Introduction to Mobile Robotics

Probabilistic Motion Models

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Robot Motion

- Robot motion is inherently uncertain.
- How can we model this uncertainty?





Dynamic Bayesian Network for Controls, States, and Sensations



Probabilistic Motion Models

- To implement the Bayes Filter, we need the transition model $p(x_t | x_{t-1}, u_t)$
- The term p(x_t | x_{t-1}, u_t) specifies a posterior probability, that action u carries the robot from x_{t-1} to x_t.
- In this section we will specify, how
 p(x_t | x_{t-1}, u_t) can be modeled based on the motion equations.

Coordinate Systems

- The configuration of a typical wheeled robot in 3D can be described by six parameters.
- Three-dimensional Cartesian coordinates plus three Euler angles roll, pitch, and yaw.
- Throughout this section, we consider robots operating on a planar surface.
- The state space of such systems is threedimensional (x,y,θ).



Typical Motion Models

- In practice, one often finds two types of motion models:
 - Odometry-based
 - Velocity-based (dead reckoning)
- Odometry-based models are used when systems are equipped with wheel encoders.
- Velocity-based models have to be applied when no wheel encoders are given.
- They calculate the new pose based on the velocities and the time elapsed.

Example Wheel Encoders

These modules provide +5V output when they "see" white, and a 0V output when they "see" black.





These disks are manufactured out of high quality laminated color plastic to offer a very crisp black to white transition. This enables a wheel encoder sensor to easily see the transitions.

Dead Reckoning

- Derived from "deduced reckoning."
- Mathematical procedure for determining the present location of a vehicle.
- Achieved by calculating the current pose of the vehicle based on its velocities and the time elapsed.
- Historically used to log the position of ships.



[Image source: Wikipedia, LoKiLeCh] 8

Reasons for Motion Errors



ideal case



different wheel diameters



bump

and many more ...



Odometry Model

- Robot moves from $\langle \bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{\theta} \rangle$ to $\langle \bar{x}', \bar{y}', \bar{\theta}' \rangle$.
- Odometry information $u = \langle \delta_{rot1}, \delta_{rot2}, \delta_{trans} \rangle$.

$$\delta_{trans} = \sqrt{(\bar{x}' - \bar{x})^2 + (\bar{y}' - \bar{y})^2}$$

$$\delta_{rot1} = \operatorname{atan2}(\bar{y}' - \bar{y}, \bar{x}' - \bar{x}) - \bar{\theta}$$

$$\delta_{rot2} = \bar{\theta}' - \bar{\theta} - \delta_{rot1}$$

$$\delta_{rot2} = \delta_{rot1}$$

The atan2 Function

 Extends the inverse tangent and correctly copes with the signs of x and y.

$$\operatorname{atan}(y,x) = \begin{cases} \operatorname{atan}(y/x) & \text{if } x > 0\\ \operatorname{sign}(y) (\pi - \operatorname{atan}(|y/x|)) & \text{if } x < 0\\ 0 & \text{if } x = y = 0\\ \operatorname{sign}(y) \pi/2 & \text{if } x = 0, y \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

Noise Model for Odometry

 The measured motion is given by the true motion corrupted with noise.

$$\hat{\delta}_{rot1} = \delta_{rot1} + \varepsilon_{\alpha_1 |\delta_{rot1}| + \alpha_2 |\delta_{trans}|}$$
$$\hat{\delta}_{trans} = \delta_{trans} + \varepsilon_{\alpha_3 |\delta_{trans}| + \alpha_4 |\delta_{rot1} + \delta_{rot2}|}$$
$$\hat{\delta}_{rot2} = \delta_{rot2} + \varepsilon_{\alpha_1 |\delta_{rot2}| + \alpha_2 |\delta_{trans}|}$$

Typical Distributions for Probabilistic Motion Models

Normal distribution

Triangular distribution









Calculating the Probability Density (zero-centered)

- For a normal distribution
 - 1. Algorithm **prob_normal_distribution**(*a*,*b*):

