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Development and Evaluation of A Robot Steering Strategy

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ABSTRACT: The development of fully autonomous robots depends on the issue of robot localisation. If a robot doesn't know where it is, it may be challenging for it to determine what to do next. Comparative and precise measurements that give input on the robot's driving manoeuvres and the state of its surroundings are the foundation of a robot's capacity to localise itself. This data must be used by the robot to determine its location as precisely as possible. This is challenging since the robot's driving and sensing are both ambiguous. The murky data must be combined in the best way feasible. One of the most difficult tasks for a robotic system is to determine the best path through the workspace. The main purpose is to prevent obstructions and create an optimum path. As a result, a mobile robot's free configuration space must be managed very carefully for course planning and navigation. The path planning work will be easier, faster, and more efficient if the configuration space is partitioned. In addition, the data perceived by the sensor contains some noise. As a result, we construct an approach to produce an optimal prediction state in order to build a map that aids in the effective management of the environment in order to locate the most efficient paths to target. We use the modified Kalman Filter (MKF) to determine the most reliable sensor data prediction, and then the K-means clustering method to identify the subsequent landmarks while evading barriers

KEYWORDS: Robot Navigation, Path Planning, Kalman Filter

I. INTRODUCTION

Unmanned ground mobile robots have been used extensively in a variety of indoor and outdoor contexts in recent years, including industry, mines, museums, ports, and some dangerous locations [1-2]. Long-term interest has been drawn to studies on navigation that can accurately depict artificial intelligence and the autonomous capabilities of unmanned ground mobile robots [3]. A good motion planner needs to be created in order to achieve navigation [4]. Planning strategies used in previous solutions were divided into two categories: nonheuristic methods and heuristic methods [5]. A mobile robot with effective path planning technologies can not only save an enormous amount of time, but also minimise wear and the cost of the robot's capital. For the path planning of mobile robots, a number of approaches have been proposed and published in the literature. Despite the fact that these approaches cannot provide an ideal outcome, they have been effective in their works. Mobile robots have been effectively used in a variety of settings over the past few decades, including the military, business, and security situations. One of the most fundamental issues that needs to be solved before mobile robots can explore and move freely in complex situations is path planning [6]. Given a robot and its functioning environment, the mobile robots search for an optimum or suboptimal route from the starting position to the target state in accordance with a specific performance criterion. A mobile robot with effective path planning algorithms will not only conserve a lot of time, but also minimise wear and the cost of the robot's capital. The path planning of mobile robots has been a popular study issue both domestically and internationally because it has significant application value.

In general, there are two types of path planning: global path planning and local path planning, depending on whether all of the environmental information is available or not. The robot is aware of all environmental data prior to beginning the global path planning. On the other hand, the robot is largely unaware of the environment before beginning local path planning [7]. The path planning of mobile robots is acquired from the Engineering Village database using the following search criteria: path planning, mobile robot, and theme, such as path planning, mobile robot, and biological algorithm.

The following stages should generally be followed while the mobile robot is planning its global course. Environmental modelling, to start. The real-world environment in which a mobile robot must operate is transformed into map feature data that can be stored easily as part of the environmental modelling process. (2) Standards for optimisation. Algorithm for searching paths. The path search technique is used to locate a collision-free path in the state space that satisfies a number of optimisation criteria, including path length, smoothness, safety degree, etc. The mobile robot usually shrinks to a point, the barriers around it are modified, and the mobile robot is allowed to travel freely in the barrier space without bumping into barriers and boundaries in order to simplify the problem. The visibility graph, voronoi graph, and tangent graph are all parts of the framework space method.

Visibility Graph The visibility graph method uses a polygon to represent an obstruction, and each endpoint is linked to all of its visible vertices to create the final map. A vertex within the polygon's range is linked to all of its nearby points, allowing the mobile robot to move along the polygon's edge. Find the best route from the starting point to the ending point by searching the set of these lines. Although the path is optimum and the approach can tackle simple problems in two dimensions, its time complexity is $O(N^2)$ [8]. The effectiveness of the visibility graph will, however, be significantly diminished as the problem's complexity rises.

