Coupled and Model-based cooperative planning in Author: Nils van Veen (N.vanVeen-3@student.tudelft.nl) Overcooked AI



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1. Background

- **Overcooked AI**: Simplified version of Overcooked [1] to simulate collaborative tasks.
- Coupled planning (CP) with replanning: Compute (near-)optimal joint & re-plan route.
- Model based planning: Compute (near-)optimal decision based on learned human model.

2. Research Question & Goals

What are the strengths and weaknesses of coupled planning with replanning as a solution to the ad-hoc teamwork problem?

- Reproduce results for CP and Model-based planning from [2].
- Improve upon the obtained results for CP with a specific focus on adapting to human behaviour.

3. Methodology

- Run existing planning experiments in Overcooked AI on a subset (%: Figure 2) of the experiment layouts:
- 1. **Cramped room**: Tests the ability of how an agent can optimize the result, while colliding easily.
- 2. Asymmetric Advantages: Tests whether players can choose high-level strategies to play to their strength.
- Compare results (Figure 1) with original paper [2].
- Change how Coupled failures are handled in CP to create and evaluate CPx.

CP: Coupled planning with replanning.

CPx: Improved Coupled planning with replanning. **PHProxv**: Model-based planning with respect to a true human model.

PBC: Model-based planning with BC (Behavioural Cloning).

HProxy: Human proxy = "simulated" human model [2].









Figure 1: (a) Performances obtained on Asymmetric Advantages. (b) Performances obtained on Cramped Room (c) Collision failures on Cramped Room. *x*-axis: Planning configuration - steps * multiplication - runs R. Higher *Average reward per episode* and lower *Average failure per episode* is better.



Figure 2: Cramped Room (failure cases 1 & 2) and Asymmetric Advantages, fITR .

5. Conclusions

- **CP+CP**: Better self-play performance than reinforcement learning. Matches original [2] results.
- PHProxy+ HProxy & PBC+HProxy: Matches original [2] results.
- **CP** + **HProxy**: Inconsistent results, due to collision failures. Matches original [2] results.
- Extrapolation suboptimality: Evaluation on 100 step horizon multiplied by 4 is less than evaluation on 400 step horizon.
- Collision failures: Blocking agents, impossible moves. See Figure 2, failure cases.
- **Reduce Collision failures**: Deviate from optimal play by walking into the opposite direction, let the human solve problem.

6. Future Work

- Add position states and orientations to CP.
- Combine ATPO [3] with Coupled Failures.
- Use statistics from [4] to predict whether human understands collision and switch agent roles accordingly.

7. References

1] G.T.Games, Overcooked, https://ghosttowngames.com/overcooked/, Published: 2016.

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