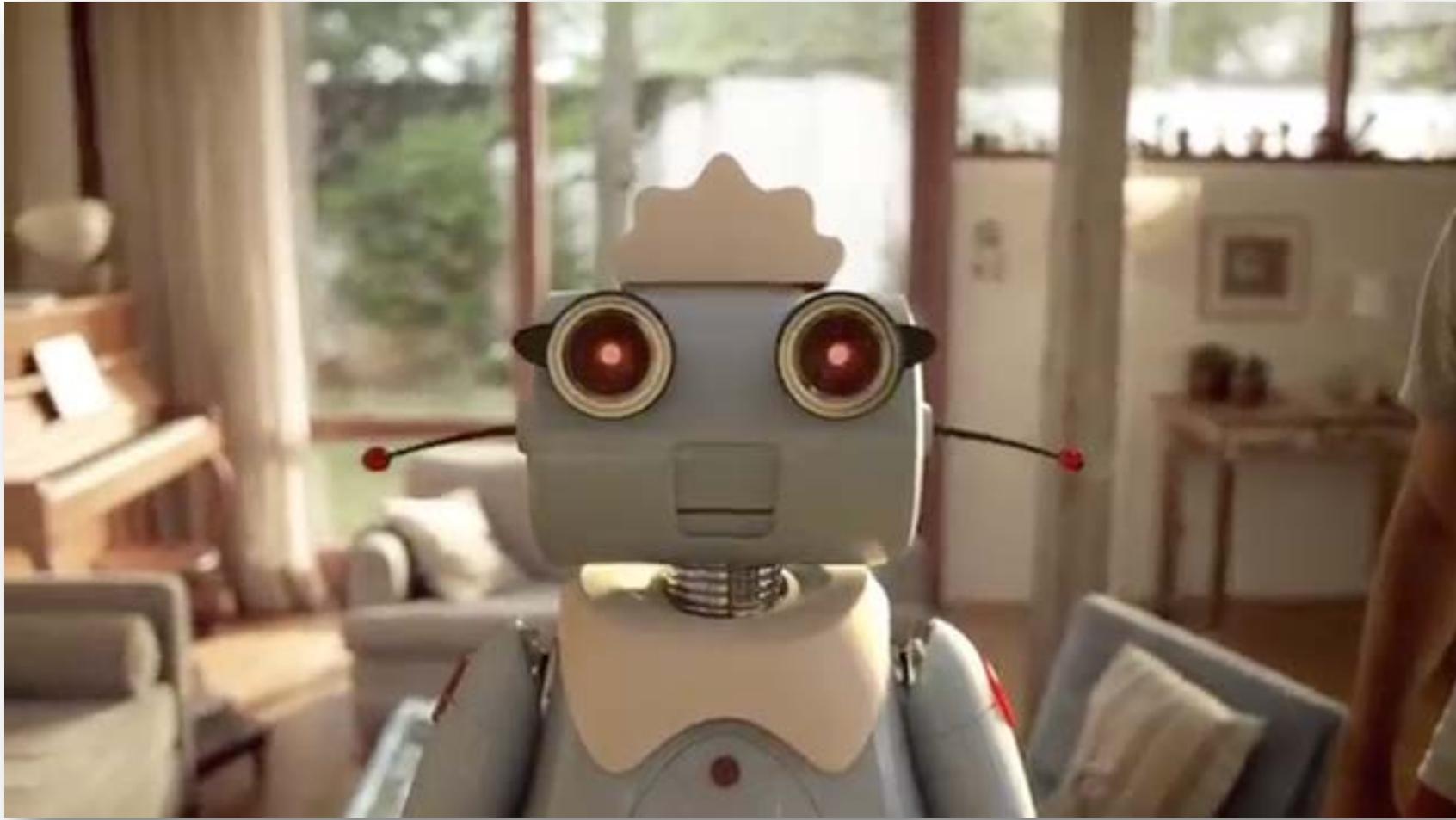


Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation



Animesh Garg



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO



VECTOR
INSTITUTE



nVIDIA

Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation



Vacuuming



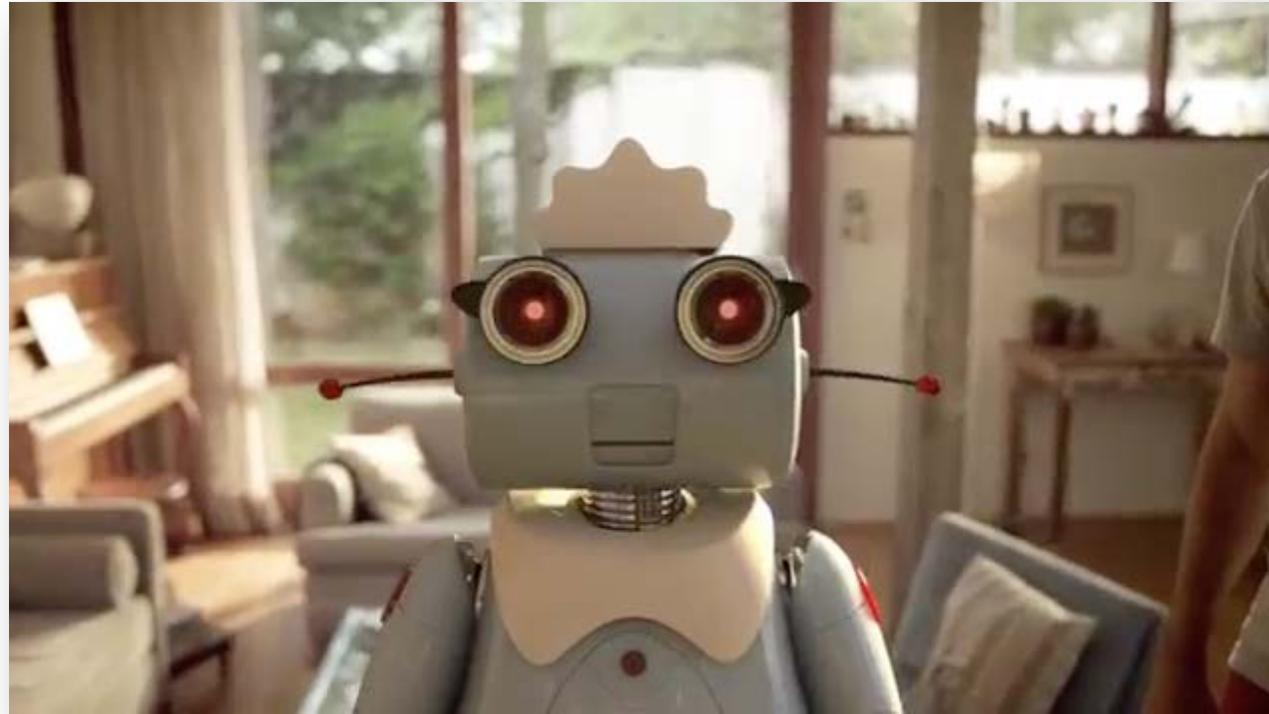
Sweeping/Mopping



Cooking



Laundry



Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation



Vacuuuming



Sweeping/Mopping



Cooking



Laundry

Diversity:
New Scenes,
Tools,...

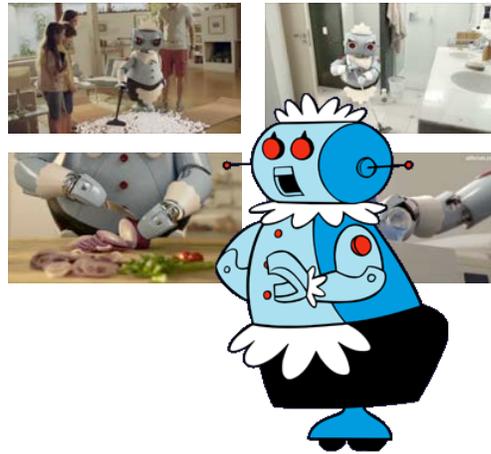


Complexity:
Long-term
Settings

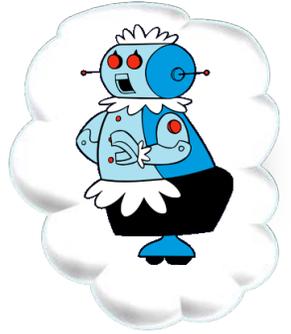


Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation

Vision: Build Intelligent Robotic Companions
towards Human Enrichment and Augmentation



Generalizable *Autonomy* in Robot Manipulation

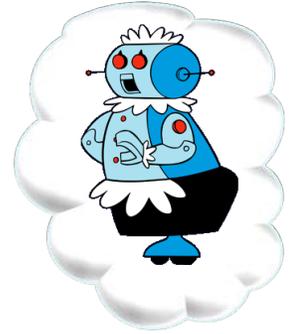


1956 Dartmouth AI Project



1956

Generalizable *Autonomy* in Robot *Manipulation*

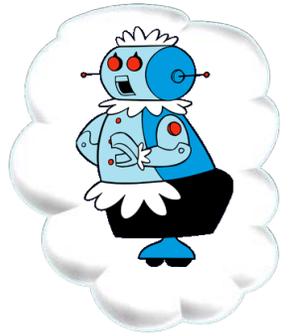


Dartmouth AI Meeting

UNIMATE
1st Industrial robot

1956 '61 1968

Generalizable *Autonomy* in Robot *Manipulation*



Boston Dynamics

ATLAS CAN WALK IN
TOUGH CONDITIONS,

Dartmouth AI Me

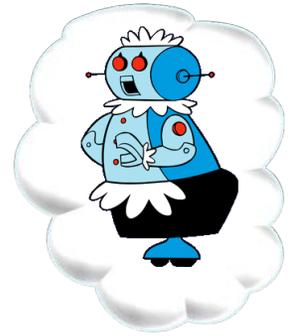
UNIN
1st Indus

1956 '61 1968

2013



Generalizable *Autonomy* in Robot *Manipulation*



Dartmouth AI Meet

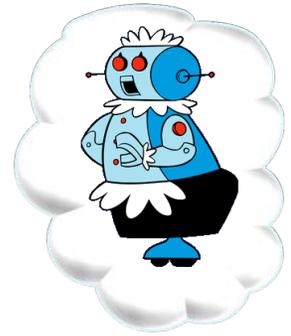
UNIMA
1st Industrial

P

1956 '61 1968

2013 2018

Generalizable *Autonomy* in Robot *Manipulation*



Unstructured/Unknown
New Environment

Dartmouth AI Me

UNIM

1st Indus

1956 '61 1968

2013 2018 2019



Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation

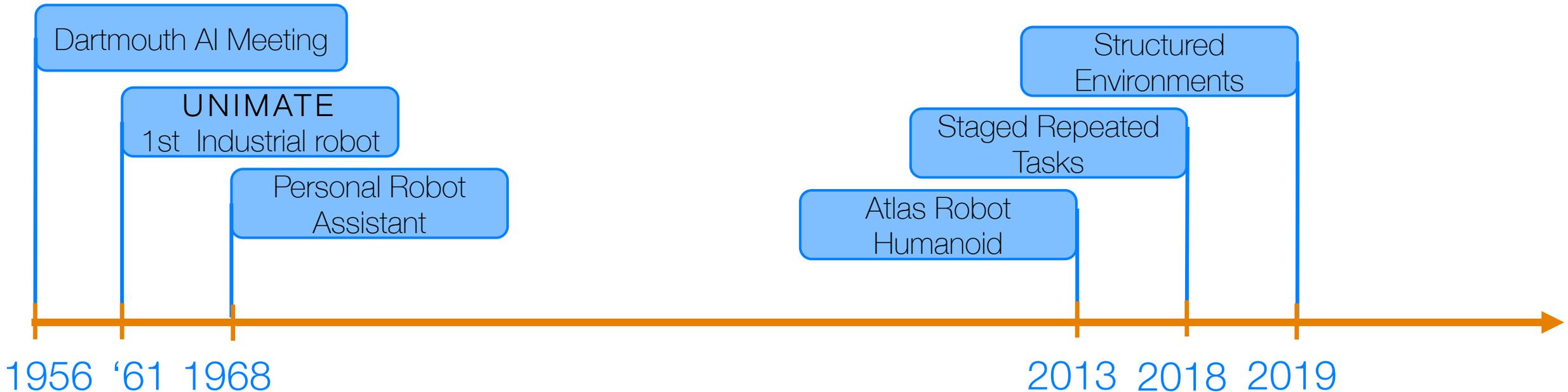
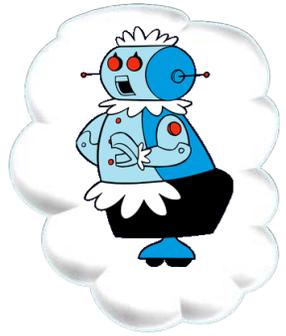


Then



Now

How to Generalize to Unstructured Scenarios?



Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation

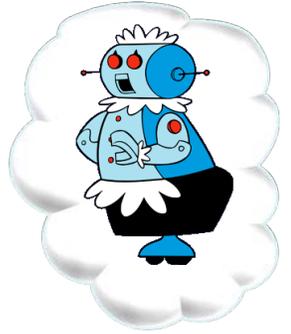


Then

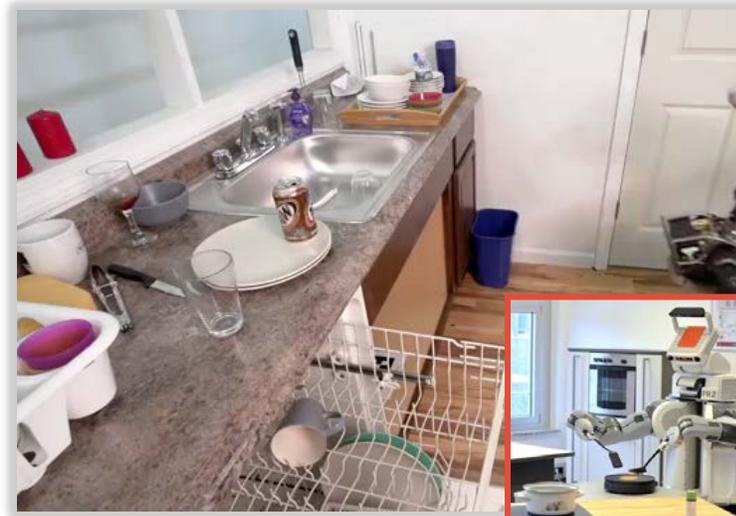


Now

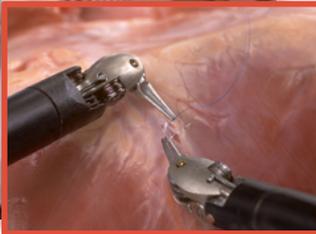
How to Generalize to Unstructured Scenarios?



Manufacturing/Retail



Personal/Service



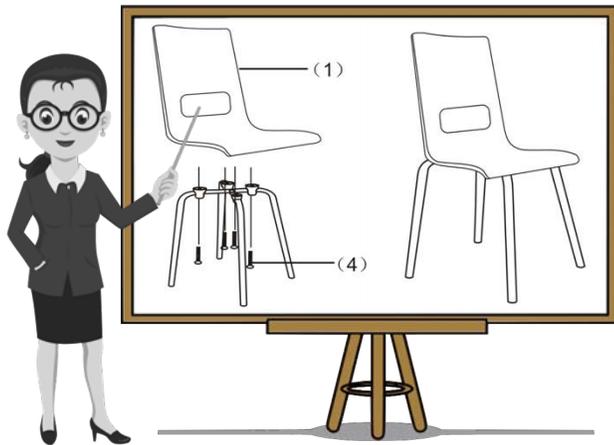
Healthcare/Medicine

Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation

Vision: Build Intelligent Robotic Companions

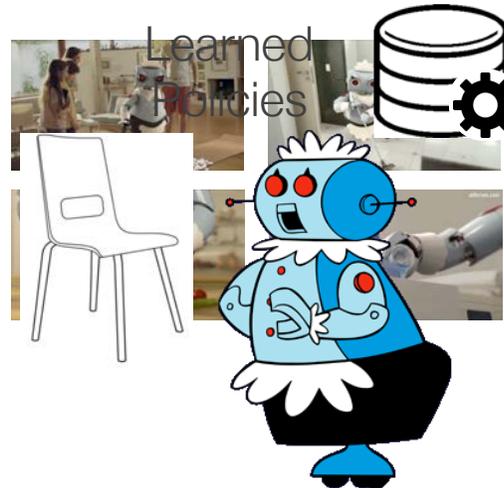
Approach: Learning with Structured Inductive Bias and Priors

Demonstration



Instructional Input
(Teleoperation, Video, Language)

Task Imitation



Learn to do the task in
Same Environment

Generalization



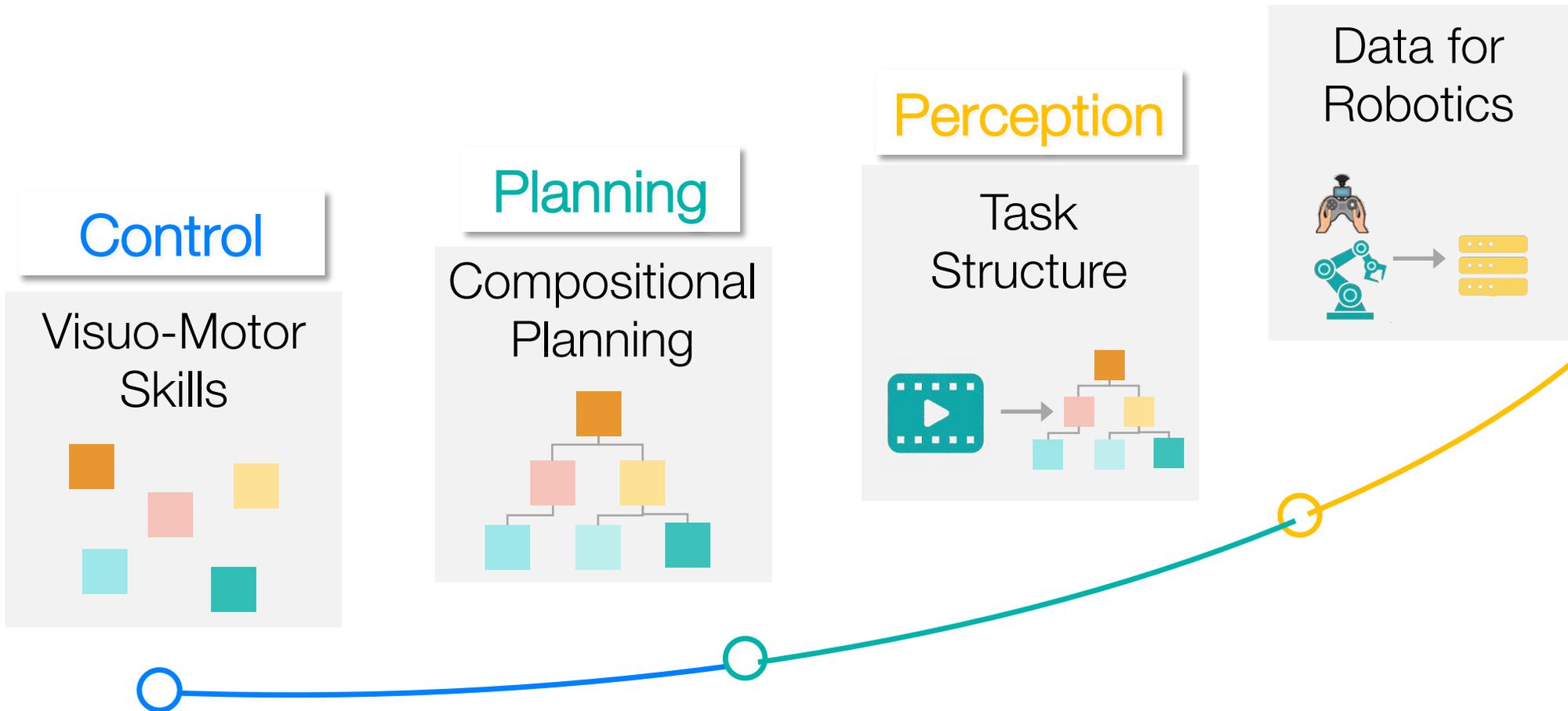
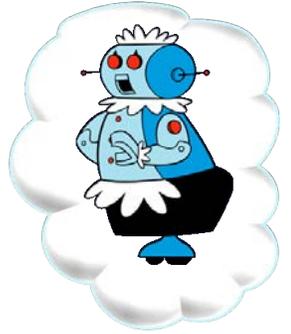
New Task Variations
in Novel Environments

