

---

# A machine learning approach that beats Rubik's cubes

Alexander Chervov<sup>1+</sup>, Kirill Khoruzhii<sup>2+</sup>, Nikita Bukhal<sup>3</sup>, Jalal Naghiyev<sup>2</sup>, Vladislav Zamkovoy, Ivan Koltsov<sup>4</sup>, Lyudmila Cheldieva<sup>4</sup>, Arsenii Sychev<sup>4</sup>, Arsenii Lenin<sup>4</sup>, Mark Obozov<sup>5</sup>, Egor Urvanov<sup>4</sup> and Alexey M. Romanov<sup>4\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> – Institut Curie, Universite PSL;

<sup>2</sup> – Technical University of Munich;

<sup>3</sup> – Novosibirsk State University;

<sup>4</sup> – MIREA-Russian technological university;

<sup>5</sup> – Innopolis University;

<sup>+</sup> – authors contributed equally to this work;

<sup>\*</sup> – Corresponding author: romanov@mirea.ru

NeurIPS 2025 accepted Spotlight paper

Moscow, 2025

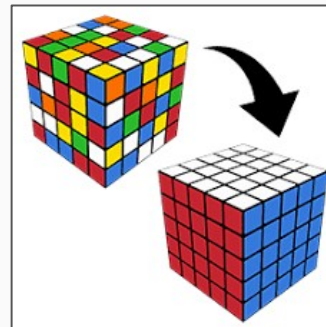
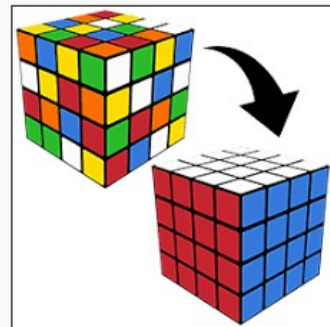
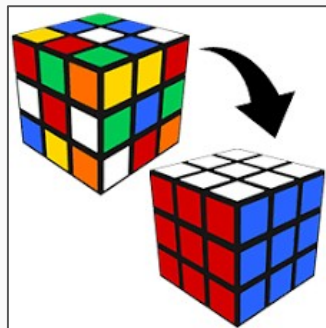
# Rubik's cube as a benchmarks for AI puzzle solving

DeepCubeA (2019) and EfficientCube (2023) demonstrated  $\approx 70\%$  optimality solving  $3\times 3\times 3$  Rubik's cube with deep learning approaches.

