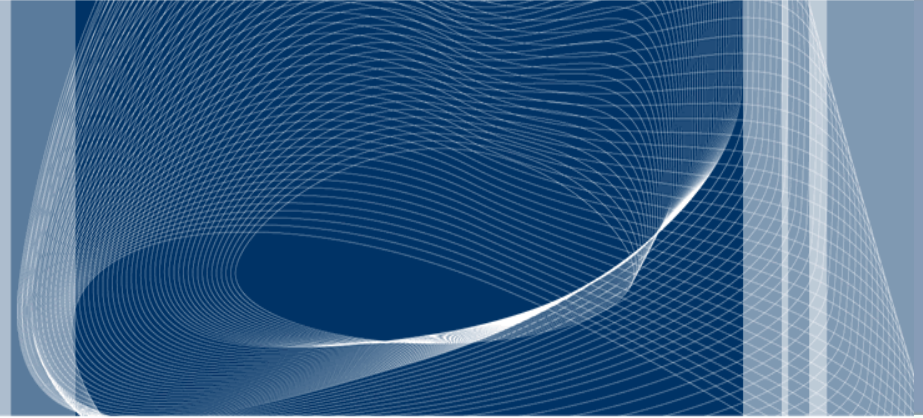POLITECNICO DI MILANO

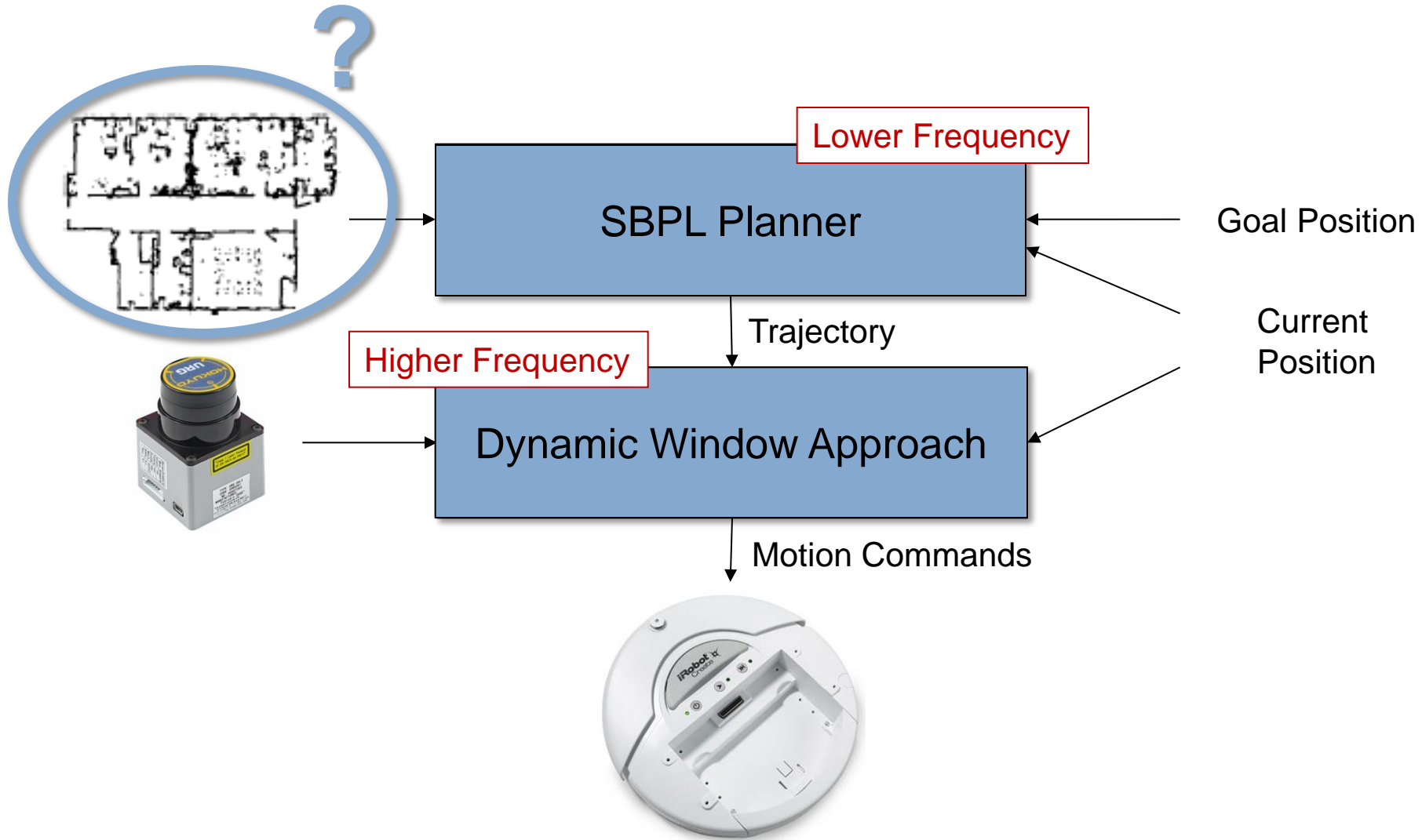# Cognitive Robotics – SLAM with Lasers
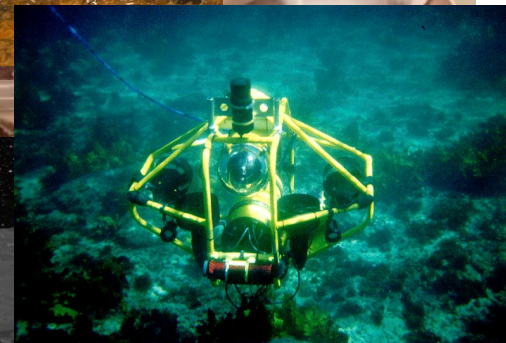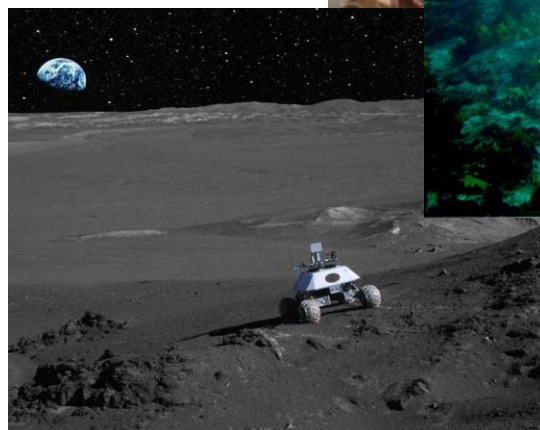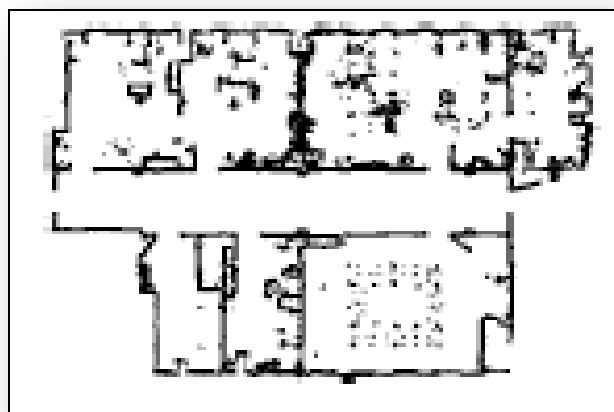
Matteo Matteucci – matteo.matteucci@polimi.it

Where Am I?

To perform their tasks autonomous robots and unmanned vehicles need
- To know where they are (e.g., Global Positioning System)
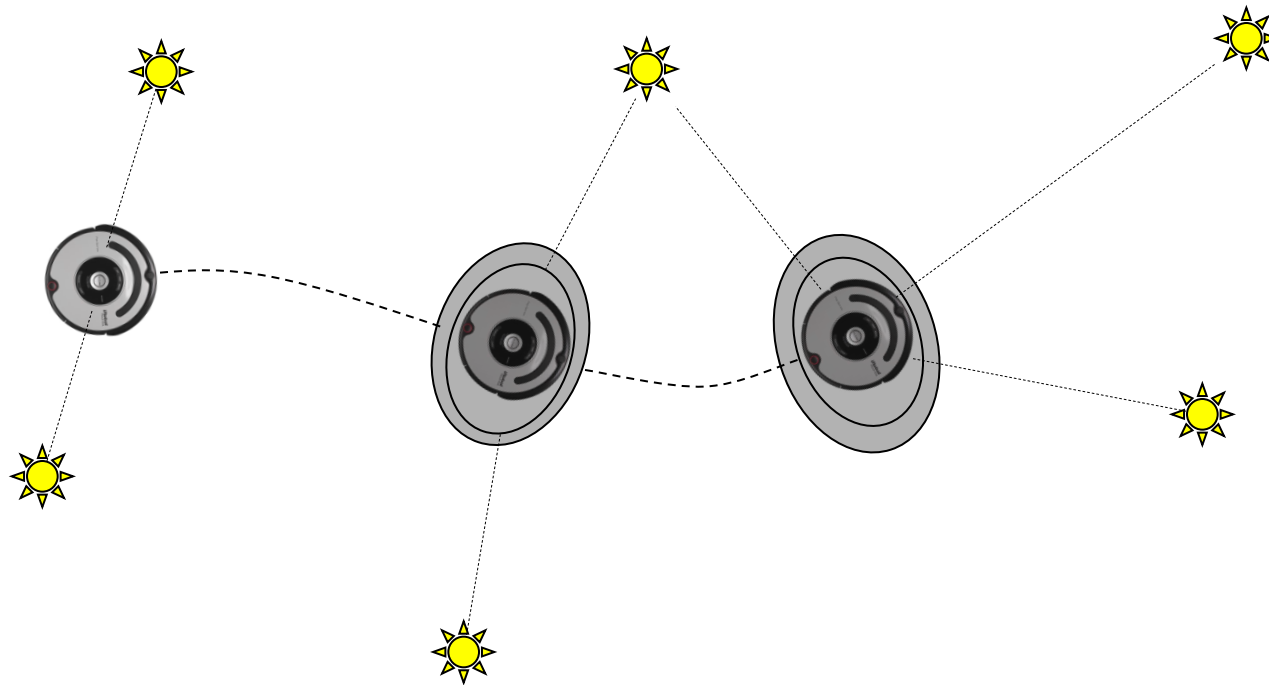- To know the environment map (e.g., Geographical Institutes Maps)

These are not always possible or reliable
- GNSS are not always reliable/available
- Not all places have been mapped
- Environment changes dynamically
- Maps need to be updated

