Languages and Algorithms for Artificial Intelligence Report Project Module 1

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1 Introduction

I propose in this project a solution for the coding game challenge Mars Lander - Episode 2using SWI Prolog. The goal of this puzzle is to safely land the spaceship on the platform.

This puzzle is the second level of the "Mars Lander" trilogy. The controls are the same as the previous level but you must now control the angle in order to succeed. In the Section 2 I will explain the rule of the game.

2 Rules

The Mars Lander will be deployed in a well defined and limited region. The zone indeed is of 7000m wide and 3000m high. Note that inside the zone there must be a **unique area of flat ground** which is at least of 1000m wide. This will be the so called Landing Site, where the Mars Lander can land. For the sake of simplicity an example image is provided

At each second depending on the current conditions of the lander, the program must provide the new desired tilt angle $[-90^{\circ}, 90^{\circ}]$ and the new thrust power that goes from 0 to 4.

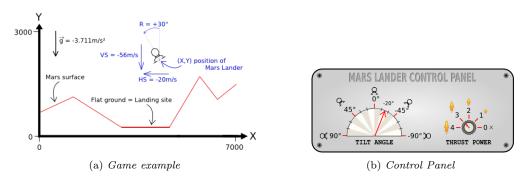


Figure 1: (a.) Example of game instance. The zone is 7000m wide and 3000m high. There is a unique area of flat ground on the surface of Mars, which is at least 1000m wide. (b.) Angle goes from -90° to 90° . Thrust power goes from 0 to 4.

The game simulates a free fall without atmosphere with Mars Gravity equal to $3.711m/s^2$. Moreover note that for a **thrust** power of x, an equivalent push force of $x m/s^2$ is generated and x liters of fuel are consumed.

Thus, a thrust power of 4 in almost vertical position is needed in order to compensate the gravity on Mars,

2.1 Landing constraints

For a landing to be successful, the ship must: i) land on flat ground, ii) land in a vertical position (tilt angle = 0°), iii) vertical speed must be limited ($\leq 40m/s$ in absolute value), iv) horizontal speed must be limited ($\leq 20m/s$ in absolute value)

2.2 Initialization input

An initial number surfaceN is provided. It corresponds to the number of points for drawing the surface of Mars, given linking together these points.

Next surfaceN lines corresponds to the coordinates of points with integers landX landY.

2.3 Input for one game turn

A **single line** with 7 integers is given

X Y hSpeed vSpeed fuel rotate power

More in details: i) X,Y are the coordinates of Mars Lander (in meters)., ii) hSpeed and vSpeed are the horizontal and vertical speed of Mars Lander (in m/s). These can be negative depending on the direction of Mars Lander., iii) fuel is the remaining quantity of fuel in liters. When there is no more fuel, the power falls to zero., iv) rotate is the angle of rotation of Mars Lander expressed in degrees., v) power is the thrust power of the landing ship.

2.4 Output for one game turn

A single line with 2 integers:

rotate power

rotate is the desired rotation angle for Mars Lander. Note that for each turn the actual value of the angle is limited to the value of the previous turn $+/-15^{\circ}$.

power is the desired thrust power. While 0 corresponds to off power, power = 4 is the maximum value that can be provided. Note also that for each turn the value of the actual power is limited to the value of the previous turn +/-1.

3 Solution

My solution is composed by two main parts:

- 1. a simulator of the coding game platform, made in python, which simulates the initialization of the problem and the correctness of each game turn. This part is important because provide the game status at each turn.
- 2. a Prolog program which solve a single game turn with a given input as defined in Section 2.3.

For what concern the simulator, this perform the same function of the solving platform of Coding Game. It just compute the next turn input to deliver to the Prolog program, check the landing status e finally plot the solution.

As said previously in Section 2, the game simulates a free fall without atmosphere. So the physic rules that describe the motion of the Mars lander are the following

$$\begin{cases} s(t) = s_0 + at \\ x(t) = -\frac{1}{2}at^2 + s_0t + x_0 \end{cases}$$

with $a = [p \cos(r + 90), p \sin(r + 90) - g]$ assuming that p is the thrust power and r is the tilt angle of the Mars lander.

