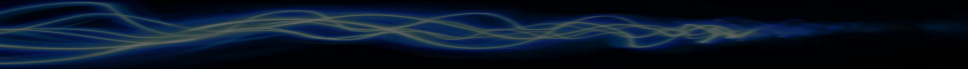


Multi-object filtering methods for multi-target tracking

Daniel Clark

School of Engineering and Physical Sciences
Heriot-Watt University

- 
- 1 Introduction to target tracking
 - 2 Point Processes
 - 3 Modelling multi-object systems
 - 4 Applications



What is Target Tracking?

Target tracking algorithms are methods for determining the positions and velocities of moving objects.

These are fundamental for applications in

- Aerospace defence
- Maritime surveillance
- Space situational awareness

Figure : Tracking ships in Rotterdam harbour (courtesy of TNO).



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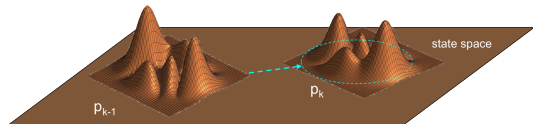
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(Loading video)

Figure : Tracking ships in Rotterdam harbour (courtesy of TNO).

Bayes Filtering/ single-object tracking



Bayes filter

$$p_k(x_k | z_{1:k}) \xrightarrow{\text{prediction}} p_{k+1|k}(x_{k+1}|k | z_{1:k}) \xrightarrow{\text{data-update}} p_{k+1}(x_{k+1} | z_{1:k+1})$$

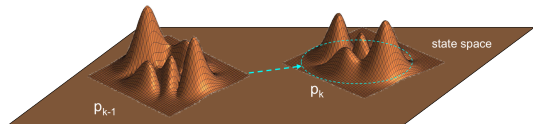
Kalman filter (Swearing / Stratonovich/ Kalman, late 1950s)

$$N(x_k; m_k, P_k) \xrightarrow{\text{prediction}} N(x_{k+1|k}; m_{k+1|k}, P_{k+1|k}) \xrightarrow{\text{data-update}} N(x_{k+1}; m_{k+1}, P_{k+1})$$

Particle filter (Handschin & Mayne, Imperial 1966/ N. Gordon, Imperial 1993)

$$\{x_k^{(i)}, w_k^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N \xrightarrow{\text{prediction}} \{x_{k+1|k}^{(i)}, w_{k+1|k}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N \xrightarrow{\text{data-update}} \{x_{k+1}^{(i)}, w_{k+1}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$$

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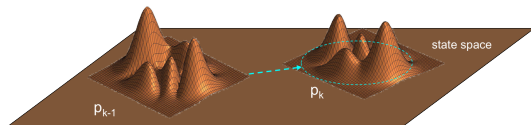
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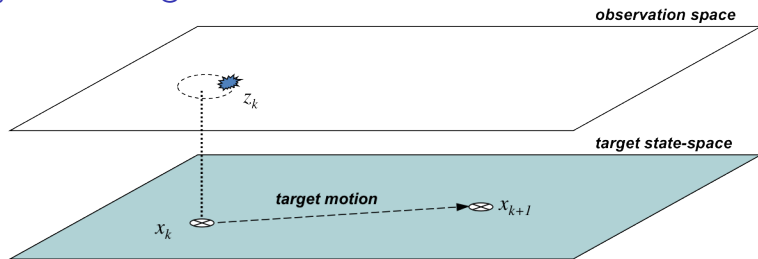
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Bayes Filtering: Prediction

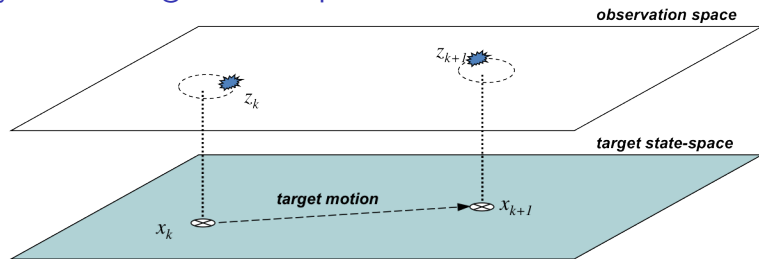


Prediction $p_{k+1|k}(x_{k+1} | z_{1:k}) =$

$$\int \underbrace{f_{k+1|k}(x_{k+1} | x_k)}_{\downarrow} p_k(x_k | z_{1:k}) dx_k$$

