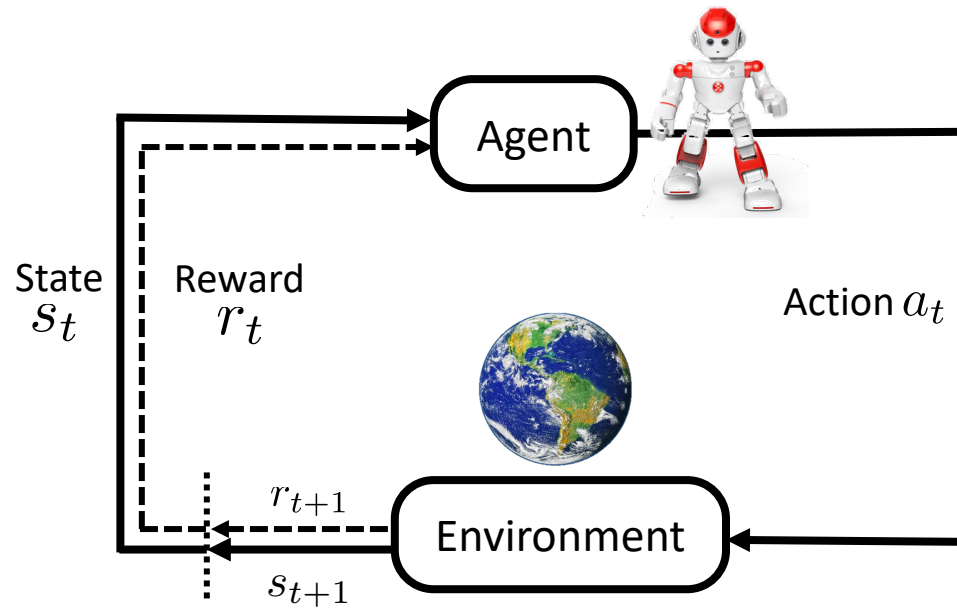
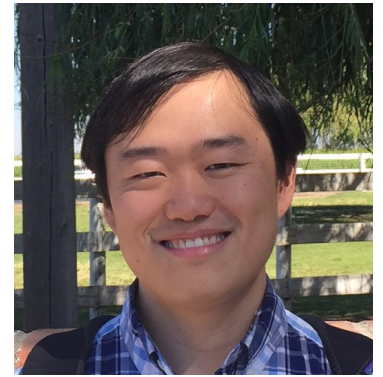


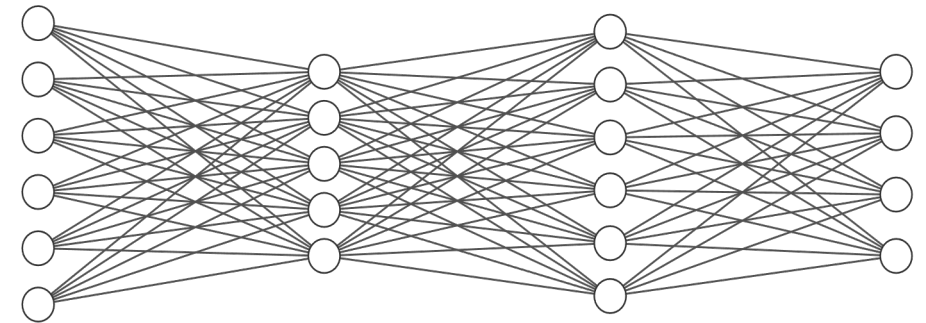
# Learning Multi-Agent Collaborations With Decomposition

Yuandong Tian  
Research Scientist  
Facebook AI Research

# Research Directions

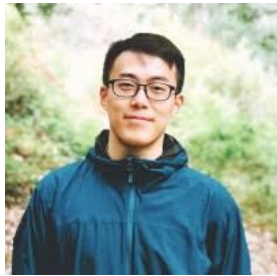


Reinforcement Learning



Theoretical Understanding of Deep Models

# Multi-Agent Ad-hoc team play through Reward Attributional Q-functions



Tianjun Zhang<sup>1,4</sup>



Huazhe Xu<sup>1,4</sup>



Xiaolong Wang<sup>1,2</sup>



Joseph E. Gonzalez<sup>1</sup>



Yuandong Tian<sup>4</sup>



Yi Wu<sup>3</sup>



Kurt Keutzer<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Tsinghua University

<sup>4</sup>FaceBook AI Research

Videos: <https://sites.google.com/view/collaq-starcraft>

Code: <https://github.com/facebookresearch/CollaQ>

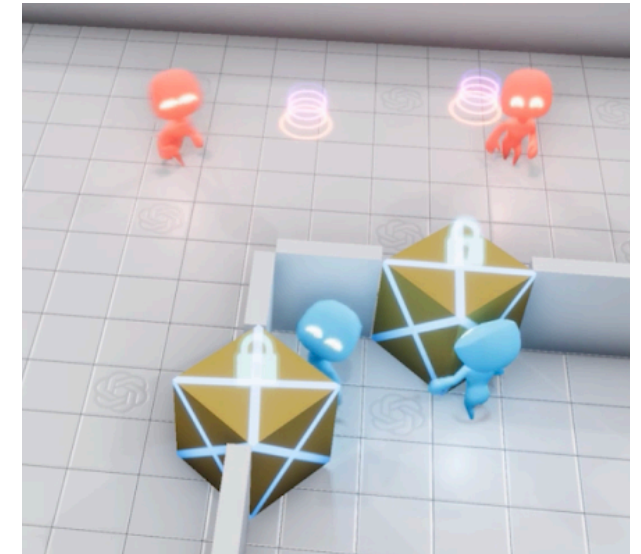
# Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning



DoTA 2  
(OpenAI)



Quake 3  
(DeepMind)



Find and Seek  
(OpenAI)

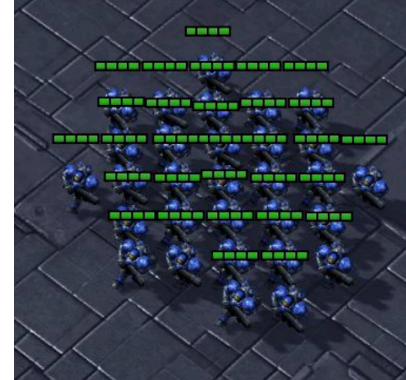


# Research Target

- **Efficiently** training collaborative agents
- **Adapt to new team configurations** in test time without fine-tuning



Training



Test

We propose Collaborative Q-learning (CollaQ)

# Value Function Decoupling in Collaborative Setting

The state of agent  $i$

Joint Value Function  $V_{\text{joint}}(s_1, s_2, \dots, s_K)$



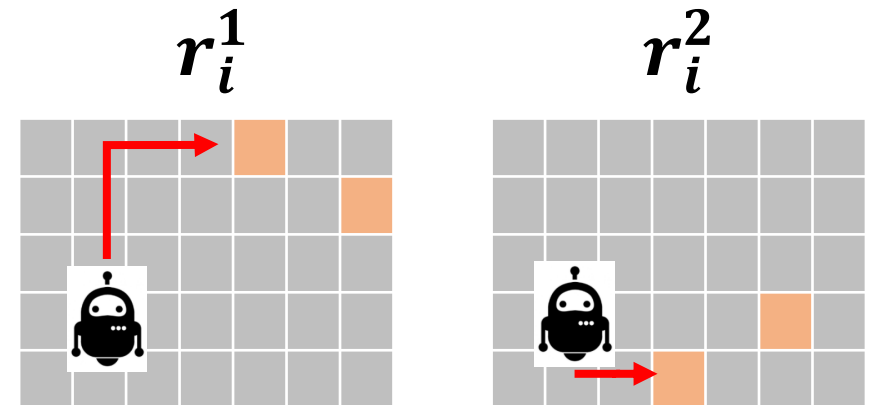
1. 😞 Exponential sample complexity to estimate this function
2. 😞 No decentralized execution
3. 😞 Not able to generalize with new agent / team mates.

**Model agent collaborations using reward attribution.**

# The Assigned Reward for each agent $i$

$V_i(s_i; \mathbf{r}_i)$ : the decentralized value function of agent  $i$   
conditioned on **assigned reward**  $\mathbf{r}_i$

By changing the **assigned** rewards  $\mathbf{r}_i$ ,  
the behavior of agent  $i$  is changed.



Different perceived reward leads to  
different values/policies

# Reward Assignment Problems

*assigned reward*

$$\max_{r_1, \dots, r_K} J(\mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_K) := \max \sum_{i=1}^K V_i(s_i; \mathbf{r}_i) \quad s.t. \quad \sum_{i=1}^K w_i \cdot \mathbf{r}_i \leq \mathbf{r}_e$$

☹️ Hard problem!

☹️ Not decentralized!

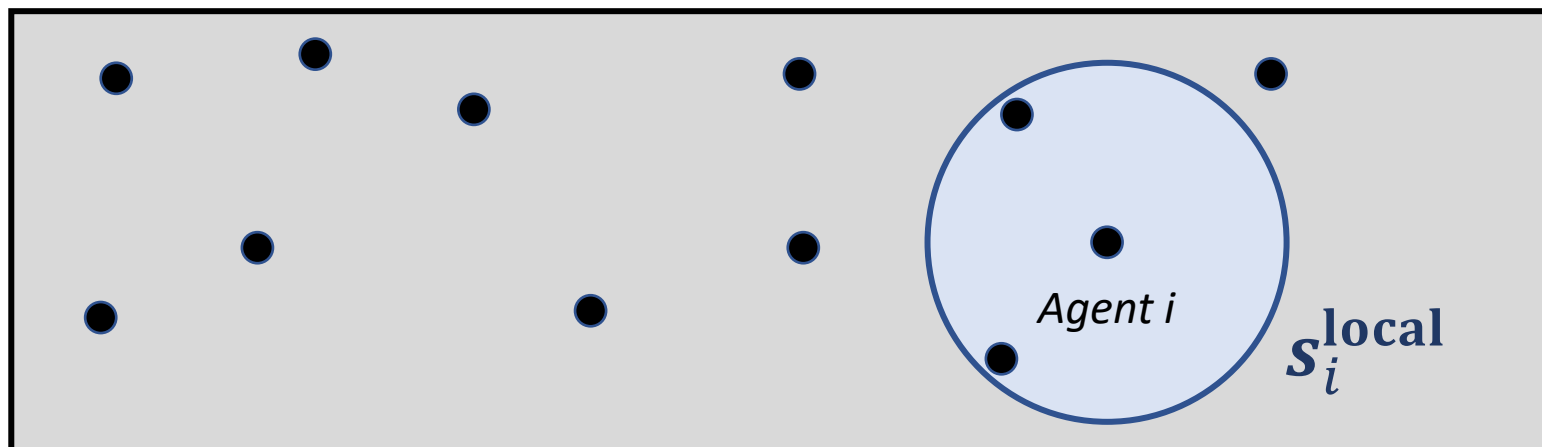


# Approximate decentralized perceived reward $\hat{r}_i$

**Theorem 1.** For all  $i \in \{1, \dots, K\}$ , all  $s_i \in S_i$ , there exists a reward assignment  $\hat{r}_i$  that (1) only depends on  $s_i^{\text{local}}$  and (2)  $\hat{r}_i$  is the  $i$ -th column of a feasible global reward assignment  $\hat{R}$  so that

$$J(\hat{R}) \geq J(R^*) - (\gamma^C + \gamma^D) R_{\max} M K, \quad (2)$$

where  $C$  and  $D$  are constants related to distances between agents/rewards (details in Appendix).



$$\hat{r}_i = \hat{r}_i(s_i^{\text{local}})$$

# Using end-to-end Training instead of getting $\hat{r}_i$

Taylor Expansion with respect to assigned reward:

$$\hat{r}_i = \hat{r}_i(\mathbf{s}_i^{\text{local}}) = r_{0i} + (\hat{r}_i - r_{0i}) \quad \text{assigned reward when the agent } i \text{ is alone}$$

$$Q_i(s_i, a_i; \hat{\mathbf{r}}_i) = \underbrace{Q_i(s_i, a_i; \mathbf{r}_{0i})}_{Q^{\text{alone}}(s_i, a_i)} + \underbrace{\nabla_{\mathbf{r}} Q_i(s_i, a_i; \mathbf{r}_{0i}) \cdot (\hat{\mathbf{r}}_i - \mathbf{r}_{0i}) + \mathcal{O}(\|\hat{\mathbf{r}}_i - \mathbf{r}_{0i}\|^2)}_{Q^{\text{collab}}(\mathbf{s}_i^{\text{local}}, a_i)}$$

