

Experience-Based Prediction of Unknown Environments for Enhanced Belief Space Planning

OMRI ASRAF

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF ASST. PROF. VADIM INDELMAN



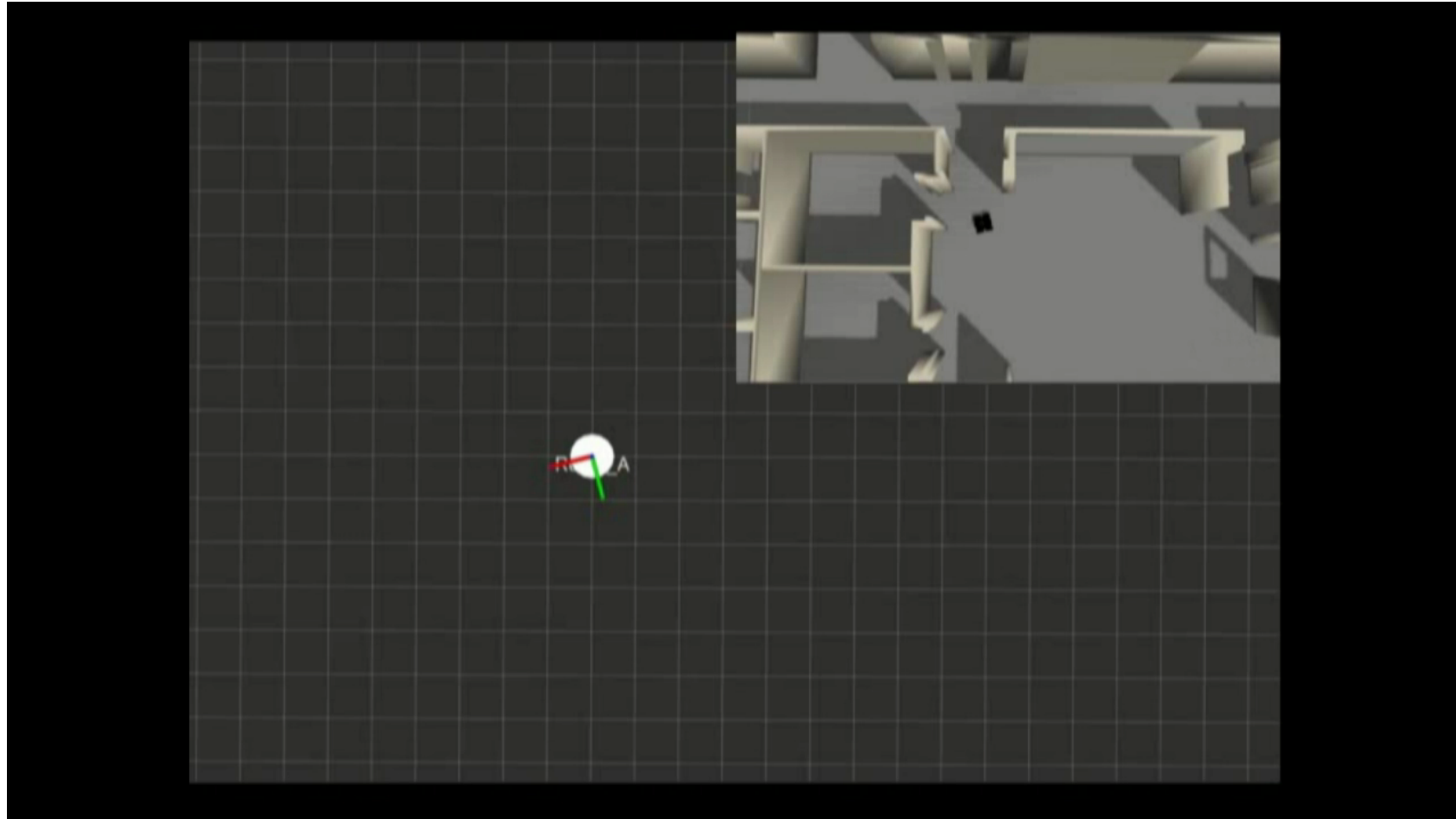
DEPARTMENT OF
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

TECHNION
Israel Institute
of Technology



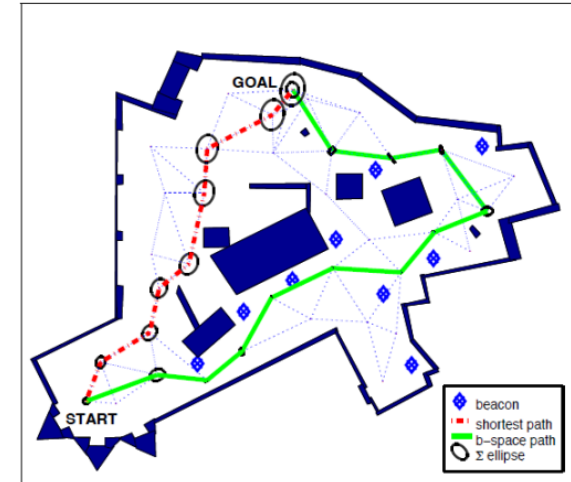
ANPL | Autonomous Navigation
and Perception Lab

Introduction – SLAM



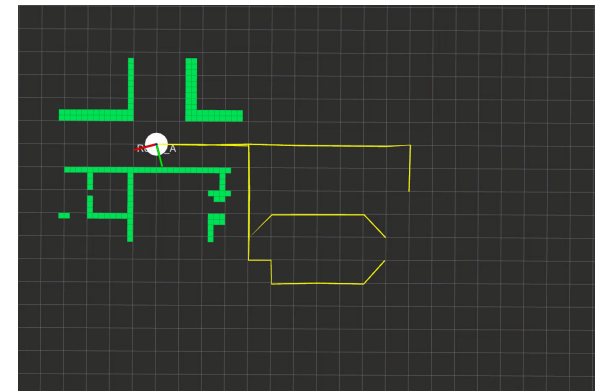
Introduction – Decision Making

- Belief Space Planning (BSP)



S. Prentice et al., IJRR 2009

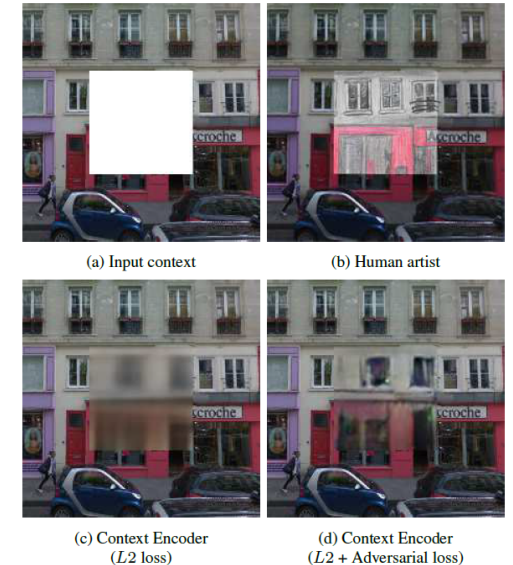
- Planning in Unknown Environments



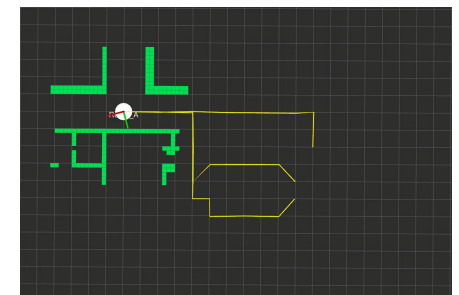
Introduction – Inpainting

- Image completion task
- Addressed by DL based generative models:
 - Variational Autoencoders (VAE)
 - Generative Adversarial Network (GAN)

- Extended map task



D. Pathak et al., CVPR 2016



Related Works

- Belief Space Planning in unknown environments

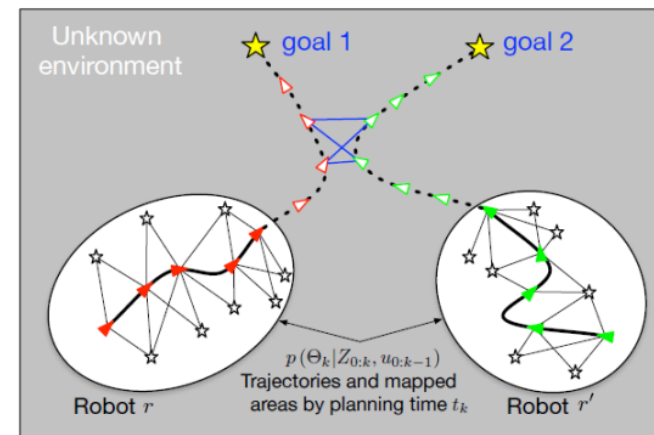
A. Kim et al.: “Active visual SLAM for robotic area coverage: Theory and experiment”, IJRR 2015.

V. Indelman et al.: “Planning in the continuous domain: A generalized belief space approach for autonomous navigation in unknown environments”, IJRR 2015.

V. Indelman: “Cooperative multi-robot belief space planning for autonomous navigation in unknown environments”, ARJ 2017.



