

Localization & Odometry

EEL 4930/5934: Autonomous Robots

Spring 2023

Md Jahidul Islam

Lecture 7

Robot Localization

⇒ The “Where Am I?” problem

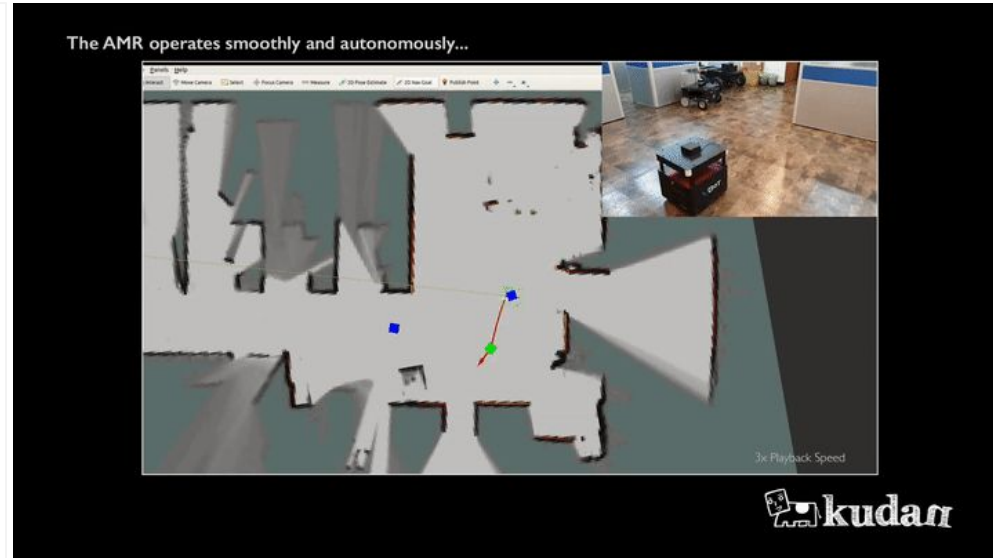
*Estimating robot pose in a given map
(or global coordinates)*

Types:

- Relative vs absolute localization
- Static map-based localization
- Dynamic environment without a map

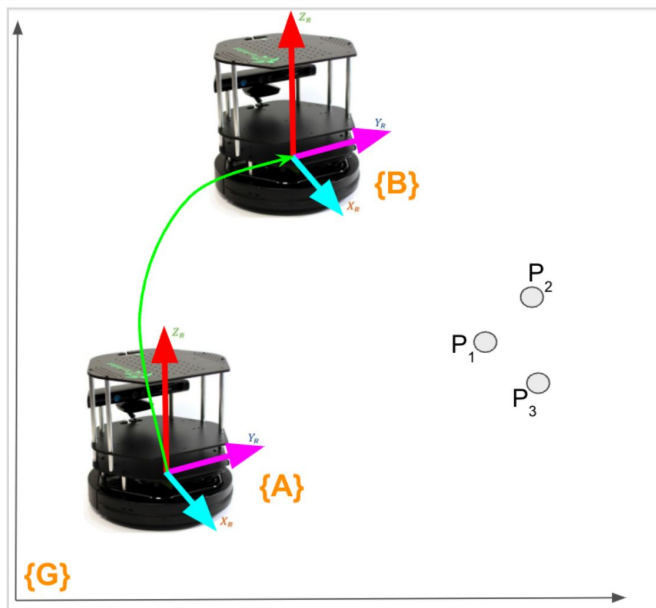
Creating map on the go:

- SLAM: Simultaneous localization & mapping
- Popular SLAM literature
 - Visual SLAM
 - LiDAR-based SLAM
 - Laser-based SLAM (mainly 2D robots)



[awobot](http://awobot.com)

Localization in 2D from Landmarks



Known:

$${}^G P_1 = \begin{bmatrix} G_{X1} \\ G_{Y1} \\ G_{Z1} \end{bmatrix}, {}^G P_2 = \begin{bmatrix} G_{X2} \\ G_{Y2} \\ G_{Z2} \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } {}^G P_3 = \begin{bmatrix} G_{X3} \\ G_{Y3} \\ G_{Z3} \end{bmatrix}$$

$${}^A P_1 = \begin{bmatrix} A_{X1} \\ A_{Y1} \\ A_{Z1} \end{bmatrix}, {}^A P_2 = \begin{bmatrix} A_{X2} \\ A_{Y2} \\ A_{Z2} \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } {}^A P_3 = \begin{bmatrix} A_{X3} \\ A_{Y3} \\ A_{Z3} \end{bmatrix}$$

Need to **localize** robot at {A}:

Find ${}^G P_A$ and θ

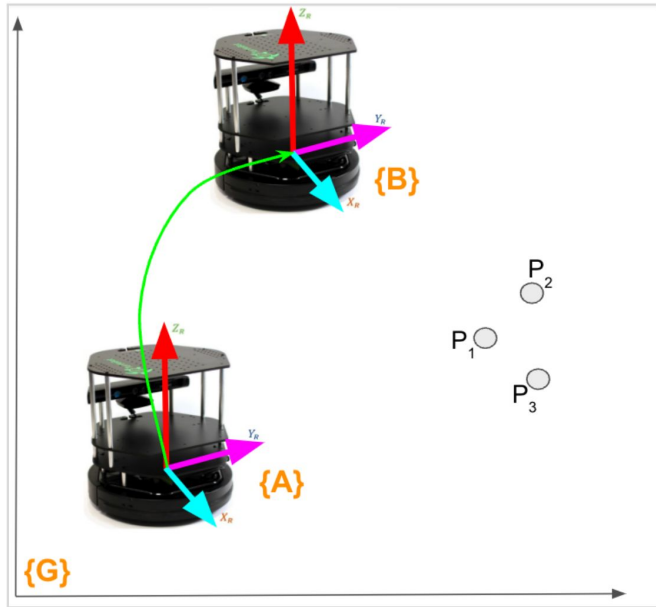
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$${}^G_A T = \begin{bmatrix} {}^G_A R & | & {}^G P_A \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_a & -\sin \theta_a & 0 & x_a \\ \sin \theta_a & \cos \theta_a & 0 & y_a \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} {}^G P_1 + {}^G P_2 &= 2 {}^G P_A + {}^G_A R \cdot ({}^A P_1 + {}^A P_2) \\ {}^G P_A &= \frac{1}{2} ({}^G P_1 + {}^G P_2 - {}^G_A R \cdot ({}^A P_1 + {}^A P_2)) \end{aligned}$$

Solving For Θ



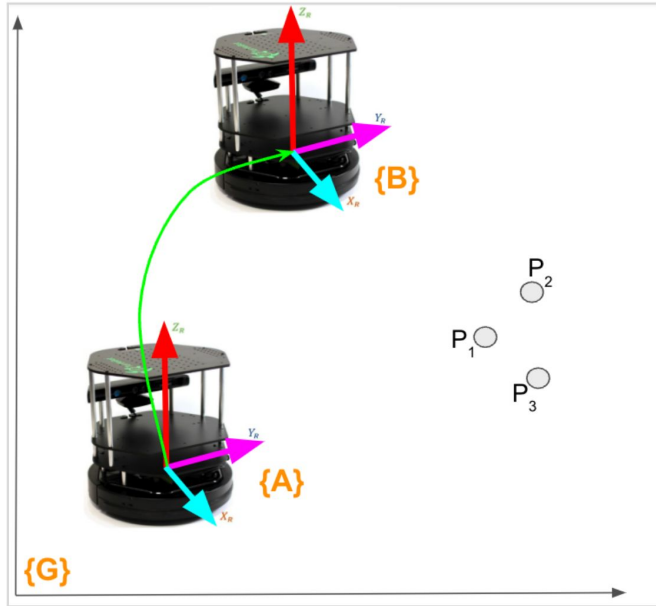
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Solving For θ



$$\begin{bmatrix} {}^G x_1 & -{}^G x_2 \\ {}^G y_1 & -{}^G y_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_a & -\sin \theta_a \\ \sin \theta_a & \cos \theta_a \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} {}^A x_1 & -{}^A x_2 \\ {}^A y_1 & -{}^A y_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