# Collaborative Q-learning (CollaQ)

$$Q_i(o_i, a_i) = Q_i^{\text{alone}}(o_i^{\text{alone}}, a_i) + Q_i^{\text{collab}}(o_i, a_i)$$

$$Q_i^{\text{collab}} = 0 \text{ if } o_i = o_i^{\text{alone}}$$

Objective function:

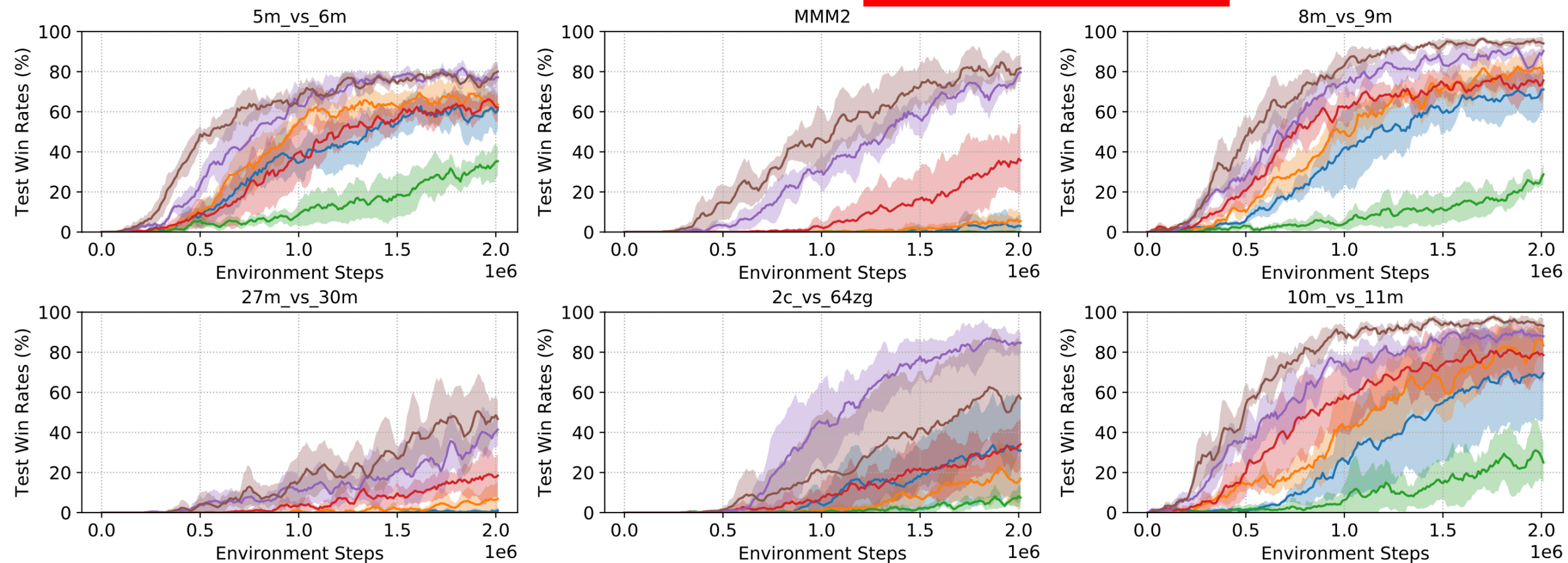
$$L = \mathbb{E}_{s_i, a_i \sim \rho(\cdot)} \left[ \underbrace{(y - Q_i(o_i, a_i))^2}_{\text{DQN Objective}} + \alpha \underbrace{(Q_i^{\text{collab}}(o_i^{\text{alone}}, a_i))^2}_{\text{MARA Objective}} \right]$$

# Starcraft II Multi-Agent Challenge

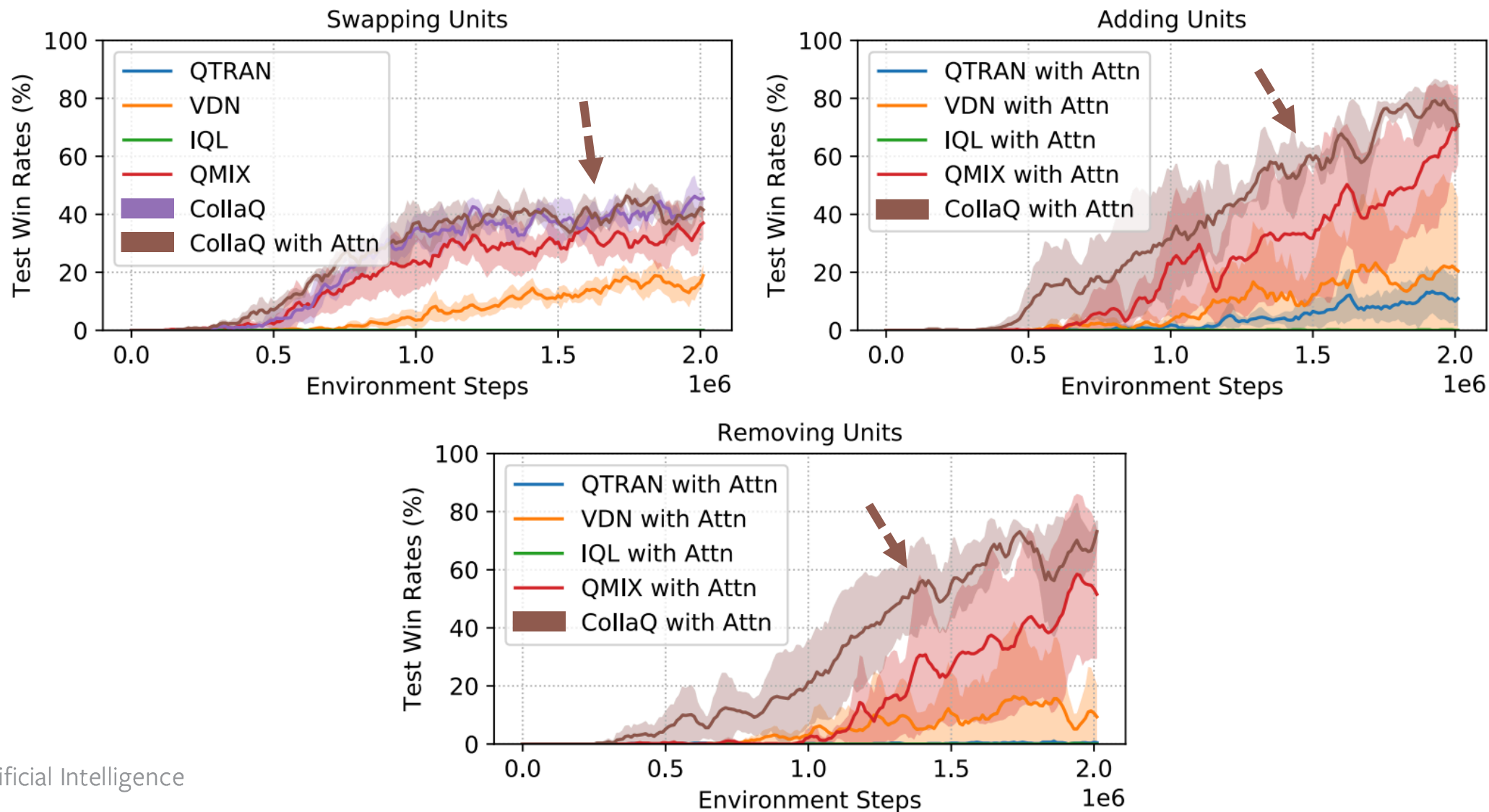




# CollaQ outperforms baselines in *hard tasks*



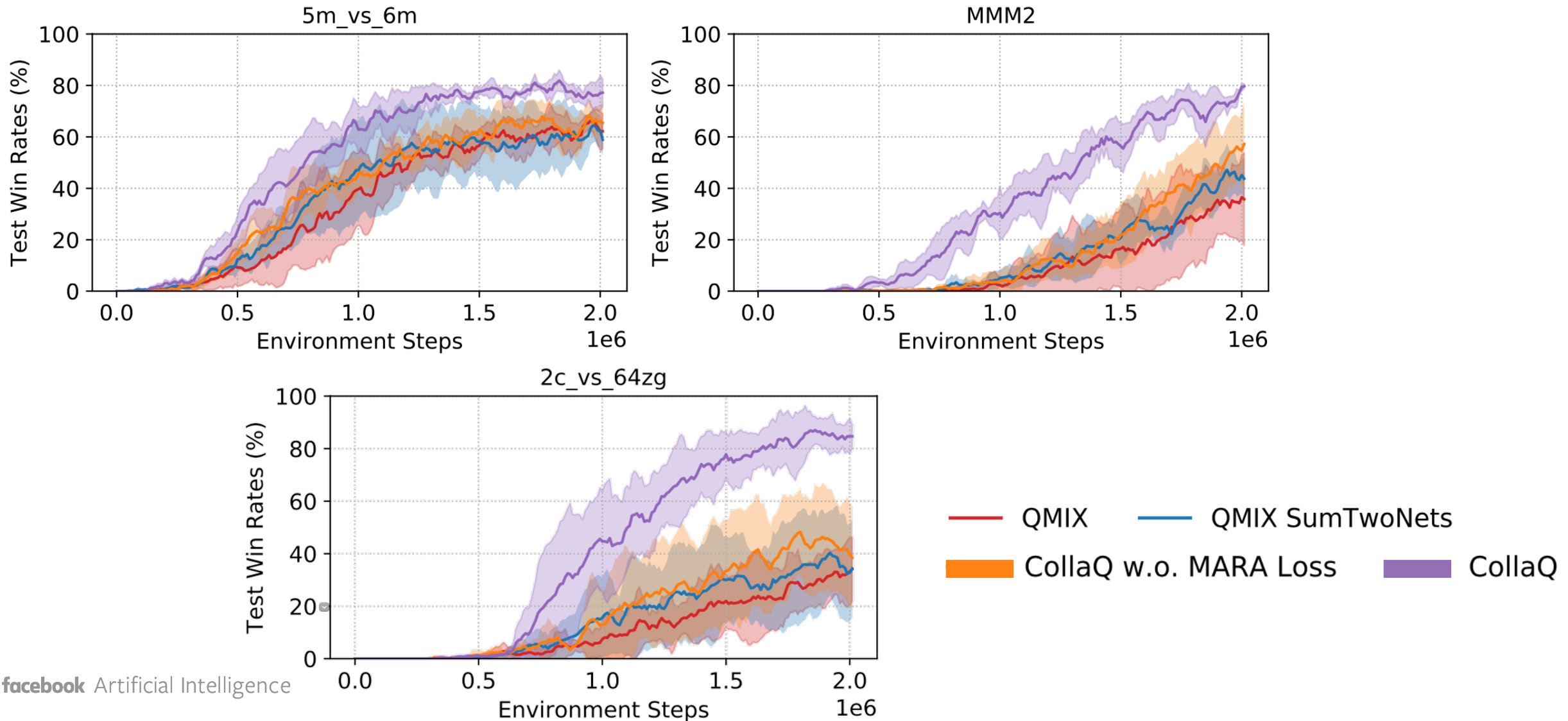
# CollaQ performs well in ad hoc team play



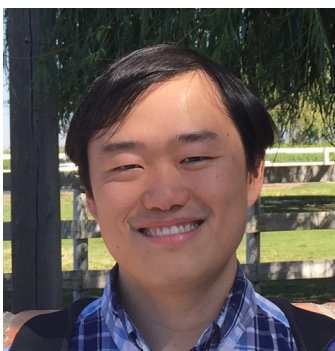
Videos: <https://sites.google.com/view/collaq-starcraft>