Layers of Imitation

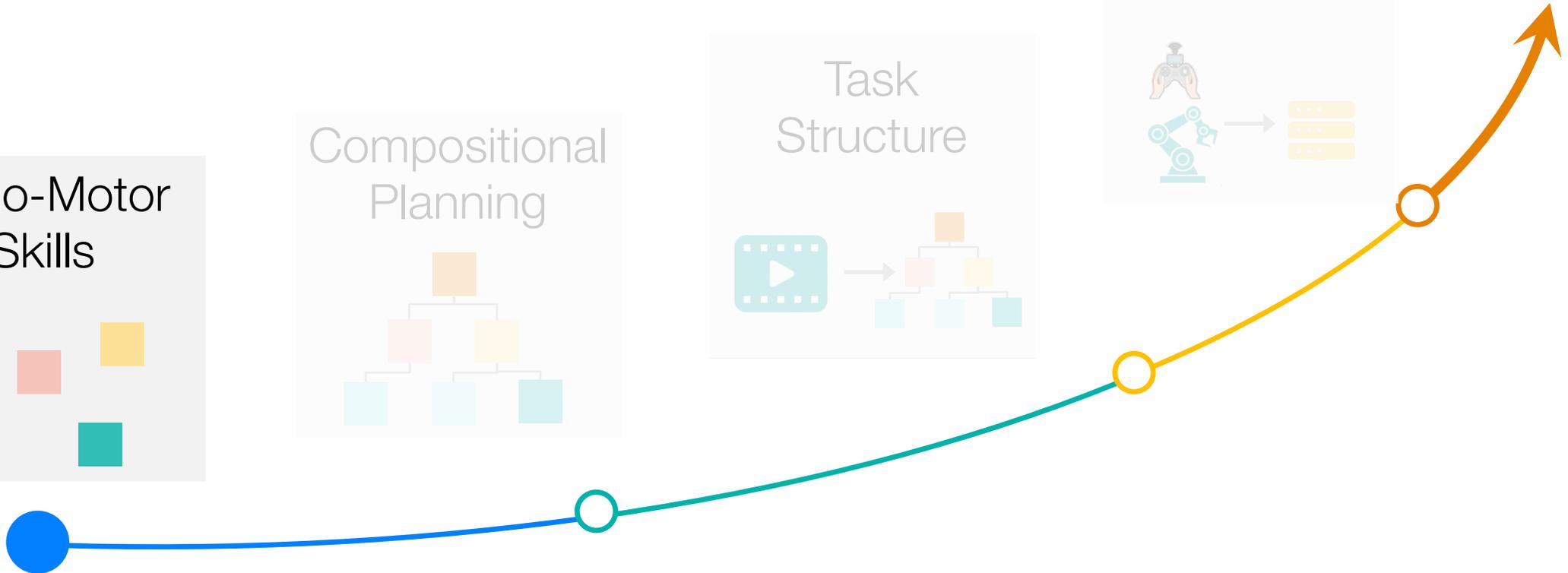
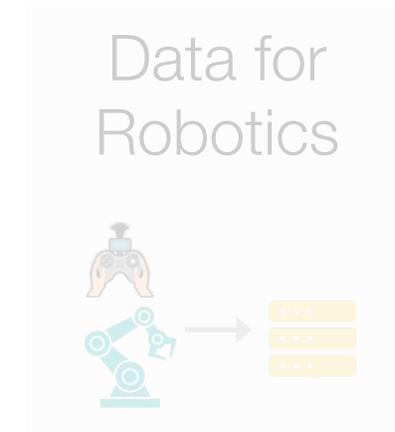
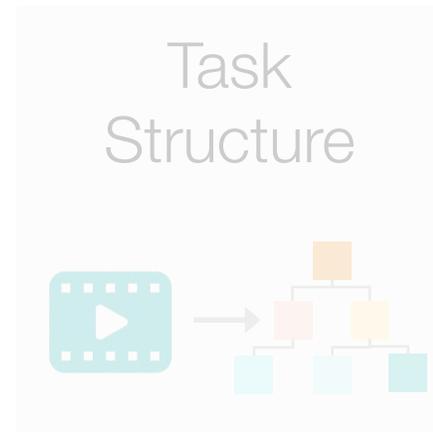
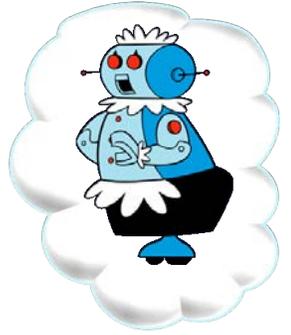


Task Specification

Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation



Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation



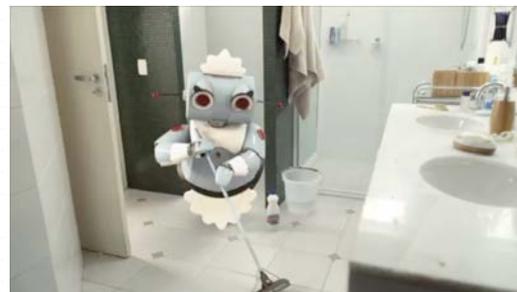
Visuo-Motor Skills

Challenge: Algorithmic frameworks to learn a **diversity** of skills

Approach: Close the **Visuo-Motor** Loop with Learning based **Control**



Vacuuming



Sweeping/Mopping



Cooking



Cleaning

Visuo-Motor Skills: Generalization



Cleaning



Hard Stains – Push Harder?



Skills: Surface Wiping



Different Surfaces – Be Gentle?

Generalization

Visuo-Motor Skills: Current Paradigm

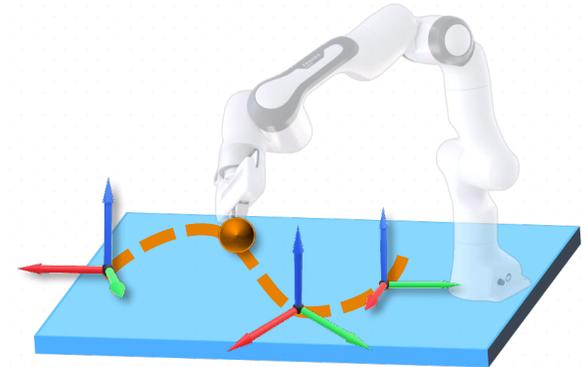
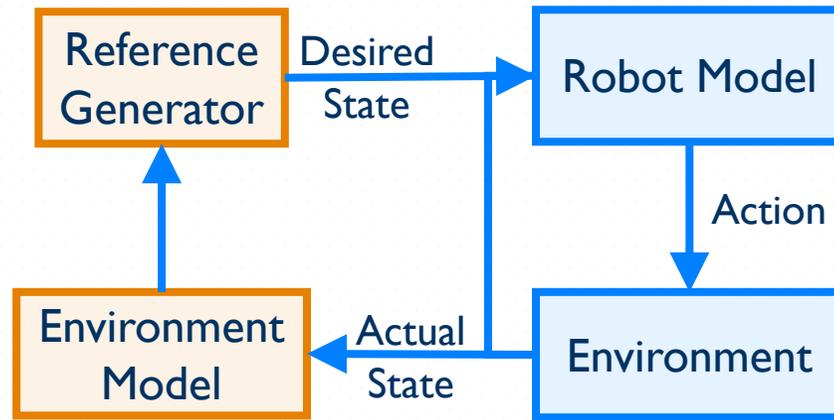
Model Based Task (Operational) Space Control

Actual State: Image, Force, Joint Enc.

Desired State: x_d

Robot Model Parameters: M, J

Action: τ



Robot Model

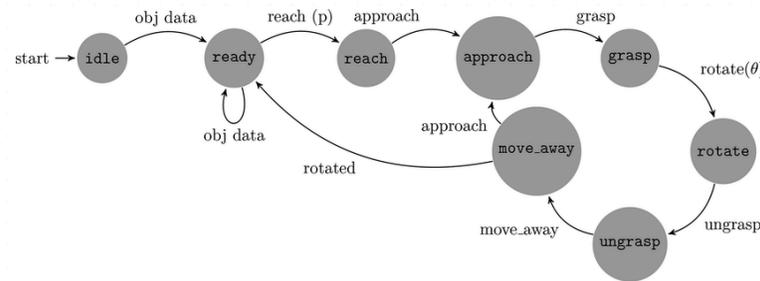
$$\ddot{x}_{ref} = K_p(x_d - x) + K_v(\dot{x}_d - \dot{x}) + \ddot{x}_d$$

$$M(q, \dot{q}) + C(q, \dot{q}) + G(q) + \varepsilon(q, \dot{q}) = \tau$$

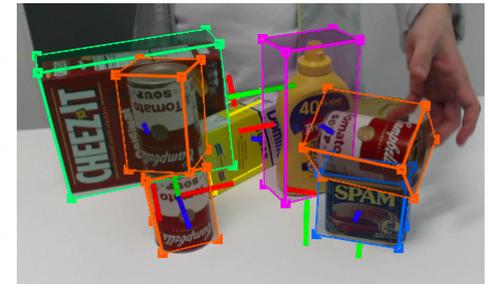
$$\tau = J^T (JM^{-1}J^T)^{-1}(\ddot{x}_{ref} - \dot{J}\dot{q} + JM^{-1}F)$$

- + Leverages Robot Model
- + Compliant Control

Environment Model + Reference Generator



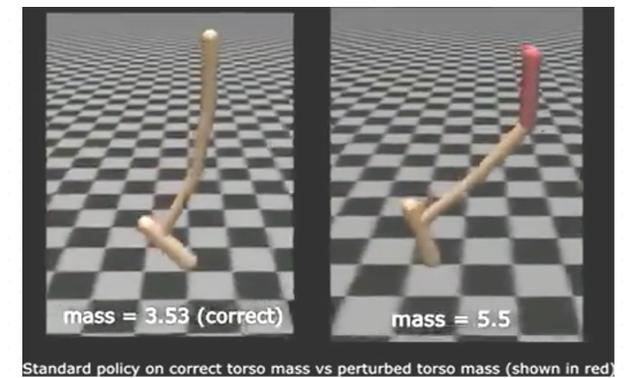
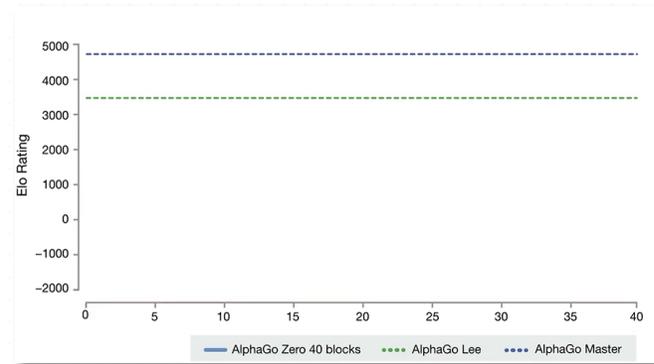
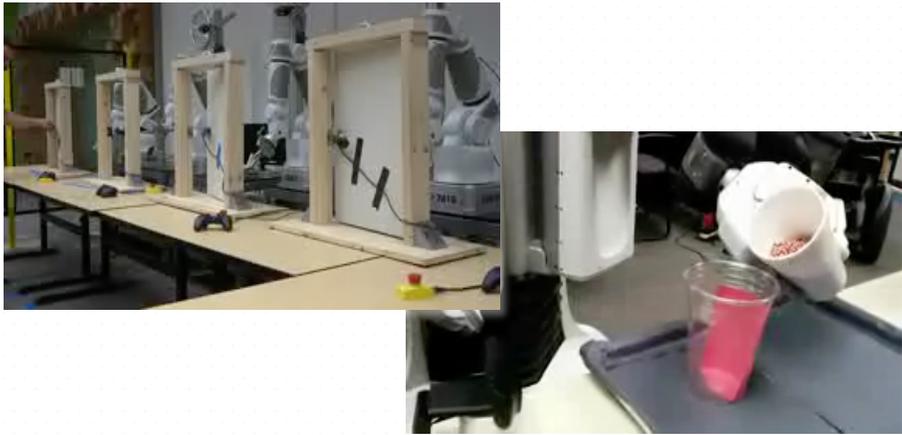
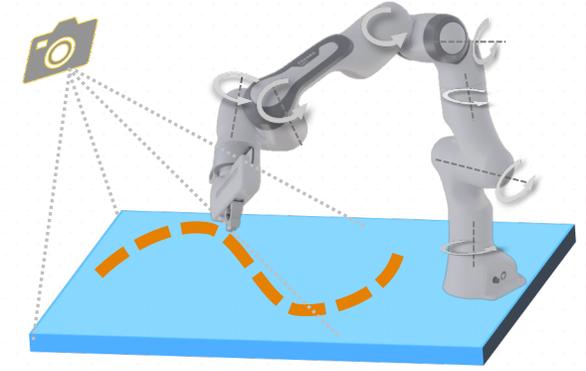
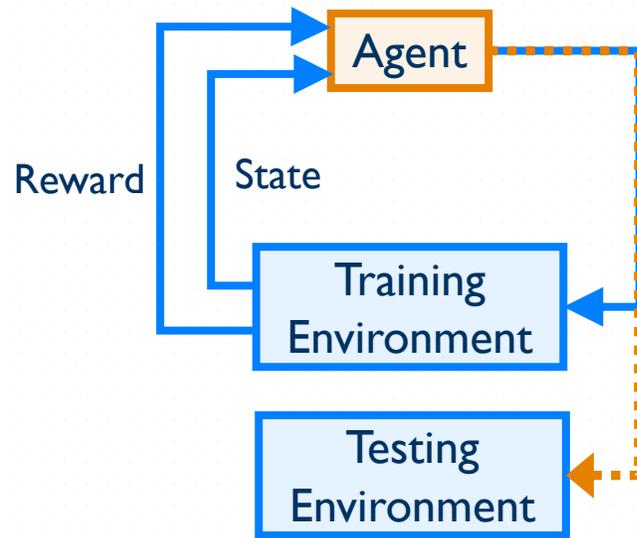
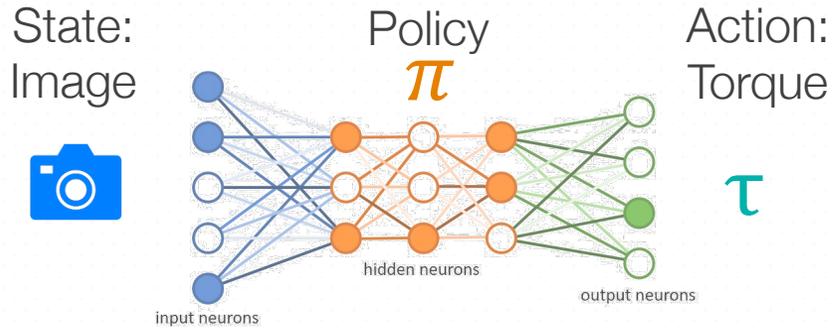
- Needs Environment (Task) Model



- Task Dependent State
- Explicit State Estimation

Visuo-Motor Skills: Current Paradigm

Deep Reinforcement Learning



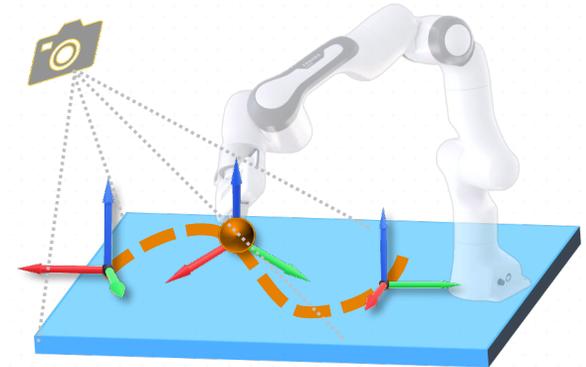
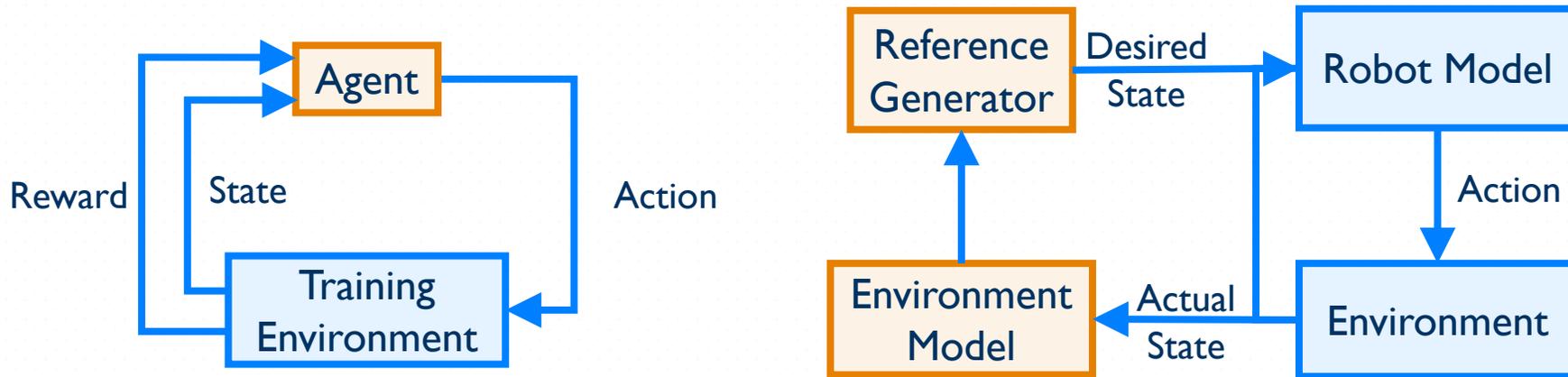
- + Model Free: No Environment Model
- + State is Image

- Sample Inefficient
- Learn robot model (implicitly)

- If Training \neq Testing: Policy Fails!

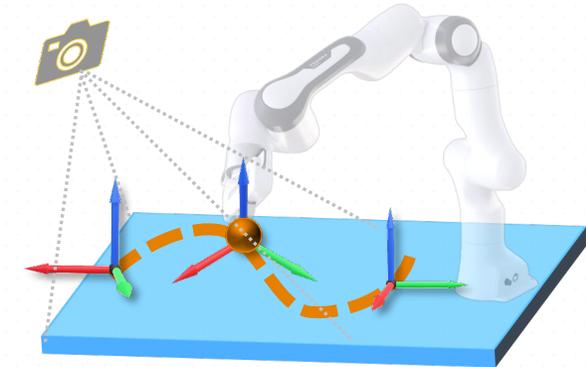
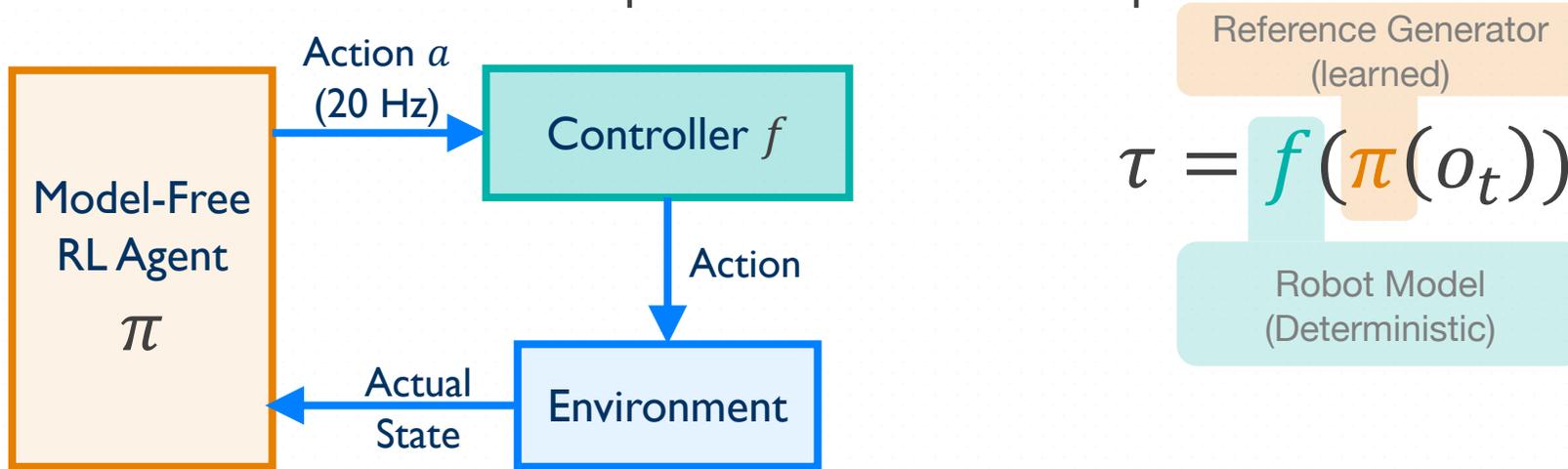
Visuo-Motor Skills: Our Approach

