Randomized Sampling-based Motion Planning Methods

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Lecture 06

B4M36UIR – Artificial Intelligence in Robotics

Overview of the Lecture

- Part 1 Randomized Sampling-based Motion Planning Methods
 - Sampling-Based Methods
 - Probabilistic Road Map (PRM)
 - Characteristics
 - Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT)
- Part 2 Optimal Sampling-based Motion Planning Methods
 - Optimal Motion Planners
 - Rapidly-exploring Random Graph (RRG)

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Sampling-Based Methods	s Probabilistic Road Map (PRM) Characteristics Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (F	RRT) Sampling-Based	Methods Probabilistic Road Map (PRM) Cha	racteristics Rapidly Exploring Random T	Tree (RRT)
		Samplin	g-based Motion Planning		
		Avoi	ds explicit representation of the o	obstacles in <i>C-space</i>	
		A'	'black-box'' function is used to evaluate configuration q is a collision free, e.g.,		
	Part I	■ Ba col	sed on geometrical models and testing llisions of the models	Section 1	
Part 1	– Sampling-based Motion Planning	■ In vire tria	2D or 3D shape of the robot and en- onment can be represented as sets of angles, i.e., tesselated models		
		Co	llision test — an intersection of triangles E.g., using R/	APID library http://gamma.cs.unc.edu/OB	B/
		🔳 lt cre	eates a discrete representation of	\mathcal{C}_{free}	
		■ Conf road	igurations in \mathcal{C}_{free} are sampled map (probabilistic roadmap)	randomly and connected to	ра
		Rath	er than full completeness they	provides probabilistic con	m-
		plete	eness or resolution completeness Probabilistic complete algorithm an admissible solution would be	; ns: with increasing number of samp e found (if exists)	ples
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Sampling-Based Methods Probabilistic Road Map (PRM) Characteristics Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT)	Sampling-Based Methods Probabilistic Road Map (PRM) Characteristics Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT)
Probabilistic Roadmaps	Incremental Sampling and Searching
 A discrete representation of the continuous C-space generated by randomly sampled configurations in C_{free} that are connected into a graph. Nodes of the graph represent admissible configuration of the robot. Edges represent a feasible path (trajectory) between the particular configurations. Probabilistic complete algorithms: with increasing number of samples an admissible solution would be found (if exists) 	 Single query sampling-based algorithms incrementally created a search graph (roadmap) 1. Initialization - G(V, E) an undirected search graph, V may constain q_{start}, q_{goal} and/or other points in C_{free} 2. Vertex selection method - choose a vertex q_{cur} ∈ V for expansion 3. Local planning method - for some q_{new} ∈ C_{free}, attempt to construct a path τ : [0, 1] → C_{free} such that τ(0) = q_{cur} and τ(1) = q_{new}, τ must be ched to ensure it is collision free If τ is not a collision-free, go to Step 2 4. Insert an edge in the graph - Insert τ into E as an edge from q_{cur} to q_{new} and insert q_{new} to V if q_{new} ∉ V 5. Check for a solution - Determine if G encodes a solution, e.g., single search tree or graph search 6. Repeat to Step 2 - iterate unless a solution has been found or a termination condition is satified
Having the graph, the final path (trajectory) is found by a graph search technique.	LaValle, S. M.: Planning Algorithms (2006), Chapter 5.4
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Sampling-Based Methods Probabilistic Road Map (PRM) Characteristics Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT) Probabilistic Roadmap Strategies	Sampling-Based Methods Probabilistic Road Map (PRM) Characteristics Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT) Multi-Query Strategy
 Multi-Query – roadmap based Generate a single roadmap that is then used for planning queries several times. An representative technique is Probabilistic RoadMap (PRM)	 Build a roadmap (graph) representing the environment 1. Learning phase Sample n points in C_{free} Connect the random configurations using a local planner Query phase Connect start and goal configurations with the PRM E.g., using a local planner Use the graph search to find the path
 Rapidly-exploring Random Tree – RRT Rapidly-exploring Random Tree – RRT LaValle, 1998 Expansive-Space Tree – EST Hsu et al., 1997 Sampling-based Roadmap of Trees – SRT (combination of multiple-query and single-query approaches) Plaku et al., 2005 	 Probabilistic Roadmaps for Path Planning in High Dimensional Configuration Spaces Lydia E. Kavraki and Petr Svestka and Jean-Claude Latombe and Mark H. Overmars, IEEE Transactions on Robotics and Automation, 12(4):566–580, 1996. First planner that demonstrates ability to solve general planning problems in more than 4-5 dimensions.

