

# Adaptive World Models: Learning Behaviors by Latent Imagination **Under Non-Stationarity**





Emiliyan Gospodinov, Vaisakh Shaj, Philipp Becker, Stefan Geyer, Gerhard Neumann

## **Motivation**

Dreamer-series world models achieve SOTA-results on narrow, stationary tasks

- Can they model changing environments?
- Can we use them to infer adaptive behaviors?

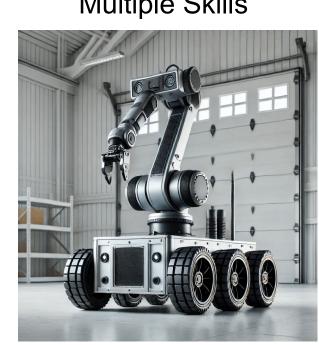
#### **Dynamics changes:** Wind Friction



**Dynamics changes:** Mass and inertia



**Objective changes:** Multiple Skills



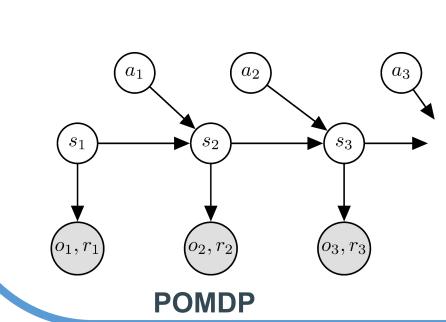
## **Non-Stationary RL Formalisms**

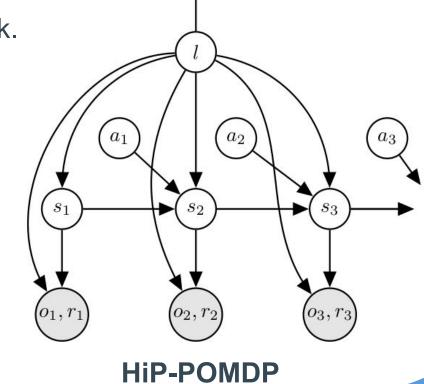
#### POMDP:

- Assumption: Environment is stationary, changes arise due to missing information.
- **Problem**: Joint encoding of state and task in a single latent variable.

