

Informative Path Planning with a Human Path Constraint

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1 Introduction

2 Problem definition

- Informative path
- Human constraint
- The optimization model

3 Solution

- Backtracking heuristic
- Anytime algorithm design

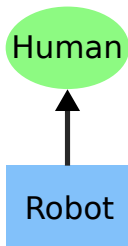
4 Simulation

- Robot wingman
- Results

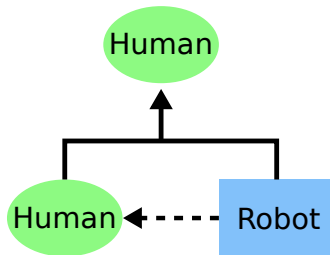
5 Summary

Human-robot collaboration

Introduction



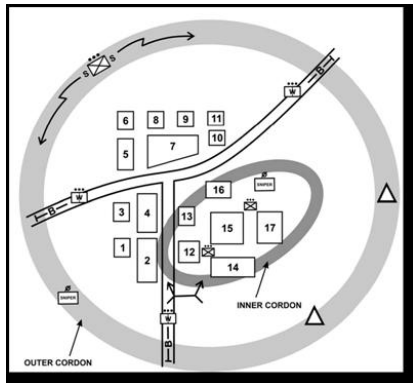
Human-robot interaction



Human-robot collaboration

Cordon and search

Introduction



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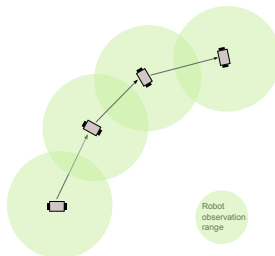
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Coverage model

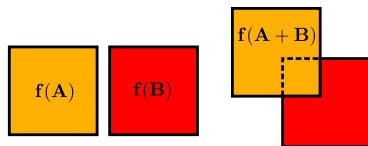
Informative path

- Maximum coverage problem
- Entropy-based set function



Submodularity

Informative path



- search space S
- the observation of a robot \mathbf{O}^X
- the observation of a human \mathbf{O}^Y

$$f(A) + f(B) \geq f(A + B)$$

Submodular orienteering

Informative path

Conditional mutual information

$$I(\mathbf{S}; \mathbf{O}^X | \mathbf{O}^{Y^h}) = H(\mathbf{S} | \mathbf{O}^{Y^h}) - H(\mathbf{S} | \mathbf{O}^X, \mathbf{O}^{Y^h})$$

- Entropy reduction
- Submodularity
- Chain rule

$$I(\mathbf{S}; \mathbf{O}^X | \mathbf{O}^{Y^h}) = \sum_{t=1}^T I(O_t^X; \mathbf{S} | O_1^X, \dots, O_{t-1}^X, \mathbf{O}^{Y^h})$$

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Team role

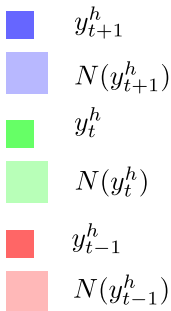
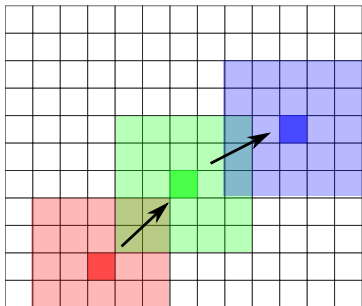
Human constraint



- cooperative observation
- assistance and protection

Neighboring function

Human constraint



- human path $\{y_1^h \cdots y_T^h\}$
- neighboring function $N(y_t^h)$

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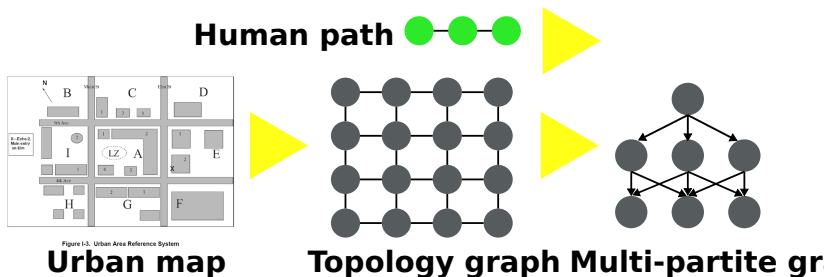
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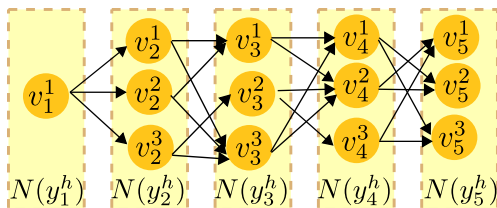
Problem abstraction

