Evolution Strategies for Neural Policy Search

Mid-thesis commitee

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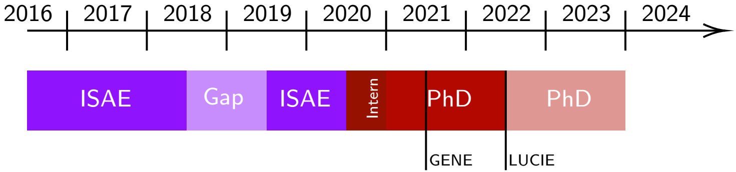
[Context] Mid-thesis report



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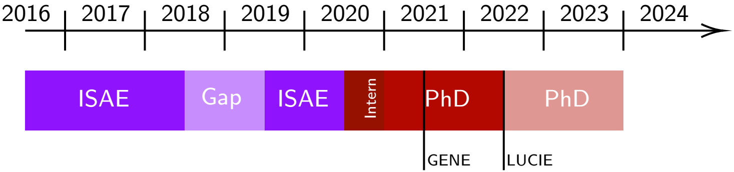

Initial topic

Bio-inspired methods for artificial neural networks

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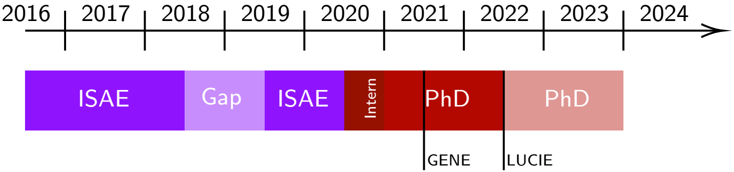

Initial topic

Bio-inspired methods for artificial neural networks

Goal of this report

Organize past and present work, and highlight future research directions.

Content

1. [Context] Context of this PhD

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4. [Search direction] Using samples to help the search
5. [Noisy fitness] Adapting to stochastic problems
6. [Directions] Future work and timeline

[Policy search] Policy search

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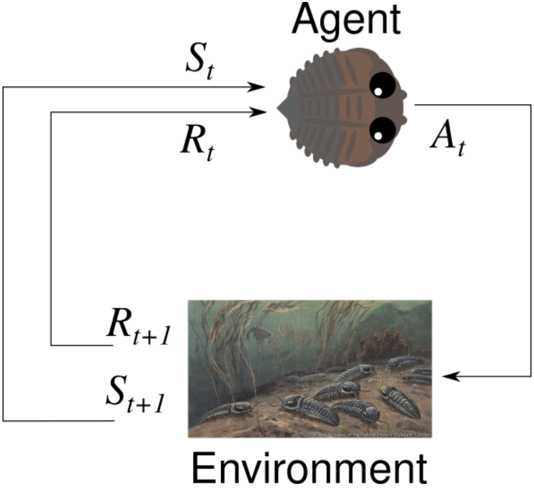
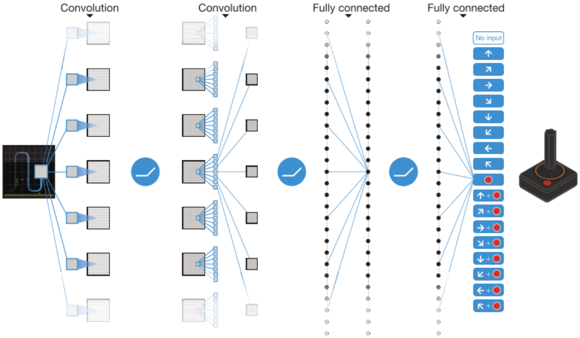


https://github.com/d9w/evolution/blob/master/imgs/erl.png

[Policy search] Neural networks



Neural Network used in Deep Q Networks [3]

[Policy search] Evolution Strategies

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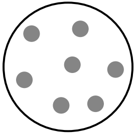
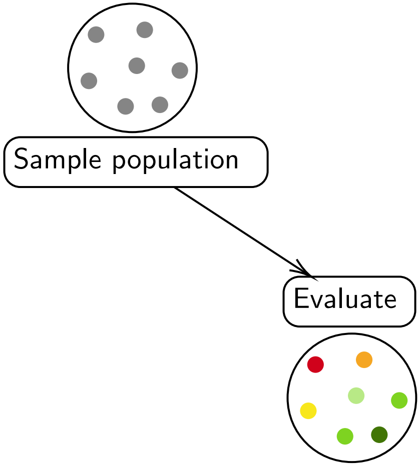


