

# Reinforcement learning in robotics

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Problems often formalised as MDP

States:  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^n$

$\mathbf{x}$





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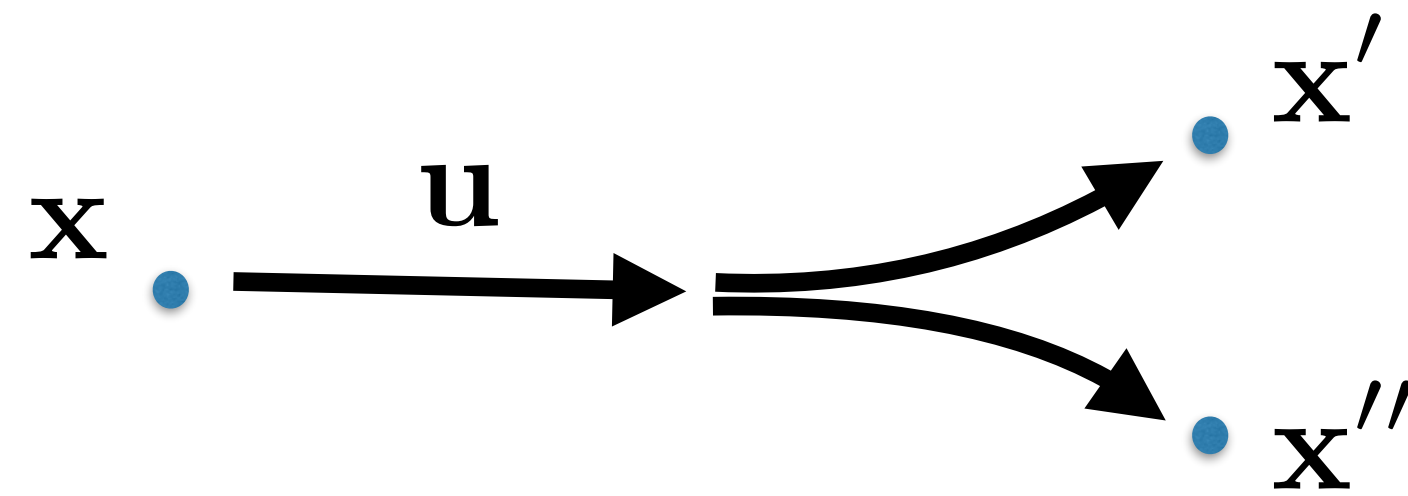
Actions:  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{R}^m$

# Problems often formalised as MDP

States:  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^n$

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Model:  $p(\mathbf{x}' | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$



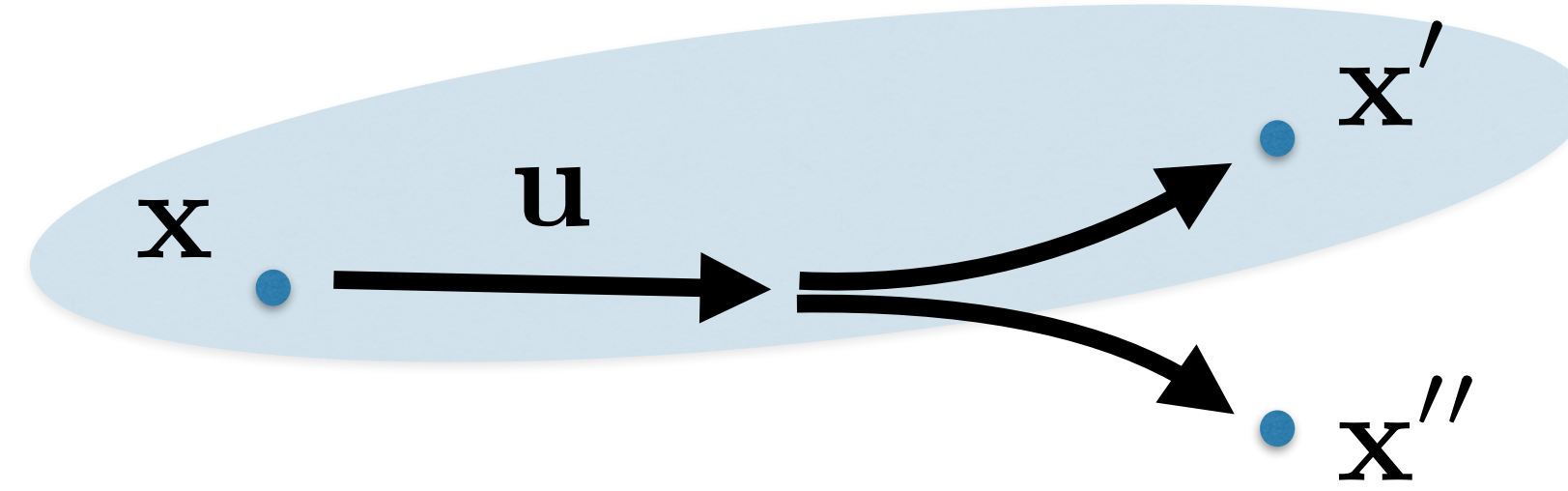
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Rewards:  $r(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \in \mathcal{R}$



# Problems often formalised as MDP

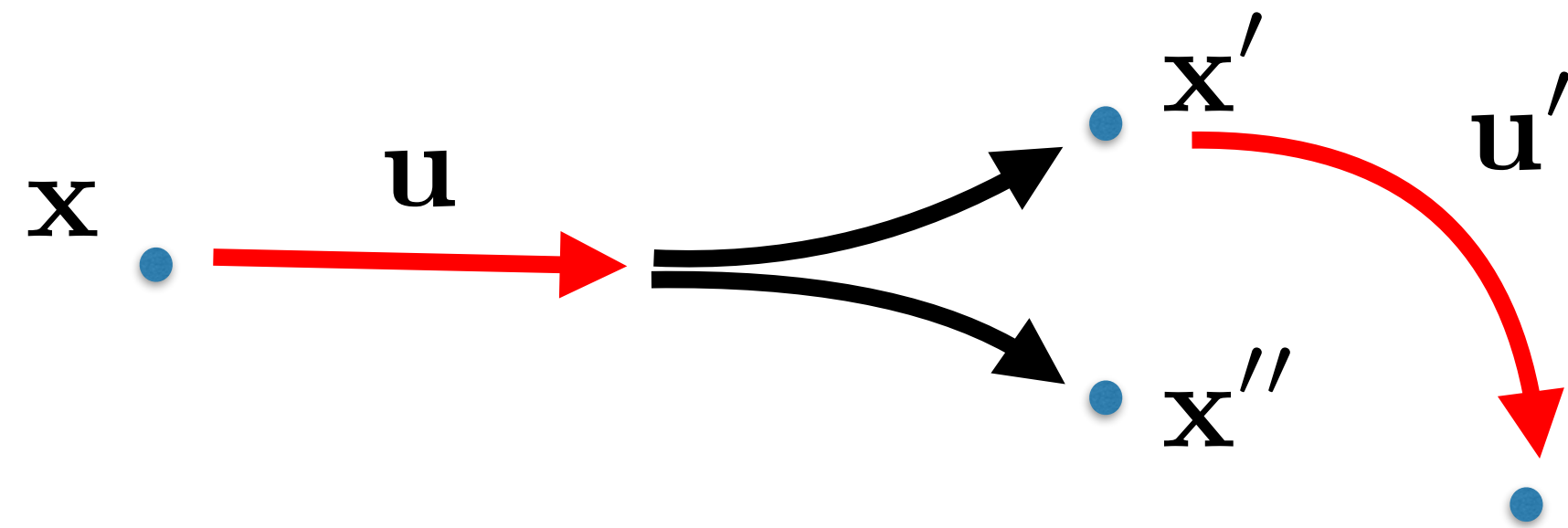
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Policy:  $\pi(\mathbf{u} | \mathbf{x})$



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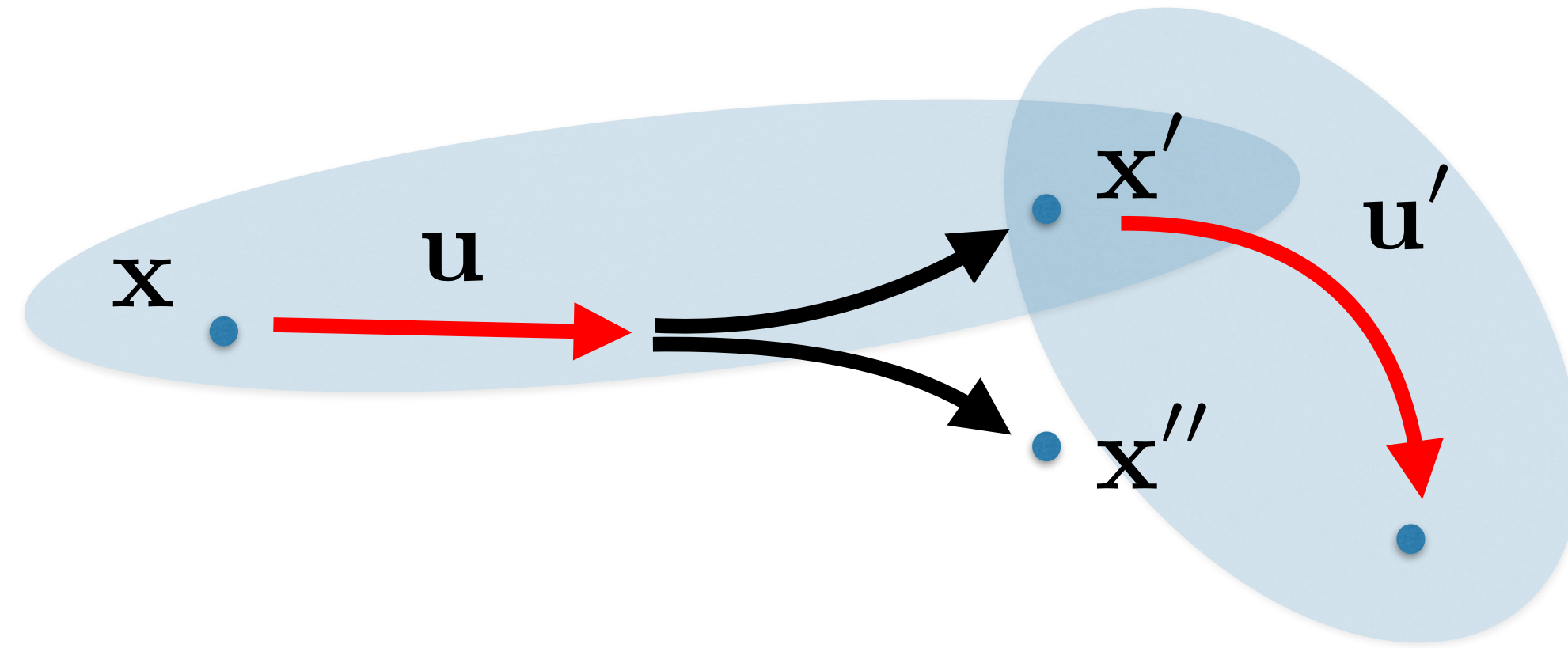
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Rewards:  $r(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \in \mathcal{R}$

Policy:  $\pi(\mathbf{u} | \mathbf{x})$

Goal:  $\pi^* = \arg \max_{\pi} J_{\pi}$  (e.g.  $J_{\pi} = \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi} \{ \sum_{r_t \sim \tau} \gamma^t r_t \}$  )



## Problems often formalised as MDP

States:	$\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^n$	incomplete, noisy
Actions:	$\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{R}^m$	continuous high-dimensional
Model:	$p(\mathbf{x}' \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$	inaccurate model
Rewards:	$r(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \in \mathcal{R}$	hard to engineer
Policy:	$\pi(\mathbf{u} \mathbf{x})$	execution endanger the robot
Goal:	$\pi^* = \arg \max_{\pi} J_{\pi}$	(e.g. $J_{\pi} = \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi} \{ \sum_{r_t \sim \tau} \gamma^t r_t \}$ )

# Typical problems

$\tau$   
→

Model identification:

- given some trajectories estimate model

$p(\mathbf{x}' | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$   
→

$p(\mathbf{x}' | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$   
→  
 $r(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}')$

Model predictive control / Planning

- given the model and reward estimate optimal policy/plan

$\pi^* = \arg \max_{\pi} J_{\pi}$   
→

$\tau$   
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 $r(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}')$

Reinforcement learning:

- given rewards and trajectories, estimate optimal policy

$\pi^* = \arg \max_{\pi} J_{\pi}$   
→

$\tau^*$   
→

Inverse reinforcement learning:

- given optimal trajectories estimate reward function

$r(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \in \mathcal{R}$   
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# Typical problems

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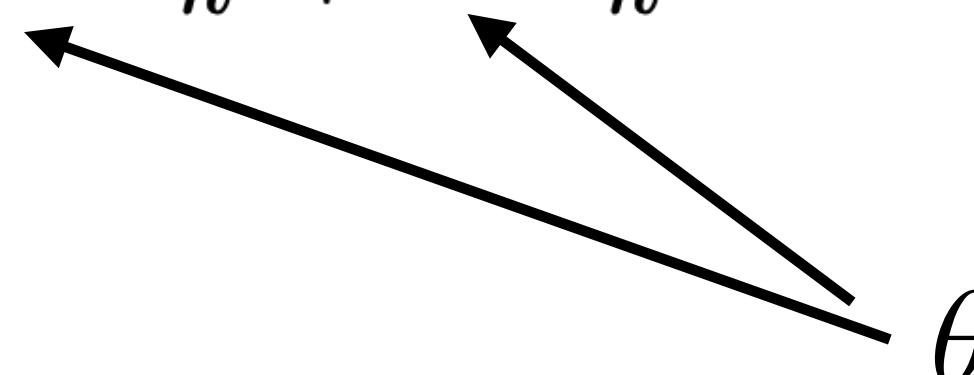


## Model identification:

- Build physical engine and identify physical quantities
  - usually non-differentiable black-box model
- Learn (deep convolutional) network to predict following state  $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) + \mathcal{N}$

$$\arg \min_{\theta} \sum_k \|\mathbf{p}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) - \mathbf{x}_{k+1}\|_2^2$$

For example fully observable, time-discrete, linear system:

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_k$$


The diagram shows the parameter  $\theta$  at the bottom right. Two arrows originate from  $\theta$  and point to the matrices  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  in the equation  $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_k$ , indicating that  $\theta$  represents the parameters of these matrices.

- More complex formulations: RNN or autoregressive model such as PixelCNN++

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Reinforcement learning:

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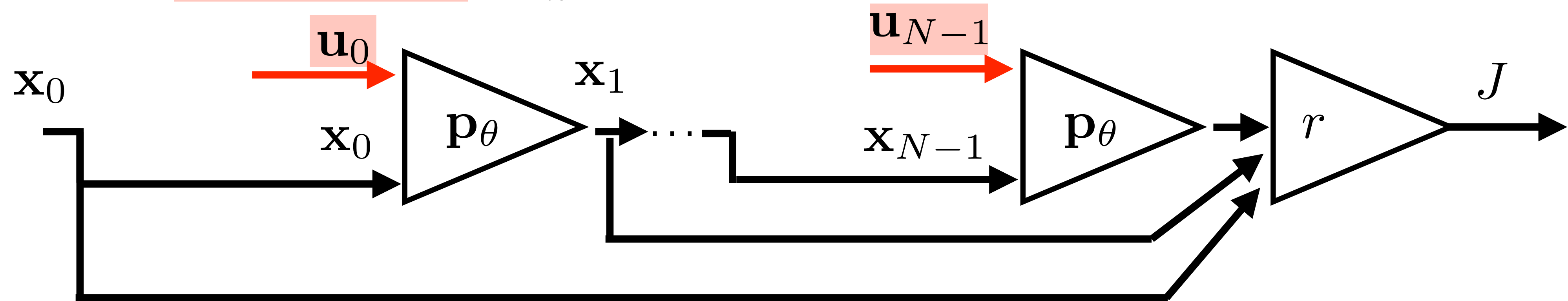
# Planning actions

1. Collect trajectories  $\tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3, \dots$ , ini:  $\theta = \text{rand}$   $\omega = \text{rand}$
2. Estimate motion model

$$\arg \min_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \in \tau} \|\mathbf{x}' - p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})\|$$

3. **Plan** policy (sequence of actions) maximizing the rewards on model-based trajectories

$$\arg \max_{\mathbf{u}_0, \mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_{N-1}} \left\{ \sum_k r(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) \mid \mathbf{x}_{k+1} = p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) \right\}$$



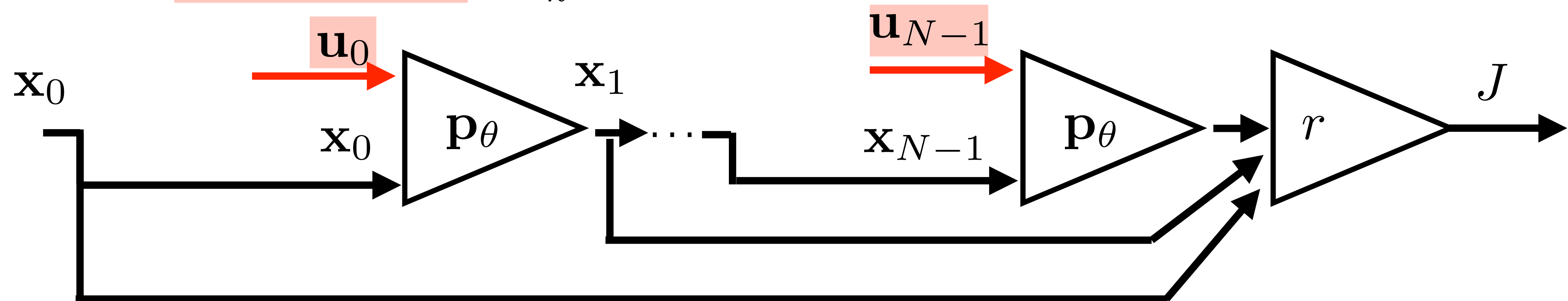
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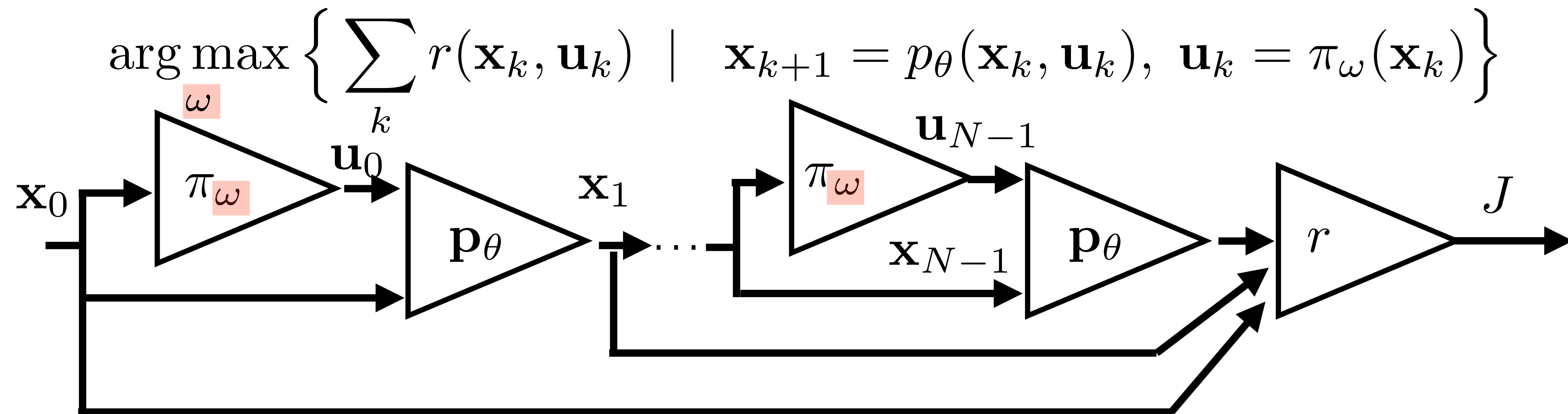
- typically non-convex => gradient optimization inefficient
- BFS, Dijkstra,  $A^*$ , RRT, ... => **open loop control**

# Learning policy

1. Collect trajectories  $\tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3, \dots$ , ini:  $\theta = \text{rand}$   $\omega = \text{rand}$
2. Estimate motion model

$$\arg \min_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \in \tau} \|\mathbf{x}' - p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})\|$$

3. **Learn** policy (e.g. deepnet) maximizing the rewards on model-based trajectories



- Especially: linear system and policy + quadratic reward function
- LQR has closed form solution => **closed loop control**

# Typical problems

$\tau$   
→

Model identification:

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$p(\mathbf{x}' | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$   
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Model predictive control / Planning

- given the model and reward estimate optimal policy/plan

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 $r(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}')$

Reinforcement learning:

- given rewards and trajectories, estimate optimal policy

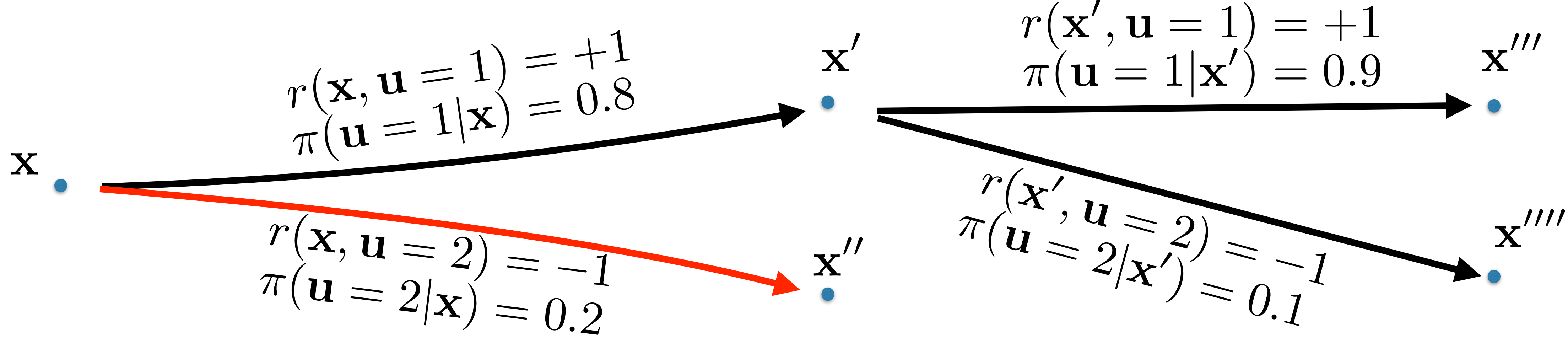
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→

$\tau^*$   
→

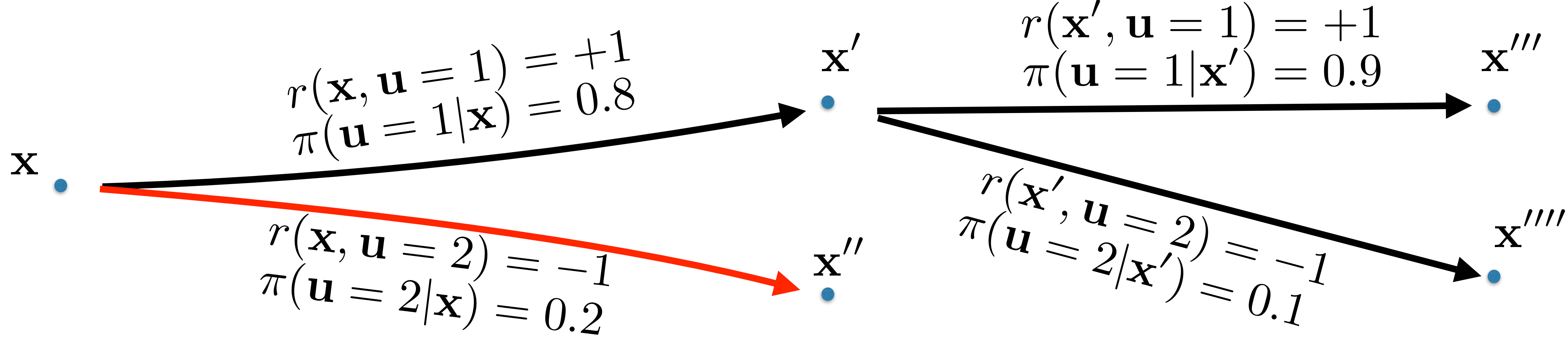
Inverse reinforcement learning:

- given optimal trajectories estimate reward function

$r(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \in \mathcal{R}$   
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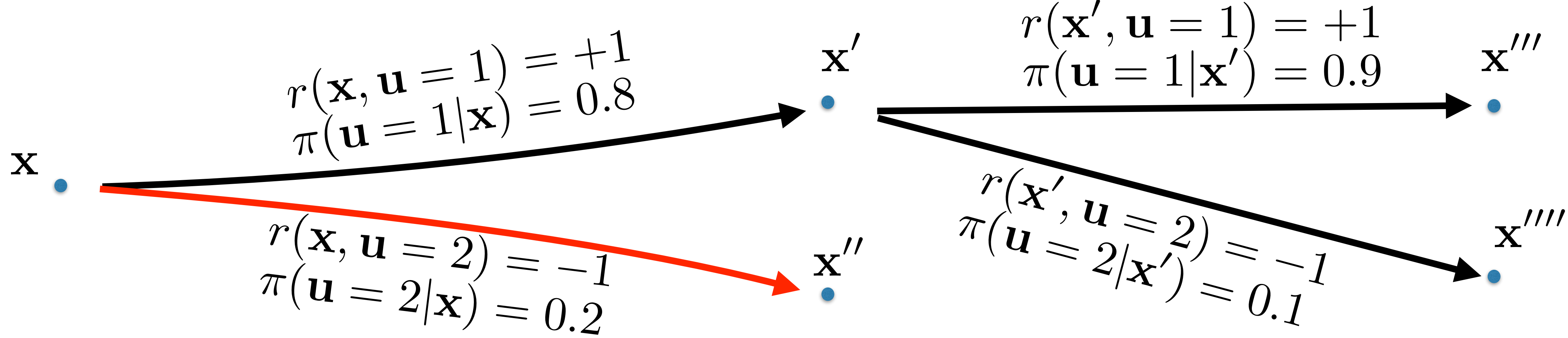


$$V^\pi(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{E}_{\substack{\tau \sim \pi \\ \mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}}} \left[ \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_{t+1} \right] = \mathbb{E}_{\substack{\tau \sim \pi \\ \mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}}} [r(\tau)]$$



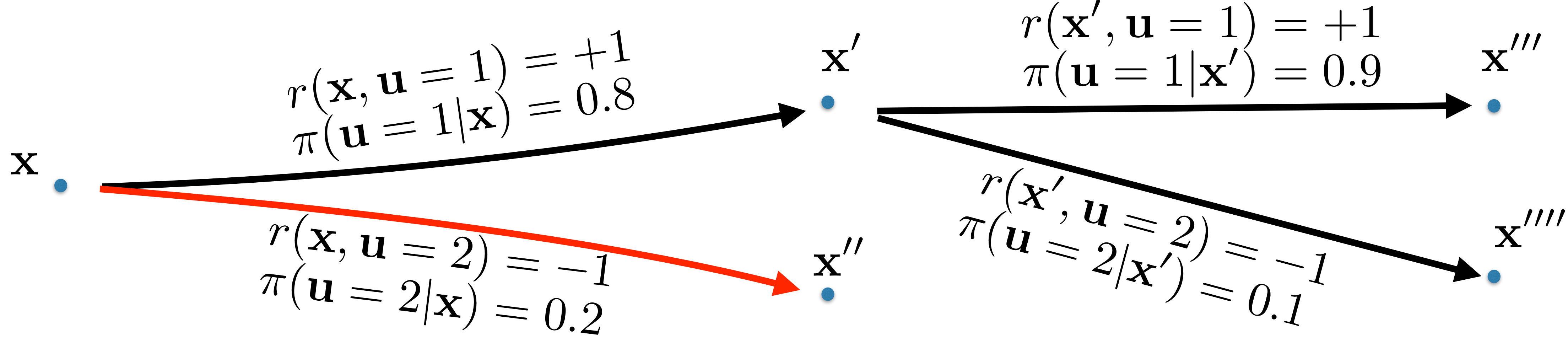
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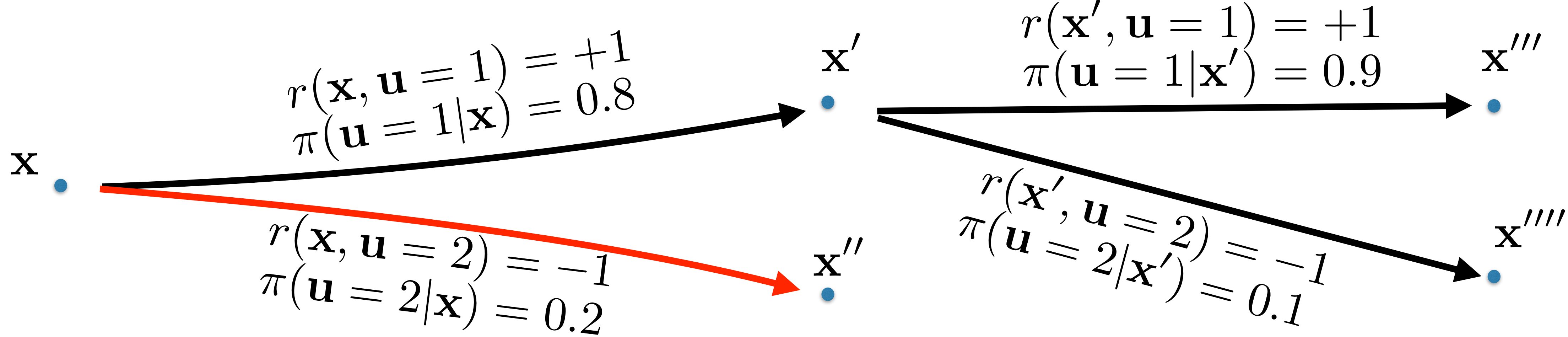
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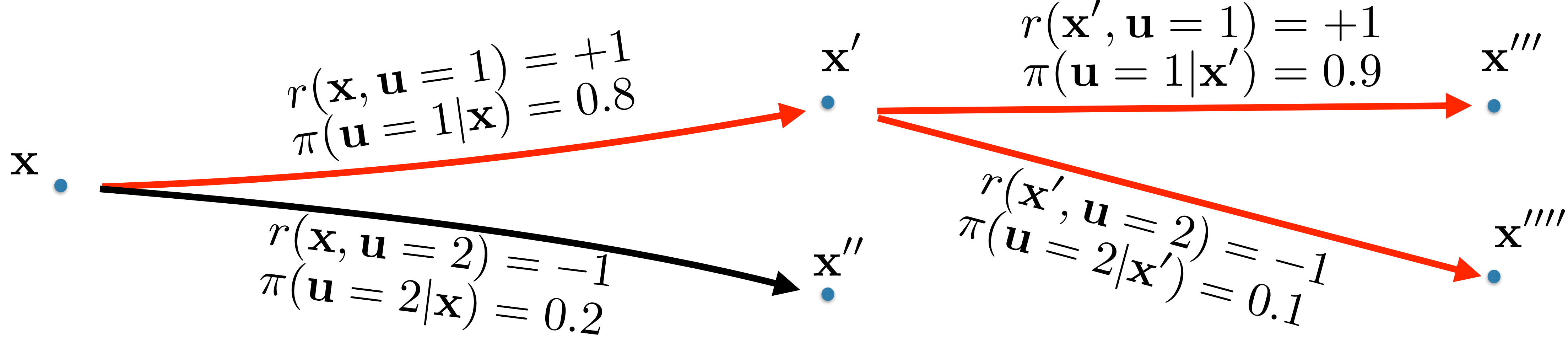
$$Q^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} = 2) = \mathbf{???}$$



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$$Q^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} = 2) = -1$$

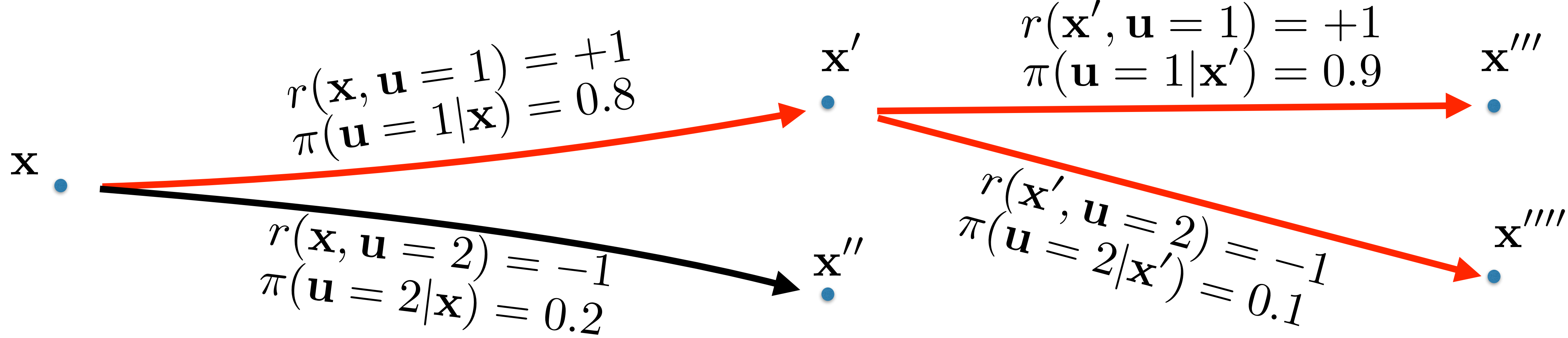


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$$Q^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} = 2) = -1$$

$$Q^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} = 1) = 1 + 0.9 * 1 + 0.1 * (-1) = \mathbf{???}$$

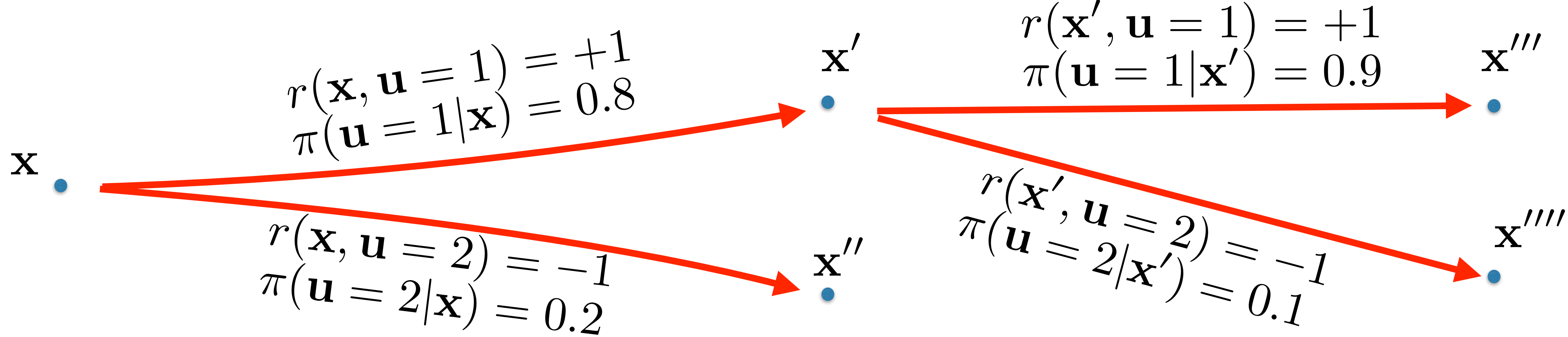


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$$Q^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} = 2) = -1$$

$$Q^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} = 1) = 1 + 0.9 * 1 + 0.1 * (-1) = 1.8$$



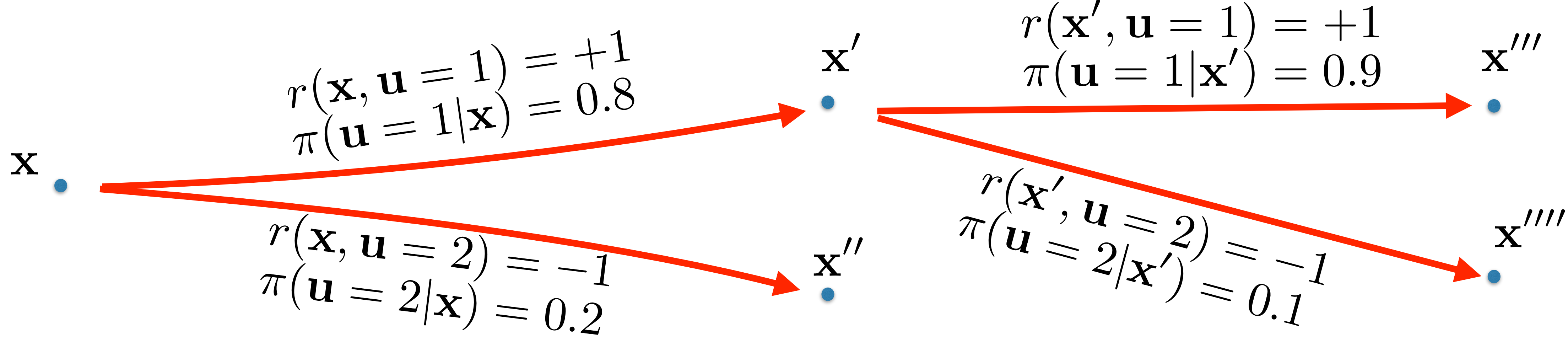
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$$Q^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} = 1) = 1 + 0.9 * 1 + 0.1 * (-1) = 1.8$$

$$V^\pi(\mathbf{x}) = 0.8 * (1 + 0.9 * 1 + 0.1 * (-1)) + 0.2 * (-1) = \mathbf{???}$$



$$V^\pi(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{E}_{\substack{\tau \sim \pi \\ \mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}}} \left[ \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_{t+1} \right] = \mathbb{E}_{\substack{\tau \sim \pi \\ \mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}}} [r(\tau)] = \int_{\tau: \mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}} p(\tau|\pi) r(\tau)$$

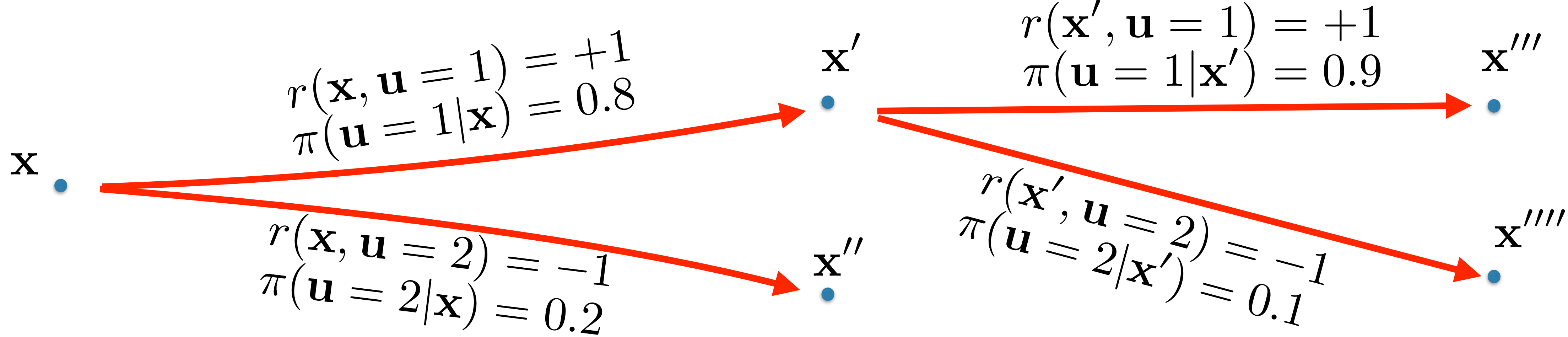
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$$Q^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} = 2) = -1$$

$$Q^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} = 1) = 1 + 0.9 * 1 + 0.1 * (-1) = 1.8$$

$$V^\pi(\mathbf{x}) = 0.8 * (1 + 0.9 * 1 + 0.1 * (-1)) + 0.2 * (-1) = 1.24$$





$$V^\pi(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{E}_{\substack{\tau \sim \pi \\ \mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}}} \left[ \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_{t+1} \right] = \mathbb{E}_{\substack{\tau \sim \pi \\ \mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}}} [r(\tau)] = \int_{\tau: \mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}} p(\tau|\pi) r(\tau)$$

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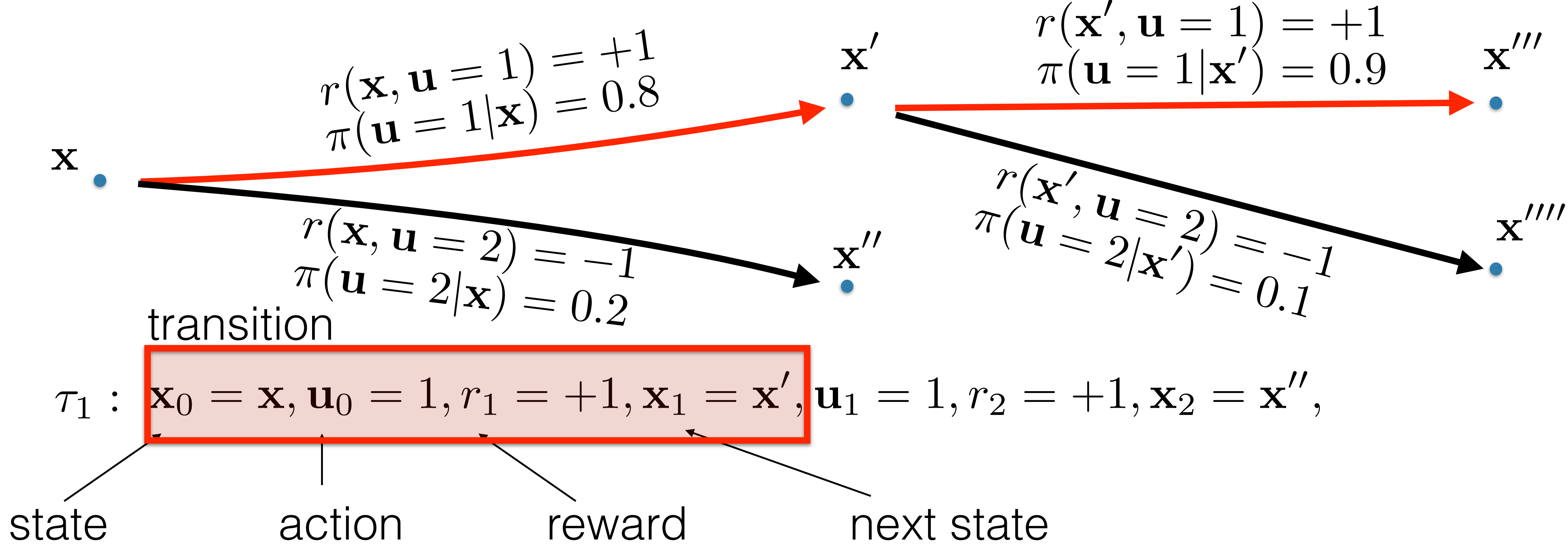
$$Q^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} = 1) = 1 + 0.9 * 1 + 0.1 * (-1) = 1.8$$

$$V^\pi(\mathbf{x}) = 0.8 * (1 + 0.9 * 1 + 0.1 * (-1)) + 0.2 * (-1) = 1.24$$

$$A^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} = 1) = Q^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} = 1) - V^\pi(\mathbf{x}) = 1.8 - 1.24 = 0.56$$

$$A^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} = 2) = Q^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} = 2) - V^\pi(\mathbf{x}) = -1 - 1.24 = -2.24$$



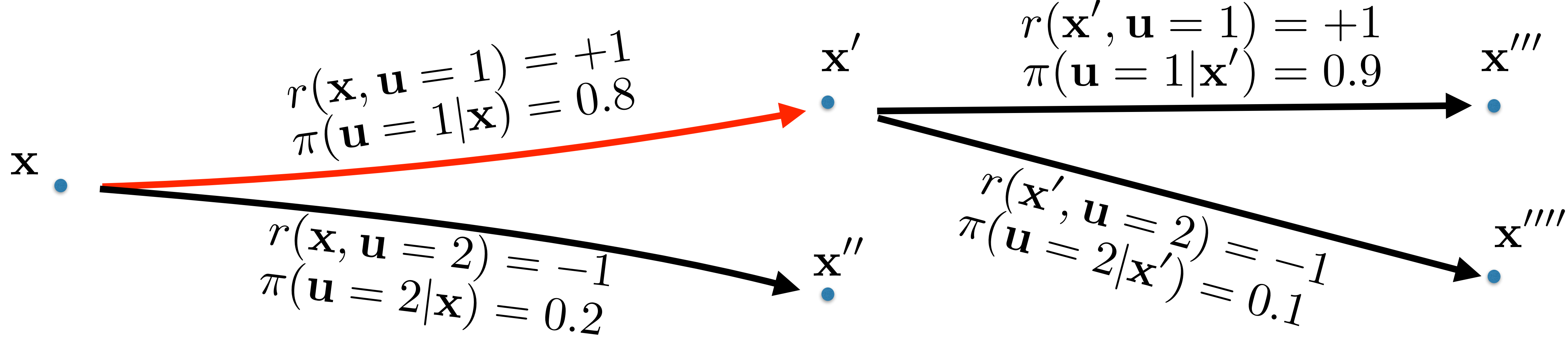


- Search for Q satisfying Bellman equation (for every transition):

$$Q^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = r(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}'} Q^\pi(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}')$$

- Once we find it, the optimal policy is:

$$\pi^*(\mathbf{x}) = \arg \max_{\mathbf{u}} Q^\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = \arg \max_{\pi} J_\pi$$



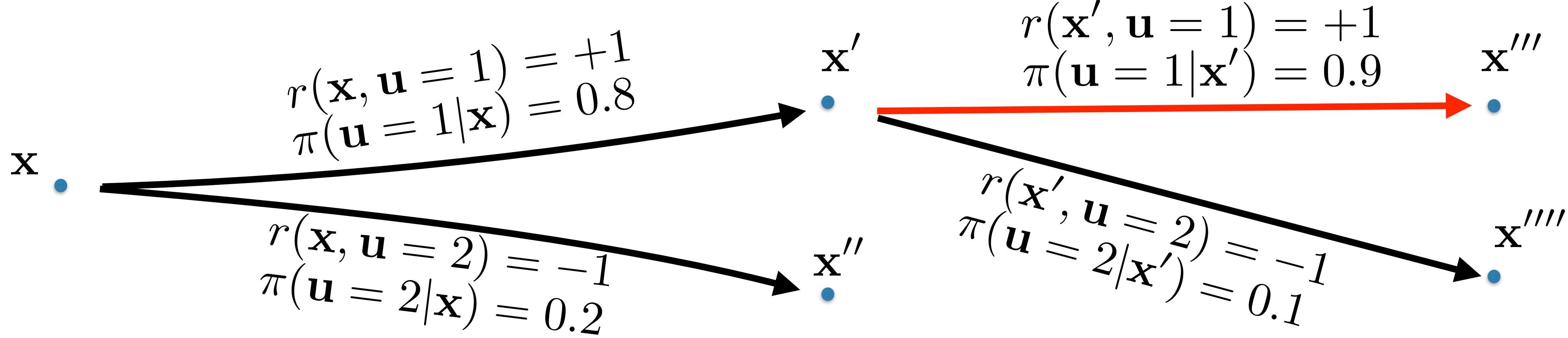
$\tau_1 : \mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}_0 = 1, r_1 = +1, \mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_1 = 1, r_2 = +1, \mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{x}'',$

state  $\mathbf{x}_1$       action  $\mathbf{u}_1$       reward  $r_1$       next state  $\mathbf{x}_2$

$$Q(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}_0) = r_1 + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}} Q(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{u})$$

$$Q(\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}_0 = 1) = +1 + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}} Q(\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u})$$

