

Explore with Long-term Memory: A Benchmark and Multimodal LLM-based Reinforcement Learning Framework for Embodied Exploration

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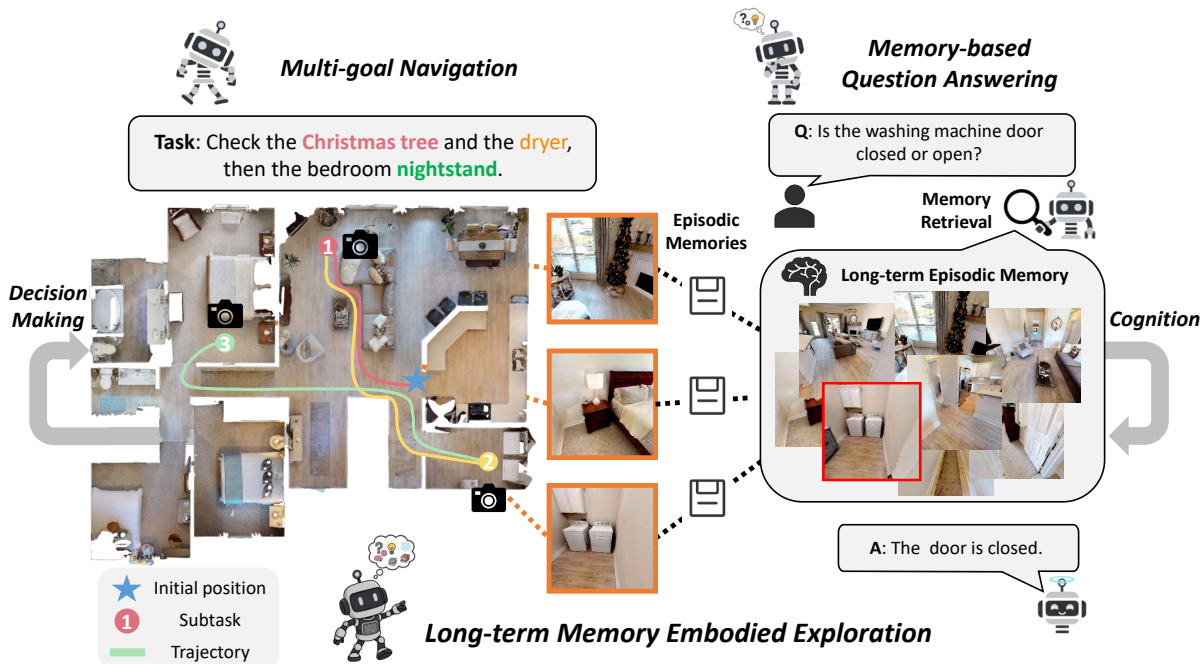


Figure 1. We propose Long-term Memory Embodied Exploration, which aims to collect episodic memories during Multi-goal Navigation and introduces Memory-based Question Answering to unify and evaluate the model’s cognitive and decision-making abilities.

Abstract

An ideal embodied agent should possess lifelong learning capabilities to handle long-horizon and complex tasks, enabling continuous operation in general environments. This not only requires the agent to accurately accomplish given tasks but also to leverage long-term episodic memory to optimize decision-making. However, existing mainstream one-shot embodied tasks primarily focus on task completion results, neglecting the crucial process of exploration and memory utilization. To address this, we propose Long-term Memory Embodied Exploration (LMEE), which aims to unify the agent’s exploratory cognition and decision-making behaviors to promote lifelong learning. We further

construct a corresponding dataset and benchmark, LMEE-Bench, incorporating multi-goal navigation and memory-based question answering to comprehensively evaluate both the process and outcome of embodied exploration. To enhance the agent’s memory recall and proactive exploration capabilities, we propose MemoryExplorer, a novel method that fine-tunes a multimodal large language model through reinforcement learning to encourage active memory querying. By incorporating a multi-task reward function that includes action prediction, frontier selection, and question answering, our model achieves proactive exploration. Extensive experiments against state-of-the-art embodied exploration models demonstrate that our approach achieves significant advantages in long-horizon embodied tasks. Our dataset and code will be released at <https://wangsen99.github.io/papers/lmee/>.

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1. Introduction

A key objective in embodied intelligence is to empower agents with lifelong learning capabilities, enabling them to perform complex tasks and operate continuously in dynamic and unfamiliar environments. For example, as illustrated in Fig. 1, consider the instruction “*Check the Christmas tree and the dryer, then the bedroom nightstand.*” After completing this sequence of tasks, the agent should have developed a comprehensive understanding of the explored environment. Later, when asked a follow-up question such as “*Is the washing machine door closed or open?*”, the agent should be able to quickly retrieve its stored memory and respond, “*The door is closed.*” This capability represents more than simple task completion, as it demonstrates the agent’s ability to construct dynamic and context-aware memory representations that support efficient recall and reasoning for future interactions. Such an ability is essential for developing embodied agents that can continuously learn, adapt, and evolve in complex real-world environments [18].

