
A Model Selection Framework for Learning Rate-Free Reinforcement Learning

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Abstract

1 The success of many reinforcement learning algorithms is dependent on the right
2 choice of hyperparameters, with the learning rate being particularly influential. A
3 suboptimal learning rate can hinder the algorithm’s ability to converge. Mildly
4 suboptimal choices may allow the algorithm to find an optimal policy only after
5 requiring an extensive number of samples. In this work, we show the feasibility of
6 using model selection meta-learning algorithms to select the best learning rates in
7 reinforcement learning problems. We introduce the Model Selection Framework for
8 Learning Rate-Free Reinforcement Learning and evaluate various model selection
9 algorithms within our framework. Our results show that data-driven model selection
10 strategies such as the D³RB algorithm achieve better performance in the problem
11 of learning rate selection for reinforcement learning algorithms, beating bandit
12 strategies such as EXP3, and also standard hyperparameter selection methods such
13 as the uniform sweep.

14 1 Introduction

15 The learning rate used in the optimization phase of many machine learning methods determines how
16 much a model adjusts its internal parameters at each step. A well-chosen learning rate balances
17 training speed and stability, ideally leading the model to converge to the global optimum. Due to
18 its fundamental role in optimization, the learning rate is crucial for efficient training and model
19 performance across nearly all machine learning domains. Theoretical analysis of optimization
20 problems [4] suggests that an effective learning rate is closely tied to the distance between the
21 optimizer’s current step and the optimal point. Since this information is typically unknown, many
22 modern optimization methods adjust the learning rate dynamically depending on the stage of learning
23 [6]. In practice, many methods just set a constant learning rate prior to training accompanied by rate
24 schedulers that are used to modify the learning rate throughout training. [8]

25 In this work, we focus on sequential decision-making problems such as reinforcement learning [16,
26 25] where a learner interacts with the world in a sequential manner as is tasked with finding a policy
27 that achieves large rewards. The reward collected by a learner at any point during training provides
28 information on the quality of the current policy. In these frameworks, the learning rate determines the
29 extent to which model parameters are adjusted based on this reward feedback. Empirical rewards,
30 gathered in real-time from interactions between the agent and the environment, contain information
31 about the agent’s proximity to the optimal policy and its stage of learning. Building on this intuition,
32 we design a framework to utilize the empirical reward, available at no extra overhead during training,
33 that can be used to adjust the learning rate. In this work, we introduce a framework that combines
34 model selection methods with a general scheme of reinforcement learning algorithms to adaptively
35 tune the learning rate. Model selection algorithms are uniquely suitable for tuning learning rates in
36 decision-making frameworks:

- 37 1. Model selection methods are adaptive by design and learn not to choose deficient learning
38 rates as frequently. We show that by regret balancing, model selection will not select an
39 ill-performing learning rate for more than \sqrt{N} episodes in a single run, where N is the total
40 number of episodes.
- 41 2. Using model selection for tuning learning rates in reinforcement learning is more sample
42 efficient compared to performing a uniform learning rate sweep. This is because model
43 selection algorithms advance the state of each hyperparameter curve adaptively, thus not
44 requiring the same amount of samples and compute for all choices of learning rate.

45 Model selection has proved to have several interesting theoretical guarantees, yet most of these
46 theoretical results have not been deployed in application. In this paper, we deploy model selection
47 for the task of learning rate tuning in reinforcement learning. The paper is organized as follows. In
48 section 2, We cover the preliminaries of model selection and reinforcement learning. We introduce
49 the specific model selection strategies that we use in our experiments, and then present a general
50 scheme of policy optimization and Q-learning in reinforcement learning algorithms. Sections 3
51 and 4 demonstrate the formalization and algorithmic interface of the model selection framework for
52 learning rate-free reinforcement learning, respectively. Finally, we provide the experiments for tuning
53 the learning rate in PPO and DQN with model selection strategies. We analyze the results in section
54 5 and cover experiment details and full plots in the Appendix B.

55 2 Preliminaries and Background

56 2.1 Model Selection

57 In many machine learning domains, including reinforcement learning the true configuration of the
58 problem is not known in advance. The goal of model selection is to consider several configurations
59 and add a strategy on top that learns to pick up the best configuration adaptively. We call each
60 configuration a base and refer to the model selection strategy as the meta-learner. The meta-learner
61 has access to a set of m bases, in this case, different copies of the same reinforcement learning
62 algorithm instantiated with different learning rates. In each round, $n = 1, 2, \dots, N$, of the interaction
63 between the meta-learner with the environment, the meta-learner selects a base $i_n \in [m]$ to play
64 and follows its policy. Learner i_n 's internal state is then updated with the data collected from its
65 interaction with the environment.

