Remembering Where and When

COMP3431 Robot Software Architectures
This time ...

- We look at the robot equivalent of spatiotemporal memory
Probabilistic Robotics
Localisation with Landmarks
Localisation with Edges

(0,0)

x, y, theta

Angle a1

width w

length g

distance d1

distance d2
Errors

• Measurement errors
  • sensors are never 100% accurate

• Process errors
  • actions never do exactly what they’re supposed to
Example

- Estimating distance to the ball
Measurement Error

Experiments determine errors in distance estimation

Regression Plot

$log(|\text{Error}|) = 0.0203926 + 0.0077388 \times \text{Estimation}$

$S = 1.56738 \quad R-Sq = 29.1 \% \quad R-Sq(adj) = 29.0 \%$
Localisation with Landmarks

Current robot position according to world model

New position estimate after taking into account distance to landmark

(x, y)

d

h
Localisation with Landmarks

New position estimate after taking into account distance to landmark

Updated position
Conditional Probability

\[ P(E|H) = \text{the probability of observing } E \text{ if } H \text{ is true} \]
Bayes’ Rule

• Probability I have a cold if you hear me cough

\[ P(\text{cold} \mid \text{cough}) \propto P(\text{cold}) \times P(\text{cough} \mid \text{cold}) \]

• I.e. if we know the prior probability that I have a cold (without any evidence) and I know that a cold causes a cough, with some probability, then we can calculate the posterior probability
Probabilistic Inference

• Make inferences using probabilities

• Based on Bayes’ rule:

\[ P(H \mid E) \propto P(H) \times P(E \mid H) \]

or

\[ bel(x_t) \propto bel(x_{t-1}) \times \text{prob(} \text{observation} \text{)} \]
Updating State Estimate

- The Kalman filter is commonly used to update the estimate of the robot’s state.

- Two phases:
  1. Prediction (Process Update)
     - predicts where the robot will be after performing an action
  2. Correction (Observation Update)
     - use observations to correct prediction

- What follows is only a sketch of the Kalman filter
  - It’s nowhere near the complete algorithm.
Simplification

- Only one measurement and action
- When there are more, must account for all interactions
- Math becomes more complex
  - Scalar variables are replaced by matrices
Process Update (Simplified)

\[
\bar{x} \leftarrow x + u
\]

\[
\text{var}_x \leftarrow \text{var}_x + Q
\]

- \(\bar{x}\) is the *predicted* new state after action, \(u\)
- Update variance with process noise, \(Q\)
- errors accumulate
Measurement Update

• Move *position estimate* toward *measurement estimate* but proportional to *error estimates*

\[ x \leftarrow \bar{x} + K \times (z - \bar{x}) \]

• \( z \) is the measured state

• new state estimate is predication plus difference between prediction and measurement, proportional to confidence in measurement
Measurement Update

\[ x \leftarrow x + K \times (z - \bar{x}) \]

if \( K = 1 \)

\[ x \leftarrow \bar{x} + z - \bar{x} \]
\[ x \leftarrow z \]

- update \( x \) by the difference in the measured value, \( z \), and the expected value, \( x \), scaled by how much we trust the observation

- If measurement is certain, new state becomes measured state

- otherwise, make change proportional to difference between measurement and prediction
Measurement Update
(Simplified)

\[ K \leftarrow \frac{\text{var}_x}{\text{var}_x + R} \]
\[ x \leftarrow \bar{x} + K \times (z - \bar{x}) \]

- As measurement error \( R \) approaches 0, actual measurement \( z \) is trusted more and more, while predicted measurement \( \bar{x} \) is trusted less and less.

- As state error estimate \( \text{var}_x \) approaches 0, actual measurement \( z \) is trusted less and less, while predicted measurement \( \bar{x} \) is trusted more and more.
Robot estimating state of door
Initial beliefs

• Door can be in one of two states, open or closed

• Represented by state variable, $X$

• Initially, $X$ has equal probability of being open or closed

\[
\text{bel}(X_0 = \text{open}) = 0.5 \\
\text{bel}(X_0 = \text{closed}) = 0.5
\]
Measurement Noise

- Specify the probability of sensor given correct answer
- $Z$ is the measurement, $X$ is the actual value

\[
p(Z_t = \text{sense\_open} | X_t = \text{is\_open}) = 0.6
\]

\[
p(Z_t = \text{sense\_closed} | X_t = \text{is\_open}) = 0.4
\]

\[
p(Z_t = \text{sense\_open} | X_t = \text{is\_closed}) = 0.2
\]

\[
p(Z_t = \text{sense\_closed} | X_t = \text{is\_closed}) = 0.8
\]

