



# Imitation Learning

CISC 7404 - Decision Making

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University of Macau

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# Admin

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  - He Enhao
  - Leonard Hangqin Zhuang
  - Qiao Yulin
  - Fu Zexin



# Final Projects

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Project plans turned in

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- Legend of Zelda
- Super Mario (7x)
- LLM finetuning
- Honor of Kings (3x)
- Federated learning
- Sudoku
- Snake (2x)
- Health AI system
- Tetris
- PacMan (2x)
- Navigation
- StarCraft II
- Getting Over It
- Gymnax
- 2048
- Pokemon Double Battle

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<https://youtu.be/8qGCleYV4cw?si=ynB0ldg5-TdAiAh9&t=74>

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This chapter compares ... data on different addictions ... from drug addiction to binge-eating disorders, gambling, and videogame addiction. ... Based on these data, it is argued that **there is a hazard inherent in any rewarding operant behavior, no matter how apparently benign: that we may become genuinely “addicted” to any behavior that provides operant reward.** With this in mind, addiction is rightly seen as a possibility for any human being, not a product of the particular pharmacological or technological properties of any one particular substance or behavior.

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- Addict behavior policy maximizes the return!

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LLMs are patient, intelligent, helpful because of the reward function

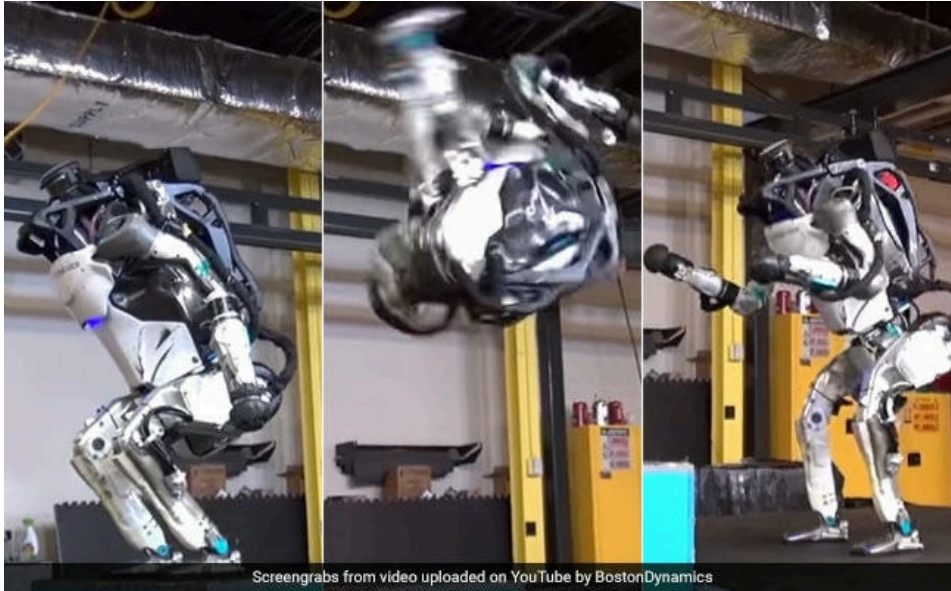
# Finish DPG

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# Imitation Learning

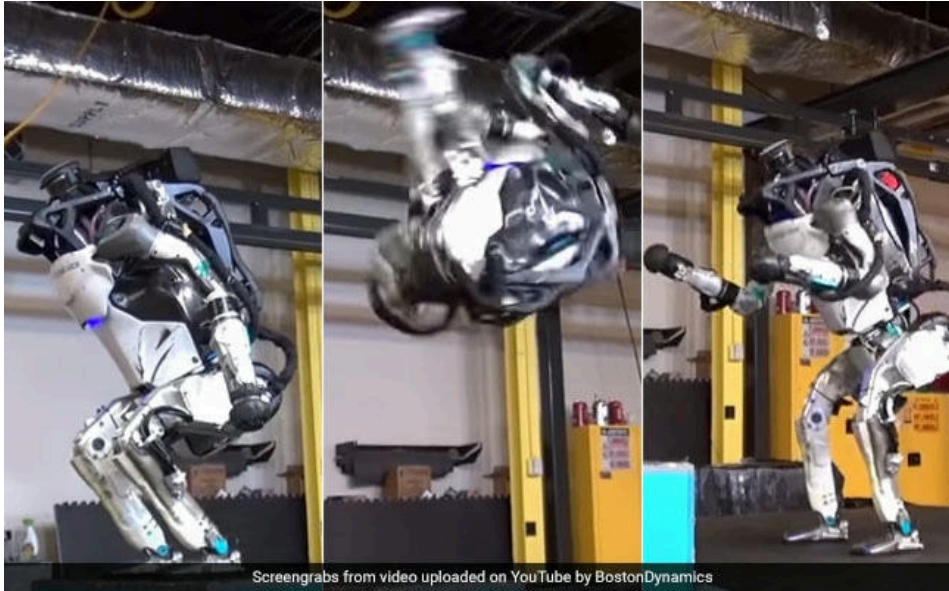
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**Example:** You are a scientist at Boston Dynamics/Tencent Robotics/etc

