

ESSENCE SUMMER SCHOOL, EDINBURGH, AUGUST 2015 STRUCTURED REPRESENTATIONS FOR ROBOT BEHAVIOUR

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ABOUT ME

- Research interests in applying AI to make robots smarter
- I've worked on robots and video games, planning, language, vision etc.
- Coordinator of the EU STRANDS project (which I will draw on a lot)
- Any questions, please just ask!





STRUCTURE

- Autonomous Mobile Robots
- Knowledge of Space
- Break
- Understanding Change
- The Unknown



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What is the problem? The creation of autonomous mobile robots that act intelligently in real world domains.

AUTONOMOUS MOBILE ROBOTS

Why is it hard? The integration of a range of different functionalities to create a robust, intelligent system is hard both in theory and practice



Wave 2





Wave 1: We build worlds for robots

CYCLE TIME 227 PRODUCT 2232

.....



Wave 2







Severanc



Wave 2





FREQ.	PROCESSING	OUTPUT
Asynch.	World model, planning, sensor anchoring/symbol grounding	Behaviour or task plans, actions at locations
<5Hz	Discretisation of continuous state, topological localisation	Navigation between sequence of discrete locations, generates paths
~15Hz	State estimation, continuous localisation	Trajectory planning, robot velocities
>30Hz	Hardware interfaces, drivers	Velocity control to motor control

AUTONOMOUS MOBILE ROBOTS

X

Shakey SRI International 1966 - 1972

- STRIPS
- A* search algorithm
- the Hough transform



Minerva and Rhino CMU/Bonn 1995 - 1998?

- Dynamic Window
- Topological Mapping
- Particle Filtering



Dora

EU CogX Project 2008 - 2012

- Conceptual Mapping
- Motivation System
- Knowledge Self-Extension



CoBot CMU 2009 - present

- 1,000km of autonomous localization and navigation!
- Symbiotic autonomy
- Task scheduling



STRANDS Robots EU STRANDS Project 2013 - present

- Aiming for 120 days autonomy in real-world environments
- Qualitative representations
- Modelling temporal dynamics







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What is the problem? Giving robots an understanding of space

/best_views_cones 100

KNOWLEDGE OF SPACE

Why is it hard? Finding the right abstraction for the right problem, avoid complexity yet providing reasoning power

Qualitative representations of space and time

Compress/abstract multiple quantitative states into a single qualitative state

Often used to capture the inherent or assumed structure in a spatial or temporal domain

Representations are often relational, providing relative rather than absolute information



"Is the pig **near** the cow?" etc.





"Put the blue box **to the right of** the red box"













Qualitative Spatial Relations (QSRs)

ESST23



Akshaya Thippur et al. *KTH-3D-TOTAL: A 3D Dataset for Discovering Spatial Structures for Long-Term Autonomous Learning*. In SAIS'14.



Lars et al. *Bootstrapping probabilistic models of qualitative spatial relations for active visual object search*. In AAAI SS 2014 on Qualitative Representations for Robots

Object Presence Probability



Ternary Point Calculus

Moratz, Nebel, and Freksa, *Qualitative spatial reasoning about relative position. Spatial Cognition III*, 2003.



book wrt. monitor

mug wrt. monitor

PC wrt. monitor

keyboard wrt. monitor

mouse wrt. monitor



Position of cup relative to monitor



Position of cup relative to keyboard





Where should a robot look for objects?








Where to look?



What am I likely to see?











Where to look?

argmax $\sum P_{QSR}(v_i \mid \omega, \Lambda)$ In $(v_i, Viewcone(\psi))$







Reset Left-Click: Rotate. Middle-Click: Move X/Y. Right-Click/Mouse Wheel:: Zoom. Shift: More options.

27 fps

Supporting planes vs QSRs 10 trials 3 out of 8 tables choose 1/500 sim. desks

> L. Kunze, K. K. Doreswamy and N. Hawes. Using Qualitative Spatial Relations for Indirect Object Search. In ICRA'14.



Search Results (Simulation)





Search Results (Robot)







Qualitative Spatial Relations (QSRs)

1000

train: 19 desks, 3 scenes per desk = 57 scenes test: 1 desk, 3 scenes per desk = 3 scenes

Classification Results (Robot)

With Visual Classification

Without Visual Classification



Lars Kunze et al. Combining Top-down Spatial Reasoning and Bottom-up Object Class Recognition for Scene Understanding. In IROS '14.



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What is the problem? Giving robots an understanding the dynamics of their world

"UNDERSTANDING" CHANGE

Why is it hard? Change can come from all sorts of sources, with many causes: predictable and unpredictable, observable and unobservable Envisioning the Effects of Robot Manipulation Actions using Physics-based Simulations Kunze and Beetz, *Artificial Intelligence* 2015

The robot's actions are a major source of change in tasks

How can action parameters be chosen such that the change is the desired outcome

Envisioning: logic to simulation to logic again

How to pour the pancake mix? where to hold it? at what height? at what angle? how long for? How to flip the pancake? how to push the spatula? at what angle? with how much force? how to lift?



