

Geometric and Discrete Path Planning for Interactive Virtual Worlds

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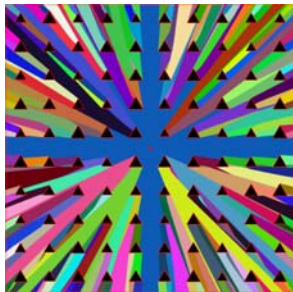

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Introduction

- Topics
 - Overview of the classical Computational Geometry and AI algorithms related to path planning
 - Overview of recent advances in planning methods for interactive virtual environments

Course Topics

- 1) Discrete and Geometric Planning (Marcelo,30min)
 - A*, Shortest Paths, Visibility Graphs, Dijkstra, Shortest Path Maps, Navigation Meshes



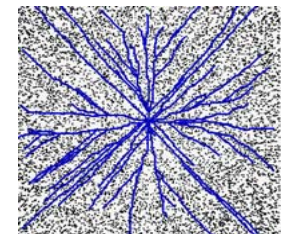
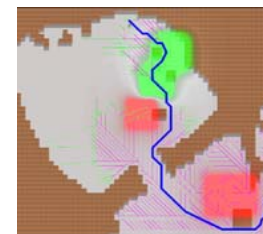
ACM Transactions
on Graphics (TOG)

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on Graphics (TOG)

Examples: the shortest path map (left) and local clearance triangulation (right)

Course Topics

- 2) Advanced Planning Techniques (Mubbasir,20min)
 - Extending classical A* to real-time constraints and dynamic scenarios, navigation with constraints, using GPU to speed up computations

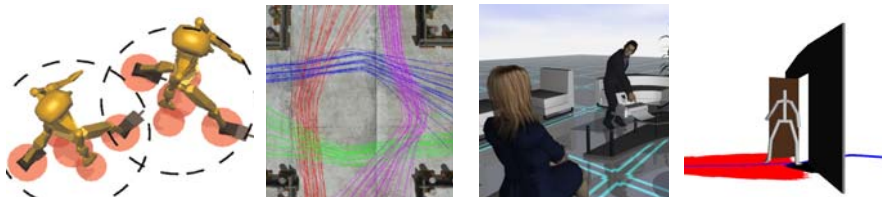


Course Topics

3) Planning for Character Animation

(Mubbasir and Marcelo, 30min)

- Character navigation problems, full-body and behavior planning, interactive narrative, etc.



Course: Modules

- Introduction (3 min)
- Discrete and Geometric Planning (Marcelo) (30min)
- Advanced Planning Techniques (Mubbasir) (20min)
- Planning for Animation (Mubbasir and Marcelo) (30min)
- Questions and Discussion (7min)

(We will take quick questions after each part as well)

Additional Information

- We will cover a lot of material in little time
 - Most topics will be covered as an overview
- Additional Material
 - SIGGRAPH course notes
 - Webpages of the authors:
 - <http://graphics.ucmerced.edu/>
 - <http://www.cs.rutgers.edu/~mubbasir/>
 - Recent book published by the authors:



*Geometric and Discrete Path Planning for
Interactive Virtual Worlds*
Morgan & Claypool, 2016

Module I Discrete and Geometric Planning

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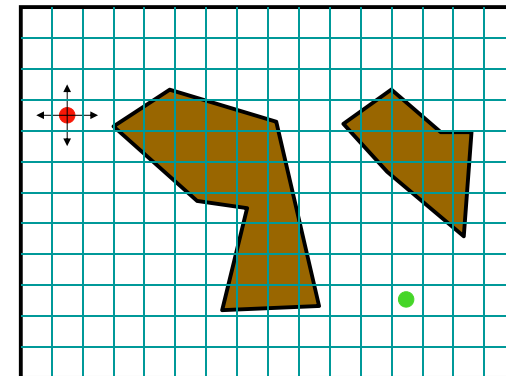


Introduction to Discrete Search

Discrete Search

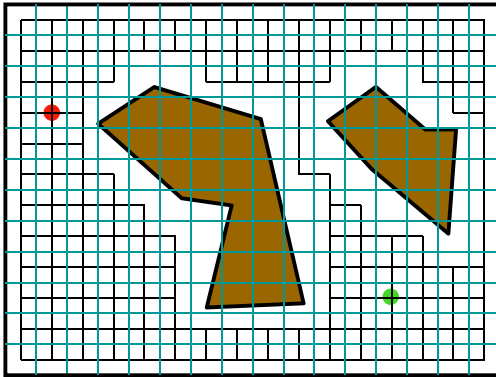
- Main classical algorithms
 - Dijkstra
 - Search expansion outwards from source
 - A*
 - Reduces the number of nodes expanded with the use of a heuristic function
 - Both can be applied to generic graphs
 - Positive edge weights only
 - 4- or 8-connected grids are also graphs

Ex: 4-Connected Grid Discretization



Equivalent to a Graph

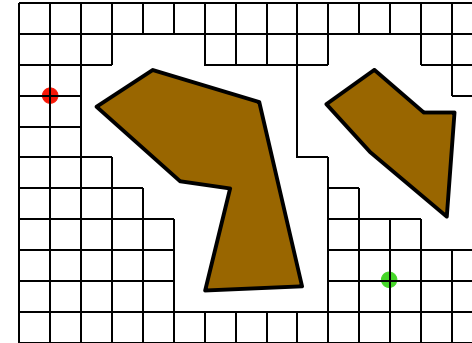
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Equivalent to a Graph

6

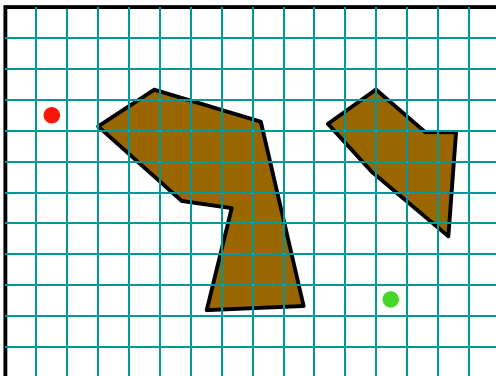


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Example in Grid Discretization

7

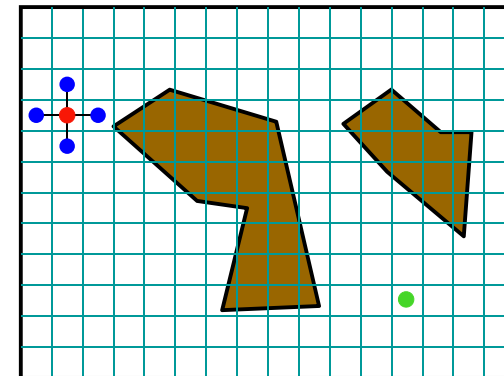
- Example in a grid



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Example in Grid Discretization

8



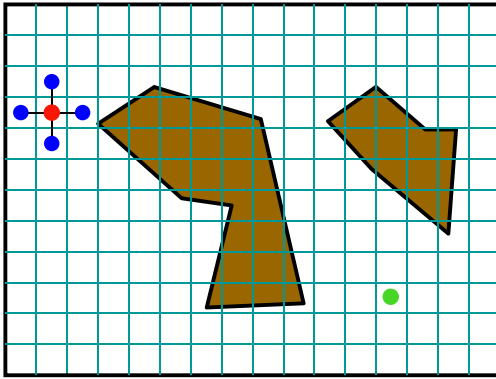
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Example in Grid Discretization

9

Q:

1 1 1 1

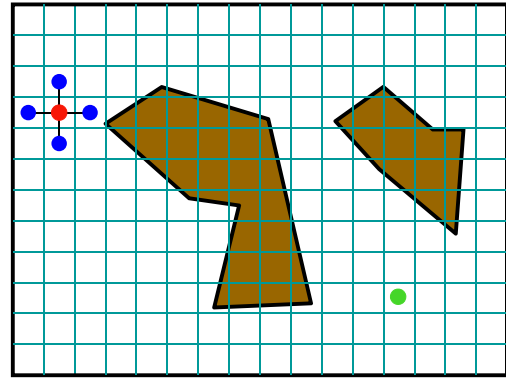


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Example in Grid Discretization

10

1 1 1 1

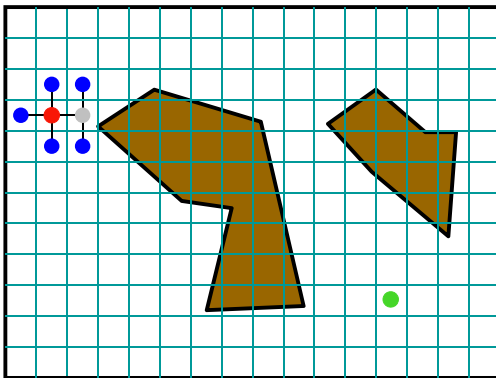


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Example in Grid Discretization

11

1 1 1 2 2

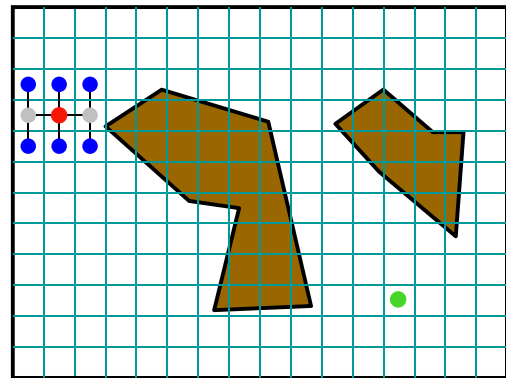


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Example in Grid Discretization

12

1 1 2 2 2 2

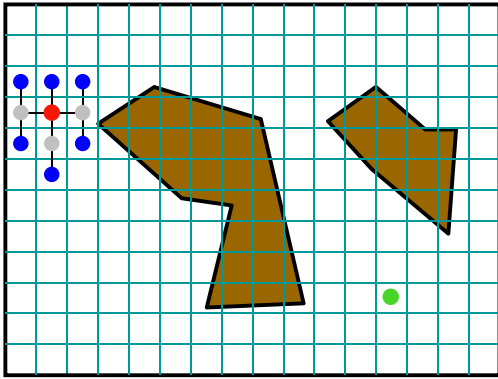


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Example in Grid Discretization

13

1 2 2 2 2 2

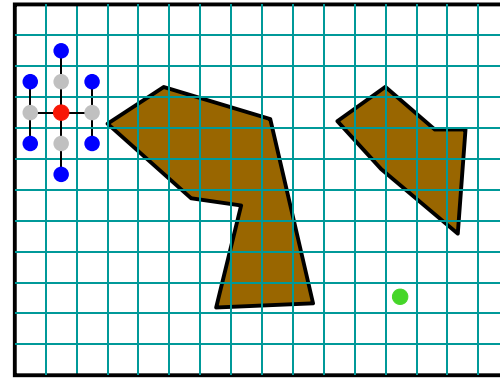


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Example in Grid Discretization

14

2 2 2 2 2 2

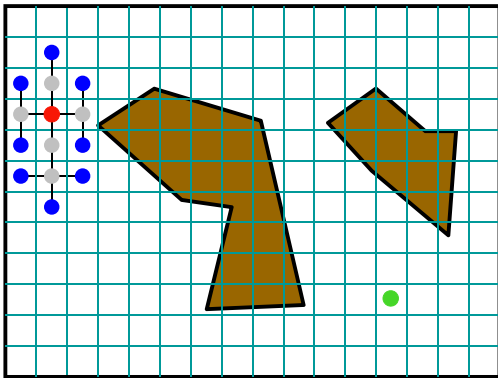


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Example in Grid Discretization

15

2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3

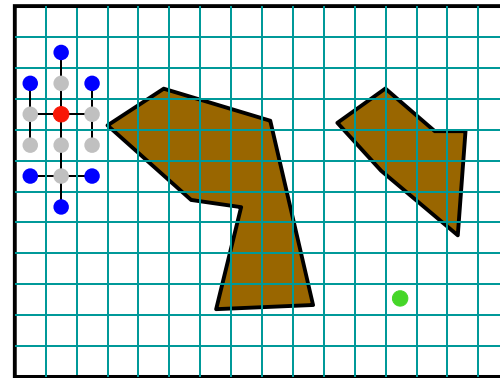


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Example in Grid Discretization

16

2 2 2 3 3 3

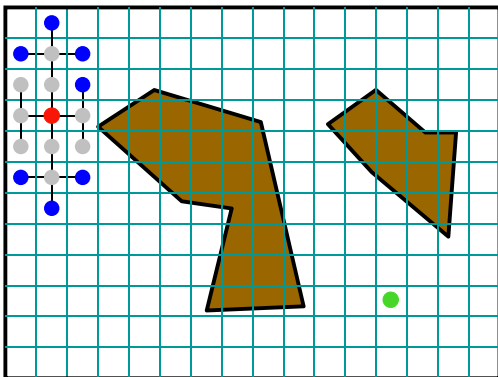


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Example in Grid Discretization

17

2 3 3 3 3 3 3

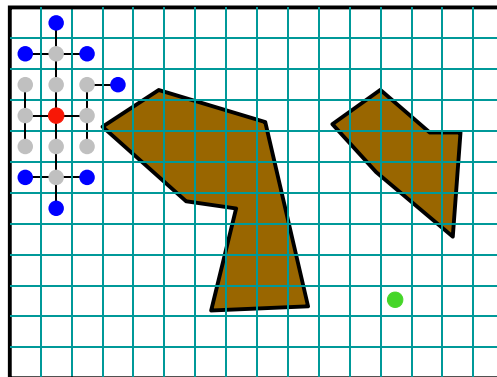


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Example in Grid Discretization

18

3 3 3 3 3 3 3

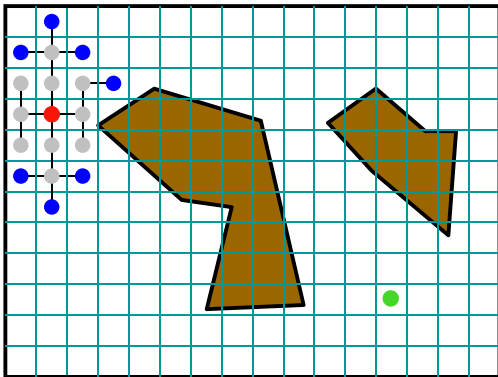


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Example in Grid Discretization

19

3 3 3 3 3 3 3

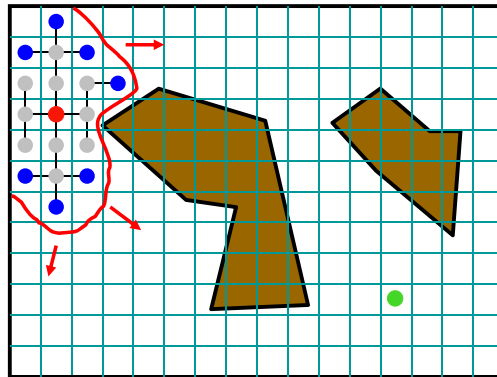


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Example in Grid Discretization

20

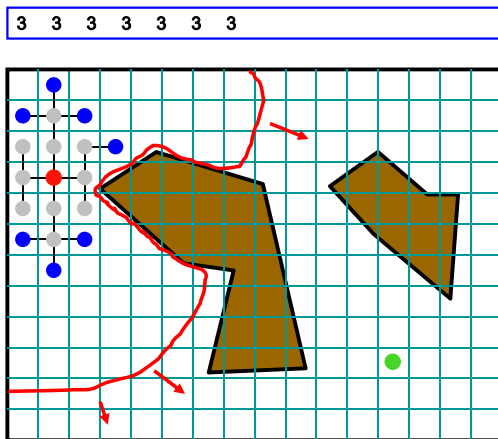
3 3 3 3 3 3 3



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Example in Grid Discretization

21

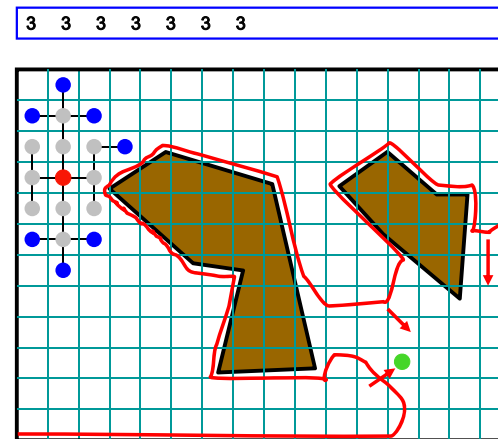


wave front propagation
...

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Example in Grid Discretization

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wave front propagation
...

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Algorithm: Dijkstra

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Initialization

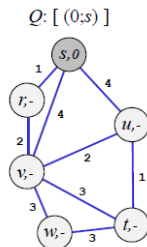
Algorithm 1 - Dijkstra Algorithm for Shortest Paths

Input: source node s and goal node t .

Output: shortest path from s to t , or null path if it does not exist.

```

1: Dijkstra( $s, t$ )
2: Initialize  $Q$  with  $(s, 0)$ , set  $g(s)$  to be 0, and mark  $s$  as visited;
3: while ( $Q$  not empty) do
4:    $v \leftarrow Q.remove()$ ;
5:   if ( $v = t$ ) return reconstructed branch from  $v$  to  $s$ ;
6:   for each (neighbors  $n$  of  $v$ ) do
7:     if ( $n$  not visited or  $g(n) > g(v) + c(v, n)$ ) then
8:       Set the parent of  $n$  to be  $v$ ;
9:       Set  $g(n)$  to be  $g(v) + c(v, n)$ ;
10:      if ( $n$  visited)  $Q.decrease(n, g(n))$ ; else  $Q.insert(n, g(n))$ ;
11:      Mark  $n$  as visited, if not already visited;
12:    end if
13:  end for
14: end while
15: return null path;
    
```



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Algorithm: Dijkstra

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Iteration 1: all neighbors go to Q

Algorithm 1 - Dijkstra Algorithm for Shortest Paths

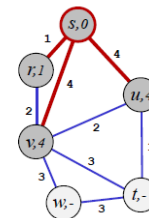
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13:  end for
14: end while
15: return null path;
    
```

1) $Q: [(1:r), (4:u), (4:v)]$



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Algorithm: Dijkstra

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- Iteration 2: decrease key called for v

Algorithm 1 - Dijkstra Algorithm for Shortest Paths

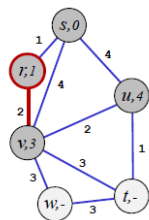
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11:      Mark  $n$  as visited, if not already visited;
12:    end if
13:  end for
14: end while
15: return null path;
    
```

2) $Q: [(3:v), (4:u)]$



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Algorithm: Dijkstra

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- Iteration 3: target node t goes to Q

Algorithm 1 - Dijkstra Algorithm for Shortest Paths

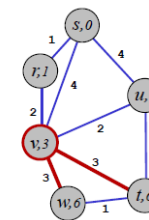
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12:    end if
13:  end for
14: end while
15: return null path;
    
```

3) $Q: [(4:u), (6:w), (6:t)]$



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Algorithm: Dijkstra

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- Iteration 4: decrease key called for t

Algorithm 1 - Dijkstra Algorithm for Shortest Paths

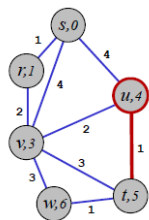
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Output: shortest path from s to t , or null path if it does not exist.