Q	u=1	u=2
x	0	0
x'	0	0
x''	0	0
x'''	0	0
x''''	0	0



$\tau_1 : \mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}_0 = 1, r_1 = +1, \mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_1 = 1, r_2 = +1, \mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{x}'$

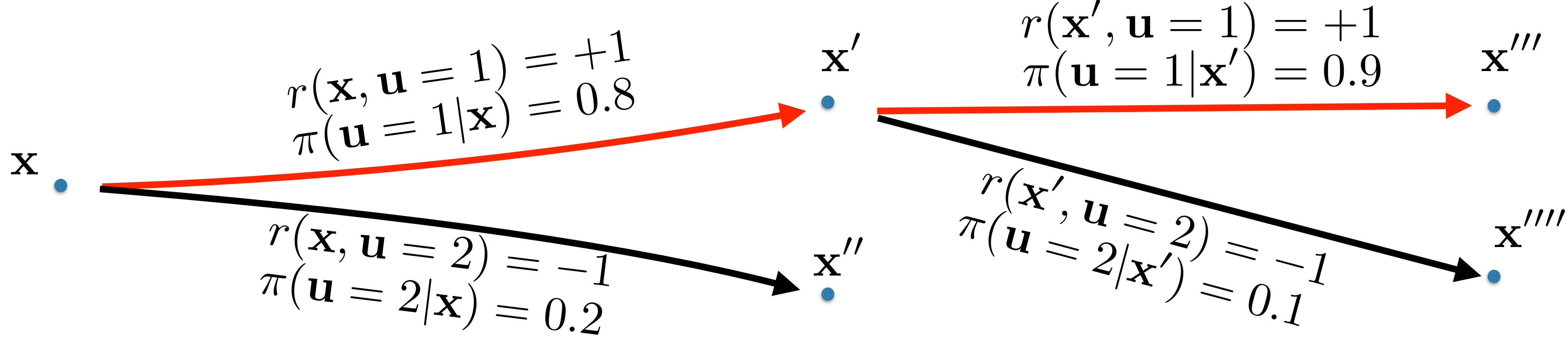
state  $\mathbf{x}_1$       action  $\mathbf{u}_1$       reward  $r_1$       next state  $\mathbf{x}_2$

$$Q(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}_0) = r_1 + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}} Q(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{u})$$

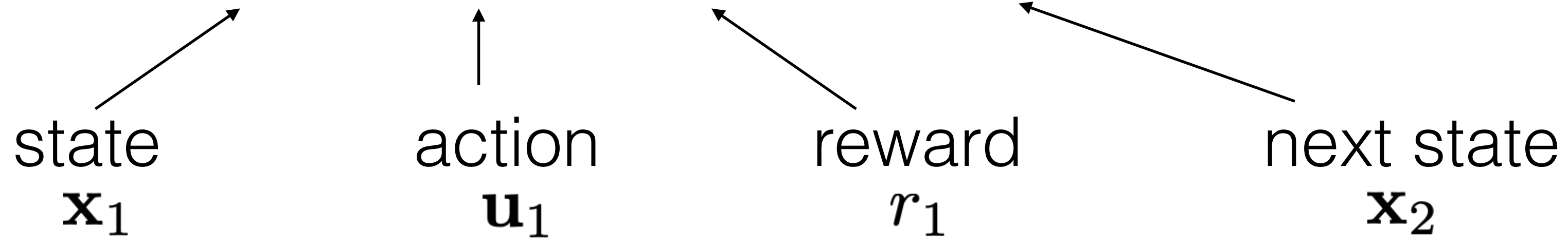
$$Q(\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}_0 = 1) = +1 + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}} Q(\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}) = +1$$

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Q	u=1	u=2
x	0	0
x'	0	0
x''	0	0
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$\tau_1 : \mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}_0 = 1, r_1 = +1, \mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_1 = 1, r_2 = +1, \mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{x}''$ ,



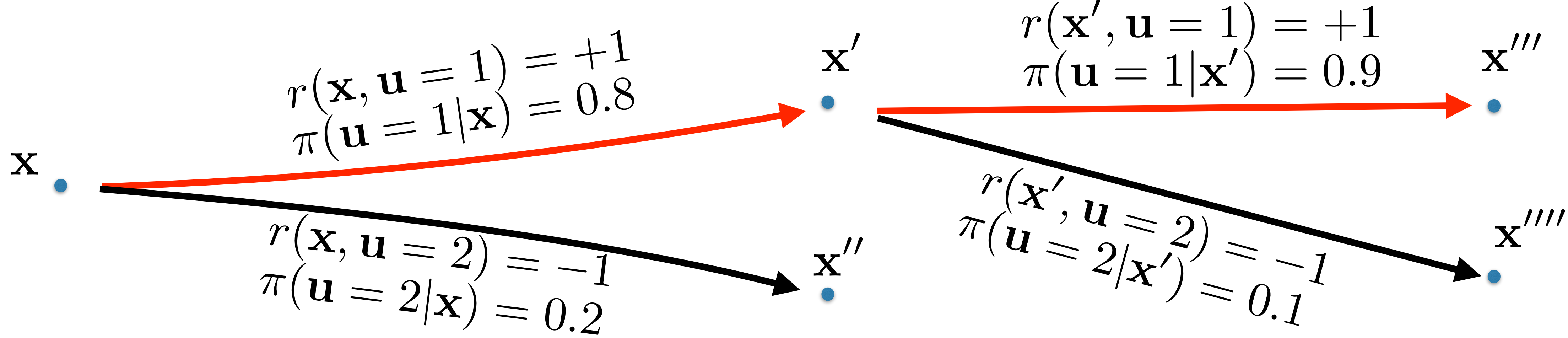
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Bellman equation is not satisfied

Q	u=1	u=2
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x'	0	0
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x'''	0	0
x''''	0	0



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state  $\mathbf{x}_1$       action  $\mathbf{u}_1$       reward  $r_1$       next state  $\mathbf{x}_2$

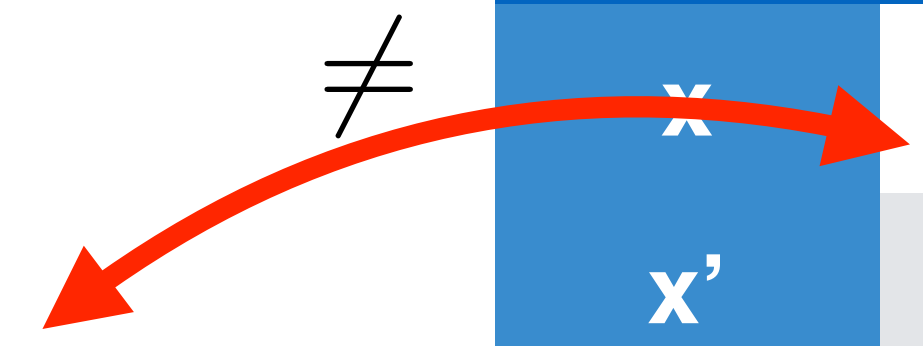
$Q(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}_0) = r_1 + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}} Q(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{u})$

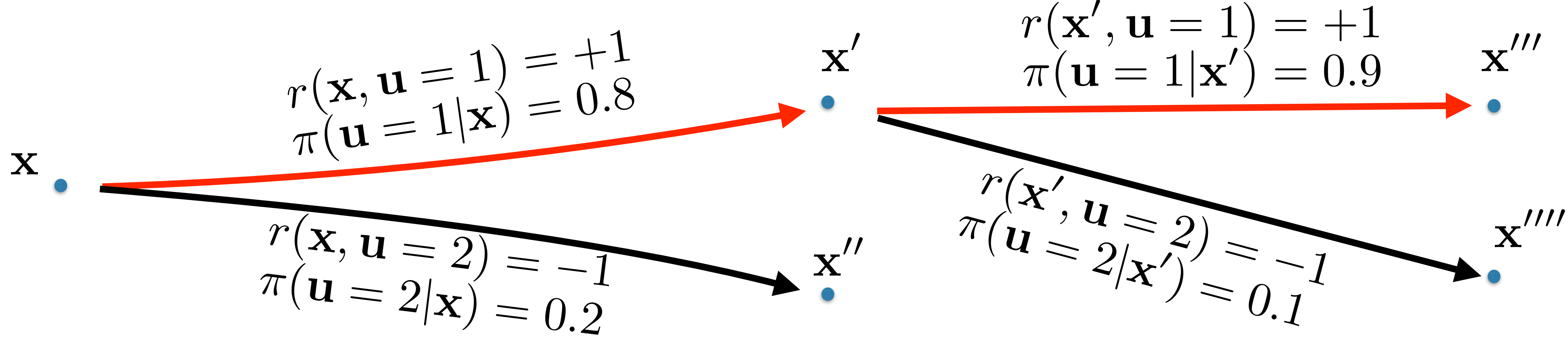
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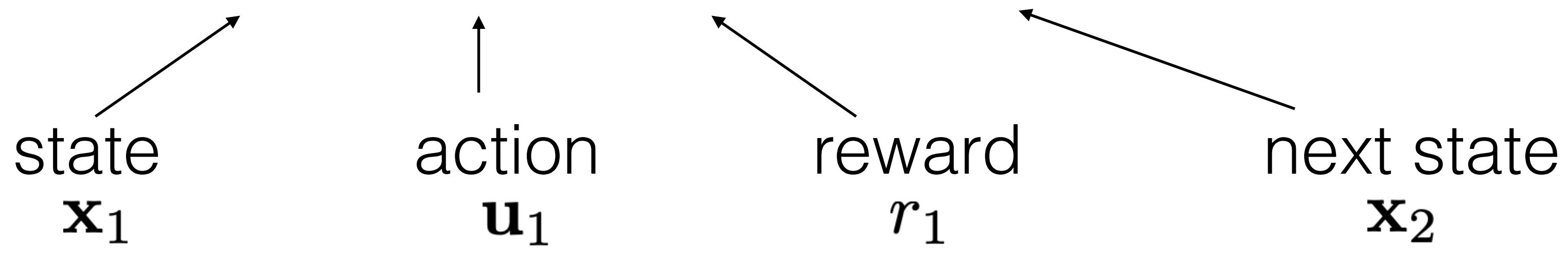
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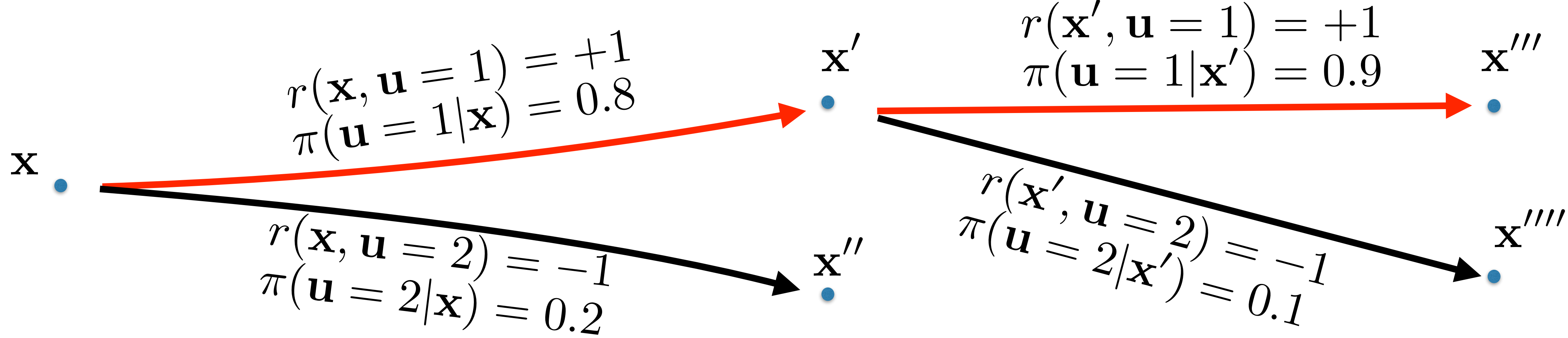
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Q	u=1	u=2
x	1	0
x'	0	0
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x''''	0	0

Search for solution by successive subst. of RHS to LHS.





$\tau_1 : \mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}_0 = 1, r_1 = +1, \mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_1 = 1, r_2 = +1, \mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{x}''$ ,

state  $\mathbf{x}_1$       action  $\mathbf{u}_1$       reward  $r_1$       next state  $\mathbf{x}_2$

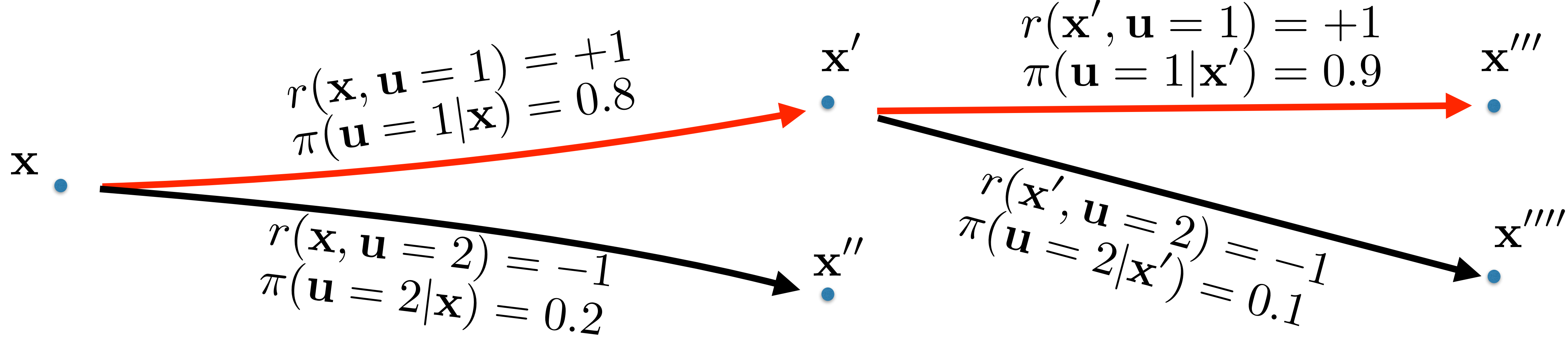
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Search for solution by successive subst. of RHS to LHS.



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$$Q(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}_0) = r_1 + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}} Q(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{u})$$

$$Q(\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}_0 = 1) = +1 + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}} Q(\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}) = +1.9$$

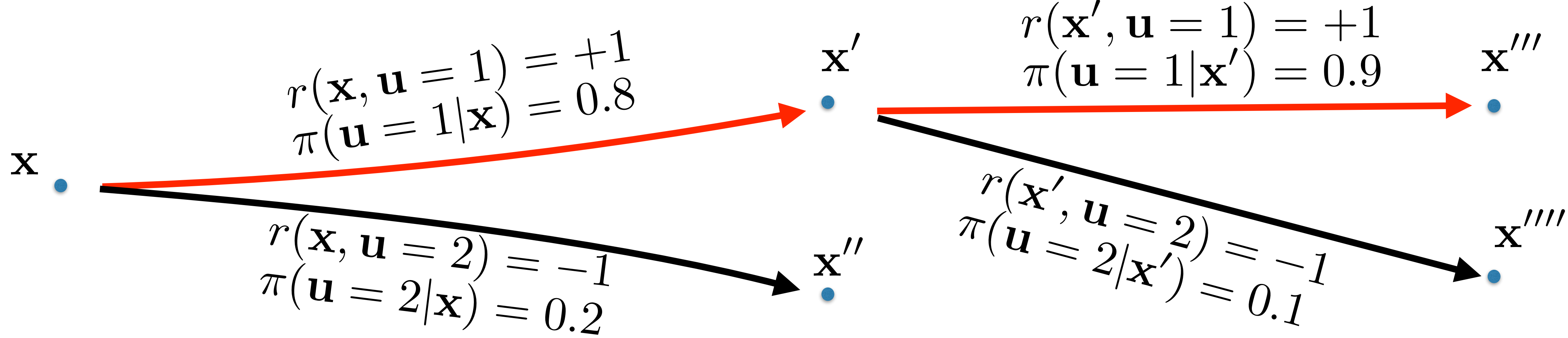
$$Q(\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_0 = 1) = +1 + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}} Q(\mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{x}'', \mathbf{u}) = +1$$

Recompute RHS

$\neq$

Q	u=1	u=2
x	1	0
x'	1	0
x''	0	0
x'''	0	0
x''''	0	0





$\tau_1 : \mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}_0 = 1, r_1 = +1, \mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_1 = 1, r_2 = +1, \mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{x}''$ ,

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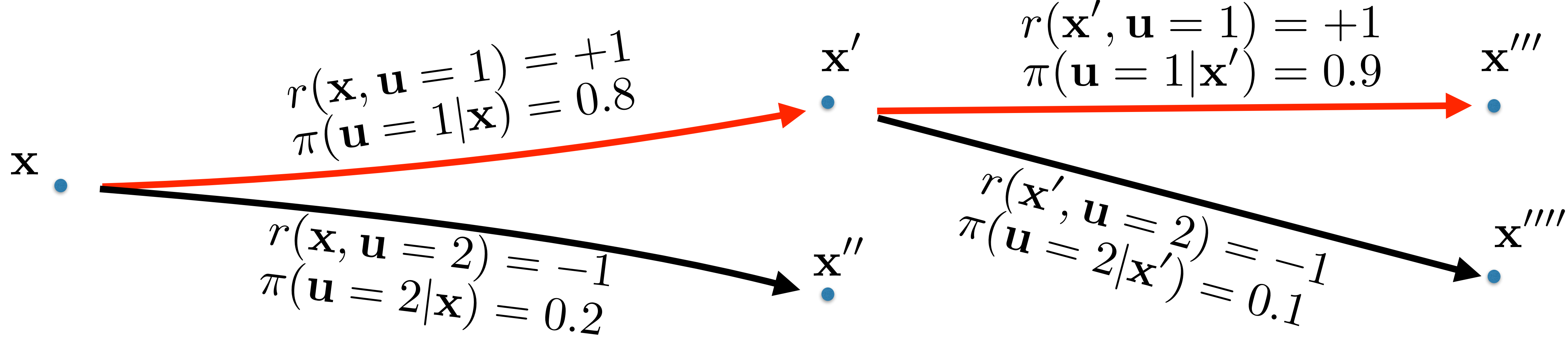
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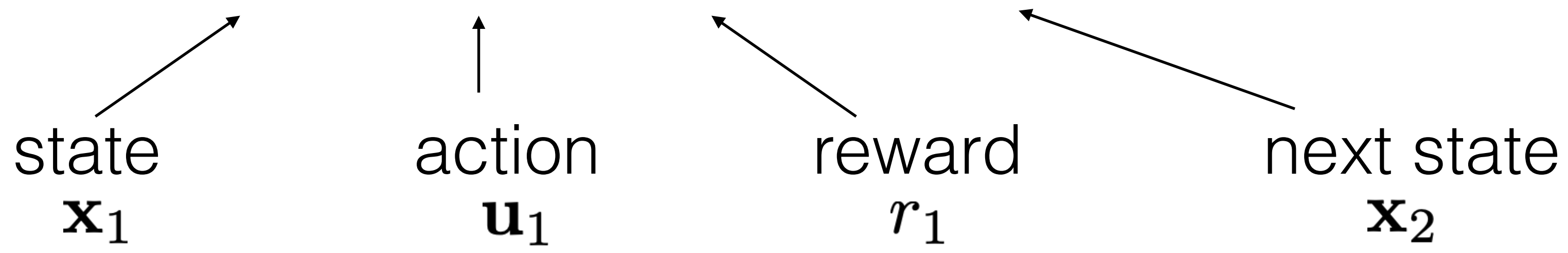
$$Q(\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_0 = 1) = +1 + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}} Q(\mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{x}'', \mathbf{u}) = +1$$

Substitute of RHS to LHS.

Q	u=1	u=2
x	1.9	0
x'	1	0
x''	0	0
x'''	0	0
x''''	0	0



$\tau_1 : \mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}_0 = 1, r_1 = +1, \mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_1 = 1, r_2 = +1, \mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{x}''$ ,



$$Q(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}_0) = r_1 + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}} Q(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{u})$$

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Q	u=1	u=2
x	1.9	0
x'	1	0
x''	0	0
x'''	0	0
x''''	0	0

If Q is table, the mapping is contraction and iterations always converge to a fixed point of Bellman operator.

## Q-learning

1. Collect transition  $[\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, r, \mathbf{x}']$
2. Solve  $Q(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = r + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}'} Q(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}')$
3. Repeat from 1

## Q-learning

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- Curse of dimensionality

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  - Replace table  $Q(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$  by function  $Q_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$

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## Approximate Q-learning (DQN)

1. Collect transition  $[\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, r, \mathbf{x}']$
2. Estimate  $\mathbf{y} = r + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}'} Q_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}')$
3. Update parameters by learning

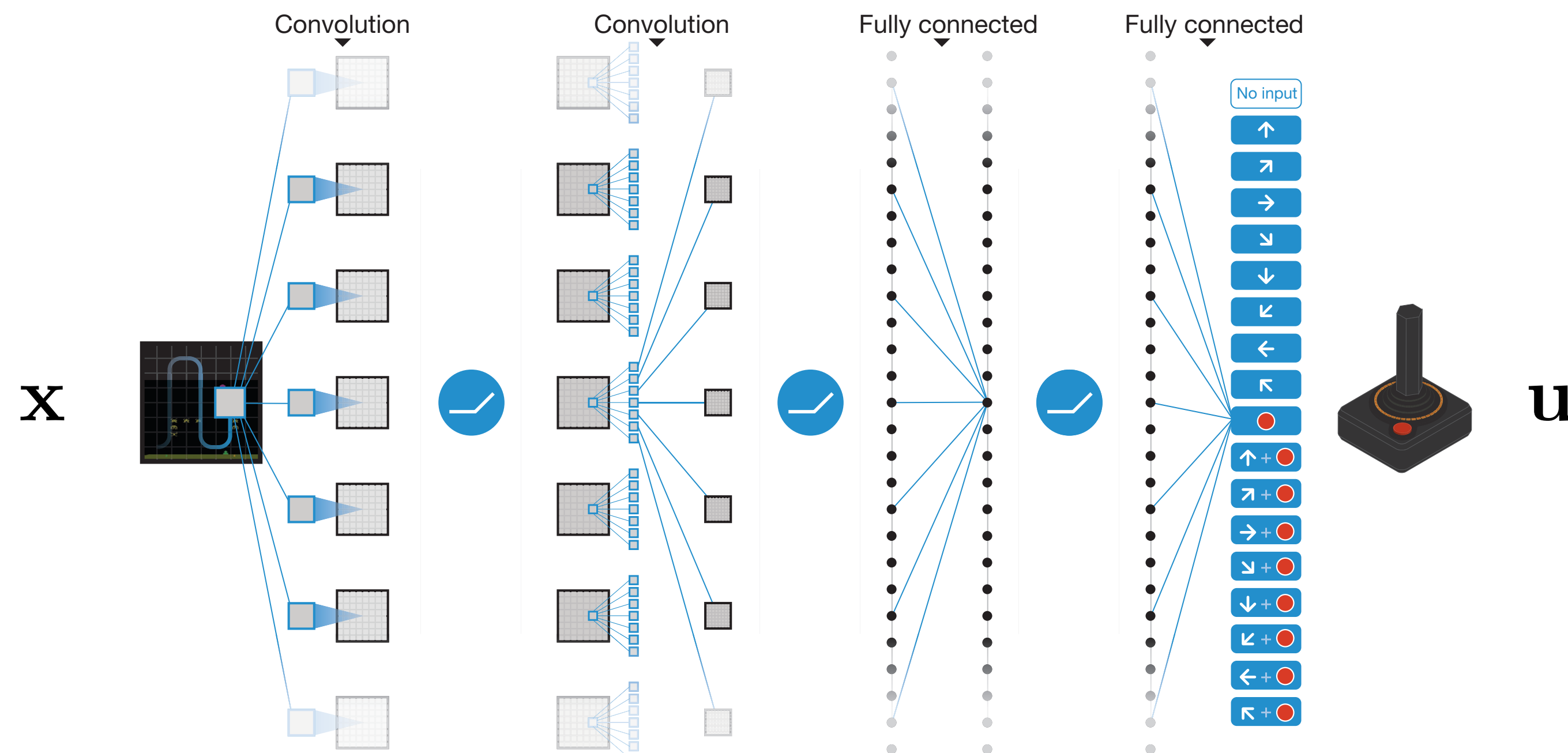
$$\arg \min_{\theta} \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{y}} \|Q_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) - \mathbf{y}\|$$

4. Repeat from 1

# Mnih et al. Nature 2015

- 2600 atari games
- **state space  $\mathbf{x}$**  : last four frames to capture dynamics (e.g. RGB images in VGA resolution)
- **action space  $\mathbf{u}$**  : 18 discrete joystic actions (8 direction + 8 direction with button + neutral action + neutral with button)

$$Q_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$$





# Q-learning

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  2. Solve  $Q(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = r + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}'} Q(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}')$
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3. Update parameters by learning (assumes i.i.d+n.n.)

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**★ Transitions are strongly correlated !**

4. Repeat from 1

## ★ Transitions are strongly correlated !

**Solution:** ReplayMemory => minibatch sampled at random  
(decorrelates samples to be “more i.i.d”)

```
Transition = namedtuple( 'Transition',  
                        ('state', 'action', 'next_state', 'reward'))
```

```
class ReplayMemory(object):
```

```
    def push(self, *args):
```

```
        if len(self.memory) < self.capacity:
```

```
            self.memory.append(None)
```

```
            self.memory[self.position] = Transition(*args)
```

```
            self.position = (self.position + 1) % self.capacity
```

```
    def sample(self, batch_size):
```

```
        return random.sample(self.memory, batch_size)
```

# Q-learning

1. Collect transition
  2. Solve  $Q(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = r + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}'} Q(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}')$
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4. Repeat from 1 **★ Transitions are strongly correlated !**

## Q-learning

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## Approximate Q-learning (DQN)

1. Collect transition  $[\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, r, \mathbf{x}'] \Rightarrow$  ReplayMemory
2. Sample transition(s) at random from ReplayMemory
3. Estimate target(s)  $\mathbf{y} = r + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}'} Q_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}')$
4. Update parameters by learning (assumes i.i.d+n.n.)

$$\arg \min_{\theta} \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{y}} \|Q_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) - \mathbf{y}\|$$

**★ Transitions are strongly correlated !**

5. Repeat from 1

## Q-learning

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5. Repeat from 1

★ Transitions are strongly correlated !

★ Approximated Q-learning often diverges



## Q-learning

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### Approximate Q-learning (DQN)

1. Collect transition  $[\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, r, \mathbf{x}'] \Rightarrow$  ReplayMemory
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3. Estimate target(s)  $\mathbf{y} = r + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}'} Q_{\bar{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}')$  Target net (slowly upd.)
4. Update parameters by learning  $\mathbf{u}'$  (assumes i.i.d+n.n.)

$$\arg \min_{\theta} \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{y}} \| Q_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) - \mathbf{y} \| \quad \text{Policy net (regularly upd.)}$$

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## Q-learning

1. Collect transition  $[\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, r, \mathbf{x}']$
2. Solve  $Q(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = r + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}'} Q(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}')$
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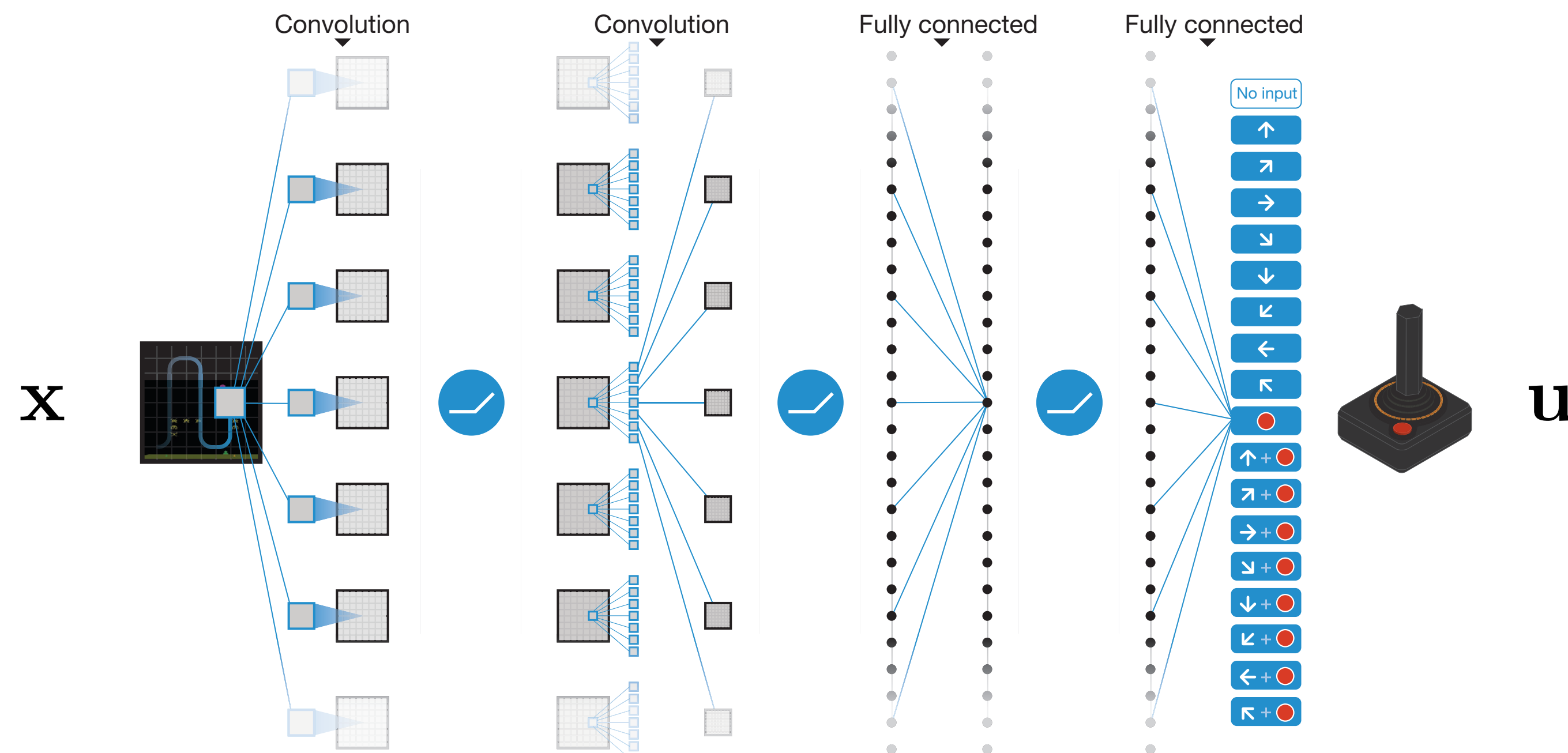
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5. Update target network  $\bar{\theta} := \alpha \theta + (1 - \alpha) \bar{\theta}$
6. Repeat from 1

# Mnih et al. Nature 2015

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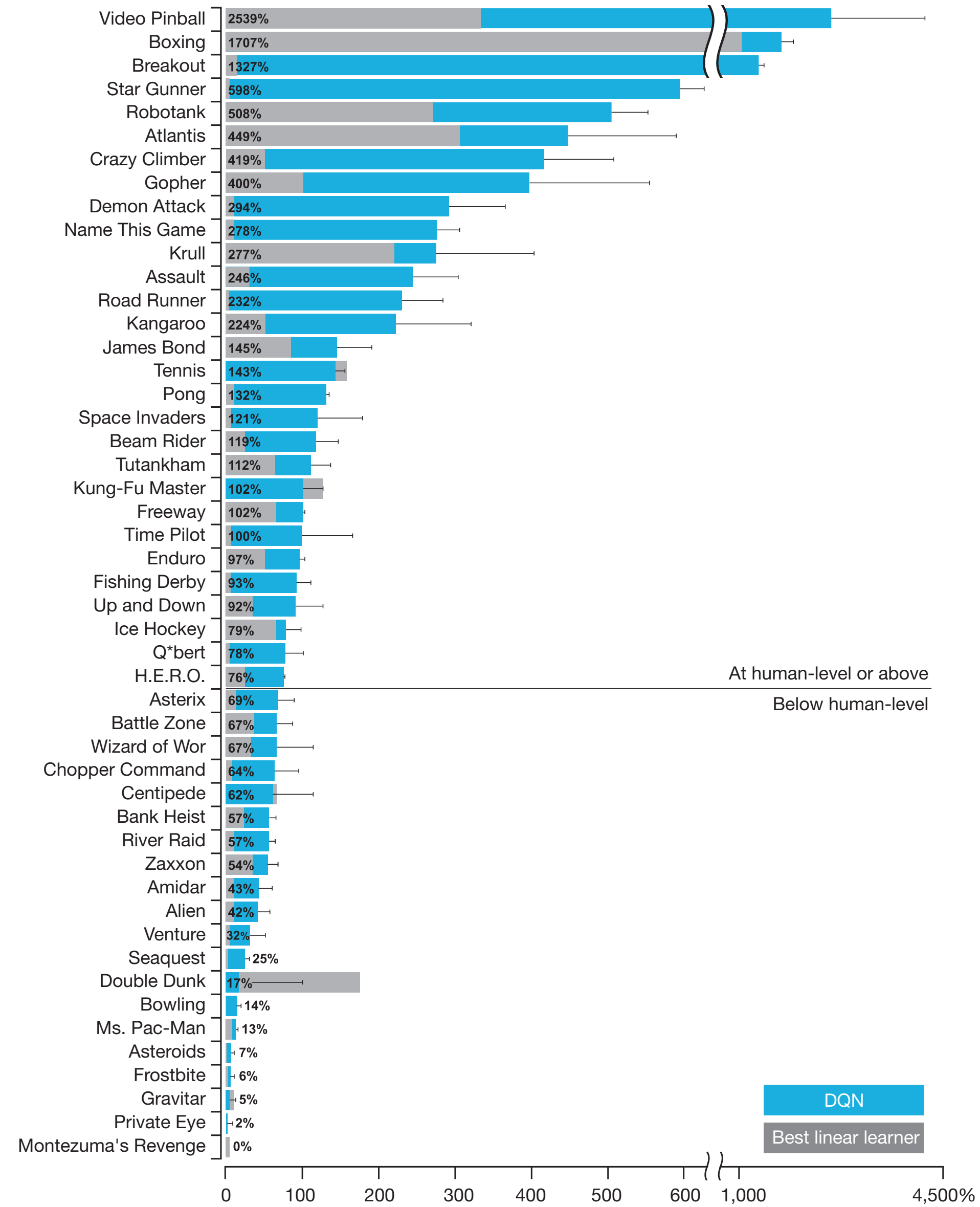


## Mnih et al. Nature 2015

- replay buffer (decorrelates samples to be “more i.i.d”)
- two Q-networks (suppress oscillations)
- collection of control tasks: <https://gym.openai.com>

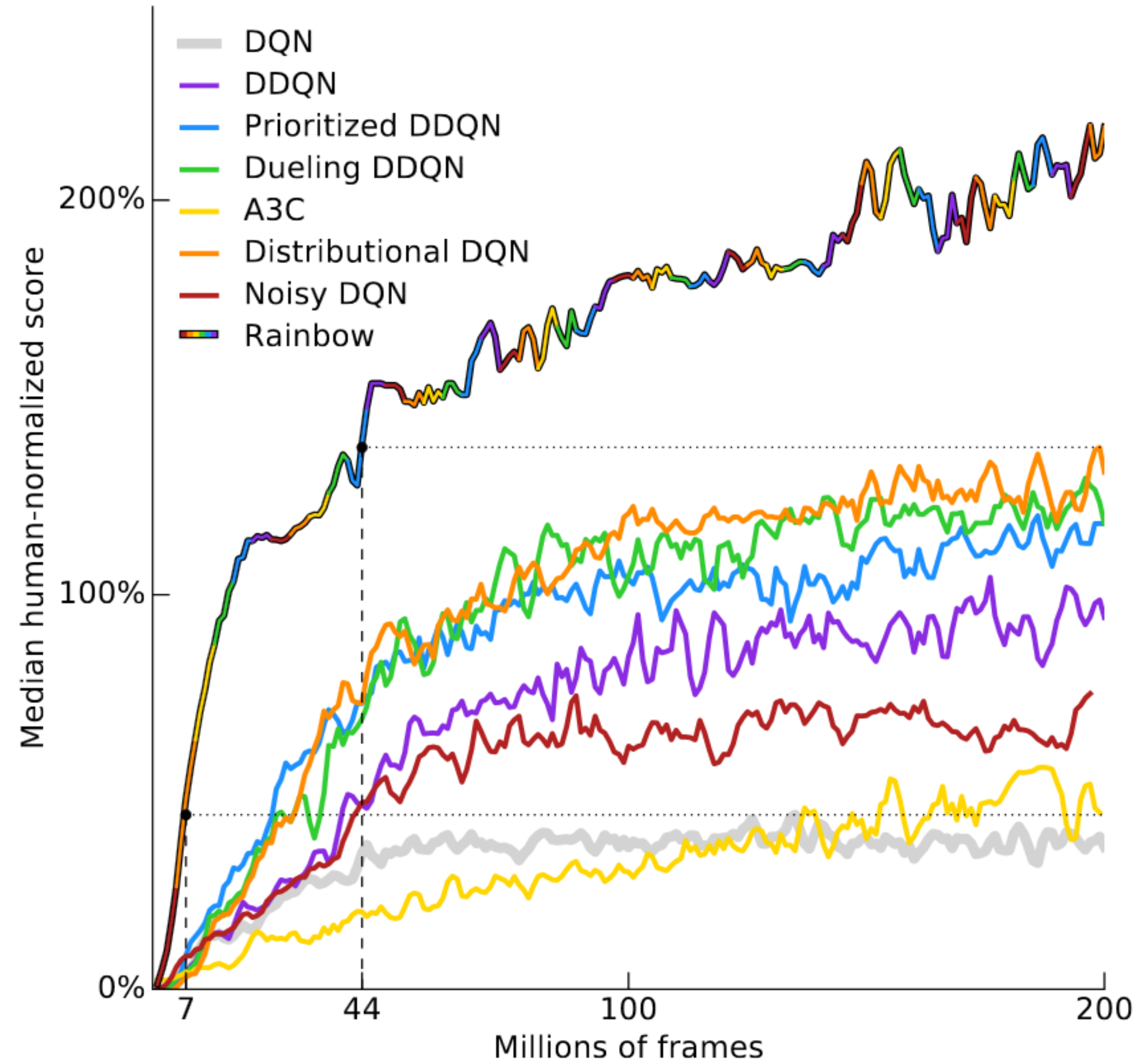


# Mnih et al. Nature 2015



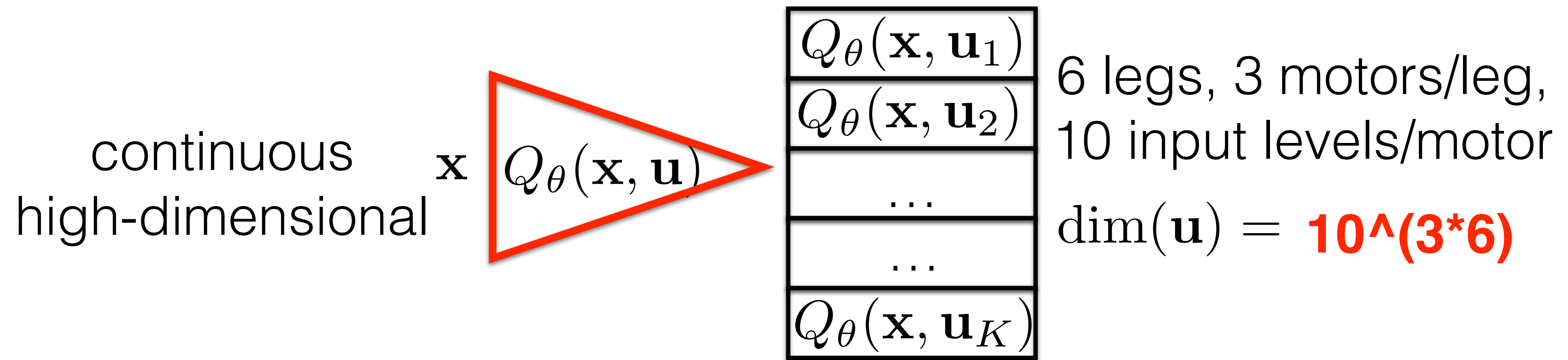
# Hessel et. al Rainbow DQN, 2017

## Ensemble of different RL methods



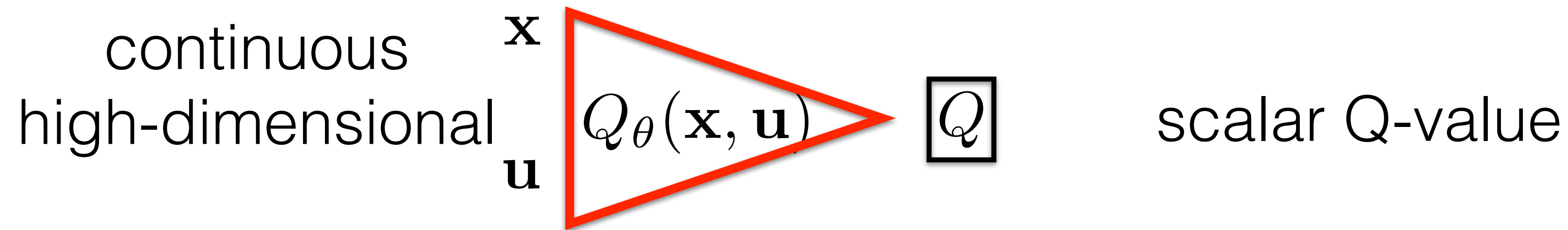


# Main bottleneck of approximate Q-learning (DQN)



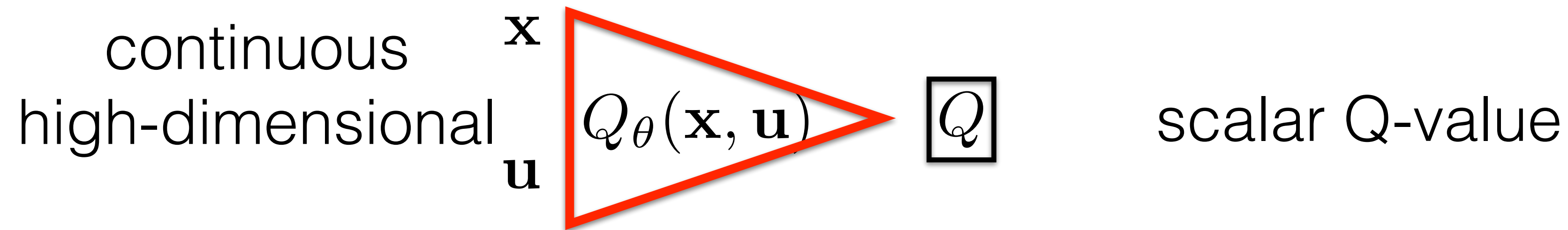
1. Collect transition  $[\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, r, \mathbf{x}'] \Rightarrow \text{ReplayMemory}$
2. Sample transition(s) at random from ReplayMemory
3. Estimate target(s)  $\mathbf{y} = r + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}'} Q_{\bar{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}')$
4. Update critic  $\arg \min_{\theta^Q} \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{y}} \|Q_{\theta^Q}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) - \mathbf{y}\|$
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7. Repeat from 1

# Main bottleneck of approximate Q-learning (DQN)



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# Main bottleneck of approximate Q-learning (DQN)

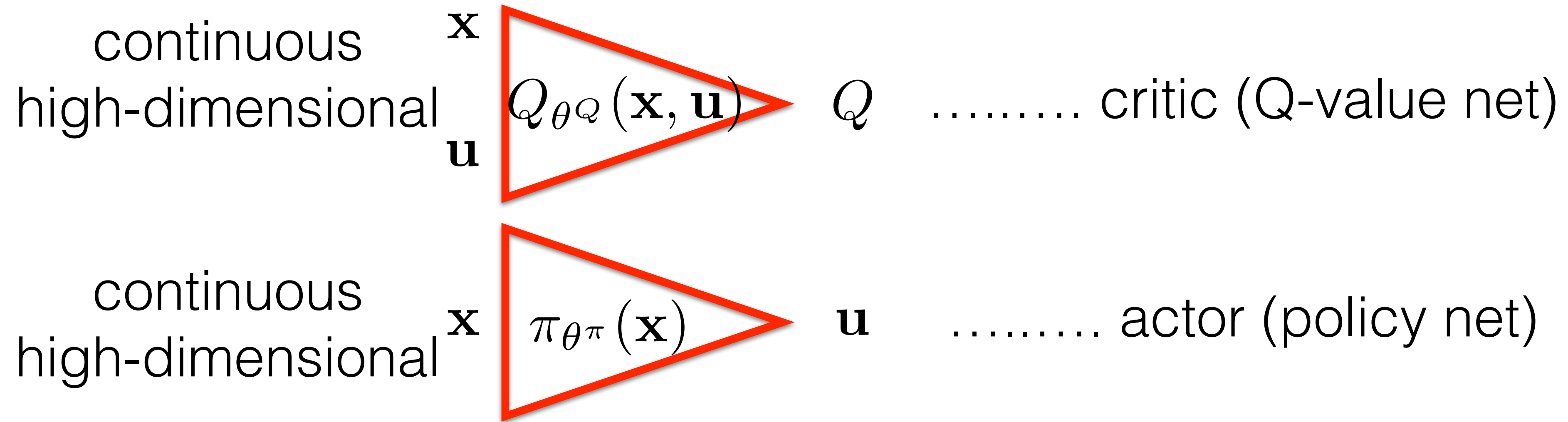


You cannot exhaustively maximize

1. Collect transition  $[\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, r, \mathbf{x}'] \Rightarrow$  ReplayMemory
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3. Estimate target(s)  $\mathbf{y} = r + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}'} Q_{\bar{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}')$
4. Update critic  $\arg \min_{\theta^Q} \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{y}} \|Q_{\theta^Q}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) - \mathbf{y}\|$
6. Update target network  $\bar{\theta} := \alpha \theta + (1 - \alpha) \bar{\theta}$
7. Repeat from 1

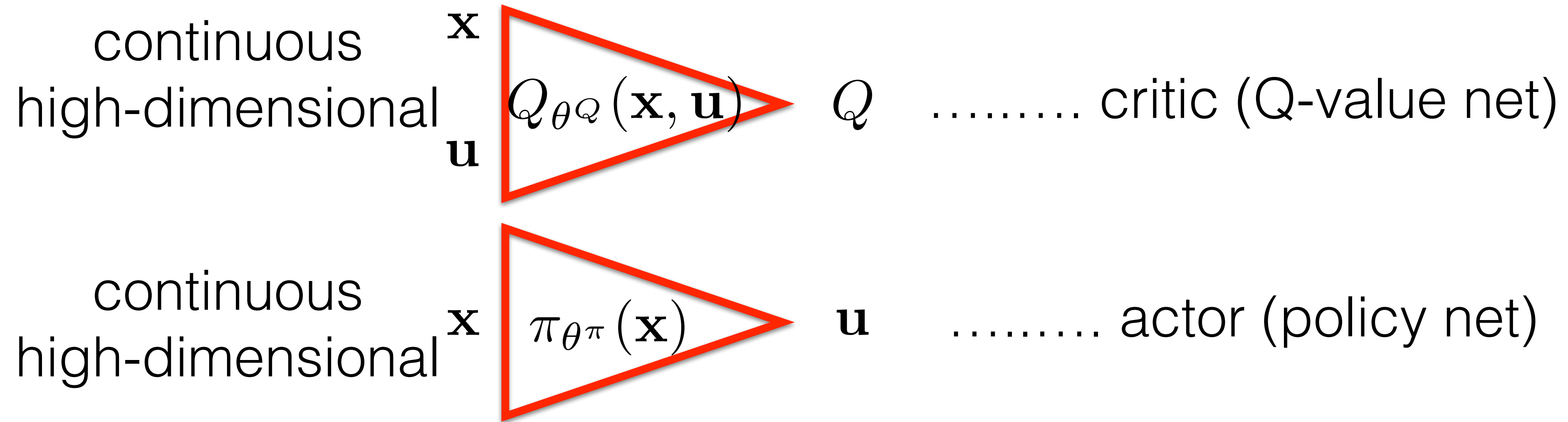


# Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient (DDPG)



