



# Influence of uncertainties on ultrasonic localization systems

J-P. Merlet  
COPRIN Project team

INRIA

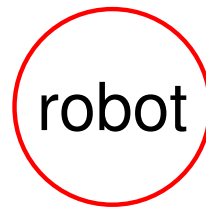
Joint work with ETH Zurich



Problem: localizing a robot which has a sound-emitter  
(single ping)

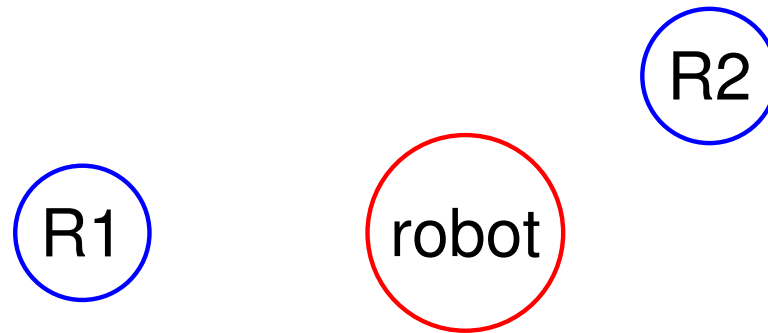


Problem: localizing a robot which has a sound-emitter  
(single ping)



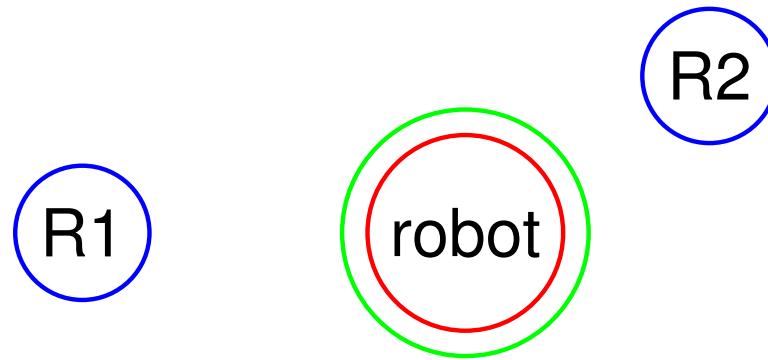


Problem: localizing a robot which has a sound-emitter  
(single ping)



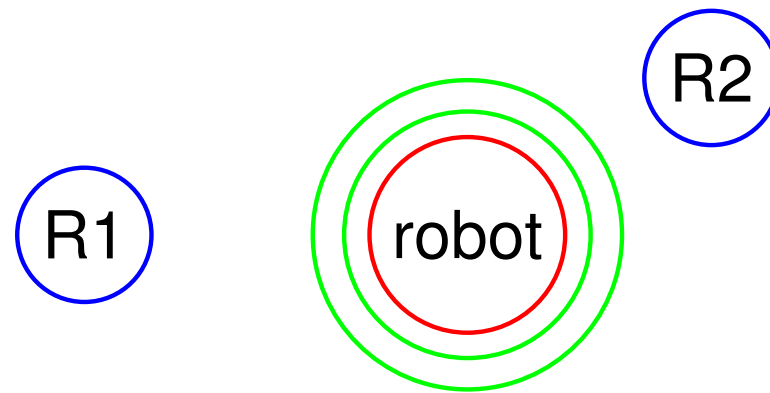


Problem: localizing a robot which has a sound-emitter  
(single ping)



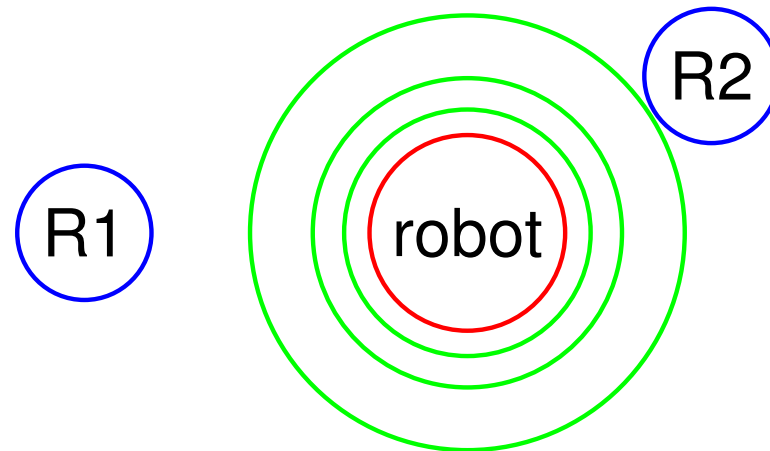


Problem: localizing a robot which has a sound-emitter  
(single ping)





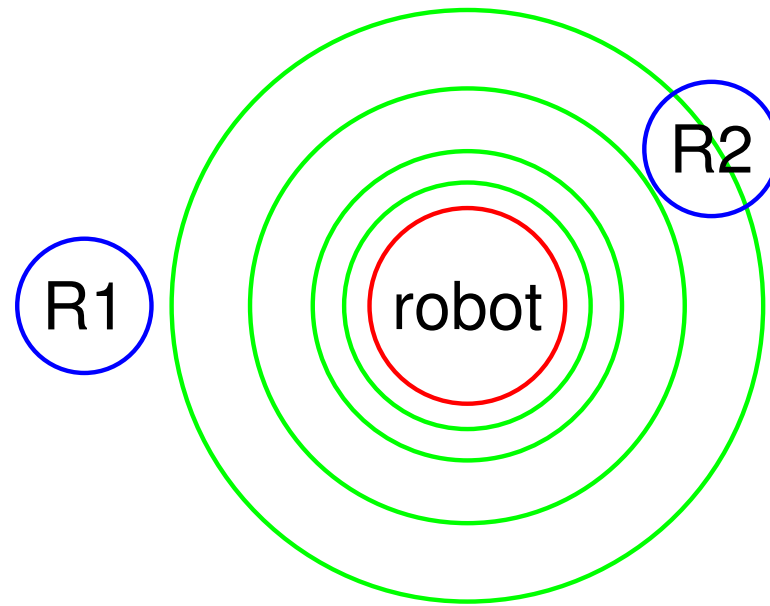
Problem: localizing a robot which has a sound-emitter  
(single ping)



