

CMPT 983

Grounded Natural Language Understanding

March 16, 2022

Instruction following for Visual Language Navigation

Task

Instruction-guided Visual Navigation

Instruction-guided Visual Navigation



Leave the bedroom, and enter the kitchen. Walk forward, and take a left at the couch. Stop in front of the window.

Instruction-guided Visual Navigation

Major Settings

Vision-and-Language Navigation

- Indoor environments from the Matterport3D dataset + human directions
- Vision-and-Language Navigation: Interpreting visually-grounded navigation instructions in real environments arxiv.org/abs/1711.07280

StreetLearn

- Google Street View + Google Maps directions
- The StreetLearn Environment and Dataset arxiv.org/abs/1903.01292
- Learning To Follow Directions in Street View arxiv.org/abs/1903.00401
- Touchdown: Natural Language Navigation and Spatial Reasoning in Visual Street Environments arxiv.org/abs/1811.12354

LANI

- Simulated quadcopter in an open environment with landmark objects
- Mapping Navigation Instructions to Continuous Control Actions with Position-Visitation Prediction arxiv.org/abs/1811.04179

Vision-and-Language Navigation (VLN)

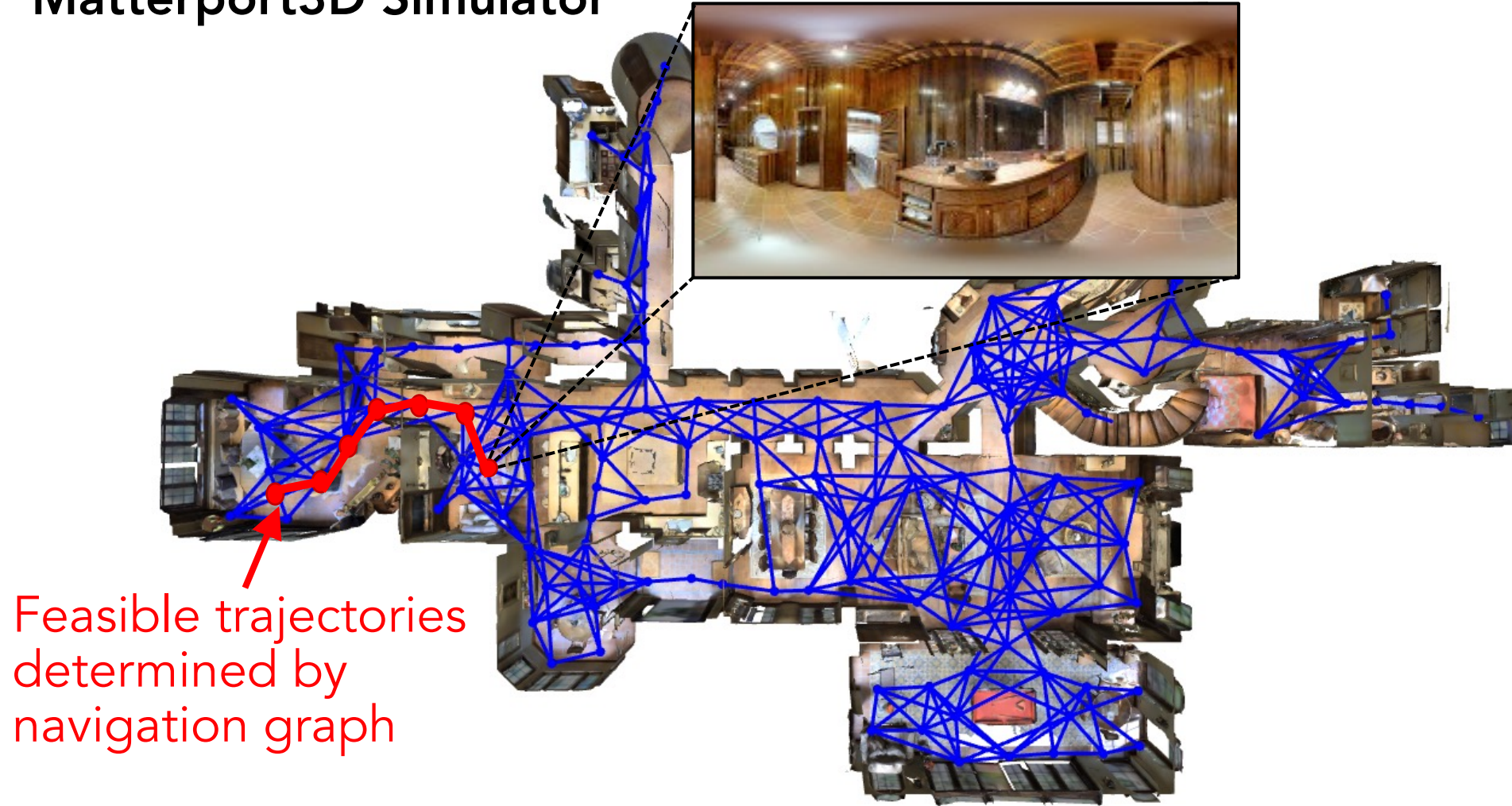
Matterport3D Simulator

- Simulator based on Matterport3D dataset (Chang et. al. 2017)
- Contains 10,800 panoramic images / 90 buildings
- High visual diversity



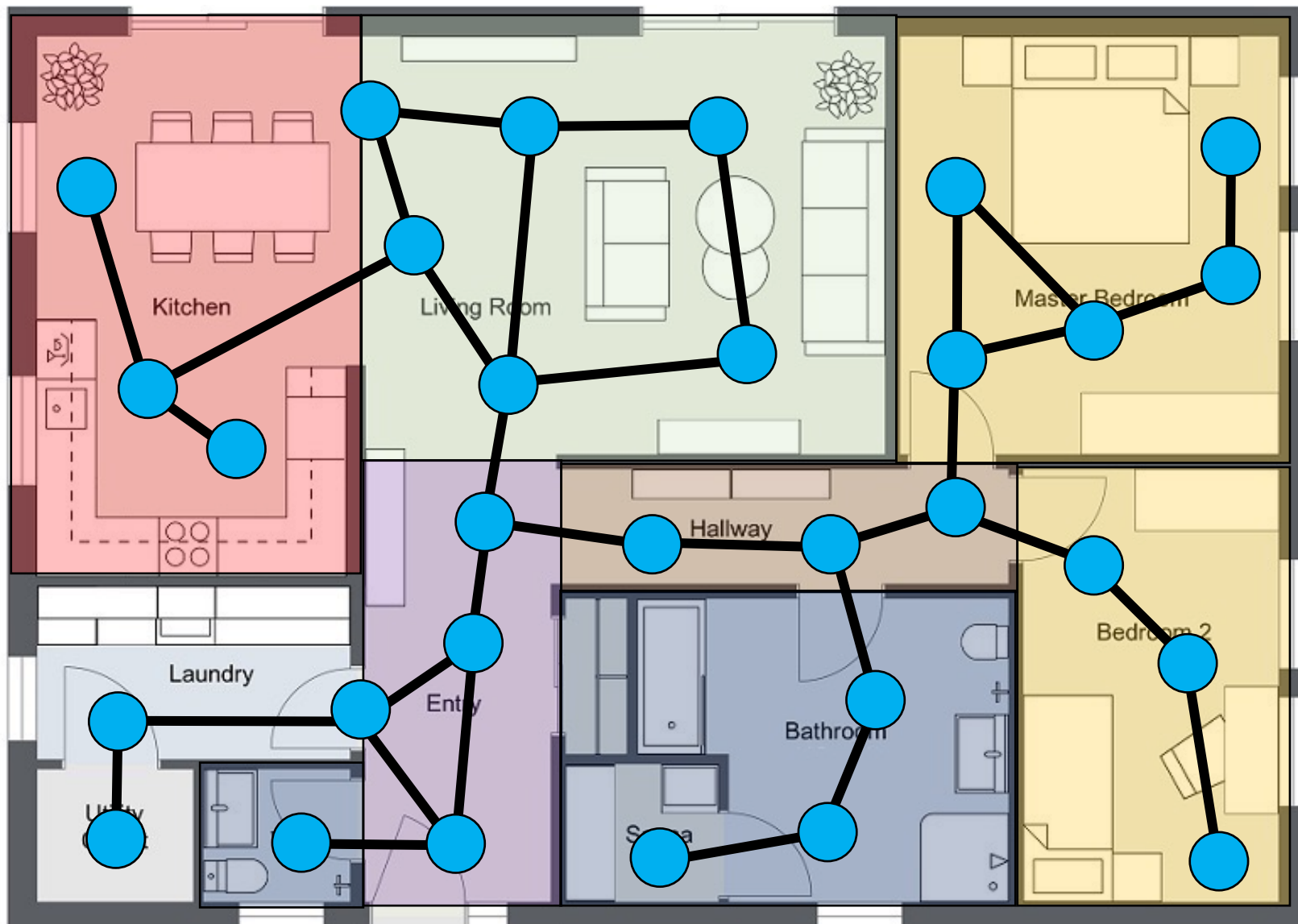
Vision-and-Language Navigation (VLN)

Matterport3D Simulator



Vision-and-language Navigation (VLN)
Room2Room Dataset

VLN: Room2Room Dataset



Nodes

- Panoramas
- 117 on average

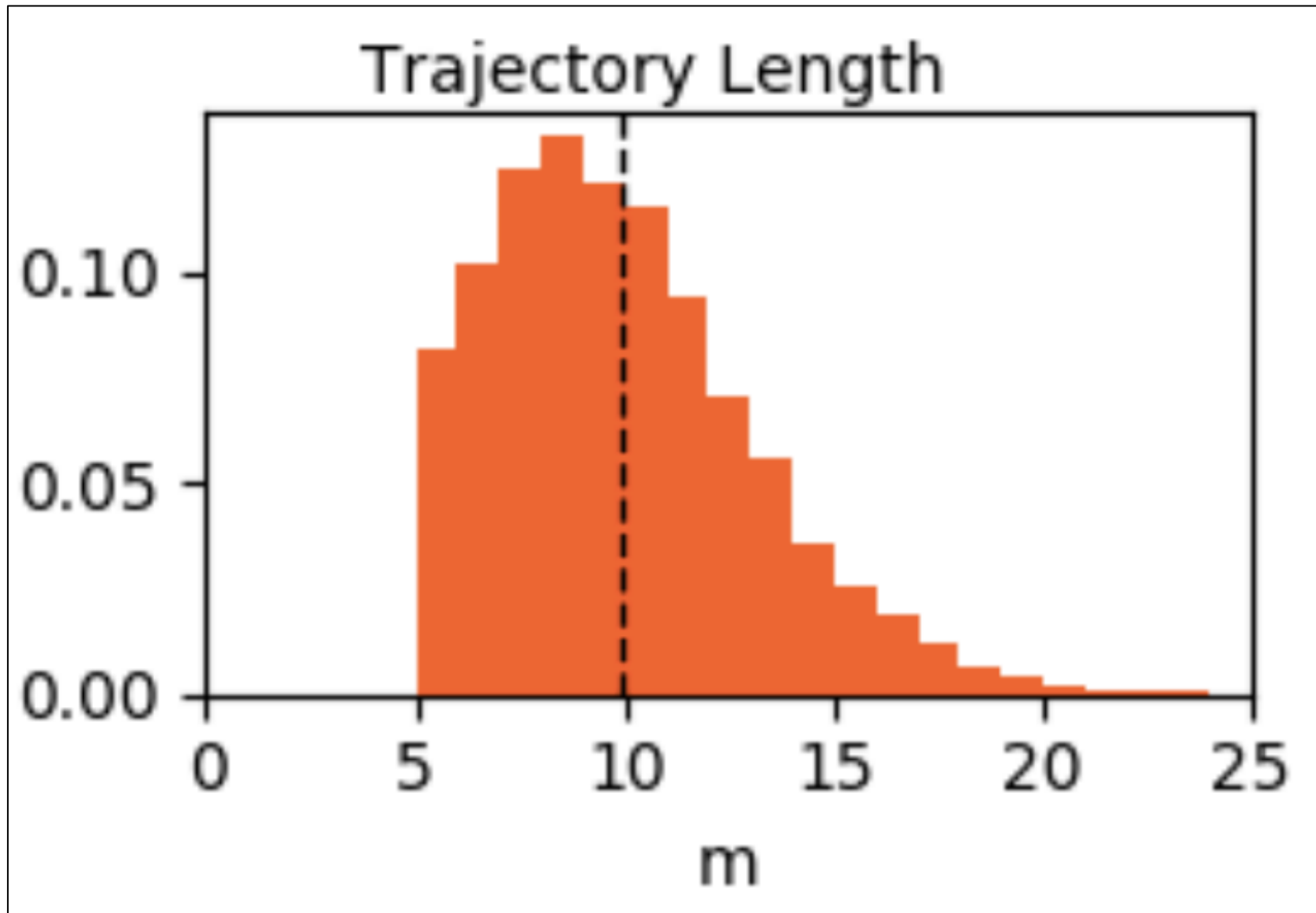
Edges:

- Checks for clear ray-trace between nodes in the full mesh
- < 5 meters apart
- Manual cleaning
- Average degree 4.1

Paths:

- Two different rooms
- > 5 meters paths
- 4-6 edges

VLN: Room2Room Dataset



Nodes

- Panoramas
- 117 on average

Edges:

- Checks for clear ray-trace between nodes in the full mesh
- < 5 meters apart
- Manual cleaning
- Average degree 4.1

Paths:

- Two different rooms
- > 5 meters paths
- 4-6 edges

VLN: Room2Room Dataset

Instructions: Give A Smart Robot Directions (Click to expand)



Left-click and drag the panoramic image to start.
Instructions have been updated from the first batch
(please re-read).

