

- Tutorial -

Motion autonomy & Robust navigation in Robotics

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- **Tutorial 1** (3h, C. Laugier)

Motion planning & Reactive control architecture

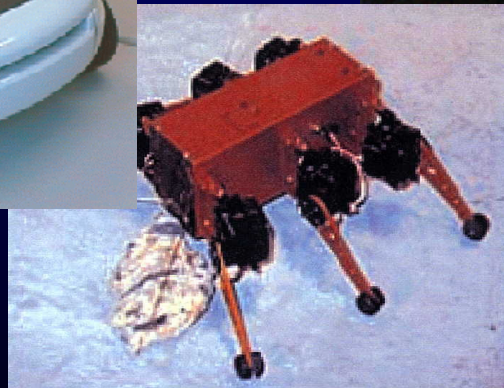
- 1. Basic geometric models & algorithms for motion planning**
- 2. Dealing with real world constraints**
=> kinematic, dynamicity, uncertainty & hazard
- 3. Reactive navigation techniques**

- **Tutorial 2** (3h, O. Aycard)

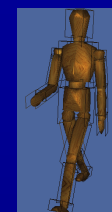
Bayesian programming & Robust decision making

- Part I -

Basic Geometric models & Algorithms for Motion Planning



Motion of artificial systems



Manipulator & mobile robots, Articulated hands, Drones, Automated vehicles ... Virtual characters

1. Motion planning

Geometric world modeling + A priori determination of the motions that will take a robotic system from its current « *configuration* » (i.e. *position & orientation of each individual components of the robot*) to a given goal « *configuration* »

e.g. walking, moving around, grasping and mating objects ...

⇒ Motion planning is a fundamental problem in robotics
(largely addressed since the late 60's)

2. Reactive navigation

On-line adaptation of a motion plan according to execution conditions (hazard perception in particular)

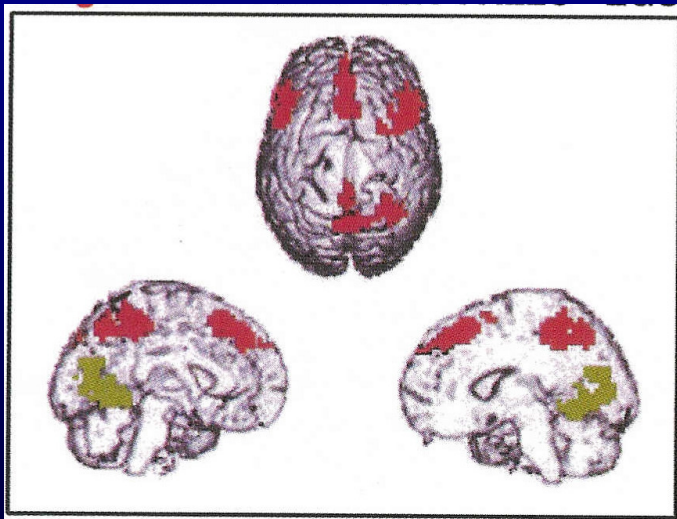
⇒ Making use of some additional models (sensori-motors, behaviors ...)

Something to learn from biological systems ?

[Berthoz 01]

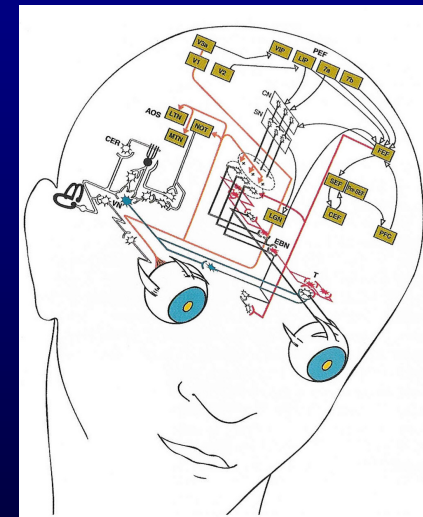
Spatial orientation & Memory of routes :

- *Egocentric coding & Allocentric coding*
- *Survey of map like strategy : Mental map => Topo-kinetic memory*
- *Route like strategy : Memory of motions & perception (eyes, vestibular, muscles ...)*
=> *Topo-kinesthetic memory*



Brain areas involved in:

- *Egocentric tasks => parietofrontal regions*
- *Allocentric tasks => parietotemporal regions*



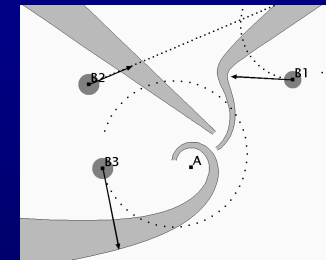
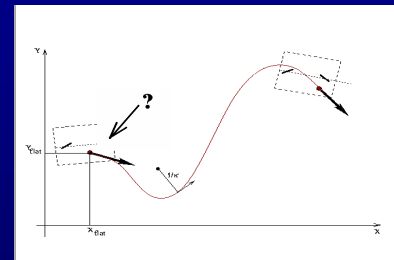
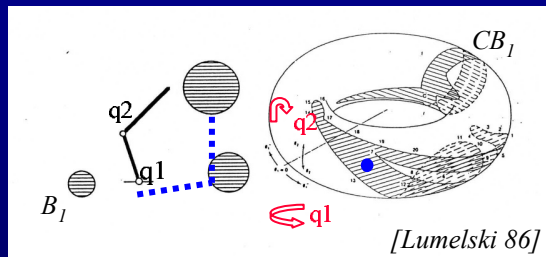
Network of structures contributing to saccadic eye movements (brain areas, vestibular system, muscles) [Berthoz 97]

=> Several models & planning / navigation strategies are combined

How to construct computational models ?

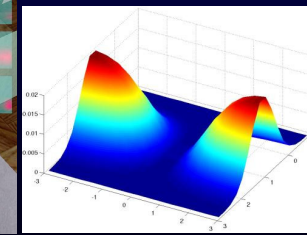
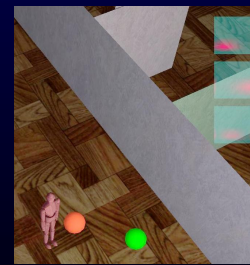
- **“Mental Map” for Motion Planning (MP)**

- ✓ *Mainly geometrical & kinematic models*
- ✓ *Appropriate representations (Configuration space, Velocity space ...)*
- ✓ *Appropriate algorithms (collision checking, graph search, random search ...)*



- **“Route like strategies” for Reactive Navigation**

- ✓ *Mainly reactive architectures & probabilistic models*
- ✓ *Appropriate representations (sensori-motor schemes, behaviors ...)*
- ✓ *Appropriate approaches (reactive architectures, learning ...)*



Basic Motion Planning Problem

The Piano Mover's Problem

- “Free flying” mobile (rigid object(s))
- Stationary obstacles
- A priori known geometric model



=> Compute a *path* (continuous sequence of collision-free “position-orientations”) between a start and a goal “position-orientation”.

Report failure if no such path exists

=> The focus is on the *geometric aspects* of motion planning. Physical and temporal issues are disregarded. *Collision avoidance* is the key issue.

Though simplified, this problem is already difficult. It is of practical interest and several of its solutions can be extended for more involved motion planning problems

Extensions of the basic problem

1- Mobile obstacles (not under control)

Planning a geometric path is not sufficient, *time* has to be taken into account !

=> *Motion = Time sequence of collision-free configurations (adding the time dimension)*



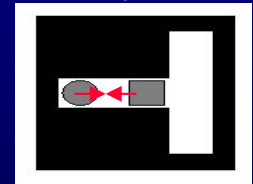
2- Multiple mobile systems

– Centralised approach : *The whole system is considered as a « multi-bodied mobile »*

=> $A = \cup A_i \Rightarrow \text{Search-space}(A) = \prod \text{Search-space}(A_i)$

– Decoupled approach : *Each mobile component is considered separately + Priority*

=> *Complexity is reduced at the expense of completeness !*



3- Kinematic constraints

– “Holonomic” constraints

e.g. an arm carrying a glass of water (suppressing some rotation directions)

=> *Restricting the set of admissible configurations (i.e. the search space)*

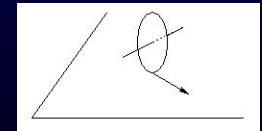
$$W = \mathcal{R}^3 \times SO^3 \text{ and "Search - space"} = \mathcal{R}^3 \times SO^1$$

– “Non-holonomic” constraints

e.g. a wheel rolling without slipping, or a car

=> *any (x,y,θ) can be reached, but (dx/dy = tg θ) !!!*

=> *Restricting the set of admissible “differential motions” (i.e. path shape constraints)*



Extensions of the basic problem (C'ed)

4- Dynamic constraints

The *physical properties* of the mobile reappear !

e.g. forces & torques, velocity & acceleration bounds, inertia, etc

=> *Trajectories have to be considered instead of geometrical paths (State-Time space)*

5- Movable objects (manipulation)

To reach a goal, *objects may have to be displaced* (e.g. through grasping)

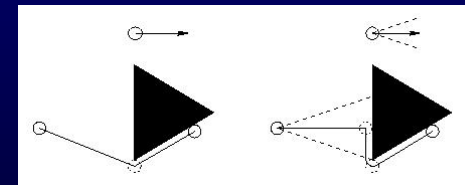
=> *Motion = Alternate sequence of "move" and "transfer" (Manipulation space)*

6- Uncertainty

– Perception & Sensing errors

=> *Modeling uncertainty*

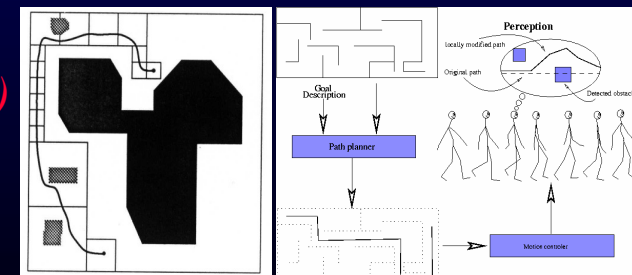
& Using robust sensor-based strategies



– Partly known workspace

=> *Path planning (producing a set of admissible paths)*

& Sensor-based obstacle avoidance



A key concept : “Configuration space”

[Udupa 77; Lozano-Perez 83]

The initial *MP* formulation in the workspace is not tractable !!!

(i.e. continuous sequence of collision-free “position-orientations” of all the robot components)

=> Configuration Space is a fundamental tool to address motion planning

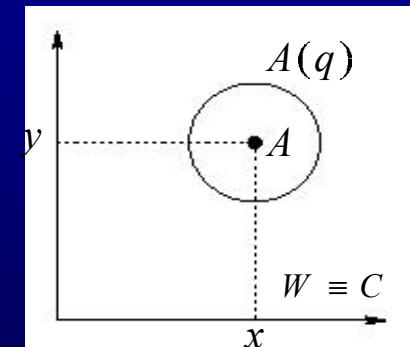
• Configuration of a mobile system

Minimal set of independent parameters uniquely specifying the position & orientation of every component of a mobile system

=> *mobile = a point in C_{space}*

e.g. *A disc translating in the plane ($W = \mathbb{R}^2$)*

=> $q = (x, y)$, position of the reference point A



• Configuration space

=> *Space of all the configurations of the mobile system*

e.g. $C_{space} = \mathbb{R}^2 = W$ for the disc in the plane (particular case)

A key concept : “Configuration space” (C’ed)

- “Correspondence” between C and W for the mobile A

$A(q)$: subset of W occupied by A at configuration q

=> for collision checking in W (i.e. does $A(q)$ intersect obstacle B ?)

- “Correspondence” between C and W for the obstacles B

Obstacles $B =$ subsets of W , B_i , $i = 1 \dots k$

C -obstacle (B) = subsets of C such as $A(q)$ intersect B

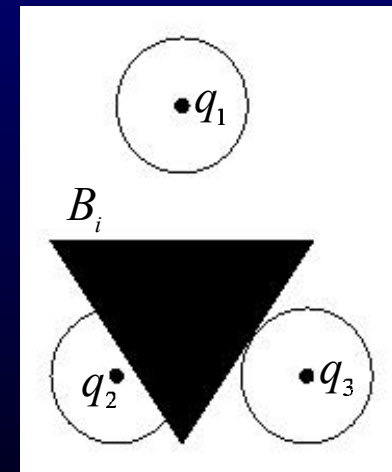
=> for representing forbidden configurations in C (i.e. C -obstacles)

Free space : q is free iff $\forall i, A(q) \cap B_i = \emptyset$

Contact sets : q is in contact iff $\exists i, A(q) \cap \delta B_i \neq \emptyset$

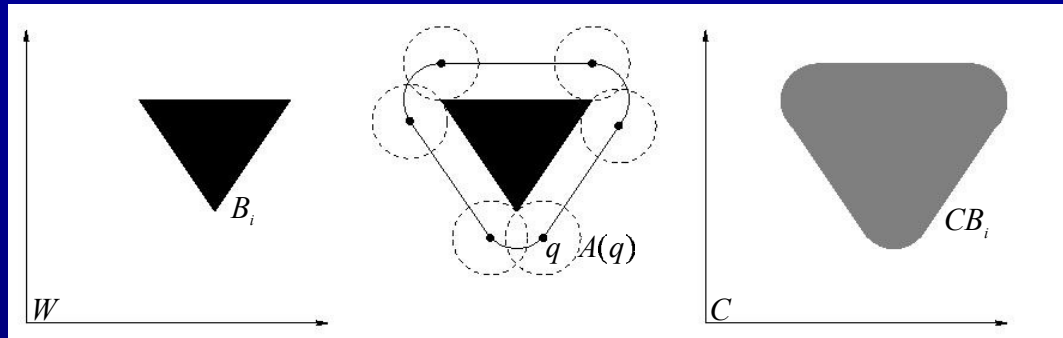
Collision sets : q is in collision iff $\exists i, A(q) \cap \text{int } B_i \neq \emptyset$

$$C = C_{\text{free}} \cup C_{\text{contact}} \cup C_{\text{collision}}$$



Path planning using C_{space}

- Representing the $C_{obstacles}$



$$CB_i = \{q \mid A(q) \cap B_i \neq \emptyset\}$$

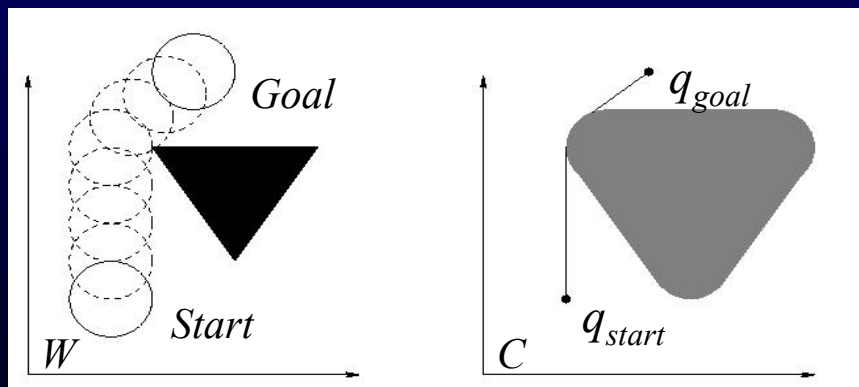
$$C_{free} = C - \bigcup_i CB_i$$

- Path planning for the robot A in W

\Leftrightarrow path planning for the point q in C

\Leftrightarrow search for a *collision-free path*, i.e. a curve of C_{free} (or $C_{free} \cup C_{contact}$)

path $\pi: [0, 1] \rightarrow C_{free}$ (or $C_{free} \cup C_{contact}$)



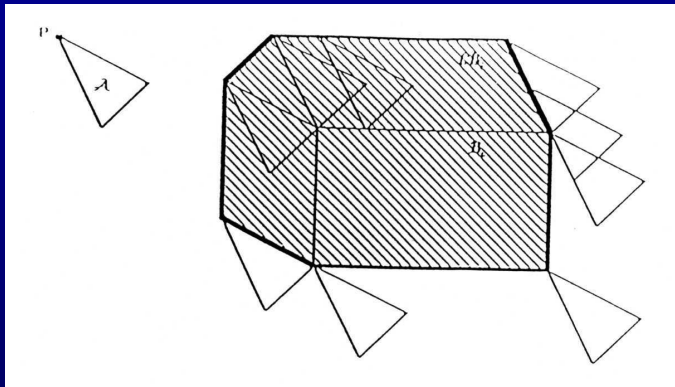
**\Rightarrow General path planning approach :
Compute, Structure, then Explore C_{free}**

*It looks conceptually simpler but ...
how to do that in practice ?
how to deal with rotations ?*

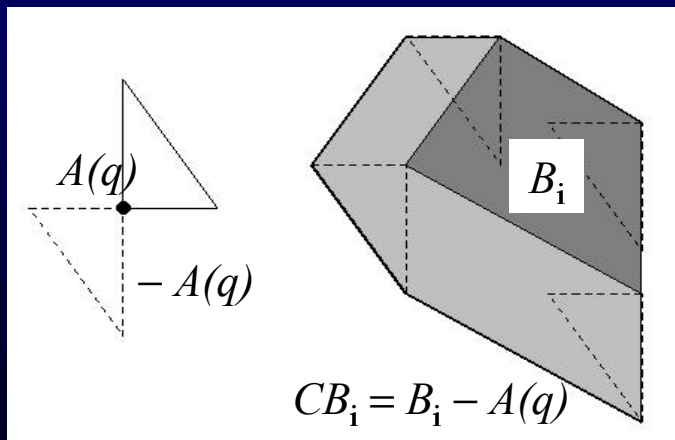
Constructing $C_{obstacle}$

Case study #1: Polygonal robot translating amidst polygonal obstacles

$$W = \mathbb{R}^2, q = (x, y) \Rightarrow C = \mathbb{R}^2$$



Intuitive C-obstacle construction:
 “sliding” A along B_i boundaries
 $\Rightarrow CB_i = \text{locus of ref point } R \text{ of } A$



Exact C-obstacle calculation :
 \Rightarrow using the Minkowski's sum
 (“growing B_i inversely to the shape of A ”)

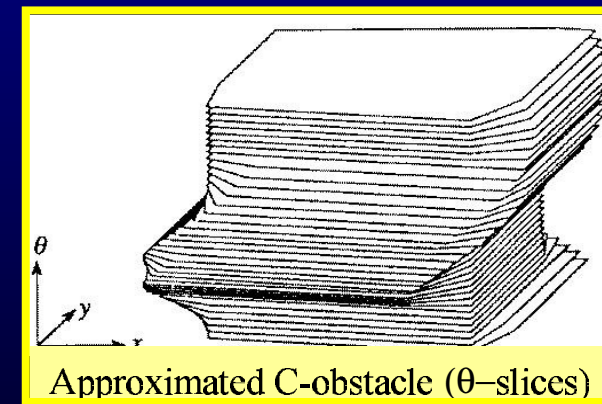
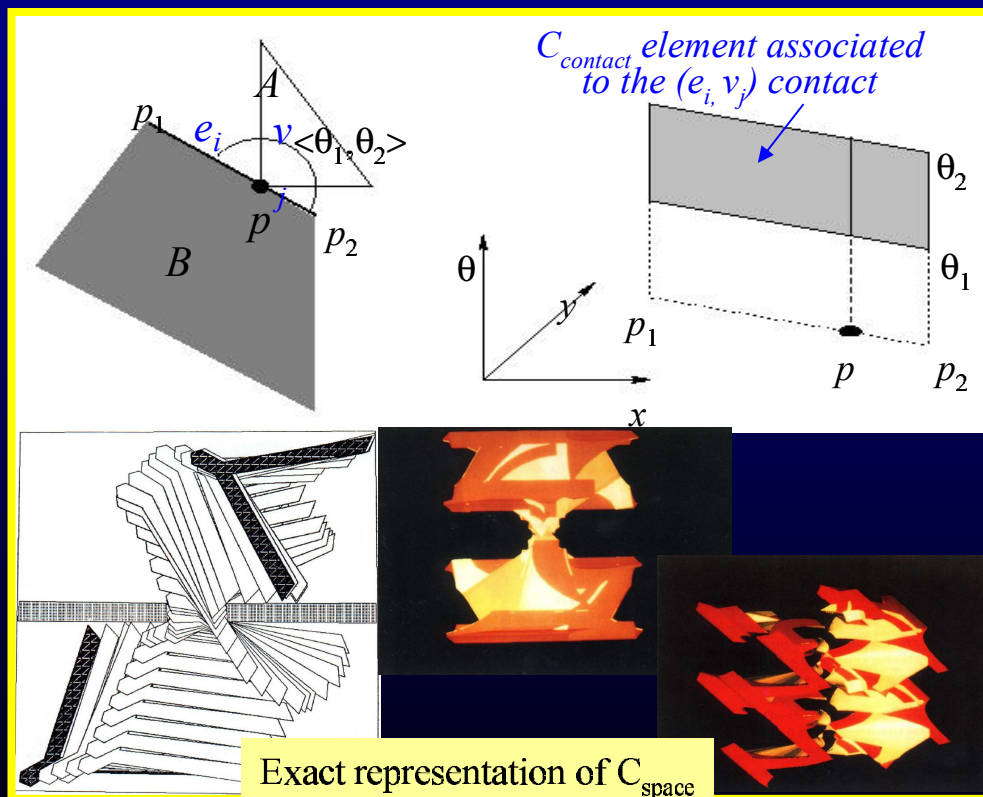
Constructing $C_{obstacle}$ (C'ed)

