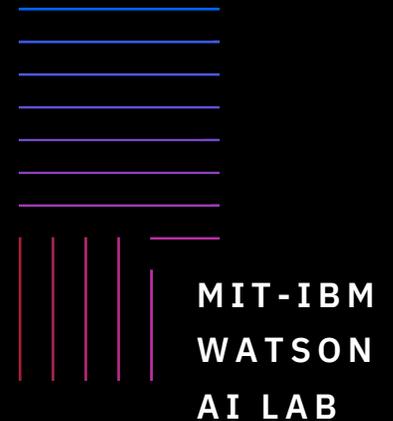


# Neurosymbolic AI

---

David Cox, Ph.D.  
IBM Director, MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab  
IBM Research



“Artificial Intelligence”

# The evolution of AI

**General AI**  
Revolutionary

**Broad AI**  
Disruptive and  
Pervasive

**Narrow AI**  
Emerging

▼ We are here

2050 and beyond

# The evolution of AI

## Narrow AI

Single task, single domain  
Superhuman accuracy and speed for certain tasks



IBM Research AI © 2018 IBM Corporation

## Broad AI

Multi-task, multi-domain  
Multi-modal  
Distributed AI  
Explainable



## General AI

Cross-domain learning and reasoning  
Broad autonomy



# The evolution of AI

## Narrow AI

Single task, single domain  
Superhuman accuracy and speed for certain tasks



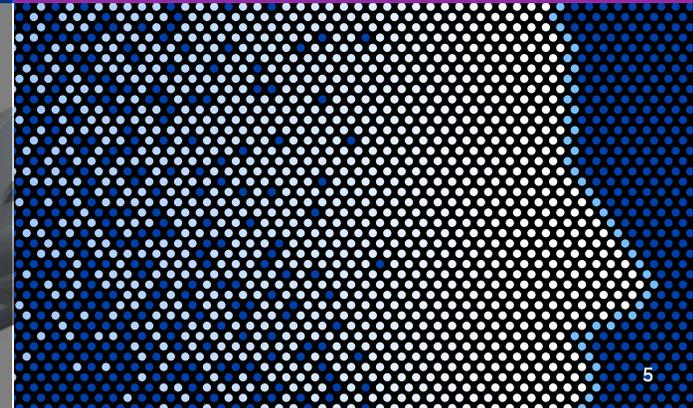
## Broad AI

Multi-task, multi-domain  
Multi-modal  
Distributed AI  
Explainable



## General AI

Cross-domain learning and reasoning  
Broad autonomy



Elon Musk

## Elon Musk Compares Building Artificial Intelligence To “Summoning The Demon”

Posted Oct 26, 2014 by [Greg Kumparak \(@grg\)](#)

17.6k  
SHARES



Next Story

Technology

## Stephen Hawking warns artificial intelligence could end mankind

By [Rory Cellan-Jones](#)  
Technology correspondent

© 2 December 2014 | [Technology](#) |

# The evolution of AI

## Narrow AI

Single task, single domain  
Superhuman accuracy and speed for certain tasks



IBM Research AI © 2018 IBM Corporation

## Broad AI

Multi-task, multi-domain  
Multi-modal  
Distributed AI  
Explainable



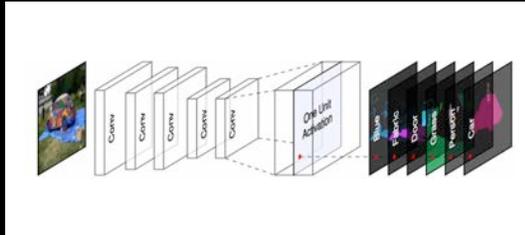
## General AI

Cross-domain learning and reasoning  
Broad autonomy



# The path to a “Broad AI” toolbox

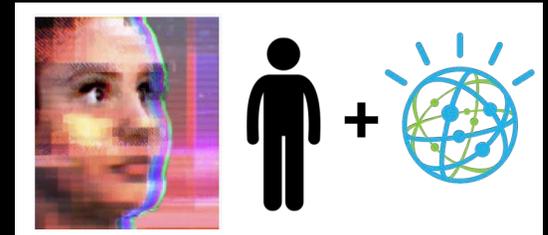
## Explainability



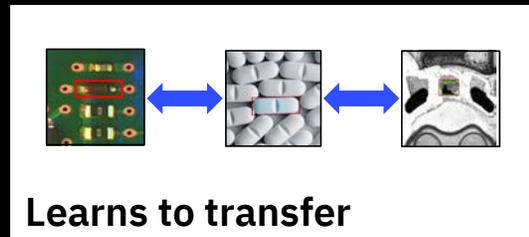
## Security



## Ethics

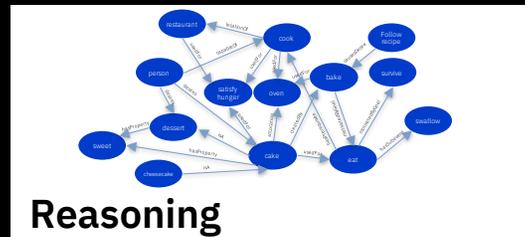


## Learn more from small data



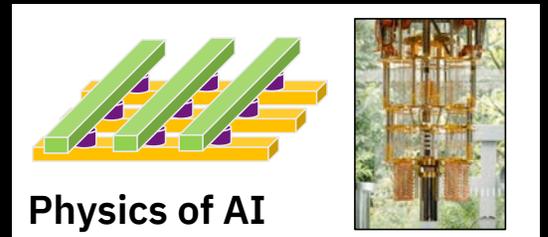
Learns to transfer

+



Reasoning

## Infrastructure



Physics of AI

## Platform for AI Lifecycle

Compute

Data & Models

Applications

Workflow



MIT-IBM  
WATSON  
AI LAB

# The evolution of AI

**General AI**  
Revolutionary

**Broad AI**  
Disruptive and  
Pervasive

**Narrow AI**  
Emerging

▼ We are here

2050 and beyond

So what's “narrow” about today's AI toolbox?

DEC 29, 2014 @ 11:37 AM 115,776 

Sell In May & Walk Away: 6 Stocks to Dump

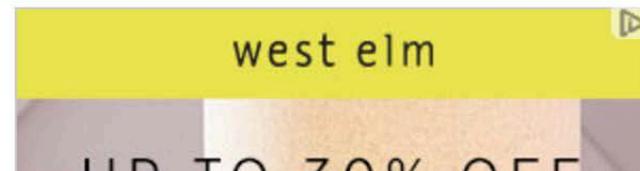
# Tech 2015: Deep Learning And Machine Intelligence Will Eat The World



**Anthony Wing Kosner**, CONTRIBUTOR

*Quantum of Content and innovations in user experience* [FULL BIO](#) 

Opinions expressed by Forbes Contributors are their own.



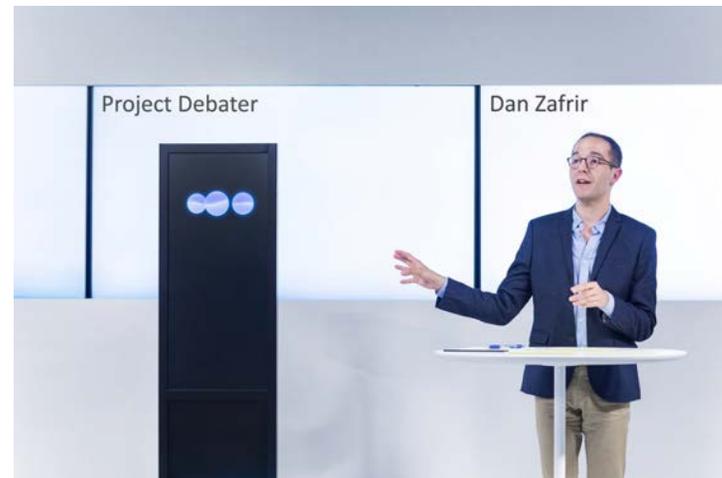


man in black shirt is playing guitar.



construction worker in orange safety vest is working on road.

Karpathy and Li, 2015





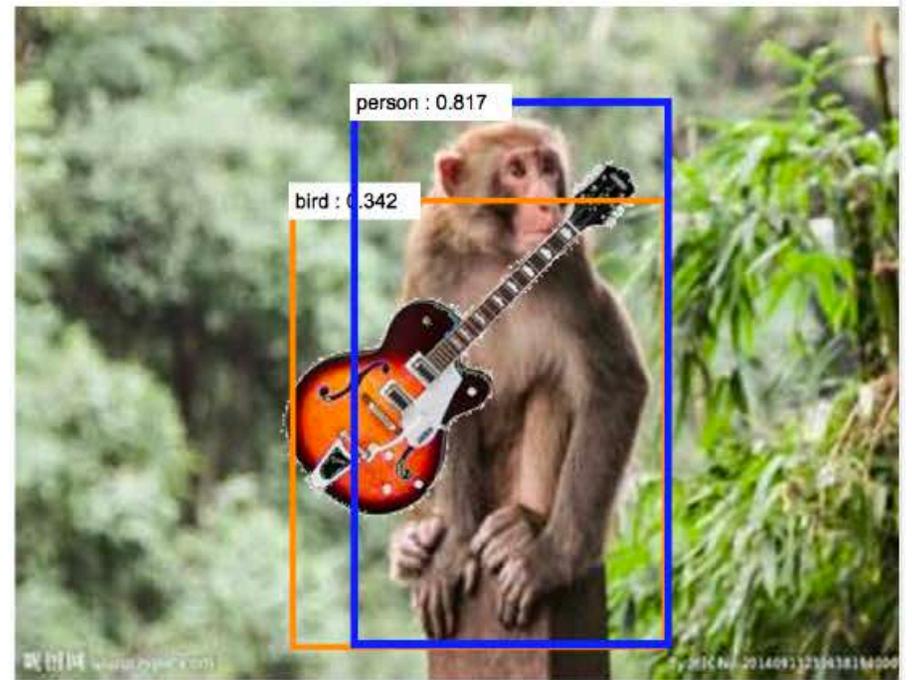
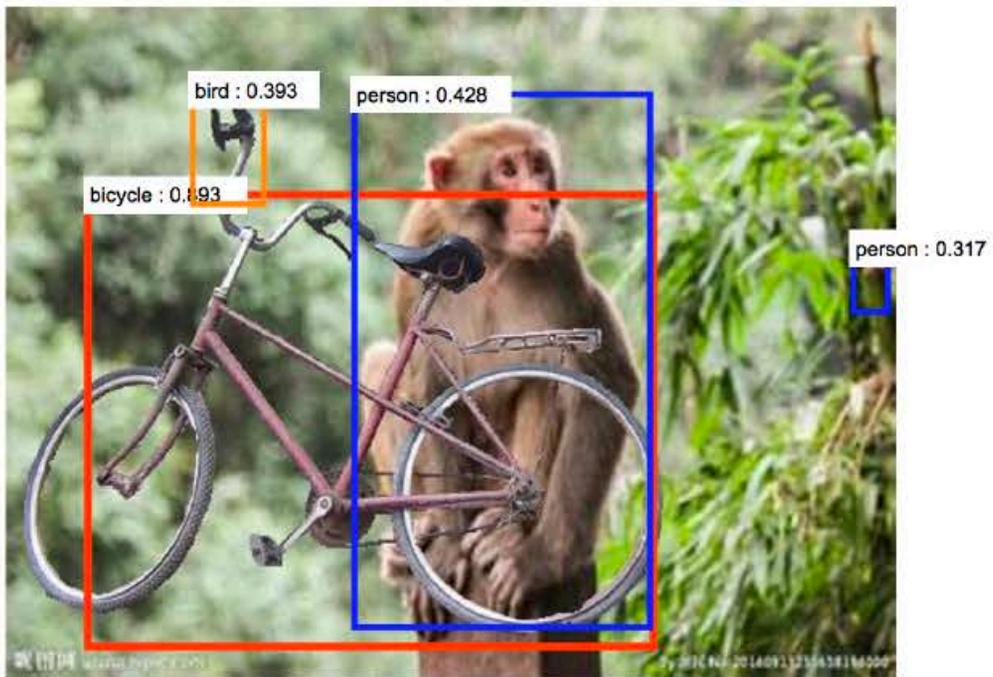
Gatys et al. 2015

Brock et al. 2018

## “Teddy Bear”



Meret Oppenheim, *Le Déjeuner en fourrure*



Wang et al. 2018



man in black shirt is playing guitar.



construction worker in orange safety vest is working on road.