Write your Directions here (with correct spelling and punctuation):

Play / Replay

Submit

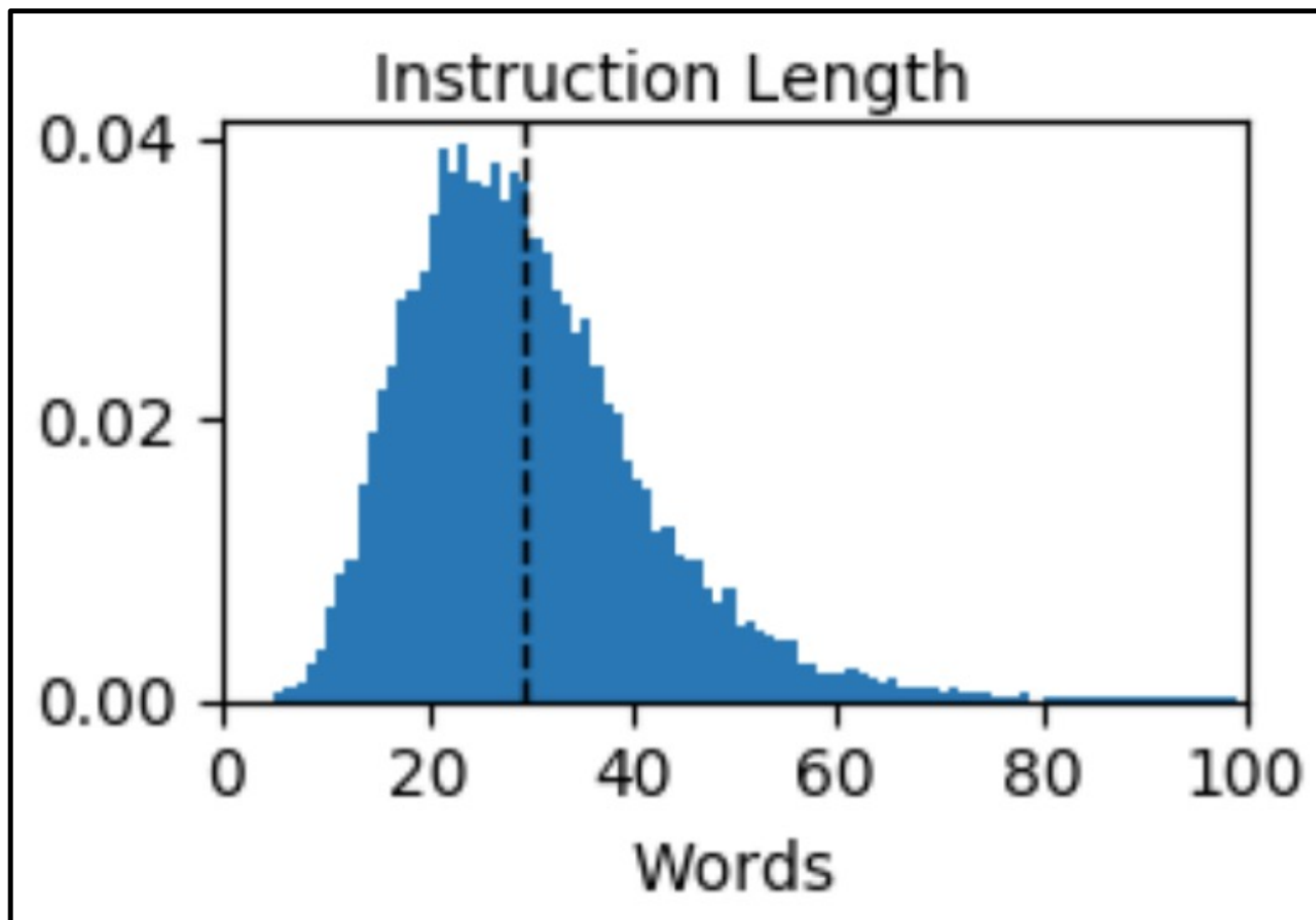
Annotation Task:

- Given a fly-through and pan/tilt controls, give natural language instruction to get to goal
- 3 workers per trajectory

Amazon Mechanical Turk:

- >400 US-based workers with strong HIT history
- 1600 hours of effort
- 21,567 instructions

VLN: Room2Room Dataset



Annotation Task:

- Given a fly-through and pan/tilt controls, give natural language instruction to get to goal
- 3 workers per trajectory

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- >400 US-based workers with strong HIT history
- 1600 hours of effort
- 21,567 instructions

VLN: Room2Room Dataset

Instruction for same trajectory:

- Go past the ovens and the counter and wait just before you go outside.
- Walk through the kitchen towards the living room. Walk around the island and step onto the patio near the two chairs and stop in the patio doorway.
- Exit the kitchen by walking past the ovens and then head right, stopping just at the doorway leading to the patio outside.

VLN: Room2Room Dataset

Instruction for same trajectory:

- Turn and enter the living room area. Go past the table and sofas and stop in the foyer in front of the front door.
- Turn around and exit the room. Walk around the sofa and enter the hallway. Wait by the side table.
- Exit the room through the doorway nearest you, and continue into the adjacent room, exiting the room via the exit to your left.

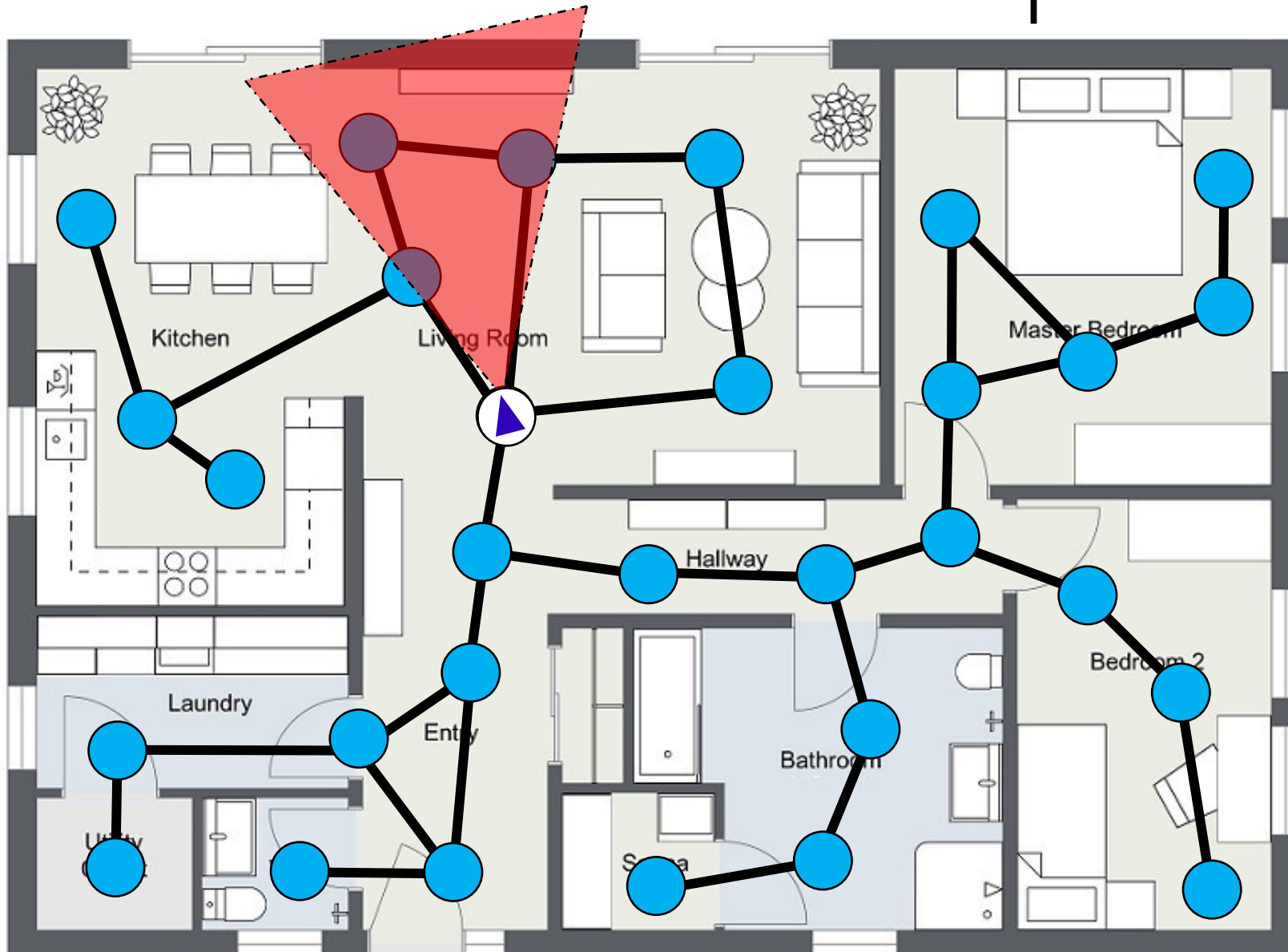
VLN: Room2Room Dataset

Instruction for same trajectory:

- Walk along the insulated bare walls towards the window ahead in the next room. Walk through the unfinished room and through the door on the other side of the room that leads to a finished hallway. Walk into the first open door in the hall that leads to a bedroom with photo art on the wall near the entrance of classic black and white scenes.
- Walk forward past the window then turn right and enter the hallway. Enter the first bedroom on your right. wait near the bed.
- Walk forward and take a right. Enter the hallway through the door on the right. Take the first left into a bedroom. Stop once you are in the bedroom.

Vision-and-language Navigation (VLN) State and Action Space

VLN: State and Action Space



Agent

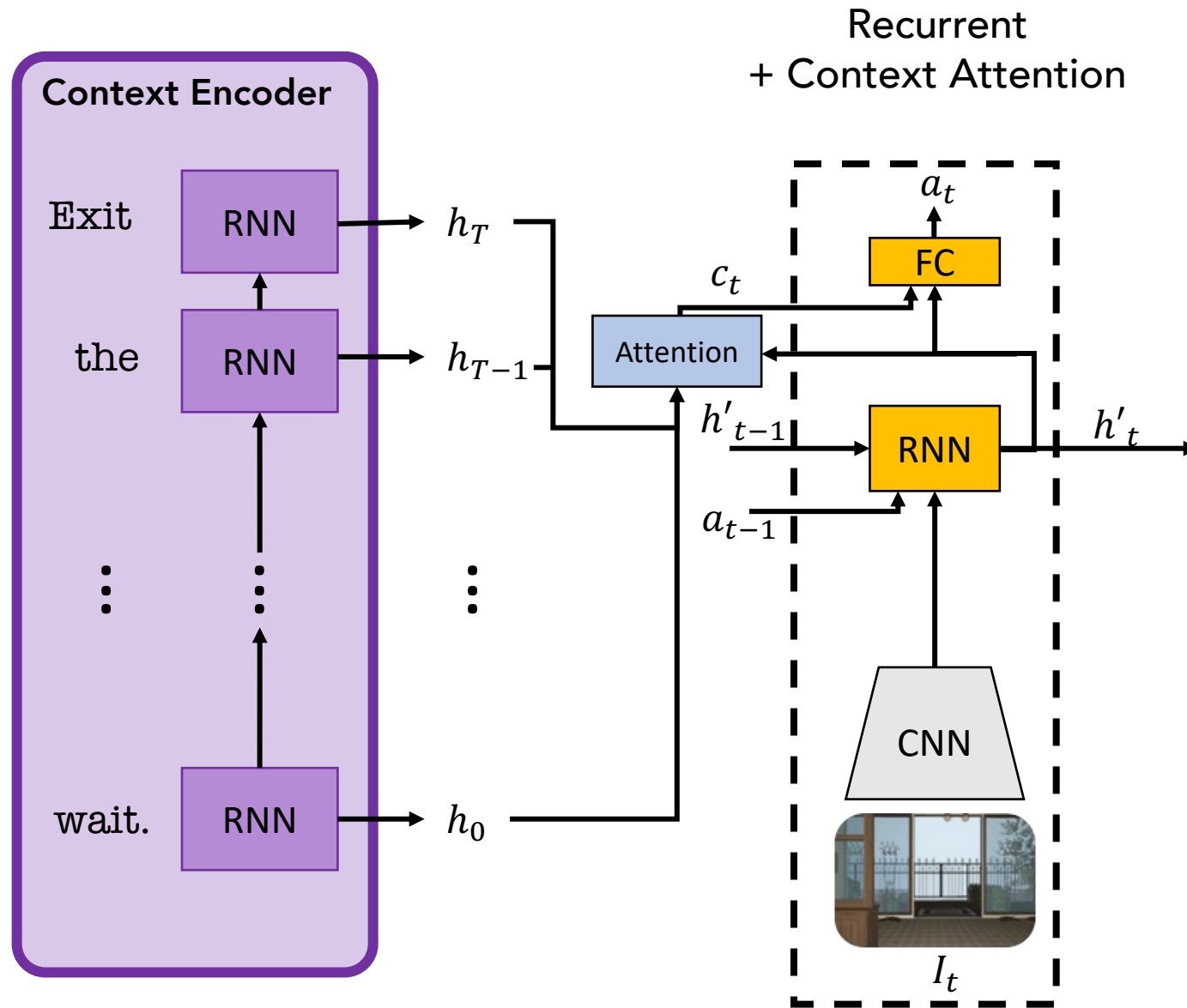
- Egocentric camera

Actions:

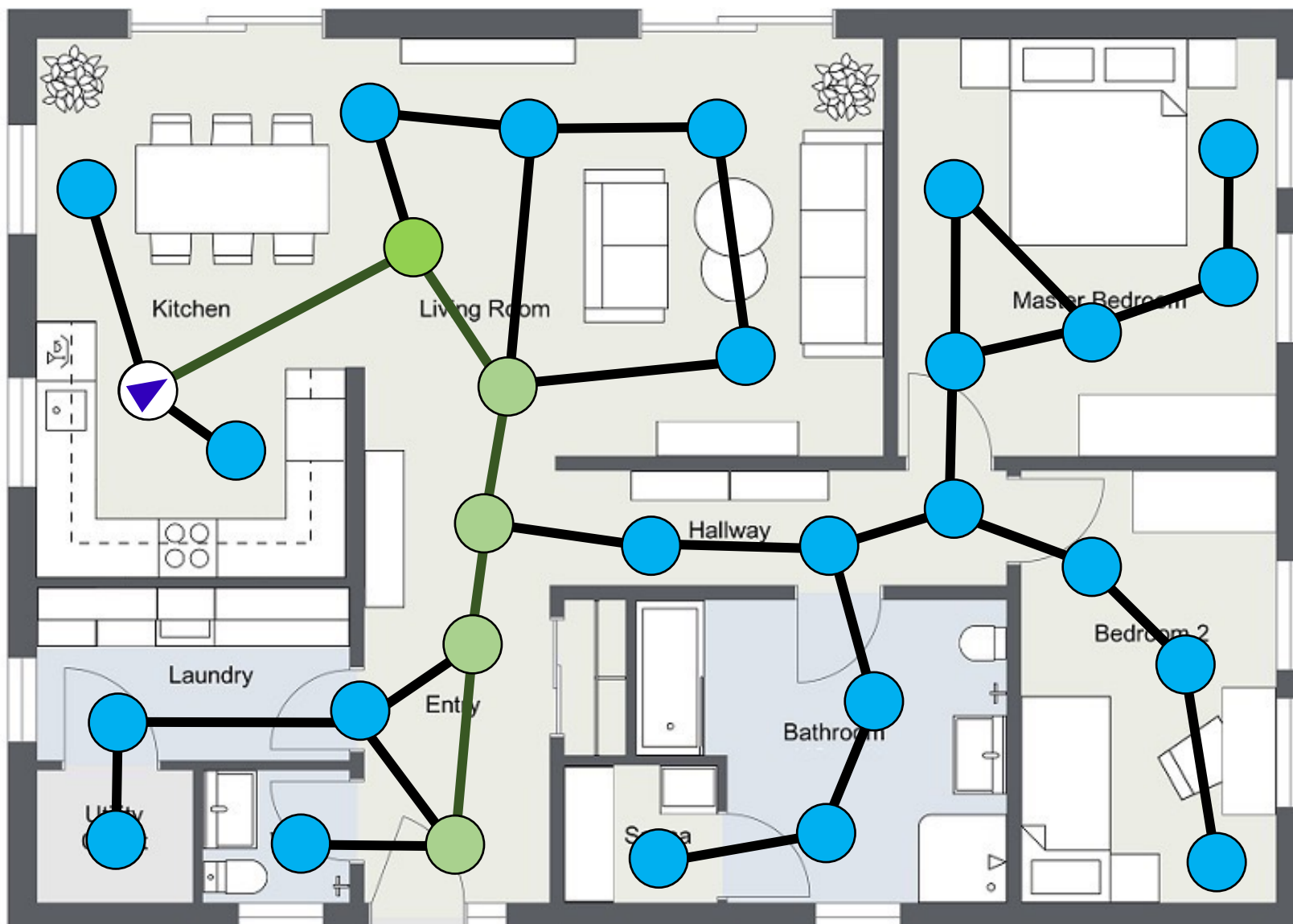
- Turn: left/right 30
- Tilt: up/down 30
- Forward (?)
- Stop

Vision-and-language Navigation (VLN) Model and Training

Our Attentive Recurrent Agent: Context Attention



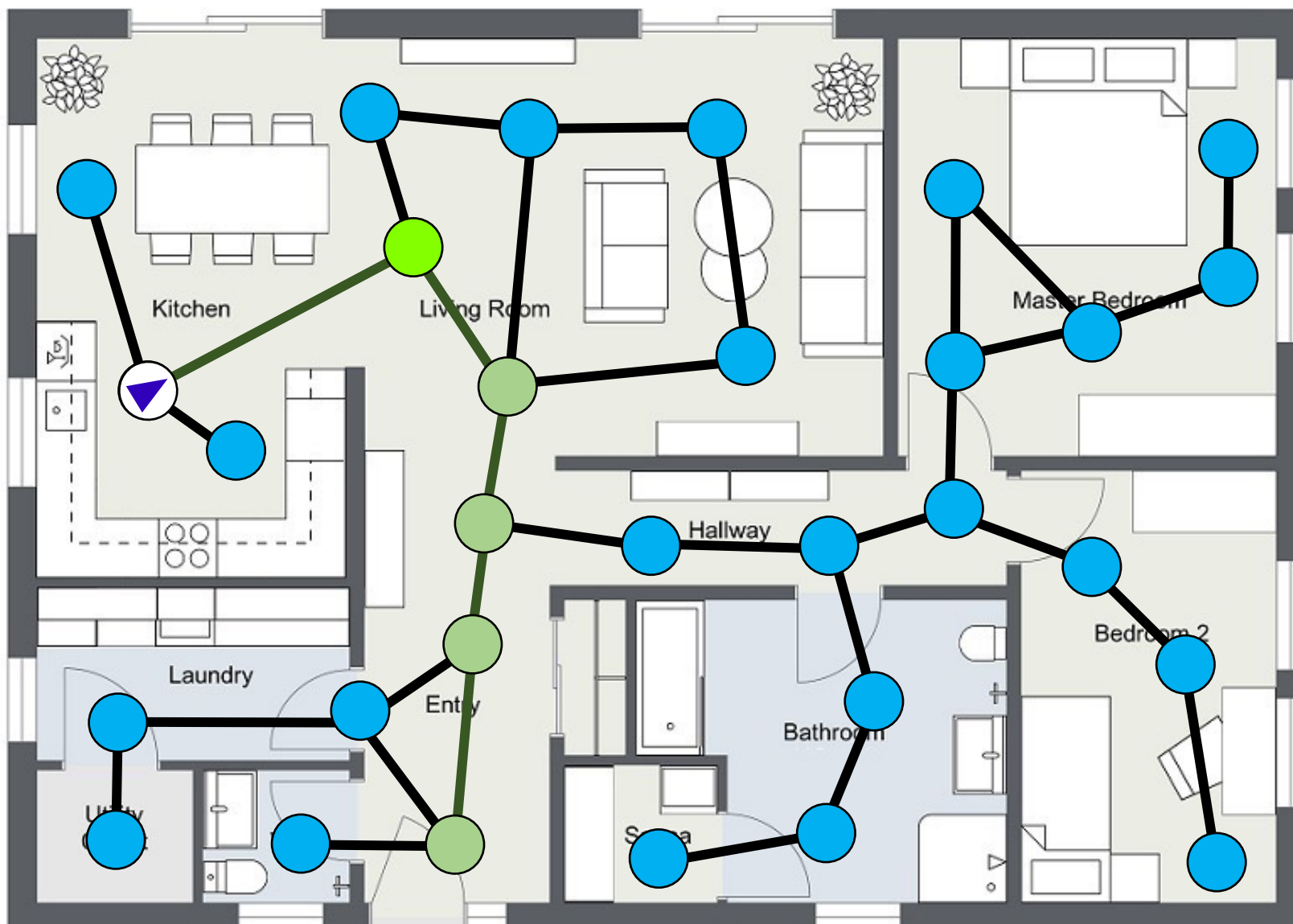
VLN: State and Action Space



Teacher Forcing

- Ignore agent action, continue on GT path
- Just **behavior cloning**

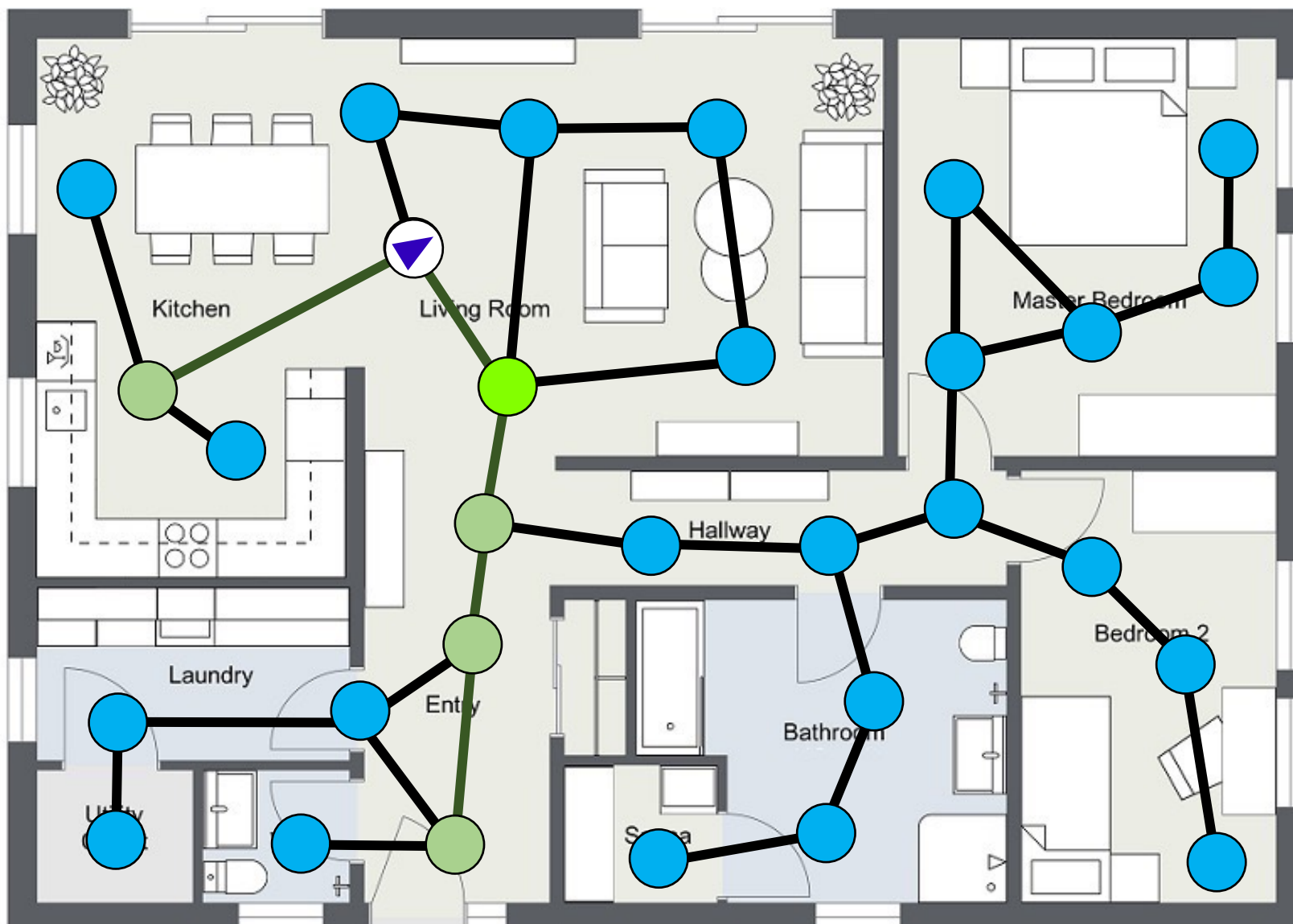
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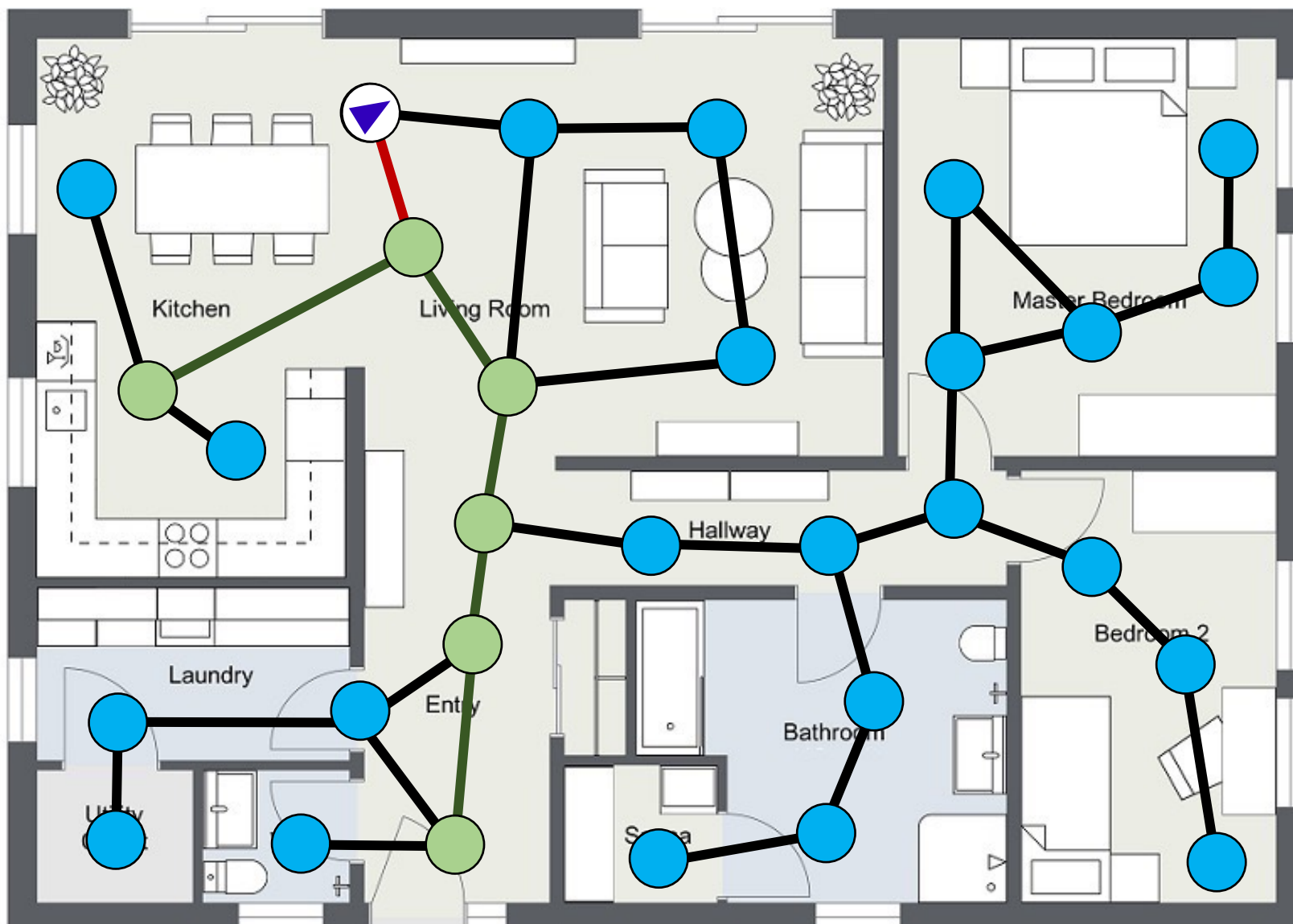
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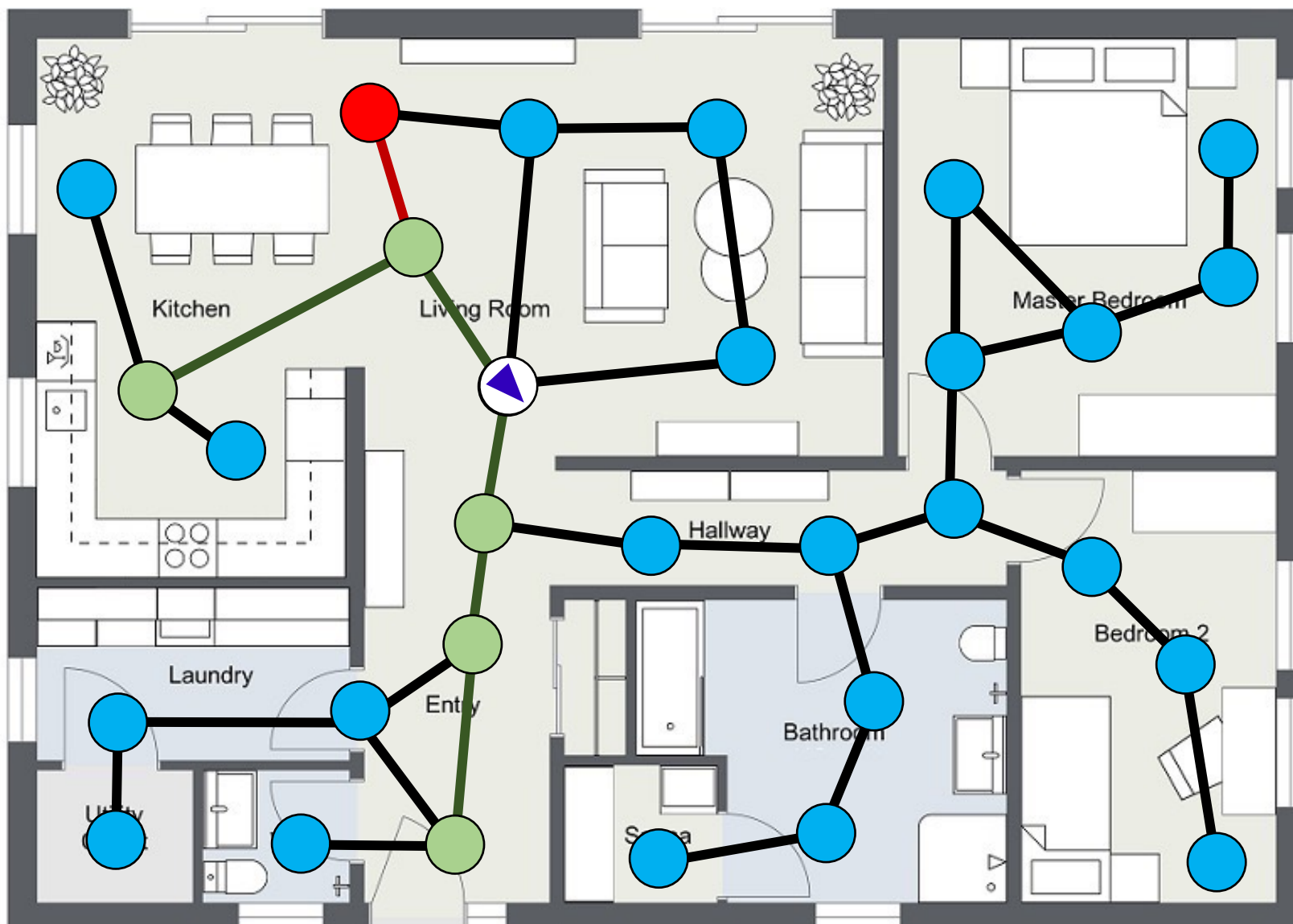
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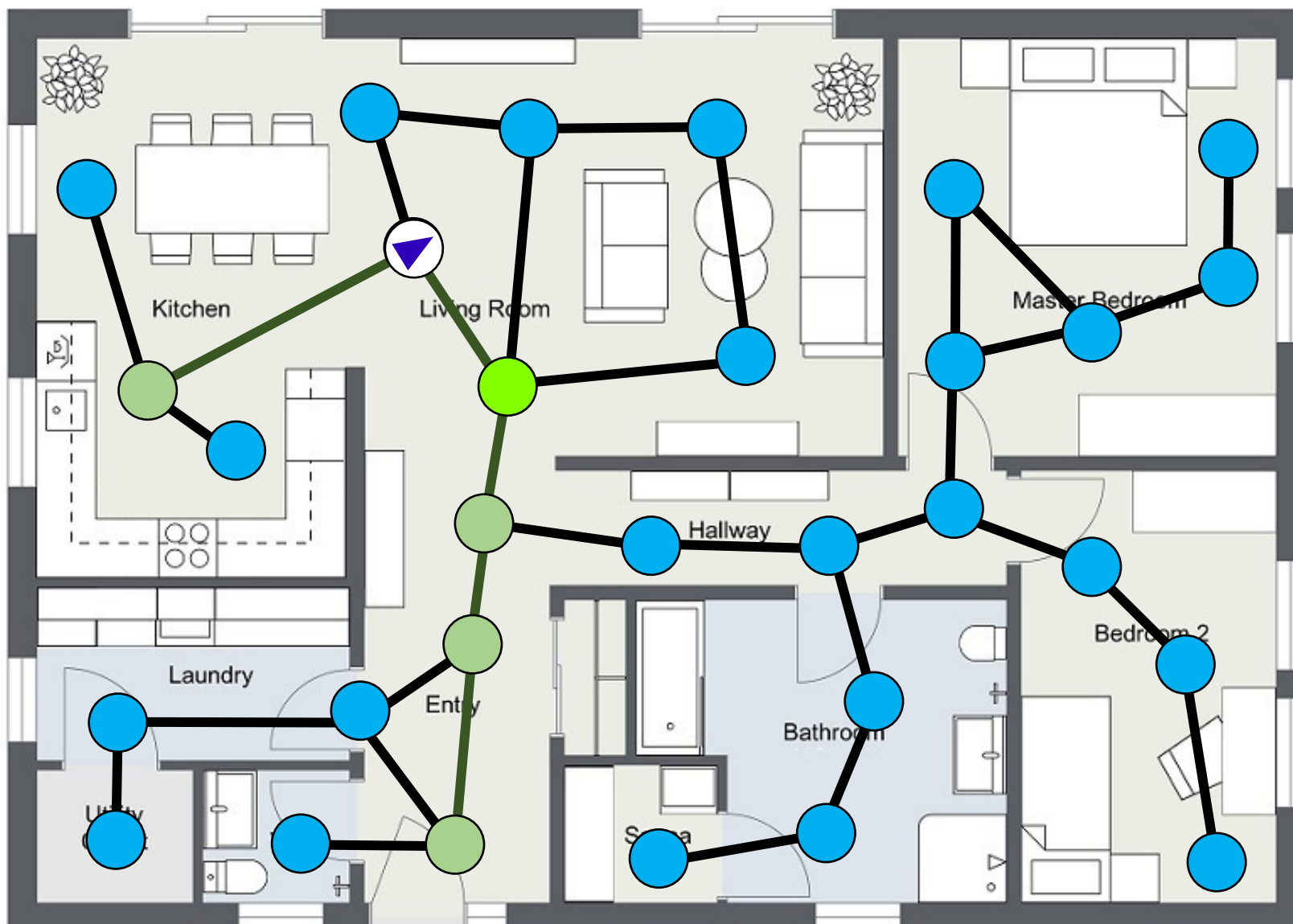
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VLN: State and Action Space



