



Learning to Play: The Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning in Malmo (MARLO) Competition

Speaker: Katja Hofmann

Machine Intelligence and Perception
Microsoft Research

 [@katjahofmann](https://twitter.com/katjahofmann)



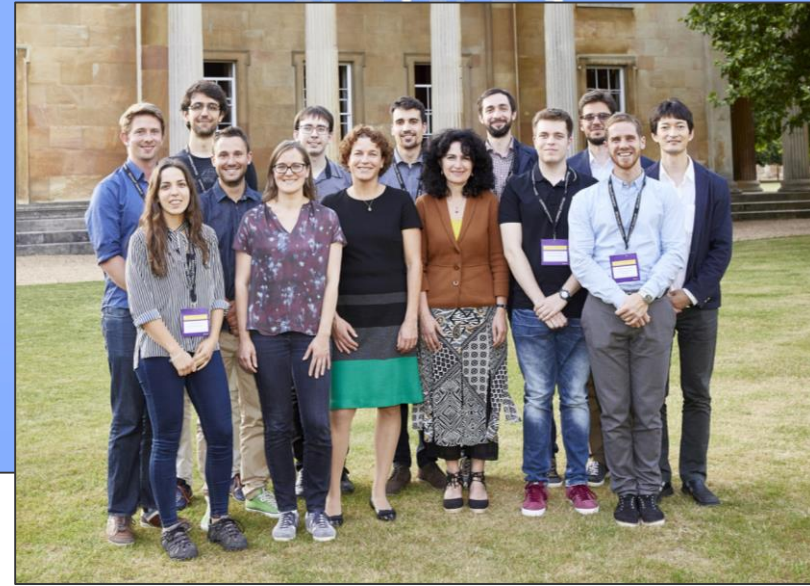
The Malmo Collaborative AI Challenge

Goal: foster research in collaborative AI

First round: April / May 2017 (83 registered teams)

Second round planned, starting summer 2018

Details: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/academic-program/collaborative-ai-challenge>



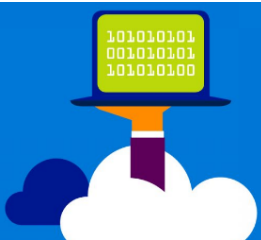
Prizes:



Microsoft Research

**AI Summer
School 2017**

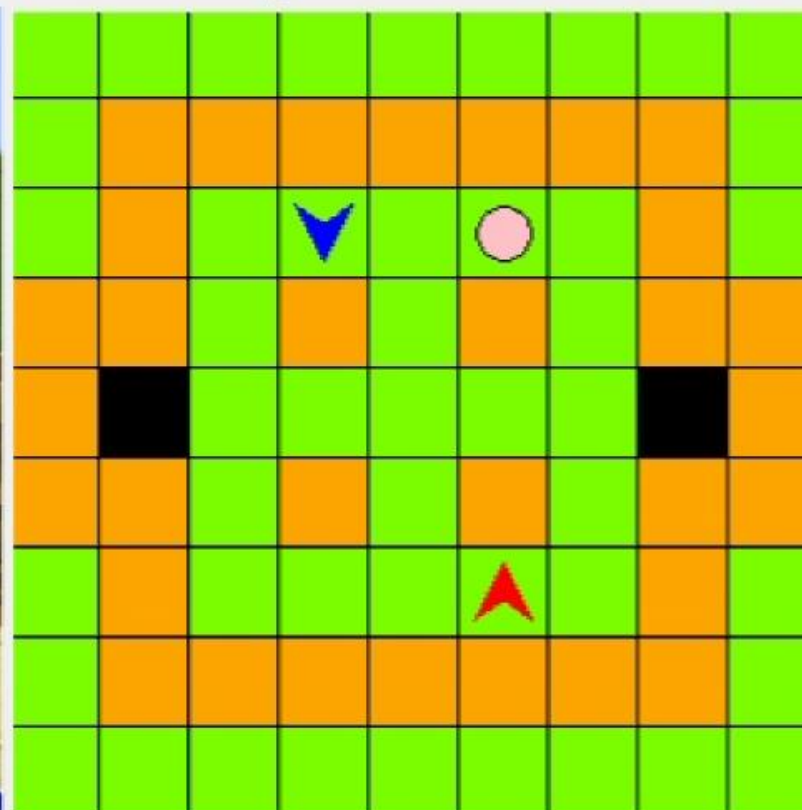
Microsoft Azure for
Research



First Person View



Symbolic View



Game stats

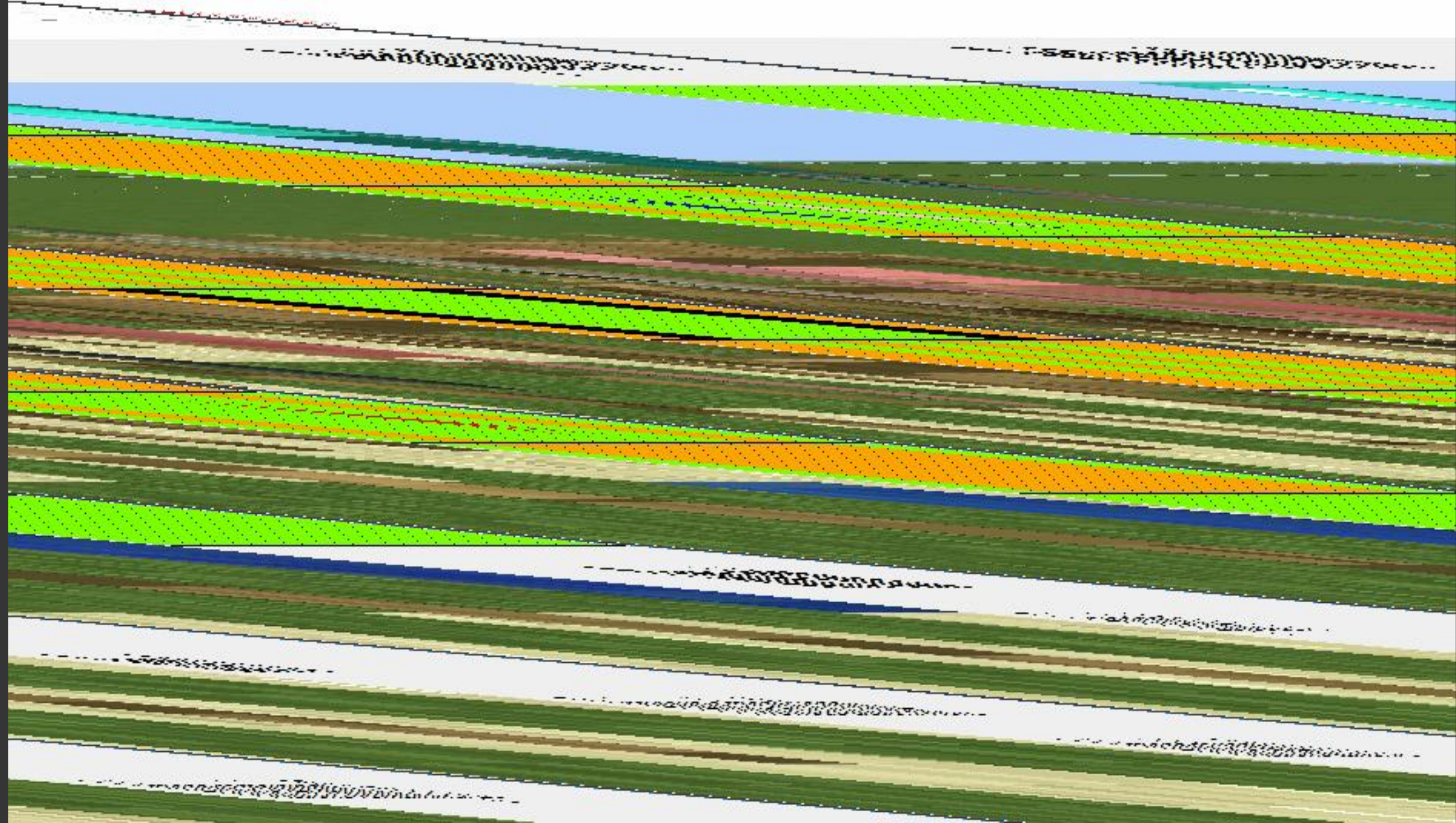
Episode: 1

Score: 0

Previous action: None

Actions taken: 0

Actions remaining: 25



Key questions

Can agents generalize?

To new (instances of) games and new opponents?

How can we lower the barrier to entry?