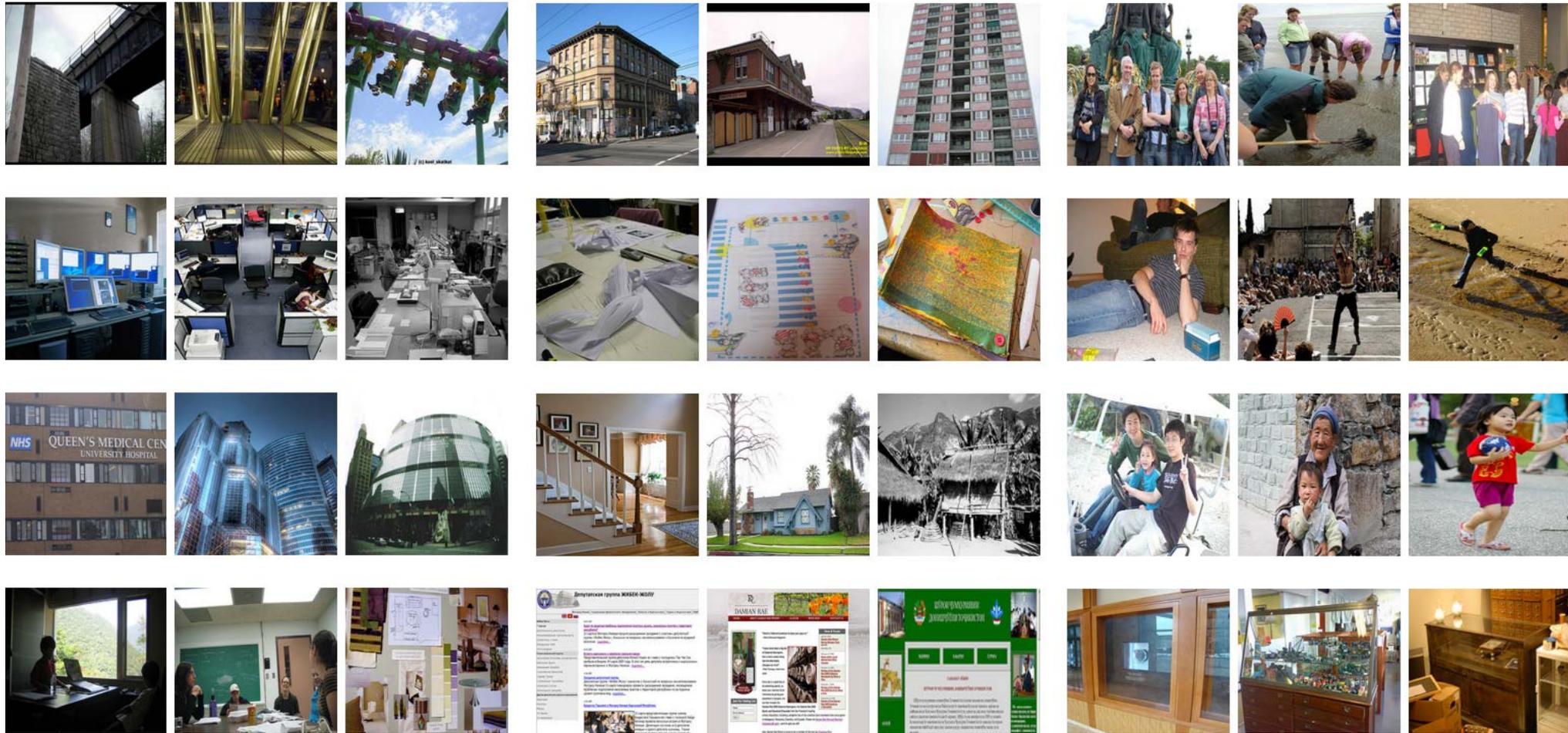
Karpathy and Li, 2015



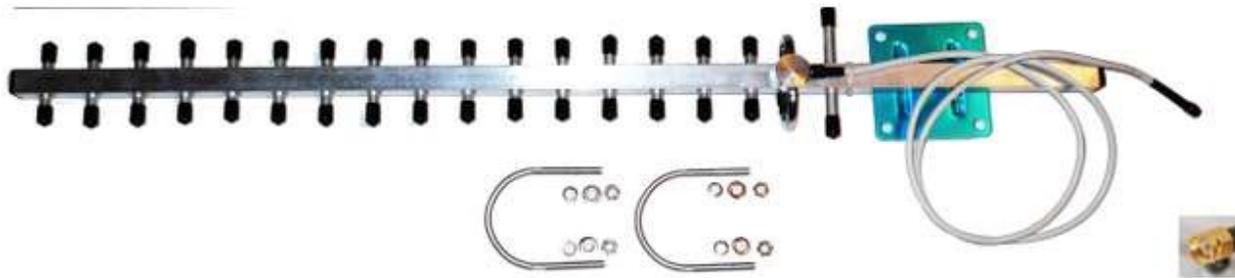
a man riding a  
motorcycle on a beach

Lake, Ullman, Tenenbaum & Gershman, 2016

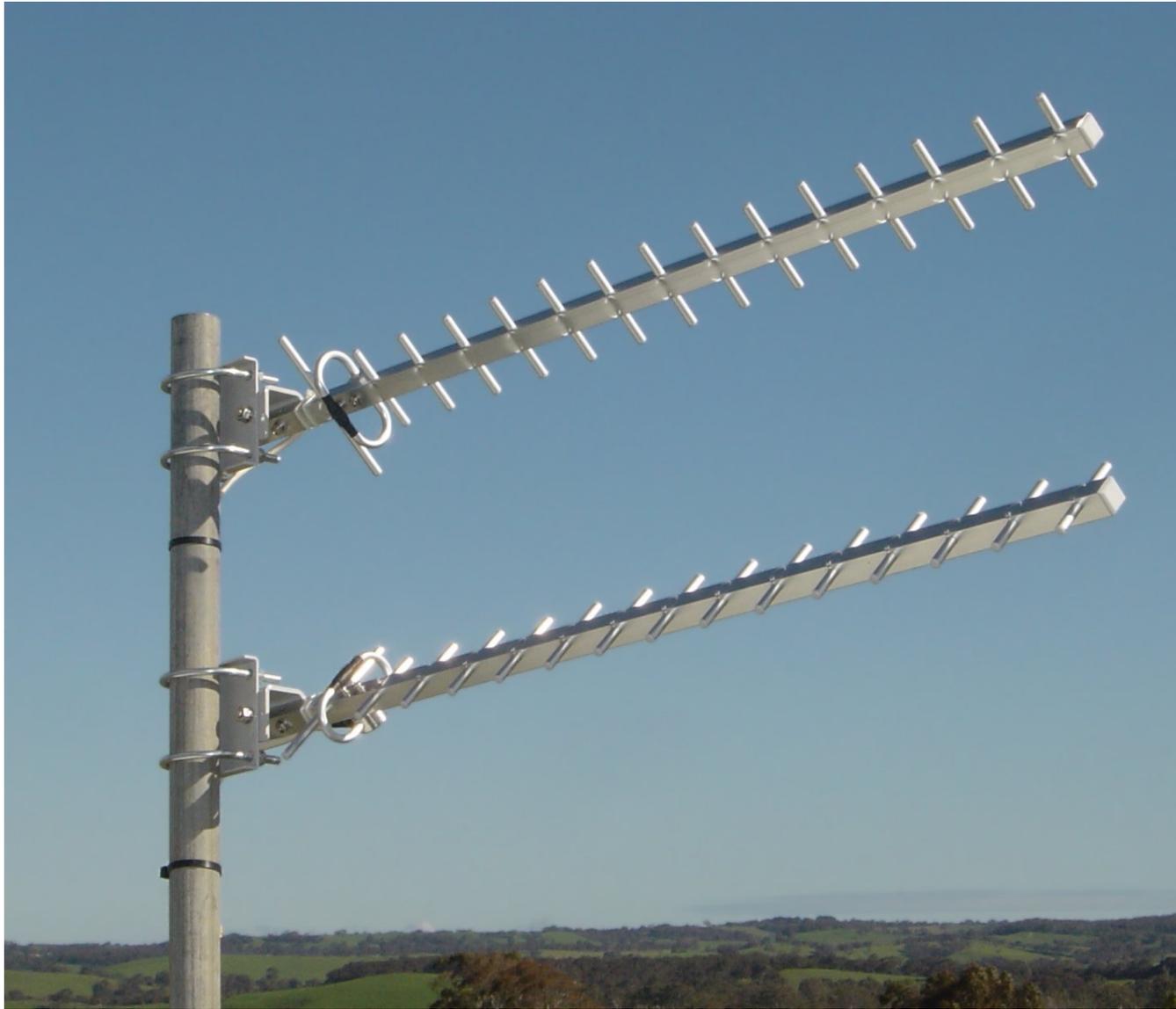
# IMAGENET



**What's this?**





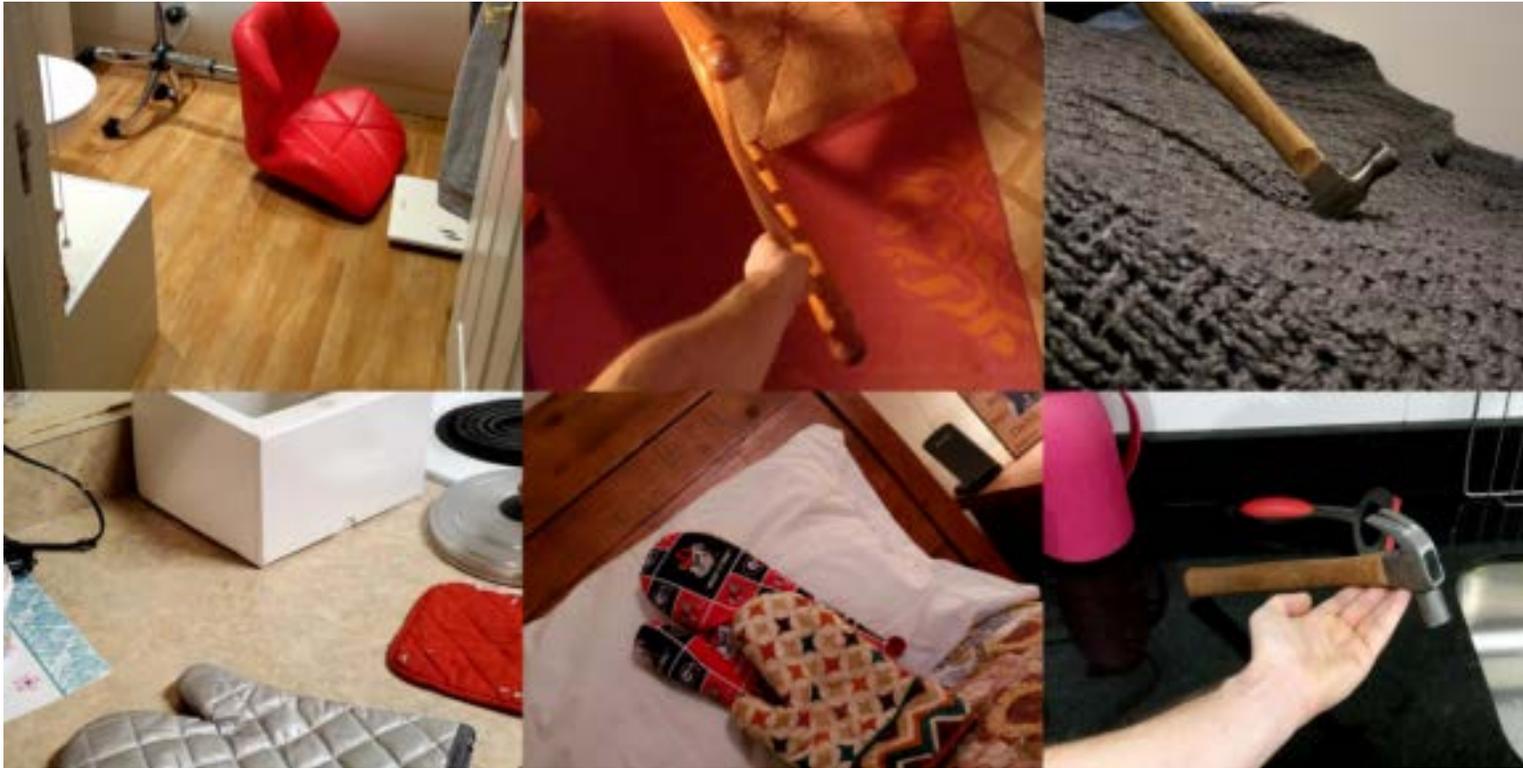




IMAGENET



# ObjectNet



Boris Katz  
MIT

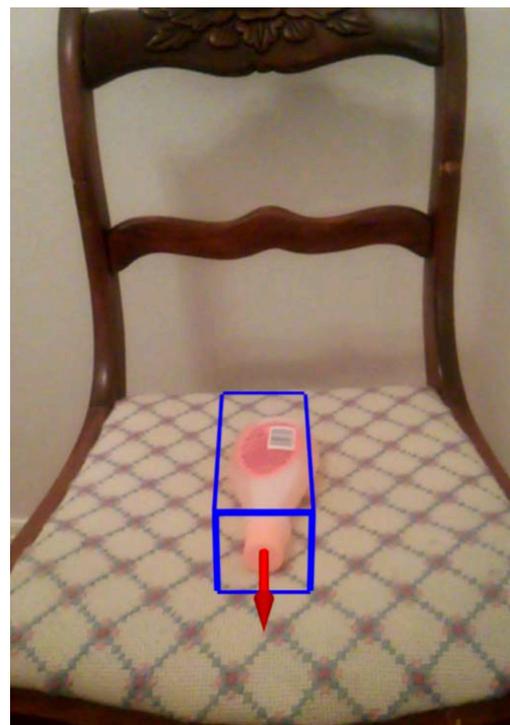
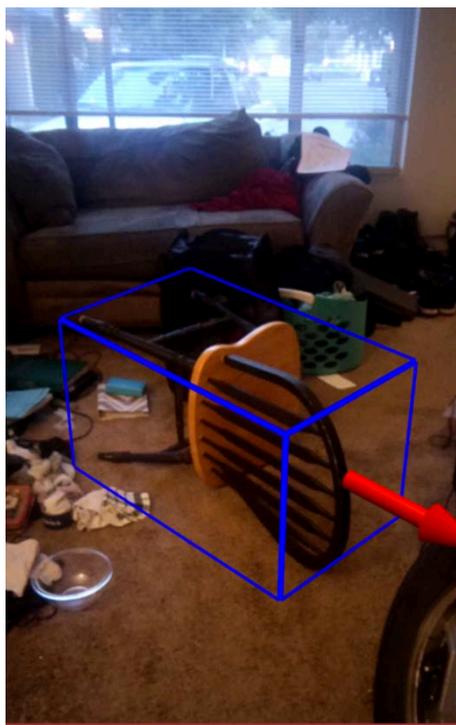


Andrei Barbu  
MIT



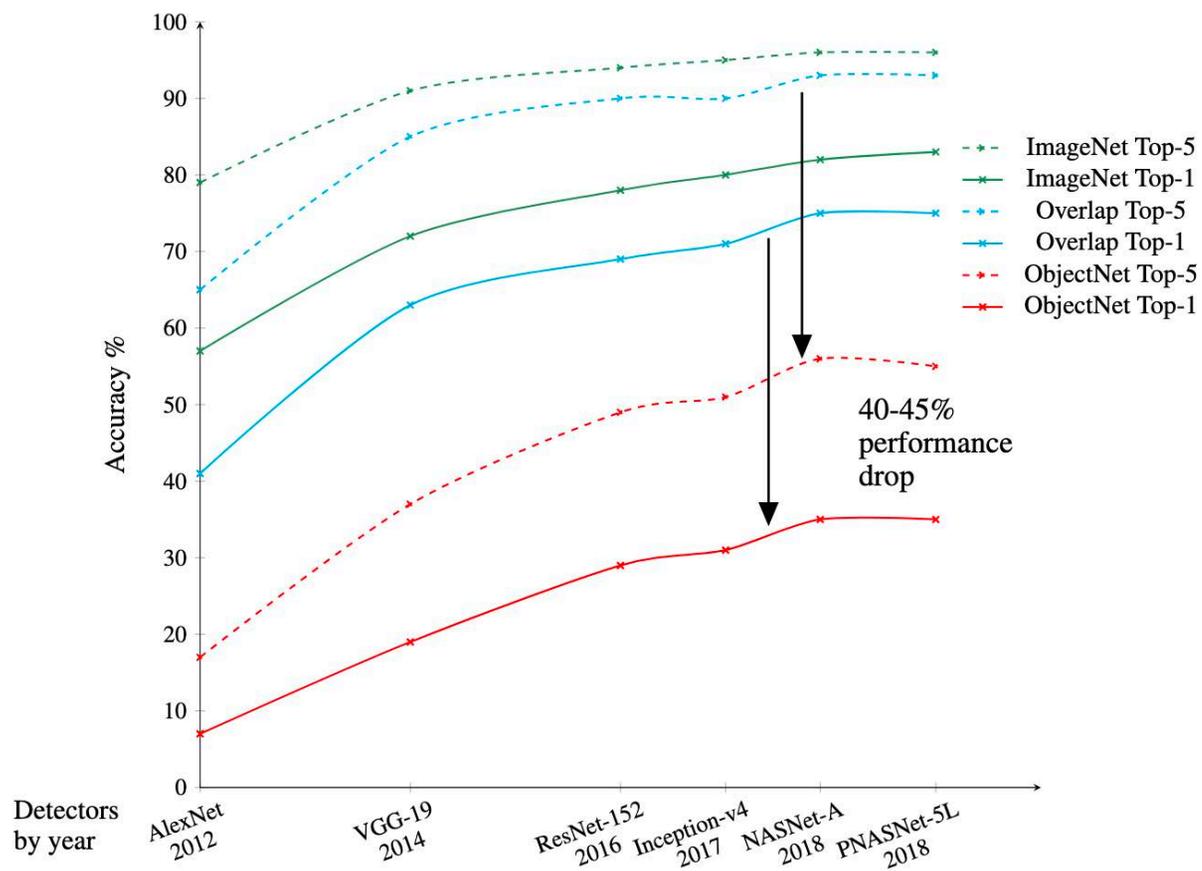
Dan Gutfreund  
IBM

# ObjectNet



- ~50K images
- ~300 object classes
- 4 different room types

# Testing ImageNet-trained models on ObjectNet





### **Original Top-3 inferred captions:**

1. A red stop sign sitting on the side of a road.
2. A stop sign on the corner of a street.
3. A red stop sign sitting on the side of a street.



Pin-yu Chen  
IBM



### **Adversarial Top-3 captions:**

1. A brown teddy bear laying on top of a bed.
2. A brown teddy bear sitting on top of a bed.
3. A large brown teddy bear laying on top of a bed.

Chen et al. 2018





How many blocks are on the right of the three-level tower?



Will the block tower fall if the top block is removed?