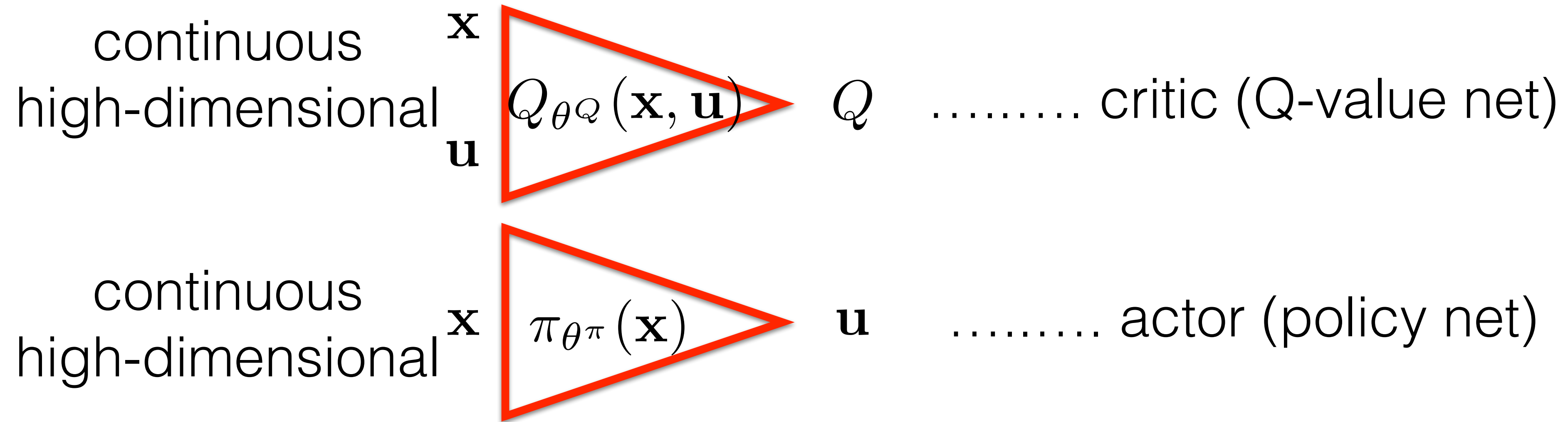
1. Collect transition  $[\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, r, \mathbf{x}'] \Rightarrow \text{ReplayMemory}$
2. Sample transition(s) at random from ReplayMemory
3. Estimate target(s)  $\mathbf{y} = r + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{u}'} Q_{\theta^Q}(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}')$
4. Update critic  $\arg \min_{\theta^Q} \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{y}} \|Q_{\theta^Q}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) - \mathbf{y}\|$
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6. Repeat from 1

# Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient (DDPG)



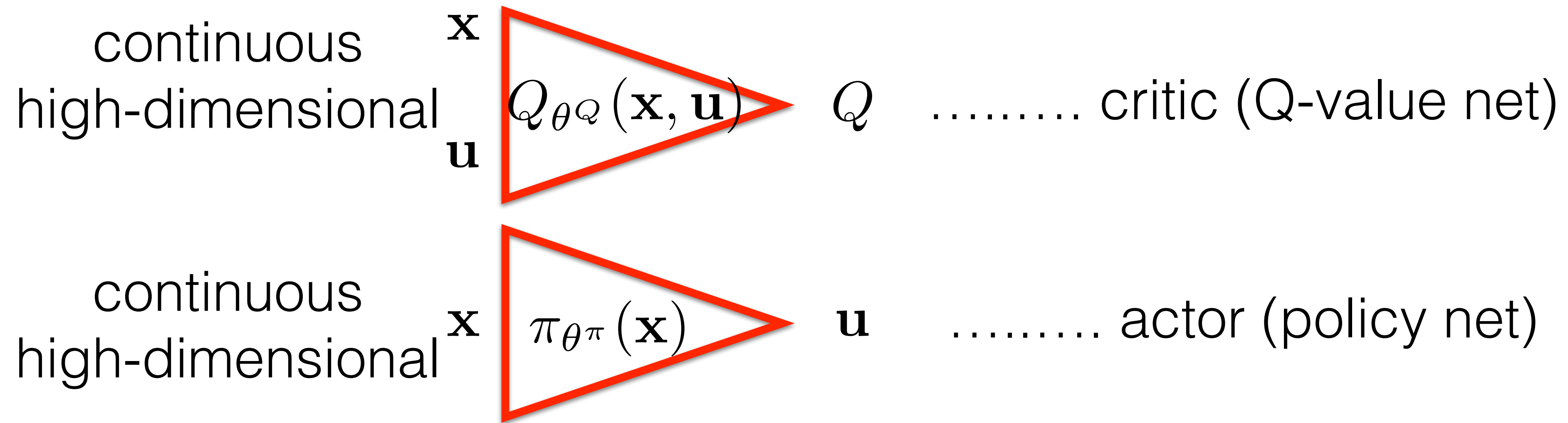
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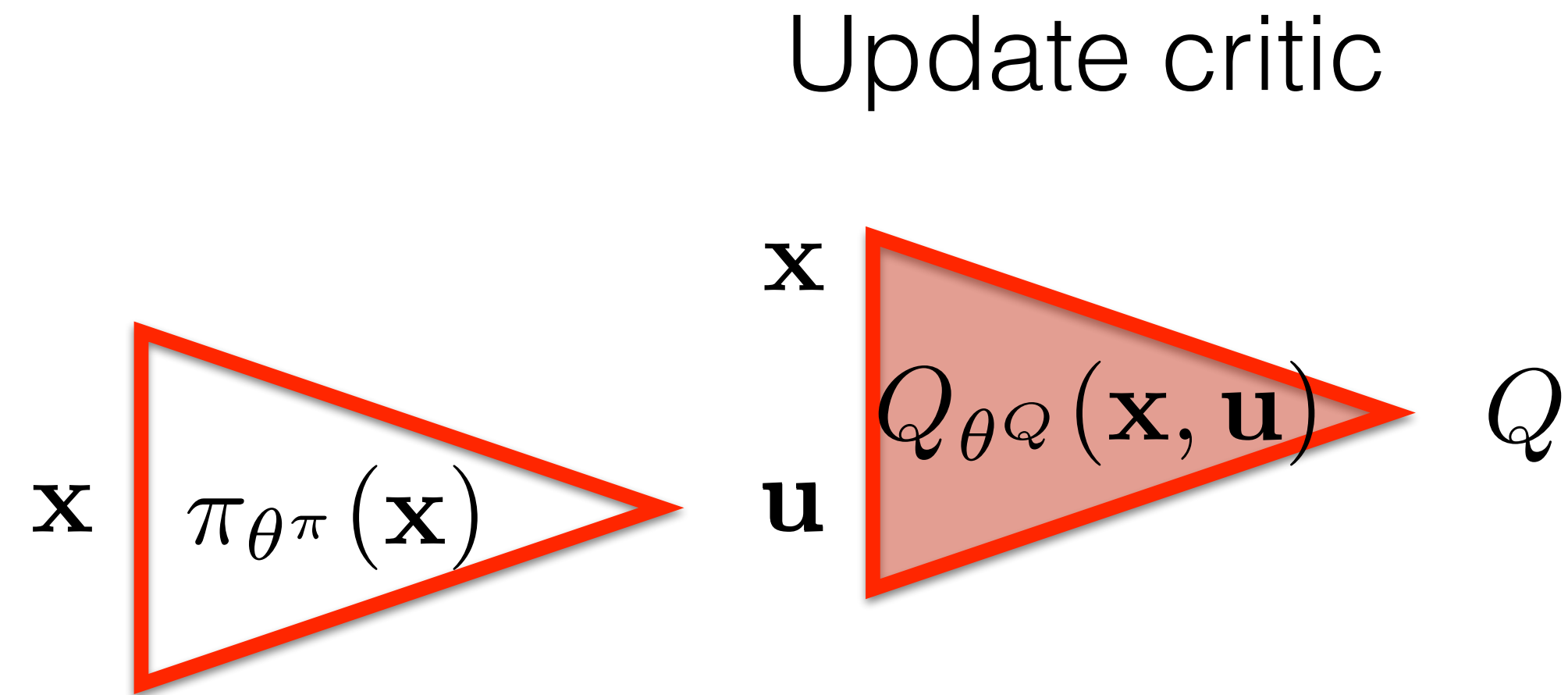
1. Collect transition  $[\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, r, \mathbf{x}'] \Rightarrow \text{ReplayMemory}$
2. Sample transition(s) at random from ReplayMemory
3. Estimate target(s)  $\mathbf{y} = r + \gamma Q_{\overline{\theta^Q}}(\mathbf{x}', \pi_{\overline{\theta^\pi}}(\mathbf{x}'))$
4. Update critic 
$$\arg \min_{\theta^Q} \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{y}} \|Q_{\theta^Q}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) - \mathbf{y}\|$$
5. Update target network  $\overline{\theta^Q} := \alpha \theta^Q + (1 - \alpha) \overline{\theta^Q}$
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# Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient (DDPG)



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6. Update target network  $\theta^Q := \alpha \theta^Q + (1 - \alpha) \overline{\theta^Q}$   
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7. Repeat from 1

# Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient (DDPG)

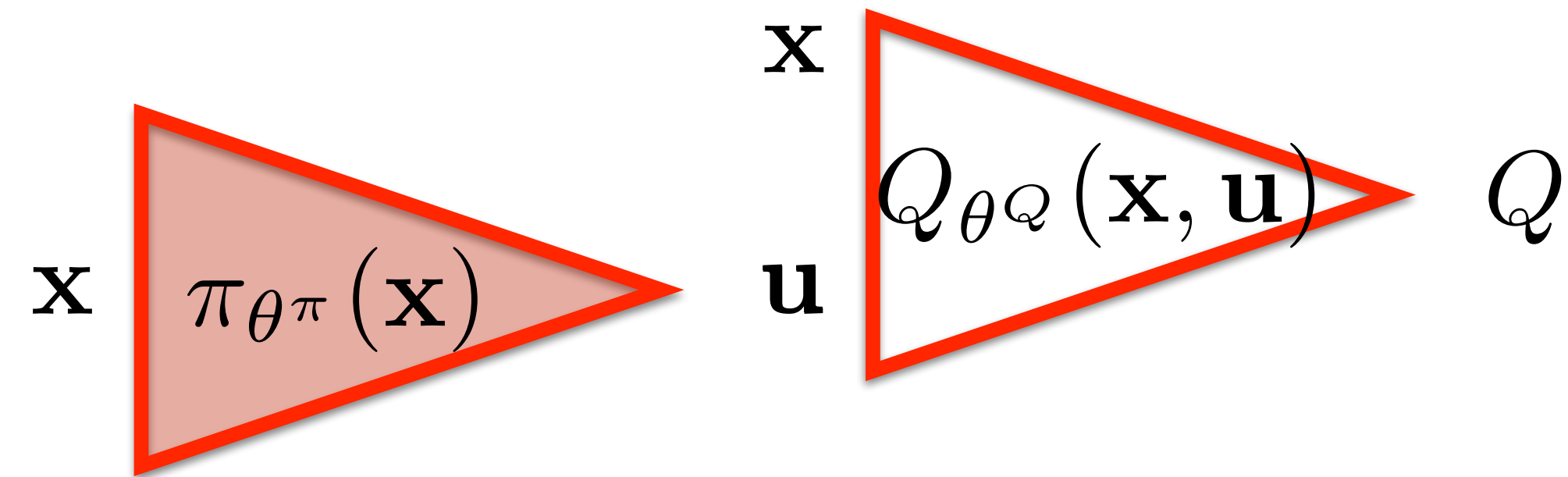


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# Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient (DDPG)

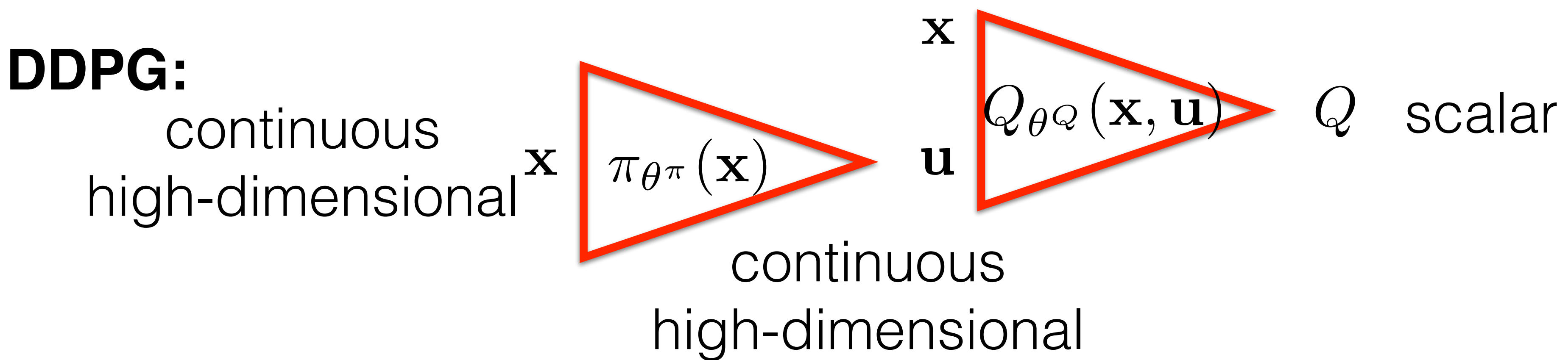
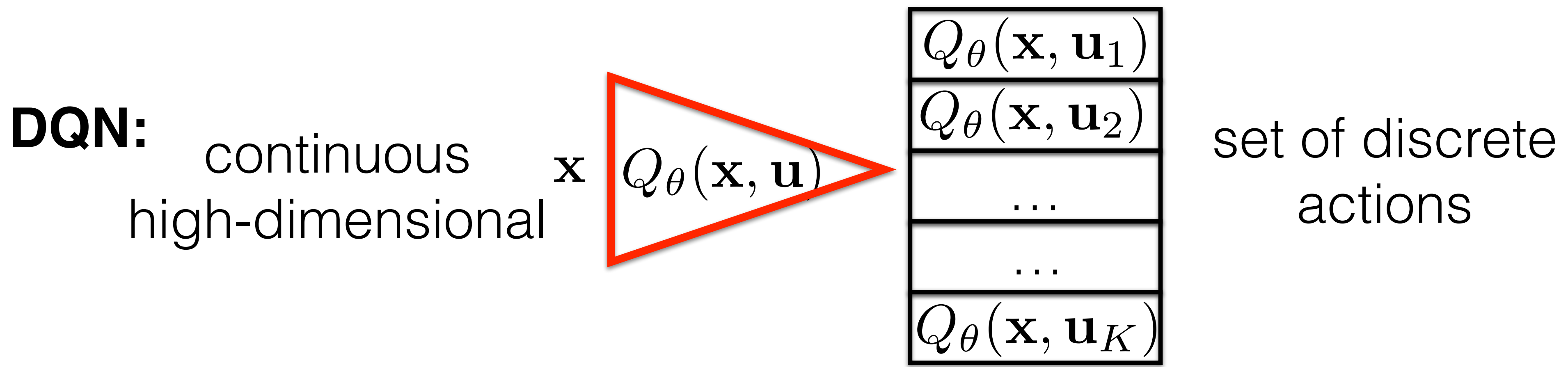
Update actor



1. Collect transition  $[\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, r, \mathbf{x}'] \Rightarrow \text{ReplayMemory}$
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# Summary

- DQN and DDPG are off-policy algorithms (can learn from transitions collected by a different policy)
  - => Can use ReplayMemory
  - => Can use deterministic policy (exploration by synth.noise)





## Summary

- DQN and DDPG are off-policy algorithms  
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  - => Can use ReplayMemory (which includes outdated transitions)
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- Replay memory helps to decorrelate samples.
- Exploration with a slowly updating target network suppresses oscillations.
- Ensemble of different algorithms helps a lot.

## Summary

- DQN and DDPG are off-policy algorithms  
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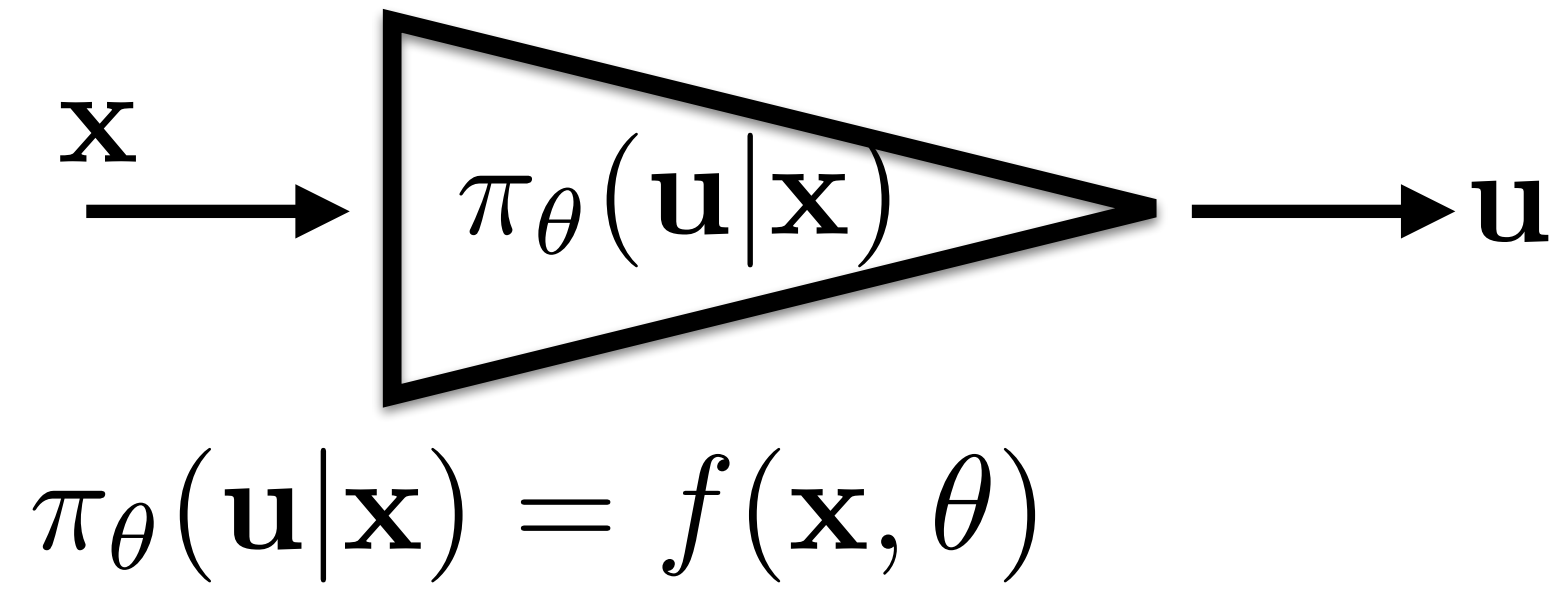
- Learning value function (Q,V,A) does not directly minimize

$$J(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{r_k \sim \pi_\theta} \left[ \sum_k \gamma^{k-1} r_k \right]$$

- Next: On-policy methods with stochastic gradient

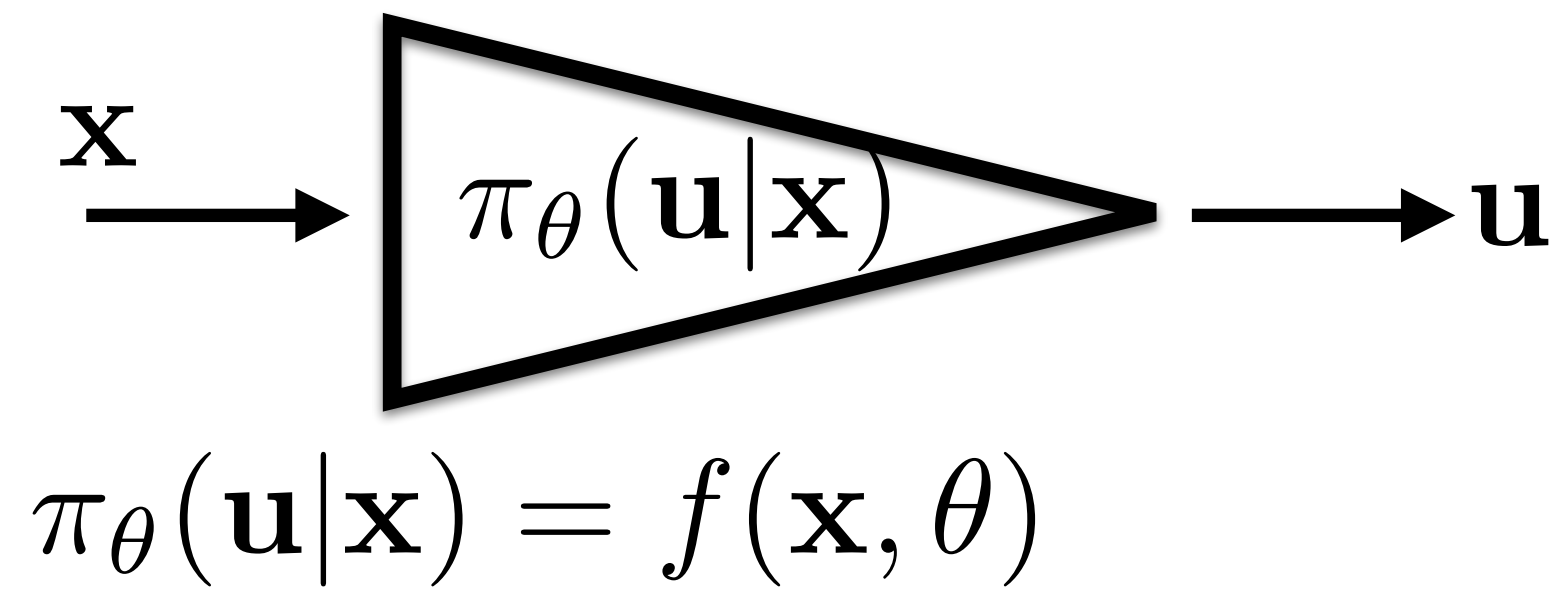
## Deterministic vs stochastic policy

Deterministic policy for  
continuous control:

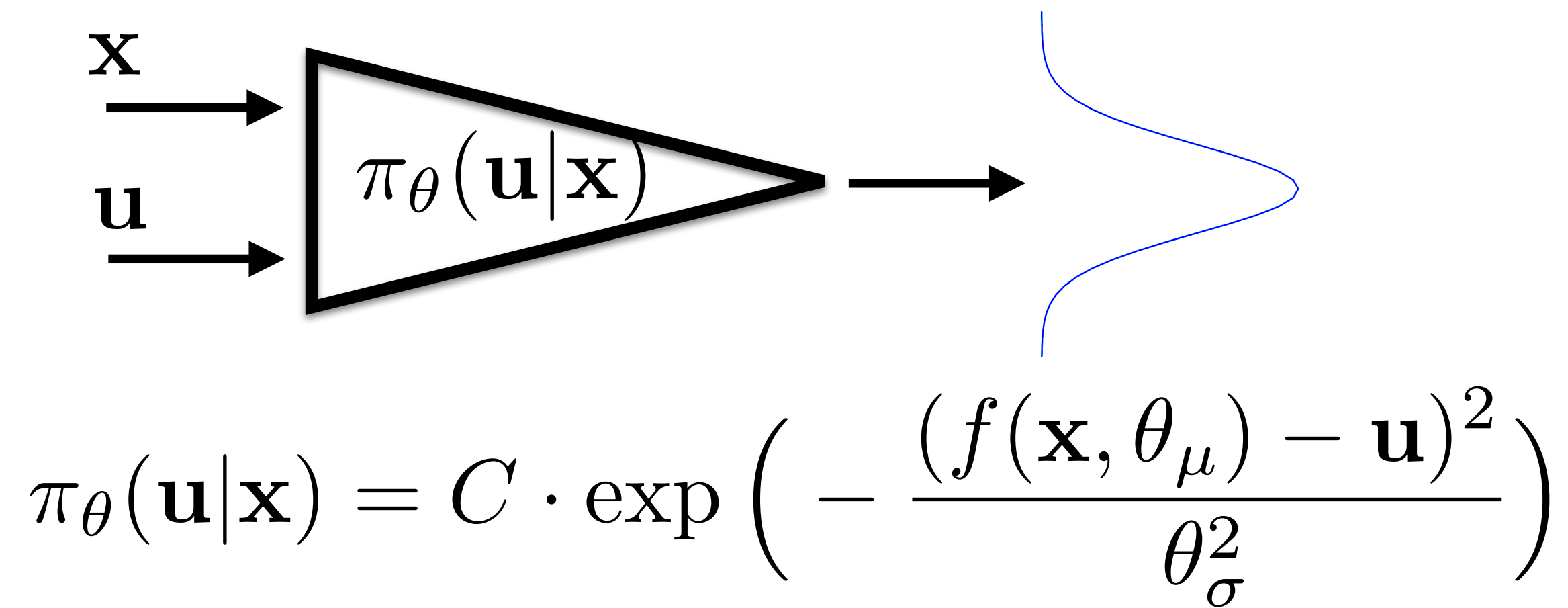


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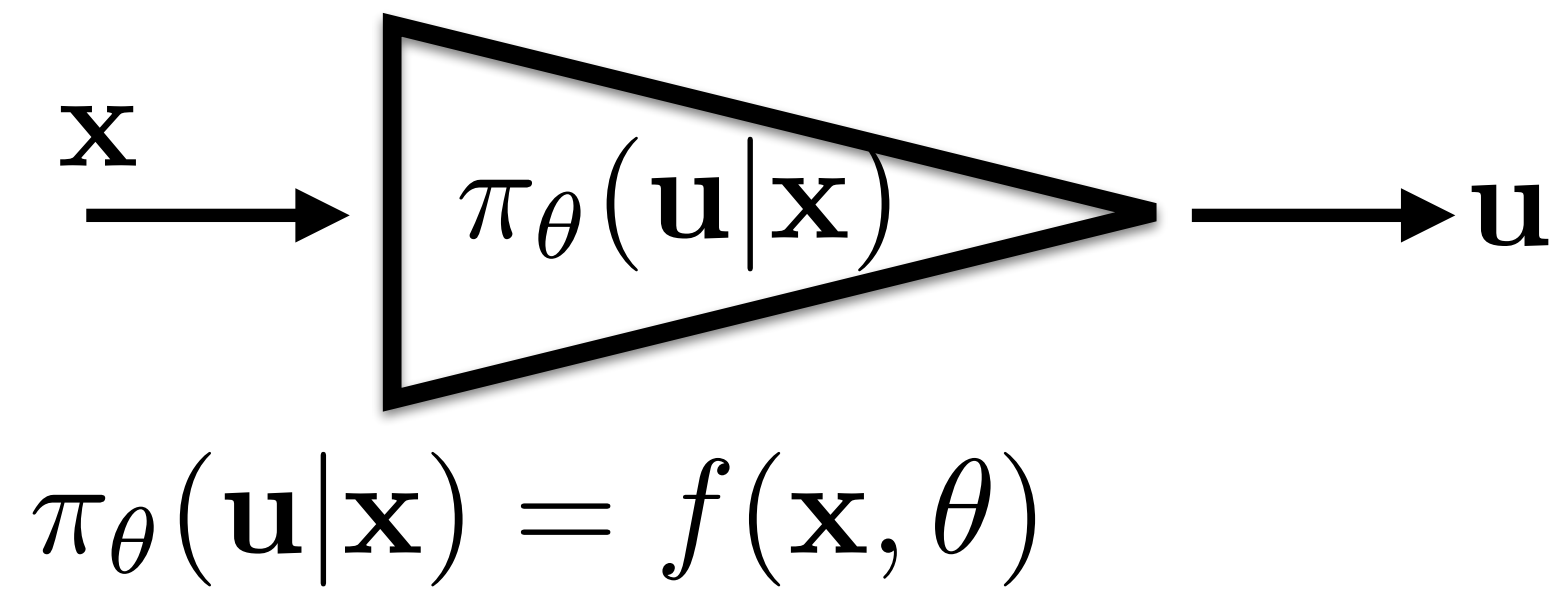


Stochastic policy for continuous control:

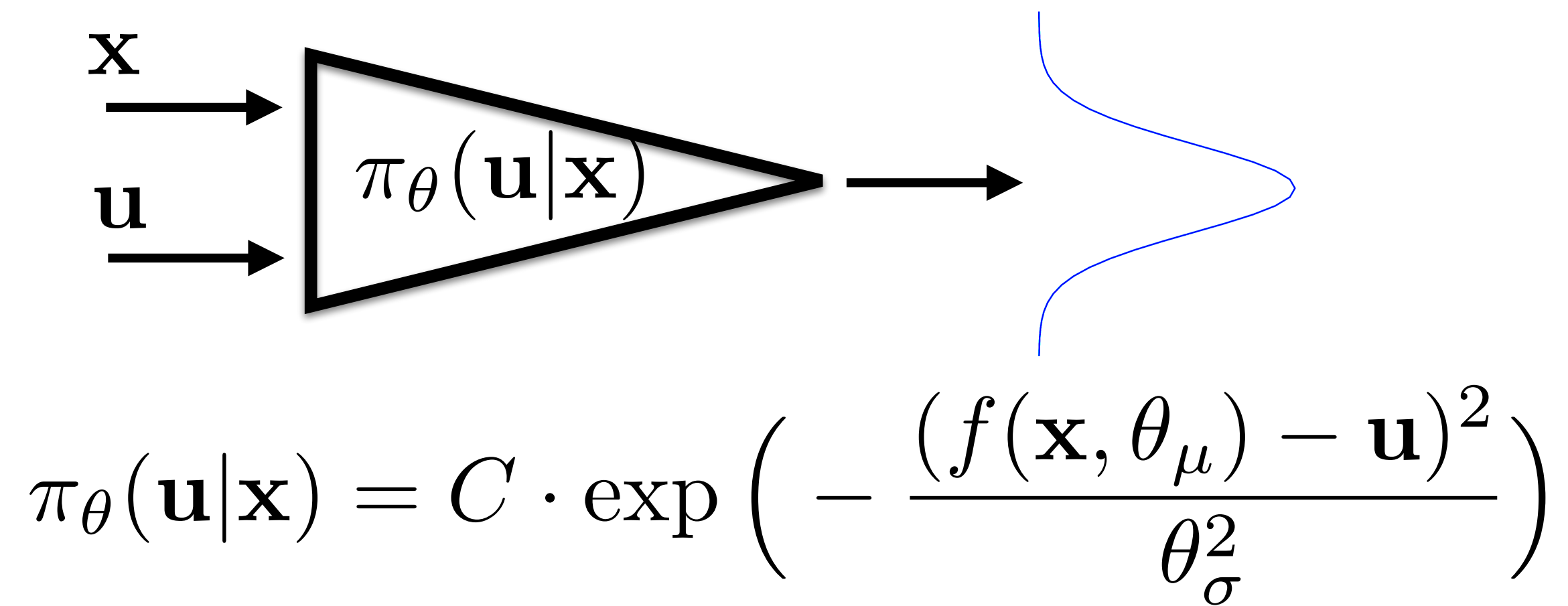


# Deterministic vs stochastic policy

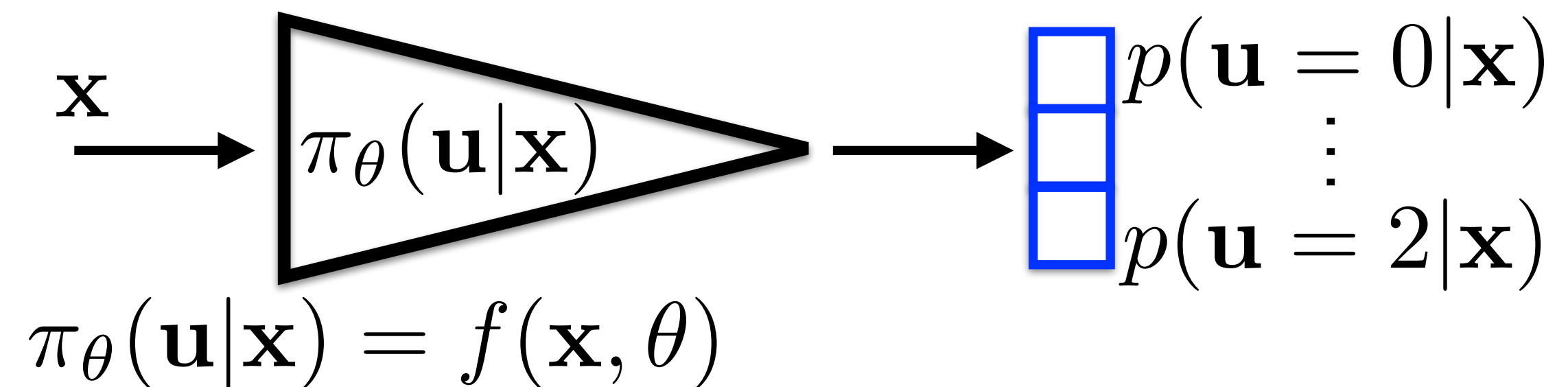
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Stochastic policy for continuous control:

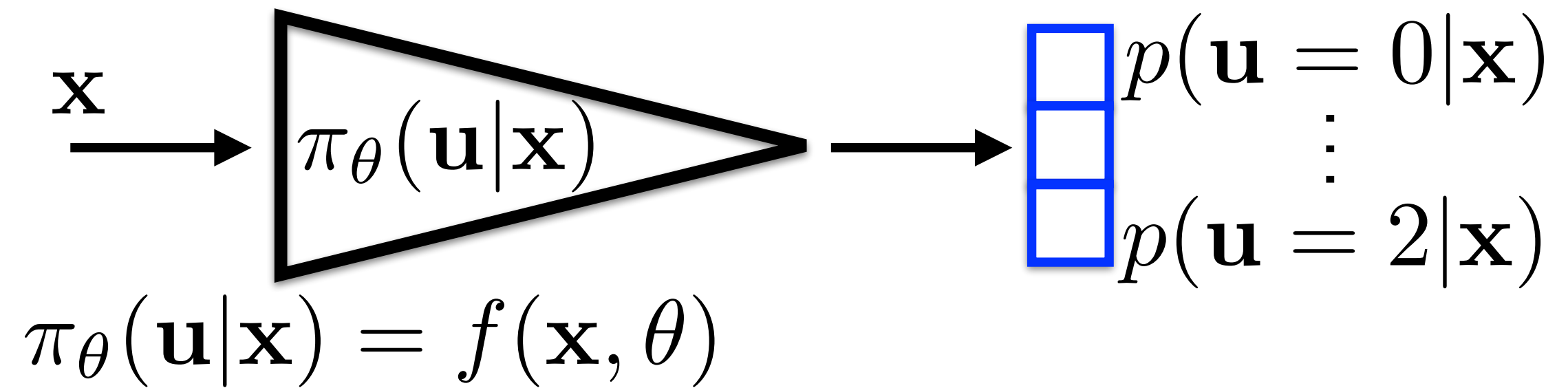


Stochastic policy for discrete control:



# REINFORCE

Stochastic policy for discrete control:



1. Initialize policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}, \theta)$

2. Collect trajectories  $\tau$  with policy  $\pi_{\theta}$

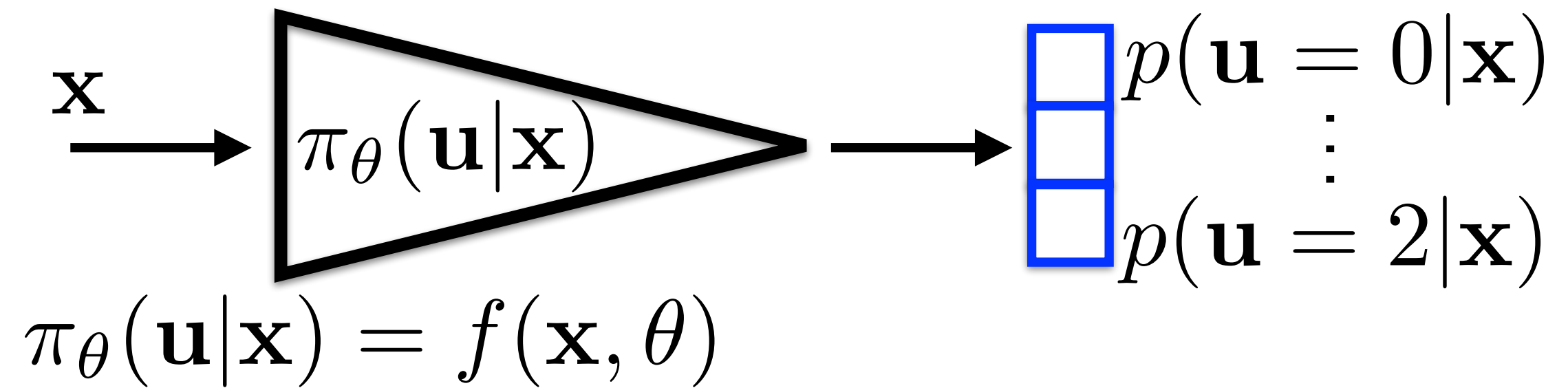
3. Define criterion:  $J(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi_{\theta}} \left\{ \underbrace{\sum_{r_t \sim \tau} \gamma^t r_t}_{r(\tau)} \right\} \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\tau} r(\tau)$

4. Optimize criterion:  $\theta := \theta + \alpha \frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta}$

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5. Repeat from 2



# What is the gradient???

- REINFORCE theorem:

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta} \approx \sum_{t=0}^T \frac{\partial \log(\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}_t | \mathbf{x}_t))}{\partial \theta} \cdot r(\tau)$$

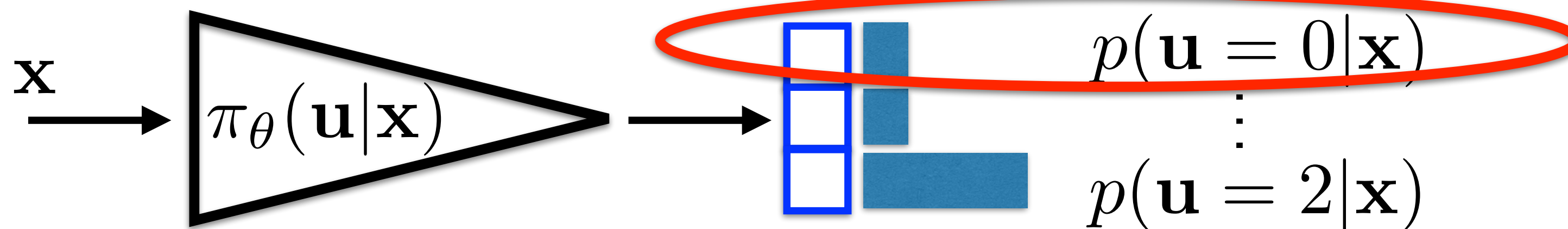
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Gradient is the weighted sum of directions (in  $\theta$ -space), which increases probability of performed actions.

The weights are sum of rewards along the resulting trajectory.



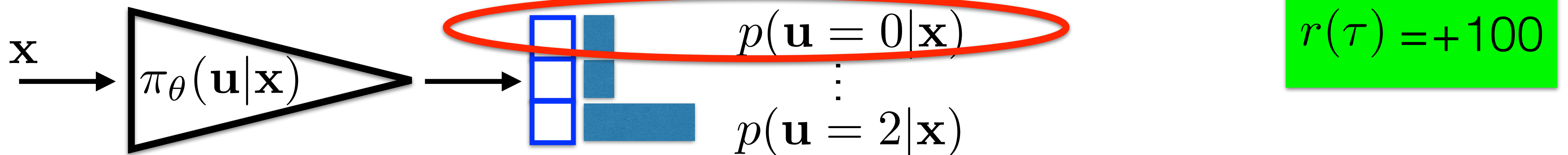
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Learning means increasing probability of predicting the actions, that have yielded high sum of rewards.

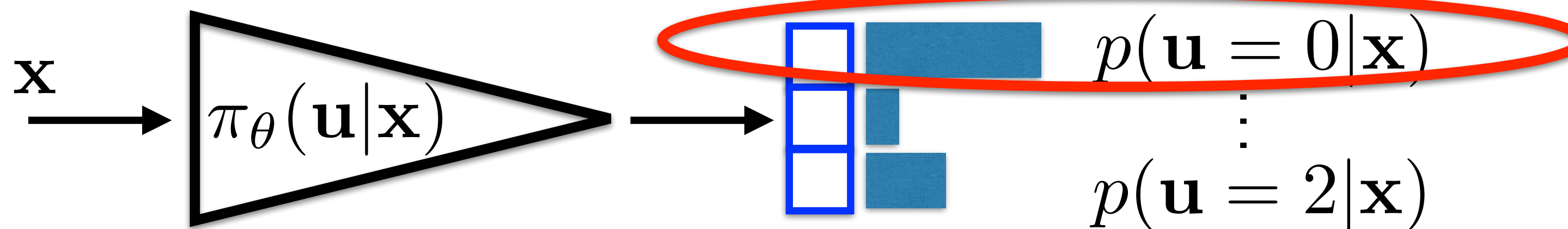
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$r(\tau) = +100$

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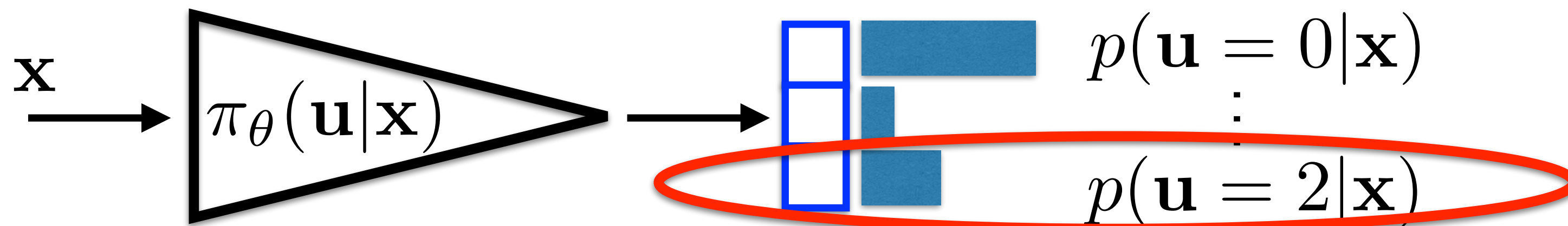
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Gradient is the weighted sum of directions (in  $\theta$ -space), which increases probability of performed actions.

