



U.S. ARMY COMBAT CAPABILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMAND – ARMY RESEARCH LABORATORY

Large-Scale, Multi-Agent, Reinforcement Learning Control

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Computational & Information Sciences Directorate (CISD)

Army Research Laboratory (ARL)

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A

Outline

- Overview

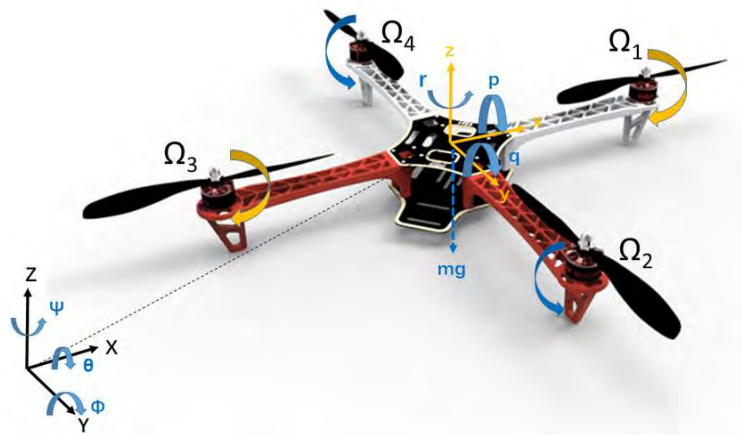
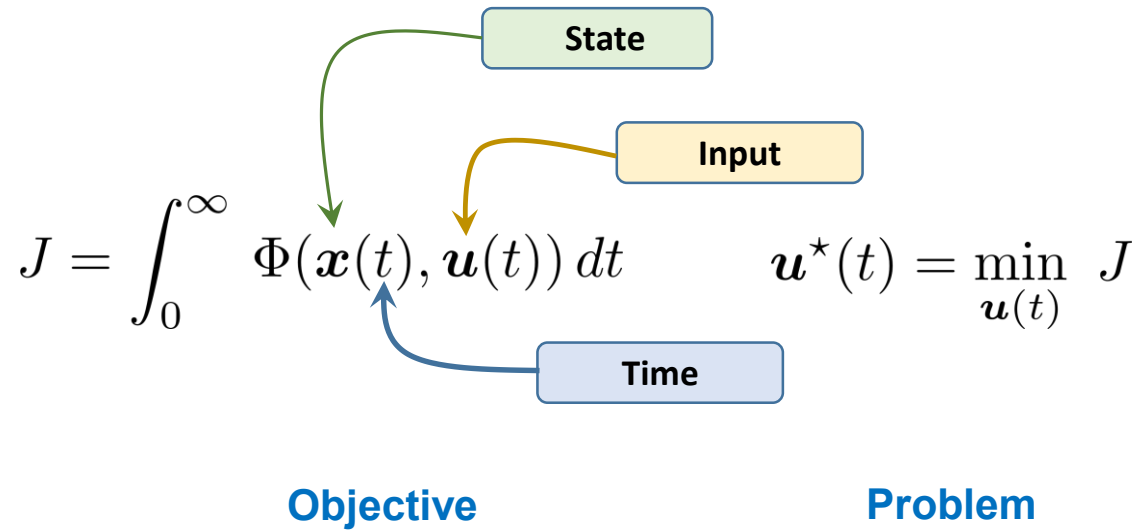
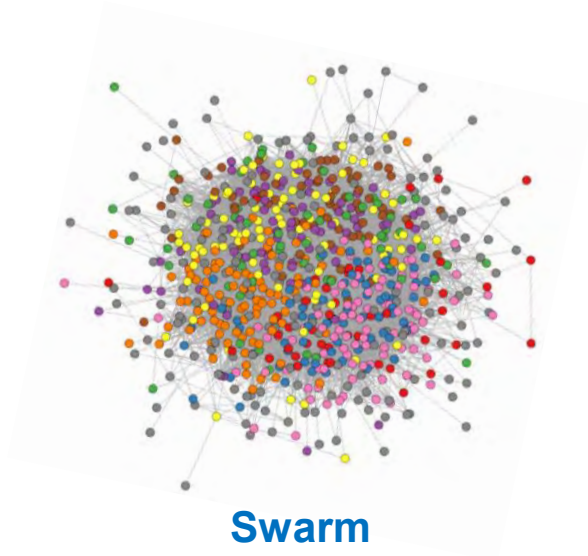
- Hierarchical Reinforcement Learning (HRL) Control
 - RL Control (background)
 - Problem Formulation
 - Proposed HRL Solution
 - HRL for approximate control of heterogeneous swarm
 - HRL for optimal control of homogeneous swarm
 - Example: Formation Control

- Swarm Decomposition
 - Decomposition Objectives
 - Example: Formation Maneuver

- AirSim Experiments

- Conclusions

Reinforcement Learning (RL) Control of Swarms: Overview



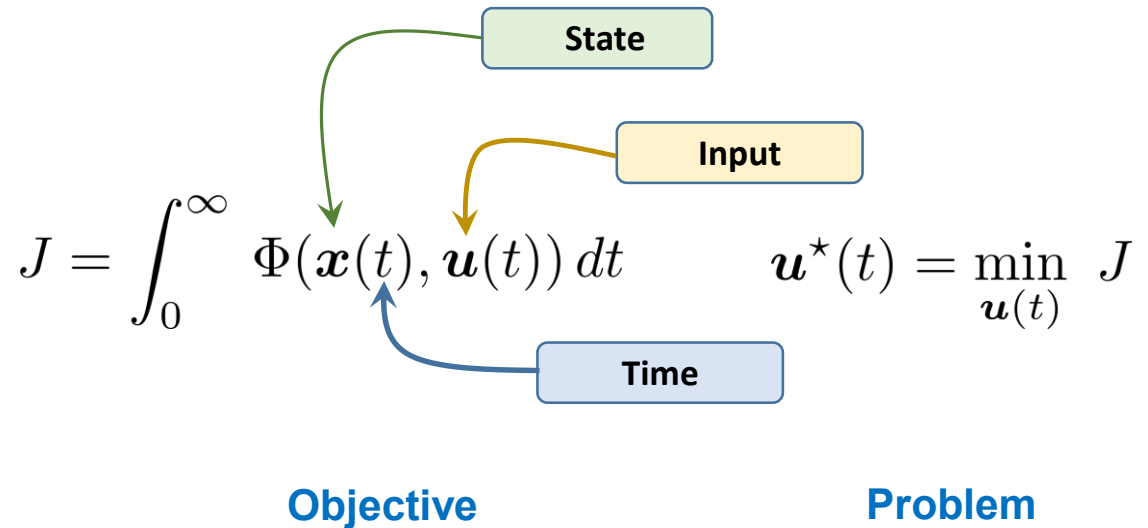
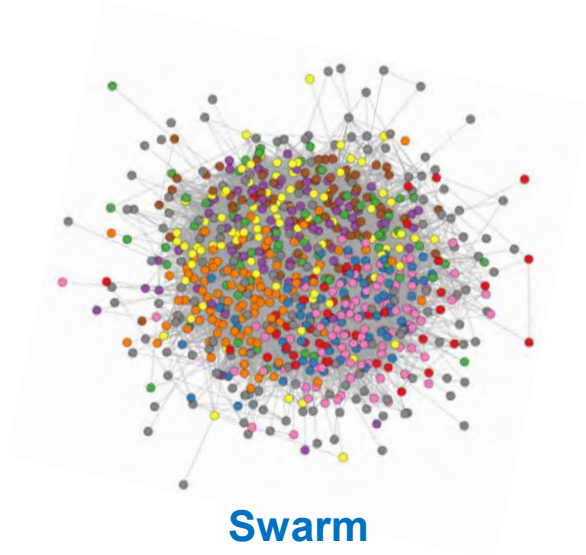
$$x = \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \\ \theta \\ \phi \\ \psi \\ \dot{X} \\ \dot{Y} \\ \dot{Z} \\ p \\ q \\ r \end{bmatrix}$$

$$u = \begin{bmatrix} \Omega_1 \\ \Omega_2 \\ \Omega_3 \\ \Omega_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

System Dynamics

$$\frac{d}{dt} x(t) = f(x(t), u(t))$$

Reinforcement Learning (RL) Control of Swarms: Overview



Linear System Dynamics

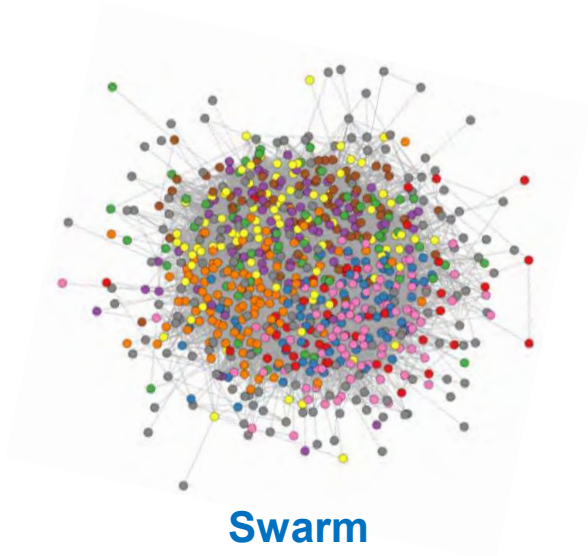
$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t)$$

