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Lecture 06

B4M36UIR - Artificial Intelligence in Robotics

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B4M36UIR - Lecture 06: Sampling-based Motion Planning

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Incremental Sampling and Searching

search graph (roadmap)

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

■ Single query sampling-based algorithms incrementally created a

stain q_{start} , q_{goal} and/or other points in \mathcal{C}_{free}

 \blacksquare If au is not a collision-free, go to Step 2

 q_{cur} to q_{new} and insert q_{new} to V if $q_{new} \notin V$

single search tree or graph search

termination condition is satisfied

 q_{new} , τ must be ched to ensure it is collision free

1. Initialization – G(V, E) an undirected search graph, V may con-

2. Vertex selection method – choose a vertex $q_{cur} \in V$ for expansion

3. Local planning method – for some $q_{new} \in \mathcal{C}_{free}$, attempt to con-

4. Insert an edge in the graph – Insert τ into E as an edge from

5. Check for a solution – Determine if G encodes a solution, e.g.,

6. Repeat to Step 2 - iterate unless a solution has been found or a

struct a path $au: [0,1] o \mathcal{C}_{\mathit{free}}$ such that $au(0) = q_{\mathit{cur}}$ and au(1) =

Part I

Part 1 – Sampling-based Motion Planning

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

Sampling-based Motion Planning

Avoids explicit representation of the obstacles in C-space

- A "black-box" function is used to evaluate a configuration q is a collision free, e.g.,
- Based on geometrical models and testing collisions of the models
- In 2D or 3D shape of the robot and environment can be represented as sets of triangles, i.e., tesselated models
- Collision test an intersection of triangles

E.g., using RAPID library http://gamma.cs.unc.edu/OBB/

- It creates a discrete representation of C_{free}
- lacktriangle Configurations in \mathcal{C}_{free} are sampled randomly and connected to a roadmap (probabilistic roadmap)
- Rather than full completeness they provides probabilistic completeness or resolution completeness

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Probabilistic complete algorithms: with increasing number of samples an admissible solution would be found (if exists)

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LaValle, S. M.: Planning Algorithms (2006), Chapter 5.4

Probabilistic Roadmap Strategies

Multi-Query - roadmap based

- Generate a single roadmap that is then used for planning queries several times
- An representative technique is Probabilistic RoadMap (PRM) Kavraki, L., Svestka, P., Latombe, J.-C., Overmars, M. H.B (1996): Probabilistic Roadmaps for Path Planning in High Dimensional Configuration Spaces. T-RO.

Single-Query – incremental

- For each planning problem constructs a new roadmap to characterize the subspace of C-space that is relevant to the problem.
 - 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

Overview of the Lecture

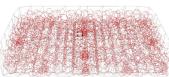
- Part 1 Randomized Sampling-based Motion Planning Methods
 - Sampling-Based Methods
 - Probabilistic Road Map (PRM)
 - Characteristics
 - Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT)
- Part 2 Optimal Sampling-based Motion Planning Methods
 - Optimal Motion Planners
 - Rapidly-exploring Random Graph (RRG)

Probabilistic Roadmaps

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
- 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)



Having the graph, the final path (trajectory) is found by a graph search technique.

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Multi-Query Strategy

Build a roadmap (graph) representing the environment

- 1. Learning phase
 - 1.1 Sample *n* points in C_{free}
 - 1.2 Connect the random configurations using a local planner

IEEE Transactions on Robotics and Automation, 12(4):566-580, 1996.

- 2. Query phase
 - 2.1 Connect start and goal configurations with the PRM

E.g., using a local planner

2.2 Use the graph search to find the path

Probabilistic Roadmaps for Path Planning in High Dimensional Configuration Lydia E. Kavraki and Petr Svestka and Jean-Claude Latombe and Mark H.

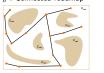
> First planner that demonstrates ability to solve general planning problems in more than 4-5 dimensions.

PRM Construction

#1 Given problem domain



#4 Connected roadmap



#2 Random configuration



#5 Query configurations





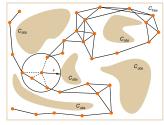
#3 Connecting samples

#6 Final found path



Practical PRM

- Incremental construction
- \blacksquare Connect nodes in a radius ρ
- Local planner tests collisions up to selected resolution δ
- Path can be found by Dijkstra's algorithm



What are the properties of the PRM algorithm?

We need a couple of more formalism.

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Probabilistic Completeness 1/2

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

 $lacksq q \in \mathcal{C}_{free}$ is δ -interior state of \mathcal{C}_{free} if the closed ball of radius δ centered at alies entirely inside C_{free} .



