MFF UK Prague 25.10.2018





#### Al for Children of the Galaxy MCTS to Rule Them All...

#### Pavel Šmejkal, Jakub Gemrot



## Al in Games...

Why?

# Would it be a game without ...





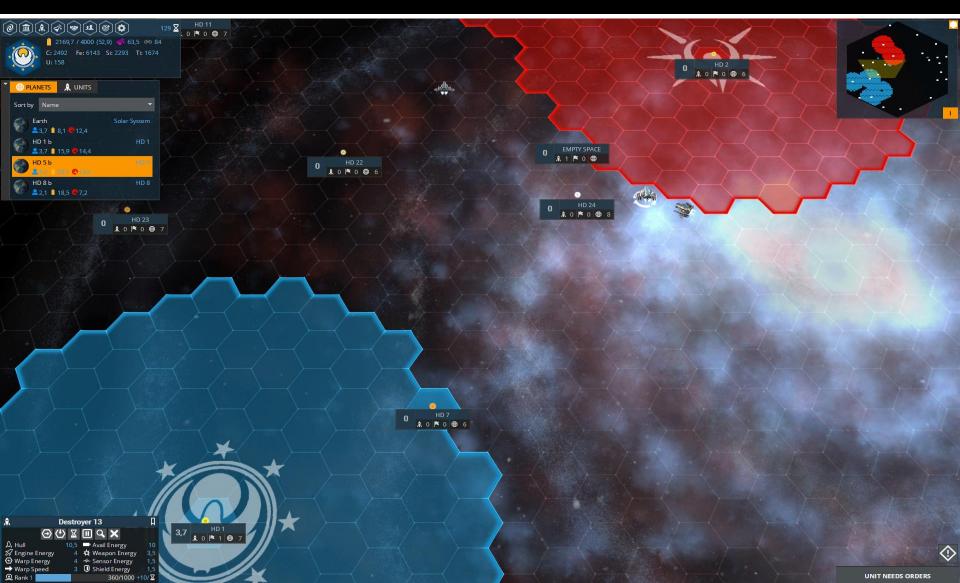
# Would it be a game without ...





## Would it be a game if you have to ...





## Would it be a game if you have to ...





# Please wait. re opponent is visiting WC.



🔍 Rank 1

📋 2169,7 / 4000 (52,9) 🞻 63,5 🏎 84

129 🛛

0 🖪 0 🌐 7

**3,7 1 ⊕** 7

Shield Energy 360/1000 +10/ 8

UNIT NEEDS ORDERS

 $\langle \rangle$ 

Games are still used as a source of interesting (and hard) problems.

# Mastering Games Means to compete with humankind

\$21,600

WHI STREET

\$5200



\$77,147

\$ 17,973

Source: iSTAN HONDA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Source: ihttps://www.inverse.com/article/13630

2011, Watson, IBM

\$24,000

Source: AP/Lee Jin-man

Source: GETTY IMAGES/NICOLAS\_

AlphaGo, Google, 2015

Cepheus University of Alberta CA, 2015

A

#### <u>Go 19x19</u>

#### Game tree ~ 10<sup>360</sup> Avg. game length ~ 150 plies

AlphaZero (is claimed) to require >4.6yr of TPU time to master it. Learned in 8hr on a farm of 5064 TPUs.

Silver, David, et al. "Mastering chess and shogi by self-play with a general reinforcement learning algorithm." arXiv preprint arXiv:1712.01815 (2017).

# What's on the game horizon now?

## Modern Computer Games Now for "real" problems...





## Modern Computer Games We have solved Go, now for "real" problems...

Stochastic Partially observable Simultaneous Real-time Huge game trees



## Modern Computer Games We have solved Go, now for "real" problems...

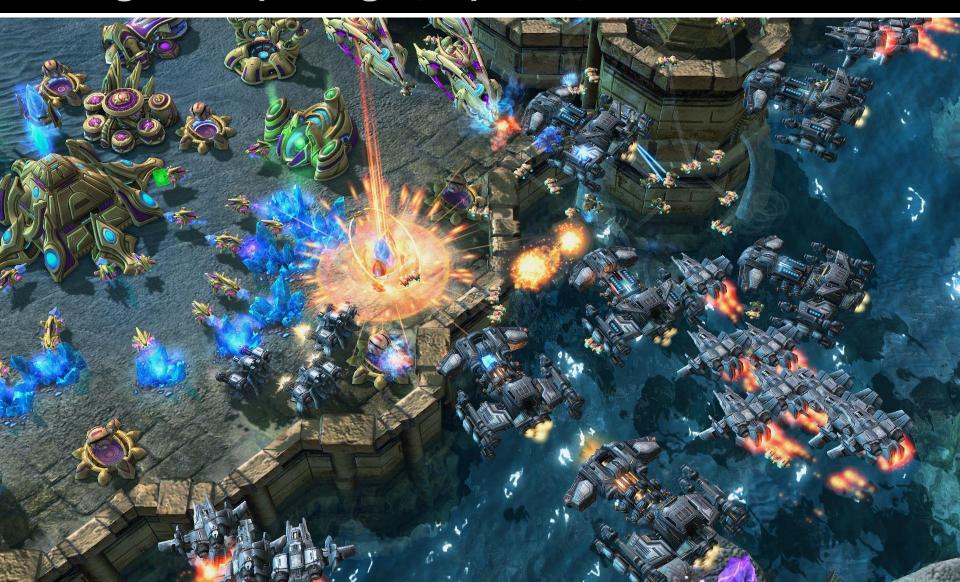
Stochastic Partially observable Simultaneous Real-time Huge game trees

=> Fun to play!



