# Learning to Search for Targets

with Deep Reinforcement Learning

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### Outline

#### Introduction

Motivation

Aim

Research Questions

### Theory

Reinforcement Learning Related Work

### Method

Environments

Approach

#### **Experiments**

Search Performance Scaling to Larger Search Spaces Generalization From Limited Samples

#### Conclusion

Future Work

Learned autonomous search for a set of targets in a visual environment with a camera.

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- ► Use deep reinforcement learning.
- ► Focus on search behavior, simple detection.

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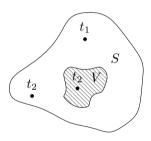
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5/36

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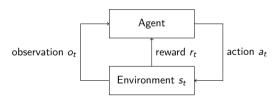
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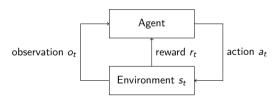
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- 2. How does the learning agent compare to random, greedy, exhaustive and human searchers?
- 3. How well does the learning agent generalize from a limited number of training samples to unseen in-distribution search scenarios?

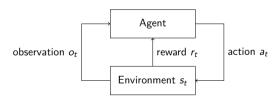
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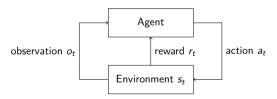
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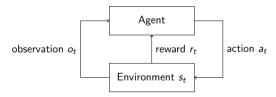
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13/36

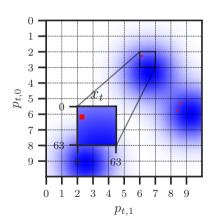
13/36

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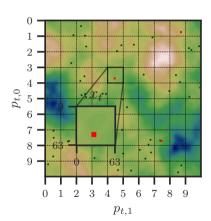


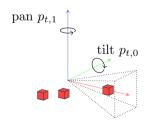
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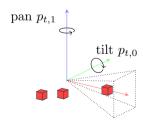
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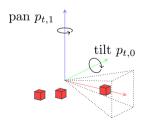




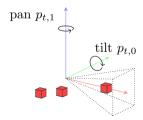
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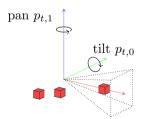
- ► Terrain seen from perspective projection camera.
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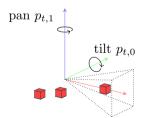
- ► Terrain seen from perspective projection camera.
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  - ▶ 20 pan angle steps.



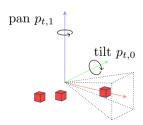
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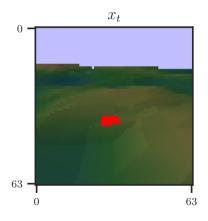


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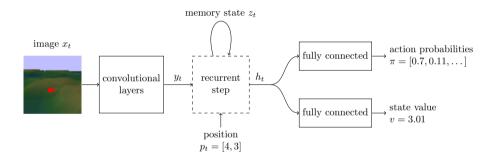
- ► Function approximation with deep neural networks.
  - Policy  $\pi(a|s,\theta)$ .
  - ▶ Value  $v_{\pi}(s, \theta)$  (predicts future reward).
- ► Training procedure:
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  - ► Stable performance with little tuning [12].

### Architecture



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- ► NVIDIA GeForce RTX 2080 Ti GPU.

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  - 1. Average search path length.
  - 2. Average success rate.
  - 3. Success weighted by inverse path length (SPL) [18]. With N test samples,  $S_i$  as a binary success indicator,  $p_i$  as the taken search path length  $I_i$  is the shortest search path length:

$$SPL = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} S_i \frac{I_i}{\max(p_i, I_i)}$$

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Human: human searcher with knowledge of environment.

Handcrafted: prioritize actions that lead to higher blue intensity

(gaussian environment only).

Gaussian Environment

Agent	SPL	Success	Length
random greedy	$0.06 \pm 0.01 \\ 0.17 \pm 0.00$	$0.92 \pm 0.06 \\ 1.00 \pm 0.00$	$369.07 \pm 24.93 \\ 147.12 \pm 2.38$
exhaustive	$0.21 \pm 0.00$	$1.00 \pm 0.00$	$83.37 \pm 2.88$
handcrafted human	$0.33 \pm 0.00$ $0.23 \pm 0.03$	$1.00 \pm 0.00 \ 1.00 \pm 0.00$	$65.20 \pm 1.41 \\ 80.97 \pm 13.49$
temporal spatial	$0.24 \pm 0.03 \\ 0.29 \pm 0.02$	$0.99 \pm 0.01 \\ 0.99 \pm 0.01$	$101.25 \pm 13.32 \\ 72.16 \pm 5.97$

video 1, video 2, video 3.

