

Trustworthy Reinforcement Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable Decision- Making

Risk-Aware Decision- Making

Future Plans

Publications

Trustworthy Reinforcement Learning: Explainability and Risk-Awareness

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Amazon.com, WA, USA

Artificial Intelligence is the New Electricity

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Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

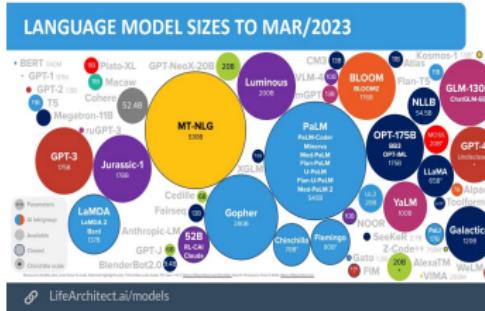
Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications



- Artificial Intelligence becomes ubiquitous.
- Ubiquitous ≠ Trustworthy!

Artificial Intelligence is the New Electricity

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications



Tesla Autopilot crash driver 'was playing video game'

(1) 26 February 2020



The driver of the Tesla Model X died shortly after the crash

REUTERS

- Artificial Intelligence becomes ubiquitous.
- Ubiquitous ≠ Trustworthy!
 - Why should I trust it?
 - When should I trust it?

Challenge I: Explainability

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications



- Why should I trust it?
- Explainability refers to understanding the predictions, decisions, and behaviors.

Challenge I: Explaining the Behaviors

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Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

■ Question:

How to explain agents' behaviors clearly?

Challenge I: Explaining the Behaviors

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

- Question:

How to explain agents' behaviors clearly?

- Default Answer:

- 1 Build a policy model.
- 2 Explain the model directly.
- 3 Done.



Challenge I: Explaining the Behaviors

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications



- Behaviors are highly uncertain.

Challenge I: Explaining the Behaviors

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications



- Behaviors are highly uncertain.
- Behaviors have long-term temporal dependencies.

Challenge I: Explaining the Behaviors

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications



- Behaviors are highly uncertain.
- Behaviors have long-term temporal dependencies.
- Behavior models are high-dimensional.

How to explain agents' behaviors clearly?

Challenge II: Risk-Awareness

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans
Publications

Tesla Autopilot crash driver 'was playing video game'

26 February 2020



The driver of the Tesla Model X died shortly after the crash

- When should I trust it?
- Risk refers to the volatility of future returns.

Challenge II: Risk-Awareness in Diverse Scenarios

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Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

■ Question:

How to ensure risk-awareness?

Challenge II: Risk-Awareness in Diverse Scenarios

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

- Question:
How to ensure risk-awareness?
- Default Answer:
 - 1 Read the risk-oblivious algorithm.
 - 2 Design a risk-aware version.
 - 3 Done.



Challenge II: Risk-Awareness in Diverse Scenarios

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications



The deadly triad

- The risk of divergence arises whenever we combine three things:

1. Function approximation

significantly generalizing from large numbers of examples

2. Bootstrapping

learning value estimates from other value estimates,
as in dynamic programming and temporal-difference learning

3. Off-policy learning

(Why is dynamic programming off-policy?)

learning about a policy from data not due to that policy,
as in Q-learning, where we learn about the greedy policy from
data with a necessarily more exploratory policy

■ Diverse decision-making scenarios.

- 1 Online vs. Offline
- 2 Bootstrap vs. Monte-Carlo
- 3 Tabular vs. Function Approximation (e.g., DNNs)
- 4 Sequential vs. Non-sequential (i.e., Bandits)
- 5 Markovian vs. Non-Markovian
- 6 ... and many more ...

Challenge II: Risk-Awareness in Diverse Scenarios

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications

Algorithm	Description	Policy	Action space	State space	Operator
DDPG	Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient	Off-policy	Continuous	Continuous	Action-value
A3C	Asynchronous Advantage Actor-Critic Algorithm	On-policy	Discrete	Continuous	Advantage (=action-value - state-value)
TRPO	Trust Region Policy Optimization	On-policy	Continuous or Discrete	Continuous	Advantage
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SAC	Soft Actor-Critic	Off-policy	Continuous	Continuous	Advantage
DSAC ^{[1][2][3]}	Distributional Soft Actor Critic	Off-policy	Continuous	Continuous	Action-value distribution

- Diverse decision-making scenarios.
- Diverse fundamentally different algorithms.
- Significant nontransferable effort to “robustify” each algorithm.

How to ensure risk-awareness across diverse scenarios?

Summary of Challenges

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

- How to explain agents' behaviors clearly?
- How to ensure risk-awareness across diverse scenarios?

Background: Reinforcement Learning

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

Agent



Environment



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Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

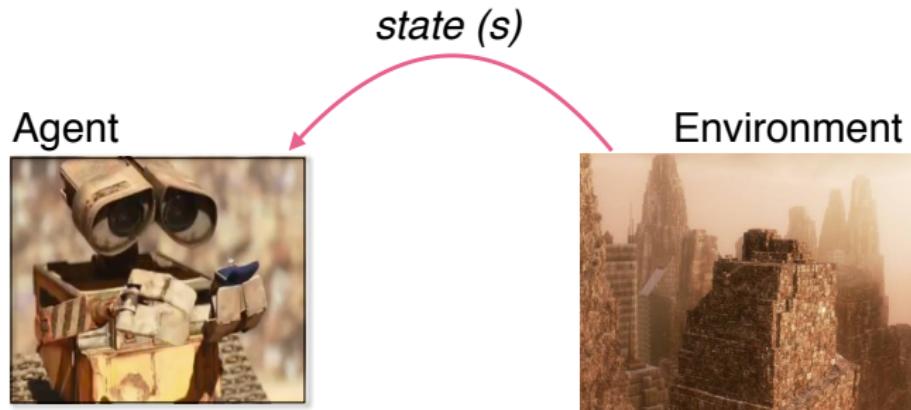
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications



Background: Reinforcement Learning

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

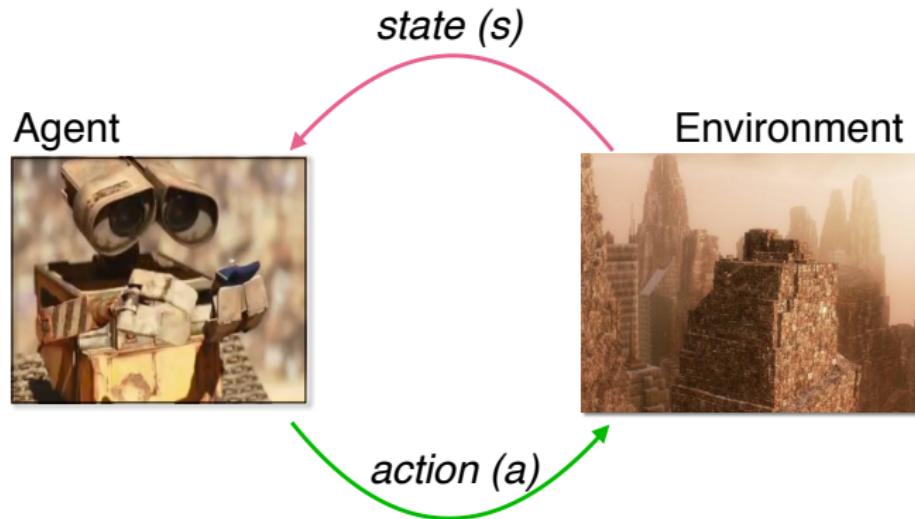
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications



Background: Reinforcement Learning

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

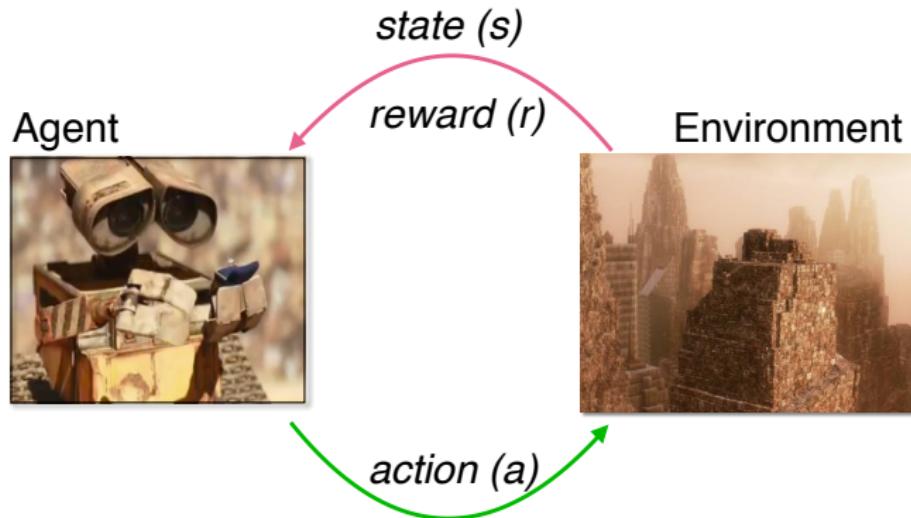
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications



Background: Reinforcement Learning

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

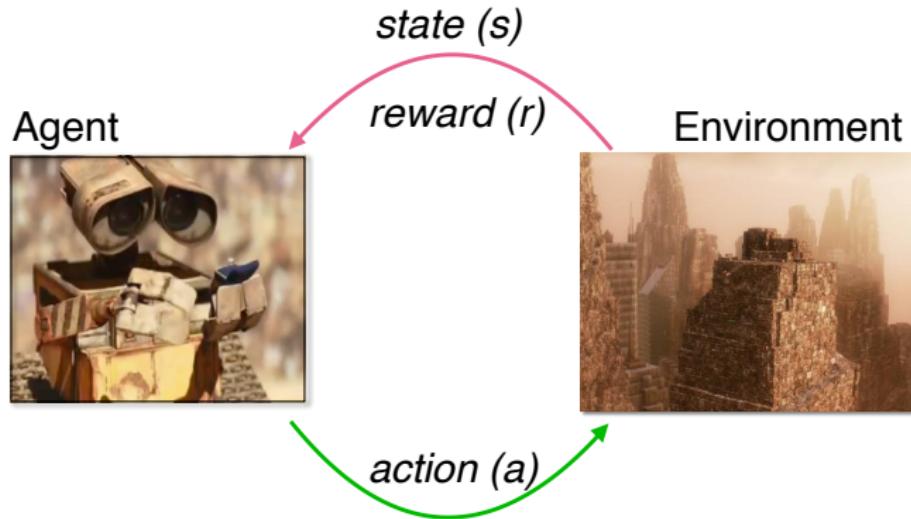
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications



- The goal of **Reinforcement Learning (RL)** is to learn a policy $\pi : \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{A} \mapsto [0, 1]$ that maximizes $J(\pi) := \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[R]$, where R is the *cumulative rewards*.

$$R := \sum_{i=0}^{\tau} \gamma^i r_{s_i, a_i}$$

Examples: Reinforcement Learning in Robotics

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges
Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds
Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

Robotics

- **State:** vector about the robot's current configuration.
- **Action:** how to move each joint.
- **Reward:** +1 if flip is successful; 0 if pancake falls off the pan.



(Kormushev et al., IROS 2010)

Examples: Reinforcement Learning in Games

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Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications

AlphaGo

- **State:** current board configuration and game context.
- **Action:** selection of a move on the board.
- **Reward:** $+1$ for winning, -1 for losing; 0 otherwise.



(Silver et al., Nature 2016)

Examples: Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback

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Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications

Large Language Models (LLMs)

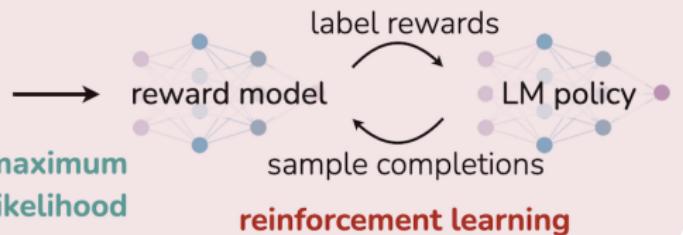
- **State:** vector by tokenizing the prompt.
- **Action:** the response to the given prompt.
- **Preference:** human-provided pairwise comparisons or list-wise rankings of the responses.
- **Reward:** A reward model is learned from the preferences.

Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback (RLHF)

x: "write me a poem about
the history of jazz"



maximum
likelihood



(Rafailov et al., NeurIPS 2023)

Core Problems: Diverse Scenarios of RL

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Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications



The deadly triad

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3. Off-policy learning (Why is dynamic programming off-policy?)

learning about a policy from data not due to that policy,
as in Q-learning, where we learn about the greedy policy from
data with a necessarily more exploratory policy

- RL has diverse scenarios.
- Diverse scenarios lead to diverse algorithms.

Algorithm	Description	Policy	Action space	State space	Operator
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Core Problems: Universal Tasks of RL

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Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications

Two basic learning tasks of RL are for any scenarios and algorithms.

- **Policy Evaluation (PE)** is to *evaluate* π

$$\mathbb{E}_\pi[R] = \frac{1}{(1 - \gamma)} \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}]$$

- **Policy Optimization (PO)** is to *improve* π

$$\pi^* = \arg \max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_\pi[R] = \arg \max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}].$$

- Both are about the policy π !

Challenge I: Explaining the Behaviors

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

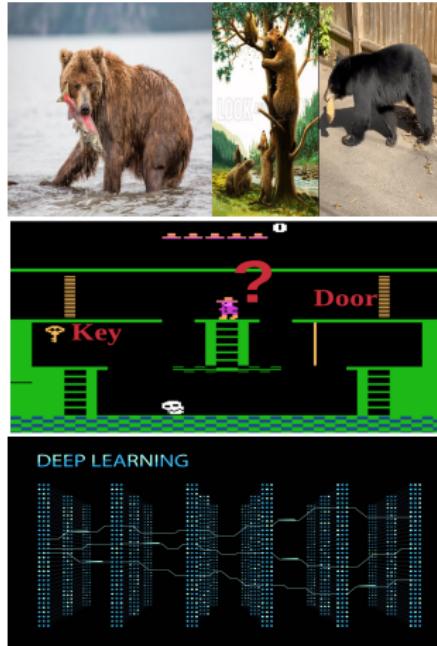
Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications



- Behaviors are highly uncertain.
- Behaviors have long-term temporal dependencies.
- Behavior models are high-dimensional.

Challenge I: Explaining the Behaviors

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

Question:

- How to explain agents' behaviors?

Research Motif:

- **Clear tasks, clear deeds.**

TERL: Task-Level Explainable Reinforcement Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

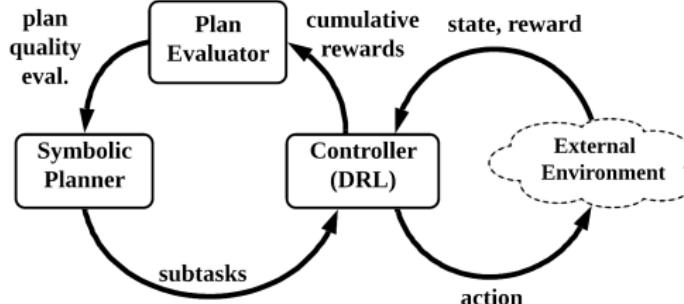
Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications



- **Symbolic Planner:** orchestrates a sequence of *subtasks* via a symbolic plan.
- **Controller:** fulfills each subtask.
- **Plan Evaluator:** evaluates the plan's rewarding level.

Task Discovery: Construct Subtasks

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Reinforcement
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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

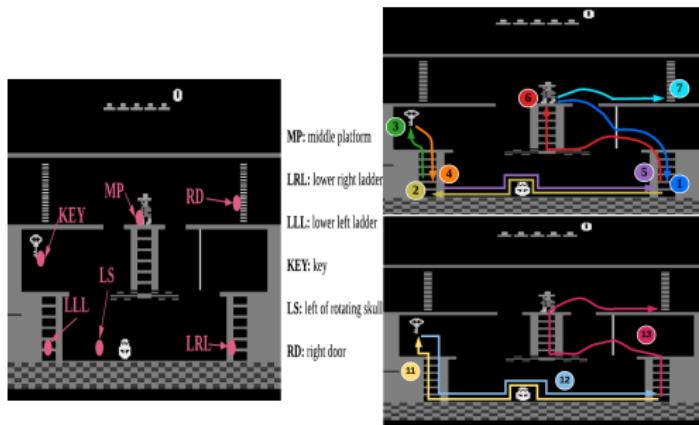
Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

- A subtask dictionary is constructed containing **intuitive** subtasks.

- 1 Location identification via bounding-box segmentation.
- 2 Connecting different locations.
- 3 Symbolic AI for subtask representation.



No.	subtask
1	MP to LRL, no key
2	LRL to LLL, no key
3	LLL to key, no key
4	key to LLL, with key
5	LLL to LRL, with or without key
6	LRL to MP, with or without key
7	MP to RD, with key
8	LRL to LS, with or without key
9	LS to key, with or without key
10	MP to RD, no key
11	LRL to key, with or without key
12	key to LRL, with key
13	LRL to RD, with key

Symbolic Planner: Generate a Plan

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

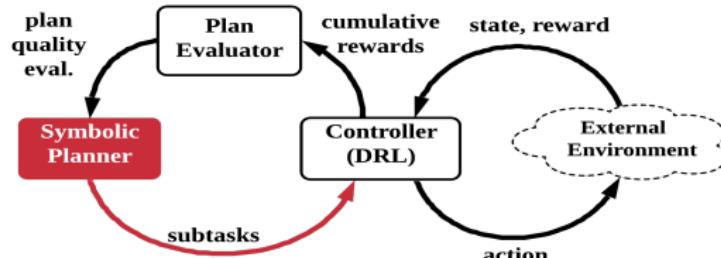
Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

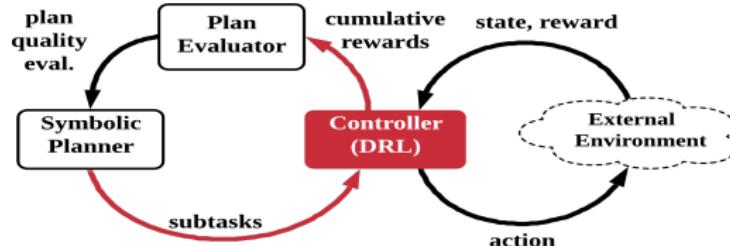
Future Plans

Publications



- A **plan** is a sequence of several subtasks.
- At the t -th iteration, Symbolic Planner generates a new plan Φ_t that
 - **explores** new subtasks,
 - **exploits** more rewarding subtasks.

