

# **Deep Reinforcement Learning**

Successor representations

Julien Vitay Professur für Künstliche Intelligenz - Fakultät für Informatik

# **1 - Model-based vs. Model-free**

# **Model-based vs. Model-free**

Model-free methods use the **reward prediction error** (RPE) to update values:

Encountered rewards propagate very slowly to all states and actions.



 $\equiv$ 





- If the environment changes (transition probabilities, rewards), they have to relearn everything.
- After training, selecting an action is very fast.

$$
)=\alpha\,\delta_{t}
$$





$$
\delta_t = r_{t+1} + \gamma\,V^\pi(s_{t+1}) - V^\pi(s_t)
$$

 $\Delta V^{\pi}(s_t) = \alpha \, \delta_t$ 

# **Model-based vs. Model-free**

 $\equiv$ 

Model-based RL can learn very fast changes in the transition or reward distributions:

$$
\Delta r(s_t, a_t, s_{t+1}) = \alpha \left(r_{t+1} - r(s_t, a_t, s_{t+1})\right)\\ \Delta p(s'|s_t, a_t) = \alpha \left(\mathbb{I}(s_{t+1} = s') - p(s'|s_t, a_t)\right)
$$

• But selecting an action requires planning in the tree of possibilities (slow).



# **Model-based vs. Model-free**

Relative advantages of MF and MB methods:



A trade-off would be nice… Most MB models in the deep RL literature are hybrid MB/MF models anyway.

# **Outcome devaluation**

- Two forms of behavior are observed in the animal psychology literature:
- 1. **Goal-directed** behavior learns Stimulus  $\rightarrow$  Response  $\rightarrow$  Outcome associations.
- 2. Habits are developed by overtraining Stimulus  $\rightarrow$  Response associations.
- The main difference is that habits are not influenced by **outcome devaluation**, i.e. when rewards lose their value.

## 1. Instrumental Learning

2. Taste aversion learning





3. Test

Source: Bernard W. Balleine

# **Goal-directed / habits = MB / MF ?**

The classical theory assigns MF to habits and MB to goal-directed, mostly because their sensitivity to outcome devaluation.



- The open question is the arbitration mechanism between these two segregated process: who takes control?
- Recent work suggests both systems are largely overlapping.

Doll, B. B., Simon, D. A., and Daw, N. D. (2012). The ubiquity of model-based reinforcement learning. Current Opinion in Neurobiology 22, 1075–1081. doi:10.1016/j.conb.2012.08.003.

Miller, K., Ludvig, E. A., Pezzulo, G., and Shenhav, A. (2018). "Re-aligning models of habitual and goal-directed decision-making, " in Goal-Directed Decision Making: Computations and Neural Circuits, eds. A. Bornstein, R. W. Morris, and A. Shenhav (Academic Press)

## **References**

# **2 - Successor representations**

• Successor representations (SR) have been introduced to combine MF and MB properties. Let's split the definition of the value of a state:

- The left part corresponds to the **transition dynamics**: which states will be visited by the policy, discounted by  $\gamma$ .
- The right part corresponds to the **immediate reward** in each visited state.
- Couldn't we learn the transition dynamics and the reward distribution separately in a model-free manner?

 $\equiv$ 

$$
V^{\pi}(s) = \mathbb{E}_{\pi} \left[ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{k} r_{t+k+1} | s_{t} = s \right]
$$
(1)  

$$
= \mathbb{E}_{\pi} \left[ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \gamma \\ \gamma^{2} \\ \cdots \\ \gamma^{\infty} \end{array} \right] \times \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{I}(s_{t}) \\ \mathbb{I}(s_{t+1}) \\ \mathbb{I}(s_{t+2}) \\ \cdots \\ \mathbb{I}(s_{\infty}) \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} r_{t+1} \\ r_{t+2} \\ r_{t+3} \\ \cdots \\ r_{t+\infty} \end{bmatrix} | s_{t} = s ]
$$
(3)

where  $\mathbb{I}(s_t)$  is 1 when the agent is in  $s_t$  at time  $t$ , 0 otherwise.