66 Here, we inherit a similar meta-learning structure to [1]. We experiment with a diverse range of
67 model selection algorithms that were previously introduced in the literature [1, 2, 5, 22, 23], including
68 standard multi-armed bandit algorithms, regret balancing methods, etc. We investigate the Upper
69 Confidence Bound (UCB)[2], the Exponential-weight algorithm for Exploration and Exploitation
70 (EXP3) [5], and Corral [1, 23]. Corral is a meta-learning algorithm for selecting among multiple
71 bandit algorithms. It is known that Stochastic Corral and EXP3 enjoy theoretical model selection
72 guarantees [23] while unmodified UCB does not.

73 Regret balancing maintains an estimate of the empirical regret for each base and tries to equate
74 the regret bounds across all the bases. In this approach, the base agent is selected for two reasons.
75 It is either a well-performing base by achieving low regret, or it has not been played enough and
76 the meta-learner hasn't collected adequate information on the performance of this base. Here, we
77 investigate Doubling Data Driven Regret Balancing (D³RB) [7], and the regret bound balancing
78 algorithm [22] which we will refer to as the Classic Balancing algorithm.

79 Note that our model selection framework views these algorithms as a black box and does not require
80 detailed knowledge of the underlying algorithm. Hence, the framework can be paired with various
81 types of meta-learners and base algorithms.

82 2.2 Reinforcement Learning

83 Reinforcement learning is formalized as Markov Decision Process (MDP) $\langle S, A, R, P, \gamma \rangle$; where
84 S denotes the set of states, A is the set of actions, $R : S \times A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the reward function,
85 $P : S \times A \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is the dynamic transition probabilities, and lastly $\gamma \in [0, 1]$ is the discount factor.
86 Here we consider episodic reinforcement learning with maximum horizon T where the goal of the

87 agent is to learn the (near) optimal policy $\pi : S \rightarrow A$. The state-value function $V : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and
 88 action-value function $Q : S \times A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with respect to policy π are defined as

$$V^\pi(s) = \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=0}^T \gamma^t R(s_t, a_t) \mid s_0 = s, s_t, a_t \right] \quad (1)$$

89

$$Q^\pi(s, a) = R(s, a) + \gamma \mathbb{E}_{s' \sim P(s, a)} \left[V^\pi(s') \right] \quad (2)$$

90 The policy π is commonly parameterized by the set of parameters θ , and is denoted as π_θ . Two of the
 91 predominant approaches for learning the (near) optimal policy in reinforcement learning are policy
 92 optimization and Q-learning. Policy optimization starts with an initial policy and in each episode
 93 updates the parameters by taking gradient steps toward maximizing the episodic return. Denote
 94 learning rate as $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, a common update rule in policy optimization methods is

$$\theta \leftarrow \theta + \alpha \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=0}^T \nabla_\theta \log \pi_\theta(s_t, a_t) (Q^{\pi_\theta}(s_t, a_t) - V^{\pi_\theta}(s_t)) \right] \quad (3)$$

95 Q-learning uses the temporal differences method to update the parameters of Q^{π_θ} . A common update
 96 rule is

$$\theta \leftarrow \theta + \alpha \mathbb{E}_{s, a, s', r \sim D} \left[\nabla_\theta (r + \gamma \max_{a' \in A} Q^{\pi_{\bar{\theta}}}(s', a') - Q^{\pi_\theta}(s, a))^2 \right] \quad (4)$$

97 where D is the experience replay buffer and $\bar{\theta}$ is a frozen parameter set named target parameter. Prox-
 98 imal Policy Optimization (PPO) [24] and Deep Q-Networks (DQN) [20] are among the most popular
 99 deep reinforcement learning algorithms that follow the first and second approaches, respectively.

Algorithm 1: Model Selection Interface for Hyperparameter Tuning

Input: m, β, Ψ, M

```

1
2 Function sample():
3   // Select base index according to  $\Psi$ 
4    $i \sim \Psi$ 
5    $\pi^i, \alpha^i \leftarrow \beta^i$ 
6   return  $i, \pi^i, \alpha^i$ 
100
7
8 Function update( $index, R[1 : T]$ ):
9   // Calculate and normalize the episodic return
10   $R_{norm} \leftarrow \text{normalize}(R[1 : T])$ 
11  // Update base statistics according to the meta learning algorithm  $M$ 
12   $\Psi \leftarrow M(\Psi, index, R_{norm})$ 

```

101 3 Problem Statement

102 We formalize the model selection framework for learning rate-free reinforcement learning as the
 103 tuple $\langle m, \beta, M, \Psi \rangle$ where m is the number of base agents, $\beta = \{\beta^1, \dots, \beta^m\}$ denotes the set of base
 104 agents where $\beta^i = \langle \alpha^i, \pi^i \rangle$ ($1 \leq i \leq m$) consists of learning rate α^i , and policy π^i . Lastly, M is
 105 the model selection strategy and Ψ is an attribute of M that expresses some statistics over the base
 106 agents. For instance, Ψ can either be a distribution $\Psi : \beta \rightarrow P(\beta)$ over base agents or represent the
 107 estimated empirical regret of the base agents.

