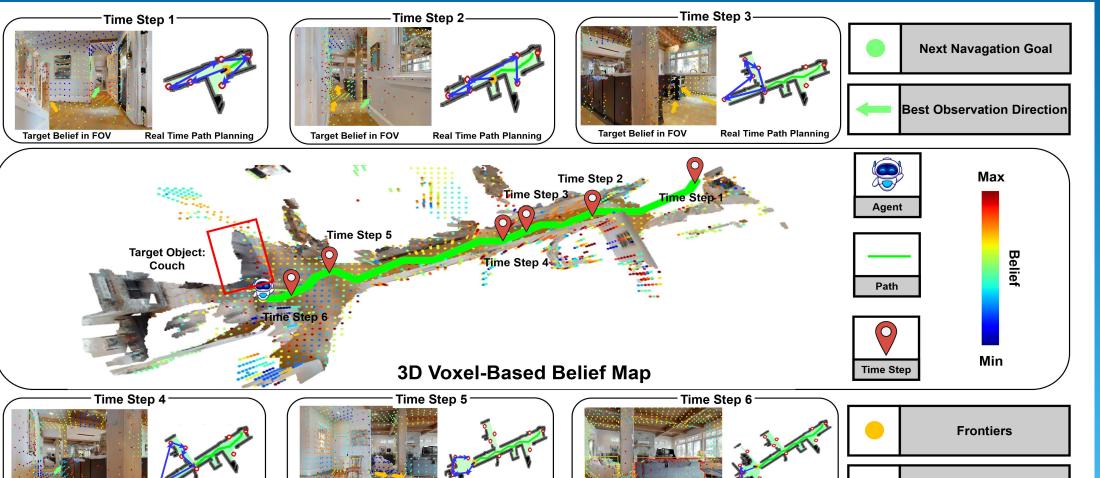


BeliefMapNav: 3D Voxel-Based Belief Map for Zero-Shot Object Navigation Zibo Zhou¹, Yue Hu², Lingkai Zhang¹, Zonglin Li¹, Siheng Chen¹

¹Shanghai Jiao Tong University ²University of Michigan

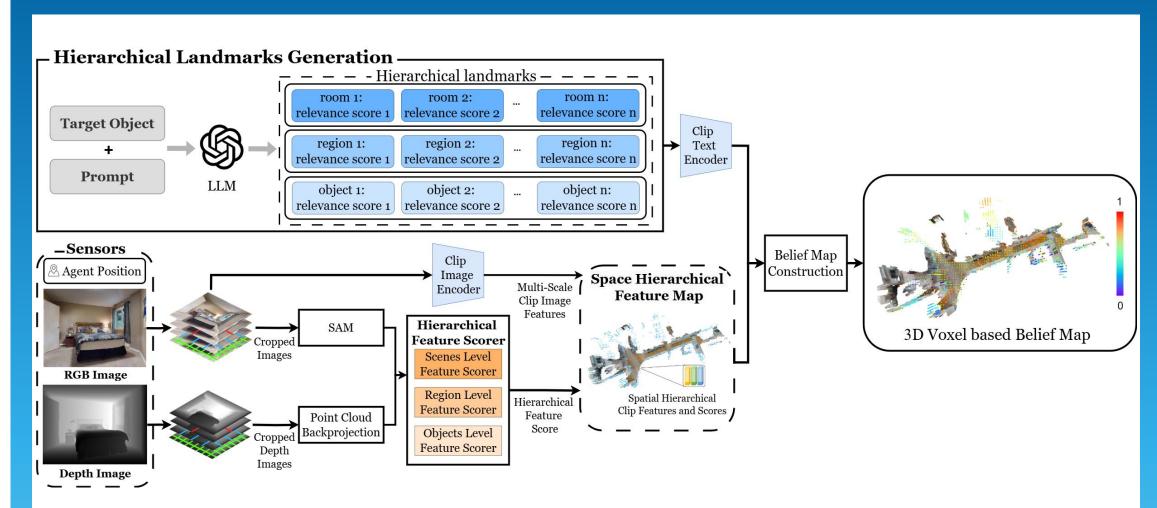






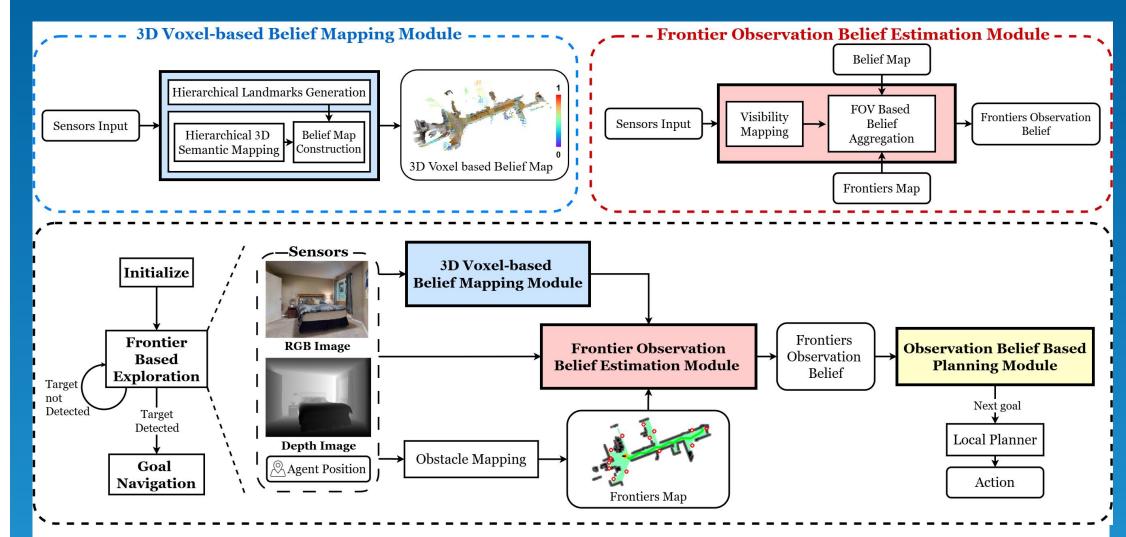
 Conventional object-goal navigation requires heavy taskspecific training, BeliefMapNav builds an online 3D voxel belief map fusing hierarchical visual semantics, visibility cues, and LLM commonsense, and plans by minimizing expected search distance—enabling zero-shot, efficient search with superior cross-scene generalization.