Markov transition density

Bayes Filtering: Data Update



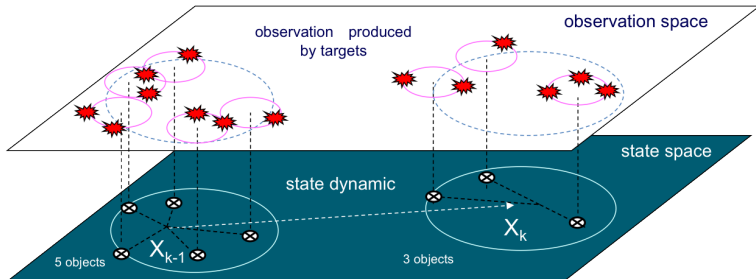
Update $p_{k+1}(x_{k+1} | z_{1:k+1}) =$

$$\frac{g_{k+1}(z_{k+1} | x_{k+1}) p_{k+1|k}(x_{k+1} | z_{1:k})}{\int \underbrace{g_{k+1}(z_{k+1} | x_{k+1})}_{\text{observation likelihood}} p_{k+1|k}(x_{k+1} | z_{1:k+1}) dx_{k+1}}$$

↓

observation likelihood

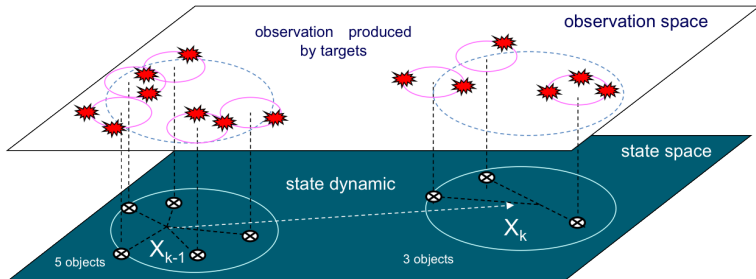
Multi-Target Tracking



The objective in multi-target tracking is to

- Jointly estimate **both** the number of targets and their states.
- Applying single-target methods needs correct associations.

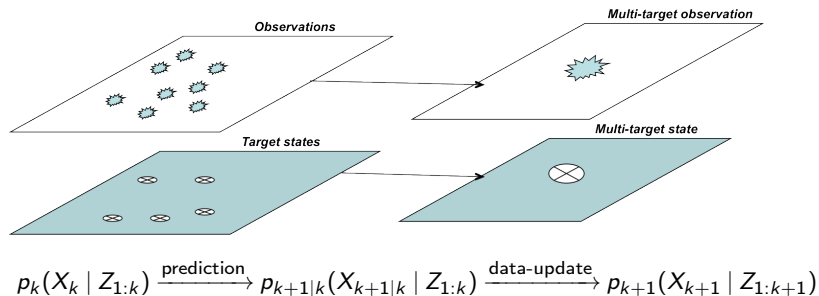
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Bayesian Multi-Object Filtering



Spatial Point Patterns

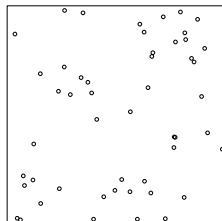
A **spatial point pattern** gives the locations of a set of objects

$\mathbf{Y} = \{\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n\}$ in some region of the space

e.g. $\mathbf{y}_i \in \mathcal{Y}$, where $i = 1, \dots, n$ and $\mathcal{Y} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n_y}$

For example:

- 2-dimensional positions of objects in an image from a sensor (i.e. *observation space*),
- 3-dimensional positions and velocities of objects in some real-world environment (i.e. *state space*).



Spatial Point Patterns

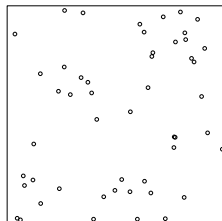
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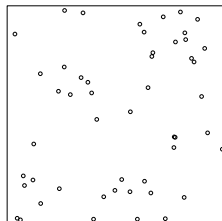
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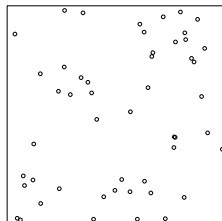
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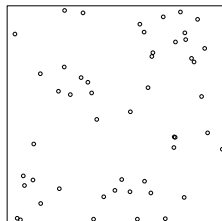
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Point Process Representation

A **spatial point process** is therefore characterised with the following

Table : Point Process Representation

Number of objects	Cardinality probability	Joint spatial density
0	$\rho(0)$	-
1	$\rho(1)$	$\rho_1(x_1)$
2	$\rho(2)$	$\rho_2(x_1, x_2)$
3	$\rho(3)$	$\rho_3(x_1, x_2, x_3)$
4	$\rho(4)$	$\rho_4(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$
...
n	$\rho(n)$	$\rho_n(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, \dots, x_n)$
...