Terrain Environment

SPL	Success	Length
$0.06\pm0.01$	$0.89\pm 0.04$	$366.05 \pm 26.96$
$0.17\pm 0.01$	$1.00 \pm 0.00$	$141.01 \pm 2.31$
$0.22\pm 0.00$	$1.00 \pm 0.00$	$84.11 \pm 0.84$
$0.26\pm 0.02$	$1.00 \pm 0.00$	$\textbf{76.73} \pm \textbf{5.33}$
$0.25 \pm 0.02$ $0.27 \pm 0.01$	$1.00 \pm 0.01$ $1.00 \pm 0.00$	$103.76 \pm 11.69 \\ 79.60 \pm 6.88$
	$0.06 \pm 0.01 \\ 0.17 \pm 0.01 \\ 0.22 \pm 0.00 \\ 0.26 \pm 0.02$	$ \begin{array}{cccc} 0.06 \pm 0.01 & 0.89 \pm 0.04 \\ 0.17 \pm 0.01 & 1.00 \pm 0.00 \\ 0.22 \pm 0.00 & 1.00 \pm 0.00 \\ 0.26 \pm 0.02 & 1.00 \pm 0.00 \\ 0.25 \pm 0.02 & 1.00 \pm 0.01 \\ \end{array} $

video 1, video 2, video 3.

Camera Environment

Agent	SPL	Success	Length
random	$0.04\pm0.00$	$0.62\pm 0.03$	$545.09 \pm 56.25$
greedy	$0.12\pm 0.01$	$0.97 \pm 0.01$	$255.60 \pm 10.44$
exhaustive	$0.37\pm 0.00$	$1.00 \pm 0.00$	$67.03 \pm 0.00$
human	$0.68\pm0.08$	$1.00 \pm 0.00$	$38.10 \pm 5.72$
temporal	$0.70 \pm 0.02$	$1.00\pm0.00$	$42.36 \pm 2.05$
spatial	$0.66\pm0.03$	$1.00 \pm 0.00$	$\textbf{42.90} \pm \textbf{1.73}$

video 1, video 2, video 3.

► Real-world search tasks usually have large search spaces.

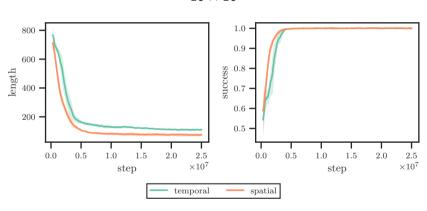
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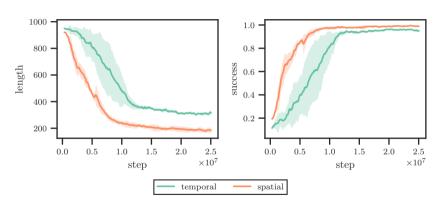
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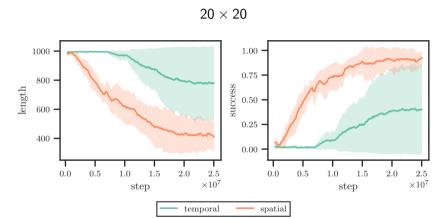
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- $\blacktriangleright$  Compare memories on  $10 \times 10$ ,  $15 \times 15$ , and  $20 \times 20$  versions of gaussian environment.











# Experiment III: Generalization From Limited Samples

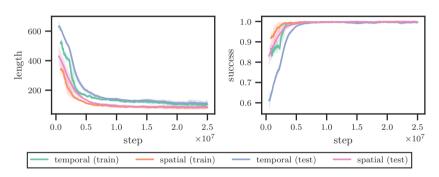
► Real-world tasks usually have limited training samples.