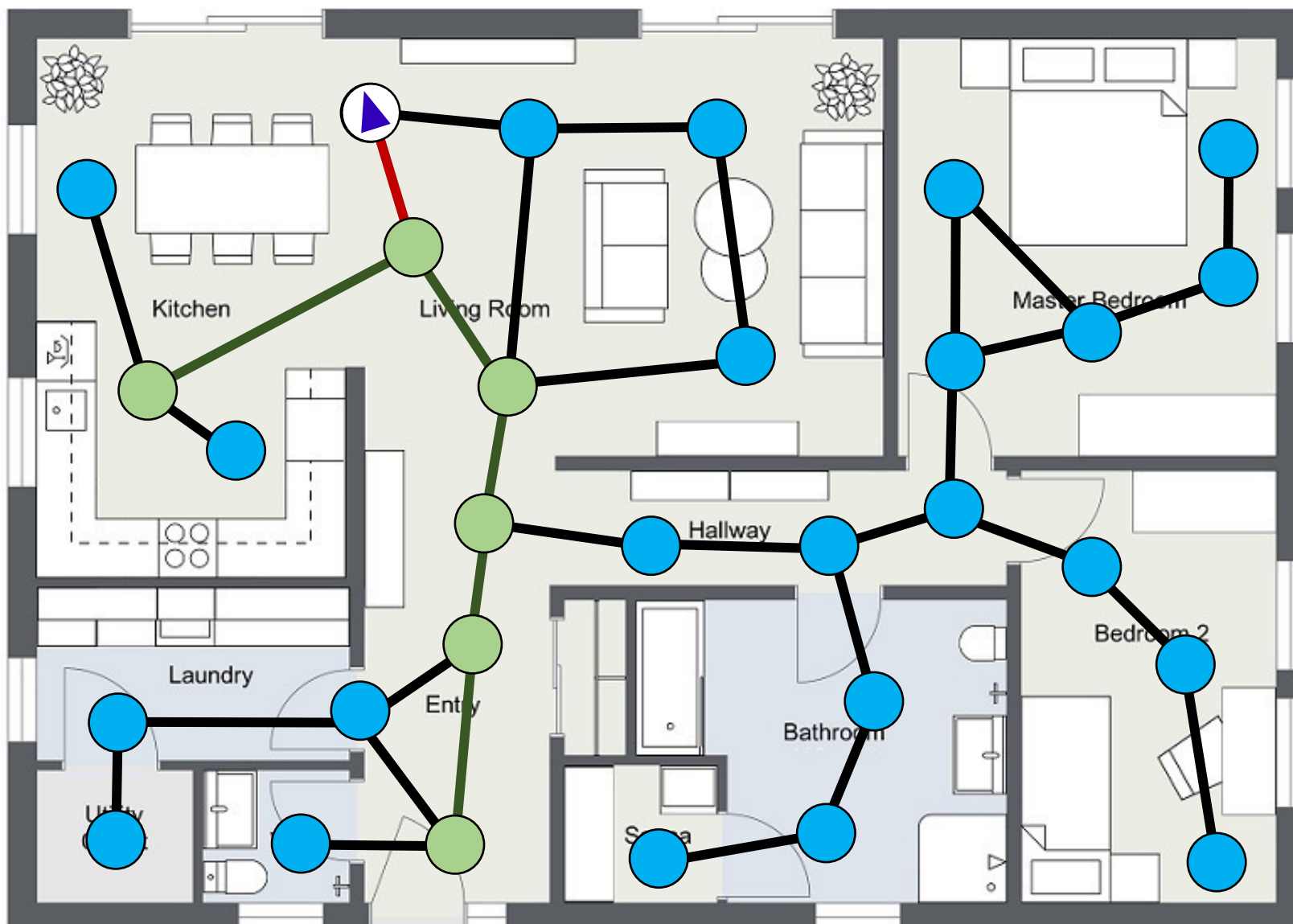
Teacher Forcing

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Student Forcing:

- Agent acts, oracle is queried to find next step
- Online [DAGGER](#)

VLN: State and Action Space



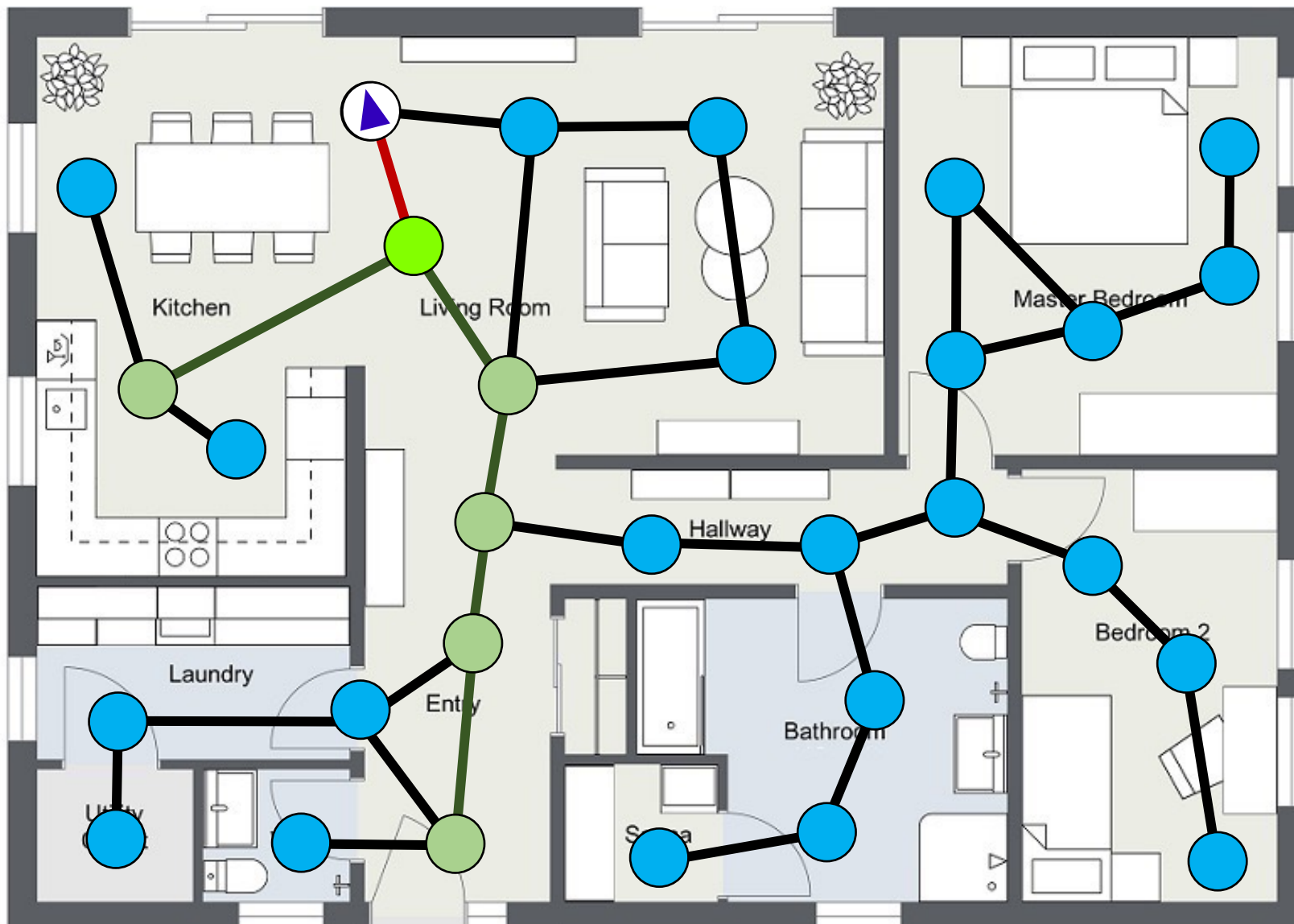
Teacher Forcing

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- Online [DAGGER](#)

