Beam Sensor Models

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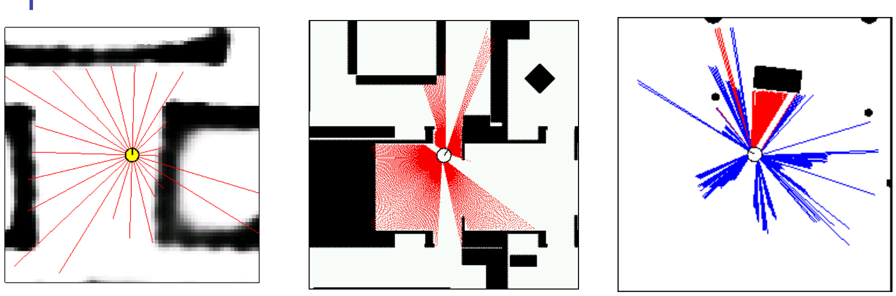
Many slides adapted from Thrun, Burgard and Fox, Probabilistic Robotics

Proximity Sensors



- The central task is to determine *P(z|x)*, i.e., the probability of a measurement z given that the robot is at position *x*.
- **Question**: Where do the probabilities come from?
- **Approach**: Let' s try to explain a measurement.

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Beam-based Sensor Model

- Scan z consists of K measurements.

$$z = \{z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_K\}$$

- Individual measurements are independent given the robot position.

$$P(z \mid x, m) = \prod_{k=1}^{K} P(z_k \mid x, m)$$

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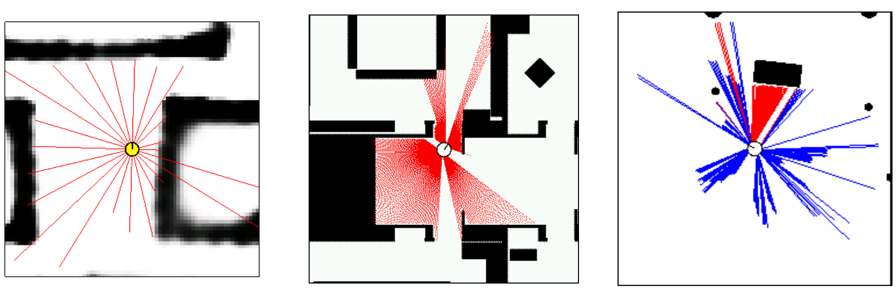
Beam-based Sensor Model



$$P(z \mid x, m) = \prod_{k=1}^{K} P(z_k \mid x, m)$$

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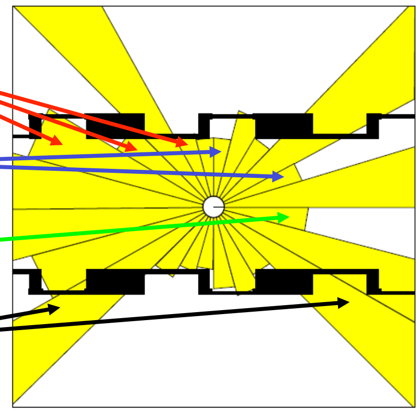
Typical Measurement Errors of an Range Measurements

1. Beams reflected by obstacles
2. Beams reflected by persons / caused by crosstalk
3. Random measurements
4. Maximum range measurements



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Proximity Measurement

- Measurement can be caused by …
  - a known obstacle.
  - cross-talk.
  - an unexpected obstacle (people, furniture, …).
  - missing all obstacles (total reflection, glass, …).
- Noise is due to uncertainty …
  - in measuring distance to known obstacle.
  - in position of known obstacles.
  - in position of additional obstacles.
  - whether obstacle is missed.

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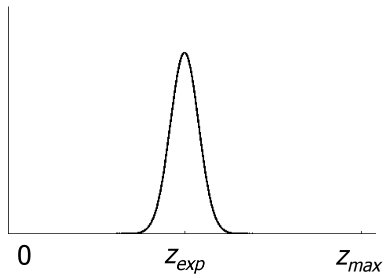
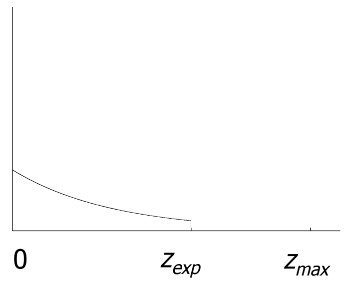
Beam-based Proximity Model

