

The Gauntlet

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1 Introduction

The goal of this project was to investigate a robot's ability to navigate around a region using data from LIDAR scans. Specifically, the robot had to navigate from one spot to another, while avoiding obstacles. The robot had a LIDAR to detect objects and collect data about the course. K-means squared was used to evaluate the data, and determine the location of obstacles. This project entailed creating a contour plot and gradient ascent path for the robot to follow.

1.1 Challenge

We attempted to traverse the Gauntlet's pen without knowing the location of the obstacles. This corresponds to the Level II Challenge which states, "You are given the coordinates of the BoB, but you must use the LIDAR to detect and avoid obstacles." A diagram of the Gauntlet is shown in Figure 1,

1.2 Assumptions

- We knew the location of walls
- We knew the location and radius of the bucket (goal)
- There were only two obstacles in the 'pen'
- We started at position (0,0) in the frame of the pen with an initial heading of 0°

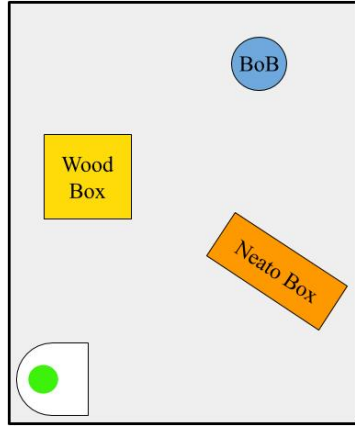


Figure 1: Overview of the Course

1.3 Approach

When first attempting this challenge, we used the RANSAC algorithm for obstacle detection. However, the algorithm yielded lines of best fit that crossed the pen, namely the gap between the obstacles. We then removed the data-points that represented the wall using x and y bounds for where we knew the wall to be. Similarly, we were unsuccessful when isolating the obstacle data-points, as the lines of best fit still connected across the gap.

It was only when we restricted the length of line as being less than 0.7 meters when we began to isolate the walls of obstacles.

When shifting to the second challenge we were curious about better ways to detect where the obstacles were. To do this, we implemented k-means clustering. We were able to represent each obstacle as a single data point extracted from a cluster of LIDAR data.

For the implementation onto the NEATO, we defined a sink at each of the points that were the cluster centers (obstacles) and a source at the known goal location.

2 Methodology

2.1 Preprocessing Data

Once the NEATO has entered the pen, data would have been from LIDAR scans of the course. The first part of evaluating the data is cleaning it and converting the coordinates from polar to Cartesian. The data provided is a radius and a theta value. When the radius is 0, there is no object in range at that angle, and the data is irrelevant for our purpose. So, those coordinates are removed from the data set. In order to convert the radius and theta to x and y-coordinates, we used the `pol2cart` function on MATLAB, which uses the following equations.

$$x = r * \cos(\theta); \quad (1)$$

$$y = r * \sin(\theta) \quad (2)$$

In order to understand the data received from the LIDAR we need to convert the LIDAR's coordinate system to match the Gauntlet's coordinate system. We know the center of the robot's coordinate system with respect to the Gauntlet is an angle of ϕ . The NEATO's coordinate system can also be offset from the Gauntlet's coordinate system in the x direction (xN) and in the y direction (yN). We also know that the LIDAR's coordinate system with respect to the center of the NEATO's is offset in the x direction by the distance (d) between the LIDAR's center and the center of the NEATO. The equation for converting the LIDAR's Cartesian coordinates to the center of the NEATO's Cartesian coordinates is shown in Equation 3. Equation 4 shows the conversion to the Gauntlet's coordinate system.

$$NC = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & d \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} r * \cos(\theta) \\ r * \sin(\theta) \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

$$GC = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -xN \\ 0 & 1 & -yN \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\phi) & \sin(\phi) & 0 \\ -\sin(\phi) & \cos(\phi) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} * NC \quad (4)$$

Another set of data to be removed is the group of data points representing

the target. Since we want all the data points to represent obstacles, we would want the goal to not be considered an obstacle.

The last set of data we excluded before analysis were the walls. We knew the boundaries of the walls, so we simply excluded any points past the known x and y bounds. We did this because the walls created too many data points that distracted from the main obstacles in the course.

2.2 Source and Sink Placement

We computed the location of the obstacles by using the k-means clustering algorithm. K-means clustering is an algorithm that generates a "cluster center" by selecting random points across a dataset. The number of points corresponds to the number of clusters represented by the set, which is an input to the algorithm. Then each point is assigned to a cluster based off the closest "cluster center" represented in Euclidean distance. Once assigned, the new cluster center is computed as the mean of all the data-points in the cluster. This process is repeated until all the data-points are assigned a cluster. Then the variance of the clusters is computed, and the k-means clustering algorithm is repeated until the variance for all the clusters is a minimum.

