#### NeurlPS 2024

The Thirty-Eighth Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems



# iVideoGPT: Interactive VideoGPTs are Scalable World Models

https://thuml.github.io/iVideoGPT

Jialong Wu<sup>1</sup>,\*Shaofeng Yin<sup>1,2</sup>,\*Ningya Feng<sup>1</sup>, Xu He<sup>3</sup>, Dong Li<sup>3</sup>, Jianye Hao<sup>3,4</sup>, Mingsheng Long<sup>1⊠</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Software, BNRist, Tsinghua University, <sup>2</sup>Zhili College, Tsinghua University <sup>3</sup>Huawei Noah's Ark Lab, <sup>4</sup>College of Intelligence and Computing, Tianjin University wujialong0229@gmail.com, ysf22@mails.tsinghua.edu.cn, mingsheng@tsinghua.edu.cn







### Motivation: Video Generation vs. World Models





Are Video Generation Models World Worlds?

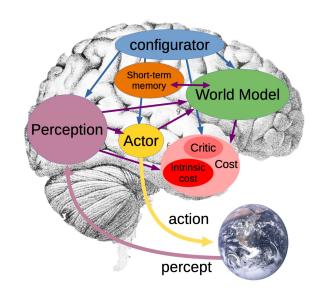
Not Yet! (explained later)

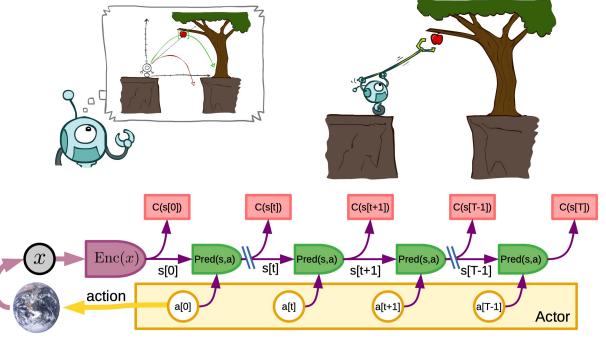
Our work: How can we leverage the advancements in scalable video generative models for developing interactive visual world models?

# World Models: From System-1 to System-2









### **World Models:**

internal models of how the world works

## **Model-based Agents:**

Act through an optimization procedure (planning) running the world model.

## Task: World Models as Interactive Video Prediction



$$o_t =$$

$$a_t = (\Delta X, \Delta R)$$





$$o_{t+1} =$$

$$a_{t+1} = (\Delta X, \Delta R)$$





$$o_{t+2} =$$

:

# A process of making decisions and imagine outcomes:

$$\begin{split} p(o_{T_0+1:T}, a_{T_0:T-1} \mid o_{1:T_0}) \\ &= p(a_{T_0:T-1} | o_{1:t}) p(o_{T_0+1:T} | o_{1:T_0}, a_{T_0:T-1}) & \textbf{Non- (Low-)} \\ & \textbf{Agent} & \textbf{World model} \\ &= \prod_{t=T_0}^{T-1} p(a_t | o_{1:t}) p(o_{t+1} | o_{1:t}, a_{T_0:t}) & \textbf{Interactive} \\ & \textbf{Agent} & \textbf{World model} \end{split}$$

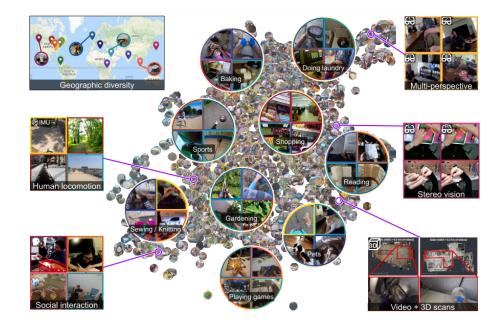
A problem with fundamental connection to video prediction/generation models, referred to as interactive video prediction

