

Scrutinize What We Ignore: Reining In Task Representation Shift Of Context-Based Offline Meta Reinforcement Learning



Hai Zhang¹, Boyuan Zheng¹, Tianying Ji², Jinhang Liu¹, Anqi Guo¹, Junqiao Zhao¹, Lanqing Li^{3,4}

¹ Tongji University, ² Tsinghua University, ³ The Chinese University of HongKong, ⁴ Zhejiang Lab



Motivation

- Monotonic Performance Improvement Guarantee for COMRL.

Model-Free Case

- REINFORCE → TRPO/PPO

Let $\alpha = D_{TV}^{\max}(\pi_{old}, \pi_{new})$. Then the following bound holds:

$$\eta(\pi_{new}) \geq L_{\pi_{old}}(\pi_{new}) - \frac{4\epsilon\gamma}{(1-\gamma)^2}\alpha^2 \quad (1)$$

where $\epsilon = \max_{s,a} |A_\pi(s, a)|$.

- ① TRPO: Hyper-parameter δ to constrain the variation of the policy.

- ② PPO: Clipped surrogate objective or adaptive KL penalty coefficient to constrain the variation of the policy.

Model-Based Case

- MBPO → CMLO/USB-PO

Let policy π_i denotes the ϵ_{opt} optimal policy under the dynamic model M_i and σ_{M_1, M_2} be the constraint threshold for M_1 and M_2 . Then the following bound holds:

$$V^{\pi_2|M_2} - V^{\pi_1|M_1} \geq \kappa (\mathbb{E}[D_{TV}[P(\cdot|s, a) || P_{M_1}(\cdot|s, a)]] - \mathbb{E}[D_{TV}[P(\cdot|s, a) || P_{M_2}(\cdot|s, a)]] - \frac{\gamma}{1-\gamma} L(2\sigma_{M_1, M_2}) - \epsilon_{opt}) \quad (2)$$

where $\sigma_{M_1, M_2} = \max_{s,a} D_{TV}(P_{M_1}(s, a) || P_{M_2}(s, a))$

- ① CMLO: Hyper-parameter α to constrain the variation of the model.

- ② USB-PO: Automatically fine-tune the variation of the model.

What About The Multi-Task/COMRL Setting?

Performance Improvement Guarantee For Previous COMRL Endeavors

- Our Previous UNICORN Framework:

Denote X_b and X_t are the behavior-related (s, a) -component and task-related (s', r) -component of the context X , with $X = (X_b, X_t)$.

$$I(Z; X_t | X_b) \leq I(Z; M) \leq I(Z; X) \quad (3)$$

- $\mathcal{L}_{FOCAL} \equiv -I(Z; X) = -I(Z; X_t | X_b) - I(Z; X_b)$
- $\mathcal{L}_{CORRO} \equiv -I(Z; X_t | X_b)$
- $\mathcal{L}_{CSRO} \geq (\lambda - 1)I(Z; X) - \lambda I(Z; X_t | X_b)$

