Principles of Robot Autonomy I

Section Logistics
Sections

• Modeled after sections in CS 106A/B/X/L
• Provide hands-on experience for commonly-used tools in robotics
  • AKA tools you’ll be using for your homework and final projects
• Taking feedback from previous years to heart
Section Logistics

• First 15-30 minutes will be a presentation about the aims of the section, references, and a description of the hands-on activity you’ll be doing

• Rest of the time (1.5+ hours) will be for you and a partner (your tablemate) to complete the hands-on activity

• You submit your results on Gradescope when you’re done
Do I have to stay the whole time?

• Once you complete the activity and submit your results, you can leave
Do I have to arrive on time?

• Yes

• ... unless you have an overlapping class conflict. In that case, you should still arrive ASAP and make a group with someone else that is arriving similarly late
  • If you’re the only one that arrives late, then you can join an existing group

• Section slides and the activity handout will be posted online, so you can still catch up

• However, we will not stay after hours
Questions about Section Logistics?
Aims

• Learn how to use Git for version control
• Start working with Python 3.8 and some of its most common packages
• Tips and tricks for debugging
OS Setup

• Only need a local Python 3.8 installation for the first two sections
  • Later, we’ll be providing a server for running ROS remotely and rendering the visualization on your laptop

• You have three options:
  1. Install Python and run your scripts locally on Windows/MacOS/Linux
  2. Set up a dual boot with Ubuntu 20.04
  3. Set up a virtual machine with Ubuntu 20.04
Git

• Popular source code version control system
• You probably already use it!
  • Github, BitBucket, etc. all support Git
• Replaces the days of
  • Important_doc.docx
  • Important_doc_v2.docx
  • Important_doc_final.docx
  • Important_doc_final2.docx
  • Important_doc_final2_USE_THIS_ONE.docx
Git

• Strongly recommend getting used to using Git on your homework, sections, project, etc.
  • If you have a Github account, you can fork the homework repo and clone that out
Python 3.8

• We assume you already have some programming experience at the level of CS 106A

• As a result, rather than providing a full-blown tutorial about Python, we’ll direct you to a previous year’s Python + NumPy tutorial (hands-on!)

• It can be found online at: http://asl.stanford.edu/aa274_win1819/pdfs/recitation/Tut3_NumPy.pdf
Debugging

- pdb
Debugging

• More generally the debugging process is:
  • Google it
  • Ask a peer in the class
  • Google it
  • If all else fails, then post on Edstem or at office hours
Section 1

• Focuses on Python and common use-cases for it in this course
• We’ll ask you to perform a few basic mathematical operations and plot the results