
Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning is A Sequence Modeling Problem

**Muning Wen^{1,2}, Jakub Grudzien Kuba³, Runji Lin⁴,
Weinan Zhang¹, Ying Wen¹, Jun Wang^{2,5}, Yaodong Yang⁶**

¹Shanghai Jiao Tong University, ²Digital Brain Lab,

³University of Oxford, ⁴Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Science,

⁵University College London, ⁶Institute for AI, Peking University

Prequels:

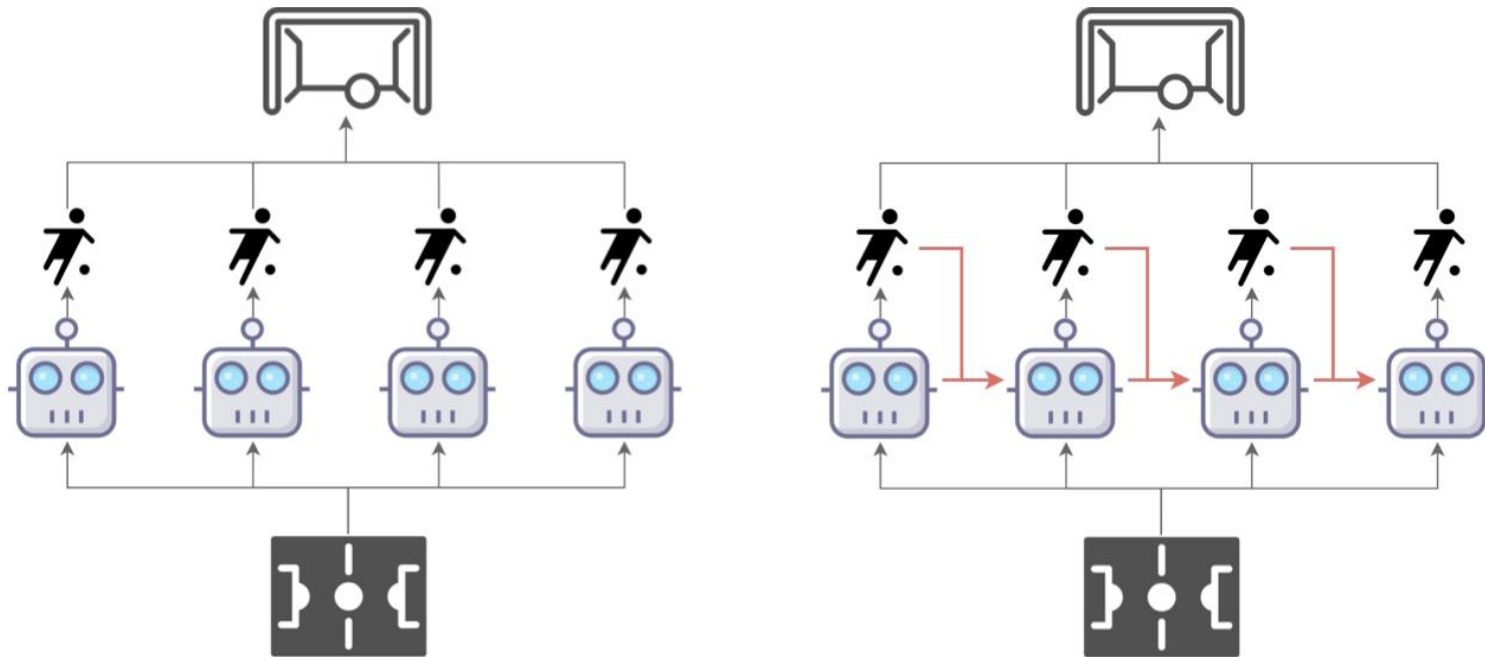
- Settling the Variance of Multi-Agent Policy Gradient ([NeurIPS 2021](#)).
- Trust Region Policy Optimisation in Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning ([ICLR 2022](#)).



