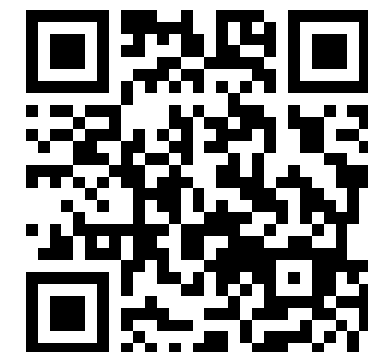


Granger Causal Interaction Skill Chains

Caleb Chuck*, Kevin Black, Aditya Arjun, Yuke Zhu*, Scott Niekum**

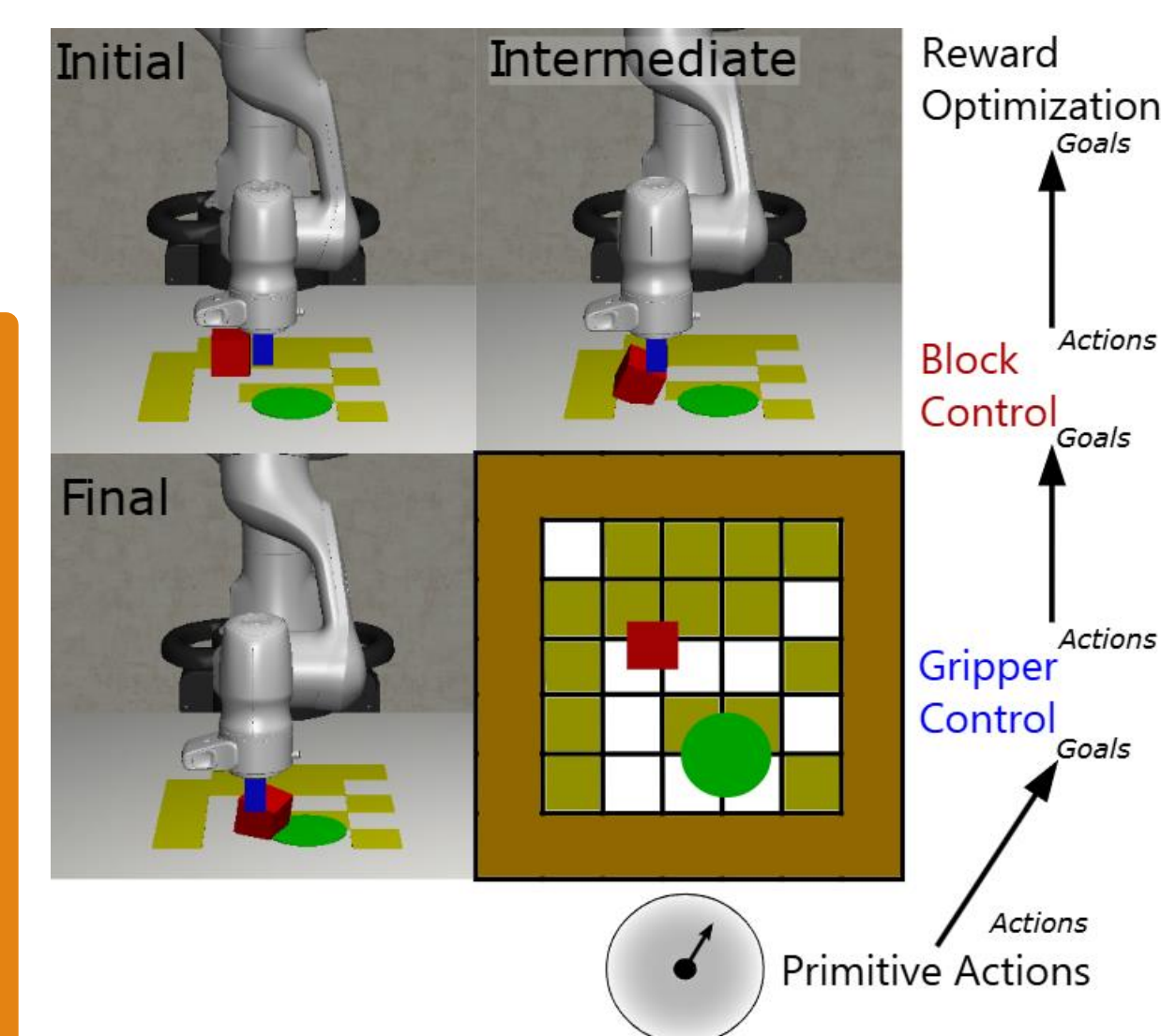
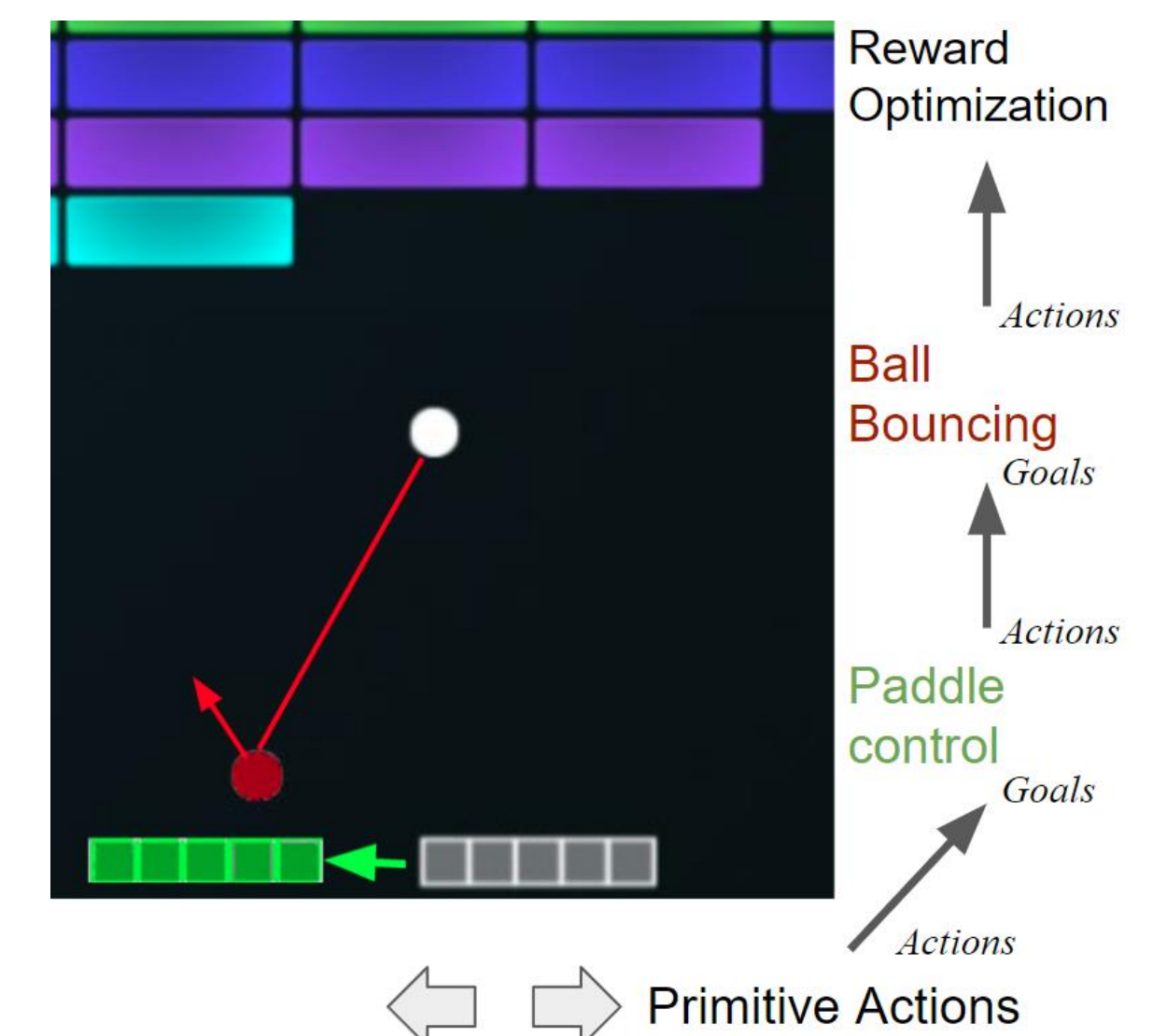


Code: <https://github.com/CalCharles/object-options> Contact: calebc@cs.utexas.edu

Paper:

Overview

Core Takeaway: Goal-conditioned skills that induce **interactions** offer improved **sample efficiency**, overall **performance** and **transferability** in long-horizon factored environments.



Step 1

Learn Granger-Causal factored dynamics models: “passive” autoregressive model and “active” pairwise model.

