OPTIMIZING LATENT GOAL BY LEARNING FROM TRA-JECTORY PREFERENCE

Anonymous authors

Paper under double-blind review

ABSTRACT

A glowing body of work has emerged focusing on instruction-following policies for open-world agents, aiming to better align the agent's behavior with human intentions. However, the performance of these policies is highly susceptible to the initial prompt, which leads to extra efforts in selecting the best instructions. We propose a framework named *Preference Goal Tuning* (PGT). PGT allows an instruction-following policy to interact with the environment to collect several trajectories, which will be categorized into positive and negative samples based on preference. A preference optimization algorithm is used to fine-tune the initial goal latent representation using the collected trajectories while keeping the policy backbone frozen. The experiment result shows that with minimal data and training, PGT achieves an average relative improvement of 72.0% and 81.6% over 17 tasks in 2 different foundation policies respectively, and outperforms the best human-selected instructions. Moreover, PGT surpasses full fine-tuning in the outof-distribution (OOD) task-execution environments by 13.4%, indicating that our approach retains strong generalization capabilities. Since our approach stores a single latent representation for each task independently, it can be viewed as an efficient method for continual learning, without the risk of catastrophic forgetting or task interference. In short, PGT enhances the performance of agents across nearly all tasks in the *Minecraft Skillforge* benchmark and demonstrates robustness to the execution environment.

029 030 031

032

004

006

008 009

010 011

012

013

014

015

016

017

018

019

021

024

025

026

027

028

1 INTRODUCTION

Recently, pre-training foundation policies in open-world environments with web-scale unlabeled datasets have become an increasingly popular trend in the domain of sequential control(Baker et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2022; Collaboration et al., 2024; Brohan et al., 2023a; Yang et al., 2023). These foundation policies possess broad world knowledge, which can be transferred to downstream tasks.
In the realm of foundation policies, there exists a category known as goal-conditioned policies, which are capable of processing input goals (instructions) and executing the corresponding tasks (Ding et al., 2019; Chane-Sane et al., 2021). The goal can be in different modalities, such as text instructions (Lifshitz et al., 2024), video demonstrations (Cai et al., 2023b), or multi-model instructions (Cai et al., 2024; Brohan et al., 2023b;a)).

However, much like large language models, these instruction-following policies are highly susceptible to the selection of "prompts" (Lifshitz et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2023b; Kim et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2023a). Researchers rely on trial and error to find the optimal prompt manually, and sometimes the quality of prompts doesn't align with human judgment. For instance, OpenVLA (Kim et al., 2024) shows a large performance gap when using "Pepsi can" compared to "Pepsi" as the prompt; for the same task of collecting wood logs, GROOT's performance varies significantly depending on the reference video used. Moreover, it is unclear whether an agent's failure to complete a task is due to the foundation policy's inherent limitations or the lack of a suitable prompt.

A common viewpoint from the LLM community thinks that most of the abilities are learned from the
pre-training phase (Ouyang et al., 2022; Zhao et al., 2023a), while post-training is a method to elicit
these abilities for solving tasks with rather small compute (Ziegler et al., 2020; Touvron et al., 2023;
Lin et al., 2024). In this paper, we follow the roadmap of LLMs to consider post-training for the
goal-conditioned foundation policies, hoping to improve downstream task performance efficiently

and effectively. On top of that, we identify several desiderata for the post-training for this type of policy:

- **Improved elicitation of pre-trained abilities.** This refers to (1) leveraging a broader range of abilities and (2) making it easier to harness these abilities, which leads to better performance on downstream tasks without the need for labor-intensive prompts.
- **Task environment generalization.** In open-world settings, a single task may be executed in vastly different contexts, making the policy's ability to generalize across environments crucial.
- Efficient data exploitation. As it's usually hard or expensive to collect training trajectory data for open-world foundation policy (Villalobos et al., 2024), the post-training is expected to be data-efficient. Meanwhile, it's also important to avoid over-fitting on the small amount of data.
- 067 068 069

060

061

062

063 064

065

- 07
- **Continued adaptation of tasks.** The ability to continually learn from experiences in openworld environments is crucial for generalist AI systems, and thus we expect the open-world foundation policy can continually learn more skills without degrading general ability.
- 071 072

To achieve these desiderata, we propose a framework named *Preference Goal-Tuning* (PGT). Firstly, 073 an initial prompt is provided by humans, which may be suboptimal or not carefully refined. This task 074 prompt is embedded into a *goal latent representation*, which is typically a high-dimensional vector. 075 Next, PGT allows the foundation policy to interact with the environment under the guidance of the 076 goal latent representation, for a small number of episodes ($\sim 10^2$ of trajectories in practice). These 077 trajectories are then categorized into positive and negative samples based on designed rewards or 078 human preferences. To elicit the ability from the pre-trained foundation policy, the backbone is fixed 079 and a preference learning algorithm (Rafailov et al., 2024; Azar et al., 2024; Christiano et al., 2017; 080 Hong et al., 2024) is applied to fine-tune the *goal latent representation* via collected trajectories. 081 This training process can be iterative, as the fine-tuned *goal latent representation* can be used to 082 recollect data once again.

We validate PGT in the open-ended Minecraft video game environment (Johnson et al., 2016), with 084 2 foundation policies and 17 tasks, in both in-distribution and out-of-distribution environments, 085 showing that this framework can enhance performance for foundation policies across almost all tasks. For in-distribution settings, we achieved an average improvement of 72.0% and 81.6% in 087 two different policies: GROOT (Cai et al., 2023b) and STEVE-1 (Lifshitz et al., 2024). For out-ofdistribution settings, the figures are 73.8% and 36.9%. We conduct extensive studies on different initial prompts and discover that PGT surpasses all human-selected prompts. Finally, we explore the potential of our method as an efficient approach to continual learning (CL). Since we only need to 090 store a latent goal representation for each task in CL, our method is computationally light, storage-091 tight, with no fear of catastrophic forgetting or task interference in sight. 092

093 094

2 PRELIMINARY

095 096 097

098

2.1 SEQUENTIAL CONTROL

In sequential control settings, the environment is defined as a Markov Decision Process (MDP) $\langle S, A, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{P}, d_0 \rangle$, where S is the state space, A is the action space, $\mathcal{R} : S \times A \to \mathbb{R}$ is the reward function, $\mathcal{P} : S \times A \to S$ is the transition dynamics, and d_0 is the initial state distribution. A policy $\pi(a|s)$ interacts with the environment starting from $s_0 \sim d_9$. At each timestep $t \ge 0$, an action $a_t \sim \pi(a|s_t)$ is sampled and applied to the environment, after that, the environment transitions to $s_{t+1} \sim \mathcal{P}(s_t, a_t)$ and return reward $r_0 \sim \mathcal{R}(s_t, a_t)$. The goal of a policy is to maximize the expected cumulative reward $\mathbb{E}[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_t]$, where $\gamma \in (0, 1]$ is a discount factor.

106 A goal-conditioned policy can be formulated as $\pi(a|s,g)$, where $g \in \mathcal{G}$ is a goal from goal space \mathcal{G} . 107 The target of a goal-conditioned policy is to maximize the expected return $\mathbb{E}[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_t^g]$, where r_t^g is the goal-specific reward achieved at time step t.

108 2.2 GOAL-CONDITIONED POLICY

GROOT GROOT (Cai et al., 2023b) is a goal-conditioned foundation policy trained on video data through self-supervised learning with a C-VAE(Sohn et al., 2015) framework. GROOT can follow video instructions in open-world environments. The instruction is encoded into a latent representation by the non-causal encoder, and the policy is a decoder module implemented by a causal transformer, which decodes the goal information in the latent space and translates it into a sequence of actions in the given environment states in an auto-regressive manner.

116 117

118

119

120

STEVE-1 STEVE-1 (Lifshitz et al., 2024) is also a goal-conditioned policy on Minecraft environment. STEVE-1 utilizes the goal latent representation of MineCLIP(Fan et al., 2022) to embed the future result video clip in dataset Andrychowicz et al. (2017), and fine-tunes a VPT model (Baker et al., 2022) as the policy network under the guidance of the MineCLIP embedding. As a C-VAE (Sohn et al., 2015) model is trained to predict "future video embedding" from text, STEVE-1 supports both text and video as instructions.

