Computational Geometry and Geometric Computing

Robot Motion Planning

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.



Overview

- Introduction
- Motion Planning
- Configuration Space
- Sampling-Based Motion Planning
- Comparaison of related Algorithms











 Robot motion planning encompasses several different disciplines

Most notably robotics, computer science, control theory and mathematics

This volume presents an interdisciplinary account of recent developments in the field



 Most important in robotics is to have algorithms that convert highlevel specifications of tasks from humans into low-level descriptions of how to move

Motion planning and trajectory
 planning are often used for these
 kinds of problems



Motion Planning

Given a robot, find a sequence of valid configurations that moves the robot from the source to destination





Piano Mover's Motion Planning

Assume: A computer-aided design
(CAD) model of a house and a piano
as input to an algorithm

 Required: Move the piano from one room to another in the house without hitting anything





Piano Mover's Motion Planning

Robot motion planning usually ignores dynamics and other differential constraints and focuses primarily on the translations and rotations required to move the piano



Trajectory Planning

By Trajectory Planning we are using robot coordinates because it's easier, but we loose visualization





Piano Mover's Trajectory planning

Taking the solution from a robot motion planning algorithm

Determining how to move along the solution in a way that respects the mechanical limitations of the robot

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We consider planning as a branch of algorithms

 The focus here includes numerous concepts that are not necessarily algorithmic but aid in modeling, solving, and analyzing planning problems



Planning involves:

State Space: captures all possible situations that could arise (Position, Orientation)

– Time: Sequence of decisions that must be applied over time

Action: Manipulate the state and it must be specified how the state changes when action are applied



- Initial and goal states: Starting in some initial state and trying to arrive at a specified goal state
- A criterion: Encodes the desired outcome of a plan in terms of the state and actions that are executed and consist of two types, Feasibility and Optimality

A plan: imposes a specific strategy or behavior on a decision maker Page 13



Compute motion strategies:

- Geometric paths
- Time-parameterized trajectories
- Sequence of sensor-based motion commands

Achieve high-level goals:

- Go to the door and do not collide
 with obstacles
- Build a map of the hallway
- Find and track the target



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 - Configuration Space
- Configuration Space
- Comparaison of related Algorithms



- Work Space: Environment in which robot operates
- Obstacles: Already occupied spaces of the world.
- Free Space: Unoccupied space of the world



Continuous representation Discretization Graph searching (blind, best-first, A*)

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Motion Planning Geometric Representation and Transformation

Geometric modeling consist on two alternatives:

- A Boundary Representation
- A Solid Representation



Geometric Representation and Transformation

Let's define the world \mathcal{W} for which there are two possible choices: 1) a 2D world, in which $\mathcal{W} = \mathbb{R}^2$ 2) a 3D world, in which $\mathcal{W} = \mathbb{R}^3$



- Obstacles: Portions of the world that are "permanently" occupied
- Robots: Bodies that are modeled geometrically and are controllable via a motion plan

Both are considered as Subset of w

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Geometric Representation and Transformation

- The obstacle region \mathcal{O} denote the set of all points in W that lie in one or more obstacles: Hence, $\mathcal{O} \subseteq \mathcal{W}$
- *O* is a combination of Boolean
 primitives H
- Each primitives H is easy to represent and manipulate

Geometric Representation and Transformation

Let's consider obstacle O as Convex Polygons





Convex Non Convex Case of Non convex is returned to the convex representation

 $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}_1 \cup \mathcal{O}_2 \cup \dots \cup \mathcal{O}_{Rage 23}$

Geometric Representation and Transformation

- Primitives H are presented by a set of two points (x,y)
- Each two points describe a line
 ax + by + c = 0
 f(x,y) = ax + by + c is positive from
 - one side and negative from the

other side



Geometric Representation and Transformation

Obstacle is defined by a set of vertices (corner) or lines (edges) described by pairs of two points



Motion Planning Geometric Representation and Transformation Example:



m = 1...4

 $\mathcal{O} = H_1 \cap H_2 \cap \cdots \cap H_m$ Page 26

Geometric Representation and Transformation

- In 3D, the representation with primitives is similar to 2D
- Instead of Polygons, we use Polyhedral
 - The lines became planes



Motion Planning Geometric Representation and Transformation Semi-Algebraic Models: $H = \{(x, y) \in \mathcal{W} \mid f(x, y) \leq 0\}$

f can be any polynomial
For example let's take:



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Motion Planning Geometric Representation and Transformation Other representation Models:

- **3D triangles:** Represent complex geometric shapes as a union of triangles
 - Nonuniform rational B-splines:
 find an Interpolation over a set of points

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Motion Planning Geometric Representation and Transformation Other representation Models:

- 3D triangles:



Nonuniform rational B-splines:

$$C(u) = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i P_i N_{i,k}(u)}{\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i N_{i,k}(u)}$$
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Motion Planning Geometric Representation and Transformation Other representation Models:

Bitmaps: Discretize a bounded portion of the world into rectangular cells



Motion Planning Geometric Representation and Transformation Translation:

 $h(\mathcal{A}) = \{h(a) \in \mathcal{W} \mid a \in \mathcal{A}\}$

- A is the set of Robot points
- h is the transformation applied to each point of A
 - Transformation is defined as below:

$$h(x,y) = (x + x_t, y + y_t)$$

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Motion Planning Geometric Representation and Transformation Translation: Example

Appling h to the Representation H of a disc:



Geometric Representation and Transformation Rotation:

Given the following Rotation Matrix: $R(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$ the set of Robot points get rotated

 $\begin{pmatrix} x\cos\theta - y\sin\theta\\ x\sin\theta + y\cos\theta \end{pmatrix} = R(\theta) \begin{pmatrix} x\\ y \end{pmatrix}$

Geometric Representation and Transformation

A kinematic chain

 Is the assembly of several kinematic pairs connecting rigid body segments



Motion Planning Geometric Representation and Transformation 2D Kinematic Chain:

In the case of two unattached rigid bodies *A1* and *A2*, there is 6 degrees of Freedom, two Rotations and four Translations:

 $x_1, y_1, \theta_1, x_2, y_2, \text{ and } \theta_2$

By attaching bodies, degrees of freedom are removed


Motion Planning

Geometric Representation and Transformation 2D Kinematic Chain: Attaching bodies

 The place at which the links are attached is called a joint

Two types of 2D joints: Prismatic and Revolute



Motion Planning

Geometric Representation and Transformation 2D Kinematic Chain: Attaching bodies

Revolute Joint: allows one link to rotate with respect to the other





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Configuration space (Cspace) = set of all configurations Free space (Cfree) = set of allowed (feasible) configurations Obstacle space (Collistacle) = set of disallowed configurations





Is the set of legal configurations of the robot

It also defines the topology of continuous motion

For rigid-object robots (no joints) there exists:

a transformation to the robot and obstacles that turns the robot into a single point.

The C-Space Transform

Turn Robot to a Point:
Make the Obstacle bigger by applying the Minkowski addition

- The configuration space is the Minkowski sum of the set of obstacles and the robot placed at the origin



The C-Space Transform



2. Robot motion

after C-Space

Transformation

planning Problem

1. Robot motion planning Problem





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The motion planning problem consists of the following:

Input

- geometric descriptions of a robot and its obstacles
- initial and goal configurations

Output

 a path from start to finish (or the Recognition that none exists





Classic Path Planning Approaches

- Roadmap
- Cell decomposition
- Potential field

Cell decomp.

Potential field

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

Roadmap

Represent the connectivity of the free space by a network of 1-D curves, as in *Visibility* or *Voronoi* Diagrams





Cell decomp.

Potential field

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Construct all of the line segments that connect vertices to one another

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

From $\mathcal{C}_{\text{free}}$, a graph is defined

Visibility Diagram

Converts the problem into graph search



Cell decomp.

Potential field



Visibility Diagram

We start by drawing lines of sight from the start and goal to all "visible" vertices and corners of the Configuration Space





Cell decomp.

Potential field

.



Visibility Diagram

Than draw the lines of sight from every vertex of every obstacle like before





Cell decomp.

Potential field

.

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

Visibility Diagram

After connecting all vertices of our obstacles, we obtain following graph



Cell decomp.

Potential field



If there are *n* vertices, the easy algorithm is $O(n^3)$. Slightly tougher $O(n^2 logn)$. $O(n^2)$ in theory.

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

Visibility Diagram

+ Through the founded Graph we could find the most shorter path

But the trajectory is to close to the obstacles



Cell decomp.

Potential field

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

Voronoi Diagram

Set of points equidistant from the closest two or more obstacle boundaries

Maximizing the clearance between the points and obstacles





Voronoi Diagram

 Compute the Voronoi Diagram of Cspace



Cell decomp.

Potential field

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

Voronoi Diagram

 Compute shortest straightline path from start and Goal to closest point on Voronoi Diagram





Voronoi Diagram

 Compute shortest path from start to goal along Voronoi Diagram



Cell decomp.

Potential field

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

Cell decomposition

Decompose the free space into simple cells and represent the connectivity of the free space by the adjacency graph of these cells



Roadmap Cell decomp. Potential field

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

Cell decomposition: Exact decomposition (Trapezoidal)

 Decompose the free space with vertical lines through the vertices without intersecting with the forbidden space





Cell decomposition: Exact decomposition (Trapezoidal)

 Add to the center of each segment and trapezoid a graph node



Cell decomposition: Roadmap Cell decomp. Potential field

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

- Exact decomposition (Trapezoidal)
- Find the shortest path through the obtained graph with a graph search algorithm



Cell decomp.

