

3d flocking model

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We shall investigate swarming models from the perspective of hybrid multi-agent control/consensus.

Consensus

Broadly speaking, *consensus* occurs when the many agents adjust their positions/velocities in relation to one another and reach some “agreement” such as a formation in space.

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Toy model

We construct a model of N flocking agents by assigning each agent in the system both a

- state value $\mathbf{s}_i = \begin{pmatrix} x_i \\ y_i \\ z_i \end{pmatrix}$
- gain $\sigma_{i,j}$

which correspond, respectively, to position in space and communicative strengths.

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$$\dot{\sigma}_{i,j} = \xi(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_j, \Omega_i) \quad (2)$$

where Ω_i is the local neighbourhood of agent i containing n members and ξ is some function of the respective states.

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We assign an orientation vector for each pair of states

$$\Theta_{i,j} = \begin{pmatrix} \sin \phi_{i,j} \cos \theta_{i,j} \\ \sin \phi_{i,j} \sin \theta_{i,j} \\ \cos \theta_{i,j} \end{pmatrix}$$

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Whereas the gains evolve according to

$$\dot{\sigma}_{i,j} = \begin{cases} \alpha & \text{if } \|\Delta_{i,j}\| \in \Omega_i, \sigma_{i,j} < \tau \\ -\beta & \text{if } \|\Delta_{i,j}\| \notin \Omega_i, \sigma_{i,j} > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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