



# Rethinking Goal-conditioned Supervised Learning and Its Connection to Offline RL

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# Background

- Goal-conditioned RL (GCRL) encourages agents to reach multiple goals and learn general policies

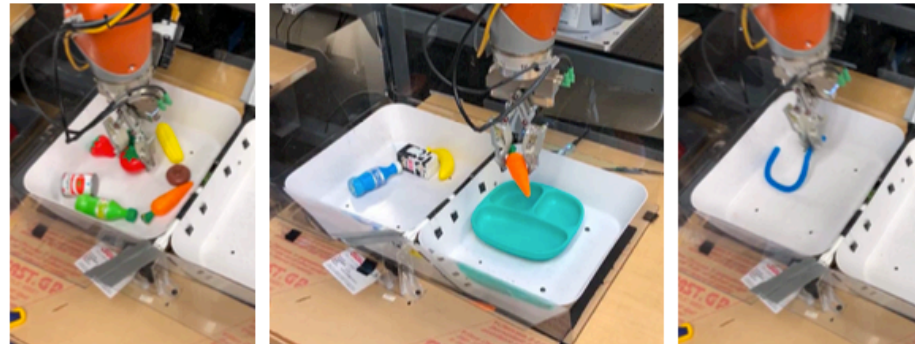


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- Goal-conditioned RL (GCRL) encourages agents to reach multiple goals and learn general policies



- Current GCRL algorithms require intense online interactions (dangerous & expensive)

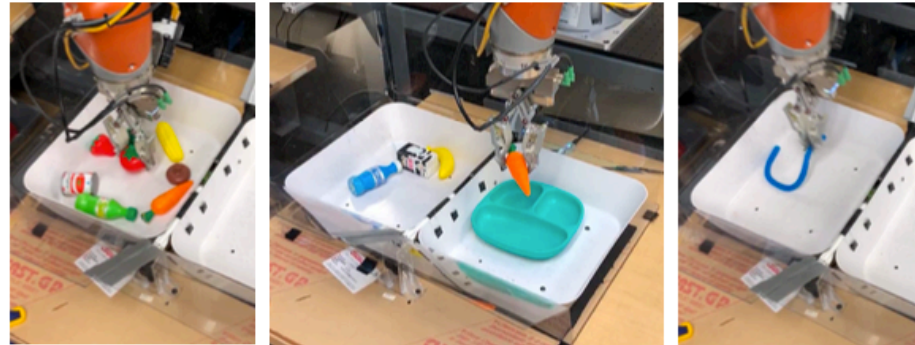


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- Current GCRL algorithms require intense online interactions (dangerous & expensive)



- Solution: learning goal-conditioned policies from offline datasets

# Formulation

- Offline Goal-conditioned RL (GCRL)
- Goal-augmented MDP:  $(S, A, \mathbf{G}, P, r, \gamma)$
- State-to-goal mapping  $\phi: S \rightarrow \mathbf{G}$ ,

# Formulation

- Offline Goal-conditioned RL (GCRL)

- Goal-augmented MDP:  $(S, A, \mathbf{G}, P, r, \gamma)$

- State-to-goal mapping  $\phi: S \rightarrow \mathbf{G}$ ,

- Reward function: 
$$r(s_t, a_t, g) = \begin{cases} 1, & \|\phi(s_t) - g\|_2^2 \leq \epsilon \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