- Only 0.2 error probability when door is closed
- but 0.4 error probability when door is open
Process Noise

- Robot uses its manipulator to push door open
- If already open, door stays open
- If closed, robot has 0.8 chance that door will be open after a push

\[
p\left( X_t = \text{is\_open} | U_t = \text{push}, X_{t-1} = \text{is\_open} \right) = 1
\]
\[
p\left( X_t = \text{is\_closed} | U_t = \text{push}, X_{t-1} = \text{is\_open} \right) = 0
\]
\[
p\left( X_t = \text{is\_open} | U_t = \text{push}, X_{t-1} = \text{is\_closed} \right) = 0.8
\]
\[
p\left( X_t = \text{is\_closed} | U_t = \text{push}, X_{t-1} = \text{is\_closed} \right) = 0.2
\]
Process Noise

• The robot may do nothing

• World does not change

\[
P(X_t = \text{is\_open}|U_t = \text{do\_nothing}, X_{t-1} = \text{is\_open}) = 1 \\
P(X_t = \text{is\_closed}|U_t = \text{do\_nothing}, X_{t-1} = \text{is\_open}) = 0 \\
P(X_t = \text{is\_open}|U_t = \text{do\_nothing}, X_{t-1} = \text{is\_closed}) = 0 \\
P(X_t = \text{is\_closed}|U_t = \text{do\_nothing}, X_{t-1} = \text{is\_closed}) = 1
\]
Probabilistic Robotics

• Belief in a state variable $x$ at time $t$ is its probability at $t$ given all past measurements and actions:

$$bel(x_t) = p(x_t | z_{1..t}, u_{1..t})$$

• Belief after action $u_t$ but before observation $z_t$, i.e. after prediction but before correction:

$$\overline{bel}(x_t) = p(x_t | z_{1..t-1}, u_{1..t})$$
Bayes’ Rule

• Don’t have to use entire history

• Use Bayes’ Rule

\[ bel(x_t) \propto prob(\text{observation}) \times bel(x_{t-1}) \]

• Belief is a probability distribution over state variable

• Update must sum probabilities of outcomes of actions for each possible value
Example

• If door is open and robot pushes, what is the outcome?

• If door is open and robot does nothing, what is the outcome?

• If door is closed and robot pushes, what is the outcome?

• If door is closed and robot does nothing, what is the outcome?
Bayes Filter

For all state variables

Predict value after the next action

Update the value based on the next measurement

\[
\text{for all } x_t \text{ do } \\
\text{ } \\
\overline{\text{bel}}(x_t) = \int p(x_t|u_t,x_{t-1}) \text{bel}(x_{t-1}) \, dx_{t-1} \\
\text{bel}(x_t) = \eta \, p(z_t|x_t) \overline{\text{bel}}(x_t)
\]

Prediction for \(x_t\) is the sum of predictions for each value of \(x_t\)

Update prediction by last observation

\(\eta\) is a normalising factor to keep probabilities in 0 .. 1.
Example

• At $t = 1$ the robot takes no action but senses an open door

  • $u_t = \text{do\_nothing}$

  • $z_t = \text{sense\_open}$

\[
\overline{bel}(x_1) = \int p(x_1|u_1, x_0) \, bel(x_0) \, dx_0 \\
= \sum_{x_0} p(x_1|u_1, x_0) \, bel(x_0) \\
= p(X_1|U_t = \text{do\_nothing}, X_o = \text{is\_open}) \, bel(X_0 = \text{is\_open}) \\
+ p(X_1|U_t = \text{do\_nothing}, X_o = \text{is\_closed}) \, bel(X_0 = \text{is\_closed})
\]
Example