V. Indelman et al., IJRR 2015



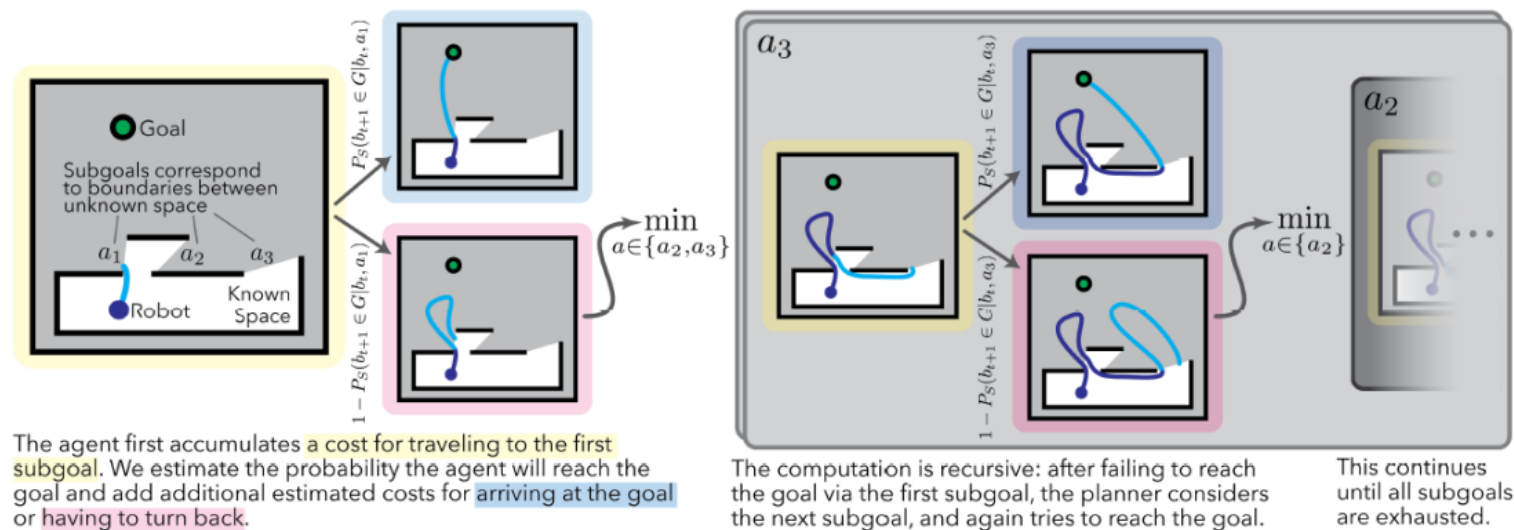
V. Indelman, ARJ 2017

Related Works

- Reinforcement Learning (RL) in POMDP setting

P. Karkus et al.: “Qmdp-net: Deep learning for planning under partial observability”, NIPS 2017.

G. J. Stein et al.: “Learning over subgoals for efficient navigation of structured, unknown environments”, CORL 2018.



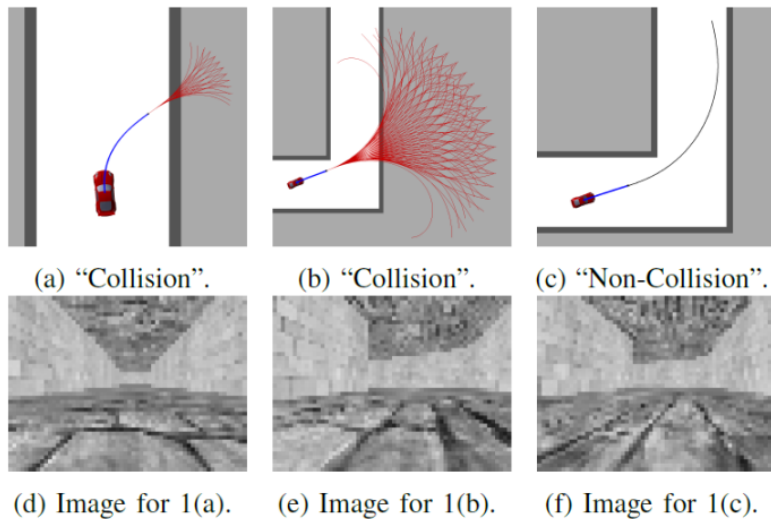
G.J.Stein et al., CORL 2018

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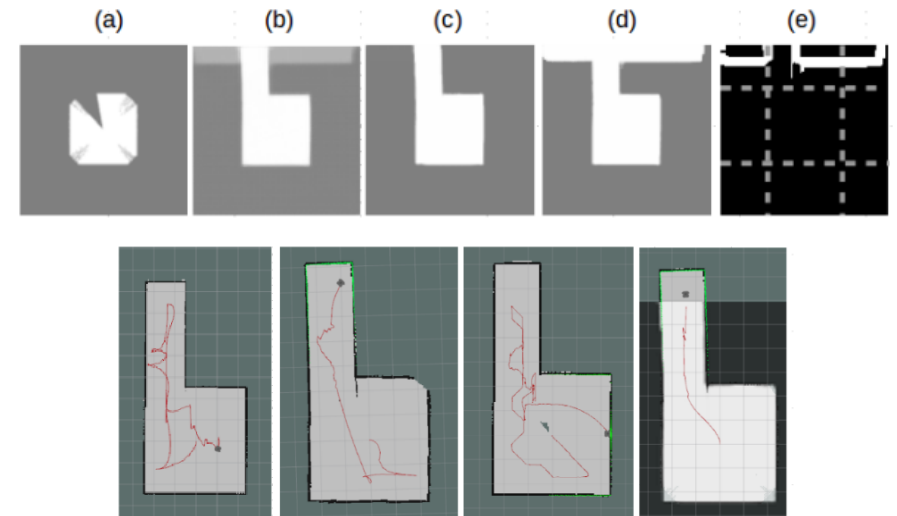
- Experience for Planning in unknown environment

C. Richter and N. Roy: “Safe visual navigation via deep learning and novelty detection”, RSS 2017.

K. Katyal et al.: “Uncertainty-aware occupancy map prediction using generative networks for robot navigation”, ICRA 2019.



C. Richter et al., RSS 2017



K. Katyal et al., ICRA 2019

Problem Statement

- Current BSP methods lack the information necessary to predict future measurements in unknown environments.

- Contributions:
 - I. predict distribution over an unexplored area for future measurements generation
 - II. incorporate experience-based prediction within BSP. In particular, with information-theoretic costs.

Problem Formulation - SLAM

- Motion model

$$x_i = f(x_{i-1}, a_{i-1}) + w_i, \quad w_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_w)$$

- Observation model of a raw measurement

$$y_i = g(x_i, m_i) + u_i, \quad u_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_u)$$

- Observation model of a relative-pose measurement

$$y_{ij}^{rel}(y_i, y_j) = h(x_i, x_j) + v_{ij}, \quad v_{ij} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_v(y_i, y_j))$$

Notations:

x_i - robot state at time i

a_i - action at time i

m_i - environment state(map/landmarks)

y_i - raw measurement at time i

y_{ij}^{rel} - relative pose measurement

Problem Formulation - SLAM

- Robot's state belief

$$b_k \doteq \mathbb{P}(x_{1:k} | y_{1:k}, a_{0:k-1})$$

- Map belief

$$\mathbb{P}(M_k | y_{1:k}, a_{0:k-1})$$

Notations:

$x_{1:k}$ - robot states until current time

M_k - the map observed up to time k

$y_{1:k}$ - measurements up to time k

$a_{0:k-1}$ - actions up to time k

Problem Formulation - BSP

- Future belief

$$b_{k+l} \doteq \mathbb{P}(x_{1:k+l} \mid H_k, a_{k:k+l-1}, y_{k+1:k+l})$$

- Objective function

$$J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1}) = \sum_{l=1}^L \mathbb{E}_{y_{k+1:k+l}} \{c(b_{k+l}, a_{k+l-1})\}$$

- Optimal action

$$a_{k:k+L-1}^* = \arg \min_{a_{k:k+L-1}} J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1})$$

Notations:

$x_{1:k}$ - robot states until current time

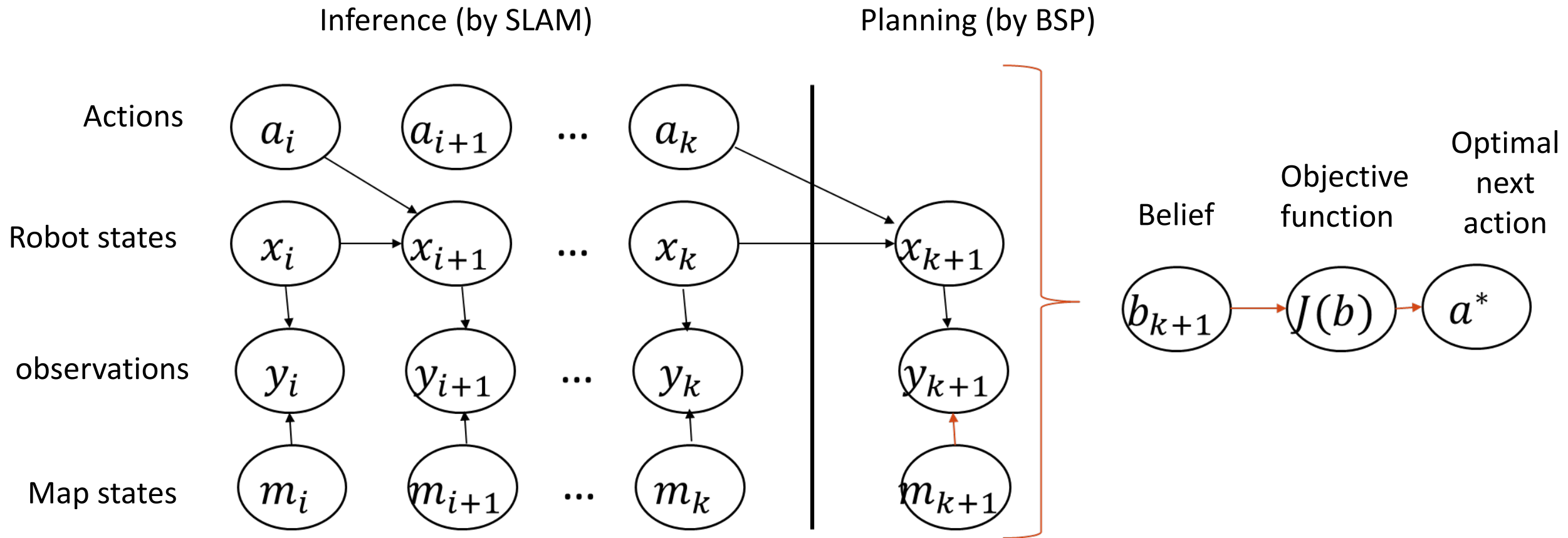
M_k - the map observed up to time k

$y_{1:k}$ - measurements up to time k

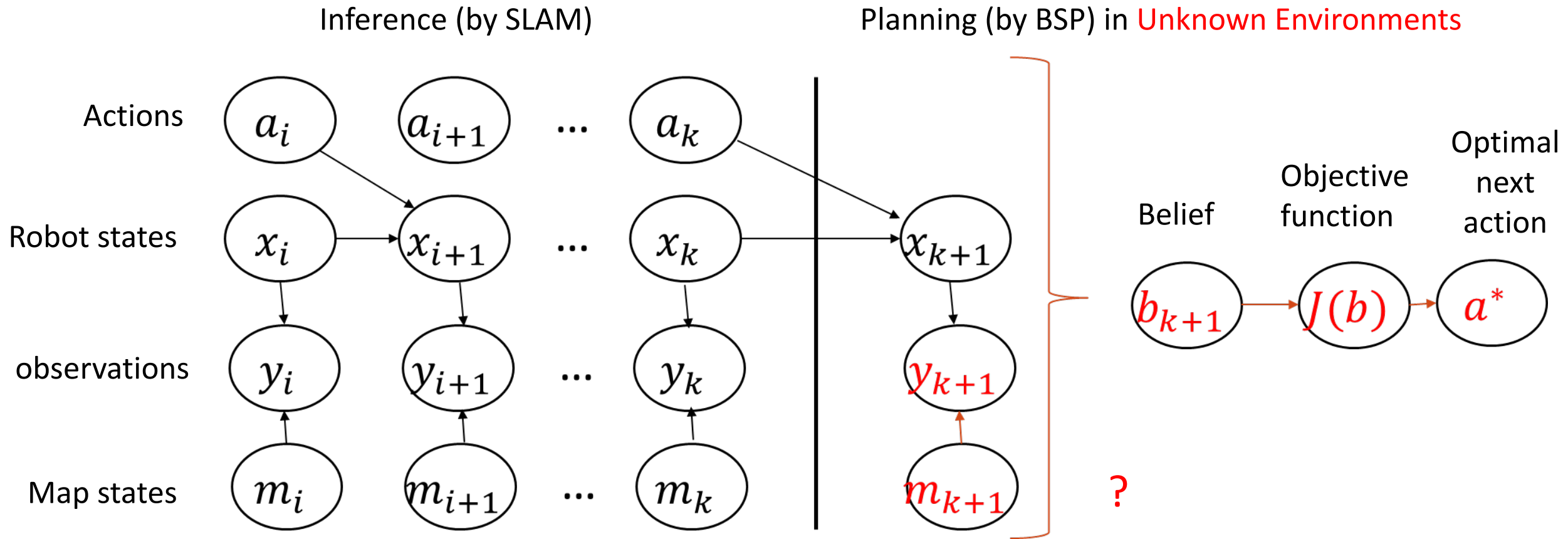
$a_{0:k-1}$ - actions up to time k

$H_k = \{y_{1:k}, a_{0:k-1}\}$ - history

Problem Formulation



Problem Formulation



Approach

- Incorporation of experience D within BSP objective function

$$J(b_k, a_k) = \int \mathbb{P}(y_{k+1} | H_k, a_k, D) c(b_{k+1}, a_k) dy_{k+1}$$

- Future measurement generated given a map distribution

$$\mathbb{P}(y_{k+1} | H_k, a_k, D) \approx \int_{m_{k+1}} \underbrace{\mathbb{P}(y_{k+1} | \hat{x}_{k+1}^-, m_{k+1})}_{\text{Observation model}} \underbrace{\mathbb{P}(m_{k+1} | H_{k+1}^-, D)}_{?} dm_{k+1}$$

Notations:

$x_{1:k}$ - robot states until current time

M_k - the map observed up to time k

$m_i \subseteq M_i$ - sub map around x_i

$y_{1:k}$ - measurements up to time k

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D - experience

Approach

- Future measurement generated given a map distribution

$$\mathbb{P}(y_{k+1}|H_k, a_k, D) \approx \int_{m_{k+1}} \underbrace{\mathbb{P}(y_{k+1}|\hat{x}_{k+1}^-, m_{k+1})}_{\text{Observation model}} \underbrace{\mathbb{P}(m_{k+1}|H_{k+1}^-, D)}_{?} dm_{k+1}$$

- Experience-based prediction of map distribution

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(m_{k+1}|H_k, a_k, D) &\approx \mathbb{P}(m_{k+1}|\hat{M}_k, a_k, D) \\ &\approx \mathbb{P}(m_{k+1} | \hat{m}_k, a_k, D) \end{aligned}$$

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 $H_k = \{y_{1:k}, a_{0:k-1}\}$ - history
 D - experience

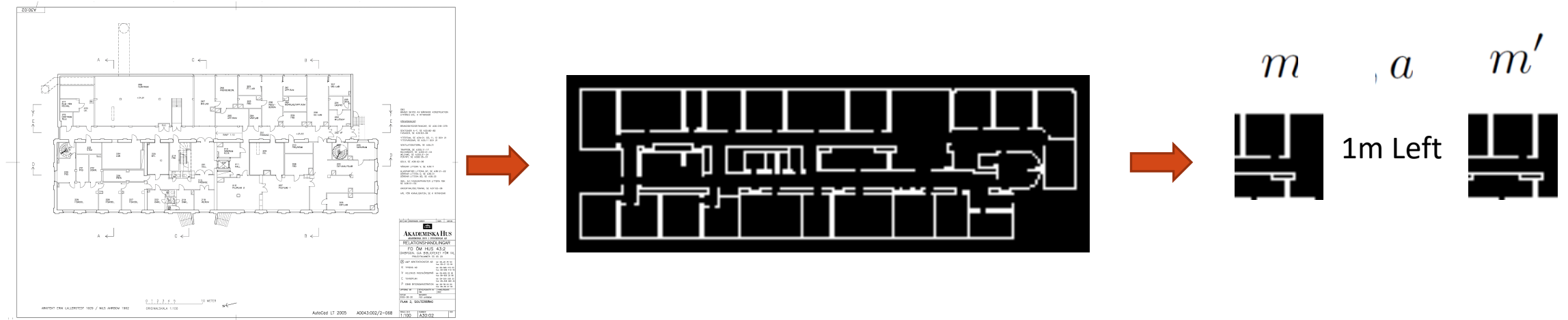
Approach – Map Prediction

- Purpose – learn the future map distribution offline

$$\mathbb{P}(m' | m, a)$$

- Data Set - floor plans (KTH)

$$D \doteq \{(m, a, m')\}$$



Approach – Map Prediction

- CVAE architecture

- Encoder

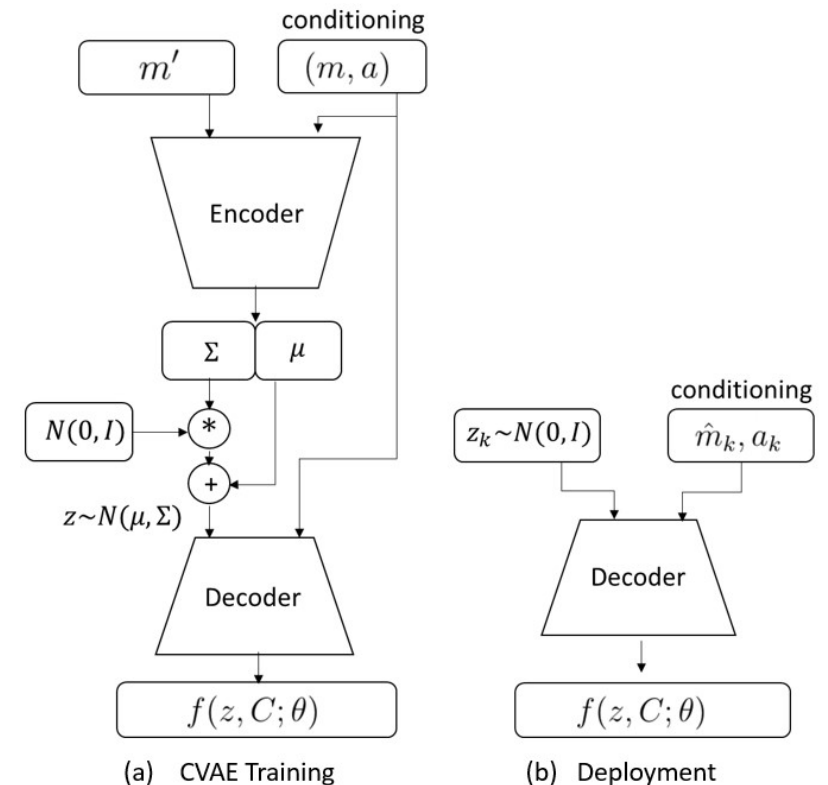
$$\mathbb{Q}(z \mid m', C; \phi) = \mathcal{N}(\mu(m', C; \phi), \Sigma(m', C; \phi))$$