2. return
$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi b^2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}\frac{a^2}{b^2}\right\}$$

- For a triangular distribution
 - 1. Algorithm **prob_triangular_distribution**(*a*,*b*):

2. return max
$$\left\{0, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6} b} - \frac{|a|}{6 b^2}\right\}$$

query point

std. deviation

Calculating the Posterior Given x, x', and Odometry

odometry

1. Algorithm motion_model_odometry $(x, x', [\bar{x}, \bar{x}'])$

2.
$$\delta_{trans} = \sqrt{(\bar{x}'-\bar{x})^2 + (\bar{y}'-\bar{y})^2}$$

3. $\delta_{rot1} = \operatorname{atan2}(\bar{y}'-\bar{y},\bar{x}'-\bar{x})-\bar{\theta}$ odometry params (u)
4. $\delta_{rot2} = \bar{\theta}'-\bar{\theta}-\delta_{rot1}$
5. $\hat{\delta}_{trans} = \sqrt{(x'-x)^2 + (y'-y)^2}$
6. $\hat{\delta}_{rot1} = \operatorname{atan2}(y'-y,x'-x)-\theta$ values of interest (x,x')
7. $\hat{\delta}_{rot2} = \theta'-\theta - \hat{\delta}_{rot1}$
8. $p_1 = \operatorname{prob}(\delta_{rot1} - \hat{\delta}_{rot1}, \alpha_1 | \hat{\delta}_{rot1} | + \alpha_2 \hat{\delta}_{trans})$
9. $p_2 = \operatorname{prob}(\delta_{trans} - \hat{\delta}_{trans}, \alpha_3 \hat{\delta}_{trans} + \alpha_4(|\hat{\delta}_{rot1}| + |\hat{\delta}_{rot2}|))$
10. $p_3 = \operatorname{prob}(\delta_{rot2} - \hat{\delta}_{rot2}, \alpha_1 | \hat{\delta}_{rot2} | + \alpha_2 \hat{\delta}_{trans})$
11. return $p_1 \cdot p_2 \cdot p_3$

Application

- Repeated application of the sensor model for short movements.
- Typical banana-shaped distributions obtained for the 2d-projection of the 3d posterior.



Sample-Based Density Representation



Sample-Based Density Representation



How to Sample from Normal Distributions?

- Sampling from a normal distribution
 - 1. Algorithm **sample_normal_distribution**(*b*):

2. return
$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{12} rand(-b, b)$$

Normally Distributed Samples



10⁶ samples

How to Sample from Normal or Triangular Distributions?

- Sampling from a normal distribution
 - 1. Algorithm **sample_normal_distribution**(*b*):

2. return
$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{12} rand(-b, b)$$

- Sampling from a triangular distribution
 - 1. Algorithm **sample_triangular_distribution**(*b*):

2. return
$$\frac{\sqrt{6}}{2}$$
 [rand $(-b,b)$ + rand $(-b,b)$]

For Triangular Distribution



10³ samples



10⁵ samples



10⁴ samples



10⁶ samples

How to Obtain Sample from Arbitrary Functions?



Rejection Sampling

- Sampling from arbitrary distributions
- Sample x from a uniform distribution from [-b,b]
- Sample *c* from [0, max f]
- if f(x) > c keep the sample otherwise reject the sample



Rejection Sampling

- Sampling from arbitrary distributions
 - 1. Algorithm **sample_distribution**(*f*,*b*):
 - 2. repeat
 - 3. $x = \operatorname{rand}(-b, b)$
 - 4. $y = rand(0, max{f(x) | x \in [-b, b]})$
 - 5. until $(y \leq f(x))$
 - 6. return x

Example

Sampling from

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} abs(x) & x \in [-1; 1] \\ 0 & otherwise \end{cases}$$