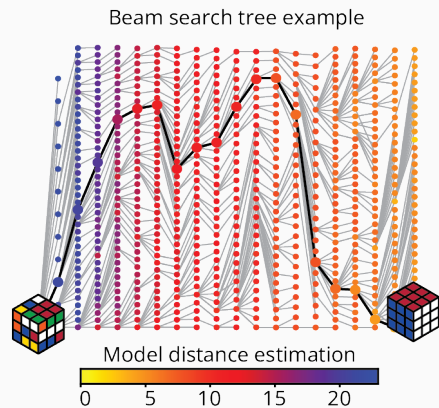
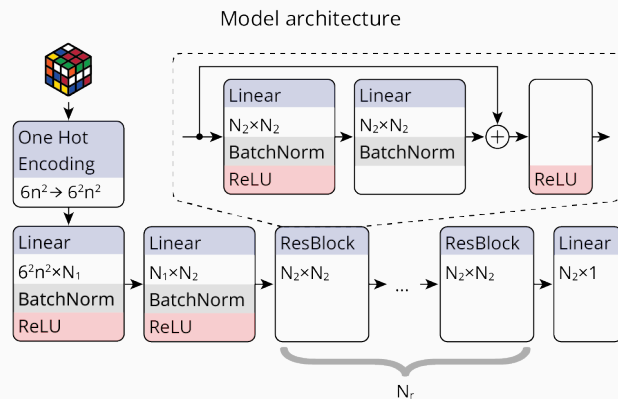
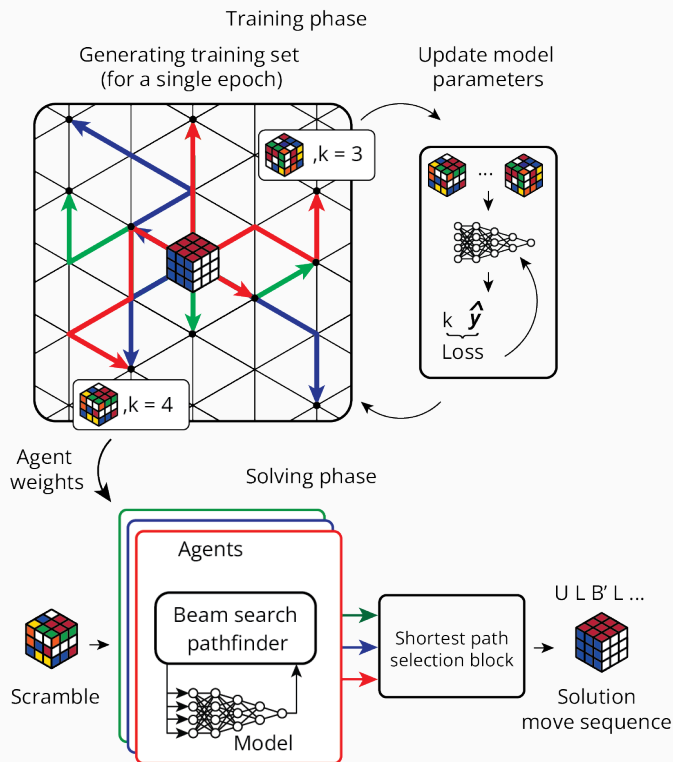
In 2023, over 1000 teams of ML researchers competed in a Kaggle challenge solving  $3\times 3\times 3$ ,  $4\times 4\times 4$  and larger cubes.

**Can a single unified ML solution beat them all?**

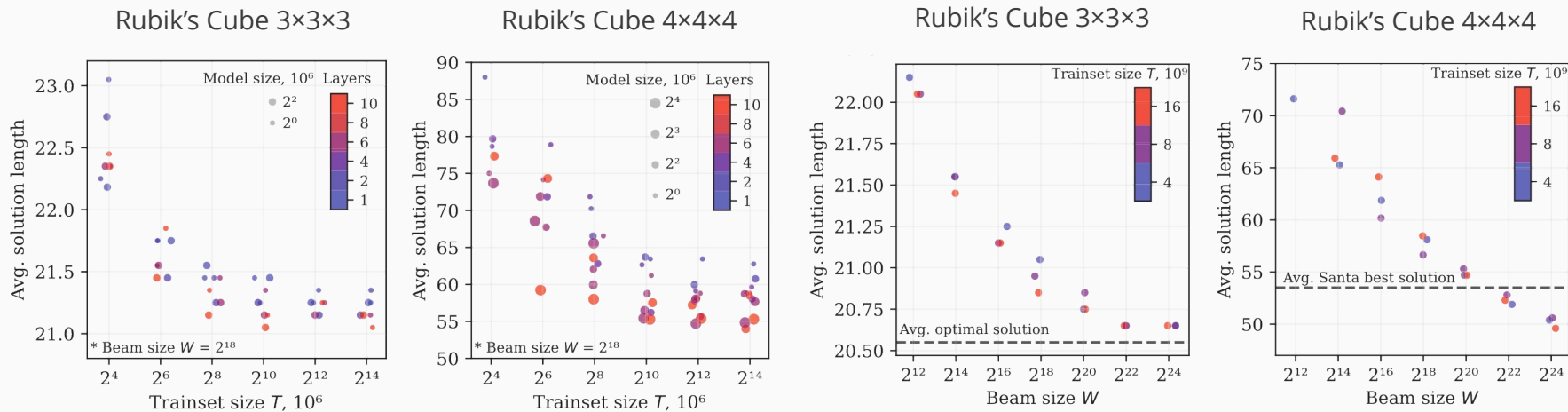
**Interesting fact:** the number of  $5\times 5\times 5$  Rubik's cube's states is comparable to the number of atoms in the universe.