VLN: State and Action Space



Teacher Forcing

- Ignore agent action, continue on GT path
- Just behavior cloning

Student Forcing:

- Agent acts according to its policy, oracle is queried to find next step back to path
- Online [DAGGER](#)

Vision-and-language Navigation (VLN) Results

VLN: Results

	Trajectory Length (m)	Navigation Error (m)	Success (%)	Oracle Success (%)
Val Seen:				
SHORTEST	10.19	0.00	100	100
RANDOM	9.58	9.45	15.9	21.4
Teacher-forcing	10.95	8.01	27.1	36.7
Student-forcing	11.33	6.01	38.6	52.9
Val Unseen:				
SHORTEST	9.48	0.00	100	100
RANDOM	9.77	9.23	16.3	22.0
Teacher-forcing	10.67	8.61	19.6	29.1
Student-forcing	8.39	7.81	21.8	28.4
Test (unseen):				
SHORTEST	9.93	0.00	100	100
RANDOM	9.93	9.77	13.2	18.3
Human	11.90	1.61	86.4	90.2
Student-forcing	8.13	7.85	20.4	26.6

Vision-and-language Navigation (VLN) Evaluation

Vision-and-Language Navigation Evaluation

Initial Metrics:

- Trajectory Length (m)
- Navigation Error (m)
- Success (%)
- Oracle Success (%)

Standard metrics for navigation tasks

Not the best for visual language navigation

Vision-and-Language Navigation Evaluation

train	val-seen	val-unseen	test
61 Environments		11 Environments	18 Environments
14,025 Instructions	1020 Instructions	2349 Instructions	4173 Instructions
4675 Trajectories	340 Trajectories	783 Trajectories	1391 Trajectories

VLN: Results

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VLN: Improved navigation evaluation

Success weighted by Path Length

- Cares not only about success, but also efficiency

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N S_i \frac{l_i}{\max(p_i, l_i)}$$

Binary Success

Shortest Path Length

Average Over Episodes

Agent Path Length

Vision-and-Language Navigation Evaluation

Leaderboard hosted on EvalAI (fall 2019)

B - Baseline submission

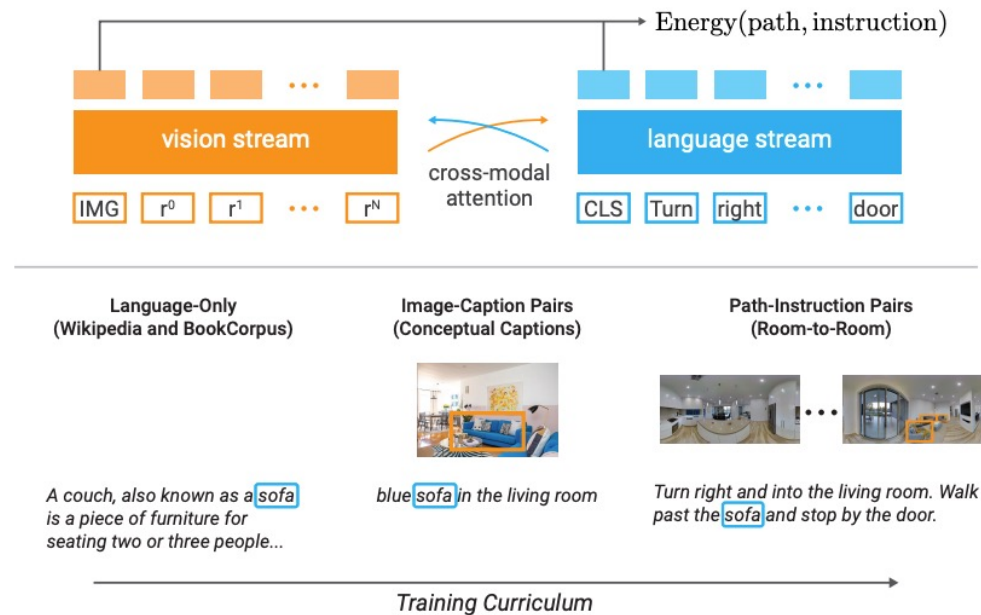
Rank ↕	Participant team ↕	length ↕	error ↕	oracle success ↕	success ↕	spl ↕	Last submission at ↕
1	human	11.85	1.61	0.90	0.86	0.76	1 year ago
2	Back Translation with Environmental Dropout (with Beam Search) (null)	686.82	3.26	0.99	0.69	0.01	9 months ago
3	vBot (Greedy)	10.24	3.76	0.71	0.65	0.62	2 months ago
4	Back Translation with Environmental Dropout (exploring unseen environments before testing)	9.79	3.97	0.70	0.64	0.61	9 months ago
5	Reinforced Cross-Modal Matching (optimized for SR; with beam search)	357.62	4.03	0.96	0.63	0.02	10 months ago
6	sjtu_test (null)	1,228.45	3.98	0.97	0.62	0.01	10 months ago
7	Self-Monitoring Navigation Agent (with beam search) (Self-Aware Co-Grounded Model)	373.09	4.48	0.97	0.61	0.02	11 months ago
8	Tactical Rewind - long	196.53	4.29	0.90	0.61	0.03	9 months ago

Vision-and-Language Navigation Evaluation

Leaderboard hosted on EvalAI (spring 2021)

Rank	Participant team	length	error	oracle success	success	spl	Last submission at
1	human	11.85	1.61	0.90	0.86	0.76	3 years ago
2	W (airbert)	686.54	2.58	0.99	0.78	0.01	3 days ago
3	TAIC (Global Normalization)	686.86	2.99	0.99	0.74	0.01	1 year ago
4	TAICX (Global Normalization pre-explo)	10.20	3.00	0.80	0.73	0.69	6 months ago
5	VLN-Bert	686.62	3.09	0.99	0.73	0.01	1 year ago
6	Self-Supervised Auxiliary Reasoning Tasks (Beam Search)	40.85	3.24	0.81	0.71	0.21	1 year ago
7	Active Exploration (Beam Search)	176.22	3.07	0.94	0.71	0.05	7 months ago
8	Active Exploration (Pre-explore)	9.85	3.30	0.77	0.70	0.68	7 months ago

Pretraining for VLN: VLN-BERT



	Pretraining Stage			Val Seen					Val Unseen					
	#	Language Only	Visual Grounding	Action Grounding	PL	NE ↓	SPL ↑	OSR ↑	SR ↑	PL	NE ↓	SPL ↑	OSR ↑	SR ↑
	1	(no pretraining)			10.78	6.78	0.35	54.22	37.55	10.29	6.81	0.27	50.62	30.52
VLN-BERT	2	✓			10.33	4.89	0.55	69.31	58.73	9.59	5.47	0.41	57.34	45.17
	3	✓	✓		10.42	4.48	0.58	71.57	62.16	9.70	4.96	0.45	62.79	49.64
	4	✓		✓	10.51	4.28	0.60	72.65	63.82	9.81	5.05	0.46	62.75	50.02
	5	✓	✓	✓	10.28	3.73	0.66	76.47	70.20	9.60	4.10	0.55	69.22	59.26

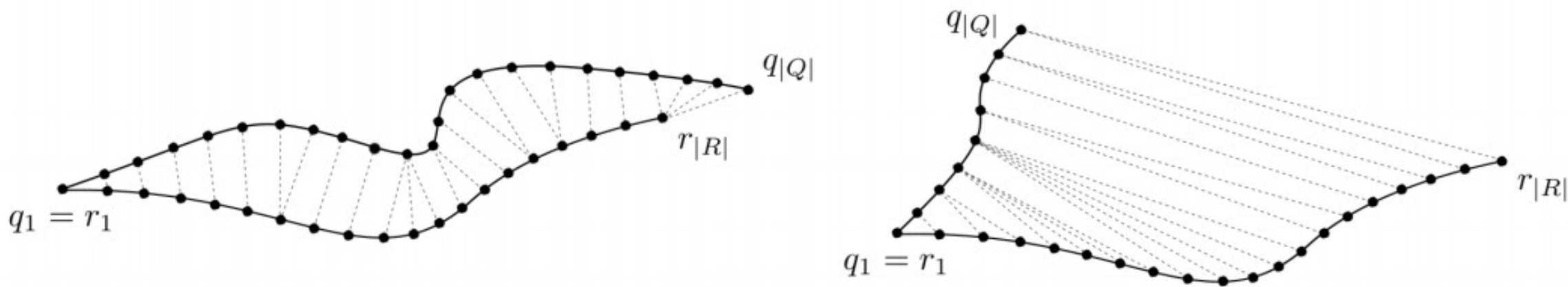
Improving Vision-and-Language Navigation with Image-Text Pairs from the Web

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2004.14973.pdf>

Majumdar et al, ECCV 2020

Vision-and-Language Navigation Evaluation

But... path matters when following instructions!



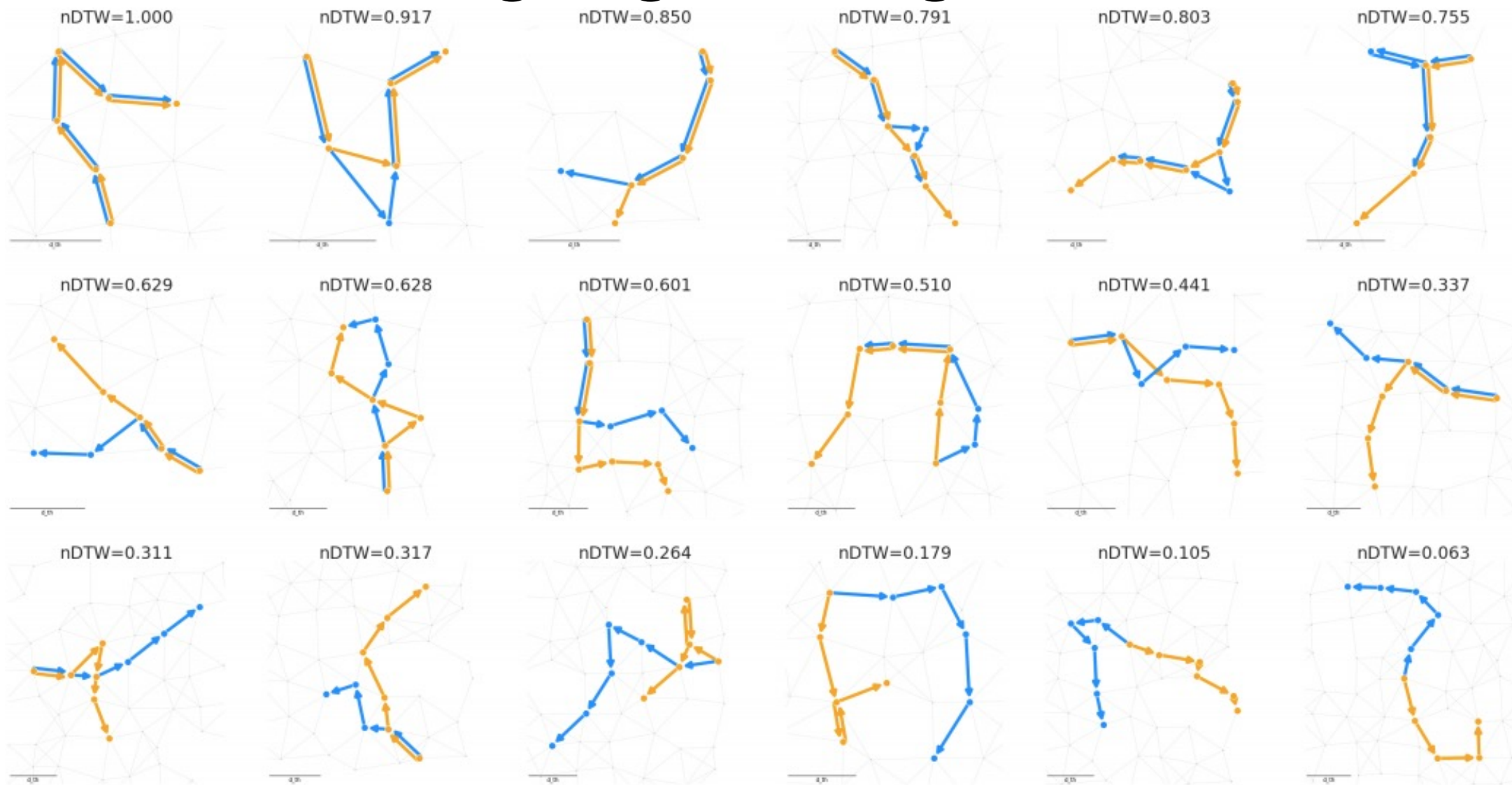
$$\text{nDTW}(R, Q) = \exp\left(-\frac{\text{DTW}(R, Q)}{|R| \cdot d_{th}}\right) = \exp\left(-\frac{\min_{W \in \mathcal{W}} \sum_{(i_k, j_k) \in W} d(r_{i_k}, q_{j_k})}{|R| \cdot d_{th}}\right)$$

General Evaluation for Instruction Conditioned Navigation using Dynamic Time Warping

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1907.05446>

Ilharco et al, NeurIPS 2019

Vision-and-Language Navigation Evaluation



normalized Dynamic Time Warping (nDTW)

Sub-instruction aware VLN

Instruction: Take a right and then take a left and walk out of the bathroom. Wait on the carpet in the room to the left.



(a) Self-Monitoring agent without sub-instruction module: Error: 2.81m nDTW: 0.68 Stop: by reaching the maximum steps

Sub-instruction 1:
Take a right.

Sub-instruction 2:
And then take a left.

Sub-instruction 3:
And walk out of the bathroom.

Sub-instruction 4:
Wait on the carpet in the room to the left.