Quadratic Objective

$$\Phi(x, u) = x^{\top} Qx + u^{\top} Ru$$

Linear Quadratic Regulator

Reinforcement Learning (RL) Control of Swarms: Overview



$$J = \int_0^{\infty} \Phi(\mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)) dt$$

$$\mathbf{u}^*(t) = \min_{\mathbf{u}(t)} J$$

Objective

Problem

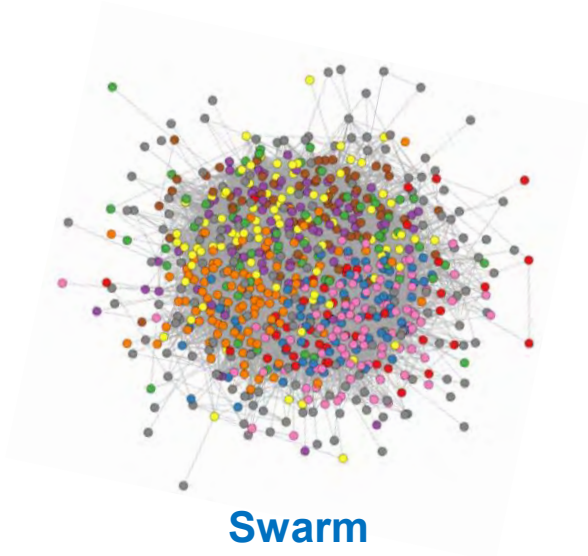
□ Why is it difficult?

- Uncertainty
- Size

□ Reinforcement Learning Control \iff Adaptive Optimal Control

- Adaptive: unknown/uncertain dynamics and environment
- Optimal: $\min_{\mathbf{u}(t)} J$

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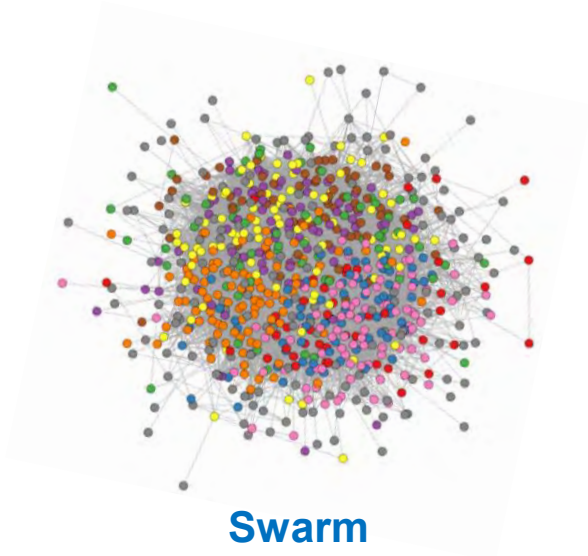
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○ Uncertainty

○ Size

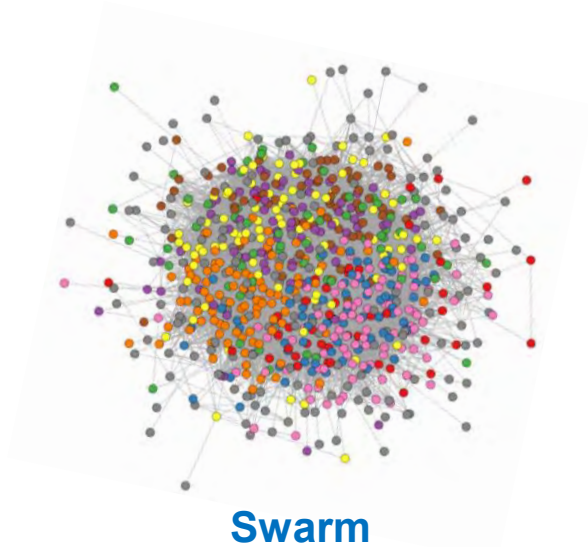
This Talk

□ Reinforcement Learning Control \iff Adaptive Optimal Control

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Reinforcement Learning (RL) Control of Swarms: Overview



Swarm



$$J = \int_0^{\infty} \Phi(\mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)) dt$$

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Objective

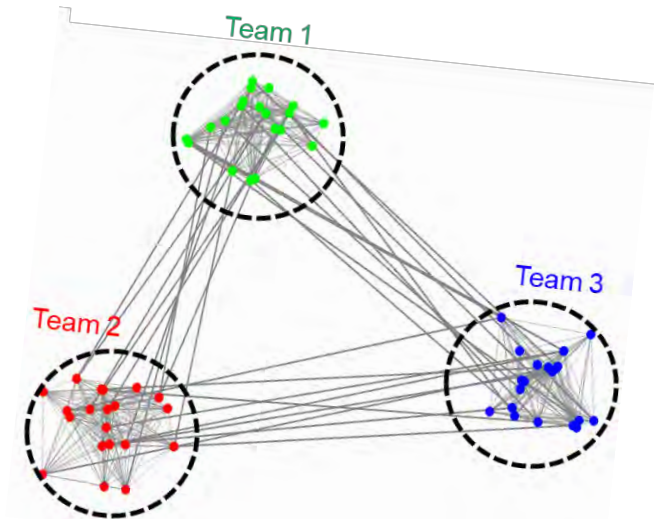
Problem



$$J = \sum_{j=1}^N J_j + J_g$$



$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{u}_1^*(t) + \mathbf{u}_{g_1}(t) \\ & \vdots \\ & \mathbf{u}_N^*(t) + \mathbf{u}_{g_N}(t) \end{aligned}$$



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Reinforcement Learning (RL) based Optimal Control

Optimal Control Problem (LQR)

- System: $\dot{x} = Ax + Bu$
- Cost functional: $J = \int_0^{\infty} (x^T Qx + u^T Ru) dt$
- Control law that minimizes the value of the cost: $u = -Kx$
 - ★ $K = R^{-1}B^T P$
 - ★ $A^T P + PA - PBR^{-1}B^T P + Q = 0$

Linear state feedback controller



Algebraic matrix Riccati equation



Body-Rate Controller

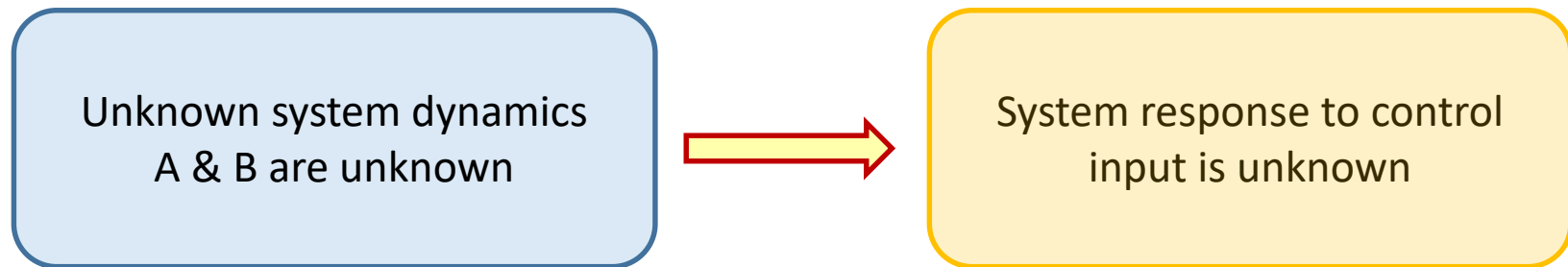
Disturbance-Rejection Comparison

Reinforcement Learning (RL) based Optimal Control

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RL learns K by solving the Riccati equation using only $x(t)$ and $u(t)$, no model