Knowing there were only two obstacles in the gauntlet, we used two clusters in the k-means clustering algorithm. Furthermore, we used the MATLAB 'kmeans' function.

At each of the cluster centers, we placed a sink. We then scaled the sinks by 1.2 in order to make the obstacles large enough for the NEATO to avoid.

As we knew the location of the goal, we placed a source at this location. However, to make the magnitude of the source larger, we included a second source within 0.01 meters from the initial goal location. Furthermore, we scaled the magnitude of these two sources by a factor of three. The final equation of the sources and sinks is shown in Equation 5.

$$\begin{aligned}
f(x, y) = & 1.3 * \left[\log \sqrt{(x - 0.1388)^2 + (y - 1.3588)^2} \right] \\
& + 1.3 * \left[\log \sqrt{(x - 0.8103)^2 + (y - 0.8296)^2} \right] \\
& - 3 * \left[\log \sqrt{(x - 0.9)^2 + (y - 1.75)^2} \right] \\
& + \log \sqrt{(x - 0.91)^2 + (y - 1.74)^2}
\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

2.3 NEATO Implementation

In order to have the NEATO drive to the goal using the expression for the location of the sources and sinks we can use a gradient ascent algorithm to plan the path.

Gradient ascent is an algorithm in which we can find a local maximum of a function. To do this, the algorithm will follow the steepest path, which is in the direction of the gradient vector. This vector magnitude is scaled by λ . Thus, the new position can be derived by Equation 6. \vec{r}_i is the current position vector given as $\begin{bmatrix} x_i \\ y_i \end{bmatrix}$, r_{i-1} is the previous position vector given as $\begin{bmatrix} x_{i-1} \\ y_{i-1} \end{bmatrix}$, λ is the scaling factor for the gradient vector, and $\nabla f(x, y)$ is the gradient of the function evaluated at the current position.

$$\vec{r}_i = r_{i-1} + \lambda * \nabla f(x, y) \tag{6}$$

For each step, λ will change by a factor of δ . Which can be formalized in Equation 7 where λ_i is the current λ for a given position, δ is the factor that will scale λ from step to step, and λ_{i-1} is the previous λ value.

$$\lambda_i = \delta * \lambda_{i-1} \tag{7}$$

A greater δ value will create a larger scale factor so that if the gradient vectors are decreasing it won't take too many small step sizes. However, there needs to be a balance so that the step sizes aren't too big that the gradient plot is inaccurate or that the algorithm overshoots.

We pre-computed the gradient ascent path by finding the x and y positions at each step, and then passed it into a function in which the NEATO was sent commands to drive to each of the positions that were yielded by the gradient ascent algorithm.

We broke the NEATO's program into two steps - turning to the new heading and driving forward. We broke each of these steps into individual functions.

For the turning function, the left and right wheel velocities were computed separately. The left wheel velocity is given by Equation 9.

$$V_L = V - \omega * \frac{d}{2} \quad (8)$$

where V is the linear velocity, ω is the angular velocity, and d is the wheel distance. The right wheel velocity is given in Equation 10.

$$V_R = V + \omega * \frac{d}{2} \quad (9)$$

where all the variables are the same as the V_L equation.

The next function called was the drive forward function. This function was given to us on the first day of class.

3 Experimental Results

After scanning the data, a contour plot is generated, along with a gradient path for the NEATO to follow. Figure 2 shows the contour plot and gradient path. It also displays the gradient vectors at various locations. The blue regions show the sinks that represent the locations of the obstacles and the yellow region shows the source that represents the target location.

After running the NEATO in the Gauntlet and collecting the wheel encoder data, we were able to find the experimental position. Figure 3 shows the experimental path compared to the theoretical path. The total time the NEATO took for the computations and driving the path was 42 seconds.