- Decoder

$$\mathbb{P}(m' \mid z, C; \theta) = \mathcal{N}(f(z, C; \theta), \sigma^2 * I)$$

- Loss function

$$\|m' - f(z, C; \theta)\|^2 + \text{KL}[\mathcal{N}(\mu(m', C; \phi), \Sigma(m', C; \phi)) \parallel \mathcal{N}(0, I)]$$



Approach (Reminder)

- Incorporation of experience D within BSP objective function

$$J(b_k, a_k) = \int \mathbb{P}(y_{k+1} | H_k, a_k, D) c(b_{k+1}, a_k) dy_{k+1}$$

- Future measurement generated given a map distribution

$$\mathbb{P}(y_{k+1} | H_k, a_k, D) \approx \int_{m_{k+1}} \mathbb{P}(y_{k+1} | \hat{x}_{k+1}^-, m_{k+1}) \mathbb{P}(m_{k+1} | H_{k+1}^-, D) dm_{k+1}$$

- Experience-based prediction of map distribution

$$\mathbb{P}(m_{k+1} | H_k, a_k, D) \approx \mathbb{P}(m_{k+1} | \hat{M}_k, a_k, D)$$

$$\approx \mathbb{P}(m_{k+1} | \hat{m}_k, a_k, D)$$

Notations:

$x_{1:k}$ - robot states until current time

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$y_{1:k}$ - measurements up to time k

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$H_k = \{y_{1:k}, a_{0:k-1}\}$ - history

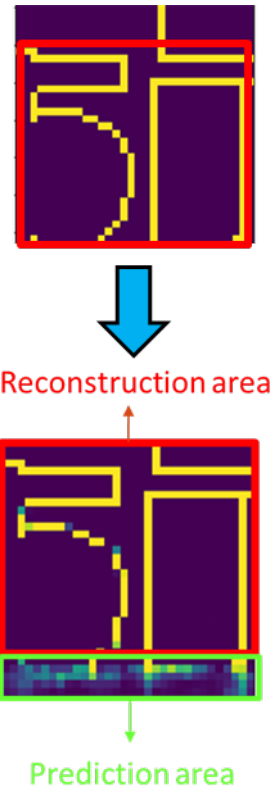
D - experience

Approach – Novelty detection

- Is the experience relevant and reliable for the current task?
- In our method we measure the reconstruction error (RE) in the copy operation of the overlap area (OA) between the conditional input and the map prediction:

$$RE(m_k) = \|\{m_k\}^{OA} - \{f(z, m_k, a_k; \theta^*)\}^{OA}\|^2$$

- If $RE(m_k) > \text{threshold}$, a standard BSP method will be used instead.



Results – Map Prediction

- Example 1 - most predictions are correct (low prediction error (PE))

Conditioning

$$m' \sim \mathbb{P}(m' | z, m, a; \theta)$$

Map

Action

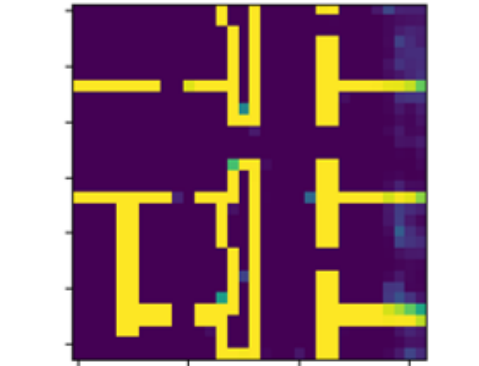
Worst sample

Best sample

Ground truth



RE = 0.802, PE = 1.345



RE = 1.512, PE = 0.278



Results – Map Prediction

- Example 2 - most predictions are wrong because of an unfamiliar input (high PE and high RE).

Conditioning

$$m' \sim \mathbb{P}(m' | z, m, a; \theta)$$

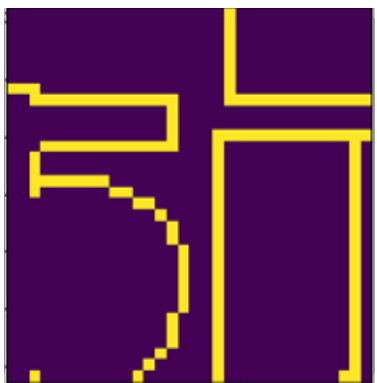
Map

Action

Worst sample

Best sample

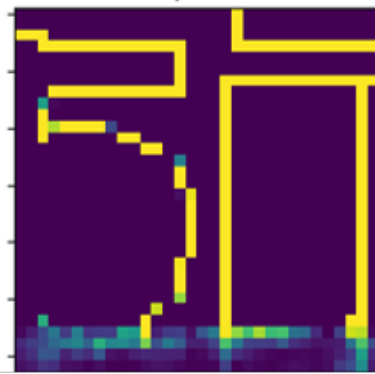
Ground truth



RE = 3.115, PE = 45.940



RE = 3.865, PE = 26.116



Results – Map Prediction

- Example 3 - most predictions are wrong because of uncommon ground truth map (high PE and low RE)