Step 2

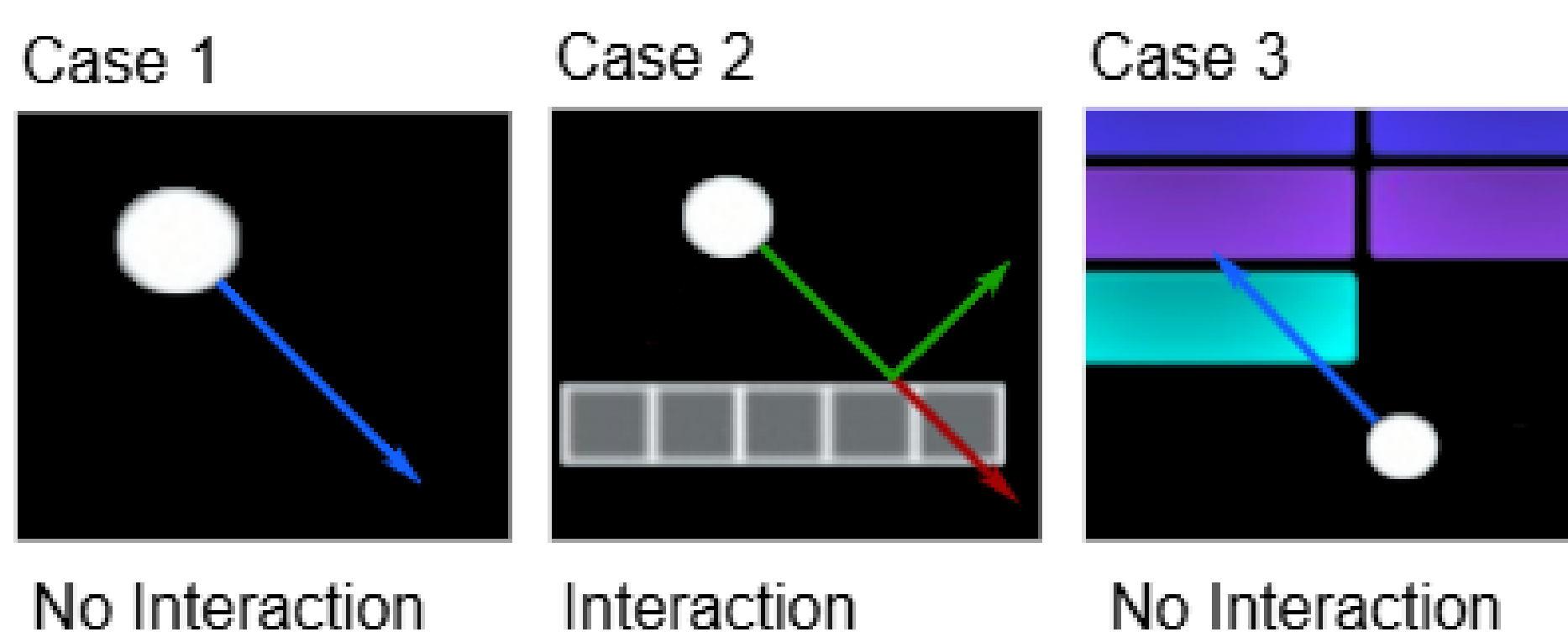
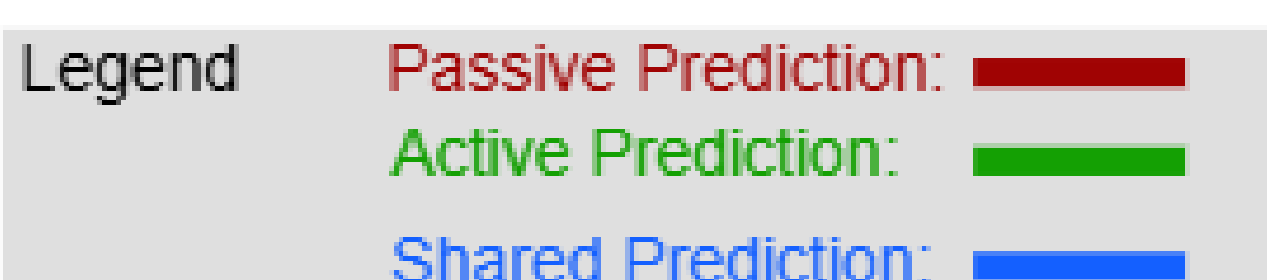
Identify desired interactions for skill goals: states with disagreement between the passive and active models.

