

Robot Motion

14 October 2018 18:44

Degrees of Motion Freedom (DOF):

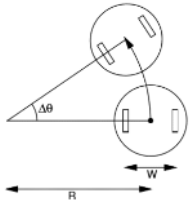
- 1D - 1 DOF
- 2D - 3 DOF - 2 translational, 1 rotational
- 3D - 6 DOF - 3 translational, 3 rotational

Holonomic - move instantaneously in any space of its DOF

Differential Drive:

- Two motors, one per wheel
 - Equal speed for straight-line
 - Equal and opposite direction for turn on the spot
 - Other combinations - circular motion

Circular Path:



v = velocity of wheel on ground

r = wheel radius

ω = angular velocity of wheel

$$v = r\omega$$

Straight line: $v_L = v_R$

Turn on spot: $v_L = -v_R$

Period of motion Δt through angle $\Delta\theta$:

Left wheel distance moved: $v_L \Delta t$

Left wheel radius of arc: $R - \frac{W}{2}$

Right wheel distance moved: $v_R \Delta t$

Right wheel radius of arc: $R + \frac{W}{2}$

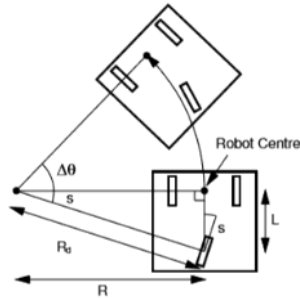
Both wheels subtend same angle so:

$$\Delta\theta = \frac{v_L \Delta t}{R - \frac{W}{2}} = \frac{v_R \Delta t}{R + \frac{W}{2}}$$

Finally:

$$R = \frac{W(v_R + v_L)}{2(v_R - v_L)} \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta\theta = \frac{(v_R - v_L)\Delta t}{W}$$

Circular Path of a Car-Like Tricycle:



$$\begin{aligned} R &= \frac{L}{\tan s} \\ R_d &= \frac{L}{\sin s} \\ \Delta\theta &= \frac{v\Delta t}{R_d} = \frac{v\Delta t \sin s}{L} \end{aligned}$$

Motion in 2D:

- Straight line of distance D
 - $\begin{pmatrix} x_{new} \\ y_{new} \\ \theta_{new} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x + D\cos\theta \\ y + D\sin\theta \\ \theta \end{pmatrix}$
- Pure rotation of angle α
 - $\begin{pmatrix} x_{new} \\ y_{new} \\ \theta_{new} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ \theta + \alpha \end{pmatrix}$
- Circular Motion - obtain R and $\Delta\theta$ like to the left
 - $\begin{pmatrix} x_{new} \\ y_{new} \\ \theta_{new} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x + R\sin(\theta + \Delta\theta) - \sin\theta \\ y - R\cos(\theta + \Delta\theta) + \cos\theta \\ \theta + \Delta\theta \end{pmatrix}$

Uncertainty in Motion (2D):

- e, f, g are zero mean gaussian terms
 - Model the deviation from ideal path
- Straight line of distance D
 - $\begin{pmatrix} x_{new} \\ y_{new} \\ \theta_{new} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x + (D + e)\cos\theta \\ y + (D + e)\sin\theta \\ \theta + f \end{pmatrix}$
- Pure rotation of angle α
 - $\begin{pmatrix} x_{new} \\ y_{new} \\ \theta_{new} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ \theta + \alpha + g \end{pmatrix}$

Gearing:

- Gear 1 has radius r_1 and torque t_1
 - exerts force $F = \frac{t_1}{r_1}$
 - has velocity $v = r_1 \omega_1$
- Gear 2 has radius r_2 and torque t_2
 - $t_2 = r_2 F = \frac{r_2}{r_1} t_1$
 - torque ratio is radius_2 / radius_1
 - $\omega_2 = \frac{v}{r_2} = \frac{r_1}{r_2} \omega_1$
 - angular v ratio is radius_1 / radius_2

Motor Control:

- P - reduces error
- I - reduces steady-state error
- D - can reduce settling time
- Ziegler-Nichols method
 - find a k_u that shows oscillation ($I=0$)
 - $k_p = 0.6k_u$
 - $k_i = 2k_p / \text{Period}_u$
 - $k_d = k_p * \text{Period}_u / 8$

Position Based Path Planning:

- $\begin{pmatrix} d_x \\ d_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} W_x - x \\ W_y - y \end{pmatrix}$
- Angle between current location and waypoint
 - $\alpha = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{d_y}{d_x} \right)$
 - Python atan gives range $-\pi \leq \alpha \leq \pi$
- Angle to rotate:
 - $\beta = \alpha - \theta$
 - Range check this for more efficient rot
- After rotating, distance to move forward:
 - $D = \sqrt{d_x^2 + d_y^2}$

Sensors

23 October 2018 18:07

Types of Sensors:

- **Proprioceptive**
 - Self-sensing
 - Internal
 - Value of measurement depend only on current and previous internal robot states
- **Exteroceptive**
 - Outward-looking
 - Become *aware* of its environment
 - Value of measurement depends on state of robot **and** world around it

Touch Sensors:

- Binary on/off
- When switch closed, current flows, hit - 1
- **Bump Detection:**
 - Last line of defense
 - Needs immediate reaction
 - Evasive maneuver
 - Or just stop current motion
 - Can use a ring of touch sensors, determine direction of collision

Sonar Sensors:

- Emit an ultrasonic pulse and time until echo returns
- Max range - a few meters
- Can also use a ring of these

Laser Range Sensors:

- Return an array of depth measurements
 - From a scanning beam
- Sub-mm accuracy
- Normally bulky and expensive

Servoing:

- Robot controls coupled to a sensor reading
 - Updated regularly in a negative feedback loop
 - (closed control loop)
 - Updating frequency needs to be sufficiently high to avoid oscillating Behaviour from feedback loop
 - $v = -K_p(v_{desired} - v_{actual})$
 - Get v_{actual} from sensors
 - This is the direct coupling
 - Sensors can sometimes produce 'garbage' results
 - Can remove this - e.g. median filtering
 - Can reduce system responsive if using filtering

Some Examples:

- Follow an object to collide
 - $s = K_p \alpha$
- Avoid a collision with an object
 - $s = K_p(\alpha - \sin^{-1} \frac{R}{D})$

Probabilistic Sensor Modelling:

- Sensor does not report exact truth
- Need to characterize uncertainty of the sensor
 - Then can build a probabilistic model for it to use
 - $p(z_0|x,y)$
 - Probability of measurement being correct given current state of robot and world

Likelihood Functions:

- Probability of measuring Z given that I'm expecting a ground truth value of M
- Narrow Gaussian band around M
 - With a SMALL constant K added to all probabilities
 - Represents a fixed percentage of garbage results
 - More robust

Classical AI falls down in real world as data obtained from sensors is inaccurate.

-> need to acknowledge uncertainty and model to extract useful info

Sensor Fusion: combining data from many different sources into useful information

Bayesian Probabilistic Inference:

- Measure of subjective belief
- **Bayes' Rule**
 - $P(X|Z) = \frac{P(Z|X)P(X)}{P(Z)}$
 - **posterior** = $\frac{\text{likelihood} * \text{prior}}{\text{marginal likelihood}}$
- Represent prior and likelihood as gaussian,
 - When multiplied they produce a tighter band
 - i.e. posterior narrowest

Particle Representation:

- Each particle has attributes + weight
- $\sum \text{weights} = 1$
 - normalized
- Pros
 - Simple
 - Represent and shape distribution
 - Even multi-peak dist.
- If too many particles
 - Computationally expensive
- Too little
 - Poor ability to represent shape of distribution

Particle Filtering:

1. **Motion Prediction** based on proprioceptive sensors
 - a. When robot moves
 - b. Pass particles through a function which update their position based on the deterministic input and a random component
2. **Measurement Update** based on exteroceptive sensors
 - a. Applying Bayes' Rule to each particle
 - b. $w_{i_{new}} = P(z|x_i) * w_i$
 - i. Posterior = likelihood * prior
 - ii. Don't need to worry about P(z) as it will be removed in (3)
3. Normalisation
4. Resampling

Monte Carlo Localisation

23 November 2018 11:38

MCL

- A Bayesian probabilistic filter
- 'Survival of the fittest'

Continuous Localisation:

- Tracking
- Given good estimate of last position
- Estimate new position after new measurements
- All particles set to start position with equal weight

Global Localisation:

- 'kidnapped robot problem'
- Environment is known
- But position is completely uncertain
- Find the position
- Particle state set randomly, all have equal weight

Inferring an Estimate:

$$\bar{x} = \sum_{i=1}^N w_i x_i$$

MCL/Particle Filter:

1. Motion Prediction based on proprioceptive sensors
 - a. Watch out for angular-wrap around
2. **Measurement Update** based on exteroceptive sensors
 - a. Likelihood function - sonar
 - b. Also can use a Compass Sensor
3. **Normalisation**
 - a. *sum of all weights should add to 1*
 - b. $w_{i(new)} = \frac{w_i}{\sum_{i=1}^N w_i}$
4. **Resampling**
 - a. Generate a new set of N particles with equal weights
 - b. But spatial distribution now reflects probability density
 - c. **Cumulative probability distribution**
 - i. Generate a random number R= 0 to 1
 - ii. Then duplicate particle whose cumulative probability range covers R
 - d. Can skip (3) and resample directly

Likelihood function - Sonar:

- Have particles current state \mathbf{x}
- Have wall coordinates (A_x, A_y) and (B_x, B_y)
- Distance between particle and 'infinite wall'
 - $m = \frac{(B_y - A_y)(A_x - x) - (B_x - A_x)(A_y - y)}{(B_y - A_y)\cos\theta - (B_x - A_x)\sin\theta}$
- Have sonar measurement z
 - Range check m
 - $\nless 0$
 - $\begin{pmatrix} x + m\cos\theta \\ y + m\sin\theta \end{pmatrix}$ lies within wall boundaries
- $p(z|m) \propto e^{-\frac{(z-m)^2}{2\sigma_s^2}}$
 - Get prob of z given m
 - Modelled by gaussian distribution
 - σ_s - sonar s.d.
- Add a very small constant K
 - Constant probability of garbage value, uniformly distributed across range of the sensor
 - Less aggressive in killing off particles which are unlikely
 - Occasional garbage result won't lead to good particles dying off
- If angle between sonar and normal to wall is too great
 - Might want to ignore as too large an angle can give inaccurate reading
 - $\beta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{\cos\theta(A_y - B_y) + \sin\theta(B_x - A_x)}{\sqrt{(A_y - B_y)^2 + (B_x - A_x)^2}} \right)$

(2) with a Compass Sensor:

- Digital Compass - estimate rotation without drift
- *measure bearing β relative to north*
- $P(\beta|x_i)$?
- Define γ as bearing of x-axis of frame
- $\beta = \gamma - \theta$ if β working perfectly
- So
 - $P(\beta|x_i) \propto e^{-\frac{(\beta-(\gamma-\theta))^2}{2\sigma_c^2}}$
- Particles far with theta far from right orientation get low weights

Global Localisation via Recognition:

- **Learn** location beforehand
 - Take many measurements
 - Characterize this location
 - Form a 'signature'
- Robot can only recognise previously learnt locations

Measuring a Location:

- Place robot at target
- Take measurements
- Raw values - signature

Place Recognition:

- Take measurements at new position
- Compare against all signatures
 - New sig H_m
 - Saved sig H_i
 - $D_i = \sum_j (H_m[j] - H_i[j])^2$
- Choose lowest D_i
 - But $D_i > t$
 - $t = \text{threshold}$
 - So not in unknown location
- Match this new histogram for all locations
- Once found best matching depth signature
 - Shift measured to find orientation at this one location

