

Efficient Dispatching of Autonomous Cargo Vehicles

August Soderberg

Advisor: Pito Salas

Why do we care?

- Warehouses
- Campuses + Urban areas
- Trucking + Rail



Why do we care?

- Users
- Companies
- Planet



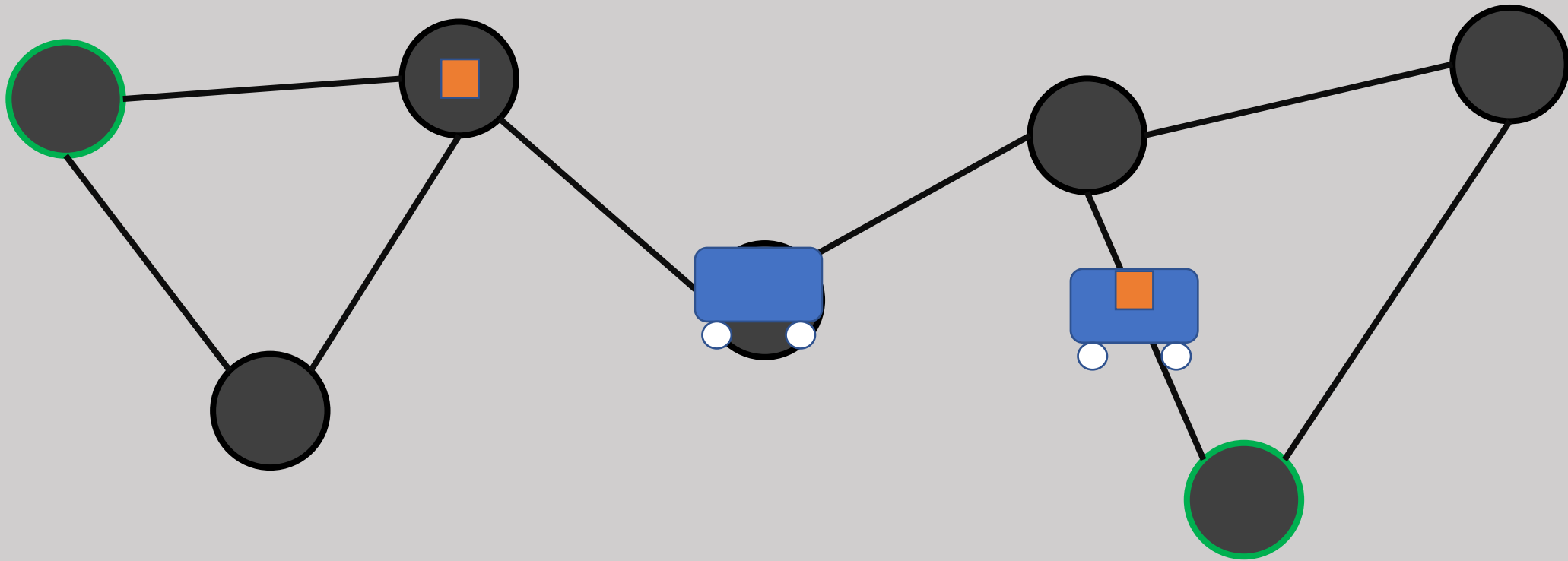
How can we solve this problem?

Features:

- Vehicles
- Tasks
- Map
- Charging



How can we solve this problem?



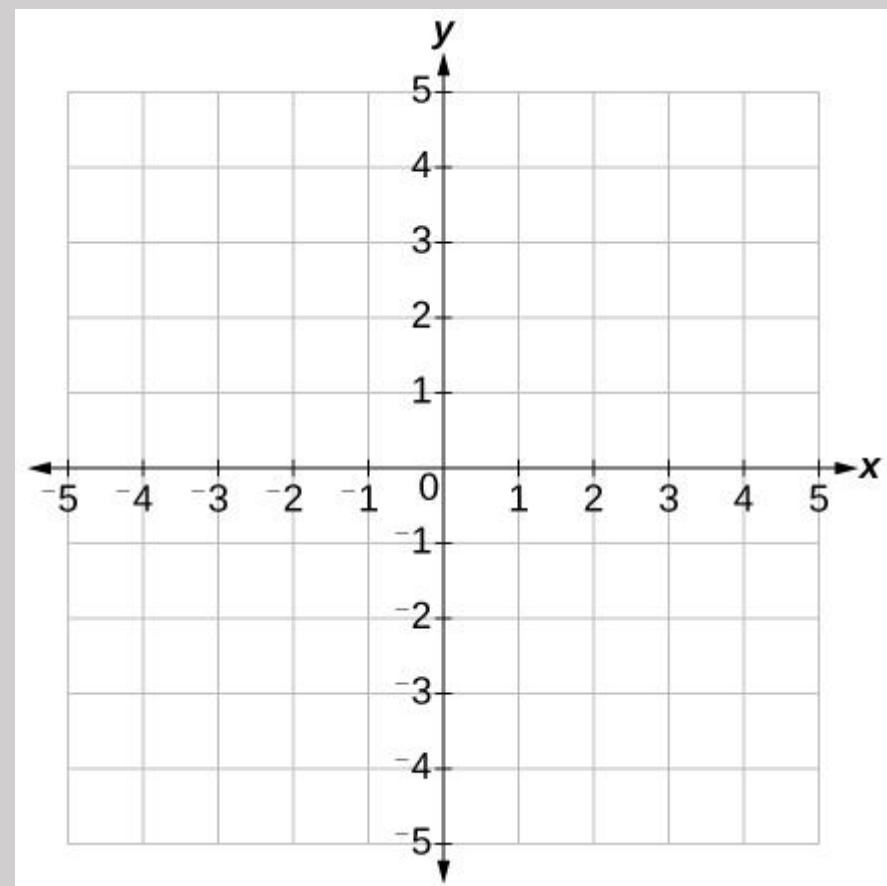
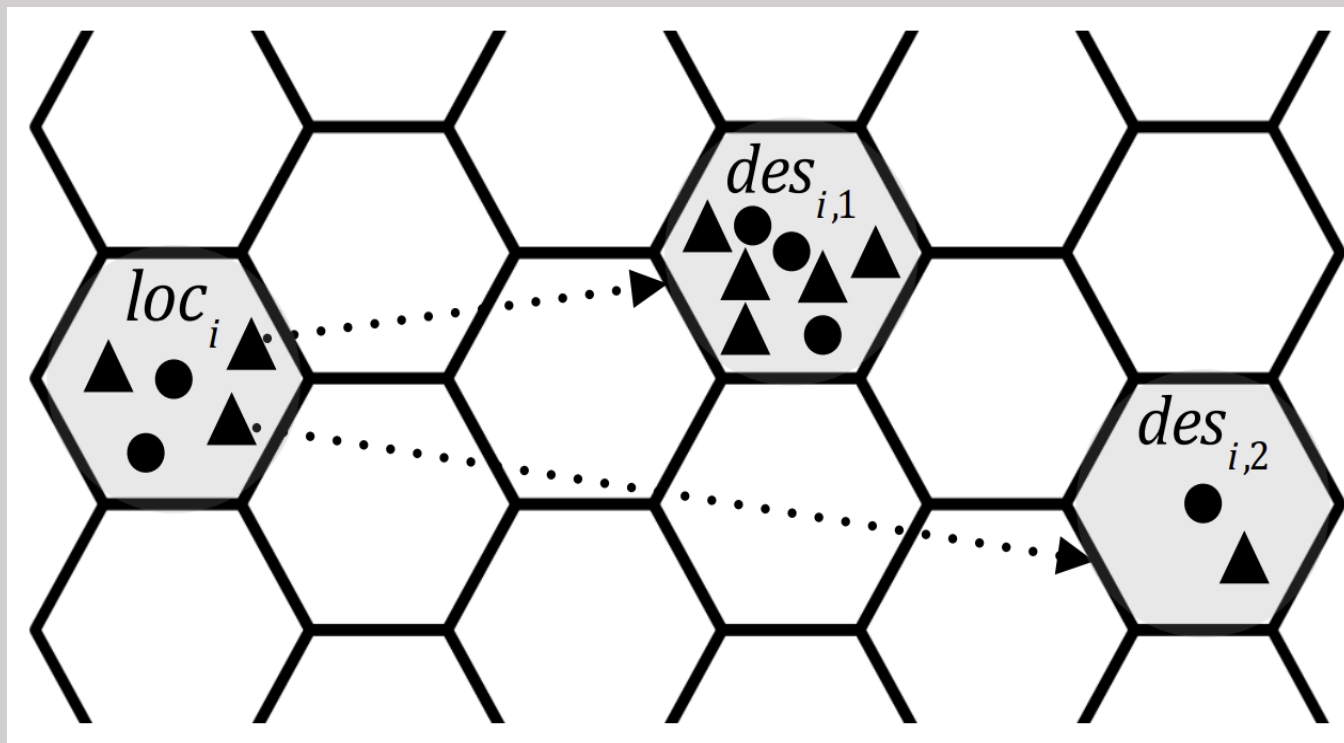
Related Work