Potential field

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

Cell decomposition: Approximate decomposition

- One of the most convenient way to make sampling-based planning algorithms is to define a grid over C and conduct a discrete search algorithm
 - **Neighborhoods:** For each grid point *q* we need to define the set of nearby grid points for which an edge may be constructed

Cell decomp.

Potential field

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

Cell decomposition: Approximate decomposition

Once the grid and neighborhoods
have been defined,
a discrete planning
problem is obtained



Cell decomp.

Potential field

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

Cell decomposition: Approximate decomposition

- Decompose the C-Space with a start resolution to cell grid
- Each cell that intersect with obstacles is forbidden
- Is there some path existing?



Cell decomp.

Potential field

If no Path is existing than refine the resolution until a solution is found

Approximate decomposition

S

Cell decomposition:





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Sampling-Based Motion Planning

Cell decomp.

Potential field

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

Potential field

Define a potential function over the free space that has a global minimum at the goal and follow the steepest descent of the potential function



Cell decomp.

Potential field

Potential field

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

–The goal location generates an **attractive potential** – pulling the robot towards the goal

The obstacles generate a repulsive
 potential – pushing the robot far away from
 the obstacles

 The negative gradient of the total potential is treated as an artificial force applied to the robot

Cell decomp.

Potential field

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Artificial Potential

Potential field



Sampling-Based Motion Planning

The sum of the forces control of the robot

Artificial Force Field

 $F(q) = -\nabla U(q)$

Negative gradient



Potential field

Artificial Potential Field (APF) Approach



Cell decomp.

Potential field



 Spatial paths are not preplanned and can be generated in real time

Planning and controlling are merged into one function

Cons

- -Trapped in local minima in the potential field
- Because of this limitation, commonly used for local path planning
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Checking Path Segment

- Collision detection algorithms determine whether a configuration lies in $\mathcal{C}_{\text{free}}$
- Motion planning algorithms require that an entire path maps into $\mathcal{C}_{\text{free}}$
- The interface between the planner and collision detection usually involves validation of a path segment


Checking Path Segment

– For a Path τ_s : [0, 1] $\rightarrow C_{\text{free}}$ a sampling for the interval [0, 1] is calculated

The collision checker is called only on the samples

Problem:

- How a Resolution can be found?
- How to guarantee that the places where the path is not sampled are collision-free?



Checking Path Segment

– A fixed $\Delta q > 0$ is often chosen as the C-space step size

– Points t₁, t₂ \in [0,1] are chosen close enough together to ensure that $\rho(\tau(t_1), \tau(t_2)) \leq \Delta q$, ρ is a metric on C



Checking Path Segment

- If Δq is too small, considerable time is wasted on collision checking (1)

- If Δq is too large, then there is a chance that the robot could jump through a thin obstacle (2)



Checking Path Segment

- Suppose that for a configuration q(xi,yi,O) the collision detection algorithm indicates that A(q) is at least d units away from collision
- Suppose that the next candidate configuration to be checked along τ is $q'(x't,y't,\mathcal{O}')$
 - If no point on A travels more than distance d when moving from q to q' along τ , then q' and all configurations between q and q' must be collision-free Page 76

Checking Path Segment

The bounds *d* can generally be used to set a step size Δq for collision checking that guarantees the intermediate points lie in C_{free}

$$\{(x'_t, y'_t, \theta') \in \mathcal{C}$$

$$x_t - x'_t |+ |y_t - y'_t| + r|\theta - \theta'| < d\}$$

Incremental Sampling and Searching

Most sample-based planning algorithms consisting of single-query model, witch means (q_1, q_G) is given only once per robot and obstacle set, following this template:

- 1. Initialization
- 2. Vertex Selection Method (VSM)
- 3. Local Planning Method (LPM)
- 4. Insert an Edge in the Graph
- 5. Check for a Solution
- 6. Return to Step 2

Incremental Sampling and Searching

1. Initialization:

Let $\mathcal{G}(V, E)$ represent an undirected search graph, for which V contains at least one vertex and E contains no edges. Typically, V contains q_{I} , q_{G} , or both. In general, other points in $\mathcal{C}_{\text{free}}$ may be included

2. Vertex Selection Method:

Choose a vertex $q_{cur} \in V$ for expansion Page 79

Incremental Sampling and Searching

Local Planning Method (LPM): 3. For some $q_{\text{new}} \in C_{\text{free}}$ that may or may not be represented by a vertex in V attempt to construct a path τ_s : [0, 1] \rightarrow C_{free} such that $\tau(0) = q_{\text{cur}}$ and $\tau(1) =$ *q*_{new}. Using the methods of Slides 72-77 τ_{s} must be checked to ensure that it does not cause a collision. If this step fails to produce a collision-free path segment, then go to step 2. Page 80

