The Descartes Planning Library for Semi-Constrained Cartesian Trajectories

Principle Engineer

Shaun Edwards

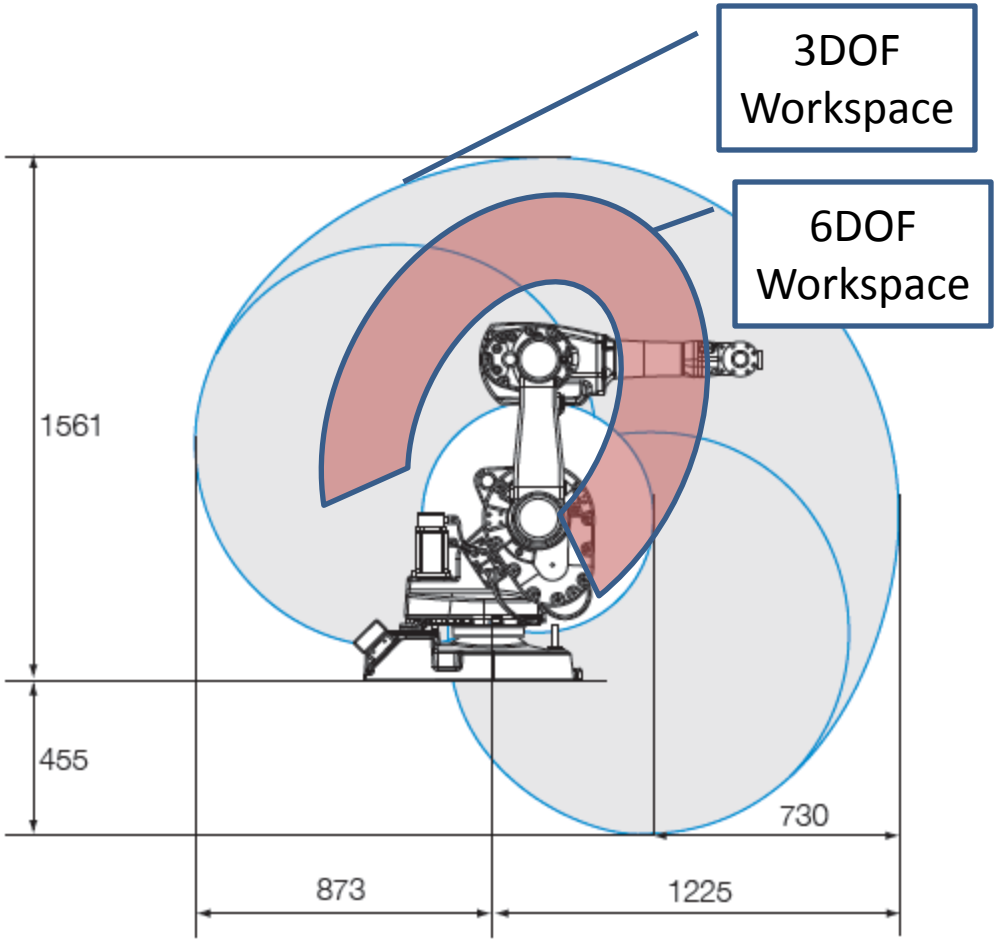
Southwest Research Institute

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

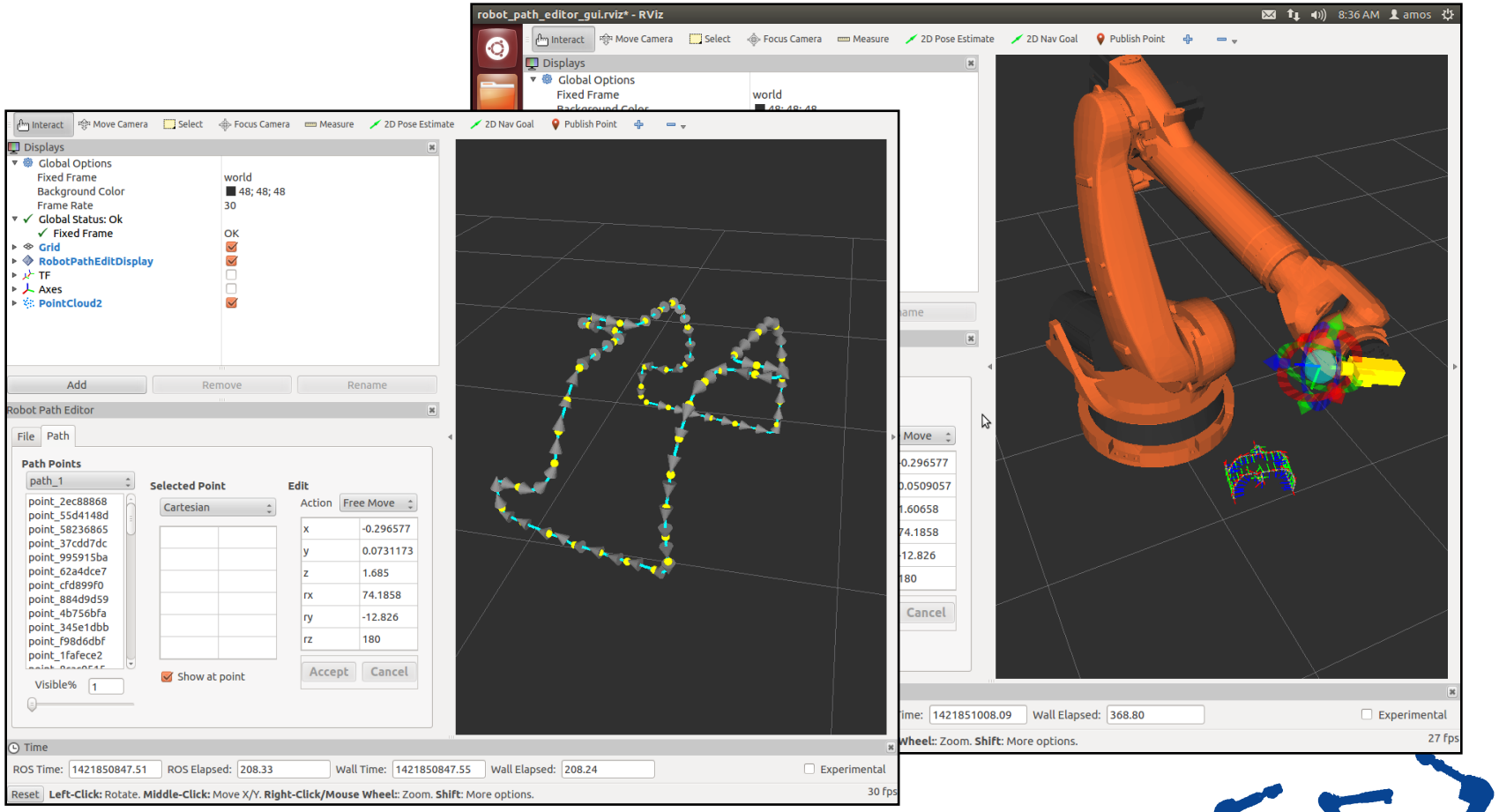


Descartes