NEATO Path Across the Gauntlet

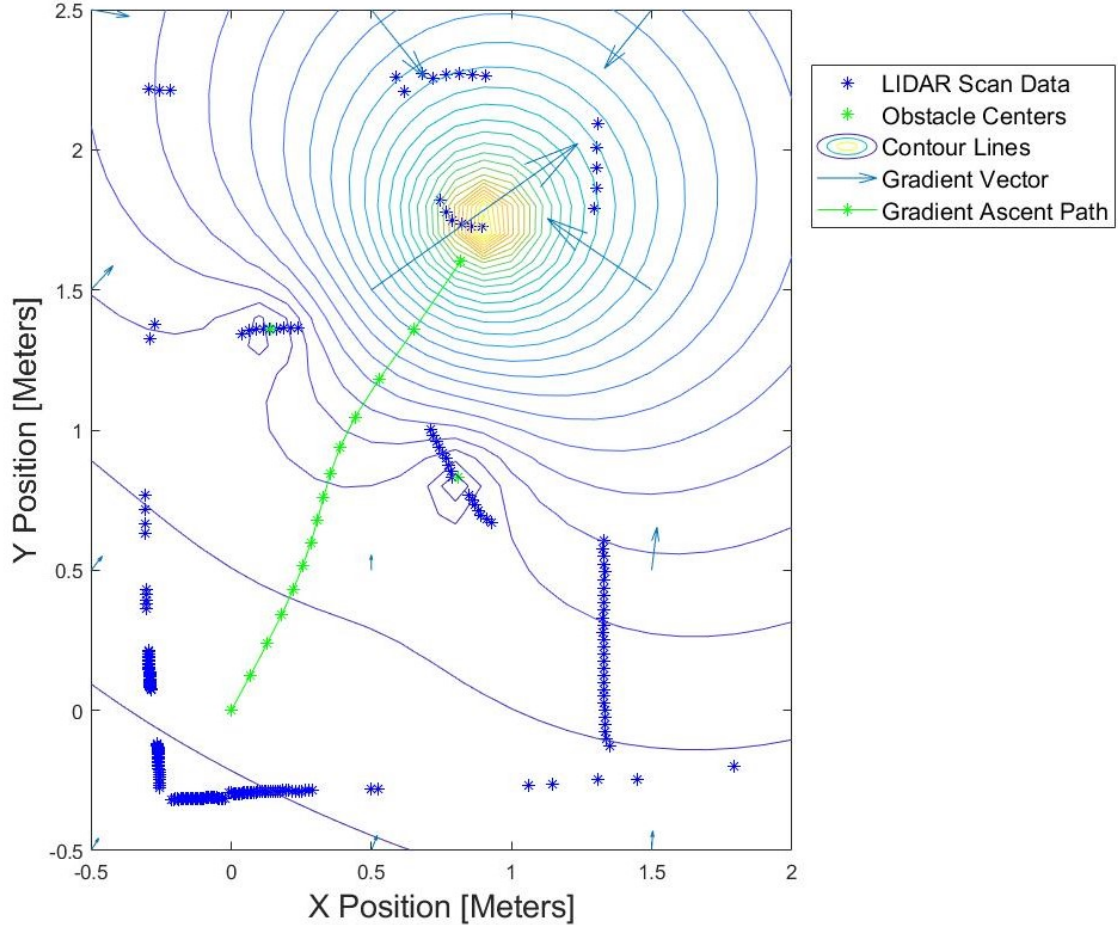


Figure 2: Contour plot, gradient path and gradient vectors

As we can see there is quite a bit of error in the expected and experimental path. However, the error seems to be the most in the middle of the path, around 0.5 meters in the x-position. Both the beginning and ending of the paths seem to have little error. This error is visualized below in Figure 4.

As there were many more points in the experimental path, we found the closest x values across the experimental and theoretical paths and computed the difference in the y value. We chose this as the error metric because both of the paths were moving to the right - and only had an increase in

