

CS 369: Introduction to Robotics

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Spring 2026



Haverford
COLLEGE

Admin

- Lab 3 grades posted on Moodle
- Lab 4 due tonight
- Lab 5 posted (due next Wednesday)

Outline for today

- Backpropagation
- Localization

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Backpropagation

<https://cs231n.github.io/optimization-2/>

Outline for today

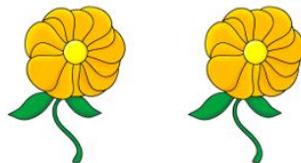
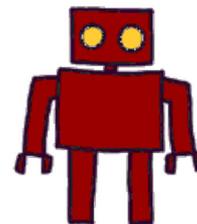
- Backpropagation
- Localization

Localization

- Problem of determining the robot's pose relative to the environment map
- Local vs. global localization:
 - Position tracking: assumes that the initial robot pose is known
 - Global localization: initial robot pose is unknown
 - Kidnapped robot problem: during operation, the robot can get kidnapped and teleported to some other location
- Static vs. dynamic environments

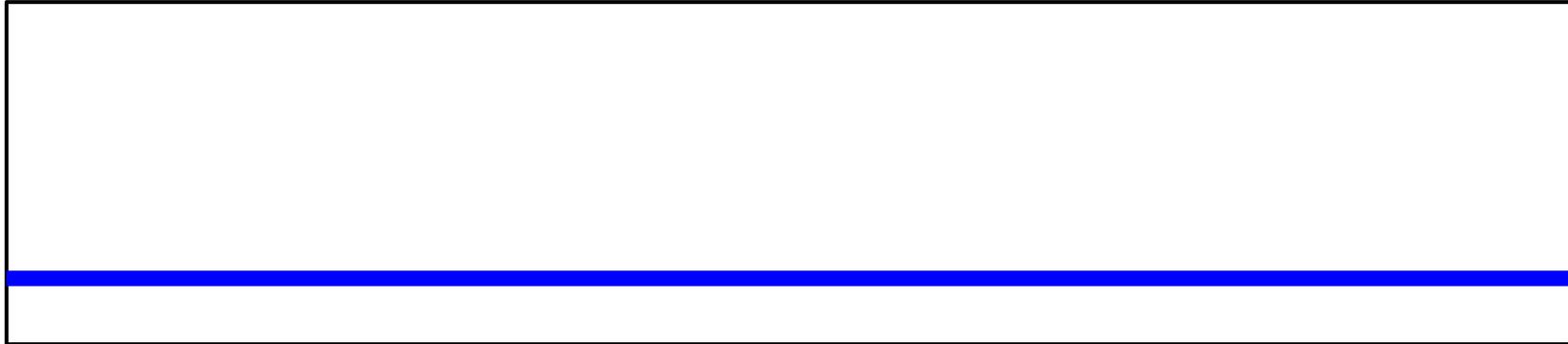
Example

- Moving only in one dimension
- Known map of flower garden
- Simple flower detector
 - Beeps when you are in front of a flower
 - Gaussian distribution of a flower given a beep



