

AI's Hidden Critic Is the Action Itself

A new model learns value by asking: 'How likely is this action for each return?'

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THE DATA

Policy Accuracy Gain

On offline reinforcement learning tasks, the Generative Value Classifier outperformed leading discriminative methods.

The model's generative critic uses the action as supervision, creating a tighter feedback loop between behavior and evaluation.

Source: arXiv • Published October 15, 2026
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2610.22497>



01

Actions Are the Real Reward Signal

Traditional RL treats actions as outputs of a policy, but this work flips the script: actions become the primary signal for evaluating value. By conditioning policy on return, the critic learns not just 'what's valuable' but 'what kind of action would achieve it.' This redefines how AI interprets intentionality in its own behavior.

02

Sovereignty Through Self-Reflection

For individuals and teams building sovereign AI stacks, this model offers a blueprint: train systems to reflect on their own actions, not just external rewards. When AI learns to judge its own decisions through generative critique, it becomes less reliant on external data pipelines and centralized reward functions—key to true autonomy.

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Director, ALEX Companies

Associate Broker, Alexander Tiffany Southwest, LLC dba ALEX.realestate, et.al.

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george@alex.realestate · +1 713.918.9951



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