

# **NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY**



## **Introduction to Robotics**

**CSE495A**

Home Work 3

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Ans to the Que NO. 1

(a)  $A^*$  requires more computational resources because

- (i) Constructing a grid produces a graph whose size grows exponentially with respect to the dimension of the configuration space
- (ii)  $A^*$  must perform search over this graph and its performance depends on the resolution and finer resolution causes the graph to become very heavy. (Large).

Thus  $A^*$  has high computational load because it must maintain and update a priority queue of many graph nodes.

~~because~~

On the other hand

- (i) In differential flatness method generates trajectories using simple algebraic mappings.
- (ii) It is sufficient to specify a differentiable trajectory for the flat outputs, and the remaining state variables and control inputs can be analytically determined.

This requires much less computation because no search is performed.

Therefore,  $A^*$  requires more computational resources.

⑥ For obstacle avoidance I would like to use A\* algorithm. Obstacles are represented explicitly in a grid where cells are free or forbidden ( $C_{free}$  and  $C_{obj}$ ) and search explores adjacent free cells. The A\* algorithm expands nodes according to cost and heuristic, producing a collision free geometric path.

On the other hand, Differential flatness does not incorporate obstacles. It only ensure that state and inputs can be recovered from flat outputs and does not include collision information.

Therefore, A\* is used for obstacle avoidance because it explicitly handles forbidden regions, while differential flatness does not.

© For obstacle free 3D space I would like to use Differential flatness.

For flat systems (like quadrotors) all feasible trajectories can be written as functions of the flat output and these mappings are analytic allowing easy trajectory calculation. The flat outputs allow constructing smooth trajectories without solving a optimal control problem, making the method computationally simple. And another important thing is the space is obstacle free so the differential flatness is applicable.

on the other hand in  $A^*$  algorithm, the approach is resolution dependent and the graph grows bigger exponentially with the number of DOFs. Our problem is in 3D space so that the graph will be much bigger than 2D space. Thus  $A^*$  is computationally heavy, gives non smooth paths. Since it's an obstacle free space it doesn't use full potential of  $A^*$  algorithm.

Ans to the Que No. 2

From book we get

example 3.2.1

$$\dot{V} = -K_1 \rho^2 \cos^2 \alpha - K_2 \alpha^2$$

and,  $K_1, K_2 > 0$

We can see that  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  must be positive and in  $K_1 \rho^2 \cos^2 \alpha$ ,  $\rho$  and  $\cos \alpha$  is squared so they must be positive. so that  $-K_1 \rho^2 \cos^2 \alpha$  must be negative.

We can also see that in  $K_2 \alpha^2$ ,  $\alpha$  is squared so they also be positive. so that  $-K_2 \alpha^2$  will be negative.

adding 2 negative number results a negative number which proves that  $\dot{V} < 0$ .

For examples.

let  $K_1 = 2$

$K_2 = 1$

$\rho = -2$

$\alpha = -30^\circ$

$$\dot{V} = -2 \times (-2)^2 (\cos(-30^\circ))^2 - 1 \times (-30)^2$$

$$\dot{V} = -906$$

$$\dot{V} = -906 < 0$$

let  $K_1 = 2$

$K_2 = 1$

$\rho = 2$

$\alpha = 30^\circ$

$$\dot{V} = -2 \times (2)^2 (\cos(30^\circ))^2 - 1 \times (30)^2$$

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$$\dot{V} = -906$$

$$\dot{V} = -906 < 0$$

Ans to the Que No 3

Given,  $V = \frac{1}{2}x_1^2 + \frac{1}{4}x_2^4$

Here, (i)  $V(x_1, x_2) = 0$  for  $x_1 = 0$  and  $x_2 = 0$

$$V = \frac{1}{2}0^2 + \frac{1}{4}0^4 = 0$$

(ii)  $V(x_1, x_2) > 0$  for  $x_1 \neq 0$  and  $x_2 \neq 0$

Since  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  will be squared so it will always be positive. So  $V(x_1, x_2)$  will be greater than 0.

