



MODELLING AND SENSOR PLANNING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING WITH GAS SENSORS

Achim J. Lilienthal et al.

Jan 18, 2023 / MRO@ISOCS WS / ajl©2023





MODELLING AND SENSOR PLANNING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING WITH GAS-SENSITIVE MOBILE ROBOTS

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AGENDA

[1] Why Should Robots Sense Gases? [2] Mobile Robot Olfaction **Basics / Early Research Work** [3] 1D Gas Source Localization [4] Kernel DM for Gas Distribution Mapping

[5] Smelling Braitenberg Vehicles

[6] Kernel DM+V for Gas Distribution Mapping

[7] Mobile Robot Olfaction is Hard! Summary and Outlook **And: How We May Address the Challenges**

References

Appendix

Introduction





INTRODUCTION



[1] WHY SHOULD ROBOTS SENSE GASES?

A CATASTROPHY IN BADEN-BADEN (1973)



#5

#5

A CATASTROPHY IN BADEN-BADEN (1973)



A CATASTROPHY IN BADEN-BADEN (1973)

=> Dedicated mobile gas-sensitive robots are needed!

- Emergency & Security
 - Firefighting, Search and Rescue, Leak detection, ...

Video courtesy of Thomas Wiedemann (DLR) Dr. Dmitriy Shutin (DLR)

[WIEDEMANN ET AL., ISOEN 2017] [WIEDEMANN ET AL., ECMR 2017] [WIEDEMANN ET AL., SENSORS 2019] [WIEDEMANN ET AL., RAS 2019]

- Emergency & Security
 - Firefighting, Search and Rescue, Leak detection, ...



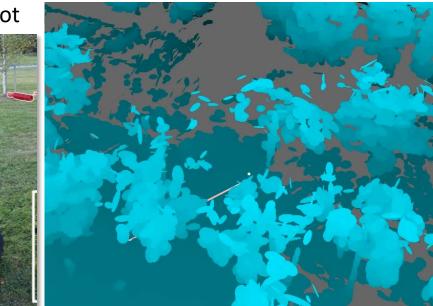


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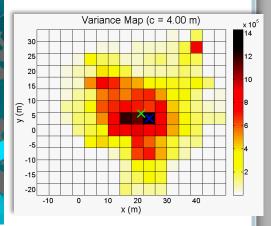
- Emergency & Security
- Surveillance, Environmental Monitoring
 - Landfills (CH₄), Vessels (SO_x), Chimneys (NH₃), Waste management sites (H₂S, malodors), Urban environments (BC, NO, NO₂, ...)

- Emergency & Security
- Surveillance, Environmental Monitoring
 - Landfills (CH₄), Vessels (SO_x), Chimneys (NH₃), Waste management sites (H₂S, malodors), Urban environments (BC, NO, NO₂, ...)
 - Gasbot





[HERNANDEZ BENNETTS ET AL., ICRA 2014] [HERNANDEZ BENNETTS ET AL., ICRA 2013] [HERNANDEZ BENNETTS ET AL., FNENG 2012]

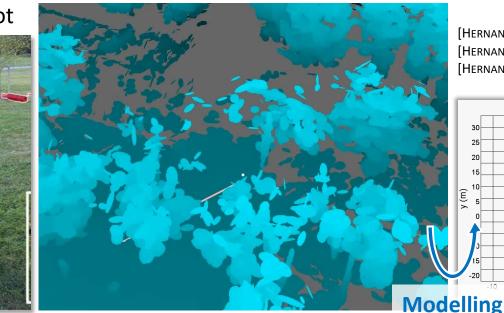


• Emergency & Security

• Surveillance, Environmental Monitoring

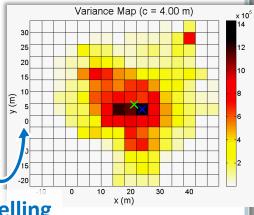
- Landfills (CH₄), Vessels (SO_x), Chimneys (NH₃), Waste management sites (H₂S, malodors), Urban environments (BC, NO, NO₂, ...)
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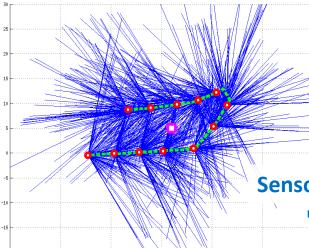




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[HERNANDEZ BENNETTS ET AL., ICRA 2014] [HERNANDEZ BENNETTS ET AL., ICRA 2013] [HERNANDEZ BENNETTS ET AL., FNENG 2012]





GAS-SENSITIVE ROBOTS

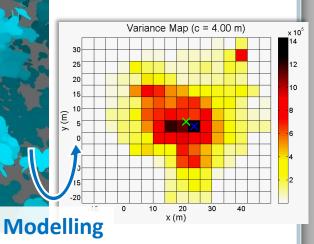
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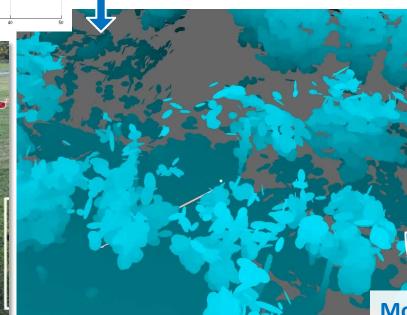
ironmental Monitoring

Sensor Planning SO_x), Chimneys (NH₃), Waste management **Tar**s), Urban environments (BC, NO, NO₂, ...)

[HERNANDEZ BENNETTS ET AL., ICRA 2014] [HERNANDEZ BENNETTS ET AL., ICRA 2013] [HERNANDEZ BENNETTS ET AL., FNENG 2012]







- Emergency & Security
- Surveillance, Environmental Monitoring
- Regulatory Monitoring of Industrial Sites
 - Agriculture (CO₂), Mining (CH₄), Biogas refinery, ...



- Emergency & Security
- Surveillance, Environmental Monitoring
- Regulatory Monitoring of Industrial Sites
- Scientific Missions
 - Volcanos (CO₂, SO₂), Atmospheric chemistry (Vertical profiles of PM, O₃, CO₂), Forest ecosystems (biogenic VOCs)



- Dedicated Mobile Gas-Sensitive Robots Conclusions
 - Specifically designed for a "gas task"
 - Typically using expensive sensors matching the task



[REGGENTE ET AL., CHEMENGTRANS 2010] [TRINCAVELLI ET AL., IROS 2008]







- Dedicated Mobile Gas-Sensitive Robots
 - Specifically designed for a "gas task"
 - Typically use expensive sensors matching the task



- Dedicated Mobile Gas-Sensitive Robots
 - Specifically designed for a "gas task"
 - Typically use expensive sensors matching the task
- Gas Sensing as Addition to Available Mobile Robots
 - Detect leaking gas pipes
 - Detect fire at its initial stage (CO)
 - Monitor pollutants in the environment
 - Dedicated or broad-spectrum sensors "<=" Electronic Nose

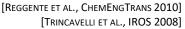




- Dedicated Gas-Sensitive Robots
 - Specifically designed for a "gas task"
 - Typically use expensive sensors matching the task
- Gas Sensing as Addition to Available Robots
 - Monitor pollutants in the environment













DUSTBOT PROJECT

DustClean





DUSTBOT PROJECT

DustCleanDustCart

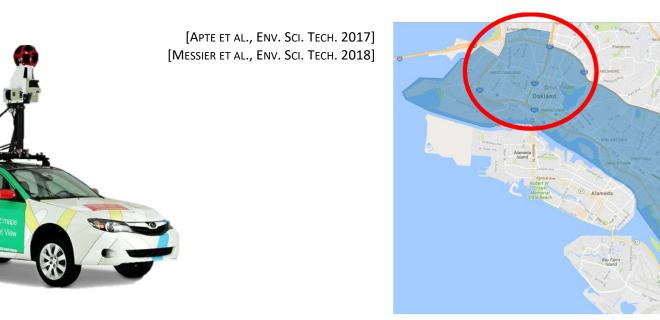


Similar video at: https://youtu.be/v=Fd__el9NbGo

"Also" Gas-Sensitive Mobile Robots

• Surveillance, Environmental Monitoring – Passive Mobility

Landfills (CH₄), Vessels (SO_x), Chimneys (NH₃), Waste management sites (H₂S, malodors), Urban environments (BC, NO, NO₂, ...)
 Orban scale + passive mobility (Oakland measurement campaigns ²⁰¹⁵⁻²⁰¹⁷)



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Robots should smell!

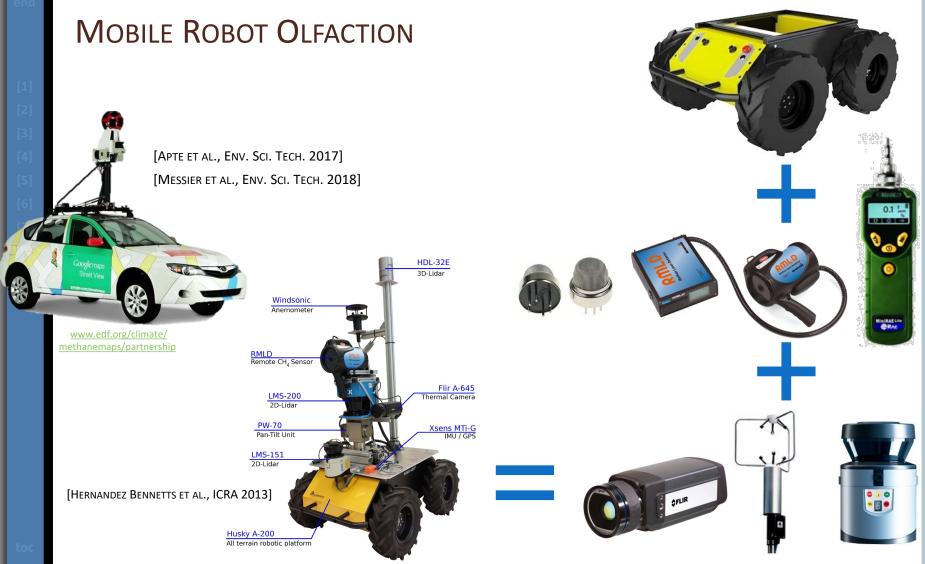
... and there should be smelling robots!