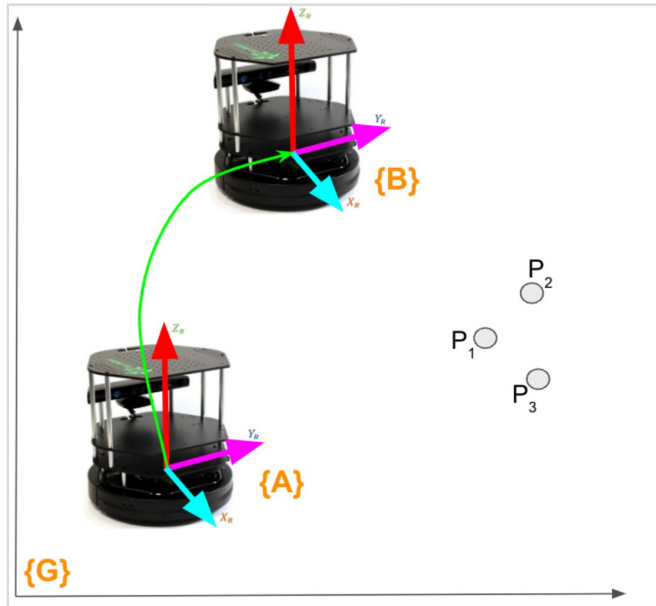
$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} {}^G \Delta x_1 \\ {}^G \Delta y_1 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_a & -\sin \theta_a \\ \sin \theta_a & \cos \theta_a \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} {}^A \Delta x_1 \\ {}^A \Delta y_1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} {}^A \Delta x_1 & -{}^A \Delta y_1 \\ {}^A \Delta y_1 & {}^A \Delta x_1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_a \\ \sin \theta_a \end{bmatrix} \\ &= A \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_a \\ \sin \theta_a \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_a \\ \sin \theta_a \end{bmatrix} = A^{-1} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} {}^G \Delta x_1 \\ {}^G \Delta y_1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{if } \det(A) = ({}^A \Delta x_1)^2 + ({}^A \Delta y_1)^2 \neq 0$$

$$\theta = \text{arctan2}(\sin \theta_a, \cos \theta_a)$$

What happens in $|A| = 0$?

Solving For ${}^G P_A$



$$\begin{aligned} {}^G P_1 &= {}^G P_A + {}^G R \cdot {}^A P_1 \\ {}^G P_2 &= {}^G P_A + {}^G R \cdot {}^A P_2 \\ {}^G P_3 &= {}^G P_A + {}^G R \cdot {}^A P_3 \end{aligned}$$

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Find θ as shown, for the case $|A| \neq 0$
Or use LS formulation

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} {}^G \Delta x_1 \\ {}^G \Delta y_1 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_a & -\sin \theta_a \\ \sin \theta_a & \cos \theta_a \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} {}^A \Delta x_1 \\ {}^A \Delta y_1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} {}^A \Delta x_1 & -{}^A \Delta y_1 \\ {}^A \Delta y_1 & {}^A \Delta x_1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_a \\ \sin \theta_a \end{bmatrix} \\ &= A \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_a \\ \sin \theta_a \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Then find ${}^G P_A$

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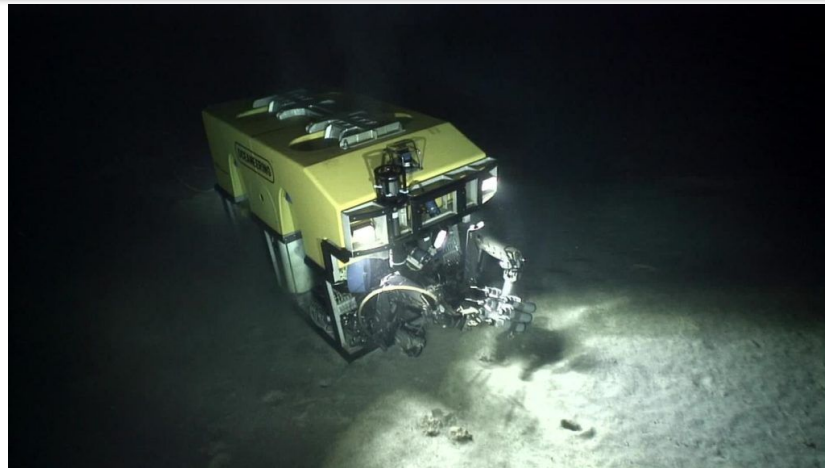
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Localization in 3D from Landmarks

Given: coordinates of 3 non-planar points

$${}^G P_1 = \begin{bmatrix} {}^G x_1 \\ {}^G y_1 \\ {}^G z_1 \end{bmatrix}, {}^G P_2 = \begin{bmatrix} {}^G x_2 \\ {}^G y_2 \\ {}^G z_2 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } {}^G P_3 = \begin{bmatrix} {}^G x_3 \\ {}^G y_3 \\ {}^G z_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

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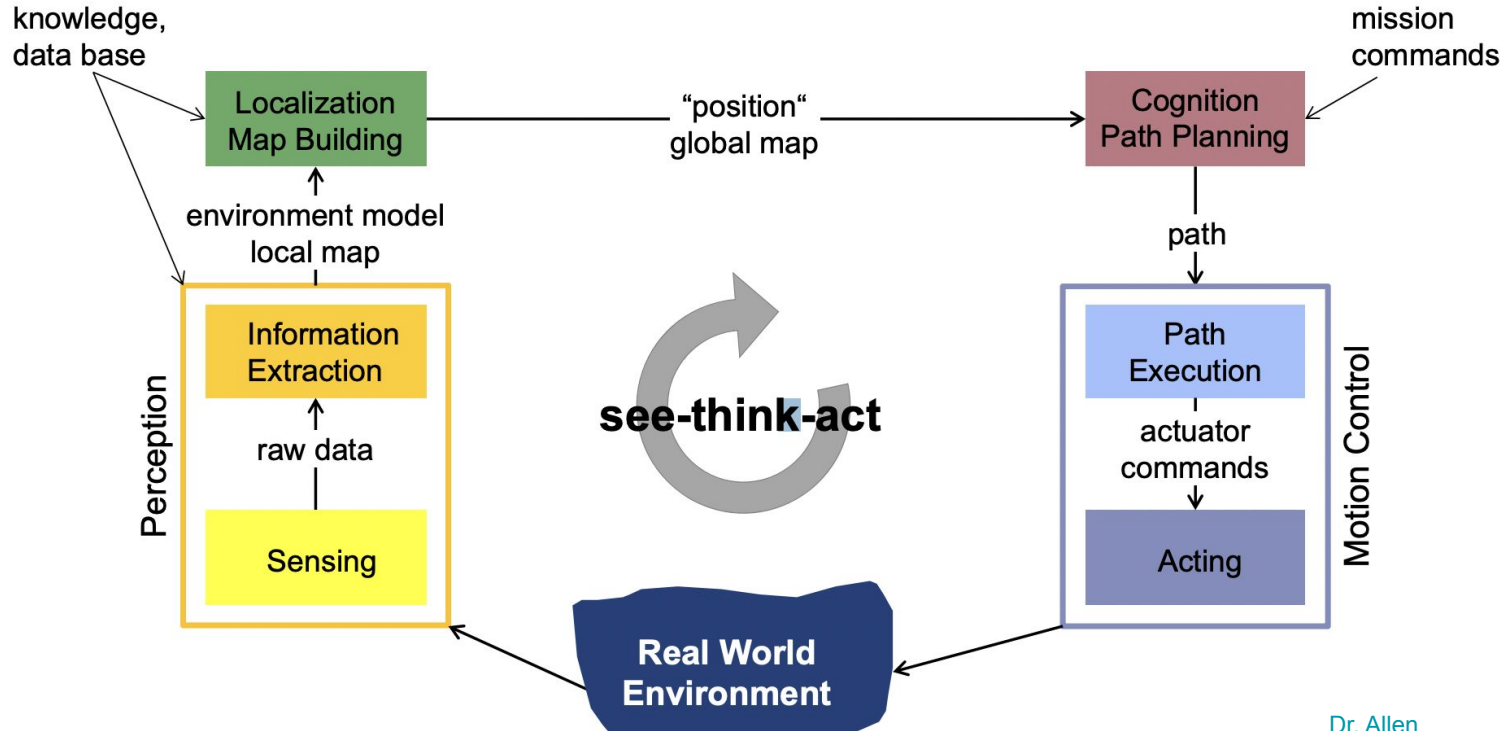


Need to **localize** robot at {A}: ${}^G \mathbf{T}_A = \begin{bmatrix} {}^G R_A & | & {}^G P_A \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Homework 5A

