

INTERPRET: Interactive Predicate Learning from Language Feedback for Generalizable Task Planning

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<https://interpret-robot.github.io>

Abstract—Learning abstract state representations and knowledge is crucial for long-horizon robot planning. We present InterPreT, an Large Language Model (LLM)-powered framework for robots to learn symbolic predicates from language feedback of human non-experts during embodied interaction. The learned predicates provide relational abstractions of the environment state, facilitating the learning of symbolic operators that capture action preconditions and effects. By compiling the learned predicates and operators into a Planning Domain Definition Language (PDDL) domain on-the-fly, InterPreT allows effective planning toward arbitrary in-domain goals using a PDDL planner. In both simulated and real-world robot manipulation domains, we demonstrate that InterPreT reliably uncovers the key predicates and operators governing the environment dynamics. Although learned from simple training tasks, these predicates and operators exhibit strong generalization to novel tasks with significantly higher complexity. In the most challenging generalization setting, InterPreT attains success rates of 73% in simulation and 40% in the real world, substantially outperforming baseline methods.

I. INTRODUCTION

Effective long-horizon planning is a long-standing challenge in robotics [1, 2, 3]. Imagine a household robot that prepares a meal in your kitchen. It must be capable of generating faithful multi-step action plans to manipulate novel objects and achieve diverse task goals. Recently, Large Language Models (LLMs) have shown the ability to decompose a high-level task goal into semantically meaningful sub-tasks leveraging the vast amount of world knowledge they encode [4, 5]. They exhibit the emergent property of acquiring planning capabilities from a few in-context examples [6, 5]. Researchers have successfully applied LLM-based planners in real-world robotic tasks [7, 8, 9, 10], where they can easily incorporate various forms of feedback and produce plans in novel situations. Nevertheless, LLM-based planners still struggle to generalize strongly to long-horizon tasks, and they offer no performance guarantees [11, 12, 13].

In contrast, classical planners [14, 15] based on symbolic abstractions provide complementary strengths in generating long-horizon plans with formal guarantees. At the heart of these planners are *predicates*, which are binary-valued functions that map environment states to high-level symbolic representations, *e.g.*, a function that transforms the workspace observation into semantic relations such as `on_table(apple)`. With these symbolic predicates, we can subsequently model state transitions with symbolic *operators* [16], describing the preconditions and effects of the robot’s actions on the symbolic states. The predicates and

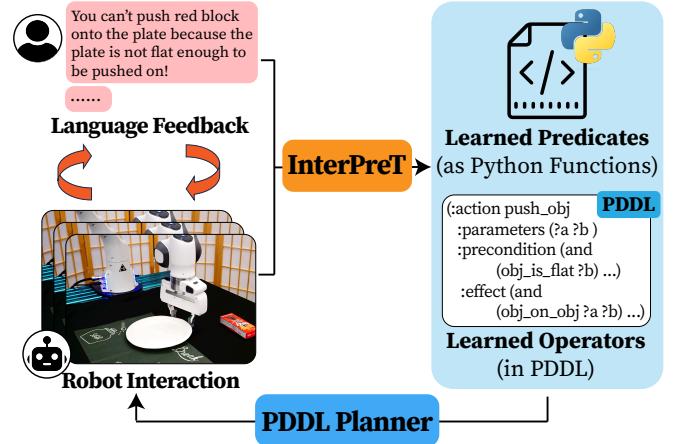


Fig. 1: InterPreT learns predicates as Python functions and operators in PDDL from human language feedback during embodied interaction. The learned predicates and operators can be leveraged by a PDDL planner for planning for unseen tasks involving more objects and novel goals.

operators together form a PDDL domain [17], enabling a planning algorithm to generate plans for arbitrary in-domain tasks [18]. Despite the wide adoptions of planning algorithms in robotics [19, 20, 21], these methods usually require substantial manual effort and domain expertise to meticulously design the predicates and operators, hindering their applicability to real-world problems.

To combine the best of both worlds, there has been a growing interest in integrating learning methods with planning algorithms. Notable efforts have been made to learn symbolic representations from interaction data through unsupervised learning methods [22, 23, 24, 25, 26]. However, without explicit guidance, they struggle to uncover predicates that capture task-relevant semantic relations to facilitate planning. Meanwhile, cognitive studies [27, 28] have shown that human infants are remarkably efficient in acquiring new predicate-like relational concepts, such as spatial relations for stacking blocks, from the language feedback of caregivers during physical play. Inspired by these studies, we envision an *interactive learning* scheme that will enable a robot to rapidly learn useful abstractions for planning from online human feedback.

We hypothesize that for robots to achieve human proficiency in learning predicates for planning, they must possess an ability similar to infants to learn from the rich human

language feedback in an interactive manner. Recent work has incorporated human language feedback into learning reward functions [29] and motion policies [30]. The crux of these methods is to harness the capabilities of pretrained LLMs [31], in particular GPT-4 [32], in understanding natural language input, performing reasoning [33, 34], and generating text-based responses (computer programs [35], *etc.*). Following this line of work, we present **InterPreT** (**I**nterative **P**redicate **L**earning for **T**ask **P**lanning), the first framework for robots to learn planning-oriented predicates from interactive language feedback, as depicted in Fig. 1. InterPreT formalizes predicate learning as generating Python functions with GPT-4, which are iteratively refined based on human language feedback. These predicates (as Python functions) can access raw environment states with Python perception APIs and freely compose logic structures and arithmetical computations (*e.g.*, with NumPy) to form complex semantics. With the learned predicates, we can easily learn symbolic operators from the robot’s interaction data using a cluster-and-search algorithm [36]. The learned predicates and operators are compiled into the PDDL format on the fly to be used by a planner. LLMs’ capabilities of open-world text processing and symbolic planners’ performance guarantees together empower our approach to generalize strongly to arbitrary tasks in the target domains.

Specifically, we consider language feedback for learning two types of planning-oriented predicates, *i.e.*, goal predicates and action precondition predicates [22]. These predicates play an essential role in indicating task progress and determining action feasibility, respectively. We design a concise and natural communication protocol to incorporate this feedback:

- **Feedback for learning goal predicates:** At the beginning of each task, the human user specifies the goal, *e.g.*, “put plate on table mat”. Then, it signals when the robot achieves the goal and it explains any unsatisfied conditions if the robot mistakenly declares success.
- **Feedback for learning precondition predicates:** The human user verifies the feasibility of the action the robot proposes to execute next. They explain any violated preconditions if the action is infeasible, *e.g.*, “you can’t pick up the plate because it is too large for the gripper to grasp”, or otherwise confirm that the action is feasible, *e.g.*, “you can go ahead and pick up red block”.

