



# ICINCO 2012

9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
Informatics in Control, Automation and Robotics

## Proceedings

Volume 2

Rome, Italy  
28 - 31 July, 2012

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# ICINCO 2012

Proceedings of the  
9th International Conference on  
Informatics in Control, Automation and Robotics

Volume 2

Rome, Italy

28 - 31 July, 2012

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Edited by Jean-Louis Ferrier, Alain Bernard, Oleg Gusikhin and  
Kurosh Madani

Printed in Portugal  
ISBN: 978-989-8565-22-8  
Depósito Legal: 344501/12

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**SPECIAL SESSION ON OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT AND DECISION MAKING IN TODAY'S COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT**

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## SELECTED PAPERS BOOK

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A number of selected papers presented at ICINCO 2012 will be published by Springer-Verlag in a LNEE Series book. This selection will be done by the Conference Chair and Program Co-chairs, among the papers actually presented at the conference, based on a rigorous review by the ICINCO 2012 Program Committee members.

# FOREWORD

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This book contains the proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Informatics in Control, Automation and Robotics (ICINCO 2012) which was sponsored by the Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication (INSTICC) and held in Rome, Italy. ICINCO 2012 was co-sponsored by the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC) and held in cooperation with the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), Euromicro and the ACM Special Interest Group on Artificial Intelligence (ACM SIGART).

The ICINCO Conference Series has now consolidated as a major forum to debate technical and scientific advances presented by researchers and developers both from academia and industry, working in areas related to Control, Automation and Robotics that benefit from Information Technology.

In the Conference Program we have included oral presentations (full papers and short papers) and posters, organized in four simultaneous tracks: “Intelligent Control Systems and Optimization”, “Robotics and Automation”, “Signal Processing, Sensors, Systems Modelling and Control” and “Industrial Engineering, Production and Management”. We have included in the program three plenary keynote lectures, given by internationally recognized researchers, namely – Alessandro De Luca (Università di Roma "La Sapienza", Italy), Munther A. Dahleh (MIT, United States), Alexandre Dolgui (Ecole des Mines de Saint-Etienne, France) and Jurek Sasiadek (Carleton University, Canada).

The meeting is complemented with three special sessions: Special Session on Artificial Neural Networks and Intelligent Information Processing (ANNIIP), Special Session on Intelligent Vehicle Controls & Intelligent Transportation Systems (IVC&ITS) and Special Session on Operations Management and Decision Making in Today’s Competitive Environment (OMDM).

ICINCO received 360 paper submissions, including special sessions, from 58 countries, in all continents. To evaluate each submission, a double blind paper review was performed by the Program Committee. Finally, only 197 papers are published in these proceedings and presented at the conference. Of these, 144 papers were selected for oral presentation (40 full papers and 104 short papers) and 53 papers were selected for poster presentation. The full paper acceptance ratio was 11%, and the oral acceptance ratio (including full papers and short papers) was 40%. As in previous editions of the Conference, based on the reviewer’s evaluations and the presentations, a short list of authors will be invited to submit extended versions of their papers for a book that will be published by Springer with the best papers of ICINCO 2012.

Conferences are also meeting places where collaboration projects can emerge from social contacts amongst the participants. Therefore, in order to promote the development of research and professional networks the Conference includes in its social program a Conference

Social Event & Banquet in the evening of July 30 (Monday).

We would like to express our thanks to all participants. First of all to the authors, whose quality work is the essence of this Conference. Next, to all the members of the Program Committee and auxiliary reviewers, who helped us with their expertise and valuable time. We would also like to deeply thank the invited speakers for their excellent contribution in sharing their knowledge and vision. Finally, a word of appreciation for the hard work of the INSTICC team; organizing a conference of this level is a task that can only be achieved by the collaborative effort of a dedicated and highly capable team.

Commitment to high quality standards is a major aspect of ICINCO that we will strive to maintain and reinforce next year, including the quality of the keynote lectures, of the workshops, of the papers, of the organization and other aspects of the conference. We look forward to seeing more results of R&D work in Informatics, Control, Automation and Robotics at ICINCO 2013.

