
Project Baseline: Learning Based RRT using a Visual Classifier as a Cost Function

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Abstract

Not sure if we need this for baseline paper?

1 Introduction

Rapidly-Exploring Random Trees (RRT) [1] have proven to be a very useful sample-based path-planning algorithm to efficiently search high-dimensional spaces. However, RRT can be hindered in environments with obstacles or specific pathways to a goal. The algorithm may waste time exploring down irrelevant or blocked paths. In this paper we will survey various learning approaches to problems encountered by RRT in such environments, evaluate a baseline modified RRT algorithm based on Behavior Cloning, and set ourselves up for future work to improve upon this baseline.

2 Problem Statement

A basic RRT algorithm's performance can suffer in configuration spaces with obstacles by exploring down irrelevant or blocked paths. The surveyed learning improvements to RRT may help but they still need a way to discover where the goal states and relevant obstacles are in relation to the agent. This problem can arise a variety of different domains such as expansion through mazes, robotic control in constrained spaces [2], and systems testing of multi-step processes [3].

3 Related Work

4 Problem Domain

Currently, the problem domain consists primarily of 2D pygame environment which contains static obstacles that create a maze that the agent must navigate. As of the baseline presentation, the static 2D environment consists of 9 static obstacles, a static start point and a static goal point. The start is in the upper left corner of the 2D environment and the current static goal is on the far right of the screen on the other side of all of the obstacles.

For our problem the agent is creating a path to navigate from start to goal. In order to do this, our agent uses an RRT algorithm.

Due to the static nature of the 2D environment as it stands now, our agent is being tested in a discrete space as the size and number of possible x,y coordinates the agent can be in is static at 500x800 pixels.

Table 1: Metrics from RRT Algorithm

Sample Size	Success Rate	Mean Time(s)	Std. Dev Time	Mean Expansions	Std. Dev Expansions
70	.79	3.6179	1.2385	745.3562	211.5847
100	.81	3.5861	1.1871	752.03	202.2828
120	.79	2.9090	1.0498	751.5603	209.2586
155	.77	3.4672	1.2880	734.6838	213.4561
185	.79	3.3586	1.2298	738.7589	205.6531

Table 2: Metrics from BCRRT Algorithm

Sample Size	Success Rate	Mean Time(s)	Std. Dev Time	Mean Expansions	Std. Dev Expansions
70	.89	1.9586	1.8819	440.6875	378.6503
100	.91	2.0340	1.7459	442.09	372.4981
120	.92	1.6560	1.4974	439.7563	375.8521
155	.90	2.0366	1.8273	428.4387	376.2023
185	.89	2.0287	1.6985	431.4369	373.4285

5 Learning Baseline

6 Experiment Metrics

Our baseline performance was measured using 3 metrics:

- Success Rate: The percentage of times out of n samples that the agent successfully reaches the goal.
- Time: The time (s) taken from the start of RRT to termination due to either reaching the iteration limit or reaching the goal.
- Number of Expansions: The number of nodes in the RRT graph at termination.

7 Experiment Results

As our final goal is to create a RRT algorithm that uses a visual classifier as a cost function for our baseline we needed a learning RRT baseline rather than just standard RRT for the baseline. Because of this, metrics were taken for both our baseline algorithm (our version of CA-RRT) and a normal RRT algorithm. In order to make sure our baseline was functioning correctly we needed to ensure that our BCRRT functioned better than base RRT.

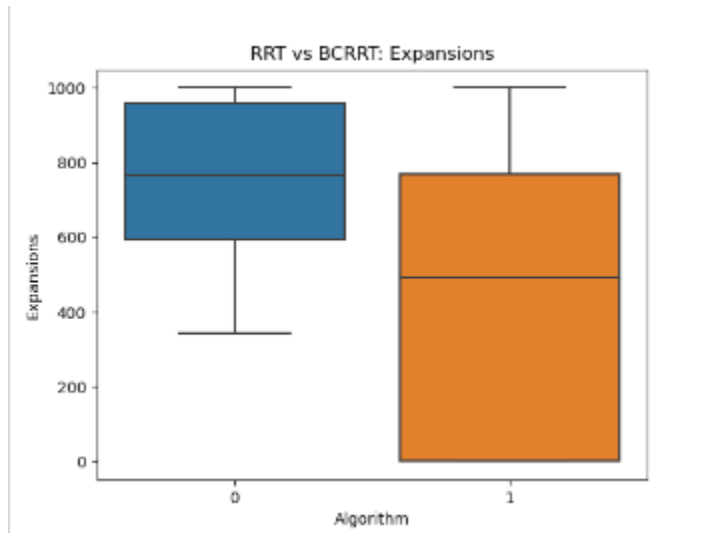
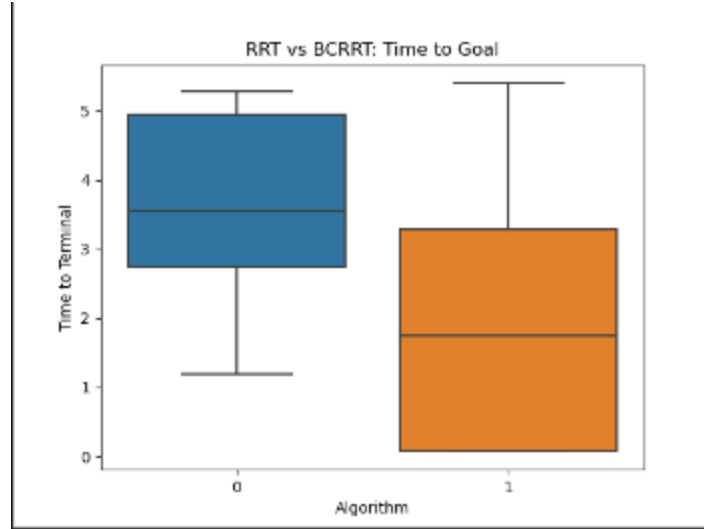
8 Future Work