This protocol allows InterPreT to verify and refine the learned predicates from time to time, enabling predicate learning with closed-loop feedback.

In the experiments, we evaluate InterPreT’s effectiveness in a suite of simulated and real-world robot manipulation domains. These domains are designed such that their dynamics can be modeled using specific predicates and operators, which the robot must uncover. We first have InterPreT learn predicates and operators by having the robot interact with a series of simple training tasks while receiving natural language feedback from human users. We then test the learned predicates and operators on harder tasks involving more objects and novel goals. We show with qualitative and quantitative results that:

(i) InterPreT learns valid predicates and operators that capture essential regularities governing each domain. (ii) The learned predicates and operators allow the robot to solve challenging unseen tasks requiring combinatorial generalization, with a 73% success rate in simulation, outperforming all baselines by a large margin. (iii) InterPreT can effectively handle real-world uncertainty and complexities, operating with considerable performance in real-world robot manipulation tasks.

II. RELATED WORK

A. Learning Symbolic Representations for Planning

Learning symbolic abstractions of complex domains for effective planning is a long-standing pursuit in the planning community [37, 38, 39, 22, 26, 25, 3, 40]. Previous methods have focused on discovering propositional [22] or predicate state symbols [23] from embodied experience. These symbols are usually acquired by composing predefined features [37, 24, 41, 25], or learning statistical [38] or neural network [26] models with clustering [39, 22, 23] or representation learning techniques [42, 43, 26]. Such learning often relies on unsupervised objectives like minimizing state reconstruction error [42, 43, 26], prediction error [38, 42, 26], bisimulation distance [41] or planning time [25]. However, these approaches struggle to capture high-level semantic relations [43, 26] and often require manual feature engineering [24, 41, 25].

Supervised learning has also been explored to ground semantic predicates to continuous observations, *e.g.*, images or continuous states [44, 45]. While large-scale annotated datasets [46] are available to learn general-purpose predicate grounding models, fine-tuning with task-specific data is still needed for learned predicates to serve reasoning and planning in specific domains [47, 48, 49]. To reduce annotation needs, prior works have employed active learning [50, 51] or novel labeling techniques [52, 53], but a minimum of 500-1000 labels [50, 51] are still required per predicate.

Our work builds on this line of research in learning symbolic abstractions from interaction data and weak supervision. We mitigate limitations of unsupervised methods by learning predicates from natural language feedback. Meanwhile, we are able to learn semantic predicates as Python functions from a few data samples, leveraging the code generation capability and world knowledge of GPT-4.

B. Large Language Models-enabled Planning and Learning

Large Language Models [31] have shown remarkable abilities in encoding vast semantic knowledge and demonstrate emergent capabilities in learning, reasoning, and planning with few-shot or even zero-shot prompting [54, 33, 5]. Pretrained LLMs have been applied as planners in text-based environments with natural language instructions and feedback [34, 5, 4, 55, 56]. For *grounded* planning in realistic robotic domains, a common approach is to utilize out-of-the-box perception models to convert raw observations into textual descriptions for LLMs to consume [57, 58, 8, 59, 60, 61], or provide perception and action APIs for LLMs to generate executable programs [10, 9]. However, these perception models struggle

to capture complex task-relevant information like semantic object relations without task-specific tuning [47, 49]. Leveraging GPT-4’s power, our work effectively acquires meaningful task-relevant predicates to facilitate grounded planning.

Pretrained LLMs are also leveraged to enhance robot agent intelligence by generating formatted outputs (*e.g.*, code, formal language) and refining them based on language feedback via iterative prompting. They have been used as interfaces between natural language and robotics modalities like formal planning languages [62, 11] (*e.g.*, PDDL [17]), reward functions [29, 63] and trajectories [30]. Specifically, Voyager [64] uses GPT-4 to construct an automatic curriculum and a skill library to build lifelong learning agents, while Eureka [29] and OLAF [30] leverage GPT-4 for learning from language feedback effectively by prompting. Inspired by these works, we learn predicates from language feedback by generating and iteratively refining Python functions with GPT-4.

III. PRELIMINARIES AND PROBLEM SETUP

We consider robot task planning in a continuous state space O with language goal specifications G . Without losing generality, we assume the states are factorized with respect to a set of objects E , where such information can be obtained using mainstream perception models like object detectors. The robot is equipped with a library of primitive actions A , where each $a \in A$ is parameterized by object variables and can be grounded to certain objects to produce an executable action \underline{a} , *e.g.*, `Pick(cup)`. Then, a task planning problem is to find a sequence of actions $\underline{a}_{1:T}$ to reach a final state o_g that satisfies a language goal $g \in G$ from an initial state $o_0 \in O$.

Following the classical planning formulation [15, 16], we aim to learn predicates Ψ to abstract the state space O into a symbolic one S for effective and generalizable planning. A predicate $\psi := \langle d_\psi, f_\psi \rangle \in \Psi$ defines a function f_ψ that captures a symbolic relation among a list of object variables, with its semantic meaning described as d_ψ . The function $f_\psi : O \times E^k \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ takes a continuous state $o \in O$ and a list of k objects $(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k) \in E^k$ and outputs a binary value indicating whether the relation holds or not. For example, a predicate `on(a, b)` can be applied to check whether `cup` is physically `on plate`, producing a positive literal `on(cup, plate)` or a negative literal `not-on(cup, plate)`. Then the symbolic state s of a continuous state o can be obtained by collecting all positive literals at state o given predicate set Ψ and object set E , denoted $s = \text{Parse}(o; \Psi, E)$.

With the object-factorized symbolic state space S , we model the preconditions and effects of primitive actions with symbolic operators Ω . Each symbolic operator $\omega \in \Omega$ corresponding to a primitive action a is characterized by a precondition set CON (literals must hold before executing a), and adding and deleting effect set EFF^+ and EFF^- (literals added and removed from symbolic state s after executing a). These symbolic operators are *lifted* by design, enabling the evaluation of preconditions and effects for any executable version \underline{a} obtained by applying the primitive action a to any objects. With the learned predicates Ψ , we further learn the symbolic

operators Ω of all primitive actions A to achieve generalizable task planning. The learned predicates and operators can be compiled into a PDDL domain. By converting a language goal $g \in G$ into a symbolic goal s_g [11, 62], such a PDDL domain can enable effective planning using an off-the-shelf classical planner [18].