RL with Variable Impedance Task-Space



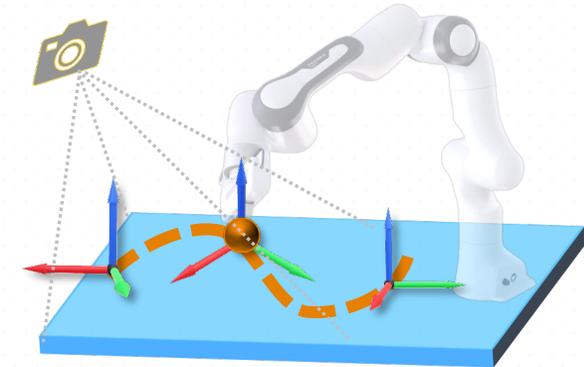
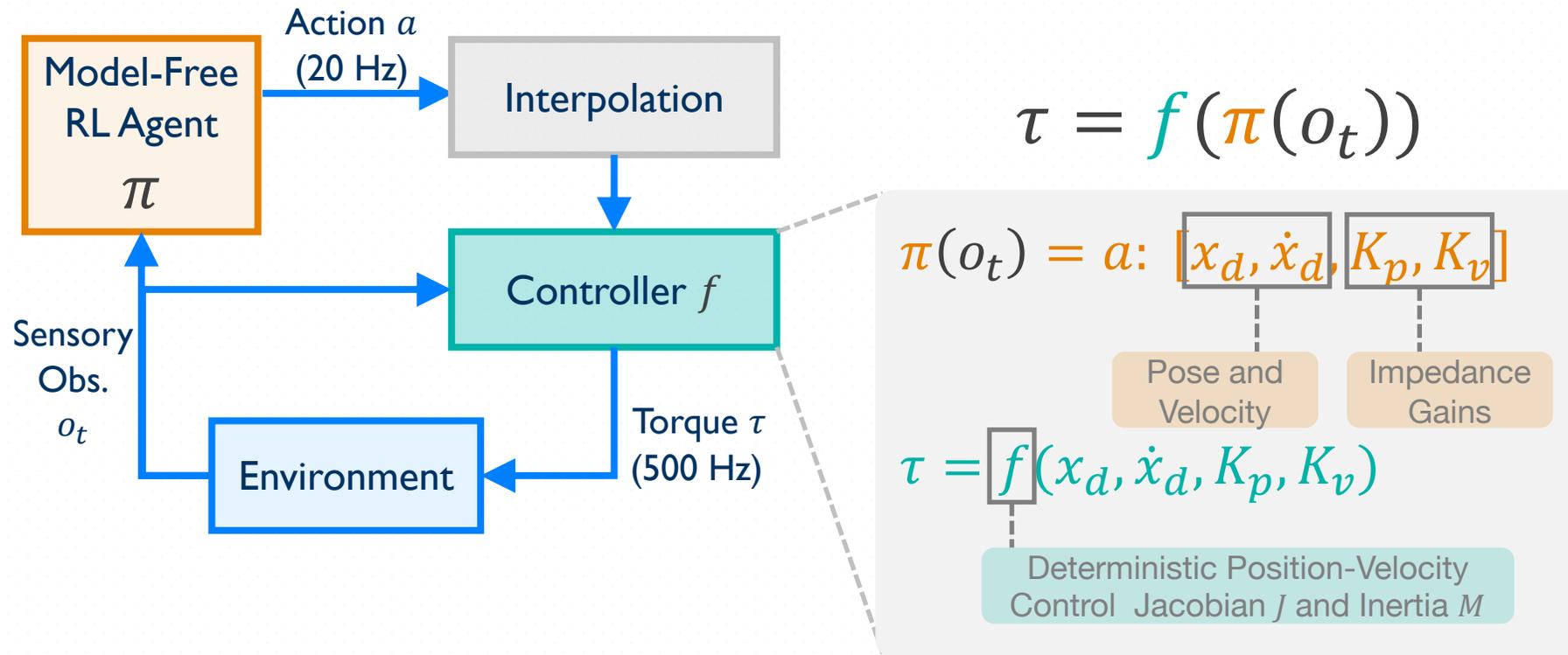
Visuo-Motor Skills: Our Approach

RL with Variable Impedance Task-Space



Visuo-Motor Skills: Our Approach

RL with Variable Impedance Task-Space



- + Model Free: No Environment Model
- + State is Image

- + Leverages Robot Model
- + Compliant Control

- + Sample Efficient
- + Transferable

Visuo-Motor Skills: Action Representation

Surface Wiping

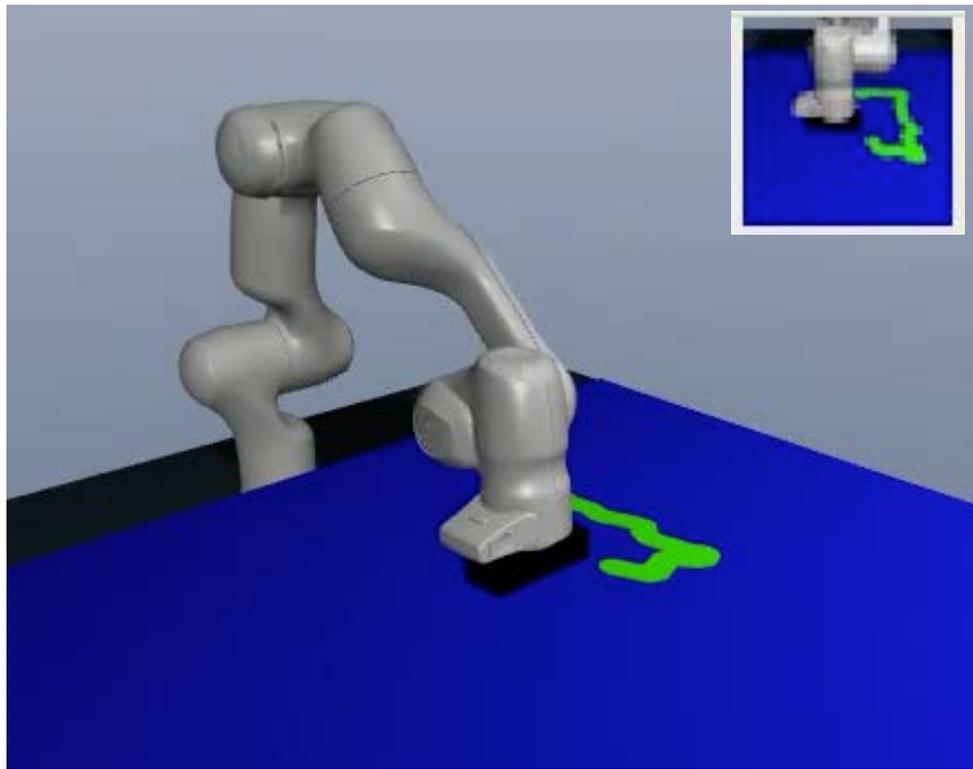
Input: Image (48x48)

Minimize the number of Dirty Tiles

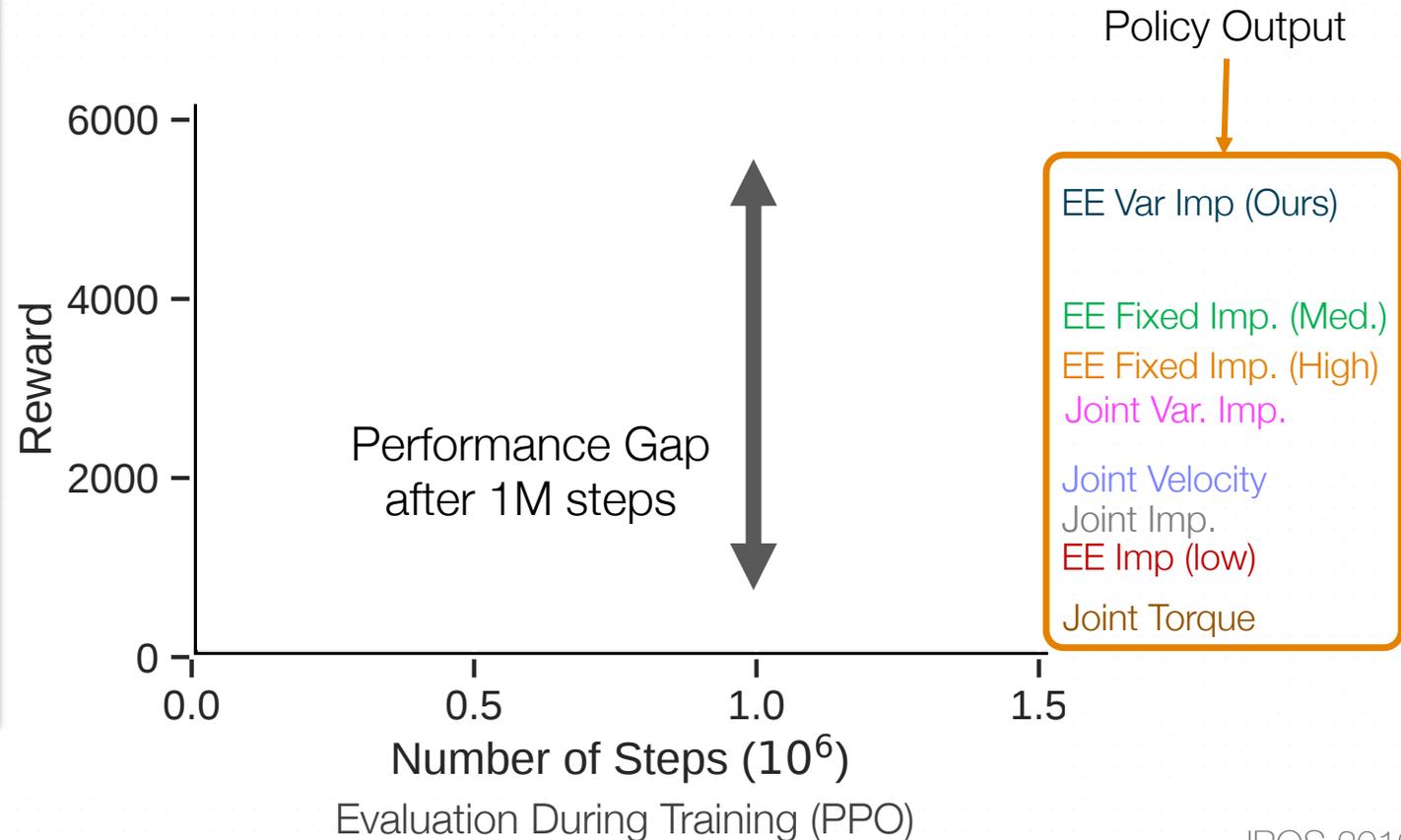
Maintain Contact with the Table

Don't push with more than Robot Payload

$$\text{Reward: } \lambda_1 \sum(\text{dirt_on_table}) + \lambda_2(\text{distance_to_table}) - \lambda_3 \mathbb{I}(F \geq 40N)$$



Trained Policy Rollout (Ours)



Visuo-Motor Skills: Action Representation



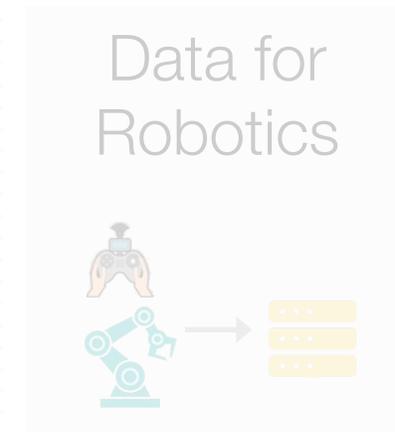
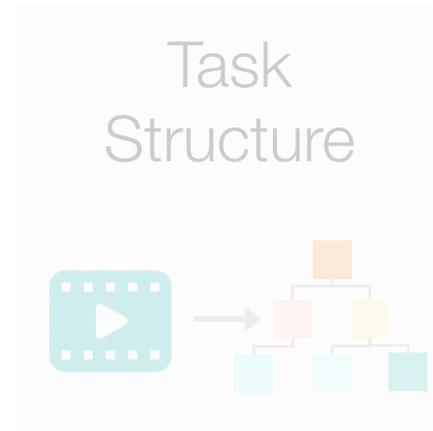
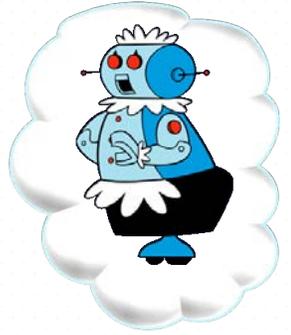
$$\tau = f_{sim}(\pi(o_t))$$



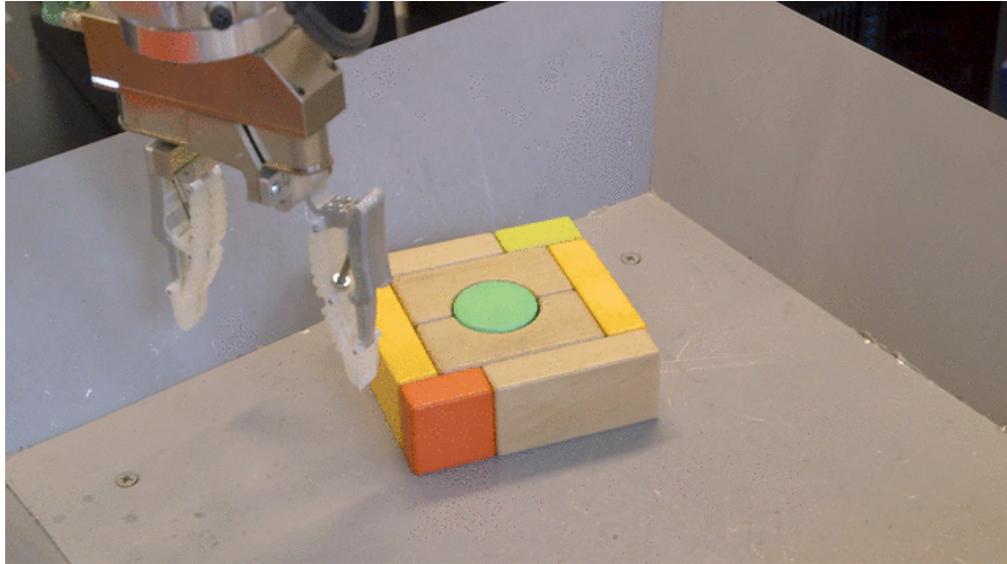
$$\tau = f_{Real}(\pi(o_t))$$

Success 80% (10 Trials)

Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation



Skills: Imitation from Heuristics



Promise of Deep RL
closed loop-control with images



...albeit, with a lot of training

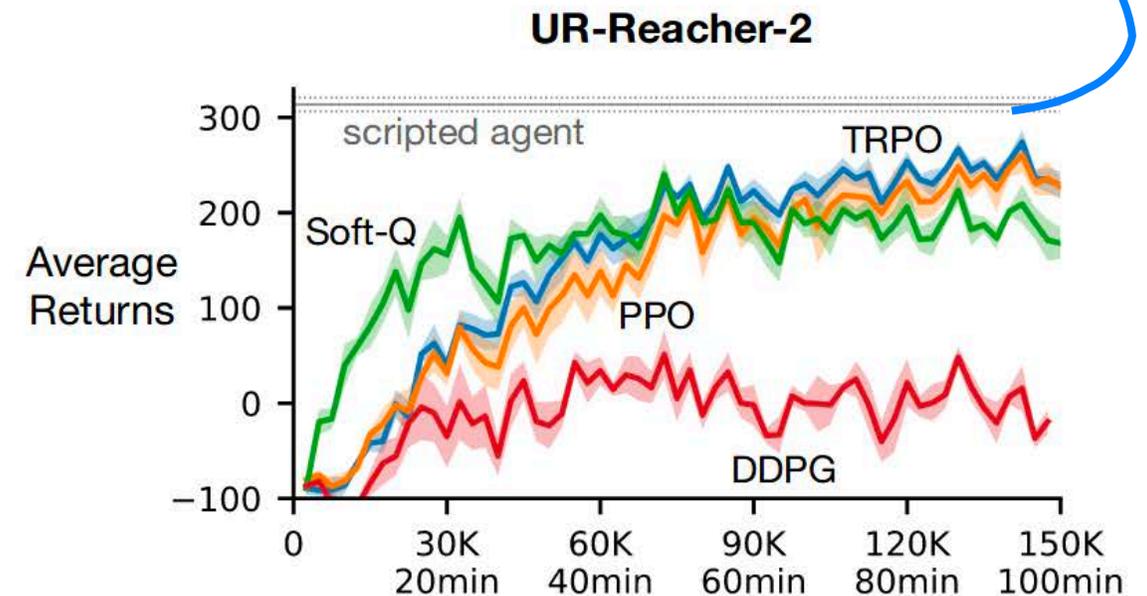
[Kalashnikov et al (2018). Levine et al. (2016), Pinto et al. (2016), Kalashnikov et al. (2018), Yu et al. (2016), Haarnoja et al. (2018), Lee et al. (2019), Vecerik et al. (2017)]

Skills: Heuristics often beat RL

RL struggles with structured, multi-step skills



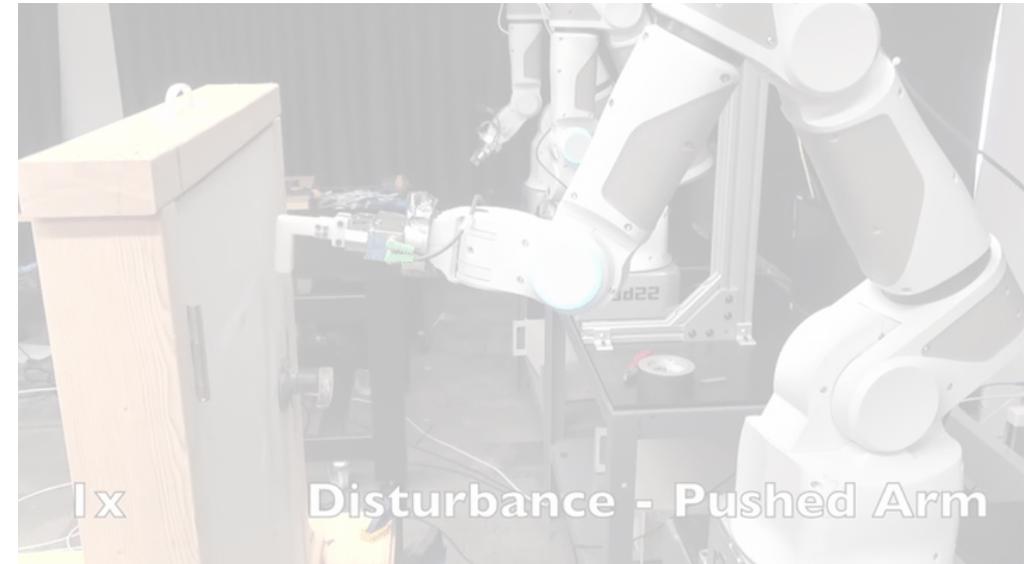
Even simple heuristics beat RL



Skills: Exploration without Guidance



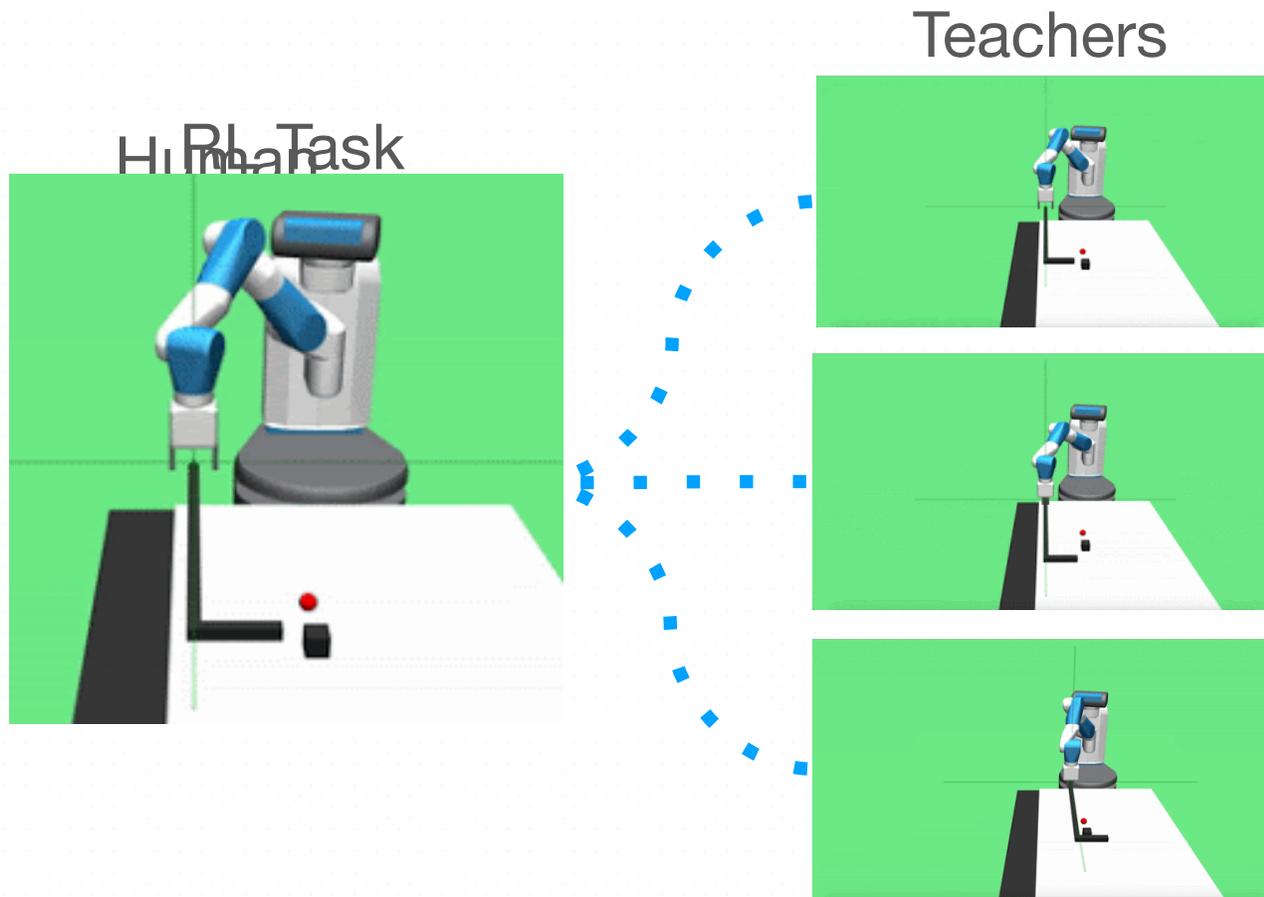
Random Exploration is slow



...even when first steps are obvious

Can Human Intuition Guide Exploration?