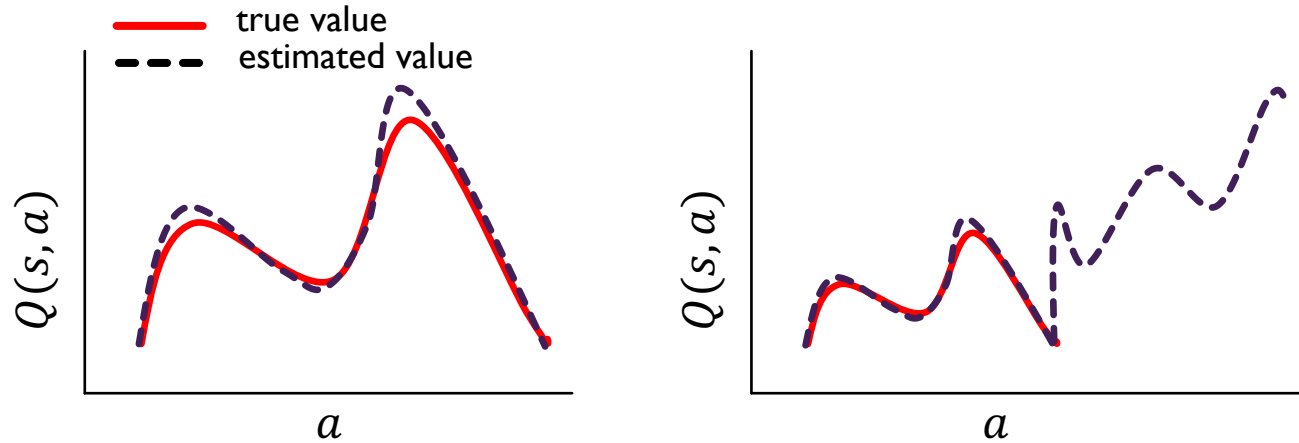
- Objective: learning goal-conditioned policies from offline dataset  $D = \{(s_t, a_t, g, r_t)\}$  to maximize

$$J(\pi) = E_{s_0, g, \pi} [\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r(s_{t+k}, a_{t+k}, g)]$$

# Challenges

- Distribution Shift

- Learning with offline dataset  $\mathcal{D}$  only guarantees predictions on the data distribution



- Overestimation on OOD actions

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{B}^\pi Q(s, a) &= r(s, a) + \gamma \mathbb{E}_{p(s'|s, a)} [\mathbb{E}_{\pi(a'|s')} [Q^\pi(s', a')]] \\ \pi &= \arg \max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{s \sim D, \pi(a|s)} [Q(s, a)] \end{aligned}$$

# Challenges

## ■ Generalization

- GCRL needs to reach multiple goals rather than overfitting to a single one

## ■ Multi-modality

- In the offline dataset, there are generally multiple valid trajectories from a state to a goal, which may hinder learning a good policy

## ■ Sparse Reward

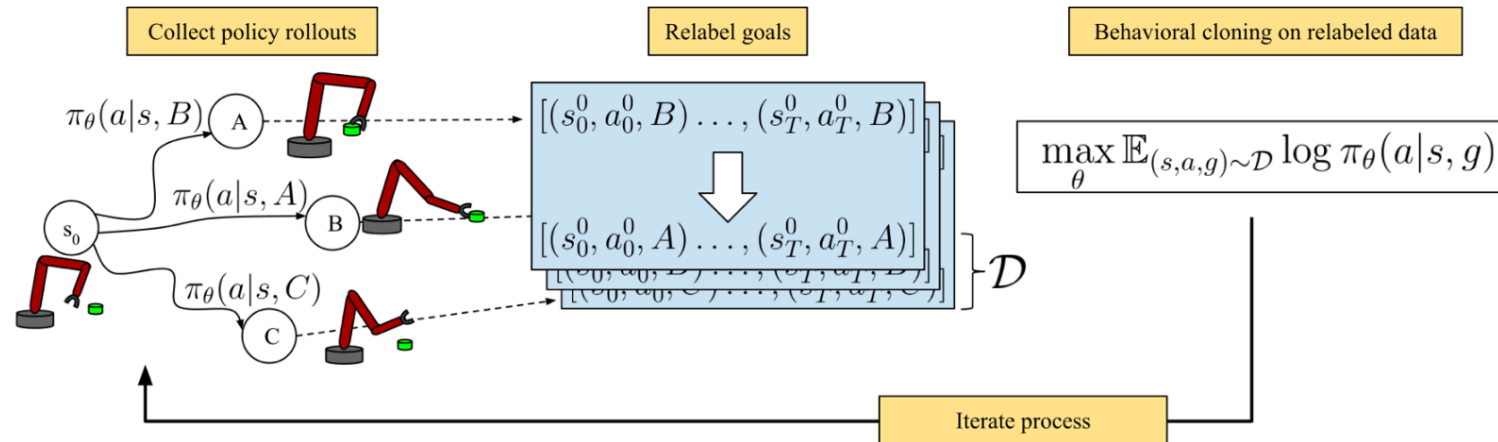
- When the data is collected by random policy, there is little learning information for offline GCRL