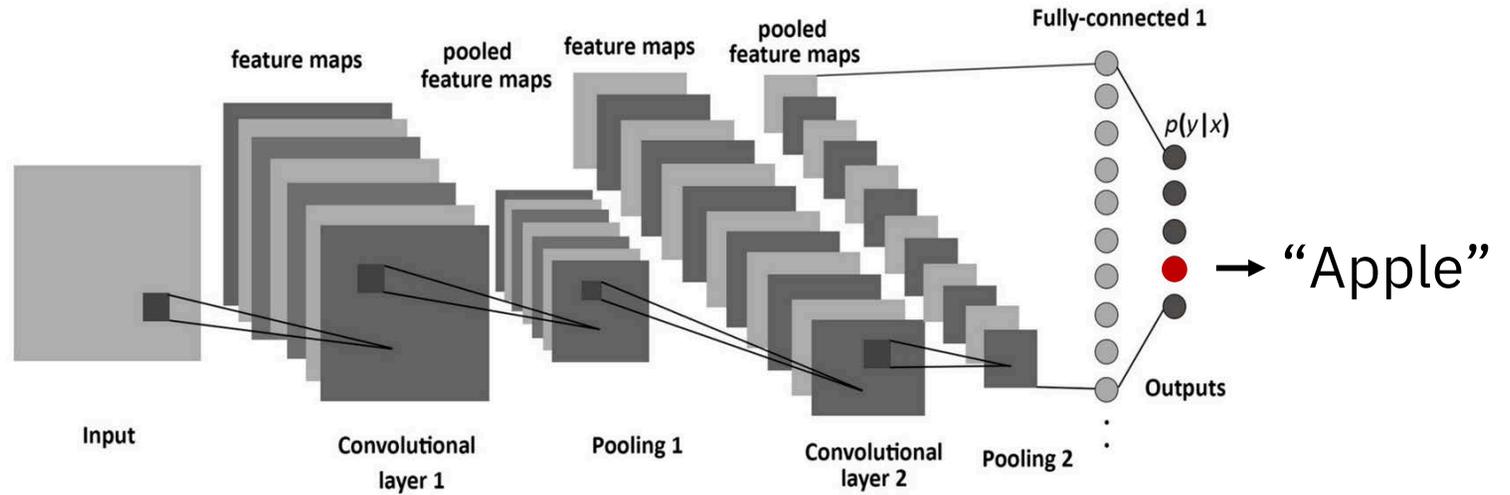
Are there more trees than animals?



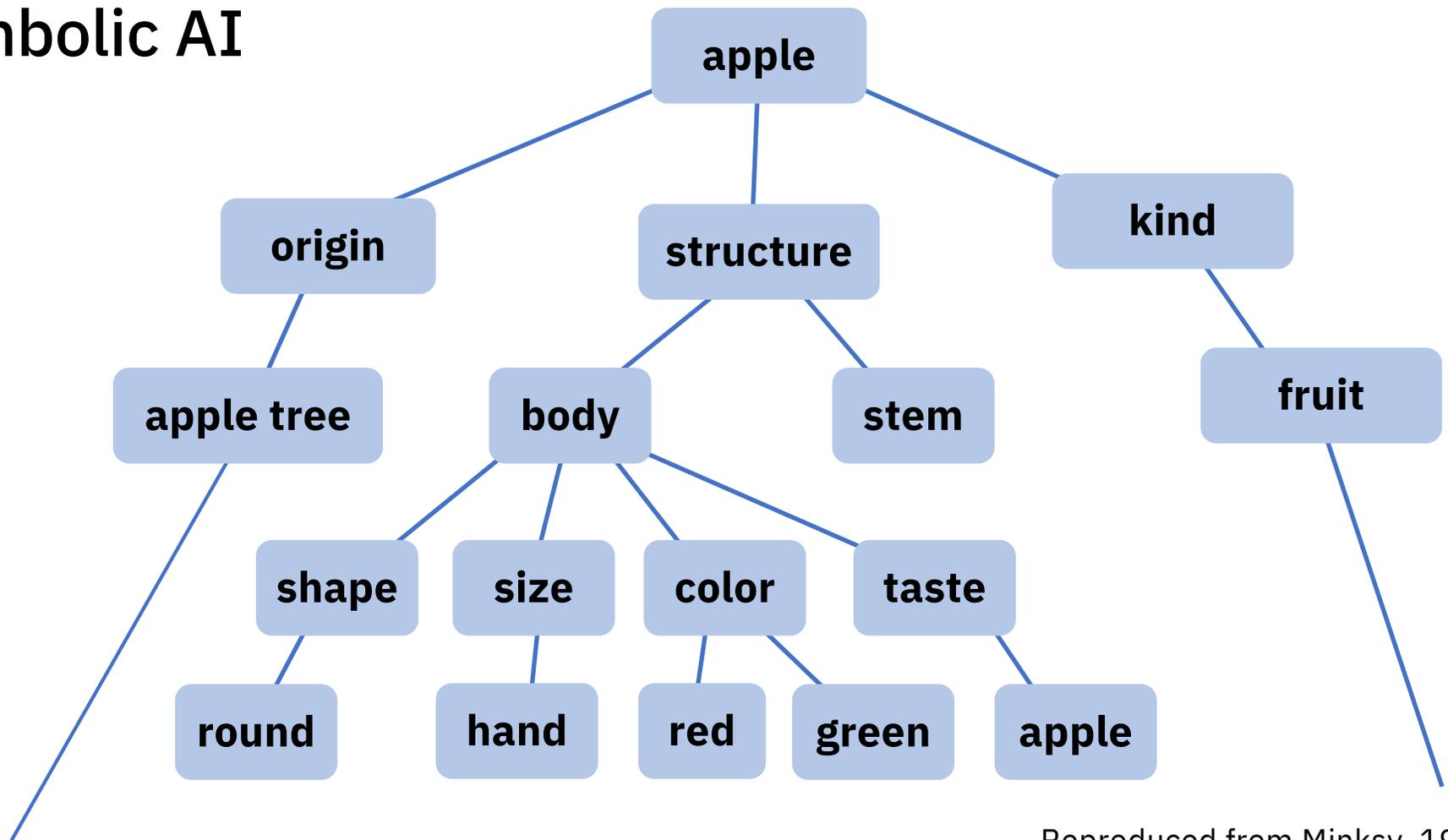
What is the shape of the object closest to the large cylinder?



# Neural Networks / Deep Learning



# Symbolic AI



Reproduced from Minsky, 1991

# Neural-symbolic AI

Disentangling reasoning from vision and language understanding



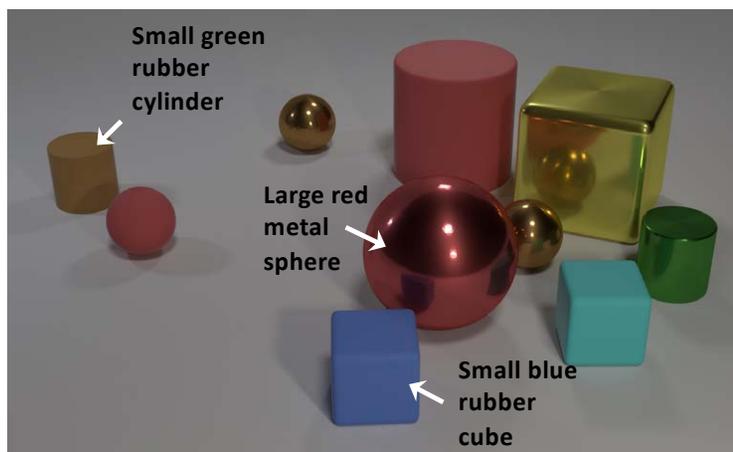
Jiajun Wu



Chuang Gan



Joshua Tenenbaum

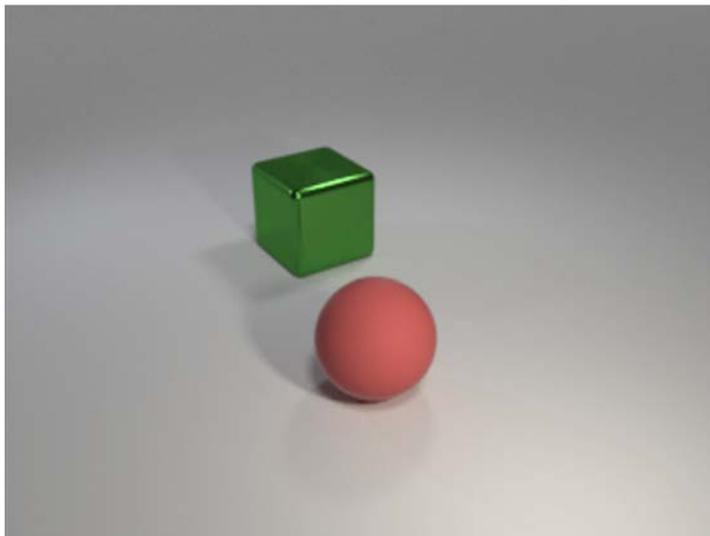


**Question:** *Are there an equal number of large things and metal spheres?*

**Program:** `equal_number(count(filter_size(Scene, Large)), count(filter_material(filter_shape(Scene, Sphere), Metal)))`

**Answer:** *Yes*

# End-to-End Visual Reasoning



## Visual Question Answering

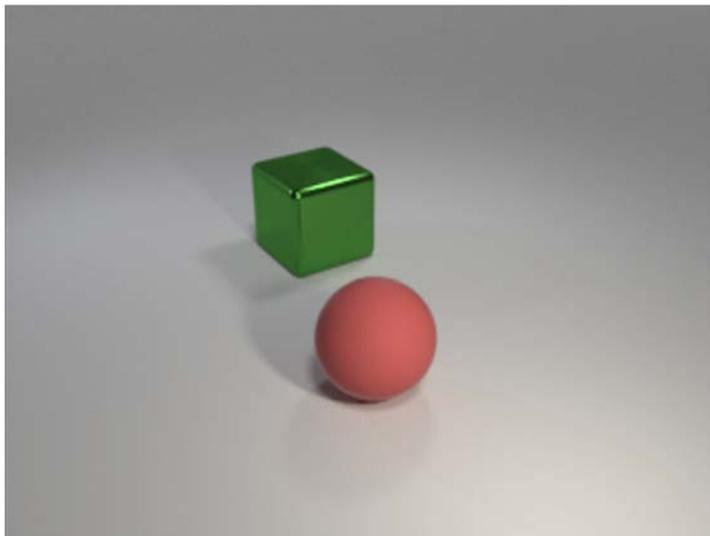
Q: What's the shape of the red object?

End-to-End  
Neural Network

A: Sphere.

NMN [Andreas et al., 2016]  
IEP [Johnson et al., 2017]  
FiLM [Perez et al., 2018],  
MAC [Hudson & Manning, 2018]  
Stack-NMN [Hu et al., 2018]  
TbD [Mascharka et al. 2018]

# End-to-End Visual Reasoning



## Visual Question Answering

Q: What's the shape of the **red** object?

Concept

(e.g., colors, shapes)

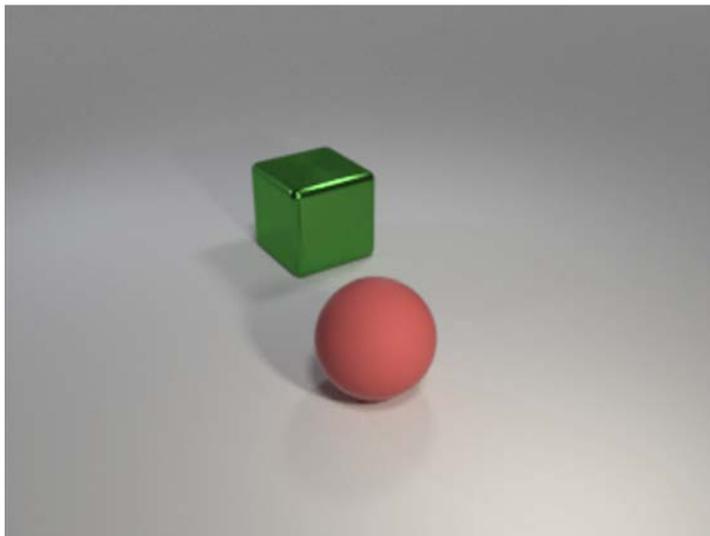
Reasoning

(e.g., count)

End-to-End  
Neural Network

NMN [Andreas et al., 2016]  
IEP [Johnson et al., 2017]  
FiLM [Perez et al., 2018],  
MAC [Hudson & Manning, 2018]  
Stack-NMN [Hu et al., 2018]  
TbD [Mascharka et al. 2018]

# End-to-End Visual Reasoning



## Visual Question Answering

Q: What's the shape of the **red** object?



NMN [Andreas et al., 2016]

IEP [Johnson et al., 2017]

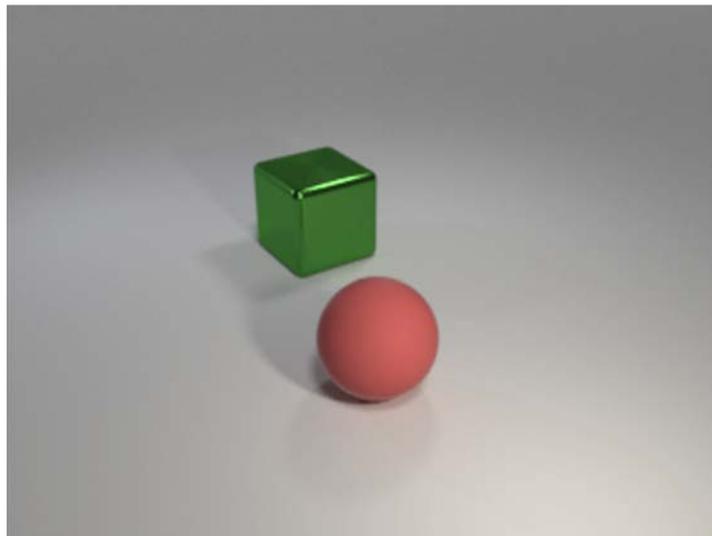
FiLM [Perez et al., 2018],

MAC [Hudson & Manning, 2018]

Stack-NMN [Hu et al., 2018]

TbD [Mascharka et al. 2018]

# End-to-End Visual Reasoning



NMN [Andreas et al., 2016]  
IEP [Johnson et al., 2017]  
FiLM [Perez et al., 2018],  
MAC [Hudson & Manning, 2018]  
Stack-NMN [Hu et al., 2018]  
TbD [Mascharka et al. 2018]

## Visual Question Answering

Q: What's the shape of the **red** object?