Embodied exploration aims to enable agents to proactively explore unknown environments. As shown in Tab. 1, current research paradigms mainly focus on tasks such as goal navigation [3, 19, 49, 54] and embodied question answering [16, 22, 31, 57]. However, these one-shot tasks tend to emphasize outcomes while neglecting the exploration process itself. Although multi-goal navigation [18] focuses on long-horizon embodied tasks, it still overlooks how the exploration process contributes to the agent’s scene understanding and decision-making. Achieving a unified integration of cognition and decision-making is therefore crucial for developing general embodied intelligence.

Multimodal Large Language Models (MLLMs) [17, 20, 23, 37] have shown remarkable potential in embodied exploration, particularly for complex scenes [39, 40, 47, 48, 58]. However, existing approaches still struggle to make effective use of memory. Many methods treat memory passively, limiting the agent’s autonomy and reasoning capabilities. For example, imitation learning-based approaches [58, 62] train agents to replicate expert trajectories. This passive learning paradigm restricts generalization to unseen scenarios and, crucially, prevents the agent from developing its own proactive exploration strategies. Other vision-language exploration methods [52, 57] that depend on memory snapshots use filtering strategies to mitigate the constraints of limited context windows but fail to harness the active querying capability inherent in MLLMs. Likewise, models with long-term spatiotemporal memory [15] mainly perform post-exploration reasoning, missing the opportunity to use memory to proactively guide exploration.

To address these challenges, firstly, we introduce Long-term Memory Embodied Exploration (LMEE), which emphasizes not only the outcome (goal) of the embodied task but also the exploration process (memory). As illustrated

in Fig. 1, LMEE consists of two key components: Multi-goal Navigation and Memory-based Question Answering. During navigation, the agent dynamically constructs on-the-fly memories. LMEE further provides a large collection of exploration-related questions that the agent must answer based on its memories. To evaluate LMEE, we construct a comprehensive dataset and establish a benchmark, LMEE-Bench, which assesses the agent from two perspectives: (1) success rate and efficiency in multi-goal navigation, and (2) accuracy in memory-based question answering. This assesses the agent’s ability to use episodic memory. The dataset encompasses 246 object categories, over 9,000 goals and questions, and 1,982 exploration trajectories.

Secondly, we propose MemoryExplorer, an MLLM-based framework for active exploration and memory retrieval trained via Reinforcement Fine-Tuning (RFT). The model proactively queries and invokes memory retrieval tools to access multimodal memory information based on current task instructions, multi-view observations, and goal-related questions. By analyzing its answers and assessing task progress, the agent gains an understanding of the current situation and plans subsequent actions accordingly. Furthermore, we design a Multi-Task Reward function that integrates action and frontier prediction with question answering, effectively unifying scene understanding, memory utilization, and planning-based decision-making. This enables the model to tackle challenging tasks in complex environments. Extensive experiments demonstrate that our approach achieves superior performance in long-term memory embodied exploration, significantly enhancing the model’s capacity for autonomous exploration and active memory retrieval, which are key abilities for realizing lifelong learning in embodied agents.

In summary, our contributions are as follows:

- We introduce LMEE, a new paradigm for developing autonomous agents by unifying exploration with memory-based reasoning. We also present its corresponding benchmark, LMEE-Bench, to holistically evaluate agents using multi-goal navigation and question answering to assess the crucial abilities of memory utilization, cognitive understanding, and decision-making.
- We propose MemoryExplorer, which uses reinforcement learning to enable active exploration and memory retrieval in unknown environments. By combining frontier prediction, action planning, and question answering, we design a multi-task reward function that optimizes the model’s policy for effective reasoning in complex scenes.

2. Related Work

2.1. Embodied Navigation and Question Answering

Goal-driven Navigation and Vision-Language Question Answering are mainstream tasks in embodied intelligence.

Table 1. Comparison to popular embodied exploration benchmarks.

Dataset	Train		Test		Multi-goal	Memory	Question Num	Question Type	
	Categories	Goals	Categories	Goals				Choices	Open Vocab
ObjectNav-MP3D [3]	21	7509	-	-	✗	✗	-	-	-
ObjectNav-HM3D [49]	6	5216	-	-	✗	✗	-	-	-
InstanceImageNav-HM3D [19]	6	2516	-	-	✗	✗	-	-	-
HM3D-OVON [54]	280	10987	49	1278	✗	✗	-	-	-
GOAT-Bench [18]	193	13025	36	1282	✓	✗	-	-	-
MP3D-EQA [42]	-	-	-	-	✗	✗	1136	✗	✗
HM-EQA [31]	-	-	-	-	✗	✗	500	✓	✗
OpenEQA [22]	-	-	-	-	✗	✗	1600+	✗	✓
EXPRESS-Bench [16]	-	-	-	-	✗	✗	2044	✗	✓
MemoryEQA [57]	-	-	-	-	✗	✓	1587	✓	✗
LMEE (Ours)	208	8880	38	828	✓	✓	9286 (406)	✓	✓

