CS283: **Robotics Fall 2019: Planning**

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ADMIN

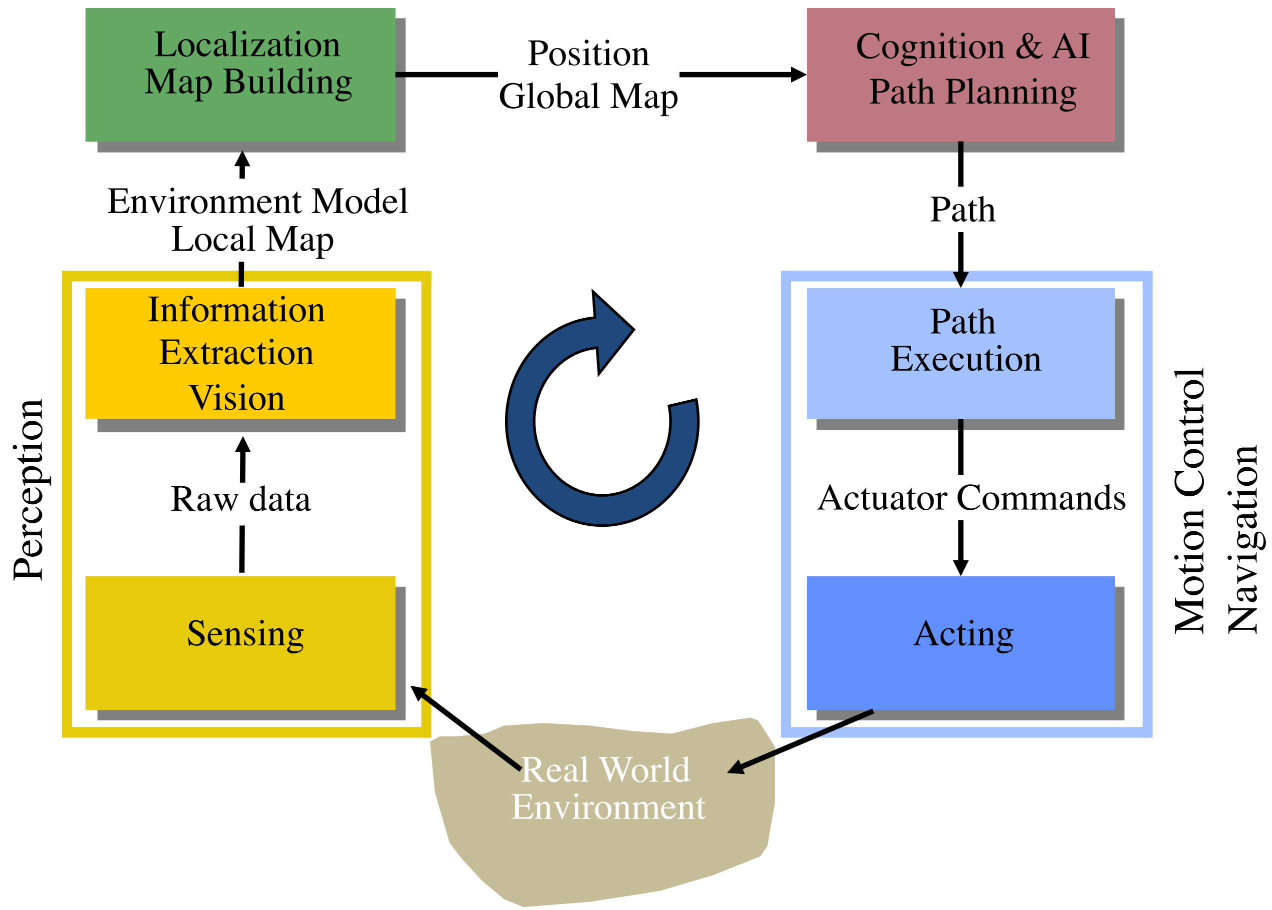
Project Meeting

- This week!
- Make an appointment – making appointments (and coming to them) is 10% of your course grade!
  - Go to piazza and propose a time!
  - Rover manipulation: check piazza again!

- HW 1 and Quiz 1 are graded and published on gradescope.

- HW 2 is due Sep 30, 22:00

General Control Scheme for Mobile Robot Systems



MAPS

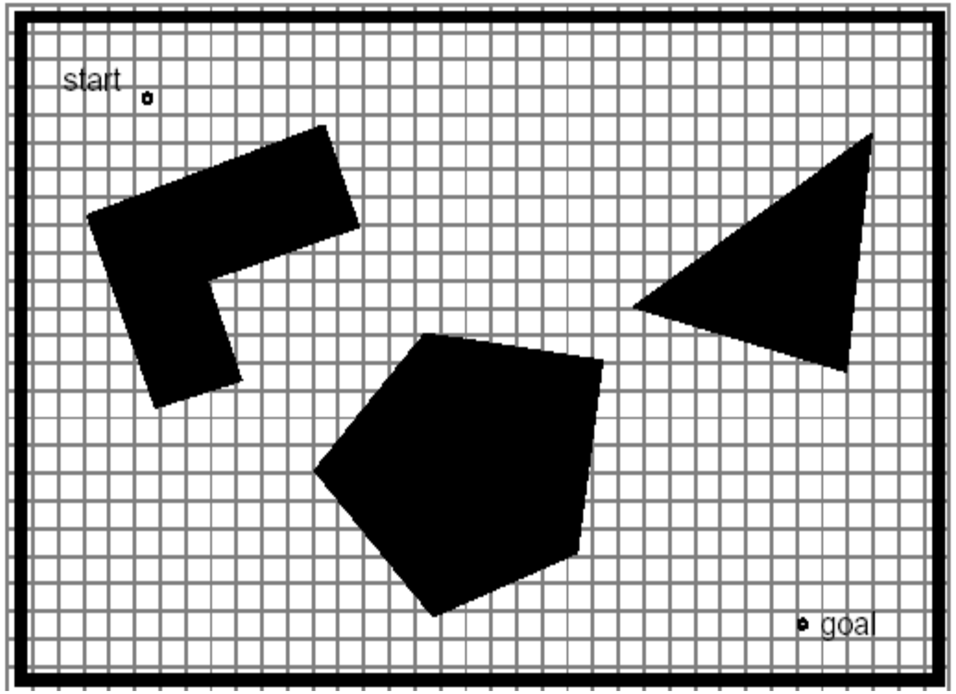
Representation of the Environment

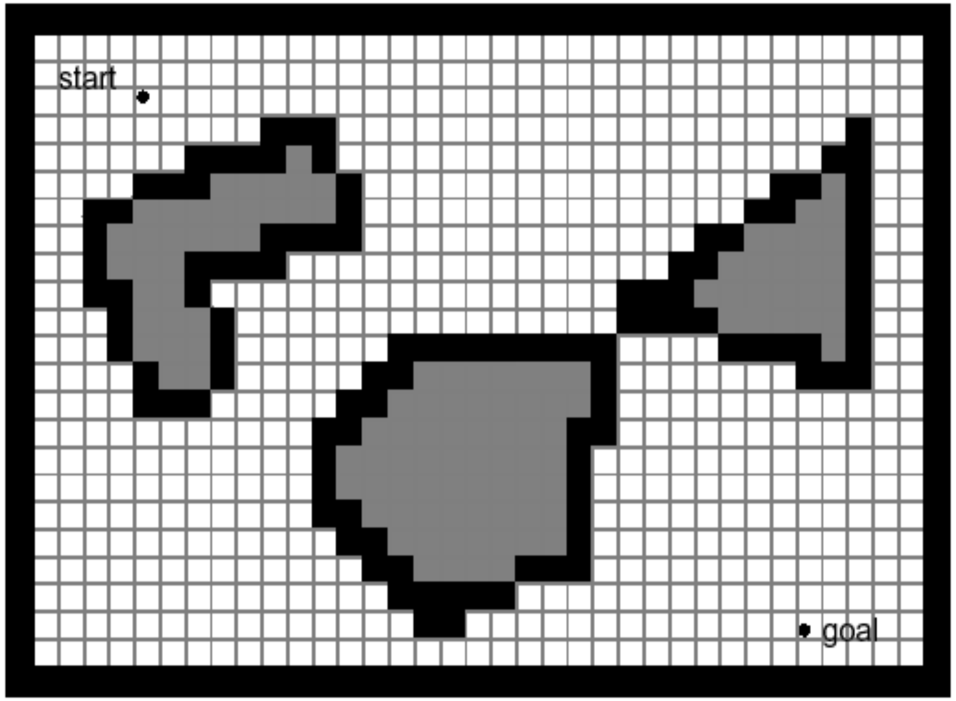
- Environment Representation
  - Continuous Metric → x, y, θ
  - Discrete Metric → metric grid
  - Discrete Topological → topological grid

- Environment Modeling
  - Raw sensor data, e.g. laser range data, grayscale images
    - large volume of data, low distinctiveness on the level of individual values
    - makes use of all acquired information
  - Low level features, e.g. line other geometric features
    - medium volume of data, average distinctiveness
    - filters out the useful information, still ambiguities
  - High level features, e.g. doors, a car, the Eiffel tower
    - low volume of data, high distinctiveness
    - filters out the useful information, few/ no ambiguities

Map Representation: Approximate cell decomposition

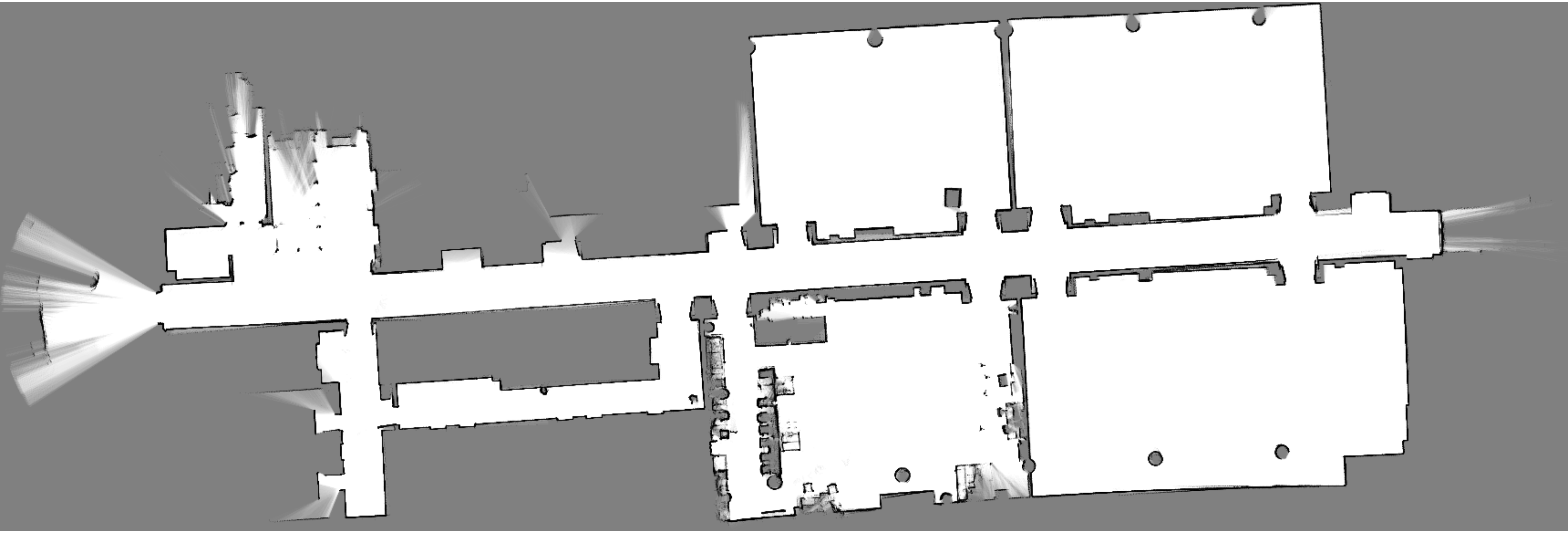
- Fixed cell decomposition => 2D grid map
  - Cells: probability of being occupied =>
    - 0 free; 0.5 (or 128) unknown; 1 or (255) occupied





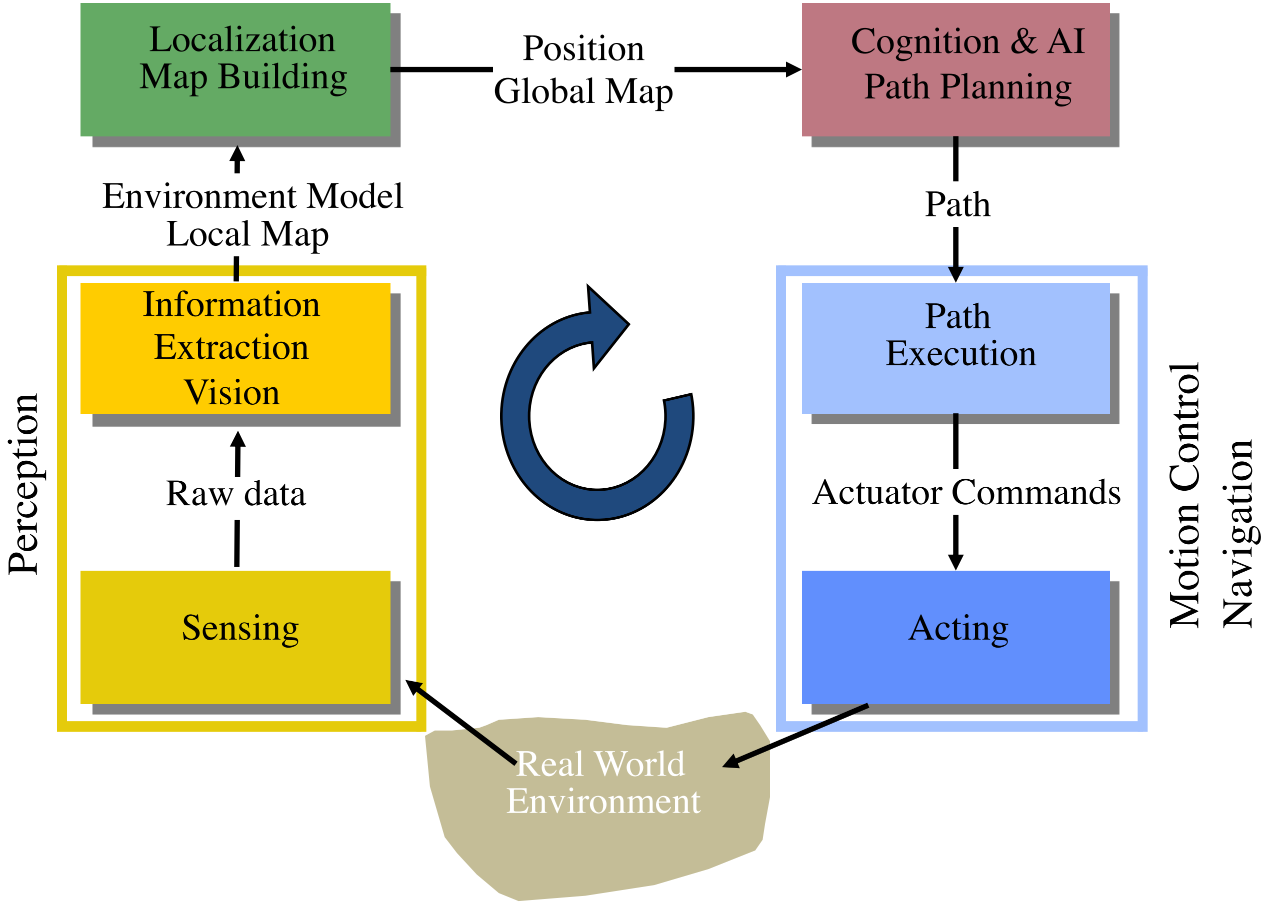
Map Representation: Occupancy grid

- Fixed cell decomposition: occupancy grid example: STAR Center



PLANNING

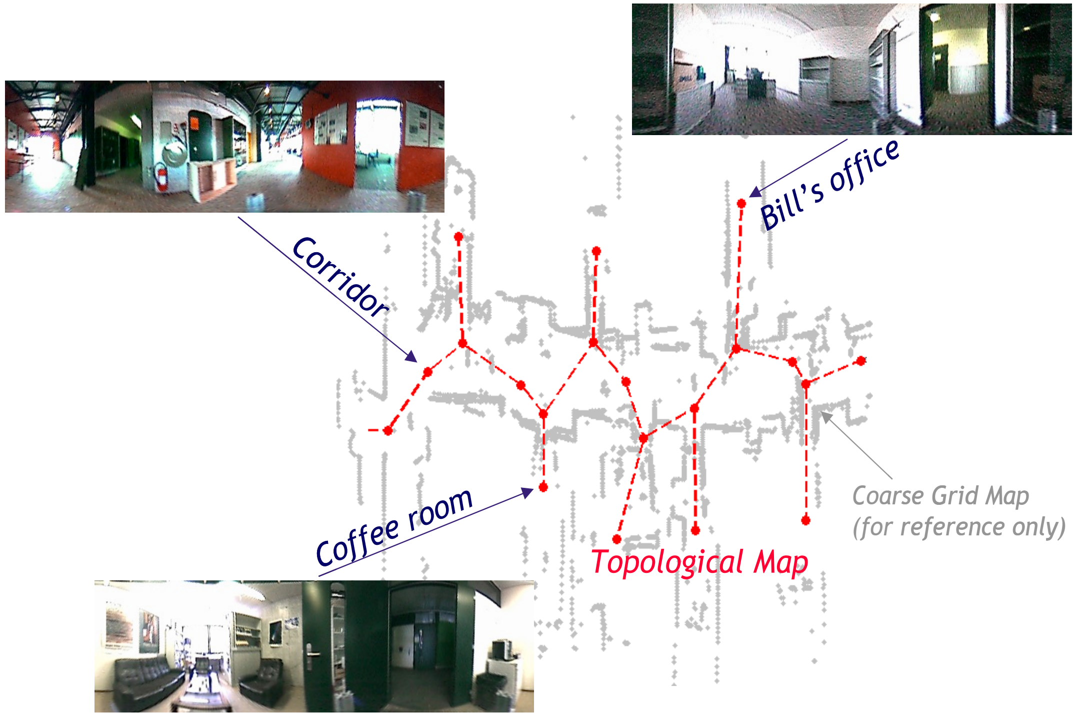
General Control Scheme for Mobile Robot Systems



The Planning Problem

- The problem: find a path in the work space (physical space) from the initial position to the goal position avoiding all collisions with the obstacles

- Assumption: there exists a good enough map of the environment for navigation.

