

Qualitative Autonomous Navigation System Employing Event Driven-Fuzzy Cognitive Maps and Fuzzy Logic

MÁRCIO MENDONÇA¹, LÚCIA VALÉRIA RAMOS DE ARRUDA¹, FLÁVIO NEVES JÚNIOR¹

*Laboratório de Automação e Sistemas Avançados LASCA, UTFPR – Universidade Tecnológica Federal do Paraná
Curitiba – Pr, Brasil, {mendonca,lvrrarruda,neves}@utfpr.edu.br*

Abstract— This work develops a knowledge based system to autonomous navigation using Fuzzy Cognitive Maps (FCM). A new variant of FCM, named Event Driven-Fuzzy Cognitive Maps, (ED-FCM) is used to model decision tasks and/or make inference in the robot or mobile navigation. Fuzzy Cognitive Maps is a tool that modeling qualitative knowledge in minds maps structured way through concepts and causal relationships. The proposed model allows representing the dynamic behavior of the mobile in presence of environment changes. A brief review of correlated works in the navigation area by use of FCM is presented. Some simulation results are discussed highlighting the ability of the mobile to navigate among obstacle (navigation environment). A comparative with Fuzzy Logic and future works are also addressed.

Keywords— Mobile Robot Navigation, Fuzzy Cognitive Maps, Inference Systems, Intelligent decision systems.

Resumo— Este trabalho apresenta um desenvolvimento de um sistema autônomo inteligente de navegação baseado em Mapas Cognitivos Difusos (FCM). Uma nova arquitetura FCM, denominada Event Driven-Fuzzy Cognitive Maps (ED-FCM), é usada para modelar tarefas de decisões e/ou fazer inferências em um robô ou veículo de navegação. FCM é uma ferramenta empregada para modelar conhecimento qualitativo em uma estrutura baseada em mapas mentais através de conceitos e relações causais. O modelo proposto permite representar comportamento dinâmico através de mudanças no cenário. Uma breve revisão de trabalhos correlatos da área de navegação empregando FCM é apresentada. Simulações mostram desempenho e resultados para se avaliar a navegação entre obstáculos. Uma comparação com controladores fuzzy é também realizada.

Palavras-chave— Navegação autônoma, Mapas Cognitivos Difusos, Máquinas de Inferência, Sistemas Inteligentes em tomadas de decisão.

1 Introduction

Currently there is a growing interest in the development of autonomous robots and vehicles, mainly because of the great diversity of tasks that can be carried out by them, especially those that endanger human health and/or the environment Asami (1994)-Schraff (1994). As an example, we can cite a Mandow and co worker (1996), which describes an autonomous mobile robot for use in agriculture, in order to replace the human worker, through inhospitable activities as spraying with insecticides. The problem of mobile robots control comprises two main sub problems: 1) navigation, determining of robot/vehicle position and orientation at a given time, and 2) guided tours, which refers to the control path to be followed by the robot/vehicle. This work specifically proposes the development of an autonomous navigation system that uses heuristic knowledge about the behavior of the robot/vehicle in various situations, modeled by fuzzy cognitive maps Kosko (1986).

Through cognitive maps, beliefs or statements regarding a limited knowledge domain are expressed through language words or phrases, interconnected by simple relationship of cause and effect (question/non-question). In our proposed model, the FCM

relationships are dynamically adapted by rules that are triggered by the occurrence of special events. These events must change mobile behavior. There are various works in the literature that model heuristic knowledge necessary for decision-making in autonomous navigation, by means of Fuzzy systems Siraj, Bridges and Vaughn (2001), Malhotra and Sarkar (2006), Astudillo and co workers (2006), Min and co workers (2006), Pipe (2000) and Yeap, Wong and Schmidt (2000). In a similar way, the approach proposed in this paper build qualitative models to mobile navigation by means of fuzzy systems. However the knowledge is structured and built as a cognitive map that represents the behavior of the mobile.