INTRODUCTION

[2] MOBILE ROBOT OLFACTION



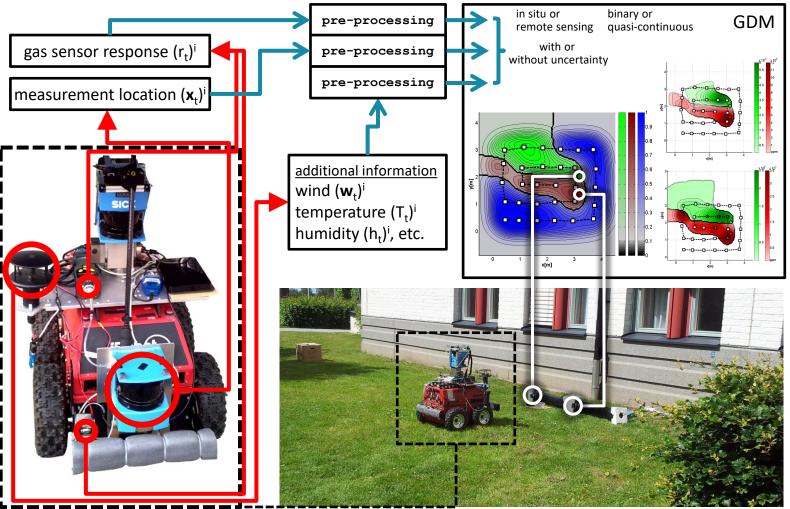


• Advantages of Mobile Robot Environmental Monitoring?

- <u>Robots</u> vs. humans, dogs, etc.
 - Can be exposed to dangerous environments
 - Can carry out more than one task simultaneously
 - Accurate positioning (onboard computation)
- <u>Mobile</u> robots vs. sensor networks
 - Higher spatial resolution
 - Fewer sensors needed
 - Adaptability
 - Rapid deployment



COMPONENTS OF TYPICAL MOBILE ROBOT OLFACTION SOLUTIONS







EARLY RESEARCH WORK

[3] 1D GAS SOURCE LOCALIZATION



TO BEGIN WITH ...

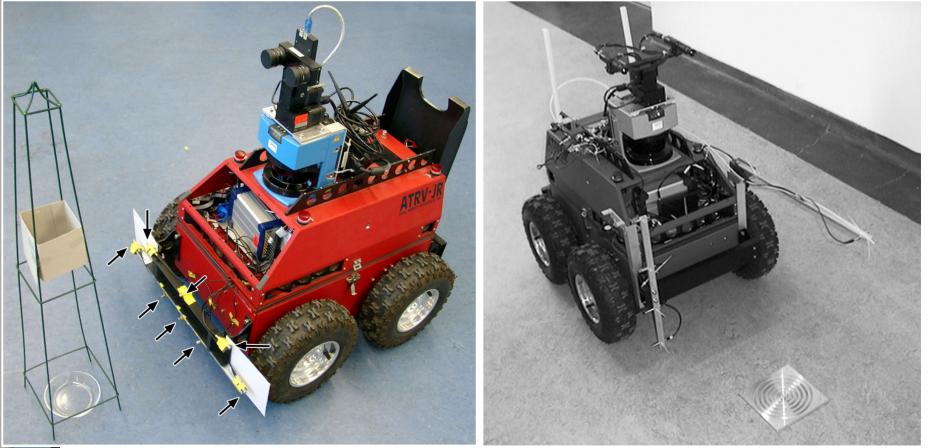
TO BEGIN WITH – GET A ROBOT TO MOVE ...



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TO BEGIN WITH – ... AND ADD GAS SENSORS

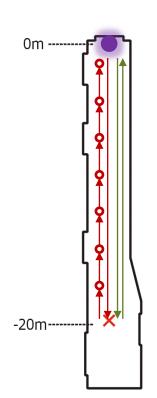


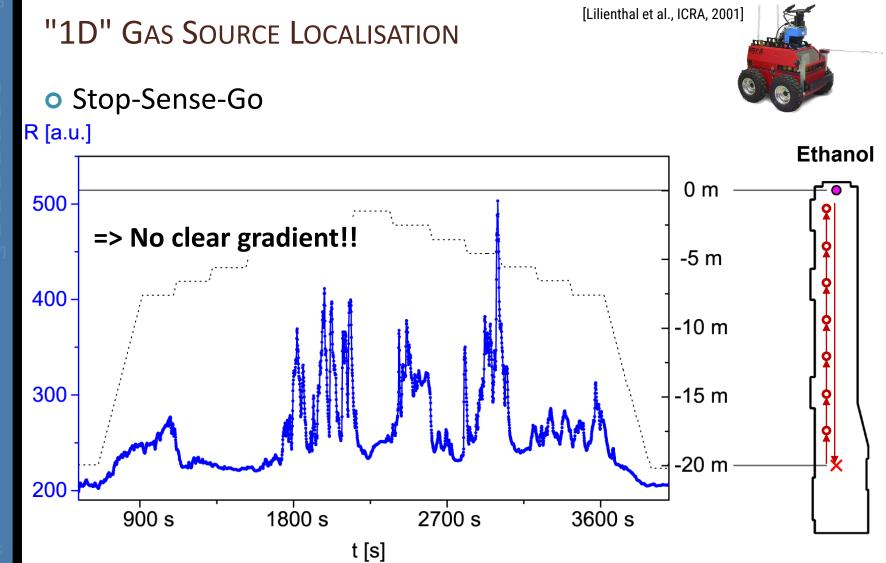


O Environment

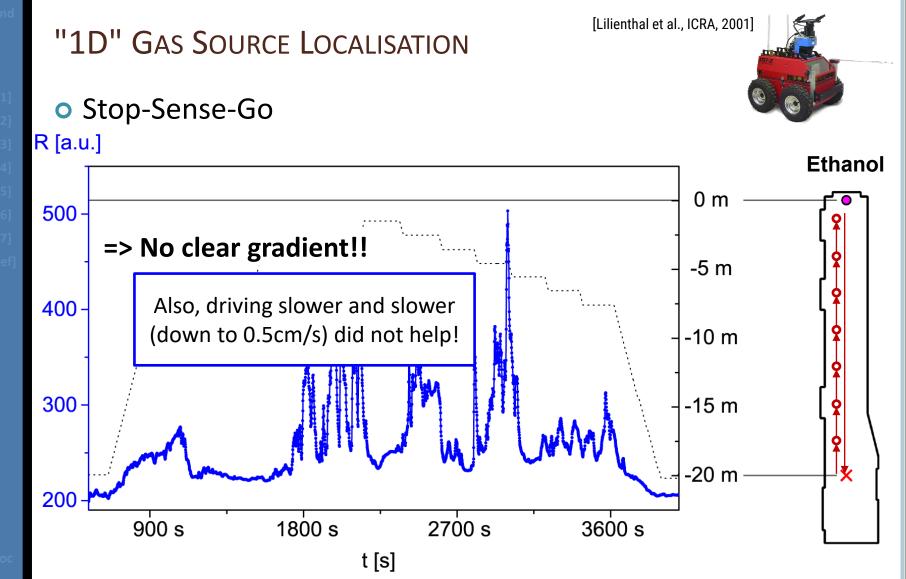
- Corridor ("1D")
- No ventilation
- No people passing by
- Gas Source
 - Bowl filled with ethanol
 - Different intensities (20 cm², 60 cm², 130 cm²)
- Driving Modes
 - Stop-Sense-Go
 - **Constant Velocity Sensing**

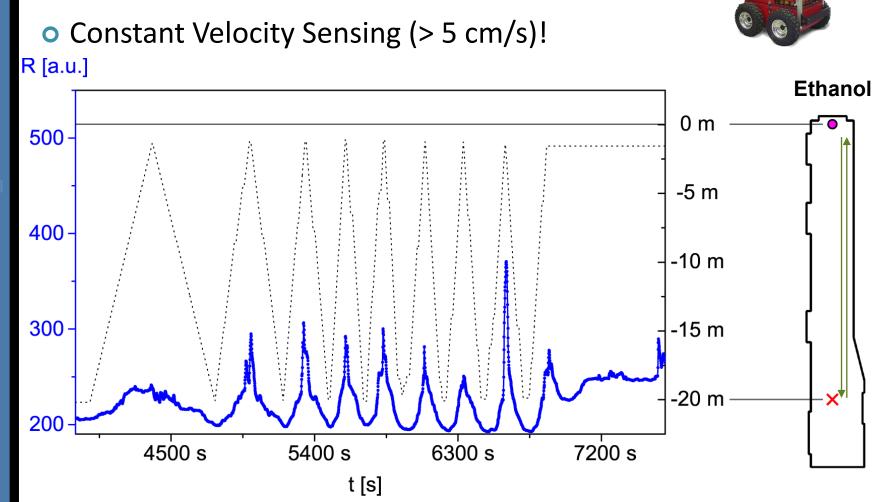






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"1D" GAS SOURCE LOCALISATION

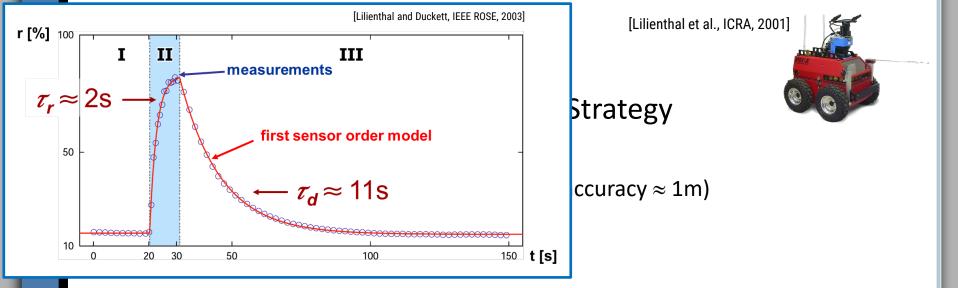
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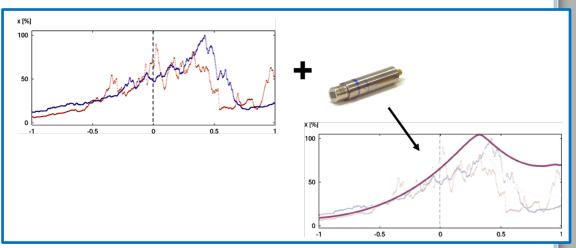
[Lilienthal et al., ICRA, 2001]

