

We are IntechOpen, the world's leading publisher of Open Access books Built by scientists, for scientists

4,800

Open access books available

122,000

International authors and editors

135M

Downloads

Our authors are among the

154

Countries delivered to

TOP 1%

most cited scientists

12.2%

Contributors from top 500 universities



WEB OF SCIENCE™

Selection of our books indexed in the Book Citation Index
in Web of Science™ Core Collection (BKCI)

Interested in publishing with us?
Contact book.department@intechopen.com

Numbers displayed above are based on latest data collected.

For more information visit www.intechopen.com



Mobile Robot Navigation using Alpha Level Fuzzy Logic System: Experimental Investigations

S.Parasuraman¹, Bijan Shirinzadeh² and Velappa Ganapathy¹

¹Monash University

²Monash University

¹Malaysia

²Australia

1. Introduction

The interest in investigating and developing mobile robots is very largely motivated by a need and a desire to have robots that can work with and for people in their normal work. The field of the autonomous mobile robot is a fascinating research topic for many reasons. In this research, some problems associated with mobile robot navigation are identified and described, and the new methodologies are established and verified with real world experiments. The problem description and importance are given in section 2. Numerous behavior rule selection and/or behavior coordination mechanisms can be found in the earlier literatures. Saffiotti A, and Leblanc K (2000) suggest dividing action selection mechanisms into two groups that he calls arbitration and command fusion which correspond to [Mackenzie D.C, Arkin R.C, and Cameron J.M (1997)] state-based and continuous classes respectively. Arbitration or state-based mechanisms are suitable in situations where only a relevant subset of the robot's behavior repertoire needs to be activated in a given state.

Behavior arbitration schemes [Pattie Maes (1991)] emphasized the testing of hypotheses of behavior rather than solving real-life tasks. Konolige, et al [Kurt Konolige, Karen Meyers, and Alessandro Saffiotti (1992),] used fuzzy control in conjunction with modeling and planning techniques to provide reactive guidance of their robot. Computer simulations [Song K.Y. and Tai J. C (1992)] feature a mobile robot that navigates using a planned path based on fuzzy logic. Song et.al.[Pin F.G(1992)] presented a scheme for independent control of two drive wheels on their simulated robot. When an obstacle is detected by one of the robot's proximity sensors, the fuzzy controller increases the speed of the respective wheel to turn away from it. Another approach [Arbib M. A (1992)] is more strongly motivated by the biological sciences which appeared on the heels of the subsumption architecture. Arkin [Arkin R. C (1989)] addressed the implications of schema theory for autonomous robotics [Arkin R. C. and D. Mackenzie (1994)]. A neural network [Petru Rusu, Thom E. Whalen, Aurel Cornell and Hans].W Spoelder (2003)], [C.T. Lin and C.S.G. Lee (1991)] relies on training to relate inputs to outputs. Although observing the weights gives us an idea about the input -output relations, the governing rules cannot be explicitly stated.

Source: Evolutionary Computation, Book edited by: Wellington Pinheiro dos Santos,
ISBN 978-953-307-008-7, pp. 572, October 2009, I-Tech, Vienna, Austria

The shortcomings of the above approaches are explored and resolved using the proposed approach named as the Alpha Level Fuzzy Logic System (ALFLS).

2. Important

The problems identified for the mobile robot navigation are (i) Behavior rule selection without rule conflict while more than one rule receives equal activation strength as the robot encountered multiple obstacles in the environment and (ii) Finding a near optimal path for the robot to reach the target from the starting point.

In the application of mobile robot navigation in real life situations such as explorations, searching for objects, sign of life in the event of accident and/or natural disasters, etc., the robot is required to navigate and reach the target in the quickest possible time using the shortest path. The capability of AI based control techniques can be used to achieve these types of navigation task. In the fuzzy logic based mobile robot navigation techniques as stated in the literatures in section 1, the input and output fuzzy sets are scaled to larger intervals. As a result of this, the robot deviates from the encountered obstacles much earlier before reaching the obstacles. Due to these situations, the deviations between the robot and the obstacles are quite large. Therefore, the robot takes more time and longer distance to reach the given target position during robot navigation. Also, as the interval of fuzzy set becomes larger, the possibilities of behaviour conflict situations are more. In order to resolve these issues, the proposed methodology ALFLS has been established.

In the proposed method, the environmental perceptual field is well defined by a set of control parameters through alpha level intervals of fuzzy sets. Similarly, the expected control output parameters are partitioned by alpha level intervals. An alpha level threshold is set at each critical fuzzy set and this maximizes the truth value for a particular behavior rule that needs to be fired at a time. In ALFLS, an alpha level makes all the truth membership functions between the threshold intervals to be true and the remaining values to be zero. When an alpha level threshold is applied to the truth of a rule's predicate, it determines whether or not the truth is sufficient to fire the rule. The effectiveness of ALFLS has been demonstrated through experimental studies using Khepera II Robots.

The effectiveness of the proposed ALFLS is demonstrated through experimental results and analysis and has shown the improved performance as compared with the previous methods in the aspect of (i) the time taken for the robot to reach the given target, (ii) the distance traveled to reach the given target position and (iii) resolving behavior rule conflicts in situations, where the obstacles appear with equal preferences in the environment.

As the outcome of the research, a new deterministic methodology was established and implemented. A comprehensive mathematical framework of decision-making procedure incorporating alpha-level fuzzy logic was established and discussed. The performance of ALFLS was demonstrated using the navigation rules which are obtained by varying the fuzzy intervals such as 3-alpha interval and 2-alpha interval. The comparative results have showed that the 3-alpha interval method has significantly improved the performance with respect to the issues highlighted as objectives.

3. Theoretical work

The behavior rule conflict situation is illustrated in Figure 1. In this illustration, the environment consists of several obstacles which are represented in a fuzzy scale called Small

(S), Medium (M) and Big (B) with the measure of (0-2 meters), (2-3.5 meters) and (3.5 -5.0 meters) respectively. In the above environment, there are two obstacles appear in Small fuzzy set (0 to 2 meters) at two different distance ranges as detected by front sensors S3 and S4. Similarly another two obstacles appear in the Medium fuzzy set. In these situations the active navigation rules are presented as below.

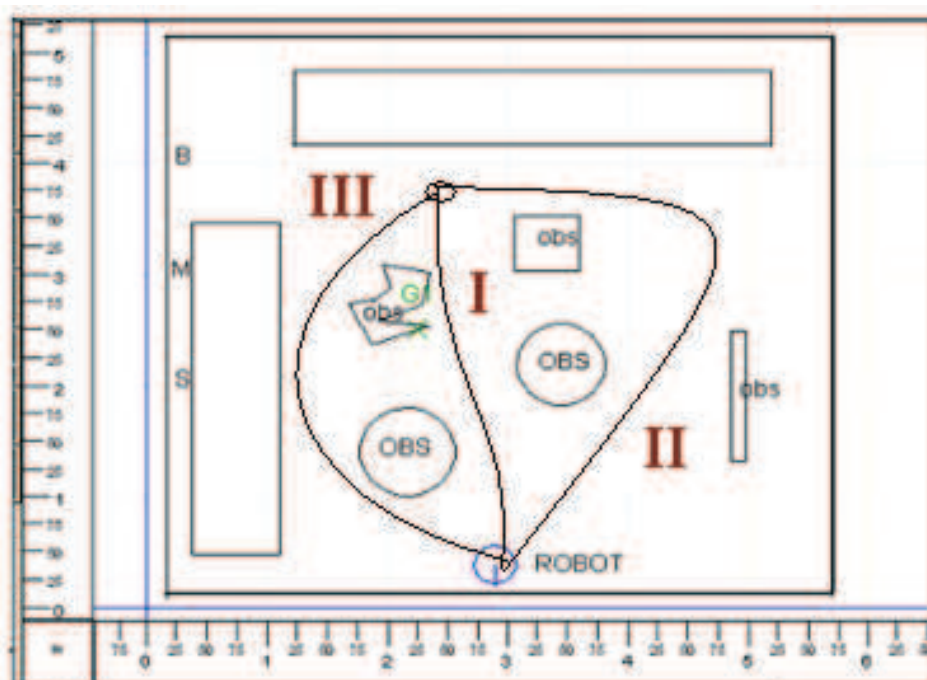
If S3 Small and S4 Medium Then Z SN (1)

