Robot Localization Simulator

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Abstract

In this project we explore the various algorithms for the Robot Localization Problem and build a simulator to visualize the results on various 2D maps. Robot localization is an important problem in robotics. Simply put, the robot localization problem is as follows. A robot is placed at an unknown point inside a simple polygon P. The robot has a map of P and can compute visibility polygon from its current location. The robot must determine its correct location inside the polygon P at a minimum cost of travel distance. We implement an $O(\log^3 n)$ factor approximation algorithm as given by [1]. CGAL [2] has been used for the various computational geometry algorithms.

1 Computing Visibility Polygons

Visibility polygon is an indispensable component is the hypothesis generation step of the algorithm. Since CGAL had no inbuilt support for computing visibility polygons we implemented the following two routines for our purposes.

- Visibility Polygon of a point inside a polygon
- Visibility Polygon of an edge of the polygon.

1.1 Visibility Polygon of a Point Inside a Polygon

The following is the C++ function in the file PolygonUtil.cpp. We pass the map polygon and the point P, whose visibility polygon is to be computed. The function returns the visibility polygon of P as another Polygon type. In $setVisiblePoints$ we collect all those points which are directly visible from P. Note that all these points will form a part of the visibility polygon of P since they are directly visible from P. Besides these some additional spurious vertices will also be introduced. Each spurious vertex which is a part of the visibility polygon can be obtained by extending the line joining the point P to some reflex vertex. We do this in the if block and collect all the spurious vertices also. Finally we sort all the vertices obtained in an order so that they form the visibility polygon of P.

```cpp
Polygon PolygonUtil::CalcVisibilityPolygon(Polygon& map, Point& point)
{
  using namespace std;
  Polygon setVisiblePoints = VisiblePointSet(map,point);

  list<Point> listVisiblePoints;
  fixedPoint=point;

  for (VertexIterator vi = setVisiblePoints.vertices_begin();
          vi != setVisiblePoints.vertices_end(); ++vi)
  {
    listVisiblePoints.push_back(*vi);
    if(IsReflex(map,*vi))
    {
      Ray rayToCorner(point,*vi);
      std::list<Point> intPointList;
      std::list<Point>::iterator it;

      Point p1=*vi;
      Point p2;
      FindCandidateIntrPoints(map,rayToCorner,intPointList);

      if(intPointList.size() > 0){
        //Sort the points in intersectionPolygon according to distance
        intPointList.sort(CompareDistance1);
```

```
        intPointList.unique();
        Point spuriousVertex = *intPointList.begin();
        p2=spuriousVertex;
        listVisiblePoints.push_back(spuriousVertex);
      }
    }


  }

  listVisiblePoints=UniqueList(listVisiblePoints);
  list<Point>::iterator it;
  Polygon setVisiblePointsCopy;
  for(it=listVisiblePoints.begin();it!=listVisiblePoints.end();++it)
  {
    setVisiblePointsCopy.push_back(*it);
  }


  setVisiblePointsCopy=SortPolygon(setVisiblePointsCopy,map);
  return setVisiblePointsCopy;
}
```

1.2 Visibility Polygon of an edge of the polygon

The algorithm for the visibility polygon of an edge has been taken from [3]. Let
E be the set of edges of the polygon. To find the visibility polygon of an edge
AB, we compute, for each of the remaining edges of the polygon the portion of it
which is weakly visible from the edge AB. Once we obtain these portions we join
all of them to obtain the visibility polygon of the edge AB. Implementation of
this algorithm requires computing shortest path between vertices of the polygon,
the construction of which we describe in the next section. For now assume that
we have at our disposal a routine which gives the shortest path between two
vertices of the polygon as a list of Point type.

   The main steps of computing the visible portion of an edge CD from another
edge AB of the polygon can be enumerated as follows.

1. Compute the shortest path P_{AC}, from A to C and the shortest path P_{BD},
   from B to D. Call this pair 1.

2. Similarly compute the shortest path P_{AD}, from A to D and the shortest
   path P_{BC}, from B to C. Call this pair 2.

3. Find out which of these pairs is outward convex. An outward convex pair
   implies an hourglass shape is formed by the two paths.