So, find the position ${}^G P_A$ and rotation matrix ${}^G R_A$

Map-based Localization



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Probabilistic Map-based Localization

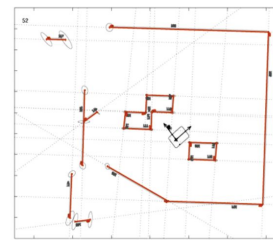
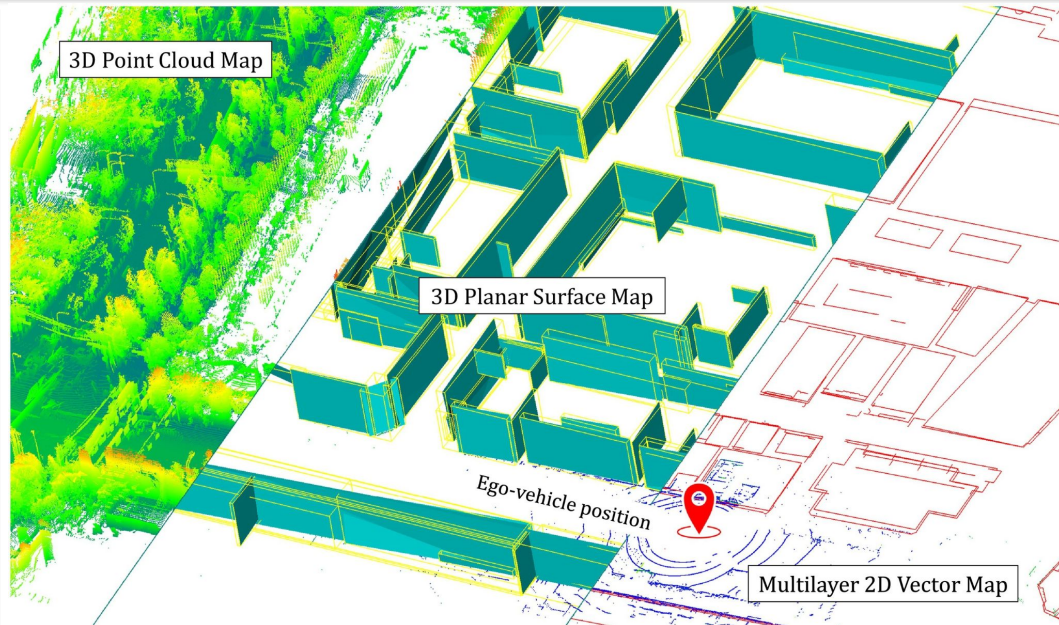
⇒ *Estimating robot pose using the perceived sensory information given a global map*

Challenges

- Measurements and the map are inherently error prone
- Thus the robot has to deal with uncertain information

Probabilistic map-base localization

- The robot estimates the belief state about its position
- Through an ACT and SEE cycle



[Ehsan et al](#)

See – Act – Update

- Robot is placed somewhere in the environment → location unknown
- SEE: The robot queries its sensors → finds itself next to a pillar
- ACT: Robot moves one meter forward
 - motion estimated by wheel encoders
 - accumulation of uncertainty
- SEE: The robot queries its sensors again → finds itself next to a pillar
- Belief updates (information fusion)



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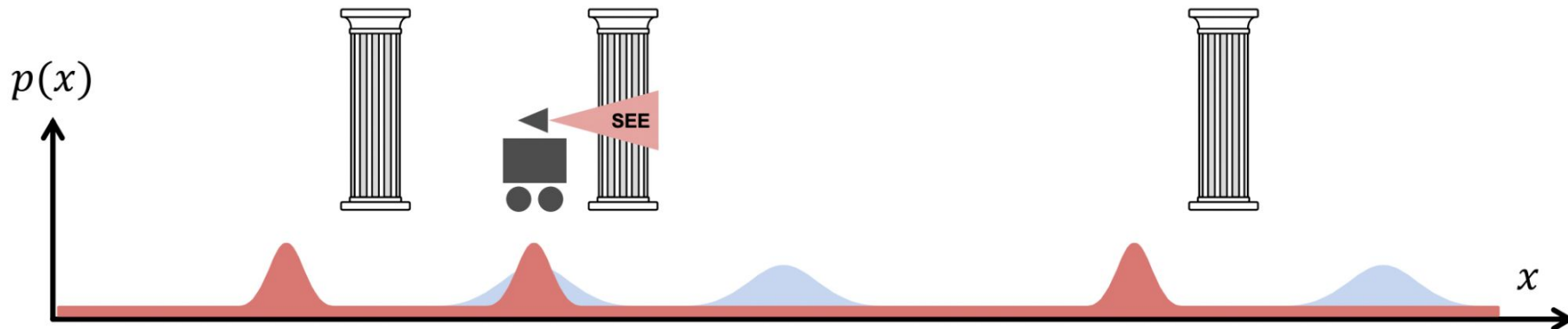
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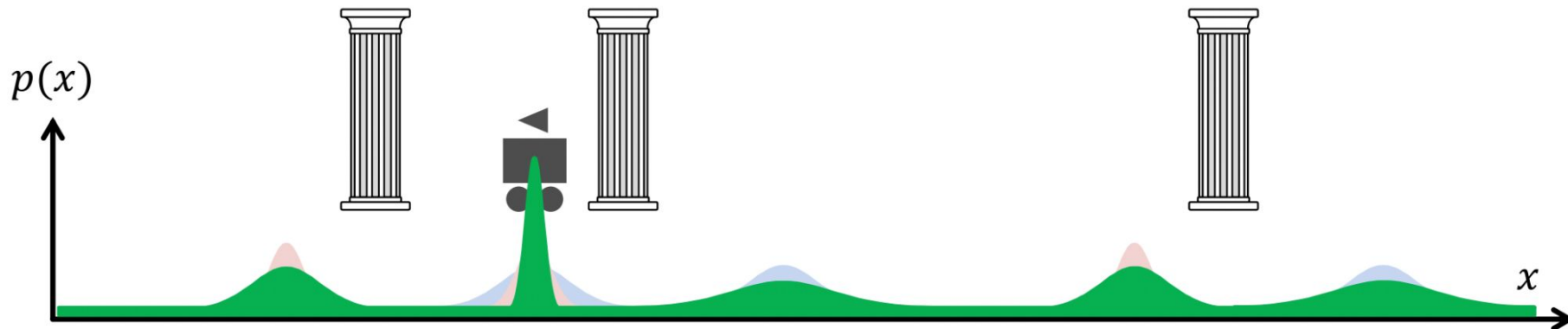
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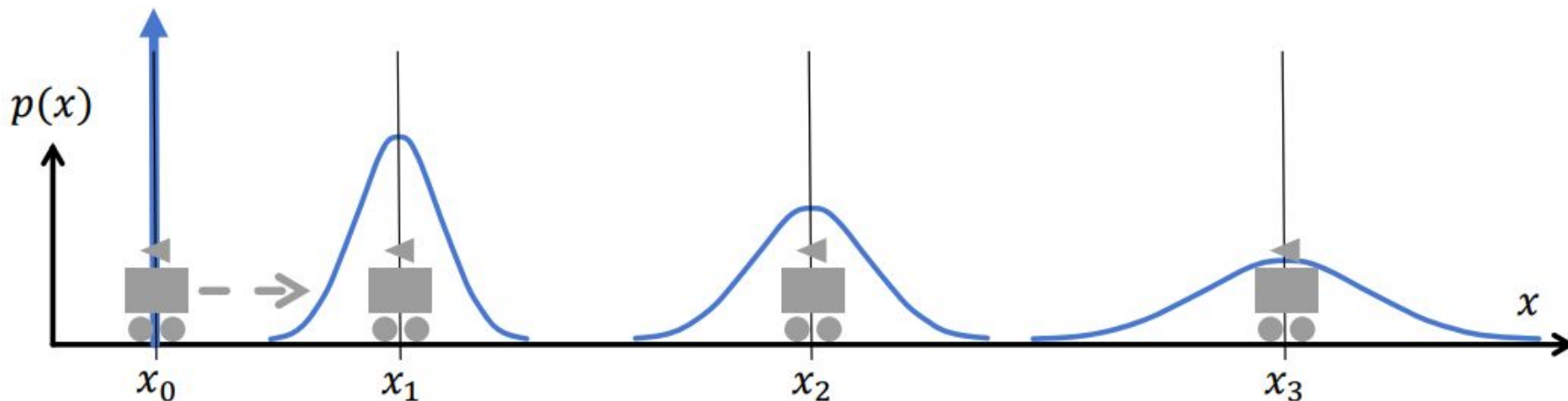
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Motion Model: Uncertainties