If S3 Small and S4 Big Then Z SN (1)

If S3 Medium and S4 Medium Then Z Zero (1)

If S3 Small and S4 Small Then Z MP (1)

The activation strength of each rule appears as '1' at a particular instant. In this situation, a particular rule needs to be activated. This type of situation is resolved by defining each of the input fuzzy set into alpha-intervals and the limits are established. The corresponding output membership grade is estimated as a truth membership value and referred to as alpha or truth-value.



I -Near optimal path, II and III - Wide path, OBS and obs- obstacles, S-Small set, M-Medium set and B-Big set.

Fig. 1. Environment with multiple Obstacles showing the Conflict Situations.

When an alpha threshold is applied to the truth of a rule's predicate, it determines whether or not the truth is sufficient to fire the rule. And as a result of single behavior rule activation in the above context, the navigation path must be optimized with minimum deviation from obstacles. When there are no behavior conflicts, the formulation established using fuzzy logic approach [S.Parasuraman, V.Ganapathy, Bijan Shirinzadeh, (2006)] is good enough to navigate in the complex environment. The following section presents the mathematical formulation of ALFLS. The output membership of the navigation system consists of output of normal and behavior conflicting environmental context. The control system chooses the output membership function between the above two contexts based on the maximization of the truth-values. Based on Table 1, the possible rule activations of the present illustration as

given in Figure 1 is expressed mathematically and given in Table 2. In this table only two input X1 and input X2 (front sensor data (S1 and S2)) are considered, which are used to detect obstacles that appear in the front region of the robot as illustrated in Figure 1.

C Output	$X_{1,2}$	....	$X_{j,2}$	$X_{1,j+1}$	.....	$X_{m,2}$
$X_{1,1}$	$C_{1,1}$	.....	$C_{j,1}$	$C_{1,j+1}$	.....	$C_{1,m}$
....
$X_{i,1}$	$C_{i,1}$	.....	$C_{i,j}$	$C_{1,j+1}$	.....	$C_{1,m}$
$X_{i+1,1}$	$C_{i+1,1}$	.....	$C_{i+1,j}$	$C_{i+1,j+1}$	.....	$C_{i+1,m}$
....
$X_{n,1}$	$C_{n,1}$	.....	$C_{n,j}$	$C_{n,j+1}$	.....	$C_{n,m}$

Table 1. Decision Table: if and then Rules.

$X_{1,1}, X_{1,2}, \dots, X_{n,1}, X_{m,2}$ are fuzzy inputs and $C_{1,1}, C_{i,1}, C_{j,1}, \dots, C_{n,m}$ are corresponding fuzzy outputs.

Considering the fuzzy set of the above two sensors, the possible behavior rule sets are shown in the Table.2.

Inputs	Sensor X2 (S2)			
	Membership/Output	Small(s)	Medium(M)	Big (B)
Sensor X1 (S1)	Small (S)	0	SP	SP
	Medium (M)	SN	Z	Z
	Big (B)	SN	Z	Z

Table 2. If and Then rule

MP: Medium Positive, SP: Small Positive, SN: Small Negative, Z: Zero, SN, Z, MP: conflicting rules

The behavior rules shown by row-column (2,10),(2,1),(2,2) and (1,3) cells are conflict rules as discussed in the illustration. The measurement values of input parameters X1 and X2 obtained from the sensors S1 and S2 have to be translated to the corresponding linguistic variables. Normally any reading has a crisp value, which has to be matched against the appropriate membership function representing the linguistic variable. The matching is necessary because of the overlapping of terms as shown in Figures 2 (a) and (b), and this matching is called, coding the inputs or fuzzification.

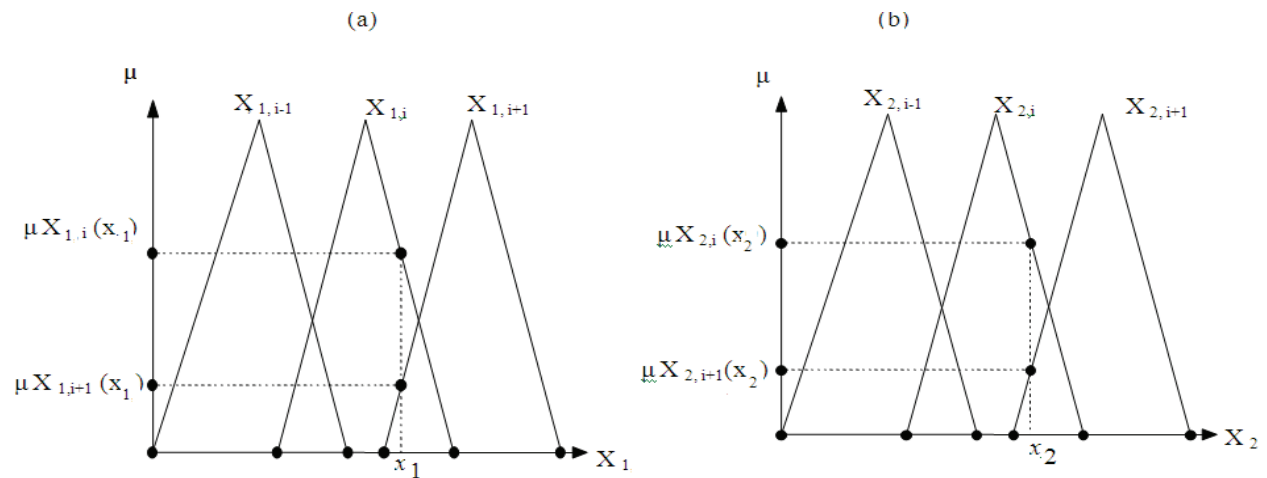


Fig. 2. Crisp values from Fuzzy sets corresponding to the fuzzy inputs x_1 (a) and x_2 (b)

In Figure 2, the sensor input $x_1 \in U_1$, $\alpha_i \leq x_1 \leq \alpha_{i+1}$ that corresponds to two values $\mu_{X_{1,i}}(x_1)$ and $\mu_{X_{1,i+1}}(x_1)$ of the input X_1 , where α is the interval of the fuzzy set $X_{1,i}$ and $X_{1,i+1}$. They can be interpreted as the truth-values of x_1 related to fuzzy set X_i and to X_{i+1} , correspondingly. In the same way the fuzzy inputs are obtained corresponding to the reading $x_2 \in U_2$ and $\alpha'_i \leq x_2 \leq \alpha'_{i+1}$. In both the Figures, only a few terms of the fuzzy set X_1 and X_2 are presented. The straight line passing through x_0 parallel to $\mu \in [0, 1]$ intersect only the terms X_{1i} and X_{1i+1} of X_1 thus reducing the fuzzy terms to crisp values denoted as shown below.

$$X_{1,i}(x_1) = \{\mu_{X_{1,i}}(x_1), \mu_{X_{1,i+1}}(x_1)\} \tag{1a}$$

Similarly the line passing through x_2 intersects only the terms X_{2i} and X_{2i+1} of X_2 giving the crisp values as shown below:

$$X_{2,i}(x_2) = \{\mu_{X_{2,i}}(x_2), \mu_{X_{2,i+1}}(x_2)\} \tag{1b}$$

The active rules shown in the Table 2 are redefined and are shown in Table 3 as a generalized formulation to resolve the conflicting behavior rule selection. Four cells in Table 3 contain nonzero terms. These cells are called active cells. Table 3 shows only four rules that are active as illustrated in the present example shown in Figure 1. The rest of the rules will not produce any output.