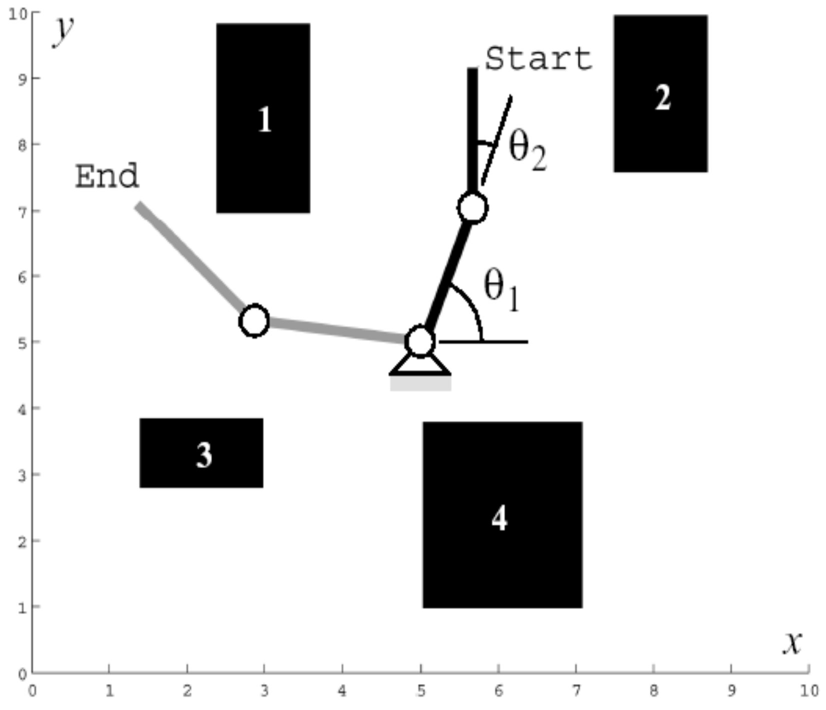


The Planning Problem

- We can generally distinguish between
  - (global) path planning and
  - (local) obstacle avoidance.
- First step:
  - Transformation of the map into a representation useful for planning
  - This step is planner-dependent
- Second step:
  - Plan a path on the transformed map
- Third step:
  - Send motion commands to controller
  - This step is planner-dependent (e.g. Model based feed forward, path following)

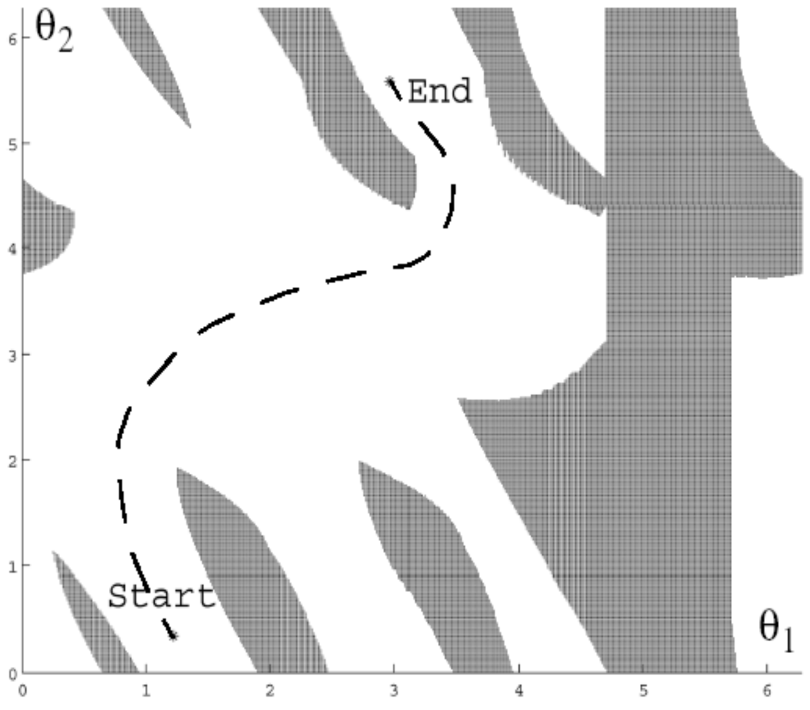
Work Space (Map) → Configuration Space

- State or configuration q can be described with k values q_i



a)

Work Space



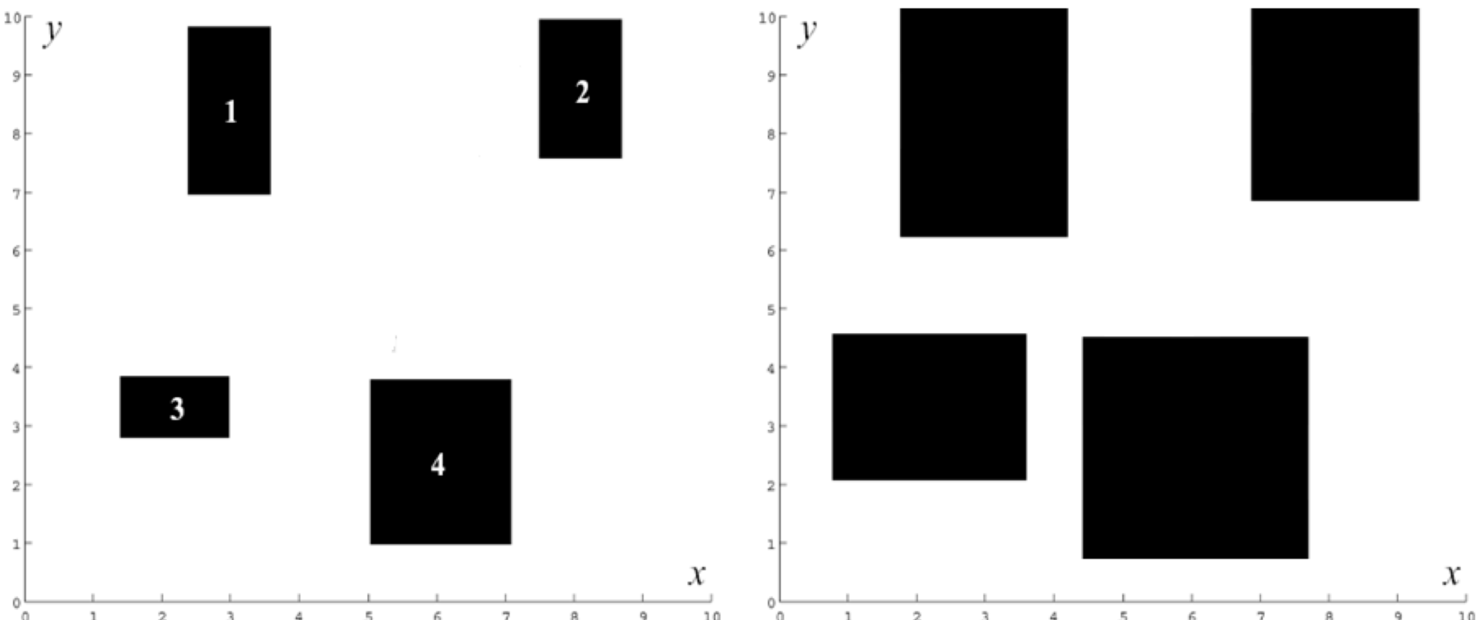
b)

Configuration Space:
the dimension of this
space is equal to the Degrees of Freedom (DoF)
of the robot

- What is the configuration space of a mobile robot?

Configuration Space for a Mobile Robot

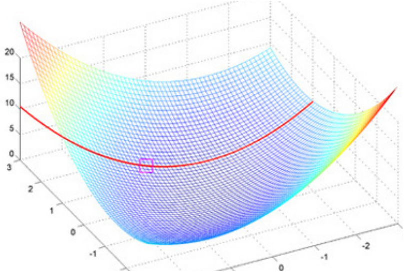
- Mobile robots operating on a flat ground (2D) have 3 DoF: (x, y, θ)
- Differential Drive: only two motors => only 2 degrees of freedom directly controlled (forward/ backward + turn) => non-holonomic
- Simplification: assume robot is holonomic and it is a point => configuration space is reduced to 2D (x,y)
- => inflate obstacle by size of the robot radius to avoid crashes => obstacle growing



Path Planning: Overview of Algorithms

1. Optimal Control

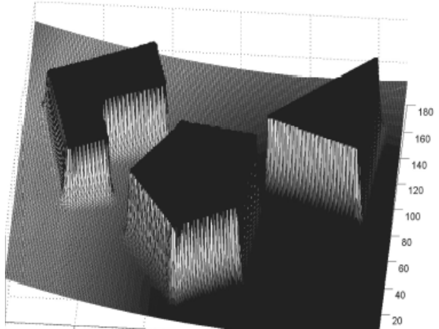
- Solves truly optimal solution
- Becomes intractable for even moderately complex as well as nonconvex problems



Source:
http://mitocw.udsm.ac.tz

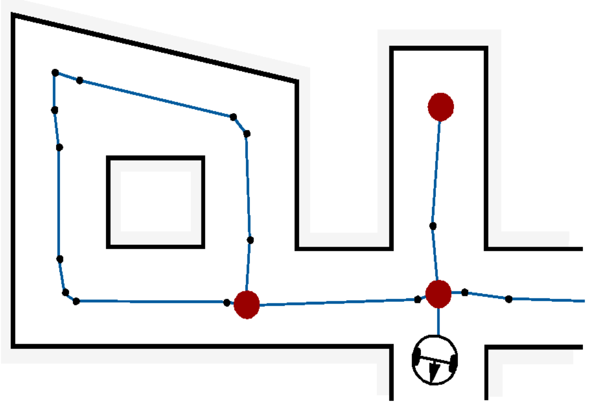
2. Potential Field

- Imposes a mathematical function over the state/configuration space
- Many physical metaphors exist
- Often employed due to its simplicity and similarity to optimal control solutions

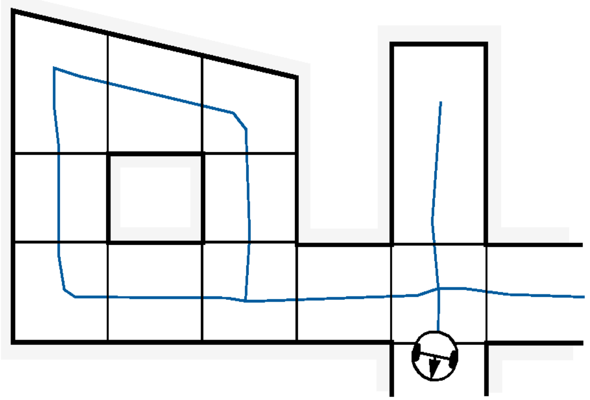


3. Graph Search

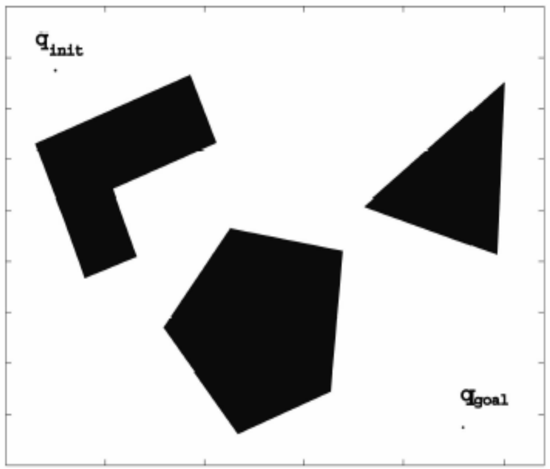
- Identify a set edges between nodes within the free space



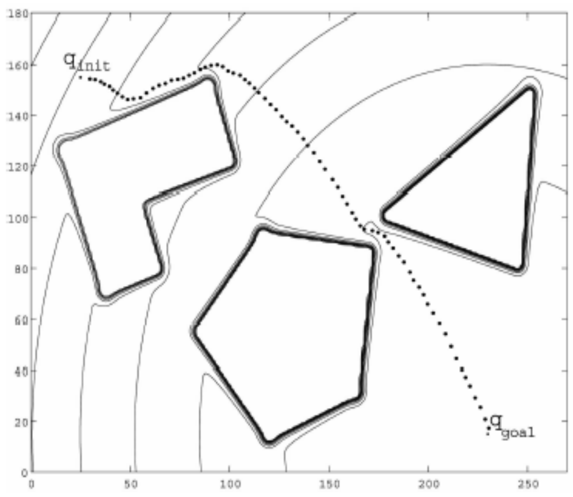
- Where to put the nodes?

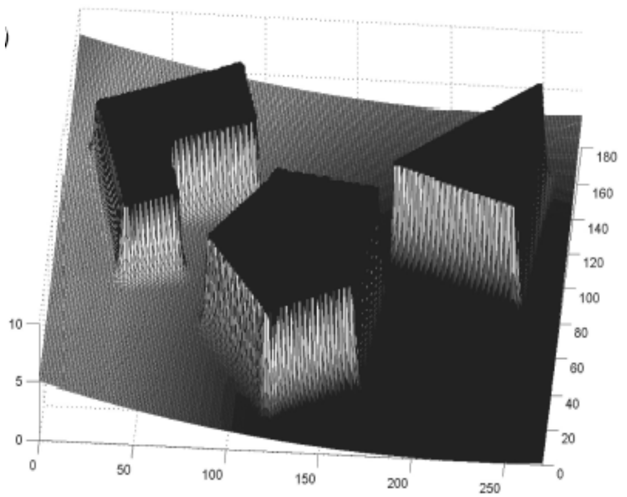


Potential Field Path Planning Strategies



- Robot is treated as a *point under the influence* of an artificial potential field.
- Operates in the continuum
  - Generated robot movement is similar to a ball rolling down the hill
  - Goal generates attractive force
  - Obstacle are repulsive forces





Potential Field Path Planning: Potential Field Generation

- Generation of potential field function *U(q)*
  - attracting (goal) and repulsing (obstacle) fields
  - summing up the fields
  - functions must be differentiable
- Generate artificial force field *F(q)*

$$F(q) = -\nabla U(q) = -\nabla U_{att}(q) - \nabla U_{rep}(q) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial U}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial U}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix}$$

- Set robot speed (v_x, v_y) proportional to the force $F(q)$ generated by the field
  - the force field drives the robot to the goal
  - if robot is assumed to be a point mass
  - Method produces both a plan *and* the corresponding control

Potential Field Path Planning: Attractive Potential Field

- Parabolic function representing the Euclidean distance $\rho_{goal} = \left\| q - q_{goal} \right\|$ to the goal

$$\begin{aligned} U_{att}(q) &= \frac{1}{2} k_{att} \cdot \rho_{goal}^{2}(q) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} k_{att} \cdot (q - q_{goal})^{2} \end{aligned}$$

- Attracting force converges linearly towards 0 (goal)

$$\begin{aligned} F_{att}(q) &= -\nabla U_{att}(q) \\ &= k_{att} \cdot (q - q_{goal}) \end{aligned}$$