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PRM Construction

#1 Given problem domain	#2 Random configuration	#3 Connecting samples	Incremental construction	Circo		
C _{ate}	C cox	Coas	Connect nodes in a radius ρ	Cobs		
C _{att}	Cax	Gas	Local planner tests collisions up to selected resolution &	Cobs		
Gas	C _{an}	C _{ax}	 Path can be found by Diikstra's 	P Cabs		
			algorithm	Coos		
#4 Connected roadmap	#5 Query configurations	#6 Final found path		Cabs		
Cate	Cau Cau	Case				
C _{at}	Cax Cax	Car Cas				
Gaz	Cas	Gas	VVhat are the propert	ies of the PRM algorithm?		
	•<<			We need a couple of more formalism.		
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			Dath Dianning Drahlam			
Path Planning Problem Formulation						
Path planning proble	em is defined by a triplet	:	Feasible path planning:			
	$\mathcal{P} = (\mathcal{C}_{free}, q_{init}, \mathcal{Q}_{goal})$,	For a path planning problem $(\mathcal{C}_{free}, q_{init}, \mathcal{Q}_{goal})$			
$ C_{free} = cl(C \setminus C_{obs} $	s), $\mathcal{C} = (0,1)^d$, for $d \in \mathbb{N}$, initial configuration (con	$d \ge 2$ dition	Find a feasible path $\pi: [0,1] \to C_{free}$ such that $\pi(0) = q_{init}$ and $\pi(1) \in \mathfrak{q}(Q_{-1})$ if such path exists			
G _{goal} is the goal region defined as an open subspace of C_{free}			$\pi(1) \in \operatorname{Cl}(\mathcal{Q}_{goal}), \text{ if such pa}$ $\blacksquare \text{ Report failure if no such pa}$	th exists. th exists.		
• Function $\pi: [0,1] \rightarrow$	$ ightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d}$ of bounded variation	on is called :				
path if it is conti	inuous; +b if it is not hand $\pi(\pi)$ ($f_{\rm c}$ for $\tau \in [0, 1]$	Optimal path planning:			
feasible if it is collision-free path, and $\pi(0) = q_{init}$ and			The optimality problem ask for a feasible path with the minimum cost. For $(\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{L}}, \mathcal{Q}_{\mathcal{L}}, \mathcal{Q}_{\mathcal{L}})$ and a cost function $c \in \Sigma \to \mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{L}}$			
$\pi(1)\in cl(\mathcal{Q}_{\mathit{goal}}).$			Find a feasible path π^* such that			
• A function π with the to	otal variation $TV(\pi) < \infty$ is	said to have bounded	$c(\pi^*) = \min\{c(\pi) : \pi \text{ is feasible}\}.$			
variation, where $TV(\pi)$ $TV(\pi) = \sup_{x \in T} V(\pi)$	is the total variation $\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{i=$	$\pi(\tau_i) - \pi(\tau_{i-1})$	Report failure it no such path exists. The cost function is assumed to be monotonic and bounded			
■ The total variation TV(π) is de facto a path length.		i.e., there exis	its k_c such that $c(\pi) \leq k_c \operatorname{TV}(\pi)$.		
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Sampling-Based Methods Probabilistic Road Map (PRM) Characteristics Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT)

Practical PRM



Sampling-Based Methods Probabilistic Road Map (PRM) Characteristics Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT)

Probabilistic Completeness 1/2

First, we need robustly feasible path planning problem $(C_{free}, q_{init}, Q_{goal}).$

• $q \in C_{free}$ is δ -interior state of C_{free} if the closed ball of radius δ centered at qlies entirely inside C_{free} .