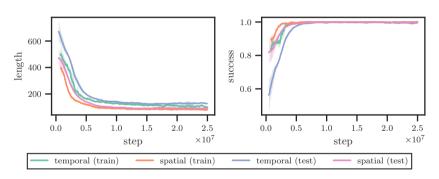
# Experiment III: Generalization From Limited Samples

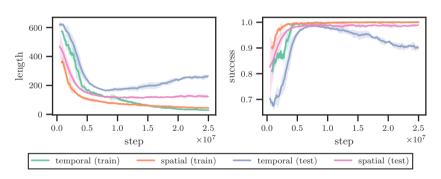
- ► Real-world tasks usually have limited training samples.
- ► Train on 500, 1 000, 5 000 and 10 000 samples of terrain environment.

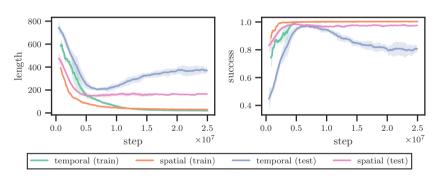
# Experiment III: Generalization From Limited Samples

- ► Real-world tasks usually have limited training samples.
- ► Train on 500, 1 000, 5 000 and 10 000 samples of terrain environment.
- ► Test on held out samples from full distribution.









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- ► Approach:
  - ► Search performance: better than simple baselines, comparable to human, worse than handcrafted.
  - ► Sample efficiency: relatively many samples needed even for simple environments.

► Improvements to approach.

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  - ► Neural network architecture.

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  - ► Noise and higher variance.

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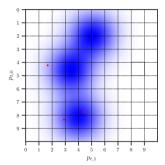
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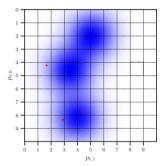
## Search Paths I

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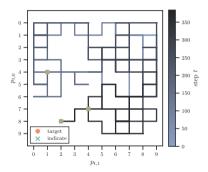


Environment sample

## Search Paths I



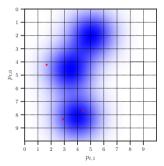
**Environment sample** 



Random baseline

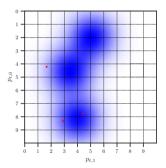
## Search Paths II

# Search Paths II

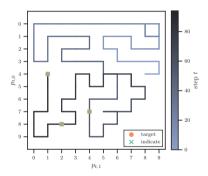


Environment sample

## Search Paths II



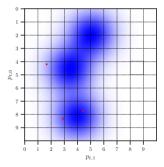
**Environment sample** 



Greedy baseline

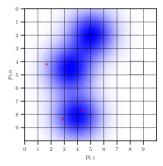
## Search Paths III

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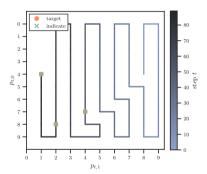


Environment sample

## Search Paths III



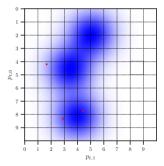
**Environment sample** 



Exhaustive baseline

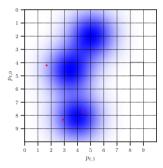
## Search Paths IV

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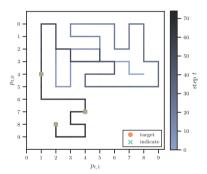


Environment sample

## Search Paths IV



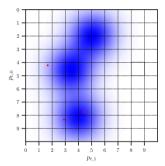
Environment sample



Handcrafted baseline

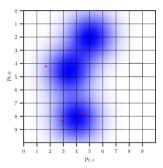
# Search Paths V

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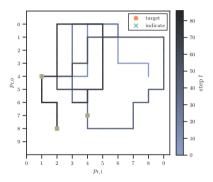


Environment sample

## Search Paths V



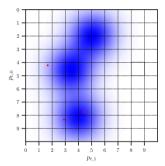
Environment sample



Temporal memory

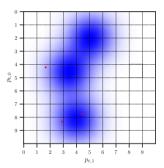
# Search Paths VI

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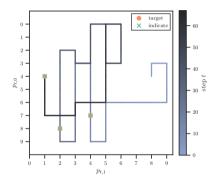


Environment sample

## Search Paths VI

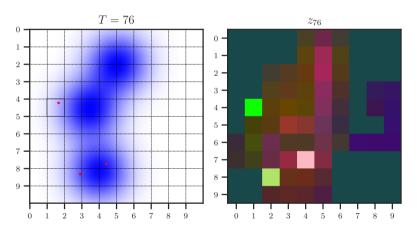


Environment sample



Spatial memory

# Memory Viualization



PCA decomposition of spatial memory after episode.