- 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



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

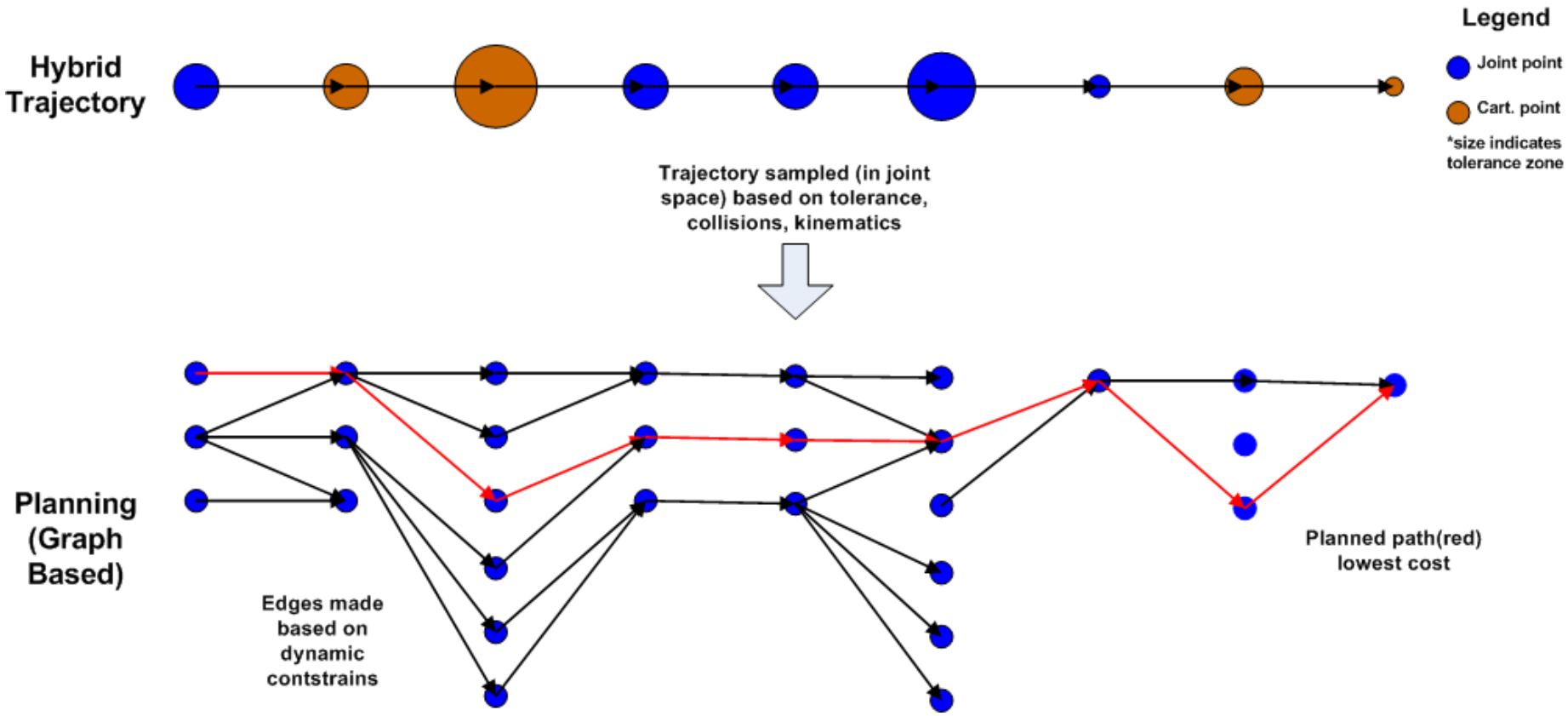
Descartes Interfaces

- 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



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