108 At the beginning of each episode, the meta learner M selects base agent β^j according to Ψ . We
 109 abbreviate this as $j \sim \Psi$. The base agent interacts with the environment in a typical reinforcement
 110 learning manner for one episode. At state $s_t \in S$, the base agent takes action $a_t \sim \pi^j$, receives reward
 111 $r_t \in (0, 1)$, and move to the next state $s_{t+1} \in S$ following the environment transition dynamics. At

112 the end of each episode, the base agent passes the realized rewards (r_1, \dots, r_T) to the meta learner,
 113 so that it updates Ψ based on the model selection strategy M .

114 The goal of the base agents is to interact with the environment and learn an optimal policy for the
 115 reinforcement learning problem. The goal of the meta learner is to learn a strategy to iteratively select
 116 base agents, so that agents with better learning rates are played more frequently. It’s unique to model
 117 selection that neither the base agents with good learning rates nor the optimal reinforcement strategy
 118 are known in advance, and the framework learns both of them during a single run.

Algorithm 2: Learning Rate-Free Reinforcement Learning with Model Selection

Input: MDP $\langle S, A, R, P, \gamma \rangle$, Model Selection Interface \mathcal{M}

```

1 // reinforcement learning loop over episode
2 for  $n = 1, 2, \dots, N$  do
3   // Select the base agent
4    $i, \pi_{\theta}^i, \alpha^i = \mathcal{M}.sample()$ 
5
6   // Collect trajectories with selected base agent
7   for  $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$  do
8      $a \sim \pi_{\theta}^i$ 
9      $r, s' \xleftarrow{P, R} s, a$ 
10     $R[t] \leftarrow r$ 
11
12    // Update parameters with selected learning rate
13    if Policy Optimization then
14       $\theta \leftarrow \theta + \alpha^i \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{t=0}^T \nabla_{\theta} \log \pi_{\theta}^i(s_t, a_t) (Q^{\pi_{\theta}^i}(s_t, a_t) - V^{\pi_{\theta}^i}(s_t)) \right]$ 
15
16    if Q-Learning then
17       $\theta \leftarrow \theta + \alpha^i \mathbb{E}_{s, a, s', r \sim D} \left[ \nabla_{\theta} (r + \gamma \max_{a' \in A} Q^{\pi_{\theta}^i}(s', a') - Q^{\pi_{\theta}^i}(s, a))^2 \right]$ 
18
19    // Update the meta learner
20     $\mathcal{M}.update(i, R[1 : T])$ 

```

119 4 Method

120 We begin with a predefined set of learning rates $\alpha^i \in [\alpha^1, \dots, \alpha^m]$, and we initiate m reinforcement
 121 learning agents $[\beta^1, \beta^2, \dots, \beta^m]$ of the same type. All hyperparameters and configurations of the base
 122 agents are similar except for the learning rate, where the learning rate of β^i is set to α^i for all
 123 $1 \leq i \leq m$.

124 The model selection framework for learning rate-free reinforcement learning integrates the model
 125 selection interface for hyperparameter tuning with the reinforcement learning loop. The model
 126 selection interface, represented in Algorithm 1, consists of two procedures *sample*, and *update*
 127 that the meta learner uses to select the base agent at the beginning of each episode, and update Ψ
 128 at the end of it. The integrated reinforcement learning loop, which we will refer to as Learning
 129 Rate-Free Reinforcement Learning, is shown in Algorithm 2. The algorithm contains the original
 130 agent-environment interaction in addition to the model selection components.

131 5 Experiments and Results

132 We begin our experiments with learning rate-free PPO. We initiate ten PPO base agents learning rates
 133 $\alpha = [1e^{-2}, 5e^{-3}, 1e^{-3}, 5e^{-4}, 1e^{-4}, 5e^{-5}, 1e^{-5}, 5e^{-6}, 1e^{-6}, 5e^{-7}]$. We run the experiment for five
 134 model selection strategies introduced in Section 2.