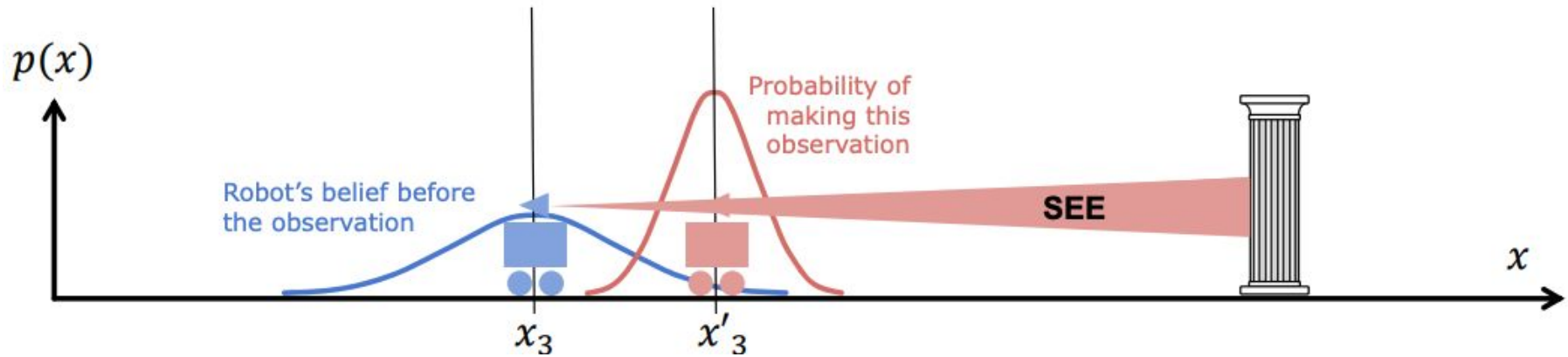
- The robot moves and estimates its position through its proprioceptive sensors
 - Wheel Encoder (Odometry)
- During this step, the robot's state uncertainty grows
 - The uncertainty will go unbounded if we are only 'dead reckoning'
 - Need to update the belief state to keep the uncertainties bounded



Motion Model: Observations

⇒ The state update step requires sensory observation

- The robot makes an observation using its exteroceptive sensors
- This results in a second estimation of the current position

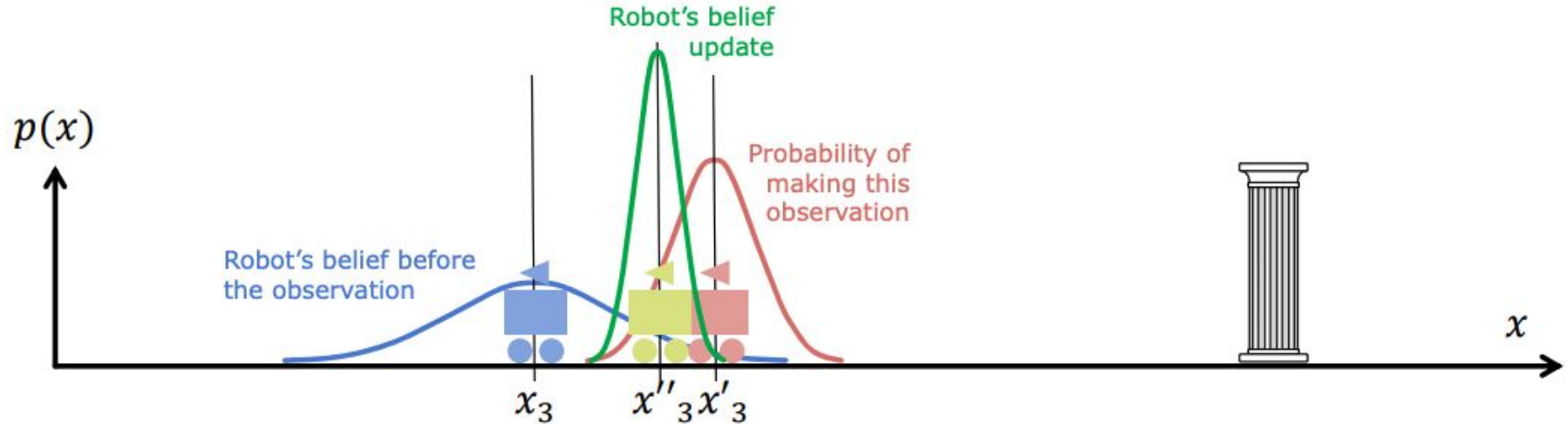


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Motion Model: Belief Updates

⇒ The update step keeps the uncertainties bounded

- The robot corrects its position by combining its belief before the observation
- with the probability of making exactly that observation
- During this step, the robot's state uncertainty shrinks



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Belief Representation

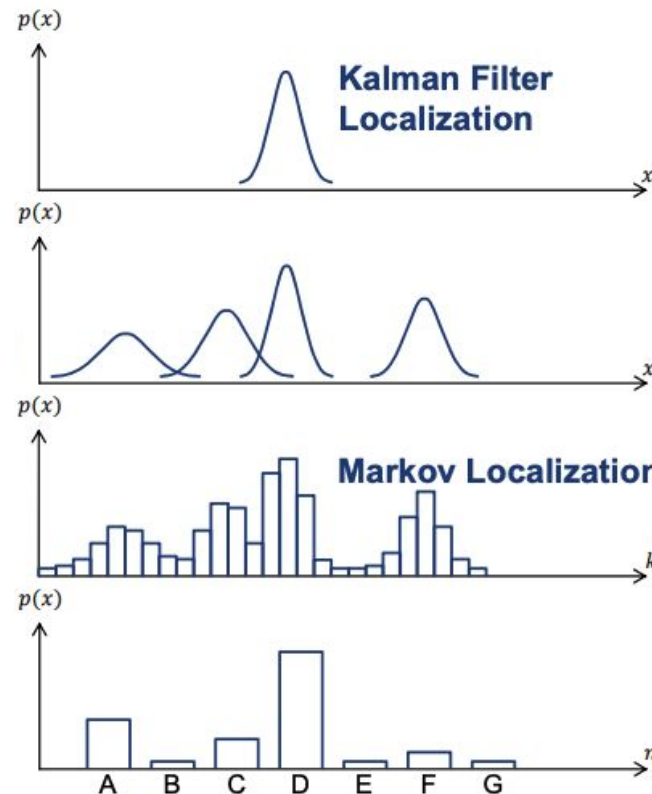
⇒ The Kalman Filtering way

- Continuous map with a probability distribution $p(x)$
- Can have
 - Single hypothesis
 - Multiple hypothesis
- The state is usually represented by $x \in X$: a multivariate Gaussian random variable

⇒ For low-dimensional discrete spaces

- Discretized metric map (grid k) is visualized with a probability distribution $p(k)$
- Often, topological maps (with n nodes) are considered with a probability distribution $p(n)$