121 122 123

124

2.3 PREFERENCE LEARNING

125 While self-supervised learning models trained with large-scale parameters and data are experts in 126 encoding knowledge, their outputs do not necessarily meet human intention. An effective solution 127 is learning from preference-labeled data. Direct Preference Optimization(DPO) (Rafailov et al., 128 2024), as one method, serves as a way to directly optimize the model's outputs based on pair-wise 129 positive-negative data. For a pair of responses (y_1, y_2) corresponding to a prompt *x*, human labelers 130 express their preference and classify them as win(w) and lose(l), denoted as $y_w \succ y_l \mid x$. Assuming 131 we have a foundation model π_{ref} and a dataset of preference $\mathcal{D} = \{x^{(i)}, y_w^{(i)}, y_l^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$, DPO derives 132 the optimization objective as:

133 134 135

$\mathcal{L}_{\text{DPO}}(\pi_{\theta}; \pi_{\text{ref}}) = \mathbb{E}_{(x, y_w, y_l) \sim \mathcal{D}} \left[-\log \sigma \left(\beta \log \frac{\pi_{\theta}(y_w \mid x)}{\pi_{\text{ref}}(y_w \mid x)} - \beta \log \frac{\pi_{\theta}(y_l \mid x)}{\pi_{\text{ref}}(y_l \mid x)} \right) \right].$ (1)

In addition to the DPO algorithm, IPO (Azar et al., 2024) proposed an improvement, enhancing
the linearity of preference prediction and the fidelity to the reference model's outputs, KTO (Ethayarajh et al., 2024) optimized the model's output with the consideration of a human psychological
effect *prospect theory* (Tversky & Kahneman, 1992). ORPO (Hong et al., 2024) further developed
an empirical method for preference learning without a reference model. Previous to these works,
SLiC (Zhao et al., 2022; 2023b) proposed calibration losses that also work empirically well and
some of them are reference-model-free.

142 143 144

145

147

148

149

150

151

3 Methodology

146 3.1 PREFERENCE GOAL TUNING

In this section, we propose a novel policy post-training framework named *Preference Goal-Tuning* (PGT). This approach achieves significant performance improvements for foundation policies with minimal data and computational resources. Our method consists of two phases: the data collection phase and the training phase. An illustration of our method is in Figure 1. The details are as follows:

Data Collection Phase We first select an initial prompt, which may be suboptimal or not carefully refined. This initial prompt is embedded into a high-dimensional vector by the encoder of the goal-conditioned policy. We allow the foundation policy to interact with the environment several times, collect ~ 300 synthetic trajectories, and divide them into positive trajectories and negative trajectories based on *human preference* or *reward from environment*.

When utilizing *human preference*, human annotators are required to label each trajectory as either
 positive (preferred) or negative (not preferred) based on their judgment. Since around 100 samples
 need to be annotated, the human labor cost remains manageable.

161 On the other hand, we utilize *reward from environment* for tasks like $collect_wood(\mathbf{w})$, $tool_bow(\mathbf{p})$ and $explore_chest(\mathbf{w})$. As reward information can be obtained from the



Figure 1: Pipeline of our Preference Goal Tuning (PGT). The process begins by selecting an initial prompt (can be video or text), encoding it into a latent representation, and allowing the policy to interact with the environment multiple times to collect trajectories. These trajectories are then classified as positive or negative based on human preferences or rewards. Then, the model is fine-tuned using the collected data, with only the latent goal embedding being trainable. Iterative training is supported.



Figure 2: Improvements with training iterations of our methods.

Minecraft simulator, we can directly use rewards as a supervisory signal for preference learning by selecting the top-performing trajectories as positive samples and the bottom-performing ones as negative samples for training.

Training Phase During the training phase, we adopted a learning approach to obtain an optimal *goal latent representation* - only the *goal latent representation* is trainable. Initially, we only leverage positive examples with traditional behavior cloning (BC) loss, but it does not yield the expected results. Recent studies have emphasized the importance of negative samples (Tajwar et al., 2024), prompting us to incorporate them into the training data. To reduce the agent's undesired behaviors and increase desired behaviors, the positive and negative samples are randomly combined into (win, lose) pairs for preference learning methods. Following the derivation approach of DPO, we obtained a loss for PGT in formula (2):

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{PGT}}(g, g_{\text{ref}}) = -\mathbb{E}_{(\tau^{(w)}, \tau^{(l)}) \sim \mathcal{D}} \left[\log \sigma \left(\beta \sum_{t=1}^{T} \log \frac{\pi(a_t^{(w)} \mid s_t^{(w)}, g)}{\pi(a_t^{(w)} \mid s_t^{(w)}, g_{\text{ref}})} - \log \frac{\pi(a_t^{(l)} \mid s_t^{(l)}, g)}{\pi(a_t^{(l)} \mid s_t^{(l)}, g_{\text{ref}})} \right) \right]$$
(2)

Details of derivation lies in Appendix A.1. Other preference learning algorithms such as SLiC (Zhao et al., 2022; 2023b) and IPO (Azar et al., 2024) are also feasible. Given the small amount of data and the limited number of trainable parameters, the training phase is relatively low-cost. Since the sample size is small, we use full gradient descent.

Iterative Training Our method supports iterative training. During the first training loop, the initial prompt is encoded into a *goal latent representation*, which we denote as g_0 . According to 2, we set g_{ref} as g_0 and initialize g as g_0 , then fine-tuning g to g_1 . We then use g_1 to recollect trajectories and repeat the training loop. Our experiments demonstrate that iterative training continues to improve performance for up to three rounds. See Figure 2 for iterative training details.

216 3.2 DESIGN CHOICES

In this section, we address the key design choices of our method and provide a comparative analysis of relevant baselines to justify why we use negative examples for preference learning and why we use parameter-efficient fine-tuning.

Utilizing negative samples A straightforward approach is to utilize only self-generated positive 222 samples for behavior cloning (BC), and some studies have proved filtering and cloning is enough in 223 many settings (Oh et al., 2018; Gulcehre et al., 2023). However, this approach does not explicitly 224 indicate "which behaviors should be avoided", which is conducive to policy optimization (Tajwar 225 et al., 2024). Incorporating negative data helps the policy distinguish between desirable and undesir-226 able behaviors. As a comparison, we trained a version of the BC algorithm (with double data size of 227 the positive samples to control the total amount of data) and conducted experiments with both soft 228 prompt fine-tuning and full fine-tuning, and the results are listed in Table 1. We notice that when 229 using BC algorithm, performance even declines in 3 out of 4 tasks in soft prompt fine-tuning. 230

Table 1: Performance improvements of the PGT-Loss over BC-Loss.

Tools		Soft Promp	t	Full Fine-Tuning				
Täsk	Pretained	BC-Loss	PGT-Loss	Pretained	BC-Loss	PGT-Loss		
collect_wood	3.14	3.28	3.62	3.14	3.26	3.46		
obsidian	42.0	18.2	57.2	42.0	15.0	62.2		
explore_mine	4.91	4.76	6.58	4.91	4.80	6.00		
ool_pumpkin	48.3	45.4	57.8	48.3	48.6	58.4		

238 239 240

231

221

Tuning goal latent representation only We compare the results of fine-tuning goal latent rep-241 resentation only and its counterpart that fine-tuning the entire policy model. There are two main 242 reasons why we only fine-tune goal latent representation. First, fine-tuning the goal latent offers 243 strong interpretability. For a goal-conditioned foundation policy trained through supervised learn-244 ing with large datasets, the latent goal space usually holds abundant semantic meanings. However, 245 since the human intention behind the instruction and the embedding in the goal space do not always 246 align, the instructions selected by humans might not map well to the optimal latent representation 247 in the goal space. Our method aims to obtain the optimal representation in goal space through a 248 small amount of training. Second, due to the limited amount of data, full-parameter fine-tuning 249 is highly prone to overfitting the training execution environment. For example, in Minecraft, task 250 collect wood() requires the agent to collect logs from trees, regardless of the biome, seed, and 251 initial location. With a small amount of training data, full-parameter fine-tuning tends to memorize 252 environment-specific information to minimize the loss, which may result in reduced generalization 253 ability.

The experimental results are consistent with our expectations. We find that in environments identical to the data collection phase (in-distribution environments, ID), soft-prompt tuning achieves comparable results to full fine-tuning. However, when rolling out in a different setting for the same task (out-of-distribution environments, OOD), the soft prompt method outperformes the full finetuning across all tasks. Detailed results are in Fig 3, and detailed numerical results are provided in Appendix C.2. The design of OOD settings is in Appendix B.4.

260 261

262

4 EXPERIMENTS

We select open-world Minecraft as the test bed to evaluate our methods (Lin et al., 2023; Fan et al., 2022). The tasks are selected from *Minecraft SkillForge* benchmark (Cai et al., 2023b). This benchmark covers over 30 diverse and representative tasks from 6 major categories. We put the details of this benchmark in Appendix B.2. Through our experiments, the following contributions of our method are verified:

268

• PGT remarkably improves the performance of two foundation policies, surpassing the best human-selected prompt.



Figure 3: Comparison between full finetuning and PGT. Upper: In Distribution(ID). Lower: Out of Distribution(OOD).



Figure 4: Different initial prompt results. Each line graph represents a different prompt, and the horizontal line represents the performance of the best human-selected prompt.

