



Tutorial on Fast Marching Method

Application to Trajectory Planning for Autonomous Underwater Vehicles

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This work has been supported by the Ocean Systems Laboratory
<http://www.eece.hw.ac.uk/research/oceans/>

- I. Introduction to FM based trajectory planning
- II. Trajectory planning under directional constraints
- III. Trajectory planning under curvature constraints
- IV. Multiresolution FM based trajectory planning
- V. FM based trajectory planning in dynamic environments
- VI. Trajectory planning under visibility constraints

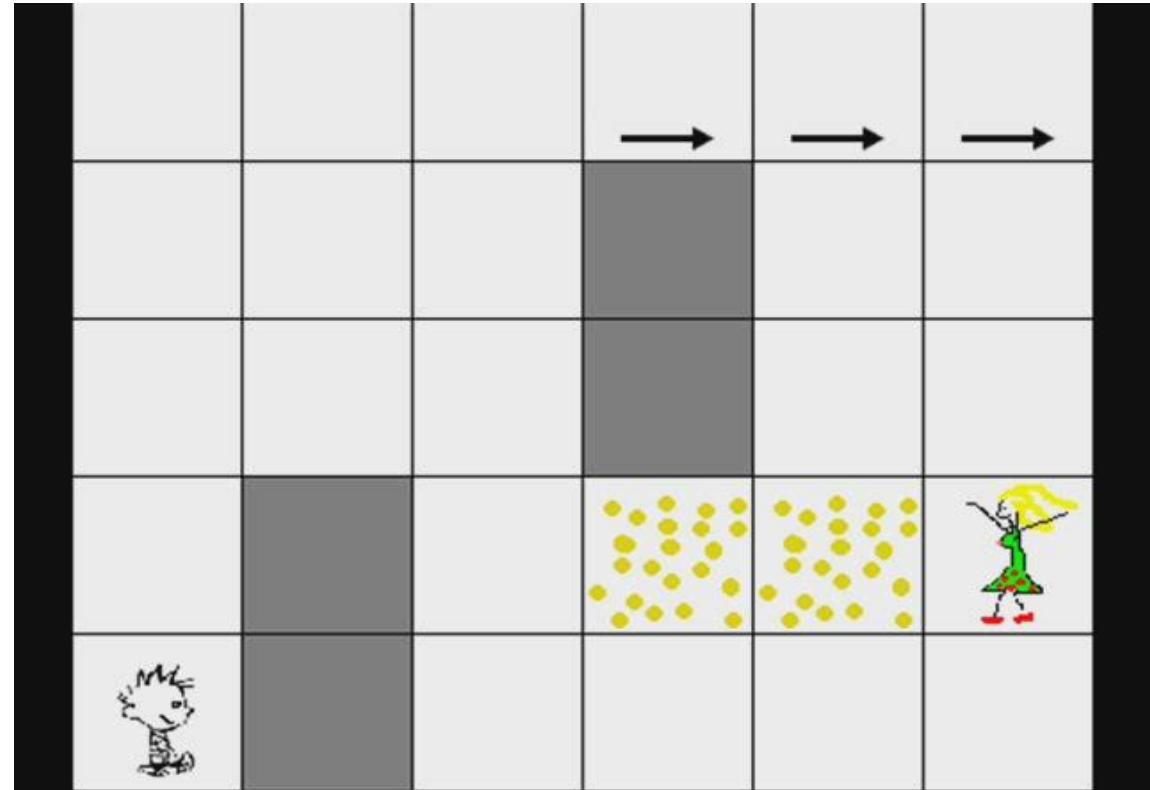
Introduction: a short story

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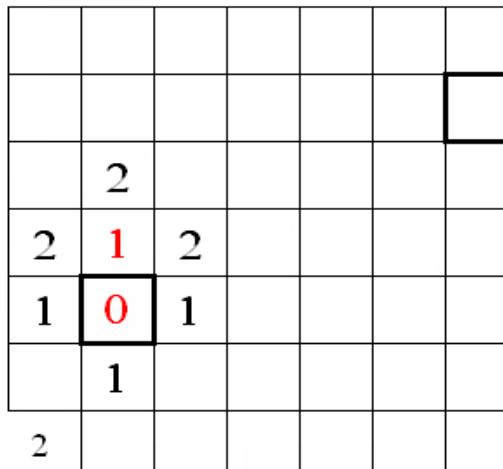
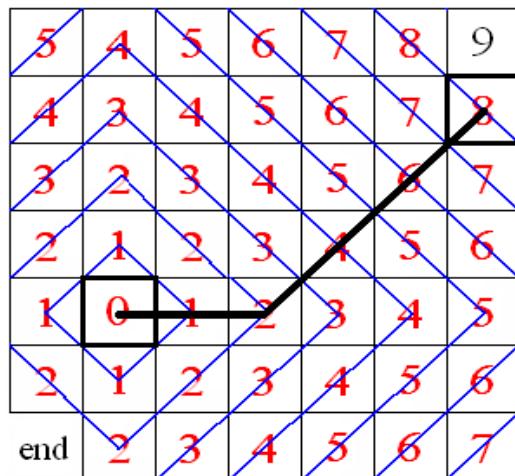
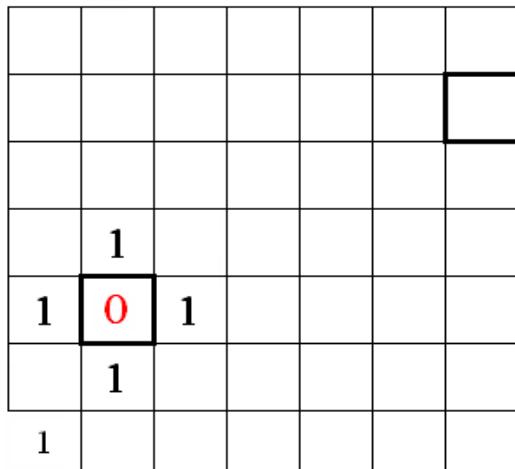
list

Costs

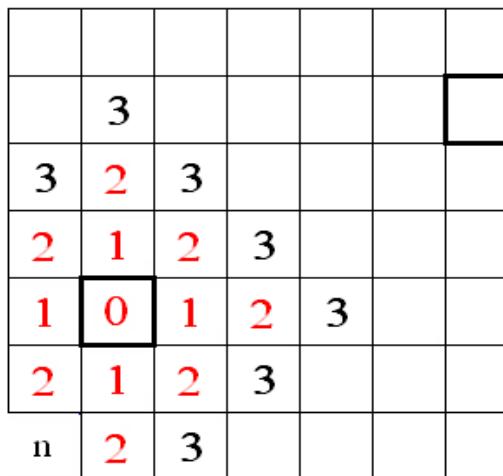
- Obstacles: 11
- Rocky ground: 2
- Free space: 1
- Wind: 0.5



Grid-search algorithms



Cost function
 $\tau(x,y) = 1$



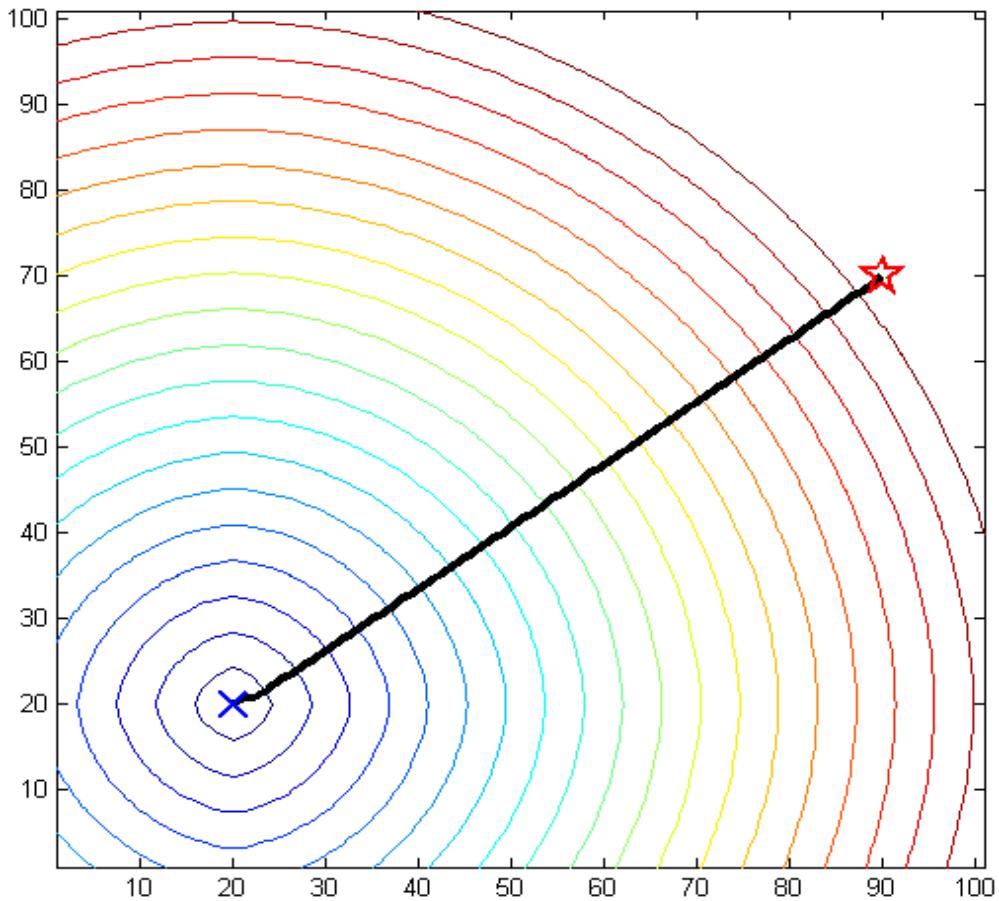
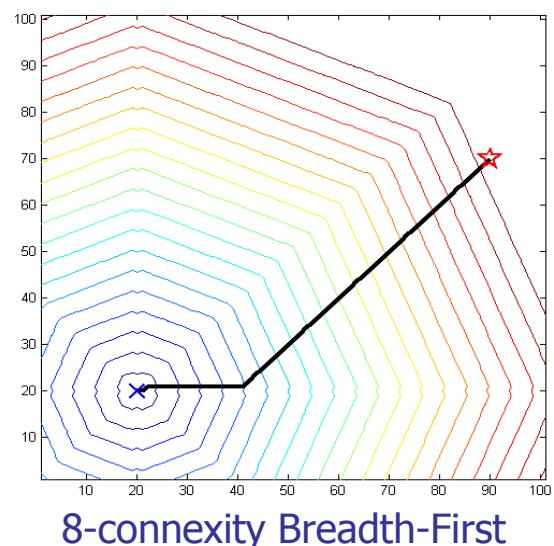
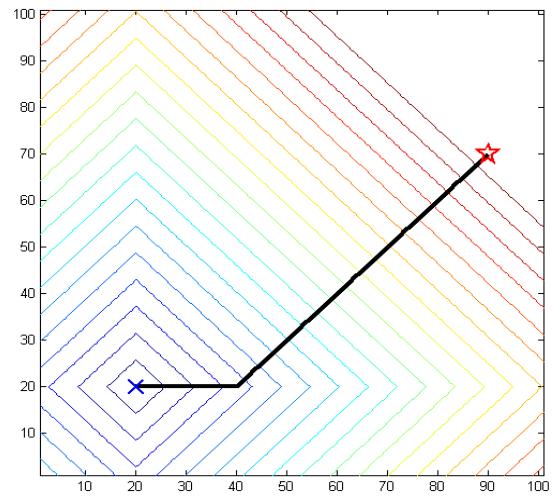
Color code
■ Visited
■ Current
□ Unvisited

4-connectivity Breadth-First algorithm without obstacle
(cost function = constant = 1)

Some demos (priority queue) ...



