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## A Brief Introduction to Distributed Cooperative Control of Multi-Agent System



**FL07 -32-1**  
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## Outline

- Introduction
- Brief Introduction to Graph
- Literature Survey
  - Introduction to my basement
  - Example of asymptotically convergence of consensus problem
  - Other surveys
- Conclusion
- Future Works

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## Introduction

**Distributed Control :**  
the controller elements are not central in location but are distributed throughout the system with each component sub-system controlled by one or more controllers  
→ **small amount for calculation** for each agent and **small communication cost**

**Cooperative Control :**  
a distributed control strategy that achieves specified tasks in multi-agent system




Fig. 1 School of fishes(※)

**Motivation:**

- Analysis of emergent and self-organized swarming behaviors in biological groups with distributed agent-to-agent interaction
- Interest in a group behavior of animals, formulation control of multi-vehicle systems and so on

**Application :**  
Mobile sensor networks, Robot networks, and many other Multi-agent systems

※ [http://www.allposters.co.jp/~sp/Posters\\_i1006775.htm](http://www.allposters.co.jp/~sp/Posters_i1006775.htm)

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## Brief Introduction to Graph

- Vertex(node) : Agent
- Edge : Information Flow
- Graph : A set of connections(Edges) of between Objects(Vertex)
  - Directed Graph(Fig. 2) : the information flows from agent  $j$  to  $i$
  - Undirected Graph(Fig. 3) : the information flows to both directions

**Directed Graph**

- strongly connected(Fig. 4) : there is a directly path connecting any two distinct nodes
- weakly connected(Fig. 2) : there is a path connecting any two distinct nodes ignoring the direction

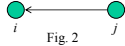


Fig. 2

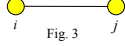


Fig. 3

**Undirected Graph**

- connected : there is a path between any two distinct nodes

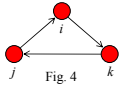


Fig. 4

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## Definition of Graph Laplacian

Information graph :  $G := \{V, E, W\}$   
The set of nodes(agents) :  $V := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$   
The set of edges(information) :  $E \subseteq V \times V$   
The a map assigning a weight to each edge(non-uniform reliability) :  $W : E \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}^+$   
(s.t. if  $e_{ij} = (v_i, v_j) \in E, W(e_{ij}) = w_{ij}, w_{ij} > 0$  )

**Graph Laplacian :**  $L \in \mathfrak{R}^{n \times n}$

$$L_{ij} = \begin{cases} -w_{ij} & \text{if } i \neq j \text{ and } (v_i, v_j) \in E \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \text{ and } (v_i, v_j) \notin E \\ \sum_{k \in N_i} w_{ik} & \text{if } i = j \end{cases}$$

Graph Laplacian has many significant properties !

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## Literature Survey (Vicsek et al.)

**T. Vicsek et al.[1]**  
Propose a compelling discrete-time model of  $n$  autonomous agents

- phase transition in **nonequilibrium** systems
- the **same** speed and different headings
- each agent's set of nearest neighbors **change** with time as the system evolves
- the average of an agent's own heading plus the headings of its "neighbors"

**Control Law**

$$x_i(t+1) = x_i(t) + v_i(t)\Delta t \quad t \in \{0, 1, \dots\}$$

$$\theta(t+1) = \langle \theta(t) \rangle_r + \Delta \theta$$

$x_i(t)$  : position     $\theta(t)$  : angle     $v_i(t)$  : velocity     $\langle \theta(t) \rangle_r$  : average direction  
 $\Delta \theta$  : noise

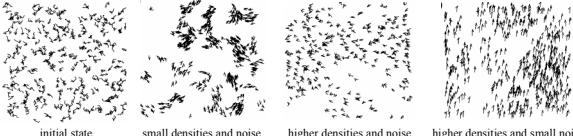
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**Literature Survey (Vicsek et al.)**

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Simulation[1]



initial state      small densities and noise      higher densities and noise      higher densities and small noise

This paper shows only simulation results !  
There is **no** theoretical explanation → **Jadbabaie et al.**

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**Literature Survey (Jadbabaie et al.)**