Inputs		Sensor X2 (S3)		
Sensor X1 (S4)	Membership/Output	$\mu_{(X_{2,j-1}(x_2))}$	$\mu_{(X_{2,j}(x_2))}$	$\mu_{(X_{2,j+1}(x_2))}$
	$\mu_{(X_{1,i-1}(x_1))}$	0	0	0
	$\mu_{(X_{1,i}(x_1))}$	$\mu_{(C_{i,j}(Z))}$	$\mu_{(C_{i,j+1}(Z))}$	0
	$\mu_{(X_{1,i+1}(x_1))}$	$\mu_{(C_{i+1,j}(Z))}$	$\mu_{(C_{i+1,j+1}(Z))}$	0

Table 3. Decision table with active cell.

where $\mu_{(C_{i,j}(Z))}$, $\mu_{(C_{i,j+1}(Z))}$, $\mu_{(C_{i+1,j}(Z))}$, $\mu_{(C_{i+1,j+1}(Z))}$ are conflicting outputs. The conflict rules as illustrated in the example are presented mathematically as below.

Rule 1 : If X1 is $X1,i(x_1)$ and X2 is $X2,j(x_2)$ then Z is $C_{i,j}$

Rule 2 : If X1 is $X1,i(x_1)$ and X2 is $X2,j+1(x_2)$ then Z is $C_{i,j+1}$

Rule 3 : If X1 is $X1,i+1(x_1)$ and X2 is $X2,j(x_2)$ then Z is $C_{i+1,j}$ and

Rule 4 : If X1 is $X1,i+1(x_1)$ and X2 is $X2,j+1(x_2)$ then Z is $C_{i+1,j+1}$ (2)

In the equation (2), the then part of each rule is called the strength of the rule and the strength is denoted as ' α '. The strengths α_{ij} of the rules are obtained using the fuzzy rule conjunction [S.Parasuraman V.Ganapathy, Bijan Shirinzadeh,(2006)] and given in the Table 4 and equation (3).

Inputs		Sensor X2 (S3)		
Sensor X1 (S4)	Membership/Output	$\mu_{(X2,j-1(x_2))}$	$\mu_{(X2,j(x_2))}$	$\mu_{(X2,j+1(x_2))}$
	$\mu_{(X1,i-1(x_1))}$	0	0	0
	$\mu_{(X1,i(x_1))}$	α_{ij}	$\alpha_{i,j+1}$	0
	$\mu_{(X1,i+1(x_1))}$	$\alpha_{i+1,j}$	$\alpha_{i+1,j+1}$	0

Table 4. Active Rule

Where

$$\alpha_{ij} = \mu_{X1,i}(x_1) \wedge \mu_{X2,j}(x_2) = \min(\mu_{X1,i}(x_1), \mu_{X2,j}(x_2)),$$

$$\alpha_{i,j+1} = \mu_{X1,i}(x_1) \wedge \mu_{X2,j+1}(x_2) = \min(\mu_{X1,i}(x_1), \mu_{X2,j+1}(x_2)),$$

$$\alpha_{i+1,j} = \mu_{X1,i+1}(x_1) \wedge \mu_{X2,j}(x_2) = \min(\mu_{X1,i+1}(x_1), \mu_{X2,j}(x_2)), \text{ and}$$

$$\alpha_{i+1,j+1} = \mu_{X1,i+1}(x_1) \wedge \mu_{X2,j+1}(x_2) = \min(\mu_{X1,i+1}(x_1), \mu_{X2,j+1}(x_2)) \quad (3)$$

The numbers α_{ij} , α_{ij+1} , $\alpha_{i+1,j}$ and $\alpha_{i+1,j+1}$ are called rule strengths, and are shown in Table.4. Table 4 is similar to Table 3 with the difference that the active cells in Table 4 are the numbers expressing the strength of the rules while the same cells in Table 3 are occupied by fuzzy output. Control output (CO) of each rule is defined by operation conjunction applied,

based on the strength of the rules (number expressing the strength) and the fuzzy output and are given as below. This is equivalent to performing max operation on the corresponding elements in the active cells and are shown in the Table 5

Inputs		Sensor X2 (S3)		
Sensor X1 (S4)	Membership/Output	$\mu_{(X2,j-1(x_2))}$	$\mu_{(X2,j(x_2))}$	$\mu_{(X2,j+1(x_2))}$
	$\mu_{(X1,i-1(x_1))}$	0	0	0
	$\mu_{(X1,i(x_1))}$	$\alpha_{ij} \vee \mu_{Cij}(Z)$	$\alpha_{i,j+1} \vee \mu_{Ci,j+1}(Z)$	0
	$\mu_{(X1,i+1(x_1))}$	$\alpha_{i+1,j} \vee \mu_{Ci+1,j}(Z)$	$\alpha_{i+1,j} \vee \mu_{Ci+1,j}(Z)$	0

Table 5. Control output rules

$$\text{CO rule 1 : } \alpha_{ij} \vee \mu_{Cij}(Z) = \max(\alpha_{ij}, \mu_{Cij}(Z)),$$

$$\text{CO rule 2 : } \alpha_{i,j+1} \vee \mu_{Ci,j+1}(Z) = \max(\alpha_{i,j+1}, \mu_{Ci,j+1}(Z)),$$

$$\text{CO rule 3 : } \alpha_{i+1,j} \vee \mu_{Ci+1,j}(Z) = \max(\alpha_{i+1,j}, \mu_{Ci+1,j}(Z)) \text{ and}$$

$$\text{CO rule 4 : } \alpha_{i+1,j} \vee \mu_{Ci+1,j}(Z) = \max(\alpha_{i+1,j}, \mu_{Ci+1,j}(Z)) \tag{4}$$

The output of four rules, located in the active cells in Table 5, have to be combined or aggregated in order to produce one control output with membership function $\mu_{agg}(Z)$ as shown below.

