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 on the 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** stores the resulting 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 of 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 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 like `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.