

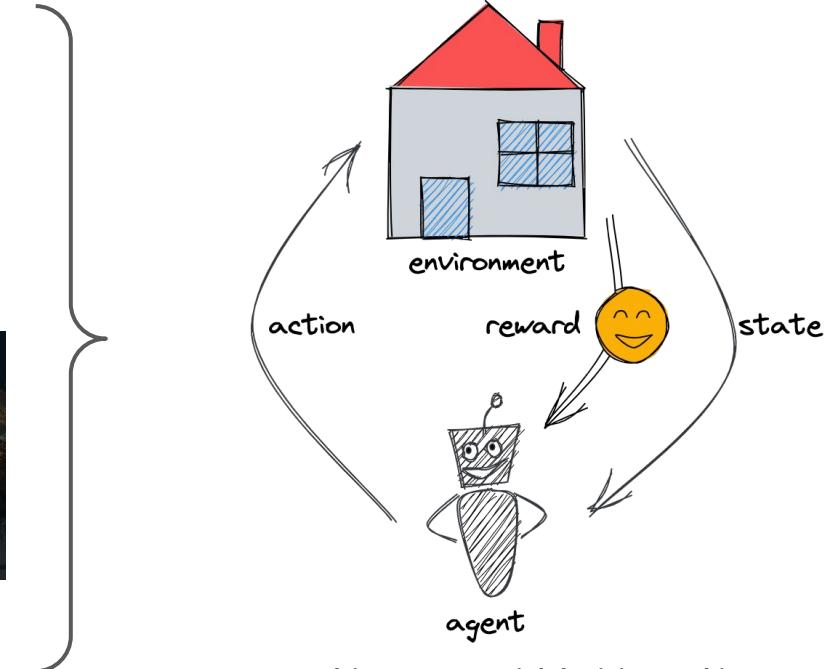
Understanding **Unsupervised** Exploration for Goal-Based RL

Alessandro LAZARIC (FAIR)

September 21, 2022 - EWRL - Milan, Italy



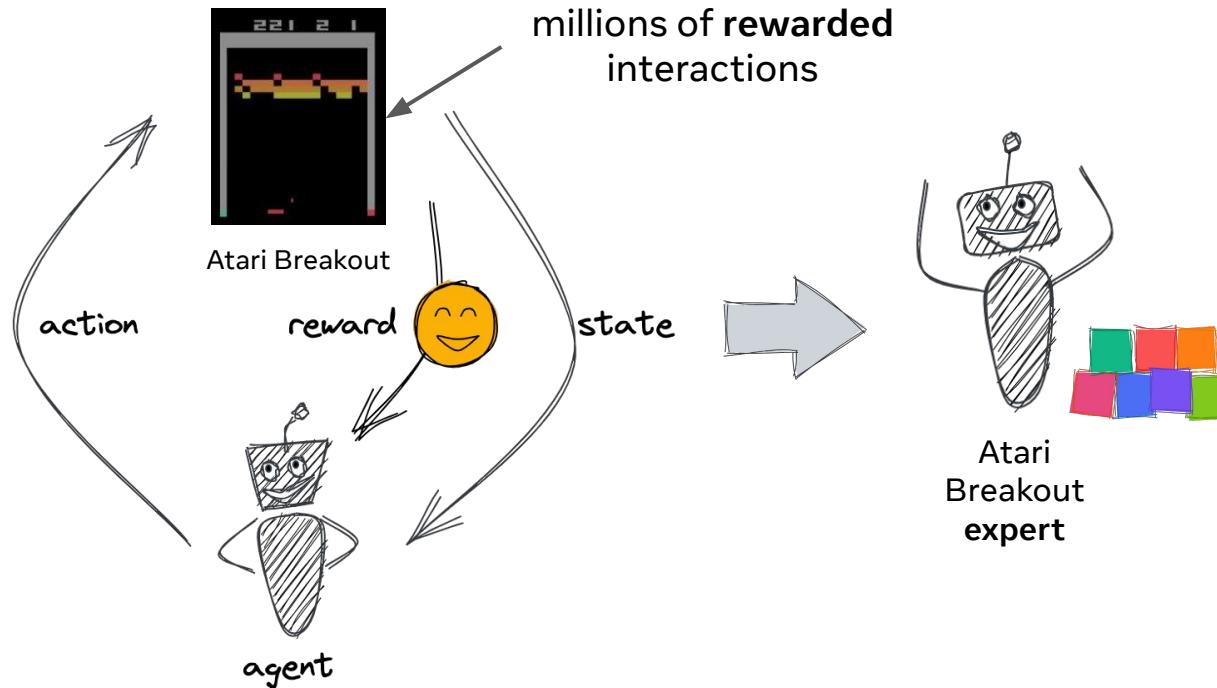
From **Specialized** to Universally Controllable Agents



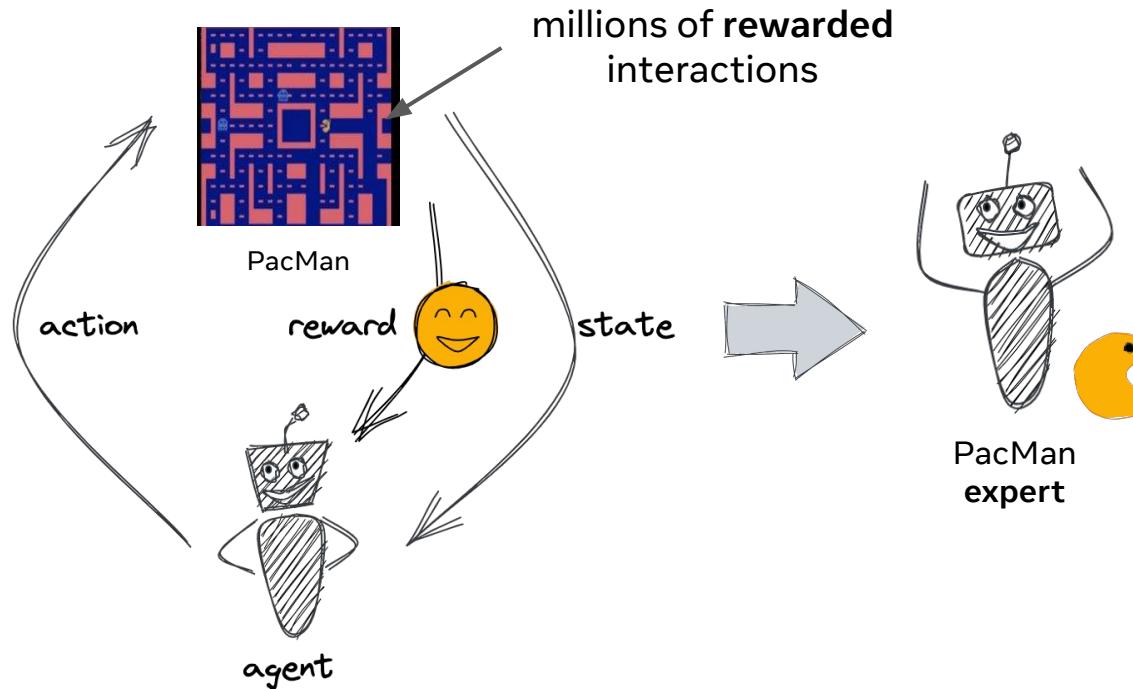
Robotics, recommender systems, portfolio management,
(computer) games, autonomous cars, ...

Data-driven sequential decision making
under uncertainty = RL

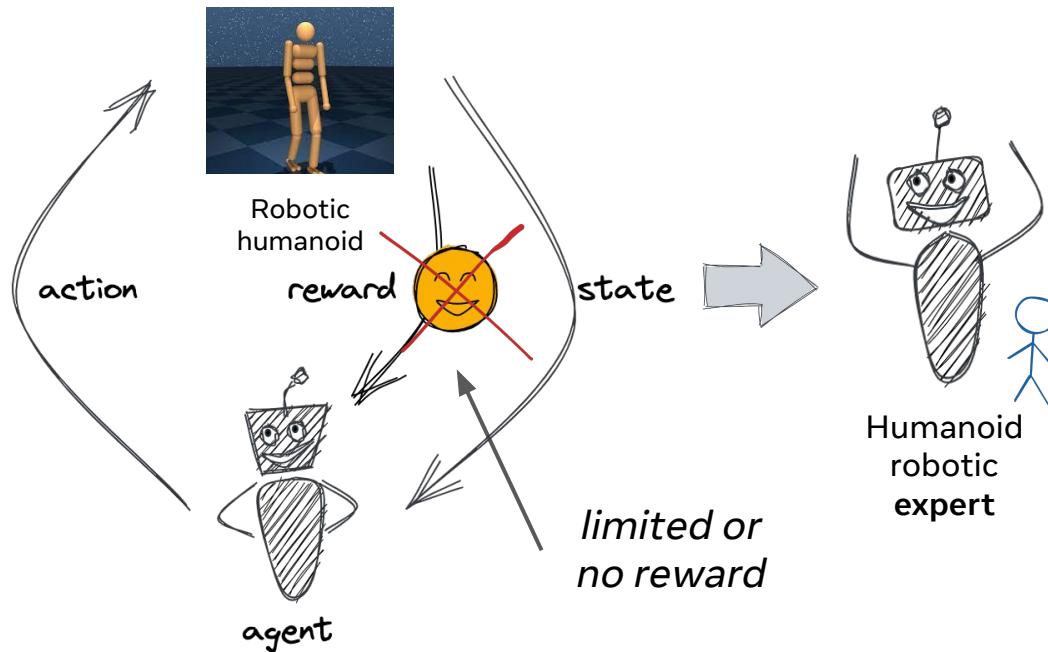
From **Specialized** to Universally Controllable Agents



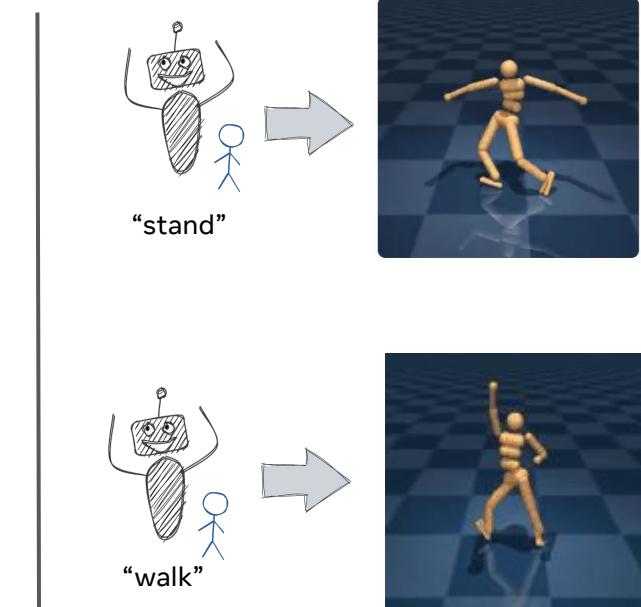
From **Specialized** to Universally Controllable Agents



From Specialized to **Universally Controllable** Agents

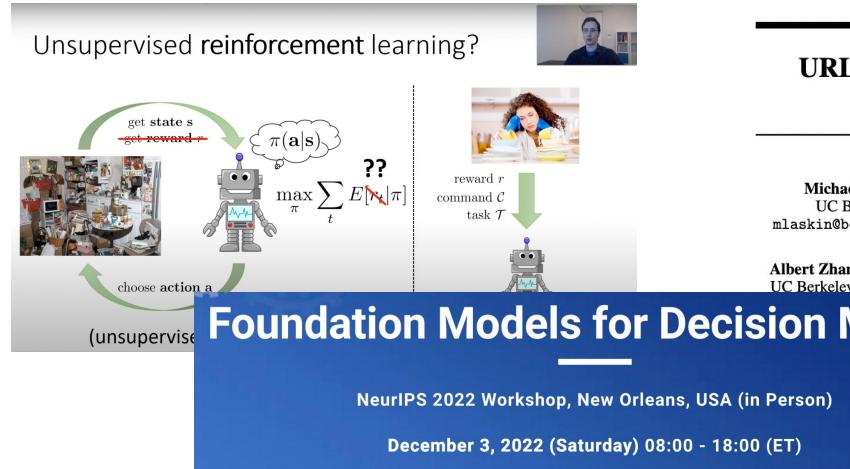


Unsupervised RL



Zero/few-shot learning

From Specialized to **Universally Controllable** Agents



URLB: Unsupervised Reinforcement Learning Benchmark

Michael Laskin*
UC Berkeley
mlaskin@berkeley.edu

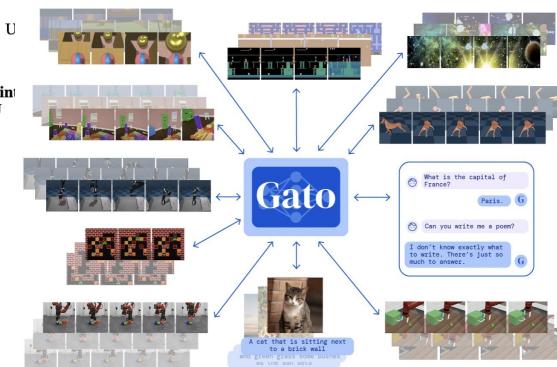
Denis Yarats*
NYU, FAIR
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Albert Zhan
UC Berkeley

Kevin Lu
UC Berkeley

Catherine Cang
UC Berkeley

Lerrel Pinto
NYU

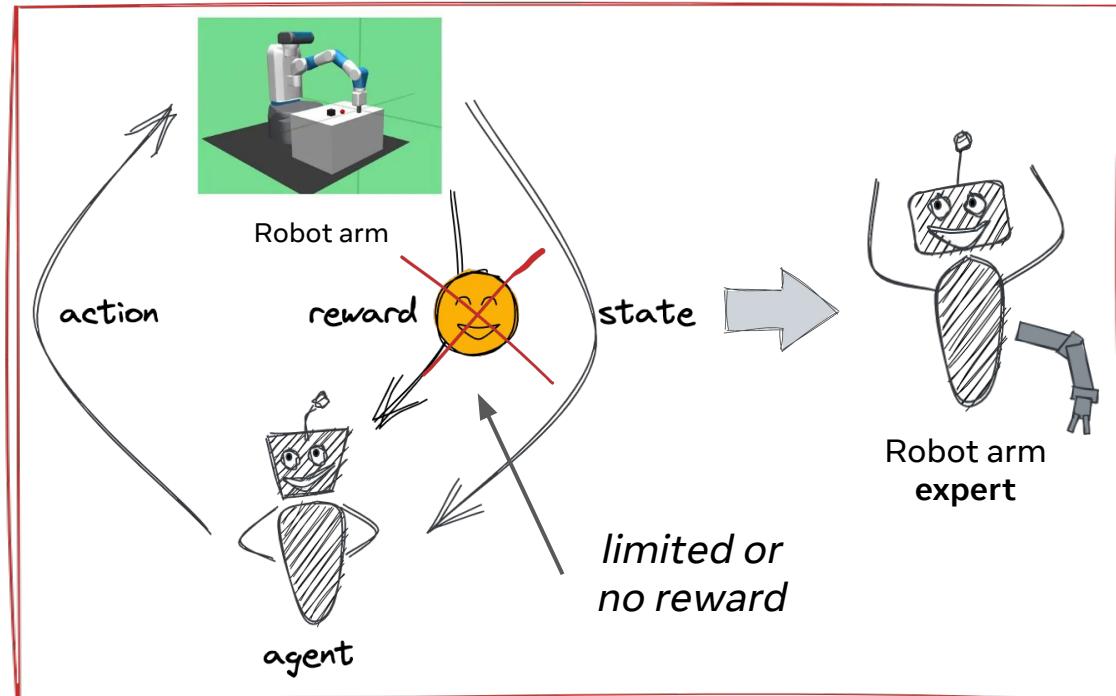


Self-supervision for Reinforcement Learning (SSL-RL)

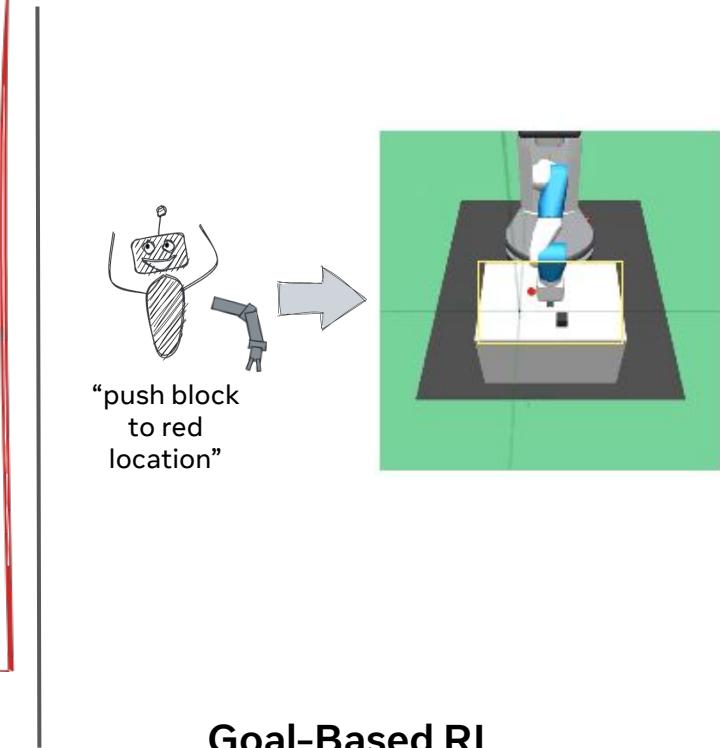
May 7, 2021 // ICLR Workshop



This Talk: Unsupervised Exploration for Goal-Based RL

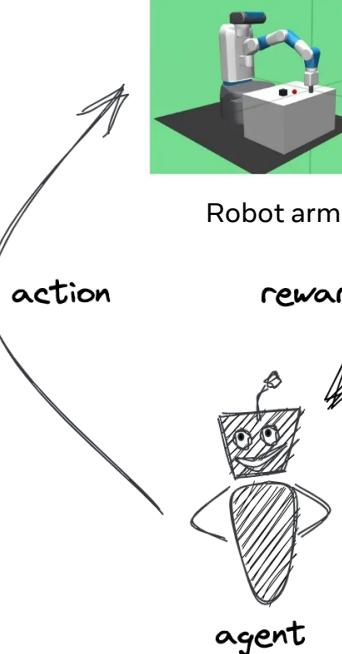


Unsupervised Exploration

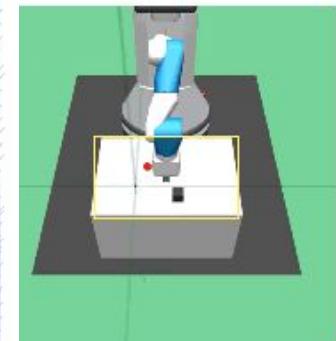


Goal-Based RL

This Talk: Unsupervised Exploration for Goal-Based RL



*Autonomously explore and learn
the ability to reach a set of goal
states of interest as soon as they
are specified at test time*



Unsupervised Exploration

Goal-Based RL

Outline

- Unsupervised Exploration for **Controllable States**
- Unsupervised Exploration for **Incrementally Controllable States**
- Discussion

Collaborators

- Jean Tarbouriech
- Michal Valko
- Matteo Pirotta
- Pierre Ménard
- Omar Darwiche Domingues

Unsupervised Exploration for **Controllable States**

Unsup. Exploration: What is the **Question**?