Towards Fast Marching algorithm...

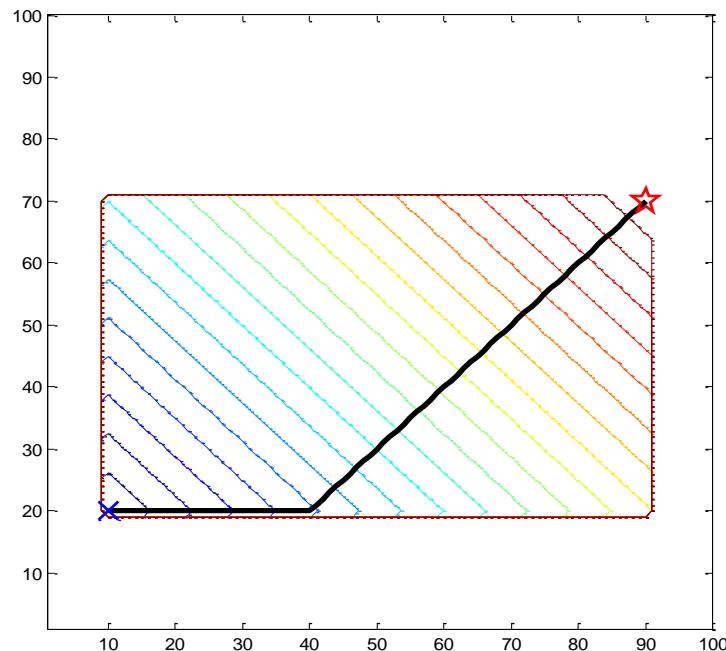


A* versus FM*

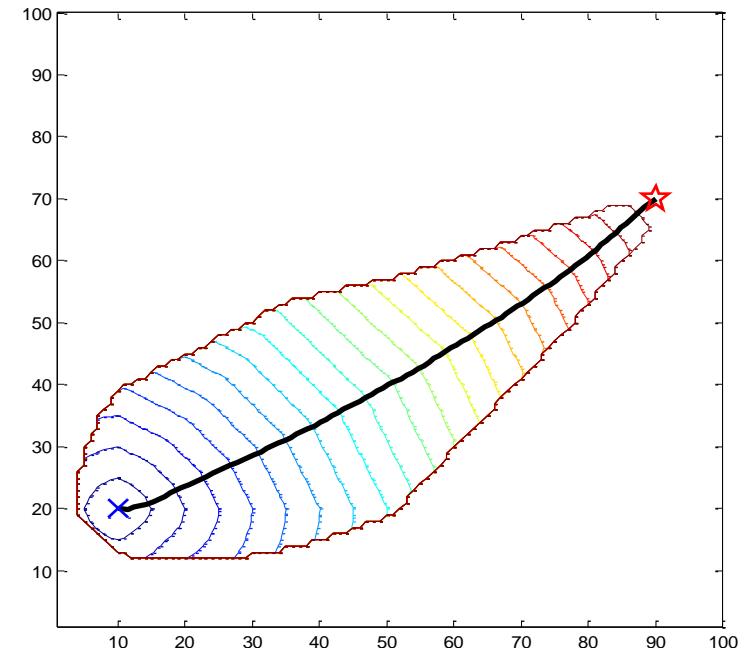
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list

A* = Breadth-First + heuristic
FM* = Fast Marching + heuristic



4-connectivity A* (Nilsson, 1968)



4-connectivity FM*

On a grid with N points: FM complexity = A* complexity = $O(N \log(N))$:

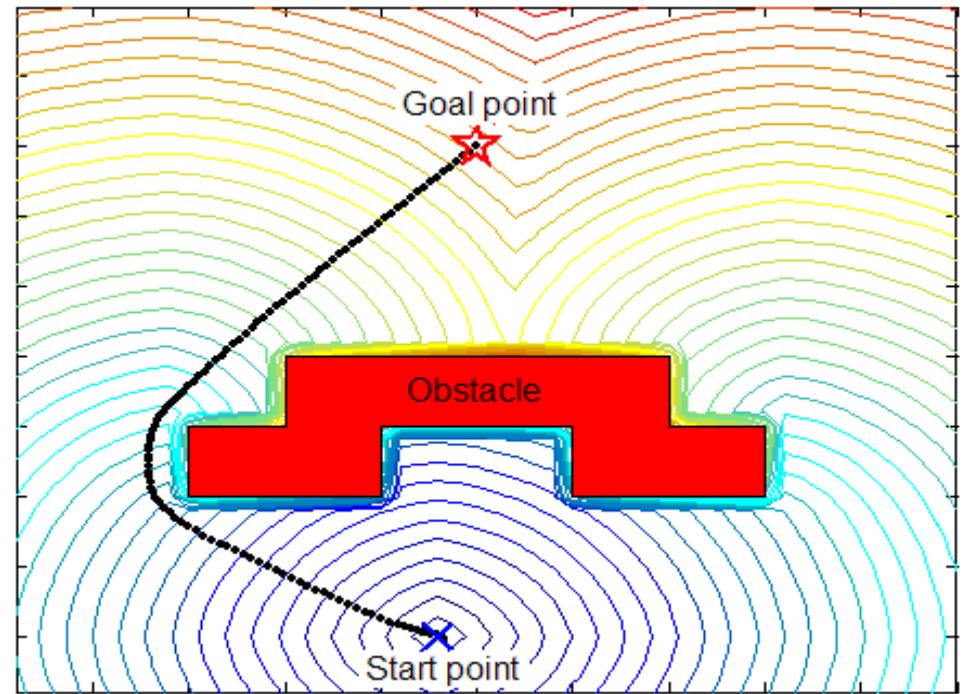
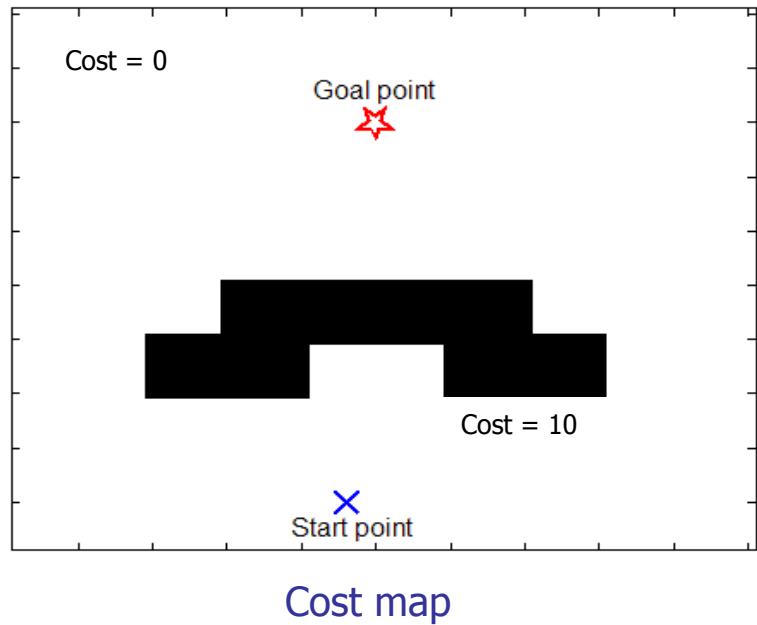
- Maximum cost of sorting the queue: $\log(N)$
- Maximum number of iterations: N



Non-convex obstacles: Fast Marching method

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list

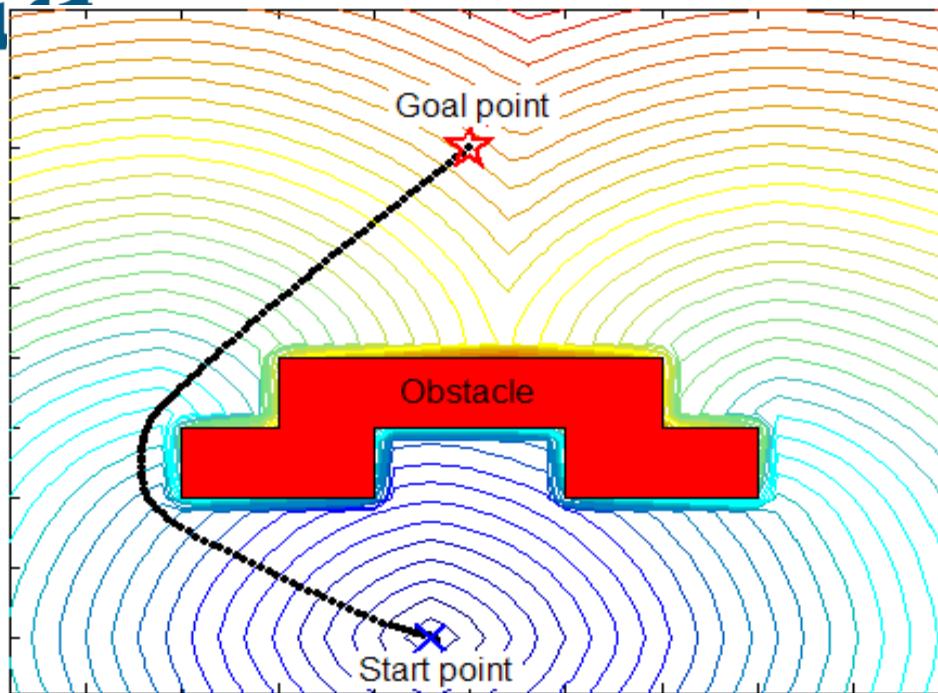


Distance map (Fast Marching) and optimal trajectory (gradient descent)

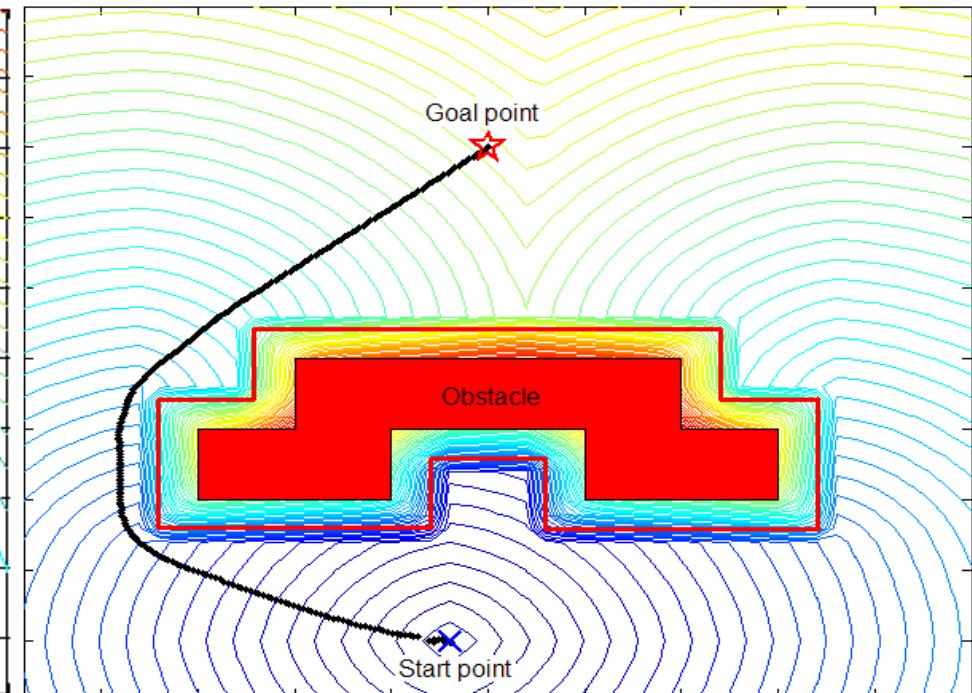
Non-convex obstacles: dilatation + Fast Marching