POLITECNICO DI MILANO

trajectory

map
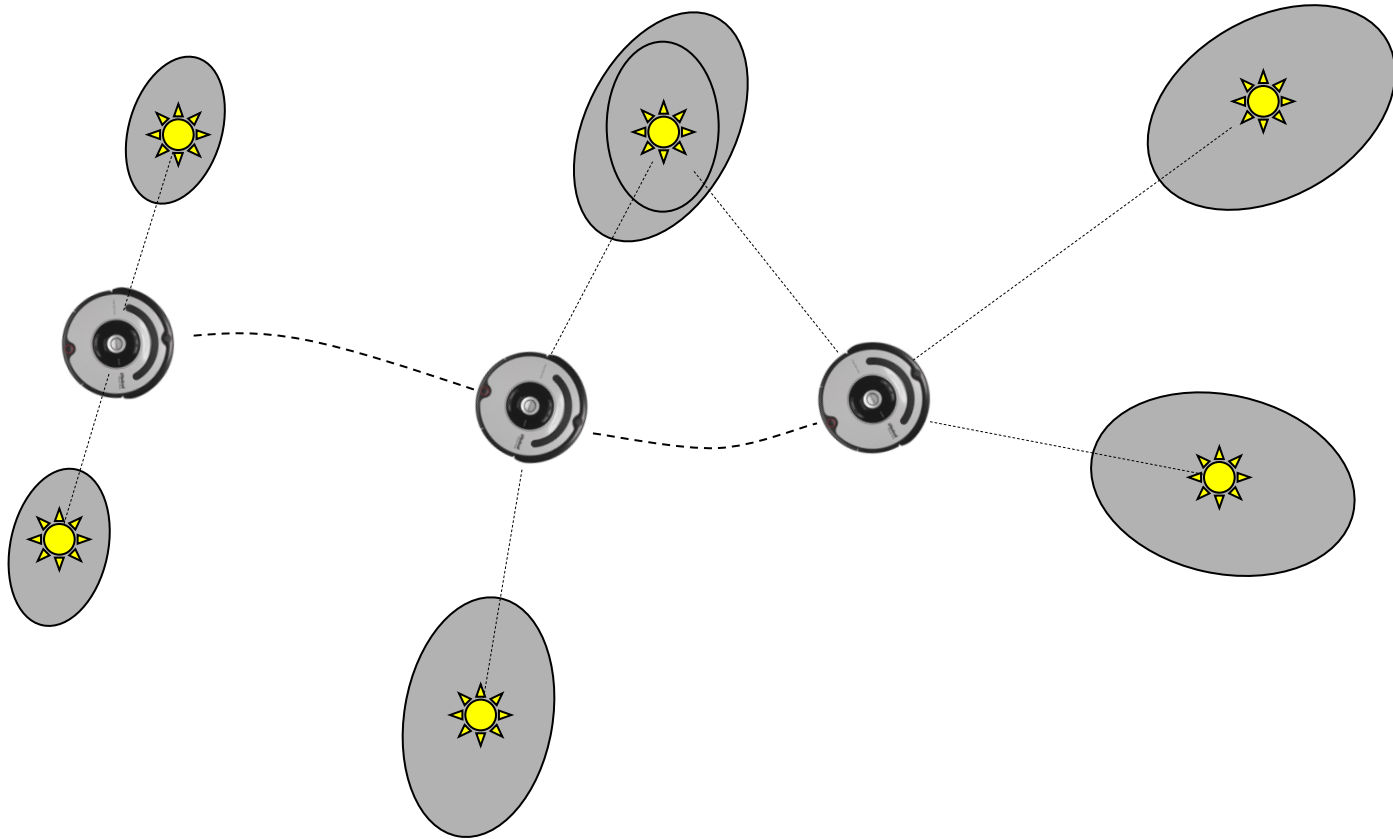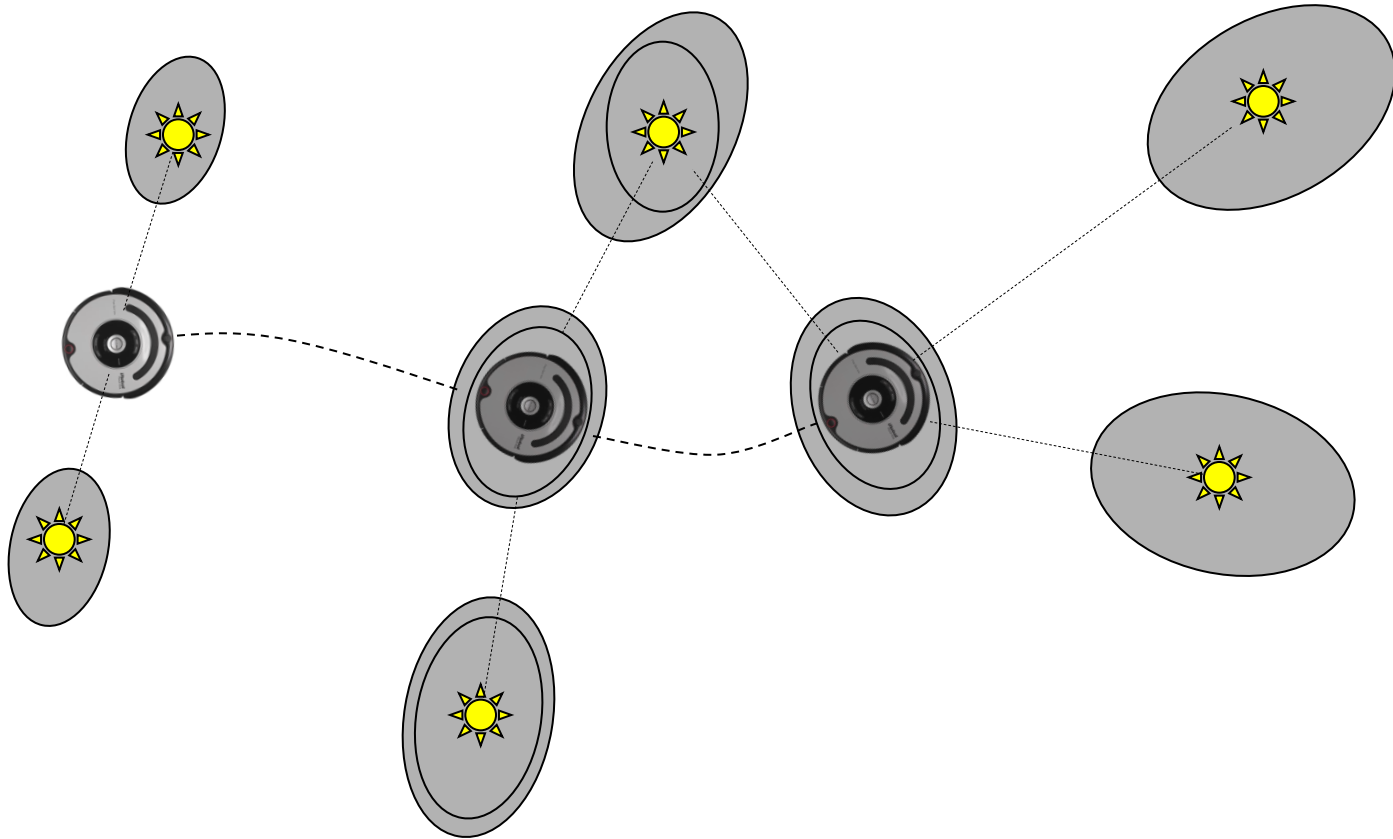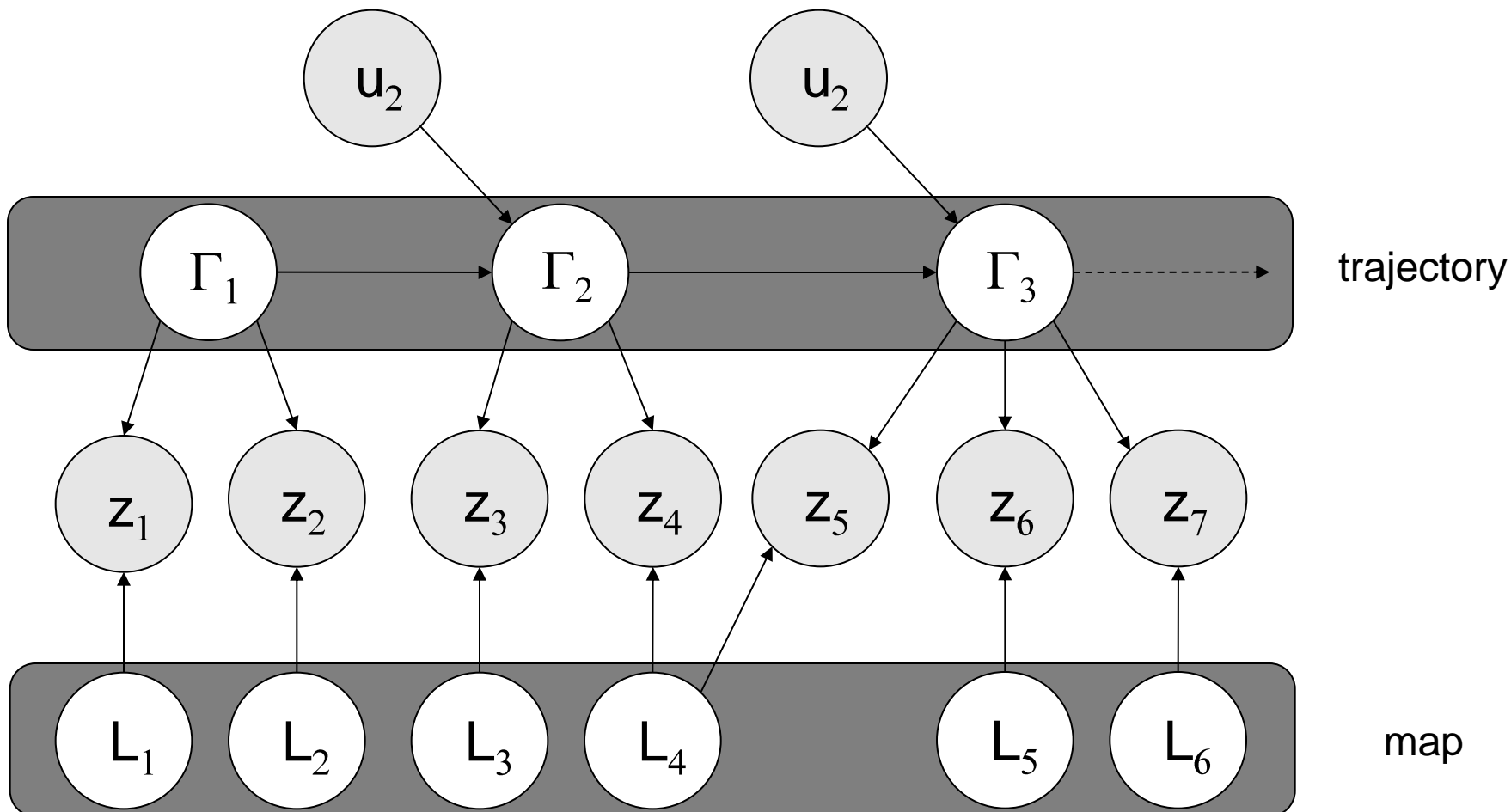
$$\text{Smoothing} \quad : \quad p\,(\Gamma_{1:t}, l_1, \ldots, l_N \mid Z_{1:t}, U_{1:t})$$
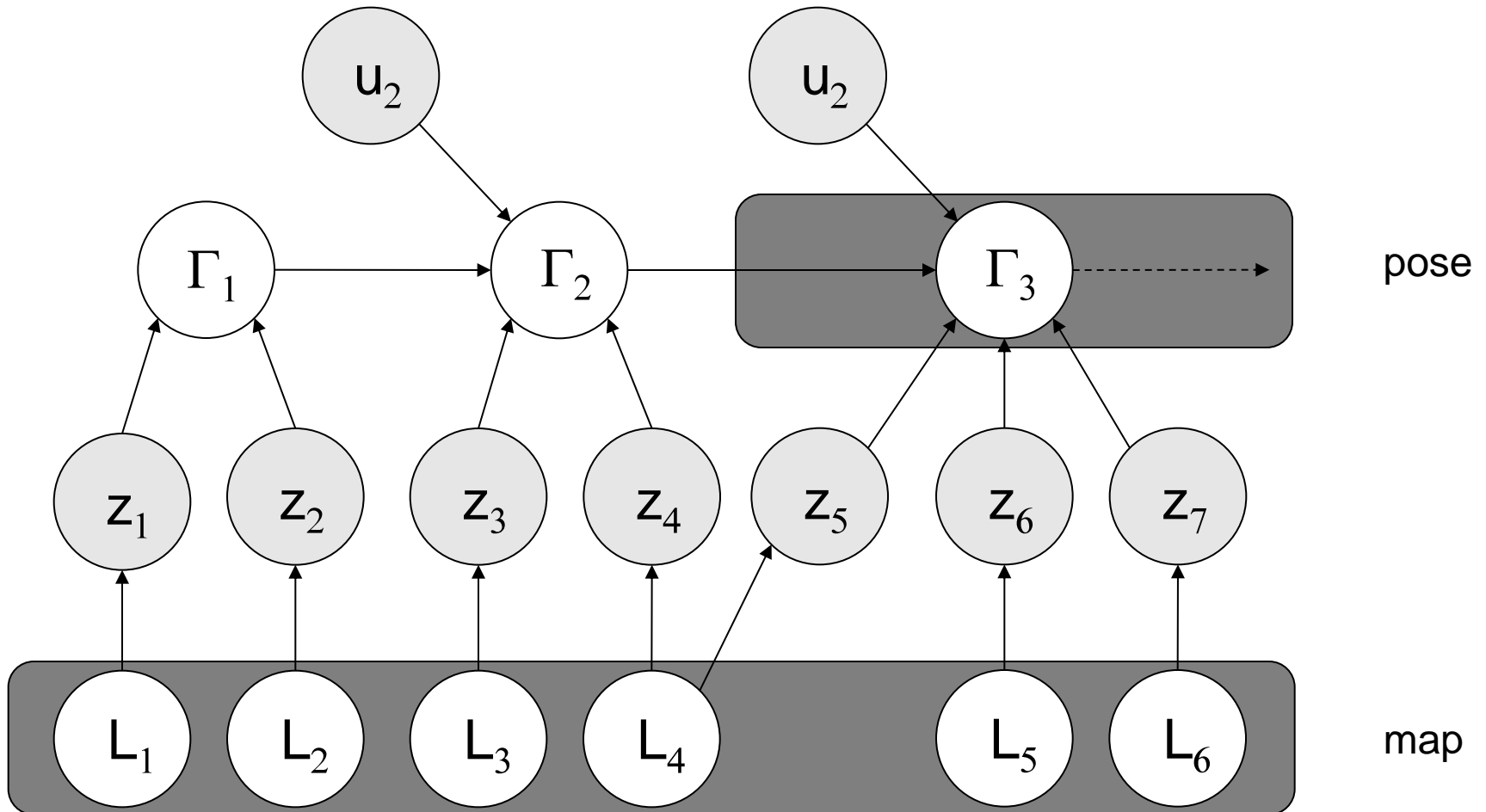
Filtering :
$$p(\Gamma_t, l_1, \ldots, l_N \mid Z_{1:t}, U_{1:t}) = \underset{1:t-1}{\iiint} p(\Gamma_{1:t}, l_1, \ldots, l_N \mid Z_{1:t}, U_{1:t})$$

Landmark-based
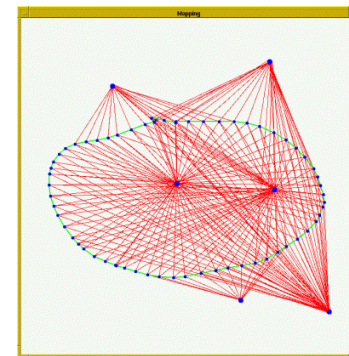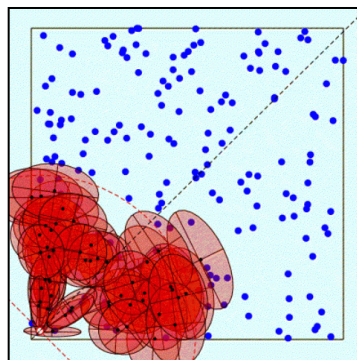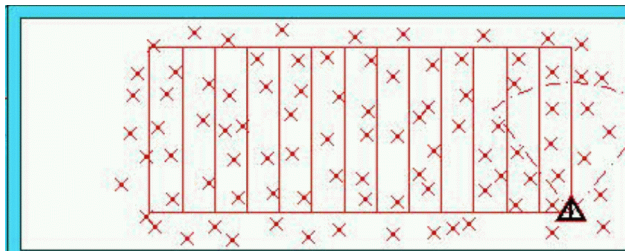
[Leonard et al., 98; Castelanos et al., 99: Dissanayake et al., 2001; Montemerlo et al., 2002;…]

Grid maps or scans
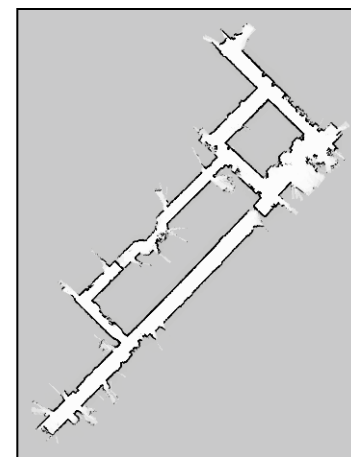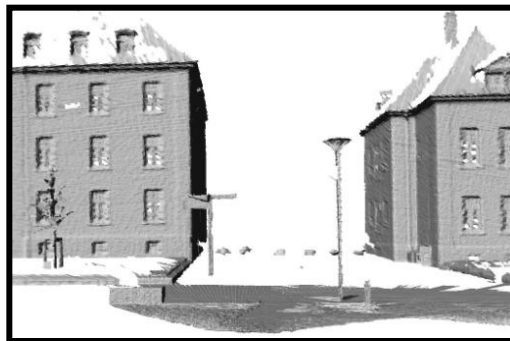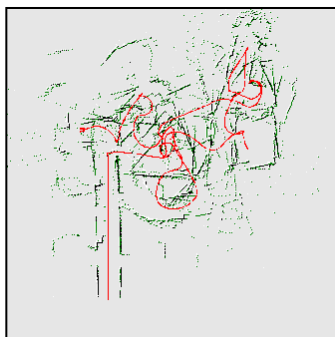
[Lu & Milios, 97; Gutmann, 98: Thrun 98; Burgard, 99; Konolige & al., 00; Thrun, 00; Arras, 99; Haehnel, 01;…]

A simple 2D representation for the map

- Each cell is assumed independent
- Probability of a cell being occupied is being estimated through the Bayes theorem
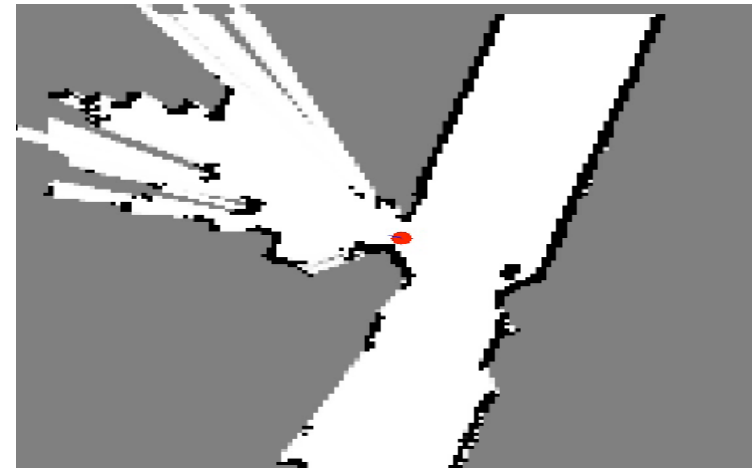
$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)} = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B|A)P(A) + P(B|\neg A)P(\neg A)}$$

Maps the environment as an array of cells

- Cell sizes range from 5 to 50 cm
- Each cell holds a probability value that the cell is occupied
- Useful for combining different sensor scans, and even different sensor modalities

Obstacle

Free space

Robot

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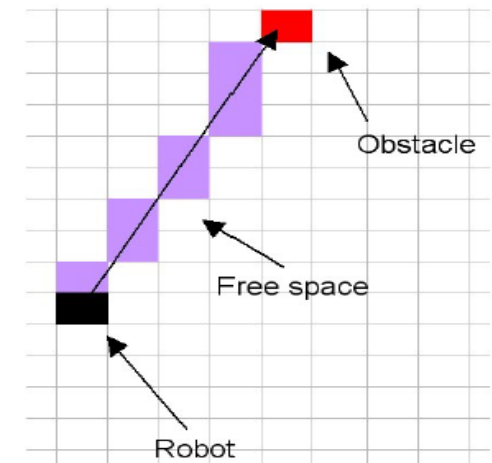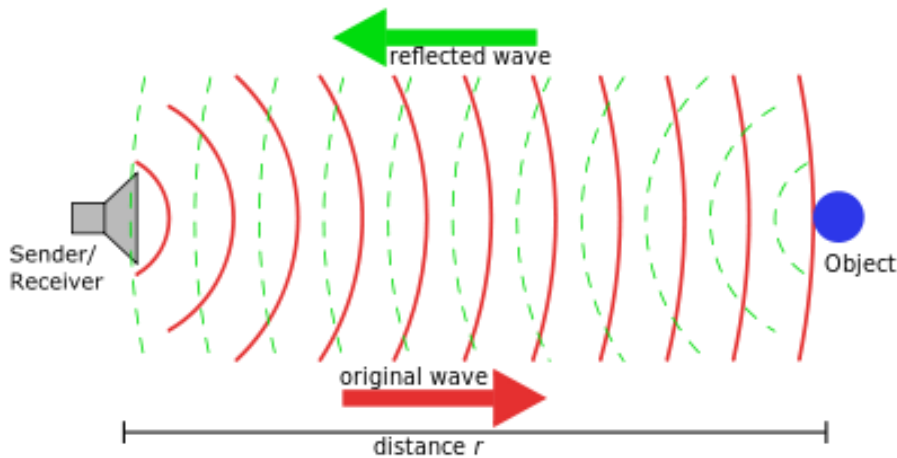
An US wave is sent by a transducer