Early navigation tasks mostly targeted single targets [5, 14, 29, 43], and due to the limitations of current model generalization capabilities, navigation methods are based on modular designs and only employ modality-specific encoders. Similarly, the questions in embodied question answering tasks are relatively simple [8, 42, 56]. In recent years, MLLMs have shown impressive results in the field of embodied intelligence [11, 12, 21, 46, 60]. Whether in open question answering [22] or multimodal navigation [2, 18, 53], embodied tasks are moving towards a long-term, generalized paradigm [7, 27, 58]. However, current tasks focus on the outcome, such as whether the target object has been found [16], or whether the answer to the embodied question is accurate [31]. This lack of attention to the process is not conducive to building lifelong learning agents [36]. We introduce Long-term Memory Embodied Exploration, aiming to focus on the preservation of contextual memory during long-range task exploration, enabling the agent to think about problems based on experience like a human, ultimately achieving lifelong learning and self-evolution.

2.2. Memory-based Agents

Several works have explored memory mechanisms for language-based agents. For example, MemGPT [25], MemAgent [55], and Mem- α [41] provide large language models with extended context via diverse memory systems, while ReasoningBank [24] builds experience pools to support long-term tasks such as web browsing and software engineering. However, these text-based or discrete-state-based memory models are not directly applicable to embodied AI, where memory must capture spatio-temporal information from the physical world.

Memory is crucial for long-horizon embodied tasks, which are growing increasingly complex [51]. Methods like MTU3D [62], 3D-Mem [52], and 3DLLM-Mem [15] construct memory banks or snapshots to support navigation, object localization, and spatio-temporal reasoning. Yet, these

approaches mostly rely on passive memory usage, *e.g.*, imitating trajectory data [15, 62]. In contrast, we aim to enable active memory querying to enhance proactive exploration and task handling in embodied settings.

2.3. Reinforcement Learning for Embodied AI

The advantage of reinforcement learning lies in the agent’s ability to learn actively [34], and the strong generalization capability of LLMs further amplifies this benefit. Recent work leverages LLMs to automatically learn reward models from interaction data without manual annotation [6, 32]. Reinforcement learning for training multimodal LLMs to solve embodied tasks has also gained increasing attention. [35] trains perception and action jointly through real-time environmental interaction, enabling generalization across embodied tasks. [30] allows agents to ask clarifying questions for ambiguous instructions, while [38] introduces reinforcement fine-tuning to support self-evolution of embodied agents. However, early approaches rely on overly simple task instructions [35], and active questioning remains limited in scope [30], restricting applicability to complex scenarios. Other methods emphasize only task completion [10, 26, 38] and overlook the task process, which hinders lifelong learning. In contrast, we emphasize the memory retrieval capability of embodied agents for complex long-horizon tasks, enabling better scene understanding and more efficient decision-making.

3. Data Construction of LMEE

To enable agents to proactively explore and memorize in unknown environments, we construct a Long-term Memory Embodied Exploration dataset. Based on multi-goal navigation tasks, it dynamically builds a memory bank by collecting observations during the exploration process, thereby enabling memory-based embodied exploration training and evaluation. As shown in Fig. 2, the data construction process consists of three parts: task instruction generation, ex-

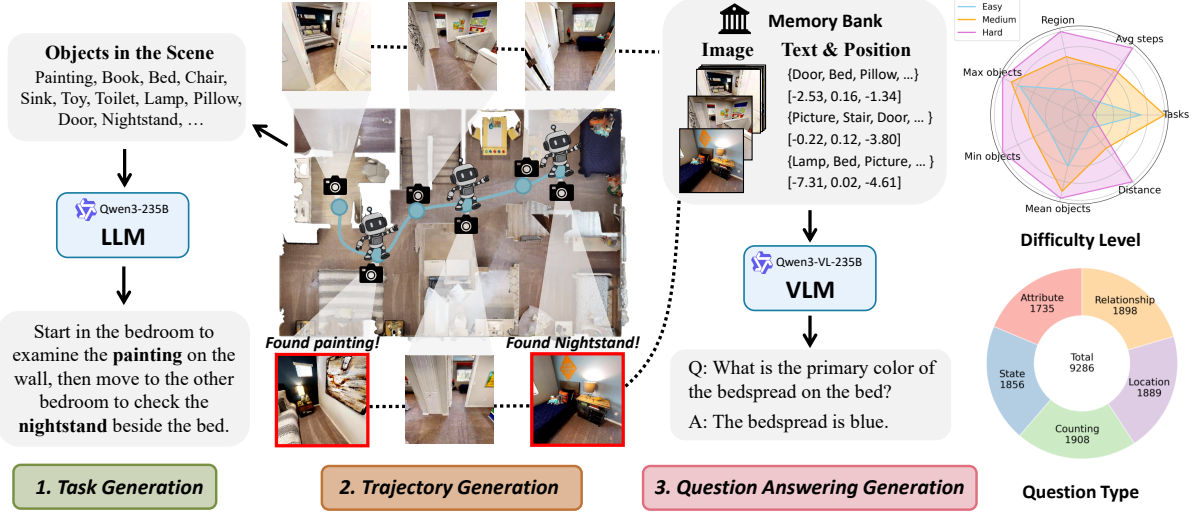


Figure 2. The construction process of Long-term Memory Embodied Exploration and data statistics.

ploration trajectory generation, and memory-based question answering generation.