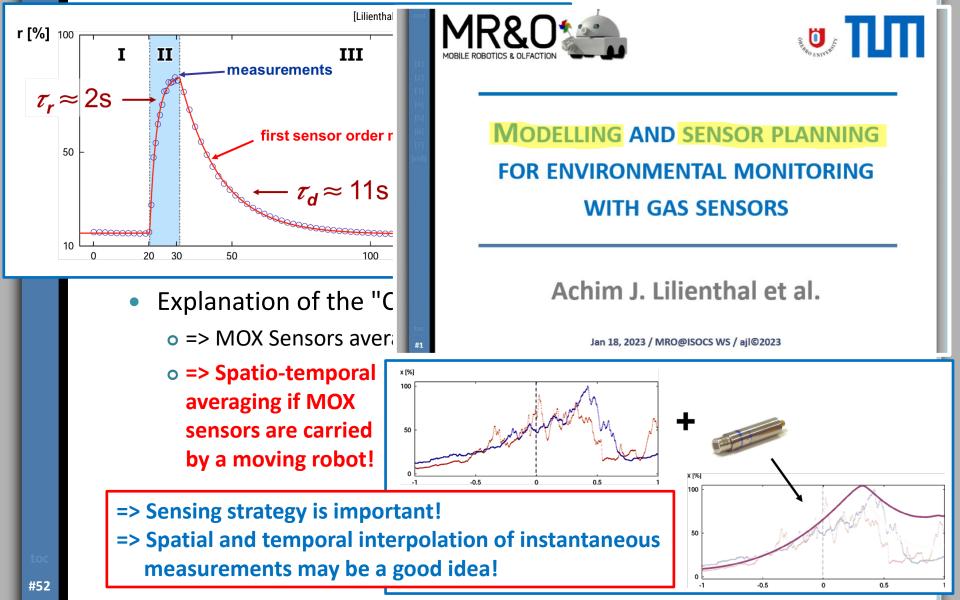
"1D" GAS SOURCE LOCALISATION

- Close Interaction with the Sensing Strategy
 - Constant Velocity Sensing (CVS):
 - Peaks often indicate source proximity (accuracy \approx 1m)
 - Stop-Sense-Go (SSG):
 - Peaks are randomly distributed
 - SSG results could not be improved
 - ... by using a pumped cell
 - o ... by using PC fans



- Explanation of the "CVS Effect"?
 - => MOX Sensors average due to their long decay time
 - => Spatio-temporal averaging if MOX sensors are carried by a moving robot!







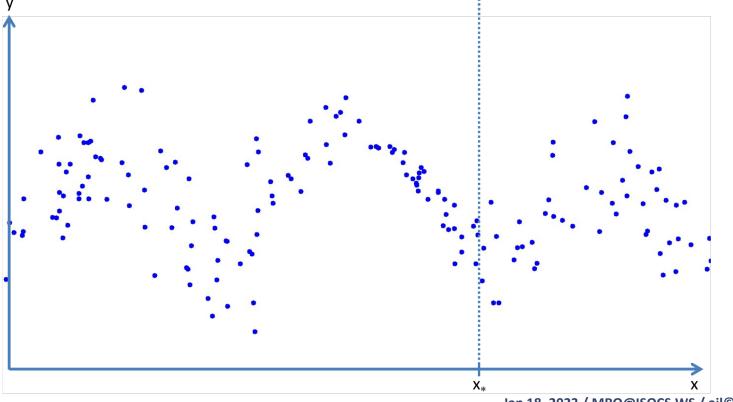
EARLY RESEARCH WORK

[4] KERNEL DM FOR GDM



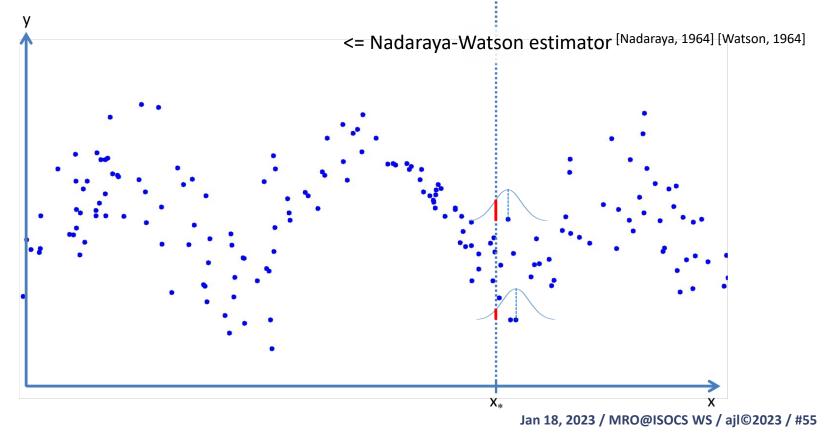
• Importance of spatial interpolation

• Kernel DM – 1D Example



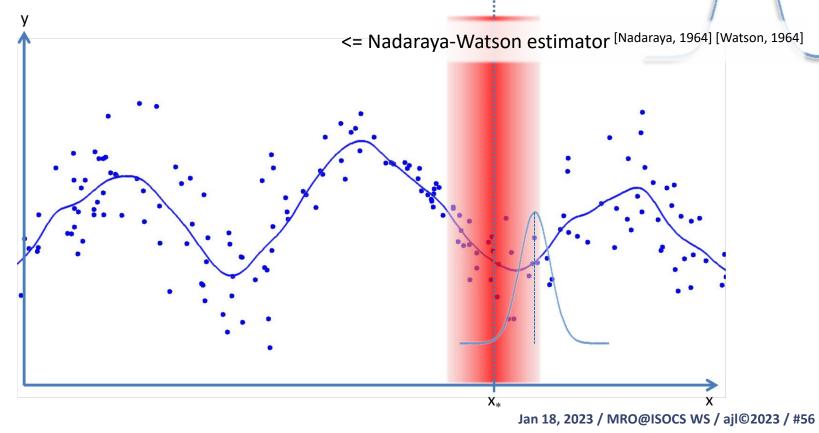
• Importance of spatial interpolation

• Kernel DM – 1D Example



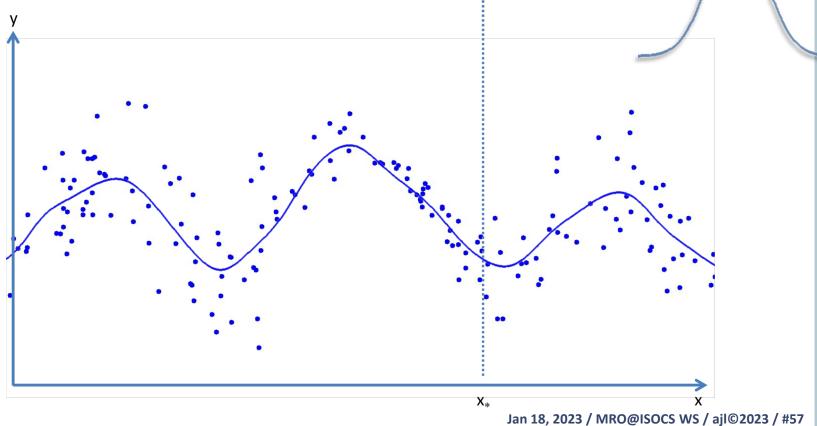
• Importance of spatial interpolation

• Kernel DM – 1D Example (σ = 0.75)



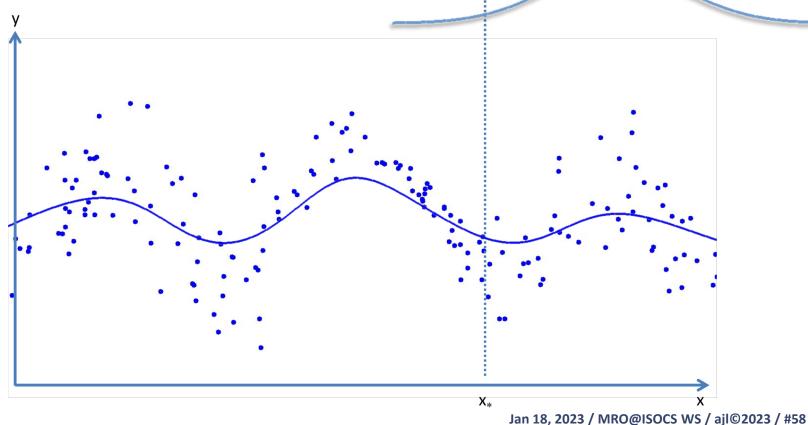
• Importance of spatial interpolation

• Kernel DM – 1D Example (σ = 1.00)



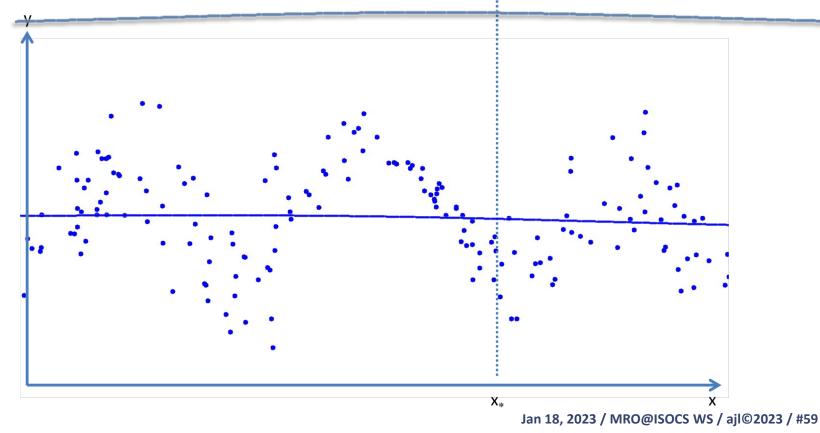
• Importance of spatial interpolation

• Kernel DM – 1D Example (σ = 2.50)



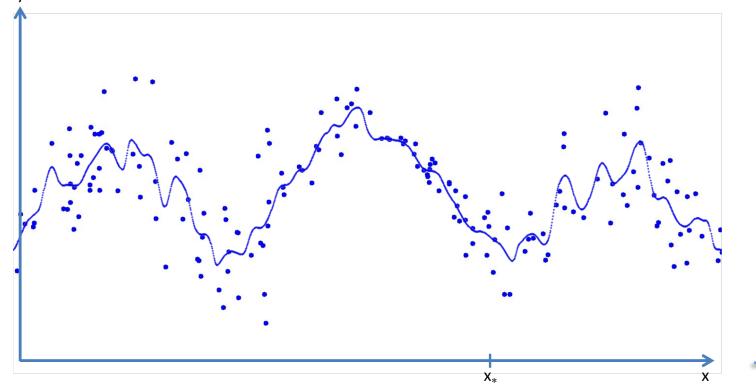
• Importance of spatial interpolation

• Kernel DM – 1D Example (σ = 10)