- PGT serves as an efficient continual learning method.
- PGT improves long-horizon task performance with a combination of planner and controller.
- PGT elicits skills that were not achievable with traditional prompts.
- 4.1 BOOSTING PERFORMANCE OVER PROMPT TUNING

Our approach significantly improves the instruction-following capability of the model. By finetuning specific aspects of the model's behavior, we achieve greater task performance compared to traditional prompt engineering techniques, which rely on manually crafted inputs. We discard tasks in *Minecraft SkillForge* that are too difficult (with zero success rate), or too easy (with a 100% success rate and the specific value of the reward is meaningless).

We experimented with two foundation policies, GROOT and STEVE-1, in both in-distribution (ID) and out-of-distribution (OOD) settings. The modifications made to the OOD settings compared to the ID settings are detailed in Appendix B.4. For in-distribution settings, we achieved an average improvement of 72.0% and 81.6% in GROOT and STEVE-1 respectively. For out-of-distribution settings, the growths are 73.8% and 36.9%. Results showed improvements for both models in both two settings across nearly all 17 tasks, with a particularly significant improvement in tasks like collect_dirt(), craft_crafting_table(), tool_flint (). Detailed results can be found in Table 2.

317 318

Different Initial Prompts To validate the robustness of our method, we chose a representative task collect_wood(), and selected 5 different initial prompts and performed iterative training on each. We found that, regardless of the initial prompt, the results after iterative training consistently outperformed the best human-selected reference video. This implies that for nearly any initial prompt, our method consistently surpasses even a carefully selected initial prompt by a human. We present the result in Figure 4.

281

282

283 284

287

289

- 295 296
- 297 298 299
- 300 301
- 302 303

Table 2: Success rates for different methods on tasks in *Minecraft SkillForge*. Δ represents the relative improvements of success rate between policy before and after post-training. GRO and STE represent the base policy of GROOT and STEVE-1 respectively. For tasks evaluated by success rate, the percentage sign (%) is omitted; the same applies to other parts of this paper.

-			In Distr	ibution				Out of Distribution				
Task	GRO	GRO+	Δ	STE	STE+	Δ	GRO	GRO+	Δ	STE	STE+	Δ
wood	3.14	3.62	15.3%	3.73	3.90	4.6%	3.88	4.22	8.8%	4.22	4.29	1.7%
dirt	27.0	62.8	132.6%	16.3	36.4	123.3%	15.4	54.6	254.5%	30.4	48.0	57.9%
wool	30.4	40.8	34.2%	43.3	56.6	30.7%	34.0	41.6	22.4%	45.6	60.2	32.0%
seagrass	20.2	20.8	3.0%	4.2	21.8	419.0%	7.8	9.4	20.5%	41.4	49.0	18.4%
stonecutter	31.0	44.6	43.9%	14.1	19.0	34.8%	20.0	23.4	17.0%	36.2	48.4	33.7%
ladder	5.4	10.4	92.6%	30.9	40.2	30.1%	4.4	9.6	118.2%	29.6	41.2	39.2%
enchant	15.0	18.4	22.7%	0	0	-	19.4	21.8	12.4%	0	0	-
crafting_table	5.4	14.6	170.4%	4.0	9.6	140.0%	6.0	18.4	206.7%	2.0	6.4	220.0%
mine	4.91	6.58	34.0%	6.46	7.32	13.3%	3.9	5.38	37.9%	3.49	5.37	53.9%
chest	15.7	21.2	35.0%	3.4	4.2	23.5%	38.4	38.2	-0.5%	0.5	0.6	20.0%
hunt	31.2	39.8	27.6%	2.9	1.0	-65.5%	20.8	21.6	3.8%	1	0.2	-80.0%
combat	31.7	36.6	15.5%	0	0	-	83.4	85.6	2.6%	0	0	-
plant	2.71	3.09	14.0%	1.74	1.81	4.0%	2.85	3.11	9.1%	1.79	1.94	8.4%
pumpkin	48.3	57.8	19.7%	1.3	6.2	376.9%	16.6	25.8	55.4%	7.6	14.0	84.2%
bow	77.4	85.8	10.9%	88.9	97.8	10.0%	77.4	90.6	17.1%	65.2	88.0	35.0%
flint	1.2	7.4	516.7%	73.6	76.6	4.1%	1.2	5.8	383.3%	48.0	52.0	8.3%
obsidian	42.0	57.2	36.2%	0.4	0.7	75.0%	4.2	8.2	95.2%	0	0	-
	Task wood dirt wool seagrass stonecutter ladder enchant crafting_table mine chest hunt combat plant pumpkin bow flint obsidian	Task GRO wood 3.14 dirt 27.0 wool 30.4 seagrass 20.2 stonecutter 31.0 ladder 5.4 enchant 15.0 crafting_table 5.4 mine 4.91 chest 15.7 hunt 31.2 combat 31.7 plant 2.71 pumpkin 48.3 bow 77.4 flint 1.2 obsidian 42.0	Task GRO GRO+ wood 3.14 3.62 dirt 27.0 62.8 wool 30.4 40.8 seagrass 20.2 20.8 stonecutter 31.0 44.6 ladder 5.4 10.4 enchant 15.0 18.4 crafting_table 5.4 14.6 mine 4.91 6.58 chest 15.7 21.2 hunt 31.2 39.8 combat 31.7 36.6 plant 2.71 3.09 pumpkin 48.3 57.8 bow 77.4 85.8 flint 1.2 7.4 obsidian 42.0 57.2	$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c } \hline Task & \hline & $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $$	$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$

346 347

348

4.2 EFFICIENT CONTINUAL LEARNING

Our method is an efficient approach to continual learning, as it requires only minimal training for
 each task, followed by storing a high-dimensional latent (typically consisting of a few hundred
 floating-point values) as a task representation. As a result, our method avoids issues like catastrophic
 forgetting and task interference.

353 We compare PGT with multiple continual learning baselines: multi-task learning (MTL), naive 354 continual learning(NCL), knowledge distillation (KD) (Hinton et al., 2015), experience replay (ER) 355 (Lopez-Paz & Ranzato, 2022), elastic weight consolidation (EWC) (Kirkpatrick et al., 2017). It's 356 worth mentioning that every continual learning baseline is conducted under full fine-tuning, which 357 has a parameter size several orders of magnitude times larger than ours. We first implemented the 358 multi-task learning (MTL) baselines on six representative tasks, with the results presented in Table 359 3. We find that, similar to the results of full-parameter fine-tuning, our method achieved comparable performance to MTL in ID settings, while surpassing MTL in OOD settings. 360

We experiment in the following order: collect_obsidian() \rightarrow tool_pumpkin() \rightarrow craft_crafting_table() \rightarrow explore_climb(). The result after continual learning 4 tasks is in Table 4, and we place the detailed result of continual learning after each task in Appendix C.4. We conduct experiments of naive continual learning (NCL) (Table 10), knowledge distillation (KD)(Table 11), experience replay (ER)(Table 12), and elastic weight consolidation (EWC) (Table 13).

- Experiment results show that in addition to being more efficient in terms of computational resources and storage, our method excels in handling diverse tasks, demonstrating superior generalization capabilities. In out-of-distribution settings, we outperform the ensemble in each of the 6 tracks, and we achieve comparable results to MTL.
- 371

372 4.3 SOLVING LONG-HORIZON CHALLENGES WITH PLANNER 373

It is a common approach to combine a high-level planner and a low-level controller for functionality
and versatility. We combine the GROOT agent with JARVIS-1 planner (Wang et al., 2023b), trying
to craft items from scratch spawning in a forest with random initial orientation and angle. JARVIS-1
also offers an API script for crafting items. We give the agent 1000 timesteps to run and select five
representative items in the wood-related tech tree. We observe improvements in long-horizon task

Task	Ir	Distribution	n(ID)	Out of Distribution(OOD)				
наяк	pretrained	ensemble	MTL	Ours	pretrained	ensemble	MTL	Ours
collect_wood	3.14	3.46	3.64	3.62	3.88	4.04	4.30	4.22
craft_stonecutter	31.0	62.2	66.8	44.6	20.0	21.2	18.6	23.4
explore_mine	4.91	6.00	5.98	6.58	3.90	4.77	4.70	5.38
survive_hunt	31.2	39.8	44.2	39.8	20.8	21.0	31.4	21.6
tool_pumpkin	48.3	58.4	61.4	57.8	16.6	22.2	22.8	25.8
collect_obsidian	42.0	62.2	53.2	57.2	4.2	6.0	10.2	8.2

Table 2: Multitask looming on Minearoft different tasks

Table 4: Different continue learning baselines.