Sample population

[Policy search] Evolution Strategies



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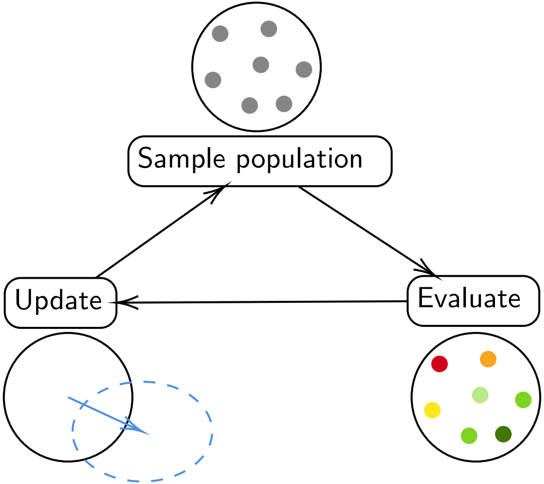

[Policy search] Variants of Evolution Strategies

Evolution Strategies

- (μ, λ) ES
- SNES
- Canonical ES
- OpenAI ES
- CMA-ES
- XNES
- Cross-Entropy Method
- Augmented Random Search

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Neuroevolution for policy search

- large dimensions ($1.6\ .10^6$ parameters)
- expensive evaluation

[Policy search] Benchmarking Evolutionary Reinforcement Learning

Reproduction settings

Reproducing Canonical ES [1] and OpenAI ES [4] on the Arcade Learning Environment.

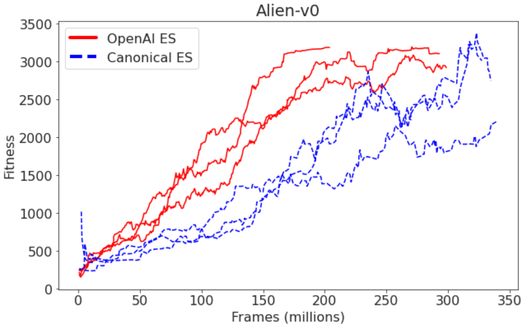

Figure: Evolution of Canonical ES and OpenAI ES on Alien with 800 CPUh compute budget

[Search space] A Geometric Encoding for Neural Network Evolution

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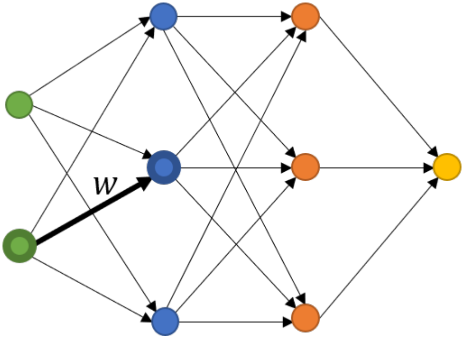

Fully connected
neural network

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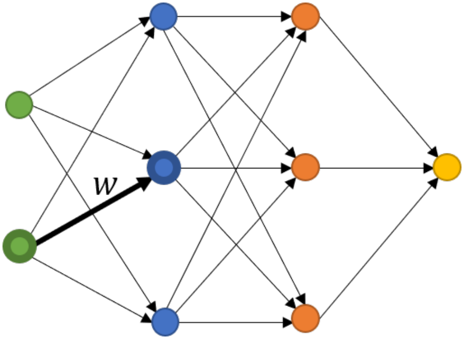

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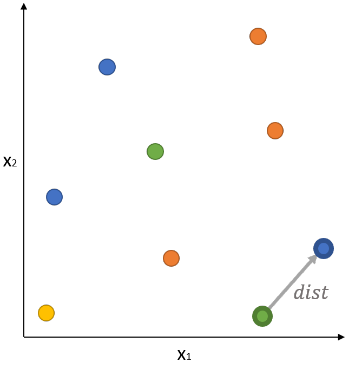


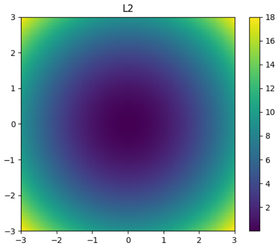
GENE encoding

[Search space] GENE: Distance functions

$$w_{i,j} = dist(n_i, n_j) \tag{1}$$

Euclidean distance

$$\sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{D} \left(n_1^k - n_2^k\right)^2} \tag{2}$$