Case study #2 : Polygonal robot translating & rotating amidst polygonal obstacles

$$W = R^2, q = (x, y, \theta) \Rightarrow C = R^2 \times S$$

Exact C-obstacle calculation still possible but complex ! [Avnain & Boissonnat 89]

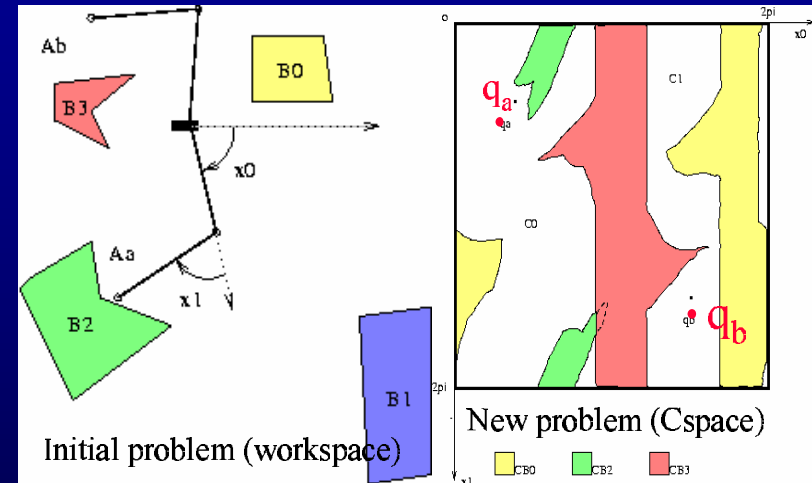
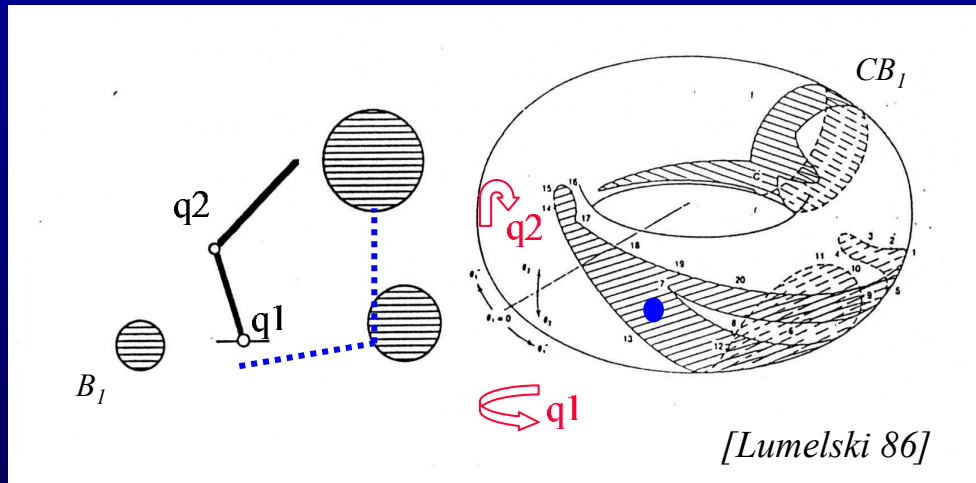
$\Rightarrow C_{contact}$ (i.e. the boundary of C_{free}) = Set of ruled surfaces created by the translations and rotations of Cspace segments associated with elementary contacts (edge, vertex)



Constructing $C_{obstacles}$ (C'_{ed})

Case study #3: 2-links planar manipulator arm amidst 2D obstacles

$$W = R^2, q = (\theta_1, \theta_2) \Rightarrow C = S^2$$



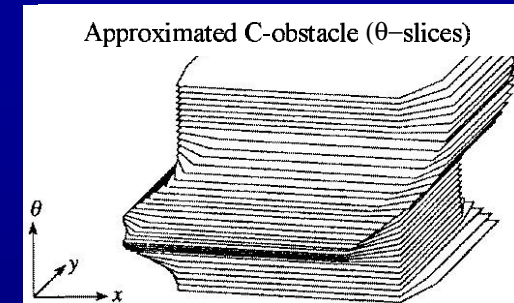
=> No tractable general method exists for computing an exact representation of $C_{obstacle}$ (and of C_{free}) in the general case !!!

=> Appropriate approaches have to be designed for constructing & searching a "manageable" representation of C_{free}

How to do this in practice ?

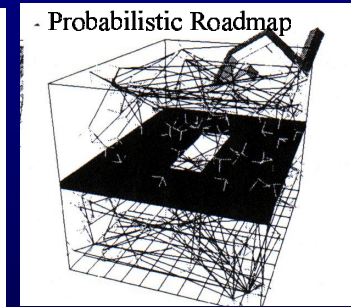
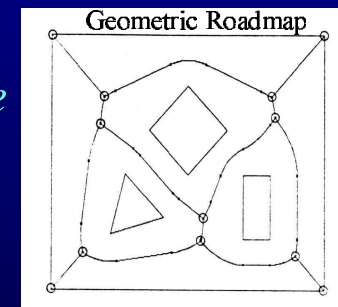
- **Cell decomposition**

Exact or approximated decomposition of C_{space} for constructing & searching a graph representing the topological & geometric structure of C_{free}



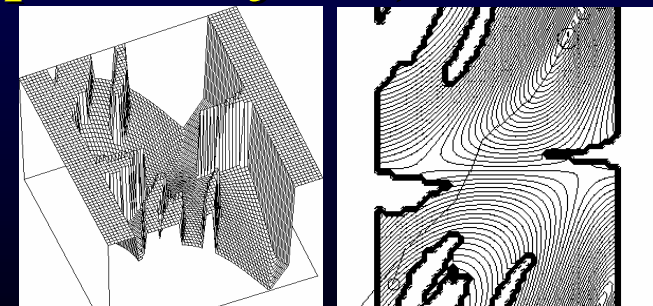
- **Roadmaps**

Constructing & searching a network representing the connectivity of C_{free} (geometric or probabilistic approaches can be used)



- **Gradient descent methods (e.g. Artificial potential fields)**

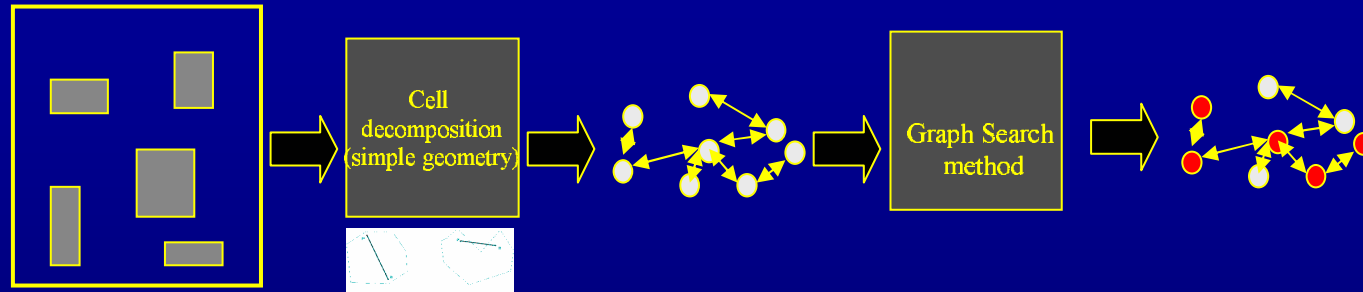
Representing C_{free} using an underlying energy / cost function, and searching this space using a gradient descent method



“Cell decomposition” approaches

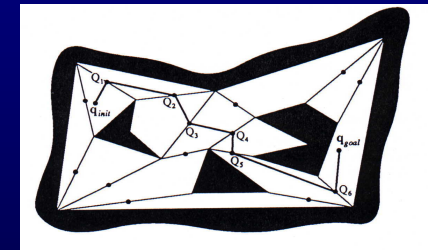
Constructing and searching a « Connectivity Graph » representing C_{free}

- **Basic idea**



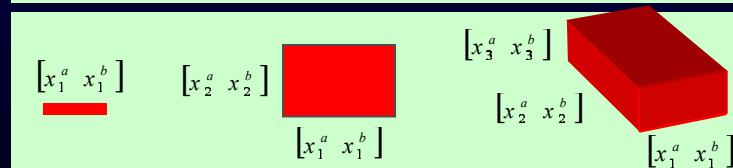
- C_{space} representation

- **Exact decomposition** $\bigcup_{i=0}^m c_i = C_{free}$
 => Complete, Reduced number of cells ... But difficult to build!
 (apply only for some simple cases)

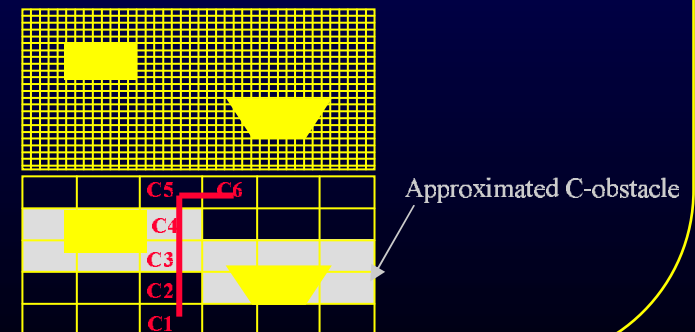


- **Approximated decomposition** $\bigcup_{i=0}^m c_i \subset C_{free}$
 => Complete at a given resolution only, Large number of cells
 ... Much more easy to implement (cells of predefined shape, e.g. rectangloids or 2^m -trees) !

$$Cell_k = \{ (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid x_1 \in [x_1^a, x_1^b], \dots, x_n \in [x_n^a, x_n^b] \}$$

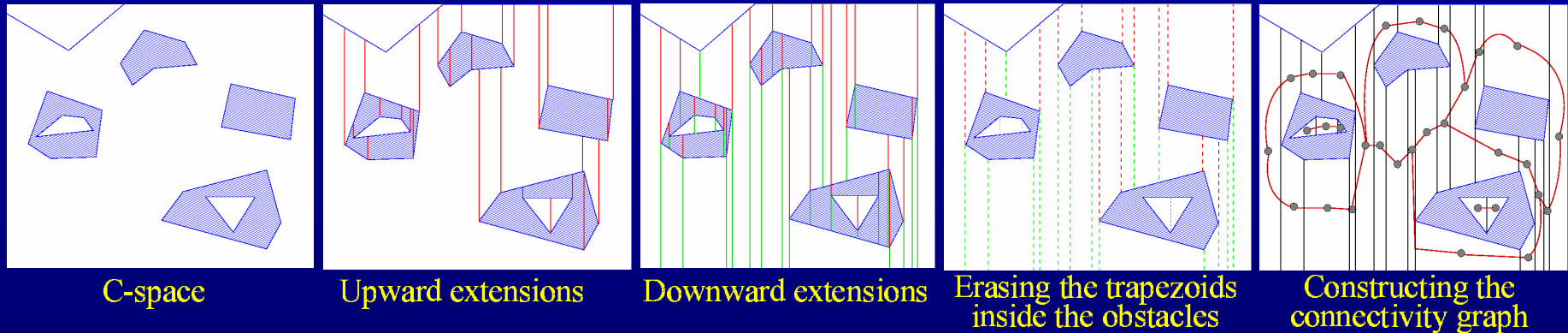


A widely used decomposition technique : “Rectangloids”

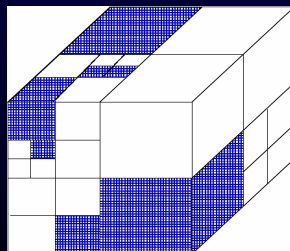
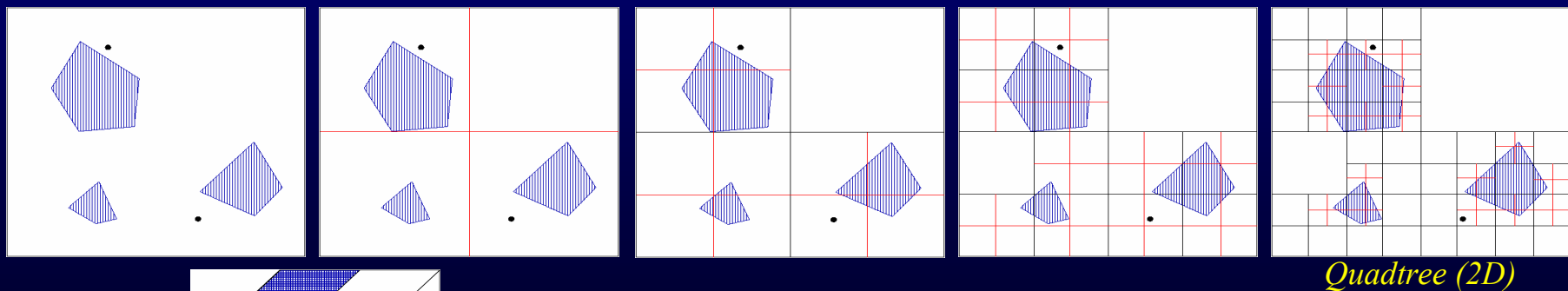


Some "Cell decomposition" algorithms

- Exact decomposition using trapezoids (in R^2)



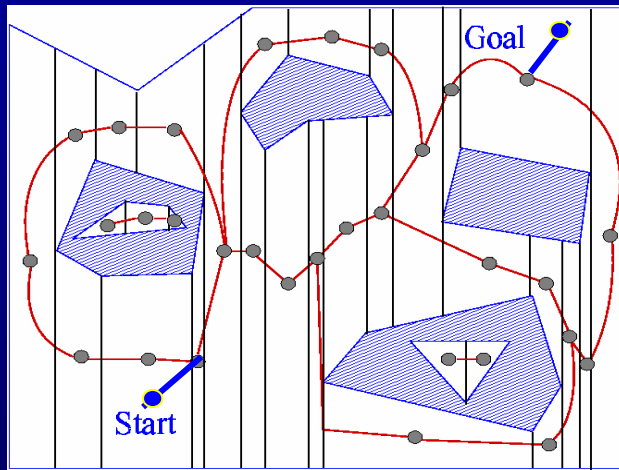
- Approximated decomposition using 2^m -trees



Octree (3D)

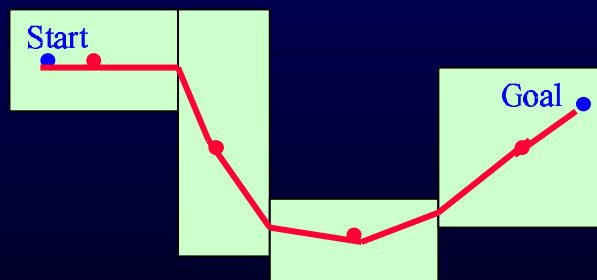
“Cell decomposition” approaches (C’ed)

- Searching for a “generic collision-free path”

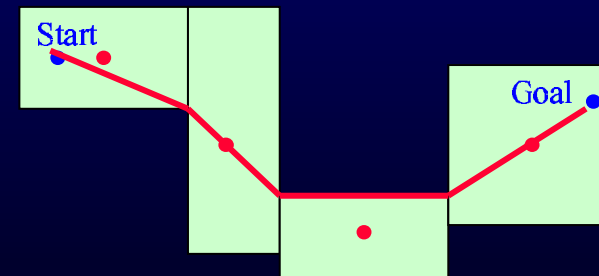


1. Constructing a graph connecting cells sharing a common frontier (connectivity graph)
2. Searching the graph (e.g. using a A^* algorithm)
3. A “generic collision-free path” = An ordered set of cells $\{C_1, C_2 \dots C_k\}$ (a “channel”)

- Constructing a “collision-free path”



A possible solution (connecting middle points)
=> More robust according to uncertainty

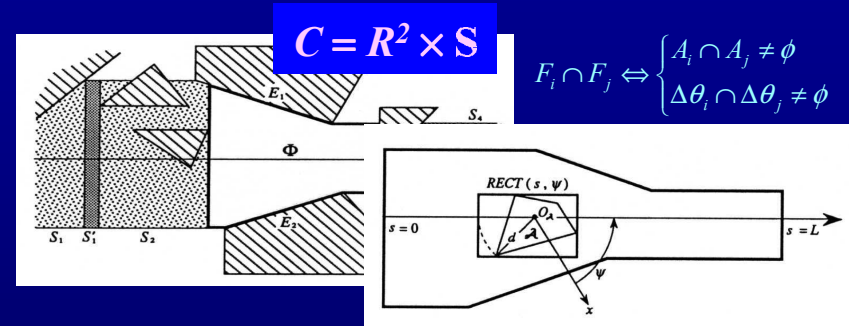
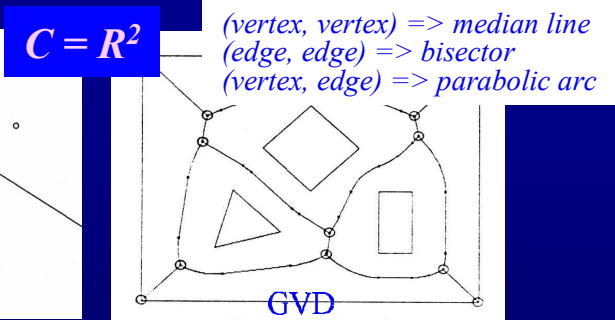
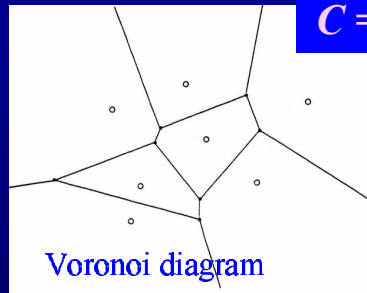


An other solution (connecting closest safe points)
=> Shorter, but closer to obstacles

“Geometric Roadmap”

Constructing a network of “roads” representing the connectivity of C_{free}
 => Apply only for low dimensional spaces

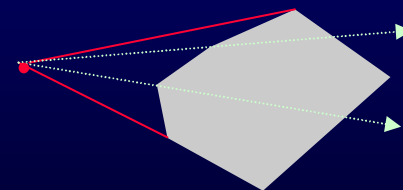
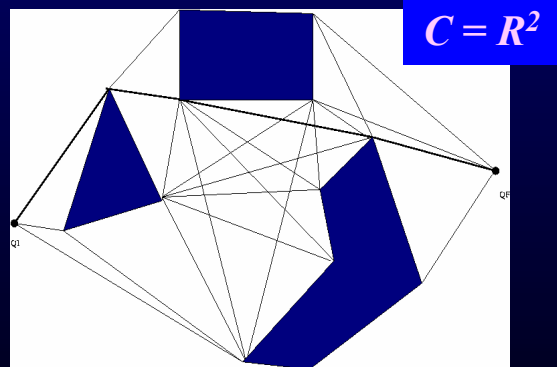
- Retraction of C_{free}



Generalized Voronoi Diagram (GVD) [O'Dunlaing & Yap 82]

“Freeways” (generalized cylinders) [Brooks 82]

- Visibility graph [Nilsson 69]



Pruning the visibility graph
 (deleting non-tangential edges)