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{agg}(Z) &= (\alpha_{ij} \vee \mu_{Cij}(Z)) \wedge (\alpha_{i,j+1} \vee \mu_{Ci,j+1}(Z)) \wedge (\alpha_{i+1,j} \vee \mu_{Ci+1,j}(Z)) \\ &\wedge (\alpha_{i+1,j+1} \vee \mu_{Ci+1,j+1}(Z)) \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

The \vee (max) operation is performed on a number and a membership function of an output fuzzy set. Number of linguistic fuzzy set on each sensor input $i = j$. In this context, the real number α and the output membership function $\mu_C(Z)$ can be obtained as shown below. A max operation is performed on a number and a membership function of the output fuzzy sets.

$$\mu_{\alpha} \wedge \mu_C(Z) = \max(\mu_{\alpha}(Z), \mu_C(Z)) \tag{6}$$

The final i th output of the fired rule $\mu'_{Ci}(Z)$ is expressed as

$$\mu'_{Ci}(Z) = \max(\mu_{\alpha_i}(Z), \mu_{Ci}(Z)) \tag{7}$$

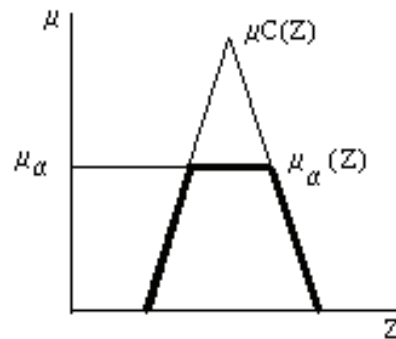


Fig. 3. Output membership using alpha level threshold

where $\mu_{\alpha_i}(Z) = \{Z, Z \in U, \text{ and } \alpha_i \leq Z \leq \alpha_{i+1}\}$, $\alpha \in [0,1]$ and $\mu_{Ci}(Z)$ is the i th output membership function based on normal environmental context.

$$\mu_{Ci}(Z) = \max(\min((X_{1i+1}) \circ (X_{1i} \rightarrow Z_i)), ((X_{1i+1}) \circ (X_{1i} \text{ and } X_{2i} \rightarrow Z_i)), ((X_{2i+1}) \circ (X_{2i} \rightarrow Z_i)), (X_{2i+1}) \circ (X_{1i} \text{ and } X_{2i} \rightarrow Z_i)).$$

3.1 Implementation of ALFLS

The programming procedures are provided in the flow chart shown in Figure 4. In the proposed ALFLS method, a control rule is activated, when the measurement of the obstacle distance exactly matches the rule conditional part ('if' part of the rule). Each conditional part of the rule is formulated using the alpha interval fuzzy sets. The final decision made is based on the corresponding action part ('then' part of the rule) of the matched rule. In order to match the input data of the sensor with the ALFLS rules, the following control procedures are formulated and adapted for the experiments.

The programming procedures are provided in the flow charts shown in Figure 2.

- i. Consider the first rule, $i = 1$. Initialize $\mu_{Co}(Z) = 0$.
- ii. For i th rule, read the membership value of each of the variables in the antecedent part as per the equation 3.
- iii. Take the minimum value of step 2, then find the output membership value using the equation 3.
- iv. If $i = \text{final rule}$, set $\mu_{C'}(Z) = \mu_{Ci}(Z)$ then stop. Otherwise set $i = i+1$ and go to step2.

4. Experimental investigations

The 3-alpha Intervals: In order to illustrate the capability and performance of ALFLS techniques, the experimental studies are carried out as follows. Firstly, the obstacle distances of the environment from the robot represented by 'Small' fuzzy set are well defined by dividing the corresponding distance ranges into three intervals and referred to as 3-alpha intervals. The navigation rules are established using the three alpha intervals and experimental studies are carried out. Secondly, in order to demonstrate the variations of the performance of the ALFLS techniques, the experimental studies are repeated using two intervals of the 'small' fuzzy set and are referred to as 2-alpha intervals.

The real world environment consists of real obstacles such as blocks, walls, and curved walls etc., which are situated in an unstructured manner as shown in Figure 5. The experiments were repeated several times in the same environment with the same starting and the target positions and for different alpha intervals.

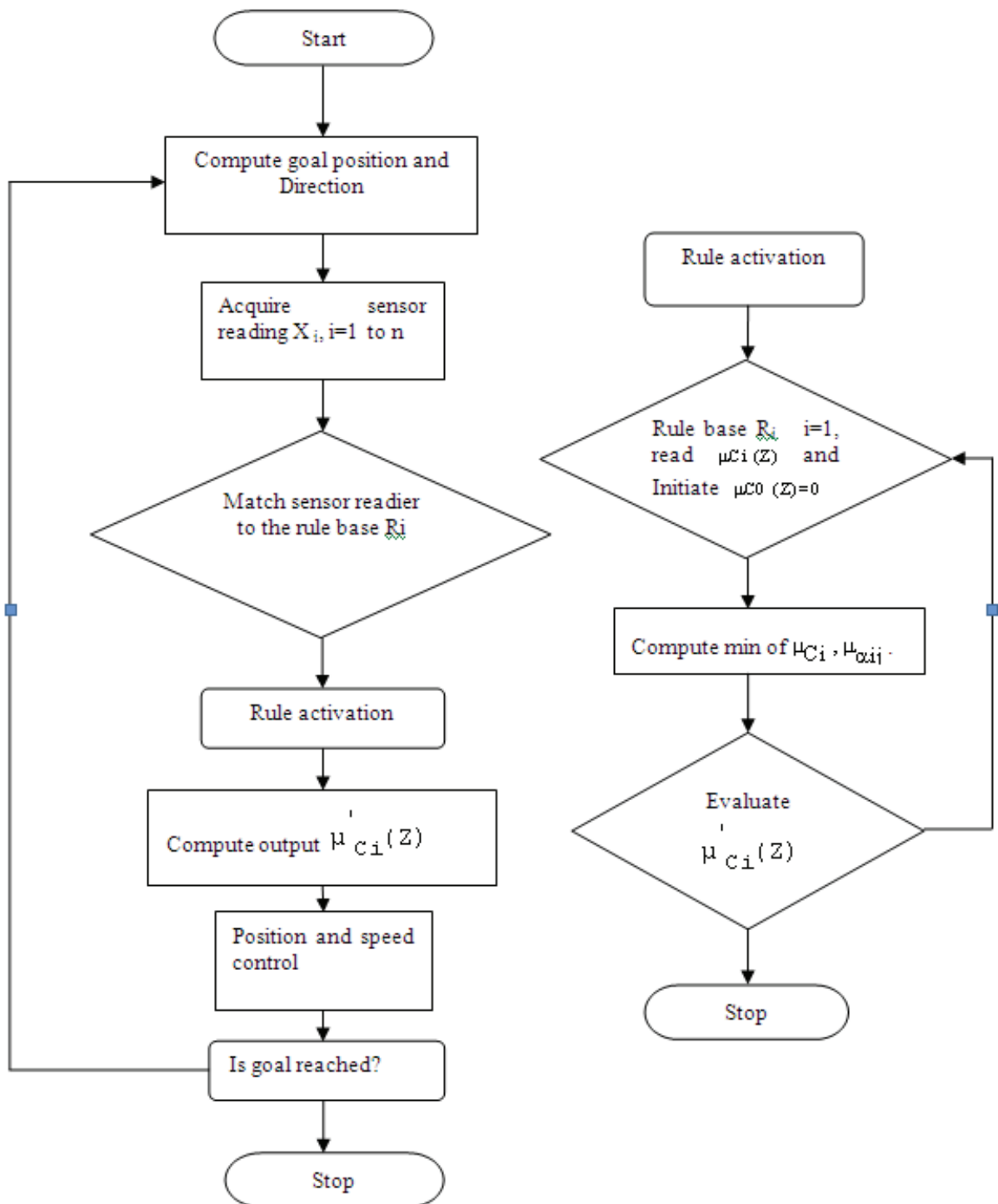


Fig. 4. Flow charts showing the procedures of the program

The behavior rules obtained from ALFLS are fed into the robot control system and the experimental results are obtained and evaluated to show the performance of the proposed methodology. It is observed from the experiment that the robot moves through the optimized path and deviates from the encountered obstacles and reaches the target. The results of the experiments are shown in the graph and given in Figures 6 and 7. These Figures are the graphs showing cycle time plotted against the obstacle distances from