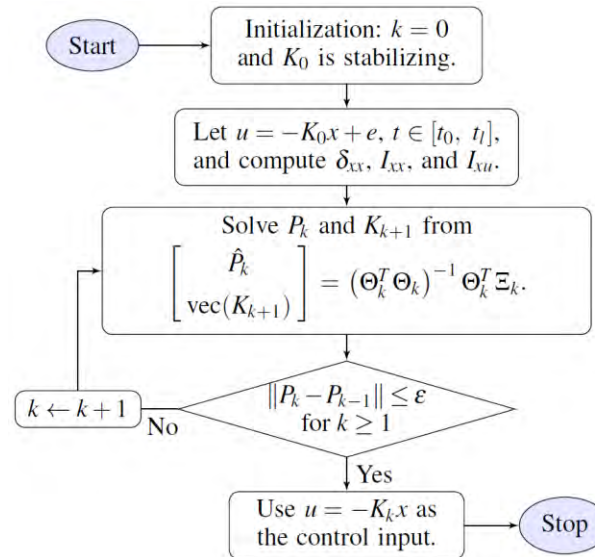
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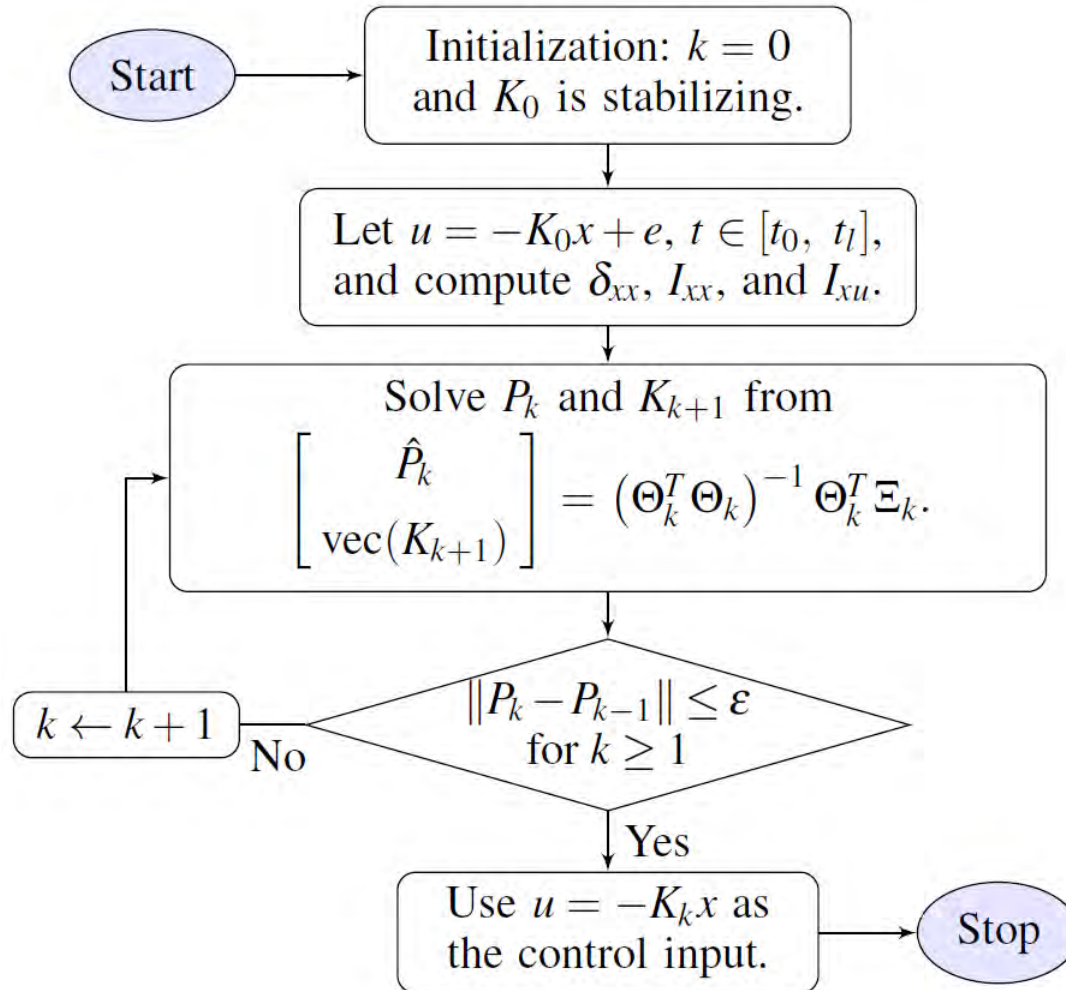
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Adaptive Dynamic Programming (A and B are unknown)



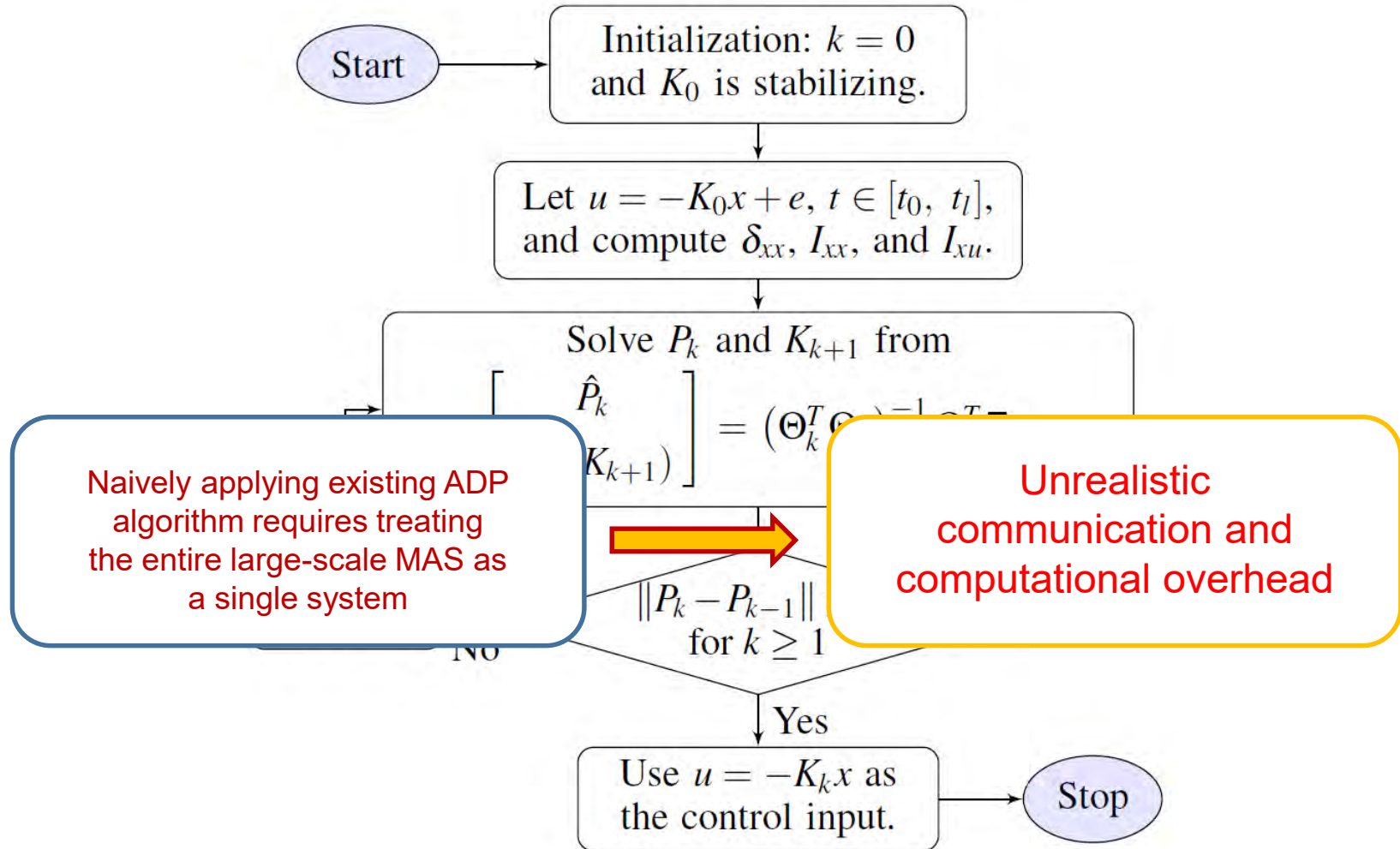
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Hierarchical RL for Multi-Agent Systems: Formulation

- Swarm of p agents consisting of N groups: $p = \sum_{j=1}^N p_j$

- Group-level dynamics:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_j = A_j \mathbf{x}_j + B_j \mathbf{u}_j$$

- Swarm model:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathcal{A} \mathbf{x} + \mathcal{B} \mathbf{u}$$

- Control objective:

$$J = \int_0^{\infty} \mathbf{x}^{\top} Q \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^{\top} R \mathbf{u} dt$$

- Optimal controller:

$$\mathbf{u} = -K^* \mathbf{x} = -R^{-1} \mathcal{B}^{\top} P^* \mathbf{x}$$

- Riccati equation

$$P^* \mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^{\top} P^* + Q - P^* \mathcal{B} R^{-1} \mathcal{B}^{\top} P^* = 0$$

Can't solve since model is unknown!

Naively applying existing ADP algorithm requires treating the entire large-scale MAS as a single system

Hierarchical RL for Multi-Agent Systems: Formulation

- Swarm of p agents consisting of N groups: $p = \sum_{j=1}^N p_j$

- Group-level dynamics:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_j = A_j \mathbf{x}_j + B_j \mathbf{u}_j$$

- Swarm model:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathcal{A} \mathbf{x} + \mathcal{B} \mathbf{u}$$

No physical (dynamical) coupling

- Control objective:

$$J = \int_0^{\infty} \mathbf{x}^{\top} Q \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^{\top} R \mathbf{u} dt$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_N \end{bmatrix}$$

- Optimal controller:

$$\mathbf{u} = -K^* \mathbf{x} = -R^{-1} \mathcal{B}^{\top} P^* \mathbf{x}$$

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$$P^* \mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^{\top} P^* + Q - P^* \mathcal{B} R^{-1} \mathcal{B}^{\top} P^* = 0$$

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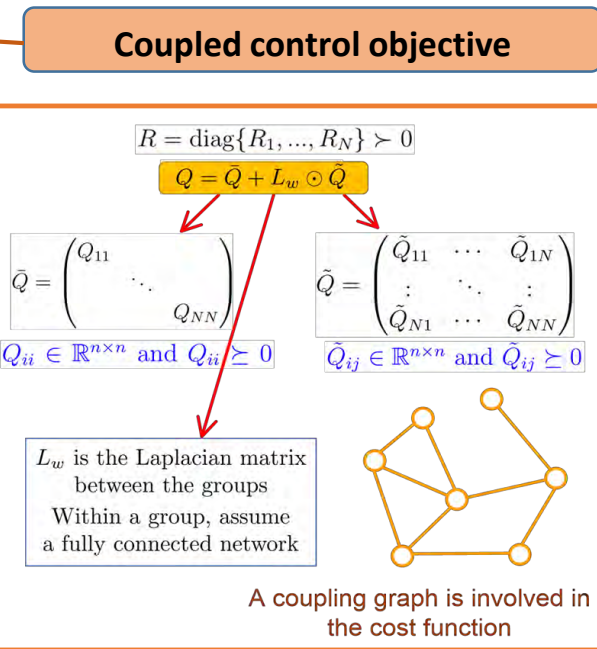
$$J = \int_0^{\infty} \mathbf{x}^\top Q \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^\top R \mathbf{u} dt$$