• Importance of spatial interpolation

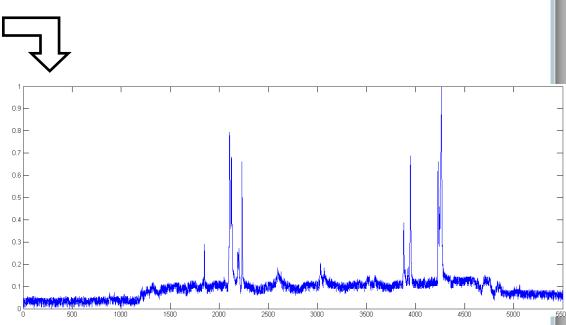
• Kernel DM – 1D Example (σ = 0.3)



• Importance of spatial interpolation

• Kernel DM – 2D Example (Real-World Measurements)

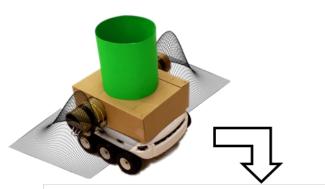


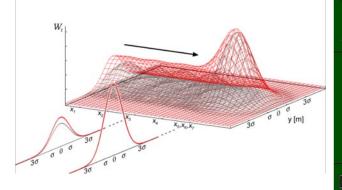


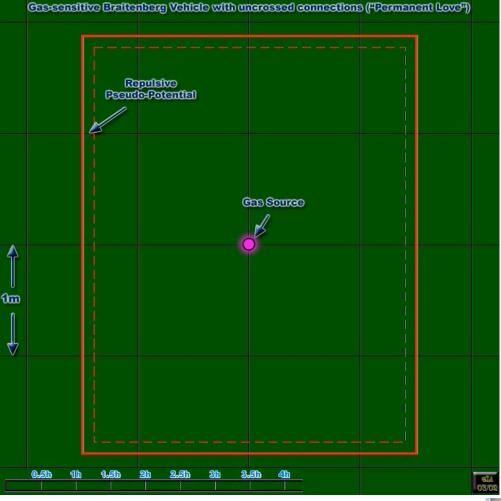
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• Importance of spatial inte

• Kernel DM – 2D Example







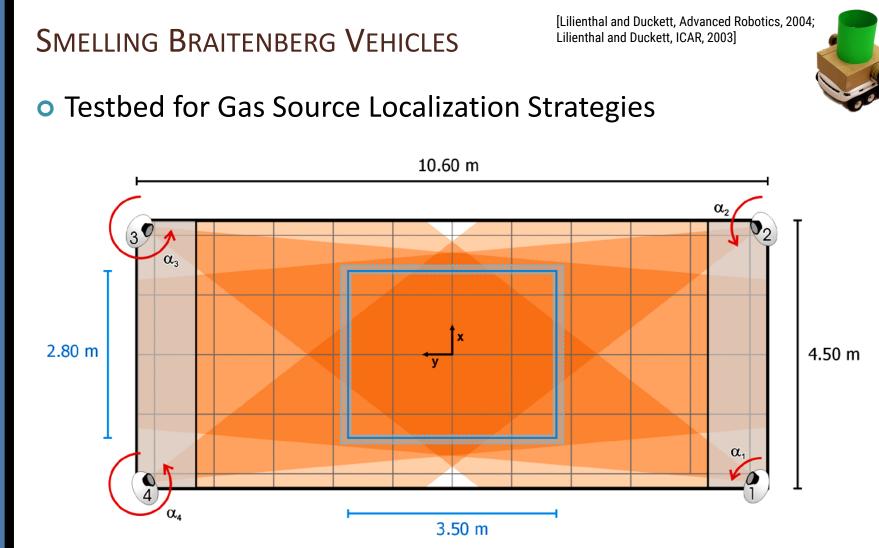
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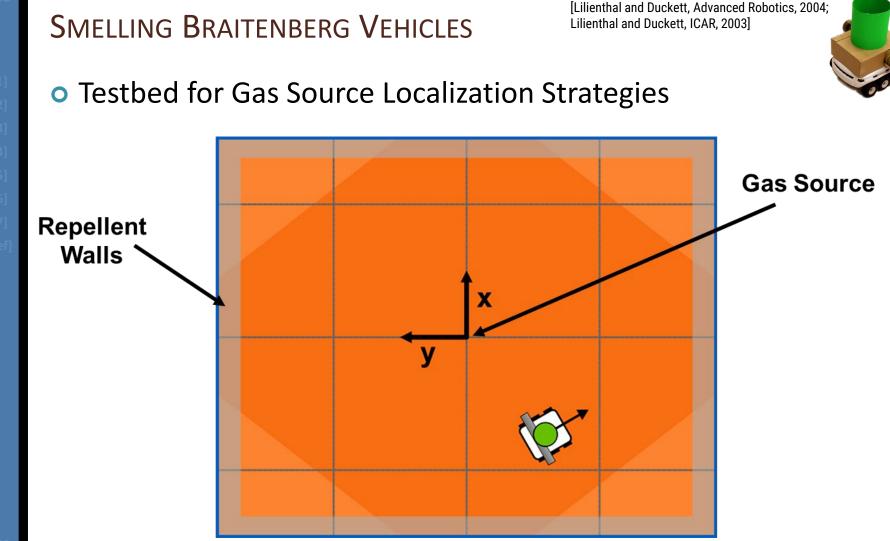


EARLY RESEARCH WORK

[5] SMELLING BRAITENBERG VEHICLES





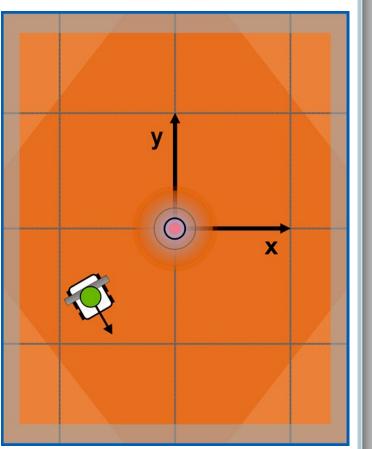


SMELLING BRAITENBERG VEHICLES

• Gas Source Localization Benchmark

- Start
 - Random starting position
 - Min. dist. to source = 100 cm
 - Random heading
- Source is found ...
 - ... if robot would "hits" it
- Statistics
 - Path length, duration, ...

[Lilienthal and Duckett, Advanced Robotics, 2004; Lilienthal and Duckett, ICAR, 2003]



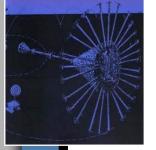
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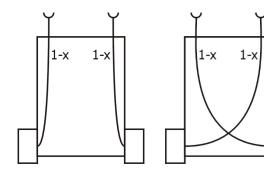
SMELLING BRAITENBERG VEHICLES

• Gas Source Localization Benchmark

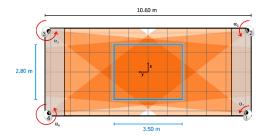
- Environment
 - No ventilation / fans
 - Indoor environment
- Gas Source
 - Dripping liquid ethanol
- Gas Source Tracing Strategy
 - Braitenberg vehicle



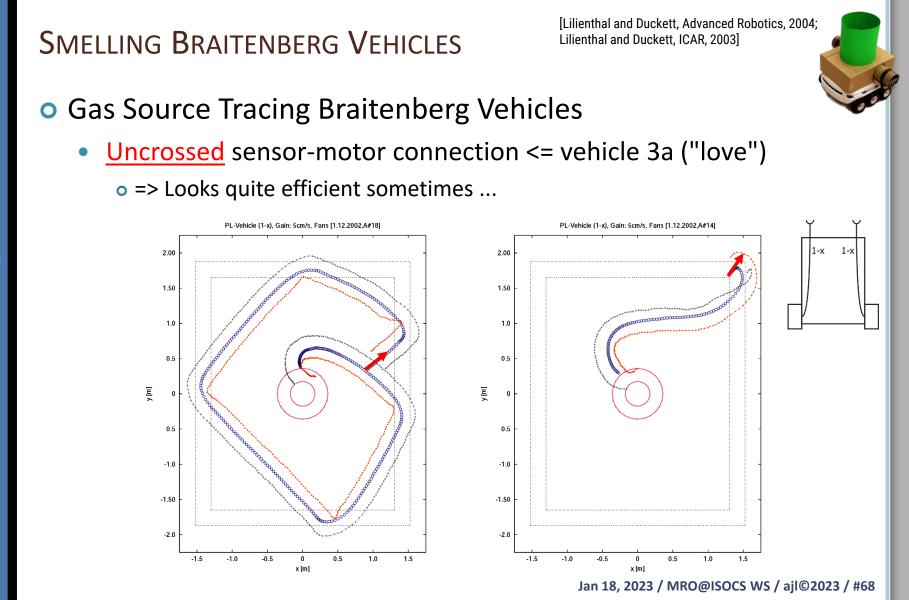


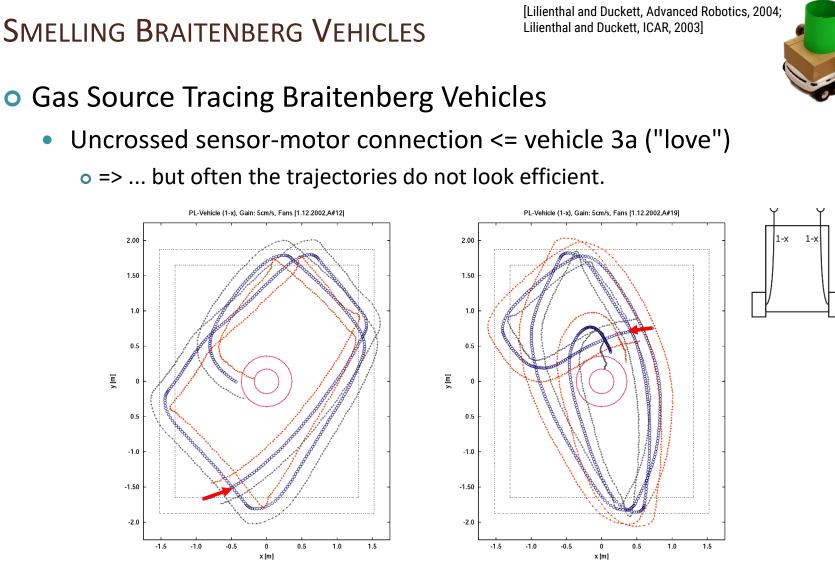


[Lilienthal and Duckett, Advanced Robotics, 2004; Lilienthal and Duckett, ICAR, 2003]









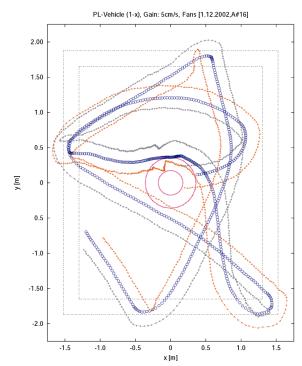
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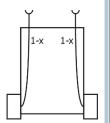
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SMELLING BRAITENBERG VEHICLES

[Lilienthal and Duckett, Advanced Robotics, 2004; Lilienthal and Duckett, ICAR, 2003]

- Gas Source Tracing Braitenberg Vehicles
 - Uncrossed sensor-motor connection <= vehicle 3a ("love")
 => ... and some trials are particularly hard to explain!