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$r(\tau) = -100$

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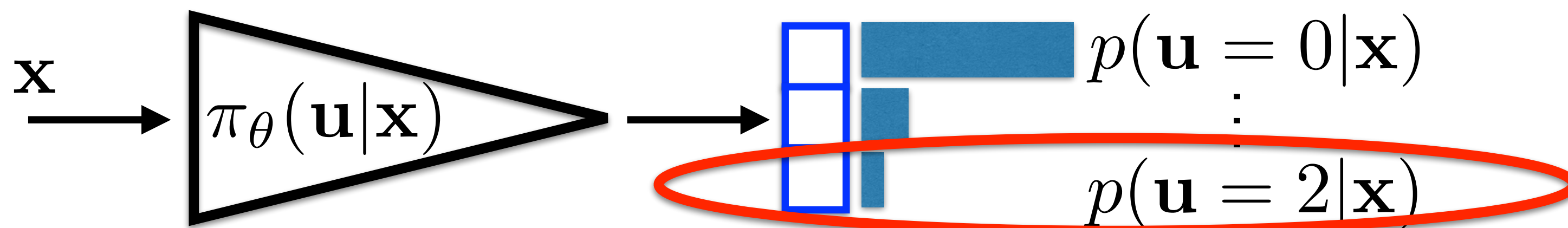
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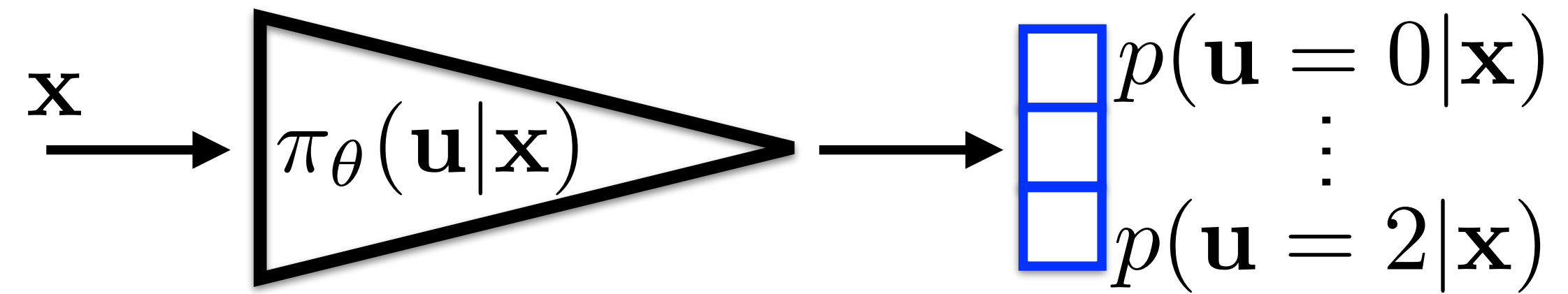


$r(\tau) = -100$

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# REINFORCE

Stochastic policy for discrete control:



1. Initialize policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}, \theta)$
2. Collect trajectories  $\tau$  with policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})$
4. Update policy (actor):

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta} \approx \sum_{t=0}^T \frac{\partial \log(\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}_t|\mathbf{x}_t))}{\partial \theta} \cdot r(\tau)$$

$$\theta := \theta + \alpha \frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta}$$

5. Repeat from 2



# Policy gradient derivation

$$J(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi_\theta} \left[ \underbrace{\sum_{t=0}^T \gamma^t r_{t+1}}_{r(\tau)} \right] = \int_T p(\tau | \pi_\theta) r(\tau) d\tau$$

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = \int_T \frac{\partial p(\tau | \pi_\theta)}{\partial \theta} r(\tau) d\tau = \int_T p(\tau | \pi_\theta) \frac{\partial \log p(\tau | \pi_\theta)}{\partial \theta} r(\tau) d\tau =$$

$$\frac{\partial p(\tau | \pi_\theta)}{\partial \theta} = p(\tau | \pi_\theta) \frac{\partial \log p(\tau | \pi_\theta)}{\partial \theta}$$

## Policy gradient derivation

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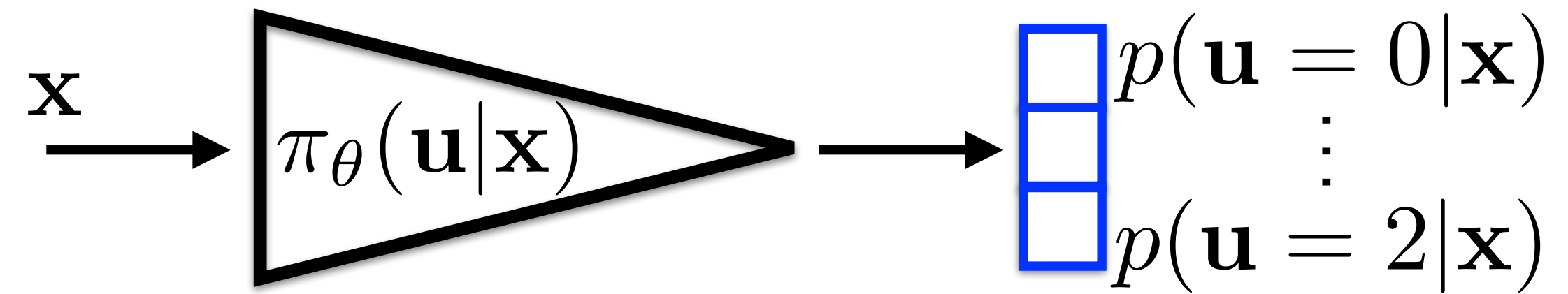
$$= \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi_\theta} \left[ \sum_{t=0}^T \frac{\partial \log \pi_\theta(\mathbf{u}_t | \mathbf{x}_t)}{\partial \theta} r(\tau) \right] \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}} \sum_{t=0}^T \frac{\partial \log \pi_\theta(\mathbf{u}_t | \mathbf{x}_t)}{\partial \theta} r(\tau)$$

$$p(\tau | \pi_\theta) = p(\mathbf{x}_0) \prod_{t=0}^T p(\mathbf{x}_{t+1} | \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{u}_t) \pi_\theta(\mathbf{u}_t | \mathbf{x}_t) \quad \dots \text{assuming MDP}$$

$$\frac{\partial \log p(\tau | \pi_\theta)}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left[ \cancel{\log p(\mathbf{x}_0)} + \sum_{t=0}^T \cancel{\log(p(\mathbf{x}_{t+1} | \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{u}_t))} + \sum_{t=0}^T \log(\pi_\theta(\mathbf{u}_t | \mathbf{x}_t)) \right]$$

# REINFORCE

Stochastic policy for discrete control:



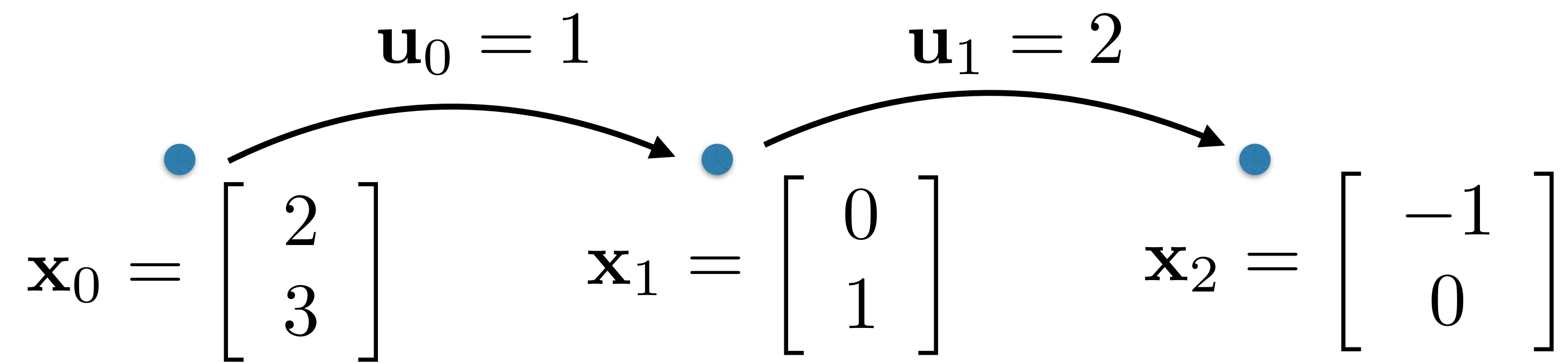
1. Initialize policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}, \theta)$
2. Collect trajectories  $\tau$  with policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})$
4. **Actor:** Update policy:

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta} \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}} \sum_{t=0}^T \frac{\partial \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}_t|\mathbf{x}_t)}{\partial \theta} r(\tau)$$

$$\theta := \theta + \alpha \frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta}$$

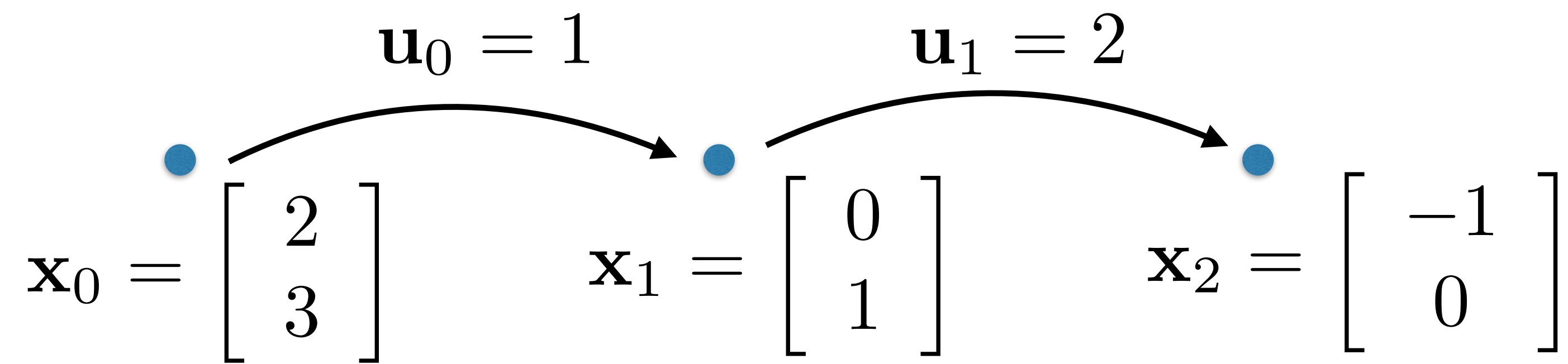
5. Repeat from 2

trajectory:



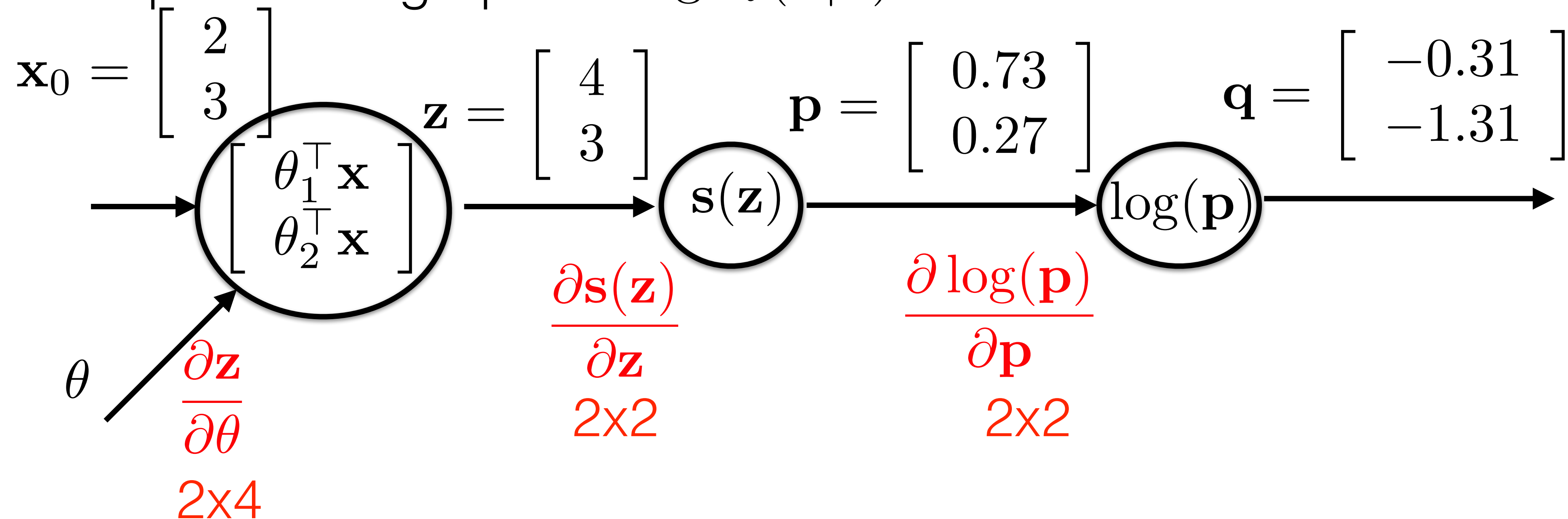
policy:  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{s} \left( \begin{bmatrix} \theta_1^{\top} \mathbf{x} \\ \theta_2^{\top} \mathbf{x} \end{bmatrix} \right)$  parameters:  $\theta_1^{\top} = [2, 0]$   
 $\theta_2^{\top} = [0, 1]$

trajectory:

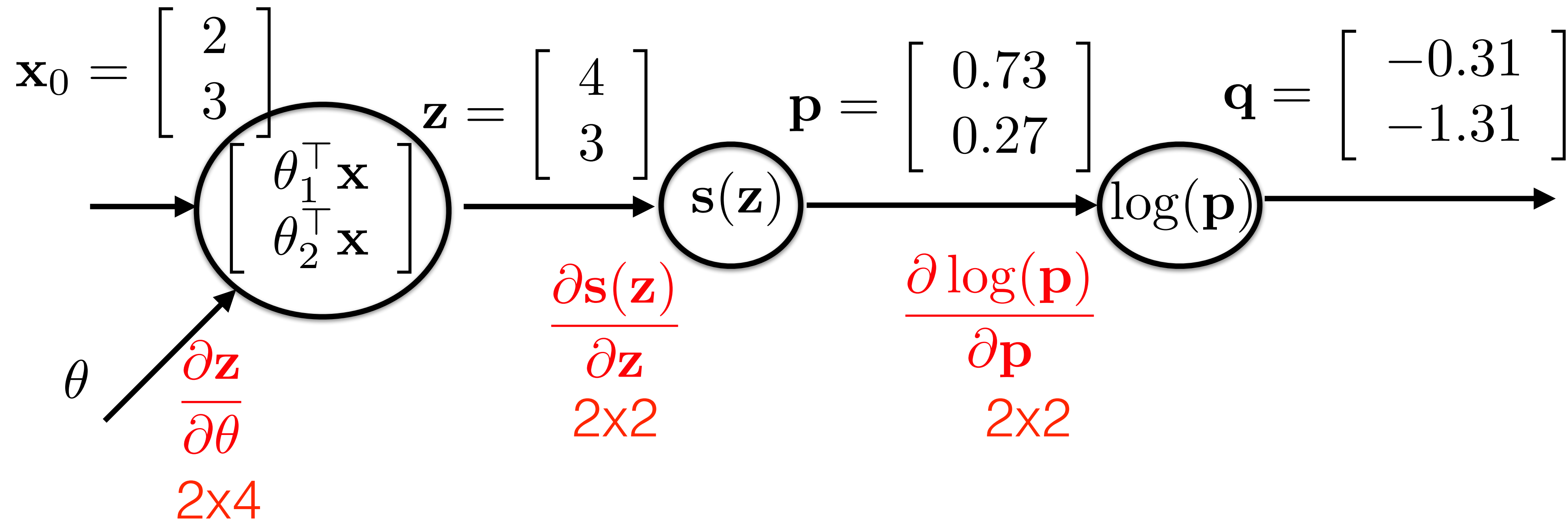
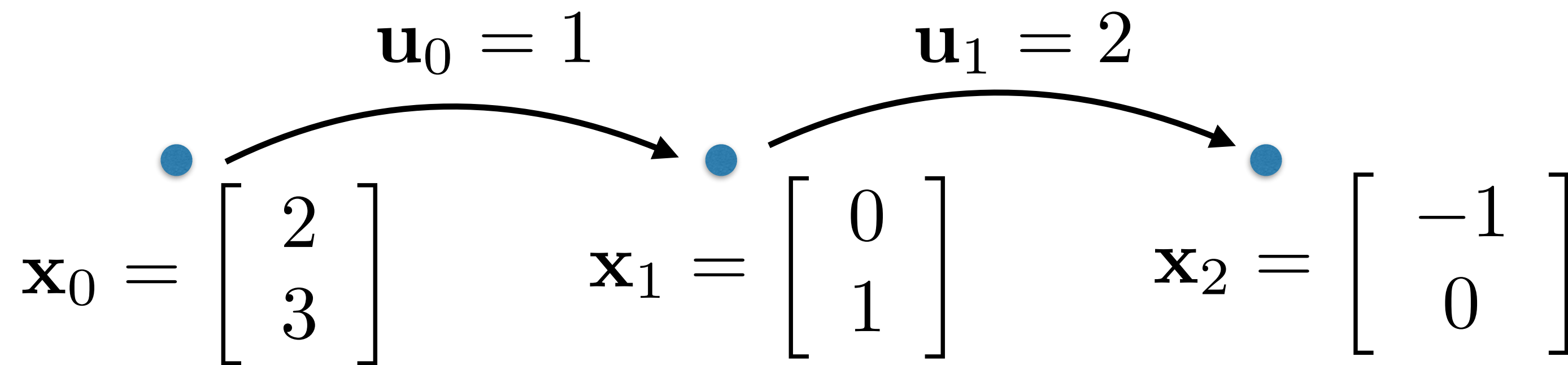


policy:  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{s} \left( \begin{bmatrix} \theta_1^{\top} \mathbf{x} \\ \theta_2^{\top} \mathbf{x} \end{bmatrix} \right)$  parameters:  $\theta_1^{\top} = [2, 0]$   
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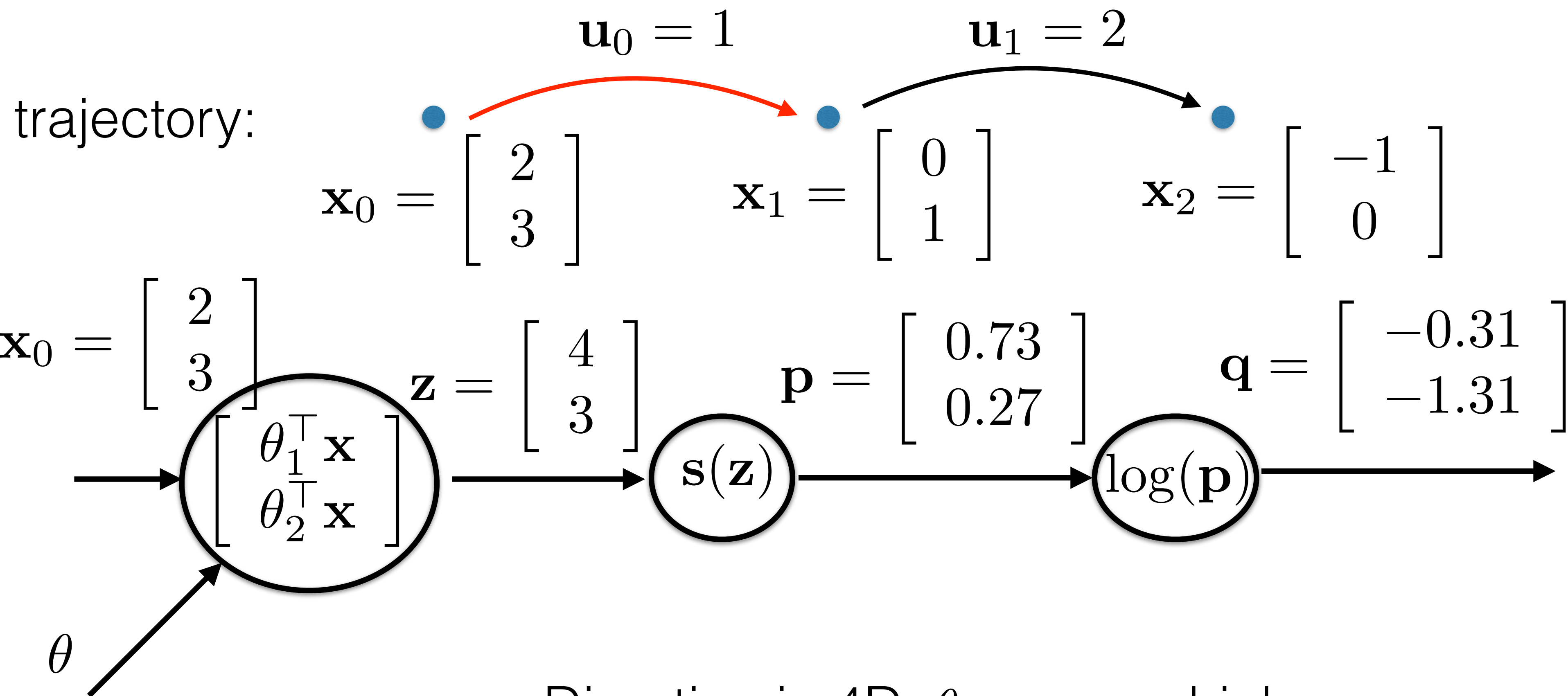
computational graph of  $\log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})$ :



trajectory:



$$\frac{\partial \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta} = ???$$

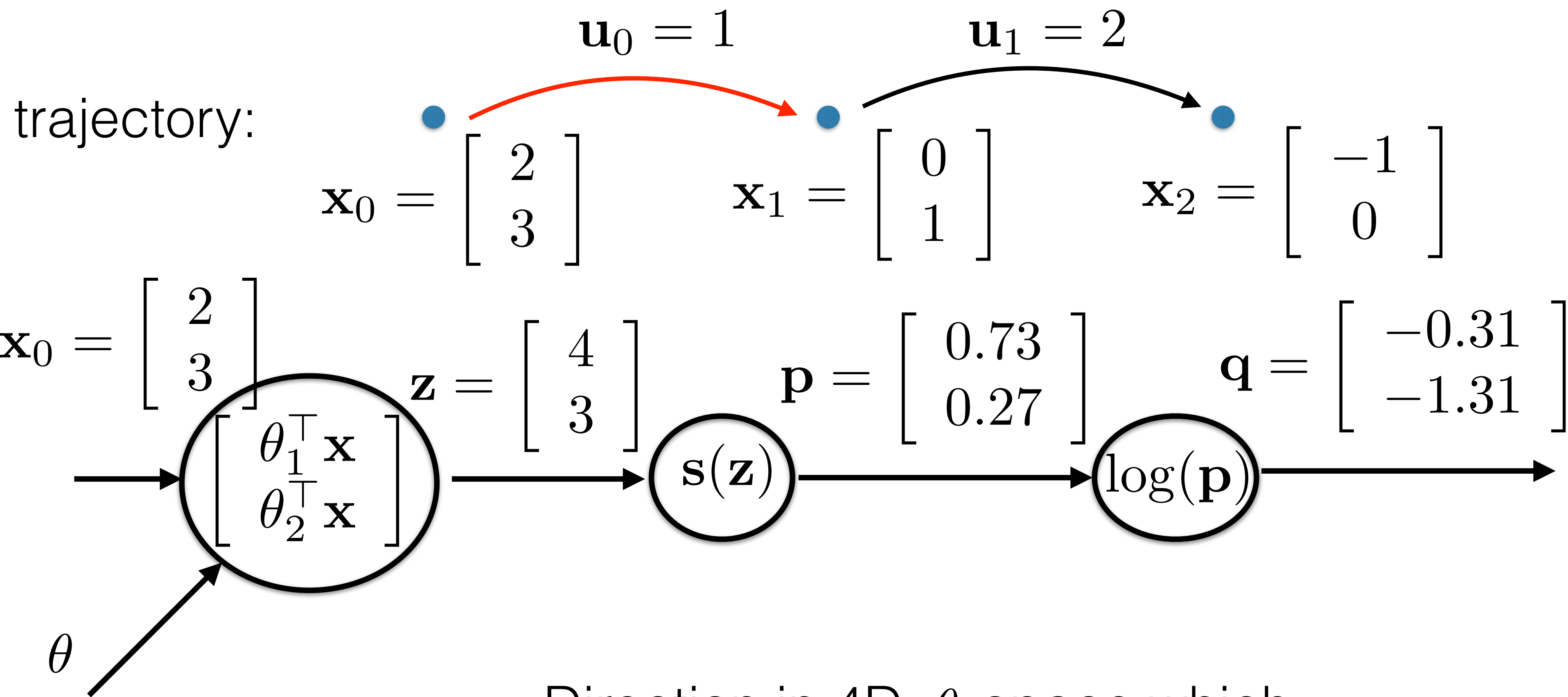


Direction in 4D  $\theta$ -space which increases prob. of choosing control  $\mathbf{u} = 1$

$$\frac{\partial \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial \log(\mathbf{p})}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \frac{\partial \mathbf{s}(\mathbf{z})}{\partial \mathbf{z}} \frac{\partial \mathbf{z}}{\partial \theta} = \boxed{\mathbf{g}_1^{\top}(\mathbf{x})}$$

$2 \times 2$     $2 \times 2$     $2 \times 4$     $2 \times 4$

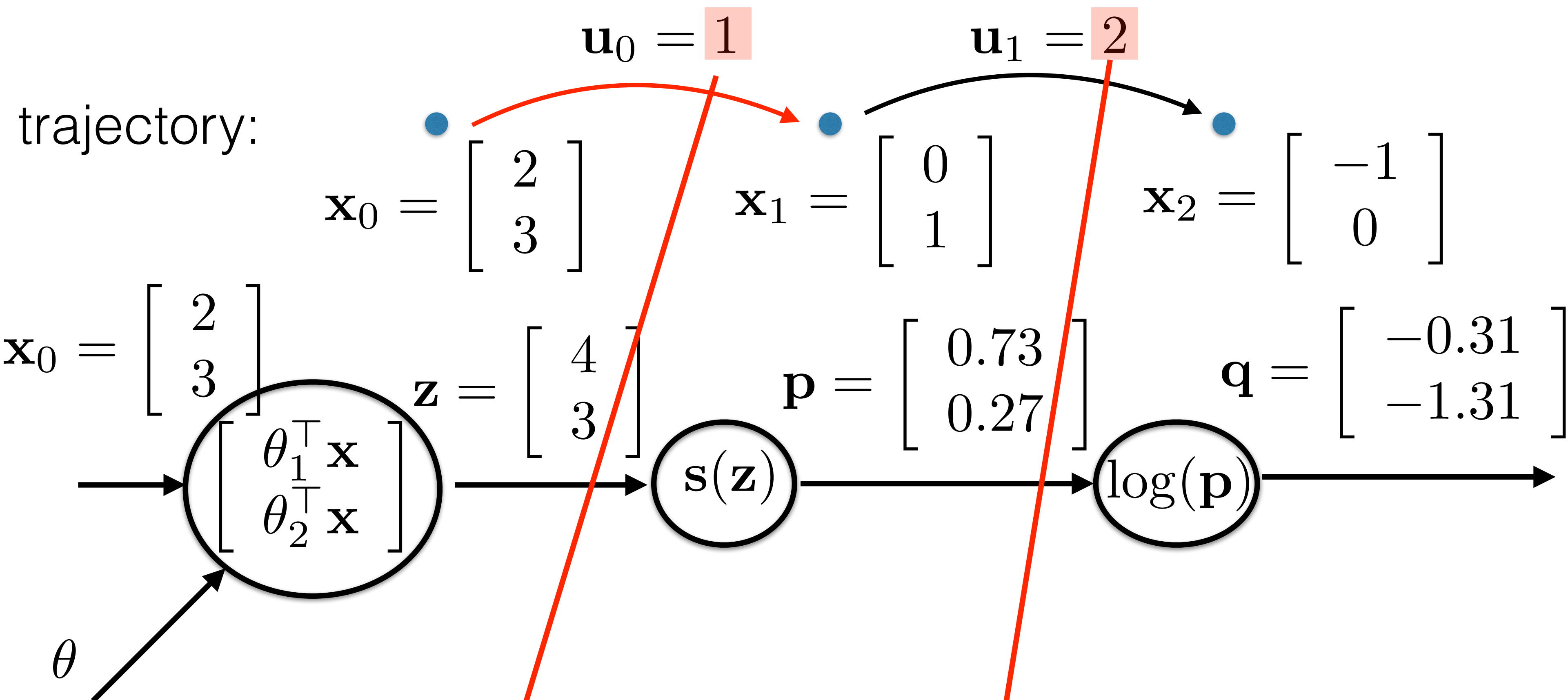




Direction in 4D  $\theta$ -space which increases prob. of choosing control  $\mathbf{u} = 2$

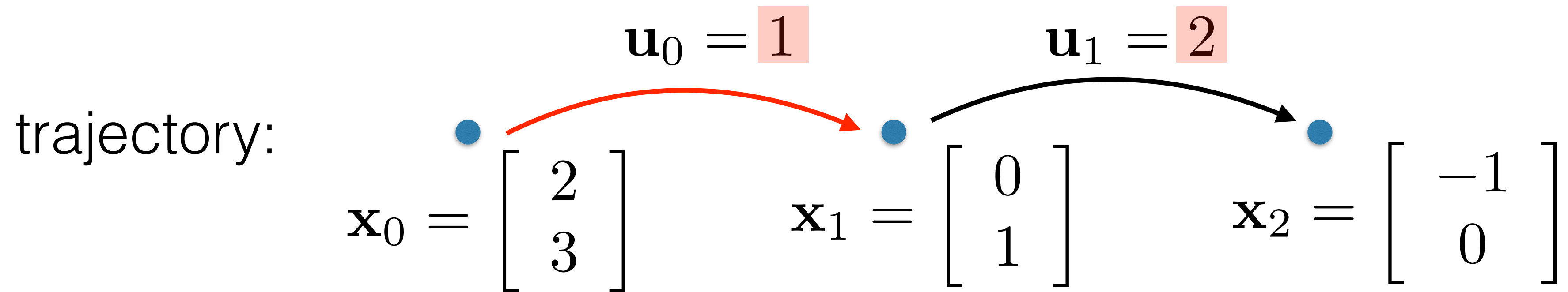
$$\frac{\partial \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial \log(\mathbf{p})}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \frac{\partial \mathbf{s}(\mathbf{z})}{\partial \mathbf{z}} \frac{\partial \mathbf{z}}{\partial \theta} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{g}_1^{\top}(\mathbf{x}) \\ \mathbf{g}_2^{\top}(\mathbf{x}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$2 \times 2$     $2 \times 2$     $2 \times 4$     $2 \times 4$



By substituting actions and states from the trajectory into the policy gradient

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta} &= \frac{\partial \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}_0 | \mathbf{x}_0)}{\partial \theta} \cdot r(\tau) + \frac{\partial \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}_1 | \mathbf{x}_1)}{\partial \theta} \cdot r(\tau) + \dots \\
 &= \mathbf{g}_1^{\top}(\mathbf{x}_0) \cdot r(\tau) + \mathbf{g}_2^{\top}(\mathbf{x}_1) \cdot r(\tau) + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$



By substituting controls and states from the trajectory into the policy gradient

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta} &= \frac{\partial \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}_0 | \mathbf{x}_0)}{\partial \theta} \cdot r(\tau) + \frac{\partial \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}_1 | \mathbf{x}_1)}{\partial \theta} \cdot r(\tau) + \dots \\
 &= \boxed{\mathbf{g}_1^{\top}(\mathbf{x}_0)} \cdot r(\tau) + \boxed{\mathbf{g}_2^{\top}(\mathbf{x}_1)} \cdot r(\tau) + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

we obtain  $r(\tau)$ -weighted mean of directions in  $\theta$ -space.

If trajectories are good, then  $r(\tau)$ -weights are big and this direction in 4D  $\theta$ -space is more preferred.

Consequently, policy parameters are changed in the direction, which generates good trajectories

# Policy gradients for stochastic policy [Schulman et al 2016]

- temporal coherence

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = \sum_{(\mathbf{u}_t, \mathbf{x}_t) \in \tau} \frac{\partial \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}_t | \mathbf{x}_t)}{\partial \theta} \cdot r(\tau)$$

# Policy gradients for stochastic policy [Schulman et al 2016]

- temporal coherence

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = \sum_{(\mathbf{u}_t, \mathbf{x}_t) \in \tau} \frac{\partial \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}_t | \mathbf{x}_t)}{\partial \theta} \cdot \left( \sum_{k=1}^T \gamma^{k-1} r(\mathbf{u}_k, \mathbf{x}_k) \right)$$

# Policy gradients for stochastic policy [Schulman et al 2016]

- temporal coherence

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = \sum_{(\mathbf{u}_t, \mathbf{x}_t) \in \tau} \frac{\partial \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}_t | \mathbf{x}_t)}{\partial \theta} \cdot \left( \sum_{k=1}^T \gamma^{k-1} r(\mathbf{u}_k, \mathbf{x}_k) \right)$$

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- state-action function (policy gradient theorem):

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = \sum_{(\mathbf{u}_t, \mathbf{x}_t) \in \tau} \frac{\partial \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}_t | \mathbf{x}_t)}{\partial \theta} \cdot Q(\mathbf{u}_t, \mathbf{x}_t)$$

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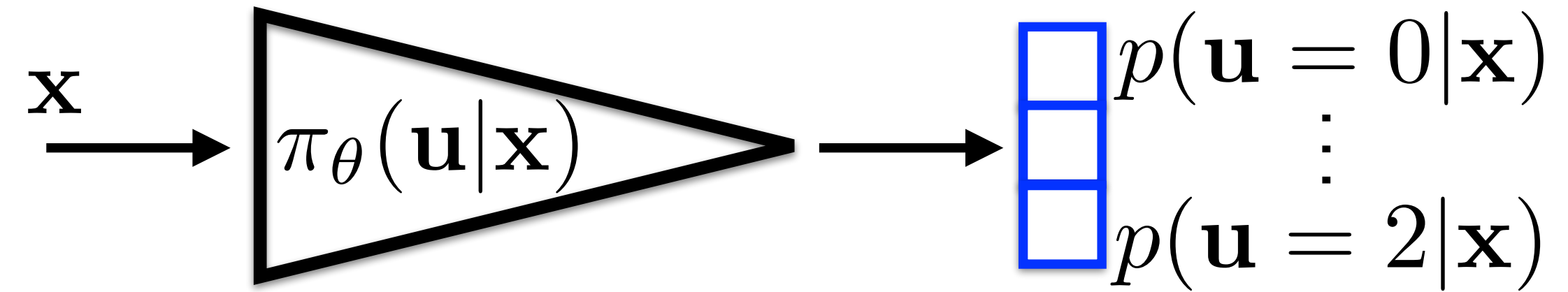
$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = \sum_{(\mathbf{u}_t, \mathbf{x}_t) \in \tau} \frac{\partial \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}_t | \mathbf{x}_t)}{\partial \theta} \cdot Q(\mathbf{u}_t, \mathbf{x}_t)$$

- arbitrary baseline can be subtracted (Q-function => A-function)

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = \sum_{(\mathbf{u}_t, \mathbf{x}_t) \in \tau} \frac{\partial \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}_t | \mathbf{x}_t)}{\partial \theta} \cdot \underbrace{\left( Q(\mathbf{u}_t, \mathbf{x}_t) - V(\mathbf{x}_t) \right)}_{A(\mathbf{u}_t, \mathbf{x}_t)}$$

# REINFORCE

Stochastic policy for discrete control:



1. Initialize policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}, \theta)$
2. Collect trajectories  $\tau$  with policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})$
4. **Actor:** Update policy:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{actor}}(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = \sum_{(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}) \in \tau} \frac{\partial \log(\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x}))}{\partial \theta} \cdot r(\tau)$$

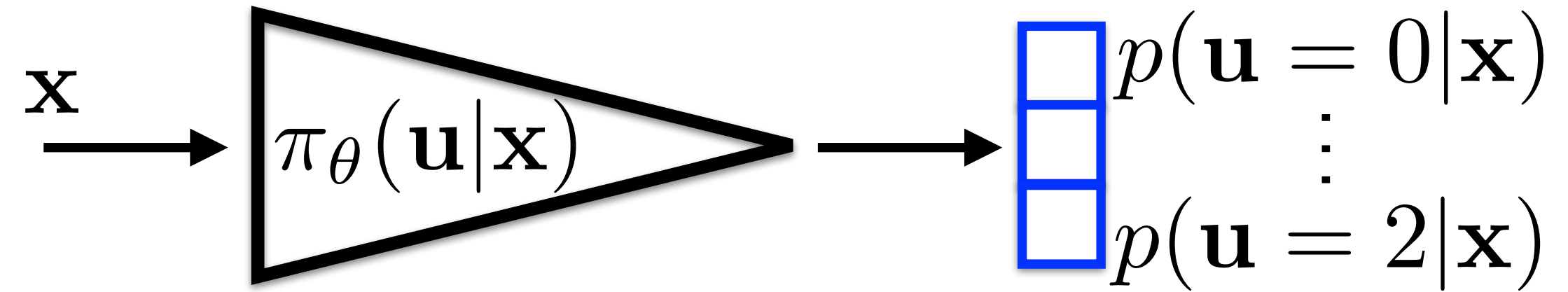
$$\theta := \theta + \alpha \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{actor}}(\theta)}{\partial \theta}$$

5. Repeat from 2

Several equivalent ways to express the quality of trajectory

# Advantage Actor Critic (A2C)

Stochastic policy for discrete control:



1. Initialize policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})$
2. Collect trajectories  $\tau$  with policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})$
4. **Actor:** Update policy by policy gradient:

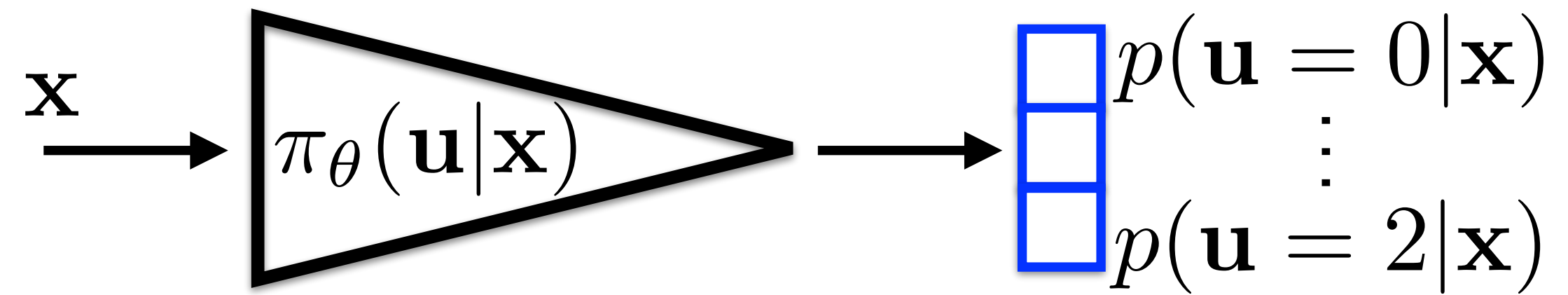
$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{actor}}(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = \sum_{(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \in \tau} \frac{\partial \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta} \cdot \underbrace{\left( r + \gamma V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}') - V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}) \right)}_{A_{\omega} = Q - V}$$

$$\theta := \theta + \alpha \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{actor}}(\theta)}{\partial \theta}$$

5. Repeat from 2

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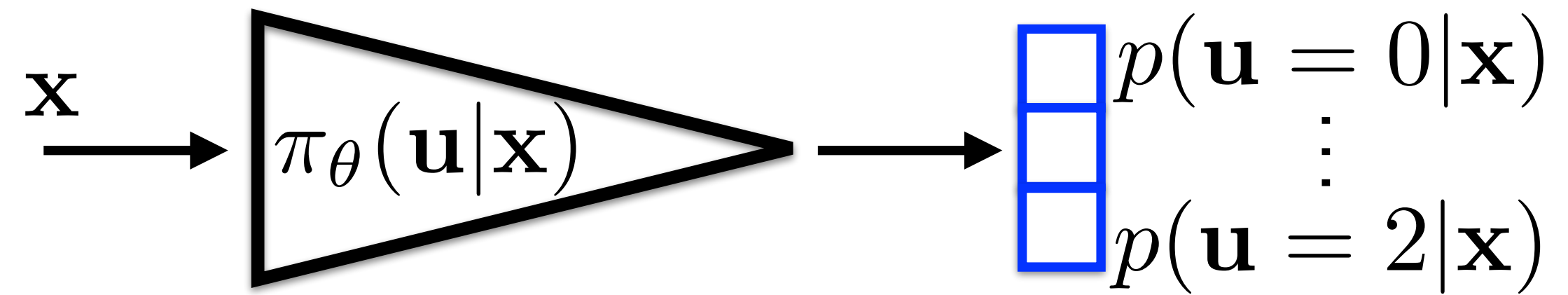
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Use arbitrary optimizer (e.g. Adam) which makes use of  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{actor}}(\theta)}{\partial \theta}$

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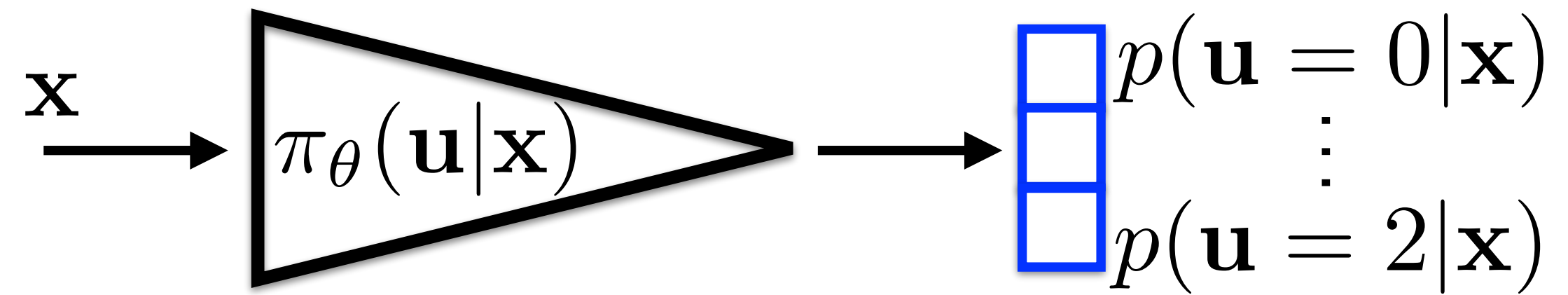
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Use arbitrary optimizer (e.g. Adam) which makes use of  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{actor}}(\theta)}{\partial \theta}$

5. Repeat from 2

# Advantage Actor Critic (A2C)

Stochastic policy for discrete control:



1. Initialize policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})$ ,  $V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x})$
2. Collect trajectories  $\tau$  with policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})$
3. **Critic:** Update value function to predict observed values:  $V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}) \leftarrow r + \gamma V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}')$
4. **Actor:** Update policy by policy gradient:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{actor}}(\theta) = \sum_{(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \in \tau} \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x}) \cdot \underbrace{\left( r + \gamma V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}') - V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}) \right)}_{A_{\omega} = Q - V}$$

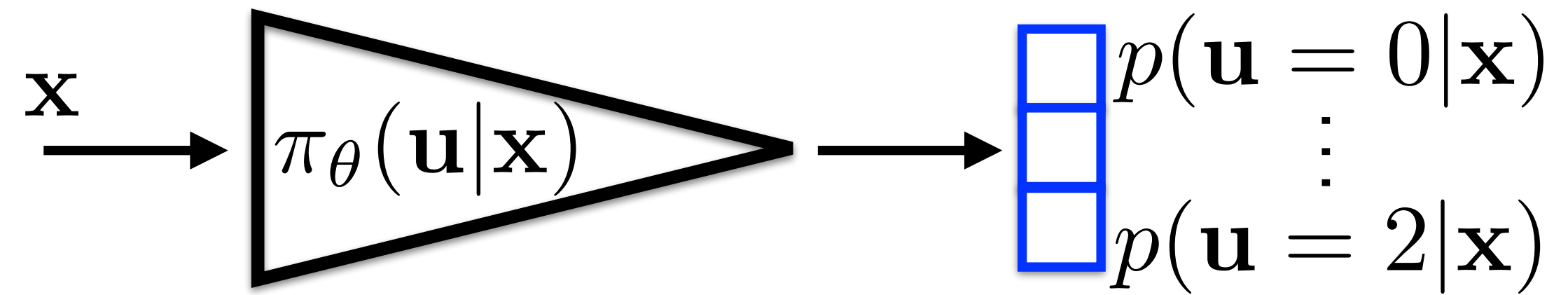
Use arbitrary optimizer (e.g. Adam) which makes use of  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{actor}}(\theta)}{\partial \theta}$ ,  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{critic}}(\omega)}{\partial \omega}$

5. Repeat from 2



# Advantage Actor Critic (A2C)

Stochastic policy for discrete control:



1. Initialize policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})$ ,  $V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x})$
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$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{critic}}(\omega) = \left( \underbrace{r + \gamma V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}') - V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x})}_{A_{\omega}} \right)^2$$

4. **Actor:** Update policy by policy gradient:

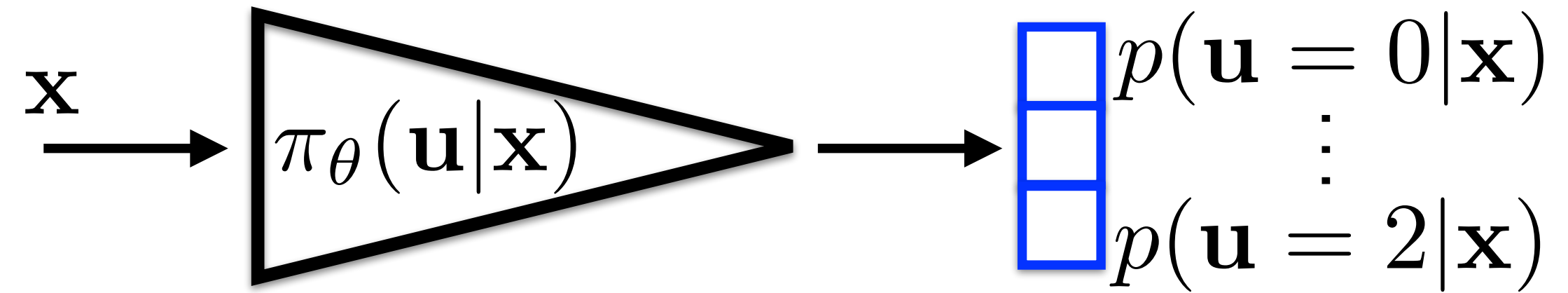
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5. Repeat from 2

# Advantage Actor Critic (A2C)

Stochastic policy for discrete control:



1. Initialize policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})$ ,  $V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x})$  `dist = torch.distributions.Categorical(probs)`
2. Collect trajectories  $\tau$  with policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})$  `actions = dist.sample()`
3. **Critic:** Update value function to predict observed values:  $V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}) \leftarrow r + \gamma V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}')$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{critic}}(\omega) = \left( \underbrace{r + \gamma V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}') - V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x})}_{A_{\omega}} \right)^2$$

4. **Actor:** Update policy by policy gradient:

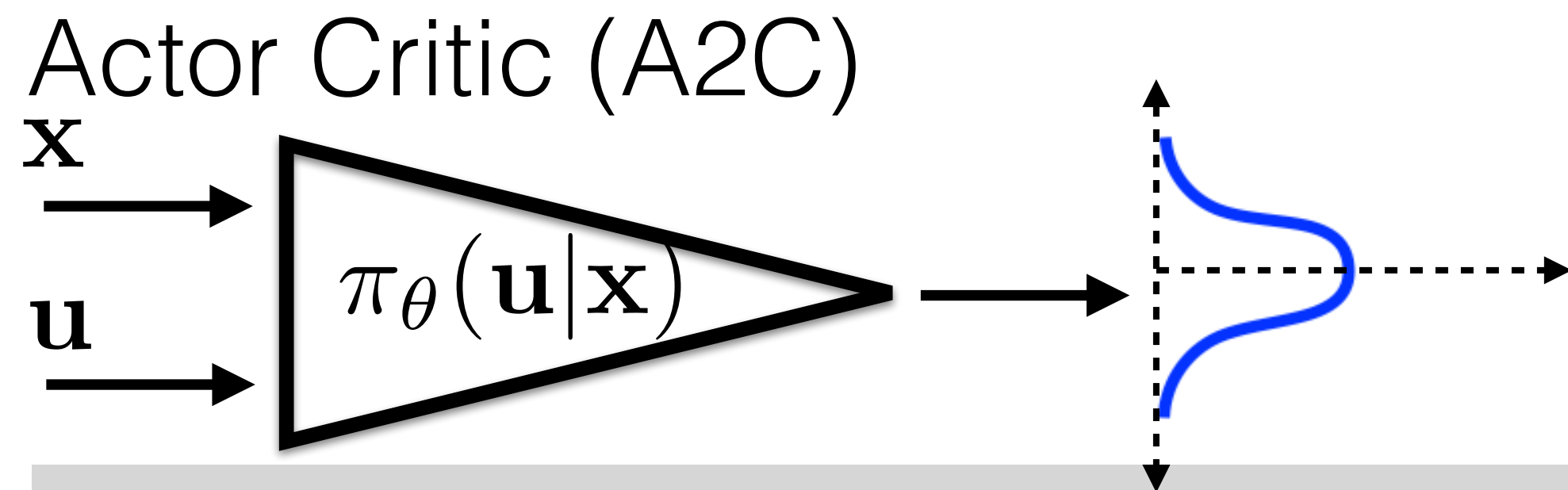
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{actor}}(\theta) = \sum_{(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \in \tau} \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x}) \cdot \underbrace{\left( r + \gamma V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}') - V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}) \right)}_{A_{\omega} = Q - V}$$

Use arbitrary optimizer (e.g. Adam) which makes use of  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{actor}}(\theta)}{\partial \theta}$ ,  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{critic}}(\omega)}{\partial \omega}$

5. Repeat from 2

## Advantage Actor Critic (A2C)

Stochastic policy for continuous control:



1. Initialize policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})$ ,  $V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x})$  `torch.distributions.Normal(means, stds)`
2. Collect trajectories  $\tau$  with policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})$  `actions = dist.sample()`
3. **Critic:** Update value function to predict observed values:  $V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}) \leftarrow r + \gamma V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}')$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{critic}}(\omega) = \left( \underbrace{r + \gamma V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}') - V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x})}_{A_{\omega}} \right)^2$$

4. **Actor:** Update policy by policy gradient:

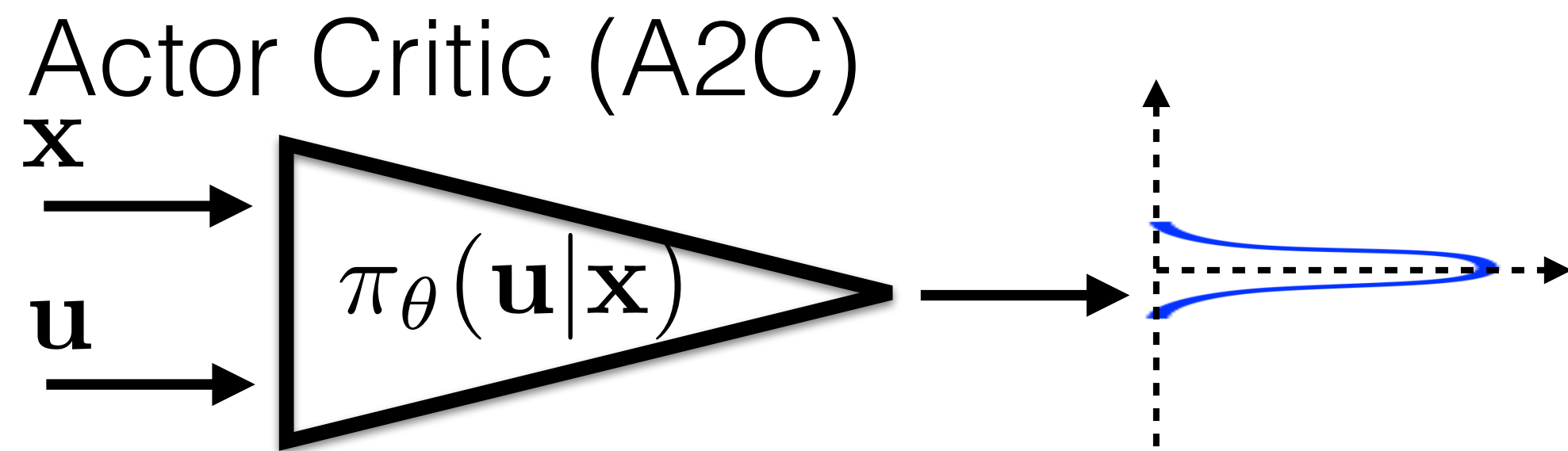
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{actor}}(\theta) = \sum_{(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \in \tau} \log \pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x}) \cdot \underbrace{\left( r + \gamma V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}') - V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x}) \right)}_{A_{\omega} = Q - V}$$