What have other people
done?

Related Work

- Ridesharing
- Mean Field Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning

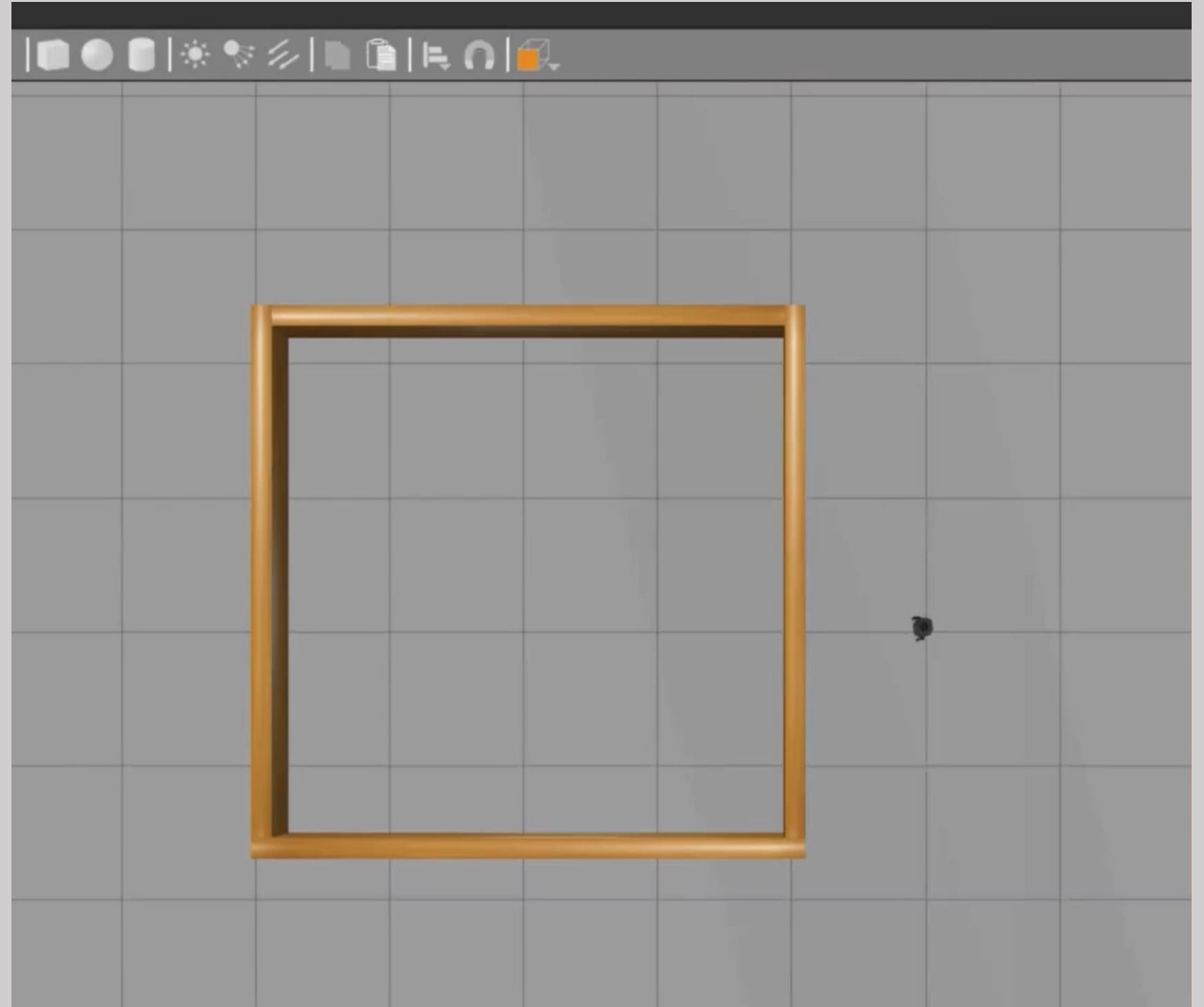
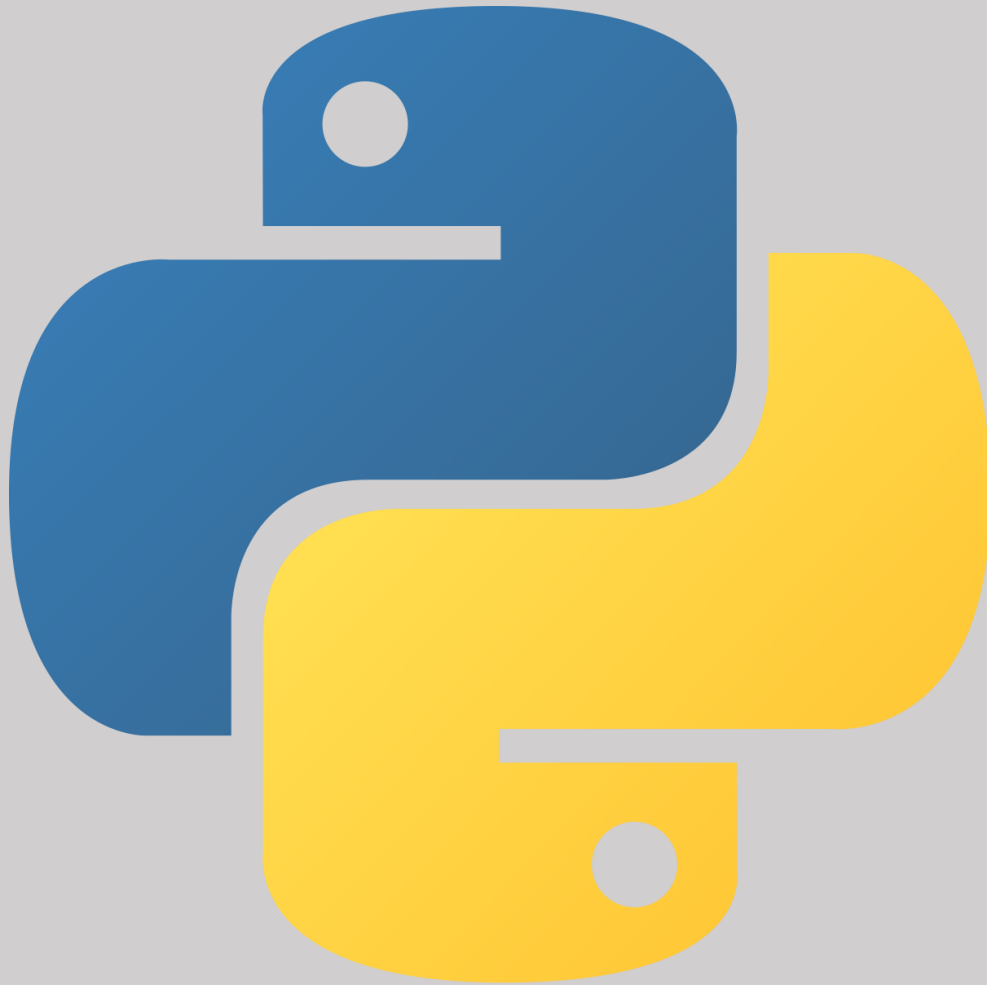
Related Work