Consider: engineering, compute

Project Malmö: Minecraft as platform for AI research



Project Malmo

A platform for AI experimentation, built on Minecraft

microsoft.com/en-us/research/project/project-malmo/

Open source on github

github.com/Microsoft/malmo

The Malmo Platform for Artificial Intelligence Experimentation

Matthew Johnson, Katja Hofmann, Tim Hutton, & David Bignell 2016



Microsoft / malmo

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Code Issues 49 Pull requests 3 Wiki Pulse Graphs Settings

Project Malmo is a platform for Artificial Intelligence experimentation and research built on top of Minecraft. We aim to inspire a new generation of research into challenging new problems presented by this unique environment. --- For installation instructions, scroll down to *Getting Started* below, or visit the project page for more information: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/project/project-malmo/> — Edit

695 commits 4 branches 10 releases 11 contributors

Branch: master New pull request Create new file Upload files Find file Clone or download

timhutton committed on GitHub Merge pull request #300 from Microsoft/xerxes_init Latest commit efdc5b4 3 days ago

.travis	Minor: removed comments.	20 days ago
ALE_ROMS	Applied MIT license.	2 months ago
Malmo	Fix: having two agent_host's in the same script causes a crash becaus...	4 days ago
Minecraft	Fix: use and attack in discrete movement were being sent to first pla...	4 days ago
Schemas	Fix: time 0 was invalid yet suggested in the documentation.	4 days ago
cmake	Fix: changes to make Lua work on Fedora 23.	2 months ago
doc	Minor: fixed item numbering.	5 days ago
sample_missions	Making cliff_walking_1.xml use discrete actions.	a month ago

Use Cases and Design Principles

Connect AI agents into the game

through an intuitive yet powerful API

Provide researchers with tools for task creation – building on existing Minecraft capabilities

Build for extensions and novel uses – open source; “plug-and-play” design of observation, command, reward handlers

Low entry

barrier: provide

cross-language

(currently: Java,

.NET, C/C++,

Python, Lua) &

cross-platform

(Windows, Linux,

MacOS) API

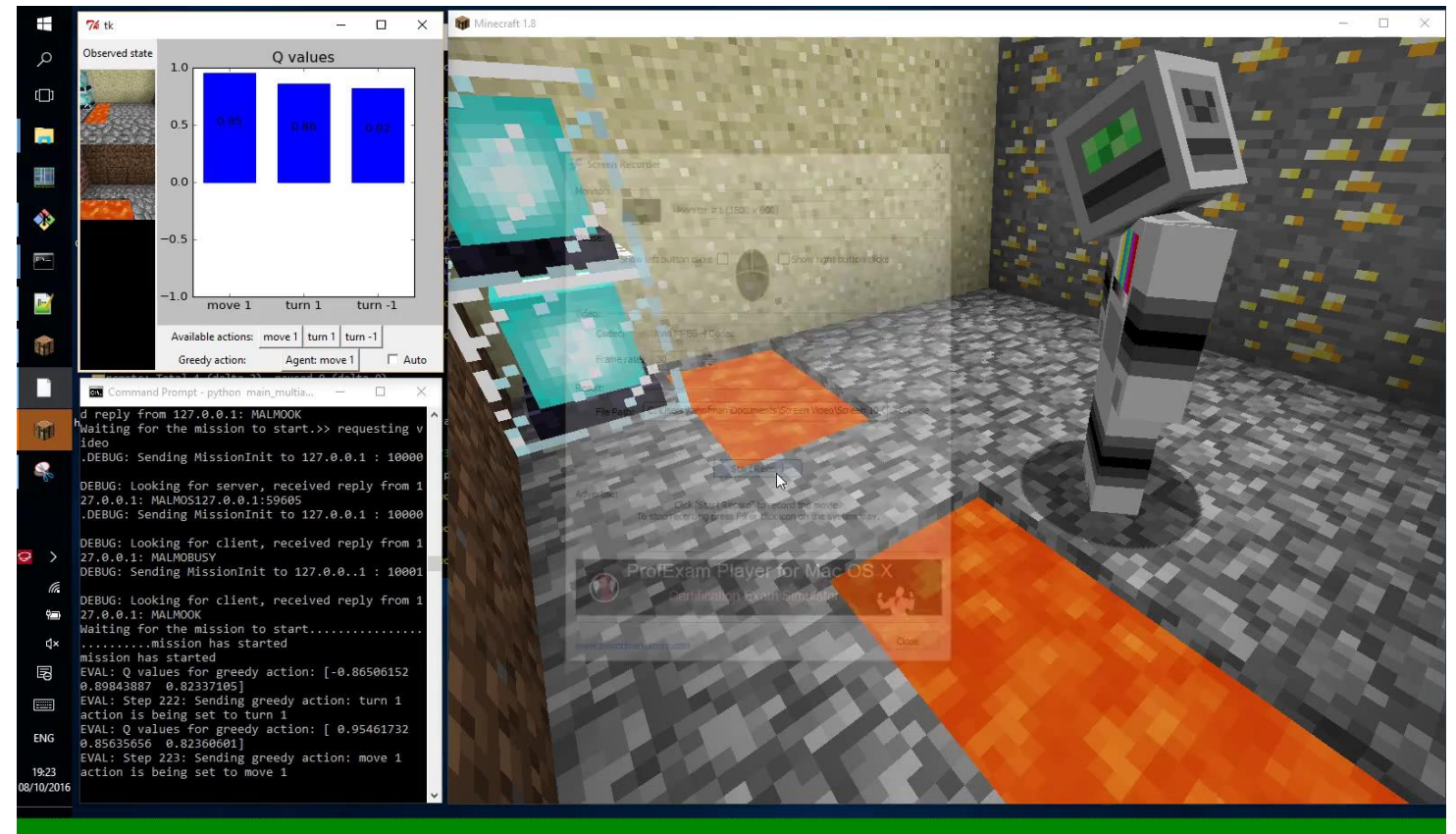
A natural environment for multi-agent learning



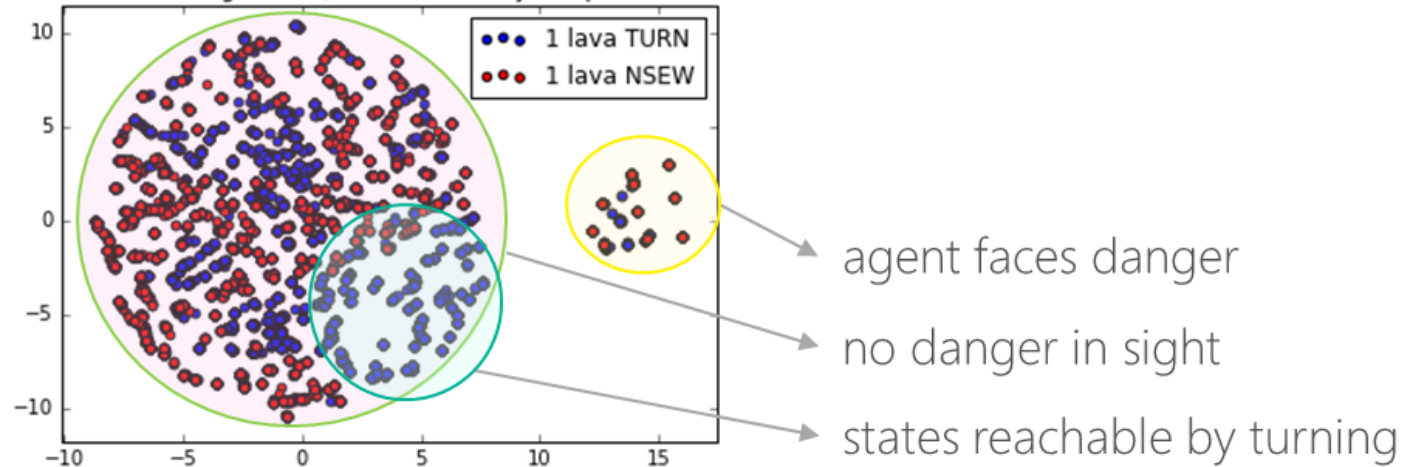
Decoding multitask DQN in the world of Minecraft

Lydia Liu, Urun Dogan,
Katja Hofmann

EWRL & Deep Learning Workshop @
NIPS 2016
ewrl.files.wordpress.com/2016/11/ewrl13-2016-submission-29.pdf



