

CS 336/436 – Algorithms for Sensor-based Robotics

Lecture II – Bug Path-Planning Algorithms (Part 1)

Erion Plaku

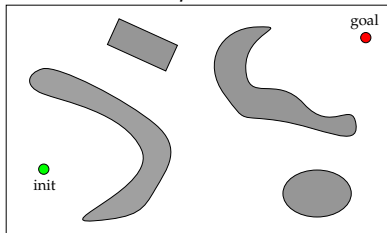
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January 28, 2010

- 1 General Properties of Bug Path-Planning Algorithms
- 2 Bug Algorithms with Tactile (Contact) Sensors
 - 1 Bug0
 - 2 Bug1
 - 3 Bug2
- 3 Bug Algorithms with Range Sensors (next lecture)
 - TangentBug
 - VisBug
 - DistBug
- 4 Bug Algorithms with Intensity Sensors (next lecture)
 - I-Bug

Basic Motion Planning

Problem: Compute a collision-free path from an initial to a goal position



Bug Path-Planning Algorithms

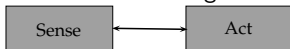
Reactive Paradigm



- No global model of the world, i.e., obstacles are unknown
- Only local information acquired through sensing
- Inspired by insects

Bug Path-Planning Algorithms

Reactive Paradigm



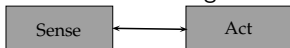
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Properties

- Complete algorithms, i.e., find solution if it exists, report no when there is no solution
- Theoretical lower and upper bounds on path length; optimal paths in certain cases

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Environment

- Two-dimensional scene filled with unknown obstacles
- Each obstacle is a simple closed curve of finite length and non-zero thickness
- A straight line crosses an obstacle finitely many times
- Obstacles do not touch each other
- Locally finite number of obstacles, i.e., any disc of finite radius intersects a finite set of obstacles
- Initial and goal positions are known

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Point Robot, Simple Motions

- Move straight toward goal
- Move along obstacle boundary
- Stop

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Simple Sensing

- Bug1, Bug2 assume essentially tactile (contact) sensing
- TangentBug, VisBug, DistBug deal with finite distance sensing
- I-Bug uses only signal strength emanating from goal

Bug with Tactile (Contact) Sensor

Tactile Sensor

- Provides current position
- Detects when a contact with an obstacle occurs

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Bug0, Bug1, Bug2 Algorithms – General Idea

repeat until goal is reached

- head toward goal
- if sensor reports contact with an obstacle then
 - follow obstacle boundary
 - at some point, leave the obstacle and head again toward goal

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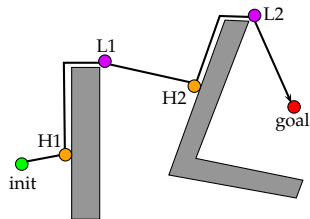
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Path consists of a sequence of hit (H_i) and leave (L_i) points
Algorithms differ on how leave points are computed

Bug0 Algorithm

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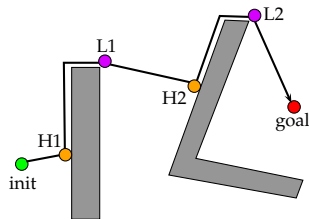
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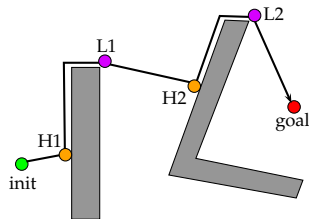


Is Bug0 a complete algorithm?

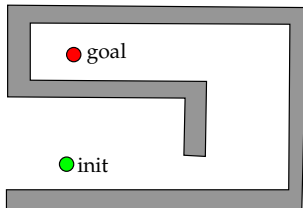
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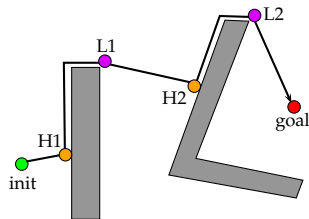
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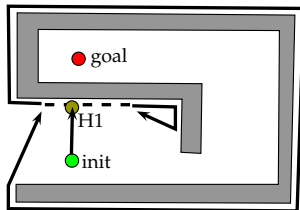
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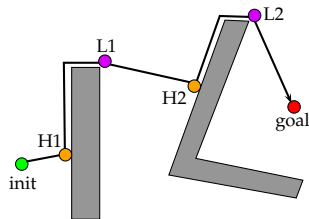


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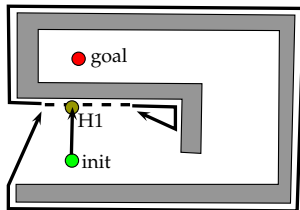
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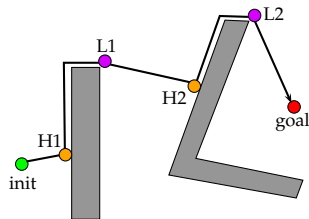
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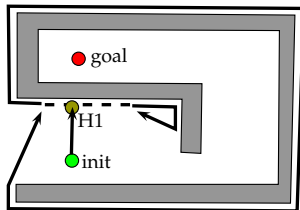
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Is Bug0 a complete algorithm?