From a **theory** point of view [not comprehensive!]

- Active exploration for MDP estimation [Tarbouriech, Lazaric; 2019 / Tarbouriech, Ghavamzadeh, Lazaric; 2020]
- “Simulated” generative model [Tarbouriech, Pirotta, Valko, Lazaric; 2021]
- Maximum entropy [Hazan et al.; 2019 / Mutti et al., 2022]
- Reward-free exploration [Jin et al.; 2020 / ...]

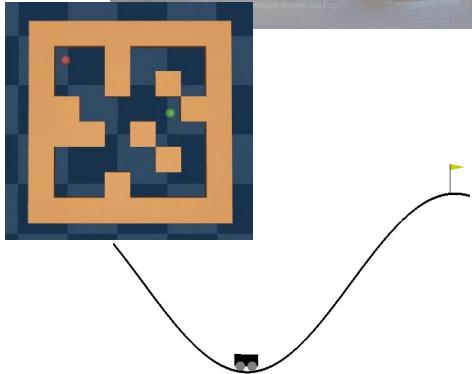
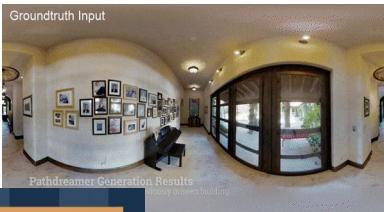
Unsup. Exploration: What is the **Question**?

From an **algorithmic** point of view [not comprehensive!]

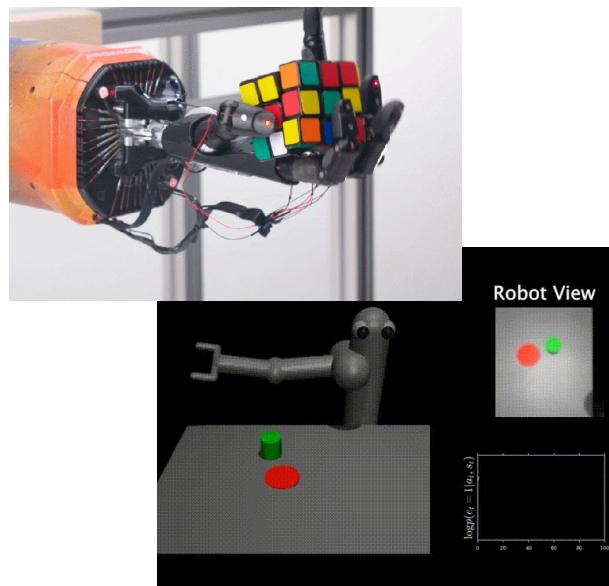
- Intrinsically motivated RL [Schmidhuber, 1991 / Bellmire et al., 2016 / Deepak et al., 2017 / ...]
- Goal generation [Colas et al., 2017 / Held et al., 2017 / Péré et al., 2018 / Laversanne-Finot et al., 2018 / Pong et al., 2020 / Zhang et al., 2020 / Ecoffet et al., 2021 / Mezghani et al., 2022 / ...]
- Maximum entropy [Silviu et al., 2020 / Mutti et al., 2021 / ...]

Goal-Based Reinforcement Learning

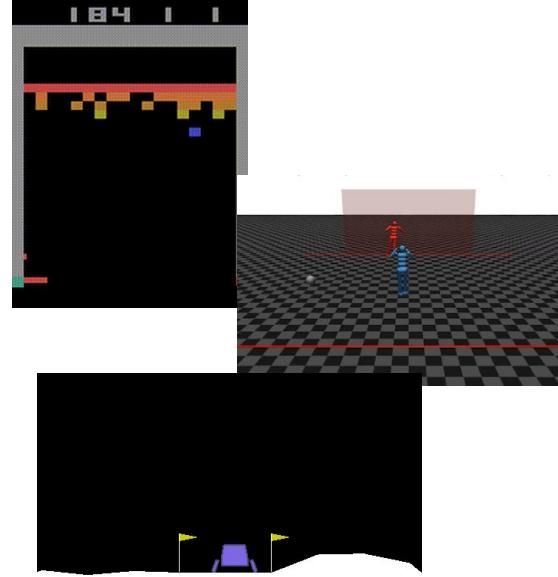
Navigation



Robotics



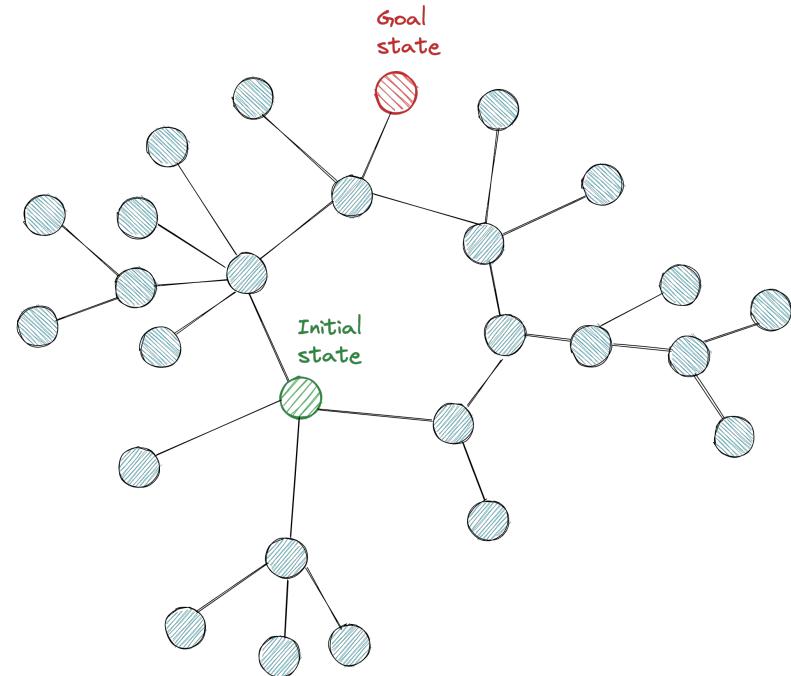
Games



Formalizing Goal-Based RL [see Matteo's tutorial]

Goal-Based MDP (specific instance of SSP)

- State space \mathcal{S}
- Initial state s_0
- Goal state g
- Action space \mathcal{A}
- Transition model $p(s'|s, a)$
- Cost function $c(s, a) = 1 \quad c(g) = 0$

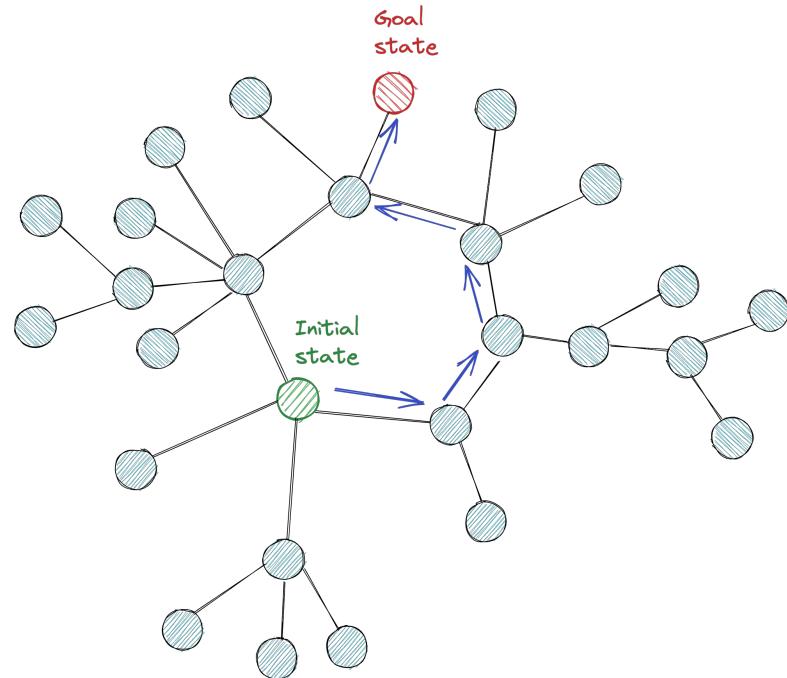


Formalizing Goal-Based RL

Goal-Based MDP (specific instance of SSP)

- Policy $\pi : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$
- Hitting time $\tau_\pi(s \rightarrow s')$
- Value function = expected hitting time

$$V^\pi(s \rightarrow s') = \mathbb{E}[\tau_\pi(s \rightarrow s')]$$



Exploration for Goal-Based RL (see Matteo's tutorial)

Thm: Sample Complexity [Chen et al., 2022]
(similar results in Tarbouriech et al., 2020)]

There exists an algorithm that returns an ϵ -optimal policy with a sample complexity

$$\tilde{O}\left(\frac{T_\star^3 S A}{\epsilon^2}\right)$$



Remarks

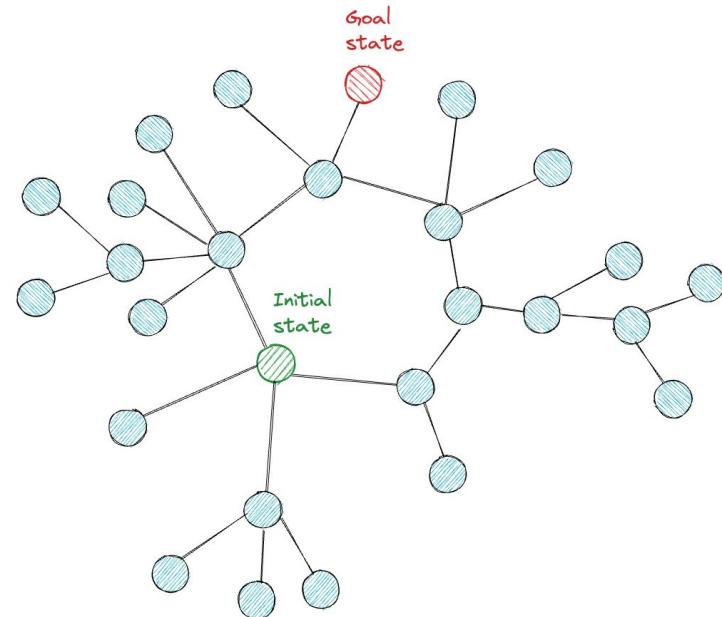
- Similar to finite-horizon and discounted bounds
- “Binary” cost function
- $c_{\min} = 1$
- $B_\star = T_\star$



From Single-Goal to **Multi-Goal**

Multi-Goal MDP

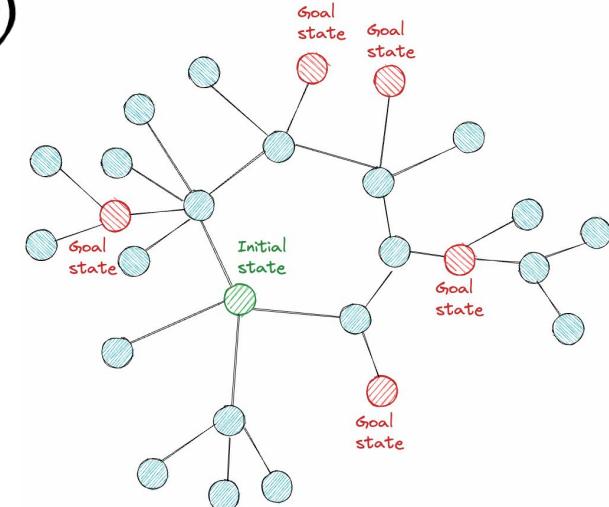
- Set of Goals $\mathcal{G} \subseteq \mathcal{S}$
- Goal-Based Policy $\pi : \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$



A General Principle for Multi-Goal Exploration

SYOG: Set Your Own Goals

1. Select a relevant goal g_k
2. Execute an exploratory version of $\pi(\cdot|s, g_k)$
3. Improve $\pi(\cdot|s, g_k)$ with the collected experience
4. If $\pi(\cdot|s, g_k)$ is good then stop
otherwise jump to 1.



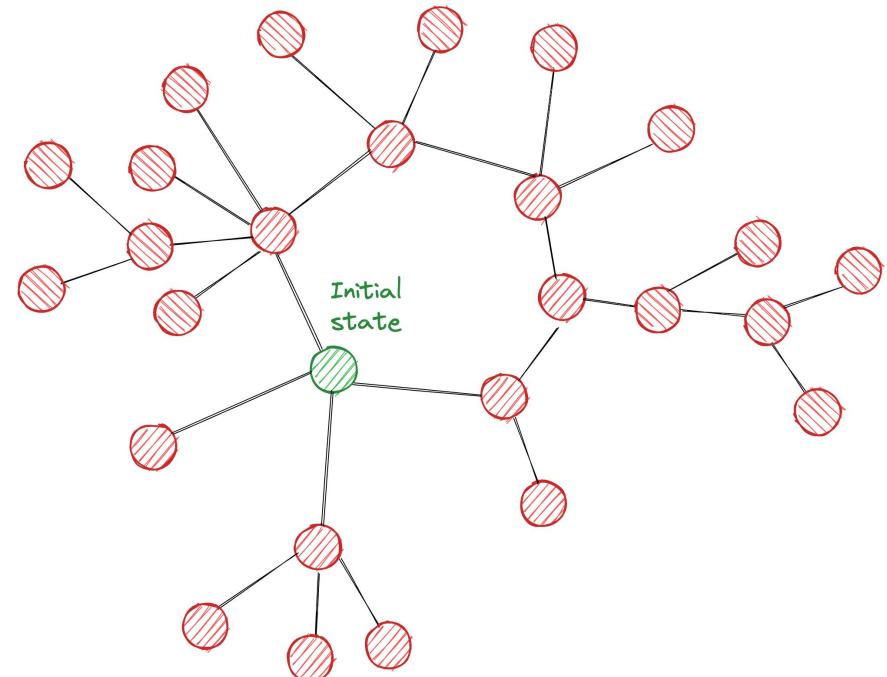
Similar to many schemes defined in literature but rarely provide a well-formalized objective and guarantees



What are “Relevant” Unsupervised Goals?

All possible states $\mathcal{G}_{\text{test}} \equiv \mathcal{G} \equiv \mathcal{S}$

- Prior knowledge of the “valid” states
 - Possibly very difficult goals



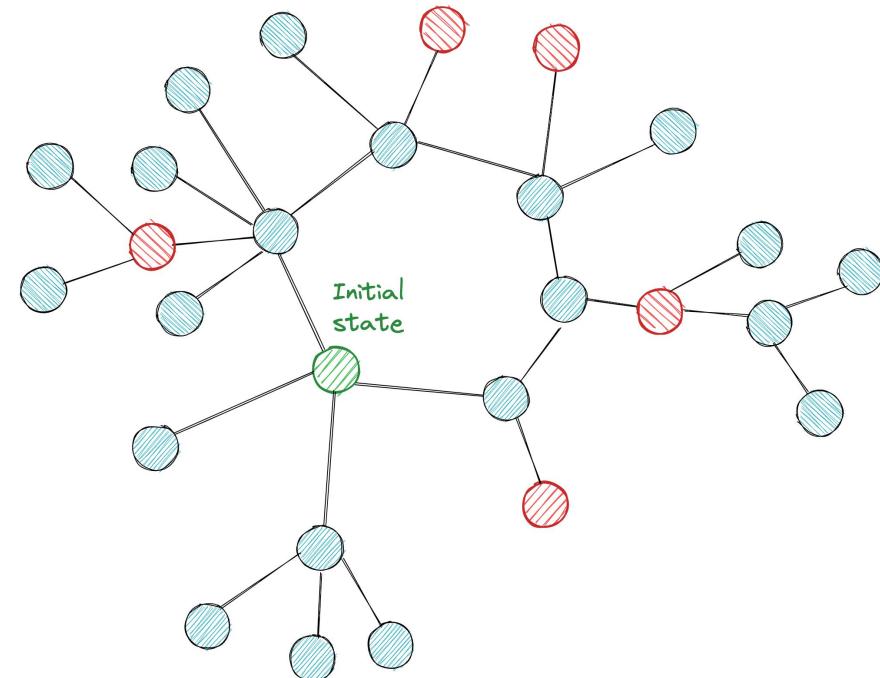
What are “Relevant” Unsupervised Goals?

All possible states $\mathcal{G}_{\text{test}} \equiv \mathcal{G} \equiv \mathcal{S}$

- Prior knowledge of the “valid” states
- Possibly very difficult goals

Predefined set of states $\mathcal{G}_{\text{test}} \equiv \mathcal{G} \subset \mathcal{S}$

- Prior knowledge
- No generalization to unknown states at downstream time



What are “Relevant” Unsupervised Goals?