Code: <https://github.com/facebookresearch/ColloQ>

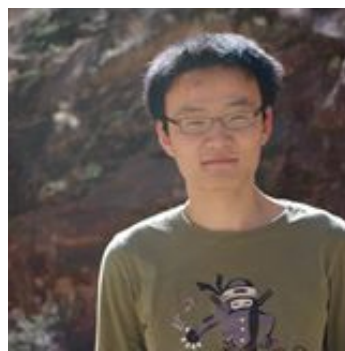
# Ablation Studies



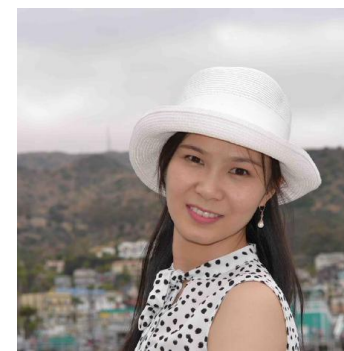
# Joint Policy Search for Multi-agent Collaboration with Imperfect Information



Yuandong Tian



Qucheng Gong



Tina Jiang

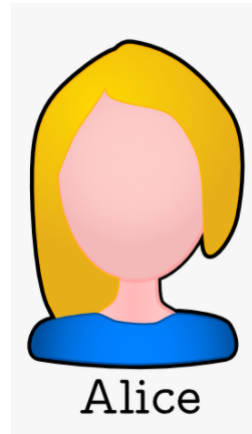
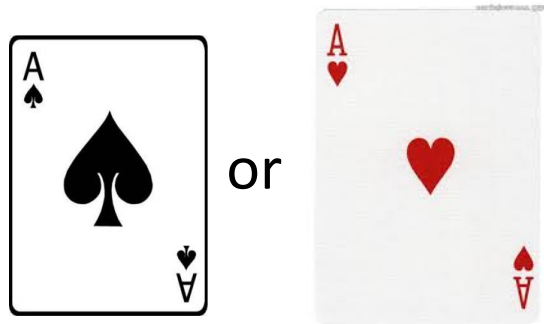
Facebook AI Research

Code: <https://github.com/facebookresearch/jps>

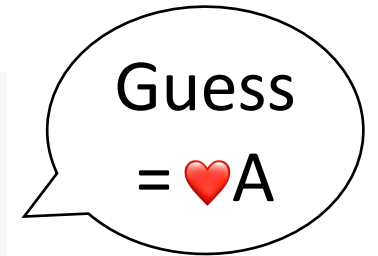
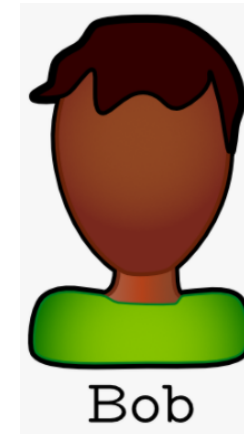


# An Illustrative Example

Private Card



Public Signal  
1 or 2 or 3



One possible solution (6 symmetric solutions):

| Private card | Alice's Action | Bob's Action |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| ♥ A          | 1              | Guess ♥ A    |
| ♠ A          | 3              | Guess ♠ A    |
| --           | 2              | --           |

Not used

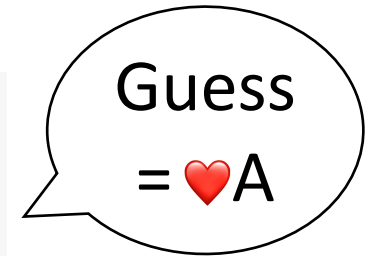
What if Alice and Bob never use signal 2,  
but sending signal 2 come with additional rewards?

# An Illustrative Example

Private Card



Public Signal  
1 or 2 or 3



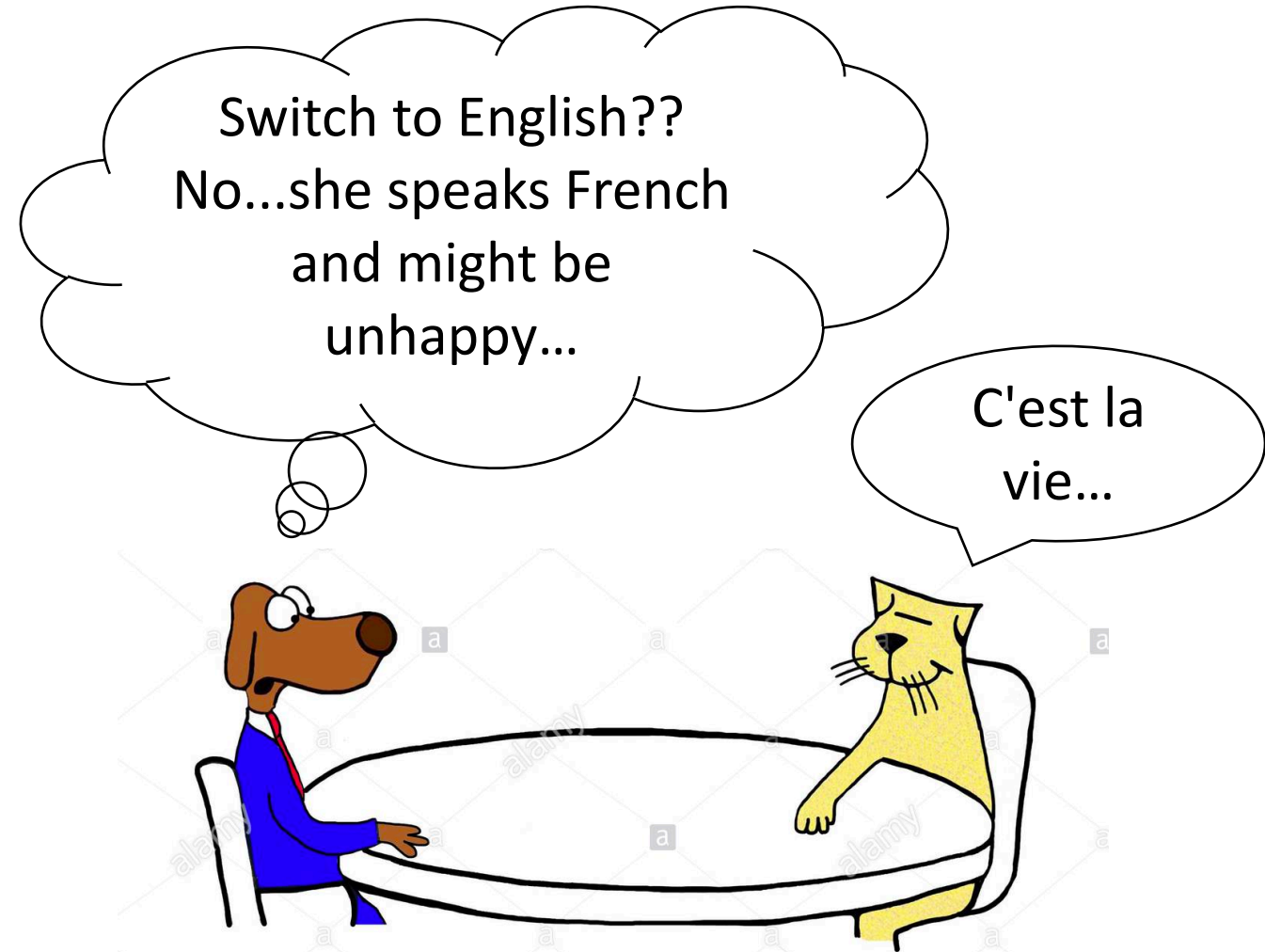
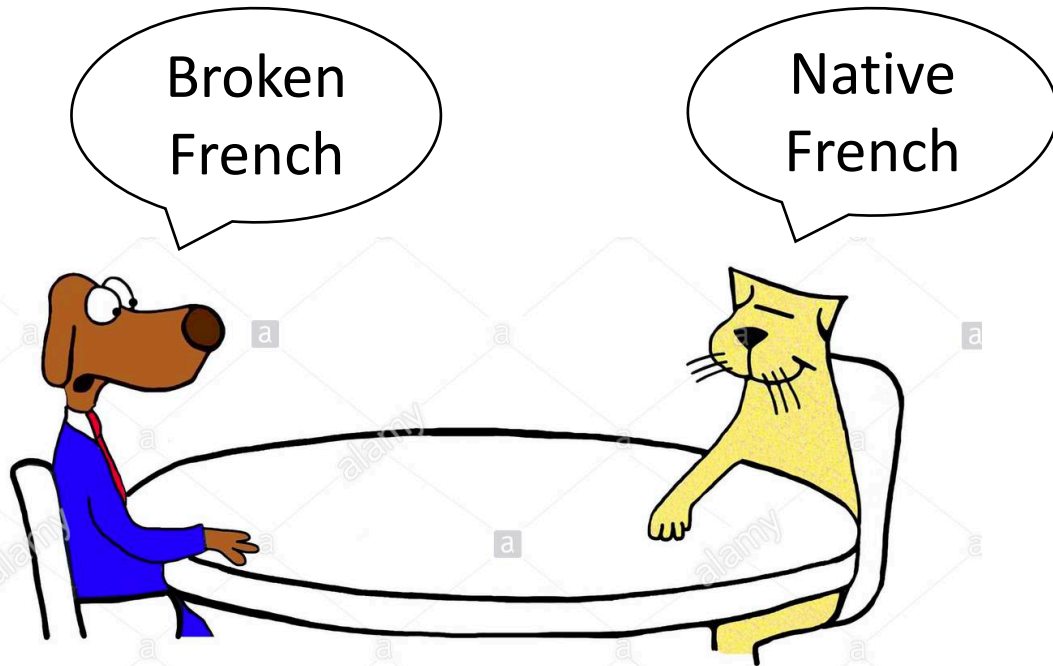
For pure multi-agent collaborative games, A unilateral optimization of policy doesn't improve overall value.

|     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| ♥ A | 1 | Guess ♥ A |
| ♠ A | 3 | Guess ♠ A |
| --  | 2 | --        |

Not used

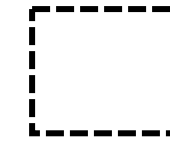
but sending signal 2 come with additional rewards?

# Another example



A **unilateral** change of policy doesn't improve co-operative communication  
(many single-agent DRL approach improves by unilateral changes of agent policy)

