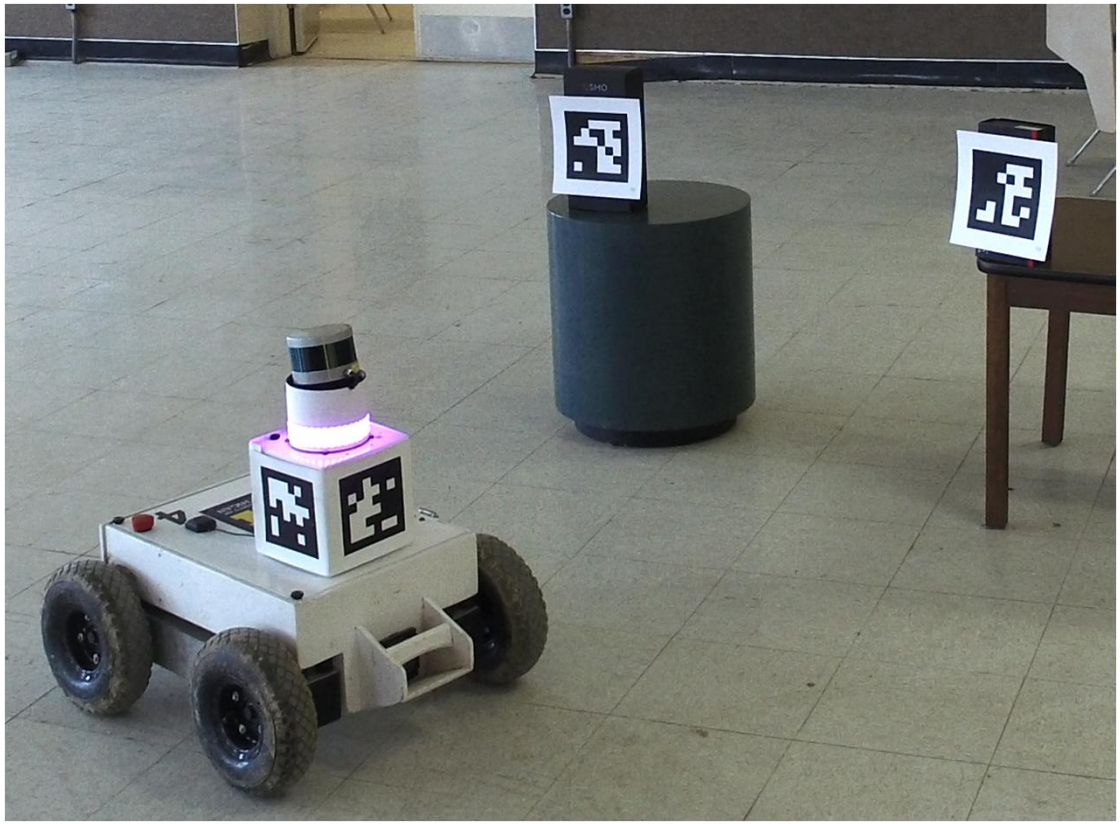
Interactively Learning Strategies For Finding And Anchoring Objects

Aaron Mininger, John Laird

Accepted Paper, ACS 2016

2016 Soar Workshop

Extending ITL to Mobile Domain



Research Question

Given a linguistic reference to an object, how does the agent connect that to a real object in the world?

Challenges:

- Partial Observability
- Novel Concepts
- Useful Knowledge in Different Memories

Research Question

Given a linguistic reference to an object, how does the agent connect that to a real object in the world?

Stages:

- Reference Resolution
- Object Finding
- Anchoring

Reference Resolution

Resolving an object reference to either an existing representation or a newly created one

Form	Level	Candidates
it	In-focus	Dialog
this	Activated	Gestured
the	Uniquely identifiable	Dialog > Visible > STM > LTM > NEW
a	Type identifiable	NEW

Object Finding

The agent must take actions so that a suitable object is perceived

Different strategy categories:

- Working Memory
- Long Term Memories
- Interaction
- External Search

Working Memory

- Knowledge about the object may be in working memory
  - Known Position: *Face the object*
  - Known Location: *Go to the kitchen*

- Knowledge may be added by other strategies

Long Term Memory: Semantic

- Semantic Memory may contain a useful fact for locating the object

- Created action *think*

  "Think of the <property> of <obj1>"

  "Think of the office of Bob"

  "This of the storage location of a soda"