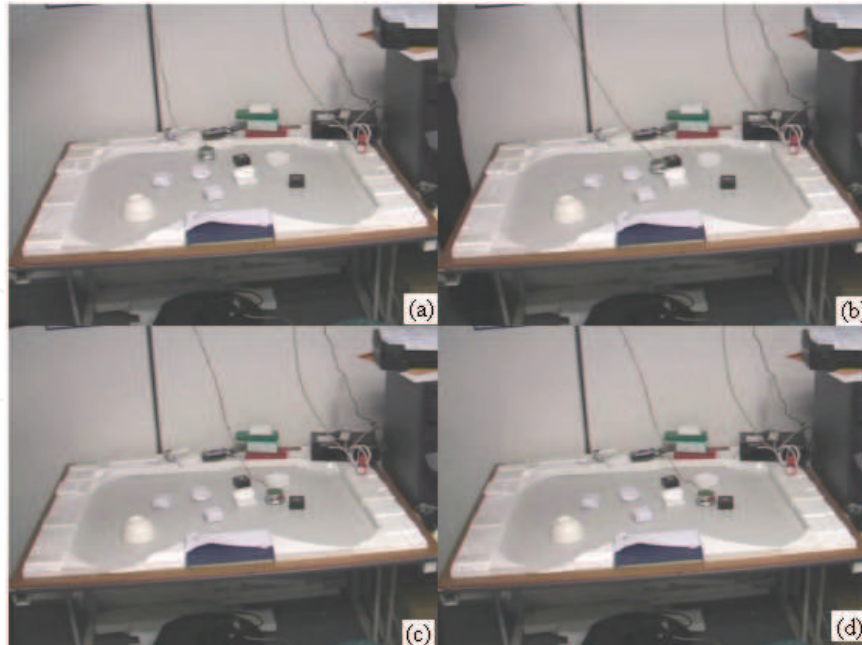


Fig. 5(a)-(d). Real world experiments using Khepera II to validate the ALFLS.

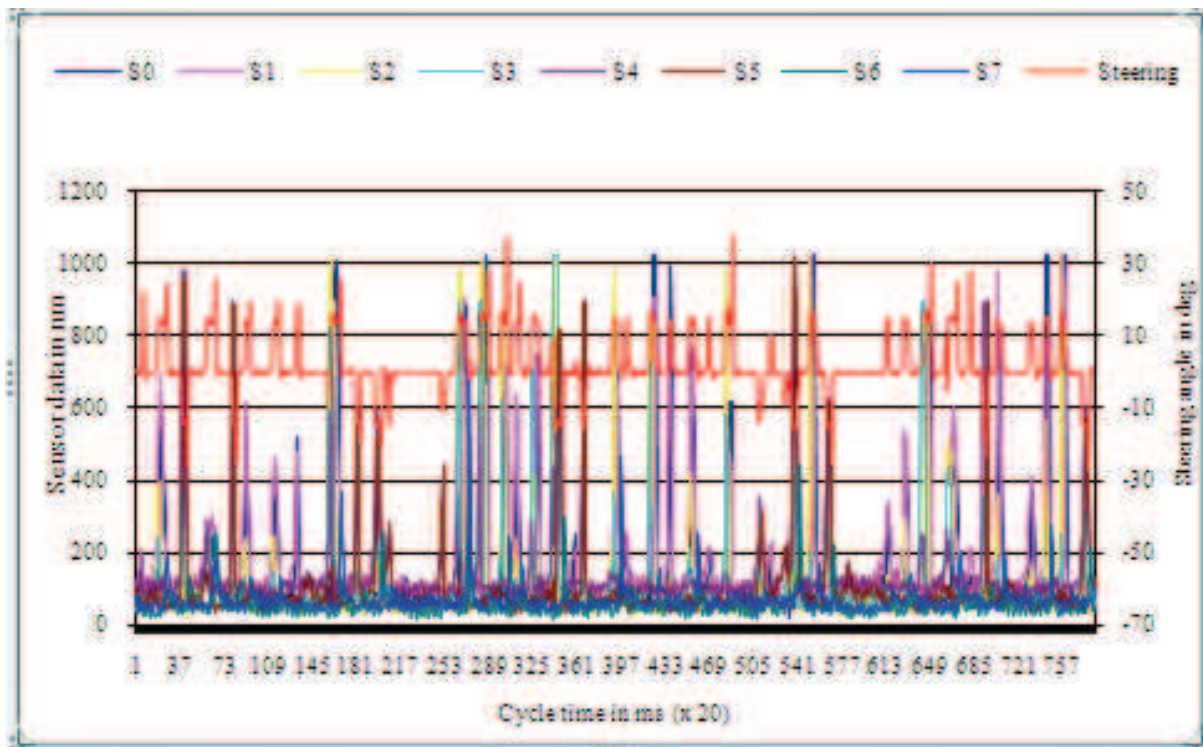


Fig. 6. Graph showing the cycle time plotted against the sensor readings in mm sensors S0 to S7 and steering angle. The final path travel is computed from the total control cycle time and the speed of the robot, which kept as same value in all experiments. The near optimal path is achieved by behaviour rule selection using the 3- α fuzzy intervals when more than one behaviour rules of the same kind is present in the environment during navigation. A small portion (period around 280×20 ms, 300×20 ms and 345×20 ms) of the output results of Figure 6 are enlarged and shown in Figure 7.

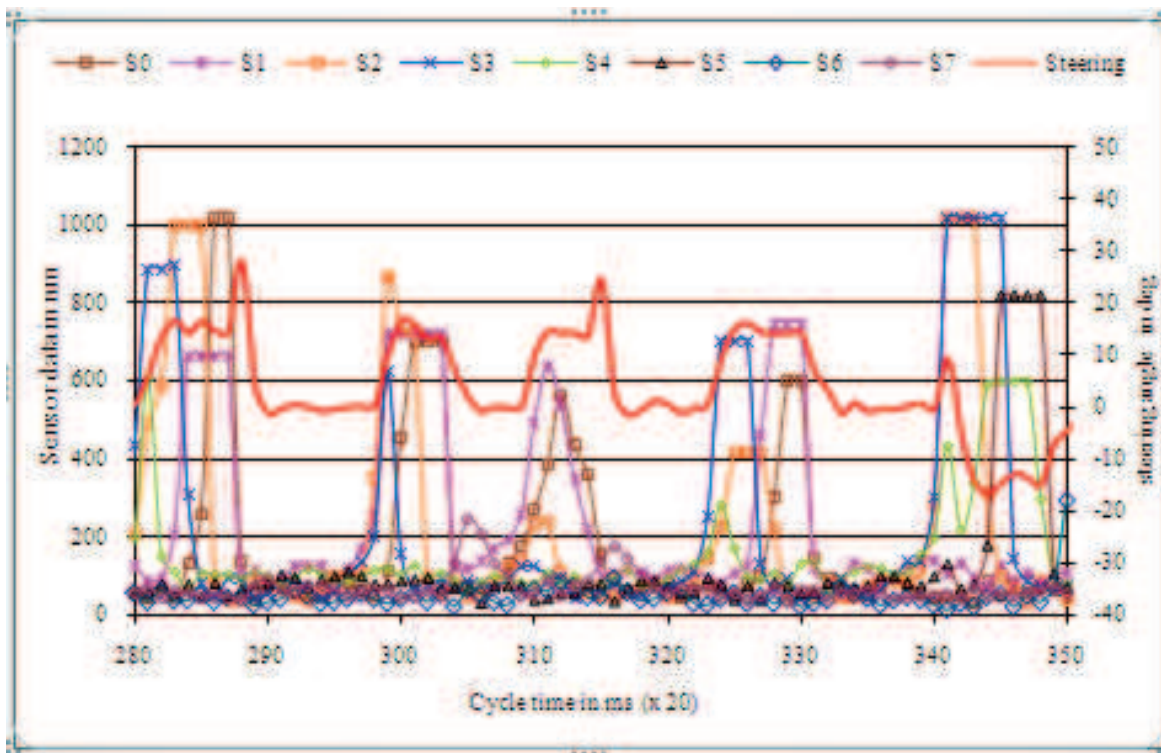


Fig. 7. Graph showing the enlarged section of Figure 6 between cycle times 280 to 350 \times 20 ms plotted against obstacle distances.

