

# CS 369: Introduction to Robotics

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Spring 2026



**Haverford**  
COLLEGE

# Admin

- Lab 4 grades posted on Moodle
- Lab 6 posted tonight
  - group work
  - due Wednesday (Apr 1)
- Research paper presentation sign-up

# Outline for today

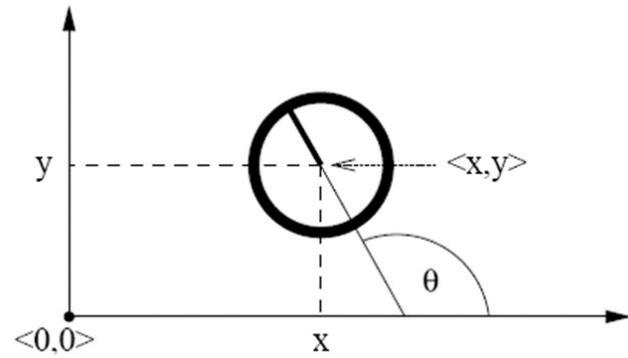
- Motion models
- Sensor models
- Localization algorithms

# Outline for today

- Motion models
- Sensor models
- Localization algorithms

# Motion models

- Consider robots operating on a planar surface
  - The state space is three-dimensional:  $(x,y,\theta)$
- In practice, one often finds two types of motion models:
  - Odometry-based
  - Velocity-based
- Odometry-based models are used when systems are equipped with wheel encoders
- Velocity-based models calculate the new pose based on the velocities and the time elapsed



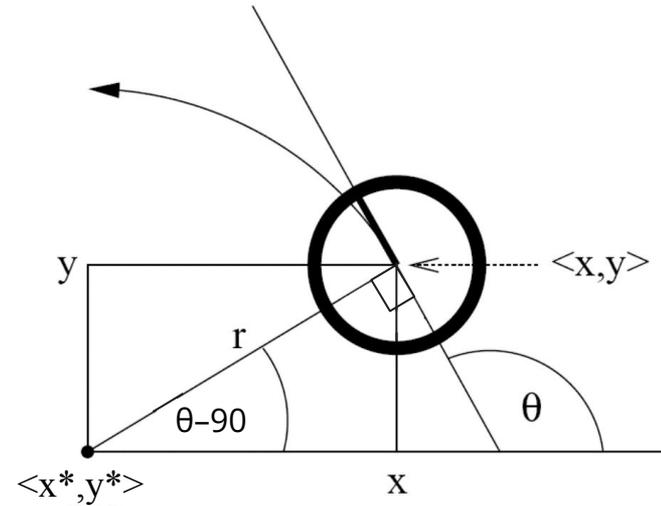
# Velocity model

- $u_t = \begin{pmatrix} v_t \\ \omega_t \end{pmatrix}$  → translational velocity  
→ rotational velocity

- $x^* = x - \frac{v}{\omega} \sin \theta$

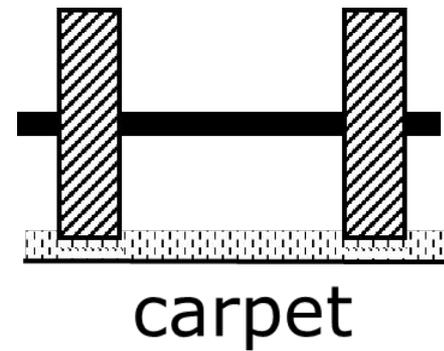
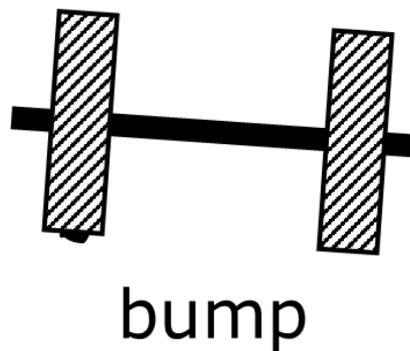
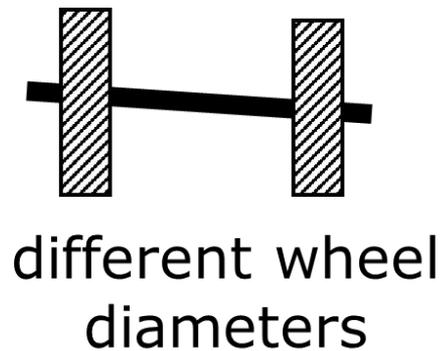
- $y^* = y + \frac{v}{\omega} \cos \theta$