Potential Field Path Planning: Repulsing Potential Field

- Should generate a barrier around all the obstacle
  - strong if close to the obstacle
  - not influence if far from the obstacle

$$U_{rep}(q) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}k_{rep}\left(\frac{1}{\rho(q)} - \frac{1}{\rho_0}\right)^2 & \text{if } \rho(q) \le \rho_0 \\ 0 & \text{if } \rho(q) \ge \rho_0 \end{cases}$$

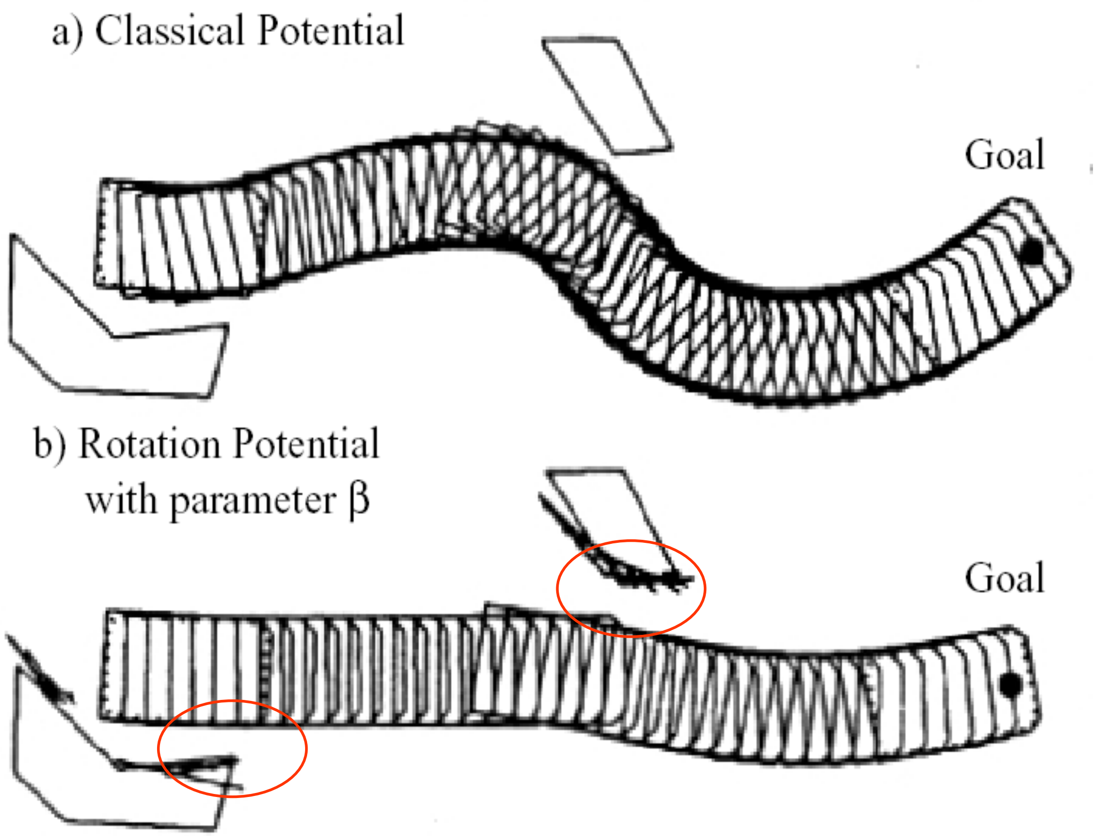
  - $\rho(q)$: minimum distance to the object
  - Field is positive or zero and *tends to infinity* as q gets closer to the object

Potential Field Path Planning:

- Notes:
  - Local minima problem exists
  - problem is getting more complex if the robot is not considered as a point mass
  - If objects are non-convex there exists situations where several minimal distances exist $\rightarrow$ can result in oscillations

Potential Field Path Planning: Extended Potential Field Method

- Additionally a *rotation potential field* and a *task potential field* is introduced
- Rotation potential field
  - force is also a function of robots orientation relative to the obstacles. This is done using a gain factor that reduces the repulsive force when obstacles are parallel to robot's direction of travel
- Task potential field
  - Filters out the obstacles that should not influence the robots movements, i.e. only the obstacles in the sector in front of the robot are considered

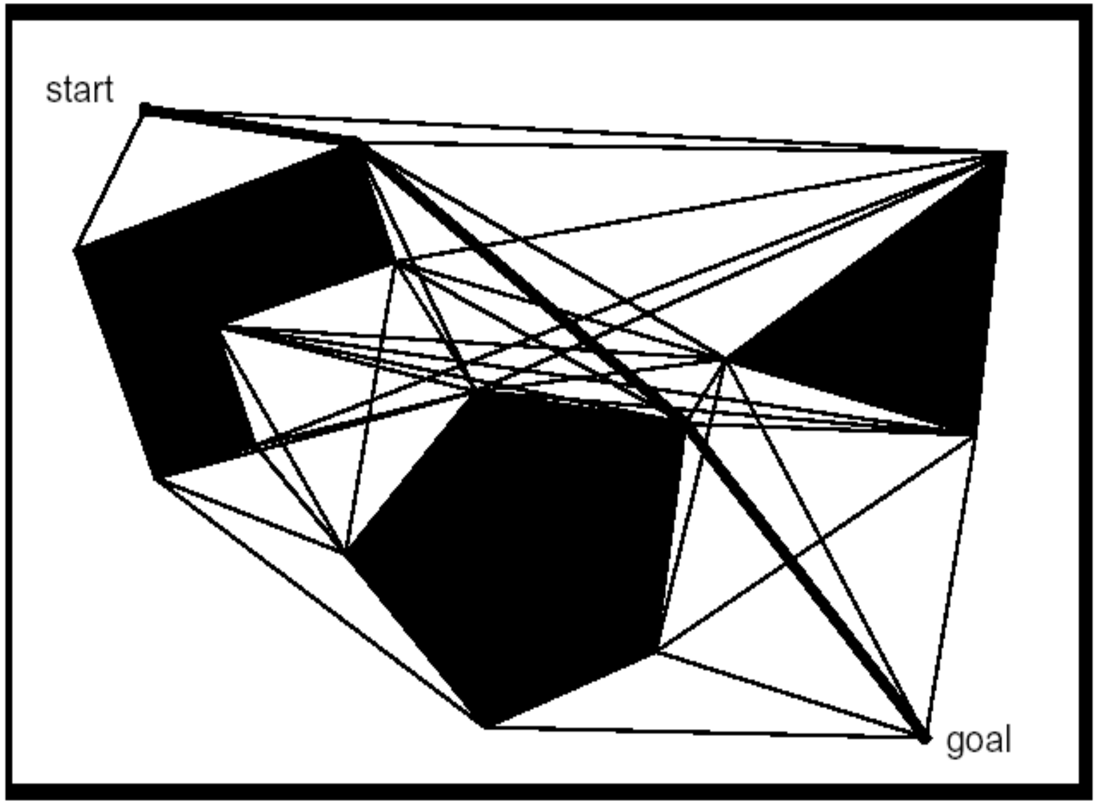


Khatib and Chatila

Graph Search

- Overview
  - Solves a least cost problem between two states on a (directed) graph
  - Graph structure is a discrete representation
- Limitations
  - State space is discretized → completeness is at stake
  - Feasibility of paths is often not inherently encoded
- Algorithms
  - (Preprocessing steps)
  - Breath first
  - Depth first
  - Dijkstra
  - A* and variants
  - D* and variants

Graph Construction: Visibility Graph



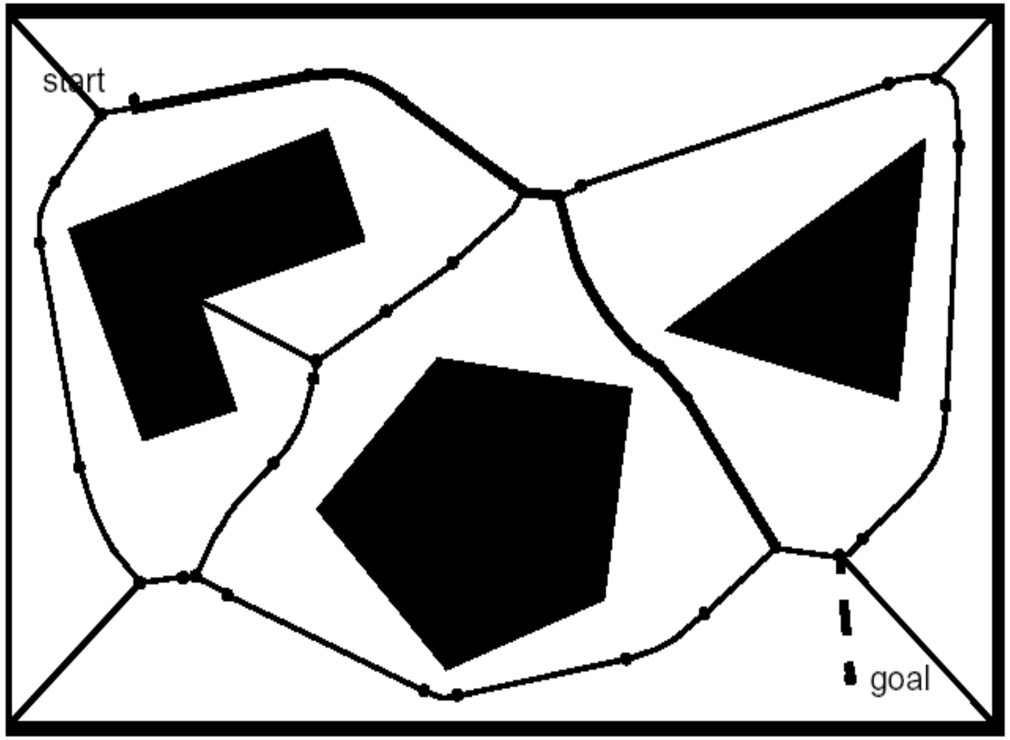
- Particularly suitable for polygon-like obstacles
- Shortest path length
- Grow obstacles to avoid collisions

Graph Construction: Visibility Graph

- Pros
  - The found path is optimal because it is the shortest length path
  - Implementation simple when obstacles are polygons

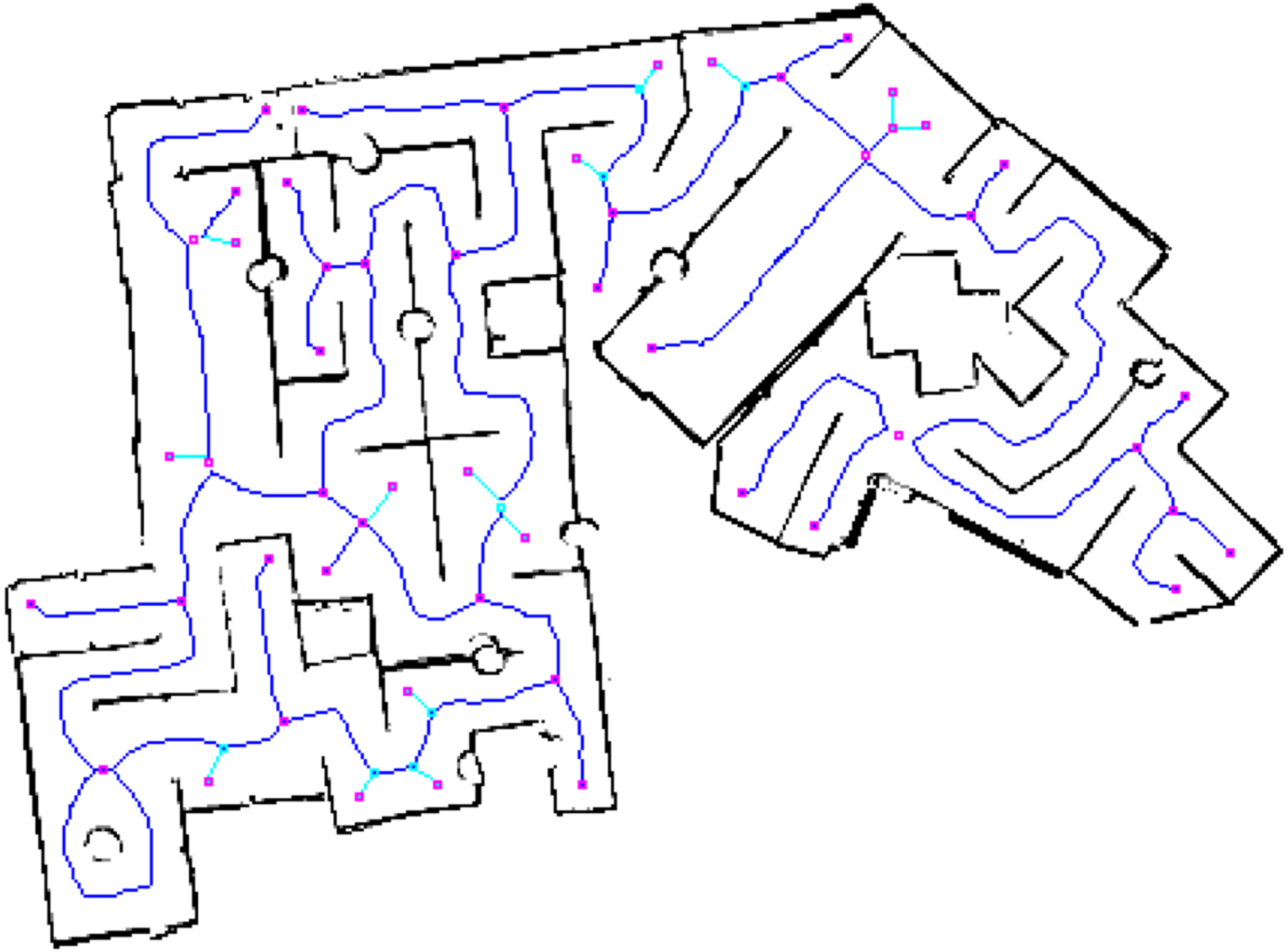
- Cons
  - The solution path found by the visibility graph tend to take the robot as close as possible to the obstacles: the common solution is to grow obstacles by more than robot's radius
  - Number of edges and nodes increases with the number of polygons
  - Thus it can be inefficient in densely populated environments