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list



Trajectory avoiding obstacle



Safer trajectory avoiding dilated obstacle

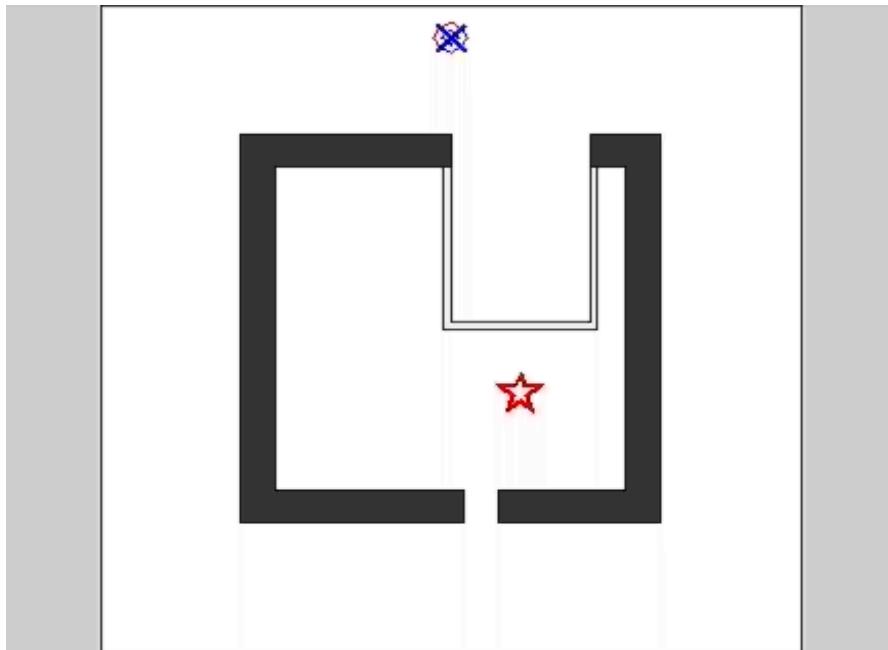


Application: harbour obstructed by a net

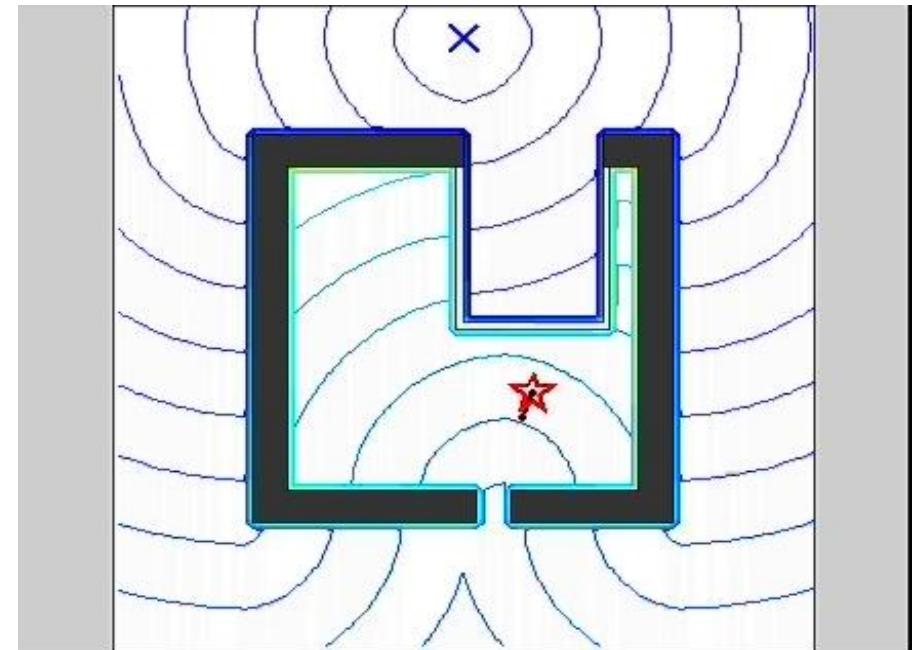
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list

Harbour 2D simulation

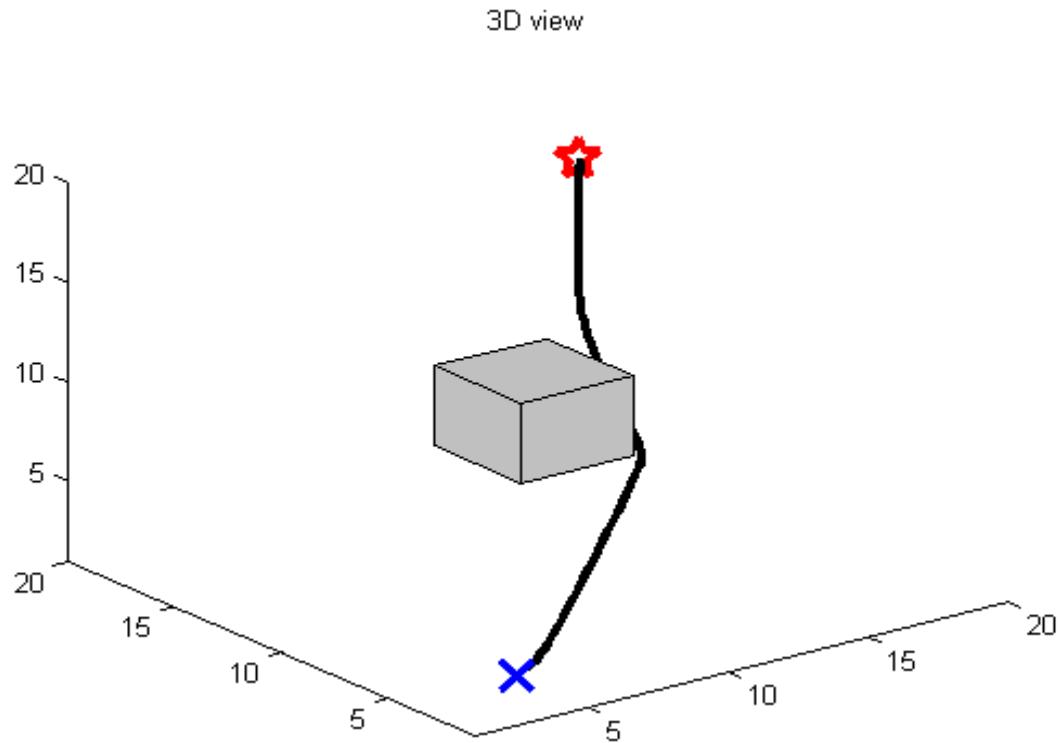


Distance map computation



Gradient descent computation

Application: 3D trajectory planning



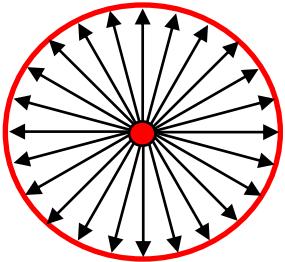
3D optimal trajectory using 3D Fast Marching algorithm

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Anisotropic Fast Marching: theory

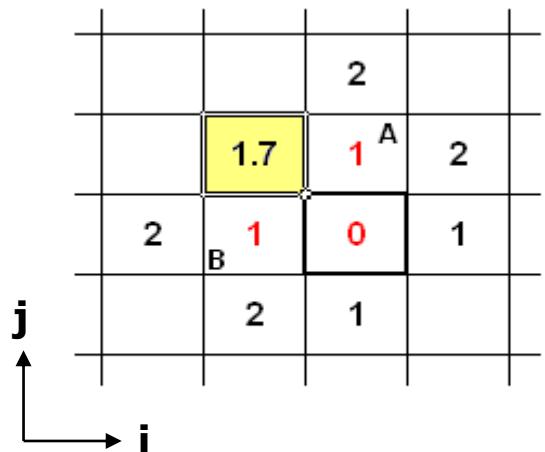
Eikonal equation

$$\|\nabla u(x)\| = \tau(x)$$



Upwind scheme

$$\nabla u = \begin{pmatrix} -(u - u_A) \\ (u - u_B) \end{pmatrix}$$

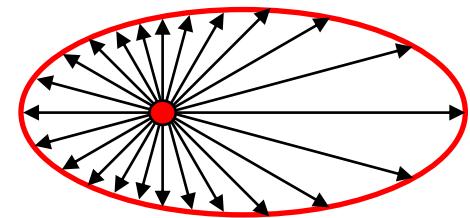


Quadratic equation for u

$$(u - u_A)^2 + (u - u_B)^2 = \tau^2$$

Hamilton-Jacobi equation

$$\|\nabla u(x)\| = \tilde{\tau}(x, \nabla u)$$



Anisotropic cost function

$$\tilde{\tau}(x, \nabla u) = \tau_O(x) + \tau_F(x, \nabla u)$$

$$\tau_F(x, \nabla u) = \alpha \left(1 - \frac{\nabla u(x) \cdot F(x)}{Q(x)} \right)$$

$$Q(x) = (\tau(x) + 2\alpha) \sup_{\Omega} (\|F\|) \text{ so that } \forall x \in \Omega, \quad \left| \frac{\nabla u(x) \cdot F(x)}{Q(x)} \right| \leq 1$$

τ_F linear for u :

$$\tau_F(x, \nabla u) = \alpha \left(1 - \frac{-(u - u_A) F_i(x) + (u - u_B) F_j(x)}{Q(x)} \right)$$

Quadratic equation for u

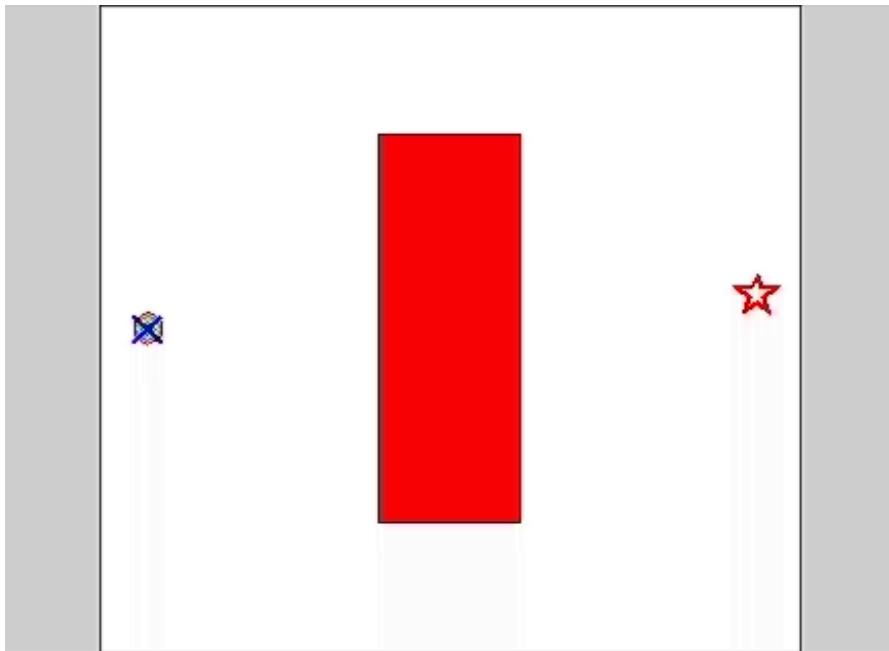
$$(u - u_A)^2 + (u - u_B)^2 = \tau_O^2 + \tau_F^2 + 2\tau_O \tau_F$$

