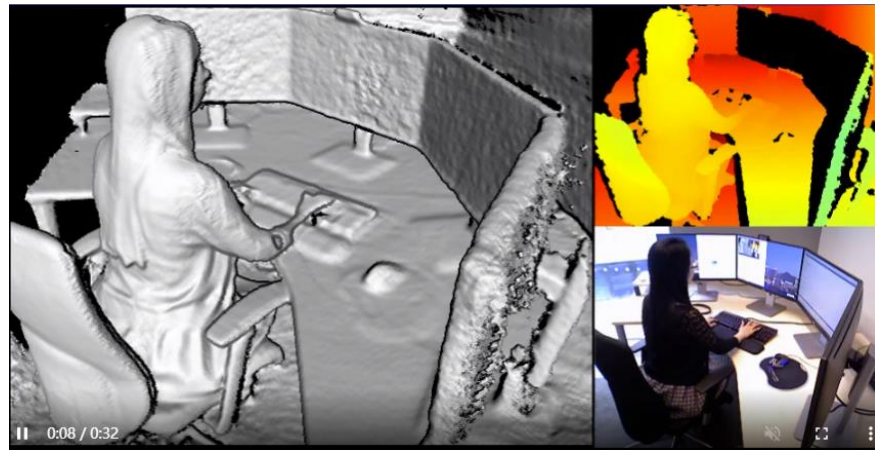
Voxel hashing



Voxel Hashing:

<https://github.com/niessner/VoxelHashing>

- Most Sparse
- Structural
- Indirect Index Query

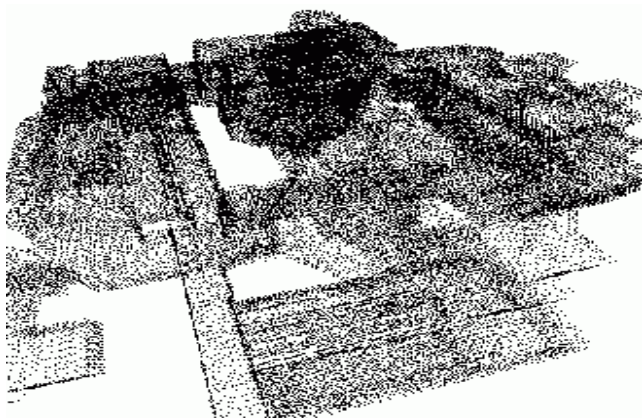


InfiniTAM:

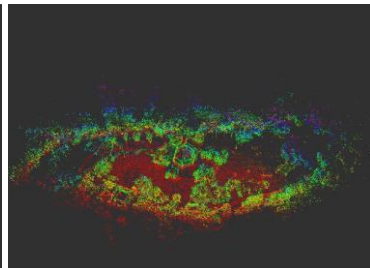
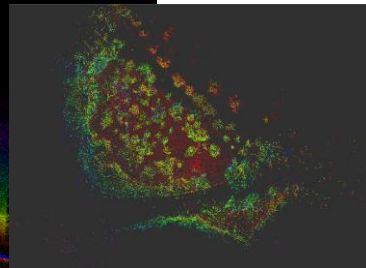
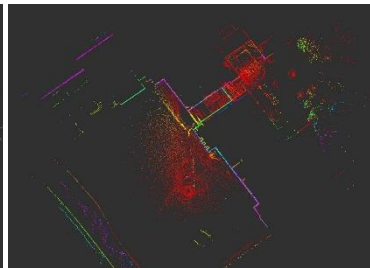
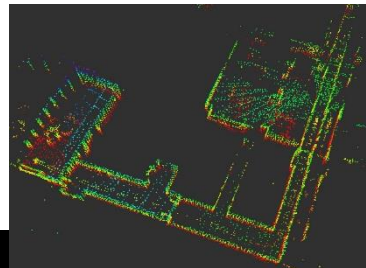
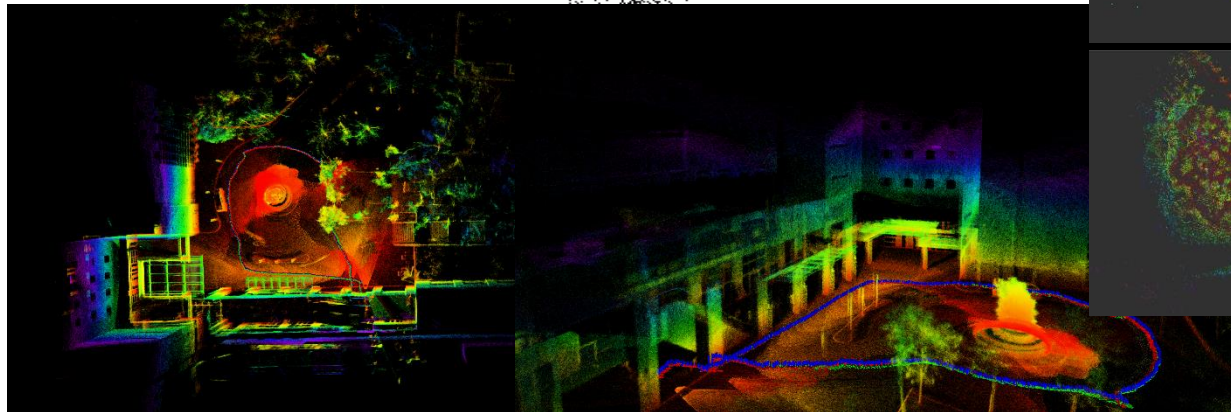
<http://www.robots.ox.ac.uk/~victor/infinitam/>