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

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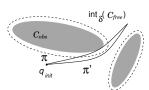
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Asymptotic Optimality 2/4

lacktriangle A collision-free path $\pi:[0,s]
ightarrow \mathcal{C}_{\mathit{free}}$ has weak δ -clearance if there exists a path π' that has strong δ -clearance and homotopy ψ with $\psi(0) = \pi$, $\psi(1) = \pi'$, and for all $\alpha \in (0,1]$ there exists $\delta_{\alpha} > 0$ such that $\psi(\alpha)$ has strong δ -clearance.

> Weak δ -clearance does not require points along a path to be at least a distance δ away from obstacles.



- A path π with a weak δ -clearance
- $\blacksquare \pi'$ lies in $\operatorname{int}_{\delta}(\mathcal{C}_{free})$ and it is the same homotopy class as π

Path Planning Problem Formulation

- Path planning problem is defined by a triplet
 - $\mathcal{P} = (\mathcal{C}_{free}, q_{init}, \mathcal{Q}_{goal}),$
 - $\mathcal{C}_{free} = cl(\mathcal{C} \setminus \mathcal{C}_{obs}), \ \mathcal{C} = (0,1)^d, \ \text{for} \ d \in \mathbb{N}, \ d \geq 2$
 - $q_{init} \in \mathcal{C}_{free}$ is the initial configuration (condition)
 - \mathbf{G}_{goal} is the goal region defined as an open subspace of \mathcal{C}_{free}
- Function $\pi:[0,1]\to\mathbb{R}^d$ of bounded variation is called :
 - **path** if it is continuous:
 - **collision-free path** if it is path and $\pi(\tau) \in \mathcal{C}_{free}$ for $\tau \in [0,1]$;
 - **e feasible** if it is collision-free path, and $\pi(0) = q_{init}$ and $\pi(1) \in cl(\mathcal{Q}_{goal}).$
- A function π with the total variation $TV(\pi) < \infty$ is said to have bounded variation, where $TV(\pi)$ is the total variation

 $\mathsf{TV}(\pi) = \sup_{\{n \in \mathbb{N}, 0 = \tau_0 < \tau_1 < \dots < \tau_n = s\}} \sum_{i=1}^n |\pi(\tau_i) - \pi(\tau_{i-1})|$

■ The total variation $TV(\pi)$ is de facto a path length.

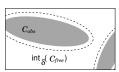
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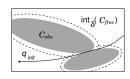
Probabilistic Completeness 2/2

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

Asymptotic Optimality 3/4

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

Path Planning Problem

■ Feasible path planning:

For a path planning problem (\mathcal{C}_{free} , q_{init} , \mathcal{Q}_{goal})

- Find a feasible path $\pi:[0,1]\to \mathcal{C}_{free}$ such that $\pi(0)=q_{init}$ and $\pi(1) \in cl(\mathcal{Q}_{goal})$, if such path exists.
- Report failure if no such path exists.
- Optimal path planning:

The optimality problem ask for a feasible path with the minimum cost.

For $(C_{free}, q_{init}, \mathcal{Q}_{goal})$ and a cost function $c: \Sigma \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$

- Find a feasible path π^* such that $c(\pi^*) = \min\{c(\pi) : \pi \text{ is feasible}\}.$
- Report failure if no such path exists.

The cost function is assumed to be monotonic and bounded, i.e., there exists k_c such that $c(\pi) \leq k_c \text{TV}(\pi)$.

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Asymptotic Optimality 1/4

Asymptotic optimality relies on a notion of weak δ -clearance

Notice, we use strong δ -clearance for probabilistic completeness

- Function $\psi:[0,1]\to \mathcal{C}_{free}$ is called **homotopy**, if $\psi(0)=\pi_1$ and $\psi(1)=\pi_1$ π_2 and $\psi(\tau)$ is collision-free path for all $\tau \in [0,1]$.
- A collision-free path π_1 is **homotopic** to π_2 if there exists homotopy function ψ .

A path homotopic to π can be continuously transformed to π through C_{free} .

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Asymptotic Optimality 4/4

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

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

 Y_i^{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?