Anisotropic Fast Marching: simulation

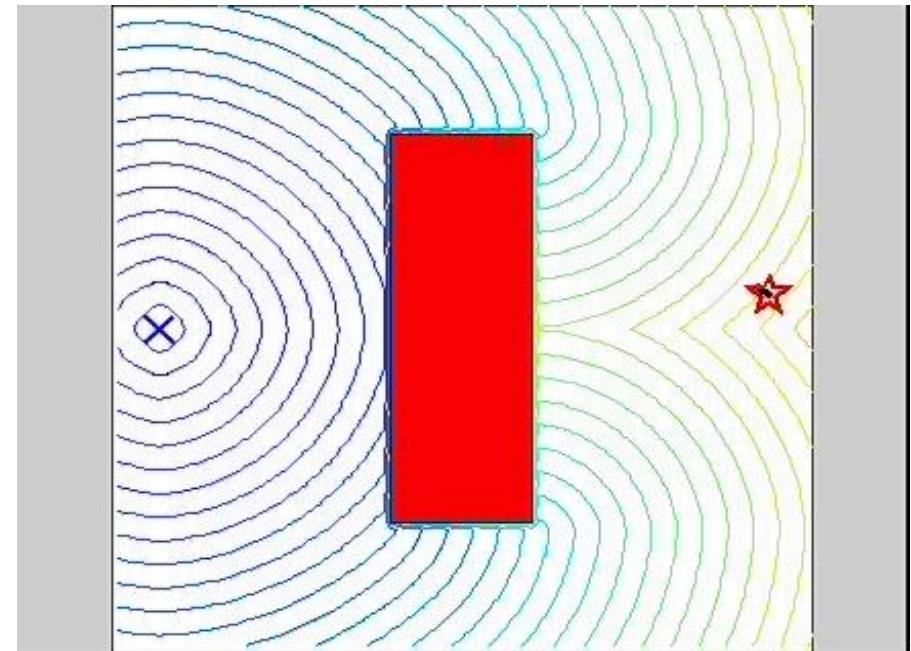
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Isotropic Fast Marching



Distance map computation



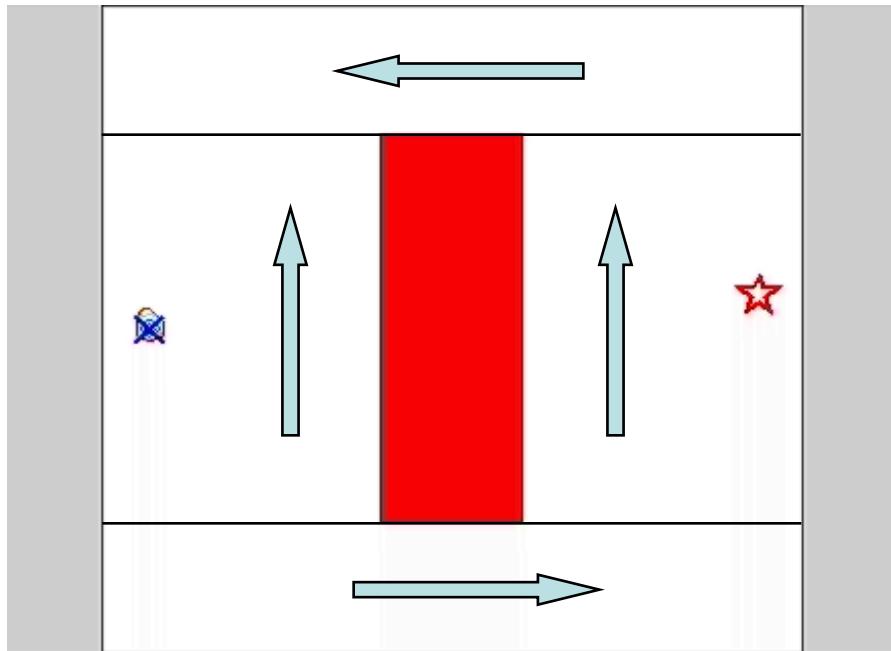
Gradient descent computation

Anisotropic Fast Marching: simulation

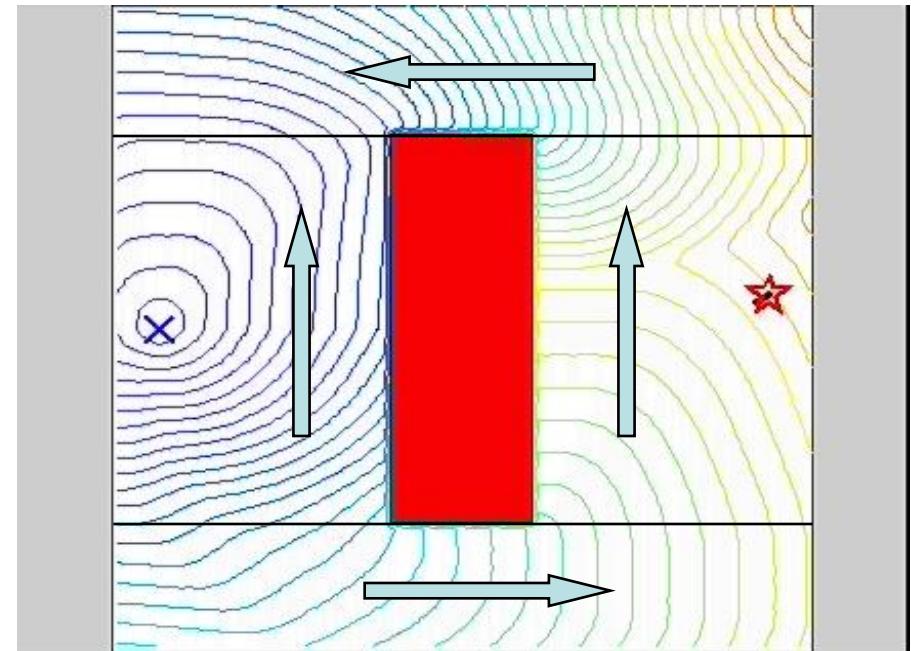
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Anisotropic Fast Marching



Distance map computation



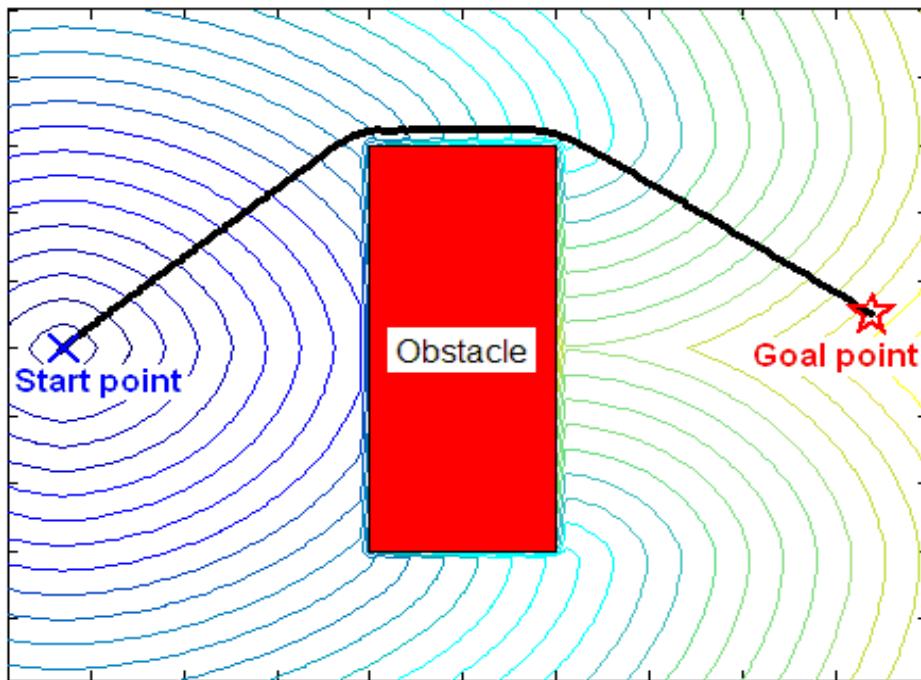
Gradient descent computation

Anisotropic Fast Marching: results

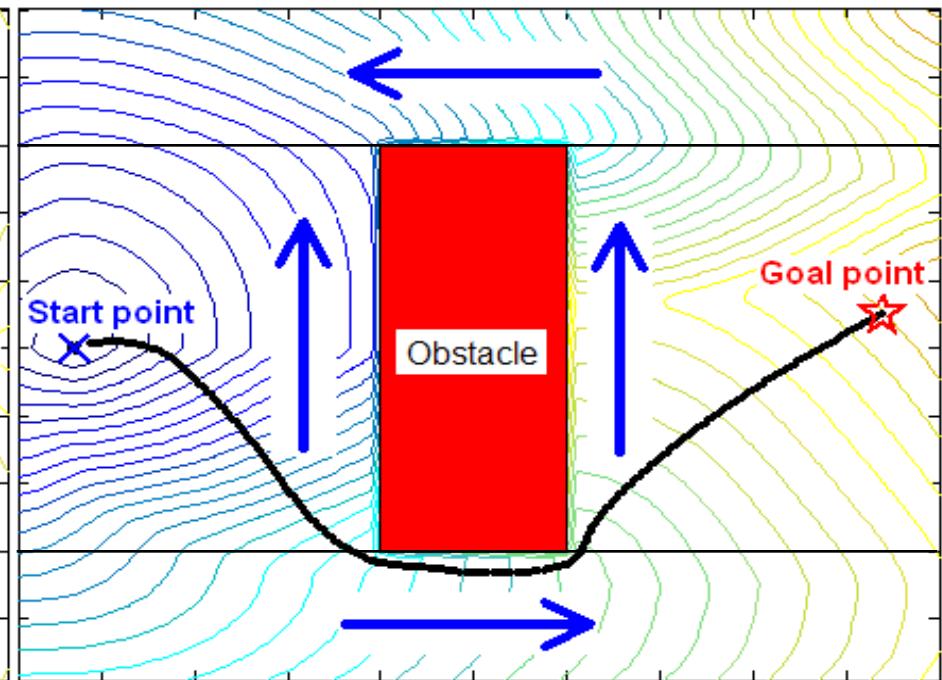
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Isotropic Fast Marching



Anisotropic Fast Marching



Gain = 10 %



DTSI

LIST – DTSI – Service Robotique Interactive

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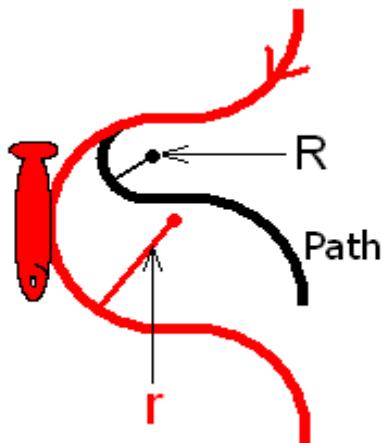
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Trajectory planning under curvature constraints

R : trajectory curvature radius

r : turning radius of the vehicle



$R > r$

Trajectory planning under curvature constraints

Trajectory

$$C: \begin{matrix} [0,1] \\ s \end{matrix} \rightarrow \Omega \quad C(0) = x_{\text{start}} \quad C(1) = x_{\text{end}}$$

