Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning For Integrated Network (MARLIN) of Adaptive Traffic Signal Controllers

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Traffic Lights

- Intended as source of safety and efficiency
- Become source of delay under heavy demand
- How to make them smart, agile and demand responsive?



Evolution of "Adaptive" Traffic Signal Control MARLIN-ATSC: Level 4



- Fixed-
 - 1979. Time and Actuated
 - Control
- TRANSYT
- 1969, UK

Level 2

- Centralized Control, Online Optimization
- **SCOOT**
- 1981, UK
- >170 **Optimization**
 - installations worldwide

evel 3

- Distributed Control, Model-Based
- OPAC, RHODES
- 1992, USA
- 5 installations in USA

Level 4

- Distributed **Self-Learning** Control
- MARLIN-**ATSC**
- 2011, Canada

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Level 1

Centralized

line

• SCATS

• >50

Australia

installations

worldwide

Control, Off-

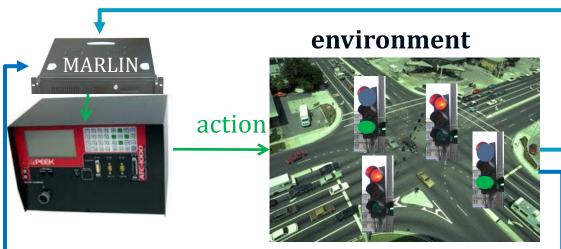
Issues with Leading ATSC Technologies?

| Centralized | Expensive Not scalable Not robust |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Model-Based | Relying on an accurate traffic modelling framework the accuracy of which is questionable |
| Curse of Dimensionality | Increasing the complexity of the system exponentially with the increase in the number of intersections/controllers |
| Human Intervention Requirements | • Requiring highly skilled labour to operate due to their complexity. |



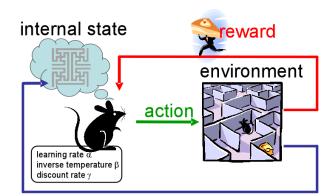
MARLIN: The Technology Solution Reinforcement Learning

Reward (savings in delay)



observation (queue Lengths)

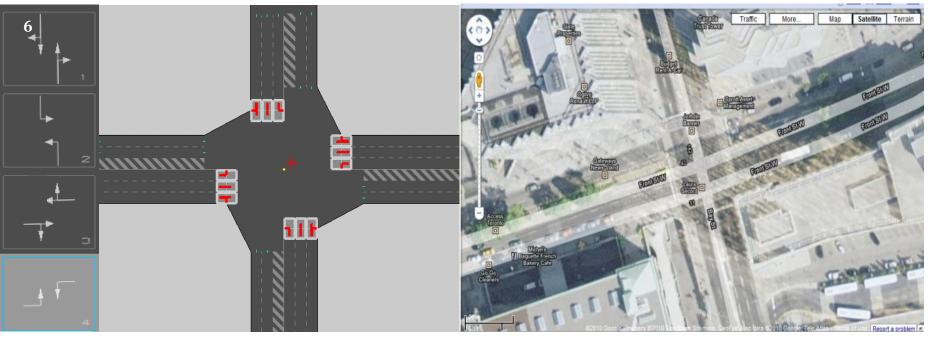




observation



Simulated Testbed Bay and Front (Downtown Toronto)



Paramic Model

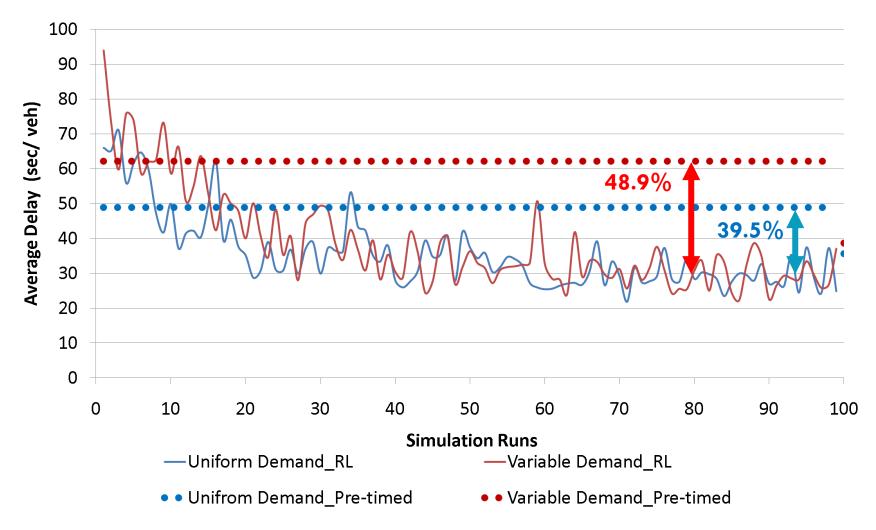
Traffic Volumes (OD Matrix)