Originally are modeled the actions of a change of direction and speed to obstacles deviation. These obstacles can be static or dynamic characterizing sudden changes in the environment. Thus, the proposed autonomous navigation system must be able to take dynamic decisions to move through the environment and sometimes it must change the trajectory as a result of an event. For this the proposed FCM model must aggregate discrete and continuous knowledge about navigation. Actions such as the decision to turn left or right when sensors accuse obstacles and accelerate when there is a free path are always valid control actions in all circumstances. In this way, this type of action is modeled as causal relationship in a

classical FCM. However, there are specific situations, such as the need to maintain a trend of motion mainly in curves when the vehicle is turning left and sensors to accuse a new obstacle in the same direction. Due to inertia and physical restrictions, the mobile cannot abruptly change direction; this type of maneuver must be carefully executed. In this context, some specific situations should also be modeled on the map by causal relationships and concepts, but they are valid just as a result of a decision-making task caused by ongoing events. To implement such a strategy, new type of relationships and concepts will be added to the FCM classic model. This new type of FCM in which the concepts and relationships are valid as a result of decision driven by events is called Event Driven-FCM, and it is used in this paper to formalize a computational intelligent hybrid system oriented by dynamic events.

The remainder of the paper is organized as following. Session 2 introduces Fuzzy Cognitive Maps concepts and provides a brief review of its application in autonomous navigation. Session 3 describes the proposed ED-FCM and develops the autonomous navigation system. Session 4 presents same simulation results obtained with the proposed navigation system and fuzzy logic navigation system and session 5 concludes the paper and suggests future works

2 Fuzzy Cognitive Maps

Cognitive maps were initially proposed by Axelrod (1976) to represent words, thoughts, tasks, or other items linked to a central concept and willing radially around this concept. Axelrod developed also a mathematical treatment for these maps, based in graph theory, and operations with matrices. These maps can thus be considered as a mathematical model of "belief structure" of a person or group, allowing you to infer or predicting the consequences that this organization of ideas represented in the universe. This mathematical model was adapted for inclusion of Fuzzy logic uncertainty through by Kosko (1986) generating widespread fuzzy cognitive maps. Like the original, FCMs are directional graph, in which the numeric values are fuzzy sets or variables. The "graph nodes", associated to linguistic concepts, are represented by fuzzy sets and each "node" is linked with other through connections. Each of these connections has a numerical value (weight), which represents a fuzzy variable related to the strength of the concepts. A cognitive map example is given in Figure 1 and its connection matrix or equivalent weights matrix is given by equation (1).

The concepts of a cognitive map can be updated through the iteration with other concepts and with its own value. This is given by the equation (2) where the causal relationships are represented by the weight of the summation. In short, the values of the concepts will evolve after several iterations until normally stabilize a fixed point or a cycle limit.

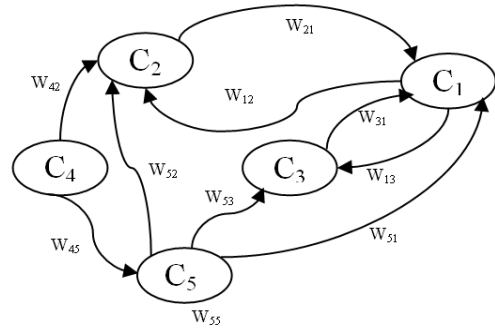


Fig.1. One Cognitive Map

$$W = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & w_{12} & w_{13} & 0 & 0 \\ w_{21} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ w_{31} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & w_{42} & 0 & 0 & w_{45} \\ w_{51} & w_{52} & w_{53} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

$$A_i = f \left(\sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^n (A_j \times W_{ji}) + A_i^{\text{previous}} \right) \quad (2)$$

Where k is the counter of iterations, n is the number of nodes in the graph, W_{ij} is the weight of the arc that connects the concept C_j and C_i , A_i (A_i^{previous}) is the value of concept (C_i) at the current (previous) iteration and the function f is a sigmoid type function:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\lambda x}} \quad (3)$$

In this context, a FCM uses a structured knowledge representation through causal relationships being calculated mathematically from matrix operations, unlike much of intelligent systems whose knowledge representation is based on rules if-then type. However, due to this "rigid" knowledge representation by means of graph and matrix operation, the FCM based inference models lack robustness in presence of dynamic modifications not a priori modeled Chun-Mei (2008). To circumvent this problem, this article develops a new type of FCM in which concepts and causal relationships are dynamically inserted into the graph from the occurrence of events. In this way, the new event driven-fuzzy cognitive map model is able to dynamically acquire and use the heuristic knowledge. The proposed ED-FCM and its application in autonomous navigation will be developed and validated in the following sections.