R2 receives the sound signal at time  $t_2$



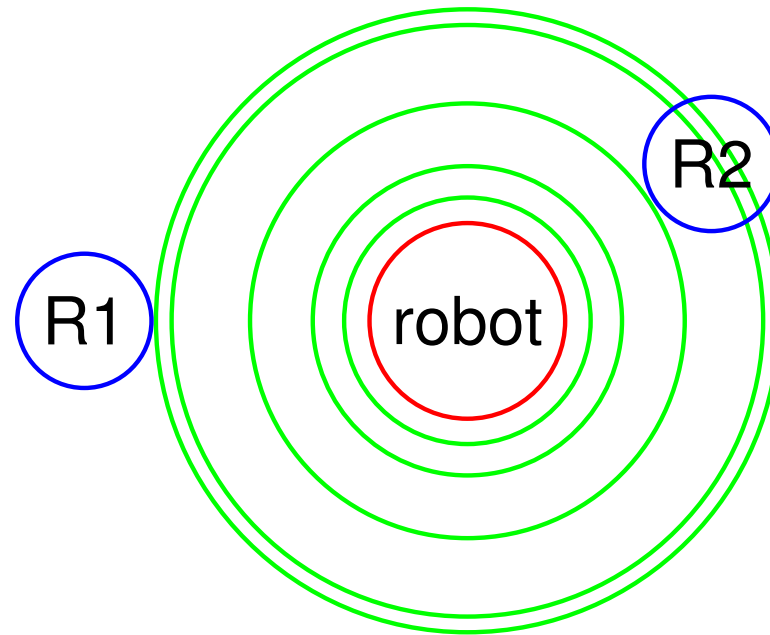
Problem: localizing a robot which has a sound-emitter  
(single ping)



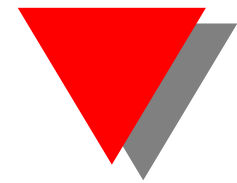




Problem: localizing a robot which has a sound-emitter (single ping)



**R1** receives the sound signal at time  $t_1$



Time Difference Of Arrival (TDOA):  $t_1 - t_2$



Time Difference Of Arrival (TDOA):  $t_1 - t_2$

- $d_i$ : distance between robot and receiver  $R_i$
- $c$ : sound velocity



Time Difference Of Arrival (TDOA):  $t_1 - t_2$

- $d_i$ : distance between robot and receiver  $R_i$
- $c$ : sound velocity

$$TDOA = \frac{d_1 - d_2}{c}$$

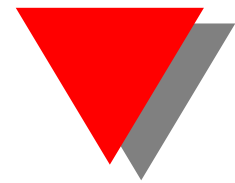


Time Difference Of Arrival (TDOA):  $t_1 - t_2$

- $d_i$ : distance between robot and receiver  $R_i$
- $c$ : sound velocity

$$TDOA = \frac{d_1 - d_2}{c}$$

TDOA is measured, robot location such that  $d_1 - d_2$  has a fixed value



Time Difference Of Arrival (TDOA):  $t_1 - t_2$

- $d_i$ : distance between robot and receiver  $R_i$
- $c$ : sound velocity

$$TDOA = \frac{d_1 - d_2}{c}$$

TDOA is measured, robot location such that  $d_1 - d_2$  has a fixed value

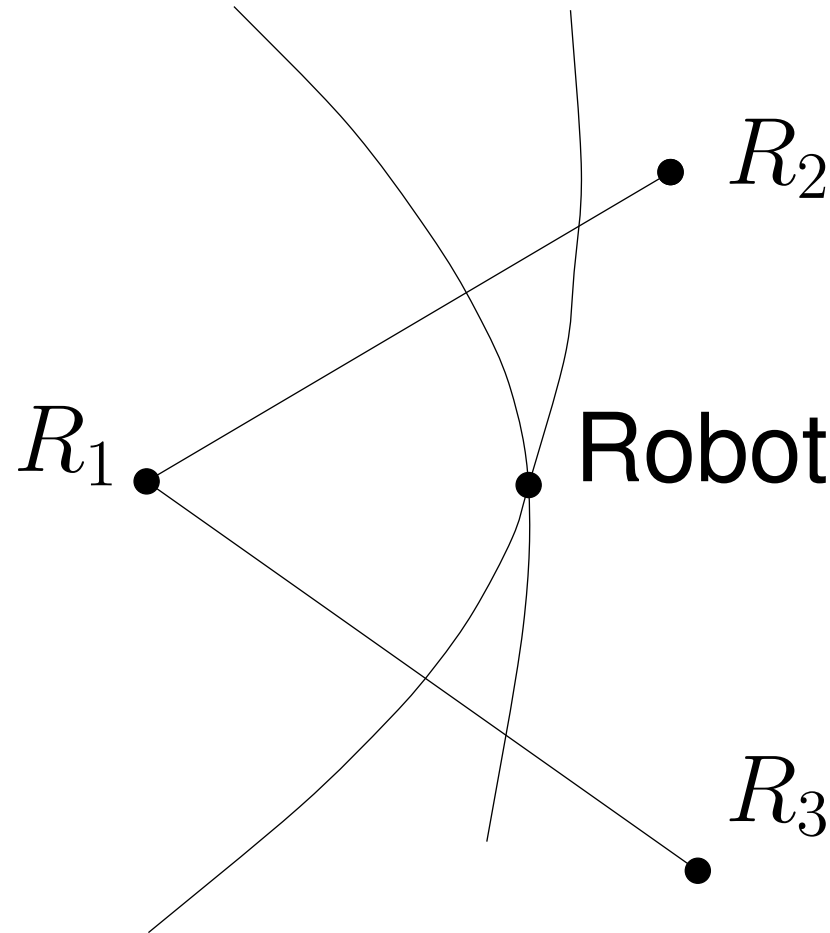
⇒ robot is on a **hyperbola** having  $R_1, R_2$  as focal points



3 receivers: robot is at the intersection of 2 hyperbola



location is, in general, **unique**





# The practice





# The practice

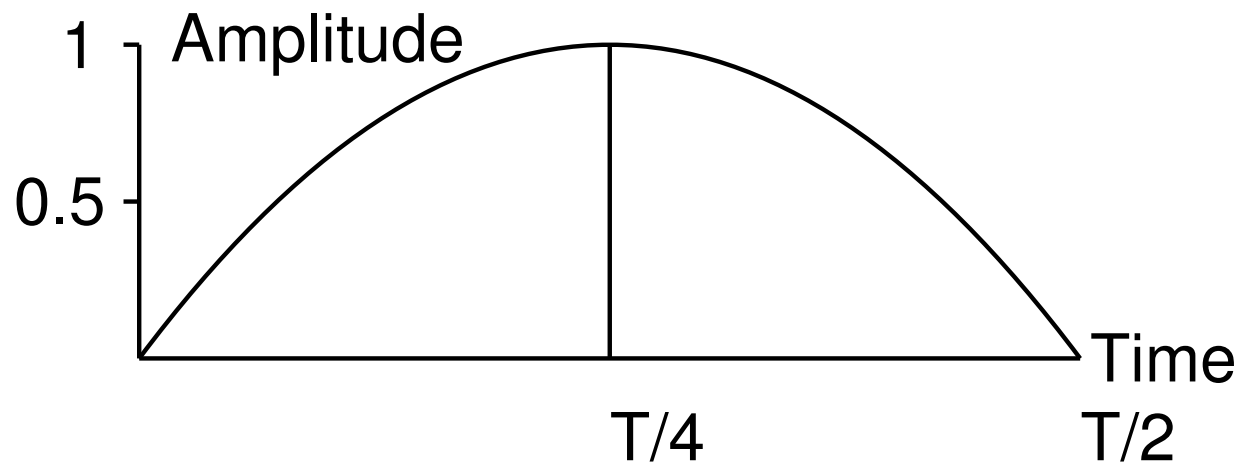
- the sound signal is not a ping





# The practice

- the sound signal is a distribution with frequency  $f$





# The practice

- the sound signal is a distribution with frequency  $f$
- emitter location has a probability distribution



