



The Descartes Planning Library for Semi-Constrained Cartesian Trajectories

Principle Engineer

Shaun Edwards

Southwest Research Institute





Application Need



- Semi-constrained trajectories: traj. DOF < robot DOF

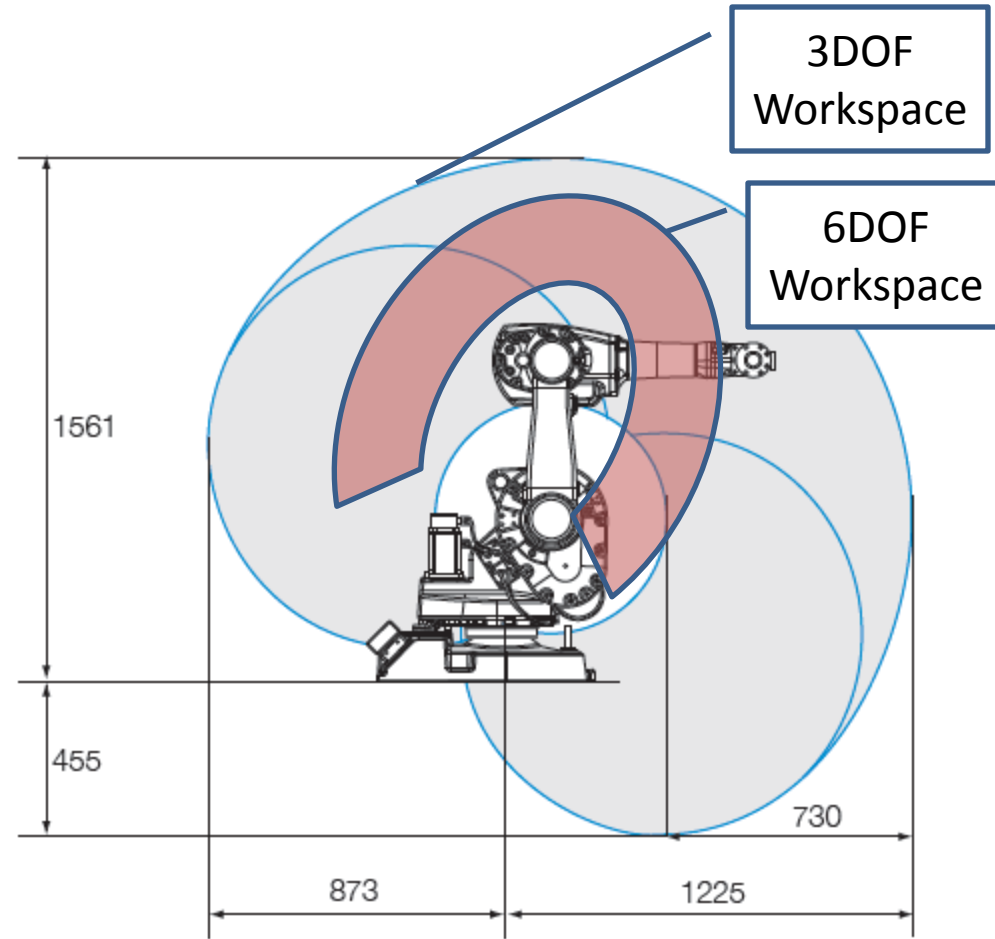




Current Solution



- Arbitrary assignment of 6DOF poses, redundant axes -> IK
- Limited guarantee on trajectory timing
- Limitations
 - Reduced workspace
 - Relies on human intuition
 - Collisions, singularities, joint limits





Descartes



- Planning library for semi-constrained trajectories
- Requirements
 - Generate common sense plans
 - Find easy solutions fast, hard solutions with time
 - Handle hybrid trajectories (joint, Cartesian, specialized points)
 - Fast re-planning/cached planning





Descartes Example



- Robotic Routing

The screenshot displays the `robot_path_editor_gui.rviz*` interface in RViz. The main 3D view shows an orange robotic arm with a path of yellow and blue points. The interface includes several panels:

- Displays:** Shows 'Global Options' with 'Fixed Frame' set to 'world' and 'Background Color' as '48; 48; 48'. It also shows 'RobotPathEditDisplay' and 'PointCloud2'.
- Robot Path Editor:** Contains a 'Path Points' list with 11 points, a 'Selected Point' table, and an 'Edit' table with coordinates (x, y, z, rx, ry, rz).
- Time:** Shows ROS Time, ROS Elapsed, Wall Time, and Wall Elapsed.