Logic Programming with Simulation-based Temporal Projection for Everyday Robot Object Manipulation

Lars Kunze, Mihai Emanuel Dolha and Michael Beetz





Humans cause a lot of the environmental dynamics experienced by a robot

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Action Recognition

Activity/Action/Plan/Intent/Event Recognition/Recognition/Prediction/Forecasting

Build models of actions

Recognise when a human is performing an action

Predict the next action in the activity

This is a very large and diverse field

Requires knowledge of **space** and **time**

Build models of actions

Recognise when a human is performing an action

Predict the next action in the activity

plus learning and probabilistic reasoning

Activities			
Event	Unloading	Baking a cake	Tackle
Classes	Bridge On	Making Coffee	Goal kick
Object	Plane	Spoon	Player
Classes	Trolley	Cup	Ball

Unsupervised Learning of Event and Object Classes from Video Sridhar, PhD Thesis, 2010.







Bag-of-Relations : Object-Object

Bag-of-Relations : Upper-Body Model



Unsupervised Learning of Event Classes from Video Sridhar, Cohn and Hogg. In AAAI'10.

Automatically learn models of activities from video, then recognise them in new videos

Events are sequences of spatial interactions between objects

Activities are collections of events with related objects that cooccur.



Unsupervised Learning of Event and Object Classes from Video Sridhar, PhD Thesis, 2010.



Qualitative spatial representation and reasoning with the region connection calculus. A. G. Cohn, B. Bennett, J. Gooday, and N. M. Gotts. *GeoInformatica*, 1(3):275–316, 1997.



j meets i

Allen's Interval Algebra

J. F. Allen. *Maintaining knowledge about temporal intervals*. *Communications of the ACM*, 26(11):832–843, 1983.


How can we **segment** events from this stream of data?

How can we **compare** events?



time / frames

PO PO PO PO PO PO PO PO DR DR $S(T_1, T_2)$ PO PO PO PO DR DR DR DR DR $S(T_2, T_3)$ DR PO DR DR DR DR DR DR DR DR DR $S(T_2, T_1)$





Candidate Event Graph







Over the course of a video, common graph/event structure are extracted into **classes** following rules

Events in the same **activity** can share objects







The recognition process tries to find events which provide the most likely explanation for the data





Bridge attaches to plane. Loader attaches to the plane. Trolley attaches and then detaches from the loader.



Bridge attaches to plane. Loader attaches to the plane. Trolley attaches and then detaches from the loader. Loader detaches from the plane.



Action Recognition



monitor (0.420000)

mentior (0.940000)

(00001-battile (2,655,000)

Mr.

Enonitor (0.520000)

ELEMENT

mm

Spectral Analysis for Long-Term Robotic Mapping Krajník, Fentanes, Cielniak, Dondrup and Duckett. In ICRA'14.

Change in the environment is often the result of human activity

Human activities are often **periodic**

Other dynamics are **periodic** too (day/night etc.).



(a) Variations introduced by illumination

Semantic Modelling of Space. Pronobis, Jensfelt, Sjöö, Zender, Kruijff, Mozos, and Burgard. In volume 8 of *Cognitive Systems Monographs*, 2010.



(b) Variations observed over time

Semantic Modelling of Space. Pronobis, Jensfelt, Sjöö, Zender, Kruijff, Mozos, and Burgard. In volume 8 of *Cognitive Systems Monographs*, 2010. Spectral Analysis for Long-Term Robotic Mapping Krajník, Fentanes, Cielniak, Dondrup and Duckett. In ICRA'14.

Change in the environment is often the result of **human activity**

Human activities are often **periodic**

Other dynamics are **periodic** too (day/night etc.).

Therefore use *frequency analysis* to learn and predict the dynamics of the environment

assuming **binary states** cell occupancy, door open/closed, feature presence/absence

value of j^{th} state: $s_j = \{0, 1\}$

probability of j^{th} state: $p_j = P(s_j = 1)$

probability of j^{th} state at time $t: p_j(t)$

Bayesian models tell us how to update $p_j(t)$ given uncertain observations, but assume a static world use the **Fourier Transform** to get a compact, predictive model for *s*

sequence of states: s(t)

frequency spectrum of sequence: $S(\omega) = FT(s(t))$

the spectral model P is the n most prominent frequencies $S(\omega)$

P can be used to generate a smoothed sequence $\tilde{s}(t)$ and a predicted sequence s'(t) and outlier set *O* Time domain



state estimation

$$s'(t) = p(t) > 0.5 = \varsigma(IFT(P)) > 0.5$$

state reconstruction

$$s(t) = s'(t) \oplus (t \notin O) = \varsigma(IFT(P)) > 0.5 \oplus (t \notin O)$$

(estimation xor with outlier set)



Office door open/closed model. Compresses 18 million readings to 3 frequencies



Lincoln Centre for Autonomous Systems, United Kingdom Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