Cue: **(<obj1> ^<property> <obj2>)**

Adds: **in(<obj1>, <obj2>)**

Long Term Memory: Episodic

- Information about a previous encounter with object may be in the agent's episodic memory

- Created action *recall*
  - Creates epmem cue based on description in command
  - Copies new information into working memory

- *Recall the soda in a location*

  cue: **`soda(A), location(B), in(A, B)`**

- *Recall Bob in an office*

Interaction

"*I can't find the package, can you help?*"

- Instructor has many options
  - Tell location: "*The package is in the main office*"
  - Give a command: "*Turn around*"
  - Get the object herself: "*Here it is*"
  - Not do anything: "*I don't know*"

External Search

- Perform actions to move around until a suitable object is visible
  - *Scan the room until you see the blue block*.
  - *Explore until you see a stapler*

Object Finding Subtask

Created `find(obj)` as a subtask

- Uses the `visible(obj)` predicate
- Can plan *when* to try and find an object
- Can learn strategies that transfer
- Preference order based on source:
  - STM > LTM > Interaction > External Search

Anchoring

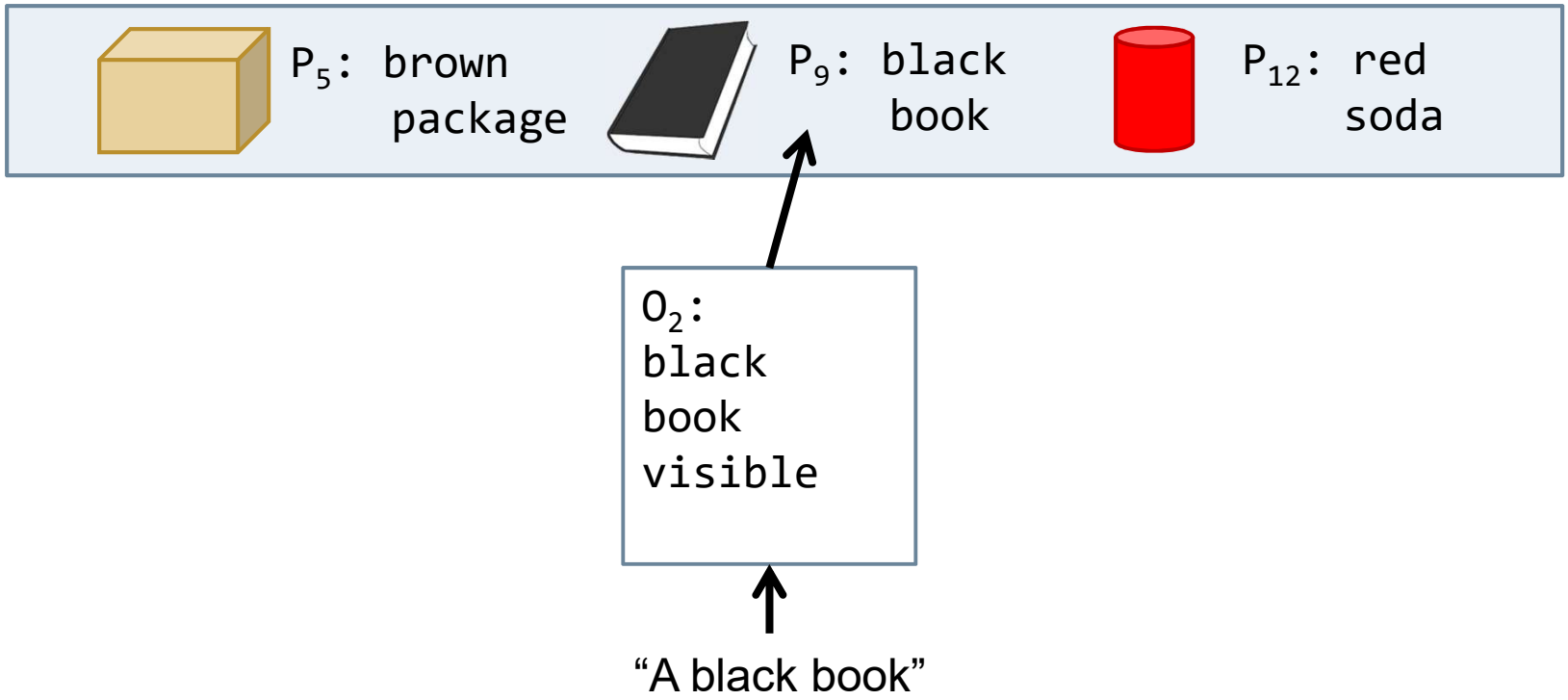
The agent must connect an internal representation to its perception