$$
|s_t = s] \tag{1}
$$

 $\equiv$ 

 $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{expected\;immediate\;reward}}\;r(s')$  by summing over all possible states  $s'$  of the MDP:

$$
V^{\pi}(s) = \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{k} r_{t+k+1} | s_{t} = s]
$$
(4)  

$$
= \sum_{s' \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{k} \mathbb{I}(s_{t+k} = s') \times r_{t+k+1} | s_{t} = s]
$$
(6)  

$$
\approx \sum_{s' \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{k} \mathbb{I}(s_{t+k} = s') | s_{t} = s] \times \mathbb{E}[r_{t+1} | s_{t} = s']
$$
(8)  

$$
\approx \sum M^{\pi}(s, s') \times r(s')
$$
(10)

$$
= \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{k} r_{t+k+1} | s_{t} = s]
$$
\n
$$
= \sum_{s' \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{k} \mathbb{I}(s_{t+k} = s') \times r_{t+k+1} | s_{t} = s]
$$
\n
$$
\approx \sum_{s' \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{k} \mathbb{I}(s_{t+k} = s') | s_{t} = s] \times \mathbb{E}[r_{t+1} | s_{t} = s']
$$
\n
$$
\approx \sum M^{\pi}(s, s') \times r(s')
$$
\n(10)

$$
= \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{k} r_{t+k+1} | s_{t} = s]
$$
\n
$$
= \sum_{s' \in S} \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{k} \mathbb{I}(s_{t+k} = s') \times r_{t+k+1} | s_{t} = s]
$$
\n
$$
= \sum_{s' \in S} \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{k} \mathbb{I}(s_{t+k} = s') | s_{t} = s] \times \mathbb{E}[r_{t+1} | s_{t} = s']
$$
\n
$$
\approx \sum M^{\pi}(s, s') \times r(s')
$$
\n(10)

 $s' \in \mathcal{S}$ 

SR rewrites the value of a state into an **expected discounted future state occupancy**  $M^{\pi}(s,s')$  and an

- The underlying assumption is that the world dynamics are independent from the reward function (which does not depend on the policy).
- This allows to re-use knowledge about world dynamics in other contexts (e.g. a new reward function in the same environment): **transfer learning**.



- What matters is the states that you will visit and how interesting they are, not the order in which you visit them.
- Knowing that being in the mensa will eventually get you some food is enough to know that being in the your mouth.

 $\equiv$ 

Source: <https://awjuliani.medium.com/the-present-in-terms-of-the-future-successor-representations-in-reinforcement-learning-316b78c5fa3>

mensa is a good state: you do not need to remember which exact sequence of transitions will put food in

- SR algorithms must estimate two quantities:
	- 1. The **expected immediate reward** received after each state:

2. The **expected discounted future state occupancy** (the **SR** itself):

what allows to infer the policy (e.g. using an actor-critic architecture).

 $\equiv$ 

The immediate reward for a state can be estimated very quickly and flexibly after receiving each reward:

 $) = \alpha \left( r_{t+1} - r(s_t) \right)$ 

$$
r(s) = \mathbb{E}[r_{t+1} | s_t = s]
$$

$$
M^{\pi}(s,s') = \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\gamma^k\, \mathbb{I}(s_{t+k}=s')|s_t=s]
$$

The value of a state s is then computed with:

$$
V^{\pi}(s) = \sum_{s' \in \mathcal{S}} \Lambda
$$

$$
\Delta\, r(s_t)=\alpha\, (
$$

 $\pi(s) = \sum M(s,s') \times r(s')$ 

# **SR and transition matrix**

• Imagine a very simple MDP with 4 states and a single deterministic action:



The transition matrix  $\mathcal{P}^{\pi}$  depicts the possible  $(s, s')$  transitions:



The SR matrix  $M$  also represents the future transitions discounted by  $\gamma$ :

 $\equiv$ 

$$
M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \gamma & \gamma^2 & \gamma^3 \\ 0 & 1 & \gamma & \gamma^2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \gamma \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}
$$

## **SR matrix in a Tolman's maze**



- The SR represents whether a state can be reached soon from the current state (b) using the current policy.
- The SR depends on the policy:
	- A random agent will map the local neighborhood (c).
	- A goal-directed agent will have SR representations that follow the optimal path (d).
- It is therefore different from the transition matrix, as it depends on behavior and rewards.
- The exact dynamics are lost compared to MB: it only represents whether a state is reachable, not how.

## **Example of a SR matrix**

 $\equiv$ 

The SR matrix reflects the proximity between states depending on the transitions and the policy. it does not have to be a spatial relationship.