Point cloud map



- Un-ordered
- No Index Query



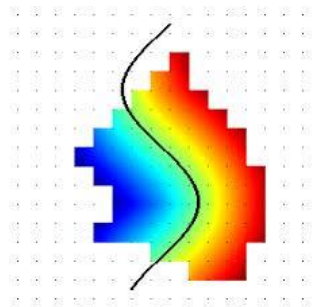
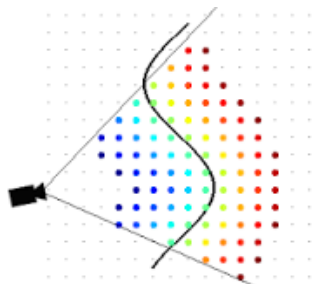
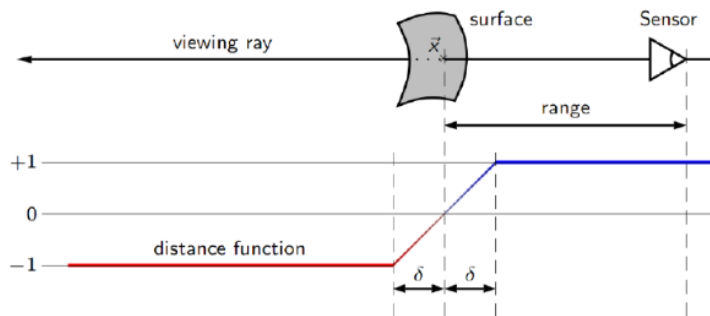
PCL

<http://pointclouds.org/>



TSDF map

Truncated Signed Distance Functions



OpenChisel

<https://github.com/personalrobotics/OpenChisel>



ESDF map

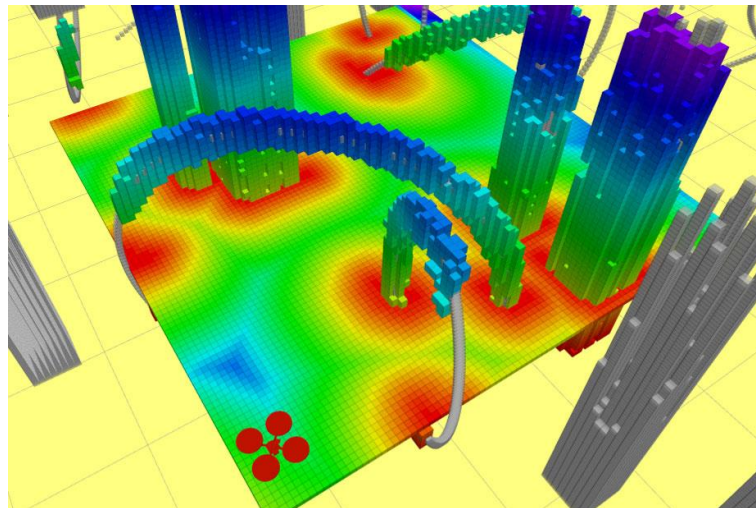
Euclidean Signed Distance Functions
Incremental Update, Global Map

Running the Cow_and_Lady Dataset[1]
Compare with Voxblox[2]

[1] <https://projects.asl.ethz.ch/datasets/doku.php?id=iros2017/>

[2] Helen Oleynikova, Zachary Taylor, Marius Fehr, Juan Nieto, and Roland Siegwart, "Voxblox: Building 3D Signed Distance Fields for Planning", In IEEE Int. Conf. on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), October 2017.