```

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10:      if ( $n$  visited)  $Q.decrease(n, g(n))$ ; else  $Q.insert(n, g(n))$ ;
11:      Mark  $n$  as visited, if not already visited;
12:    end if
13:  end for
14: end while
15: return null path;
    
```

4) $Q: [(5:t), (6:w)]$



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Algorithm: Dijkstra

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- Iteration 5

Algorithm 1 - Dijkstra Algorithm for Shortest Paths

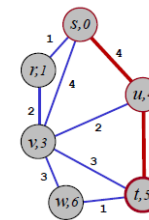
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5:   if ( $v = t$ ) return reconstructed branch from  $v$  to  $s$ ;
6:   for each (neighbors  $n$  of  $v$ ) do
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8:       Set the parent of  $n$  to be  $v$ ;
9:       Set  $g(n)$  to be  $g(v) + c(v, n)$ ;
10:      if ( $n$  visited)  $Q.decrease(n, g(n))$ ; else  $Q.insert(n, g(n))$ ;
11:      Mark  $n$  as visited, if not already visited;
12:    end if
13:  end for
14: end while
15: return null path;
    
```

5) $Q: [(6:w)]$



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Example

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Algorithm: A*

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- Includes Heuristic
 - Cost becomes cost-to-come + cost-to-go
 - Typical cost-to-go heuristic: $\text{dist}(\text{node}, \text{goal})$

Algorithm 2 - A* Algorithm for Shortest Paths

Input: source node s and goal node t .

Output: shortest path from s to t , or null path if it does not exist.

```

1: AStar( $s, t$ )
2: Initialize  $Q$  with ( $s, 0$ ), set  $g(s)$  to be 0, and mark  $s$  as visited;
3: while ( $Q$  not empty) do
4:    $v \leftarrow Q.\text{remove}()$ ;
5:   if ( $v = t$ ) return reconstructed branch from  $v$  to  $s$ ;
6:   for all (neighbors  $n$  of  $v$ ) do
7:     if ( $n$  not visited or  $g(n) > g(v) + c(v, n)$ ) then
8:       Set the parent of  $n$  to be  $v$ ;
9:       Set  $g(n)$  to be  $g(v) + c(v, n)$ ;
10:      if ( $n$  visited) then  $Q.\text{decrease}(n, g(n) + h(n))$ ;
11:      else  $Q.\text{insert}(n, g(n) + h(n))$ ;
12:      Mark  $n$  as visited, if not already visited;
13: return null path;
    
```

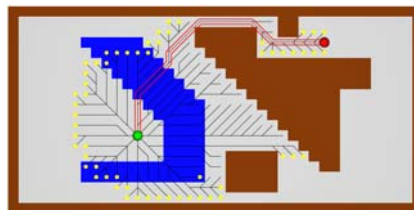
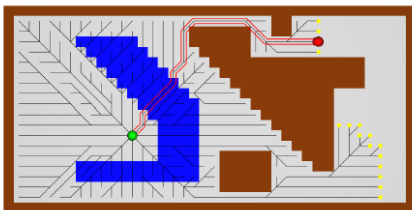
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Example

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Dijkstra

A*



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Analysis

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- Priority Queue
 - Self-balancing binary tree or a binary min-heap
 - Insertion, removal and decrease: $O(\log(k))$
 - Simplifications possible
 - Decrease operation not as simple to implement
 - Good option: to “insert again” instead of a decrease
- Overall time
 - $O((n+m) \log n)$
(n = number of vertices, m = number of edges)
 - Equivalent to $O(m \log n)$
 - Note: m may be $O(n^2)$

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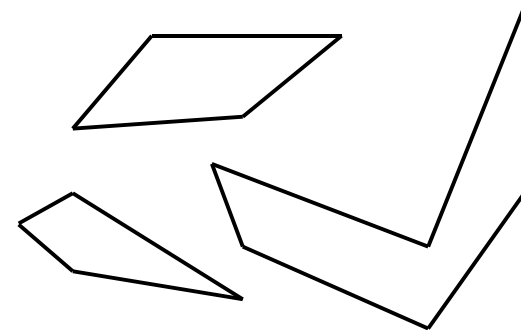
Euclidean Shortest Paths (ESPs)

- Shortest paths in the Euclidean plane
 - Paths are “globally” shortest in the plane
 - And not in a given graph representing the plane
 - Cannot be efficiently reduced to a simple graph search
 - Most popular method
 - Search the “Visibility Graph”
 - unfortunately it has $O(n^2)$ edges ($n = \#$ obs vertices)
 - But it can be computed in $O(n \log n)$
 - Using the “continuous Dijkstra” approach
 - Optimal algorithm difficult to implement in practice
 - More about that later

Visibility Graph

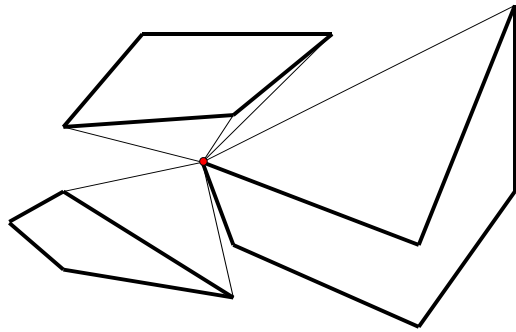
Visibility Graph

- Edges connect all pairs of visible vertices



Visibility Graph

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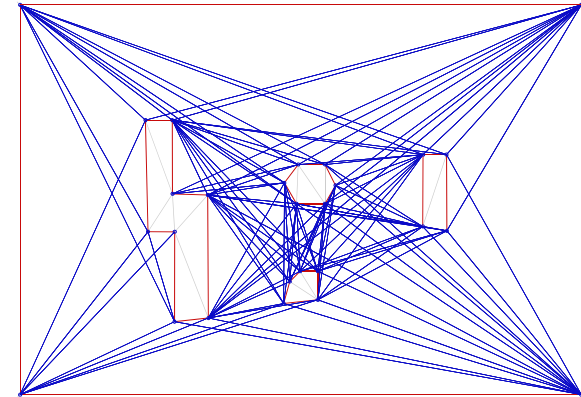


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Visibility Graph

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- It can be preprocessed
 - Query points added later at run-time

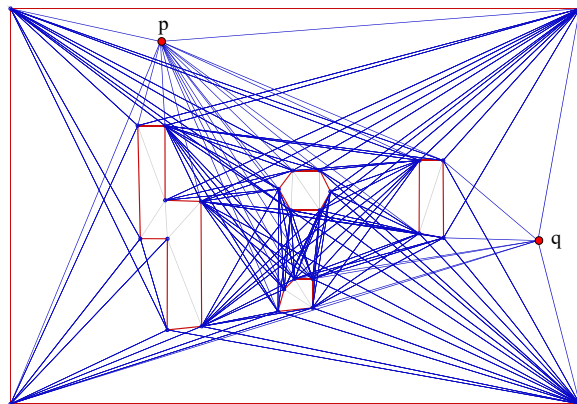


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Visibility Graph

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- Full visibility graph
 - Optimizations are possible

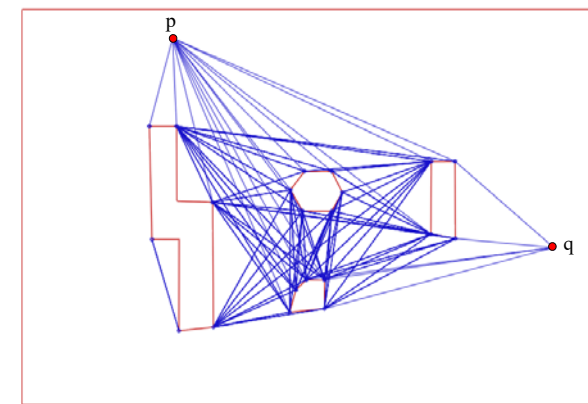


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Visibility Graph

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- Optimizations are possible
 - Ex: discard edges connecting “concave corners”

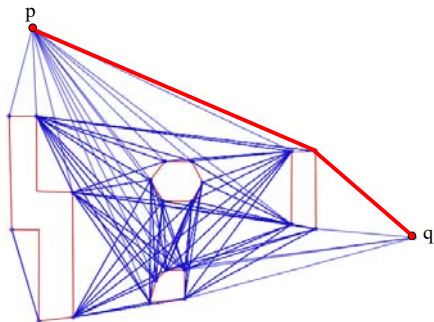


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Visibility Graph

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- Final graph for path search
 - Ready for a discrete path search algorithm



- Shortest path in the Visibility Graph is the ESP

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Visibility Graph

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- Preprocessing for a specific clearance value
 - Lozano-Pérez and Wesley 1979
 - Chew 1985
 - First dilates the environment, then computes visibility graph of tangents
 - Pre-computation: $O(n^2 \log n)$, size: $O(n^2)$, query: $O(n^2 \log n)$
- Clearance-independent preprocessing possible
 - Wein, van den Berg and Halperin, “*the visibility-Voronoi complex and its applications*”, 2007
 - Preprocessing: $O(n^2 \log n)$
 - Query time: $O(n \log n + m) = O(n^2)$
 - *Probably the best practical method for global optimality*

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Pre-processing for a source point:

Shortest Path Tree

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The Shortest Path Tree

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- Contains shortest paths from all vertices to source point
 - Can be computed from the visibility graph with an exhaustive Dijkstra Expansion

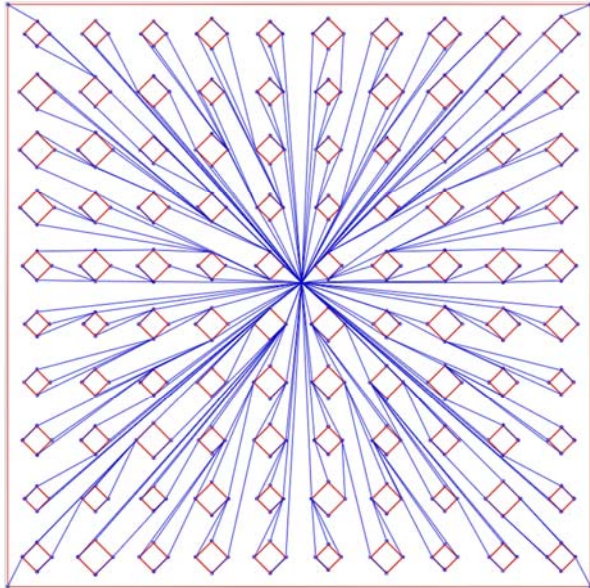
Algorithm 2 Dijkstra SPT Expansion

```
1: function BUILDSPT ( p )
2:   Initialize priority queue Q with p;
3:   Mark node of p as visited;
4:   while ( Q not empty ) do
5:     s ← Q.remove();
6:     for all ( neighbors n of s ) do
7:       if ( n not visited or g(n) > g(s) + d(s, n) ) then
8:         Set the SPT parent of n to be s;
9:         Set g(n) to be g(s) + d(s, n);
10:        Insert n with cost g(n) in Q;
11:        Mark n as visited;
```

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The Shortest Path Tree: Example

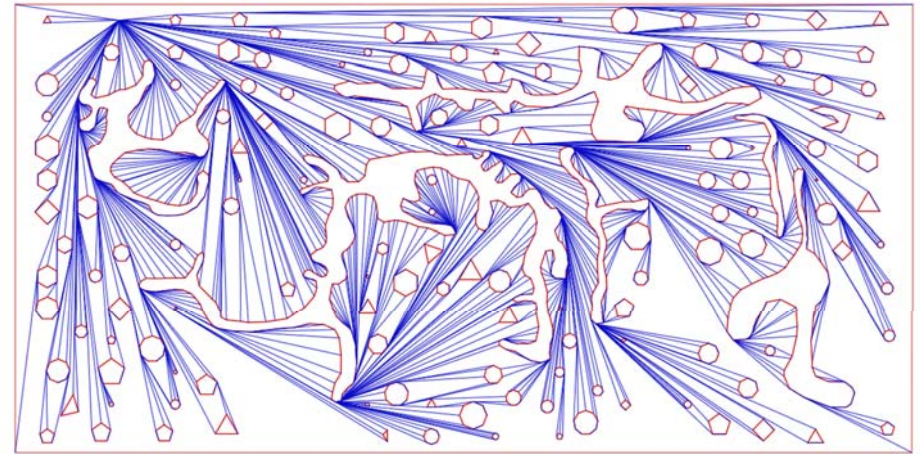
45



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The Shortest Path Tree: Example

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The Shortest Path Tree

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- The SPT is rooted at some source point
- Given a destination point, how to use the SPT ?
 - First compute visible vertices V to query point
 - Identify vertex $v \in V$ that is in the shortest path to source point
 - Simple given that vertices store their geodesic distances to the SPT source (cost g)
 - Shortest path is branch passing by v

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Continuous Dijkstra

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Continuous Dijkstra

49

- Addresses the whole plane
- Principle is the same as discrete SPT
 - But is continuous, will generate a Shortest Path Map (SPM) partition of the plane in $O(n)$ cells
 - Represents all shortest paths from the source to any point in the continuous plane
 - Once the SPM is computed, ESPs to the source point can be efficiently computed
 - It is based on the simulation of a “continuous wavefront propagation” from the source point

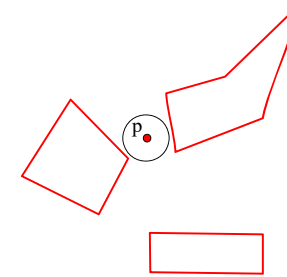
[Mitchell 1991; Mitchell 1993], [Hershberger and Suri 1997]

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Continuous Dijkstra

50

- Wavefront propagation
 - Every point in the wavefront border has equal distance to the source point p

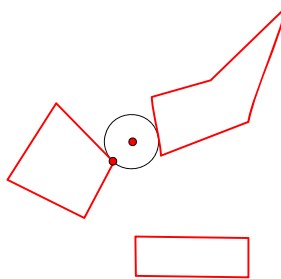


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Continuous Dijkstra

51

- Wavefront propagation
 - Vertices hit by the wavefront will be visible to their wave generators

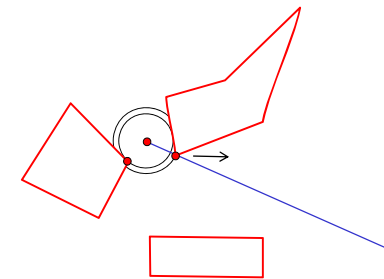


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Continuous Dijkstra

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- Wavefront propagation
 - Every time a vertex is reached, a new wave generator will cover the unseen region from the previous generator

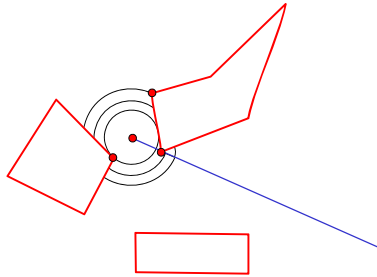


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Continuous Dijkstra

53

- Wavefront propagation
 - New vertices are processed as they are reached

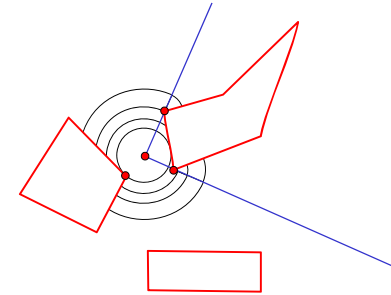


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Continuous Dijkstra

54

- Wavefront propagation
 - New vertices are processed as they are reached

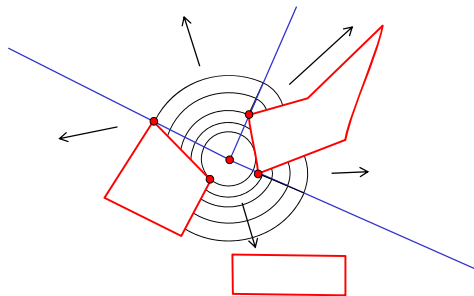


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Continuous Dijkstra

55

- Wavefront propagation
 - All points in the wavefront border remain with equal geodesic distance to the source point

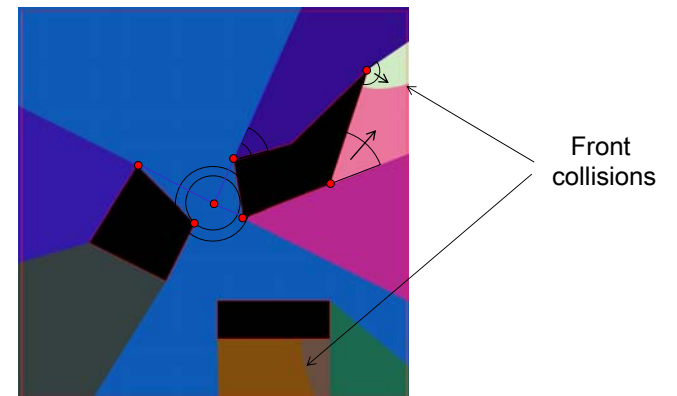


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Continuous Dijkstra

56

- Front will eventually collide with itself forming hyperbolic frontiers

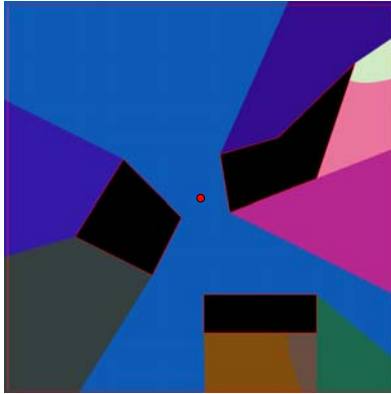


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Continuous Dijkstra

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- Result: Shortest Path Map
 - Captures all possible shortest paths to the source point

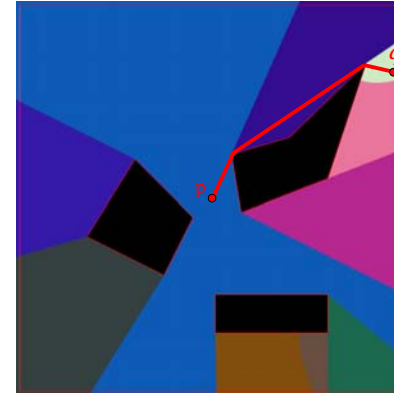


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Continuous Dijkstra

58

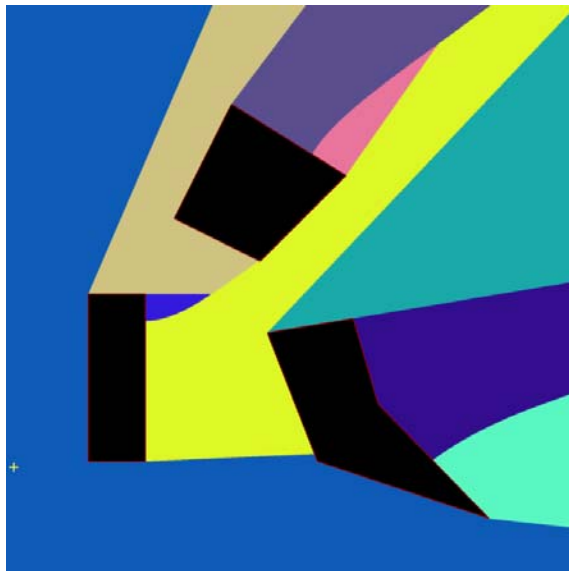
- Path extraction from SPM
 - First find region containing goal point, then trace back generator vertices