Step 3

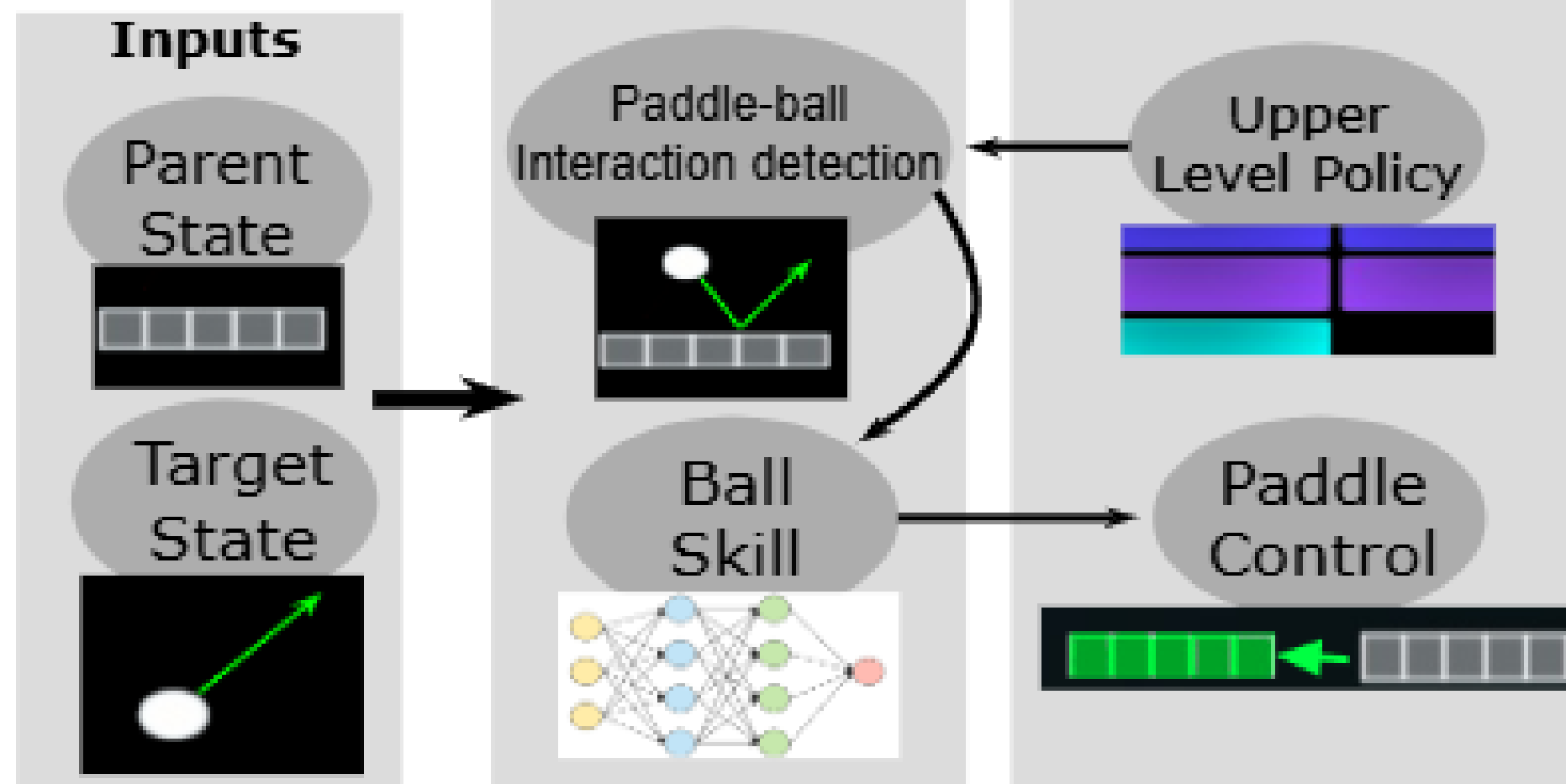
Learn Goal-conditioned policy with hindsight: reward desired interactions using previously learned policies as actions

Granger Causal Interactions

Paddle-Ball Interactions



Paddle-Ball Skill learning



Interaction Definition

$$m^{\text{pas},G}(s_b^{(t-w)}, \dots, s_b^{(t-1)}; \theta) = \theta^0 + \left[\sum_{i=1}^w \theta^i s_b^{t-i} \right] + \epsilon_b$$

$$m^{\text{act},G}(s_a^{(t-w)}, \dots, s_a^{(t-1)}, s_b^{(t-w)}, \dots, s_b^{(t-1)}; \psi_b, \psi_a) = \psi^0 + \left[\sum_{i=1}^w \psi_b^i s_b^{t-i} + \psi_a^i s_a^{t-i} \right] + \epsilon_a$$

$$\ell_{\text{pas}}(s_a, s_b'; \theta) := \log m^{\text{pas}}(s_b'; \theta) [s_a]$$

$$\ell_{\text{act}}(s_a, s_b, s_b'; \psi) := \log m^{\text{act}}(s_a, s_b; \psi) [s_b']$$