## **Learning the SR**

 $\equiv$ 

• How can we learn the SR matrix for all pairs of states

We first notice that the SR obeys a recursive Bellman-like equation:

This is reminiscent of TDM: the remaining distance to the goal is 0 if I am already at the goal, or gamma

the distance from the next state to the goal.

$$
\mathsf{S}?
$$

$$
M^{\pi}(s,s') = \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\gamma^k\,\mathbb{I}(s_{t+k}=s')|s_t=s]
$$

$$
\begin{aligned} M^\pi(s,s') & = \mathbb{I}(s_t = s') + \mathbb{E}_\pi[\sum_{k=1}^\infty \gamma^k \, \mathbb{I}(s_{t+k} = s') | s_t = s] \\ & = \mathbb{I}(s_t = s') + \gamma \, \mathbb{E}_\pi[\sum_{k=0}^\infty \gamma^k \, \mathbb{I}(s_{t+k+1} = s') | s_t = s] \\ & = \mathbb{I}(s_t = s') + \gamma \, \mathbb{E}_{s_{t+1} \sim \mathcal{P}^\pi(s'|s)}[\mathbb{E}_\pi[\sum_{k=0}^\infty \gamma^k \, \mathbb{I}(s_{t+k} = s') | s_{t+1} = s]] \\ & = \mathbb{I}(s_t = s') + \gamma \, \mathbb{E}_{s_{t+1} \sim \mathcal{P}^\pi(s'|s)}[M^\pi(s_{t+1}, s')] \end{aligned}
$$

## **Model-based SR**

• Bellman-like SR:

we can obtain the SR directly with matrix inversion as we did in **dynamic programming**:  $M^{\pi} = I + \gamma\,\boldsymbol{\mathcal{P}}^{\pi} \times M^{\pi}$ 

- $M^{\pi} = (I \gamma \, \mathcal{P}^{\pi})$
- This DP approach is called **model-based SR** (MB-SR) as it necessitates to know the environment dynamics.

so that:

 $\equiv$ 

$$
M^\pi(s,s') = \mathbb{I}(s_t = s') + \gamma \, \mathbb{E}_{s_{t+1} \sim \mathcal{P}^\pi(s'|s)}[M^\pi(s_{t+1},s')]
$$

If we know the transition matrix for a fixed policy  $\pi$ :

$$
\mathcal{P}^\pi(s,s') = \sum_a \pi(s,a) \, p(s'|s,a)
$$

$$
-\,\gamma\, {\cal P}^\pi)^{-1}
$$

## **Model-free SR**

 $\equiv$ 

If we do not know the transition probabilities, we simply sample a single  $s_t, s_{t+1}$  transition:

We can define a **sensory prediction error** (SPE):

that is used to update an estimate of the SR:

 $\Delta M^{\pi}(s_t, s') =$ *t*

This is **SR-TD**, using a SPE instead of RPE, which learns only from transitions but ignores rewards.

$$
M^{\pi}(s_t,s')\approx \mathbb{I}(s_t=s')+\gamma\,M^{\pi}(s_{t+1},s')
$$

$$
\delta_t^{\text{SR}} = \mathbb{I}(s_t = s') + \gamma\,M^{\pi}(s_{t+1},s') - M(s_t,s')
$$

$$
s')=\alpha\,\delta_t^\mathrm{SR}
$$

# **The sensory prediction error - SPE**

The SPE has to be applied on ALL successor states  $s'$  after a transition  $(s_t, s_{t+1})$ :

- Contrary to the RPE, the SPE is a **vector** of prediction errors, used to update one row of the SR matrix.
- The SPE tells how **surprising** a transition  $s_t \rightarrow s_{t+1}$  is for the SR.



$$
M^{\pi}(s_t,\mathbf{s'})=M^{\pi}(s_t,\mathbf{s'})+\alpha\left(\mathbb{I}(s_t=\mathbf{s'})+\gamma\,M^{\pi}(s_{t+1},\mathbf{s'})-M(s_t,\mathbf{s'})\right)
$$

## **Successor representations**

The SR matrix represents the **expected discounted future state occupancy**:

The immediate reward in each state can be learned **independently from the policy**:

$$
M^{\pi}(s,s') = \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\gamma^k\, \mathbb{I}(s_{t+k}=s')|s_t=s]
$$