Use arbitrary optimizer (e.g. Adam) which makes use of  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{actor}}(\theta)}{\partial \theta}$ ,  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{critic}}(\omega)}{\partial \omega}$

5. Repeat from 2

## Advantage Actor Critic (A2C)

Stochastic policy for continuous control:



1. Initialize policy  $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})$ ,  $V_{\omega}(\mathbf{x})$  `torch.distributions.Normal(means, stds)`
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4. **Actor:** Update policy by policy gradient:

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5. Repeat from 2



# Reinforcement learning baselines

<https://gym.openai.com/>

```
import gym
```

```
env = gym.make('CartPole-v1')
```

```
obs = env.reset()
```

```
for i in range(1000):
```

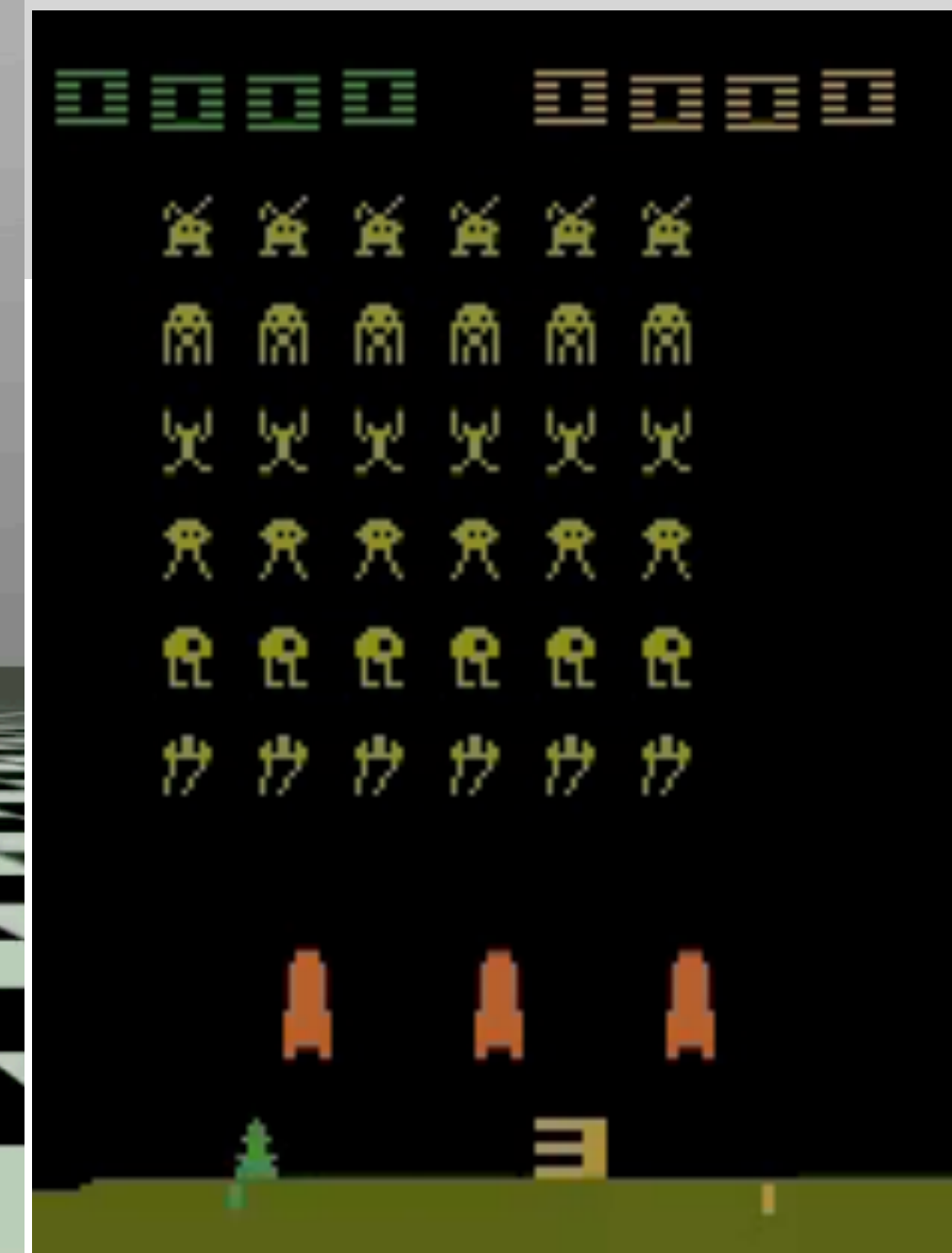
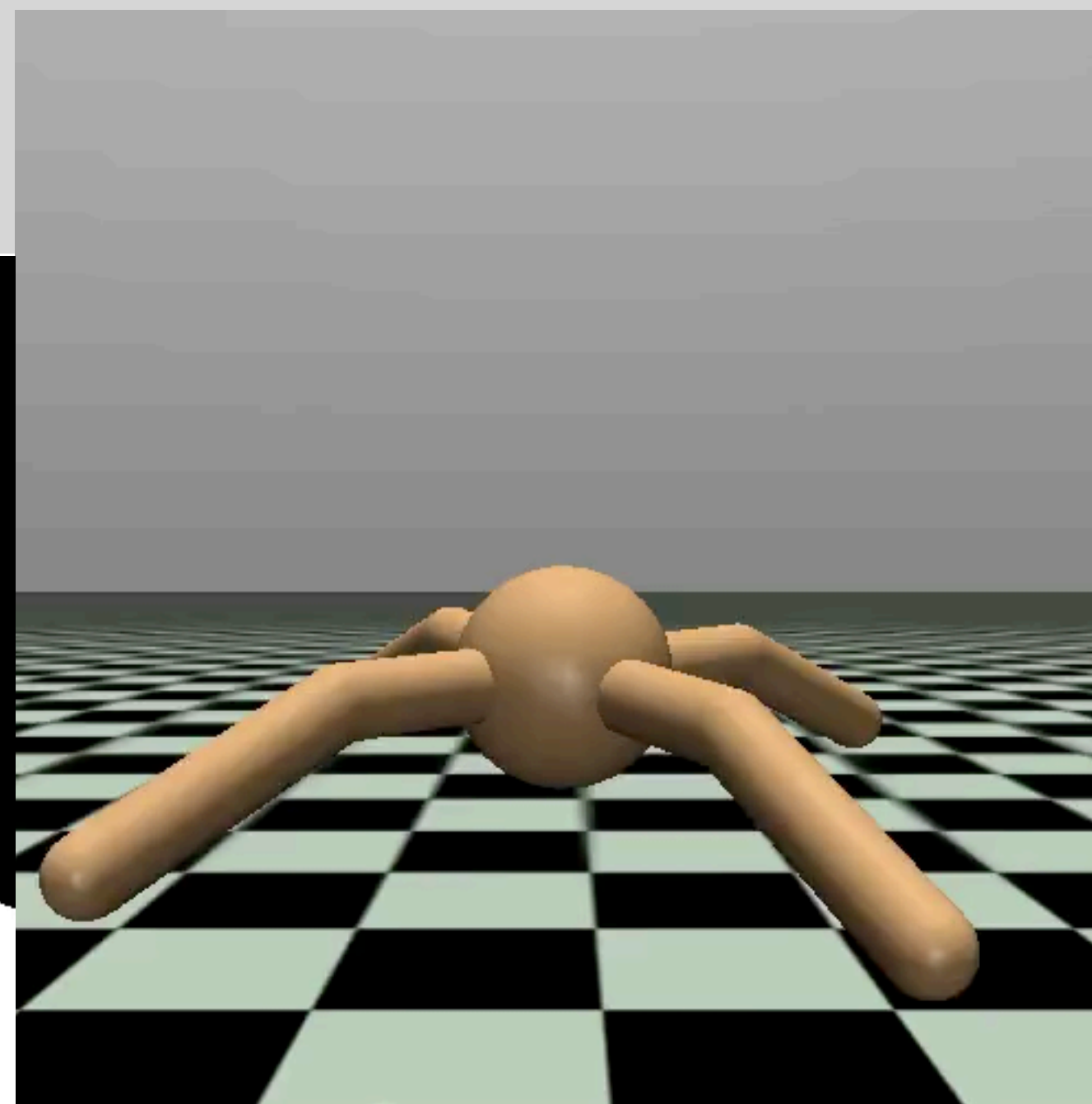
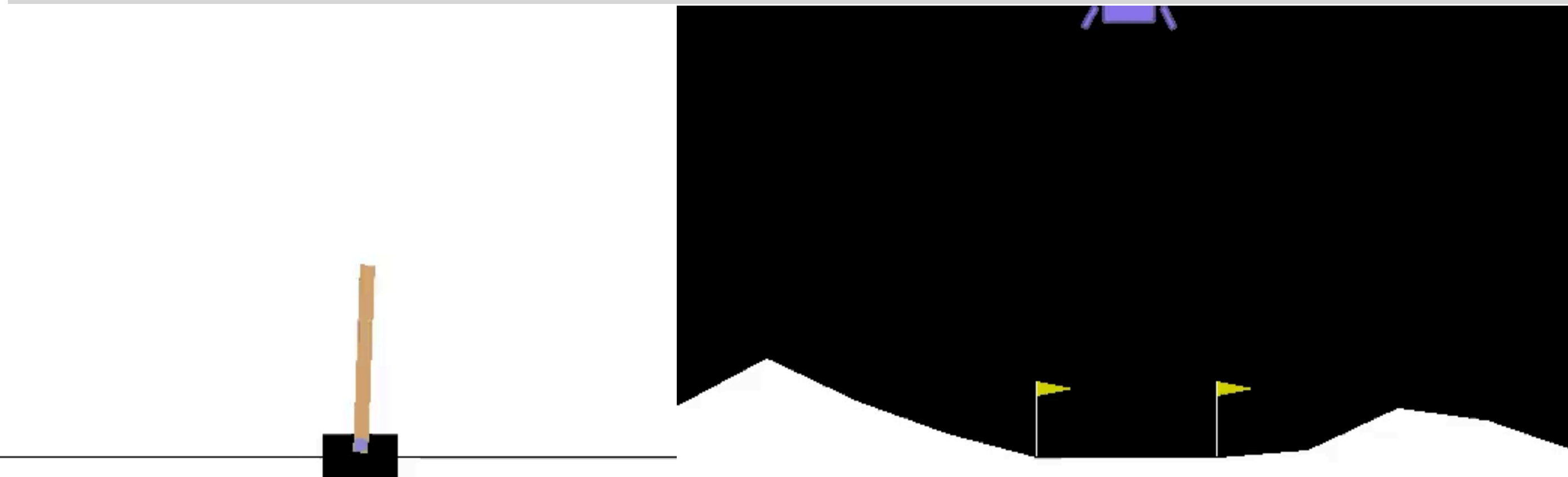
```
    action, _state = model.predict(obs, deterministic=True)
```

```
    obs, reward, done, info = env.step(action)
```

```
    env.render()
```

```
    if done:
```

```
        obs = env.reset()
```



# Reinforcement learning baselines

<https://stable-baselines3.readthedocs.io/>

```
import gym

from stable_baselines3 import A2C

env = gym.make('CartPole-v1')

model = A2C('MlpPolicy', env, verbose=1)
model.learn(total_timesteps=10000)
```

## Known successes of RL

- Computer games controlled from pixel inputs
  - Starcraft II (AlphaStar)
  - Atari 2D platformers (DQN)
  - Doom 2 - VizDoom [Wydemuch 2018]  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1809.03470>
  - Quake III - Arena capture the flag
  - DOTA 2 openAI+ bot <https://blog.openai.com/dota-2/>



# Known successes of RL - Starcraft II

- Starcraft II (Deepmind AlphaStar beaten top-end professional human gamers 5:0)



<https://medium.com/mlmemoirs/deepminds-ai-alphastar-showcases-significant-progress-towards-agi-93810c94fbe9>



## Known successes of RL - Starcraft II

- **Starcraft II game**
  - no single best strategy
  - imperfect information (unlike fully observable chess)
  - longterm planning (significantly delayed rewards for upgrades)
  - realtime (unlike traditional board games)
  - large action space (hundreds of buildings and possible locations, units and commands, upgrades)
- **Starcraft II client + dataset** of anonymised game plays:
  - <https://github.com/Blizzard/s2client-proto#replay-packs>
  - [DeepMind + Blizzard 2017] joint paper:  
<https://kstatic.googleusercontent.com/files/8f5c46f2ca6f2dc1944e86fe852ecfa2072cc3729ceb6af4dc84307a939b60ac8915c82ead4e7e4d4862d0436a8a329a6f06a4d538b741219e85c207c5e04f62>



# Known successes of RL - Starcraft II

## Minigames allows for training small RL agents





## Known successes of RL - Starcraft II

Learning consists of two phases:

- **Supervised learning** from anonymised human games (performance: (i) humans - gold level, (ii) AI - elite level)
- **Reinforcement learning**: 14 days playing against two grand masters (TLO, MaNa)

<https://medium.com/mlmemoirs/deepminds-ai-alphastar-showcases-significant-progress-towards-agi-93810c94fbe9>

## Known successes of RL - Starcraft II

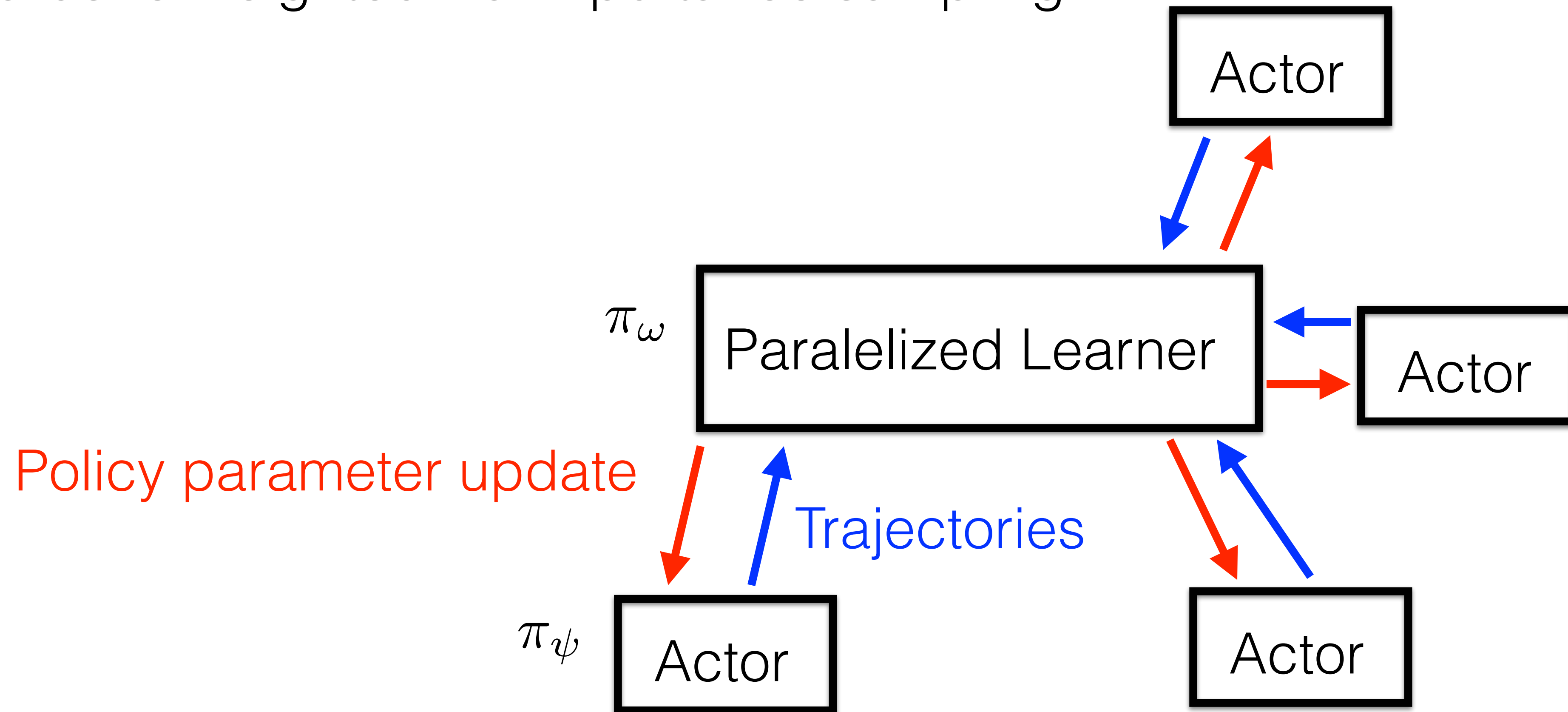
- **Reinforcement learning:** 14 days playing against two grand masters (TLO, MaNa)
  - Distributed Actor-Critic method IMPALA:  
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1802.01561.pdf>
  - $TD(\lambda)$  learning of  $Q_\theta(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$
  - stochastic policy gradient:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau | \pi_\omega)} \left[ \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) \in \tau} \frac{\partial \log \pi_\omega(\mathbf{u} | \mathbf{x})}{\partial \omega} \cdot Q_\theta(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) \right] \approx$$
$$\approx \sum_k \frac{\partial \log \pi_\omega(\mathbf{u}_k | \mathbf{x}_k)}{\partial \omega} \cdot Q_\theta(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)$$

- recurrent policy architecture with LSTM blocks
- parallelized learning

# parallelized learning

- Actors delayed wrt learner => policy being updated  $\pi_\omega$  is different from the one which collected trajectories  $\pi_\psi$
- rewards re-weighted via importance sampling



# parallelized learning

- importance sampling

$$\mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau | \pi_\omega)} \left[ \underbrace{\sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) \in \tau} \frac{\partial \log \pi_\omega(\mathbf{u} | \mathbf{x})}{\partial \omega} \cdot Q_\theta(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})}_{g(\tau)} \right]$$

$\pi_\omega$  ...current

$\pi_\psi$  ...old



# parallelized learning

- importance sampling

$$\mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau|\pi_\omega)} \left[ \underbrace{\sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) \in \tau} \frac{\partial \log \pi_\omega(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})}{\partial \omega} \cdot Q_\theta(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})}_{g(\tau)} \right] \quad \begin{array}{l} \pi_\omega \quad \dots \text{current} \\ \pi_\psi \quad \dots \text{old} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau|\pi_\omega)} [g(\tau)] &= \int_T p(\tau|\pi_\omega) g(\tau) = \int_T \frac{p(\tau|\pi_\omega)}{p(\tau|\pi_\psi)} p(\tau|\pi_\psi) g(\tau) = \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau|\pi_\psi)} \left[ g(\tau) \frac{p(\tau|\pi_\omega)}{p(\tau|\pi_\psi)} \right] \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{recalibrated} \\ \text{estimate} \end{array} \end{aligned}$$

## parallelized learning

- importance sampling

$$\mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau|\pi_\omega)} \left[ \underbrace{\sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) \in \tau} \frac{\partial \log \pi_\omega(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})}{\partial \omega} \cdot Q_\theta(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})}_{g(\tau)} \right] \quad \begin{array}{l} \pi_\omega \quad \dots \text{current} \\ \pi_\psi \quad \dots \text{old} \end{array}$$

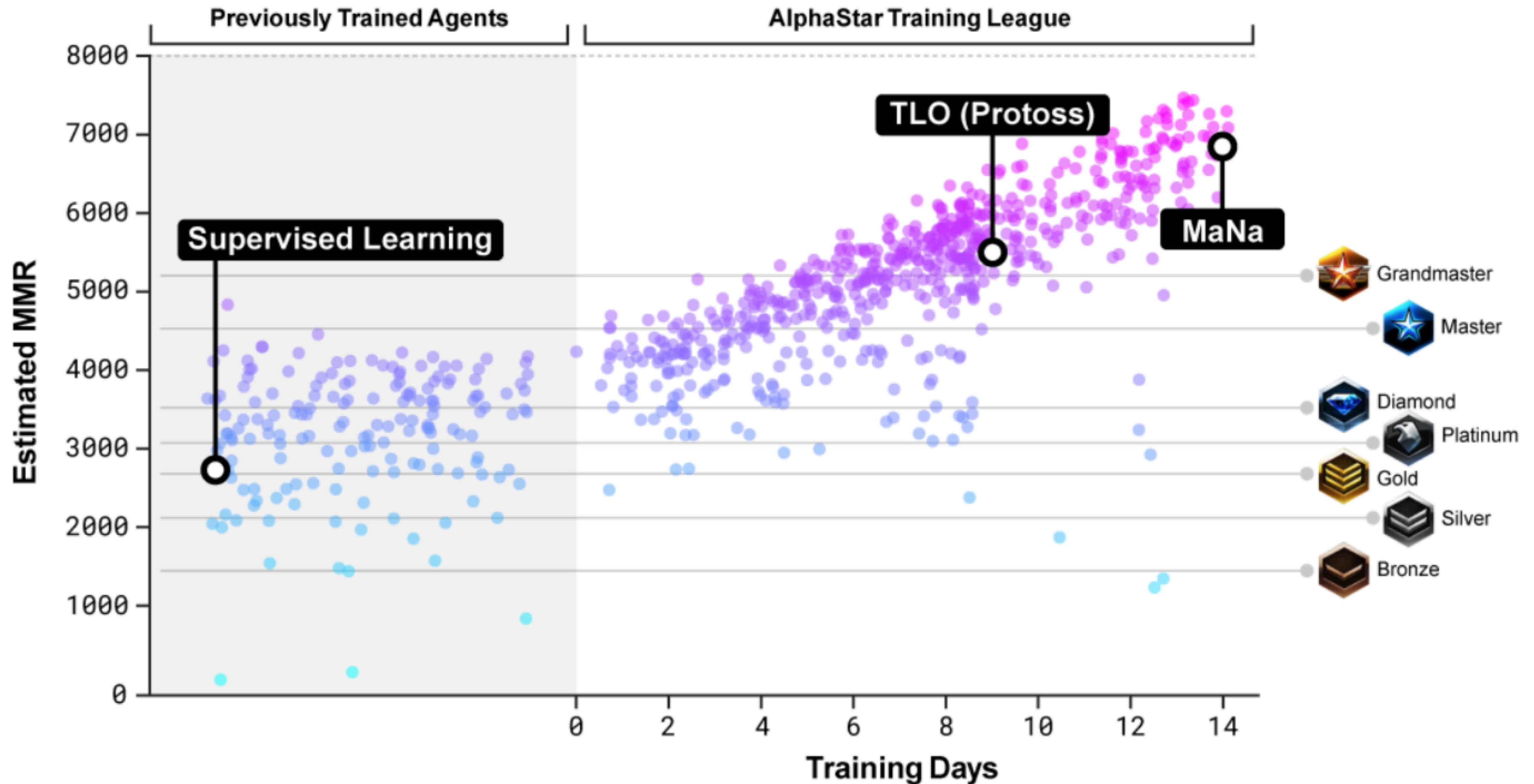
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- recalibrated policy gradient estimate

$$\mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau|\pi_\psi)} \left[ \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) \in \tau} \frac{\pi_\omega(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})}{\pi_\psi(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})} \frac{\partial \log \pi_\omega(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x})}{\partial \omega} \cdot Q_\theta(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) \right]$$

# Known successes of RL - Starcraft II

- Supervised training on Blizzards database + 14 days self-play against RL agents (faster binary => approx 200 years)





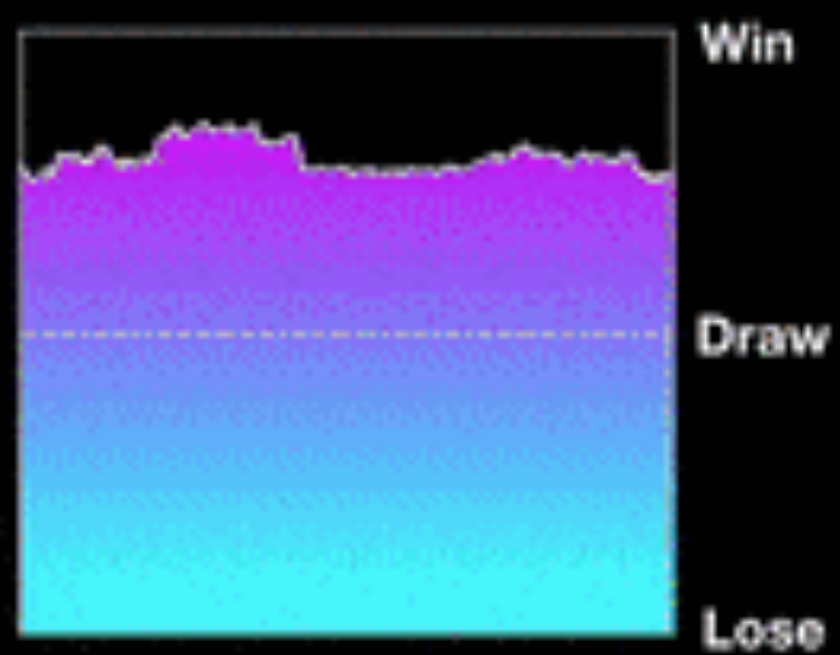


Raw Observations

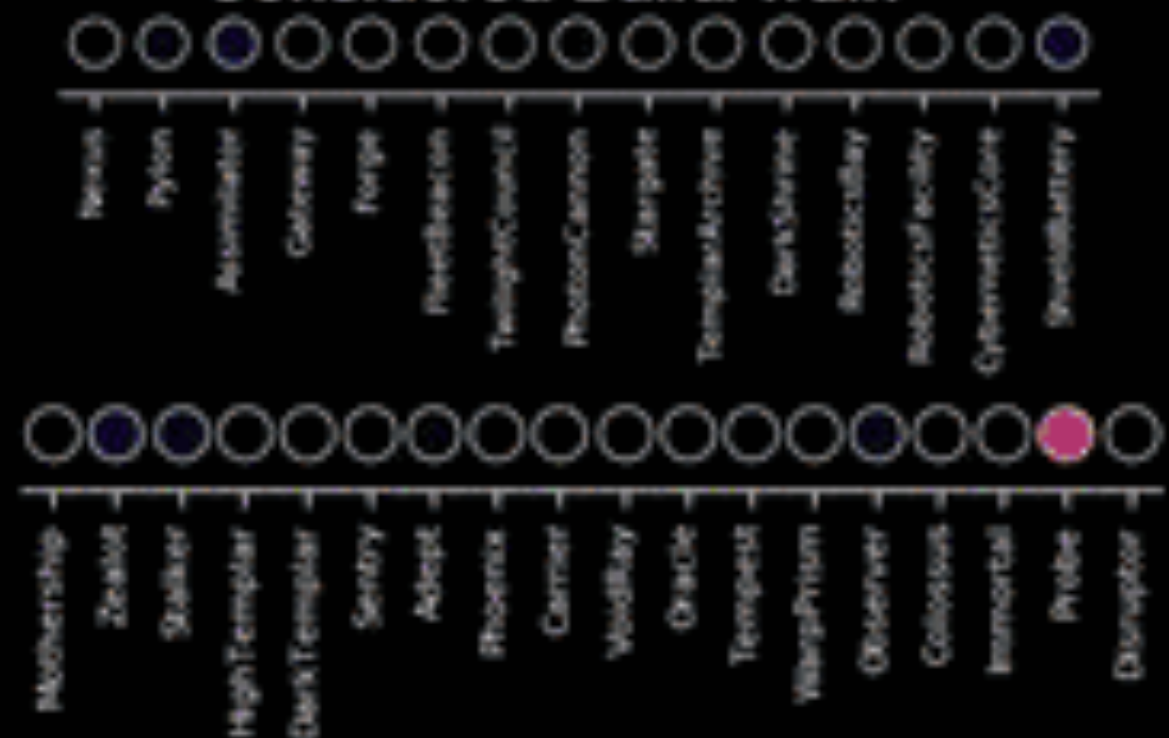
Neural Network Activations

Considered Location

Outcome Prediction



Considered Build/Train







TLO

ROUND

← REPLAY

1.

ALPHASTAR WINS

2.

ALPHASTAR WINS

3.

ALPHASTAR WINS

4.

ALPHASTAR WINS

5.

ALPHASTAR WINS

SCORE

TLO 0 - 5 ALPHASTAR

ROUND

← REPLAY

1.

ALPHASTAR WINS

2.

ALPHASTAR WINS

3.

ALPHASTAR WINS

4.

ALPHASTAR WINS

5.

ALPHASTAR WINS

SCORE

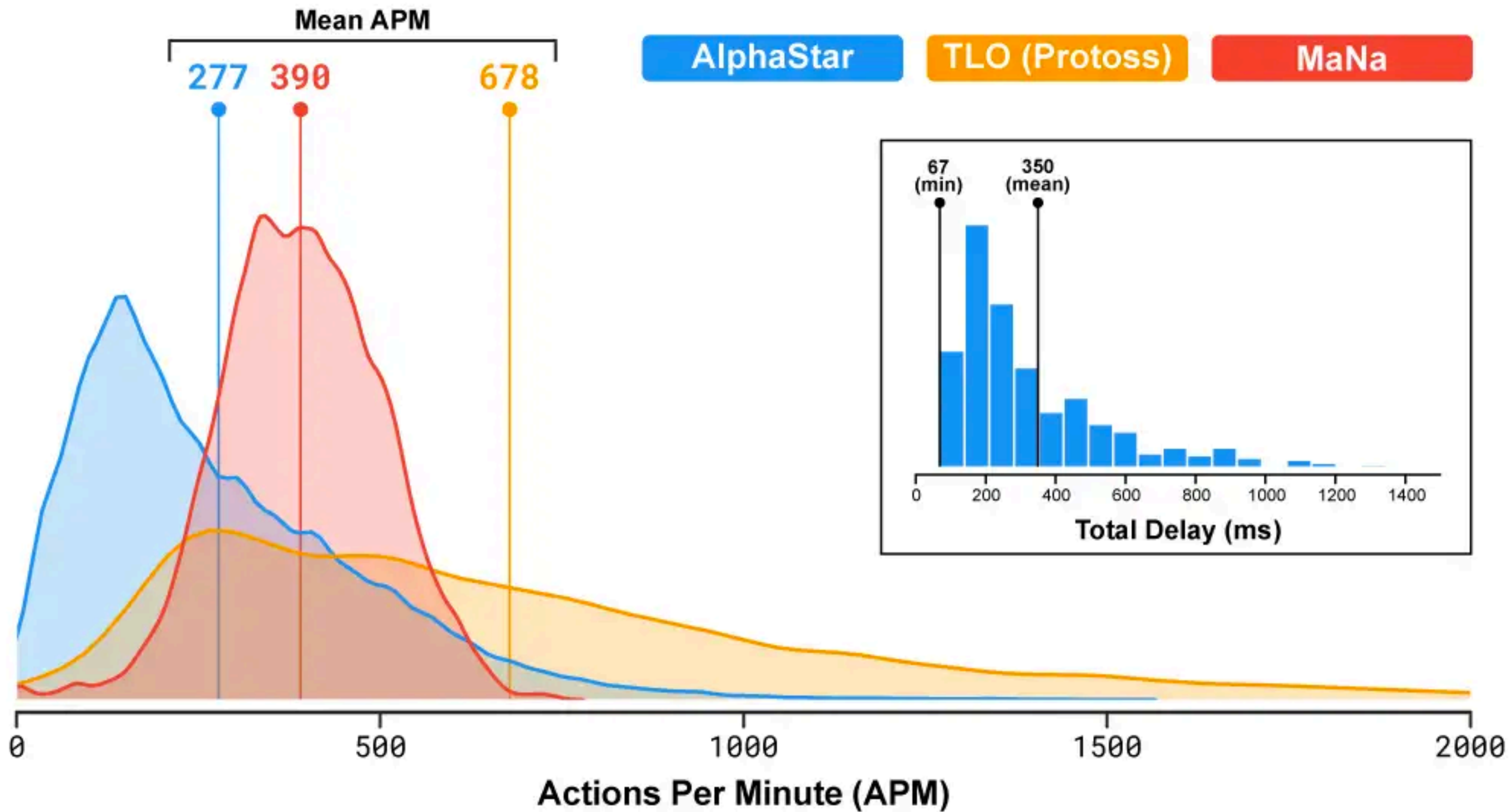
MANA 0 - 5 ALPHASTAR



GRZEGORZ 'MANA' KOMINCZ



# Known successes of RL - Starcraft II



## Known successes of RL - Starcraft II

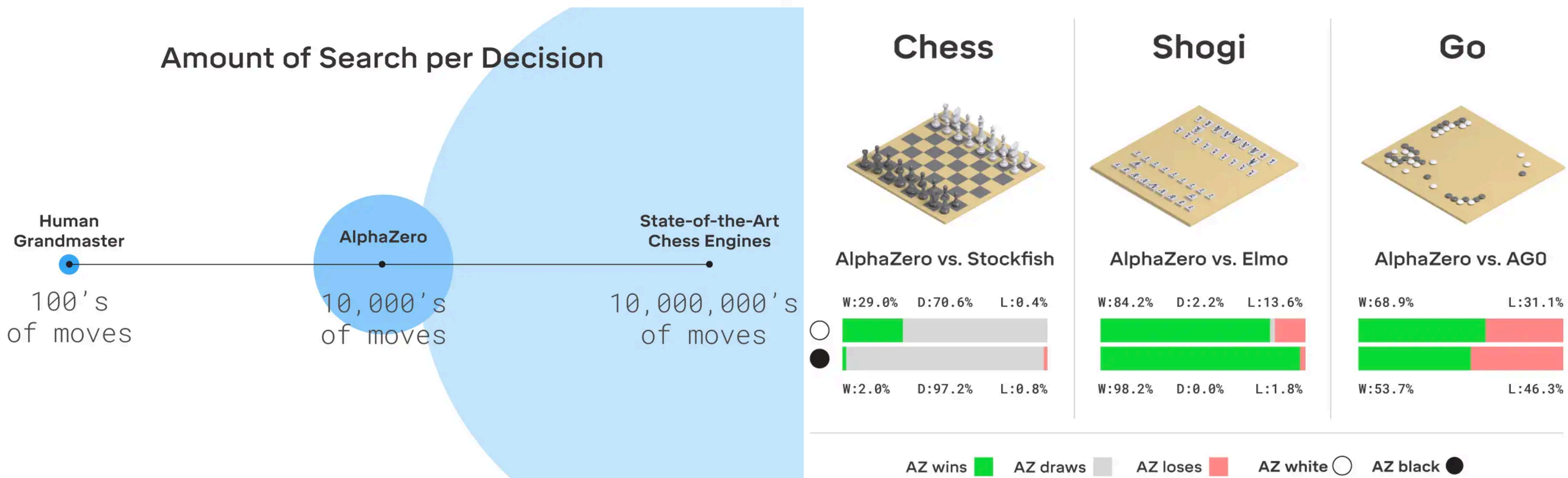
- AlphaStar does not move camera (uses zoomed-out raw interface).
- Of course, haze of war is used.





# Known successes of RL - board games

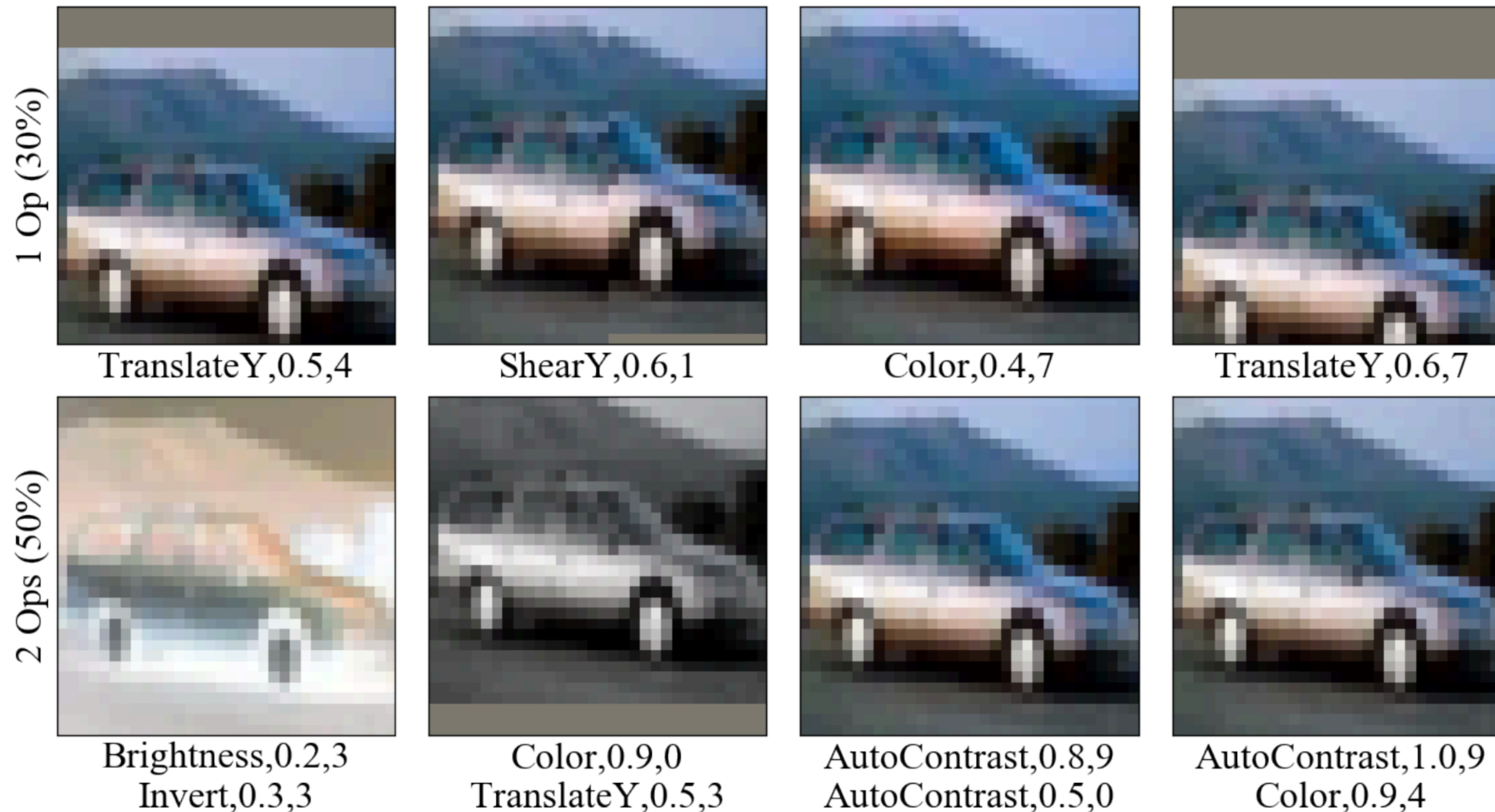
- Brute-force search-based algorithms has no chance in huge state-action spaces => trained net guides the search efficiently



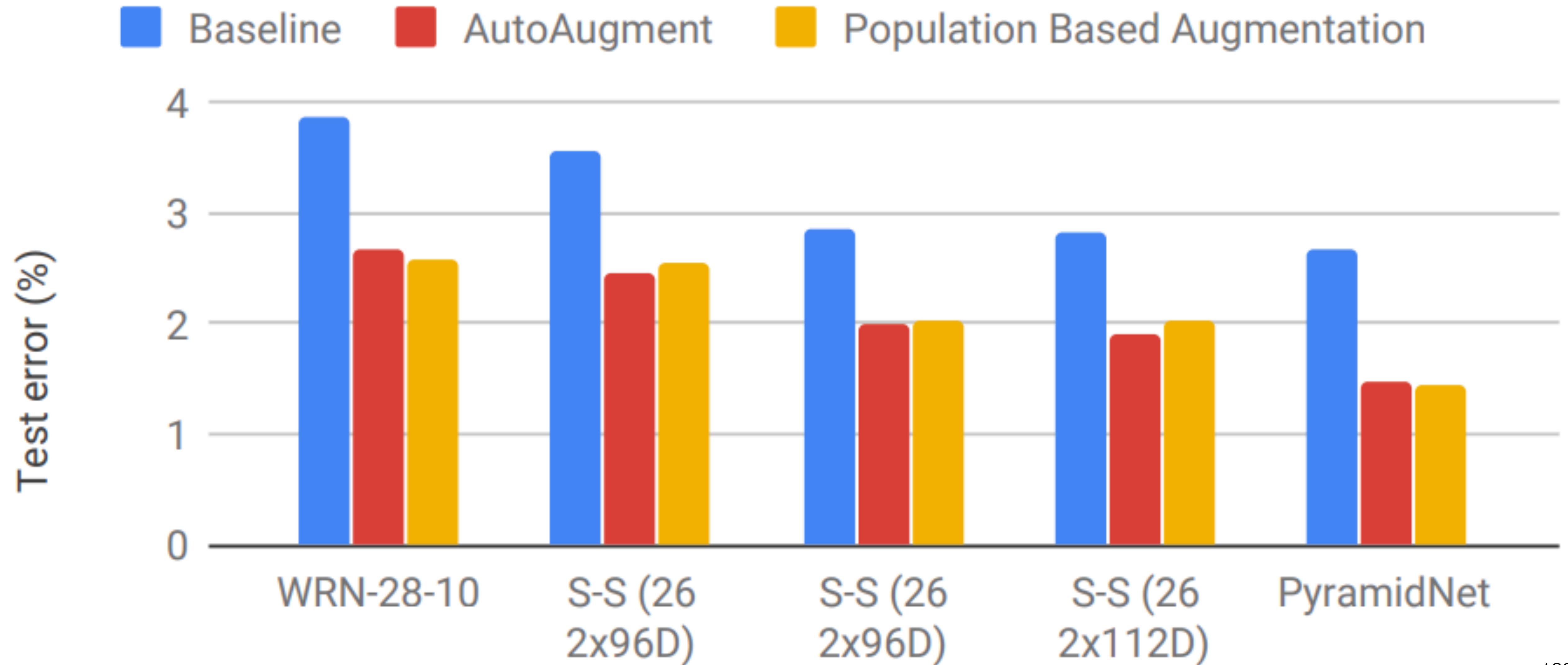
# Known successes of RL

## Learning to learn

- Training set augmentation (jittering, mirroring, occlusions, brightness/contrast/color variations)
- Learn augmentation policy (AutoAugment, PBA), which provides good generalization



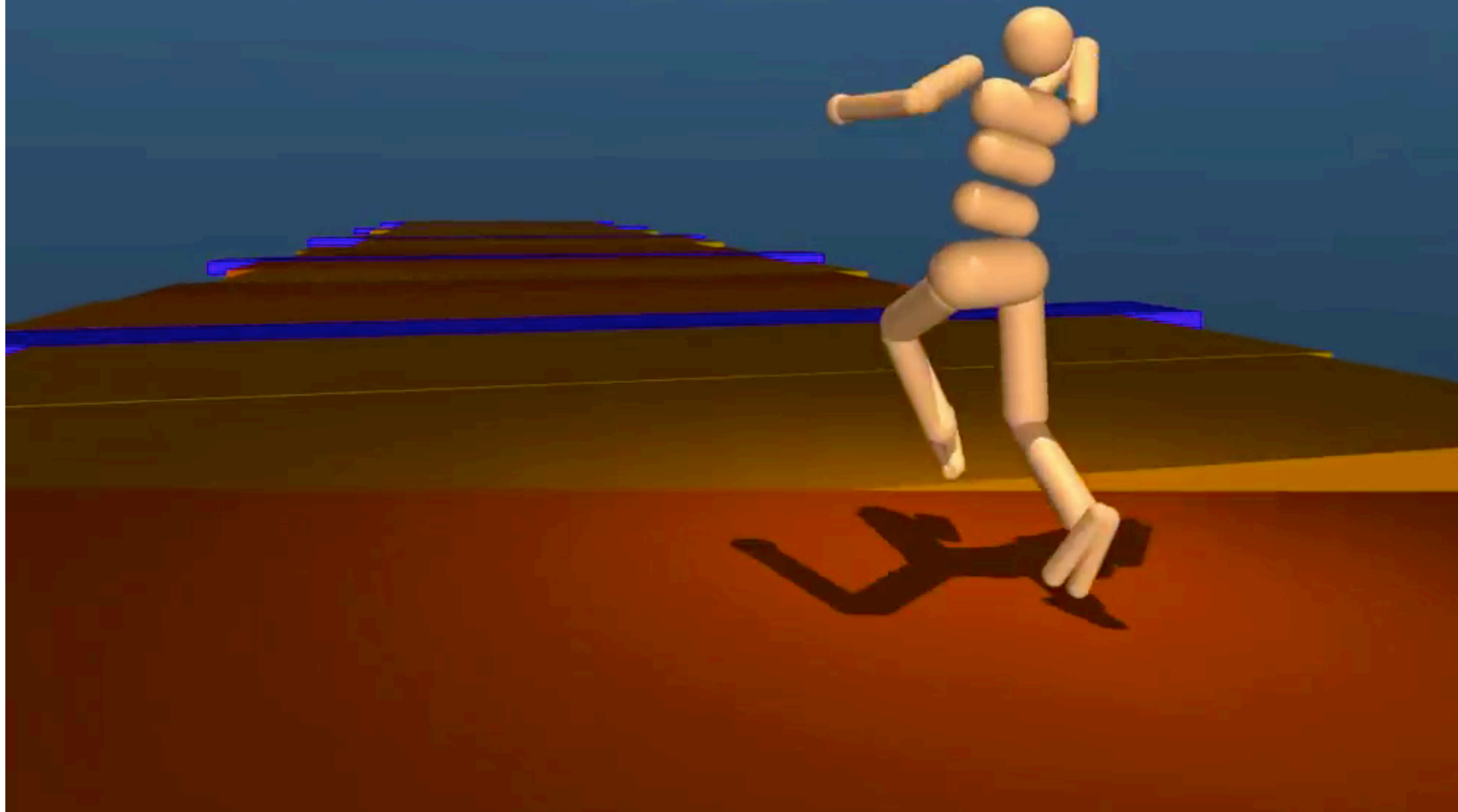
# Known successes of RL - Learning to learn





Known successes of RL - learning complex motions in simulation  
[Heess 2017] <https://arxiv.org/abs/1707.02286>

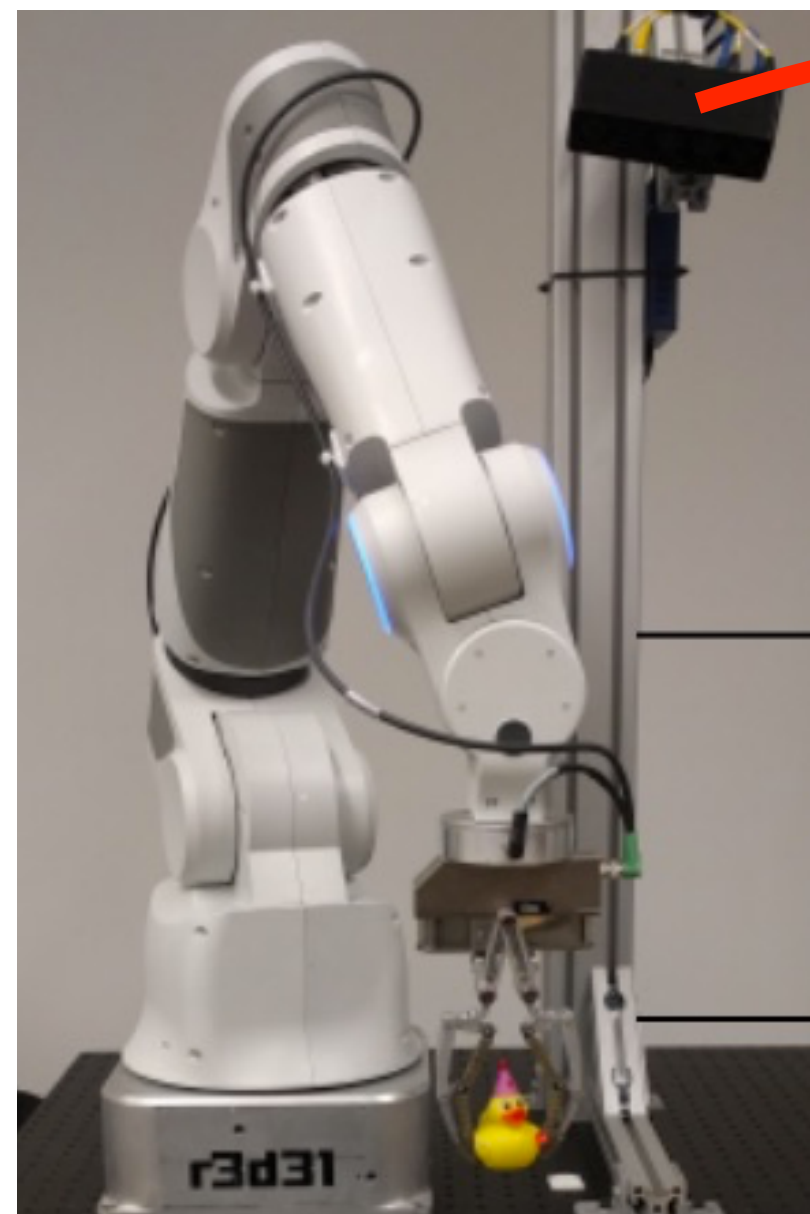
This agent, trained on several terrain types, has never seen the "see-saw" terrain.