Point processes

Definition (Probability generating functional - Moyal 1962)

The probability generating functional G_Φ of a process Φ can be written for $w \in \mathcal{U}(\mathbf{X})$ as

$$G_\Phi(w) = J_\Phi^{(0)} + \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{n!} \int w(x_1) \dots w(x_n) J_\Phi^{(n)}(x_1, \dots, x_n) d^n x,$$

where $J_\Phi^{(0)}$ is the probability for the population to be empty and where $d^n x$ stands for $dx_1 \dots dx_n$.

THE GENERAL THEORY OF STOCHASTIC POPULATION PROCESSES

BY

J. E. MOYAL

Australian National University, Canberra, Australia (1)

Point processes

Example (Probability generating functional -Moyal 1962)

Taking the k^{th} -order variation of $G_{\Phi}(w)$ in the directions $\{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_k\}$, we have,

$$\delta^k G_{\Phi}(w; \xi_1, \dots, \xi_k) = \sum_{n \geq k} \frac{1}{(n-k)!} \int \xi_1(x_1) \dots \xi_k(x_k) w(x_{k+1}) \dots w(x_n) J_{\Phi}^{(n)}(x_1, \dots, x_n) d^n x.$$

We can recover the Janossy densities $J_{\Phi}^{(n)}(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ and factorial moments $M_{\Phi}^{(n)}(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ with

$$J_{\Phi}^{(n)}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \delta^k G_{\Phi}(0; \xi_1, \dots, \xi_k),$$
$$M_{\Phi}^{(n)}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \delta^k G_{\Phi}(1; \xi_1, \dots, \xi_k).$$

THE GENERAL THEORY OF STOCHASTIC POPULATION
PROCESSES

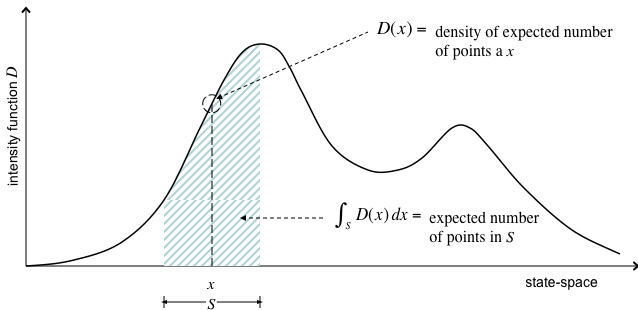
BY

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Point Process Intensity

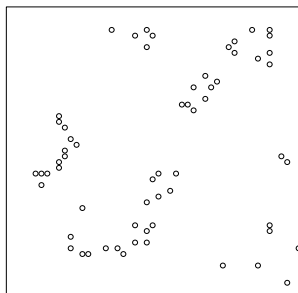
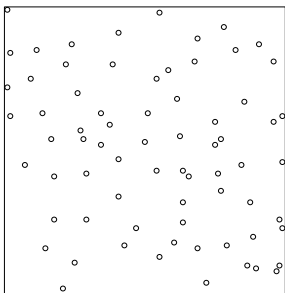
The **intensity** function of a point process is the average density of points (expected number of points per unit area).

