

Swarm Robotics

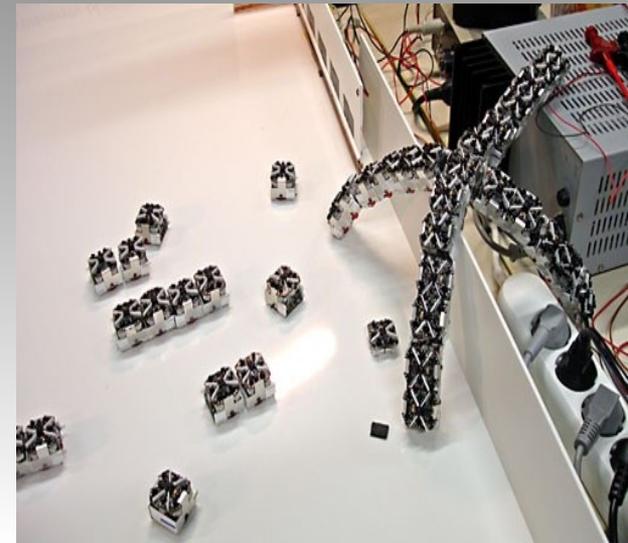
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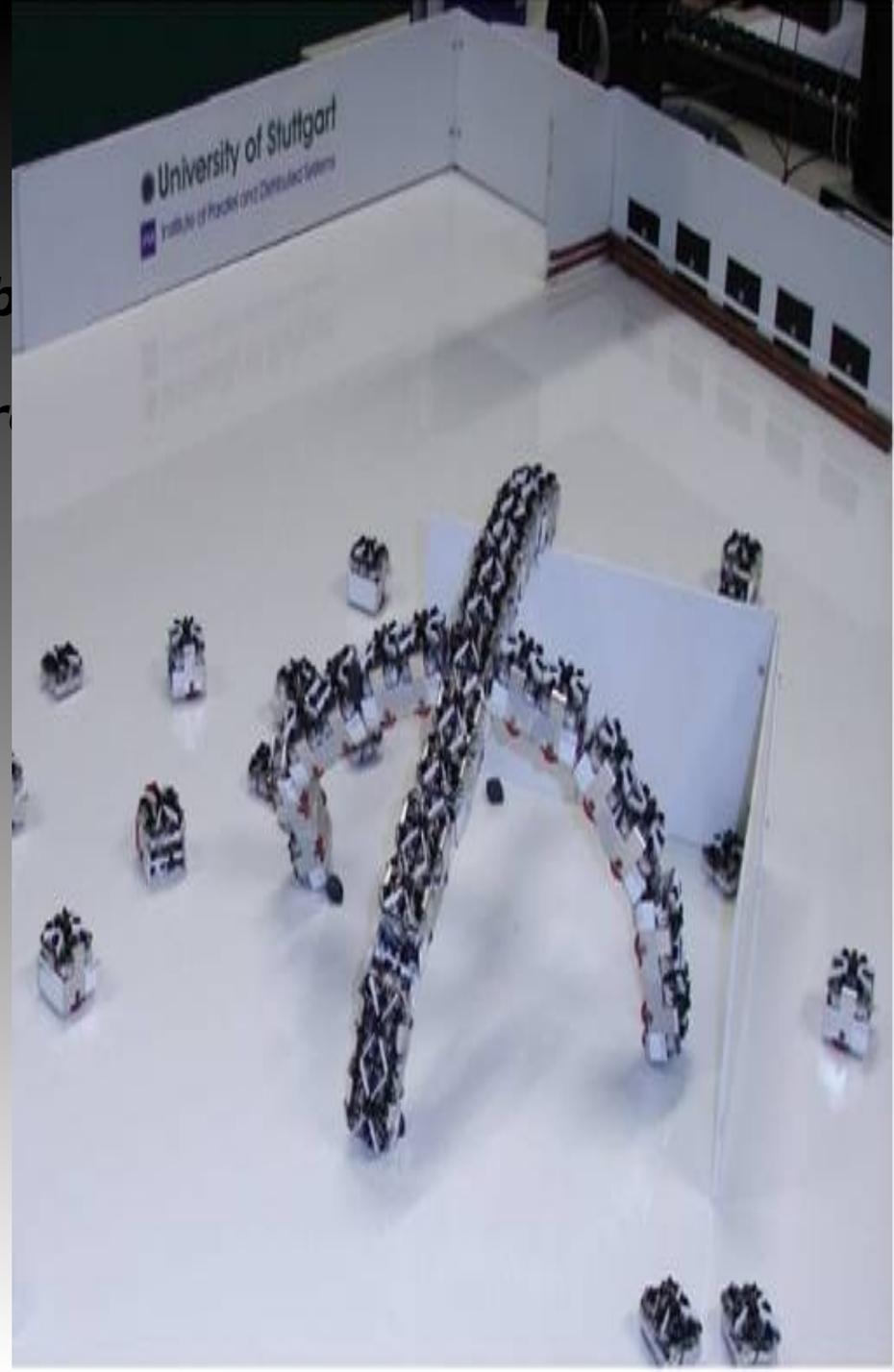
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Contents