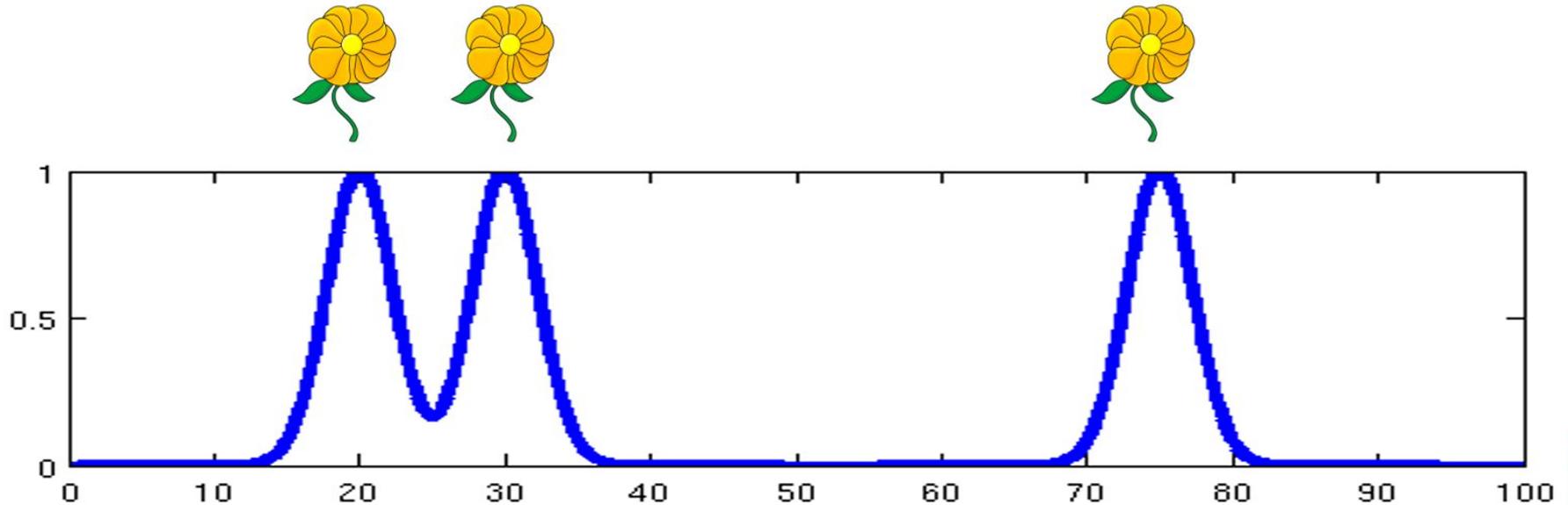
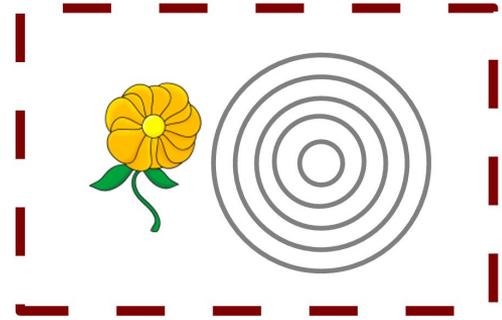
Example

Initially, no idea where we are



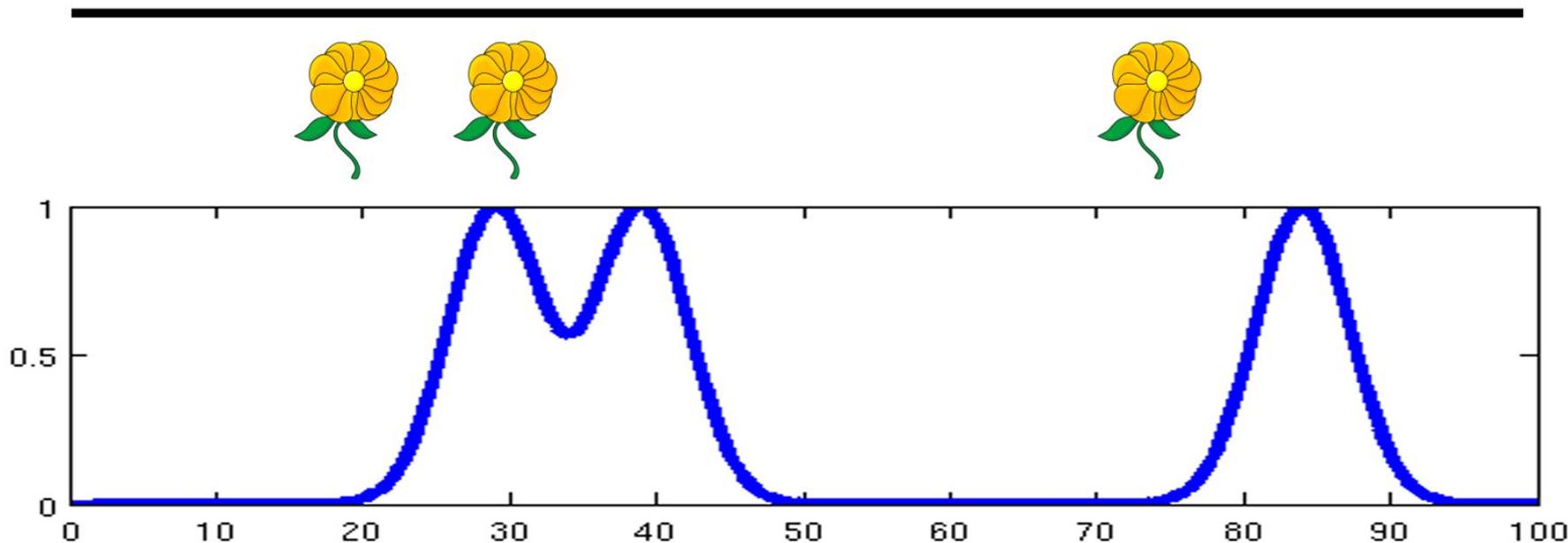
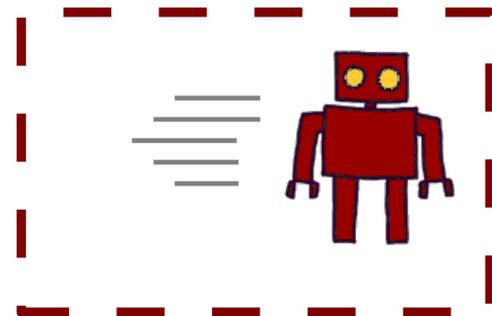
Example