- Time of flight is measured
- Distance is computed from it
- Obstacle could be anywhere on the arc at distance D
- The space closer than D is likely to be free.
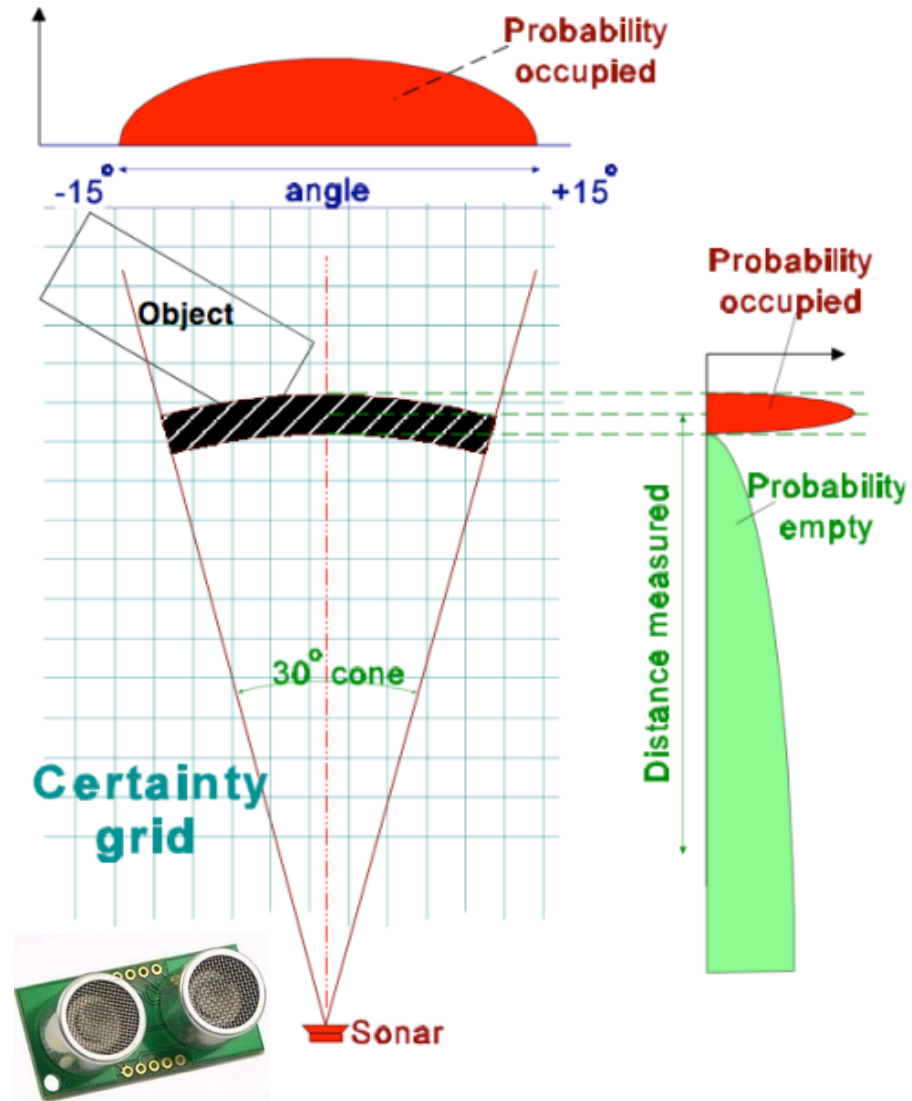
The most simple occupancy model uses

- A 2D Gaussian for information about occupancy
- Another 2D Gaussian for free space

Sonar sensors present several issues

- A wide sonar cone creates noisy maps
- Specular (multi-path) reflections generates unrealistic measurements
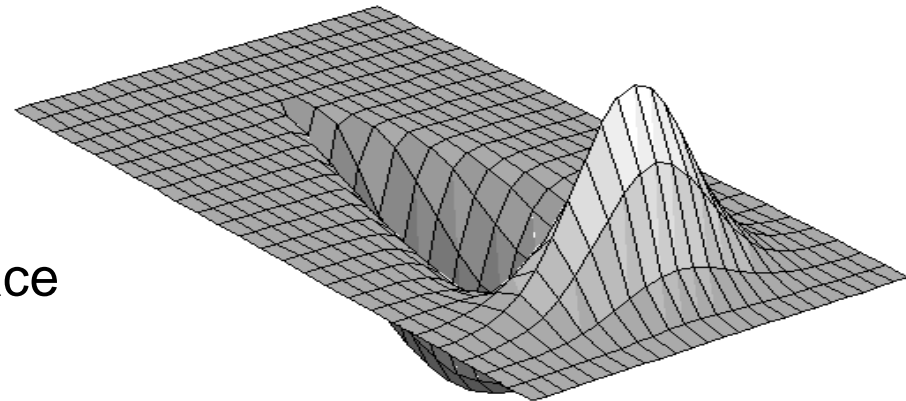
Moravec 1984
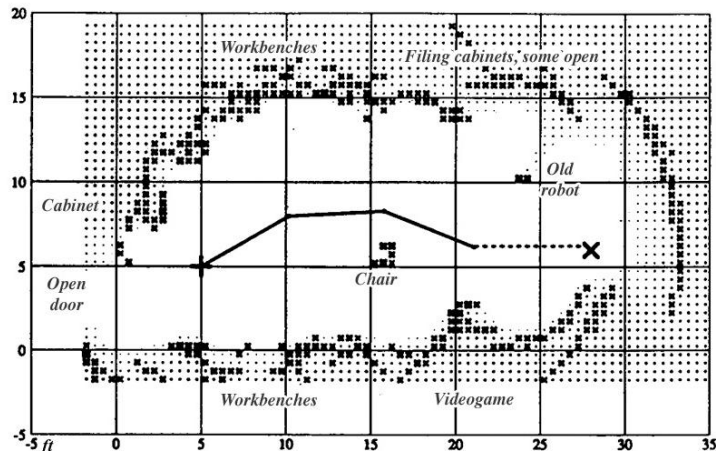
Room traverse by grid map from SONAR
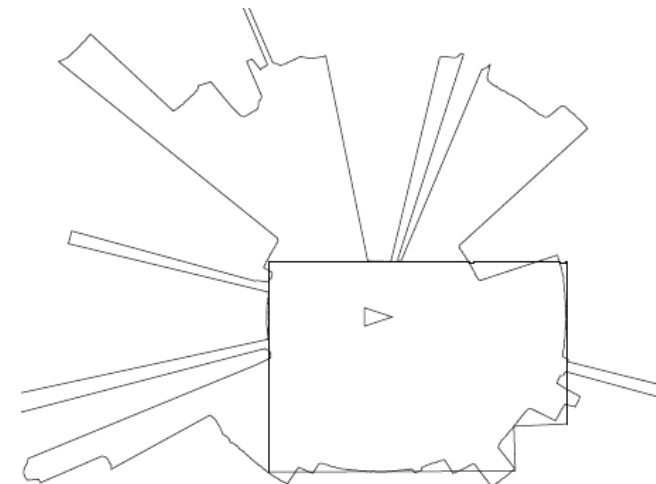
0.5 meters

Laser Range Finder Sensor Model

Lasers are definitely more accurate sensors

- 180 ranges over 180°
  (up to 360 in some models)

- 1 to 64 planes scanned

- 10-75 scans/second

- <1cm range resolution

- Max range up to 50-80 m

- Problems only with mirrors, glass, and matte bla
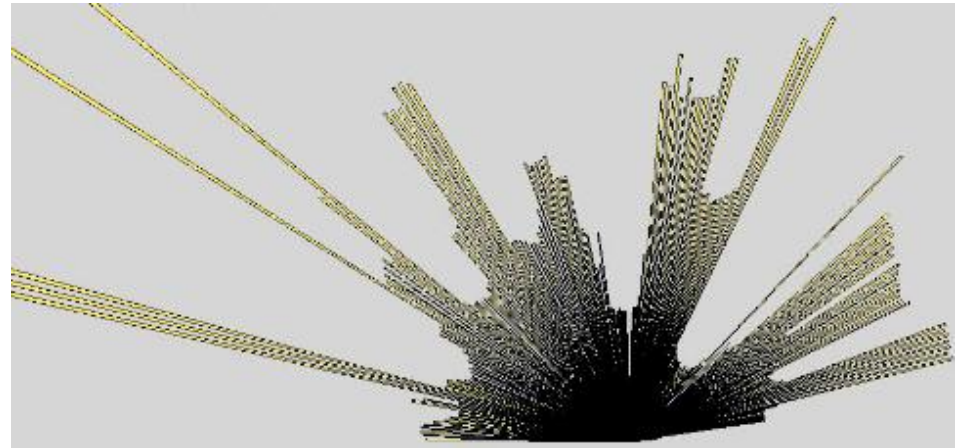
< 1000 €

~ 6000 €

~ 40.000 €

> 80.000 €

The laser range finder model describe each single measurement using

Measurement noise

$$0 \qquad z_{exp} \qquad z_{max}$$
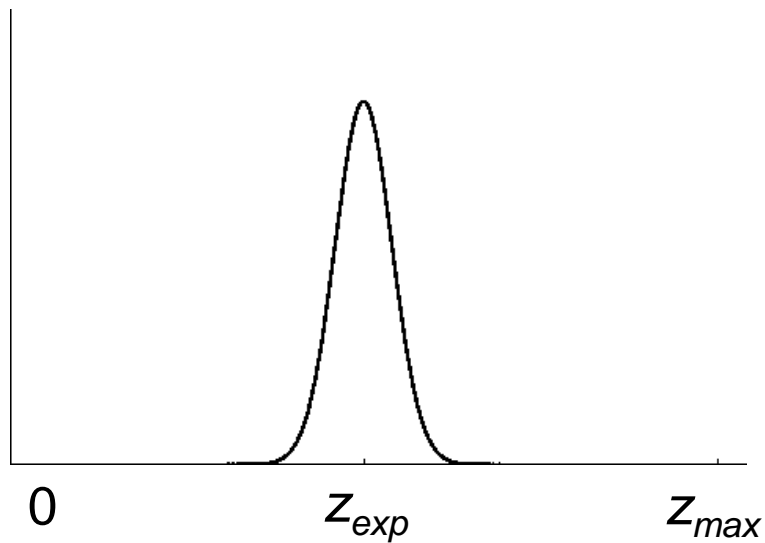
Unexpected obstacles
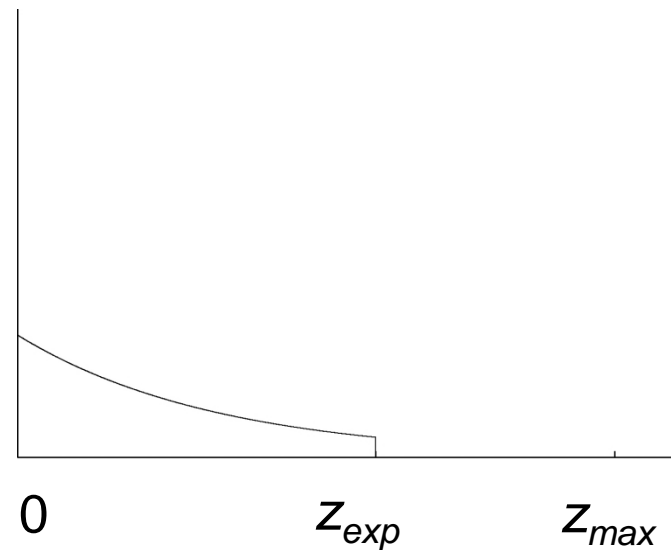
$$0 \qquad z_{exp} \qquad z_{max}$$

$$P_{hit}(z \mid x, m) = \eta \, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi b}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\frac{(z - z_{\exp})^2}{b}}$$

$$P_{\text{unexp}}(z \mid x, m) = \begin{cases} \eta \, \lambda \, e^{-\lambda_z} & z < z_{\exp} \\ 0 & otherwise \end{cases}$$

The laser range finder model describe each single measurement using

Random measurement
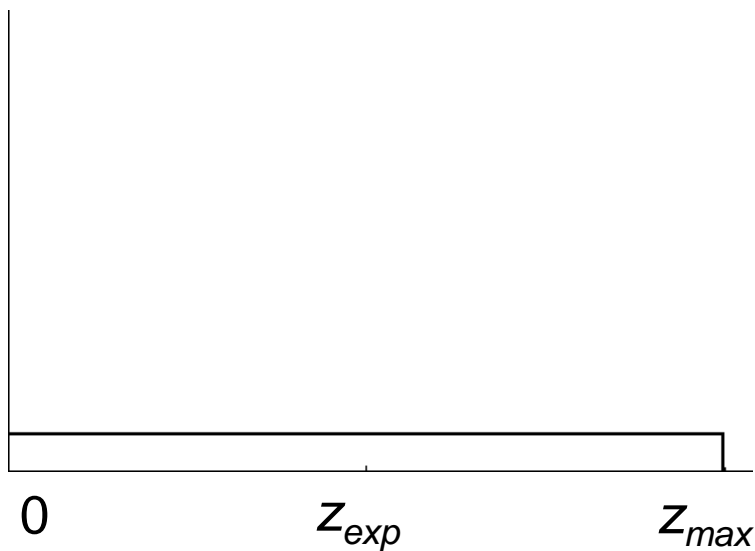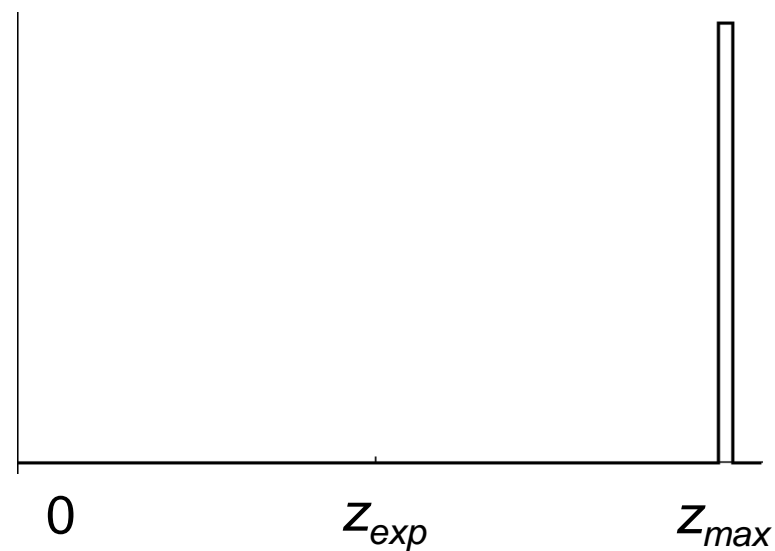
Max range

0   z_{exp} z_{max}

0   z_{exp} z_{max}

$$P_{rand}\ (\ z\ |\ x\ ,\ m\ ) = \eta\ \frac{1}{z_{\max}}$$

$$P_{\max}\ (\ z\ |\ x\ ,\ m\ ) = \eta\ \frac{1}{z_{small}}$$

The laser range finder model describe each single measurement using
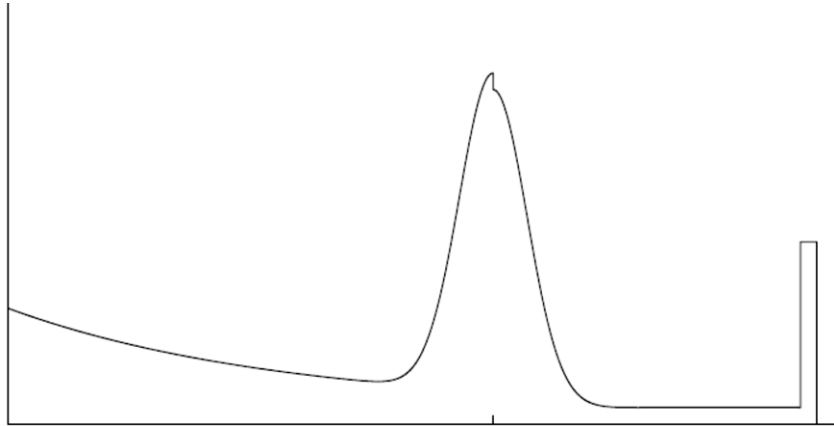
$$P(z \mid x, m) = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{hit} \\ \alpha_{unexp} \\ \alpha_{max} \\ \alpha_{rand} \end{pmatrix}^T \cdot \begin{pmatrix} P_{hit}(z \mid x, m) \\ P_{unexp}(z \mid x, m) \\ P_{max}(z \mid x, m) \\ P_{rand}(z \mid x, m) \end{pmatrix}$$

Which, is practice, turns out to be quite accurate!
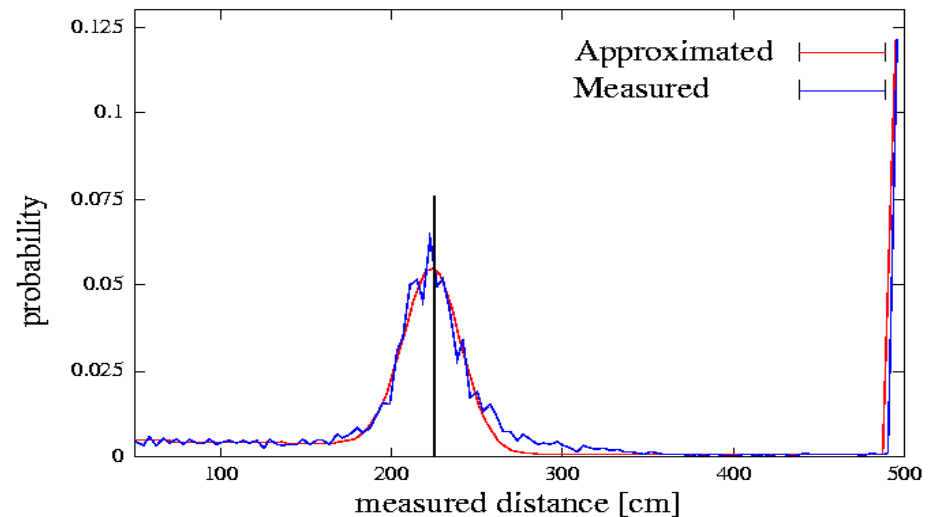
Let $occ(i,j)$ mean cell C_{ij} is occupied, then we have

- Probability: $p(occ(i,j))$ has range $[0,1]$
- Odds: $o(occ(i,j))$ has range $[0,+\infty)$

$$o(A) = \frac{P(A)}{P(\neg A)}$$

- Log odds: $\log o(occ(i,j))$ has range $(-\infty,+\infty)$
  - Each cell Cij holds the value $\log o(occ(i,j))$
  - $Cij = 0$ corresponds to $p(occ(i,j)) = 0.5$