## Data: Towards a General World Model

# General world knowledge for a variety of downstream tasks from abundant in-the-wild videos on the Internet



Something V2
Goyal et al. ICCV 2017



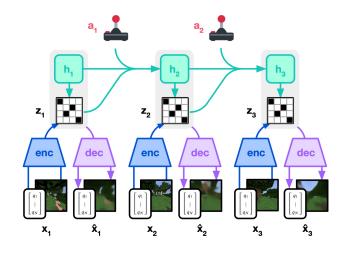
Ego4D

Grauman et al., Facebook Al. CVPR 2022

- ✓ Task-agnostic
- ✓ Widely available
- ✓ Broad Knowledge

## Model: Recurrent World Models Have Limited Scalability

**DreamerV3:** Naturally allows step-by-step transitions but with limited capability



A case study on Minecraft

Ground truth

Prediction (DreamerV3-L)



Sora: Internet-scale video generative models can synthesize realistic long videos



High-fidelity
Minecraft
simulation:





# Model: Video Generative Models Have Limited Interactivity

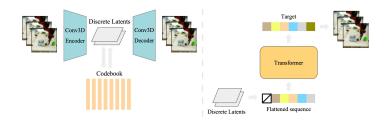
Typically design non-causal temporal modules



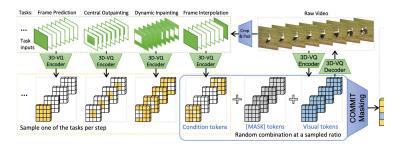
Provide only trajectory-level interactivity

- Allow text/action conditions only at the beginning of the video
- Lacking the ability for intervention during simulations
- Typically produce videos of a fixed length

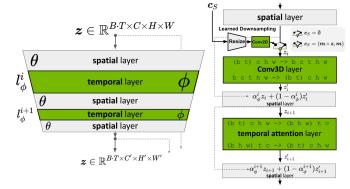
Our work: achieve step-level interactivity



Autoregressive model: VideoGPT



Masked model: MAGVIT

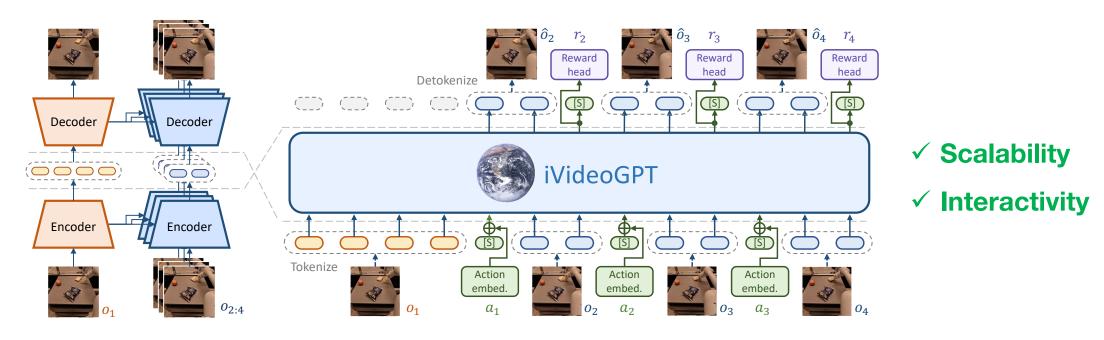


Diffusion model: Stable Video Diffusion

## iVideoGPT: Interactive VideoGPT

#### **Overview:**

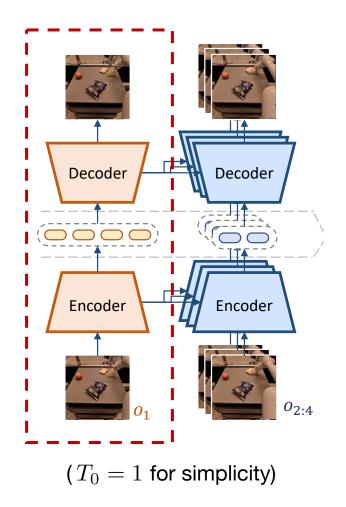
iVideoGPT integrates multimodal signals—visual observations (via compressive tokenization), actions, and rewards—into a sequence of tokens, and providing interactive experience via next-token prediction of an autoregressive transformer.



