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Distributed Adaptive Cooperative Hunting Algorithm for Multiple Autonomous Underwater Vehicles

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ABSTRACT: This paper investigates the attitude consensus problem of multiple Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) in the case of communication delay with the directed communication network. A distributed adaptive integral sliding mode controller is designed for each vehicle to track the desired attitude. The inertia uncertainty and external disturbance in the dynamics of AUV are considered in designing the control law. Multi-AUV cooperative hunting is a very challenging research area, a novel multi-AUVs bio-inspired cooperative hunting algorithm is presented. Firstly, a bio-inspired Neural Network model (BINN) is established to represent the AUV underwater working environment. Each point in the grid map corresponds to the activity of a neural activity in the BINN, and the next target point of the hunting AUV can be planned autonomously according to the neuron activity of the neurons in the BINN. Secondly, the direction decision algorithm is embedded into the BINN hunting model for the ocean current environment, and the four hunting AUVs all move from the left side of the map, with the rhombic formation to hunt the evader AUV. And the integrated algorithm proposed is compared with the hunting method without direction decision. Finally, simulation results are presented to demonstrate that the proposed algorithm is effective for cooperative hunting mission.

KEYWORDS: AUV , BINN , A*, Hunting

I. INTRODUCTION

An autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) is a robot that has intelligence and can complete tasks in the ocean by itself without the guidance of operator. It has been widely used in both civilian areas (deep ocean investigation, maintenance of underwater devices and so on) and military. Since one single AUV has limited capacity, multi-AUV system has become a more and more hot topic. With the cooperation and coordination, the multi-AUV system can improve the capacity of a single AUV. Researchers have finished many studies on multi-AUV system, including underwater cooperative search, mine sweeping formation control, dynamic task assignment cooperative hunting and so on. These studies on multi-AUV system are all interesting and worthy of studying, but cooperative hunting is more comprehensive. The comprehensive hunting problem includes three sub tasks: search of evaders, formation of a dynamic hunting alliance, and path planning until successful capture. There have been many researchers completing some remarkable studies on the overall hunting problem. Most studies are about hunting problem of homogeneous AUVs. So far, there is almost no research on the hunting problem of inhomogeneous multi-AUV and intelligent evaders. Some researches about task allocation during hunting have been completed, but lacks of research on the task allocation in the inhomogeneous multi-AUV hunting problem. What is more, many researches do not discuss on the problem that the evaders have some strategy to escape. In military applications, the multi-AUV hunting system often needs to capture invaders with certain intelligence such as micro robots, and their intelligence will help them to escape. In practical, AUVs in the hunting team are often of different type and possess distinctibility such as different sailing speed or different safety distance, and the evader could have certain intelligence to escape too.



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II. RELATED WORK

1. Attitude control of a micro AUV through an embedded system -2017

The Dynamic model is described by Newton-Euler equations. It presents vehicle's performance validation with help of MatLab Simulink and experimental results in real time

2. Multi-AUV target search based on bioinspiredneurodynamics model in 3-D underwater environments-2016

The target globally attracts the AUVs through the dynamic neural activity landscape of the model, while the obstacles locally push the AUVs away to avoid collision. Finally, the AUVs plan their search path to the targets autonomously by a steepest gradient descent rule.

3. Mathematical modeling and analysis of multirobot cooperative hunting behaviors-2015

The mathematical model is formulated by a set of rate equations. The evolution of robot collective hunting behaviors represents the transition between different states of robots. The complex collective hunting behavior emerges through local interaction.

III. PROPOSED ALGORITHM

Cooperative hunting of multi-autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) is an important research topic. Current studies concentrate on AUVs with the same speed abilities and mostly do not consider their speed differences. In fact, AUVs in a hunting group are often of different types and possess different maximum sailing speeds. For inhomogeneous multi-AUV, a novel time competition mechanism is proposed to construct an efficient dynamic hunting alliance. Hunting team with AUVs possessing higher speed abilities is more suitable for the vast underwater environment. In the pursuing stage, AUV needs to act fast enough to avoid the escape of evader.

After forming the hunting alliance, a hybrid path planning approach is proposed in order to begin hunting as soon as possible. The approach combines GBNN and belief function path planning method. On the one hand, GBNN requires no prior knowledge and no learning procedures. On the otherhand, belief function can affect the path of AUV locally to make a more reasonable trajectory. In addition, it is suitable for both static and dynamically varying environment. This study is different from many researches that the intelligence of evader is further discussed too, which makes the hunting harder and more complex. The proposed task allocation and path planning approach is computationally stable in the study. It can cope with the cooperative hunting of multi-AUV for intelligent evaders efficiently as well as improve hunting efficiency.