Batch Update, Local Map



Distance Transforms of Sampled Functions, PF Felzenszwalb

VoxBlox

<https://github.com/ethz-asl/voxblox>

FIESTA

<https://github.com/HKUST-Aerial-Robotics/FIESTA>

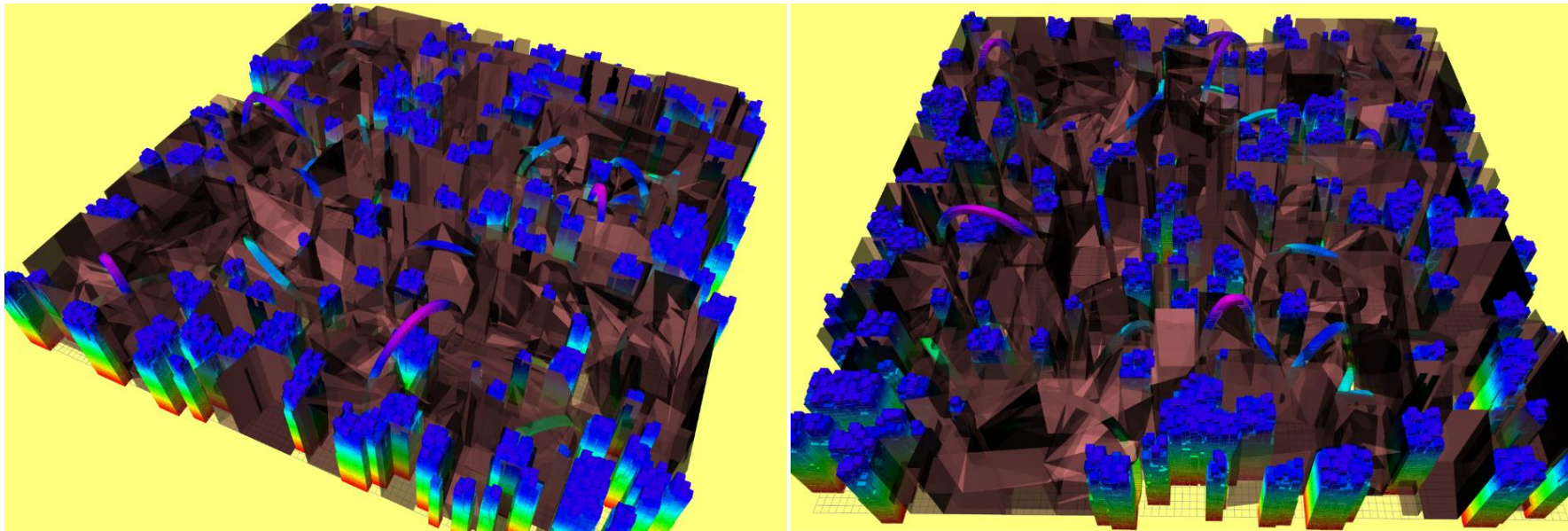
TRR's Local Map

<https://github.com/HKUST-Aerial-Robotics/Teach-Repeat-Replan>



More ?

Free-space Roadmap

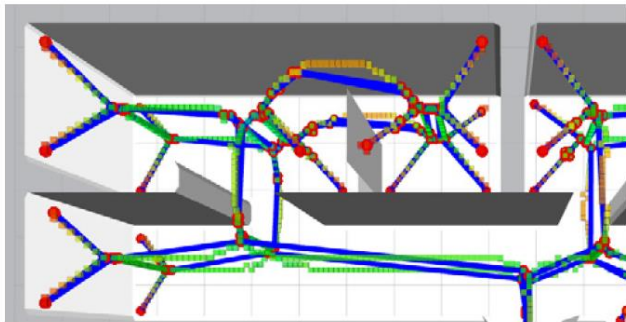


<https://github.com/HKUST-Aerial-Robotics/Teach-Repeat-Replan>

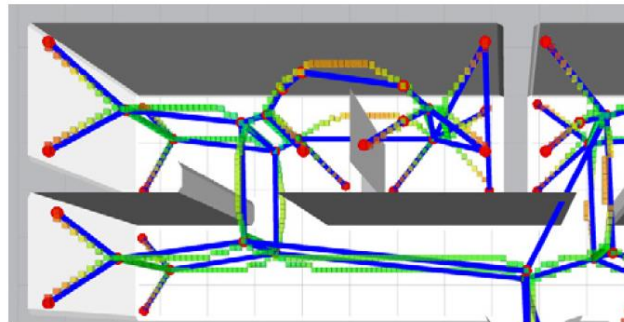


More ?

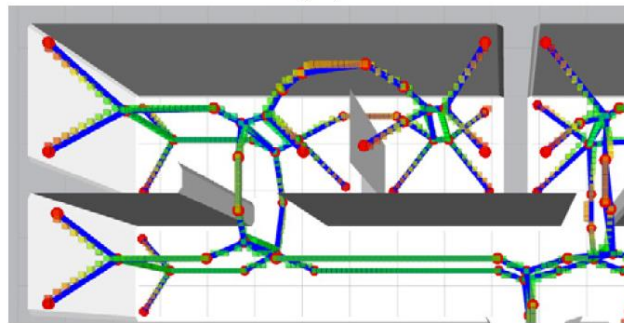
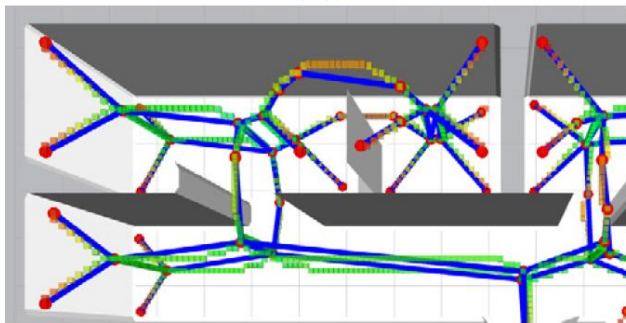
Voronoi Diagram Map



(a)



(b)





Thanks for Listening!