## Star Craft II Targeted by Google, OpenAI, Facebook





## **Star Craft: Brood War** In scope of various unis for some time now

C





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Game	State-space	Branching	Depth	
Chess	10 <sup>47</sup>	35	80	
Go	10 <sup>171</sup>	80	200	
SCBW				





Game	State-space	Branching	Depth (pl.)
Chess	<b>10</b> <sup>57</sup>	~35	~80
Go	<b>10</b> <sup>430</sup>	~250	~211
SCBW	<b>10</b> <sup>1685</sup>		
		100 March 1002/0	COLUMN TO A COLUMN

StarCraft map: 128x128 Maximum number of units: 400

Considering only unit positions: (128x128)<sup>400</sup>=16384<sup>400</sup>≈10<sup>1685</sup>



Game	State-space	Branching	Depth
Chess	<b>10</b> <sup>57</sup>	~35	~80
Go	<b>10</b> <sup>430</sup>	~250	~211
SCBW	<b>10</b> <sup>1685</sup>	<b>10<sup>4</sup> - 10</b> <sup>200</sup>	

Units: 4 – 200 Actions per unit: 10

Branching factor: 10<sup>50</sup> - 10<sup>200</sup>



#### Length of a game: 25 minutes 25 min x 60 sec x 24 iteration/sec = 36000

## How to tackle such a space?

# Star Craft: Brood War Divide et impera



#### Layers of control

- Strategic Army/Base level
  - Build, research, muster, expand, manage groups
- Tactical Group level
  - Move, attack, siege, defend
- Reactive Unit Level
  - Engage, withdraw, use ability

# STRATEGIC LAYER (SCBW)

# Star Craft: Brood War Strategic Layer



- Not addressed much
- Partial observability is a big problem as the first encounter with the enemy is done usually after 2-4 minutes (depth 2 880 – 5 760)
- Even though we have a lot of replays, if you consider the number of maps, combination of races and different initial positions, the data set is not big enough in each bucket
  Human players have already converged to many viable opening strategies

# Star Craft: Brood War Strategic Layer

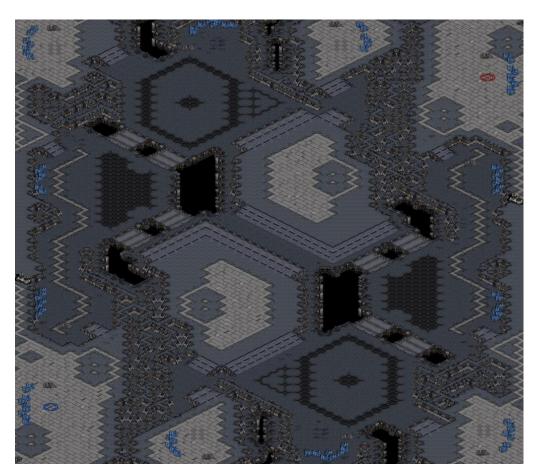


#### "Poor man's solution"

- Pick existing strategy and implement its build order via rule-based systems
- Zerg: 6-pool rush, Lurker rugh, Mutarush, …
- Terran: Bunker-push, Tank-push, …
- Protoss: Zealot rush, Photon cannon rush, …
- Suitability depends on the map and initial base positions
- Typically each bot implements one to a few strategies

# TACTICAL LAYER (SCBW)

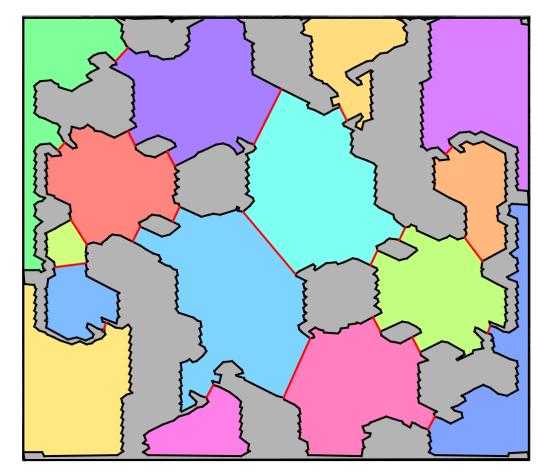




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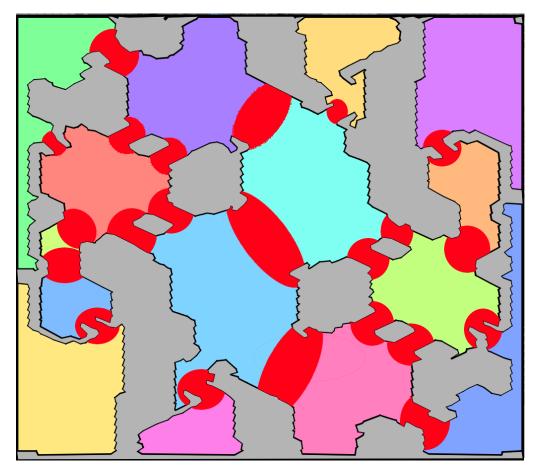
Perkins' algorithm to decompose a map into **regions** and **chokepoints**.