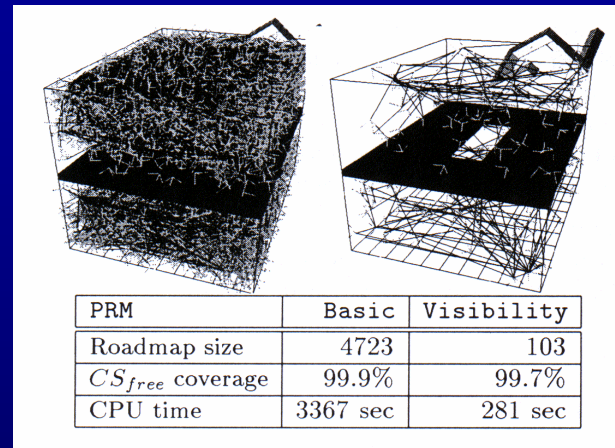
Connecting the “visible” vertices of the C-obstacles

“Probabilistic Roadmaps”

Constructing a network representing the connectivity of C_{free}
 => Apply for complex & high dimensional spaces

• Probabilistic Path Planner (PPP)

Simple local planner
 +
 Random exploration of C_{free}

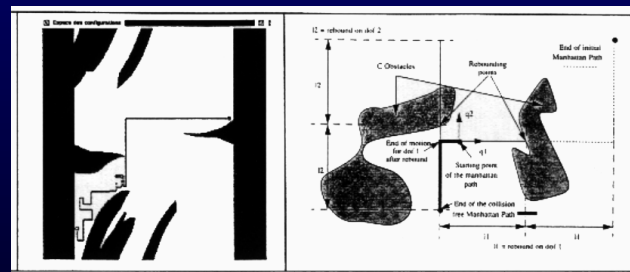


Basic PPP
 [Svestka & Overmars 95]

Visibility based PR
 [Simeon 99]

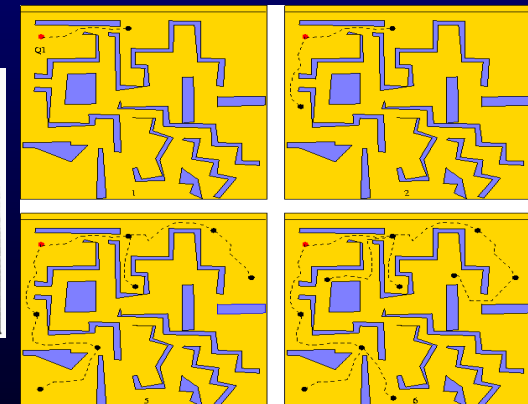
• Adriane’s Clew Algorithm (ACA) [Ahuactzin 94]

Simple local planner
 +
 Random exploration of C_{free}
 +
 Optimization function



Search function (local planner)

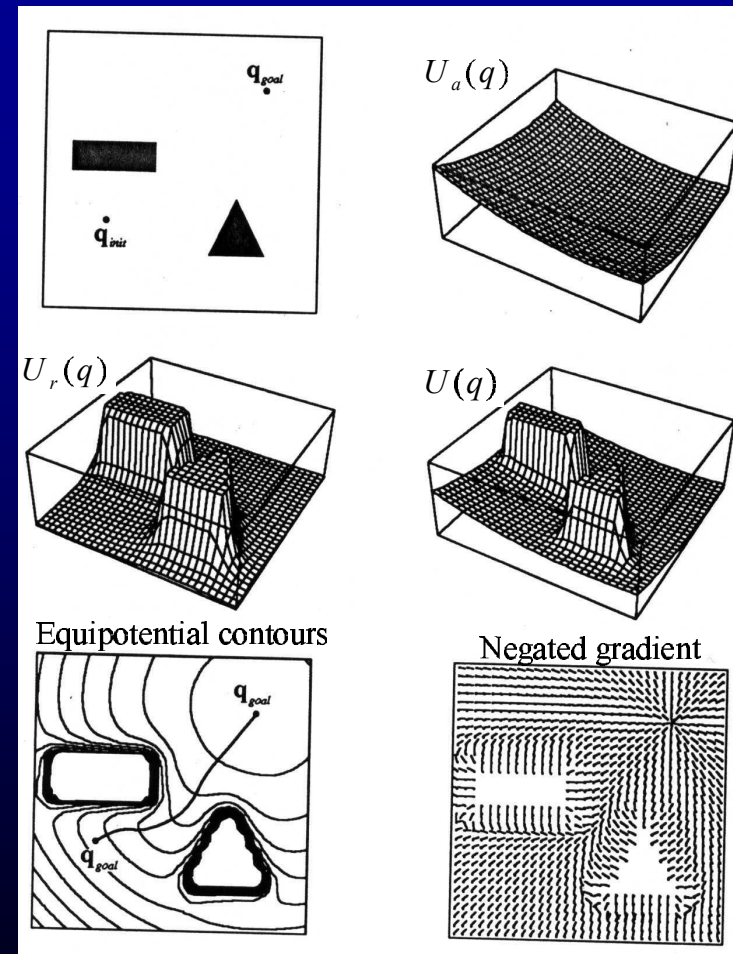
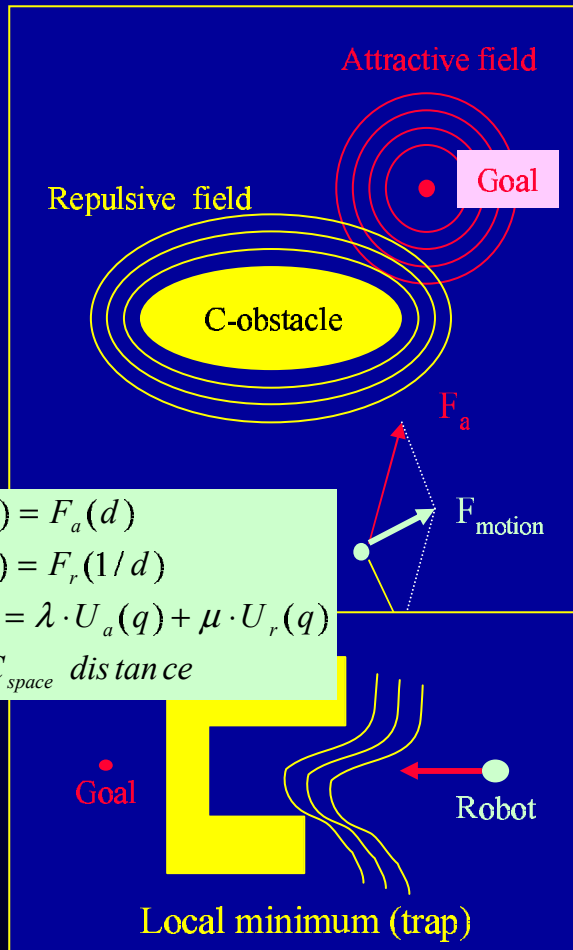
=> Manhattan paths, Random draws,
 Rebound technique, Collision checking in W



Explore function
 => Random draws &
 Optimization algorithm (GE)

“Artificial potential fields” (GDM)

Succession of local decision using a minimization function applied on a local evaluation of C_{free} (done using an underlying energy function)



[Khatib 86] [Latombe 90]

“Constraint based method” (GDM)

Minimization of a “task function” under “anti-collision constraints”

[Tournassad & Faverjon 88]

$$\text{Minimizing } \|\dot{\tau}(q) - \tilde{\tau}\|^2$$

under $\delta_{ij} \geq \varepsilon$

Making use of derivatives in order to take into account the motion

- Task function

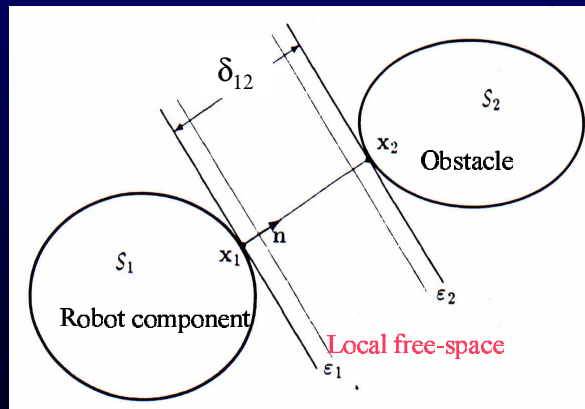
$$\tau(q) = \|q_{goal} - q\|$$
$$\dot{\tau}(q) = J_{\tau} \cdot \dot{q}$$

$\tilde{\tau}$: nominal value of $\dot{\tau}(q)$
 J_{τ} : task jacobian

- Anti-collision constraint

$$\delta_{ij} \geq \varepsilon \Rightarrow d\delta \geq K \cdot dt$$

i.e. $J_{robot} \cdot dq \cdot n \geq K \cdot dt$
or $n \cdot dq \geq K \cdot J_{robot}^{-1} \cdot dt$



At each planning step, the “control points” (x₁, x₂) have to be computed for each pair of “interacting convex components” (e.g. using GJK algorithm)

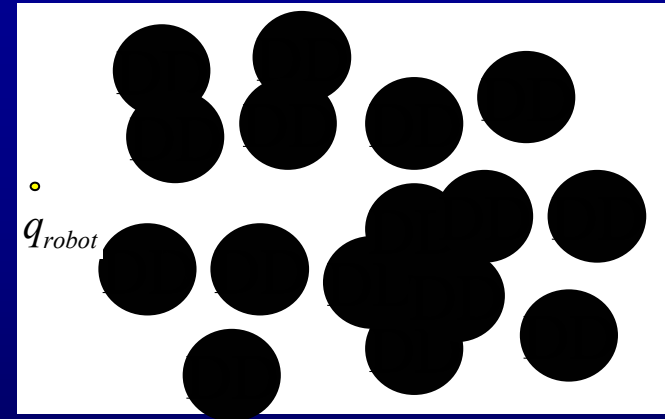
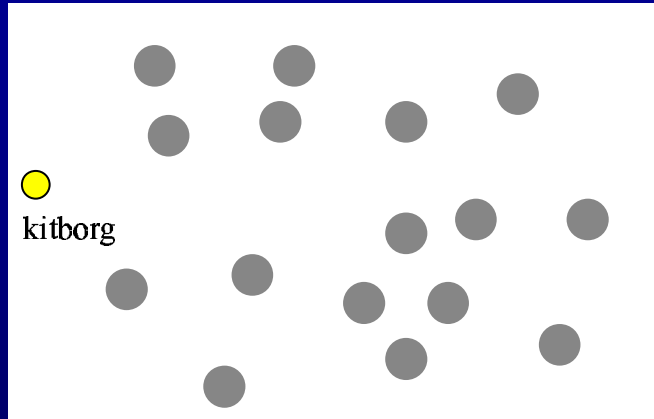
A simple motion planning example

Robot = disque(O, ρ)

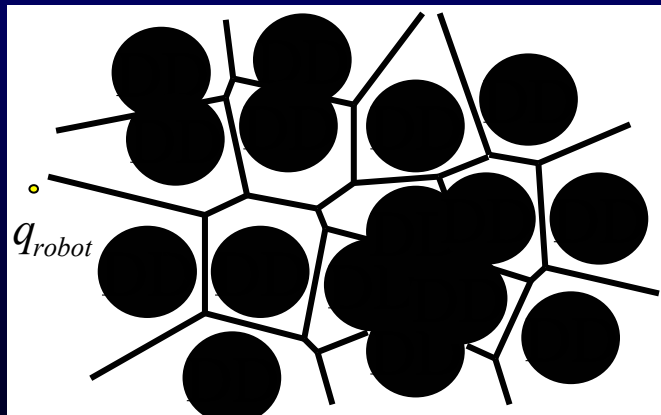
Obstacles = disques(O_i, r_i)

$W = \mathbb{R}^2$, $C_{robot} = \mathbb{R}^2 \times S$

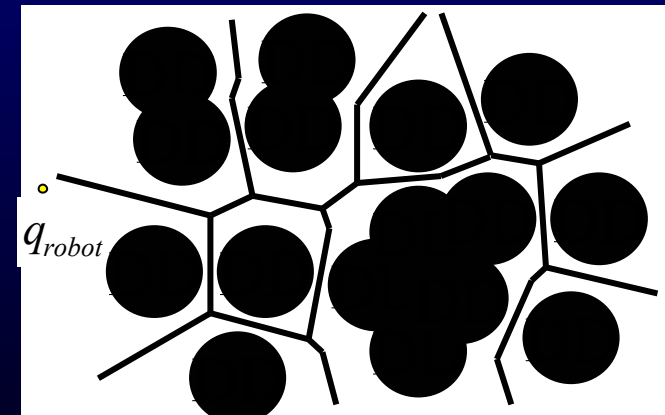
Symetry + holonomy $\Rightarrow C_{robot}^* = \mathbb{R}^2 = W$



$C\text{-Obstacle} = \text{disc}(O_i, \rho + r_i)$

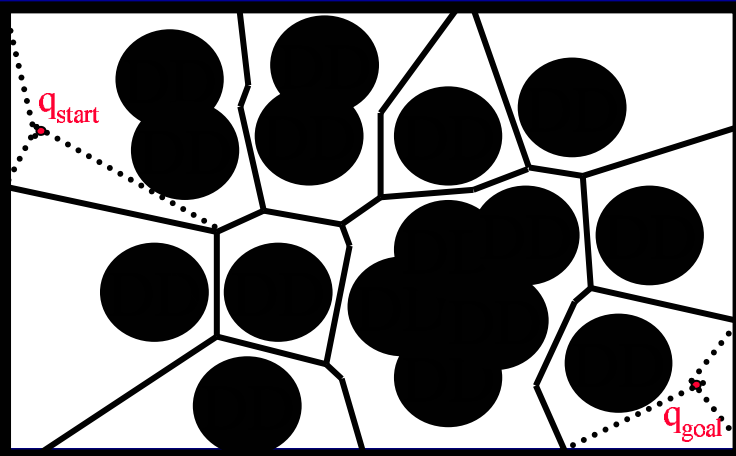


Voronoi diagram: (O_1, O_2, \dots, O_m)

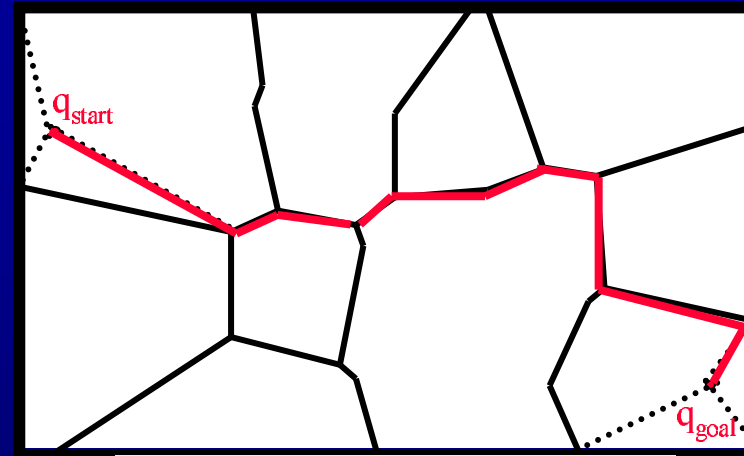


Connectivity Graph:
 $\Rightarrow \text{Remove } (\text{edge}_{ij} \mid d(O_i, O_j) \leq r_i + r_j + 2\rho)$

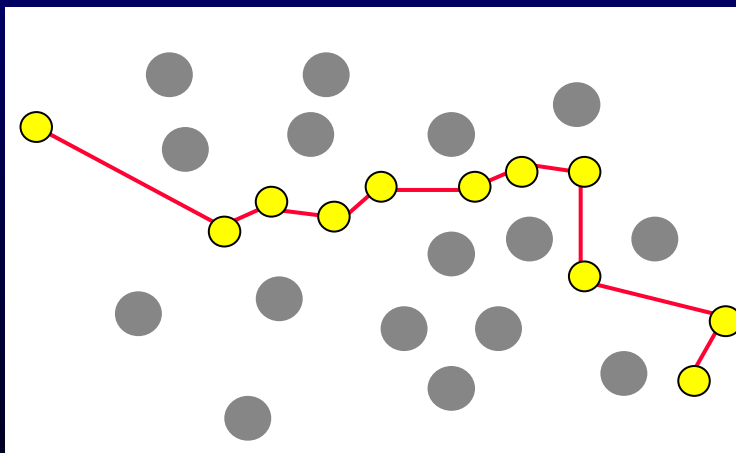
A simple motion planning example (C'ed)



Search Graph:
 \Rightarrow Adding (q_{start} , q_{goal} , $edge_{ij}$, boundaries)

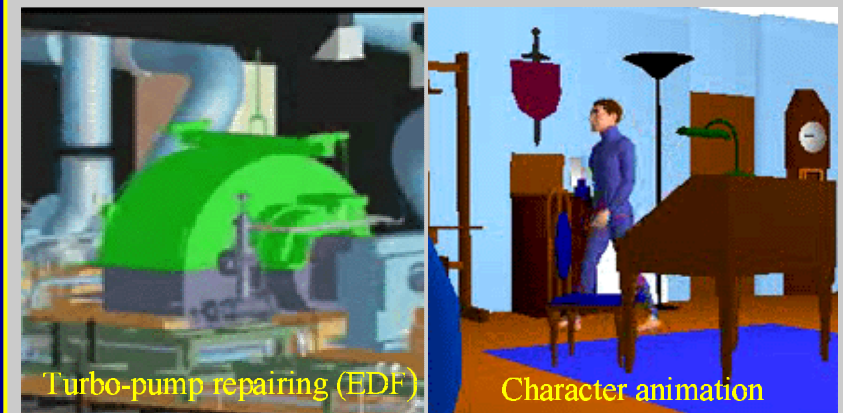
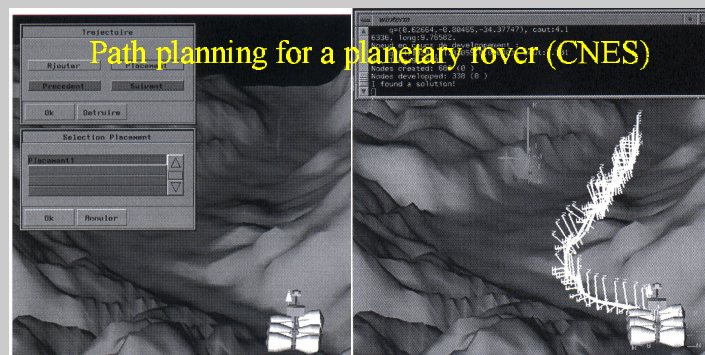
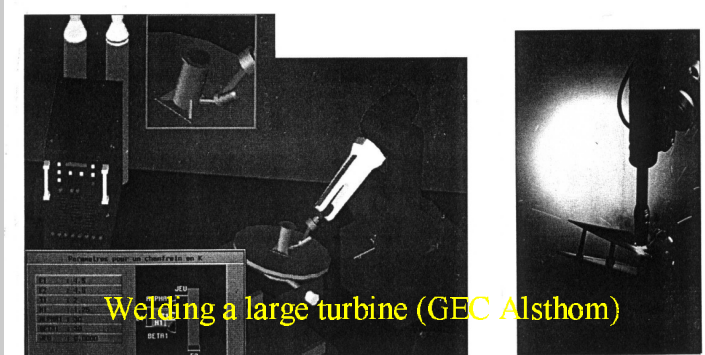
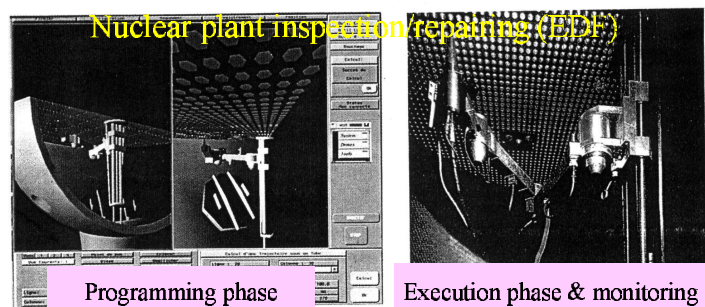


Search: A^* algorithm
 $f(s) = g(s) + h(s)$
 $g(s)$: length (q_{start} , s)
 $h(s)$: length - assessment (s , q_{goal})