- + *Introduction to Swarm Robotics*
- + *Different types of swarm robots*
- + *Swarm Specifications*
- + *Future Challenges*
- + *Examples*
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Introduction to swarm Robotics



Inspiration to Swarm Robots

Self-organizing natural systems

Social insect systems: ants, termites, wasps, bees, cockroaches, locusts...

Animals with social behaviors: Bees, Penguins, birds, fish, sheep...



Definition:

A Swarm consists of a large number of homogenous autonomous relatively incapable or inefficient robots with local sensing and communication capabilities.

In other words,

Swarm robotics is the study of how large number of relatively simple physically embodied agents can be designed such that a desired collective behavior emerges from the local interactions among agents and between the agents and the environment.



swarm Robots Vs Single Robots

- + *A larger range of task domain*
- + *Greater efficiency*
- + *Improved system performance*
- + *Fault tolerance*
- + *Robustness*
- + *Lower economic cost*



Swarm Robots Applications

Transportation

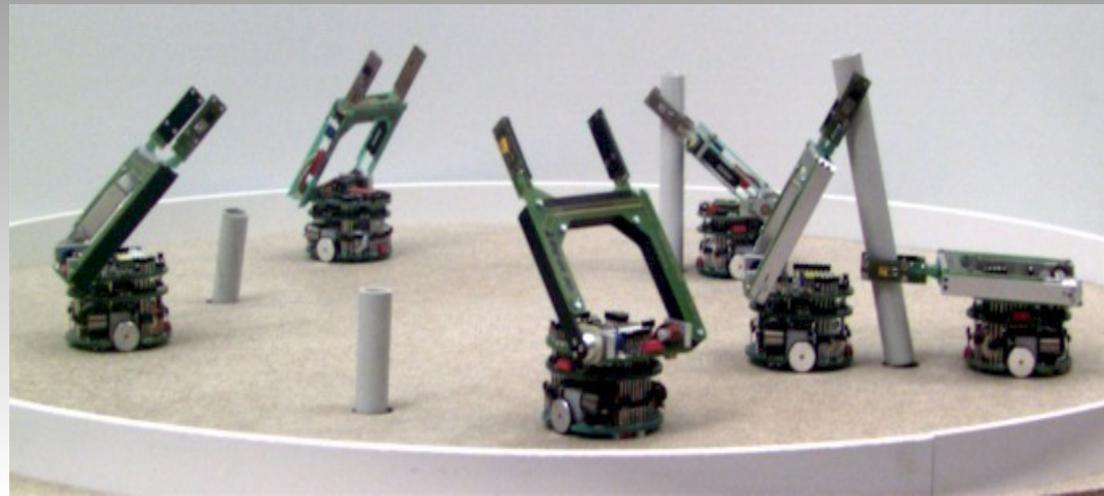
Search & Rescue

Mine Detection

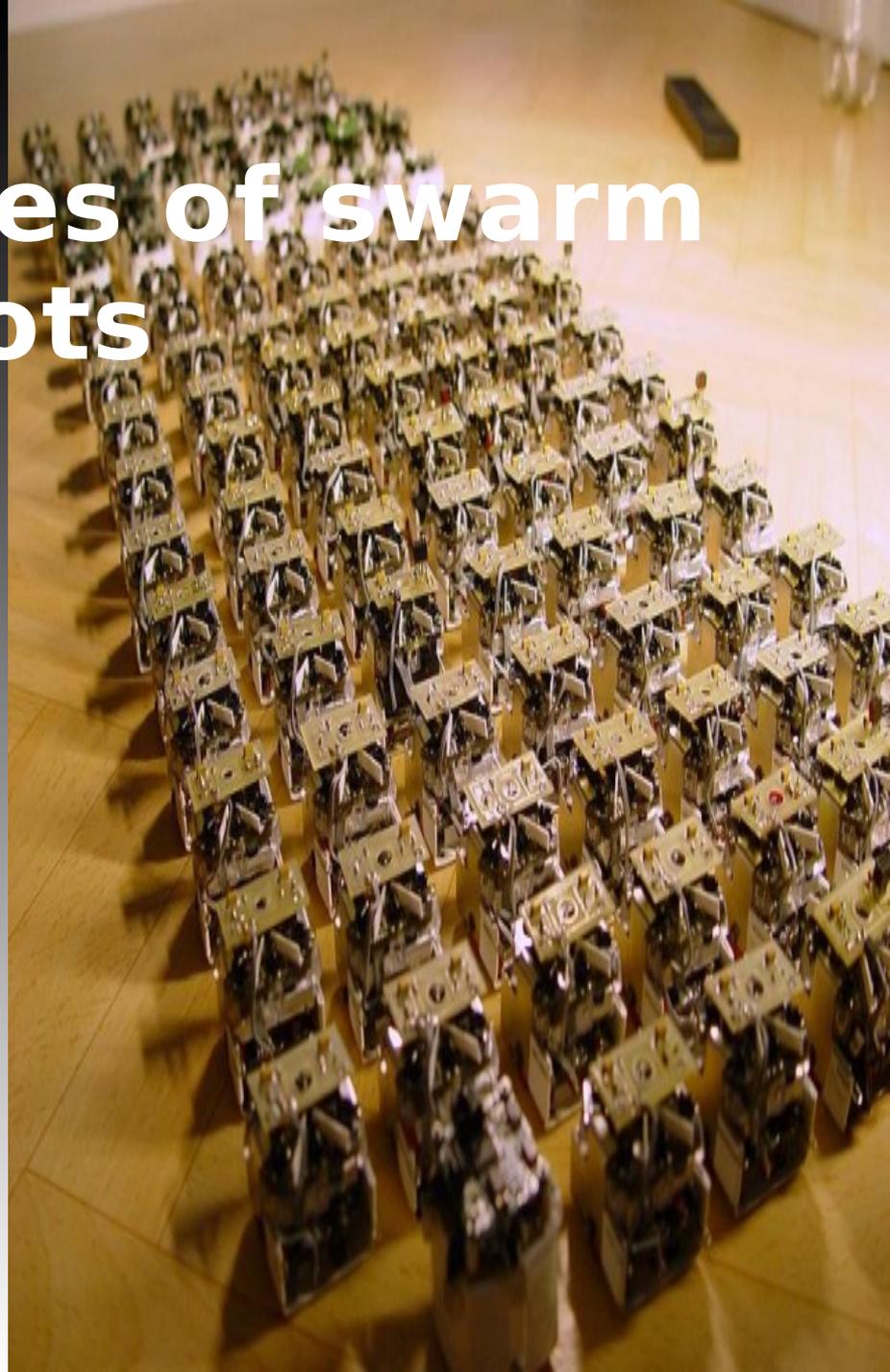
Surveillance & Monitoring

Medical Service using small-size robots

Military . . .



Different Types of swarm robots



Types of Swarm Robots:

- ***Swarm Size***
- *Limited Group multiple Robots*
- *Infinite Group $n \gg 1$ Robots*

- ***Communication Range***
- *None-Communicative Robots*
- *Near-Communicative Robots*
- *Infinite communicative Robots*

Swarm specifications

Re configurability

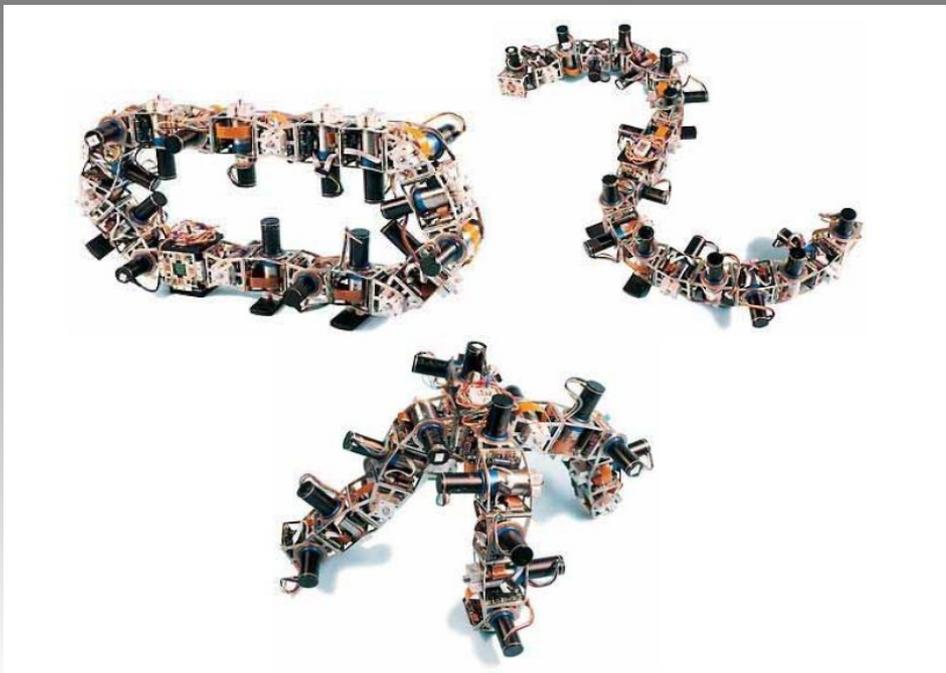
Scalability

Robustness



Reconfigurability

- *Reconfigurability is the rate at which the swarm can spatially reorganize itself.*
- *Reconfigurability is equivalent to the rate at which members can move with respect to one another.*



Scalability

Ability to operate under a wide range of group sizes.