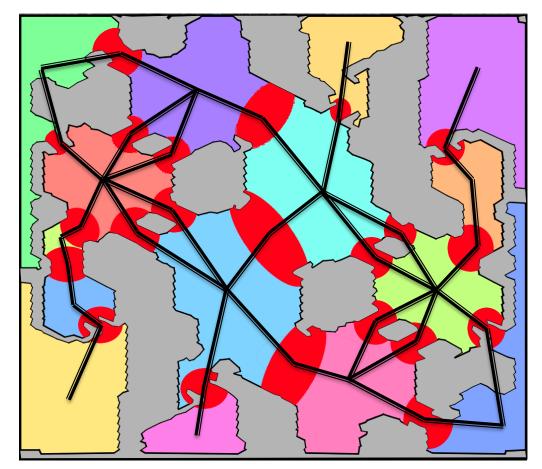
Abstraction for map Benzene

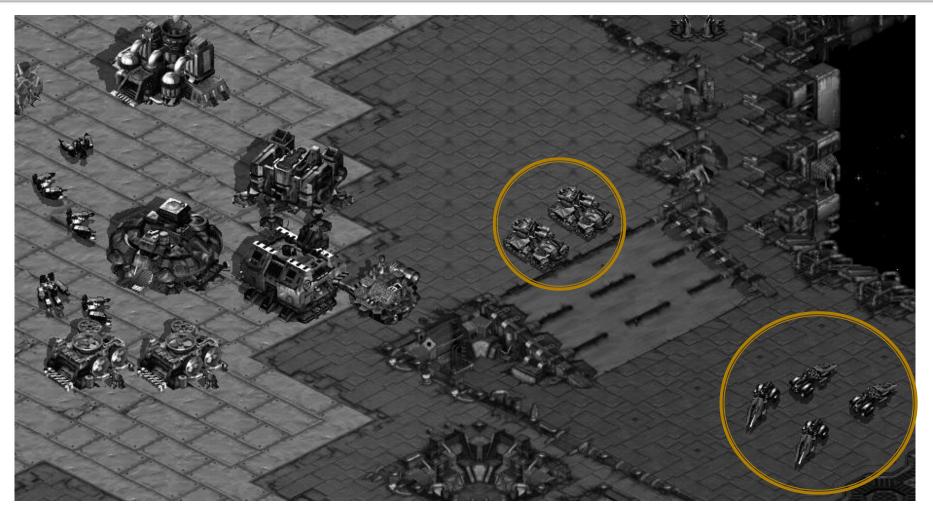
## Chokepoints (20) are deviding regions (15).



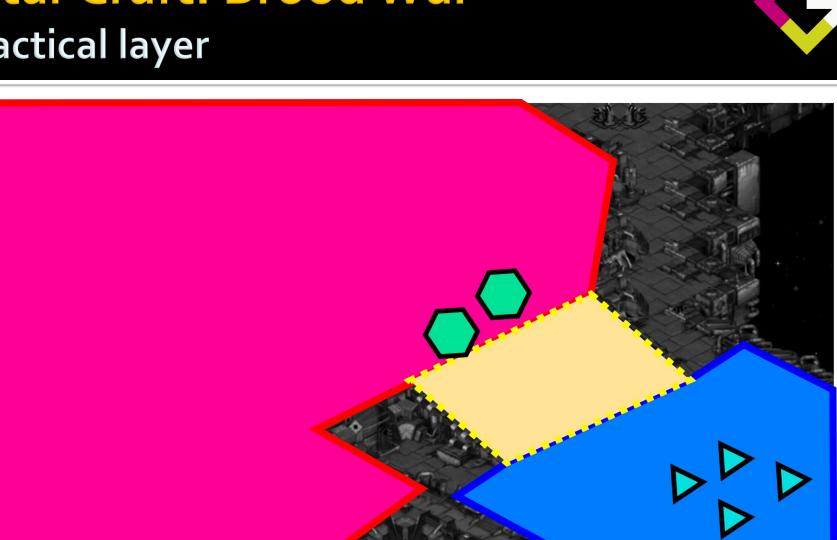


### **Distance matrix** precomputed between regions. (Mind the air units.)

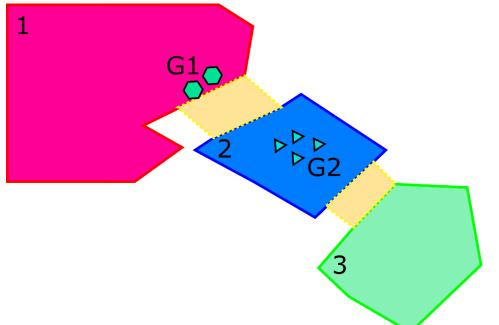




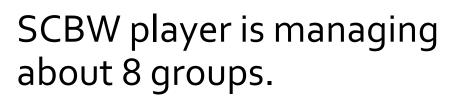
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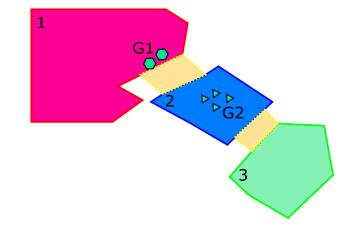




G1: move 2, idle G2: move 1, move 3, idle => Branching factor 6



- Avg.# of region links ~ 4
- ⇒ 4 move + 1 idle action



 $\Rightarrow$  5<sup>8</sup> = 4.10<sup>5</sup> branching factor in a late game phase

#### Much smaller during early/mid game phases.





- Search is doable
- ABCD
- MCTSCD

(discussed later)

# REACTIVE LAYER (SCBW)

## **Star Craft: Brood War** Reactive layer











Red player: 22 units (4 station.) Possible actions (roughly):  $9^{18} \times 8^4 \sim 10^{20}$ 

Blue payer: 47 unit Possible actions (roug.): 9<sup>47</sup> ~ 10<sup>87</sup>

Local "search" to prune the action space.



Action space -> Script space Instead of actions, we use scripts.

Script: S -> A For a given state s, it gives an action to perform. Usually O(N).

Closest Kiting AV NOK-Closest NOK-AV Kiting-AV Kiting-NOK-AV attack closest unit attack closest unit than escape attack highest dpf(u) / hp(u)attack closest unit if not to receiving lethal dmg NOK but attack via AV hit and run, choose target via AV kiting but choose NOK-AV

				•		<u> </u>
Randon	n Weakest	Closest	AV	Kiter	Kite-AV	NOK-AV
1.00	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	0.95



Red player: 22 units (4 station.) Possible actions (**low-level**): 9<sup>18</sup> x 8<sup>4</sup> ~ 10<sup>20</sup>

Blue payer: 47 unit Possible actions (**low-l.**): 9<sup>47</sup> ~ 10<sup>87</sup>

Local "search" to prune the action space.