• It can be learned using a TD-like SPE from single transitions:

$$
M^{\pi}(s_t,\mathbf{s'})=M^{\pi}(s_t,\mathbf{s'})+\alpha\left(\mathbb{I}(s_t=\mathbf{s'})+\gamma\,M^{\pi}(s_{t+1},\mathbf{s'})-M(s_t,\mathbf{s'})\right)
$$

$$
\Delta\,r(s_t)=\alpha\,(r_{t+1}-r(s_t))
$$

The value  $V^\pi(s)$  of a state is obtained by summing of all successor states:

$$
V^{\pi}(s) = \sum_{s' \in \mathcal{S}} \Lambda
$$

This critic can be used to train an **actor**  $\pi_{\theta}$  using regular TD learning (e.g. A3C).

 $\equiv$ 

 $\pi(s) = \sum M(s,s') \times r(s')$ 

## **Successor representation of actions**

• Note that it is straightforward to extend the idea of SR to state-action pairs:

allowing to estimate Q-values:

 $\equiv$ 

using SARSA or Q-learning-like SPEs:

$$
M^{\pi}(s,a,s') = \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\gamma^k\,\mathbb{I}(s_{t+k}=s')|s_t=s,a_t=a]
$$

$$
Q^{\pi}(s,a) = \sum_{s' \in \mathcal{S}} M(s,a,s') \times r(s')
$$

$$
\delta^{\text{SR}}_t = \mathbb{I}(s_t = s') + \gamma \, M^{\pi}(s_{t+1}, a_{t+1}, s') - M(s_t, a_t, s') \\
$$
   
be of the next action  $a_{t+1}$  (on- or off-policy).

depending on the choice

- The SR matrix associates each state to all others ( $N\times N$ matrix):
	- curse of dimensionality.
	- **only possible for discrete state spaces.**
- A better idea is to describe each state s by a feature vector  $\phi(s) = [\phi_i(s)]_{i=1}^d$  with less dimensions than the number of states. *d*
- This feature vector can be constructed (see the lecture on function approximation) or learned by an autoencoder (latent representation).



Source: <http://www.jessicayung.com/the-successor-representation-1-generalising-between-states/>



The **successor feature representation** (SFR) represents the discounted probability of observing a feature  $\phi_j$  after being in s.

 $\equiv$ 



Instead of predicting when the agent will see a cat after being in the current state  $s$ , the SFR predicts when it will see eyes, ears or whiskers independently:

• Linear SFR (Gehring, 2015) supposes that it can be linearly approximated from the features of the current state:

Source: <http://www.jessicayung.com/the-successor-representation-1-generalising-between-states/>

$$
M_j^\pi(s) = M^\pi(s, \phi_j) = \mathbb{E}_\pi[\sum_{k=0}^\infty \gamma^k \, \mathbb{I}(\phi_j(s_{t+k})) | s_t = s, a_t = a]
$$

$$
M_j^\pi(s) = M^\pi(s, \phi_j) = \sum_{i=1}^d m_{i,j} \, \phi_i(s)
$$

The value of a state is now defined as the sum over successor features of their immediate reward discounted by the SFR:

Knowing that I see a kitchen door in the current state, how likely will I see a food outcome in the near

A good state is a state where food features (high  $r(\phi_j)$ ) are likely to happen soon (high  $m_{i,j}$ ).

 $\mathbf{r}^T \times M^{\pi} \times \phi(s)$ 

$$
V^{\pi}(s) = \sum_{j=1}^d M^{\pi}_j(s) \, r(\phi_j) = \sum_{j=1}^d r(\phi_j) \, \sum_{i=1}^d m_{i,j} \, \phi_i(s)
$$

- $N^{\pi} = [m_{i,j}]_{i,j}$  associates each feature  $\phi_i$  of the current state to all successor features  $\phi_j.$ 
	- future?
- Each successor feature  $\phi_j$  is associated to an expected immediate reward  $r(\phi_j).$ 
	-
- In matrix-vector form:

$$
V^{\pi}(s) = \mathbf{r}^T
$$

• Value of a state:

 $\equiv$ 

- can be made context-dependent:
	- Food features can be made more important when the agent is hungry, less when thirsty.
- **Transfer learning** becomes possible in the same environment:
	- Different goals (searching for food or water, going to place A or B) only require different reward vectors.
	- **The dynamics of the environment are stored in the SFR.**



$$
V^{\pi}(s) = \mathbf{r}^T
$$

Source: <https://awjuliani.medium.com/the-present-in-terms-of-the-future-successor-representations-in-reinforcement-learning-316b78c5fa3>

## $\mathbf{r}^T \times M^{\pi} \times \phi(s)$

The reward vector **r** only depends on the features and can be learned independently from the policy, but



How can we learn the SFR matrix  $M^{\pi}$ ?