Conditioning

$$m' \sim \mathbb{P}(m' | z, m, a; \theta)$$

Map

Action

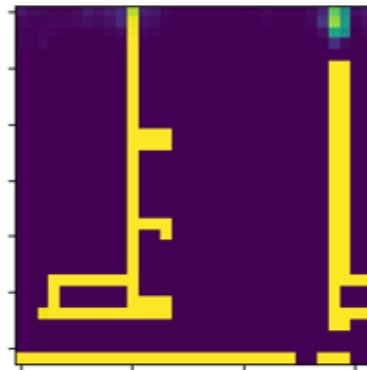
Worst sample

Best sample

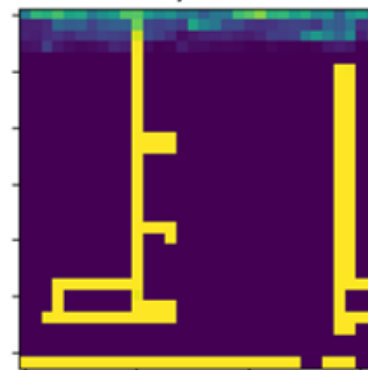
Ground truth



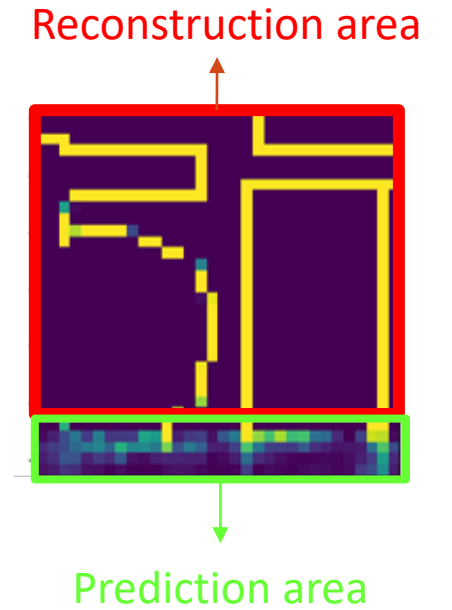
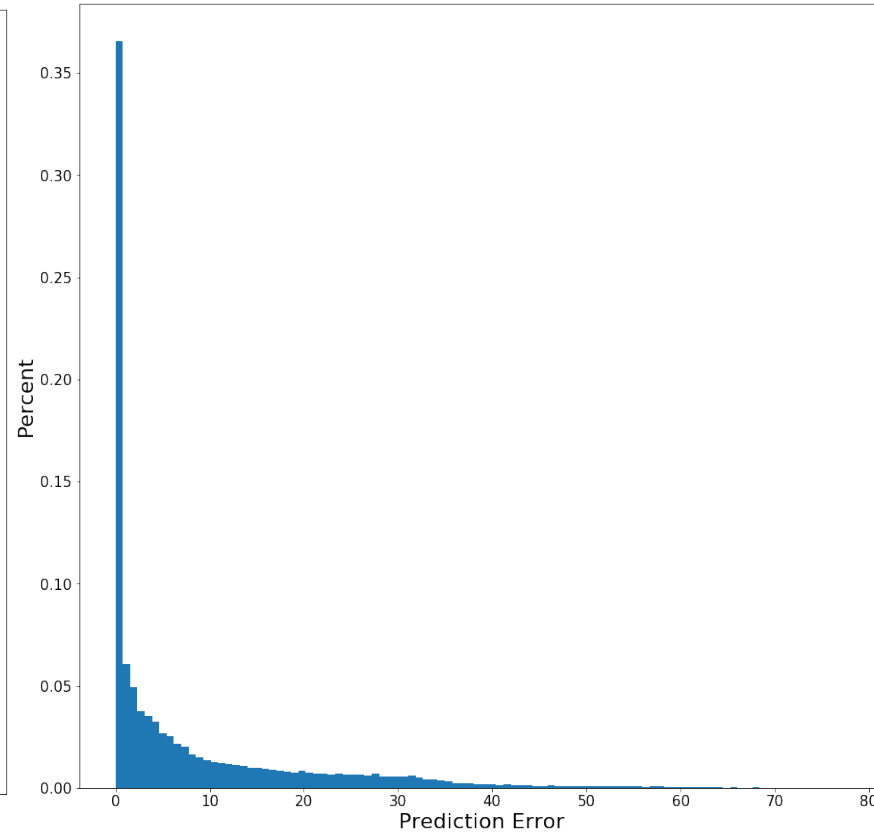
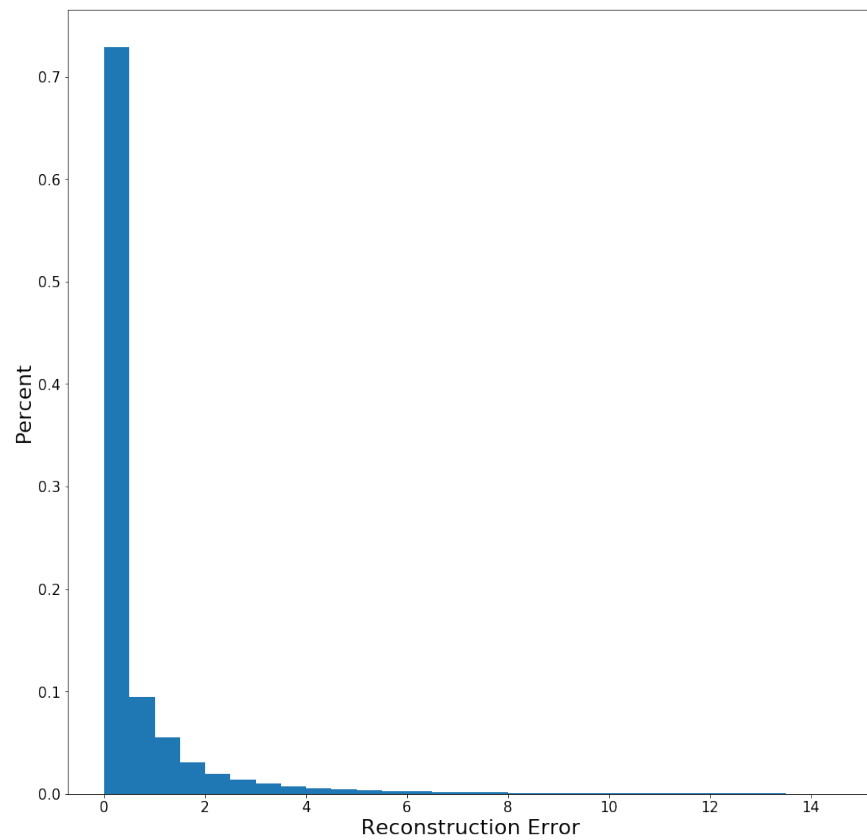
RE = 0.001, PE = 30.542



RE = 0.001, PE = 13.49



Results – Map Prediction



Reconstruction and prediction error of the test set

BSP with Experience-Based Prediction

Algorithm 1 BSP with Experience-Based Prediction

1: **Inputs:**
 2: b_k : state belief at current time
 3: $\mathbb{P}(M_k|H_k)$: map belief at current time
 4: $a_{k:k+L-1}$: a candidate L look-ahead steps action sequence
 5: $f(\cdot; \theta^*)$: trained decoder
 6: **Outputs:**
 7: $J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1})$: computed objective function for a given action sequence $a_{k:k+L-1}$
 8:
 9: $\hat{M}_k \leftarrow \mathbb{P}(M_k|H_k)$ ▷ Get maximum likelihood estimate of map belief
 10: $\hat{m}_k \subseteq \hat{M}_k$ ▷ Get current sub-map estimate from \hat{M}_k
 11: **for** $i = 1 : N$ **do**
 12: $m_k^i = \hat{m}_k$
 13: **for** $j = 1 : L$ **do**
 14: $\hat{x}_{k+j}^- \leftarrow \mathbb{P}(x_{k+j}|H_k, a_{k:k+j-1})$ ▷ Get ML estimate without future observations
 15: $z^i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$
 16: $m_{k+j}^i \sim \mathcal{N}(f(z^i, m_{k+j-1}^i, a_{k+j-1}; \theta^*), \sigma^2 * I)$ ▷ Predict sub-map (Eq. (29))
 17: $y_{k+j}^i \sim \mathbb{P}(y_{k+j} | m_{k+j}^i, \hat{x}_{k+j}^-)$ ▷ Generate future observation (Eq. (18))
 18: Calculate b_{k+j}^i ▷ Calculate future belief using y_{k+j}^i (Eq. (9))
 19: Calculate cost/reward $c(b_{k+j}^i)$
 20: $J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1}) = J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1}) + c(b_{k+j}^i)$ ▷ Accumulate costs
 21: **end for**
 22: **end for**
 23: $J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1}) = \frac{1}{N} J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1})$ ▷ Normalize to get empirical expectation
 24: **return** $J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1})$

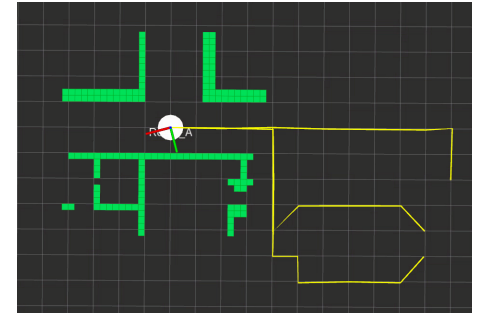
Inputs:

State belief

Map belief

Candidate action

Trained decoder



Output:

computed objective function

$$J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1}) = \sum_{l=1}^L \mathbb{E}_{y_{k+1:k+l}} \{c(b_{k+l}, a_{k+l-1})\}$$

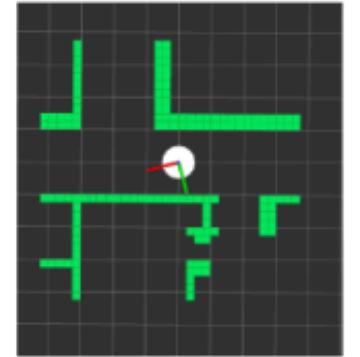
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Get current sub-map

9: $\hat{M}_k \leftarrow \mathbb{P}(M_k|H_k)$
 10: $\hat{m}_k \subseteq \hat{M}_k$



Double loop and initialization

11: **for** $i = 1 : N$ **do**
 12: $m_k^i = \hat{m}_k$
 13: **for** $j = 1 : L$ **do**

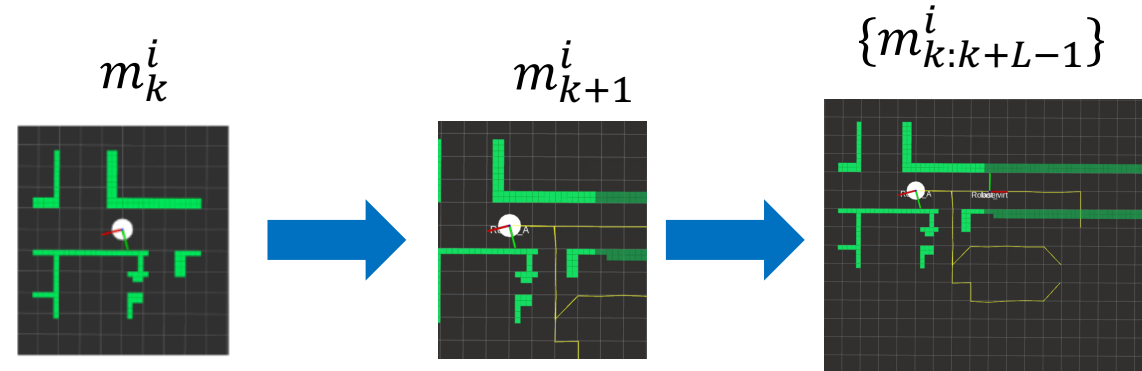
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 24: **return** $J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1})$

Prediction of next sub-map

15: $z^i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$
 16: $m_{k+j}^i \sim \mathcal{N}(f(z^i, m_{k+j-1}^i, a_{k+j-1}; \theta^*), \sigma^2 * I)$



Conditional map in light green, predicted map in dark green.