Skills: Imitation from Heuristics



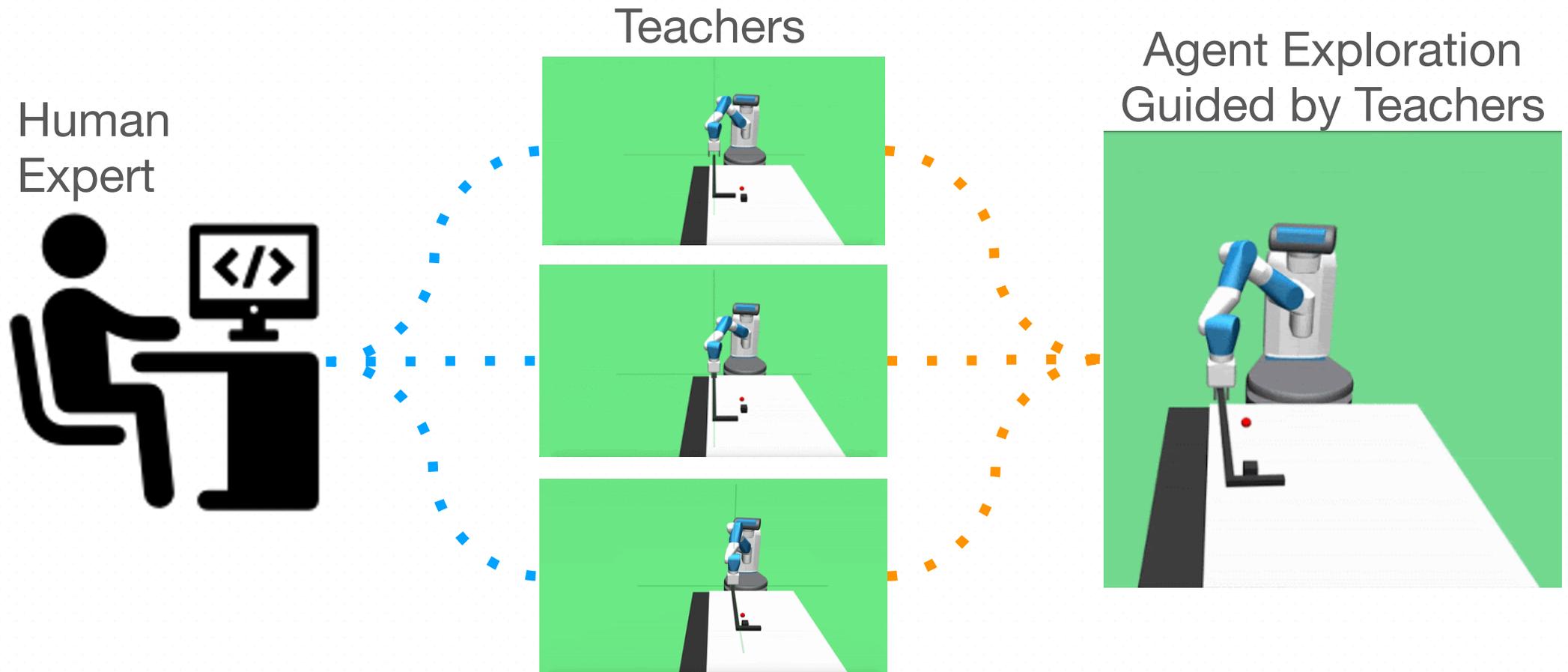
Intuition

Implement Useful Skills
...but not full solution

Teachers

Black-box controllers
solving parts of the task

Skills: Imitation from Heuristics

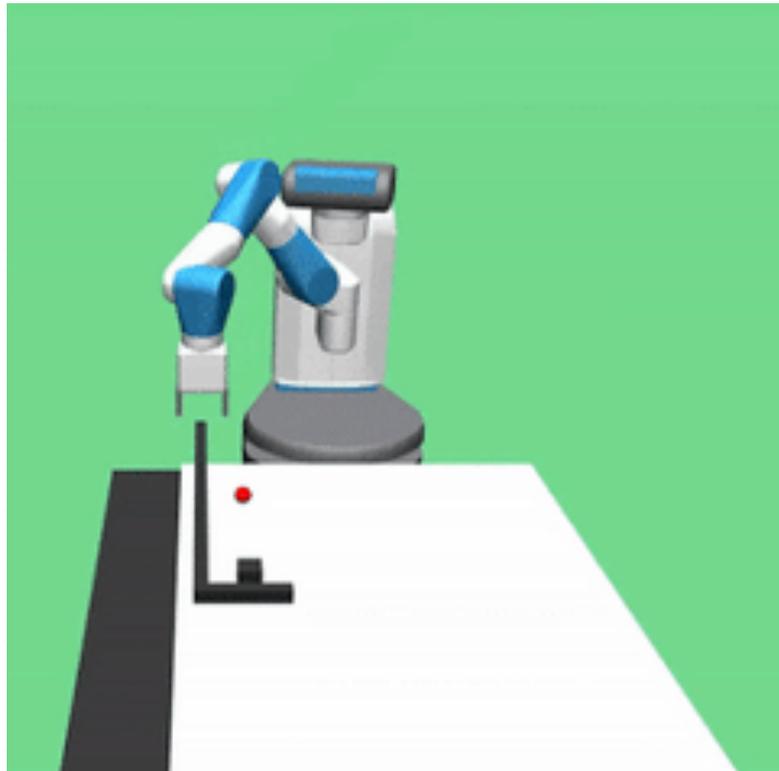
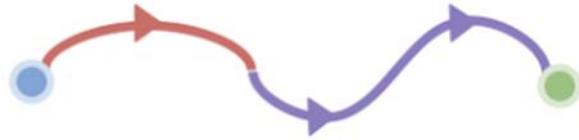


Goals: A) faster agent training B) optimal test-time agent performance

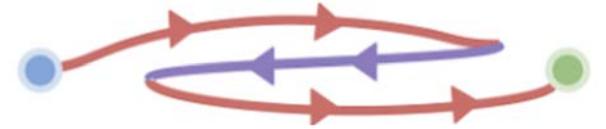
Skills: Imitation from Heuristics

Naive action choice might not work well!

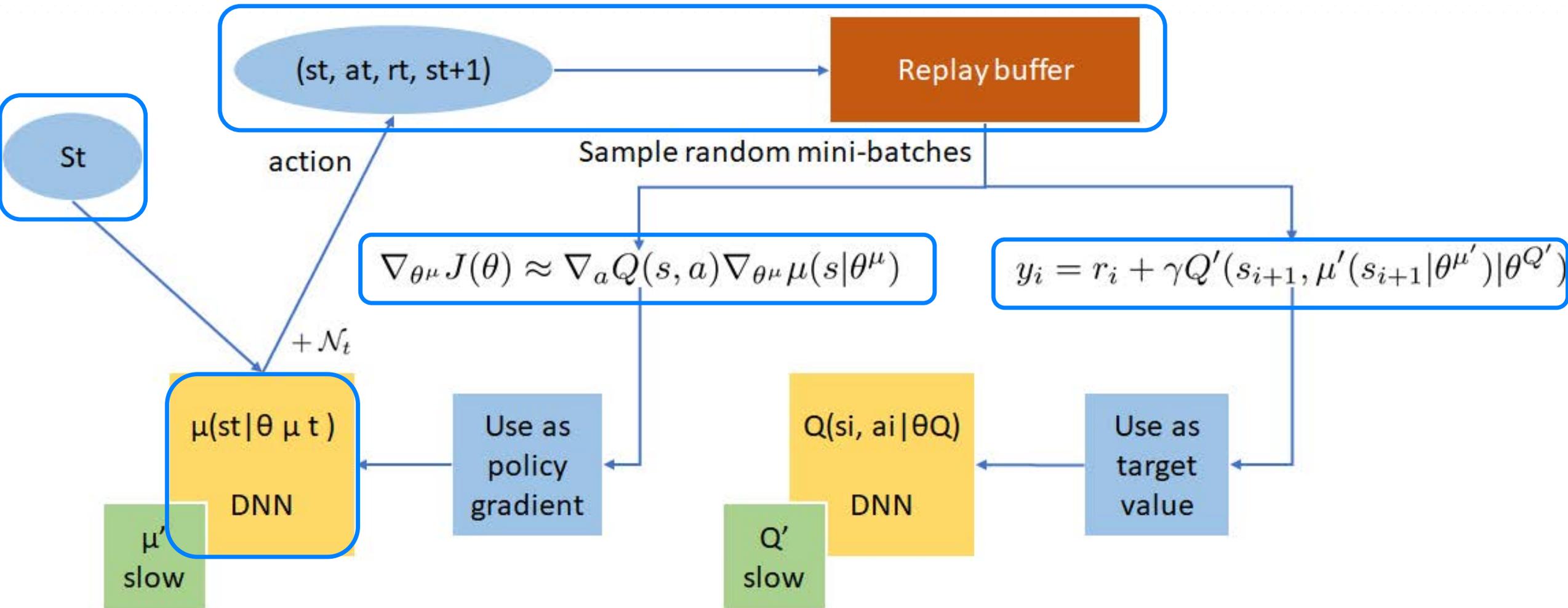
Partial



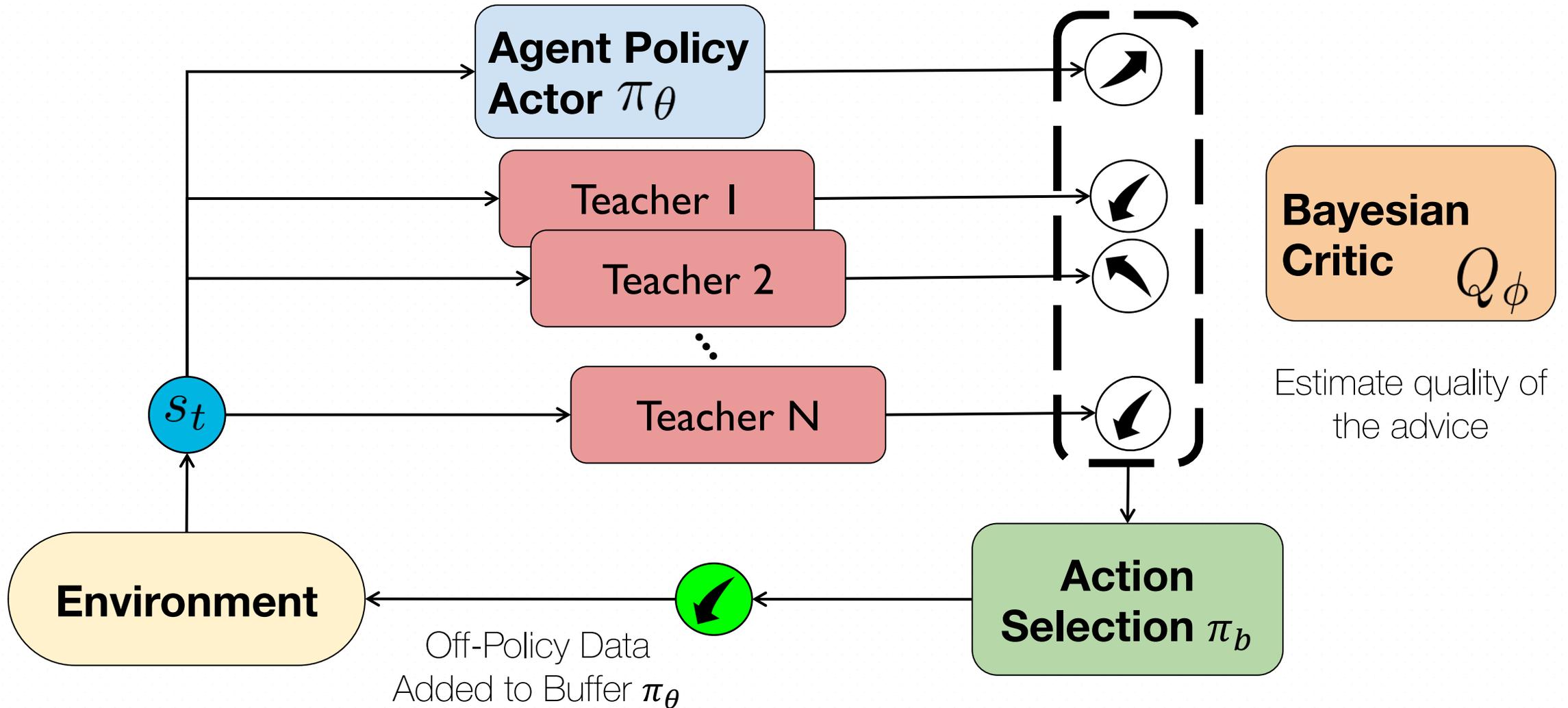
Contradictory



Off-Policy RL: DDPG Review

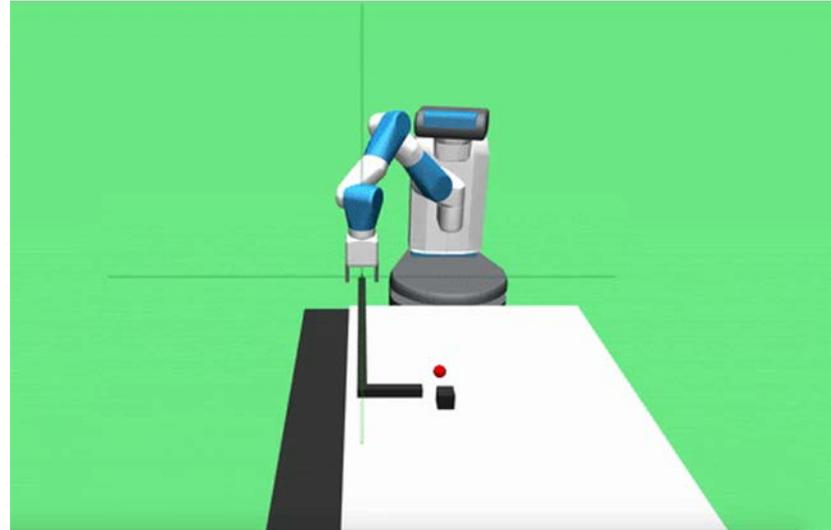


AC-Teach: Actor-Critic with Teachers

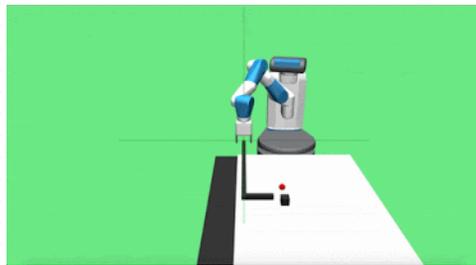


Experiments

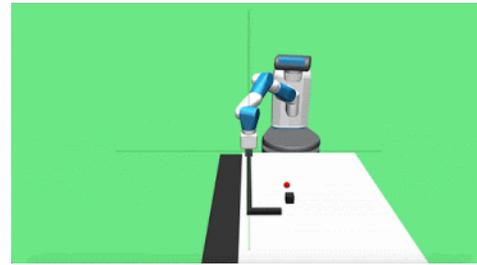
Task:



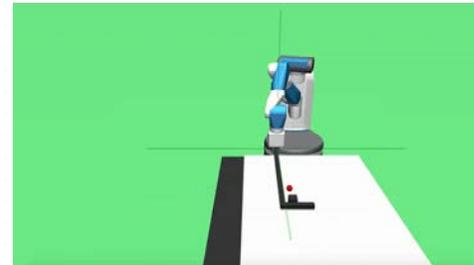
Teachers:



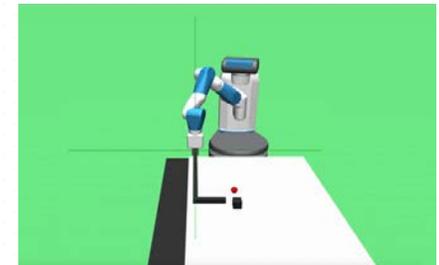
grab hook



position hook



pull



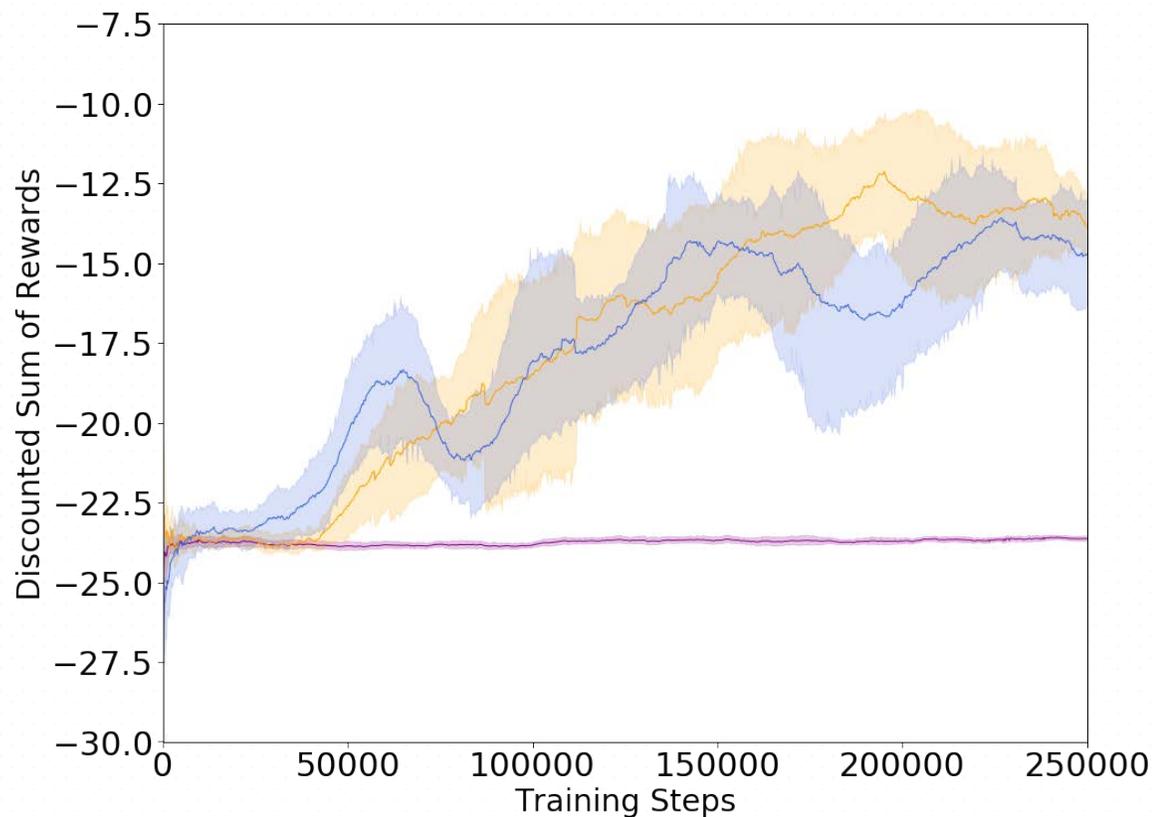
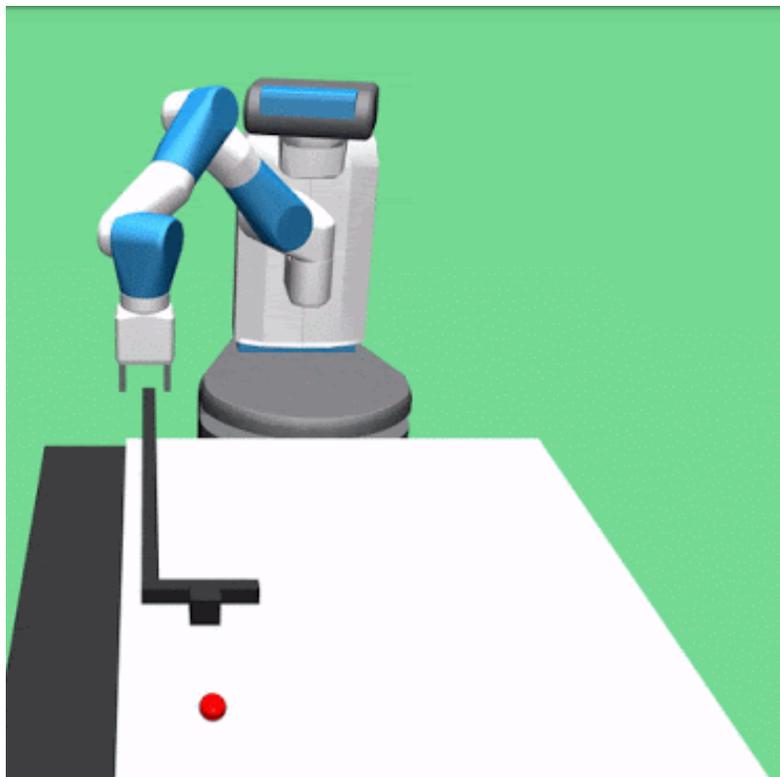
push