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Continuous Dijkstra: Example

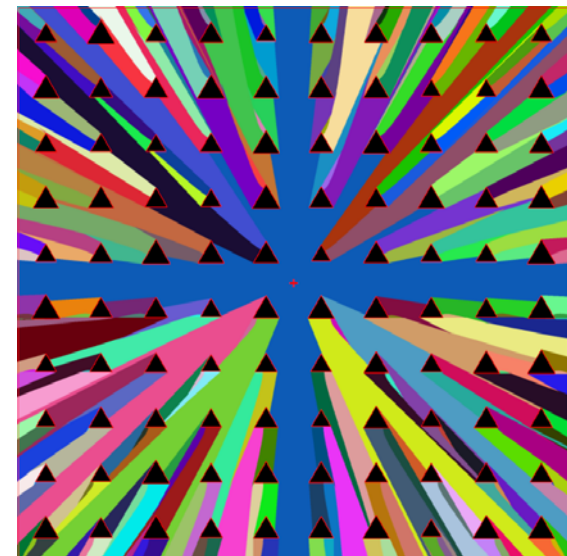
59



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Continuous Dijkstra: Example

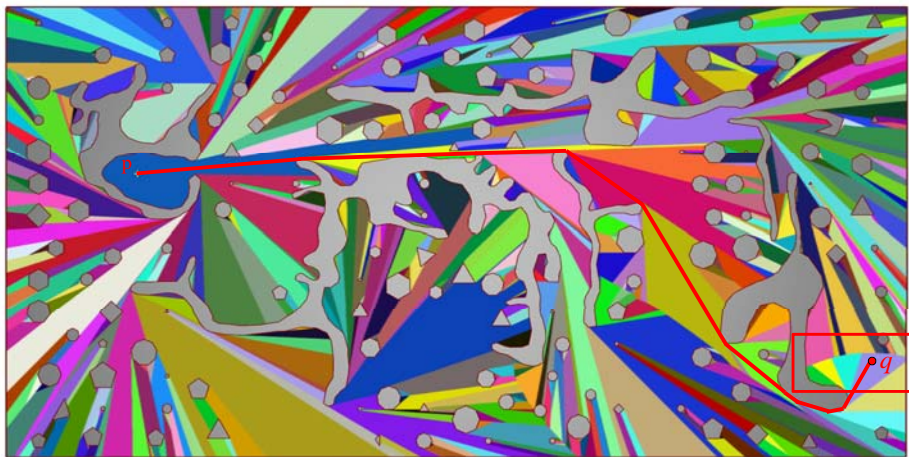
60



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Continuous Dijkstra: Example

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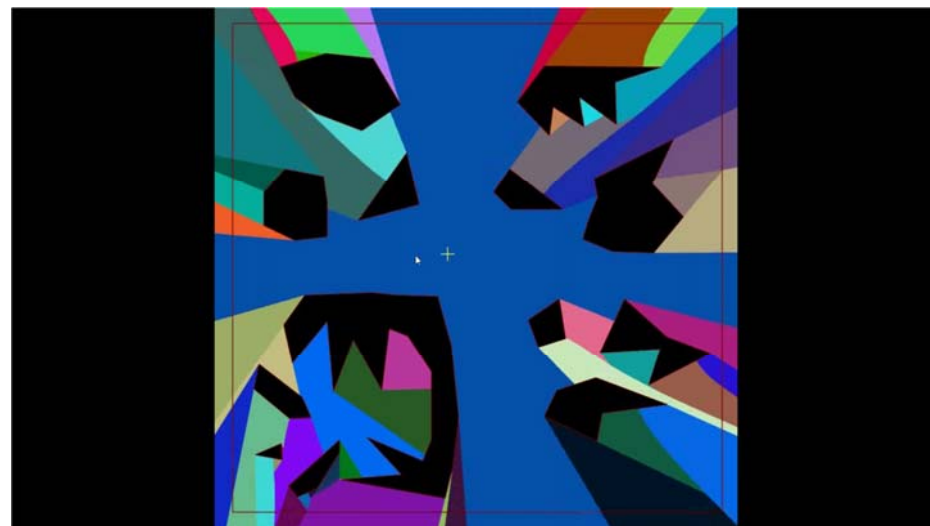


Camporesi and Kallmann, Computing Shortest Path Maps with GPU Shaders, MIG 2014.

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Continuous Dijkstra: Example

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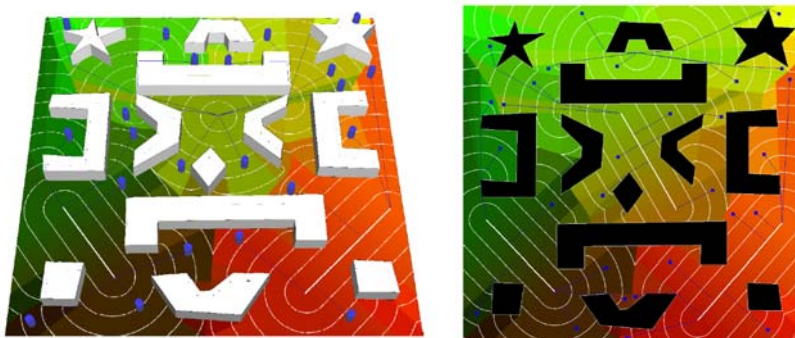


Camporesi and Kallmann, Computing Shortest Path Maps with GPU Shaders, MIG 2014.

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Continuous Dijkstra: Extensions

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(work in preparation)

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**Additional Geometric
Representations useful for Path
Planning**

<http://graphics.ucmerced.edu/>

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Navigation Meshes

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Navigation Meshes

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- Navigation meshes are a representation of the free environment
 - For virtual worlds, being fast is most important
 - Computing ESPs is usually not addressed
- What properties should we expect?

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Summary of Expected Properties

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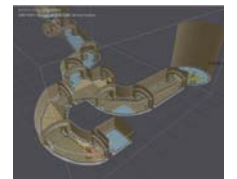
- Linear number of cells
 - Critical for path search to run in optimal times
- Quality of paths
 - Locally shortest paths should be provided
- Arbitrary clearance
 - Same structure should handle any clearance value
- Representation robustness
 - Intersections, overlaps, etc. should be handled
- Dynamic updates
 - Efficient updates when environment changes

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Approaches

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- Many approaches are possible
 - Coarser cell decompositions possible (less nodes to search)
 - Ex.: NEOGEN [Oliva and Pelechano 2013]
 - Complete solutions for path planning have been developed
 - Ex.: Recast & Detour toolkit, freely available
 - However meshes need to be pre-processed for each given desired clearance



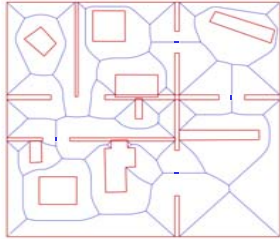
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Approaches

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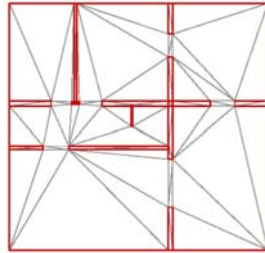
- Structures most suitable for handling arbitrary clearance efficiently:

Medial Axis



Medial axis represents paths of maximum clearance

CDTs



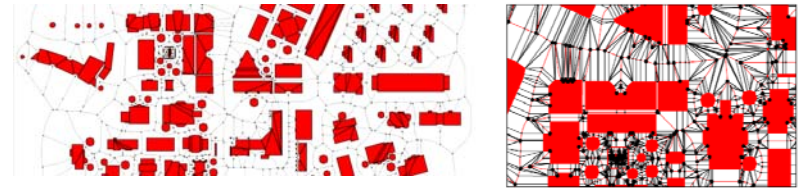
CDT decomposes the free space in $O(n)$ triangles

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Medial Axis

70

- Medial Axis as a navigation mesh
 - Good amount of work available
 - For ex.: extensions for multi layered environments and for handling dynamic updates available
 - Geraerts, "Planning Short Paths with Clearance using Explicit Corridors", 2010
 - van Toll et al., "Navigation Meshes for Realistic Multi-Layered Environments", 2011
 - van Toll et al., "A Navigation Mesh for Dynamic Environments", 2012



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Triangulations

71

- Triangulations as navigation meshes
 - Triangle meshes are relatively simple to build
 - Are composed of only straight edges
 - Paths can be easily computed
 - However handling clearance is not straightforward
 - Can easily generate locally shortest paths
 - For instance corridors will be already triangulated and ready for the Funnel algorithm

(recent benchmark work shows that triangulations are faster)

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Triangulations

72

- However, clearance not directly represented
 - Clearance checks per edge not enough
 - Even if additional free edges are inserted to improve capturing clearance in corridors [Lamarche and Donikian, "Crowd of Virtual Humans: a New Approach for Real Time Navigation in Complex and Structured Environments", 2004]
 - Clearance checks per triangle not enough
 - Previous attempts do not always work [Demyen and Buro, "Efficient triangulation-based pathfinding", 2006]

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Triangulations

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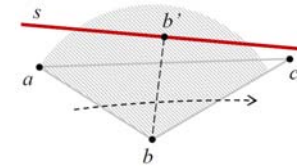
- Local Clearance Triangulations (LCTs)
 - Proposes a refinement strategy for CDTs allowing clearance information to be stored in the triangulation
 - Details in TOG 2014
 - Kallmann, “Dynamic and Robust Local Clearance Triangulations”, 2014

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Local Clearance Triangulations

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- Clearance Defined per triangle traversal
 - Traversal from ab to bc : \mathcal{T}_{abc}



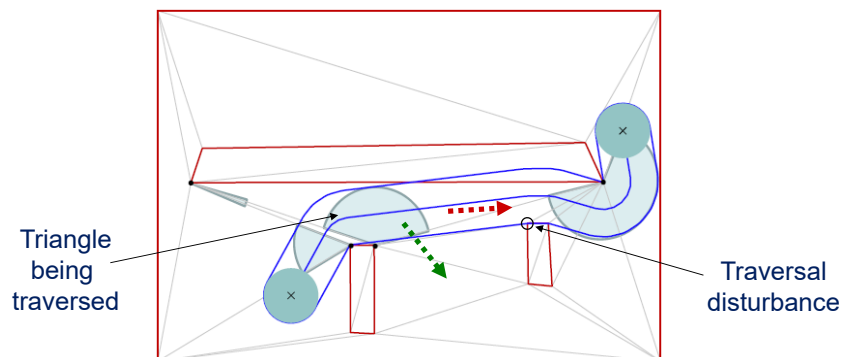
- Traversal clearance: $cl(a, b, c) = dist(b, s)$
 s is the constraint *behind* ac and closest to b

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Local Clearance Triangulations

75

- However clearance metric not enough...
 - Clearance in the red arrow direction not well captured

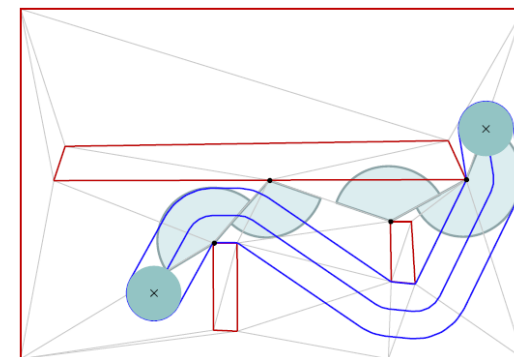


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Local Clearance Triangulations

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- But it can work if there are no disturbances
 - By refining the triangulation disturbances can be eliminated and correct paths are obtained

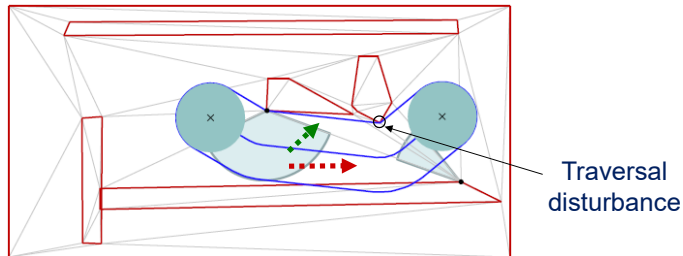


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Local Clearance Triangulations

77

- Refinements solve disturbances
 - Disturbances appear when a traversal does not correctly capture the local clearance of all possible exit directions

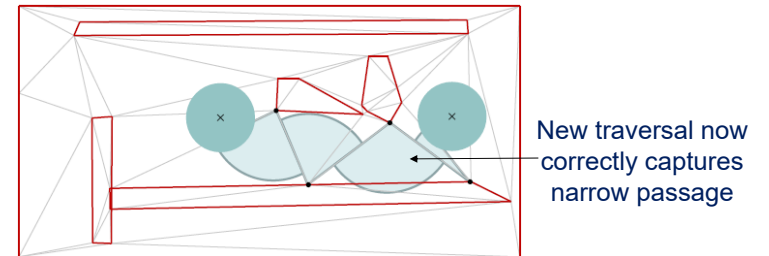


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Local Clearance Triangulations

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- Refinements solve disturbances
 - Now all disturbances have been eliminated with refinements
 - Correct result: no valid path exists

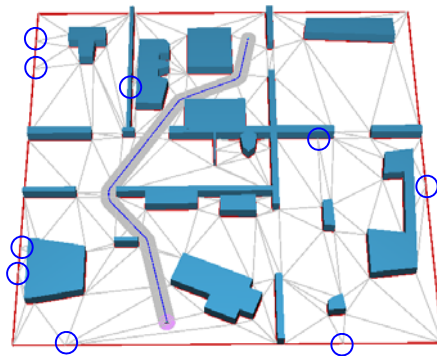


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Local Clearance Triangulations

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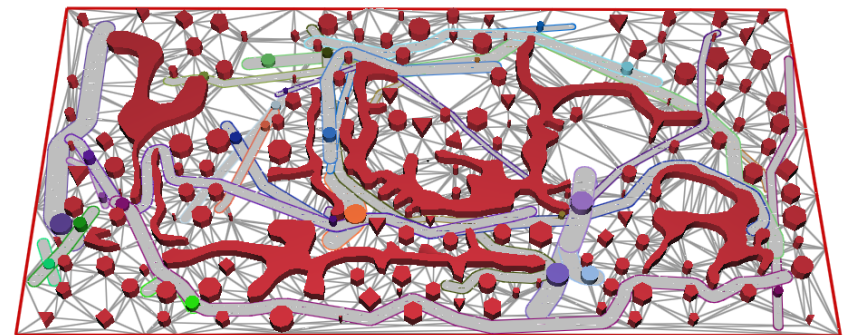
- Example of refinements
 - Total number of vertices remain $O(n)$



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Example LCT

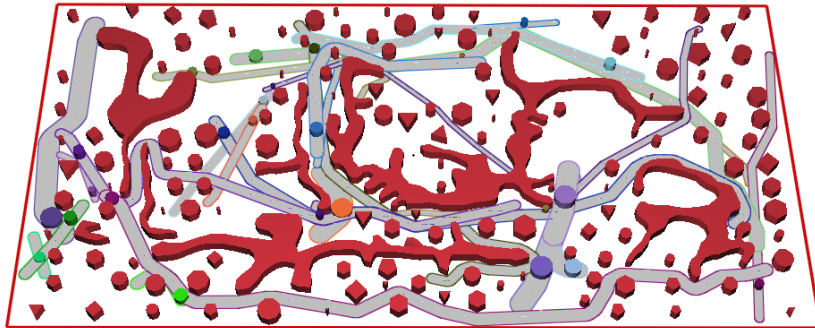
80



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Example LCT

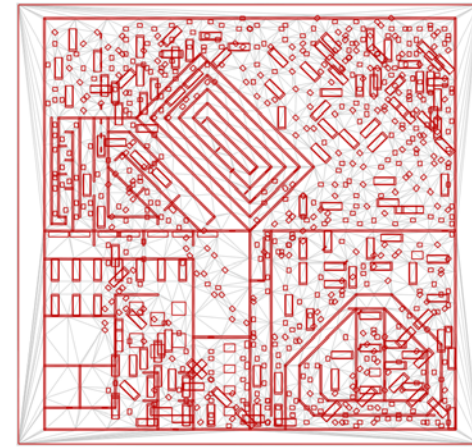
81



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Example LCT

82

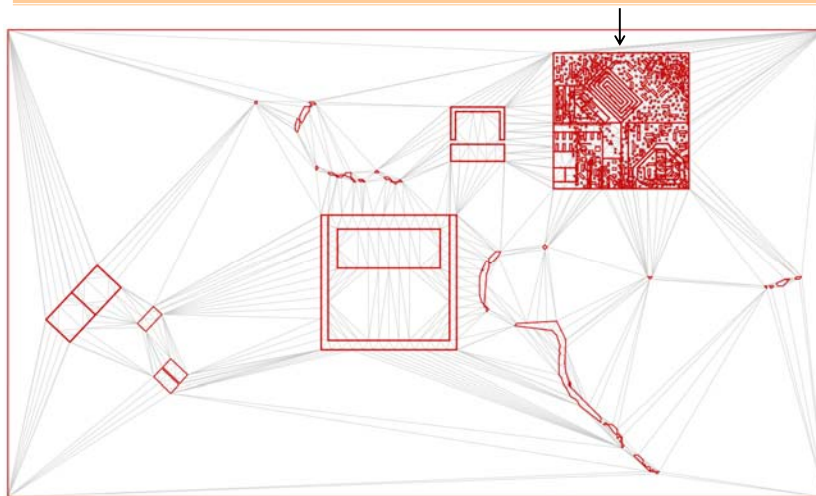


Test environment for The Sims 4: each small square represents a static character, later dynamically removed when it is time to walk
[used with permission]

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Example

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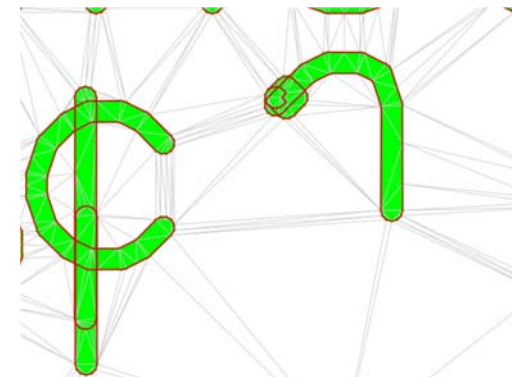
Efficiently representation of environments at different scales

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New Results on LCTs

84

- **Dynamic Operations** with management of refinements
- **Robust operations** addressing self-intersections at run-time

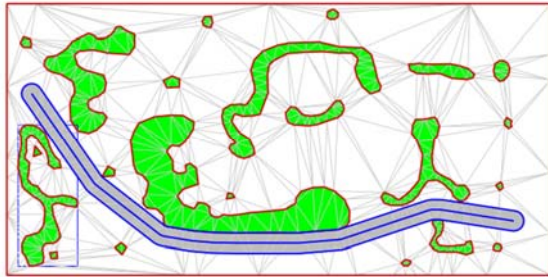


M. Kallmann, "Dynamic and Robust Local Clearance Triangulations", TOG 2014

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Dynamic Updates: Example

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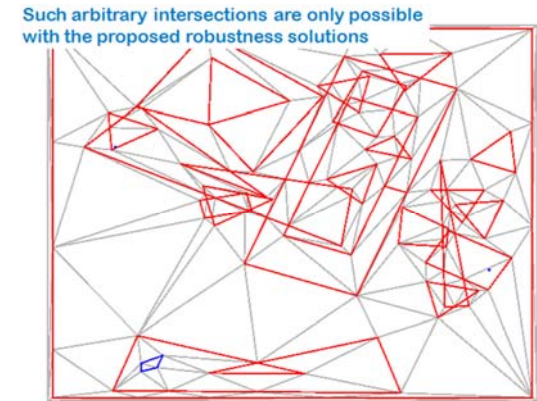
- Dynamic updates while maintaining the mesh ready for arbitrary clearance path queries

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Robustness: Example

86

- Robust watertight dynamic updates at run-time



- Robustness with floating point representation is achieved with one exact point location test for correctness detection and perturbation of invalid coordinates

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Summary

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- Euclidean Shortest Paths are difficult to be computed efficiently
 - Visibility Graph popular but is a $O(n^2)$ structure
 - Continuous Dijkstra methods promising
- Navigation Meshes
 - Focus on efficient path planning
 - Medial axis gives paths of maximum clearance
 - Triangulations can be used to efficiently compute paths with arbitrary clearance

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Questions?