# Solution: (Random Walks + ResMLP + Beam Search) × Agents



# Do not train too much: we revealed stagnation of solution length



There is no practical reason to use trainsets larger than 8B.

# What about really large trainsets? Are you ready for 524B?

Scramble ID

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

*Neural network 1 (upper line 8B/lower line 524B)*

49	49	47	45	46	45	51	48	49	47	48	49	50	48	50	47	47	50	48	50	50	50	51	49	48	49	48	48	50	52	49	51	50	50	53	50	50	53	52	51	49	51	53
43	47	45	47	46	49	47	50	47	47	50	45	50	48	40	53	47	52	48	48	50	48	49	47	50	49	48	54	48	48	49	49	50	52	53	44	50	49	50	51	49	51	51

*Neural network 2 (upper line 8B/lower line 524B)*

51	49	47	45	50	49	51	46	51	49	48	45	50	54	52	47	47	46	48	52	46	50	53	47	48	47	50	50	54	52	49	49	52	52	49	46	58	✕	52	53	51	51	53
43	47	47	47	48	49	47	52	53	47	✕	45	48	54	40	51	49	48	50	52	50	48	49	55	50	47	50	48	50	✕	49	49	50	50	57	46	54	51	52	55	49	51	51

*Best results over other experiments (neural networks trained with 8B examples)*

43	47	43	45	46	45	47	46	47	47	46	45	48	46	40	45	47	44	46	46	44	48	49	47	48	45	46	46	46	48	49	47	48	50	47	42	50	47	48	49	47	49	51
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

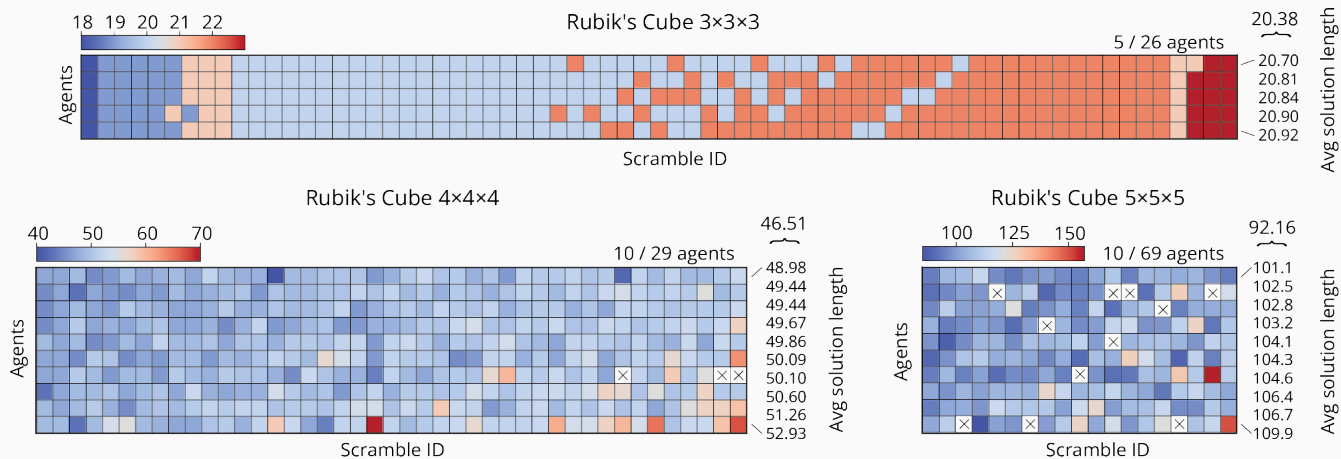
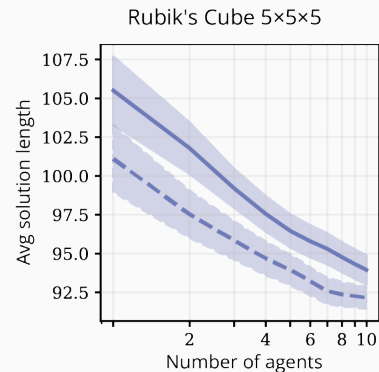
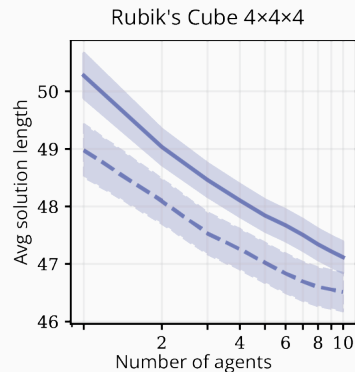
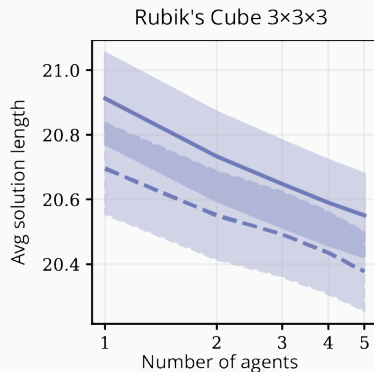
No grokking was observed.