2.1 FCM in Intelligent Obstacle Navigation

As Some related works which use cognitive maps in the robotics research area can be found in the literature. Among them, we can cite the work in Min and co workers (2006) that employs probabilistic FCM in the decision-making of a robot soccer team. These actions are related to the behavior of the team, such as kick the ball in presence of opponents. The probabilistic FCM aggregates a likelihood function to update the concepts of the map. A Fuzzy cognitive map is used by Yeap and co workers (2000) and Pipe (2000) to guide an autonomous robot. The FCM is designed from a priori knowledge of experts and afterwards it is refined by a genetic algorithm. Despite of the use of a known trajectory, actions are necessary due to errors and uncertainties inherent in the displacement of the robot, such as slippage, reading errors of the sensors, among others. A review of other related works employing intelligent navigation in robotics can be found in Yeap, Wong and Schmidt (2000). This paper also presents a Cognitive Map to implement a 3-D representation of the environment where an autonomous robot must navigate. The described architecture use a previously stored neural network based model to implement adjustments and course corrections of the robot in presence of noise and sensor errors. Similar to these works, we also use a fuzzy cognitive map to navigation tasks. However our navigation system does not use a priori information about the environment. The FCM represent the usual navigation actions as turn right, turn left, accelerate and others. The adaptation ability to environment changes and to take decisions in presence of random events is reached by means of a rule based system. These rules are triggered in accordance of “intensity” of the sensor measurements.

2.2 The ED-FCM Model

The development of a FCM model follows the steps listed in table 1. In the step 1, we identify 3 inputs related to the description of the environment (presence of obstacles) and 3 outputs describing the mobile's movements: turn left, turn right and move forward. The three inputs take values from the three sensors located at left, right and front side of the mobile. These concepts are connected by arcs representing the actions of acceleration (positive) and braking (negative). Three decisions are originally modeled, if left sensor accuses an obstacle in this position, the vehicle must turn to the right side and equally if the right sensor accuses an obstacle in the right side, the vehicle turns to the other side. The direction change decision implies smoothly vehicle deceleration. The third decision is related to a free obstacle environment; in this case the mobile follows a straight line accelerating smoothly.

Table 1. Building FCM models

Step 1:	Identification of concepts and their roles (input, output, and selection), their interconnections, and/or selection of relationships determining their causal nature (positive, negative, neutral).
Step 2:	Initial data acquisition, through expert opinion and / or analysis of a mathematical model, or data analysis.
Step 3:	Submission of data concerning the views of various experts' to a logical fuzzy system that has as output the values of FCM weights.
Step 4:	Treatment of information, adaptation and optimization of FCM by adjusting their answers to the desired output.
Step 5:	Validation of FCM model that is tested in the operation conditions of the system modeled.

The initial FCM after execution of steps 1 to 4 is showed in figure 2. The input concepts are SL, SR and SF and the output concepts are OutLeft, OutRigth and OutFront. The values of the concepts are the readings of the corresponding sensors. As a fuzzy number, these values are normalized into the interval [0, 1]. The relationships among these concepts are modeled by weights w_1 to w_5 which are computed by equation (2). It is worthwhile to note in figure 2, that the concepts O.L. (-1) and O.R. (-1) are the values of the concepts in the previous state. This representation is equivalent to insert negative values (-1) in the corresponding diagonal positions of matrix W in equation (2). We choose to retain this representation to highlight that some concepts has memory. In this case, the mobile can remember the actions taken to turn left or right and a zig-zag motion is prevented. As a result the mobile can maintain a movement trend.

