Sheet 7

Topic: Grid Maps
Submission deadline: December, 10
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Exercise: Occupancy Mapping Algorithm Implementation

Implement the occupancy grid mapping algorithm as presented in the lecture. To support this task, we provide a small Octave framework (see course website). The framework contains the following folders:

- **data** contains the recorded laser scans and known robot poses at each time step.
- **octave** contains the grid maps framework with stubs to complete.
- **plots** this folder is used to store images.

The below mentioned tasks should be implemented inside the framework in the directory **octave** by completing the stubs:

- Implement the functions in `prob_to_log_odds.m` and `log_odds_to_prob.m` for converting between probability and log odds values.
- Implement the function in `world_to_map_coordinates.m` for converting the \((x, y)\) world frame coordinates of a point to its corresponding coordinates in the grid map. You might find the Octave functions `ceil` and `floor` useful.
- Implement the function in `inv_sensor_model.m` to compute the update to the log odds value of each cell in the map for a particular laser scan measurement.

After implementing the missing parts, you can run the occupancy grid mapping framework. To do that, change into the directory **octave** and launch Octave. Type `gridmap` to start the main loop (this may take some time). The script will produce plots of the state of the resulting maps and save them in the **plots** directory. You can use the images for debugging and to generate an animation. For example, you can use ffmpeg from inside the plots directory as follows:

```
ffmpeg -r 10 -b 500000 -i gridmap_%03d.png gridmap.mp4
```
Figure 1: Examples for the final result of the occupancy mapping algorithm.

Figure 1 depicts the example images of the resulting maps using grid sizes of 0.5 m and 0.1 m.

Some implementation tips:

- Use an inverse sensor model corresponding to laser range finders (see lecture slides). The corresponding $p_{\text{free}}$ and $p_{\text{occ}}$ values are specified in the `gridmap.m` script. Use $p_{\text{occ}}$ to update the occupancy value of cells that laser beam endpoints hit and $p_{\text{free}}$ for all other cells along the beam. Use the function `robotlaser_as_cartesian.m` to compute the Cartesian coordinates of the endpoints of a laser scan. The provided `bresenham.m` function can be used for computing the cells that lie along a laser beam in map coordinates.

- Compute all occupancy value updates in log odds (not probabilities) so they can be added directly to the map.

- Test your implementation with a grid size of 0.5m. Once you are satisfied with your results, you can run the algorithm with an increased resolution (e.g. 0.1m), as this will take considerably more time.

- While debugging, run the algorithm only for a few steps by replacing the for-loop in `gridmap.m` by something along the lines of `for t = 1:10`.

- Many of the functions in Octave can handle matrices and compute values along the rows or columns of a matrix. Some useful functions that support this are `sum`, `log`, `sqrt`, `sin`, `cos`, and many others.