# The practice

- the sound signal is a distribution with frequency  $f$
- emitter location has a probability distribution
- this probability distribution is dependent upon:



# The practice

- the sound signal is a distribution with frequency  $f$
- emitter location has a probability distribution
- this probability distribution is dependent upon:
  - sound velocity  $c$



# The practice

- the sound signal is a distribution with frequency  $f$
- emitter location has a probability distribution
- this probability distribution is dependent upon:
  - sound velocity  $c$
  - TDOA



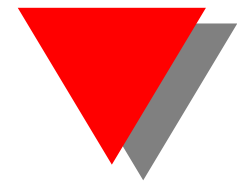
# The practice

- the sound signal is a distribution with frequency  $f$
- emitter location has a probability distribution
- this probability distribution is dependent upon:
  - sound velocity  $c$
  - TDOA
  - ultrasound frequency  $f$



# The probability distribution





# The probability distribution

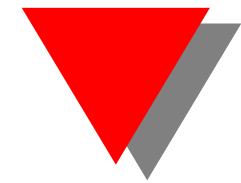
Revert the problem:  $R_i \rightarrow$  emitters, robot  $\rightarrow$  receiver



# The probability distribution

Revert the problem:  $R_i \rightarrow$  emitters, robot  $\rightarrow$  receiver

- compute the TDOA for two emitters



# The probability distribution

Revert the problem:  $R_i \rightarrow$  emitters, robot  $\rightarrow$  receiver

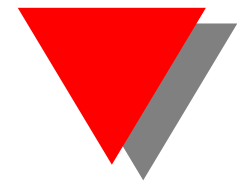
- compute the TDOA for two emitters
- $R_i$  emits waves fronts with TDOA as time shift



# The probability distribution

Revert the problem:  $R_i \rightarrow$  emitters, robot  $\rightarrow$  receiver

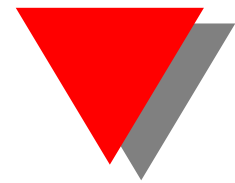
- compute the TDOA for two emitters
- $R_i$  emits waves fronts with TDOA as time shift
- waves front interfere



# The probability distribution

Revert the problem:  $R_i \rightarrow$  emitters, robot  $\rightarrow$  receiver

- compute the TDOA for two emitters
- $R_i$  emits waves fronts with TDOA as time shift
- waves front interfere
- **constructive interference** occurs at real robot location



# The probability distribution

Revert the problem:  $R_i \rightarrow$  emitters, robot  $\rightarrow$  receiver

- compute the TDOA for two emitters
- $R_i$  emits waves fronts with TDOA as time shift
- waves front interfere
- **constructive interference** occurs at real robot location



**larger signal**



# The probability distribution

Revert the problem:  $R_i \rightarrow$  emitters, robot  $\rightarrow$  receiver

- compute the TDOA for two emitters
- $R_i$  emits waves fronts with TDOA as time shift
- waves front interfere
- **constructive interference** occurs at real robot location