Compressive tokenization

Interactive prediction with Transformers

# **Compressive** Tokenization



Transformers particularly shine when operating over sequences of discrete tokens



Commonly used visual tokenizer:

**VQGAN** 

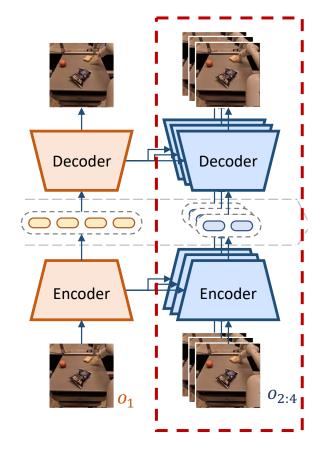
#### **Context frames independently tokenized:**

- Rich in contextual information
- Discretized into N tokens each frame:

$$z_t^{(1:N)} = E_c(o_t), \hat{o}_t = D_c(z_t) \text{ for } t = 1, \dots, T_0$$

To tokenize future frames as well? Low efficiency!

# **Compressive** Tokenization



( $T_0 = 1$  for simplicity)

#### **Future frames conditionally tokenized:**

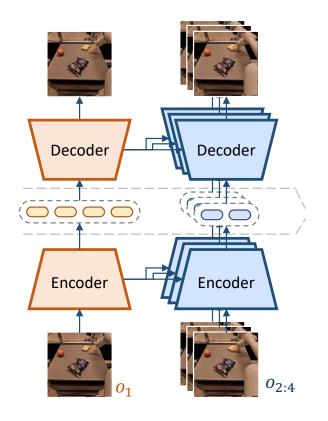
- Temporal redundancy between context and future frames
- Discretized into  $n \ll N$  tokens each frame through conditional VQGAN:

$$z_t^{(1:n)} = E_p\left(o_t \mid o_{1:T_0}\right), \hat{o}_t = D_p\left(z_t \mid o_{1:T_0}\right) \quad \text{for } t = T_0 + 1, \dots, T$$
 conditional encoder conditional decoder

 Conditioning mechanism using cross-attention between multi-scale feature maps (the same as in ContextWM)

Wu, Jialong, et al. Pre-training Contextualized World Models with In-the-wild Videos for Reinforcement Learning. NeurIPS 2023.

# **Compressive** Tokenization



(
$$T_0 = 1$$
 for simplicity)

#### **Overall objective:**

$$\mathcal{L}_{ ext{tokenizer}} = \sum_{t=1}^{T_0} \mathcal{L}_{ ext{VQGAN}}\left(o_t; E_c(\cdot), D_c(\cdot)
ight) \ ext{context frames} \ + \sum_{t=T_0+1}^{T} \mathcal{L}_{ ext{VQGAN}}\left(o_t; E_p\left(\cdot \mid o_{1:T_0}
ight), D_p\left(\cdot \mid o_{1:T_0}
ight)
ight) \ ext{future frames}$$

#### **Benefits:**

- ✓ Shorter token sequence, faster rollouts for model-based planning and reinforcement learning
- ✓ Maintain temporal consistency of the context much easier and focus on modeling essential dynamics information

## **Interactive Prediction with Transformers**

### A sequence of tokens:

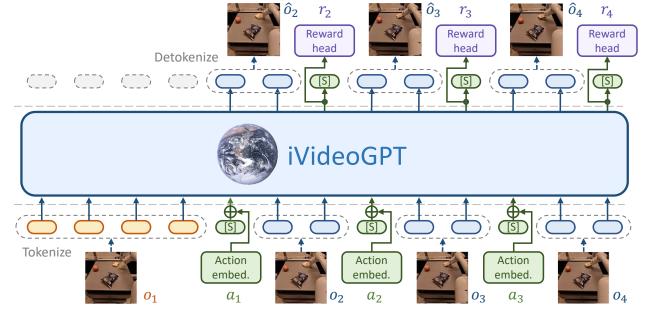
Delineate frame boundaries and facilitate optional action and reward integration

$$x = \left(z_1^{(1)}, \dots, z_1^{(N)}, \text{[S]}, z_2^{(1)}, \dots, z_2^{(N)}, \dots, \text{[S]}, z_{T_0+1}^{(1)}, \dots, z_{T_0+1}^{(n)}, \dots\right)$$
 context frame slot token future frame