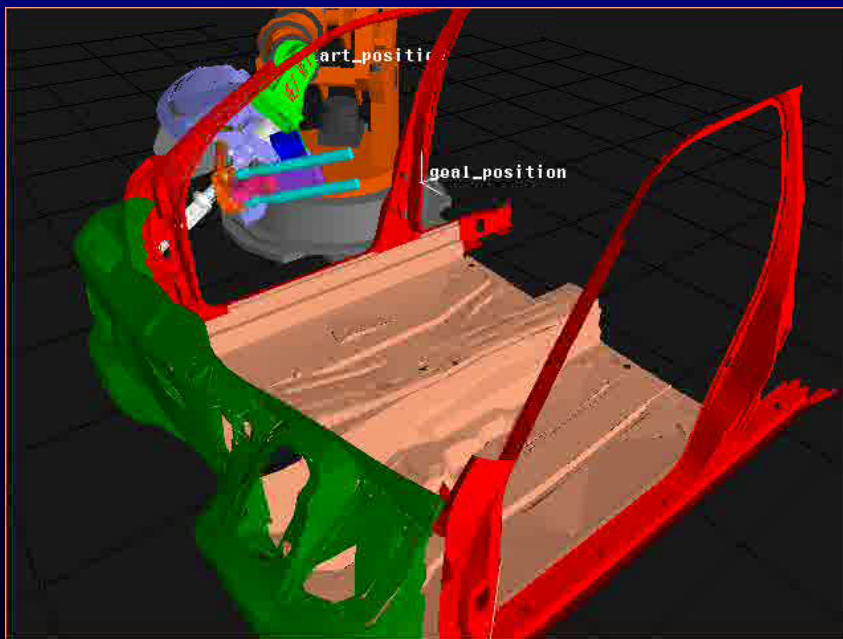


A possible solution including
10 straight motions & 11 re-orientations

Some industrial applications



Move3D system (Kineo)

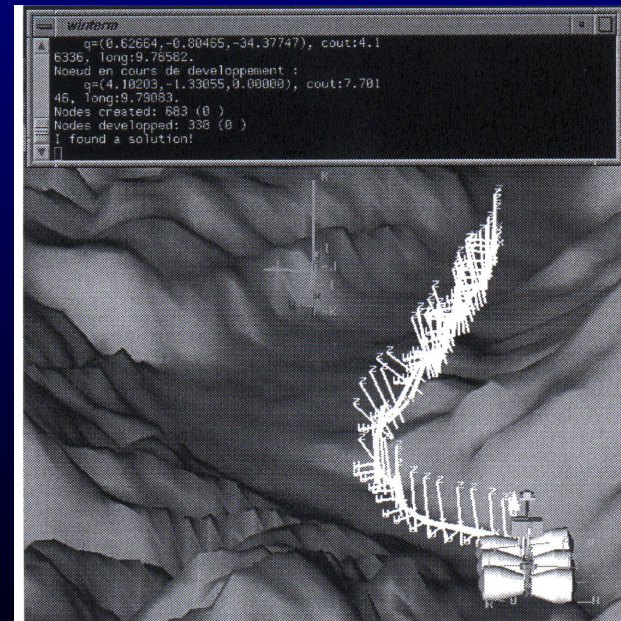
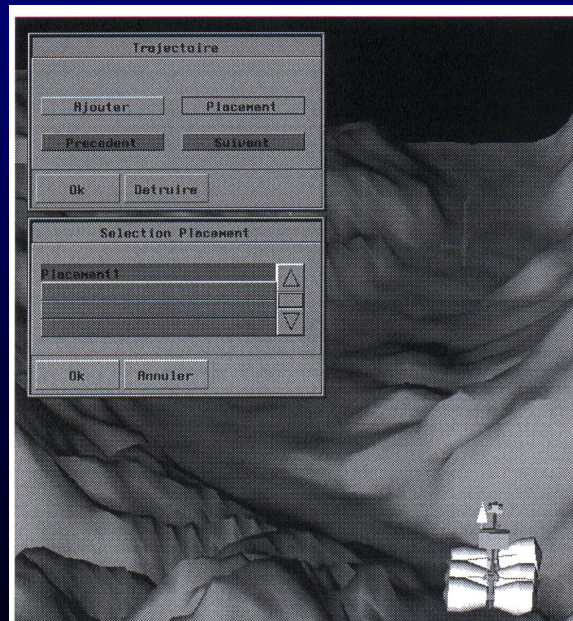
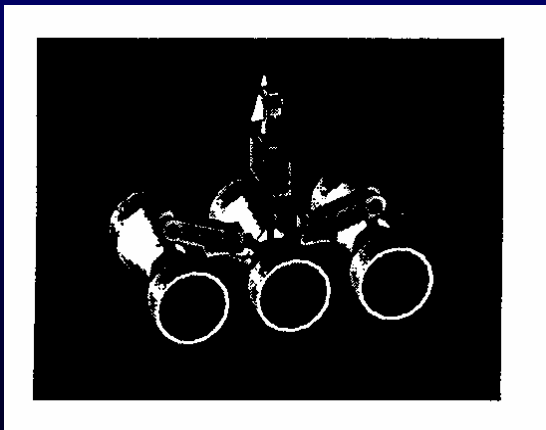


Assembly task for car constructor (IGRIP, Delmia)

Motion Planning for an articulated Rover

- **3 independent axles** with 2 conical wheels
- The front & back axles can **rotate** along a longitudinal axis
- The chassis is made of 2 articulated arms :
 - *linking* the front and back axles to the central one
 - *rotating* around the central axle
 - articulated in order to *modify the gap* between the front and back axles
- The joints: - 6 velocity controls (*wheels*)
 - 2 position controls (*front & back axles gaps*)
 - 3 passive joints (*vehicle/terrain “shape” adaptation*)

=> *modeled using Spring-Damper connectors*



Motion Planning for an articulated Rover (C'ed)

```
p_1= Creer_Point (0.730688, -1.026698, -34.377465);  
p_2= Creer_Point (0.903161, -1.121580, -22.918309);  
p_3= Creer_Point (1.093741, -1.180915, -11.459155);  
p_4= Creer_Point (1.290266, -1.200995, 0.000002);  
p_5= Creer_Point (1.486180, -1.220451, -11.459155);  
p_6= Creer_Point (1.677126, -1.239262, 0.000002);  
p_7= Creer_Point (1.868955, -1.259003, -11.459155);  
p_8= Creer_Point (2.064329, -1.278596, 0.000002);  
p_9= Creer_Point (2.261734, -1.298304, -11.459155);  
p_10= Creer_Point (2.459179, -1.318172, 0.000002);  
p_11= Creer_Point (2.656802, -1.337920, -11.459155);  
p_12= Creer_Point (2.855045, -1.358103, 0.000002);
```

Safe trajectory = $\{CP_1 CP_2 \dots CP_n\}$
A sequence of safe "control points"

```
Exec_Traj (trajectoire_0, ligne_droite);  
Exec_Traj (trajectoire_1, giration);  
Exec_Traj (trajectoire_2, ligne_droite);  
Exec_Traj (trajectoire_3, giration);  
Exec_Traj (trajectoire_4, ligne_droite);  
Exec_Traj (trajectoire_5, giration);  
Exec_Traj (trajectoire_6, pente_montante);  
Exec_Traj (trajectoire_7, ligne_droite);  
Exec_Traj (trajectoire_8, giration);  
Exec_Traj (trajectoire_9, ligne_droite);
```

Safe locomotion plan = $\{CM_1 CM_2 \dots CM_{n-1}\}$
A sequence of "control modes" for moving between CP_i

```
ligne_droite= Creer_Mode("ligne_droite");  
Add_Critere(ligne_droite, "avant_moyen", 0.9, 1.0);  
Add_Critere(ligne_droite, "arriere_moyen", 0.9, 1.0);  
Add_Terminaison(ligne_droite, TRUE, 0.8, "pente_montante",  
                "tangage_montee");  
Add_Terminaison(ligne_droite, TRUE, 0.8, "pente_descendante",  
                "tangage_descente");  
Add_Alarme(ligne_droite, TRUE, 0.2, "GARDE AU SOL", "garde_sol");  
Add_Alarme(ligne_droite, FALSE, 0.2, "ROULIS TROP IMPORTANT", "roulis");  
Add_Stabilite_params(ligne_droite, 4, 1.0, 1.0);  
Add_Vitesse_params(ligne_droite, 1.0, 1.0);
```

Example of a "control mode" ("go straight")
Constructed using "Pre, Post, and Failure" conditions

- Part II -

Dealing with real world constraints



*How to take into account
Non-holonomic kinematic constraints ?*



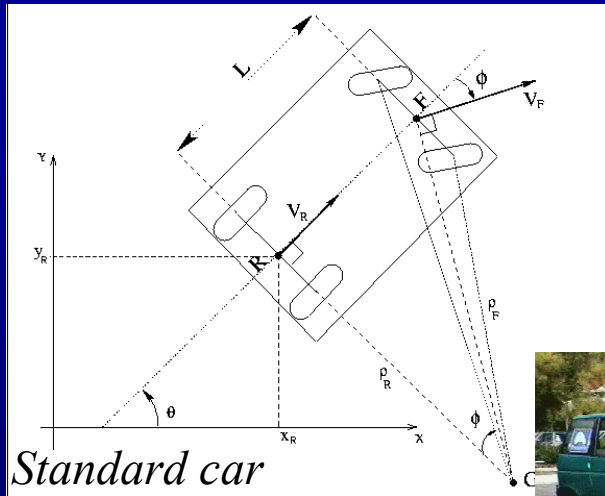
*How to process the dynamics of both
the robot and its environment ?*



*How to deal with uncertainty & hazards
of the physical world ?*

Non-holonomic kinematic constraints

A NH system, is a system having less control variables than configuration parameters

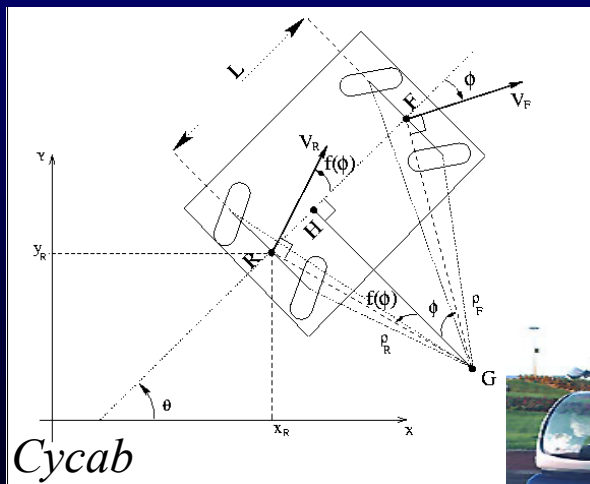


$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_R \\ \dot{y}_R \\ \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\phi} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) \\ \frac{\tan(\phi)}{L} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} u_1 + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} u_2$$

$$q = (x, y, \theta, \phi)$$

$$u = (u_1, u_2)$$

with: $(u_1 = V_R \quad u_2 = \dot{\phi})$



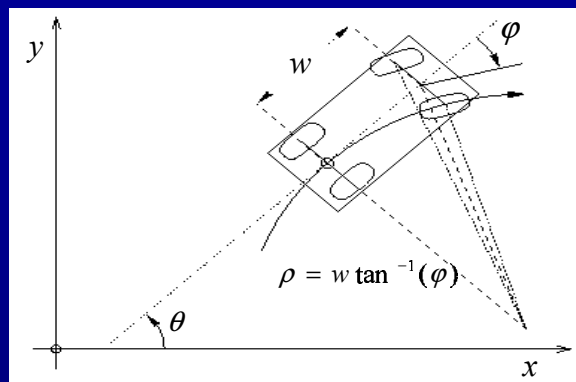
Smaller turning radius bound & sweeping volume
 => Better maneuverability in cluttered environments
 ... But Planning & Control much more difficult !

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_R \\ \dot{y}_R \\ \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\phi} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta + f(\phi)) \\ \sin(\theta + f(\phi)) \\ \frac{\sin(\phi - f(\phi))}{L \cos(\phi)} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} u_1 + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} u_2$$

$(u_1 = V_R \quad u_2 = \dot{\phi})$

$f(\phi)$: characteristic function

Non-Holonomic Path Planning problem



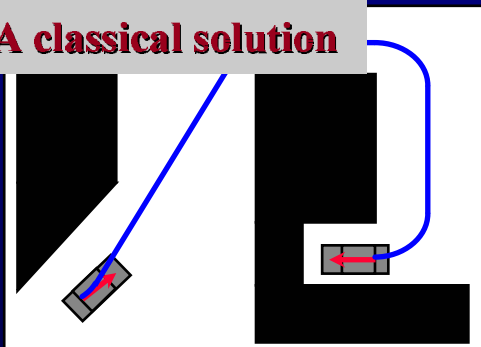
Perfect rolling & Limited steering

$$q = (x, y, \theta)$$

$$\dot{x} \sin \theta - \dot{y} \cos \theta = 0$$

$$\rho > \rho_{\min}$$

A classical solution

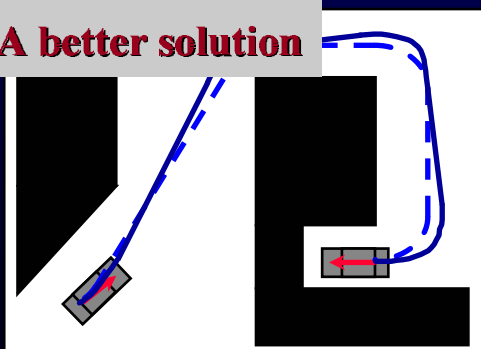


Shortest paths = line segments + tangential circular arcs

[Dubins 57] [Reeds & Shepp 90] [Laumond 86]

=> Executable only if the vehicle stops at each turn !!!

A better solution



Continuous Curvature Paths (CC-paths) =

CC-curves + Bounded curvature & curvature derivative

- No obstacle: [Ijima & al. 81] [Nelson 89] [Liscano & Green 89]
- With obstacle avoidance: [Scheuer 97] [Scheuer & Laugier 98]

A key concept : Differential Flatness

[Fliess et al. 93]

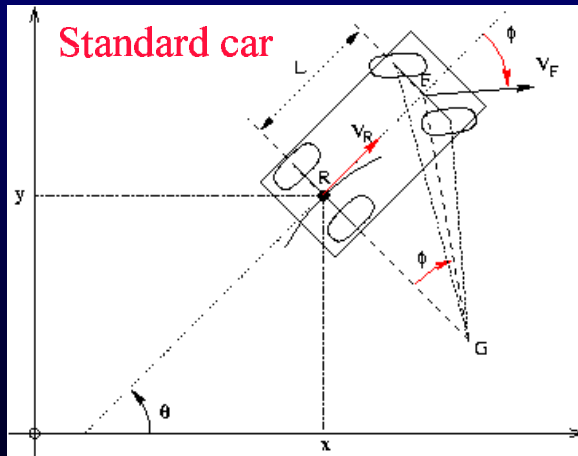
A system is “differentially flat” if there exist *linearizing outputs* $y = (y_1, \dots, y_m)$ differentially independent such that:

$$\bullet y = h(x, u_1 \dots, u_1^{(\beta_1)} \dots u_m, \dots, u_m^{(\beta_m)}) \quad \text{where } x = (x_1, \dots, x_n), \quad u = (u_1, \dots, u_m)$$

and

$$\bullet x = A(y_1, \dots, y_1^{(\alpha_1)} \dots y_m, \dots, y_m^{(\alpha_m)})$$

$$\bullet u = B(y_1, \dots, y_1^{(\alpha_1+1)} \dots y_m, \dots, y_m^{(\alpha_m+1)})$$



Kinematic model

$$\dot{X} = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_R \\ \dot{y}_R \\ \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\phi} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) \\ \frac{\tan(\phi)}{L} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} u_1 + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} u_2$$

Differential flatness

$$X = (x_R, y_R, \theta, \phi) \quad \text{and} \quad u = (V_R, \dot{\phi})$$

$$Y = (x_R, y_R)$$

$$\text{1st derivative : } \dot{Y} \Rightarrow (\cos \theta, \sin \theta) \Rightarrow \theta$$

$$\text{2nd derivative : } \dot{\theta} \Rightarrow \frac{\tan \phi}{L} \Rightarrow \phi$$



$$K = \frac{\tan(\phi)}{L} \quad \forall \phi \in]-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}[$$

Differential Flatness of the Cycab

- Flatness property for the Cycab [Sekhavat & Hermosillo 00]



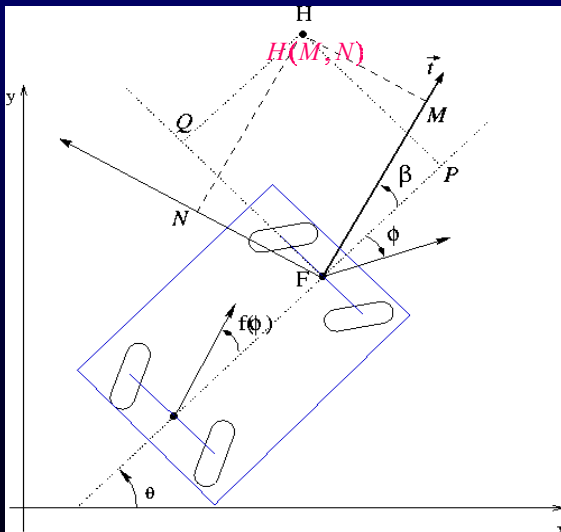
$$X = (x_R, y_R, \theta, \phi) \quad \text{and} \quad u = (V_R, \phi)$$

$$\text{Cycab : } f(\phi) = k \cdot \phi \quad , \forall k \neq 1$$

$$\text{Flat outputs : } H = (y_1(\phi), y_2(\phi))$$

$$\Rightarrow \kappa = \frac{\sin((1+k)\phi_0)}{L \cos \phi_0 \cos(k\phi_0)} \quad \text{if } \phi \in \{0, -\phi_0, \phi_0\}$$

- Flat outputs for the Cycab [Sekhavat & Hermosillo 01]



$$\text{Turning frame : } (F, \vec{t}, \vec{t}^\perp) \quad \text{with} \quad \beta(\phi) = \tan^{-1} \frac{B(\phi)}{A(\phi)}$$

$$\vec{t} = \cos \phi f'(\phi) \vec{u}_{\theta+\phi} - \sin \phi f(\phi) \vec{u}_{\theta+f(\phi)}$$

$$A(\phi) = \cos^2(\phi) f'(\phi) - \sin^2(\phi) f(\phi)$$

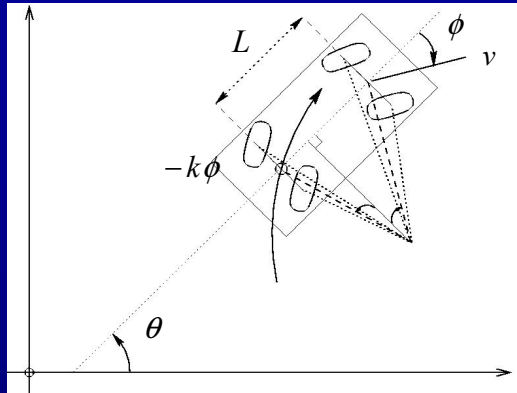
$$B(\phi) = \cos(\phi) \sin(\phi) f'(\phi) - \cos(f(\phi)) \sin(\phi)$$

$$M(\phi) = \frac{L \cos^2(f(\phi))}{\sqrt{A^2(\phi) + B^2(\phi)}}$$

$$N(\phi) = -\int_0^\phi \frac{L \cos^2(f(u))(B'(u)A(u) - A'(u)B(u))}{(A^2(u) + B^2(u))^{3/2}} du$$

Motion Planning using the Flat Outputs

Configuration space



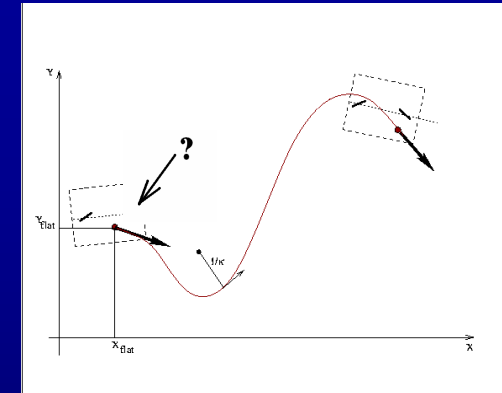
(x, y, θ, ϕ)

$y(t)$

$(y_1 \dots y_m)$ differentially independent
 \Rightarrow any smooth curve is an admissible path



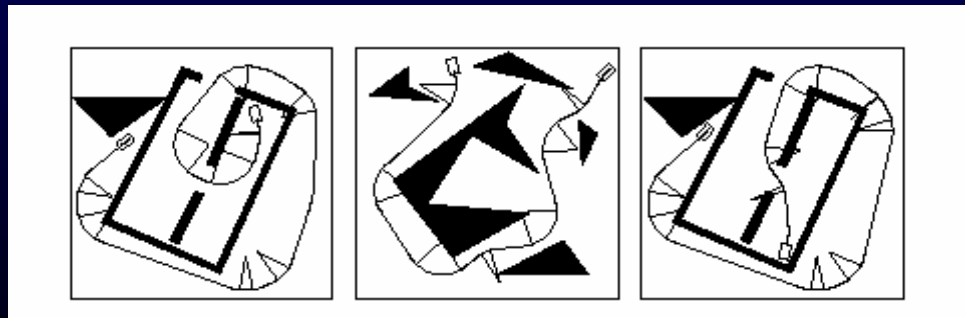
Equivalent "flat" space



Motion Planner : Geometric Planner (Collision free path) + Steering Method (Feasible sub-paths)

Some implemented solutions

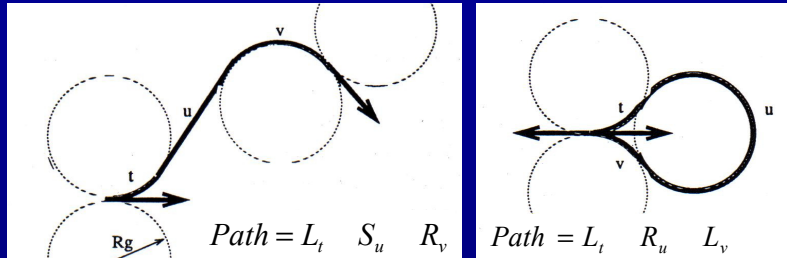
- Global Geometric Planner : ACA [Ahuactzin 94] or PPP [Svestka & Overmars 98]
- Steering Method : Shortest paths [Dubins 57] [Reeds & Shepp 90] or CC-paths [Nelson 89] [Scheuer 97] ...