Thus the python script generate the initial input (containing the definition of the Mars Surface) and the conditions (position, speed, actual power, actual angle and remaining fuel) for the next game turn. New actions are printed in standard output stream by the Prolog program which is called by the python script itself with the following instruction:

swipl -s .\MarsLander_project\modules\msolve.pl -g predict

4 Prolog program

The Prolog program is organised in modules, all located in the directory modules:

4.1 mconfigs

This is the configuration file for the problem and it is defined as follow

```
:- module(mconfigs, [speed_eps/1,
                                                                                                               y_eps/1,
                                                                                                              p_max_step/1,
                                                                                                               r_{max_step/1}.
                                                                                                               r_max_degree/1
                                                                                                               danger_Vspeed/1,
                                                                                                               danger_Hspeed/1,
                                                                                                              fast_Hspeed/1
                                                                                                              slow_Hspeed/1]).
             rac{1}{2}rac{1}{2}r^2}{2}rac{1}{2}rac{1}{2}rac{1}{2}rac{1}{2}rac{1}{2}rac{1}
                                                      CONFIGS
 speed_eps(3).
15 y_eps(20).
16 %
17 p_max_step(1).
             r_max_step(15)
             r_max_degree (90)
20 %
             danger_Vspeed (40).
danger_Hspeed(20).
              slow_Hspeed (50).
           fast_Hspeed(70)
```

The two predicates p_max_step and r_max_step define the absolute value of the maximum step that can be performed between two different game turns. Instead p_max_power define the maximum thrust power while r_max_degree define the absolute value of the maximum degree that can be chosen as next actions. With danger_Vspeed and danger_Hspeed the absolute value of a dangerous speed, thus the speed defined in the landing constraints in Section 2 had been chosen. The clauses slow_Hspeed and fast_Hspeed define the speed interval of the lander when it is outside the landing site. Finally speed_eps and y_eps are two values used as a safety margin.

4.2 minput

This is a module which contains the input data of the current instance game

```
:- module(input, [zone/2, bl_landing_site/1, mars_zone/1, g/1]).
  \%\% The zone is 7000m wide and 3000m high.
  zone(7000, 3000).
  %%% The limit for the landing site of the shuttle must be at least
  bl_landing_site(1000).
9 %%% The game simulates a free fall without atmosphere. Gravity on Mars is 3.711 \text{ m/s} .
10 g(3.711).
12 %%% Mars surface segments anchor points
13 mars_zone([
    surface(0, 100)
     surface(1000, 500)
    surface(1500, 1500)
    surface(3000, 1000),
     surface(4000, 150),
    surface(5500, 150),
surface(6999, 800)
19
```

This module contains all the input data for the problem, like

- zone the dimension of the 2D Mars zone,
- g which predicate defines the Mars gravity,
- bl_landing_site instead defines the minimum wide size of the landing site,
- finally the predicate mars_zone describes Mars segments to draw by a list of coordinates points defined as a list of surface predicates.

4.3 mlander

The following module is modified by the python script at each game turn, in order to define the input for the next game turn:

```
:- module(lander, [lander/7]).
2 %% Start position of the lander and amount of carburants in litres
3 lander(2500, 2700, 0, 0, 550, 0, 0).
```

As previously said in Section 2.3, at each turn the following line

X Y hSpeed vSpeed fuel rotate power

is given in input. Thus the predicate lander includes these information.

