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 Ν 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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