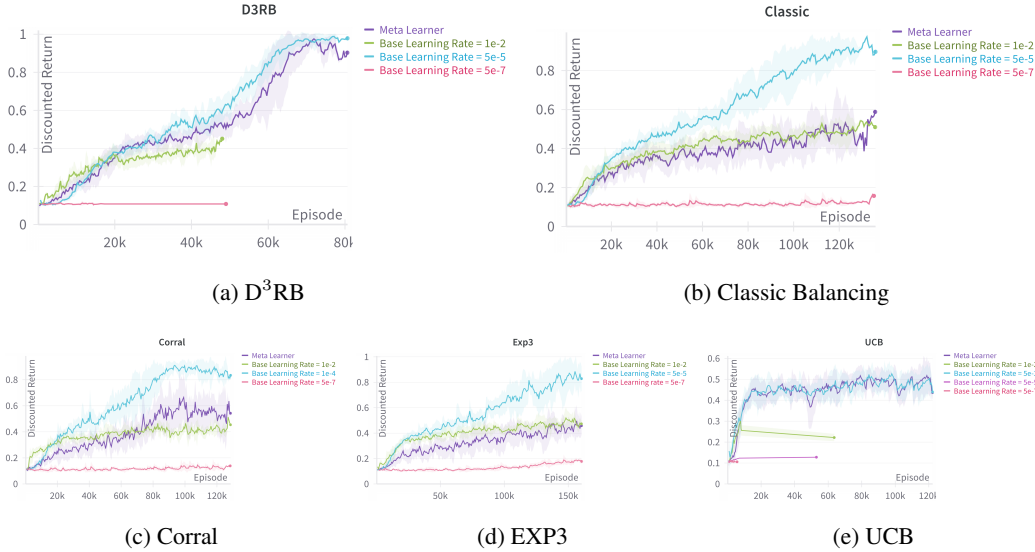


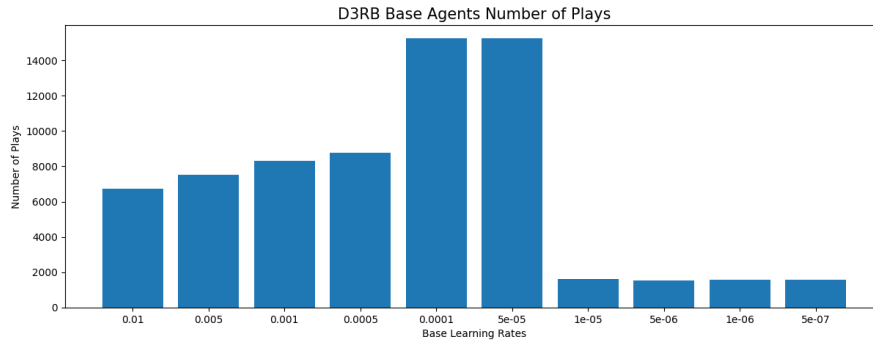
Figure 1: Learning Rate-Free PPO on Humanoid environment. Discounted return per episode across 5 model selection strategies; each curve showing the mean and standard deviation over three independent runs. The purple curve belongs to the learning rate-free PPO which demonstrates the advancement of the meta learner. Other curves show the advancement of a subset of the base agents.

135 Figure 1 represents our main findings. Each plot includes the episodic return for the meta learner
 136 (purple curve) and three of the base agents. Full plots showing the performance of all base agents are
 137 available in Appendix B. By comparing the meta learners, we can see that D^3RB strategy achieved
 138 the lowest regret and had the most advancement in the task. Figure 1(a) demonstrates that the meta
 139 learner with D^3RB strategy is performing nearly as good as to the best-performing base agent (blue
 140 curve). The plot also reflects the fact that D^3RB is learning not to select the ill-performing learning
 141 rates as often.

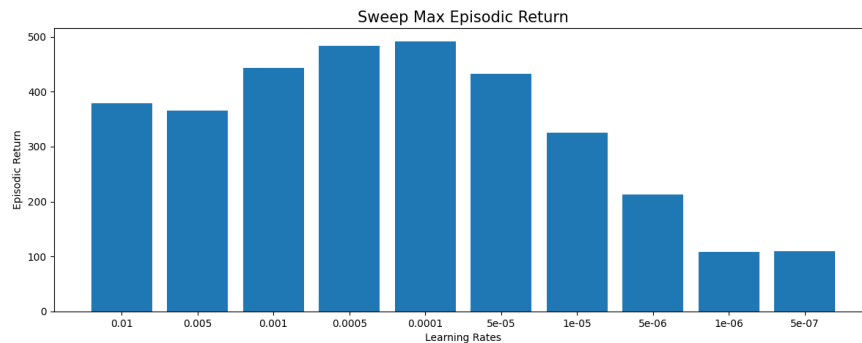
142 The meta learner with Classic Balancing strategy, shown in Figure 1(b) is working comparable to an
 143 average-performing base agent. The original algorithm proposes the elimination of the miss-specified
 144 base agents in order to succeed, whereas in this experiment we observed that the strategy didn't
 145 eliminate any base agents and played them with the same probability. This might be due to the
 146 sub-optimal putative bound input of the model selection strategy. More details about the Classic
 147 Balancing method are available in Appendix C.