BSP with Experience-Based Prediction

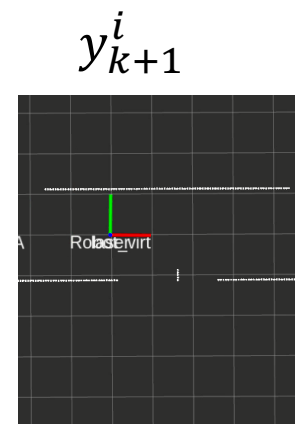
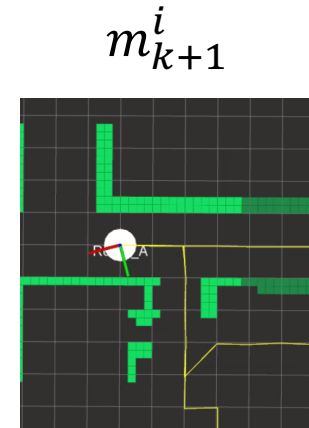
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Generation of future observation

$$14: \quad \hat{x}_{k+j}^- \leftarrow \mathbb{P}(x_{k+j}|H_k, a_{k:k+j-1})$$

$$17: \quad y_{k+j}^i \sim \mathbb{P}(y_{k+j} | m_{k+j}^i, \hat{x}_{k+j}^-)$$



BSP with Experience-Based Prediction

Algorithm 1 BSP with Experience-Based Prediction

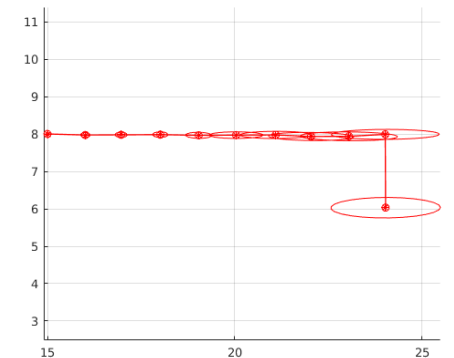
1: **Inputs:**
 2: b_k : state belief at current time
 3: $\mathbb{P}(M_k|H_k)$: map belief at current time
 4: $a_{k:k+L-1}$: a candidate L look-ahead steps action sequence
 5: $f(\cdot; \theta^*)$: trained decoder
 6: **Outputs:**
 7: $J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1})$: computed objective function for a given action sequence $a_{k:k+L-1}$
 8:
 9: $\hat{M}_k \leftarrow \mathbb{P}(M_k|H_k)$ ▷ Get maximum likelihood estimate of map belief
 10: $\hat{m}_k \subseteq \hat{M}_k$ ▷ Get current sub-map estimate from \hat{M}_k
 11: **for** $i = 1 : N$ **do**
 12: $m_k^i = \hat{m}_k$
 13: **for** $j = 1 : L$ **do**
 14: $\hat{x}_{k+j}^- \leftarrow \mathbb{P}(x_{k+j}|H_k, a_{k:k+j-1})$ ▷ Get ML estimate without future observations
 15: $z^i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$
 16: $m_{k+j}^i \sim \mathcal{N}(f(z^i, m_{k+j-1}^i, a_{k+j-1}; \theta^*), \sigma^2 * I)$ ▷ Predict sub-map (Eq. (29))
 17: $y_{k+j}^i \sim \mathbb{P}(y_{k+j} | m_{k+j}^i, \hat{x}_{k+j}^-)$ ▷ Generate future observation (Eq. (18))
 18: Calculate b_{k+j}^i ▷ Calculate future belief using y_{k+j}^i (Eq. (9))
 19: Calculate cost/reward $c(b_{k+j}^i)$
 20: $J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1}) = J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1}) + c(b_{k+j}^i)$ ▷ Accumulate costs
 21: **end for**
 22: **end for**
 23: $J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1}) = \frac{1}{N} J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1})$ ▷ Normalize to get empirical expectation
 24: **return** $J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1})$

Calculation of future belief using the generated observation

$$b_{k+l} \doteq \mathbb{P}(x_{1:k+l} | H_k, a_{k:k+l-1}, y_{k+1:k+l})$$

Calculation of the cost function

$$c(b_{k+j}^i) \doteq \sqrt{\text{Trace}(\Sigma_{k+L})}$$



BSP with Experience-Based Prediction

Algorithm 1 BSP with Experience-Based Prediction

```

1: Inputs:
2:  $b_k$ : state belief at current time
3:  $\mathbb{P}(M_k|H_k)$ : map belief at current time
4:  $a_{k:k+L-1}$ : a candidate  $L$  look-ahead steps action sequence
5:  $f(\cdot; \theta^*)$ : trained decoder
6: Outputs:
7:  $J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1})$ : computed objective function for a given action sequence  $a_{k:k+L-1}$ 
8:
9:  $\hat{M}_k \leftarrow \mathbb{P}(M_k|H_k)$  ▷ Get maximum likelihood estimate of map belief
10:  $\hat{m}_k \subseteq \hat{M}_k$  ▷ Get current sub-map estimate from  $\hat{M}_k$ 
11: for  $i = 1 : N$  do
12:    $m_k^i = \hat{m}_k$ 
13:   for  $j = 1 : L$  do
14:      $\hat{x}_{k+j}^- \leftarrow \mathbb{P}(x_{k+j}|H_k, a_{k:k+j-1})$  ▷ Get ML estimate without future observations
15:      $z^i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$ 
16:      $m_{k+j}^i \sim \mathcal{N}(f(z^i, m_{k+j-1}^i, a_{k+j-1}; \theta^*), \sigma^2 * I)$  ▷ Predict sub-map (Eq. (29))
17:      $y_{k+j}^i \sim \mathbb{P}(y_{k+j} | m_{k+j}^i, \hat{x}_{k+j}^-)$  ▷ Generate future observation (Eq. (18))
18:     Calculate  $b_{k+j}^i$  ▷ Calculate future belief using  $y_{k+j}^i$  (Eq. (9))
19:     Calculate cost/reward  $c(b_{k+j}^i)$ 
20:      $J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1}) = J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1}) + c(b_{k+j}^i)$  ▷ Accumulate costs
21:   end for
22: end for
23:  $J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1}) = \frac{1}{N} J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1})$  ▷ Normalize to get empirical expectation
24: return  $J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1})$ 

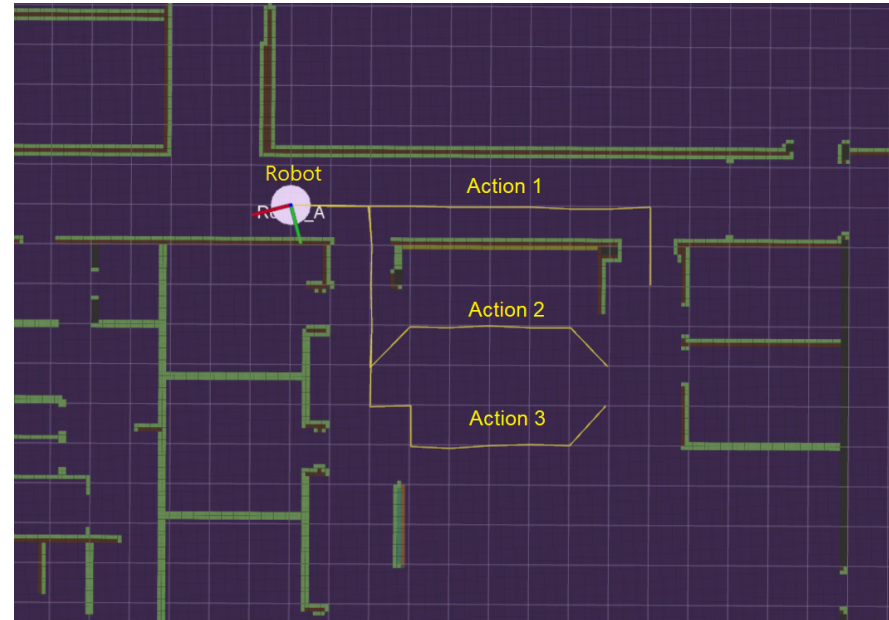
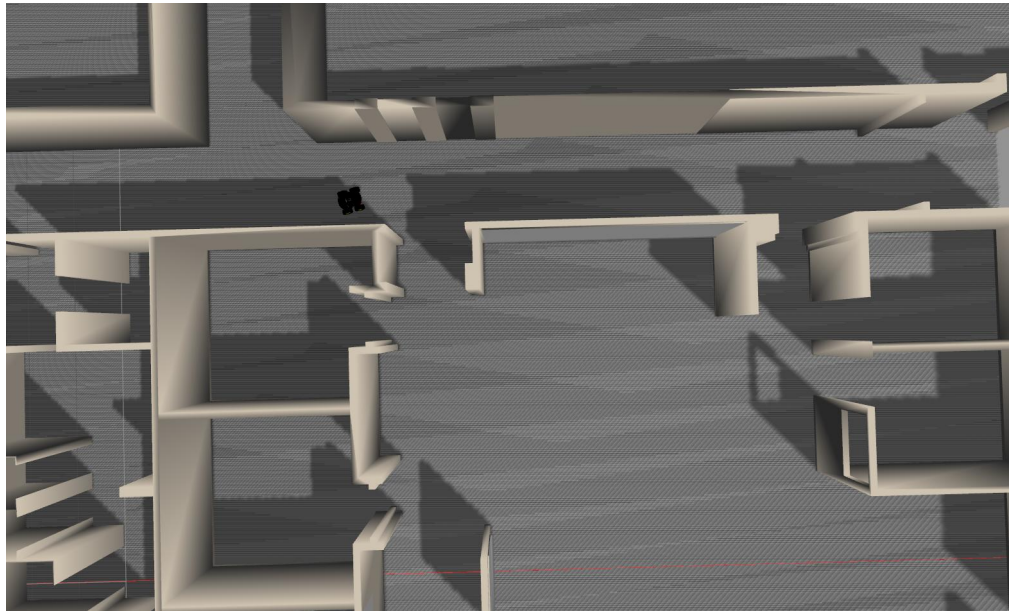
```