 $V^\pi(s) = \mathbf{r}^T \times M^\pi \times$ 

We only need to use the sensory prediction error for a transition between the feature vectors  $\phi(s_t)$  and  $\phi(s_{t+1})$ :

and use it to update the whole matrix:

 $\equiv$ 

go deeper…

$$
\times \ M^{\pi} \times \phi(s)
$$

However, this linear approximation scheme only works for **fixed** feature representation  $\phi(s)$ . We need to

$$
\delta_t^{\rm SFR} = \phi(s_t) + \gamma\,M^\pi \times \phi(s_{t+1}) - M^\pi \times \phi(s_t)
$$

$$
\Delta M^\pi = \delta_t^{\rm SFR} \times \phi(s_t)^T
$$

## **Deep Successor Reinforcement Learning**

Tejas D. Kulkarni\* BCS, MIT tejask@mit.edu

 $\equiv$ 

**Ardavan Saeedi\*** CSAIL, MIT ardavans@mit.edu

Samuel J. Gershman Department of Psychology Harvard University gershman@fas.harvard.edu

**Simanta Gautam** CSAIL, MIT simanta@mit.edu

 $\equiv$ 



Figure 1: **Model Architecture:** DSR consists of: (1) feature branch  $f_{\theta}$  (CNN) which takes in raw images and computes the features  $\phi_{s_t}$ , (2) successor branch  $u_{\alpha}$  which computes the SR  $m_{s_t,a}$  for each possible action  $a \in A$ , (3) a deep convolutional decoder which produces the input reconstruction  $\hat{s_t}$  and (4) a linear regressor to predict instantaneous rewards at  $s_t$ . The Q-value function can be estimated by taking the inner-product of the SR with reward weights:  $Q^{\pi}(s, a) \approx m_{sa} \cdot \mathbf{w}$ .

- encoder.
- A decoder  $g_{\hat{\theta}}$  is used to provide a reconstruction loss, so  $\phi(s_t)$  is a latent representation of an autoencoder:

- The reconstruction loss is important, otherwise the latent representation  $\phi(s_t)$  would be too rewardoriented and would not generalize.
- The reward function is learned on a single task, but it can fine-tuned on another task, with all other weights frozen.

 $\equiv$ 

Each state  $s_t$  is represented by a D-dimensional (D=512) vector  $\phi(s_t) = f_\theta(s_t)$  which is the output of an

The immediate reward  $R(s_t)$  is linearly predicted from the feature vector  $\phi(s_t)$  using a reward vector  ${\bf w}.$ 

$$
\mathcal{L}_{\text{reconstruction}}(\theta, \hat{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}[(g_{\hat{\theta}}(\phi(s_t))-s_t)^2]
$$

 $R(s_t) = \phi$ 

 $\mathcal{L}_{\text{reward}}(\mathbf{w}, \theta) = \mathbb{E}[(r)]$ 

$$
\begin{array}{l} \left(s_t\right)^T\times{\bf w} \\ \\ \left(r_{t+1}-\phi(s_t)^T\times{\bf w}\right)^2] \end{array}
$$

For each action  $a$ , a NN  $u_\alpha$  predicts the future feature occupancy  $M(s,s',a)$  for the current state:

The compound loss is used to train the complete network end-to-end **off-policy** using a replay buffer (DQN-like).

