## **FCND Motion Planning Project Write-up**

#### 1-Explaining the starter code

-Planning\_utils.py

In this file there are the following functions which is called from the (Motion\_planning.py) file to help planning the drone trip:

a) creat\_grid: this function is responsible of making a grid representation for the map given by the "colliders" file at a specified altitude and a safety distance around all the no-flying areas like buildings.
 This function takes the coordination of the obstacles center and its dimension to make a zeros numpy array with the same size of the map in meters and specifies all obstacles with ones, then return that array of zeros & ones, and the grid center coordinates.

```
from enum import Enum
 from queue import PriorityQueue
 import numpy as np
•def create_grid(data, drone_altitude, safety_distance):
     Returns a grid representation of a 2D configuration space
    based on given obstacle data, drone altitude and safety distance
    north_min = np.floor(np.min(data[:, 0] - data[:, 3]))
    north_max = np.ceil(np.max(data[:, 0] + data[:, 3]))
     east_max = np.ceil(np.max(data[:, 1] + data[:, 4]))
     north_size = int(np.ceil(north_max - north_min))
     east_size = int(np.ceil(east_max - east_min))
     grid = np.zeros((north_size, east_size))
        north, east, alt, d_north, d_east, d_alt = data[i, :]
         if alt + d_alt + safety_distance > drone_altitude:
                int(np.clip(north - d_north - safety_distance - north_min, 0, north_size-1)),
                 int(np.clip(north + d_north + safety_distance - north_min, 0, north_size-1)),
                int(np.clip(east - d_east - safety_distance - east_min, 0, east_size-1)),
                 int(np.clip(east + d_east + safety_distance - east_min, 0, east_size-1)),
             grid[obstacle[0]:obstacle[1]+1, obstacle[2]:obstacle[3]+1] = 1
     return grid, int(north_min), int(east_min)
```

b) Action: a class represents and returns what action the drone is going to make in order to go to the next cell in the grid in each direction (North, East, .. etc.), and the cost of each action.

```
# Assume all actions cost the same.

class Action(Enum):

"""

An action is represented by a 3 element tuple.

The first 2 values are the delta of the action relative to the current grid position. The third and final value is the cost of performing the action.

"""

WEST = (0, -1, 1)

EAST = (0, 1, 1)

NORTH = (-1, 0, 1)

SOUTH = (1, 0, 1)

@property

def cost(self):
    return self.value[2]

@property

def delta(self):
    return (self.value[0], self.value[1])
```

c) valid\_actions: it's a function that check all the adjacent grid cells to the current cell if they are representing an obstacle, off the grid, or free to fly in. and then return the valid actions of the empty grid cells.

```
def valid_actions(grid, current_node):
    """

Returns a list of valid actions given a grid and current node.
    """

valid_actions = list(Action)
    n, m = grid.shape[0] - 1, grid.shape[1] - 1
    x, y = current_node

# check if the node is off the grid or
    # it's an obstacle

if x - 1 < 0 or grid[x - 1, y] == 1:
    valid_actions.remove(Action.NORTH)

if x + 1 > n or grid[x + 1, y] == 1:
    valid_actions.remove(Action.SOUTH)

if y - 1 < 0 or grid[x, y - 1] == 1:
    valid_actions.remove(Action.WEST)

if y + 1 > m or grid[x, y + 1] == 1:
    valid_actions.remove(Action.EAST)

return valid_actions
```

d) a\_star: the job of this function is to search for the shortest path from the start to the goal positions if there is one, and give that path a cost relative to the valid actions in that path.