In other words, coordination mechanisms are rather independent of the number of individuals in the group.

Robustness

Swarm Robots can continue to operate despite large disturbances because of:

Redundancy

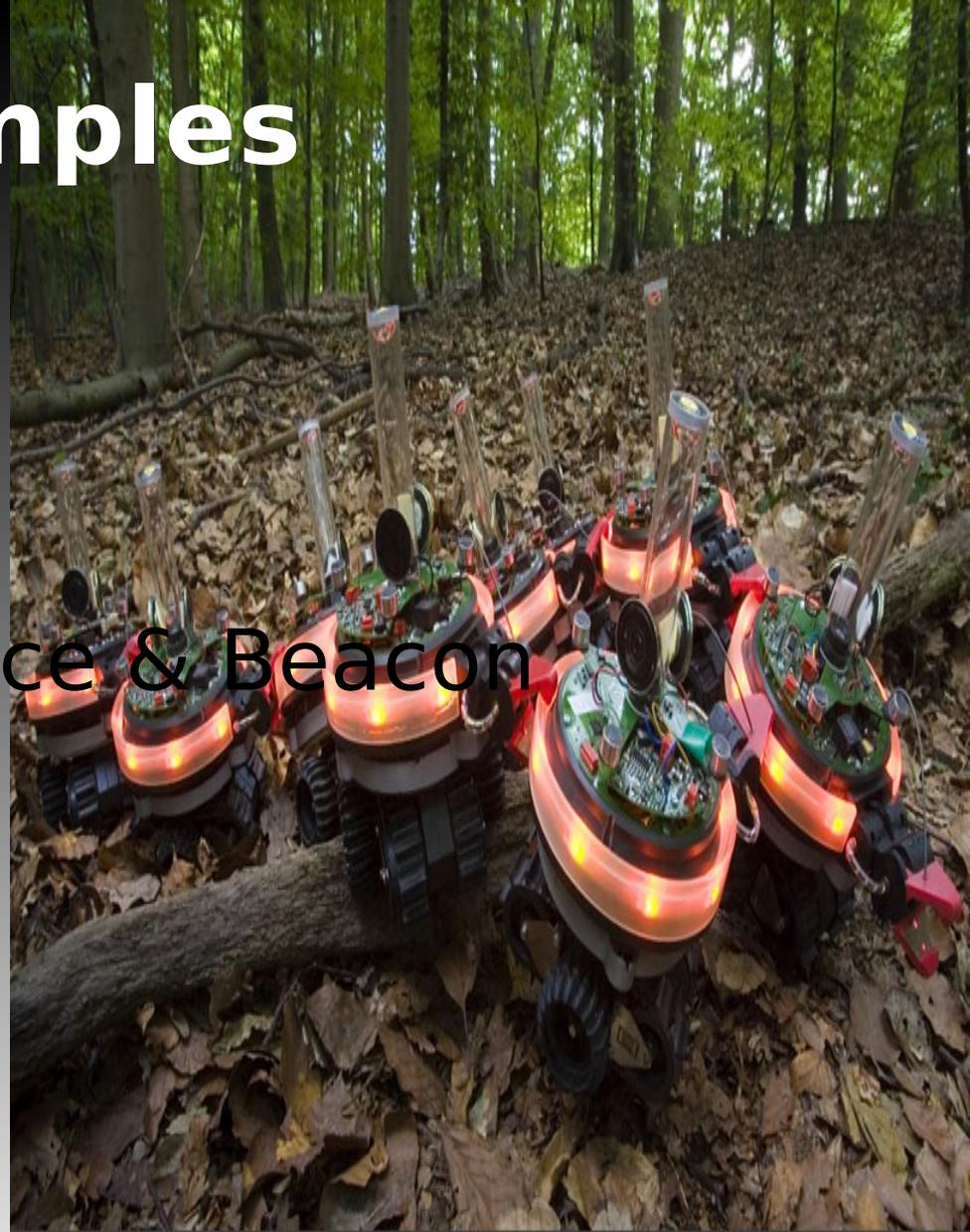
Simplicity of the individuals

Future challenges:

- Technical challenges to scalability
- Performing physical tasks in the real world

