

# Optimal Scaled Attacks on Consensus-based Formation Control

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November 30, 2023

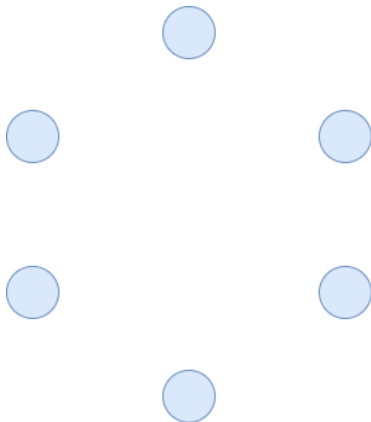
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# Introduction

- What is Consensus ?
- Formation Control in Multi-agent Systems
- Can we club them together ?



# Introduction

Figure 1: Consensus : What even are they ?

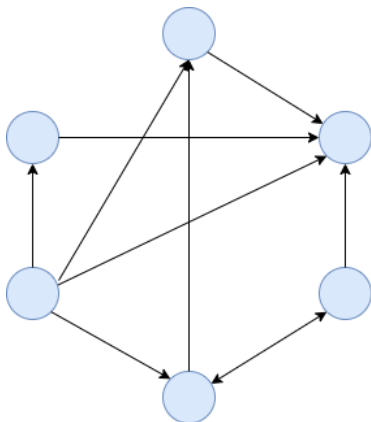


Figure 2: Consensus and the underlying Network Topology

# Introduction

# General Consensus Based Protocol

$$u_i^{(j)} = \dot{x}_i^{(j)} = \sum_{j \in N_i} a_{ij} (x_j^{(j)} - x_i^{(j)})$$

$$\dot{x} = -L \cdot x \quad (1)$$

Taking all the  $d$  dimensions,

$$\dot{x} = -L \otimes I_d \cdot x \quad (2)$$

# Why are the axis decoupled ?

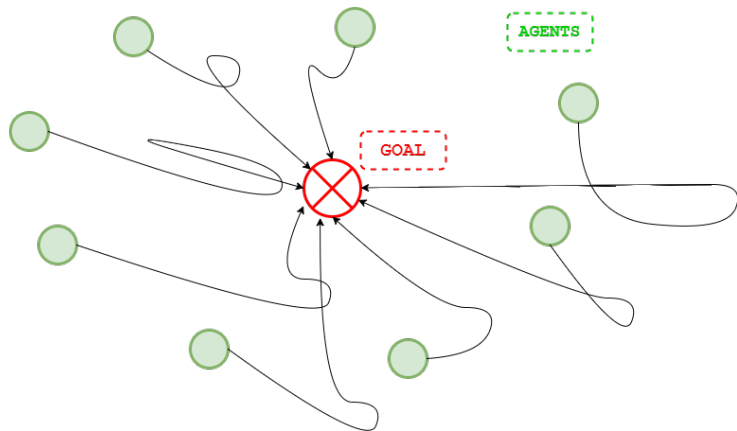


Figure 3: Why are the axis decoupled ?



# Consensus Based Protocol for Formation Control

$$u_i^{(j)} = \dot{x}_i^{(j)} = \sum_{j \in N_i} a_{ij} (x_j^{(j)} - x_i^{(j)} - \delta_{ji}^{(j)})$$

$$\dot{x} = -L \cdot x + \bar{\delta} \quad (3)$$

Taking all the  $d$  dimensions,

$$\dot{x} = -L \otimes I_d \cdot x + \bar{\delta} \quad (4)$$

# Consensus Based Formation Protocol

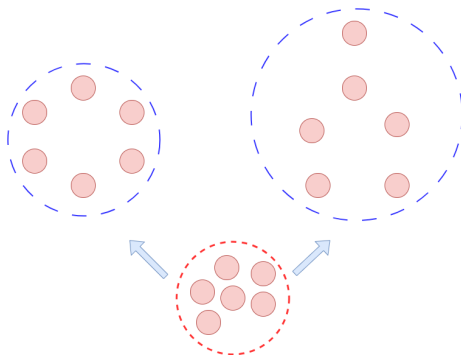


Figure 4: Formation Control in Multi-Agent Systems with 6 agents

# Consensus Based Formation Protocol

$w$  : Left-dominant eigenvector corresponding to  $L$ , satisfying  $\mathbf{1}_n^T w = 1$ .