We will cover filtering algorithms in the last lecture

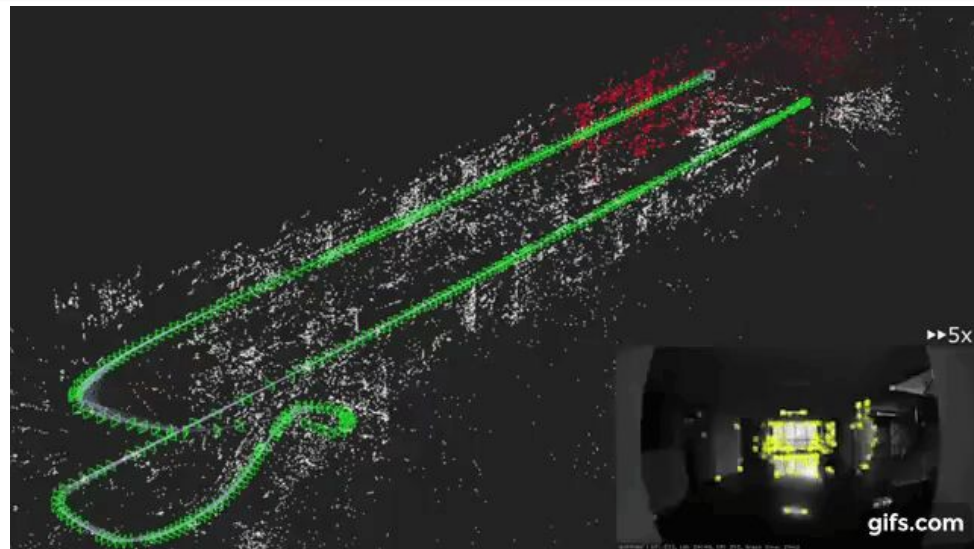
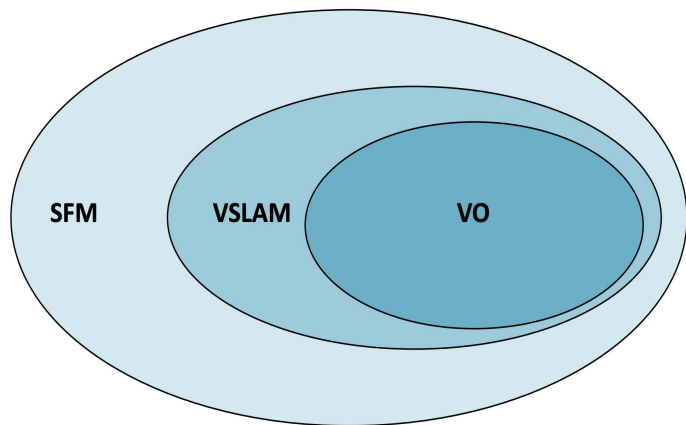


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Localization Without a Map

⇒ Create map on the go

- SLAM: Simultaneous localization & mapping
- Popular SLAM literature
 - Visual SLAM
 - LiDAR-based SLAM
 - Laser-based SLAM (mainly 2D robots)

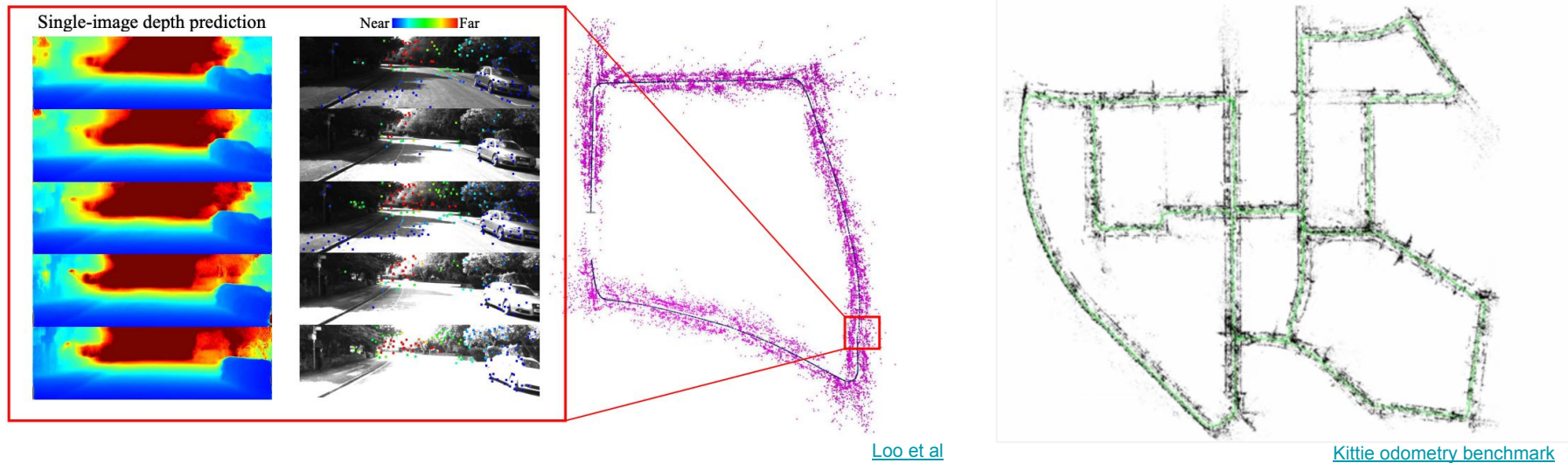


VO: pose recovery from motion of a calibrated camera

VSLAM: VO + place recognition (loop closure) + optimization for global consistency

SfM: Recovers scene structure from unordered cameras at different viewpoints (often uncalibrated cameras)

Visual Odometry (VO)



⇒ **VO**: Estimates camera pose from motion by tracking features across images (aka **keyframes**)

- Map representation: sparse / dense / semi-dense
- Major types:
 - Direct methods
 - Indirect (feature-based) methods

VO: Direct and Semi-Indirect Methods

⇒ Direct (featureless) VO

- Estimate structure and motion directly
 - By minimizing **photometric error**
 - Based on the image's pixel-level intensities
- The local intensity gradients are used in the optimization
- Issues:
 - Have **brightness constancy** assumption
 - Dependent on a good initialization
 - Low computational speed and no optimality guarantees
- Examples: [DSO](#), [LSD-SLAM](#)

⇒ SVO: Semi-Direct VO

- Tracks and triangulates pixels that are characterized by high image gradients, but also relies on feature-based methods for a **joint optimization** for recovering structure and motion

All About Direct Methods

M. Irani¹ and P. Anandan²

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The Weizmann Inst. of Science, Rehovot, Israel.

irani@wisdom.weizmann.ac.il

² Microsoft Research, One Microsoft Way,
Redmond, WA 98052, USA.
anandan@microsoft.com



- [All about direct methods](#)
- [SVO: Semi-direct VO methods](#)

VO: Indirect (Feature-based) Methods

⇒ Indirect (feature-based) methods

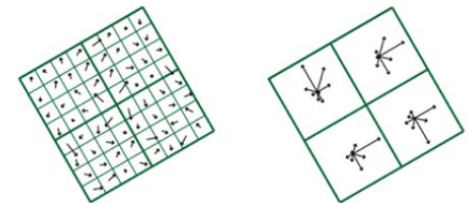
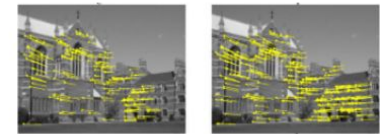
- Follows the traditional SfM idea
 - Extract and match a sparse set of salient image features
 - Then recover both camera motion and structure using the epipolar geometry
 - Establish new feature correspondences with old landmarks when **closing loops**, which increases both the accuracy of the trajectory after **bundle adjustment**
- Issues:
 - Low speed due to feature extraction/matching at each frame
 - The necessity for robust estimation techniques that deal with erroneous correspondences (eg, **RANSAC**)
- Example: [Mono-SLAM](#), [ORB-SLAM](#)

Feature Based Methods for Structure and Motion Estimation

P. H. S. Torr¹ and A. Zisserman²

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philtorr@microsoft.com

² Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford
Oxford, OX1 3PJ, UK
az@robots.ox.ac.uk



- [All about direct methods](#)
- [SVO: Semi-direct VO methods](#)

DSO: Direct Sparse Odometry

⇒ Sparse + Indirect

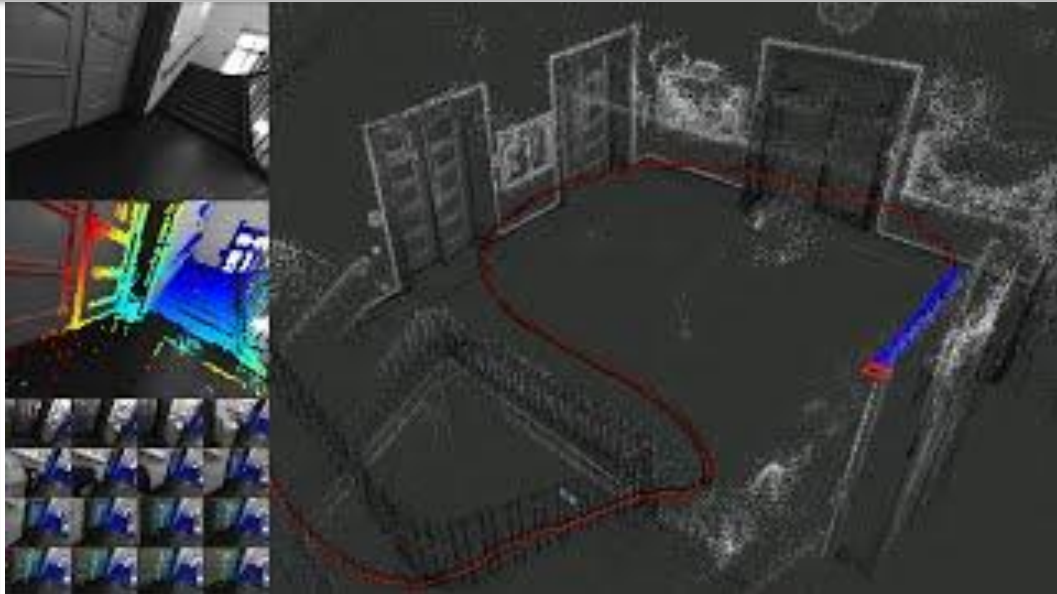
- Traditional SfM + BA pipeline
- Ex: [Mono-SLAM](#), [ORB-SLAM](#)