Task Instruction Generation. We use the real-world HM3DSem [50] dataset, including 145 training scenes and 36 test scenes with semantic labels. From these scenarios, we collected over 200 different categories of targets based on the Goat-Bench [18] dataset. Then, different regions and their corresponding objects are fed into the Large Language Model (LLM), which combines them to generate task instructions and goals.

Exploration Trajectory Generation. Based on the agent’s initial position and the positions of different targets, we used the Habitat-Sim [33] to plan the exploration path, thereby generating a multi-goal, step-by-step exploration sequence trajectory, including the corresponding action, observation, position, and rotation for each step. This is beneficial for the model to learn action-based step-by-step exploration in long-horizon planning. Simultaneously, we utilize an image tagging model [59] to label object information in each image as a text description, thereby constructing a multi-modal memory bank including text, position, and image.

Memory Bank. To facilitate efficient data sampling, we construct a memory bank:

$$\mathcal{M} = \{(p_i, f_i, o_i) \mid i = 1, \dots, n\}, \quad (1)$$

where each entry stores the position p_i , the text features f_i , and the image features o_i for each step i . We employ CLIP [28] to extract both o and f , and compute their pairwise similarity using dot products. The overall similarity between the current state (p_c, f_c, o_c) and a memory entry (p_i, f_i, o_i) is defined as:

$$s_i = \omega_f (f_c^\top f_i) + \omega_o (o_c^\top o_i) + \omega_p \text{dist}(p_c, p_i), \quad (2)$$

where ω_f , ω_o , and ω_p are the weighting coefficients for text, visual, and distance similarities, respectively, and

$\text{dist}(p_c, p_i)$ denotes an exponential function of the Euclidean distance between locations. To maintain temporal consistency, we further aggregate similarity scores from the k most recent samples by computing their mean and standard deviation, and dynamically filter contextual memories at each step based on an adaptive similarity threshold.

Difficulty Level. To evaluate the model’s exploration capabilities and long-term memory, we categorize tasks into three levels: easy, medium, and difficult, based on the number of regions and goals to be explored and the distance from the initial position to the target object. Detailed statistics are presented in Fig. 2.

Question Answering Generation. We leverage a Vision Language Model (VLM) to generate question-answer pairs based on observation images associated with the navigation targets. This design serves two main purposes. First, questions are focused on navigation targets to avoid asking about objects an agent may not have observed due to non-unique trajectories, thus providing a more reliable assessment of its memory. Second, goal-oriented questions help the model understand the progress of multi-goal long-term tasks during training, determine the next goal to be found, and thus plan actions and paths. As shown in Fig. 2, the types of questions include five categories: attribute, counting, location, relationship, and state. The types of answers include two forms: open-ended and optional.

Continuous Actions. We found that in many cases, the simulator cannot execute multi-step continuous actions, which greatly increases the difficulty of the model predicting actions. Therefore, we utilize a continuous action window to sample x consecutively occurring identical actions, using one of such samples as training data.

Dataset details. We generate step-by-step trajectory data using the training and testing scenes from HM3DSem,