(iii)

$$V = \frac{1}{2}x_1^2 + \frac{1}{4}x_2^4$$

$$\dot{V} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2 \cdot x_1 \cdot \dot{x}_1 + \frac{1}{4} \cdot 4 \cdot x_2^3 \cdot \dot{x}_2$$

$$\dot{V} = x_1 \dot{x}_1 + x_2^3 \dot{x}_2$$

$$\dot{V} = x_1(-x_1 + x_2^3) + x_2^3(-x_2 + u)$$

$$= -x_1^2 + x_1 x_2^3 - x_2^3 x_2 + x_2^3 u$$

$$= -x_1^2 + x_1 x_2^3 - x_2^4 + x_2^3 u$$

$$= -(x_1^2 + x_2^4) + \boxed{x_1 x_2^3 + x_2^3 u}$$

Given,

$$\dot{x}_1 = -x_1 + x_2^3$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = -x_2 + u$$

To stabilize the system, we choose a control input  $u$  such that  $\dot{V}$  is negative definite. By selecting  $u$  to cancel the positive term  $x_1 x_2^3$ , we make  $\dot{V}$  negative definite.

$$x_1 x_2^3 + x_2^3 u = 0$$

$$x_2^3(x_1 + u) = 0$$

For  $x_2 \neq 0$ , the required control is  $u = -x_1$

so that

we can find

$$\dot{v}_2 = (u_1^2 + u_2^4)$$

and control is  $u_2 = -u_1$  (Am).

#### Ans to the Que No. 4

$A^*$  is a label correcting algorithm that is a modified version of Dijkstra's algorithm. The step by step algorithm is:

- ① Initialization: Set the cost of arrival  $C(q) = \infty$  and  $f(q) = \infty$  for all vertices  
For initial vertex  $q_I$ , set  $C(q_I) = 0$ ,  $f(q_I) = h(q_I) \rightarrow$  heuristic  
Add  $q_I$  to the set  $Q$ .
- ② Select vertex: While  $Q$  is not empty, choose the vertex  $q$  in  $Q$  with the smallest value of  $f(q)$ .
- ③ Goal check: if  $q = q_G$  then return the path.
- ④ Exploring neighbor: Remove  $q$  from  $Q$   
For each neighbor  $q'$  of  $q$ , compute the tentative cost  $\tilde{C}(q') = C(q) + c(q, q')$   
if  $\tilde{C}(q') < C(q')$  then update  
 $q'$ . parent  $= q$   
 $C(q') = \tilde{C}(q')$   
 $f(q') = C(q') + h(q')$   
if  $q'$  is not already in  $Q$ , add it.
- ⑤ If the goal is never selected, return failure.

cons of  $A^*$  algorithms:

(i) Resolution dependent:

→ Not guaranteed to find solution if grid resolution is not small enough.

(ii) Limited to simple robots:

→ Grid size is exponential in the number of DOFs.

(iii)  $A^*$  Depends on having a heuristic that is a positive underestimate.

if the heuristic is poor, performance drops.

(iv) The number of grid cells grows quickly, leading to large memory use and slow search.

(v) Assumes the environment is known, changing environments (obstacles) require replanning.

### Ans to the Q.No. 5

Probabilistic Roadmap is the easiest because it is conceptually quite similar to combinatorial planner from the grid based planning. To achieve this the steps are:

- (i) set  $n$ ,  $n \geq$  number of nodes to sample  
For example  $n \geq 50$  or  $n \geq 100$
- (ii) Sample a node  $q_i$  from a probability distribution
- (iii) Collision checker: check  
if  $q_i \in C_{free} \Rightarrow$  keep the node  
if  $q_i \in C_{obj} \Rightarrow$  discard
- (iv) Repeat (ii) and (iii) until we have  $n$  nodes. Build the graph using these nodes.
- (v) Run  $A^*$  on this graph to find minimum cost path.

The cons of the method are:

- (i) The downside of PRM is that finding good solutions may require a large number of samples  $n$  to sufficiently cover the configuration space
- (ii) Having too many samples will require a lot of queries of the collision checker, which may be costly
- (iii) it cannot determine whether a solution does not exist.
- (iv) it works only in fixed environment. It is not usable in dynamic environment

Ans to the Que No. 6

In robotics, there are many cases that the obstacles are dynamic. In this type of environment Rapidly exploring Random tree planning method are used. To achieve this the steps are:

- (i) Sample a node  $q_i$
- (ii) Check if  $q_i \in C_{free} \Rightarrow$  Keep.  
it not discard.
- (iii) Create edge and move along the edge
- (iv) Check progress to goal
- (v) Repeat steps (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) Until we reached the goal.

Cons of this method:

- (i) RRT can be arbitrarily bad with non-negligible probability with respect to optimal path cost.
- (ii) the path quality is poor than PRM.
- (iii) RRT finds admissible path quickly but it traps itself by disallowing new better paths to emerge.

Answer to the question no 7

HW3\_que7\_dt\_.1.ipynb