**Jean-Louis Ferrier**

University of Angers, France

**Alain Bernard**

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# Monte Carlo Localization using the Global Appearance of Omnidirectional Images

## *Algorithm Optimization to Large Indoor Environments*

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**Keywords:** Autonomous Robot, Global Appearance, Panoramic Images, Fourier Signature, Monte-Carlo Localization.

**Abstract:** In this paper we deal with the problem of robot localization using the visual information provided by a single omnidirectional camera mounted on the robot, using techniques based on the global appearance of panoramic images. Our main objective consists in showing the feasibility of the appearance-based approaches in a localization task in a relatively large and real environment. First, we study the approaches that permit us to describe globally the visual information so that it represents with accuracy locations in the environment. Then, we present the probabilistic approach we have used to compute the most probable pose of the robot when it performs a trajectory within the map. At the end, we describe the kind of environments and maps we have used to test our localization algorithms and the final results. The experimental results we show have been obtained using real indoor omnidirectional images, captured in an office building under real conditions.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

When a mobile robot has to carry out a task autonomously in an environment, it has to face the problem of computing its location within a given map with enough precision so that it can plan the route to follow to go to the target points during the development of the task. During the last years, omnidirectional cameras have become a popular tool to carry out these localization tasks. In this work, we use the information captured by a single camera that is installed on the robot. With this system, we capture omnidirectional images from the environment and we transform these images into a panoramic format to represent locations in the environment.

When the appearance-based approach is used, each scene is represented by a single descriptor which is computed working with the scene as a whole. For example, (Menegatti et al., 2004a; Menegatti et al., 2004b) use a signature based on the Discrete Fourier Transform of panoramic images to build a visual map and to perform a probabilistic localization within this map. (Kröse et al., 2004) use Principal Components Analysis (PCA) (Kirby, 2001) of panoramic images for environment modeling and localization. On the other hand, as no relevant information is extracted, it is necessary to find a descriptor of the global appear-

ance which optimizes the computational cost of the localization process. Also, it must work well in large environments where visual aliasing could be a usual event.

The main goal of this work consists in evaluating the feasibility of the appearance-based approaches in a localization task in a relatively large and real indoor environment and studying how the computational cost and the accuracy of the results depend on the main parameters of the descriptor. With this aim, we make use of the Monte Carlo (MC) Algorithm (Thrun et al., 2000), which has proved to be robust and efficient in localization tasks in the field of mobile robotics. We have decided to describe each omnidirectional image by a single Fourier descriptor. However, the methods described here are in fact independent of the descriptor used to represent the images.

## 2 MONTE-CARLO LOCALIZATION

In mobile robot localization we are interested in the estimation of the robot's pose (location and orientation, typically, the state  $x_t = (x, y, \theta)$ ) at time  $t$  using a set of measurements  $z_{1:t} = \{z_1, z_2, \dots, z_t\}$  from the en-

vironment and the movements  $u_{1:t} = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_t\}$  of the robot (Fox et al., 1999). In *Monte Carlo Localization (MCL)* (Thrun et al., 2000), the probability density function  $p(x_t|z_{1:t}, u_{1:t})$  is represented by a set of  $M$  random samples  $\chi_t = \{x_t^i, i = 1 \dots M\}$  extracted from it, named particles. Each particle can be understood as a hypothesis of the true state of the robot  $x_t^i = (x^i, y^i, \theta^i)$ . The weight of each sample (particle) determines the importance of the particle. The set of samples defines a discrete probability function that approximates the continuous belief. The *Monte Carlo Localization algorithm* is described briefly in the next lines, and consists of two phases:

**Prediction Phase.** At time  $t$  a set of particles  $\bar{\chi}_t$  is generated based on the set of particles  $\chi_{t-1}$  and a control signal  $u_t$ . This step uses the motion model  $p(x_t|x_{t-1}, u_t)$ . In order to represent this probability function, the movement  $u_t$  is applied to each particle while adding a pre-defined quantity of noise. As a result, the new set of particles  $\bar{\chi}_t$  represents the density  $p(x_t|z_{1:t-1}, u_{1:t})$ .

