
# Putting ChoiRbot to the Test

SWARM 2025

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# What is ChoiRbot anyway?

Introduction

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# ChoiRbot origin

- Swarm robotics framework designed for the simulation and testing of swarm behavior in robotic systems.
- Purpose:
  - Facilitate distributed optimization, control, and communication among autonomous robotic agents.
- Developed by OPT4Smart lab in University of Bolognia



*Source: A. Testa, A. Camisa, G. Notarstefano*, ChoiRbot: A ROS 2 toolbox for cooperative robotics, IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters, 6(2), 2714-2720, 2021

# ChoirBot Capabilities

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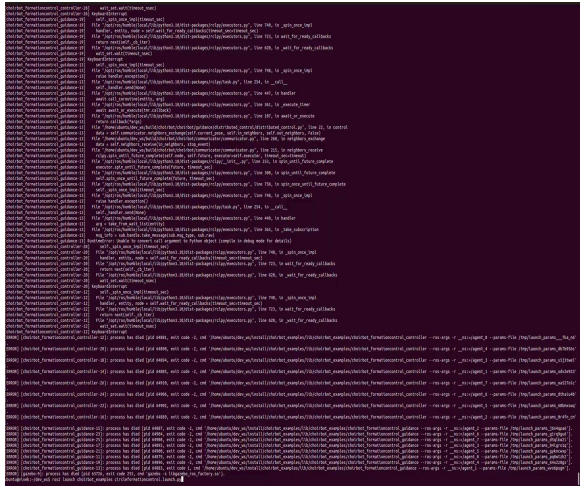
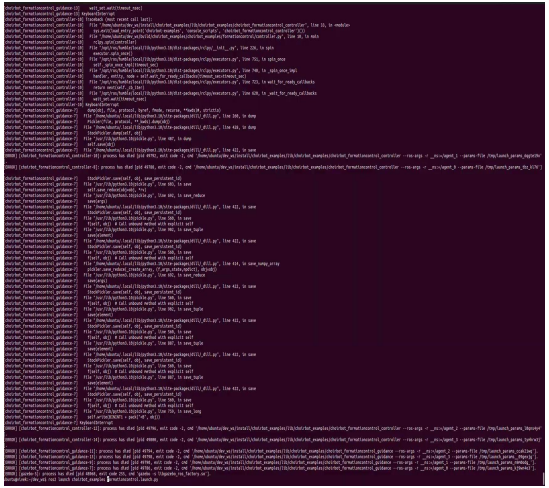
# ChoiRbot Framework overview

- **Distributed Optimization:**
  - Encodes advanced algorithms for efficient task distribution.
- **Peer-to-Peer Communication simulation:**
  - Supports seamless interactions among individual nodes.
- **Key Features:**
  - Formation Control: Maintaining specific formations.
  - Dynamic Task Assignment: Adapting tasks based on real-time conditions.

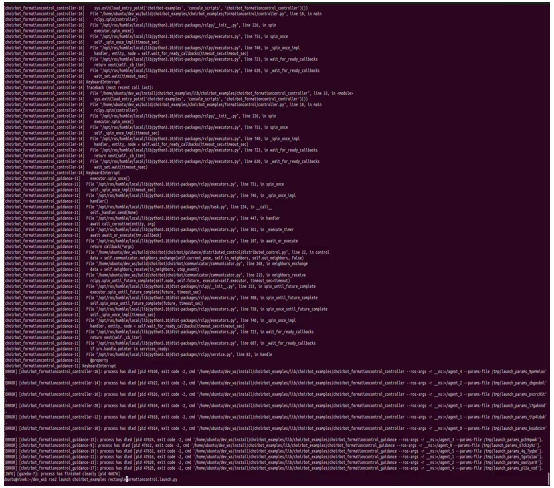
# ChoiRbot Formation control



Circle : 8 Turtlebots



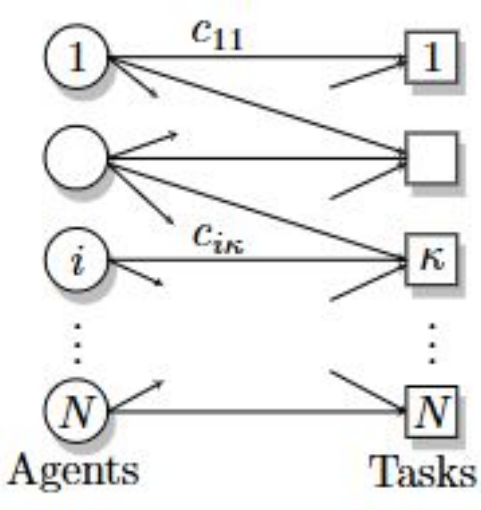
Hexagon : 6 Turtlebots



Rectangle : 4 Turtlebots

# Dynamic Task assignment explained

- **Functionality:**
  - Robots dynamically allocate tasks to optimize performance and efficiency.
- **Benefits:**
  - Enhances adaptability and robustness in changing environments, crucial for real-world applications.




