Motion planning

ST5 Autonomous robotics

Francis Colas

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Introduction

Motion

- generated by motors
  - electric (AC/DC), pneumatic or hydraulic
  - stepper motor: fixed positions
  - servomotors: motor+integrated sensor for position control
- controlled to perform a given trajectory

Motion planning

- compute trajectory
- to reach a defined goal
- while following constraints (collision avoidance, dynamics...)

Aim of the session

- configuration space
- planning algorithms

01

Configuration space

Trajectory

Path

- sequence of poses
- typically from a start to a goal location

Trajectory

- mapping from time to configuration
- allows to compute velocities and commands

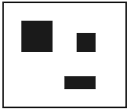
Constraints

- minimum length/distance
- minimum cost (application-dependent)
- security/distance to obstacles
- kinematics or dynamics

Configuration space

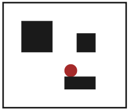
Workspace $\mathcal{W}$

- space in which robot evolves
  - in general: $\mathcal{W} = \mathbb{R}^3$
  - sometimes: $\mathcal{W} = \mathbb{R}^2$



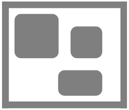
Configuration space $\mathcal{C}$

- set of feasible configurations $\boldsymbol{q} \in \mathcal{C}$
- taking into account physical constraints
- in general $\mathcal{C} \neq \mathcal{W}$



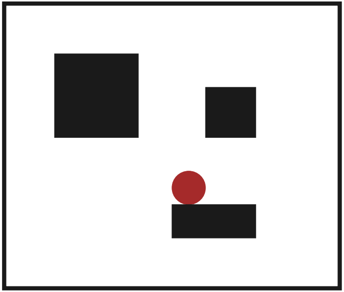
Free space $\mathcal{E}$

- configurations not in collision
- $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{C} \setminus \mathcal{O}$
- adapted for planning

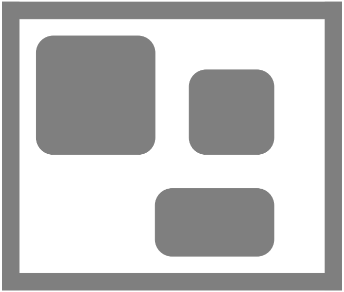


Holonomic circular mobile robot

Workspace and robot

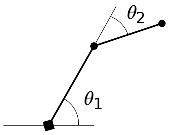


Free space

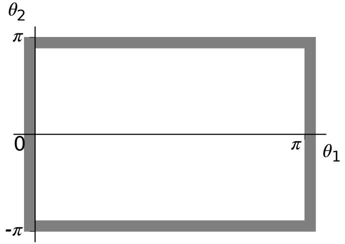


Robotic arm (1/2)

2 degrees-of-freedom arm

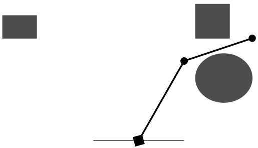


Configuration space

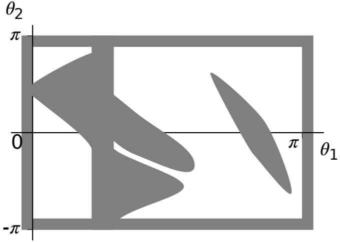


Robotic arm (2/2)

Workspace



Free space



Conclusion on configuration space

Configuration space

- unification of mobile robots and robotic arms
- free space (no collision)
- adapted for planning

Building

- Minkowski sum for a mobile robot
- collision test for an arm

Limits

- only geometric constraints
- no kinematics nor dynamics
- potentially high-dimension space

02

Planning algorithms

Algorithms

Approaches

- space decomposition
  - grid
  - cell decomposition
- sampling
- potential fields
- geometric resolution
- path refinement

Path planning with a grid

Path planning with a grid

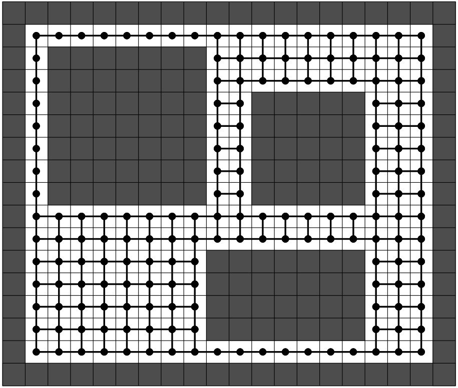
- adapted to occupancy grids
- neighborhood graph
- graph search (Dijkstra, A*)

Result

- path
- discretized orientation
- not necessarily optimal in distance
- high complexity in medium to high dimension