4.4 mcheck

This is a module which contains some predicates for checking some conditions useful to solve the problem:

```
:- module(mcheck, [checkLandingsite/4,
                       landing_site/3,
                       %%%
 3
                       checkOverLandingSite/1,
                        checkLanding/1,
                       checkSpeedLimit/2,
                       checkOppositeDirection/2,
                       checkHighSpeedH/1,
checkLowSpeedH/1]).
10 :- use_module(minput).
11 :- use_module(mconfigs)
12 :- use_module(mutils).
13 :- dynamic landing_site/3.
14
INPUT CHECKS
16 %%
19 %%% checks the existence and the consistence with the minimum lenght of the landing site
checkLandingsite([], _, _, _):-
throw("Surfaces must contain a consistent landing site").
22 checkLandingsite([surface(X, Y)|_], BL, X1, Y1):-
23 Y1 == Y, LLS is X - X1, BL < LLS + 1, !,

24 asserta(landing_site(X1, X, Y)).

25 checkLandingsite([surface(X, Y)|T], BL, _, _):-
26
       checkLandingsite(T, BL, X, Y).
27
GAME CHECKS CASE CONDITIONS
31 \%\% true if the lander is passing over the landing site
32 checkOverLandingSite(X1):-
       landing_site(X0, X1, _),
X0 < X1, X1 < X1.</pre>
33
34
36 %%% true if the lander is close to the land
37 checkLanding(Y1):-
       landing_site(_, _, Y), y_eps(Yeps),
YplusEps is Y + Yeps,
38
39
       Yl < YplusEps.
40
42 %%% true if speed is under speed limits
43 checkSpeedLimit(Sh, Sv):-
       abs(Sh, ShAbs), abs(Sv, SvAbs),
danger_Hspeed(DSh), danger_Vspeed(DSv), speed_eps(Eps),
DSh1 is DSh - Eps, DSv1 is DSv - Eps,
ShAbs =< DSh1, SvAbs =< DSv1.
44
45
46
47
49 %%% true if the speed direction is opposite to the direction
50 %%% from the lander to the landing site
theckOppositeDirection(X1, Sh):-
landing_site(X0, _, _), X1 < X0, Sh < 0, !.
checkOppositeDirection(X1, Sh):-
landing_site(_, X1, _), X1 < X1, Sh > 0.
56 %%% true if the horizontal speed is over the horizontal speed limit to checkHighSpeedH(Sh):-
       abs(Sh, ShAbs)
58
       fast_Hspeed(DSh),
59
60
       ShAbs > DSh.
62 %%% true if the horizontal speed is under the horizontal speed limit
63 checkLowSpeedH(Sh):-
64
      abs(Sh, ShAbs),
       slow_Hspeed(DSh),
65
       ShAbs < DSh.
```

First things first, checkLandingsite is used to determine the position of the landing site. Since the landing site is designed as a flat region, the list of surface predicates is iterated until two following points with same vertical coordinates are found. Next by using the predicate asserta, a new fact, namely landing_site, is added to the database, with 3 arguments: left and right horizontal coordinates and the vertical one of such points.

Next rule to analyse is checkOverLandingSite, which states true if and only if the lander is passing hover the landing site. checkLanding is true if and only if the lander is at a certain distance from the land. This is useful to in order to regulate the speed accordingly also to the distance to the land. Another very important rule is checkOppositeDirection which is true when the lander is going to the opposite direction respect to the landing site. Please note that all these 3 rules need before the call of the rule checkLandingsite in order to assert the fact landing_site.

Next step is introduce rules on speed control. For example checkSpeedLimit asserts if the horizontal as the vertical speed absolute value are under a certain limit which is what had been defined in the configuration module (see Section 4.1). At the contrary checkHighSpeedH and checkLowSpeedH assert controls when the horizontal speed is above the speed limit. The first rule avoid to lose the control of the lander without having the possibility to brake anymore, while the second one is used to avoid to have a too slow motion with the risk to go out of fuel.

