# Motion planning problem formulation 

SIDRA Summer School, Bertinoro 2023

## Lecture objectives

- Motion planning problem statement


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- Trajectory and path planning problems


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- Randomized methods


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- Randomized methods
- Artificial potential fields


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Designing the cost. In road transportation applications a "reference" path is likely to be available. E.g., the lane centerline of the desired route, which can be assumed to be given.


The cost should then be designed such that the planned path minimizes, in some sense, the deviation from the reference path.

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Problem formulation. Given a configuration workspace $C=C_{\text {free }} \cup C_{\text {obs }}$ and the points $x_{\text {start }}, x_{\text {goal }} \in C_{\text {free, }}$ find a function $f:[0,1] \rightarrow C_{\text {free, }}$, such that $f(0)=x_{\text {start }}, f(1)=x_{\text {goal }}$.

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## Main Idea.

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- probabilistic roadmaps. Data organized in a graph.
- rapidly exploring random trees (RRT). Data organized in a tree.

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## Randomized methods. Probabilistic roadmaps

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(3) simple (uniform) sampling policies may leave narrow regions poorly explored.

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The tree can grow faster if the tree grows from both $x_{\text {start }}$ to $x_{\text {goal }}$.

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Main issue. Local minima. The robot may get stuck in a local minimum introduced by $U_{0}$. The potential function could be modified to remove the local minima, provided that the environment is known.

Actuator limitations and design constraints are not included in the force generation. The forces $f_{g}, f_{o}$ could be limited.


[^0]:    ${ }^{\mathrm{a}}$ Randomized motion planning - A tutorial. Stefano Carpin.

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