Related Work

- Autonomous Mobile Robots
- Twin Delayed Deep Deterministic (TD3) policy gradient algorithm

Related Work



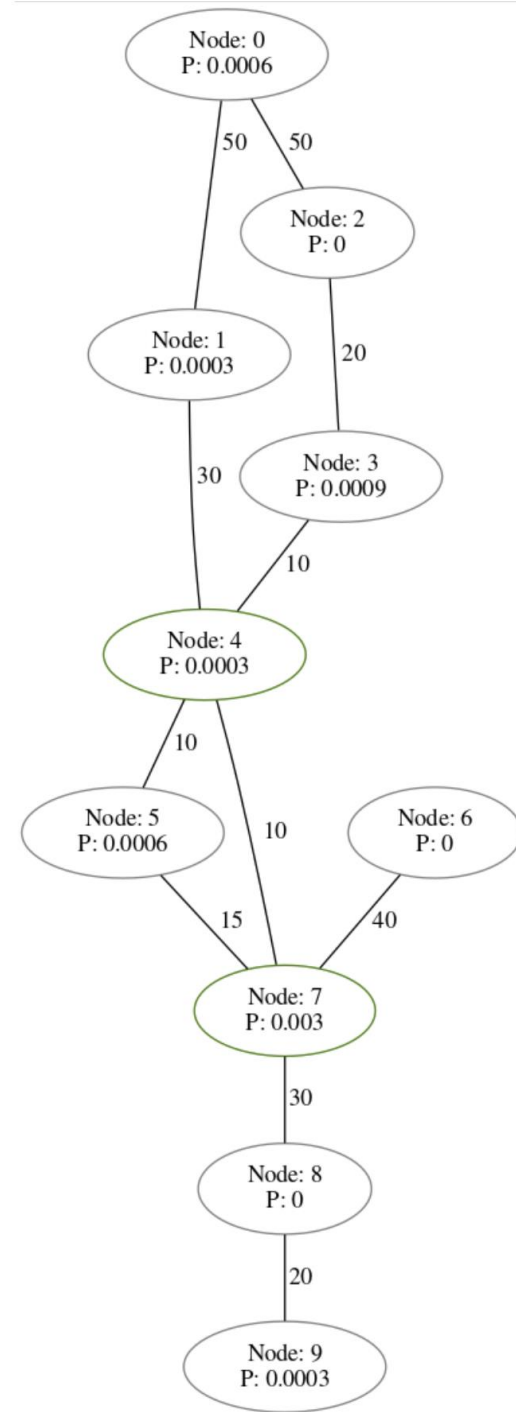
Proposed Simulation

Requirements:

- Capture applications
- Doesn't overfit

Proposed Simulation

- Graph Network
- Nodes
- Edges

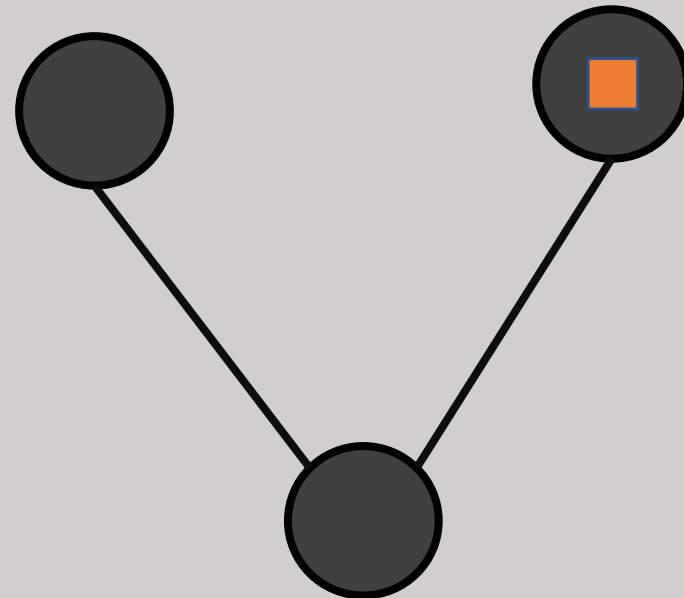


Proposed Simulation

- Tasks

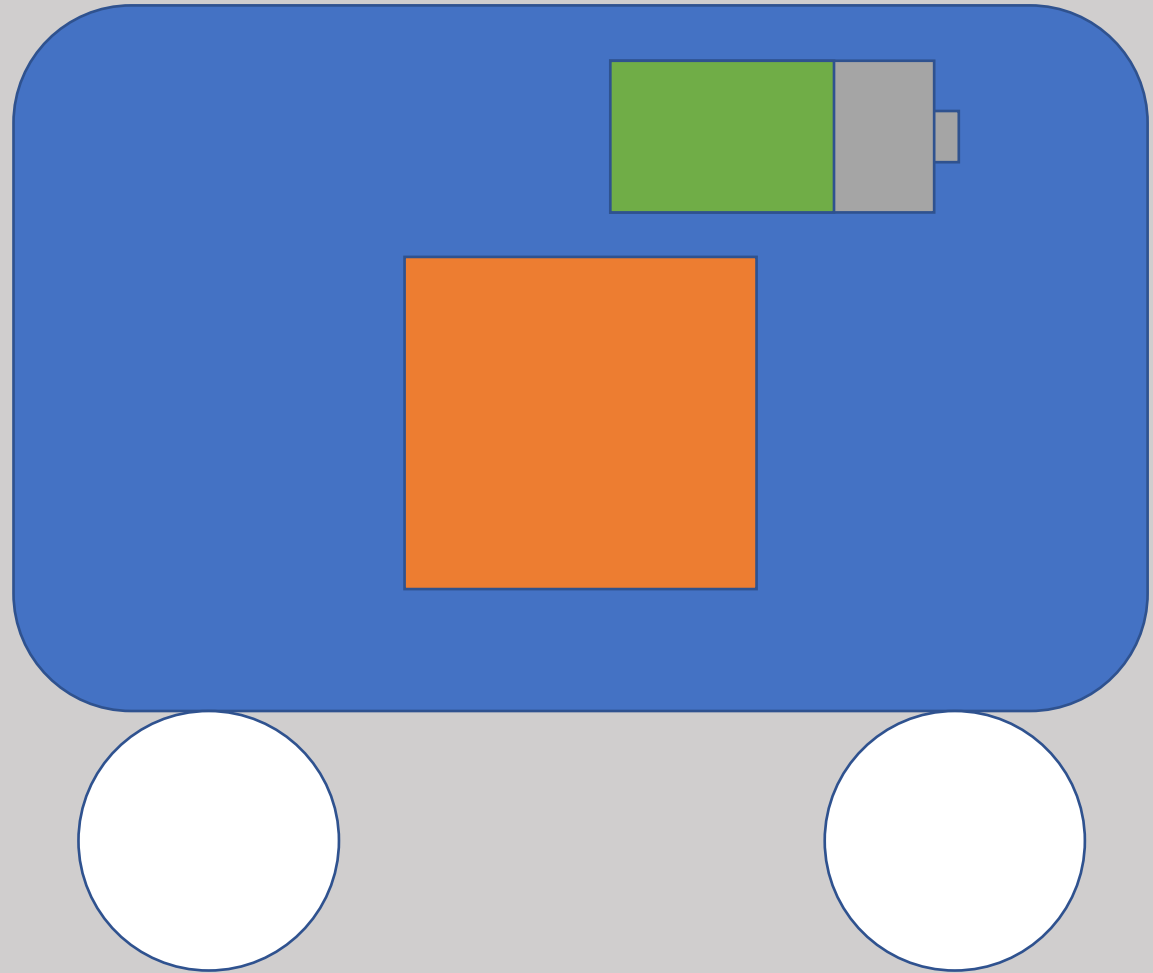
■ = (time, origin, destination)

- Navigation



Proposed Simulation

- Vehicles
- Safety



Proposed Simulation

- Information
- Optimization
- Modularity

```
map:
  #Length of each edge in meters
  edge_weights:
    - [0, 50, 50, -1, -1, -1, -1, -1, -1, -1]
    - [0, 0, -1, -1, 30, -1, -1, -1, -1, -1]
    - [0, 0, 0, 20, -1, -1, -1, -1, -1, -1]
    - [0, 0, 0, 0, 10, -1, -1, -1, -1, -1]
    - [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 10, -1, 10, -1, -1]
    - [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, -1, 15, -1, -1]
    - [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 40, -1, -1]
    - [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 30, -1]
    - [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 20]
    - [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]

  randomize_cargo_spawn_probability: no

  # This only matters if 'randomize_cargo_spawn_probability' is set to 'no'
  cargo_spawn_probability: [0, 0.001, 0, 0.0005, 0, 0.0005, 0, 0.001, 0, 0]

  randomize_chargers: no

  number_of_random_chargers: 2

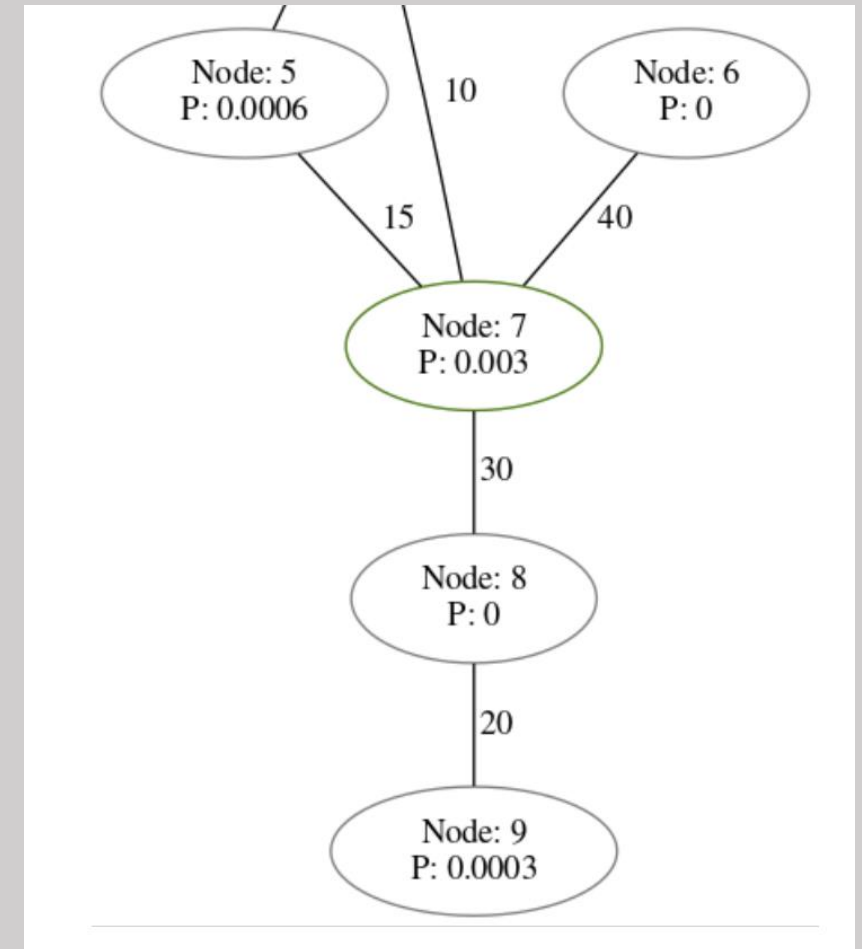
  # This only matters if 'randomize_chargers' is set to 'no'
  charger_nodes: [4, 7]
```

A quick note

The Amazon logo, featuring the word "amazon" in a dark blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below the text is a curved orange arrow pointing from the letter 'a' to the letter 'z'.The Starship logo, consisting of the word "STARSHIP" in a bold, black, italicized, uppercase, sans-serif font.The Uber logo, featuring the word "Uber" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font centered on a solid black rectangular background.The Lyft logo, featuring the word "lyft" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font with rounded letterforms, set against a solid magenta square background.The KiwiBot logo, featuring the word "kiwibot" in a bold, black, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters 'i' and 'u' are stylized with blue curved accents above them.

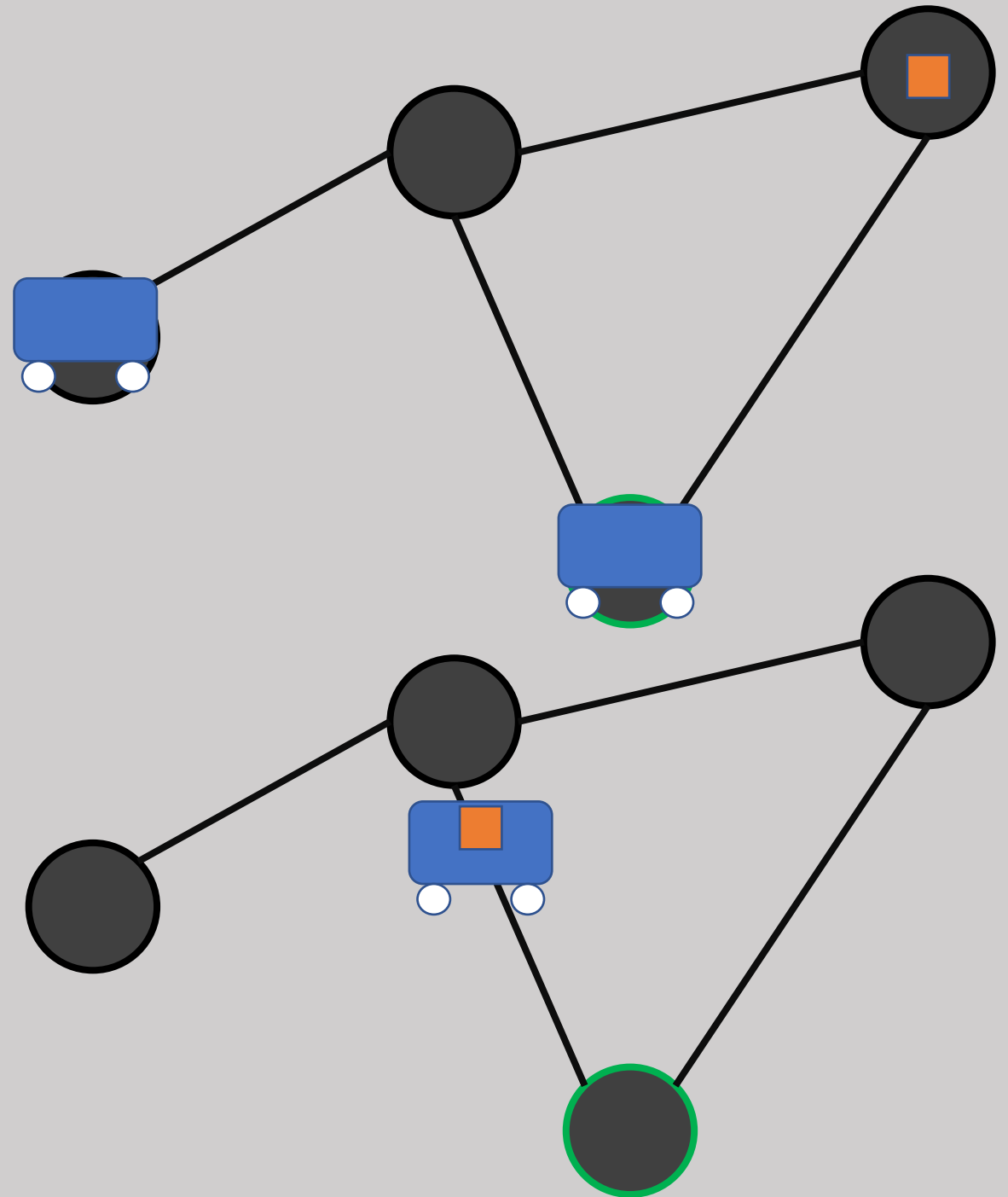
Reinforcement Learning

- Task Spawning Rates
- Proximal Policy Optimization



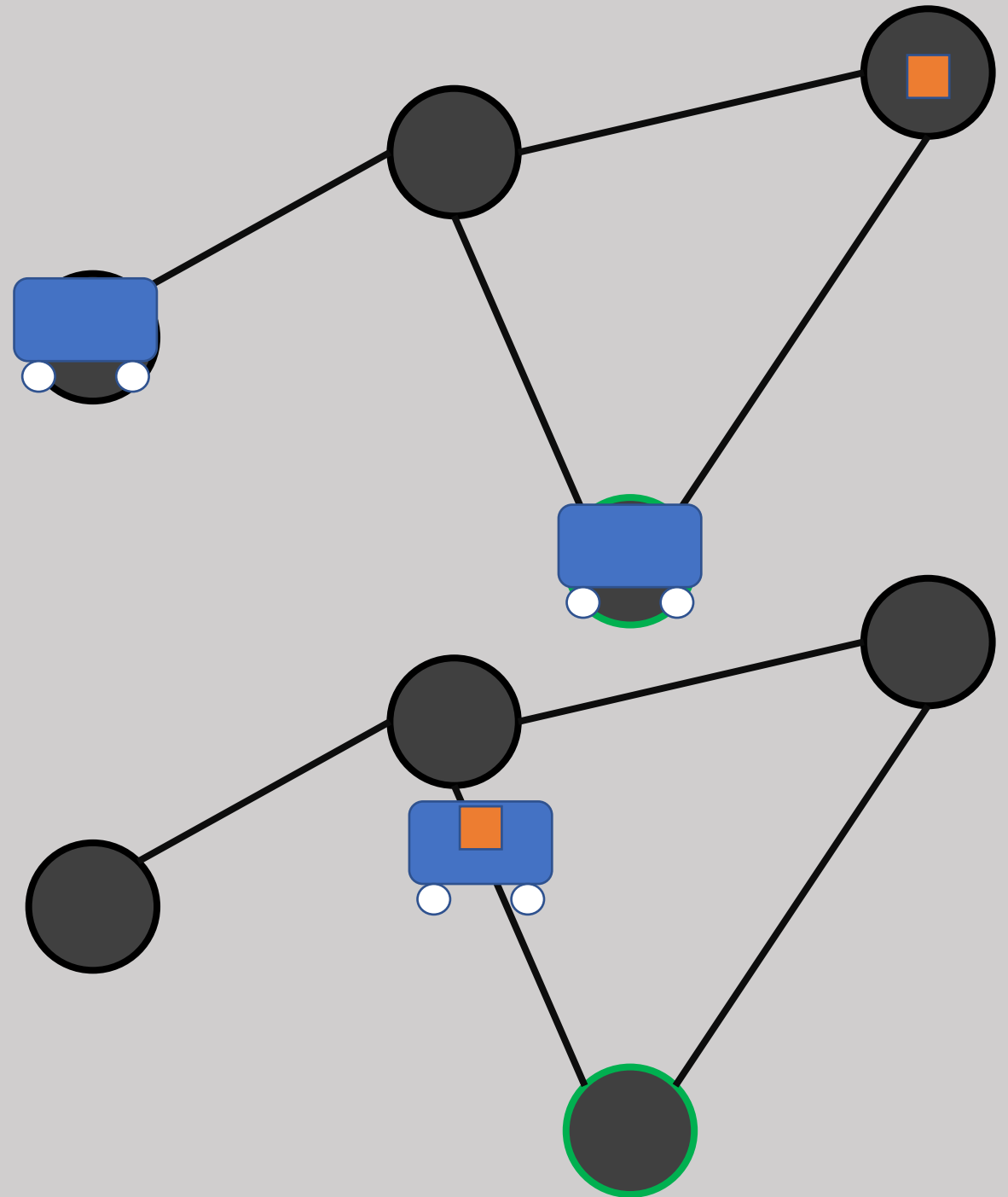
Reinforcement Learning

- Pre-task
- Post-task



Reinforcement Learning

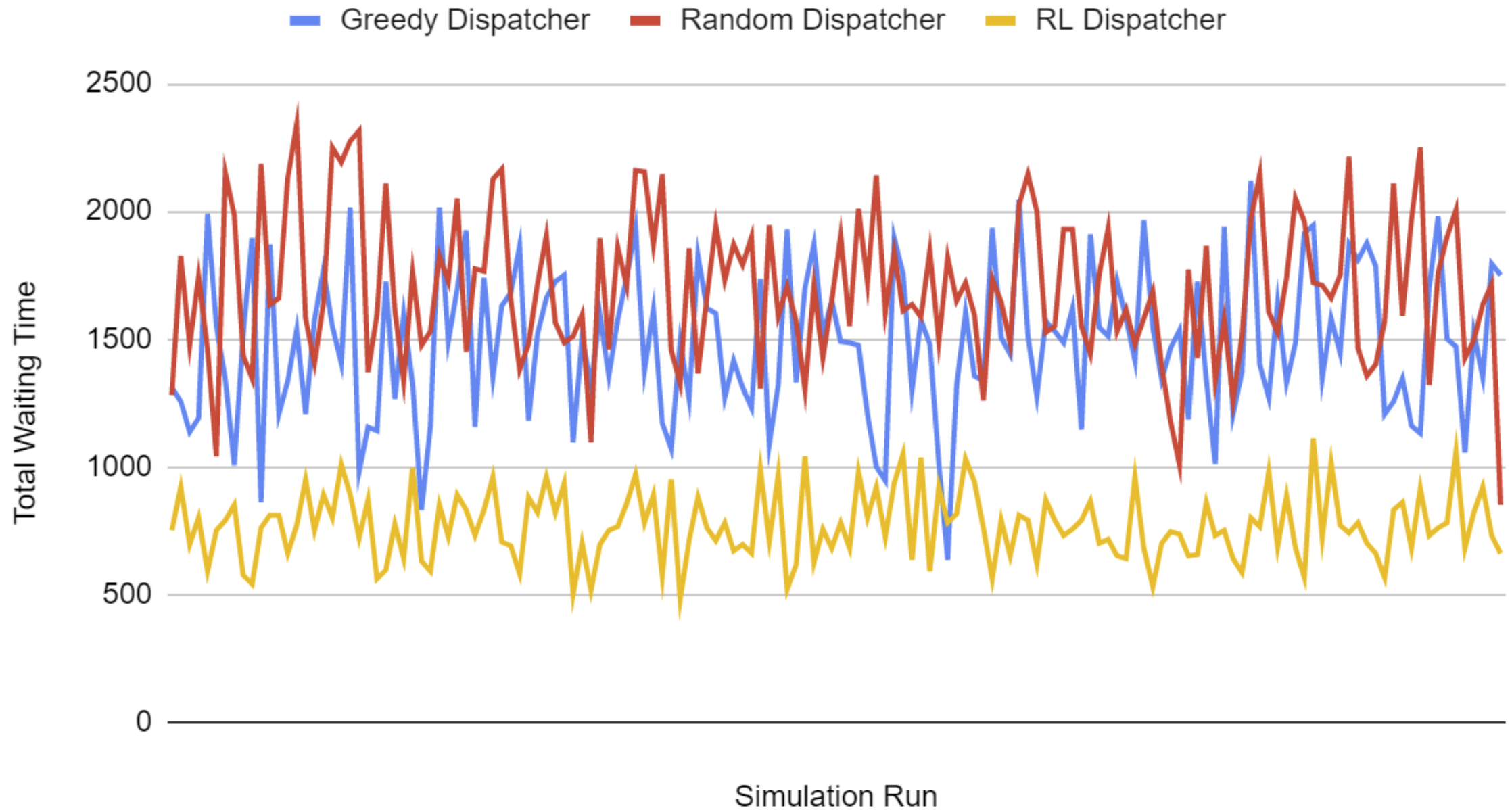
- Pre-task
- Post-task
- Reward



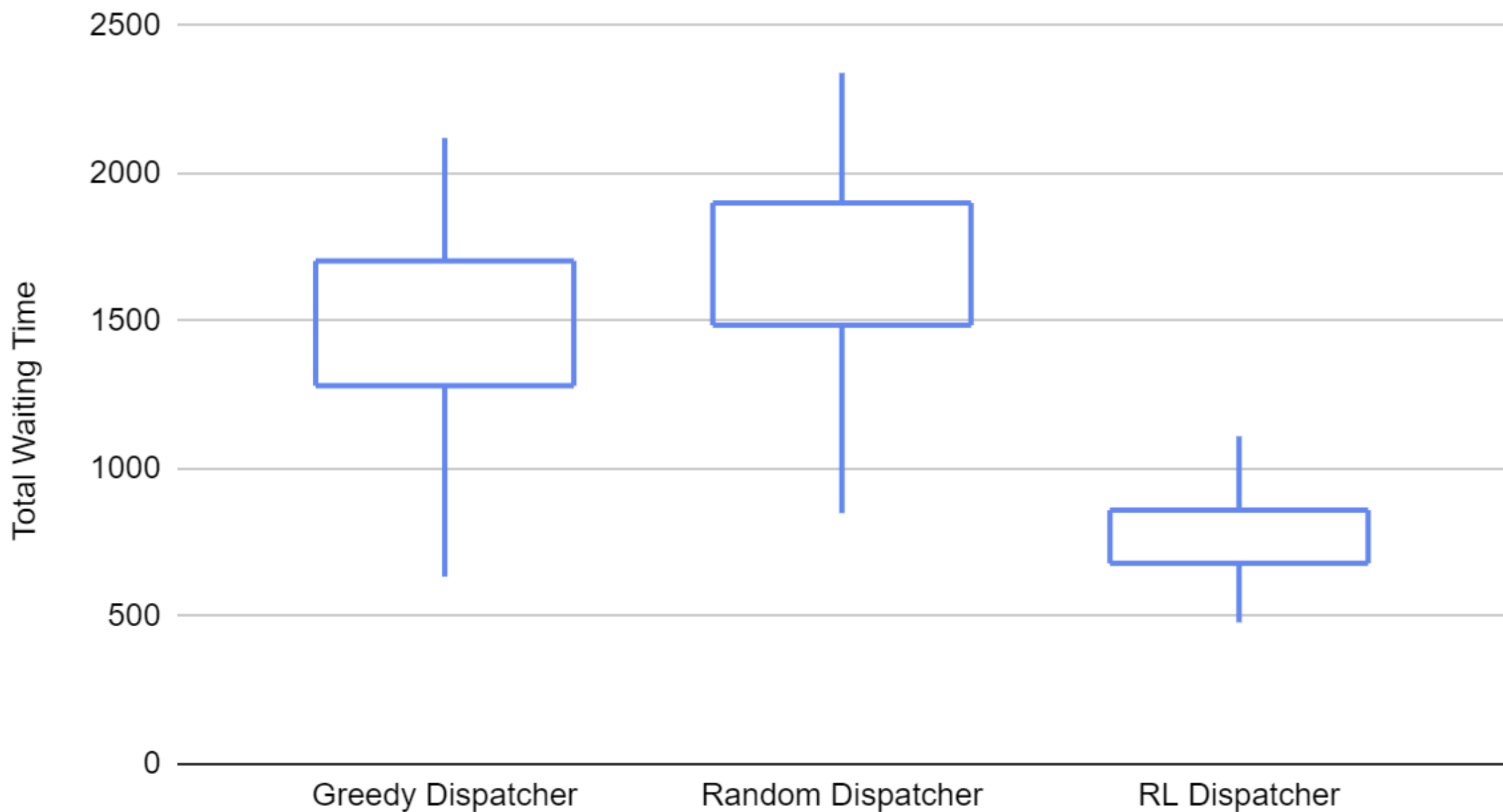
Reinforcement Learning

- Greedy dispatcher
- Pre-task
- Post-task

Greedy, Random, and RL Dispatchers



Greedy Dispatcher, Random Dispatcher and RL Dispatcher



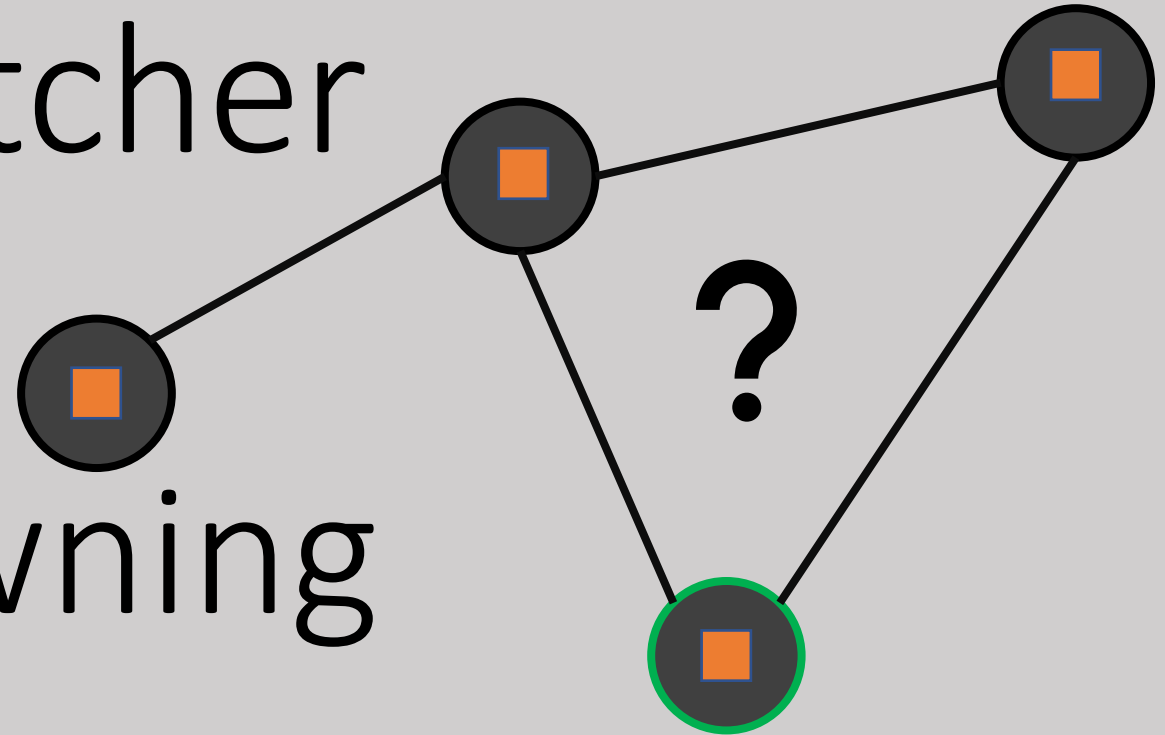
Optimized Dispatcher

- Post-task
- Human design
- Importance



Optimized Dispatcher

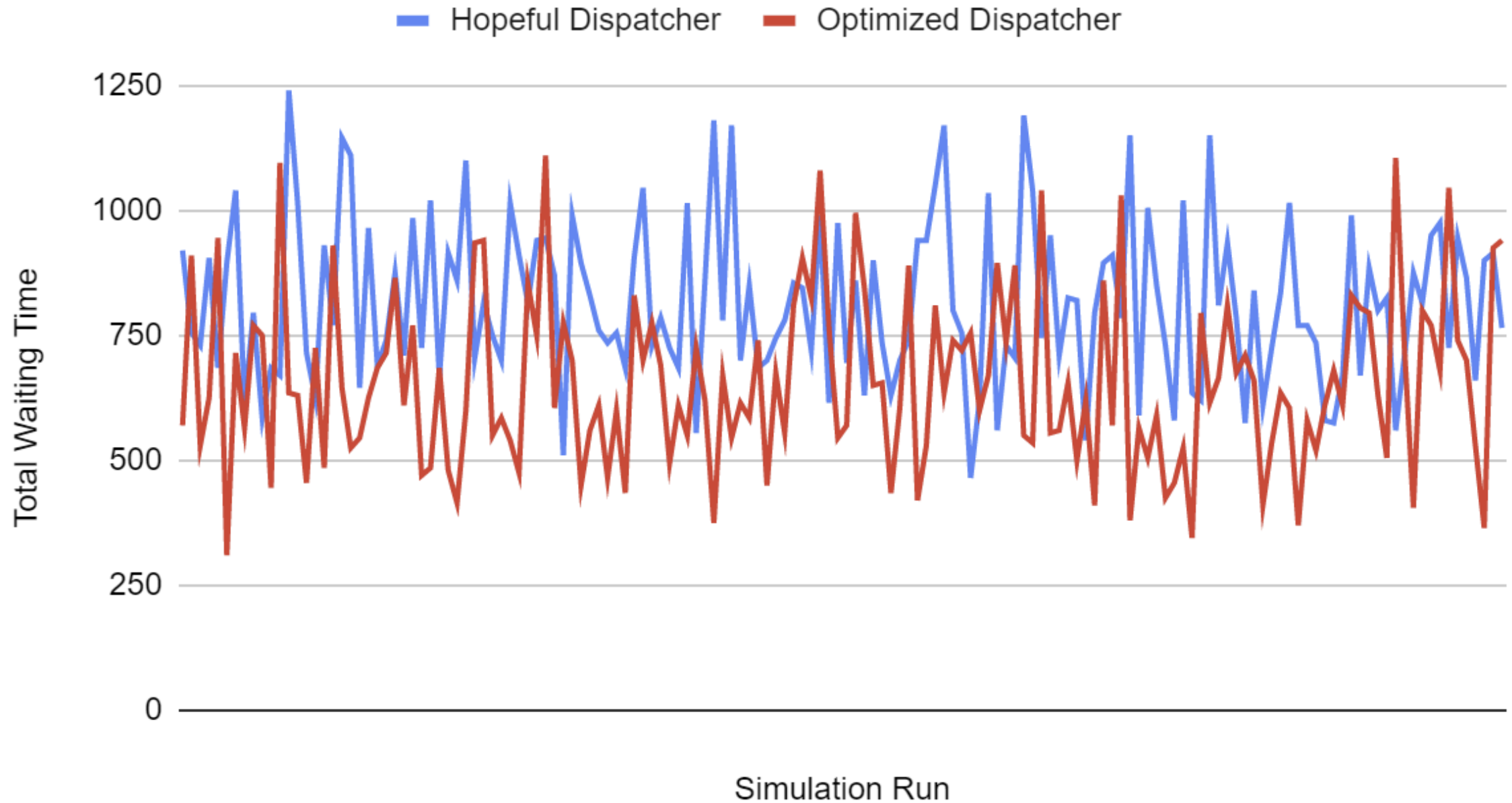
- Hopeful dispatcher
- Leverage Spawning Probabilities