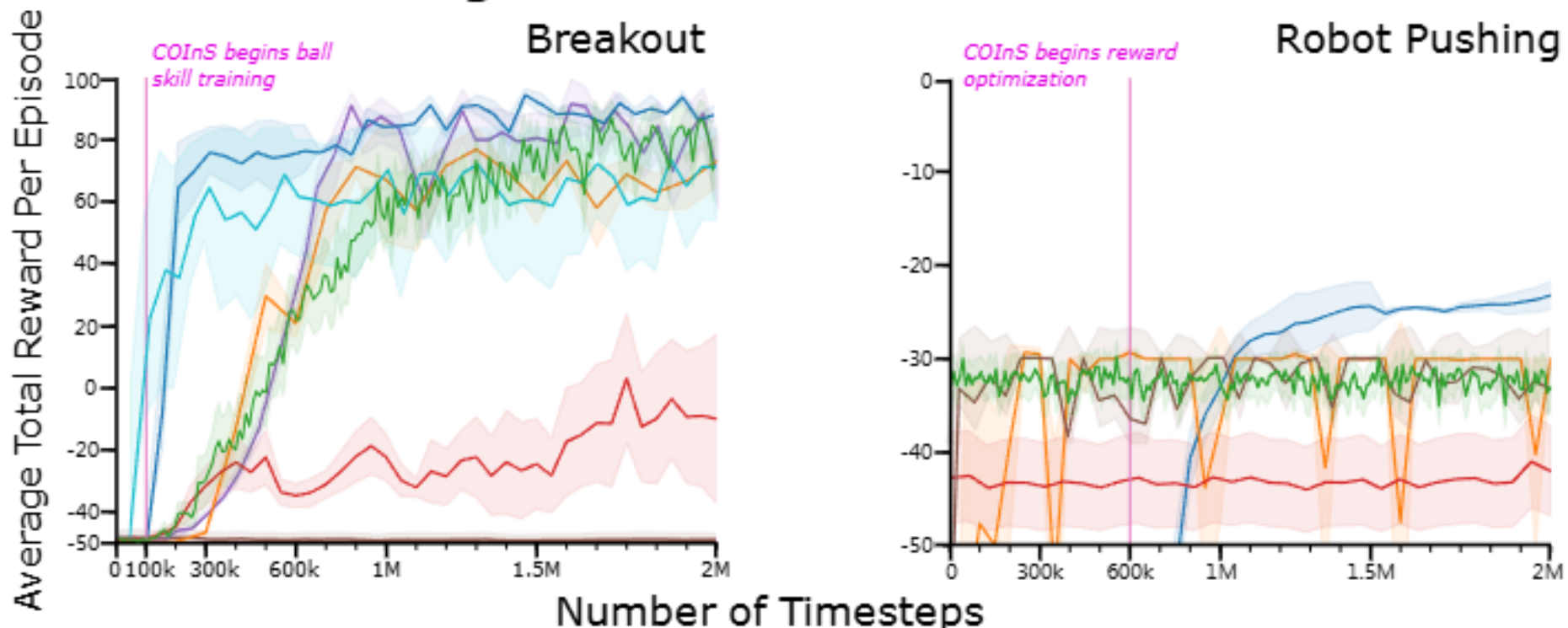
$$h_{a,b}(s_a, s_b, s_b'; \psi, \theta) := (\ell_{\text{act}}(s_b, s_a, s_b'; \psi) > \epsilon_{\text{act}}) \wedge (\ell_{\text{pas}}(s_b, s_b'; \theta) < \epsilon_{\text{pas}})$$

Skill Termination Condition

$$\phi_b(s_a, s_b, s_b', c_b) := \begin{cases} 1 & h_{a,b}(s_a, s_b, s_b'; \psi, \theta) \wedge \|\eta_b s_b' - c_b\|_1 < \epsilon_c \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

