# General Video Game Playing Al Competition

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SCORE

7:Left 9:Right 8:Rotate

H E L P

1:Draw next 6:Speed up 4:Drop

SPACE: Drop

Next:



## The GVG-Al Competition

Since 2014

One of the most popular Game AI competitions

300+ games

Examples on youtube

Framework in Java available, easy to use <a href="http://www.gvgai.net/">http://www.gvgai.net/</a>

2021 edition: <a href="https://aingames.cn/gvgai/cog2021/">https://aingames.cn/gvgai/cog2021/</a>

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### The Games

Real-time: 40 milliseconds per move

One-player and two-player games

Each game unique story, goal, challenges

The player (agent):

- receives observations of state and a reward signal
- selects one of available moves

### Competition Tracks

#### Playing

- Single-player and Two-player
- Learning and Planning
- Ranked by win rate and score on sets of 10 games by 5 levels each

Level generation

Game generation

### Best Agents

Genetic algorithms, random walks, A\*

Iterative Widening, heuristic danger avoidance

Temporal-difference learning, Sarsa, UCT

MCTS, BFS, sprite-targeting heuristic

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### The ToVo2 Agent

Reinforcement learning within Monte Carlo tree search

| Track         | Competition | Rank<br>improvement* | Number of competitors |
|---------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| single-player | CIG 2015    | $29 \rightarrow 11$  | 52                    |
|               | CEEC 2015   | $23 \rightarrow 16$  | 55                    |
|               | GECCO 2016  | $14 \rightarrow 9$   | 30                    |
|               | CIG 2016    | $20 \rightarrow 26$  | 29                    |
|               | GECCO 2017  | $16 \rightarrow 9$   | 22                    |
| two-player    | WCCI 2016   | <i>6</i> → 1         | 14                    |
|               | CIG 2016    | $6 \rightarrow 8$    | 13                    |
|               | CEEC 2017   | <b>10</b> → <b>1</b> | 18                    |

### Why is this useful?

Games are excellent benchmarks for decision-making Al

Research: towards general / human-like Al

Video game industry

- easy-to-implement out-of-the-box algorithms
- believable NPC behaviour
- procedural content generation

User-facing software: automated testing and optimization