

This project implements a Hierarchical Reinforcement Learning (HRL) system for autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) in a capture-the-flag scenario. The system is built using the PyQuaticus environment, which simulates underwater robotics competitions.

Key Components:

### 1. Hierarchical Structure:

- High-level "options" (behaviors) like capturing flags, guarding, patrolling, attacking, and defending
- Low-level policies that execute specific actions to achieve these behaviors
- A meta-policy that selects which option to execute based on the current state

### 2. Core Features:

- **Options System:** Pre-defined high-level behaviors that can be composed and sequenced
- **PPO-based Learning:** Uses Proximal Policy Optimization for training the policies
- **Multi-agent Support:** Handles multiple AUVs working together or in competition
- **Memory and Attention:** Tracks past experiences and focuses on relevant state features
- **Curiosity-driven Exploration:** Encourages agents to explore novel states and transitions

### 3. Technical Implementation:

- Built on Ray RLlib for distributed reinforcement learning
- Uses PyQuaticus for the simulation environment
- Implements various utility classes for:
  - Option memory and attention
  - Reward shaping
  - State processing
  - Experience buffering
  - Option termination and initiation
  - Debugging and visualization

### 4. Testing and Evaluation:

- Comprehensive test suite for individual options and full system
- Visualization tools for analyzing agent behavior
- Performance metrics tracking
- Debugging capabilities for option execution

The system is designed to be:

- **Modular:** Easy to add new options or modify existing ones
- **Scalable:** Can handle multiple agents and complex scenarios
- **Interpretable:** Provides insights into why agents make certain decisions
- **Robust:** Includes safety mechanisms and error handling

This project could be particularly useful for:

- Autonomous underwater robotics research

- Multi-agent coordination studies
- Hierarchical reinforcement learning experiments
- Underwater competition preparation