	Task	In Distribution(ID)						Out of Distribution(OOD)					
		ER	EWC	KD	NCL	PGT		ER	EWC	KD	NCL	PGT	
-	collect_obsidian	60.2	64.6	66.8	61.2	57.2		6.0	5.4	5.4	6.8	8.2	
	tool_pumpkin	65.4	60.0	60.8	61.4	57.8		25.0	23.8	20.6	20.4	25.8	
	craft_table	8.6	6.8	6.8	7.2	14.6		9.0	7.4	5.8	7.0	18.4	

performance compared to the baseline, which is shown in Table 5. This finding demonstrates the soft prompts trained with PGT have strong robustness and environmental generalization, and have the potential to serve as a bridge between the planner and the controller in the policy post-training stage.

4.4 ELICITING NEW SKILLS

For task tool_trident(\not{P}), given standard gameplay videos, the agent was unable to complete the task. As a result, the standard PGT pipeline cannot collect positive data. Instead, we recorded 20 trajectories by humans and trained with behavior cloning. Even though the success rate was still low, we found several success examples, meaning that the agent acquired the ability to complete the task. This implies that during the pretraining phase, the agent already possessed the ability to complete the task, but lacked the appropriate prompt to elicit this ability. Our method, through minimal training on the soft prompt, successfully activated this capability.

4.5 ABLATION STUDY ON PEFT METHODS

We compare our method with other parameter-efficient fine-tuning (PEFT) methods: LoRA (Hu et al., 2021), BitFit (Zaken et al., 2022) and VeRA (Kopiczko et al., 2024). We still utilize P-N samples for PGT for all of them fine-tuning the entire model. We found that our method performed well among the four methods. Moreover, in task expore_mine() and collect_obsidian(). LoRA fine-tuning also demonstrated promising results. The result is in Figure 5, and the numerical result is in Appendix C.3.

Table 5: Long Horiz	on Task: Craft object fr	om scratch. The numbers	represent success rate (%)
0			

Task	Wooden Stick	Wooden Sword	Oak Boat	Oak Wood	Large Chest
Pretrain	99.5	94.0	80.7	60.8	37.8
PGT	100	100	89.5	80.7	64.9

Collect wood
Col

Figure 5: Result of different parameter efficient methods. The horizontal line indicates pretraining performance. Upper: ID. Lower: OOD.

5 RELATED WORK

5.1 FOUNDATION MODELS FOR DECISION-MAKING

Foundation models have gained huge success in the field of language (Brown et al., 2020; OpenAI, 2024) and vision (He et al., 2016; Kirillov et al., 2023), and an increasing number of studies are exploring the potential of foundation models in sequential control (Yang et al., 2023; Zhang et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2023a; Cai et al., 2023a; Cheng et al., 2024). VPT (Baker et al., 2022) is a foun-dation policy pretrained by video data behavior cloning and fine-tuned by reinforcement learning, which is capable of obtaining diamonds from scratch in Minecraft. Lifshitz et al. (2024) adapted the VPT model to following human instructions under the guidance of MineCLIP (Fan et al., 2022) and Cai et al. (2023b) started from scratch to train a Minecraft instruction-following agent controlled by the CVAE posterior distribution, which solves a variety of tasks in the open-world environment. In the field of robotics, there are also many foundation policies like BC-Z (Jang et al., 2022), GATO (Reed et al., 2022), RT-1 (Brohan et al., 2023b), RT-2 (Brohan et al., 2023a) and VQ-BeT (Lee et al., 2024).

5.2 PREFERENCE LEARNING

Directly obtaining high-quality human annotations, such as expert numerical ratings (Akrour et al., 2014; Fürnkranz et al., 2012), or expert demonstrations (Silver et al., 2016), is often extremely time-consuming, labor-intensive, and brain-consuming to annotators (Knox & Stone, 2009). Fortunately, the cost is greatly reduced by letting them label pairs or groups of data with simply their prefer-ences Christiano et al. (2017). As a fruitful method to leverage more low-annotation-difficulty data, preference learning has been studied extensively in recent years. Christiano et al. (2017); Ziegler et al. (2020); Ouyang et al. (2022) utilized preference data to teach a reward model, and conducted reinforcement learning on sequential decision-making games or language modeling, demonstrating the efficiency and wide application of preference learning. These methods rely on another model for simulating the reward function and on-policy data. Therefore, some simpler alternatives that do not require reinforcement learning soon emerged (Rafailov et al., 2024; Azar et al., 2024; Meng et al., 2024) or even without reference model for regularization (Hong et al., 2024). Even though these methods do not strictly demand on-policy data, researchers (Tajwar et al., 2024) found that preference pairs generated by the current policy can improve fine-tuning efficiency.

6 LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE WORK

PGT has shown remarkable capability in improving task performance. However, it still has some limitations and untapped potential awaiting further exploration.

Limitations PGT requires multiple interactions with the environment to obtain positive and negative samples. While this is feasible in simulated environments like Minecraft, in other domains, such as robotics, the cost of interacting with the environment can be very high, or opportunities for

interaction may be limited (due to the risk of damage to the robots). In such cases, PGT may not be suitable.

Potentials Our method holds significant potential. First, all of our experiments were conducted in the Minecraft environment, but there are many instruction-following policies in the robotics domain as well. We believe that PGT could also achieve promising results in robotics. Second, the current experiments only cover several simple long-horizon tasks, like building a large chest from scratch. We are thrilled to explore how PGT can help solve longer and more complex tasks in Minecraft, like the ultimate goal: killing the ender dragon.

495 496

497

504

7 CONCLUSION

We have introduced a framework named *Preference Goal-Tuning* (PGT), which is an efficient posttraining method for foundation policies. It utilizes a small amount of human preference data to fine-tune *goal latent* in goal-conditioned policies. PGT significantly enhances the capability of the foundation policy with minimal data and training, easily surpassing the best human-selected instructions. Our method also demonstrates the potential for acquiring new skills and serving as an efficient method for continual learning.

- 505 **REFERENCES**
- Riad Akrour, Marc Schoenauer, Michèle Sebag, and Jean-Christophe Souplet. Programming by feedback. In *International Conference on Machine Learning*, volume 32, pp. 1503–1511. JMLR. org, 2014.
- Marcin Andrychowicz, Filip Wolski, Alex Ray, Jonas Schneider, Rachel Fong, Peter Welinder, Bob
 McGrew, Josh Tobin, OpenAI Pieter Abbeel, and Wojciech Zaremba. Hindsight experience replay. Advances in neural information processing systems, 30, 2017.
- Mohammad Gheshlaghi Azar, Zhaohan Daniel Guo, Bilal Piot, Remi Munos, Mark Rowland,
 Michal Valko, and Daniele Calandriello. A general theoretical paradigm to understand learning from human preferences. In *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*,
 pp. 4447–4455. PMLR, 2024.
- ⁵¹⁷
 ⁵¹⁸
 ⁵¹⁹
 ⁵¹⁰
 ⁵¹⁰
 ⁵¹⁰
 ⁵¹⁰
 ⁵¹⁰
 ⁵¹⁰
 ⁵¹¹
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹³
 ⁵¹⁴
 ⁵¹⁵
 ⁵¹⁵
 ⁵¹⁶
 ⁵¹⁷
 ⁵¹⁷
 ⁵¹⁸
 ⁵¹⁹
 ⁵¹⁹
 ⁵¹⁰
 ⁵¹¹
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹³
 ⁵¹⁴
 ⁵¹⁴
 ⁵¹⁵
 ⁵¹⁶
 ⁵¹⁷
 ⁵¹⁷
 ⁵¹⁸
 ⁵¹⁹
 ⁵¹⁹
 ⁵¹⁰
 ⁵¹¹
 ⁵¹¹
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹³
 ⁵¹⁴
 ⁵¹⁴
 ⁵¹⁵
 ⁵¹⁵
 ⁵¹⁶
 ⁵¹⁷
 ⁵¹⁶
 ⁵¹⁷
 ⁵¹⁷
 ⁵¹⁶
 ⁵¹⁷
 ⁵¹⁷
 ⁵¹⁸
 ⁵¹⁹
 ⁵¹⁹
 ⁵¹⁰
 ⁵¹⁰
 ⁵¹¹
 ⁵¹¹
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹³
 ⁵¹³
 ⁵¹⁴
 ⁵¹⁴
 ⁵¹⁵
 ⁵¹⁵
 ⁵¹⁶
 ⁵¹⁶
 ⁵¹⁷
 ⁵¹⁶
 ⁵¹⁷
 ⁵¹⁸
 ⁵¹⁹
 ⁵¹⁹
 ⁵¹⁰
 ⁵¹⁰
 ⁵¹¹
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹²
 ⁵¹³
 ⁵¹⁴
 ⁵¹⁴
 ⁵¹⁵
 ⁵¹⁵
 ⁵¹⁶
 ⁵¹⁶
 ⁵¹⁶
 ⁵¹⁷
 ⁵¹⁶
 ⁵¹⁶
 ⁵¹⁷
 ⁵¹⁸
 ⁵¹⁸
 ⁵¹⁹
 ⁵¹⁹
 ⁵¹⁸
 ⁵¹⁹
 ⁵¹⁹
 ⁵¹⁹
 ⁵¹⁹
 ⁵¹⁰
 ⁵¹⁰
 ⁵¹¹
 ⁵¹¹
 ⁵¹¹
 ⁵¹²
 <