Obstacle

Free space

Robot
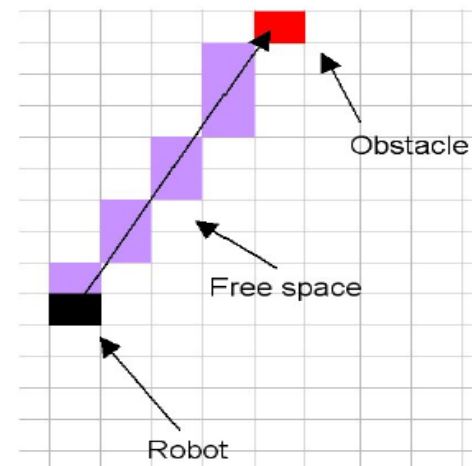
We will apply Bayes Law
- where A is $occ(i,j)$
- and B is an observation $r = D$

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)}$$

We can simplify this by using the log odds representation …

Lets consider Bayes law

- $o(A|B) = \frac{p(A|B)}{P(\neg A|B)} = \frac{p(B|A)P(A)}{P(B|\neg A)P(\neg A)} = \tau(B|A)o(A)$

- $\log o(A|B) = \log \tau(B|A) + \log o(A)$
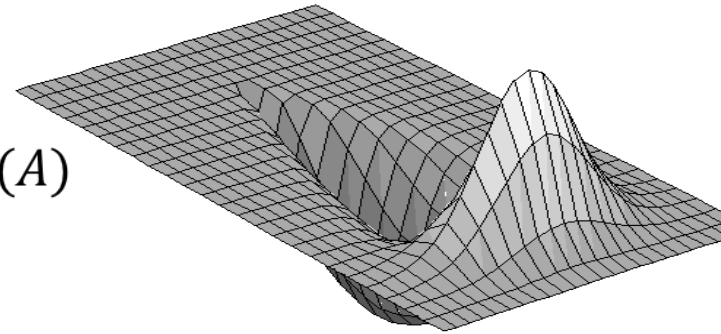
To update the log odds of a cell at distance D

- $\log o(occ(i,j) \mid r = D) = \log \tau(r = D \mid occ(i,j)) + \log o\left(occ(i,j)\right)$

Assume cell C_{ij} holds $\log o\left(occ(i,j)\right)$

- Let be r the measurement from the sensor

- Let D be the distance of the cell

- For each cell C_{ij} accumulate evidence from each sensor reading

$$\tau(r = D|occ(i,j)) = \frac{p(r = D|occ(i,j))}{p(r = D|\neg occ(i,j))} \approx \frac{.06}{.005} = 12 \quad \rightarrow \quad log_2 \tau = 3.5$$

$$\tau(r > D|occ(i,j)) = \frac{p(r > D|occ(i,j))}{p(r > D|\neg occ(i,j))} \approx \frac{.45}{.90} = .5 \quad \rightarrow \quad log_2 \tau = -1$$
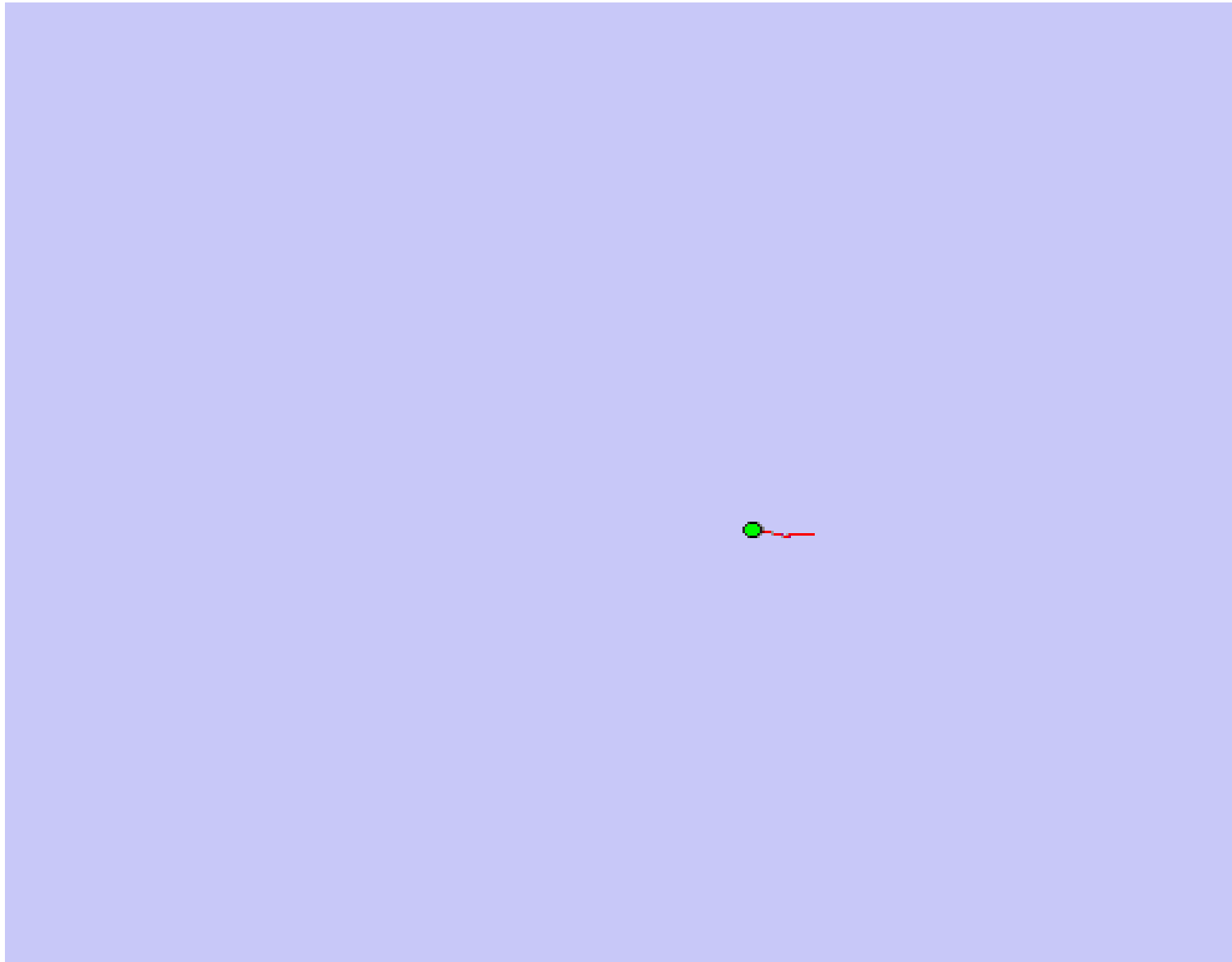
Maximize the likelihood of the *i-th* pose and map relative to the *(i-1)-th* pose and map.

$$\hat{x}_t = \arg \max_{x_t} p(z_t \mid x_t, \hat{m}^{[t-1]}) \cdot p(x_t \mid u_{t-1}, \hat{x}_{t-1})$$

current measurement

map constructed so far

robot motion

Calculate the map $\hat{m}^{[t]}$ according to "mapping with known poses" based on the poses and observations.
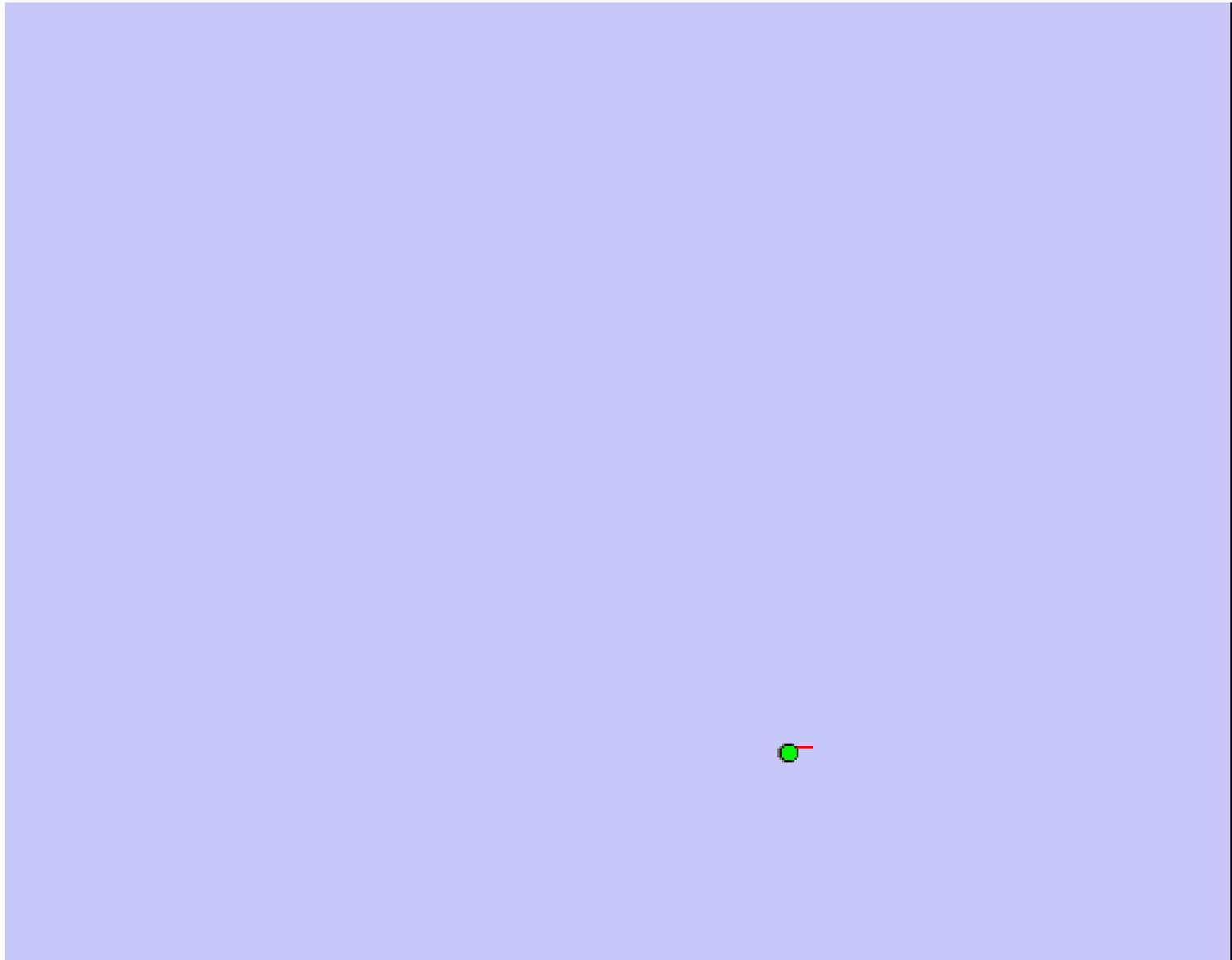
Several techniques have been studied to obtain a consistent estimate of the joint probability of pose and map

- Scan matching

- EKF SLAM / UKF SLAM

- Fast-SLAM (Particle filter based)

- Probabilistic mapping with a single map and a posterior about poses (Mapping + Localization)

- Graph-SLAM, SEIFs

- ...

We won't see the all of them! ☺

Full SLAM:

$$p(x_{}, m \mid z_{}, u_{})$$

Online SI

$$dx_{t-1}$$

Two famous example of this!

Extended Kalman Filter (EKF) SLAM
- Solves online SLAM problem
- Uses a linearized Gaussian probability distribution model

FastSLAM
- Solves full SLAM problem
- Uses a sampled particle filter distribution model

Integrations typically done one at a time

Given:

- Stream of observations *z* and action data *u:*

$$d_t = \{u_1, z_1 \ldots, u_t, z_t\}$$

- Sensor model *P(z|x).*
- Action model *P(x|u,x').*
- Prior probability of the system state *P(x).*

We want to compute:

- Estimate of the state *X* of a dynamical system.
- The posterior of the state is also called **Belief**:

$$Bel(x_t) = P(x_t \mid u_1, z_1 \ldots, u_t, z_t)$$
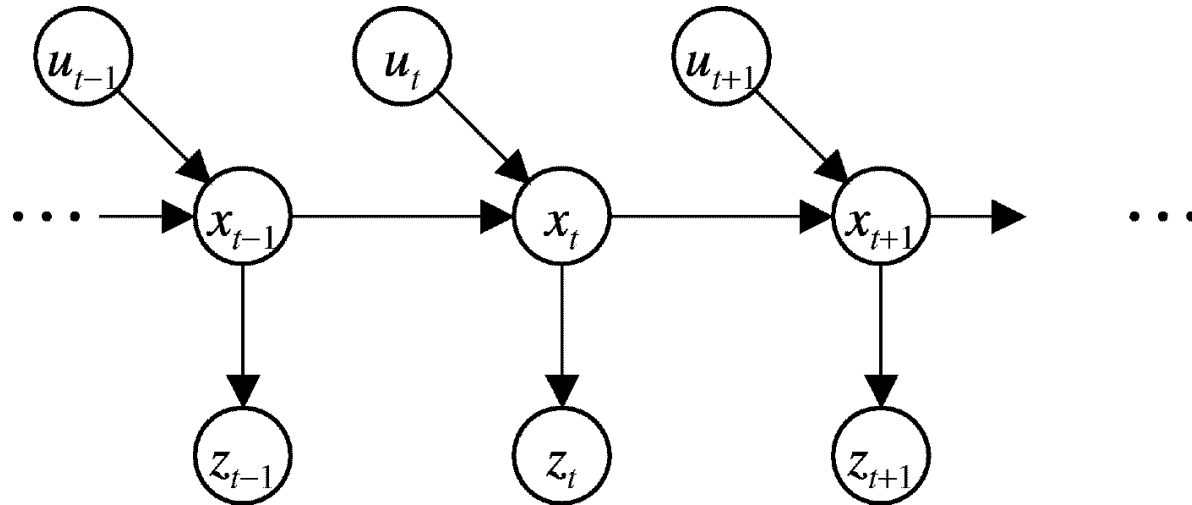
$$p (z_t \mid x_{0:t} , z_{1:t} , u_{1:t}) \; = \; p (z_t \mid x_t)$$

$$p (x_t \mid x_{1:t-1} , z_{1:t} , u_{1:t}) \; = \; p (x_t \mid x_{t-1} , u_t)$$

Underlying Assumptions
- Static world
- Independent noise
- Perfect model, no approximation errors

z = observation
u = action
x = state

$$Bel \ (x_t) = P(x_t \mid u_1, z_1 \ldots, u_t, z_t)$$

Bayes $= \eta \ P(z_t \mid x_t, u_1, z_1, \ldots, u_t) \ P(x_t \mid u_1, z_1, \ldots, u_t)$

Markov $= \eta \ P(z_t \mid x_t) \ P(x_t \mid u_1, z_1, \ldots, u_t)$

Total prob. $= \eta \ P(z_t \mid x_t) \int P(x_t \mid u_1, z_1, \ldots, u_t, x_{t-1})$

$$P(x_{t-1} \mid u_1, z_1, \ldots, u_t) \ dx_{t-1}$$

Markov $= \eta \ P(z_t \mid x_t) \int P(x_t \mid u_t, x_{t-1}) \ P(x_{t-1} \mid u_1, z_1, \ldots, u_t) \ dx_{t-1}$

Markov $= \eta \ P(z_t \mid x_t) \int P(x_t \mid u_t, x_{t-1}) \ P(x_{t-1} \mid u_1, z_1, \ldots, z_{t-1}) \ dx_{t-1}$

$$= \eta \ P(z_t \mid x_t) \int P(x_t \mid u_t, x_{t-1}) \ Bel \ (x_{t-1}) \ dx_{t-1}$$

Bayes Filter: The Algorithm

$$Bel\,(x_t) = \eta\;P(z_t \mid x_t)\int P(x_t \mid u_t, x_{t-1})\,Bel\,(x_{t-1})\,dx_{t-1}$$

Algorithm Bayes_filter(*Bel(x), d*):

$\quad \eta = 0$

$\quad$ If *d* is a perceptual data item *z* then

$\quad\quad$ For all *x* do

$$Bel\,'(x) = P(z \mid x)\,Bel\,(x)$$
$$\eta = \eta + Bel\,'(x)$$

$\quad\quad$ For all *x* do

$$Bel\,'(x) = \eta^{-1}Bel\,'(x)$$

$\quad$ Else if *d* is an action data item *u* then

$\quad\quad$ For all *x* do

$$Bel\,'(x) = \int P(x \mid u, x')\,Bel\,(x')\,dx'$$

$\quad$ Return *Bel'(x)*

How to represent such belief?