⇒ Dense + Indirect

- Estimates 3D geometry from/with a dense, regularized optical flow field
- Combines a geometric error (from flow field) with a prior (smoothness)
- [Ranftl et al](#)

⇒ Dense + Direct

- Employs a photometric error and a geometric prior to estimate dense or semi-dense geometry
- Ex: [DTAM](#), [LSD-SLAM](#)



<https://youtu.be/C6-xwSOOdgQ>

⇒ DSO: Direct + Sparse

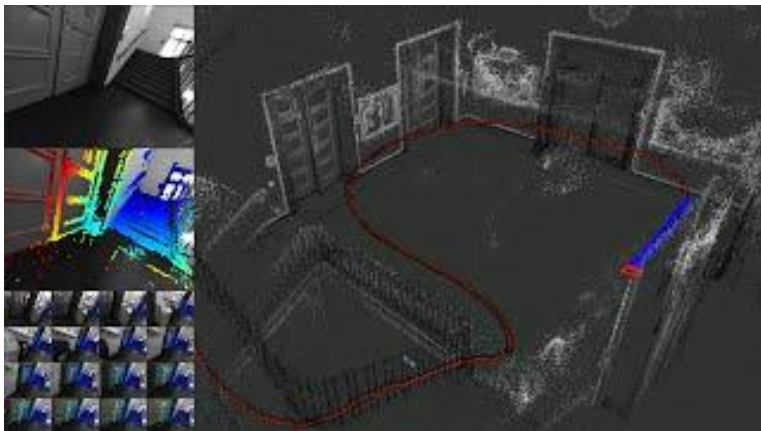
- Optimizes a photometric error defined directly on the images, without using a geometric prior

Important Papers: DSO

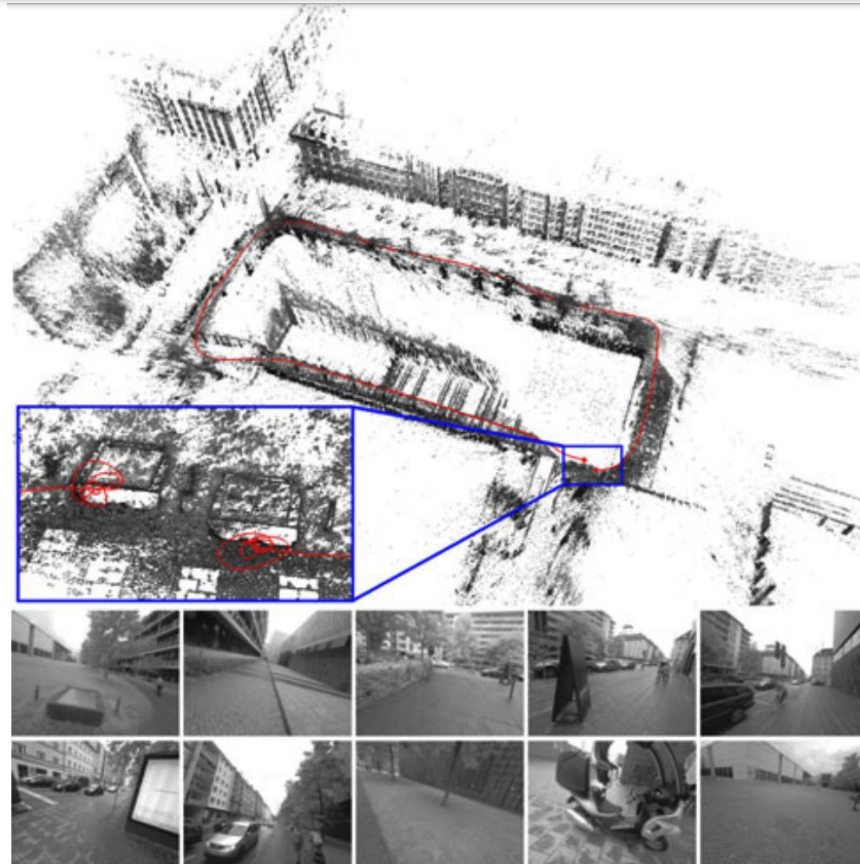
Direct Sparse Odometry

Jakob Engel ¹, Vladlen Koltun, and Daniel Cremers

Abstract—Direct Sparse Odometry (DSO) is a visual odometry method based on a novel, highly accurate sparse and direct structure and motion formulation. It combines a fully direct probabilistic model (minimizing a photometric error) with consistent, joint optimization of all model parameters, including geometry-represented as inverse depth in a reference frame-and camera motion. This is achieved in real time by omitting the smoothness prior used in other direct methods and instead sampling pixels evenly throughout the images. Since our method does not depend on keypoint detectors or descriptors, it can naturally sample pixels from across all image regions that have intensity gradient, including edges or smooth intensity variations on essentially featureless walls. The proposed model integrates a full photometric calibration, accounting for exposure time, lens vignetting, and non-linear response functions. We thoroughly evaluate our method on three different datasets comprising several hours of video. The experiments show that the presented approach significantly outperforms state-of-the-art direct and indirect methods in a variety of real-world settings, both in terms of tracking accuracy and robustness.