4. If none of the pairs is outward convex this means that no portion of edge
   CD is visible from any point on edge AB and we can completely ignore
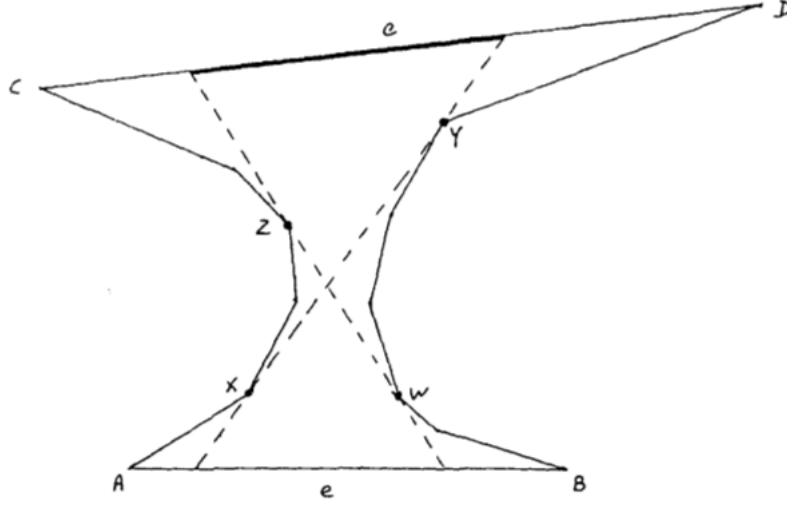   such an edge.

Figure 1: Visibility Polygon of Edge, Illustration taken from:[3]

5. If one of the pairs is outward convex then without loss of generality, let pair 1 be the outward convex pair. Now compute the shortest paths P_{AD} and P_{BC}.

6. Let X be the point where path P_{AD} and P_{AC} split and let W be the point where path P_{BD} and P_{BC} split. Let Y be the next point on the path P_{AD} and Z be the next point on the path P_{BC}. Extending XY we get one extreme point of the portion of CD visible from AB. We repeat this on other side to get the other extreme point.

$CalcVisibilityPolygonEdge()$ calculates the visibility polygon of an edge in PolygonUtil.cpp

1.3 Shortest Path Calculation

For the calculation of shortest path between any two vertices of the polygon the following property was exploited.

- The shortest path must turn only at vertices of the polygon.

- It is possible to move from one vertex to the another only if they are visible to each other.

Utilizing these properties we construct a visibility graph for the polygon and use the normal dijikstra's single source shortest path algorithm on the visibility graph obtained. The following two functions do the above mentioned tasks.

- `PolygonUtil::PrepareVisibilityGraph(Polygon& map, Point vertex[])`

- `PolygonUtil::CalcShortestPath(int source,graph_t& g,Point vertex[])`

2　Hypothesis Generation

Hypothesis Generation phase is based on the following conjecture which we try to prove in the next subsection.

Theorem 1 *A point, P inside a simple polygon sees atleast one edge of the polygon completely.*

The proof of the above theorem comes from the following two simple facts.

- An edge is partially visible from a point inside the polygon only if it is occluded partially by another reflex vertex of the polygon not belonging to that edge.

- A reflex vertex can occlude one and only one edge of the polygon.

To prove the theorem for any arbitrary polygon we obtain the visibility polygon of point P and show that atleast one edge of this visibility polygon, which is also an edge of the original polygon, is completely visible from point P. Alternatively Theorem 1 can be restated as follows.

Definition 2 Spurious Edge: *In the visibility polygon of a point, an edge is called a spurious edge if it is obtained by extending the line joining the point P and a reflex vertex till it meets the polygon.*

Theorem 3 *The visibility polygon of a point P has atleast one edge which completely overlaps with an edge of the original polygon.*

Proof Let the visibility polygon be V. Let the visibility polygon have n non-spurious edges and r spurious edges. Each of the spurious edge is due to a reflex vertex, so the polygon would have r reflex vertices at least. According to the theorem, one of the n edges must overlap completely with an edge of the polygon. We prove it by contradiction. Assume to the contrary that all of the n edges are partially visible from P. Thus each of the n edges must be occluded by a reflex vertex v not lying on the edge. And since a reflex vertex cannot occlude multiple edges, therefore a total of n reflex vertices will be required to occlude the n edges. So such a polygon, if it exists, should have $n + r$ reflex vertices, but it is not possible to construct a closed polygon with all vertices as reflex vertex. Hence our original assumption was wrong.

References

[1] *A Near-Tight approximation algorithm for the robot localization problem*, Koenig, Sven and Mudgal, Proceedings of the Symposium on Discrete Algorithms SODA, 2006.

[2] <http://www.cgal.org/>

[3] *Linear time algorithms for visibility and shortest path problems inside simple polygons*, Guibas, Hershberger, Daniel Leven, Micha Sharir, Robert E. Tarjan