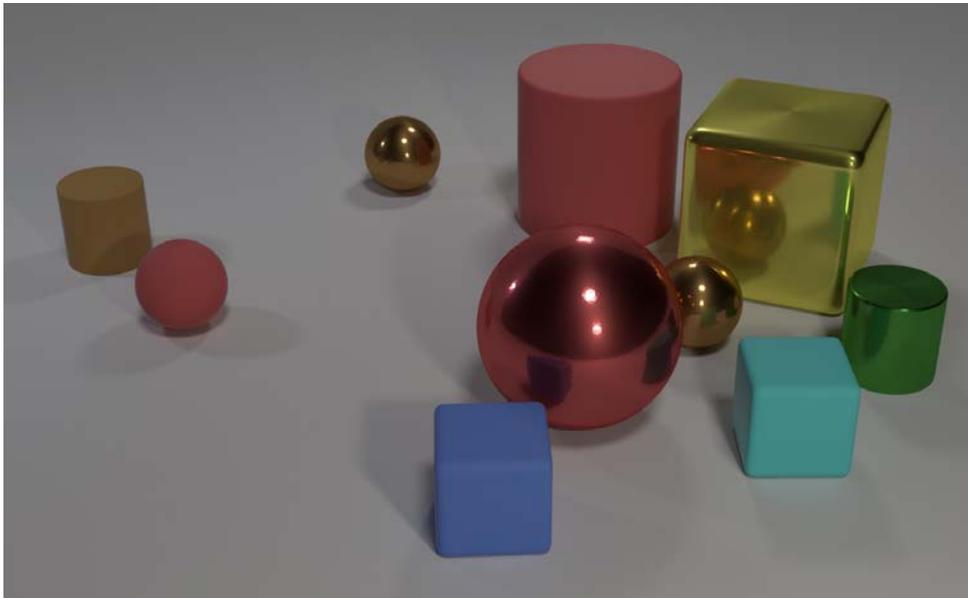


**Hard to transfer**

**Image Captioning**

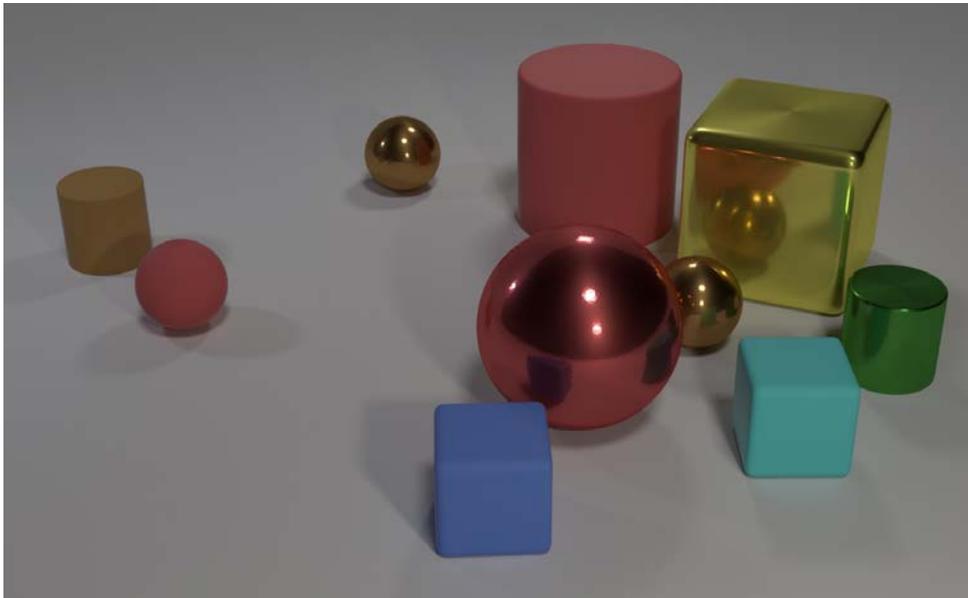
**Instance Retrieval**

## Task: **Visual Reasoning**



**Question:** *Are there an equal number of large things and metal spheres?*

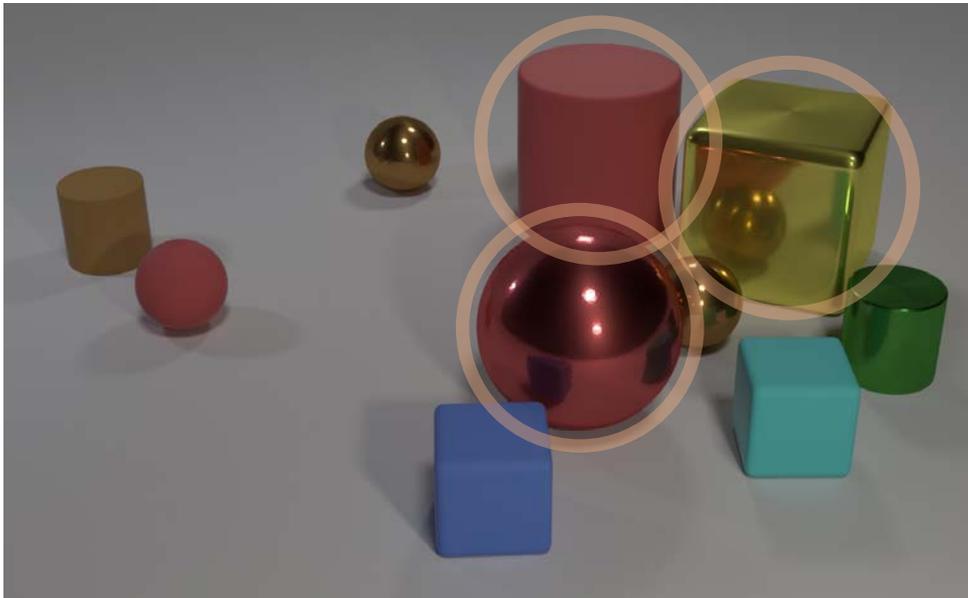
## Task: **Visual Reasoning**



**Question:** *Are there an equal number of large things and metal spheres?*



# Task: **Visual Reasoning**

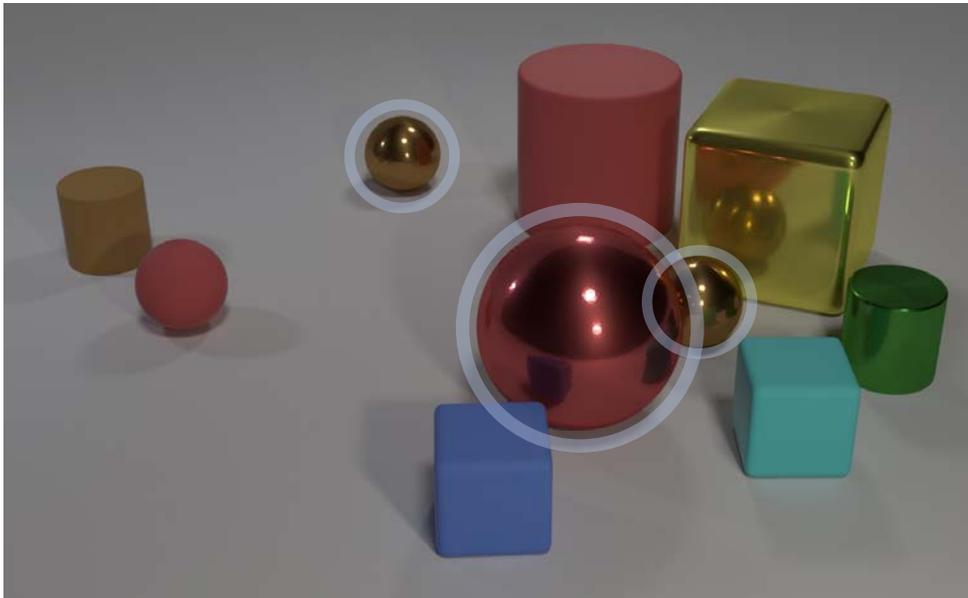


**Question:** *Are there an equal number of large things and metal spheres?*

3 large things!



# Task: **Visual Reasoning**



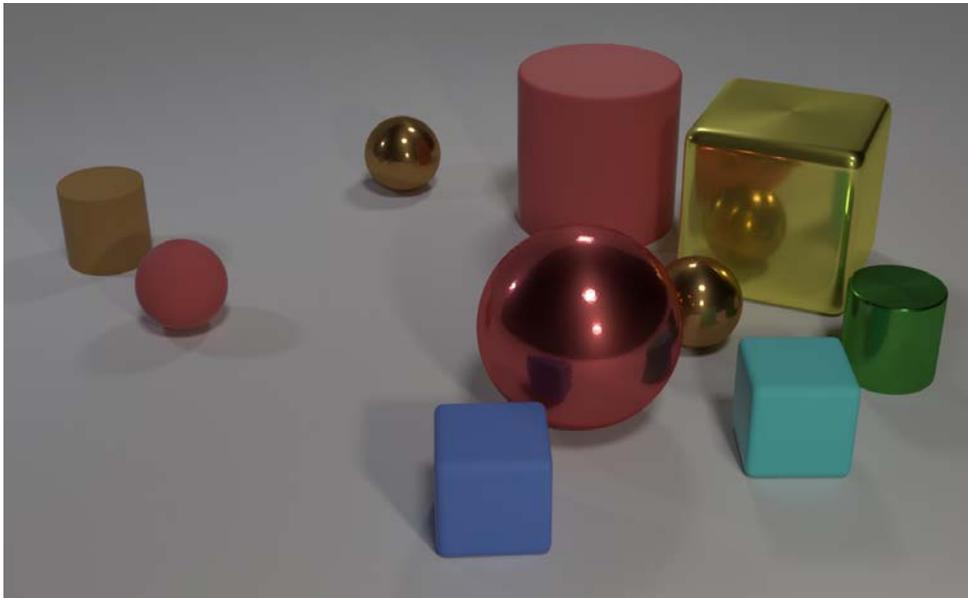
**Question:** *Are there an equal number of large things and **metal spheres**?*

3 large things!

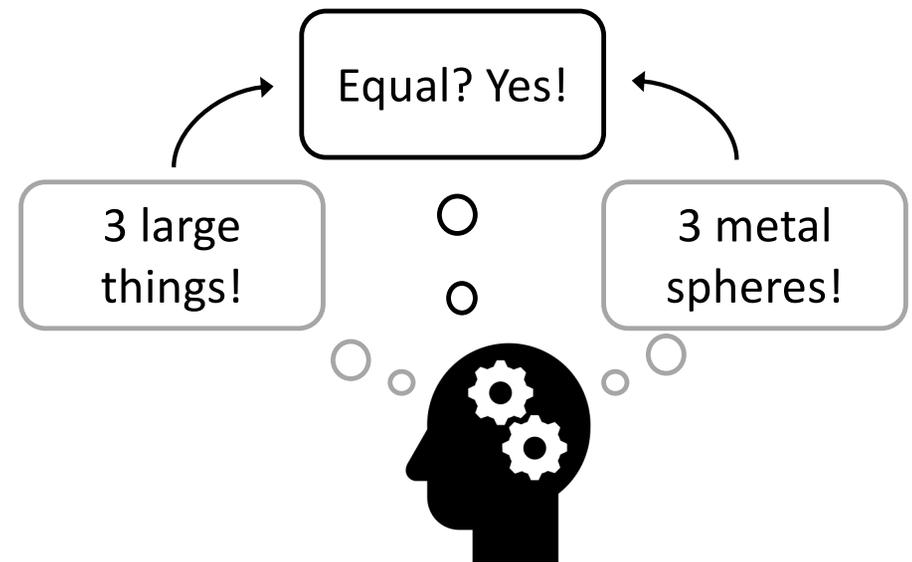
3 metal spheres!



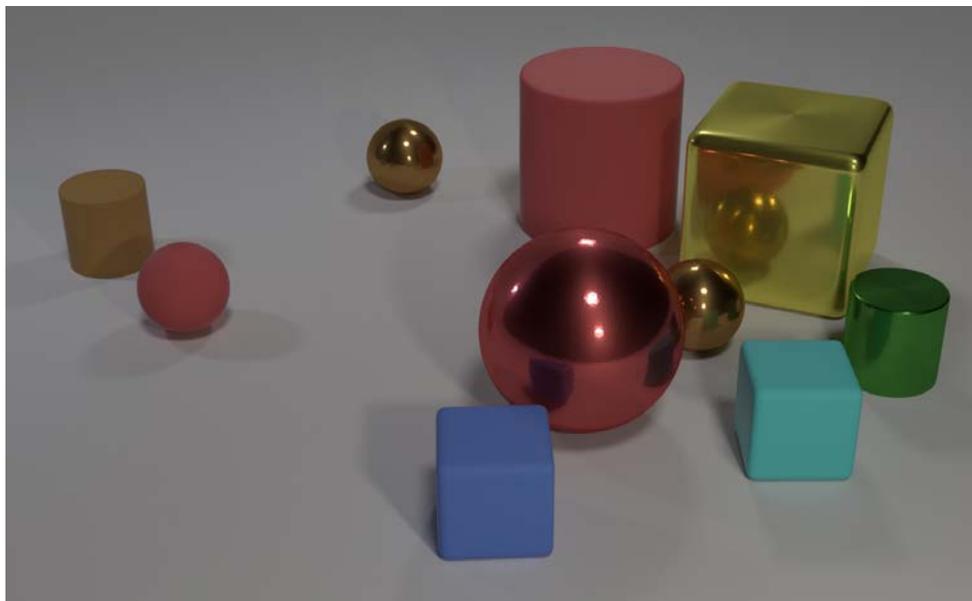
# Task: **Visual Reasoning**



**Question:** *Are there an equal number of large things and metal spheres?*



# Task: Visual Reasoning



Visual Perception

Question Understanding

**Question:** *Are there an equal number of large things and metal spheres?*

3 large things!

Equal? Yes!

3 metal spheres!

Logic Reasoning



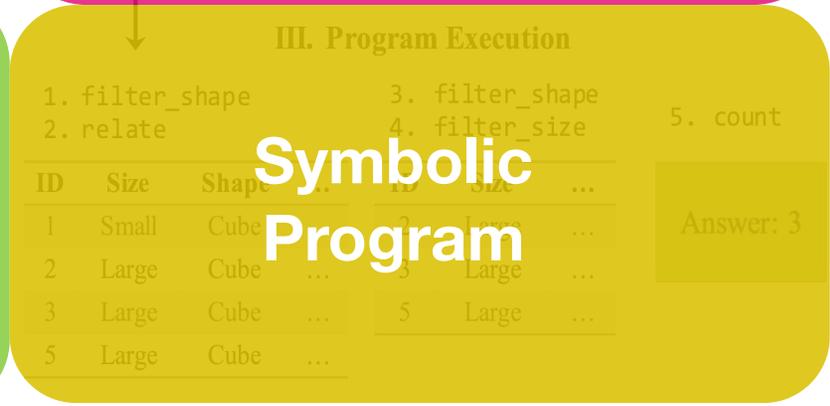
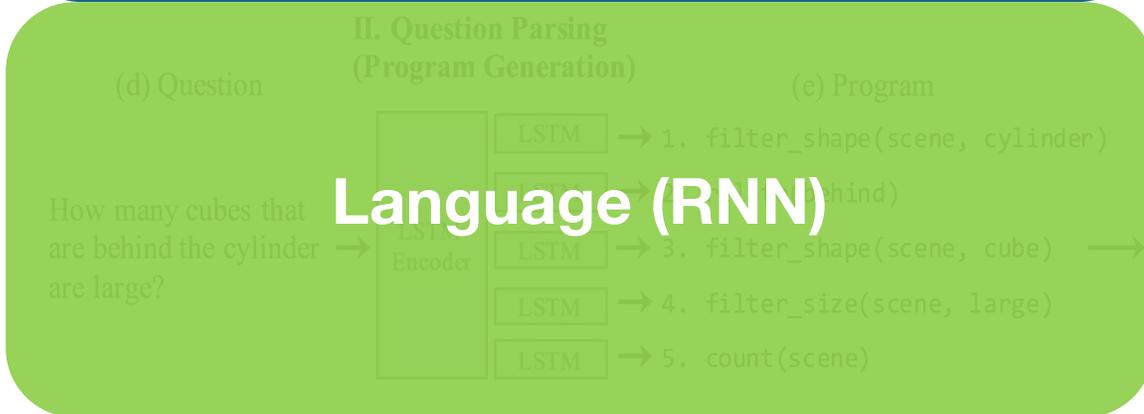


(c) Structural Scene Representation

ID	Size	Shape	Material	Color	x	y	z
1	Small	Cube	Metal	Purple	-0.45	-1.10	0.35
2	Large	Cube	Metal	Green	3.83	-0.04	0.70
3	Large	Cylinder	Rubber	Purple	0.75	1.31	0.63
4	Small	Cylinder	Rubber	Purple	0.75	1.31	0.35
5	Large	Cube	Metal	Green	1.58	-1.60	0.70

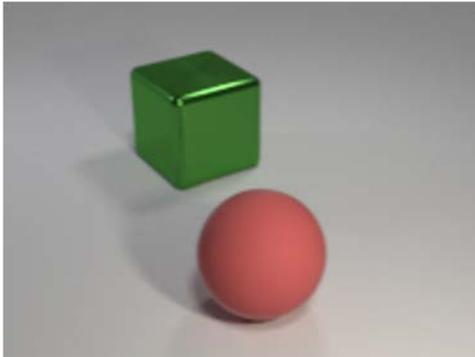
**Structured Representation**

I. Scene Parsing (de-rendering)



# Incorporate Concepts in Visual Reasoning

## Vision



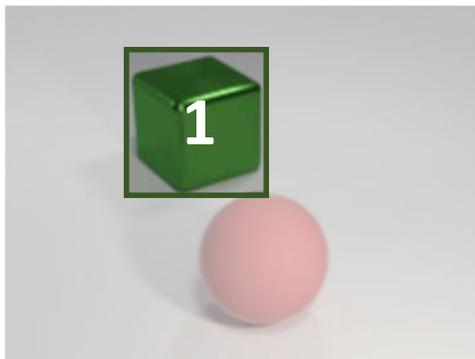
Scene  
Parsing  
→

## Language

Q: What's the shape of  
the red object?