In order to model the adaptation ability, we introduce 3 new concepts into the FCM associated to an “intensity” of motion (acceleration or braking) at each direction. There are left factor, right factor and front factor in figure 2. The factor concepts have their values changed according to the current condition of the vehicle motion and the occurrence of events. These events are modeled by the weights ws in figure 2 which are obtained by applying the rules of type IF-THEN based on linguistic terms. These rules represent some decisions such as if the mobile is turning right because the left sensor has detected an obstacle and suddenly the right sensor also detects an obstacle then the factor right is small (ws_3). The default value to factor concepts is one. If any rule is triggered the weights ws are null. Finally the outputs of the ED-FCM are the product between the factor concepts and the output of classical FCM (OutLeft, OutRigth and OutFront).

In conclusion, the proposed ED-FCM navigation system confers to the robot/vehicle the following behavior:

- The mobile is autonomous and it moves into unknown environment from an origin point to an end point.
- If an obstacle is detected by the sensors in front, left and/or right positions the mobile must take a decision about new direction to follow.
- Default navigation position is in a straight line with constant speed, i.e. lateral move-

ments are used only as a result of obstacle detection.

- When the mobile is in motion and the sensors don't identify any obstacle, the mobile accelerates smoothly and then it remains in a constant speed.
- Motion trend corresponds to an average between the current movement values and the values in immediately before instant, which prevents any sharp changes in direction of the mobile navigation.
- When the mobile is turning in left or right direction and the opposite sensor detects an obstacle, the motion trend is maintained but the mobile is softly breaking until to reestablish a straight movement. These events are modeled by selection relations, WS_2 which are in fact (IF-THEN) rules.

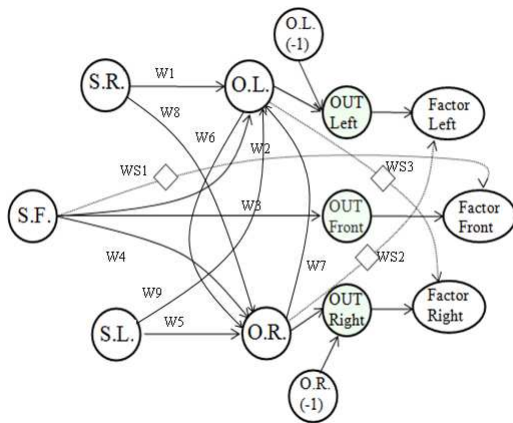


Fig.2. The proposed ED-FCM

Intelligent control architecture to the navigation system is shown in Figure 3. The input interface read the sensor measurements which are inversely proportional to the distance of obstacles. The ED-FCM is the inference engine that gathers the input data and the knowledge (values of weights W and WS) to take a decision about the movement of the robot/vehicle. The Rule Base block represents the heuristic knowledge to take decision in presence of conflicting events.

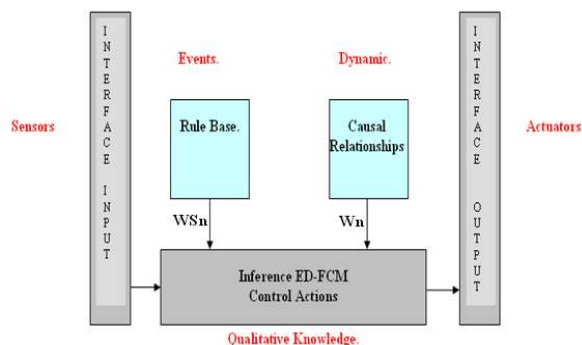


Fig 3. ED-FCM Navigation System Architecture

The Causal Relationship block represents the structured knowledge about navigation. Thus, according to the inference result, control actions are sent to the actuator by means of an output interface.

A system of autonomous navigation using fuzzy logic was implemented in order to assess performance, outcomes and differences in acquisition and processing of empirical knowledge used in developing the tool presented fuzzy logic. In this context, The Work of the Harish and co workers (2008) is similar and presents a fuzzy control strategy similar, but only to calculate the desired speed mobile using 8 rules and input variables as the turning angle and distance of the obstacle. The Fuzzy system is implemented in this work is type Mandani with 3 inputs, 3 outputs and employs 23 rules for abstraction of the same heuristic logic navigation controller inserted in the ED-FCM. The inputs are the sensors, right, left and front and outputs are turning right, left and accelerate. These rules were implemented in an intuitive way according to heuristic ED-FCM. For example, four rules taken from the complete rulebase (23 rules):

- IF the right sensor is strong then turn left strong.
- IF the right sensor is weak then turn left weak.
- IF right sensor and frontal sensor very strong then weak accelerate and turn left very strong
- IF right, left and frontal sensor weak then accelerate Strong.