**Update Phase.** In this second phase, for each particle in the set  $\bar{\chi}_t$ , the observation  $z_t$  obtained by the robot is used to compute a weight  $\omega_t^i$ . This weight represents the observation model  $p(z_t|x_t)$  and is computed as  $\omega_t^i = p(z_t|x_t^i)$ . The weights are normalized so that  $\sum \omega_t^i = 1$ . As a result, a set of particles accompanied by a weight  $\bar{\chi}_t = \{x_t^i, \omega_t^i\}$  are obtained.

The resulting set  $\chi_t$  is calculated by resampling with replacement from the set  $\bar{\chi}_t$ , where the probability of resampling each particle is proportional to its importance weight  $\omega_t^i$ , in accordance with the literature on the SIR algorithm (Sampling Importance Resampling) (Smith and Gelfand, 1992; Rubin, 1988). Finally, the distribution  $p(x_t|z_{1:t}, u_{1:t})$  is represented by the set  $\chi_t$ .

By means of computing a weight  $w^i$  for each particle the Monte Carlo algorithm introduces the current observation  $z_t$  of the robot. In this case we consider that our map is composed of a set of  $N$  bi-dimensional landmarks  $L = \{l_1, l_2, \dots, l_N\}$  and the position of these marks on the environment is known. Each landmark  $l_j$  is represented by an omnidirectional image  $I_j$  associated and a Fourier Signature descriptor  $d_j$  that describes the global appearance of the omnidirectional image (Fernandez et al., 2011), thus  $l_j = \{(l_{j,x}, l_{j,y}), d_j, I_j\}$ .  $d_j$  is constructed from the bi-dimensional Fourier signature with all the elements arranged in a vector. Using this Fourier descriptor we compare the descriptor  $d_t$  with the rest of descriptors  $d_j$ ,  $j = 1 \dots N$  and find the  $B$  landmarks in the map that are closest in appearance with the current image  $I_t$ . In this sense, we allow the correspondence of the

current observation to several landmarks in the map.

In this work, we propose to compute the weight of each particle  $\omega_t^i = p(z_t|x_t^i)$  through a sum of gaussian functions centered on each landmark position and considering the difference in the descriptors of the landmarks (images).

$$\omega_t^i = \sum_{j=1}^B \exp\{-v_j \Sigma_l^{-1} v_j^T\} \exp\{-h_j \Sigma_d^{-1} h_j^T\} \quad (1)$$

where,  $v_j = (l_{j,x}, l_{j,y}) - (x^i, y^i)$  is the difference between the position of the landmark  $l_j$  and the position  $(x^i, y^i)$  of the particle  $i$ . The matrix  $\Sigma_l$  is a diagonal matrix  $\Sigma_l = \text{diag}(\sigma_l^2, \sigma_l^2)$ . The variance  $\sigma_l^2$  is chosen experimentally in order to minimize the error in the localization.  $h_j = |d_j - d_t|$  defines the difference between the module of the Fourier descriptor associated to the current image observed and the module of the descriptor associated to the landmark  $l_j$ . The matrix  $\Sigma_d = \text{diag}(\sigma_d^2)$  is a  $k \times k$  matrix, being  $k$  the length of the Fourier descriptor.

### 3 EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

In order to acquire the necessary data for the experiments we have used a Pioneer P3-AT mobile robot, equipped with an omnidirectional camera, and a fixed platform equipped with an omnidirectional camera and a laptop. The map was built by carefully obtaining omnidirectional images at different positions on a regular grid in an office-like environment using the fixed platform. Next, the robot performed some trajectories within this environment, capturing a new omnidirectional image and odometry data whenever it traversed a distance equal to  $0.1m$ . The robot captured a total of 515 images and traveled around  $55m$ . The map is composed of a set of 381 images placed on a grid with a resolution of  $0.4m$ . The map has a size of  $11m$  in the  $x$  axis and  $25m$  in the  $y$  axis.