Map with N landmarks:(3+2N)-dimensional Gaussian

$$Bel\ (x_t, m_t)\ =\ \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ \theta \\ l_1 \\ l_2 \\ \vdots \\ l_N \end{pmatrix},\ \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_x^2 & \sigma_{xy} & \sigma_{x\theta} & \sigma_{xl_1} & \sigma_{xl_2} & \dots & \sigma_{xl_N} \\ \sigma_{xy} & \sigma_y^2 & \sigma_{y\theta} & \sigma_{yl_1} & \sigma_{yl_2} & \dots & \sigma_{yl_N} \\ \sigma_{x\theta} & \sigma_{y\theta} & \sigma_\theta^2 & \sigma_{\theta l_1} & \sigma_{\theta l_2} & \dots & \sigma_{\theta l_N} \\ \sigma_{xl_1} & \sigma_{yl_1} & \sigma_{\theta l_1} & \sigma_{l_1}^2 & \sigma_{l_1 l_2} & \dots & \sigma_{l_1 l_N} \\ \sigma_{xl_2} & \sigma_{yl_2} & \sigma_{\theta l_2} & \sigma_{l_1 l_2} & \sigma_{l_2}^2 & \dots & \sigma_{l_2 l_N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sigma_{xl_N} & \sigma_{yl_N} & \sigma_{\theta l_N} & \sigma_{l_1 l_N} & \sigma_{l_2 l_N} & \dots & \sigma_{l_N}^2 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle$$

$$x_t\ =\ A_t x_{t-1}\ +\ B_t u_t\ +\ \varepsilon_t$$

$$p(x_t \mid u_t, x_{t-1})\ =\ N\left(x_t; A_t x_{t-1}\ +\ B_t u_t, R_t \right)$$

Map with N landmarks:(3+2N)-dimensional Gaussian

$$Bel(x_t, m_t) = \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ \theta \\ l_1 \\ l_2 \\ \vdots \\ l_N \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_x^2 & \sigma_{xy} & \sigma_{x\theta} & \sigma_{xl_1} & \sigma_{xl_2} & \dots & \sigma_{xl_N} \\ \sigma_{xy} & \sigma_y^2 & \sigma_{y\theta} & \sigma_{yl_1} & \sigma_{yl_2} & \dots & \sigma_{yl_N} \\ \sigma_{x\theta} & \sigma_{y\theta} & \sigma_\theta^2 & \sigma_{\theta l_1} & \sigma_{\theta l_2} & \dots & \sigma_{\theta l_N} \\ \sigma_{xl_1} & \sigma_{yl_1} & \sigma_{\theta l_1} & \sigma_{l_1}^2 & \sigma_{l_1 l_2} & \dots & \sigma_{l_1 l_N} \\ \sigma_{xl_2} & \sigma_{yl_2} & \sigma_{\theta l_2} & \sigma_{l_1 l_2} & \sigma_{l_2}^2 & \dots & \sigma_{l_2 l_N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sigma_{xl_N} & \sigma_{yl_N} & \sigma_{\theta l_N} & \sigma_{l_1 l_N} & \sigma_{l_2 l_N} & \dots & \sigma_{l_N}^2 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle$$

$$z_t = C_t x_t + \delta_t$$

$$p(z_t \mid x_t) = N\left(z_t; C_t x_t, Q_t\right)$$

$$Bel\,(x_t) = \eta\ P(z_t \mid x_t) \int P(x_t \mid u_t, x_{t-1})\ Bel\,(x_{t-1})\ dx_{t-1}$$

Algorithm Bayes_filter(*Bel(x), d*):

$\eta=0$

If *d* is a perceptual data item *z* then

For all *x* do

$$Bel\,'(x) = P(z \mid x)\,Bel\,(x)$$
$$\eta = \eta + Bel\,'(x)$$

For all *x* do

$$Bel\,'(x) = \eta^{-1} Bel\,'(x)$$

Else if *d* is an action data item *u* then

For all *x* do

$$Bel\,'(x) = \int P(x \mid u, x')\ Bel\,(x')\ dx'$$

Return *Bel'(x)*

correction

prediction

Algorithm Kalman_filter(μ_{t-1}, Σ_{t-1}, u_t, z_t):

Prediction:

$$\overline{\mu}_t = A_t \mu_{t-1} + B_t u_t$$

$$\overline{\Sigma}_t = A_t \Sigma_{t-1} A_t^T + R_t$$

Correction:

$$K_t = \overline{\Sigma}_t C_t^T (C_t \overline{\Sigma}_t C_t^T + Q_t)^{-1}$$

$$\mu_t = \overline{\mu}_t + K_t(z_t - C_t \overline{\mu}_t)$$

$$\Sigma_t = (I - K_t C_t)\overline{\Sigma}_t$$

Return μ_t, Σ_t

$$Bel(x_t, m_t) = \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ \theta \\ l_1 \\ l_2 \\ \vdots \\ l_N \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_x^2 & \sigma_{xy} & \sigma_{x\theta} & \sigma_{xl_1} & \sigma_{xl_2} & \dots & \sigma_{xl_N} \\ \sigma_{xy} & \sigma_y^2 & \sigma_{y\theta} & \sigma_{yl_1} & \sigma_{yl_2} & \dots & \sigma_{yl_N} \\ \sigma_{x\theta} & \sigma_{y\theta} & \sigma_\theta^2 & \sigma_{\theta l_1} & \sigma_{\theta l_2} & \dots & \sigma_{\theta l_N} \\ \sigma_{xl_1} & \sigma_{yl_1} & \sigma_{\theta l_1} & \sigma_{l_1}^2 & \sigma_{l_1 l_2} & \dots & \sigma_{l_1 l_N} \\ \sigma_{xl_2} & \sigma_{yl_2} & \sigma_{\theta l_2} & \sigma_{l_1 l_2} & \sigma_{l_2}^2 & \dots & \sigma_{l_2 l_N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sigma_{xl_N} & \sigma_{yl_N} & \sigma_{\theta l_N} & \sigma_{l_1 l_N} & \sigma_{l_2 l_N} & \dots & \sigma_{l_N}^2 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle$$
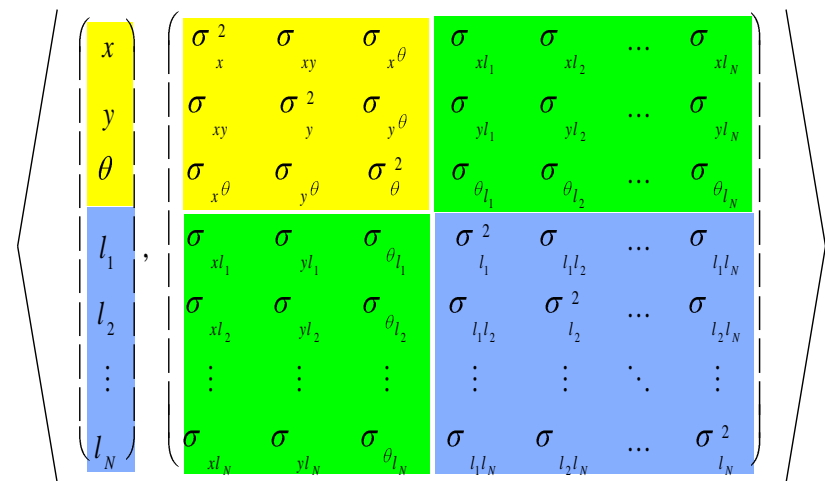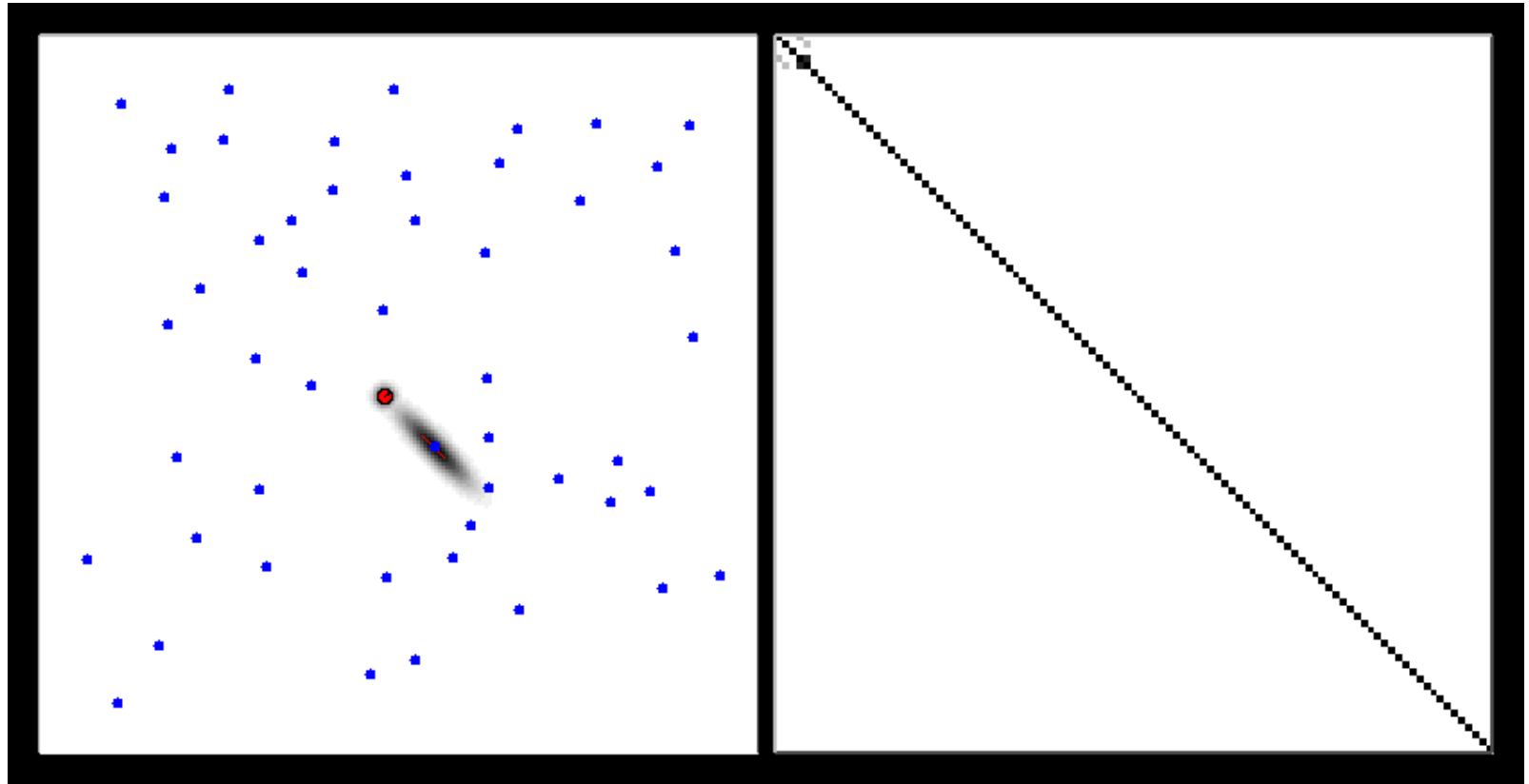
Approximate the SLAM posterior with a high-dimensional Gaussian
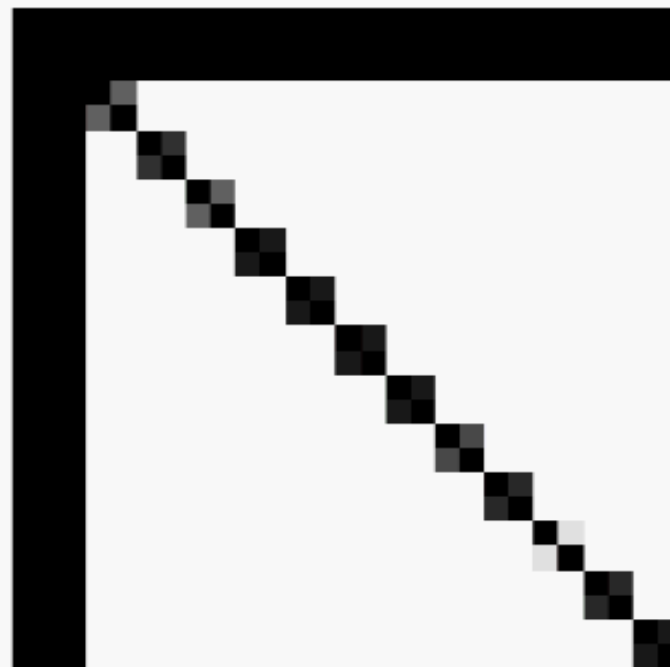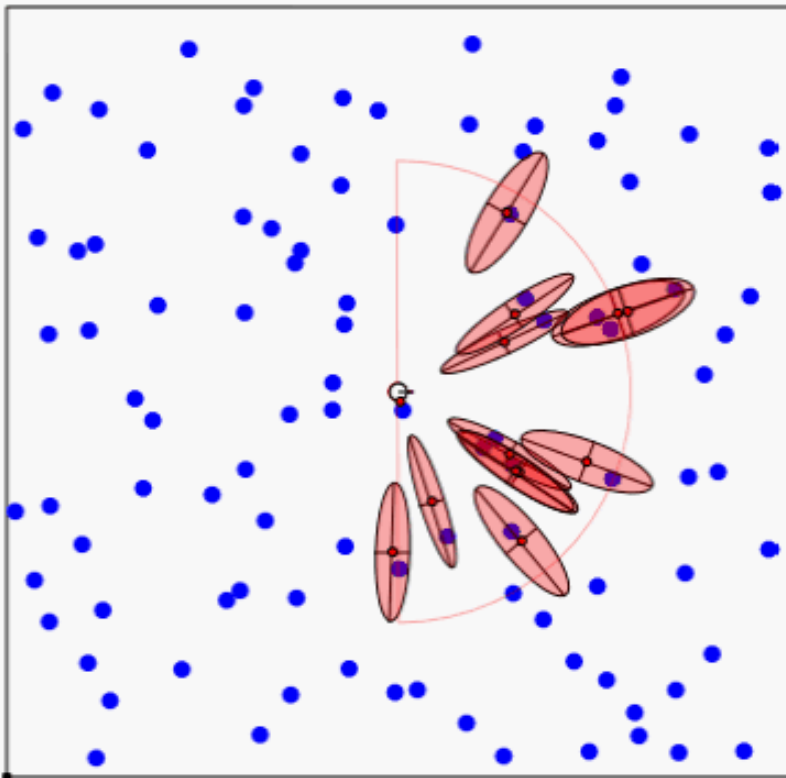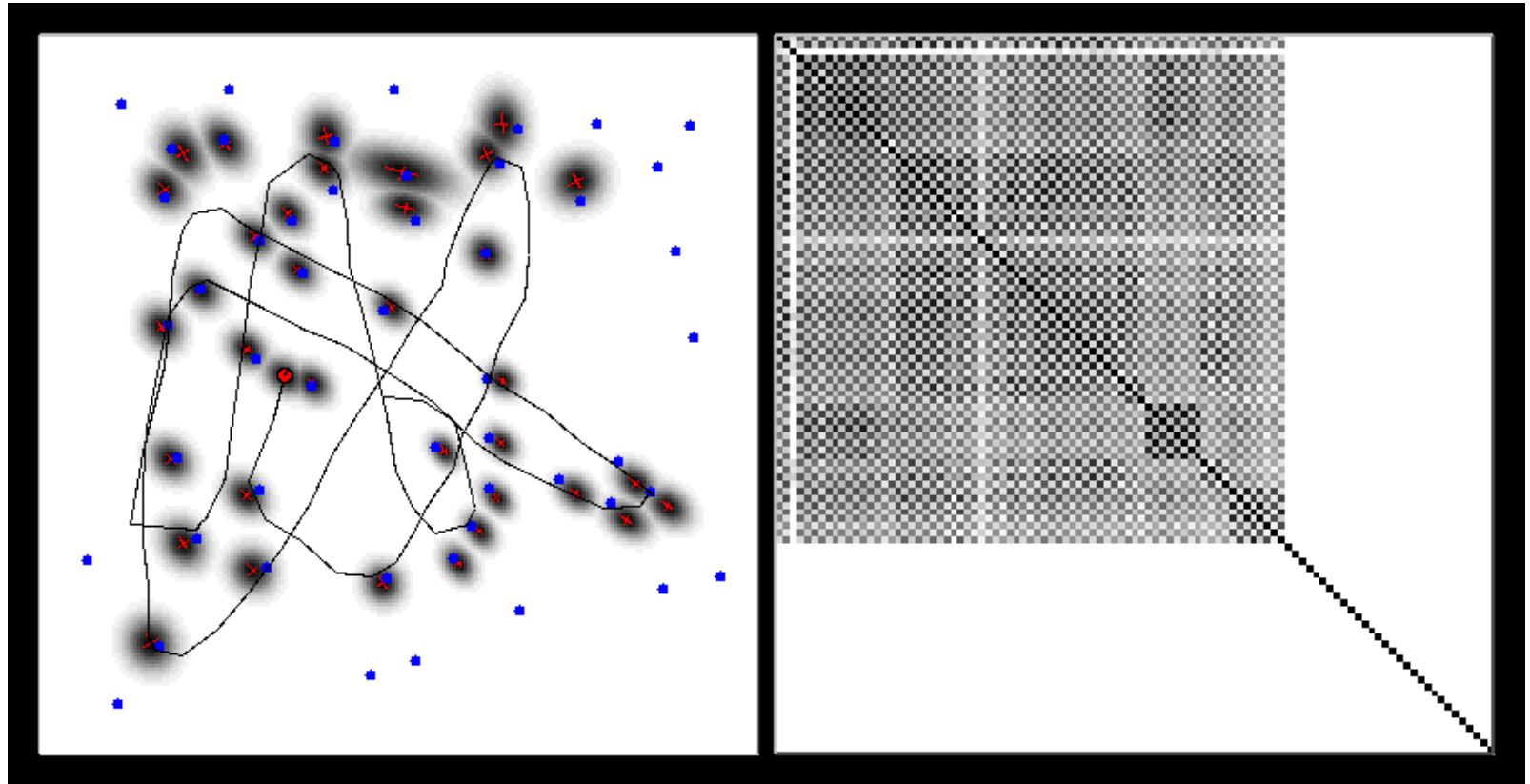