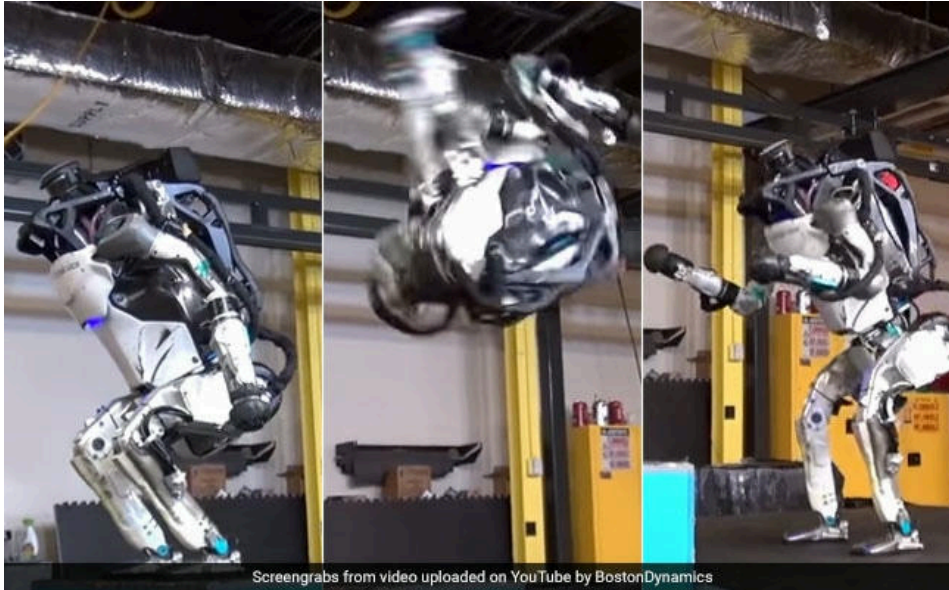




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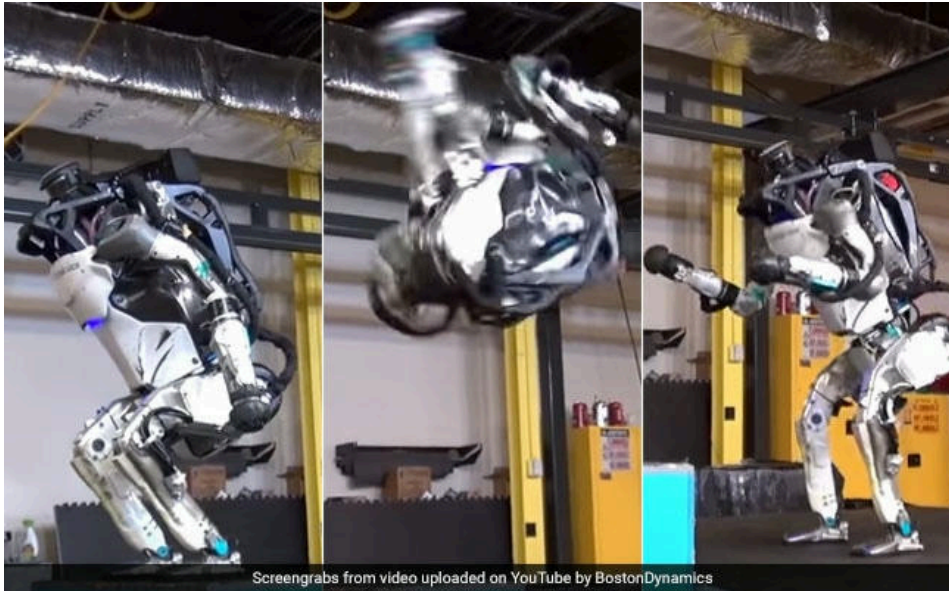