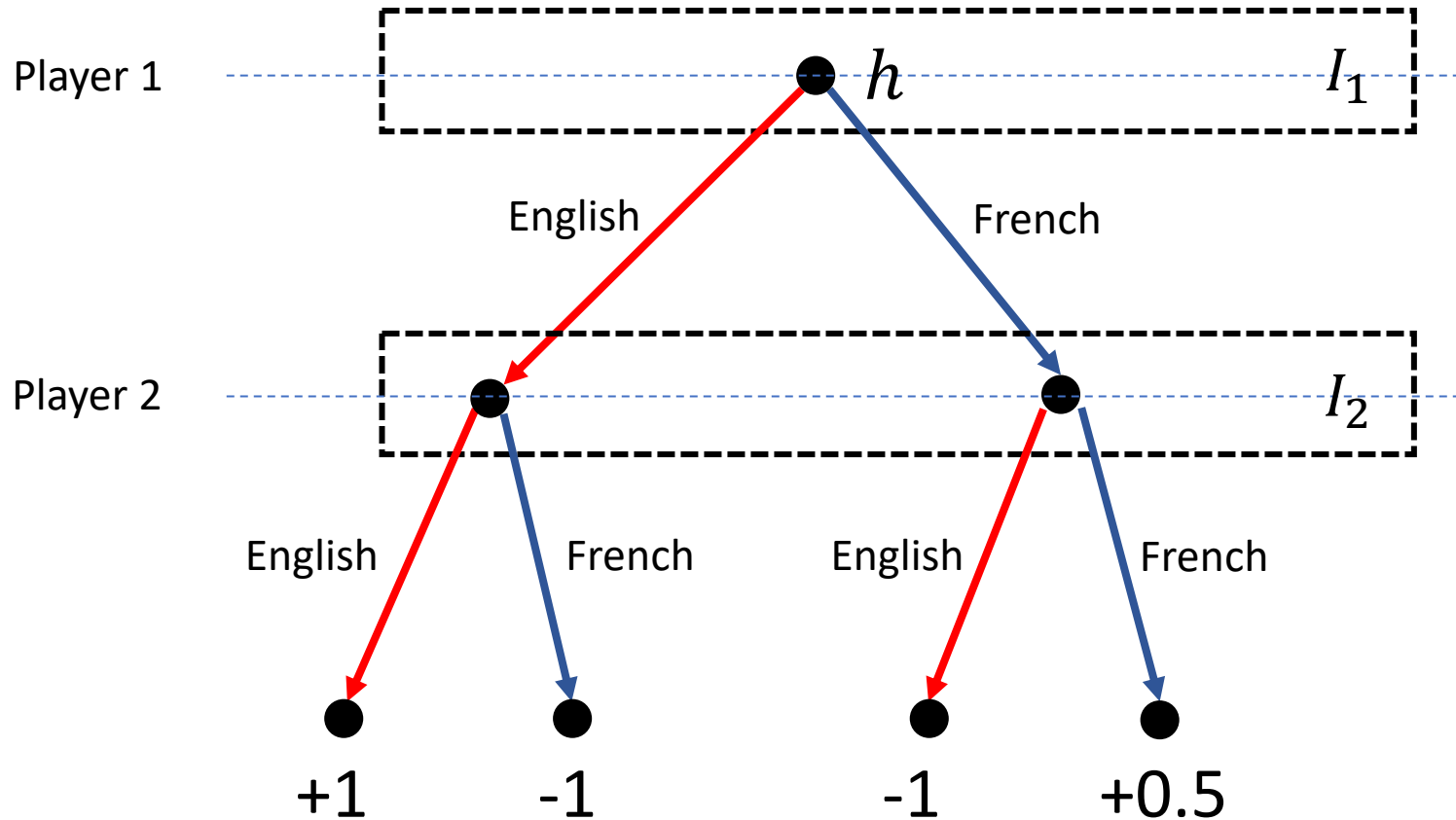
# Communication Game



InfoSet



Complete state (h)




**Player 2 makes the decision without knowing player 1's action.**

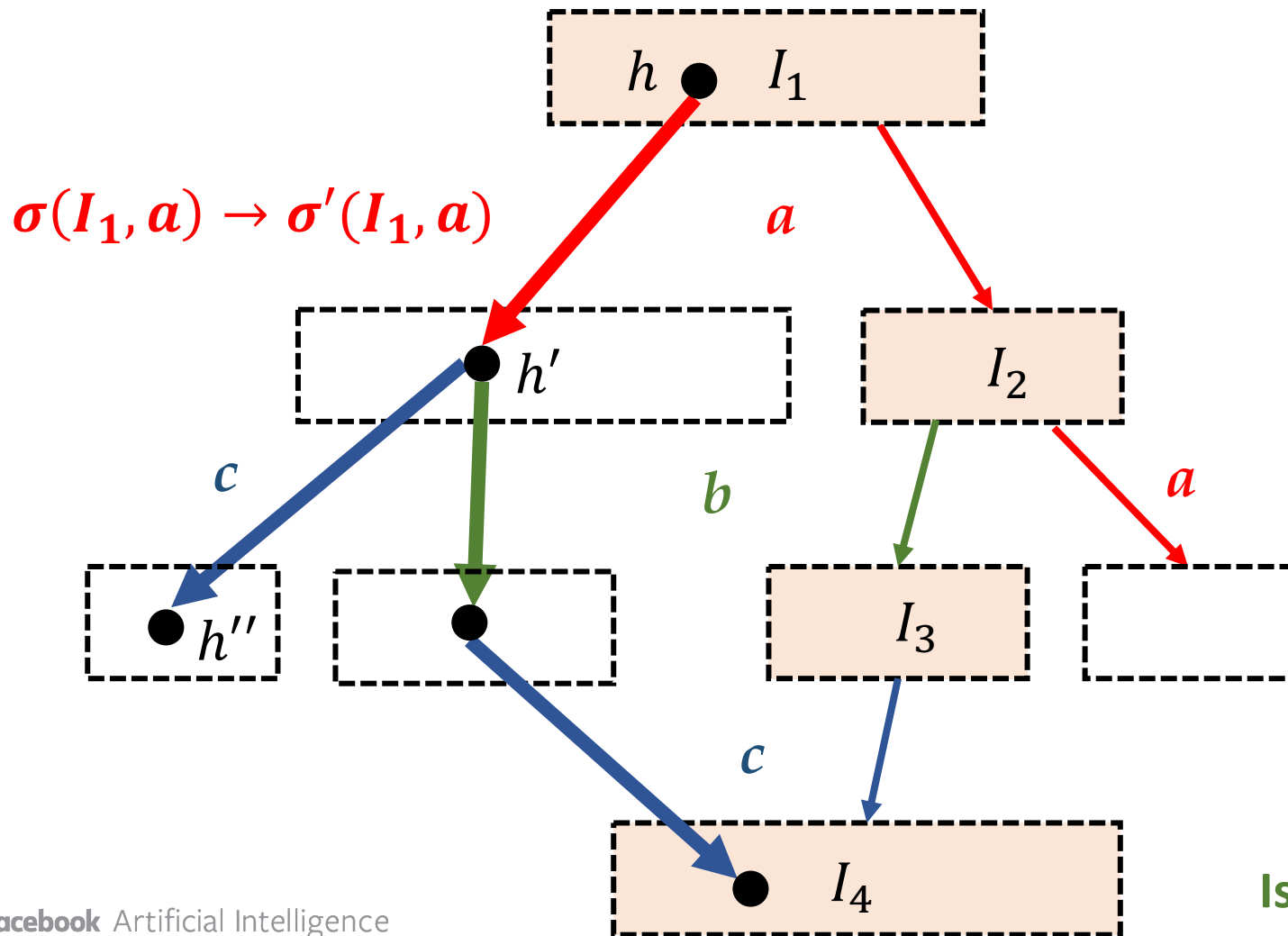
**(French, French):**  
local Nash Equilibrium +0.5

**(English, English):**  
global Nash Equilibrium +1.0

A joint optimization of policy  $\sigma(I_1)$  and  $\sigma(I_2)$  yields optimal solution

# Dependency between policies

 *active* infosets  
 $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma'$



A change of  $\sigma(I_1, a)$  affects **all** the reachability of down-stream states and/or infosets, no matter they are *active* or not.

A trajectory could re-enter into another active set and leave and re-enter again.

The value of an inactive infoset  $I_3$  will change since the reachability to  $I_3$  changes.

An infoset might contain both affected states and unaffected states.

Is there a good way to track value changes?

# Policy-change Density

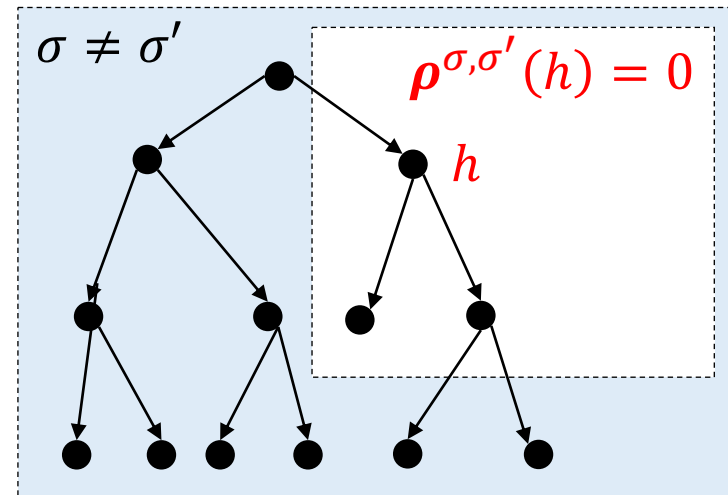
$$\text{Density } \rho^{\sigma, \sigma'}(h) = \pi^{\sigma'}(h) \left[ \sum_{a \in A(I)} \sigma'(I, a) v^{\sigma}(ha) - v^{\sigma}(h) \right]$$

## Two key properties:

(a) Its summation yields overall value changes

$$\bar{v}^{\sigma'} - \bar{v}^{\sigma} = \sum_{h \in Z} \rho^{\sigma, \sigma'}(h)$$

(b) For regions whose policy doesn't change, it vanishes even if policy changes at downstream/upstream states.





# Value Changes w.r.t Localized Policy Change

## Main Theorem

$$\underline{\bar{v}^{\sigma'} - \bar{v}^{\sigma}} = \sum_{\underline{I \in \mathcal{I}}} \sum_{h \in I} \rho^{\sigma, \sigma'}(h)$$

**Overall value changes  
due to policy change**

**All active Infosets  
( $\sigma' \neq \sigma$ )**

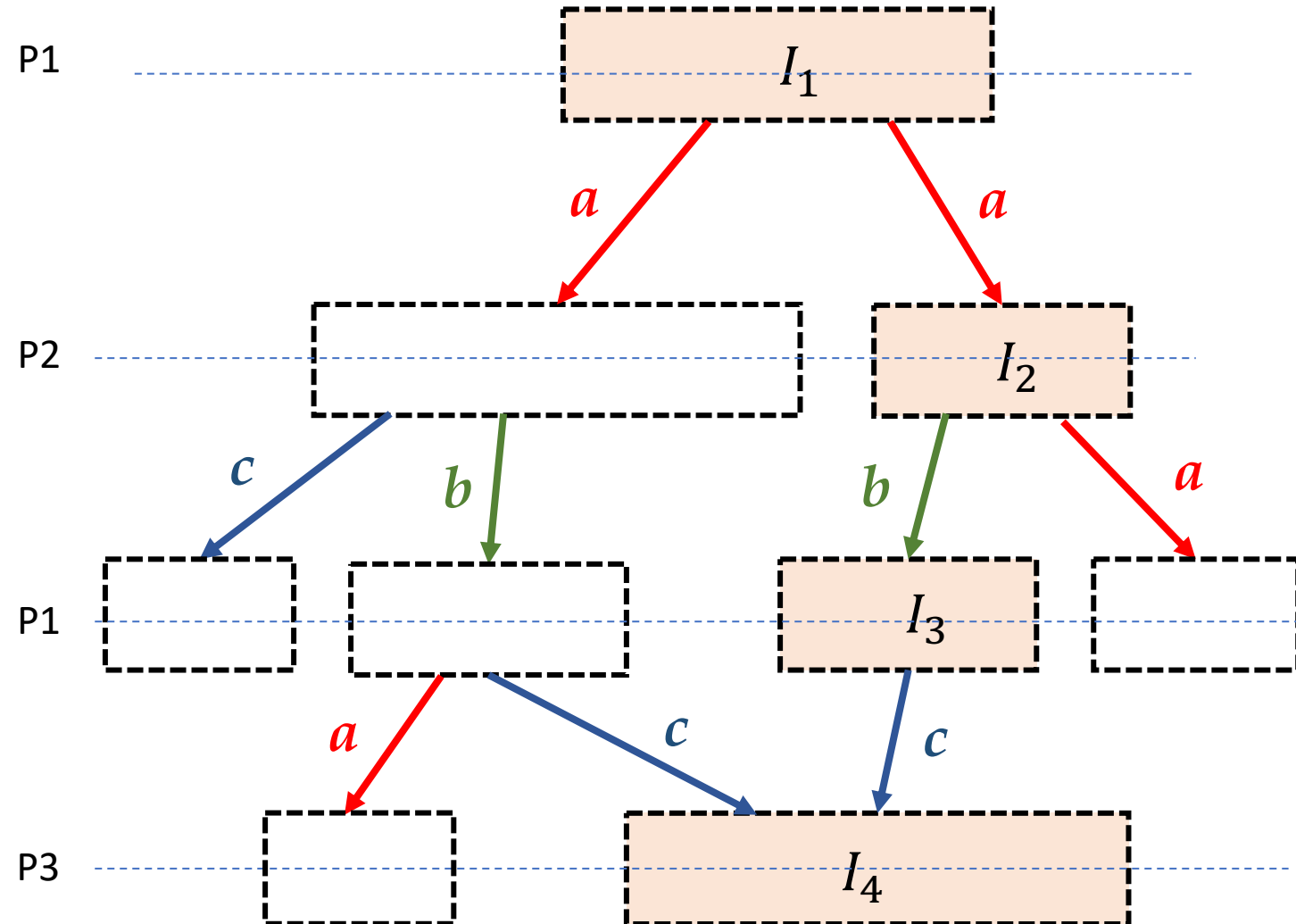
**Inactive Infosets doesn't matter!!**

# JPS (Joint Policy Search)

1. Initial infosets  $I_{\text{cand}} = \{I_1\}$
2. Pick  $I \in I_{\text{cand}}$
3. Pick an action  $a$
4. Set  $\sigma'(I, b) = \delta(a = b)$
5. Compute  $\rho^{\sigma, \sigma'}$
6. Set  $I_{\text{cand}} = \text{Succ}(I, a)$

Repeat until maximal depth  $D$  is reached.