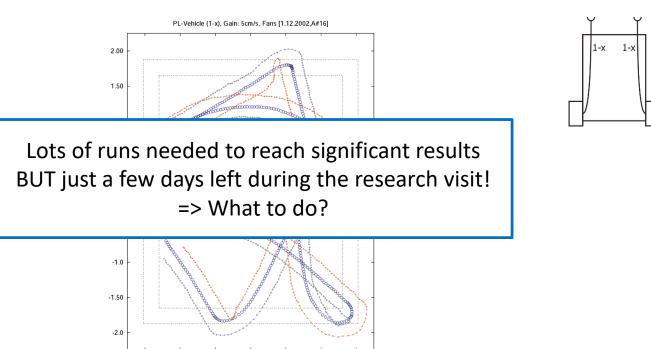


[Lilienthal and Duckett, Advanced Robotics, 2004; Lilienthal and Duckett, ICAR, 2003]

- Gas Source Tracing Braitenberg Vehicles
 - Uncrossed sensor-motor connection <= vehicle 3a ("love")
 - => ... and some trials are particularly hard to explain!

-1.5

-1.0

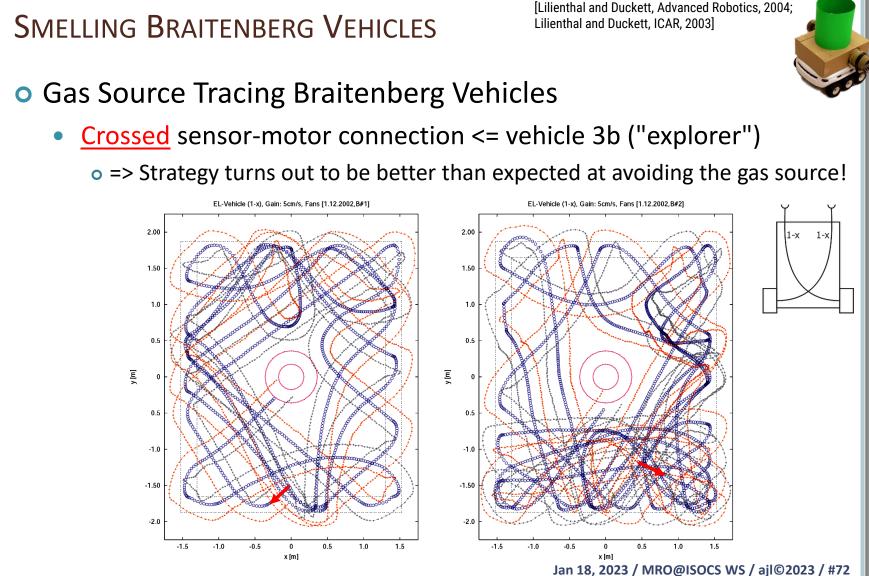


1.5

1.0

0.5

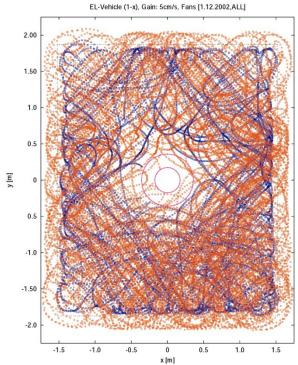
x [m]

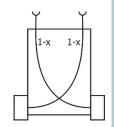


SMELLING BRAITENBERG VEHICLES

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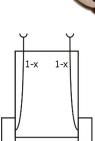
- Gas Source Tracing Braitenberg Vehicles
 - Crossed sensor-motor connection <= vehicle 3b ("explorer")
 - => Strategy turns out to be better than expected at avoiding the gas source!



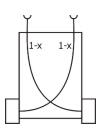


SMELLING BRAITENBERG VEHICLES

- Gas Source Tracing Braitenberg Vehicles
 - Gradient Following
 - Path length to "hit" gas source decreased
 - $\circ \approx x0.5$ compared to random search
 - Exploration + Concentration Peak Avoidance
 - Path length to "hit" gas source increased (\approx x8)
 - High concentration peak frequency seems to indicate proximity to a gas source
 - This feature may be useful for the problem of gas source declaration



Lilienthal and Duckett, ICAR, 2003]







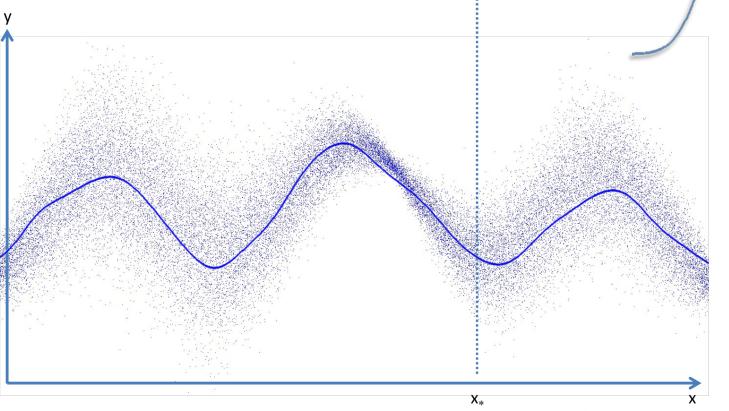
EARLY RESEARCH WORK

[6] KERNEL DM+V FOR GDM



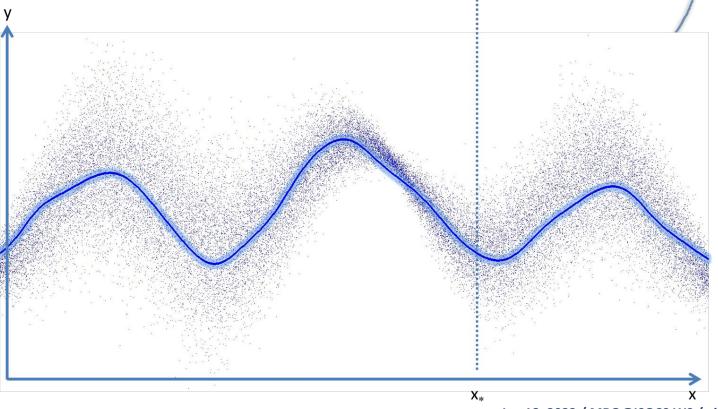
• Importance of spatial interpolation

• Kernel DM – 1D Example (σ = 1.0)



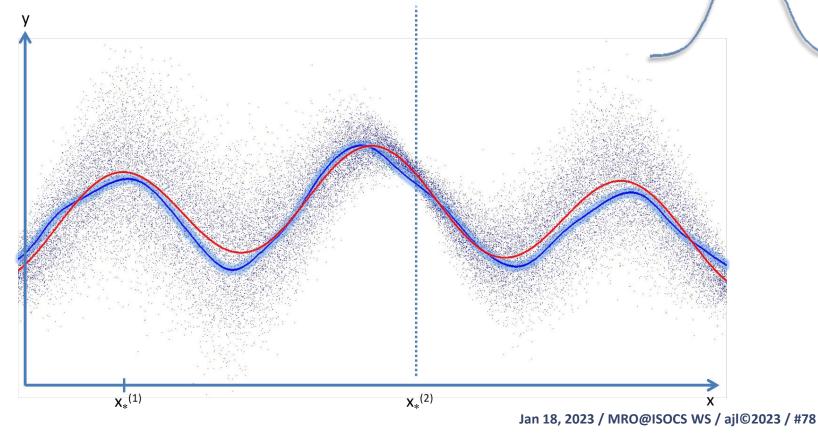
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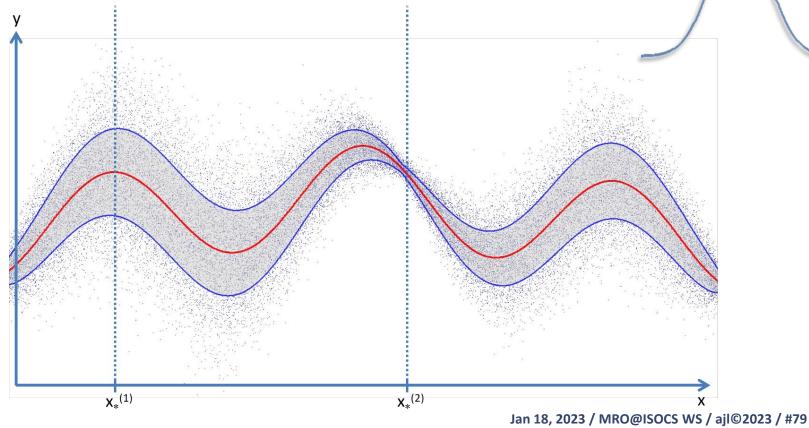
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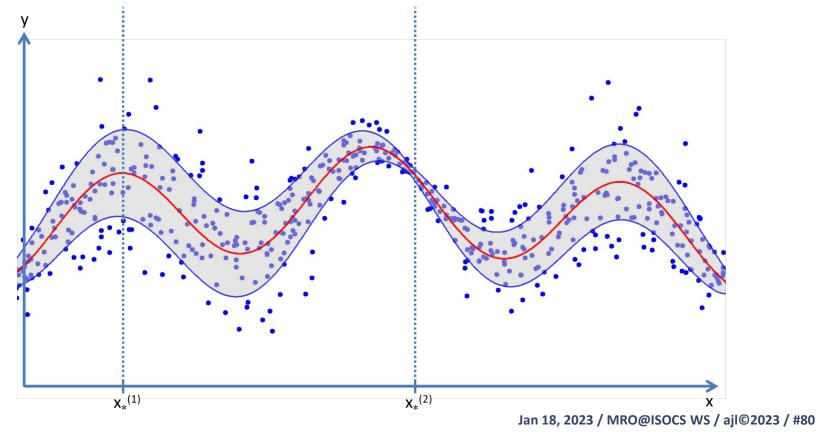