- δ -interior of C_{free} is $\operatorname{int}_{\delta}(C_{free}) = \{q \in C_{free} | \mathcal{B}_{/,\delta} \subseteq C_{free}\}.$ A collection of all δ -interior states.
- A collision free path π has strong δ-clearance, if π lies entirely inside int_δ(C_{free}).
- (C_{free}, q_{init}, Q_{goal}) is robustly feasible if a solution exists and it is a feasible path with strong δ-clearance, for δ>0.

Sampling-Based Methods Probabilistic Road Map (PRM) Characteristics Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT)

Probabilistic Completeness 2/2

An algorithm \mathcal{ALG} is probabilistically complete if, for any robustly feasible path planning problem $\mathcal{P} = (\mathcal{C}_{free}, q_{init}, \mathcal{Q}_{goal})$

 $\lim_{n\to 0} \Pr(\mathcal{ALG} \text{ returns a solution to } \mathcal{P}) = 1.$

- It is a "*relaxed*" notion of completeness
- Applicable only to problems with a robust solution.





We need some space, where random configurations can be sampled



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Asymptotic Optimality 3/4

It is applicable with a robust optimal solution that can be obtained as a limit of robust (non-optimal) solutions.

Sampling-Based Methods Probabilistic Road Map (PRM) Characteristics Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT)

• A collision-free path π^* is robustly optimal solution if it has weak δ -clearance and for any sequence of collision free paths $\{\pi_n\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$, $\pi_n \in \mathcal{C}_{free}$ such that $\lim_{n\to\infty} \pi_n = \pi^*$,

 $\lim_{n\to\infty}c(\pi_n)=c(\pi^*).$

There exists a path with strong δ -clearance, and π^* is homotopic to such path and π^* is of the lower cost.

• Weak δ -clearance implies robustly feasible solution problem

(thus, probabilistic completeness)

Sampling-Based Methods Probabilistic Road Map (PRM) Characteristics Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT)

Asymptotic Optimality 4/4

An algorithm \mathcal{ALG} is asymptotically optimal if, for any path planning problem $\mathcal{P} = (\mathcal{C}_{free}, q_{init}, \mathcal{Q}_{goal})$ and cost function c that admit a robust optimal solution with the finite cost c^*

 $Pr\left(\left\{\lim_{i\to\infty}Y_i^{\mathcal{ALG}}=c^*\right\}\right)=1.$

• $Y_i^{\mathcal{ALG}}$ is the extended random variable corresponding to the minimumcost solution included in the graph returned by ALG at the end of iteration *i*.

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Properties of the PRM Algorithm

- Completeness for the standard PRM has not been provided when it was introduced
- A simplified version of the PRM (called sPRM) has been mostly studied
- sPRM is probabilistically complete

What are the differences between PRM and sPRM?

PRM vs simplified PRM (sPRM)

PRM

```
Vstup: q_{init}, number of samples n, radius \rho
Výstup: PRM - G = (V, E)
V \leftarrow \emptyset; E \leftarrow \emptyset;
for i = 0, ..., n do
      q_{rand} \leftarrow \text{SampleFree};
      U \leftarrow \text{Near}(G = (V, E), q_{rand}, \rho);
      V \leftarrow V \cup \{q_{rand}\};
      foreach u \in U, with increasing
      ||u - q_r|| do
            if q<sub>rand</sub> and u are not in the
            same connected component of
            G = (V, E) then
                  if CollisionFree(q_{rand}, u)
                  then
                        E \leftarrow E \cup
                        \{(q_{rand}, u), (u, q_{rand})\}
return G = (V, E);
```

sPRM Algorithm

```
Vstup: q<sub>init</sub>, number of samples n,
            radius \rho
Výstup: PRM - G = (V, E)
V \leftarrow \{q_{init}\} \cup
{SampleFree<sub>i</sub>}<sub>i=1,...,n-1</sub>; E \leftarrow \emptyset;
foreach v \in V do
       U \leftarrow \mathsf{Near}(G = (V, E), v, \rho) \setminus \{v\};
       foreach u \in U do
              if CollisionFree(v, u) then
                  E \leftarrow E \cup \{(v, u), (u, v)\};
reference are \overline{se} (Vra \overline{F}) ways for the set U of
```

vertices to connect them

- k-nearest neighbors to v
- variable connection radius ρ as a function of *n*

Probabilistically complete and asymptotically optimal

Heuristics practically used are usually not probabilistic complete

k-nearest sPRM is not probabilistically complete variable radius sPRM is not probabilistically complete

- Differential constraints (car-like vehicles) are not straightforward

Comments about Random Sampling 1/2

Different sampling strategies (distributions) may be applied



- Notice, one of the main issue of the randomized sampling-based approaches is the narrow passage
- Several modifications of sampling based strategies have been proposed in the last decades

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Comments about Random Sampling 2/2

• A solution can be found using only a few samples.