$$\delta^{X_i(0)} = \mathbb{1}_n \delta_i^{(j)} - \delta^{(j)}$$

The final position of the  $i^{th}$  agent (d-dimension) is given as follows :

$$x_i(\infty) = w^T[\bullet](X(0) + \delta^{X_i(0)}) \quad (5)$$

$$x_i(\infty) - x_j(\infty) = \delta_{ij} \quad (6)$$

- Can an intruder attack one or more agents in some way ?
- Attack Design.
- Severity of the Attack.
- How much control the attacker should have over the agents ?

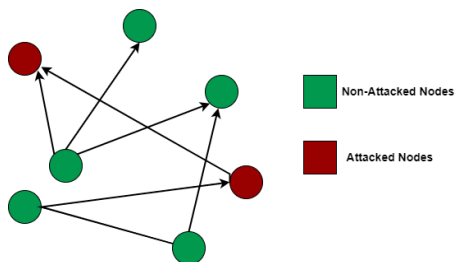
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# Scale Attack Design for a M.R.S

- Attacks on agents/nodes.
- Attacked agents **share/update itself** with the scaled value of its original state.
- $x_j$  shares  $\alpha_j \cdot x_j$  with the other agents, and updates itself with that,

# Scaled Attack Design for a M.R.S



**Figure 5:** MAS with two attacked agent (coloured red) and 5 non-attacked agent(coloured green) trying to achieve a formation.

# Scaled Attack : Changes in the governing Laplacian

- Attacks on agents/nodes

$$\dot{x} = -(LD \otimes I_d)x + \bar{\delta} \quad (7)$$

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \alpha_n \end{bmatrix}$$



# Theorem 1

## Theorem 1

*The attack protocol defined in (5) gives the following two results, namely **R1** and **R2**:*

*(**R1**) The eigenvalues  $\mu_i(LD) > 0 \ \forall \ i \in \{2, n\}$  of the compromised system, and  $\mu_1(LD) = 0$ .*

*(**R2**) Alternatively,  $\mathbb{1}_{\text{sgn}\{[L \otimes I_d]_{ij}\} = \text{sgn}\{[LD \otimes I_d]_{ij}\} \geq 0} = 1$ , where,  $\mathbb{1}$  and  $\text{sgn}$  denote the standard indicator and sign function respectively.*

## Proof.

*(**R1**) By similarity transformation,  $\mu_i(LD) = \mu_i(DL) \geq 0$ .*

*(**R2**) The diagonal entries of  $D > 0$ .*



# Final Position of the agents under the proposed attack

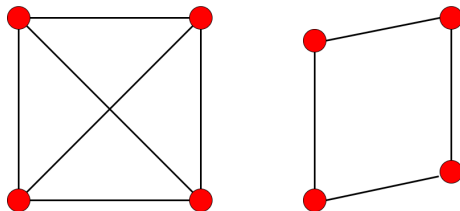
The final position of the  $i^{th}$  agent (d-dimension) is computed as follows:

$$\tilde{x}_i = \beta \left[ \frac{\tilde{w}^T}{\alpha_i} [\bullet] \{ (\alpha \otimes \mathbb{1}_d) \odot X(0) + \delta^{X_i(0)} \} \right] \quad (8)$$

$$(\alpha_i \cdot \tilde{x}_i - \alpha_j \cdot \tilde{x}_j) = \beta \tilde{w}^T \mathbb{1}_n \delta_{ij} = \delta_{ij} \quad (9)$$

# Final Position of the agents under the proposed attack

The final position of the  $i^{th}$  agent (d-dimension) is given as follows :



**Figure 6:** Desired and Final Formation for 4 agents, where 3 of those are attacked as per the protocol described in (5)