Metric (cost function τ)

$$\rho(x_1, x_2) = \int_{[0,1]} \tau(C_{x_1, x_2}(s)) ds$$

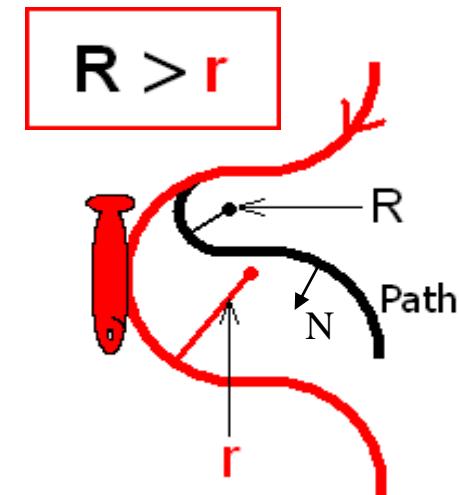
Functional minimization problem

$$u(x_1, x_2) = \inf_{\{C_{x_1, x_2}\}} \rho(x_1, x_2)$$

Euler-Lagrange equation

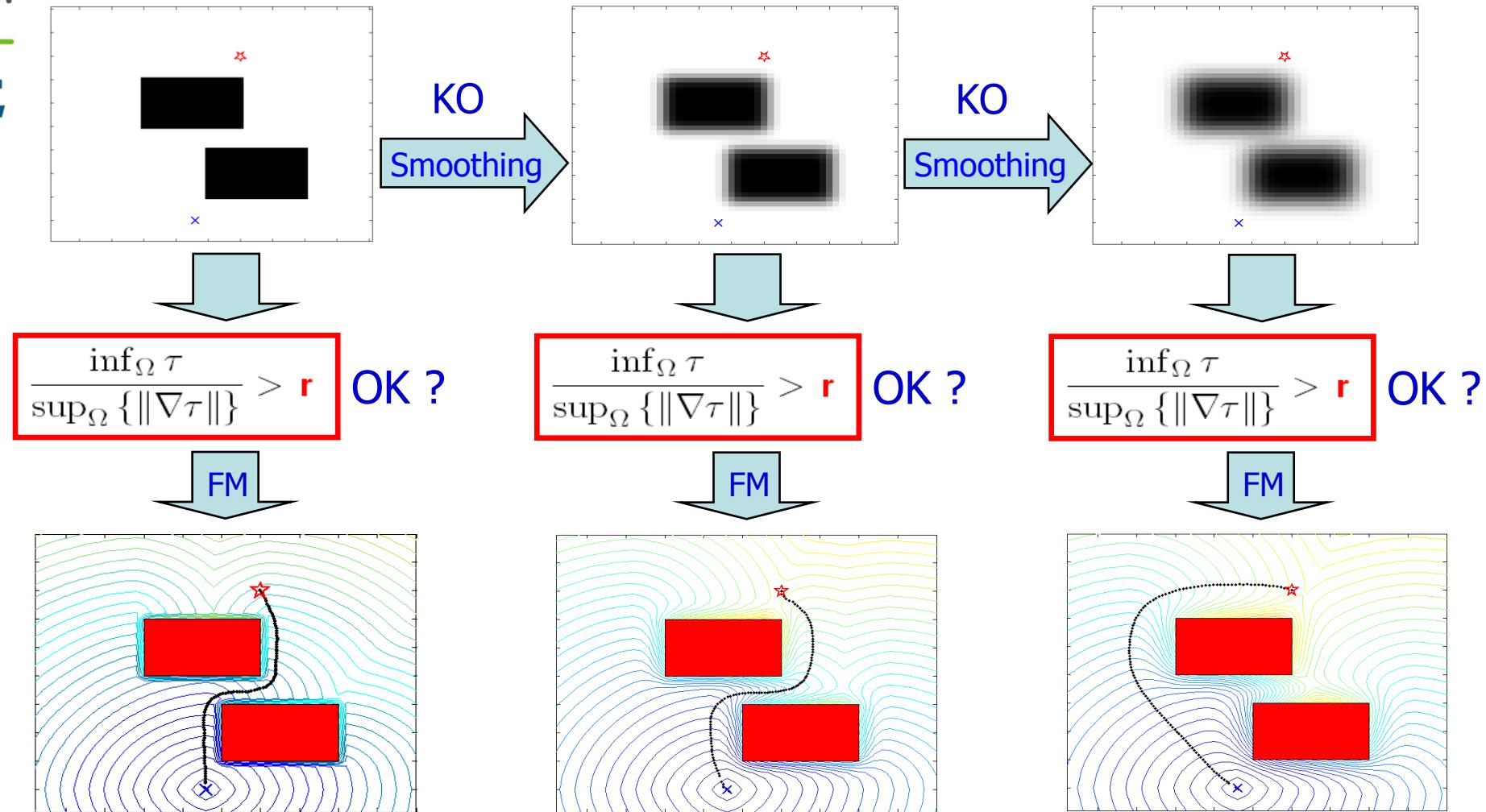
$$\frac{\tau}{R} - \nabla \tau \cdot N = 0$$

$$R \geq \frac{\inf_{\Omega} \tau}{\sup_{\Omega} \|\nabla \tau\|} > r \quad (\text{Cohen and Kimmel, 1997})$$



Smoothing τ to decrease $\sup_{\Omega} \|\nabla \tau\|$

Trajectory planning under curvature constraints



Lower bounds on the curvature radius

Cost function

$$\tilde{\tau}(x, \nabla u) = \tau_O(x) + \tau_F(x, \nabla u)$$

$$\tau_F(x, \nabla u) = \alpha \left(1 - \frac{\nabla u(x) \cdot F(x)}{Q(x)} \right)$$

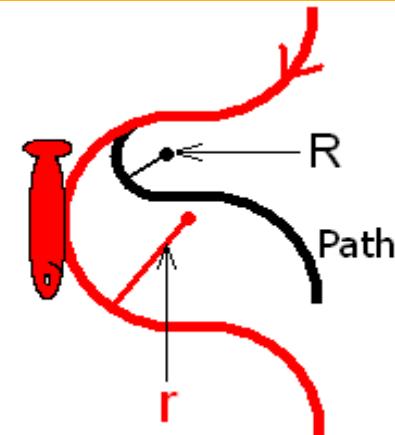
Euler-Lagrange equation

$$\frac{\tau_O + \tau_F}{R} - \nabla \tau_O \cdot N \pm \frac{\alpha}{Q} \left(\frac{\partial F_i}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial F_y}{\partial x} \right) = 0$$

(Petres and Pailhas, 2005)

$$R \geq \frac{\inf_{\Omega} \tau_O}{\sup_{\Omega} \|\nabla \tau_O\| + \frac{2\alpha}{\inf_{\Omega} Q} \|J_F\|_{\infty}} > r$$

- Smoothing τ_O to decrease $\sup_{\Omega} \|\nabla \tau_O\|$
- Smoothing the field of force F to decrease $\|J_F\|_{\infty}$



Isotropic case

$$\frac{\tau}{R} - \nabla \tau \cdot N = 0$$

$$R \geq \frac{\inf_{\Omega} \tau}{\sup_{\Omega} \|\nabla \tau\|} > r$$

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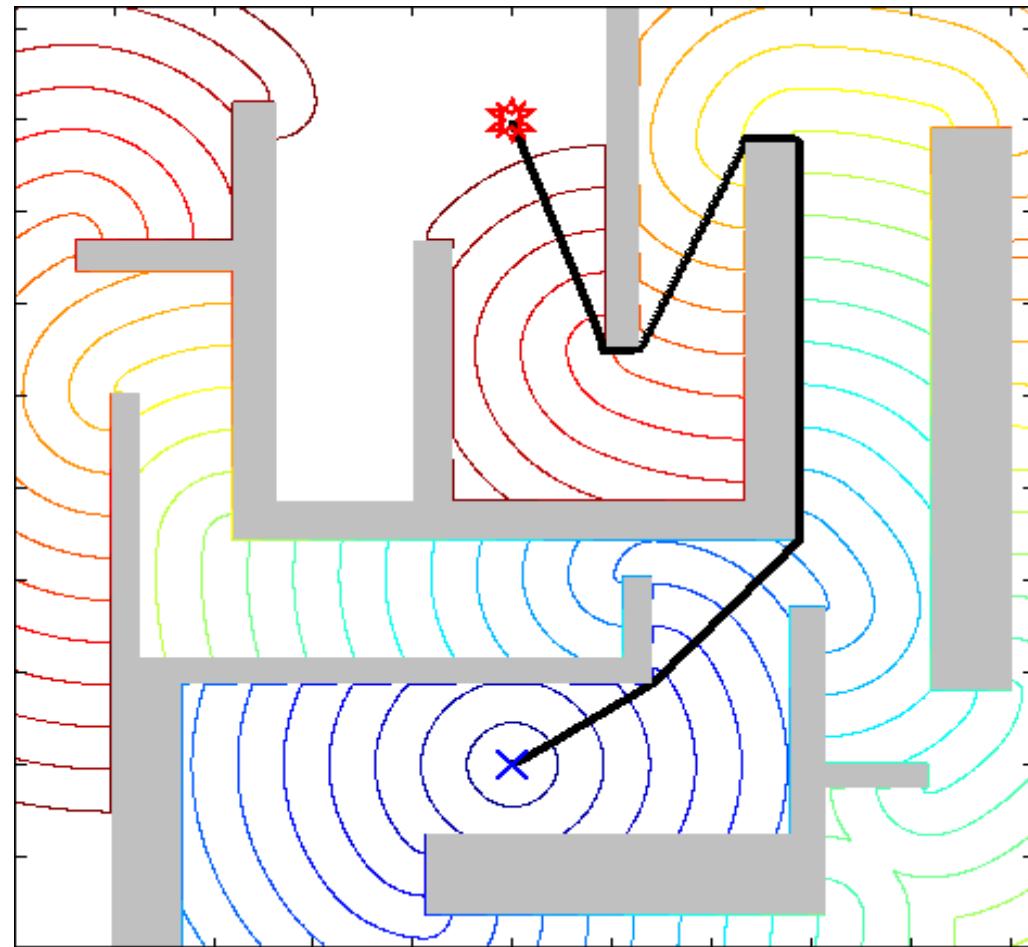
Multiresolution FM based trajectory planning

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Operations:

- 1) 1000x1000 grid of pixels
- 2) FM on the grid



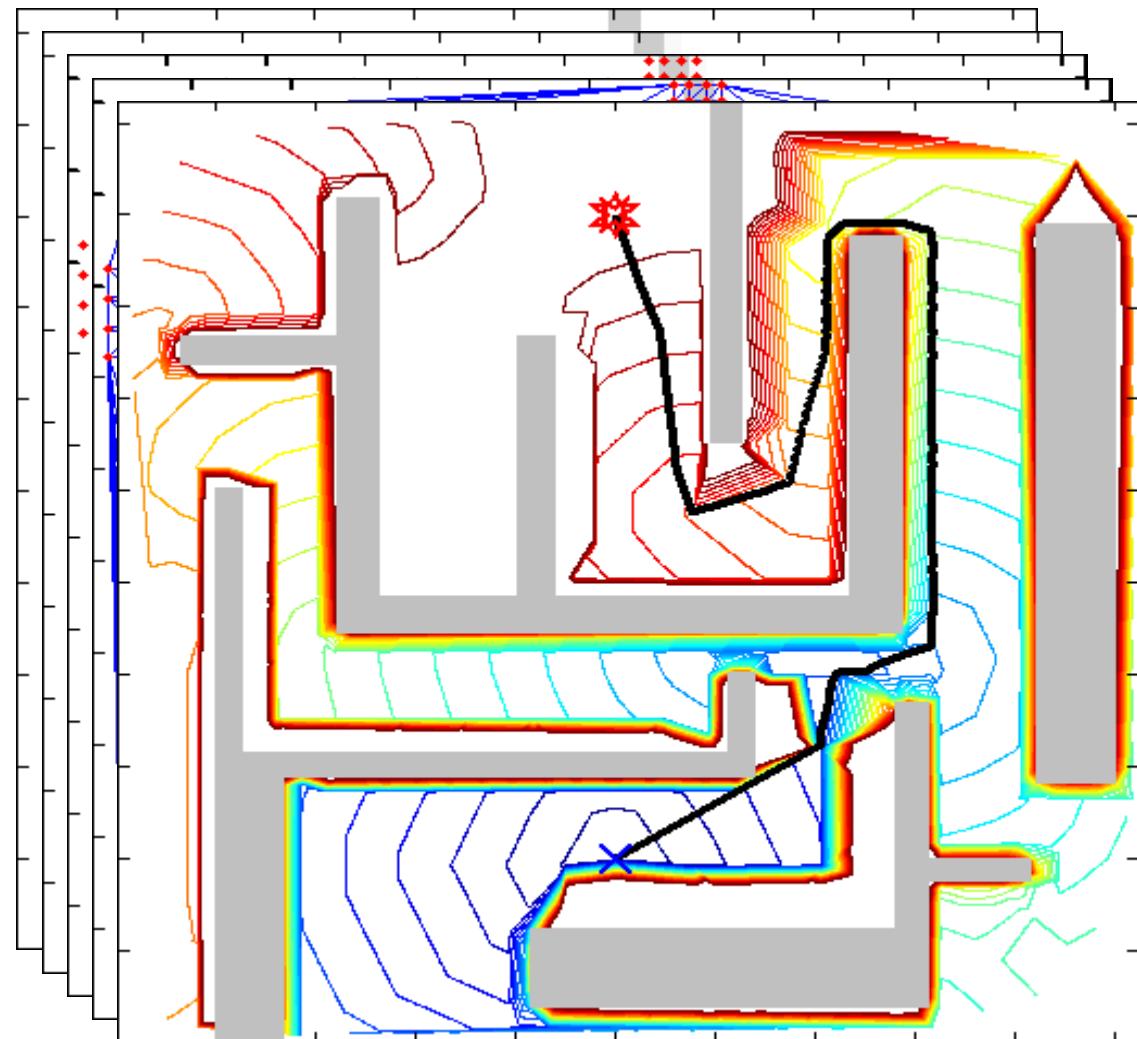
Multiresolution FM based trajectory planning

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list

Operations:

- 1) 1000x1000 grid of pixels
- 2) Quadtree decomposition
- 3) Mesh of 1400 vertices
- 4) FM on the mesh

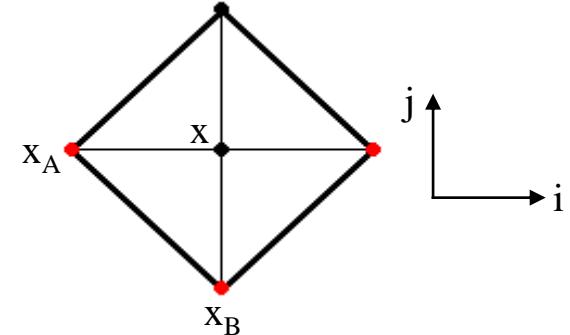


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Multiresolution FM based trajectory planning: upwind scheme

Cartesian grid

$$(u - u_A)^2 + (u - u_B)^2 = \tau^2$$



Unstructured mesh

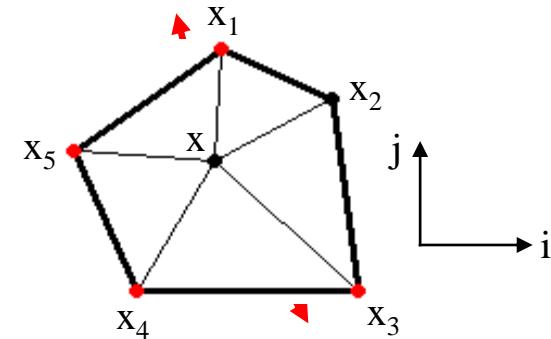
$$(a^T Q a)u^2 + (2a^T Q b)u + b^T Q b = \tau^2$$

(Sethian and Vladimirsy, 2000)

Notations:

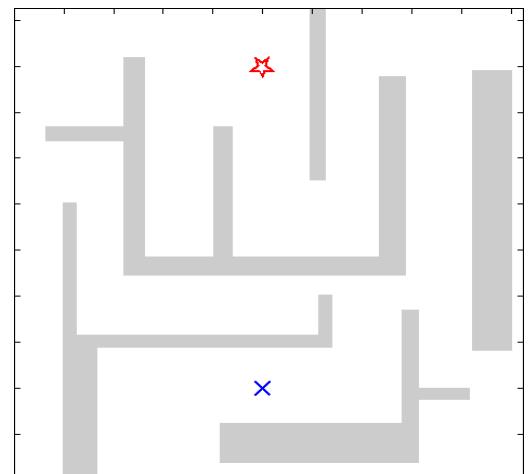
$$T_i = \frac{x - x_i}{\|x - x_i\|} \quad T = (T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n) \quad Q = (T^T T)^{-1}$$

$$a_i = \frac{1}{\|x - x_i\|} \quad a = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \dots \\ a_n \end{pmatrix} \quad b_i = -\frac{u_i}{\|x - x_i\|} \quad b = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \dots \\ b_n \end{pmatrix}$$

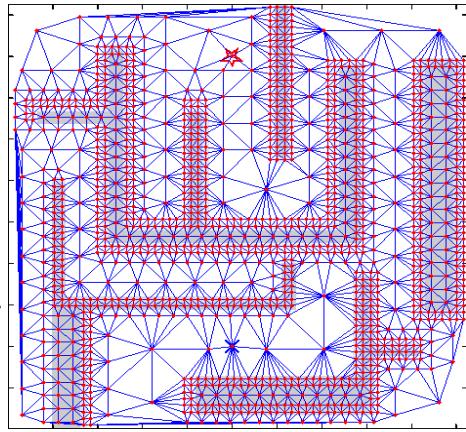
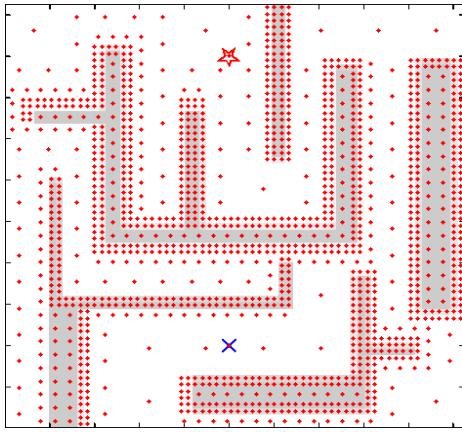
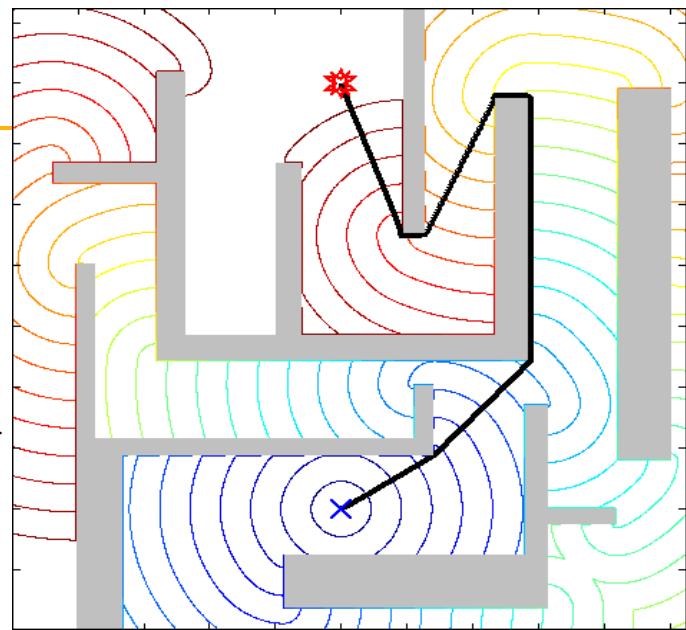