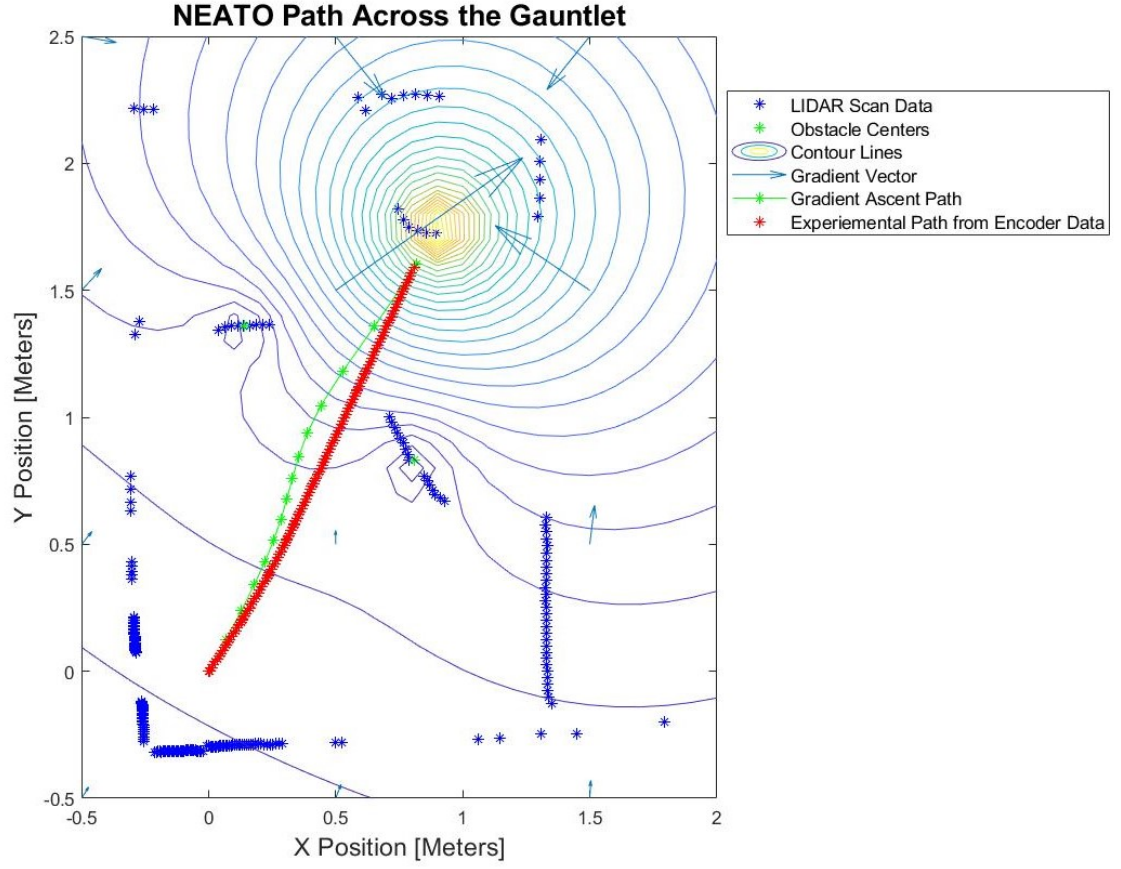


Figure 3: The planned path for the NEATO is shown in green, and the experimental path is shown in red.

x. With this, we found the direction which had the most error to be the vertical direction; and thus, it would fully encapsulate how well the NEATO performed.

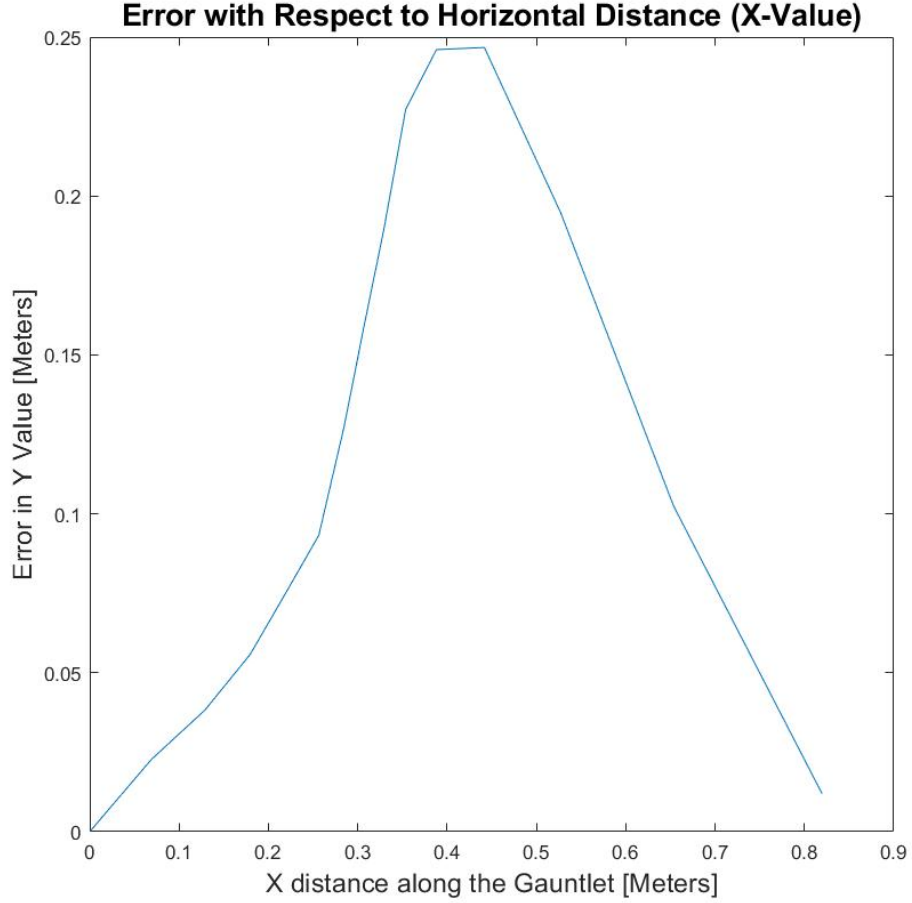


Figure 4: Vertical error for specific x distances along the path.

4 Discussion

The first failed result was when RANSAC was implemented and the best fit lines were created from the wall data points to the obstacles. To combat this, we removed the wall data. However, that still did not solve the problem because lines were being formed between obstacles. We tried adjust thresholds from data points and the lines to how many data points had to be within this threshold.