[Search space] GENE: Weight distribution

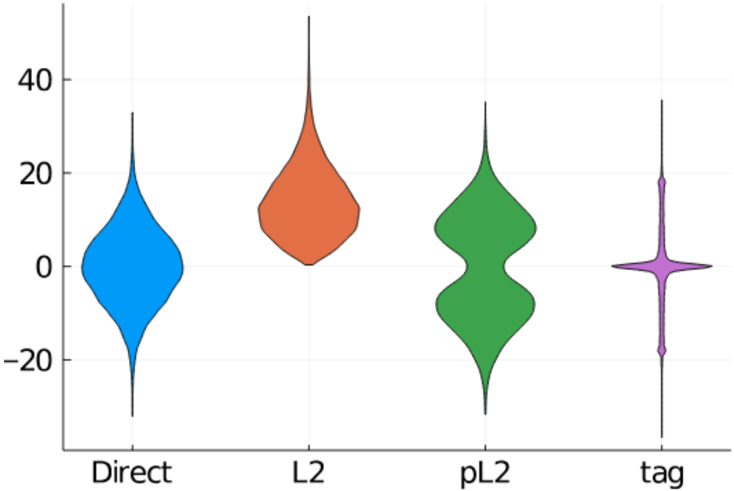


Figure: Distribution of weight values in networks evolved with different encodings.

[Search space] Competitive results - Arcade Learning Environment

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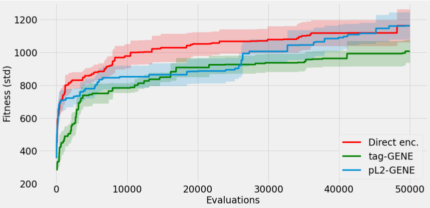

Figure: SNES on SpaceInvaders

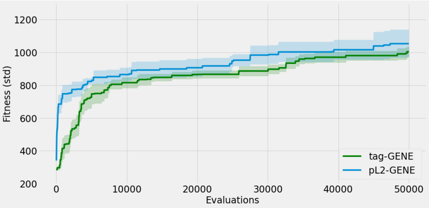

Figure: XNES on SpaceInvaders

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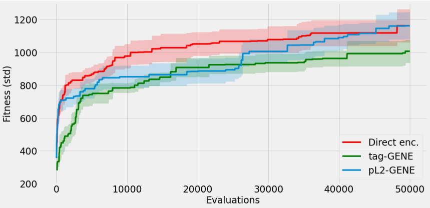

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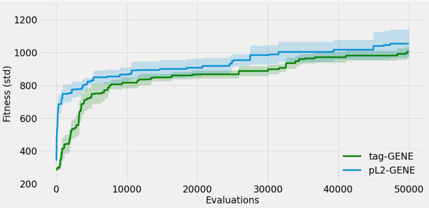

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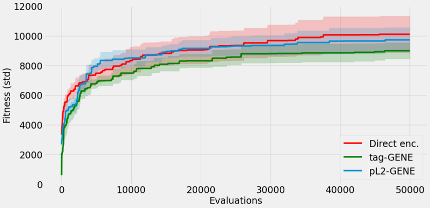
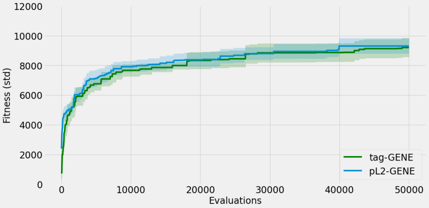


Figure: SNES on Krull



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[Search space] Improving results - Arcade Learning Environment

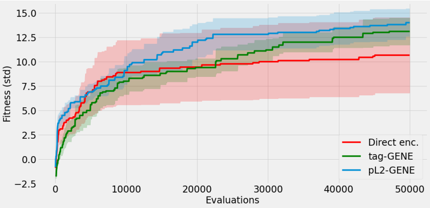
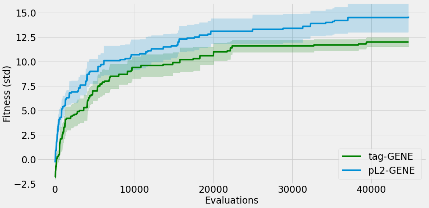


Figure: SNES on IceHockey



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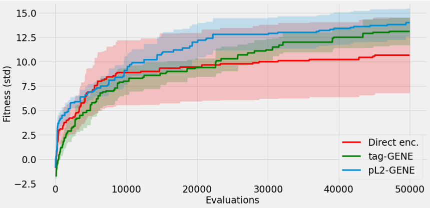