Anchoring

Case 1: Object is already anchored

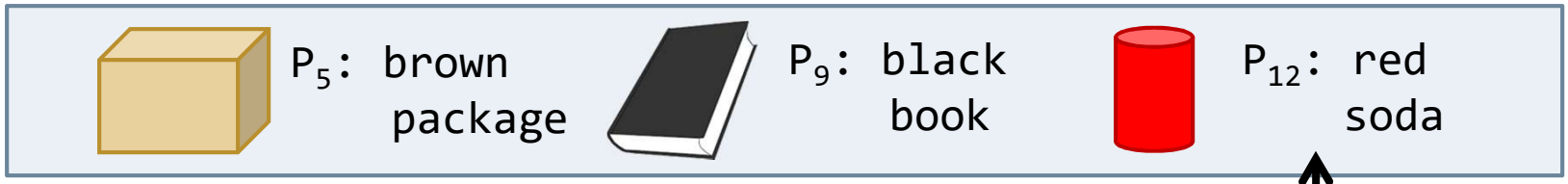
Anchoring

Case 2: Anchoring is delayed

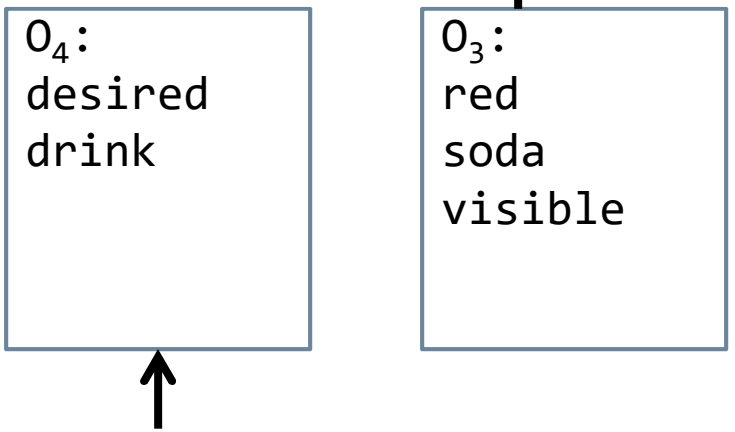


Anchoring

Case 3: Agent needs to learn how to anchor the reference

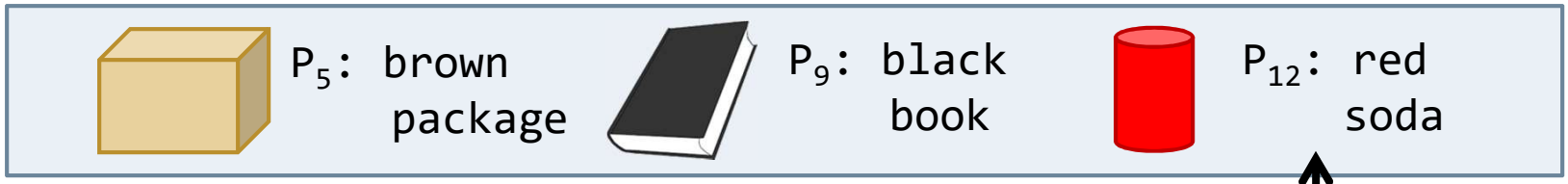


"Serve Bob the desired drink"



Anchoring

The agent must connect an internal representation to its perception

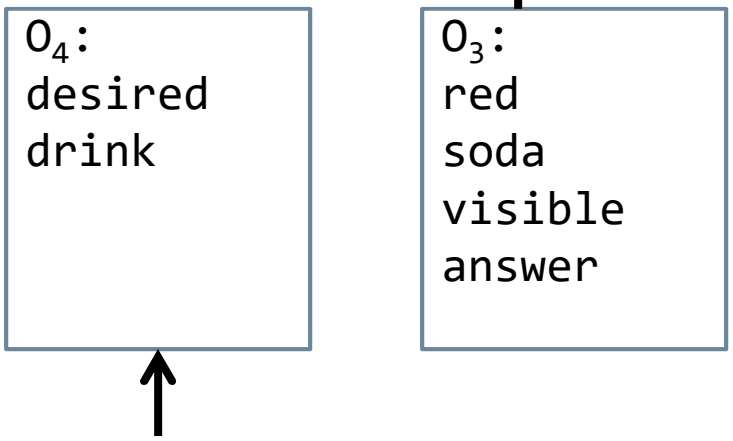


"Ask 'What would you like to drink?'"