Red player: 22 units (4 station.) Possible actions (2 scripts): 2<sup>18</sup> = 262 144

Blue payer: 47 unit Possible actions (**2 scr.**): **2**<sup>47</sup> ~ **10**<sup>53</sup>





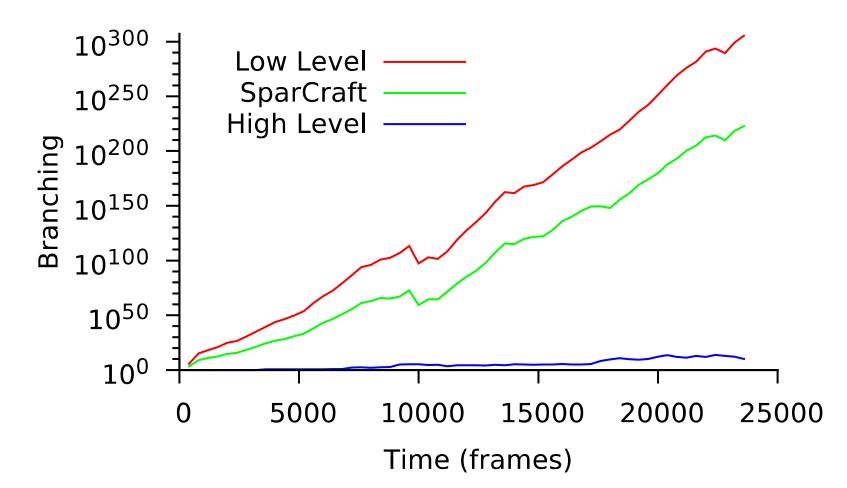
Red player: 22 units (4 station.) Possible actions (2 scripts): 2<sup>18</sup> = 262 144

#### Blue payer: 47 unit Possible actions (**1 scr.**): **1**

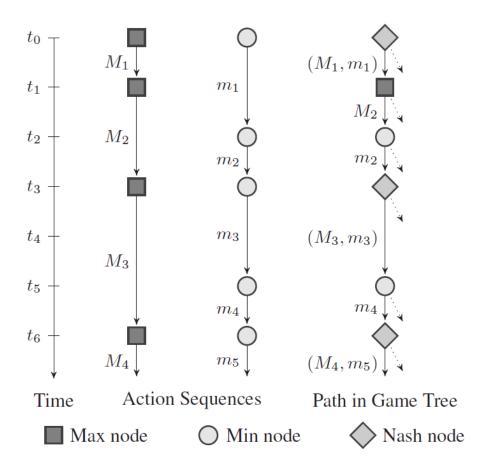
Evaluating a script costs non-trivial time, typically O(N)!

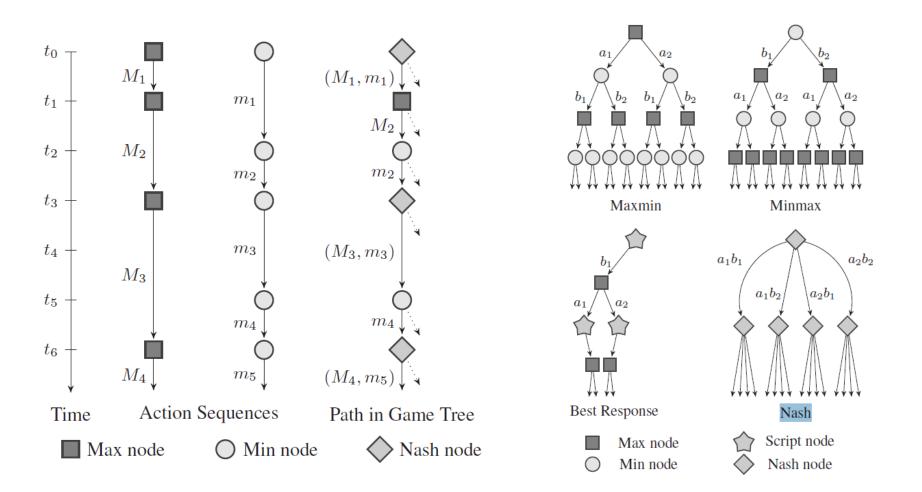


#### **Star Craft: Brood War** Tactical vs. Reactive Layer



# ALPHA-BETA CONSIDERING DURATION (ABCD)









Algorithm 1 Alpha-Beta (Considering Durations) 1: procedure ABCD $(s, d, m_0, \alpha, \beta)$ if computationTime.elapsed then return timeout 2: else if terminal(s, d) then return eval(s) 3: 4: toMove  $\leftarrow$  s.playerToMove(policy) while  $m \leftarrow s.nextMove(toMove)$  do 5: if s.bothCanMove and  $m_0 = \emptyset$  and  $d \neq 1$  then 6:  $val \leftarrow ABCD(s, d-1, m, \alpha, \beta)$ 7: 8: else  $s' \leftarrow \operatorname{copy}(s)$ 9: if  $m_0 \neq \emptyset$  then s'.doMove $(m_0)$ 10: s'.doMove(m)11:  $v \leftarrow \text{ABCD}(s', d-1, \emptyset, \alpha, \beta)$ 12: if toMove = MAX and  $(v > \alpha)$  then  $\alpha \leftarrow v$ 13: if toMove = *MIN* and  $(v < \beta)$  then  $\beta \leftarrow v$ 14: if  $\alpha \geq \beta$  then break 15: **return** to Move = MAX ?  $\alpha$  :  $\beta$ 16:



$$e(s) = \sum_{u \in U_1} hp(u) - \sum_{u \in U_2} hp(u)$$
$$dpf(u) = \frac{damage(w(u))}{cooldown(w(u))}$$
$$LTD(s) = \sum_{u \in U_1} hp(u) \cdot dpf(u) - \sum_{u \in U_2} hp(u) \cdot dpf(u)$$
$$LTD2(s) = \sum_{u \in U_1} \sqrt{hp(u)} \cdot dpf(u) - \sum_{u \in U_2} \sqrt{hp(u)} \cdot dpf(u)$$
$$NOK-AV(s) = NOK-AV DFS$$