All possible states $\mathcal{G}_{\text{test}} \equiv \mathcal{G} \equiv \mathcal{S}$

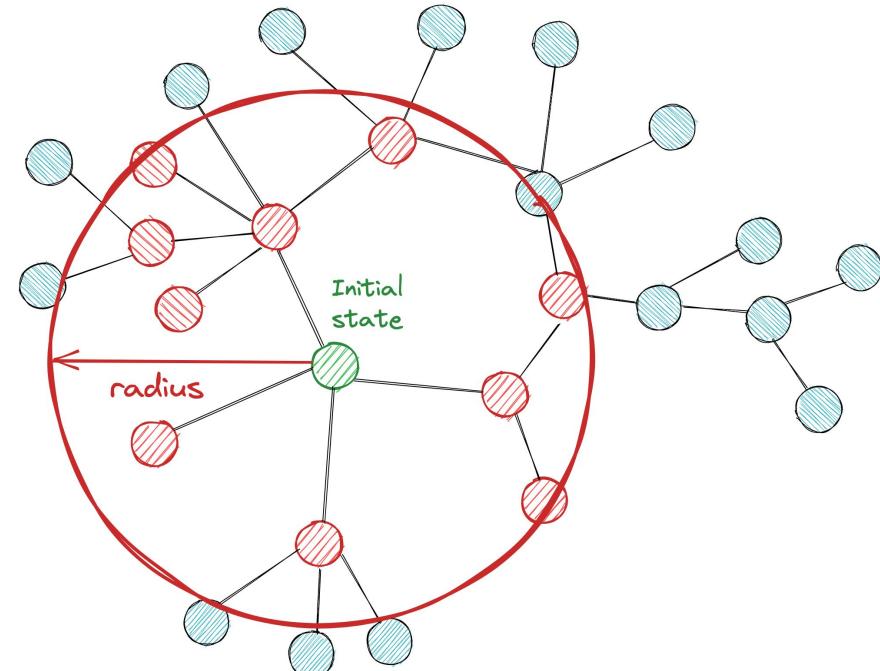
- Prior knowledge of the “valid” states
- Possibly very difficult goals

Predefined set of states $\mathcal{G}_{\text{test}} \equiv \mathcal{G} \subset \mathcal{S}$

- Prior knowledge
- No generalization to unknown states at downstream time

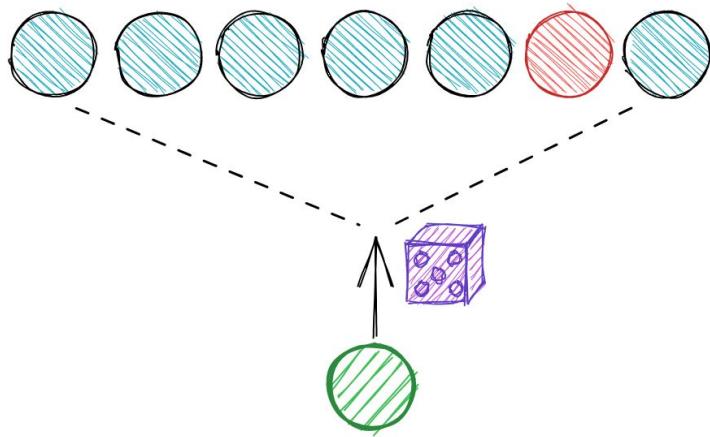
Radius of “competence” $\mathcal{G}_{\text{test}} \neq \mathcal{G} \subseteq \mathcal{S}$

- No prior knowledge
- More natural to “express”
- Enable curriculum learning
- *Unknown to the agent*



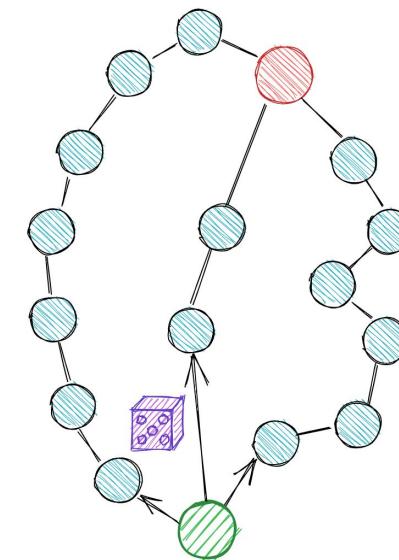
Controllable States

Reachable State



$$\mathbb{P}[\tau_\pi(s_0 \rightarrow s) < \infty] > 0$$

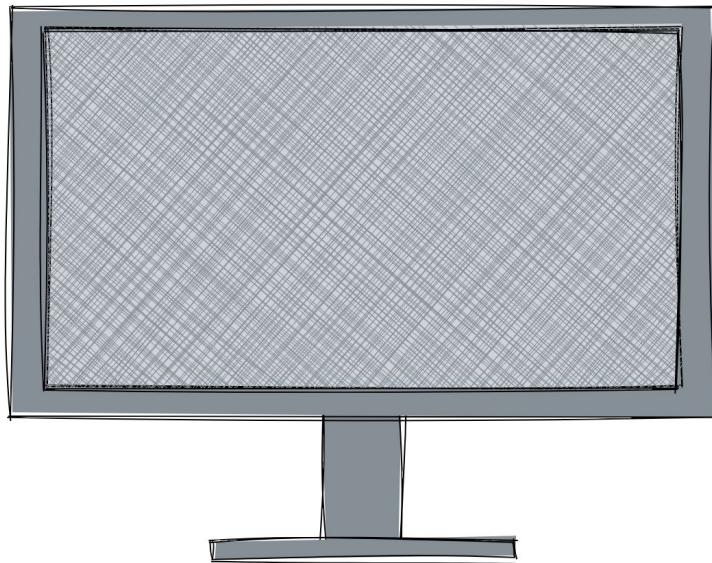
Controllable State



$$\mathbb{E}[\tau_\pi(s_0 \rightarrow s)] < \infty$$

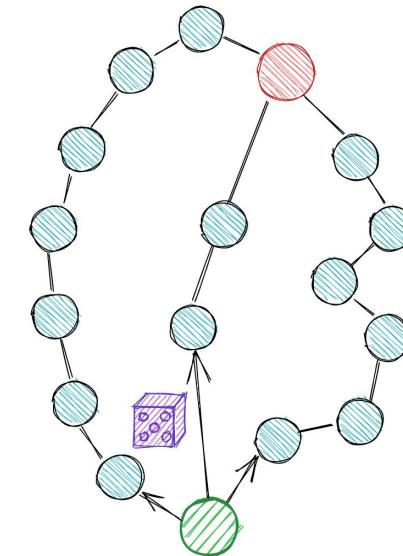
Controllable States

Noisy TV



$$\mathbb{P}[\tau_\pi(s_0 \rightarrow s) < \infty] > 0$$

Controllable State



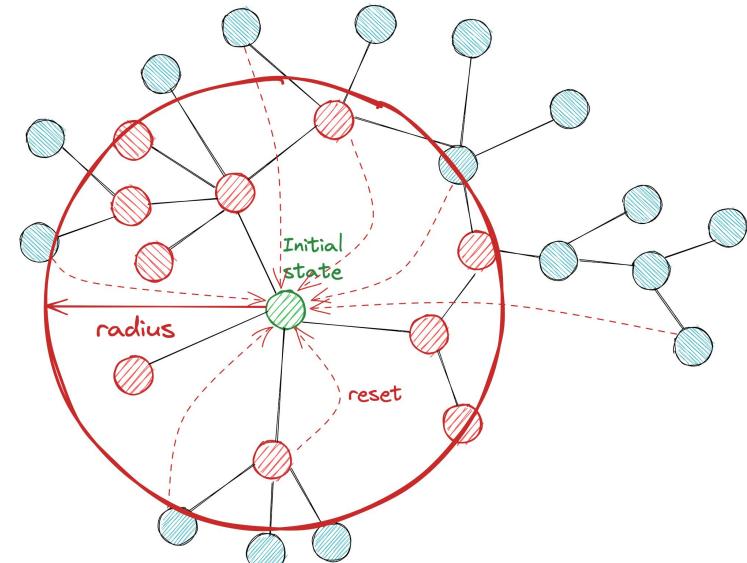
$$\mathbb{E}[\tau_\pi(s_0 \rightarrow s)] < \infty$$

Unsupervised Multi-Goal Exploration

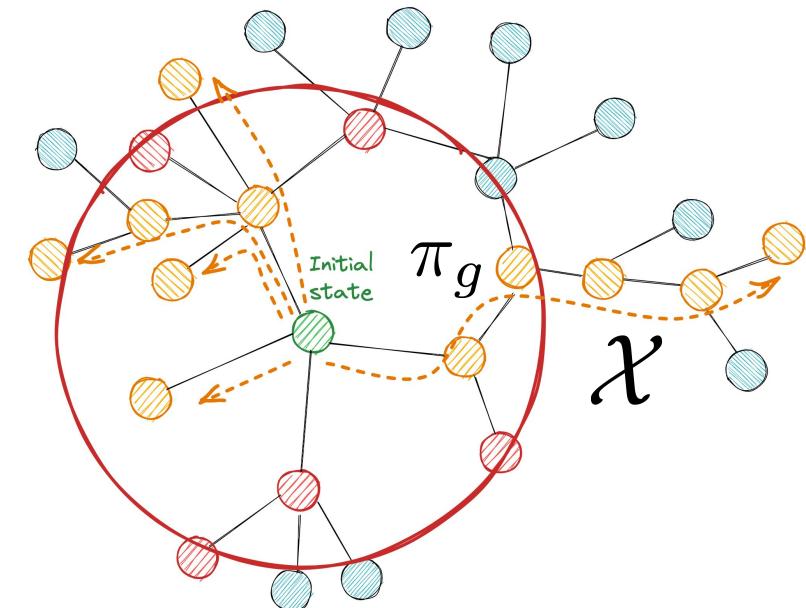
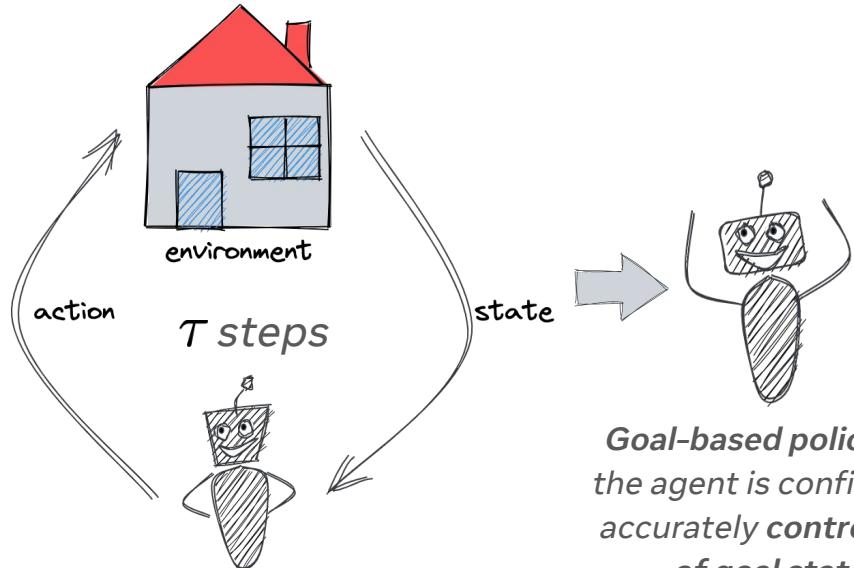
Definition of MGE

- Reset action a_{reset} s.t. $p(s_0|s, a_{\text{reset}}) = 1$
- Goal radius L
- Accuracy level ϵ
- Goal set

$$\mathcal{G}_L = \left\{ g \in \mathcal{S} : \min_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{\pi} [\tau_{\pi}(s_0 \rightarrow g)] = V^*(s_0 \rightarrow g) \leq L \right\}$$



Unsupervised Multi-Goal Exploration



Unsupervised Multi-Goal Exploration

(ϵ, δ, L) -PAC Learner

Agent stops after $\tau = \text{poly}(S, A, L, \log(1/\delta), 1/\epsilon)$ steps and

$$P \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Accurate goal set identification} \\ \mathcal{G}_L \subseteq \mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{G}_{L+\epsilon} \\ \text{Near-optimal goal-based policy} \\ V^{\pi_g}(s_0 \rightarrow g) \leq V^*(s_0 \rightarrow g) + \epsilon \quad \forall g \in \mathcal{X} \end{array} \right] \geq 1 - \delta$$



Unsupervised Multi-Goal Exploration

(ϵ, δ, L) -PAC Learner

Agent stops after $\tau = \text{poly}(S, A, L, \log(1/\delta), 1/\epsilon)$ steps and

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Unsupervised Multi-Goal Exploration

(ϵ, δ, L) -PAC Learner

Agent stops after $\tau = \text{poly}(S, A, L, \log(1/\delta), 1/\epsilon)$ steps and

P

Accurate goal set identification

$$\mathcal{G}_L \subseteq \mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{G}_{L+\epsilon}$$

Near-optimal goal-based policy

$$V^{\pi_g}(s_0 \rightarrow g) \leq V^*(s_0 \rightarrow g) + \epsilon \quad \forall g \in \mathcal{X}$$

]

$$\geq 1 - \delta$$



Unsupervised Multi-Goal Exploration

(ϵ, δ, L) -PAC Learner

Agent stops after $\tau = \text{poly}(S, A, L, \log(1/\delta), 1/\epsilon)$ steps and

$$P \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Accurate goal set identification} \\ \mathcal{G}_L \subseteq \mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{G}_{L+\epsilon} \\ \\ \text{Near-optimal goal-based policy} \\ V^{\pi_g}(s_0 \rightarrow g) \leq V^*(s_0 \rightarrow g) + \epsilon \quad \forall g \in \mathcal{X} \end{array} \right] \geq 1 - \delta$$

Unsupervised Multi-Goal Exploration

Thm: Lower Bound [Tarbouriech et al., 2022]

For any (ϵ, δ, L) -PAC learner, there exists an MDP such that

$$\mathbb{E}[\tau] = \Omega\left(\frac{L^3 S A}{\epsilon^2}\right)$$



Remarks

- Horizon is “known”
- Goal states are unknown
- Dependencies match finite-horizon/discoun ted



Adaptive Goal Selection Scheme - AdaGoal



SYOG: Set Your Own Goals → AdaGoal

1. Select a relevant goal g_k
2. Execute an exploratory version of $\pi(\cdot|s, g_k)$
3. Improve $\pi(\cdot|s, g_k)$ with the collected experience
4. If $\pi(\cdot|s, g_k)$ is good then STOP and return
otherwise jump to 1.

J. Tarbouriech, O. Darwiche Domingues, P. Ménard, M. Pirotta, M. Valko, A. Lazaric
“Adaptive Multi-Goal Exploration”, AI&Stats-2022.



AdaGoal - Two Main Ingredients

Optimistic controllability

$$\mathcal{D}_k(g) \leq V^*(s_0 \rightarrow g)$$



true optimal
value

Uncertainty (or *regret* or *performance loss*)

$$V^{\pi_k}(s_0 \rightarrow g) - \mathcal{D}_k(g) \leq \mathcal{E}_k(g)$$



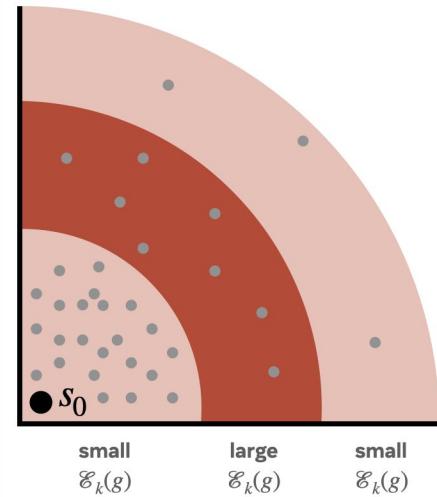
true value of
current policy

Adaptive Goal Selection Scheme

AdaGoal

1. Select a relevant goal g_k

$$g_k = \arg \max_{g \in \mathcal{G}} \mathcal{E}_k(g)$$

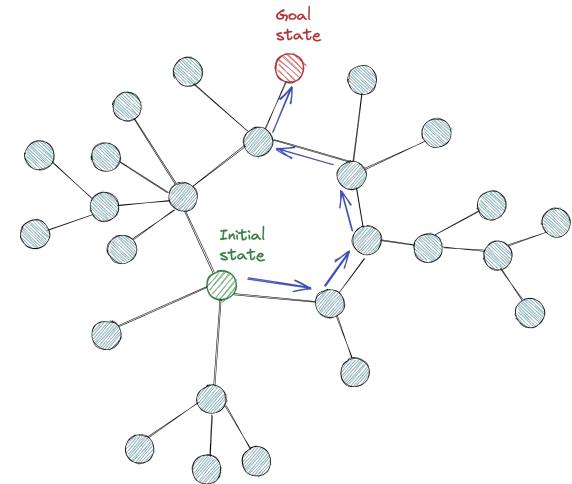


Difficult to control ≠ uncertain

Adaptive Goal Selection Scheme

AdaGoal

1. Select a relevant goal g_k
2. Execute an exploratory version of $\pi(\cdot|s, g_k)$
3. Improve $\pi(\cdot|s, g_k)$ with the collected experience



Any “good”
SSP exploration algorithm

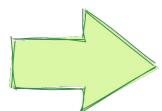
Adaptive Goal Selection Scheme

AdaGoal

1. Select a relevant goal g_k
2. Execute an exploratory version of $\pi(\cdot|s, g_k)$
3. Improve $\pi(\cdot|s, g_k)$ with the collected experience
4. If $\pi(\cdot|s, g_k)$ is good then stop
otherwise jump to 1.



