Autonomous Network Self-Healing in Drone Swarms

2nd Gianluca Bresolin
University of Padua: Computer Science
University of Padua
Padua, Italy
gianbreso02@gmail.com

Abstract—This research reports the formation control method for a swarm of drones capable, after the loss of communication between a drone and the base station, of autonomously reorganizing to form a multi-hop relay chain.
The proposed method is based on a virtual spring dumper model, where drones are attracted by preceding and following drones in the multi-hop relay chain, while being repelled by other drones in the swarm to avoid collisions.
The experiment was conducted in *ns-3*, a network simulator, where we modeled a swarm of drones communicating through radio signals and moving in a 3D space.
Results show that the proposed method is feasible and allows the swarm to successfully reorganize itself after the loss of communication of a drone, forming a stable multi-hop relay chain with intermediary drones positioned close to the geometric midpoint between preceding and following ones.

Index Terms—Drones, Swarm, Wireless, Flooding, Self-Healing.