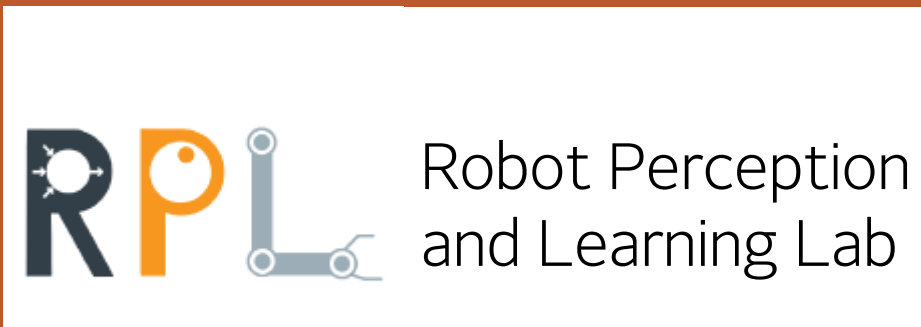
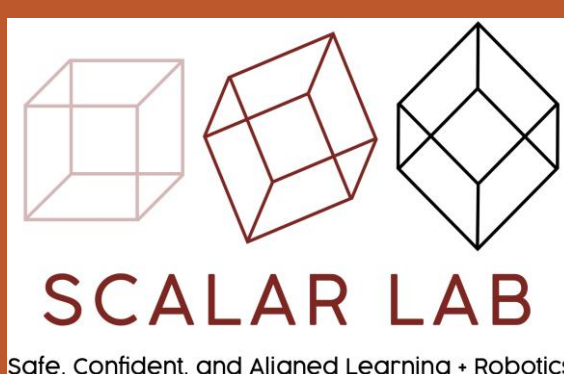
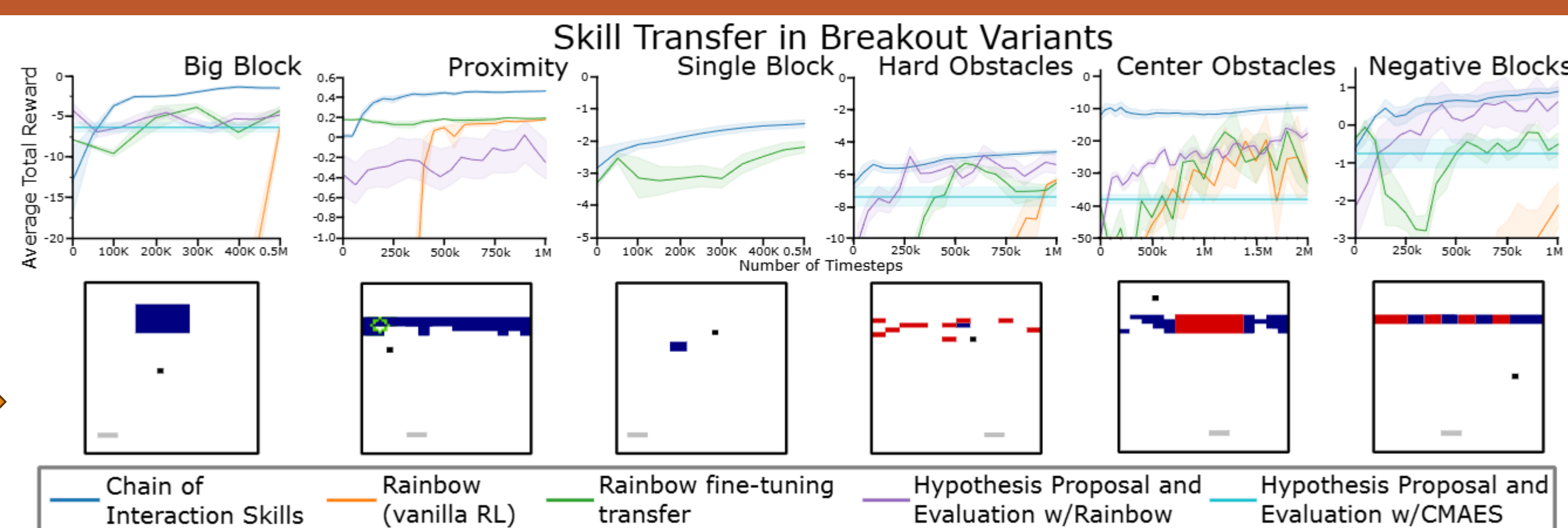
Evaluation

Base Task Training



Sample Efficiency and Overall Performance on long-horizon tasks

Skill transfer to challenging in-domain tasks



Affiliations:

- *UT Austin, ** Also UMass Amherst