# Solving Offline GCRL via Supervised Learning

- Goal-conditioned Supervised Learning (GCSL)
  - Relabeling data similar to Hindsight Experience Replay
  - Imitation learning on relabeled data

$$J_{GCSL}(\pi) = \mathbb{E}_{(s_t, a_t, \phi(s_i)) \sim D_{relabel}} [\log \pi(a_t | s_t, \phi(s_i))]$$



# Revisiting GCSL

- GCSL alleviates OOD actions and sparse rewards naturally

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- But GCSL only considers the last-step reward and weights all relabeled transitions equally

$$\mathbb{E}[\log \pi(a | s, g')] \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathbb{E}[r(s_T, a_T, g)]$$

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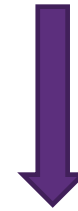
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$$\mathbb{E}[\log \pi(a | s, g')]$$



$$\mathbb{E}[r(s_T, a_T, g)]$$

- We tackle this problem via weighted supervised learning



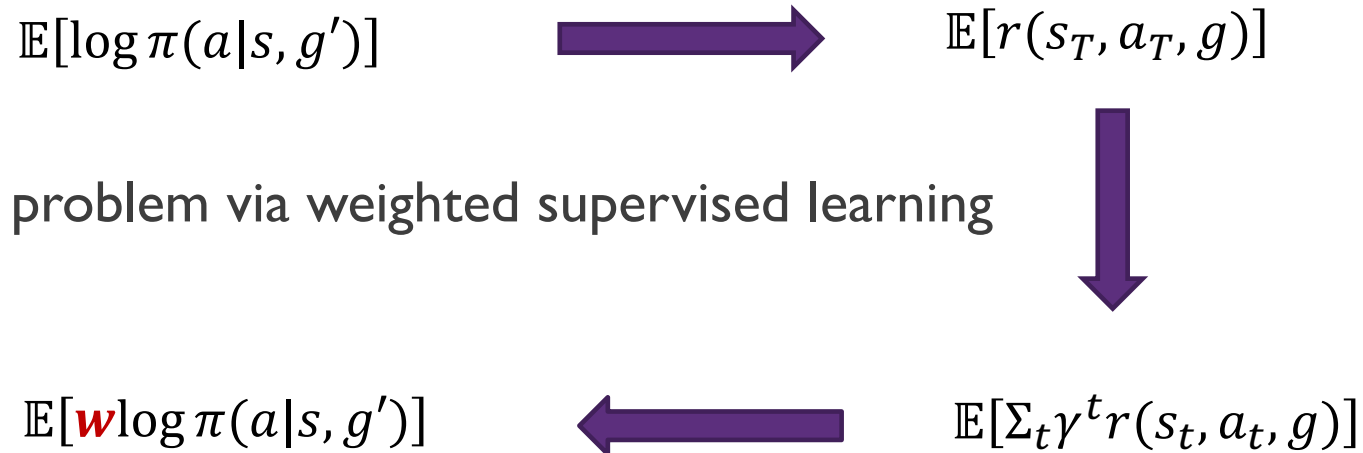
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# Algorithm

- Weighted Goal-conditioned Supervised Learning (WGCSL)

$$J_{WGCSL}(\pi) = E_{g \sim p(g), \tau \sim \pi_b(\cdot|g), t \sim [0, T], i \sim [t, T]} [w_{i,t} \log \pi_{\theta}(a_t | s_t, \phi(s_i))]$$

- $w_{i,t}$  includes 3 parts:

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- $w_{i,t}$  includes 3 parts:

- ① Discounted Relabeling Weight (DRW):  $\gamma^{i-t}$

**Theorem 1.** Assume a finite-horizon discrete MDP, a stochastic discrete policy  $\pi$  which selects actions with non-zero probability and a sparse reward function  $r(s_t, a_t, g) = 1[\phi(s_t) = g]$ , where  $\phi$  is the state-to-goal mapping and  $1[\phi(s_t) = g]$  is an indicator function. Given trajectories  $\tau = (s_1, a_1, \dots, s_T, a_T)$  and discount factor  $\gamma \in (0, 1]$ , let the weight  $w_{t,i} = \gamma^{i-t}$ ,  $t \in [1, T]$ ,  $i \in [t, T]$ , then the following bounds hold:

$$J_{surr}(\pi) \geq T \cdot J_{WGCSL}(\pi) \geq T \cdot J_{GCSL}(\pi),$$

where  $J_{surr}(\pi) = \frac{1}{T} \mathbb{E}_{g \sim p(g), \tau \sim \pi_b(\cdot|g)} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^T \log \pi(a_t | s_t, g) \sum_{i=t}^T \gamma^{i-1} \cdot 1[\phi(s_i) = g] \right]$  is a surrogate function of  $J(\pi)$ .

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- $w_{i,t}$  includes 3 parts:

① Discounted Relabeling Weight (DRW):  $\gamma^{i-t}$

② Goal-conditioned Exponential Advantage Weight (GEAW):  $\exp_{clip} \left( A(s_t, a_t, \phi(s_i)) \right)$

Exponential advantage weight is a commonly used technique in offline RL

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_{k+1} = \arg \max_{\pi \in \Pi} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a} \sim \pi(\cdot|\mathbf{s})} [A^{\pi_k}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})] \\ \text{s.t. } D_{\text{KL}}(\pi(\cdot|\mathbf{s}) || \pi_{\beta}(\cdot|\mathbf{s})) \leq \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$



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② Goal-conditioned Exponential Advantage Weight (GEAW):  $\exp_{clip} \left( A(s_t, a_t, \phi(s_i)) \right)$

③ Best-Advantage Weight (BAW):  $\epsilon \left( A(s_t, a_t, \phi(s_i)) \right) = \begin{cases} 1, & A(s_t, a_t, \phi(s_i)) > \hat{A} \\ \epsilon_{min}, & otherwise \end{cases}$

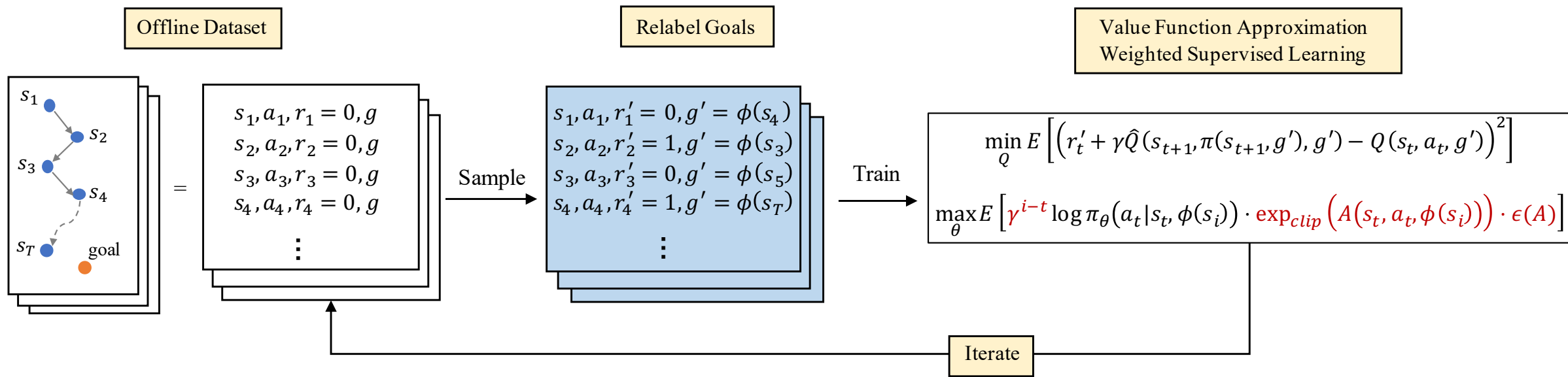
BAW selects the data to alleviate the multi-modality problem