(b) Self-Monitoring agent with sub-instruction module: Error: 0.00m nDTW: 1.00 Stop: by predicting a *STOP* action

#	Model	R2R Validation Unseen					
		PL ↓	NE ↓	OSR ↑	SR ↑	SPL ↑	nDTW ↑
1	Seq2Seq (Anderson et al., 2018b)	8.34 (8.71)	7.85 (7.92)	29.2 (29.5)	22.9 (21.8)	0.20 (0.18)	0.58 (0.57)
2	Speaker-Follower (Fried et al., 2018)	13.57 (16.66)	6.66 (7.12)	44.8 (41.1)	34.7 (29.8)	0.28 (0.22)	0.59 (0.54)
3	Self-Monitoring (Ma et al., 2019a)	13.95 (15.02)	6.16 (6.29)	53.7 (53.0)	42.4 (40.7)	0.32 (0.30)	0.61 (0.58)
4	Back-Translation (Tan et al., 2019)	9.81 (9.62)	5.67 (5.61)	54.8 (54.9)	46.7 (46.6)	0.43 (0.43)	0.69 (0.70)

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2004.02707.pdf>
Hong et al, EMNLP 2020

With (without)
subinstructions

Vision-and-language Navigation (VLN)
Speaker-Listener Model

Speaker-Follower Models for Vision-and-Language Navigation

**Daniel Fried*¹, Ronghang Hu*¹, Volkan Cirik*², Anna Rohrbach¹, Jacob Andreas¹,
Louis-Philippe Morency², Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick², Kate Saenko³,
Dan Klein**¹, Trevor Darrell**¹**

¹University of California, Berkeley ²Carnegie Mellon University ³Boston University

VLN: Speaker-Follower Model

instruction: ... Turn left and go towards the sofa ...



Low-level
visuomotor space



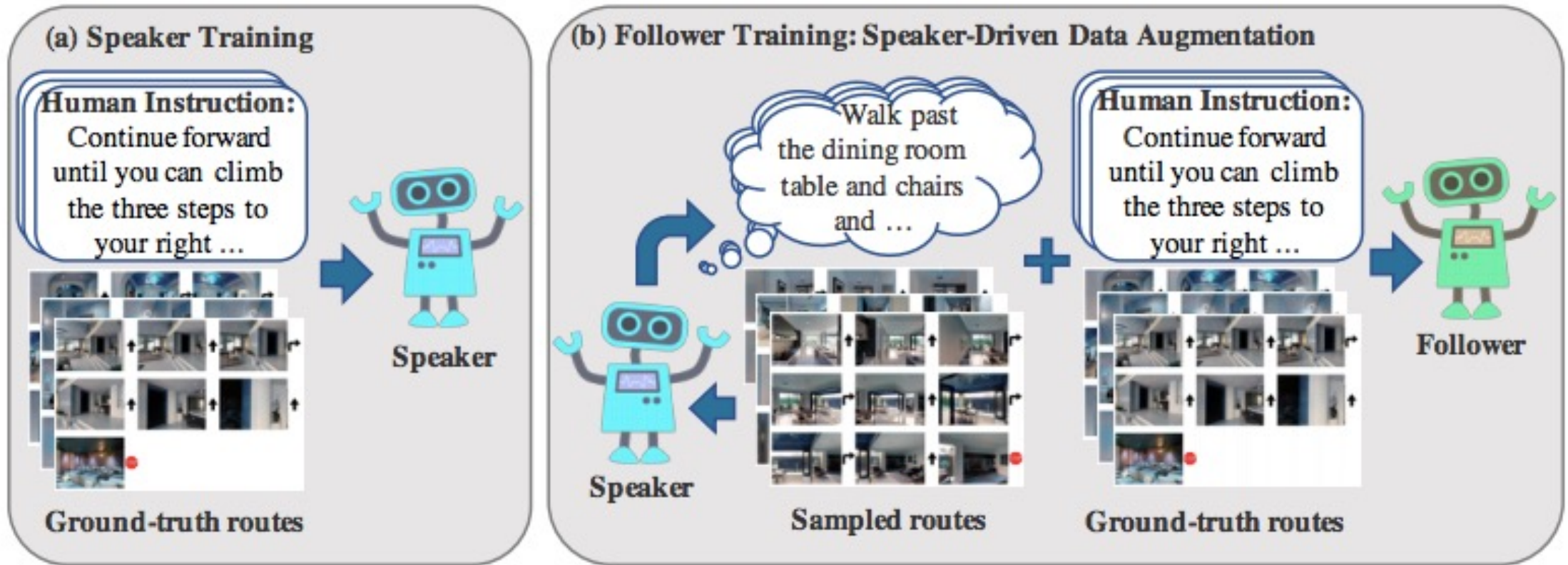
Panoramic
action space



<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1806.02724.pdf>

Fried et al, NeurIPS 2018

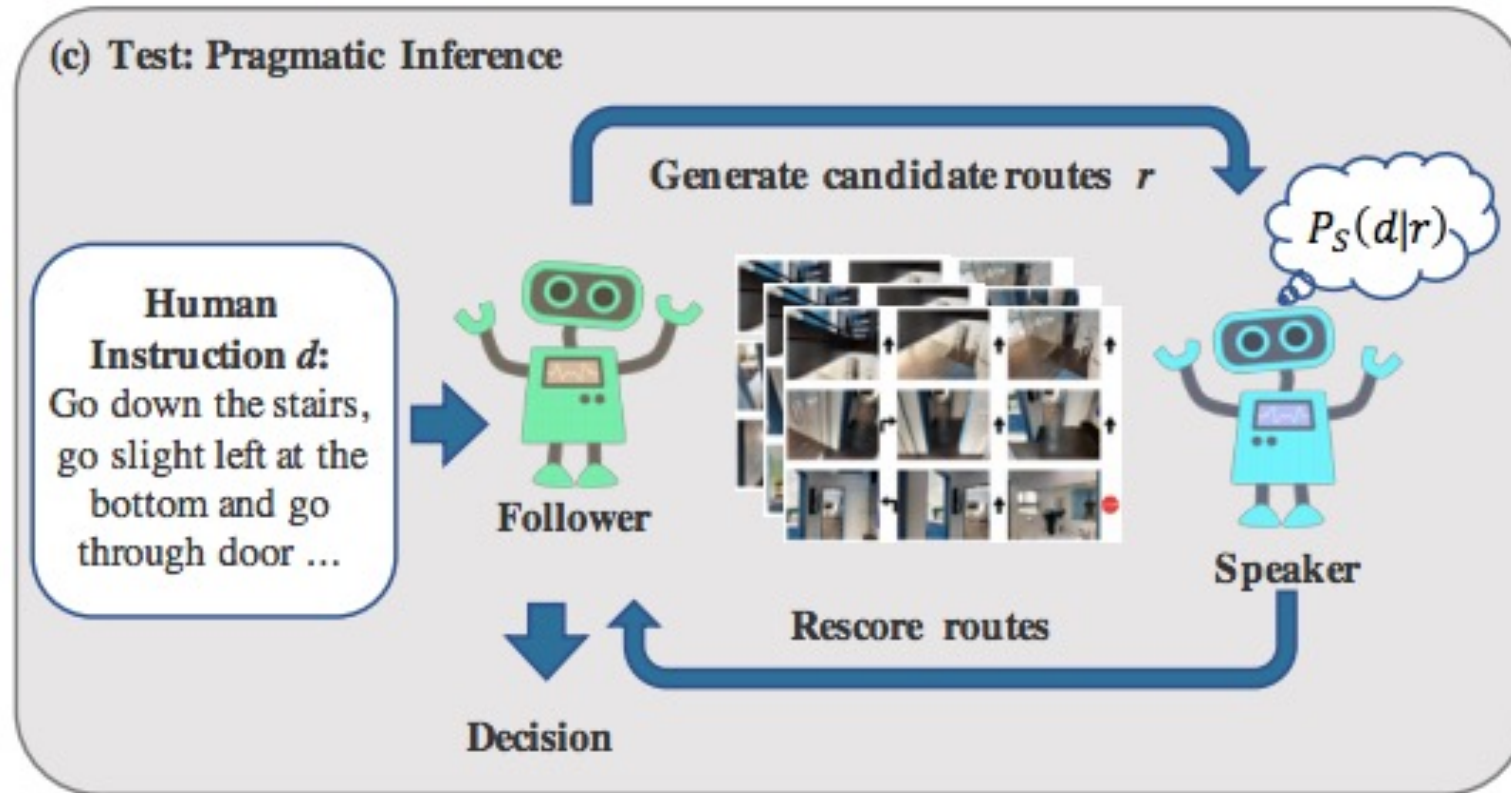
VLN: Speaker-Follower Model



<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1806.02724.pdf>

Fried et al, NeurIPS 2018

VLN: Speaker-Follower Model



VLN: Speaker-Follower Model

#	Data	Pragmatic	Panoramic	Validation-Seen			Validation-Unseen		
	Augmentation	Inference	Space	NE ↓	SR ↑	OSR ↑	NE ↓	SR ↑	OSR ↑
1				6.08	40.3	51.6	7.90	19.9	26.1
2	✓			5.05	46.8	59.9	7.30	24.6	33.2
3		✓		5.23	51.5	60.8	6.62	34.5	43.1
4			✓	4.86	52.1	63.3	7.07	31.2	41.3
5	✓	✓		4.28	57.2	63.9	5.75	39.3	47.0
6	✓		✓	3.36	66.4	73.8	6.62	35.5	45.0
7		✓	✓	3.88	63.3	71.0	5.24	49.5	63.4
8	✓	✓	✓	3.08	70.1	78.3	4.83	54.6	65.2

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1806.02724.pdf>

Fried et al, NeurIPS 2018

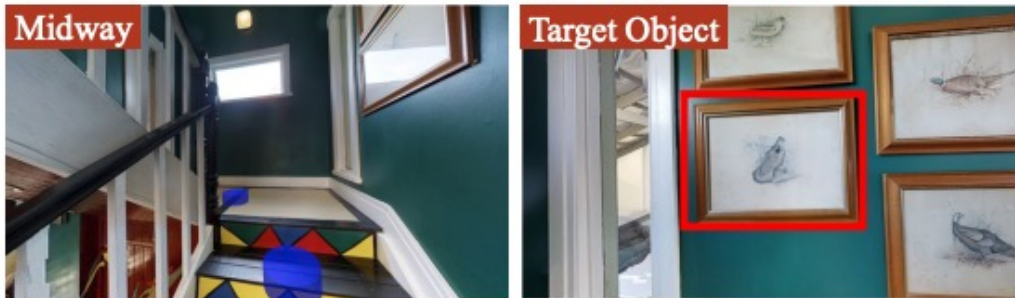
VLN: Speaker-Follower Model

Method	Validation-Seen			Validation-Unseen			Test (unseen)			
	NE ↓	SR ↑	OSR ↑	NE ↓	SR ↑	OSR ↑	NE ↓	SR ↑	OSR ↑	TL ↓
Random	9.45	15.9	21.4	9.23	16.3	22.0	9.77	13.2	18.3	9.89
Student-forcing [1]	6.01	38.6	52.9	7.81	21.8	28.4	7.85	20.4	26.6	8.13
RPA [55]	5.56	42.9	52.6	7.65	24.6	31.8	7.53	25.3	32.5	9.15
ours	3.08	70.1	78.3	4.83	54.6	65.2	4.87	53.5	63.9	11.63
ours (challenge participation)*	–	–	–	–	–	–	4.87	53.5	96.0	1257.38
Human	–	–	–	–	–	–	1.61	86.4	90.2	11.90

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1806.02724.pdf>

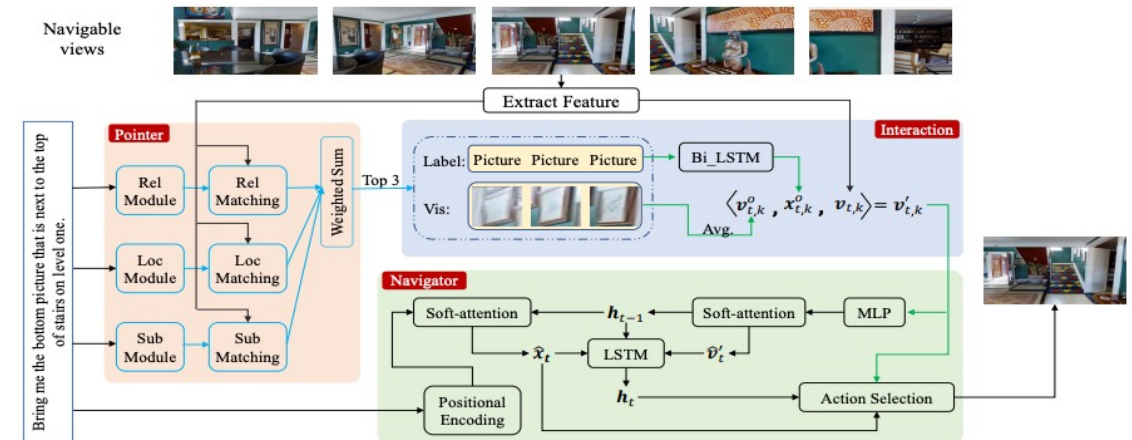
Fried et al, NeurIPS 2018

REVERIE: Remote Embodied Visual Referring Expression in Real Indoor Environments



Instruction: Bring me the bottom picture that is next to the top of stairs on level one.