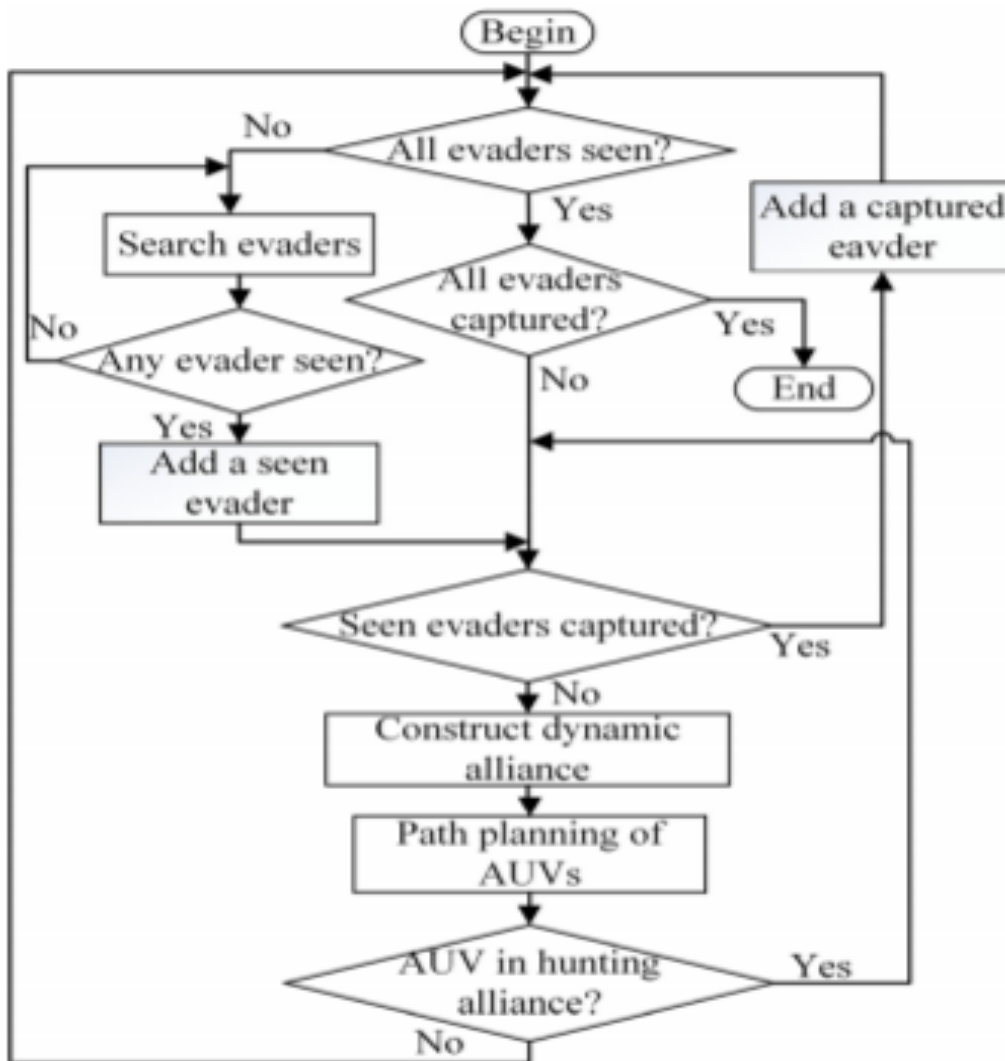
In the hunting, AUVs should search for evaders first. After any evader is found, a dynamic hunting alliance will be formed among AUVs. The AUV, which is not in the dynamic alliance, will search for other evaders. Hunting AUVs in the team will plan a path to capture the seen evader by the combined path planning algorithm. After all the evaders are seen and captured, the hunting ends. Hunting alliance formed among inhomogeneous multi-AUV and path planning to round up the evader are two key problems of this paper. The influence factors such as different speed and safety distance of AUVs should be taken into consideration in the hunting process. Because the evader will try their best to escape, there are other problems to be solved including how to avoid run-away of the intelligent evader and obstacle avoidance

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The neural activity propagation of GBNN model works a bit like wave propagation in a lake. If wave starts in the middle of the lake, it takes some time to spread to the shoreline. The broader the lake is, the longer the spread will be. The single GBNN model needs some time to propagate the neural activity at the target's grid to the position of AUV. The combined algorithm applies belief function as a local effect and this effect is relatively large when the AUV is far away from its target because of the small GBNN activity value at that place. It can eliminate the time delay for the propagation of GBNN model. As time goes up and AUV goes near to its target, GBNN will take charge of the AUV. The neural activity of GBNN at the obstacle unit is equal to zero, and that of belief function method is less than zero. However, the neural activity of free unit on the direction to get close to the target is higher than zero and increases as the distance to the target decreases. Therefore, even if the target or the obstacle is dynamic, the combined approach will ensure the activity of the obstacle less than that of the free unit. That is to say, the activity propagates from the target to