Optimized Dispatcher

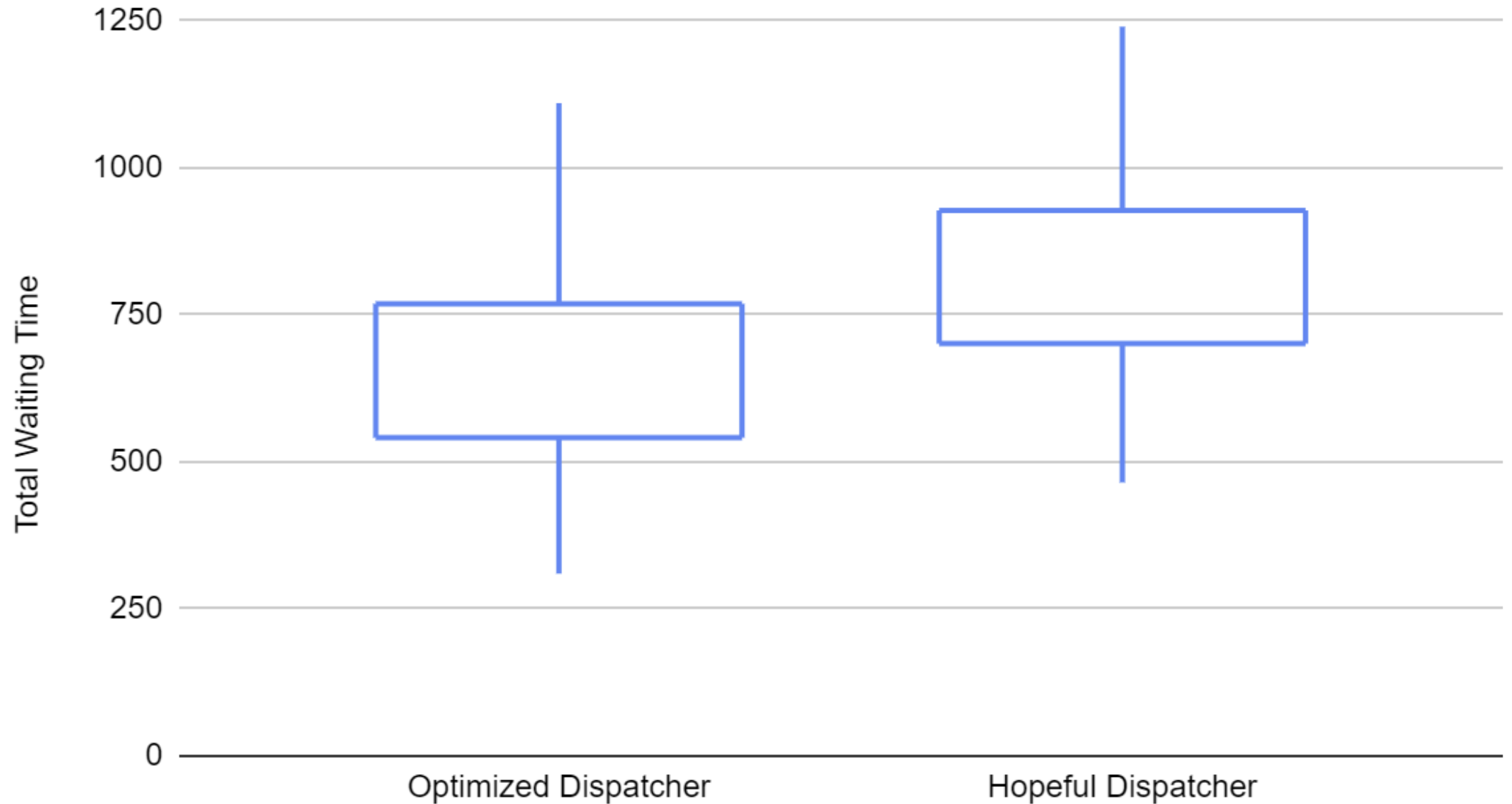
- Brute-force optimization
- Nelder–Mead method

Hopeful Dispatcher vs. Optimized Dispatcher



Hopeful Dispatcher vs. Optimized Dispatcher

$p < 0.0001$



Conclusion

- Importance of simulation
- Dispatching heuristics
- People, companies, world

Conclusion

Thank you!

Conclusion

- [1] Robert Bogue. 2016. Growth in e-commerce boosts innovation in the warehouse robot market. *Industrial Robot* 43, 6 (2016). <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/IR-07-2016-0194/full/html>
- [2] Francesco Flammini, Stefano Marrone, Roberto Nardone, Alberto Petrillo, Stefania Santini, and Valeria Vittorini. 2018. Towards Railway Virtual Coupling. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ESARS-ITEC.2018.8607523>
- [3] Guernsey D.H. Hunt, Germán S. Goldszmidt, Richard P. King, and Rajat Mukherjee. 1998. Network Dispatcher: a connection router for scalable Internet services. *Computer Networks and ISDN Systems* 30, 1 (1998), 347–357. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0169-7552\(98\)00088-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0169-7552(98)00088-9) Proceedings of the Seventh International World Wide Web Conference.
- [4] Hossein Karami, Mohammad Javad Sanjari, Seyed Hossein Hosseini, and G. B. Gharehpetian. 2014. An Optimal Dispatch Algorithm for Managing Residential Distributed Energy Resources. *IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid* 5, 5 (2014), 2360–2367. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TSG.2014.2325912>
- [5] Minne Li, Zhiwei, Qin, Yan Jiao, Yaodong Yang, Zhichen Gong, Jun Wang, Chenxi Wang, Guobin Wu, and Jieping Ye. 2019. Efficient Ridesharing Order Dispatching with Mean Field Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning. <https://doi.org/10.48550/ARXIV.1901.11454>
- [6] Zhidan Liu, Jiangzhou Li, and Kaishun Wu. 2022. Context-Aware Taxi Dispatching at City-Scale Using Deep Reinforcement Learning. *IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems* 23, 3 (2022), 1996–2009. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TITS.2020.3030252>
- [7] Ingrid Lunden. 2022. Starship Technologies raises another \$42M to fuel the growth of its fleet of self-driving delivery robots. *TechCrunch* (2022). <https://techcrunch.com/2022/03/01/starship-technologies-raisesanother-42m-to-fuel-the-growth-of-its-fleet-of-self-driving-delivery-robots/>
- [8] Andreja Malus, Dominik Kozjek, and Rok Vrabič. 2020. Real-time order dispatching for a fleet of autonomous mobile robots using multi-agent reinforcement learning. *CIRP Annals* 69, 1 (2020), 397–400. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cirp.2020.04.001>
- [9] Donald M. Olsson and Lloyd S. Nelson. 1975. The Nelder-Mead Simplex Procedure for Function Minimization. *Technometrics* 17, 1 (1975), 45–51. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00401706.1975.10489269> arXiv:<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/00401706.1975.10489269>
- [10] John Schulman, Filip Wolski, Prafulla Dhariwal, Alec Radford, and Oleg Klimov. 2017. Proximal Policy Optimization Algorithms. <https://doi.org/10.48550/ARXIV.1707.06347>
- [11] Tom Scott. 2019. Why Helsinki’s Library Robots Aren’t Important. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPb9o3uDF_Q
- [12] TuSimple. 2022. Setting the stage for the world’s first driver out autonomous truck runs. *Transport Dive* (2022). <https://www.transportdive.com/spons/settingthe-stage-for-the-worlds-first-driver-out-autonomous-truck-runs/619958/>