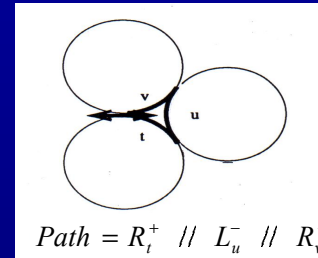
- LAAS Approach :
 PPP + Shortest paths [Laumond 86]
- INRIA Approach :
 ACA + CC-Path ("extended Dubins")
 + Appropriate collision checker
 [Scheuer & Laugier 98]

Main steering methods

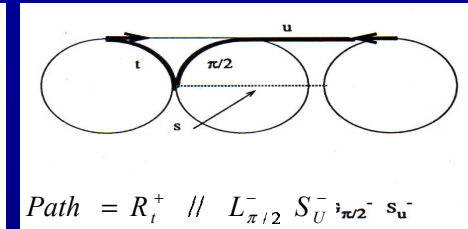
- **Shortest paths** (Straight lines + Circular arcs)



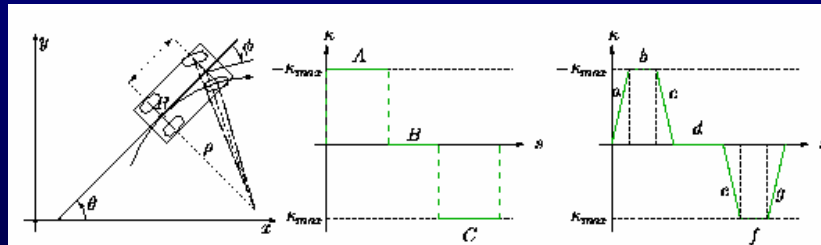
Shortest paths without manoeuvre [Dubins 57]



Shortest paths with manoeuvres [Reeds & Shepp 90]

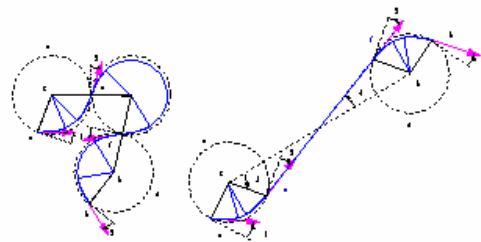


- **CC-paths** (CC-curves + Bounded curvature & curvature derivative)

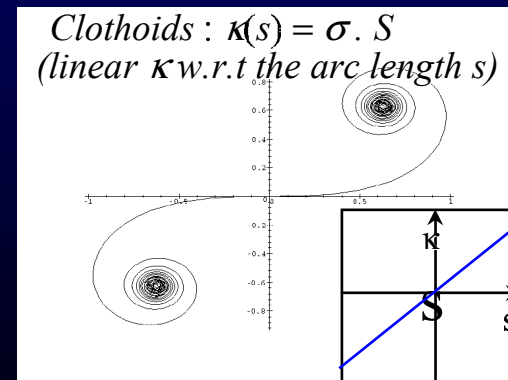


Non-Continuous vs. Continuous Curvature Paths

A possible solution:
 Straight lines + Circular arcs + Arcs of clothoids
 [Nelson 89] [Scheuer 97]



Local Path Planning: à la Dubins

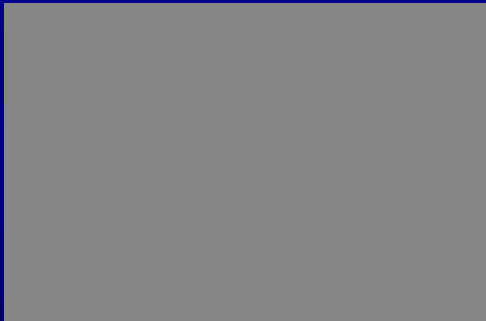


An example : Planning & Executing parking maneuvers for the Cycab



- Part II -

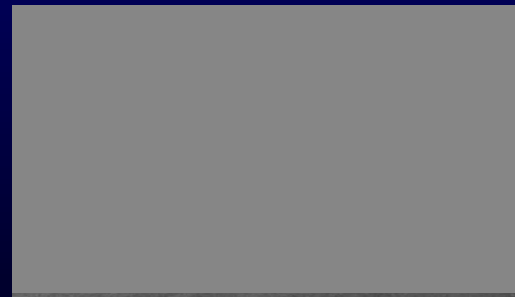
Dealing with real world constraints



*How to take into account
Non-holonomic kinematic constraints ?*



*How to process the dynamics of both
the robot and its environment ?*



*How to deal with uncertainty & hazards
of the physical world ?*

How to deal with dynamic constraints ?

Path Planning

Geometry

- (1) *Stationary Obstacles*
- (2) *Kinematic Constraints*

Trajectory Planning

Time

- Moving Obstacles (3)*
- Dynamic Constraints (4)*

• Objective :

To plan motions for a robot subjected to kinematic & dynamic constraints (2 + 4) in a dynamic workspace (1 + 3), e.g. a car-like vehicle on the road network

*Admissible trajectory = Collision-free (at some time)
+ Feasible (i.e. meets kinematic & dynamic constraints)*

• Approaches :

– Off-line planning (a few known moving obstacles)

=> Adding time & states constraints (Kinodynamic Motion Planning [Canny al. 88])

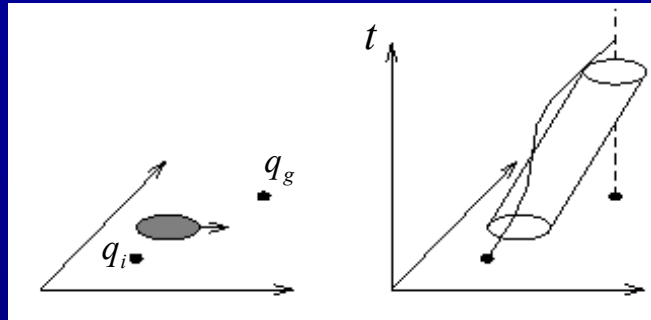
– On-line planning (known & sensed moving obstacles, arbitrary number)

=> Deforming trajectories (Elastic strips [Khatib & Brock 99])

=> Selecting safe controls (Global Dynamic Windows [Khatib & Brock 00] ,

Velocity obstacles [Fiorini 95] [Large & Shiller 00] [Large et al. 03])

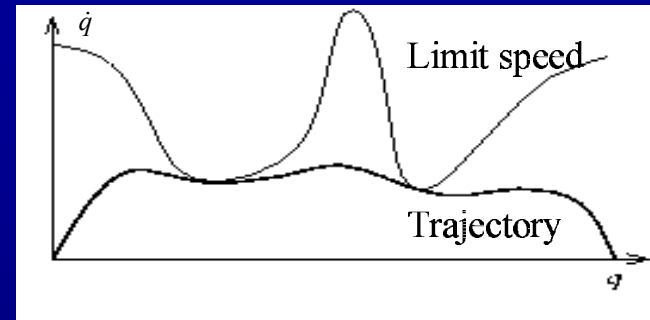
Kinodynamic Motion Planning (KMP)



Moving obstacles : “Configuration-Time Space”

[Erdmann & Lozano-Perez 86]

[Fujimura & Samet 89-90] [Shih et al. 90]



Dynamic constraints : “State Space”

[Bobrow et al. 85] [Jacobs et al. 89]

[Shiller & Shen 90] [Xavier 92]

KMP : The State-Time Space approach (ST-Space)

Moving obstacles

CT- Space

(q, t)

Dynamic constraints

State Space

(q, \dot{q})

State-Time Space

(q, \dot{q}, t)

[Fraichard, 92]

1. Unified modelling of different types of constraints (obstacles & velocities)

=> *ST-Space obstacles*

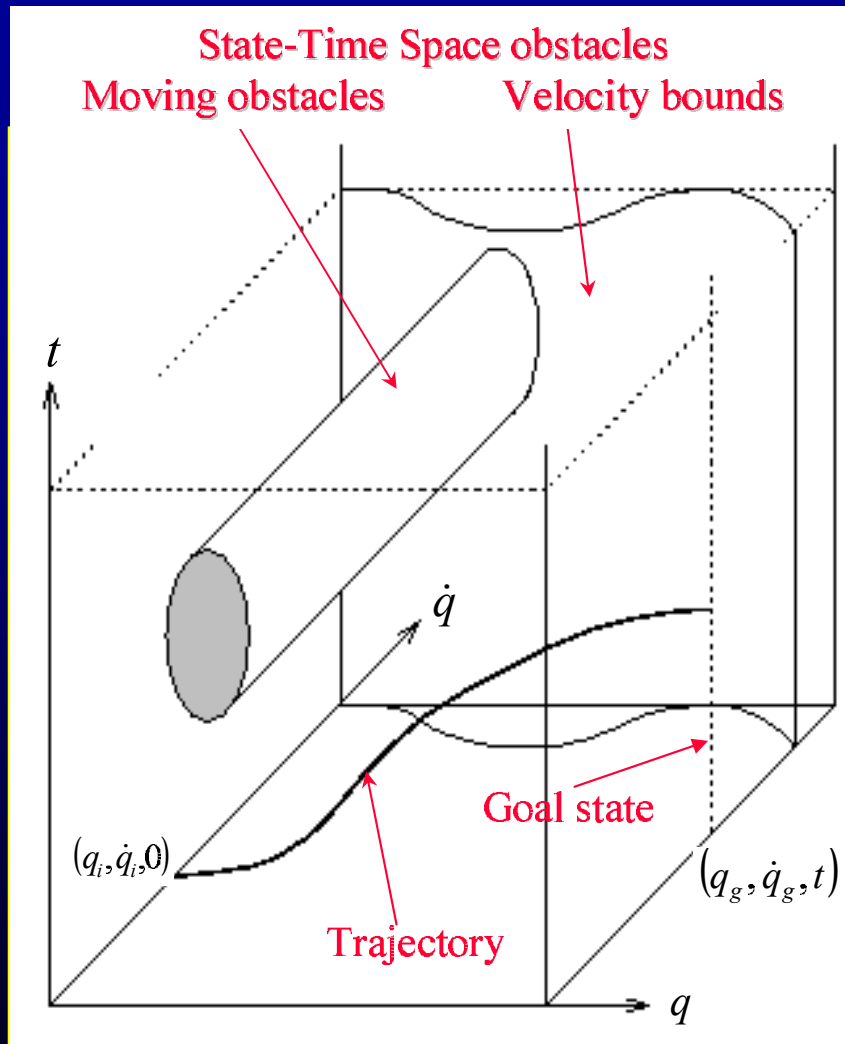
2. Trajectory = *Curve in ST-Space*

=> *Avoids ST-Space obstacles*

=> *Verifies additional shape properties* (\ddot{q}, t)

ST-Space : The Car-like robot case

[Fraichard & Laugier 92 & 93]



• Velocity bounds + Moving obstacles
 \Rightarrow *ST-Space obstacles (1)*

• Acceleration bounds + Time constraint
 \Rightarrow *ST-Space curve shape constraints (2)*

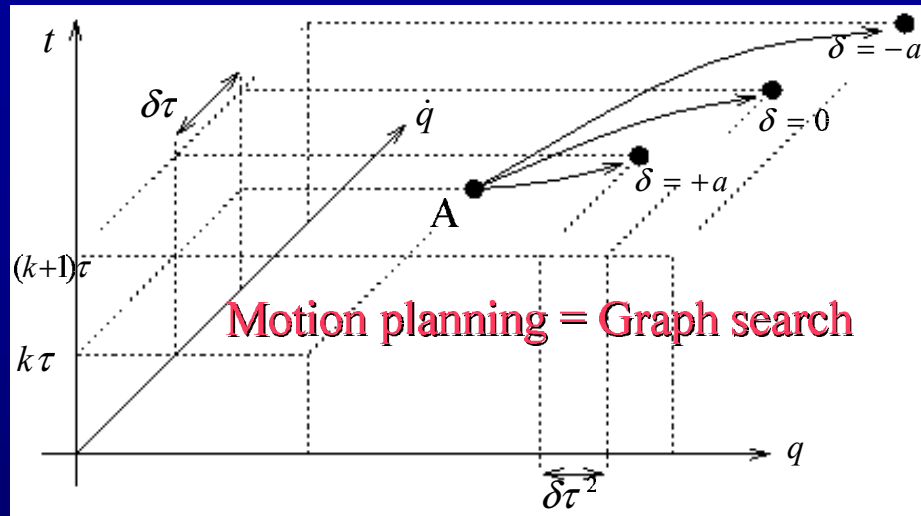
$$\begin{cases} F_{\min} \leq F \leq F_{\max} & \text{(engine force limit)} \\ \sqrt{R_t^2 + R_n^2} \leq \mu R_b & \text{(no sliding constraint)} \\ 0 \leq \dot{s} \leq \dot{s}_{\max} & \text{(speed limit)} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} 0 \leq \dot{s} \leq \min(\dot{s}_{\max}, \sqrt{\frac{\mu g}{|R_n|}}) & \text{Velocity bounds} \\ \max(\frac{F_{\min}}{m}, \sqrt{\mu^2 g^2 - \kappa_a^2 \dot{s}^4}) \leq \ddot{s} \leq \min(\frac{F_{\max}}{m}, \sqrt{\mu^2 g^2 - \kappa_a^2 \dot{s}^4}) & \text{Acceleration bounds} \end{cases}$$

Feasible Trajectory =
 Curve in ST-Space from $(q_i, \dot{q}_i, 0)$ to (q_g, \dot{q}_g, t)
 and verifying (1) and (2)

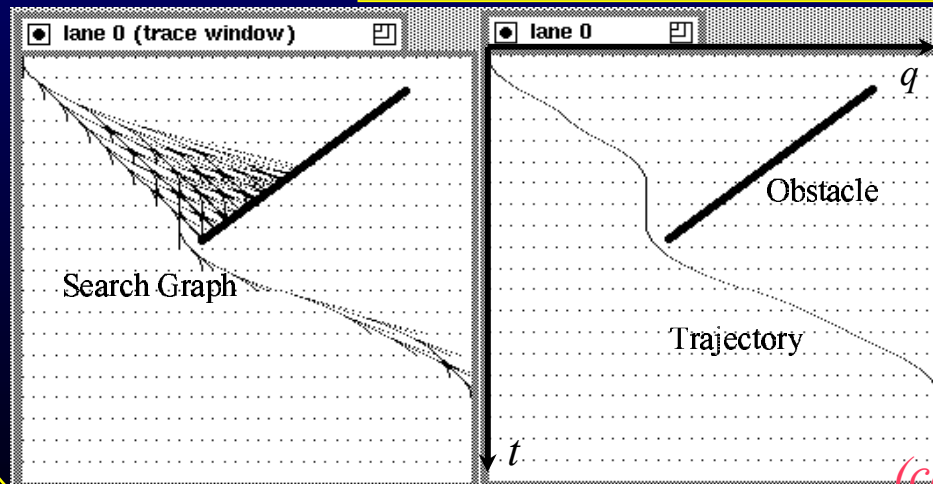
Motion planning in the ST -Space (using KMP)

[Fraichard & Laugier 92 & 93]



- Canonical Trajectories :
 - Piecewise constant acceleration (*finite & discrete set*)
 - Acceleration step δ , Time-step τ
 - \Rightarrow A graph embedded in ST -Space
- An edge is valid iff :
 - It avoids ST -Obstacles
 - It meets acceleration constraints

Result for a 1D workspace (along a given path)

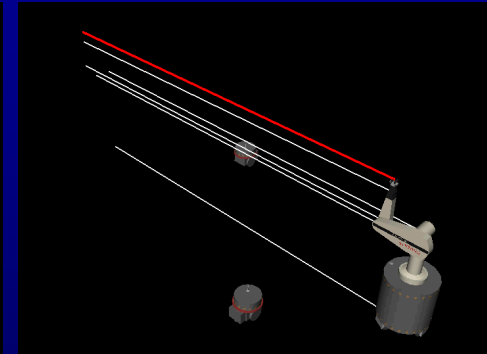
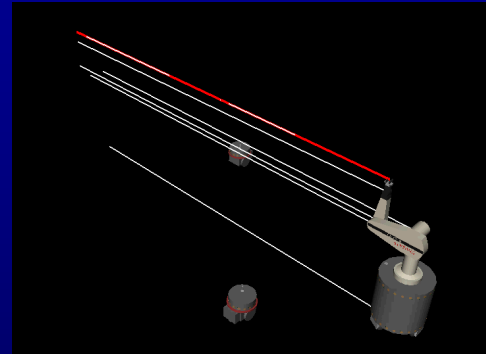


- Moving obstacles:
 - \Rightarrow A priori knowledge / prediction on a given "time horizon" T_{max}
- Running time: $P(\tau, \delta, T_{max})$
 - \Rightarrow High complexity !!
 - (cannot be applied in most of practical cases)

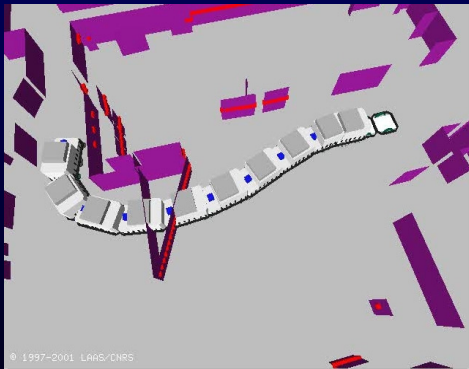
Weakly dynamic workspace: Deforming trajectories

Deform a nominal trajectory under the effects of a “repulsive potential field”

- **Reactive trajectory deformation** (*Elastic strips [Khatib & Brock 99]*)



- **Dealing with NH kinematic constraints** [*Lamiriaux & Bonnafous 03]*



*“First order” deformation
(perturbation of the control)*

Sketch of the « second order method »

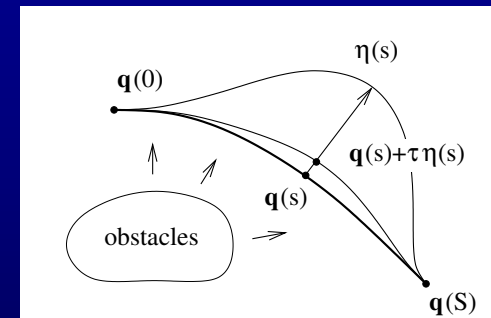
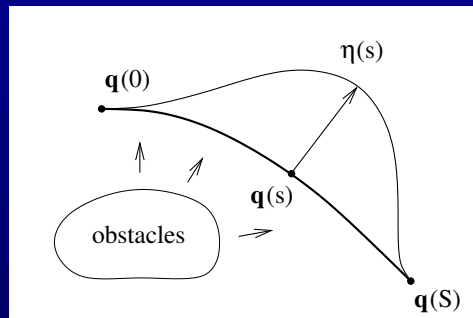
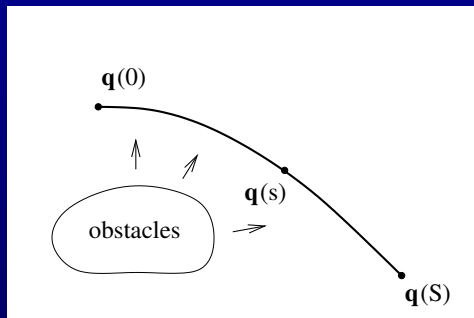
[Lamiraux & Bonnafous 03]