Blue path = true path   **Red path** = estimated path   **Black path** = odometry

Map   Correlation matrix

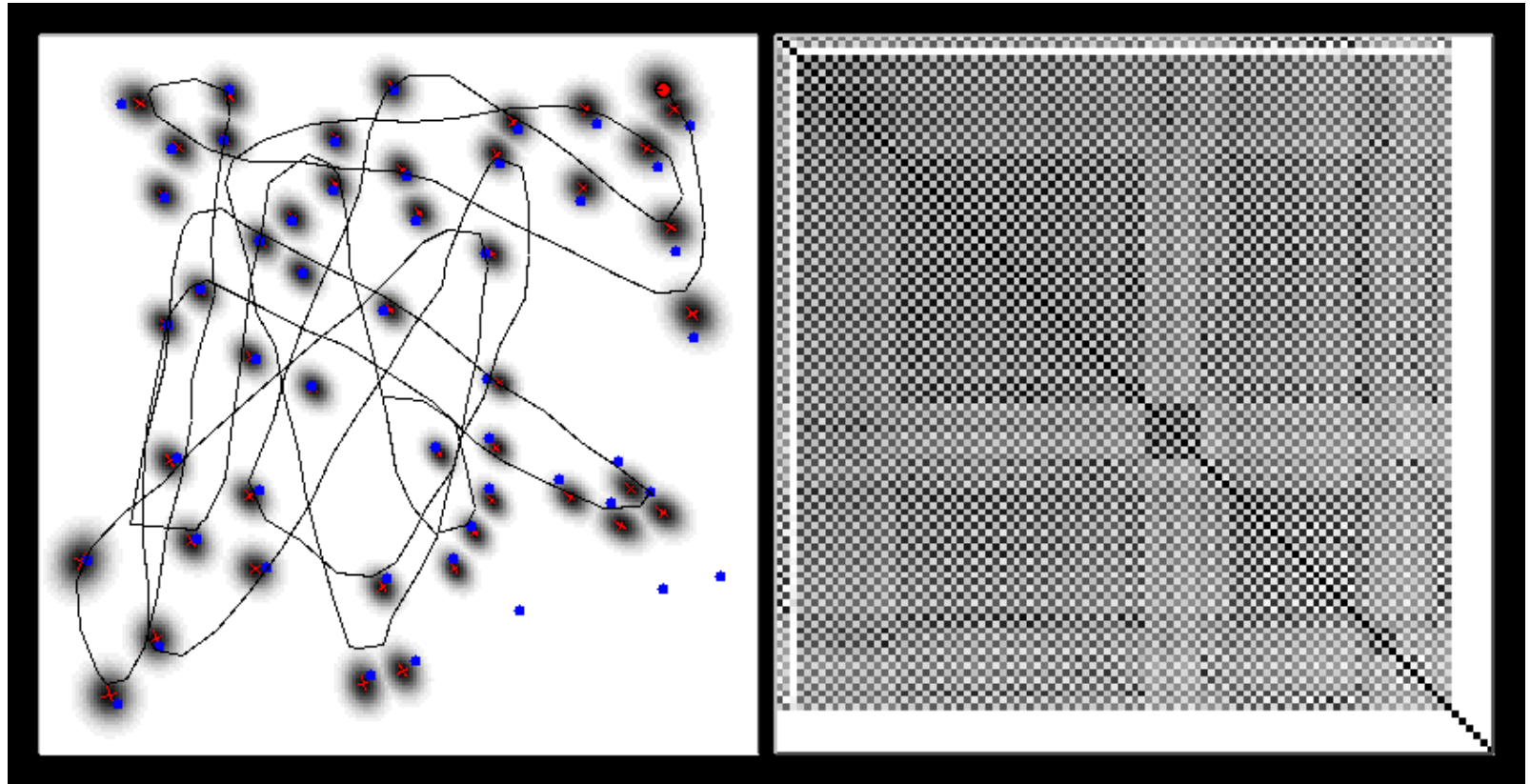Map   Correlation matrix

Map   Correlation matrix

Theorem: [Dissanayake et al., 2001]

The determinant of any sub-matrix of the map covariance matrix decreases monotonically as successive observations are made.

Theorem:

In the limit the landmark estimates become fully correlated

Are we happy about this?

- Quadratic in the number of landmarks: $O(n^2)$
- Convergence results for the linear case.
- Can diverge if nonlinearities are large!
- Have been applied successfully in large-scale environments.
- Approximations reduce the computational complexity.

EKF-SLAM works pretty well but ...

- EKF-SLAM employs linearized models of nonlinear motion and observation models and so inherits many caveats.
- Computational effort is demand because computation grows quadratically with the number of landmarks.

Possible solutions

- Local submaps [Leonard & al 99, Bosse & al 02, Newman & al 03]
- Sparse links (correlations) [Lu & Milios 97, Guivant & Nebot 01]
- Sparse extended information filters [Frese et al. 01, Thrun et al. 02]
- Thin junction tree filters [Paskin 03]
- Rao-Blackwellisation (FastSLAM) [Murphy 99, Montemerlo et al. 02, Eliazar et al. 03, Haehnel et al. 03]
  - Represents nonlinear process and non-Gaussian uncertainty
  - Rao-Blackwellized method reduces computation

Represent belief by random samples

Estimation of non-Gaussian, nonlinear processes

- Monte Carlo filter
- Survival of the fittest
- Condensation
- Bootstrap filter
- Particle filter
- …
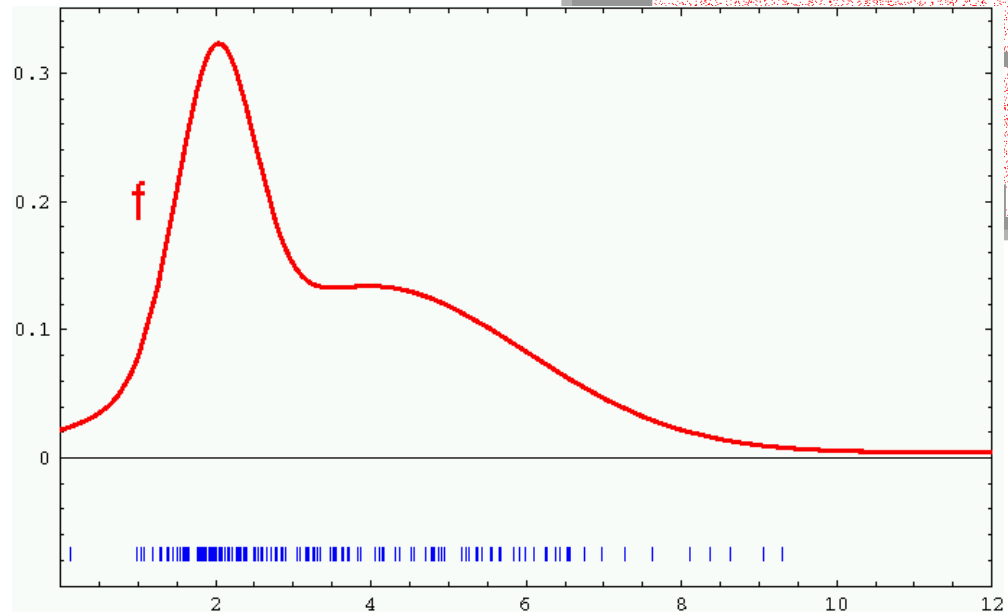
Filtering: [Rubin, 88], [Gordon et al., 93], [Kitagawa 96]

Computer vision: [Isard and Blake 96, 98]

Dynamic Bayesian Networks: [Kanazawa et al., 95]

$$Bel(x_t) = \eta\ p(z_t \mid x_t) \int p(x_t \mid x_{t-1}, u_{t-1})\ Bel(x_{t-1})\ dx_{t-1}$$

draw x^i_{t-1} from $Bel(\mathsf{x}_{t-1})$

draw x^i_t from $p(x_t \mid x^i_{t-1}, u_{t-1})$

Importance factor for x^i_t:
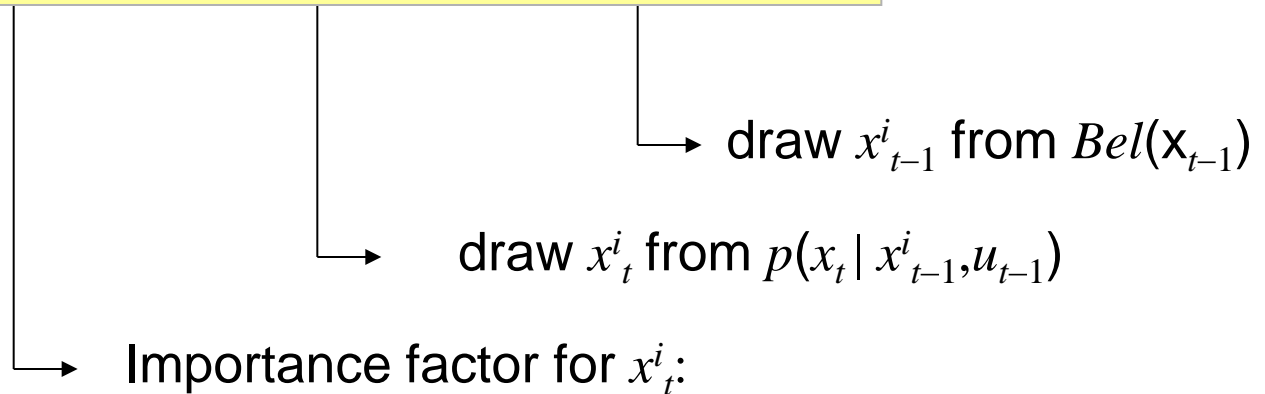
$$w^i_t = \frac{target\ distributi\ on}{proposal\ distributi\ on}$$

$$= \frac{\eta\ p(z_t \mid x_t)\ p(x_t \mid x_{t-1}, u_{t-1})\ Bel(x_{t-1})}{p(x_t \mid x_{t-1}, u_{t-1})\ Bel(x_{t-1})}$$

$$\propto\ p(z_t \mid x_t)$$

Involved Distributions
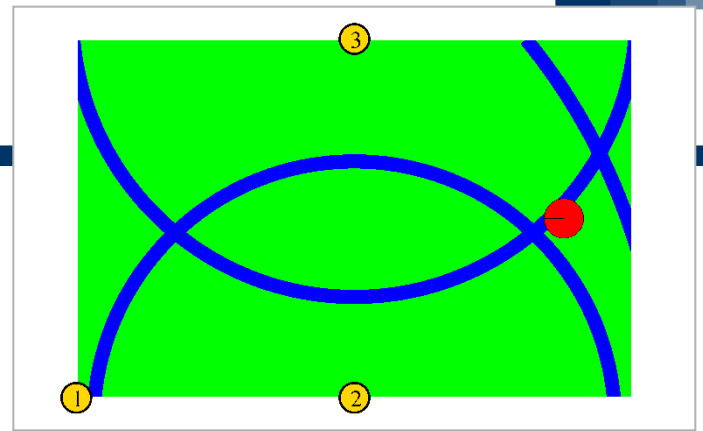
$p(x|\, z_1)$
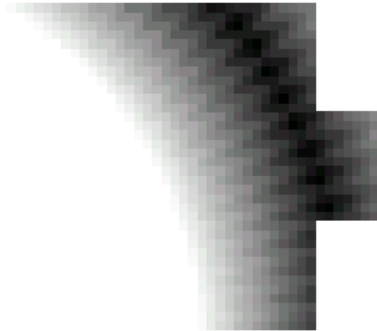
$p(x|\, z_2)$

$p(x|\, z_3)$
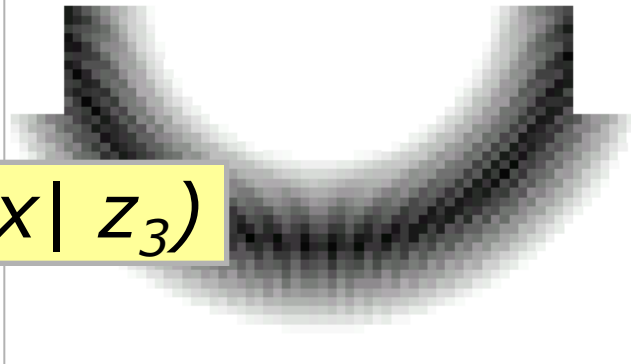
Wanted: $p(x|\, z_1,\, z_2,\, z_3)$

Draw samples from $p(x|z_i)$ using the detection parameters and some noise

$p(x|z_1)$

$p(x|z_2)$

$p(x|z_3)$
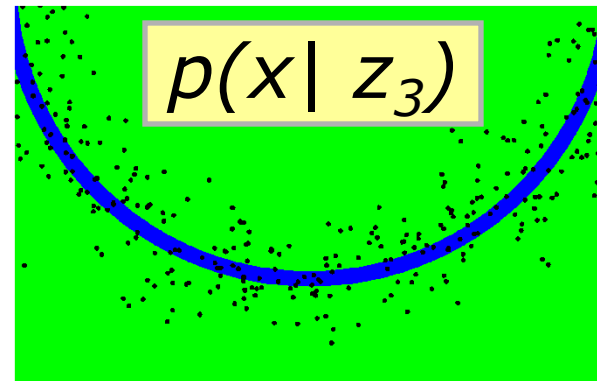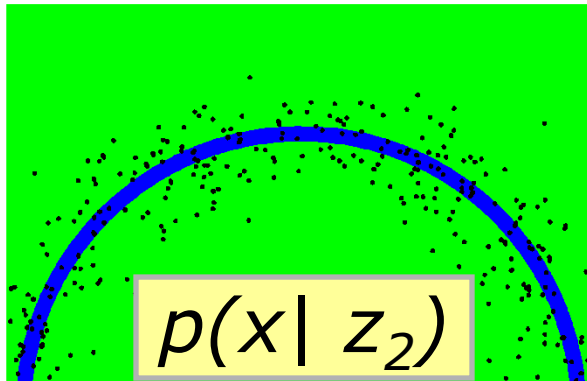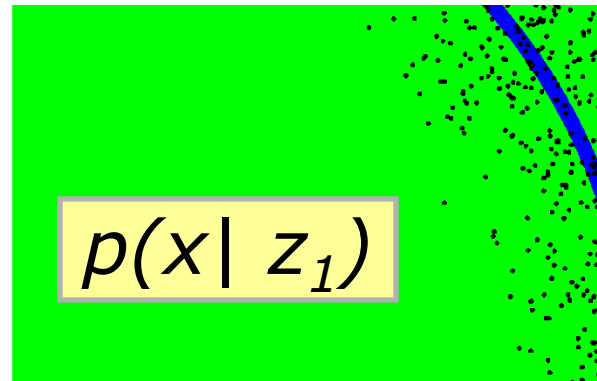
$$\text{Target distribution } f: p(x \mid z_1, z_2, ..., z_n) = \frac{\prod\limits_{k} p(z_k \mid x) \; p(x)}{p(z_1, z_2, ..., z_n)}$$

$$\text{Sampling distribution } g: p(x \mid z_l) = \frac{p(z_l \mid x) \, p(x)}{p(z_l)}$$

$$\text{Importance weights } w: \frac{f}{g} = \frac{p(x \mid z_1, z_2, ..., z_n)}{p(x \mid z_l)} = \frac{p(z_l) \prod\limits_{k \neq l} p(z_k \mid x)}{p(z_1, z_2, ..., z_n)}$$
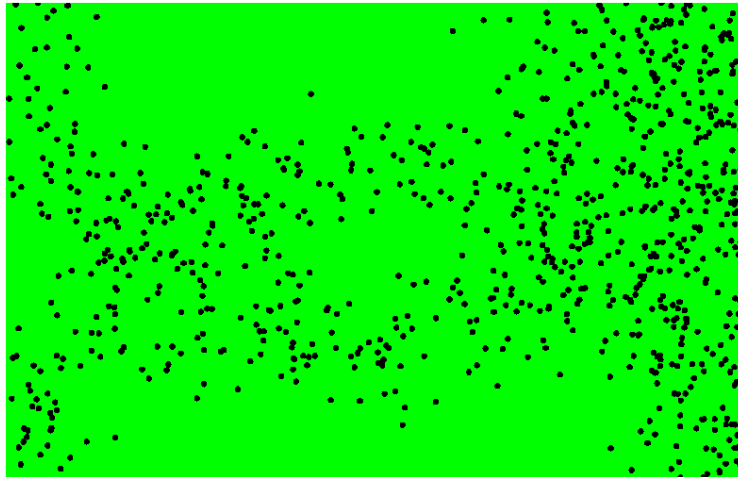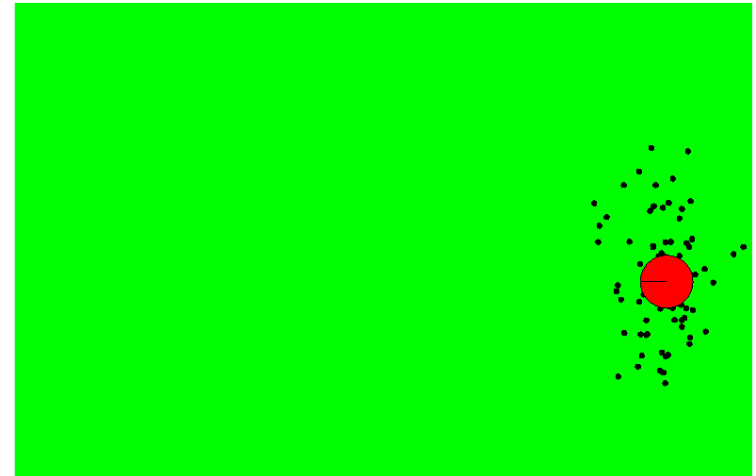
Weighted samples