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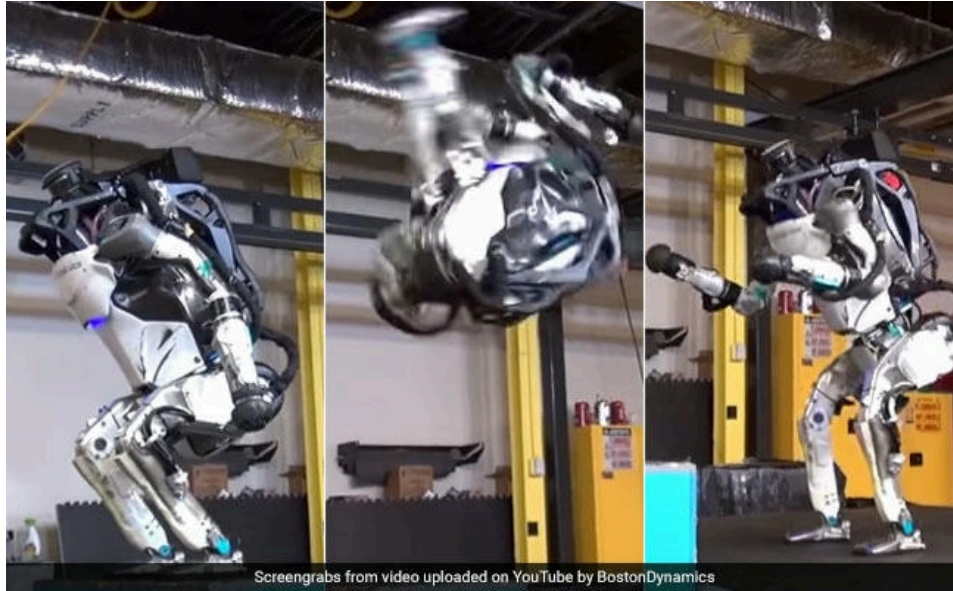
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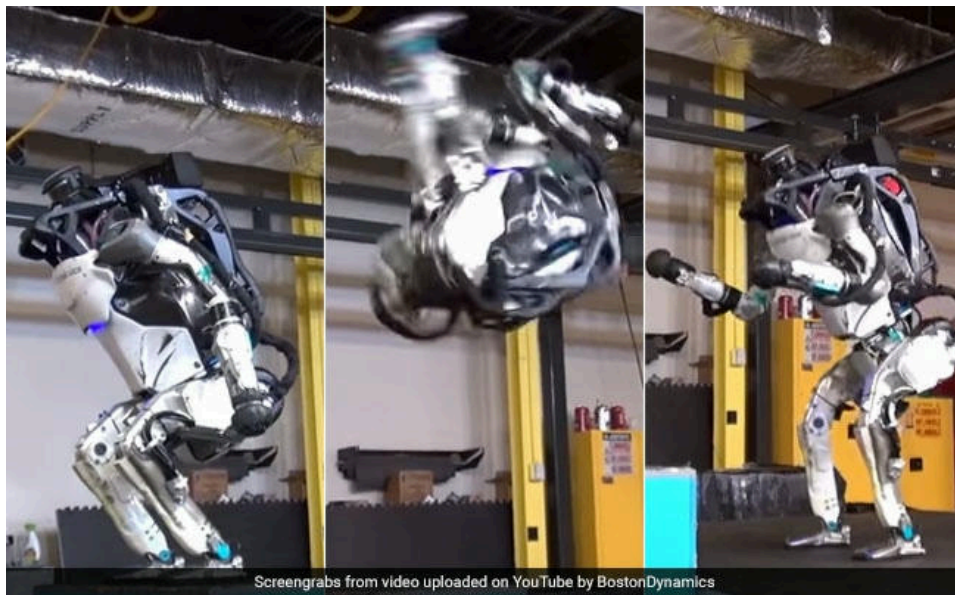
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$$\mathcal{R}(s) =$$

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It is very hard to write a reward function for these behaviors