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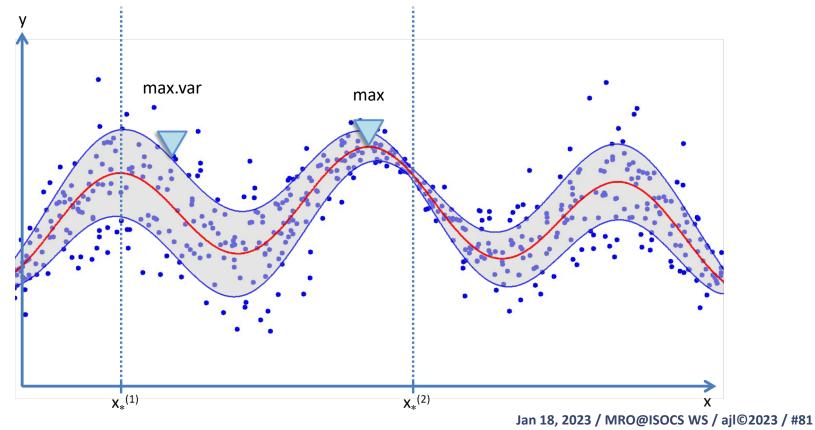
• Importance of spatial interpolation

• Kernel DM+V – Two intertwined estimation processes (1D Example)



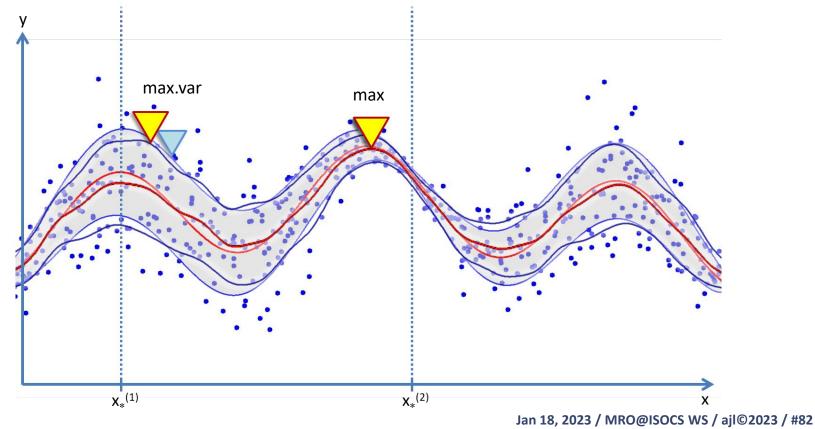
• Importance of spatial interpolation

• Kernel DM+V – Two intertwined estimation processes (1D Example)



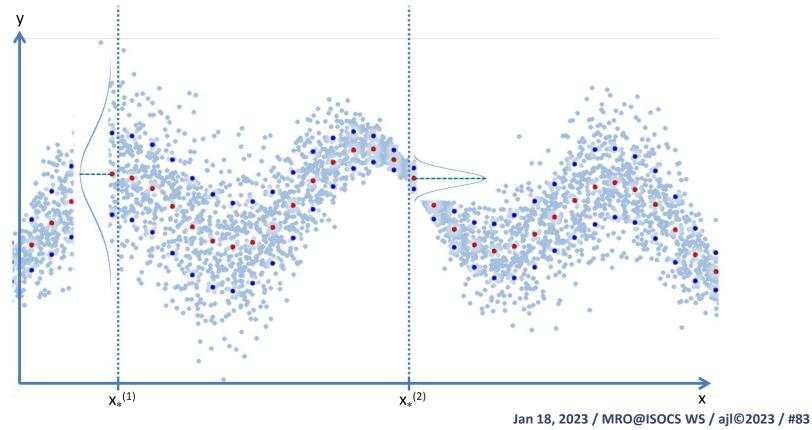
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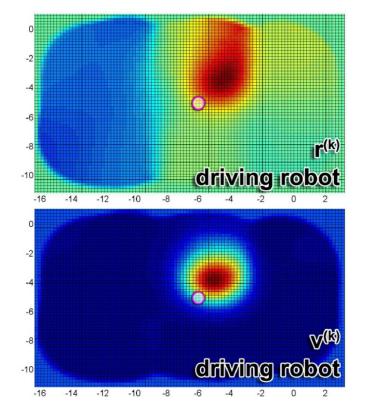
• Importance of spatial interpolation

• Kernel DM+V – Computed on a grid (1D Example)



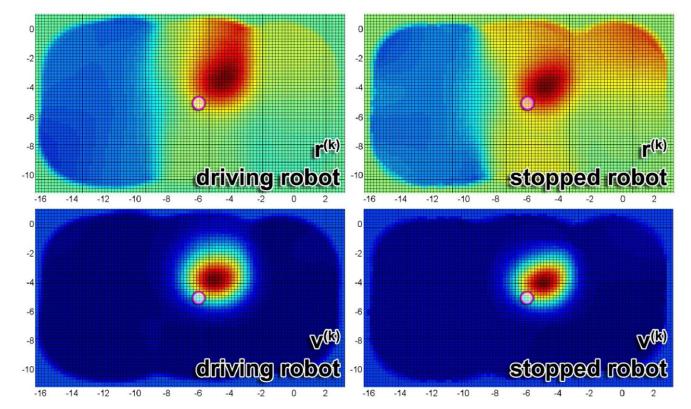
• Importance of spatial interpolation

• Kernel DM+V – Computed on a grid (1D Example)



• Importance of spatial interpolation

• Kernel DM+V – Computed on a grid (1D Example)





SUMMARY & OUTLOOK

[7] WHY MOBILE ROBOT OLFACTION IS HARD& HOW WE MAY ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES

• Turbulent Gas Dispersal in Natural Environments

Siftuition only

×

- Diffusion
- Advective transport
- Turbulent transport

[SMYTH AND MOUM, 2001]

[ROBERTS/WEBSTER, 2002]

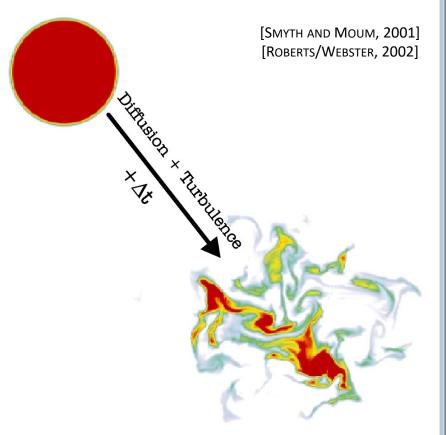
Diffusion

X

TURDILEN

• Turbulent Gas Dispersal in Natural Environments

- Diffusion
- Advective transport
- Turbulent transport



MOBILE ROBOT OLFACTION – CHALLENGES

• Key challenge: Complex structure of gas plumes





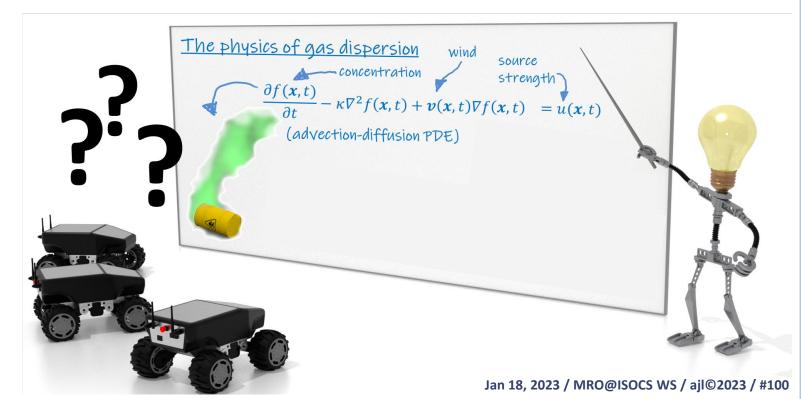
- Turbulent Gas Dispersal in Natural Environments
- Sampling is Always Sparse!
 - => Use domain knowledge for estimation!



Motivation

[MANSS ET AL., ECMR 2015] [WIEDEMANN ET AL., ISOEN 2017] [WIEDEMANN ET AL., SENSORS 2019] [WIEDEMANN ET AL., RAS 2019]

 Hypothesis: Making PDE Domain Knowledge about gas dispersion available to AI reasoning helps in MRO tasks ("Beyond Blind AI")

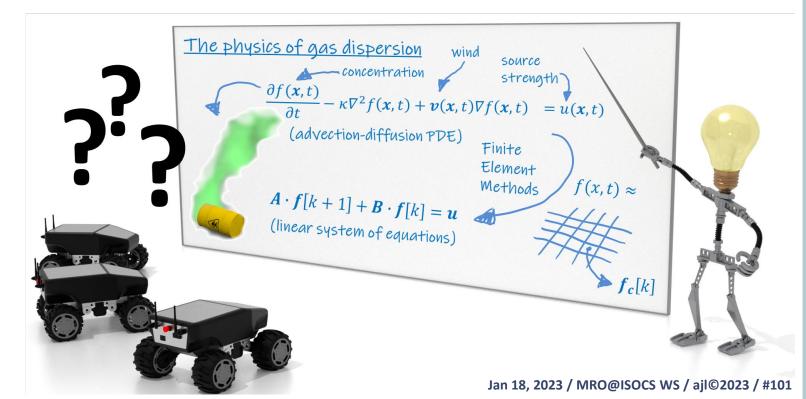




Motivation

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 Hypothesis: Making PDE Domain Knowledge about gas dispersion available to AI reasoning helps in MRO tasks ("Beyond Blind AI")



#101



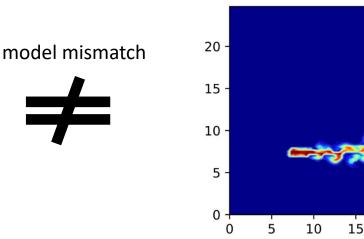
Motivation

[MANSS ET AL., ECMR 2015] [WIEDEMANN ET AL., ISOEN 2017] [WIEDEMANN ET AL., SENSORS 2019] [WIEDEMANN ET AL., RAS 2019]

- Hypothesis: Making PDE Domain Knowledge about gas dispersion available to AI reasoning helps in MRO tasks ("Beyond Blind AI")
- Motivation for a probabilistic approach?
 - => Handling incorrect model assumptions or incomplete knowledge