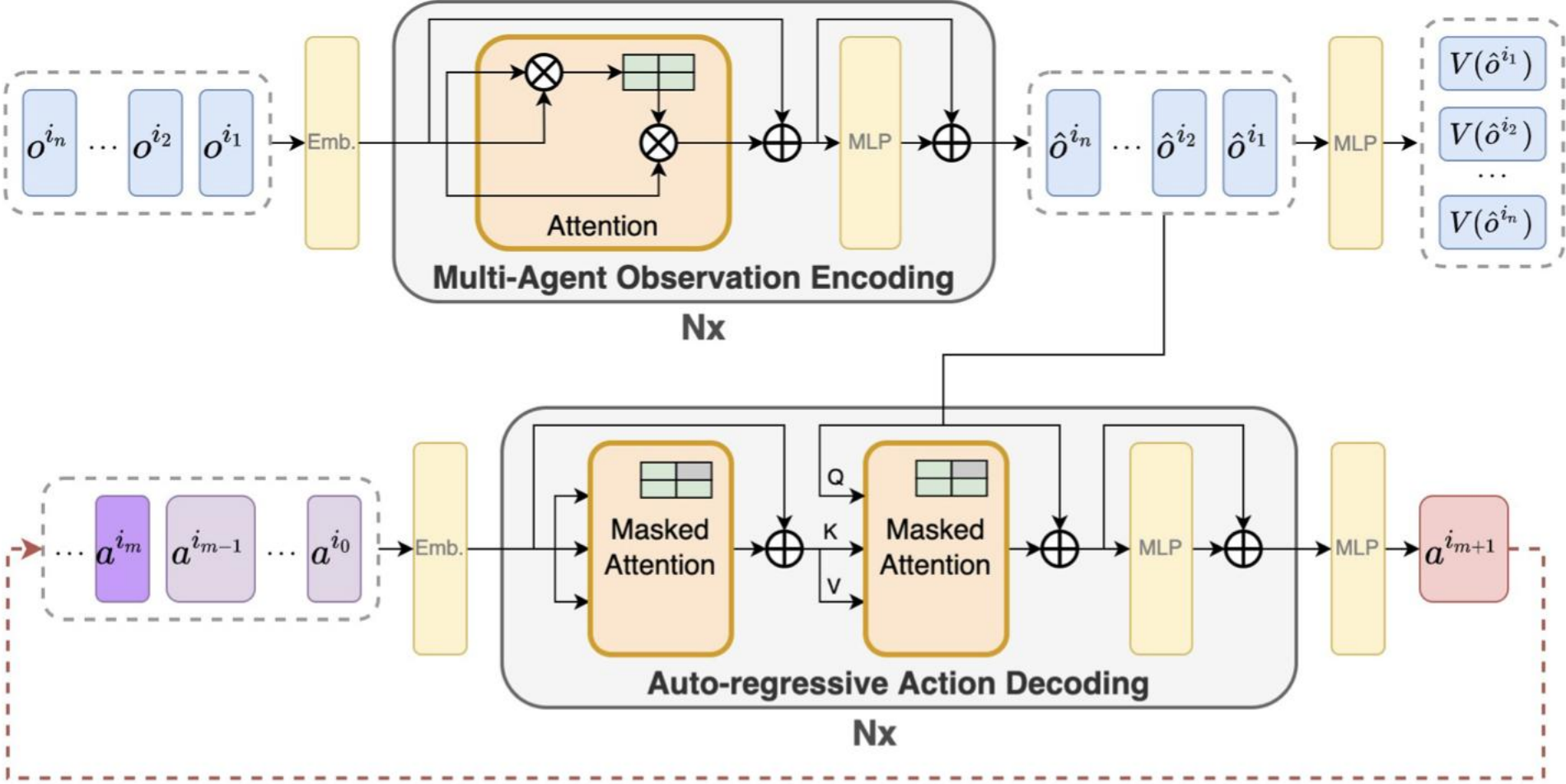
- How to abstract multi-agent decision making as a sequence modeling problem and leverage the prosperous development of the sequence models
- Building the bridge between MARL and sequence models so that the modeling power of modern sequence models, e.g. the Transformer, can be unleashed for MARL.
- Guarantee the monotonic performance improvement of joint policy with acceptable sample efficiency and training speed.
- More information could be found in our project website (<https://sites.google.com/view/multi-agent-transformer>) or github(<https://github.com/PKU-MARL/Multi-Agent-Transformer>).