$$u = \min(u_1, u_2, u_3)$$

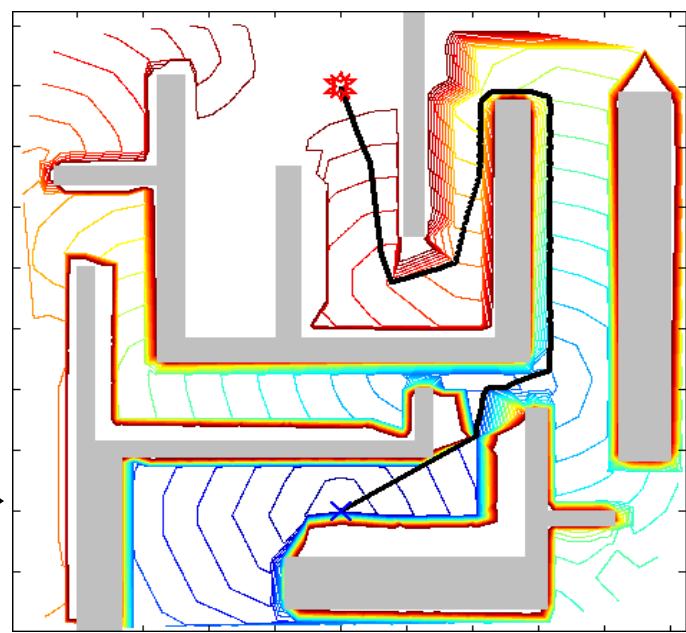
Recapitulative



100 seconds



1 second

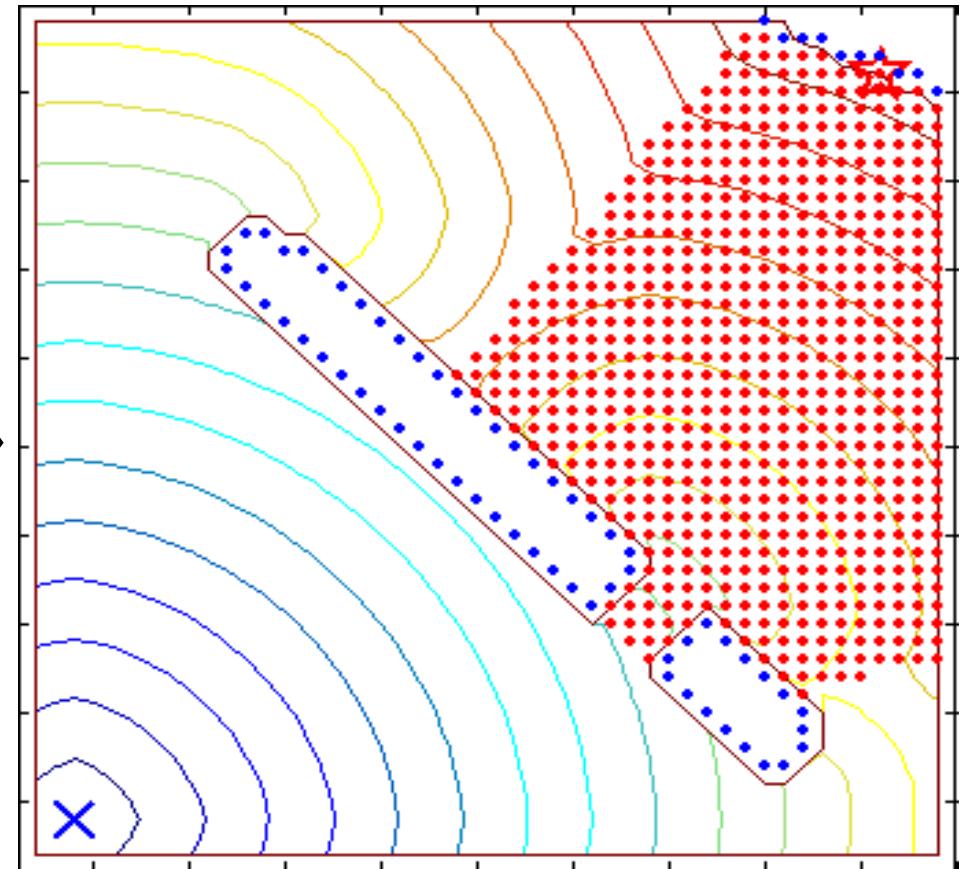
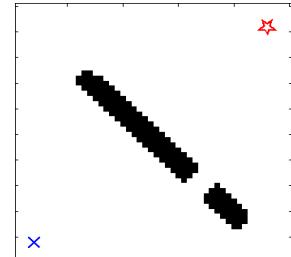
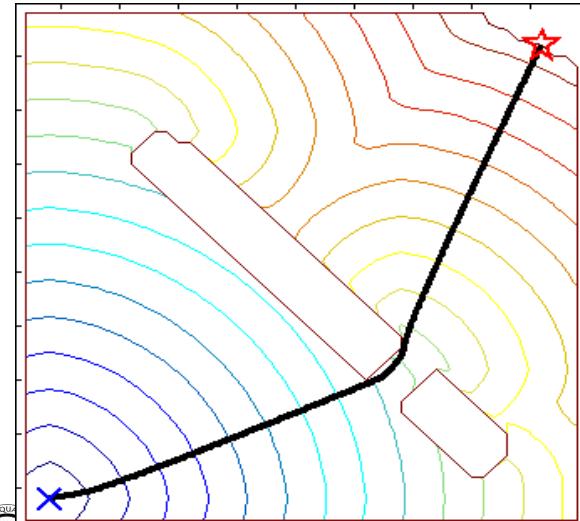
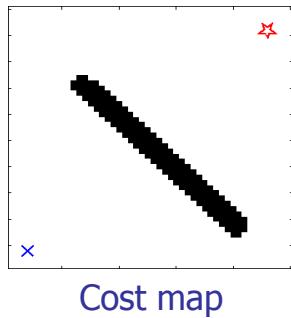
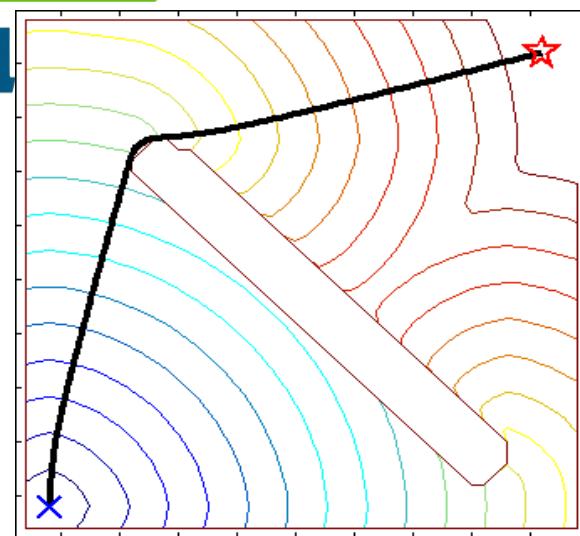


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FM based trajectory planning in dynamic environments

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E* algorithm
(Philippson and Siegwart, 2005)



Updated grid points



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Smooth Trajectory Repair For Unmanned Vehicles

Pedro Patrón, Clément Pêtrès, Jonathan Evans,
Yvan R. Petillot, David M. Lane

Ocean Systems Laboratory, Heriot-Watt University, Scotland, UK

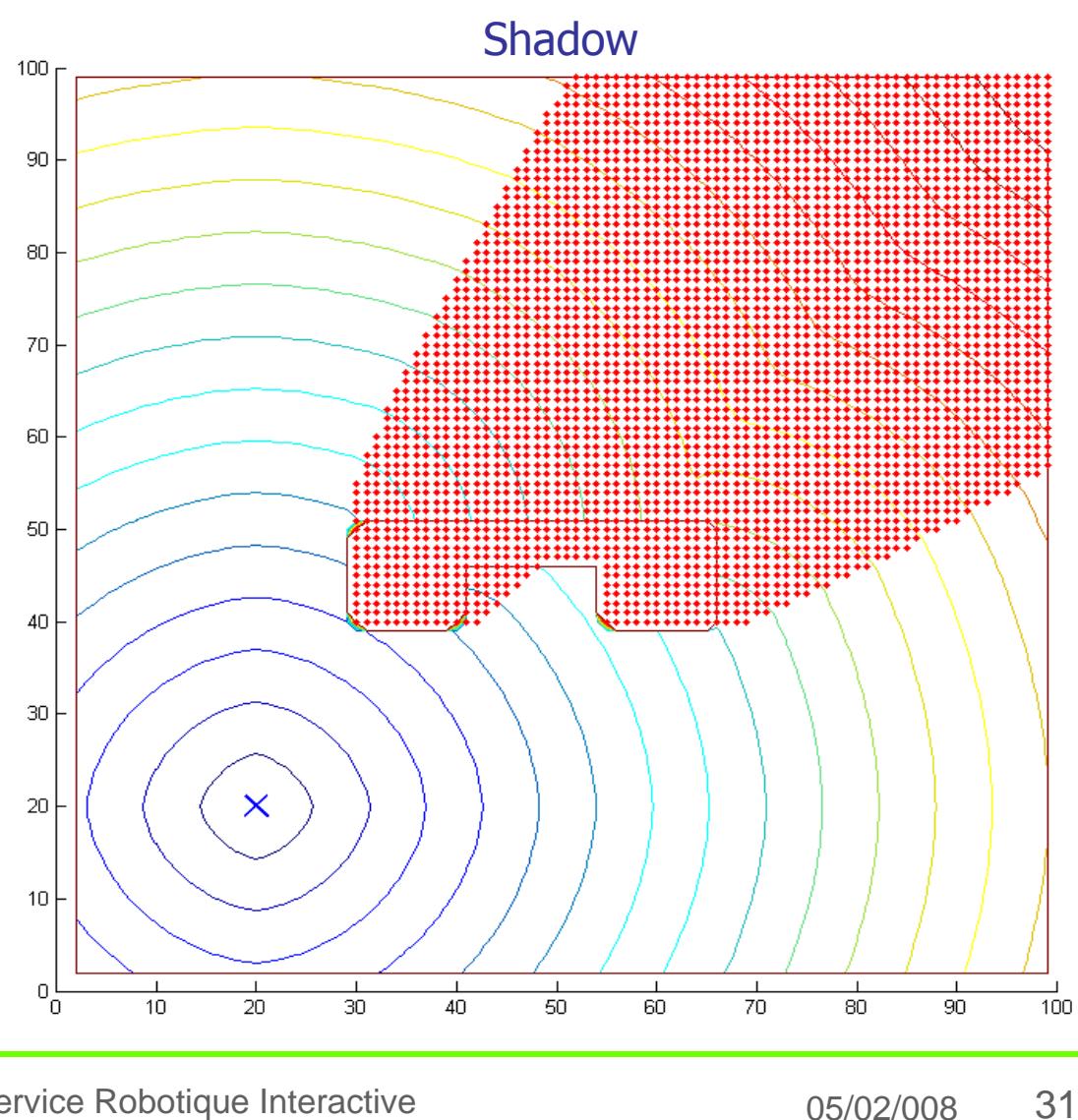
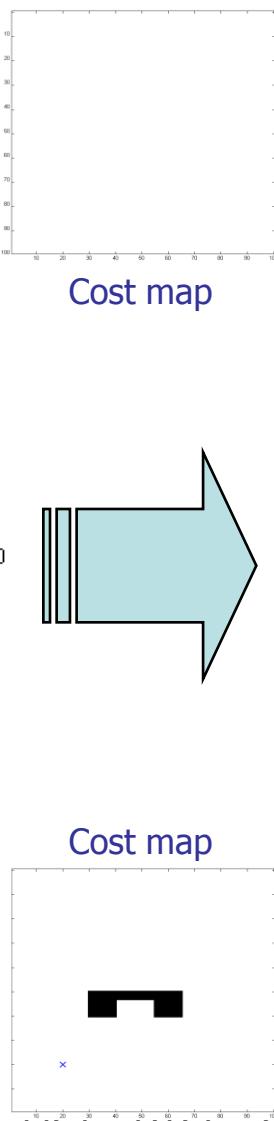
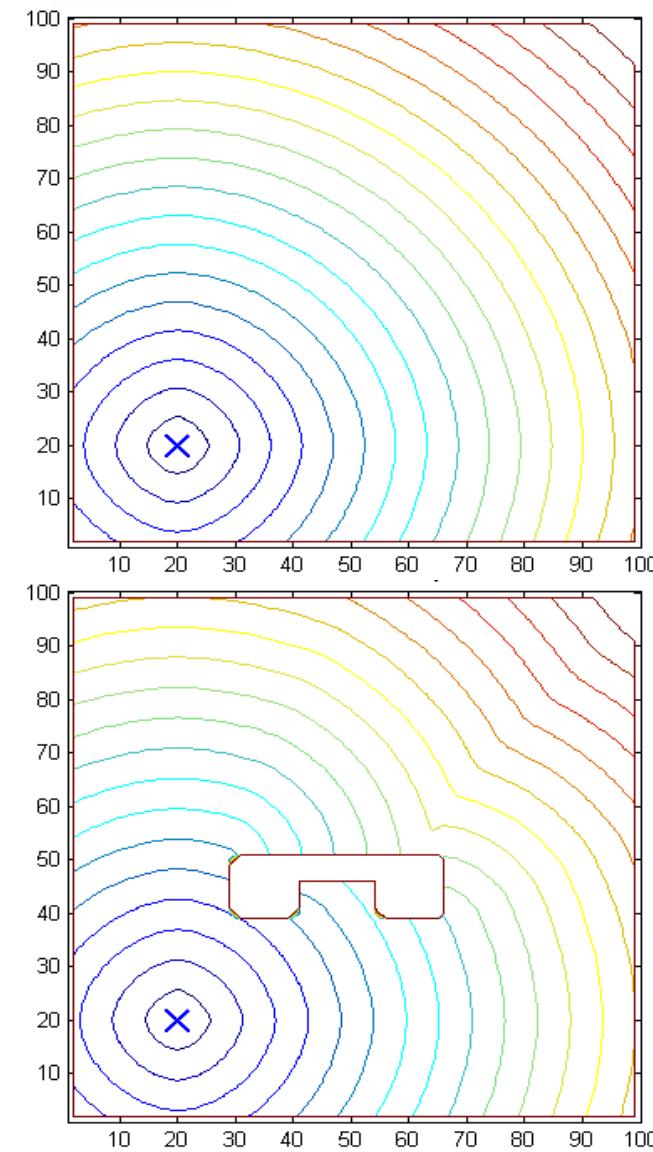
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Trajectory planning under visibility constraints

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Visibility map: homogeneous media