Backtrace  
(depth-first search)



# Performance

|                   | Comm (Def. 1) |              |              |              | Mini-Hanabi<br>[15] | Simple Bidding (Def. 2) |              |               | 2SuitBridge (Def. 3) |              |              |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                   | $L = 3$       | $L = 5$      | $L = 6$      | $L = 7$      |                     | $N = 4$                 | $N = 8$      | $N = 16$      | $N = 3$              | $N = 4$      | $N = 5$      |
| CFR1k [43]        | 0.89*         | 0.85         | 0.85         | 0.85         | 9.11*               | 2.18*                   | 4.96*        | 10.47         | 1.01*                | 1.62*        | 2.60         |
| <b>CFR1k+JPS</b>  | <b>1.00*</b>  | <b>1.00*</b> | <b>1.00*</b> | <b>1.00*</b> | <b>9.50*</b>        | <b>2.20*</b>            | <b>5.00*</b> | <b>10.56*</b> | <b>1.07*</b>         | <b>1.71*</b> | <b>2.74*</b> |
| A2C [26]          | 0.60*         | 0.57         | 0.51         | 0.02         | 8.20*               | 2.19                    | 4.79         | 9.97          | 0.66                 | 1.03         | 1.71         |
| BAD [15]          | <b>1.00*</b>  | 0.88         | 0.50         | 0.29         | 9.47*               | <b>2.23*</b>            | 4.99*        | 9.81          | 0.53                 | 0.98         | 1.31         |
| <b>Best Known</b> | 1.00          | 1.00         | 1.00         | 1.00         | 10                  | 2.25                    | 5.06         | 10.75         | 1.13                 | 1.84         | 2.89         |
| #States           | 633           | 34785        | 270273       | 2129793      | 53                  | 241                     | 1985         | 16129         | 4081                 | 25576        | 147421       |
| #Infosets         | 129           | 2049         | 8193         | 32769        | 45                  | 61                      | 249          | 1009          | 1021                 | 5116         | 24571        |

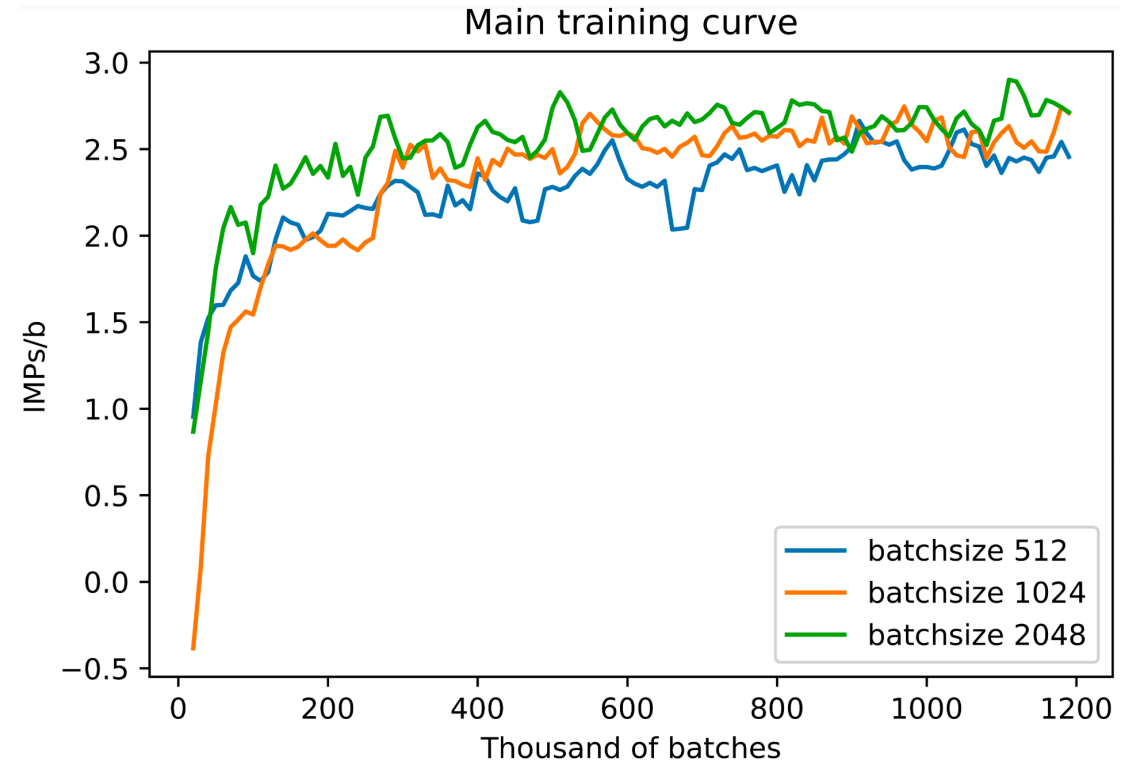
JPS can improve existing policies, and help it jump out of local optima

# Contract Bridge Bidding

|          |          |          |                 |                  |             |                  |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
|          | <b>N</b> |          | <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>     | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b>     |
|          | ♠A9743   |          | 2♠ <sup>1</sup> | 2NT <sup>2</sup> | Pass        | 1♠               |
|          | ♥K8763   | <b>E</b> | Pass            | 4♣ <sup>3</sup>  | Pass        | 3♣               |
| <b>W</b> | ♦A6      | ♠Q82     | Pass            | 5♠ <sup>5</sup>  | Pass        | 4NT <sup>4</sup> |
| ♠None    | ♣7       | ♥104     | Pass            | Pass             | Pass        | 7♠               |
| ♥QJ952   |          | ♦QJ85432 |                 |                  |             |                  |
| ♦109     | <b>S</b> | ♣J       |                 |                  |             |                  |
| ♣KQ10982 | ♠KJ1065  |          |                 |                  |             |                  |
|          | ♥A       |          |                 |                  |             |                  |
|          | ♦K7      |          |                 |                  |             |                  |
|          | ♣A6543   |          |                 |                  |             |                  |

(1) Hearts and a minor. (2) Spade support, forcing to game. (3) Short clubs. (4) Keycard Blackwood. (5) Two key cards and the queen of spades, treating his fifth card as the equivalent of the queen.

- **100** years of history
- Imperfect Information
- Collaborative + Competitive
- Large State Space ( $5.4 \cdot 10^{28}$ )



A2C Self-play

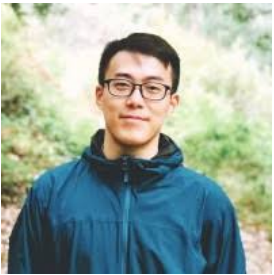
# Double-Dummy Evaluation against SoTA software

| Methods                          | Vs. WBridge5 (1000 games)<br>(IMPs/board) |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Previous SoTA (Rong et al, 2019) | + 0.25 (on 64 games)                      |
| Our A2C baseline                 | + 0.29 ± 0.22                             |
| 1% JPS (2 days)                  | + 0.44 ± 0.20                             |
| 5% JPS (2 days)                  | + 0.37 ± 0.19                             |
| 1% JPS (14 days)                 | + <b>0.63 ± 0.22</b>                      |

**WBridge5:** Champions of computer bridge tournament in 2005, 2007, 2008, 2016-2018



# BeBold: Exploration Beyond the Boundary of Explored Regions



Tianjun Zhang<sup>1,4</sup>



Kurt Keutzer<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>UC Berkeley



Huazhe Xu<sup>1,4</sup>

<sup>2</sup>UCSD



Xiaolong Wang<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>3</sup>Tsinghua University