Voronoi graph The trajectory of points that are equally spaced from the closest two or more barrier barriers, including the workspace boundary, is known as a voronoi graph [9]. The set of edges is composed of points that are precisely two barrier boundaries apart, while the set of vertices is composed of points that are three or more barrier boundaries apart. The voronoi graph has the advantage of quick calculation speed and the disadvantage of having more mutational sites.

II. DEAD RECKONING

It is the technique of estimating the present place of a travelling entity based on a formerly established location, or fix, and then including predictions of speed, heading track, and course over time in navigation [10]. Path integration is a phrase used in biology to explain the methods through which animals revise their approximations of location or direction. Let the final identified location is A, B is the direction of the wind, and C stands for true position. There are accumulating inaccuracies in dead reckoning. Particularly, satellite navigation using the GPS has rendered basic DR process by humans. Any mismatch between the actual and assumed travelled distance per rotation, for instance, owing to slippage or surface defects, will be a resource of error if dislocation is calculated by the number of wheel spins. Because every estimation of position is relative to the one before it, mistakes accumulate over time, or compound.

By employing other, more dependable ways to gain a new fix partway through the route, the exactness of DR can be greatly improved. If one were navigating on land in bad visibility, for example, one could utilise dead reckoning to get near sufficient to a identified position of a landmark to see it before getting to the landmark itself.

III. PROBLEMS IN AUTONOMOUS NAVIGATION

It is considerably easier to tell two motors to spin at a specific speed than it is to perform the intricate kinematics required to determine the ideal location to step in order to go forward while being balanced. That's not to suggest there haven't been significant advances in legged systems in recent years, but it does make the problem more difficult to solve.

Agility: Differential drive robots, which have two motorised wheels and can move forward, backward, and turn in position, are more frequent. Because it can't move directly sideways, such a robot isn't holonomic. Although the constrained mobility model slows some movements, it nevertheless provides enough flexibility to address a wide range of scenarios. Because automobiles can't turn in situ, car-like steering systems add another degree of complication, which is why parallel parking is so difficult and why three-point turns were devised. Legs, on the other hand, can provide a lot more agility, but that freedom of movement also comes with a lot more opportunities to tumble over.

Robot Shape: The difficulty of autonomous navigation is also affected by the robot's size and shape. Circular robots are popular because they can rotate in situ while ensuring that they do not collide with anything. Other shapes, on the other hand, are a different story. A square robot that is directly adjacent to an obstruction is unable to turn. There may also be instances where robots can fit through doorways when turned one direction but not the other. One helpful rule of thumb for autonomous navigation in human-designed surroundings is that most doors in the United States are ADA Compliant, therefore constructing a robot wider than 32 inches/81 cm can pose issues.

Space for adaptive cruise control planning: The majority of robots work in a two-dimensional plane, where their position is represented by an x and y coordinate as well as an orientation. This is suitable for many interior spaces, such as warehouses or classrooms, and allows for very efficient environmental representations. The world, however, is not flat. A flat model cannot capture all of the possible destinations for wheeled robots, such as a multistory parking garage.

Furthermore, not all robots can work on the floor indoors. Working outside frequently necessitates an understanding of elevation; the quickest path may go over a mountain, while the easiest path goes around the mountain.

Obstructions: People typically learn to drive in empty parking lots since it is the easiest method to manoeuvre on a featureless plane. Most mobile robots, on the other hand, must avoid impediments in their path, if only because roboticists despise constantly bumping their shins. When the robot knows its complete environment ahead of time, this is very straightforward, but when dynamic barriers are introduced, the robot will require a sensor suite to identify whatever obstacles are thrown at it. For many years, the industry norm was to utilise a planar laser scanner, however this only functioned to avoid obstructions that were at the laser's exact height. It turns out that the real world contains more than two dimensions.

Localization: While having no impediments around the robot makes it easier to avoid colliding with them, it also makes it more difficult to tell where you are. Even with GPS, your location will only be accurate to a few metres. Instead, most robotic systems use a localization mechanism based on static barriers such as walls. This is easier if you already have a map of the area; otherwise, you'll have to accomplish simultaneous localization and mapping, which is a difficult task in and of itself. However, depending on the quality of the sensors and how distinctive the environment is, even when you have a complete map, the problem of localization can be problematic.