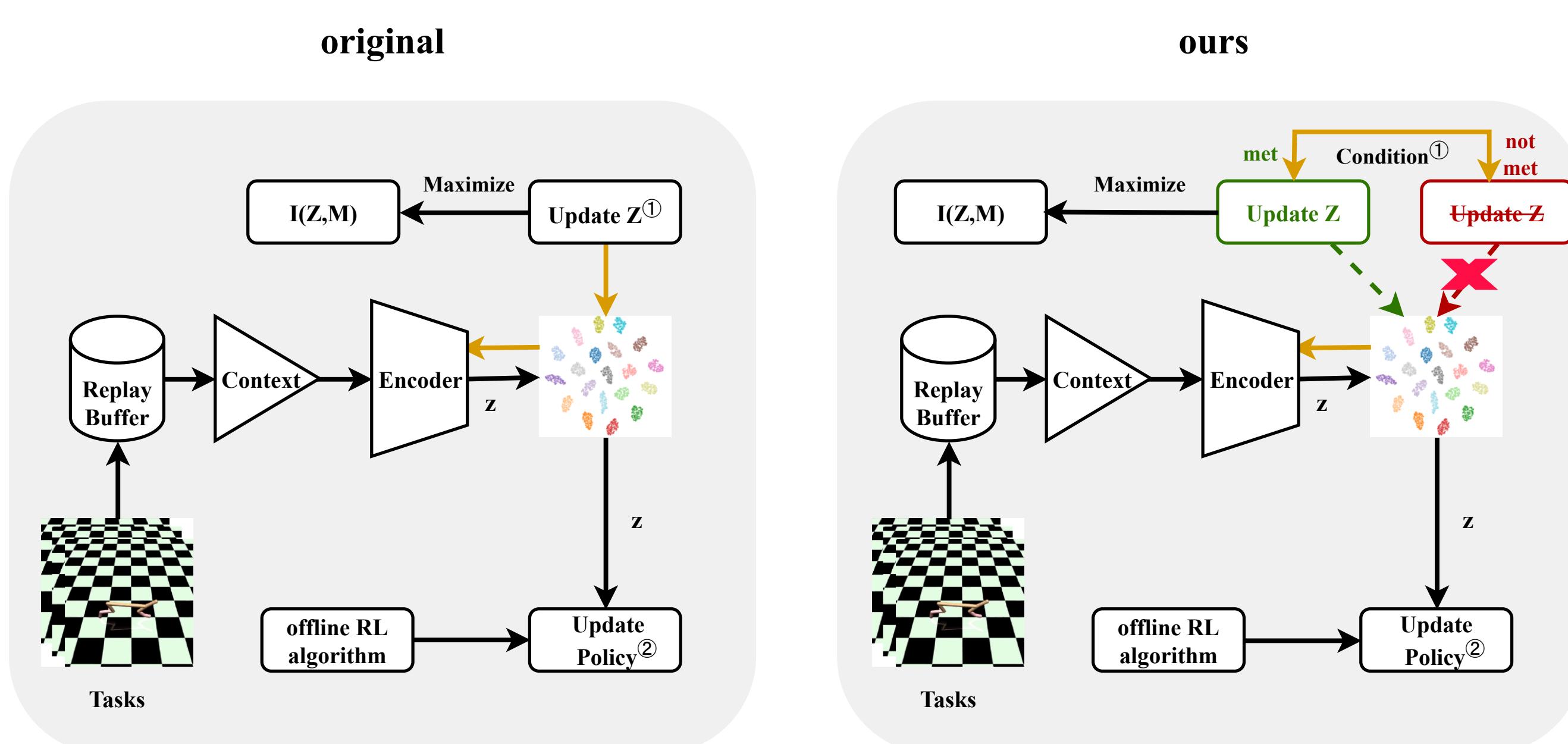
- Return Discrepancy in COMRL:

$$|J^*(\theta) - J(\theta)| \leq \frac{2R_{\max}L_z}{(1-\gamma)^2} \mathbb{E}_{m,x} [|Z(\cdot|x; \phi) - Z(\cdot|x; \phi^{mutual})| + |Z(\cdot|x; \phi^{mutual}) - Z(\cdot|x; \phi^*)|] \quad (4)$$

- Adopt maximizing $I(Z; M) \rightarrow$ Minimizing $|Z(\cdot|x; \phi) - Z(\cdot|x; \phi^{mutual})|$.

- Adopt standard offline RL algorithms \rightarrow Maximizing $J^*(\theta)$.

Task Representation Shift Determines The Monotonic Performance Improvement Guarantee!



Monotonic Performance Improvement Guarantee For COMRL

- Monotonic Performance Improvement Condition For Previous Framework

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_{12}^* &\triangleq J^*(\theta_2) - J^*(\theta_1) \\ &\geq \frac{4R_{\max}L_z}{(1-\gamma)^2} \mathbb{E}_{m,x} [|Z(\cdot|x; \phi) - Z(\cdot|x; \phi^*)|] \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

- Monotonic Performance Improvement Guarantee With Variation Of Task Representation

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_{12}^* - \frac{2R_{\max}L_z}{(1-\gamma)^2} \mathbb{E}_{m,x} [2|Z(\cdot|x; \phi_2) - Z(\cdot|x; \phi^*)| \\ + |Z(\cdot|x; \phi_2) - Z(\cdot|x; \phi_1)|] \geq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

