## Strategic Knowledge Transfer

Max Olan Smith, Thomas Anthony, Michael P. Wellman Journal of Machine Learning Research, 24(233), 2023.



- Games can be solved through empirical game models by proxy. - Models are built by alternating game-reasoning and strategy exploration.

Strategy Exploration



- Strategy Exploration: compute best-responses to current solution.
- Complex games make computing best-responses intractable.
- Reinforcement learning can be used to compute approximate responses.



#### This Work

- Problem: reinforcement learned policies require lots of data to train.
- Data can be expensive to collect (e.g., human interactions / simulation).
- Experiential Cost: amount of data used to train policies.
- Game modelling computes a series of policies, each with high cost.





- Solution: strategy exploration methods that utilize transfer learning.



- Idea: average Q-values following belief over opponents.



Opponent Strategy Sorted by Response Performance







ΒR Pure Strategy

<u>aaa</u>

Prior: use opponent distribution as likelihood.  $\psi_i(\pi_{-i} \mid \sigma_{-i})$ 

OPC: use evidence during play to inform likelihood.  $\psi_i(\pi_{-i} \mid o_i, \sigma_{-i})$ 

# Reduce data costs of game learning by transferring value functions from previously learned policies.

### Mixed-Oracles

- Insight: each player adds one new policy.







#### Mixed-Opponents





- Idea: learn best-response to new policy, and transfer the rest.

- Insight: aggregate opponent policies using Q-Mixing. - Discovery strategically important policies faster, train less policies overall. - Consider each policy's value for all actions, giving rise to unique policy.







Running With Scissors