The optimization model



The multi-partite graph

The optimization model



Multi-partite graph

$$G = (V, E, T)$$

- T - partition number
- $V = \cup_{t=1}^T V(t)$
- $(v_t^i, v_{t+1}^j) \in E$

A pruning process

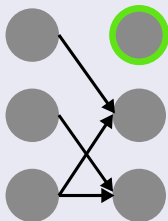
The optimization model

Forward pruning

Reachable

$$\forall t \in \{2, \dots, T\},$$

$$\forall v \in V(t), \deg^-(v) > 0$$

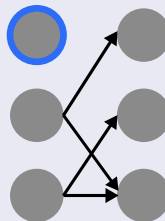


Backward pruning

Non-terminating

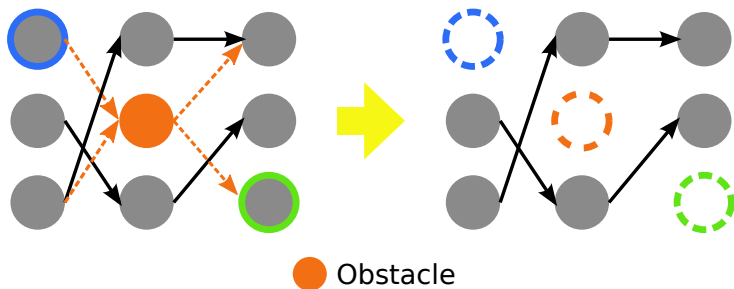
$$\forall t \in \{1, \dots, T-1\},$$

$$\forall v \in V(t), \deg^+(v) > 0$$



Obstacles

The optimization model



Submodular orienteering on a multi-partite graph

The optimization problem

$$\text{Objective : } X^* = \arg \max_X f(X);$$

$$\text{Constraint : } |X| = T, x_t \in V(t), (x_t, x_{t+1}) \in E.$$

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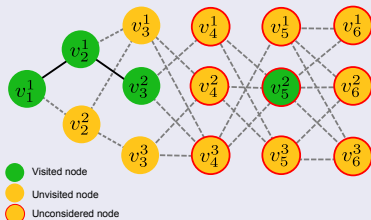
Bellman-like equation

Heuristic

$$\hat{x}_t = \arg \max_{x_t} [f(x_t \mid x_1, \dots, x_{t-1}) + \max_{x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T} f(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T \mid x_1, \dots, x_t)]$$