IV. METHOD

In this section, we present the InterPreT framework that learns predicates and operators from language feedback for planning. The overall architecture is depicted in Fig. 2. There are five essential modules that operate together to empower InterPreT: (i) **Reasoner**, which analyzes language feedback to identify new predicates and extract task-relevant information (*e.g.*, predicate labels, action preconditions), (ii) **Coder**, which generates Python functions to ground the new predicates, (iii) **Corrector**, which iteratively refines existing predicate functions to align their predictions to the extracted predicate labels, (iv) **Operator Learner**, which learns operators from interaction data based on the learned predicates, and (v) **Goal Translator**, which translates language goal specifications into symbolic goals to enable planning. Below, we elaborate on the core GPT-4-powered modules—*Reasoner*, *Coder* and *Corrector*—that enable predicate learning, and briefly introduce the rest, which are mainly adapted from existing works.

Given language feedback l_t at time step t , our objective is to learn new predicates and refine existing predicates Ψ_{t-1} , producing an updated set of predicates Ψ_t . For simplicity of notation, we denote the textual descriptions of predicates as $\{d_\psi\}$ and the corresponding predicate functions as $\{f_\psi\}$ for any predicate set Ψ . We decompose the predicate learning process at time step t into three sequential sub-steps (see Fig. 2(a)): (i) *Reasoner* identifies new predicates with descriptions $\{d_{\psi_{new}}\}$ and extracts current state literals that provide predicate labels $\{y\}$, (ii) *Coder* generates new predicate functions $\{f_{\psi_{new}}\}$, and (iii) *Corrector* refines existing predicate functions to fix execution errors and match their predictions to $\{y\}$. Formally, we summarize this process in Eq. (1):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Reasoner} : & \{d_{\psi_{new}}\}, \{y\} = f_{\text{Reason}}(l_t, \{d_{\psi_{t-1}}\}), \\ & \{d_{\psi_t}\} = \{d_{\psi_{new}}\} \cup \{d_{\psi_{t-1}}\} \\ \text{Coder} : & \{f_{\psi_{new}}\} = f_{\text{Code}}(\{d_{\psi_{new}}\}, \Psi_{t-1}), \\ & \{f_{\hat{\psi}_t}\} = \{f_{\psi_{new}}\} \cup \{f_{\psi_{t-1}}\}, \\ \text{Corrector} : & \{f_{\psi_t}\} = f_{\text{Correct}}(o_t, \{y\}, \{f_{\hat{\psi}_t}\}), \\ & \Psi_t = \langle d_{\psi_t}, f_{\psi_t} \rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where f_{Reason} , f_{Code} , f_{Correct} are parameterized by GPT-4 with varying prompt templates, and the initial predicate set is empty, *i.e.*, $\Psi_0 = \emptyset$. Note that we omit some of the output terms irrelevant to predicate learning for clarity. We detail the modules below and provide the complete prompt templates in the supplementary material.

A. Reasoner

The *Reasoner* module is designed to identify essential predicates and extract task-relevant information from goal-

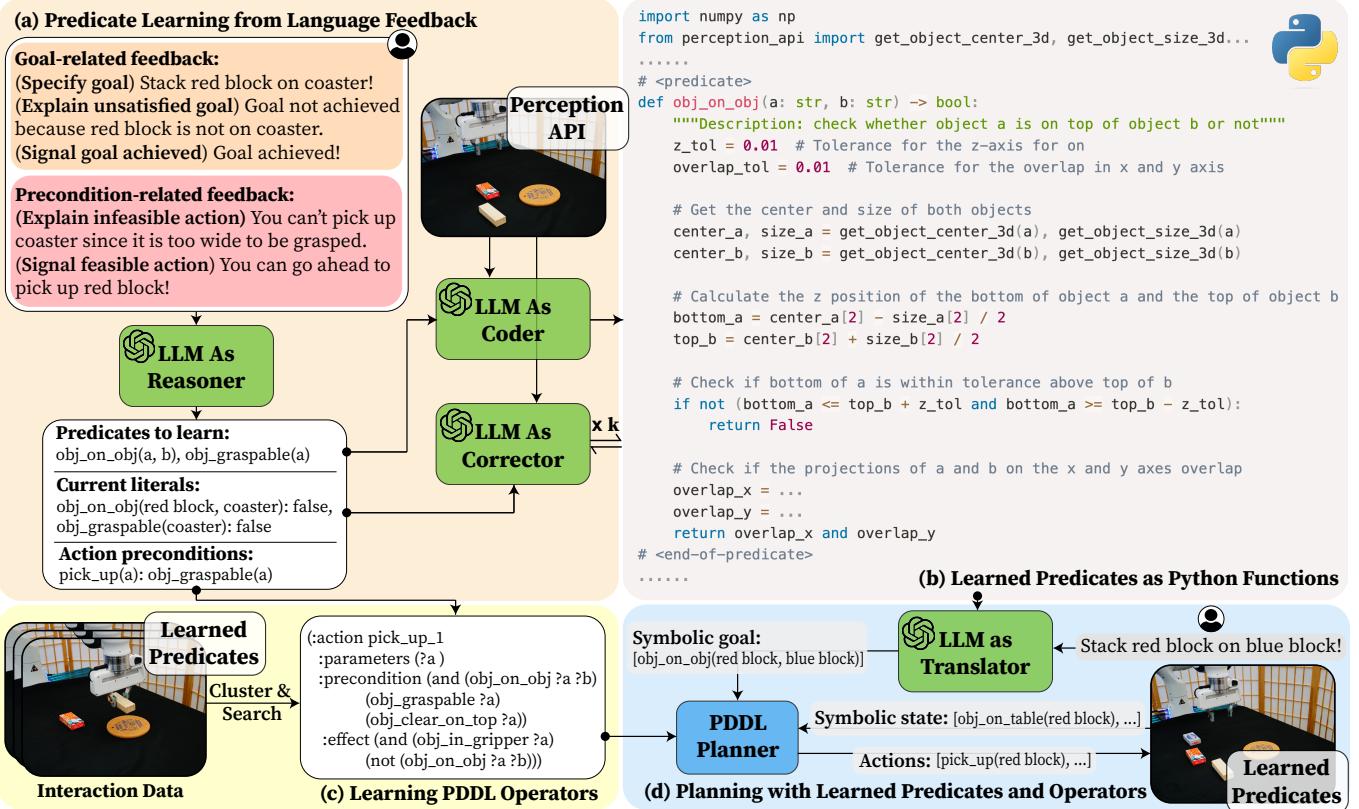


Fig. 2: **The system architecture of InterPreT.** (a) We design three GPT-4-enabled modules that operate sequentially to identify planning-oriented predicates and generate the predicate functions based on language feedback. (b) An example predicate function learned. (c) With the learned predicates, we learn PDDL operators with a cluster-then-search algorithm. (d) The learned predicates and operators enable effective task planning, after we translate language goals into symbolic goals with GPT-4.