Rosie: "*What would you like to drink?*"

"*The soda*"

Rosie: "*What do I do next?*"



Anchoring

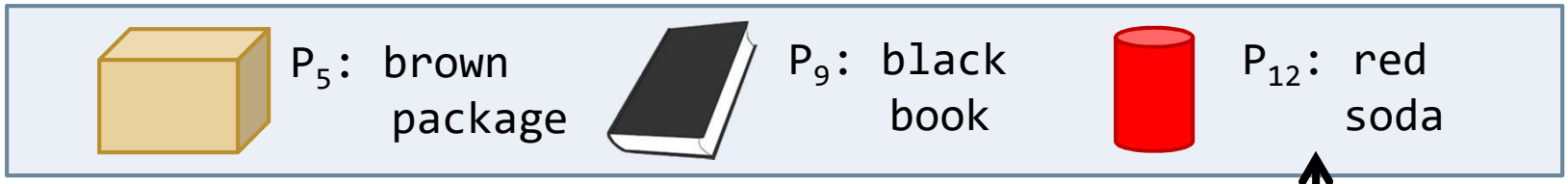
- Created action *remember*
  - Merges an anchored and un-anchored object

- *Remember the answer as the desired drink*

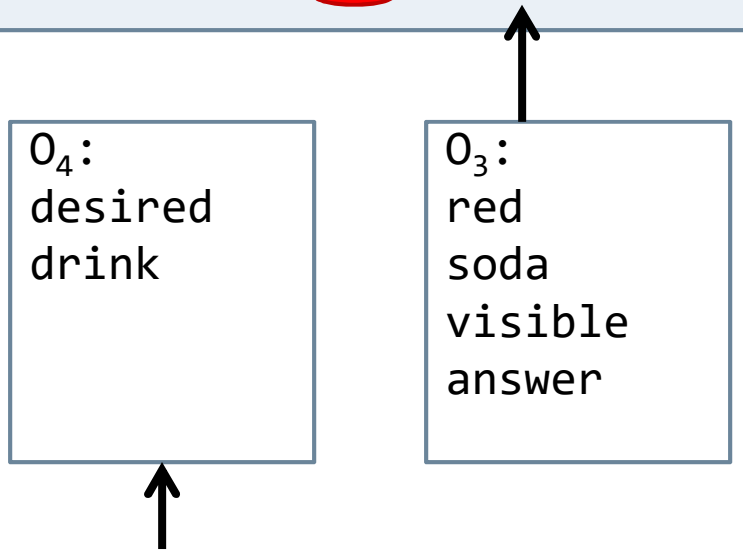
```
remember(A, as(B))
```

Anchoring

The agent must connect an internal representation to its perception

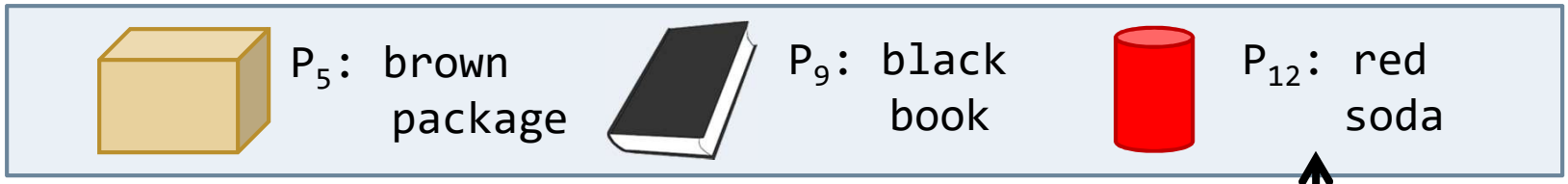


"Serve Bob the desired drink"



Anchoring

The agent must connect an internal representation to its perception



"Serve Bob the desired drink"