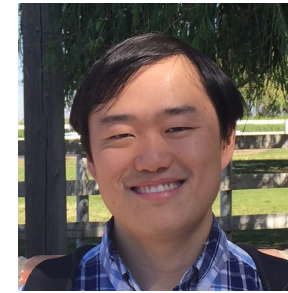
Joseph E. Gonzalez<sup>1</sup>

Yuandong Tian<sup>4</sup>

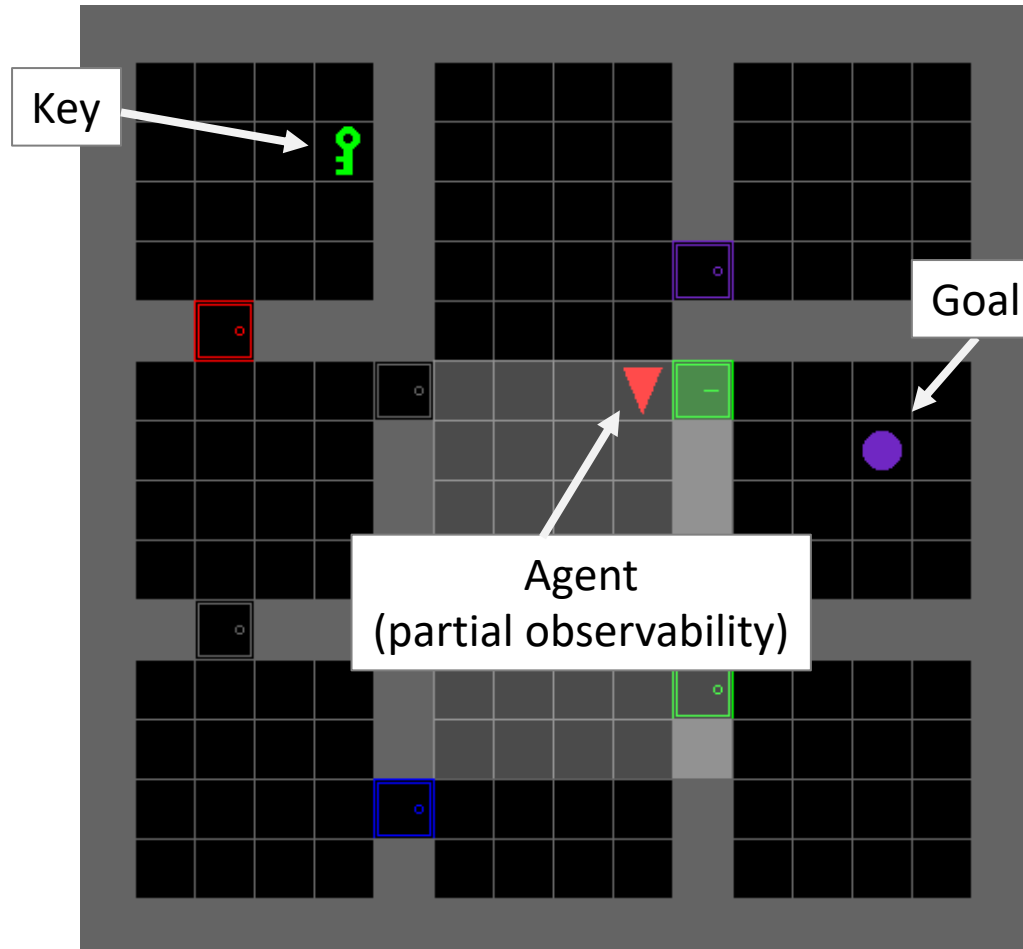
<sup>4</sup>FaceBook AI Research



Yi Wu<sup>3</sup>



# Environment with Sparse Reward

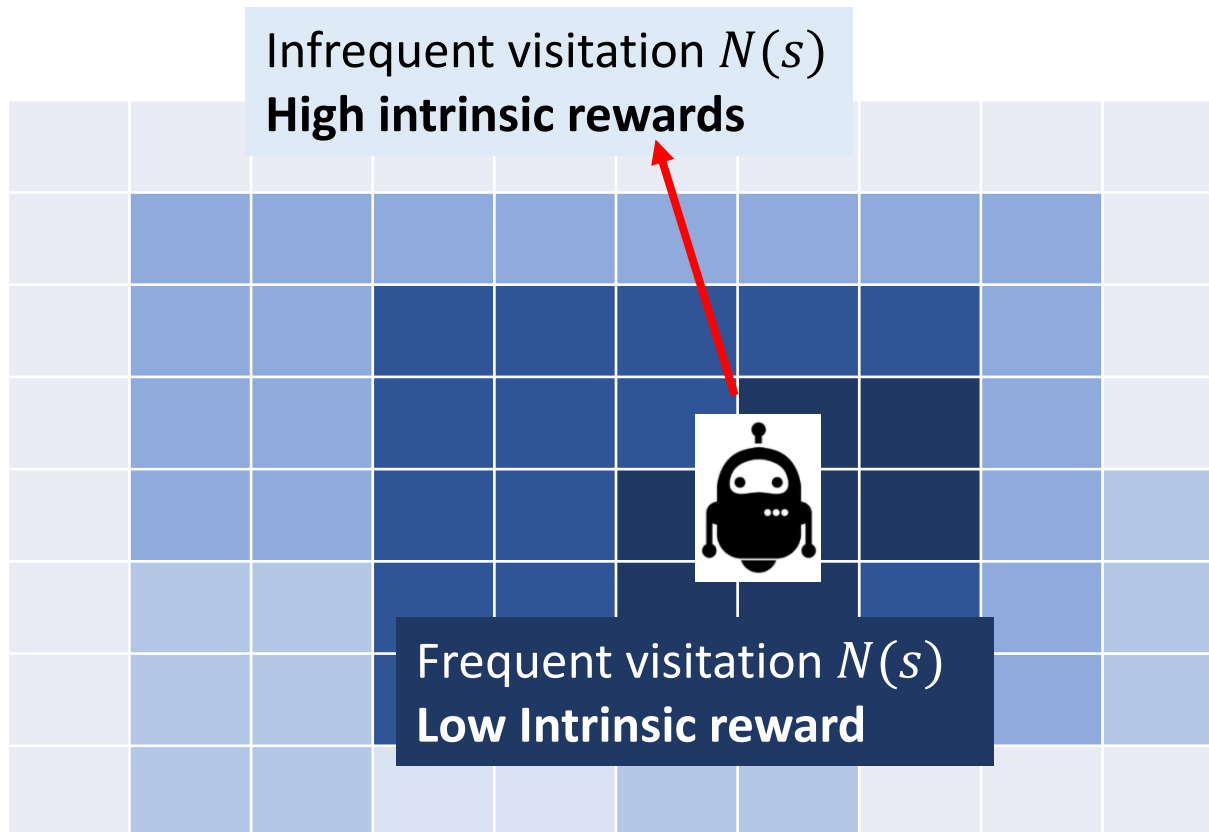


## No external reward

when agent wanders around.  
when agent picks the key  
when agent opens all doors  
when agent opens the locked door  
...

until the agent reaches the goal

# Random Network Distillations (RND)



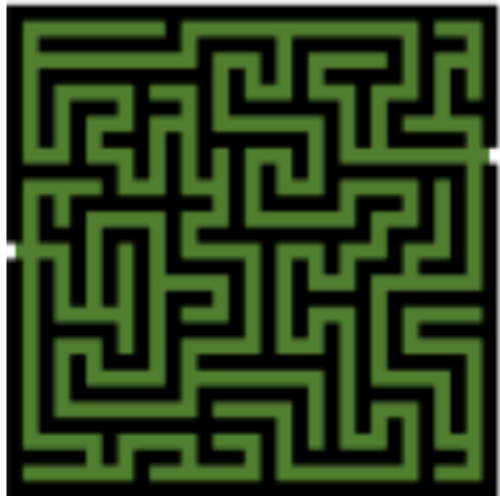
**Low prediction error  
= High visitation counts**

$$N(\mathbf{s}) \approx \frac{1}{\|\phi'(\mathbf{s}) - \phi(\mathbf{s})\|}$$

$\phi'$  = student network  
(learning from teacher)

$\phi$  = random fixed  
teacher network

# Issues in RND



Start



1. RND assigns high IR (dark green) throughout the environment

2. RND temporarily focuses on the upper right corner (yellow)

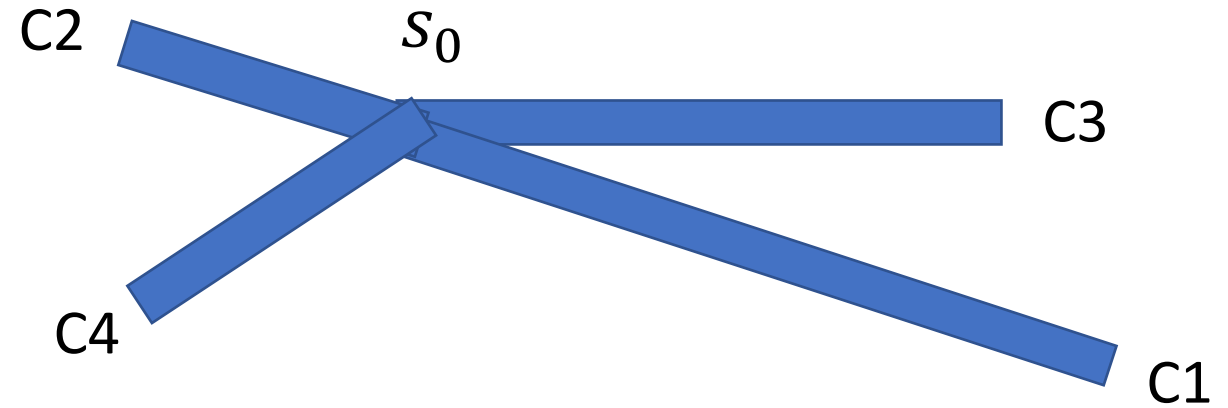


3. RND by chance starts exploring the bottom right corner heavily, resulting in the IR at top right higher than bottom right



4. RND re-explores the upper right and forgets the bottom right, gets trapped

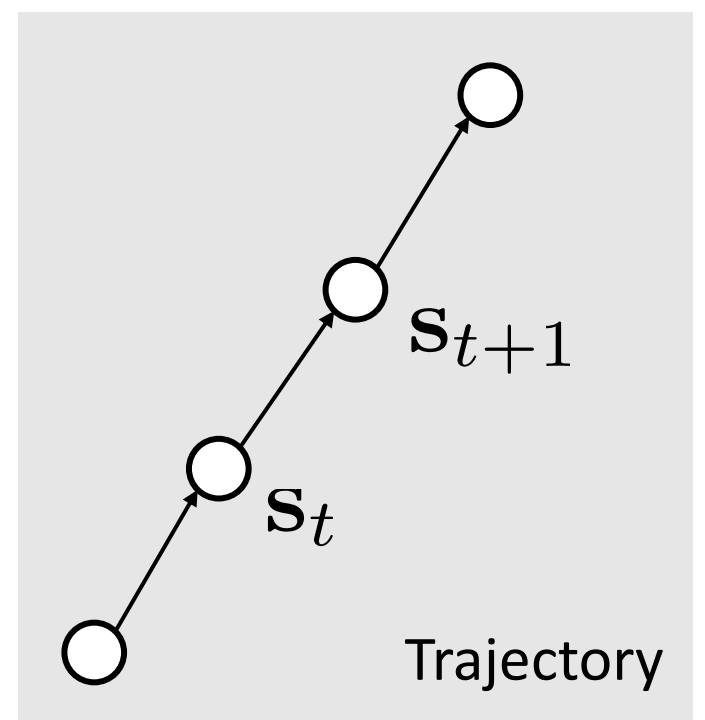
# Multi-Corridor Problems



|                | C1              | C2            | C3               | C4            | Entropy                           |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Length         | 40              | 10            | 30               | 10            | –                                 |
| Count-Based    | 66K $\pm$ 28K   | 8K $\pm$ 8K   | 23K $\pm$ 35K    | 13K $\pm$ 18K | 1.06 $\pm$ 0.39                   |
| BeBold Tabular | 26K $\pm$ 2K    | 28K $\pm$ 8K  | 25K $\pm$ 6K     | 29K $\pm$ 9K  | <b>1.97 <math>\pm</math> 0.02</b> |
| RND            | 0.2K $\pm$ 0.2K | 70K $\pm$ 53K | 0.2K $\pm$ 0.07K | 26K $\pm$ 44K | 0.24 $\pm$ 0.28                   |
| BeBold         | 27K $\pm$ 6K    | 23K $\pm$ 3K  | 31K $\pm$ 12K    | 26K $\pm$ 8K  | <b>1.96 <math>\pm</math> 0.05</b> |



# BeBold



$$\underline{r^i(\mathbf{s}_t, \mathbf{a}_t)} = \max \left( \frac{1}{\underline{N(\mathbf{s}_{t+1})}} - \frac{1}{\underline{N(\mathbf{s}_t)}} , 0 \right) * \mathbb{1}\{\underline{N_e(\mathbf{s}_{t+1})} = 1\}$$

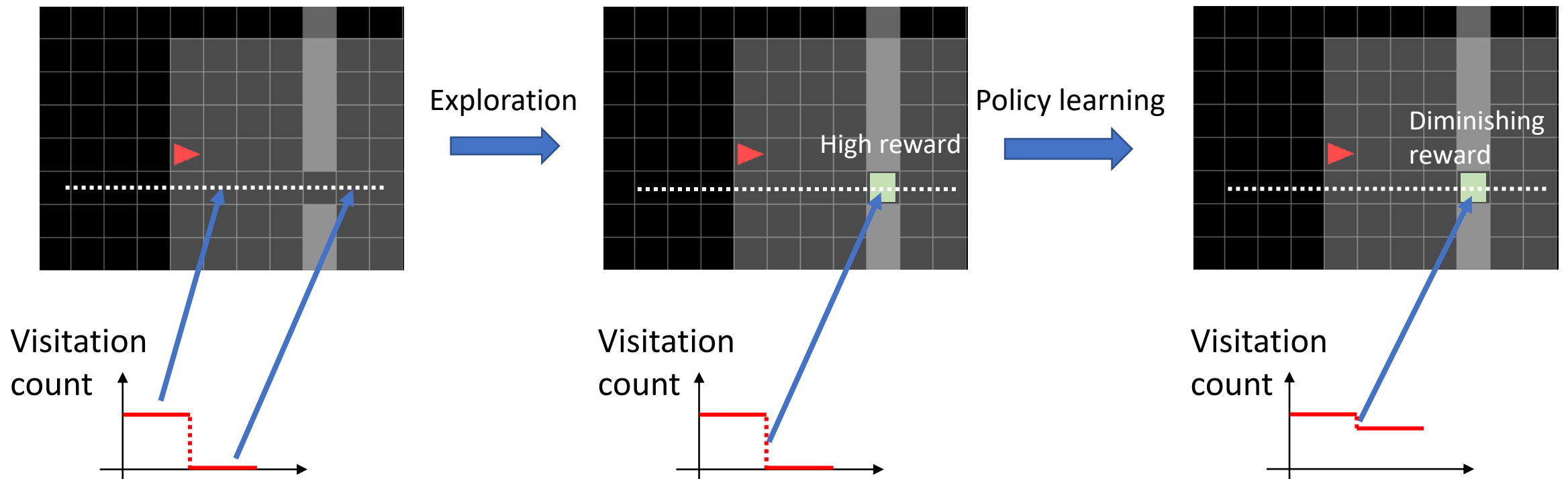
**Intrinsic Reward**

**Inverse of visitation counts**

**Episodic visitation count**

# BeBold (Beyond the Boundary of Explored Regions)

Repeat



# MiniGrid

|        | MRN6 | MRN7S-8 | MRN12-S10 | KCS3R3 | KCS4R3 | KCS5R3 | KCS6R3 | OM2DI-h | OM2DI-hb | OM1Q | OM2Q | OMFULL |
|--------|------|---------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------|------|------|--------|
| ICM    |      |         |           | ✓      |        |        |        |         |          |      |      |        |
| RND    |      |         |           | ✓      |        |        |        | ✓       |          |      |      |        |
| RIDE   | ✓    | ✓       | ✓         | ✓      | ✓      |        |        | ✓       |          |      |      |        |
| AMIGO  |      |         |           | ✓      |        |        |        |         |          |      |      |        |
| BeBold | ✓    | ✓       | ✓         | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      | ✓       | ✓        | ✓    | ✓    | ✓      |