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**A. Jadbabaie et al.[2]**

Provide a **theoretical explanation** for Vicsek's model

- ignore noise and the **same** speed
- undirected and simple graph
- Graph Laplacian** use some matrix theory(stochastic, primitive, ergotic, etc.)
- ”linked together” → all agents' headings **converge**
- ”linked to their leader” → **leader following problem**
- by using a **dwell time**. discrete-time → continuous-time

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**Control Law (Jadbabaie et al.)**

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**Average**

$$\theta_i(t+1) = \langle \theta_i(t) \rangle_r \quad t \in \{0,1,\dots\}$$

$$\langle \theta_i(t) \rangle_r = \frac{1}{1+n_i(t)} (\theta_i(t) + \sum_{j \in N_i(t)} \theta_j(t))$$

$\theta_i(t)$ : agent  $i$ 's heading  
 $N_i(t)$ : agent  $i$ 's neighbors  
 $n_i(t)$ : the number of neighbors

**Control Law**

$$\theta_i(t+1) = \theta_i(t) + u_i(t) \quad t \in \{0,1,\dots\}$$

$$\theta_i = u_i$$

$$\text{DT: } u_i(t) = -\frac{1}{1+n_i(t)+b_i(t)} ((n_i(t)+b_i(t))\theta_i(t) - \sum_{j \in N_i(t)} \theta_j(t) - b_i(t)\theta_0)$$

$$\text{CT: } u_i(t) = -\frac{1}{1+n_i(t_{ik})+b_i(t_{ik})} ((n_i(t_{ik})+b_i(t_{ik}))\theta_i(t) - \sum_{j \in N_i(t_{ik})} \theta_j(t) - b_i(t_{ik})\theta_0),$$

$t \in [t_{ik}, t_{ik} + \tau)$

$\theta_0$ : the leader's fixed heading     $b_i(t)$  1 whenever the leader is a neighbor of agent  $i$  and 0 otherwise  
 $\tau$ : dwell time

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**Literature Survey (Jadbabaie et al.)**

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**Linked together** → all agents' headings **converge**

**Linked together** across a time interval  $[t, \tau]$  :

The collection of graph  $\{G_t, G_{t+1}, \dots, G_\tau\}$  encountered along the interval is **jointly connected**

**Jointly connected** :

The union of  $\{G_t, G_{t+1}, \dots, G_\tau\}$  is a connected graph

**Connected graph** :

The graph has a "path" between each distinct pair of its vertices  $i$  and  $j$

The results have been extended to the case where there are **inter-agent forces**

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**Motivation to More Literature Survey**

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Consensus? LaSalle's thorem? Lyapunov...?

To study not only “flocking” but more **other** fields

↓

survey **Consensus problems**, Coverage control,  
Coordination problems, and so on

In what follows,

I introduce mainly some consensus problems

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**Literature Survey**

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**Consensus problem** :

To reach an **agreement** regarding a certain quantity of interest that depends on the state of all

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**Literature Survey (Olfati et al.)**

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### R. Olfati-Saber et al.[3]

Address the **consensus problem**

- A variety of assumptions on the network topology
  - fixed or switching
  - directed or undirected
  - presence or lack of communication time-delay
- Continuous time and Discrete time
- Balanced → Average-consensus problem
- Disagreement vector → feature of the **Algebraic connectivity**
- Algebraic connectivity → **Tradeoff** between performance and robustness

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**Literature Survey (Olfati et al.)**

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$G = (V, E, W)$  : weighted digraph

$V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  : set of nodes

$E \subseteq V \times V$  : set of edges (an edge of  $G : e_{ij} = (v_i, v_j)$  )

$W : E \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}^+$  : map assigning a positive weight to each edge

$N_i = \{v_j \in V : (v_i, v_j) \in E\}$  : set of **neighbors** of node  $v_i$

$A = [a_{ij}]$  : weighted adjacency matrix with nonnegative adjacency elements  $a_{ij}$

- $e_{ij} \in E \Leftrightarrow a_{ij} > 0$
- $a_{ij} = 0$

•example of weighted adjacency matrix(Fig. 5)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & w_{13} \\ w_{21} & 0 & w_{23} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Fig. 5