Probabilistic Occupancy Grid Mapping:

- Building a 'map' when we know location
- Occupancy Grid Map Representation:
 - Square grid of area we'd like to map
 - Each cell represents probability that it's occupied by an obstacle
 - $P(O_i)$
 - Initialise to 0.5
 - 1 - black - occupied
 - 0 - white - empty
 - $P(E_i) = 1 - P(O_i)$
- **Update after sonar measurement**
 - Get reading d
 - Cells further than d likely to be occupied
 - Cells close than d, and in the direction of d, likely to be empty
 - Width of around 10-15 deg free
- **Find log odds update U:**
 - If cell within d and width of sonar
 - Add a **constant negative value**
 - If around d, and within sonar
 - Add a **constant positive value**
 - Assuming cells occupancies are independent of other cells
- Thresholds to determine if empty or occupied
- Memory intensive
- Subject to drift due to localisation uncertainty

Bayesian Update of Occupancy

- $P(O_i|Z) = \frac{P(Z|O_i)P(O_i)}{P(Z)}$
- $P(E_i|Z) = \frac{P(Z|E_i)P(E_i)}{P(Z)}$
- $P(O_i|Z) + P(E_i|Z) = 1$
 - So can normalize
- $\frac{P(O_i|Z)}{P(E_i|Z)} = \frac{P(Z|O_i)P(O_i)}{P(Z)} \frac{P(Z)}{P(Z|E_i)P(E_i)}$
- $\frac{P(O_i|Z)}{P(E_i|Z)} = \frac{P(Z|O_i)P(O_i)}{P(Z|E_i)P(E_i)}$
-
- Odd notation: $o(A) = \frac{P(A)}{P(\bar{A})}$
- $o(O_i|Z) = \frac{P(Z|O_i)}{P(Z|E_i)} * o(O_i)$
- $\ln o(O_i|Z) = \ln \left(\frac{P(Z|O_i)}{P(Z|E_i)} \right) + \ln o(O_i)$

- Can now update by just adding
- Prob 0.5 = 0 log odds

Logs odds	Prob
>0	>0.5
<0	<0.5

- Usually cap log odds +-

SLAM

23 November 2018 11:38

When to use SLAM:

- autonomous
- no prior map
- no artificial beacons or GPS
- need to determine robot's location

Incrementally build a map.

consisting of natural scene **features**

Data Association - matching features

distinctive

recognisable from different viewpoints

Localise with respect to the map.

Main assumption:

- world is **static**
- probabilistic estimation to the features
- **joint distribution** of robot and mapped world
 - features are added, so dimension of this distribution will grow
 - represent as a joint Gaussian
 - Updates made via **Extended Kalman Filter**
- **State Vector** and **Covariance Matrix**
 - SV - robot state is first element
 - SV - additional element for features
 - CM - square matrix - covariance between all elements

SLAM Process:

- Measure a point A
 - this has some uncertainty
 - Robot relative position - certain
- Robot moves to X
 - robot position on the grid in uncertain
- Robot measures points B and C
 - they **inherit** robots uncertainty
 - plus measurement uncertainty
- Robot moves back to starting point
 - robot position uncertainty grows more
- Robot re-measures A
 - mini loop closure**
 - Uncertainty for all shrink
- Robot re-measures B
 - Uncertainty for all shrink

Limitations of Metric SLAM:

Limits to small domains due to:

- computational intensive for large joint PDFs
- bad at large distances
 - growth in uncertainty
- data association hard with large uncertainty

Large Scale SLAM:

- *metric/topological* approximation of full metric
- Place Recognition - perform **loop closure**
- **Map Relaxation** - optimise a map after loop closure
- Loop closure detection:
 - save invariant signatures at regular intervals
 - compare new measurements vs these saved signatures
 - if loop found
 - add constraint to graph
- Relaxation
 - **pose graph optimisation**
 - set of node positions which are maximally probable s.t.
 - metric constraints
 - topological constraints