In our implementation,  $\epsilon_{min} = 0.05$

Curriculum learning:  $\hat{A}$  is set as  $N$  percentile of advantage values,  $N$  gradually increases from 0 to 80

# Algorithm

## ■ Weighted Goal-conditioned Supervised Learning (WGCSL)



# Experiments

- Experimental Settings
  - Ten sparse reward goal-conditioned tasks
  - Offline datasets are collected by online-trained HER agents (namely ‘expert’) and random policy (‘random’)
  - $2 \times 10^6$  transitions for 4 harder tasks and  $1 \times 10^5$  for others

Data Set	PointReach	PointRooms	Reacher	SawyerReach	SawyerDoor
Random	1.33	1.32	1.25	2.26	4.30
Expert	32.22	29.11	27.56	30.93	27.01
Data Set	FetchReach	FetchPush	FetchSlide	FetchPick	HandReach
Random	0.71	3.19	0.16	1.76	0.00
Expert	36.69	31.35	1.58	17.44	0.50

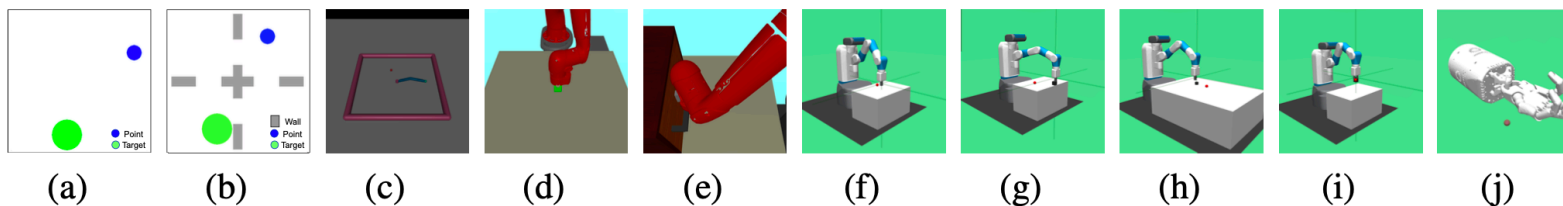
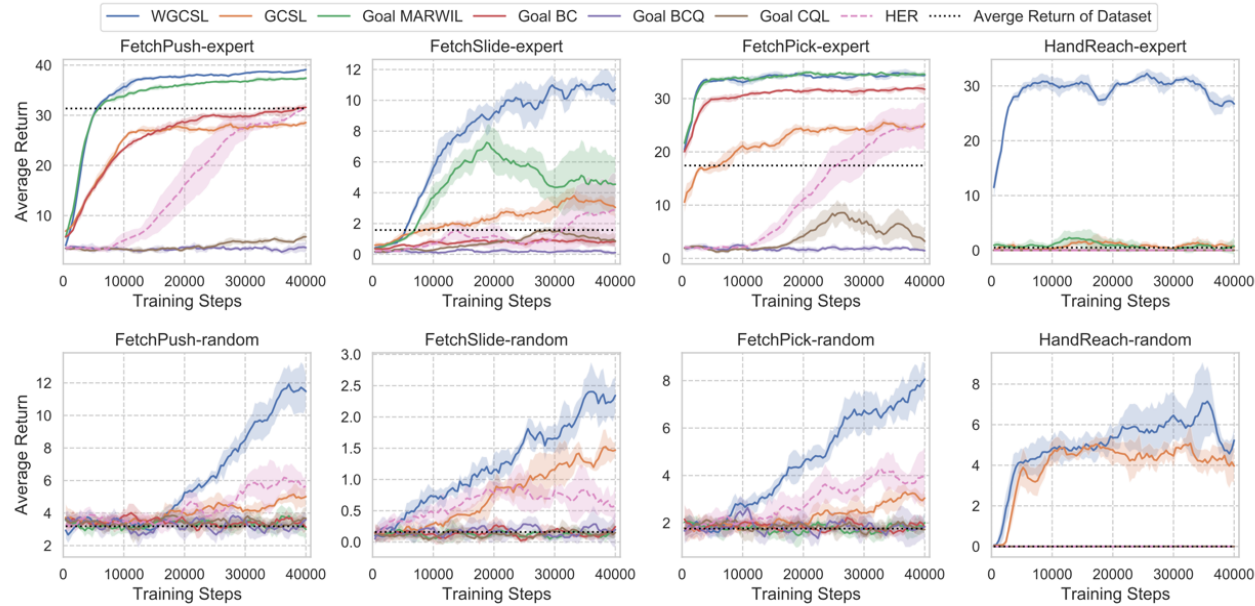