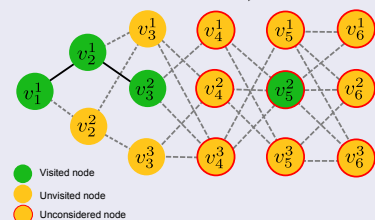
Maximum future reward

$$\max f(x_6, \dots, x_T \mid v_1^1, v_2^1, v_3^2, v_5^2)$$



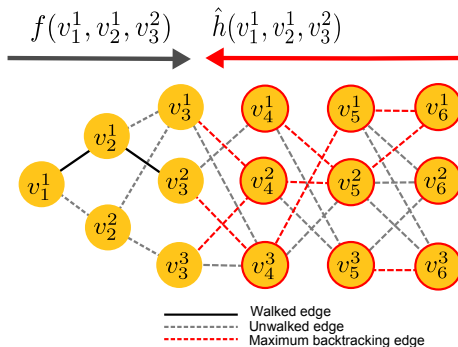
Maximum total reward

$$f(v_5^2 \mid v_1^1, v_2^1, v_3^2) \quad h(v_1^1, v_2^1, v_3^2, v_5^2)$$



Backtracking

Heuristic



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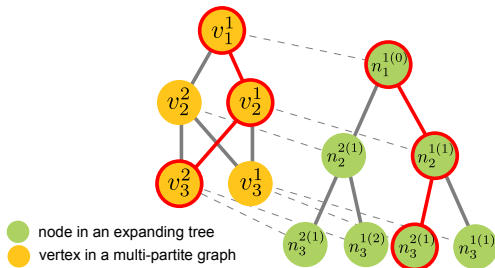
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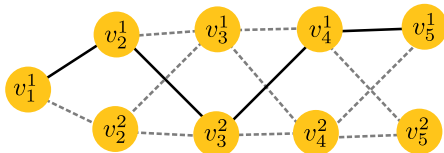
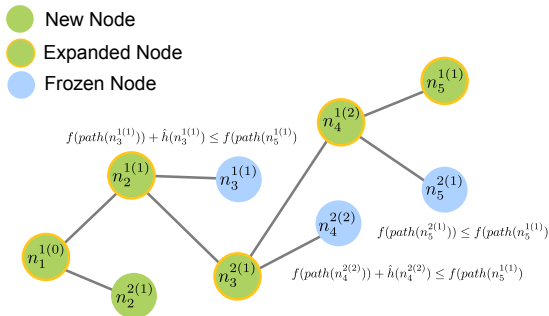
Expanding tree

Anytime algorithm framework



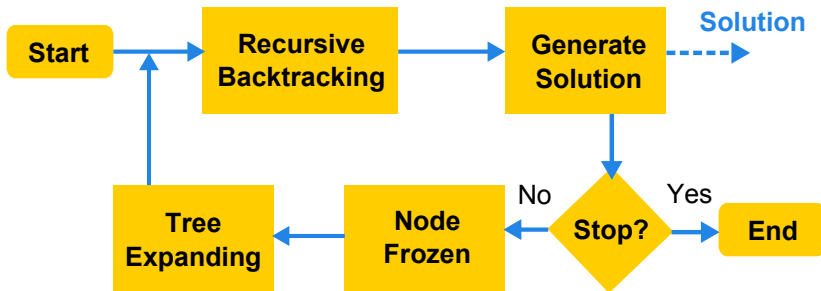
Node freeze

Anytime algorithm framework



Flow

Anytime algorithm framework



Performance guarantee

Anytime algorithm framework

Lemma

*Backtracking in Algorithm 1 never **underestimates** the maximum total reward, which means*

$$\forall t \geq t', \hat{u}(x_t \mid v_1, \dots, v_{t'}) \geq u(x_t \mid v_1, \dots, v_{t'}).$$



Theorem

*The anytime algorithm framework in Algorithm 4 can always find an **optimal** solution given enough time.*

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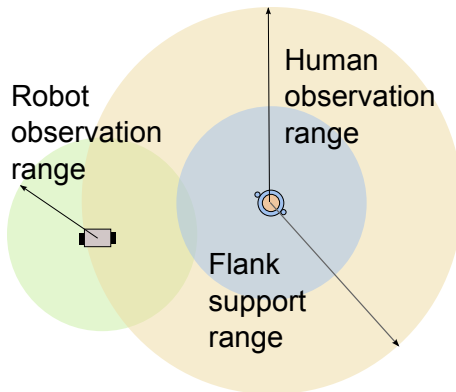
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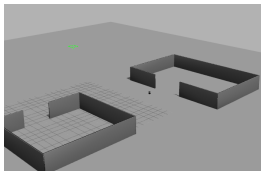
A robot Wingman problem

Robot Wingman



Labelling

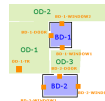
Robot wingman



World in Gazebo simulator



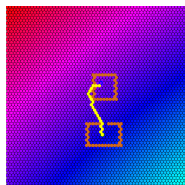
World map



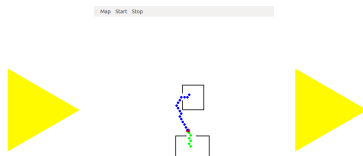
Labelled world map

Path planning

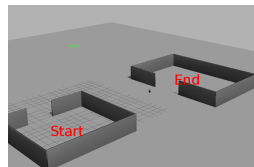
Robot wingman



Hexagonal map



Planned path



Robot execution

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- **Problem size**

nodeNum(fully expanding tree)

- **percentage of nodes explored**

nodeNum(current expanding tree) / nodeNum(fully expanding tree)