Total E S W N E S N W Total

Actual Network

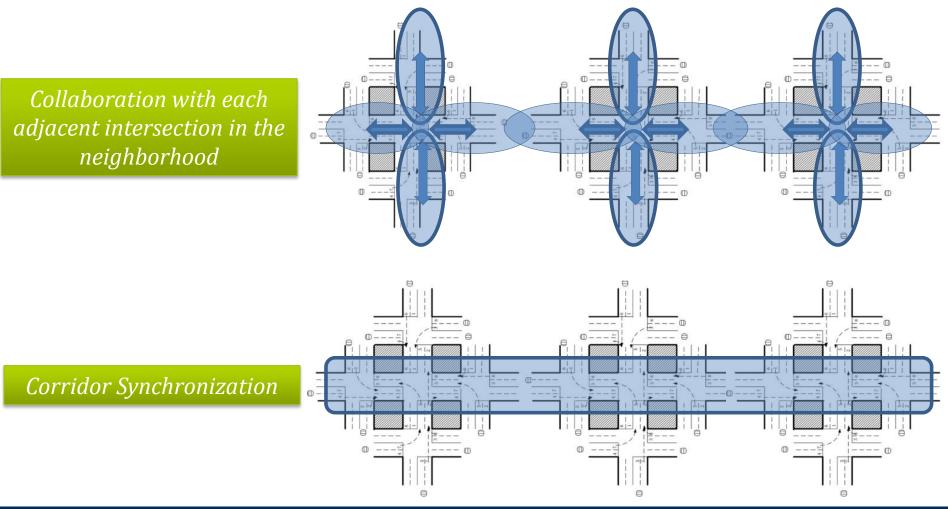


Performance: Average Delay Reduction



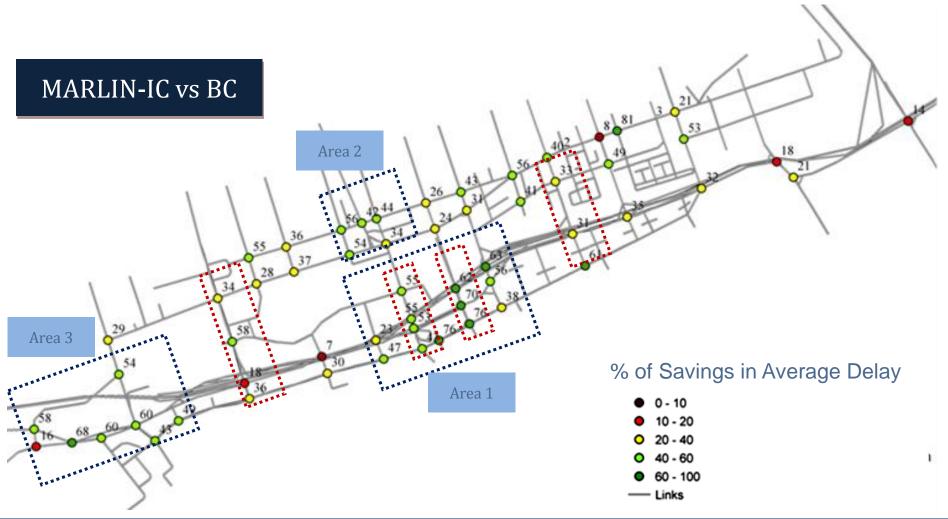


MARLIN- ATSC: Game Theory and Network-Wide Coordination



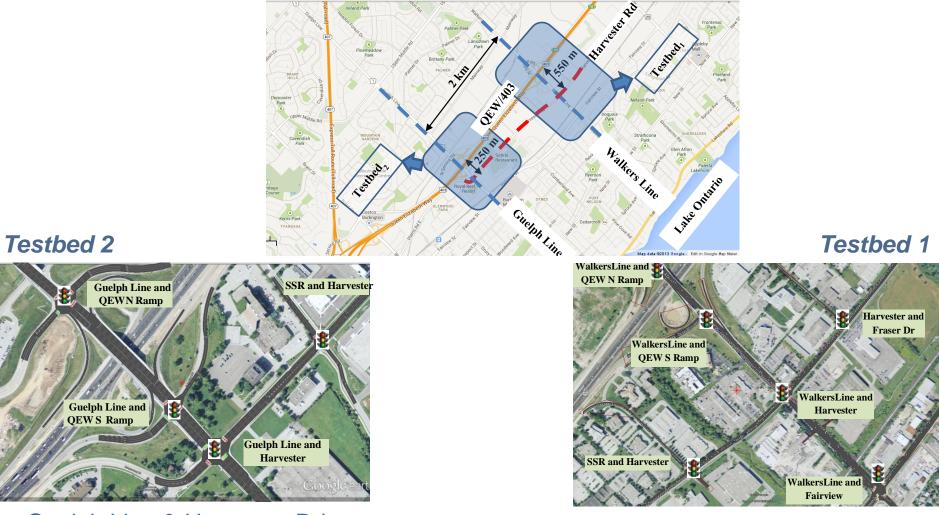


Large-scale Simulated Testbed Downtown Toronto





Simulation Testing on City of Burlington



Guelph Line & Harvester Rd.





Effect of of MARLIN vs Existing Conditions

Guelph Line

6,578 vehicles

- MARLIN-C vs Base Case