First observation -> update belief about location



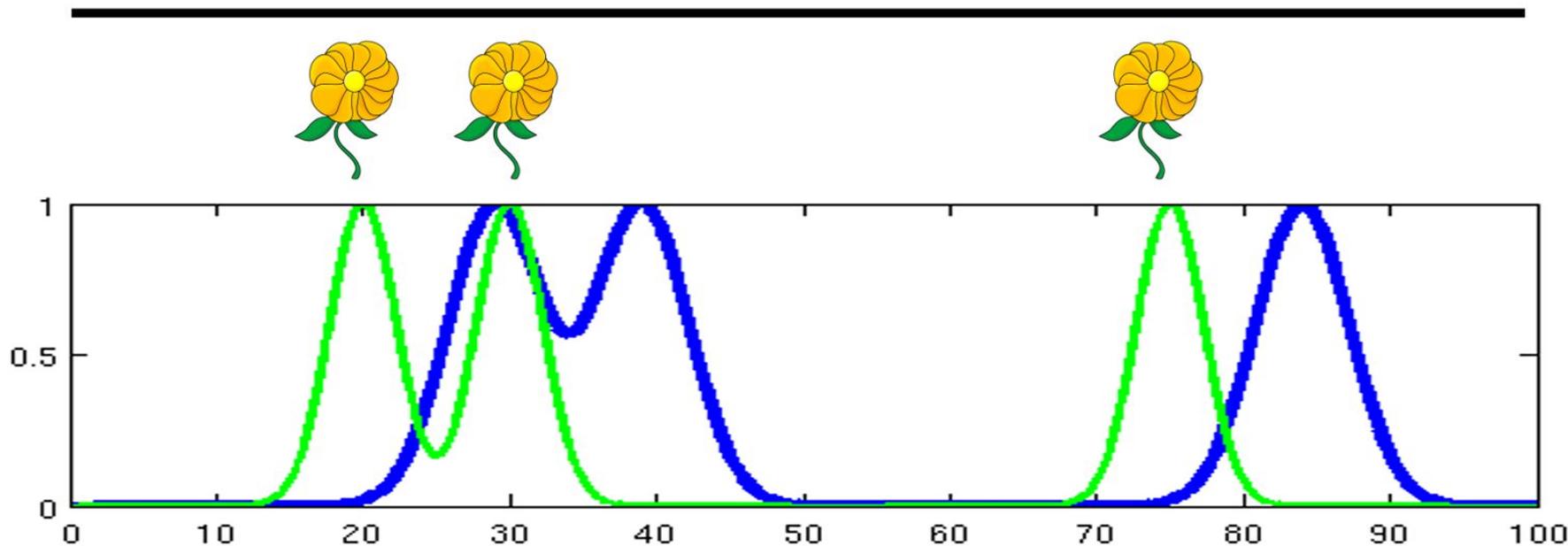
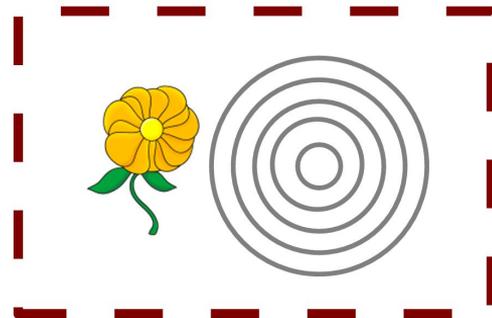
Example