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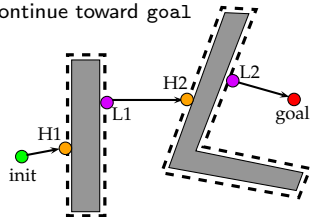
can we obtain a complete algorithm if Bug has some memory?

Bug1 Algorithm

Vladimir J. Lumelsky and Alexander A. Stepanov: *Algorithmica* (1987) 2:403–430

repeat until goal is reached

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- if sensor reports contact with an obstacle then
 - circumnavigate the obstacle and *remember* how close you get to the goal
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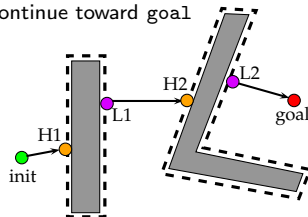
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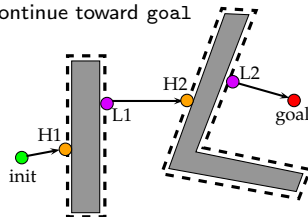
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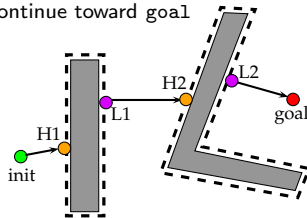
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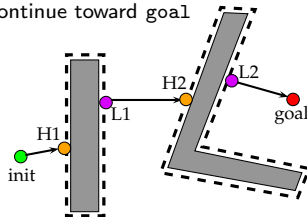
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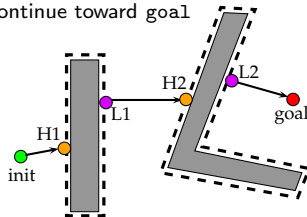
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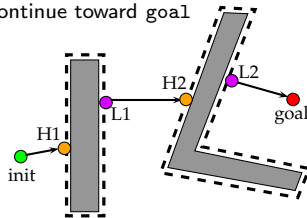
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- 9: follow boundary from H_i to L_i along shortest route



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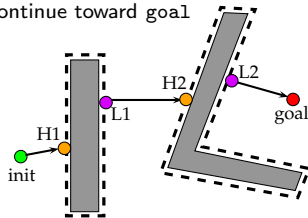
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9:   follow boundary from  $H_i$  to  $L_i$  along shortest route
10:  if move on straight line from  $L_i$  toward goal moves into obstacle then exit with failure
11:  else  $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
```



Bug1 Properties

Lemma 1: When the bug leaves a leave point of an obstacle to continue its way toward goal, the bug never returns to this obstacle again

Proof Sketch:

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 - if straight line is tangent to obstacle, then no circumnavigation
 - otherwise, straight line crosses obstacle at two distinct points (since obstacle has finite thickness)
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Proof Sketch: Follows immediately from Lemma 1 and Lemma 2

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 - Since, we assumed there is a path to goal, then goal cannot be encircled by obstacle
 - Thus, bug must have encountered this other intersection point (which is supposedly closer to the goal) when circumnavigating obstacle boundary, which contradicts definition of leave point

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- see proof of Lemma 2, distances from $H_1, L_1, H_2, L_2, \dots$ to goal become smaller and smaller and are never more than $d(\text{init}, \text{goal})$. So, bug never encounters obstacles outside this disk

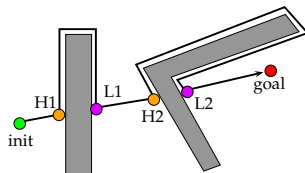
Bug2 Algorithm

Vladimir J. Lumelsky and Alexander A. Stepanov: *Algorithmica* (1987) 2:403–430

call the line from *init* to *goal* the *m*-line

repeat until *goal* is reached

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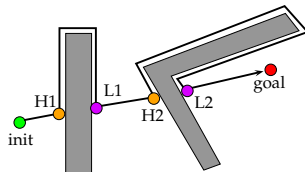
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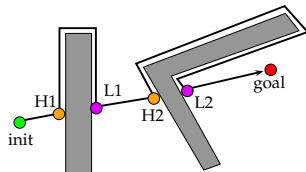
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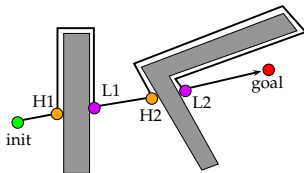
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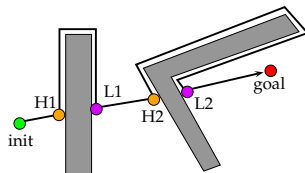
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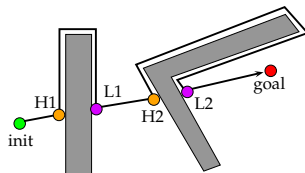
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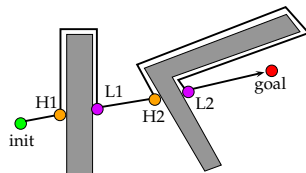
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Bug2 Algorithm

Vladimir J. Lumelsky and Alexander A. Stepanov: *Algorithmica* (1987) 2:403–430

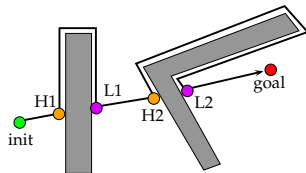
call the line from init to goal the *m*-line

repeat until goal is reached

- head toward goal
- if sensor reports contact with an obstacle then
 - follow the obstacle until it encounters the *m*-line again
 - leave the obstacle and continue straight toward goal

Bug2 Pseudocode