- Navigate + Localize
 - Follow instructions to a specified location
 - Identify the object that is being referred to
- Combines VLN + Referring Expressions

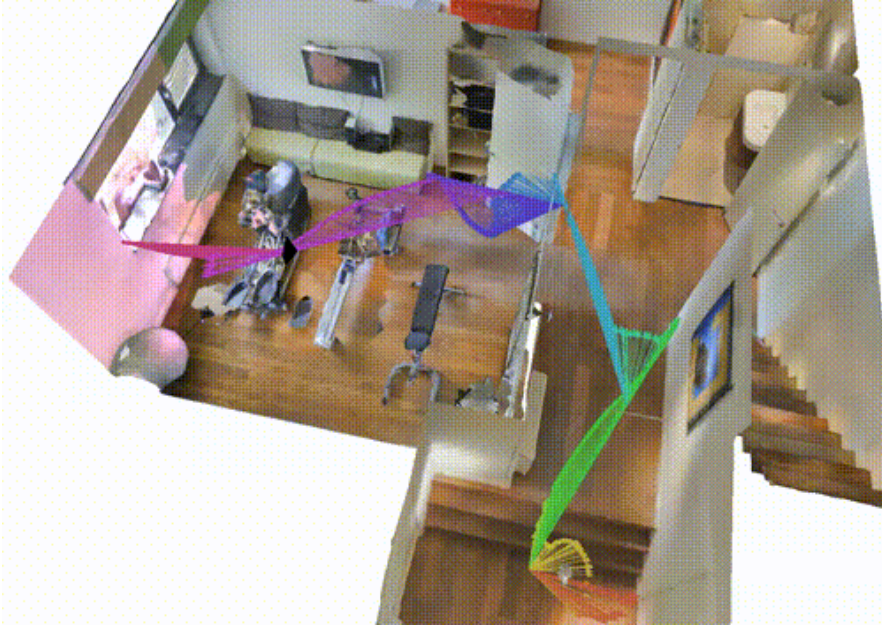


<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1904.10151.pdf>

Qi et al, EMNLP 2020

<https://github.com/YuankaiQi/REVERIE>

Room-Across-Room: Multilingual Vision-and-Language Navigation with Dense Spatiotemporal Grounding



Now you are standing in-front of a closed door, turn to your left, you can see two wooden steps, climb the steps and walk forward by crossing a wall painting which is to your right side, you can see open door enter into it. This is a gym room, move forward, walk till the end of the room, you can see a grey colored ball to the corner of the room, stand there, that's your end point.

- Instructions spatially/temporally aligned to poses
- Larger, multilingual (English, Hindi, Telugu)

	Number of:				Includes:		
	Lang	Instruct	Words	Paths	Text	Ground	Demos
CVDN	1	2K [†]	167K	7K	✓		
R2R	1	22K	625K	7K	✓		
Touchdown	1	9K	1.0M	9K	✓	✓ [‡]	
REVERIE	1	22K	388K	7K	✓	✓ [‡]	
RxR	3	126K	9.8M	16.5K	✓	✓	✓

[†]The number of dialogues. [‡]Grounding limited to one object per instruction.

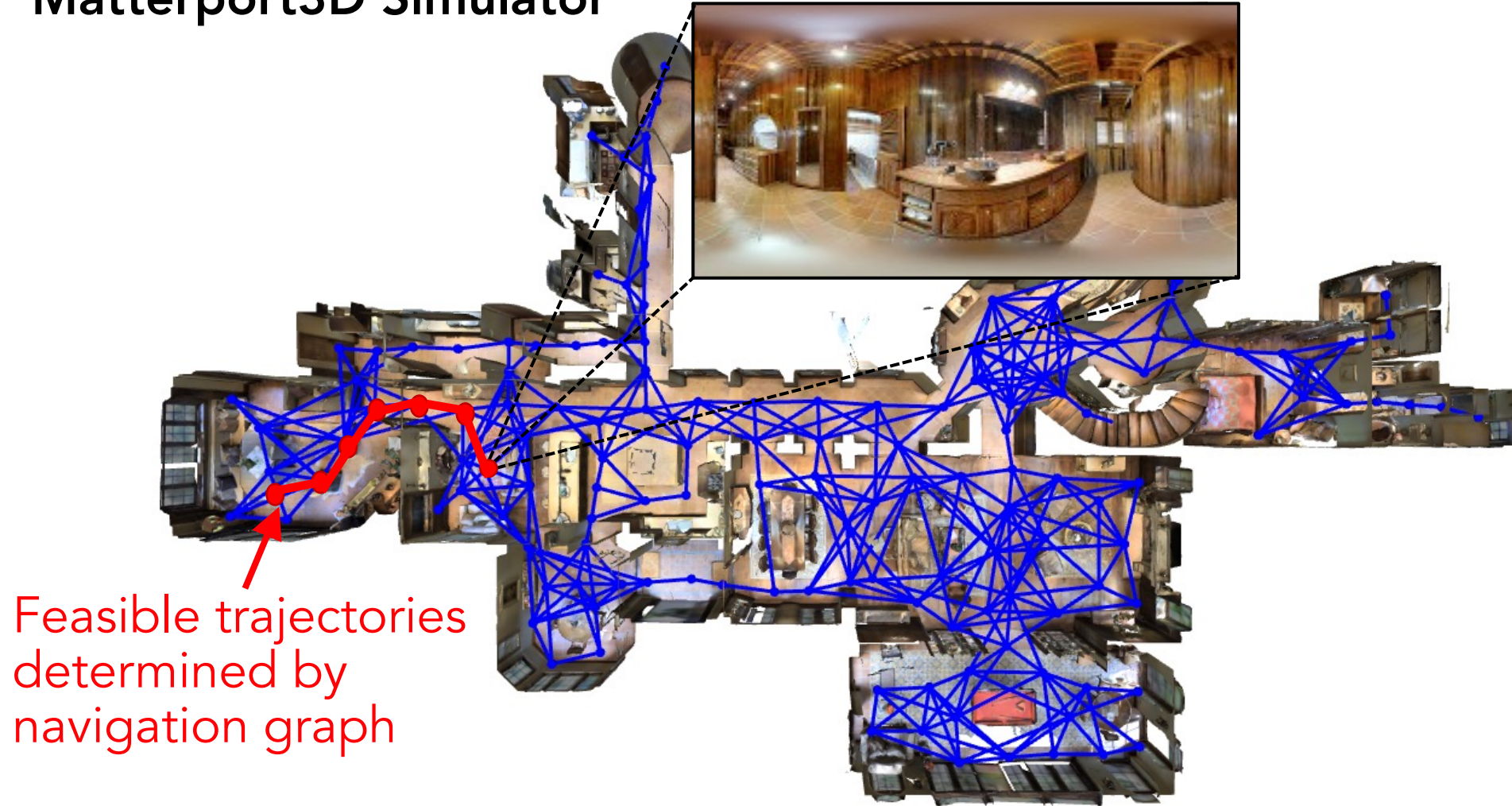
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2010.07954.pdf>

Ku et al, EMNLP 2020

<https://ai.google.com/research/rxr/>

Vision-and-Language Navigation (VLN)

Matterport3D Simulator



Feasible trajectories
determined by
navigation graph

VLN with Continuous Environment



Leave the bedroom, and enter the kitchen. Walk forward, and take a left at the couch. Stop in front of the window.

— smooth VLN-CE path
■.....■ VLN nav-graph hops

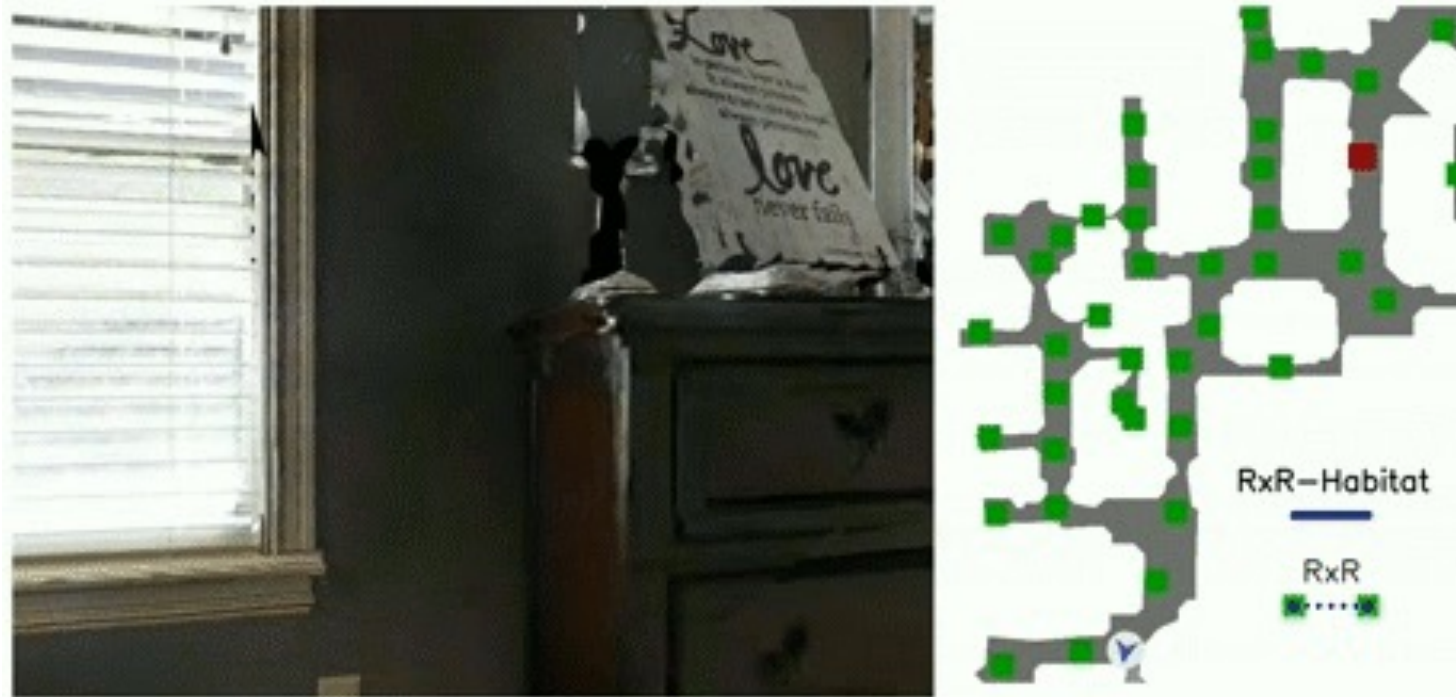
Vision and Language Navigation in Continuous Environments

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2010.07954.pdf>

Krantz et al, ECCV 2020

<https://jacobkrantz.github.io/vlnce/>

VLN with Continuous Environment



You are in a bedroom. Turn around to the left until you see a door leading out into a hallway, go through it. Hang a right and walk between the island and the couch on your left. When you are between the second and third chairs for the island stop.

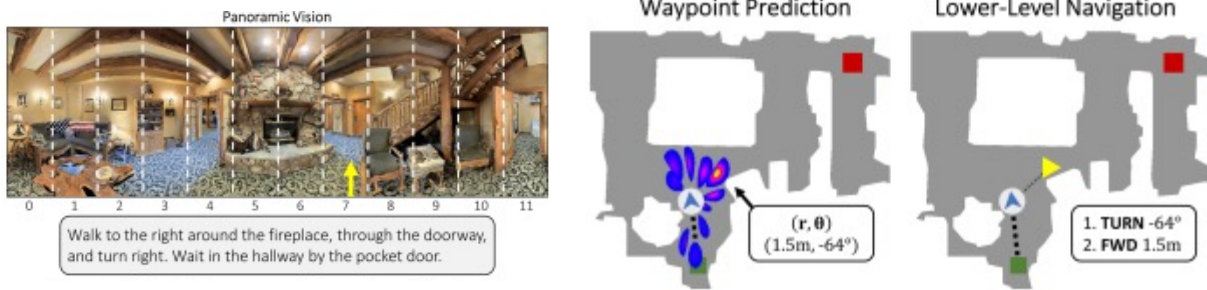
<https://ai.google.com/research/rxr/habitat>

VLE-CE methods and results

	Val-Seen					Val-Unseen				
	TL ↓	NE ↓	OS ↑	SR ↑	SPL ↑	TL ↓	NE ↓	OS ↑	SR ↑	SPL ↑
Seq2Seq+PM+DA+Aug [32]	9.37	7.02	46.0	33.0	31.0	9.32	7.77	37.0	25.0	22.0
AG-CMTP* [12]	-	6.60	56.2	35.9	30.5	-	7.9	39.2	23.1	19.1
R2R-CMTP* [12]	-	7.10	45.4	36.1	31.2	-	7.9	38.0	26.4	22.7
CMA+PM+DA+Aug [32]	9.26	7.12	46.0	37.0	35.0	8.64	7.37	40.0	32.0	30.0
WPN-DD* [31]	9.11	6.57	44.0	35.0	32.0	8.23	7.48	35.0	28.0	26.0
LAW [46]	9.34	6.35	49.0	40.0	37.0	8.89	6.83	44.0	35.0	31.0
CM² (Ours)	12.05	6.10	50.7	42.9	34.8	11.54	7.02	41.5	34.3	27.6
WPN-CC* [31]	10.29	6.05	51.0	40.0	35.0	10.62	6.62	43.0	36.0	30.0
HPN-C* [31]	8.71	5.17	53.0	47.0	45.0	7.71	6.02	42.0	38.0	36.0
CM ² -GT (Ours)	12.60	4.81	58.3	52.8	41.8	10.68	6.23	41.3	37.0	30.6

* uses panorama, WPN-CC and HPN-C used enhanced action space

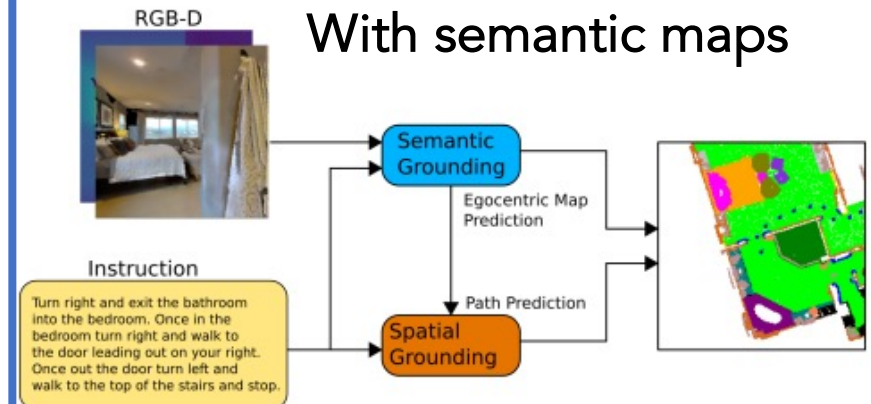
With waypoints



Krantz et al, ICCV 2021

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2110.02207.pdf>

With semantic maps



Georgakis et al, 2022

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2203.05137.pdf>

Vision-and-language Navigation (VLN)
Other Environments

Instruction-guided Visual Navigation: StreetLearn

StreetLearn

- Google Street View + Google Maps directions
- The StreetLearn Environment and Dataset arxiv.org/abs/1903.01292
- Learning To Follow Directions in Street View arxiv.org/abs/1903.00401
- Touchdown: Natural Language Navigation and Spatial Reasoning in Visual Street Environments arxiv.org/abs/1811.12354