$$\max_{g: \mathcal{D}_k(g) \leq L} \mathcal{E}_k(g) \leq \epsilon$$

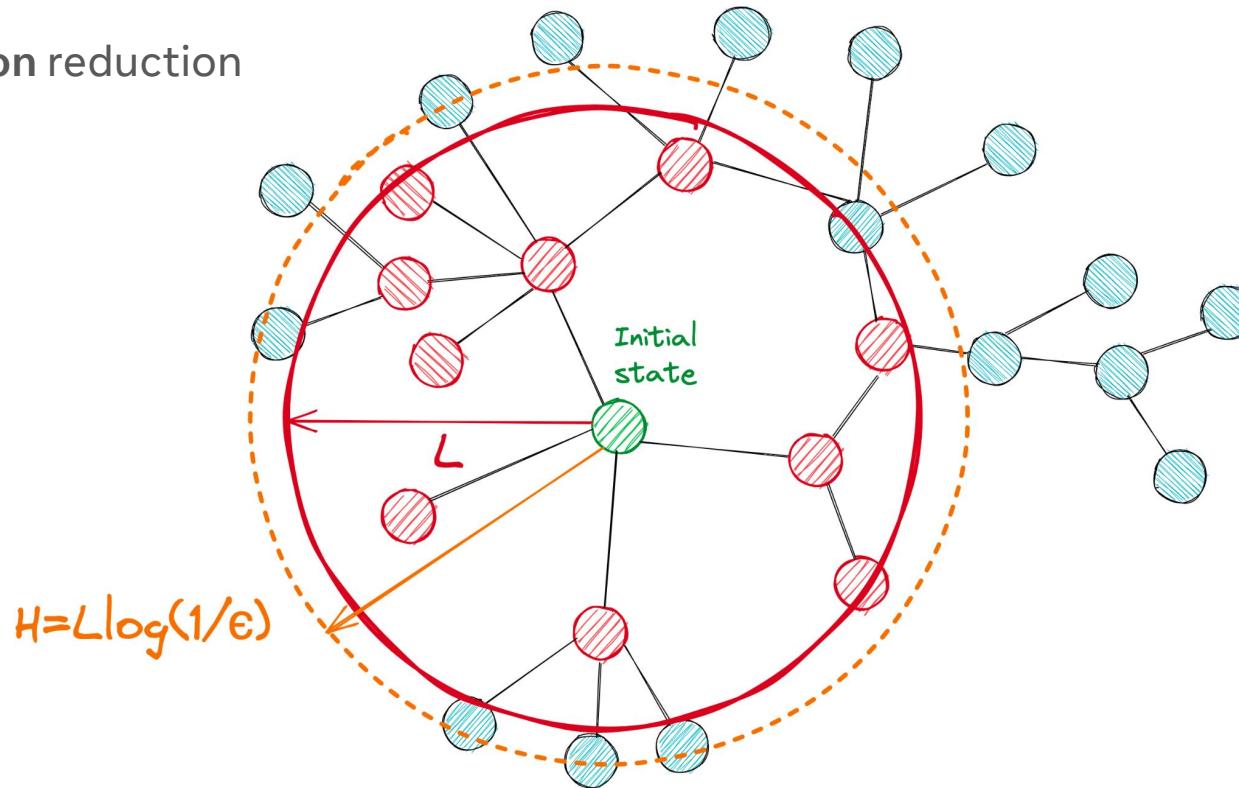


$$\mathcal{X} = \{g \in \mathcal{G} : \mathcal{D}_k(g) \leq L\}$$



Tabular-AdaGoal

Finite-horizon reduction

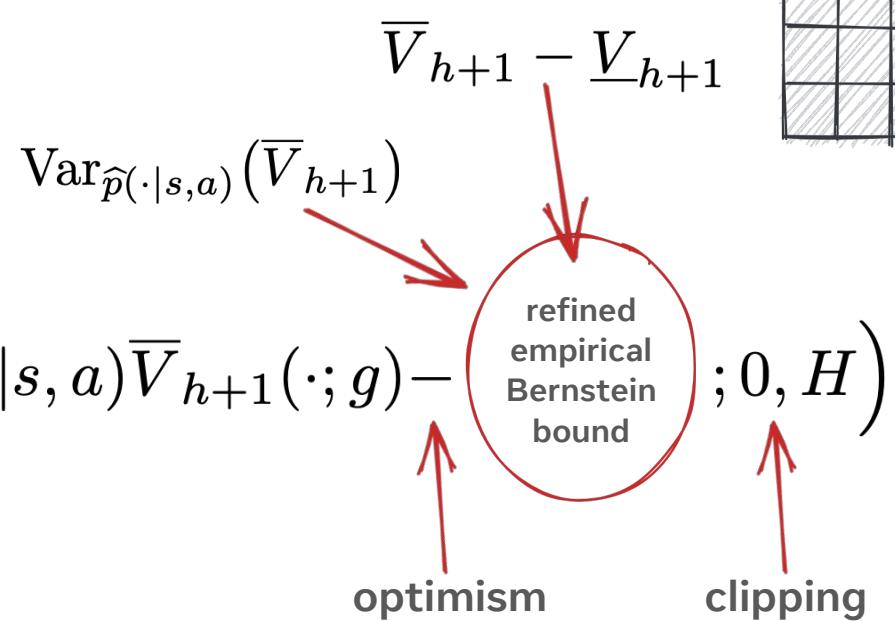


Tabular-AdaGoal

Model-based upper-confidence estimate

$$\overline{Q}_h(s, a; g) = \text{clip}\left(\mathbb{1}(s \neq g) + \hat{p}(\cdot|s, a)\overline{V}_{h+1}(\cdot; g) - \text{Var}_{\hat{p}(\cdot|s, a)}(\overline{V}_{h+1}), ; 0, H\right)$$

$$\mathcal{D}_k(g) = \min_a \overline{Q}_1(s_0, a)$$



Adapted from P. Ménard et al. “Fast active learning for pure exploration in reinforcement learning”, ICML-2021. (see also [Azar et al., 2017], [Zanette and Brunskill, 2019]).





Tabular-AdaGoal

Cumulative error estimates

$$\bar{U}_h(s, a; g) = \text{clip}\left(\left(1 + \frac{3}{H}\right) \sum_{s'} \hat{p}(s'|s, a) \sum_{a'} \pi_{h+1}(a'|s'; g) \bar{U}_{h+1}(s', a'; g) + \text{Var}_{\hat{p}(\cdot|s, a)}(\bar{V}_{h+1}) ; H\right)$$

$$\mathcal{E}_k(g) = \sum_a \pi_k(a|s_0; g) \bar{U}_1(s_0, a; g)$$

$$\text{Var}_{\hat{p}(\cdot|s, a)}(\bar{V}_{h+1})$$

empirical
Bernstein
bound

Propagation of
error estimates

Adapted from P. Ménard et al. “Fast active learning for pure exploration in reinforcement learning”, ICML-2021. (see also [Azar et al., 2017], [Zanette and Brunskill, 2019]).





Tabular-AdaGoal: Sample Complexity Bounds

Thm: Sample Complexity [Tarbouriech et al., 2022]

AdaGoal is (ϵ, δ, L) -PAC and

$$\mathbb{E}[\tau] = \tilde{O}\left(\frac{L^3 S A}{\epsilon^2}\right)$$



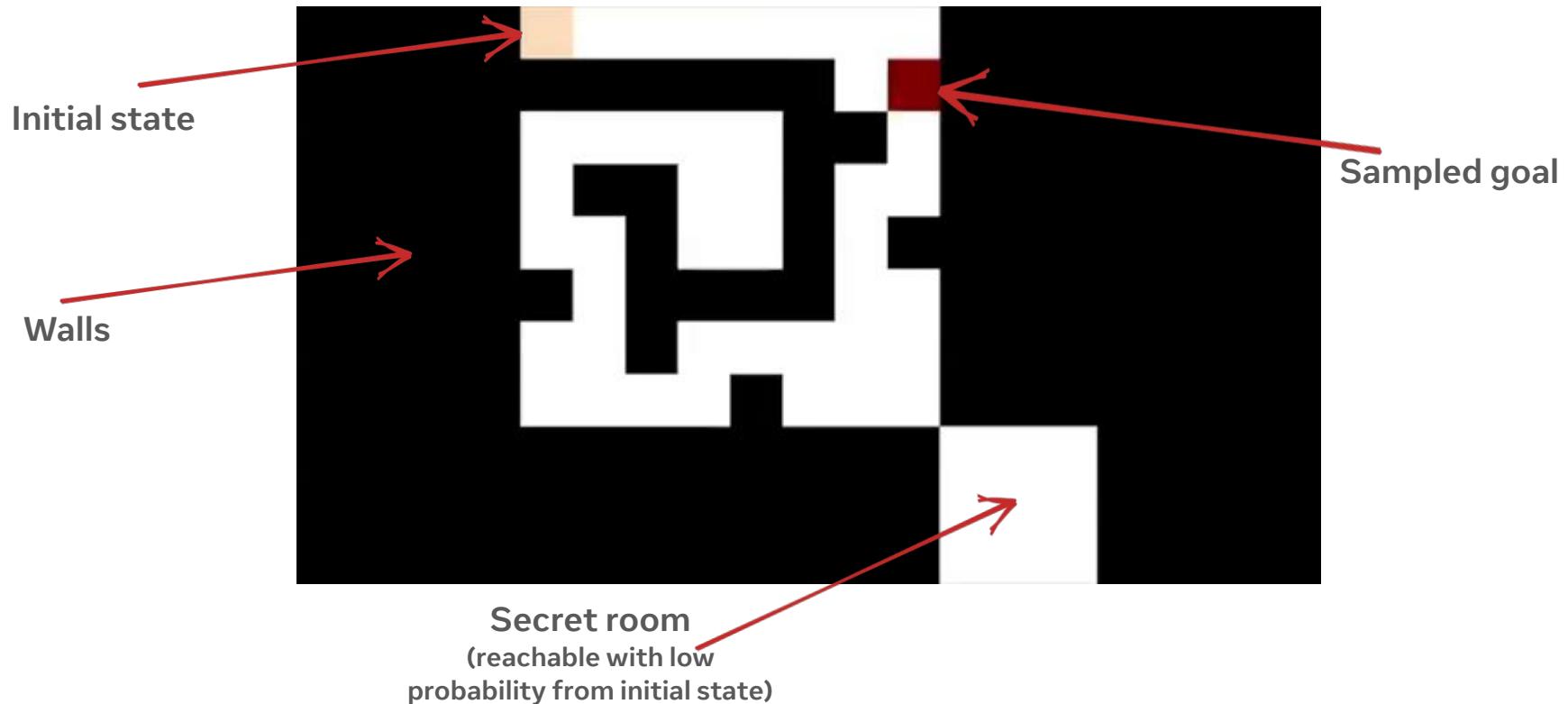
Remarks

- Stopping when confident to return accurate goal set and goal-based policy
- Minimax optimal
- Generalizable to linear MDPs



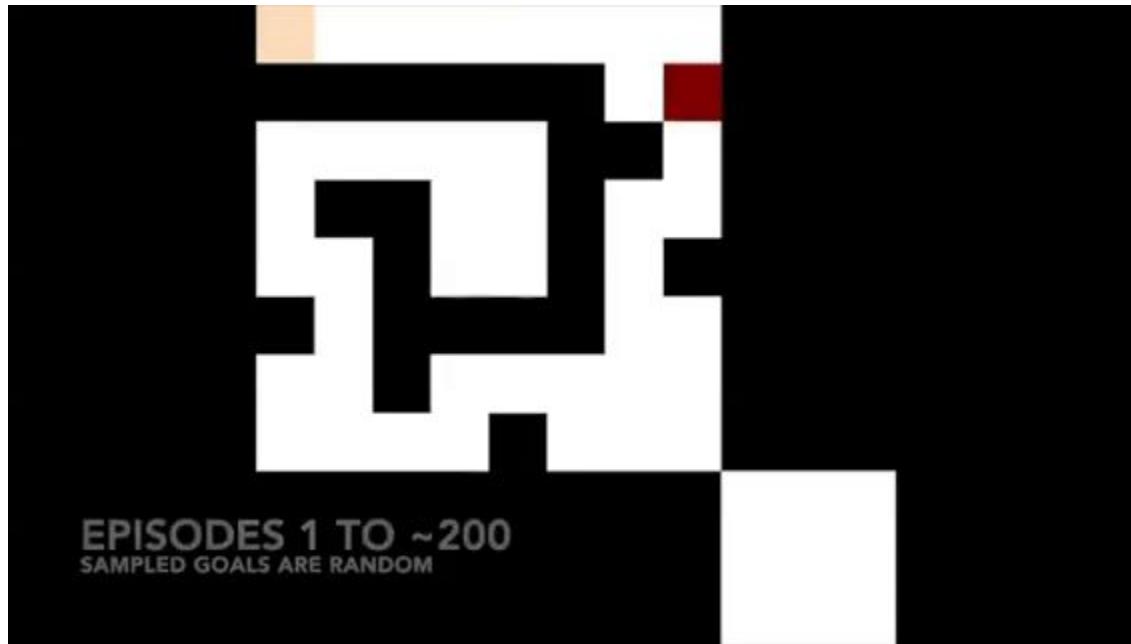


Tabular-AdaGoal: A Simple Example



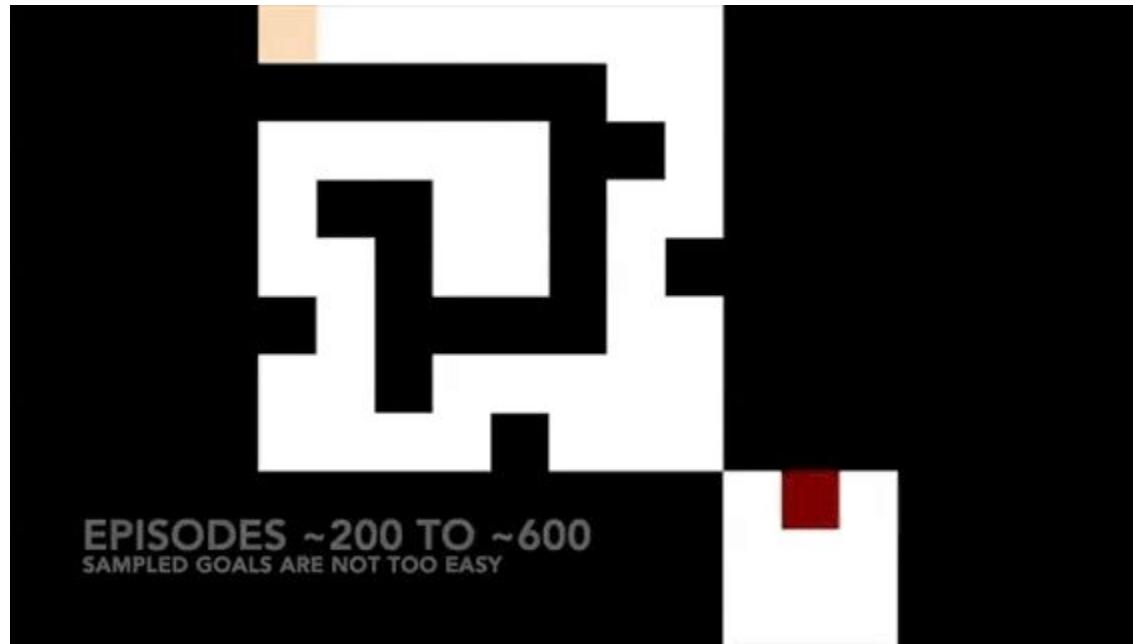


Tabular-AdaGoal: A Simple **Example**



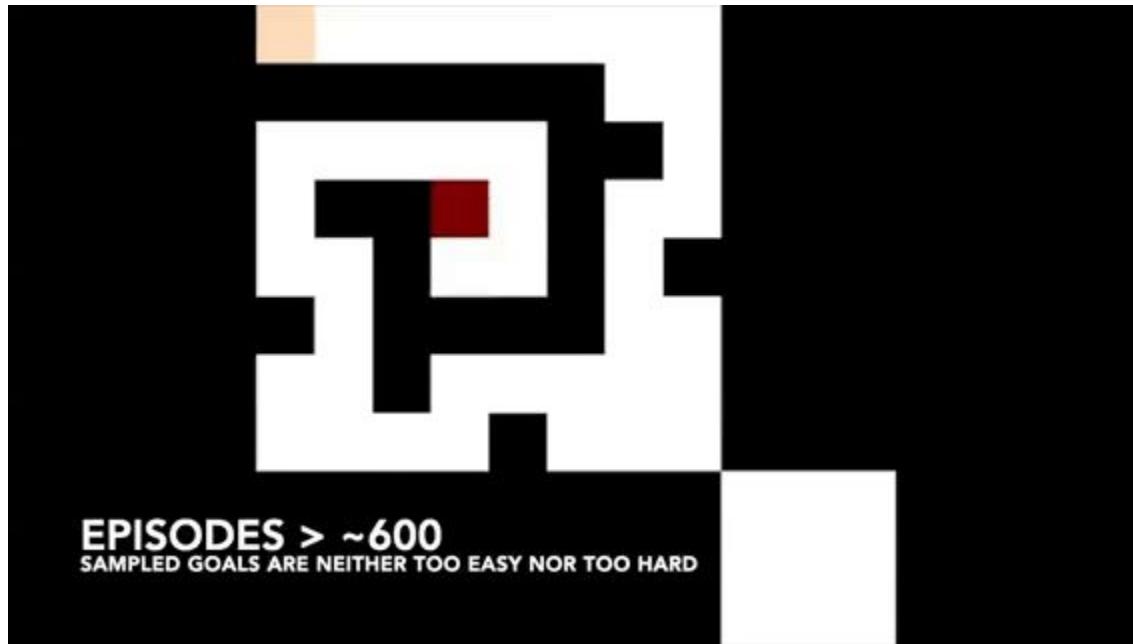


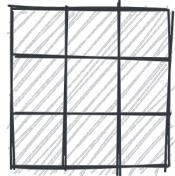
Tabular-AdaGoal: A Simple **Example**





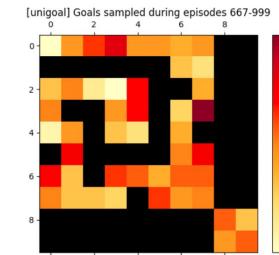
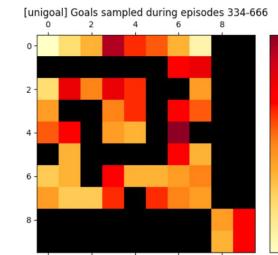
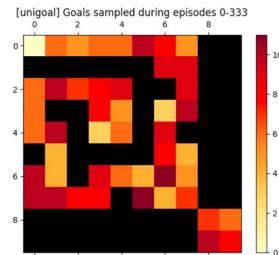
Tabular-AdaGoal: A Simple **Example**