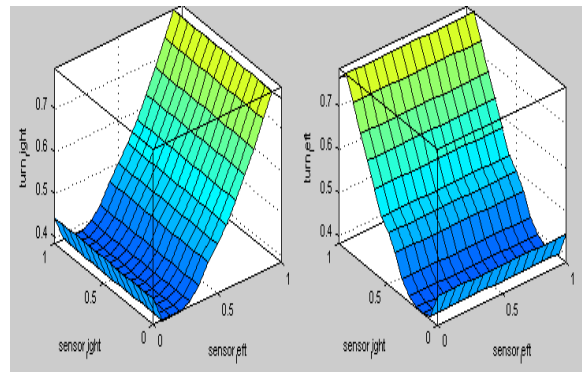


Fig 4. Surface Fuzzy (sensor right, left – turn right, left)

Figure 4 shows the behavior of dynamic fuzzy system through two outputs (turn right and turn left), with input from the sensors right and left.

3 Simulation results

The 2-D animation simulated environment has been designed to test and validate our proposed navigation system. In this environment, the "asterisks" with lighter shade represent the obstacles. The mobile is represented by the memory of movement through a three

strong tones trail. In the experiment with a dynamic obstacle, that is the obstacle is in movement, one blue trail also appears in the figure 5, 6. The dimension of the scenario is given in centimeters.

The kinematic equations simulating the robot dynamic behavior has been inspired by Malhotra and Sarkar (2005). In fact, the simulated robot corresponds to a mobile platform with two micro metal gearmotors, and three sensors, one frontal, and two in each side similar to the educational robot in SPARKFUNEletronics (2009). The sensors are ultrasound ones, and thus the perception of barrier or obstacle exist only within a scope zone of sensor. Moreover the intensity of the sensor measure is inversely proportional to the distance of the object.

This simulation environment has served initially to knowledge acquisition through observation data input and output, and observation of robot behavior in several situations. Afterwards, two experiments were performed to validate the ED-FCM and Fuzzy System navigation systems. In the first and second experiments, two different scenarios with static and dynamics obstacles have been simulated.

The first experiment a dynamic obstacle is randomly inserted into the environment, during the robot navigation. The results are presented in figures 5 and 6. The second experiment the obstacle with coordinates (4,100) is surprise, thus after the mobile executed half of the trajectory, this object enters in scenario. The results are presented in figures 7 and 8. In these figures, the left graphic shows the scenario (x-y plan) with the initial (10,0) and end point (near 0,160) of the robot trajectory. The graphic shows the dynamic trajectory followed by the robot. The apparent flaws in the trajectory represent the speedup, when sensors do not "see" an obstacle and the robot accelerates. In all experiments, we consider that the robot successfully attains the target point if its final position is into a horizontal interval $[-8, +8]$ around the desired end point in this range.

In the every scenario, example (figure 5), there is a critical situation around the position $y=140$. In this case, the robot must to take the decision of to move straight, pass between the two obstacles and immediately to turn left to avoid a frontal barrier and to attain the target point. By analyzing the results in figure 5 until 8 we note that the robot takes the correct decisions.

The trend of movement of the robot is to stay straight until the end point. But, for example, if an obstacle begins to cross the robot trajectory in the left position ($x=-15, y=82$), the robot makes a decision to turn to the opposite side, as shown in figure (5, 6). In the second scenario (figure 7, 8), an obstacle appears in the position (7, 96) when the robot is passing by (6, 88) position. The robot takes the correct decision to turn in order to avoid a collision but it also maintains the motion trend of follow a straight line. But the fuzzy control has more difficulty to avoid the next obstacle (figure 7, 8). Some other scenarios with different obstacles positions and events occurrences have been tested. Like for these 2 scenarios, the robots always get the final the target position and successful implemented collision avoidance

maneuvers. These results validate the proposed navigation systems.