## Theorem 2

*Considering the attack scales as  $\alpha_i \geq 0$ , the second smallest eigenvalue ( $\mu_2$ ) of the compromised system (5) is lower bounded [1] and upper bounded as follows:*

$$\mu_2 \leq \left( \sum_i \alpha_i \right) \lambda_n$$

*Where,  $\alpha_i$  are the scales associated with the  $i^{\text{th}}$  agent, and  $\lambda_n$  is the largest eigenvalue associated with the un-attacked case.*

# Special cases: Weighted un-directed Graph

## Lemma 1

In the scaled attack setup, we can write the following two statements (**S1** and **S2**) :

**(S1):** As per the attack mechanism on the proposed formation control protocol,  $\|x_i^{LD_{i\alpha}}(\tau) - \delta_a^*\|_2^{LD_{i\alpha}} \leq \|x_i^L(\tau) - \delta_b^*\|_2^L \quad \forall \quad i \in \{1, n\}$  and  $\tau \in [t, \infty)$ .

**(S2) :** The second smallest eigenvalue of the attacked system,  $\mu_2 \geq \min(\alpha_i) \cdot \lambda_2$ . Where,  $\alpha_i$  is the scaled attack parameter and  $\lambda_2$  is the second smallest eigenvalue of the non-attacked system.

# Comparing the severity of two attacks using Lemma 3

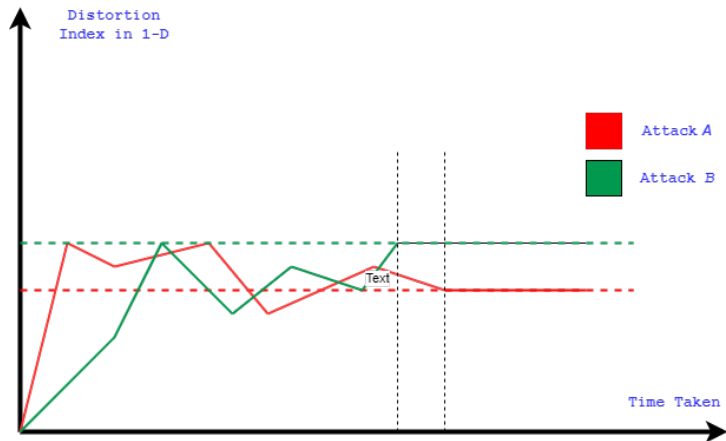


Figure 7: Two Attack  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are compared using the results of Lemma 3

# Attack Analysis: Extent of Distortion

The Distortion Metric( $\epsilon_{rel}$ ) is defined as follows:

$$\epsilon_{rel} = \sum_i \sum_j \|\tilde{x}_i - \tilde{x}_j - \delta_{ij}\|_2^2 = \sum_l \sum_i \sum_j (\tilde{x}_i^{(l)} - \tilde{x}_j^{(l)} - \delta_{ij}^{(l)})^2$$

We can also write :

$$\epsilon_{rel} = p^{(l)T} (\mathbb{I}_d \otimes Q) p^{(l)}$$

Where,  $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  and takes a special form of a fully connected Laplacian, and  $p^{(l)} = [\tilde{x}_1^{(l)} - \delta_1^{(l)} \quad \tilde{x}_2^{(l)} - \delta_2^{(l)} \quad \dots \quad \tilde{x}_n^{(l)} - \delta_n^{(l)}]$ , and  $p^{(l)} = \tilde{x}^{(l)} - \delta^{(l)}$

# Choosing Optimal Scales for Maximizing Distortion

- Since, axis are decoupled, we will continue our analysis by taking  $d = 1$

The optimization problem can be stated as follows :

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\alpha} \quad & 2 \cdot p^{(1)T} Q p^{(1)} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \alpha \in [\Delta_a, \Delta_b] \odot \mathbb{1}_n \end{aligned}$$



# Choosing Optimal Scales for Maximizing Distortion

Note :  $\delta_i^{(j)}$ 's are not unique but  $\delta_{ij}$ 's are uniquely defined. The optimization can be equivalently re-stated as follows :

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\alpha} \quad & 2 \cdot x^{(1)T} (Qx^{(1)} + \mathcal{B}_1(\delta_{ij})) + \mathcal{B}_2(\delta_{ij}) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \alpha \in [\Delta_a, \Delta_b] \odot \mathbb{1}_n \end{aligned}$$

Where,  $\mathcal{B}_1$  ,  $\mathcal{B}_2$  are functions of  $\delta_{ij}$ .