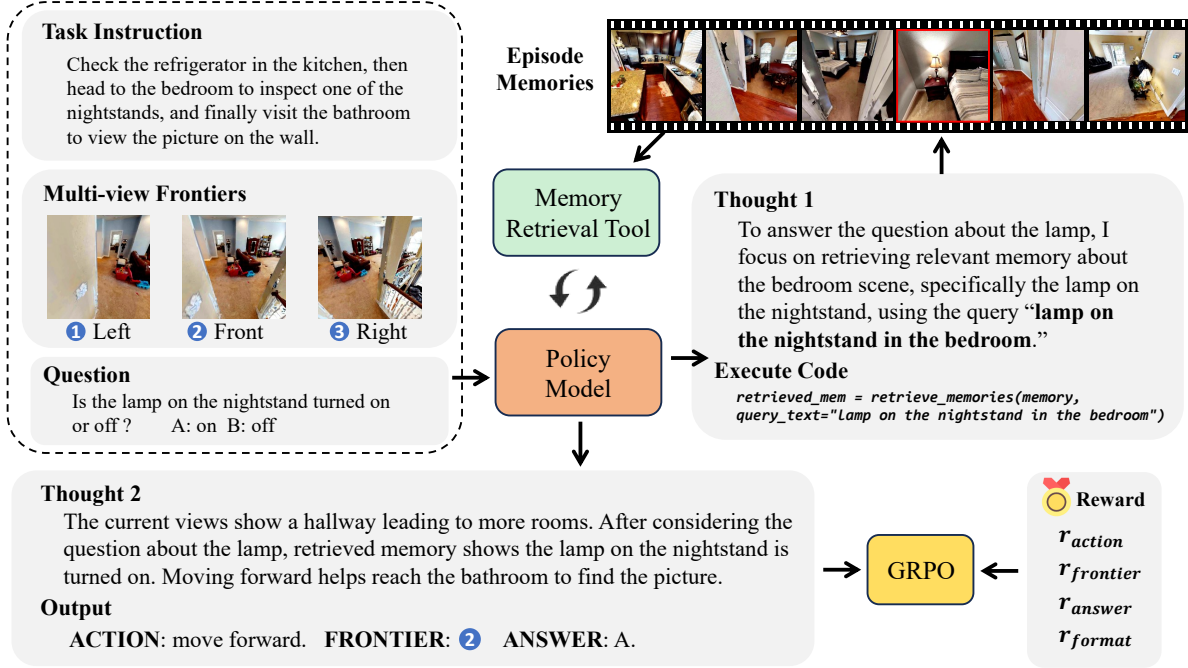


Figure 3. Illustration of training in MemoryExplorer. Given a task instruction, the multi-view observations, and a goal-oriented question. Model retrieves relevant multimodal memories from the episodic memory bank using tools, analyzes the current information alongside the retrieved memories to understand the progress of the long-term task, and performs ACTION prediction, FRONTIER selection, and question ANSWER. The policy model output response calculates the reward using a Multi-Task Reward function and is fine-tuned using GRPO.

which serve as the training and testing sets, respectively, as shown in Tab. 1. We use Qwen3-235B-A22B-Instruct to generate task instructions and Qwen3-VL-235B-A22B-Instruct to generate question answering. The model’s action space includes moving forward (0.25 m) and turning left or right (30°), so each step contains views from these three directions. The full dataset comprises 1,982 tasks with a total of 377,311 entries, of which 1,816 tasks are allocated for training and 166 tasks for testing. After sampling, we obtain 11,684 instances for training. For more details, please refer to the *Supplementary Material*.

4. Method

Unlike previous modular learning-based vision-language navigation [4, 18, 62], we utilize an MLLM to train an end-to-end embodied agent with proactive exploration awareness. In long-term embodied exploration tasks, MLLM needs to integrate task instructions, observed images, and long-term memories for scene planning and decision-making. However, due to the limitations of the context window, the model cannot access all long-term memories at once, and supervision of long-term multi-step actions may weaken the agent’s autonomous exploration ability. Therefore, we propose MemoryExplorer, an embodied exploration model based on reinforcement learning with memory retrieval as shown in Fig. 3.

Task Definition. For LMEE, the model policy can be represented as $\pi_{\theta}(I, O, Q; M)$ of parameterized model weights θ . Model inputs include task instructions I , current multi-view observations O , a memory-based goal-oriented question Q , and externally stored long-range memory M including image-text pairs. The model’s final response can be represented as $y = (S, F, A)$, with outputs including a single-step action S , a frontier F , and an answer A .

Memory Retrieval. The proposed Long-term Memory Embodied Exploration dataset provides the multimodal contextual memories during the exploration process. The model is guided to generate code that invokes the external memory retrieval tool $\mathcal{R}$, subsequently obtaining the corresponding memories for reasoning and answering the given question. The memories obtained from invoking $\mathcal{R}$ are fed back to the model as additional input, allowing for richer reasoning to support the final answer. Due to the limitations of multi-image input, this study focuses on single-round tool invocation scenarios. Since the question is related to the navigation goal, the retrieved memories further help the model understand the task progress and determine the next exploration action.

Formally, when the model retrieves memories, the first round generates an initial response $y' \sim \pi_{\theta}(\cdot | I, O, Q)$ containing the tool call and query text. Then, the memory retrieval tool $M_{re} = \mathcal{R}(y', M)$ is called to obtain the most relevant memories retrieved from long-term memory. In the

external Python environment, the text and observations in memory are encoded as text features f_t and observation features f_o by CLIP [28], respectively, while the query text is encoded as query features f_q . Cosine similarity is then calculated to obtain the $topk$ most similar memories. Finally, the retrieved memories m_i are obtained by combining the results from both. The retrieval process can be represented as:

$$\mathcal{R} = \{m_i \mid i \in \text{top-}k(\cos(f_q, f_i^{(t,o)}))\}. \quad (3)$$

Finally, the final response can be represented as $y \sim \pi_\theta(\cdot \mid I, O, M_{re})$. Additionally, if the memory retrieval tool call fails, the final response is the first-round response, *i.e.*, $y \sim \pi_\theta(\cdot \mid I, O, Q)$.

Reinforcement Fine-Tuning. MemoryExplorer utilizes RFT to learn active exploration and memory retrieval. Therefore, our training objective is:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\pi_\theta} \quad & \mathbb{E}_{(I,O,Q) \sim D, y \sim \pi_\theta(\cdot \mid I, O, Q; M)} [r_\phi(I, O, Q, y)] \\ & - \beta D_{\text{KL}}(\pi_\theta(\cdot \mid I, O, Q; M) \parallel \pi_{\text{ref}}(\cdot \mid I, O, Q; M)). \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Note that our RFT training process does not optimize intermediate responses from memory retrieval tools, as our goal is to encourage the model to think and make decisions autonomously, using final reward feedback to evaluate the effectiveness of tool calls. For the specific training method, we employ Group Relative Policy Optimization (GRPO) [13], a well-established policy gradient method that estimates the baseline model by sampling response data, thus saving training resources.