As illustrated in Figure 7, the sensor reading shows the obstacles which have appeared at various distances. As defined in ALFLS, these obstacle distances are partitioned as alpha level and the corresponding rule predicates maximizes the truth value for particular rule to be fired in the conflicting situation. As a result of ALFLS (3 alpha intervals), the robot deviates from the encountered obstacles with the turn angles deviations from +30 to -20 deg for the entire control cycle. This is illustrated in the enlarged portion of the graph in Figure 6. From the above experiment, it has been observed that due to the 3- alpha intervals used in establishing behaviour rules, the robot deviates from obstacles (as perceived by sensors) in close vicinity and navigate towards the target. The navigation path deviations are as close to as ± 30 degrees. As a result of the close deviation, the time taken that the robot reaches the target is faster with optimum path when multiple obstacles are present close to the robot.

The significant variations of the results of ALFLS methodology are illustrated by changing the alpha intervals to two ranges (2-alpha intervals) and are discussed in this section. The experiments have been conducted similar to the above method without changing the environment. The range of the input fuzzy set small is changed into two intervals and the corresponding navigations rules are established and tested with experiments. The navigation path in this experiment is shown by a series of Figures 8 from (a) to (f). The experimental results are discussed and shown in Figure 9 and the enlarged portion of Figure 9 is given in Figure 10. It can be seen from the graph shown in Figure 10, that the robot deviations due to the encountered obstacles are more than the deviations illustrated in the 3-alpha intervals while the robot moved towards the target. The robot turn angle deviations are ± 70 degrees for the similar obstacle environment as done in 3-alpha intervals. Due to

the larger turn angle from encountered obstacles, the navigation path of the robot is longer to reach the target.

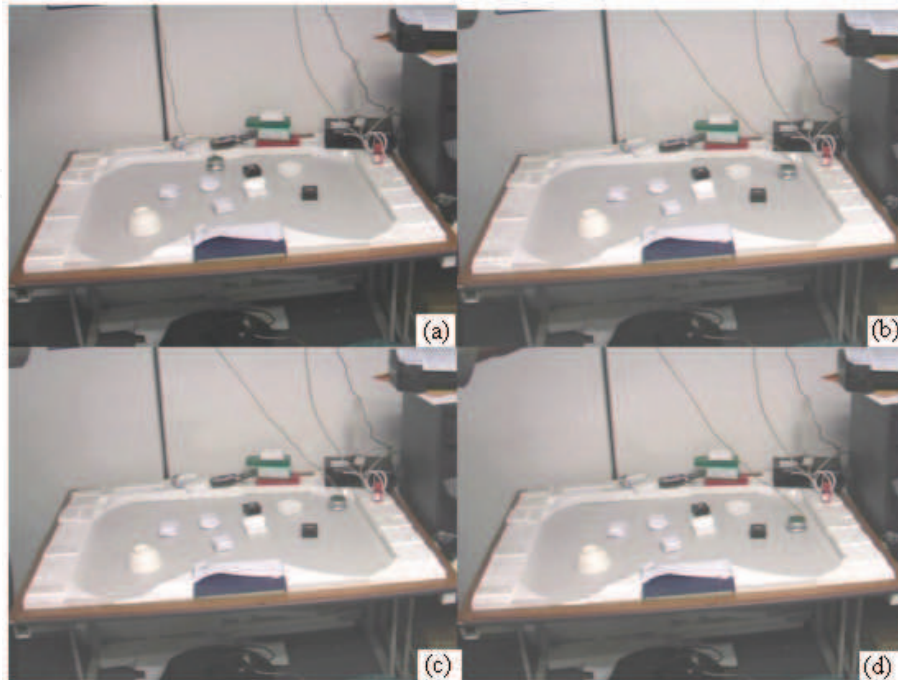


Fig. 8. (a) -(d): Real world experiments using Khepera II to validate the ALFLS by means of 2-alpha intervals.

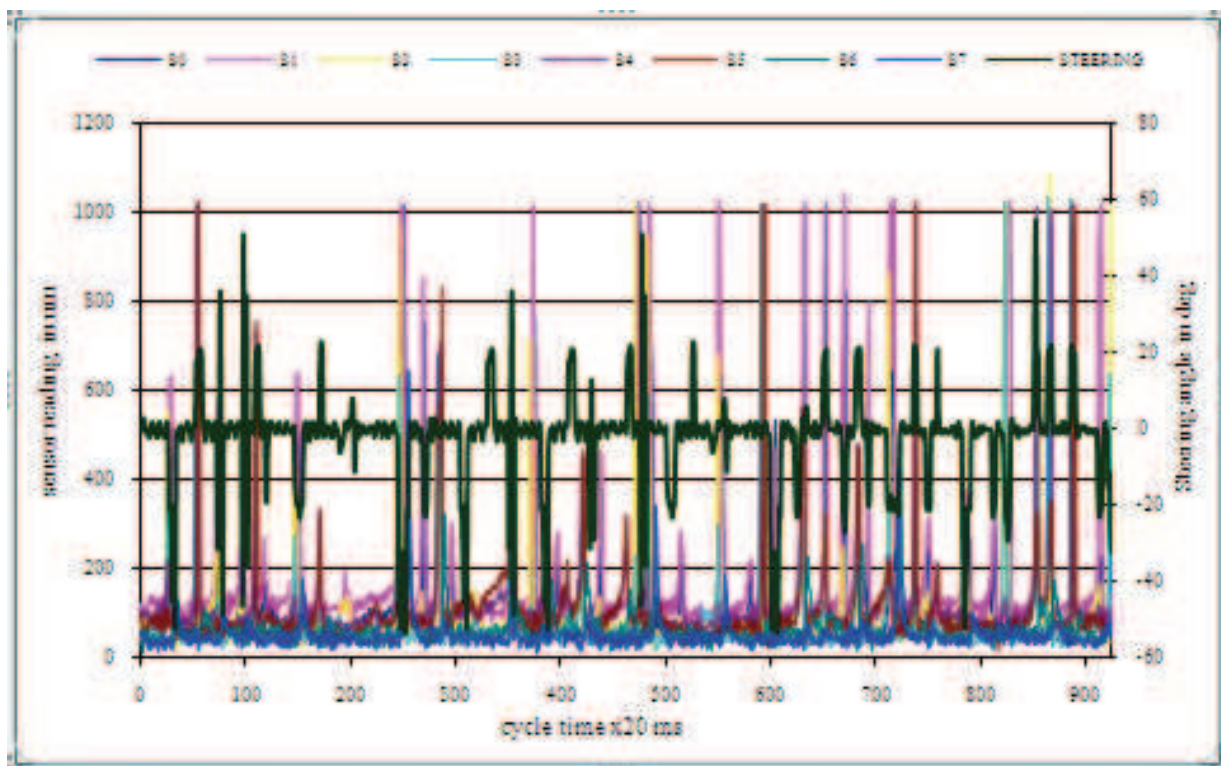


Fig. 9. Plot showing the cycle time drawn against the sensor readings in mm.