Graph Construction: Voronoi Diagram



- Tends to maximize the distance between robot and obstacles

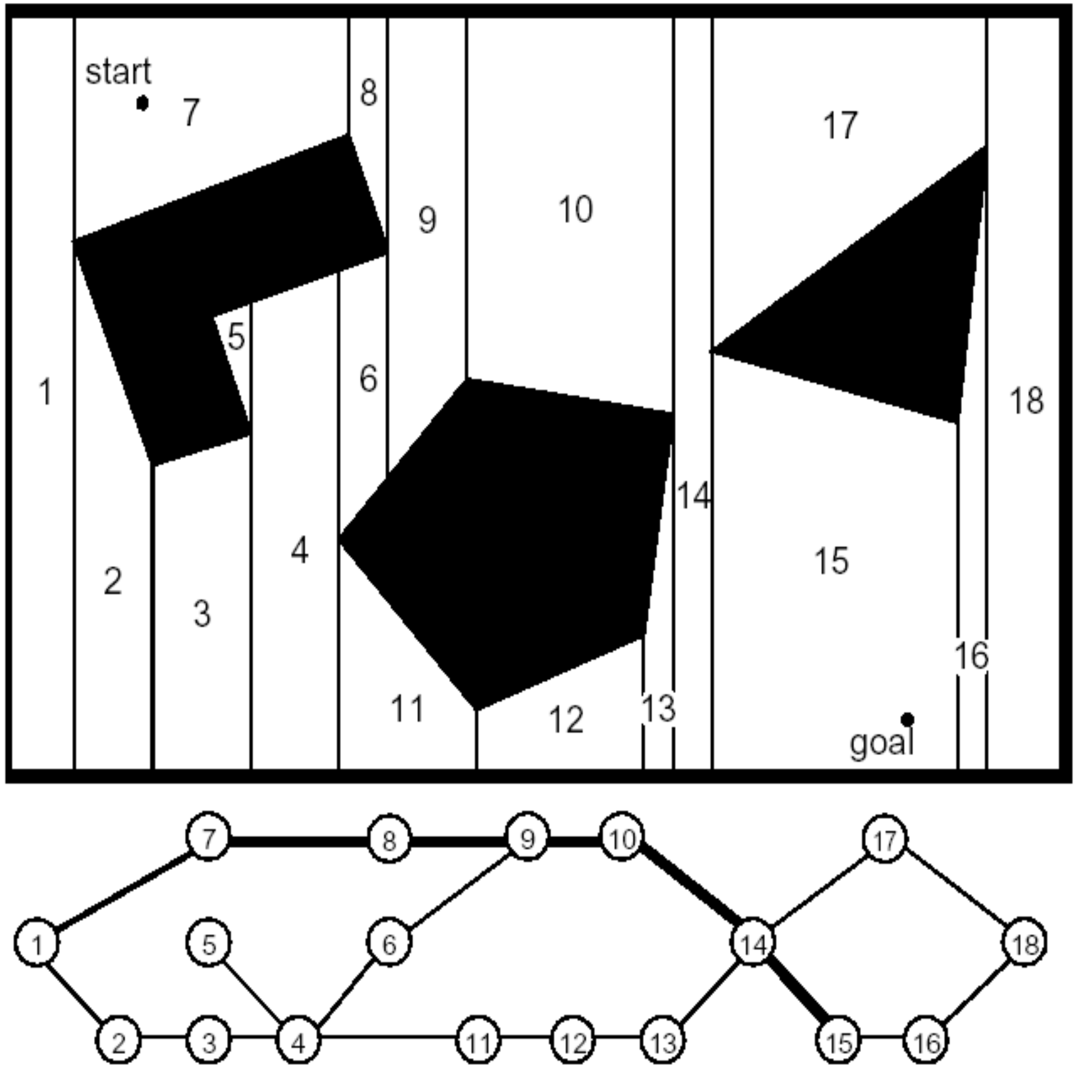
Topology Graph



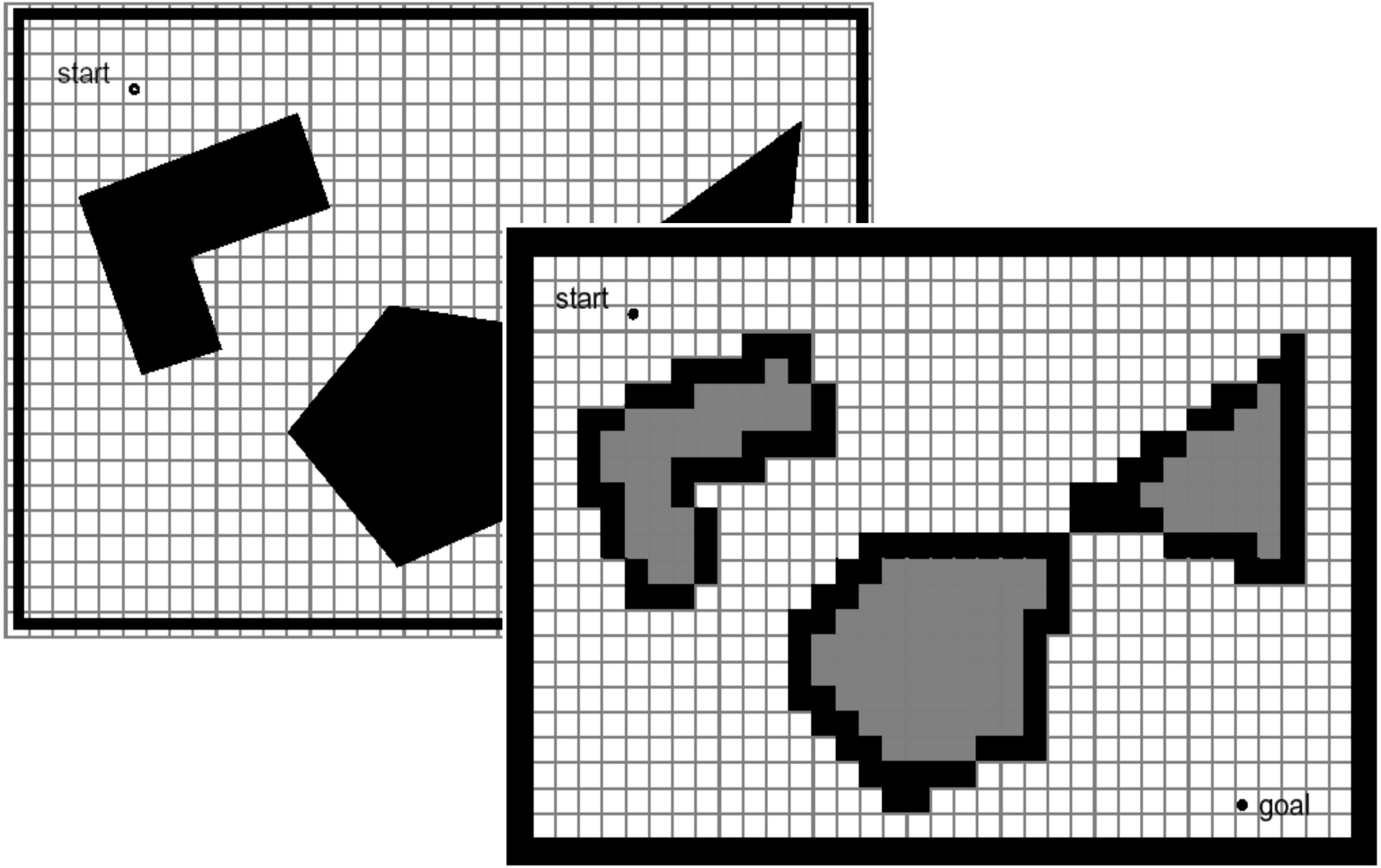
Graph Construction: Voronoi Diagram

- Pros
  - Using range sensors like laser or sonar, a robot can navigate along the Voronoi diagram using simple control rules
- Cons
  - Because the Voronoi diagram tends to keep the robot as far as possible from obstacles, any short range sensor will be in danger of failing
  - Voronoi diagram can change drastically in open areas

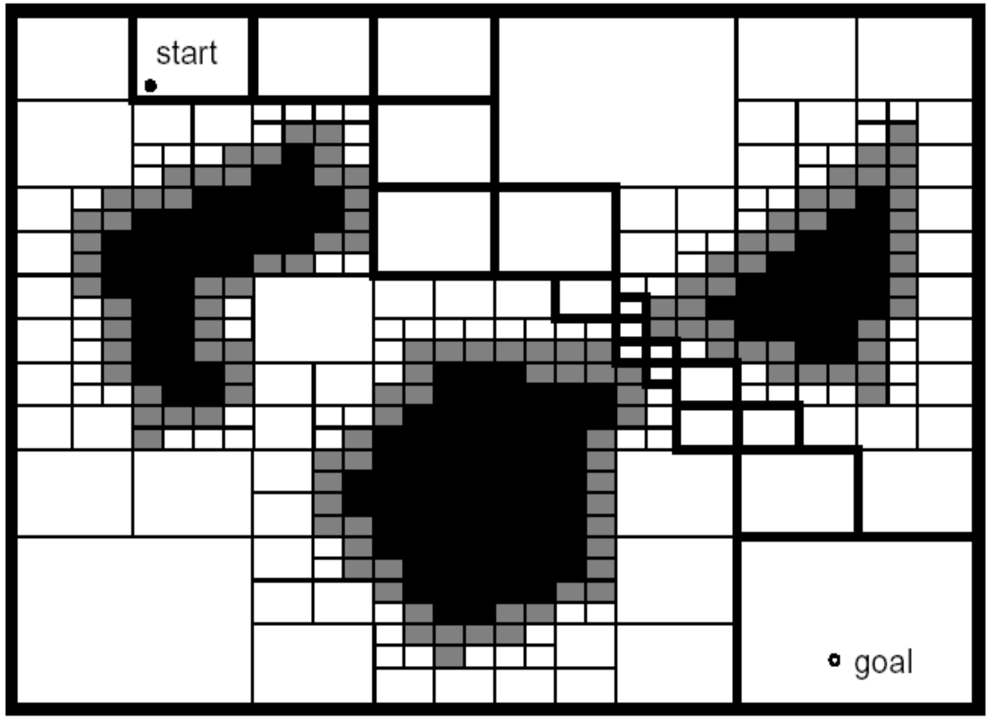
Graph Construction: Exact Cell Decomposition (2/4)



Graph Construction: Approximate Cell Decomposition (3/4)



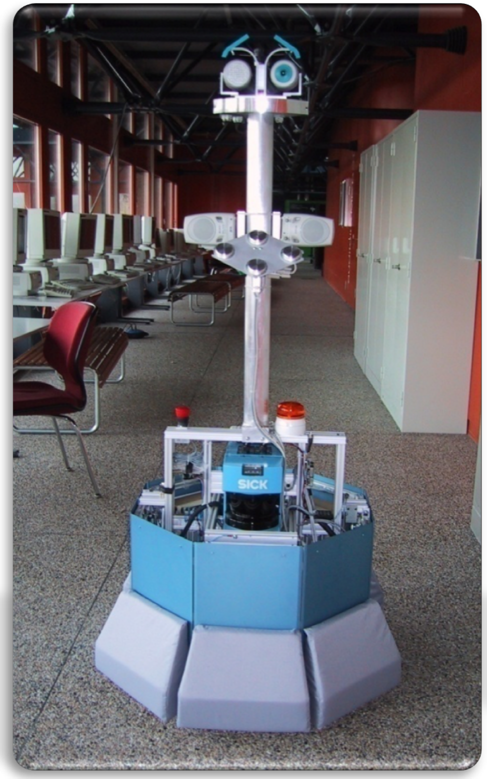
Graph Construction: Adaptive Cell Decomposition (4/4)



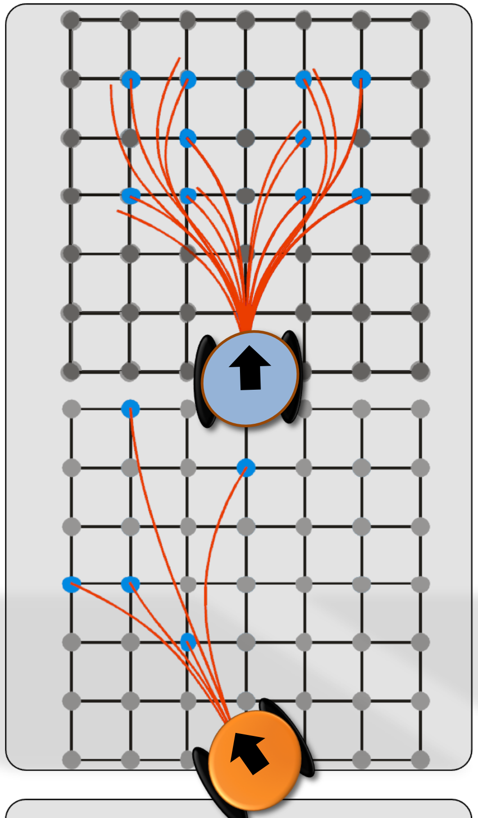
- Close relationship with map representation (Quadtree)!

Graph Construction: State Lattice Design (1/2)

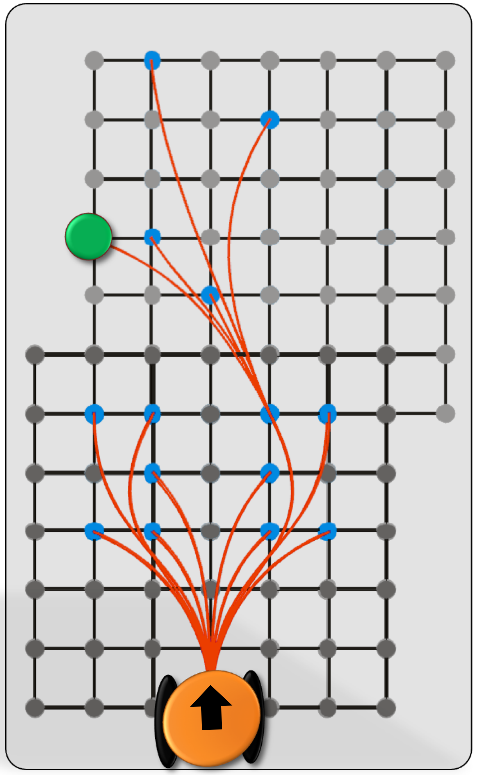
- Enforces edge feasibility



Offline:
Motion Model



Offline:
Lattice Gen.

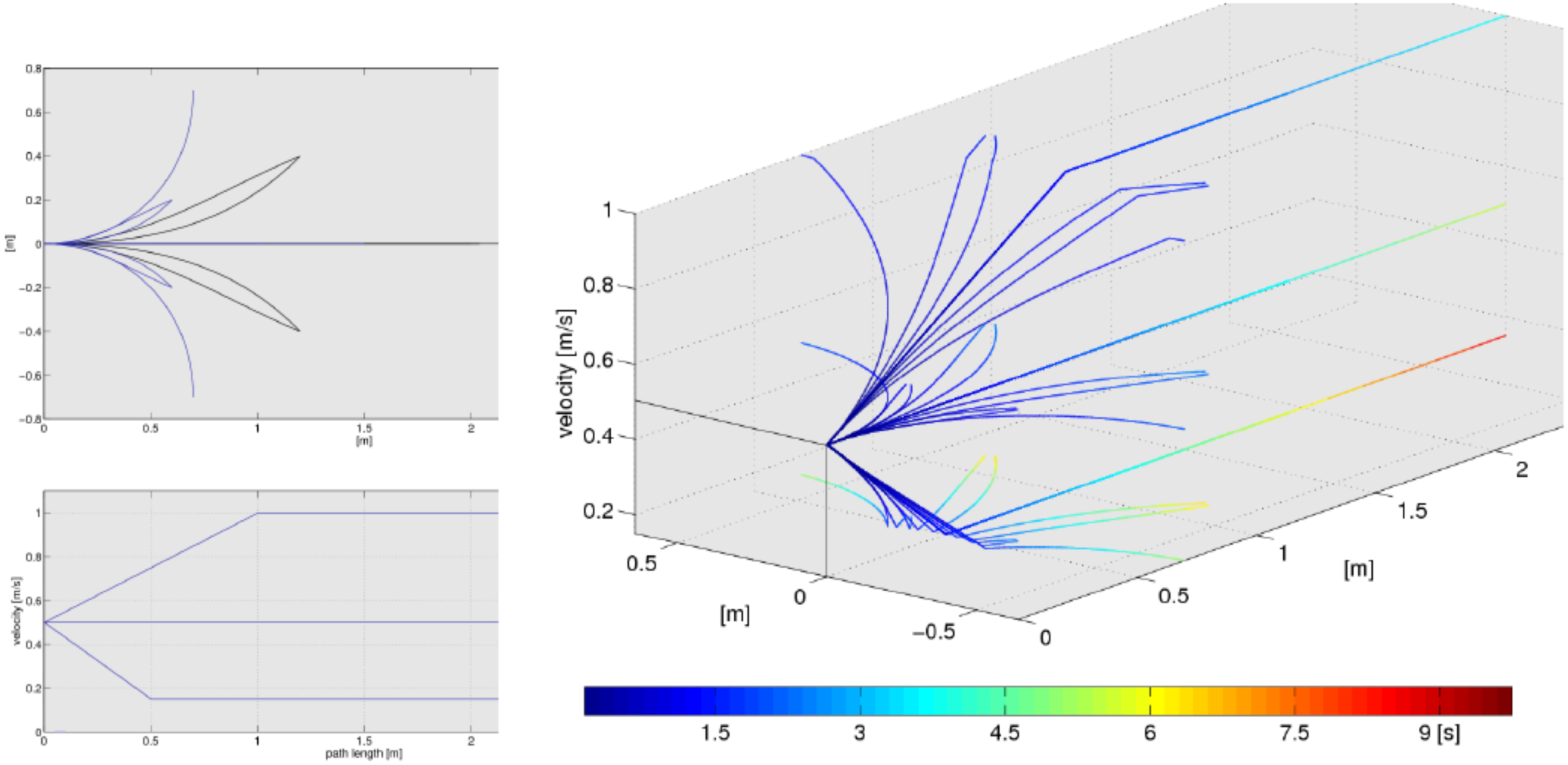


Online:
Incremental Graph
Constr.

Graph Construction: State Lattice Design (2/2)

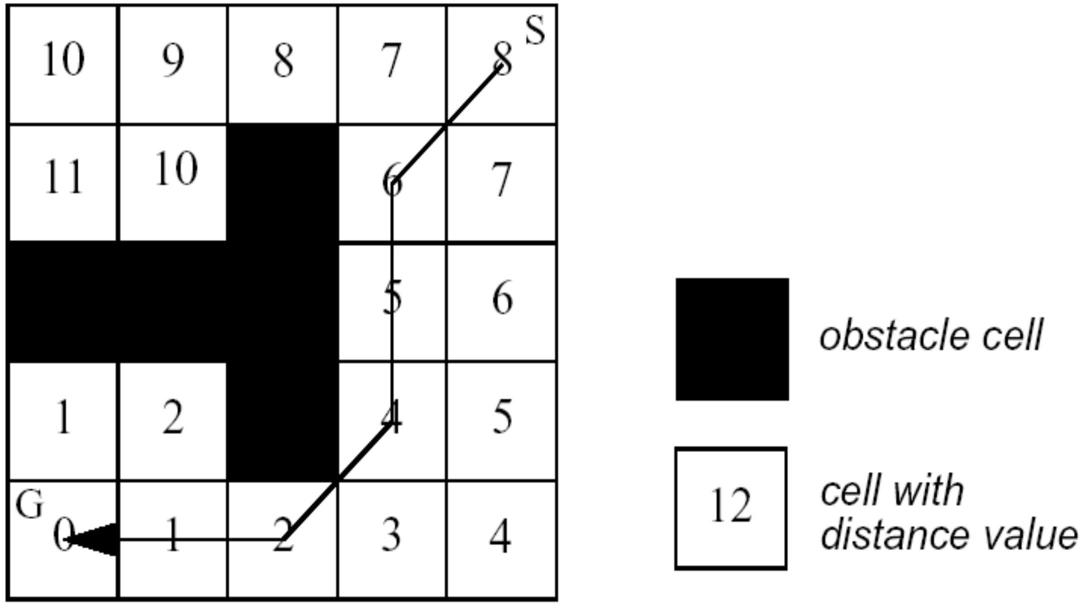
Martin Rufli

- State lattice encodes only kinematically feasible edges



Deterministic Graph Search

- Methods
  - Breath First
  - Depth First
  - **Dijkstra**
  - A* and variants
  - D* and variants
  - ...