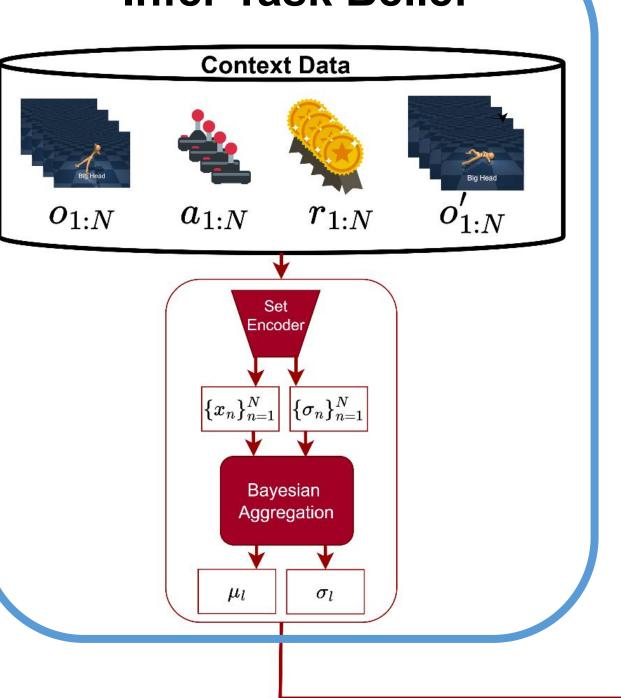
#### **HiP-POMDP:**

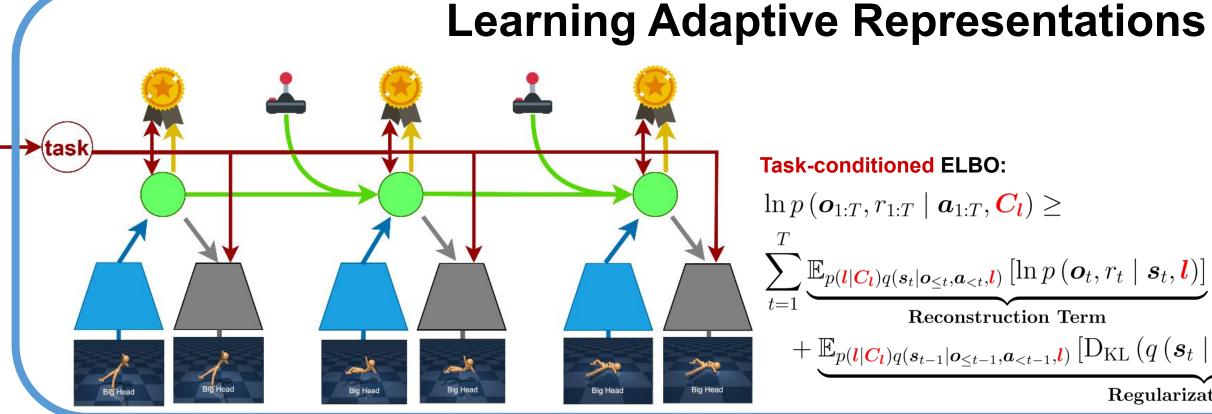
- Assumption: Environmental components evolve over time.
- **Solution:** 
  - Introduce inductive bias. Separate latent variables for task and state.
  - **Two-stage inference:** 
    - Infer a task representation from data context.
    - Infer latent state conditioned on task.









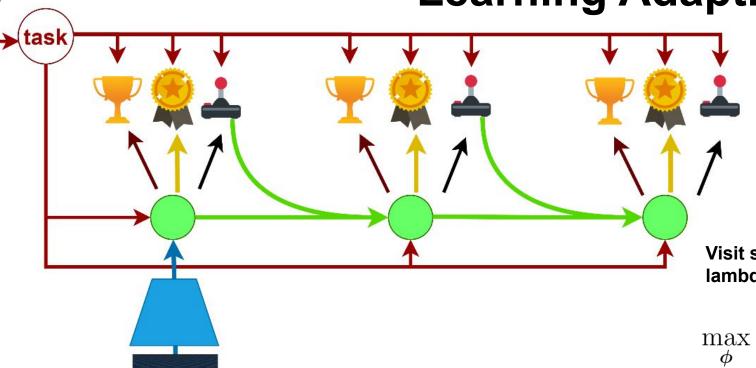


#### **Task-conditioned ELBO:**

 $\ln p\left(\boldsymbol{o}_{1:T}, r_{1:T} \mid \boldsymbol{a}_{1:T}, \boldsymbol{C_l}\right) \geq$  $\sum_{t=1} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{l}|\boldsymbol{C_l})q(\boldsymbol{s_t}|\boldsymbol{o}_{\leq t},\boldsymbol{a}_{< t},\boldsymbol{l})} \left[\ln p\left(\boldsymbol{o_t},r_t \mid \boldsymbol{s_t},\boldsymbol{l}\right)\right]}_{\text{Reconstruction Term}}$ 

+  $\mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{l}|\boldsymbol{C_{l}})q(\boldsymbol{s}_{t-1}|\boldsymbol{o}_{\leq t-1},\boldsymbol{a}_{< t-1},\boldsymbol{l})} \left[ \mathrm{D_{KL}} \left( q\left( \boldsymbol{s}_{t} \mid \boldsymbol{o}_{\leq t}, \boldsymbol{a}_{< t}, \boldsymbol{l} \right) \parallel p\left( \boldsymbol{s}_{t} \mid \boldsymbol{s}_{t-1}, \boldsymbol{a}_{t-1}, \boldsymbol{l} \right) \right) \right]$ Regularization Term