Controller: Fulfill Subtasks of a Plan



- DRL Controller learns to fulfill subtasks and adapts to uncertainties.
- Any off-the-shelf RL model can be adopted.
- For the i -th subtask g_i , **cumulative rewards** R_i and **success ratio** ϵ_i measure the rewarding level and “hardness”. E.g., given a threshold,

$$R_i \leftarrow \begin{cases} 0 & \epsilon_i < \text{threshold} \\ R_i & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications

Controller: Fulfill Subtasks of a Plan

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

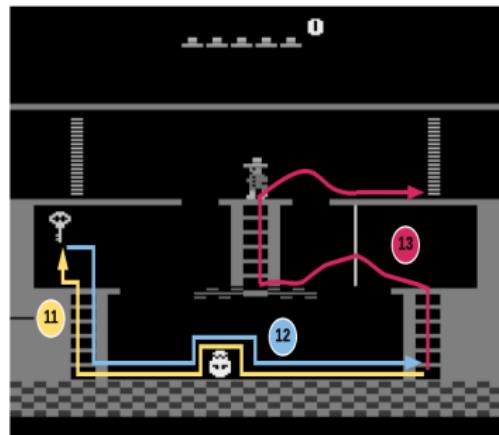
Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

- DRL controller prunes **infeasible** subtasks.

No.	subtask	policy learned	in optimal plan
1	MP to LRL, no key	✓	✓
2	LRL to LLL, no key	✓	✓
3	LLL to key, no key	✓	✓
4	key to LLL, with key	✓	✓
5	LLL to LRL, with or without key	✓	✓
6	LRL to MP, with or without key	✓	✓
7	MP to RD, with key	✓	✓
8	LRL to LS, with or without key	✓	
9	LS to key, with or without key	✓	
10	RD to MP, no key	✓	
11	LRL to key, with or without key		
12	key to LRL, with key		
13	LRL to RD, with key		



Plan Evaluator: Evaluate a Plan

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

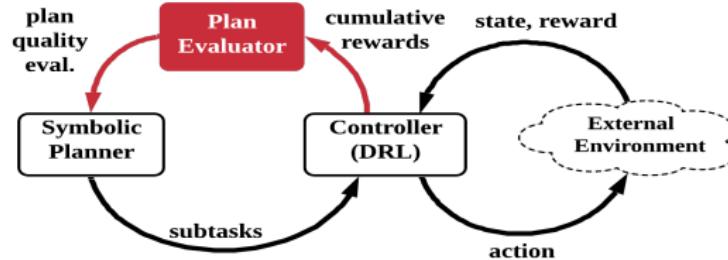
Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications



- Plan Evaluator evaluates the plan Φ_t ,

$$\text{Evaluation}(\Phi_t) = \sum_{g_i \in \Phi_t} R_i.$$

Symbolic Planner + Plan Evaluator

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Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

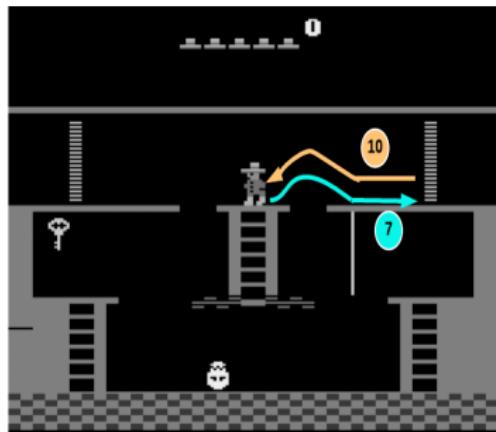
Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

- DRL controller prunes infeasible tasks.
- Symbolic planner and plan evaluator jointly prune non-essential subtasks, i.e., **irrelevant** and redundant.

No.	subtask	policy learned	in optimal plan
1	MP to LRL, no key	✓	✓
2	LRL to LLL, no key	✓	✓
3	LLL to key, no key	✓	✓
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Symbolic Planner + Plan Evaluator

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Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

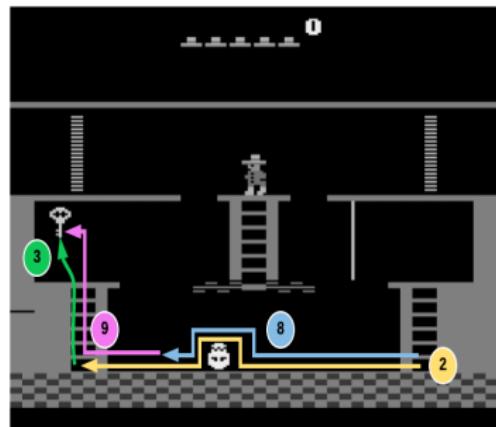
Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

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Experimental Results

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

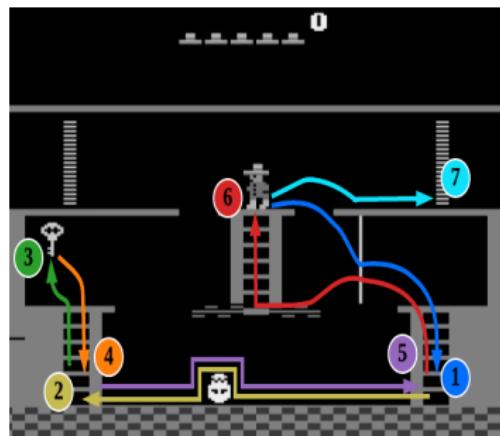
Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

- DRL controller prunes infeasible tasks.
- Symbolic planner and plan evaluator jointly prune non-essential subtasks, i.e., irrelevant and redundant.
- The final plan's subtasks are **intuitive, feasible, and essential!**

No.	subtask	policy learned	in optimal plan
1	MP to LRL, no key	✓	✓
2	LRL to LLL, no key	✓	✓
3	LLL to key, no key	✓	✓
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Experimental Results

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

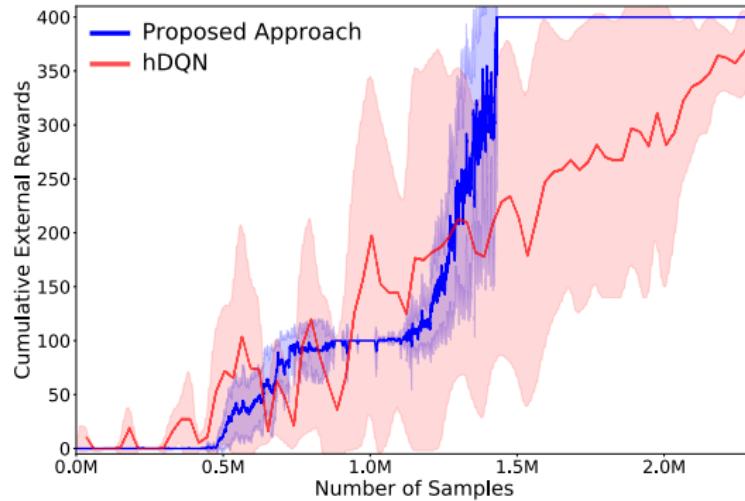
Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

- TERL saves more than 0.5 million training samples compared with hDQN.
- TERL can greatly reduce the variance.