Reward Modeling. Unlike single-question-answer training [9, 44, 45], we adopt a multi-task training approach that includes exploration actions, frontier selection, and memory-based question answering. This design enables the model to understand spatial and action relationships while actively invoking memory retrieval tools and generating retrieval content, thereby facilitating autonomous exploration.

To achieve multi-dimensional response optimization, we design a Multi-Task Reward function r_{total} that integrates four complementary components: action accuracy, frontier correctness, answer precision, and output format completeness. The total reward is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} r_{\text{total}} = & w_{act} \cdot r_{\text{action}} \cdot c + w_{front} \cdot r_{\text{frontier}} \cdot c \\ & + w_{ans} \cdot r_{\text{answer}} + w_{fmt} \cdot r_{\text{format}}, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where $r_{\text{action}}, r_{\text{frontier}}, r_{\text{answer}}, r_{\text{format}} \in [0, 1]$ represent the sub-rewards for action accuracy, frontier correctness, answer precision, and output format completeness, respectively. Specifically, r_{answer} reflects the accuracy of the predicted answer, and r_{format} encourages structured and parsable responses, determined by whether the output includes complete ACTION, FRONTIER, and ANSWER segments. c is a consistency coefficient that penalizes

logically inconsistent pairs between action and frontier. $w_{act}, w_{front}, w_{ans}, w_{fmt}$ denote the weighting coefficients for each reward component.

To further differentiate performance in scenarios involving tool assistance and tool invocation failure, a scaling factor α is applied to each sub-reward. This adjustment reduces all sub-scores when no external tool is employed, while amplifying them in tool-based reasoning conditions, thereby encouraging efficient tool utilization. The final reward r_{total} is clipped to the range $[0, 1]$ to ensure stability and comparability across tasks.

5. Experiments

We propose the Long-term Memory Embodied Exploration benchmark. It consists of two components: multi-goal navigation and memory-based question answering. The agent is first required to perform multi-goal navigation in an unknown environment, storing and utilizing memories from the exploration process to complete the tasks. Subsequently, the agent must answer questions related to the navigation targets based on its memory. Additionally, during multi-goal navigation, the agent can leverage memory retrieval to locate specified targets. We also evaluate the agent’s exploration and memory retrieval capabilities on the multimodal lifelong navigation benchmark platform, GOAT-Bench.

Experimental details. Our model is trained based on Qwen2.5-VL-7B-Instruct [1]. We use EasyR1, a simplified version of the VERL framework. The learning rate is set to $1e-6$, and a KL penalty coefficient of 0.1 is applied to maintain training stability. Training is conducted on 8 NVIDIA H200 GPUs for 160 steps with a global batch size of 128. The $topk$ is set to 3. The consistency coefficient c is set to 0.5. The scaling factor α is set to 1.2 when tool assistance is involved, and to 0.5 for r_{answer} and r_{format} , and 0.6 for r_{action} and r_{frontier} when tool invocation fails. More experimental details are provided in the *Supplementary Material*.

Benchmark. LMEE-Bench consists of 166 tasks with 828 goals and 406 questions. Due to resource constraints, we randomly select a subset of 58 tasks for evaluation, covering 272 goals and 145 questions. We also provide results on the full test set in the *Supplementary Material*. LMEE consists of two types of tasks: multi-goal navigation and goal-oriented memory-based question answering. The questions cover five types: attributes, counting, location, relationships, and states, while the answers are provided in two formats: open-ended and multiple-choice. **GOAT-Bench** is a multimodal lifelong navigation benchmark. The task requires agents to navigate to multiple targets. Each target is described by category name, language description, and image. Due to the large scale and limited resources of GOAT-Bench, we followed 3D-Mem to evaluate a subset of “Val Unseen” set, including 36 scenarios, one exploration round each, and 278 navigation subtasks in total.

Table 2. Experiments on LMEE-Bench. Score represents the MLLM-Score for open-ended answers, and Acc represents the accuracy rate of the answer choices.