148 Figures 1(c, d, e) show that bandit algorithms are not achieving the same good results as D^3RB . One
 149 drawback of applying bandit algorithms as meta-learners for reinforcement learning base agents can
 150 be seen in these experiments. Unlike standard multi-armed bandits where the mean rewards are
 151 stationary, rewards in reinforcement learning can depend on the state of learning. A specific choice
 152 of learning rate might achieve low rewards in the early stages of learning and be able to perform well
 153 later on. In contrast, another choice of learning rate might significantly advance in the beginning and
 154 slow down after a while. Standard bandit algorithms are not able to distinguish these state-dependant
 155 changes and therefore not be able to adapt to the best choice of learning rate during training. This lies
 156 at the heart of why the design of effective algorithms for model selection is a challenging problem
 157 and why typical multi-armed bandit algorithms do not possess provable guarantees for this problem
 158 setting.

159 These experiments further point out the capabilities of data-driven methods for the task of hyperpa-
 160 rameter tuning. As D^3RB achieved the best performance in this task, we compared it to the sweep
 161 strategy over the same set of learning rates. For sweep, we initiate ten independent PPO agents with
 162 the same set of learning rates that we input to the model selection counterparts. We run each agent for
 163 approximately $\sim \frac{1}{10}$ fraction of total episodes in model selection experiments. Figure 2 demonstrates
 164 the results of this comparison. Figure 2(a) shows the number of episodes that the meta learner with
 165 D^3RB strategy has selected each base agent throughout the training. Figure 2(b) shows the maximum
 166 value of episodic return achieved by independent PPO agents. We can see that D^3RB strategy for



(a) D³RB



(b) Sweep

Figure 2: D³RB selection statistics are reflecting the results of sweep over the same learning rates

167 learning rate-free RL has learned to select the agents with higher reward (and lower regret) more
 168 frequently. Additionally, we can see that D³RB is not choosing deficient learning rates as often.
 169 Check Appendix A for a theoretical explanation of this.

170 The same experiments are done for Learning Rate-Free DQN. The results are available at Figure 3.
 171 We can see that for simpler reinforcement learning tasks like the classic control environments, the
 172 bandit strategies like UCB and Corral were able to perform well. Full plots are available in Appendix
 173 B.

174 6 Related Work

175 Random Search [3] aimed to improve the exhaustive heuristics for hyperparameter tuning by consid-
 176 ering a random subset of all possible hyperparameters. [26] formulated hyperparameter tuning as an
 177 optimization problem and used Bayesian inference to adaptively update the hyperparameters. Several
 178 other papers have studied parameter-free learning from the perspective of optimization [8, 15, 19].
 179 These works successfully proposed learning rate schedulers for common optimizers like Adam [9]
 180 and SGD. Among prior the closest to our work is [18] which formulates hyperparameter optimization
 181 as an infinite-arm bandit problem, but doesn't apply their method to reinforcement learning.

182 The model selection problem has been studied in both online and offline fashion in reinforcement
 183 learning [10, 11, 13, 21]. Despite the great capacities of model selection in machine learning
 184 applications, most of the prior works focused on the theoretical aspects of model selection [17], and
 185 only a few considered model selection in more practical problems such as feature selection [14, 21].