References

- [1] Steven M. LaValle and James J. Kuffner. Randomized kinodynamic planning. *The International journal of robotics research*, 20(5):378–400, 2001.
- [2] Yuelel Liu and Guoyu Zuo. Improved rrt path planning algorithm for humanoid robotic arm. In *2020 Chinese Control And Decision Conference (CCDC)*, pages 397–402, Aug 2020.
- [3] Max Zuo, Logan Schick, Matthew Gombolay, and Nakul Gopalan. Efficient exploration via first-person behavior cloning assisted rapidly-exploring random trees. 2022.

9 Submission of papers to NeurIPS 2022

Please read the instructions below carefully and follow them faithfully.



9.1 Style

Papers to be submitted to NeurIPS 2022 must be prepared according to the instructions presented here. Papers may only be up to **nine** pages long, including figures. Additional pages *containing only acknowledgments and references* are allowed. Papers that exceed the page limit will not be reviewed, or in any other way considered for presentation at the conference.

The margins in 2022 are the same as those in 2007, which allow for $\sim 15\%$ more words in the paper compared to earlier years.

Authors are required to use the NeurIPS L^AT_EX style files obtainable at the NeurIPS website as indicated below. Please make sure you use the current files and not previous versions. Tweaking the style files may be grounds for rejection.

9.2 Retrieval of style files

The style files for NeurIPS and other conference information are available on the World Wide Web at

<http://www.neurips.cc/>

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The L^AT_EX style file contains three optional arguments: `final`, which creates a camera-ready copy, `preprint`, which creates a preprint for submission to, e.g., arXiv, and `nonatbib`, which will not load the `natbib` package for you in case of package clash.

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The formatting instructions contained in these style files are summarized in Sections 10, 11, and 12 below.

10 General formatting instructions

The text must be confined within a rectangle 5.5 inches (33 picas) wide and 9 inches (54 picas) long. The left margin is 1.5 inch (9 picas). Use 10 point type with a vertical spacing (leading) of 11 points. Times New Roman is the preferred typeface throughout, and will be selected for you by default. Paragraphs are separated by 1/2 line space (5.5 points), with no indentation.

The paper title should be 17 point, initial caps/lower case, bold, centered between two horizontal rules. The top rule should be 4 points thick and the bottom rule should be 1 point thick. Allow 1/4 inch space above and below the title to rules. All pages should start at 1 inch (6 picas) from the top of the page.

For the final version, authors’ names are set in boldface, and each name is centered above the corresponding address. The lead author’s name is to be listed first (left-most), and the co-authors’ names (if different address) are set to follow. If there is only one co-author, list both author and co-author side by side.

Please pay special attention to the instructions in Section 12 regarding figures, tables, acknowledgments, and references.

11 Headings: first level

All headings should be lower case (except for first word and proper nouns), flush left, and bold.

First-level headings should be in 12-point type.

11.1 Headings: second level

Second-level headings should be in 10-point type.

11.1.1 Headings: third level

Third-level headings should be in 10-point type.

Paragraphs There is also a `\paragraph` command available, which sets the heading in bold, flush left, and inline with the text, with the heading followed by 1 em of space.

12 Citations, figures, tables, references

These instructions apply to everyone.

12.1 Citations within the text

The `natbib` package will be loaded for you by default. Citations may be author/year or numeric, as long as you maintain internal consistency. As to the format of the references themselves, any style is acceptable as long as it is used consistently.