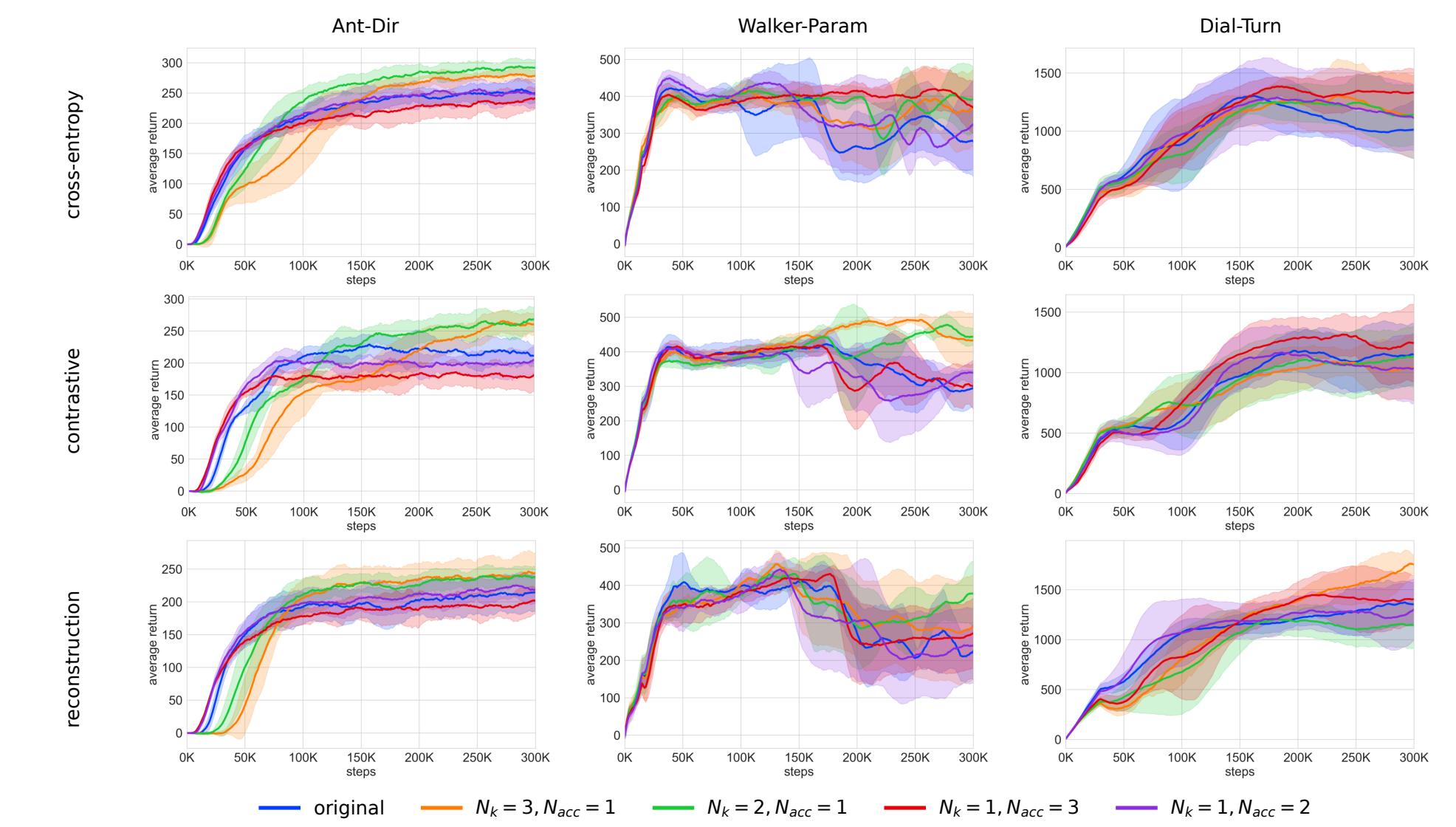
- How To Achieve Monotonic Performance Improvement Guarantee

Given that the context encoder has already been trained by maximizing $I(Z; M)$ to some extent. Update the context encoder via maximizing $I(Z; M)$ from at least extra k samples, where:

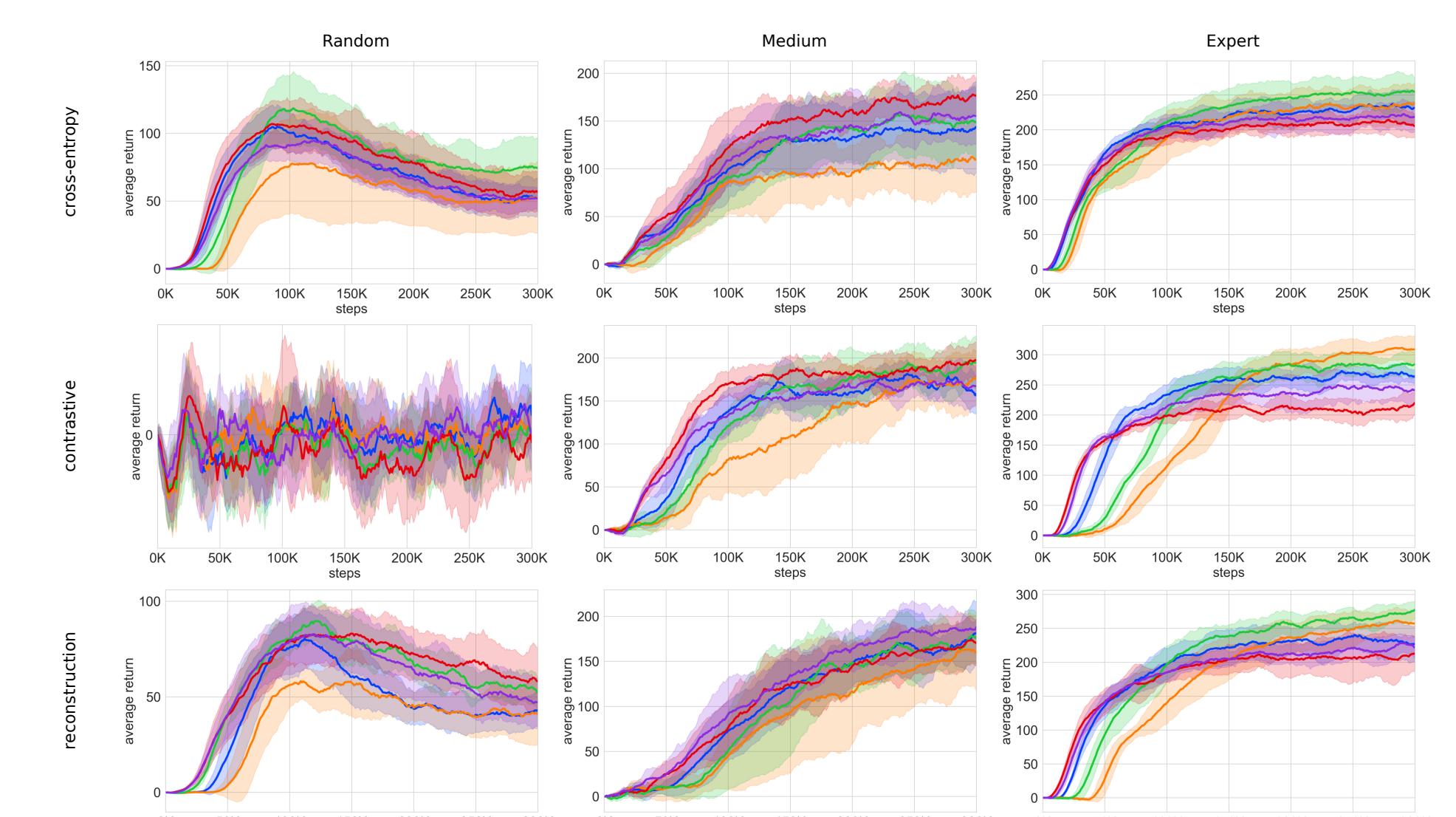
$$k = \frac{1}{\kappa^2} \sqrt{\left(2 \log \frac{2|Z|-2}{\xi}\right) + \sqrt{\alpha}}^2 \quad (7)$$