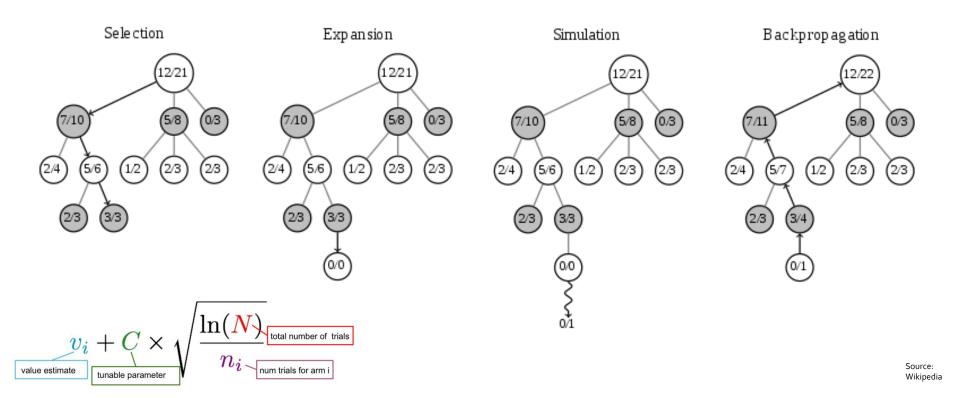


Opponent	ABCD Search Setting				
	Alt	Alt	Alt	Alt'	RAB'
	LTD	LTD2	NO	K-AV PI	ayout
Random	0.99	0.98	1.00	1.00	1.00
Kite	0.70	0.79	0.93	0.93	0.92
Kite-AV	0.69	0.81	0.92	0.96	0.92
Closest	0.59	0.85	0.92	0.92	0.93
Weakest	0.41	0.76	0.91	0.91	0.89
AV	0.42	0.76	0.90	0.90	0.91
NOK-AV	0.32	0.64	0.87	0.87	0.82
Average	0.59	0.80	0.92	0.92	0.91

# MONTE-CARLO TREE SEARCH CONSIDERING DURATION (MTCSCD)

#### Monte-Carlo tree search Overview

- Heuristic search algorithm, similar to minimax but expands the tree in "asymmetric" fashion
- 4 steps (Nodes are annotated [#wins]/[#visits])



#### Algorithm 1 MCTS Considering Durations

- 1: **function** MCTSSEARCH $(s_0)$
- 2:  $n_0 \leftarrow \text{CREATENODE}(s_0, \emptyset)$
- 3: while withing computational budget **do**
- 4:  $n_l \leftarrow \text{TREEPOLICY}(n_0)$
- 5:  $\triangle \leftarrow \text{DEFAULTPOLICY}(n_l)$
- 6:  $BACKUP(n_l, \Delta)$
- 7: **return** (BESTCHILD $(n_0)$ ).action

9:	function CREATENODE $(s,n_0)$
10:	$n.parent \leftarrow n_0$
11:	$n.lastSimult \leftarrow n_0.lastSimult$
12:	$n.player \leftarrow PLAYERToMOVE(s, n.lastSimult)$
13:	if BOTHCANMOVE(s) then
14:	$n.lastSimult \leftarrow n.player$
15:	return n
16:	
17:	function DEFAULTPOLICY(n)
18:	$lastSimult \leftarrow n.lastSimult$
19:	$s \leftarrow n.s$
20:	while withing computational budget do
21:	$p \leftarrow PLAYERTOMOVE(s, lastSimult)$
22:	if BOTHCANMOVE(s) then
23:	$lastSimult \leftarrow p$
24:	simulate game $s$ with a policy and player $p$
25:	return s.reward

#### Algorithm 1 MCTS Considering Durations

- 1: **function** MCTSSEARCH $(s_0)$
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- 5:  $\triangle \leftarrow \text{DEFAULTPOLICY}(n_l)$
- 6:  $BACKUP(n_l, \Delta)$
- 7: **return** (BESTCHILD $(n_0)$ ).action
- $\epsilon$ -greedy tree policy with  $\epsilon = 0.2$
- Default policy = random move selection
- Simultaneous node = Alt policy

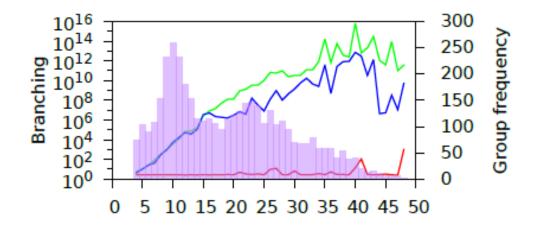
```
Limited the depth of the tree policy to 10
```

- MCTSCD for 2,000 playouts with a length of 7,200 game frames.
- Group actions: Idle, Move adjacent, attack

9:	function CREATENODE $(s, n_0)$
10:	$n.parent \leftarrow n_0$
11:	$n.lastSimult \leftarrow n_0.lastSimult$
12:	$n.player \leftarrow PLAYERTOMOVE(s, n.lastSimult)$
13:	if BOTHCANMOVE(s) then
14:	$n.lastSimult \leftarrow n.player$
15:	return n
16:	
17:	function DEFAULTPOLICY(n)
18:	$lastSimult \leftarrow n.lastSimult$
19:	$s \leftarrow n.s$
20:	while withing computational budget do
21:	$p \leftarrow PLAYERTOMOVE(s, lastSimult)$
22:	if BOTHCANMOVE(s) then
23:	$lastSimult \leftarrow p$
24:	simulate game $s$ with a policy and player $p$
25:	return s.reward

Algorithm	Мар	Avg. Eval	% > 0	Avg. % overwrt.
Scripted	Benzene	35853.33	100.00	-
Scripted	Destination	32796.51	100.00	-
ABCD	Benzene	16020.45	81.82	83.05
ABCD	Destination	18226.32	87.72	88.05
MCTSCD	Benzene	16170.51	89.74	83.74
MCTSCD	Destination	20753.85	84.62	92.25

Algorithm	Мар	Avg. Eval	% > 0	Avg. % overwrt.
Scripted	Benzene	35853.33	100.00	-
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MCTSCD	Destination	20753.85	84.62	92.25



## PORTFOLIO GREEDY SEARCH (PGS)

#### **Portfolio Greedy Search** Used for Reactive layer

Idea: let them fight against each other iterating best assignment of scripts to units while using playout to determine the outcome.