It takes the grid representation, start & goal coordinates, and heuristic function as inputs, then return wither there is a path or not and the path cells coordinates & it's cost if there is one.

```
•def a_star(grid, h, start, goal):
     path = []
     path_cost = 0
    queue = PriorityQueue()
     queue.put((0, start))
    visited = set(start)
     branch = {}
    while not queue.empty():
       item = queue.get()
       current node = item[1]
        if current_node == start:
             current_cost = 0.0
             current_cost = branch[current_node][0]
        if current_node == goal:
             print('Found a path.')
             found = True
             break
             for action in valid actions(grid, current node):
                da = action.delta
                 next_node = (current_node[0] + da[0], current_node[1] + da[1])
                 branch cost = current cost + action.cost
                 queue_cost = branch_cost + h(next_node, goal)
                 if next node not in visited:
                     visited.add(next_node)
                     branch[next_node] = (branch_cost, current_node, action)
                     queue.put((queue_cost, next_node))
    if found:
       n = goal
        path_cost = branch[n][0]
        path.append(goal)
         while branch[n][1] != start:
             path.append(branch[n][1])
             n = branch[n][1]
```

```
135     path.append(branch[n][1])
136     else:
137         print('*****************************
138          print('Failed to find a path!')
139          print('*******************************
140          return path[::-1], path_cost
141
142
```

e) heuristic: it's a function that computes and return the linear direct distance between a given location and the goal location.

```
•def heuristic(position, goal_position):
    return np.linalg.norm(np.array(position) - np.array(goal_position))
```

But I've neglected some of these functions (like: creat\_grid, Action, and valid\_actions) and changed the (a\_star) function because I used <u>Probabilistic Roadmap</u> searching approach

#### -Motion\_planning.py

This basic code consists of two main parts needed to guide the drone from a start position to the goal position. these two are "States" & "MotionPlanning" classes.

1- States Class: it's the class which lists all the states that the drone will be going through in the entire flight from the start to the goal.

```
class States(Enum):
    MANUAL = auto()
    ARMING = auto()
    TAKEOFF = auto()
    WAYPOINT = auto()
    LANDING = auto()
    DISARMING = auto()
    PLANNING = auto()
```

- 2- MotionPlanning Class: is responsible to check the drone current state and guide it to the next phase of the flight as follows:
  - a) First phase is changing the mode of the drone in the simulator from manual to guided.
  - b) Second phase is arming the drone and make it ready to take off be turning its blades.
  - c) In the path planning phase, we specify a certain target altitude and safety distance around the obstacles, then load our grid representation of the map given these parameters. After that we set our start & goal positions and call the a\_star function to search for a path by passing it our grid representation, start & goal coordinates, and the heuristic function. And at the end save all waypoints from the start to the goal.
  - d) fourthly, ordering the drone to take off to the target altitude.
  - e) And then pass each waypoint that follows the current position till the drone reaches the goal position. by that, the waypoint transition phase ends.
  - f) The drone start landing all the way down to the ground level in the landing phase.
  - g) Finally disarming the drone and return it back to the manual mode.

#### 2-Setting the Global Home Position

Here I used the **np.genfromtxt** function to read the first line only of the colider.csv file, then split up the strings separated by spaces and converted the lon0 & lat0 from strings to float numbers and assigned each value to a corresponding variable.

```
def plan_path(self):
    self.flight_state = States.PLANNING
    print("Searching for a path ...")
    TARGET_ALTITUDE = 5
    SAFETY_DISTANCE = 5

    self.target_position[2] = TARGET_ALTITUDE

# TODO: read Lat0, Lon0 from colliders into floating point values
    home_coord_data = np.genfromtxt('colliders.csv', delimiter=',', dtype='str', replace_space=',', max_rows=1)
    lon0 = float(home_coord_data[1].split()[1])
    lat0 = float(home_coord_data[0].split()[1])
    #print(lon0, Lat0, type(lon0), type(lat0))
    # TODO: set home position to (lon0, Lat0, 0)

self.set_home_position(lon0, lat0, 0)
```

After that sated the home position to these values.

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#### 3-local position relative to global home

In this step I get the drone local position relative to the global home position by **global\_to\_local** function and assign it to **local\_pos** variable.

```
# TODO: retrieve current global position

start_global = self.global_position

# TODO: convert to current local position using global_to_local()

# TODO: convert to current local position using global_to_local()

local_pos = global_to_local(start_global, self.global_home)

print('global home {0}, position {1}, local position {2}'.format(self.global_home, self.global_position, self.local_position))
```

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#### 4- Setting the start point for planning

Now setting the drone start position as the home position instead of the map center and saving its values as integers.

```
# TODO: convert start position to current position rather than map center
start = (int(local_pos[0]), int(local_pos[1]), int(local_pos[2]))
```