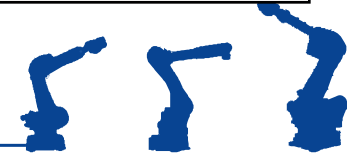
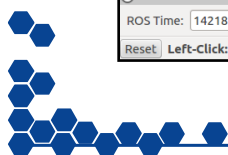
Path Points
point_2ec8868
point_55d4148d
point_58236865
point_37cdd7dc
point_995915ba
point_62a4dce7
point_cfd899f0
point_884d9d59
point_4b756bfa
point_345e1dbb
point_f98d6dbf
point_1fafece2

Selected Point	Action
Cartesian	Free Move

Edit	
x	-0.296577
y	0.0731173
z	1.685
rx	74.1858
ry	-12.826
rz	180

Time: ROS Time: 1421850847.51 ROS Elapsed: 208.33 Wall Time: 1421850847.55 Wall Elapsed: 208.24

Reset: Left-Click: Rotate. Middle-Click: Move X/Y. Right-Click/Mouse Wheel: Zoom. Shift: More options. 30 fps





Performance



- 800 5DOF (6DOF robot) waypoints – ~~30s~~ 1-10s plan time
- Path planners minimize joint motion
- Re-planning near instantaneous
- Support for hybrid, kinematic planning





Robotic Routing



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZxt00uoyBo>





Descartes Interfaces



- Trajectory Point
 - Robot independent
 - Tolerance (fuzzy)
 - Timing
- Robot Model
 - IK/FK
 - Validity (Collision checking, limits)
 - Similar to MoveIt::RobotState, but with **getAllIK**
- Planner
 - Trajectory solving
 - Plan caching/re-planning





Descartes Implementations



- Trajectory Points
 - Cartesian point
 - Joint point
 - AxialSymmetric point (5DOF)
- Robot Model
 - MoveIt wrapper (working with MoveIt to make better)
 - FastIK wrappers
 - Custom solution
- Planners
 - Dense – graph based search
 - Sparse – hybrid graph based/interpolated search

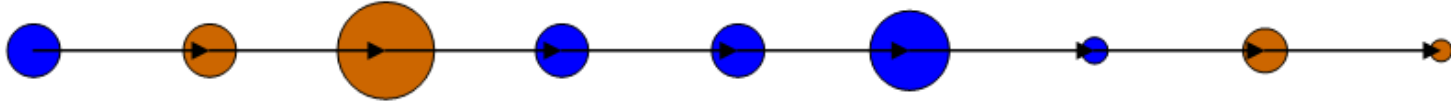




Descartes Implementations



Hybrid
Trajectory



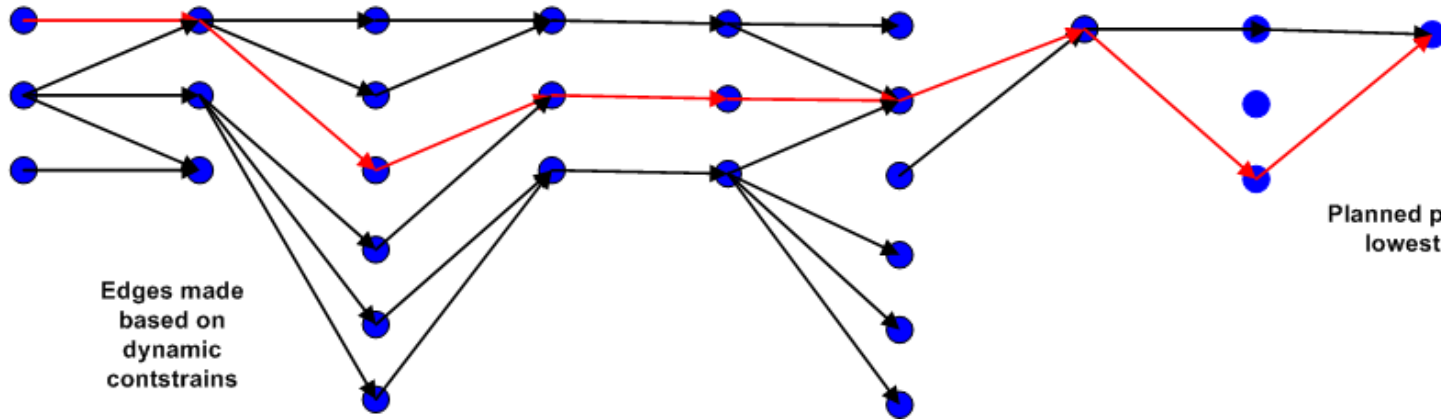
Legend

- Joint point
- Cart. point
- *size indicates tolerance zone

Trajectory sampled (in joint space) based on tolerance, collisions, kinematics



Planning
(Graph
Based)



Edges made based on dynamic constraints

Planned path (red)
lowest cost





Open Source Details



- Public development: <https://github.com/ros-industrial-consortium/descartes>
- Documentation: <http://wiki.ros.org/descartes>
- Releases
 - Hydro (stable) – binary
 - Indigo (unstable) – source
- Tutorials: <http://wiki.ros.org/descartes/Tutorials>
- Acknowledgements:
 - Supported by: NIST (70NANB14H226), ROS-Industrial Consortium FTP





Contact Information



Shaun Edwards

Southwest Research Institute

Contact

Phone: 210-522-3277

Email: sedwards@swri.org