Algorithm 2 Portfo	blio Greedy Search		
1: Portfolio P	▷ Script Portfolio		
2: Integer I	Improvement Iterations		
3: Integer R	Self/Enemy Improvement Responses		
4: Script D	▷ Default Script		
5:	-		
6: procedure Por	TFOLIOGREEDYSEARCH(State $s$ , Player $p$ )		
7: Script enem	ny[s.numUnits(opponent(p))].fill(D)		
8: Script self[]	Script self[] $\leftarrow$ GetSeedPlayer(s, p, enemy)		
9: enemy $\leftarrow$ C	enemy $\leftarrow$ GetSeedPlayer(s, opponent(p), self)		
0: $self = Improve(s, p, self, enemy)$			
11: <b>for</b> $r = 1$ to	o R do		
12: enemy =	= Improve(s, opponent(p), enemy, self)		
13: $self = Ii$	s: self = Improve(s, p, self, enemy)		
return gene	erateMoves(self)		

28: **procedure** IMPROVE(State s, Player p, Script self[], Script e[]) 29: for i = 1 to I do 30: for u = 1 to self.length do 31: if timeElapsed > timeLimit then return 32: bestValue  $\leftarrow -\infty$ 33: Script bestScript  $\leftarrow \emptyset$ 34: for Script c in P do 35:  $self[u] \leftarrow c$ 36: value  $\leftarrow$  Playout(s, p, self, e) 37: if value > bestValue then 38: bestValue  $\leftarrow$  value 39: bestScript  $\leftarrow c$ 40:  $self[u] \leftarrow bestScript$ 41: return self 42:

## **Portfolio Greedy Search** Experiment setup

#### Alpha-Beta search:

- Time Limit: 40 ms
- Max Children: 20
- Evaluation: NOK-AV vs. NOK-AV Playout
- Transposition Table Size: 100000 (13.2 MB)

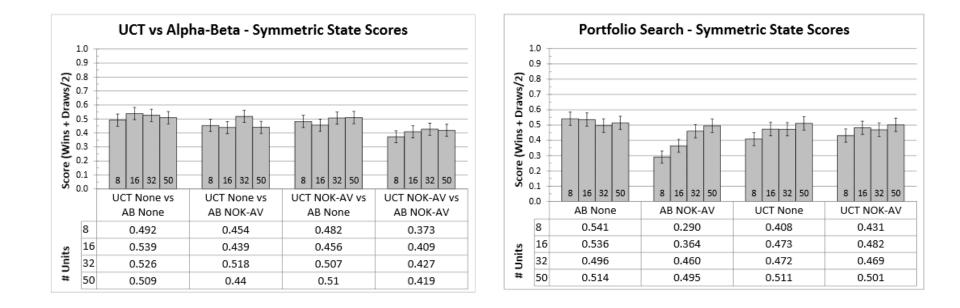
#### UCT search:

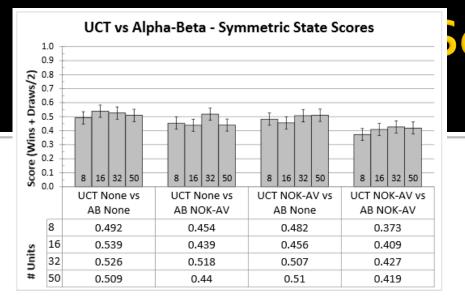
- Time Limit: 40 ms
- Max Children: 20
- Evaluation: NOK-AV vs. NOK-AV Playout
- Final Move Selection: Most Visited
- Exploration Constant: 1.6
- Child Generation: One-at-leaf
- Tree Size: No Limit (6 MB largest seen in 40 ms)

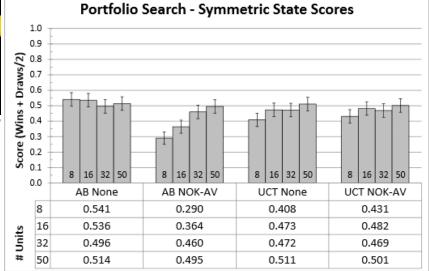
#### Portfolio Greedy search:

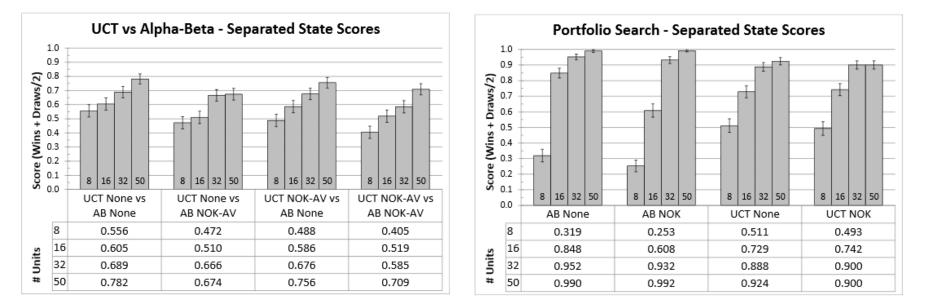
- Time Limit: 40 ms
- Improvement Iterations I: 1
- Response Iterations R: 0
- Initial Enemy Script: NOK-AV
- Evaluation: Improved Playout
- Portfolio Used: (NOK-AV, Kiter)