IV. NAVIGATION REQUIREMENTS

To enable the robot to travel, it is imperative to provide sufficient information about its whereabouts. Consequently, localization techniques play a big role in navigation strategies. Additionally, learning new skills is necessary for mobile robot navigation. The primary one is trajectory prediction. Provided a map and an objective location, it comprises determining the robot's travel path to the target location.

The data from the sensors might be used to modify the robot's trajectory in order to avoid collisions. Obstacle avoidance has been proved to be effective using a wide range of strategies.

The computed robot motion is based on the robot's sensor data as well as its goal position and location with respect to the target location. Obstacle avoidance method rely on the presence of a universal map and the robot's precise understanding of its place on the map. A robot is provided with a local map and a route to follow in vision-based navigation. "Self-localization" is an important working of vision-based sensoring. With a sequence of photographs of the inner space, a robot is created. The robot can detect its location by comparing the camera photos taken through navigation with the preset photographs.

V. LOCALIZATION AND PLOTTING

The robot must regulate its position in the fields to navigate positively. Representation is a crucial aspect of map localization. Actual impediments can move in the real world since it is dynamic. The topic of guessing the motion vector of transitory objects is still under investigation. Wide open spaces, like parking areas, fields, and inside halls like those found in convention centers, pose another issue. Due to their scarcity, they create a challenge. Occlusion by human crowds is a classic example. The ideal case would be for the robot's sensors and mapping method to instantly and consistently determine the robot's precise location.

VI. MAP DEPICTION

It's also worth remembering that the computational difficulty of thinking about mapping, localization, and steering is influenced by the intricacy of the map depiction. A map illustration can be created using a variety of methods. Path planning algorithms are closely related to several of them. Two key strategies for map representation are occupancy

grid (quadtree) representation and a topological method. A continuous-valued map is another way for environmental decomposition.

Path planning is associated with determining the optimum route for a mobile robot to take in order to arrive at the destination without crashing, allowing the robot to navigate via obstructions from one configuration to the next. The motion's temporal progression is ignored. There are no velocities or accelerations taken into account. The purpose of trajectory planning is to determine the force inputs that move the actuators so that the robot pursues a trajectory that permits it to progress from the beginning setup to the final one while evading obstructions. To plan the trajectory, it considers the robot's dynamics and physical features. In other words, the motion's temporal evolution as well as the forces required to create that motion are computed. Path following and trajectory tracking are also key aspects of motion planning. They can also be thought of as a type of motion control.

VII. PROPOSED METHOD

One of the most difficult jobs for a robot is to find out the best path through the workspace. The main purpose is to eliminate obstructions and create an efficient path. Consequently, a mobile robot's free configuration space must be managed very effectively for course planning and navigation. The path planning work will be easier, faster, and more efficient if the configuration space is partitioned. In addition, the data sensed by the sensor contains some disturbance. As a result, we construct an approach to provide an efficient prediction of upcoming states in order to construct a map that aids in the effective management of the environment in order to locate the most efficient paths to destination. We use the Modified Kalman Filter (MKF) to provide an appropriate assessment of sensor data, and then the K-means clustering technique to locate the subsequent milestones while evading obstructions.

We may use Kalman Filtering to integrate the uncertainties about the robot's current state (i.e. where it is and which direction it is gazing) with the uncertainties about its sensor data to reduce the robot's total uncertainty. A Gaussian probability distribution or a Normal distribution is commonly used to reflect both uncertainty. The mean and variance are the two variables of a Gaussian distribution. The variance represents how uncertain we are about this mean value, while the mean expresses what value of the distribution has the highest possibility of being true.

There are two sections of this algorithm. In the forecast phase, the filter yields approximations of the current state variables and their ambiguity. After the result of the following measurement (essentially tainted with certain degree of error, especially random noise) is found, these estimations are modified by a weighted average, with greater weight given to estimations with better certainty. It's a recursive algorithm. It may operate in real time using only the present input observations and the earlier determined state and its uncertainty matrix; no prior data is required.