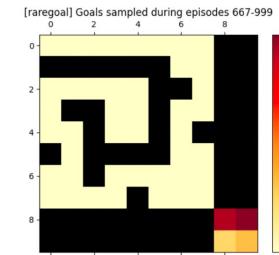
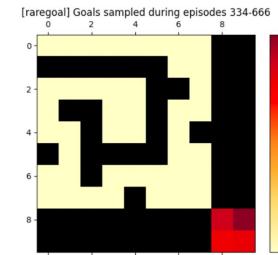
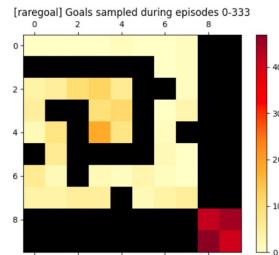


Tabular-AdaGoal: A Simple Example

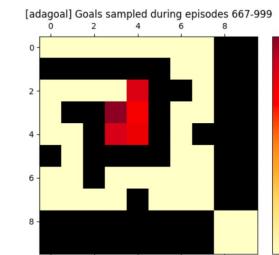
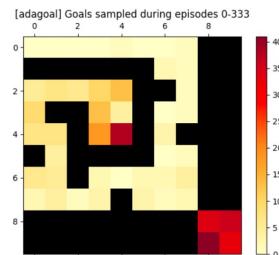
Uniform



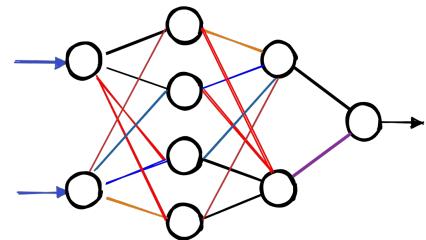
Rare goals



Ada goals



Deep-AdaGoal

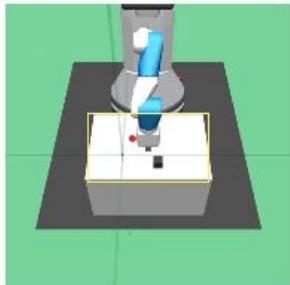


Similar to value disagreement [Zhang et al., 2020]

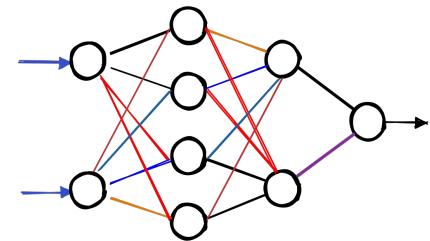
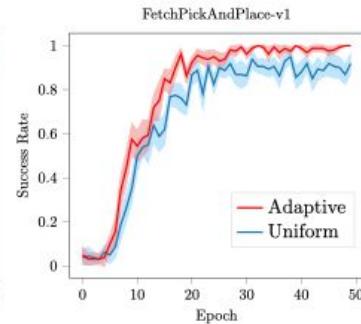
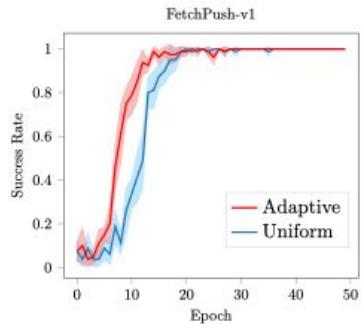
$$\mathcal{E}_k(g) = \text{std} \left\{ V_1^\pi(s_0; g), \dots, V_J^\pi(s_0; g) \right\}$$

Deep-AdaGoal

*Goal
prior knowledge*

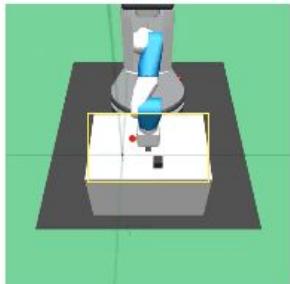


$$\mathcal{G}_{train} = \mathcal{G}_{test}$$

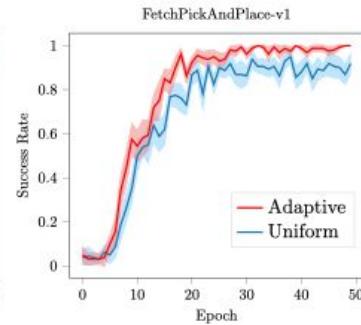
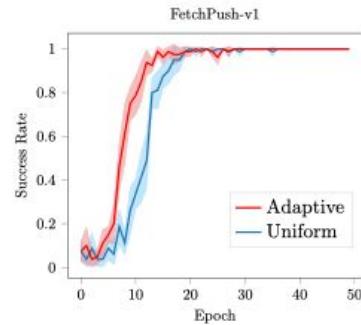


Deep-AdaGoal

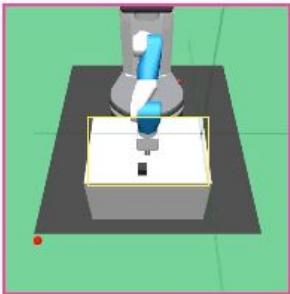
*Goal
prior knowledge*



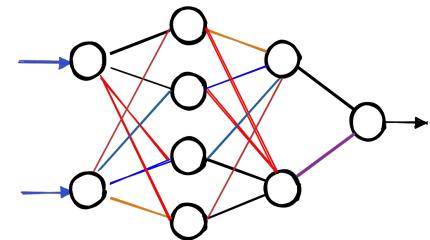
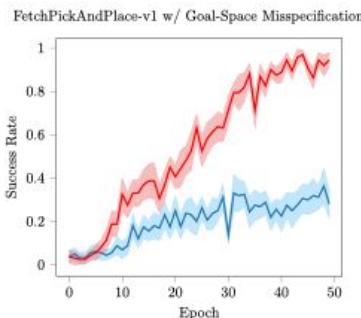
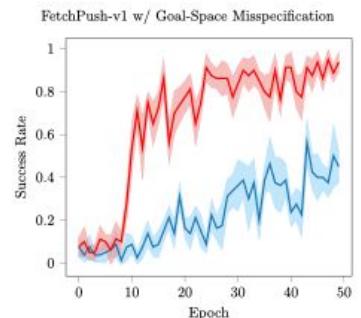
$$\mathcal{G}_{train} = \mathcal{G}_{test}$$



*Goal
misspecification*



$$\mathcal{G}_{train} \supset \mathcal{G}_{test}$$



Summary

- MGE formalizes **unsupervised goal-based exploration**
- AdaGoal formalizes the popular **SYOG** principle
- AdaGoal is **minimax optimal in tabular MDPs** and **sample efficient in linear MDPs**
- AdaGoal can be implemented as a **deepRL** algorithm with **encouraging empirical results**

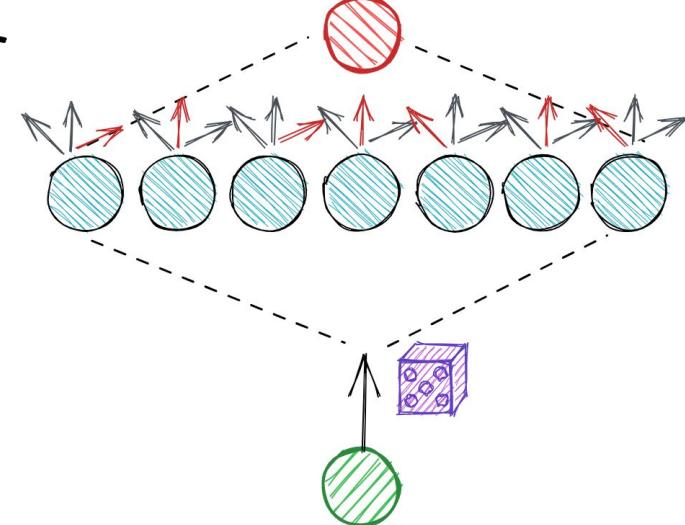
Unsupervised Exploration for **Incrementally** Controllable States

Limitations of UnsupExp of Controllable States

Thm: Sample Complexity [Tarbouriech et al., 2022]

AdaGoal is (ϵ, δ, L) -PAC and

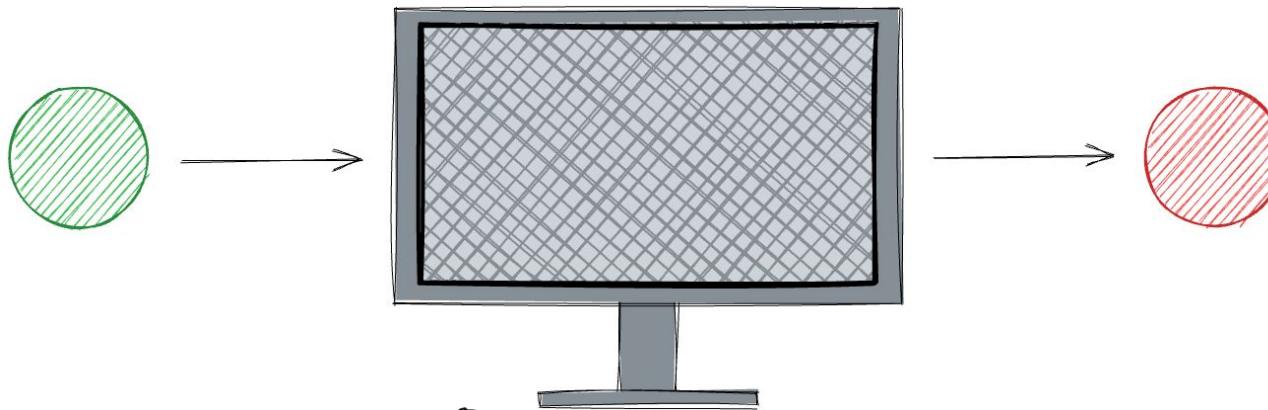
$$\mathbb{E}[\tau] = \tilde{O}\left(\frac{L^3 S A}{\epsilon^2}\right) \quad S \gg S_L$$



2-step
controllable state

$(H >> 1)$ -step
controllable states

Limitations of UnsupExp of Controllable States



Rare goal sampling
samples the noisy TV and
ignore the red goal
⇒ “goal” inefficient

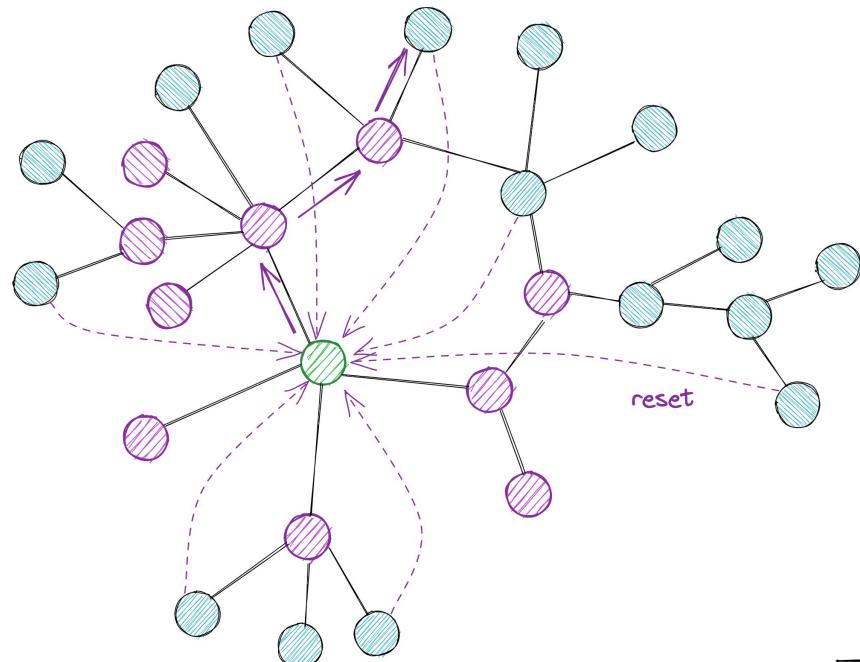
AdaGoal prioritizes the red goal
but still needs to learn the optimal
action at noisy TV states
⇒ “sample” inefficient

Incrementally Controllable States

Policy π restricted on S'

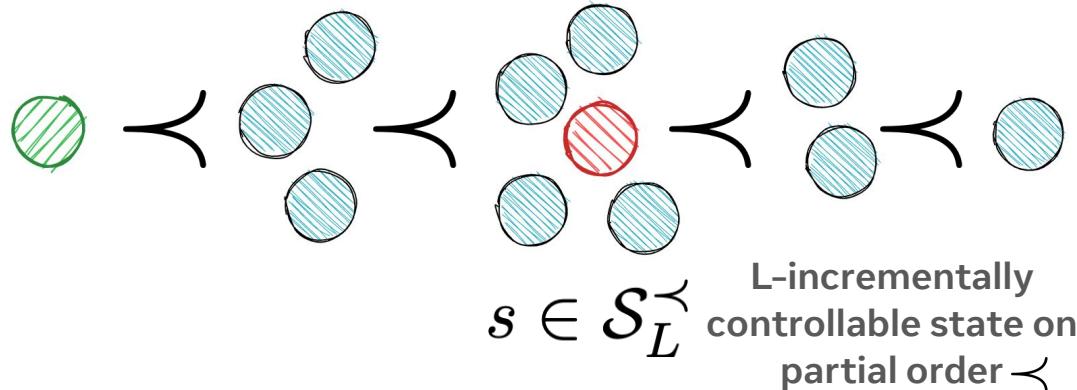
$$\pi(s) = a_{\text{reset}}$$

for all $s \notin S'$



Incrementally Controllable States

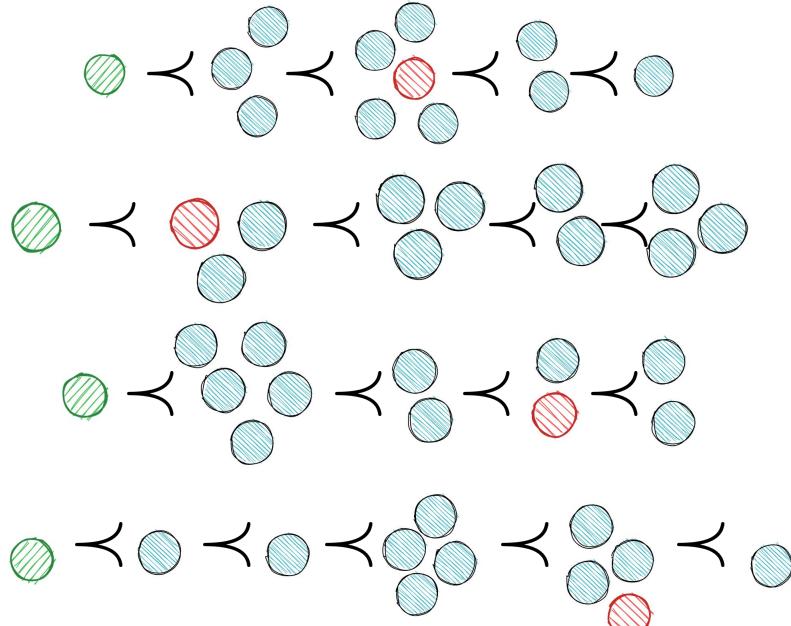
Given a partial order \prec on S



$$\exists \pi \text{ restricted on } \{s' \in \mathcal{S}_L^\prec : s' \prec s\} \quad V^\pi(s_0 \rightarrow s) \leq L$$



Incrementally Controllable States



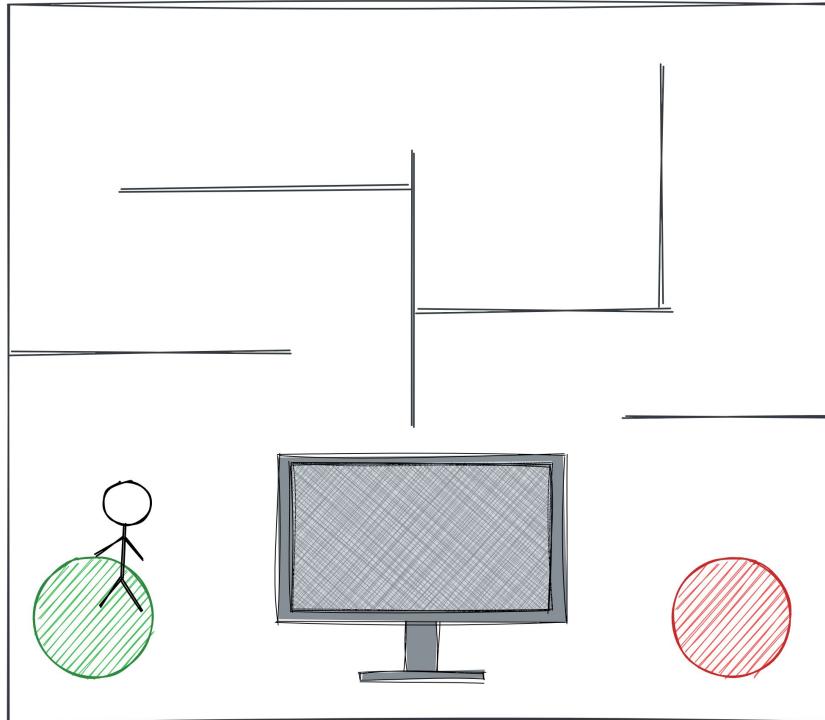
$$s \in \mathcal{S}_L^{\rightarrow} = \bigcup_{\prec} \mathcal{S}_L^{\prec}$$