Method	Easy				Medium				Hard				Total			
	Nav		QA		Nav		QA		Nav		QA		Nav		QA	
	SR	SPL	Score	Acc	SR	SPL	Score	Acc	SR	SPL	Score	Acc	SR	SPL	Score	Acc
Retrieval-Augmented QA																
LLaVA-OneVision-7B [20]	-	-	35.71	57.14	-	-	42.02	62.77	-	-	25.00	43.75	-	-	38.62	59.31
Llama3.2-Vision-11B [23]	-	-	43.57	48.57	-	-	28.19	37.23	-	-	20.31	31.25	-	-	31.03	39.31
Qwen2.5-VL-7B [1]	-	-	36.43	65.71	-	-	43.62	53.19	-	-	42.19	43.75	-	-	41.72	55.86
InternVL3-8B [61]	-	-	42.14	65.71	-	-	41.22	54.26	-	-	26.56	43.75	-	-	39.83	55.17
Qwen3-VL-8B [37]	-	-	43.57	65.71	-	-	36.70	58.51	-	-	32.81	62.50	-	-	37.93	60.69
GPT-4o	-	-	43.57	65.71	-	-	37.50	51.06	-	-	40.62	56.25	-	-	39.31	55.17
Gemini-2.5-Flash	-	-	44.29	51.43	-	-	37.77	50.00	-	-	23.44	50.00	-	-	37.76	50.34
MLLM Exploration																
Explore-EQA [31]	4.26	4.26	-	-	15.17	8.67	-	-	14.89	7.25	-	-	13.24	7.66	-	-
3D-Mem [52]	21.28	9.68	30.71	42.86	15.73	6.09	34.57	44.68	17.02	6.97	25.00	18.75	16.91	6.86	32.59	41.38
RA-Mem	25.53	15.65	34.29	54.29	21.35	12.14	37.77	62.77	14.89	8.86	25.00	43.75	20.96	12.18	35.52	58.62
MemoryExplorer (Ours)	31.91	21.11	35.71	68.57	21.35	14.03	48.14	63.83	23.40	12.51	34.38	68.75	23.53	14.99	43.62	65.52

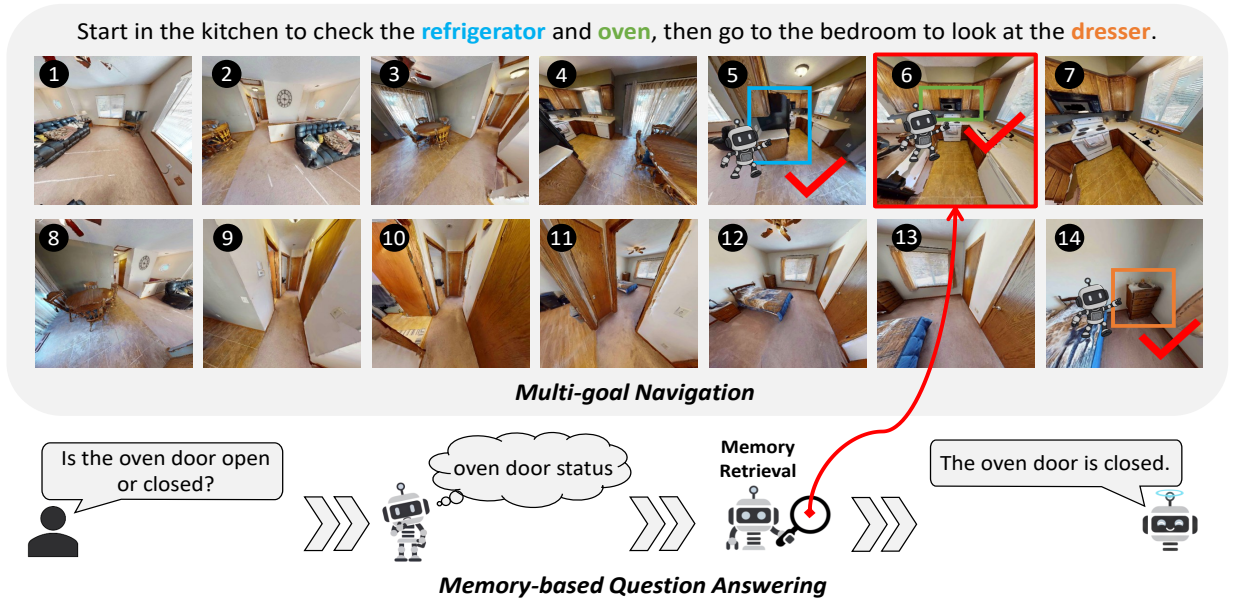


Figure 4. Qualitative example of LMEE-Bench.

Metric. We evaluate performance using Success Rate (SR) and Success weighted by Path Length (SPL). A navigation episode is considered successful if the agent’s final position is within 1 meter of the target. For goal-oriented open-ended questions, we propose MLLM-Score, a quantitative metric leveraging an MLLM. For each question, the ground-truth answer, the observation of the target object, and the predicted answer are provided to the MLLM. Due to resource constraints, we use Qwen3-VL-30B-A3B-Instruct as our evaluation model. The MLLM assigns a score from 1 to 5 to each prediction to assess its quality. The MLLM-Score measures answer accuracy by averaging the scores across all questions and converting the result to a 0–100 scale. For multiple-choice questions, we evaluate predicted answers using standard accuracy.

Baselines. For the baseline evaluation of long-term memory exploration with MLLMs, we primarily compare our method with Explore-EQA [31] and 3D-Mem [52]. Since Explore-EQA lacks memory capabilities, we only evaluate its performance on multi-goal navigation tasks. 3D-Mem serves as an active exploration baseline leveraging long-term memory, enabling agent exploration and lifelong learning through memory snapshots and frontier snapshots. In addition, we develop a Retrieval-Augmented Memory (RA-Mem) variant based on 3D-Mem. While 3D-Mem uses an object-based memory filtering approach to limit the model’s context window, it does not fully exploit the potential of MLLMs. In contrast, RA-Mem independently generates queries based on the task and current observations to retrieve memory and guide the agent in completing

Table 3. Experiments on GOAT-Bench. Evaluated on the “Val Unseen” split. Methods denoted by * are from GOAT-Bench, and those with † are evaluated on the subset. All MLLM-based exploration methods are implemented based on Qwen2.5-VL-7B.