<https://youtu.be/C6-xwSOOdqQ>

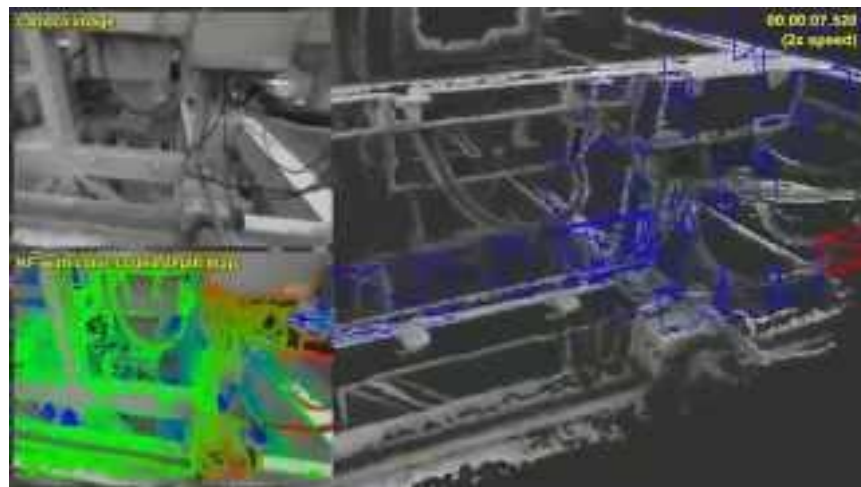


Important Papers: LSD-SLAM

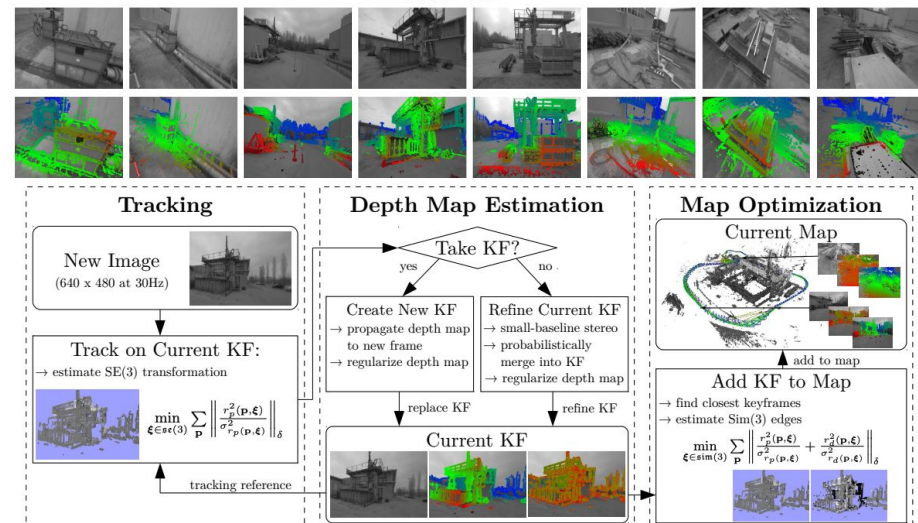
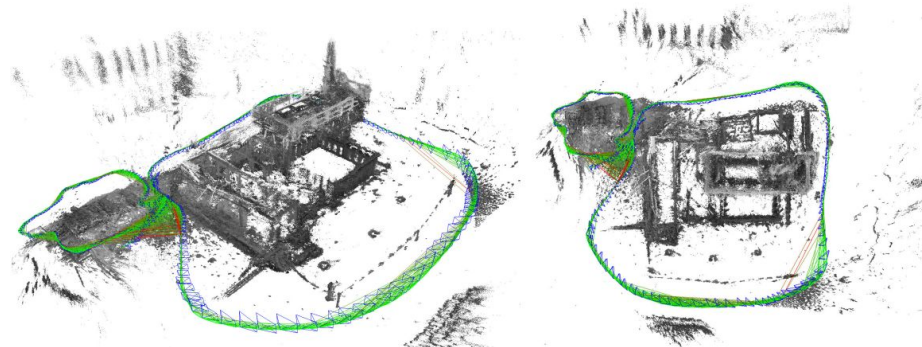
LSD-SLAM: Large-Scale Direct Monocular SLAM

Jakob Engel and Thomas Schöps and Daniel Cremers

Technical University Munich



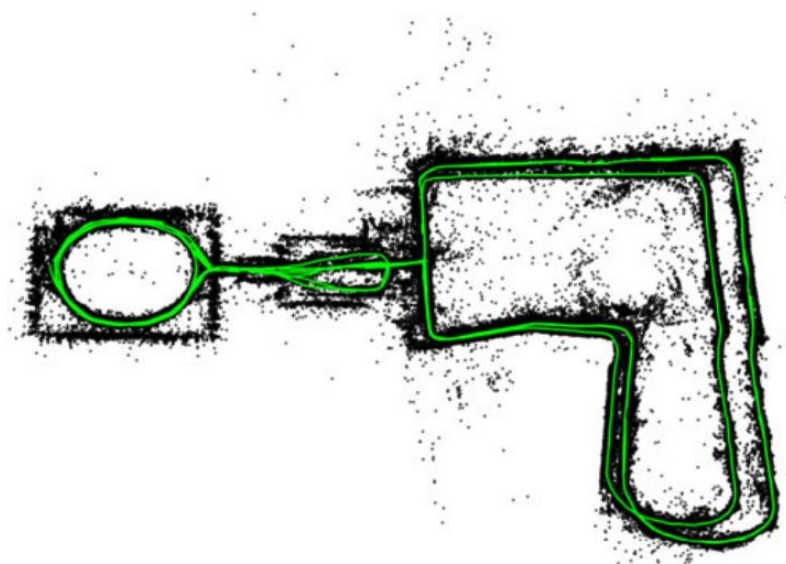
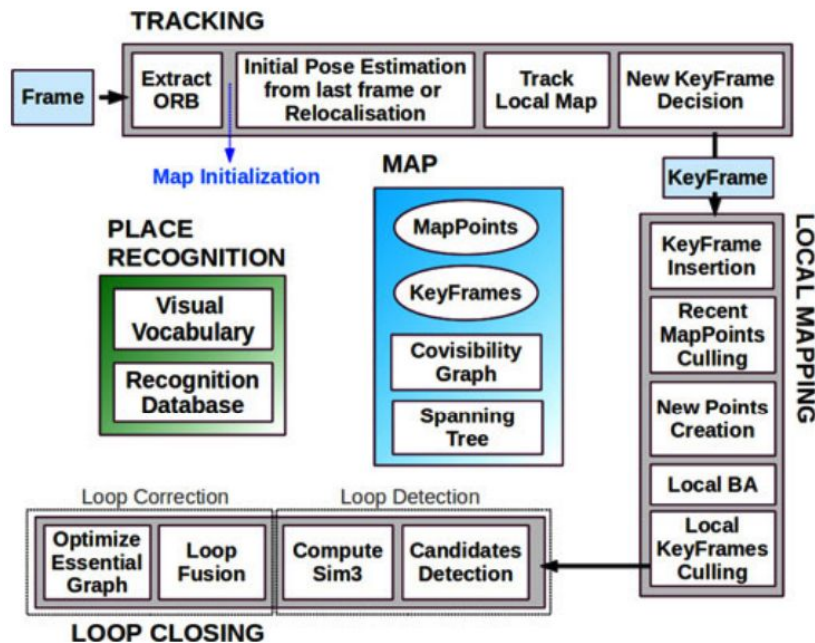
[Project page](https://youtu.be/GnuQzP3qtv4) <https://youtu.be/GnuQzP3qtv4>



Important Papers: ORB-SLAM

ORB-SLAM: A Versatile and Accurate Monocular SLAM System

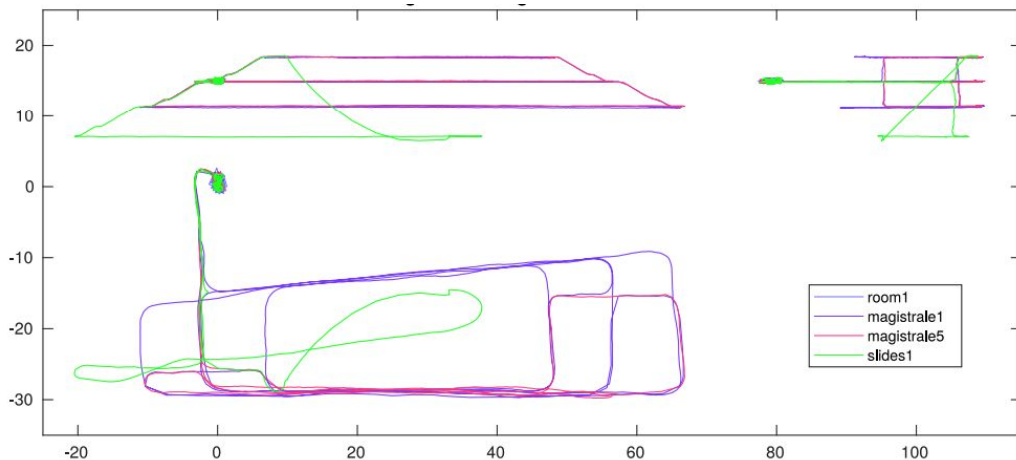
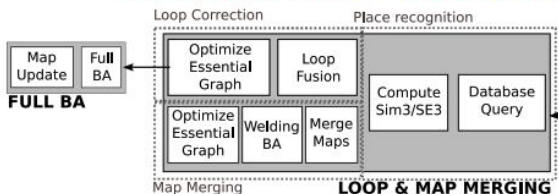
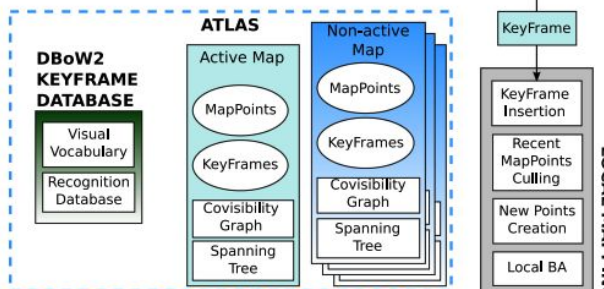
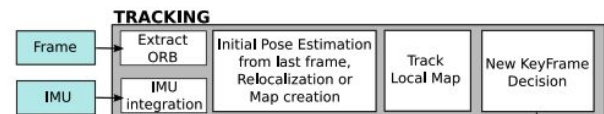
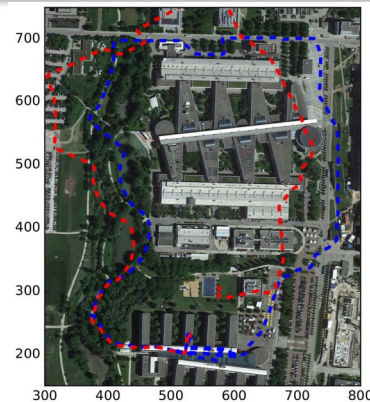
Raúl Mur-Artal, J. M. M. Montiel, *Member, IEEE*, and Juan D. Tardós, *Member, IEEE*