The state transition prototype and the measurement prototype should both be linear when using Kalman Filters. From a scientific perspective, this means that we can update the robot's state and measurements using Linear Algebra's simplicity and beauty. This indicates that the state variables and calculated values are anticipated to change linearly with time in practise. If we evaluate the robot's location in the x-direction, for example. Let the robot was at position x_1 at time t_1 , we suppose that it will be at position $x_1 + v \cdot (t_2 - t_1)$ at time t_2 . The x-direction velocity of the robot is represented by the variable v . The state transition model is slightly off if the robot is truly speeding or performing any other nonlinear motion (such as driving in a circle). In most cases, it isn't far off, but in some extreme cases, the assumption of linearity is just incorrect. Assuming a linear measurement model also has drawbacks. Assume you're travelling along a straight road with a lighthouse directly across the road in front of you. While you are a long way away, the distance between you and the lighthouse, as well as the angle at which it appears from your perspective, changes almost linearly.

The angle, on the one hand, changes considerably as you go closer, especially when you drive by it, while the distance, on the other hand, remains quite constant. This is why, when Robot is exploring his 2-D environment with landmarks strewn throughout his 2-D plane, we can't apply Linear Kalman Filtering. Extended Kalman Filtering is just "Normal" Kalman Filtering with the nonlinear state transition model and measurement model linearized further

A curve in configuration space C links to a robot's path, and each location along the route corresponds to a point of the configuration space. A collision-free route corresponds to a curve of the free space C_{free} . It makes it possible to model nonlinear systems. The MKF is made up of three phases that function together in a round. The state and covariance of robot are predicted first and then the robot then observes the environment, assigning any new observations or measurements to the accurate feature (MKF examination), and lastly correcting the robot's state and covariance (MKF update).

VIII. RESULTS OF SIMULATION

a cluster analysis approach that divides n number of inspection data into k clusters according to which every inspection link to the cluster with the closest mean. Let's say the robot A has n positions $(X_1; X_2; \dots; X_n)$, with X_i 's consisting of 2-D location $(x_i; y_i)$ and orientation. According to K-MC, the goal is to split the n points into k sets ($k \leq n$) in order to minimise the summation of squares within the clusters.

These cluster centres will aid in the construction of the global map of the environment in our method. We eliminate the placements for the obstacles from $(X_1; X_2; \dots; X_n)$ positions. $\{C_1; C_2; \dots; C_k\}$ will only give us with k -centers for the environment's free space.

By repetitively minimising the intra-cluster sums-of-squares, K-means clustering splits an unidentified surrounding into k clusters using the least-squares division technique, which splits a group of objects into k discrete clusters.

Navigating free space and determining the optimum route by creating a decent map depiction is a difficult task for mobile robots to solve. We suggest a mechanism for the robot to explore its surroundings without having any previous knowledge of it. If the robot is familiar with several locations throughout the accessible region C_{free} in the configuration space C , it will be much easier for it to locate itself and choose the best way through the environment.

To do so, we devise a clustering methodology that divides the robot's free space C_{free} into a number of zones known as clusters. Cluster centres can be considered the subsequent landmark to be localised under specific assumptions.

Unidentified cell regions entirely encircled by occupied cells or obstructions Because cobs are not approachable, they are deleted from the clustering process before applying K-means. The contour of each zone is then tracked to see if it is completely limited by occupied cells. The entire territory is designated as inhabited in this example. Next, take the sensor data and run it via MKF. MKF offers us with corrected environmental measures that are more precise than sensor readings.

After getting the MKF outcome, we use the K-means clustering procedure. By avoiding the obstacles, K-means clustering provides us k cluster centres. Because the cluster centres are built to avoid barriers, they can be used for robot localization and map construction in this environment as a whole. After the robot has been localised, it will be much simpler for it to explore the optimal rout to its goal.