```
1:  $L_0 \leftarrow \text{init}; i \leftarrow 1$ 
2: loop
3:   repeat move on a straight line from  $L_{i-1}$  to goal
4:   until goal is reached or obstacle is encountered at  $H_i$ 
5:   if goal is reached then exit with success
6:   repeat follow boundary
7:   until
8:     (a) goal is reached or
9:     (b) m-line is re-encountered at  $Q$  such that  $Q \neq H_i$ ,  $d(Q, \text{goal}) < d(H_i, \text{goal})$ , and
        line  $(Q, \text{goal})$  does not cross the current obstacle at  $Q$  or
10:    (c)  $H_i$  is re-encountered
11:   if goal is reached then exit with success
12:   else if  $H_i$  is re-encountered then exit with failure
13:   else  $L_i \leftarrow Q; i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
```



Bug2 Analysis

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Theorem: Bug2 is a complete path-planning algorithm. Moreover, the length of a path generated by Bug2 never exceeds the limit

$$d(init, goal) + \sum_i \frac{n_i p_i}{2},$$

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Proof Sketch: Similar to proofs for Bug1. Proof of Lemma 4 is slightly different. Maybe an upcoming homework exercise?

Bug1 vs Bug2

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Bug1 is an exhaustive search algorithm
– looks at all choices before committing
Bug1 has a more stable performance

Bug2 is a greedy search algorithm
– takes first choice that looks better
Bug2 often outperforms Bug1, but not always

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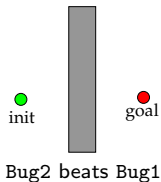
Draw scenes in which Bug2 beats Bug1 and vice-versa

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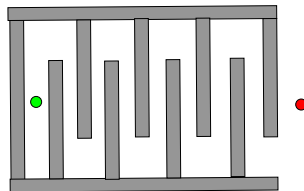
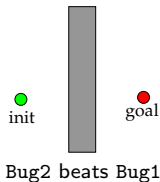


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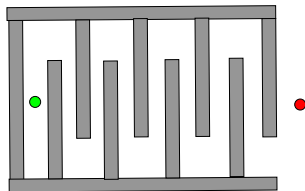
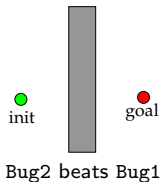
Bug1 beats Bug2 in this scene

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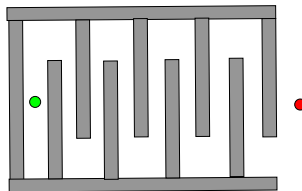
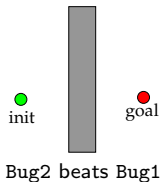
Bug1 beats Bug2 in this scene . . . but only if
Bug2 always turns counterclock-wise or always
turns clockwise when following boundary

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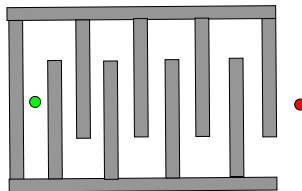
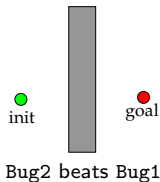
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whether to turn counterclockwise or clockwise
each time it has follow an obstacle boundary?

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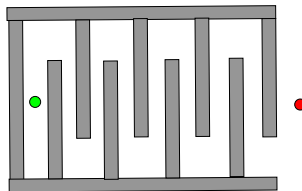
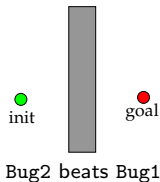
can you draw a scene then where Bug1 beats Bug2 no matter how Bug2 decides to turn each time it has follow an obstacle boundary?

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next lecture... other and better bugs
with range or intensity sensors

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