✓ : Solved within 120M steps

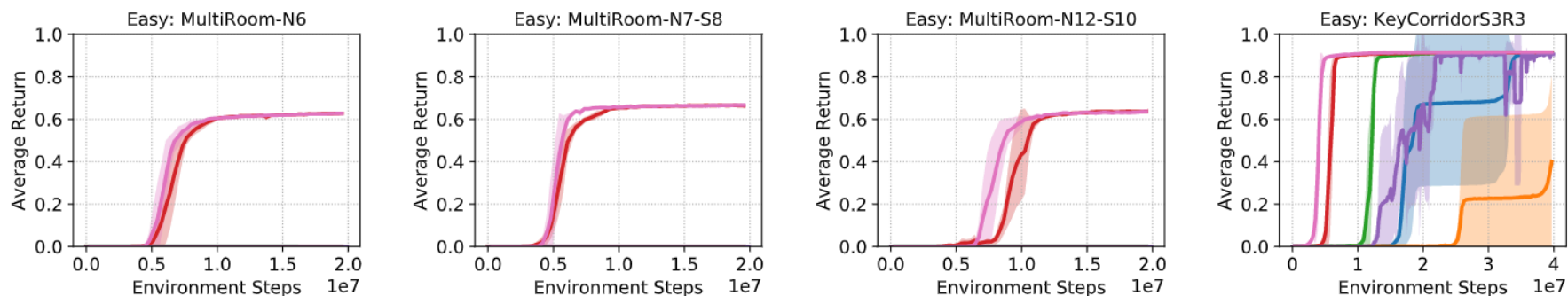
\*MR is short for MultiRoom, KC is for KeyCorridor, OM is for ObstructedMaze

[Chevalier-Boisvert, Maxime, Lucas Willems, and Suman Pal. "Minimalistic gridworld environment for openai gym." GitHub repository (2018)]

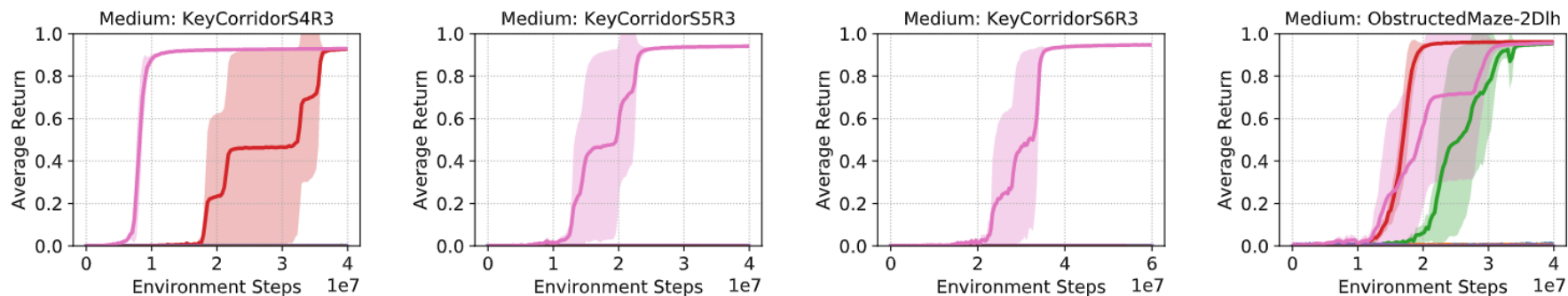
# MiniGrid

— IMPALA — ICM — RND — RIDE — AMIGO — BeBold

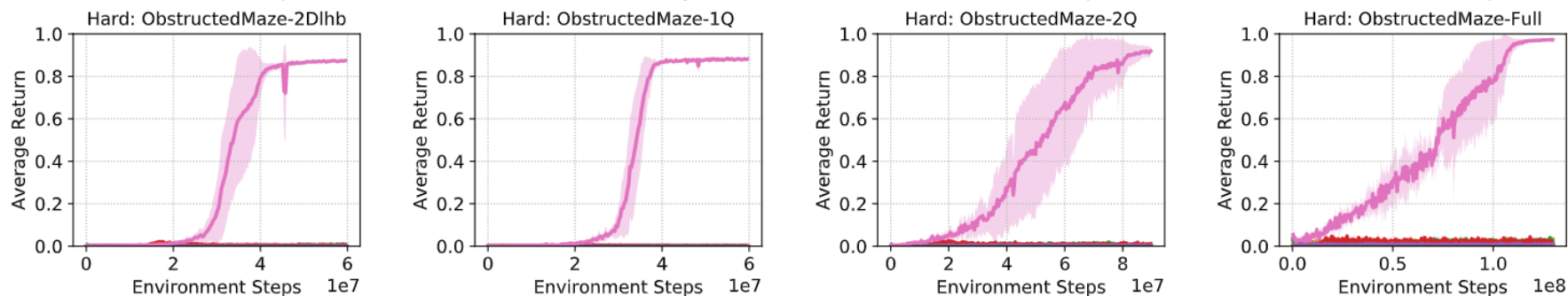
Easy



Medium



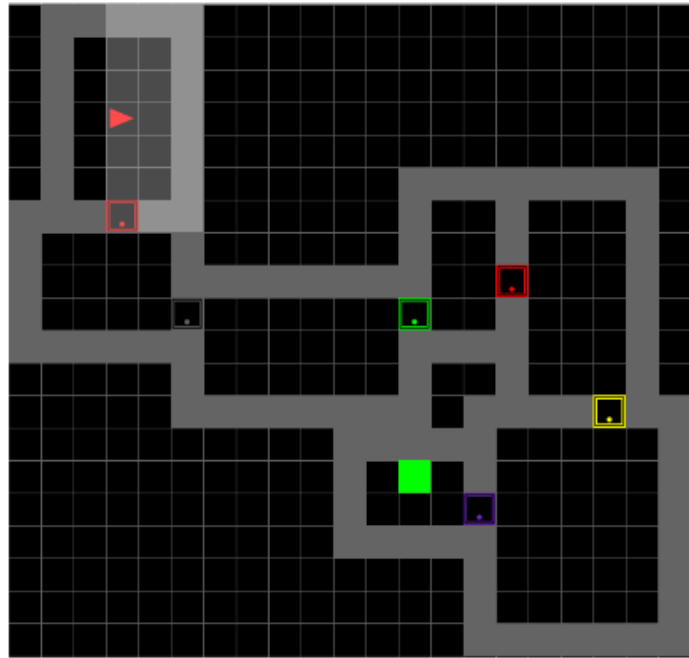
Hard



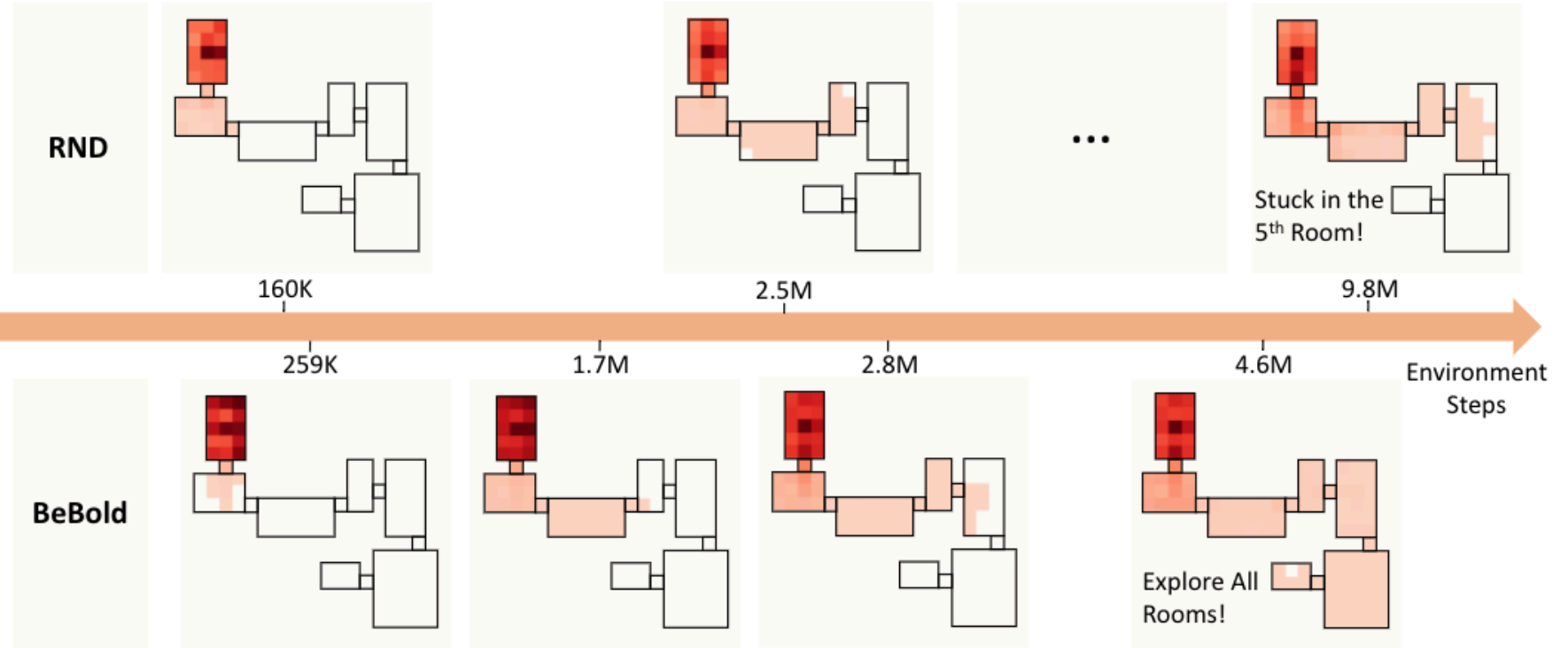
AMIGO: [Campero, Andres, et al. "Learning with AMIGO: Adversarially Motivated Intrinsic Goals." arXiv preprint arXiv:2006.12122 (2020)]

RIDE: [Raileanu, Roberta, and Tim Rocktäschel. "RIDE: Rewarding Impact-Driven Exploration for Procedurally-Generated Environments.", ICLR 2020]

# Pure Exploration



MultiRoomN7S8



# NetHack

```
➤ You kill the dwarf! Welcome to experience level 5.--More--
```

**Legend**

- " -- Amulet
- ) -- Weapon
- [ -- Armor
- ! -- Potion
- ? -- Scroll
- / -- Wand
- = -- Ring
- + -- Spellbook
- \* -- Gem
- ( -- Tool
- 0 -- Boulder
- \$ -- Gold
- % -- Comestible

unexplored territory

weapon

fog of war

corpse

armor

agent

enemies

food

Agent States

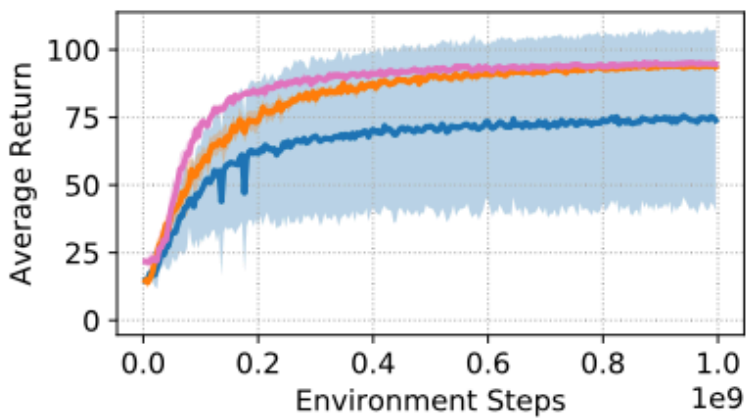
```
Agent61322 the Novice           St:18/02 Dx:12 Co:12 In:11 Wi:13 Ch:8 Neutral S:  
Dlv1:5 $:0 HP:37(39) Pw:25(25) AC:5 Xp:5/168 T:768 Hungry
```