Calculation of the objective function

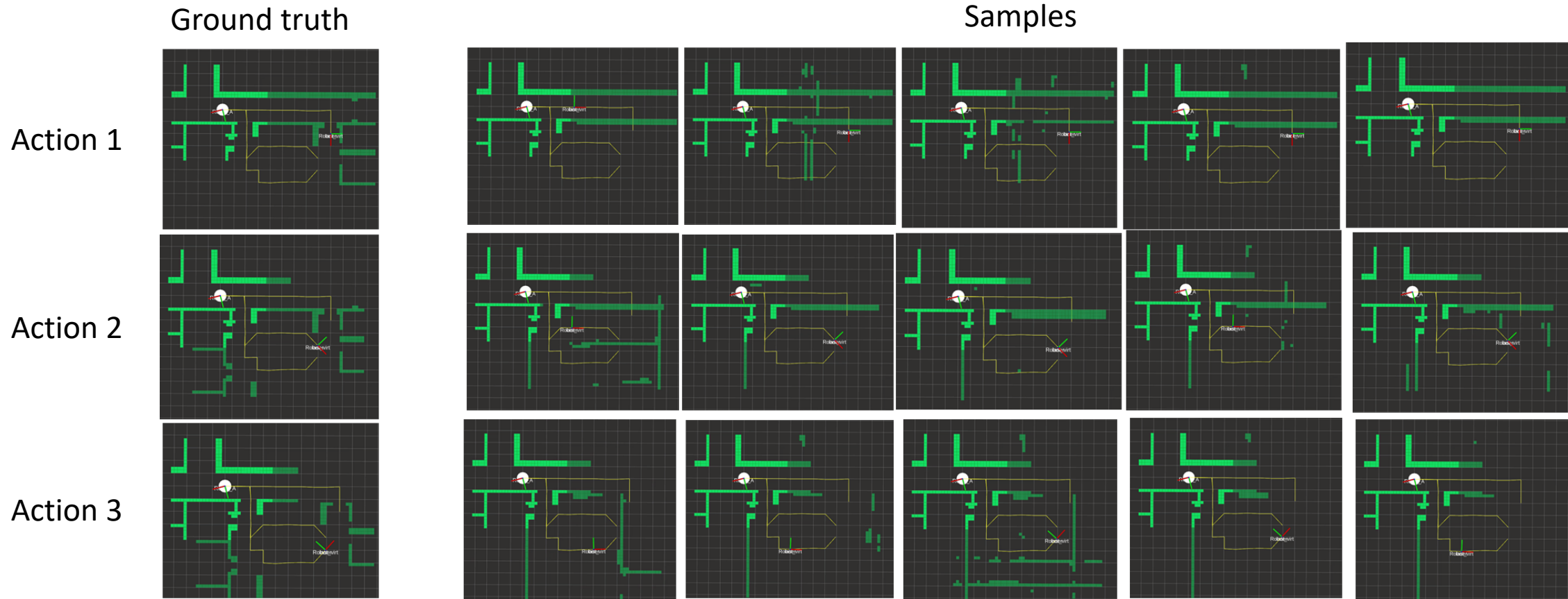
$$J(b_k, a_{k:k+L-1}) \doteq \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sqrt{\text{Trace}(\Sigma_{k+L}^i)}$$



BSP Simulation Results

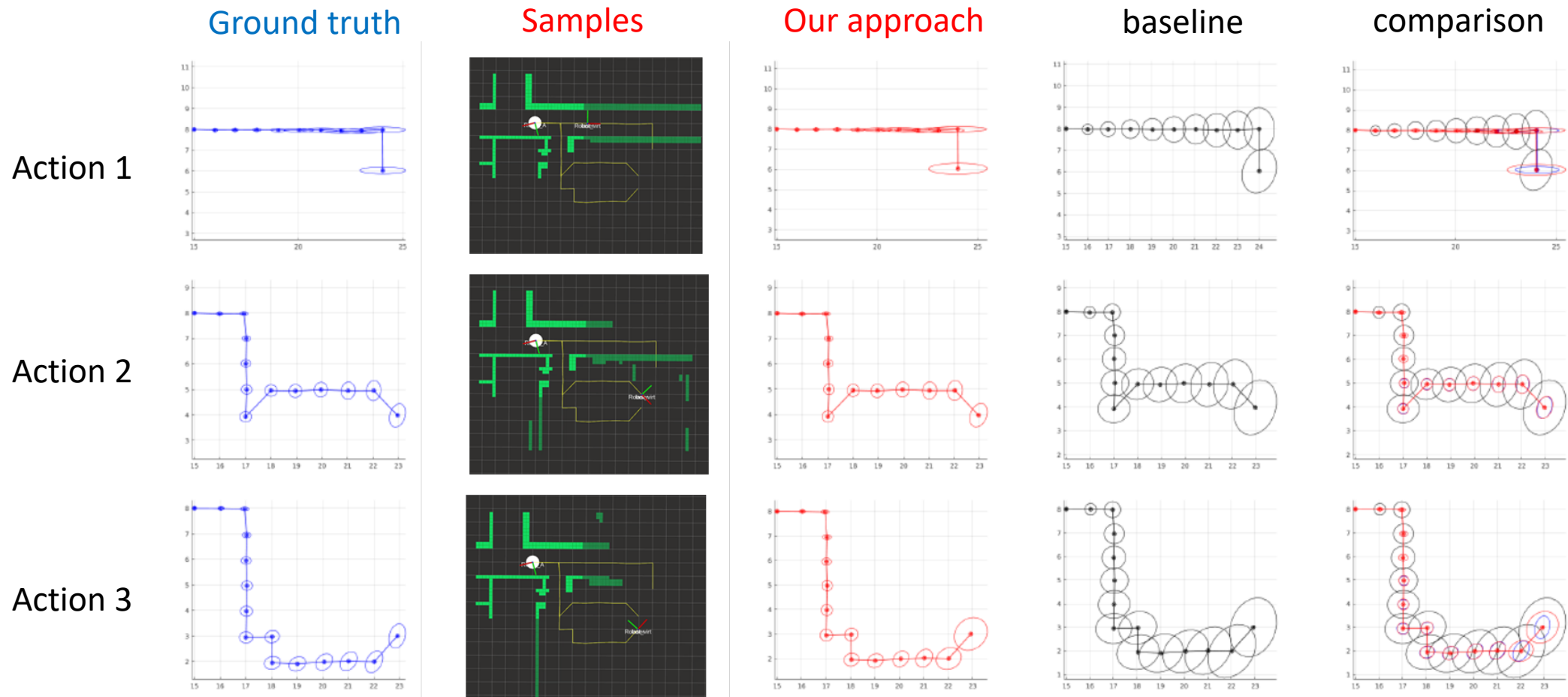


BSP Simulation Results

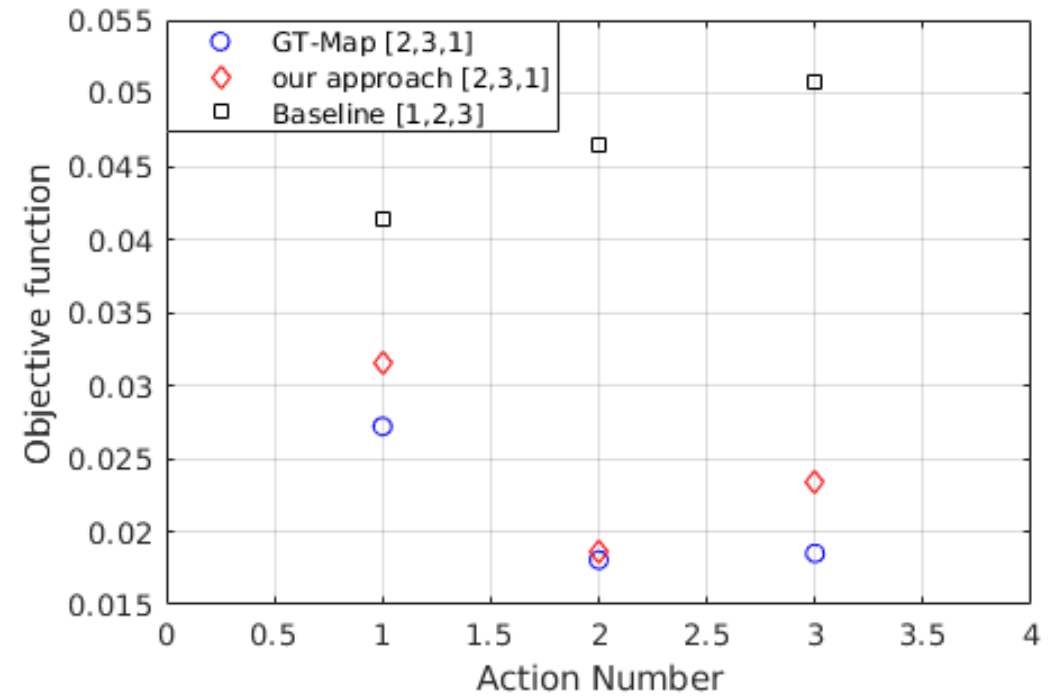
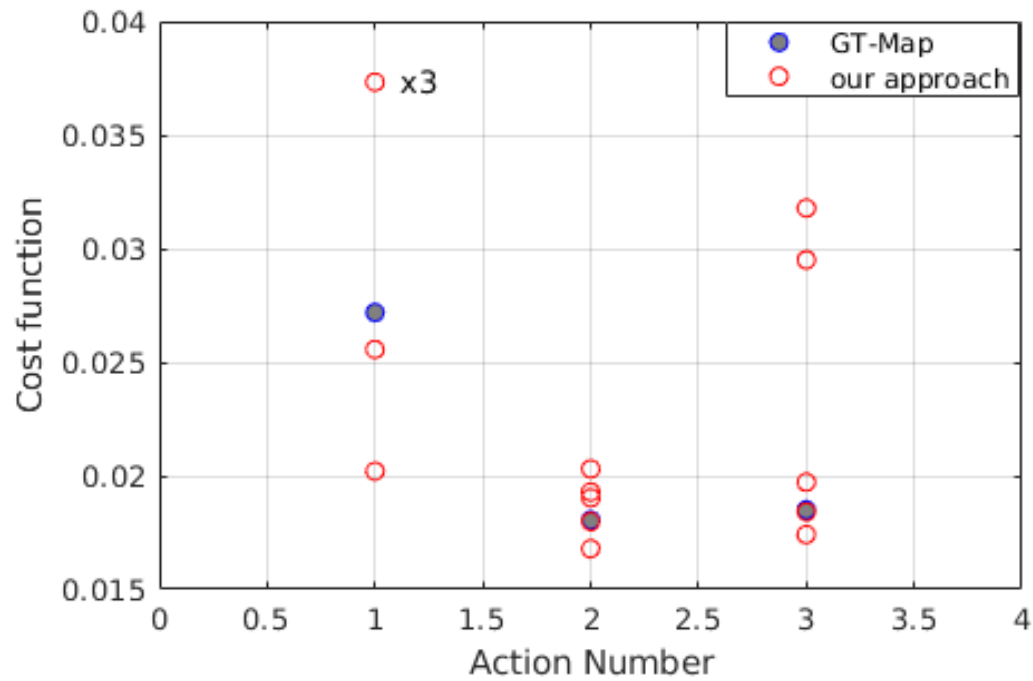