# Incorporate Concepts in Visual Reasoning

## Vision



Scene  
Parsing  
→

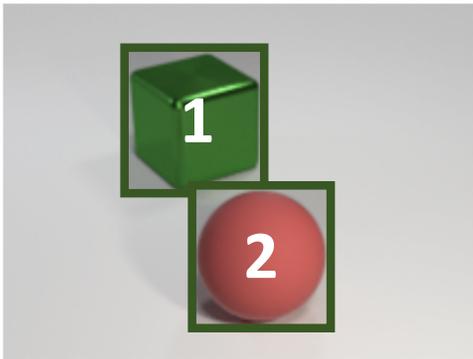
ID	Color	Shape	Material
1	Green	Cube	Metal

## Language

Q: What's the shape of  
the red object?

# Incorporate Concepts in Visual Reasoning

## Vision



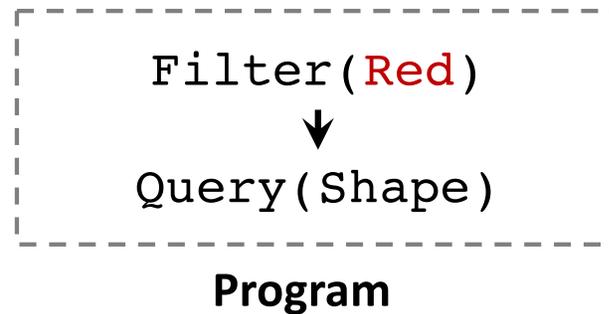
Scene  
Parsing  
→

ID	Color	Shape	Material
1	Green	Cube	Metal
2	Red	Sphere	Rubber

## Language

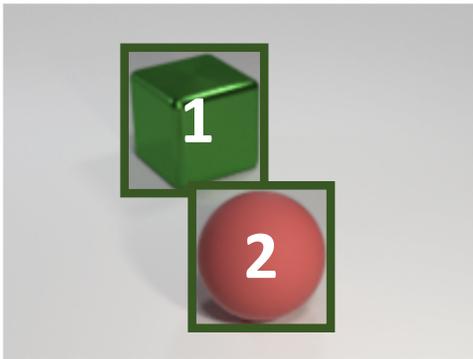
Q: What's the shape of  
the red object?

Semantic  
Parsing  
→



# Incorporate Concepts in Visual Reasoning

## Vision



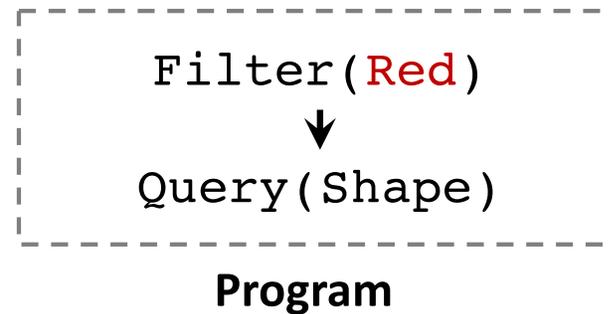
Scene  
Parsing  
→

ID	Color	Shape	Material
1	Green	Cube	Metal
2	Red	Sphere	Rubber

## Language

Q: What's the shape of  
the red object?

Semantic  
Parsing  
→



Symbolic  
Reasoning

# Incorporate Concepts in Visual Reasoning

Vision



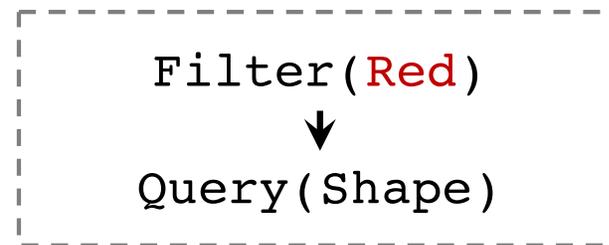
Scene  
Parsing  
→

ID	Color	Shape	Material
1	Green	Cube	Metal
2	Red	Sphere	Rubber

Language

Q: What's the shape of  
the red object?

Semantic  
Parsing  
→



Program

Symbolic  
Reasoning

# Incorporate Concepts in Visual Reasoning

Vision



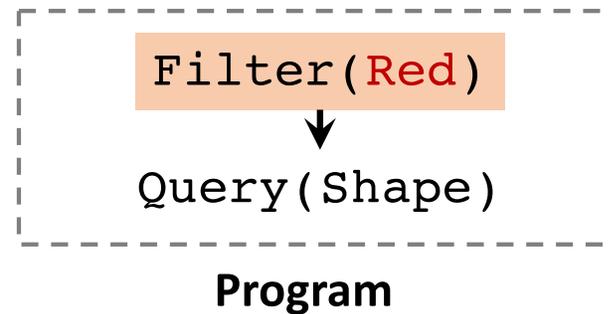
Scene  
Parsing  
→

ID	Color	Shape	Material
1	Green	Cube	Metal
2	<i>Red</i>	Sphere	Rubber

Language

Q: What's the shape of  
the red object?

Semantic  
Parsing  
→



Symbolic  
Reasoning

# Incorporate Concepts in Visual Reasoning

Vision



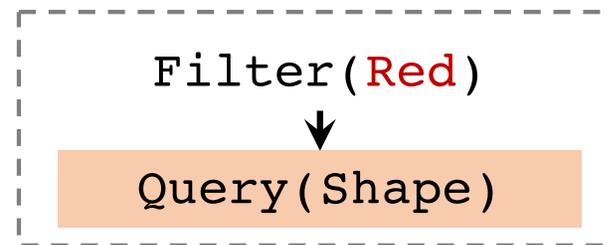
Scene  
Parsing  
→

ID	Color	Shape	Material
1	Green	Cube	Metal
2	Red	<i>Sphere</i>	Rubber

Language

Q: What's the shape of  
the red object?

Semantic  
Parsing  
→



Program

Symbolic  
Reasoning

Sphere

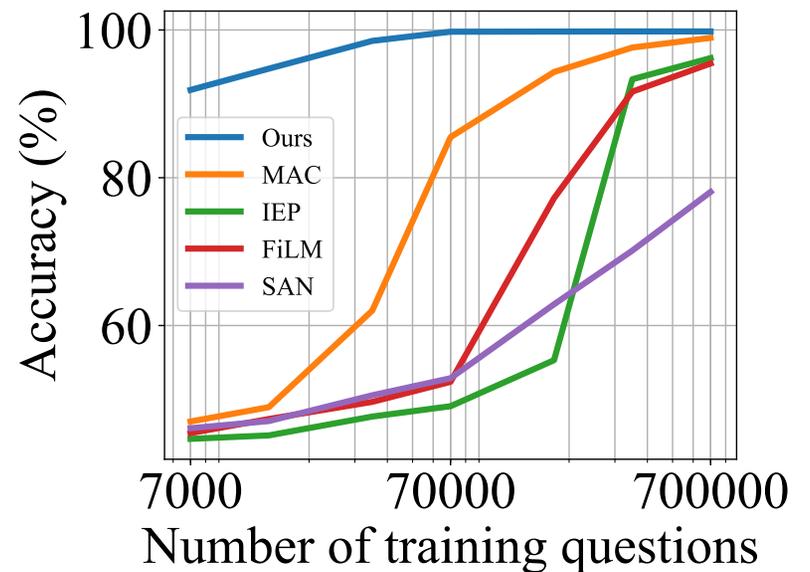
# Advantage 1: **High Accuracy**

Method	Accuracy (%)
Human	92.6
RN	95.5
IEP	96.9
FiLM	97.6
MAC	98.9
TbD	99.1
NS-VQA (Ours)	<b>99.8</b>

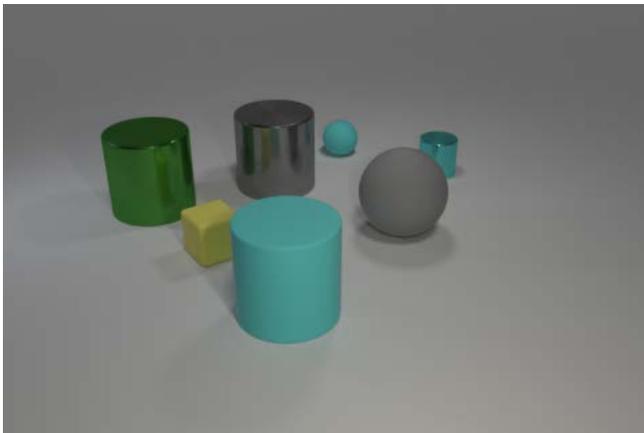
← Effectively perfect!

## Advantage 2: **Data Efficiency**

High accuracy when trained with just 1% the of the data that other methods require



# Advantage 3: Transparency and Interpretability



**Question:** Are there more yellow matte things that are right of the gray ball than cyan metallic objects?

```
scene
filter_cyan
filter_metal
count
... (4 modules)
scene
filter_yellow
filter_rubber
count
greater_than
```

**Answer:** no

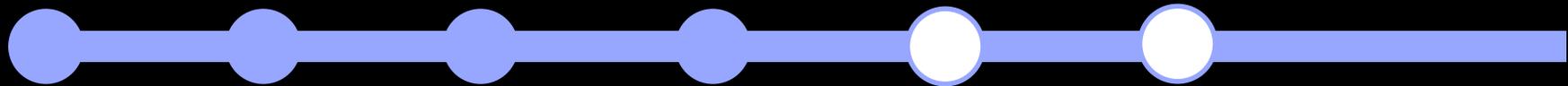
[Yi et al. NeurIPS 2018, Johnson et al. ICCV 2017]

NeurIPS 2018: Neurosymbolic VQA:  
Properties (e.g. “color”) and values (“red”) predefined

ICLR 2019: Neurosymbolic Concept Learner:  
Properties predefined, can learn new values autonomously

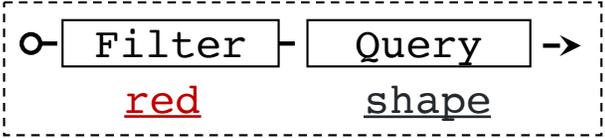
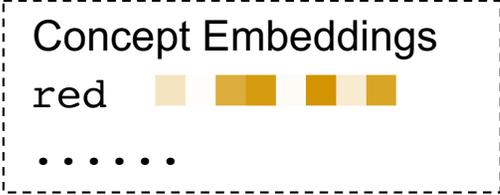
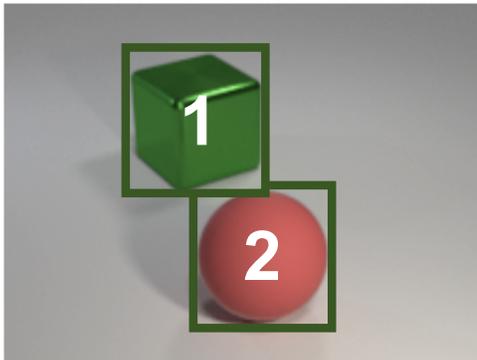
NeurIPS 2019: Neurosymbolic Metaconcept Learner:  
Autonomously learns new concepts