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- Riccati equation

$$P^* \mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^\top P^* + Q - P^* \mathcal{B} R^{-1} \mathcal{B}^\top P^*$$



Hierarchical RL for Multi-Agent Systems: Formulation

$$J = \int_0^{\infty} \mathbf{x}^T Q \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^T R \mathbf{u} dt$$

$$R = \text{diag}\{R_1, \dots, R_N\} \succ 0$$

$$Q = \bar{Q} + L_w \odot \tilde{Q}$$

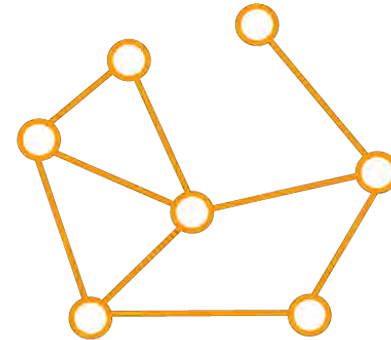
$$\bar{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} Q_{11} & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & Q_{NN} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Q_{ii} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \text{ and } Q_{ii} \succeq 0$$

$$\tilde{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{Q}_{11} & \cdots & \tilde{Q}_{1N} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \tilde{Q}_{N1} & \cdots & \tilde{Q}_{NN} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\tilde{Q}_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \text{ and } \tilde{Q}_{ij} \succeq 0$$

L_w is the Laplacian matrix
between the groups
Within a group, assume
a fully connected network



A coupling graph is involved in
the cost function

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Approximate Control for Multi-Agent Systems

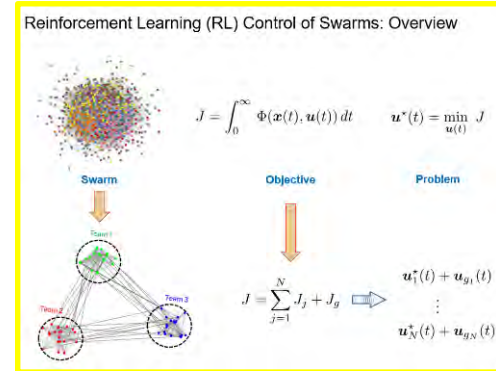
- Control objective:

$$J = \int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top Q \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^\top R \mathbf{u} dt = \underbrace{\int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top \bar{Q} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^\top R \mathbf{u} dt}_{\sum_{j=1}^N J_j} + \underbrace{\int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top \left(L_w \odot \tilde{Q} \right) \mathbf{x} dt}_{J_g}$$

$$J_j = \int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}_j^\top \bar{Q}_j \mathbf{x}_j + \mathbf{u}_j^\top R_j \mathbf{u}_j dt$$

- $\mathbf{u}_j = - \underbrace{R_j^{-1} B_j^\top P_j}_{K_j} \mathbf{x}_j$, where $P_j \in \mathbb{R}^{np_j \times np_j}$ are from

$$\underbrace{P_j A_j + A_j^\top P_j + \bar{Q}_j - P_j B_j R_j^{-1} B_j^\top P_j}_{J_j = \int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}_j^\top \bar{Q}_j \mathbf{x}_j + \mathbf{u}_j^\top R_j \mathbf{u}_j dt} = 0$$



Individual agents or teams can solve for local optimal controllers in parallel using existing ADP algorithms

Approximate Control for Multi-Agent Systems

- Control objective:

$$J = \int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top Q \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^\top R \mathbf{u} dt = \underbrace{\int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top \bar{Q} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^\top R \mathbf{u} dt}_{\sum_{j=1}^N J_j} + \underbrace{\int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top (L_w \odot \tilde{Q}) \mathbf{x} dt}_{J_g}$$

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$$P_j A_j + A_j^\top P_j + \bar{Q}_j - P_j B_j R_j^{-1} B_j^\top P_j = 0$$

- Define $\mathcal{R}^{-1} = R^{-1} + \tilde{R}$
- Consider a new Ricatti equation

$$\mathcal{P} \mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^\top \mathcal{P} + Q - \mathcal{P} B R^{-1} B^\top \mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P} \mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^\top \mathcal{P} + \bar{Q} - \mathcal{P} B R^{-1} B^\top \mathcal{P} + L_w \odot \tilde{Q} - \mathcal{P} \tilde{B} \tilde{B}^\top \mathcal{P}$$

Approximate Control for Multi-Agent Systems

- Control objective:

$$J = \int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top Q \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^\top R \mathbf{u} dt = \underbrace{\int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top \bar{Q} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^\top R \mathbf{u} dt}_{\sum_{j=1}^N J_j} + \underbrace{\int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top (L_w \odot \tilde{Q}) \mathbf{x} dt}_{J_g}$$

$$J_j = \int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}_j^\top \bar{Q}_j \mathbf{x}_j + \mathbf{u}_j^\top R_j \mathbf{u}_j dt$$

$$P_j A_j + A_j^\top P_j + \bar{Q}_j - P_j B_j R_j^{-1} B_j^\top P_j = 0$$

- Define $\mathcal{R}^{-1} = R^{-1} + \tilde{R}$

$$\tilde{R} \text{ is selected so that } \mathcal{P} \mathcal{B} \tilde{R} \mathcal{B}^\top \mathcal{P} = L_w \odot \tilde{Q}$$

- Consider a new Ricatti equation

$$\mathcal{P} \mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^\top \mathcal{P} + Q - \mathcal{P} \mathcal{B} R^{-1} \mathcal{B}^\top \mathcal{P} = \underbrace{\mathcal{P} \mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^\top \mathcal{P} + \bar{Q} - \mathcal{P} \mathcal{B} R^{-1} \mathcal{B}^\top \mathcal{P}}_{\text{local}} + \underbrace{L_w \odot \tilde{Q} - \mathcal{P} \mathcal{B} \tilde{R} \mathcal{B}^\top \mathcal{P}}_{\text{global}}$$

– Decoupled Ricatti equation with $\mathcal{P} = \text{diag}\{P_1, \dots, P_N\}$

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{P} \mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^\top \mathcal{P} + \bar{Q} - \mathcal{P} \mathcal{B} R^{-1} \mathcal{B}^\top \mathcal{P}}_{\text{local}} = \text{diag}\{P_j A_j + A_j^\top P_j + \bar{Q}_j - P_j B_j R_j^{-1} B_j^\top P_j\} = 0$$

- Then the control gain follows as: $K = \mathcal{R}^{-1} \mathcal{B}^\top \mathcal{P} = \underbrace{R^{-1} \mathcal{B}^\top \mathcal{P}}_{\text{local}} + \underbrace{\tilde{R} \mathcal{B}^\top \mathcal{P}}_{\text{global}}$.

Approximate Control for Multi-Agent Systems

- Control objective:

$$J = \int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top Q \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^\top R \mathbf{u} dt = \underbrace{\int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top \bar{Q} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^\top R \mathbf{u} dt}_{\sum_{j=1}^N J_j} + \underbrace{\int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top (L_w \odot \tilde{Q}) \mathbf{x} dt}_{J_g}$$

$$J_j = \int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}_j^\top \bar{Q}_j \mathbf{x}_j + \mathbf{u}_j^\top R_j \mathbf{u}_j dt$$

$$P_j A_j + A_j^\top P_j + \bar{Q}_j - P_j B_j R_j^{-1} B_j^\top P_j = 0$$

- Let $\mathcal{P} = \text{diag}\{P_1, \dots, P_N\}$
- Define $\mathcal{R}^{-1} = R^{-1} + \tilde{R}$, where \tilde{R} is selected so that $\mathcal{P} B \tilde{R} B^\top \mathcal{P} = L_w \odot \tilde{Q}$
- Then the control gain follows as: $K = \mathcal{R}^{-1} B^\top \mathcal{P} = \underbrace{R^{-1} B^\top \mathcal{P}}_{\text{local}} + \underbrace{\tilde{R} B^\top \mathcal{P}}_{\text{global}}$.