*Bürger, M., Notarstefano, G., Bullo, F., & Allgöwer, F. (2012). A distributed simplex algorithm for degenerate linear programs and multi-agent assignments. Automatica, 48(9), 2298-2304.*

# Our Implementation

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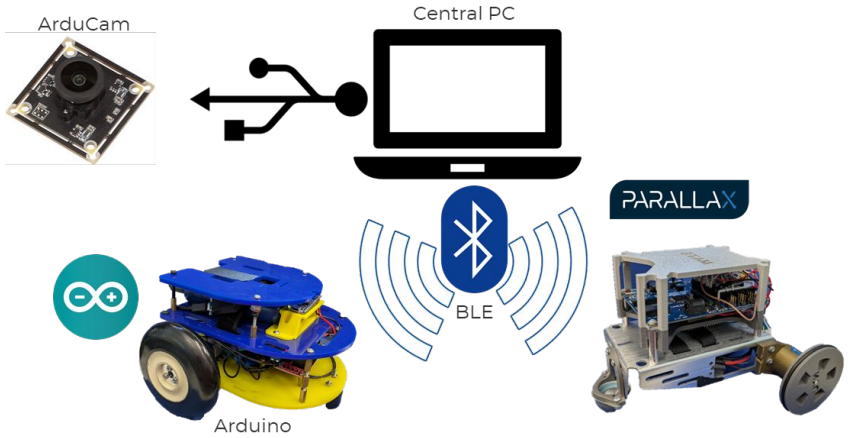
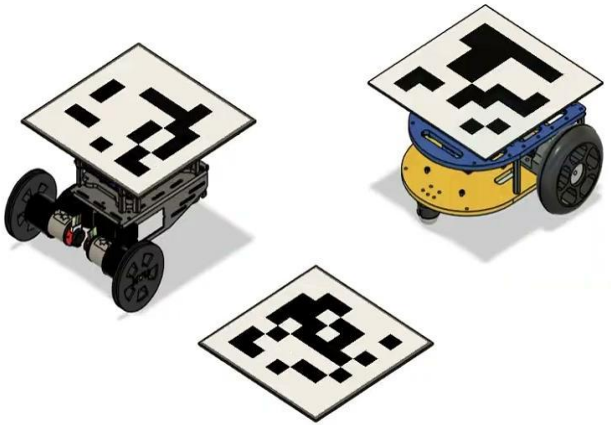
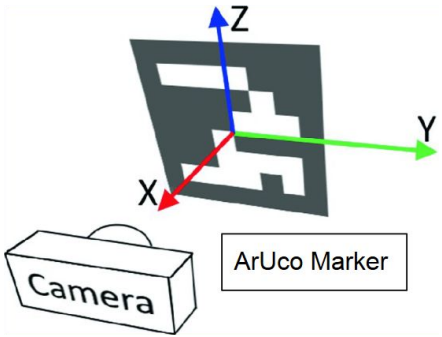
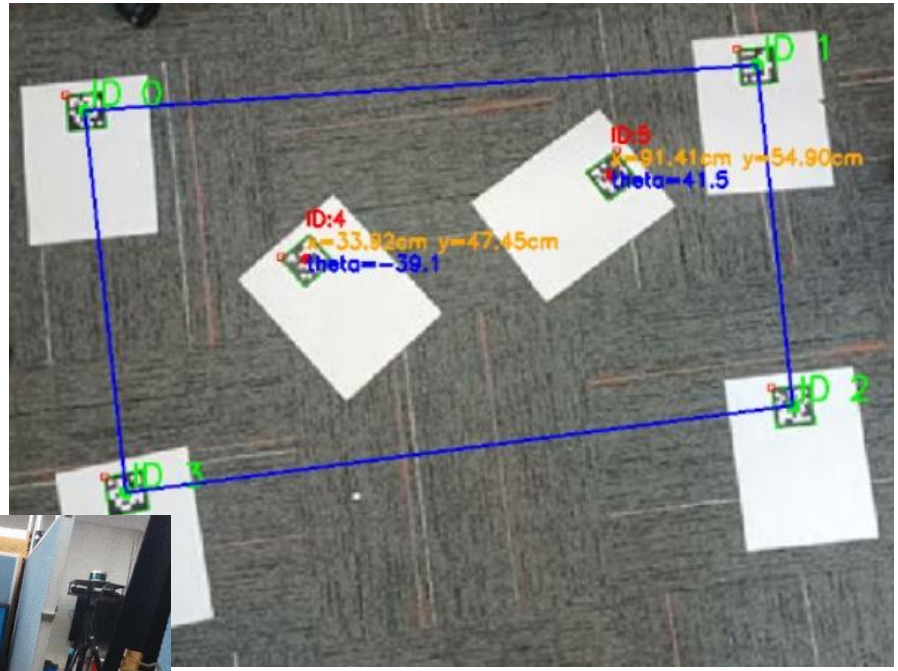
# Robots HW description