4.5 mutils

This module contains some utility rules, including 2 private auxiliary predicates.

```
:- module(mutils, [angleDecelerate/3,
                     angleToLandingSite/2,
                     regulateTPower/2,
                     getNextAngle/3,
                     getNextTPower/3])
  :- use_module(minput)
  :- use_module(mlander)
8 :- use module(mconfigs)
9 :- use_module(mcheck).
  12 %%% computes the norm 2 of a vector
  norm2_helper([], S, U):-
13
      sqrt(S, U).
14
15 norm2_helper([H|T], S, U):-
      HS is (H * H) + S
16
17
      norm2_helper(T, HS, U).
19 norm2(V, U):-
20
      norm2_helper(V, 0, U).
21
22 %%% converts an angle in radiants to degree
  radToDeg(Rrad, Rdeg):-
23
      Rdeg is Rrad * 180 / pi.
24
^{27} %%% returns the best angle to slow down marse lander
28 angleDecelerate(Sh, Sv, Rround):-
29 norm2([Sh, Sv], Snorm),
      Rrad is asin(Sh / Snorm)
      radToDeg(Rrad, Rdeg),
      Rround is round(Rdeg)
33
_{\rm 34} %%% returns the angle needed to contrast Mars gravity while
35 %% the leander is going to the landing site get_angle(X1, R, R1):-
       landing_site(X0, _, _), X1 < X0, !,
      R1 is -R.
38
39 get_angle(X1, R, R1):-
      landing_site(_, X1, _), X1 > X1, !,
40
41
      R1 is R.
42 get_angle(_, _, 0).
43
  angleToLandingSite(X1, R):-
44
      g(G),
Rrad is acos(G / 4),
45
46
      radToDeg(Rrad, Rdeg),
Rround is round(Rdeg),
47
48
      get_angle(X1, Rround, R).
51 %%% returns the thrust power needed to get a null vertical speed
52 regulateTPower(Sv, P):-
      Sv > 0, !,
53
54
  regulateTPower(_, 4).
58 %%% compute the right angle to deliver to the game, according to the limit of +/-15
59\ \%\% among two next game turns, the previous angle and the desired one
60 getNextAngle(Rprev, Rdes, Rdes):-
61 Rdiff is Rprev - Rdes,
      abs(Rdiff, RdiffAbs),
       r_max_step(RMaxStep),
63
64
      RdiffAbs =< RMaxStep,</pre>
  getNextAngle(Rprev, Rdes, Rnew):-
65
      Rdes < Rprev, !, r_max_step(RMaxStep)
66
67
  Rnew is Rprev - RMaxStep.
getNextAngle(Rprev, _, Rnew):-
      r_max_step(RMaxStep),
70
      Rnew is Rprev + RMaxStep.
73 %%% compute the right power to deliver to the game, according to the limit of +/-1
```

```
\%\% among two next game turns, the previous power and the desired one
   getNextTPower(Pprev, Pdes, Pdes):-
Pdiff is Pprev - Pdes,
76
77
       abs(Pdiff, PdiffAbs),
       p_max_step(PMaxStep),
        PdiffAbs =< PMaxStep,
79
   getNextTPower(Pprev, Pdes, Pnew):-
80
81
       Pdes < Pprev, !,
        o_max_step(PMaxStep),
82
        new is Pprev - PMaxStep
83
   getNextTPower(Pprev, _, Pnew):-
        _max_step(PMaxStep),
       Pnew is Pprev + PMaxStep
86
```

The 2 private predicates are just mathematical tool used by other public predicates in order to solve the problem. Thus, norm2 computes the euclidean norm of a vector, represented in prolog as list, and radToDeg which converts an angle in radians to degree. Indeed it is known that to converts such an angle α_r measured in radians to an angle α_d measured in degree it is possible to follow the proportion:

 $\alpha_d = \frac{\alpha_r \cdot 180}{\pi}$

Next rule to analyse is angleDecelerate. When the speed is to much high it could be important regulate it, but in order to do it, update the tilt angle is necessary. To successfully generate the best rotation angle it is possible to follow an important trigonometry's rule: in a right triangle (like in Figure 2), knowing the length of the sides of the triangle it is possible to determine the wide of the angles α by computing the inverse of the cosine of ratio between the adjacent side and the hypotenuse of the triangle or by computing the inverse of the sine ratio between the opposite side and the hypotenuse, as follow:

$$\alpha = acos\left(\frac{b}{c}\right)$$
 $\alpha = asin\left(\frac{a}{c}\right)$

Figure 2: A right triangle

It is possible to apply this concept to the problem of Mars lander for decelerate the lander. Indeed looking at the figure 3 (a), it can be noticed that in order to compute the angle θ it is possible to follow the same approach, with the auxiliary of the euclidean norm it is possible in fact to compute the length of the speed triangle. Thus to compute θ we will have, having S_x and S_y as horizontal and vertical speed:

$$\theta = asin\left(\frac{Sx}{\|[S_x, S_y]^T\|_2}\right)$$

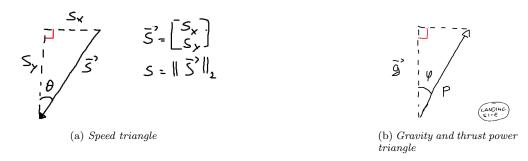


Figure 3: Two angle computation cases

Notice that this procedure will return the desired rotation angle. But in Section 2 it had been already defined the constraints of $+/-15^{\circ}$ between two following turns. For this reason the rule <code>getNextAngle</code> had been defined in order to return the right angle value according to the desired and the previous ones (similarly for thrust power <code>getNextTPower</code>).