– What we are effectively minimizing:

$$\mathcal{J} = \int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top Q' \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^\top \mathcal{R} \mathbf{u} dt,$$

$$\begin{aligned} Q' &= \bar{Q} + \mathcal{P} B \tilde{R} B^\top \mathcal{P} \\ \mathcal{R}^{-1} &= R^{-1} + \tilde{R} \end{aligned}$$

We are relaxing control penalty term to account for coupled state penalty term

Approximate Control for Multi-Agent Systems: Algorithm

- Control objective:

$$J = \int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top Q \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^\top R \mathbf{u} dt = \underbrace{\int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top \bar{Q} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^\top R \mathbf{u} dt}_{\sum_{j=1}^N J_j} + \underbrace{\int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top (L_w \odot \tilde{Q}) \mathbf{x} dt}_{J_g}$$

Step 1: Solve in parallel using ADP

$$J_j = \int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}_j^\top \bar{Q}_j \mathbf{x}_j + \mathbf{u}_j^\top R_j \mathbf{u}_j dt$$

$$P_j A_j + A_j^\top P_j + \bar{Q}_j - P_j B_j R_j^{-1} B_j^\top P_j = 0$$

- Let $\mathcal{P} = \text{diag}\{P_1, \dots, P_N\}$

Step 2: Construct \tilde{R}

- Define $\mathcal{R}^{-1} = R^{-1} + \tilde{R}$, where \tilde{R} is selected so that $\mathcal{P} \mathcal{B} \tilde{R} \mathcal{B}^\top \mathcal{P} = L_w \odot \tilde{Q}$

- Then the control gain follows as: $K = \mathcal{R}^{-1} \mathcal{B}^\top \mathcal{P} = \underbrace{R^{-1} \mathcal{B}^\top \mathcal{P}}_{\text{local}} + \underbrace{\tilde{R} \mathcal{B}^\top \mathcal{P}}_{\text{global}}$.

– What we are effectively minimizing:

Step 3: Compute K

$$\mathcal{J} = \int_0^\infty \mathbf{x}^\top Q' \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^\top \mathcal{R} \mathbf{u} dt,$$

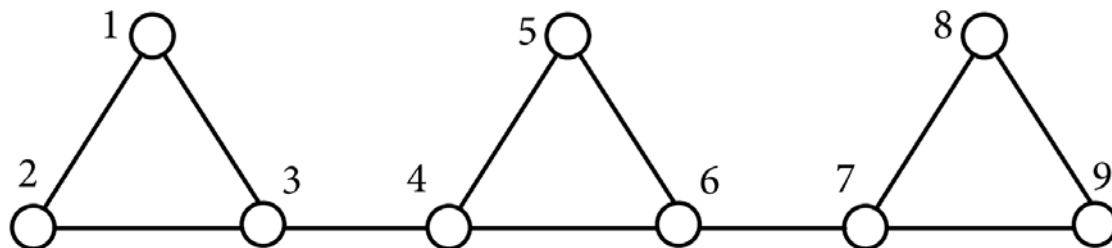
Comparison between Centralized RL and HRL

Heterogeneous Agents

Dimension				Time(sec)		Performance		
N	c	n	m	RL	HRL	OPT	HRL	SOP $(J - J^*)/J^*$
3	2	4	2	0.57	0.07	28.76	40.57	41.08%
3	3	4	2	7.04	0.08	52.75	62.24	18.00%
3	4	4	2	29.69	0.24	81.03	87.57	8.08%
4	4	8	4	> 60	9.83	198.89	209.29	5.23%

$$N = 3 \ \& \ c = 3$$

N : # of teams (cliques)
 c : # of agents per team
 n : size of state-vector
 m : size of input-vector



Graph \mathcal{G} with 3 cliques, each clique contains 3 agents.

Reducing Learning Time via Hierarchical Approximation

Homogeneous Agents

- *Identical* agent dynamics: $\dot{x}_i = Ax_i + Bu_i, i = 1, \dots, N$
- *Identical* performance metrics: $Q = (I_N + G) \otimes Q_0, \quad R = I_N \otimes R_0$
- **Decompose** into solving N smaller-sized LQR problems

$$\min_{v_i} J_i(\xi_i, v_i) = \int_0^\infty (g_i \xi_i^\top Q_0 \xi_i + v_i^\top R_0 v_i) dt$$
$$s.t. \quad \dot{\xi}_i = A\xi_i + Bv_i.$$

★ g_i : eigenvalues of $I_N + G$

★ v_i^* learned using ADP with a smaller dimension (n)

- Combined optimal control: $u^* = \sum_{i=1}^N (S_i \otimes I_m) v_i^*$.
- “Learn in parallel, implement centrally”

Final controller is optimal !

Comparison between Centralized RL and HRL

Homogeneous Agents

Similarity transformation allows to decouple the problem.

Final controller is optimal !

Comparisons Between Different Algorithms

Dimension			Computational Time (s)		
p	n	m	RL	HRL	C-HRL
5	6	4	0.8829	0.0863	0.0770
3	12	8	5.5812	0.1639	0.1218
3	18	12	43.9159	1.2854	0.8772
5	18	12	**	2.1959	1.5911
50	18	12	**	22.7517	16.5972

C-HRL: Apply a customized HRL algorithm to decomposed problems

** : Computational time is longer than 60s

G. Jing, H. Bai, J. George and A. Chakraborty, “Decomposability and Parallel Computation of Multi-Agent LQR”, *in Fra12 Regular Session (11:15-11:30) American Control Conference*, to appear, 2021.

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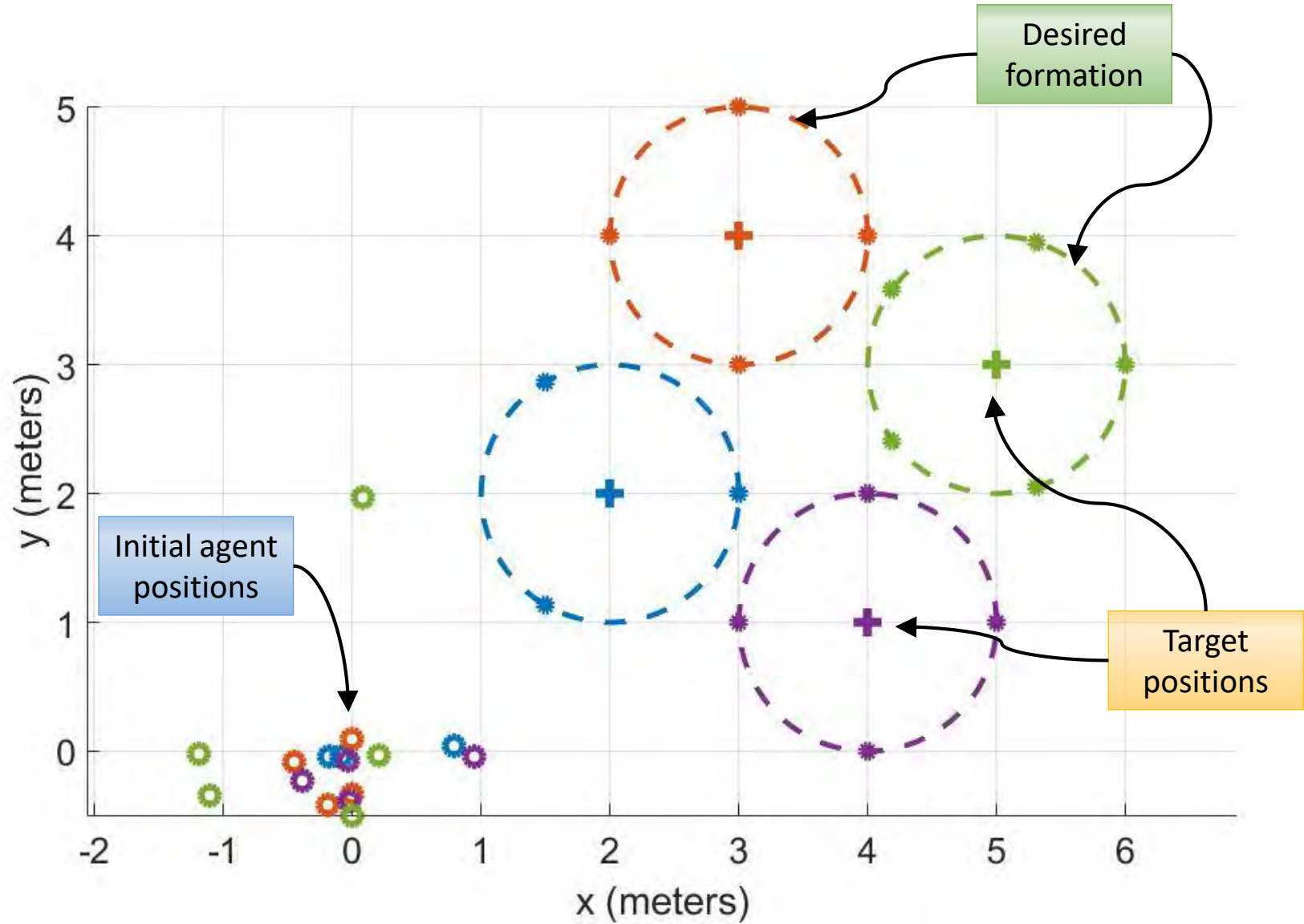
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HRL Example: Formation Control of Multiple Groups



HRL Example: Formation Control of Multiple Groups

Heterogeneous Agents

- 2D robots: $M_i \ddot{q}_i + C_i \dot{q}_i = u_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, N$
- Unknown M_i and C_i
- The robots are divided into 4 groups to track 4 different targets of known locations.
 - Linear Quadratic Integral (LQI) approach
- Control objectives:
 - ★ each group converges to a desired formation
 - ★ its assigned target is at the center of the formation
 - ★ keep the group centroid as close as possible