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Render the Possibilities
SIGGRAPH2016



Advanced Planning Techniques

Mubbasir Kapadia

www.cs.rutgers.edu/~mubbasir

Challenges

Real-time Planning in Dynamic Environments

Planning with Constraints

Scaling to large worlds and many agents

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Proposed Solutions

~~Real-time Planning in Dynamic Environments~~

From Classical A* to Anytime Dynamic Search

Planning with Constraints

Scaling to large worlds and many agents

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Proposed Solutions

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Constraint-Aware Navigation in Dynamic Environments

Scaling to large worlds and many agents

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Proposed Solutions

Real-time Planning in Dynamic Environments

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Planning with Constraints

Constraint-Aware Navigation in Dynamic Environments

Scaling to large worlds and many agents

Anytime Dynamic Search on the GPU

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A* Search Algorithm

Computes optimal g -values of relevant states

procedure **ComputePath()**

while(s_{goal} is not expanded)

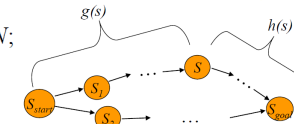
remove s with the smallest $f(s)$ from *OPEN*;

for each successor s' of s

if $g(s') > g(s) + c(s, s')$

$g(s') = g(s) + c(s, s')$;

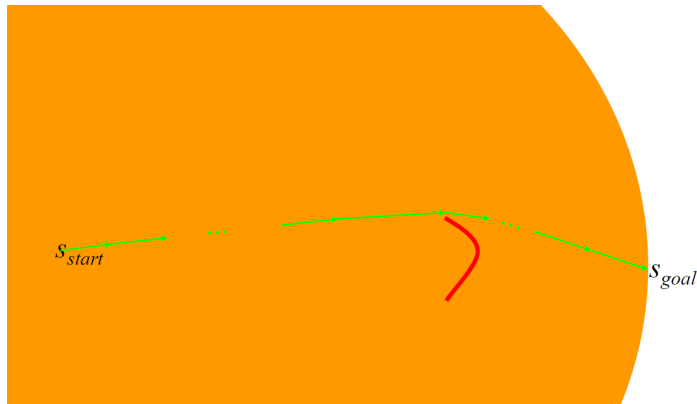
insert/update s' in *OPEN* with $f(s') = g(s') + h(s')$;



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Dijkstra's Search Expansion

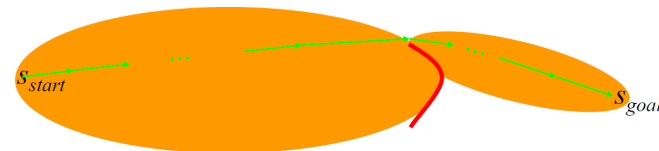
Expands state in the order of $f = g$ values



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A* Search Expansion

Expands state in the order of $f = g+h$ values



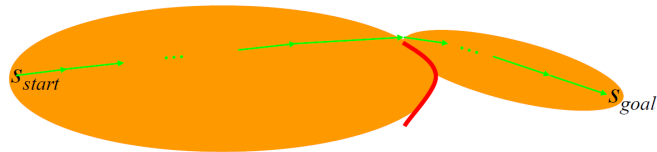
Courtesy Likhachev 2010

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A* Search Expansion

Expands state in the order of $f = g+h$ values

For large problems, this results in A* quickly running out of memory



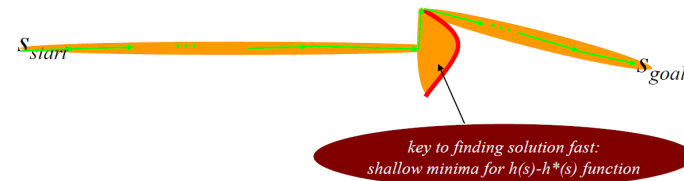
Courtesy Likhachev 2010

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Weighted A* Search Expansion

Expands states in the order of $f = g + \epsilon \cdot h$ values

$\epsilon > 1$ bias towards states that are closer to goal



Courtesy Likhachev 2010

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Anytime Repairing A* (ARA*)

Efficient series of weighted A* searches with decreasing ϵ

set ϵ to large value;

$g(s_{start}) = 0$; v -values of all states are set to infinity;

while $\epsilon \geq 1$

$CLOSED = \{\}$; $INCONS = \{\}$;

ComputePathwithReuse();

publish current ϵ suboptimal solution;

decrease ϵ ;

initialize $OPEN = OPEN \cup INCONS$;

ARA*: Anytime A* with Provable Bounds on Sub-Optimality
Maxim Likhachev, Geoff Gordon and Sebastian Thrun
Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 2003

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Anytime Repairing A* (ARA*)

initialize $OPEN$ with all overconsistent states;

ComputePathwithReuse function

while($f(s_{goal}) > \text{minimum } f\text{-value in } OPEN$)

remove s with the smallest $[g(s) + \epsilon h(s)]$ from $OPEN$;

insert s into $CLOSED$;

$v(s) = g(s)$;

for every successor s' of s

if $g(s') > g(s) + c(s, s')$

$g(s') = g(s) + c(s, s')$;

if s' not in $CLOSED$ then insert s' into $OPEN$;

otherwise insert s' into $INCONS$

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Anytime Repairing A* (ARA*)

initialize *OPEN* with all overconsistent states;

ComputePathwithReuse function

Consistent State:

$$g(s') = \min_{s'' \in \text{pred}(s')} (g(s'') + c(s'', s')) \\ = g(s) + c(s, s')$$

Inconsistent State:

$$g(s') > \min_{s'' \in \text{pred}(s')} (g(s'') + c(s'', s'))$$

if s' not in *CLOSED* then insert s' into *OPEN*;
otherwise insert s' into *INCONS*

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Anytime D*

Combined properties of anytime and dynamic planning

Set ϵ to large value

While goal is not reached

ComputePathWithReuse()

Publish ϵ -suboptimal path

Follow path until map is updated

Update corresponding edge costs

Set start to current state of agent

If significant changes were observed

Increase ϵ or replan from scratch

Else

Decrease ϵ

Anytime search in dynamic graphs

Maxim Likhachev, Dave Ferguson, Geoff Gordon, Anthony Stentz, and Sebastian Thrun
Journal of Artificial Intelligence, 2008

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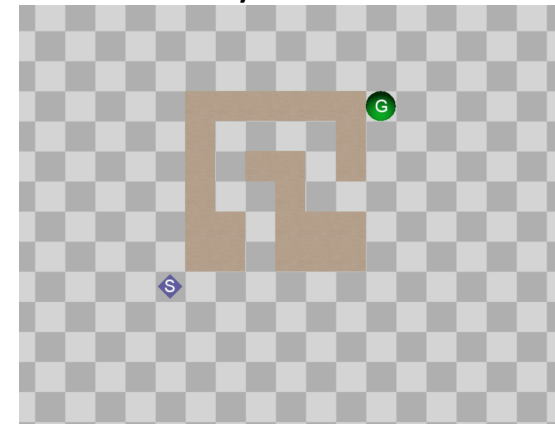
Decrease ϵ

Anytime search in dynamic graphs

Maxim Likhachev, Dave Ferguson, Geoff Gordon, Anthony Stentz, and Sebastian Thrun
Journal of Artificial Intelligence, 2008

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Anytime D*



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Proposed Solutions

Real-time Planning in Dynamic Environments

From Classical A* to Anytime Dynamic Search

Planning with Constraints

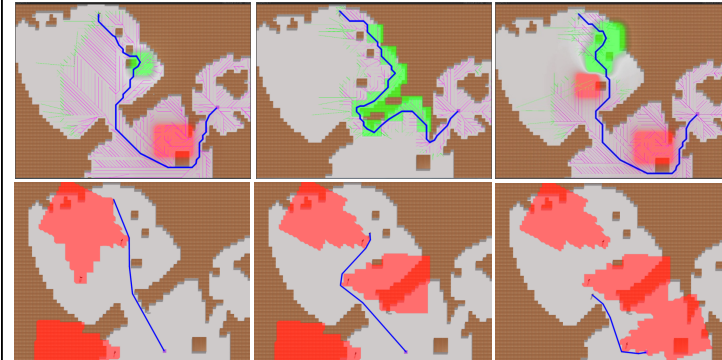
Constraint-Aware Navigation in Dynamic Environments

Scaling to large worlds and many agents

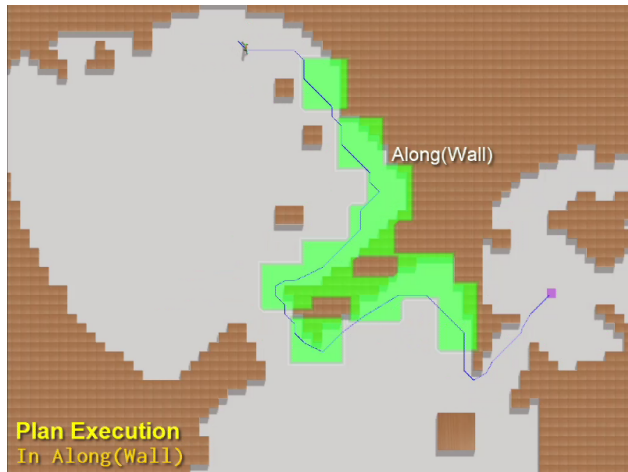
Anytime Dynamic Search on the GPU

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Global Navigation with Spatial Constraints in Dynamic Environments



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Extending AD* to compute and repair constraint-aware paths

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Challenges

Environment representation

Constraint specification

Constraint Satisfaction

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Proposed Solutions

Environment representation

Hybrid representation for constraint-aware navigation

Constraint specification

Constraint Satisfaction

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Proposed Solutions

Environment representation

Hybrid representation for constraint-aware navigation

Constraint specification

Cost multiplier fields used to represent qualitative constraints

Constraint Satisfaction

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Proposed Solutions

Environment representation

Hybrid representation for constraint-aware navigation

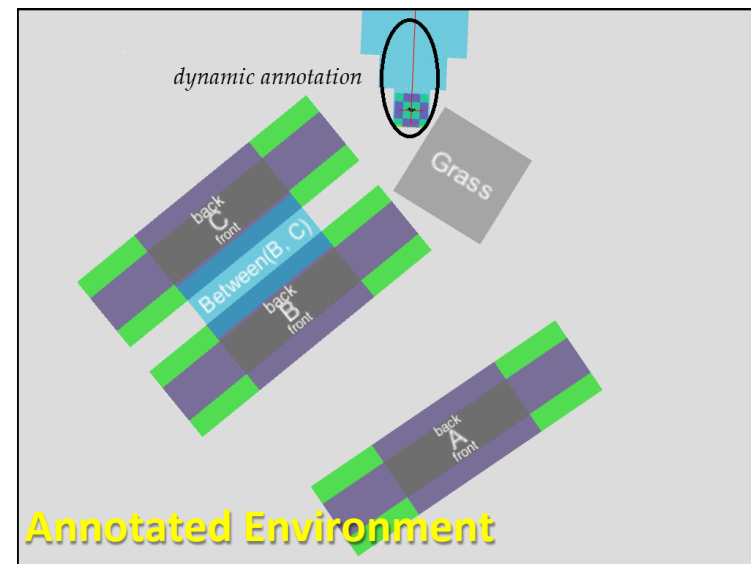
Constraint specification

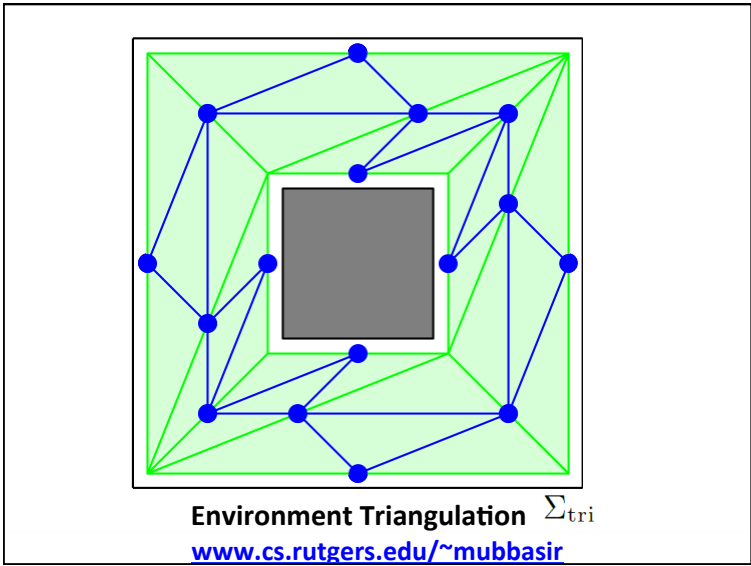
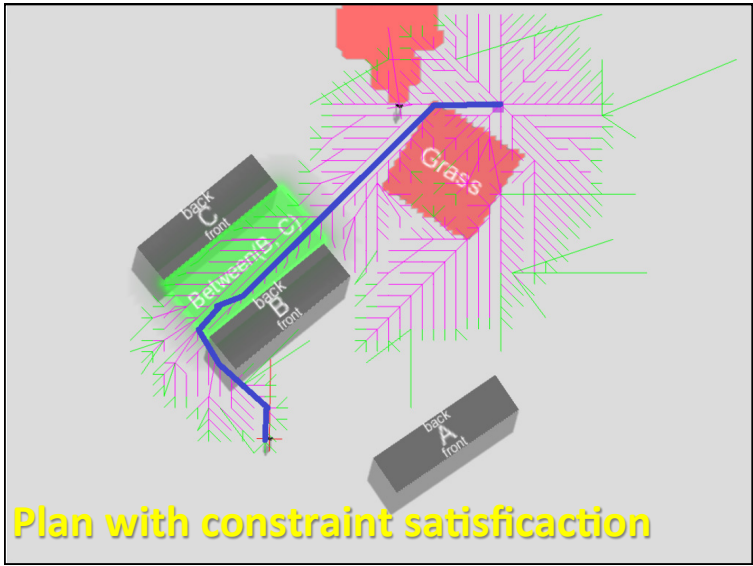
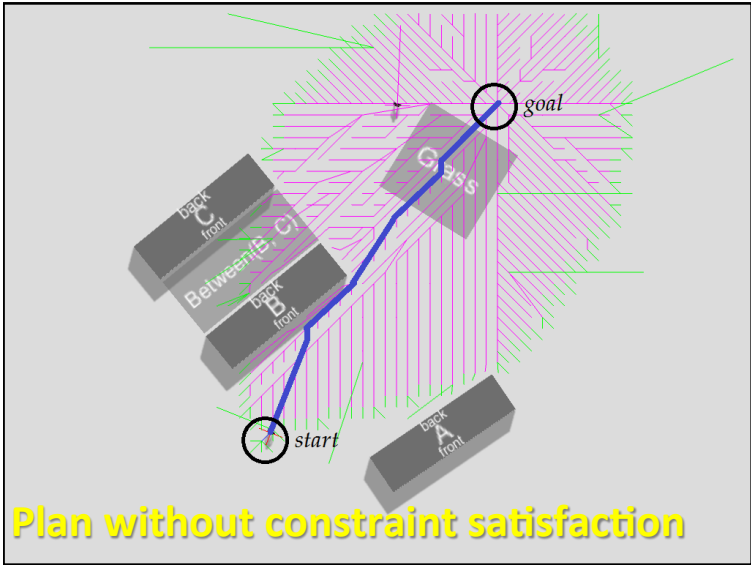
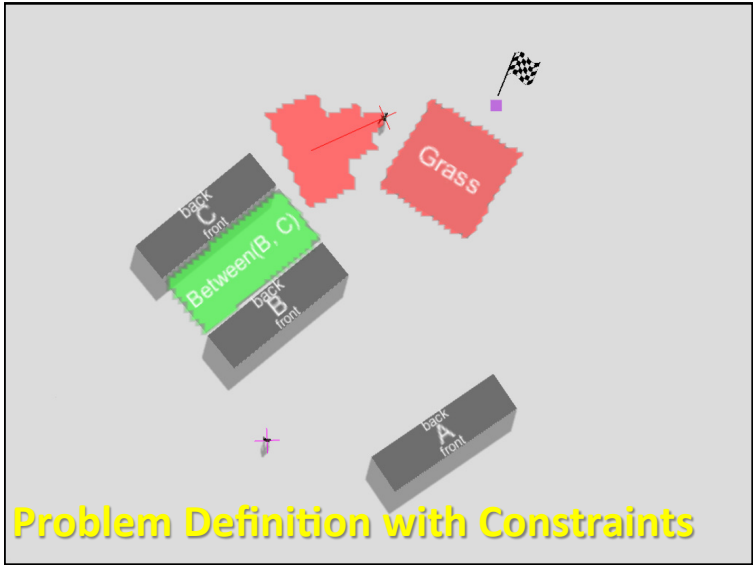
Cost multiplier fields used to represent qualitative constraints