Examples

- Chain Formation
- Aggregation
- Obstacle Avoidance & Beacon Navigation
- Dispersing
- Self Assembly



"Swarm-bots" near a laboratory in Brussels, Belgium

Photograph by Peter Essick

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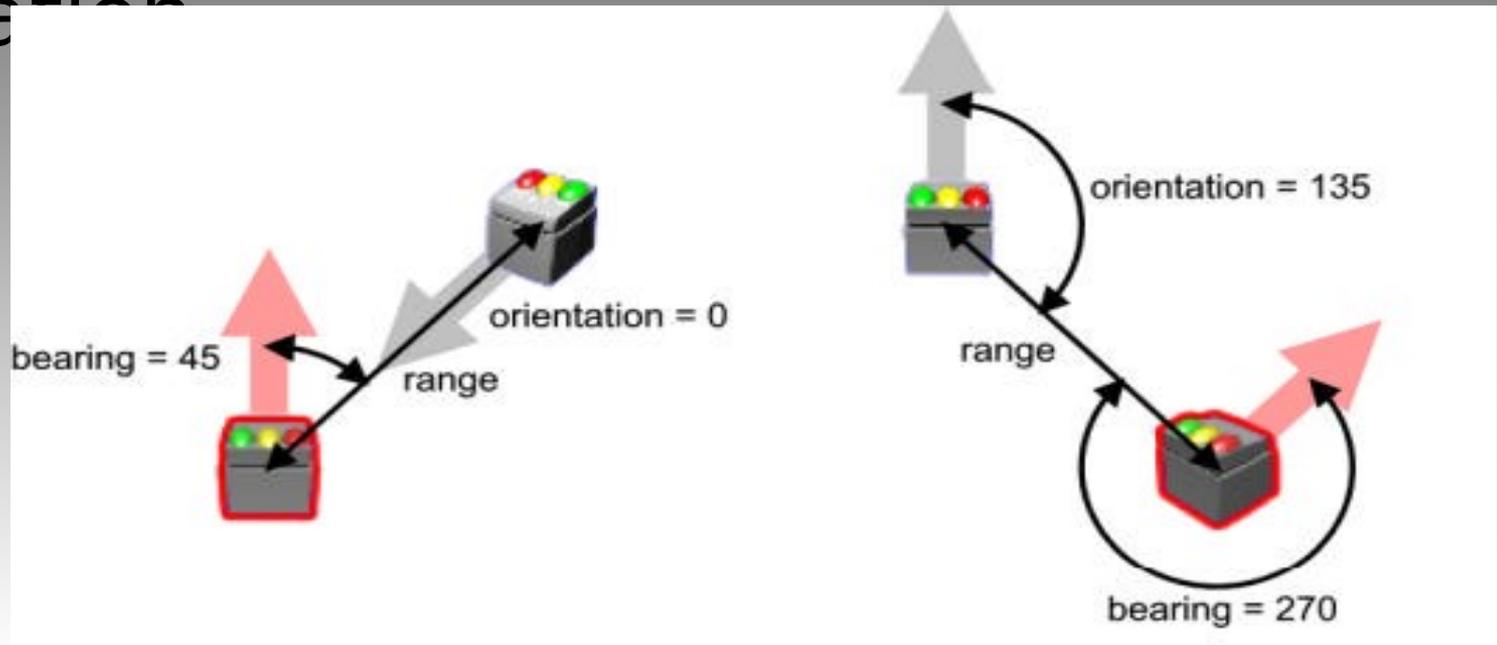
The SwarmBot



- Second level
- Third level
- Fourth level
- Fifth level

Communication

The communication and robot location system Robot ISIS allow each robot to communicate with its neighbors and determine their range, bearing, and orientation.



TYPE of Behaviors

Primitive Behaviors

These low-level behaviors do not interact with other robots at all. They provide low-level motion control and obstacle avoidance for an individual robot.

EX: move or stop a robot

Pair Behaviors

Pair behaviors also direct the actions of a single active robot, but they use the position and current state of only one neighbor that is the reference robot.