DIJKSTRA'S ALGORITHM

EDSGER WYBE DIJKSTRA

1930 - 2002

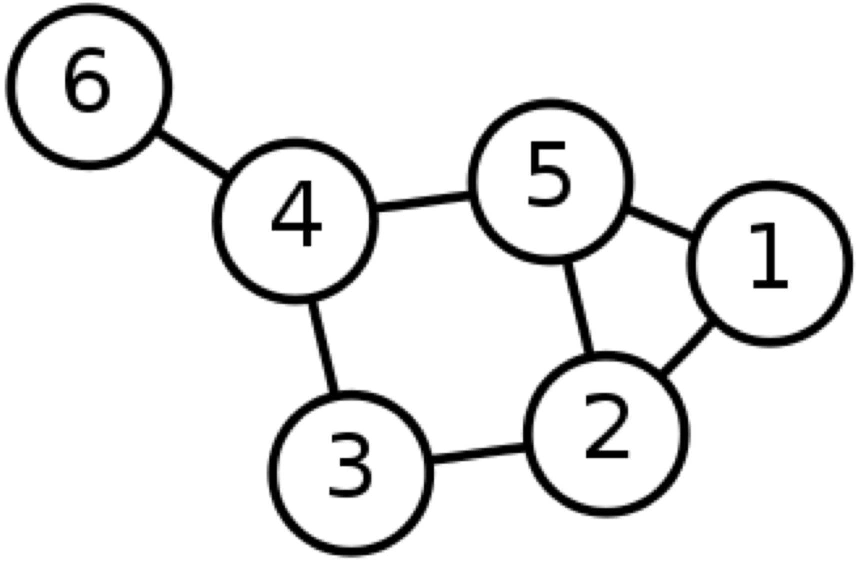
"Computer Science is no more about computers than astronomy is about telescopes."

http://www.cs.utexas.edu/~EWD/

SINGLE-SOURCE SHORTEST PATH PROBLEM

- **Single-Source Shortest Path Problem** - The problem of finding shortest paths from a source vertex *v* to all other vertices in the graph.

- **Graph**
- Set of vertices and edges
- Vertex:
  - Place in the graph; connected by:
- Edge: connecting two vertices
  - Directed or undirected (undirected in Dijkstra's Algorithm)
  - Edges can have weight/ distance assigned



Dijkstra material from http://www.cs.utexas.edu/~tandy/barrera.ppt

Diklstra’s Algorithm

- Assign all vertices infinite distance to goal
- Assign 0 to distance from start
- Add all vertices to the queue

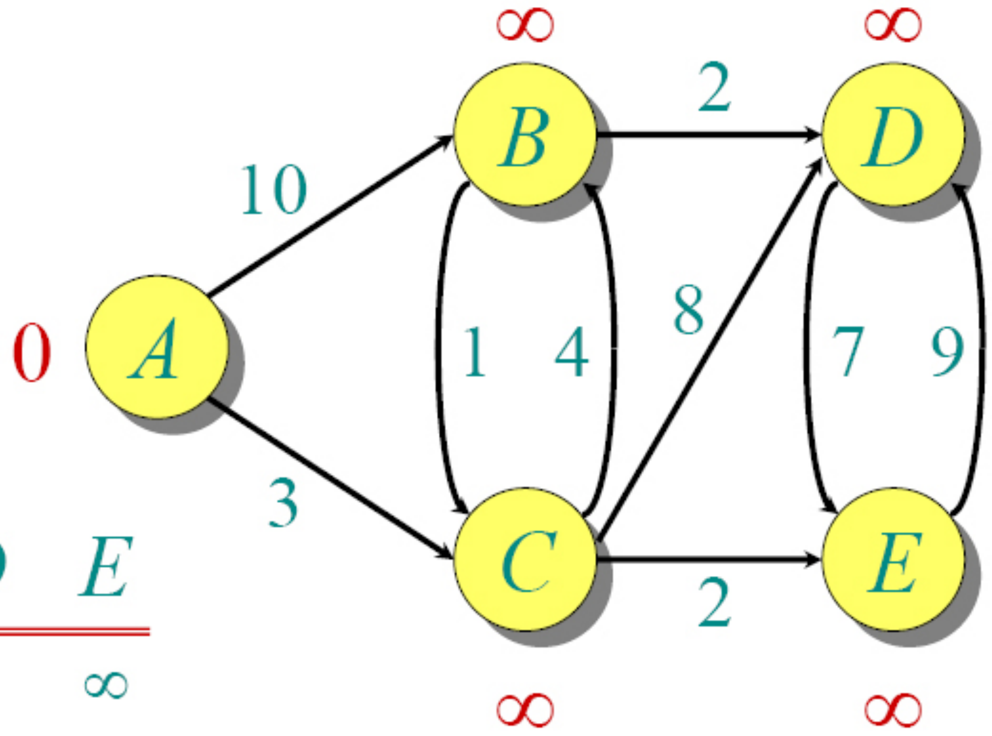
- While the queue is not empty:
  - Select vertex with smallest distance and remove it from the queue
  - Visit all neighbor vertices of that vertex,
  - calculate their distance and
  - update their (the neighbors) distance if the new distance is smaller

Diklstra's Algorithm - Pseudocode

dist[s] ← o (distance to source vertex is zero)
for all v ∈ V–{s}
    do dist[v] ← ∞ (set all other distances to infinity)
S ← Ø (S, the set of visited vertices is initially empty)
Q← V (Q, the queue initially contains all vertices)
while Q ≠Ø (while the queue is not empty)
do u ← mindistance(Q, dist) (select the element of Q with the min. distance)
    S←S∪{u} (add u to list of visited vertices)
    for all v ∈ neighbors[u]
        do if dist[v] > dist[u] + w(u, v) (if new shortest path found)
            then d[v] ←d[u] + w(u, v) (set new value of shortest path)
    (if desired, add traceback code)
return dist

Dijkstra Example

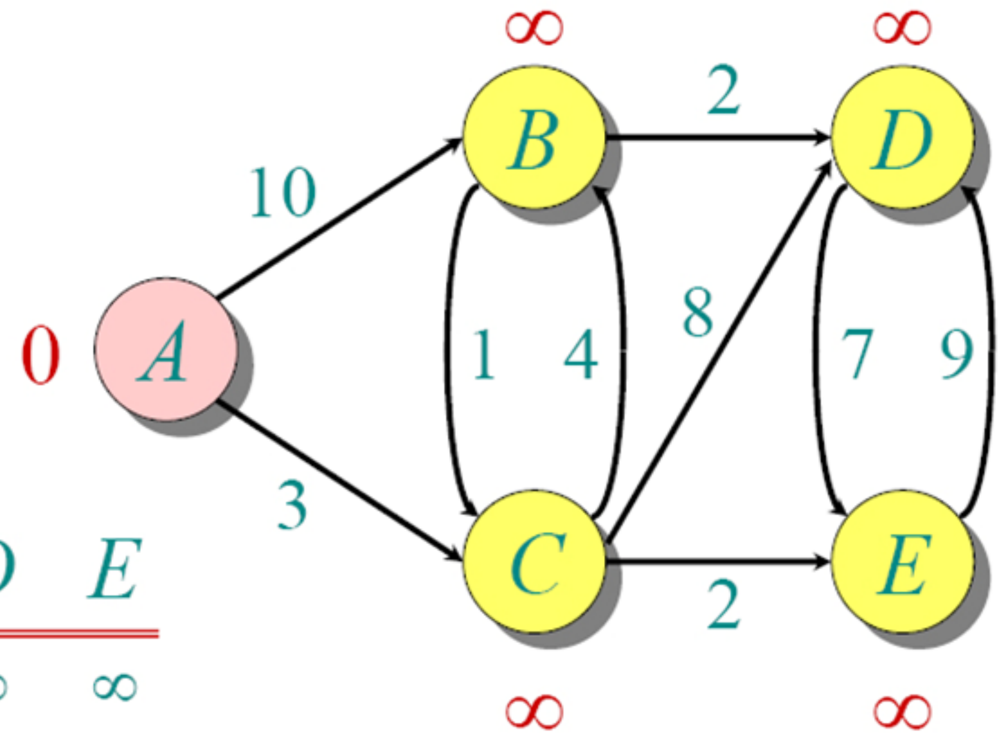
Initialize:



Q:	A	B	C	D	E
	0	∞	∞	∞	∞

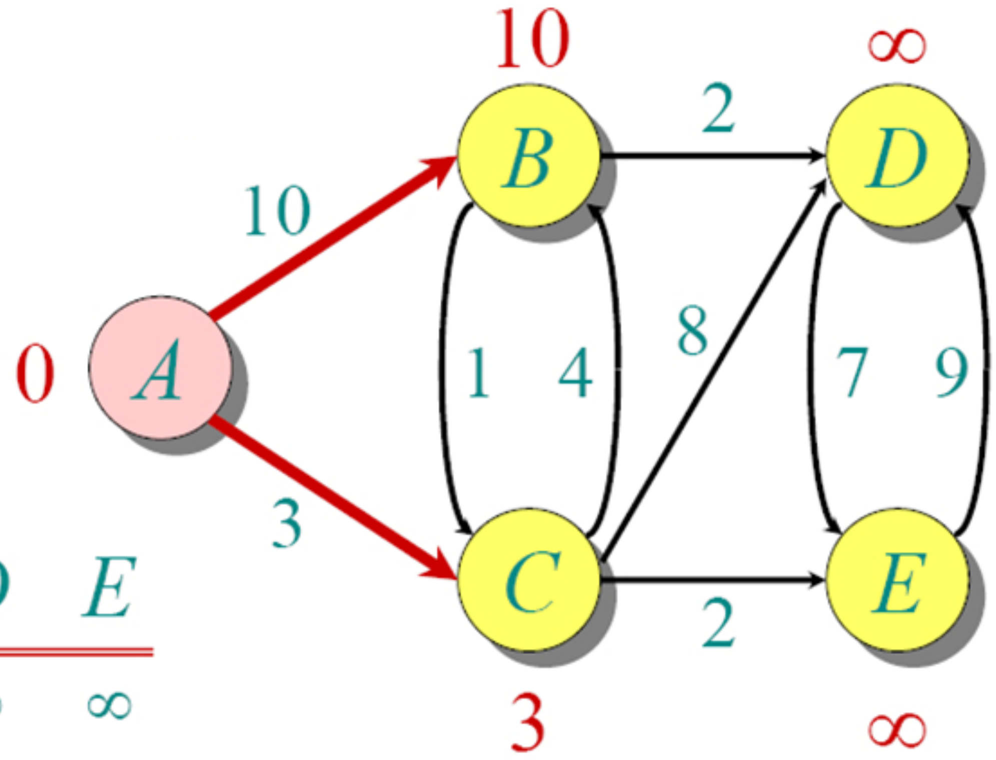
S: {}

Dijkstra Example



Q:	A	B	C	D	E
	0	∞	∞	∞	∞

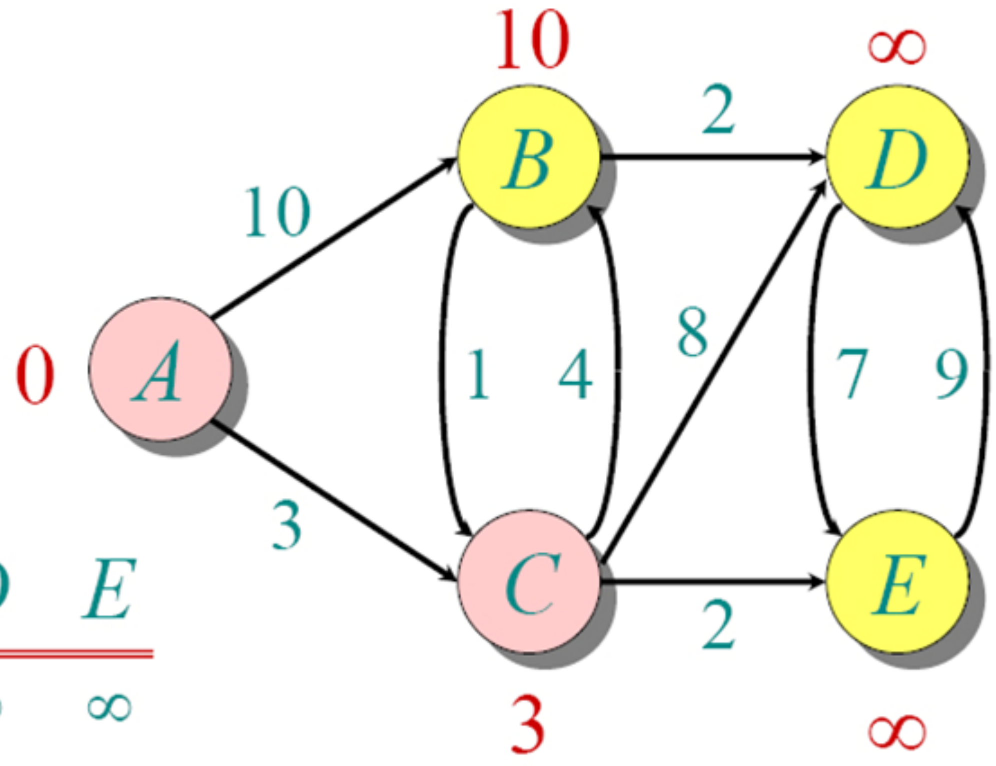
Dijkstra Example



Q:	A	B	C	D	E
	0	∞	∞	∞	∞
		10	3	∞	∞

S: { A }

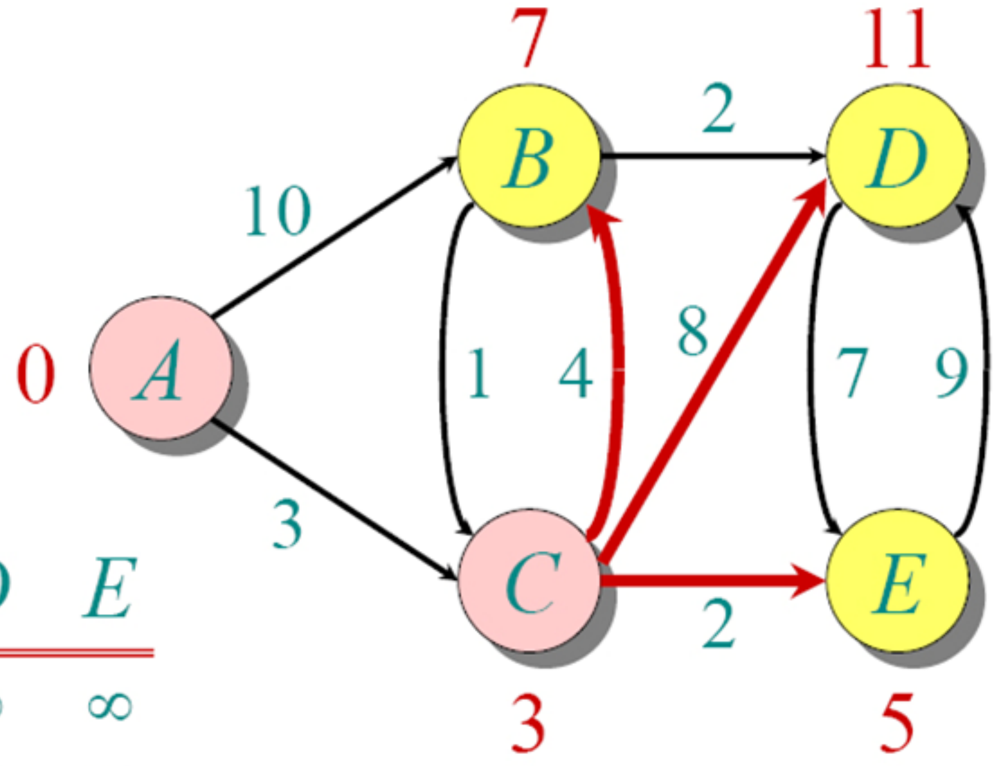
Dijkstra Example



Q:	A	B	C	D	E
	$\boxed{0}$	∞	∞	∞	∞
		10	$\boxed{3}$	∞	∞

S: { A, C }

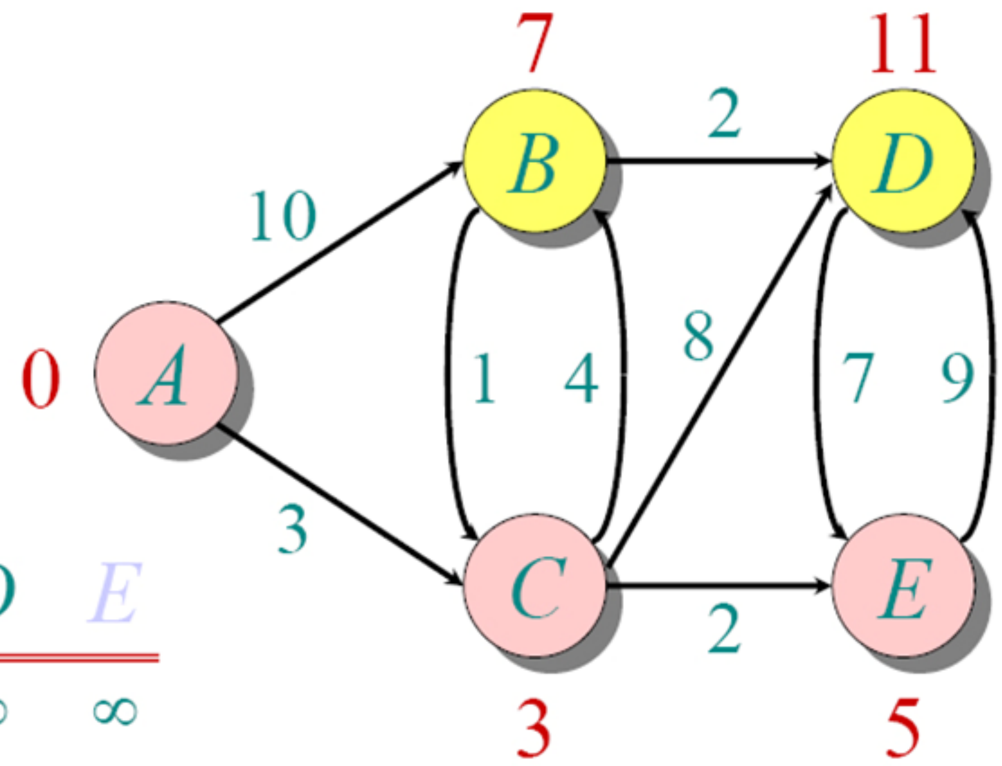
Dijkstra Example



Q:	A	B	C	D	E
	0	∞	∞	∞	∞
		10	3	∞	∞
		7		11	5

S: { A, C }

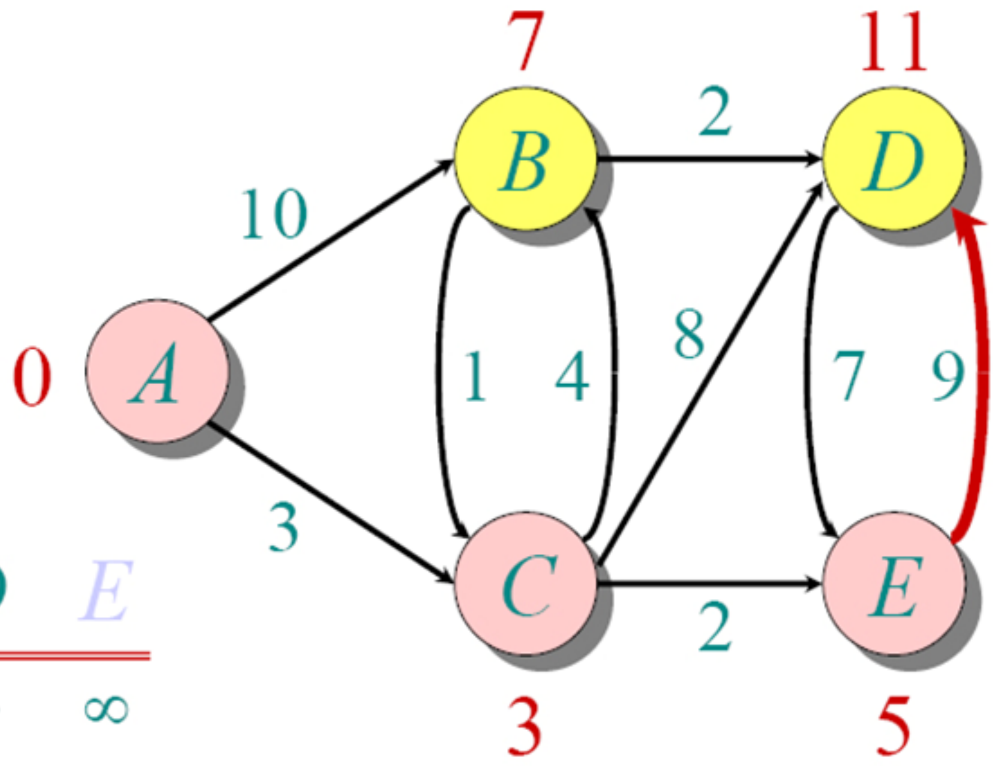
Dijkstra Example



Q:	A	B	C	D	E
	0	∞	∞	∞	∞
		10	3	∞	∞
		7		11	5

S: { A, C, E }

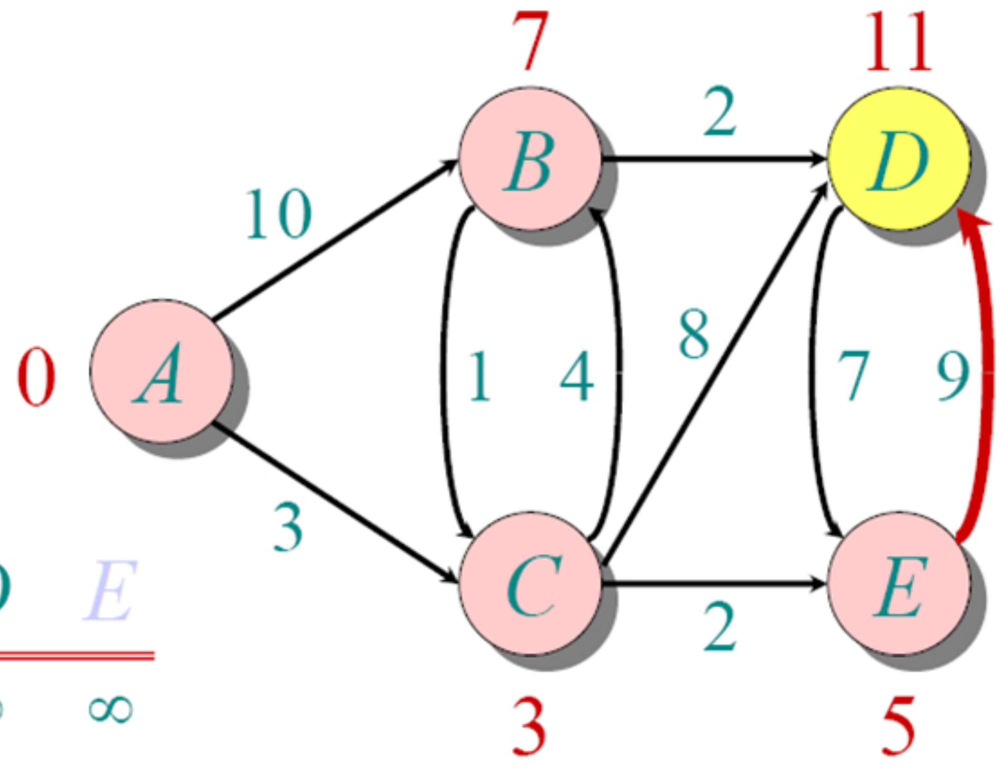
Dijkstra Example



Q:	A	B	C	D	E
	0	∞	∞	∞	∞
		10	3	∞	∞
		7		11	5
		7		11	

S: { A, C, E }

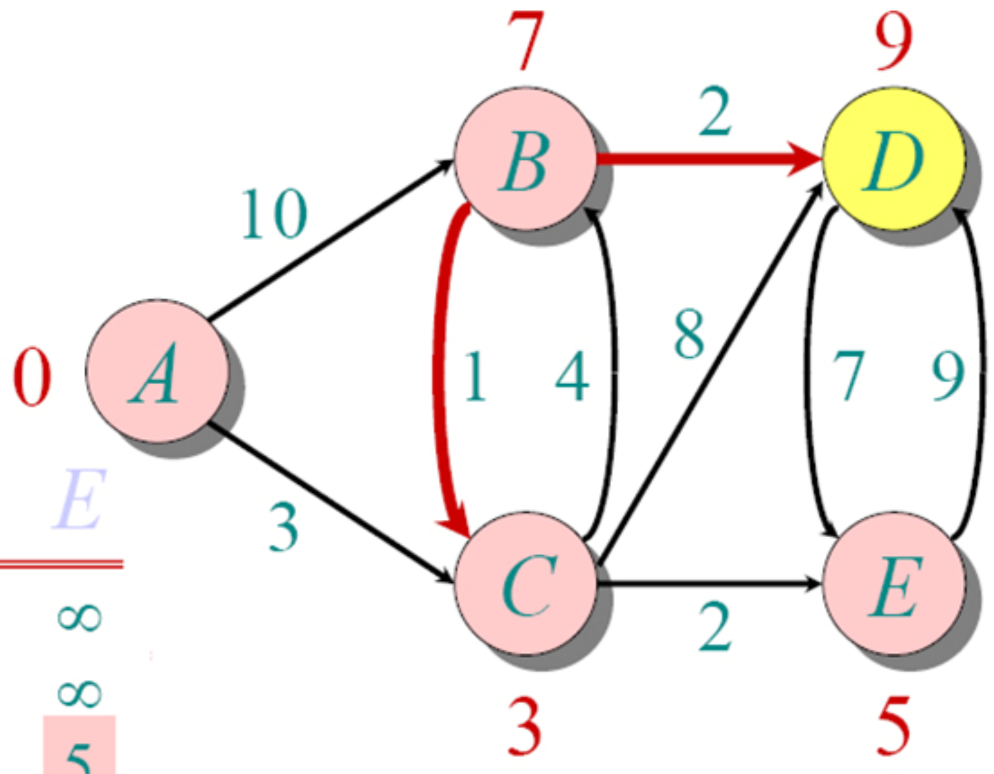
Dijkstra Example



Q:	A	B	C	D	E
	0	∞	∞	∞	∞
		10	3	∞	∞
		7		11	5
		7		11	

S: { A, C, E, B }

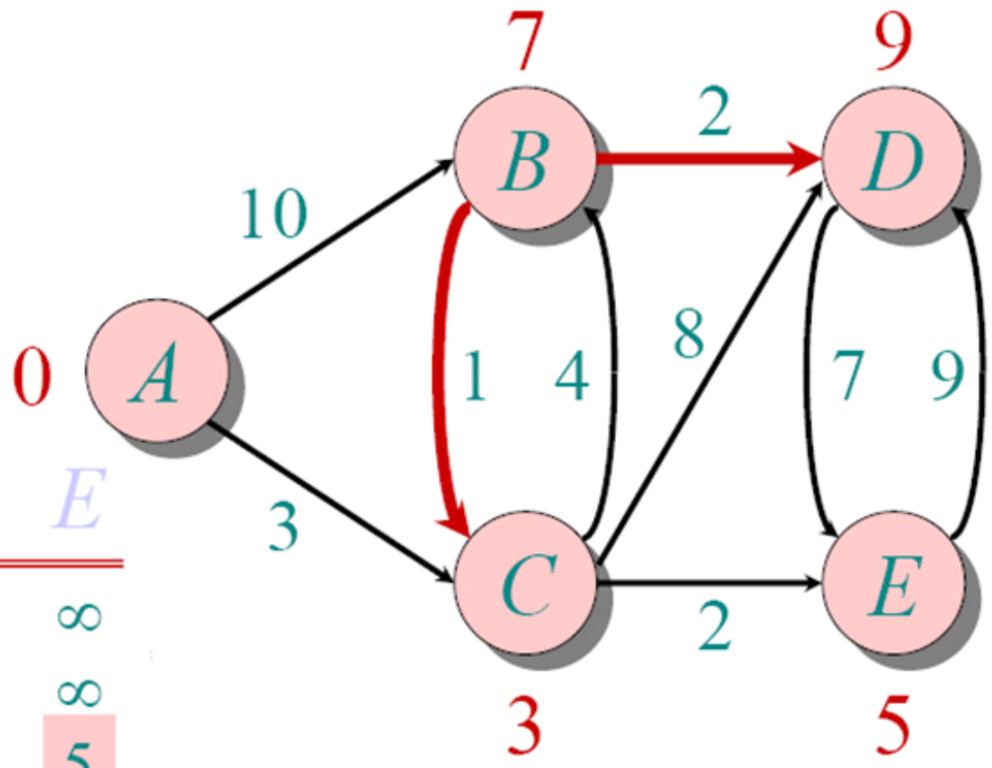
Dijkstra Example



Q:	A	B	C	D	E
	$\boxed{0}$	∞	∞	∞	∞
		10	$\boxed{3}$	∞	∞
		7		11	$\boxed{5}$
		$\boxed{7}$		11	
				9	

S: { A, C, E, B }

Dijkstra Example

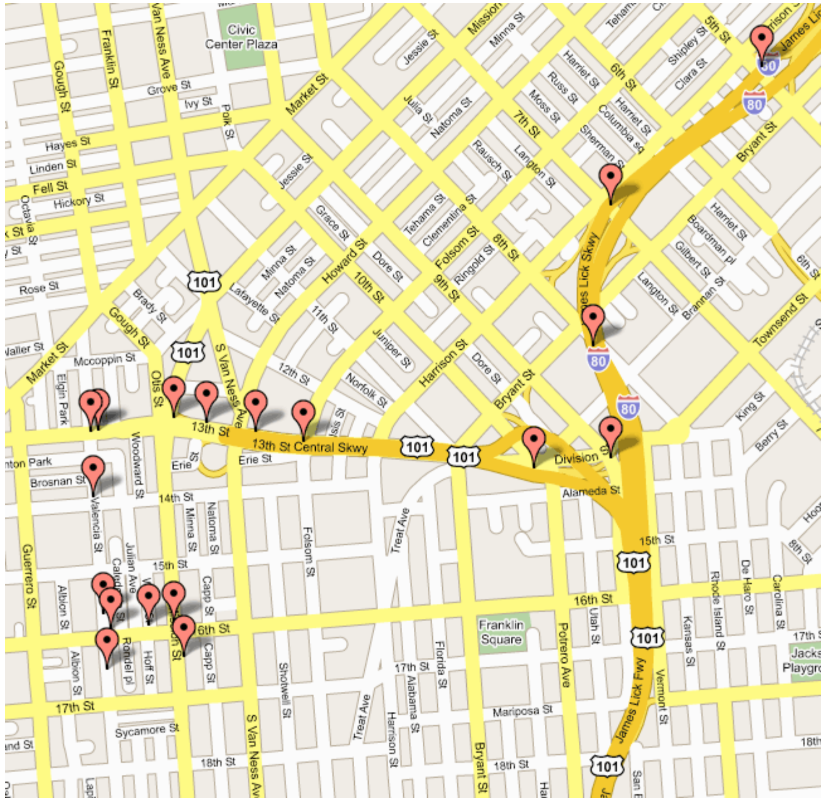


Q:	A	B	C	D	E
	$\boxed{0}$	∞	∞	∞	∞
		10	$\boxed{3}$	∞	∞
		7		11	$\boxed{5}$
		$\boxed{7}$		11	
				$\boxed{9}$	