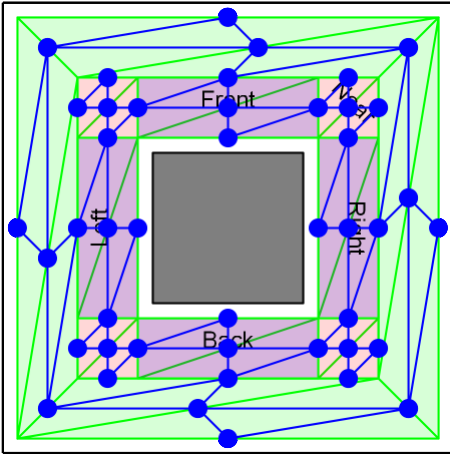
Constraint Satisfaction

An anytime dynamic planner that computes and repairs constraint-aware paths

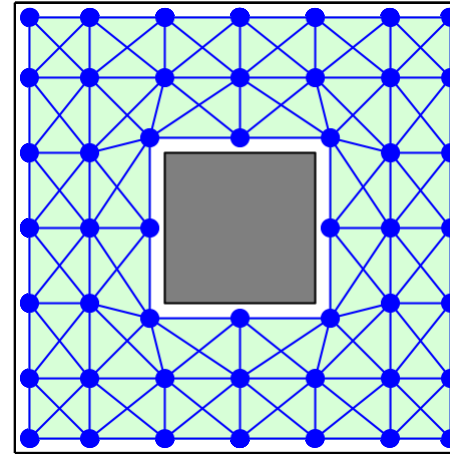
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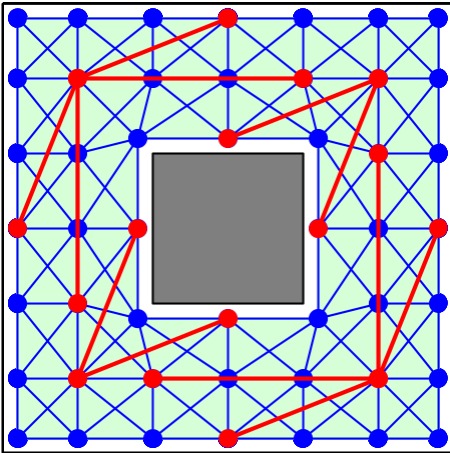




Object annotations with additional nodes added to Σ_{tri}
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Dense Uniform Graph Σ_{dense}
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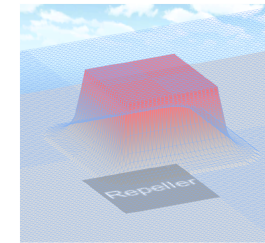
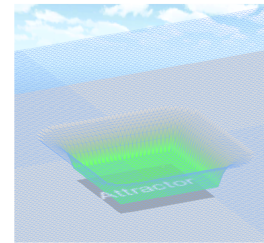


Hybrid graph Σ_{hybrid}
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Constraint Formulation

$$\bar{m}_c(\vec{x}) = -w(k_1 + k_2 \cdot r(c, \vec{x}))^{-2}$$

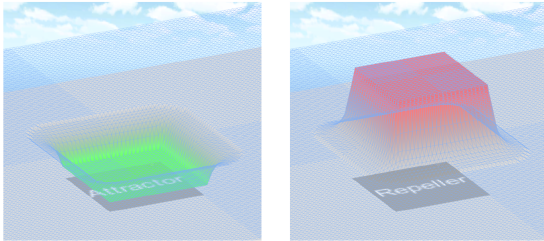
$$m_c(\vec{x}) = \begin{cases} m_c(\vec{x}) & : |\bar{m}_c(\vec{x})| < \epsilon \\ 0 & : \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Constraint Formulation

$$\bar{m}_c(\vec{x}) = -w(k_1 + k_2 \cdot r(c, \vec{x}))^{-2}$$

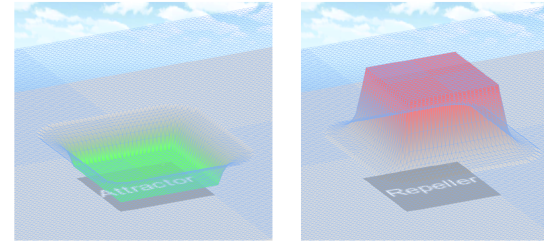
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Constraint Formulation

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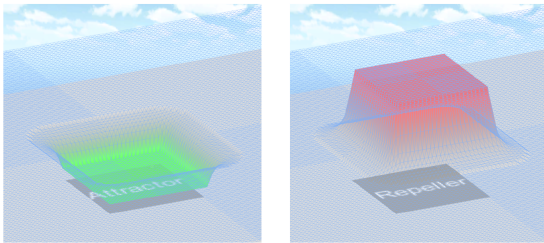
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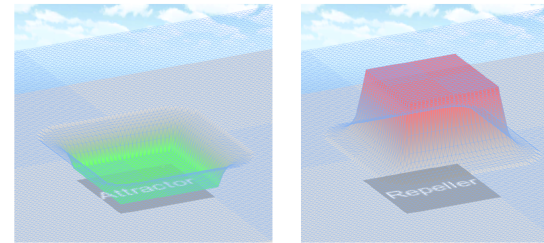
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Constraint Formulation

$$\bar{m}_c(\vec{x}) = -w(k_1 + k_2 \cdot r(c, \vec{x}))^{-2}$$

$$m_c(\vec{x}) = \begin{cases} m_c(\vec{x}) & : |\bar{m}_c(\vec{x})| < \epsilon \\ 0 & : \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Multiple Constraints

$$m_{\mathbf{C}}(\vec{x}) = \max \left(1, m_0 + \sum_{c \in \mathbf{C}} m_c(\vec{x}) \right)$$

Cost multiplier for a transition:

$$M_{\mathbf{C}}(s, s') = \int_{s \rightarrow s'} m_{\mathbf{C}}(\vec{x}) d\vec{x}$$

$$M_{\mathbf{C}}(s, s') \approx m_{\mathbf{C}}\left(\frac{\vec{x}_s + \vec{x}_{s'}}{2}\right)$$

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Multiple Constraints

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$$M_{\mathbf{C}}(s, s') \approx m_{\mathbf{C}}\left(\frac{\vec{x}_s + \vec{x}_{s'}}{2}\right)$$

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Multiple Constraints

$$m_C(\vec{x}) = \max \left(1, m_0 + \sum_{c \in C} m_c(\vec{x}) \right)$$

Cost multiplier for a transition:

$$M_C(s, s') = \int_{s \rightarrow s'} m_C(\vec{x}) d\vec{x}$$

$$M_C(s, s') \approx m_C \left(\frac{\vec{x}_s + \vec{x}_{s'}}{2} \right)$$

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Planner: Cost Computation

Modified cost of reaching state s :

$$g(s_{\text{start}}, s) = g(s_{\text{start}}, s') + M_C(s, s') \cdot c(s, s')$$

$$g(s_{\text{start}}, s) = \sum_{(s_i, s_j) \in \Pi(s_{\text{start}}, s)} M_C(s_i, s_j) \cdot c(s_i, s_j)$$

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Accommodating Dynamic Constraints

Algorithm 1 ConstraintChangeUpdate ($c, \vec{x}_{\text{prev}}, \vec{x}_{\text{next}}$)

- 1: $S_c^{\text{prev}} = \text{region}(m_c, \vec{x}_{\text{prev}})$
- 2: $S_c^{\text{next}} = \text{region}(m_c, \vec{x}_{\text{next}})$
- 3: **for each** $s \in S_c^{\text{prev}} \cup S_c^{\text{next}}$ **do**
- 4: **if** $\text{pred}(s) \cap \text{VISITED} \neq \text{NULL}$ **then**
- 5: UpdateState(s)
- 6: **if** $s' \in S_c^{\text{next}} \wedge c \in C_h$ **then** $g(s') = \infty$
- 7: **if** $s' \in \text{CLOSED}$ **then**
- 8: **for each** $s'' \in \text{succ}(s')$ **do**
- 9: **if** $s'' \in \text{VISITED}$ **then**
- 10: UpdateState(s'')

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Proposed Solutions

Real-time Planning in Dynamic Environments

From Classical A* to Anytime Dynamic Search

Planning with Constraints

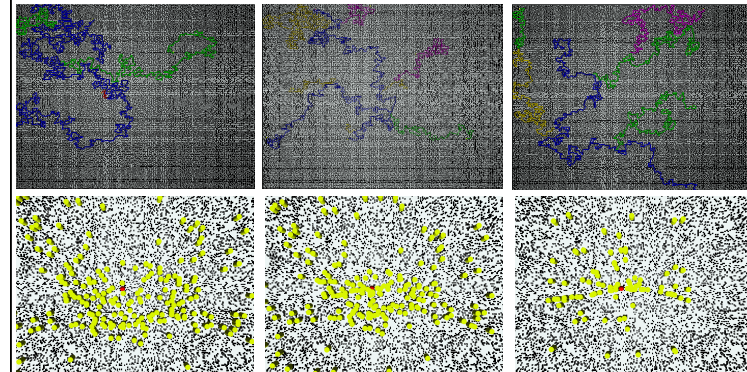
Constraint-Aware Navigation in Dynamic Environments

Scaling to large worlds and many agents

Anytime Dynamic Search on the GPU

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Need for high fidelity navigation in complex, dynamic virtual environments



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Challenges

Large-scale, complex, dynamic environments

Strict optimality requirements

Scalability with number of agents

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Proposed Solutions

~~Large-scale, complex, dynamic environments~~

Massively parallel wave-front based search with efficient plan repair

Strict optimality requirements

Scalability with number of agents

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Proposed Solutions

~~Large-scale, complex, dynamic environments~~

Massively parallel wave-front based search with efficient plan repair

~~Strict optimality requirements~~

Termination condition enforces strict optimality with minimum number of GPU iterations

Scalability with number of agents

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Proposed Solutions

~~Large-scale, complex, dynamic environments~~

Massively parallel wave-front based search with efficient plan repair

~~Strict optimality requirements~~

Termination condition enforces strict optimality with minimum number of GPU iterations

~~Scalability with number of agents~~

Handles any number of moving agents at no additional computational cost

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Method Overview

Algorithm 1 *computePlan*(* m_{cpu})

```
 $m_r \leftarrow m_{cpu}$   
 $m_w \leftarrow m_{cpu}$   
repeat  
   $flag \leftarrow 0$   
  plannerKernel( $m_r, m_w, flag$ )  
  swap ( $m_r, m_w$ )  
until ( $flag = 0$ )  
 $m_{cpu} \leftarrow m_r$ 
```

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Method Overview

Algorithm 1 *computePlan*(* m_{cpu})

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 $m_w \leftarrow m_{cpu}$   
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 $m_{cpu} \leftarrow m_r$ 
```

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  swap ( $m_r, m_w$ )  
until ( $flag = 0$ )  
 $m_{cpu} \leftarrow m_r$ 
```

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Method Overview

Algorithm 2 *plannerKernel*(* $m_r, *m_w, *flag$)

```
 $s \leftarrow \text{threadState}$   
if  $s \neq \text{obstacle} \wedge s \neq \text{goal}$  then  
  for all  $s'$  in neighbor( $s$ ) do  
    if  $s' \neq \text{obstacle}$  then  
       $\text{newg} \leftarrow g(s') + c(s, s')$   
      if ( $\text{newg} < g(s) \vee g(s) = -1 \wedge g(s') > -1$ ) then  
         $\text{pred}(s) \leftarrow s'$   
         $g(s) \leftarrow \text{newg}$   
        { evaluate.termination.condition }
```

$$g(s) = \min_{s' \in \text{succ}(s) \wedge g(s') \geq 0} (c(s, s') + g(s'))$$

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Method Overview

Algorithm 2 *plannerKernel*(* m_r , * m_w , * $flag$)

```
s ← threadState
if s ≠ obstacle ∧ s ≠ goal then
  for all s' in neighbor(s) do
    if s' ≠ obstacle then
      newg ← g(s') + c(s, s')
      if (newg < g(s) ∨ g(s) = -1) ∧ g(s') > -1 then
        pred(s) ← s'
        g(s) ← newg
        { evaluate_termination_condition }
```

$$g(s) = \min_{s' \in succ(s) \wedge g(s') \geq 0} (c(s, s') + g(s'))$$

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  swap ( $m_r$ ,  $m_w$ )
until (flag = 0)
 $m_{cpu}$  ←  $m_r$ 
```

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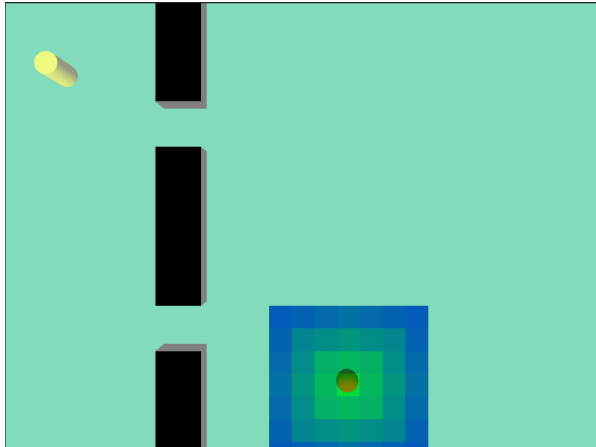
Method Overview

Algorithm 1 *computePlan*(* m_{cpu})

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 $m_r$  ←  $m_{cpu}$ 
 $m_w$  ←  $m_{cpu}$ 
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  flag ← 0
  plannerKernel( $m_r$ ,  $m_w$ , flag)
  swap ( $m_r$ ,  $m_w$ )
until (flag = 0)
 $m_{cpu}$  ←  $m_r$ 
```

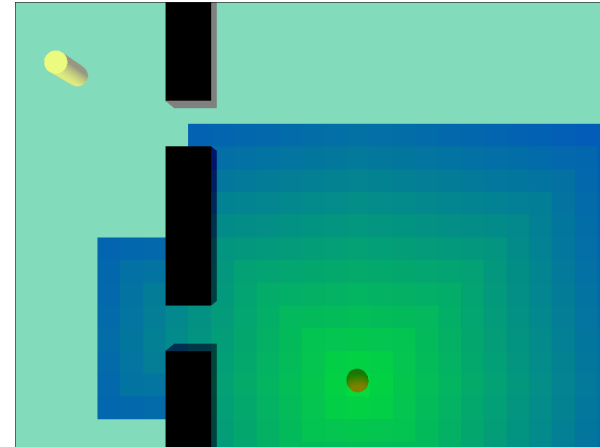
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Wavefront expansion. $N = 3$



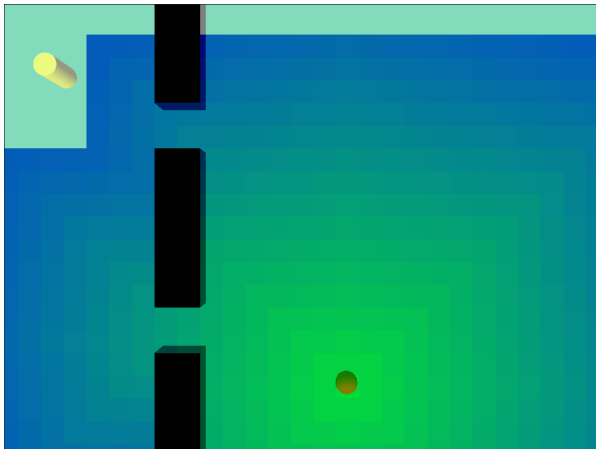
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Wavefront expansion. $N = 11$



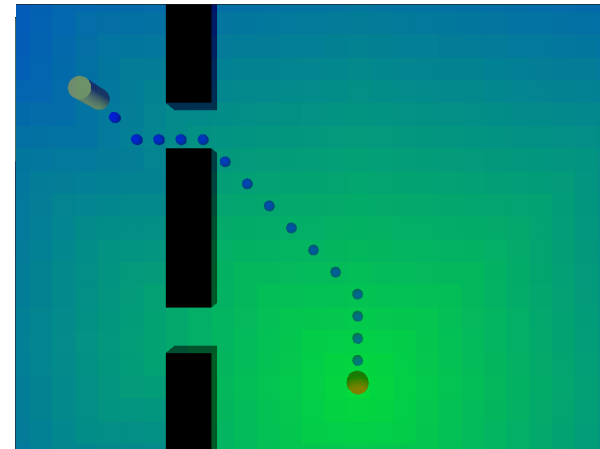
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Wavefront expansion. $N = 15$



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Wavefront expansion. $N = 18$



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Termination Conditions

Exit when goal reached

$$\mathbf{if}(s == goal) flag = 0$$

Exit when whole map converges

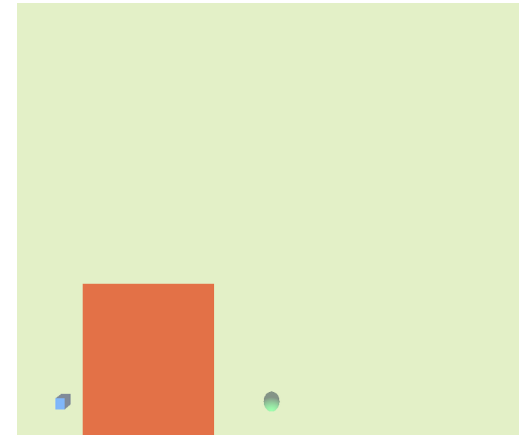
$$flag = 1$$

Minimal map convergence with optimality guarantees

$$\mathbf{if}(g(s) < g(start) \vee g(agent) = -1) flag = 1$$

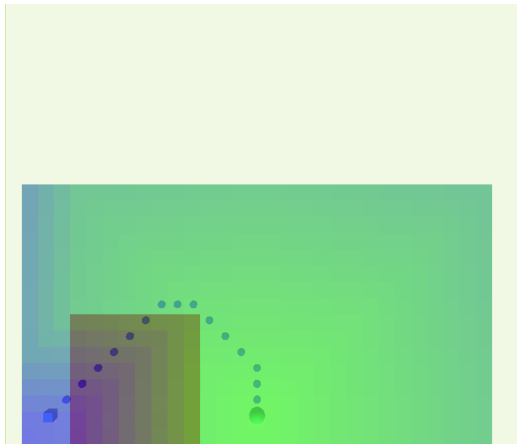
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Non-uniform state space



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Sub-optimal solution, N = 8



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Termination Conditions

Exit when goal reached

$$\mathbf{if}(s == goal) flag = 0$$

Exit when whole map converges

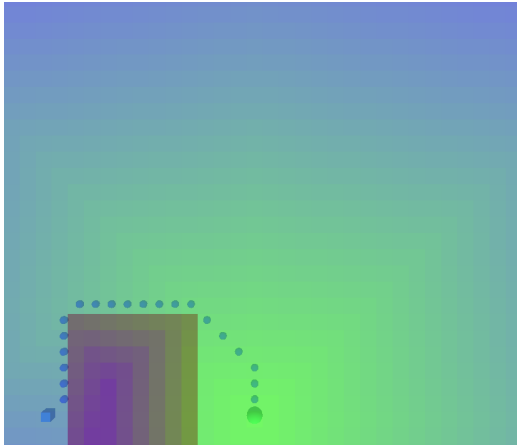
$$flag = 1$$

Minimal map convergence with optimality guarantees

$$\mathbf{if}(g(s) < g(start) \vee g(agent) = -1) flag = 1$$

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Optimal solution, N = 17



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Termination Conditions

Exit when goal reached

$\text{if}(s == \text{goal}) \text{flag} = 0$

Exit when whole map converges

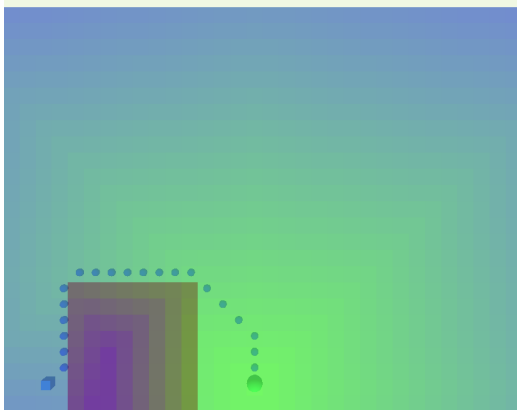
$\text{flag} = 1$

Minimal map convergence with optimality guarantees

$\text{if}(g(s) < g(\text{start}) \vee g(\text{agent}) = -1) \text{flag} = 1$

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Optimal solution, N = 12
(minimum number of iterations)



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Efficient Plan Repair for Dynamic Environments & Moving Agents

Algorithm 3 Algorithm to propagate state inconsistency

```
s ← threadState
if pred(s) ≠ NULL then
  if (g(s) == obstacle ∨ pred(s) == obstacle ∨ g(s) ≠ g(pred(s)) +
    c(s, s')) then
    pred(s) = NULL
    g(s) = -1
    incons = true
```

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Dynamic Search on The GPU:
Step by Step demonstration of plan computation and efficient plan repair.