Measurement noise



Unexpected obstacles



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

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

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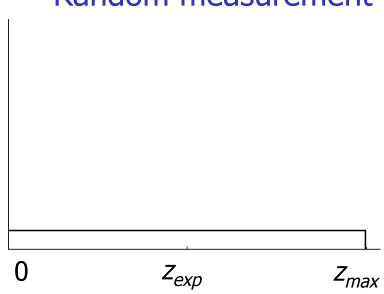
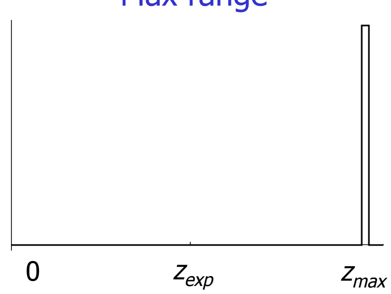
Beam-based Proximity Model

Random measurement



Max range



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

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

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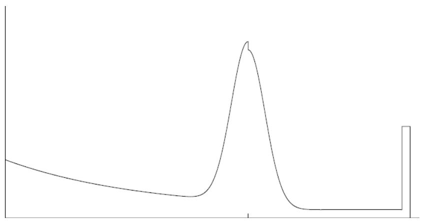
Resulting Mixture Density



$$P(z \mid x,m) = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{\text{hit}} \\ \alpha_{\text{unexp}} \\ \alpha_{\text{max}} \\ \alpha_{\text{rand}} \end{pmatrix}^T \cdot \begin{pmatrix} P_{\text{hit}}(z \mid x,m) \\ P_{\text{unexp}}(z \mid x,m) \\ P_{\text{max}}(z \mid x,m) \\ P_{\text{rand}}(z \mid x,m) \end{pmatrix}$$

How can we determine the model parameters?

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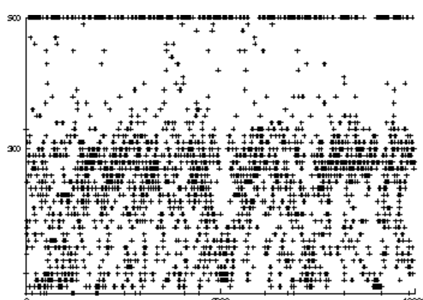
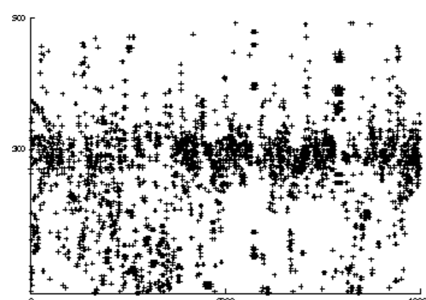
Raw Sensor Data

Measured distances for expected distance of 300 cm.



Sonar



Laser

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Approximation

- Maximize log likelihood of the data

$$P(z \mid z_{\exp})$$

- Search space of n-1 parameters.
  - Hill climbing
  - Gradient descent
  - Genetic algorithms
  - …
- Deterministically compute the n-th parameter to satisfy normalization constraint.

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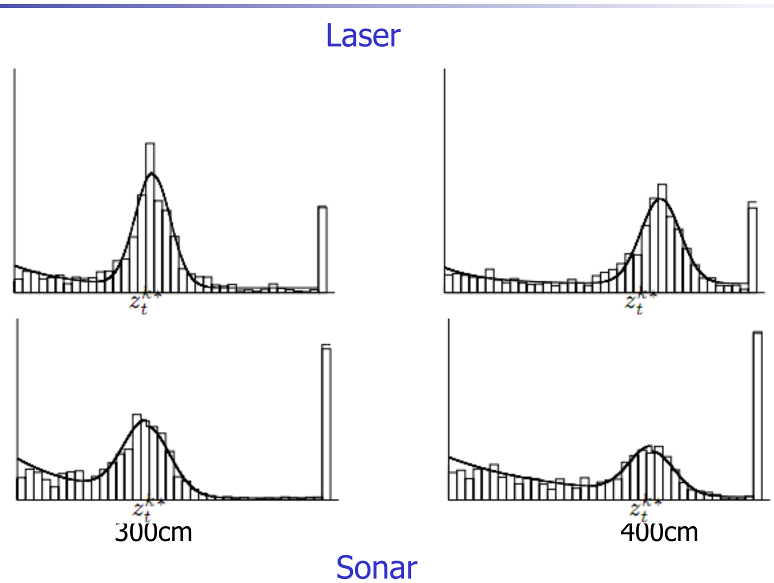
Approximation Results