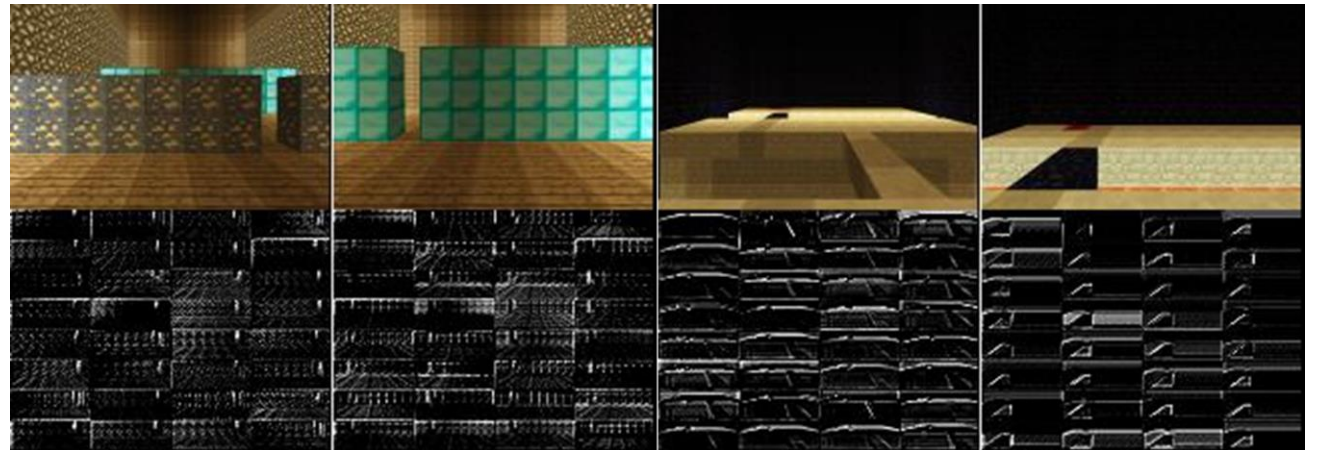
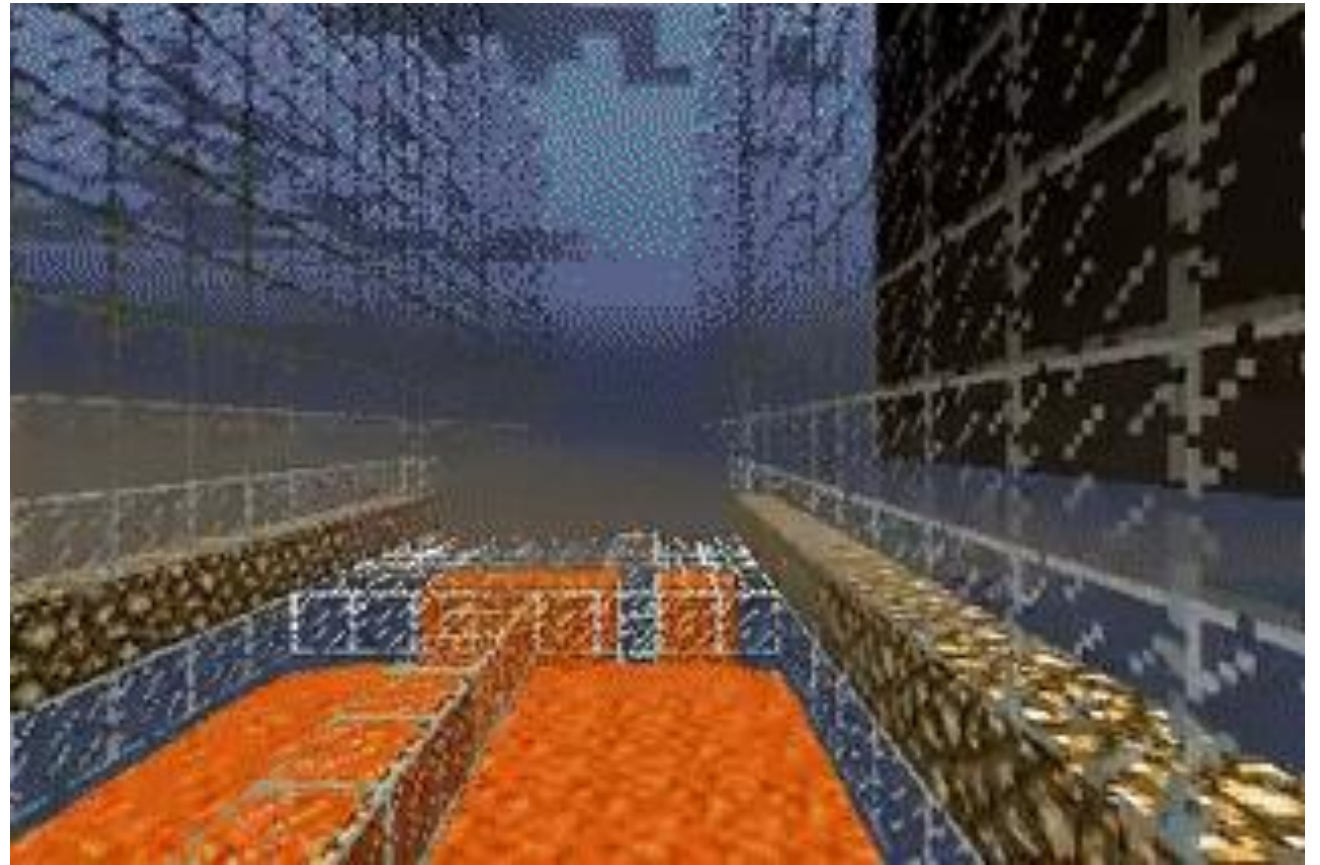
t-SNE embedding of MDQN last hidden layer representations



Asynchronous Data Aggregation for End to End Visual Navigation in Minecraft

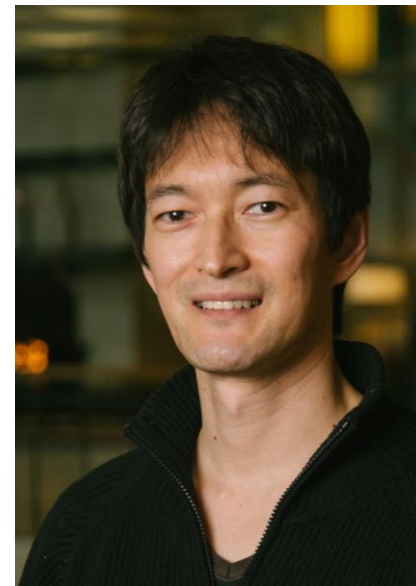
Mathew Monfort, Matthew Johnson, Aude Oliva, Katja Hofmann

AAMAS 2017
ifaamas.org/Proceedings/aamas2017/pdfs/p530.pdf



The MARLÖ Competition – Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning in Malmö

Competition Framework



Organizers





MARLÖ 2018

Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning in Minecraft



By **Microsoft Research**

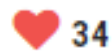
Starting soon

3091

34

Views

Participan



34

UNFOLLOW



Streamline



Standardize



Provide baselines

[Overview](#)

[Leaderboard](#)

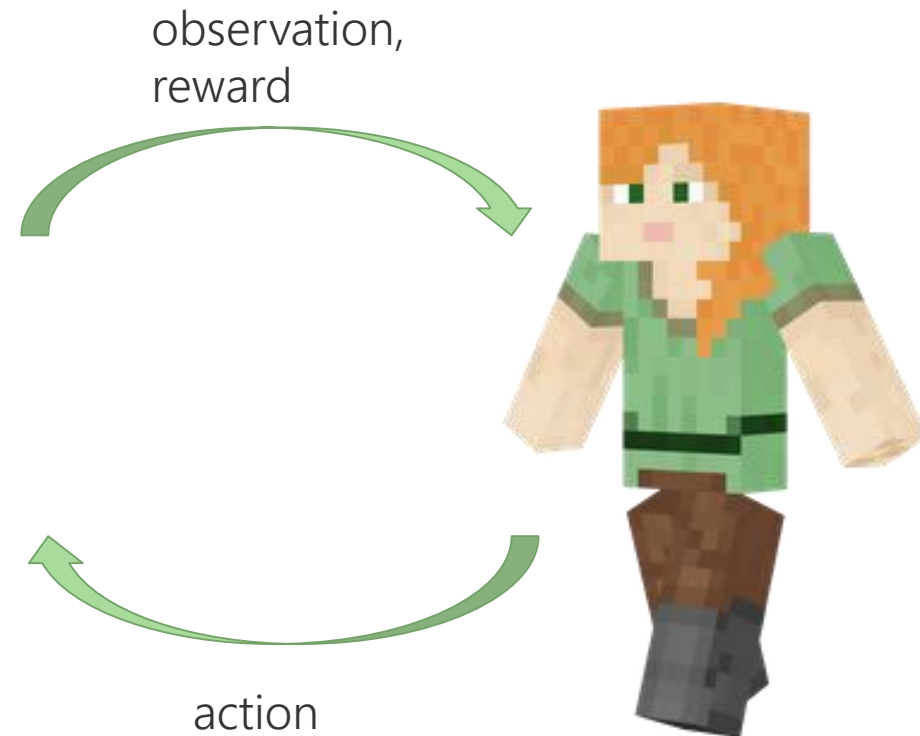
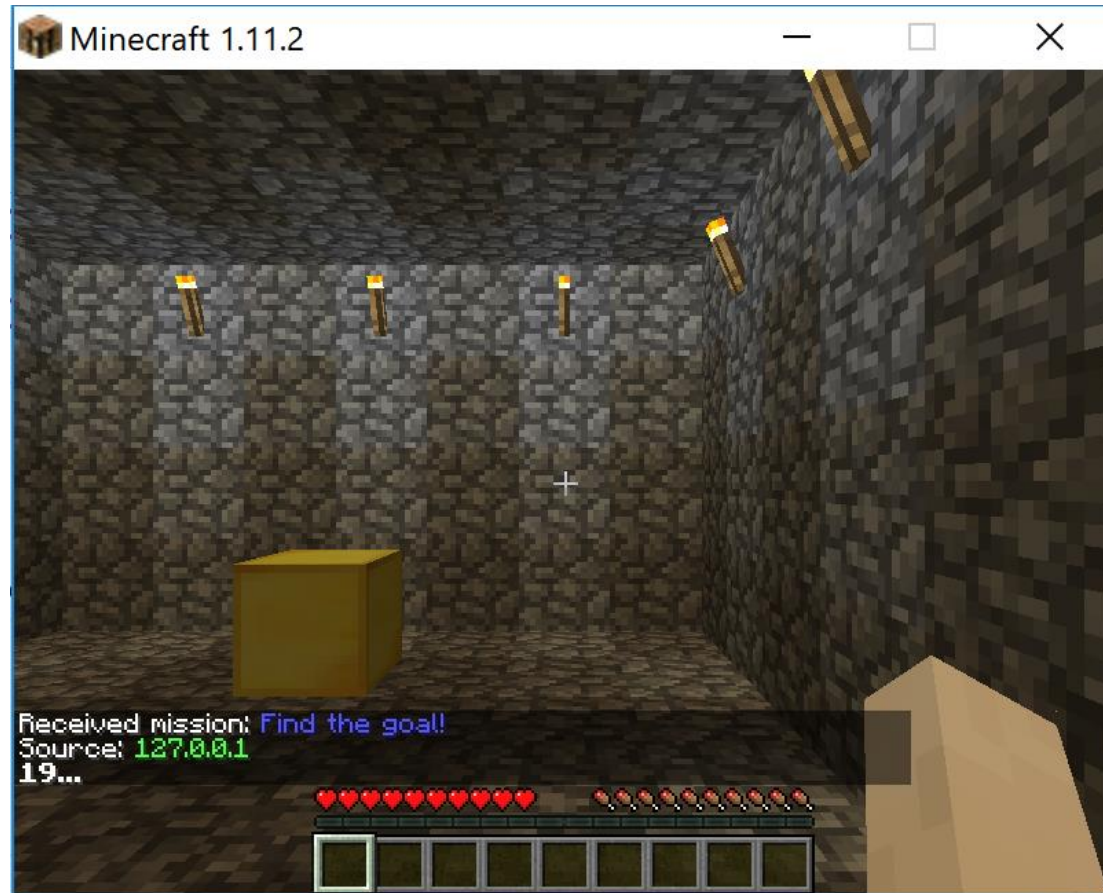
[Discussion](#)