## **Learning Adaptive Behaviors**

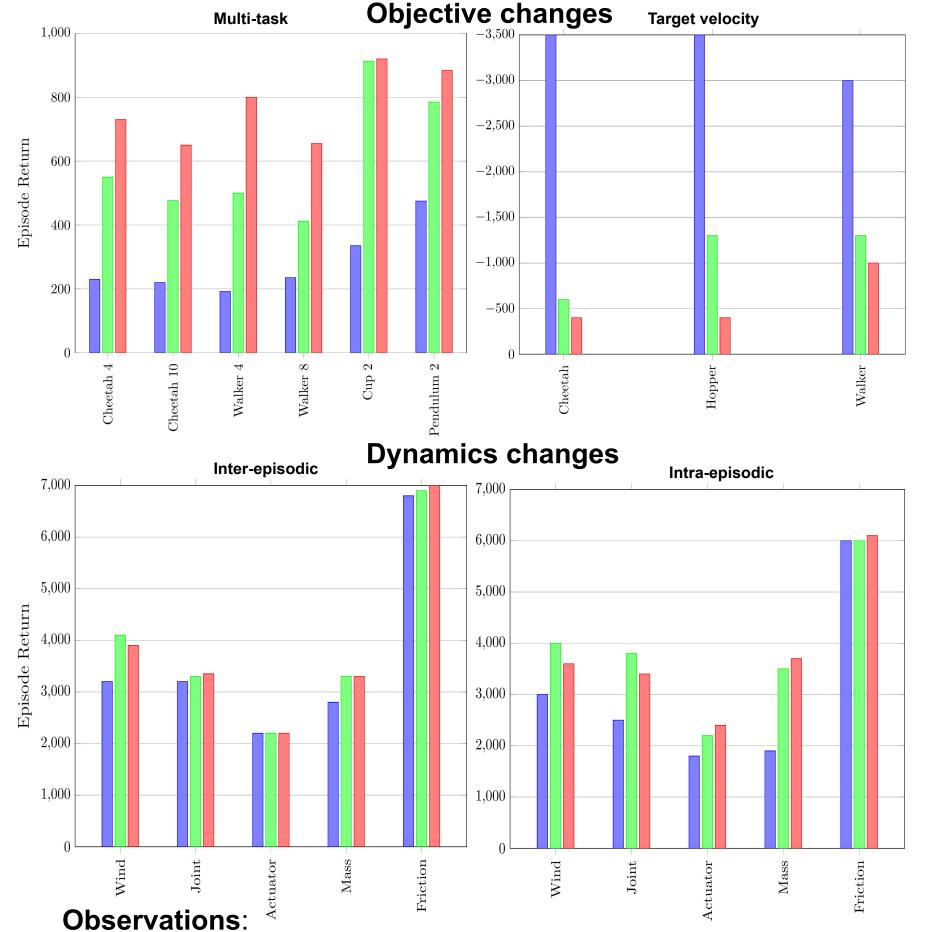


Visit states with high task-conditioned Bellman consistency: Regress task-conditioned lambda returns:

 $\max_{oldsymbol{\phi}} \; \mathbb{E}_{q_{oldsymbol{ heta}},\pi_{oldsymbol{\phi}}} \left( \sum_{ au=t}^{t+H} \mathrm{V}_{\lambda}(oldsymbol{s}_{ au}, oldsymbol{l}) 
ight) \; \; \; \min_{oldsymbol{\psi}} \; \mathbb{E}_{q_{oldsymbol{\phi}},\pi_{oldsymbol{\phi}}} \left( \sum_{ au=t}^{t+H} rac{1}{2} \left\| v_{oldsymbol{\psi}}(oldsymbol{s}_{ au}, oldsymbol{l}) - \mathrm{V}_{\lambda}(oldsymbol{s}_{ au}, oldsymbol{l}) 
ight\|^2 
ight)$ 