Substitute values for $X_I$

$$\overline{bel}(x_1 = is\_open)$$

$$= p\left(X_1 = is\_open | U_t = do\_nothing, X_o = is\_open\right) bel\left(X_0 = is\_open\right)$$

$$+ p\left(X_1 = is\_open | U_t = do\_nothing, X_o = is\_closed\right) bel\left(X_0 = is\_closed\right)$$

$$= 1 \times 0.5 + 0 \times 0.5$$

$$= 0.5$$

$$\overline{bel}(x_1 = is\_closed)$$

$$= p\left(X_1 = is\_closed | U_t = do\_nothing, X_o = is\_open\right) bel\left(X_0 = is\_open\right)$$

$$+ p\left(X_1 = is\_closed | U_t = do\_nothing, X_o = is\_closed\right) bel\left(X_0 = is\_closed\right)$$

$$= 0 \times 0.5 + 1 \times 0.5$$

$$= 0.5$$
Measurement Update

\[ \text{bel}(x_1) = \eta \ p(z_1 = \text{sense_open}|x_1) \overline{\text{bel}}(x_1) \]

\[ \text{bel}(x_1 = \text{is_open}) = \eta \ p(z_1 = \text{sense_open}|x_1 = \text{is_open}) \overline{\text{bel}}(x_1 = \text{is_open}) \]
\[ = \eta \times 0.6 \times 0.5 \]
\[ = \eta \times 0.3 \]

\[ \text{bel}(x_1 = \text{is_closed}) = \eta \ p(z_1 = \text{sense_open}|x_1 = \text{is_closed}) \overline{\text{bel}}(x_1 = \text{is_closed}) \]
\[ = \eta \times 0.2 \times 0.5 \]
\[ = \eta \times 0.1 \]

\[ \eta = \frac{1}{0.3 + 0.1} = 2.5 \]

\[ \text{bel}(x_1 = \text{is_open}) = 0.75 \]
\[ \text{bel}(x_1 = \text{is_closed}) = 0.25 \]

Normalise to ensure that probabilities add up to 1
Iterate for more actions

If the next action is **push** and the measurement is **sense_open**:

\[
\overline{bel}(x_1 = \text{is\_open}) = 1 \times 0.75 + 0.8 \times 0.25 = 0.95
\]

\[
\overline{bel}(x_1 = \text{is\_closed}) = 0 \times 0.75 + 0.2 \times 0.25 = 0.05
\]

and

\[
bel(x_1 = \text{is\_open}) = \eta \times 0.6 \times 0.95 \approx 0.983
\]

\[
bel(x_1 = \text{is\_closed}) = \eta \times 0.2 \times 0.05 \approx 0.017
\]
Position Tracking

- Robot moves
- Predict new position based on what motor actions are expected to do
- Measure
  - Uses sensors to estimate motion
- Update position estimate (often a Kalman Filter)
RoboCup Localisation

- Estimates of robot and ball positions include variance (or error)

- Robot has errors in
  - $x$
  - $y$
  - heading

- Robot variance is shown as an ellipse and sector
Particle Filter

1. Randomly guess position

2. Move particles according to motion model, including process noise

3. Weight particles by probability that measurement corresponds to particle

4. Drop low weight particles and resample
Particle Filter

https://github.com/mjl/particle_filter_demo
Particle Filter

$\text{ParticleFilter}(\chi_{t-1}, u_t, z_t)$

$\bar{\chi}_t = \chi_t = \emptyset$

for $m = 1$ to $M$

sample $x_t^{[m]} \sim p(x_t | u_t, x_{t-1}^{[m]})$

$w_t^{[m]} = p(z_t | x_t^{[m]})$

$\bar{\chi}_t = \bar{\chi}_t + \langle x_t^{[m]}, w_t^{[m]} \rangle$

for $m = 1$ to $M$

draw $i$ with probability $\alpha w_t^{[i]}$

add $x_t^{[i]}$ to $\chi_t$

return $\chi_t$

Each particle is a hypothesis of what the state is at time $t$

Sample from the state transition distribution

Weight is probability of measurement for particle

Resample by weight
Measurement Errors

• Position tracking usually uses wheel encoders to estimate motion

• Unreliable in rescue robots

• We use lasers and RGB-D cameras

• Estimate motion from difference in successive scans
Simultaneous Localisation and Mapping (SLAM)

- Depth sensors also give distance to objects
- Similar estimation methods can be used to update map
Loop Closure
(Full SLAM)

- Position tracking alone will accumulate errors

- If the robot recognise a landmark that it has seen before
  - it can correct drift by updating estimate based on measurement of landmark

- Error correction is back-propagated
Probabilistic Robotics

- Position tracking, mapping, localisation
- How confident are we that a robot arm has gripped an object?
- Is what I’m seeing really a ball or is it a cylinder, end-on?
- Is the ground ahead a flat, traversable surface or is it the surface of a deep lake?
- If I drive into that obstacle, what are the chances that it’s a bush that I can go over or it’s a boulder that I’ll crash into?
- How confident is my autonomous car in detecting pedestrians?