related or precondition-related language feedback; see the top-left corner of Fig. 2(a) for examples of these feedback types. We tailor *Reasoner* to each language feedback type using different prompt templates, as detailed below. We highlight the language feedback in blue, and the GPT-4 output in orange. We employ Chain-of-Thought (CoT) prompting [65] for *Reasoner* to provide the complete reasoning trace and in-context learning [33] to enable *Reasoner* to learn from a single example. These techniques are applied to all LLM promptings to facilitate robust response generation.

1) Goal-related feedback:

- (**Specify task goal**) Given a natural language goal specification, *Reasoner* identifies new goal predicates and converts the language goal into symbolic form using existing and new predicates:

Context: ...{example} {objects} {existing_predicates}...
Goal: Stack red block on coaster.

Reasoning: The goal can be captured by a symbolic literal `obj_on_obj(red block, coaster)`. As predicate `obj_on_obj(a, b)` is unknown, we need to learn it.

Predicates to learn: {"`obj_on_obj(a, b)`": "check whether object a is on object b"}
Symbolic goal: {"`obj_on_obj(red block, coaster)`": true}

The identified predicates to learn $\{d_{new}\}$ are to be supplied to *Coder* for predicate function generation, and the converted symbolic goal s_g is recorded for robot planning and exploration.

- (**Explain unsatisfied goal**) Given explanations for unsatisfied goal literals, *Reasoner* extracts the current symbolic literals from the language feedback, which provide predicate labels $\{y\}$. These predicate labels are crucial for *Corrector* to correct the generated goal predicates.

Context: ...{example} {objects} {existing_predicates}...
Human explanation: You haven't reached the goal because red block is not on coaster.
Current symbolic state: {"`obj_on_obj(red block, coaster)`": false}

- (**Signal goal achieved**) When receiving goal-achieved signals, we simply use the extracted symbolic goal as the current literals, which provide positive labels $\{y\}$ to supervise goal predicates.

2) Precondition-related feedback:

- (**Explain infeasible action**) Given an explanation of an infeasible action, *Reasoner* identifies new precondition predicates to learn $\{d_{new}\}$, reasons about the current symbolic state $\{y\}$, and summarizes the reflected action

preconditions CON_{new} , as shown in the example below. The summarized action preconditions only take arguments that exist in those of the action, *e.g.*, for action `pick_up(a)`, we only summarize the preconditions that take no argument or object a as an argument. We aggregate CON_{new} into the precondition set CON_a of the corresponding action a , which is maintained for operator learning (described in Section IV-D). Additionally, $\{d_{new}\}$ is fed into *Coder* to generate precondition predicate functions, and the predicate labels $\{y\}$ are provided to *Corrector* for correction.

Context: ...{example} {objects} {existing_predicates}...

Infeasible action: `pick_up(coaster)`

Human explanation: You can't pick up coaster it is too large to be grasped.

Reasoning: ... The precondition of `pick_up(coaster)` is that it is small enough to be grasped by the gripper... We learn predicate `obj_graspable(a)` to check whether object a can be grasped by the gripper...

Predicates to learn: {"`obj_graspable(a)`": "check whether object a is small enough to be grasped by the gripper..."}

New action preconditions: {"action": "`pick_up(a)`", "new preconditions": {"`obj_graspable(a)`": true}}

Current symbolic state: {"`obj_graspable(coaster)`": false}

- **(Signal feasible action)** When an action is signaled as feasible, we confirm that all preconditions in CON_a are satisfied. The labels y for these precondition predicates are obtained and provided to *Corrector* to correct precondition predicate functions.

B. Coder

Once *Reasoner* identifies a set of new predicates with text descriptions $\{d_{new}\}$, the next step is to construct the corresponding predicate functions $\{f_{new}\}$ to truly learn them. Inspired by recent successes in using pretrained LLMs to generate computer programs for robotic tasks [10, 9, 64, 29], we design *Coder* to generate these predicate functions as Python code based solely on $\{d_{new}\}$, leveraging the power of GPT-4. We assume the availability of a library of perception API functions that provide access to continuous states, such as the bounding boxes and categories of detected objects. The predicate functions can then be constructed by composing these API functions with classical logic structures and arithmetical computations (*e.g.*, using NumPy), exploiting the flexibility of Python programming. Representing predicates as Python functions offers several advantages: (i) They are semantically rich and interpretable compared to neural networks [26, 42], and have better representation power and more versatile syntax than logical programs [25, 41]. (ii) They enable one-shot generation purely from the text description without labeled data, leveraging the extensive commonsense priors in GPT-4.

To facilitate the construction of predicate functions, we provide *Coder* with the following primitives: (i) perception API functions for accessing environment states, (ii) the NumPy library for arithmetic computations, and (iii) if-else and loop

statements for controlling the logic structure. We also allow *Coder* to create additional utility functions that can be reused to define different predicate functions. This divide-and-conquer strategy helps mitigate the complexity of building predicate functions from scratch. In practice, we prompt GPT-4 with a code snippet demonstrating the usage of primitives by a few examples of utility functions and one example predicate function. Detailed comments are included in these examples to enable CoT prompting. Due to space limitations, we show a partial prompt with an example utility function `get_object_x_range` below, and an example predicate function in Fig. 2(b). The complete prompt for *Coder* can be found in the supplementary material.

```
import numpy as np
from perception_api import get_object_center_3d,
get_object_size_3d...

# <utility>
def get_object_x_range(a) -> np.ndarray:
    """
    Get the range of object a along x axis
    :param a: string, name of detected object
    """
    center = get_object_center_3d(a)
    extent = get_object_size_3d(a)
    return np.array([center[0] - extent[0] / 2,
                   center[0] + extent[0] / 2])
# </end-of-utility>

.....
```

C. Corrector

The predicate functions generated by *Coder* are pruned to two types of errors: (i) **execution errors** due to invalid operations or syntax errors in the function, and (ii) **alignment errors** that arise when GPT-4's understanding of predicates misaligns with that of the human user. Inspired by [64, 29], we introduce *Corrector*, which adopts an iterative prompting mechanism to correct the functions and rectify these errors.

When an execution error occurs while calling a predicate function, *Corrector* takes the execution trace from the code interpreter and the erroneous code as input. It then performs zero-shot reasoning on the error and generates the corrected code as output. This process is repeated until the error is resolved or the maximum number of iterations is reached. Similarly, to address alignment errors, *Corrector* is provided with the predicate labels $\{y\}$ and the current predicate functions. It then iteratively refines the functions to align their outputs with the given labels. An example prompt illustrating this process is shown below:

Context: ...{instructions} <code> {observation}...

Alignment error: `obj_on_obj(red block, blue block)` should be true, but your prediction is false.

Reasoning: This is because we assume object a should be within object b along the x-axis when we define the predicate function `obj_on_obj(a, b)`, which is wrong; in fact, the relation is established when object a is overlapped with b , so we need to correct the function accordingly.

Corrected code: <corrected_code>

D. Other Components

Given the learned predicates, we implement a variant of the cluster-then-search algorithm [36] to learn operators. This algorithm effectively learns symbolic operators that best capture the action effects and preserve a minimal set of necessary preconditions from a small number of successful and failed interactions. We also incorporate the action preconditions summarized by *Reasoner* into the learned operators. To ensure learning from language feedback with no delays, we run the operator learning algorithm at each interaction step, maintaining an operator set compatible with the up-to-date predicates and interaction experience. The implementation details are included in the supplementary material.

During the training phase, InterPreT learns predicates and operators as the robot interacts with the environment to perform a series of training tasks (detailed in Section V-A3). We employ a strategy where the robot plans with a classical planner [18] based on the learned predicates and operators 50% of the time, and randomly takes a symbolically feasible action according to the recorded action preconditions otherwise. Empirically, this approach enables a balance between exploration and exploitation.

At test time, we introduce an LLM-based goal translator to convert language goals into symbolic form, following previous works [62, 11]. We refer the reader to the original papers for a detailed explanation of how the method works. In practice, we find that the GPT-4-based goal translator performs robustly when provided with a few examples.

V. EXPERIMENTS

We conduct experiments to answer the following questions: (i) Can InterPreT learn meaningful task-relevant predicates and operators from language feedback? (ii) How well do the learned predicates and operators (*i.e.*, PDDL domains) generalize to tasks that involve more objects and novel goals? (iii) Can InterPreT handle perception and execution uncertainties in the real world?

A. Experimental Setup

We quantitatively and qualitatively evaluate InterPreT on a suite of robot manipulation domains in a simulated 2D kitchen environment [66] and a real-world environment. The domain design, baseline methods, and evaluation protocol are described below.

1) *Domain design:* We design three simulated domains based on the Kitchen2D environment [66] and two real-world domains that represent the counterpart of the simulation. Each domain is associated with a set of simple and complex tasks, and designed with a ground-truth PDDL domain file specifying the essential symbolic constraints and regularities. The five domains are each demonstrated with an example simple task in Fig. 3(a). We briefly introduce the domains below and include further details in the supplementary material.

- **StoreObjects (Sim and Real):** This domain involves storing objects on a large receptacle by picking, placing,

and stacking actions. It features predicates and corresponding constraints similar to those in the BlockWorld domain [67], such as `on(a, b)`, and `on_table(a)`.

- **SetTable (Sim and Real):** This domain involves rearranging objects to set up a breakfast table. Compared to StoreObjects, it additionally introduces a push action to move large objects (*e.g.*, plates) that cannot be grasped. It features precondition predicates such as `is_graspable(a)` and `is_flat(a)`.
- **CookMeal (Sim only):** This domain involves putting ingredients into a pot and filling the pot/cups with water. It requires understanding the task semantics of actions, featuring predicates such as `is_container(a)`, `in(a, b)` and `has_water(a)`. It also imposes constraints such as the only way to fill a large container (*e.g.*, a pot) with water is by using a cup.

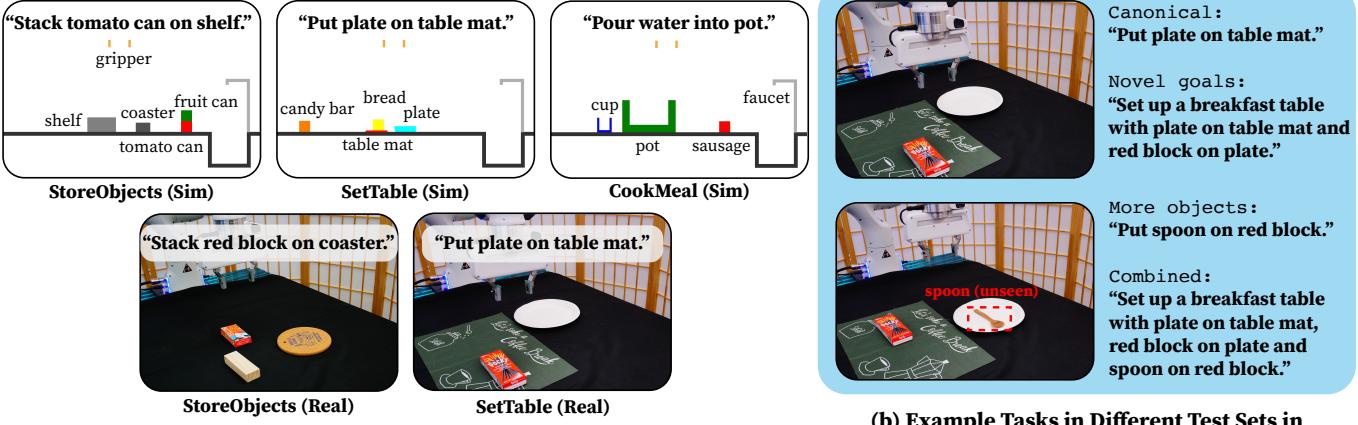
2) *Baselines:* As there are no prior methods that learn predicates from human language feedback for planning, we compare InterPreT with state-of-the-art LLM-based planners.

(i) **Inner Monologue (IM)**[8] generates action plans based on textualized environment states using an LLM. (ii) **Code-as-Policies (CaP)**[10] employs an LLM to generate policy code that invokes perception and action APIs. We also implement variants of IM that incorporate predicates and operators learned with InterPreT. For a fair comparison, all baselines access the environment state through perception APIs and learn from in-context examples.