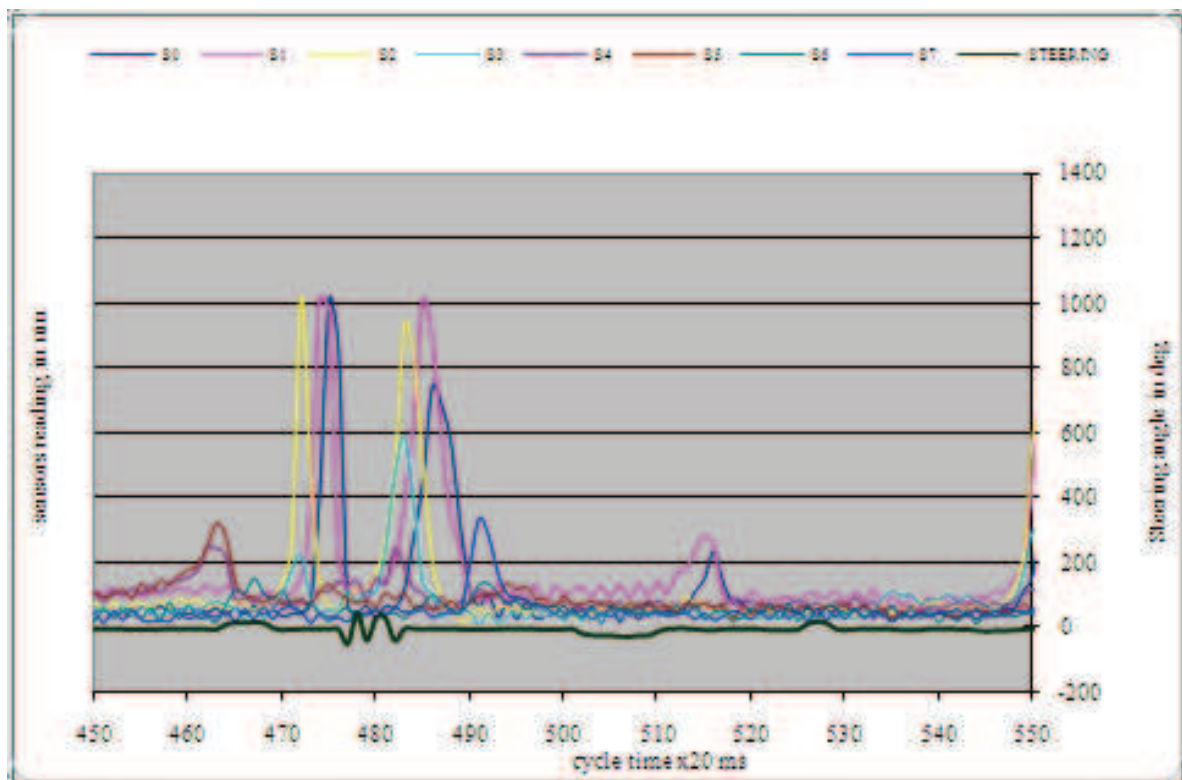


Fig. 10. Plot showing the enlarged section of Figure 9 between cycle times 400 to 650 x 20 ms plotted against obstacle distances.

5. Results and discussions

The effectiveness of ALFLS is demonstrated using the real world experimental results of Khepera II. The comparative results of obstacle deviations from 3 and 2 alpha intervals are shown against the control cycle time in Figure 11. As observed from the graph, the navigation path deviations are as close to ± 30 degrees while using 3 alpha intervals and ± 70 degrees while using the 2-alpha intervals navigation rules. As a result of wider deviation using 2-alpha fuzzy set, the robot takes a longer path to reach the target. It can be found from the experiments that the robot reached the target with an optimum path using minimum deviation from obstacles while using navigation rules obtained from 3-alpha intervals as established in ALFLS. The effectiveness of ALFLS is demonstrated and found that the navigation rules obtained from 3-alpha intervals have shown significant improvements during navigation.

The existing Fuzzy logic approaches used larger interval of input, output fuzzy sets, and build the navigation rules. Due to the larger intervals, the robot turns over wider angle and avoided obstacles during navigation. Some times this also affects the behavior selection, when more than one obstacles are present at the same intervals with two different distances closer to the robot. In this situation the proposed ALFLS is more suitable to map the sensor's

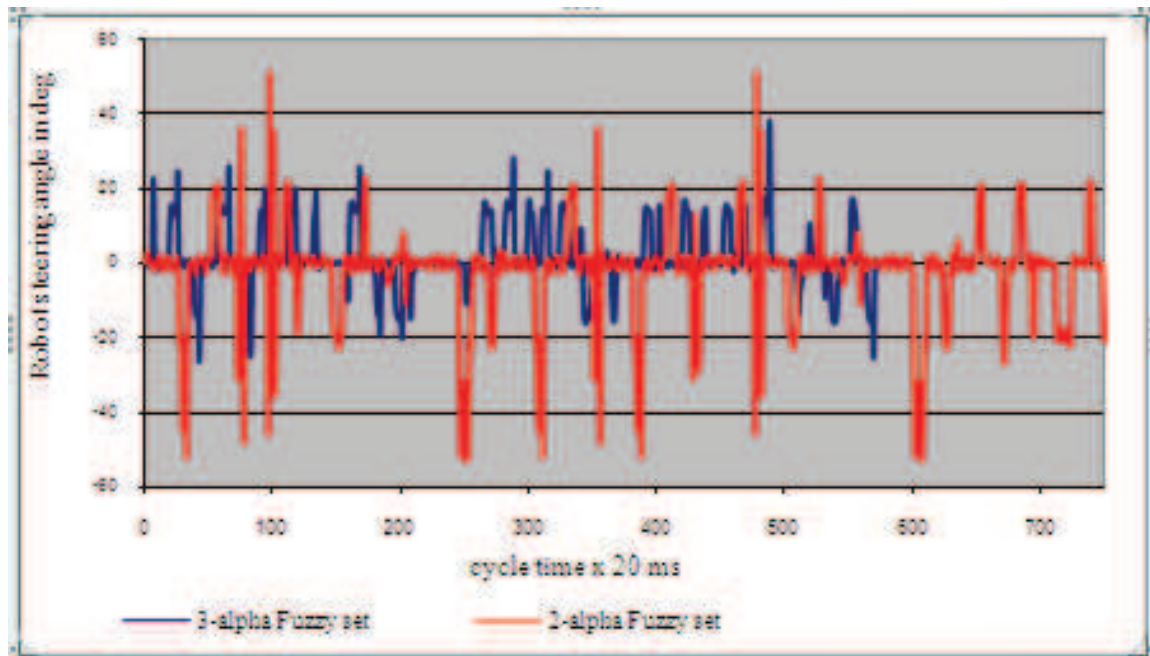


Fig. 11. Graph showing the cycle time plotted against robot steering angle for 3-alpha fuzzy outputs and 2-alpha fuzzy outputs