ICML 2020 (target submission):  
Real world images



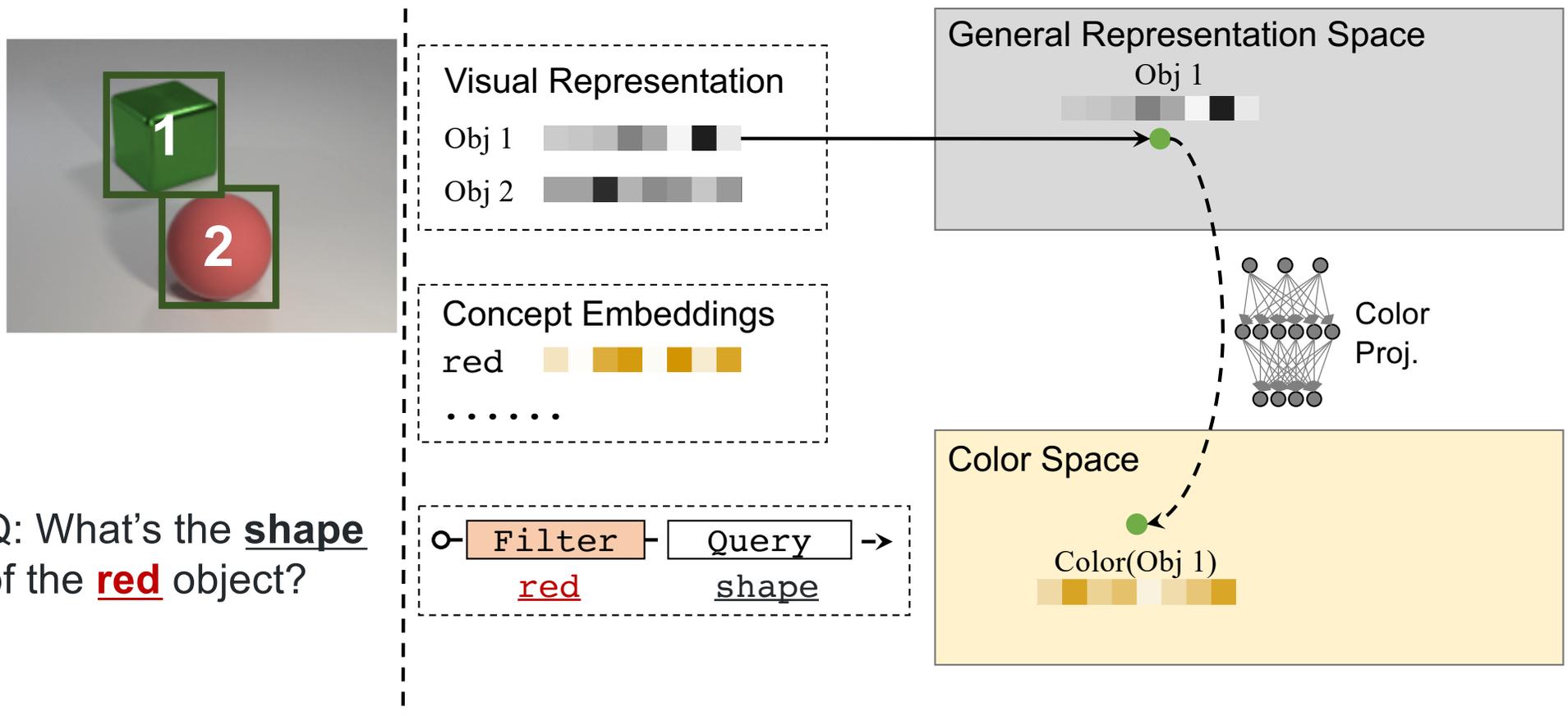
less predefined, more autonomous →

# Neuro-Symbolic Concept Learning

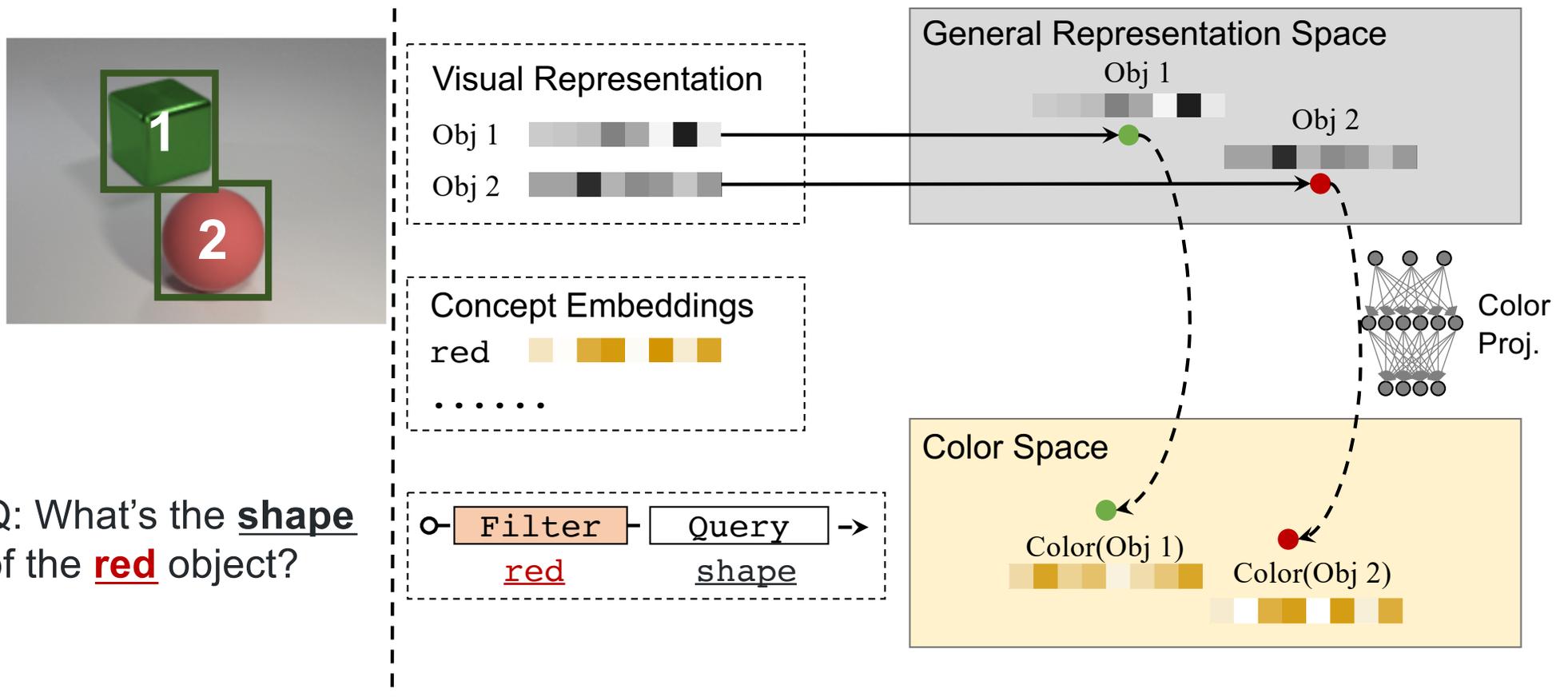


Q: What's the shape of the red object?

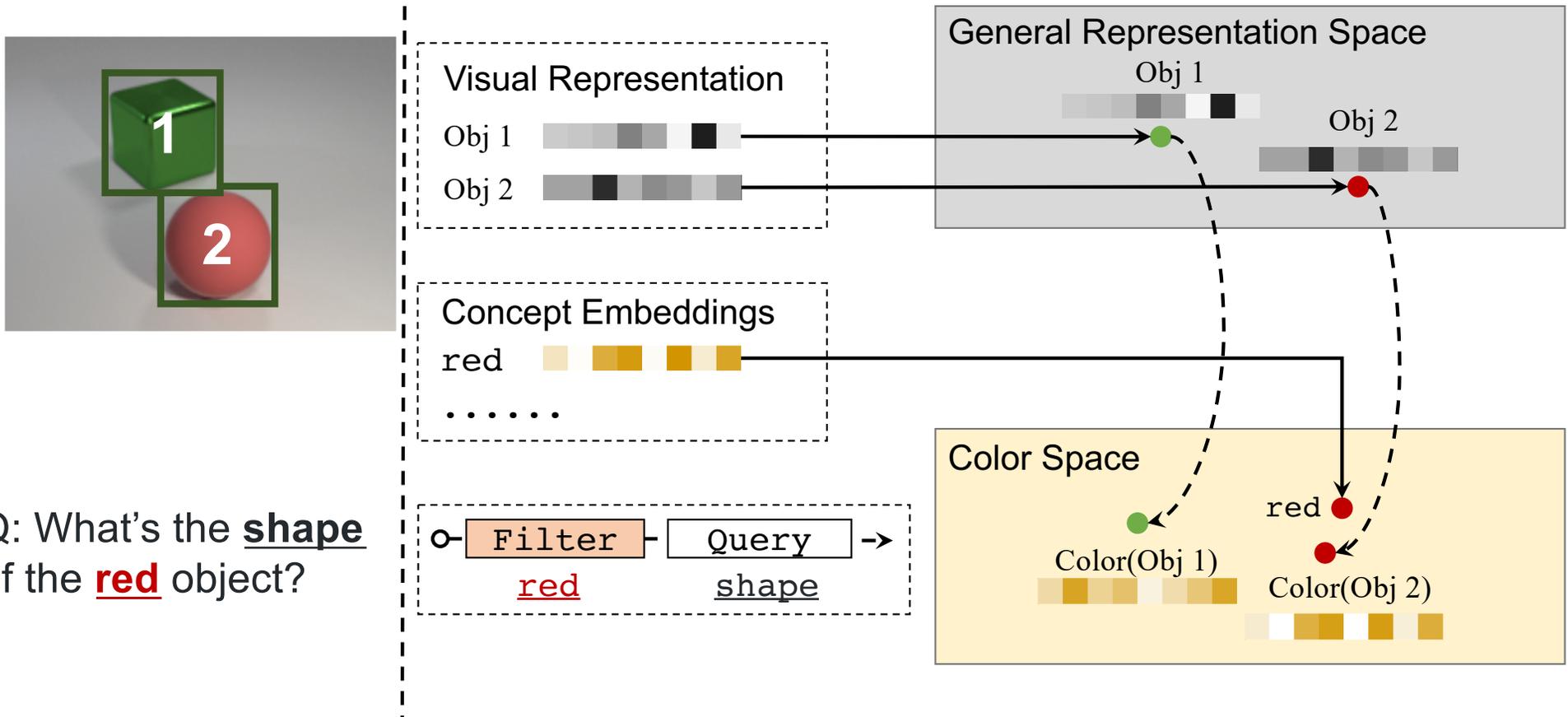
# Neuro-Symbolic Concept Learning



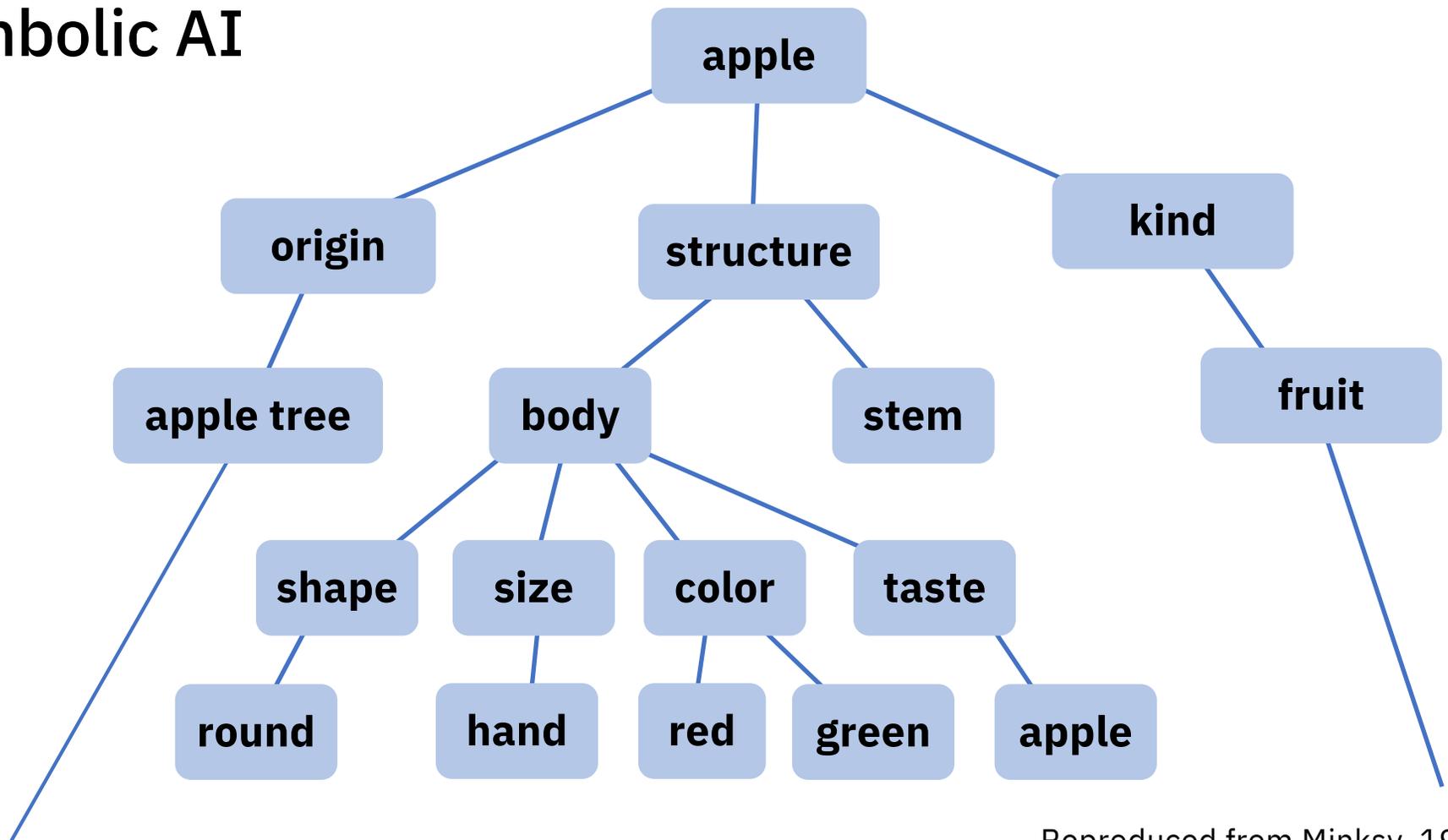
# Neuro-Symbolic Concept Learning



# Neuro-Symbolic Concept Learning



# Symbolic AI



Reproduced from Minsky, 1991

# Meta-concept Learning

Han et al. NeurIPS 2019

## Visual reasoning questions

color:  
red



Q: Is there any **red cube**?

A: Yes.

color:  
green



Q: Is there any **green block**?

A: Yes

CLEVR

(Johnson et al. 2017)

## + Metaconcept questions

Q: Is red a **same kind** of concept as green?

A: Yes.

Q: Is cube a **synonym** of block?

A: Yes.

Laridae

Ivory  
Gull



Q: Is there any **Ivory Gull**?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there any **Laridae**?

A: Yes.

Black  
Tern



Q: Is there any **Black Tern**?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there any **Laridae**?

A: Yes.

CUB

(Wah et al. 2011)

Q: Is Laridae a **hypernym** of Ivory gull?

A: Yes.

# Augmenting VQA with Metaconcepts

## Visual reasoning questions

color:  
red



Q: Is there any **red cube**?

A: Yes.

color:  
green



Q: Is there any **green block**?

A: Yes

CLEVR

(Johnson et al. 2017)

## + Metaconcept questions

Q: Is red a **same kind** of concept as green?

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Laridae {  
Ivory  
Gull  
Black  
Tern



Q: Is there any **Ivory Gull**?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there any **Laridae**?

A: Yes.



Q: Is there any **Black Tern**?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there any **Laridae**?

A: Yes.

CUB

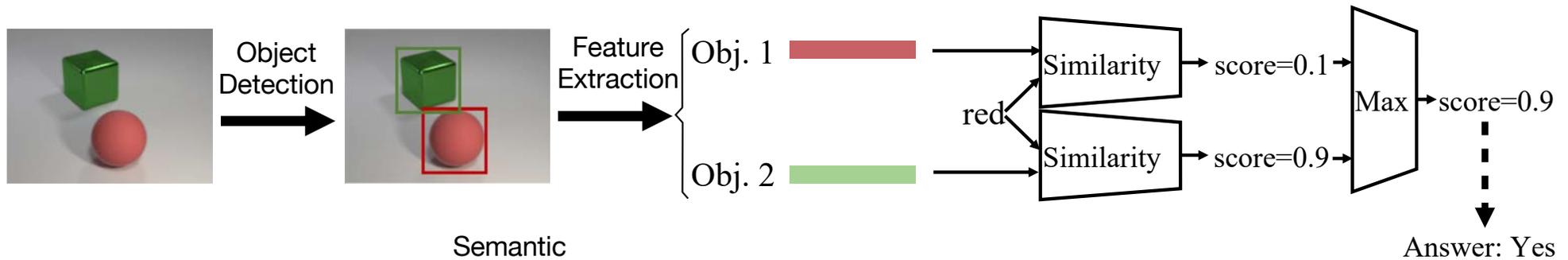
(Wah et al. 2011)

Q: Is Laridae a **hypernym** of Ivory gull?

A: Yes.