Do you know the Oraculum? (from Alice in Wonderland)

Based on analysis of Karaman and Frazzoli

- Sampling strategies are important
 - Near obstacles
 - Narrow passages
 - Grid-based

PRM – Properties

PRM algorithm:

+ Has very simple implementation + Completeness (for sPRM)

sPRM (simplified PRM)

Processing complexity $O(n^2)$ • Query complexity $O(n^2)$ • Space complexity $O(n^2)$

 Uniform sampling must be carefully considered. James J. Kuffner, Effective Sampling and Distance

Metrics for 3D Rigid Body Path Planning, ICRA, 2004.





Naïve sampling

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Uniform sampling of SO(3) using Euler angles B4M36UIR - Lecture 06: Sampling-based Motion Planning

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Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT)

Single-Query algorithm

- It incrementally builds a graph (tree) towards the goal area. It does not guarantee precise path to the goal configuration.
- 1. Start with the initial configuration q_0 , which is a root of the constructed graph (tree)
- 2. Generate a new random configuration q_{new} in C_{free}
- 3. Find the closest node q_{near} to q_{new} in the tree

E.g., using KD-tree implementation like ANN or FLANN libraries

4. Extend q_{near} towards q_{new}

Extend the tree by a small step, but often a direct control $u \in \mathcal{U}$ that will move robot the position closest to q_{new} is selected (applied for δt).

5. Go to Step 2, until the tree is within a sufficient distance from the goal configuration

Or terminates after dedicated running time.



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RRT and Quality of Solution

Optimal Motion Planners

- RRT provides a feasible solution without quality guarantee Despite of that, it is successfully used in many practical applications
- In 2011, a systematical study of the asymptotic behaviour of randomized sampling-based planners has been published

It shows, that in some cases, they converge to a nonoptimal value with a probability 1.

Sampling-based algorithms for optimal motion planning Sertac Karaman, Emilio Frazzoli International Journal of Robotic Research, 30(7):846–894, 2011.





http://sertac.scripts.mit.edu/rrtstar

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Optimal Motion Planners

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Rapidly-exploring Random Graph (RRG)

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RRT and Quality of Solution 2/2

- RRT does not satify a necessary condition for the asymptotic optimality
 - For $0 < R < \inf_{q \in Q_{goal}} ||q q_{init}||$, the event $\{\lim_{n \to \infty} Y_n^{RTT} = c^*\}$ occurs only if the *k*-th branch of the RRT contains vertices outside the *R*-ball centered at q_{init} for infinitely many *k*.

See Appendix B in Karaman&Frazzoli, 2011

■ It is required the root node will have infinitely many subtrees that extend at least a distance *e* away from *q*_{init}

The sub-optimality is caused by disallowing new better paths to be discovered.

 Efficient Sampling-Based Motion Planning
 PRM and RRT are theoretically probabilistic complete
 They provide a feasible solution without quality guarantee Despite that, they are successfully used in many practical applications
 In 2011, a study of the asymptotic behaviour has been published It shows, that in some case, they converges to a noon-optimal value with a probability 1.
 Based on the study, new algorithms have been proposed: PPC and

- Based on the study, new algorithms have been proposed: RRG and optimal RRT (RRT*)
 - Sampling-based algorithms for optimal motion planning Sertac Karaman, Emilio Frazzoli International Journal of Robotic Research, 30(7):846–894, 2011.