The documentation for `natbib` may be found at

<http://mirrors.ctan.org/macros/latex/contrib/natbib/natnotes.pdf>

Of note is the command `\citet`, which produces citations appropriate for use in inline text. For example,

```
\citet{hasselmo} investigated\dotso
```

produces

Hasselmo, et al. (1995) investigated...

If you wish to load the `natbib` package with options, you may add the following before loading the `neurips_2022` package:

```
\PassOptionsToPackage{options}{natbib}
```

If `natbib` clashes with another package you load, you can add the optional argument `nonatbib` when loading the style file:

```
\usepackage[nonatbib]{neurips_2022}
```

As submission is double blind, refer to your own published work in the third person. That is, use “In the previous work of Jones et al. [4],” not “In our previous work [4].” If you cite your other papers that are not widely available (e.g., a journal paper under review), use anonymous author names in the citation, e.g., an author of the form “A. Anonymous.”

12.2 Footnotes

Footnotes should be used sparingly. If you do require a footnote, indicate footnotes with a number¹ in the text. Place the footnotes at the bottom of the page on which they appear. Precede the footnote with a horizontal rule of 2 inches (12 picas).

Note that footnotes are properly typeset *after* punctuation marks.²

12.3 Figures

All artwork must be neat, clean, and legible. Lines should be dark enough for purposes of reproduction. The figure number and caption always appear after the figure. Place one line space before the figure caption and one line space after the figure. The figure caption should be lower case (except for first word and proper nouns); figures are numbered consecutively.

You may use color figures. However, it is best for the figure captions and the paper body to be legible if the paper is printed in either black/white or in color.

12.4 Tables

All tables must be centered, neat, clean and legible. The table number and title always appear before the table. See Table 3.

¹Sample of the first footnote.

²As in this example.

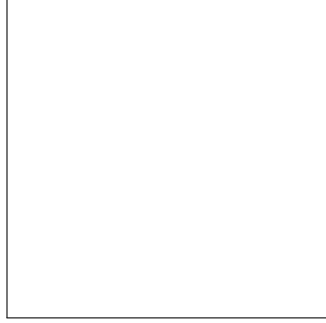


Figure 1: Sample figure caption.

Table 3: Sample table title

Part		
Name	Description	Size (μm)
Dendrite	Input terminal	~ 100
Axon	Output terminal	~ 10
Soma	Cell body	up to 10^6

Place one line space before the table title, one line space after the table title, and one line space after the table. The table title must be lower case (except for first word and proper nouns); tables are numbered consecutively.

Note that publication-quality tables *do not contain vertical rules*. We strongly suggest the use of the `booktabs` package, which allows for typesetting high-quality, professional tables:

<https://www.ctan.org/pkg/booktabs>

This package was used to typeset Table 3.

13 Final instructions

Do not change any aspects of the formatting parameters in the style files. In particular, do not modify the width or length of the rectangle the text should fit into, and do not change font sizes (except perhaps in the **References** section; see below). Please note that pages should be numbered.

14 Preparing PDF files

Please prepare submission files with paper size “US Letter,” and not, for example, “A4.”

Fonts were the main cause of problems in the past years. Your PDF file must only contain Type 1 or Embedded TrueType fonts. Here are a few instructions to achieve this.

- You should directly generate PDF files using `pdflatex`.
- You can check which fonts a PDF file uses. In Acrobat Reader, select the menu Files>Document Properties>Fonts and select Show All Fonts. You can also use the program `pdf fonts` which comes with `xpdf` and is available out-of-the-box on most Linux machines.
- The IEEE has recommendations for generating PDF files whose fonts are also acceptable for NeurIPS. Please see <http://www.emfield.org/icuwb2010/downloads/IEEE-PDF-SpecV32.pdf>
- `xfig` “patterned” shapes are implemented with bitmap fonts. Use “solid” shapes instead.
- The `\bbold` package almost always uses bitmap fonts. You should use the equivalent AMS Fonts:

```
\usepackage{amsfonts}
```

followed by, e.g., `\mathbb{R}`, `\mathbb{N}`, or `\mathbb{C}` for \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{N} or \mathbb{C} . You can also use the following workaround for reals, natural and complex:

```
\newcommand{\RR}{\mathbb{R}} %real numbers
\newcommand{\Nat}{\mathbb{N}} %natural numbers
\newcommand{\CC}{\mathbb{C}} %complex numbers
```

Note that `amsfonts` is automatically loaded by the `amssymb` package.

If your file contains type 3 fonts or non embedded TrueType fonts, we will ask you to fix it.