Belief Map

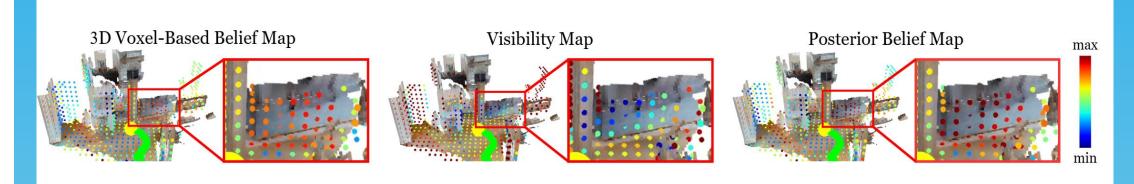


- ◆ Hierarchical Spatial Semantics: Voxelize the scene from RGB-D and assign multi-level semantics to each voxel.
- Commonsense from LLMs: Using the environment description, we prompt the LLM about the target object; it returns multi-level landmark candidates with relevance scores.
- Belief Map Generation: Fuse per-voxel semantics with LLM priors to yield a 3D prior probability of the target's spatial location.

Method



- 3D voxel belief mapping: fusing live RGB-D/SLAM with the 3D hierarchical semantic map and LLM-prompted landmarks to maintain an online belief map.
- frontier observation belief estimation: aggregating belief and visibility (FOV ray-casting) over candidate frontiers to score their expected observations.
- observation-belief planning: selecting the next goal that minimizes expected search distance and issuing navigation actions. The loop repeats until the target is detected, then the agent drives to the object.



◆ Visualization of the prior belief map, visibility map, and the posterior belief map, with an enlarged section highlighting the target object. Red color represents a high level of belief in the existence of the target.

$$\pi^* = \underset{\pi \in S_n}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\sum_{k=1}^i d_{A^*}(f_{\pi_{k-1}}, f_{\pi_k}) \right) P_{\operatorname{obs}}(f_{\pi_i})$$

◆ The belief-based planning objective, which ensures efficient search and reduces unnecessary exploration.

Experiments

 Our BeliefMapNav achieves leading performance across multiple datasets and metrics, outperforming most prior methods.

| Method | Unsupervised | Zero-shot | HM3D | | MP3D | | HSSD | |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | | SR↑ | SPL↑ | SR↑ | SPL↑ | SR↑ | SPL↑ |
| Habitat-Web [41] | × | X | 41.5 | 16.0 | 31.6 | 8.5 | = | - |
| OVRL [42] | X | × | _ | - | 28.6 | 7.4 | - | - |
| ProcTHOR [43] | X | X | 54.4 | 31.8 | - | - | - | - |
| SGM [44] | × | X | 60.2 | 30.8 | 37.7 | 14.7 | - | - |
| ZSON [24] | × | ✓ | 25.5 | 12.6 | 15.3 | 4.8 | | _ |
| PSL [45] | X | ✓ | 42.4 | 19.2 | 18.9 | 6.4 | = | - |
| PixNav [11] | × | ✓ | 37.9 | 20.5 | - | _ | = | - |
| VLFM [7] | / | / | 52.5 | 30.4 | 36.4 | 17.5 | - | - |
| ESC [3] | ✓ | ✓ | 39.2 | 22.3 | 28.7 | 14.2 | 38.1 | 22.2 |
| Cows [13] | ✓ | ✓ | _ | - | 9.2 | 4.9 | | |
| L3MVN [14] | ✓ | ✓ | 50.4 | 23.1 | 34.9 | 14.5 | 41.2 | 22.5 |
| ImagineNav [46] | ✓ | ✓ | 53.0 | 23.8 | - | - | 51.0 | 24.9 |
| VoroNav [28] | ✓ | ✓ | 42.0 | 26.0 | - | = | 41.0 | 23.2 |
| GAMap [8] | ✓ | ✓ | 53.1 | 26.0 | - | - | _ | _ |
| OpenFMNav [47] | ✓ | ✓ | 52.5 | 24.1 | 37.2 | 15.7 | | _ |
| SG-Nav [12] | ✓ | ✓ | 54.0 | 24.9 | 40.2 | 16.0 | - | - |
| UniGoal [48] | ✓ | ✓ | 54.5 | 25.1 | 41.0 | 16.4 | - | - |
| InstructNav [9] | ✓ | ✓ | 58.0 | 20.9 | - | - | - | - |
| BeliefMapNav | ✓ | ✓ | 61.4 | 30.6 | 37.3 | 17.6 | 65.2 | 32.1 |

Visualization of Navigation Process:

