Unconventional reinforcement learning on traffic lights with SUMO

Master Degree in Computer Science

Francesco Refolli

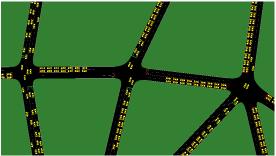
Supervisor: Prof. Giuseppe Vizzari

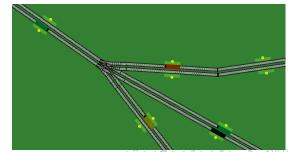


26 September 2025



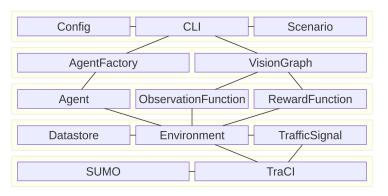
- Free and Open Source microscopic traffic simulator
- Developed at German Aerospace Center (DLR)
- Multimodal: cars, trams, bikes, pedestrians ...
- Highly customizable





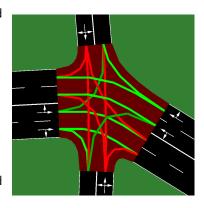
SUMO-RF: SUMO + Reinforcement Learning

A FOSS framework for Reinforcement Learning with SUMO developed as fork of *LucasAlegre/sumo-rl* with a focus on modularity, flexibility and Multi Agent Learning. It also contains several utilities for format conversions, metrics analysis and plot, schematic-based demand generation and more.

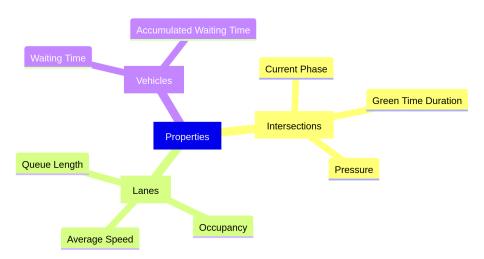


The Agent Model

- Each agent can control one intersection and at each step (every 5 seconds) it can choose the next phase of the intersection.
- Every action is automatically enforced by TrafficSignal with also an intermediate yellow phase.
- It receives an observation of the current condition and a reward proportional to the goodness of its behaviour.
- If the agent is "smart", it uses the collected data to improve itself!



The Global State



Observing and Rewarding



Multi Agent Learning and "Shared-Views"

No agent is isoled, they are all part of a whole and they influence each other with their own behaviour. What if an agent can sense its surrounding area by sharing observations with neighbours? What if an agent is rewarded for its influence on surrounding area by sharing rewards with neighbours?













The Dataset

$$TOK = (£|*|^|\%(,[0-9.]+)?(,[0-9.]+)?|[A-Z][A-Z0-9]+)$$

$$EXP = ^([0-9]+,)?([0-9]+,)?TOK(,TOK)*$$

Thank You