## **Evaluation**

DreamerV1 Ours Oracle

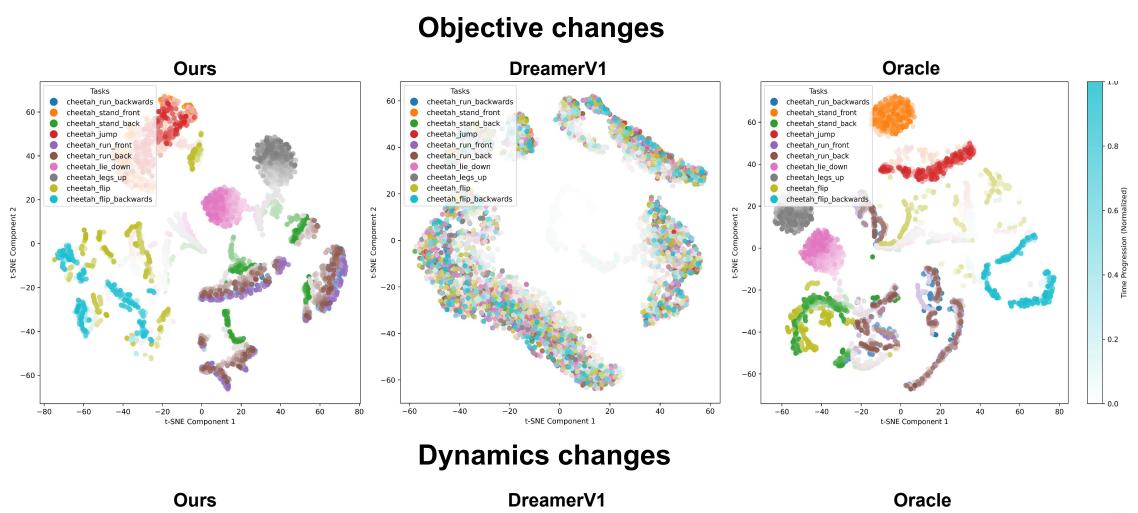


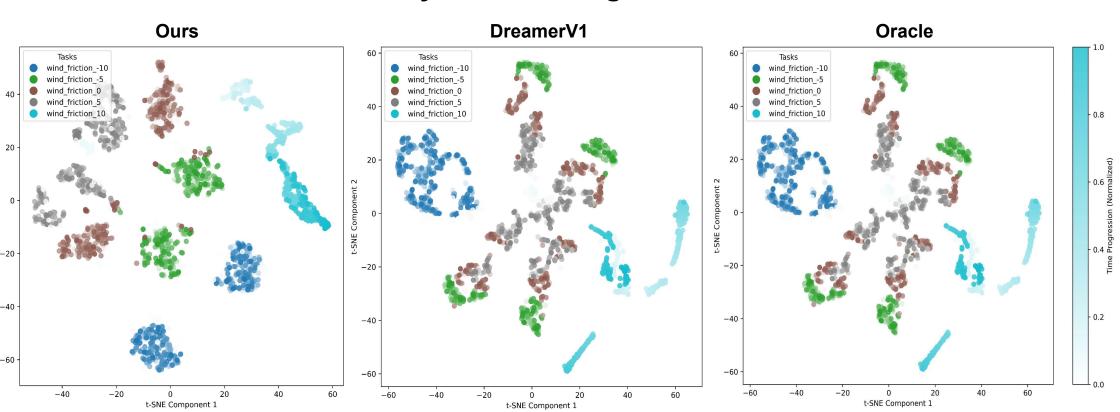
## All agents adapt under dynamics changing scenarios.

DreamerV1 fails under all objective changes.

**Takeaway:** Additional inductive bias aids agent adaptation under all environmental changes.

## **2D Latent State Space Projections**





### **Observations:**

- Latent space is task-aware clustered across all agents under dynamics changes.
- DreamerV1 fails to organize its latent state space by task under objective changes.

Takeaway: Take-awareness in the latent space improves agent performance.