Algorithm 1: PRM

Vstup: q_{init} , number of samples n, radius ρ **Výstup**: PRM – G = (V, E)

PRM vs simplified PRM (sPRM)

 $V \leftarrow \emptyset : E \leftarrow \emptyset :$ for $i = 0, \ldots, n$ do $q_{rand} \leftarrow SampleFree;$ $U \leftarrow \text{Near}(G = (V, E), q_{rand}, \rho);$ $V \leftarrow V \cup \{q_{rand}\};$ foreach $u \in U$, with increasing $||u-q_r||$ do if q_{rand} and u are not in the same connected component of G = (V, E) then if CollisionFree (q_{rand}, u) then

return G = (V, E):

Algorithm 2: sPRM

Vstup: qinit, number of samples n,

return G = (V, E);

There are several ways for the set U of vertices to connect them

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

PRM - Properties

- sPRM (simplified PRM)
 - Probabilistically complete and asymptotically optimal
 - Processing complexity $O(n^2)$
 - Query complexity O(n²)
 - Space complexity $O(n^2)$
- Heuristics practically used are usually not probabilistic complete
 - k-nearest sPRM is not probabilistically complete
 - variable radius sPRM is not probabilistically complete Based on analysis of Karaman and Frazzoli

PRM algorithm:

Has very simple implementation

Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT)

+ Completeness (for sPRM)

Single-Query algorithm

constructed graph (tree)

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

goal configuration

Differential constraints (car-like vehicles) are not straightforward

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■ It incrementally builds a graph (tree) towards the goal area.

1. Start with the initial configuration q_0 , which is a root of the

2. Generate a new random configuration q_{new} in C_{free}

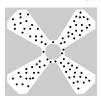
3. Find the closest node q_{near} to q_{new} in the tree

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Comments about Random Sampling 1/2

■ Different sampling strategies (distributions) may be applied

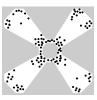


RRT Construction

#1 new random configuration

#3 possible actions from q_{near}





- 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

Sampling-Based Methods Probabilistic Road Map (PRM) Characteristics Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT) Comments about Random Sampling 2/2

 $\{(q_{rand}, u), (u, q_{rand})\}$

A solution can be found using only a few samples.

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

- Sampling strategies are important
 - Near obstacles
 - Narrow passages
 - Grid-based
 - Uniform sampling must be carefully considered.

James J. Kuffner (2004):, Effective Sampling and Distance Metrics for 3D Rigid Body Path Planning.,





Naïve sampling

Uniform sampling of SO(3) using Euler angles

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

Or terminates after dedicated running time

It does not guarantee precise path to the goal configuration.

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

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

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selected (applied for δt).

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#2 the closest node

#4 extended tree

RRT Algorithm

Algorithm 3: Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT)

Vstup: q_{init} , number of samples n**Výstup**: Roadmap G = (V, E) $V \leftarrow \{q_{init}\}; E \leftarrow \emptyset;$ $q_{rand} \leftarrow SampleFree;$ $q_{nearest} \leftarrow \text{Nearest}(G = (V, E), q_{rand});$ $q_{new} \leftarrow \text{Steer}(q_{nearest}, q_{rand});$ if CollisionFree(qnearest, qnew) then $V \leftarrow V \cup \{x_{new}\}; E \leftarrow E \cup \{(x_{nearest}, x_{new})\};$

return G = (V, E);

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



Rapidly-exploring random trees: A new tool for path planning S. M. LaValle,

Technical Report 98-11, Computer Science Dept., Iowa State University, 1998

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- Motivation is a single query and *control-based* path finding
- It incrementally builds a graph (tree) towards the goal area.

Rapidly explores the space

Properties of RRT Algorithms

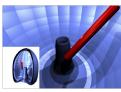
q_{new} will more likely be generated in large not yet covered parts.

- Allows considering kinodynamic/dynamic constraints (during the
- Can provide trajectory or a sequence of direct control commands for robot controllers.
- A collision detection test is usually used as a "black-box".

E.g., RAPID, Bullet libraries.

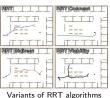
- Similarly to PRM, RRT algorithms have poor performance in narrow passage problems.
- RRT algorithms provides feasible paths. It can be relatively far from optimal solution, e.g., according to the length of the path.
- Many variants of RRT have been proposed.

Alpha puzzle benchmark





Apply rotations to reach the goal



Courtesy of V. Vonásek and P. Vaněk

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(friction forces)

Part II

Part 2 – Optimal Sampling-based Motion

Planning Methods







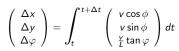
Courtesy of V. Vonásek and P. Vaněk

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Control-Based Sampling

- Select a configuration q from the tree T of the current configurations
- Pick a control input $\overrightarrow{\boldsymbol{u}} = (v, \varphi)$ and integrate system (motion) equation over a short period





■ If the motion is collision-free, add the endpoint to the tree

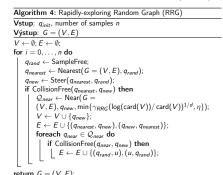
E.g., considering k configurations for $k\delta t = dt$.

