

Zhi-min Han, Zhi-yun Lin, Min-yue Fu, Zhi-yong Chen, 2015. Distributed coordination in multi-agent systems: a graph Laplacian perspective. *Frontiers of Information Technology & Electronic Engineering*, **16**(6):429-448. [doi:10.1631/FITEE.1500118]

Distributed coordination in multi-agent systems: a graph Laplacian perspective

Key words: Multi-agent systems, Distributed coordination, Graph Laplacian

Contact: Zhi-yun Lin

E-mail: linz@zju.edu.cn

 ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-5523-4467>

Introduction

- Distributed multi-agent coordination has been a very active subject studied extensively in last decades, including distributed consensus, formation control, sensor localization, distributed optimization, etc.
- This paper intends to present a survey from a new perspective in terms of graph Laplacian, which connects different research issues of multi-agent systems in one string for distributed coordination.

Introduction (Con'd)

We categorize the existing results in multi-agent systems into the following types:

- Ordinary Laplacian based protocols
- Signed Laplacian based protocols
- Complex Laplacian based protocols
- Generalized Laplacian based protocols

Survey of distributed multi-agent coordination (1)

Type	Ordinary Laplacian based protocols
Laplacian feature	The Laplacian matrix associated to a graph with positive and real weights
Research issues	• Consensus • Translational formation control • Flocking • Distributed resource allocation

Survey of distributed multi-agent coordination (2)

Type	Signed Laplacian based protocols
Laplacian feature	The Laplacian matrix associated to a graph with real weights that may be positive or negative
Research issues	• Bipartite consensus • Cluster consensus • Optimization over convergence speed • Affine formation control • Distance-based localization

Survey of distributed multi-agent coordination (3)

Type	Complex Laplacian based protocols
Laplacian feature	The Laplacian matrix associated to a graph with complex weights
Research issues	• Similar formation control • Relative position based localization

Survey of distributed multi-agent coordination (4)

Type	Generalized Laplacian based protocols
Laplacian feature	The Laplacian matrix associated with a graph with weights that may be matrices, time-varying variables, or dynamic systems
Research issues	• Bearing-angle based localization • Distributed coordination over switching topologies • Distributed coordination with dynamic gains

Future research directions

- Spectrum of variant graph Laplacians
- Distributed multi-agent coordination over directed and time-varying graphs
- Distributed multi-agent coordination with interaction dynamics
- Nonlinear multi-agent coordination
- Distributed coordination of heterogeneous agents

Conclusions

- This paper reviews some main results and progress in distributed multi-agent coordination from a graph Laplacian perspective.
- This paper also highlights several promising research directions along with some open problems that are deemed important for future study.