1- Define a repulsive potential field $u(q) = \frac{1}{d_{\min}(q)}$

2- Integrate this potential field along the trajectory $U(\text{path}) = \int_0^s u(q(s)) \cdot ds$

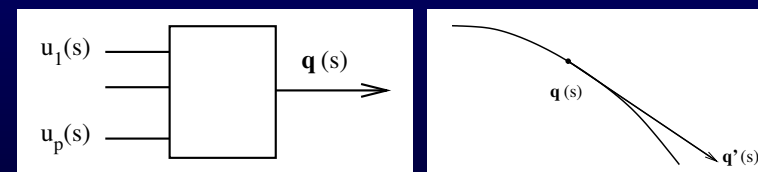
3- Compute a direction of deformation $\eta(s)$ that satisfies NH constraints & decrease $U(\text{path})$

4- Apply this deformation scaled by a small real number τ , until the collision disappears



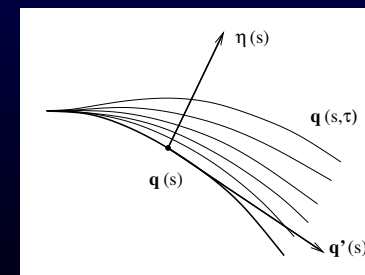
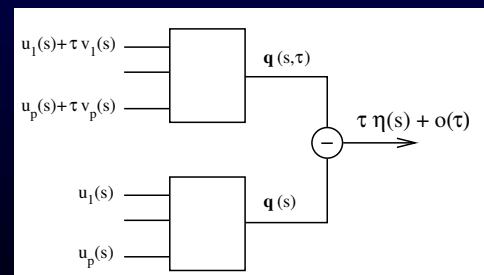
=> Trajectory deformation is obtained by perturbing the input functions (controls) $u(s)$

Controls characterizing s : $u(s) = (u_1(s), u_2(s) \dots u_p(s))$
 $\dot{q}(s) = \sum_{i=1}^p u_i(s) \cdot X_i \cdot q(s)$



Input perturbations:
 $v(s) = (v_1(s), v_2(s) \dots v_p(s))$

$\Rightarrow u(s, \tau) = u(s) + \tau \cdot v(s)$



Dynamic workspace : Selecting safe controls

- => On-line avoidance of obstacles moving along arbitrary trajectories (known or sensed)
- => The traditional state-time approach (zero order search) is not tractable (complexity & real-time) ... Instead, reason at the "velocity level" (first order search) !

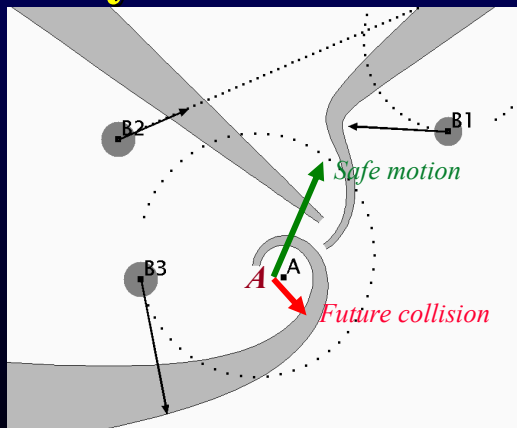
- **Global Dynamic Windows** [Khatib & Brock 00]



- Generating on the fly goal-directed motions
=> Sequence of safe controls

- Alternating reconstruction & planning phases
=> Low dynamicity is allowed

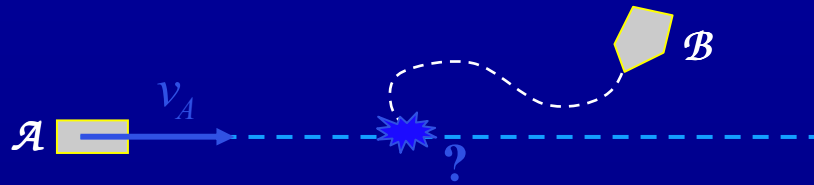
- **Velocity Obstacles** [Fiorini 95][Large & Shiller 00][Large et al. 03]



- Real-time computation of V-Obstacles (velocity space)
=> Instantaneous colliding velocities
- Strategies for navigating among any moving obstacles
=> Obstacle avoidance & Iterative trajectory planning

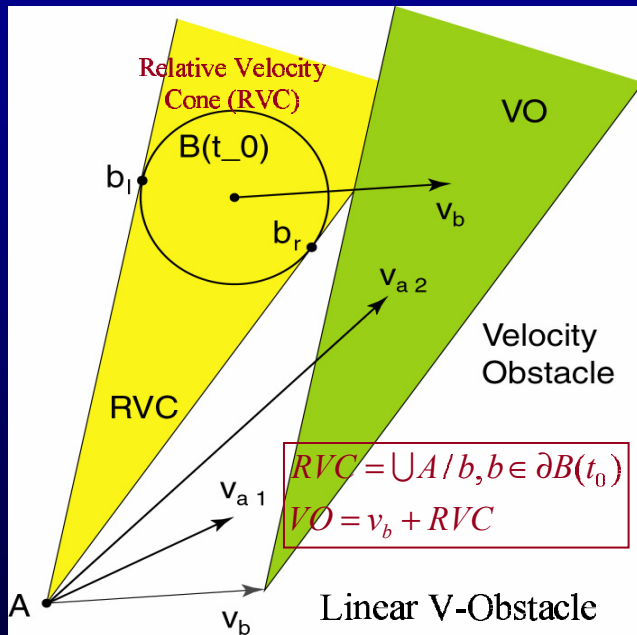
“Velocity Obstacle” principle

[Fiorini 95][Large & Shiller 00]

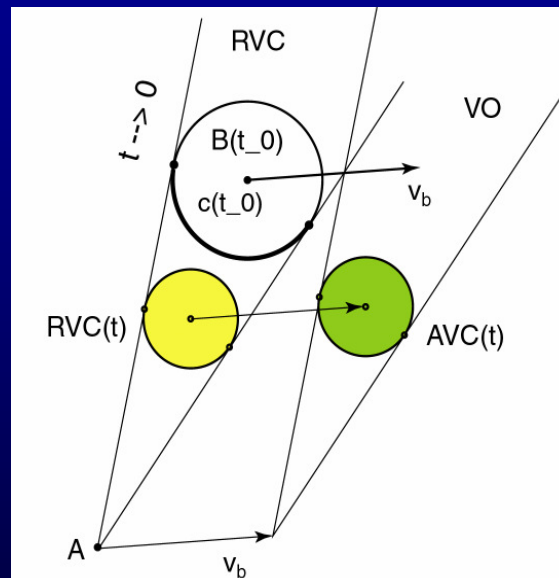


$$VO = \left\{ \vec{v}_A \in \mathcal{V} \mid \exists t \in [t_0, T_h], \mathcal{A}(t) \cap \mathcal{B}(t) \neq \emptyset \right\}$$

with $\mathcal{A}(t) = \mathcal{A}(t_0) + \vec{v}_A \cdot t$; $\mathcal{B}(t)$ known on $[t_0, T_h]$



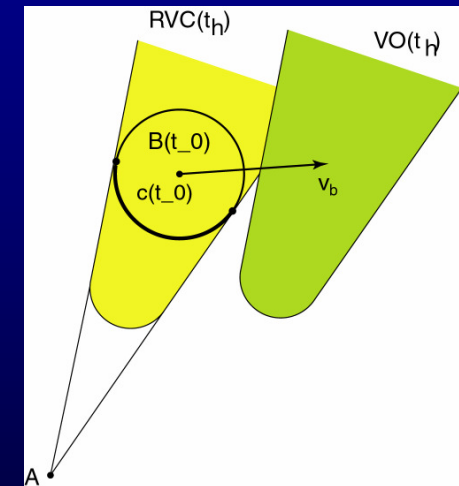
- Any absolute velocity of A, pointing inside VO, would result in collision at some time $t \in [0, \infty]$
- A grazes B at tangency points between RVC and $B(t_0)$



AVC(t) : Velocities resulting in a collision at time t

$$RVC(t) = \frac{B(t_0)}{t - t_0}$$

$$AVC(t) = v_b + RVC(t)$$

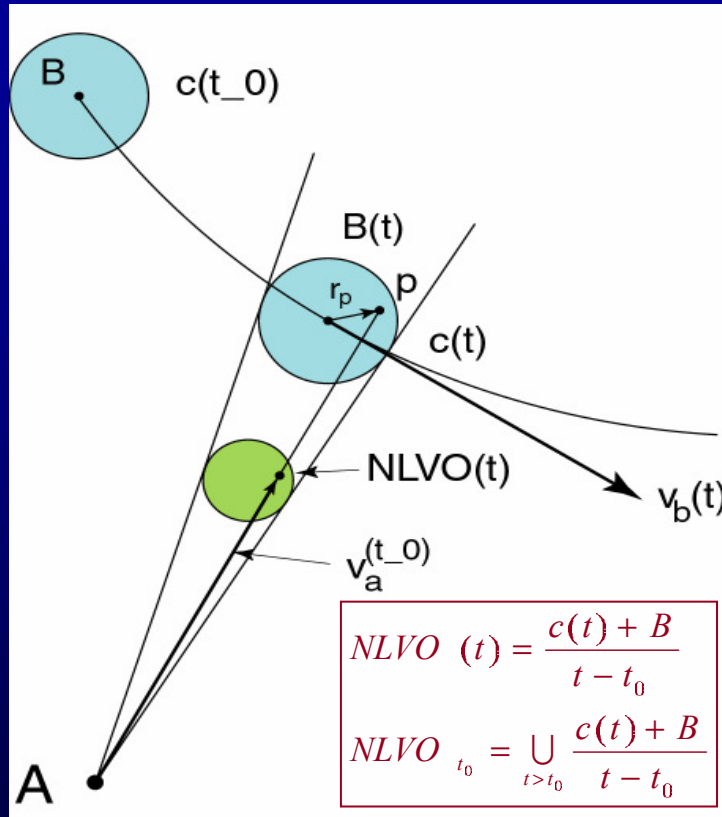


Adding a time horizon t_h

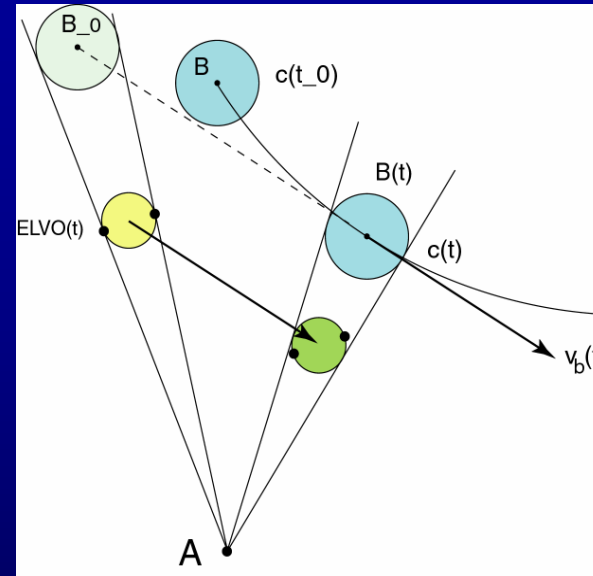
$$VO(t_h) = v_b + \bigcup_{t > t_1} RVC(t)$$

Non-linear V-Obstacles

[Large & Shiller 00][Large et al. 03]



- Obstacle B moves along trajectory c(t)
- NLVO(t) = Absolute velocities of A at t0 that would collide with B(t)
- NLVO is the union of all NLVO(t) for t > t0



- Tangency points form the boundary of NLVO
- These points are determined from ELVO(t)

=> Approximate boundaries of NLVO
(On-line computation !)

Obstacle trajectory : $c(t) = d(t)e^{i\theta(t)}$

$$c_v(t) = \frac{d(t)}{t} e^{i\theta(t)}$$

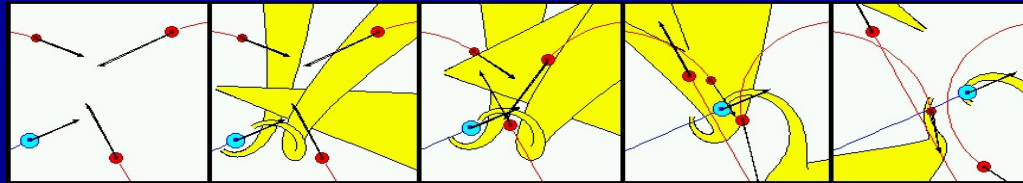
$$vo_r(t) = c_v(t) + i \frac{r}{t} \hat{c}_l(t)$$

$$vo_l(t) = c_v(t) - i \frac{r}{t} \hat{c}_l(t)$$

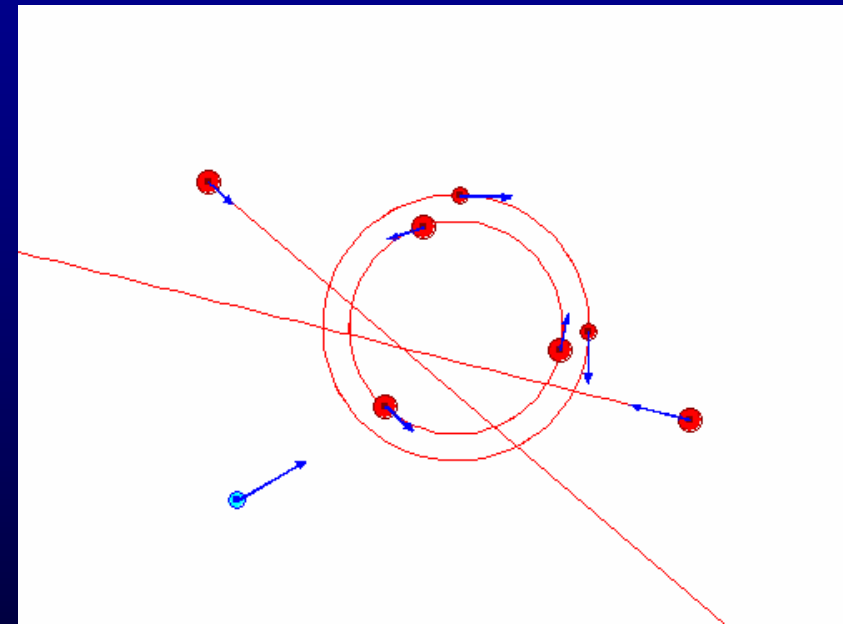
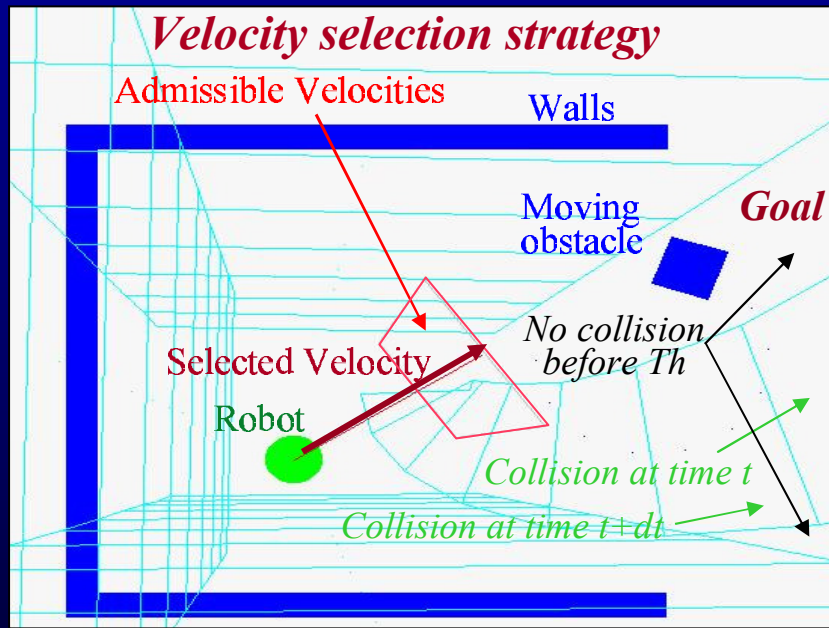
Safe navigation using V-Obstacles

(1) Instantaneous escaping trajectories

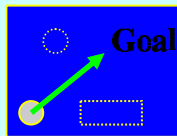
[Large et al. 03]



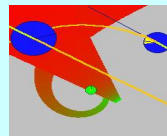
A single velocity outside NLVO avoids the obstacle during the time interval for which the v-obstacle was generated



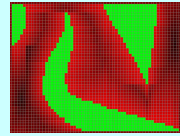
1 - Best velocity towards the goal



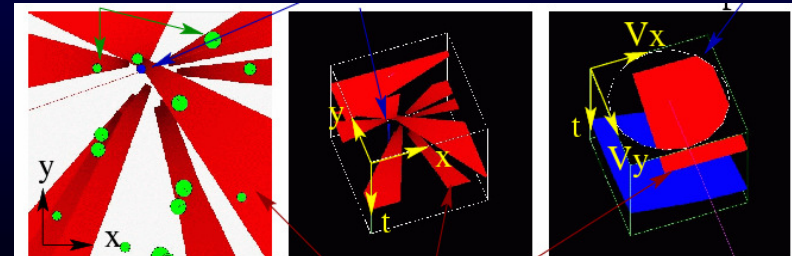
2 - Gradient on "time to collision"



3 - Gradient on "pseudo-distance to NLVO"



=> Combines (1) with a risk function "(2) + (3)"