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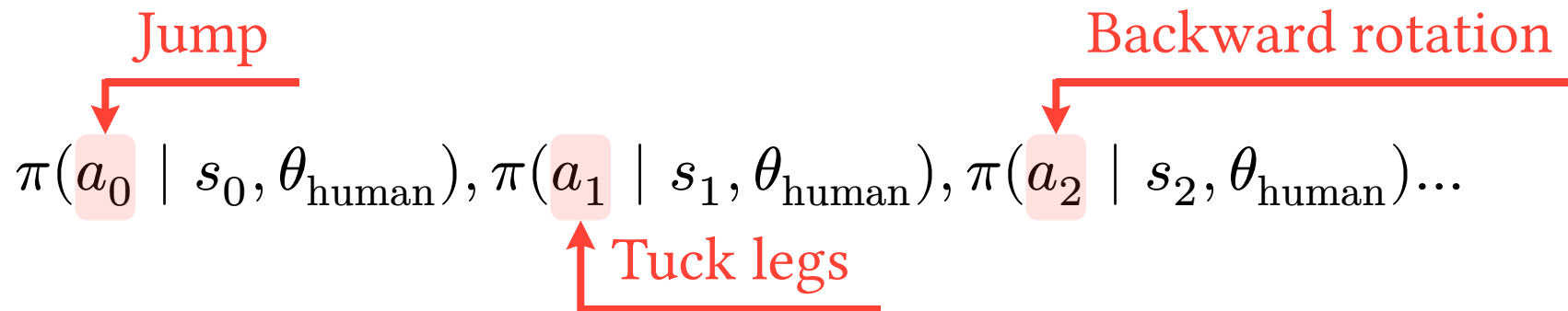
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$$\pi(a_0 \mid s_0, \theta_{\text{human}}), \pi(a_1 \mid s_1, \theta_{\text{human}}), \pi(a_2 \mid s_2, \theta_{\text{human}}) \dots$$

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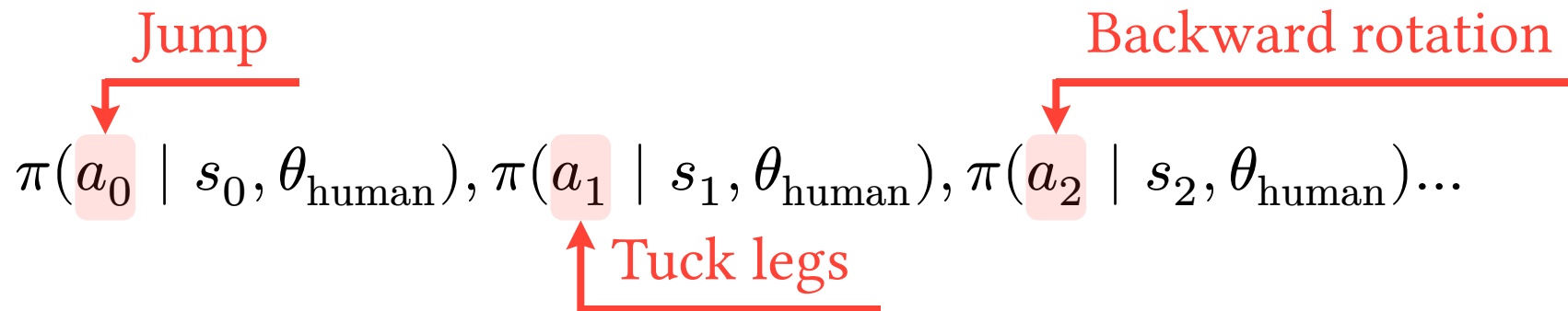




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In **imitation learning** we learn to imitate an expert policy

I want to introduce a formalism to model the problem

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$$\mathbf{X} = [\tau_1 \quad \tau_2 \quad \dots] = \left[ \begin{bmatrix} (s_0, a_0) \\ (s_1, a_1) \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} (s_0, a_0) \\ (s_1, a_1) \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} \quad \dots \right]$$



# Imitation Learning

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4N4czAm61Fc>

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**Answer:** KL divergence measures difference in distributions

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$$\arg \min_{\theta_{\pi}} \sum_{a \in A} -\pi(a \mid s; \theta_{\beta}) \log \pi(a \mid s; \theta_{\pi})$$



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First term is constant with respect to  $\theta_{\pi}$  (only depends on  $\theta_{\beta}$ )

Can ignore the first term for optimization purposes

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Behavioral cloning is a simple supervised learning algorithm!