Observation



Instructions

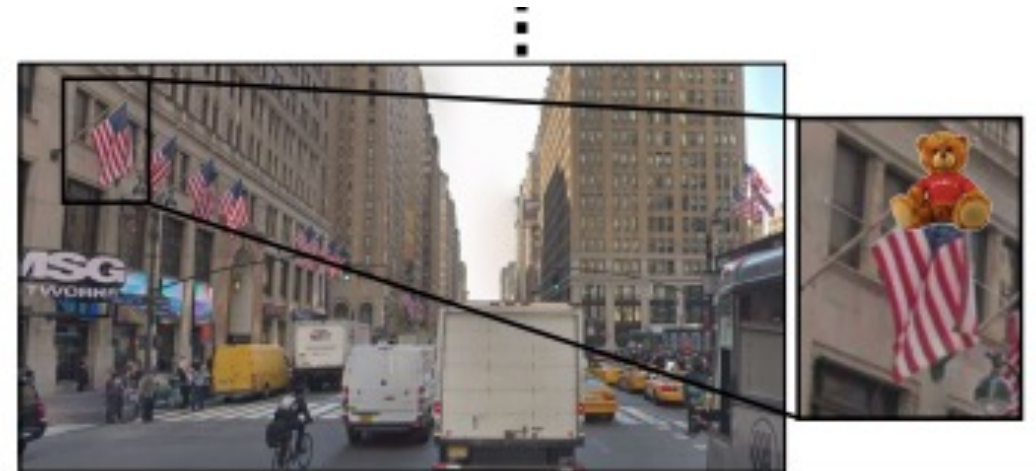
Head northwest on W 39th St toward 8th Ave



Turn right at the 1st cross street onto 8th Ave



Turn left onto W 47th St

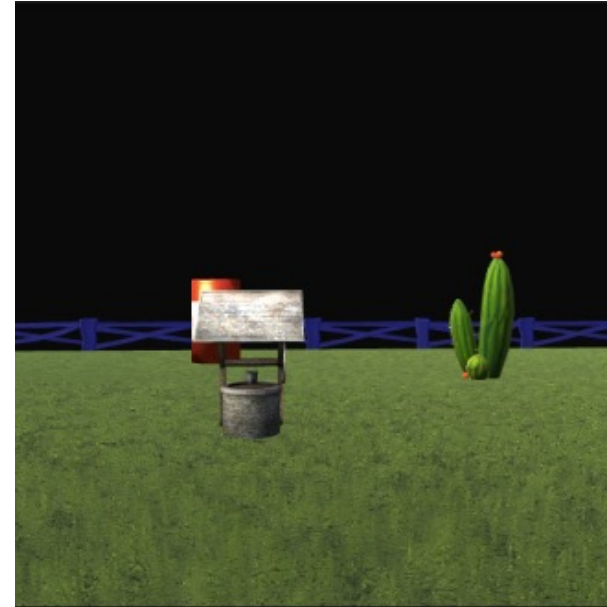


Turn and go with the flow of traffic. At the first traffic light turn left. Go past the next two traffic light, As you come to the third traffic light you will see a white building on your left with many American flags on it. Touchdown is sitting in the stars of the first flag.

Instruction-guided Visual Navigation



[Go around the pillar on the right hand side] [and head towards the boat, circling around it clockwise.] [When you are facing the tree, walk towards it, and then pass on the right hand side,] [and the left hand side of the cone. Circle around the cone,] [and then walk past the hydrant on your right,] [and the tree stump.] [Circle around the stump and then stop right behind it.]



LANI

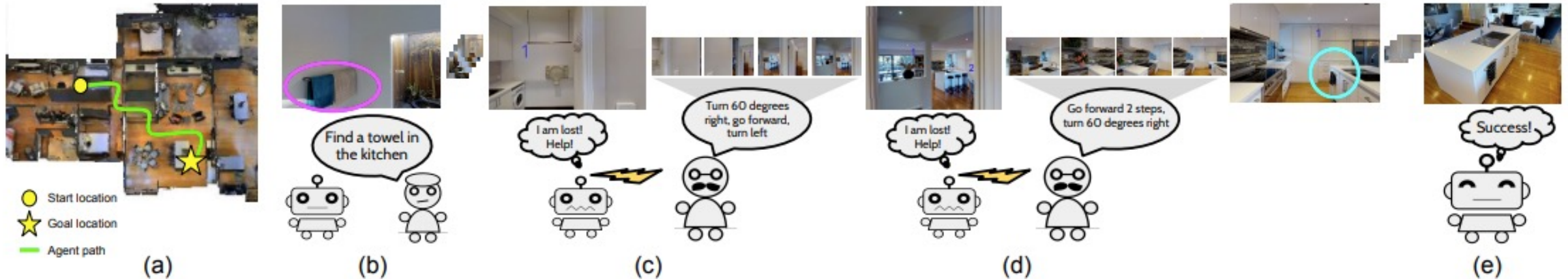
- Simulated quadcopter in an open environment with landmark objects
- Mapping Instructions to Actions in 3D Environments with Visual Goal Prediction <https://arxiv.org/abs/1809.00786>
- Mapping Navigation Instructions to Continuous Control Actions with Position-Visitation Prediction arxiv.org/abs/1811.04179

Task

Dialog-guided Visual Navigation

Instruction-guided Visual Navigation

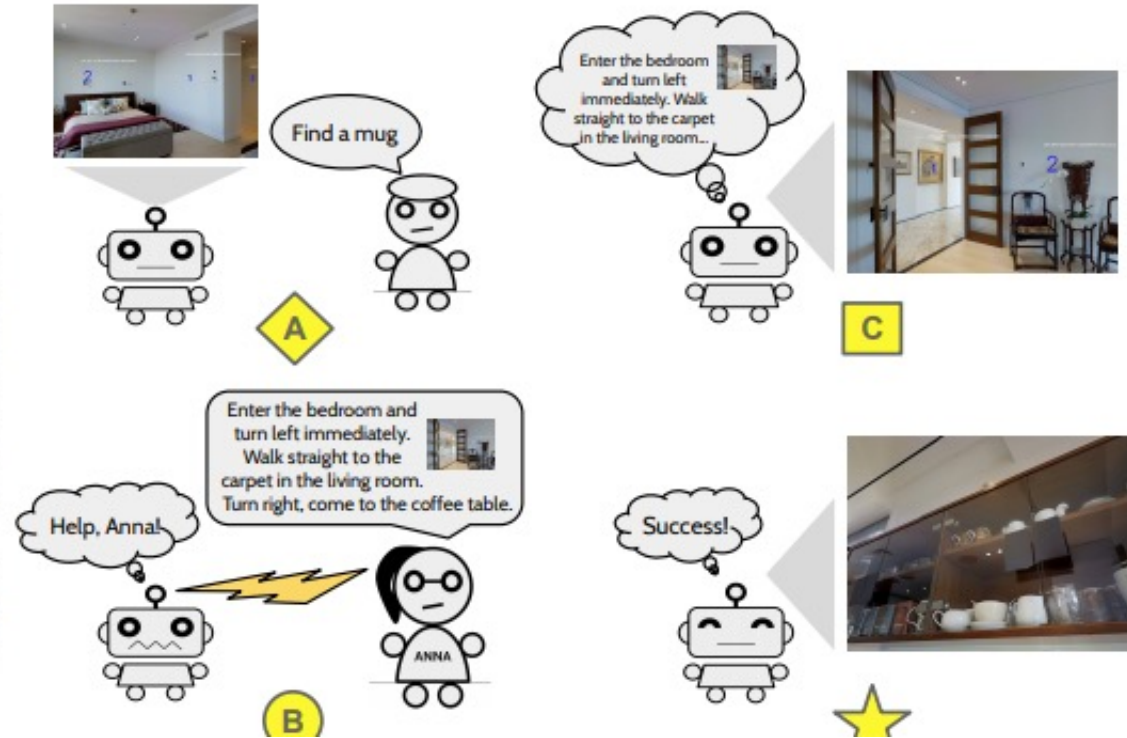
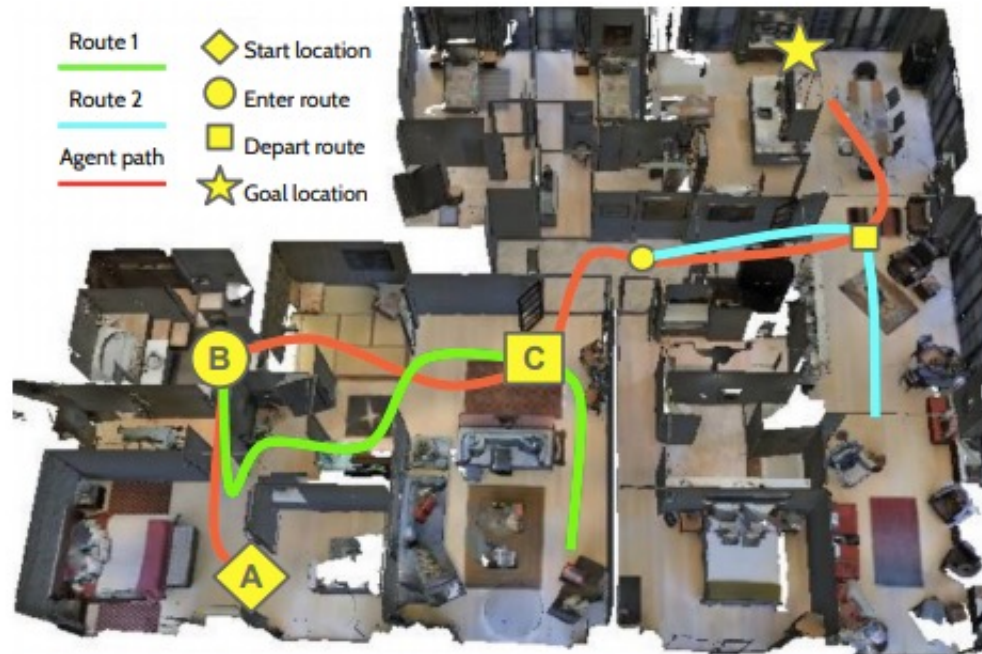
Agent can ask for directions or for help during the navigation.



- Vision-based Navigation with Language-based Assistance via Imitation Learning with Indirect Intervention arxiv.org/abs/1812.04155

Instruction-guided Visual Navigation

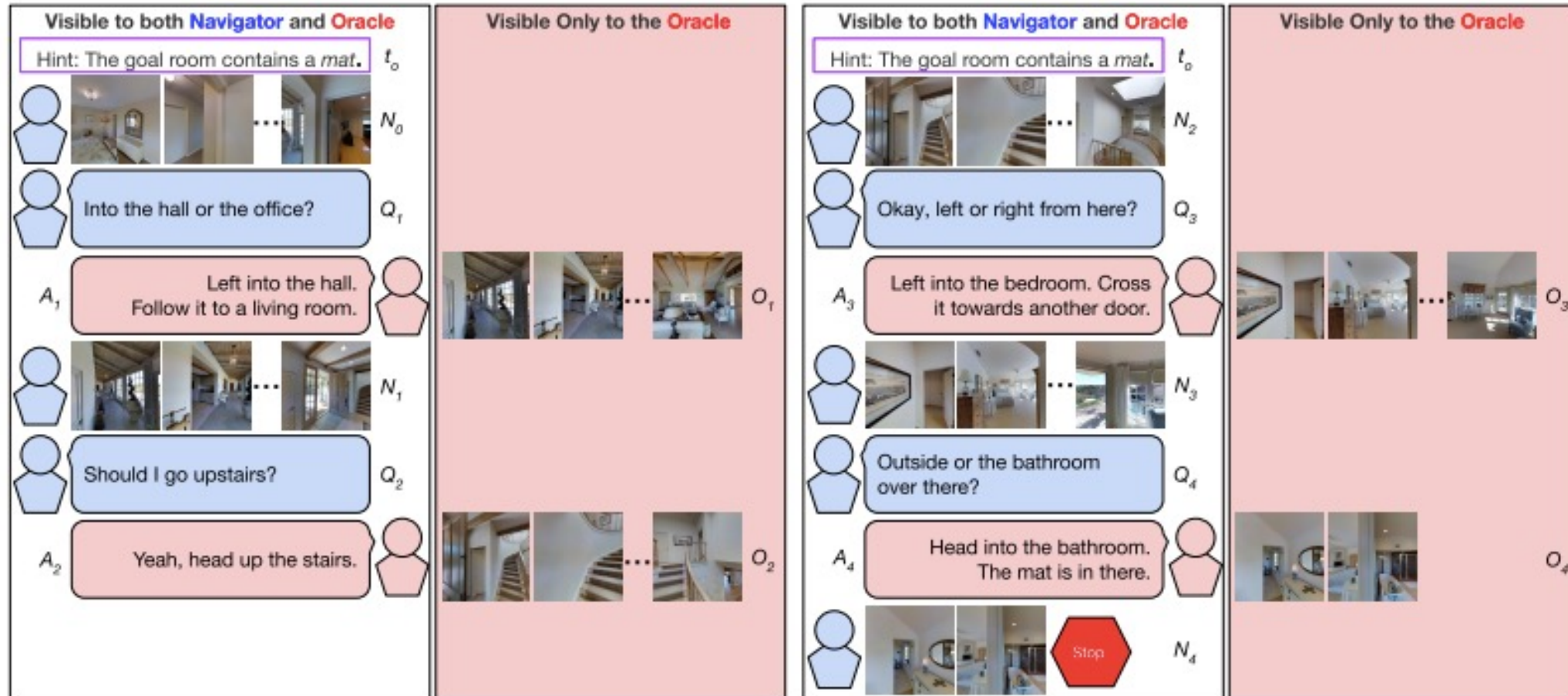
Agent can ask for directions or for help during the navigation.



- Help, Anna! Visual Navigation with Natural Multimodal Assistance via Retrospective Curiosity-Encouraging Imitation Learning
arxiv.org/abs/1909.01871

Instruction-guided Visual Navigation

Agent can ask for directions or for help during the navigation.



- Vision-and-Dialog Navigation arxiv.org/abs/1907.04957

Next time

- Paper presentations (3/21)
 - Room-Across-Room: Multilingual Vision-and-Language Navigation with Dense Spatiotemporal Grounding (Yanshu)
 - REVERIE: Remote Embodied Visual Referring Expression in Real Indoor Environments (Shichong)
- Wednesday (3/23): Instruction following – Rearrangement