Please notice that there is no other to do with the angle θ . Indeed, it is possible to demonstrate that this angle will always balance the speed in bring the lander in the opposite direction. Knowing that the norm of a vector is a quantity always positive, two cases can be presented (with $S = [S_x, S_y]$):

- $S_x > 0$: this means that the lander is going to the right. In this case the ratio $\frac{S_x}{\|S\|_2} \ge 0$. Thus, the result of the inverse function of the sine will result in a positive value, meaning that next tilt angle will make the lander rotate to the left, thus reducing its speed,
- $S_x < 0$: it is symmetric to the $S_x > 0$.

Moreover the reason behind the choose to use the horizontal speed as opposite side is motivated by the fact that the angle in this way will be computed respect to the y axis, comporting no other action to the angle to give to the lander.

Next rule is angleToLandingSite. This returns the best angle capable to compensate the Mars gravity while the lander is going to the direction where the landing site is located. Also in this case it is possible to see the same approach as before, assuming that the the gravity is vertical side of a triangle and where the minimum thrust power able to contrast the gravity (as previously said in Section 2 it is equal to 4) is its hypotenuse, as shown in Figure 3 (b). In this case the tilt angle will be computed as follow:

$$\phi = a\cos\left(\frac{g}{4}\right)$$

Also in this case the tilt angle is computed respect to the y axis. Then, depending on the current position of the lander respect to the landing site, the predicate get_angle will return the sign of the angle. In particular, assuming R is the tilt angle computed for the predicate angleToLandingSite, get_angle will return: i) -R if the lander is on the left of the landing site, ii) R if the lander is on the right of the landing site, iii) R if the lander is over the landing site

Finally the last rule in this module is **regulateTPower** which, as its name says, returns the thrust power to which is needed to compensate the negative vertical speed in order to reach the zero. A thrust power of 3 is set if the vertical speed results to be positive in order to limit the amount of fuel used during the landing.

4.6 msolve

Finally, the last module contains the main predicate (public) of the program, namely predict, the rule that can solve a single game turn.

```
- module(msolve, [predict/0]).
                 use_module(minput).
        :- use_module(mlander).
        :- use_module(mcheck).
        :- use module(mutils).
        %%% solve predicate
        	ilde{\mathsf{X}} 	ild
11 %%% HPA case: Episode 1
       predict_HPA(Y1, _, _, Rprev, Pprev):-
    checkLanding(Y1), !,
12
              getNextAngle(Rprev, 0, Rout),
              getNextTPower(Pprev, 3, Pout),
write(Rout), write(" "), write
                                                                                         write (Pout),
              write(" predict_HPA_HP1").
18
19 predict_HPA(_, Sh, Sv, Rprev, Pprev):-
20 checkSpeedLimit(Sh, Sv), !,
21 getNextAngle(Rprev, 0, Rout),
              getNextTPower(Pprev, 2, Pout);
write(Rout), write(" "), write
                                                                                         write(Pout),
23
              write(" predict_HPA_HP2").
24
25
        predict_HPA(_, Sh, Sv, Rprev, Pprev):-
26
            angleDecelerate(Sh, Sv, Rdes),
               getNextAngle(Rprev, Rdes, Rout)
              getNextTPower(Pprev, 4, Pout),
write(Rout), write(" "), write
29
30
                                                                                         write (Pout),
              write(" predict_HPA_HP3").
31
32
33 %%% HPB case: Episode 2
34 predict_HPB_HP1(Sh, Sv, Rprev, Pprev):-
               angleDecelerate(Sh, Sv, Rdes)
              getNextAngle(Rprev, Rdes, Rout),
36
              getNextTPower(Pprev, 4, Pout),
write(Rout), write(" "), write
37
                                                                                         write (Pout).
38
              write(" predict_HPB_HP1").
39
        predict_HPB_HP2(X1, Rprev, Pprev):-
              angleToLandingSite(X1, Rdes),
42
              getNextAngle(Rprev, Rdes, Rout),
getNextTPower(Pprev, 4, Pout),
write(Rout), write(" "), write(P
43
44
                                                                                         write(Pout),
45
              write(" predict_HPB_HP2").
        predict_HPB_HP3(Sv, Rprev, Pprev):-
48
49
              regulateTPower(Sv, P),
              getNextAngle(Rprev, 0, Rout),
getNextTPower(Pprev, P, Pout),
write(Rout), write(" "), write(Pout),
50
51
              write(" predict_HPB_HP3").
54
55 %
56
57 predict_HPB(X1, Sh, Sv, R, P):-
           redict_HPB(AI, SH, Sv, R, I), checkOppositeDirection(X1, Sh), !, predict HPB_HP1(Sh, Sv, R, P).
              predict_HPB_HP1(Sh, Sv, R,
        predict_HPB(_, Sh, Sv, R, P):-
  checkHighSpeedH(Sh), !,
60
61
              predict_HPB_HP1(Sh, Sv, R, P).
62
63
64 predict_HPB(X1, Sh,
                                                                     _, R, P):-
            checkLowSpeedH(Sh), !,
              predict_HPB_HP2(X1, R, P).
68 predict_HPB(_,
                                                           , Sv , R , P):-
             predict_HPB_HP3(Sv, R, P).
69
71 %%% predict predicate, the one that can be used to solve
```

```
72 %%% a game turn of Mars lander
   predict:-
73
     %%% searching the landing_site
74
75
      mars_zone(S),
      bl_landing_site(BL),
     checkLandingsite(S, BL, _, _),
lander(X1, Y1, Sh, Sv, _, R, P),
%%% is the lander over the landing site?
79
      checkOverLandingSite(X1), !,
80
81
     %%% Episode 1
      predict_HPA(Y1, Sh, Sv, R, P),
84
   predict:-
85
      %%% Episode 2
86
                     , Sh, Sv, _, R, P),
87
      lander(X1,
      predict_HPB(X1, Sh, Sv, R, P),
```