Ongoing: LLM-Aided Task Discovery

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Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples

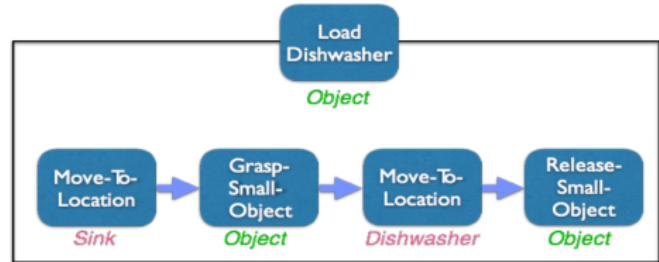
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications



Different methods for subtask discovery:

- Vision-based location segmentation.
- Transformer-based tokenization + time series change-point.
- LLM for subtask description.

Highlights

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges
Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds
Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications

Task-level Explainable RL (TERL)

[IJCAI'18, AAAI'19, ICLP'19, IEEE-TETCI'21, IEEE-TNNLS'23, CISS'2023, Liu].

- Question: How to explain agents' behaviors?
- Research motif: **Clear tasks, clear deeds.**
- Key ingredient: Neuro-symbolic AI for data-efficiency and explainability.
- Key ingredient: Task-level explainability.

Impacts

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

■ Inspiring later research:

Learning Neuro-Symbolic Skills for Bilevel Planning

Tom Silver, Ashay Athalye
Joshua B. Tenenbaum, Tomás Lozano-Pérez, Leslie Pack Kaelbling
MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory
(tsilver, ashay, jbt, tlp, lpk)@mit.edu

iCORPP: Interleaved Commonsense Reasoning and Probabilistic
Planning on Robots

Shipu Zhang^a, Piyush Khadekwal^b and Peter Stone^b

^aThe State University of New York at Binghamton, 4400 Vestal Parkway East, Binghamton, 13903, NY, USA
^bSony AI, Sony Corporation of America, 25 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010, USA
^cThe University of Texas at Austin, 2117 Speedway Stop D6800, Austin, 78712, TX, USA

Deep Explainable Relational Reinforcement Learning: A Neuro-Symbolic Approach

Rishi Haars¹  and Luc De Raedt^{1,2}

¹ Centre for Applied Autonomous Sensor Systems (AASS),
Örebro University, Sweden

² Department of Computer Science, KU Leuven, Belgium
(rishi.haars, luc.de-raedt)@kuleuven.be

■ Featured in surveys:

- *Neural Networks.*
- *AI Magazine.*
- *ACM Computing Surveys.*
- ...

Challenge II: Risk-Awareness in Diverse Scenarios

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications



The deadly triad

- The risk of divergence arises whenever we combine three things:
 1. Function approximation
 - significantly generalizing from large numbers of examples
 2. Bootstrapping
 - learning value estimates from other value estimates,
as in dynamic programming and temporal-difference learning
 3. Off-policy learning (Why is dynamic programming off-policy?)
 - learning about a policy from data not due to that policy,
as in Q-learning, where we learn about the greedy policy from
data with a necessarily more exploratory policy

- RL has diverse scenarios.
- Diverse scenarios lead to diverse risk-oblivious algorithms.

Algorithm	Description	Policy	Action space	State space	Operator
DDPG	Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient	Off-policy	Continuous	Continuous	Action-value
A3C	Asynchronous Advantage Actor-Critic Algorithm	On-policy	Discrete	Continuous	Advantage (=action-value - state-value)
TRPO	Trust Region Policy Optimization	On-policy	Continuous or Discrete	Continuous	Advantage
PPO	Proximal Policy Optimization	On-policy	Continuous or Discrete	Continuous	Advantage
TD3	Twin Delayed Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient	Off-policy	Continuous	Continuous	Action-value
SAC	Soft Actor-Critic	Off-policy	Continuous	Continuous	Advantage
DSAC ^{[1][2]}	Distributional Soft Actor Critic	Off-policy	Continuous	Continuous	Action-value distribution

Challenge II: Risk-Awareness in Diverse Scenarios

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

Question:

- How to ensure risk-awareness across diverse scenarios?

Research Motif:

- **Risk-oblivious + “Universally Robustified” = Risk-aware**



Mean Optimization

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Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

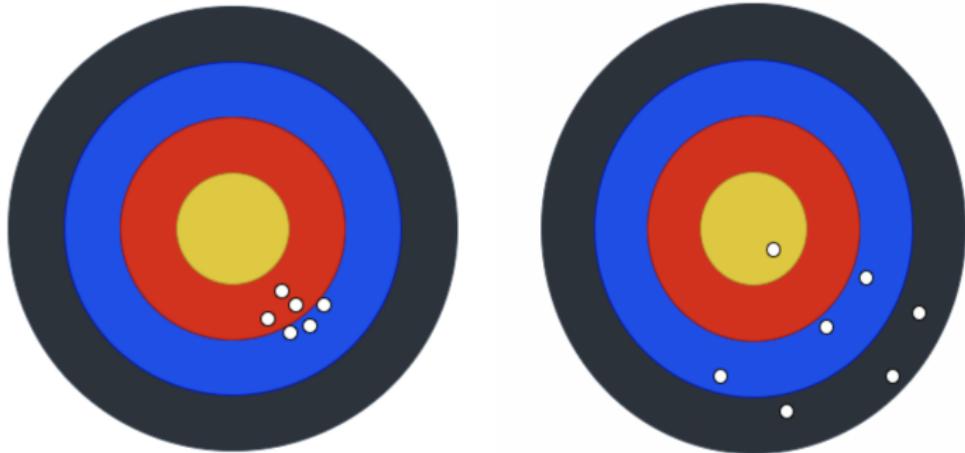
Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

- $R := \sum_{i=0}^{\tau} \gamma^i r_{s_i, a_i}$. There is $\mathbb{E}_{\pi}[R] = \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)} \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[r_{s,a}]$.
- Conventional RL is Mean-Optimization
 $\max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[R] \sim \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[r_{s,a}]$.



