

# **CS378**

# **Autonomous Multiagent Systems**

## **Spring 2004**

**Prof: Peter Stone**  
**TA: Mazda Ahmadi**

Department of Computer Sciences  
The University of Texas at Austin

Week 4a: Tuesday, February 10th

# Good Afternoon, Colleagues

---

Are there any questions?

# Logistics

---

- Programming assignment 4 - any questions?

# Logistics

---

- Programming assignment 4 - any questions?
- A couple more talks:
  - Illah Nourbakhsh: personal rovers
  - Rosaline Picard: emotional intelligence

# Logistics

---

- Programming assignment 4 - any questions?
- A couple more talks:
  - Illah Nourbakhsh: personal rovers
  - Rosaline Picard: emotional intelligence
- Schedule change

# Class discussion

---

Mohamed Fakhreddine on the issues related to  
a particular multiagent system.

# Some Definitions

---

- Distributed Computing :

# Some Definitions

---

- **Distributed Computing** : Processors share data, but not control. Focus on low-level parallelization, synchronization.



# Some Definitions

---

- **Distributed Computing** : Processors share data, but not control. Focus on low-level parallelization, synchronization.
- **Distributed AI** :

# Some Definitions

---

- **Distributed Computing** : Processors share data, but not control. Focus on low-level parallelization, synchronization.
- **Distributed AI** : Control as well as data is distributed. Focus on problem solving, communication, and coordination.

# Some Definitions

---

- **Distributed Computing** : Processors share data, but not control. Focus on low-level parallelization, synchronization.
- **Distributed AI** : Control as well as data is distributed. Focus on problem solving, communication, and coordination.
- **Distributed Problem Solving** :

# Some Definitions

---

- **Distributed Computing** : Processors share data, but not control. Focus on low-level parallelization, synchronization.
- **Distributed AI** : Control as well as data is distributed. Focus on problem solving, communication, and coordination.
- **Distributed Problem Solving** : Task decomposition and/or solution synthesis.

# Some Definitions

---

- **Distributed Computing** : Processors share data, but not control. Focus on low-level parallelization, synchronization.
- **Distributed AI** : Control as well as data is distributed. Focus on problem solving, communication, and coordination.
- **Distributed Problem Solving** : Task decomposition and/or solution synthesis.
- **Multiagent Systems** :

# Some Definitions

---

- **Distributed Computing** : Processors share data, but not control. Focus on low-level parallelization, synchronization.
- **Distributed AI** : Control as well as data is distributed. Focus on problem solving, communication, and coordination.
- **Distributed Problem Solving** : Task decomposition and/or solution synthesis.
- **Multiagent Systems** : Behavior coordination or behavior management.

# Some Definitions

---

- **Distributed Computing** : Processors share data, but not control. Focus on low-level parallelization, synchronization.
- **Distributed AI** : Control as well as data is distributed. Focus on problem solving, communication, and coordination.
- **Distributed Problem Solving** : Task decomposition and/or solution synthesis.
- **Multiagent Systems** : Behavior coordination or behavior management.
  - No necessary guarantees about other agents.
  - Individual behaviors typically simple relative to interaction issues.

# Multiagent Systems

---

- Study, behavior, construction of **possibly preexisting** autonomous agents that interact with each other.
  - incomplete information for agents
  - no global control
  - decentralized data
  - asynchronous computation



# Why Multiagent Systems?

---

(7)

# Why Multiagent Systems?

---

(7)

- Some domains require it. (Hospital scheduling)
- Interoperation of legacy systems
- Parallelism.
- Robustness.
- Scalability
- Simpler programming.
- “Intelligence is deeply and inevitably coupled with interaction.” – *Gerhard Weiss*

# Issues and Challenges

---

- How to break down and resynthesize the problem among agents

# Issues and Challenges

---

- How to break down and resynthesize the problem among agents
- Communication/interaction protocols

# Issues and Challenges

---

- How to break down and resynthesize the problem among agents
- Communication/interaction protocols
- Maintain coherence, stability: guarantees?
  - Coherence is a global property

# Issues and Challenges

---

- How to break down and resynthesize the problem among agents
- Communication/interaction protocols
- Maintain coherence, stability: guarantees?
  - Coherence is a global property
- Representation by agents of each other and interactions

# Issues and Challenges

---

- How to break down and resynthesize the problem among agents
- Communication/interaction protocols
- Maintain coherence, stability: guarantees?
  - Coherence is a global property
- Representation by agents of each other and interactions
- Reconciling different points of view

# Issues and Challenges

---

- How to break down and resynthesize the problem among agents
- Communication/interaction protocols
- Maintain coherence, stability: guarantees?
  - Coherence is a global property
- Representation by agents of each other and interactions
- Reconciling different points of view
- Engineering



# Dimensions and issues

---

- cooperative vs. competitive
- communication
- trust
- recursive modeling
- coalitions
- game theory

# Dimensions and issues

---

- cooperative vs. competitive
- communication
- trust
- recursive modeling
- coalitions
- game theory

Convoy example