

AI project

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Introduction

The purpose of this project is to simulate an automated vacuum cleaner (AUC). We will represent a room as a 2D plane which has clean and dirty points/tiles. There will also be obstacles in the room such as furniture which would obstruct paths for a vacuum. The goal of the vacuum cleaner is to clear all the dirty points/tiles and navigate/find a path around the obstacles in the room.

In the project we will implement a variety of different vacuums and study its impact on performance. There have been several papers written on the study of automated vacuum cleaners. IRobots Roomba is an example of such a robot, we will study this implementation when developing our own algorithms.

Experiment Implementation

The project implemented 6 distinct vacuum robots. Each Robot has a different set of percepts, and the algorithm is adjusted to deal with it.

The following is a list of the capabilities of each Vacuum robot.

1. **Preloaded Map:** Before the cleaning begins a map of the world is loaded into each the vacuum robot.
2. **Store explored nodes:** As the vacuum robot moves through the world it is allowed to store with infinite storage the tiles where it has been and the status of that tile
3. **Dirt Sensor:** A vacuum is allowed to sense the status of the tile that it is currently on.
4. **Proximity Sensor:** the vacuum robot has the ability to know when it is close to a wall.

Program 1

Preloaded Map	Yes
Store explored nodes	Yes
Dirt Sensor	Yes
Proximity Sensor	No

This program was implemented by making an algorithm...
We discovered that this program did something...

Program 2

Preloaded Map	Yes
Store explored nodes	No
Dirt Sensor	Yes
Proximity Sensor	No

This program was implemented by making an algorithm...
We discovered that this program did something...

Program 3

Preloaded Map	Yes
Store explored nodes	Yes
Dirt Sensor	No
Proximity Sensor	Yes

This program was implemented by making an algorithm...
We discovered that this program did something...

Program 4

Preloaded Map	No
Store explored nodes	No
Dirt Sensor	Yes
Proximity Sensor	Yes

This program was implemented by mimicking the 'Roomba's algorithm. The algorithm creates a spiral from the starting position outward. Once the proximity sensor detects a wall the algorithm changes. The new algorithm will choose a random direction, and continue straight along that direction until the proximity sensor detects another wall, at which point another random direction is chosen.

The largest hurdle with this program was finding the best equation to calculate a spiral. At each step in the simulation a new direction was calculated using the following equation. $22.5 - (e^x * 45)$ where time x was decremented by 0.01 during each step. The program in theory appeared to be quite efficient, however when run we saw that it had difficulty even completing a 10% in a timely manner. I attribute this to some tweaking that is necessary on the spiral formula. I believe it is going over the same places too much, however given our grid approach any more aggressive spiraling would result in a missed grid item in the center.

Program 5

Preloaded Map	Yes
Store explored nodes	Yes
Dirt Sensor	No
Proximity Sensor	No

This program was implemented by making an algorithm...
We discovered that this program did something...

Program 6

Preloaded Map	No
Store explored nodes	No
Dirt Sensor	Yes
Proximity Sensor	No

This program was implemented by making an algorithm...
We discovered that this program did something...

Program X

Preloaded Map	No
Store explored nodes	Yes
Dirt Sensor	No
Proximity Sensor	No

This program is allowed to maintain a list of the grid spaces where it has visited. It is allowed to know where each of these grid places are in relation to its current location. The algorithm used in this program will attempt to try and keep the vacuum close to the grid items that were previously visited. To do this the following steps are taken.

1. Get a list of all the possible steps we can take.
2. for each step determine a ranking. This is calculated by summing the distance to each of the existing items.
3. choose the step with the highest rank.

If a spot is chosen that is outside of the grid, the program essentially loses a turn. We also try to avoid revisiting grid places where we have already been. To do this if a possible location turns up in our visited list, then we increase the rank. Essentially moving the rank high enough that other options even if they move away from the existing cluster will be chosen. Thus the rank equation is as follows.

$$Rank = \begin{cases} visited = False : \sum distance(visited) \\ visited = True : sizeOf(Visited) \end{cases}$$

Program Y

Preloaded Map	No
Store explored nodes	Yes
Dirt Sensor	No
Proximity Sensor	Yes

This program is an extension of the 'store explored' program. One of the things we noticed about the store explored was that depending on where it started we could get into a situation where we had finished the middle of the room, and 1 side, but needed to complete the other side. To do this we have to cross the already cleaned region, which our algorithm did not handle elegantly.

Adding a proximity sensor the the vacuum robot allowed us to do the following. When the robot first starts cleaning it

chooses a single direction. Once it reaches a wall it then begins the existing algorithm from the 'store explored' robot. This the robot can start cleaning on 1 side of the room, and not have to back track. The result was improved cleaning times.

Results

We found the following.

	avg % cleaned
P1	15
P2	45
P3	84
P4	56
P5	77
P6	1

Conclusion

References

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