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#### 5- Setting goal position from geodetic coords

By now, I set the goal as (lon, lat, alt) format, and then convert it by **global\_to\_local** function, then assign the integer values of them to the goal variable.

```
# Set goal as some arbitrary position on the grid

goal_global = (-122.399144, 37.793597, TARGET_ALTITUDE)

# TODO: adapt to set goal as latitude / longitude position and convert

goal = global_to_local(goal_global, self.global_home)
```

### 6- Search Space Algorithm

In this very point I've needed to change a lot in the starter code because I choose to use **Probabilistic Roadmap** searching approach, and for that it's a must to modify the **a\_star** function also adding up some other functions in the **planning\_utils.py** file to help in the process.

Let us start by importing all the libraries needed in the **planning\_motion.py** file ...

Also I've added the following functions to **planning\_utils.py** file:

• extract\_polygons: to read the obstacles from the **collides.csv** file and make polygons around them by sufficient safety distance.

```
def extract_polygons(data, SAFETY_DISTANCE):
    print("Extracting polygons ...")
    polygons = []
    for i in range(data.shape[0]):
        x, y, alt, d_x, d_y, d_alt = data[i, :]

#Extract the 4 corners of the obstacle
    point1 = (np.int32(x - d_x - SAFETY_DISTANCE), np.int32(y - d_y - SAFETY_DISTANCE))
    point2 = (np.int32(x + d_x + SAFETY_DISTANCE), np.int32(y - d_y - SAFETY_DISTANCE))
    point3 = (np.int32(x + d_x + SAFETY_DISTANCE), np.int32(y + d_y + SAFETY_DISTANCE))
    point4 = (np.int32(x - d_x - SAFETY_DISTANCE), np.int32(y + d_y + SAFETY_DISTANCE))

corners = [point1, point2, point3, point4]

#Compute the height of the polygon
    height = np.int32(alt + d_alt + SAFETY_DISTANCE)

#Defining polygons
    p = Polygon(corners)
    polygons.append((p, height))

#print(polygons[0][0])
return polygons
```

• collides: to check if the passed points to it lies inside any obstacles or around it by less than the safety distance, and remove the points that collides.

• can\_connect: to check if the filtered points can be connected to each other without passing through any obstacle polygon.

• create\_graph: used to connect between the points & making a graph that doesn't collide with any obstacle.

```
def create_graph (nodes, k, polygons):
    print("Creating graph ...")

from sklearn.neighbors import KDTree
import numpy.linalg as LA
import networkx as nx

g = nx.Graph()

tree = KDTree(nodes)

for node in nodes:
    idxs = tree.query([node], k=k, return_distance=False)[0]

for idx in idxs:
    node2 = nodes[idx]
    if node2 == node:
        continue

if can_connect(node, node2, polygons):
    dist = LA.norm(np.array(node2) - np.array(node))
    G.add_edge(node, node2, weight=dist)

return G
```

• a\_star: to search for the shortest distance between the start & goal points through the graph, if there is any. Then return the result by passing the path points on the graph and its cost if it has found a route.

```
•def a_star(graph, h, start, goal):
     Modified A* to work with NetworkX graphs.
     print("Finding best route ...")
     path = []
    queue = PriorityQueue()
     queue.put((0, start))
     visited = set(start)
    branch = {}
     found = False
     while not queue.empty():
        item = queue.get()
        current_node = item[1]
        if current_node == start:
            current_cost = 0.0
            current_cost = branch[current_node][0]
         if current_node == goal:
             print('Found a path.')
             found = True
             for node in graph[current_node]:
                 next_node = node
                 branch_cost = current_cost + graph[current_node][node]['weight']
                 queue_cost = branch_cost + h(next_node, goal)
                 if next node not in visited:
                     visited.add(next node)
                     branch[next_node] = (branch_cost, current_node)
                     queue.put((queue_cost, next_node))
     if found:
        n = goal
        path_cost = branch[n][0]
        path.append(goal)
         while branch[n][1] != start:
             path.append(branch[n][1])
             n = branch[n][1]
        path.append(branch[n][1])
         print('Failed to find a path!, please try again')
         print('***************************
```