- $x_t = \begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ \theta' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x^* + \frac{v}{\omega} \sin(\theta + \omega \Delta t) \\ y^* - \frac{v}{\omega} \cos(\theta + \omega \Delta t) \\ \theta + \omega \Delta t \end{pmatrix}$

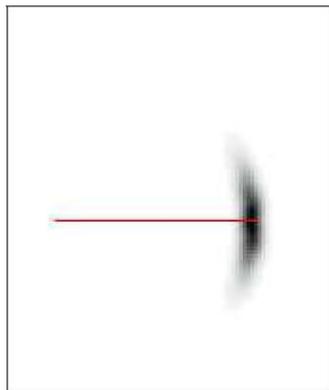


# Motion errors

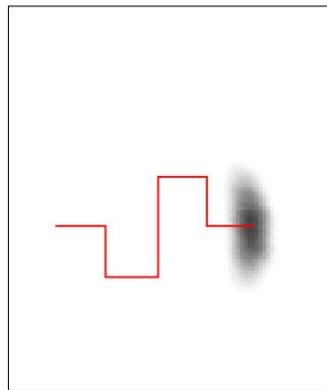
Many reasons:



(a)



(b)



Posterior distributions of the robot's pose upon executing the motion command illustrated by the solid line.

# Noise model for velocity

The actual motion is given by the commanded motion corrupted with noise.

$$\hat{V} = V + \mathcal{E}_{\alpha_1 v^2 + \alpha_2 \omega^2}$$
$$\hat{\omega} = \omega + \mathcal{E}_{\alpha_3 v^2 + \alpha_4 \omega^2}$$
$$\hat{\gamma} = \mathcal{E}_{\alpha_5 v^2 + \alpha_6 \omega^2}$$

↑  
final rotation

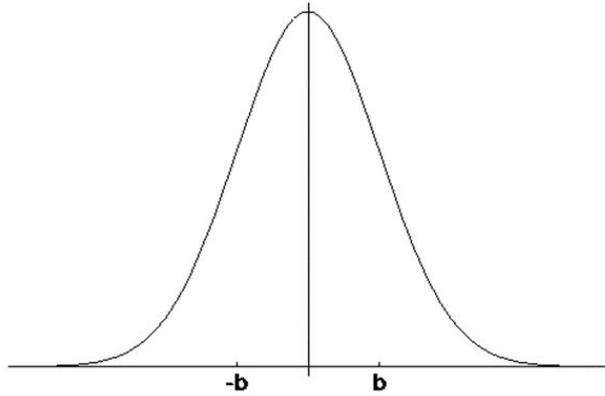
# Velocity motion model

```
1:   Algorithm motion_model_velocity( $x_t, u_t, x_{t-1}$ ):  
2:      $\mu = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(x - x') \cos \theta + (y - y') \sin \theta}{(y - y') \cos \theta - (x - x') \sin \theta}$   
3:      $x^* = \frac{x + x'}{2} + \mu(y - y')$   
4:      $y^* = \frac{y + y'}{2} + \mu(x' - x)$   
5:      $r^* = \sqrt{(x - x^*)^2 + (y - y^*)^2}$   
6:      $\Delta\theta = \text{atan2}(y' - y^*, x' - x^*) - \text{atan2}(y - y^*, x - x^*)$   
7:      $\hat{v} = \frac{\Delta\theta}{\Delta t} r^*$   
8:      $\hat{\omega} = \frac{\Delta\theta}{\Delta t}$   
9:      $\hat{\gamma} = \frac{\theta' - \theta}{\Delta t} - \hat{\omega}$   
10:    return  $\text{prob}(v - \hat{v}, \alpha_1 v^2 + \alpha_2 \omega^2) \cdot \text{prob}(\omega - \hat{\omega}, \alpha_3 v^2 + \alpha_4 \omega^2)$   
       $\cdot \text{prob}(\hat{\gamma}, \alpha_5 v^2 + \alpha_6 \omega^2)$ 
```

$x_{t-1} = (x, y, \theta)^T$   
 $x_t = (x', y', \theta')^T$   
 $u = (v, \omega)^T$