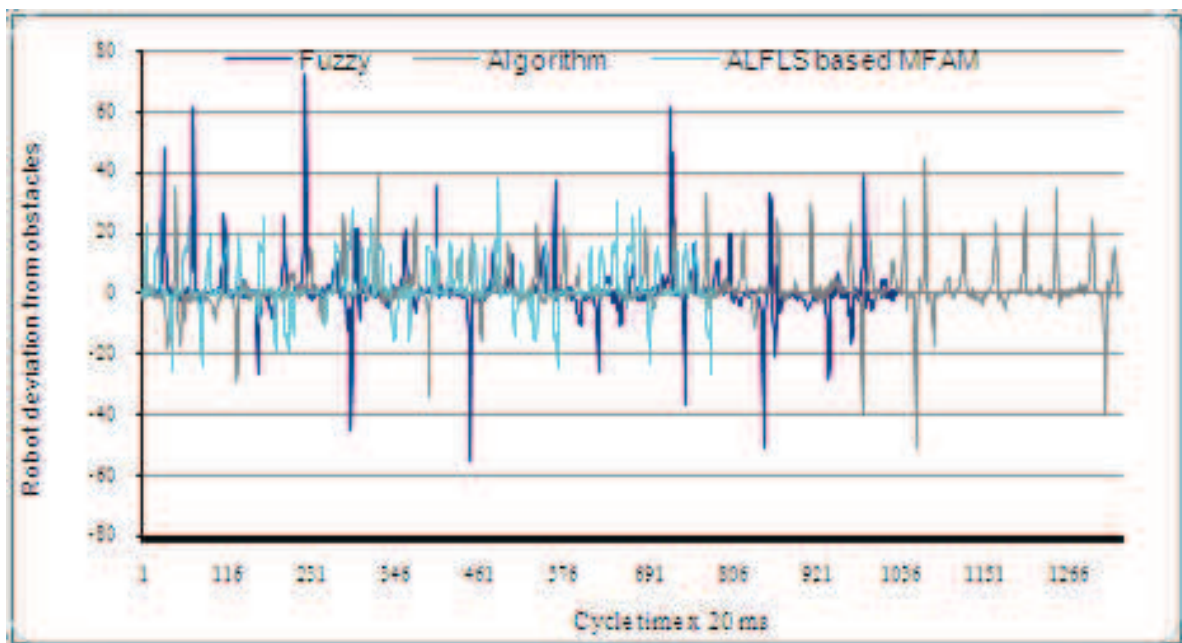


Fig. 12. Comparison of the proposed ALFLS based MFAM with the existing methodologies Mathematical model, Fuzzy logic and Algorithm based approaches.

inputs and behavior rule selection. The graph shown in Figure 12 shows significant improvements using ALFLS than the existing fuzzy logic approaches for mobile robot navigation.

7. Conclusion

The experimental study was conducted to investigate the proposed ALFLS methodology for mobile robot navigation using Khepera II mobile robot. The Experimental investigations show that the proposed formulation reduces the complexity of building the navigation system in a complex environment. The proposed methodology demonstrated improved performance of mobile robot navigation in terms of (i) behaviour rule selection without conflicting (ii) smaller time taken of the robot to reach the target and (iii) the distance traveled to reach the target position, which is shorter compared to the other accepted methods

8. References

- Saffiotti A, and Leblanc K (2000). "Active PERCEPTUAL anchoring of Robot Behavior in a Dynamic Environment" Proceedings of the IEEE Int. Conf. On Robotics and Automation (ICRA-2000) San Francisco, CA.
- Mackenzie D.C, Arkin R.C, and Cameron J.M (1997), "specification and Execution of Multiagent Missions" *Autonomous Robots* 4 (1), pg. 29-57.
- Pattie Maes (1991) "A Bottom-Up Mechanism for Behavior Selection in an Artificial Creature," *From Animals to Animats*, MIT Press.
- Kurt Konolige, Karen Meyers, and Alessandro Saffiotti (1992), "FLAKEY, an Autonomous Mobile Robot," technical document, Stanford Research Institute International.
- Song K.Y. and Tai J. C (1992), "Fuzzy Navigation of a Mobile Robot," Proceedings of IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems, Raleigh, North Carolina.
- Pin F.G(1992) "Using Custom-Designed VLSI Fuzzy Inferencing Chips for the Autonomous Navigation of a Mobile Robot" Proceedings of IEEE/RSJ Intl. Conf. on Intel. Robots and Systems, North Carolina.
- Arbib M. A (1992) "Schema Theory" in the *Encyclopedia of Artificial Intelligence* 2nd ed. Wiley-Interscience, pg 1427-43, New York.
- Arkin R. C (1989). "Motor Schema Based Mobile Robot Navigation" *international Journal of Robotics Research*, pg. 92-112, vol 18.
- Arkin R. C.. and D. Mackenzie(1994), "Temporal Coordination of Perceptual Algorithms for Mobile Robot Navigation", *IEEE Transactions on Robotics and Automation*, vol 10, No. 3, pg 276-286.
- Petru Rusu, Thom E. Whalen, Aurel Cornell and HansJ.W Spoelder (2003) "Behavior based Neuro-Fuzzy Controller for Mobile Robot Navigation *IEEE Transaction on Instrumentation and measurement*", vol. 52, No. 4.
- C.T. Lin and C.S.G. Lee (1991)"Neural network based fuzzy logic control and decision systems," *IEEE Transaction on Computations*. vol 40, pg 120-1336.

S.Parasuraman V.Ganapathy, Bijan Shirinzadeh,(2006).“Behavior rule selection using α -level FIS for mobile robot navigation during multiple rule conflicts in the complex environments” Inderscience, International Journal of Automation and Control (IJAAC), pg.342-361, vol1, No.4.

IntechOpen

IntechOpen



Evolutionary Computation

Edited by Wellington Pinheiro dos Santos

ISBN 978-953-307-008-7

Hard cover, 572 pages

Publisher InTech

Published online 01, October, 2009

Published in print edition October, 2009

This book presents several recent advances on Evolutionary Computation, specially evolution-based optimization methods and hybrid algorithms for several applications, from optimization and learning to pattern recognition and bioinformatics. This book also presents new algorithms based on several analogies and metafores, where one of them is based on philosophy, specifically on the philosophy of praxis and dialectics. In this book it is also presented interesting applications on bioinformatics, specially the use of particle swarms to discover gene expression patterns in DNA microarrays. Therefore, this book features representative work on the field of evolutionary computation and applied sciences. The intended audience is graduate, undergraduate, researchers, and anyone who wishes to become familiar with the latest research work on this field.

How to reference

In order to correctly reference this scholarly work, feel free to copy and paste the following:

S.Parasuraman, Bijan Shirinzadeh and Velappa Ganapathy (2009). Mobile Robot Navigation Using Alpha Level Fuzzy Logic System: Experimental Investigations, Evolutionary Computation, Wellington Pinheiro dos Santos (Ed.), ISBN: 978-953-307-008-7, InTech, Available from:

<http://www.intechopen.com/books/evolutionary-computation/mobile-robot-navigation-using-alpha-level-fuzzy-logic-system-experimental-investigations>

INTECH
open science | open minds

InTech Europe

University Campus STeP Ri
Slavka Krautzeka 83/A
51000 Rijeka, Croatia
Phone: +385 (51) 770 447
Fax: +385 (51) 686 166
www.intechopen.com

InTech China

Unit 405, Office Block, Hotel Equatorial Shanghai
No.65, Yan An Road (West), Shanghai, 200040, China
中国上海市延安西路65号上海国际贵都大饭店办公楼405单元
Phone: +86-21-62489820
Fax: +86-21-62489821

© 2009 The Author(s). Licensee IntechOpen. This chapter is distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike-3.0 License](#), which permits use, distribution and reproduction for non-commercial purposes, provided the original is properly cited and derivative works building on this content are distributed under the same license.

IntechOpen

IntechOpen