HW5

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1 Q1

$$\begin{bmatrix} H_{pp} & H_{pl} \\ H_{lp} & H_{ll} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta x_p^* \\ \Delta x_l^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -b_p \\ -b_l \end{bmatrix}$$
 (1)

Apply the Schur Complement,

$$(H_{pp} - H_{pl}H_{ll}^{-1}H_{pl}^{T})\Delta x_{p}^{*} = -bp + H_{pl}H_{ll}^{-1}b_{l}$$
(2)

Then, we have

$$H_{ll}\Delta x_l^* = -b_l - H_{pl}^T \Delta x_p^* \tag{3}$$

Figure 1: Q1 Q2 Result

2 Q3

There are three possible approaches to solving the problem of gauge freedom. The first solution is to fix the corresponding states (i.e., parameters) in the optimization. The second approach is to set a prior on the unobservable states, and the prior essentially acts as a virtual measurement in the optimization. Finally, one way instead allow the optimization algorithm to change the unobservable states freely during the iterations [1].

2.1 Fixed Gauge

This method aims at optimizing in a small parameter space where there are no unobservable states, which means the Hessian matrix is invertible. This method enforces hard constraints on the solution.

By fixing the position and yaw angle of the first camera pose throughout the optimization.

$$p_0 = p_0^0, \ \Delta \phi_{0z} = e_z^T \Delta_0 = 0$$
 (4)

where p_0^0 is the initial position of the first camera. Fixing these values of the parameter vector is equivalent to setting the corresponding columns of the Jacobian matrix of the residual vector to zero.

2.2 Gauge Prior

This method is to augment the objective function with an additional penalty, which yields an invertible Hessian matrix. Then the solution is able to satisfy certain constraints. The penalty added to the objective function is $||r_0^P||^2_{\sum_0^P}$, where $r_0^P(\theta) = (p_0 - p_0^0, \Delta\phi_{0z})$.

2.3 Free Gauge

The last method is a generic method which uses the pseudo-inverse of the singular Hessian matrix to implicitly provide additional constraints for a unique solution (e.g. parameter updates with smallest norm).

2.4 Comparison

2.4.1 Accuracy and timing

These three approaches have almost the same accuracy. The gauge prior approach needs to select the proper prior weight to avoid increasing the computational cost. With a proper weight, the gauge prior approach has almost the same performance as the gauge fixation approach. Furthermore, the free gauge approach is slightly faster than the others, because it takes fewer iterations to converge.

2.4.2 Covariance

The covariance matrix from the gauge prior approach is similar to the gauge fixation approach. However, the estimated covariance from the free gauge approach is different. For example, for the gauge fixation approach, the uncertainty of the first position is zero due to the fixation and the position uncertainty increases afterwards. In contrast, the uncertainty in the free gauge method is distributed over all the positions. This due to the fact that the free gauge approach is not fixed to any reference frame. Therefore, the uncertainties directly read from the free gauge covariance matrix are not interpretable in a geometrically-meaningful way. Therefore, the free gauge covariance should be transformed to a geometrically-meaningful form by enforcing a gauge fixation condition.

To transform the free gauge covariance, we first transform θ to the gauge fixation estimation θ_C along M_{θ} which is the subspace that contains all the parameters that satisfy the gauge fixation condition with the perturbation $\Delta\theta$.

$$\Delta\theta \mapsto \frac{\partial\theta_C}{\partial\theta}\Delta\theta \tag{5}$$

Then we project the perturbation onto the tangent space to the gauge, parallel to the M_{θ} , using projector $Q_{\theta_C}^C$. Then, the transformed covariance can be calculated using the average of the outer product of these transformed perturbations.

It can be seen that the transformed covariance agrees well with the covariance from the gauge fixation from the experiment result.

References

[1] Z. Zhang, G. Gallego, and D. Scaramuzza, "On the comparison of gauge freedom handling in optimization-based visual-inertial state estimation," *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters*, vol. 3, no. 3, pp. 2710–2717, July 2018.