Incremental Sampling and Searching

4. Insert an Edge in the Graph

Insert τ_s into E, as an edge from q_{cur} to q_{new} . If q_{new} is not already in V, then it is inserted

5. Check for a Solution

Determine whether G encodes a solution path. As in the discrete case, if there is a single search tree, then this is trivial; otherwise, it can become complicated and expensive Page 81

Incremental Sampling and Searching

6. Return to Step 2:

Iterate unless a solution has been found or some termination condition is satisfied, in which case the algorithm reports failure

Sampling based Planning Algorithm:

There are several classes of algorithms based on the number of search trees:

- Unidirectional (single-tree) methods
- Bidirectional Methods
- Multi-directional (more than two trees) methods

Path Segment **Incremental Search SBPA** RRT

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

Sampling based Planning Algorithm:

Unidirectional (single-tree) methods: A* (A-Star)

- Is a single-tree Method
- A* traverses the graph and follows the path with the lowest cost
- Keeps a sorted priority queue of alternate path segments along the way

 If by adding a new Point, a segment of the path get a higher cost than another stored path segment, the lower-cost path segment will be followed

The process continues until the goal is reached Page 84

- The start position is (1, 1)

Path Segment

Incremental Search

SBPA

RRT

PRM

- The successive node (1, 2)
- There is no ambiguity, until the Robot reaches node (2, 4)
- The successor node can be determined by evaluating the cost to the target from both the nodes (3,4) and (3,3)

Sampling based Planning Algorithm:

 Bidirectional Methods: By a Bug-Trap or a challenging region problem, we better use a bidirectional approach

Sampling based Planning Algorithm:

– **Multi-directional Methods:** For a double bugtrap, multi-directional search may be needed

Rapidly Exploring Dense Trees

 The idea is to incrementally construct a search tree that gradually improves the resolution but does not need to explicitly set any resolution parameters

 Instead of one long path, there are shorter paths that are organized into a tree

– If the sequence of samples is random, the resulting tree is called a *rapidly exploring random tree (RRT)*, which indicate that a dense covering of the space is obtained

Rapidly Exploring Dense Trees

Basic **RRT** Algorithm:

- 1. Initially, start with the initial configuration as root of tree
- 2. Pick a random state in the configuration space
- 3. Find the closest node in the tree
- 4. Extend that node toward the state if possible
- 5. Goto (2)

Path Segment Incremental Search **SBPA** RRT PRM .

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

Rapidly Exploring Dense Trees

- The algorithm for constructing RDTs (which includes RRTs)
- It requires the availability of a dense sequence, α , and iteratively connects from $\alpha(i)$ to the nearest point among all those reached by \mathcal{G}

Rapidly Exploring Dense Trees

If the nearest point in S lies in an edge (α) , then the edge is split into two, and a new vertex is inserted into G

Rapidly Exploring Dense Trees

 Several main branches are first constructed as it rapidly reaches the far corners of the space

More and more area is filled in by smaller branches

The tree gradually improves the resolution as the iterations continue

Rapidly Exploring Dense Trees

This behavior turns out to be ideal for sampling-based motion planning

Rapidly Exploring Dense Trees

The RRT is dense in the limit (with probability one), which means that it gets arbitrarily to any point in the

space

Path Segment

Incremental Search

SBPA

RRT

PRM

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Probabilistic roadmaps (PRMs)

Separate planning into two stages:

- Learning Phase
- find random sample of free configurations (vertices)

attempt to connect pairs of nearby vertices with a local planner

 if a valid plan is found, add an edge to he graph

Probabilistic roadmaps (PRMs)

Separate planning into two stages:

- Query Phase
- find local connections to graph from initial and goal positions

 search over roadmap graph using A* to find a plan

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Comparaison of related Algorithms

- "Complete": If a plan exists, the path and the trajectory are found
- Optimal: The plan returned is optimal in reference to some metric
- Efficient World Updates: Can change world without recomputing everything
- Efficient Query Updates: Can change query without replanning from scratch
- Good dof Scalability: Scales well with increasing C-space dimensions Page 101

Comparaison of related Algorithms

Approach	Complete	Optimal	Efficient World Updates	Efficient Query Updates	Good DOF Scalability
A*	yes	grid	no	no	no
Visuality	yes	yes	no	no	no
Voronoi	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Potential Field	yes	no	no	no	yes
RRT	yes	no	semi	semi	yes
PRM	yes	graph	no	yes	yes

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Thank You for Your attention!