Set of
L-incrementally
controllable states

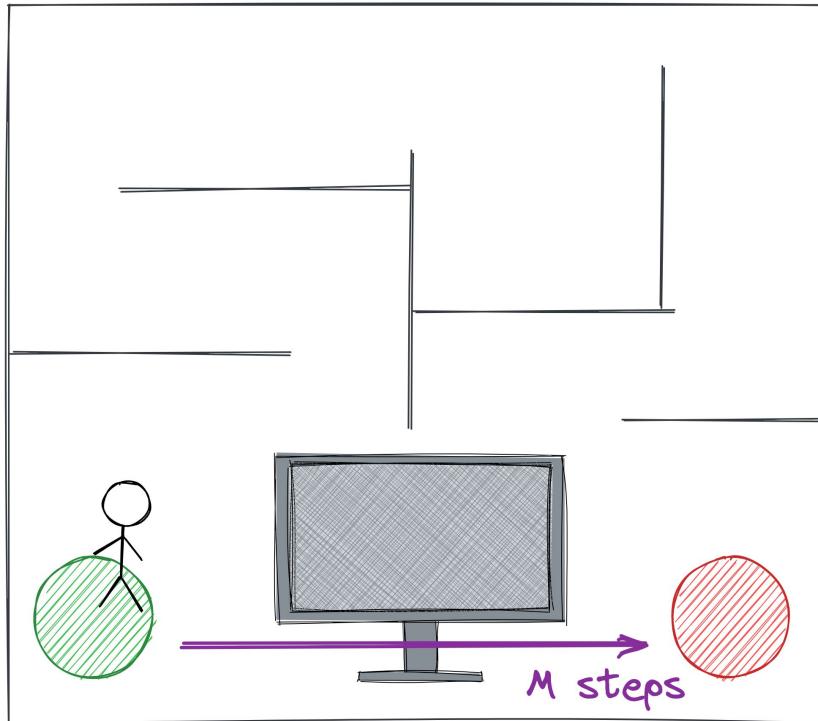
A state is L-incrementally controllable if it can be reached in L steps on average by only traversing states that are incrementally controllable



Incrementally Controllable States



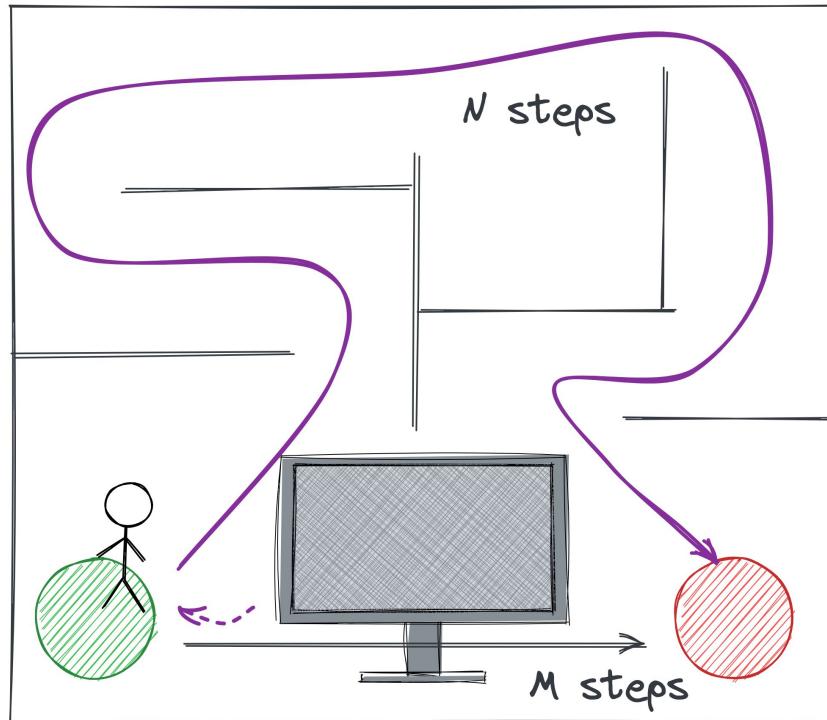
Incrementally Controllable States



M-step
controllable



Incrementally Controllable States



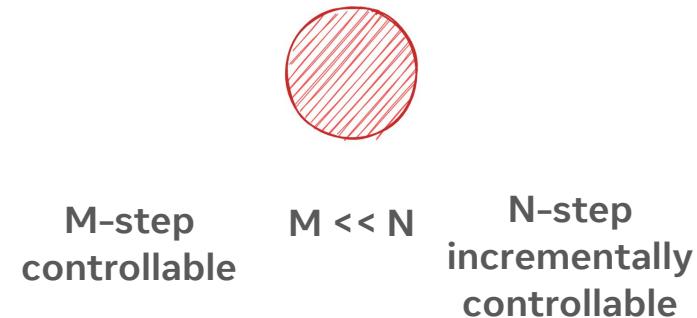
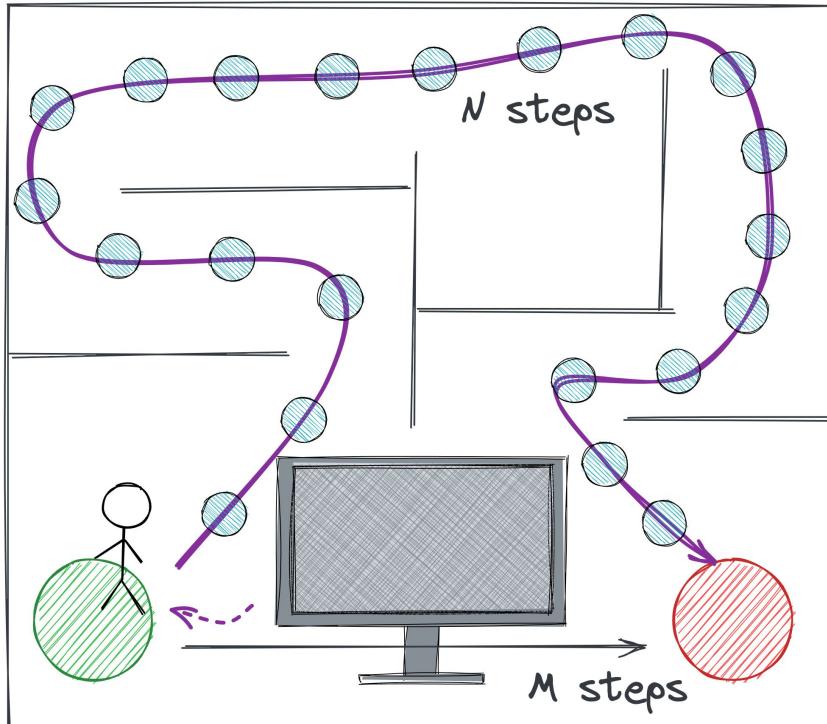
M-step
controllable

$M \ll N$

N-step
incrementally
controllable



Incrementally Controllable States



Depending on the value of L ,
the state may be
in \mathcal{S}_L
but not in $\mathcal{S}_L^\rightarrow$

Incremental Unsup. Exploration (aka Autonomous Exploration)

Definition of AX

- Reset action a_{reset} s.t. $p(s_0|s, a_{\text{reset}}) = 1$
- Goal radius L
- Accuracy level ϵ
- Goal set $\mathcal{G}_L^{\rightarrow}$

Incremental Unsup. Exploration (aka Autonomous Exploration)

(ϵ, δ, L) -**AX*** Learner

Agent stops after $\tau = \text{poly}(S_L^\rightarrow, A, \log(1/\delta), 1/\epsilon, L, \log(S))$ steps and

Accurate goal set identification

$$\mathcal{G}_L^\rightarrow \subseteq \mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{G}_{L+\epsilon}^\rightarrow$$

$$1 \geq 1 - \delta$$

Near-optimal goal-based policy

$$V^{\pi_g}(s_0 \rightarrow g) \leq V_{\mathcal{G}_L^\rightarrow}^*(s_0 \rightarrow g) + \epsilon \quad \forall g \in \mathcal{X}$$

P

]

Incremental Unsup. Exploration (aka Autonomous Exploration)

(ϵ, δ, L) -AX* Learner

Agent stops after $\tau = \text{poly}(S_L^\rightarrow, A, \log(1/\delta), 1/\epsilon, L, \log(S))$ steps and

$$P \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Accurate goal set identification} \\ \mathcal{G}_L^\rightarrow \subseteq \mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{G}_{L+\epsilon}^\rightarrow \\ \text{Near-optimal goal-based policy} \\ V^{\pi_g}(s_0 \rightarrow g) \leq V_{\mathcal{G}_L^\rightarrow}^*(s_0 \rightarrow g) + \epsilon \quad \forall g \in \mathcal{X} \end{array} \right] \geq 1 - \delta$$

Incremental Unsup. Exploration (aka Autonomous Exploration)

(ϵ, δ, L) -AX* Learner

Agent stops after $\tau = \text{poly}(S_L^\rightarrow, A, \log(1/\delta), 1/\epsilon, L, \log(S))$ steps and

P

Accurate goal set identification

$$\mathcal{G}_L^\rightarrow \subseteq \mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{G}_{L+\epsilon}^\rightarrow$$

]

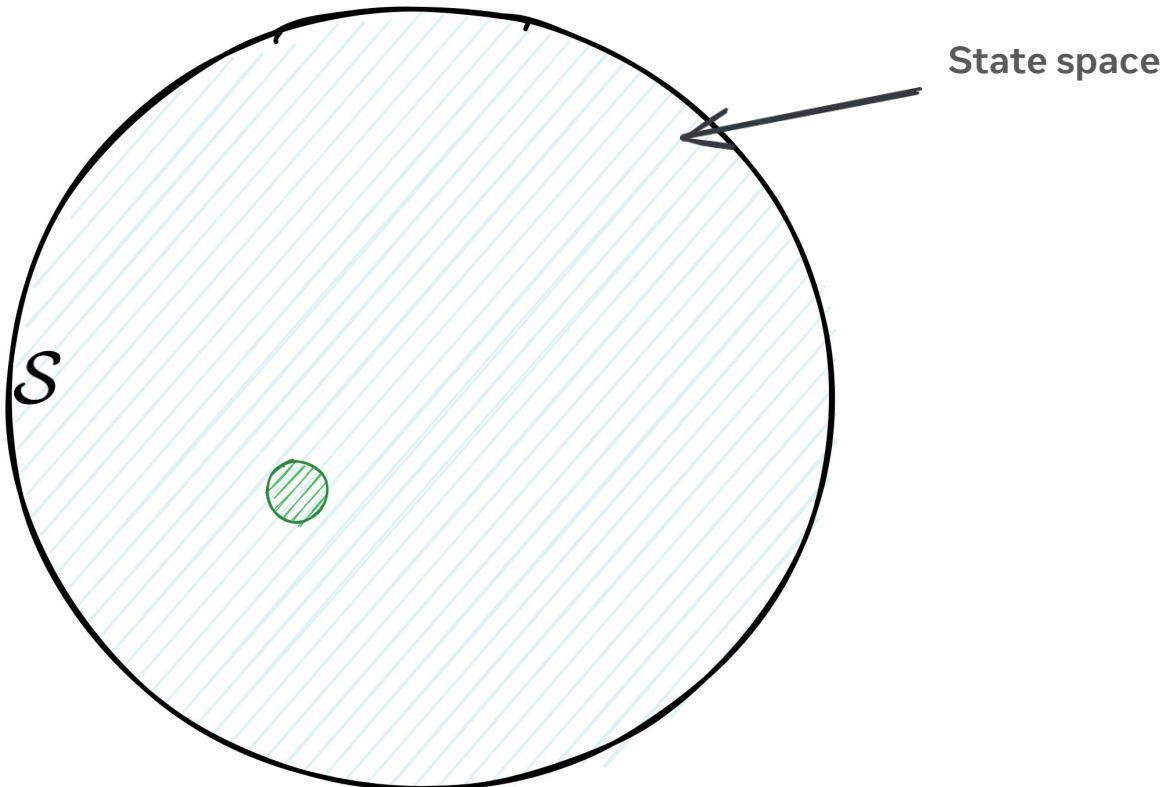
Near-optimal goal-based policy

$$V^{\pi_g}(s_0 \rightarrow g) \leq V_{\mathcal{G}_L^\rightarrow}^*(s_0 \rightarrow g) + \epsilon \quad \forall g \in \mathcal{X}$$