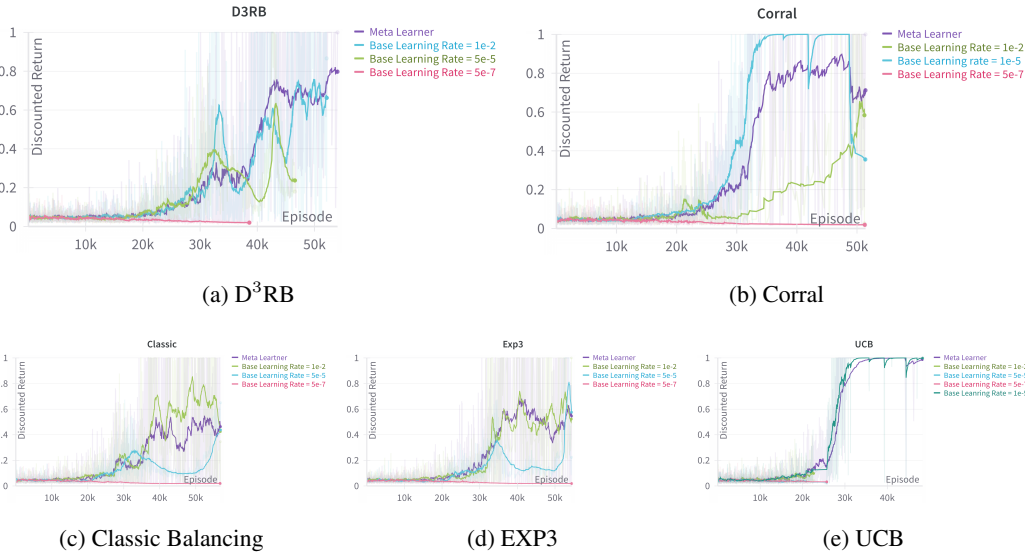


Figure 3: Learning Rate-Free DQN on CartPole environment. Discounted return per episode across 5 model selection strategies. The purple curve belongs to the learning rate-free DQN which demonstrates the advancement of the meta learner. Other curves show the advancement of a subset of the base agents.

186 7 Conclusion and Future Work

187 We proposed a model selection framework for learning rate-free reinforcement learning and demon-
 188 strated its effectiveness using five model selection strategies. Our experiments showed that the
 189 data-driven regret balancing method, D^3RB generally serves as a good model selection strategy for
 190 learning rate-free reinforcement learning, consistently performing well across our tests. In contrast,
 191 bandit strategies appeared to be insufficient as meta-learners for PPO base agents.

192 There are several possible extensions to this work. One direction is studying the effect of sharing
 193 data across the base agents on the sample efficiency of the framework. Another direction is to come
 194 up with a framework that performs learning rate selection on a single instance of a reinforcement
 195 learning base agent. This can significantly improve the memory efficiency of the framework for
 196 deploying it in models of larger scale.

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261 Appendix

262 A. Theoretical Remarks

263 Regret balancing strategies strive to equate the regret of the different algorithms. Typically it is
 264 assumed the optimal algorithm’s regret scales as $d_*\sqrt{t}$, where d_* is the regret coefficient. In contrast,
 265 the regret of a linearly sub-optimal algorithm scales as Δt for some constant Δ . Without loss of
 266 generality let’s call these two algorithms, Algorithm A and Algorithm B. A regret balancing strategy
 267 ensures that at episode N the number of episodes Algorithm A and Algorithm B were played, N_A ,
 268 and N_B satisfy $d_*\sqrt{N_A} \approx \Delta N_B$ thus implying that $N_B \approx \frac{d_*\sqrt{N_A}}{\Delta} = \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{d_*\sqrt{N}}{\Delta}\right)$.

269 B. Experiments/Plots

270 We use cleanRL library [12] for the implementation of RL algorithms. Implementaions of the frame-
 271 work and model selection strategies are available here: [https://github.com/Kinda-Anonymous/](https://github.com/Kinda-Anonymous/Learning-Rate-Free-Reinforcement-Learning)
 272 [Learning-Rate-Free-Reinforcement-Learning](https://github.com/Kinda-Anonymous/Learning-Rate-Free-Reinforcement-Learning)