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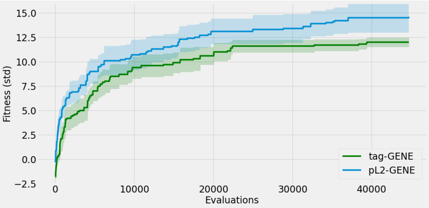

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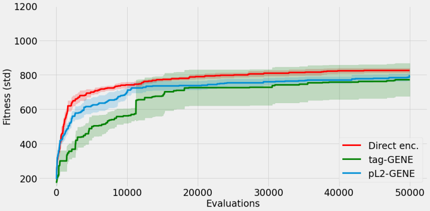

Figure: SNES on Seaquest

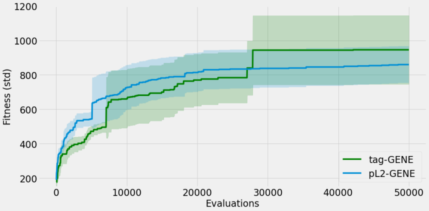

Figure: XNES on Seaquest

[Search space] Computational cost

Evolutionary Strategy update of μ and σ

Encoding	D	Genes		Mean time (s)	Memory (KiB)
pL2-GENE	3	804	SNES	0.000357	630.56
pL2-GENE	10	2211	SNES	0.000678	1372.16
Direct	-	5609	SNES	0.001350	3133.44
pL2-GENE	3	804	XNES	1.475000	1352663.04
pL2-GENE	10	2211	XNES	14.244000	11806965.76
Direct	-	5609	XNES	119.976000	79765176.32

[Search space] Future Work

Distance functions

Design new distance functions, or optimize them through co-evolution.

Hybrid encoding

Switch between indirect and direct encodings during the evolution.

Gradient descent

Use backpropagation and gradient descent to optimize genomes instead of evolution.

Complex networks

Design encodings for convolution layers and recurrent networks.

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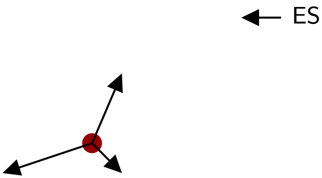

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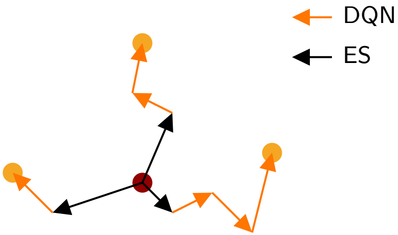

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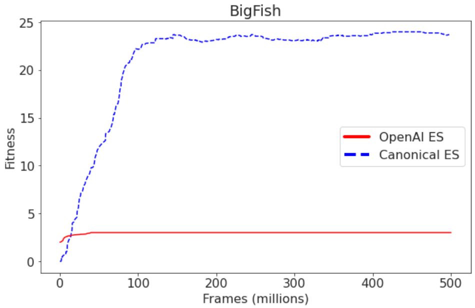

Figure: ES on BigFish, same level

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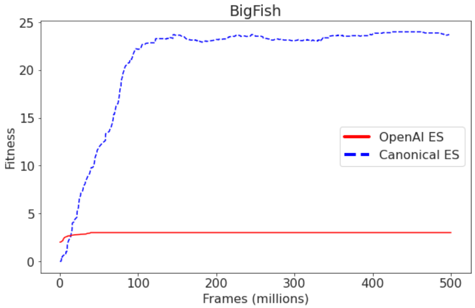

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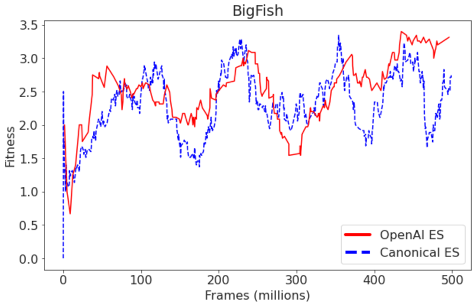

Figure: ES on BigFish, random level

[Noisy fitness] The LUCIE selection procedure

[Noisy fitness] The `LUCIE` selection procedure

Objective: identify the **best μ** individuals with as **few evaluations** as possible. [2]