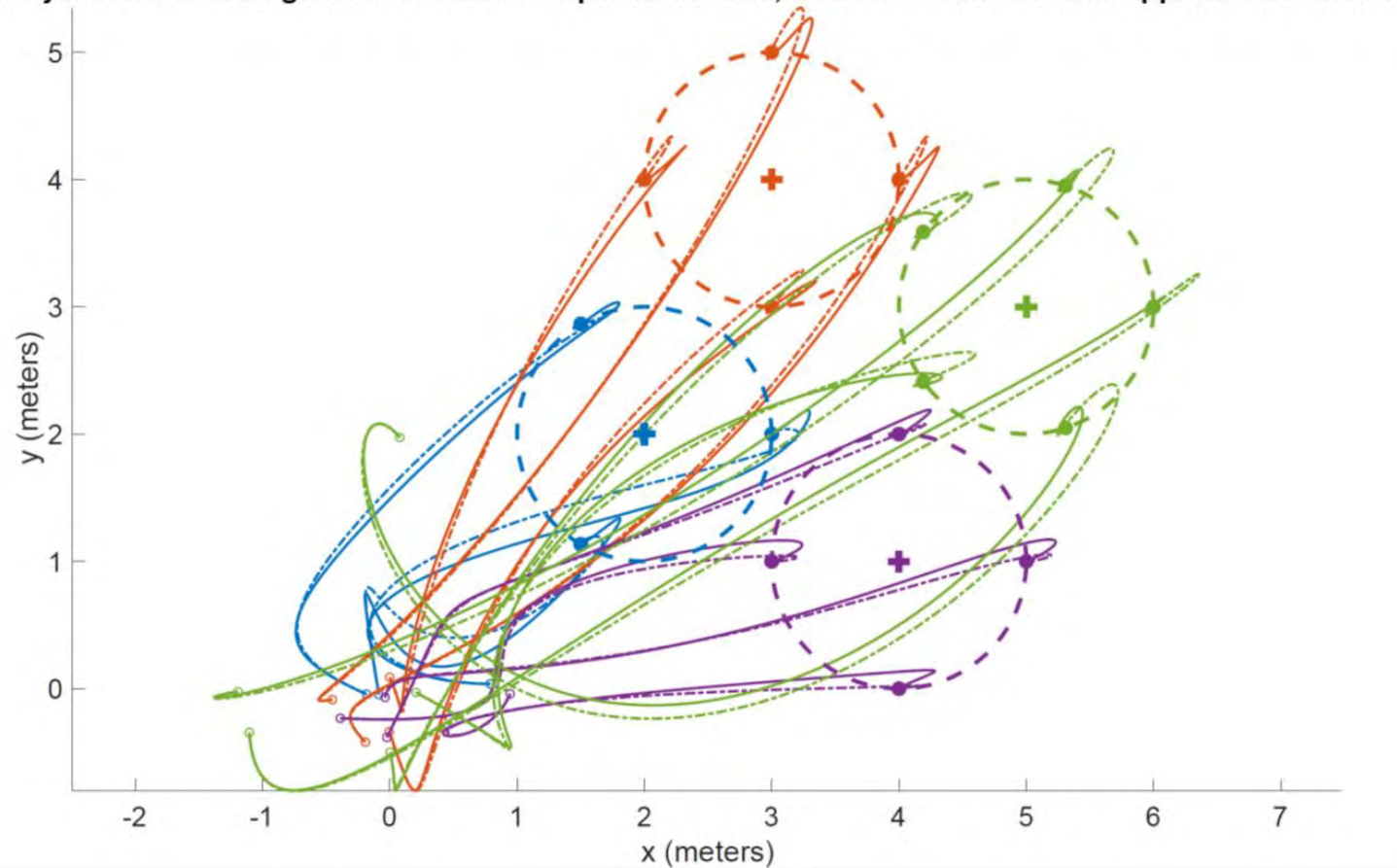
$$J_j = \int_0^\infty X_j^\top \bar{Q}_j X_j + \mathbf{u}_j^\top R_j \mathbf{u}_j dt \quad J_g = \int_0^\infty X^\top (L_w \otimes S^\top S) X dt$$

$$J = \sum_{j=1}^s J_j + J_g = \int_0^\infty X^\top (\bar{Q} + \tilde{Q}) X + \mathbf{u}^\top R \mathbf{u} dt$$

Simulation results:

$$Q = 0.1 \times I + 0.5 \times (L_w \otimes \tilde{Q})$$

Trajectories of the agents: solid lines -- optimal control; dash-dot lines: learned approximate control

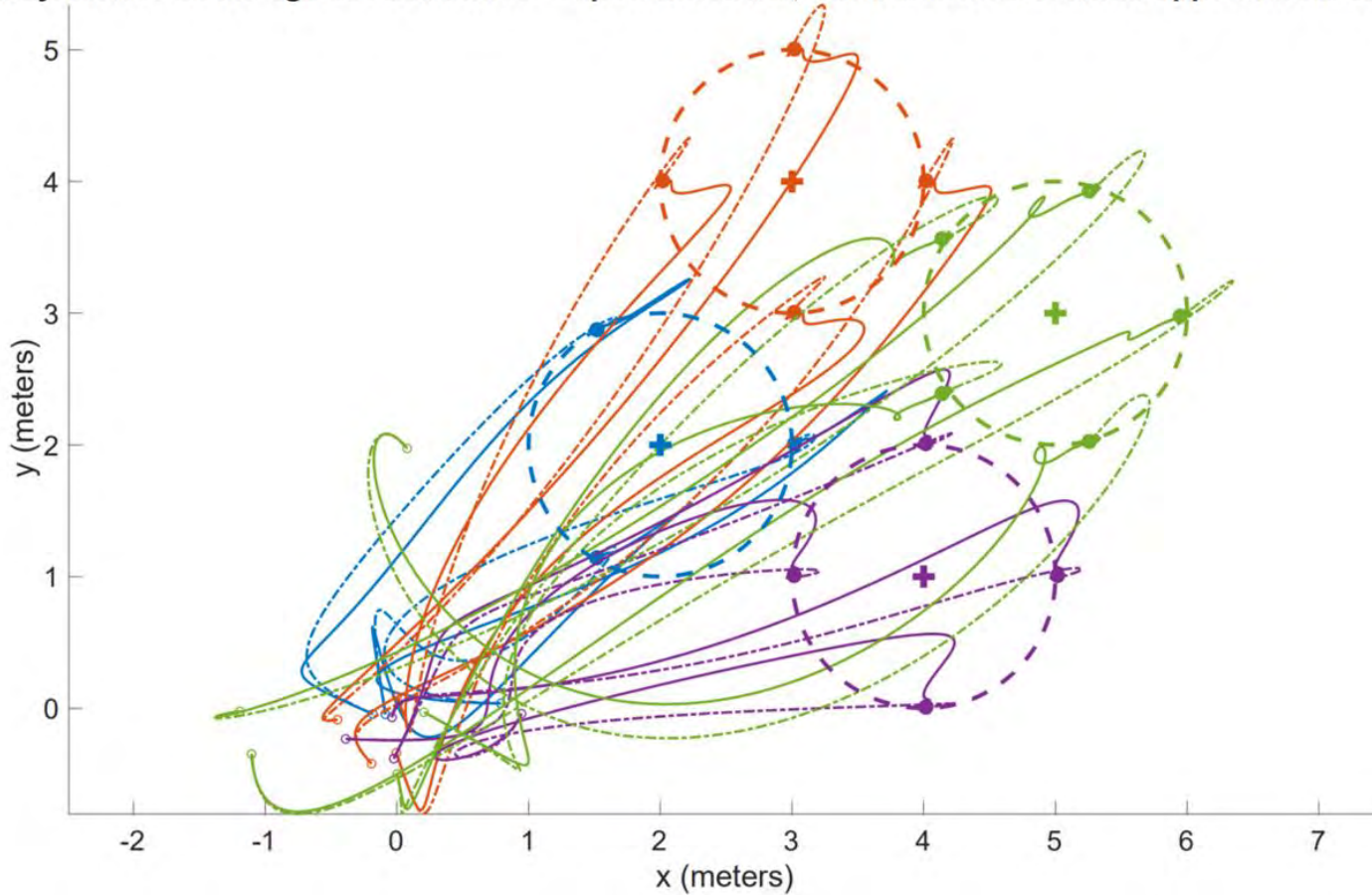


Trajectories of agents under optimal and approximated optimal controllers. Targets are denoted by '+'s. Different colors indicate different groups.

Simulation results:

$$Q = 0.1 \times I + 5 \times (L_w \otimes \tilde{Q})$$

Trajectories of the agents: solid lines -- optimal control; dash-dot lines: learned approximate control



Trajectories of agents under optimal and approximated optimal controllers. Targets are denoted by '+'s. Different colors indicate different groups.

Outline

- Overview

- Hierarchical Reinforcement Learning (HRL) Control
 - RL Control (background)
 - Problem Formulation
 - Proposed HRL Solution
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 - Decomposition Objectives
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□ AirSim Experiments

□ Conclusions

Decomposition

□ Recall $Q = \bar{Q} + L_w \otimes \tilde{Q}$, where $\bar{Q} = \text{diag}\{\bar{Q}_{11}, \dots, \bar{Q}_{NN}\}$.

