TRACING THE WAY

Accurate and Scalable Indoor Positioning for Smartphones Journées Scientifiques URSI 2014 Jean-Baptiste Prost

Why indoor positioning



Requirements for a commercial Indoor Positioning System

Performances

- High accuracy
- 3 dimensional •
- High reactivity





Compatibility and versatility

- Different environments
- Different devices adapt to existing mass market devices
- Work when the network is overloaded (exhibition centers) or non available (underground car parks)

Affordable

- Low cost of material
- Low cost of deployment
- Low cost of maintenance
- Reuse existing infrastructure as far as ۲ possible





Scalability

- As independent as possible from the infrastructure / lowest constraints
- Fast & easy to deploy
- Low support

Our answer: NAO Campus

Device centric algorithm for high performances

- High reactivity and accuracy X
- Independent from network connection X
- X Device calibration independent
- \$ Multi-sensors fusion engine for flexibility
 - Target best accuracy using all available information X
 - Reduces constraints on infrastructure (density..) X
 - Adaptability to various environments and devices X

- Fingerprinting based technology for affordability
 - Can use signals of opportunity X
 - X Does not require any specific infrastructure
 - Use of low cost BLE beacons if needed X
- Easy deployment and maintenance tools for scalability
 - NAO Cloud: online platform to deploy NAO Campus X in a fast & easy way
 - Automated tools for limited support X
 - Moving to a self-learning technology X Remote server



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beacons

High precision with low infrastructure: hybrid fusion engine

Generic fusion framework

- Uses the most of sensors available on every device for best accuracy
- Automatically adapts to the environment or to the device model
- Motion sensors and map data improve accuracy when Wi-Fi or BLE density is low
- Motion sensors + map can even deliver accurate positioning after a few steps even if no Wi-Fi/BLE signals are available
- Can easily integrate new sensors
- From a technical point of view
 - Proprietary Bayesian algorithm
 - RF measurements (Received Signal Strength) enable to compute first location fixes, then continuously refine them
 - Inertial measurements propagate current location fixes with a map based motionmodel, whatever the phone attitude





Scalability: making setup easy with NAO Cloud



Scalability with Blind Crowd Sourcing: self-learning technology

Fingerprinting by users without interaction with them

- Traditional location technologies require field staff for their setup and maintenance
- Crowd sourcing technology enables to setup and maintain our NAO Campus location service with no field staff



Inside Blind Crowd Sourcing



Indicators about measurements use rate

- Designed for receiving a lot of input data
- It is to take the most out of each measurement

Scalable implementation

- Computation time linear with the amount of data
- Independent from loop closure

Database generation in real-time

- 🛛 Quality of Service indicator
- All the computations are automatically started as a new measurement is available
- 🛛 Resulting database available immediately

Iterative algorithm

- The positioning is enabled even if the full site is not covered
- New measurements can be added to an existing database

Newpark Mall Statistics

Coverage : 53% | Number of devices : 3 | PDB generation : 4 min



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About Pole Star

Background	 Founded in 2002; 17 FTE (13 in Toulouse, France and 4 in Palo Alto, US) Management and employees own 42.6%
Offering	 NAO Campus: Flagship indoor positioning offering NAO Micro: Proximity detection offering (to be released by end of March 14)
Technology	 Hybrid positioning technology: innovative Wi-Fi/BLE/GPS/MEMS/map fusion Cloud service platform and advanced blind crowdsourcing technology enabling rapid and scalable deployment
Customers	 More than 6 million sqm. covered in more than 20 countries Schiphol JCDecaux JCD
Revenue	Revenue Model: setup + annual license fee model



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Thanks for your attention



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