Planning

05 December 2018 14:21

- Map of environment known
- Plan a path around a set of obstacles to reach a target

Local Planning - Dynamic Window Approach:

- for each possible motion the robot can make in time **dt**
- calculate **cost/benefit** on distance from target and obstacles
 - if making that movement for **longer time τ**
- choose best and **execute for dt**, then repeat

DWA for Differential Drive:

- can adjust **v_L and v_R** up to a max value
- **9 possibilities**, either can go up, down or stay same
- Use formulas to calc position of robot for all possibilities

Benefit:

- $D_F = \sqrt{(T_x - x)^2 + (T_y - y)^2} - \sqrt{(T_x - x_{new})^2 + (T_y - y_{new})^2}$

- Benefit: **$B = W_B * D_F$**

Cost:

- **subtracted** from benefit
- only **closest obstacle** considered, found by searching

- $C = W_C * \left(D_{safe} - \left(\sqrt{(O_x - x_{new})^2 + (O_y - y_{new})^2} - r_{robot} - r_{obstacle} \right) \right)$
 - D_{safe} - distance to stay away

Decision:

- choose path with **max $B - C$**
- execute motion for **dt**

Accurate Motion

25 November 2018 19:55

Tuning:

- PID - same for both
- Feed-forward and minPWM separately
 - Feed-forward - compensate for weaker motor
 - i.e. if drifting left heavily
 - Right stronger than left
 - ◆ Increase left motor FF

Moving in straight line:

- Think of wheel motion
- Convert distance into revolutions of wheel
- $revs = \frac{dist}{2\pi r_w}$
- angle to increase: $2\pi * revs$

- $angle = \frac{dist}{r_w}$

To move forward:

- Increase angle for both wheels
 - `increaseMototAngleReferences(motors, [angle, angle])`

To move backward:

- Decrease angle for both wheels
 - `increaseMototAngleReferences(motors, [-angle, -angle])`

Covariance Matrix:

$$\bullet \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2 & \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y}) \\ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y}) & \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \bar{y})^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Turn on the spot by angle β :

- Think of robot spinning like a wheel
- Radius of robot = half of wheel base = R
- Find distance moved
 - $D = revs \text{ of robot} * circumference \text{ of turning circle}$
 - $D = \frac{\beta}{2\pi} * 2\pi R = \beta R$
- Translate this into revolutions for the wheel
- $revs_w = \frac{dist}{2\pi r_w} = \frac{\beta R}{2\pi r_w}$
- Convert this into angle to change wheel by
- $\alpha = 2\pi * revs_w = 2\pi * \frac{\beta R}{2\pi r_w}$
- $\alpha = \frac{\beta R}{r_w} = \text{angle to turn robot} * \frac{\text{robot radius}}{\text{wheel radius}}$

Increase for direction we want to go, decrease the opposite

To turn right:

- `increaseMototAngleReferences(motors, [-angle, angle])`

To turn left:

- `increaseMototAngleReferences(motors, [angle, -angle])`

Investigating Sensors

30 November 2018 15:17

Touch Sensors:

In while loop

1. **Read** touch sensor values
2. **First** if any hit
 - Stop movement
- Else
 - Scan again (top loop)
3. **If both hit**
 - Turn back, left or right
- Else if left hit
 - Reverse, turn right
- Else if right hit
 - Reverse, turn left
4. **Continue** moving forward
 - (maintain speed)

Use time.sleep(x) between different movements

Sonar Sensor:

1. Maintain forward distance

- 30 cm distance to wall in front
- Based on sonar reading, either move forward or backward
- If further away from desired value, move quicker
- As you get closer, move slower
- $velocity = -K_p(30 - sonar_{dist})$
 - Choose K_p for smooth motion - experiment

2. Follow Wall:

- 30cm distance to wall on *right* (or left)
- If far away, left should speed up and right slow down
 - Turn right, towards wall
- If too close, left should slow down and right speed up
 - Turn left, away from wall
- $base_v$: avg speed to maintain when 30cm from wall
- $error = -K_p(30 - sonar_{dist})$
- $left_v = base_v - error$
- $right_v = base_v + error$
 - Change sign for maintain to the *left*