 - Speed Savings: 11-25%
 - Travel Time Savings: 8-21%
- Savings in CO2 Emission Factors
 - MARLIN vs Base Case : 32%

MARLIN-C >> MARLIN-I

Coordination is Necessary





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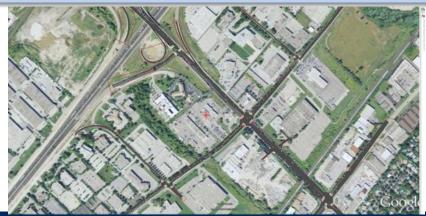
Walkers Line

9,134 vehicles

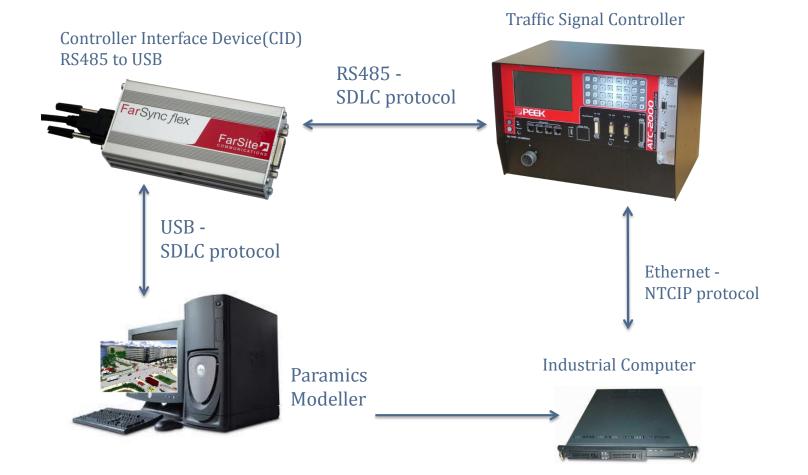
- MARLIN vs Base Case
 - Speed Savings: 13-32%
 - Travel Time Savings: 11-25%
- Savings in CO2 Emission Factors
 - MARLIN vs Base Case : 13%