When implementing a completely different data organization method (k-

means clustering) we found a much greater success. Still with the k-means method, there were variables we had to change around. We needed to adjust how many clusters we wanted to use. We changed around the number of clusters to see if more clusters would give us a better understanding of the size of the obstacle. However, when we did this, the contour plot started to get messy with many sinks. We were able to conclude that two clusters for two obstacles would do the job.

We believe the error source has come from a wheel distance that was too small compared to the actual wheel distance of the NEATO. We believe this because the parts of the curve that have the most error is when the the function had the most curvature. Namely, the NEATO did not turn as much as was anticipated; however, it still ended in the same position, which indicates to us that there was a consistent lack of turn between the paths.

5 Conclusion and Future Work

From this project, we determined that RANSAC can be useful for creating best fit lines for one cluster of data. However, when there are multiple, RANSAC will create lines through different clusters of data, which is not what one wants when organizing clusters of data. On the other hand k-means divides up clusters fairly well. One problem with k-means is that you have to set how many clusters there will be in the data set. So, if we wanted the robot to sense an unknown number of obstacles we would have to add a different function to create clusters.

One future step would be to define the walls as walls rather than remove them from the data set. A possible solution to do this would be to sweep horizontal and vertical lines that fit with a certain amount of data points that match the walls. Another future implementation would be identifying the circle base of the bucket, such that we would not have to exclude the bucket data by knowing its position. Instead, before using k-means, we would identify the radius of the bucket and exclude all of the data that have this radius to call that the source.

6 Video

A link to our NEATO completing the Gauntlet Challenge is provided below:

[Gauntlet Level Two - Jasmine Kamdar and Thomas Jagielski](#)

or,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYIJMM5H1s>

7 Code

7.1 Level Two Script

```
1 % Initialize ROS for the robot
2 roshutdown
3 rosininit('10.0.75.2',11311, 'NodeHost', '10.0.75.1')
4 sub = rossubscriber('/stable_scan');
5
6 % Collect data at the pen origin
7 scan_message = receive(sub);
8 r = scan_message.Ranges(1:end-1);
9 theta = [0:359]';
10
11 % Put r and theta as objects in a "data" structure
12 data.r = r;
13 data.theta = theta;
14
15 % Set the goal position coordinates
16 goal = [0.9,1.75];
17 % Set the radius of the goal bucket
18 radius = 0.1778;
19 % Load the data collected from the scan to plot data in
    retrospect
20 %load('Challenge2 Scan.mat')
21
22 % Call the mapToGlobal function to put the data in the
    frame of the ganulet
23 % pen
24 [x,y] = mapToGlobal(0.1016,0,0,0,data);
```

```

25
26 % Plot the data to ensure it looks correct
27 plot(x,y, 'b*')
28
29 % Delete the walls data
30 a = 1;
31 for k=1:length(x)
32     % Ensure the data is not past the known position of
        the walls
33     if y(k) < 2 && y(k) > 0.1 && x(k) > -0.25 && x(k) <
        1.25
34         y_new(a) = y(k);
35         x_new(a) = x(k);
36         a = a + 1;
37     end
38 end
39 clear x y
40 b=1;
41 for m=1:length(x_new)
42     % Delete the data for the goal based on position
        and radius of the
43     % bucket
44     circdistance=sqrt((goal(1)-x_new(m))^2+(goal(2)-
        y_new(m))^2);
45     if circdistance > radius
46         y(b) = y_new(m);
47         x(b) = x_new(m);
48         b = b + 1;
49     end
50 end
51
52 % Use k-means clustering algorithm to detect the two
        obstacles.
53 [IDX, C] = kmeans([x;y]',2)
54 hold on
55 % Plot the position of the center of the cluters
56 plot(C(:,1),C(:,2), 'g*')
57

```

```

58 % This code is adopted from Day 7's "
    ScalarFieldGradient.m"
59
60 % Initialize the ranges and point spacings
61 [X,Y] = meshgrid([-0.5:0.1:2],[-0.5:0.1:2.5]);
62 [X1,Y1] = meshgrid([-0.5:1:2],[-0.5:1:2.5]);
63 % Define the source and sinks based on the position of
    the cluster centers
64 syms x y
65 sink1 = log(sqrt((x-C(1,1))^2+(y-C(1,2))^2));
66 sink2 = log(sqrt((x-C(2,1))^2+(y-C(2,2))^2));
67 source=log(sqrt((x-0.9)^2+(y-1.75)^2))+log(sqrt((x
    -0.91)^2+(y-1.74)^2));
68 f=1.3*sink1 + 1.3*sink2 - 3*source;
69 % Find the symbolic gradient of the function
70 g = gradient(f,[x,y]);
71
72 % Plot the function's contour
73 contour(X,Y,subs(f,[x,y],[X,Y]),30)
74
75 % Make a vector field to represent the gradient at
    specific points in the
76 % curve
77 G1 = subs(g(1),[x,y],[X1,Y1]);
78 G2 = subs(g(2),[x,y],[X1,Y1]);
79 quiver(X1,Y1,G1,G2)
80 axis equal
81
82 syms x y;
83 % Run the gradient descent algorithm to find the
    expected path of the NEATO
84 r = gradientDescentXY(f,0.1315,0.86,0,0,goal(1),goal(2)
    );
85 plot(r(1,:),r(2,:), '*-g')
86 title('NEATO Path Across the Gauntlet')
87 xlabel('X Position [Meters]')
88 ylabel('Y Position [Meters]')
89 % hold off