Conditional map in light green, predicted map in dark green.

BSP Simulation Results



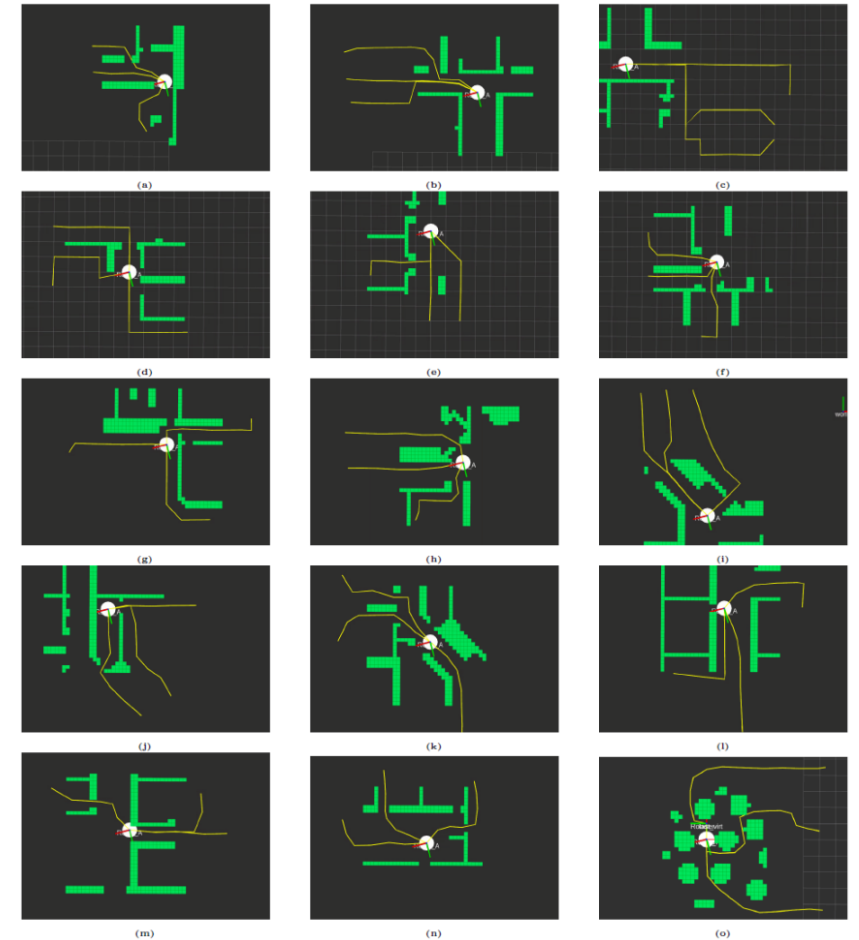
BSP Simulation Results



BSP Simulation Results

- The table reports for each method the number of action ordering mistakes with respect to BSP with ground truth map, and the uncertainty cost error.

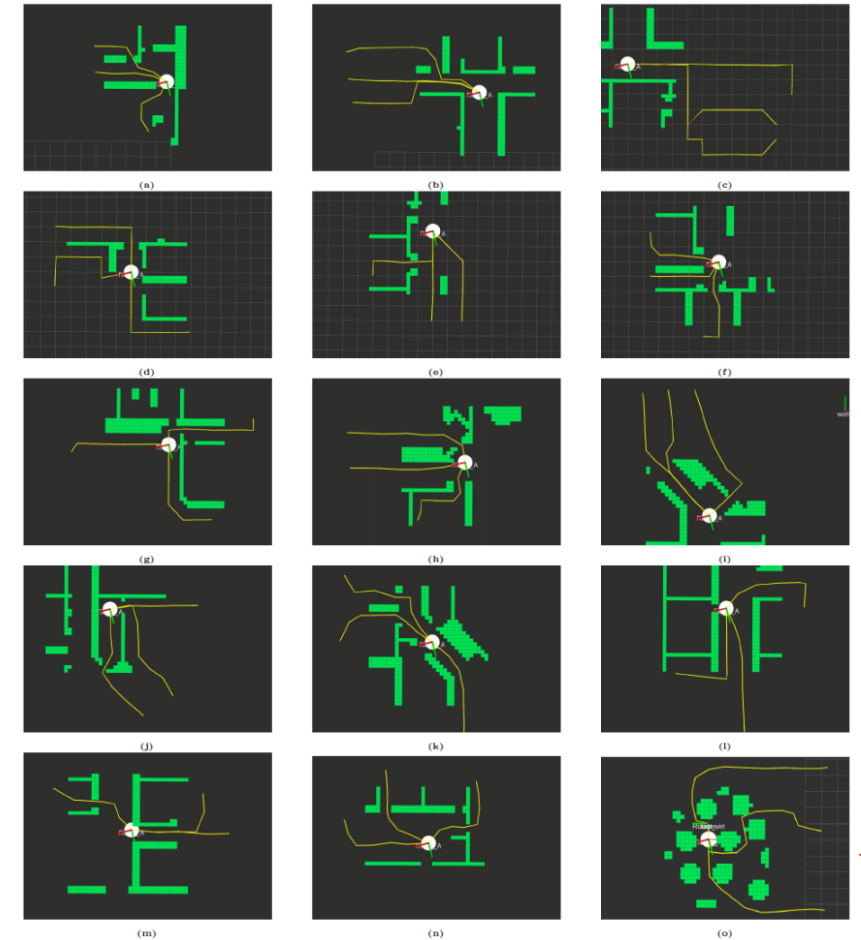
Scenarios	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Avg
Our approach																
Mistakes	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	-	0.43
Error[%]	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	-	2.9
RE	0.3	1.1	1.4	0.6	0.8	0.1	1.1	2.2	2	1.6	3.8	1.4	1	0	10.4	-
Baseline																
Mistakes	0	1	2	2	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	1.07
Error[%]	0	1	49	6	10	41	0	20	0	12	0	0	16	0	0	10.3



BSP Simulation Results

- Using the novelty detection method we recognized unfamiliar environments and avoided using our approach in these cases (e.g. Sc. 15).

Scenarios	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Avg	
Our approach																	
Mistakes	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	-	0.43	
Error[%]	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	-	2.9	
RE	0.3	1.1	1.4	0.6	0.8	0.1	1.1	2.2	2	1.6	3.8	1.4	1	0	10.4	-	
Baseline																	
Mistakes	0	1	2	2	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	1.07	
Error[%]	0	1	49	6	10	41	0	20	0	12	0	0	16	0	0	10.3	



Summary

- Development of an algorithm that calculates a predicted distribution over an unexplored area using a deep learning method
- Incorporation of this distribution within BSP (considering information-theoretic costs)
- Novelty detection for map prediction
- Gazebo simulation compared our approach to existing BSP approaches - results indicate the potential of our approach to improve decision making in unknown environments

Conclusions and Future Work

- Good interpretability
- Low sensitivity to prediction mistakes
- Evaluation of path feasibility; improvement of map prediction accuracy is needed.
- Future work may extend our novelty detection method to cases with familiar inputs that still provide wrong predictions.

Thank you for listening.
Questions?

ASROMRI@GMAIL.COM