Anthony Brohan, Noah Brown, Justice Carbajal, Yevgen Chebotar, Xi Chen, Krzysztof Choro-521 manski, Tianli Ding, Danny Driess, Avinava Dubey, Chelsea Finn, Pete Florence, Chuyuan Fu, 522 Montse Gonzalez Arenas, Keerthana Gopalakrishnan, Kehang Han, Karol Hausman, Alexander 523 Herzog, Jasmine Hsu, Brian Ichter, Alex Irpan, Nikhil Joshi, Ryan Julian, Dmitry Kalashnikov, 524 Yuheng Kuang, Isabel Leal, Lisa Lee, Tsang-Wei Edward Lee, Sergey Levine, Yao Lu, Hen-525 ryk Michalewski, Igor Mordatch, Karl Pertsch, Kanishka Rao, Krista Reymann, Michael Ryoo, Grecia Salazar, Pannag Sanketi, Pierre Sermanet, Jaspiar Singh, Anikait Singh, Radu Soricut, 527 Huong Tran, Vincent Vanhoucke, Quan Vuong, Ayzaan Wahid, Stefan Welker, Paul Wohlhart, 528 Jialin Wu, Fei Xia, Ted Xiao, Peng Xu, Sichun Xu, Tianhe Yu, and Brianna Zitkovich. Rt-529 2: Vision-language-action models transfer web knowledge to robotic control, 2023a. URL 530 https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.15818.

Anthony Brohan, Noah Brown, Justice Carbajal, Yevgen Chebotar, Joseph Dabis, Chelsea Finn, Keerthana Gopalakrishnan, Karol Hausman, Alex Herzog, Jasmine Hsu, Julian Ibarz, Brian Ichter, Alex Irpan, Tomas Jackson, Sally Jesmonth, Nikhil J Joshi, Ryan Julian, Dmitry Kalashnikov, Yuheng Kuang, Isabel Leal, Kuang-Huei Lee, Sergey Levine, Yao Lu, Utsav Malla, Deeksha Manjunath, Igor Mordatch, Ofir Nachum, Carolina Parada, Jodilyn Peralta, Emily Perez, Karl Pertsch, Jornell Quiambao, Kanishka Rao, Michael Ryoo, Grecia Salazar, Pannag Sanketi, Kevin Sayed, Jaspiar Singh, Sumedh Sontakke, Austin Stone, Clayton Tan, Huong Tran, Vincent Vanhoucke, Steve Vega, Quan Vuong, Fei Xia, Ted Xiao, Peng Xu, Sichun Xu, Tianhe Yu, and Brianna Zitkovich. Rt-1: Robotics transformer for real-world control at scale, 2023b. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.06817.

566

567

581

582

583

540	Tom B. Brown, Benjamin Mann, Nick Ryder, Melanie Subbiah, Jared Kaplan, Prafulla Dhari-
541	wal, Arvind Neelakantan, Pranav Shyam, Girish Sastry, Amanda Askell, Sandhini Agarwal,
542	Ariel Herbert-Voss, Gretchen Krueger, Tom Henighan, Rewon Child, Aditya Ramesh, Daniel M.
543	Ziegler, Jeffrey Wu, Clemens Winter, Christopher Hesse, Mark Chen, Eric Sigler, Mateusz
544	Litwin, Scott Gray, Benjamin Chess, Jack Clark, Christopher Berner, Sam McCandlish, Alec
545	Radford, Ilya Sutskever, and Dario Amodei. Language models are few-shot learners, 2020. URL
546	https://arxiv.org/abs/2005.14165.

- Shaofei Cai, Zihao Wang, Xiaojian Ma, Anji Liu, and Yitao Liang. Open-world multi-task control through goal-aware representation learning and adaptive horizon prediction. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition*, pp. 13734–13744, 2023a.
- Shaofei Cai, Bowei Zhang, Zihao Wang, Xiaojian Ma, Anji Liu, and Yitao Liang. Groot: Learning
 to follow instructions by watching gameplay videos, 2023b.
- Shaofei Cai, Bowei Zhang, Zihao Wang, Xiaojian Ma, Anji Liu, and Yitao Liang. GROOT-1.5: Learning to follow multi-modal instructions from weak supervision. In *Multi-modal Foundation Model meets Embodied AI Workshop @ ICML2024*, 2024. URL https://openreview. net/forum?id=zxdi4Kdfjq.
- Elliot Chane-Sane, Cordelia Schmid, and Ivan Laptev. Goal-conditioned reinforcement learning
 with imagined subgoals. In *International conference on machine learning*, pp. 1430–1440.
 PMLR, 2021.
- Yuheng Cheng, Ceyao Zhang, Zhengwen Zhang, Xiangrui Meng, Sirui Hong, Wenhao Li, Zihao Wang, Zekai Wang, Feng Yin, Junhua Zhao, et al. Exploring large language model based intelligent agents: Definitions, methods, and prospects. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2401.03428*, 2024.
 - Paul F Christiano, Jan Leike, Tom Brown, Miljan Martic, Shane Legg, and Dario Amodei. Deep reinforcement learning from human preferences. *Advances in neural information processing systems*, 30, 2017.
- 568 Embodiment Collaboration et al. Open x-embodiment: Robotic learning datasets and rt-x models,
 570 2024. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.08864.
- Yiming Ding, Carlos Florensa, Pieter Abbeel, and Mariano Phielipp. Goal-conditioned imitation
 learning. Advances in neural information processing systems, 32, 2019.
- Kawin Ethayarajh, Winnie Xu, Niklas Muennighoff, Dan Jurafsky, and Douwe Kiela. Kto: Model alignment as prospect theoretic optimization. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2402.01306*, 2024.
- Linxi Fan, Guanzhi Wang, Yunfan Jiang, Ajay Mandlekar, Yuncong Yang, Haoyi Zhu, Andrew
 Tang, De-An Huang, Yuke Zhu, and Anima Anandkumar. Minedojo: Building open-ended embodied agents with internet-scale knowledge. In *Thirty-sixth Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems Datasets and Benchmarks Track*, 2022. URL https://openreview.
 net/forum?id=rc80_j8I8PX.
 - Johannes Fürnkranz, Eyke Hüllermeier, Weiwei Cheng, and Sang-Hyeun Park. Preference-based reinforcement learning: a formal framework and a policy iteration algorithm. *Machine learning*, 89:123–156, 2012.
- Caglar Gulcehre, Tom Le Paine, Srivatsan Srinivasan, Ksenia Konyushkova, Lotte Weerts, Abhishek
 Sharma, Aditya Siddhant, Alex Ahern, Miaosen Wang, Chenjie Gu, et al. Reinforced self-training
 (rest) for language modeling. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2308.08998*, 2023.
- William H. Guss, Brandon Houghton, Nicholay Topin, Phillip Wang, Cayden Codel, Manuela Veloso, and Ruslan Salakhutdinov. Minerl: A large-scale dataset of minecraft demonstrations, 2019. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/1907.13440.
- Kaiming He, Xiangyu Zhang, Shaoqing Ren, and Jian Sun. Deep residual learning for image recognition. In *Proceedings of the IEEE conference on computer vision and pattern recognition*, pp. 770–778, 2016.