Total length  $L=(N+1)T_0+(n+1)\left(T-T_0\right)-1$  grows linearly with frame numbers but at a much smaller rate (  $n\ll N$  )

# **GPT-2 size, LLaMA architecture:**

Embrace the latest innovations for LLM architecture



# Pre-Training and Fine-Tuning



#### **Action-free video prediction:**

Not trained to generate context frames, focusing on dynamics information

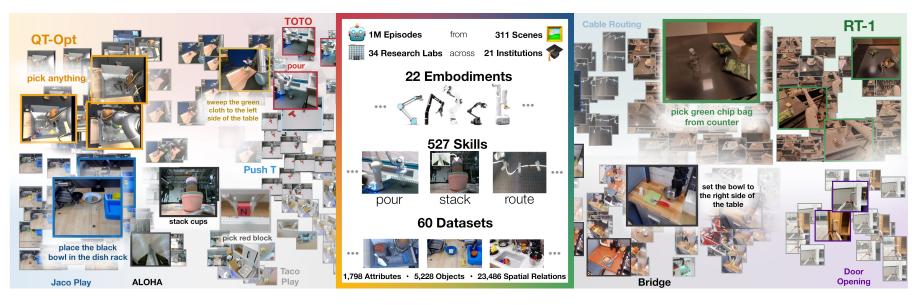
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{pre-train}} = -\sum_{i=(N+1)T_0+1}^{L} \log p(x_i \mid x_{< i})$$

First token index of predicted frames

#### Flexibly incorporate extra modalities:

- Action conditioning: linear projection and adding to the slot token embeddings
- Reward prediction: linear head to the last token's hidden state of each observation; mean-squared error (MSE) loss

## **Pre-Training Data**



Open X-Embodiment

Padalkar et al. 2023



# Something V2

Goyal et al. ICCV 2017

#### **Total 1.4 million trajectories:**

- Select 35 datasets from OXE, in addition to SSv2, by excluding mobile robots, excessive repetition, and low image resolutions
- Filter out overlaps with downstream test data
- Sampling weights based on sizes and diversity
- Varied frame step sizes, based on control frequency

## Video Prediction

Per-frame tokenization suffers from temporal inconsistency and flicker artifacts

BAIR [20]	FVD↓	PSNR↑	SSIM↑	LPIPS↓	RoboNet [15]	FVD↓	PSNR↑	SSIM↑	 LPIPS↓
action-free & 64×64 resolution					action-conditioned & 64×64 resolution				
VideoGPT [ <mark>97</mark> ] MaskViT [ <mark>26</mark> ]	103.3 93.7	-	- -	-	MaskViT [26] SVG [87]	133.5 123.2	23.2 23.9	80.5 87.8	4.2 6.0
FitVid [3] MCVD [89] MAGVIT [100]	93.6 89.5 <b>62.0</b>	16.9 19.3	78.0 78.7	12.3 0.5	GHVAE [94] FitVid [3]	95.2 <b>62.5</b>	24.7 <b>28.2</b>	89.1 89.3 <b>90.6</b> ±0.02	3.6 2.4
iVideoGPT (ours) $75.0\pm0.20$ <b>20.4</b> $\pm0.01$ <b>82.3</b> $\pm0.05$ <b>9.5</b> $\pm0.01$ action-conditioned & $64\times64$ resolution					action-conditioned & $256 \times 256$ resolution				
MaskViT [26] iVideoGPT (ours)	70.5 <b>60.8</b> ±0.08	- <b>24.5</b> ±0.01	- <b>90.2</b> ±0.03	- <b>5.0</b> ±0.01	MaskViT [26] iVideoGPT (ours)	211.7 <b>197.9</b> ±0.66	20.4 <b>23.8</b> ±0.00	67.1 <b>80.8</b> ±0.01	17.0 <b>14.7</b> ±0.01

Initially pre-trained action-free, flexibly allows for action-conditioning

Primary experiments at 64×64, easily extended to high resolution 256×256

iVideoGPT provides competitive performance compared to state-of-the-art methods, MAGVIT for BAIR and FitVid for RoboNet

# Video Samples: Open X-Embodiment (Action-free)

#### Natural movement diverging from ground truth, without actions



Left: ground truth, right: prediction.