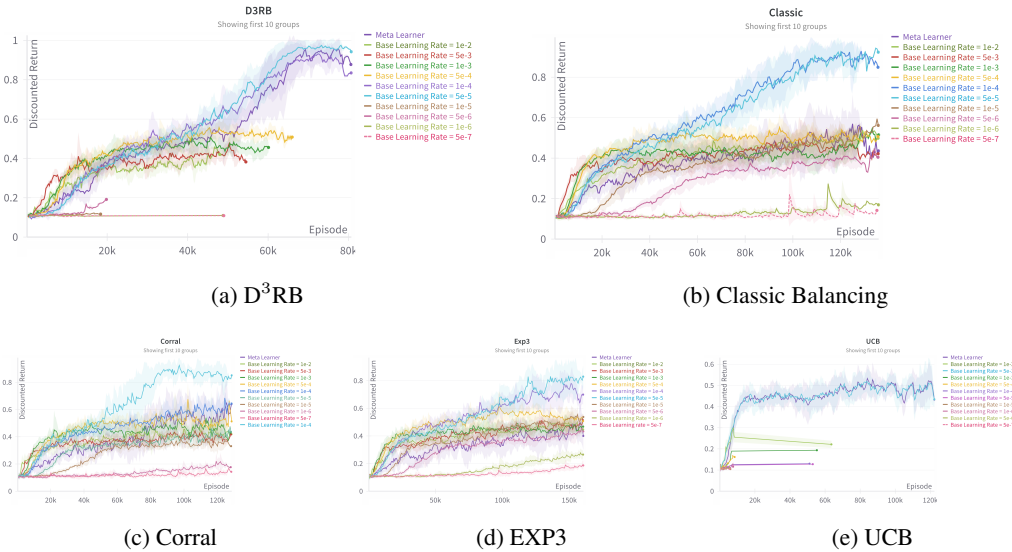


Figure 4: Learning Rate-Free PPO on Humanoid environment. Discounted return per episode across 5 model selection strategies.

273 C. Model Selection Algorithms Pseudocodes

274 Denote the number of times that the base agent i was played up to this time as n^i . Denote the regret
 275 coefficient of base learner i as d^i , and the total reward accumulated by base learner i up to this time
 276 by u^i .

277 D³RB

278 Doubling Data Driven Regret Balancing (D³RB) [7] tries to maintain and equal empirical regret
 279 for all the base agents. Denote the balancing potential of base agent i as $\Psi^i = d^i\sqrt{n^i}$. The D³RB
 280 algorithm for learning rate-free RL works as follows,

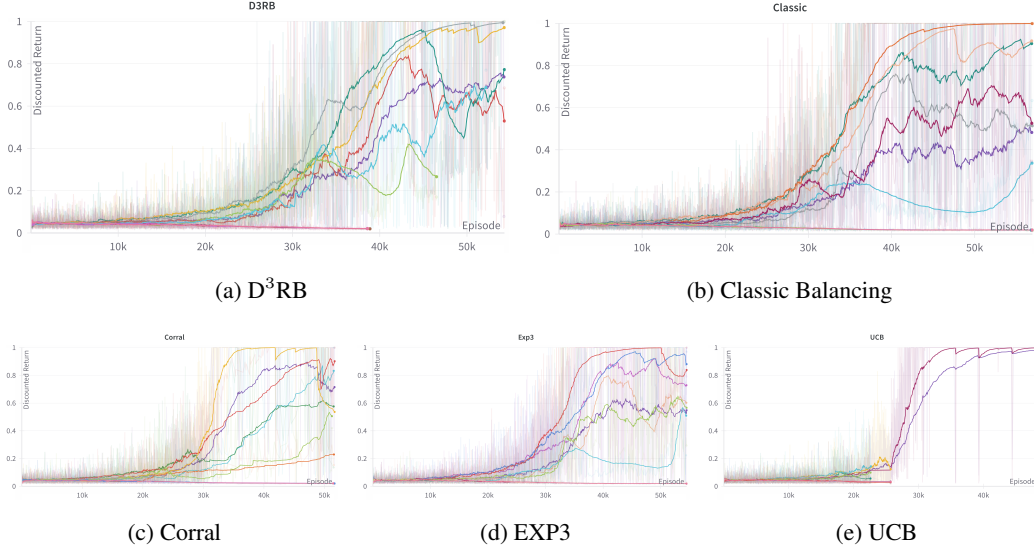


Figure 5: Learning Rate-Free DQN on CartPole environment. Discounted return per episode across 50 model selection strategies for all 10 base agents. Purple curve belongs to the meta learner.

Algorithm 3: D³RB

Input: m, β, Ψ, δ

```

1
2 Function sample():
3   // Sample base index
4    $i = \arg \min_j \Psi_j$ 
5    $\pi_i, \alpha_i \leftarrow \beta_i$ 
6   return  $i, \pi_i, \alpha_i$ 
7
8 Function update( $i, R[1 : T]$ ):
9    $R_{norm} \leftarrow \text{normalize}(R[1 : T])$ 
10  // Update Statistics
11   $u^i = u^i + R_{norm}$ 
12   $n^i = n^i + 1$ 
13  // Perform miss-specification test
14   $\frac{u^i}{n^i} + \frac{d^i \sqrt{n^i}}{n^i} + c \sqrt{\ln \frac{m \ln n^i}{\delta}} \leq \max_j \frac{u^j}{n^j} - c \sqrt{\ln \frac{M \ln n^j}{\delta}}$ 
15  // If test triggered double regret coefficient for base i
16   $d^i \leftarrow 2d^i$ 
17  // Update balancing potential
18   $\Psi^i = d^i \sqrt{n^i}$ 

```

282 Classic Balancing

283 The Classic Regret Balancing Algorithm [22] starts with the full set of base agents $\beta = [\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m]$,
 284 at each round the algorithm performs miss-specification on each of the base agents and eliminates the
 285 miss-specified one. Denote Ψ^j as empirical regret upper bound of base agent j .