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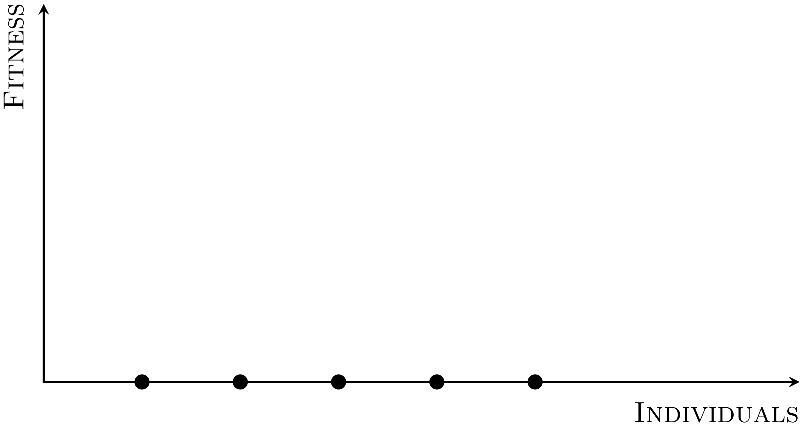

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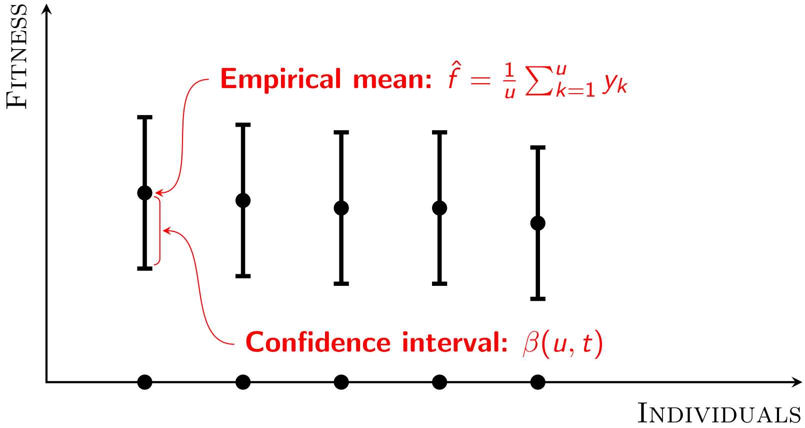

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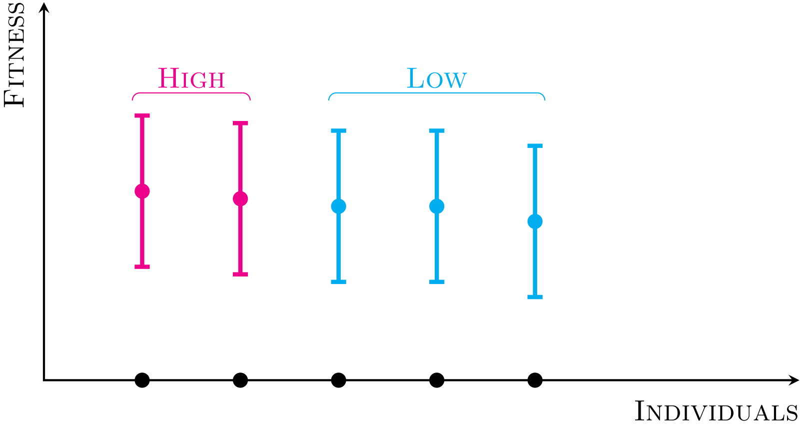

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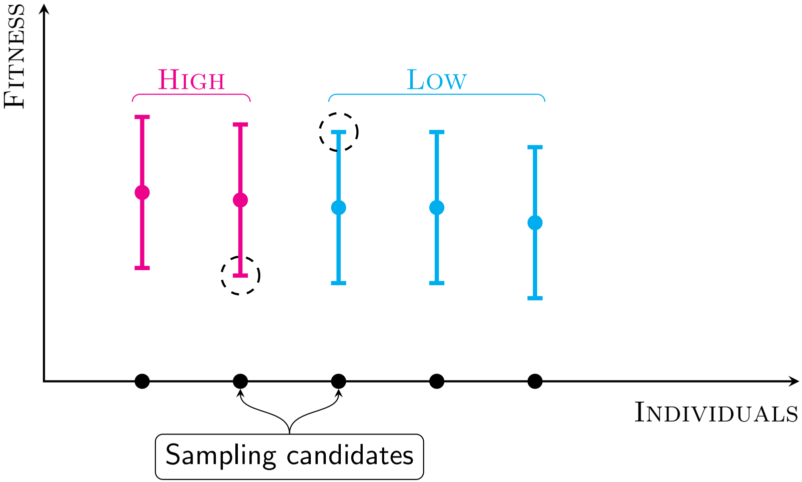