Red border: context frames, green border: predicted frames.

# Video Samples: Open X-Embodiment (Goal-conditioned)

#### Flexibility of sequence modeling

Rearranging the frame sequence

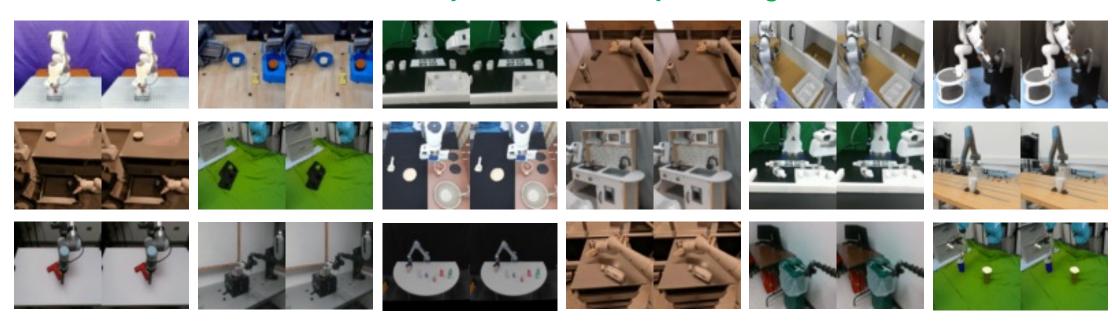


Goal-conditioned video prediction

$$\tilde{o}_{1:T} = (o_T, o_1, o_2, \dots, o_{T-1})$$

$$p(o_{T_0+1:T} \mid o_{1:T_0}, o_T)$$

#### More accurate paths to reach specified goals



# Video Samples: BAIR Robot Pushing & RoboNet

#### BAIR Robot Pushing Ebert et al. CoRL 2017

Action-free











Action-conditioned



RoboNet (Action-conditioned) Dasari et al. CoRL 2019

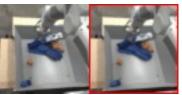












High Resolution: 256 × 256



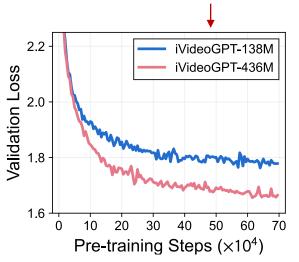
# Model Analysis

From Scratch
No Fine-tuning
Tokenizer Fine-tuned
Full Fine-tuned

0 100 1,000
Full
Data Size (# Trajectories)

**Few-shot adaptation:** significant advantages under data scarcity

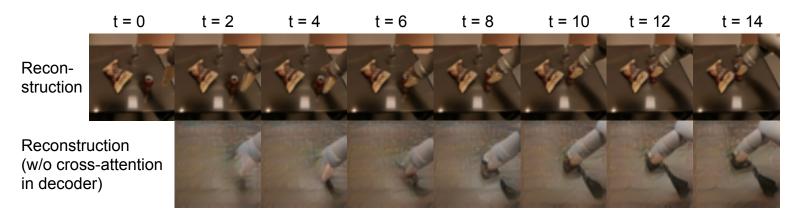
138M: 12 layers, 768 hidden dim 436M: 24 layers, 1024 hidden dim



Model scaling: increased computation can build more powerful iVideoGPTs

Reconstruction LPIPS 0.20 0.15 0.10 0.05 Training GPU 4x4 tokenizer Memory (GB) 0.180 LPIPS 1.45s Time 10.6GB Mem. Compressive tokenizer (Ours) 0.059 LPIPS 16x16 tokenizer 1.46s Time 0.036 LPIPS 22.3GB Mem. 22.8s Time Training OOM 10<sup>0</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 10 Generation Time (s)