Algorithm 4: Classic Balancing

Input: m, β, Ψ, δ

```
1
2 Function sample():
3   // Sample Base index
4    $i = \arg \min_j \Psi_j$ 
5    $\pi_i, \alpha_i \leftarrow \beta_i$ 
6   return  $i, \pi_i, \alpha_i$ 
7
8 Function update( $i, R[1 : T]$ ):
9    $R_{norm} \leftarrow \text{normalize}(R[1 : T])$ 
10  // Update statistics
11   $u^i = u^i + R_{norm}$ 
12   $n^i = n^i + 1$ 
13  // Perform miss-specification test for all the remaining base agents
14  for  $\beta_k \in \beta$  do
15     $\frac{u^k}{n^k} + \frac{d^k \sqrt{n^k}}{n^k} + c \sqrt{\ln \frac{m \ln n^k}{\delta}} \leq \max_j \frac{u^j}{n^j} - c \sqrt{\ln \frac{M \ln n^j}{\delta}}$ 
16    if miss-specified then
17       $\beta \leftarrow \beta / \{\beta_k\}$ 
```

287 **EXP3**

288 Exponential-weight algorithm for exploration and exploitation (EXP3) learns a probability distribution
289 $\Psi^i = \frac{\exp(S^i)}{\sum_{j=1}^m \exp(S^j)}$ over base learners, where S^i is a total estimated reward of base agent i up to this
290 round.

Algorithm 5: EXP3

Input: m, β, Ψ, δ

```
1
2 Function sample():
3
4   // Sample Base index
5    $i = \arg \max_j \Psi_j$ 
6    $\pi_i, \alpha_i \leftarrow \beta_i$ 
7   return  $i, \pi_i, \alpha_i$ 
8
9 Function update( $i, R[1 : T]$ ):
10
11   $R_{norm} \leftarrow \text{normalize}(R[1 : T])$ 
12  // Update statistics
13  for  $j \in 1, \dots, m$  do
14     $S^j = S^j + 1 - \frac{\mathbb{I}\{j=i\}(1-R_{norm})}{\Psi^i}$ 
15
16  // Update Distribution
17   $\Psi^i = \frac{\exp(S^i)}{\sum_{j=1}^m \exp(S^j)}$ 
```

292 **Corral**

293 Corral [1] learns a distribution Ψ over base agents and update it according to LOG-BARRIER-OMD
 294 algorithm. We skip the algorithmic details and refer to the updating rule mentioned in the original
 295 paper as Corral-Update.

Algorithm 6: Corral

Input: m, β, Ψ

```

1
2 Function sample():
3   // Sample base index
4    $i \sim \Psi$ 
5    $\pi_i, \alpha_i \leftarrow \beta_i$ 
6
296 7   return  $i, \pi_i, \alpha_i$ 
8
9 Function update( $i, R[1 : T]$ ):
10
11    $R_{norm} \leftarrow \text{normalize}(R[1 : T])$ 
12   // Update according to Corral
13    $\Psi^j \leftarrow \text{Corral-Update}(R_{norm})$ 

```

297 **UCB**

298 The Upper Confidence Bound algorithm (UCB) maintains an optimistic estimate of the mean for
 299 each arm [16]. Denote Ψ^i as the upper confidence bound of arm i . The UCB algorithm for learning
 300 rate-free RL works as follows,

Algorithm 7: UCB

Input: m, β, Ψ, δ

```

1
2 Function sample():
3   // Sample base index
4    $i = \arg \max_j \Psi_j$ 
5    $\pi_i, \alpha_i \leftarrow \beta_i$ 
6
7   return  $i, \pi_i, \alpha_i$ 
8
301 9 Function update( $i, R[1 : T]$ ):
10
11    $R_{norm} \leftarrow \text{normalize}(R[1 : T])$ 
12   // Update statistics
13    $u^i = u^i + R_{norm}$ 
14    $n^i = n^i + 1$ 
15    $\mu^i = \frac{u^i}{n^i}$ 
16   // Update Upper Confidence Bounds
17    $\Psi^i = \text{UCB}^i(\delta) = \mu^i + \sqrt{\frac{2 \log(1/\delta)}{n^i}}$ 

```