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**Literature Survey (Olfati et al.)**

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$L = [l_{ij}]$  : Graph Laplacian

$$l_{ij} = \begin{cases} -a_{ij}, & j \neq i \\ \sum_{k=1, k \neq i}^n a_{ik}, & j = i \end{cases}$$

Graph Laplacian has many significant properties!

e.g. •  $L1 = 0$

- nonnegative matrix
- the stability properties of system is completely determined by the location of the Laplacian eigenvalues of the network

•example of Laplacian matrix(Fig. 6)

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} w_{13} & 0 & -w_{13} \\ -w_{21} & w_{21} + w_{23} & -w_{23} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Fig. 6

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**Literature Survey (Olfati et al.)**

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### Control Law

CT :  $\dot{x}_i(t) = u_i(t)$

DT :  $x_i(k+1) = x_i(k) + \varepsilon u_i(k)$

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

$x_i$  : agent  $i$ 's state

$\varepsilon > 0$  : step-size

↓ use Laplacian matrix L

CT :  $\dot{x}(t) = -Lx(t)$  (1)

DT :  $x(k+1) = P_\varepsilon x(k)$  (2)

$x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^T$  : network with value  $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$

$P_\varepsilon = I - \varepsilon L$  : Perron matrix

**Consensus** :  $x \rightarrow \alpha \mathbf{1}$

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**Literature Survey (Olfati et al.)**

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For **undirected** graph, graph Laplacian satisfies the following **sum-of-squares** property :

$$x^T Lx = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(i,j) \in E} a_{ij} (x_j - x_i)^2$$

Defining a quadratic **disagreement function** :

$$\phi(x) := x^T Lx$$

By using this function, algorithm (1) → **the gradient-descent algorithm** as :

$$\dot{x} = -\frac{1}{2} \nabla \phi(x)$$

This algorithm globally asymptotically converges to the agreement space provided that two conditions hold :

- (i) L is a **positive semidefinite** matrix
- (ii) the **only** equilibrium of (1) is  $\alpha \mathbf{1}$  for some  $\alpha$

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**Literature Survey (Olfati et al.)**

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For **undirected** graph, **connected** graph hold both of these conditions

→ the algorithm in (1) asymptotically converge

Furthermore, the algorithm solves an **Average consensus problem** :

$$\alpha = \frac{\sum_i x_i(0)}{n} \quad (3)$$

For **directed** graph, if the graph is **strongly connected**, then the algorithm asymptotically converge to the below consensus state with a left eigenvector  $\gamma = (\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n)$  satisfying  $\gamma^T L = 0$ .

$$\alpha = \frac{\gamma^T x(0)}{\gamma^T \mathbf{1}}$$

**Verification** :

$\dot{x} = -Lx \rightarrow y = \gamma^T x$  is an invariant quantity due to  $\dot{y} = -\gamma^T Lx = 0, \forall x$

→  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = y(0)$  i.e.  $\gamma^T(\alpha \mathbf{1}) = \gamma^T x(0)$

→  $\alpha = \frac{\gamma^T x(0)}{\sum_i \gamma_i}$

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**Literature Survey (Olfati et al.)** Tokyo Institute of Technology

Furthermore, if graph is **balanced**, the consensus state converge to (3).

**Balanced :**  
 a digraph where the total weight of edges entering a node and leaving the same node are equal for all nodes. (Fig. 7)  
 → any undirected graph is balanced

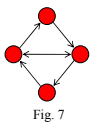


Fig. 7  
(neglect weight)

For **connected undirected graph** or **strongly connected balanced digraph**, the consensus state depends on only the **initial state**.