[Dataset](#)

[Submissions](#)

[Participants](#)

Standardizing the Reinforcement Learning Loop



Standardizing the Reinforcement Learning Loop

```
import gym
import marlo

env = gym.make('MinecraftBasic-v0')
env.init(
    allowContinuousMovement=["move", "turn"],
    videoResolution=[800, 600]
)
env.reset()

done = False
while not done:
    env.render()
    action = env.action_space.sample()
    obs, reward, done, info = env.step(action)
    print(action)

env.close()
```


Baselines

[chainer](#) / [chainerrl](#)

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ChainerRL is a deep reinforcement learning library built on top of Chainer.

[chainer](#)[reinforcement-learning](#)[deep-learning](#)[machine-learning](#)[python](#)[dqn](#)[actor-critic](#)

1,745 commits7 branches3 releases15 contributorsMIT

Branch: masterNew pull requestCreate new fileUpload filesFind fileClone or download

 toslunar Merge pull request #279 from muupan/add-dqn-loss-test ...

Latest commit e424a75 14 days ago

assets	add logo	11 months ago
chainerrl	Merge pull request #271 from uidlr/master	a month ago
docs	Fix wrong directives: autoclass -> autofunction	5 months ago
examples	Update README.md	a month ago
tests	Parameterize tests	17 days ago
tools	Remove the ale install script	11 months ago
.gitignore	update .gitignore	2 months ago
.travis.yml	Add opencv-python as an optional dependency	2 months ago
CONTRIBUTING.md	Mention autopep8 in CONTRIBUTING.md	4 months ago
LICENSE	Create LICENSE	a year ago
README.md	Add CategoricalDQN to README	3 months ago
readthedocs.yml	Add readthedocs.yml to install chainerrl for docs	a year ago
requirements-dev.txt	Add opencv-python as an optional dependency	2 months ago

<https://github.com/chainer/chainerrl>

Baselines

chainer / chainerrl

Watch

76

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<> Code

Issues 52

Pull requests 21

Projects 0

Wiki

Insights

ChainerRL is a deep reinforcement learning library built on top of Chainer.

chainer

reinforcement-learning

deep-learning

machine-learning

python

dqn

actor-critic

1,745 commits

87 branches

2 releases

15 contributors

MIT

Algorithm	Discrete Action	Continuous Action	Recurrent Model	CPU Async Training
DQN (including DoubleDQN etc.)	✓	✓ (NAF)	✓	X
Categorical DQN	✓	X	✓	X
DDPG	X	✓	✓	X
A3C	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACER	✓	✓	✓	✓
NSQ (N-step Q-learning)	✓	✓ (NAF)	✓	✓
PCL (Path Consistency Learning)	✓	✓	✓	✓
PPO	✓	✓	X	X
TRPO	✓	✓	X	X

requirements-dev.txt

Add opencv-python as an optional dependency

Clone or download

commit e424a75 14 days ago

11 months ago

a month ago

5 months ago

a month ago

17 days ago

11 months ago

2 months ago

2 months ago

4 months ago

a year ago

3 months ago

a year ago

2 months ago

<https://github.com/chainer/chainerrl>



A BIG Thank You to Monday's
MARLO bootcamp participants!!

The MARLÖ Competition – Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning in Malmö

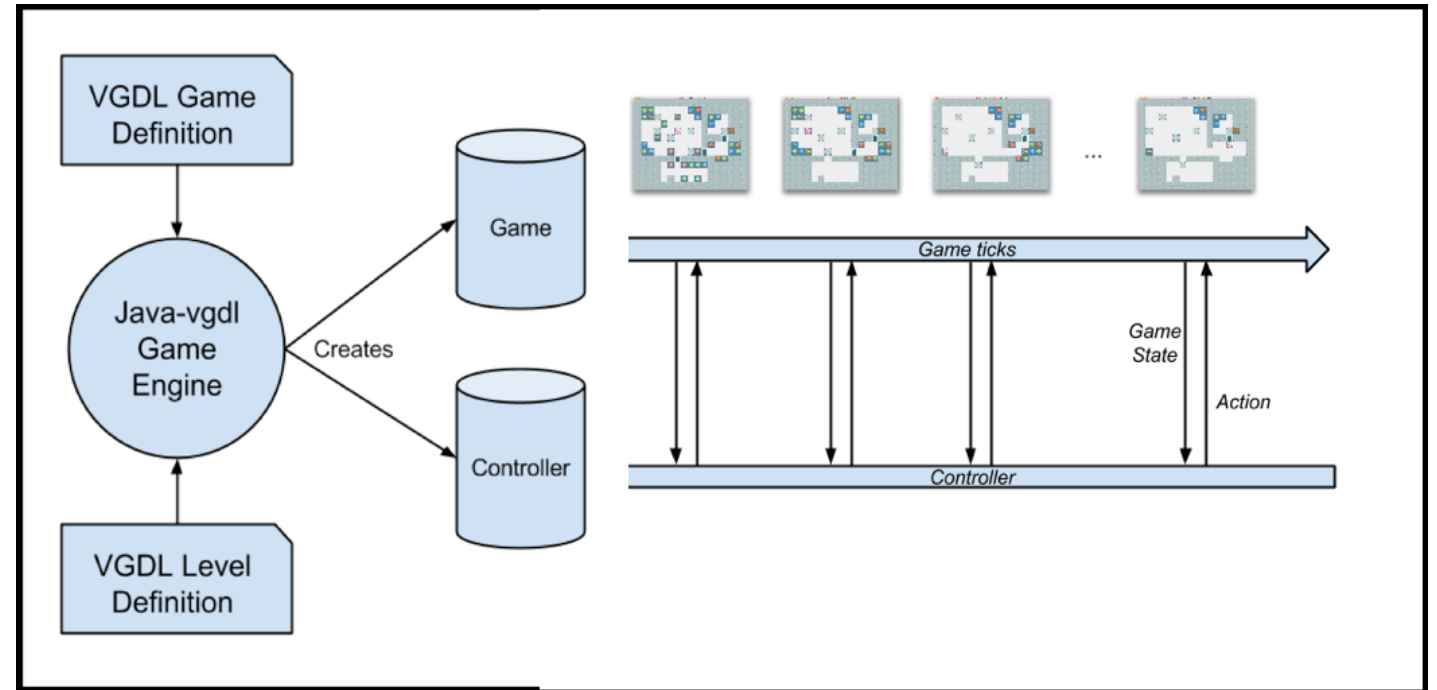
Task Design

General Video Game AI: a Multi-Track Framework for Evaluating Agents, Games and Content Generation Algorithms

