

FCUP-CC3042-2024/2025-1S

✓ Concluída

A. Multi-Agent Autonomous Waste Collection

Objective:

Design and implement a decentralized waste collection system using Multi-Agent Systems (MAS) with simulate autonomous garbage trucks (agents) that collaborate to efficiently collect waste from various dynamically to changes in waste levels and traffic conditions.

Problem Scenario:

In large urban areas, managing waste collection efficiently is a challenge, especially with varying levels road conditions (e.g., traffic, roadblocks). Instead of a centrally controlled system, autonomous garbage waste collection, where each truck operates as an independent agent. These agents must work together to avoid redundant collections, and manage limited resources such as fuel or battery levels.

Key Features of the Assignment:

1. **Truck Agents:** Each truck is represented by an agent responsible for collecting waste from assigned areas, of detecting the fill level of waste bins in their vicinity and making decisions on whether to collect based on capacity, battery/fuel level, and proximity.
2. **Bin Agents:** Waste bins can also be represented by agents that periodically report their fill levels and trigger a collection request when they reach a specified threshold.
3. **Decentralized Decision-Making:** The system is decentralized, meaning each truck agent makes its own decisions on when to collect waste, where to go next, and how to optimize its route, without relying on a central controller. Agents must coordinate to avoid overlapping collection areas and ensure city-wide coverage.
4. **Dynamic Environment:** The environment should include dynamic elements like changing traffic conditions and waste production levels. Truck agents need to adjust their routes in real time based on these conditions.
5. **Task Allocation and Collaboration:** Implement a negotiation or task allocation protocol (e.g., Contract Net Protocol) for agents to share responsibilities, hand off tasks to nearby agents when overloaded, and ensure efficient coverage.
6. **Resource Management:** Each truck has limited resources, such as fuel or battery life and waste capacity. Agents must find efficient routes to minimize fuel consumption and maximize waste collected per trip. They also need to manage unloading waste or recharging when needed.
7. **Optimization Metrics:** The system should track the following metrics to evaluate performance:
 - Total waste collected
 - Average collection time for each bin
 - Total fuel consumption or battery usage
 - Distance traveled by each truck agent
 - Efficiency of collaboration and task allocation between agents

8. **Fault Tolerance:** The system should be able to handle scenarios where some agents fail or go off. Remaining agents should redistribute tasks to ensure uninterrupted waste collection.

Suggested Development Phases:

Week 1-2:

- **System Design:** Define the architecture of the system, including truck and bin agents, communication elements (e.g., traffic and road conditions).
- **Initial Setup:** Implement a basic waste collection simulation with a few truck and bin agents operating.

Week 3:

- **Agent Communication:** Implement the communication protocols between truck agents and bin agents, including fill level reports from bin agents and make collection decisions based on the information received.
- **Route Planning:** Develop an initial route-planning algorithm that enables truck agents to travel efficiently while managing their fuel or battery levels.

Week 4:

- **Dynamic Adaptation:** Introduce environmental changes like roadblocks or varying traffic conditions. Agents should adjust their routes dynamically in response to these changes.
- **Task Allocation Protocol:** Implement a task allocation or collaboration mechanism (e.g., Contract Net Protocol) to enable agents to hand off tasks or divide collection areas efficiently.

Week 5:

- **Resource Optimization:** Enhance agents' decision-making algorithms to optimize resource usage, such as minimizing fuel consumption and maximizing waste collection per trip.
- **Fault Tolerance:** Implement fault-tolerant behavior in the system. If a truck agent fails or becomes unavailable, the system should redistribute its tasks to other agents.

Week 6:

- **User Interface and Visualization:** Create a simple interface that shows the city layout, truck movement, and collection metrics (e.g., waste collected, fuel consumed). The interface should allow users to observe agent behavior and system performance.
- **Testing and Evaluation:** Test the system with various city layouts and dynamic conditions, such as changing traffic and bin locations. Measure system performance using the predefined optimization metrics.