Multi-Agent Planning

Extended Termination Condition

$$\text{if}((g(s) < \max_{a_i \in \{a\}} g(a_i)) \vee (g(a_i) = -1 \forall a_i \in \{a\}))$$

Multi-Agent Simulation

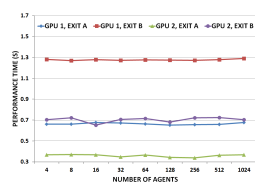
- Single map can be queried by all agents to compute path
- Movement along path using local collision avoidance

Multiple Target Locations

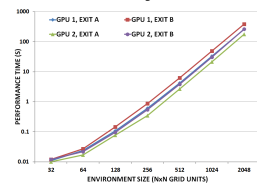
- A separate map required for each target
- Significant memory overhead

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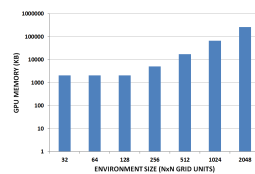
Performance Analysis



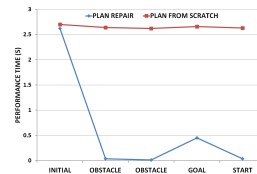
Agent Scalability



Environment Scalability



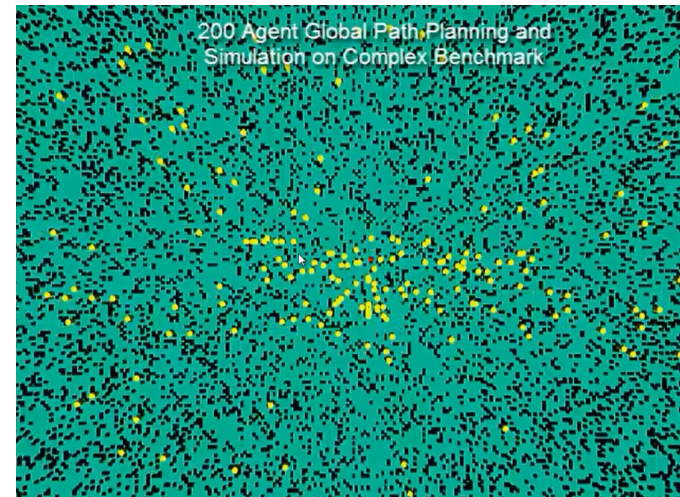
Memory



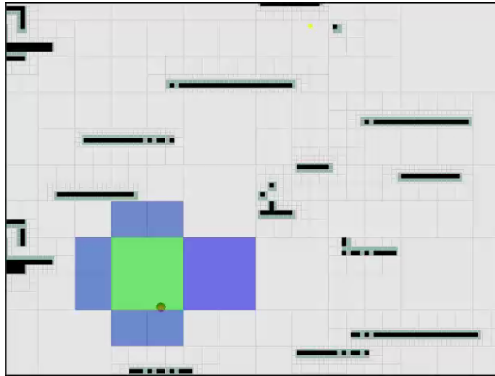
Dynamic Planning

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200 Agent Global Path Planning and Simulation on Complex Benchmark



GPU-based Dynamic Search on Adaptive Resolution Grids



GPU-based Dynamic Search on Adaptive Resolution Grids
Francisco García, Mubbasir Kapadia, and Norman I. Badler
IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation, June 2014

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Planning Techniques for Character Animation

Mubbasir Kapadia

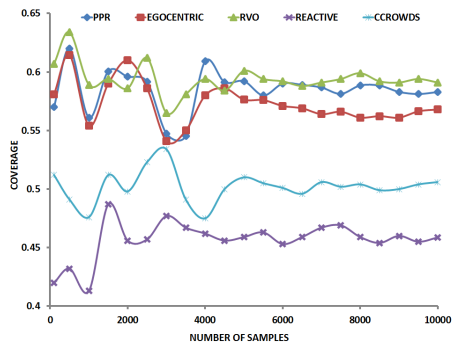
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Outline

- Footstep Domain for Dynamic Crowds
- Precomputing Environment Semantics for Contact-Rich Character Animation
- Additional Application Domains

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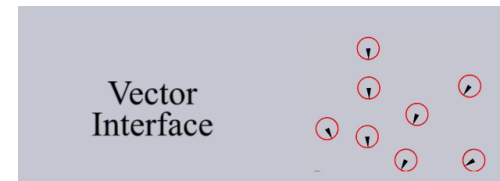
“Current steering algorithms cannot handle the space of all possible scenarios that agents encounter in dynamic virtual environments”



Scenario Space: Characterizing Coverage, Quality, and Failure of Steering Algorithms
Mubbasir Kapadia, Matt Wang, Shawn Singh, Glenn Reinmann, Petros Faloutsos
ACM SIGGRAPH Symposium on Computer Animation, August 2011

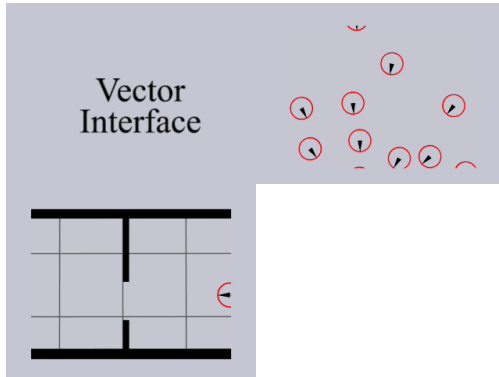
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“A particle-based agent representation cannot capture nuanced interactions that humans exhibit in confined and crowded situations.”



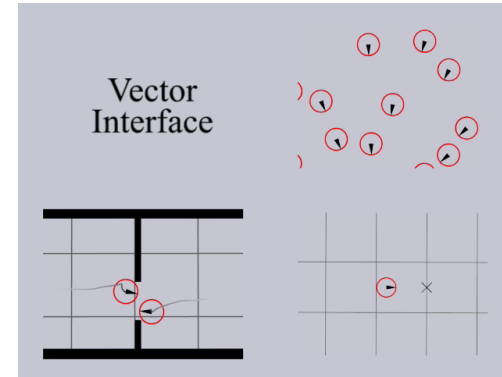
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"A particle-based agent representation cannot capture nuanced interactions that humans exhibit in confined and crowded situations."



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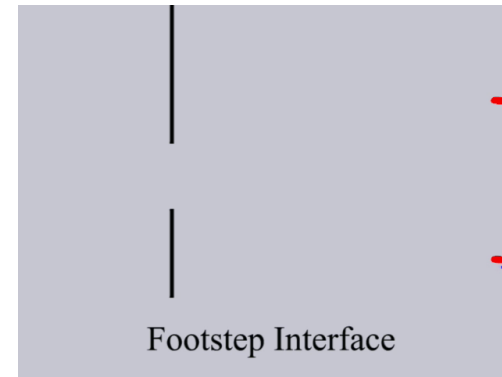


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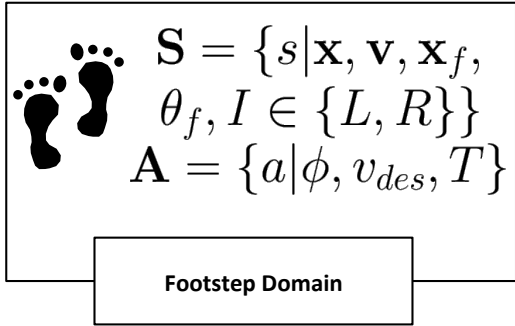
Footstep Navigation for Dynamic Crowds



Footstep Interface

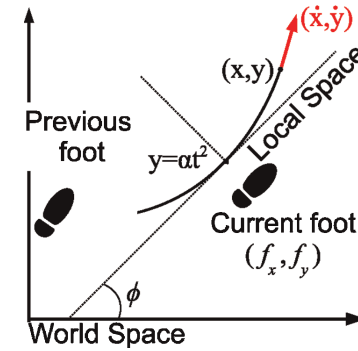
Footstep Navigation for Dynamic Crowds
Shawn Singh, Mubbasir Kapadia, Glenn Reinmann, Petros Faloutsos
Special Issue, Computer Animation and Virtual Worlds (CAVW), April 2011

State and Action Space



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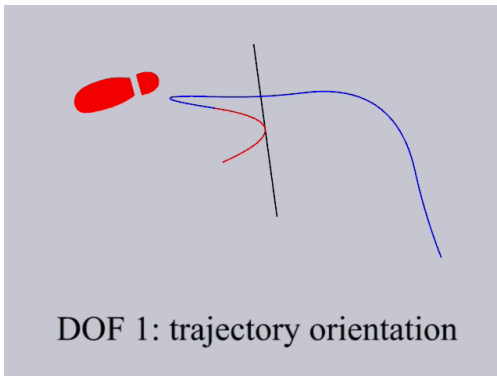
Footstep Action Selection



$$(x(t), y(t), \dot{x}(t), \dot{y}(t)) = (v_{x_0} t, \alpha t^2, v_{x_0}, 2\alpha t)$$

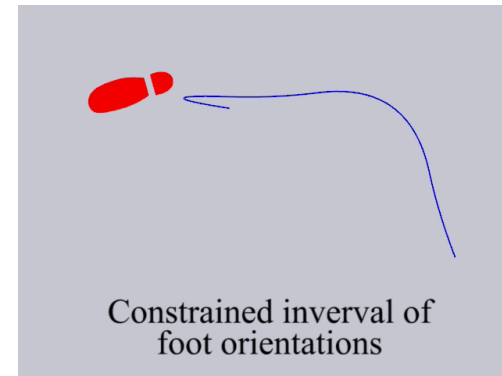
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Footstep Action Selection



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Footstep Orientation



$$[f_{\phi_{next_inner}}, f_{\phi_{next_outer}}] = [f_{\phi_{prev_outer}}, f_{\phi_{prev_inner}} + \frac{\pi}{2}] \cap [\phi, \text{atan2}(\dot{y}, \dot{x})]$$

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Cost Formulation

Cost Function

$$c(s, s') = \Delta E_1 + \Delta E_2 + \Delta E_3$$

$$\Delta E_1 = R \cdot T$$

$$\Delta E_2 = \frac{m}{2} |(v^{\text{desired}})^2 - (v_0 \cos(2\theta))^2|$$

$$\Delta E_3 = w \cdot \frac{dP}{dt} \cdot \text{length} = w \cdot m\alpha \cdot \text{length}$$

Heuristic Function

$$h(s) = c_{\text{expected}} \times n$$

Cost Formulation

Cost Function

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$$\Delta E_1 = R \cdot T$$

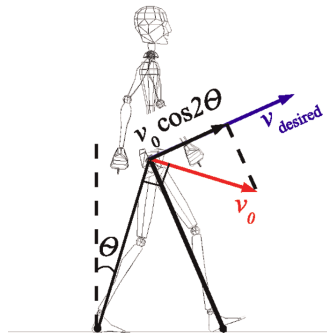
$$\Delta E_2 = \frac{m}{2} |(v^{\text{desired}})^2 - (v_0 \cos(2\theta))^2|$$

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Spherical Inverted Pendulum Model – Sagittal View



$$\Delta E_2 = \frac{m}{2} |(v^{\text{desired}})^2 - (v_0 \cos(2\theta))^2|$$

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Short Horizon Space-Time Planner



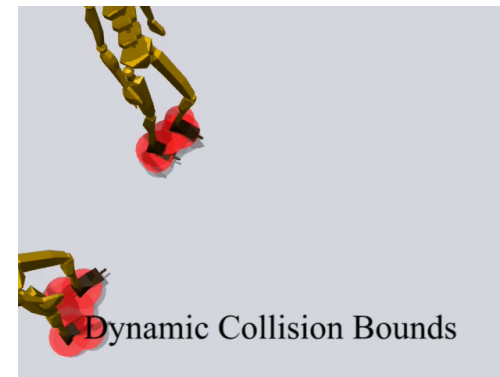
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U Turn



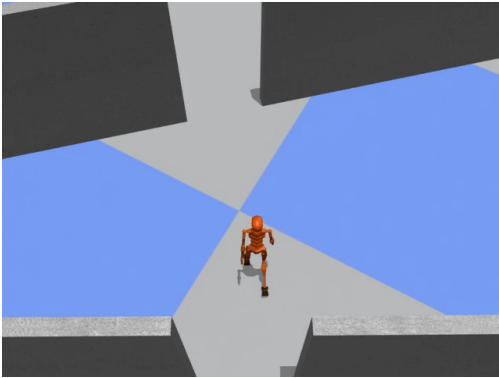
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Dynamic Collision Bounds



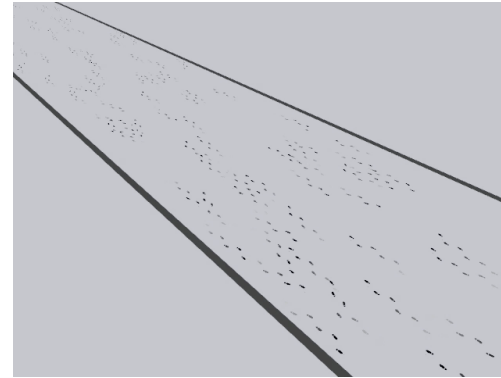
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Narrow Passageways



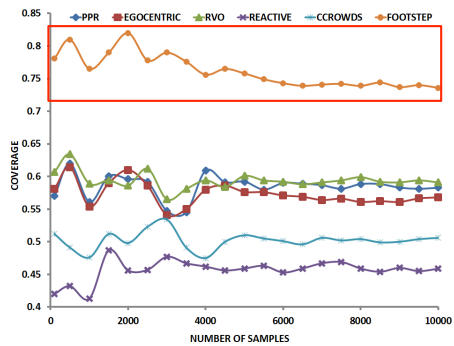
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Large Scale Simulations



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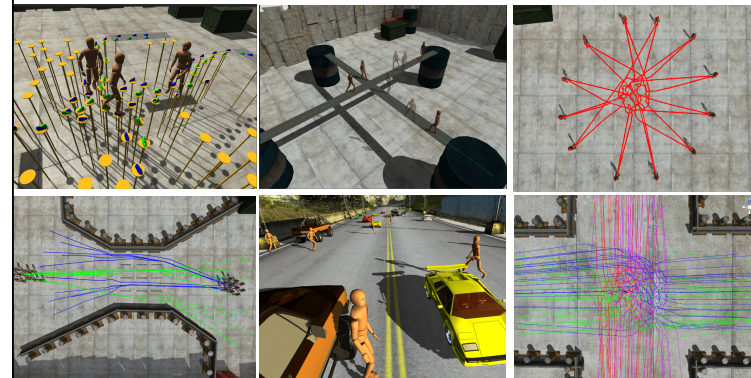
Coverage Comparison



Scenario Space: Characterizing Coverage, Quality, and Failure of Steering Algorithms
Mubbasir Kapadia, Matt Wang, Shawn Singh, Glenn Reinmann, Petros Faloutsos
ACM SIGGRAPH Symposium on Computer Animation, August 2011

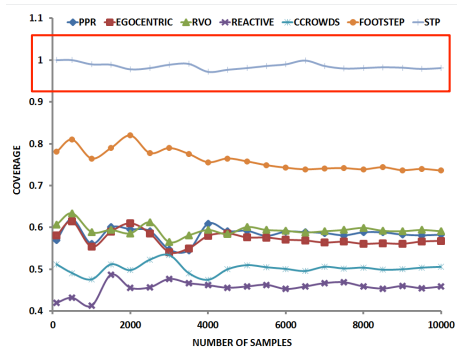
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Need for high fidelity navigation in complex, dynamic virtual environments



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The Quest for Complete Coverage



Scenario Space: Characterizing Coverage, Quality, and Failure of Steering Algorithms
Mubbasir Kapadia, Matt Wang, Shawn Singh, Glenn Reinmann, Petros Faloutsos
ACM SIGGRAPH Symposium on Computer Animation, August 2011

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Outline

- Footstep Domain for Dynamic Crowds
- **Precomputing Environment Semantics for Contact-Rich Character Animation**
- Additional Application Domains

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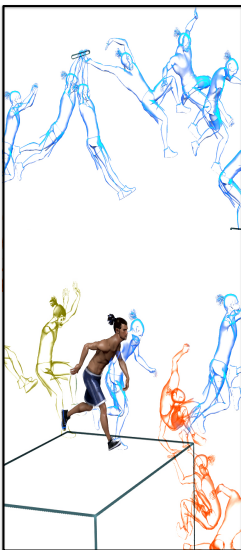


PRECISION: Precomputed Environment Semantics for Contact-Rich Character Animation
Mubbasir Kapadia, Xu Xianghao, Maurizio Nitti, Marcelo Kallmann,
Stelian Coros, Robert W. Sumner, Markus Gross
ACM SIGGRAPH Symposium on Interactive 3D Graphics and Games (I3D), 2016




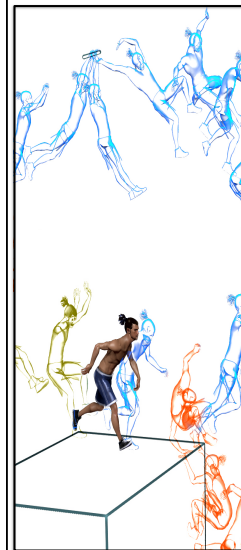
REQUIREMENTS

- Scalability in environment and motion complexity
- Interactivity
- Coupled character and environment authoring




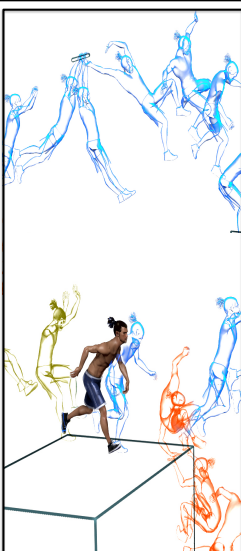
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Scalability in environment and motion complexity