#### **Portfolio Greedy Search** Experiment result

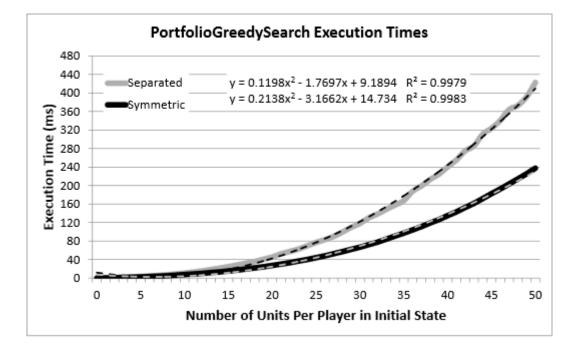






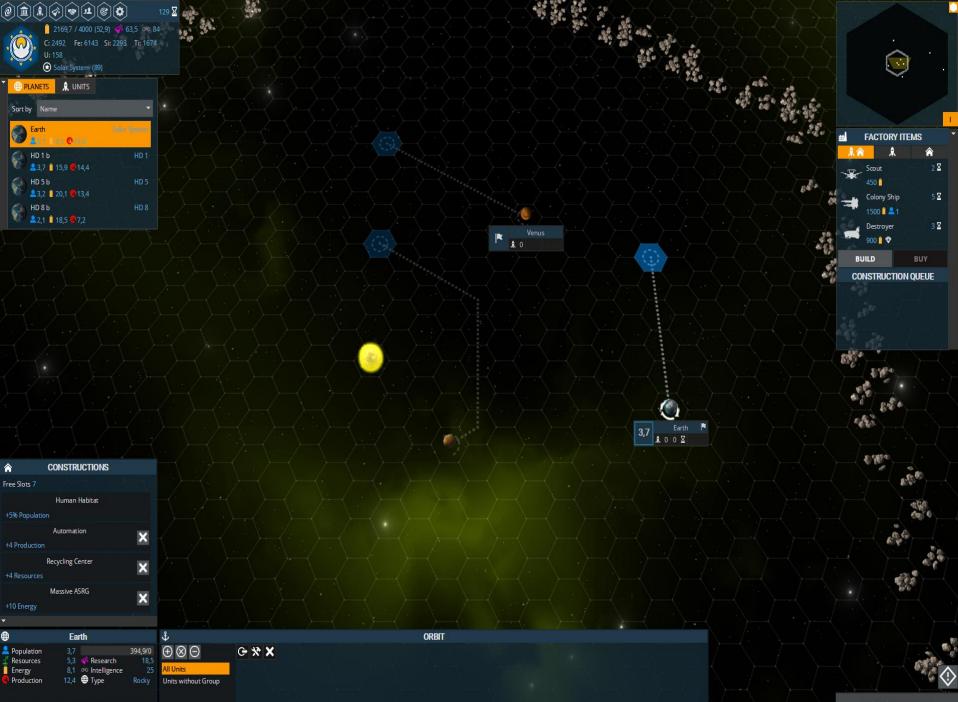


### Portfolio Greedy Search Experiment setup



## CHILDREN OF THE GALAXY (Finally <sup>©</sup>)

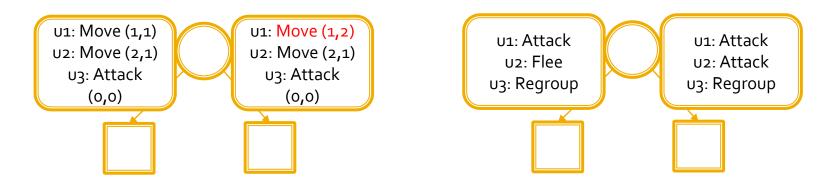






## MCTS for CotG Combat Script space

- Branching factor for movement of 7 units is about 2.7 \* 10<sup>12</sup>
- Don't search in action space, search in script space



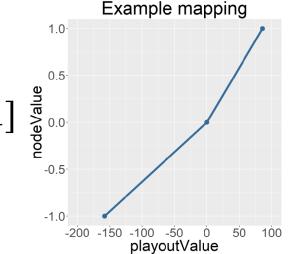
Branching factor for 7 units and 3 scripts is  $3^7 = 2187$ 

MCTS considering HP (our small contribution)

## MCTS for CotG Combat Script space

#### • MCTS returns $i \in \{0, 1\}$ – lose/win

- One bit of information
- Statistically sufficient given many playouts
- Combat is just a subproblem
- MCTS\_HP: Analyze the state and return  $x \in [-1; 1]$  instead
  - Map HP remaining to interval [-1; 1]
  - Works for fewer playouts
  - Guides the search better

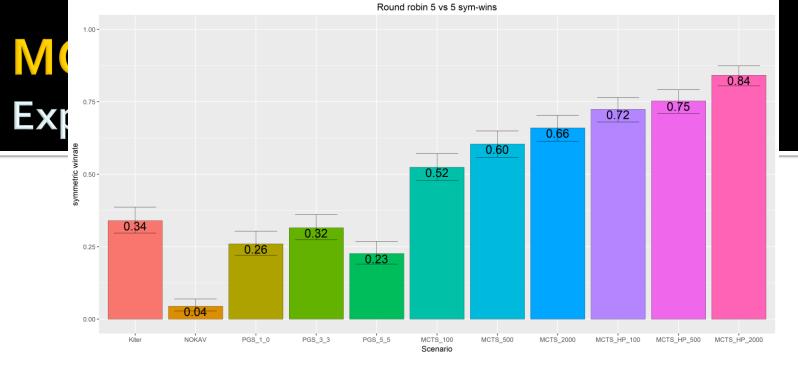


#### MCTS for CotG Combat Experiment setup

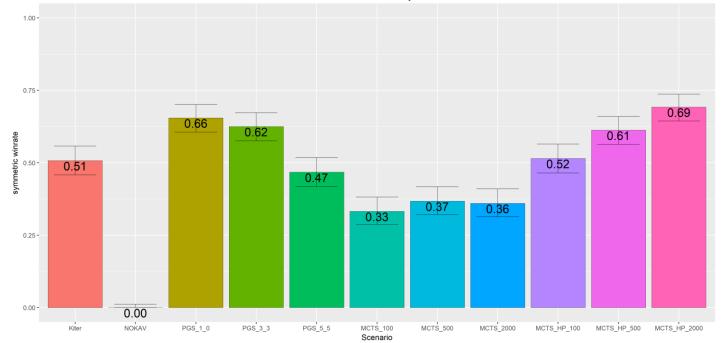
- Round robin tournaments
- Various unit counts from 3vs3 to 64vs64
- Scripts: Kiter, NOK-AV
- Search methods
  - Portfolio greedy search (Churchill, Buro 2013)
    - Time limit 500ms, various I and R
  - MCTS in script space similar to (Justesen et al. 2014)
    - Time limit: 100ms, 500ms, 2000ms
  - MCTS considering HP (our algorithm)
    - Time limit: 100ms, 500ms, 200ms