**larger signal**

- **detection** if signal is larger than a given threshold

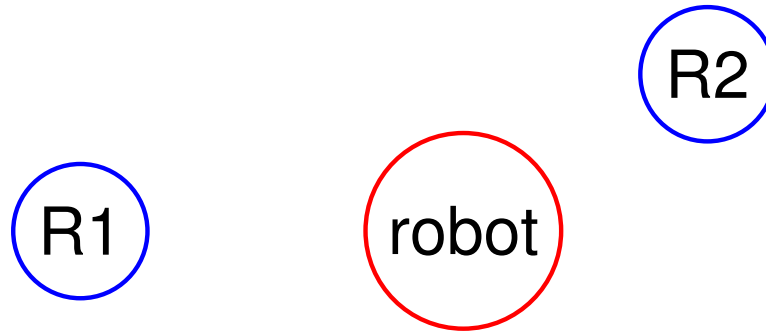


# Computing the signal



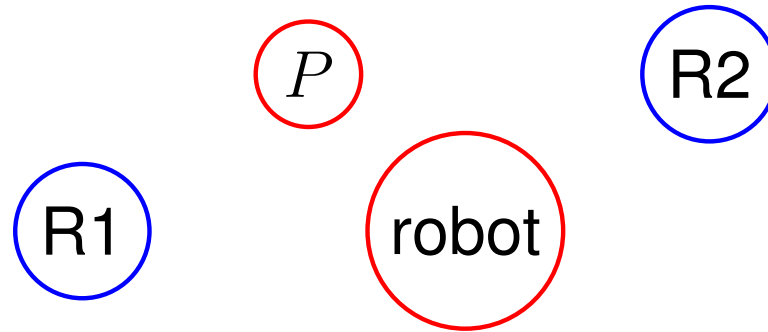


# Computing the signal





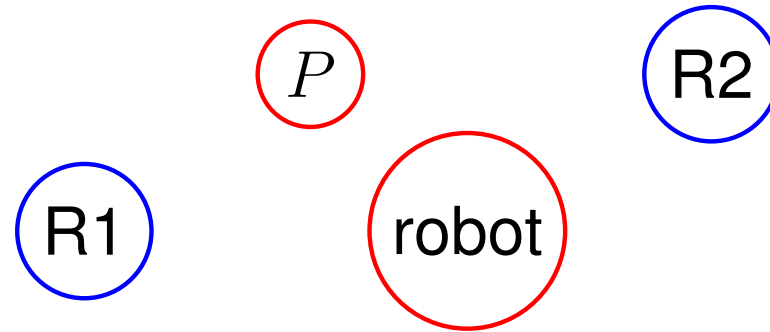
# Computing the signal



$d'_j$ : distance between  $P$  and  $R_j$



# Computing the signal

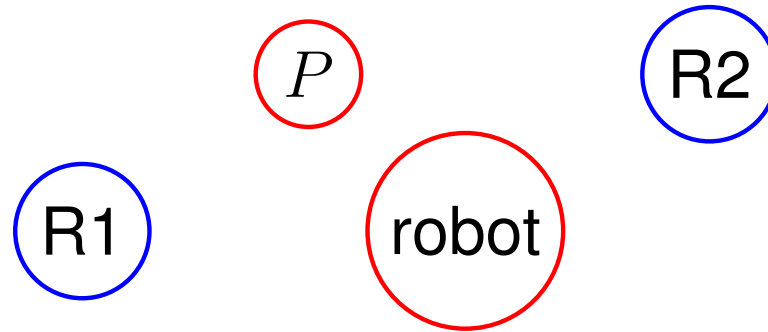


$d'_j$ : distance between  $P$  and  $R_j$

signal amplitude at  $P$  for receivers  $R_i, R_j$ :  $A_{ij}$



# Computing the signal



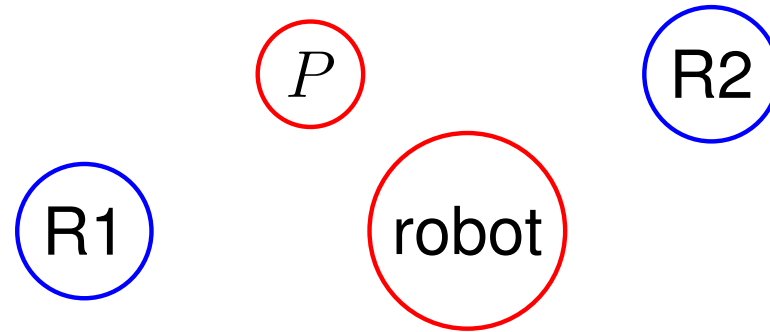
$d'_j$ : distance between  $P$  and  $R_j$

signal amplitude at  $P$  for receivers  $R_i, R_j$ :  $A_{ij}$

$$A_{ij} = \sqrt{2 \cos\left(2\pi \frac{f}{c} (d_i - d'_i - d_j + d'_j)\right) + 2}$$



# Computing the signal

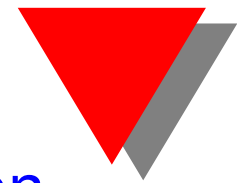


$d'_j$ : distance between  $P$  and  $R_j$

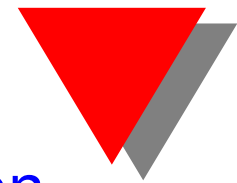
signal amplitude at  $P$  for receivers  $R_i, R_j$ :  $A_{ij}$

$$A_{ij} = \sqrt{2 \cos\left(2\pi \frac{f}{c} (d_i - d'_i - d_j + d'_j)\right) + 2}$$

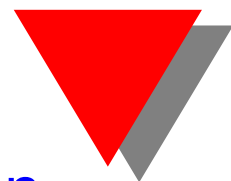
maximal signal: 2



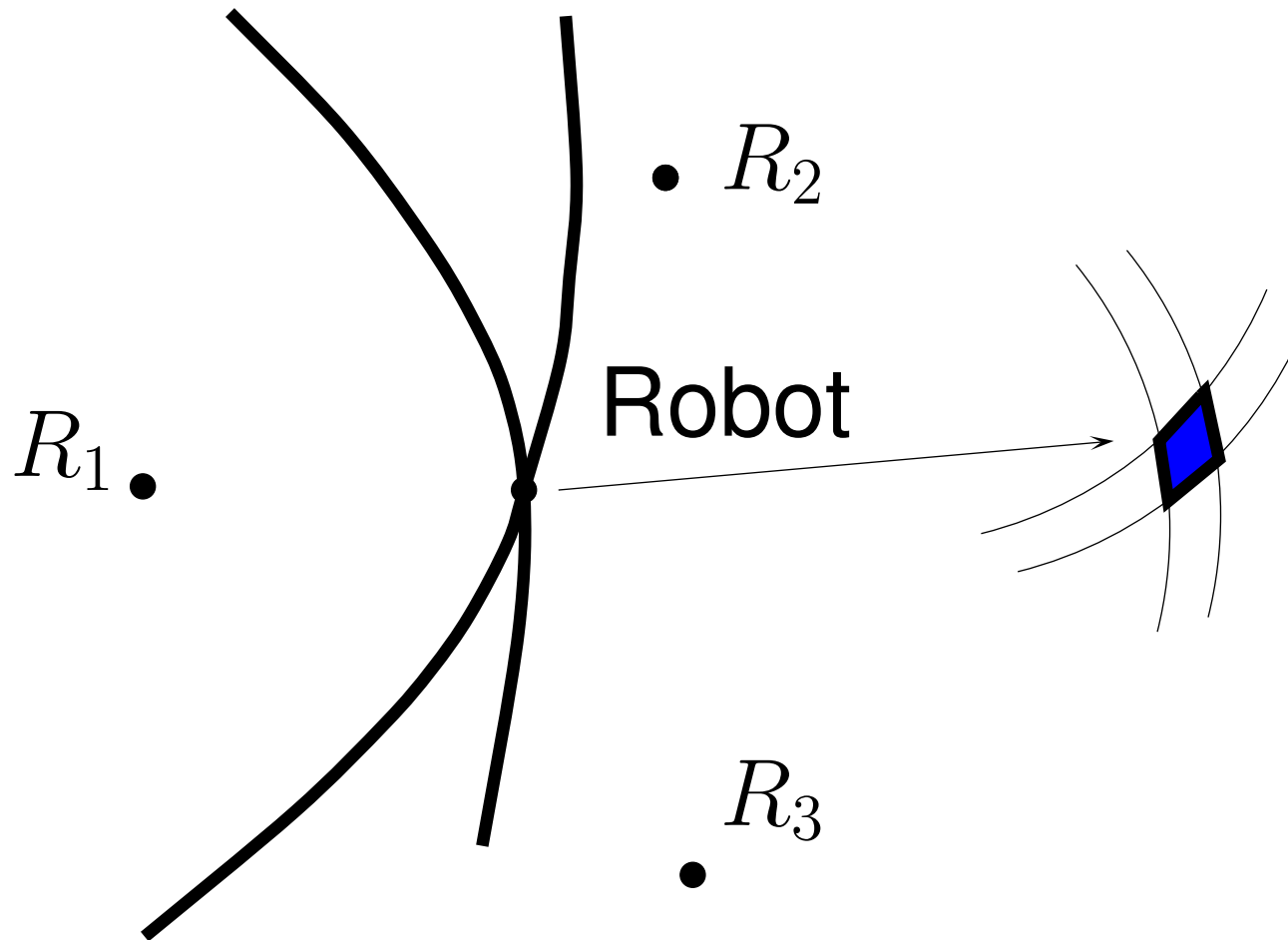
If for all pairs of receiver  $A_{ij} > \text{threshold}$ : **detection**



If for all pairs of receiver  $A_{ij} > \text{threshold}$ : **detection**  
the possible robot location is a **region**



If for all pairs of receiver  $A_{ij} > \text{threshold}$ : **detection**  
the possible robot location is a **region**







# Managing uncertainties



# Managing uncertainties

- $c$  varies with temperature  $T$



# Managing uncertainties

- $c$  varies with temperature  $T$ 
  - in water,  $c = 1404.3 + 4.7T - 0.04T^2$



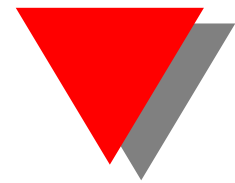
# Managing uncertainties

- $c$  varies with temperature  $T$ 
  - in water,  $c = 1404.3 + 4.7T - 0.04T^2$
- $f$  is not known exactly



# Managing uncertainties

- $c$  varies with temperature  $T$ 
  - in water,  $c = 1404.3 + 4.7T - 0.04T^2$
- $f$  is not known exactly
- possible error on the measurement of TDOA (neglected)

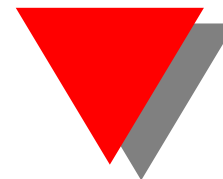


# Managing uncertainties

- $c$  varies with temperature  $T$ 
  - in water,  $c = 1404.3 + 4.7T - 0.04T^2$
- $f$  is not known exactly
- possible error on the measurement of TDOA (neglected)

effect on the localization ?