# Noise distributions

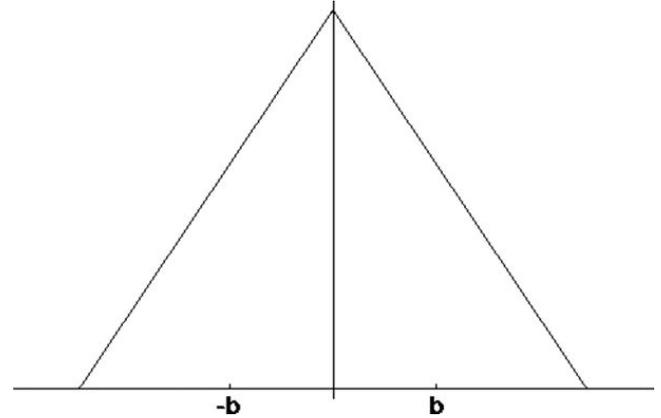
Normal



**Algorithm prob\_normal\_distribution( $a, b^2$ ):**

$$\text{return } \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi b}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \frac{a^2}{b}}$$

Triangular



**Algorithm prob\_triangular\_distribution( $a, b^2$ ):**

*if*  $|a| > \sqrt{6b}$

*return* 0

*else*

$$\text{return } \frac{\sqrt{6b} - |a|}{6b}$$

# Sampling

1:       **Algorithm** `sample_motion_model_velocity`( $u_t, x_{t-1}$ ):

2:            $\hat{v} = v + \text{sample}(\alpha_1 v^2 + \alpha_2 \omega^2)$

3:            $\hat{\omega} = \omega + \text{sample}(\alpha_3 v^2 + \alpha_4 \omega^2)$

4:            $\hat{\gamma} = \text{sample}(\alpha_5 v^2 + \alpha_6 \omega^2)$

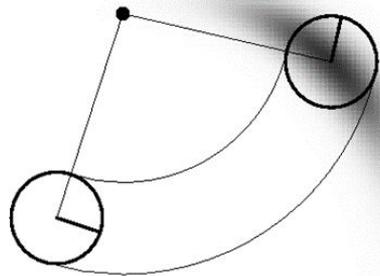
5:            $x' = x - \frac{\hat{v}}{\hat{\omega}} \sin \theta + \frac{\hat{v}}{\hat{\omega}} \sin(\theta + \hat{\omega} \Delta t)$

6:            $y' = y + \frac{\hat{v}}{\hat{\omega}} \cos \theta - \frac{\hat{v}}{\hat{\omega}} \cos(\theta + \hat{\omega} \Delta t)$

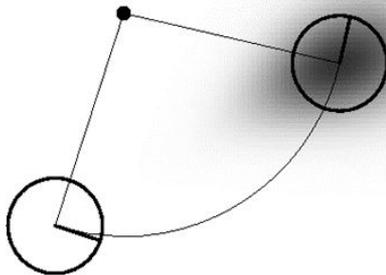
7:            $\theta' = \theta + \hat{\omega} \Delta t + \hat{\gamma} \Delta t$

8:           **return**  $x_t = (x', y', \theta')^T$

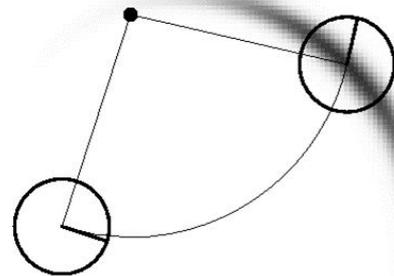
# Noise parameters



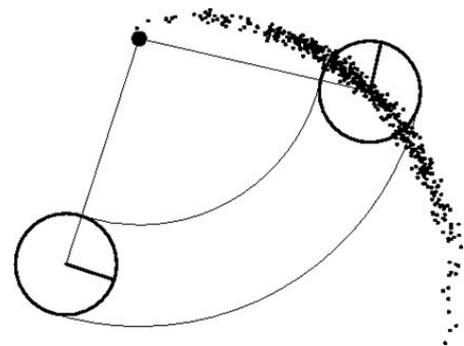
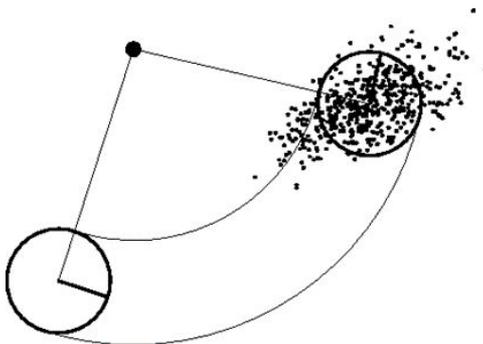
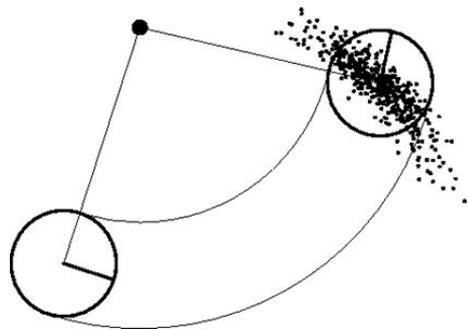
Moderate parameters