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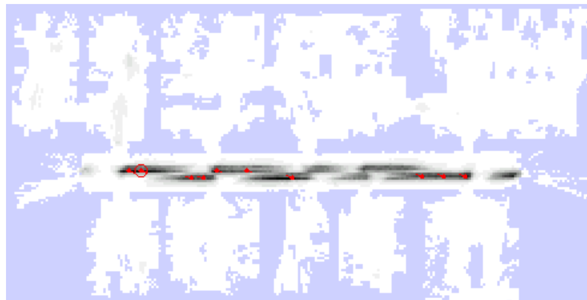
Example

z



P(z|x,m)

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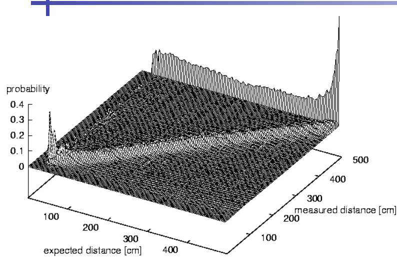
Approximation Results



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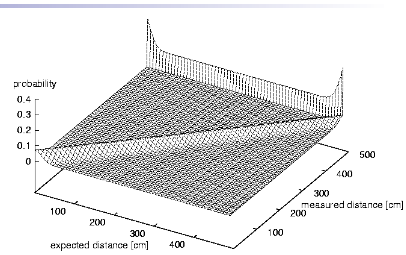

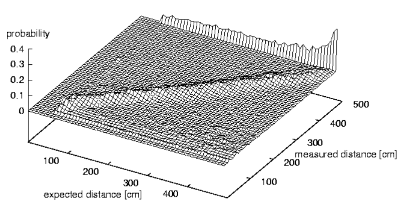

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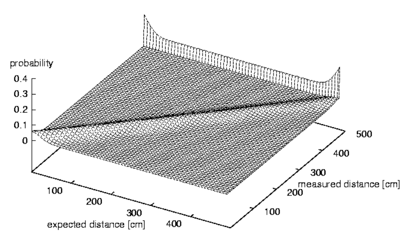

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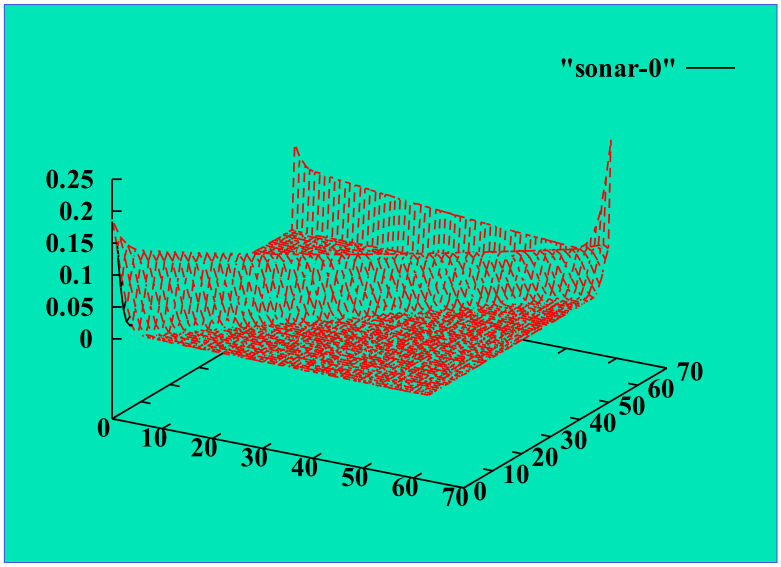
Influence of Angle to Obstacle