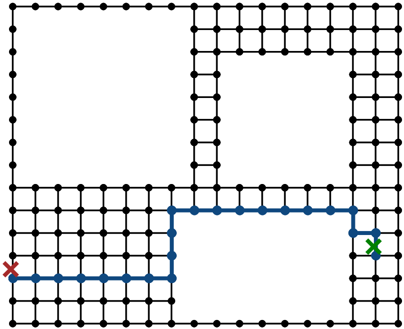
Example (1/4)

Cell graph



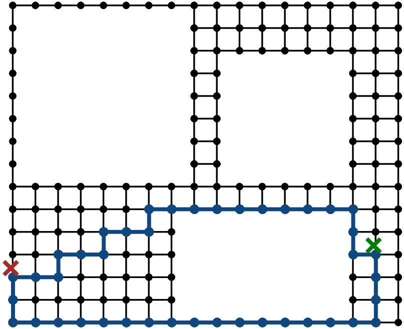
Example (2/4)

Graph search (A* or other)



Example (3/4)

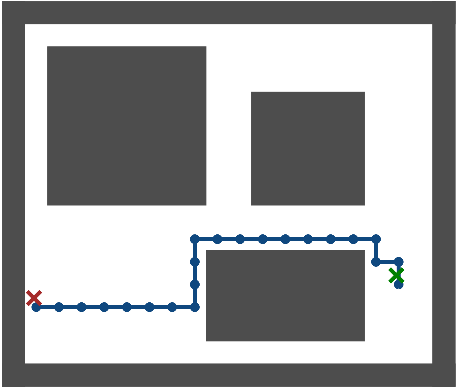
Graph search (A^* or other)



Shortest path not unique!

Example (4/4)

Result



Planning with cell decomposition

Cell decomposition

- various tessellation methods

Voronoi diagram

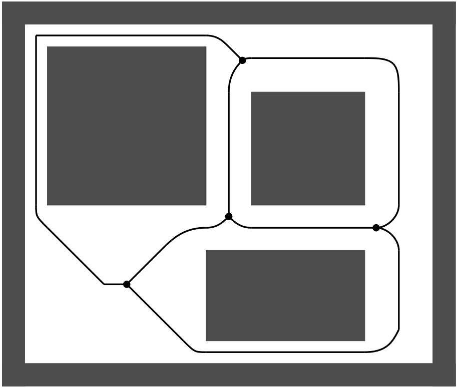
- tiling based on distance to obstacles
- dual of Delaunay triangulation
- path following of the edges of the cells

Result

- path
- as far from the obstacles as possible
- difficult to build in high dimensions
- not distance optimal

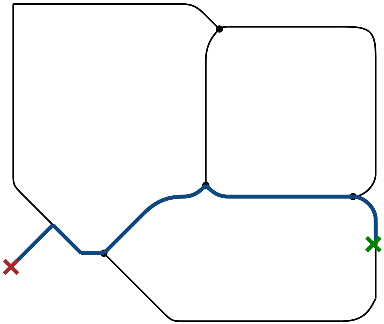
Example (1/3)

Voronoi diagram



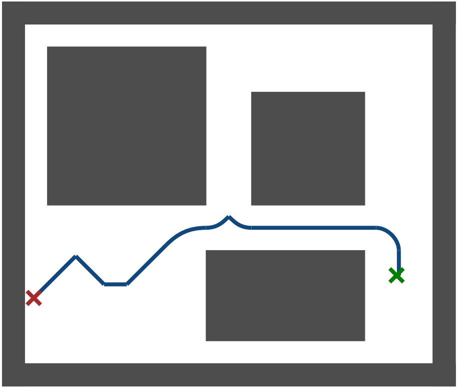
Example (2/3)

Graph search



Example (3/3)

Result



Sampling-based planning

Rapidly-expanding Random Trees

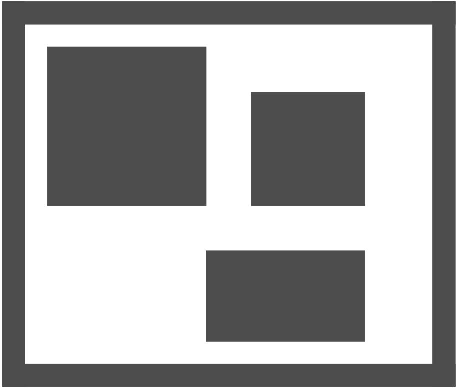
- RRT, RRT*...
- stochastic algorithm by sampling the space
- connection tree building
- until goal is found
- refinement of the path

Result

- path
- distance optimal for infinite samples
- quick and anytime as soon as the path is found