**Tokenization efficency:** memory savings during training and faster rollouts during generation



#### **Context-dynamics decoupling:**

Context frames: 16 x 16 tokens

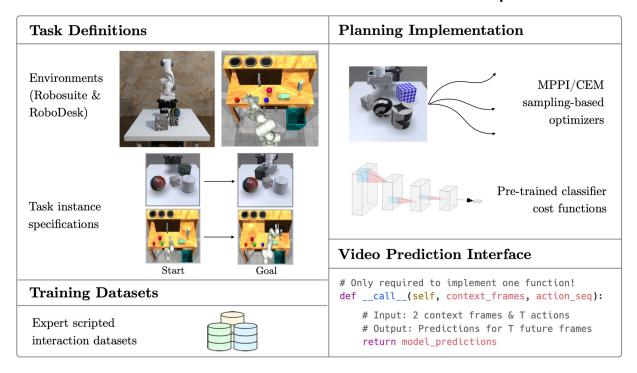
Future frames: 4 x 4 tokens

visualizing by removing crossattention to context frames in the decoder when reconstructing future frames

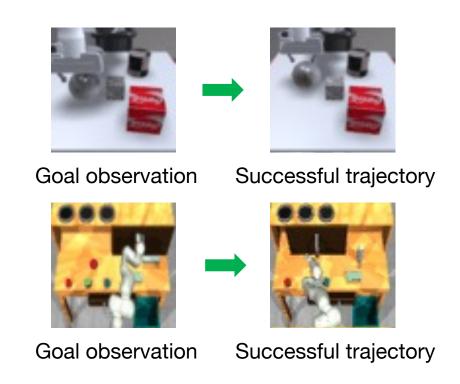
# Visual Planning

# Excellent perceptual metrics do not always correlate with effective control performance

**VP2**: A control-centric benchmark for video prediction

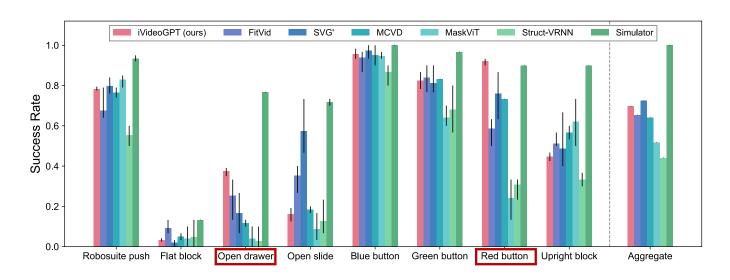


Model-predictive control



Tian, Stephen, et al. A Control-Centric Benchmark for Video Prediction. ICLR 2023.

# Visual Planning: VP2



iVideoGPT outperforms all baselines in two RoboDesk tasks with a large margin and achieves comparable average performance to the strongest model.

Video Samples:

RoboSuite

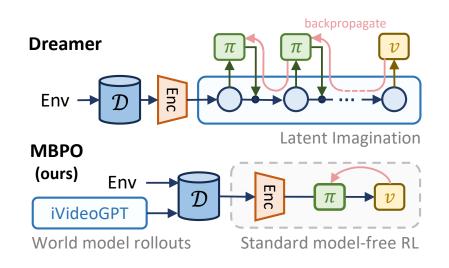
Predicted natural collision

**RoboDesk** 

## Visual Model-based RL

#### Model-based RL with iVideoGPT:

- Adapted from MBPO: Augments the replay buffer with synthetic rollouts into replay buffer to train
  a standard actor-critic RL algorithm (DrQ-v2)
- Eliminate latent imagination: Decoupling model and policy learning can substantially simplify the design space, facilitating real-world applications

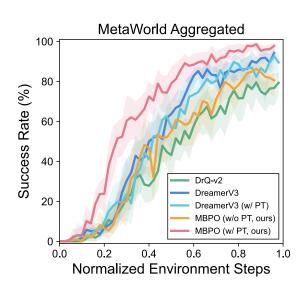


```
Algorithm 1 Model-Based Policy Optimization (MBPO), adapted from [40]
 1: Initialize actor-critic \pi_{\phi}, v_{\psi}, world model p_{\theta}
 2: Initialize real replay buffer \mathcal{D}_{real} with random policy
 3: Initially train model p_{\theta} on \mathcal{D}_{\text{real}}
 4: Initialize imagined replay buffer \mathcal{D}_{imag} with random rollouts using p_{\theta}
 5: for N steps do
          // Training
          if model update step then
              Update world model p_{\theta} on a mini-batch from \mathcal{D}_{\text{real}}
 8:
 9:
          end if
          Update actor-critic \pi_{\phi}, v_{\psi} with model-free objectives on a mini-batch from \mathcal{D}_{\text{imag}} \cup \mathcal{D}_{\text{real}}
10:
          // Data collection
11:
          if model rollout step then
12:
              Sample a mini-batch of o_t uniformly from \mathcal{D}_{\text{real}}
13:
              Perform k-step model rollout starting from o_t using policy \pi_{\phi}; add to \mathcal{D}_{\text{imag}}
14:
15:
          end if
          Take action in environment according to \pi_{\phi}; add to \mathcal{D}_{\text{real}}
16:
17: end for
```