EX: Orient to another robot, follow a robot

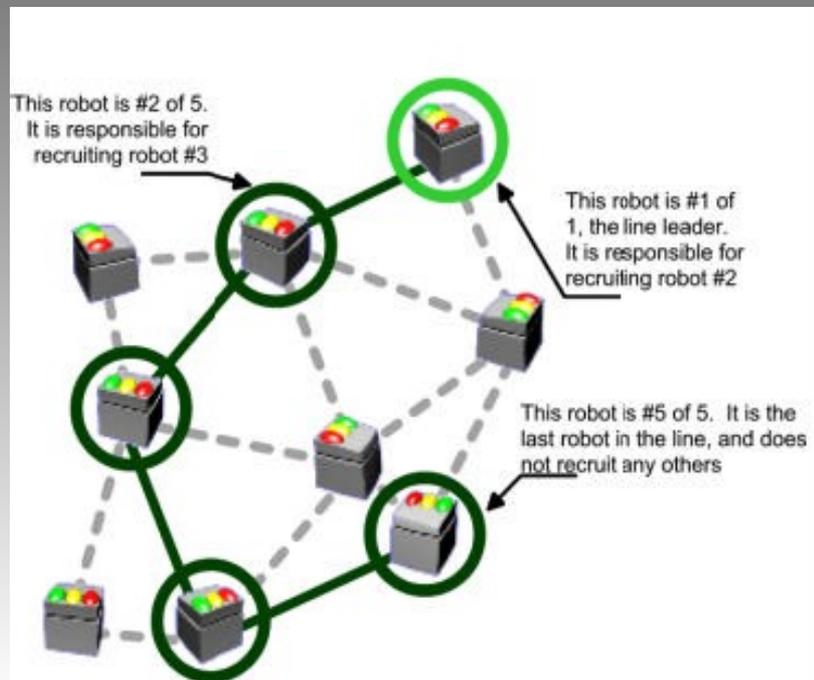
Group Behaviors

These behaviors form the bulk of the behavior library. They are responsible for guiding the actions of a single active robot based on the positions and current state of all of its neighbors. The entire set of neighbors are the reference robots.

EX: Follow a leader, clustering, grouping.