MARLIN-I ~ MARLIN-C

Independent is Enough

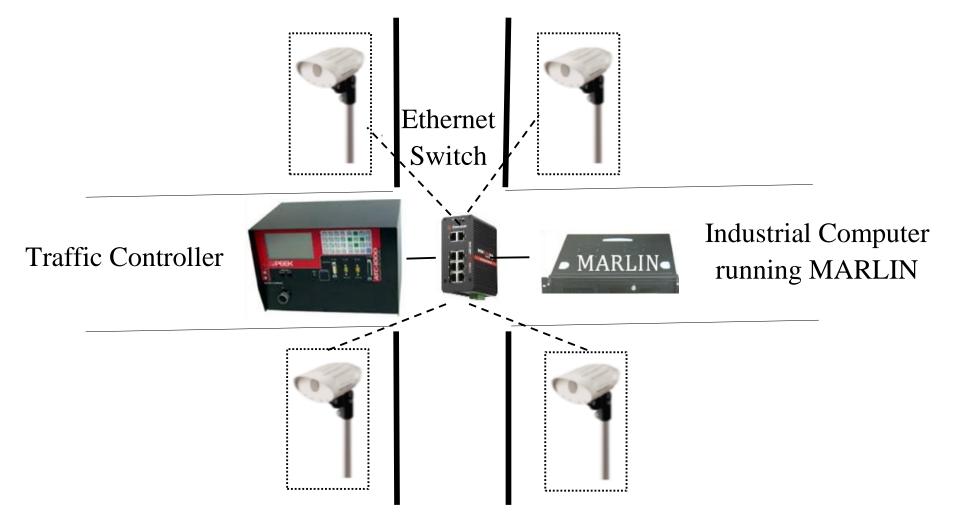


MARLIN-Hardware In The Loop Simulations (HILS) Architecture



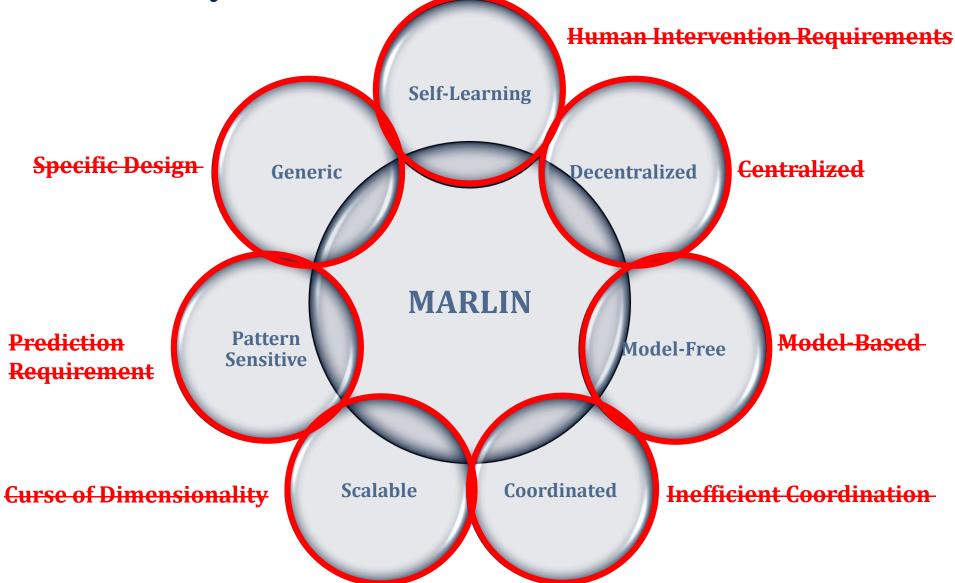


MARLIN Field Components

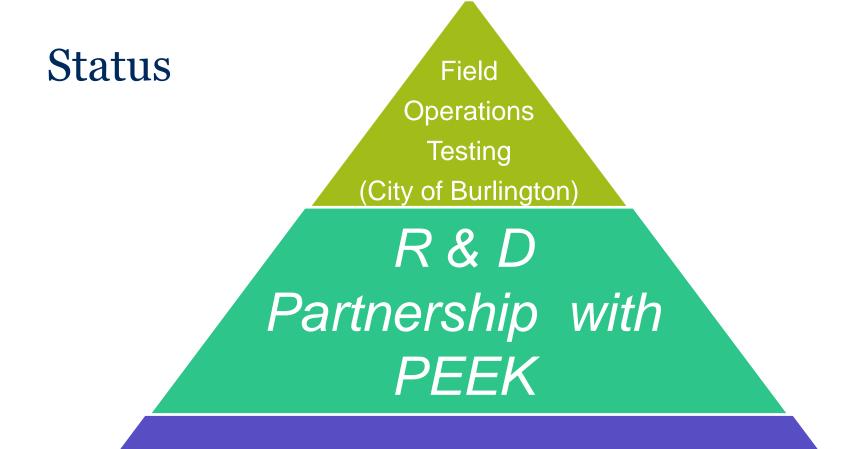




Summary of MARLIN Features







Research and Lab Testing



Thank You!

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