To test the performance of our appearance-based Monte-Carlo Localization method we have carried out a series of simulation experiments of robot tracking using the sets of images described in the previous paragraph. We have used an associations number  $B$  equal to 4. We have computed the average error in the robot position along the trajectory, depending on the number of Fourier components for different number of particles. The average error has been obtained taking as a reference the real path (ground truth) (Figure 1 (a)). We must take into account the average error of the robot odometry data comparing with the ground truth is  $0.736m$ . As shown in Figure 1 (a) as we increase the number of Fourier components, the localization error along the trajectory tends

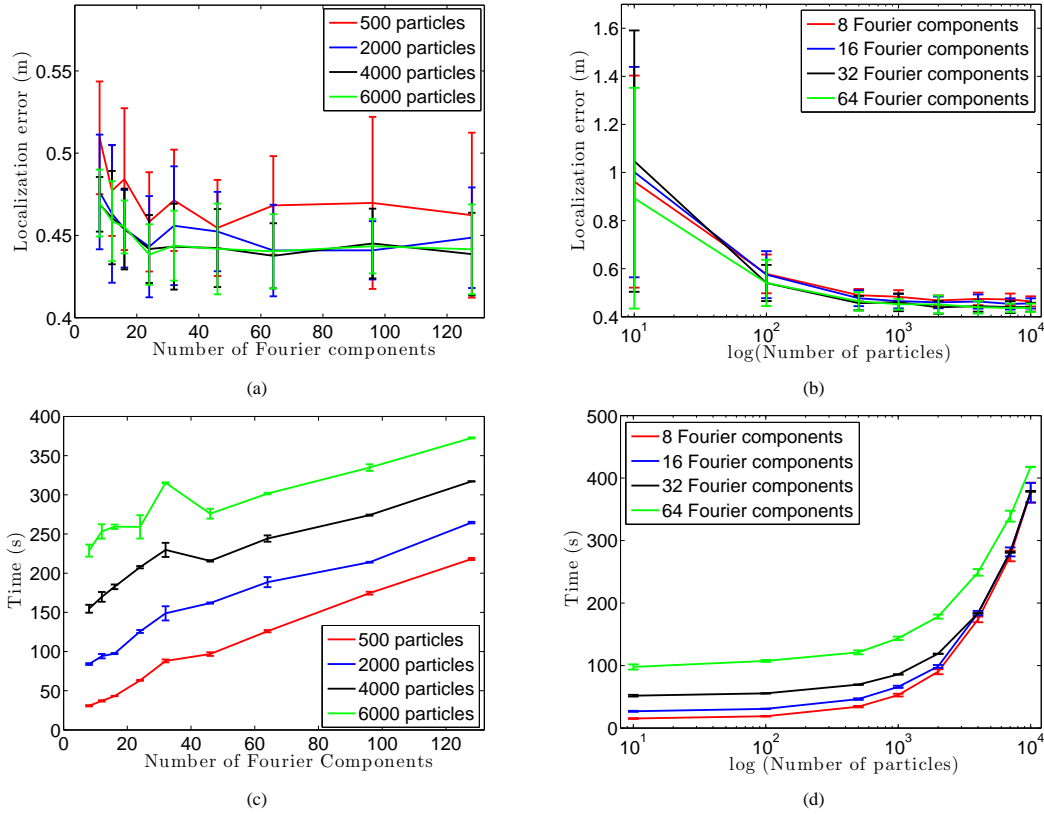


Figure 1: (a) Trajectory average error in position versus the number of Fourier components and (b) trajectory average error in position versus the number of particles for different number of Fourier components, with respect to the real path, (c) computation time needed to complete the estimation of the trajectory of the robot versus the number of Fourier components for different number of particles and (d) versus the number of particles for different number of Fourier components.

to decrease, but a threshold number of components appears and when we increase this number, the error does not decrease significantly (this threshold is around 24 Fourier Components for a relatively high number of particles). We can also see that the graph tendency is quite similar for the four different number of particles tested.