Where,

$$\tilde{x}_i^{(1)} = \beta \left[ \frac{\tilde{w}^T}{\alpha_i} (\alpha \odot x(0)^{(j)}) + \frac{\tilde{w}^T}{\alpha_i} (\mathbb{1}_n \delta_i^{(1)} - \delta^{(1)}) \right]; \beta = w^T \cdot D^{-1} \cdot \mathbb{1}_n$$

## Special Case<sub>1</sub> : M- Twin attacks

- Attacking  $m$  ( $\leq N$ ) agents with only one scale  $\alpha$

The optimization can be equivalently re-stated as follows :

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\bar{\alpha}} \quad & \mathcal{F} \left( \frac{1}{\bar{\alpha}} \right) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \bar{\alpha} \in [\Delta_a, \Delta_b] \end{aligned}$$

Where,  $\mathcal{F}$  is a fractional Polynomial.

# Solution of Special $Case_1$ : M- Twin attacks

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{F} \left( \frac{1}{\bar{\alpha}} \right) + \lambda_1 (\bar{\alpha} - \Delta_a) + \mu_1 (\bar{\alpha} - \Delta_b)$$

**Case 1:** When  $\lambda_1$  or  $\mu_1 \neq 0$ , from the K.K.T conditions, the extreme points are  $\Delta_a$  or  $\Delta_b$ .

**Case 2:** When both  $\lambda_1$  and  $\mu_1 = 0$ , the constrained problem turns into an un-constrained problem.

In that case we need to find the roots of  $\dot{\mathcal{F}} = 0$  and check the sign of  $\ddot{\mathcal{F}}$  to figure out the maxima scale value( $\bar{\alpha}^*$ ).

## Special Case<sub>2</sub> : General Agreement Case

In general agreement, we put  $\delta_{ij} = 0$

$$x^{(1)} = \beta D^{-1} \left[ w^T x(0)^{(1)} \cdot \mathbb{1}_n \right] \quad (10)$$

Since,  $\delta_{ij}$  is taken as 0, the optimization problem becomes equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\alpha} \quad & 2 \cdot x^{(1)T} Q x^{(1)} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \alpha \in [\Delta_a, \Delta_b] \odot \mathbb{1}_n \end{aligned}$$

# Solution of the Special *Case*<sub>2</sub> : General Agreement

We start with the Lagrangian :

$$\mathcal{L} = 2(w^T x(0)^{(1)})^2 \beta^2 \mathbb{1}_n^T D^{-1} Q D^{-1} \mathbb{1}_n + \sum_i \lambda_i (\alpha_i - \Delta_a) + \sum_i \mu_i (\alpha_i - \Delta_b)$$

The K.K.T conditions give us the following two cases :

**Case 1:**  $2^n$  possible extreme points given  $\lambda_i$  and  $\mu_i \forall i, j \in \{1, n\}$  are active.

# Solution of the Special *Case*<sub>2</sub> : General Agreement

**Case 2:** When they are not active, the unconstrained version gives us :

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \alpha} = 4\bar{C}^2 \beta^2 Q D^{-1} \mathbb{1}_n + 2\bar{C}^2 \mathbb{1}_n^T D^{-1} Q D^{-1} \mathbb{1}_n \beta \dot{\beta} = 0$$

Here,  $\bar{C} = w^T x(0)^{(1)}$  Hence, the number of points for which maxima needs to be checked are  $> 2^n$ , which makes it hard to solve the problem analytically.

The Optimization Problem takes the following form :

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{w}} \quad & 2 \cdot \sum_l p^{(l)T} Q p^{(l)} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & 0 \leq w_i \leq 1 \quad \forall i \in \{1, n\}, \\ & \sum_{i=1}^n w_i = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Here, also we will present our analysis for  $l = 1$ .