Method	Success Rate	SPL
GOAT-Bench Baselines [18]		
Modular GOAT*	24.9	17.2
Modular CLIP on Wheels*	16.1	10.4
SenseAct-NN Skill Chain*	29.5	11.3
SenseAct-NN Monolithic*	12.3	6.8
MLLM Exploration		
Explore-EQA [31]†	23.02	14.43
3D-Mem [52]†	37.05	20.26
RA-Mem†	42.81	21.95
MemoryExplorer (Ours)†	46.40	28.03

tasks. However, these methods still rely solely on MLLM reasoning. Our proposed MemoryExplorer extends RA-Mem by incorporating reinforcement learning, improving the model’s active memory retrieval and exploration capabilities. Beyond active exploration, we also evaluate a post-exploration setting, where MemoryExplorer collects observations during navigation to construct a memory bank, and we compare the performance of different MLLM models using Retrieval-Augmented Question Answering.

Quantitative Comparison. As shown in Tab. 2, our model demonstrates higher robustness and efficiency compared to existing embodied exploration methods on LMEE-Bench. In addition, we evaluate current MLLMs using retrieval-augmented question answering. We observe that Qwen2.5-VL-7B performs better on open-ended questions, while Qwen3-VL-8B and LLaVA-OV-7B excel at multiple-choice questions. This suggests that misalignment between cognitive understanding and action decision-making may lead to hallucinations in the models.

The results on GOAT-Bench are shown in Tab. 3, RA-Mem is more flexible than the memory pre-filtering mechanism used in 3D-Mem, as it actively generates memory query texts to more effectively leverage long-term memory, thereby significantly improving the model’s success rate. Moreover, MemoryExplorer further enhances the agent’s success rate and efficiency in multi-goal long-horizon navigation, demonstrating the performance gains brought by improved utilization of exploratory memories.

Qualitative results on LMEE-Bench. To intuitively demonstrate the effectiveness of long-term memory-based embodied exploration, we present a test case on LMEE-Bench in Fig. 4. Through multi-goal exploration and memory accumulation, the agent progressively understands the environment. When a question is presented, the agent retrieves relevant memories and answers the question.

Ablation Study. Our baseline is RA-Mem, and we apply RFT to enhance the agent’s ability to actively retrieve mem-

Table 4. Ablation study on question type.

Setting	LMEE-Bench			GOAT-Bench	
	SR	SPL	Score	SR	SPL
Baseline	20.96	12.18	35.52	42.81	21.95
Simple	20.80	12.49	41.33	44.24	27.29
Multiple-choice	23.53	14.99	43.62	46.40	28.03
All	22.06	15.13	43.28	48.20	29.36

ories and exploration. We begin with a relatively simple task-progress question: “Which objects in the task have already been found or completed?” The answer corresponds to the discovered target objects, such as “tv, couch, oven, sink.” We then increase the difficulty by extending it to multiple-choice questions covering all five dataset question types. Finally, we combine the two settings above. As shown in Tab. 4, training the model using memory retrieval tools significantly improved model performance, while there is a non-linear positive correlation between the question types and model performance. Using only a single question type cannot achieve the best results, whereas incorporating a richer variety of question types enables the model to achieve strong performance.

Visualization. We visualize the training reward curve and tool usage percentage in Fig. 5. The model gradually learns to invoke the memory-retrieval tool more accurately, which in turn leads to improved answer accuracy.

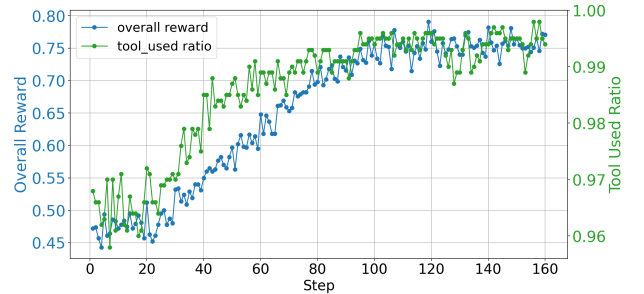


Figure 5. Training reward curve and tool usage percentage.

6. Conclusion

We propose Long-term Memory Embodied Exploration (LMEE), which constructs a episodic memory bank through Multi-goal Navigation and leverages Memory-based Question Answering to promote the integration of cognitive and decision-making. We further introduce MemoryExplorer, a reinforcement learning framework that trains the model to actively retrieve memory. A Multi-Task reward function combining action prediction, frontier selection, and question answering enables autonomous exploration and proactive memory use. Our approach achieves strong performance on both the LMEE-Bench and GOAT-Bench.

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