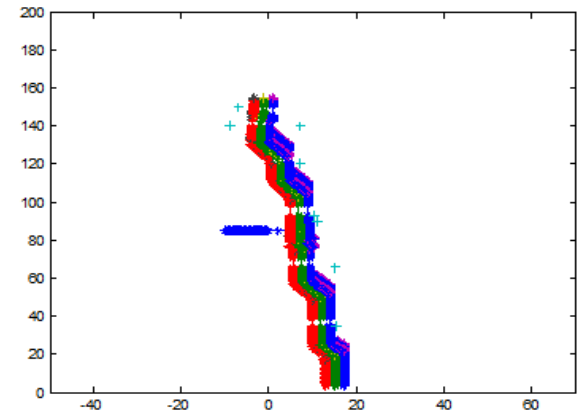


Fig.5. ED-FCM in dynamic trajectory

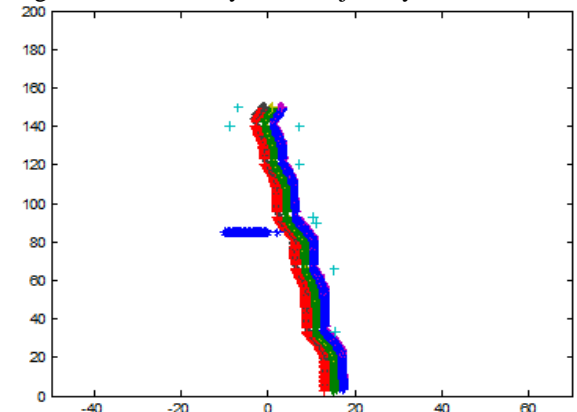


Fig.6. Fuzzy logic in dynamic trajectory

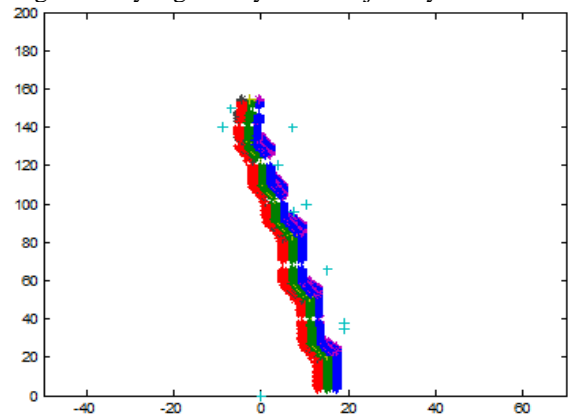


Fig.7. ED-FCM in static trajectory and object surprise

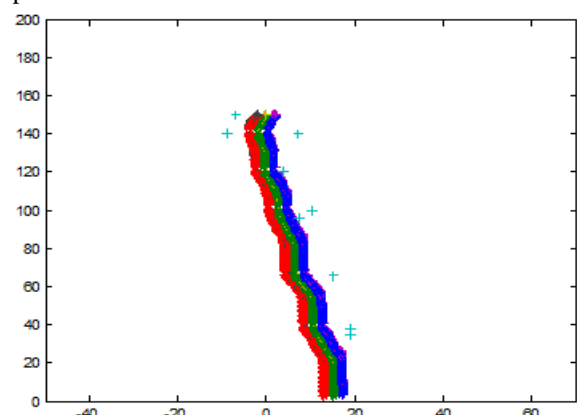


Fig.8. Fuzzy in static trajectory and object surprise

4 Conclusion

This paper developed an autonomous navigation system based on a new type of fuzzy cognitive maps, named event driven-fuzzy cognitive map, ED-FCM. The developed ED-FCM approach adds new types of relationships and concepts into a classical FCM that allows modeling the human ability of to take decision in presence of random events. The human knowledge is represented by a rule based system that is triggered when critical situation occurs. As a result, the inference engine adds temporally concepts and relationships into the FCM. This approach is a contribution of this paper to the intelligent control area. It is not restricted to navigation systems and can be applied to model intelligent system needing to take decision on line.