# Known successes of RL

Learning complex motions in reality by paralelizing and automatizing rewards

manipulator+ RGB camera

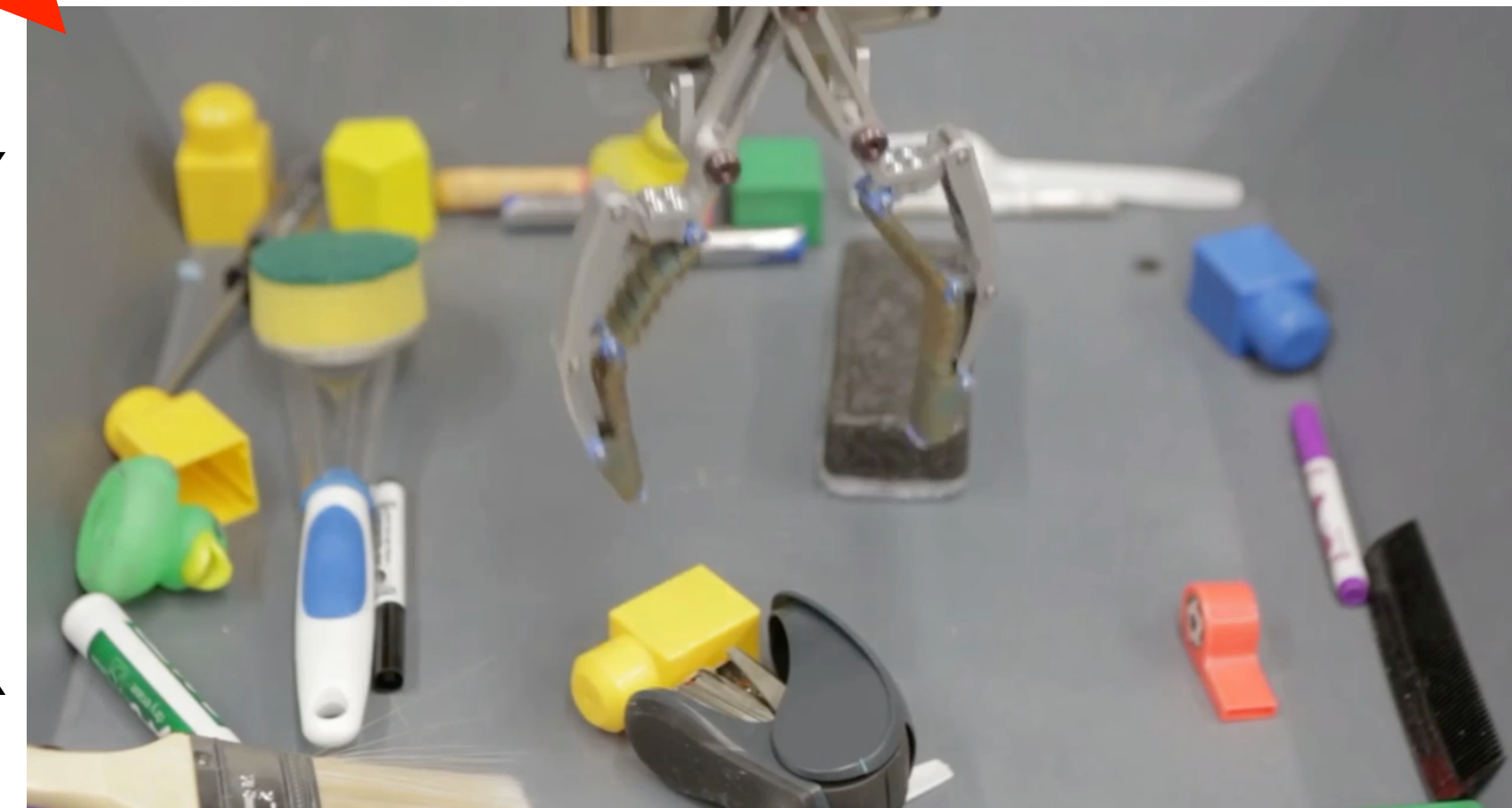


joint torques



image

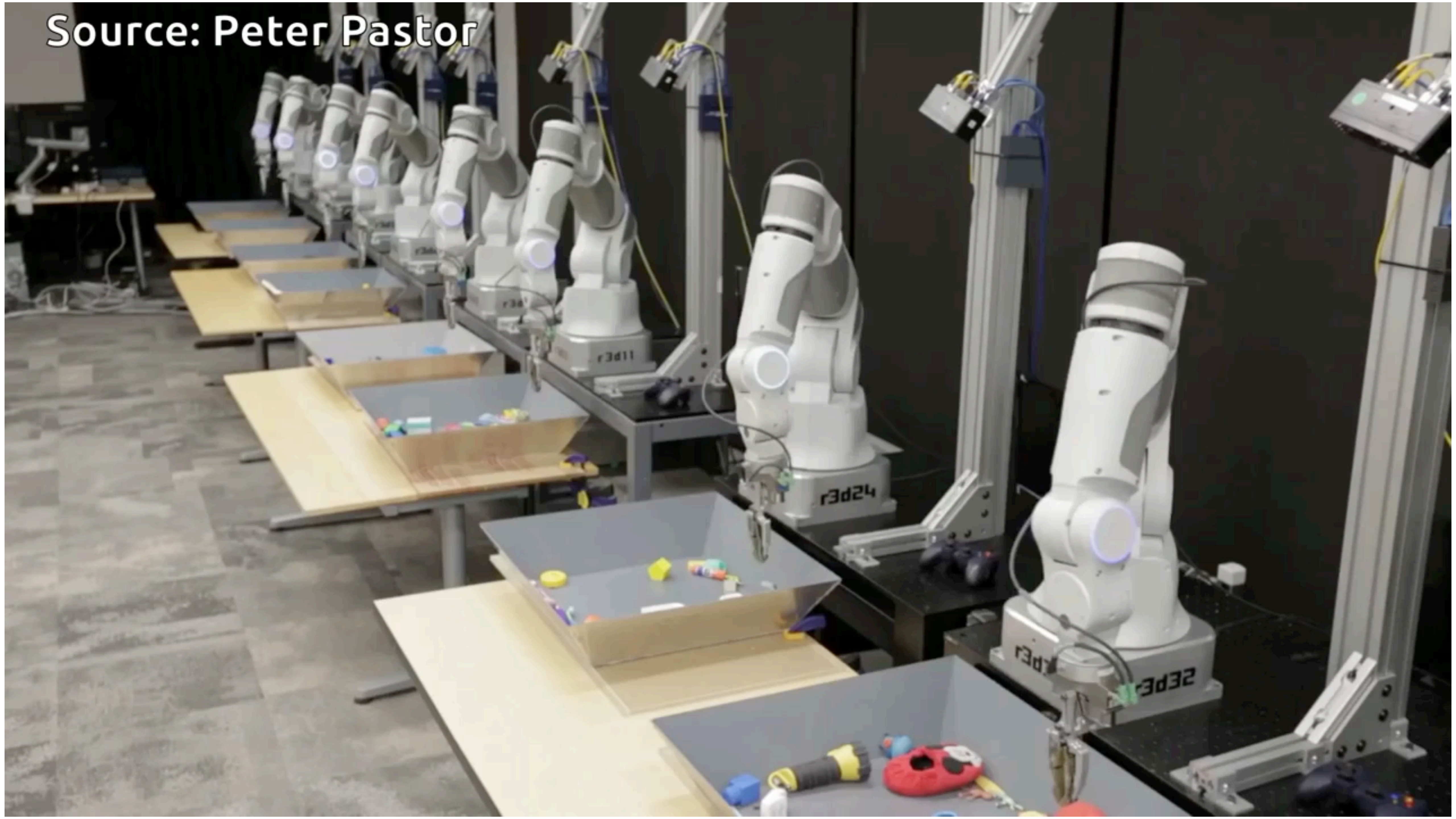
$$= \pi_{\theta} \left( \text{image} \right)$$



Continues motion control from RGB(D)



Source: Peter Pastor

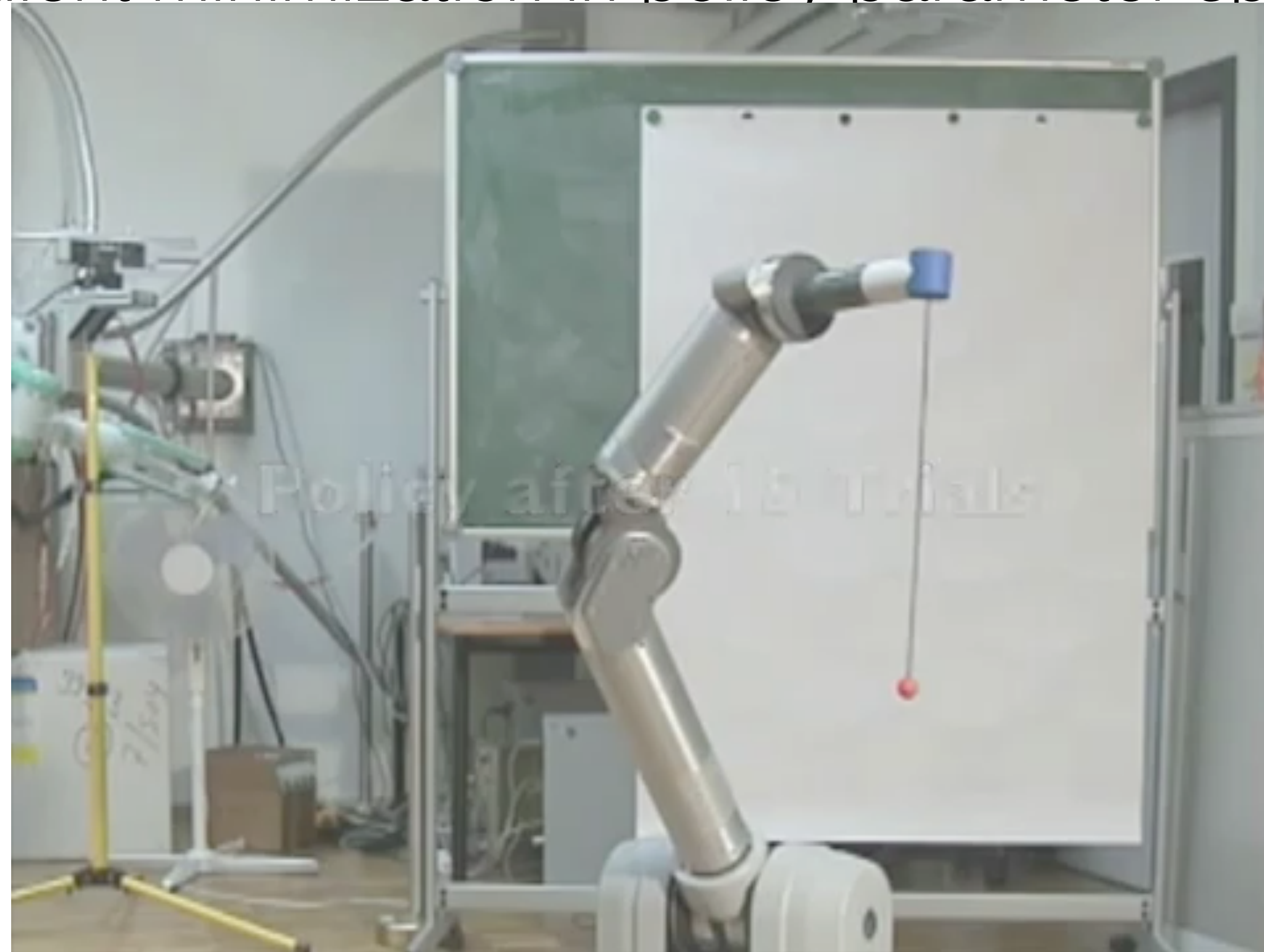




## Known successes of RL

learning complex motions in reality by manually designing low-dim policy

- imitation learning from human demonstration
- **state space:** joint+ball positions, velocities, acceler.
- **action space:** motor torques
- gradient minimization in policy parameter space



Peters et al. NOW 2013



## Motion and compliance control of flippers

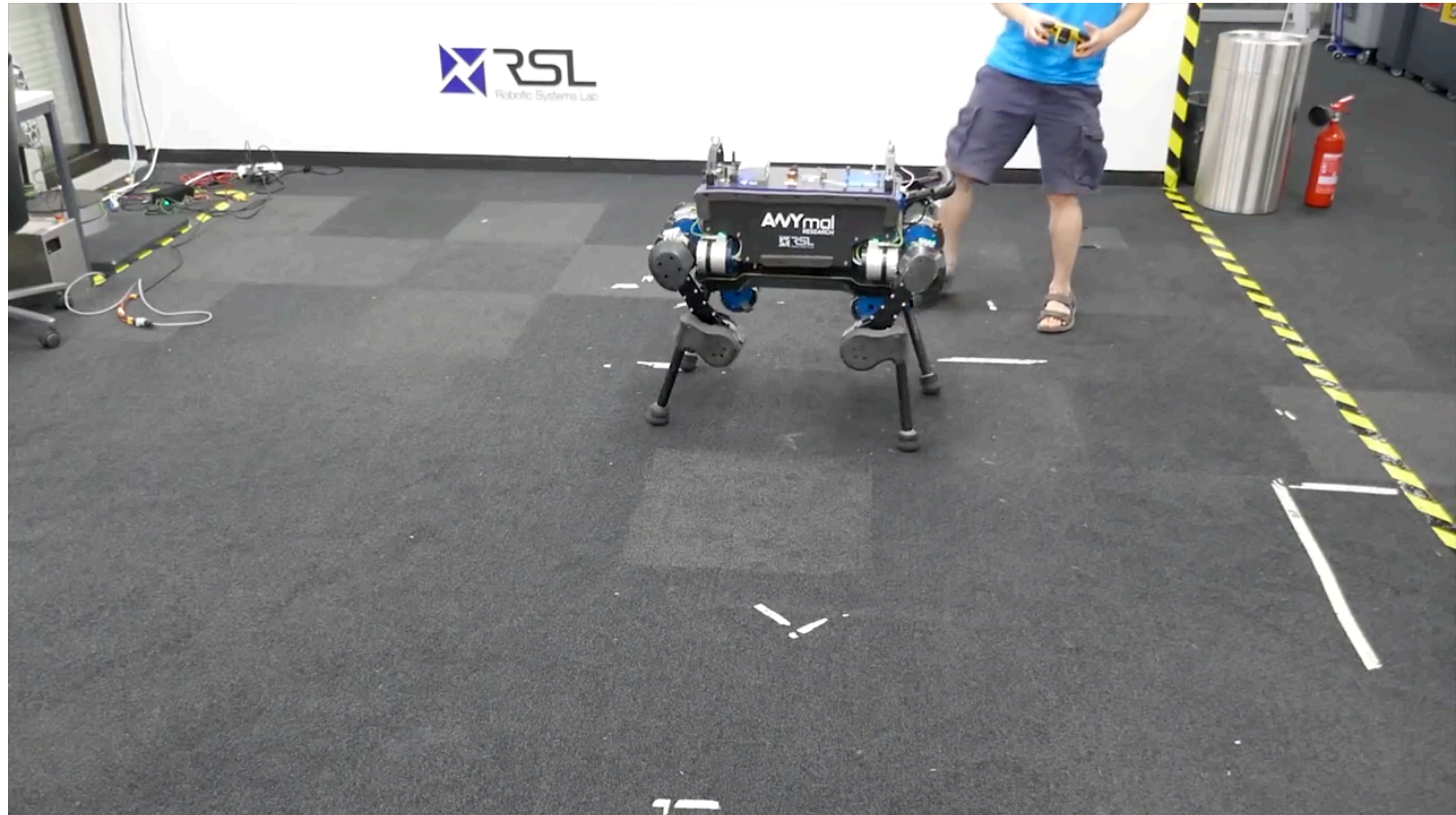


[3] Pecka, Zimmermann, Svoboda, et al. **IROS/RAL/TIE(IF=6)**, 2015-2018



## Known successes of RL

learning complex motions in reality by transferring policy from simulation  
No visual inputs + flat terrain => simple domain transfer



[Hwangbo, ETH Zurich, Science Robotics, 2018]



[Kumar 2020] Rapid Motor Adaptation for legged robot  
<https://ashish-kmr.github.io/rma-legged-robots/>



Rocky area next to river bed

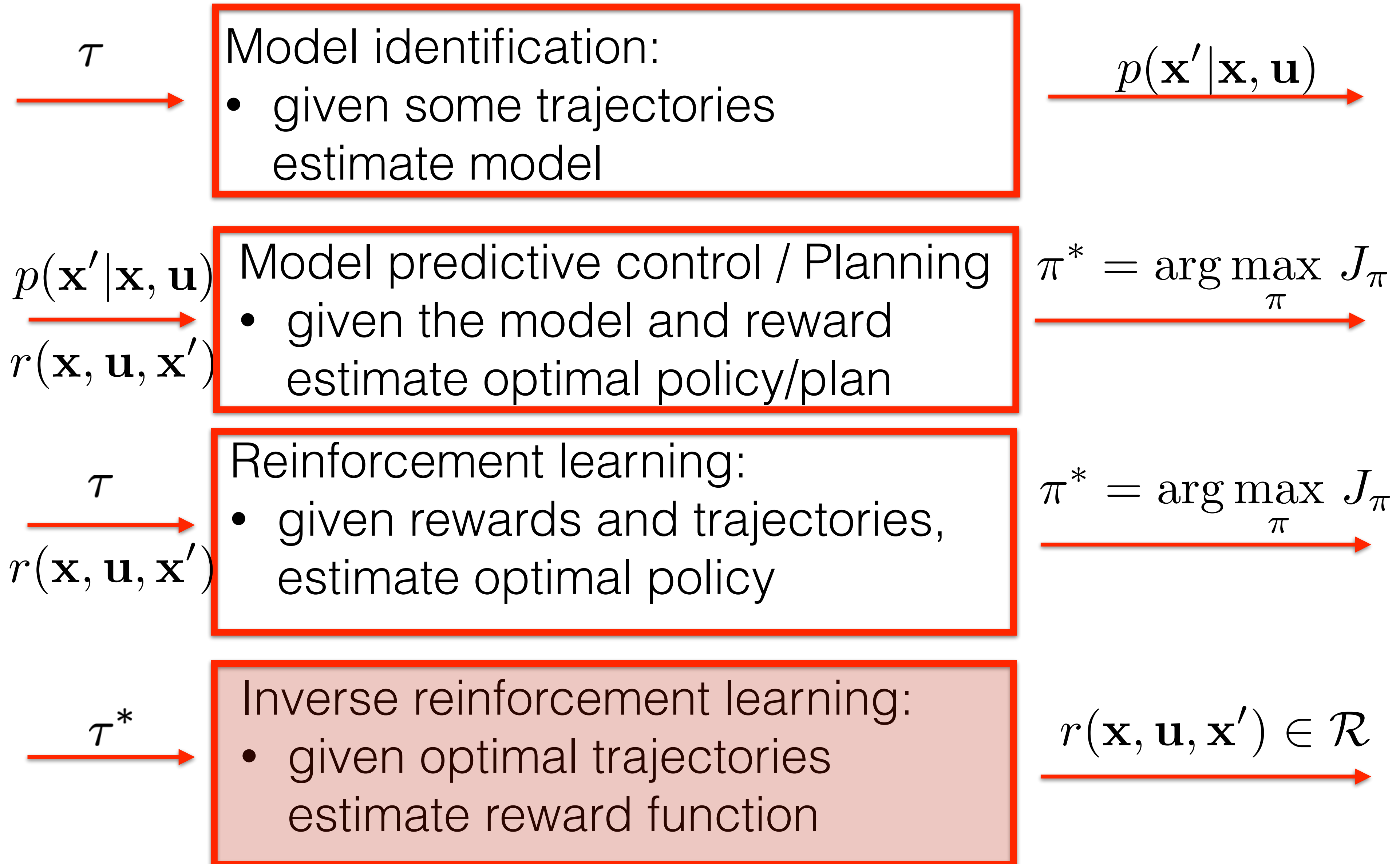


# Boston dynamics - Big dog - NO RL AT ALL





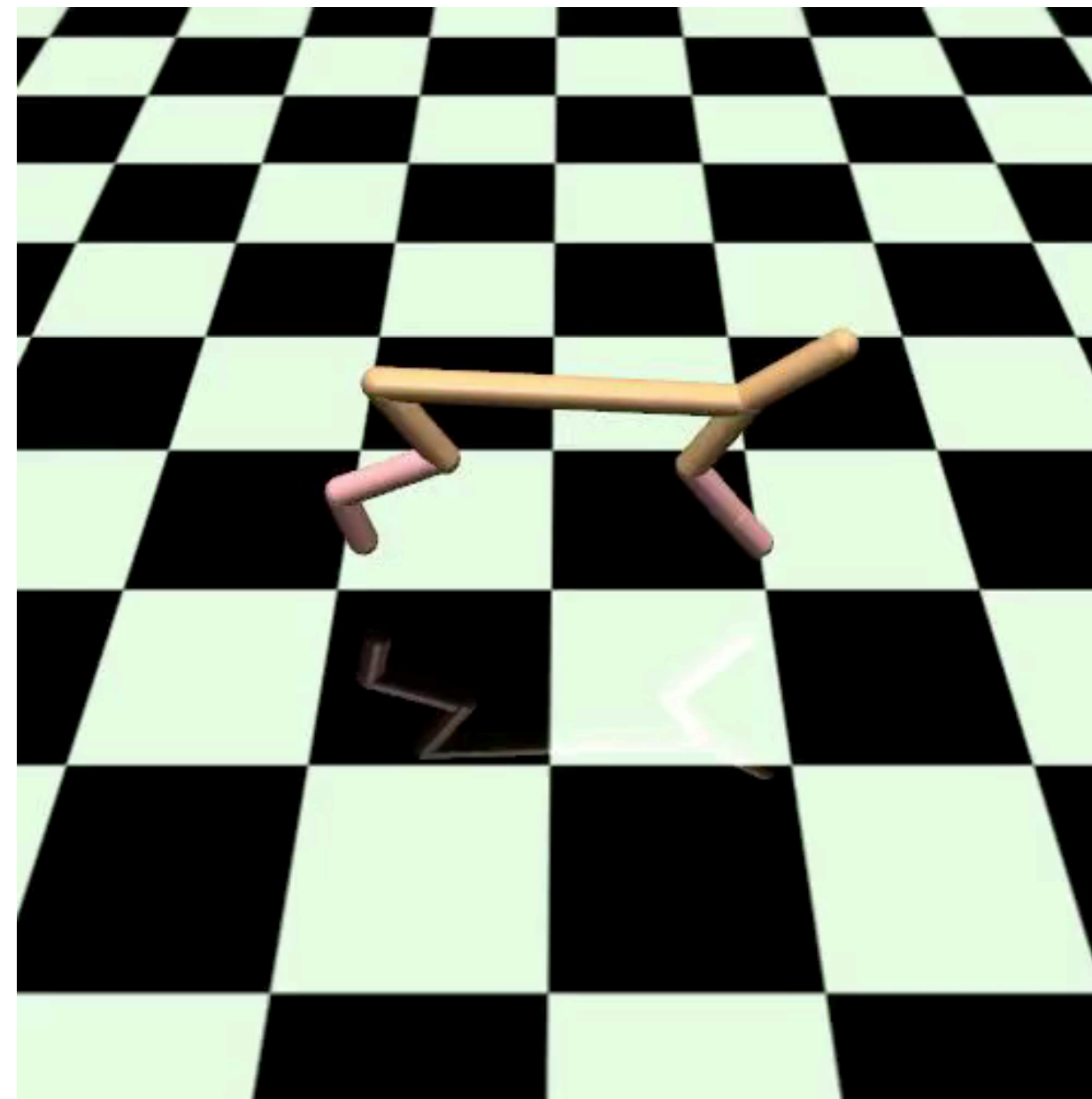
# Typical problems





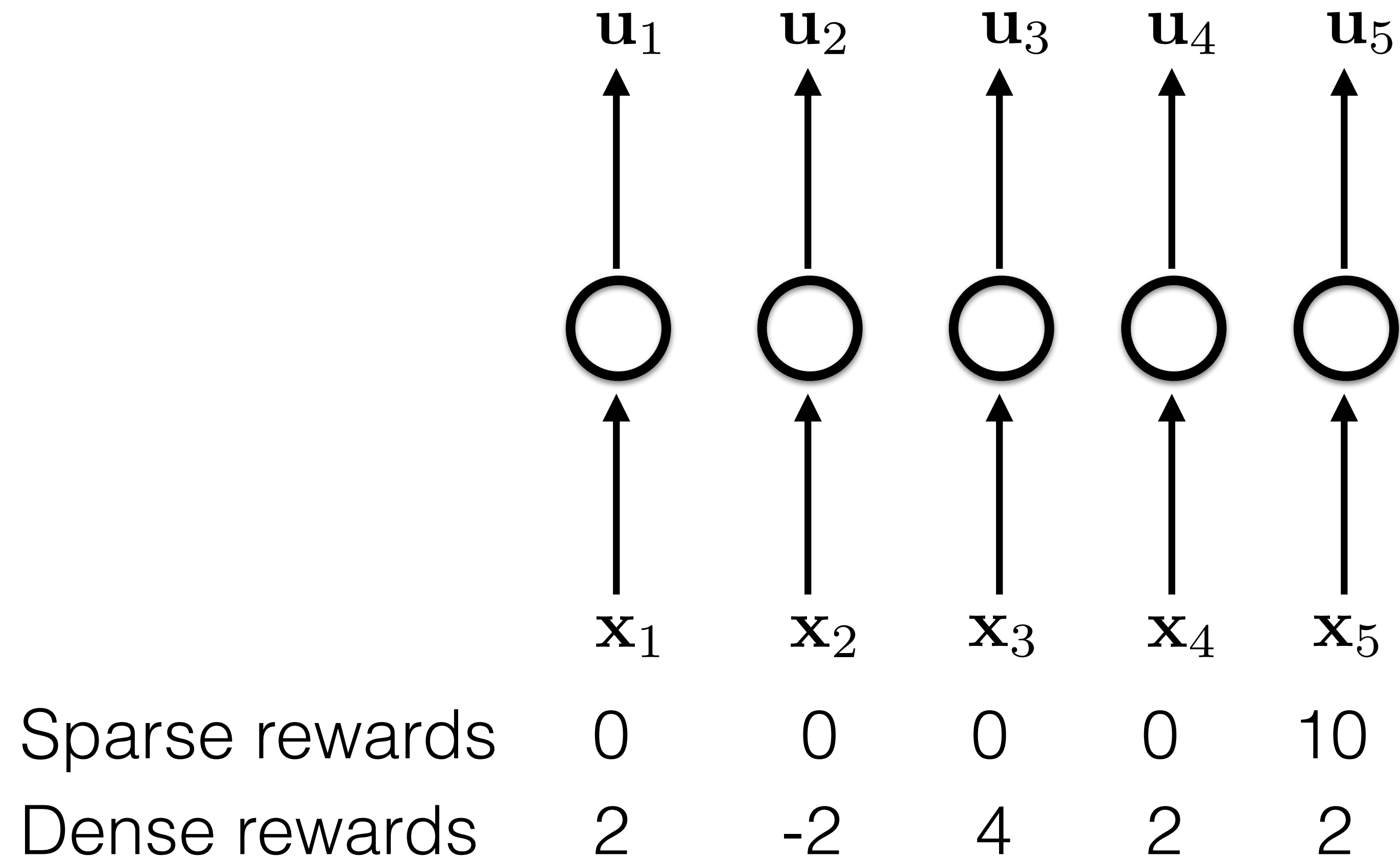
# Rewards engineering

- Sparse rewards are easier to design correctly
- Dense rewards are easier to learn
- Half cheetah:
  - sparse rewards (for reaching the goal position fast)
  - dense rewards (for velocity)



# Rewards engineering

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# Rewards engineering

- Sparse rewards are easier to design correctly
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# Rewards engineering

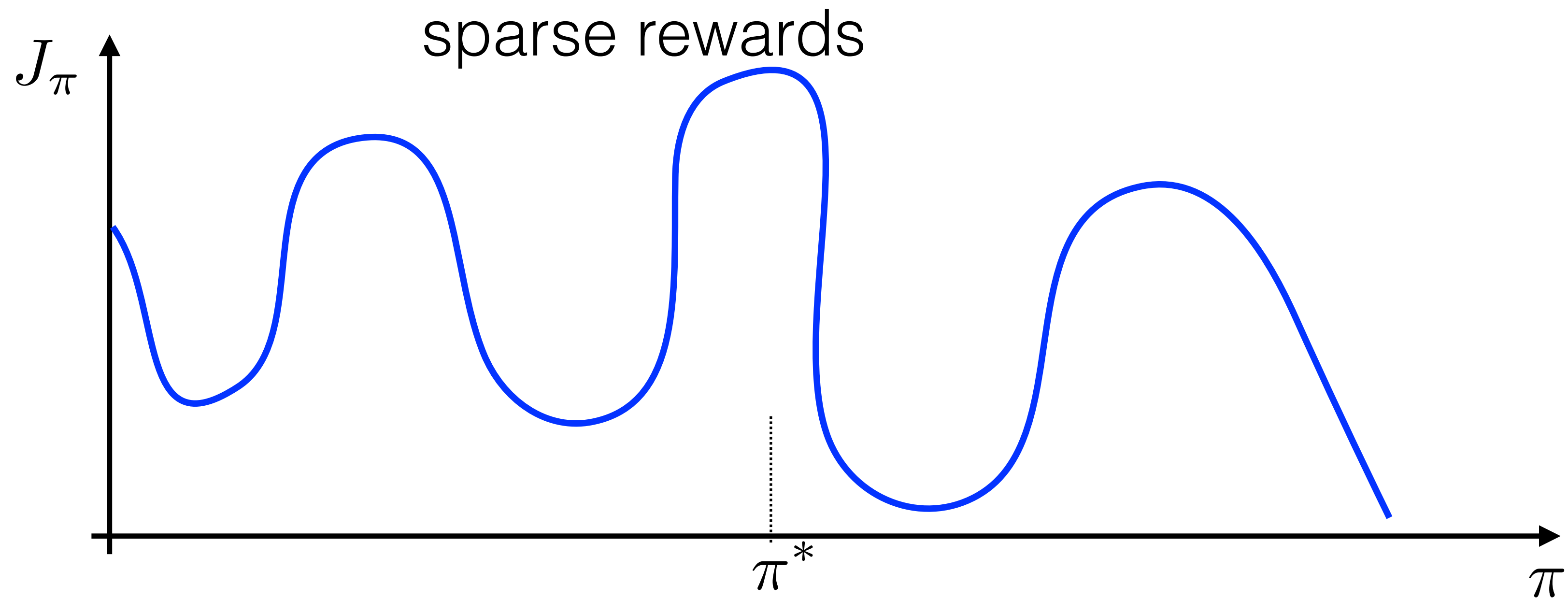
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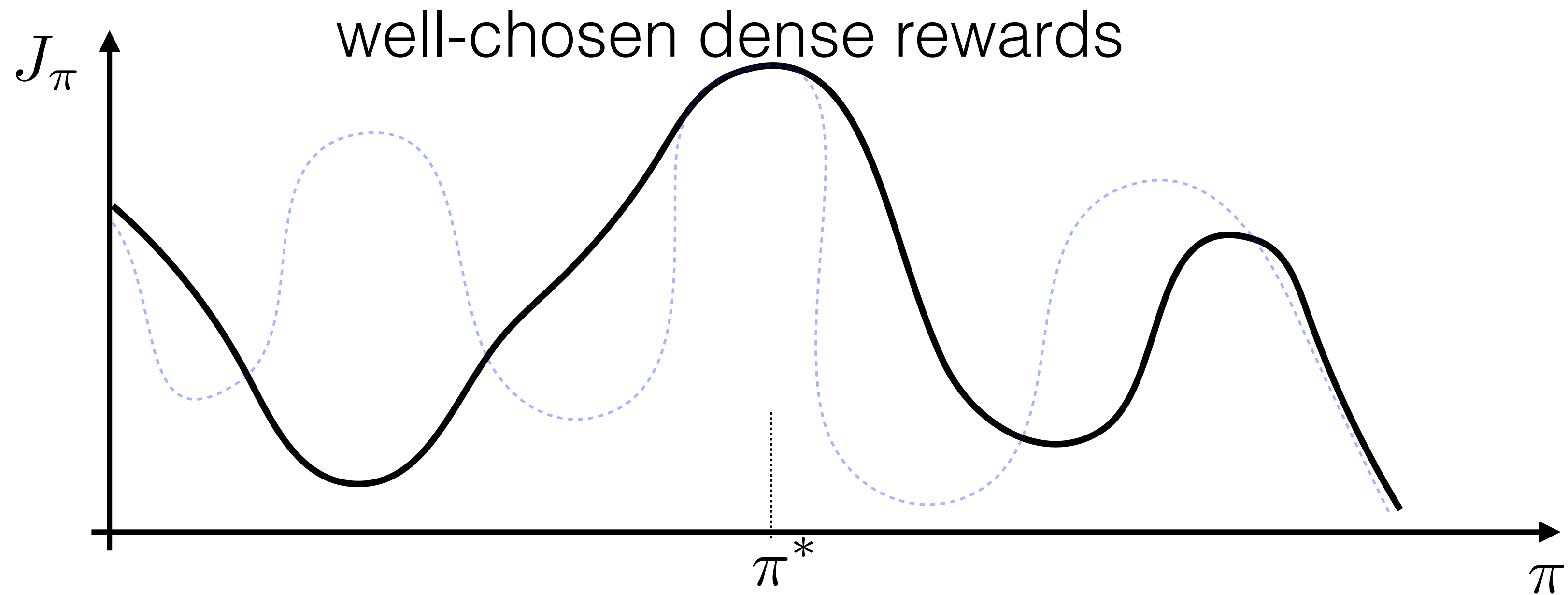
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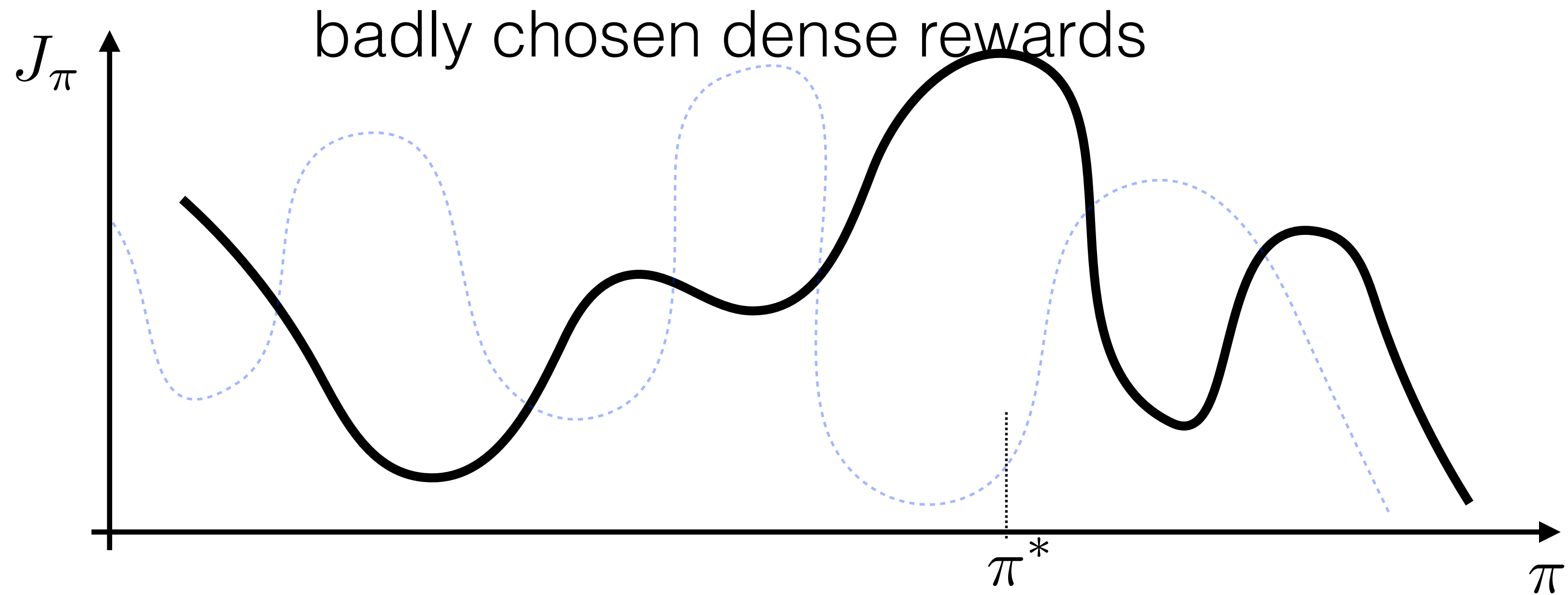
# Rewards engineering

- Sparse rewards are easier to design correctly
- Dense rewards are easier to learn



# Rewards engineering

- Sparse rewards are easier to design correctly
- Dense rewards are easier to learn





## Rewards engineering

- Boat racing (bad dense rewards):
  - sparse rewards (winning the race)
  - dense rewards (collecting powerups, checkpoints ...)





# Learning from expert demonstrations

- Sometimes easier to provide good trajectories than good rewards.



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- Sometimes easier to provide good trajectories than good rewards.
- Imitation learning setup

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  2. Find policy  $\arg \min_{\theta} \sum_{(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{a}_i) \in \tau^*} \|\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_i) - \mathbf{a}_i\|_2^2$



## Learning from expert demonstrations

- Sometimes easier to provide good trajectories than good rewards.
- Imitation learning setup (**statistically inconsistent+ blackbox**)
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- Inverse reinforcement learning setup
  1. Collect expert trajectories  $\tau_1^*, \tau_2^*, \tau_3^*, \dots$
  2. Find reward function  $r_{\mathbf{w}}$

$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{w}} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2$$

$$\text{subject to: } \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \in \{\mathcal{T} \setminus \tau^*\}} r_{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \leq \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \in \tau^*} r_{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}')$$

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$$\text{subject to: } \text{ReLU} \left( \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \in \{\mathcal{T} \setminus \tau^*\}} r_{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') - \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \in \tau^*} r_{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \right) = 0$$



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  2. Find reward function  $r_{\mathbf{w}}$

$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{w}} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \text{ReLU} \left( \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \in \{\mathcal{T} \setminus \tau^*\}} r_{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') - \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \in \tau^*} r_{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \right)$$

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$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{w}} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \text{ReLU} \left( \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \in \tau^{\text{best}}} r_{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') - \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \in \tau^*} r_{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}') \right)$$

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3. Solve underlying RL/control task



## Abbeel et al. IJRR 2010

- inverse reinforcement learning
- **state space:** angular and euclidean position, velocity, acceleration
- **action space:** motor torques
- learning reward function from expert pilot











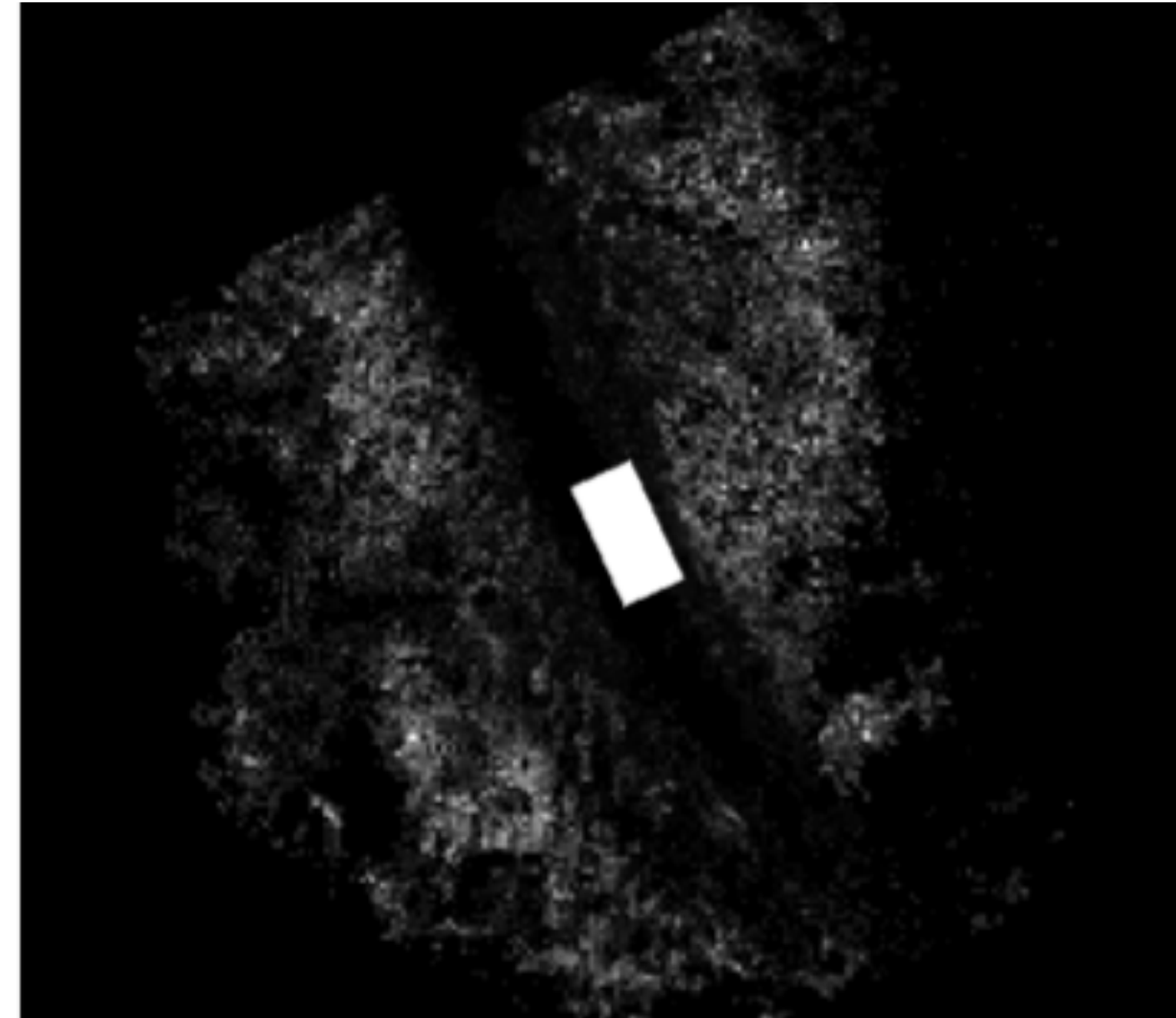
Similar to recent DARPA RACER  
<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a525288.pdf>



Silver et al. IJRR 2010



input image (state)



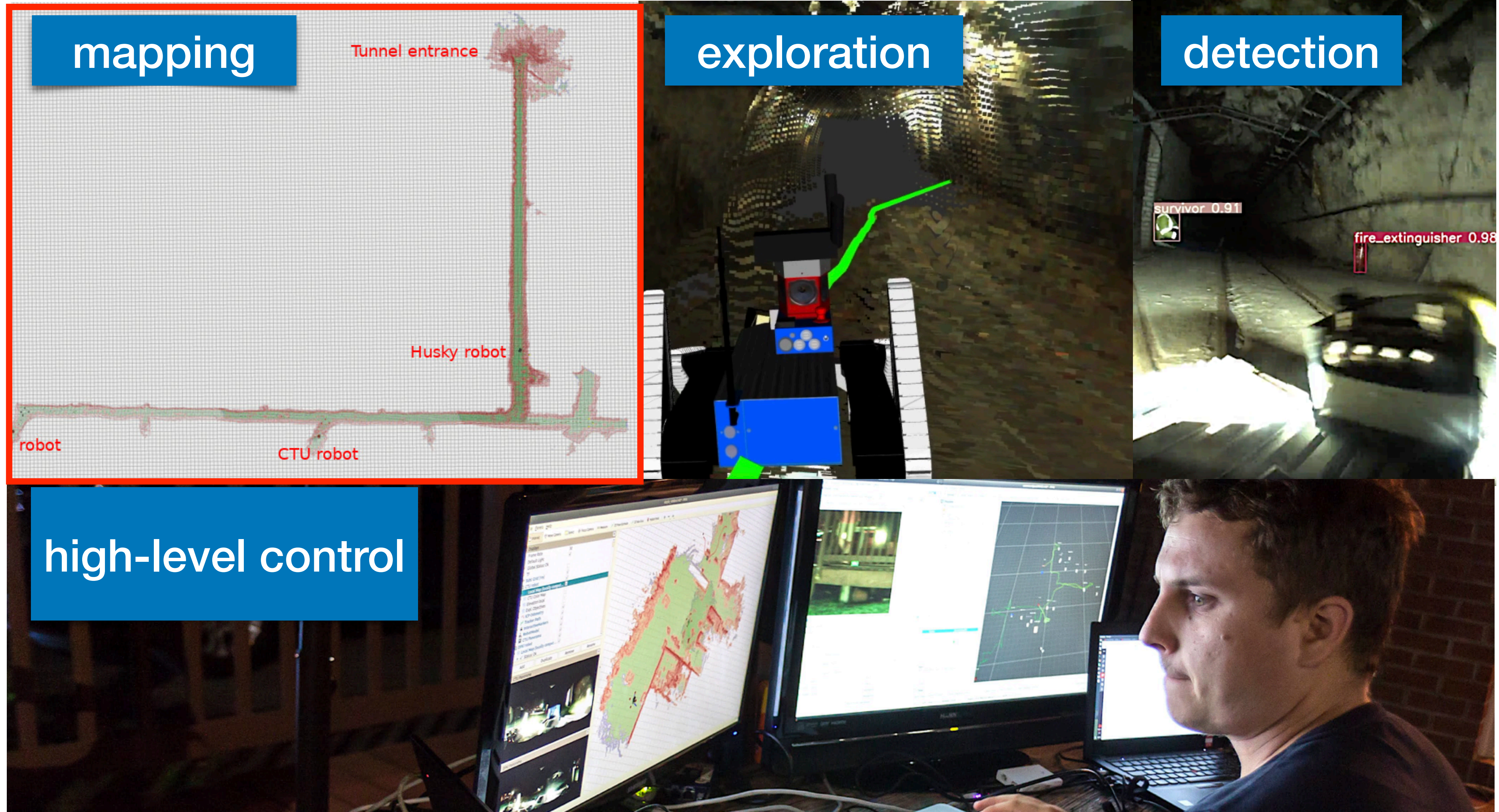
learned reward function  
(traversability map)

<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a525288.pdf>



# Going back to DARPA

- Should we keep building pipelines or should we rather train all-in-once??