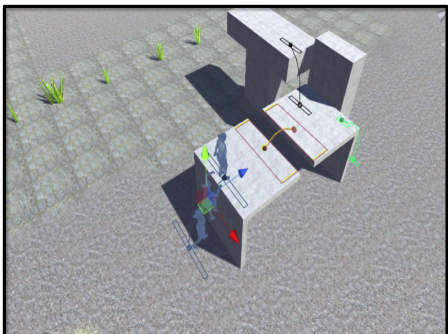
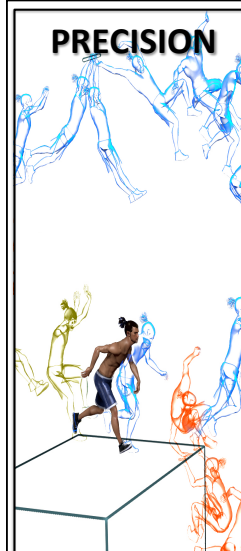
REQUIREMENTS

Interactivity

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Coupled character and environment authoring

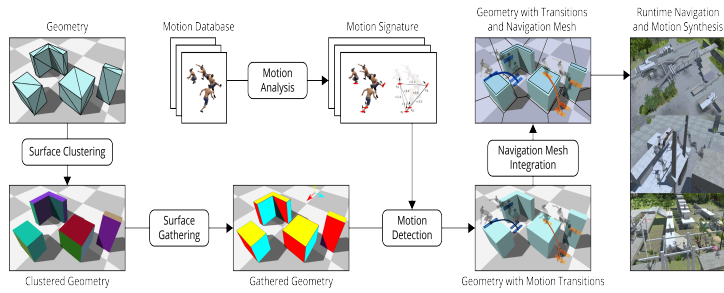



PRECISION

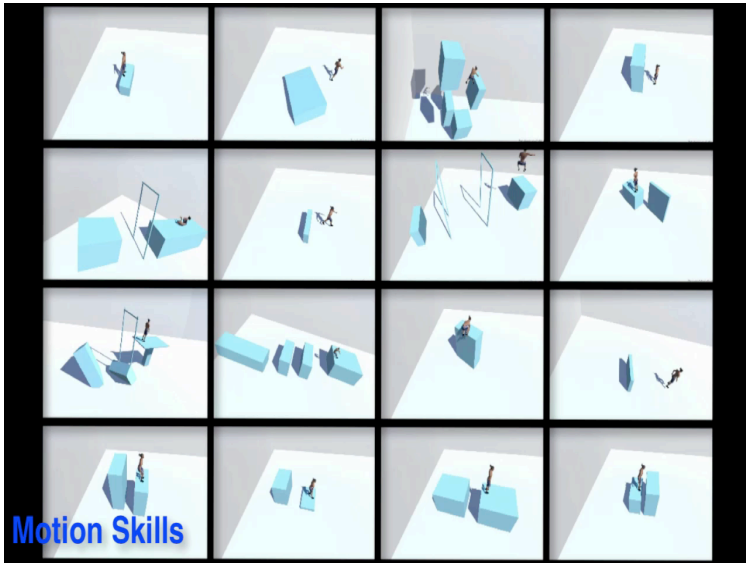
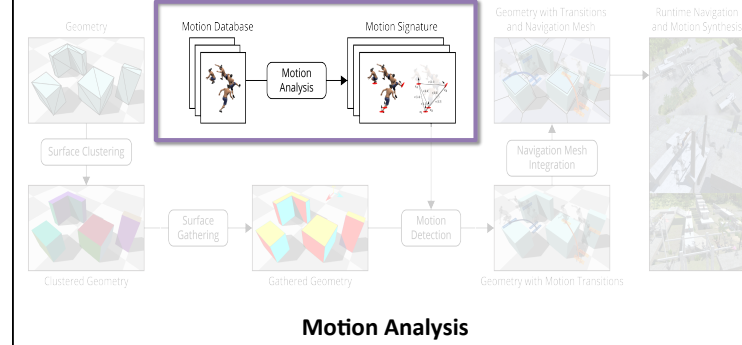
SOLUTIONS

- **Motion Analysis:** Identify contact semantics
- **Environment Analysis:** Identify how characters can interact with geometry
- **Runtime Navigation & Motion Synthesis:** Seamless integration with existing approaches

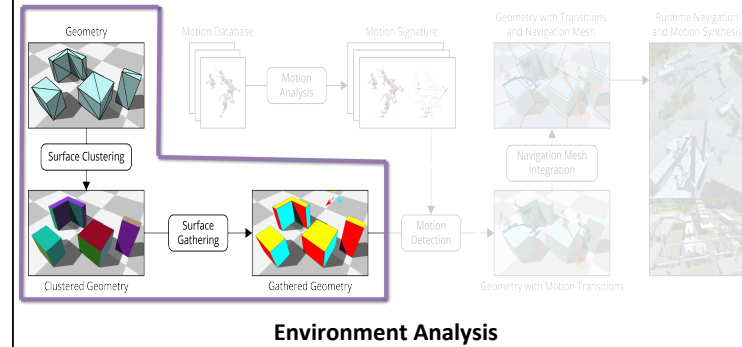
PRECISION Framework

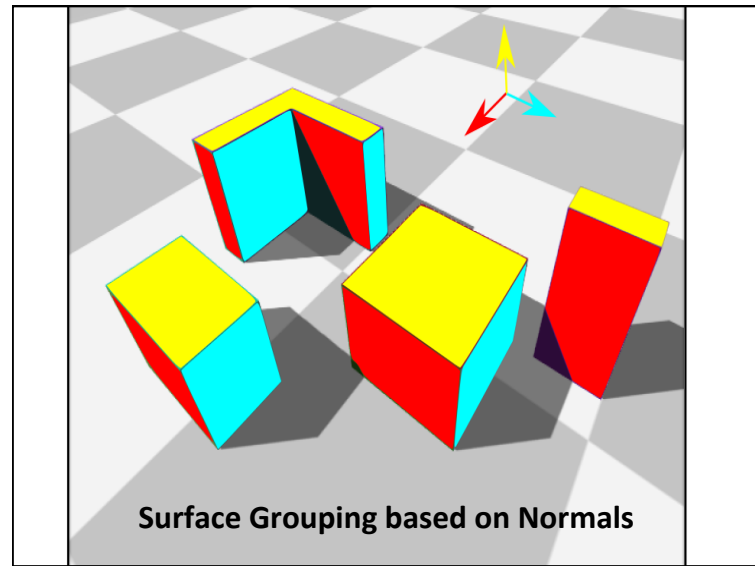
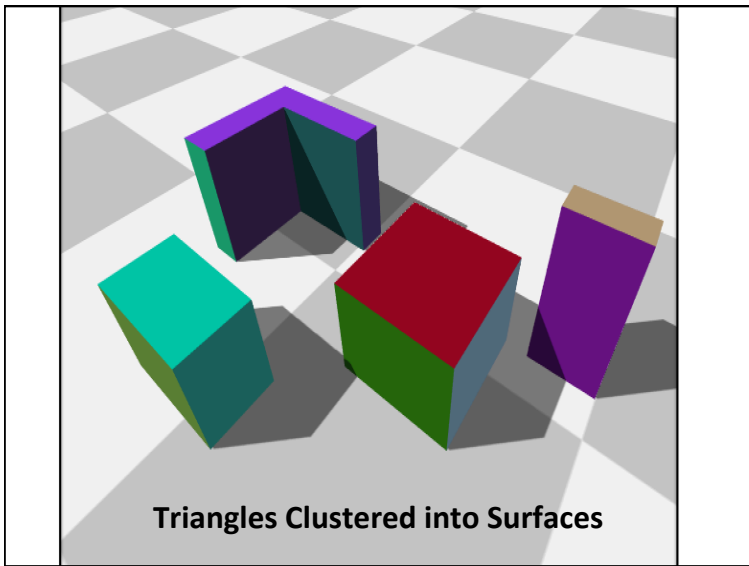
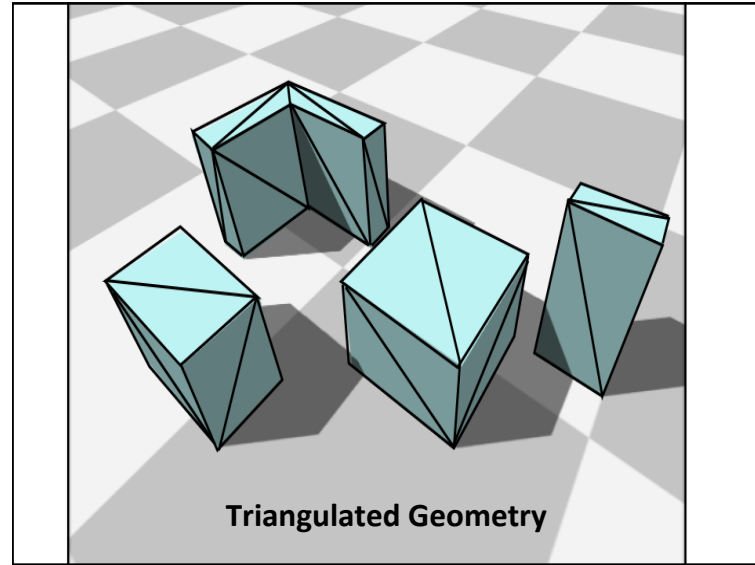
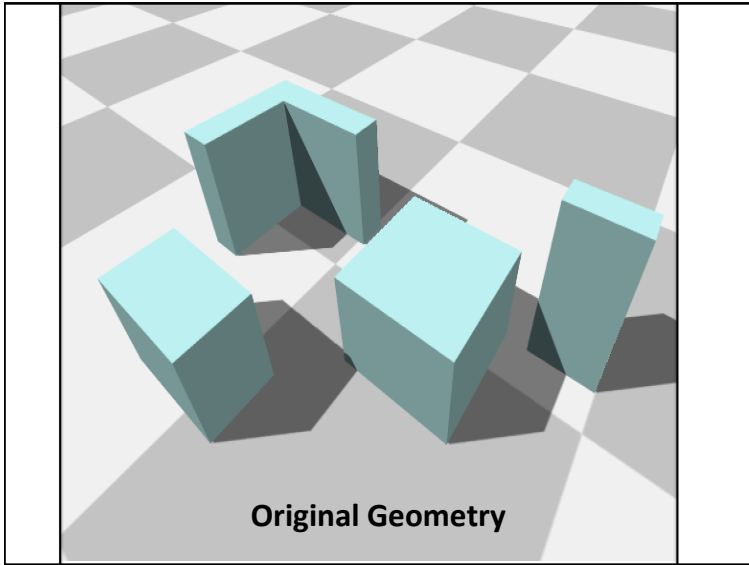


PRECISION Framework

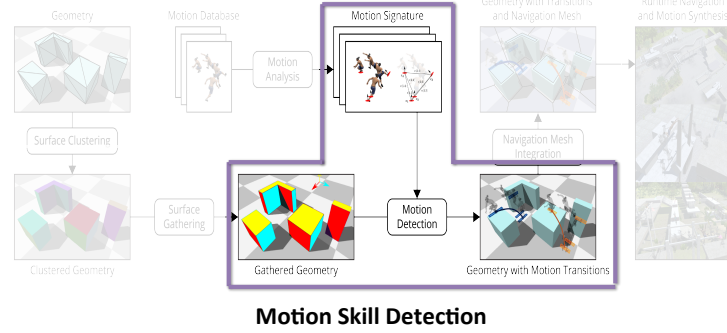


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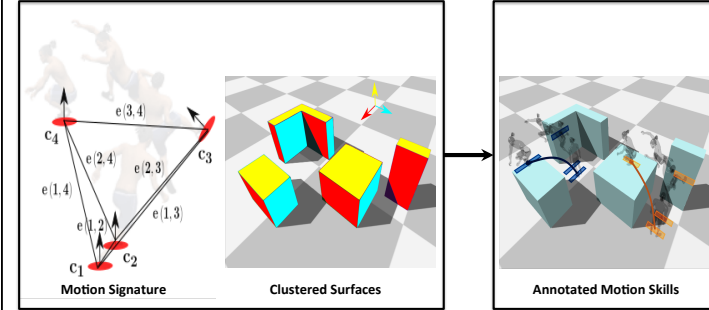




PRECISION Framework



Motion Skill Detection



Algorithm 2: DetectMotions (M, S)

```

foreach m ∈ M do
  foreach θ ∈ (0, 2π) do
    foreach i ∈ (1, |Cm|) do
      ciθ = Rotate(ci, θ)
      foreach s ∈ S do
        if ns · nciθ ≤ ε then
          Si ← Si ∪ s
      R ← S1
      foreach i ∈ (2, |Cm|) do
        Rt ← ∅
        foreach (sa, sb) ∈ R × S1 do
          v̂i-1,i ← (pi-1 - pi) / ||pi-1 - pi||
          (s'a, s'b) ← ProjectIntersect(sa, sb, v̂i-1,i, d)
          Rt ← Rt ∪ (s'a, s'b)
        R ← Rt
      R ← CollisionCheck(R, Vm);
    return R
  
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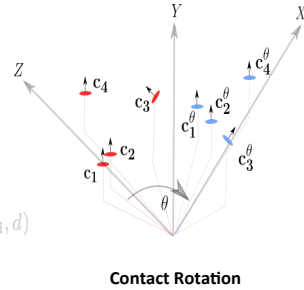
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Algorithm 1: ProjectIntersect (s_a, s_b, $\hat{v}_{i,j}$, d)

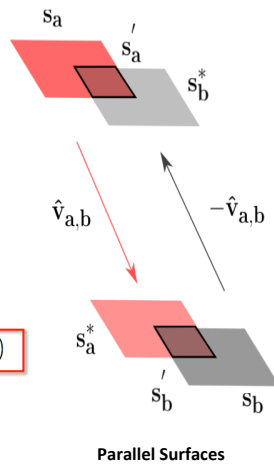
```

s'a* ← sa +  $\hat{v}_{i,j}$  · d
s'b* = sb ∩ s'a*
s'b* = sb -  $\hat{v}_{i,j}$  · d
s'a = s'b* ∩ sa
return (s'a, s'b)
  
```

Algorithm 2: DetectMotions (M, S)

```

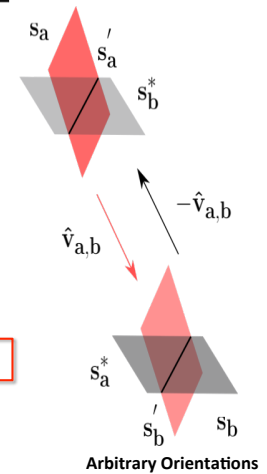
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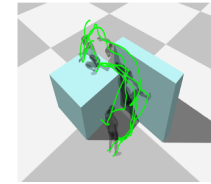
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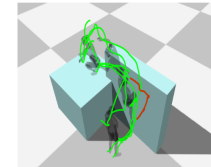
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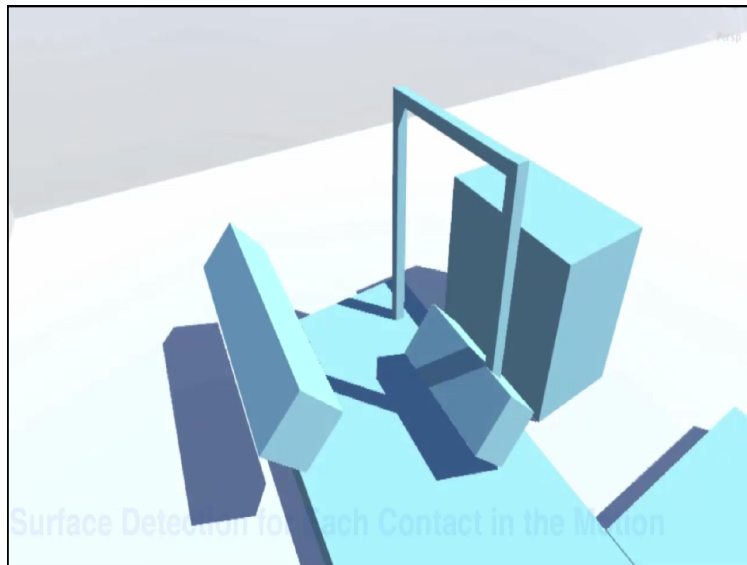
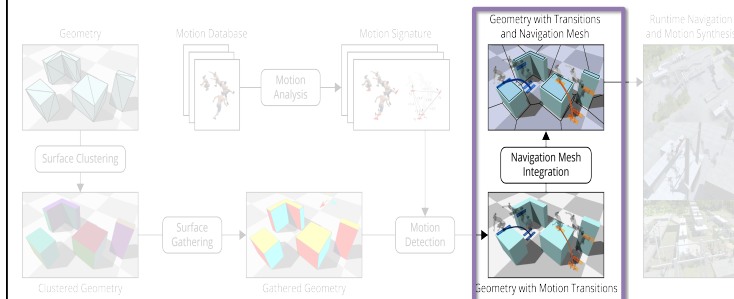
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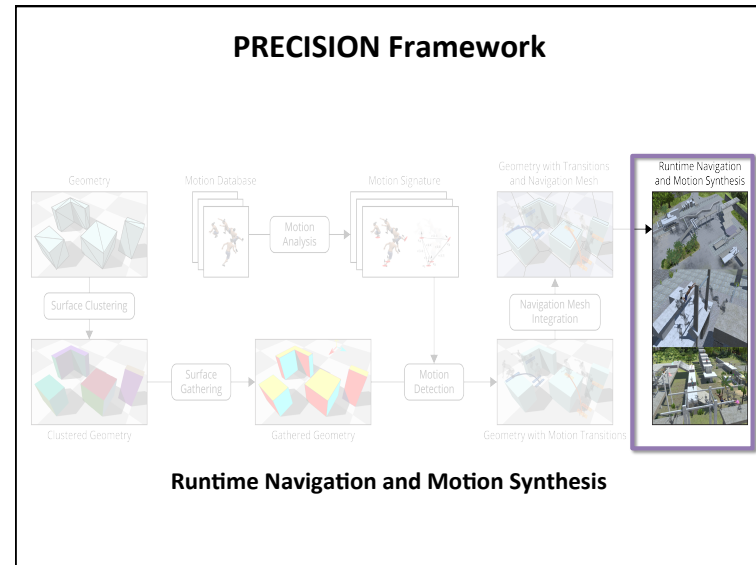
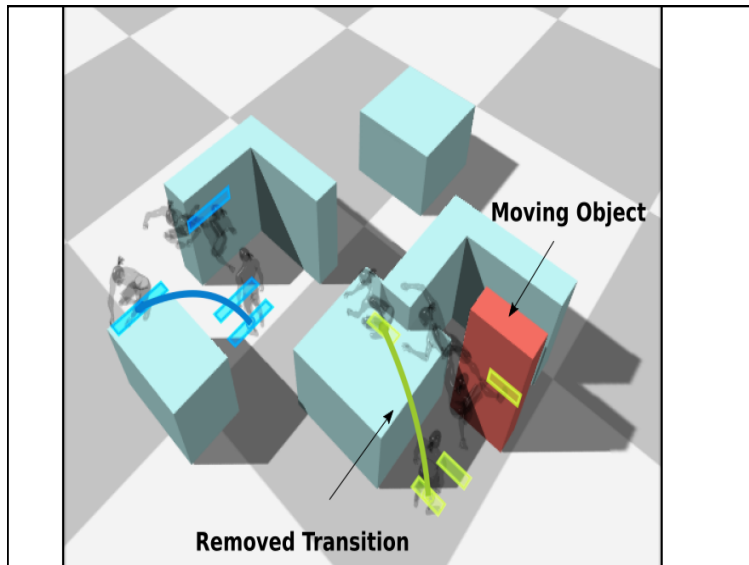
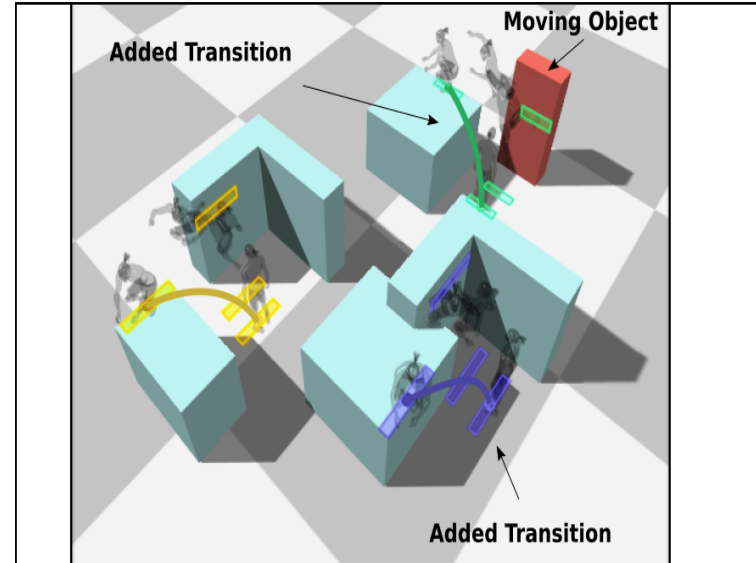
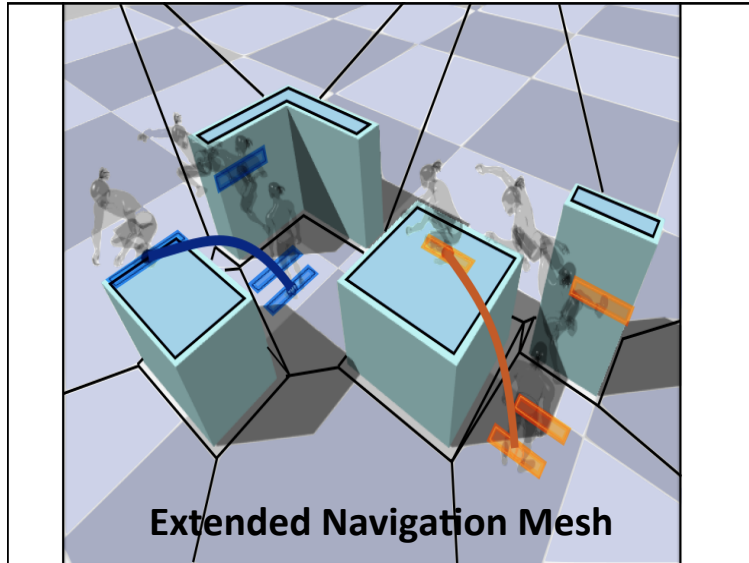