O_3: red soda visible answer desired drink

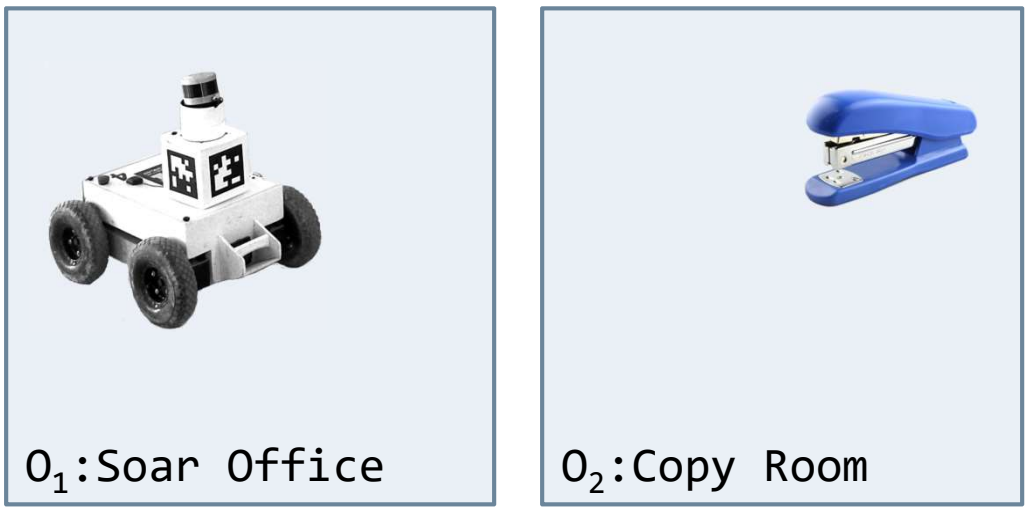
"The desired drink"

Example: Fetch a stapler

"Fetch a stapler"

'a stapler' [*type id*] -> NEW O_3

`fetch(`O_3`)`



Working Memory
O_1: {soar, office,
current, location}
O_3: {stapler}

Task: fetch(O_3)

Example: Fetch a stapler

Rosie: *"What is the goal?"*

Working Memory
O_1: {soar, office,
current, location}
O_3: {stapler}

Task: fetch(O_3)

Example: Fetch a stapler

"The goal is that the stapler is in the starting location"

'the stapler' [*uniquely id.]* -> Dialog O_3

'the starting location' [*uniquely id*.] -> NEW O_4

Working Memory

O_1: {soar, office, current, location}

O_3: {stapler}

Task: fetch(O_3)

Example: Fetch a stapler

"The goal is that the stapler is in the starting location"

'the stapler' [*uniquely id.]* -> Dialog O_3

'the starting location' [*uniquely id*.] -> NEW O_4

Goal: in(O_3, O_4)

Working Memory

O_1: {soar, office, current, location}

O_3: {stapler}

O_4: {starting, location}

Task: fetch(O_3)

Goal: in(O_3, O_4)

Example: Fetch a stapler

Rosie: *"What do I do next?"*

Working Memory
O_1: {soar, office,
current, location}
O_3: {stapler}
O_4: {starting, location}

Task: fetch(O_3)
Goal: in(O_3, O_4)

Example: Fetch a stapler

"Remember the current location as the starting location"

'the current location' [*uniquely id.]* -> WM O_1

'the starting location' [*uniquely id*.] -> Dialog O_4

`remember(`O_1`, as(`O_4`))`

Working Memory
O_1: {soar, office, current, location}
O_3: {stapler}
O_4: {starting, location}

Task: fetch(O_3)
Goal: in(O_3, O_4)

Example: Fetch a stapler

"Remember the current location as the starting location"

'the current location' [*uniquely id.]* -> WM O_1

'the starting location' [*uniquely id*.] -> Dialog O_4

`remember(`O_1`, as(`O_4`))`

Working Memory
O_1: {soar, office,
current, location,
starting}
O_3: {stapler}

Task: fetch(O_3)
Goal: in(O_3, O_1)

Example: Fetch a stapler

Action	Preconditions	Postconditions
find(O_3)	!visible(O_3)	+visible(O_3)
pick-up(O_3)	!grabbed(O_3) visible(O_3)	+grabbed(O_3)
go-to(O_1)	!current(O_1)	+current(O_1)
put-down(O_3, O_1)	grabbed(O_3) current(O_1)	-grabbed(O_3) +in(O_3, O_1)

O_1:Soar Office

O_2:Copy Room

O_1: {soar, office,
current, location,
starting}
O_3: {stapler}

Task: fetch(O_3)
Goal: in(O_3, O_1)

Example: Fetch a stapler

find(O_3)

Rosie: *"I can't find the stapler, can you help?"*

O_1: {soar, office, current, location, starting}
O_3: {stapler}

Task: fetch(O_3)
Goal: in(O_3, O_1)

Example: Fetch a stapler

"Recall the stapler in a location"