Theorem 1 (Multi-Agent Advantage Decomposition [13]). *Let $i_{1:n}$ be a permutation of agents. Then, for any joint observation $\mathbf{o} \in \mathcal{O}$ and joint action $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{a}^{i_{1:n}} \in \mathcal{A}$, the following equation always holds with no further assumption needed,*

$$A_{\pi}^{i_{1:n}}(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{a}^{i_{1:n}}) = \sum_{m=1}^n A_{\pi}^{i_m}(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{a}^{i_{1:m-1}}, a^{i_m}).$$



Multi-Agent Transformer



$$L_{\text{Encoder}}(\phi) = \frac{1}{Tn} \sum_{m=1}^n \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \left[R(\mathbf{o}_t, \mathbf{a}_t) + \gamma V_{\bar{\phi}}(\hat{\mathbf{o}}_{t+1}^{i_m}) - V_{\phi}(\hat{\mathbf{o}}_t^{i_m}) \right]^2, \quad (4)$$

$$L_{\text{Decoder}}(\theta) = -\frac{1}{Tn} \sum_{m=1}^n \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \min \left(\mathbf{r}_t^{i_m}(\theta) \hat{A}_t, \text{clip}(\mathbf{r}_t^{i_m}(\theta), 1 \pm \epsilon) \hat{A}_t \right), \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbf{r}_t^{i_m}(\theta) = \frac{\pi_{\theta}^{i_m}(\mathbf{a}_t^{i_m} | \hat{\mathbf{o}}_t^{i_{1:n}}, \hat{\mathbf{a}}_t^{i_{1:m-1}})}{\pi_{\theta_{\text{old}}}^{i_m}(\mathbf{a}_t^{i_m} | \hat{\mathbf{o}}_t^{i_{1:n}}, \hat{\mathbf{a}}_t^{i_{1:m-1}})},$$

An example of how the attention work in decoder.

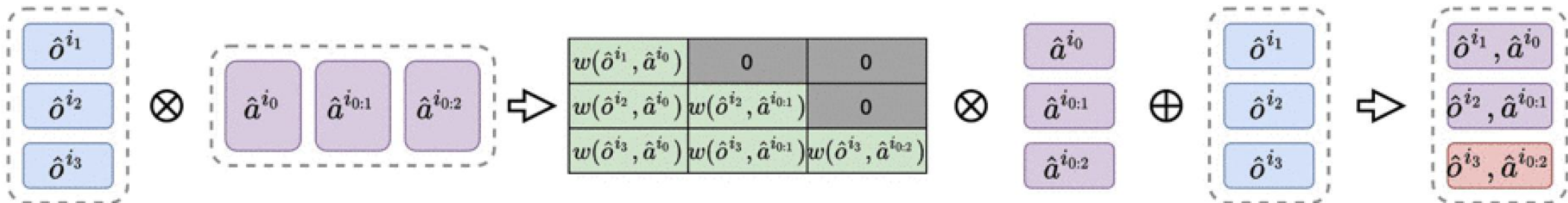


Table 1: Performance evaluations of win rate and standard deviation on the SMAC benchmark.

Task	Difficulty	MAT	MAT-Dec	MAPPO	HAPPO	QMIX	Steps
1c3s5z	Easy	100.0 _(2.4)	100.0 _(0.4)	100.0 _(2.2)	97.5 _(1.8)	96.9 _(1.5)	2e6
MMM	Easy	100.0 _(2.2)	98.1 _(2.1)	95.6 _(4.5)	81.2 _(22.9)	91.2 _(3.2)	2e6
2c vs 64zg	Hard	100.0 _(1.3)	95.9 _(2.3)	100.0 _(2.7)	90.0 _(4.8)	90.3 _(4.0)	5e6
3s vs 5z	Hard	100.0 _(1.7)	100.0 _(1.3)	100.0 _(2.5)	91.9 _(5.3)	92.3 _(4.4)	5e6
3s5z	Hard	100.0 _(1.9)	100.0 _(3.3)	72.5 _(26.5)	90.0 _(3.5)	84.3 _(5.4)	3e6
5m vs 6m	Hard	90.6 _(4.4)	83.1 _(4.6)	88.2 _(6.2)	73.8 _(4.4)	75.8 _(3.7)	5e6
8m vs 9m	Hard	100.0 _(3.1)	95.0 _(4.6)	93.8 _(3.5)	86.2 _(4.4)	92.6 _(4.0)	5e6
10m vs 11m	Hard	100.0 _(1.4)	100.0 _(2.0)	96.3 _(5.8)	77.5 _(9.7)	95.8 _(6.1)	5e6
25m	Hard	100.0 _(1.3)	86.9 _(5.6)	100.0 _(2.7)	0.6 _(0.8)	90.2 _(9.8)	2e6
27m vs 30m	Super Hard	100.0 _(0.7)	95.3 _(2.2)	93.1 _(3.2)	0.0 _(0.0)	39.2 _(8.8)	1e7
MMM2	Super Hard	93.8 _(2.6)	91.2 _(5.3)	81.8 _(10.1)	0.3 _(0.4)	88.3 _(2.4)	1e7
6h vs 8z	Super Hard	98.8 _(1.3)	93.8 _(4.7)	88.4 _(5.7)	0.0 _(0.0)	9.7 _(3.1)	1e7
3s5z vs 3s6z	Super Hard	96.5 _(1.3)	85.3 _(7.5)	84.3 _(19.4)	82.8 _(21.2)	68.8 _(21.2)	2e7