```

```

90
91 % Drive the NEATO in the path of gradient ascent to the
    goal
92 neatoGradient(r,0)
93
94 %% Error Metric
95 % Load the encoder data
96 encoder_data = load('Challenge2.mat');
97 % Find Wheel Velocity
98 diffEncoder = diff(encoder_data.dataset(:,1:3));
99 V_l_encoder = diffEncoder(:,2)./diffEncoder(:,1);
100 V_r_encoder = diffEncoder(:,3)./diffEncoder(:,1);
101 time_encoder = encoder_data.dataset(:,1);
102
103 % Initialize the data to after start
104 V_l_encoder = V_l_encoder(17:211);
105 V_r_encoder = V_r_encoder(17:211);
106 time_encoder = time_encoder(17:211)-time_encoder(17);
107
108 % Find the linear speed
109 encoder_linear_speed = (V_l_encoder + V_r_encoder)/2;
110
111 % Find angular velocity
112 d = 0.27;%wheel distance [m] - changes for every robot
113 omega_encoder = (V_r_encoder - V_l_encoder)./d; %find
    the angular speed of the robot
114
115 % Set the initial Position
116 pos_x = 0;
117 pos_y = 0;
118 theta = 0;
119
120 % Initialize matrices for the experiemental position (
    x,y) and the heading
121 % angle
122 exp_pos = zeros(length(V_l_encoder),2);
123 theta_mat = zeros(length(V_l_encoder),1);
124

```

```

125 % Find the change in time for each step
126 dt = diff(time_encoder);
127
128 % Compute the position and heading given by the encoder
    data
129 for p=1:length(V_l_encoder)-1
130     if p > 1
131         exp_pos(p,1) = exp_pos(p-1,1)+(
            encoder_linear_speed(p,:)*dt(p,:)*cos(theta)
        );%the x-coordinate
132         exp_pos(p,2) = exp_pos(p-1,2)+(
            encoder_linear_speed(p,:)*dt(p,:)*sin(theta)
        );%the y-coordinate
133         theta = theta + omega_encoder(p,:)*dt(p,:);%the
            heading
134         theta_mat(p) = theta; %save the angles for
            various time steps
135     else
136         exp_pos(p,1) = pos_x + (encoder_linear_speed(p
            ,:)*dt(p,:)*cos(theta));%the x-coordinate
137         exp_pos(p,2) = pos_y + (encoder_linear_speed(p
            ,:)*dt(p,:)*sin(theta));%the y-coordinate
138         theta = theta + omega_encoder(p,:)*dt(p,:);%the
            heading
139         theta_mat(p) = theta; %save the angles for
            various time steps
140     end
141 end
142
143 % Plot the experimental data
144 plot(exp_pos(:,1),exp_pos(:,2),'r*')
145 legend('LIDAR Scan Data','Obstacle Centers','Contour
    Lines','Gradient Vector','Gradient Ascent Path','
    Experimental Path from Encoder Data')
146 hold off
147
148 % Compute the vertical error for each of the points in
    the theoretical path

```

```

149 for z=1:length(r)
150     [Y,I]=min(abs(r(1,z)-exp_pos(:,1)));
151     yerror(z)=abs(r(2,z)-exp_pos(I,2));
152 end
153
154 % Create a figure with for the metric over the distance
      of the Gauntlet
155 figure;
156 plot(r(1,:),yerror)
157 title('Error with Respect to Horizontal Distance (X-
      Value)')
158 ylabel('Error in Y Value [Meters]')
159 xlabel('X distance along the Gauntlet [Meters]')

```

7.2 Map to Global Script

```

1 function [r_G_x,r_G_y] = mapToGlobal(d,x0,y0,heading ,
      data)
2     % Function to translate data in the frame of the
      LIDAR to the global
3     % frame of the Gauntlet pen
4
5     syms x_N y_N phi theta r;
6     r_N = [r*cosd(theta)-d;r*sind(theta)]; % Map the
      LIDAR data to the frame of the NEATO
7     r_G = [x_N-d*cosd(phi)+r*cosd(theta+phi);
8            y_N-d*sind(phi)+r*sind(theta+phi)]; % Map
      the NEATO data to the global frame
9
10    a = 1; % Initialize 'a' as the index value
11    % Initialize r and theta clean matrices
12    r_clean = zeros(length(nonzeros(data.r)),1);
13    theta_clean = zeros(length(nonzeros(data.r)),1);
14    % Clean the data for non-zero values of r
15    for k=1:length(data.r)
16        if data.r(k) ~= 0
17            r_clean(a) = data.r(k);
18            theta_clean(a) = data.theta(k);