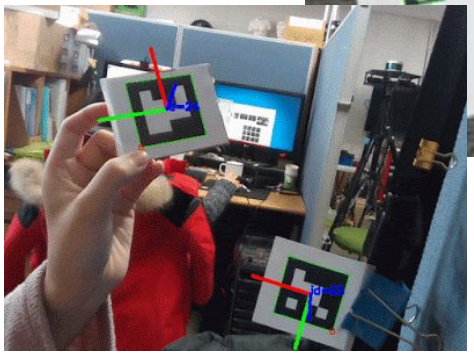


# Aruco Detector



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# BLE Bridge

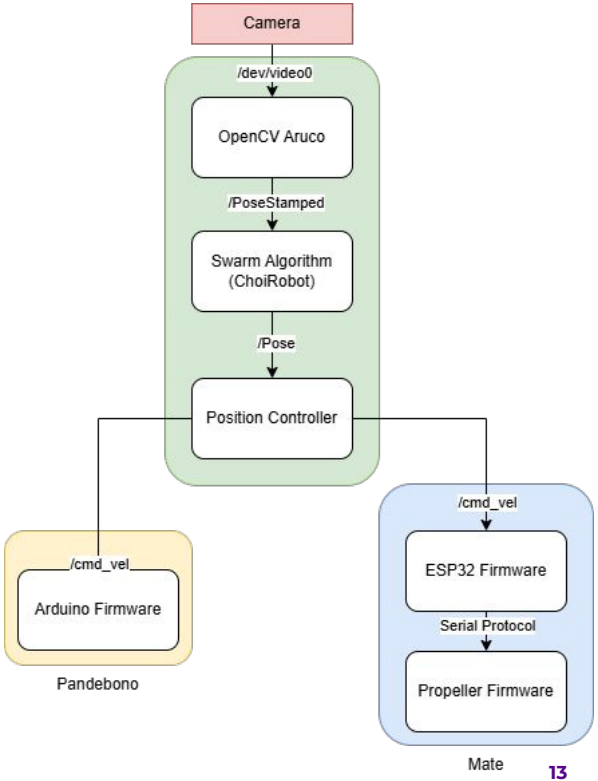
- **Functionality:**
  - Converts cmd_vel messages into BLE format for robot communication.
- **Connection Management:**
  - Identifies each robot via BLE MAC and ensures persistent connections with auto-reconnect capabilities.
- **Message Pipeline:**
  - Channels commands through a dedicated BLE service.