Sample Odometry Motion Model

1. Algorithm **sample_motion_model**(u, x):

$$u = \langle \delta_{rot1}, \delta_{rot2}, \delta_{trans} \rangle, x = \langle x, y, \theta \rangle$$
1. $\hat{\delta}_{rot1} = \delta_{rot1} + \text{sample}(\alpha_1 | \delta_{rot1} | + \alpha_2 \delta_{trans})$
2. $\hat{\delta}_{trans} = \delta_{trans} + \text{sample}(\alpha_2 \delta_{trans} + \alpha_4 (|\delta_{rot1}| + |\delta_{rot2}|))$
3. $\hat{\delta}_{rot2} = \delta_{rot2} + \text{sample}(\alpha_1 | \delta_{rot2} | + \alpha_2 \delta_{trans})$
4. $x' = x + \hat{\delta}_{trans} \cos(\theta + \hat{\delta}_{rot1})$
5. $y' = y + \hat{\delta}_{trans} \sin(\theta + \hat{\delta}_{rot1})$
5. $\theta' = \theta + \hat{\delta}_{rot1} + \hat{\delta}_{rot2}$

7. Return $\langle x', y', \theta' \rangle$

Examples (Odometry-Based)



Sampling from Our Motion Model



Velocity-Based Model



Noise Model for the Velocity-Based Model

The measured motion is given by the true motion corrupted with noise.

$$\hat{v} = v + \varepsilon_{\alpha_{1} |v| + \alpha_{2} |\omega|}$$
$$\hat{\omega} = \omega + \varepsilon_{\alpha_{3} |v| + \alpha_{4} |\omega|}$$

Question: What is the disadvantage of this noise model?

Noise Model for the Velocity-Based Model

- The circle constrains the final orientation
- 2D manifold in a 3D space
- Better approach:

 $\hat{v} = v + \varepsilon_{\alpha_{1} |v| + \alpha_{2} |\omega|}$ $\hat{\omega} = \omega + \varepsilon_{\alpha_{3} |v| + \alpha_{4} |\omega|}$ $\hat{\gamma} = \varepsilon_{\alpha_{5} |v| + \alpha_{6} |\omega|}$

Term to account for the final rotation

Motion Including 3rd Parameter

$$\begin{aligned} x' &= x - \frac{\hat{v}}{\hat{\omega}} \sin \theta + \frac{\hat{v}}{\hat{\omega}} \sin(\theta + \hat{\omega}\Delta t) \\ y' &= y + \frac{\hat{v}}{\hat{\omega}} \cos \theta - \frac{\hat{v}}{\hat{\omega}} \cos(\theta + \hat{\omega}\Delta t) \\ \theta' &= \theta + \hat{\omega}\Delta t + \hat{\gamma}\Delta t \\ \uparrow \end{aligned}$$

Term to account for the final rotation

$$\begin{aligned} x_{t-1} &= (x, y, \theta)^T \\ x_t &= (x, y', \theta')^T \end{aligned}$$

Center of circle:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x^* \\ y^* \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda \sin \theta \\ \lambda \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\uparrow$$
some co

some constant

(center of circle is orthogonal to the initial heading)



some constant (circle's center lies on a ray half way between x and x' and is orthogonal to the line between x and x')

$$\begin{aligned} x_{t-1} &= (x, y, \theta)^T \\ x_t &= (x, y', \theta')^T \end{aligned} \text{ some constant} \\ \text{Center of circle: } \\ \begin{pmatrix} x^* \\ y^* \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda \sin \theta \\ \lambda \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{x+x'}{2} + \mu(y-y') \\ \frac{y+y'}{2} + \mu(x'-x) \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Allows us to solve the equations to:

$$\mu = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(x-x')\cos\theta + (y-y')\sin\theta}{(y-y')\cos\theta - (x-x')\sin\theta}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_{t-1} &= (x, y, \theta)^T \\ x_t &= (x, y', \theta')^T \\ \begin{pmatrix} x^* \\ y^* \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{x+x'}{2} + \mu(y-y') \\ \frac{y+y'}{2} + \mu(x'-x) \end{pmatrix} \quad \mu = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(x-x')\cos\theta + (y-y')\sin\theta}{(y-y')\cos\theta - (x-x')\sin\theta} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$r^* = \sqrt{(x'-x)^2 + (y'-y)^2}$$

$$\Delta \theta = \operatorname{atan2}(y'-y^*, x'-x^*) - \operatorname{atan2}(y-y^*, x-x^*)$$