- **IM + Object** [8]: A naive IM variant that utilizes the textualized output of perception APIs, *e.g.*, detected objects with positions and categories, as the environment state.
- **IM + Object + Scene** [8]: An IM variant that uses environment states augmented by scene descriptions, obtained using predicates learned by InterPreT.
- **IM + Object + Scene + Precond** [8]: An IM variant that leverages the operators learned with InterPreT to check the precondition of actions proposed by IM. Infeasible actions are prompted back to the LLM for replanning.
- **CaP** [10]: A strong CaP baseline that performs precondition checks using “assertion” or if-else statements (akin to ProgPrompt[9]) and hierarchically composes policies for long-horizon planning. We have it generate predicate functions for precondition checks.

3) *Evaluation protocol:* We adopt a train-then-test evaluation workflow for all domains. For each domain, the robot first learns from a series of 10 simple training tasks accompanied by language feedback. For testing, we design four sets of tasks (10 tasks per set) that pose different levels of challenge to the generalizability of the methods. We present example tasks in different test sets of the real-world SetTable domain in Fig. 3(b).

- **Canonical:** Simple tasks with objects and goals seen in training but with different initial configurations.
- **More objects:** Simple tasks with seen goals but involve additional unseen objects.
- **Novel goals:** Complex tasks with seen objects but



(a) Simulated and Real-world Domains with Example Simple Tasks

(b) Example Tasks in Different Test Sets in Real-world SetTable Domain

Fig. 3: Simulated and real-world domains used in the experiments. We show example training tasks of all five domains in (a) and demonstrate the design of the 4 test sets in the real-world SetTable domain in (b). In More objects and Combined, an unseen object “spoon” introduces additional generalization challenges.

novel goals that compose goals seen in training tasks.

- Combined: Complex tasks with unseen objects and goals, combining the last two setups.

We evaluate the performance of all methods using the success rate on the 10 tasks of each test set. In simulation, we conduct systematic evaluations by running the whole training-testing pipeline 3 times with varied seeds. We directly terminate the episode upon action failure for all methods.

Domain	Goal Predicates	Precondition Predicates
StoreObjects	<code>obj_on_obj(a, b)</code> , <code>obj_on_table(a)</code>	<code>obj_graspable(a)</code> , <code>obj_clear(a)</code> , <code>gripper_empty()</code>
SetTable	<code>obj_on_obj(a, b)</code> , <code>obj_on_table(a)</code>	<code>obj_graspable(a)</code> , <code>obj_clear(a)</code> , <code>gripper_empty()</code> , <code>obj_is_plate(a)</code> , <code>obj_thin_enough(a)</code>
CookMeal	<code>obj_inside_obj(a, b)</code> , <code>obj_on_table(a)</code> , <code>obj_filled_with_water(a)</code>	<code>obj_graspable(a)</code> , <code>obj_clear(a)</code> , <code>gripper_empty()</code> , <code>obj_is_plate(a)</code> , <code>obj_thin_enough(a)</code> , <code>obj_large_enough(a)</code> , <code>obj_is_food(a)</code> , <code>obj_is_container(a)</code>

TABLE I: Learned goal and precondition predicates in simulated domains. We report the union of the three runs. While we learn both the positive predicate and its negated counterpart, we only show the positive ones here for clarity. We adjust some of the predicate names to unify them across domains and runs for better readability.

B. Experimental results

1) Qualitative analysis: We answer Question (i) by qualitatively analyzing the predicates and operators learned by InterPreT in the simulated domains. The full details of the learned predicate functions and operators are included in the supplementary material. Table I shows InterPreT can effectively learn language-grounded and semantically meaningful goal and precondition predicates in all three domains. We

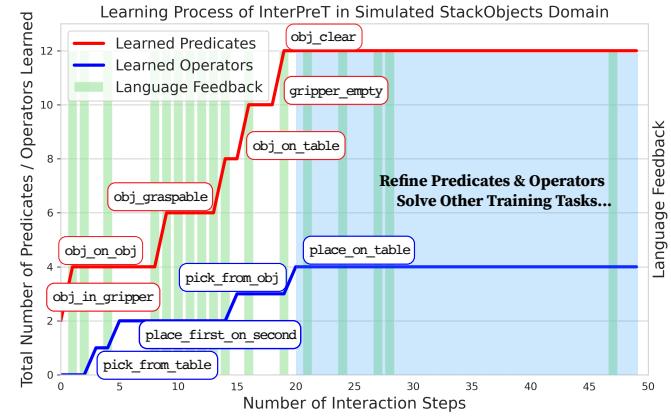


Fig. 4: Visualization of one training run in simulated StoreObjects domain. The total number of learned predicates increases by 2 for each labeled predicate as we also learn its negation. We provide the predicate function of `obj_in_gripper` as an in-context example, known at Step 0. We empirically label the learned operators with semantic names based on their interpreted meanings.

report the union of learned predicates over three runs; we observe that the learned predicates are generally consistent across the runs. Specifically, InterPreT successfully learns goal predicates that acquire the desired task outcomes, such as “fruit can on shelf” and “plate on table” in StoreObjects and SetTable domains and “sausage in pot” and “cup is filled” in CookMeal domain. The learned precondition predicates acutely capture the essential task constraints, such as “fruit can only be picked up when there is nothing on its top”, and “water can only be poured into a container”. These well-learned predicates necessarily build the foundations for learning good operators.

We conduct a case study on one training run in the StoreObjects domain. Fig. 4 visualizes the process of learning new predicates and operators (represented as red and blue lines, respectively) while provided with intermittent language