To compare the performance of our method with respect to the number of particles we have carried out a set of experiments of robot tracking in which we have tested the trajectory average error in the position of the robot depending of this number of particles. Figure 1 (b) shows how the increase of the number of particles makes the error with respect to the real path to decrease until a certain value from which the error remains small (about 2000 particles). We arrive to the same conclusion as in the previous experiment.

Figure 1 (c) shows the average time needed to carry out the complete Monte-Carlo localization experiment with respect to the number of Fourier components and for different number of particles. On the other hand, Figure 1 (d) show the dependence of the

computation time with respect to the number of particles.

Figure 2 presents an example of a relatively accurate case of robot tracking using 4000 particles and 32 Fourier components. In this figure, the position of the map images is indicated with a blue circle, the position of the associated landmarks is indicated with a green solid circle (four associations are used, as stated before), the real path is represented by a black line, the robot odometry path is presented by a red line, the path obtained with our method is shown as a green line and finally, the particles are represented as black dots. As we can observe, our algorithm is able to cope with robot turnings and the trajectory estimated is accurate enough for many robot applications in indoor environments.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we have tested the performance of a Monte-Carlo localization technique using the global

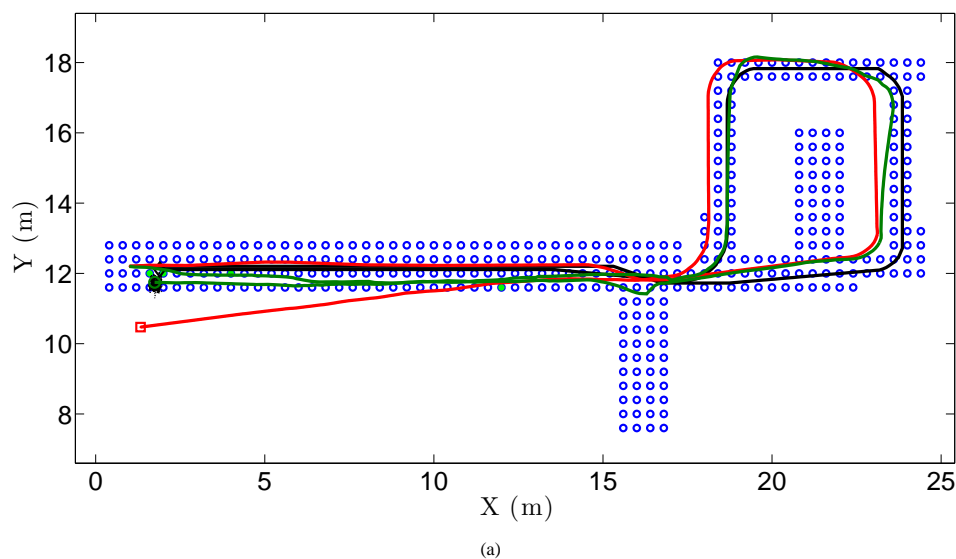


Figure 2: An experiment of Monte-Carlo localization using 4000 particles and 32 Fourier components.

appearance of panoramic images. We compare our results with the real trajectory in a large indoor environment. We have built the appearance-based descriptor using the Fourier signature of panoramic images. We have evaluated the performance of the method in the case of a local localization. Our system is able to track the position of the robot while moving if we tune correctly the parameters involved in the process. We have proved that the precision of our method varies with the number of particles used and the number of Fourier components. Furthermore, as we increase the number of particles in the system, the average error of localization decreases rapidly until a certain point from which the error remains small with no appreciable improvement. Finally, as we increase the number of Fourier components, the localization error decreases, but from a number of components the error does not decrease significantly. These experiments show the feasibility of using appearance-based techniques in robot localization, maintaining a reasonable computational cost, so, the navigation can be carried out in real time.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work has been supported by the Spanish government through the project DPI2010-15308. "Exploración Integrada de Entornos Mediante Robots Cooperativos para la Creación de Mapas 3D Visuales y Topológicos que Puedan ser Usados en Navegación con 6 Grados de Libertad".

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