Chain formation

- In Chain Formation problem, the aim is to move the robots so that they form a chain pattern.
- The follow The Leader behavior dynamically constructs an ordered line of robots. This line is suitable for leading a group of robots into an area. Another behavior is required to control the leader.



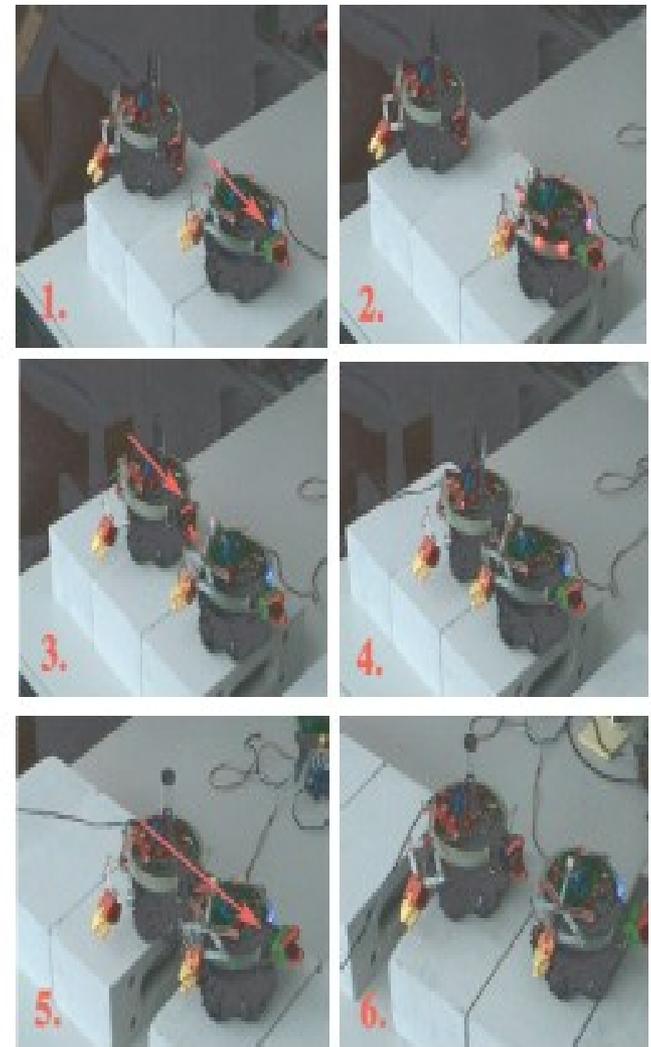
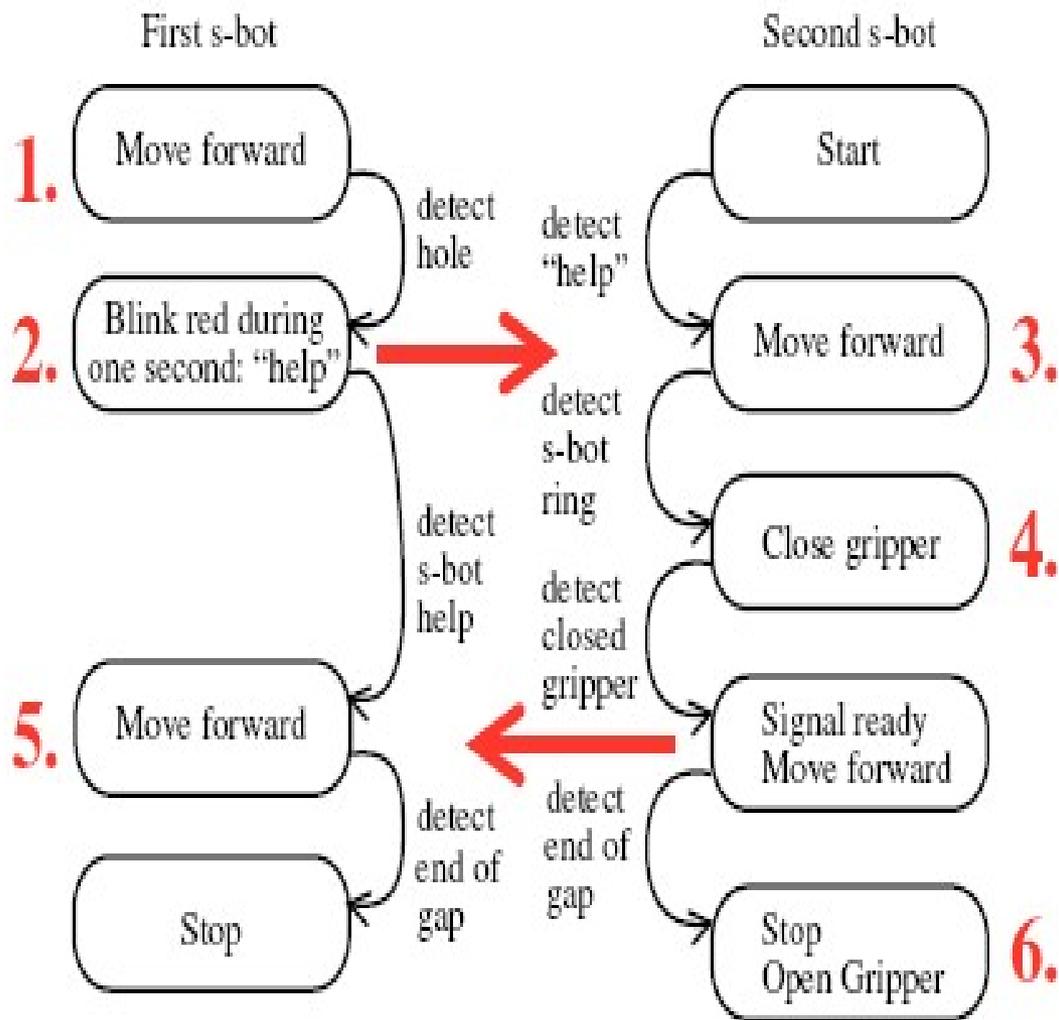