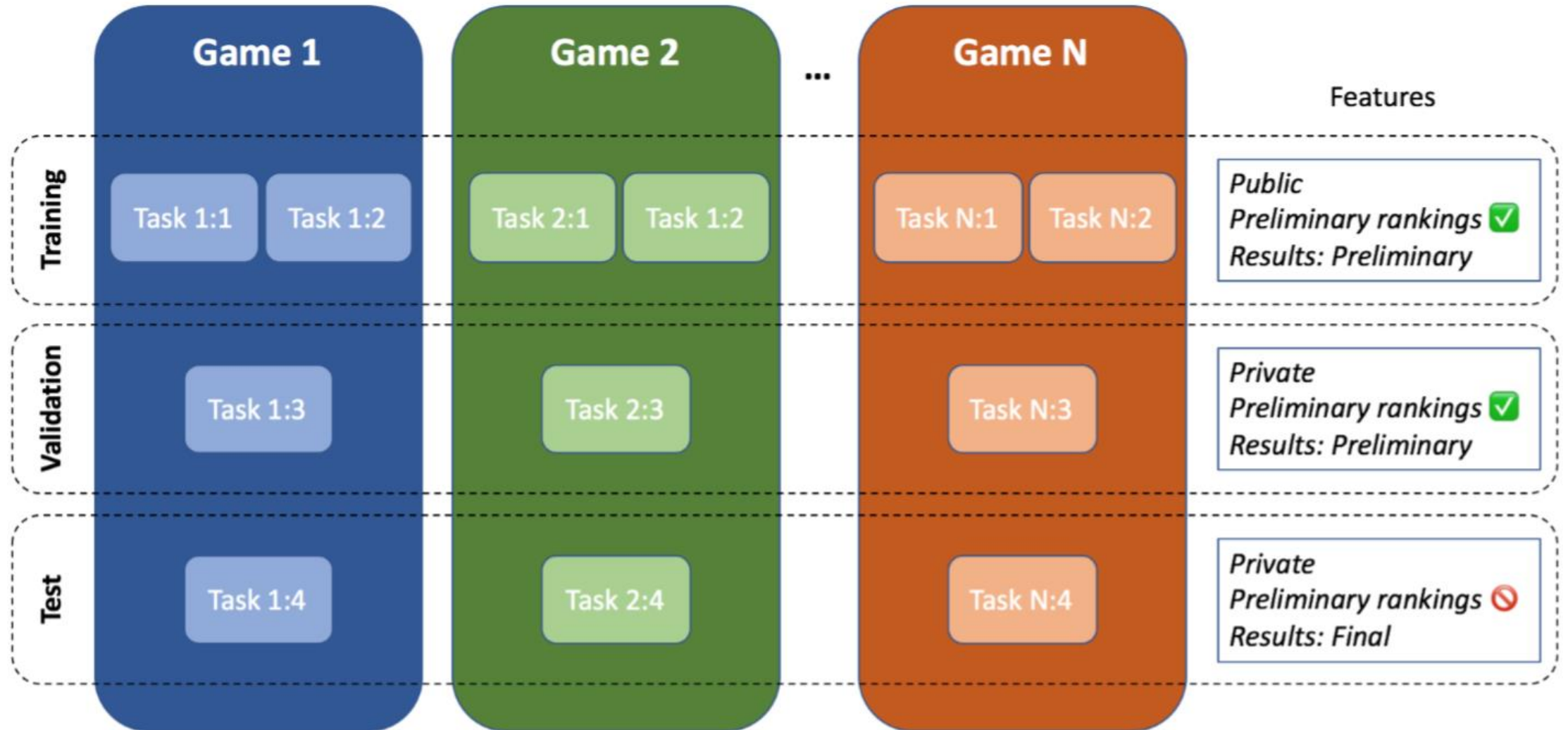
Diego Perez-Liebana, Jialin Liu,
Ahmed Khalifa, Raluca D.
Gaina, Julian Togelius, Simon M.
Lucas