Results

— B-DDPG + AC-Teach (ours)

— B-DDPG + DQN

— B-DDPG (no teachers)



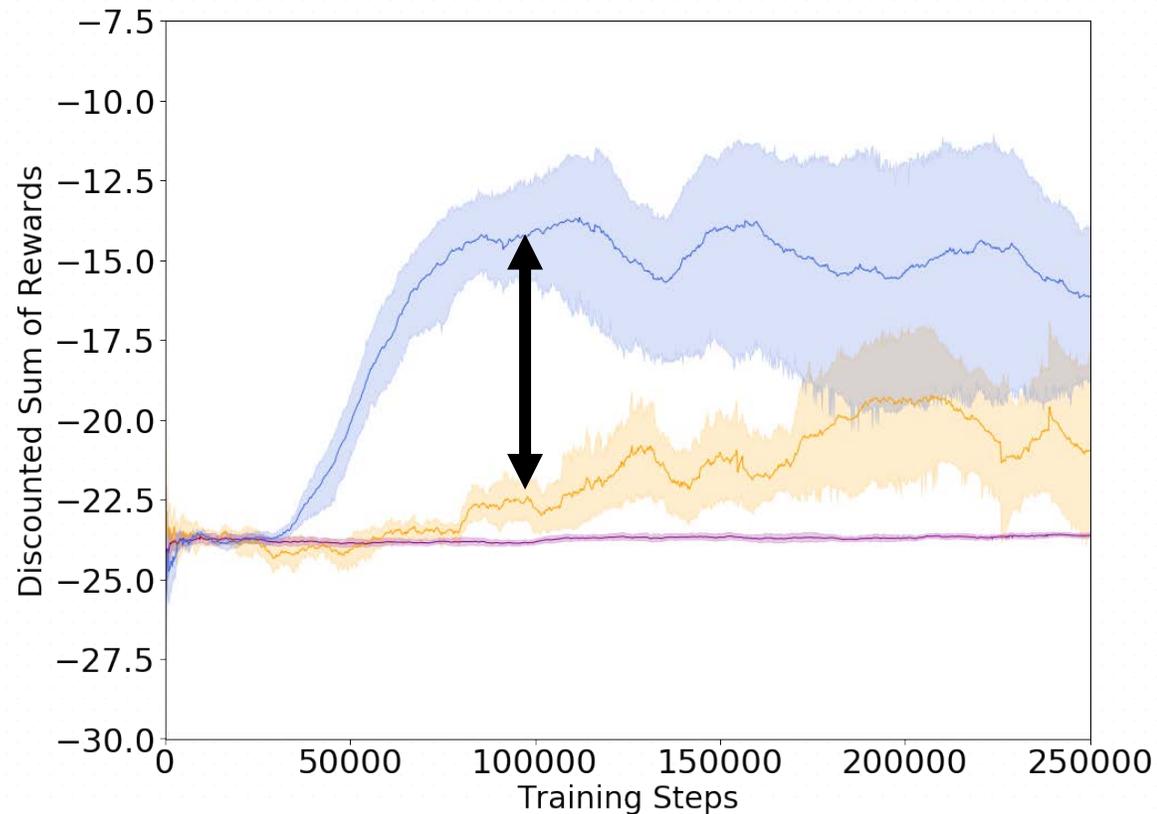
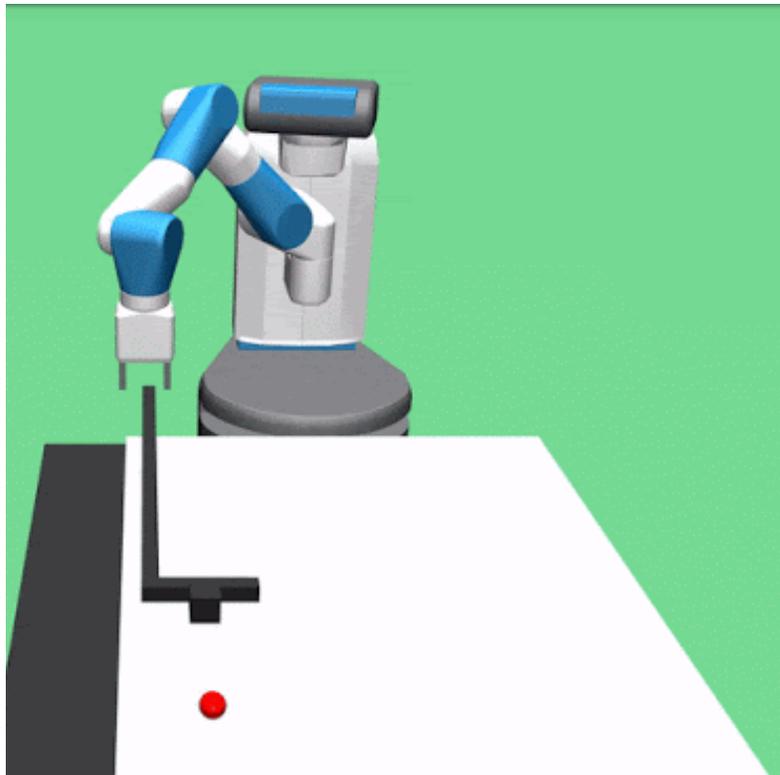
AC-Teach is able to leverage a single teacher well

Results

— B-DDPG + AC-Teach (ours)

— B-DDPG + DQN

— B-DDPG (no teachers)



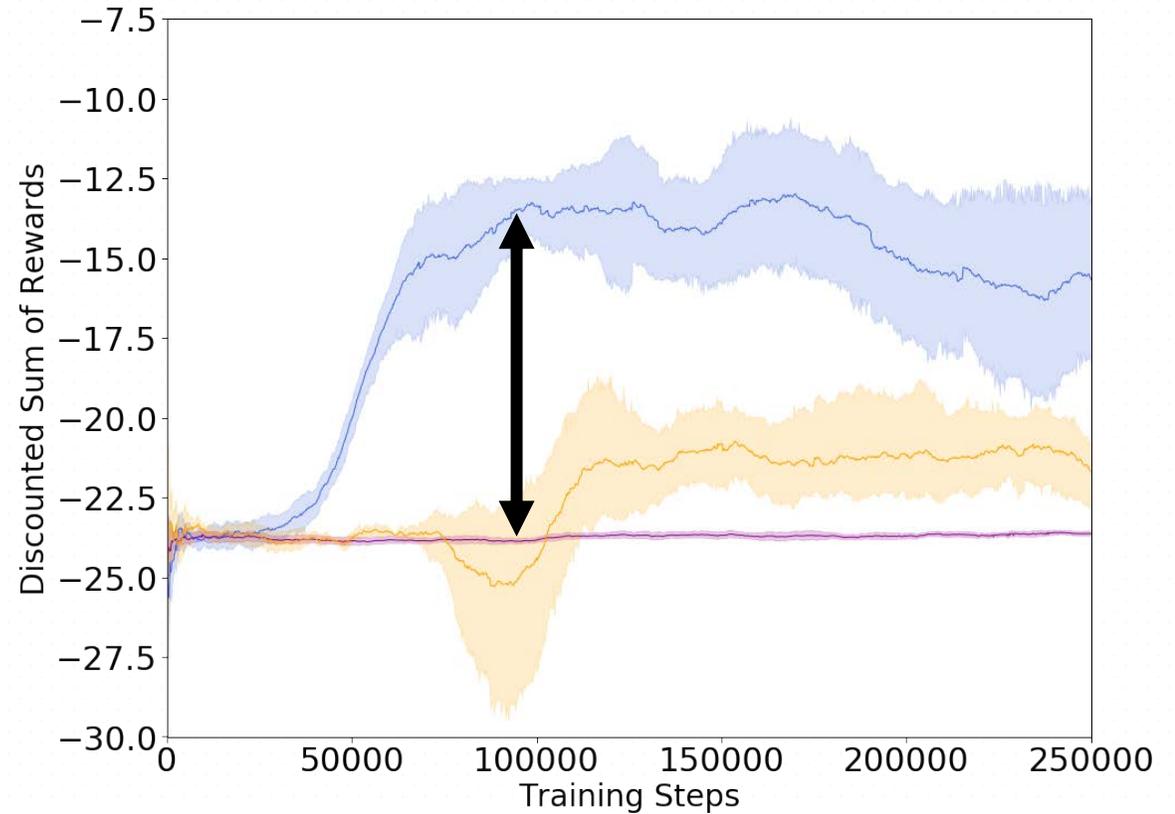
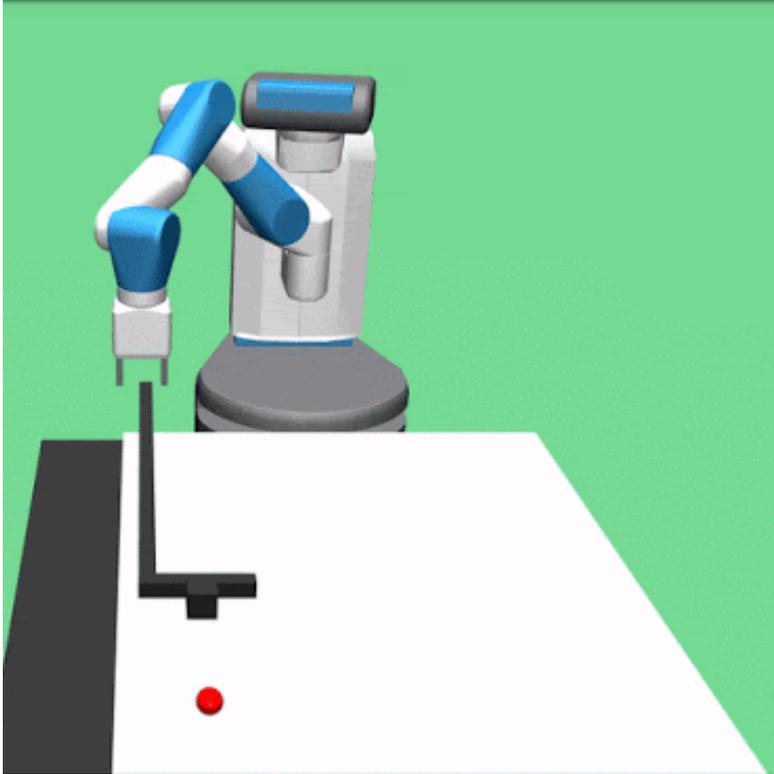
AC-Teach speeds up training given multiple teachers

Results

— B-DDPG + AC-Teach (ours)

— B-DDPG + DQN

— B-DDPG (no teachers)



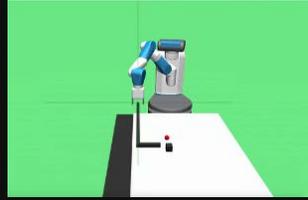
AC-Teach has agent learn behaviors not in teacher set

Visuo-Motor Skills

- Grasping
- Pushing
- Picking
- Wiping
- Open door



IROS 2019

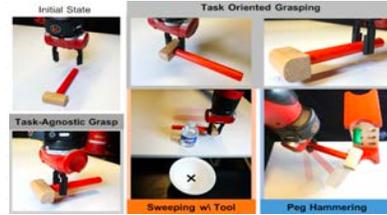
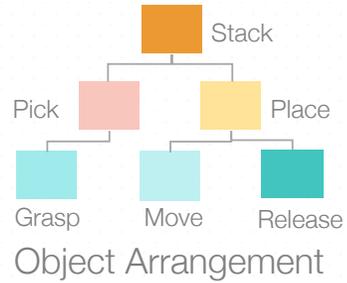


CoRL 2019

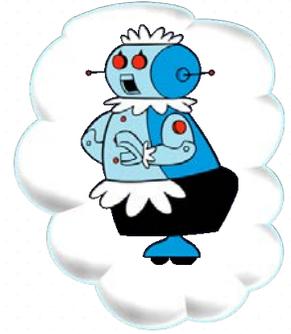


Action Representations and Weak-Supervision provide structure to enable learning efficiency and generalization

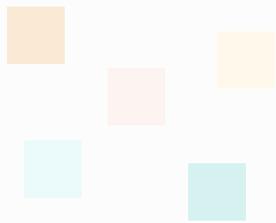
Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation



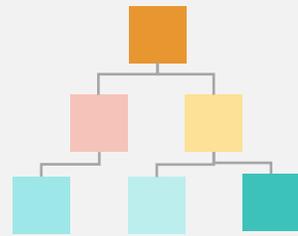
RSS 2018, IJRR 2019



Visuo-Motor Skills



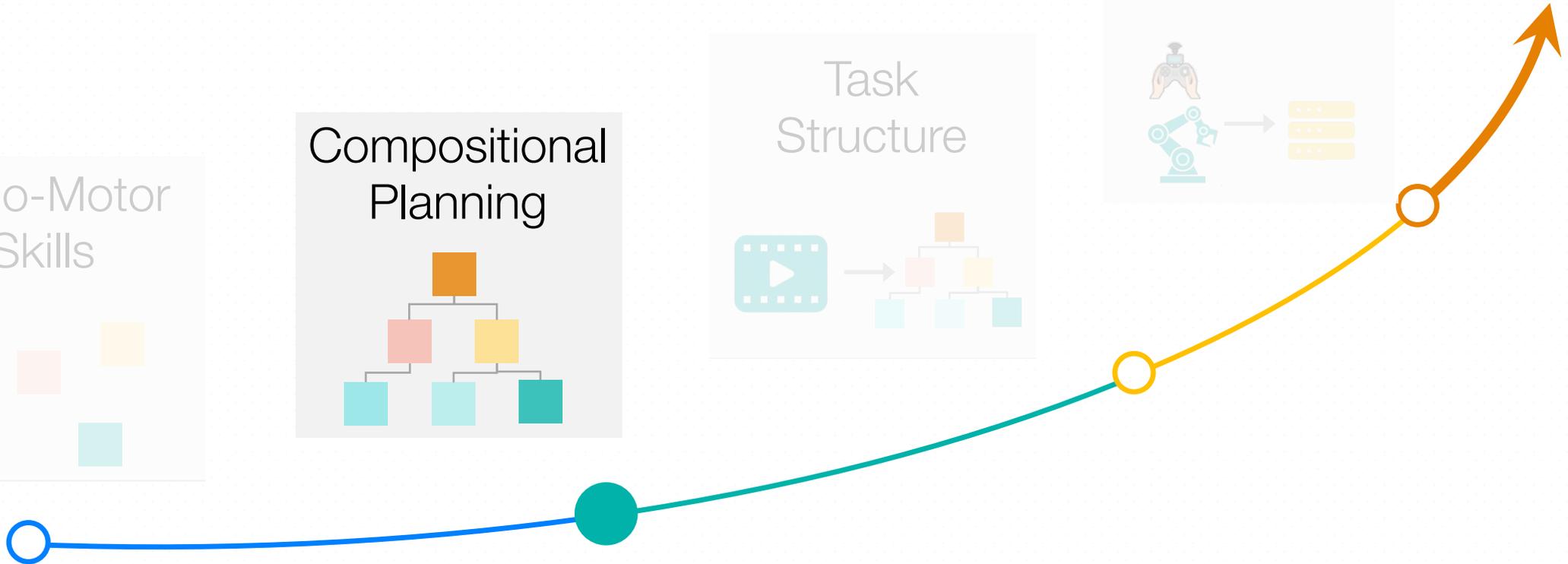
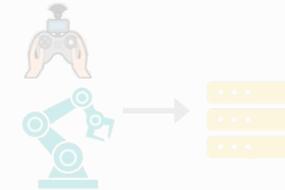
Compositional Planning



Task Structure



Data for Robotics



Sequential Skills



Skills: **Surface Wiping**

Primitive Skills

- Grasping
- Pushing
- Picking
- Wiping
- Open door

Sequential Skills

- Hammering (with unknown objects)
- Cutting (with new knife)
- Sweeping (with new broom)



Skills: **Tool Use**

Sequential Skills: Manipulation with Tools

Task-Oriented Grasping

Tool-Use

Initial State



Unknown Object

Task-Agnostic Grasping¹

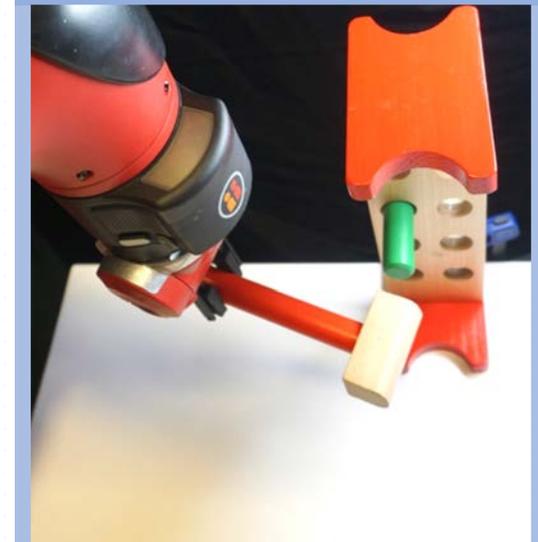
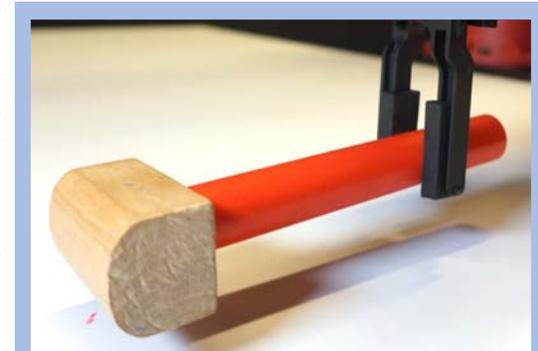


Optimizes for Grasp Success **Only**

Suboptimal for Task!