 $\equiv$ 

$$
m_{s_t a} = u_\alpha(s_t, a)
$$

$$
Q(s_t,a) = \mathbf{w}^T \times m_{s_t a}
$$

The selected action is  $\epsilon$ -greedily selected around the greedy action:

$$
a_t = \arg\max_a Q(s_t, a)
$$

$$
\mathcal{L}^{\rm SPE}(\alpha) = \mathbb{E}[\sum_a (\phi(s_t) + \gamma~\max_{a'} u_{\alpha'}(s_{t+1}, a') - u_\alpha(s_t, a))^2]
$$

$$
\mathcal{L}(\theta, \hat{\theta}, \mathbf{w}, \alpha) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{reconstruction}}(\theta, \hat{\theta}) + \mathcal{L}_{\text{reward}}(\mathbf{w}, \theta) + \mathcal{L}^{\text{SPE}}(\alpha)
$$

Kulkarni, T. D., Saeedi, A., Gautam, S., and Gershman, S. J. (2016). Deep Successor Reinforcement Learning. arXiv:1606.02396 31 / 36

The Q-value of an action is simply the dot product between the SR of an action and the reward vector  $\mathbf{w}$ :

The SR of each action is learned using the Q-learning-like SPE (with fixed  $\theta$  and a target network  $u_{\alpha'}$ ):

**Algorithm 1** Learning algorithm for DSR

- $\epsilon=1.$
- 2: for  $i = 1$ : #episodes do
- Initialize game and get start state description s  $3:$
- while not terminal do  $4:$ 
	- $\phi_s = f_{\theta}(s)$
- 6:
- $7:$
- Store transition  $(s, a, R(s'), s')$  in  $D$ 8:
- Randomly sample mini-batches from D 9:
- $10:$
- Fix  $(\theta, \tilde{\theta}, \mathbf{w})$  and perform gradient descent on  $L^m(\alpha, \theta)$  with respect to  $\alpha$ .  $11:$
- $s \leftarrow s'$  $12:$
- end while  $13:$
- Anneal exploration variable  $\epsilon$  $14:$
- $15:$  end for

 $\equiv$ 

 $5:$ 

1: Initialize experience replay memory D, parameters  $\{\theta, \alpha, \mathbf{w}, \theta\}$  and exploration probability

With probability  $\epsilon$ , sample a random action a, otherwise choose argmax<sub>a</sub> $u_{\alpha}(\phi_s, a) \cdot \mathbf{w}$ Execute a and obtain next state s' and reward  $R(s')$  from environment

Perform gradient descent on the loss  $L^r(\mathbf{w}, \theta) + L^a(\tilde{\theta}, \theta)$  with respect to  $\mathbf{w}, \theta$  and  $\tilde{\theta}$ .



needs to get to the goal state. The agent gets a penalty of -0.5 per-step, -1 to step on the water-block (blue) and  $+1$  for reaching the goal state. The model observes raw pixel images during learning. (center) A *Doom* map using the VizDoom engine  $[13]$  where the agent starts in a room and has to get to another room to collect ammo (per-step penalty = -0.01, reward for reaching goal = +1). (right) Sample screen-shots of the agent exploring the 3D maze.



 $\equiv$ 

Figure 3: Average trajectory of the reward (left) over 100k steps for the grid-world maze. (right) over 180k steps for the Doom map over multiple runs.

Figure 2: Environments: (left) MazeBase [37] map where the agent starts at an arbitrary location and



- The interesting property is that you do not need rewards to learn:
	- A random agent can be used to learn the encoder and the SR, but w can be left untouched.
	- When rewards are introduced (or changed), only w has to be adapted, while DQN would have to re-learn all Q-values.
- This is the principle of **latent learning** in animal psychology: fooling around in an environment without a goal allows to learn the structure of the world, what can speed up learning when a task is introduced.
- The SR is a **cognitive map** of the environment: learning task-unspecific relationships.



- Note: the same idea was published by three different groups at the same time (preprint in 2016, conference in 2017):
	- for Transfer in Reinforcement Learning. arXiv:160605312.
	- Kulkarni, T. D., Saeedi, A., Gautam, S., and Gershman, S. J. (2016). Deep Successor Reinforcement Learning. arXiv:1606.02396.
	- Zhang J, Springenberg JT, Boedecker J, Burgard W. (2016). Deep Reinforcement Learning with Successor Features for Navigation across Similar Environments. arXiv:161205533.
- The (Barreto et al., 2016) is from Deepmind, so it tends to be cited more…

 $\equiv$ 

■ Barreto A, Dabney W, Munos R, Hunt JJ, Schaul T, van Hasselt H, Silver D. (2016). Successor Features

# **Visual Semantic Planning using Deep Successor Representations**