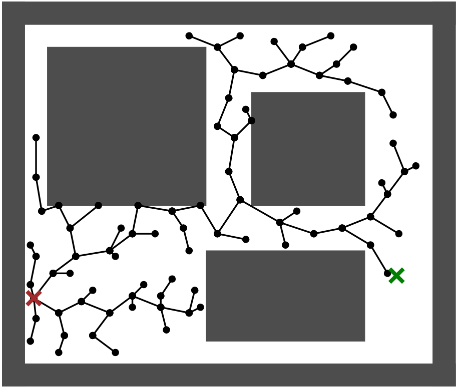
Example (1/3)

Free space



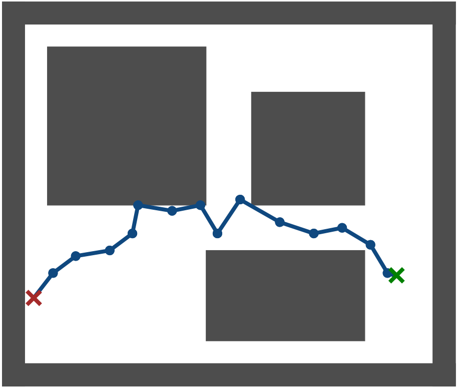
Example (2/3)

Graph expansion



Example (3/3)

Result



Algorithm

RRT*

$V \leftarrow \{x_{\text{init}}\}; E \leftarrow \emptyset$
for $i = 1, \ldots, n$ **do**
  $x_{\text{rand}} \leftarrow \texttt{SampleFree}()$
  $x_{\text{nearest}} \leftarrow \texttt{Nearest}\left(G = (V, E), x_{\text{rand}}\right)$
  $x_{\text{new}} \leftarrow \texttt{Steer}\left(x_{\text{nearest}}, x_{\text{rand}}\right)$
  if $\texttt{CollFree}\left(x_{\text{nearest}}, x_{\text{new}}\right)$ **then**
    $X_{\text{near}} \leftarrow \texttt{Near}\left(G = (V, E), x_{\text{new}}, \delta\right)$
    $x_{\text{min}} \leftarrow \arg\min_{x \in X_{\text{near}}} \mathrm{C}(x) + c\left(x, x_{\text{new}}\right)$
    $V \leftarrow V \cup \{x_{\text{new}}\}$
    $E \leftarrow E \cup \{(x_{\text{nearest}\,\text{min}}, x_{\text{new}})\}$
    for all $x \in X_{\text{near}}$ **do**
      if $\mathrm{C}(x_{\text{new}}) + c\left(x_{\text{new}}, x\right) < \mathrm{C}(x)$ **then**
        $E \leftarrow E \setminus \{(\mathrm{P}(x), x)\}$
        $E \leftarrow E \cup \{(x_{\text{new}}, x)\}$
      end if
    end for
  end if
end for
return $G = (V, E)$

Functions

- $\texttt{SampleFree}()$: sample point in free space
- $\texttt{Nearest}(G, x)$: point in G nearest from x
- $\texttt{Steer}(x_1, x_2)$: point toward x_2 at a given distance from x_1
- $\texttt{CollFree}(x_1, x_2)$: no obstacle between x_1 and x_2
- $\texttt{Near}(G, x, d)$: points in G at a distance from x less than d
- $\mathrm{C}(x)$: cost between x_{init} and x, walking up the graph
- $c(x_1, x_2)$: cost between x_1 and x_2
- $\mathrm{P}(x)$: parent of x.

Planning with potential fields

Potential fields

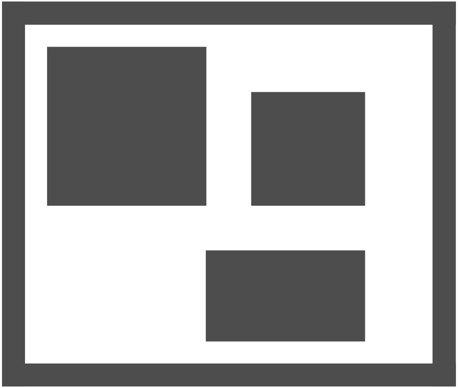
- repulsive field around obstacles
- attractive field around goal
- combination of both
- gradient descent

Result

- path
- away from obstacles
- quick to compute
- local minima

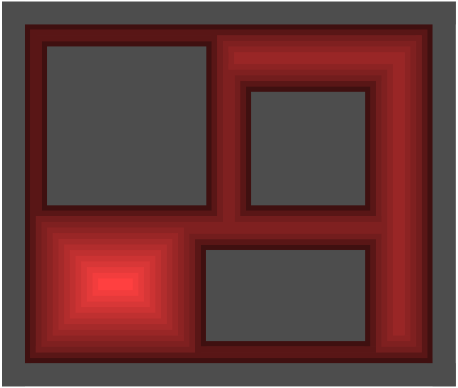
Example (1/4)