Figure 3: Goal-conditioned tasks: (a) PointReach, (b) PointRooms, (c) Reacher, (d) SawyerReach, (e) SawyerDoor, (f) FetchReach, (g) FetchPush, (h) FetchSlide, (i) FetchPick, (j) HandReach.

# Experiments

## Experiment Results

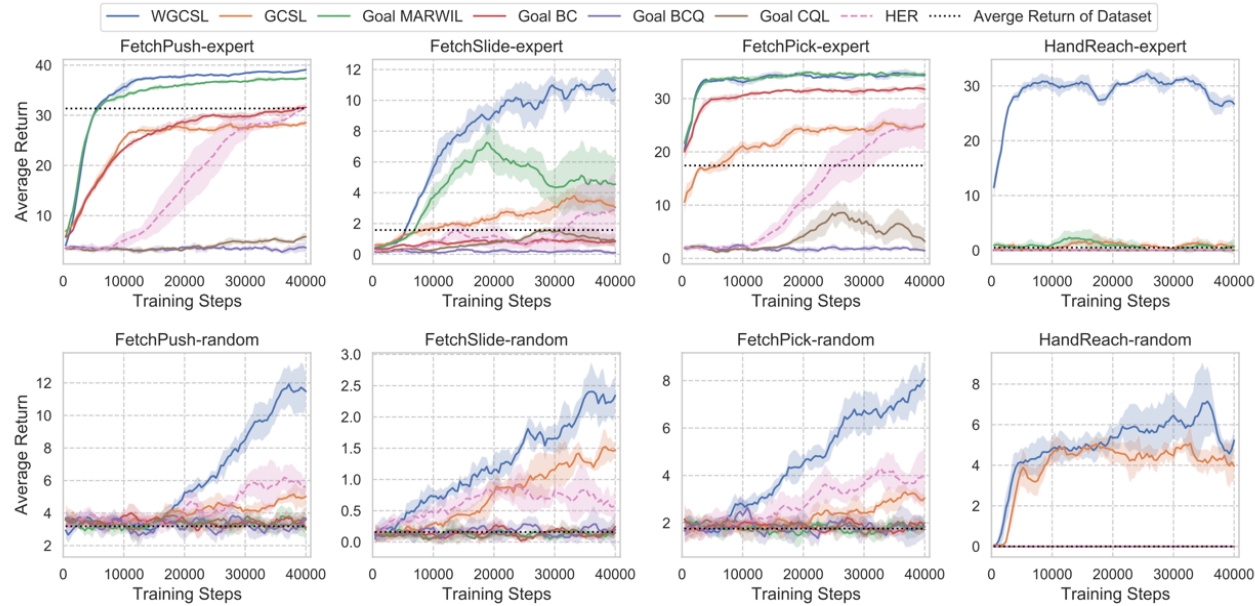


Task Name	WGCSL	GCSL	g-MARWIL	g-BC	g-BCQ	g-CQL	HER
PointReach-e	<b>44.40</b> $\pm 0.14$	39.27 $\pm 0.48$	<b>42.95</b> $\pm 0.15$	39.36 $\pm 0.48$	40.42 $\pm 0.57$	39.75 $\pm 0.33$	24.68 $\pm 7.07$
PointRooms-e	<b>36.15</b> $\pm 0.85$	33.05 $\pm 0.54$	<b>36.02</b> $\pm 0.57$	33.17 $\pm 0.52$	32.37 $\pm 1.77$	30.05 $\pm 0.38$	12.41 $\pm 8.59$
Reacher-e	<b>40.57</b> $\pm 0.20$	36.42 $\pm 0.30$	38.89 $\pm 0.17$	35.72 $\pm 0.37$	39.57 $\pm 0.08$	<b>42.23</b> $\pm 0.12$	8.27 $\pm 4.33$
SawyerReach-e	<b>40.12</b> $\pm 0.29$	33.65 $\pm 0.38$	37.42 $\pm 0.31$	32.91 $\pm 0.31$	<b>39.49</b> $\pm 0.33$	19.33 $\pm 0.45$	26.48 $\pm 6.23$
SawyerDoor-e	42.81 $\pm 0.23$	35.67 $\pm 0.09$	40.03 $\pm 0.16$	35.03 $\pm 0.20$	40.13 $\pm 0.75$	<b>45.86</b> $\pm 0.11$	<b>44.09</b> $\pm 0.65$
FetchReach-e	<b>46.33</b> $\pm 0.04$	41.72 $\pm 0.31$	<b>45.01</b> $\pm 0.11$	42.03 $\pm 0.25$	35.18 $\pm 3.09$	1.03 $\pm 0.26$	<b>46.73</b> $\pm 0.14$