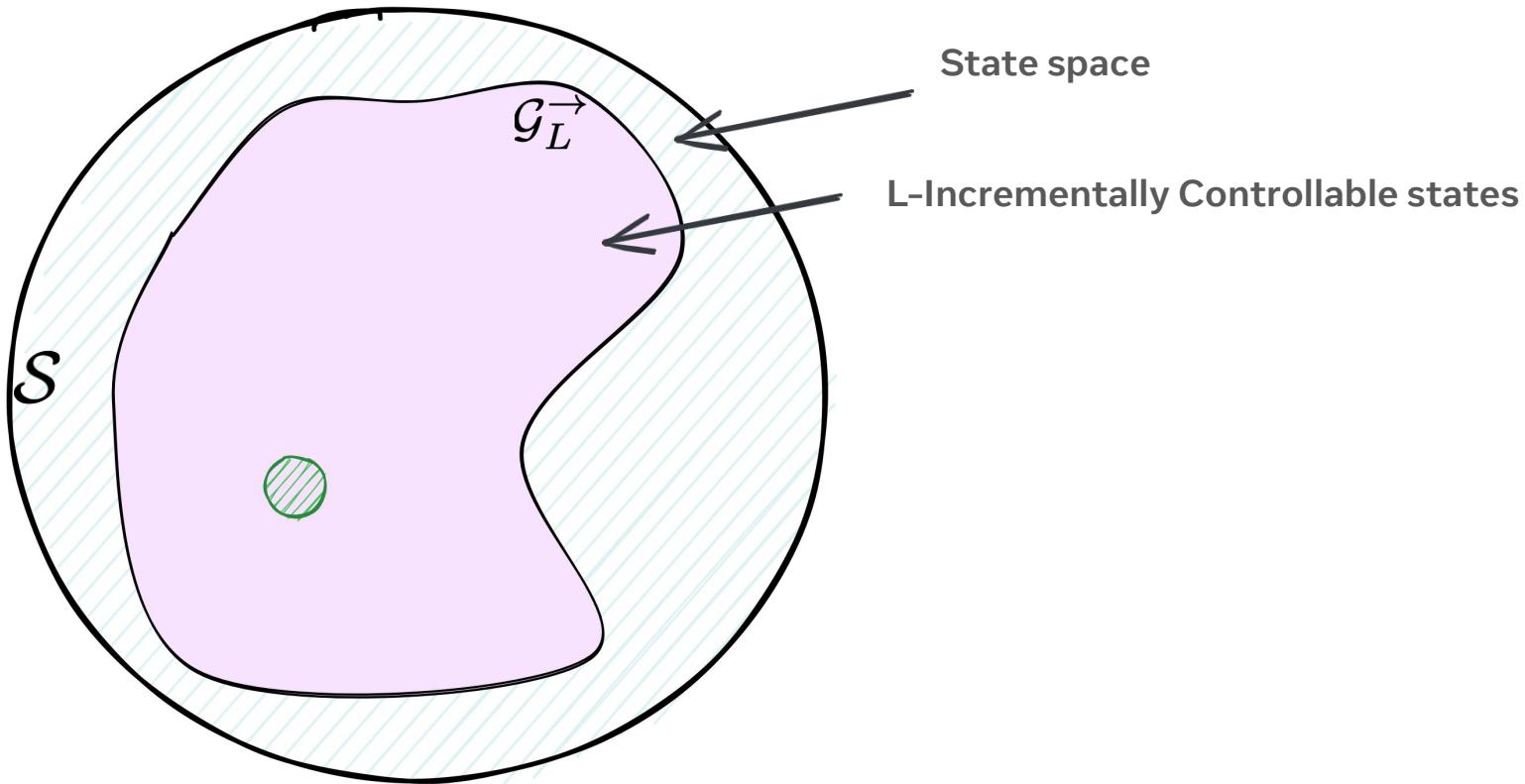
$$\geq 1 - \delta$$

Optimal policy
restricted on $\mathcal{G}_L^\rightarrow$

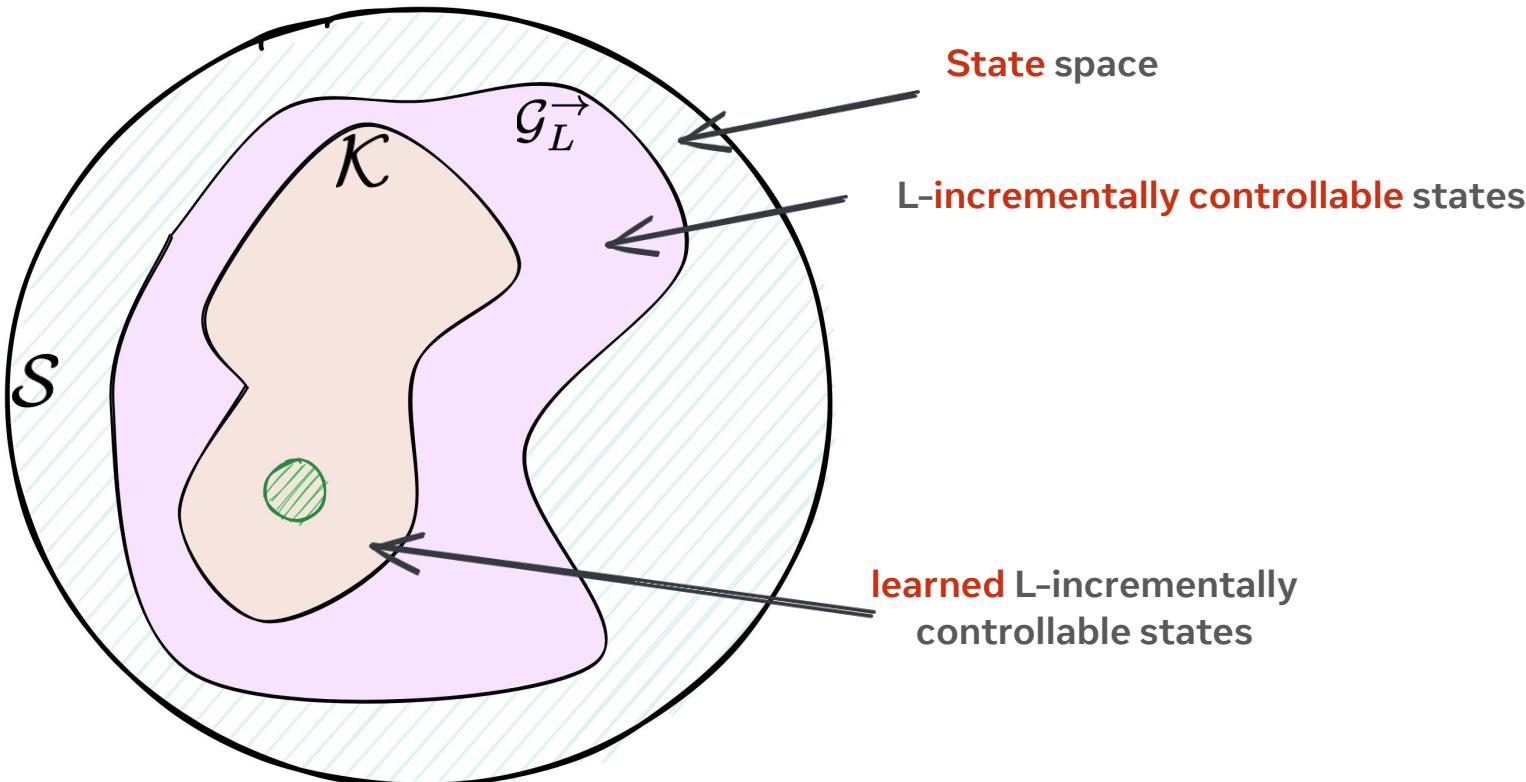
Discover and Control – DISCO



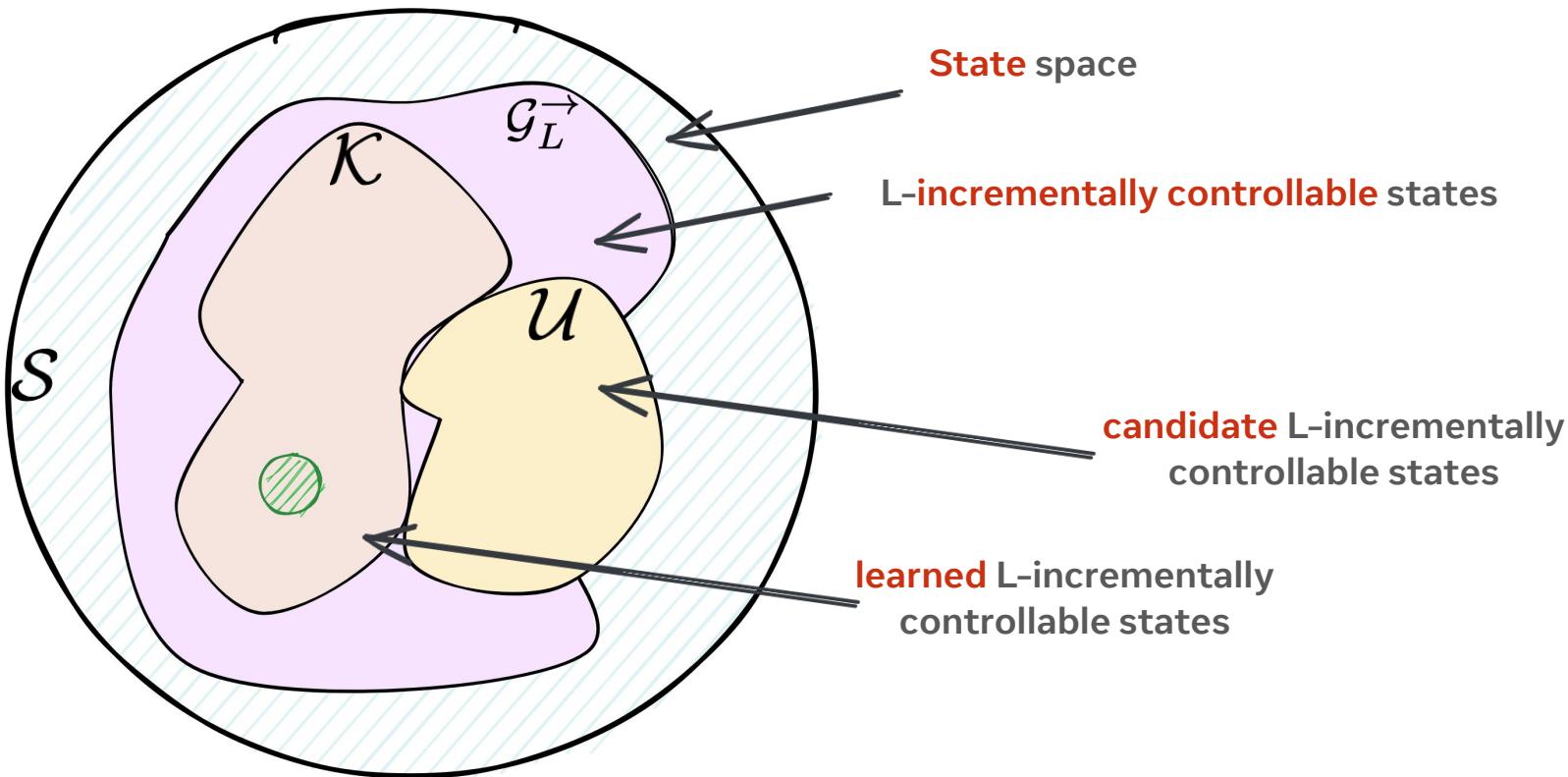
Discover and Control – DISCO



Discover and Control – DISCO



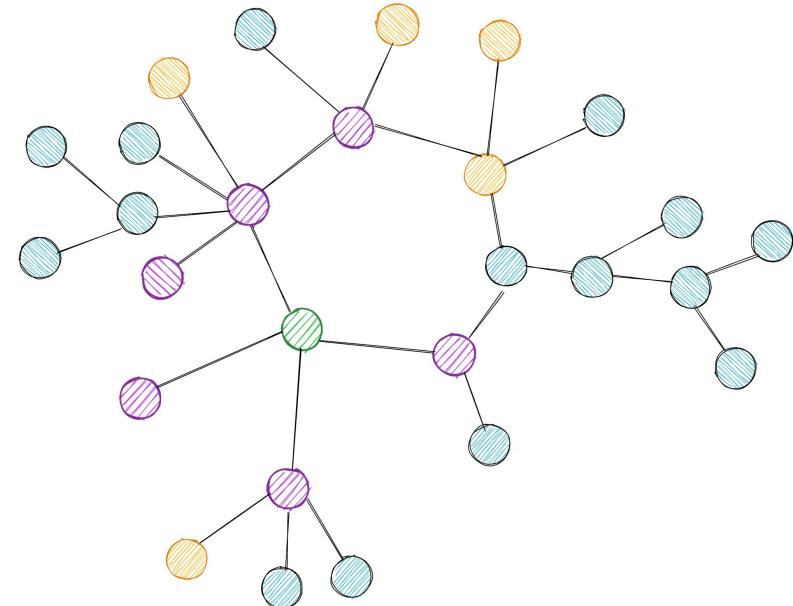
Discover and Control – DISCO



Discover and Control – DISCO

Discover & Control

1. Refine model and discover states
2. Update policy and learned states
3. If policy is good *then STOP* and return
otherwise jump to 1.

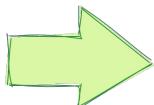


Discover and Control – DISCO

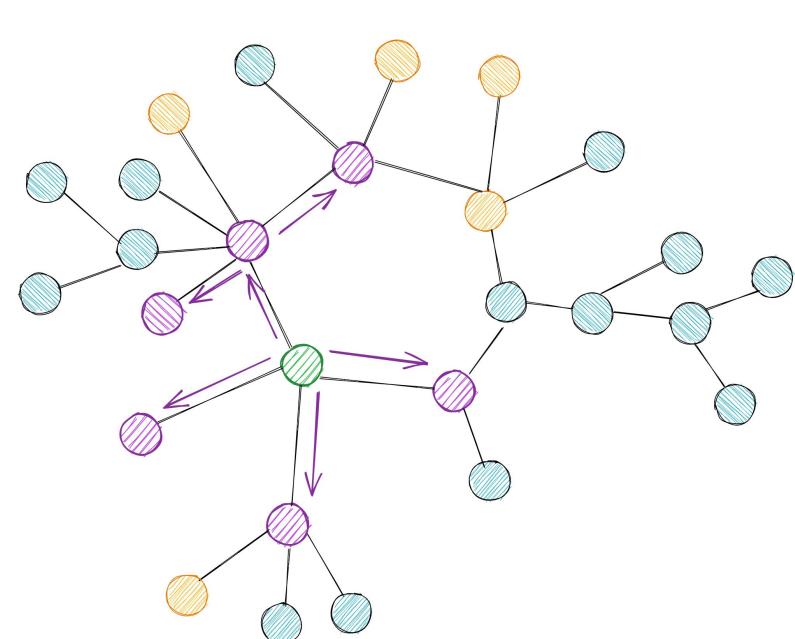
Discover & Control

1. Refine model and discover states
2. Update policy and learned states
3. If policy is good *then STOP* and return
otherwise jump to 1.

$$\forall s \in \mathcal{K}_k \quad V_{\mathcal{K}_k}^{\pi_k}(s_0 \rightarrow s) \leq L + \epsilon$$



generative model for states in \mathcal{K}_k
with cost (L+eps) per sample



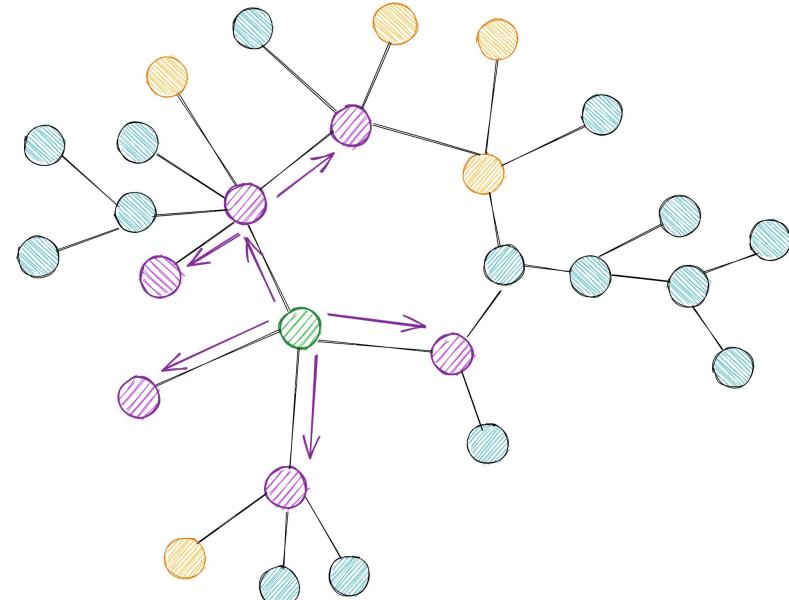
Discover and Control – DISCO

Discover & Control

1. Refine model and discover states
2. Update policy and learned states
3. If policy is good *then STOP* and return
otherwise jump to 1.

$$\forall s \in \mathcal{K}_k, a \in \mathcal{A}$$

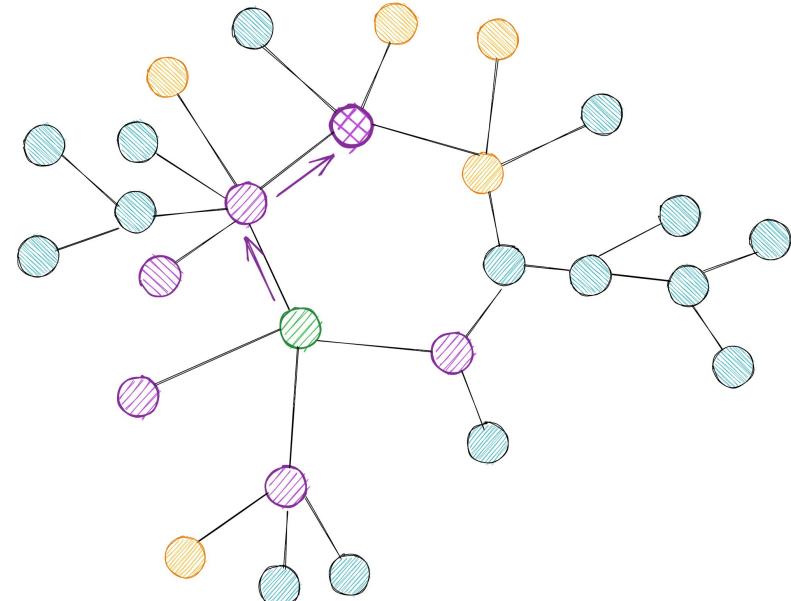
Collect samples until $N_k(s, a) \geq \phi(\mathcal{K}_k)$



Discover and Control – DISCO

Discover & Control

1. Refine model and discover states
2. Update policy and learned states
3. If policy is good *then STOP* and return
otherwise jump to 1.



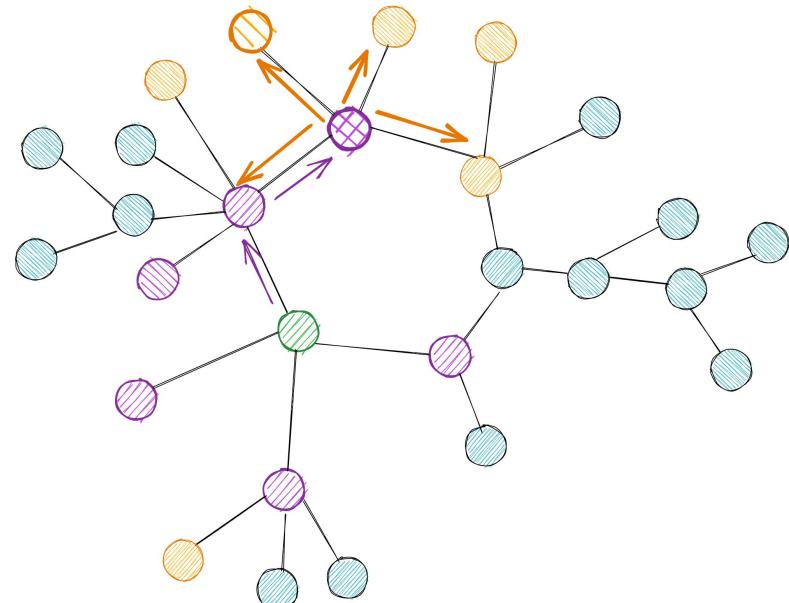
$$\forall s \in \mathcal{K}_k, a \in \mathcal{A}$$

Collect samples until $N_k(s, a) \geq \phi(\mathcal{K}_k)$

Discover and Control – DISCO

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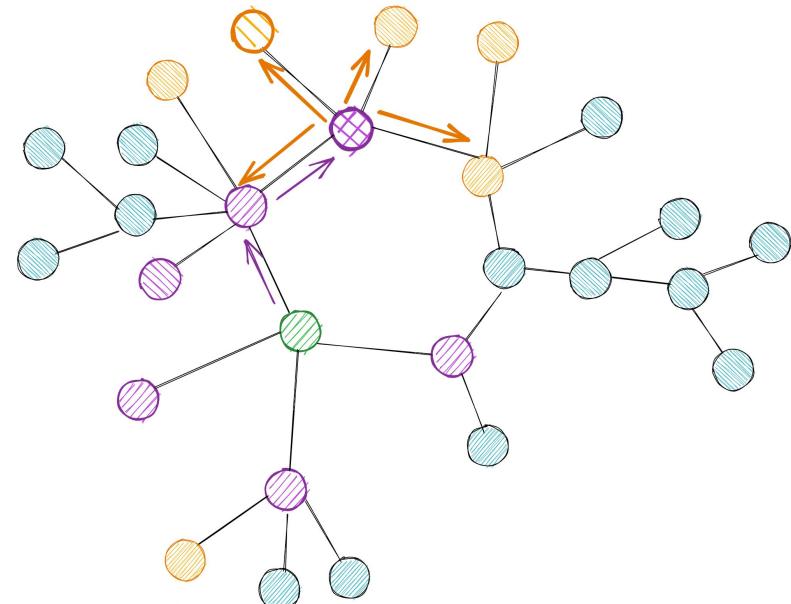
$$\forall s \in \mathcal{K}_k, a \in \mathcal{A}$$

Collect samples until $N_k(s, a) \geq \phi(\mathcal{K}_k)$

Discover and Control – DISCO

Discover & Control

1. Refine model and discover states
2. Update policy and learned states
3. If policy is good *then STOP* and return
otherwise jump to 1.



$$\forall s' \in \mathcal{U}_k$$

$$(\pi_{k+1}(s'); \bar{V}_{\mathcal{K}_k}^{\pi^{k+1}}(s_0 \rightarrow s')) = \text{OVI}(\mathcal{K}_k, \mathcal{A}, \hat{p}_k; s')$$