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What if  $A$  is continuous (infinite)?

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Need to be careful how we model  $\pi$ , to make sure we can solve this

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**Note:** We derive the loss function for a Gaussian policy gradient loss the exact same way

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$$\arg \min_{\theta_\pi} \sum_{s \in \mathbf{X}} \frac{1}{2} \left( \log \sigma^2 + \frac{(a_* - \mu)^2}{\sigma^2} \right)$$

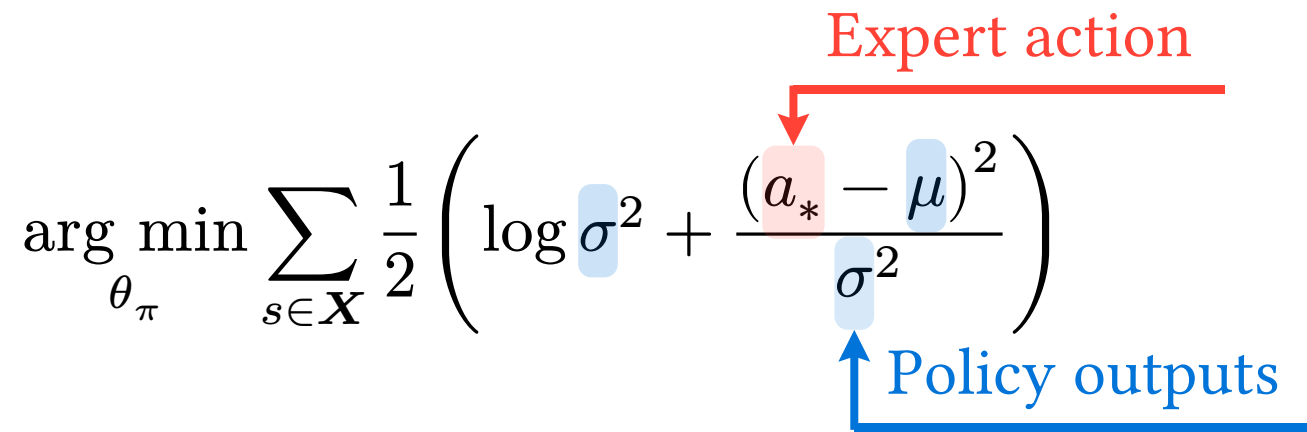


# Behavioral Cloning

**Definition:** Behavioral cloning uses **supervised learning** for decision making, minimizing the cross-entropy between expert  $\theta_\beta$  and our  $\theta_\pi$

$$\arg \min_{\theta_\pi} \sum_{s, a \in \mathbf{X}} -\pi(a \mid s; \theta_\beta) \log \pi(a \mid s; \theta_\pi)$$

For continuous actions, we pick special distributions so the cross entropy loss is tractable (Dirac delta  $\theta_\beta$ , Gaussian  $\theta_\pi$ )



The diagram illustrates the Gaussian loss function for behavioral cloning with continuous actions. The equation is 
$$\arg \min_{\theta_\pi} \sum_{s \in \mathbf{X}} \frac{1}{2} \left( \log \sigma^2 + \frac{(a_* - \mu)^2}{\sigma^2} \right)$$
. A red arrow labeled "Expert action" points to the term  $a_*$  in the numerator. A blue arrow labeled "Policy outputs" points to the term  $\mu$  in the numerator. The term  $\sigma^2$  in the denominator is also highlighted in blue.

# Coding

---

# Coding

Similar to policy gradient, just with different loss function

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The policies and methods change depending on action space

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Discrete actions use a categorical distribution

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The policies and methods change depending on action space

Discrete actions use a categorical distribution

Continuous actions usually use normal distribution

Start with discrete actions, then do continuous

# Coding

Implement a model for a categorical policy



# Coding

Implement a model for a categorical policy

```
model = Sequential([  
    Linear(state_size, hidden_size),  
    Lambda(leaky_relu),  
    Linear(hidden_size, hidden_size),  
    Lambda(leaky_relu),  
    # Output logits (real numbers)  
    Linear(hidden_size, action_size),  
])
```

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Identical to policy gradient