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Rapidly-exploring Random Graph (RRG)



Proposed by Karaman and Frazzoli (2011). Theoretical results are related to properties of

- lacksquare Let Y_i^{RRT} be the cost of the best path in the RRT at the end of
- Y_i^{RRT} converges to a random variable

RRT and Quality of Solution 1/2

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

■ The random variable Y_{∞}^{RRT} is sampled from a distribution with zero mass at the optimum, and

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

Karaman and Frazzoli, 2011

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

- RRT does not satify a necessary condition for the asymptotic opti
 - 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

The sub-optimality is caused by disallowing new better paths

RRT – Examples 2/2

■ Planning for a car-like robot

■ Planning on a 3D surface

■ Planning with dynamics

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Car-Like Robot

Configuration

position and orientation

Controls

$$\overrightarrow{\boldsymbol{u}} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{v} \\ \varphi \end{pmatrix}$$

forward velocity, steering angle

System equation

 $\dot{x}\sin(\phi) - \dot{y}\cos(\phi) = 0$

Kinematic constraints $\dim(\overrightarrow{u}) < \dim(\overrightarrow{x})$

Differential constraints on possible q:

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Optimal Motion Planners

Sampling-Based Motion Planning

- PRM and RRT are theoretically probabilistic complete
- They provide a feasible solution without quality guarantee Despite of that, they are successfully used in many practical
- 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 non-optimal

■ Based on the study, new algorithms have been proposed: RRG and

optimal RRT (RRT*)





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

Optimal Motion Planners

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RRT and Quality of Solution 2/2

 $\qquad \text{For } 0 < R < \inf_{q \in \mathcal{Q}_{goal}} ||q - q_{init}||, \text{ the event } \{\lim_{n \to \infty} Y_n^{RTT} = c^*\}$

■ It is required the root node will have infinitely many subtrees that extend at least a distance ϵ away from q_{init}

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RRG Expansions

- At each iteration, RRG tries to connect new sample to the all vertices in the r_n ball centered at it.
- The ball of radius

$$r(\mathsf{card}(V)) = \min \left\{ \gamma_{RRG} \left(\frac{\log \left(\mathsf{card}(V) \right)}{\mathsf{card}(V)} \right)^{1/d}, \eta \right\}$$

- $\blacksquare \eta$ is the constant of the local steering function
- $\gamma_{RRG} > \gamma_{RRG}^* = 2(1+1/d)^{1/d} (\mu(\mathcal{C}_{free})/\xi_d)^{1/d}$
 - d dimension of the space;
 - $\mu(\mathcal{C}_{\text{free}})$ Lebesgue measure of the obstacle-free space;
 - ξ_d volume of the unit ball in d-dimensional Euclidean space.
- \blacksquare The connection radius decreases with n
- The rate of decay \approx the average number of connections attempted is proportional to log(n)

RRG Properties

- Probabilistically complete
- Asymptotically optimal
- Complexity is $O(\log n)$

(per one sample)

- Computational efficiency and optimality
 - Attempt connection to $\Theta(\log n)$ nodes at each iteration;

- Reduce volume of the "connection" ball as log(n)/n;
- Increase the number of connections as log(n).

A tree roadmap allows to consider non-holonomic dynamics and

Algorithm

k-nearest sPRM

sPRM

RRT RRG PRM* RRT*

radius r as a function of n

Other Variants of the Optimal Motion Planning

- kinodynamic constraints.
- It is basically RRG with "rerouting" the tree when a better path is discovered.

■ PRM* – it follows standard PRM algorithm where connections are

attempted between roadmap vertices that are within connection

 $r(n) = \gamma_{PRM} (\log(n)/n)^{1/d}$

■ RRT* – a modification of the RRG, where cycles are avoided

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Rapidly-exploring Random Graph (RRG)

Rapidly-exploring Random Graph (RRG)

Rapidly-exploring Random Graph (RRG)

Example of Solution 2/2

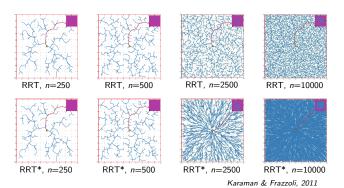
Overview of Randomized Sampling-based Algorithms

Probabilistic

Completeness Optimality

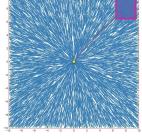
Asymptotic

Example of Solution 1/2



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RRT, n=20000



RRT*, n=20000

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Notice, k-nearest variants of RRG, PRM*, and RRT* are complete and ontimal as well

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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

Summary of the Lecture