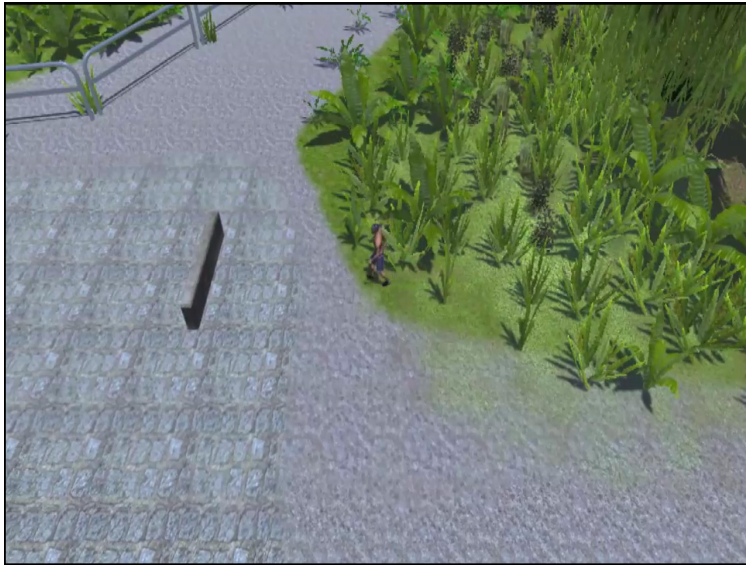
Collision-free motion



Motion with collision

**PRECISION Framework****Navigation Integration**





Dynamic Game Worlds

Outline

- Footstep Domain for Dynamic Crowds
- Precomputing Environment Semantics for Contact-Rich Character Animation
- **Additional Application Domains**

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ACCLMesh: Curvature-Based Navigation Mesh Generation



ACCLMesh: Curvature-Based Navigation Mesh Generation
Glen Berseth, Mubbasir Kapadia, Petros Faloutsos
Computer Animation and Virtual Worlds (2016, To Appear)

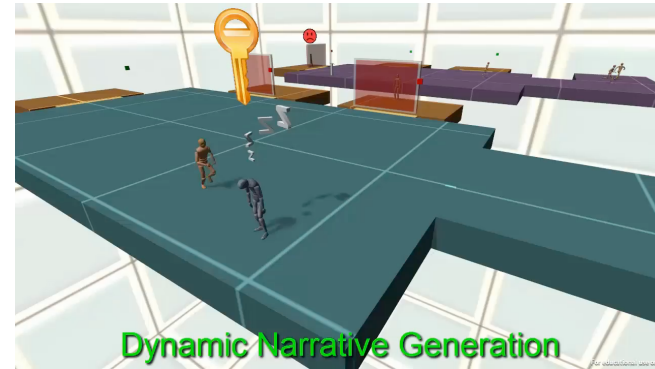
Multi-Domain Planning for Real-time Planning in Dynamic Environments



Multi-Domain Planning for Real-time Planning in Dynamic Environments

Mubbasir Kapadia, Alejandro Beacco Porres, Francisco Garcia, Nuria Pelechano, Norman I. Badler
ACM SIGGRAPH/EG Symposium on Computer Animation, 2013

An Event-Centric Planning Approach for Dynamic Real-Time Narrative



Dynamic Narrative Generation

An Event-Centric Planning Approach for Dynamic Real-Time Narrative
Alexander Shoulson, Max Gilbert, Mubbasir Kapadia, and Norman I. Badler
International Conference on Motion in Games, 2013

Conclusion

- Planning not limited to simple navigation problems or non-interactive applications.
- Challenges
 - Discretizing problem representation
 - Defining problem domain (state, action space, costs, heuristics)
 - Choosing right planning strategy

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Module III – Planning Techniques for Character Animation

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<http://graphics.ucmerced.edu/>

M. Kallmann

- When to use full-body motion planners?
 - To achieve automatic motion synthesis for virtual characters among obstacles
 - 3D collision detection always needed (bottleneck)
 - Planners can be integrated on top of motion controllers
 - Leveraging the quality for several powerful approaches developed in computer animation
 - Ex.: Motion Control session yesterday

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Planning in High Dimensions

- Build graph representation of free space by sampling valid poses/configurations
 - Example graph/roadmap built by sampling:



Planning Collision-Free Reaching Motions for Interactive Object Manipulation and Grasping, Eurographics, 2003

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Planning in High Dimensions



Planning Collision-Free Reaching Motions for Interactive Object Manipulation and Grasping, Eurographics, 2003

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Planning locomotion with motion capture data

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Adding Motion Capture Data

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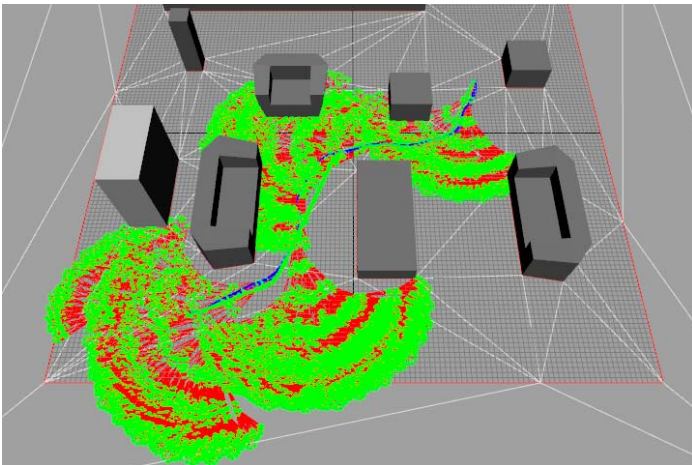
- Example approach
 - Build a motion graph from motion capture data
 - Search on the motion graph (*graph unrolling*)
 - Good quality, but often slow to use directly
 - Possible to improve speed with
 - search precomputation
 - and 2D path planning
- Extensive literature available on the area
 - Representative references in course notes

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Speeding up motion search

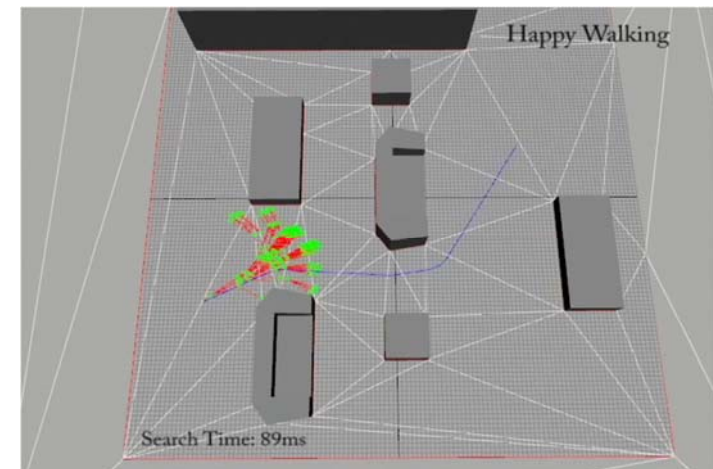
7

- By pre-computing search trees per node:



M. Kallmann

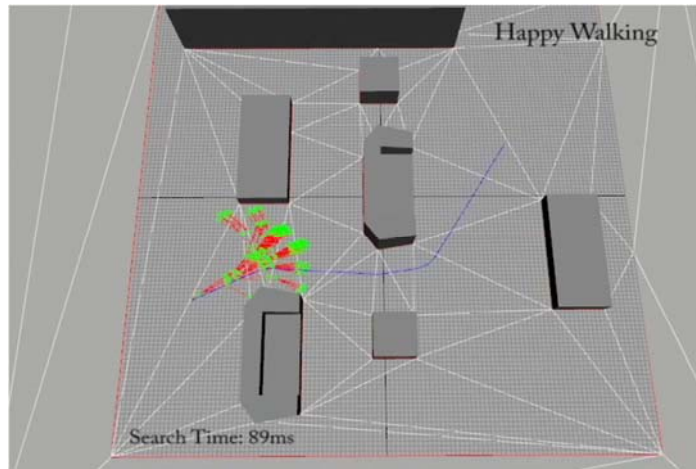
Precomputed Motion Maps



Analyzing Locomotion Synthesis with Feature-Based Motion Graphs, IEEE TVCG 2012
Precomputed Motion Maps for Unstructured Motion Capture, SCA 2012
Feature-Based Locomotion with Inverse Branch Kinematics, best paper at MIG 2011

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Precomputed Motion Maps



Analyzing Locomotion Synthesis with Feature-Based Motion Graphs, IEEE TVCG 2012
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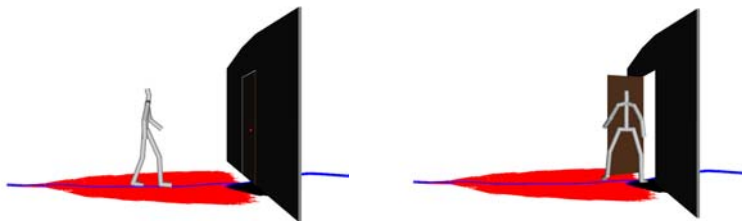
Integrating manipulation planning with locomotion

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Addressing Full-Body Manipulations

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- Integration of two planners
 - Motion capture concatenation search for locomotion
 - Sampling-based planning for the arm

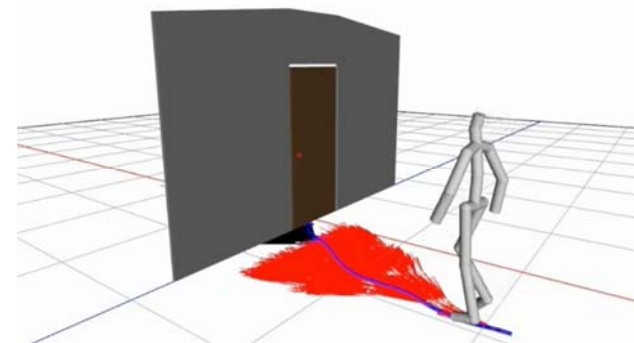


Multi-Modal Data-Driven Motion Planning and Synthesis
Mentar Mahmudi and Marcelo Kallmann
ACM SIGGRAPH Conference on Motion in Games (MIG), 2015

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Addressing Full-Body Manipulations

12



Multi-Modal Data-Driven Motion Planning and Synthesis
Mentar Mahmudi and Marcelo Kallmann
ACM SIGGRAPH Conference on Motion in Games (MIG), 2015

M. Kallmann

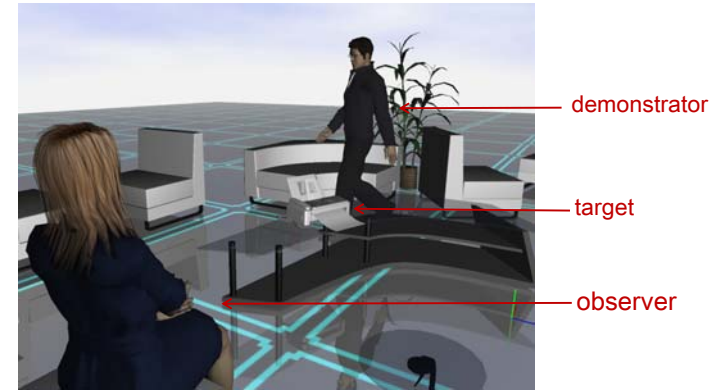
Addressing application-specific coordination constraints

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Ex. Application: Virtual Demonstrators

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- Determine suitable locations for delivering information, and then animate a solution



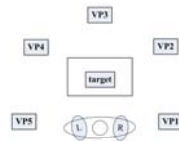
Planning Motions and Placements for Virtual Demonstrators
Yazhou Huang and Marcelo Kallmann
IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG), 2015

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Behavioral Model

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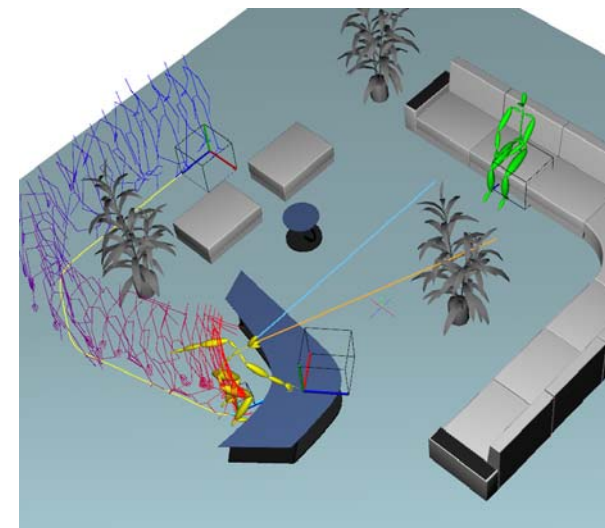
- Model derived from human subjects
 - 4 participants, actions to 6 objects, for 5 observers at different locations
 - Action: pointing and delivering info about the object



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Placement Determination

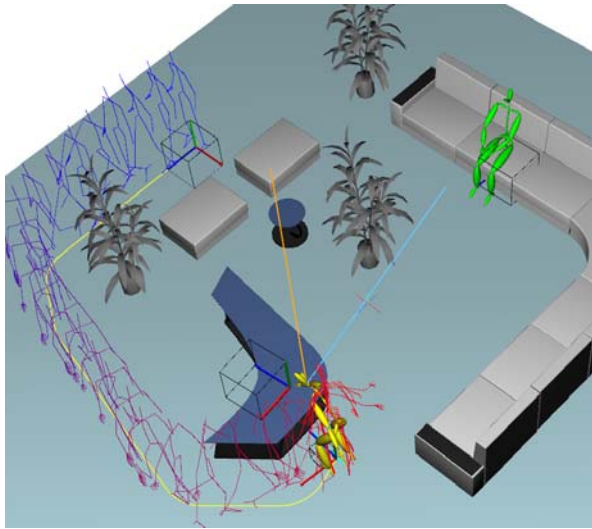
16



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Placement Determination

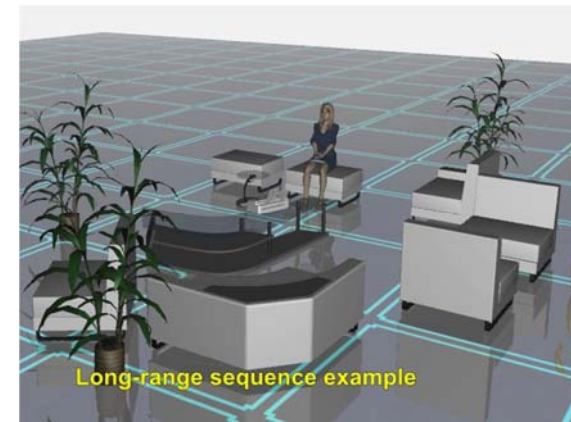
17



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Additional Results

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Planning Motions and Placements for Virtual Demonstrators
Yazhou Huang and Marcelo Kallmann
IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG), 2015

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- Funding Agencies
 - CITRIS Seed Funding (#12, #14)
 - National Science Foundation (IIS-0915665, BCS-0821766, CNS-0723281, CNS-1305196)

M. Kallmann

Additional Information

• Additional Material

- SIGGRAPH course notes
- Webpages of the authors:
 - <http://graphics.ucmerced.edu/>
 - <http://www.cs.rutgers.edu/~mubbasir/>
- Recent book published by the authors:



Geometric and Discrete Path Planning for Interactive Virtual Worlds
Morgan & Claypool, 2016

Thank You !

M. Kallmann