Discovering General RL Algorithms with Adversarial Environment Design [JJH+23]







Introduction

Background:

Meta-learning update rules have shown promise in discovering robust RL algorithms

Challenges:

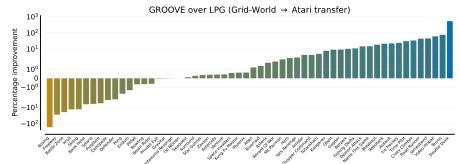
Generalization gap when applying meta-learned algorithms to unseen environments

Objective:

Examine the impact of meta-training distributions on the generalization performance of RL algorithms

• Introduce a novel approach for automatically generating curricula to maximize the regret of a meta-learned optimizer

- Performance of GROOVE over LPG on Atari
- Outperforms after learned of grid world levels
- Figure shows a implicit baseline of LPG performance





Approach and Results

GROOVE Methodology:

- Build on Unsupervised Environment Design principles (= dynamically generating environments during training, based on performance)
- Trains on Grid-World environments and is evaluated on Atari

Algorithmic Regret:

- Approximation of regret (Meta-learner performance baseline performance) used for selecting meta-training tasks
- Co-trains an antagonist (Baseline) agent using a known RL algorithm to estimate regret

Results

- Achieves superior generalization compared to LPG
- Significant improvement in out-of-distribution on Atari even though it was trained exclusively on Grid-World levels