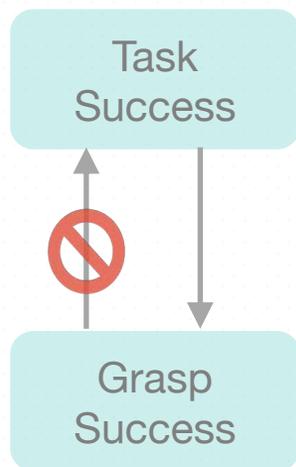
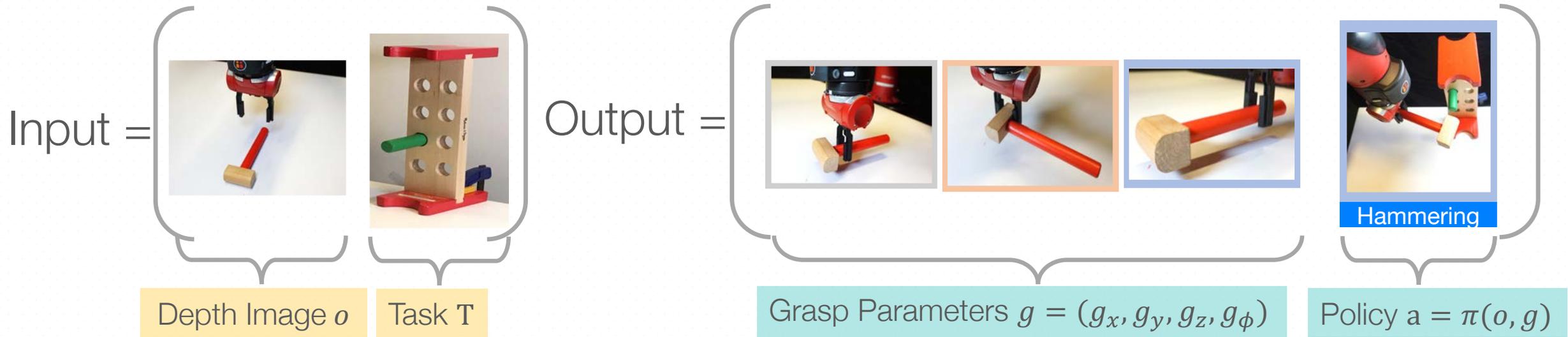
Sweeping



Hammering

¹ Pinto et al. '16, Levine et al. '16, Mahler et al. '18, Kalashnikov et al. '18

Visuo-Motor Skills: Task-Oriented Grasping



$$g^*, \pi^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{g, \pi} Q_T^\pi(o, g) \quad \text{Score Function}$$

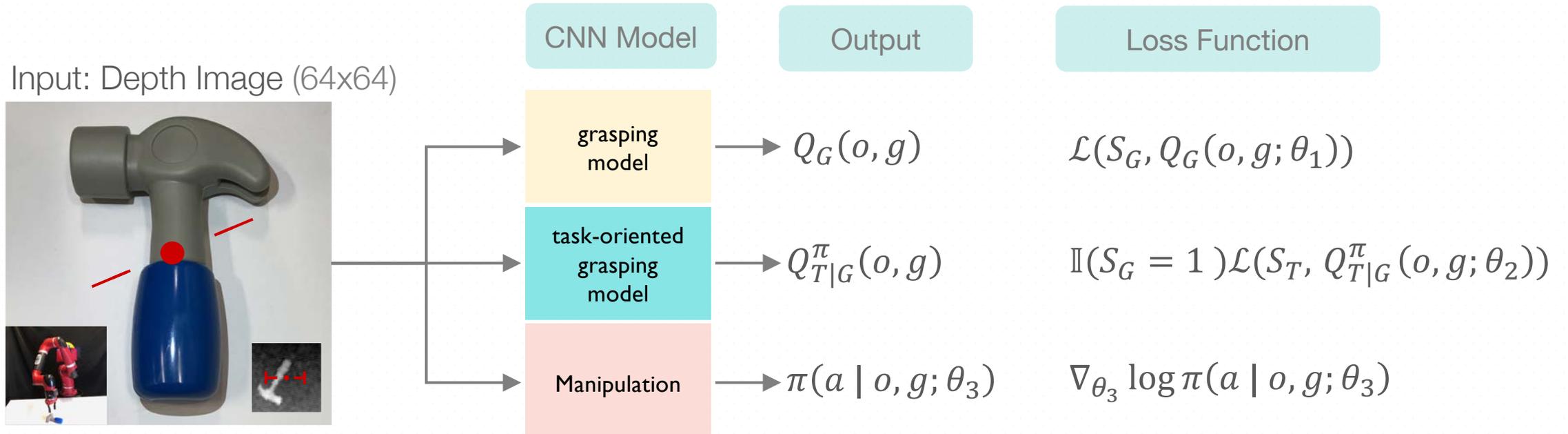
$$Q_T^\pi(o, g) = P_\pi(S_T = 1 | S_G = 1, o, g) P(S_G = 1 | o, g)$$

$$Q_T^\pi(o, g) = Q_{\text{Task Success}}^\pi(o, g) Q_G(o, g)$$

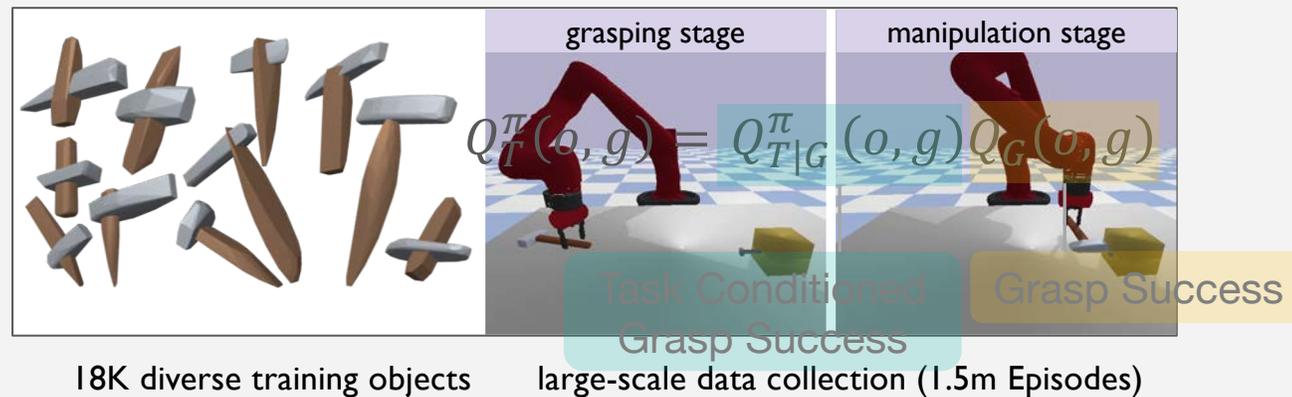
Task Conditioned Grasp Success

Grasp Success

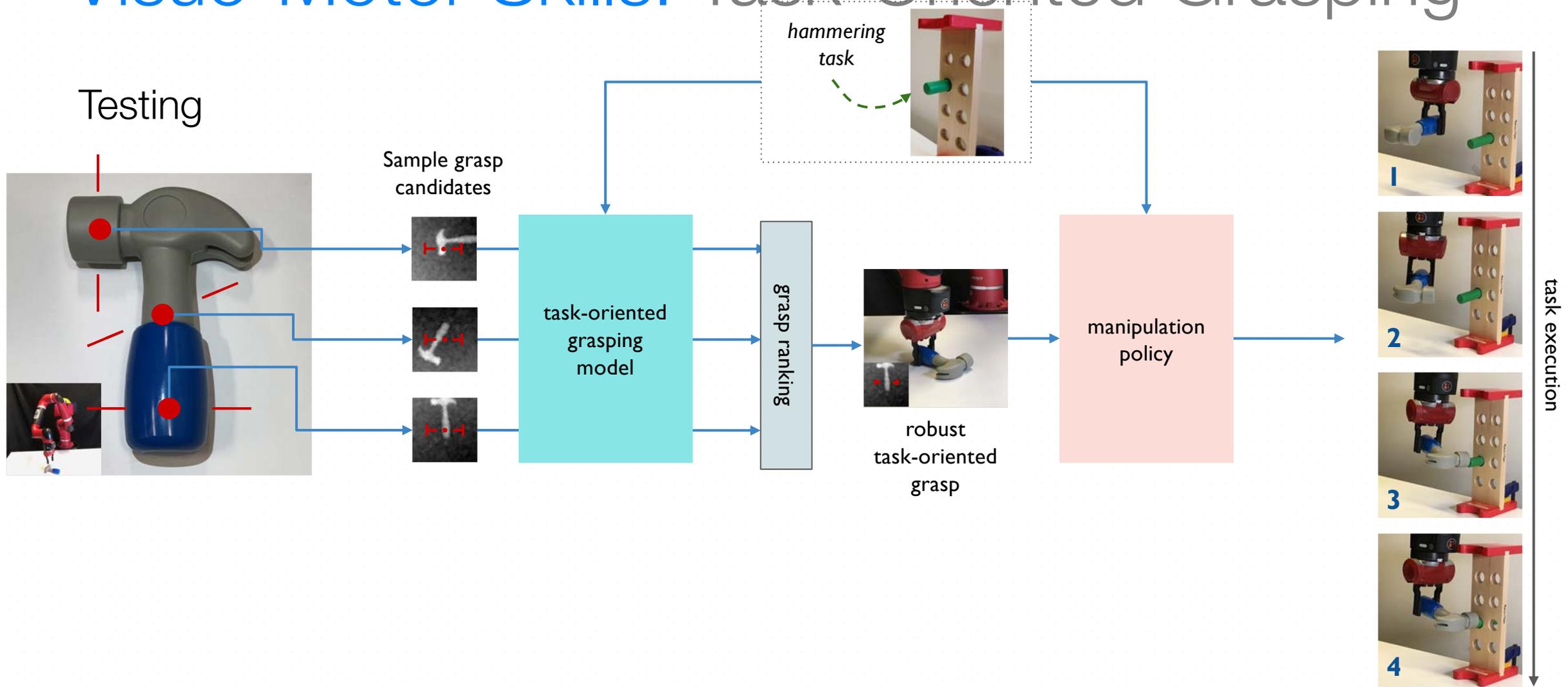
Visuo-Motor Skills: Task-Oriented Grasping



Training



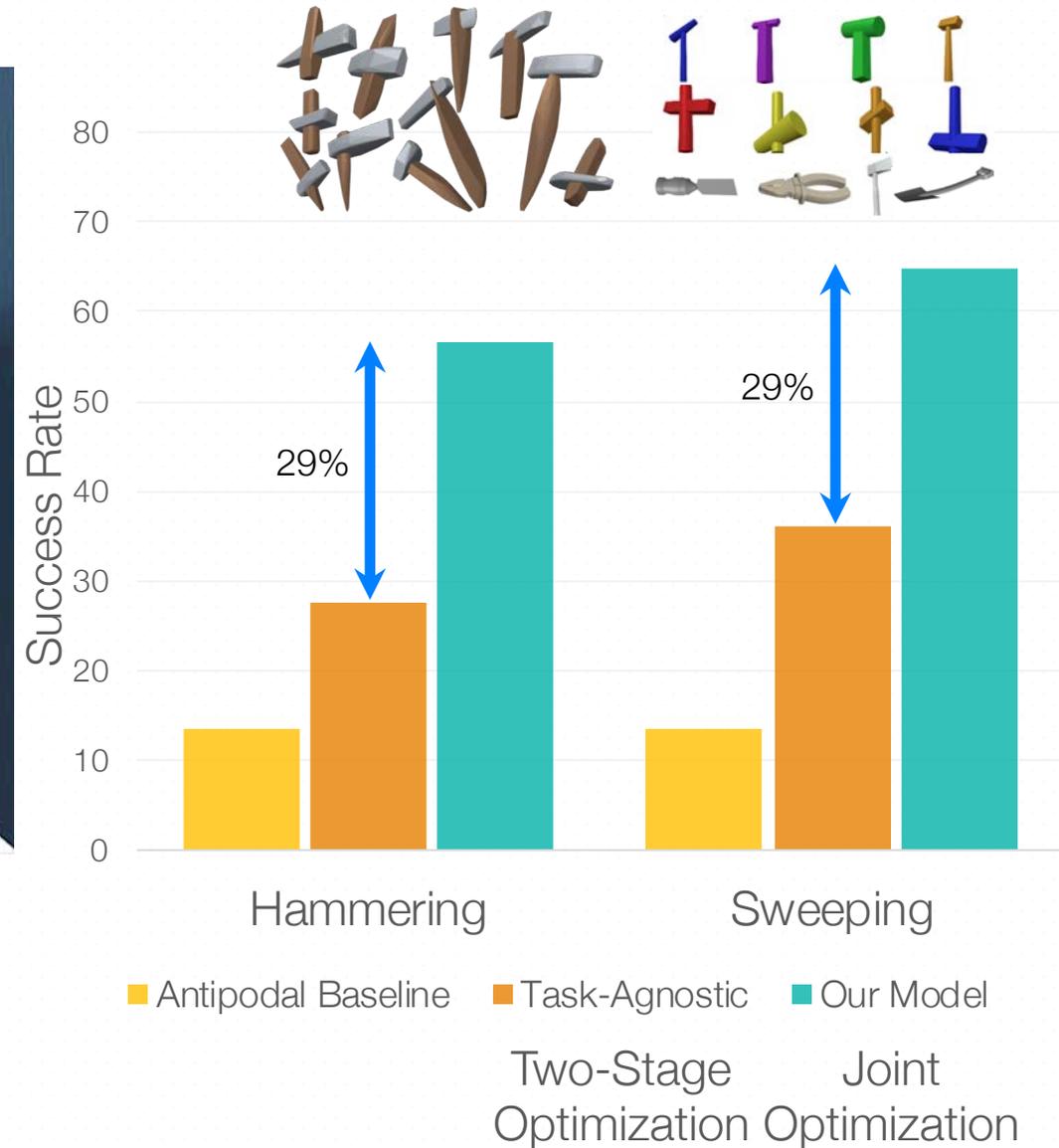
Visuo-Motor Skills: Task-Oriented Grasping



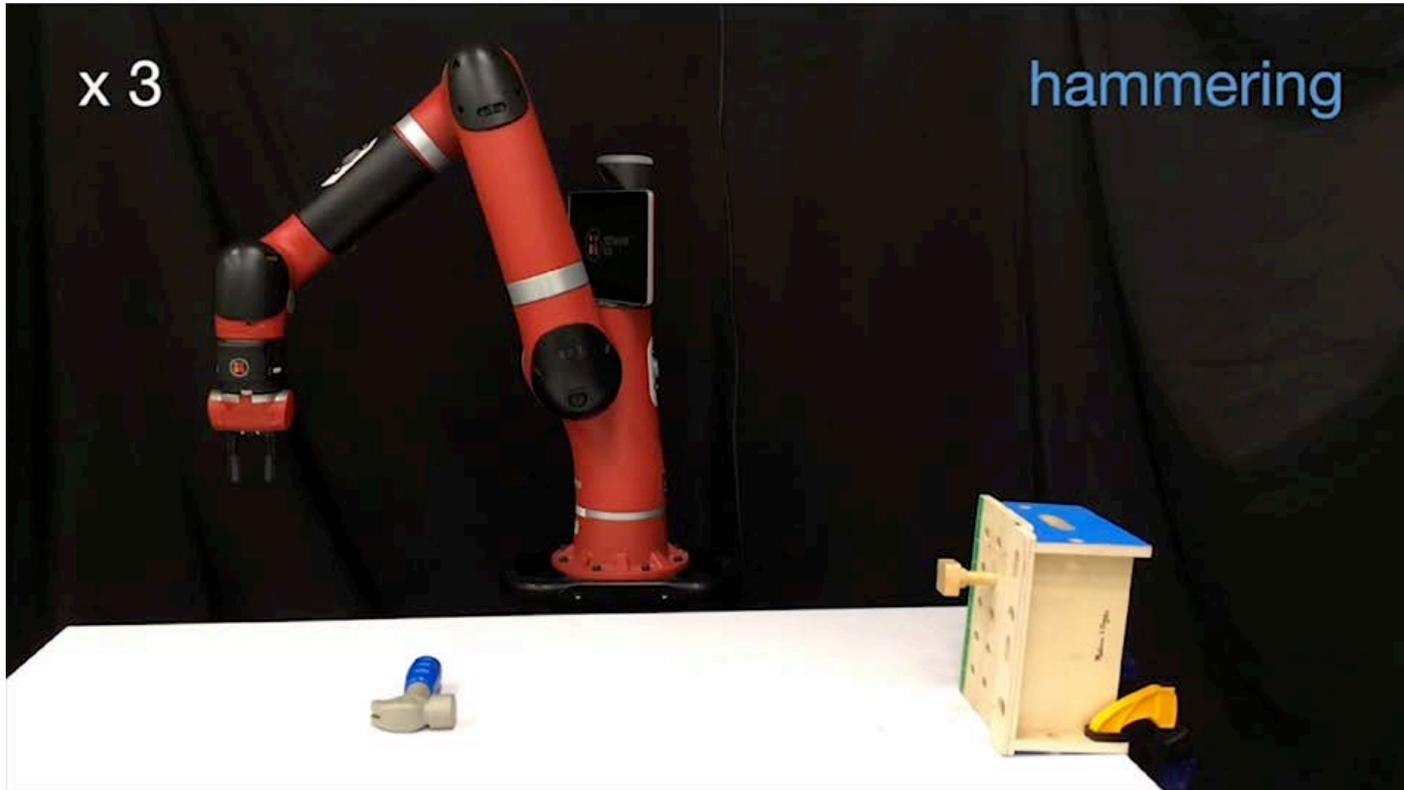
Sequential Skills: Task-Oriented Grasping



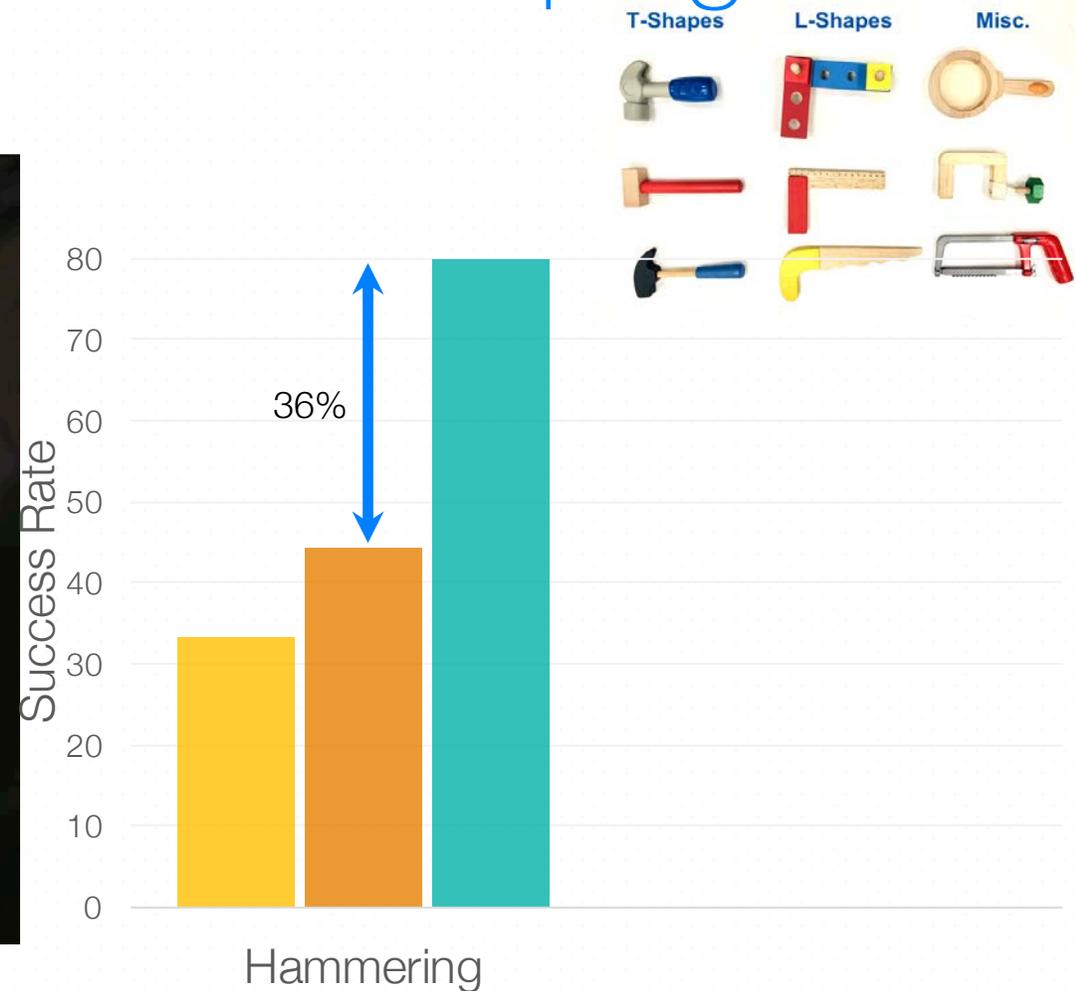
Trained Policy Rollout (Ours)
Unseen Test Objects



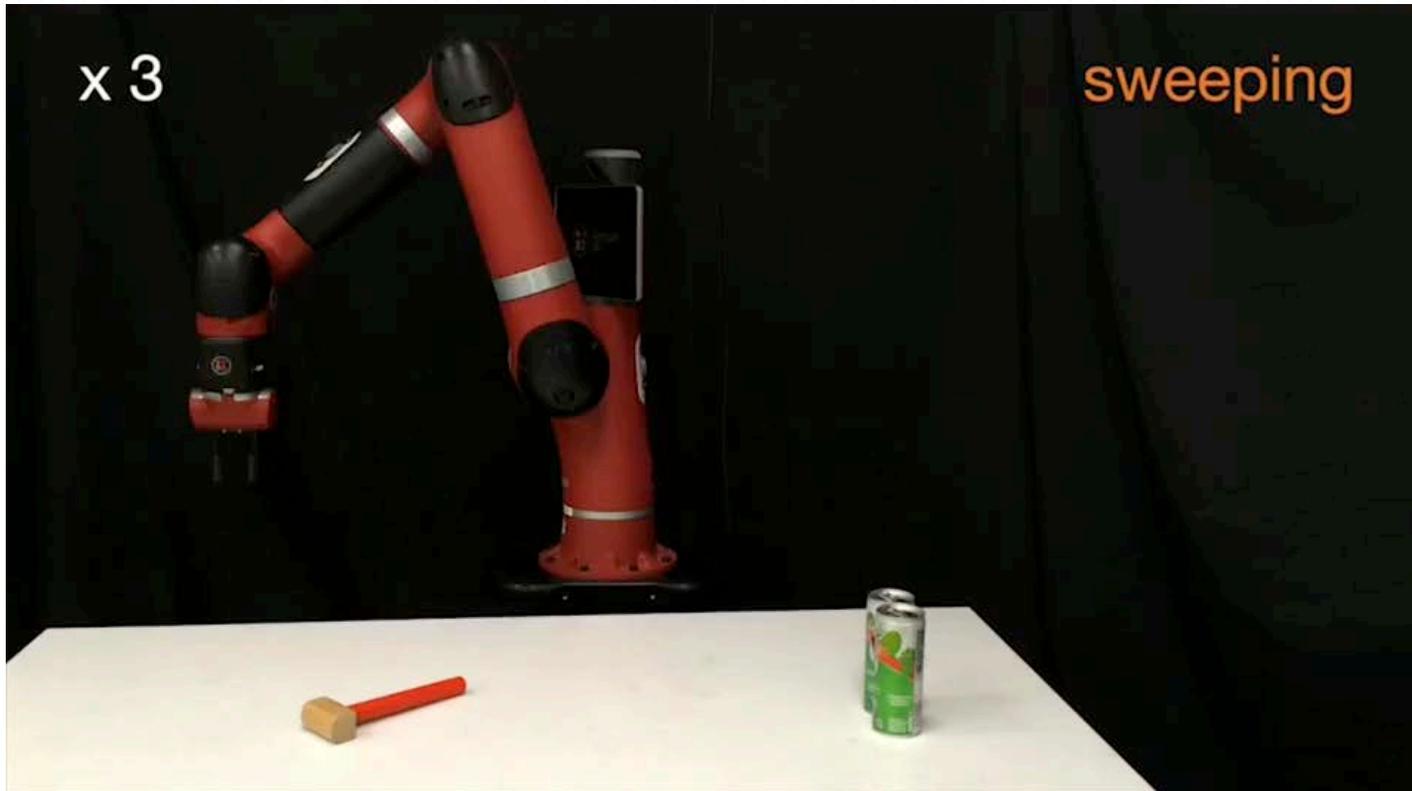
Sequential Skills: Task-Oriented Grasping