```



```

19         a = a + 1;
20     end
21 end
22
23     length(nonzeros(data.r)) == length(r_clean); %
24     % Ensure the length of the
25     % clean data is the same length as the non-zeros
26     % data
27     r_N_x = zeros(length(nonzeros(r_clean)),1);
28     r_N_y = zeros(length(nonzeros(r_clean)),1);
29
30     for k=1:length(r_clean)
31         % translate to the NEATO frame by substituting
32         % in correct values
33         r_N_x(k) = subs(r_N(1,1),[theta,r],[theta_clean
34             (k),r_clean(k)]);
35         r_N_y(k) = subs(r_N(2,1),[theta,r],[theta_clean
36             (k),r_clean(k)]);
37     end
38
39     % Convert the "symbolic" matrix to matrix of
40     % doubles
41     r_N_x = double(r_N_x);
42     r_N_y = double(r_N_y);
43
44     r_G_x = zeros(size(r_N_x));
45     r_G_y = zeros(size(r_N_y));
46     for k=1:length(r_clean)
47         % translate to the global frame by substituting
48         % in correct values
49         r_G_x(k) = subs(r_G(1,1),[x_N,y_N,phi,theta,r
50             ],[x0,y0,heading,theta_clean(k),r_clean(k)])
51         ;
52         r_G_y(k) = subs(r_G(2,1),[x_N,y_N,phi,theta,r
53             ],[x0,y0,heading,theta_clean(k),r_clean(k)])
54         ;
55     end
56

```

```

46     % Convert the "symbolic" matrix to matrix of
        doubles
47     r_G_x = double(r_G_x);
48     r_G_y = double(r_G_y);
49
50 %     Code to plot the NEATO and Global Frames
51
52 %     figure;
53 %     plot(r_N_x,r_N_y,'ks')
54 %     title('Frame of Neato Data')
55 %     xlabel('X-Distance [Meters]')
56 %     ylabel('Y-Distance [Meters]')
57
58 %     figure;
59 %     plot(r_G_x,r_G_y,'ks')
60 %     title('Global Frame Data')
61 %     xlabel('X-Distance [Meters]')
62 %     ylabel('Y-Distance [Meters]')
63
64 end

```

7.3 Gradient Ascent

```

1 %% Gradient Descent Function
2 function r = gradientDescentXY(f, lambda, delta, x0,y0,
    xf, yf)
3     % Function to compute the gradient ascent/descent
        path and stop when within a
4     % threshold distance from the goal
5     syms x y;
6     % Find the symbolic gradient of the input function
7     % NOTE: use -gradient for gradient descent
8     grad_syms = gradient(f);
9     % Initialize the starting parameters
10    lambda(1) = lambda;
11    r(:,1) = [x0;y0];
12    a=2;
13    % Set the threshold distance from the goal

```

```

14     rthresh = 0.1778;
15     % Compute the initial distance from the goal
16     threshdist= sqrt((x0-xf)^2+(y0-yf)^2);
17     while threshdist > rthresh
18         % Find the new position vector
19         r(:,a) = r(:,a-1)+lambda(a-1)*subs(grad_syms,[x
20             ,y],[r(1,a-1),r(2,a-1)])
21         % Compute the distance away from the point
22         threshdist=sqrt((r(1,a)-xf)^2+(r(2,a)-yf)^2)
23         % Compute the new lambda value
24         lambda(a) = delta * lambda(a-1);
25         % Increment 'a'
26         a = a+1;
27     end
end

```

7.4 NEATO Drive Gradient Ascent

```

1 function heading = neatoGradient(f,heading_init)
2     % Funtion to drive the NEATO in the path of
3     % gradient ascent
4     % Set the wheel distance
5     d = 0.27;
6     % Set the linear speed to zero so the NEATO will
7     % turn in place
8     V = 0;
9     % Set omega
10    omega = 0.27;
11    syms x y;
12    % Use the gradient ascent positions to drive to.
13    % If the positions are computed before this
14    % function is called, set r=f
15    % in order to save computation time.
16    %r = gradientDescent(f,0.15,0.86,0,0);
17    r=f;
18    % Find the headings at each position
19    heading = [heading_init atan(diff(r(2,:))./diff(r
20        (1,:))) + pi*double(diff(r(1,:))<0)];