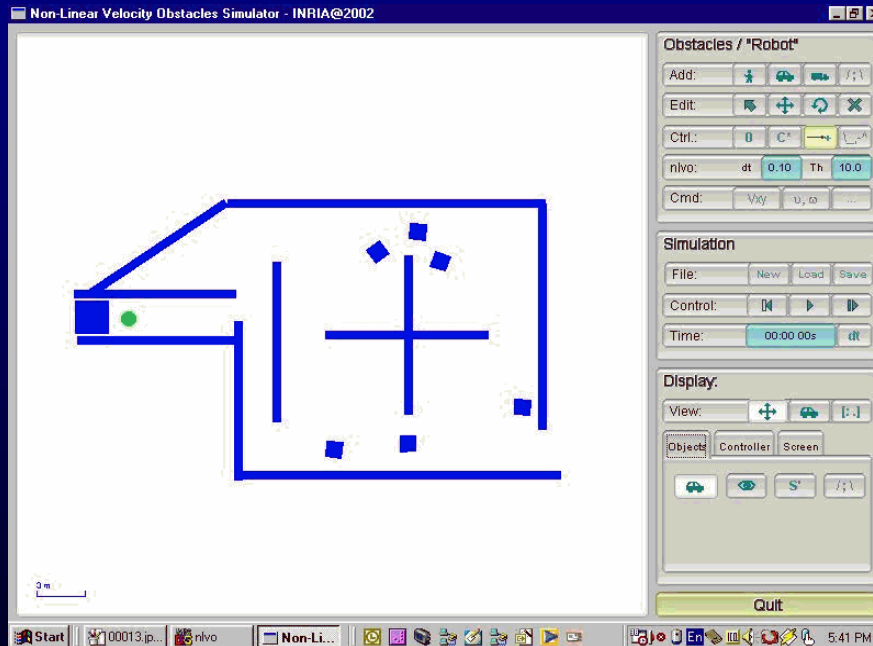
Safe navigation using V-Obstacles

(2) Iterative trajectory planning (ITP) in Vspace

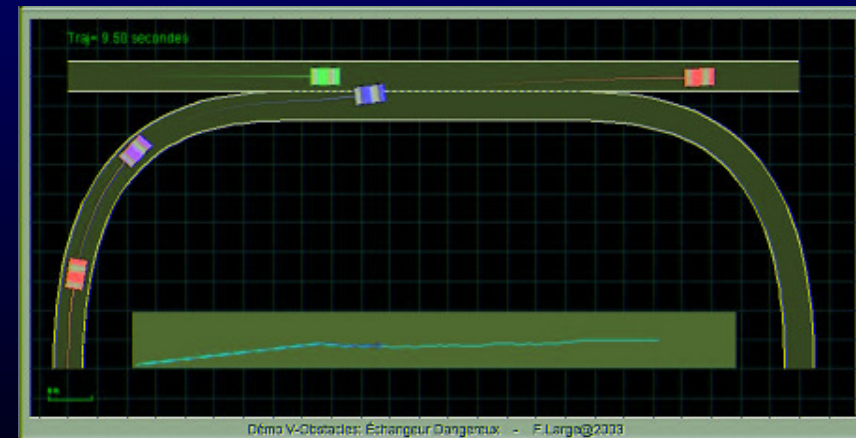
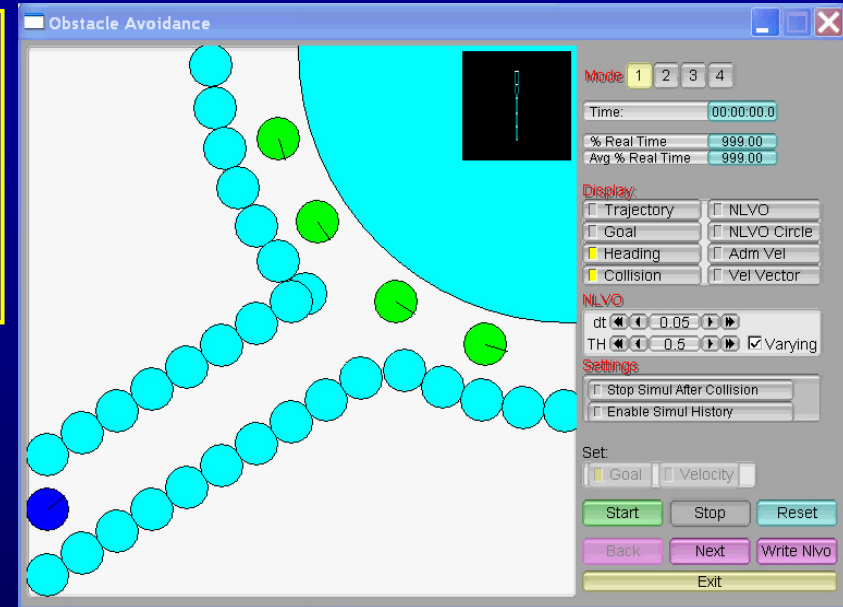
[Large et al. 03]

ITP in Vspace = Graph search based on an alternate sequence of:

- 1- Vspace evaluation at time t_i (using NLVO)
- 2- Selection (using a cost function) of some related safe velocities for the robot



ITP among 20 obstacles (including walls)
Computation time < 0.01sec on PII-450MHz



- Part II -

Dealing with real world constraints



*How to take into account
Non-holonomic kinematic constraints ?*



*How to process the dynamics of both
the robot and its environment ?*



*How to deal with uncertainty & hazards
of the physical world ?*

Robust motion planning : The problem

- **Problem**

Path planning: *Perfect model assumption (robot, world)*

Uncertainty problem: *Reality is not the model (control, sensing, model errors)*

=> *Possible failure at execution time*

- **Dealing with uncertainty**

- **Model errors** (shape & location): *Growing the C-obstacles can be a solution, but at the expense of completeness ...*

- **Control & sensing errors** : *Necessity to use sensors both to “monitor the actual robot motion” and “command corrective motions”*

=> *The motion plan becomes a “motion strategy” combining motion commands and sensor operations, even sensor-based motion commands (less sensitive to uncertainty)*

- **Robust motion planning**

Given a priori information about such uncertainties (e.g. bounds), the issue is to compute *safe motion strategies*, i.e. that take uncertainty into account *explicitly* so as to guarantee that the goal will be reached reliably

Robust motion planning : Main approaches

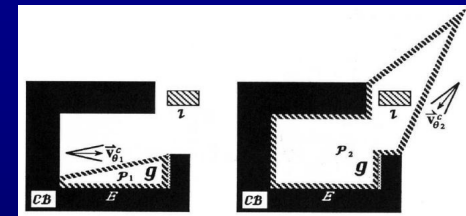
- **Assembly planning:** *Contacts, high accuracy required for assembly*

- **Skeleton refinement** [Lozano-Perez 76] [Taylor 76] [Brooks 82][Puget 89]

- => *Nominal Plan + Critical points identification + Local patches*

- **Preimage backchaining** [Lozano-Perez 84] [Erdmann 86] [Lazanas & Latombe 92]

- => *Regions of C from which a “motion command” is guaranteed to attain a given goal recognizably*



- **Mobile robots:** *Odometry => increasing configuration uncertainty*

- Usually dealt with at execution time => *uncertainty is reduced by sensing appropriate environmental features*

- **Specific solutions (e.g. uncertainty fields)** [Takeda & Latombe 94] [Bouilly et al. 95] [Lambert 96][Fraichard & Mermond 98] [Lambert & Fraichard 00]

- **Uncertainty models:** *Non-deterministic (bounded set) vs. Probabilistic*

Robust motion planning : Car-like robots

[Fraichard & Mermond 98]

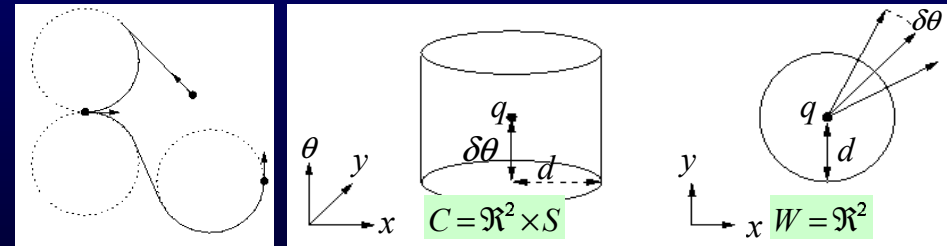
- **The problem :** NH constraints + Uncertainty (*Odometry & Control & Sensing*)
 - => *Cumulative & unbounded "configuration uncertainty"*
 - => *Relocalization devices: "Landmarks "*
 - => *Motion strategy: "jump" from landmark to landmark until the goal is reached*

- **A possible approach :**

- 1- Design of a 'local', *i.e.* uncomplete, robust path planner (LRPP)
2. Embedding of LRPP within a global path planning scheme
e.g. ACA [Mazer et al., 98], or PPP [Svestka & Overmars, 98]

- **LRPP**

- 1- *Computes Reeds & Shepp paths*
- 2- *Evaluates the uncertainty evolution*
- 3- *Performs robust collision checking*



Uncertain configuration: (q, u) where: $u = (d, \delta\theta)$

- **Global Path Planning**

PPP was selected (easy to implement, efficient)

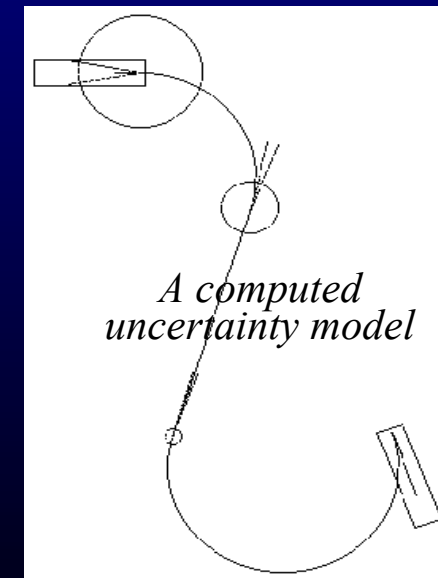
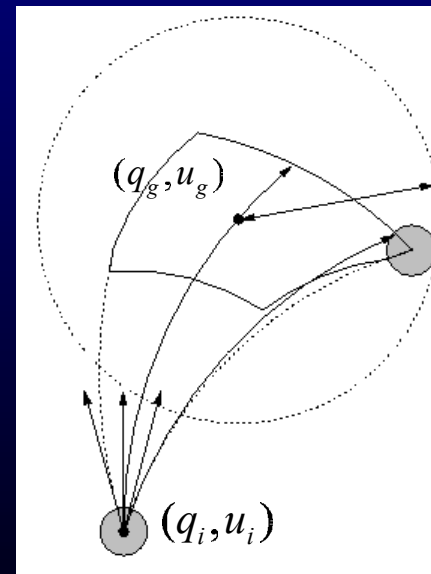
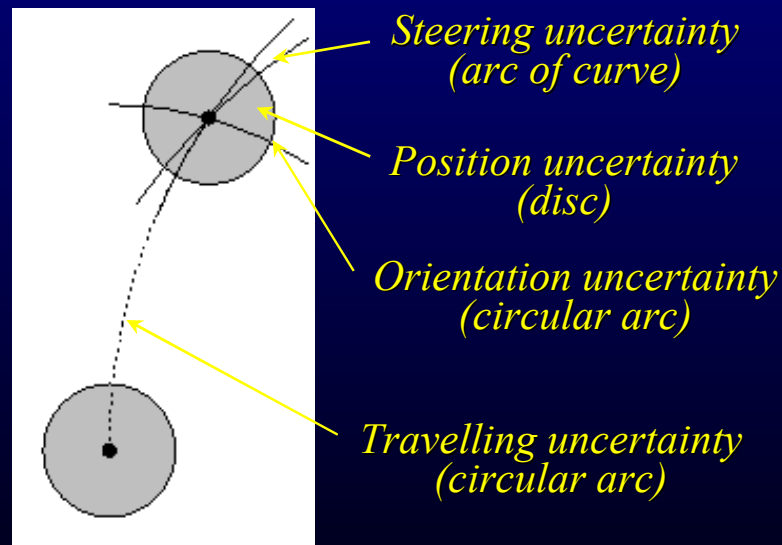
Uncertainty evolution

- **Configuration uncertainty**

- Travelling uncertainty (in %) κ \Rightarrow Actual travelling distance bounded by $l \pm \kappa l$
- Steering uncertainty $\delta\varphi$ \Rightarrow Actual steering angle bounded by $\varphi \pm \delta\varphi$

- **Uncertainty evolution**

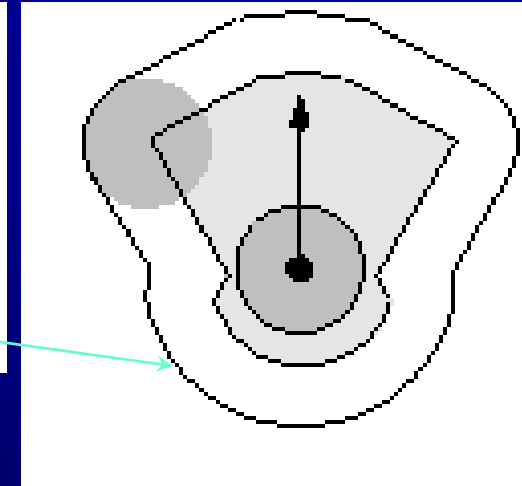
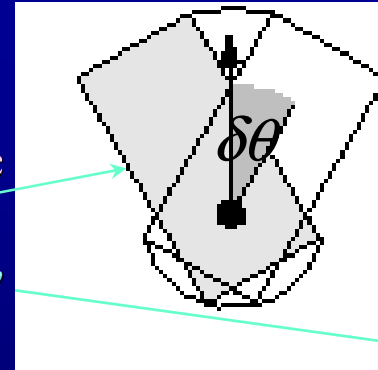
The problem is to determine the set of configurations “possibly reached” at the end of an elementary path



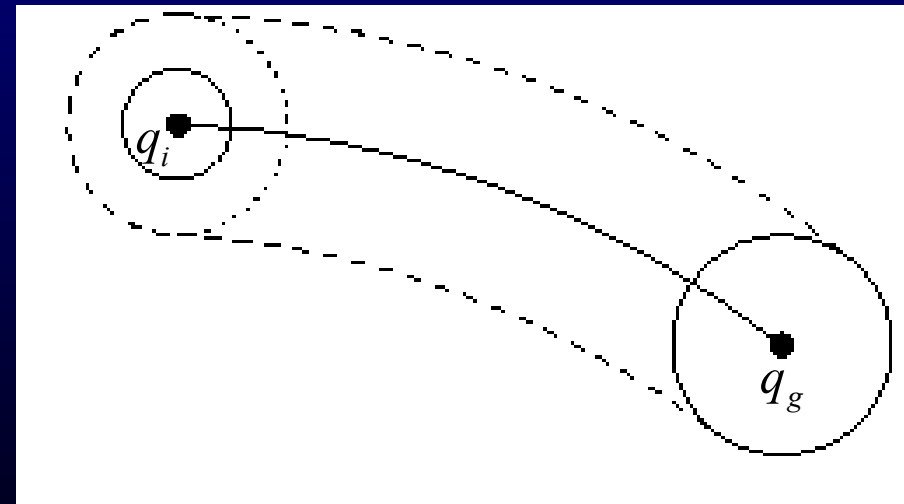
Robust collision checking

=> Collision checking is performed in the workspace (swept region analysis)

- Workspace region occupied by the vehicle
 - With orientation uncertainty
 - With orientation + position uncertainty



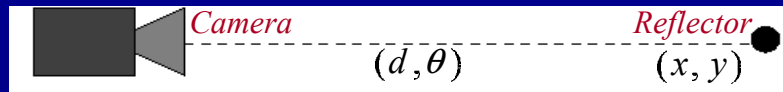
- Region swept along an elementary path
 - Conservative approximation
 - Recursive and resolution-dependent collision checking function



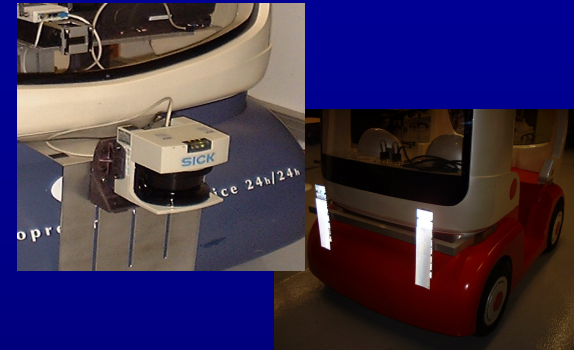
Some experimental results

- **Landmark**

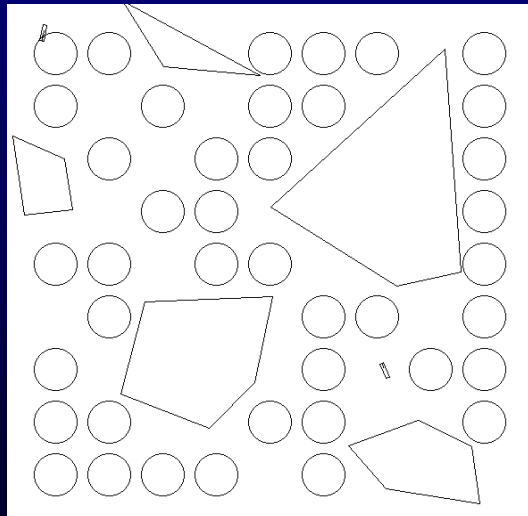
On-board linear camera + on-site reflectors



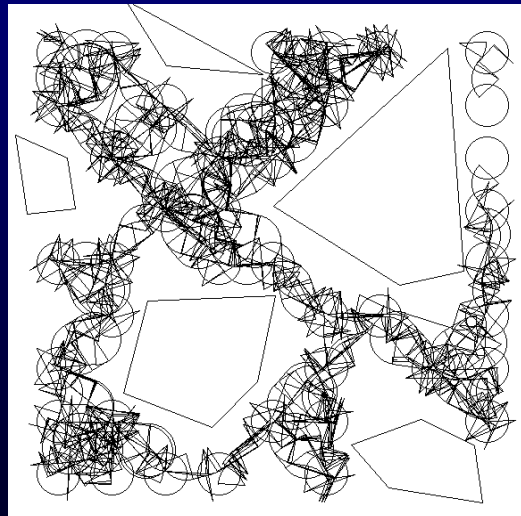
$(d, \theta) + (x, y) \Rightarrow \text{relocalization}$ $(q, u) \rightarrow (q, u_{\text{landmark}})$



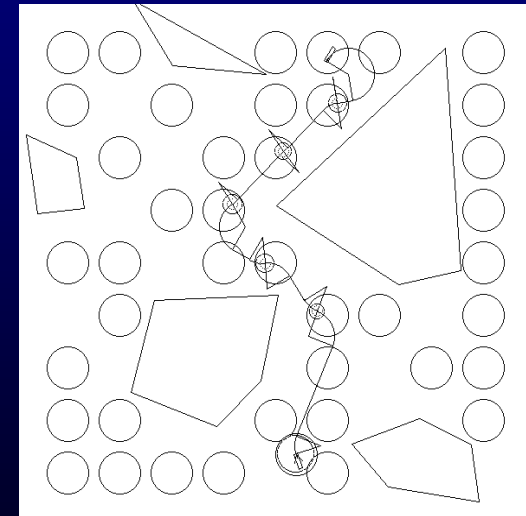
- **Computed solutions**



Workspace + landmarks



Roadmap

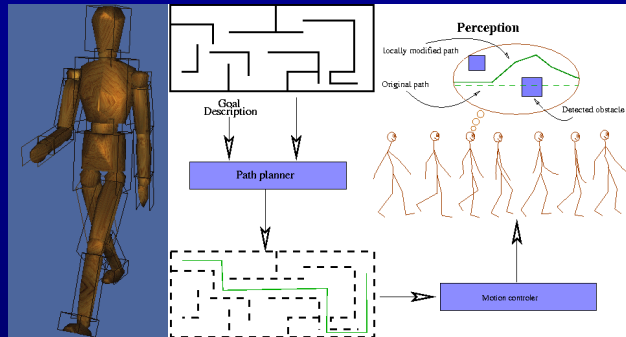


A robust motion strategy

Dealing with hazards at execution time

Motion planning + Reactive navigation

- Combining on-line planning & navigation functions

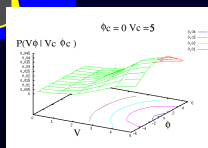
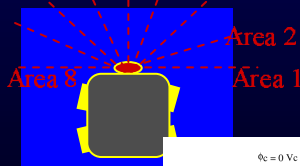


Dynamic path planning
=> *Adriane's Clew Algorithm*
[Ahuactzin 94]

Reactive navigation
=> *Path tracking & Obstacle avoidance*
[Raulo & Ahuactzin & Laugier 00]



- Obstacle avoidance using learned « behaviors » (bayesian programming)



=> *Probability distributions on the controls (v, phi)*

Joint distribution for the fusion :

$$P(V \otimes \phi \otimes D_1 \otimes \dots \otimes D_8) = P(V \otimes \phi) \prod_{i=1}^8 P_i(D_i / V \otimes \phi)$$

where :

$$P(V \otimes \phi) = \text{Uniform}$$

$$P_i(D_i / V \otimes \phi) = \frac{P_i(D_i) P_i(V / D_i) P_i(\phi / D_i)}{\sum_{D_i} P_i(D_i) P_i(V / D_i) P_i(\phi / D_i)}$$



=> *See tutorial 2*

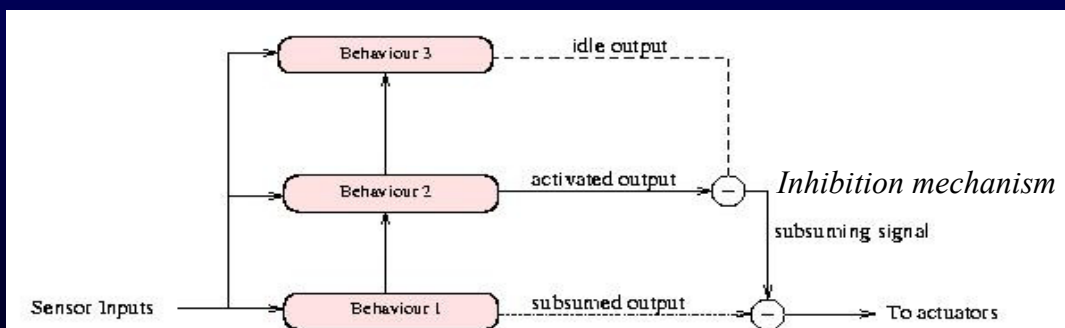
- Part III -

Reactive Navigation techniques



Decisional & Control Architectures

- **Deliberative approaches** [Moravec83][Nilsson84]
 - **Sequential processing (SMPA)**
sensing => modeling => planning => action (motion execution)
 - **High-level reasoning but time consuming & high uncertainty**
=> Unsuitable for (fast) changing & complex environments
- **Reactive approaches** [Brooks86][Zapata90]
 - **Parallel decomposition into simple behaviors**
sensing => sensor-based behaviors => action (controls)
 - **Real-time processing, robust, incremental ... but no high-level reasoning**
=> Well adapted to dynamic environments, but unsuitable for complex missions



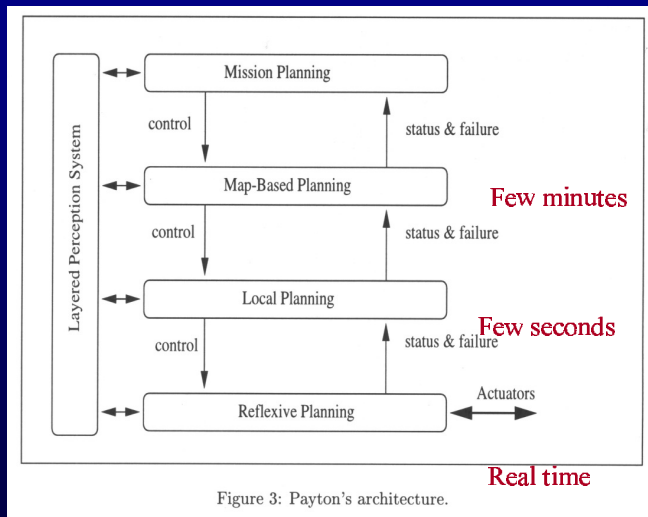
*Behaviors = finite state machines communicating using messages
e.g. Move towards a goal, Explore, Avoid obstacles, Follow a wall*

Subsumption architecture
[Brooks86]

Decisional & Control Architectures (C'ed)

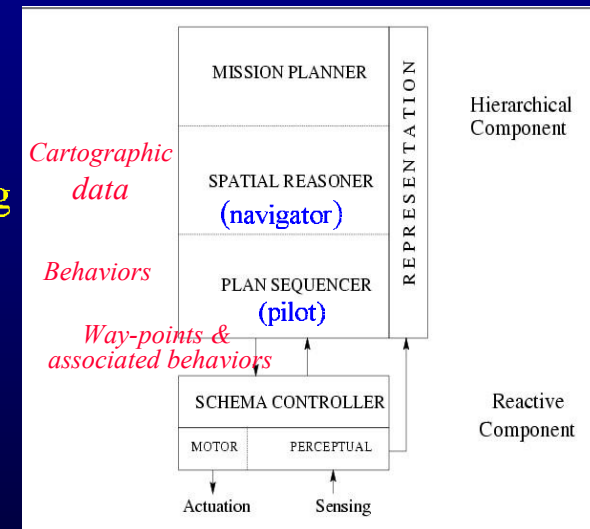
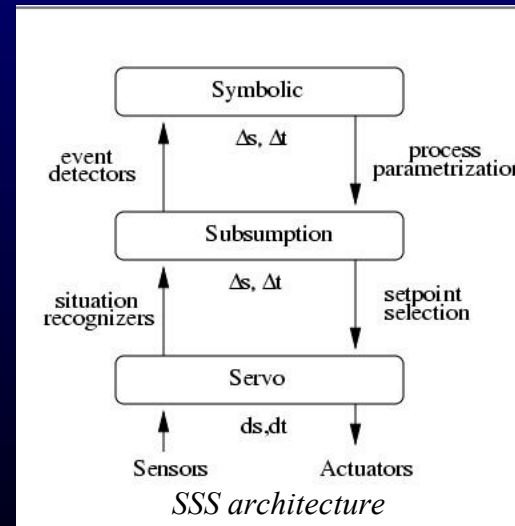
• Hybrid approaches

- Adding a “reflex layer” to a SMPA architecture [Payton86][Gat90]
- Adding a “planning layer” to a reactive architecture [Arkin87] [Connell92]
- Three-layered hybrid architectures [Alami et al. 98] [Laugier et al. 97]
=> Decision layer + Reactive mechanisms + Skills



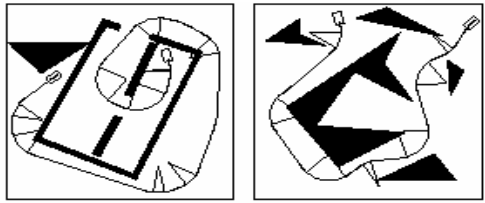
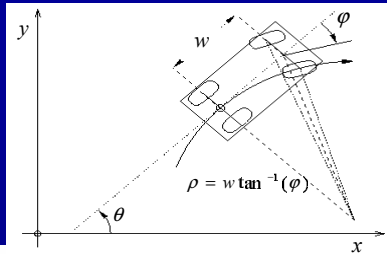
Hierarchical architecture including a “reflex layer” [Payton 86]

Reactive architecture including a symbolic layer [Connell 92]

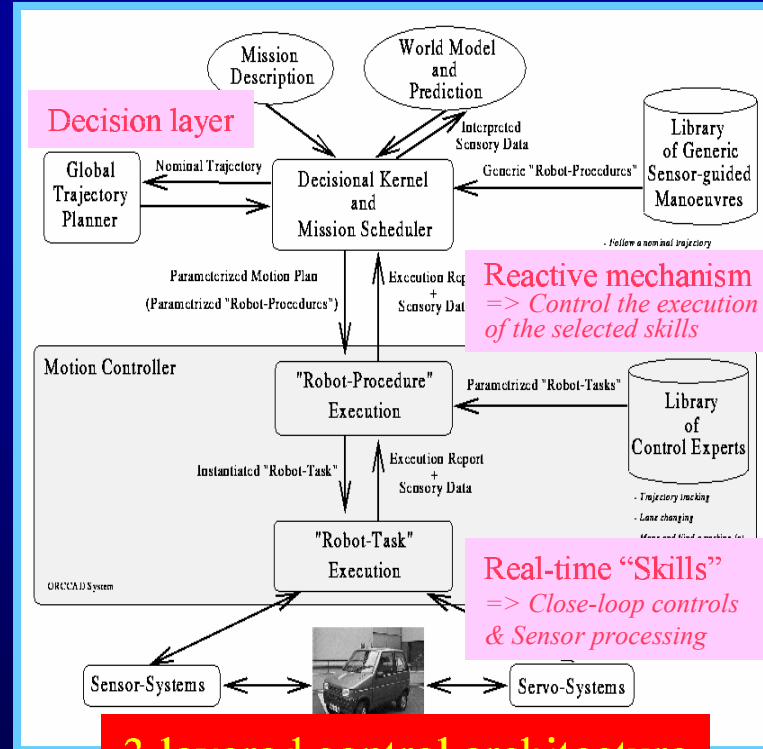


Combining a reactive architecture with a deliberative layer [Arkin87]

Automatic driving architecture (Inria)

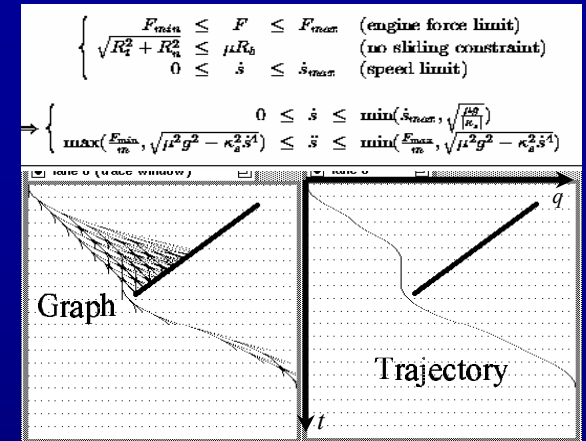


Planning CC-paths
(kinematic constraints ...)
 continuous curvature profile + upper-bounded curvature & curvature derivative
 [Scheuer & Laugier 98]



3-layered control architecture

[Laugier et al. 98]



Kinodynamic Motion Planning
(Dynamic constraints ...)
 [Fraichard 92]



Platooning [Parent & Daviet 96]



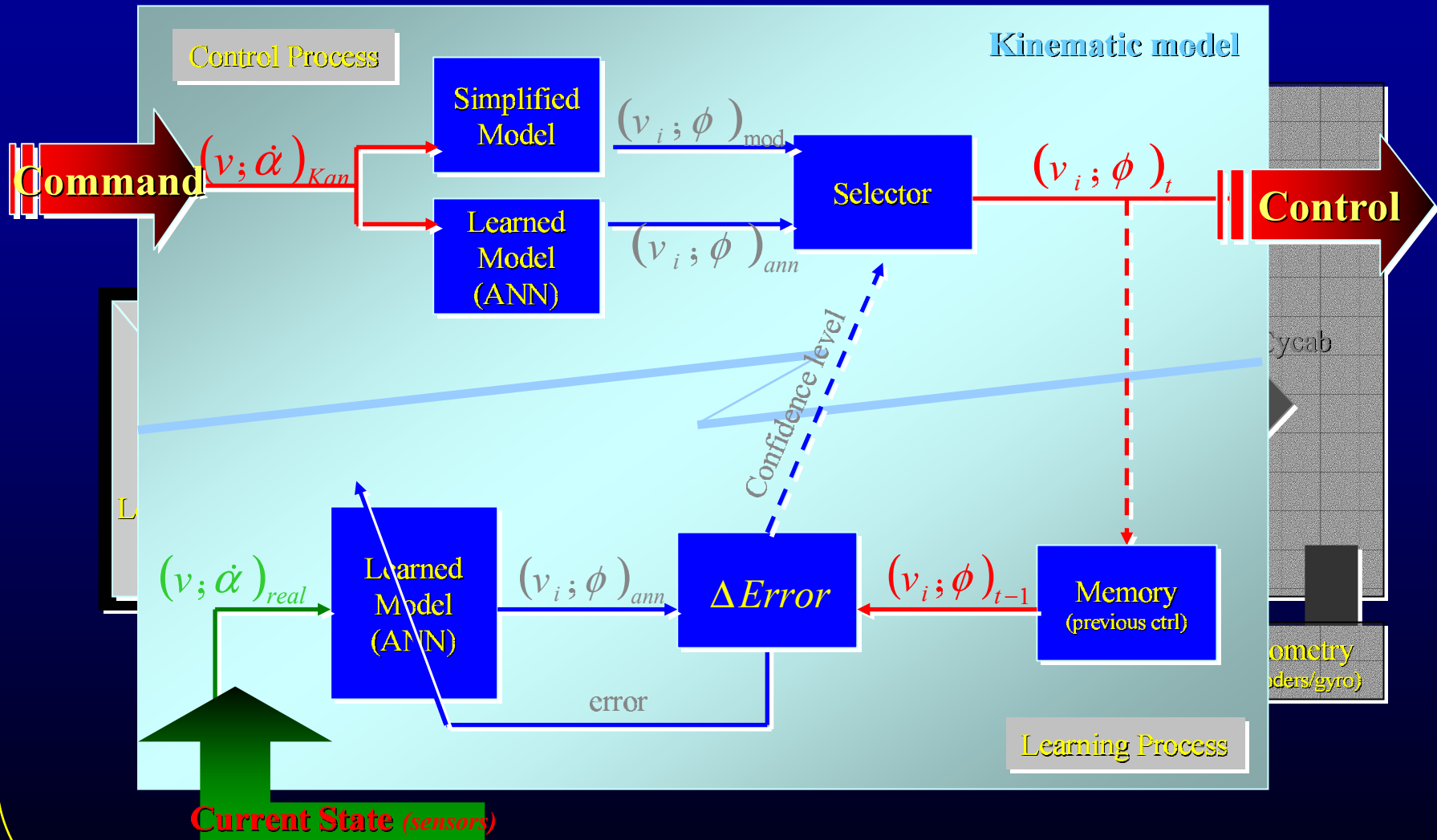
Lane Changing & Obstacle avoidance
 [Laugier et al. 98]



Automatic Parallel Parking
 [Paromtchik & Laugier 96]

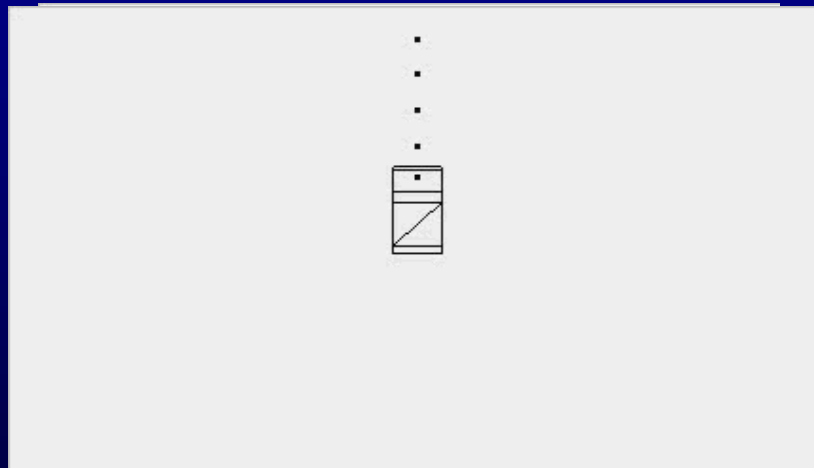
Model learning & Improved Trajectory Tracking

[Large & Laugier 00]



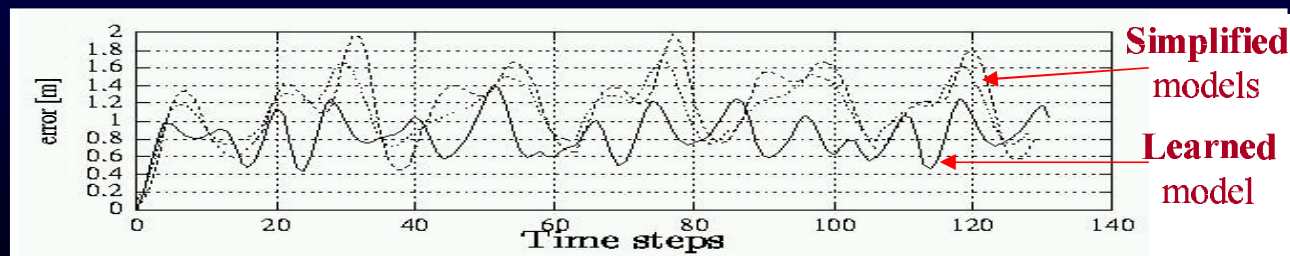
Model learning & Improved Trajectory Tracking

Experimental results



Sensing error:
0.15 rad on the steering angle

Our control system
after a first training



« Platooning » [Parent & Daviet 96]



Electronic « Tow-bar »



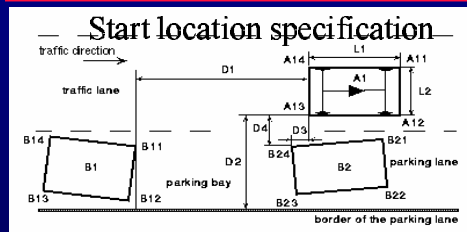
*CCD Linear camera + Infrared target
(high rate & resolution)*



PRAXITELE

Automatic parking maneuvers [Paromtchik & Laugier 96]

*On-line local world reconstruction
& Incremental motion planning*



$$\begin{cases} \phi(t) = \phi_{\max} k_{\phi} A(t), & 0 \leq t \leq T \\ v(t) = v_{\max} k_v B(t), & 0 \leq t \leq T' \end{cases} \quad \phi_{\max} > 0, v_{\max} > 0, k_{\phi} =$$

$$A(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 \leq t < t' \\ \cos \frac{\pi(t-t')}{T^*}, & t' \leq t \leq T-t', \quad t' = \frac{T-T^*}{2}, T^* < T \\ -1, & T-t' < t \leq T \end{cases}$$

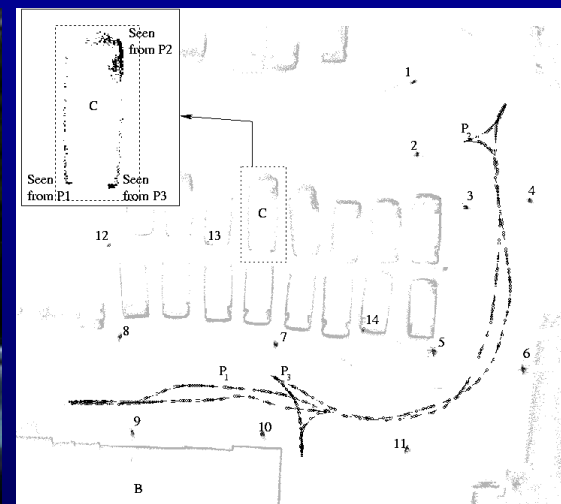
$$B(t) = 0.5(1 - \cos 4\pi t/T), \quad 0 \leq t \leq T$$

=> On-line motion planning using sinusoidal controls $\phi(t)$ and $v(t)$
(search for control parameters T and ϕ_{\max})

Autonomous navigation in a learned environment

[Pradalier & Hermosillo 03]

⇒ *Several functionalities (learned and downloaded) have to be robustly combined*
Incremental world modeling & localization + Motion planning + Autonomous sensor-based navigation

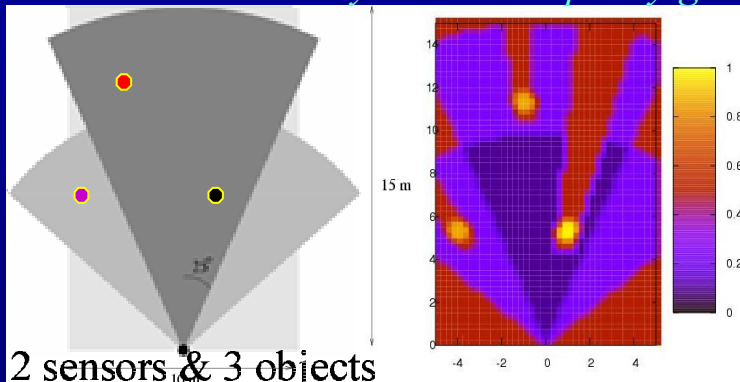


SLAM
+
Motion planning
+
Reactive navigation

Robust obstacles tracking & avoidance

Bayesian Occupancy Filter (BOF) [Coué et al. 03]

Dynamic occupancy grid



2 sensors & 3 objects

$$P([E_c=1] | z_{1,1} z_{1,2} z_{2,1} z_{2,2} c)$$

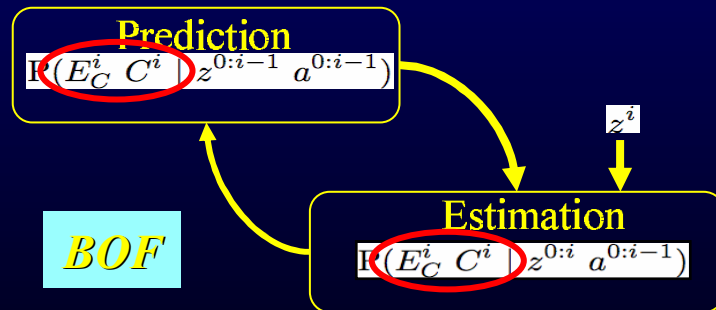
$$c = [x, y, 0, 0]$$

$$z_{1,1} = (5.5, -4, 0, 0) \quad z_{1,2} = (5.5, 1, 0, 0)$$

$$z_{2,1} = (11, -1, 0, 0) \quad z_{2,2} = (5.4, 1.1, 0, 0)$$



Pedestrian avoidance using the BOF



=> See tutorial 2

Conclusion (Tutorial 1)

- **A formal framework and various algorithmic tools exists for solving basic motion planning problem**
- **New techniques have also been developed for taking into account some of characteristics of reel problems** (*kinematic constraints, moving obstacles, uncertainty & hazards*)

... BUT

- **The scalability is still an open problem** (*i.e. how to master the complexity of most of real world applications ?*)
- **Coping with the full characteristics of the physical world** (*dynamicity, uncompleteness ...*) **is still a largely open problem.** *New probabilistic approaches are also required to solve such problems (see tutorial 2)*