- **Percentage of optimal at first run**

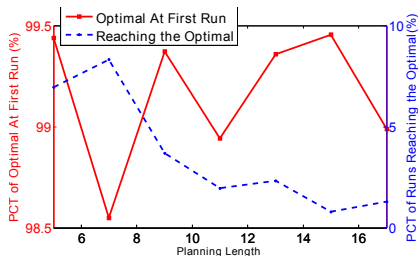
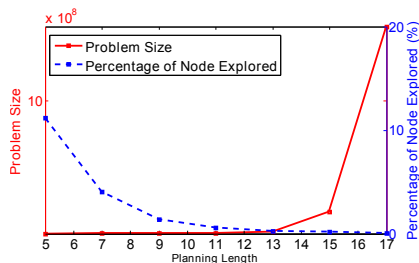
score(first found solution) / score(optimal solution)

- **Percentage of runs reaching the optimal**

iterationCount(optimal found) / iterationCount(finish tree expanding)

Performance

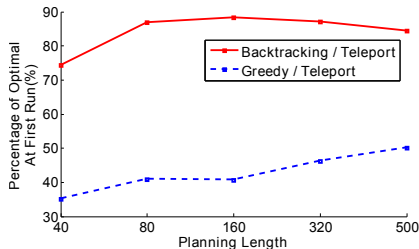
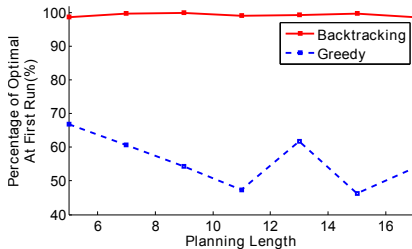
Results



Compare with greedy heuristic

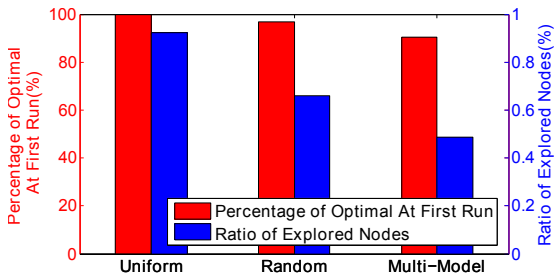
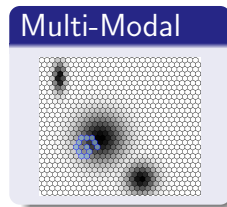
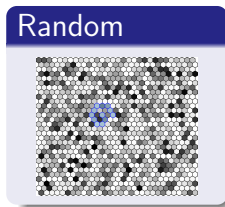
Performance

The performance of the heuristic (Percentage of optimal at first run)



Environment difference

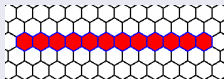
Robustness



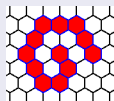
Human path difference

Robustness

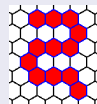
Line



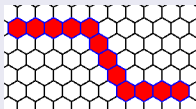
Spiral



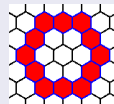
Lawn mower



Arc

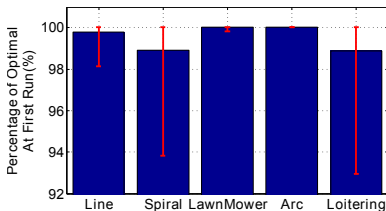
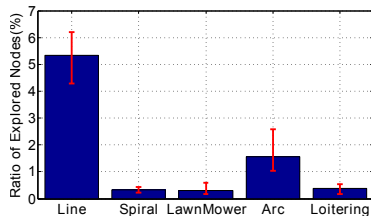
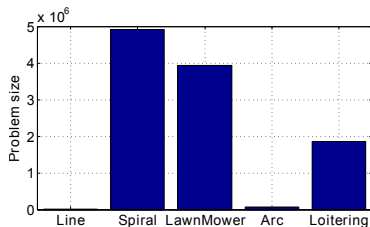


Loitering



Human path difference

Robustness



- Search space reduction by **human constraint**
- Effectiveness and efficiency of **backtracking** on a multi-partite graph
- Vertices duplication in multi-partite graph → Over-estimation increase
- Offline planning → Online planning
- Single objective → Multiple objectives

Thank you!