# Coding

Next, implement discrete loss function

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```
def bc_loss(model, states, actions):  
    # Often, we can't know the expert action distribution  
    # We only have the taken expert action  
    # Taken action has p=1, all other actions p=0  
    # Represent as a one-hot vector  
    expert_probs = actions  
    log_policy_probs = log_softmax(vmap(model)(states))  
    # Log loss, can reduce over batch using mean or sum  
    bce_loss = -sum(  
        expert_probs * log_policy_probs, axis=1).mean()  
    return bce_loss
```

# Coding

Finally, to run our policy we sample actions from our policy

# Coding

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```
def sample_action(model, state, key):  
    z = model(state)  
    # BE VERY CAREFUL, always read documentation  
    # Sometimes takes UNNORMALIZED logits, sometimes probs  
    action_probs = softmax(model, state)  
    a = categorical(key, action_probs)  
    a = categorical(key, z) # Does not even use pi  
    return a
```

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model = Sequential([
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    Lambda(leaky_relu),
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    Linear(hidden_size, 2 * action_size),
    Lambda(x: split(x, 2))
])
```

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Same as policy gradient

# Coding

Implement continuous loss function

# Coding

Implement continuous loss function

Use simplified cross entropy (Dirac-Gaussian)

# Coding

Implement continuous loss function

Use simplified cross entropy (Dirac-Gaussian)

```
def bc_loss(model, states, actions):  
    expert_probs = actions # Dirac delta  
    mu, log_std = vmap(model)(states)  
    # Gaussian CE, also called Gaus. Neg. Log Likelihood  
    gnll_loss = log_std + 0.5 * (  
        (mu - action)**2 / exp(log_std)**2  
    )  
    return gnll_loss
```

# Coding

Next, we need to sample actions from our policy network

```
def sample_action(model, state, key):  
    mu, log_sigma = model(state)  
    # Reparameterization trick  
    noise = random.normal(key, (action_size,))  
    a = mu + exp(log_sigma) * noise  
    return a
```

# Coding

The training loop is much simpler than RL

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```
model = Sequential(...)
opt_state = ...
# Just supervised learning
for batch in dataset:
    states, actions = batch
    J = grad(bc_loss)(model, states, actions)
    update = optim.update(J, opt_state)
    model = apply_updates(update, model)
```



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```

Then deploy the policy

```
a_t = sample_action(model, s_t, key)
```

# Applications

---

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Sounds very promising, why do we care about RL?

**Question:** What are some disadvantages of BC?

# Applications



**Limitation:** Imperfect expert

# Applications



**Limitation:** Imperfect expert

Dataset is following an “expert”  $\theta_\beta$

# Applications



**Limitation:** Imperfect expert

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Humans are not reliable experts in many cases

# Applications



**Limitation:** Imperfect expert

Dataset is following an “expert”  $\theta_\beta$

Humans are not reliable experts in many cases

You will learn a policy that drives like it is texting

# Applications

Even where all the data is from a reliable “expert”, we have problems

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Consider a human surgeon



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$$\pi(a \mid s; \theta_\pi) \approx \underbrace{\pi(a \mid s; \theta_\beta)}_{\text{Human policy}}$$

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$$\pi(a \mid s; \theta_\pi) \approx \underbrace{\pi(a \mid s; \theta_\beta)}_{\text{Human policy}}$$

**Question:** Any other issues?

# Applications

**Limitation:** Humans limited to small regions of state space

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In practice, BC policies generalize much worse than RL policies

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There will be very few crashes in a self driving dataset

When the policy is about to crash, the state will be out of distribution

The policy will be unable to avoid crashing

In practice, BC policies generalize much worse than RL policies

Small errors in the learned policy eventually drive the policy to out of distribution states

# Applications

One solution to out of distribution error is to collect more data

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**Dagger:** The agent asks an expert for help when it visit an out of distribution state

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**Inverse RL:** We learn the reward function that the expert is maximizing

$$\begin{aligned} & \arg \max_{\theta_R} \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{G}(\tau) \mid s_0; \theta_\beta] \\ &= \arg \max_{\theta_R} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma^n \sum_{s_{n+1} \in S} \underbrace{\mathcal{R}(s_{n+1}, \theta_R)}_{\text{Learnable}} \cdot \Pr(s_{n+1} \mid s_0; \theta_\beta) \end{aligned}$$



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Then, we learn a policy  $\theta_\pi$  using RL. This generalizes better than BC