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gaps GAP::gap_cal()
// a method in GAP class, return data type is gaps
{
    gaps result;
// the data published called result, which is type of gaps message that I created. gsp.msg contains two
types of data 1) center: geometry_msgs/Vector3; 2) width: std_msgs/Float 32.

//initializationhas
    result.center.x = 0;
    result.center.y = 0;
    result.center.z = 0; //the z-axis doesn't need to change in the future, due to 2-D movement.
    result.width.data = -1.0; //width can not be negative, so here set it to negative.

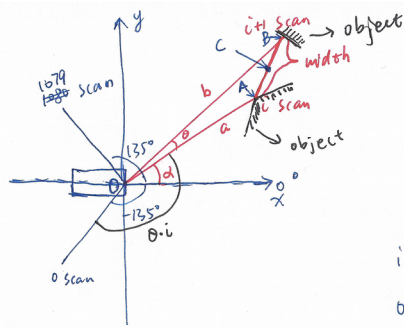
    float a = 0; //target scan range, one side length of a triangle
    float b = 0; //another side length of the triangle
    float alpha = 0; //target scan angle -135 deg ~ 135 deg, 0 deg towards to car front
    float width_max = -1; //max gap width

    for(int i=360; i<1080-360; i++ )
//screen range from -45 deg ~ 45 deg, make sure the car moves forward
    {
        if( abs(range[i+1] - range[i]) > 0.5 )
//find i+1 laser scan, which has 0.5m range difference from i
        {
            a = range[i];
            b = range[i+1];
            alpha = theta*(i - 540); //discuss later-----(1)
            width_max = a*a+b*b-2*a*b*cos(theta); //simple cosine law calculation-----(2)

            if(result.width.data < width_max)
// compare width to the previous one
            {
// find largest gap width and store the range
                result.width.data = sqrt(width_max);
            }
        }
    }
}

//gap center point correlate to car
result.center.x = ( a*cos(alpha) + b*cos(alpha + theta) )/2; //discuss later-----(3)
result.center.y = ( a*sin(alpha) + b*sin(alpha + theta) )/2; //discuss later

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$a = \text{range}[i]$ , the  $i^{\text{th}}$  scan distance  
 $b = \text{range}[i+1]$ , the  $i+1^{\text{th}}$  scan distance.

from cosine law:

$$\text{width} = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos \theta} \quad (2)$$

in the xoy plane.

$$\text{object: } A_i(a \cos \alpha, a \sin \alpha)$$

$$\text{object: } B_i(b \cos(\alpha + \theta), b \sin(\alpha + \theta))$$

the centerpoint of width:

$$C = (A+B) \times \frac{1}{2} = \left( \frac{a \cos \alpha + b \cos(\alpha + \theta)}{2}, \frac{a \sin \alpha + b \sin(\alpha + \theta)}{2} \right) \quad (3)$$

For  $\alpha$ :

One full laser scan: 1080 step,  $270^\circ$ , so every  $45^\circ$  is 180 steps

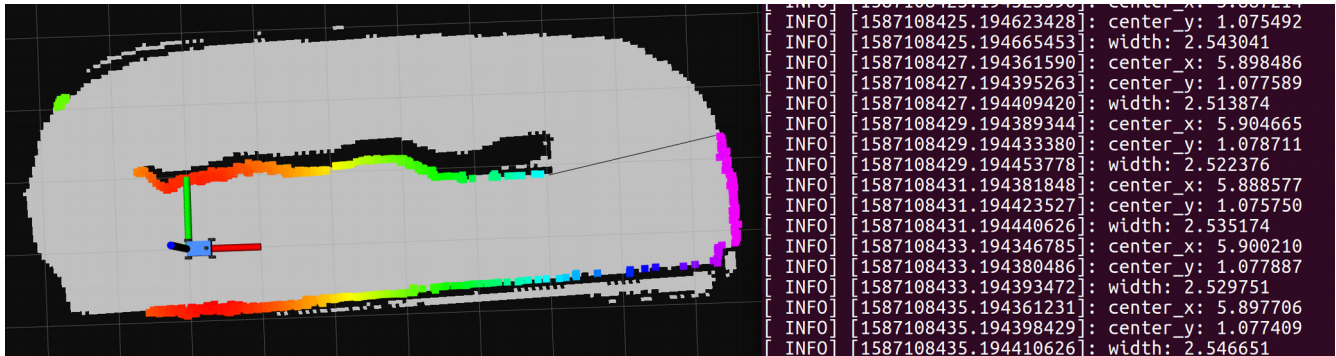
$$\alpha = \theta \cdot i - 135^\circ = \theta \cdot i - 3 \times 180 \text{ steps} = \theta \cdot (i - 540)$$

where  $\theta$  is angle\_increment (1)

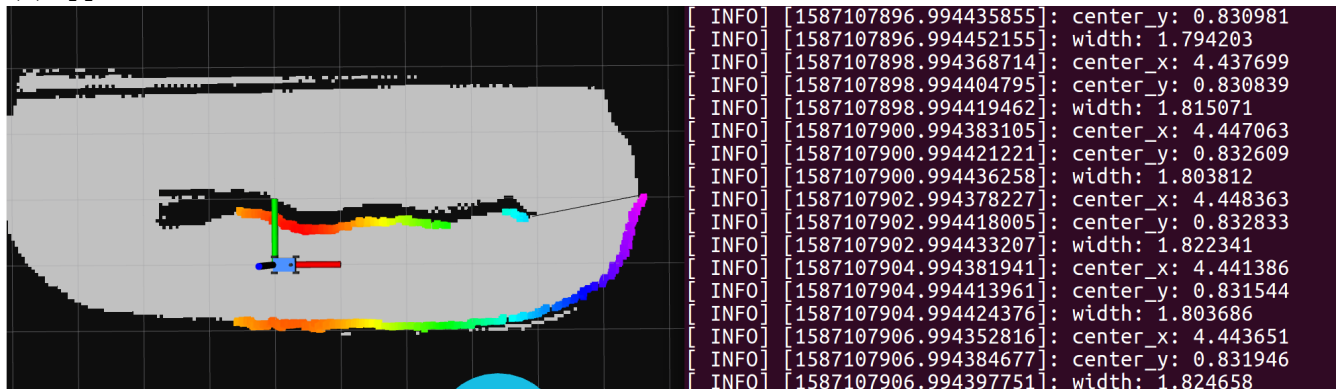
NOTE: the centerpoint coordinate of the gap refer to the car.  
 if the coordinate of car refers to the map is known, i.e.  $X_{\text{car}}$   
 the center point of the gap refers to the map is simply  $C + X_{\text{car}}$   
 But, I can't figure out how to obtain the  $X_{\text{car}}$ .

here is some results about the algorithm.

(1) away from corner



(2) approach corner



(3) at the corner