In accordance with the results presented in this paper, we can conclude that the proposed ED-FCM architecture constitutes a flexible and robust tool to navigation system able to process vagueness and uncertainty in environment. One of the main advantages of the proposed approach is that the knowledge acquisition and representation is simplified by the use of FCM models. For example, the number of rules is fewer than Fuzzy logic controller. ED-FCM uses structured knowledge, and uses only three rules (one rule for each relationship selection WS_n), see figure 2. Moreover the resulting fuzzy cognitive maps are also easy to implement and run. Thus, it is easily embedded in a hardware robot.

The results of the two systems were similar, a minimum benefit for the ED-FCM in the first experiment getting better align the trajectory after the appearance of the surprise obstacle. This result is due to its ability to adapt to events. However, in future work we intend to explore the adaptation of the building due to its structured and develop algorithms for adjustment of the causal relationships and / or selection factor during the execution of the mobile trajectory.

Some future works include implementing additional functionality into the navigation system, such as for example, a module of the energy management and monitoring of vehicle in decision-making refueling and/or navigation speed control. Add algorithms, for example, reinforcement learning, for the dynamic adjustment of the causal relations of ED-FCM. This algorithms goal to increase the adaptability of the navigation system. Experiment in real environments conclude that future proposals.

References

- Asami, S. (1994). Robots in Japan: Present and Future. IEEE Robotics and Automation Magazine, vol. 1, no. 2, pp. 22-26.
- Astudillo L., Castillo O., Melin P., Alanis A., Soria J., Aguilar L. T. (2006). Intelligent Control of an Autonomous Mobile Robot using Type-2 Fuzzy Logic. Engineering Letters, vol. 13, no. 2.
- Axelrod, R. (1976). Structure of Decision: the Cognitive Maps of Political Elites. Princeton University Press, New Jersey.
- Chun-Mei, L. (2008). Using fuzzy cognitive map for system control. *WTOS* 7, 12 (Dec. 2008), 1504-1515.
- Harisha S.K., Ramkanth Kumar P., M. Krishna, and S. C. Sharma. (2008). Fuzzy Logic Reasoning to Control Mobile Robot on Pre-defined Strip Path. *Proceedings of World Academy Of Science, Engineering and Technology* Volume 32 August 2008 ISSN 2070-3740.
- Kosko, B. (1986). Fuzzy Cognitive Maps, *Int.J. Man-Machine Studies*, 24, p.65-75.
- Malhotra R. and Sarkar A. (2005). . Development of a fuzzy logic based mobile robot for dynamic obstacle avoidance and goal acquisition in an unstructured environment. *Proceedings of the 2005 IEEE/ASME International Monterey, California, USA, 24-28 July*.
- Mandow, A., Gomes-de-Gabriel, J.M., Martínéz, J.L., Muñoz, V.F., Ollero A., García-Cerezo, A. (1996). The Autonomous Mobile Robot AURORA for Greenhouse Operation. *IEEE Robotics and Automation Magazine*, vol. 3, no. 4, pp. 18-28.
- Min H.Q, Hui J.X, Lu Y-S, Jiang Jz. (2006). Probability Fuzzy Cognitive Map for Decision-making in Soccer Robotics. *Proceedings of the IEEE/WIC/ACM International Conference on Intelligent Agent Technology (IAT'06)* 0-7695-2748-5/06.
- Pipe A. G. (2000). An Architecture for Building "Potential Field" Cognitive Maps in Mobile Robot Navigation. *Adaptive Behavior*, vol. 8, no. 2, 173-203.
- Schraff, R.D.. *Mechatronics and Robotics for Service Applications*. (1994). IEEE Robotics and Automation Magazine, vol. 1, no. 4, pp. 31-35.
- Siraj A., Bridges S., Vaughn, R. (2001). "Fuzzy Cognitive Maps for Decision Support in an Intelligent Intrusion Detection System", Technical Report, Department of Computer Science, Mississippi State University. MS 39762.
- SPARKFUNElectronics.(2009).http://www.sparkfun.com/commerce/product_info.php?products_id=9211.
- Yeap, W. K., Wong, C. K., and Schmidt, J. (2006). Initial experiments with a mobile robot on cognitive mapping. In *Proceedings of the 2006 International Symposium on Practical Cognitive Agents and Robots*, Perth, Australia, November 27 – 28.