# Optimal Resilient Topology Design: Scaled attack

$$\tilde{x}_i^{(1)} = \beta \left[ \frac{\tilde{w}^T}{\alpha_i} (\alpha \odot x(0)^{(j)}) + \frac{\tilde{w}^T}{\alpha_i} K_i^1 \right]$$

Given  $\alpha_i$ 's are already chosen, the above expression can clearly be written as this :

$$\tilde{x}_i^{(1)} = \beta \left[ \sum_l \gamma_l^i \cdot w_l \right]$$

Taking the steady state difference between the  $i^{th}$  agent and the  $j^{th}$  agent we get :

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{x}_i^{(1)} - \tilde{x}_j^{(1)} &= \beta \left[ \sum_l \gamma_l^i \cdot w_l - \sum_l \gamma_l^j \cdot w_l \right] \\ &= \beta \left[ \sum_l \gamma_l^{ij} \cdot w_l \right] \quad ; \quad \gamma_l^{ij} = \gamma_l^i - \gamma_l^j \end{aligned}$$



## Theorem 3

*The Distortion Metric  $\varepsilon_{rel}$  is bounded by:*

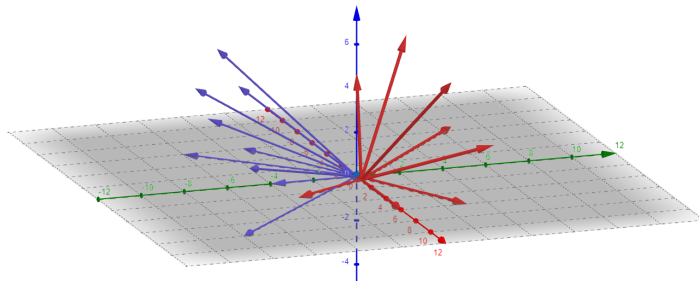
$$2K_{\gamma^{ij}} \cdot \sum_i \sum_j \cos^2(\theta_{\gamma^{ij} w}) \leq n \cdot \varepsilon_{rel} \leq 2n \cdot \bar{K}_{\gamma^{ij}} \cdot \sum_i \sum_j \cos^2(\theta_{\gamma^{ij} w})$$

Assuming there exists  $w^*$  for which both the bounds are minimized, the optimal topology  $L^*$  is given by solving the synthesis problem  $w^{*T} L^* = 0$  and  $\mathbb{1}_n^T w^* = 1$ .

# A Sub-Optimal Characterization

## Approach

- $\gamma = \{(i, j) \in \{1, n\} | \gamma_{ij}\}$  be partitioned into 2-nearest neighbor sets ( $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ ) such that  $\gamma = \gamma_1 \oplus \gamma_2$ .
- Considering  $\bar{\gamma}_1$  and  $\bar{\gamma}_2$  as the average of the two chosen sets, we just need to choose  $w^* = \mathcal{K} \cdot (\bar{\gamma}_1 \times \bar{\gamma}_2)$
- $w^*$  is perpendicular to this generated 2-nearest set vectors ( $\gamma_1, \gamma_2$ ).



## Definition 4

Connectivity of a graph  $G = (V, \mathcal{E})$  is defined as the number of edges the graph has (in other words,  $|\mathcal{E}|$ ). We say graph  $G_1 = (V, \mathcal{E}_1)$  is more connected as compared to  $G_2 = (V, \mathcal{E}_2)$  if and only if  $|\mathcal{E}_1| > |\mathcal{E}_2|$ . We change our formal measure of distortion to introduce the relative distortion error.  $\|\cdot\|_2^H$  and  $\|\cdot\|_2^L$  represents Euclidean norm in higher and lower connectivity, respectively. The modified relative distortion error is as follows :

$$\varepsilon_{rel}^{HL} = \sum_i \sum_j (\|\tilde{x}_i^H - \tilde{x}_j^H - \delta_{ij}\|_2^H - \|\tilde{x}_i^L - \tilde{x}_j^L - \delta_{ij}\|_2^L)$$