## MCTS for CotG Combat Experiment setup

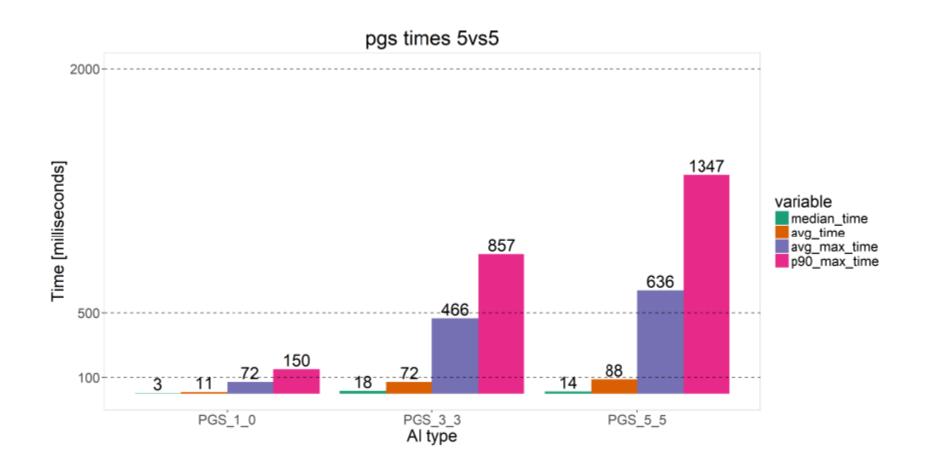
Symmetric battle id	Battle 1:	Battle 2:	Sym result
Symmetric battle lu	Player A starts	Player B starts	Symresult
1	A wins, HP: 10	B wins, HP: 20	B has more HP
2	A wins, HP: 12	B wins, HP: 15	B has more HP
3	A wins, HP: 5	A wins, HP: 2	A wins both
4	A wins, HP: 4	A wins, HP: 1	A wins both
5	A wins. HP: 8	B wins, HP: 11	B has more HP
Total	A: 7 win	A: 2 sym-wins	
1.0000	B: 3 win	B: 3 sym-wins	



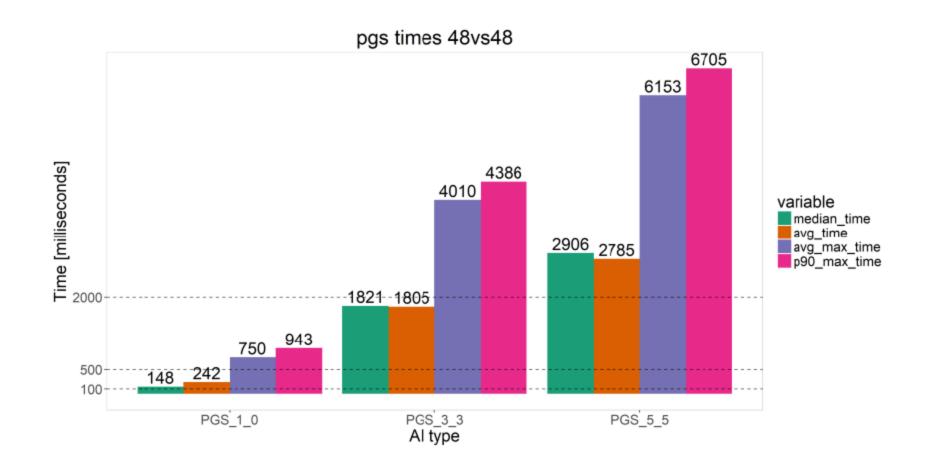
Round robin 48 vs 48 sym-wins



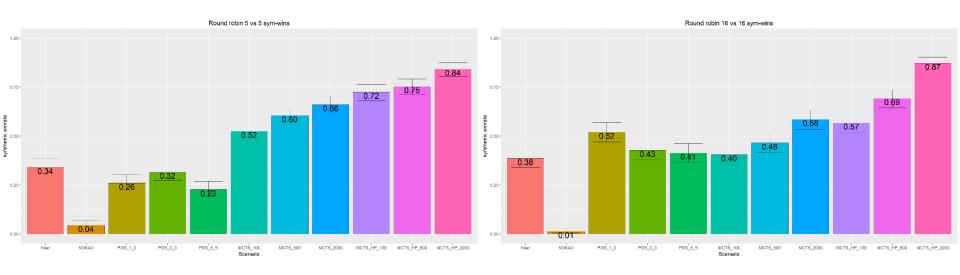
#### MCTS\_HP for CotG Combat Experiment setup

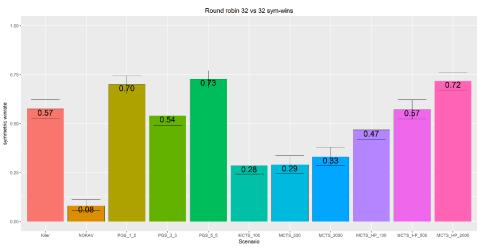


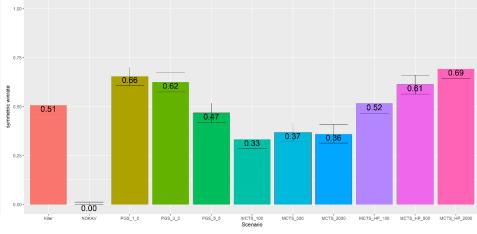
#### MCTS\_HP for CotG Combat Experiment setup



#### MCTS\_HP for CotG Combat Experiment setup







Round robin 48 vs 48 sym-wins

## That's all today 😊