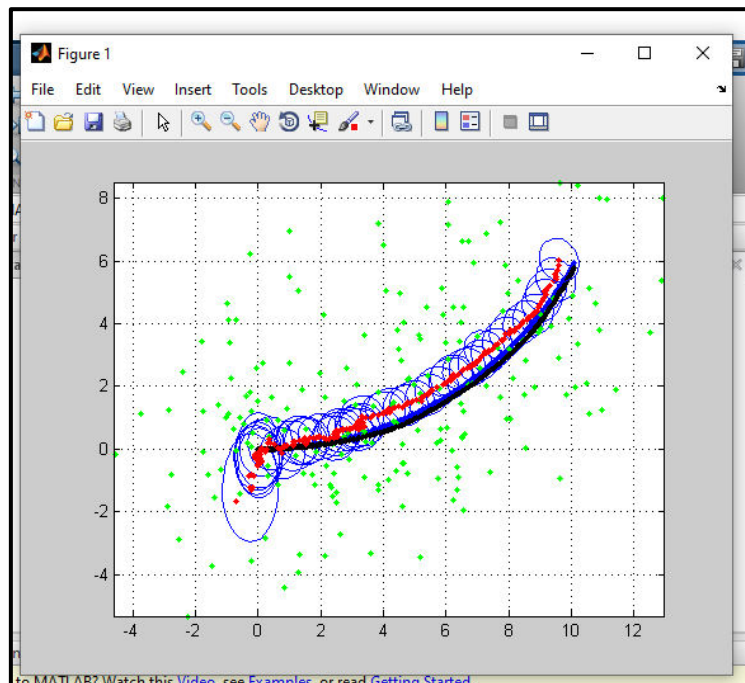


Fig. 1: Initial Trajectory

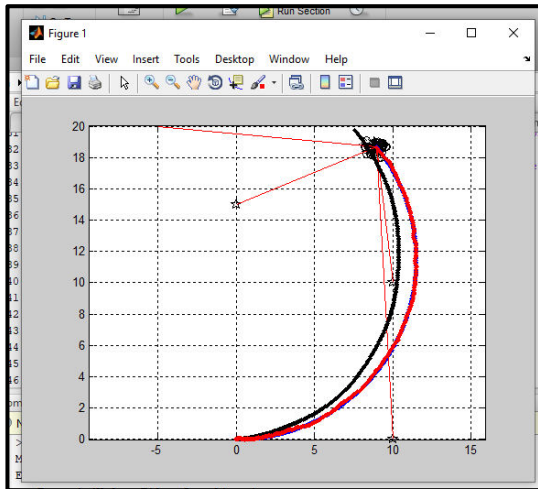


Fig. 2: Intermediate Path

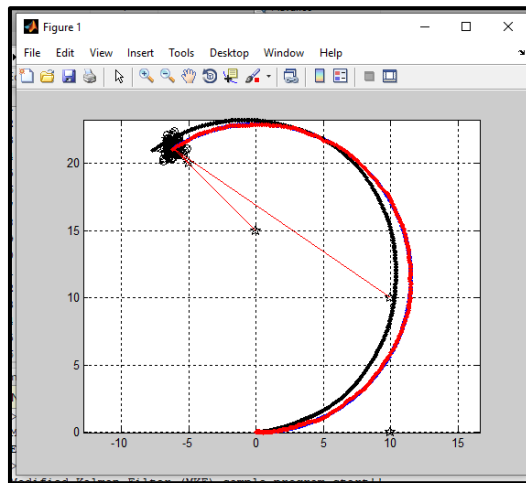


Fig. 3: Updated Path

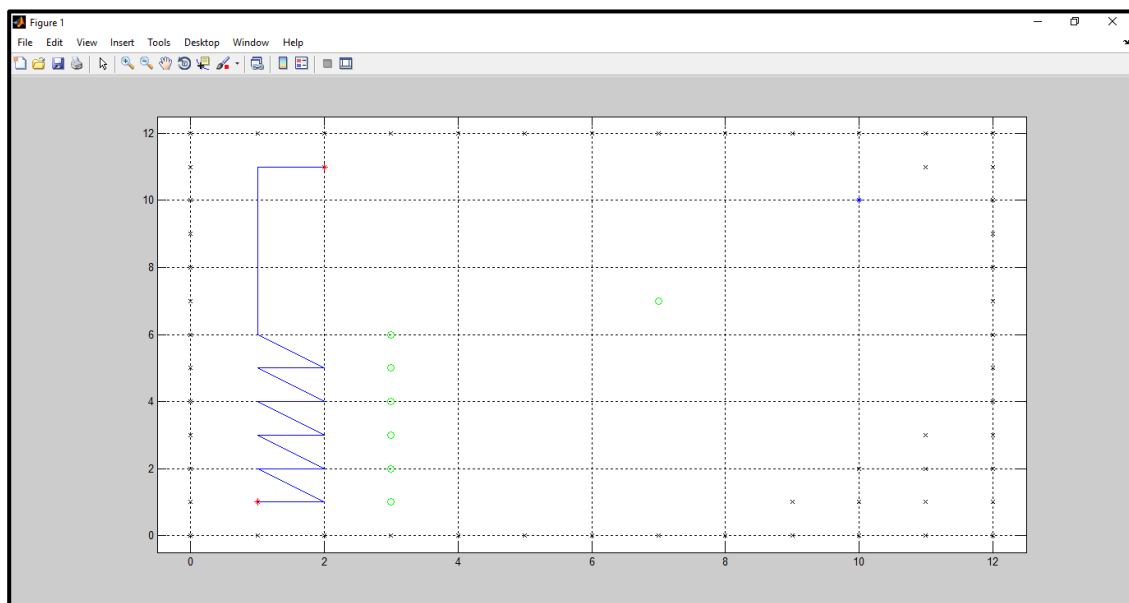


Fig. 4: Path Coverage Beginning

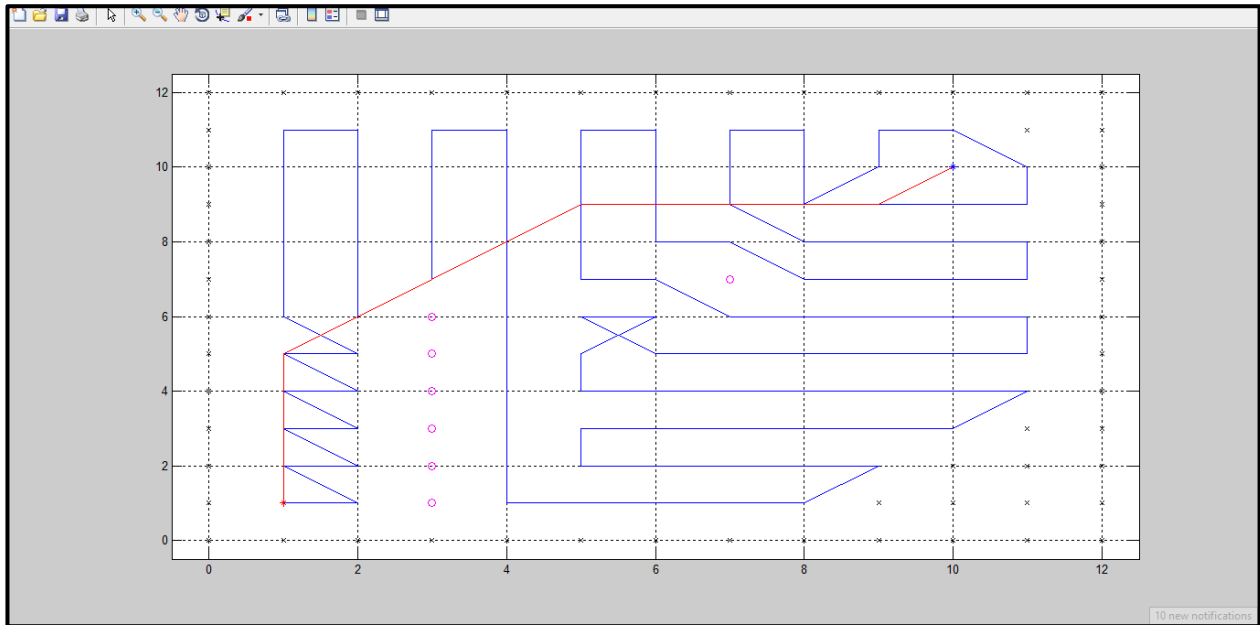


Fig. 5: Final Path/Trajectory

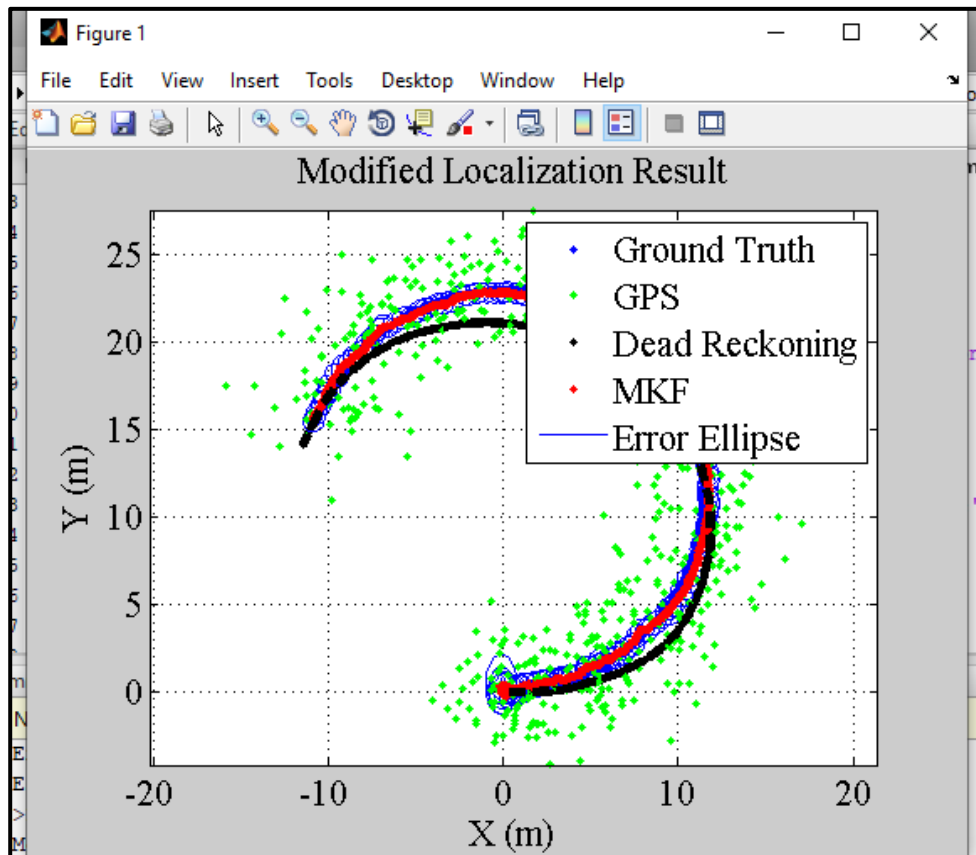


Fig. 6: Comparative Results

IX. CONCLUSION

The challenge of Robot Localization, the difficulty of state estimation of noisy dynamic systems using Kalman Filters, and finally how to utilise Kalman Filter techniques to address the Robot Localization problem have all been comprehensively discussed in this work. From a practical standpoint, we talked about the need for a robot to While travelling across an environment, it attempts to self-localize. We explored various sources of information and highlighted advantages and disadvantages in order to evaluate what information a robot has access to regarding its position. Because of the defects in actuators and sensors caused by noise sources, we concluded that a navigating robot should localise itself using data from several sensors.

For optimum path generation, an incorporated Modified Kalman Filter (MKF) and K-means clustering method is implemented. A mobile robot's main concern when performing its assigned duty is to discover the optimum route. Autonomous mobile robots are being deployed in increasingly complex contexts these days. As a result, the demand for tractable methods of planning in the face of uncertainty is increasing. A robot's sensor observations are imperfect, and it is uncertain what will happen if it performs a specific action. We take into account the noise, linearize it using MKF, and then use the K-means technique for clustering is used to locate cluster midpoints in the surroundings while evading barriers. The midpoints of the clusters can be thought of as the robot's next markers for locating itself, and these landmarks will then be utilised to discover the best path to the target. We have also compared different filters for localization like Particle filter and Unscented Filter. We performed path planning, complete path coverage and path smoothing. We also integrated the MKF with SLAM and find that results are very close to ground truth values.

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