FetchPush-e	<b>39.11</b> $\pm 0.17$	28.56 $\pm 0.96$	<b>37.42</b> $\pm 0.22$	31.56 $\pm 0.61$	3.62 $\pm 0.96$	5.76 $\pm 0.83$	31.53 $\pm 0.47$
FetchSlide-e	<b>10.73</b> $\pm 1.09$	3.05 $\pm 0.62$	4.55 $\pm 1.79$	0.84 $\pm 0.35$	0.12 $\pm 0.10$	0.86 $\pm 0.38$	2.86 $\pm 2.40$
FetchPick-e	<b>34.37</b> $\pm 0.51$	25.22 $\pm 0.85$	<b>34.56</b> $\pm 0.54$	31.75 $\pm 1.19$	1.46 $\pm 0.29$	3.23 $\pm 2.52$	24.79 $\pm 4.49$
HandReach-e	<b>26.73</b> $\pm 1.20$	0.57 $\pm 0.68$	0.81 $\pm 1.59$	0.06 $\pm 0.03$	0.04 $\pm 0.04$	0.00 $\pm 0.00$	0.05 $\pm 0.07$
PointReach-r	<b>44.30</b> $\pm 0.24$	30.80 $\pm 1.74$	7.67 $\pm 1.97$	1.37 $\pm 0.09$	1.78 $\pm 0.14$	1.52 $\pm 0.26$	<b>45.17</b> $\pm 0.13$
PointRooms-r	<b>35.52</b> $\pm 0.80$	24.10 $\pm 0.81$	4.67 $\pm 0.80$	1.43 $\pm 0.18$	1.61 $\pm 0.17$	1.29 $\pm 0.37$	<b>36.16</b> $\pm 1.16$
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SawyerReach-r	<b>41.05</b> $\pm 0.19$	14.86 $\pm 3.27$	11.30 $\pm 2.12$	0.58 $\pm 0.21$	1.36 $\pm 0.14$	1.18 $\pm 0.29$	<b>39.27</b> $\pm 2.16$
SawyerDoor-r	<b>36.82</b> $\pm 3.20$	25.86 $\pm 1.12$	25.33 $\pm 1.46$	3.73 $\pm 0.83$	9.82 $\pm 1.08$	4.36 $\pm 0.86$	28.85 $\pm 1.99$
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- WGCSL outperforms other baselines consistently