PDE approximation

20 -15 -10 -5 -0 $\frac{1}{0}$ $\frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{1}{10}$ $\frac{1}{15}$ $\frac{1}{20}$



real world

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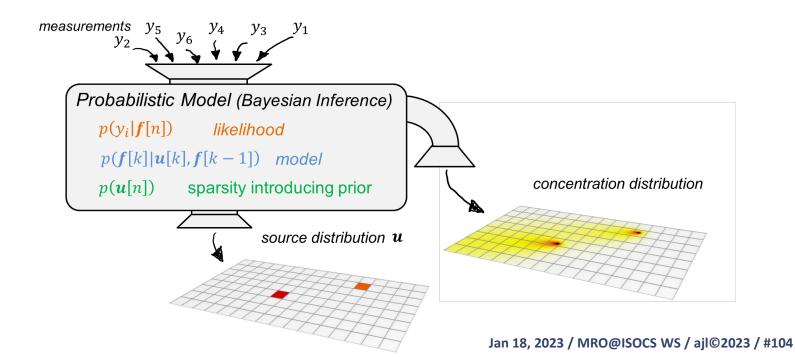
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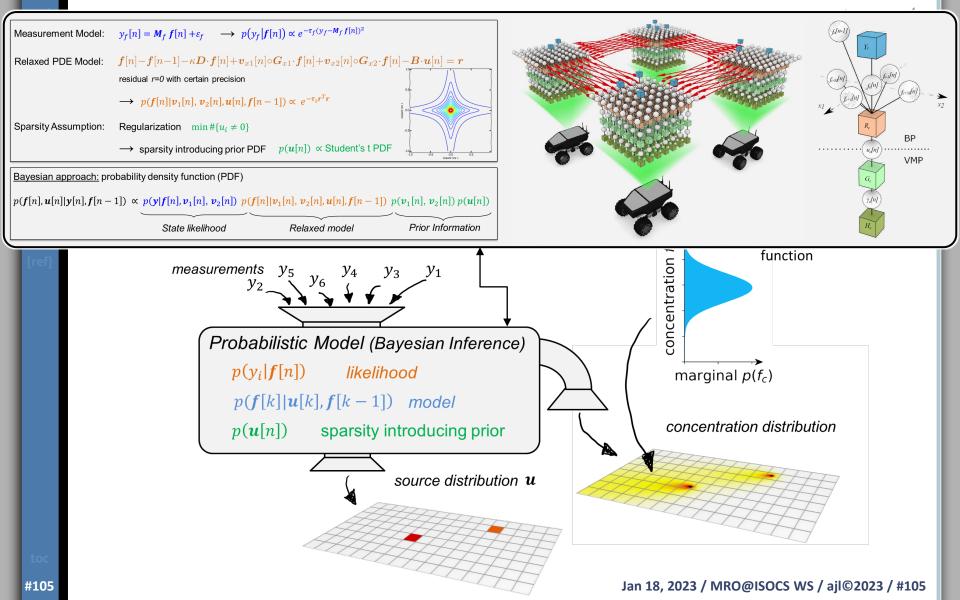


Motivation

[MANSS ET AL., ECMR 2015] [WIEDEMANN ET AL., ISOEN 2017] [WIEDEMANN ET AL., SENSORS 2019] [WIEDEMANN ET AL., RAS 2019]

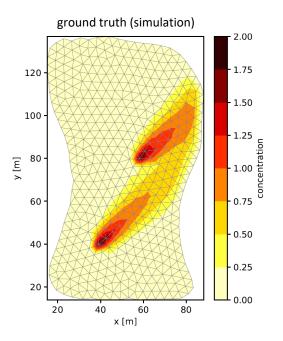
 Hypothesis: Making PDE Domain Knowledge about gas dispersion available to AI reasoning helps in MRO tasks ("Beyond Blind AI")





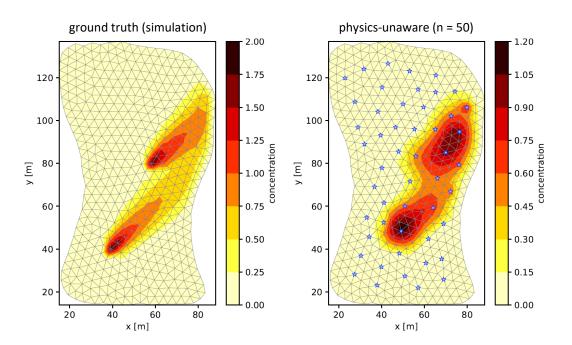


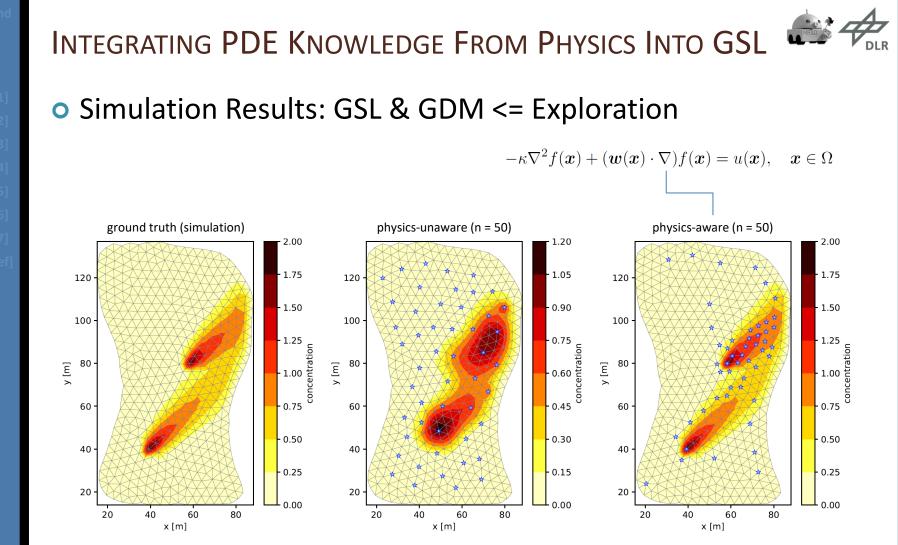
• Simulation Results: GSL & GDM & Exploration





• Simulation Results: GSL & GDM & Exploration







• Airflow Mapping <= Exploration

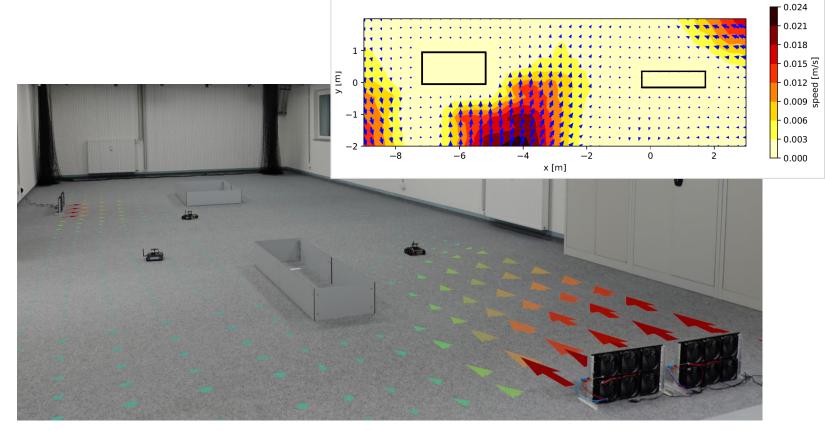
Incompressible Navier-Stokes equations

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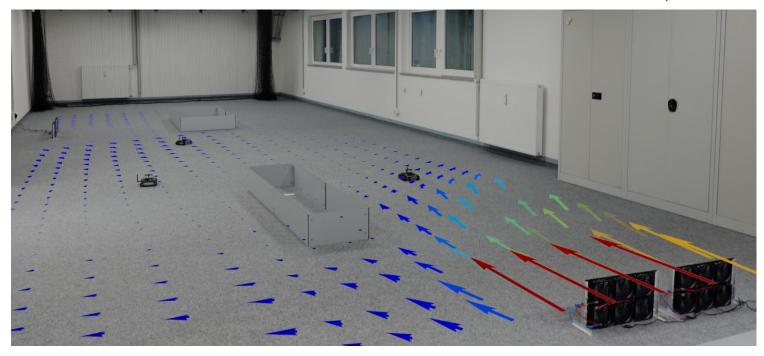




• Airflow Mapping <= Exploration

Incompressible Navier-Stokes equations

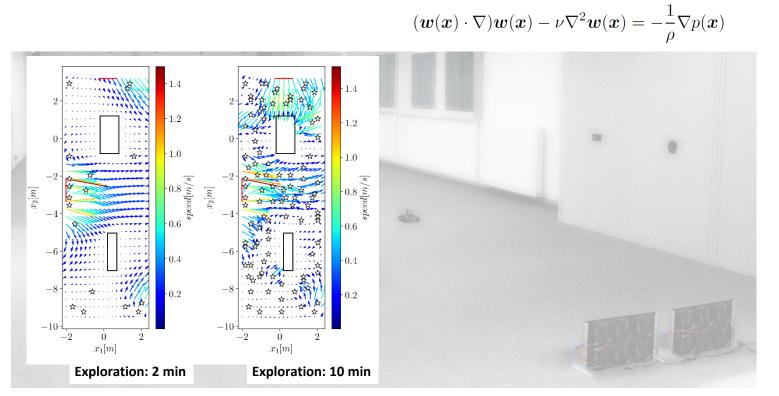
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• Airflow Mapping <= Exploration

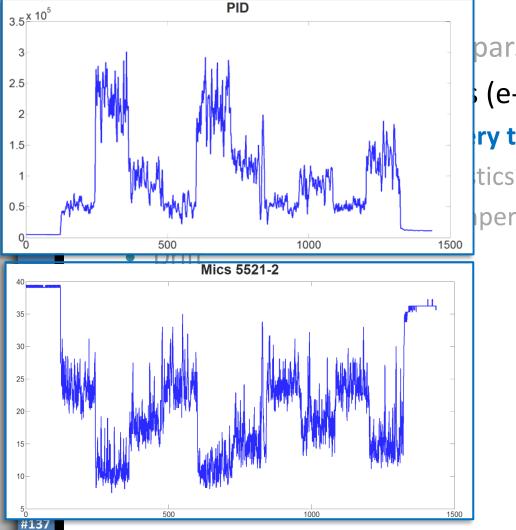
Incompressible Navier-Stokes equations



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• Turbulent Gas Dispersal & Sparse Sampling