```

```

17
18     for k=2:length(heading)
19         % Compute the change in heading from one
           position to the next
20         change_heading = heading(k) - heading(k-1);
21         % Find the left and right wheel velocities in
           order to turn the
22         % NEATO
23         Vl(k) = V - omega * (d/2);
24         Vr(k) = V + omega * (d/2);
25         % Function to turn the NEATO to a new heading
           turnNeato(Vl(k),Vr(k),change_heading/omega)
26         % Pause for data collection
27         pause(0.01)
28         % driveforward was a script distributed in the
           beginning of class
29         %driveforward(norm(r(:,k)-r(:,k-1))*0.3048,0.1)
           % Convert from feet to meters by using
           0.3048
30         driveforward(norm(r(:,k)-r(:,k-1)),0.1)
31         % Pause for data collection
32         pause(0.01)
33     end
34 end
35 end

```

7.5 Turn the NEATO Script

```

1 function turnNeato(Vl,Vr,time)
2     % turnNeato is a function that will publish wheel
           speeds to turn the
3     % NEATO for a given amount of time
4
5     % Initialize ROS to publish wheel velocities to the
           NEATO
6     pubvel = rospublisher('/raw_vel')
7
8     % Create the message to send over ROS
9     message = rosmesssage(pubvel);

```

```

10
11     % Use tic and toc for the timing of the turn
12     tic
13
14     % Set the right and left wheel velocities
15     message.Data = [Vl, Vr];
16
17     % Publish the left and right wheel velocities to
18     % the NEATO
19     send(pubvel, message);
20     while 1
21         pause(0.01)
22         if toc > time % If the time since the start is
23             % greater than the time for the turn
24
25             message.Data = [0,0]; % Set wheel
26             % velocities to zero if we have turned for
27             % long enough
28             send(pubvel, message); % Send new wheel
29             % velocities
30             break % Leave this loop once we have
31             % reached the stopping time
32     end
33 end
34 end

```

7.6 RANSAC Algorithm

```

1 function [min_max,P,best_A,best_B,best_percent,outside]
2     = RANSAC(global_x,global_y, trials, threshold)
3     % Function that implements the RANSAC algorithm
4     % described in Day 6
5
6     % Concatenate the global x and y coordinates
7     P = [global_x,global_y];
8     P = P';
9
10    % Initialize the best A point, B point, and percent

```

```

9      best_A = [0,0];
10     best_B = [0,0];
11     best_percent = 0;
12
13     % Initialize the loop iteration
14     loop_iteration = 1;
15     while loop_iteration < trials
16         m = 1;
17         z = 1;
18         % Increment the loop iteration
19         loop_iteration = loop_iteration + 1;
20         % Find two random indicies for the points
21         point_index = randi([1, length(P)],2,1);
22
23         % Define point 'A' and 'B'
24         A = P(:,point_index(1));
25         B = P(:,point_index(2));
26
27         % Define the vectors used to compute the
           distance between a point
28         % and line
29         That = [B(1) - A(1);B(2) - A(2);0]./ vecnorm([B
           (1) - A(1);B(2) - A(2);0]);
30         Khat = [0;0;1];
31         Nhat = cross(That,Khat);
32
33         % Initialize a counter for points that are in
34         in = zeros(1,length(P));
35         for a = 1:length(P)
36             % Define a r vector between any (x,y)
           coordinate point in the
37             % matrix of all points and point A
38             R = [P(1,a)-A(1,1);P(2,a)-A(2,1);0];
39             % Compute the distance between the line and
           any given point
40             distance = abs(dot(Nhat,R));
41             % Check if the distance is within the
           threshold

```

```

42         if distance < d
43             in(a) = 1;
44             inside(1,z) = P(1,a);
45             inside(2,z) = P(2,a);
46             z = z + 1;
47         else
48             outside(1,m) = P(1,a);
49             outside(2,m) = P(2,a);
50             m = m + 1;
51         end
52     end
53
54     % Compute the percentage of the points that
55     % were within the bounds
56     percent_in = mean(in);
57
58     % If this was the best percentage, save all of
59     % the values and
60     % define the bounds for the line
61     if percent_in > best_percent
62         insidex = inside(1,:);
63         insidey = inside(2,:);
64         best_A = A;
65         best_B = B;
66         best_percent = percent_in;
67         x_max = max(insidex);
68         x_min = min(insidex);
69         y_max = max(insidey);
70         y_min = min(insidey);
71         min_max = [x_min, x_max; y_min, y_max];
72     end
73
74     % If this percentage was above the threshold
75     % percent, save all of
76     % the values, define the bounds, and end the
77     % loop
78     if percent_in > threshold
79         best_A = A;

```

```

76         best_B = B;
77         best_percent = percent_in;
78         x_max = max(inside(1,:));
79         x_min = min(inside(1,:));
80         y_max = max(inside(2,:));
81         y_min = min(inside(2,:));
82         min_max = [x_min,x_max;y_min,y_max];
83         break
84     end
85 end
86 end

```