Mean-Variance Optimization

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Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

- $R := \sum_{i=0}^{\tau} \gamma^i r_{s_i, a_i}$. There is $\mathbb{E}_{\pi}[R] = \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)} \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[r_{s,a}]$.
- Conventional RL is Mean-Optimization
 $\max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[R] \sim \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[r_{s,a}]$.
- Mean-Variance Optimization

$$\max_{\pi} J_{\lambda}(\pi) := \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[r_{s,a}] - \lambda \text{Var}_{\pi}(r_{s,a}),$$

where $\lambda \geq 0$ is a variance-controlling hyper-parameter.

- **Variance reflects volatility and risks.**

A Duality Perspective of Mean-Variance

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

- $J_\lambda(\pi)$ is

$$\begin{aligned} J_\lambda(\pi) &= \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}] - \lambda \text{Var}_\pi(r_{s,a}) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}] - \lambda \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}^2] + \lambda (\mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}])^2 \end{aligned}$$

A Duality Perspective of Mean-Variance

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications

- $J_\lambda(\pi)$ is

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- Use the fact $\forall x, x^2 = \max_y (2xy - y^2)$ and let $x = \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}]$,

$$\begin{aligned} J_\lambda(\pi) &= \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}] - \lambda \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}^2] + \lambda \max_y (2\mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}]y - y^2) \\ &= \max_y \underbrace{\left(\mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}] - \lambda \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}^2] + \lambda (2\mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}]y - y^2) \right)}_{J_\lambda(\pi, y)} \end{aligned}$$

A Duality Perspective of Mean-Variance

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

- Now $J_\lambda(\pi) = \max_y J_\lambda(\pi, y)$, where

$$J_\lambda(\pi, y) := \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}] - \lambda \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}^2] + \lambda(2\mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}]y - y^2)$$

Coordinate-Maximization

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Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

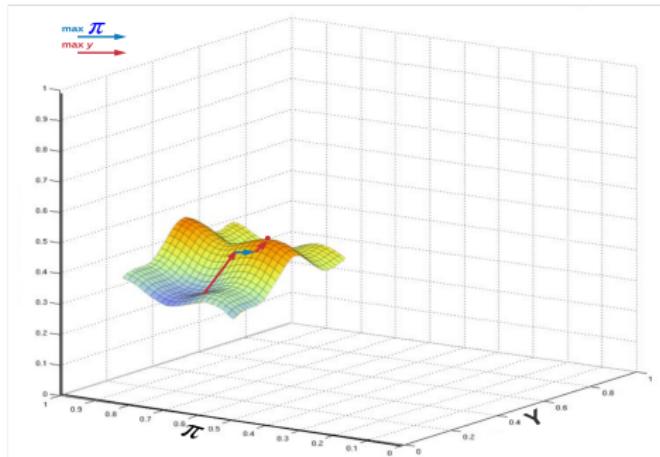
Future Plans

Publications

- *Coordinate-Maximization* alternates optimization among variables (i.e., coordinates).

$$y_{t+1} = \arg \max_y J_\lambda(\pi_t, y),$$

$$\pi_{t+1} = \arg \max_\pi J_\lambda(\pi, y_{t+1}).$$



- Sub-problems are much lower-dimensional!
- Sub-problems may be well-studied already!

Mean-Variance Policy Iteration (Meta-algorithm)

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning
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Challenges
Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds
Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans
Publications

$$\max_{\pi, y} J_\lambda(\pi, y) = \underbrace{-\lambda}_{A} y^2 + \underbrace{2\lambda \mathbb{E}_\pi [r_{s,a}] y + \mathbb{E}_\pi [r_{s,a} - \lambda r_{s,a}^2]}_{B}$$

Algorithm: MVPI (Meta-algorithm)

for $t = 1, \dots$ **do**

Step 1: $y_{t+1} = \arg \max_y J_\lambda(\pi_t, y)$

Step 2: $\pi_{t+1} = \arg \max_\pi J_\lambda(\pi, y_{t+1})$

Mean-Variance Policy Iteration (Meta-algorithm)

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning
Bo Liu

Challenges
Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds
Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans
Publications

$$\max_{\pi, y} J_\lambda(\pi, y) = \underbrace{-\lambda}_{A} y^2 + \underbrace{2\lambda \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}] y + \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a} - \lambda r_{s,a}^2]}_{B}$$

$$\arg \max_y J_\lambda(\pi, y) = -\frac{B}{2A} = \mathbb{E}_{\pi_t}[r_{s,a}]$$

Algorithm: MVPI (Meta-algorithm)

for $t = 1, \dots$ **do**

Step 1: $y_{t+1} = \arg \max_y J_\lambda(\pi_t, y) = \mathbb{E}_{\pi_t}[r_{s,a}]$

Step 2: $\pi_{t+1} = \arg \max_\pi J_\lambda(\pi, y_{t+1})$

Background: Universal Tasks of RL

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications

Two basic learning tasks of RL are for any scenarios and algorithms.

- **Policy Evaluation (PE)** is to *evaluate* π

$$\mathbb{E}_\pi[R] = \frac{1}{(1 - \gamma)} \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}]$$

- **Policy Optimization (PO)** is to *improve* π

$$\pi^* = \arg \max_\pi \mathbb{E}_\pi[R] = \arg \max_\pi \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}].$$

- Both are about the policy π !

Mean-Variance Policy Iteration (Meta-algorithm)

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges
Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds
Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications

$$\max_{\pi, y} J_\lambda(\pi, y) = \underbrace{-\lambda}_{A} y^2 + \underbrace{2\lambda \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a}] y + \mathbb{E}_\pi[r_{s,a} - \lambda r_{s,a}^2]}_{B}$$

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Algorithm: MVPI (Meta-algorithm)

for $t = 1, \dots$ **do**

Step 1: $y_{t+1} = \arg \max_y J_\lambda(\pi_t, y) = \mathbb{E}_{\pi_t}[r_{s,a}]$
 $= (1 - \gamma) \mathbb{E}_\pi[R] = (1 - \gamma) \text{PE}(\pi_t)$

Plug&play any policy evaluation (PE).