Probabilistic Motion and Sensing

02 December 2018 13:37

Implementing Motion Prediction:

- Create pre-allocated arrays in Python
 - Size = NUMBER_OF_PARTICLES
- Choose suitable e, f, g values
 - For 2D motion - straight angle and pure rotation
 - e and f should give a 'banana' shape at end of line
 - Usually $e > f$
 - In Python
 - `random.gauss(mu, σ)`
 - Picks a random number

Sonar Investigation:

- Around 10% garbage results
 - So median filter over 10
- After about 45 degrees, Sonar fails to give accurate reading
- No real systematic error
- Only useable from around 20cm
 - Very bad lower than that
 - But systematic error
 - Not random
 - Max range ~2m

Monte Carlo Localisation

02 December 2018 14:55

Implementing calculate_likelihood:

- For all particles
 - $w_i = \text{calc_likelihood}(x, y, \theta)$
- 1. Account for z
 - a. Placement away from center
 - b. Systematic errors
- 2. $c = \cos(\theta)$
 $s = \sin(\theta)$
 - a. Check for either c or $s == 0$
 - b. Calculate 'm' for all walls
- 3. Find best m
 - a. Greater than 0
 - b. Smaller than rest
 - c. Fits inside wall boundaries
 - i. sort boundaries first
 - ii. (check for small > larger)
- 4. Case:
 - a. No feasible m - return 0
- 5. Read of gaussian function
 - a. Mean = m
 - b. Sd = s.d. of sonar
- 6. Add K
 - a. Return value

Implementing Resampling:

1. Cumulative weight array
 - a. $cw[0] = w[0]$
 - b. for i in range(1, N):
 $cw[i] = cw[i - 1] + w[i]$
2. New temp arrays
 - a. For each state variable
 - b. Each of size N
3. Select N new particles
 - a. Get random number
 - b. for j in range(N):
if $cw[j] - rand \geq 0$
clone this particle
break
4. Overwrite old arrays with temp arrays
5. Give all particles equal weights
 $w[i] = 1/N$

Navigate to Waypoint:

While not at Waypoint (X,Y):

- $X_{diff} = X - estimate_x$
- $Y_{diff} = Y - estimate_y$

- $dist = \sqrt{X_{diff}^2 + Y_{diff}^2}$
- $angle_{dest} = atan2(Y_{diff}, X_{diff})$
 - Returns angle $-\pi \leq \theta \leq \pi$
- $angle_{rot} = angle_{dest} - estimate_{\theta}$

1. Rotate
 - a. Update particles angles
 - b. Add $angle_{rot} + error$
 - c. Update $estimate_{\theta}$
2. Move forward
 - a. Update particles
3. Measurement Update
 - a. Read Sonar
 - b. Calculate likelihood and update weights for all particles
 - c. Normalise
 - d. Resample
4. Update estimate of robot position

Place Recognition

02 December 2018 14:55

Circular Scan:

for loop

- take reading
- spin ϕ to left
 - $\phi = \frac{2\pi}{n}$
 - use $left_{90} \left(\frac{\phi}{\frac{\pi}{2}} \right)$

Compare Signatures:

- sum of differences squares

Make Depth Histograms:

- create array of n bins
- $v = \text{floor}(\text{depth}/\text{bin size})$
- $\text{histogram}[v] += 1$

Learn Location:

- perform circular scan
- storing measurements into array(n)
- allocate unique idx to signature

Recognise Location:

1. Circular scan
2. make depth histograms for measurement and known
 - compare these
 - find best match
3. find rotation ->

Angular Shift:

- shifted = []
 - init to angle vs depth
- for len(shifted)
 - compare shifted and predicted
 - if dist < best_dist
 - update best_dist
 - $angle = i * \text{degrees per shift}$
 - right shift shifted
- if $angle > \pi$
 - $angle -= 2\pi$
- return angle