Domain	Test Set	IM + Object [8]	IM + Object + Scene [8]	IM + Object + Scene + Precond [8]	CaP [10]	InterPreT (Ours)
StoreObjects	Canonical	0.60 ± 0.00	0.90 ± 0.00	1.00 ± 0.00	1.00 ± 0.00	0.93 ± 0.12
	More objects	0.30 ± 0.00	0.83 ± 0.06	1.00 ± 0.00	0.83 ± 0.15	0.90 ± 0.17
	Novel goals	0.00 ± 0.00	0.87 ± 0.15	0.97 ± 0.06	0.53 ± 0.21	1.00 ± 0.00
	Combined	0.00 ± 0.00	0.77 ± 0.06	0.87 ± 0.15	0.03 ± 0.06	1.00 ± 0.00
SetTable	Canonical	0.80 ± 0.10	0.80 ± 0.10	1.00 ± 0.00	0.87 ± 0.06	1.00 ± 0.00
	More objects	0.73 ± 0.06	0.83 ± 0.12	1.00 ± 0.00	0.73 ± 0.15	1.00 ± 0.00
	Novel goals	0.00 ± 0.00	0.10 ± 0.10	0.53 ± 0.33	0.77 ± 0.25	0.53 ± 0.41
	Combined	0.00 ± 0.00	0.03 ± 0.05	0.20 ± 0.16	0.33 ± 0.15	0.37 ± 0.45
CookMeal	Canonical	0.90 ± 0.00	1.00 ± 0.00	1.00 ± 0.00	0.97 ± 0.06	0.97 ± 0.06
	More objects	1.00 ± 0.00	1.00 ± 0.00	1.00 ± 0.00	0.93 ± 0.06	1.00 ± 0.00
	Novel goals	0.97 ± 0.06	0.93 ± 0.06	1.00 ± 0.00	1.00 ± 0.00	1.00 ± 0.00
	Combined	0.00 ± 0.00	0.23 ± 0.15	0.97 ± 0.06	0.77 ± 0.12	0.83 ± 0.12
Average success rate over Combined		0.00	0.34	0.68	0.38	0.73

TABLE II: **Systematic evaluations of the methods on all test sets in simulated domains.** We highlight our method in deep gray and baselines that benefit from our learned predicates and/or operators in light grey. InterPreT achieves a 73% success rate in the most challenging Combined test set, outperforming all baselines by a large margin.

feedback (indicated by light green bars). Note that feedback less important for predicate learning, *i.e.*, signaling task success or feasible action, are omitted in the figure for clarity. We observe that InterPreT is able to explore effectively and acquire all predicates in 20 steps of interaction. Based on the predicates learned, InterPreT sequentially learns four operators that exhibit clear semantic meaning. Notably, it recovers two operators `pick_from_table` and `place_on_table` for the same primitive action `place_up` that is executed in different contexts. As the robot blindly explores the domain with inadequate knowledge and continuously proposes infeasible actions, dense language feedback is provided to explain precondition violations in Steps 8-20. Once InterPreT captures all action preconditions, the robot can freely navigate the environment without human intervention. Fig. 4 shows that all predicates and operators are properly initialized at Step 20 and are further corrected and refined in subsequent interactions.

2) *Evaluating planning and generalization:* We systematically evaluate the planning performance of all methods on the four test sets for each simulated domain. Table II presents the full results, demonstrating the strong generalizability of InterPreT when planning with a classical planner [18]. Note that several baselines utilize predicates and operators learned with InterPreT; their results are shown in light gray, while InterPreT’s results are in dark gray. InterPreT achieves success rates over 90% on most test sets. On the challenging Combined test set, which requires strong compositional generalizability, it attains an average success rate of 73%, substantially outperforming IM variants (IM + Object, IM + Object + Scene, and IM + Object + Scene + Precond) by 73%, 39%, and 5%, respectively, and the CaP baseline by 35%.

We find the predicates and operators learned with InterPreT enable significantly improved generalization in planning, by providing meaningful relational abstractions and explicit transition modeling. The naive IM variant (IM + Object) struggles to generalize with only textualized state descriptions, solv-

ing 0% of Combined tasks. However, augmenting states with predicates learned by InterPreT (IM + Object + Scene) boosts the success rate on Combined tasks from 0% to 34%. Further ensuring action validity using learned operators (IM + Object + Scene + Precond) rivals InterPreT at 68% average success. This hybrid approach benefits from combining world knowledge in the LLM with validity guarantees from operators. However, we observe that it sometimes fails to reach the goal within the maximum number of steps due to frequent replanning. In contrast, InterPreT perform explicit PDDL planning with learned predicates and operators, and thus can generate optimal long-sequence plans with guarantee.

We demonstrate the importance of learning from language feedback by comparing InterPreT with CaP, a baseline that generates predicate functions for precondition checks and composes policies for long-horizon planning, but without leveraging language feedback. Although CaP can generate policy code with correct logic based on in-context examples, it occasionally fails to generate accurate predicate functions due to the lack of language supervision. This limitation becomes evident in CaP’s poor performance on Combined tasks in the StoreObjects and SetTable domains, which require precise predicate understanding for successful long-horizon planning. The superior performance of InterPreT in these challenging scenarios highlights the significant benefits of incorporating natural language supervision compared to CaP.

Furthermore, we explore the transferability of learned predicates to facilitate learning and planning in new domains. We investigate the unsatisfactory performance of InterPreT in the SetTable domain, and find that simultaneously learning predicates related to pick-and-place and push actions poses a significant challenge. To address this issue, we bootstrap the learning process with predicates acquired from simpler domains. Table III demonstrates that initializing InterPreT with predicates learned in the StoreObjects domain leads to near-perfect learning in the SetTable domain, achieving 100%

	From scratch	Bootstrapped
Canonical	1.00 ± 0.00	1.00 ± 0.00
More objects	1.00 ± 0.00	1.00 ± 0.00
Novel goals	0.53 ± 0.41	1.00 ± 0.00
Combined	0.37 ± 0.45	1.00 ± 0.00

TABLE III: **Bootstrapping predicate learning from previously learned predicates in similar domains.** Reusing predicates learned in StoreObjects leads to near-perfect predicate learning in SetTable. The transfer of predicates is natural as all predicate functions utilize the same Perception API functions.

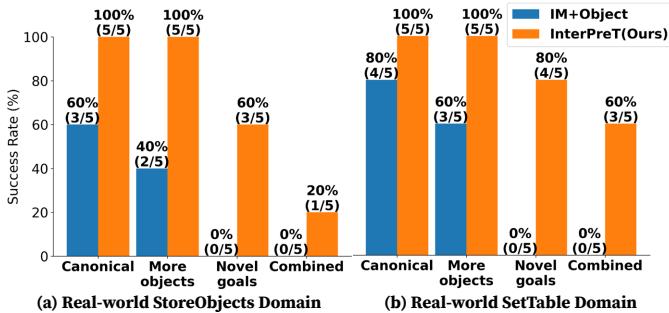


Fig. 5: **Real-robot evaluations in real-world StoreObjects and SetTable domains.** We train InterPreT once on 10 tasks and test on 5 tasks per test set. Note that the predicate learning in SetTable is bootstrapped from predicates learned in StoreObjects.

success across all test sets. This finding highlights the potential for reusing previously learned predicates to enhance learning efficiency and planning performance in complex domains.