Step 2: $\pi_{t+1} = \arg \max_\pi J_\lambda(\pi, y_{t+1})$

Mean-Variance Policy Iteration (Meta-algorithm)

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges
Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds
Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans
Publications

$$\max_{\pi, y} J_\lambda(\pi, y) = \mathbb{E}_\pi \left[\underbrace{r_{s,a} - \lambda r_{s,a}^2 + 2\lambda r_{s,a}y}_{\bar{r}_{s,a}(y)} \right] - \lambda y^2.$$

Algorithm: MVPI (Meta-algorithm)

for $t = 1, \dots$ **do**

Step 1: $y_{t+1} = (1 - \gamma) \mathbf{PE}(\pi_t)$

Plug&play any policy evaluation (PE).

Step 2: $\pi_{t+1} = \arg \max_\pi J_\lambda(\pi, y_{t+1})$

$= \arg \max_\pi \mathbb{E}_\pi [\bar{r}_{s,a}(y_{t+1})]$

Background: Universal Tasks of RL

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications

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- Both are about the policy π !

Mean-Variance Policy Iteration (Meta-algorithm)

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning
Bo Liu

Challenges
Explainability
Risk-Awareness
Backgrounds
Definitions
Examples
Core Problems
Explainable
Decision-Making
Risk-Aware
Decision-Making
Future Plans
Publications

$$\max_{\pi, y} J_\lambda(\pi, y) = \mathbb{E}_\pi \left[\underbrace{r_{s,a} - \lambda r_{s,a}^2 + 2\lambda r_{s,a}y}_{\bar{r}_{s,a}(y)} \right] - \lambda y^2.$$

Algorithm: MVPI (Meta-algorithm)

for $t = 1, \dots$ **do**

Step 1: $y_{t+1} = (1 - \gamma) \mathbf{PE}(\pi_t)$

Plug&play any policy evaluation (PE).

Step 2: $\pi_{t+1} = \arg \max_\pi J_\lambda(\pi, y_{t+1})$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \arg \max_\pi \mathbb{E}_\pi [\bar{r}_{s,a}(y_{t+1})] \\ &= \mathbf{PO}(y_{t+1}) \end{aligned}$$

Plug&play any policy optimization (PO).

From a Meta-Algorithm to (Many) Algorithms

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

General meta-algorithm:

Algorithm: MVPI (Meta-algorithm)

for $t = 1, \dots$ **do**

Step 1: $y_{t+1} = (1 - \gamma) \mathbf{PE}(\pi_t)$

Plug&play any policy evaluation (PE).

Step 2: $\pi_{t+1} = \mathbf{PO}(y_{t+1})$

Plug&play any policy optimization (PO).

From a Meta-Algorithm to (Many) Algorithms

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications

An example algorithm:

Algorithm: Mean-Variance Proximal Policy Optimization

for $t = 1, \dots$ **do**

Step 1: $y_{t+1} = (1 - \gamma)\mathbf{PE}(\pi_t)$

Plug&play Backward-TD method. [AAAI'24, Liu]

Step 2: $\pi_{t+1} = \mathbf{PO}(y_{t+1})$

Plug&play Proximal Policy Optimization (PPO).

Experimental Results

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

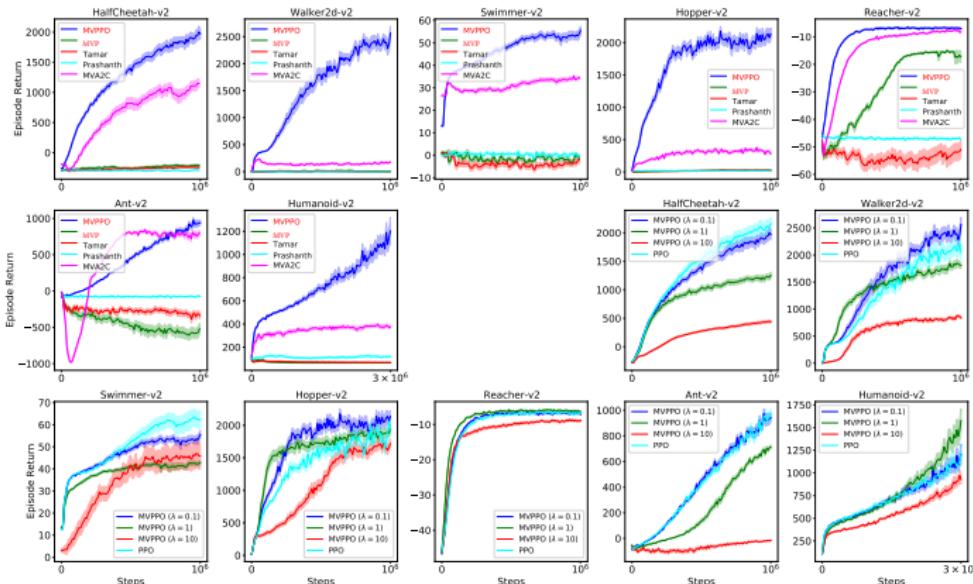
Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

- A better scalability compared with other risk-aware RL algorithms.
- A better variance control compared with vanilla risk-oblivious methods.



Highlights

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples

Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications

Mean-Variance Policy Iteration(MVP) [NeurIPS'2018,
JAIR'2018, ICML'2020a,b, AAAI'2021, AAMAS'2022,
AAAI'2024,Liu].

- **Question:** How to ensure risk-awareness across diverse scenarios?
- **Research motif:**
Risk-oblivious + “Universally Robustified” = Risk-aware
- **Key ingredient:** Coordinate-Maximization formulation.
- **Key ingredient:** Black-box plug&play!