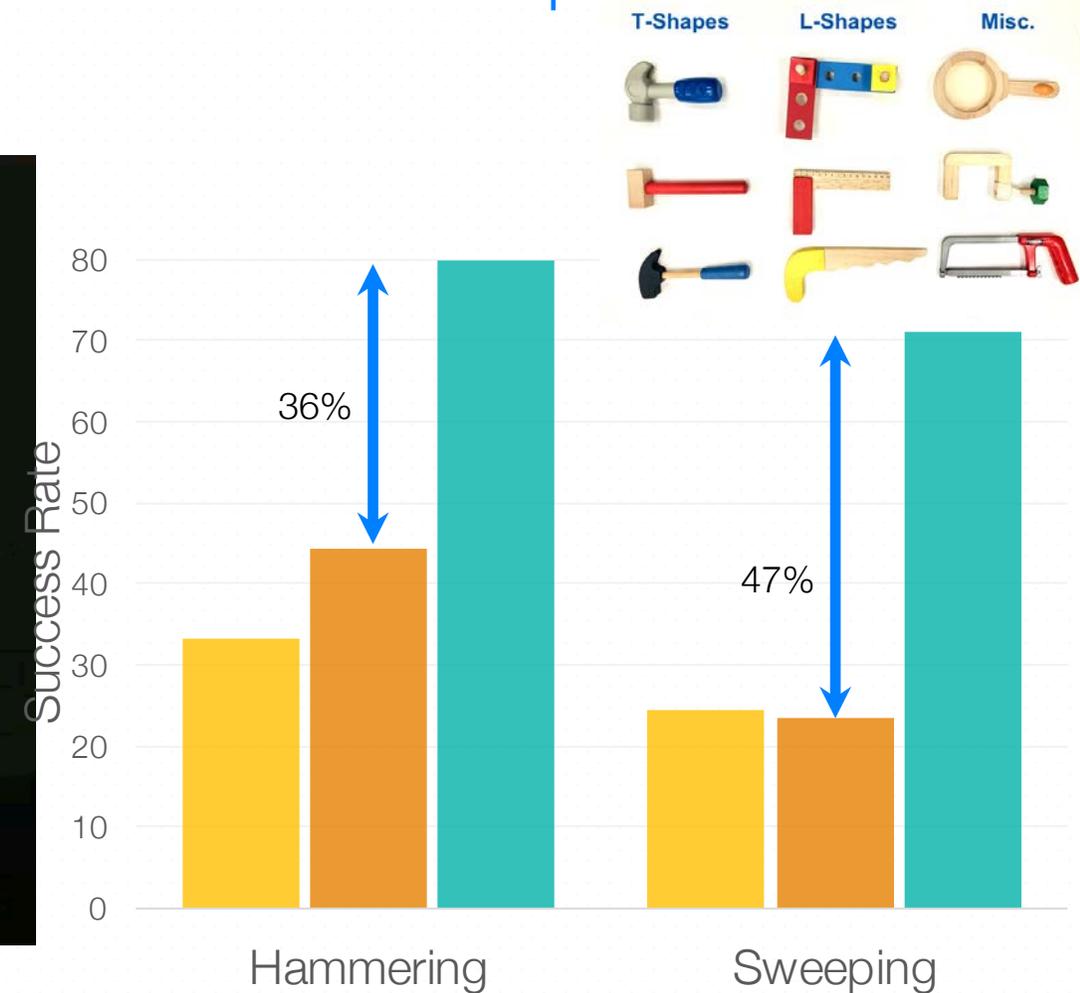
Trained Policy Rollout (Ours)
Unseen Test Objects



Sequential Skills: Task-Oriented Grasping



Trained Policy Rollout (Ours)
Unseen Test Objects



Antipodal Baseline Task-Agnostic Our Model

Two-Stage Optimization Joint Optimization

Sequential Skills



Skills: **Surface Wiping**

Primitive Skills

- Grasping
- Pushing
- Picking
- Wiping
- Open door

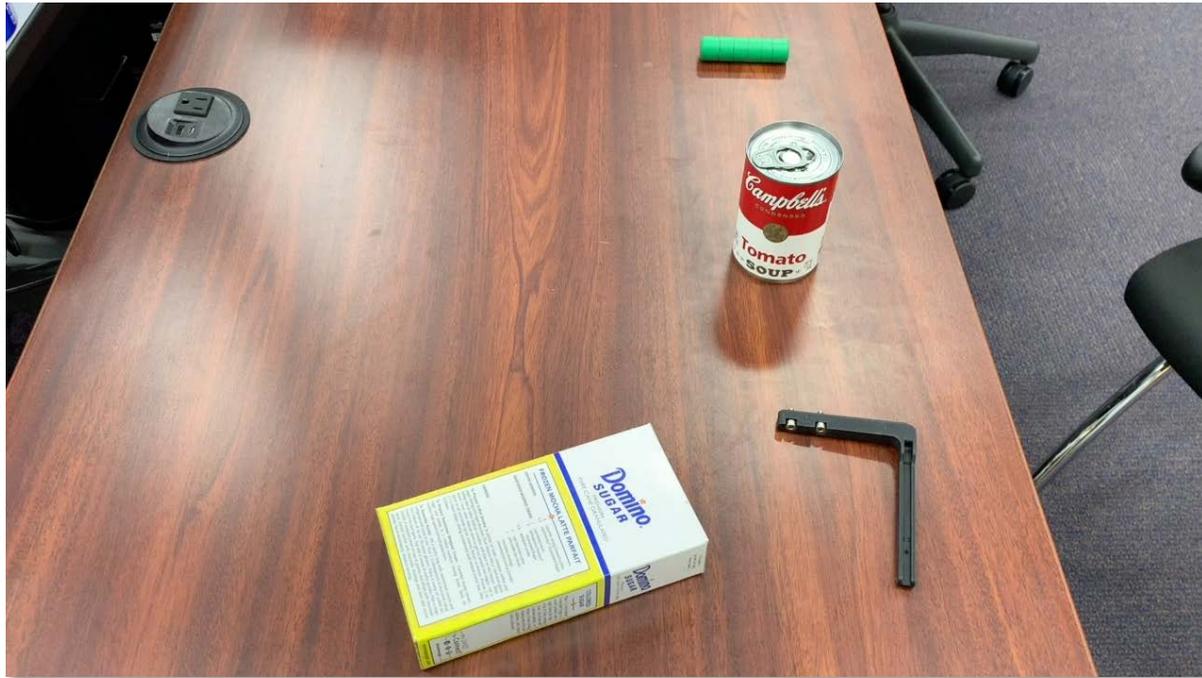
Sequential Skills

- Hammering (with unknown objects)
- Cutting (with new knife)
- Sweeping (with new broom)

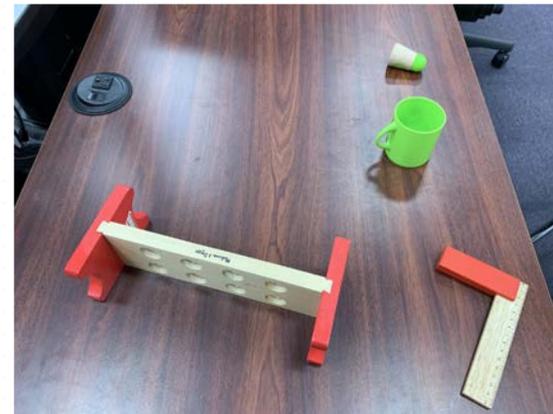


Skills: **Tool Use**

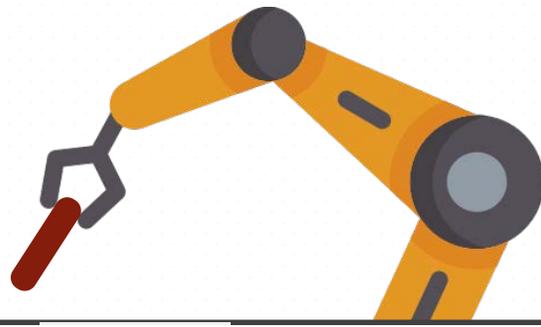
Sequential Skills: Multi-Step Reasoning



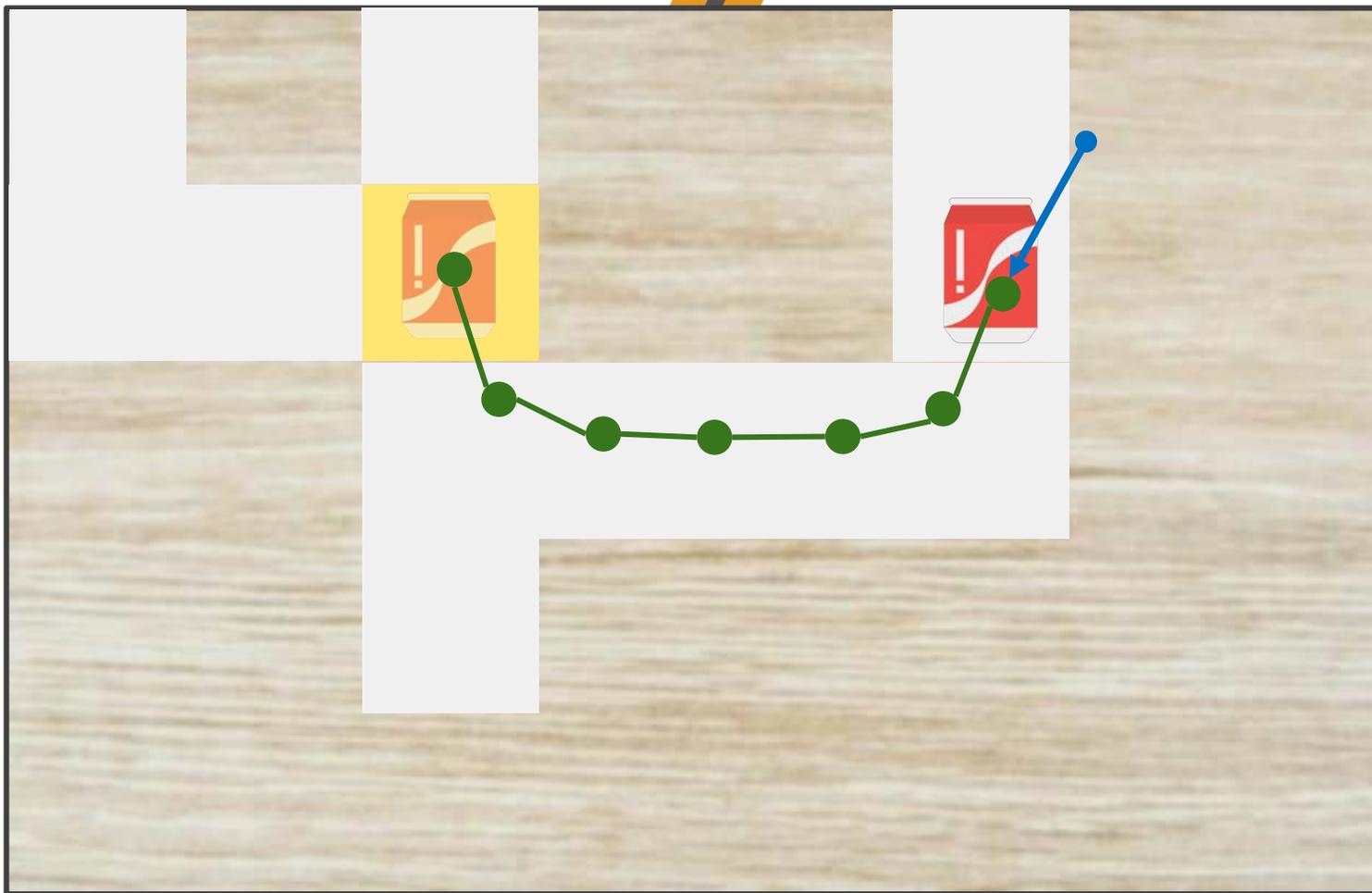
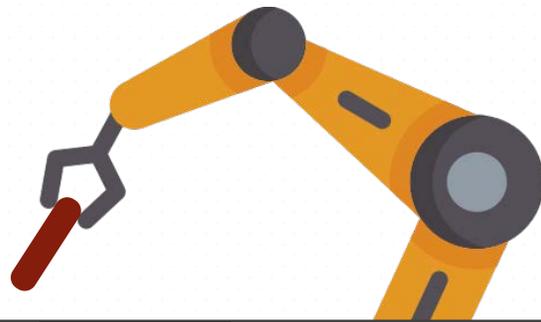
Skills: Multi-Step Reasoning

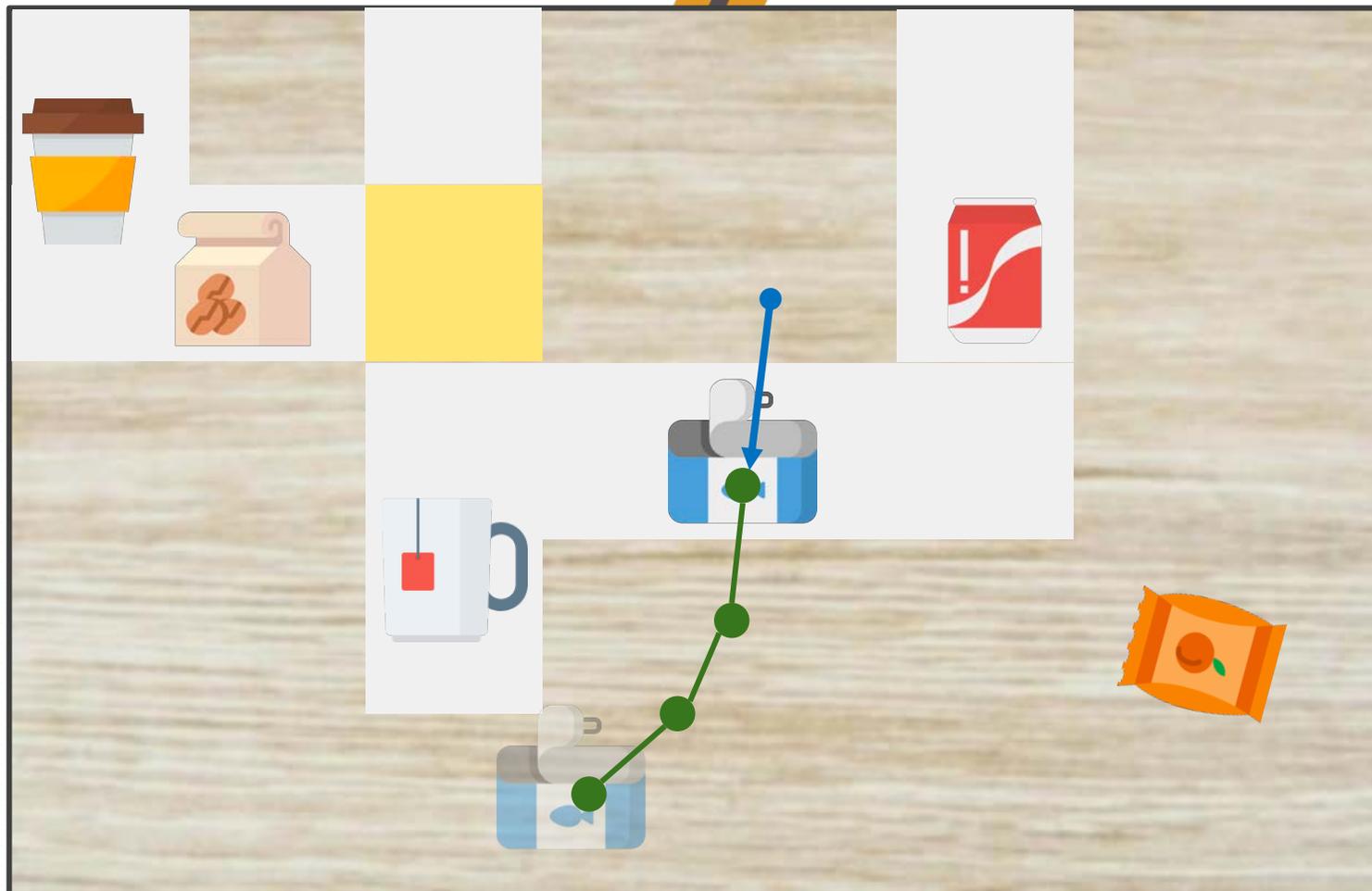


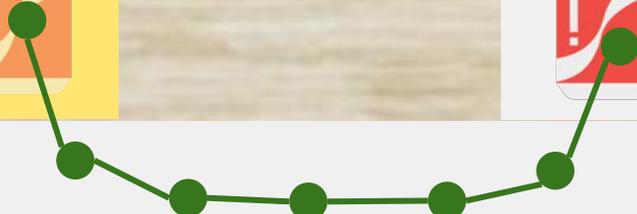
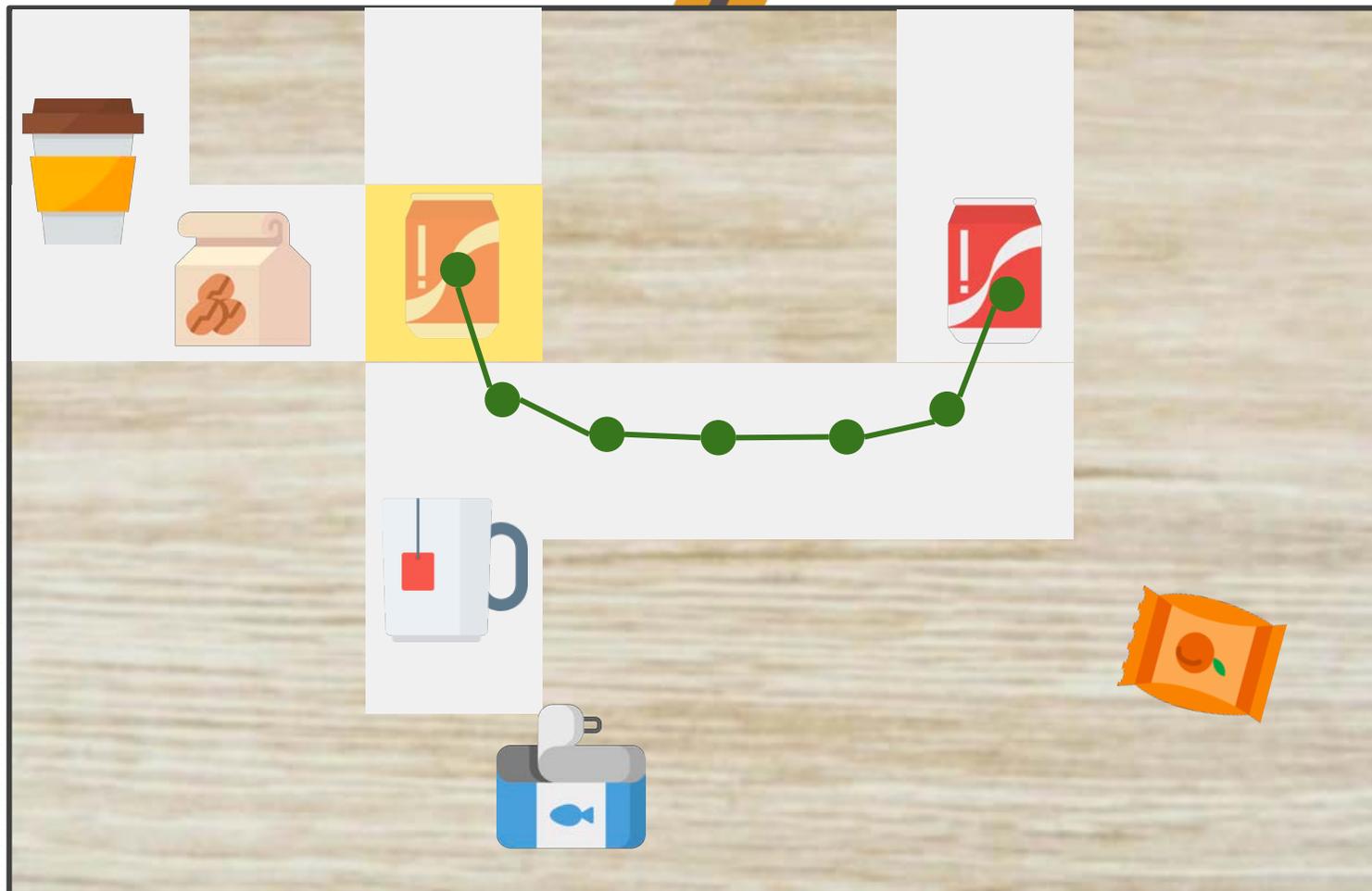
Generalization