□ Decompose L_w into $L_w = G_1 + G_2$

○ G_1 : block diagonal Laplacian matrix with $s \leq N$ blocks

○ G_2 : describes couplings between the groups

□ Now $Q = \underbrace{\bar{Q} + G_1 \otimes \tilde{Q}}_{\tilde{Q}: s \text{ groups}} + \underbrace{G_2 \otimes \tilde{Q}}_{\text{group coupling}}$

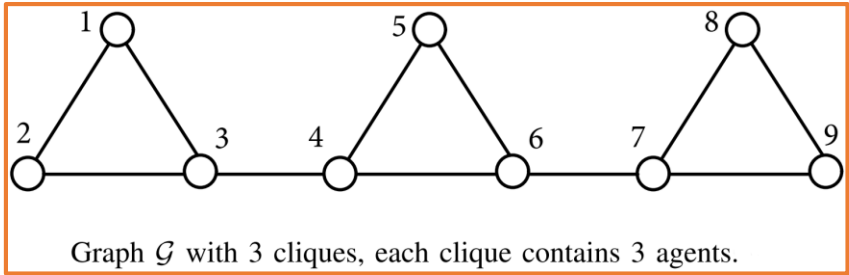
$$L_w = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{2} & \boxed{-1} & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ \boxed{-1} & \boxed{3} & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & \boxed{1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & \boxed{2} & \boxed{-1} \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{-1} & \boxed{2} \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow G_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{1} & \boxed{-1} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \boxed{-1} & \boxed{1} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \boxed{0} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{1} & \boxed{-1} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{-1} & \boxed{1} \end{pmatrix} \quad G_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{0} & \boxed{-1} \\ 0 & 2 & \boxed{-1} & \boxed{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$L_w = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{2} & \boxed{-1} & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ \boxed{-1} & \boxed{3} & \boxed{-1} & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & \boxed{2} & \boxed{-1} \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{-1} & \boxed{2} \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow G_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{1} & \boxed{-1} & \boxed{0} & 0 & 0 \\ \boxed{-1} & \boxed{2} & \boxed{-1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \boxed{-1} & \boxed{1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{1} & \boxed{-1} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{-1} & \boxed{1} \end{pmatrix} \quad G_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{0} & \boxed{-1} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \boxed{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Decomposition Strategies

- Given # of groups and L_w , find an optimal decomposition: challenging
- Explored two approaches
 - Reduce the optimality gap $J(x(0), u_h) - J(x(0), u^*)$
 - An upper bound of the gap depends on $\text{tr}(G_2)$ & $\text{cond}(\mathcal{P})$
 - Minimizing $\text{tr}(G_2)$: k -cut graph partitioning problem
 - Limit required inter-agent communication links
 - maximize $\kappa = \sum_{i \sim j} N_i N_j$
 - mixed-integer quadratic program (MIQP)

number of pairs of agents that do not need to communicate with each other.

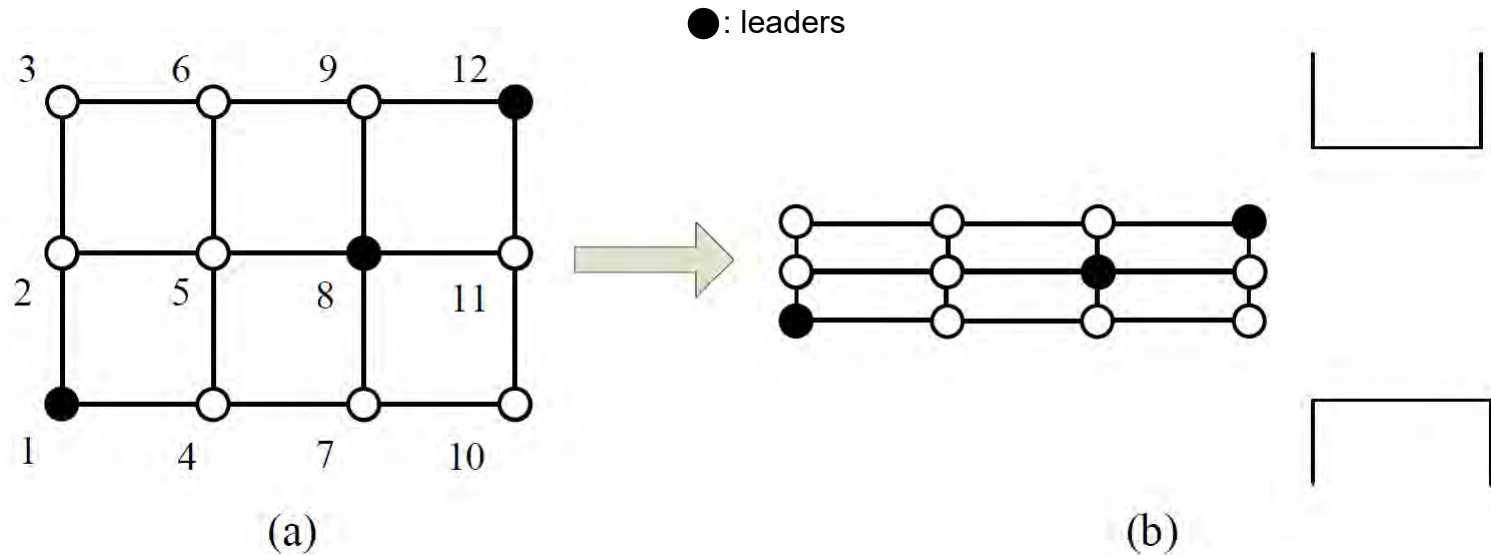


COMPARISONS BETWEEN DIFFERENT DECOMPOSITIONS.

Decomposition	κ	$\text{tr}(G_2)$	$\text{cond}(\mathcal{P})$	J	n_c	SOP $(J - J^*)/J^*$
$\{1,2\}, \{3,\dots,7\}, \{8,9\}$	4	8	16.4	15.9	32	23.57%
$\{1,2,3\}, \{4,5,6\}, \{7,8,9\}$	9	4	17.1	14.3	27	10.20%
$\{1,\dots,3\}, \{4\}, \{5,\dots,9\}$	15	6	17.0	15.8	21	22.15%
Undecomposed	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.9	36	0

Jing, et al. Model-Free Optimal Control of Linear Multi-Agent Systems via Decomposition and Hierarchical Approximation IEEE TCNS, 2021.

Multi-Agent Formation Maneuver Control



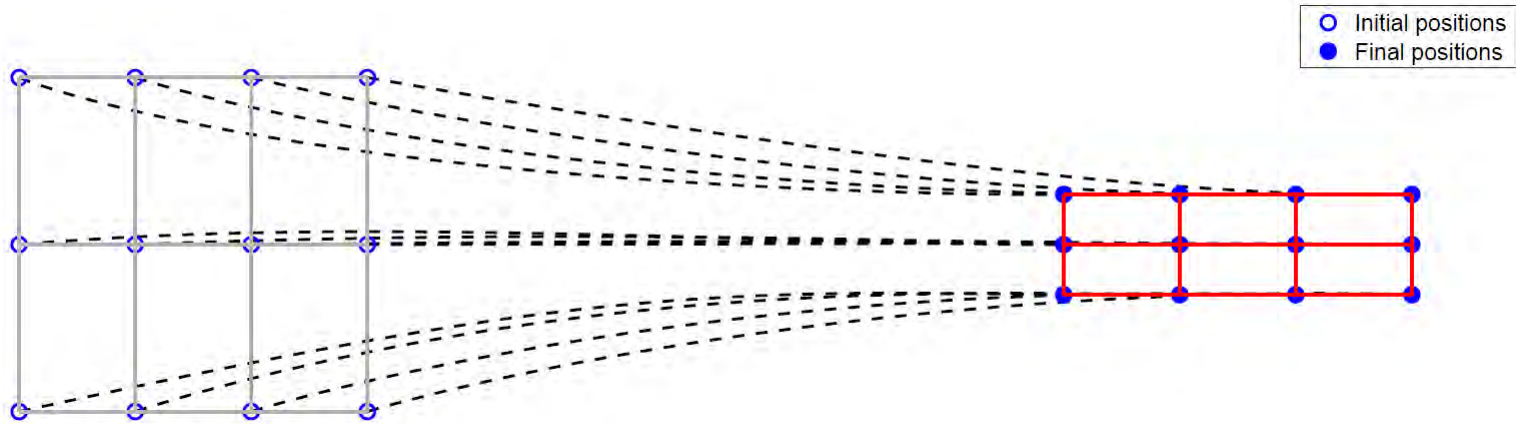
- Agent dynamics: $M_i \ddot{q}_i + C_i \dot{q}_i = u_i$, $i = 1, \dots, N$, (unknown M_i, C_i)
- Objective function

$$J_1 = \int_0^{\infty} \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_f} \|q_i - q_j - (h_i - h_j)\|^2 + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{L}} \|q_i - h_i\|^2 dt$$