Impacts

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-Making

Future Plans

Publications

■ Inspiring later research:

Average-Reward Off-Policy Policy Evaluation with Function Approximation

Shanglong Zhang^{1*}, Yi Wu^{1†}, Richard S. Sutton¹, Shlomo Whiteson¹

Risk-Aware Transfer in Reinforcement Learning using Successor Features

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Scott Sanner²
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cglee@cs.toronto.ca

An Alternative to Variance: Gini Deviation for Risk-averse Policy Gradient

Yiheong Luo^{1‡}, Gaofeng Liu¹, Pascal Poupart^{1,4}, Yonghui Pei¹,
¹University of Waterloo, ²Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen,
³University of Oxford, ⁴Venter Institute
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■ Featured in surveys:

- *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems (IEEE-TNNLS)*.
- *NeurIPS 2020 Tutorial by Sergy Levine (UC-Berkeley)*.
- *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (IEEE-TPAMI)*.
- ...

Future Plan: Explainable and Safe Autonomous Driving

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Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

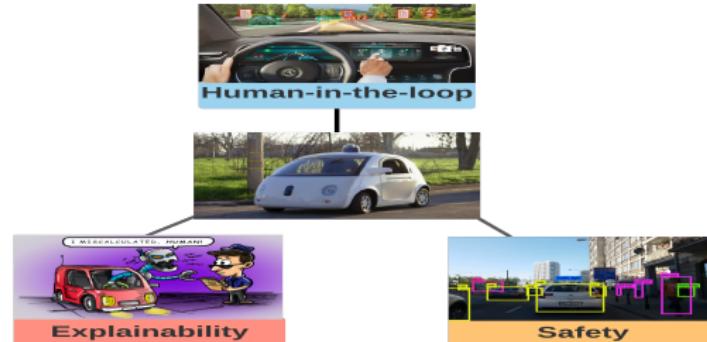
Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications



- **Explore** human-in-the-loop to improve understanding and safety.
- **Investigate** challenges such as human interventions, scalability, and real-time.
- **Apply** to ground-truth Advanced Driver-Assistance Systems (ADAS).

Future Plan: Trustworthy AI for Social Good

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications



- **Explore** privacy, personalization, and fairness.
- **Investigate** challenges such as LLM integration and multi-modality.
- **Apply** to precision healthcare, service robotics, etc.

Future Plan: Collective Embodied AI

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications



- **Explore** key issues in multi-agent AI, such as decentralization, federated learning, and fairness.
- **Investigate** challenges such as multi-agent, multi-objective, multi-distribution.
- **Apply** to UAVs, multi-robots, etc.

Take-Away Message

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability

Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions

Examples

Core Problems

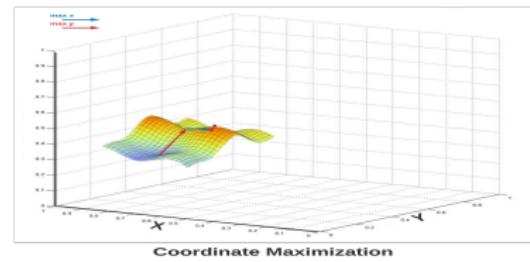
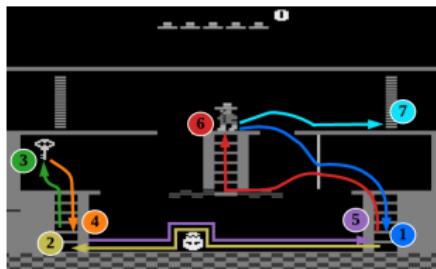
Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

- Trustworthy AI primarily involves *Explainability* and *Risk-Awareness*.
- **Clear tasks, clear deeds.**
 - Task-level Explainable RL (**TERL**).
 - Key ingredients: Neuro-symbolic AI, task-level explainability.
- **Risk-oblivious + “Universally Robustified” = Risk-aware**
 - Mean-Variance Policy Iteration (**MVP**).
 - Key ingredients: Coordinate-maximization, plug&play of universal RL tasks.



Related Publications

Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

Bo Liu

Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

- [JAIR'18] Liu, B., Gemp, I., Ghavamzadeh, M., Liu, J., Mahadevan, S., and Petrik, M. (2018). Proximal gradient temporal difference learning: Stable reinforcement learning with polynomial sample complexity. *Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research (JAIR)*.
- [NeurIPS'18] Liu, B.* , Xie, T.* , Xu, Y., Ghavamzadeh, M., Chow, Y., Lyu, D., and Yoon, D. (2018). A block coordinate ascent algorithm for mean-variance optimization. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*. (* equal contributions)
- [IJCAI'18] Yang, F., Lyu, D., Liu, B., and Gustafson, S. (2018). PEORL: Integrating symbolic planning and hierarchical reinforcement learning for robust decision-making. In *International Joint Conference of Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI)*.
- [AAAI'19] Lyu, D., Yang, F., Liu, B., and Gustafson, S. (2019). SDRL: Interpretable and data-efficient deep reinforcement learning leveraging symbolic planning. In *AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*.
- [ICLP'19] Lyu, D., Yang, F., Liu, B., and Gustafson, S. (2019). A human-centered data-driven planner-actor-critic architecture via logic programming. In *35th International Conference on Logic Programming (ICLP)*.
- [ICML'20a] Zhang, S., Liu, B., and Whiteson, S. (2020). Gradientdice: Rethinking generalized offline estimation of stationary values. In *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*.
- [ICML'20b] Zhang, S., Liu, B., and Whiteson, S. (2020). Provably Convergent Two-Timescale Off-Policy Actor-Critic with Function Approximation. In *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*.
- [AAAI'21] Zhang, S., Liu, B., and Whiteson, S. (2021). Mean-variance policy iteration for risk-averse reinforcement learning. In *AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*.
- [IEEE-TETCI'21] Lyu, D., Yang, F., Kwon, H., Dong, W., Yilmaz, Liu, B. (2021). TDM: Trustworthy Decision-Making via Interpretability Enhancement. *IEEE Transactions on Emerging Topics in Computational Intelligence (IEEE-TETCI)*.

Related Publications

- [AAMAS'22] Xu, L., Lyu, D., Pan, Y., Jiang, A., **Liu, B.** (2022). TOPS: Transition-Based Volatility-Reduced Policy Search. *Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS)*. Best and Visionary Papers Award.
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Trustworthy
Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications

Collaborators

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Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications



Thanks for Your Time!



More questions?

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Reinforcement
Learning

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Challenges

Explainability
Risk-Awareness

Backgrounds

Definitions
Examples
Core Problems

Explainable
Decision-
Making

Risk-Aware
Decision-
Making

Future Plans

Publications