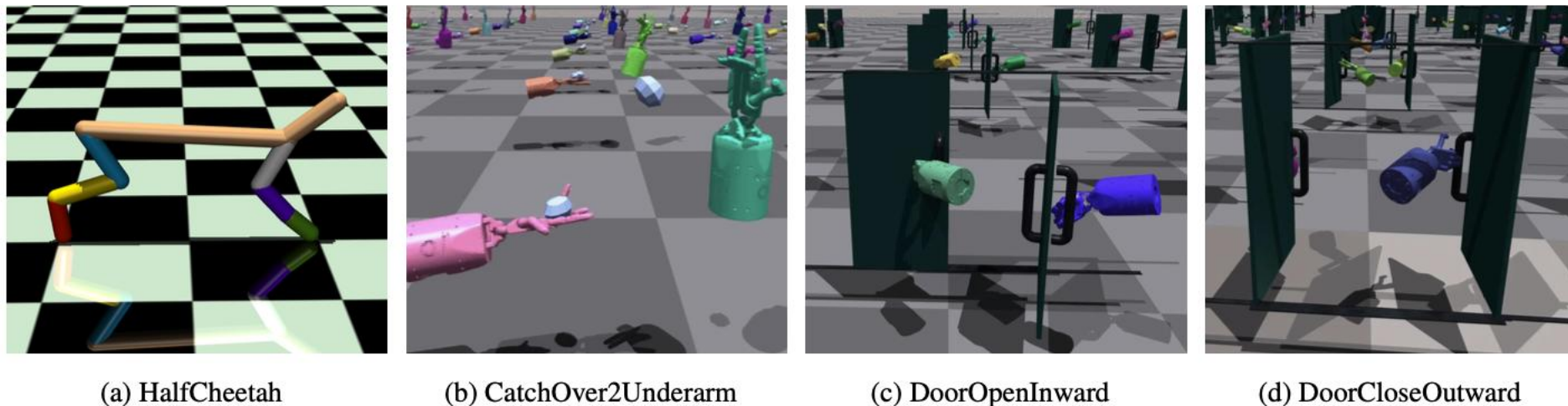


Figure 3: Demonstrations of the Bi-DexHands and the HalfCheetah environments.

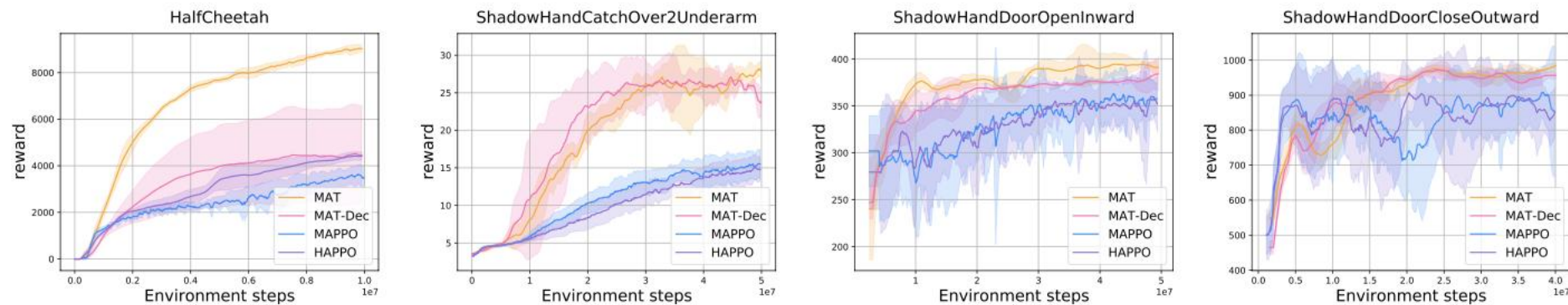


Figure 4: Performance comparisons on the Multi-Agent MuJoCo and the Bi-DexHands benchmarks.

Thank you for your attention!