Optimal Motion Planners

Rapidly-exploring Random Graph (RRG)

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RRT and Quality of Solution $1/2\,$

- Let Y^{RRT} be the cost of the best path in the RRT at the end of iteration *i*.
- Y_i^{RRT} converges to a random variable

$$\lim_{i\to\infty}Y_i^{RRT}=Y_{\infty}^{RRT}.$$

 \blacksquare The random variable Y^{RRT}_∞ is sampled from a distribution with zero mass at the optimum, and

$$\Pr[Y_{\infty}^{RRT} > c^*] = 1.$$

Karaman and Frazzoli, 2011

 The best path in the RRT converges to a sub-optimal solution almost surely.

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RRG Expansions

Optimal Motion Planners

Rapidly-exploring Random Graph (RRG) **RRG** Algorithm At each iteration, RRG tries to connect new sample to the all vertices in the r_n ball centered at it. **Vstup**: *q_{init}*, number of samples *n* Výstup: G = (V, E)The ball of radius $V \leftarrow \emptyset : E \leftarrow \emptyset$: $r(\operatorname{card}(V)) = \min\left\{\gamma_{RRG}\left(\frac{\log\left(\operatorname{card}(V)\right)}{\operatorname{card}(V)}\right)^{1/d}, \eta\right\}$ for i = 0, ..., n do $q_{rand} \leftarrow SampleFree;$ $q_{nearest} \leftarrow \text{Nearest}(G = (V, E), q_{rand});$ $q_{new} \leftarrow \text{Steer}(q_{nearest}, q_{rand});$ where if CollisionFree $(q_{nearest}, q_{new})$ then • η is the constant of the local steering function $Q_{near} \leftarrow \text{Near}(G =$ • $\gamma_{RRG} > \gamma_{RRG}^* = 2(1+1/d)^{1/d} (\mu(\mathcal{C}_{free})/\xi_d)^{1/d}$ $(V, E), q_{new}, \min\{\gamma_{RRG}(\log(\operatorname{card}(V))/\operatorname{card}(V))^{1/d}, \eta\});$ $V \leftarrow V \cup \{q_{new}\}; E \leftarrow E \cup \{(q_{nearest}, q_{new}), (q_{new}, q_{nearest})\};$ - d - dimension of the space: foreach $q_{near} \in Q_{near}$ do - $\mu(\mathcal{C}_{free})$ – Lebesgue measure of the obstacle–free space; if CollisionFree (q_{near}, q_{new}) then - ξ_d - volume of the unit ball in *d*-dimensional Euclidean space. $E \leftarrow E \cup \{(q_{rand}, u), (u, q_{rand})\};$ The connection radius decreases with n return G = (V, E); • The rate of decay \approx the average number of connections attempted is proportional to log(n)Proposed by Karaman and Frazzoli (2011). Theoretical results are related to properties of Random Geometric Graphs (RGG) introduced by Gilbert (1961) and further studied by Penrose (1999).43 / 51 Jan Faigl, 2017 44 / 51 Jan Faigl, 2017 B4M36UIR - Lecture 06: Sampling-based Motion Planning B4M36UIR - Lecture 06: Sampling-based Motion Planning **Optimal Motion Planners** Rapidly-exploring Random Graph (RRG) **Optimal Motion Planners** Rapidly-exploring Random Graph (RRG) **RRG** Properties Other Variants of the Optimal Motion Planning PRM* – it follows standard PRM algorithm where connections are Probabilistically complete attempted between roadmap vertices that are within connection Asymptotically optimal radius r as a function of nComplexity is $O(\log n)$ $r(n) = \gamma_{PRM} (\log(n)/n)^{1/d}$ (per one sample) Computational efficiency and optimality RRT* – a modification of the RRG, where cycles are avoided • Attempt connection to $\Theta(\log n)$ nodes at each iteration; A tree version of the RRG in average A tree roadmap allows to consider non-holonomic dynamics and Reduce volume of the "connection" ball as $\log(n)/n$; kinodynamic constraints. Increase the number of connections as $\log(n)$. It is basically RRG with "rerouting" the tree when a better path is discovered.

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Topics Discussed

- Randomized Sampling-based Methods
- Probabilistic Road Map (PRM)
- Characteristics of path planning problems
- Random sampling
- Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT)
- Optimal sampling-based motion planning
- Rapidly-exploring Random Graph (RRG)

Next:	Multi-Goal Motion Planning and Multi-Goal Path Planning					
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