- 594 Geoffrey Hinton, Oriol Vinyals, and Jeff Dean. Distilling the knowledge in a neural network, 2015. 595 URL https://arxiv.org/abs/1503.02531. 596 Jiwoo Hong, Noah Lee, and James Thorne. Reference-free monolithic preference optimization with 597 odds ratio. arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.07691, 2024. 598 Edward J. Hu, Yelong Shen, Phillip Wallis, Zeyuan Allen-Zhu, Yuanzhi Li, Shean Wang, Lu Wang, 600 and Weizhu Chen. Lora: Low-rank adaptation of large language models, 2021. URL https: 601 //arxiv.org/abs/2106.09685. 602 Eric Jang, Alex Irpan, Mohi Khansari, Daniel Kappler, Frederik Ebert, Corey Lynch, Sergey Levine, 603 and Chelsea Finn. Bc-z: Zero-shot task generalization with robotic imitation learning, 2022. URL 604 https://arxiv.org/abs/2202.02005. 605 Matthew Johnson, Katja Hofmann, Tim Hutton, and David Bignell. The malmo platform for artifi-607 cial intelligence experimentation. In Ijcai, volume 16, pp. 4246–4247, 2016. 608 Moo Jin Kim, Karl Pertsch, Siddharth Karamcheti, Ted Xiao, Ashwin Balakrishna, Suraj Nair, 609 Rafael Rafailov, Ethan Foster, Grace Lam, Pannag Sanketi, et al. Openvla: An open-source 610 vision-language-action model. arXiv preprint arXiv:2406.09246, 2024. 611 612 Alexander Kirillov, Eric Mintun, Nikhila Ravi, Hanzi Mao, Chloe Rolland, Laura Gustafson, Tete 613 Xiao, Spencer Whitehead, Alexander C. Berg, Wan-Yen Lo, Piotr Dollár, and Ross Girshick. 614 Segment anything, 2023. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2304.02643. 615 James Kirkpatrick, Razvan Pascanu, Neil Rabinowitz, Joel Veness, Guillaume Desjardins, An-616 drei A. Rusu, Kieran Milan, John Quan, Tiago Ramalho, Agnieszka Grabska-Barwinska, Demis 617 Hassabis, Claudia Clopath, Dharshan Kumaran, and Raia Hadsell. Overcoming catastrophic 618 forgetting in neural networks. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 114(13): 619 3521-3526, March 2017. ISSN 1091-6490. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1611835114. URL http: 620 //dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1611835114. 621 622 W Bradley Knox and Peter Stone. Interactively shaping agents via human reinforcement: The tamer framework. In Proceedings of the fifth international conference on Knowledge capture, pp. 9–16, 623 2009. 624 625 Dawid J. Kopiczko, Tijmen Blankevoort, and Yuki M. Asano. Vera: Vector-based random matrix 626 adaptation, 2024. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.11454. 627 628 Seungjae Lee, Yibin Wang, Haritheja Etukuru, H Jin Kim, Nur Muhammad Mahi Shafiullah, and 629 Lerrel Pinto. Behavior generation with latent actions. arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.03181, 2024. 630 Shalev Lifshitz, Keiran Paster, Harris Chan, Jimmy Ba, and Sheila McIlraith. Steve-1: A generative 631 model for text-to-behavior in minecraft. Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 36, 632 2024. 633 634 Haowei Lin, Zihao Wang, Jianzhu Ma, and Yitao Liang. Mcu: A task-centric framework for open-635 ended agent evaluation in minecraft. arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.08367, 2023. 636 Haowei Lin, Baizhou Huang, Haotian Ye, Qinyu Chen, Zihao Wang, Sujian Li, Jianzhu Ma, Xiaojun 637 Wan, James Zou, and Yitao Liang. Selecting large language model to fine-tune via rectified 638 scaling law. arXiv preprint arXiv:2402.02314, 2024. 639 640 David Lopez-Paz and Marc'Aurelio Ranzato. Gradient episodic memory for continual learning, 641 2022. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/1706.08840. 642 Yu Meng, Mengzhou Xia, and Danqi Chen. Simple preference optimization with a 643 reference-free reward. arXiv preprint arXiv:2405.14734, 2024. 644 645 Junhyuk Oh, Yijie Guo, Satinder Singh, and Honglak Lee. Self-imitation learning. In International 646 conference on machine learning, pp. 3878–3887. PMLR, 2018. 647
 - OpenAI. Gpt-4 technical report, 2024. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.08774.

661

677

683

688

689

690

691

- Long Ouyang, Jeffrey Wu, Xu Jiang, Diogo Almeida, Carroll Wainwright, Pamela Mishkin, Chong Zhang, Sandhini Agarwal, Katarina Slama, Alex Ray, et al. Training language models to follow instructions with human feedback. *Advances in neural information processing systems*, 35: 27730–27744, 2022.
- Rafael Rafailov, Archit Sharma, Eric Mitchell, Stefano Ermon, Christopher D. Manning, and
 Chelsea Finn. Direct preference optimization: Your language model is secretly a reward model,
 2024. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.18290.
- Scott Reed, Konrad Zolna, Emilio Parisotto, Sergio Gomez Colmenarejo, Alexander Novikov, Gabriel Barth-Maron, Mai Gimenez, Yury Sulsky, Jackie Kay, Jost Tobias Springenberg, Tom Eccles, Jake Bruce, Ali Razavi, Ashley Edwards, Nicolas Heess, Yutian Chen, Raia Hadsell, Oriol Vinyals, Mahyar Bordbar, and Nando de Freitas. A generalist agent, 2022. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2205.06175.
- David Silver, Aja Huang, Chris J Maddison, Arthur Guez, Laurent Sifre, George Van Den Driessche,
 Julian Schrittwieser, Ioannis Antonoglou, Veda Panneershelvam, Marc Lanctot, et al. Mastering
 the game of go with deep neural networks and tree search. *nature*, 529(7587):484–489, 2016.
- Kihyuk Sohn, Honglak Lee, and Xinchen Yan. Learning structured output representation using deep conditional generative models. In C. Cortes, N. Lawrence, D. Lee, M. Sugiyama, and R. Garnett (eds.), Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, volume 28. Curran Associates, Inc., 2015. URL https://proceedings.neurips.cc/paper_files/ paper/2015/file/8d55a249e6baa5c06772297520da2051-Paper.pdf.
- Fahim Tajwar, Anikait Singh, Archit Sharma, Rafael Rafailov, Jeff Schneider, Tengyang Xie, Stefano Ermon, Chelsea Finn, and Aviral Kumar. Preference fine-tuning of Ilms should leverage suboptimal, on-policy data. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2404.14367*, 2024.
- Hugo Touvron, Thibaut Lavril, Gautier Izacard, Xavier Martinet, Marie-Anne Lachaux, Timothée
 Lacroix, Baptiste Rozière, Naman Goyal, Eric Hambro, Faisal Azhar, et al. Llama: Open and
 efficient foundation language models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2302.13971*, 2023.
- Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman. Advances in prospect theory: Cumulative representation of uncertainty. *Journal of Risk and uncertainty*, 5:297–323, 1992.
- Pablo Villalobos, Anson Ho, Jaime Sevilla, Tamay Besiroglu, Lennart Heim, and Marius Hobbhahn.
 Will we run out of data? limits of llm scaling based on human-generated data, 2024. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.04325.
- Zihao Wang, Shaofei Cai, Guanzhou Chen, Anji Liu, Xiaojian Ma, Yitao Liang, and Team Craft-Jarvis. Describe, explain, plan and select: interactive planning with large language models enables
 open-world multi-task agents. In *Proceedings of the 37th International Conference on Neural In-formation Processing Systems*, pp. 34153–34189, 2023a.
 - Zihao Wang, Shaofei Cai, Anji Liu, Yonggang Jin, Jinbing Hou, Bowei Zhang, Haowei Lin, Zhaofeng He, Zilong Zheng, Yaodong Yang, Xiaojian Ma, and Yitao Liang. Jarvis-1: Open-world multi-task agents with memory-augmented multimodal language models. *arXiv preprint arXiv: 2311.05997*, 2023b.
- Sherry Yang, Ofir Nachum, Yilun Du, Jason Wei, Pieter Abbeel, and Dale Schuurmans. Foundation
 models for decision making: Problems, methods, and opportunities, 2023. URL https://
 arxiv.org/abs/2303.04129.
- Elad Ben Zaken, Shauli Ravfogel, and Yoav Goldberg. Bitfit: Simple parameter-efficient finetuning for transformer-based masked language-models, 2022. URL https://arxiv.org/ abs/2106.10199.
- Ceyao Zhang, Kaijie Yang, Siyi Hu, Zihao Wang, Guanghe Li, Yihang Sun, Cheng Zhang, Zhaowei
 Zhang, Anji Liu, Song-Chun Zhu, et al. Proagent: Building proactive cooperative ai with large language models. *CoRR*, 2023.