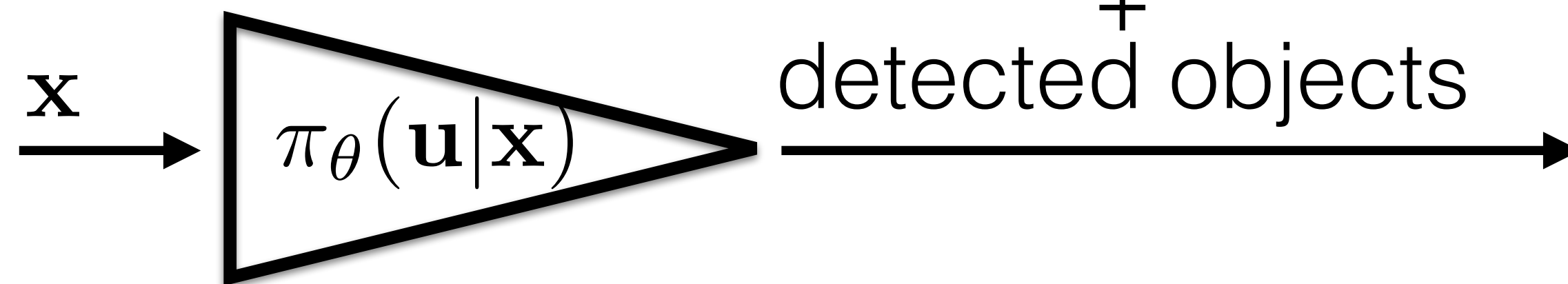




## Going back to DARPA

- Should we keep building pipelines or should we rather train all-in-once??

panoramic images



Policy:  
 $\pi_{\theta}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}, \theta)$

# PROS all-in-one approach

[Held and Hein, J. of Comparative Psychology, 1963]

- Self-actuated movement is necessary in order to develop normal perception.
- => independent training of components is bad idea

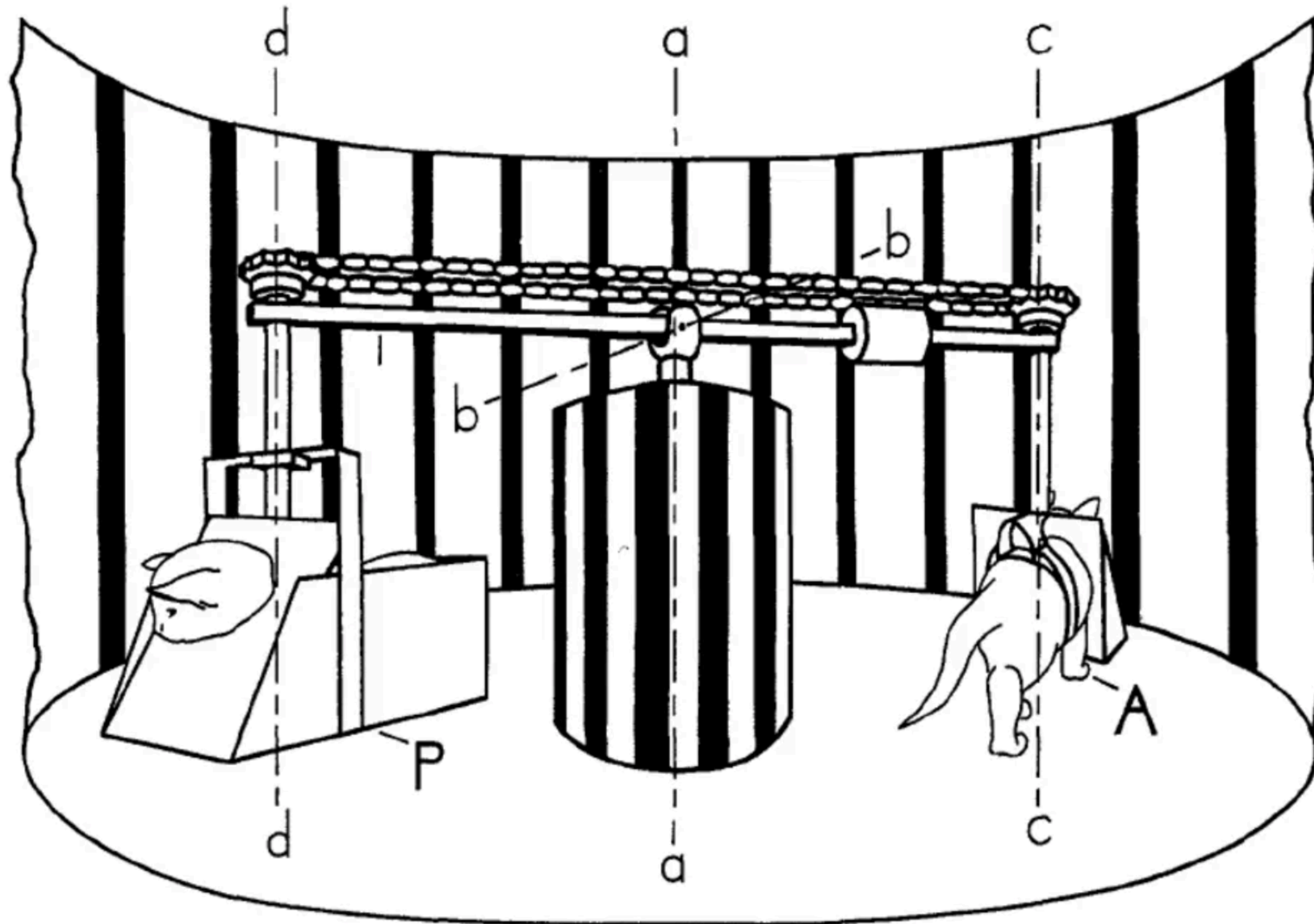


FIG. 1. Apparatus for equating motion and consequent visual feedback for an actively moving (A) and a passively moved (P) S.



## CONS all-in-one approach

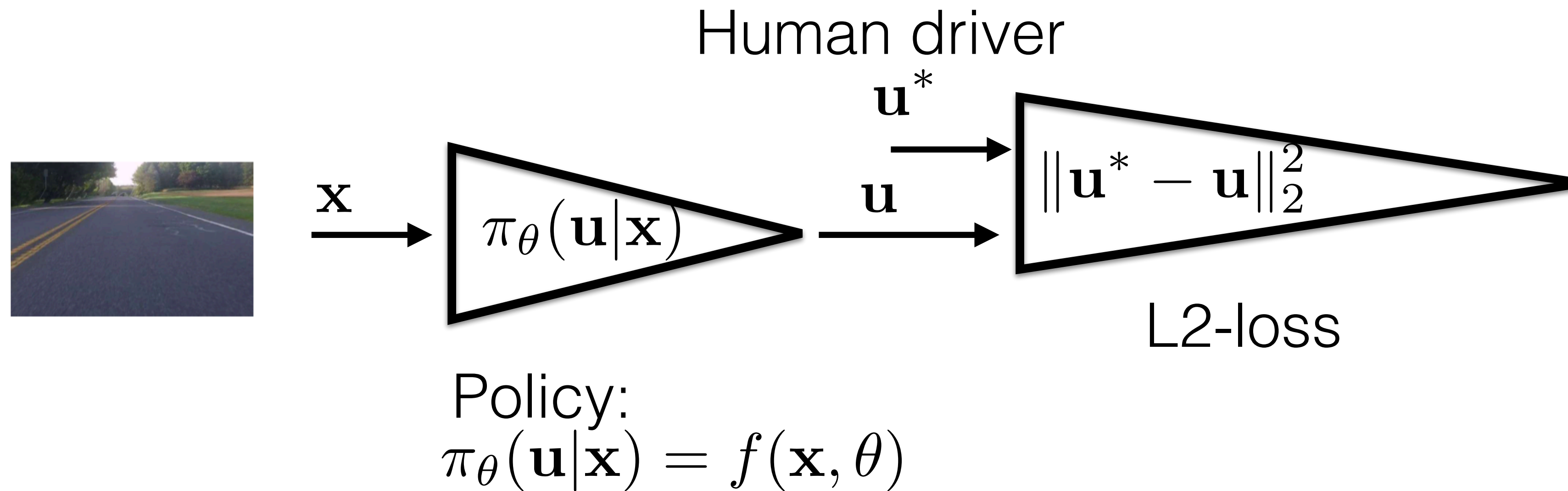
- RL is sample inefficient (>200M transitions required for atari games)
- Real robot can easily break.
- Learning from simulator suffers from simulation bias (e.g. vision)
- Even if you learn an all-in-one network, the behaviour not interpretable.

<https://waymo.com/open/data/perception/>

[NVidia, CVPR, 2016]

<https://images.nvidia.com/content/tegra/automotive/images/2016/solutions/pdf/end-to-end-dl-using-px.pdf>

Straightforward driving of autonomous car by a deep net?

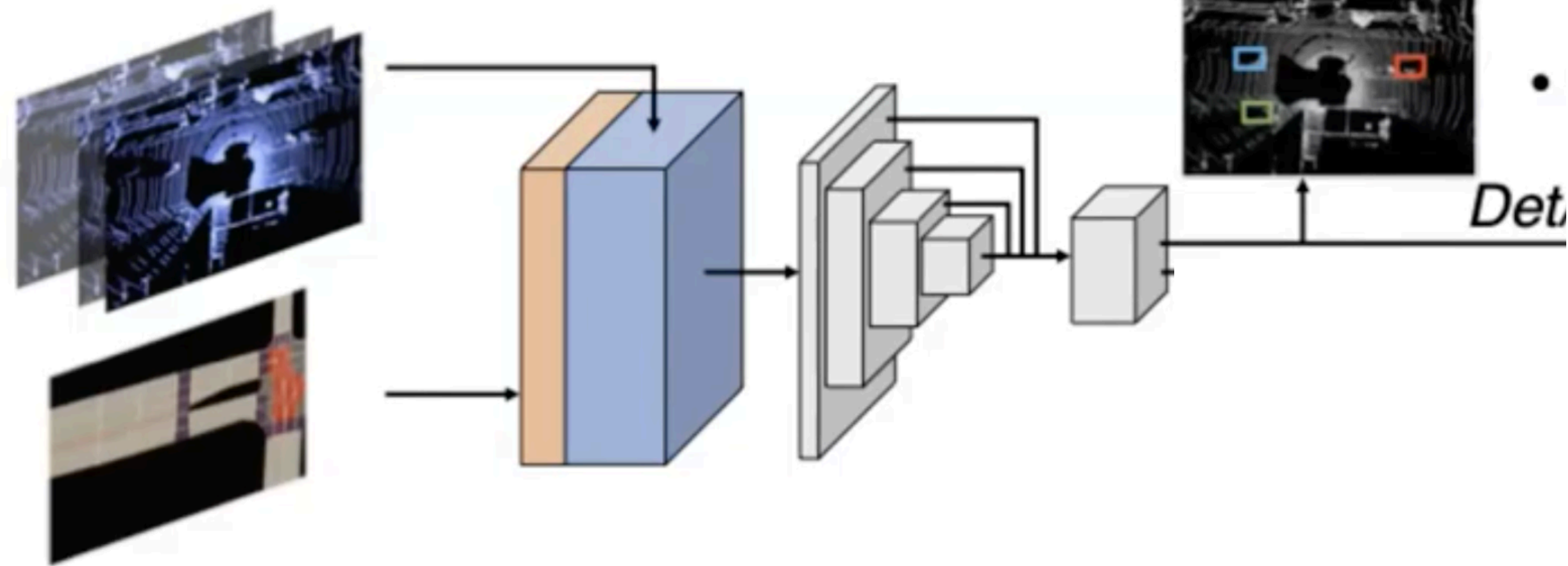


- **Reliable? Explainable? Managable?**

# Interpretable motion planning

[Zeng,.. Urtasun from Uber, CVPR, 2019]

Lidar scans



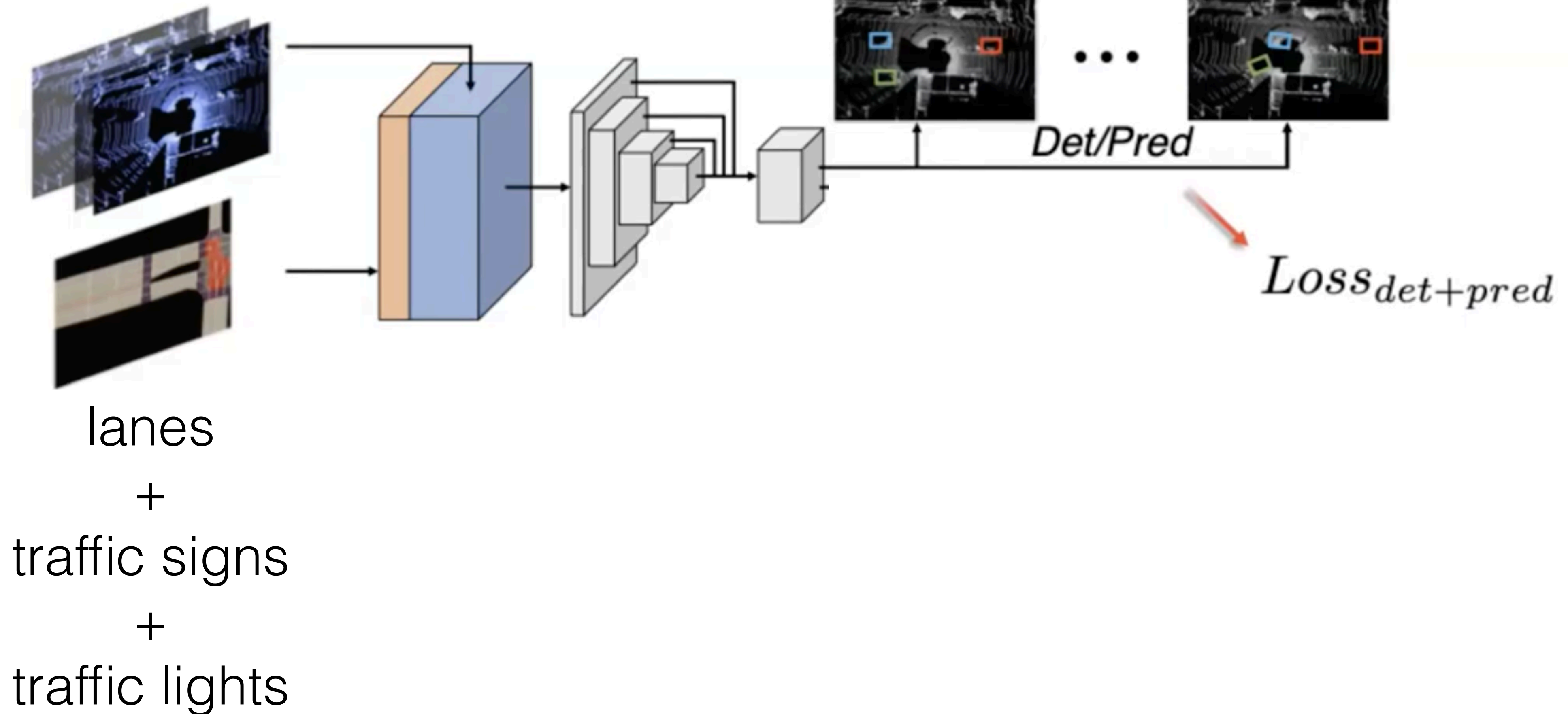
lanes  
+  
traffic signs  
+  
traffic lights



# Interpretable motion planning

[Zeng,.. Urtasun from Uber, CVPR, 2019]

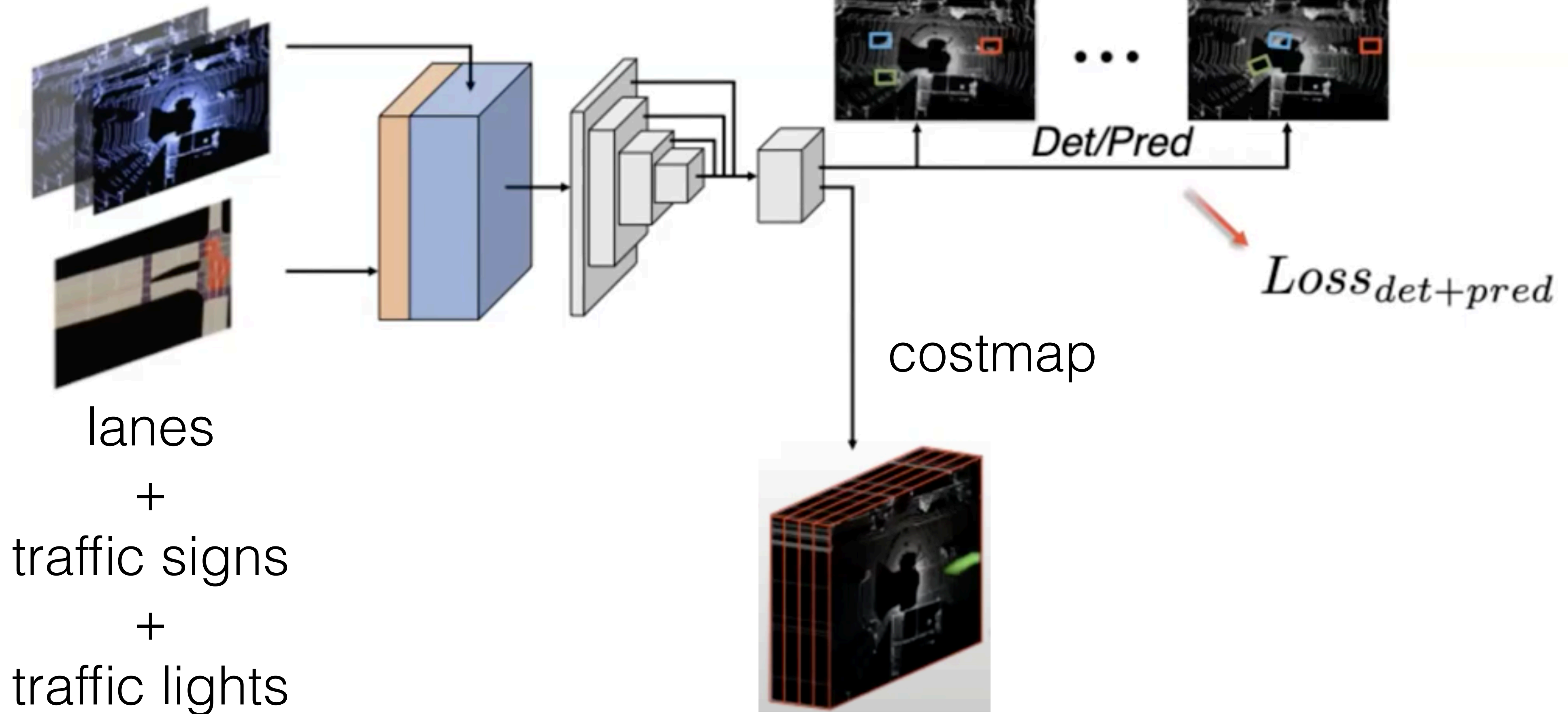
Lidar scans



# Interpretable motion planning

[Zeng,.. Urtasun from Uber, CVPR, 2019]

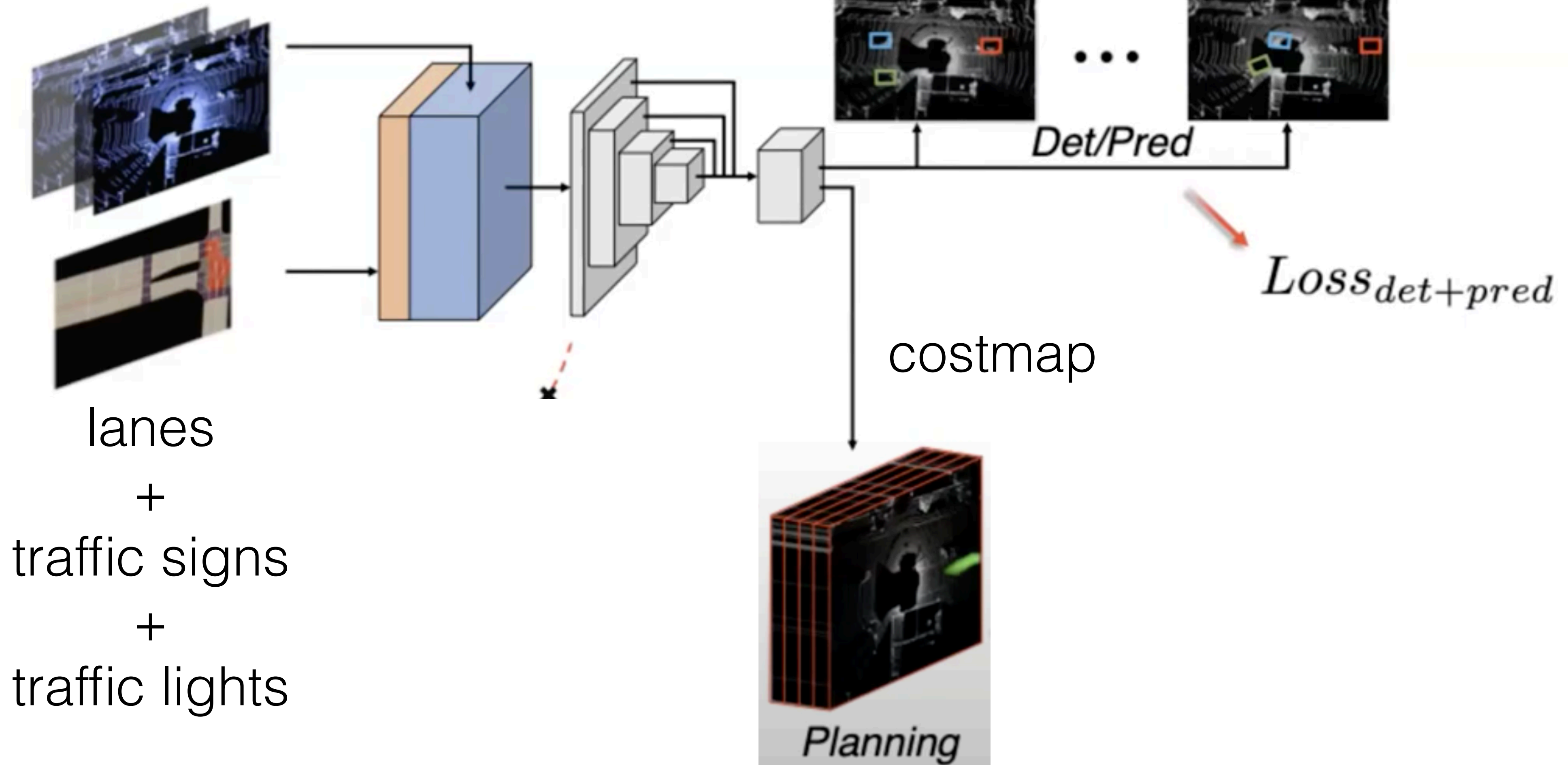
Lidar scans



# Interpretable motion planning

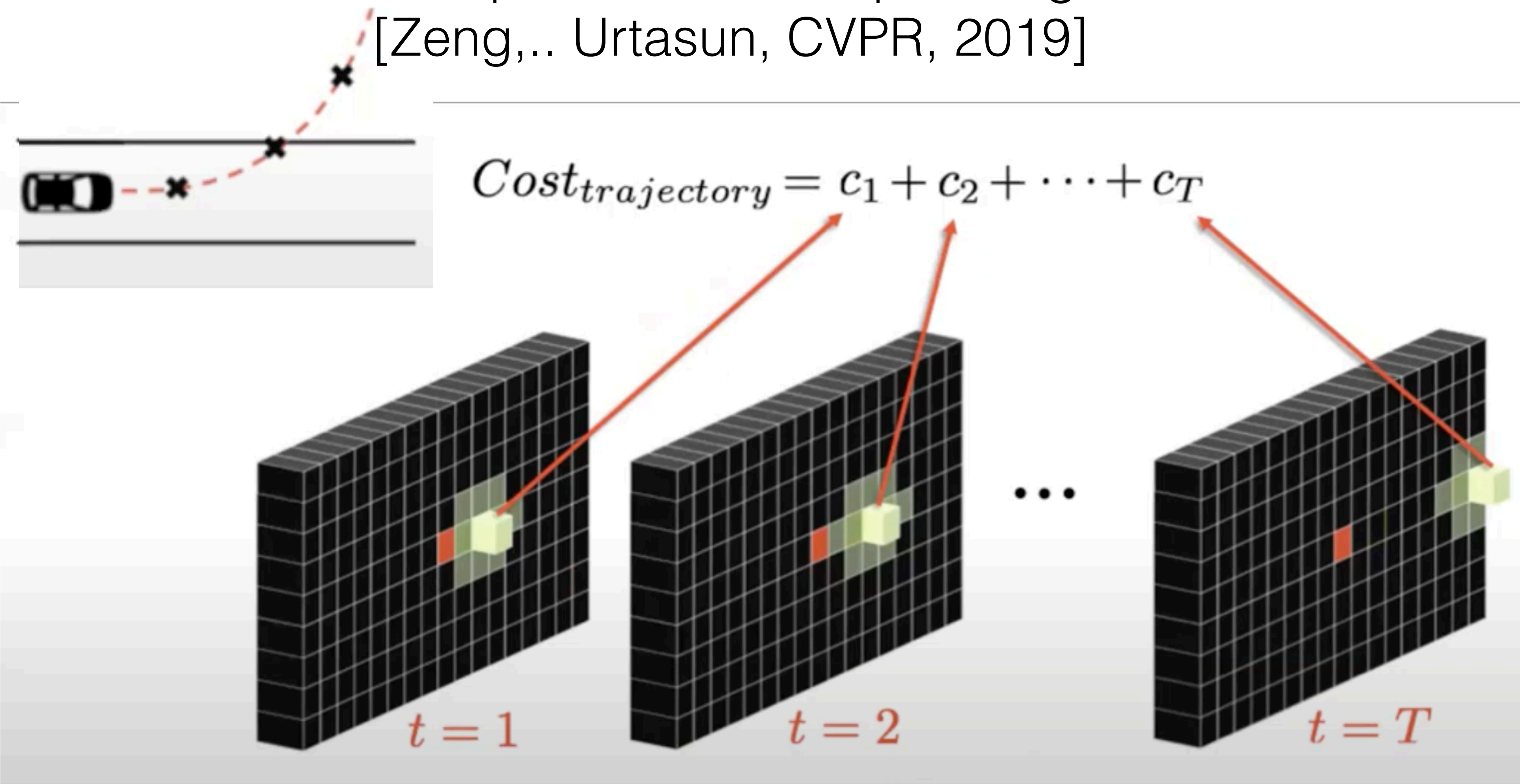
[Zeng,.. Urtasun from Uber, CVPR, 2019]

Lidar scans



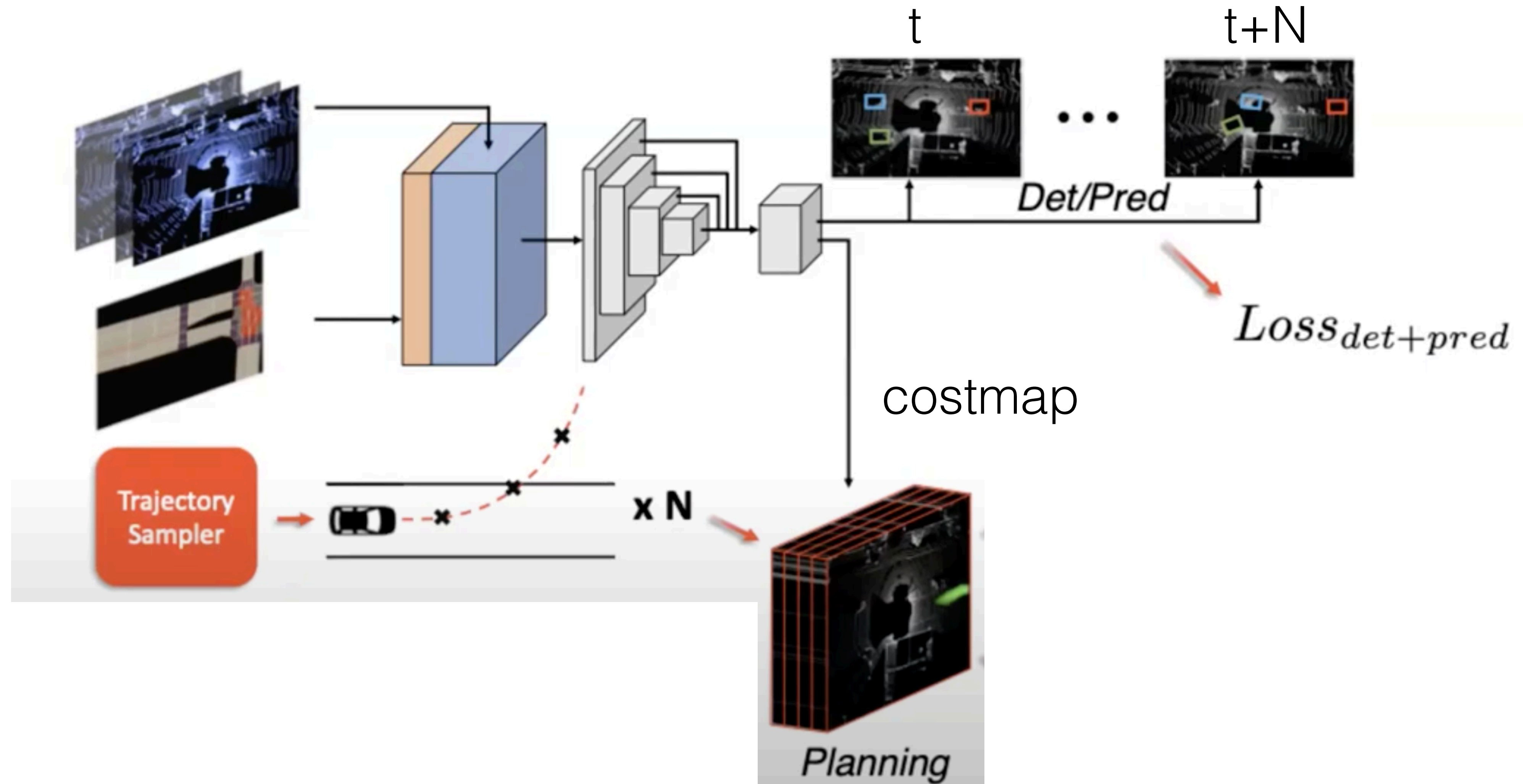


# Interpretable motion planning [Zeng,.. Urtasun, CVPR, 2019]



# Interpretable motion planning

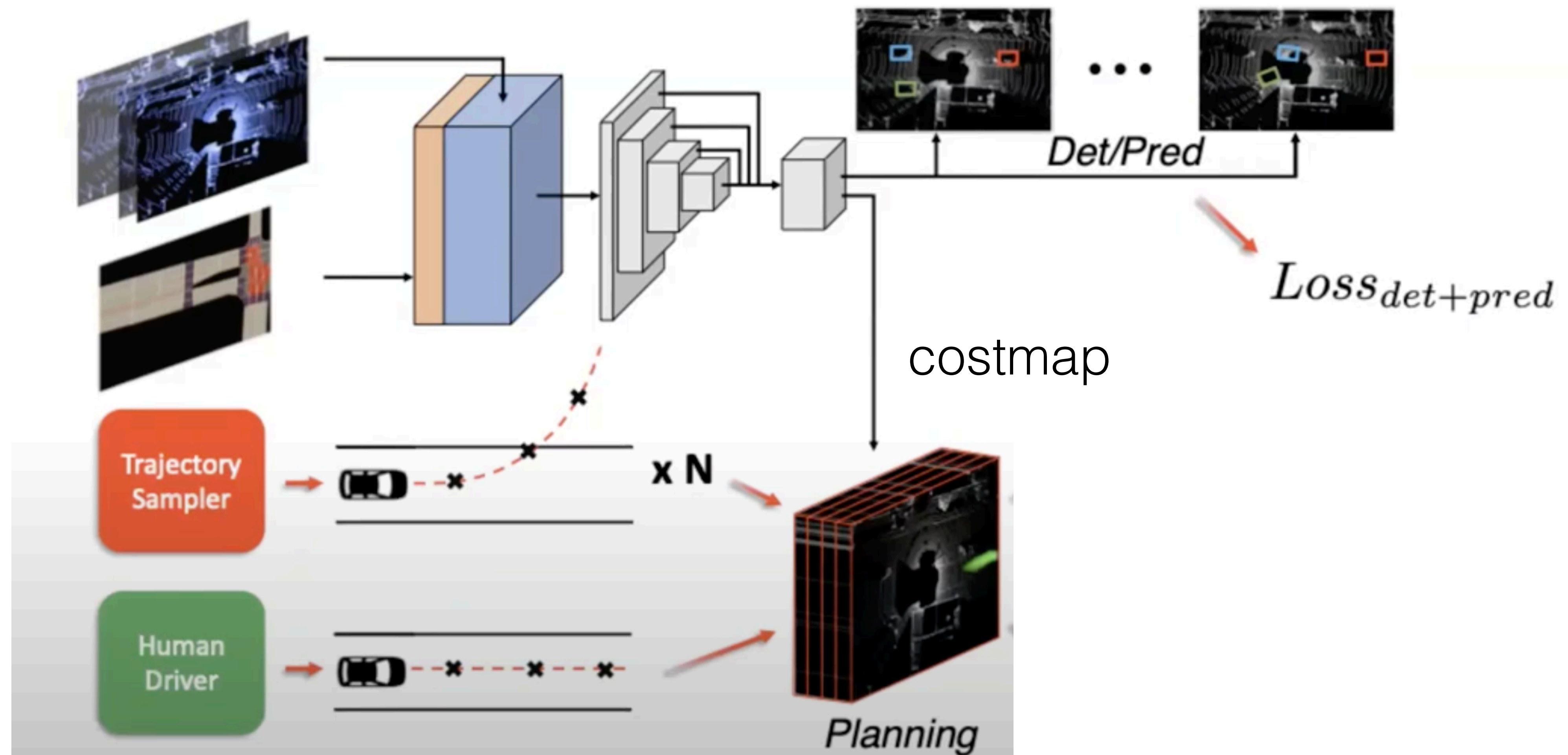
[Zeng,.. Urtasun from Uber, CVPR, 2019]





# Interpretable motion planning

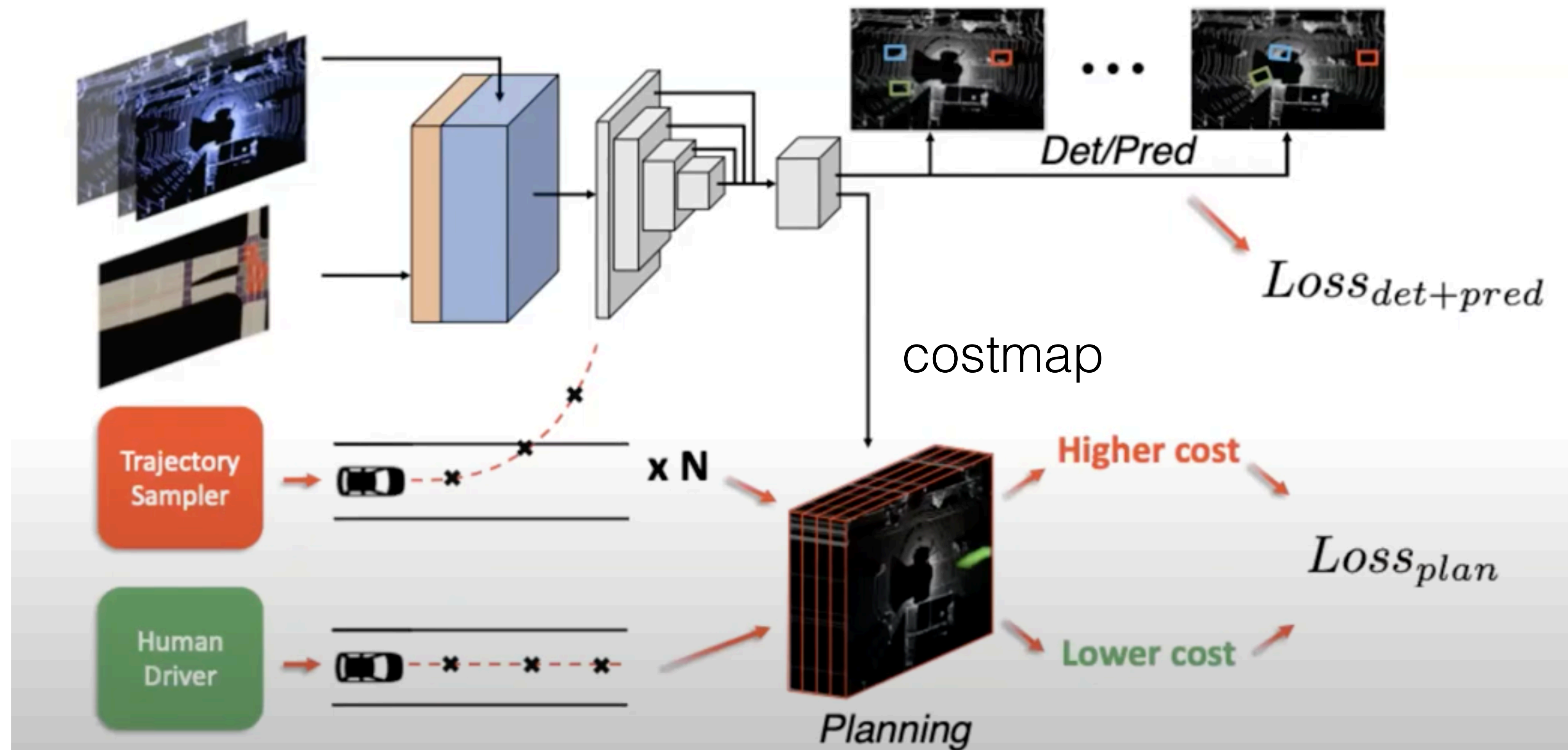
[Zeng,.. Urtasun from Uber, CVPR, 2019]



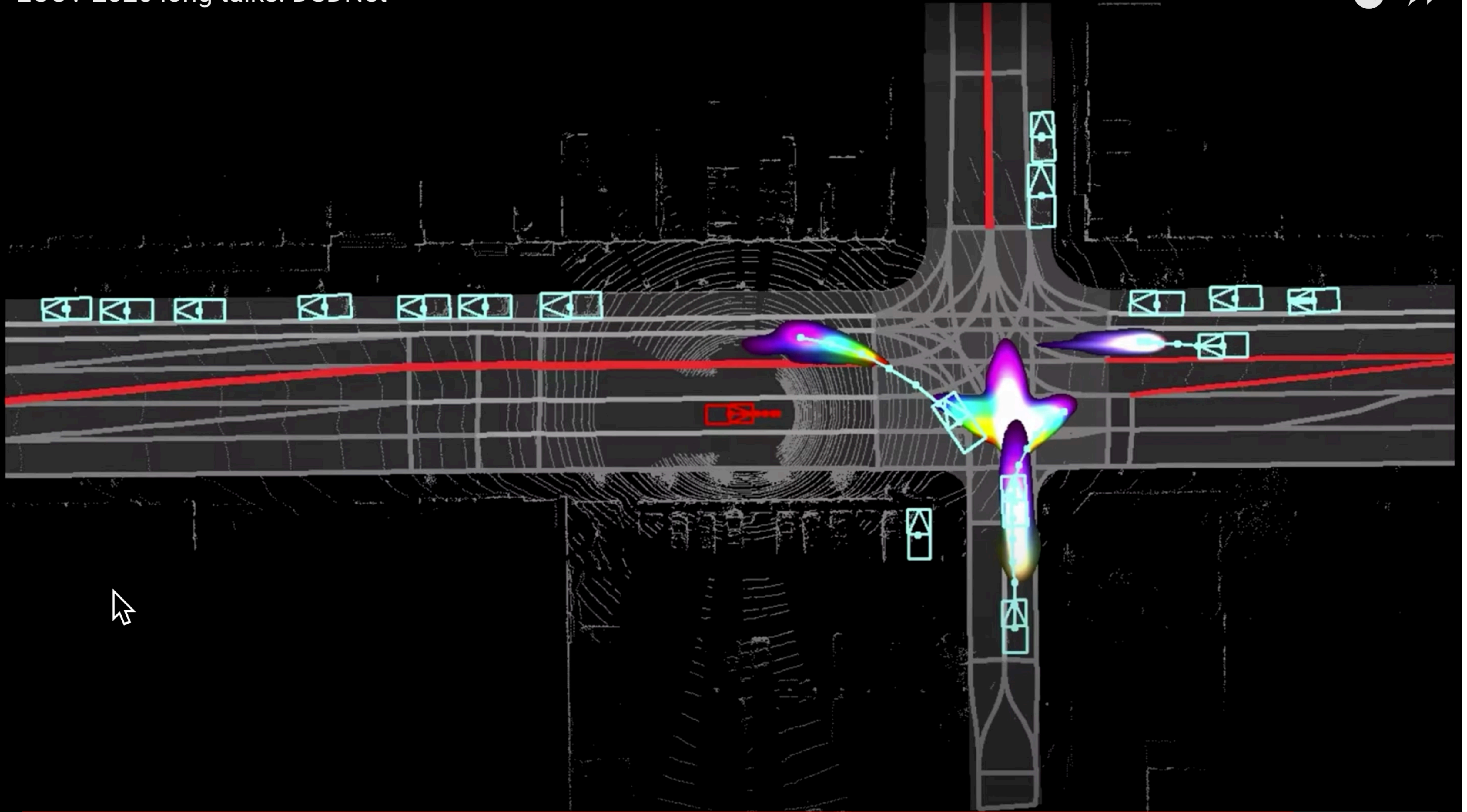


# Interpretable motion planning

[Zeng,.. Urtasun from Uber, CVPR, 2019]



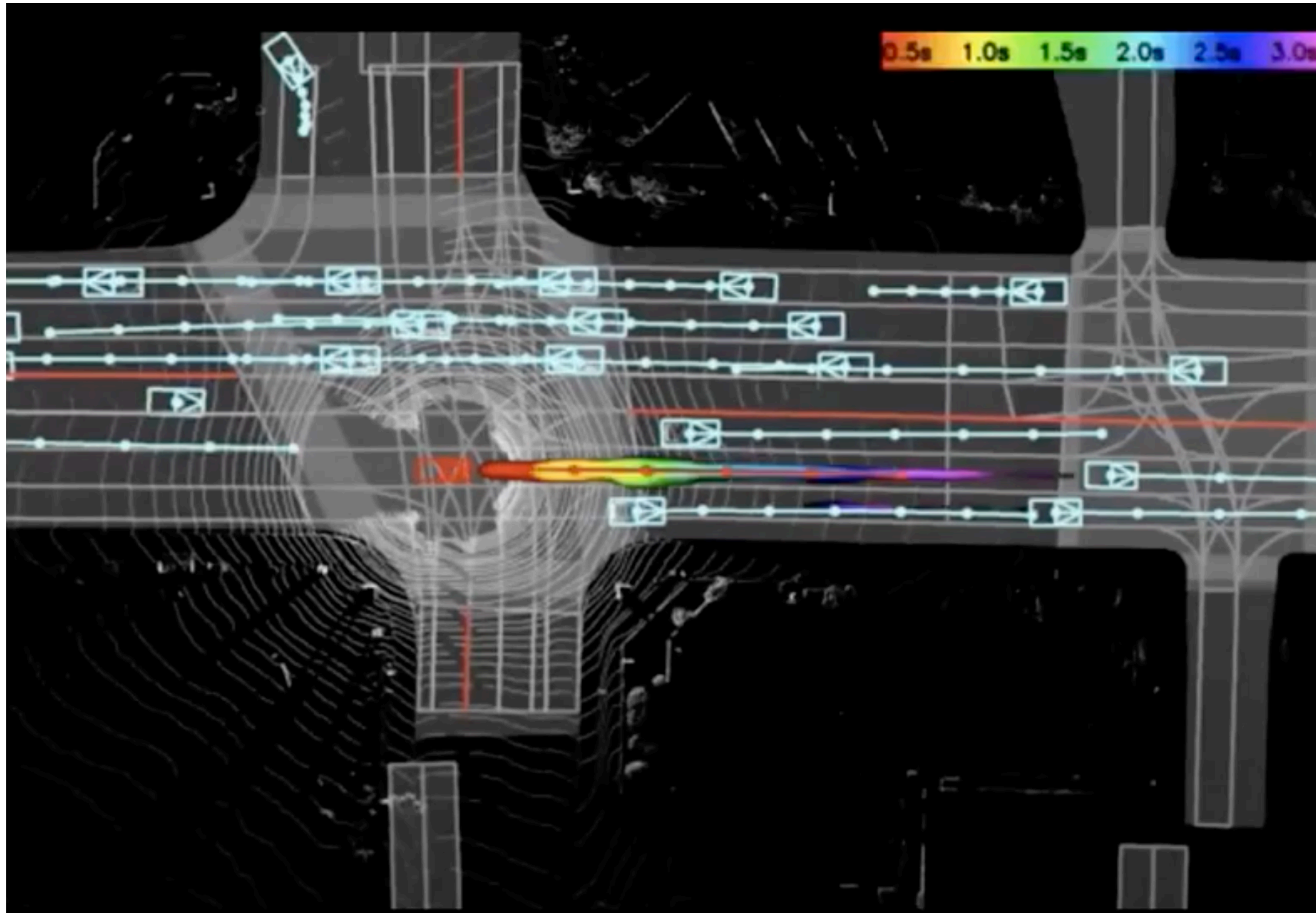






# Interpretable motion planning

[Zeng,.. Urtasun, CVPR, 2019]