3) *Real-robot results:* We evaluate InterPreT in the real-world StoreObjects and SetTable domains, compared to the vanilla IM + Object baseline [8]. We train InterPreT on 10 training tasks while a human user provides language feedback with a keyboard. We then test all methods on 5 test tasks per test set, with the success rates shown in Fig. 5. In the SetTable domain, we directly bootstrap the learning with predicates learned from StoreObjects, as the simulated results have already demonstrated the difficulty of learning from scratch in SetTable. The results indicate that InterPreT can effectively capture symbolic constraints and regularities in real-world settings where perception and execution uncertainties present. In contrast, the baseline struggles to generalize to novel task goals, highlighting the importance of the learned predicates and operators. We observe a severe performance drop for InterPreT in the StoreObjects domain under the Combined and Novel goals settings. We find that this is attributed to the increased occurrence of primitive action execution failures as the task horizon extends. Despite this, InterPreT still outperforms the baseline by a significant margin, achieving success rates of 60% and 20% in the Novel goals and Combined settings, respectively.

C. Additional Analysis and Discussions

1) *Runtime Analysis:* To gain insights into the computational efficiency of InterPreT, we measure its runtime in the simulated domains and provide a breakdown by stage in

Stage	Run time / Iteration			
	Median	Min	Max	
Training	Learn predicates	2.94 s	1.05 s	23.32 s
	Learn operators	32 ms	1 ms	97 ms
Testing	Translate goal	1.60 s	0.91 s	5.53 s
	Plan with PDDL	99 ms	75 ms	130 ms

TABLE IV: **Run time breakdown of InterPreT at different training and testing stages.** We show the median, minimum, and maximum values as the statistics are not normally distributed.

Domain	#LLM Calls	#Transitions	#Feedback
StoreObjects	22/31/23	54/75/90	17/26/18
SetTable	38/38/62	41/39/67	31/30/55
CookMeal	32/29/46	62/34/48	23/22/38

TABLE V: Number of LLM calls (#LLM Calls), successful state transitions collected (#Transitions), and language feedback provided (#Feedback) across the three runs in each domain.

Table IV. Due to the variability in runtime across different iterations, we report the median, minimum, and maximum values for a comprehensive overview. The results reveal that the GPT-4-powered predicate learning and goal translation stages constitute the primary computational bottleneck. This is expected as calling the GPT-4 API involves a relatively long waiting time, which is also significantly influenced by the quality of the Internet connection. However, we anticipate that response time will cease to be a limiting factor for LLMs in the near future, given the rapid advancements in the field.

We also present other relevant statistics in Table V, including the number of LLM calls, successful state transitions collected, and the amount of human feedback provided across three training runs for each domain. While these values exhibit considerable variation due to the inherent randomness in exploration and LLM outputs, InterPreT demonstrates the ability to recover a PDDL domain from a relatively small number of language feedback and interaction data. This highlights the sample efficiency of our approach, which is crucial for practical applications where extensive human feedback and interaction may be costly or time-consuming to obtain.

2) *Robustness to varied language feedback:* Natural language feedback from non-expert human users can be varied, with the same predicate being referred to in different ways. We evaluate the robustness of InterPreT to such varied feedback in the simulated StoreObjects domain by synthesizing diverse feedback templates. Using ChatGPT [68], we generate 3 alternatives for each possible feedback, which are randomly sampled during each training step. We conduct three training runs with this varied feedback and perform both qualitative and quantitative evaluations.

Table VI presents the predicates learned across the three runs, demonstrating that InterPreT robustly captures the essential goal and precondition predicates. As the goal specifications are generally consistent, InterPreT learns goal predicates with the same names in all runs. Despite the varied explanations of

	Run1	Run2	Run3
Goal Predicates	<code>obj_on_obj(a, b), obj_on_table(a)</code>	<code>obj_on_obj(a, b), obj_on_table(a)</code>	<code>obj_on_obj(a, b), obj_on_table(a)</code>
Precondition Predicates	<code>obj_small_enough(a), obj_clear(a), gripper_empty()</code>	<code>obj_size_ok_for_gripper(a), no_obj_on_top(a), hand_empty()</code>	<code>obj_small_enough_for_gripper(a), obj_free_of_objects(a), gripper_empty()</code>

TABLE VI: Learned predicates across three training runs with varied language feedback for the simulated StoreObjects domain.

	Run1	Run2	Run3
Canonical	1.00	1.00	1.00
More objects	1.00	1.00	1.00
Novel goals	1.00	1.00	1.00
Combined	1.00	1.00	1.00

TABLE VII: Evaluating InterPreT trained with varied language feedback for the simulated StoreObjects domain. We report the results of all three training runs.

precondition violations, InterPreT learns precondition predicates with different names but consistent semantics. Table VII shows that the predicates and operators learned from the varied feedback yield robust planning in all test sets. These results demonstrate InterPreT’s robustness to diverse language feedback, highlighting its ability to capture the underlying semantics despite variations in the feedback provided.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS

We present InterPreT, an interactive framework that enables robots to learn symbolic predicates and operators from language feedback during embodied interaction. InterPreT learns predicates as Python functions leveraging the capabilities of LLMs like GPT-4. It allows iterative correction of these learned predicate functions based on human feedback to capture the core knowledge for planning. The predicates and operators learned by InterPreT can be compiled on the fly as a PDDL domain, which enables effective task planning with a formal guarantee with a PDDL planner. Our results demonstrate that InterPreT can effectively acquire meaningful planning-oriented predicates, which allows learning operators to generalize to novel test tasks. In simulated domains, it achieves a 73% success rate on the most challenging test set that requires generalizability to more objects and novel task goals. We also show InterPreT can be applied in real-robot tasks. These findings validate our hypothesis that human-like planning proficiency requires interactive learning from rich language input, akin to infant development.

While showing promise, InterPreT has several limitations that we would like to acknowledge. First, the generalizable planning capability of InterPreT is realized by the learned symbolic operators. This introduces the assumption that the underlying domain can be well modeled at a symbolic level. This is generally not exact, as the physical world is inherently continuous. A promising future direction is to extend InterPreT into the setup of Task and Motion Planning (TAMP) [69], which considers both symbolic understanding and continuous

interactions. Also, the operators learned by InterPreT are deterministic, which falls short of capturing the uncertainty in state transitions. This issue can be mitigated by learning operators with probabilistic effects [22, 26].

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