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1802.10363>

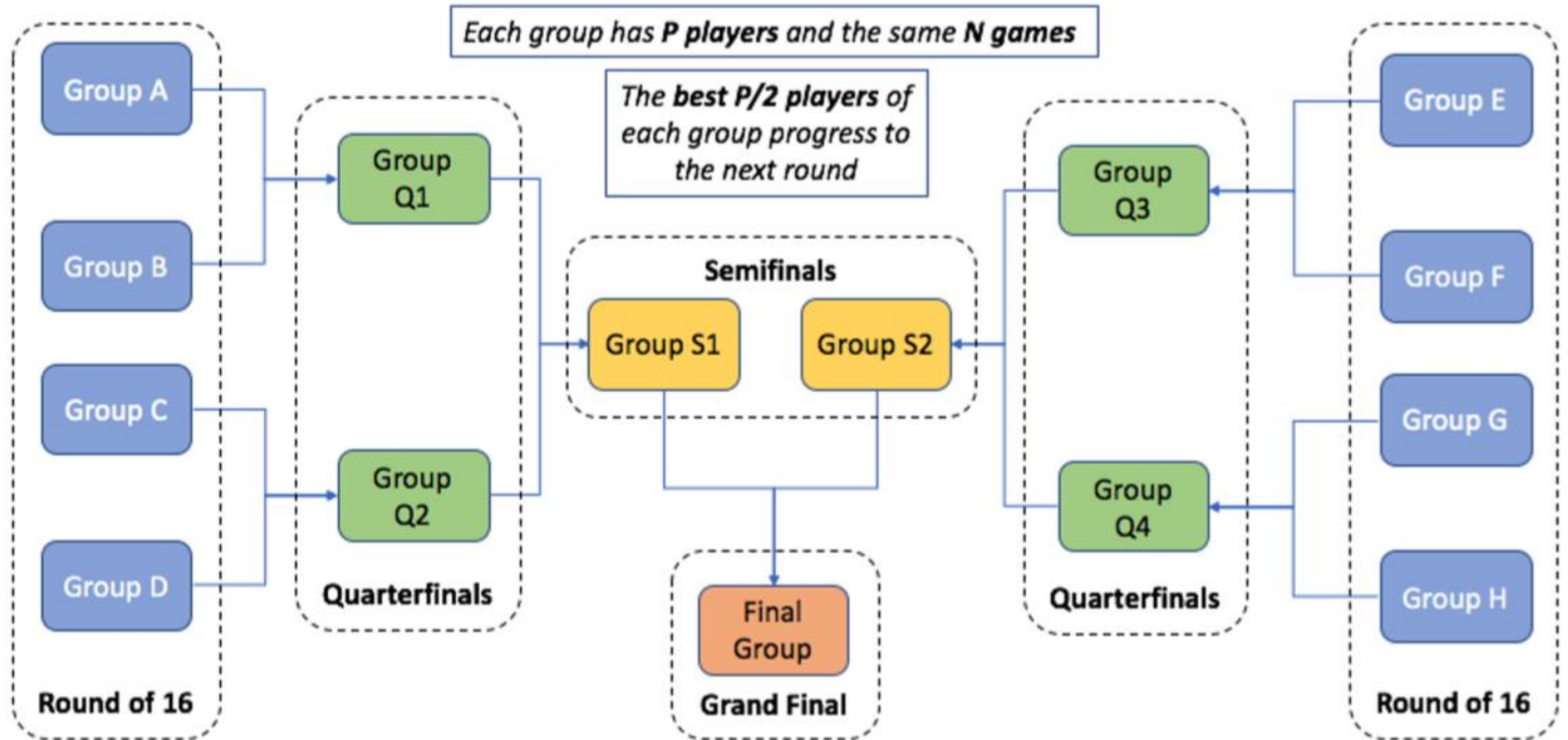
<http://www.gvgai.net>



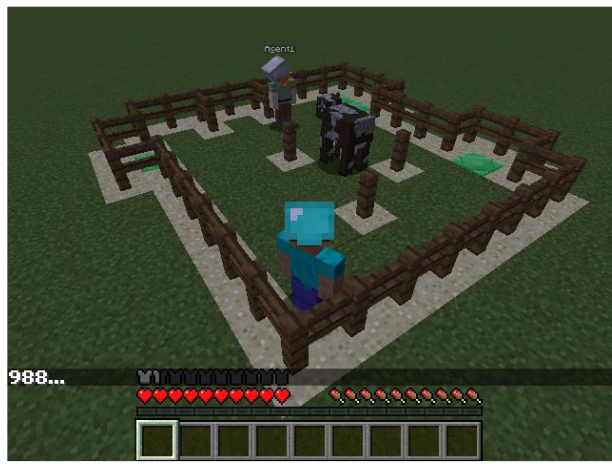
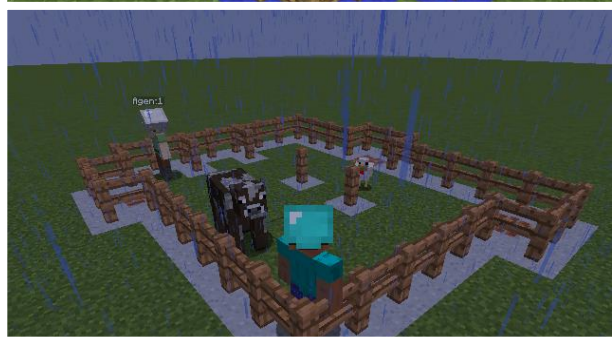
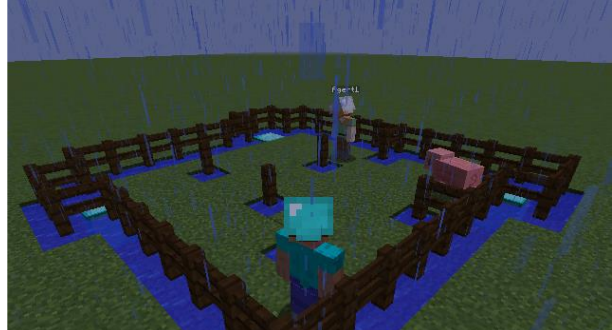
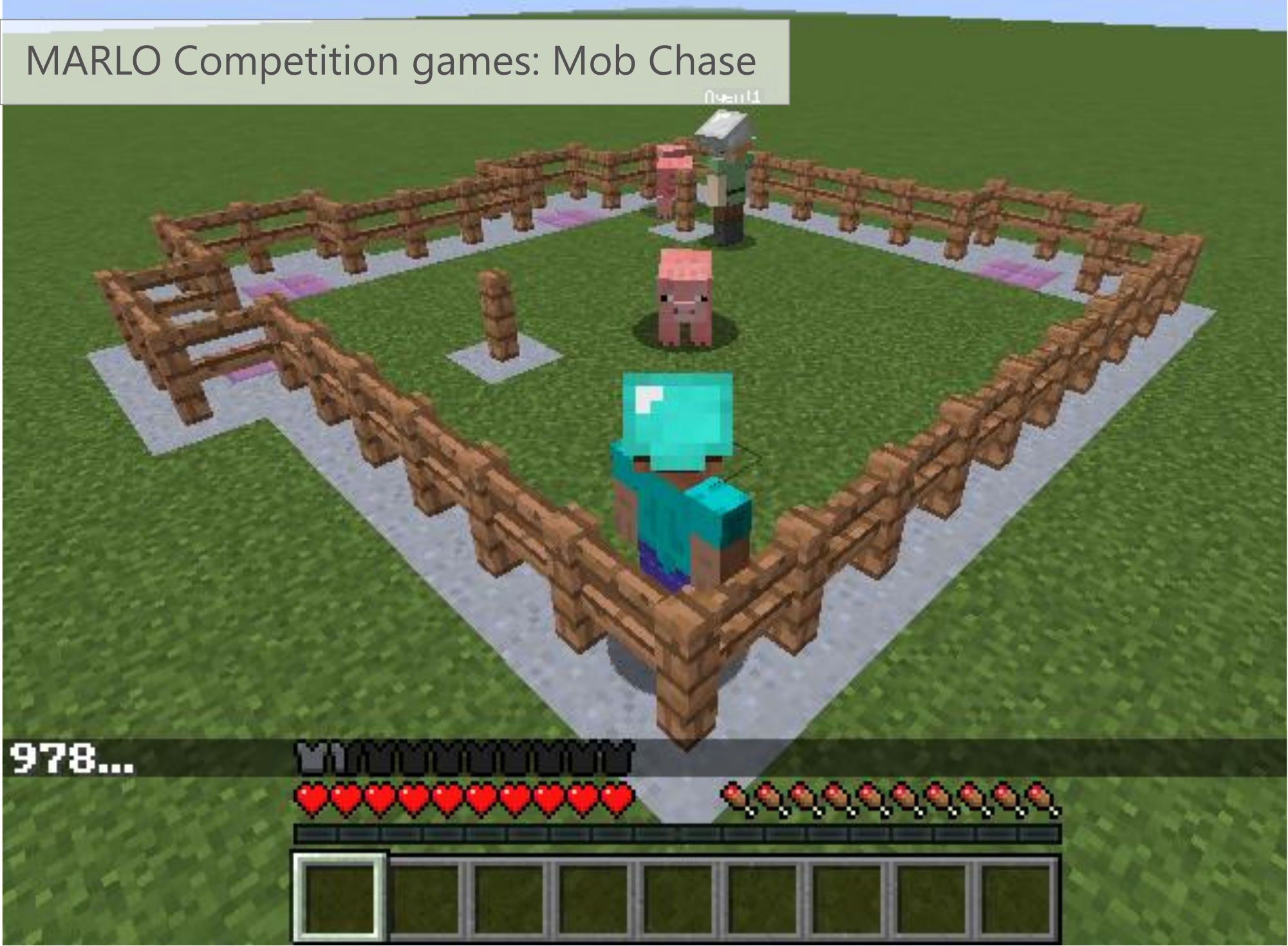
Games and Tasks for MARLO



MARLO Tournament



MARLO Competition games: Mob Chase



```

_____
| WWWWWWWWW |
| W * . . . . W |
| WW . . . . WW |
| W W . . . * . W |
| WW . . . . W |
| W . * . . * . WW |
| W . . . . W |
| WW W WWWWW |
| WWW |
|_____

```

```

_____
| WWW |
| W=WWWWWW |
| W . * . * . W |
| W * . . . . W |
| W . . . . W |
| W . * . * . W |
| W . . . . W |
| W . . . . W |
| W=WWWWWW |
| WWWWW |
|_____

```

```

_____ WWW
| WWWWWWWWW=W |
| W= . . . . * . W |
| WW . . . . WW |
| W . . . * . * . =W |
| WW . . . . WW |
| W= . . . . * . W |
| WW * . * . . . W |
| W . . . . W |
| W . . . . W |
| WWWWWWWWW |
|_____

```

Mob Chase – Level Design

Parameters:

- Time & Weather
- Number & Type of mobs
- Number & Block type of exits
- Number of obstacles
- Edge block type (fences)
- Ground block type
- Size of play area
- Number of maximum steps allowed



= Game space size: $6.05E+6$ (* level configurations)

Mob Chase - Variants

Challenge 1: General Sum Games

	Catch the Pig	Run for the Exit
Catch the Pig	5, 5	0,1
Run for the Exit	1,0	1,1

Challenge 1: General Sum Games

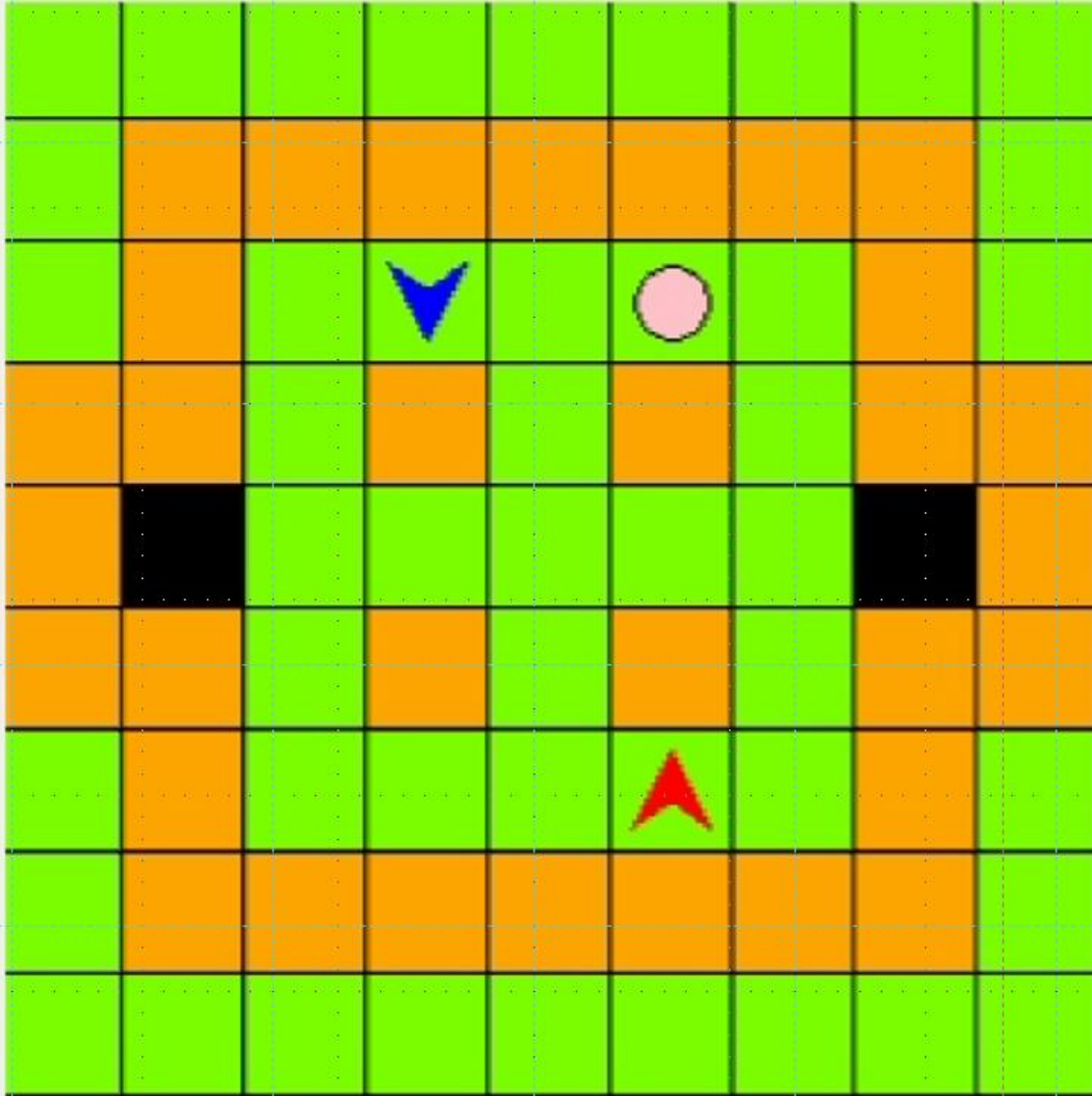
	Catch the Pig	Run for the Exit
Catch the Pig	5, 5	0, 1
Run for the Exit	1, 0	1, 1

Aim: encourage approaches for general sum games – most realistic but hard!