14.1 Margins in L^AT_EX

Most of the margin problems come from figures positioned by hand using `\special` or other commands. We suggest using the command `\includegraphics` from the `graphicx` package. Always specify the figure width as a multiple of the line width as in the example below:

```
\usepackage[pdftex]{graphicx} ...
\includegraphics[width=0.8\linewidth]{myfile.pdf}
```

See Section 4.4 in the graphics bundle documentation (<http://mirrors.ctan.org/macros/latex/required/graphics/grfguide.pdf>)

A number of width problems arise when L^AT_EX cannot properly hyphenate a line. Please give LaTeX hyphenation hints using the `\-` command when necessary.

Acknowledgments and Disclosure of Funding

Use unnumbered first level headings for the acknowledgments. All acknowledgments go at the end of the paper before the list of references. Moreover, you are required to declare funding (financial activities supporting the submitted work) and competing interests (related financial activities outside the submitted work). More information about this disclosure can be found at: <https://neurips.cc/Conferences/2022/PaperInformation/FundingDisclosure>.

Do **not** include this section in the anonymized submission, only in the final paper. You can use the `ack` environment provided in the style file to automatically hide this section in the anonymized submission.

References

References follow the acknowledgments. Use unnumbered first-level heading for the references. Any choice of citation style is acceptable as long as you are consistent. It is permissible to reduce the font size to `small` (9 point) when listing the references. Note that the Reference section does not count towards the page limit.

- [1] Alexander, J.A. & Mozer, M.C. (1995) Template-based algorithms for connectionist rule extraction. In G. Tesauro, D.S. Touretzky and T.K. Leen (eds.), *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 7*, pp. 609–616. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- [2] Bower, J.M. & Beeman, D. (1995) *The Book of GENESIS: Exploring Realistic Neural Models with the GEneral NEural Simulation System*. New York: TELOS/Springer-Verlag.
- [3] Hasselmo, M.E., Schnell, E. & Barkai, E. (1995) Dynamics of learning and recall at excitatory recurrent synapses and cholinergic modulation in rat hippocampal region CA3. *Journal of Neuroscience* **15**(7):5249-5262.

Checklist

The checklist follows the references. Please read the checklist guidelines carefully for information on how to answer these questions. For each question, change the default **[TODO]** to **[Yes]**, **[No]**, or

[N/A] . You are strongly encouraged to include a **justification to your answer**, either by referencing the appropriate section of your paper or providing a brief inline description. For example:

- Did you include the license to the code and datasets? [Yes] See Section 10.
- Did you include the license to the code and datasets? [No] The code and the data are proprietary.
- Did you include the license to the code and datasets? [N/A]

Please do not modify the questions and only use the provided macros for your answers. Note that the Checklist section does not count towards the page limit. In your paper, please delete this instructions block and only keep the Checklist section heading above along with the questions/answers below.

1. For all authors...
 - (a) Do the main claims made in the abstract and introduction accurately reflect the paper’s contributions and scope? [TODO]
 - (b) Did you describe the limitations of your work? [TODO]
 - (c) Did you discuss any potential negative societal impacts of your work? [TODO]
 - (d) Have you read the ethics review guidelines and ensured that your paper conforms to them? [TODO]
2. If you are including theoretical results...
 - (a) Did you state the full set of assumptions of all theoretical results? [TODO]
 - (b) Did you include complete proofs of all theoretical results? [TODO]
3. If you ran experiments...
 - (a) Did you include the code, data, and instructions needed to reproduce the main experimental results (either in the supplemental material or as a URL)? [TODO]
 - (b) Did you specify all the training details (e.g., data splits, hyperparameters, how they were chosen)? [TODO]
 - (c) Did you report error bars (e.g., with respect to the random seed after running experiments multiple times)? [TODO]
 - (d) Did you include the total amount of compute and the type of resources used (e.g., type of GPUs, internal cluster, or cloud provider)? [TODO]
4. If you are using existing assets (e.g., code, data, models) or curating/releasing new assets...
 - (a) If your work uses existing assets, did you cite the creators? [TODO]
 - (b) Did you mention the license of the assets? [TODO]
 - (c) Did you include any new assets either in the supplemental material or as a URL? [TODO]
 - (d) Did you discuss whether and how consent was obtained from people whose data you’re using/curating? [TODO]
 - (e) Did you discuss whether the data you are using/curating contains personally identifiable information or offensive content? [TODO]
5. If you used crowdsourcing or conducted research with human subjects...
 - (a) Did you include the full text of instructions given to participants and screenshots, if applicable? [TODO]
 - (b) Did you describe any potential participant risks, with links to Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals, if applicable? [TODO]
 - (c) Did you include the estimated hourly wage paid to participants and the total amount spent on participant compensation? [TODO]

A Appendix

Optionally include extra information (complete proofs, additional experiments and plots) in the appendix. This section will often be part of the supplemental material.