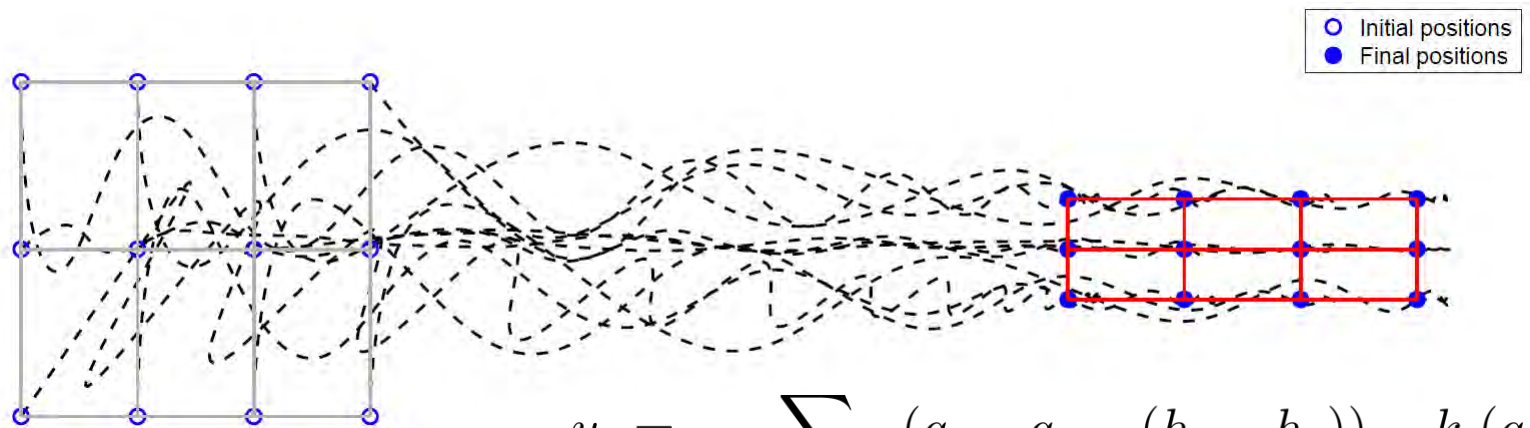
$$J_2 = \int_0^{\infty} \dot{q}^\top (L \otimes I_2) \dot{q} dt$$

$$J = J_1 + J_2 = \int_0^{\infty} [x^\top ((L + \Lambda) \otimes I_4) x + u^\top u] dt$$

Multi-Agent Formation Maneuver Control



Optimal (centralized, complete communication graph) $J = 1112.64$ & $J_u = 359.11$



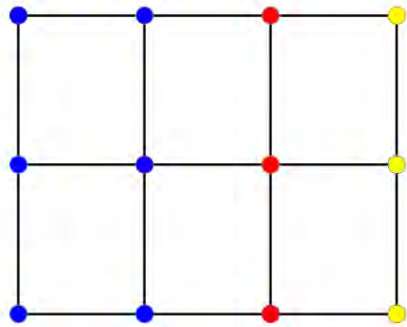
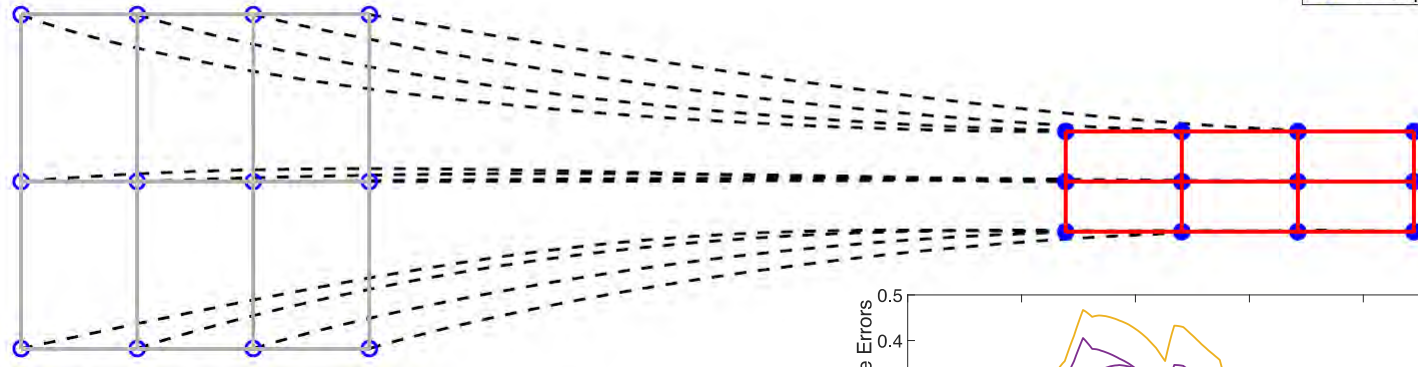
Non-optimal
(distributed, stable)

$$u_i = - \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_c} (q_i - q_j - (h_i - h_j)) - k_i(q_i - h_i)$$

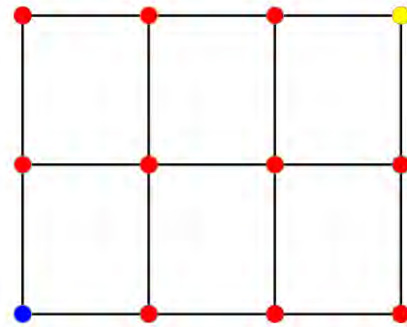
$J = 2011.21$ & $J_u = 945.56$

Simulation results: HRL

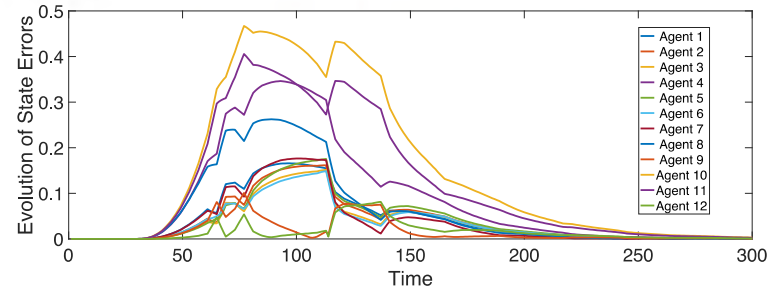
○ Initial positions
● Final positions



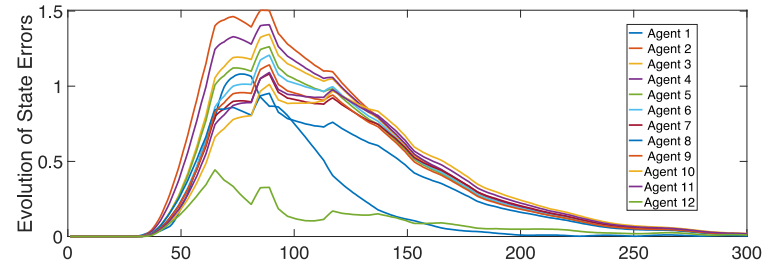
(a)



(b)



(a)



(b)

COMPARISONS BETWEEN DIFFERENT DECOMPOSITIONS.

	Decomposition			Performance Indices								
	N_1	N_2	N_3	κ	$\text{tr}(G_2)$	$\text{cond}(\mathcal{P})$	$\text{cond}(\hat{Q})$	J	J_u	n_c	Time(sec)	SOP
(a)	6	3	3	18	12	248.7647	46.1346	1259.7985	426.9677	48	0.9248	0.82%
(b)	1	10	1	1	8	339.4430	83.7524	1347.0390	431.6374	65	13.9719	7.96%
	7	2	3	0	12	285.1161	55.3510	1267.7974	442.4165	66	2.1165	1.61%

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Microsoft AirSim (Aerial Informatics and Robotics Simulation)

An open-source, cross platform simulator for drones, ground vehicles such as cars and various other objects, built on Epic Games' Unreal Engine 4 as a platform for AI research.



<https://microsoft.github.io/AirSim/>

AirSim Simulation – 2 Teams

- Trajectory: Minimum Snap (compute @ 10 Hz)
- Position Control: LQR (compute @ 20 Hz, update gains @ 10 Hz)
- Formation:
- Circle of radius 4
- 10 meters above target



AirSim Simulation – Tracking & Formation Control



Conclusions

- Decomposition and hierarchical approximation can speed up reinforcement learning control of large-scale multi-agent systems (MAS).
- For heterogeneous MAS,
 - Agents decomposed into groups & Control decomposed into a local control and a global control
 - Local control is learned (in parallel) and global control is approximated
 - Optimizing decompositions of the agents can reduce optimality gap and inter-agent communication.
- For homogeneous MAS, decomposition into N smaller, parallel problems leads to optimal control.
- Several options to decompose the large-scale MAS

Publications

1. G. Jing, H. Bai, J. George and A. Chakrabortty, "Model-Free Optimal Control of Linear Multi-Agent Systems via Decomposition and Hierarchical Approximation," in IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems, doi: 10.1109/TCNS.2021.3074256.
2. G. Jing, H. Bai, J. George, A. Chakrabortty and P. K. Sharma, "Learning Distributed Stabilizing Controllers for Multi-Agent Systems," in IEEE Control Systems Letters, doi: 10.1109/LCSYS.2021.3072007.
3. G. Jing, H. Bai, J. George and A. Chakrabortty, "Model-Free Reinforcement Learning of Minimal-Cost Variance Control," IEEE Control Systems Letters, vol. 4, no. 4, pp. 916-921, 2020.
4. Bai, H., George, J. and Chakrabortty, A., "Hierarchical Control of Multi-Agent Systems using Online Reinforcement Learning," American Control Conference (ACC), Denver, CO, July 2020.
5. G. Jing, H. Bai, J. George and A. Chakrabortty, "Model-Free Optimal Control of Linear Multi-Agent Systems via Decomposition and Hierarchical Approximation," arXiv preprint, arXiv:2008.06604, Aug. 2020.
6. G. Jing, H. Bai, J. George and A. Chakrabortty, "Hierarchical Reinforcement Learning for Optimal Control of Linear Multi-Agent Systems: the Homogeneous case," submitted to American Control Conference (ACC), New Orleans, LA, July 2021.

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