'the stapler' [*uniquely id.]* -> WM O_3

'a location' [*type id*.] -> NEW O_5

`recall(`O_3`, in(`O_5`))`

O_1: {soar, office, current, location, starting}

O_3: {stapler}

Task: fetch(O_3)

Goal: in(O_3, O_1)

Example: Fetch a stapler

"Recall the stapler in a location"

recall(O_3, in(O_5))

Cue: { stapler(A), location(B), in(A, B) }

Result: A = O_6, B = O_2

O_1: {soar, office,
current, location,
starting}
O_2: {copy, location}
O_3: {stapler}
in(O_3, O_2)

Task: fetch(O_3)
Goal: in(O_3, O_1)

Example: Fetch a stapler

go-to(O_2)

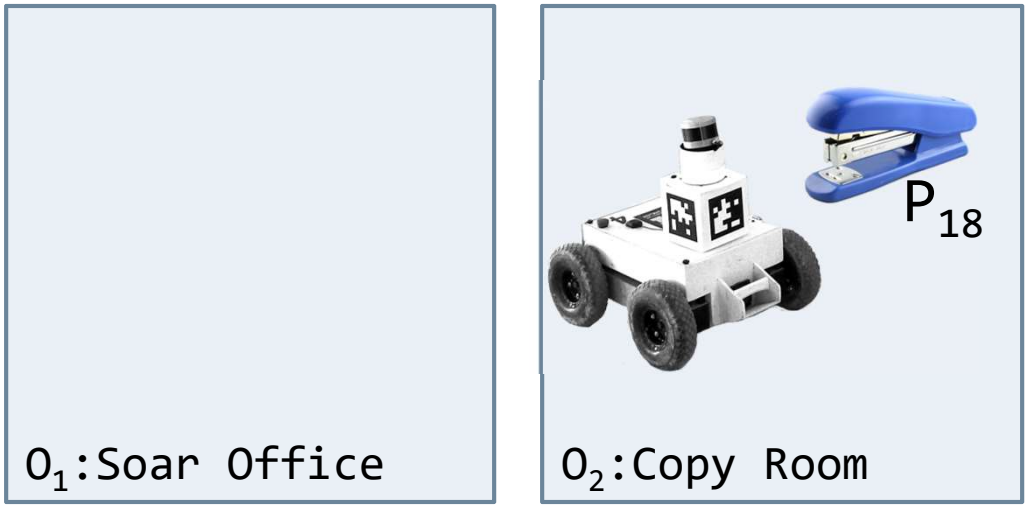
O_1: {soar, office,
current, location,
starting}
O_2: {copy, location}
O_3: {stapler}
in(O_3, O_2)

Task: fetch(O_3)
Goal: in(O_3, O_1)

Example: Fetch a stapler

go-to(O_2)

New Perception P_{18}: {stapler, blue}



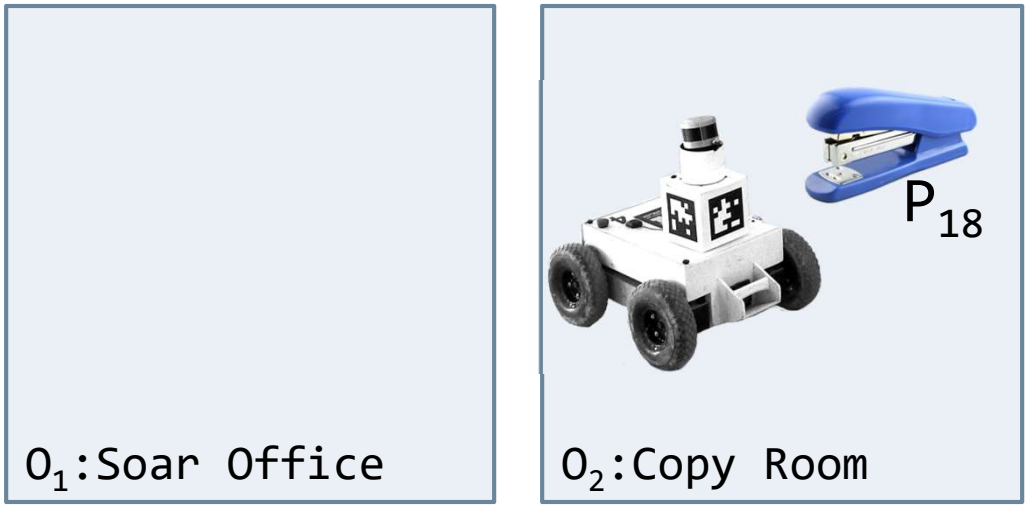
O_1: {soar, office, location, starting}
O_2: {copy, location, current}
O_3: {stapler}
in(O_3, O_2)