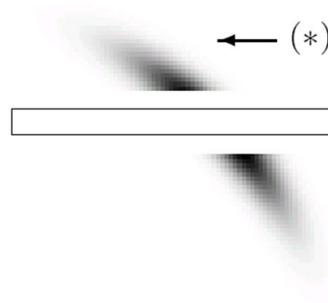
Large translational error ( $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$ )  
small angular error ( $\alpha_3, \alpha_4$ )



Small translational and  
large angular error



# Map-consistent motion model



$$p(x_t | u_t, x_{t-1}) \neq$$



$$p(x_t | u_t, x_{t-1}, m)$$

$$\text{Approximation: } p(x_t | u_t, x_{t-1}, m) = \eta p(x_t | u_t, x_{t-1}) p(x_t | m)$$

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# Feature-based sensor model

- Landmarks: distinct objects used for robot navigation
- Sensor provides: landmark's range, bearing, signature

$$f(z_t) = \{f_t^1, f_t^2, \dots\} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} r_t^1 \\ \phi_t^1 \\ s_t^1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} r_t^2 \\ \phi_t^2 \\ s_t^2 \end{pmatrix}, \dots \right\}$$

- $p(f(z_t) | x_t, m) = \prod_i p(r_t^i, \phi_t^i, s_t^i | x_t, m)$

# Feature-based map

- A map is a list of objects in the environment along with their properties

$$m = \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_N\}$$

- Each object may possess a signature and location coordinate  $(m_{i,x}, m_{i,y})$

- $$\begin{pmatrix} r_t^i \\ \phi_t^i \\ s_t^i \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{(m_{j,x} - x)^2 + (m_{j,y} - y)^2} \\ \text{atan2}(m_{j,y} - y, m_{j,x} - x) - \theta \\ s_j \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_{\sigma_r^2} \\ \varepsilon_{\sigma_\phi^2} \\ \varepsilon_{\sigma_s^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

# Sensor model

1:     **Algorithm** `landmark_model_known_correspondence`( $f_t^i, c_t^i, x_t, m$ ):

2:      $j = c_t^i$   $\longrightarrow$  correspondence between feature  $f_t^i$  and landmark  $m_j$

3:      $\hat{r} = \sqrt{(m_{j,x} - x)^2 + (m_{j,y} - y)^2}$

4:      $\hat{\phi} = \text{atan2}(m_{j,y} - y, m_{j,x} - x) - \theta$

5:      $q = \text{prob}(r_t^i - \hat{r}, \sigma_r^2) \cdot \text{prob}(\phi_t^i - \hat{\phi}, \sigma_\phi^2) \cdot \text{prob}(s_t^i - s_j, \sigma_s^2)$

6:     return  $q$

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# Grid localization

```
1:   Algorithm Grid_localization( $\{p_{k,t-1}\}, u_t, z_t, m$ ):  
2:     for all  $k$  do  
3:        $\bar{p}_{k,t} = \sum_i p_{i,t-1} \text{motion\_model}(\text{mean}(\mathbf{x}_k), u_t, \text{mean}(\mathbf{x}_i))$   
4:        $p_{k,t} = \eta \text{measurement\_model}(z_t, \text{mean}(\mathbf{x}_k), m) \bar{p}_{k,t}$   
5:     endfor  
6:     return  $\{p_{k,t}\}$ 
```

# Monte Carlo localization

```
1: Algorithm MCL( $\mathcal{X}_{t-1}, u_t, z_t, m$ ):  
2:    $\bar{\mathcal{X}}_t = \mathcal{X}_t = \emptyset$   
3:   for  $m = 1$  to  $M$  do  
4:      $x_t^{[m]} = \text{sample\_motion\_model}(u_t, x_{t-1}^{[m]})$   
5:      $w_t^{[m]} = \text{measurement\_model}(z_t, x_t^{[m]}, m)$   
6:      $\bar{\mathcal{X}}_t = \bar{\mathcal{X}}_t + \langle x_t^{[m]}, w_t^{[m]} \rangle$   
7:   endfor  
8:   for  $m = 1$  to  $M$  do  
9:     draw  $i$  with probability  $\propto w_t^{[i]}$   
10:    add  $x_t^{[i]}$  to  $\mathcal{X}_t$   
11:  endfor  
12:  return  $\mathcal{X}_t$ 
```