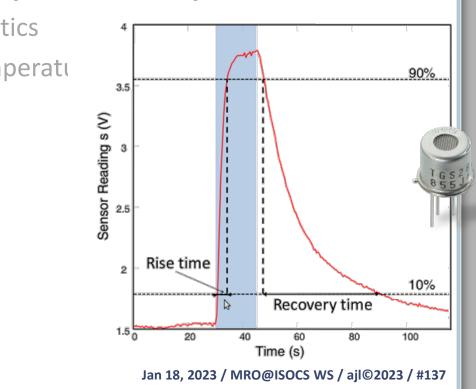
- Broad-spectrum gas sensors (e-nose) have disadvantages
 - Often long response/recovery time => Steady state never reached!
 - Individual sensor characteristics
 - Cross-sensitivity, e.g., to temperature and humidity
 - Drift



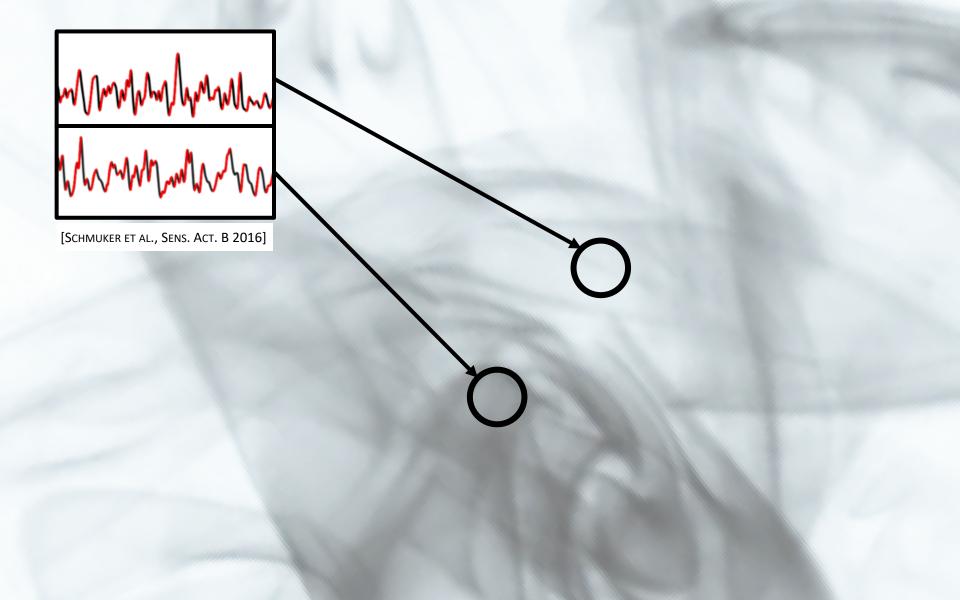
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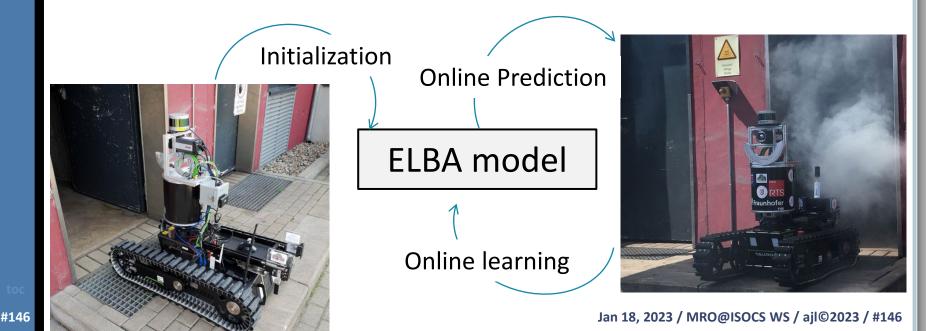






• Presence of A Priori Unknown Gases (APUG), Gas Detection

- Ensemble Learning Based Approach for gas detection (ELBA)
 - Initialization with clean air
 - Learns the ensemble online with self-labeled data compensating for possible sensor drift

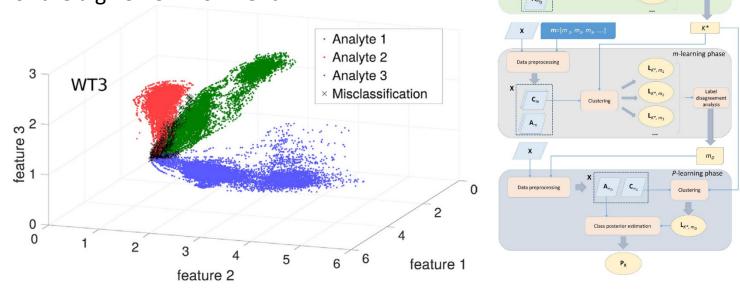


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K-learning phase

• Presence of A Priori Unknown Gases, Gas Discrimination

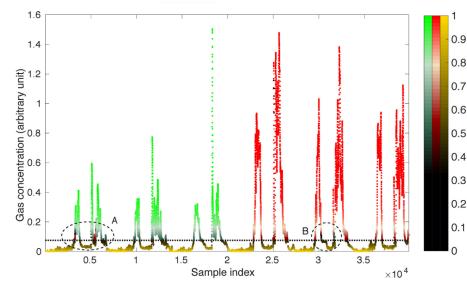
- KmP algorithm for unsupervised gas discrimination
 - Clustering approach that can infer the number of chemical compounds K, and learn a probabilistic representation of the class labels P for the a given environment

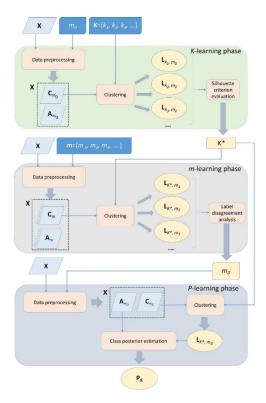


Data preprocessir

• Presence of A Priori Unknown Gases, Gas Discrimination

- KmP algorithm for unsupervised gas discrimination
 - Clustering approach that can infer the number of chemical compounds K, and learn a probabilistic representation of the class labels P for the a given environment



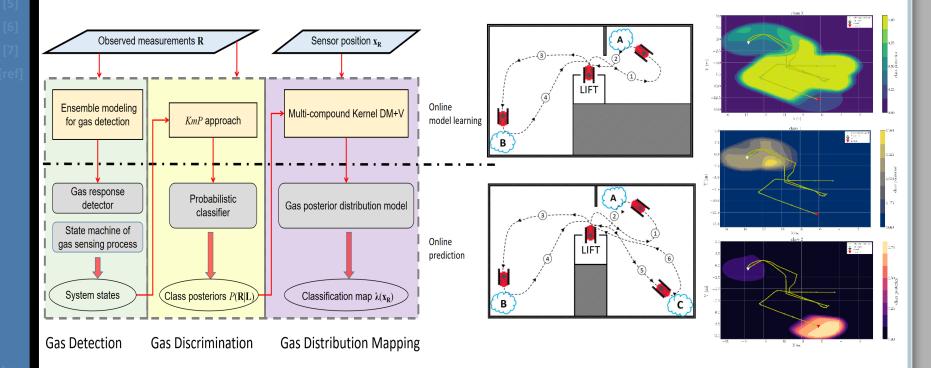


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#148

[FAN ET AL., SENSORS 2019] [XING ET AL., IEEE SENSORS, 2019]

- Presence of APUG, Gas Distribution Mapping
 - Gas Distribution Mapping in the presence of unknown components



- Turbulent Gas Dispersal & Sparse Sampling
- Broad-spectrum gas sensors (e-nose) have disadvantages
- Presence of A Priori Unknown Gases
- Gas sensing with UAVs
 - Superior mobility and deployability comes at a price ...

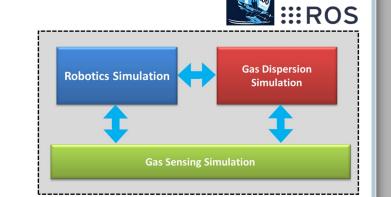
CHALLENGES – GAS SENSING WIT UAVS



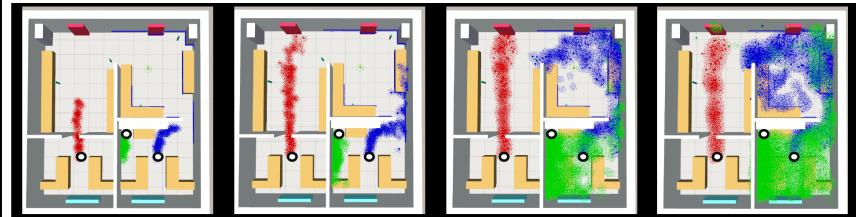
- Turbulent Gas Dispersal & Sparse Sampling
- Broad-spectrum gas sensors (e-nose) have disadvantages
- Presence of A Priori Unknown Gases
- Gas sensing with UAVs
 - Superior mobility and deployability comes at a price ...
 - => Use smaller drones
 - => Use remote sensing on drones

09:30-10:30 <u>Agustín Gutiérrez-Gálvez</u> (University of Barcelona) *Aerial monitoring of pollution and odour* 11:30-10:30 <u>Patrick P. Neumann</u> (BAM) *Aerial-based Gas Tomography*

- Turbulent Gas Dispersal & Sparse Sampling
- Broad-spectrum gas sensors (e-nose) have disadvantages
- Presence of A Priori Unknown Gases
- Gas sensing with UAVs
- Hard to measure ground truth independently

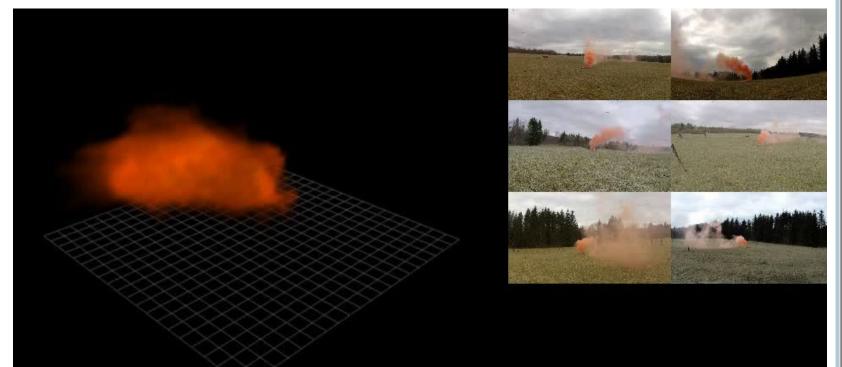


• Gas Dispersal Simulator GADEN



[MONROY ET AL., SENSORS 2017]

• Optical Plume Reconstruction



Video courtesy of Thomas Wiedemann (DLR)





Thank-you-for-your-attention! MODELLING AND SENSOR PLANNING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING WITH GAS-SENSITIVE MOBILE ROBOTS

Achim J. Lilienthal et al.

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