# Similar Networks

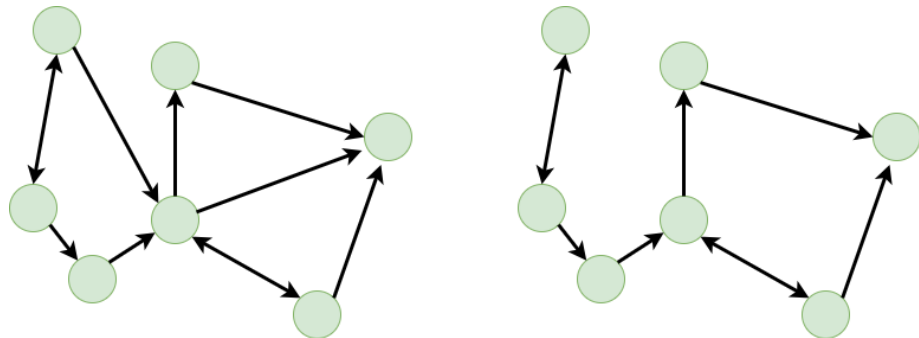


Figure 9: Two Similar Networks with 9 and 6 links respectively.

# Lower Bound on Fiedler Eigenvectors considering Similar Networks

## Theorem 5

*Given two graph laplacians  $L_h$  and  $L_l$ , the euclidean distance between the left dominant eigenvectors ( $\tilde{w}_H, \tilde{w}_L$ ) satisfying*

$$\mathbb{1}_n^T \tilde{w}_H (\succcurlyeq 0) = \mathbb{1}_n^T \tilde{w}_L (\succcurlyeq 0) = 1 \text{ and } \tilde{w}_H^T L_h = \tilde{w}_L^T L_l = \mathbb{0}_n^T \text{ is bounded by}$$
$$\|\tilde{w}^H - \tilde{w}^L\|_2 \geq \frac{1}{r} \sum_{n=1}^r \frac{|\sum_{i=1}^m \tilde{w}_i \sigma_{in}|}{\|C_n\|_2}.$$

*Where,  $\|C_n\|_2$  is the euclidean norm of the  $n^{th}$  column of  $L_h$  and  $\sigma_{ij}$  is the change in the  $ij^{th}$  entry of  $G$  and  $H$ .*

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# Experiments

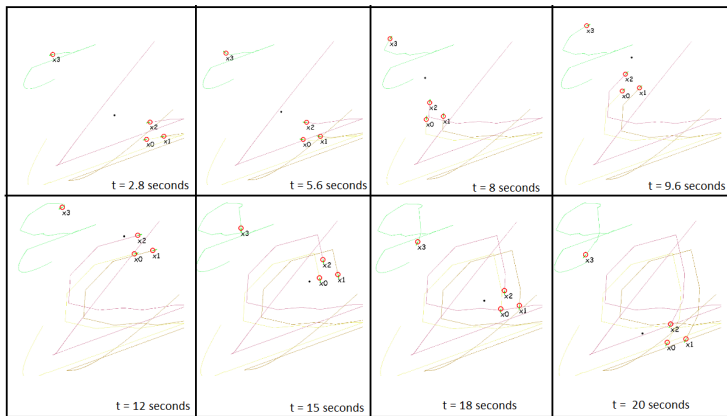


Figure 10: Scaled Attack in Multi-agent Formation Control

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# Conclusions and future work

- Analytical solving the original distortion optimization problem.
- Coming up with refined sub-optimal methods for practical solutions.
- Generalize this problem to time-varying Networks.
- Bounds on the eigenvector

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- [1] Abraham Berman, Xiao-Dong Zhang "Lower bounds for the eigenvalues of Laplacian matrices"
- [2] Beard, R.W.: Consensus seeking in multiagent systems under dynamically changing interaction topologies. IEEE Trans. Autom. Control 50(5), 655-661

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# Acknowledgement

To ALL those who have MATTERED since the beginning of TIME ...

# Thank You