Task: fetch(O_3)
Goal: in(O_3, O_1)

Example: Fetch a stapler

go-to(O_2)

New Perception P_{18}: {stapler, blue}
Anchored to matching object O_3



O_1: {soar, office, location, starting}
O_2: {copy, location, current}
O_3: {stapler, blue, visible}
in(O_3, O_2)
Task: fetch(O_3)
Goal: in(O_3, O_1)

Example: Fetch a stapler

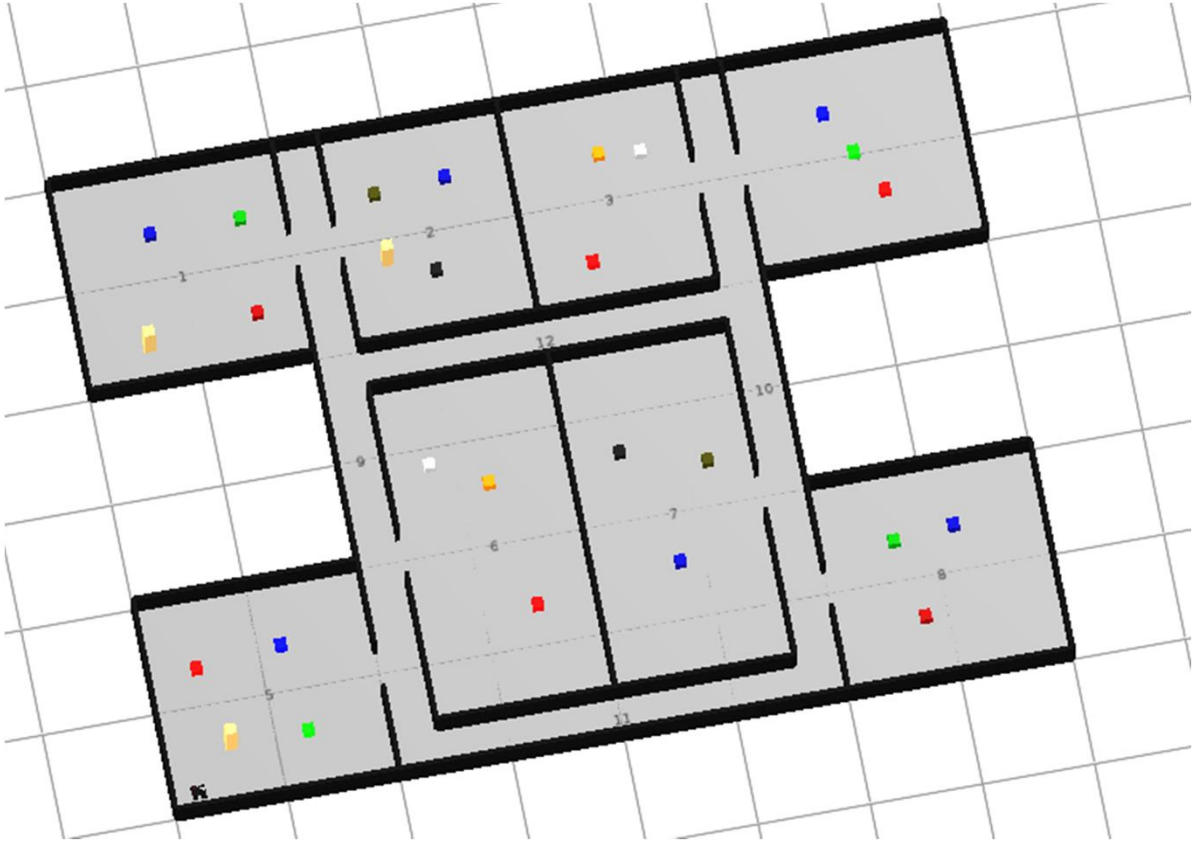
The agent completes the rest of the task and learns a policy for future instances

O_1: {soar, office, location, current, starting}
O_3: {stapler, blue, visible}
in(O_3, O_1)
Task: fetch(O_3)
Goal: in(O_3, O_1)