And I will use the same Heuristic function provided

#### 7- Back to our planning\_motion.py file:

After setting the goal values, we need to pass the obstacles data to extract the polygon of it by a safety distance ...

```
168
169 polygons = extract_polygons(data, SAFETY_DISTANCE)
170
```

Then sampling some points randomly in the margins of our map represented in the obstacles data, also to make it more precise I reduced this margins to be a square with a side of the length of 1.5 times the biggest distance between the start and the goal in north & east directions, then filter these points by the **collides** function ...

```
print("sampling points ...")
map_xmin = np.min(data[:, 0] - data[:, 3])
map_xmax = np.max(data[:, 0] + data[:, 3])
map_ymin = np.min(data[:, 1] - data[:, 4])
map_ymax = np.max(data[:, 1] + data[:, 4])
north_max = np.max(np.array([start[0], goal[0]]))
north_min = np.min(np.array([start[0], goal[0]]))
east_max = np.max(np.array([start[1], goal[1]]))
east_min = np.min(np.array([start[1], goal[1]]))
bigger_side = np.max(np.array([(north_max - north_min)/4, (east_max - east_min)/4]))
n_max = north_max + bigger_side
n_min = north_max - bigger_side
e_max = east_max + bigger_side
e_min = east_min - bigger_side
scope_nmax = np.min(np.array([map_xmax, n_max]))
scope_nmin = np.max(np.array([map_xmin, n_min]))
scope_emax = np.min(np.array([map_ymax, e_max]))
scope_emin = np.max(np.array([map_ymin, e_min]))
zmin = np.int32(TARGET_ALTITUDE)
zmax = np.int32(TARGET_ALTITUDE)
num_samples = 20
xvals = np.random.uniform(scope_nmin, scope_nmax, num_samples).astype(int)
yvals = np.random.uniform(scope_emin, scope_emax, num_samples).astype(int)
zvals = np.random.uniform(zmin, zmax, num_samples).astype(int)
samples = list(zip(xvals, yvals, zvals))
```

Note that here I limited the margin in the height direction (zmax & zmin) by our altitude to make our sampling margin even more precise

And so we keep the filtered points in a list (to\_keep).

```
to_keep = []
to_keep.append((np.int32(start[0]), np.int32(start[1]), np.int32(TARGET_ALTITUDE))) #np.int32(z)
to_keep.append((np.int32(goal[0]), np.int32(goal[1]), np.int32(-goal[2])))
to_keep.append((np.int32(goal[0]), np.int32(goal[1]), np.int32(-goal[2])))
for point in samples:
    if not collides(polygons, point):
    to_keep.append(point)
print(to_keep)
```

Now it's time to make our graph based representation of the environment, so we pass the sample points, polygons, and the number of which each point will be connected to the 4 nearest available points to it ...

```
g = create_graph(to_keep, 4, polygons)
print("Number of edges", len(g.edges))
```

Finally, we run our a\_star function to find the best route between the start and the goal positions, if there is any. so we pass to it our graph, heuristic function, start, and goal points.

And print the numbers of nodes & the cost of the path (which is the distance here) ...

```
a_start = (np.int32(start[0]), np.int32(start[1]), np.int32(TARGET_ALTITUDE))
a_goal = (np.int32(goal[0]), np.int32(goal[1]), np.int32(-goal[2]))

#print(type(a_start), type(a_goal))

path, cost = a_star(g, heuristic, a_start, a_goal)

print("Number of nodes in the Path:", len(path))

print("Path Cost: ", cost)
```

# 8- Once it finishes the search, we pass the returned path to extract the waypoints from it ...

```
# Convert path to waypoints

# waypoints = [[p[0] + north_offset, p[1] + east_offset, TARGET_ALTITUDE, 0] for p in path]

waypoints = [[int(p[0]), int(p[1]), int(p[2]), 0] for p in path]

print(waypoints)

# Set self.waypoints

self.waypoints = waypoints

# TODO: send waypoints to sim (this is just for visualization of waypoints)

self.send_waypoints()
```

Important to mention that I used limited number of sample points and the number of connections between sample points to avoid making the processing last more than 1 minute or error message will appear.

#### And below I've taken some screenshots of the simulator while it runs ©

