After resampling
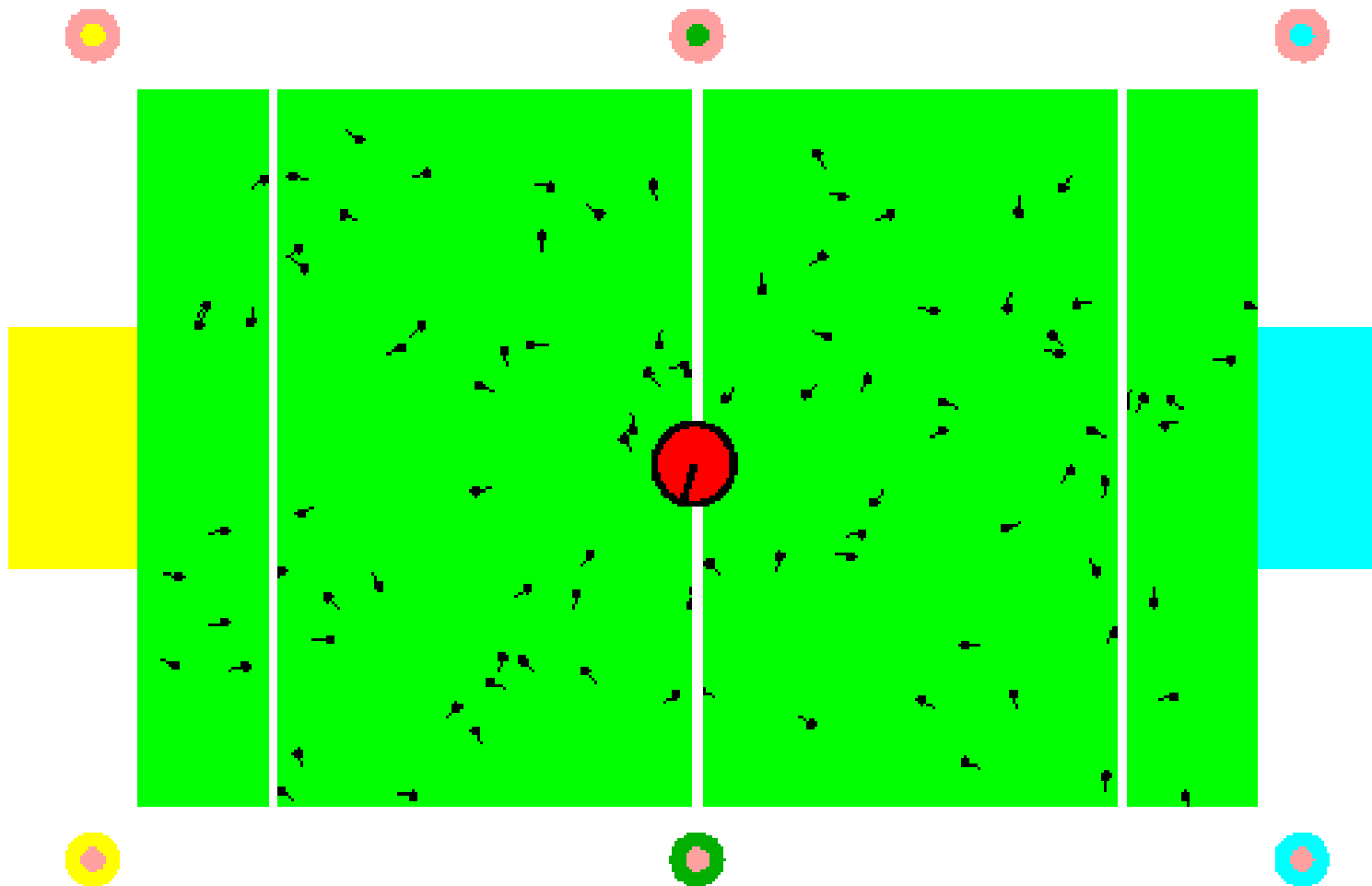
Stochastic motion model
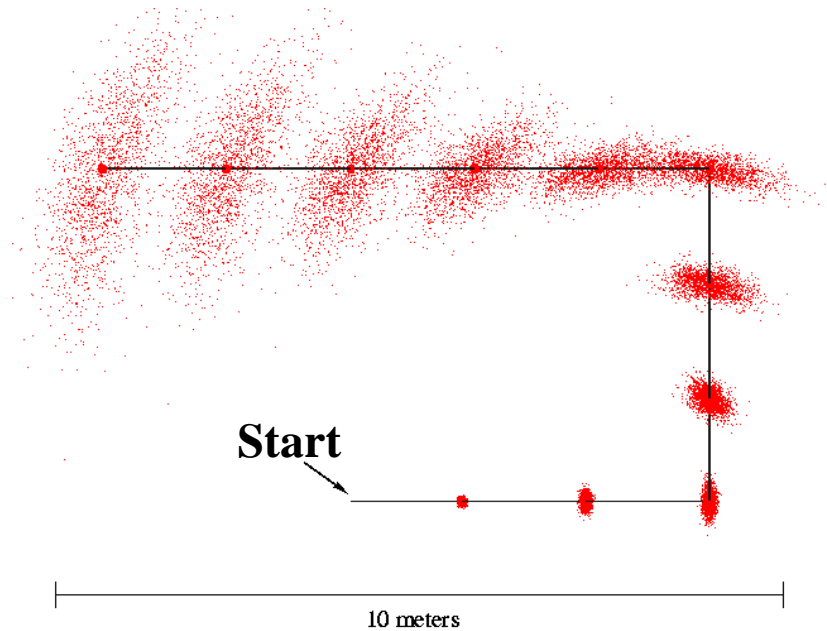
Proximity sensor model
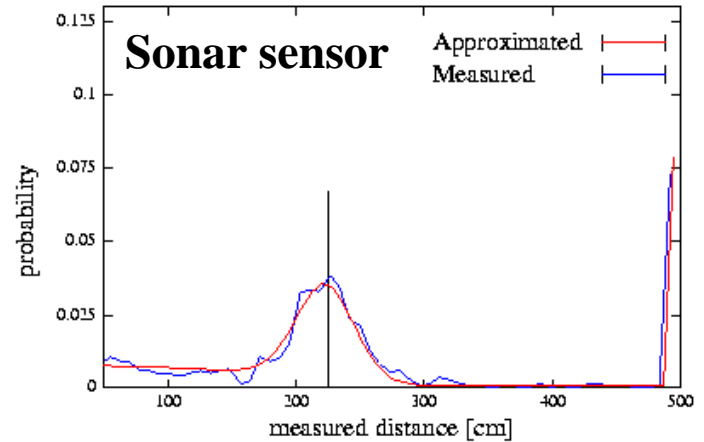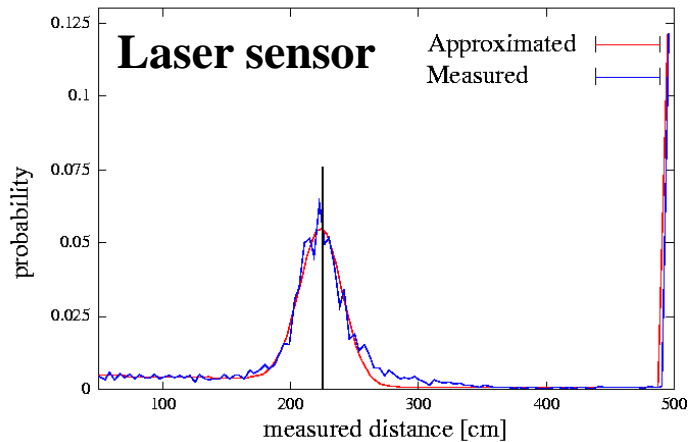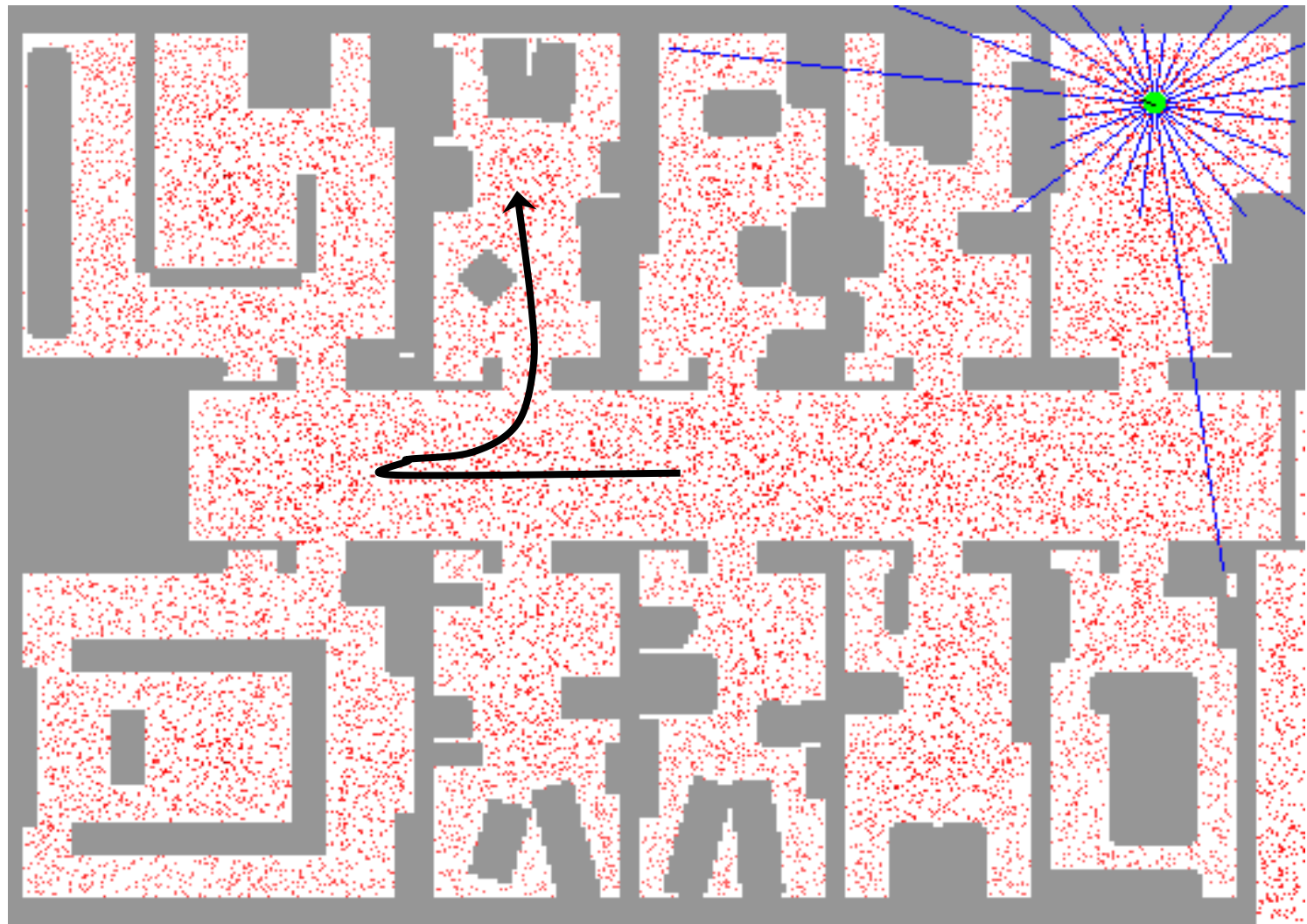
In the general case we have

$$p(x_t, m \mid z_t) \neq P(x_t \mid z_t) P(m \mid z_t)$$

However if we consider the full trajectory X_t rather than the single pose x_t.

$$p(X_t, m \mid z_t) = P(X_t \mid z_t) P(m \mid X_t, z_t)$$

In FastSLAM, the trajectory X_t is represented by particles $X_t(i)$ while the map is represented by a factorization called Rao-Blackwellized Filter

$$P(m \mid X_t^{(i)}, z_t) = \prod_j^M P(m_j \mid X_t^{(i)}, z_t)$$

- $P(X_t \mid z_t)$ through particles
- $P(m \mid X_t, z_t)$ using an EKF

Decouple map of features from pose ...

- Each particle represents a robot trajectory
- Feature measurements are correlated thought the robot trajectory
- If the robot trajectory is known all of the features would be uncorrelated
- Treat each pose particle as if it is the true trajectory, processing all of the feature measurements independently

poses   map   observations & movements

$$p(x_{1:t}, l_{1:m} \mid z_{1:t}, u_{0:t-1}) =$$
$$p(x_{1:t} \mid z_{1:t}, u_{0:t-1}) \cdot p(l_{1:m} \mid x_{1:t}, z_{1:t})$$

SLAM posterior

Robot path posterior

Landmark positions

$$p(x_{1:t}, l_{1:m} \mid z_{1:t}, u_{0:t-1})$$
$$= \ p(x_{1:t} \mid z_{1:t}, u_{0:t-1}) \cdot p(l_{1:m} \mid x_{1:t}, z_{1:t})$$
$$= \ p(x_{1:t} \mid z_{1:t}, u_{0:t-1}) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{M} p(l_i \mid x_{1:t}, z_{1:t})$$

Robot path posterior
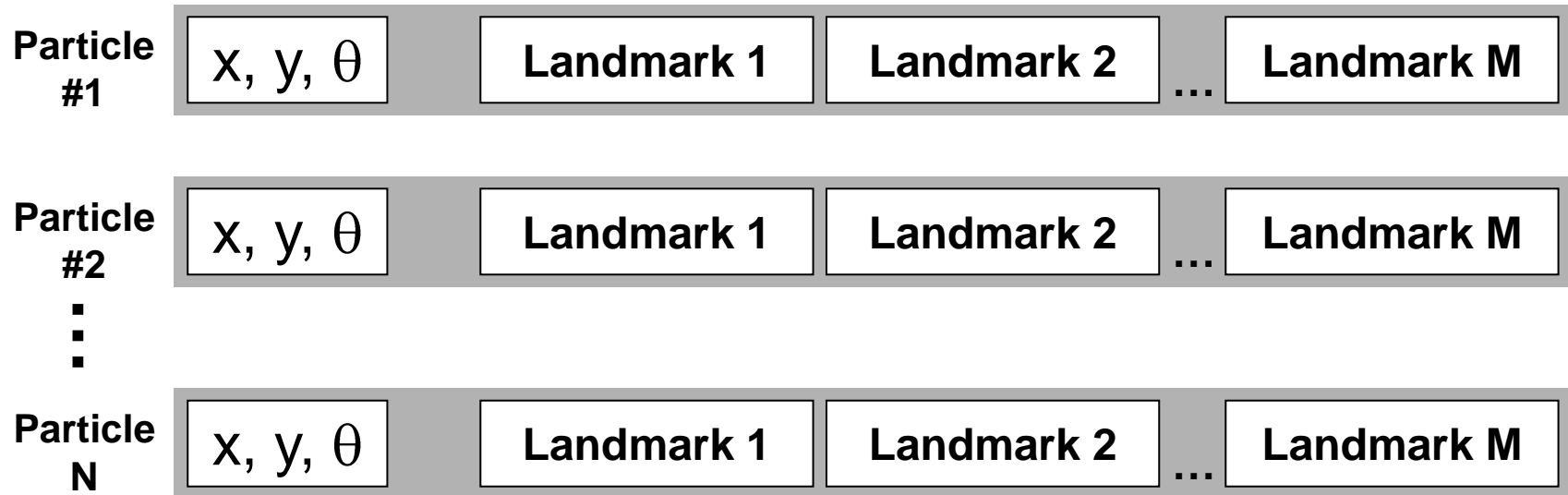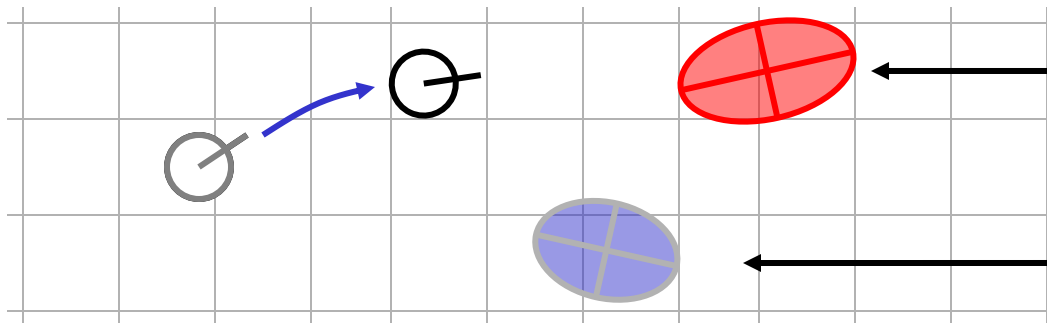(localization problem)