Intensity function \equiv Probability Hypothesis Density (PHD); notation $D(x)$



Point Process Intensity (Cont'd)

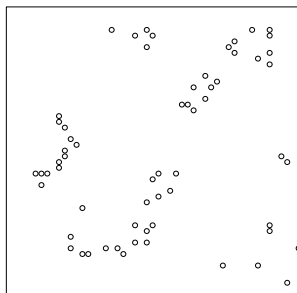
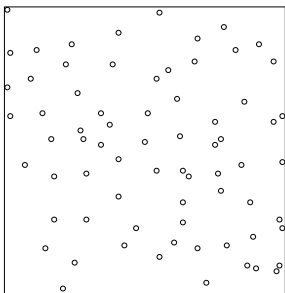
- The intensity may be constant across the region (**homogeneous**)
- or some regions may have higher intensity than others (**inhomogeneous**):



(samples from: **homogeneous PP** - left; **inhomogeneous PP** - right)

Point Process Intensity (Cont'd)

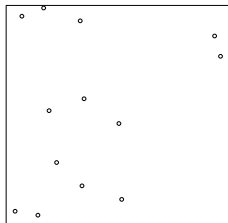
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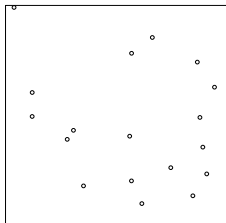
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Point Process Superposition

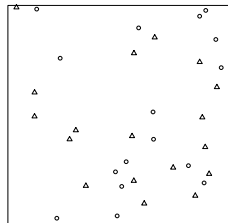
- Often we observe different (independent) point patterns in the same region originating from different point processes (e.g. false and true target detections).
- We can model this phenomenon as the **superposition** of independent point processes.



X_1



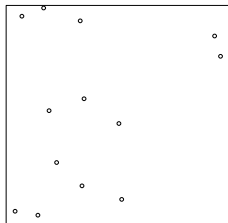
X_2



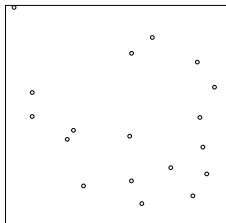
$X_1 \cup X_2$

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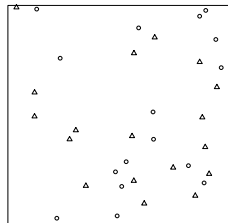
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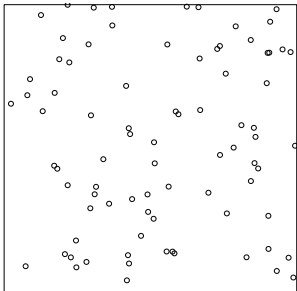


$X_1 \cup X_2$

Poisson point process

The **Poisson point process** with **Poisson rate** $\lambda > 0$ has the following properties

- The expected number of objects in the region is λ .
- The locations of the points are independent and identically distributed according to some **spatial distribution** $s(x)$.
- **Intensity** function of a Poisson point process $D(x) = \lambda \cdot s(x)$.

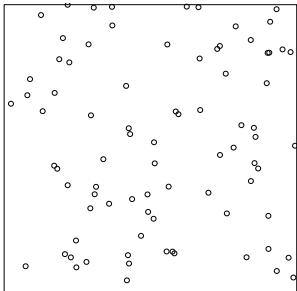


Samples from a homogeneous
Poisson point process with rate
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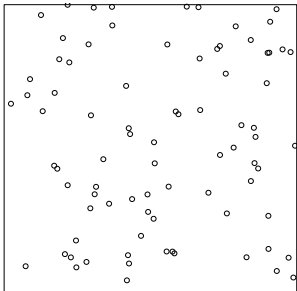


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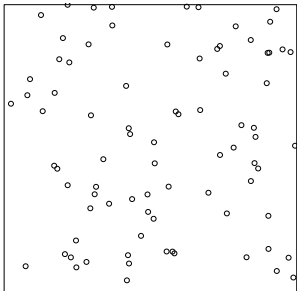


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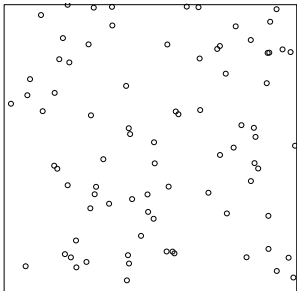


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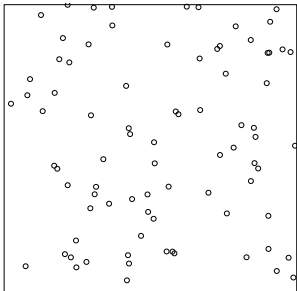


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Samples from a **homogeneous Poisson point process** with rate 100

PHD filtering - Poisson-based multi-target tracker

(Loading video)

Figure : Object tracking in sonar images

The first industrial application of the PHD filter was for oil pipeline tracking for BP (2006) in SeeByte Ltd.

