

1 Introduction

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These days, mobile robots have taken place in many fields like industry automation, planetary exploration, entertainment, and construction ..., for their ability to work in extreme environments with high precision and without fatigue[1]. Even so, a robot occasionally needs the support of other robots because it is impossible or difficult for them to perform some tasks on their own. For that, a new field has emerged to deal with these problems, swarm robotics.

Swarm robotics is relatively a new research topic that has gained more attraction in the last few years. It is about studying how a large number of simple robots (a swarm) can collaborate and work together to achieve predefined objectives and tasks that are often difficult or impossible to do for a single robot.[2].

One of the main challenges that swarm robotics researchs face, is pattern formation. Where the agents (robots) try to form different geometric shapes like squares, triangles and circles in order to perform a specific task.

We can solve this problem using two different approaches. The first one is a Centralized method where there exist a central unit which controls the swarm and give global state access. However, implementing this approach can be costly and less robust to failures. The second approach is a decentralized one, where each robot have uses local communication and have access only to his local state.

Our main goal in this thesis is trying to implement an RL algorithm in a system consisting of group of robots to form some specific patterns using decentralized method.

without having a centralized control of the swarm and with limited capabilities for each member.

Swarm robotics systems have taken inspiration from how social animals like (ants, bees, and birds...) behave in groups and that they exhibit some sort of swarm intelligence that researchers identified to be characterized by three properties:

Robustness: the ability of the swarm to still function even with the loss of some members of the group or the failure of some parts of the system.

Scalability: The ability of the system to perform well on smaller or larger group sizes without impacting the performance of the swarm.

Flexibility It is the capability of the swarm to adapt and manage the new changes that occur in the environment [3]

References

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