# Computing the region

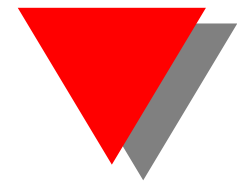




# Computing the region

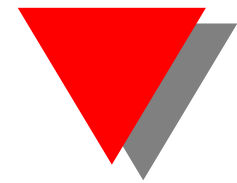
- detection if  $A_{ij} > \epsilon$





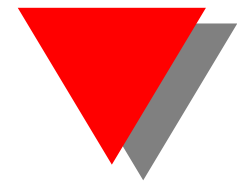
# Computing the region

- detection if  $A_{ij} > \epsilon$
- $\mathcal{B}_1$ : 2D-box including all detected points



# Computing the region

- detection if  $A_{ij} > \epsilon$
- $\mathcal{B}_1$ : 2D-box including all detected points
- $\mathcal{L}$ : list of  $n$  boxes, initially  $\mathcal{L} = \{\mathcal{B}_1\}$



# Computing the region

- detection if  $A_{ij} > \epsilon$
- $\mathcal{B}_1$ : 2D-box including all detected points
- $\mathcal{L}$ : list of  $n$  boxes, initially  $\mathcal{L} = \{\mathcal{B}_1\}$
- $\mathcal{S}$ : 4D-box,  $\{\mathcal{B}_k, f, c\}$



# Computing the region

- detection if  $A_{ij} > \epsilon$
- $\mathcal{B}_1$ : 2D-box including all detected points
- $\mathcal{L}$ : list of  $n$  boxes, initially  $\mathcal{L} = \{\mathcal{B}_1\}$
- $\mathcal{S}$ : 4D-box,  $\{\mathcal{B}_k, f, c\}$
- $\mathcal{M}$ : list of  $m$  4D-boxes, initially  $\mathcal{M} = \{\mathcal{S}_1\}$

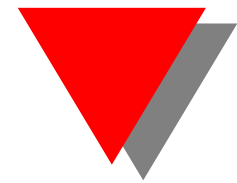
# Computing the region



Algorithm `Find`( $\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{L}, n$ )

**for**  $k = 1$  to  $n$  **do**

**end for**



# Computing the region

Algorithm `Find`( $\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{L}, n$ )

**for**  $k = 1$  to  $n$  **do**

    compute all  $F_{ij} = A_{ij}(\mathcal{B}_k)$

**end for**



# Computing the region

Algorithm  $\text{Find}(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{L}, n)$

**for**  $k = 1$  to  $n$  **do**

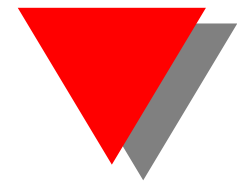
    compute all  $F_{ij} = A_{ij}(\mathcal{B}_k)$

**if**  $\exists i, j$  such that  $\overline{F_{ij}} < \epsilon$  **then**

**next**

**end if**

**end for**



# Computing the region

Algorithm  $\text{Find}(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{L}, n)$

```
for  $k = 1$  to  $n$  do  
  compute all  $F_{ij} = A_{ij}(\mathcal{B}_k)$   
  if  $\exists i, j$  such that  $\overline{F_{ij}} < \epsilon$  then  
    next  
  end if  
  if  $\forall i, j$   $\underline{F} > \epsilon$  then  
    store  $\mathcal{B}_k$  as solution, next  
  end if  
end for
```





# Computing the region

Algorithm Find( $\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{L}, n$ )

```
for  $k = 1$  to  $n$  do  
  compute all  $F_{ij} = A_{ij}(\mathcal{B}_k)$   
  if  $\exists i, j$  such that  $\overline{F_{ij}} < \epsilon$  then  
    next  
  end if  
  if  $\forall i, j \underline{F} > \epsilon$  then  
    store  $\mathcal{B}_k$  as solution, next  
  end if  
  if  $\text{Diam}(\mathcal{B}_k) < \mu$  then  
    neglect  $\mathcal{B}_k$ , next  
  end if  
end for
```



# Computing the region

Algorithm Find( $\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{L}, n$ )

**for**  $k = 1$  to  $n$  **do**

  compute all  $F_{ij} = A_{ij}(\mathcal{B}_k)$

**if**  $\exists i, j$  such that  $\overline{F_{ij}} < \epsilon$  **then**

**next**

**end if**

**if**  $\forall i, j \underline{F} > \epsilon$  **then**

    store  $\mathcal{B}_k$  as solution, **next**

**end if**

**if**  $\text{Diam}(\mathcal{B}_k) < \mu$  **then**

    neglect  $\mathcal{B}_k$ , **next**

**end if**

  bisect  $\mathcal{B}_k$ , store the result in  $\mathcal{L}$ ,  $n = n + 2$

**end for**



# Computing the region

Algorithm `Find`( $\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{L}, n$ )

```
for  $k = 1$  to  $n$  do  
  compute all  $F_{ij} = A_{ij}(\mathcal{B}_k)$   
  if  $\exists i, j$  such that  $\overline{F_{ij}} < \epsilon$  then  
    next  
  end if  
  if  $\forall i, j \underline{F} > \epsilon$  then  
    store  $\mathcal{B}_k$  as solution, next  
  end if  
  if  $\text{Diam}(\mathcal{B}_k) < \mu$  then  
    neglect  $\mathcal{B}_k$ , next  
  end if  
  bisect  $\mathcal{B}_k$ , store the result in  $\mathcal{L}$ ,  $n = n + 2$   
end for
```

`Loop`( $\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{M}, l$ ): same algorithm than `Find` but

- maximum of  $l$  bisection
- returns 1 if all  $\mathcal{S}$  boxes have been processed, 0 otherwise



# Computing the region

Algorithm Find( $\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{L}, n$ )