Janner, Michael, et al. When to trust your model: Model-based policy optimization. NeurlPS 2019. Yarats, Denis, et al. Mastering visual continuous control: Improved data-augmented reinforcement learning. ICLR 2022.

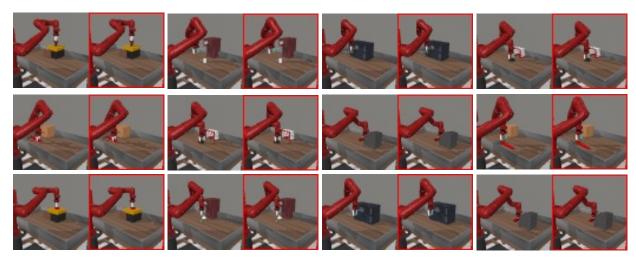
## Visual Model-based RL: Meta-world

#### Six Meta-world manipulation tasks



#### Video Samples:

True and predicted rewards are labeled at the top left corner.



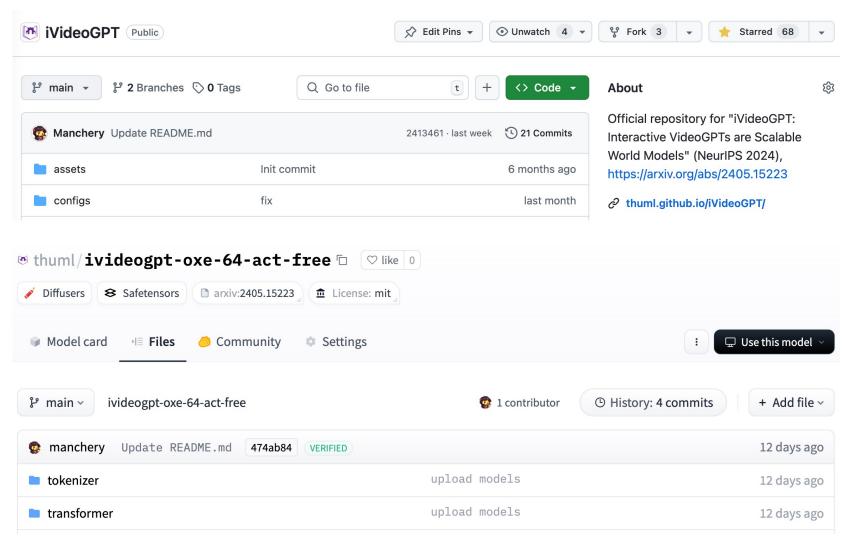
- Empowered by iVideoGPT:
  - remarkably improves over its model-free counterpart; matches or exceeds DreamerV3
- Baseline comparison:
  - iVideoGPT trained from scratch can degenerate the sample efficiency
  - DreamerV3 does not benefits from ineffective pre-training

## Summary

- **iVideoGPT**, a generic and efficient world model architecture based on compressive tokenization and autoregressive transformers
- Pre-trained on millions of human and robotic manipulation trajectories
- Adapted to a wide range of downstream tasks, particularly:
  - Accurate and generalizable video prediction
  - Simplified yet performant model-based RL



# Open Source



Pre-trained model, training & inference code released

### Thank You!

Code Available: https://github.com/thuml/iVideoGPT

Contact: wujialong0229@gmail.com

Machine Learning Group, School of Software, Tsinghua University

http://ise.thss.tsinghua.edu.cn/~mlong/