Multi-object modelling for target detection & tracking

Populations of objects modelled with
point processes



Figure :

<http://www.nollywoodone.com/latest-additions/9009-the-u-s-military-s-real-time-google-street-view-airborne-spy-camera-can-track-an-entire-city-in-1-800mp.html>

Multi-object modelling for target detection & tracking



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Populations of objects modelled with *point processes*

- Target population;
- Target interactions;
- Target measurements;
- Missed detections;
- False alarms;
- Target appearing/disappearing;
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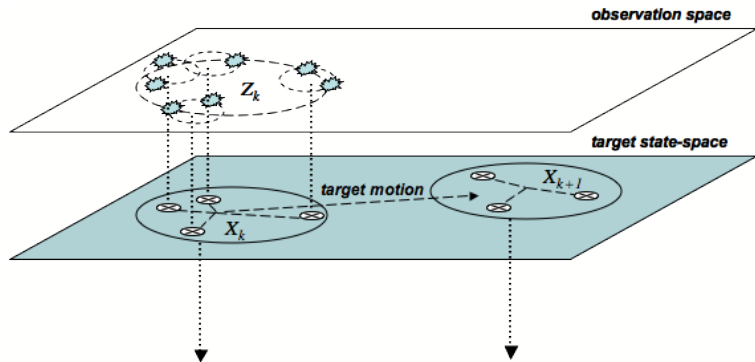
Figure :

<http://www.nollywoodone.com/latest-additions/9009-the-u-s-military-s-real-time-google-street-view-airborne-spy-camera-can-track-an-entire-city-in-1-800mp.html>

Populations of objects modelled with *point processes*

- Target population;
- Target interactions;
- Target measurements;
- Missed detections;
- False alarms;
- Target appearing/disappearing;
- ...

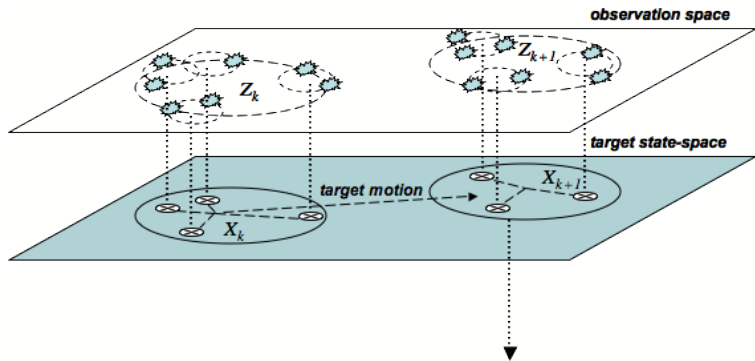
Multi-object Bayes filtering: prediction



The evolution of the multi-object process is specified with the composite functional

$$G(h) = G_k (G_{k+1|k}(h|\cdot))$$

Multi-object Bayes filtering: update



The joint functional describing the relation between targets and measurements is specified through the functional

$$G(v, w) = G_k(v G_L(w|\cdot)).$$



Higher-order statistics of point processes

Recent developments in multi-object filtering allow:



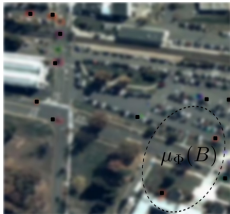
Higher-order statistics of point processes

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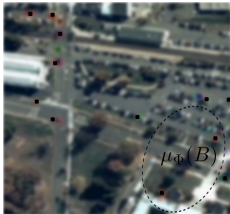
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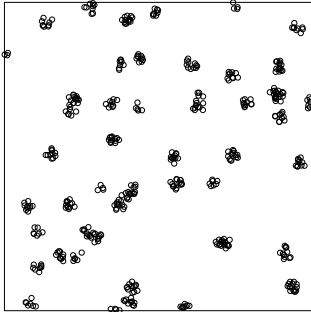
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Sensor control using variance

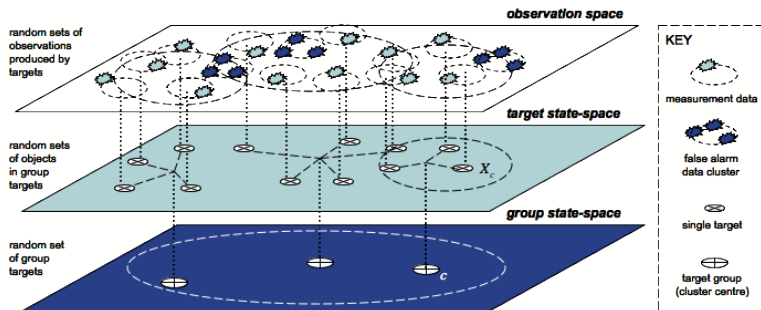
Example: Cluster Processes

Cluster Processes are formed with the composition of functionals, eg. $G(\psi) = G_1(G_2(\psi))$.