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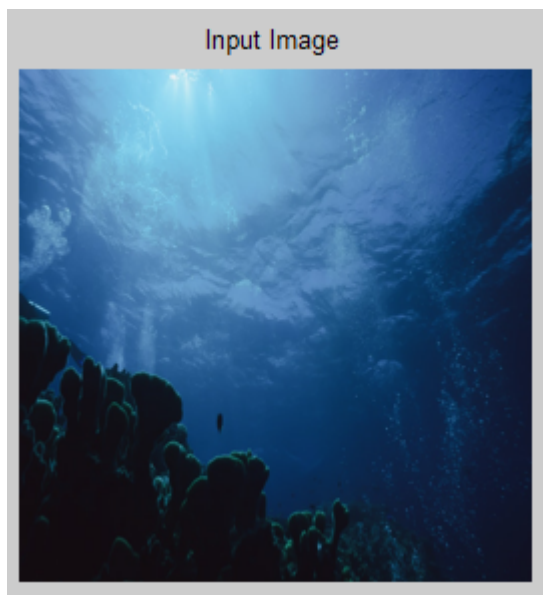
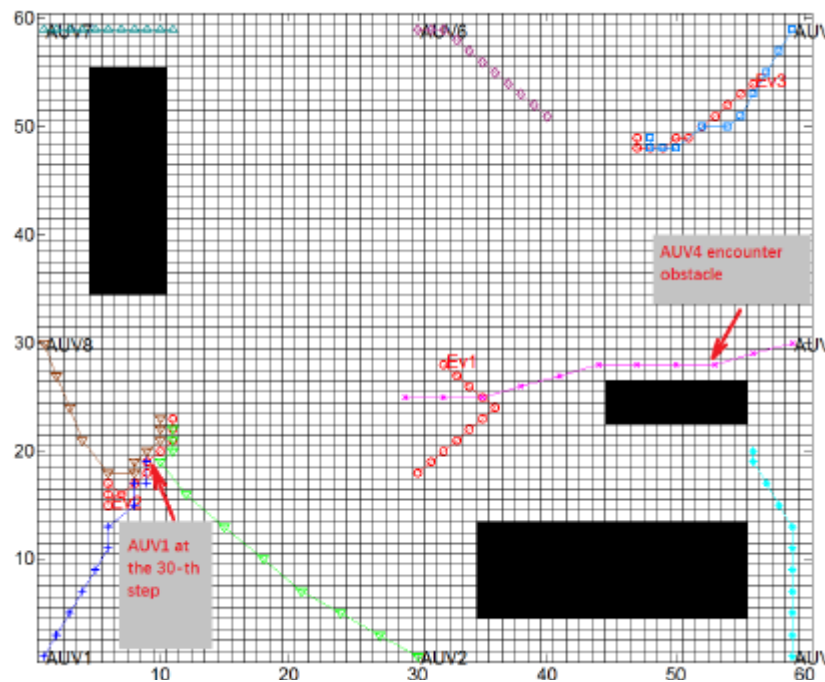
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the AUV gradually, and has a relatively small value at the obstacle unit. In conclusion, the AUV, which takes the next step with the biggest total neural activity, will reach the target with obstacle avoidance.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS





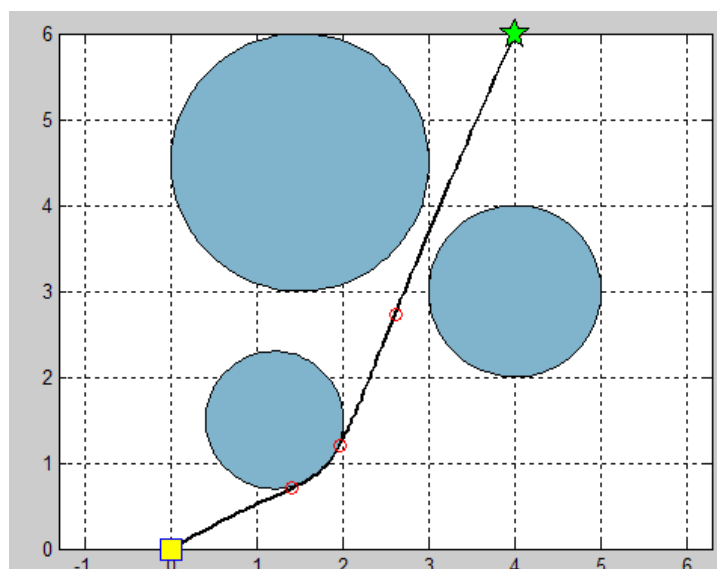
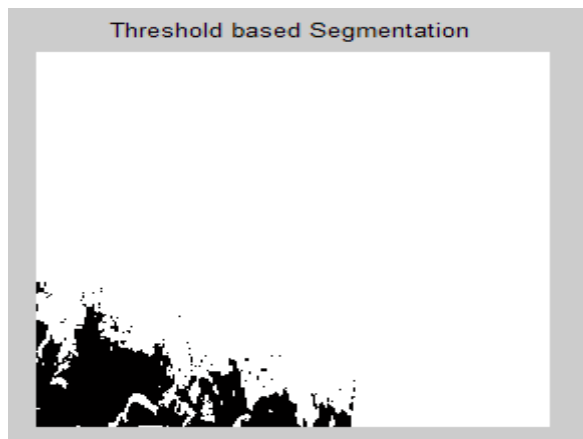
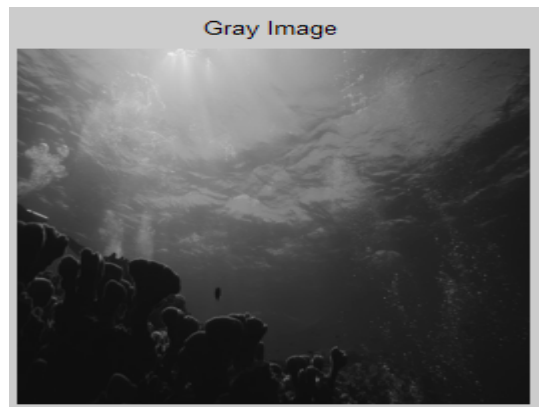
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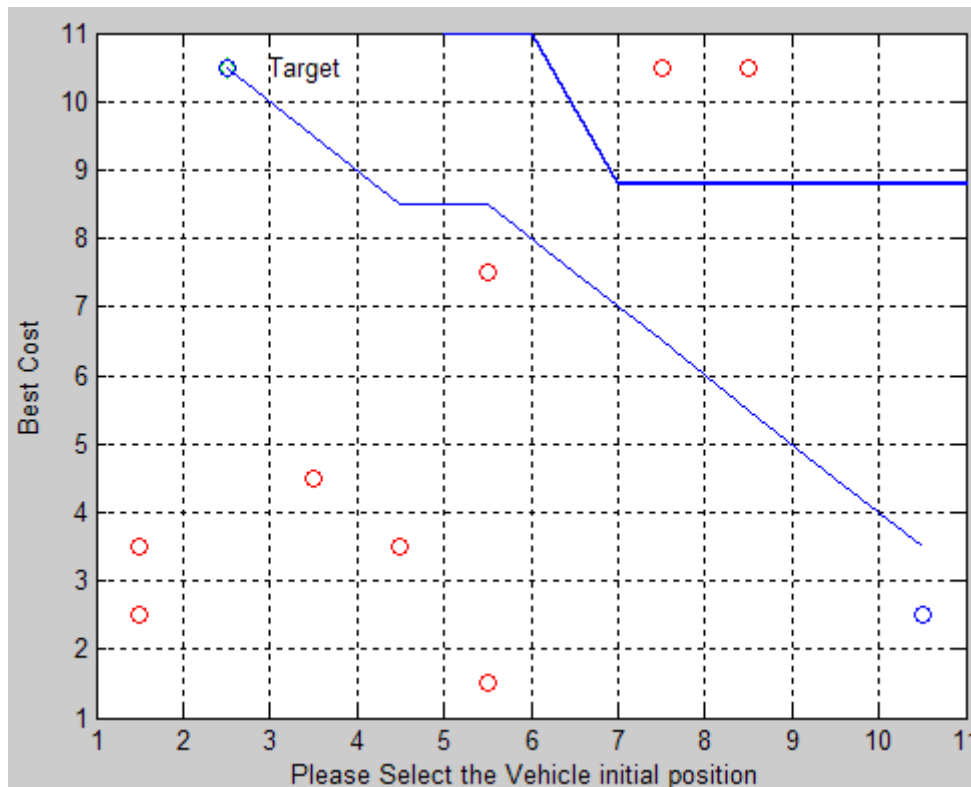


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V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

Then GBNN and belief function method are combined for a highly efficient path planning. The feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed algorithm are verified by simulation. The algorithm proposed is compared with original distance competition algorithm and single GBNN model. The results show that the proposed algorithm is more efficient. The single GBNN model works badly in such a fast dynamic environment as hunting, and it takes more distance to finish the hunting task. The distance-based hunting alliance algorithm is not good at the hunting alliance formation of inhomogeneous AUVs too. The proposed algorithm can reduce the hunting steps without AUVs' total distance and evaders' escaping distance. At last, it is demonstrated that the algorithm can also fulfill the hunting in the 3-D underwater environment where the evader can run away more easily.

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