- Qihang Zhang, Zhenghao Peng, and Bolei Zhou. Learning to drive by watching youtube videos: Action-conditioned contrastive policy pretraining, 2022. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/ 2204.02393.
- Wayne Xin Zhao, Kun Zhou, Junyi Li, Tianyi Tang, Xiaolei Wang, Yupeng Hou, Yingqian Min,
 Beichen Zhang, Junjie Zhang, Zican Dong, et al. A survey of large language models. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2303.18223, 2023a.
- Yao Zhao, Misha Khalman, Rishabh Joshi, Shashi Narayan, Mohammad Saleh, and Peter J
 Liu. Calibrating sequence likelihood improves conditional language generation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2210.00045*, 2022.
- Yao Zhao, Rishabh Joshi, Tianqi Liu, Misha Khalman, Mohammad Saleh, and Peter J Liu. Slic-hf:
 Sequence likelihood calibration with human feedback. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2305.10425*, 2023b.
- Daniel M. Ziegler, Nisan Stiennon, Jeffrey Wu, Tom B. Brown, Alec Radford, Dario Amodei, Paul Christiano, and Geoffrey Irving. Fine-tuning language models from human preferences, 2020. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/1909.08593.
- 718 719

723

724

725

726 727

728 729

735 736

740 741

752

A MATHEMATICAL DERIVATION

722 A.1 PGT LOSS

Our PGT method is based on preference learning with a sequential decision-making process. Our policy is formulated as $\pi(\tau|g)$, meaning the probability of generating trajectory τ under latent goal g. Assume $\tau = (s_t, a_t)_{t=0}^{N-1}$ is a N step trajectory, $\pi(\tau|g)$ can be expanded as:

$$\pi(\tau|g) = \prod_{i=0}^{N-1} \pi(a_i|s_i, g) p(s_{i+1}|s_t, a_t)$$
(3)

Generally, we want to utilize human preference to finetune our policy. Take DPO as an example, "preference" is assumed to be generated by an oracle reward function $r^*(\tau)$, which is inaccessible. $r^*(\tau)$ represents how well trajectory τ performs the task. The better y performs, the higher $r^*(\tau)$ is. Even though we cannot obtain this oracle reward in practice, we can still set it as our objective:

$$\max_{g} \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi(\tau|g)} \left[r^{*}(\tau) \right] - \beta \mathbb{D}_{\mathrm{KL}} \left[\pi(\tau|g) \mid \mid \pi(\tau|g_{\mathrm{ref}}) \right]$$
(4)

Here g is the *latent goal*, which is trainable, and g_{ref} is the initial goal latent. The first term is to maximize the reward, and the second term is to constrain the trained g such that it does not deviate too far from g_{ref} . By applying the same derivation method as DPO, we have:

$$\max_{g} \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi(\tau|g)} \big[r^*(\tau) \big] - \beta \mathbb{D}_{\mathrm{KL}} \big[\pi(\tau|g) \mid\mid \pi(\tau|g_{\mathrm{ref}}) \big]$$
(5)

$$= \max_{g} \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi(\tau|g)} \left[r^*(\tau) - \beta \log \frac{\pi(\tau;g)}{\pi(\tau;g_{\text{ref}})} \right]$$
(6)

$$= \max_{g} \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi(\tau|g)} \Big[\frac{r^*(\tau)}{\beta} - \log \frac{\pi(\tau|g)}{\pi(\tau|g_{\text{ref}})} \Big]$$
(7)

$$= \min_{g} \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi(\tau|g)} \left[-\frac{r^*(\tau)}{\beta} + \log \frac{\pi(\tau|g)}{\pi(\tau|g_{\text{ref}})} \right]$$
(8)

$$= \min_{a} \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi(\tau|g)} \left[\log \frac{\pi(\tau|g)}{\min(r^{*}(\tau)) - (\tau|g)} \right]$$
(9)

$$g = \exp(\frac{r^{-}(\tau)}{\beta})\pi(\tau|g_{\text{ref}})^{-1}$$

$$= \min_{g} \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi(\tau|g)} \left[\log \frac{\pi(\tau|g)}{\frac{1}{Z} \exp(\frac{r^*(\tau)}{\beta}) \pi(\tau|g_{\text{ref}})} - \log Z \right]$$
(10)

(11)

where $Z = \sum_{\tau} \pi(\tau | g_{\text{ref}}) \exp\left(\frac{r^*(\tau)}{\beta}\right)$. We define g^* that satisfied ($r^*(\tau)$) (1)

 π

$$(\tau|g^*) = \frac{\exp(\frac{\tau^*(\tau)}{\beta})\pi(\tau|g_{\text{ref}})}{Z}$$
(12)

The training object becomes:

$$\min_{g} \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi(\tau|g)} \left[\log \frac{\pi(\tau|g)}{\frac{1}{Z} \exp(\frac{r^*(\tau)}{\beta}) \pi(\tau|g_{\text{ref}})} - \log Z \right]$$
(13)

$$= \min_{g} \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi(\tau|g)} \left[\log \frac{\pi(\tau|g)}{\pi(\tau|g^*)} - \log Z \right]$$
(14)

$$= \min_{q} D_{KL}(\pi(\tau|g)) || \pi(\tau|g^*)) - \log Z$$
(15)

So we can obtain closed-form optimal solution:

=

$$\pi(\tau|g) = \pi(\tau|g^*) = \frac{\exp(\frac{r^*(\tau)}{\beta})\pi(\tau|g_{\text{ref}})}{Z}$$
(16)

Consider the Bradly-Terry(BT) model:

$$p(\tau_1 \succ \tau_2) = \frac{\exp(r(\tau_1))}{\exp(r(\tau_1)) + \exp(r(\tau_2))}.$$
(18)

fill Eq. 17 into Eq. 18, we have:

$$p(\tau_1 \succ \tau_2) = \sigma \left(\beta \log \frac{\pi(\tau_1 | g^*)}{\pi(\tau_1 | g_{\text{ref}})} - \beta \log \frac{\pi(\tau_2 | g^*)}{\pi(\tau_2 | g_{\text{ref}})}\right).$$
(19)

786 Decompose τ into factors, filling in equation 3, we can get:

$$\log p(\tau^{(w)} \succ \tau^{(l)}) \tag{20}$$

$$= \log \sigma \left(\beta \sum_{t=1}^{T} \log \frac{\pi(a_t^{(w)} \mid s_t^{(w)}, g^*)}{\pi(a_t^{(w)} \mid s_t^{(w)}, g_{\text{ref}})} - \log \frac{\pi(a_t^{(l)} \mid s_t^{(l)}, g^*)}{\pi(a_t^{(l)} \mid s_t^{(l)}, g_{\text{ref}})} \right).$$
(21)

Finally, our optimization objective becomes:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{PGT}}(g, g_{\text{ref}}) = -\mathbb{E}_{(\tau^{(w)}, \tau^{(l)}) \sim \mathcal{D}} \left[\log \sigma \left(\beta \sum_{t=1}^{T} \log \frac{\pi(a_t^{(w)} \mid s_t^{(w)}, g)}{\pi(a_t^{(w)} \mid s_t^{(w)}, g_{\text{ref}})} - \log \frac{\pi(a_t^{(l)} \mid s_t^{(l)}, g)}{\pi(a_t^{(l)} \mid s_t^{(l)}, g_{\text{ref}})} \right) \right].$$
(22)

q

B EXPERIMENT DETAILS

B.1 MINECRAFT

Minecraft is a popular sandbox game that allows players to freely create and explore their world.
 Since Minecraft is an open-world environment, many recent works have designed agents and con ducted explorations within Minecraft (Johnson et al., 2016). In this work, we conduct experiments
 on 1.16.5 version MineRL (Guss et al., 2019) and MCP-Reborn.

B.2 MINECRAFT SKILLFORGE BENCHMARK

809 Minecraft SkillForge Benchmark is a comprehensive task suite that covers various types of tasks in Minecraft. All tasks are categorized into six major groups:

810 • Collect task: these tasks are designed to evaluate an AI agent's capability in resource ac-811 quisition proficiency and spatial awareness. 812 • Craft task: these tasks are designed to shed light on an AI agent's prowess in item uti-813 lization, the intricacies of Minecraft crafting mechanics, and the nuances of various game 814 mechanic interactions. 815 • Explore task: these tasks are designed to evaluate an AI agent's navigation proficiency, 816 understanding of diverse environments, and intrinsic motivation for exploration. 817 818 • Survive task: these tasks are designed to analyze an AI agent's ability to ensure its survival, 819 adeptness in combat scenarios, and capability to interact with the environment to meet basic 820 needs. 821 Tool task: these tasks are designed to deeply investigate an AI agent's capabilities in tool utilization, precision in tool handling, and contextual application of various tools to carry 823 out specific tasks. 824 Build task: these tasks are devised to evaluate an AI agent's aptitude in structural reasoning, 825 spatial organization, and its capability to interact with and manipulate the environment to create specific structures or outcomes. 827 828 B.3 TASK METRICS AND SELECTION 829 830 For most tasks, the environment logs the rewards when the corresponding objectives are achieved. 831

We define tasks, the environment logs the rewards when the corresponding objectives are achieved. We define tasks with a reward function greater than 0 as successful, and the frequency of successfully completing a task is referred to as the success rate. However, tasks like "collect_wood" "explore_mine" and "survive_plant" have a success rate of over 95% across different agents, and the specific values of the reward function are meaningful, reflecting the agents' capabilities in these tasks, so we use the detailed reward value as the metric.