Free space



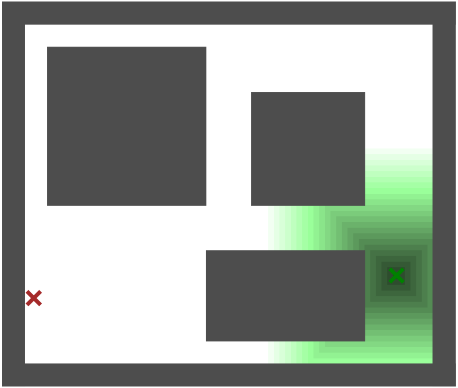
Example (2/4)

Repulsive field



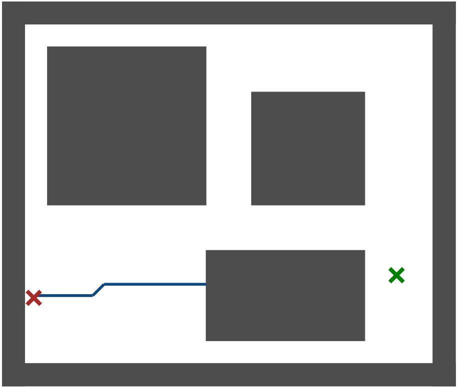
Example (3/4)

Attractive field



Example (4/4)

Gradient descent



Local minimum!

Planning with visibility graph

Visibility graph

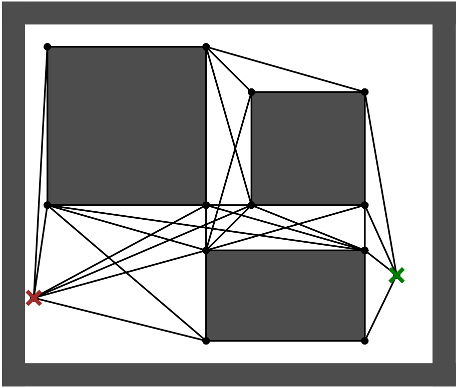
- nodes: vertices of obstacles
- edge: iff visibility between nodes
- start and goal as nodes
- graph search

Result

- path
- distance optimal
- can follow obstacle edges
- need polygonal/polyhedral obstacles

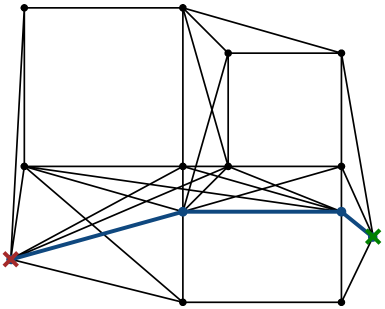
Example (1/3)

Visibility graph including start and goal



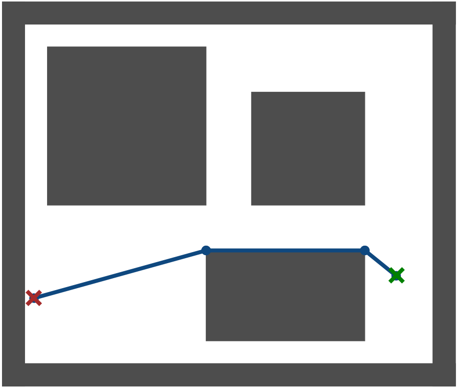
Example (2/3)

Graph search (A* or other)



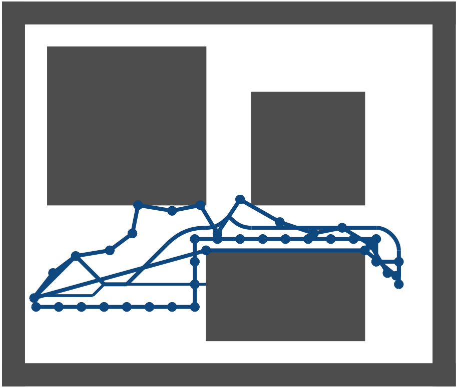
Example (3/3)

Result



Comparison

Comparison of the paths



03

Conclusion

Conclusion

Configuration space

- space free from collision
- adapted to planning
- similar for mobile and articulated robots

Planning algorithms

- different families with different internal representations
- various optimization criteria

Limits

- known map
- static obstacles

Bibliography

RRT*, PRM*, etc.

- Karaman and Frazzoli, *Sampling-based algorithms for optimal motion planning*, IJRR, 2011.

Books

- Latombe, *Robot Motion Planning*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1991.
- Lavalle, *Planning Algorithms*, Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Siciliano *et al.*, *Springer Handbook of Robotics*, 2nd ed., Springer, 2016.

Thanks for your attention
Questions?