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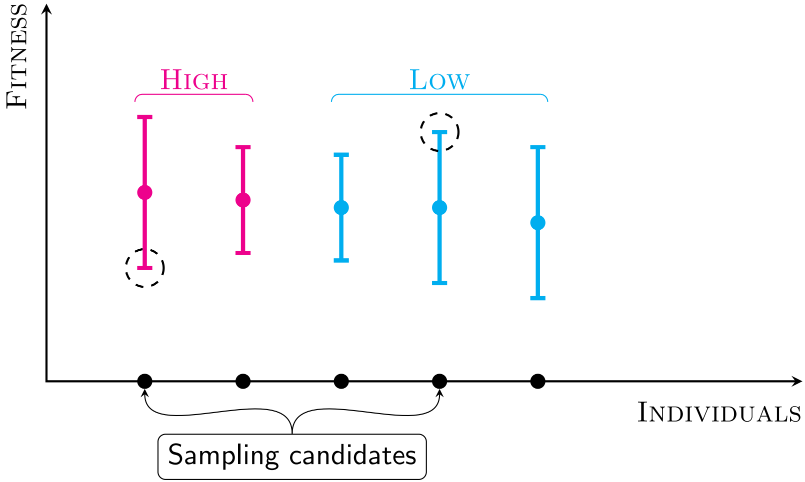

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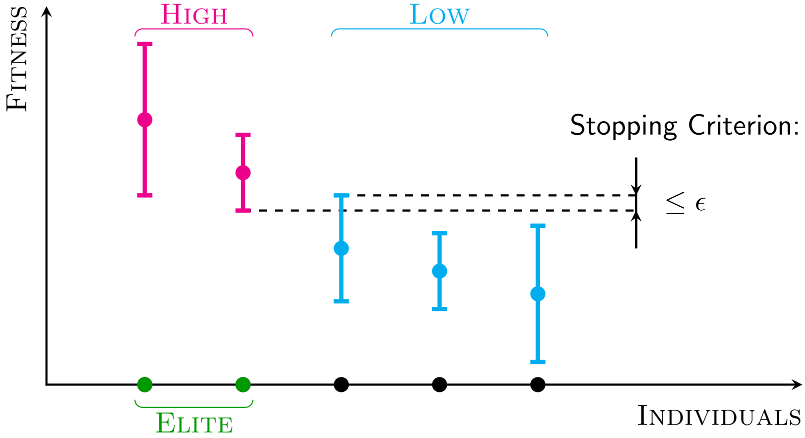

[Noisy fitness] OneMax and LeadingOnes

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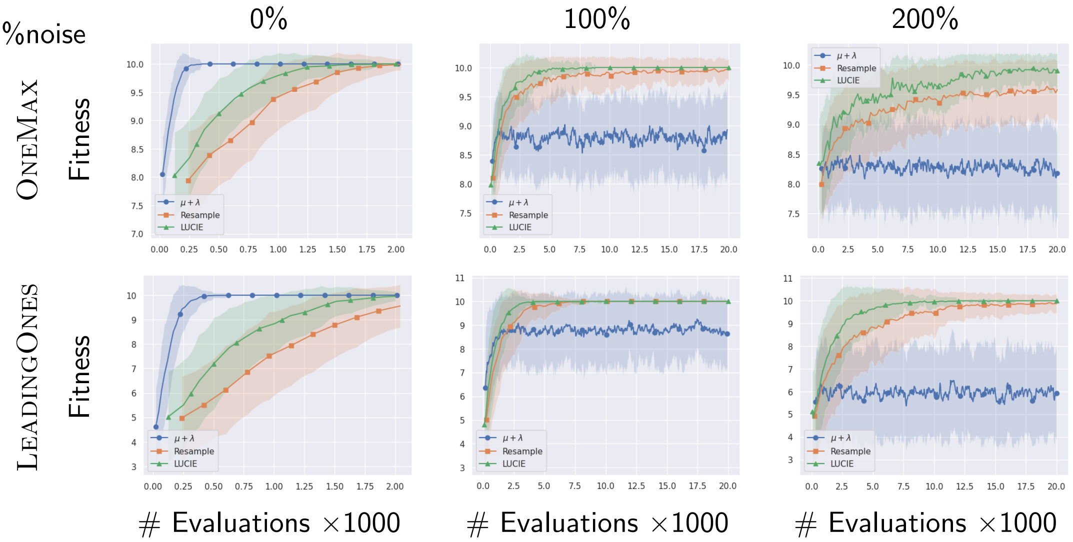

