How people learn

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It is well known that human learn by stepwise (Markovian) learning (or optimiza-

tion) [], but sometimes, when stuck, they tend to reset their beliefs []. This reset is

usually considered as a random move performed, in order to explore yet unknown

portions of the problem space []. Here, we show a more subtle view, with a con-

tinuum between Markovian learning and sharp exploration. Furthermore, random

exploration is actually not completely random, but rather involves a recombination

of solutions explored much further in the past.

INTRODUCTION

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