The parameters of the circle:

$$r^* = \sqrt{(x'-x)^2 + (y'-y)^2}$$

$$\Delta \theta = \operatorname{atan2}(y'-y^*, x'-x^*) - \operatorname{atan2}(y-y^*, x-x^*)$$

allow for computing the velocities as

$$v = \frac{\Delta \theta}{\Delta t} r^*$$
$$\omega = \frac{\Delta \theta}{\Delta t}$$

Posterior Probability for Velocity Model

Algorithm motion_model_velocity(x_t, u_t, x_{t-1}): $p(x_t \mid x_{t-1}, u_t)$ 1:

2:
$$\mu = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(x-x')\cos\theta + (y-y')\sin\theta}{(y-y')\cos\theta - (x-x')\sin\theta}$$

 $x^* = \frac{x + x'}{2} + \mu(y - y')$

4:
$$y^* = \frac{y+y'}{2} + \mu(x'-x)$$

5:
$$r^* = \sqrt{(x - x^*)^2 + (y - y^*)^2}$$

$$\Delta \theta = \operatorname{atan2}(y' - y^*, x' - x^*) - \operatorname{atan2}(y - y^*, x - x^*)$$

6:

7:
$$\hat{v} = \frac{\Delta \theta}{\Delta t} r^*$$

8: $\hat{\omega} = \frac{\Delta \theta}{\Delta t}$

$$\hat{\gamma} = \frac{\theta' - \theta}{\Delta t} - \hat{\omega}$$

return $\operatorname{prob}(v - \hat{v}, \alpha_1 |v| + \alpha_2 |\omega|) \cdot \operatorname{prob}(\omega - \hat{\omega}, \alpha_3 |v| + \alpha_4 |\omega|)$ 10: $\cdot \mathbf{prob}(\hat{\gamma}, \alpha_5 | v | + \alpha_6 | \omega |)$

Sampling from Velocity Model

1: **Algorithm sample_motion_model_velocity(** u_t , x_{t-1} **):**

2:
$$\hat{v} = v + \operatorname{sample}(\alpha_1 |v| + \alpha_2 |\omega|)$$

3: $\hat{\omega} = \omega + \operatorname{sample}(\alpha_3 |v| + \alpha_4 |\omega|)$
4: $\hat{\gamma} = \operatorname{sample}(\alpha_5 |v| + \alpha_6 |\omega|)$
5: $x' = x - \frac{\hat{v}}{\hat{\omega}} \sin \theta + \frac{\hat{v}}{\hat{\omega}} \sin(\theta + \hat{\omega}\Delta t)$
6: $y' = y + \frac{\hat{v}}{\hat{\omega}} \cos \theta - \frac{\hat{v}}{\hat{\omega}} \cos(\theta + \hat{\omega}\Delta t)$
7: $\theta' = \theta + \hat{\omega}\Delta t + \hat{\gamma}\Delta t$
8: return $x_t = (x', y', \theta')^T$

Examples (Velocity-Based)













Map-Consistent Motion Model



 $p(x'|u,x) \neq p(x'|u,x,m)$

Approximation: $p(x'|u, x, m) = \eta p(x'|m) p(x'|u, x)$

Summary

- We discussed motion models for odometry-based and velocity-based systems
- We discussed ways to calculate the posterior probability p(x' | x, u).
- We also described how to sample from p(x'|x, u).
- Typically the calculations are done in fixed time intervals Δt .
- In practice, the parameters of the models have to be learned.
- We also discussed an extended motion model that takes the map into account.