Multi-Group Multi-Object Bayes Filtering

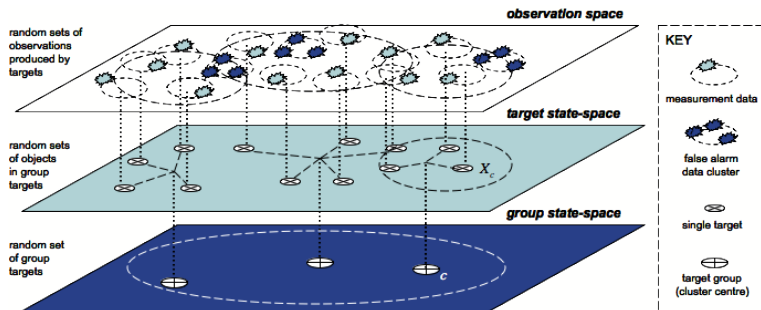
Group-Target State Variable: $\mathbb{X} = \{(c_1, X_1), \dots, (c_n, X_n)\}$



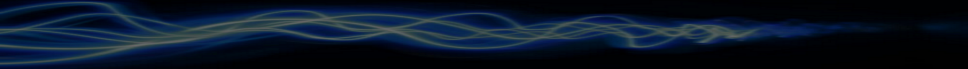
$$p_k(\mathbb{X}_k | Z^{(k)}) \xrightarrow{\text{prediction}} p_{k+1|k}(\mathbb{X}_{k+1} | Z^{(k)}) \xrightarrow{\text{data-update}} p_{k+1}(\mathbb{X}_{k+1} | Z^{(k+1)})$$

Multi-Group Multi-Object Bayes Filtering

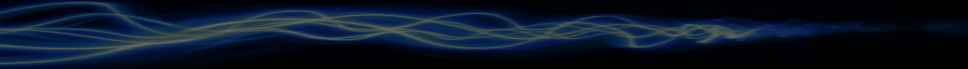
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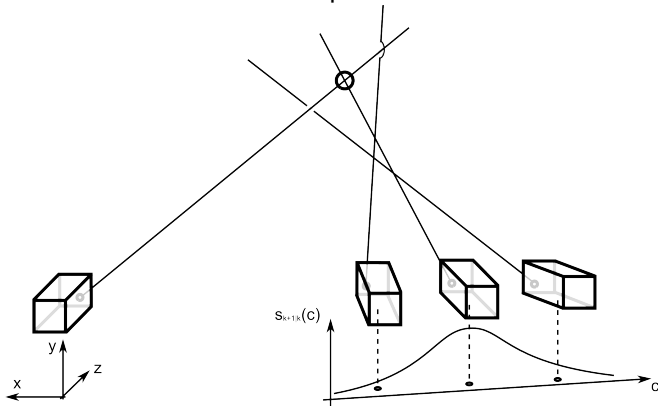
Tracking Multiple Group Targets



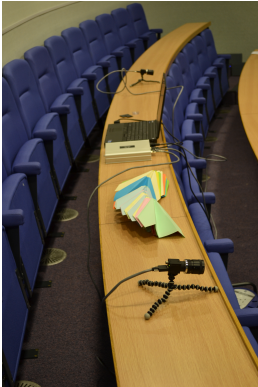
Camera calibration (sensor registration)

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Measurements from the displaced camera are conditional on the calibration parameters.