Promising Experimental Results

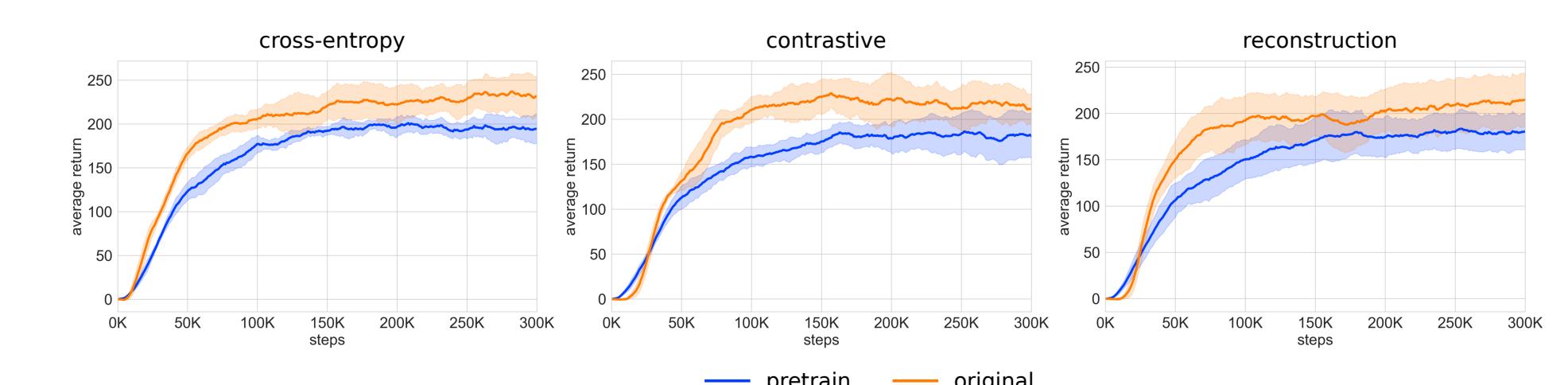
- MuJoCo And MetaWorld Benchmarks



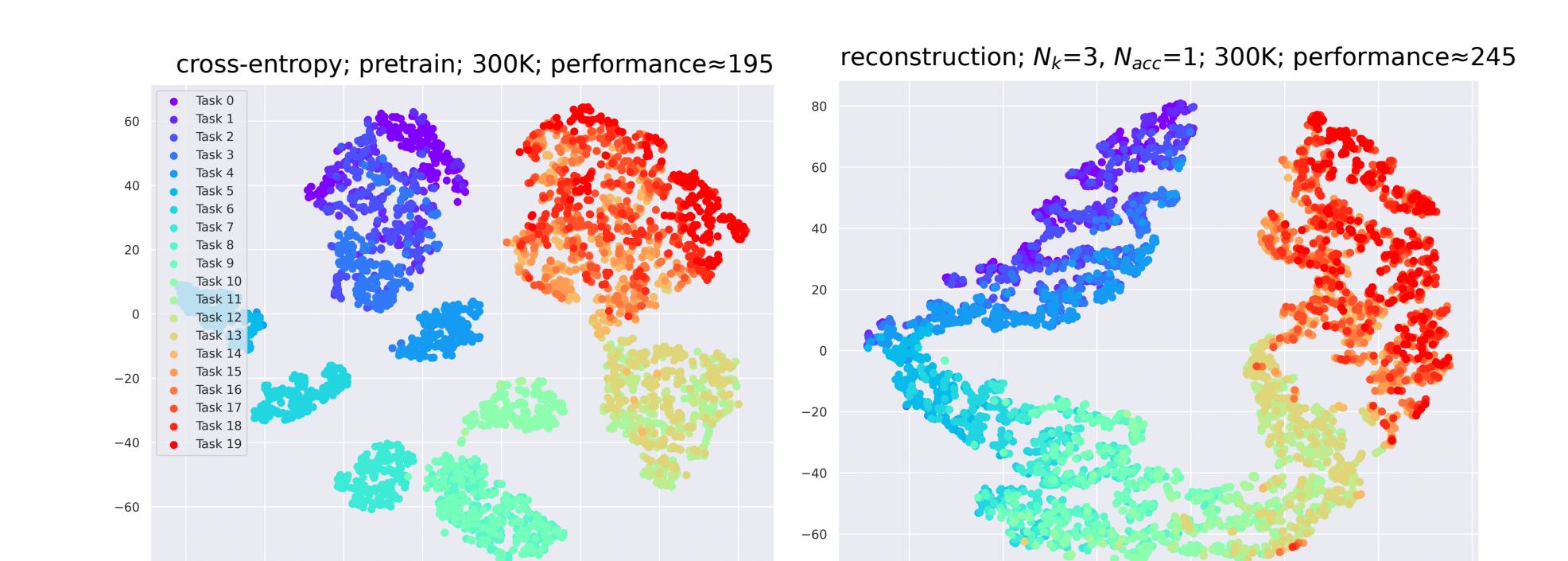
- Different Data Qualities



- Training From Scratch v.s. Pre-training



- Illusion: The Challenge Against Visualization



Personal Web

Code