T. Krajník, J.P. Fentanes, O.M. Mozos T. Duckett, J. Ekekrantz, M. Hanheide

Long-Term Topological Localisation for Service Robots in Dynamic Environments using Spectral Maps

Dataset collection and processing





Supported by EU ICT project 600623 'STRANDS'

https://youtu.be/Qw1kS_5zVwE

TABLE I

OVERALL LOCALIZATION ERROR (%)

Model	Model	Image features		Occupancy grids	
type	order	Nov	Feb	Nov	Feb
statical	_	35%	45%	21%	17%
spectral	1	25%	26%	14%	13%
spectral	2	22%	27%	14%	8%
spectral	3	18%	24%	14%	17%
spectral	4	17%	29%	7%	17%

















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What is the problem? The known knowns, the known unknowns, the unknown unknowns...

KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNKNOWN

Why is it hard? Because the open world is very, very open

A Frontier-Based Approach for Autonomous Exploration Yamauchi. In CIRA '97.

For mobile robots a **unknown space** is a crucial problem.

So autonomous exploration is a desirable capability

Exploration can be driven using **frontiers**.

These are boundaries between known, open space and the UNKNOWN

Unknown space



Unknown space





https://youtu.be/3W1ufJ7rpCA





http://cogx.eu/results/dora/



global 2D line-based SLAM

Journal

local 3D grid map

node-based space discretisation

ontology of object and room types

non-monotonic clustering of nodes into rooms via reasoner

belief modelling and continual planning

pre-trained visual recognisers



Go to a location

Explore a place hypothesis

Know the location of an object

Know the type of a room



N. Hawes. A survey of motivation frameworks for intelligent systems. Artificial Intelligence, 175(5-6):1020 – 1036, 2011.

J. L. Wyatt, A. Aydemir, M. Brenner, M. Hanheide, N. Hawes, P. Jensfelt, M. Kristan, G.-J. M. Kruijff, P. Lison, A. Pronobis, K. Sjöö, D. Skočaj, A. Vrečko, H. Zender, and M. Zillich. **Self-understanding and self-extension: A systems and representational approach**. *IEEE Transactions on Autonomous Mental Development*, 2(4):282 – 303, December 2010.


N. Hawes, M. Hanheide, J. Hargreaves, B. Page, H. Zender, and P. Jensfelt. **Home alone: Autonomous extension and correction of spatial representations**. In *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA '11)*, 2011.

SOP

00



N. Hawes, M. Hanheide, J. Hargreaves, B. Page, H. Zender, and P. Jensfelt. **Home alone: Autonomous extension and correction of spatial representations**. In *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA '11)*, 2011.



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Go Dora, go go go!



18/21runs were successful

5/18 required recovery from a missed placeholder

1/18 required recovery from a misdetected door

13/18required recovery from actionfailures and time-outs

N. Hawes, M. Hanheide, J. Hargreaves, B. Page, H. Zender, and P. Jensfelt. **Home alone: Autonomous extension and correction of spatial representations**. In *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA '11)*, 2011.

Dora, get me a box of cornflakes.

Solita assert Transform an Alex Contractor Automotor Contractor Automotor Contractor Automation

> l don't know where the cornflakes are.

> >

... to only very unlikely be a kitchen (red). The employed decision-theoretic planner...





Robot Task Planning and Explanation in Open and Uncertain Worlds Hanheide, Hawes, Wyatt et al. Artificial Intelligence, 2015.

```
"Dora, find me a magazine"
```

```
(exists (?o - object)
 (and (= (label ?o) magazine) (K (position ?o))))
```

```
But how can Dora create a plan for this?
```



Physical Effects

```
(move
:pre (and (connected ?from ?to)
            (= (is-in ?a) ?from))
:eff (and (assign (is-in ?a) ?to)
            ))
```

Probabilistic Effects

(observe-object

Knowledge Effects

(move :pre (and (connected ?from ?to) (= (is-in ?a) ?from)) :eff (and (assign (is-in ?a) ?to) (K (in-room ?to)))) **Conditional** Effects

(search-for-object

• • •

:eff (when (A (position ?o) ?room)
 (K (position ?o))))



Assumptive Effects

Assumptions about **instance** state from **instance** state



Assumptive Effects

```
(assumption object-in-room
:pre (A (is-a ?room) ?room-type)
:eff (and
    (A (is-in ?room ?obj-type) T)
    (assign prob
    (default-P (is-in ?room-type ?obj-type))
    )))
```

Assumptions about **instance** state from **default knowledge**







Action	Cost	Prob.	Status
leads-to-room-placeholder1-meetingroom	0	0.30	DONE
room-from-placeholder placeholder1 room2 meetingroom	0	1.00	DONE
object-in-room magazine room2 meetingroom	0	0.80	DONE
virtual-object-position object1 magazine room2	0	1.00	DONE
move dora place1 placeholder1	2	1.00	RUNNING
create-cones dora magazine room2 placeholder1	5	1.00	
search-for-object dora magazine room2 placeholder1 object1	200	1.00	
Total:	207	0.243	









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