Important Papers: ORB-SLAM3

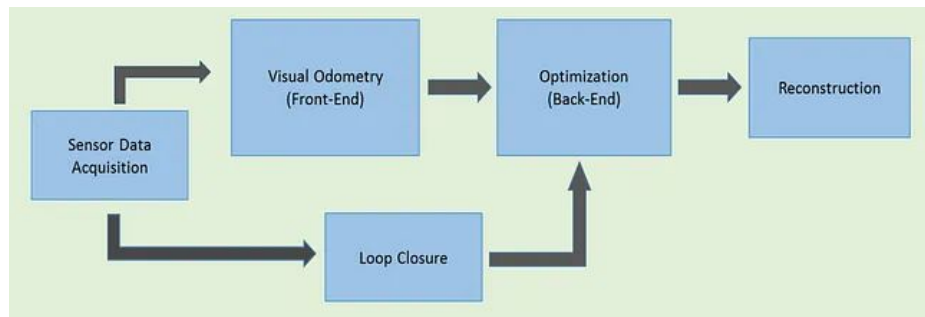
ORB-SLAM3: An Accurate Open-Source Library for Visual, Visual-Inertial, and Multimap SLAM

Carlos Campos ¹, Richard Elvira ¹, Juan J. Gómez Rodríguez ¹, *Graduate Student Member, IEEE*, José M. M. Montiel ¹, *Member, IEEE*, and Juan D. Tardós ², *Senior Member, IEEE*



VO and VSLAM and Lidar-based SLAM

⇒ VSLAM = VO + Loop closure + Global optimization



[blog](#)

- VO provides only local/relative estimates, and the path is refined online with windowed optimization.
- VSLAM provides a global and consistent estimate
 - The detection of loop closure reduces the drift in both the map and the trajectory estimates
 - By performing bundle adjustment (BA)



SLAM intro in 5 min: <https://youtu.be/BuRCJ2fegcc>



<https://youtu.be/5O8VmDiab3w>

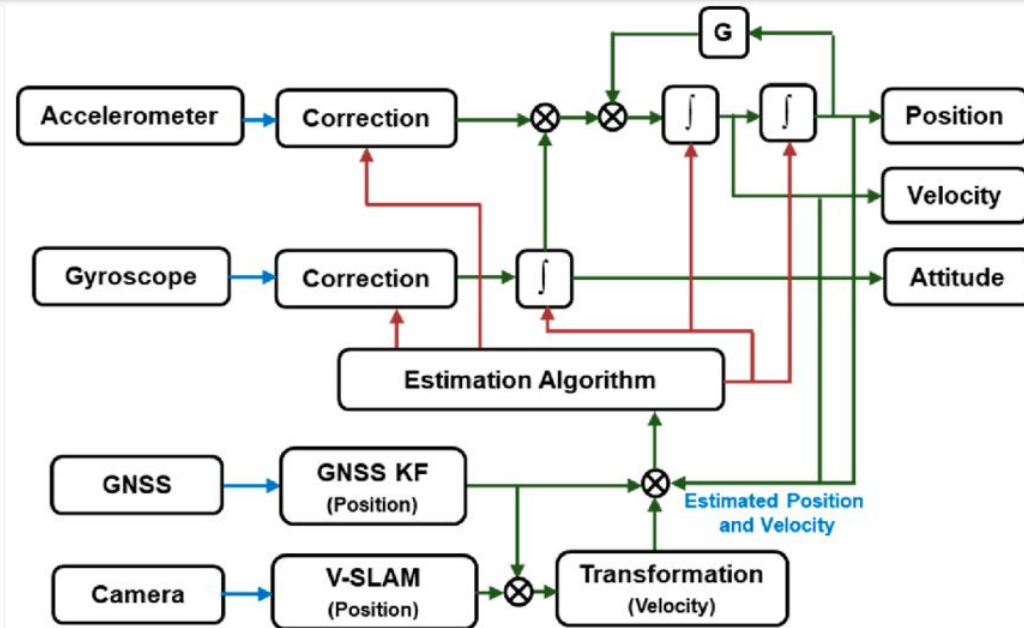
Visual Inertial Odometry (VIO)

⇒ **VIO**: VO (pose estimates) + IMU (error correction / scale)

- Uses VO to estimate camera pose from motion
- Inertial measurements from the IMU are used for error corrections associated with rapid motion

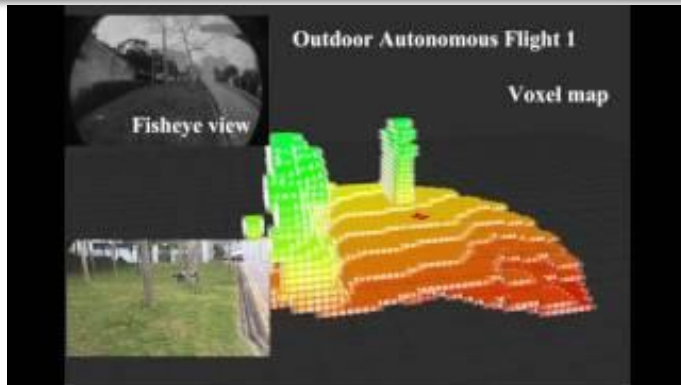
⇒ Backbone of **VINs (Visual Inertial Navigation Systems)**

- Uses camera+IMU sensory fusion to estimate robot pose in real-time
- [VINs review paper](#)
- [ICRA-2019 workshop tutorial](#)

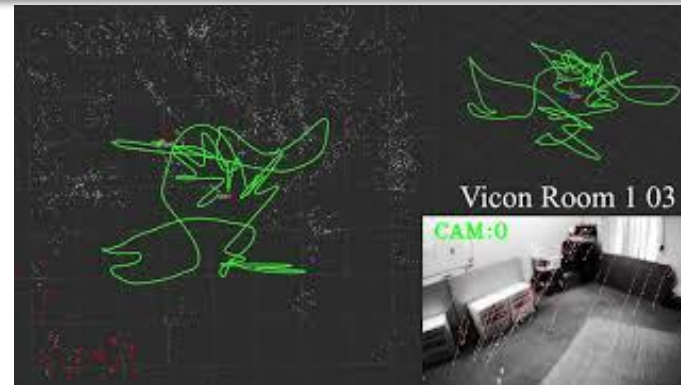


[Chiang et al](#)

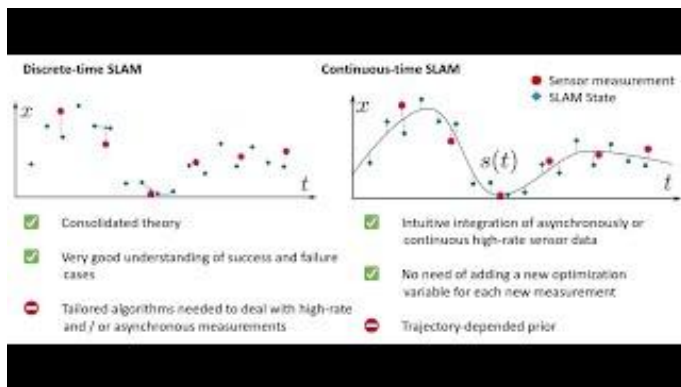
Intro to VINs



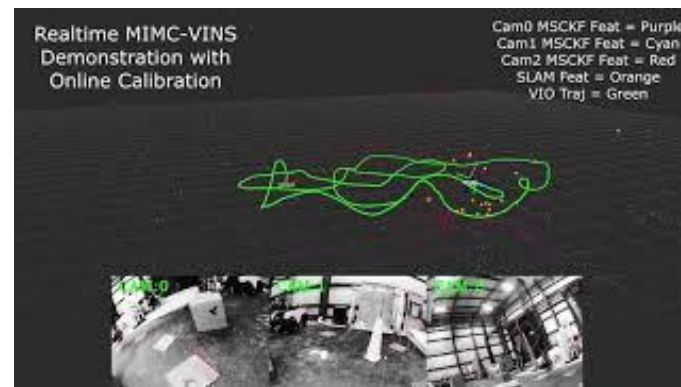
Monocular VINS: <https://youtu.be/FalwEIOc2Y8>



OpenVINS: <https://youtu.be/187AXuuGNNw>



VIO and SLAM Playlist by UZH (RAL 2022)



Multi-Camera Multi-IMU: <https://youtu.be/my1IidJ4irY>