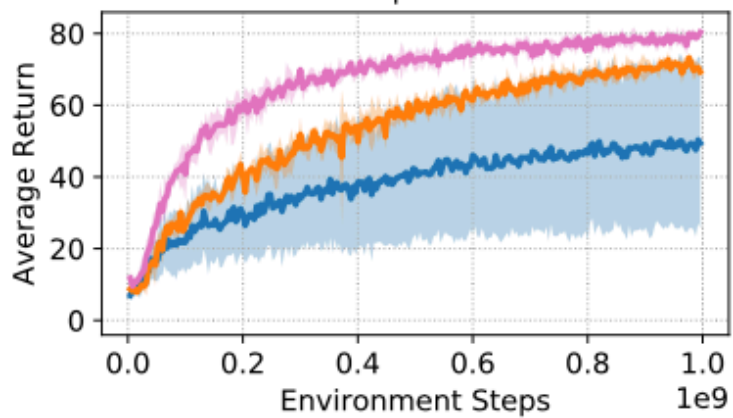
# 6 Tasks in NetHack

— IMPALA — RND — BeBold

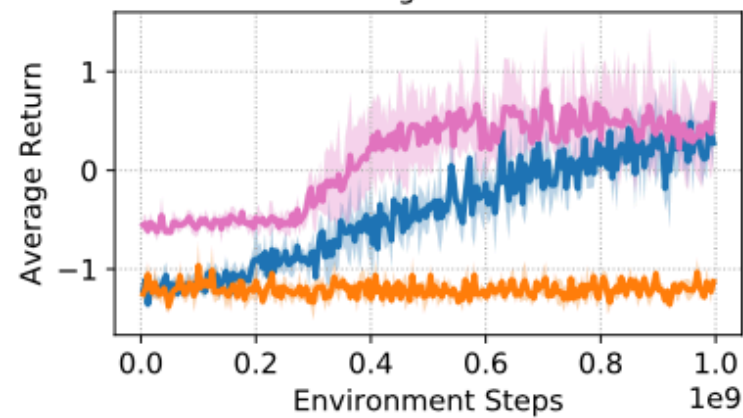
staircase



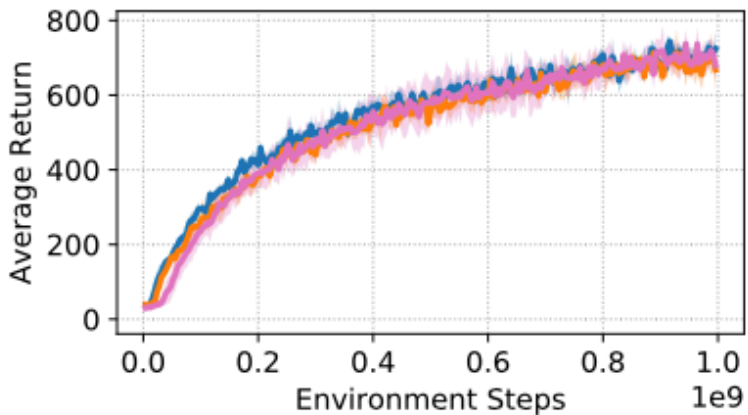
pet



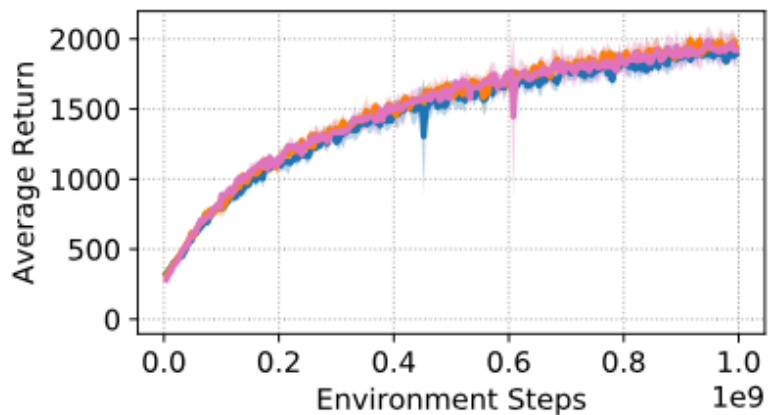
gold



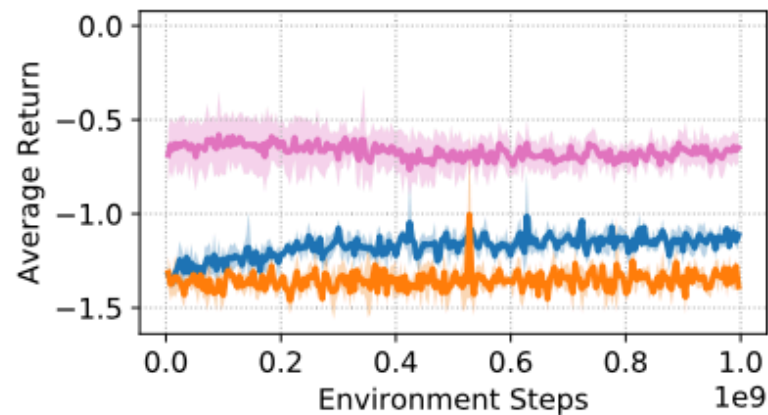
score



scout

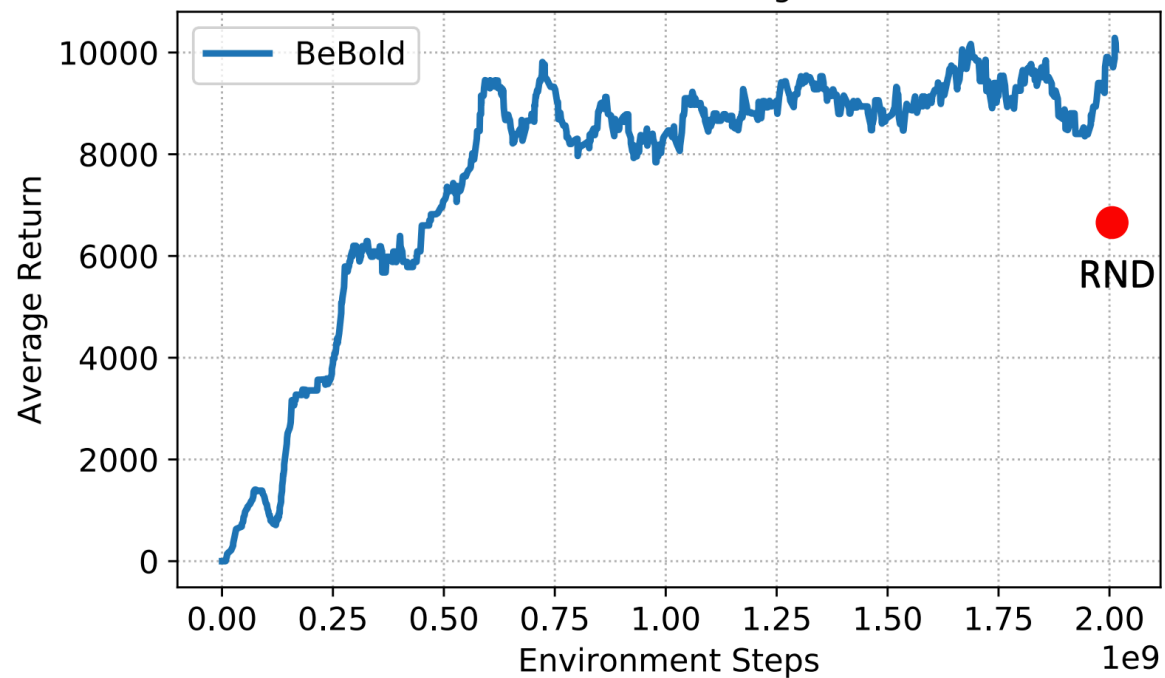


oracle

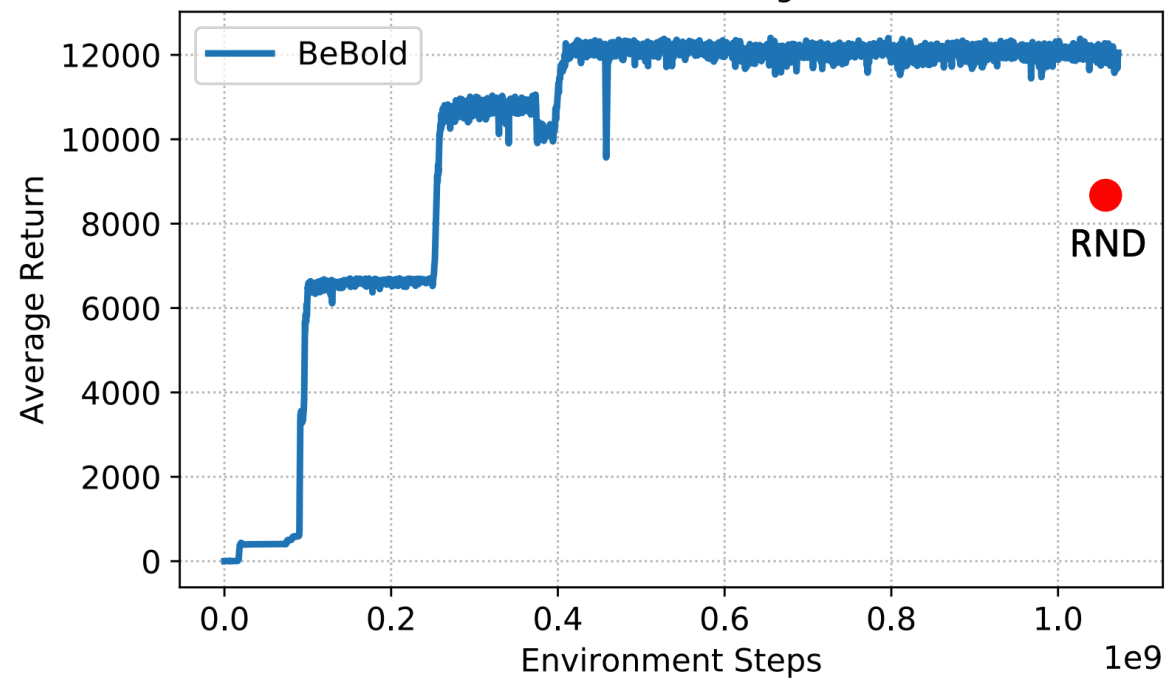


# MonteZuma's Revenge

MonteZuma's Revenge CNN



MonteZuma's Revenge RNN



# Future Work

- Super simple approach, super good performance.
- Theoretical Understanding?
  - Achieve the goal without exploring each state at least once.
  - Exploration in Factored MDP



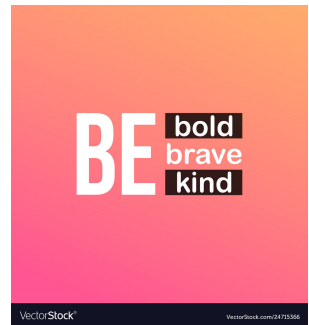
BE BRAVE  
BE BOLD  
*Be Kind*

PROCEED  
AND  
BE BOLD

*be bold  
be brave  
be you*

Be **BOLD**  
**BEAUTIFUL**  
YOU ♡

# Thanks!



Be Bold. Be Better. Be You. **Wake Up. Be Bold.**

