User Interaction: Localization beyond Satellite Systems

Assoc. Professor Donald J. Patterson
INF 133 Fall 2012
Google’s self-driving car

Two things seem particularly interesting about Google's approach. First, it relies on very detailed maps of the roads and terrain, something that Urmson said is essential to determine accurately where the car is. Using GPS-based techniques alone, he said, the location could be off by several meters.

http://spectrum.ieee.org/automaton/robotics/artificial-intelligence/how-google-self-driving-car-works
Global Location GPS
Properties of Location Systems

- Technologies
  - Triangulation
    - GPS is an example
    - Multiple references to fixed locations which resolve position
Properties of Location Systems

- Technologies
- Proximity
  - Knowing that you are near a fixed location
  - Typically based on non-localization technology
  - Cell-towers, Credit card usage, login information
Properties of Location Systems

- Technologies
- Scene Analysis
- Evaluating content from a fixed camera
- Color histograms from doorways
- Evaluating content from a mobile camera
- Tour guide scene matching
Properties of Location Systems

- Properties
  - Physical Position/Symbolic location
    - Position
      - Exact, Unambiguous, Machine friendly
    - Place
      - Inexact, Ambiguous, Human Friendly
Properties of Location Systems

- Properties
  - Absolute/Relative
    - GPS is absolute
    - Laser range finder is relative
    - Transforming between the two is possible with additional information
Properties of Location Systems

- Properties

  - Where is the computation done?
    - GPS locally - private, scalable
    - Cell-phone positioning - assisted, scalable to a degree, location is revealed
    - Broadcast ID-badge systems - localization is in infrastructure
Properties of Location Systems

• Properties
• Accuracy and precision
  • GPS 15m - 95% of the time
  • Sensor fusion tries to improve accuracy and/or precision by combining sensors
  • Accuracy and precision may change to conserve battery life.
Properties of Location Systems
Properties of Location Systems
Properties of Location Systems

- Properties
- Scale
  - Global, Regional, Local
  - GPS - Global
  - RFID Readers - local
  - Cell-phone localization regional
Properties of Location Systems

• Properties
• Recognition
  • GUID - globally unique identifier
  • Do we know who or what you are?
  • GPS - no
  • Sensor fusion - maybe
Properties of Location Systems

- Properties
- Cost
  - Deployment
  - Infrastructure
  - Maintenance
- Incremental Users or Improvements
Properties of Location Systems

- Properties
- Limitations
  - Indoor/Outdoor
  - Battery Power
  - New Equipment
Examples

- Active Badge
  - GUID broadcast by infrared
  - symbolic proximity
  - absolute positioning
  - sunlight/fluorescent lighting
Examples

- Active Bat
  - GUID ultrasonic broadcast by radio request
  - infrastructure computes absolute proximity
  - 9cm 95% of the time
  - bad scalability, hard to deploy, maybe costly
Examples

- Cricket
  - Object based ultrasonic localization
  - radio frequency control signal
  - triangulation base on time-of-flight
  - private, decentralized scalability
  - local computation -> power drain
Properties of Location Systems

Examples
Examples

- RADAR
  - building-wide tracking system
  - 2-D Wifi based localization
  - "scene analysis" through fingerprinting
  - local computation -> power drain
Examples

- Smart Floor
  - local tracking
  - anonymous
  - no additional equipment for a person
  - poor scalability
  - costly
Beyond Localization
Properties of Location Systems
Properties of Location Systems

How does a phone find your location?

- “Real” GPS
- “Assisted” GPS
  - Help with “Real” GPS
  - Send your position
- WiFi based localization
- IP based localization

- What are the properties of each?
- What are other crazy ideas of how to figure out your location?