# System tweaks

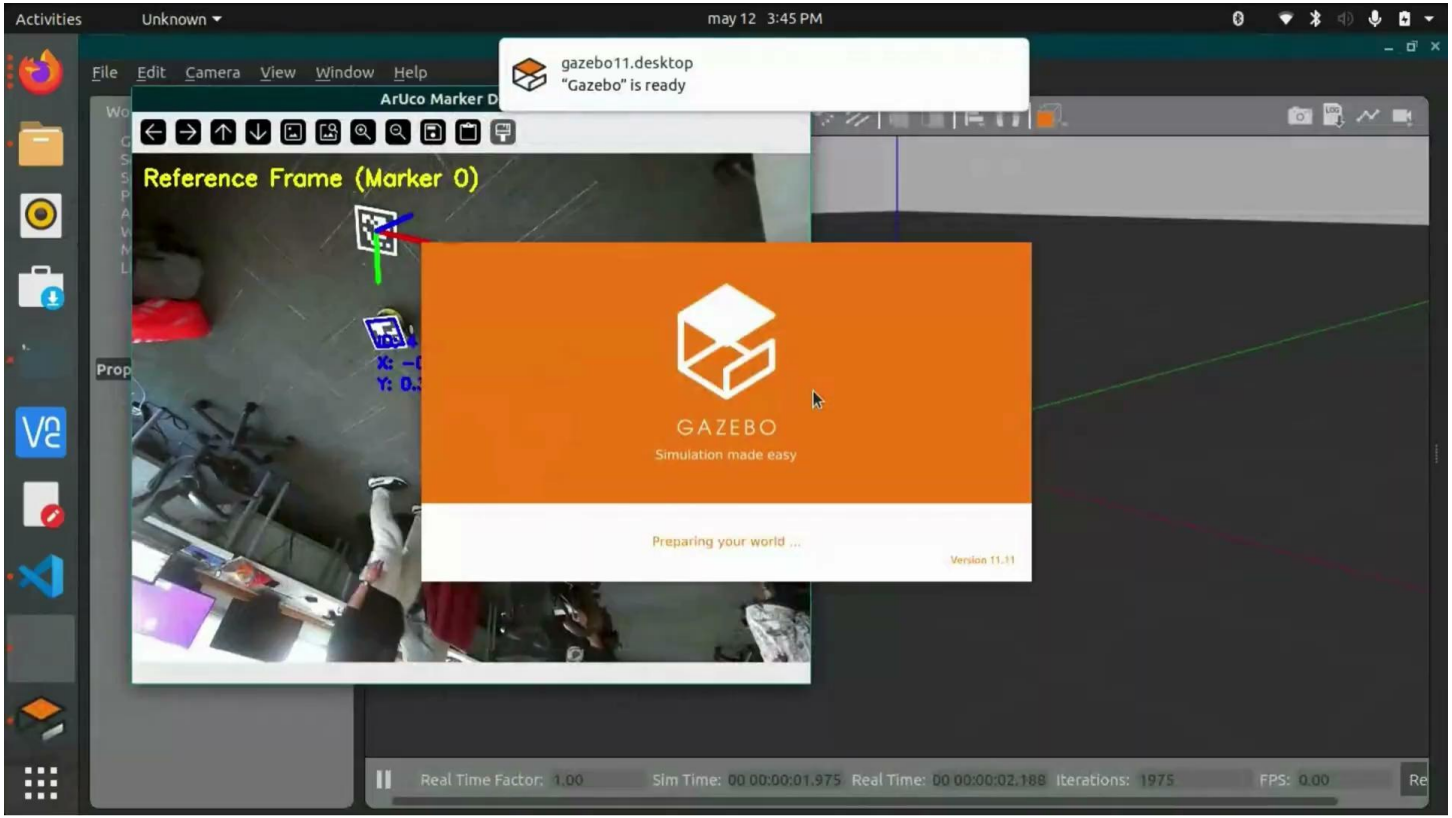
| Component | Tweaks Made |
| --- | --- |
| Launch System | Removed randomness; added ArUco, GUI, Gazebo. |
| ArUco Integration and GUI | Markers 4 & 5 publish /agent_X/odom. |
| Initialization | Robots use ArUco-based pose startup. |
| Control Logic | Upgraded to unicycle feedback control. |
| BLE Handling | ble_bridge.py sends /cmd_vel to real bots. |

# Changes overview

- **Aruco_detector.py:**
  - Utilizes camera inputs for accurate positioning through ArUco marker detection.
- **Ble_bridge.py:**
  - Converts cmd_vel messages into Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) signals for communication with the robots.
- **ROS2 Launcher:**
  - Integrates simulation and real-world operations seamlessly.
- **Robot Firmware:**
  - Translates velocity commands to motor speeds through BLE connections.



# Video of the system

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# Conclusions

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# Conclusions

- **Implementation Success:**
  - The project operated successfully despite numerous hotfixes.
- **Modularity Challenges:**
  - The ChoiRbot framework's modularity was less than anticipated.($N \neq 6$).
- **Control Strategies:**
  - While complex controllers excel in simulations, simpler, more robust controllers are preferred for real-world applications due to ease of debugging and reliability.
- **Lack of Peer review validation.**


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