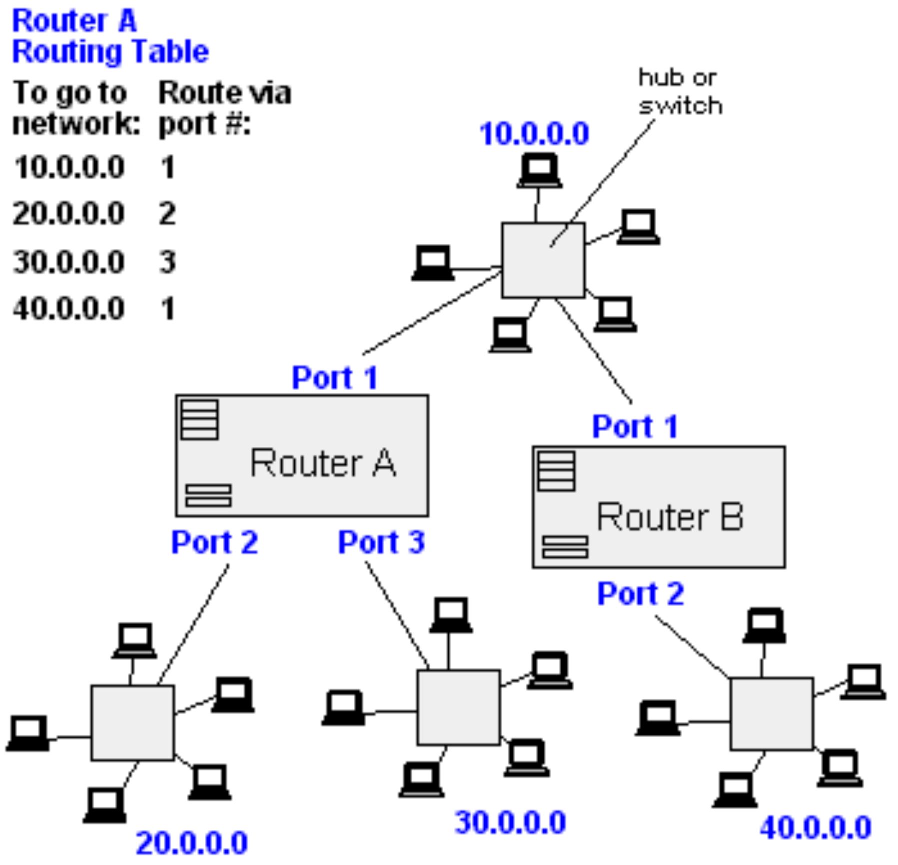
S: { A, C, E, B, D }

APPLICATIONS OF DIJKSTRA'S ALGORITHM

- Navigation Systems
- Internet Routing

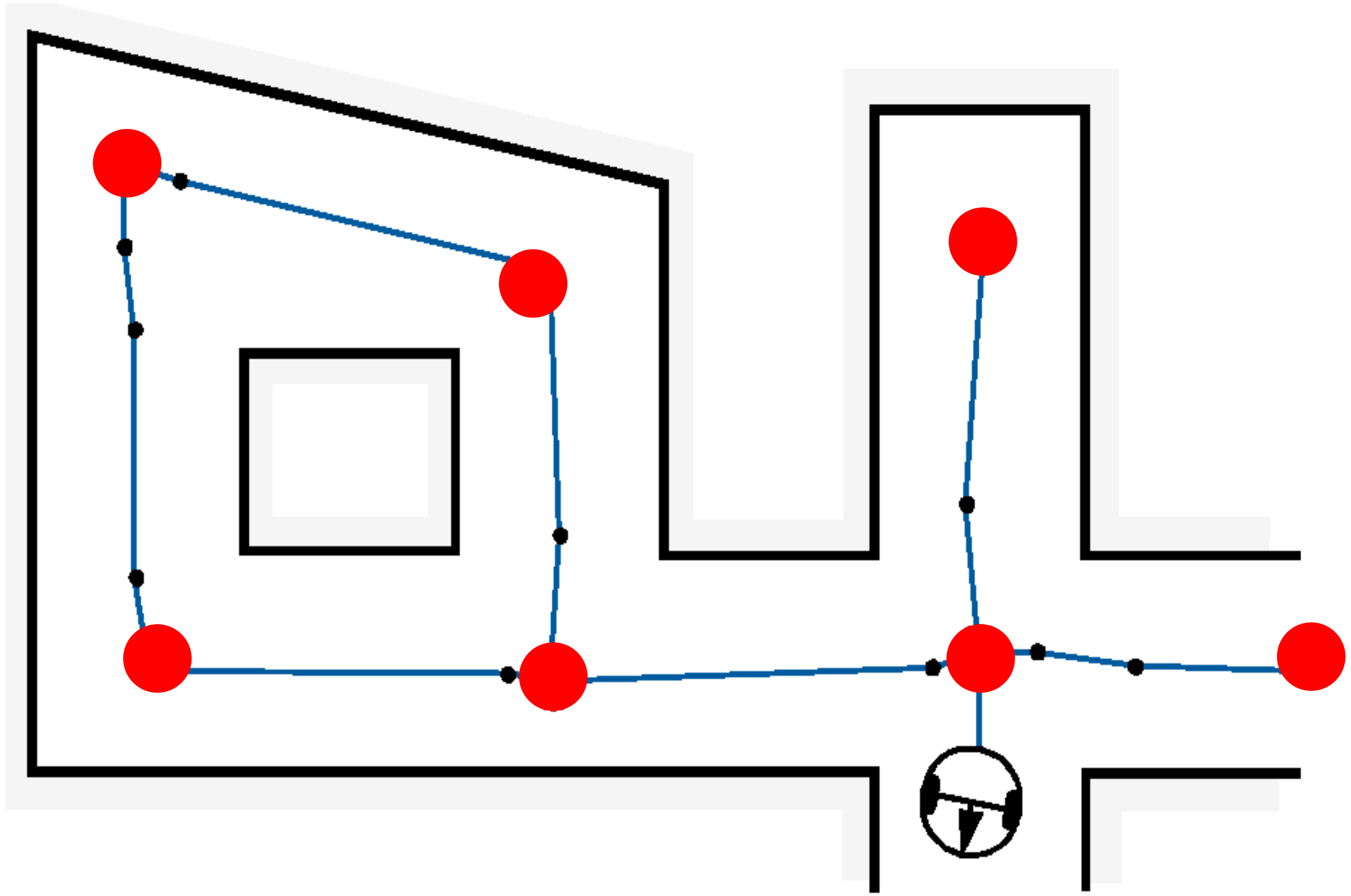


From Computer Desktop Encyclopedia



Dijkstra's Algorithm for Path Planning: Topological Maps

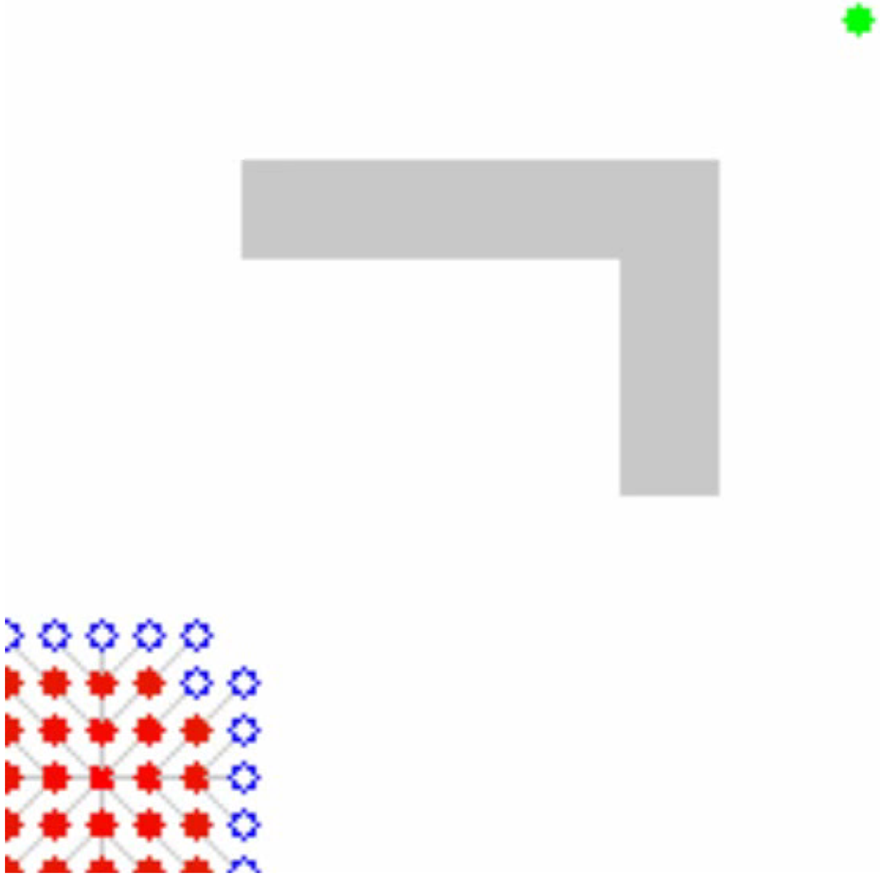
- Topological Map:
  - Places (vertices) in the environment (red dots)
  - Paths (edges) between them (blue lines)
  - Length of path = weight of edge



- => Apply Dijkstra's Algorithm to find path from start vertex to goal vertex

Dijkstra's Algorithm for Path Planning: Grid Maps

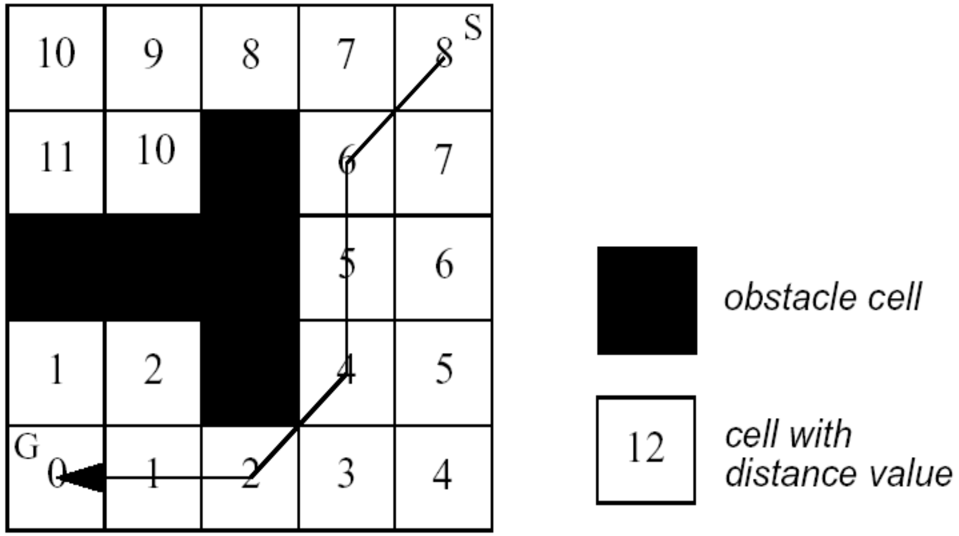
- Graph:
  - Neighboring free cells are connected:
    - 4-neighborhood: up/ down/ left right
    - **8-neighborhood**: also diagonals
  - All edges have weight 1



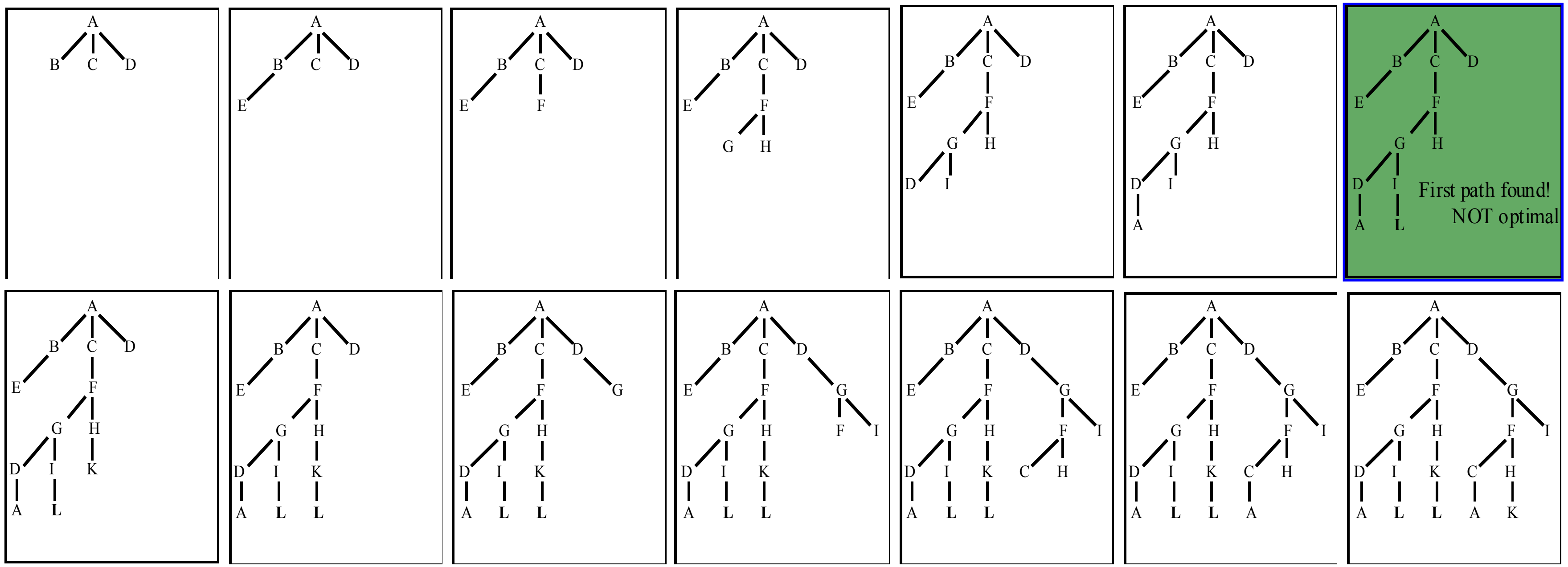
- Stop once goal vertex is reached
- Per vertex: save edge over which the shortest distance from start was reached => Path

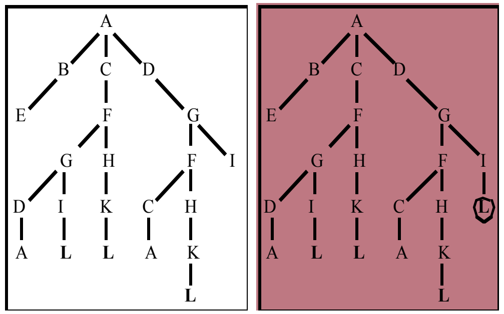
Graph Search Strategies: Breath-First Search

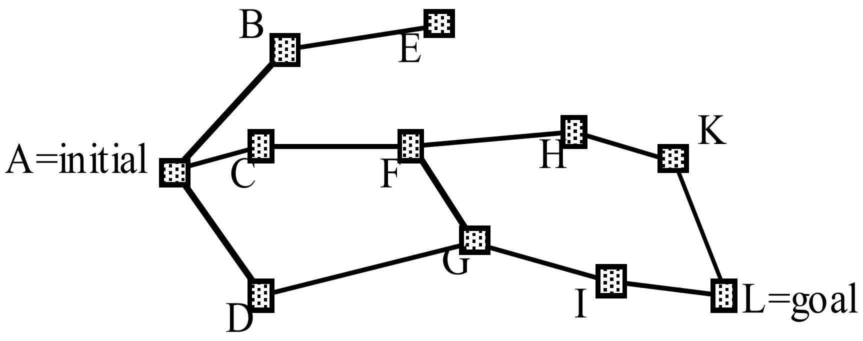
- Corresponds to a wavefront expansion on a 2D grid
- Breath-First: Dijkstra‘s search where all edges have weight 1