Conditionally independent
landmark positions

Dimension of state space is drastically reduced by factorization making particle filtering possible

$$p(x_{1:t}, l_{1:m} \mid z_{1:t}, u_{0:t-1}) =$$
$$p(x_{1:t} \mid z_{1:t}, u_{0:t-1}) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{M} p(l_i \mid x_{1:t}, z_{1:t})$$

- Rao-Blackwellized particle filtering based on landmarks [Montemerlo et al., 2002]
- Each landmark is represented by a 2x2 Extended Kalman Filter (EKF)
- Each particle therefore has to maintain M EKFs

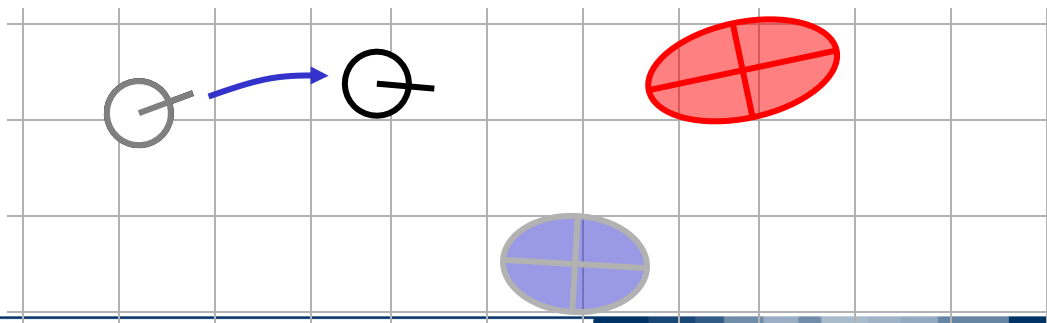| Particle #1 | x, y, θ | Landmark 1 | Landmark 2 | … | Landmark M |

| Particle #2 | x, y, θ | Landmark 1 | Landmark 2 | … | Landmark M |

| Particle N | x, y, θ | Landmark 1 | Landmark 2 | … | Landmark M |

Particle #1

Particle #2

Particle #3

Landmark #1 Filter

Landmark #2 Filter

FastSLAM – Sensor Update

Particle #1

Particle #2
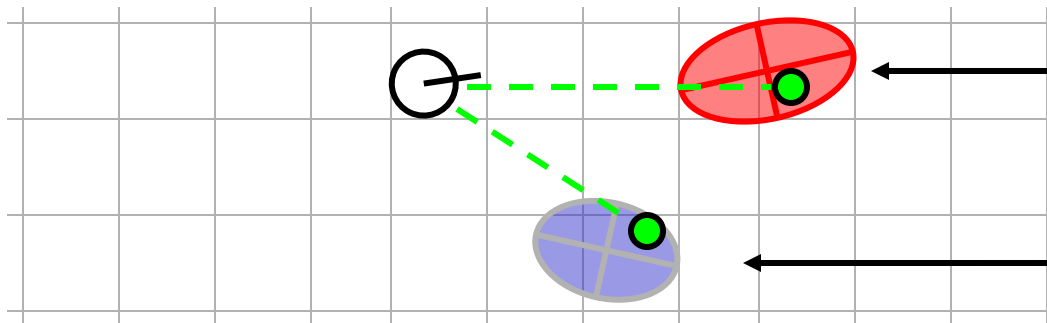
Particle #3

Landmark #1 Filter

Landmark #2 Filter
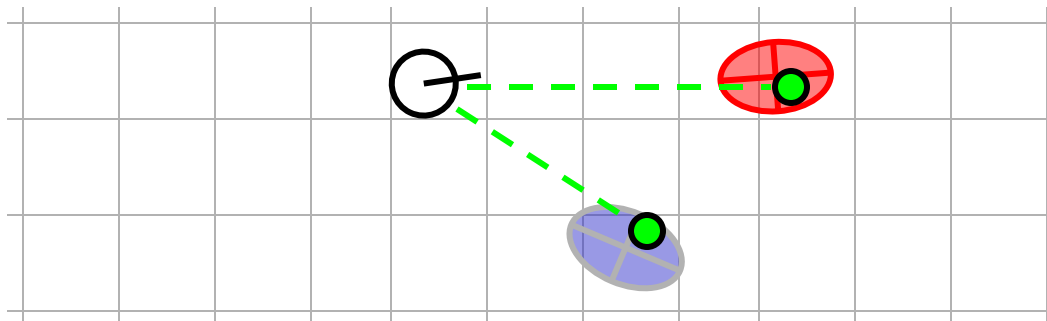
Particle #1 **Weight = 0.8**
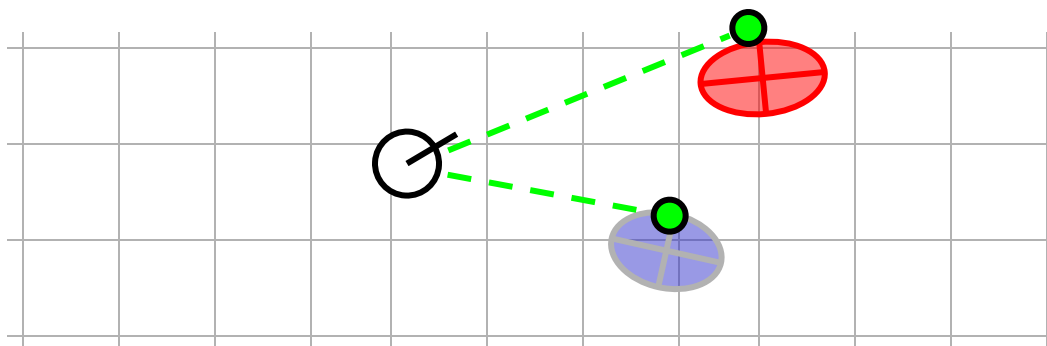
Particle #2 **Weight = 0.4**

Particle #3 **Weight = 0.1**
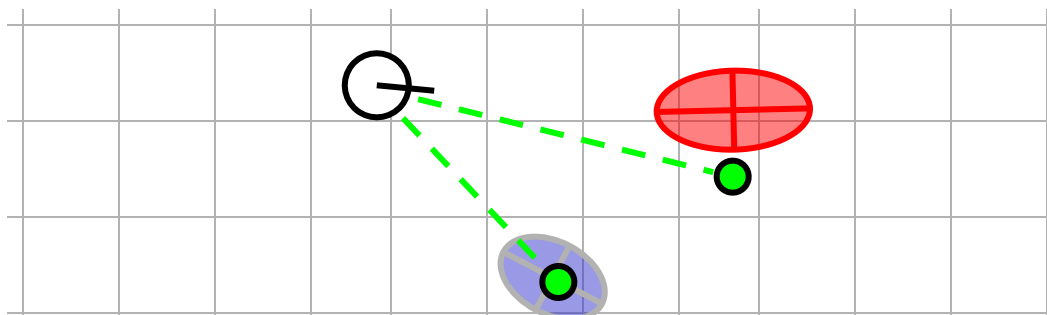
Update robot particles based on control u_{t-1}

$$O(N)$$
Constant time per particle

Incorporate observation z_t into Kalman filters

$$O(N \cdot \log(M))$$
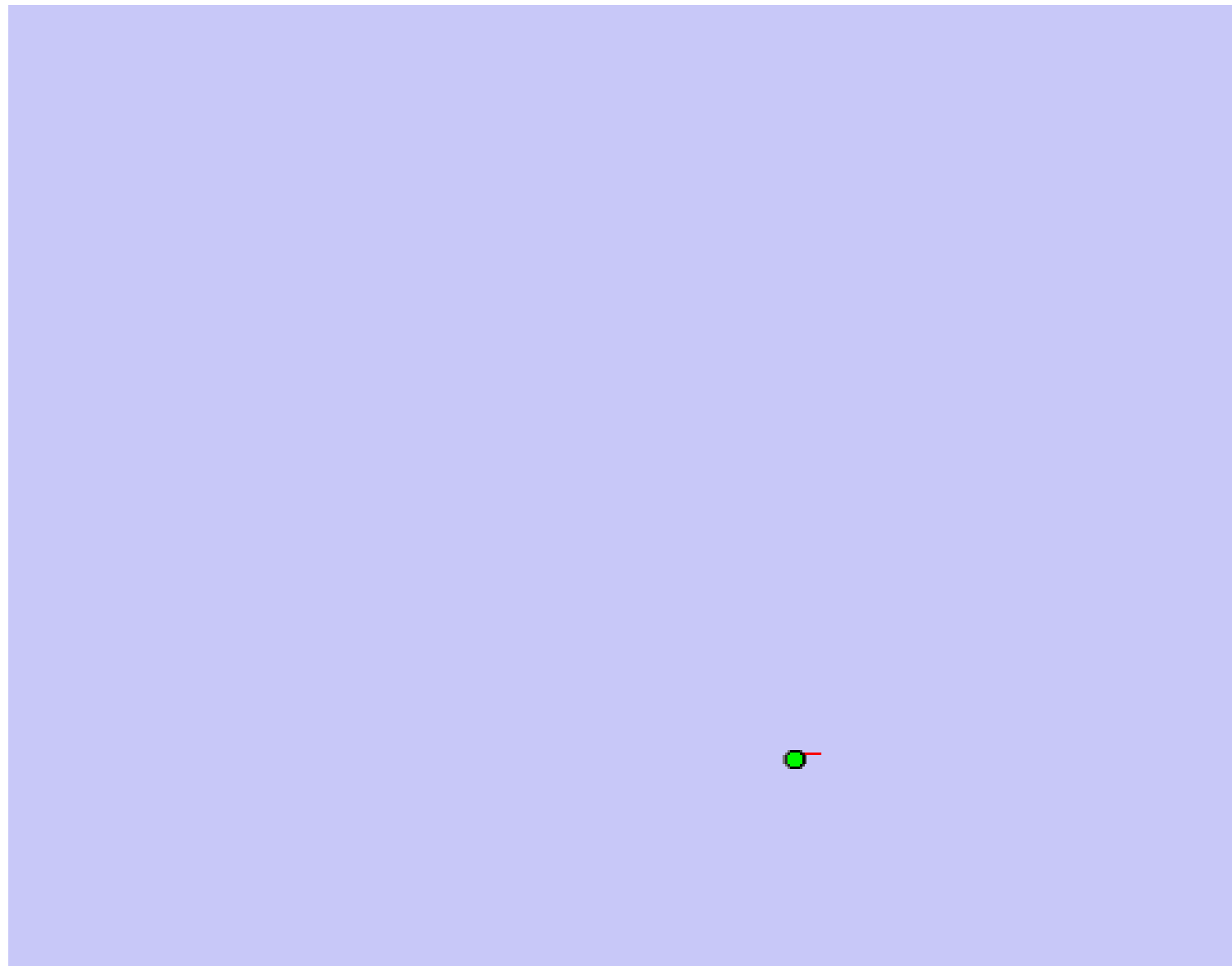**Log time per particle**

Resample particle set

$$O(N \cdot \log(M))$$
Log time per particle

$$O(N \cdot \log(M))$$
Log time per particle
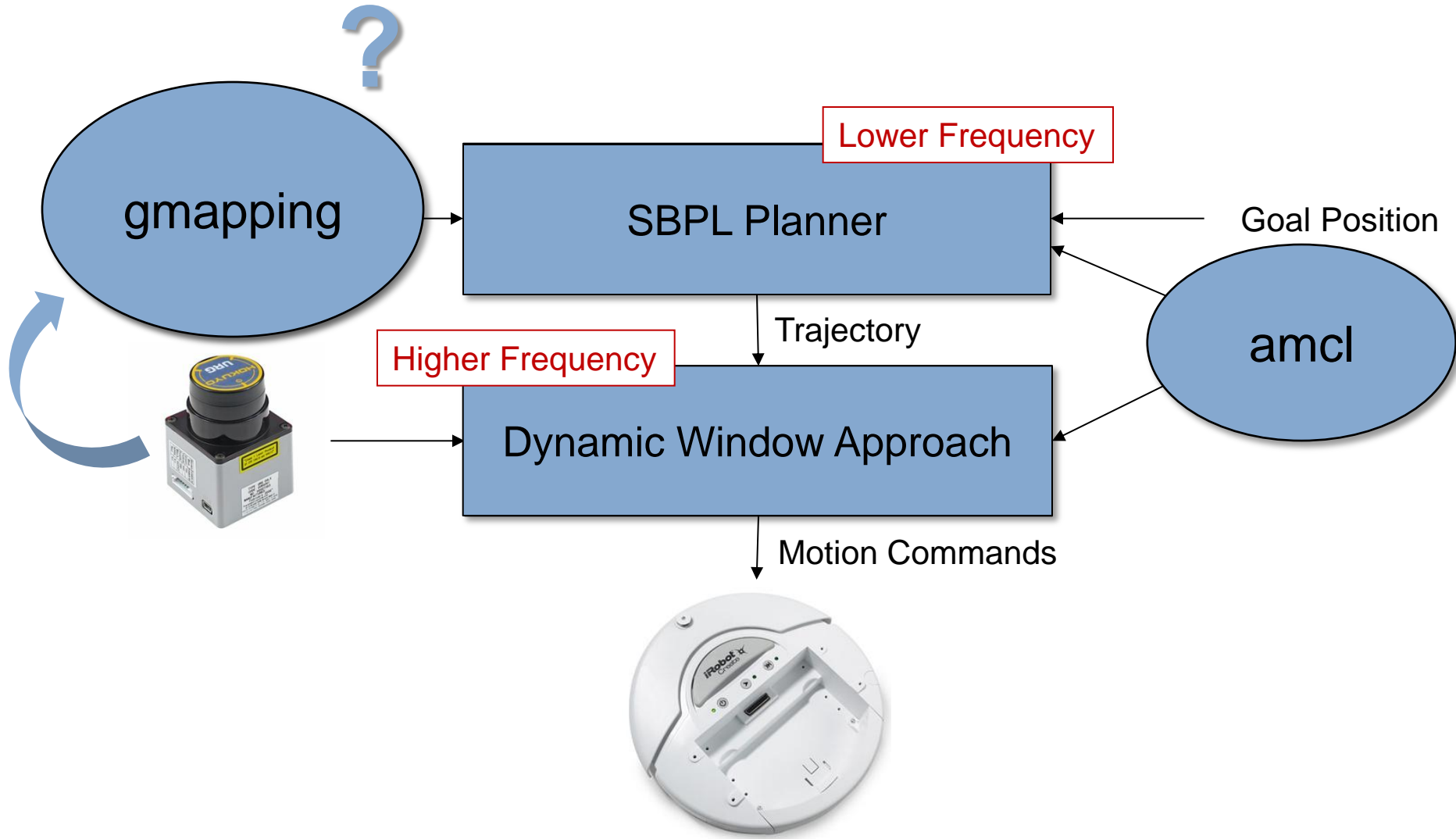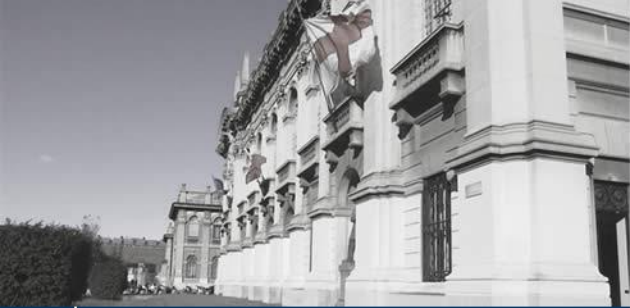
N = Number of particles
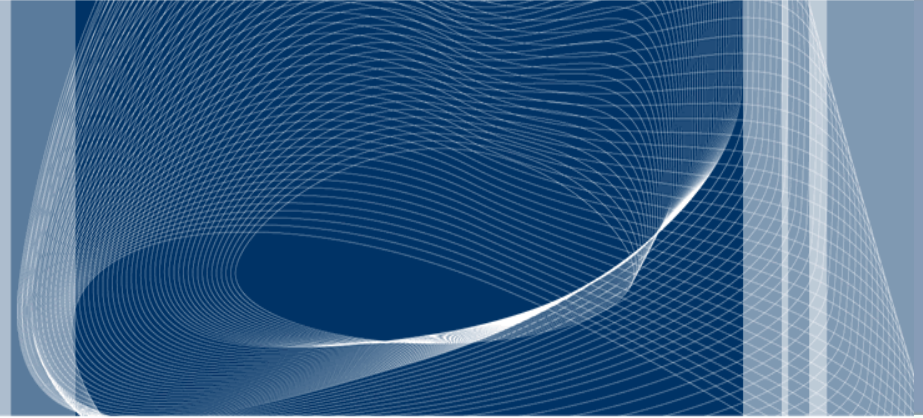*M = Number of map features*

Cognitive Robotics –SLAM with Lasers

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