Optimistic policy and value function

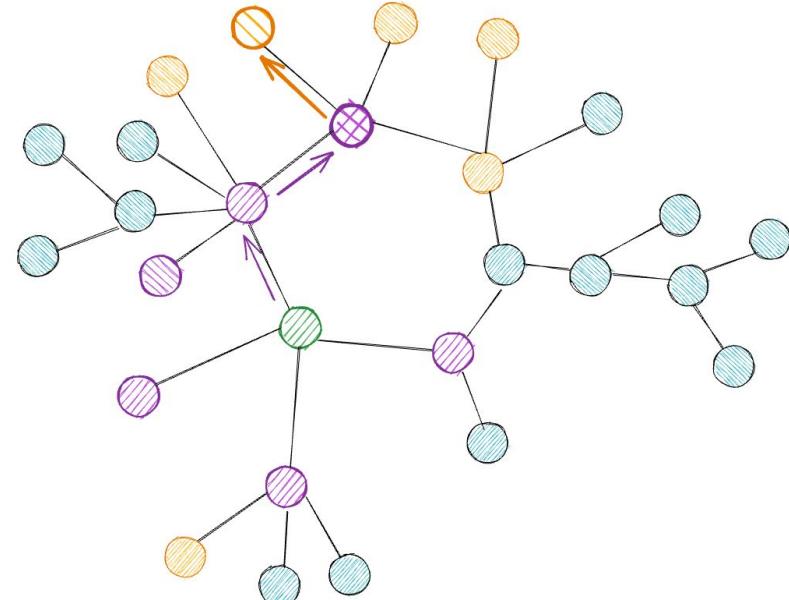
Discover and Control – DISCO

Discover & Control

1. Refine model and discover states
2. Update policy and learned states
3. If policy is good *then STOP* and return
otherwise jump to 1.

$$s^\dagger = \arg \min_{s' \in \mathcal{U}_k} \bar{V}_{\mathcal{K}_k}^{\pi_{k+1}}(s_0 \rightarrow s')$$

If $\bar{V}_{\mathcal{K}_k}^{\pi_{k+1}}(s_0 \rightarrow s^\dagger) \leq L$ then $\mathcal{K}_{k+1} = \mathcal{K}_k \cup \{s^\dagger\}$



Consolidate new state

Discover and Control – DISCO

Discover & Control

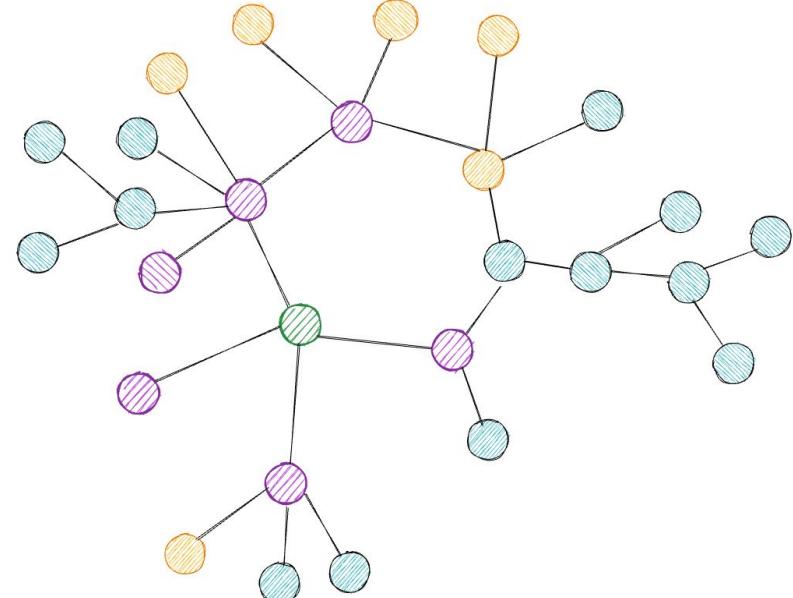
1. Refine model and discover states
2. Update policy and learned states
3. If policy is good *then STOP and return*
otherwise jump to 1.



If $\bar{V}_{\mathcal{K}_k}^{\pi_{k+1}}(s_0 \rightarrow s^\dagger) > L$ then



Not even the most optimistic
state is optimistically
 L -incrementally controllable



Tabular-DISCO

Thm: Sample Complexity [Tarbouriech et al., 2020]

DISCO is (ϵ, δ, L) -AX* with sample complexity

$$\mathbb{E}[\tau] = \tilde{O}\left(\frac{L^5 \Gamma_{L+\epsilon} S_{L+\epsilon} A}{\epsilon^2}\right)$$



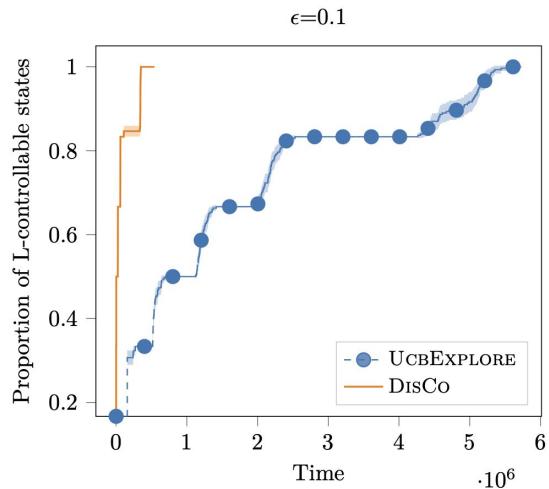
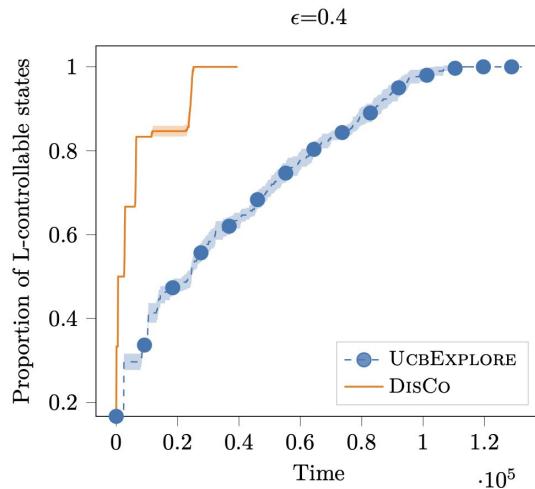
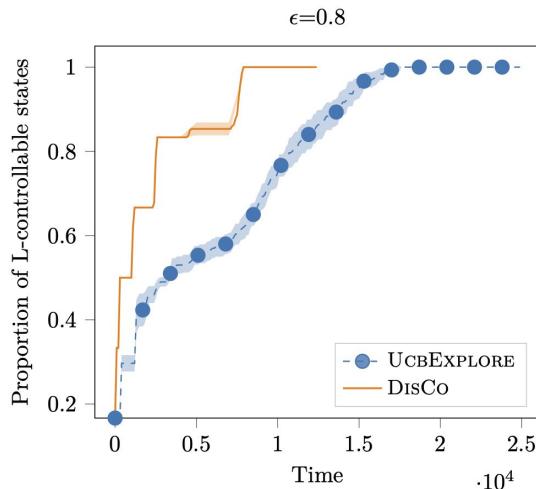
Remarks

Compared to UCBExplore

- Stronger policy guarantees
- Better than $O(L^6 / \text{eps}^3)$
- Worse than $O(S_L)$

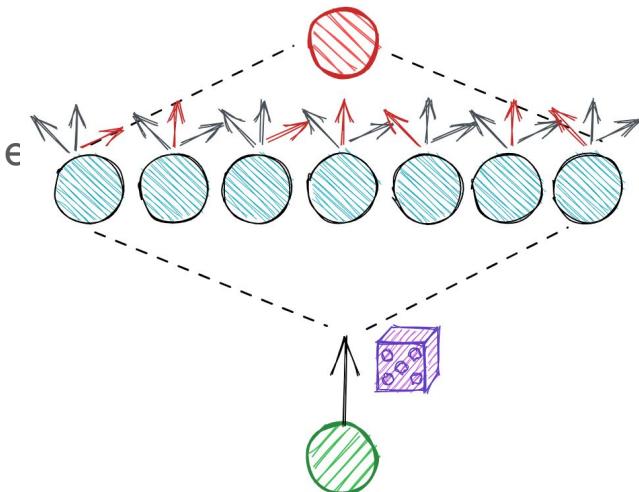


DISCO: A Simple Example



Limitations and Open Questions

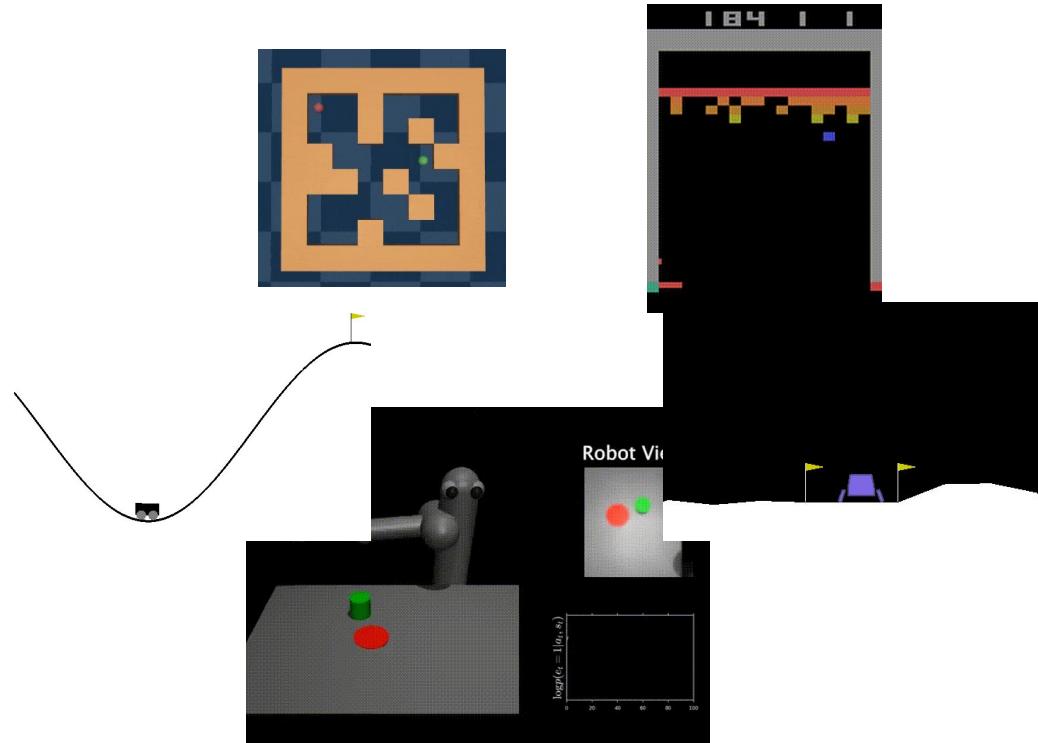
- **Deep-DISCO:** Unlike AdaGoal, DISCO is **intrinsically** tabular (e.g., listing consolidated and candidate states, prescribing number of samples)
- **Unified algorithm** for controllable and inc.controllable states
- Recent result improves (some aspects of) our bound but still **not minimax optimal**
- **Problem-dependent** analysis
- **SSP** with incrementally-controllable goal
- Incremental controllability at different levels of **temporal abstraction**



Limitations and Open Questions (cont'd)

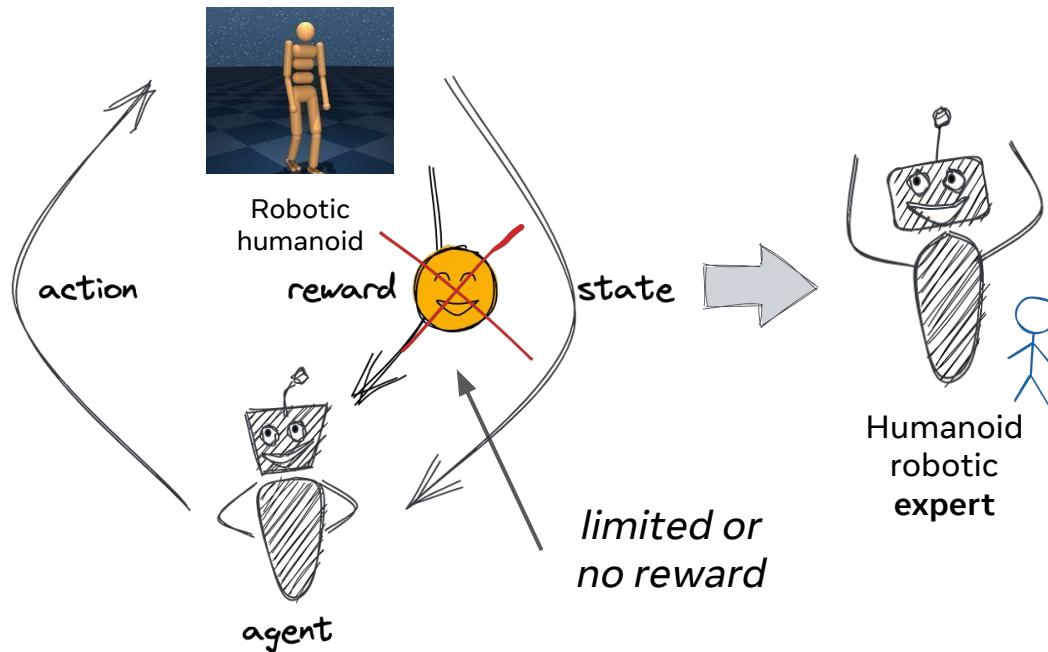
Is really $\mathcal{S}_L \neq \mathcal{S}_L^{\rightarrow}$ in “practice”?

- Deterministic MDPs
- Smooth MDPs?

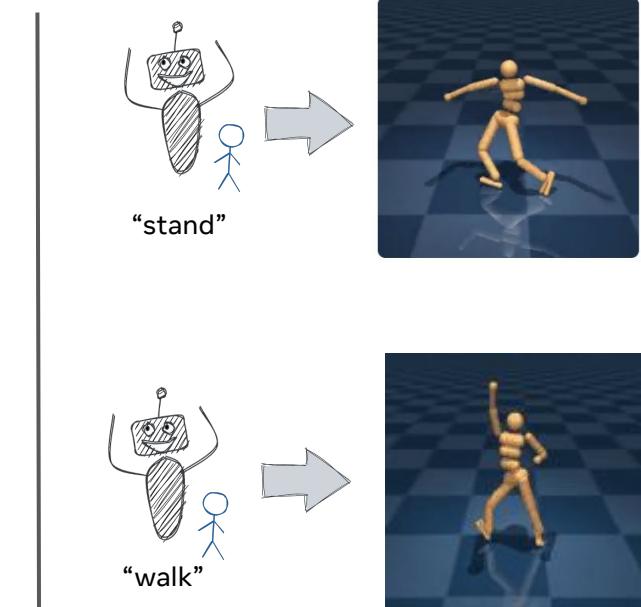


Discussion

From Specialized to **Universally Controllable** Agents



Unsupervised RL

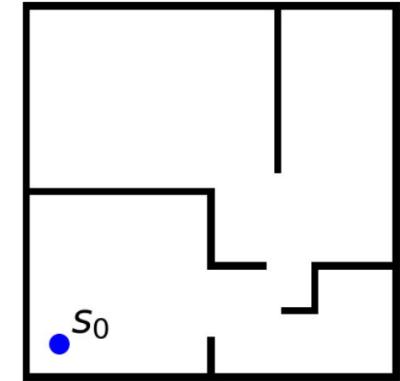


Zero/few-shot learning

From Learning to Control States to **Skill Discovery**

- Goal-based policy:
 - Too “flat”
 - 1 goal = 1 policy
 - No compositionality
- Performance requirement **too strong (zero-shot)**

$$V^{\pi_g}(s_0 \rightarrow g) \leq V^*(s_0 \rightarrow g) + \epsilon \quad \forall g \in \mathcal{X}$$

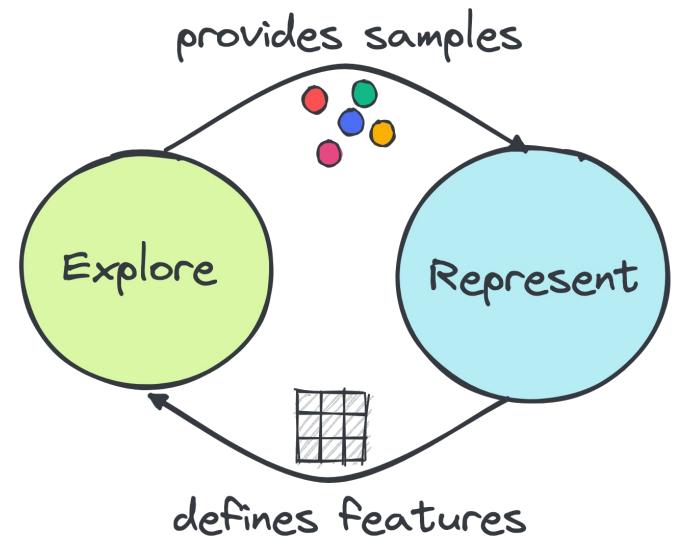


⇒ Generate a few policies (options) that **cover the goal space** and can be **efficiently fine-tuned**



The Role of **Representation** in Unsup. Exploration

- In **tabular** all states “equally” matter
- A **representation** defines what “matters”
- An **exploration** strategy provides “information”
- No “grounding” on reward



A. Erraqabi, M. Machado, M. Zhao, S. Sukhbaatar, **A. Lazaric**, D. Ludovic, Y. Bengio. *Temporal abstractions-augmented temporally contrastive learning: An alternative to the Laplacian in RL*. UAI-2022.
D. Yarats, R. Fergus, **A. Lazaric**, L. Pinto. *Reinforcement Learning with Prototypical Representations*. ICML-2021.

From Goals to “Prompts”

- Beyond goals:
 - **Language-based** tasks (e.g., “set up living room environment for movie night”)
 - **Underspecified** tasks (e.g., “walk in a funny way”)
 - **Questions** (e.g., “what happens if I push the door?”)
- Change of protocol
 - Add **demonstrations** at train time
 - Add **corrections** at test time

**“Walk in a
funny way”**

Thank you!