Figure 5: S-bot control for grasping and pass sequence.

Aggregation

+ The goal of the clustering behavior is to move the swarm to a centralized location
in as small an area as possible.

+ The clusterIntoGroups behavior implements a primitive form of division of labor. It operates in two steps; first, each robot selects a group to join, then the behavior moves robots in the same groups together, while moving each other



Obstacle avoidance & Beacon Navigation

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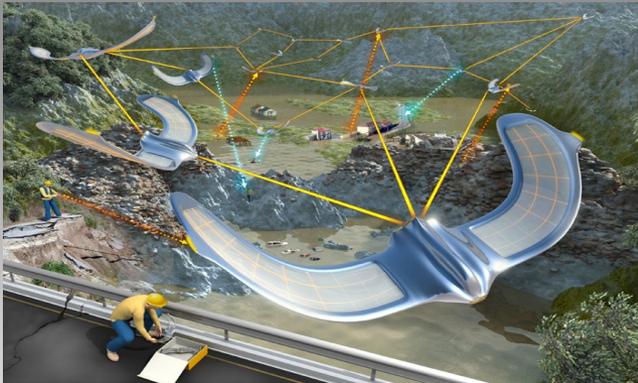
Second level

- Third level
- Fourth level
- Fifth level





Swarm
-bots



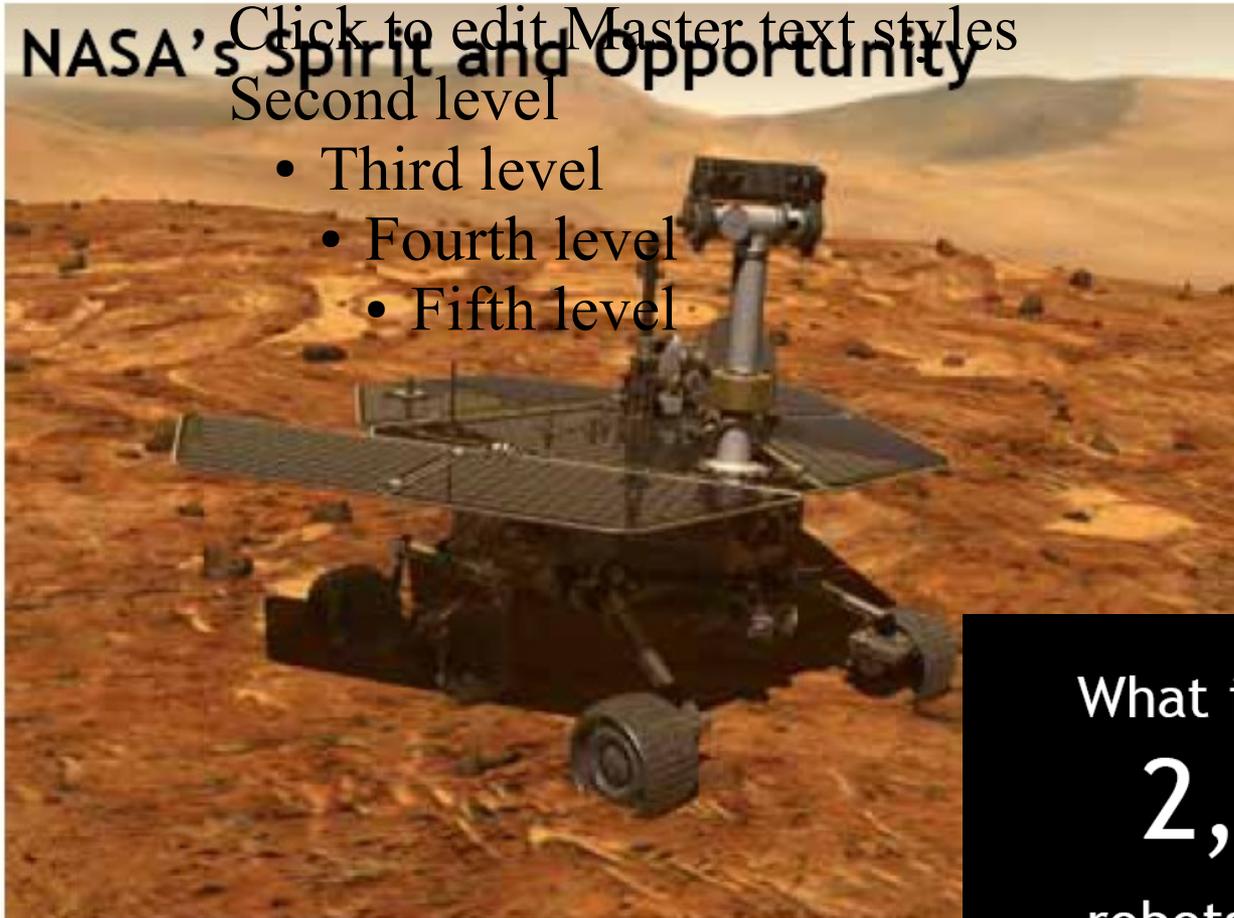
MAV-
Swarm



Application of these behaviors

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Second level

- Third level
- Fourth level
- Fifth level



What if we sent
2,000
robots to Mars?



Follow the leader

Master text styles

level

Hi ho, Hi ho
It's off to work we go...

• Fifth level



Dispersing

Exploration



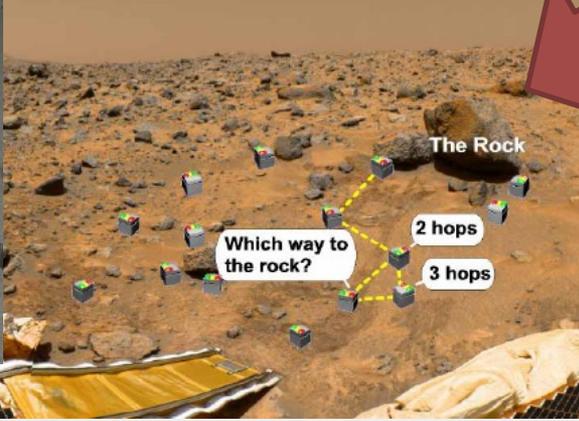
To infinity, and that rock!

Off we go, into the wild red yonder...

Navigation



Navigation



The Rock

Which way to the rock?

2 hops

3 hops

Project ANTS

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Second level

- Third level
- Fourth level
- Fifth level

Autonomous Nano Tech Swarm
Architecture

**Videos
&
Questions!
?**

References

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- ***“Stupid Robot Tricks: A Behavior-Based Distributed Algorithm Library for Programming Swarms of Robots”, J. McLurkin***
- ***“Swarm Robotics: From sources of inspiration to domains of application”, E. Sahin.***