During the prove of the rule predict:

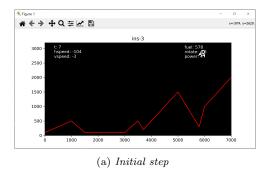
- A. In the first attempt checkLandingSite assert in the database the predicate landing_site that will be used during all the code also by the other modules. The next step will be made in order to check if the lander is already over the landing site (checkOverLandingSite, look Section 4.4), in this case it is possible to follow the hypothesis A in order to solve the *Episode* 1, invoking predict_HPA. To prove this predict, there are three possibilities:
 - 1. if checkLanding can be proved, the speed can be regulated by returning a sufficient thrust power (3) and a null tilt angle,
 - 2. if checkLanding fails but checkSpeedLimit can be proved, it is possible to reduce the amount of fuel consumed during the landing by reducing the thrust power to 2, also in this case it is needed a tilt angle equal to .
 - 3. if both checkLanding and checkSpeedLimit fail, this means that there could be the need to regulate the speed also according to the horizontal component, for this reason anglDecelerate will return the desired angle to decelerate correctly the lander (note that a thrust power equal to 4 is needed in this case).
- B. If instead, in order to prove the predicate predict, the predicate checkLandingSite fails it can be followed the hypothesis B solving in this way the generalised problem, the *Episode 2*, invoking this time predict_HPB:
 - 1. First of all, it will be checked if the direction where the lander is going to is correct according to the position of the landing site or if it is going to fast according to the horizontal speed. This "or" condition can be implemented by proving the predicates checkOppositeDirection and checkHighSpeedH with the auxiliary of the CUT predicate ("!").
 - In this case there is the need to decelerate modifying the tilt angle, so it will be invoked the rule angleDecelerate with the maximum available thrust power to decelerate as fast as possible the lander.
 - 2. Alternatively if the previous or condition fail but checkLowSpeedH can be proved:
 - it is possible to compute the desired angle in order to reach the landing site (invoking the predicate angleToLandingSite) with the maximum possible thrust power.
 - 3. if instead checkOppositeDirection, checkHighSpeedH and checkLowSpeedH all fail then
 - the tilt angle can be 0 and the thrust power can be adjusted accordingly to the rule regulateTPower.

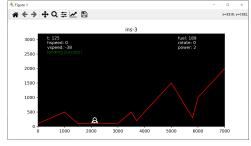
Please note that both the tilt angles and the thrust power cited before are only the desired one, so before to print the new action for this game turn, getNextAngle and getNextTPower will computes the new actions to write according to the desired and the previous actions.

Appendix

To execute the program it is possible to type the following script: python .\MarsLander_project\ML.py --data \\$input [--plot]

where \$input is the name of the txt file containing the input data of the game (possible choices for it are ins-0, ins-1, ins-2, ins-4, ins-5, ins-6) and the argument plot is optional and it will plot the game instance.





(b) Landing success

Figure 4: ins-3 example