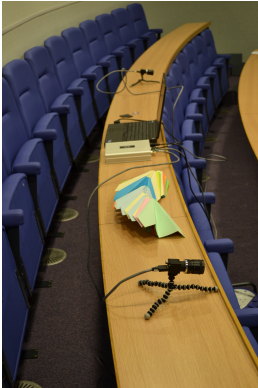


Camera calibration (sensor registration)



Estimating
calibration
parameters via
tracking of paper
airplanes

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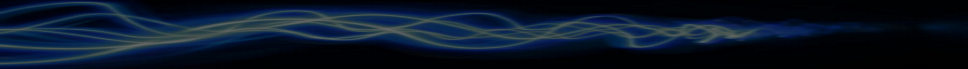


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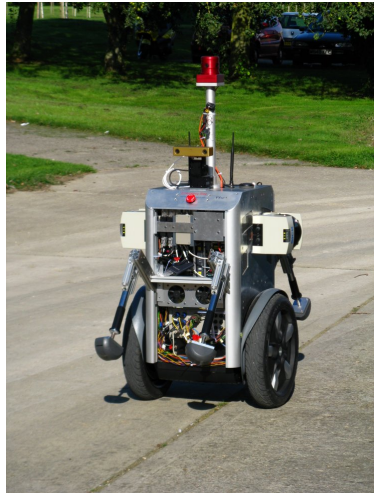


Camera calibration (sensor registration)

Simultaneous localisation and mapping (SLAM)

Estimate the motion of a vehicle in an unknown environment, while concurrently estimating the configuration of the environment.

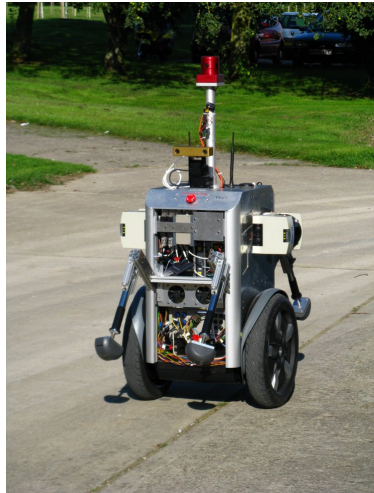
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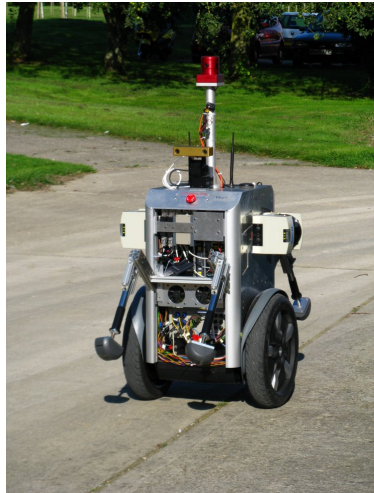
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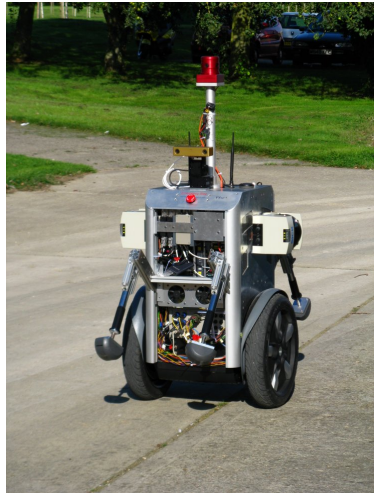
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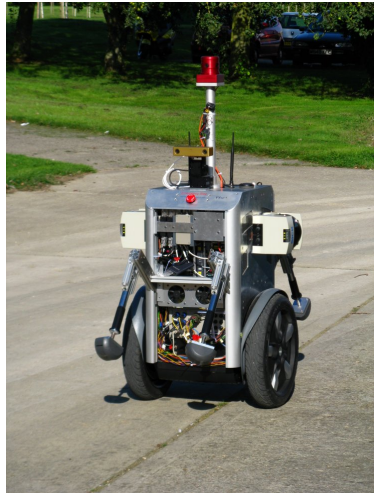
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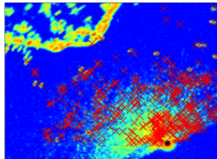
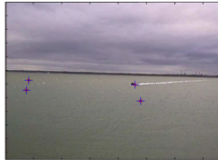


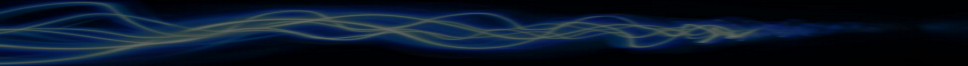


Simultaneous localisation and mapping (SLAM)

Multi-sensor fusion -maritime surveillance (CDE with BAE Systems, DSTL)

EO/radar data fusion using PHD filter estimation.





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