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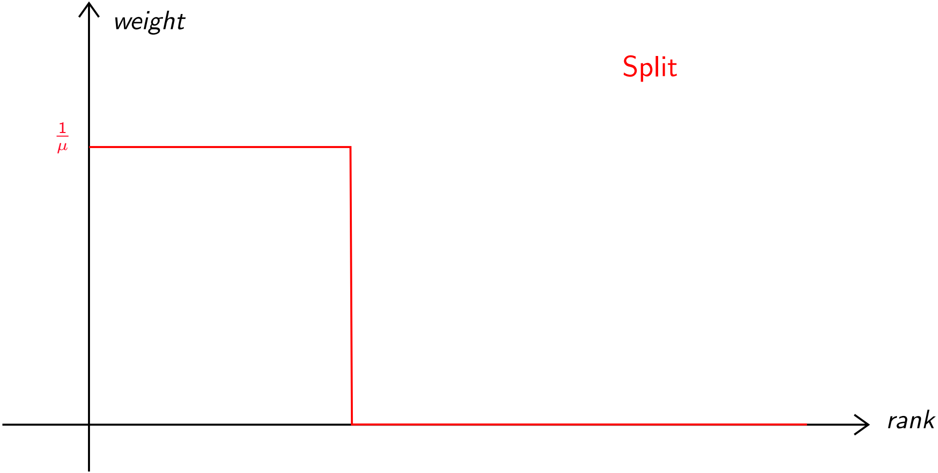
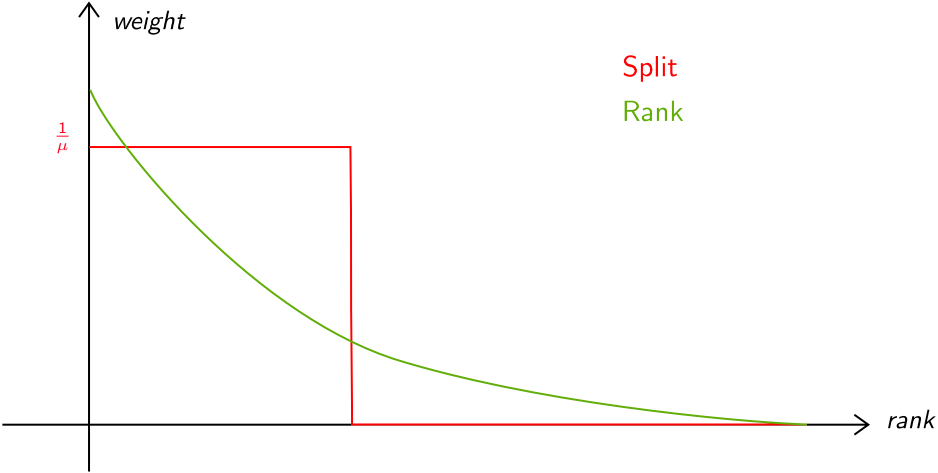


[Noisy fitness] `LUCIE` for Evolution Strategies



[Noisy fitness] Importance Mixing for LUCI ES

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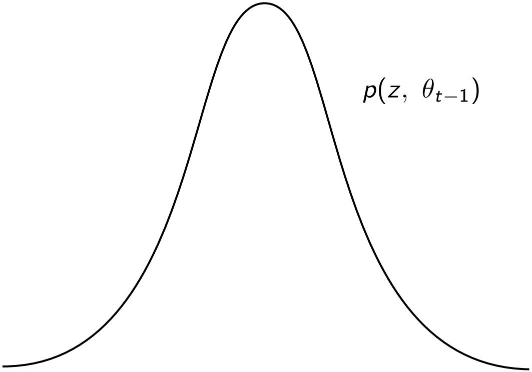