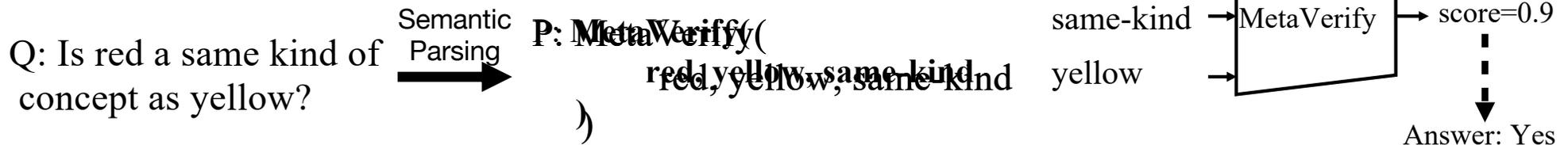
# Program Execution Animated

## Visual reasoning questions



Q: Is there any red object?  $\xrightarrow{\text{Semantic Parsing}}$  P: **Exist( Filter( red ))**

## Metaconcept questions



# Generalization

## Metaconcept Generalization



Q: Is there any *airplane*?  
A: Yes



Q: Is there any *kid*?  
A: Yes

Q: Is airplane a *synonym* of plane?  
A: Yes



Q: Is there any *plane*?  
A: Yes



Q: Is there any *child*?  
A: Yes

Q: Is kid a *synonym* of child?  
A: Yes

**Training**

**Testing: metaconcepts on unseen pairs of concepts**



**airplane**



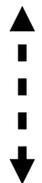
**synonym**



**plane**



**kid**



**synonym?**



**child**

# Generalization

## Metaconcept Generalization: Results



Q: Is there any *airplane*?  
A: Yes



Q: Is there any *kid*?  
A: Yes

Q: Is airplane a *synonym* of  
plane?  
A: Yes



Q: Is there any *plane*?  
A: Yes



Q: Is there any *child*?  
A: Yes

Q: Is kid a *synonym* of  
child?  
A: Yes

### Training

### Testing

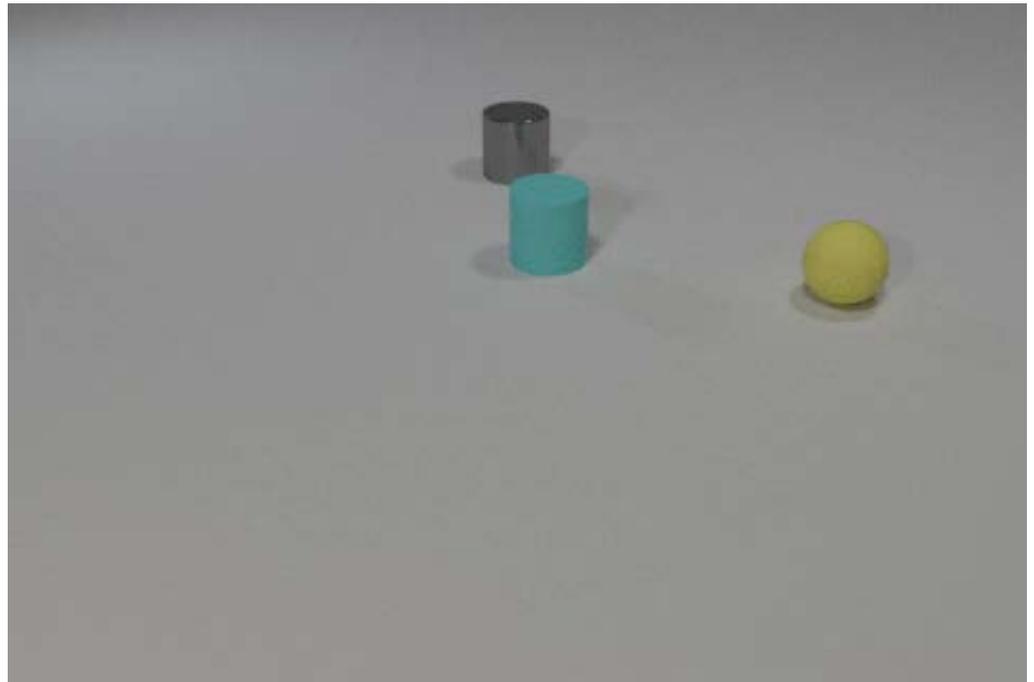
	Q.Type	GRU (Lang. Only) [Cho et al., 2014]	GRU-CNN [Zhou et al., 2015]	BERT (question ; concept) [Jacob Devlin, 2018]	NS-CL [Mao et al. 2019]	VCML	
<b>CLEVR</b>	Synonym	50.0	66.3 $\pm$ 1.4	60.9 $\pm$ 10.6	76.2 $\pm$ 10.2 ; 80.2 $\pm$ 16.1	<b>100.0<math>\pm</math>0.0</b>	<b>100.0<math>\pm</math>0.0</b>
	Same-kind	50.0	64.7 $\pm$ 5.1	61.5 $\pm$ 6.6	75.4 $\pm$ 5.4 ; 80.1 $\pm$ 10.0	92.3 $\pm$ 4.9	<b>99.3<math>\pm</math>1.0</b>
<b>GQA</b>	Synonym	50.0	80.8 $\pm$ 1.0	76.2 $\pm$ 0.8	76.2 $\pm$ 2.4 ; 83.1 $\pm$ 1.5	81.2 $\pm$ 2.8	<b>91.1<math>\pm</math>1.7</b>
	Same-kind	50.0	56.3 $\pm$ 2.3	57.3 $\pm$ 5.3	59.5 $\pm$ 2.7 ; 68.2 $\pm$ 4.0	66.8 $\pm$ 4.1	<b>69.1<math>\pm</math>1.7</b>
<b>CUB</b>	Hypernym	50.0	74.3 $\pm$ 5.2	76.7 $\pm$ 8.8	75.6 $\pm$ 1.2 ; 61.7 $\pm$ 10.3	80.1 $\pm$ 7.3	<b>94.8<math>\pm</math>1.3</b>
	Meronym	50.0	80.1 $\pm$ 5.9	78.1 $\pm$ 4.8	63.1 $\pm$ 3.2 ; 72.9 $\pm$ 9.9	<b>97.7<math>\pm</math>1.1</b>	92.5 $\pm$ 1.0

# CLEVERER: CoLLision Events for Video REpresentation and Reasoning

- Descriptive

*Q: What is the material of the last object to collide with the cyan cylinder?*

*A: Metal*



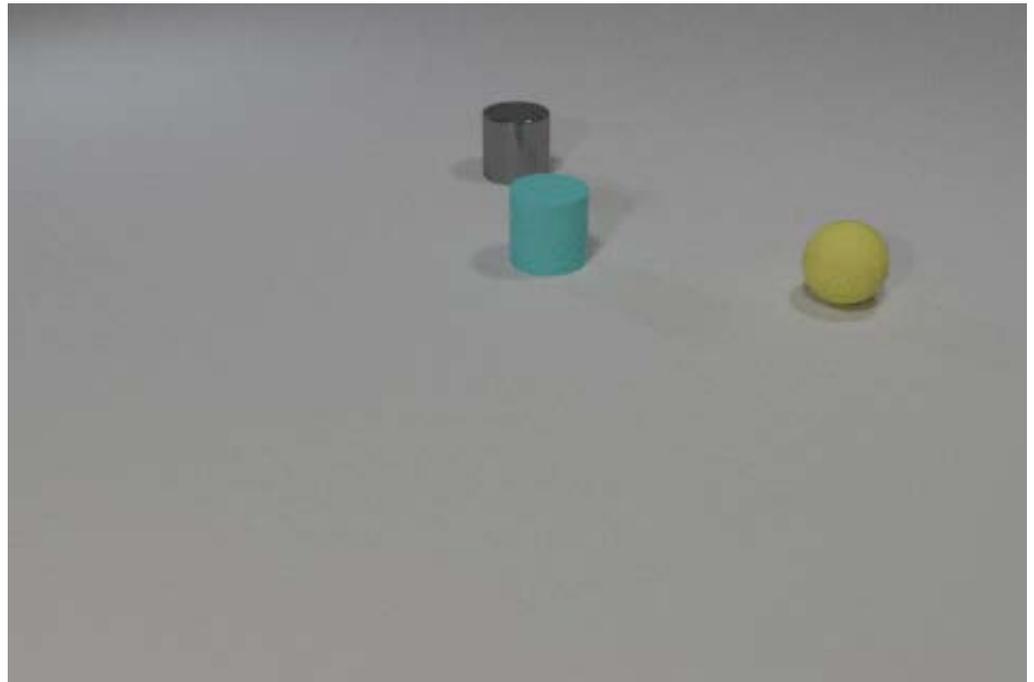
Chuang Gan w/ Kevin Xi, Yunzhu Li, Pushmeet Kohli, Jiajun Wu, Antonio Torralba & Josh Tenenbaum

- Explanatory

*Q: What is responsible for the collision between the rubber cylinder and metal cylinder?*

*A. The presence of the yellow sphere*

*B. The collision between the rubber cylinder and the red rubber sphere*

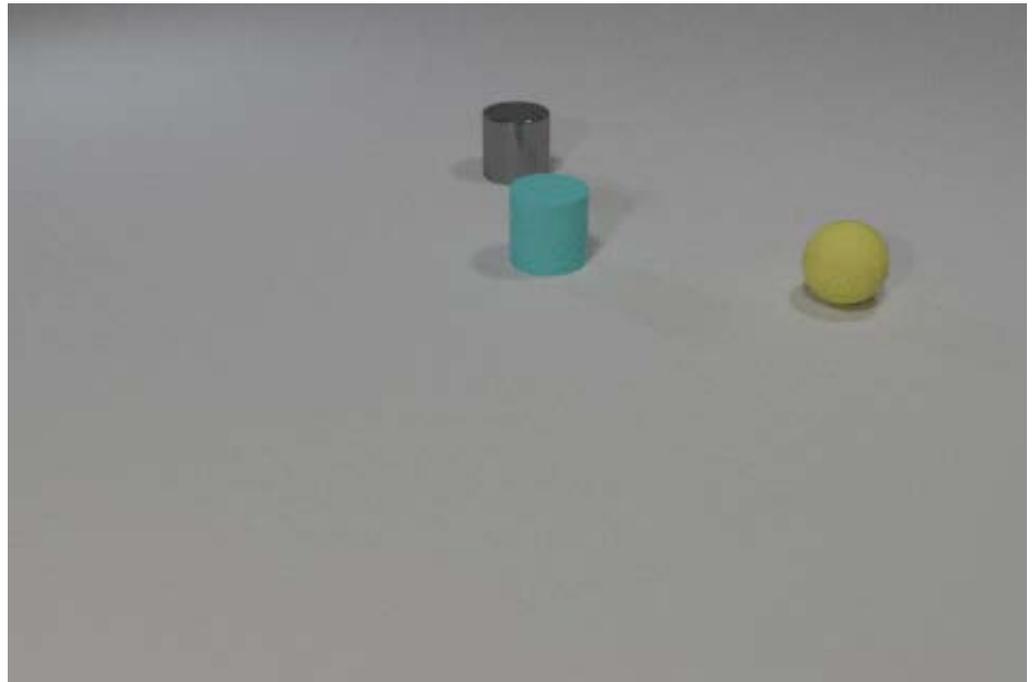


- Counterfactual

*Q: What will happen without the cyan cylinder?*

*A. The red rubber sphere and the metal sphere collide*

*B. The red rubber sphere and the gray object collide*

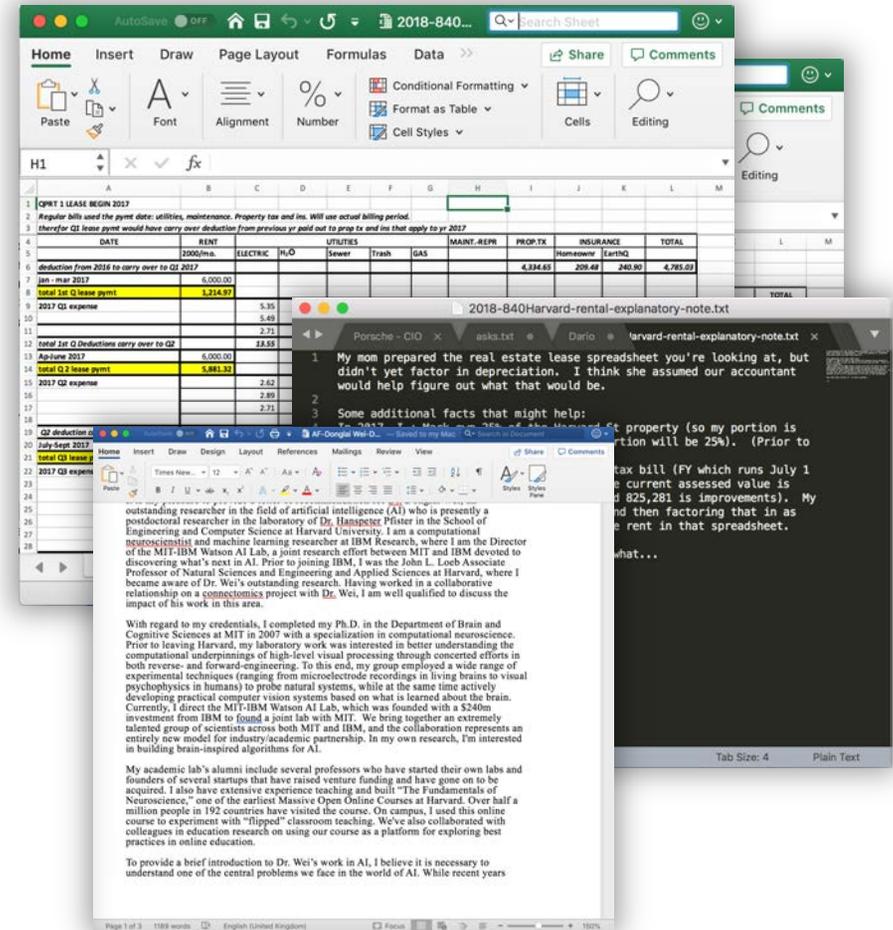


# Looking Ahead

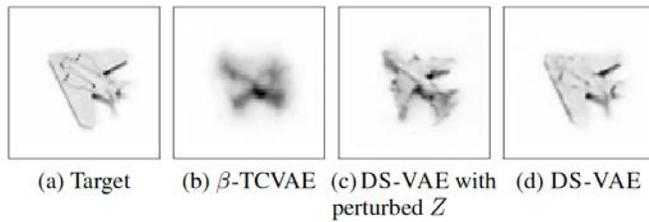
How many employees have over 10 years experience but have moved location in the last year?

What factors might contribute to better output from Factory A vs. Factory B?

Why is our database down?

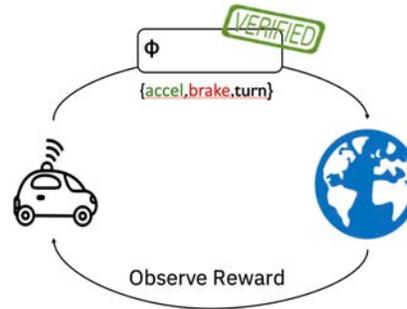


## Neurosymbolic Generative Models



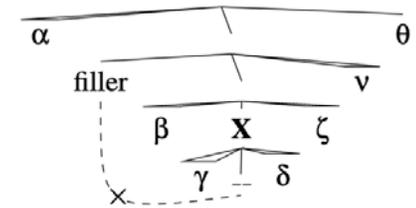
Srivastava et al. 2020 (submitted)