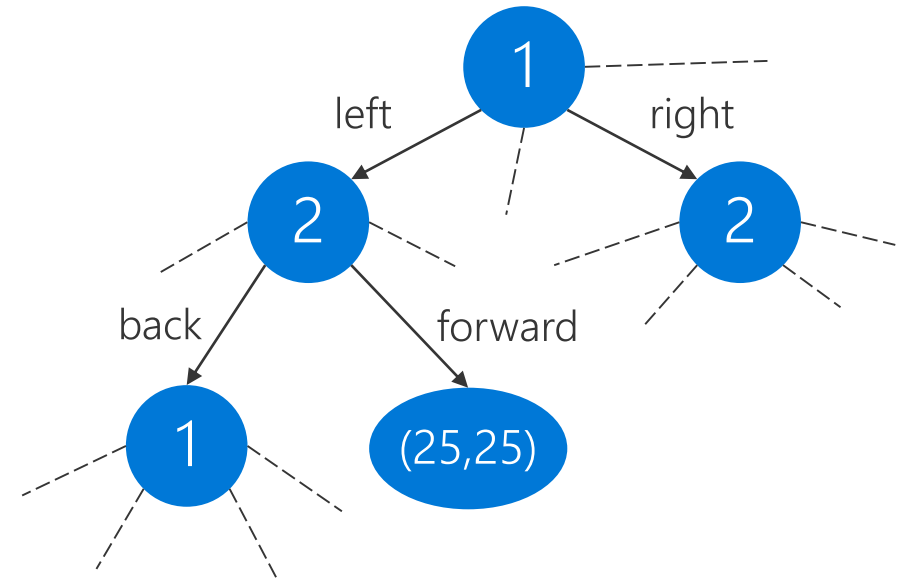
Consider uncertainty over reward structure – encourage generalization

The grid world is a 10x10 grid. Green cells are at (0,0), (1,0), (2,0), (3,0), (4,0), (5,0), (6,0), (7,0), (8,0), (9,0), (0,1), (2,1), (3,1), (4,1), (5,1), (6,1), (7,1), (8,1), (9,1), (0,2), (1,2), (3,2), (4,2), (5,2), (6,2), (7,2), (8,2), (9,2), (0,3), (1,3), (2,3), (4,3), (5,3), (6,3), (7,3), (8,3), (9,3), (0,4), (1,4), (2,4), (3,4), (5,4), (6,4), (7,4), (8,4), (9,4), (0,5), (1,5), (2,5), (3,5), (4,5), (6,5), (7,5), (8,5), (9,5), (0,6), (1,6), (2,6), (3,6), (4,6), (5,6), (7,6), (8,6), (9,6), (0,7), (1,7), (2,7), (3,7), (4,7), (5,7), (6,7), (8,7), (9,7), (0,8), (1,8), (2,8), (3,8), (4,8), (5,8), (6,8), (7,8), (8,8), (9,8), (0,9), (1,9), (2,9), (3,9), (4,9), (5,9), (6,9), (7,9), (8,9), (9,9). Orange cells are at (1,1), (2,1), (3,1), (4,1), (5,1), (6,1), (7,1), (8,1), (9,1), (1,2), (2,2), (3,2), (4,2), (5,2), (6,2), (7,2), (8,2), (9,2), (1,3), (2,3), (3,3), (4,3), (5,3), (6,3), (7,3), (8,3), (9,3), (1,4), (2,4), (3,4), (4,4), (5,4), (6,4), (7,4), (8,4), (9,4), (1,5), (2,5), (3,5), (4,5), (5,5), (6,5), (7,5), (8,5), (9,5), (1,6), (2,6), (3,6), (4,6), (5,6), (6,6), (7,6), (8,6), (9,6), (1,7), (2,7), (3,7), (4,7), (5,7), (6,7), (7,7), (8,7), (9,7), (1,8), (2,8), (3,8), (4,8), (5,8), (6,8), (7,8), (8,8), (9,8), (1,9), (2,9), (3,9), (4,9), (5,9), (6,9), (7,9), (8,9), (9,9). Obstacles (black squares) are at (1,4), (2,4), (8,4), (9,4). A red triangle (robot) is at (5,6). A blue triangle (goal) is at (3,2). A pink circle (goal) is at (6,2).

Challenge 2: Extensive Form



Values depend on trajectories
– combinatorial blow-up



But provides key information,
e.g., for opponent modelling

Challenge 3: Incomplete (Partial) Information



Challenge 3: Incomplete (Partial) Information



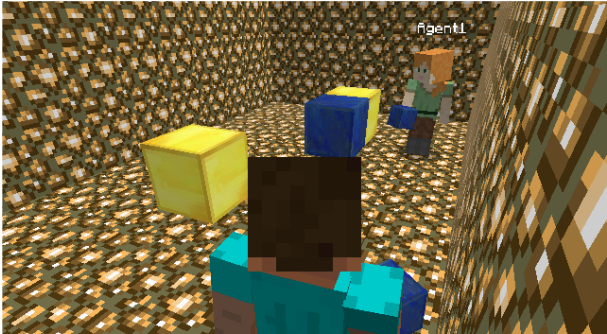
First-person view provides natural direction for learning to generalize

But provides only a partial view of the game state (and opponent actions)

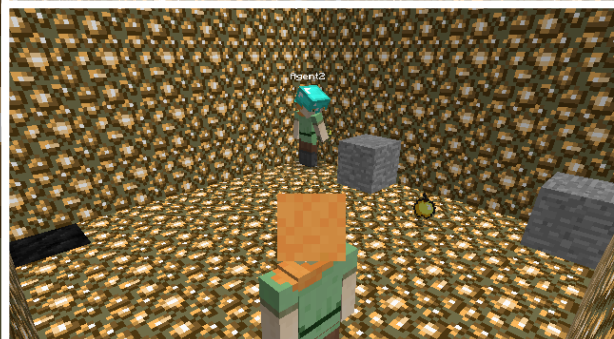
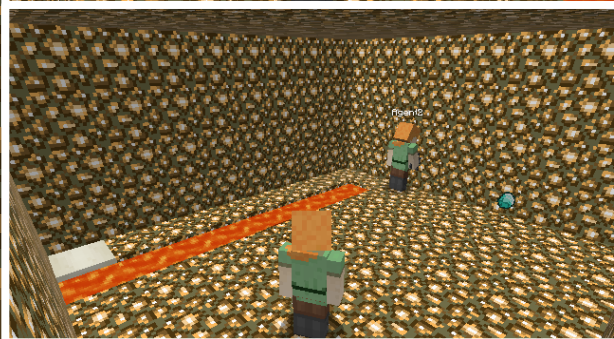
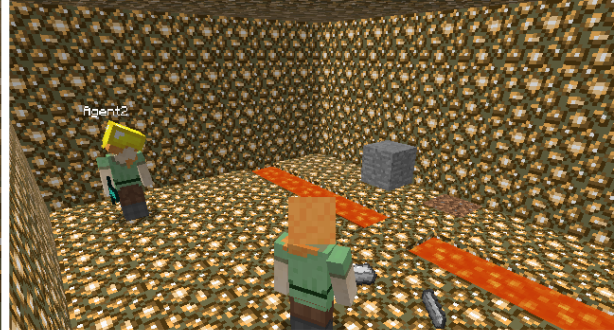
MARLO Competition games: Build Battle

Agent1

1630...



MARLO Competition games: Treasure Hunt



What's next?