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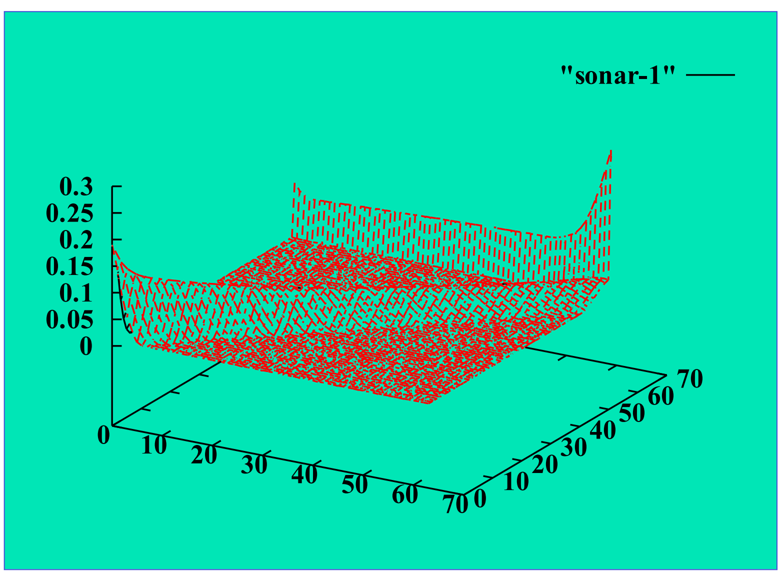

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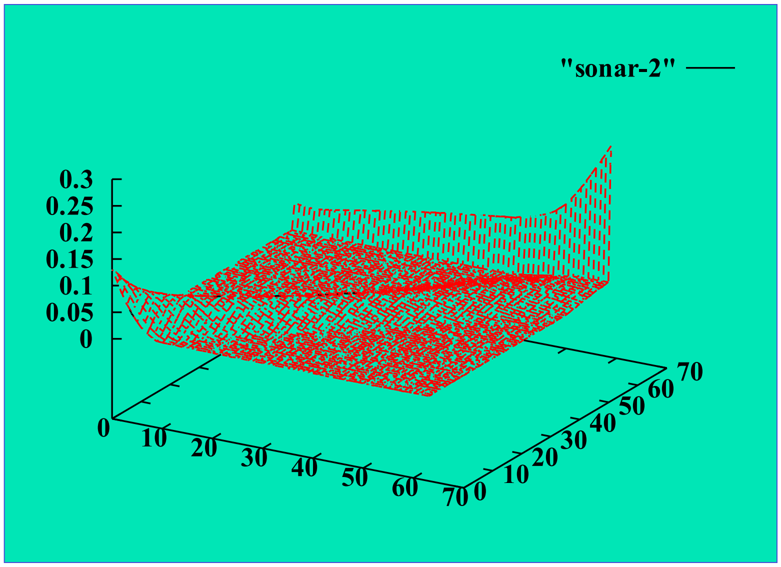

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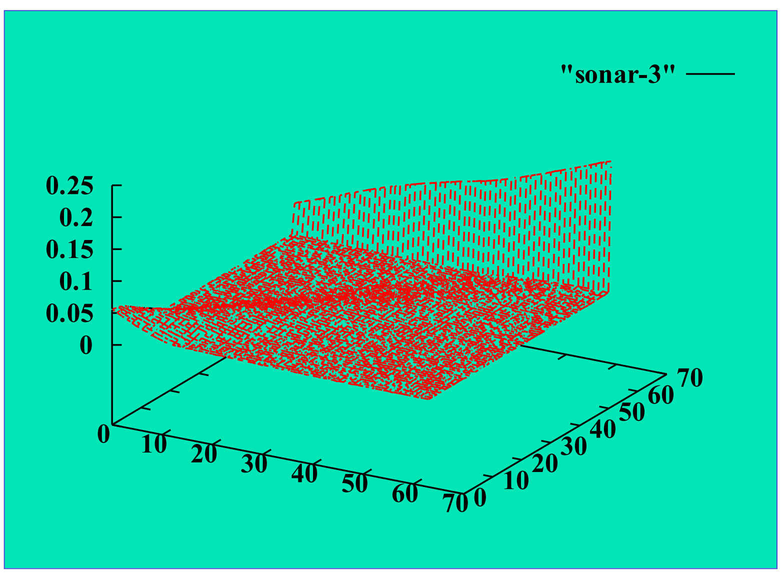
Influence of Angle to Obstacle



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Summary Beam-based Model

- Assumes independence between beams.
  - Justification?
  - Overconfident!
- Models physical causes for measurements.
  - Mixture of densities for these causes.
  - Assumes independence between causes. Problem?
- Implementation
  - Learn parameters based on real data.
  - Different models should be learned for different angles at which the sensor beam hits the obstacle.
  - Determine expected distances by ray-tracing.
  - Expected distances can be pre-processed.