Robot moves, motion update



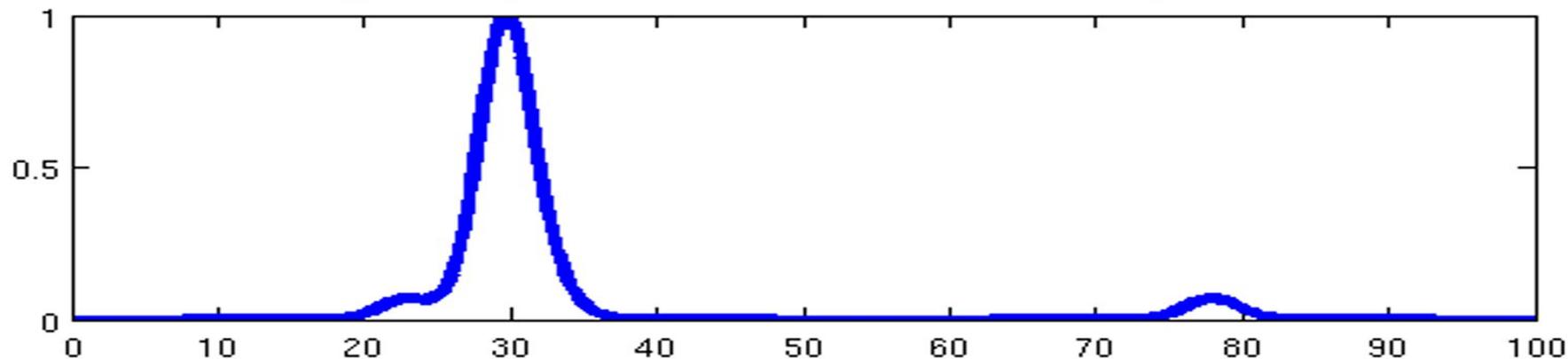
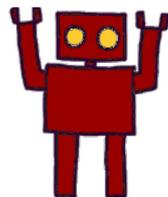
Example

Observation update



Example

Final belief



Bayes' rule

- $P(A,B)=P(A | B)P(B)$
- $P(A,B)=P(B | A)P(A)$

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

Bayes' rule with background knowledge

$$P(x | y, z) = \frac{P(y | x, z) P(x | z)}{P(y | z)}$$

Localization

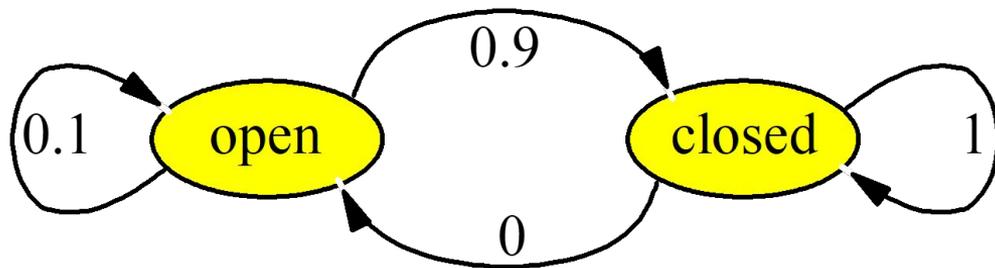
$$Bel(x_t) = P(x_t | u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t, z_t)$$