Task Examples

Task Command	Task Goal
Discard the package	The package is in the trash
Deliver the package to Alice	Alice is holding the package
Fetch a stapler	The stapler is in the starting location
Take the stapler to the lab	The stapler is in the lab
Tell Charlie a message	Charlie heard the message
Serve Bob	Bob is holding the desired drink
Guide Bob	You are in the desired location
Greet Alice	Alice heard the welcome message

Evaluation



- 8 rooms
- 4 hallways
- 30 objects
- 8 people

Some have default locations

Objects will move

Evaluation

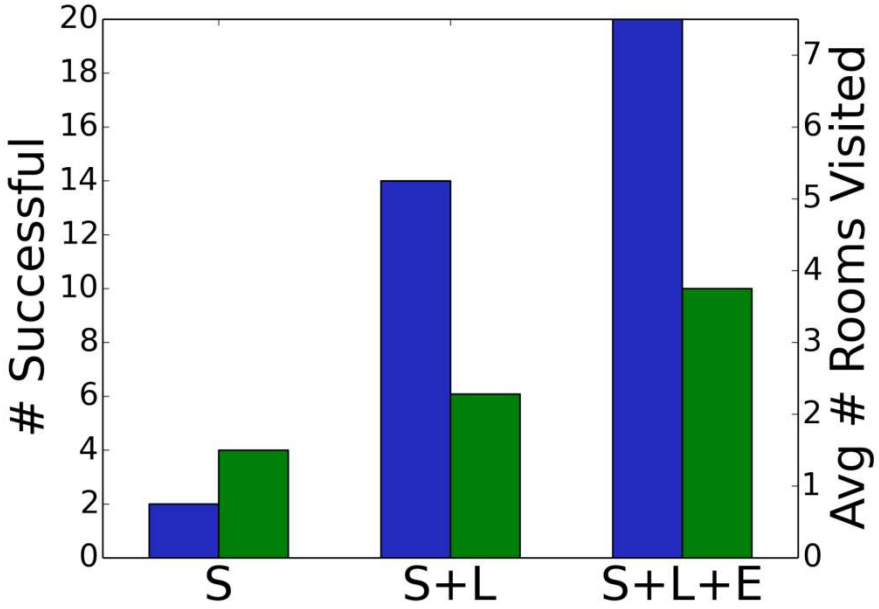
Agent asked to find 20 random objects

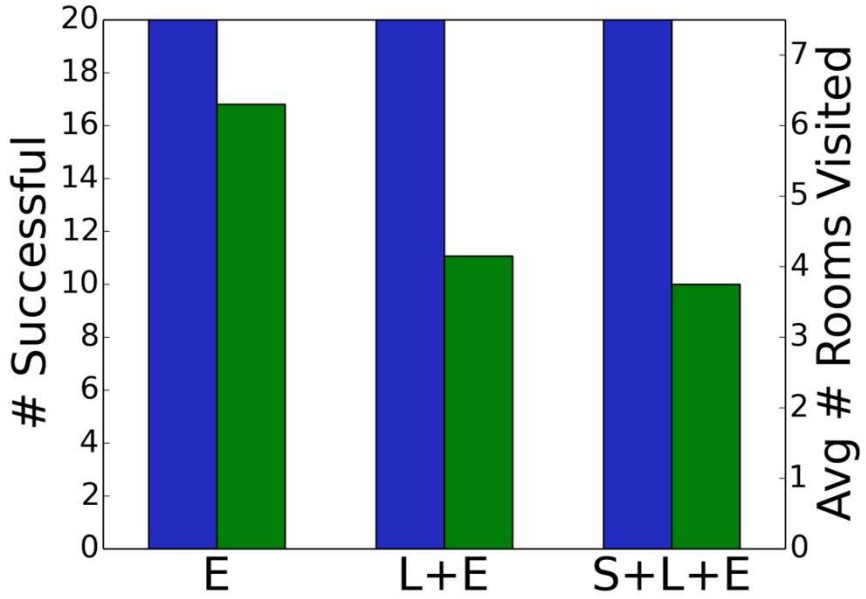
Strategies Used:

- Short Term Memory (S): face, go-to-location
- Long Term Memory (L): think, recall
- External Search (E): scan, explore

Measured number of successes and average number of rooms searched

Evaluation





S: Short Term Memory

L: Long Term Memory

E: External Search

Nuggets + Coal

Nuggets

- Learns tasks in a partially observable environment
- Added actions that involve the agent's memories
- Most strategies can be learned through instruction

Coal

- Limited strategies involving LTM
- Requires expertise to instruct
- Not robust to perceptual noise/errors

Questions?