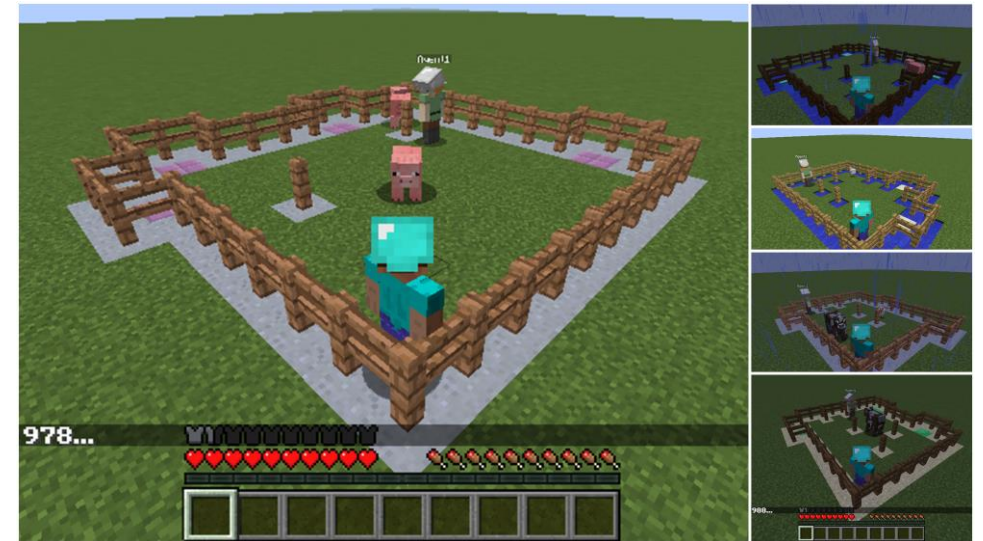
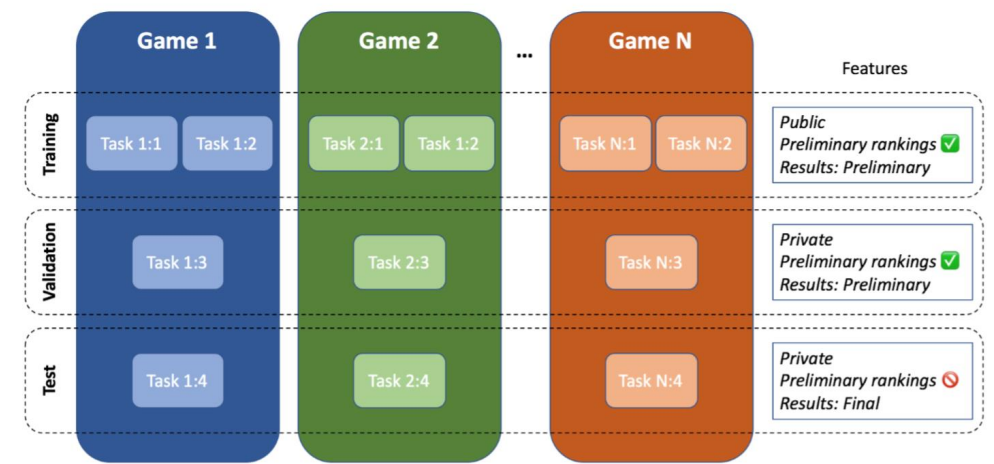
Summary

Can agents generalize?

To new (instances of) games and new opponents?

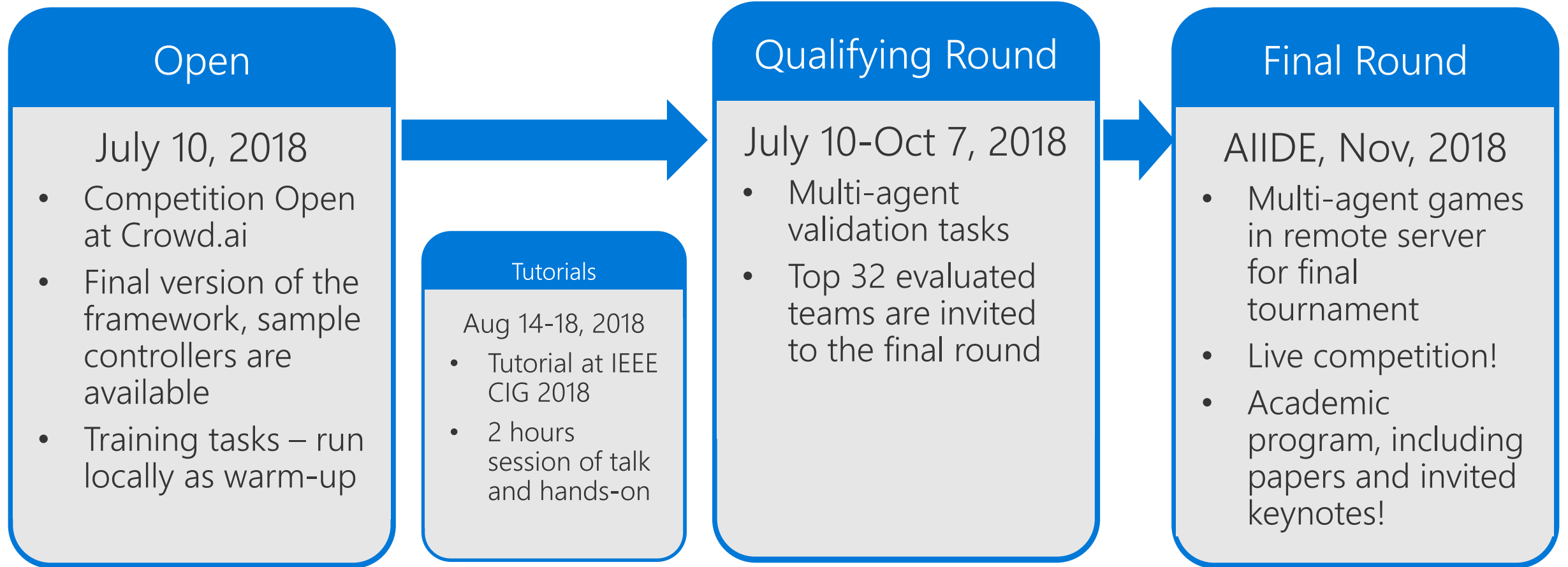
How can we lower the barrier to entry?

Consider: engineering, compute

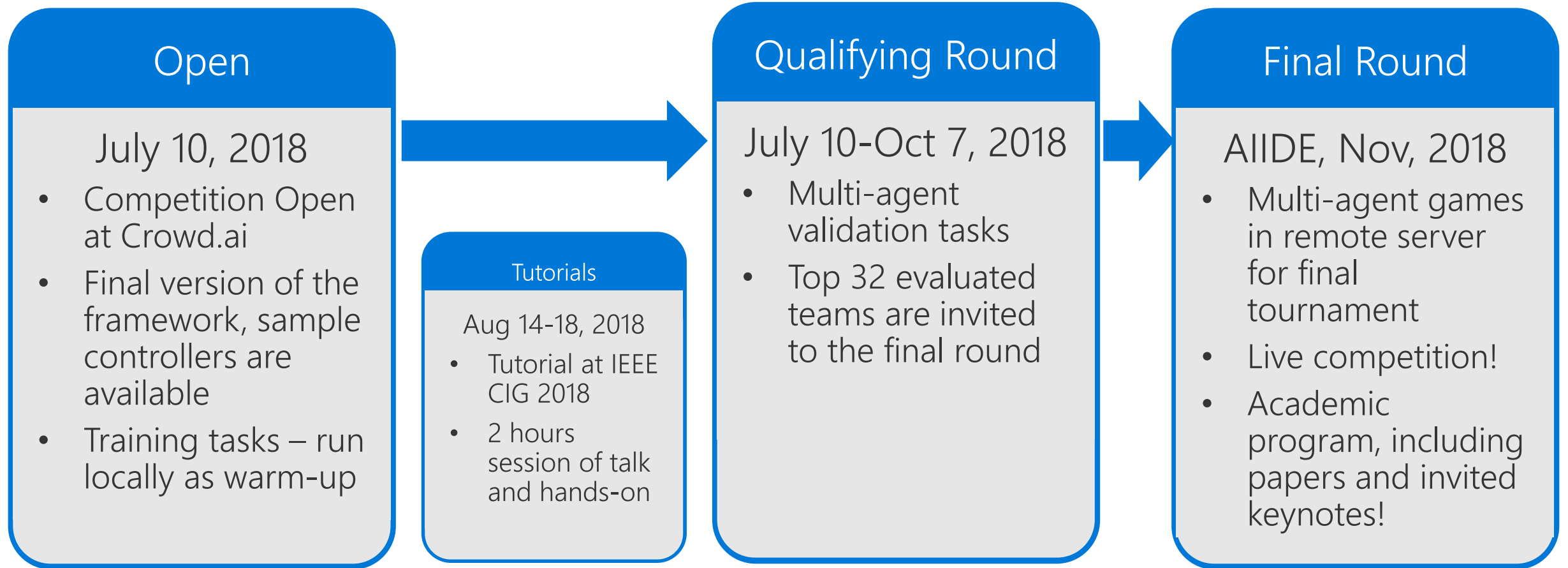


- ✓ Streamline
- ✓ Standardize
- ✓ Provide baselines

Schedule (draft)



Schedule (draft)



Submissions for contributed talks + extended abstracts open now until July 27!

Prizes!

- Award
 - 1st place: 10,000 USD-equivalent Azure plus a travel grant to join a relevant academic conference or workshop.
 - 2nd place: 5,000 USD-equivalent Azure.
 - 3rd place: 3,000 USD-equivalent Azure.
- Publication
 - The top three entries will be invited as co-authors in a paper summarizing the competition structure, rules, approaches, results and main take-aways.

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Project Malmo website

aka.ms/malmo

Competition website

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