

Improved Wheeled Rover Localization via Autonomous Pseudo-Measurement Constraints

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A core capability to enable enhanced autonomy for robotics systems is reliable self-localization. Autonomous self-localization can be a challenge, especially in the absence of external aiding systems, such as GPS. Systems like GPS are unavailable or unreliable in many environments in which the use of robots could offer many benefits. This seminar will discuss some research conducted in the Navigation Lab at West Virginia University to address some of these challenges for applications including wheeled planetary exploration rovers and cooperative robots operating in GPS degraded environments. In particular, the seminar will review a method that uses a simple machine learning to learn and predict important environmental factors that impact the performance of wheel-inertial odometry based localization. These predictions are shown to be an effective manner for triggering motion constraints, such as zero velocity updates, when needed, to significantly reduce localization drift. This concept is then extended for the coordination of a multi-agent robotic systems and multiple heuristics are explored for triggering motion constraints in a decentralized manner.

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