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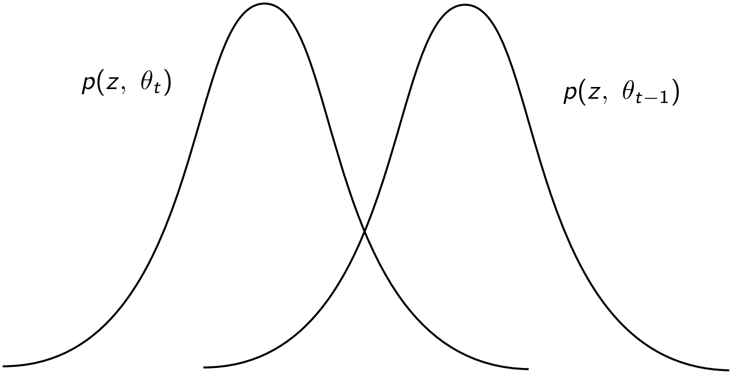

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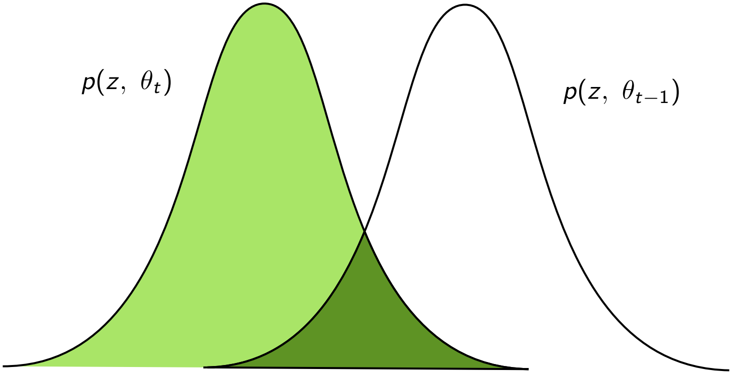

[Directions] Future work

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LUCI ES

- Explore (μ, λ) ES
- Ranking in Bandit problems
- Heritage (Importance Mixing, elitism)
- Scalability

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ES for Policy Search

- Neuroevolution constraints and theory
- Ablation study of existing methods

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ES for Policy Search

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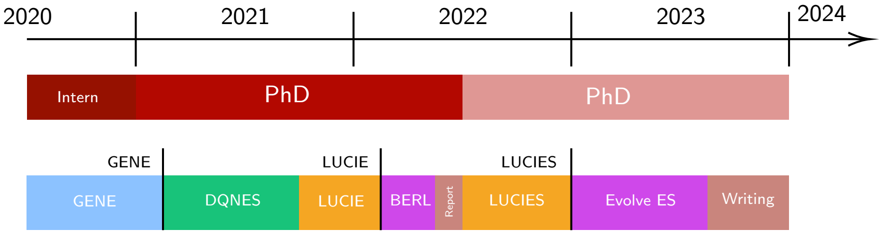
Evolving Evolution Strategies

- Make ES methods emerge from scratch
- Neuromodulation: adapting ES during the evolution

[Directions] Timeline



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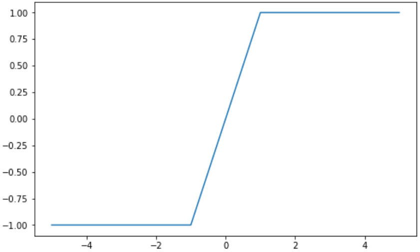
Evolution Strategies as a Scalable Alternative to Reinforcement Learning.
Mar. 2017.

[Search space] Signed distances

Bounded identity function

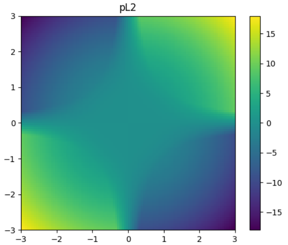
$$\alpha : \begin{cases} \text{if } x \geq 1 : \alpha(x) = 1 \\ \text{if } x \leq -1 : \alpha(x) = -1 \\ \text{else: } \alpha(x) = x \end{cases} \quad (3)$$



[Search space] Distance functions

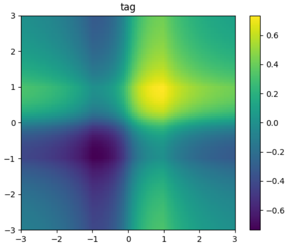
pL2-GENE

$$\alpha\left(\prod_{k=1}^{D} n_1^k - n_2^k\right)\sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{D}\left(n_1^j - n_2^j\right)^2} \tag{4}$$



tag-GENE

$$\sum_{j=2}^{D} \alpha(n_1^j - n_2^1)e^{-|n_1^j - n_2^1|} \tag{5}$$



[Noisy fitness] Classic Control