Graph Search Strategies: Depth-First Search

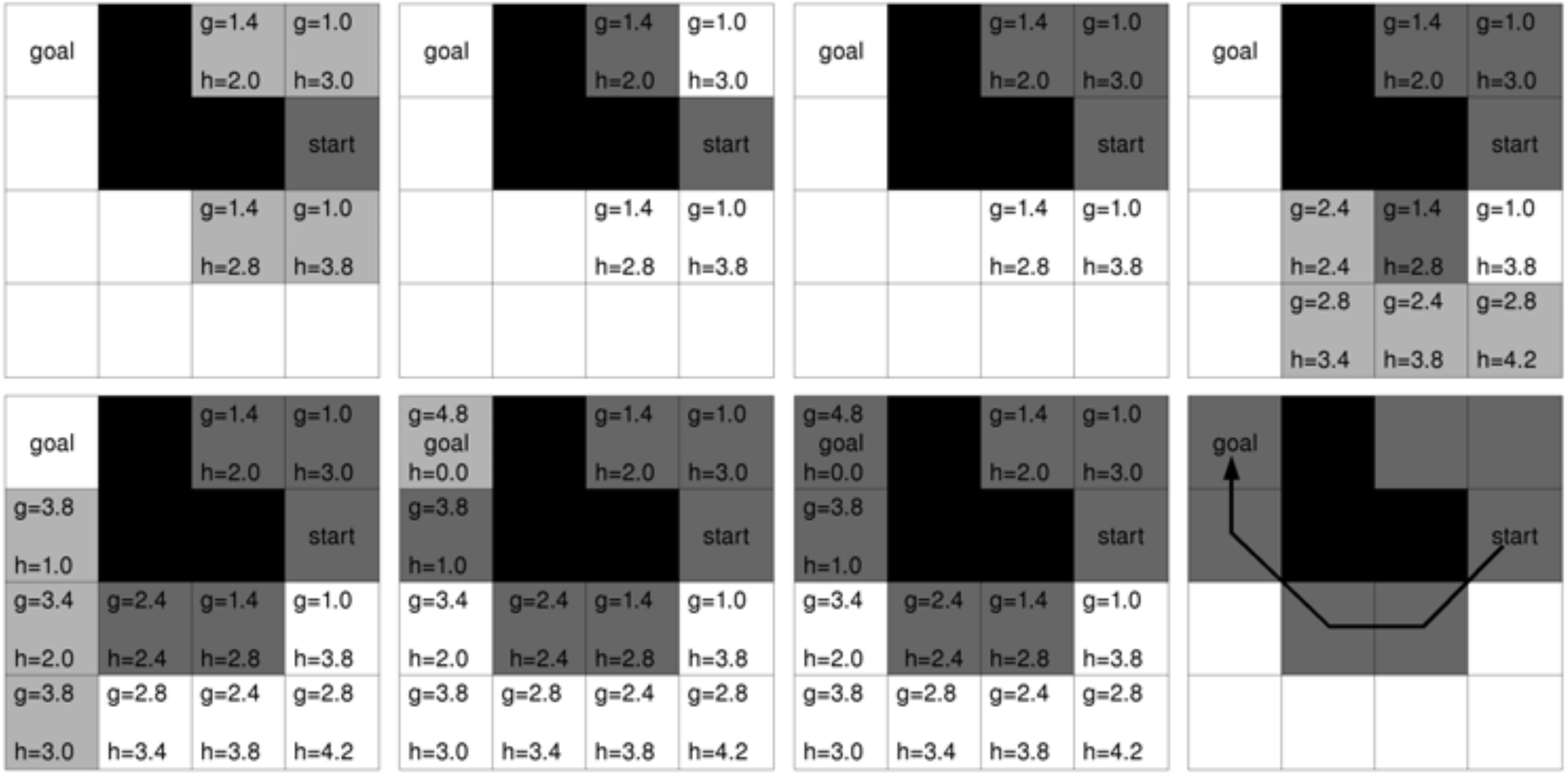






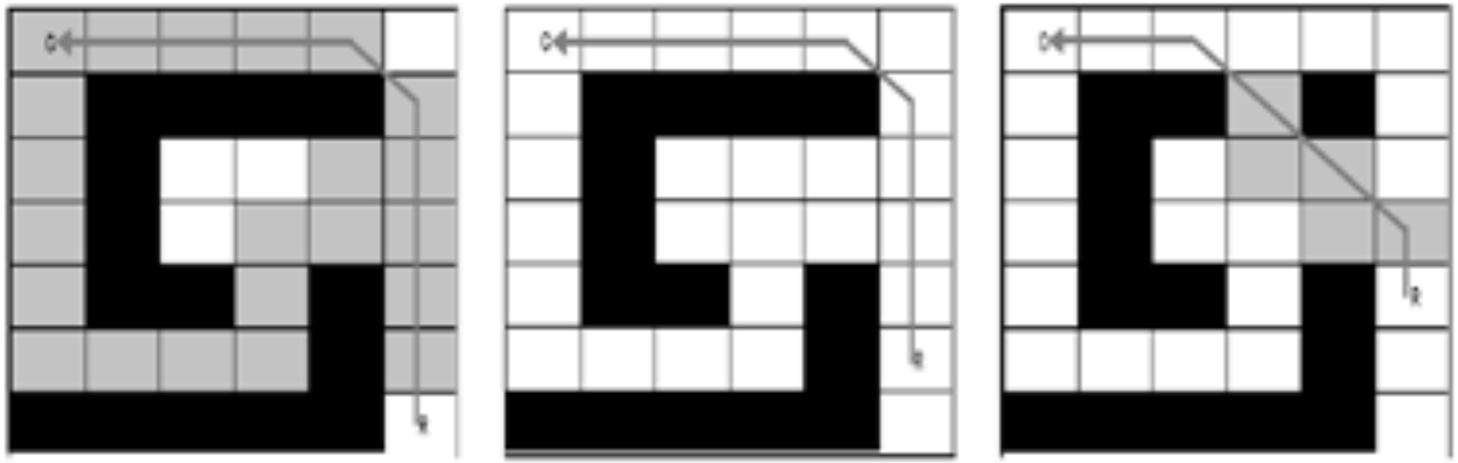
Graph Search Strategies: A* Search

- Similar to Dijkstra's algorithm, except that it uses a heuristic function h(n)
- $f(n) = g(n) + \varepsilon\, h(n)$

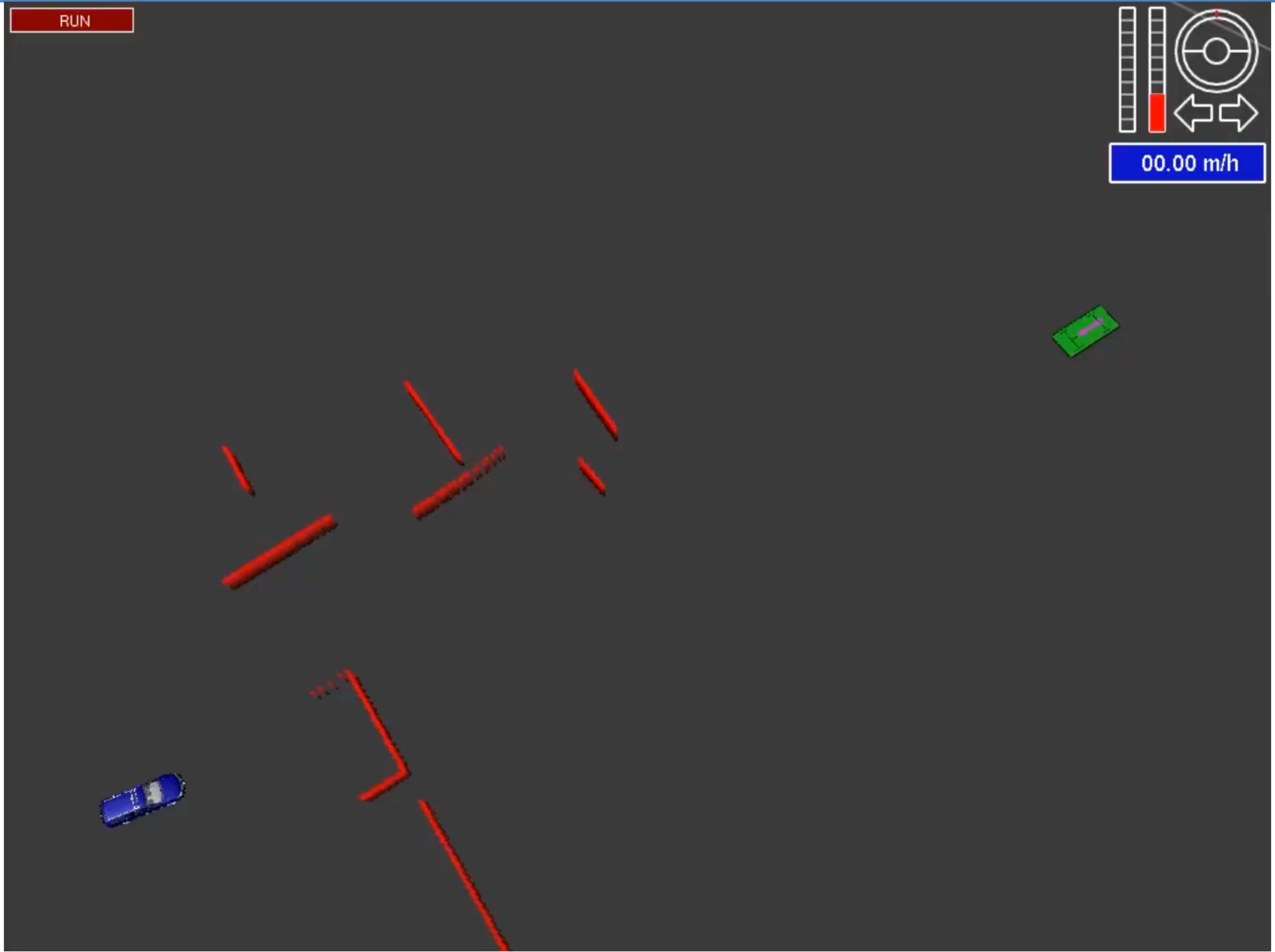


Graph Search Strategies: D* Search

- Similar to A* search, except that the search starts from the goal outward
- f(n) = g(n) + ε h(n)
- First pass is identical to A*
- Subsequent passes reuse information from previous searches



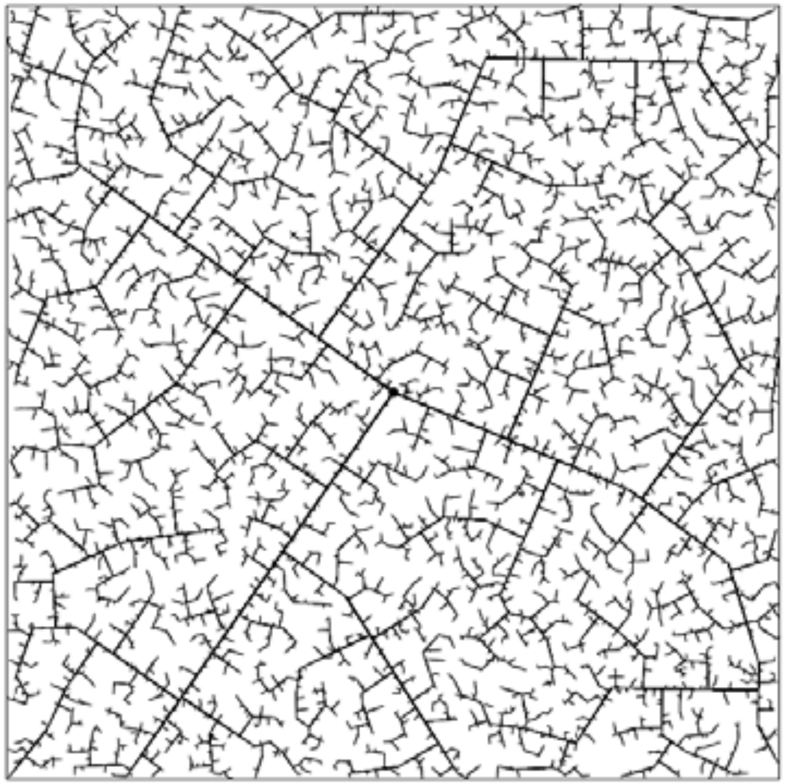
$\epsilon = 1.0$ $\epsilon = 1.0$ $\epsilon = 1.0$


RUN
00.00 m/h

Graph Search Strategies: Randomized Search

- Most popular version is the rapidly exploring random tree (RRT)
  - Well suited for high-dimensional search spaces
  - Often produces highly suboptimal solutions

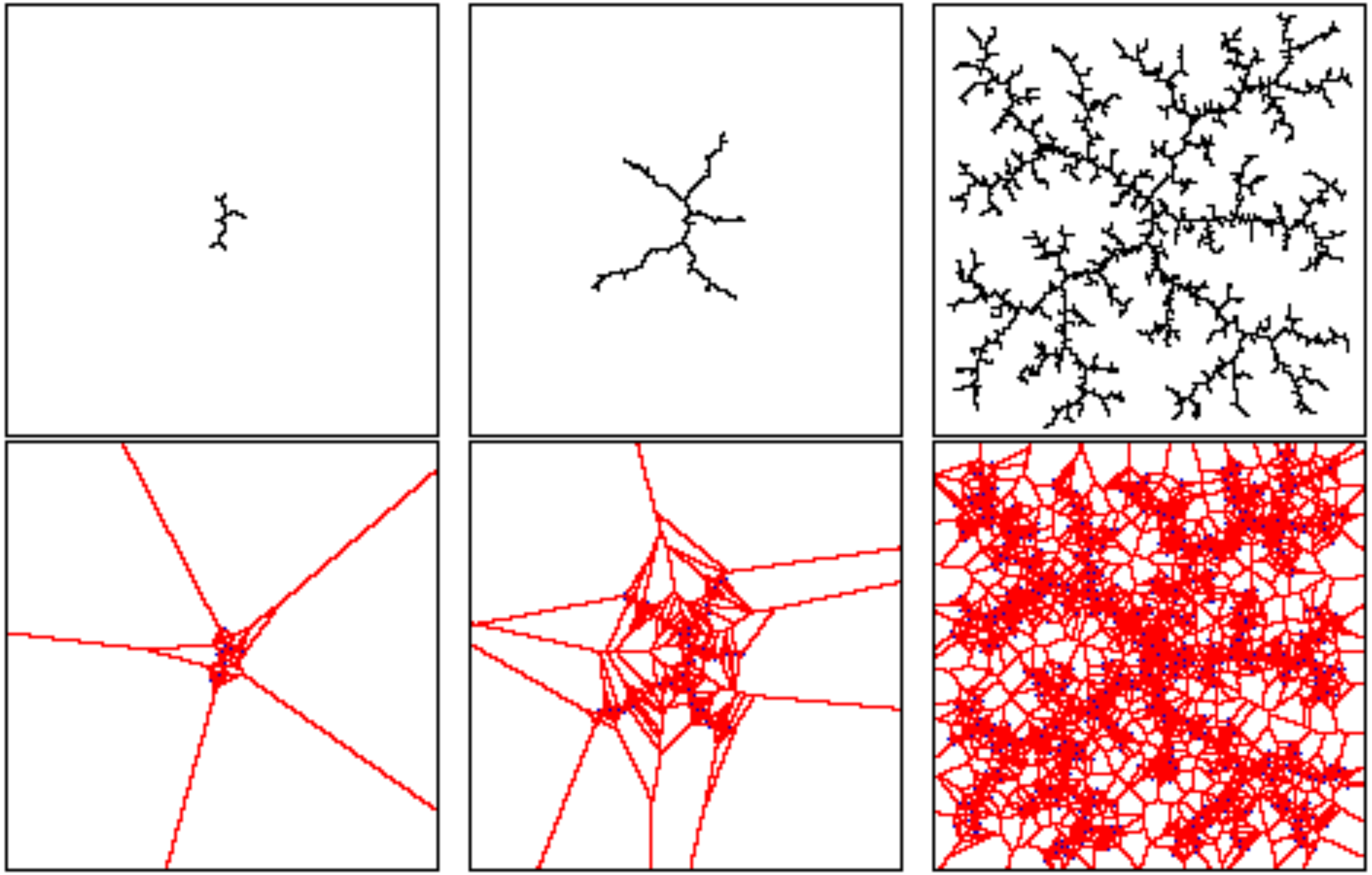
45 iterations



2345 iterations

Why are RRT's rapidly exploring?

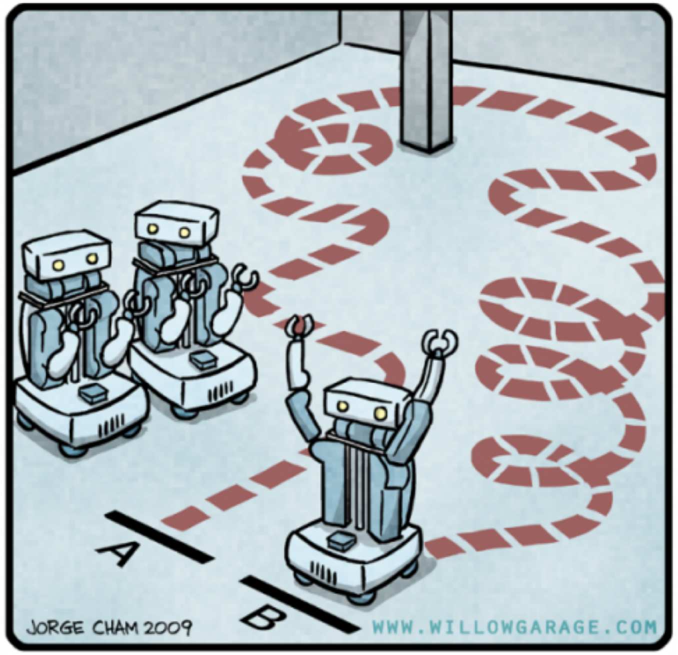
The probability of a node to be selected for expansion is proportional to the area of its Voronoi region



ROS Navigation

- http://wiki.ros.org/navigation

R.O.B.O.T. Comics



"HIS PATH-PLANNING MAY BE SUB-OPTIMAL, BUT IT'S GOT FLAIR."

Path Planning in ROS: move_base