836 We removed the tasks that are too easy that agents can perform a success rate of 100% while the 837 specific value of the reward is either high enough (e.g. collect_grass) or not meaningful (e.g. sur-838 vive_sleep). Also, to simplify the experiment, We removed the tasks for which the reward function 839 cannot be directly obtained from the game, including subjective tasks (e.g. building tasks) and objec-840 tive tasks where the environment does not log explicit rewards (e.g. craft_smelt). Moreover, mining obsidian is a high requirement for the agent's sensitivity to the objectives, and the agent needs to stay 841 focused on the same goal over extended time steps to perform useful actions; therefore, we consider 842 this task to be quite important and add it to the testing tasks apart from *Minecraft SkillForge*. 843

844 845

846

850

851

852

853

854

855

856

858

859

861

B.4 OUT-OF-DISTRIBUTION SETTINGS

We designed the out-of-distribution (OOD) setting with the goal of preventing the policy from overfitting to the environment and relying on it to dictate behavior. Thus, without altering the core meaning of the tasks, we made the following modifications to create the OOD setting:

- Seed and agent location We change the seed and spawn location in the Minecraft world to perform the same task, and then the initial observation will not be identical to the training set.
- **Biome** We change the biome of the agent while keeping the task solvable. For example, change biome from plains to forest of task tool_pumpkin.
- Tool We modified the auxiliary tools while ensuring the tasks remained solvable. For example, in the survive_hunt, we replaced the iron_sword with diamond_axe.
- **Object location** We change the location of the object that the agent needs to interact with. For example, we changed the position of the stonecutter from being held in the hand to being placed in front of the agent.

For each task, we applied one or more of the aforementioned OOD modifications. It is important to note that the absolute performance in the OOD setting is not directly comparable to the baseline, as the tasks may become either easier or harder in the OOD environment.



⁸⁸¹ Our training hyperparameters are listed in Table 6. We conducted a hyperparameter search on the ⁸⁸² "collect wood" task and used the same set of hyperparameters for all the other tasks. We visualized ⁸⁸³ the performance of the "collect wood" task under different values of β . The result can be seen in ⁸⁸⁴ Fig 6 The results showed similar performance when $\beta \ge 0.2$.

Table 6: Hyperparameters for training.							
Hyperparameter	Value						
Optimizer	Adam						
Learning Rate	1e-2						
β (in DPO)	0.6						
Batch Size	Full Gradient Descent						
Type of GPUs	NVIDIA RTX 4090, A40						
Training Precision	float32						
Data Collection Phase Samples	500						
P-N Samples (each)	150						

C EXPERIMENT RESULTS

C.1 BEHAVIOUR CLONING RESULTS

This baseline employs behavior cloning, trained exclusively on positive samples, without the inclusion of negative data or preference learning. We present results for both tuning soft prompt and the full parameters (Table 1).

C.2 FULL FINE-TUNING RESULTS

We compare the results of our method with full fine-tuning. The latter involves ~100M parameters, while the former only has 512 parameters, which is merely one in hundreds of thousands of the other. We found that in in-distribution settings, the soft prompt method achieves results comparable to those of full fine-tuning. However, in out-of-distribution (OOD) environments, soft prompt tuning outperformed across all tasks. The result can be found in Table 7.

914 C.3 PARAMETER-EFFICIENT FINE-TUNING RESULTS

We conduct parameter-efficient fine-tuning on LoRA (Hu et al., 2021), BitFit (Zaken et al., 2022),
VeRA (Kopiczko et al., 2024), and the result is in Table 8. In fact, all of these parameter counts are significantly larger than those of PGT. and the contrast is shown in Table 9.

Table 7: Comparisons between tuning soft prompt and full fine-tuning. The soft prompt method can
bring better improvements than the counterpart, especially on OOD settings.

Task	In Di	stributi	on (ID)	Out of Distribution (OOD)			
Tusk	Pretrained	Full	Soft prompt	Pretrained	Full	Soft prompt	
collect_wood	3.14	3.46	3.62	3.88	4.04	4.22	
craft_stonecutter	31.0	62.2	44.6	20.0	21.2	23.4	
explore_mine	4.91	6.00	6.58	3.90	4.77	5.38	
tool_pumpkin	48.3	58.4	57.8	16.6	22.2	25.8	
survive_hunt	31.2	39.8	39.8	20.8	21.0	21.6	
obsidian	42.0	62.2	57.2	4.2	6.0	8.2	

Table 8: Parameter efficient fine-tuning result.

Task		In Distribution(ID)					Out of Distribution(OOD)				
14011		LoRA	BitFit	VeRA	PGT		Lora	BitFit	VeRA	PGT	
collect_wo	od	3.47	3.55	3.39	3.62		4.09	3.91	4.16	4.22	
craft_stonec	utter	49.4	48.6	52.2	44.6		19.8	18.0	18.8	23.4	
explore_mi	ne	6.52	5.37	5.76	6.58		5.17	4.42	4.67	5.38	
survive_hu	int	39.8	40.8	42.0	39.8		24.6	25.2	27.4	21.6	
tool_pump	kin	50.4	56.2	52.8	57.8		19.6	20.8	22.4	25.8	
collect_obsid	dian	71.2	55.8	57.8	57.2		10.6	6.2	2.6	8.2	

C.4 CONTINUAL LEARNING RESULTS

All of our continual learning baselines are based on fine-tuning the entire policy model, and the order of tasks for continual learning is as follows: $collect_obsidian(\textcircled{O}) \rightarrow tool pumpkin(\textcircled{O}) \rightarrow craft_crafting_table(\textcircled{O}) \rightarrow explore climb(\textcircled{O})$. We implemented multi-task learning (MTL) (Table 3), naive continual learning (NCL) (Table 10), knowledge distillation (KD)(Table 11), experience replay (ER)(Table 12), and elastic weight consolidation (EWC)(Table 13).

D OTHER PREFERENCE LEARNING ALGORITHMS

Our PGT method consists of data filtering and preference learning. The aforementioned experiments are all based on DPO for convenience, but other preference learning algorithms like IPO (Azar et al., 2024) and SLiC (Zhao et al., 2022; 2023b) are also possible. We experiment with IPO and SLiC¹ on the *goal latent representation* on several tasks and the results are listed in 14. It can be observed that both DPO and IPO improve task performance across different environments. Different tasks are suited to different algorithms (which may also be related to hyperparameters), but performance almost consistently improves after PGT, and a *goal latent representation* with just 512-dimensional parameters is sufficient.

¹We choose **rank** calibration loss and **cross entropy** regularization loss, which is the same as SLiC-HF.

Table 9: The number of trainable parameters in full fine-tuning, PGT and other baselines.

	Full	LoRA	BitFit	VeRA	PGT
# Parameters	86M	393K	80K	15K	512

Table 10: CL: naive continual learning. The task names in the first row represent the model trained up to the current task during sequential training (with both the pretrained model and PGT used as references); the task names in the first column represent the test results on each task. For brevity, craft_crafting_table is abbreviated as craft_table. To reduce human annotation costs, we do not test the results of explore_climb, but use it solely as a step in the training process. It is employed to examine the impact of later tasks on earlier ones during sequential training. The same principle applies to the subsequent tables on continual learning.

Task	collect_obsidian	tool_pumpkin	craft_table	explore_climb	Pretrained	PGT	
collect_obsidian	6.0	4.6	7.0	6.8	4.2	8.2	
tool_pumpkin		23.6	24.2	20.4	16.6	25.8	
craft_table			5.2	7.0	6.0	18.4	

Table 11: CL: knowledge distillation

Task	collect_obsidian	tool_pumpkin	craft_table	explore_climb	Pretrained	PGT
collect_obsidian	6.0	5.2	6.6	5.4	4.2	8.2
tool_pumpkin		24.6	23.4	20.6	16.6	25.8
craft_table			7.6	5.8	6.0	18.4

Table 12: CL: experience replay

Task	collect_obsidian	tool_pumpkin	craft_table	explore_climb	Pretrained	PGT
collect_obsidian	6.0	6.6	5.0	6.0	4.2	8.2
tool_pumpkin		22.8	21.8	25.0	16.6	25.8
craft_table			5.2	9.0	6.0	18.4

Table 13: CL: elastic weight consolidation

Task	collect_obsidian	tool_pumpkin	craft_table	explore_climb	Pretrained	PGT
collect_obsidian	6.0	8.2	5.4	5.4	4.2	8.2
tool_pumpkin		23.6	24.0	23.8	16.6	25.8
craft_table			5.0	7.4	6.0	18.4

Table 14: PGT with another preference learning algorithm - IPO and SLiC, on GROOT.

Task	In Distribution(ID)			Out of Distribution(OOD)				
rusk	Pretrained	DPO	IPO	SLiC	Pretrained	DPO	IPO	SLiC
collect_wood	3.14	3.62	3.37	3.24	3.88	4.22	3.99	4.00
craft_stonecutter	31.0	44.6	42.0	37.0	20.0	23.4	23.0	25.6
explore_mine	4.91	6.58	5.44	6.34	3.90	5.38	4.70	5.29
survive_hunt	31.2	39.8	40.6	43.0	20.8	21.6	32.8	24.4
tool_pumpkin	48.3	57.8	62.2	60.6	16.6	25.8	30.6	27.6
collect_obsidian	42.0	57.2	50.4	34.4	4.2	8.2	4.8	3.4