Average solution length slightly improved (49.3→48.56 and 49.74→49.46).

One of networks trained with 524B samples solved less scrambles than its 8B version.

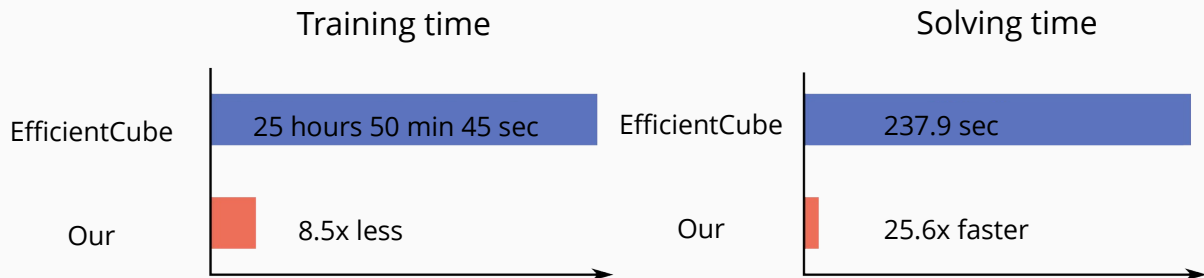
**Does this improvement really worth 7 days and 17.5 hours of training?**

# Multi-agent approach

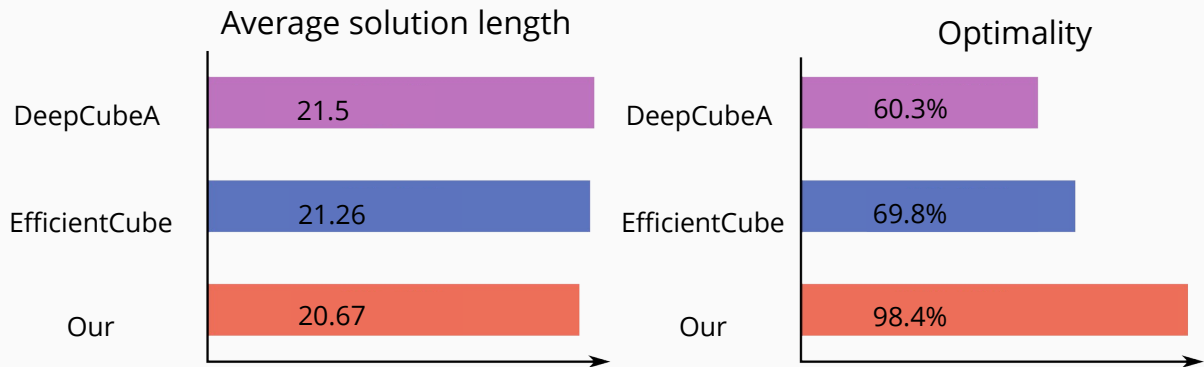


# Results

We are significantly faster than competitors!



We are more optimal!



We beat all best 2023 Kaggle Santa Challenge solutions up to 5×5×5 Rubik's cube.

We solved a broad range of puzzles represented by Cayley graphs of size up to  $10^{145}$ .

# Thanks!

Contact us:

Check our source



CayleyPy Project



CayleyPy Telegram