## Neurosymbolic Safe ML/RL



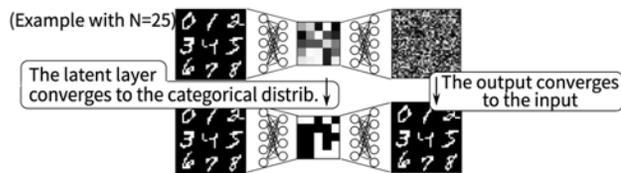
Fulton et al AAAI 2018

## Neurosymbolic NLU



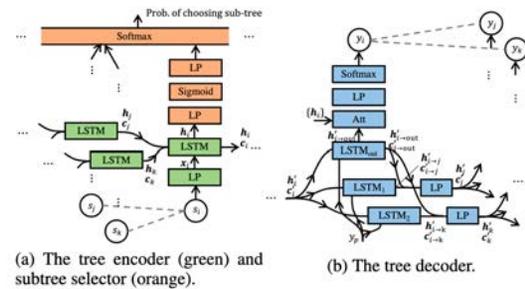
Wilcox et al. NAACL 2019

## Neurosymbolic Planning



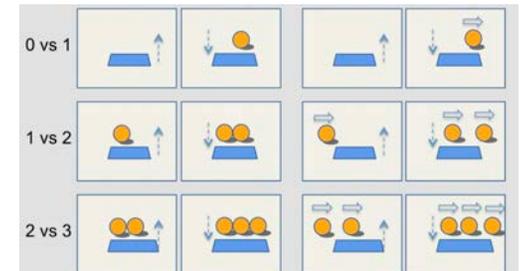
Asai et al. AAAI 2018

## Neurosymbolic Code Optimization



Shi et al. ICLR 2019

## Neurosymbolic Machine Common Sense



Smith et al. NeurIPS 2019

# Inducing Behavioral Insight

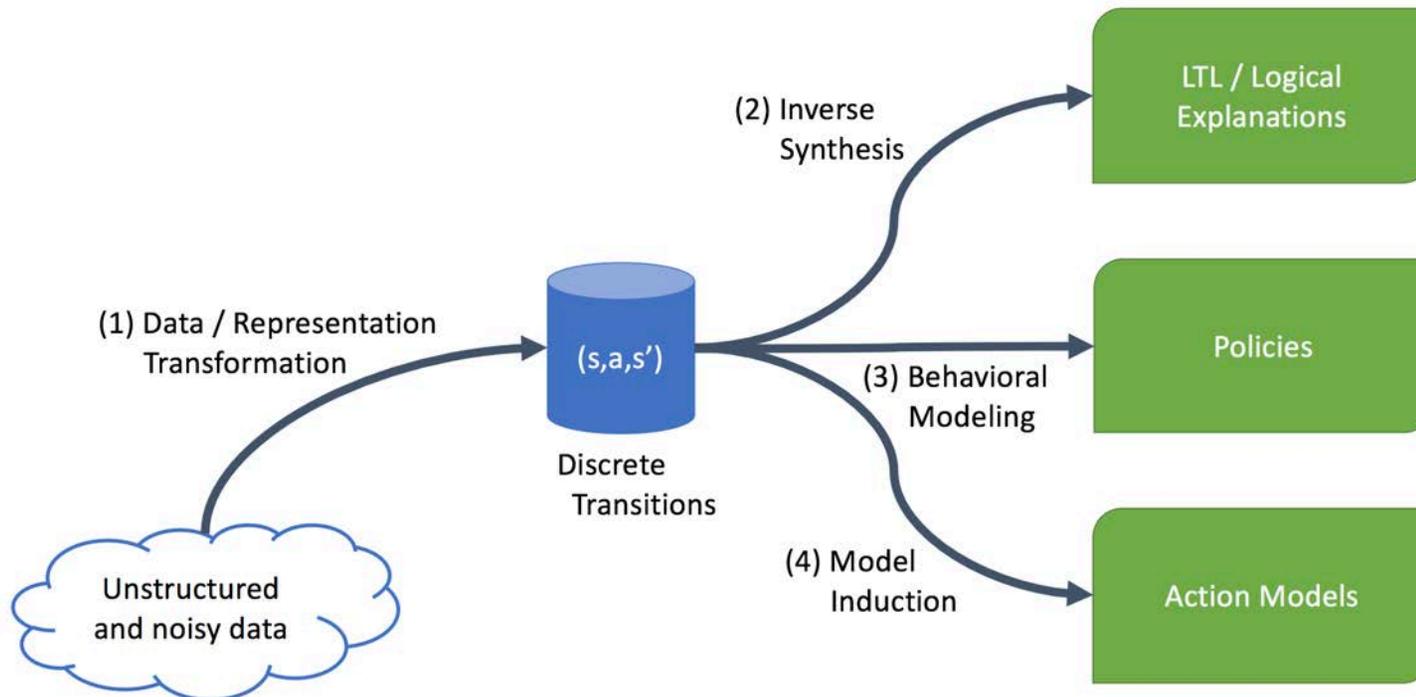
Inferring flexible behavioral plans/policies from temporal observation data



Julie Shah  
MIT



Christian Muise  
IBM





```
(:action pickup  
  
:parameters (?b1 ?b2 - block)  
  
:precondition (and (on ?b1 ?b2)  
                   (hand-clear))  
  
:effect (and (not (hand-clear))  
             (not (on ?b1 ?b2))  
             (holding ?b1))  
  
)
```

**Task: Induce the action theory of an environment through observations**

# LatPlan

Mixing symbolic planning with neural networks



Masataro Asai  
IBM

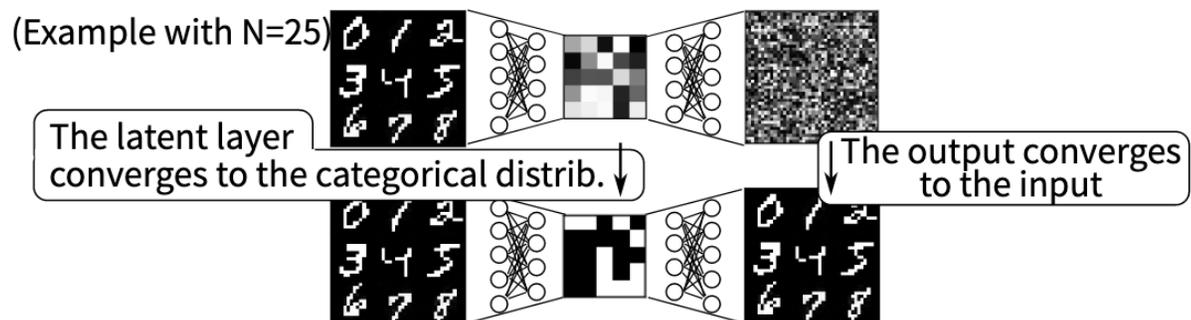


# LatPlan

Mixing symbolic planning with neural networks



Masataro Asai  
IBM



When  
 $Empty(x, y_{old}) \wedge$   
 $at(x, y_{new}, p) \wedge$   
 $up(y_{new}, y_{old});$   
 then  
 $\neg Empty(x, y_{old}) \wedge$   
 $Empty(x, y_{new}) \wedge$   
 $\neg at(x, y_{new}, p) \wedge$   
 $at(x, y_{old}, p)$

;; Translates to a PDDL model below:

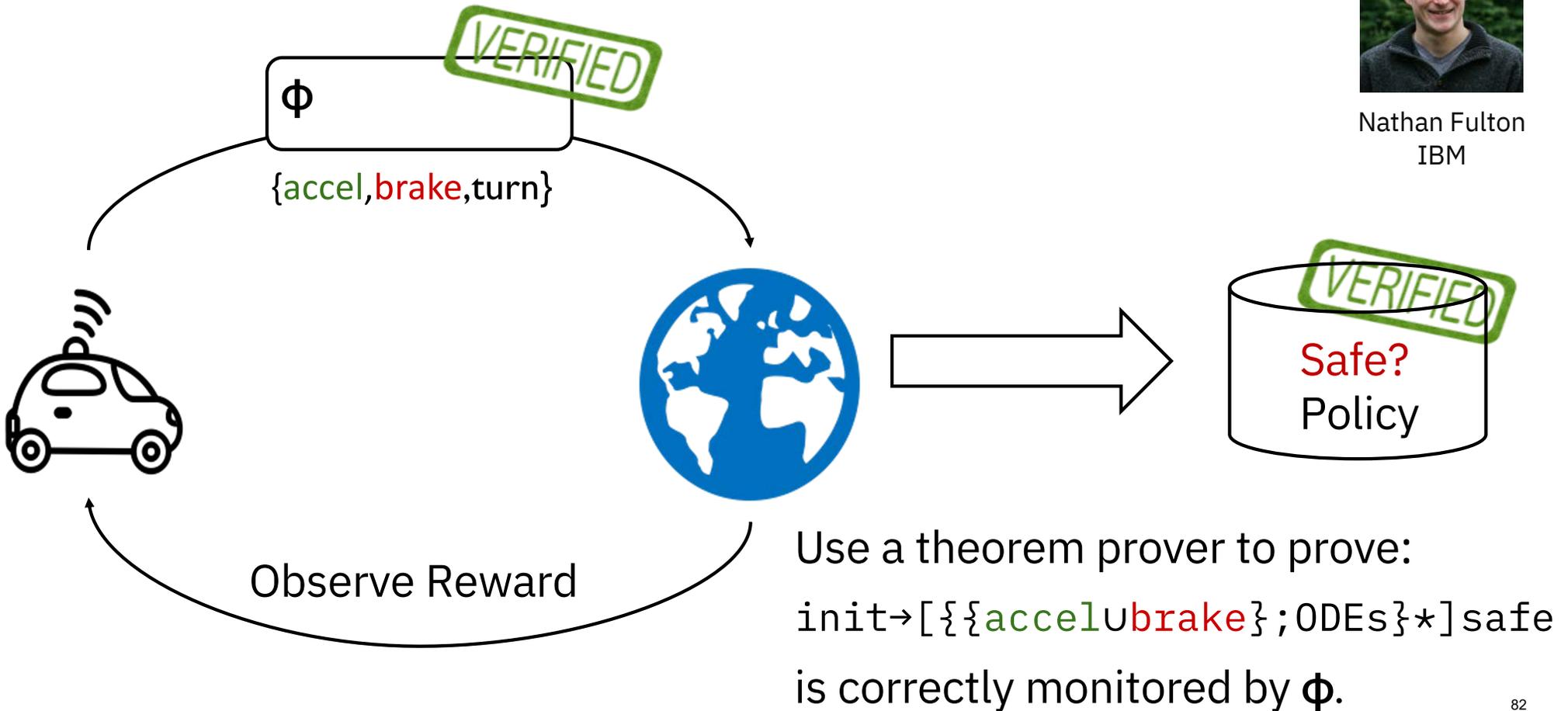
```
(:action slide-up ...
:precondition
  (and (empty ?x ?y-old)
        (at ?x ?y-new ?p) ...)
:effects
  (and (not (empty ?x ?y-old))
        (empty ?x ?y-new)
        (not (at ?x ?y-new ?p))
        (at ?x ?y-old ?p)))
```

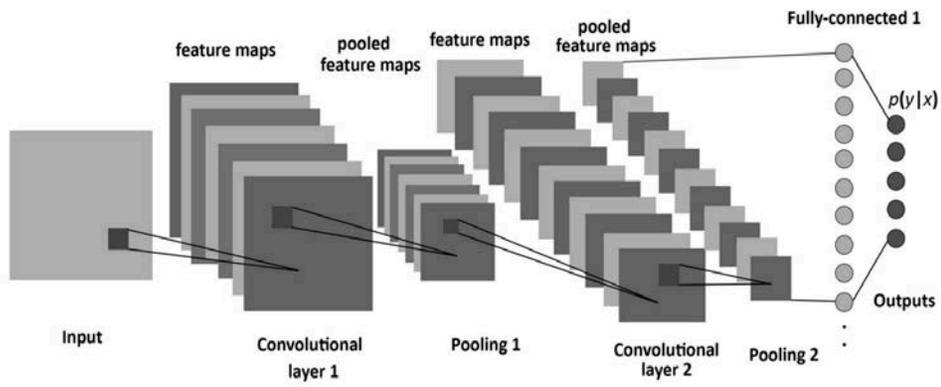
	6	8
↑ 7	3	2
5	1	4

# Verifiably Safe Reinforcement Learning



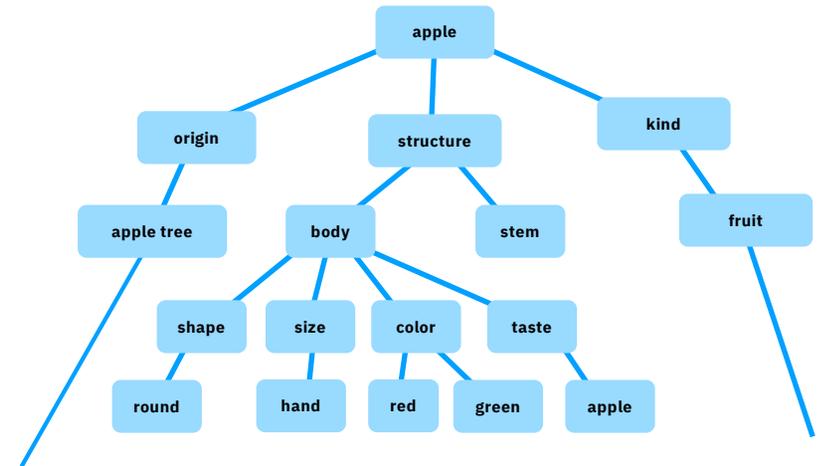
Nathan Fulton  
IBM





## NEURAL NETWORKS

+



```
(:action pickup
:parameters (?b1 ?b2 - block)
:precondition (and (on ?b1 ?b2)
(hand-clear))

:effect (and (not (hand-clear))
(not (on ?b1 ?b2))
(holding ?b1))
)
```

## SYMBOLIC AI

# Causal Inference

Beyond Correlation—inferring and testing for causal relationships in complex systems



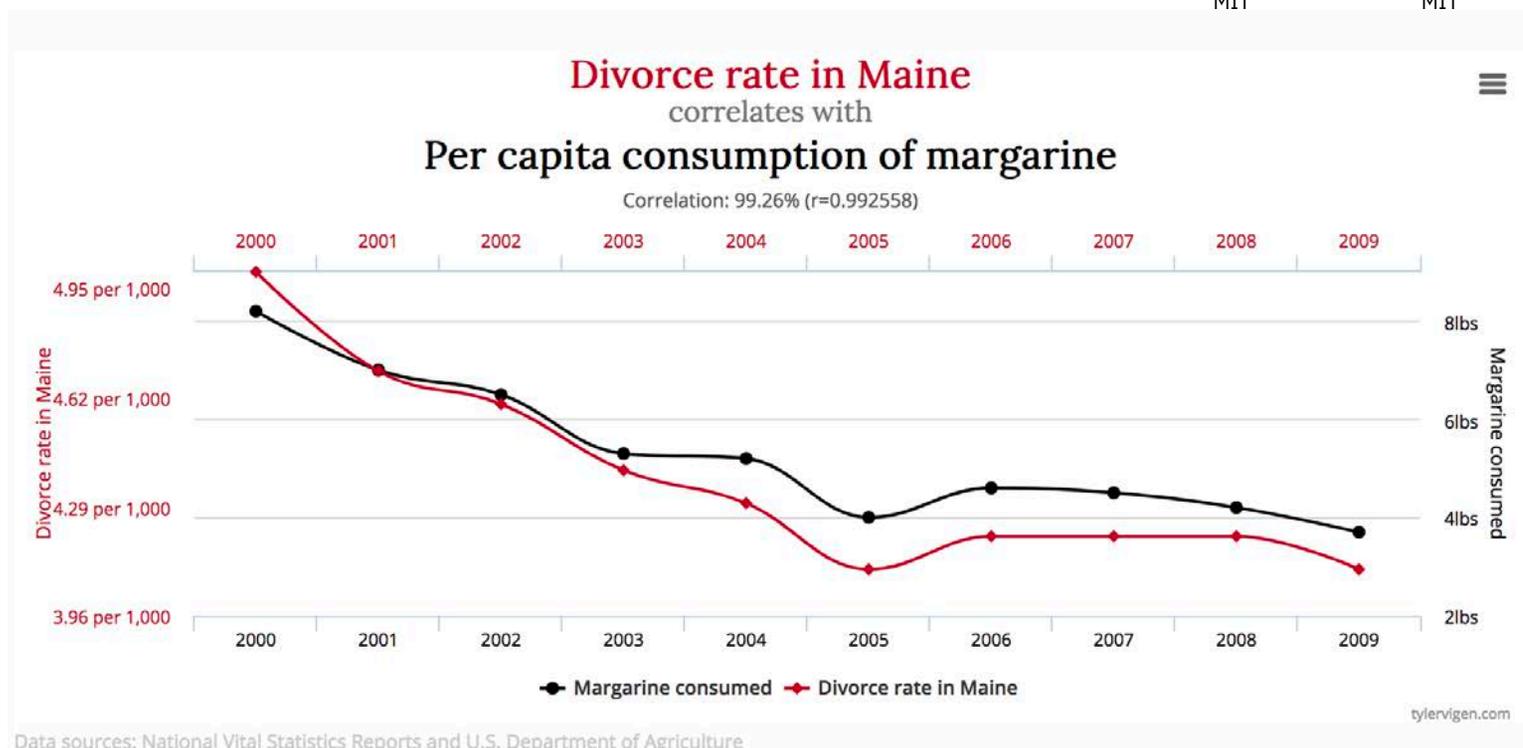
Caroline Uhler  
MIT



Guy Bresler  
MIT



Karthikeyan  
Shanmugam  
IBM



<http://tylervigen.com/spurious-correlations>

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BMJ 2016 ; 355 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.i6536> (Published 09 December 2016)  
Cite this as: BMJ 2016;355:i6536



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