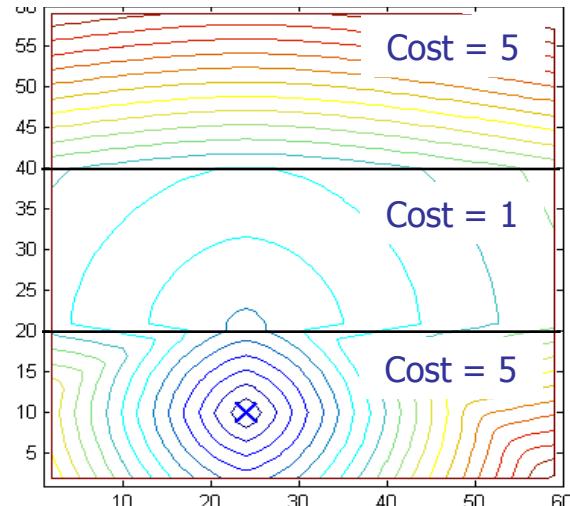


Trajectory planning under visibility constraints

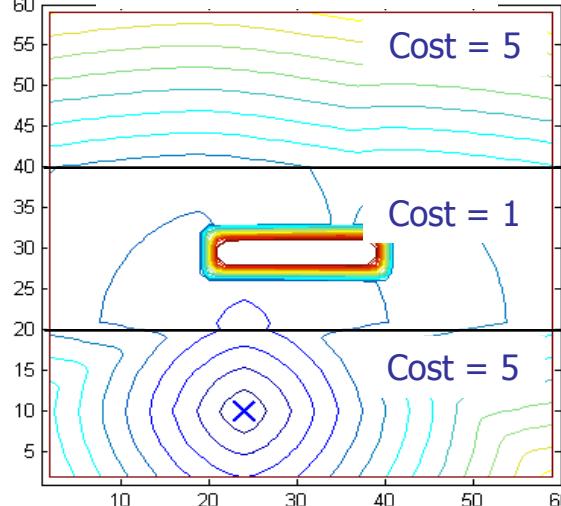
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Visibility map: heterogeneous media

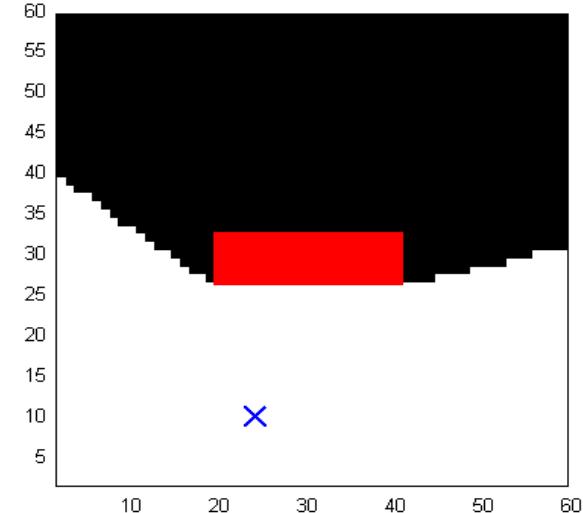
Without obstacle



With obstacle



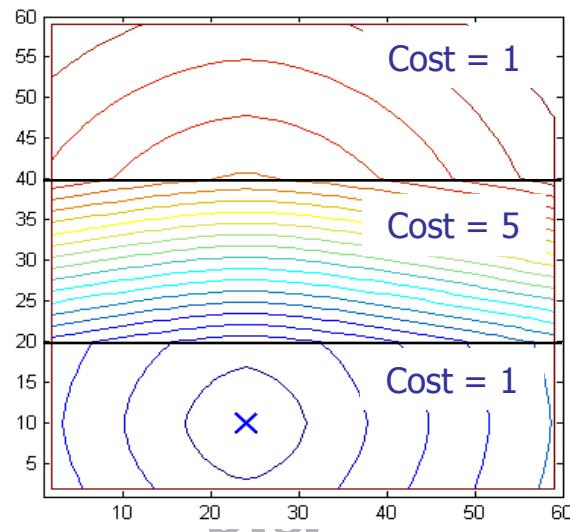
Shadow



Cost = 1

Cost = 5

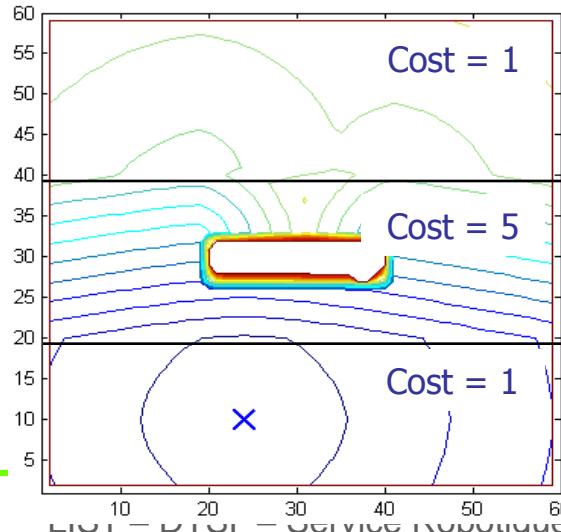
Cost = 1



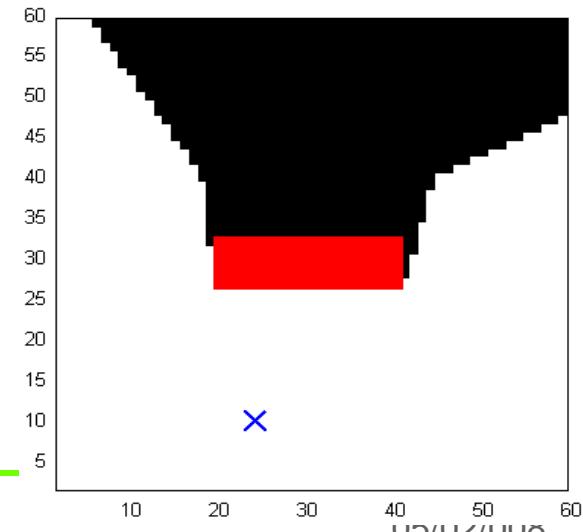
Cost = 1

Cost = 5

Cost = 1



Interactive



Trajectory planning under visibility constraints

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list

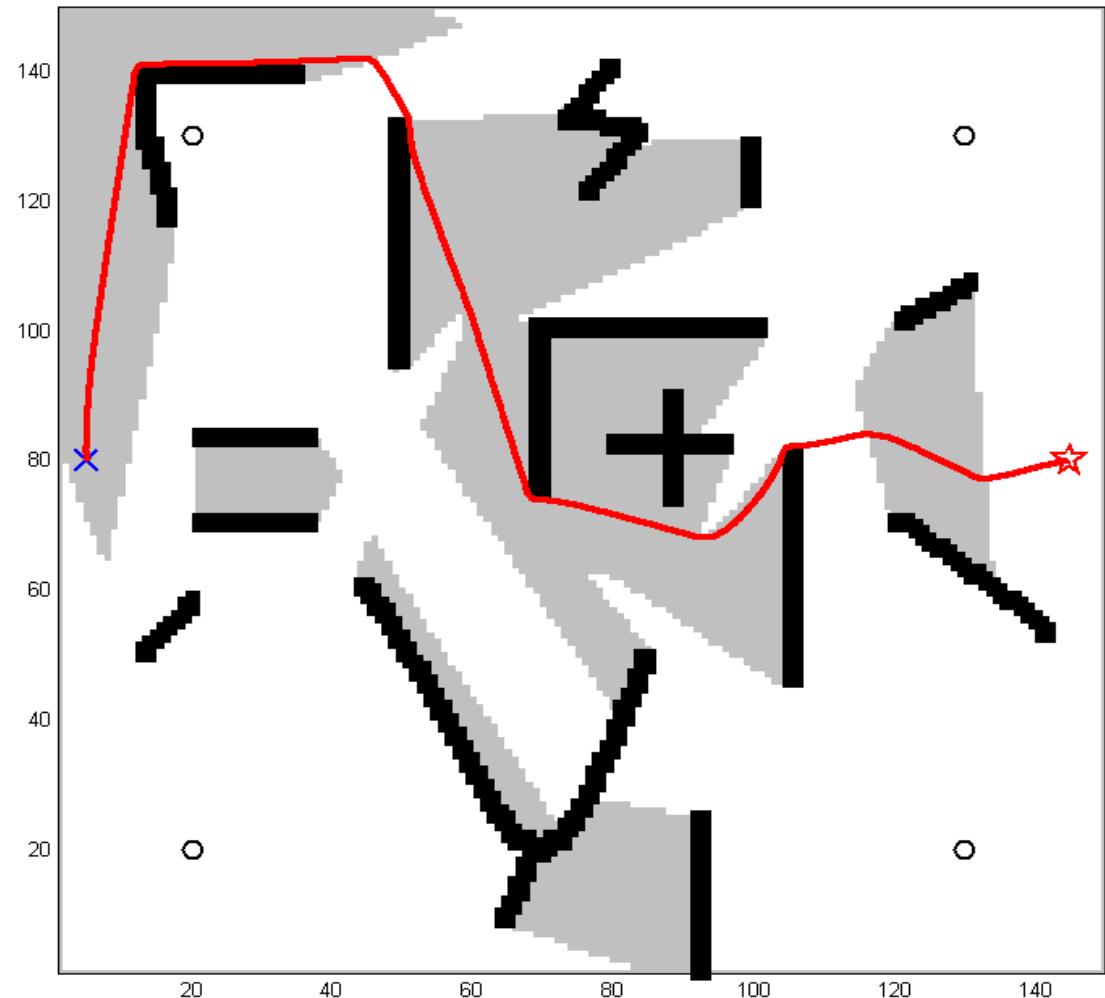
1 sentry in the 4 corners

Cost of covered areas : 1

Cost of exposed areas : 10

Cost of obstacles : 100

Application in covert robotics



Recap of the talk

- FM* algorithm: FM + heuristic
- Directional constrained TP: anisotropic FM
- Curvature constrained TP: isotropic and anisotropic media
- Multiresolution TP: FM + adaptive mesh generation
- Dynamic replanning: E* algorithm, comparative study, in-water trials
- Visibility-based TP: E* based visibility map, heterogeneous environments

Main advantages of Fast Marching methods applied to trajectory planning

- Accuracy, robustness → reliability
- Curvature constraints → underactuated AUV
- Fields of force → new domains of applicability
- Simplicity → easy integration on real systems

References on chapter 1

- E. W. Dijkstra, « A Note on Two Problems in Connexion with Graphs », *Numerische Mathematik*, vol. 1, pp. 269–271, 1959.
- P. E. Hart, N. J. Nilsson, B. Raphael, « A Formal Basis for the Heuristic Determination of Minimum Cost Paths », *IEEE Transactions on Systems Science and Cybernetics*, vol. 4(2), pp. 100–107, 1968.
- J. A. Sethian, « Level Set Methods and Fast Marching Methods », *Cambridge University Press*, 1999.

References on chapter 2

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- B. Garau, A. Alvarez, G. Oliver, « Path Planning of AUV in Current Fields with Complex Spatial Variability: an A* approach », *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*, pp. 194-198, 2005.



References on chapter 3



- L. D. Cohen, Ron Kimmel, « Global Minimum for Active Contour Models: A Minimal Path Approach », *International Journal on Computer Vision*, vol. 24(1), pp. 57-78, 1997.
- S. M. LaValle, « Planning Algorithms », *Cambridge University Press*, 2006.



References on chapter 4

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- J. A. Sethian, A. Vladimirsy, « Fast Methods for the Eikonal and Related Hamilton-Jacobi Equations on Unstructured Meshes », *Applied Mathematics*, vol. 97(11), pp. 5699-5703, 2000.
- D. Ferguson, A. Stentz, « Multi-Resolution Field D* », *International Conference on Intelligent Autonomous Systems*, 2006.
- A. Yahja, A. Stentz, S. Singh, B. Brumitt, « Framed-Quadtree Path Planning for Mobile Robots Operating in Sparse Environments », *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*, vol. 1, pp. 650-655, 1998.



References on chapter 5

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- R. Philipsen, R. Siegwart, « An Interpolated Dynamic Navigation Function », *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*, pp. 3782-3789, 2005.
- D. Ferguson, A. Stentz, « Using Interpolation to Improve Path Planning: The Field D* Algorithm », *Journal of Field Robotics*, vol. 23(2), pp. 79-101, 2006.
- A. Stentz, « Optimal and Efficient Path Planning for Partially-Known Environment », *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*, pp. 3310-3317, 1994.



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