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## Experiment Results

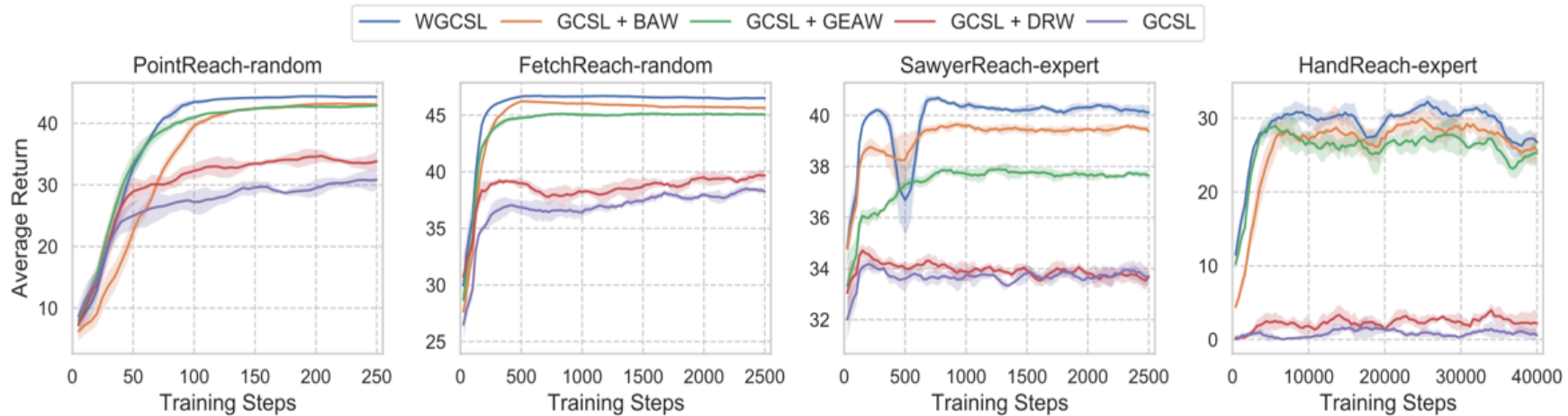


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- WGCSL can even learn reasonable policies from random datasets

# Experiments

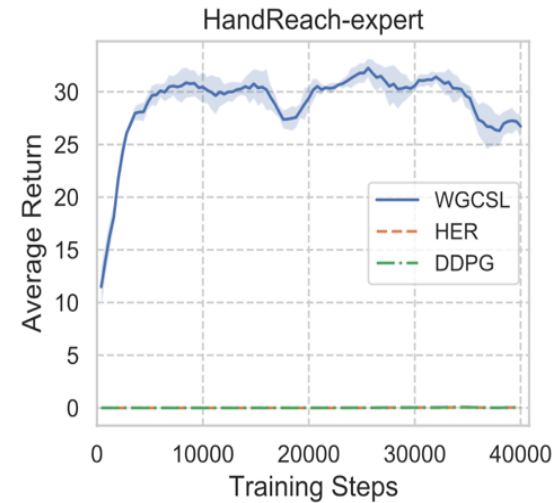
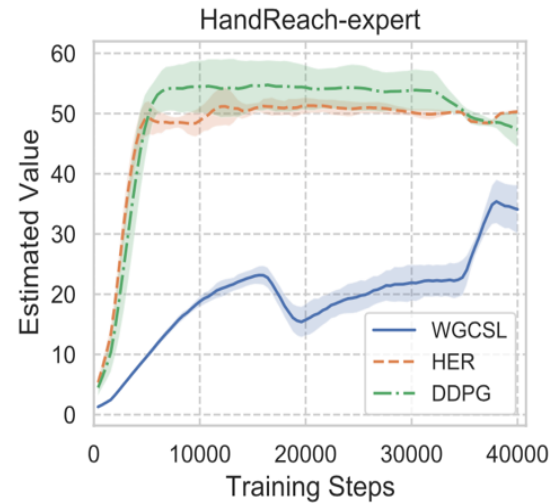
## ■ Ablation Studies



- BAW, GEAW, DRW are all effective on top of GCSL
- Learned policy can be improved by combining all three weights.

# Experiments

## ■ Value Estimation



- DDPG and HER exhibit large estimated values
- WGCSL has a more robust value approximation

# Summary

- We propose WGCSL, a weighted supervised learning method for offline goal-conditioned RL
- We provide a benchmark and offline datasets
- WGCSL outperforms current approaches significantly in learning efficiency and performance



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- We propose WGCSL, a weighted supervised learning method for offline goal-conditioned RL
- We provide a benchmark and offline datasets
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Please refer to our paper for more details and analysis of our method

Website



Paper