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
belief state observation action

$$= \frac{P(z_t | x_t, u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t) P(x_t | u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t)}{P(z_t | u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t)}$$
$$= \eta P(z_t | x_t, u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t) P(x_t | u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t)$$

Modeling actions

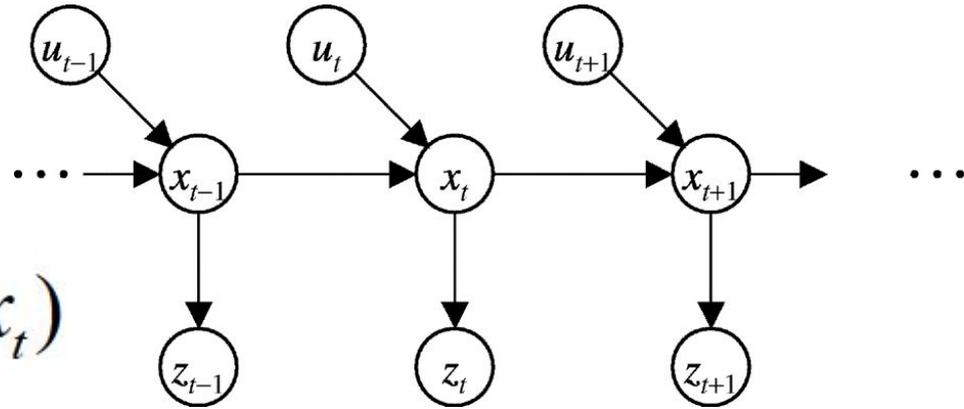
$P(x | u, x')$ for $u = \text{"close door"}$:



- Actions affect the state
- Actions are never carried out with absolute certainty
- Action model: $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}')$
- Integrating the outcome of actions:

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

Markov assumption



$$p(z_t | x_{0:t}, z_{1:t}, u_{1:t}) = p(z_t | x_t)$$

↑
observation/sensor model

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

Underlying assumptions:

- Static environment
- Independent noise
- Perfect model, no approximation errors

Localization

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Bel}(x_t) &= \eta P(z_t | x_t, u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t) P(x_t | u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t) \\ &= \eta P(z_t | x_t) \int P(x_t | u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t, x_{t-1}) \\ &\quad P(x_{t-1} | u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t) dx_{t-1} \\ &= \eta P(z_t | x_t) \int P(x_t | u_t, x_{t-1}) P(x_{t-1} | u_1, z_1, \dots, z_{t-1}) dx_{t-1} \\ &= \eta P(z_t | x_t) \int P(x_t | u_t, x_{t-1}) \text{Bel}(x_{t-1}) dx_{t-1} \end{aligned}$$

Bayes filter

```
1:   Algorithm Bayes_filter(bel( $x_{t-1}$ ),  $u_t$ ,  $z_t$ ):  
2:     for all  $x_t$  do  
3:        $\overline{bel}(x_t) = \int p(x_t | u_t, x_{t-1}) bel(x_{t-1}) dx$   
4:        $bel(x_t) = \eta p(z_t | x_t) \overline{bel}(x_t)$   
5:     endfor  
6:     return bel( $x_t$ )
```

Markov localization

```
1:   Algorithm Markov_localization(bel( $x_{t-1}$ ),  $u_t$ ,  $z_t$ ,  $m$ ):  
2:     for all  $x_t$  do  
3:        $\overline{bel}(x_t) = \int p(x_t \mid u_t, x_{t-1}, m) bel(x_{t-1}) dx$   
4:        $bel(x_t) = \eta p(z_t \mid x_t, m) \overline{bel}(x_t)$   
5:     endfor  
6:     return  $bel(x_t)$ 
```