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**Literature Survey (Olfati et al.)** Tokyo Institute of Technology

**Algebraic connectivity :**  
 The **second smallest** eigenvalue of Laplacian is a measure of **performance/speed** of consensus algorithms → **disagreement vector**

**Disagreement vector :**  
 For **connected** undirected graph or **SC balanced** digraph,  $\alpha$  is invariant  
 → **disagreement vector** :  $\delta = x - \alpha \mathbf{1}$  ( $\mathbf{1}^T \delta = 0$ )

(1), (2) → 
$$\begin{cases} \dot{\delta}(t) = -L\delta(t) \\ \delta(k+1) = P\delta(k) \end{cases}$$

$\phi(\delta) := \delta^T \delta$  : **Valid Lyapunov function**

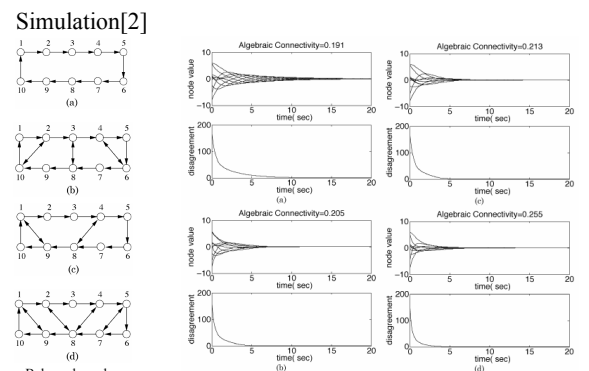
→  $\dot{\phi} \leq -2\lambda_2 \phi$ ,  $\|\delta\| = \phi(\delta)^{\frac{1}{2}}$       $\lambda_2$  : the second largest eigenvalue of L

The disagreement vector exponentially vanishes with a speed of at least  $\lambda_2$ .

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**Literature Survey (Olfati et al.)** Tokyo Institute of Technology

**Simulation[2]**



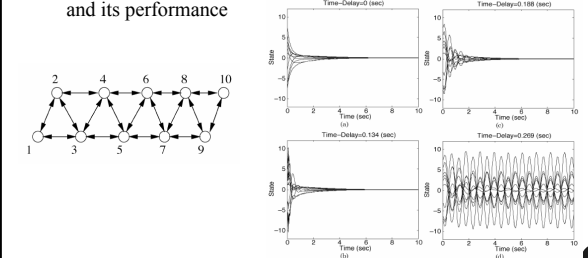
Balanced graphs

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**Literature Survey (Olfati et al.)** Tokyo Institute of Technology

**Other studies**

- Switching topology
- Time-delay
- Tradeoff between robustness of a protocol to time-delay and its performance



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**Literature Survey (Others)** Tokyo Institute of Technology

- H. G. Tanner et al.[4],[5]
  - Fixed and dynamic topology
  - Double integrator dynamics
  - **Collision avoidance** ← only if Graph is **complete**
  - **Artificial potential function** (Fig. 8)
  - graph representing agent interconnections remains **connected at all times**
- D. Lee and W. Spong[7]
  - **Inertial effect**
  - Agents evolve on a balanced information graph
  - **passive decompose** the dynamics into a **shape** system and a **locked** system
  - By using **dwell-time** concept the proposed framework is also applicable for slowly-switching balanced graphs.

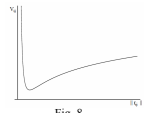
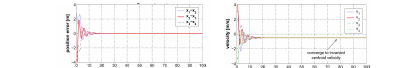


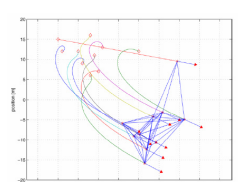
Fig. 8




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**Literature Survey (Others)** Tokyo Institute of Technology

- C. Reynolds[8]
  - Approach based on computer simulation
  - Three rules
    - Separation : steer to avoid crowding local flockmates
    - Alignment : steer towards the average heading of local flockmates
    - Cohesion : steer to move toward the average position of local flockmates
- N. Moshtagh, and A. Jadbabaie[9]
  - Kinematic **nonholonomic** agents
  - Leader following problem
  - **Misalignment energy**(Lyapunov function)
  - **Dwell-time**



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## Conclusion

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- Introduced to my work briefly
- Got preliminary knowledge for my study
- Raised motivation for my study
  - Learned to be interested in survey
  - Knew pleasantness of survey
  - Willing to experiment

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## Future Works

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- More survey
- Learning experimental circumstance
- Simulation
- Implementation of a flocking behavior with “e-nuvo WHEEL” by applying Igarashi’s control law[10] to the system

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