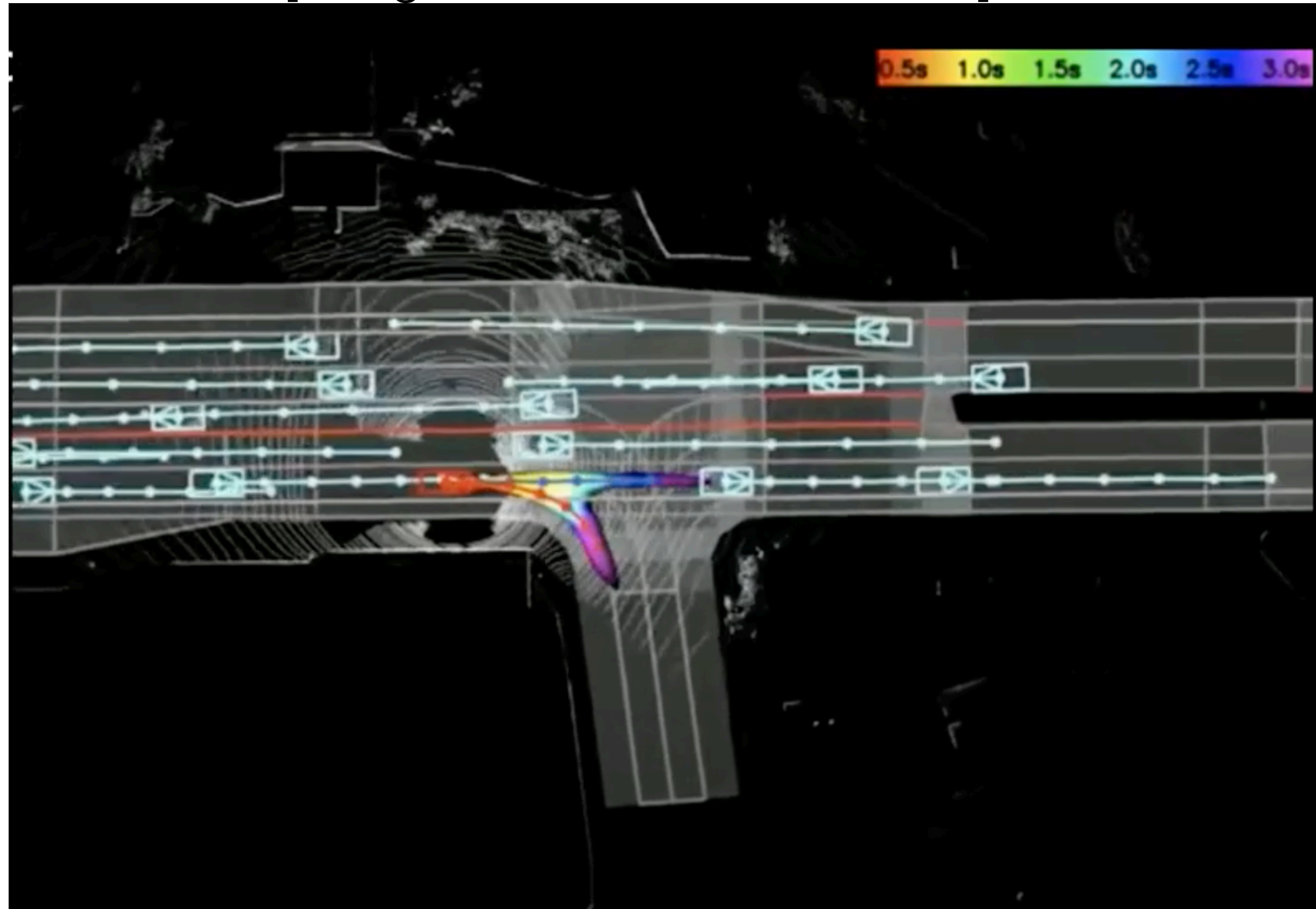


<http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~wenjie/>



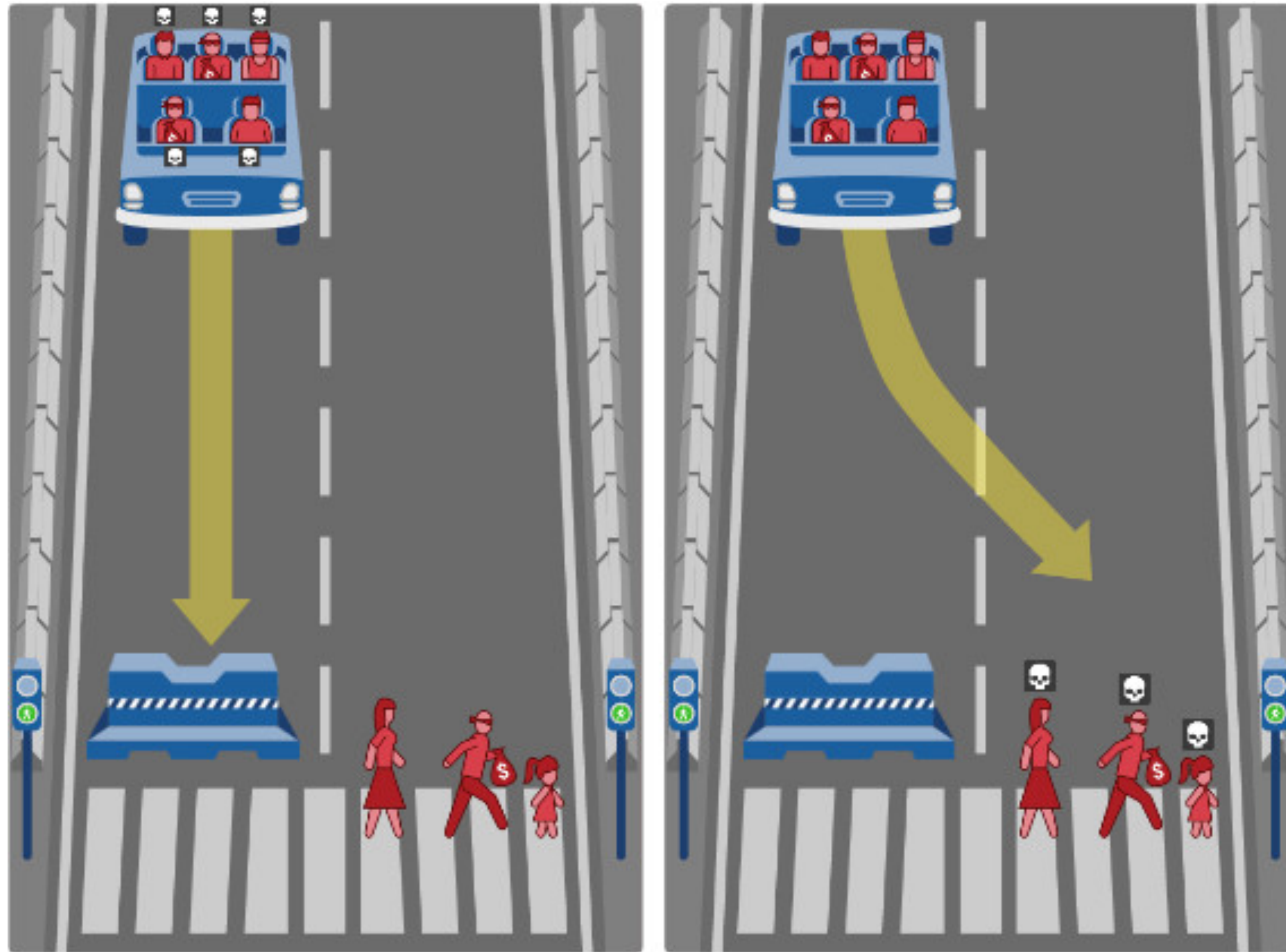
# Interpretable motion planning

[Zeng,.. Urtasun, CVPR, 2019]



<http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~wenjie/>

# Trolley problem

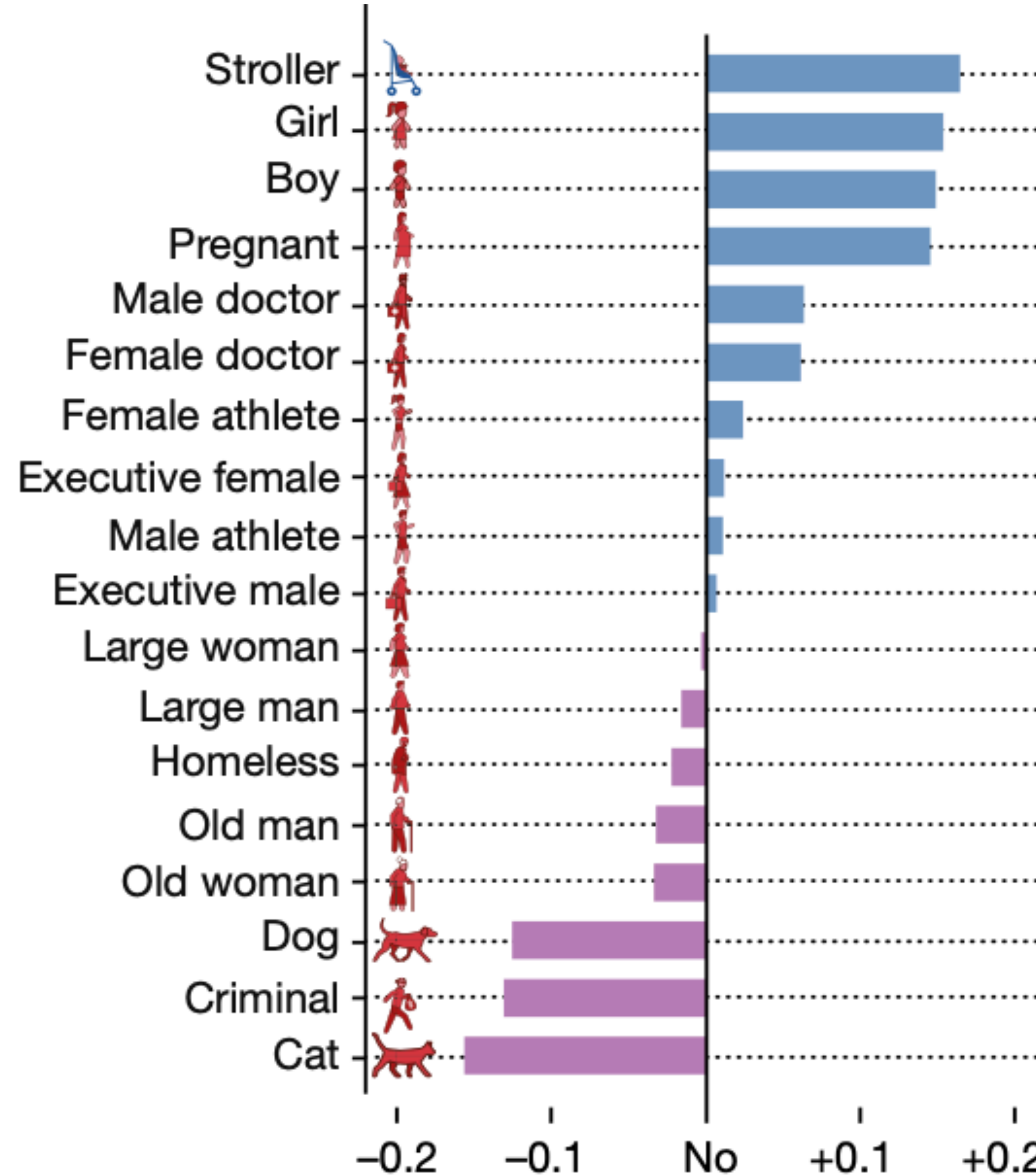


<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-018-0637-6>  
[Moral Machine Experiment, Nature, 2018]



# Trolley problem

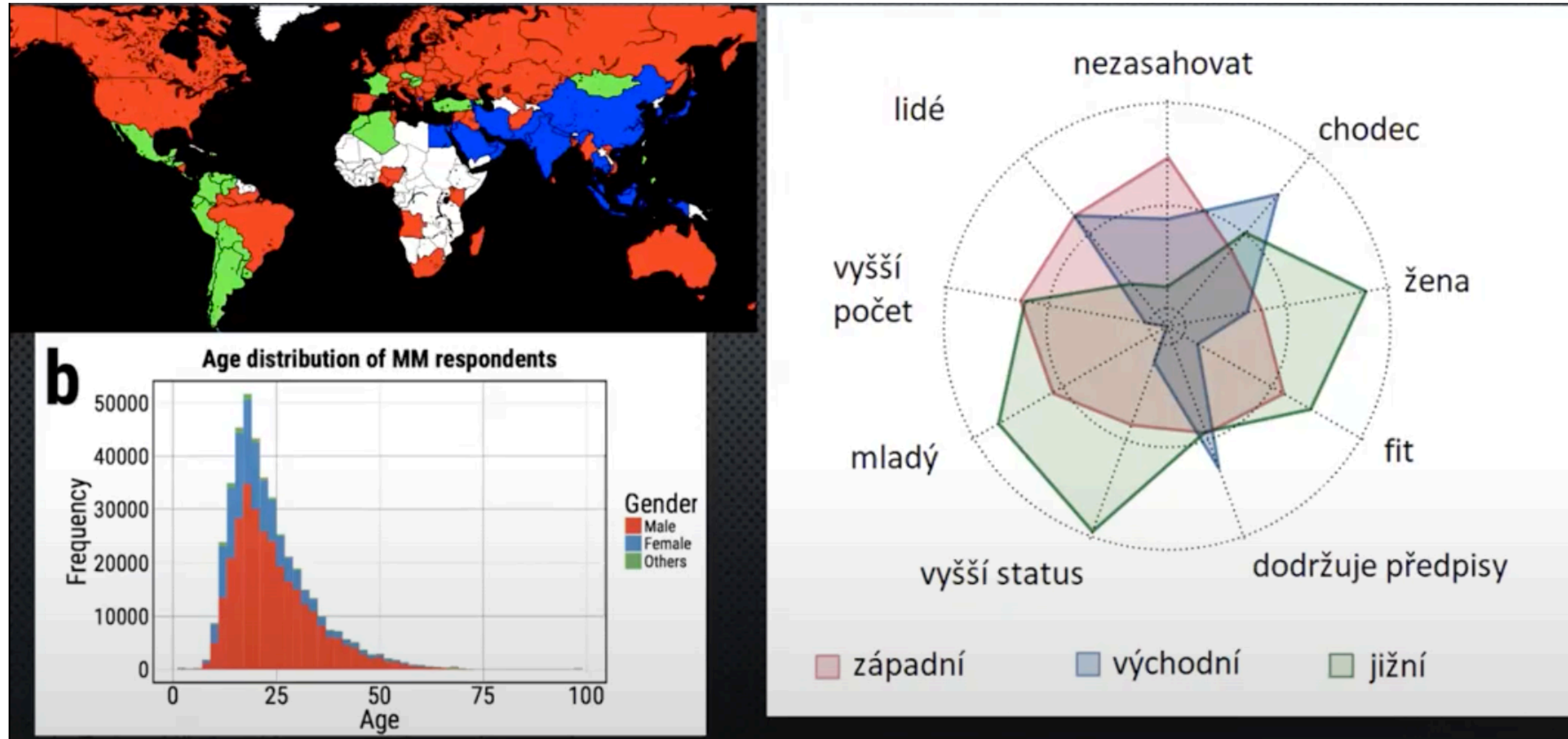
estimated preference (normalized rewards) for life saving



<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-018-0637-6>  
[Moral Machine Experiment, Nature, 2018]



# Trolley problem spatial distribution of life-saving preferences



<https://www.moralmachine.net>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-018-0637-6>  
[Moral Machine Experiment, Nature, 2018]

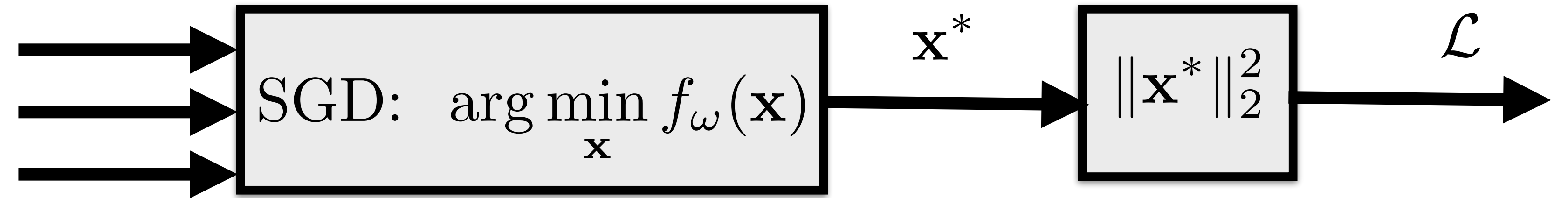
# Can we backpropagate through optimization problem?





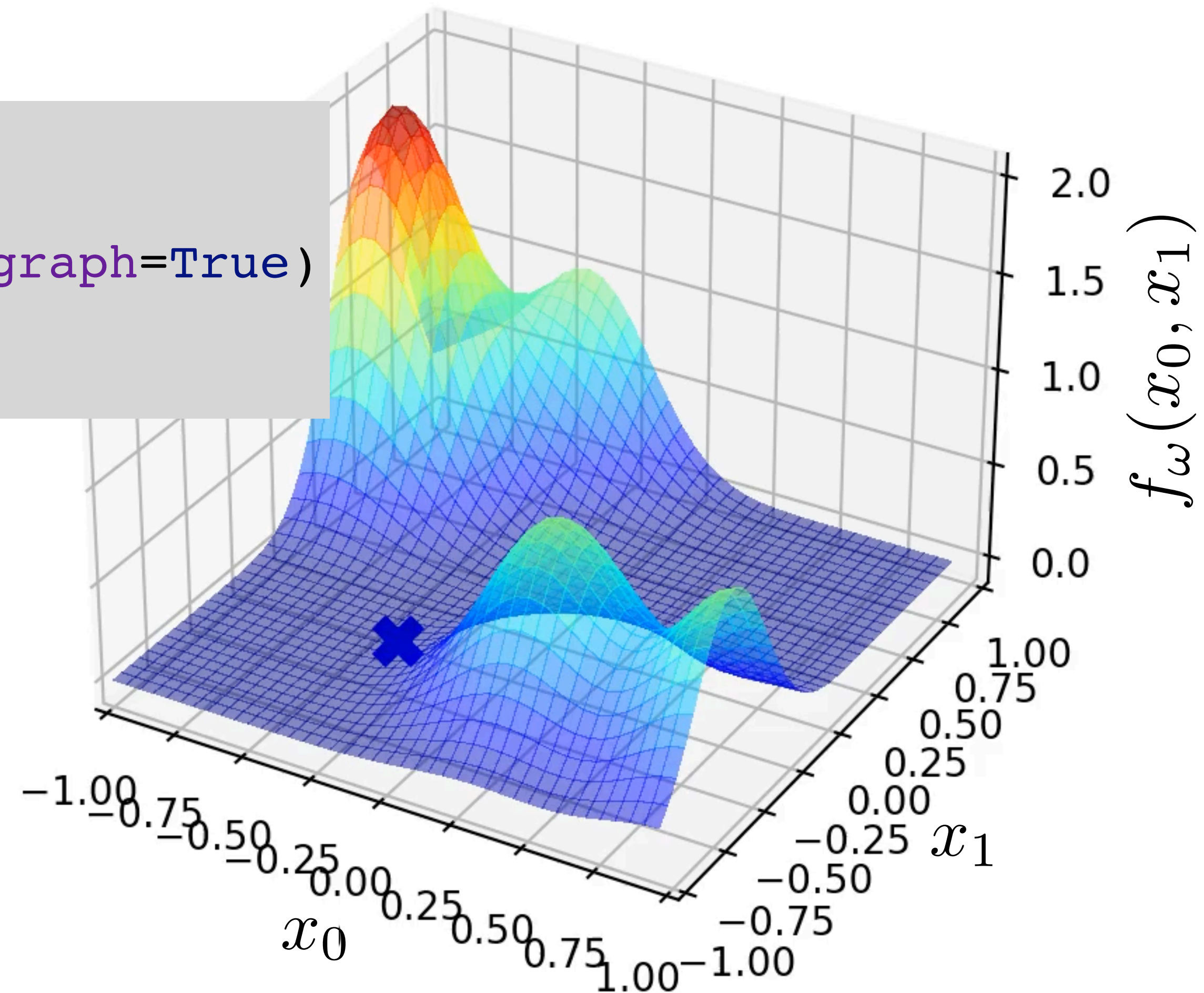
# Can we backpropagate through optimization problem?

$\mathbf{x}_0$  ... initial point  
 $\omega$  ... criterion params  
 $\alpha, \beta$  ... optimizer params



PyTorch:

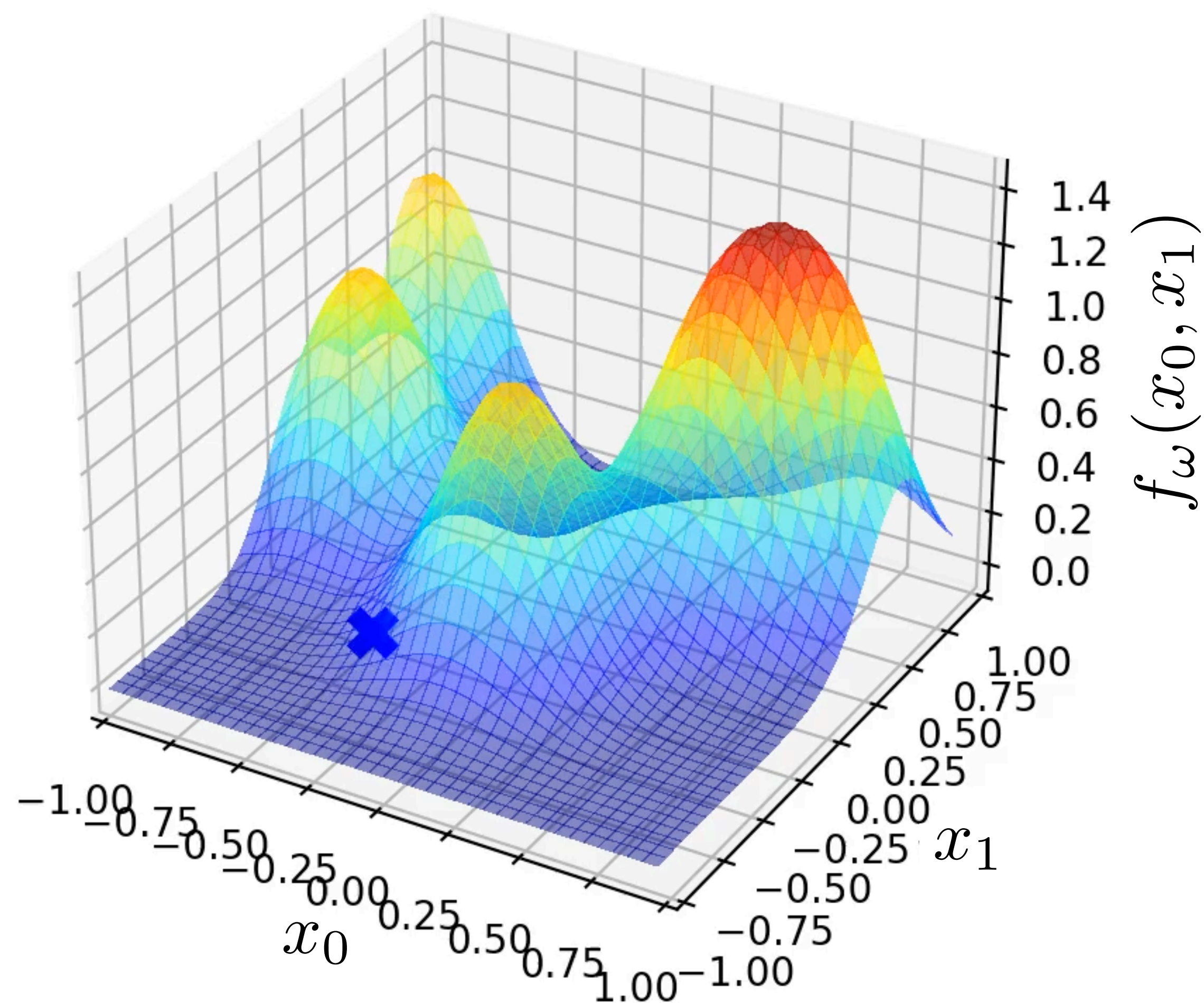
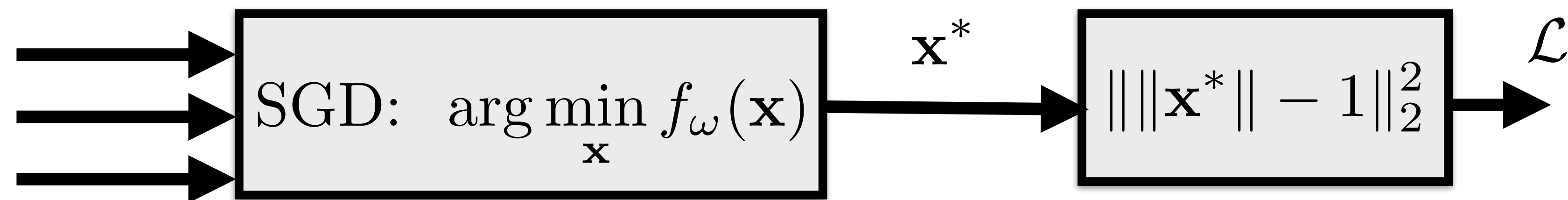
```
for i in range(iter):  
    f = ...  
    x = x - torch.autograd.grad(f(x), x, retain_graph=True)  
    loss = x.norm()  
    loss.backward()
```





# Can we backpropagate through optimization problem?

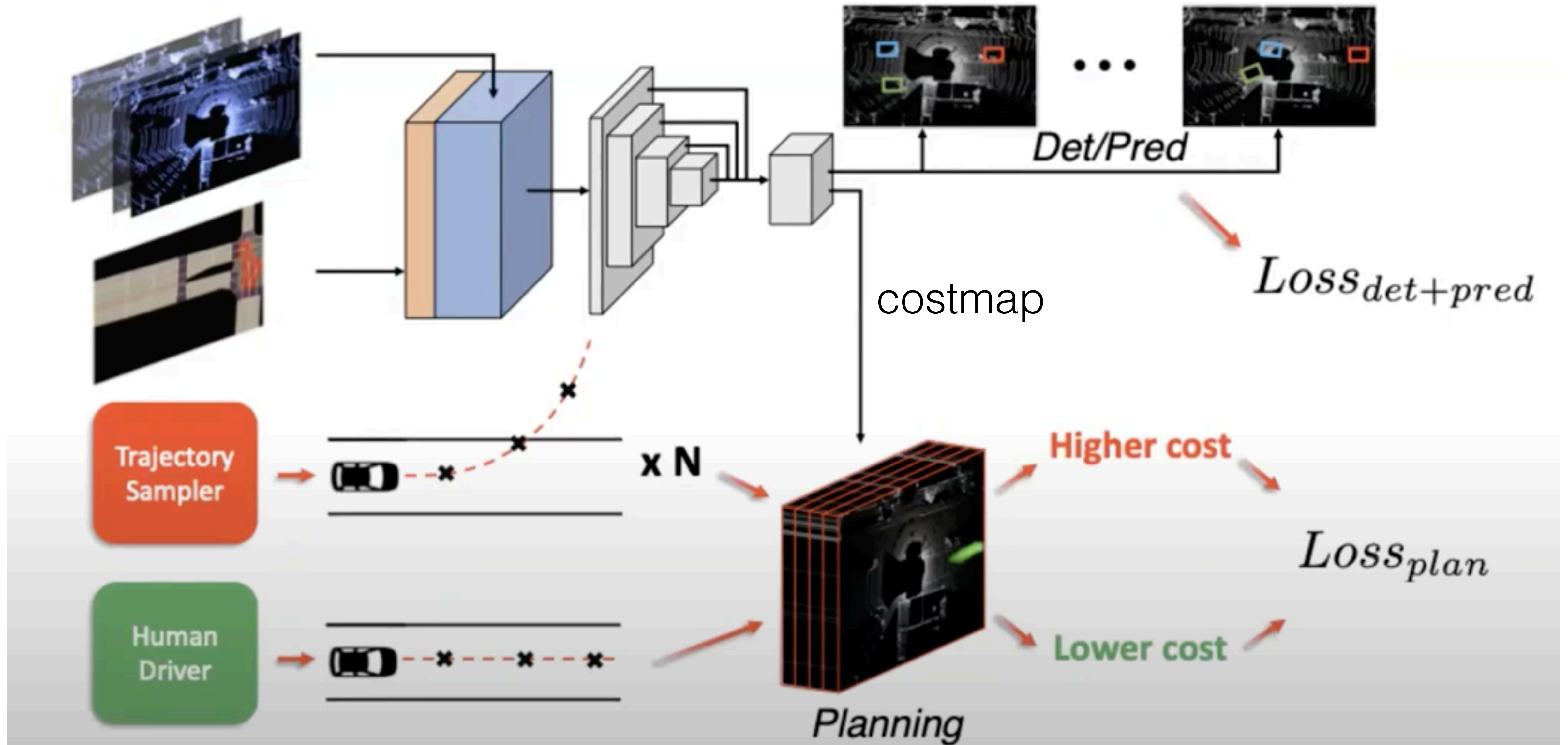
$\mathbf{x}_0$  ... initial point  
 $\omega$  ... criterion params  
 $\alpha, \beta$  ... optimizer params



Examples of differentiable optimization problems related to robotics



Interpretable motion planning  
[Zeng,.. Urtasun, Uber, CVPR, 2019]  
<http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~wenjie/>





PyTorch embedded modeling language for convex optimization problems

<https://www.cvxpy.org/>

[Boyd, et al, NIPS, 2019]

```
cvxpylayer = CvxpyLayer(problem, parameters=[A, b], variables=[x])  
solution, = cvxpylayer(A, b) # feed-forward pass (solve the problem)  
solution.sum().backward() # backward pass (how A,b influence solution)
```

CVXpy

$$x^*(\theta) = \underset{x}{\operatorname{argmin}} f(x; \theta)$$

subject to  $g(x; \theta) \leq 0$   
 $h(x; \theta) = 0$

<https://www.cvxpy.org/>

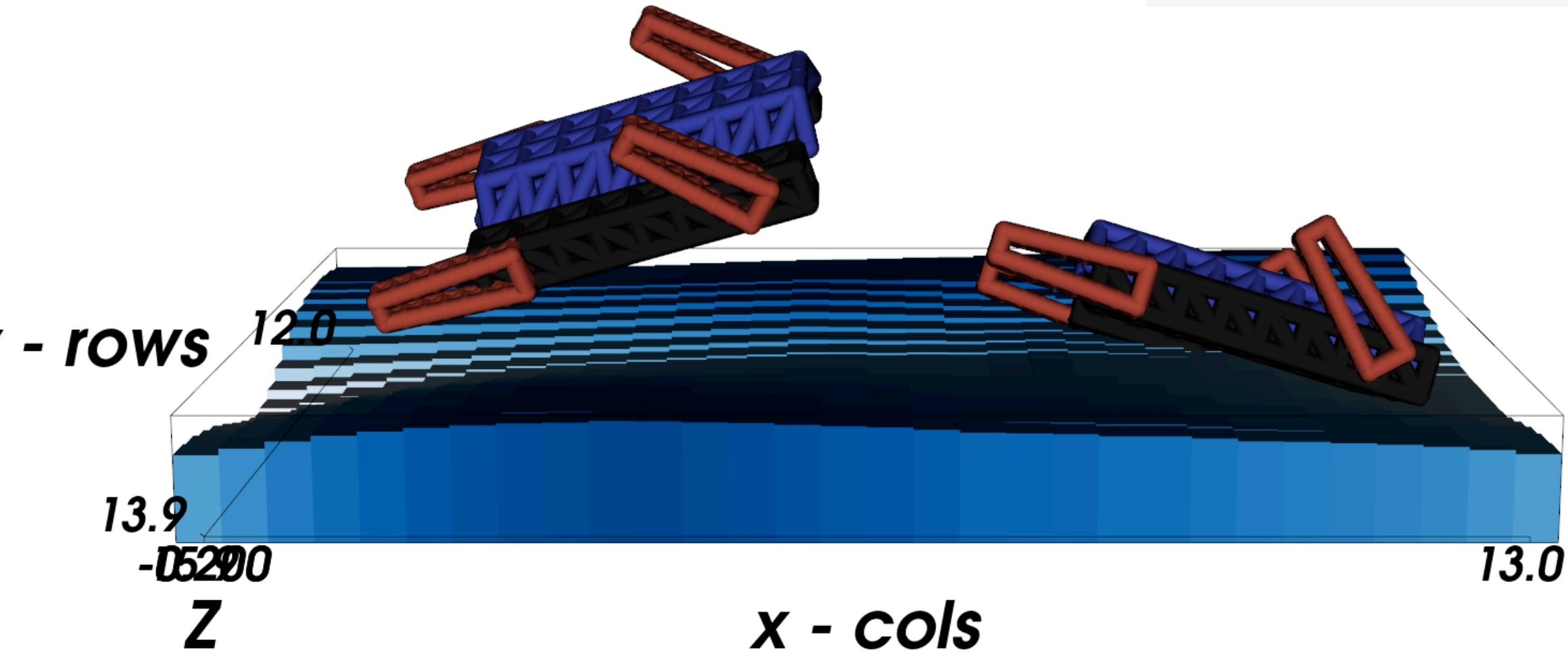
 PyTorch



TensorFlow

Pose consistency KKT-loss for weakly supervised learning of robot-terrain interaction model  
 [Salansky, Zimmermann, Petricek, Svoboda, RAL, 2021]

```
loss = loss_kkt(robot_pose, net(sparse_input), robot_model)
loss.backward()
```



ground truth  
 robot pose  $\Phi^*$

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\Phi=[\alpha, \mathbf{t}]} \sum_i m_i \cdot g \cdot [\mathbf{R}(\alpha) \cdot \mathbf{p}_i + \mathbf{t}]_z$$

$$\hat{h}_i - [\mathbf{R}(\alpha) \cdot \mathbf{p}_i + \mathbf{t}]_z \leq 0 \quad \forall_i$$

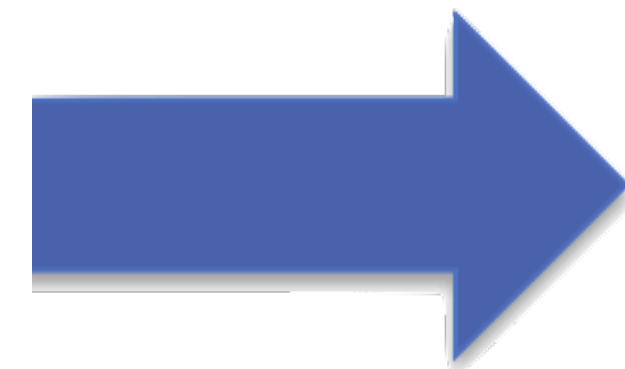
$\Phi$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{kkt}}(\phi, \hat{\mathbf{h}})}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{h}}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{h}}} \min_{\lambda} \left\{ \left\| \sum_i (m_i g - \lambda_i) \frac{\partial [\mathbf{R}(\alpha) \cdot \mathbf{p}_i + \mathbf{t}]_z}{\partial \alpha, \mathbf{t}} \right\|_2^2 + \sum_i \left( \lambda_i \cdot (\hat{h}_i - [\mathbf{R}(\alpha) \cdot \mathbf{p}_i + \mathbf{t}]_z) \right)^2 + C \cdot \left( \max\{0, \hat{h}_i - [\mathbf{R}(\alpha) \cdot \mathbf{p}_i + \mathbf{t}]_z\} \right)^2 \mid \lambda \geq 0 \right\}$$

Cost

System  
Dynamics

Initial State



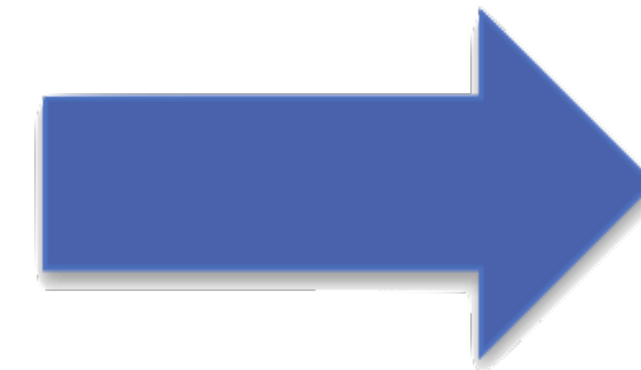
QP Iterate  $i$

$$\tau_{1:T}^i = \operatorname{argmin}_{\tau_{1:T}} \sum_t \tilde{C}_\theta^i(\tau_t)$$

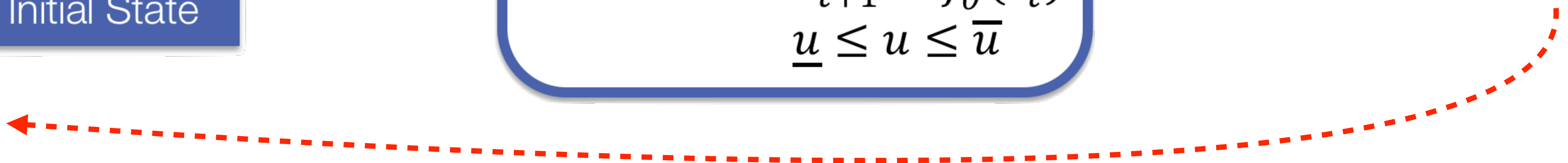
subject to  $x_1 = x_{init}$

$$x_{t+1} = \tilde{f}_\theta^i(\tau_t)$$

$$\underline{u} \leq u \leq \bar{u}$$



Optimal actions  
to take next



$$\frac{\partial \text{MPC}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{D}, \text{cost})}{\partial \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{D}, \text{cost}} = ?$$

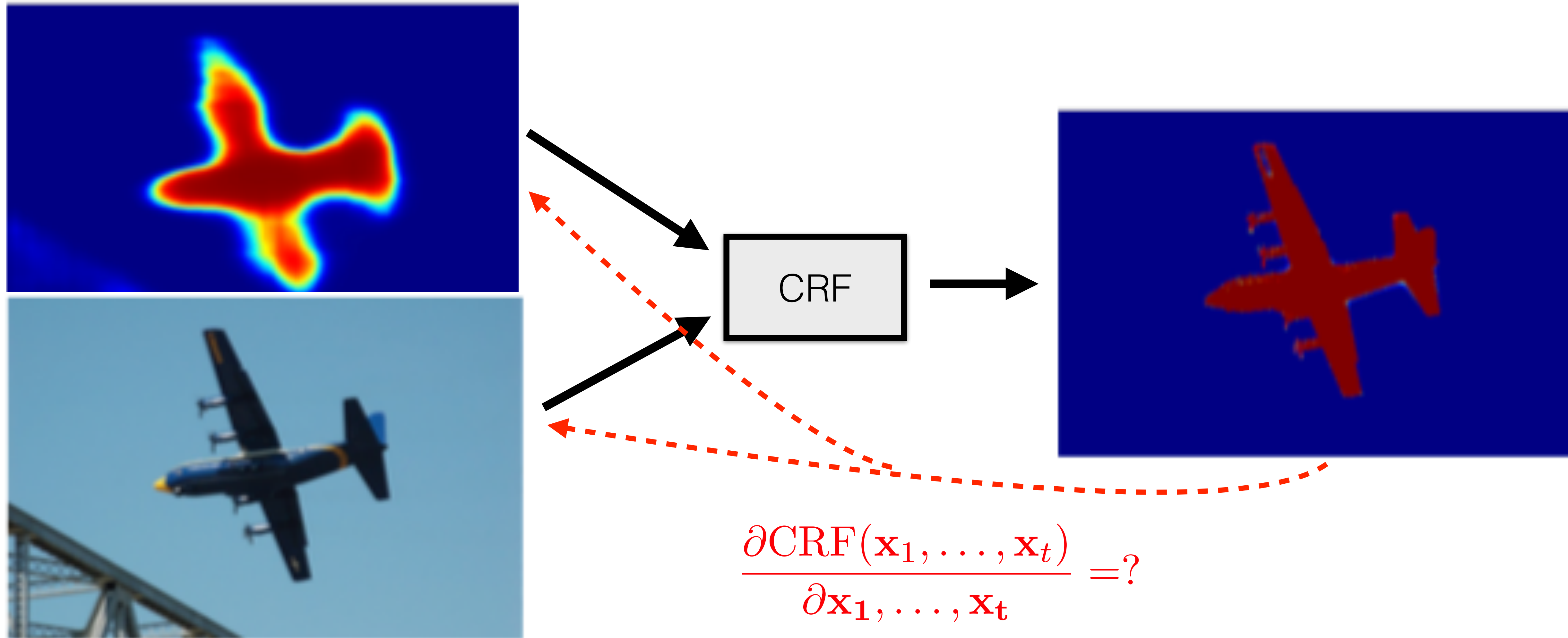


# PyTorch implementation of differentiable ConvCRF layer

[Teichmann & Cipolla, BMVC, 2019]

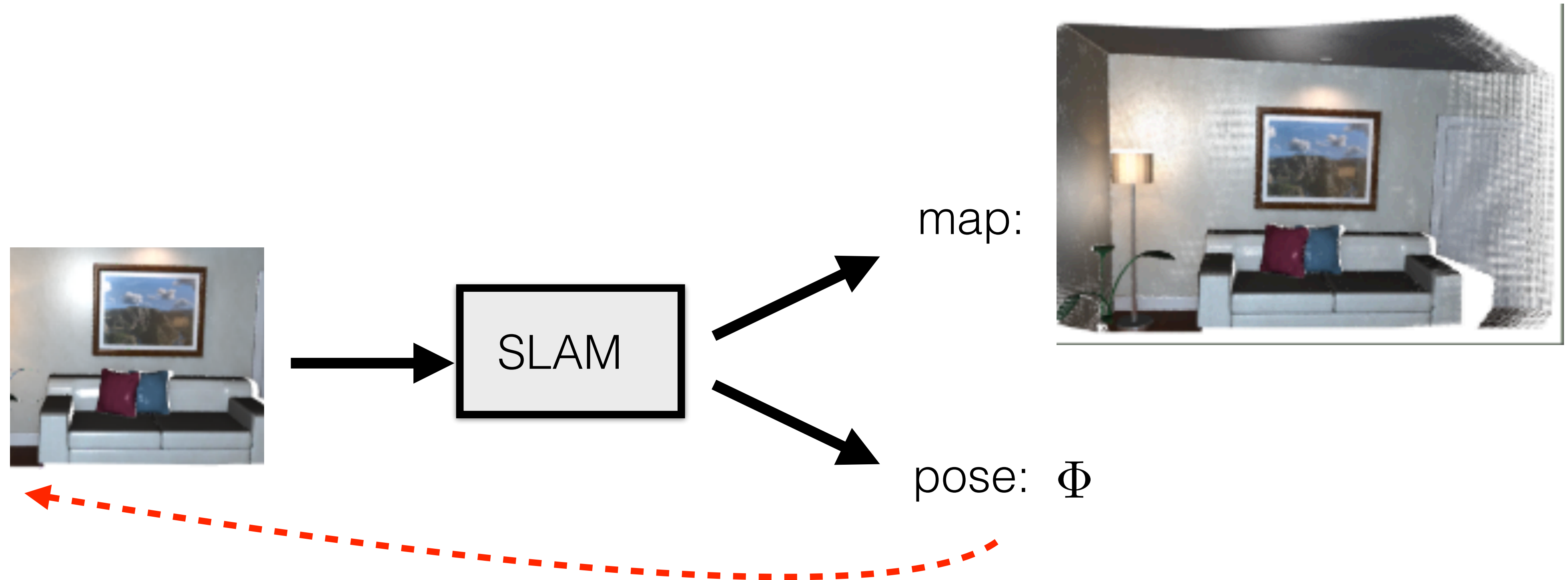
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1805.04777.pdf>

```
pred = gausscrf.forward(unary=unary_var, img=img_var)
```



# Grad SLAM [Murthy, ICRA, 2021]

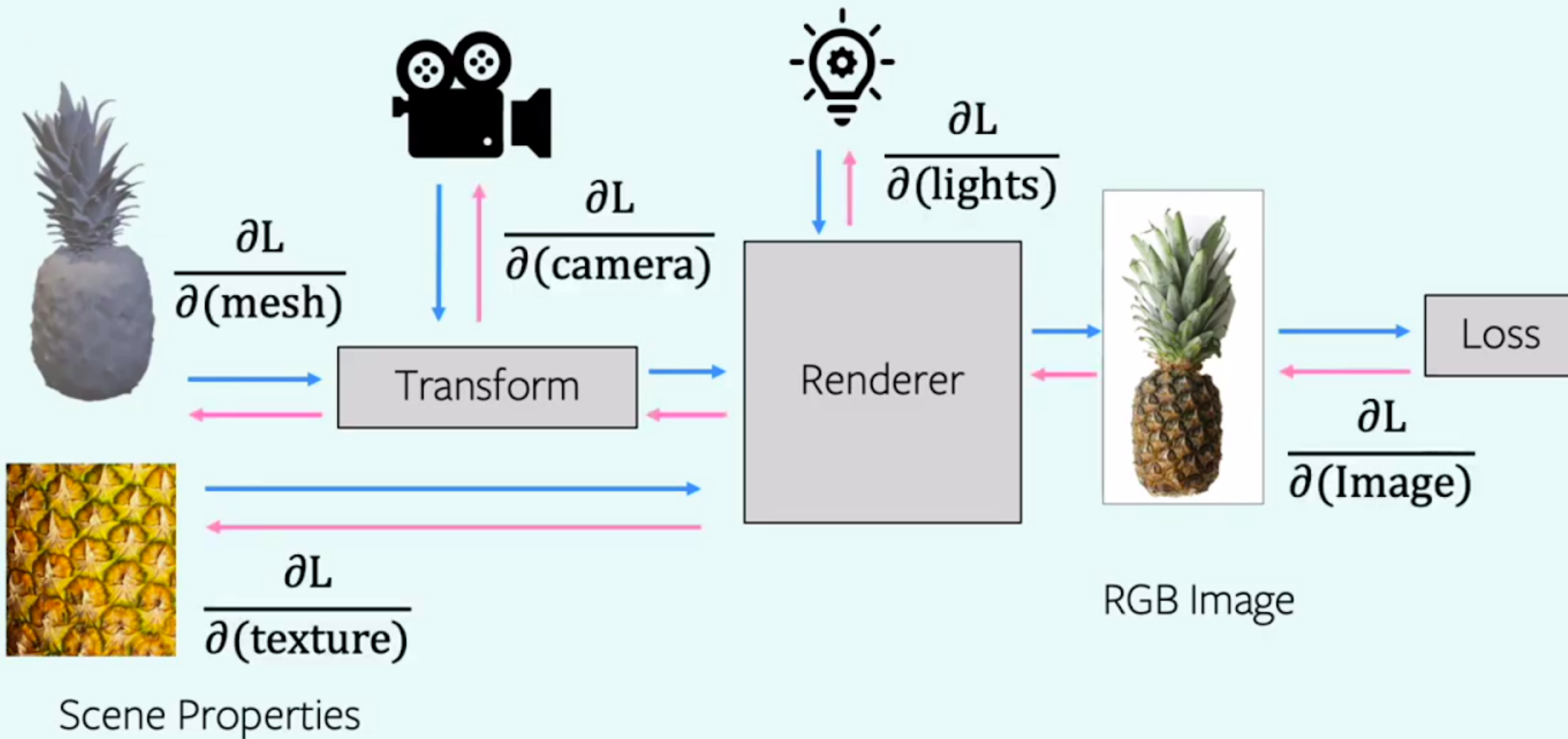
<https://gradslam.github.io/>



$$\frac{\partial \text{SLAM}(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_t)}{\partial \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_t} = ?$$



# DIFFERENTIABLE RENDERING





## Summary

- If accurate differentiable motion model and reward functions are known, then the optimal control is straightforward optimization problem (MPC)
- If model is not available, the RL can backpropagate through MDP, however sparse rewards makes action-reward-association problem very hard
- **Well engineered piece-wise architecture (object detection=> tracking=> planning/control) seems to be a better solution for typical robotic applications (explainable & manageable)**
- **Domain transfer is main bottleneck for real application !!!!**