**for**  $k = 1$  to  $n$  **do**

    compute all  $F_{ij} = A_{ij}(\mathcal{B}_k)$

**if**  $\exists i, j$  such that  $\overline{F_{ij}} < \epsilon$  **then**

**next**

**end if**

**if**  $\forall i, j \underline{F} > \epsilon$  **then**

        store  $\mathcal{B}_k$  as solution

**next**

**end if**

**if** Loop( $\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{M}, 100$ )=1 **then**

        store  $\mathcal{B}_k$  as solution, **next**

**end if**

**if** Diam( $\mathcal{B}_k$ ) <  $\mu$  **then**

        neglect  $\mathcal{B}_k$ , **next**

**end if**

    bisect  $\mathcal{B}_k$ , store the result in  $\mathcal{L}$ ,  $n = n + 2$

**end for**

# Result



# Result



- $c$  in  $[1465, 1496]$  m/s (  $\pm 5$  degrees variation)



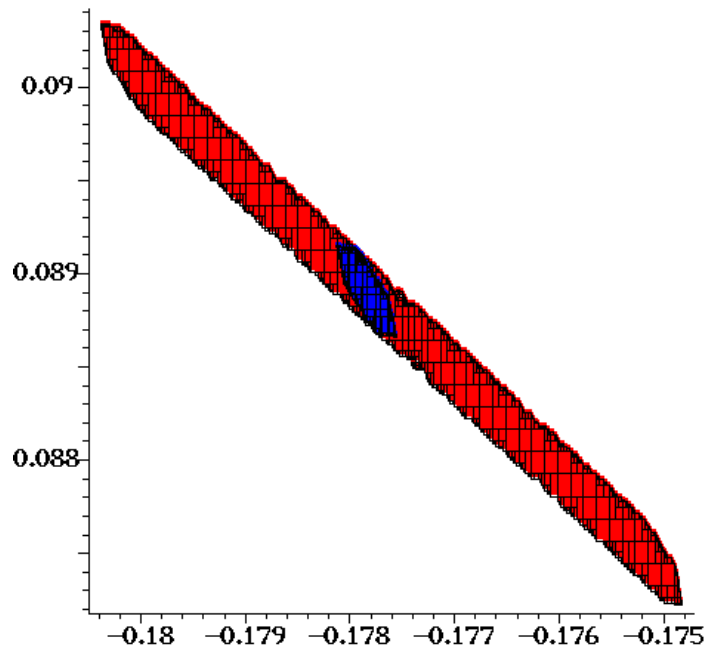
# Result

- $c$  in  $[1465, 1496]$  m/s (  $\pm 5$  degrees variation)
- $f$  in  $[295, 305]$  kHz



# Result

- $c$  in [1465,1496] m/s (  $\pm 5$  degrees variation)
- $f$  in [295,305] kHz



No uncertainty, with uncertainties



# Design problem





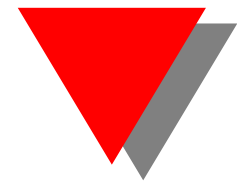
# Design problem

- two receivers in an exactly known location



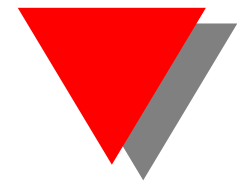
# Design problem

- two receivers in an exactly known location
- a given workspace  $\mathcal{W}$  for the robot



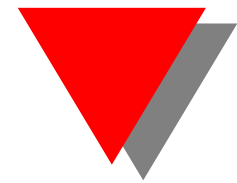
# Design problem

- two receivers in an exactly known location
- a given workspace  $\mathcal{W}$  for the robot
- given uncertainties on  $f, c$



# Design problem

- two receivers in an exactly known location
- a given workspace  $\mathcal{W}$  for the robot
- given uncertainties on  $f, c$
- a maximal localization error  $\alpha$



# Design problem

- two receivers in an exactly known location
- a given workspace  $\mathcal{W}$  for the robot
- given uncertainties on  $f, c$
- a maximal localization error  $\alpha$

Find possible location of  $R_3$  so that:

- for all robot location in  $\mathcal{W}$  localization error is  $< \alpha$



# Design problem

- two receivers in an exactly known location
- a given workspace  $\mathcal{W}$  for the robot
- given uncertainties on  $f, c$
- a maximal localization error  $\alpha$

Find possible location of  $R_3$  so that:

- for all robot location in  $\mathcal{W}$  localization error is  $< \alpha$
- allowing to manage uncertainties on the location of  $R_3$

# Approach





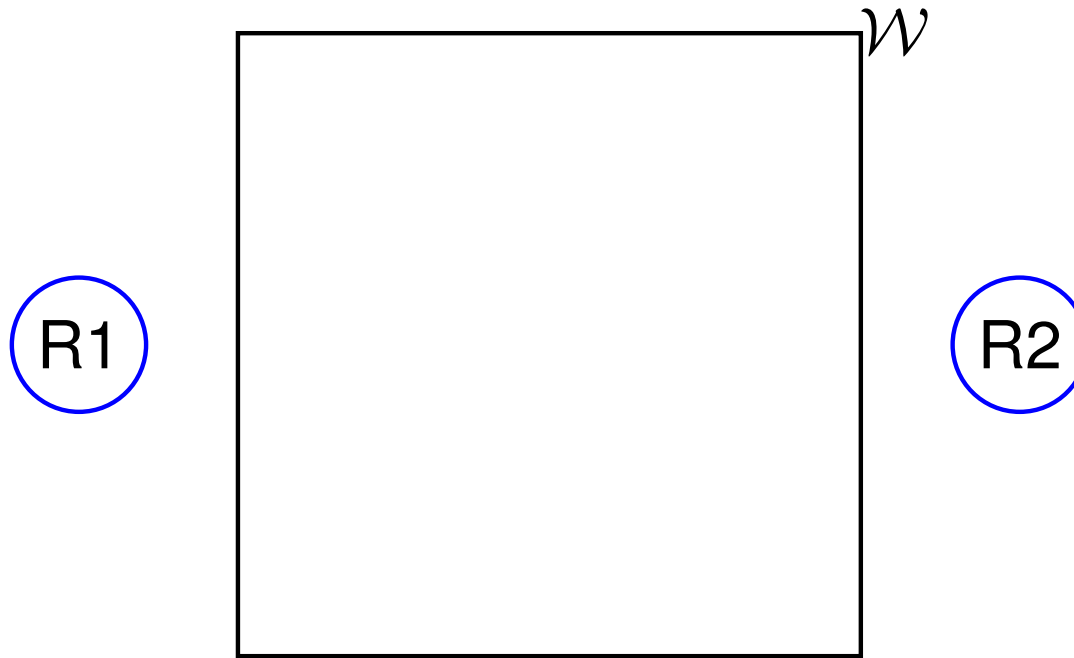
# Approach



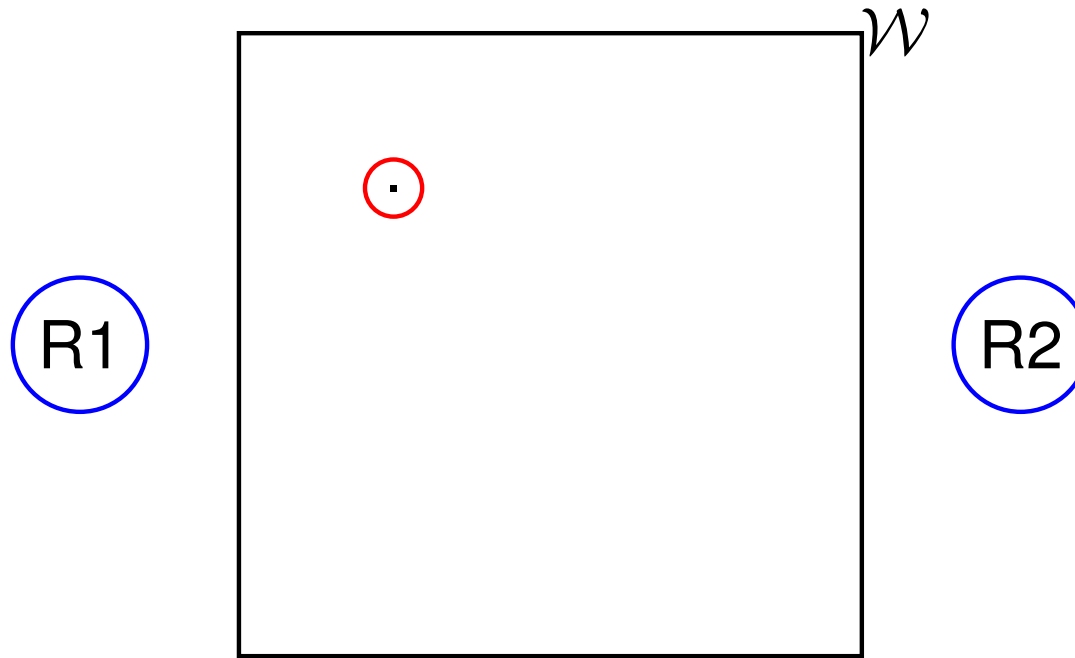
R1

R2

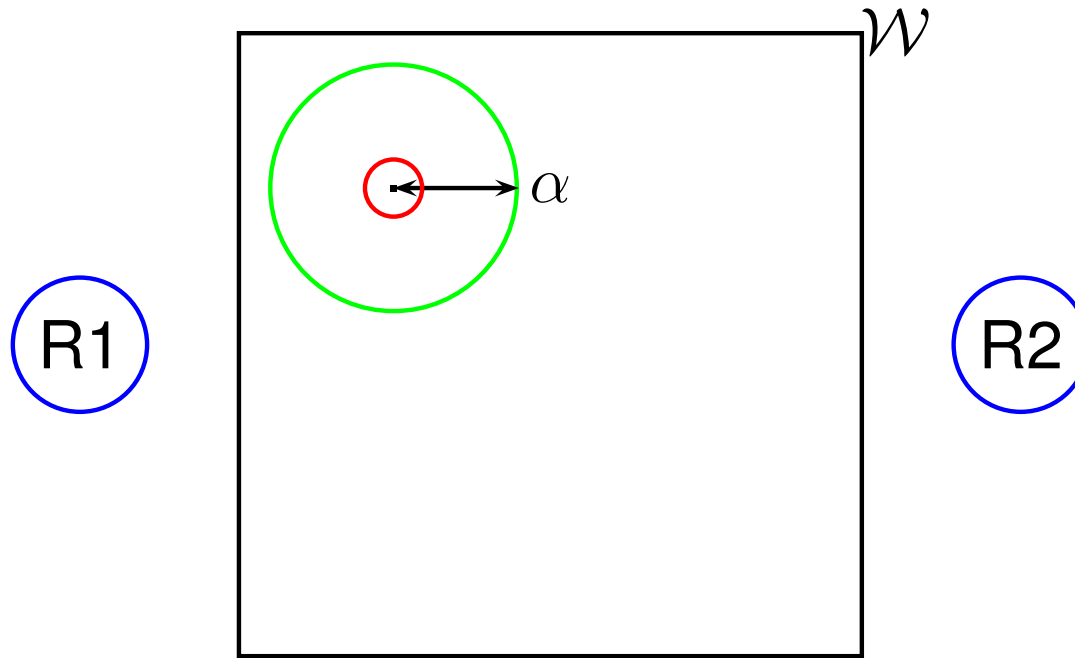
# Approach

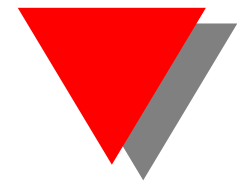


# Approach

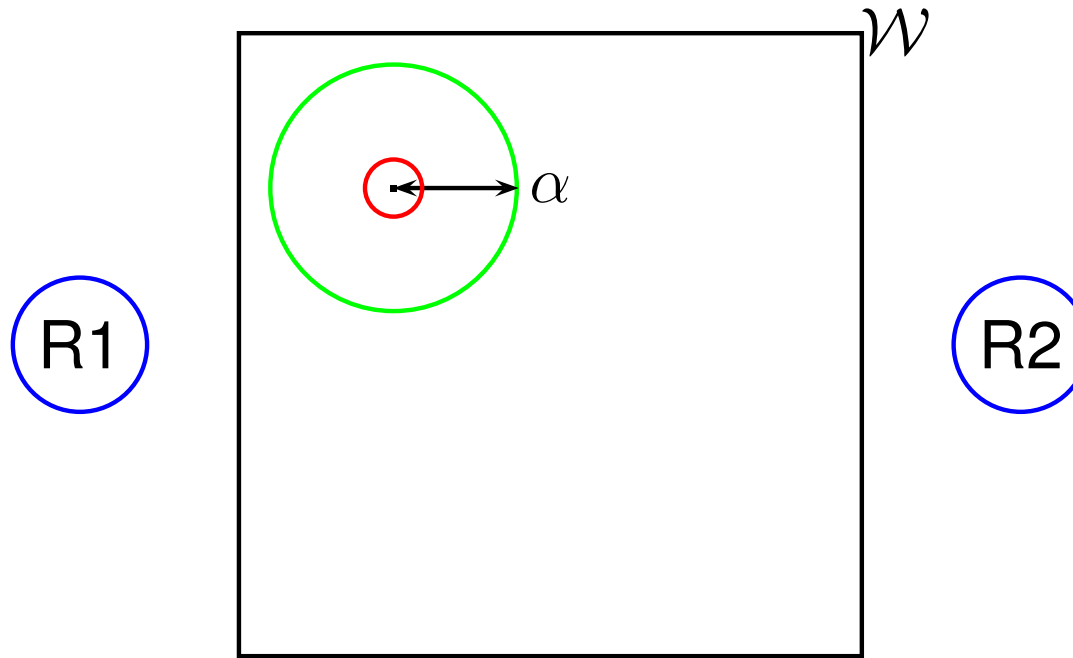


# Approach





# Approach



If circle centered at  $P$ , radius  $\alpha$  has no detectable points

$\Rightarrow$  localization error at  $P$  is  $< \alpha$



# Algorithm



# Algorithm

- Upper loop: box with  $x, y$  (coordinates of  $R_3$ )



# Algorithm

- **Upper loop:** box with  $x, y$  (coordinates of  $R_3$ )
- **Inner loop:** box with





# Algorithm

- **Upper loop:** box with  $x, y$  (coordinates of  $R_3$ )
- **Inner loop:** box with
  - $f, c$



# Algorithm

- **Upper loop:** box with  $x, y$  (coordinates of  $R_3$ )
- **Inner loop:** box with
  - $f, c$
  - $x_P, y_P$ : coordinates of  $P$  in  $\mathcal{W}$



# Algorithm

- **Upper loop:** box with  $x, y$  (coordinates of  $R_3$ )
- **Inner loop:** box with
  - $f, c$
  - $x_P, y_P$ : coordinates of  $P$  in  $\mathcal{W}$
  - $\theta$ : angle on the circle centered at  $P$ , radius  $\alpha$



# Algorithm

- **Upper loop:** box with  $x, y$  (coordinates of  $R_3$ )
- **Inner loop:** box with
  - $f, c$
  - $x_P, y_P$ : coordinates of  $P$  in  $\mathcal{W}$
  - $\theta$ : angle on the circle centered at  $P$ , radius  $\alpha$

computationally expensive

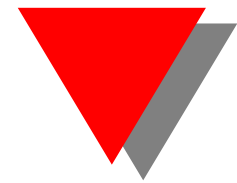
# Algorithms



# Algorithms



Algorithm 1: check only **specific points** of  $\mathcal{W}$

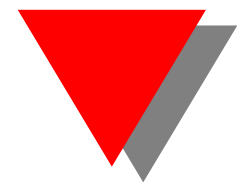


# Algorithms

Algorithm 1: check only **specific points** of  $\mathcal{W}$



result is an **over-approximation** of the possible region for  $R_3$

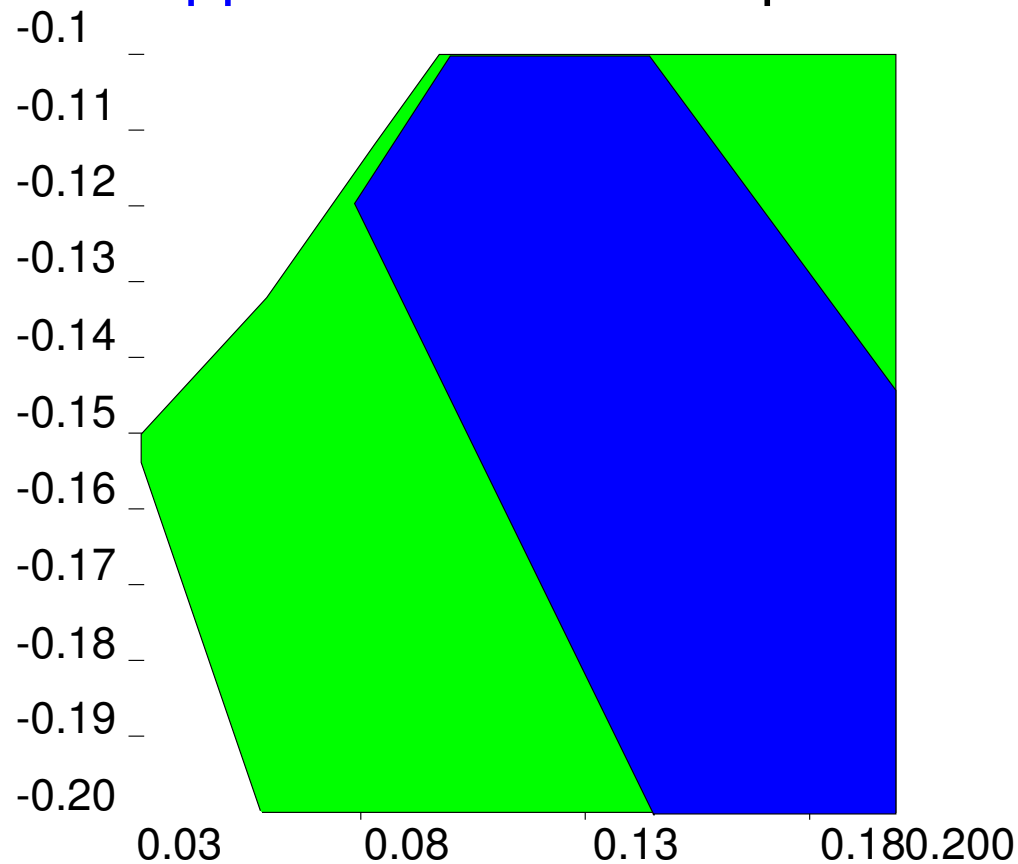


# Algorithms

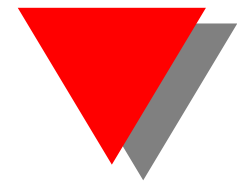
Algorithm 1: check only **specific points** of  $\mathcal{W}$



result is an **over-approximation** of the possible region for  $R_3$







# Algorithms

Algorithm 1: check only **specific points** of  $\mathcal{W}$



result is an **over-approximation** of the possible region for  $R_3$

**computationally expensive**: 20 hours on 17 computers

# Algorithms



# Algorithms



## Algorithm 2:

- select a possible location for  $R_3$  within the result of Algorithm 1
- choose a positioning accuracy for  $R_3$
- check the whole workspace for accuracy

# Algorithms



## Algorithm 2:

- select a possible location for  $R_3$  within the result of Algorithm 1
- choose a positioning accuracy for  $R_3$
- check the whole workspace for accuracy

location  $0.123 \pm 0.0005$ ,  $-0.123 \pm 0.005$  is valid

# Conclusion



# Conclusion



## Analysis

- more realistic localization (inner and outer approximation)



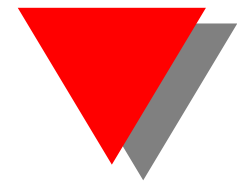
# Conclusion

## Analysis

- more realistic localization (inner and outer approximation)

## Synthesis

- design for given performances of the system



# Conclusion

## Analysis

- more realistic localization (inner and outer approximation)

## Synthesis

- design for given performances of the system

## Prospective





# Conclusion

## Analysis

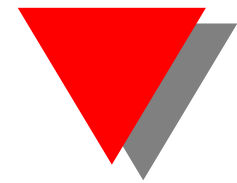
- more realistic localization (inner and outer approximation)

## Synthesis

- design for given performances of the system

## Prospective

- better signal model (reflection, . . .)



# Conclusion

## Analysis

- more realistic localization (inner and outer approximation)

## Synthesis

- design for given performances of the system

## Prospective

- better signal model (reflection, . . . )
- inaccuracies on the location of  $R_1, R_2$