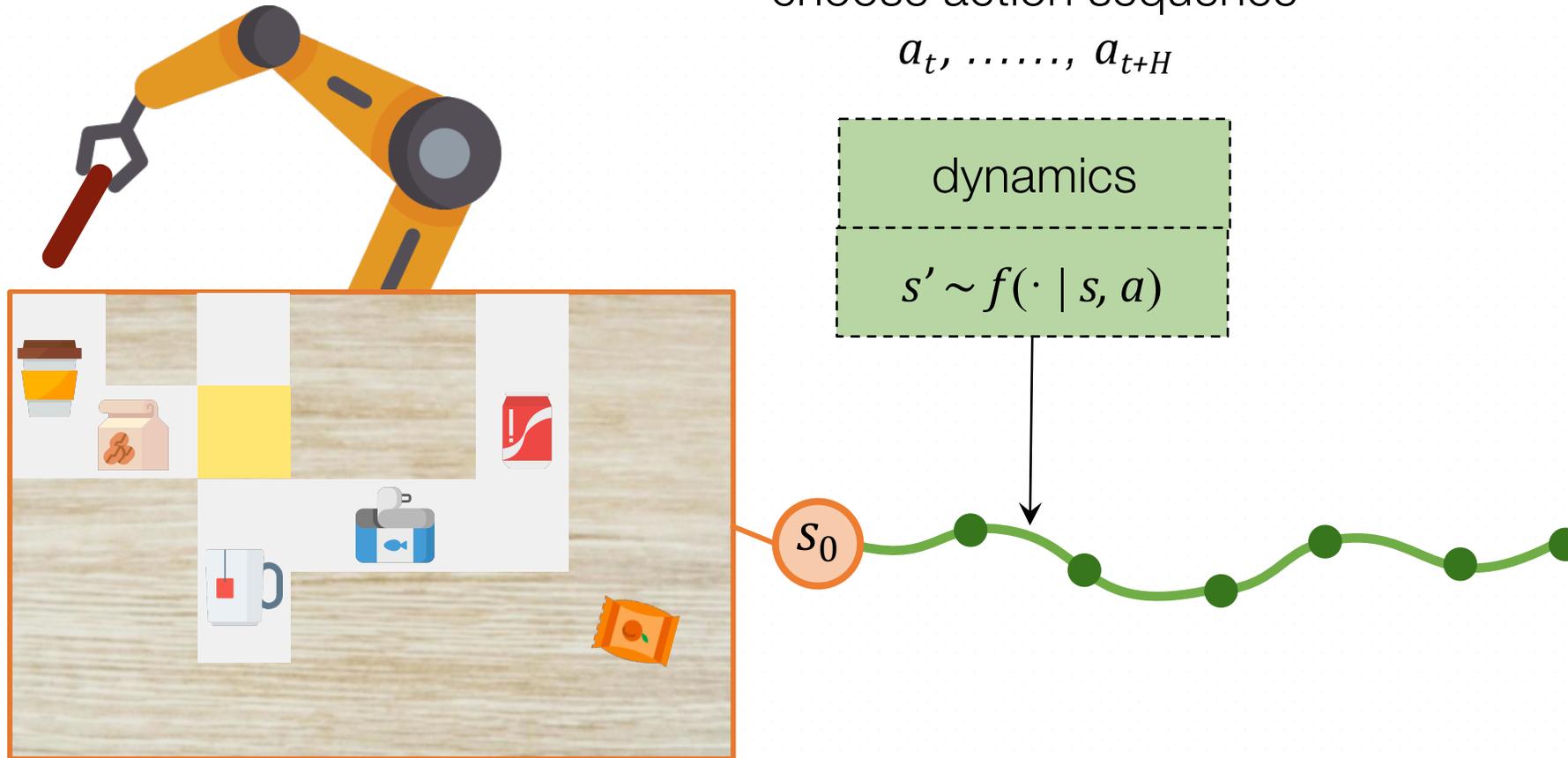
Can we learn multi-step reasoning in robotics
under physical and semantic constraints







Model-based learning



[Deisenroth et al, RSS'07], [Guo et al, NeurIPS'14], [Watter et al, NeurIPS'15], [Finn et al, ICRA'17],

Model-based learning



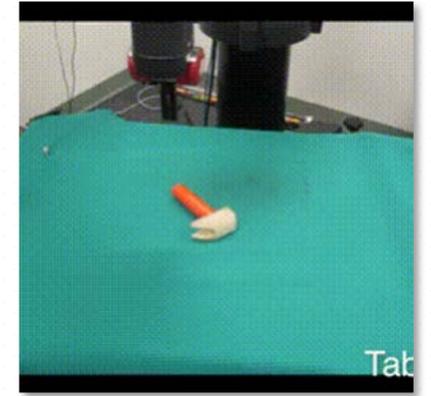
?



data ↑
learning ↑



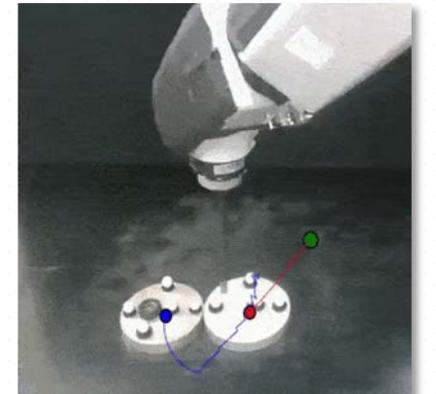
[Deisenroth et al. RSS'07]



[Agrawal et al. ICRA'16]

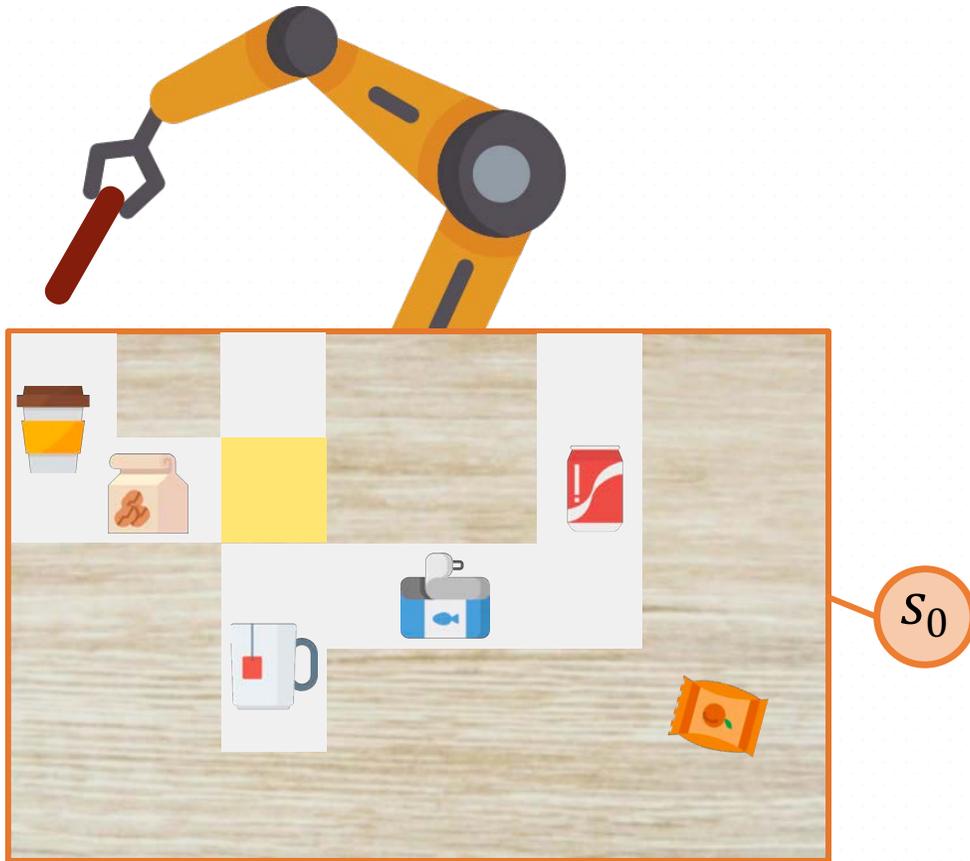


[Ebert et al. CoRL'17]



[Janer et al. ICRA'19]

CAVIN: Hierarchical planning in learned latent spaces



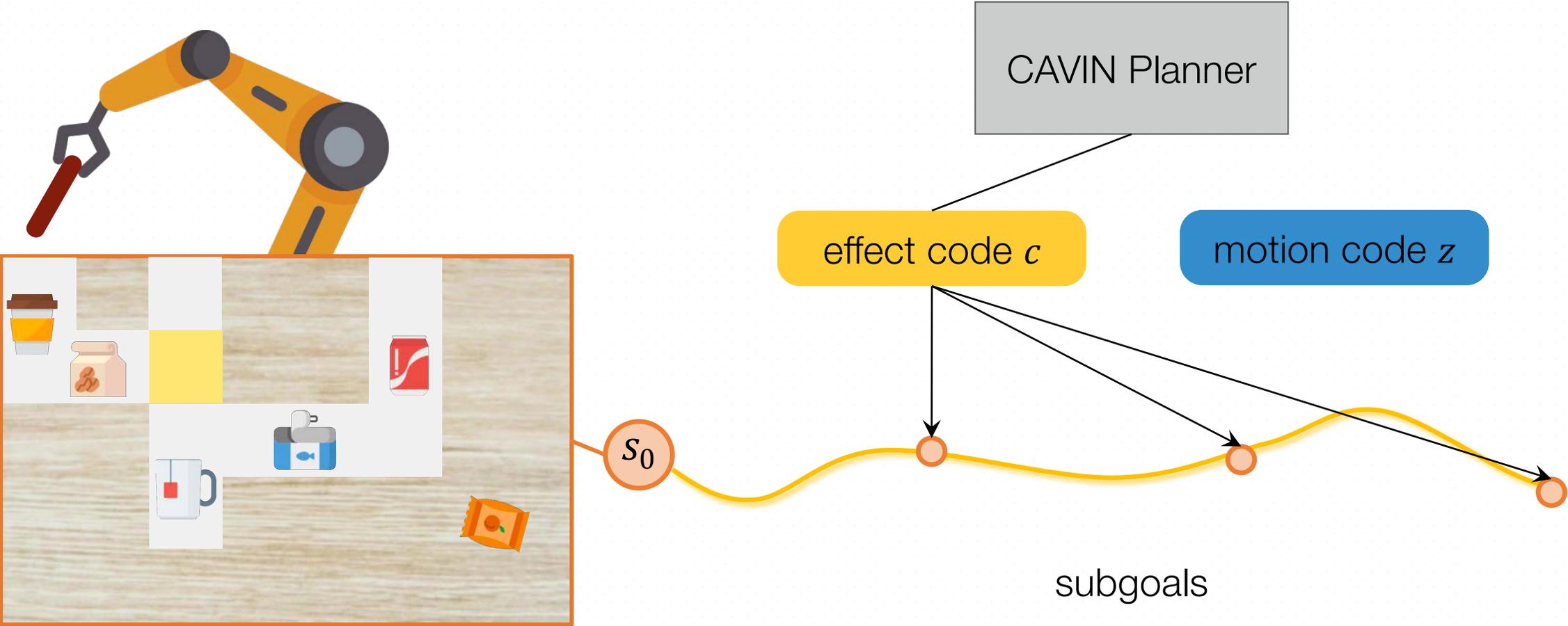
CAVIN Planner

effect code c

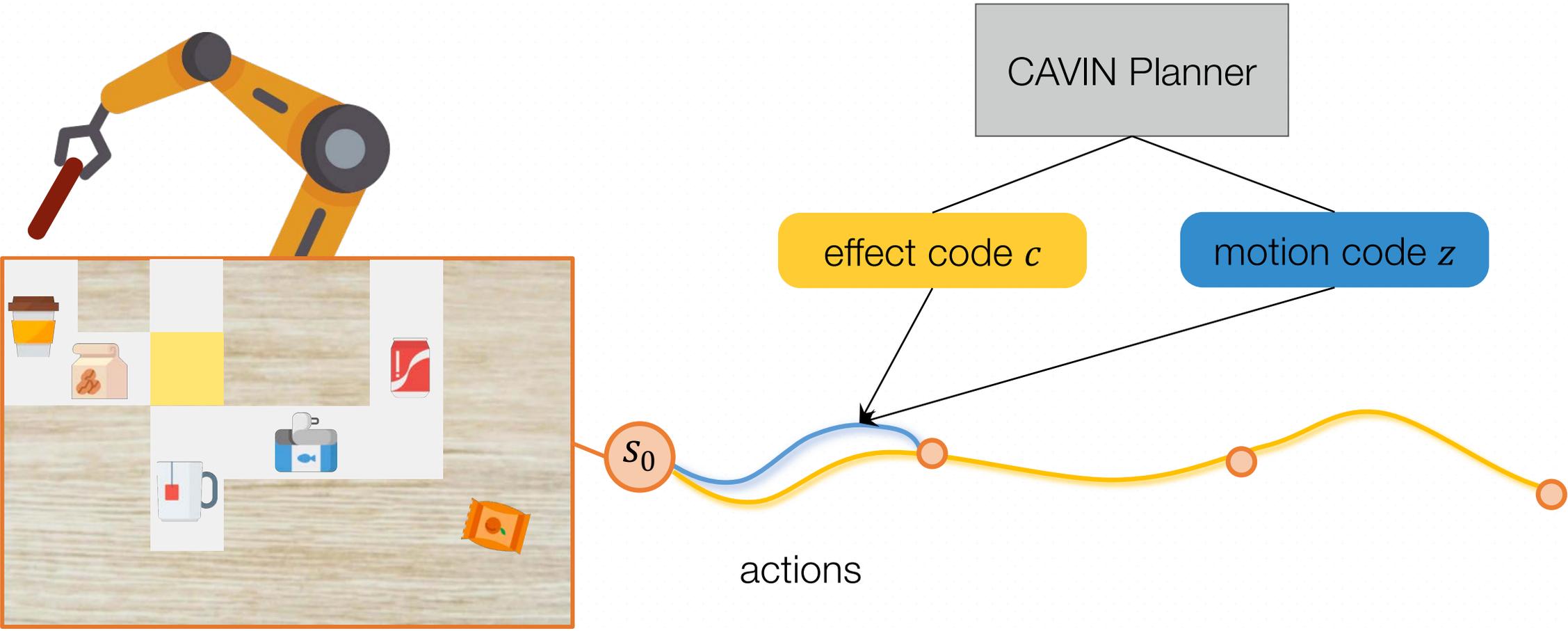
motion code z

Leverage [Hierarchical Abstraction](#) in Action Space
Without [Hierarchical Supervision](#)

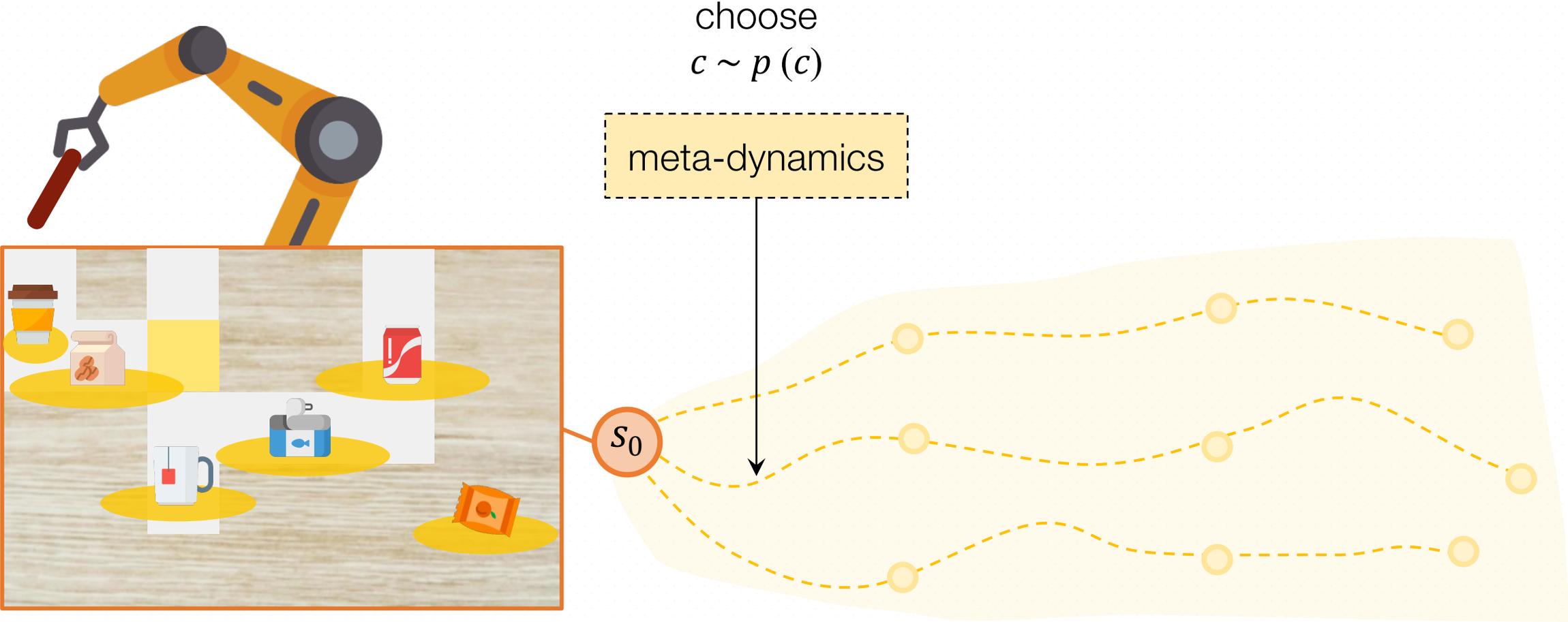
CAVIN: Hierarchical planning in learned latent spaces



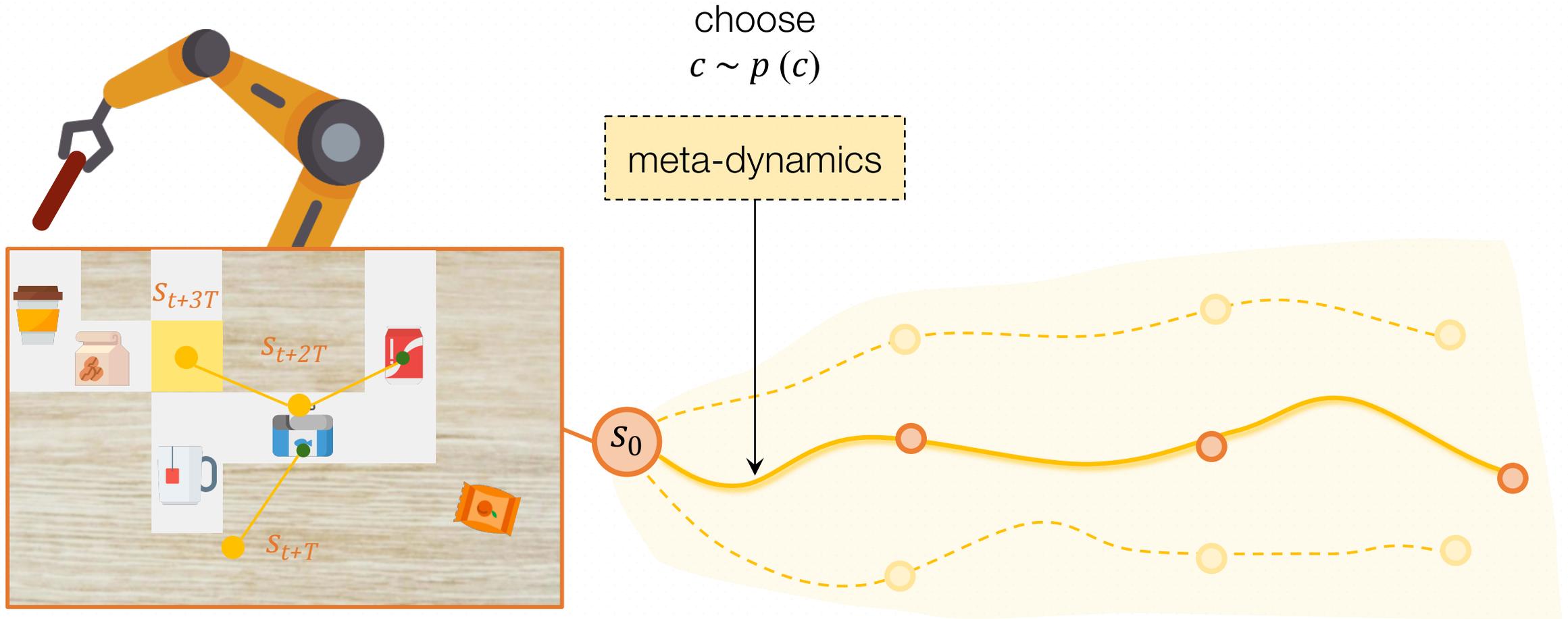
CAVIN: Hierarchical planning in learned latent spaces



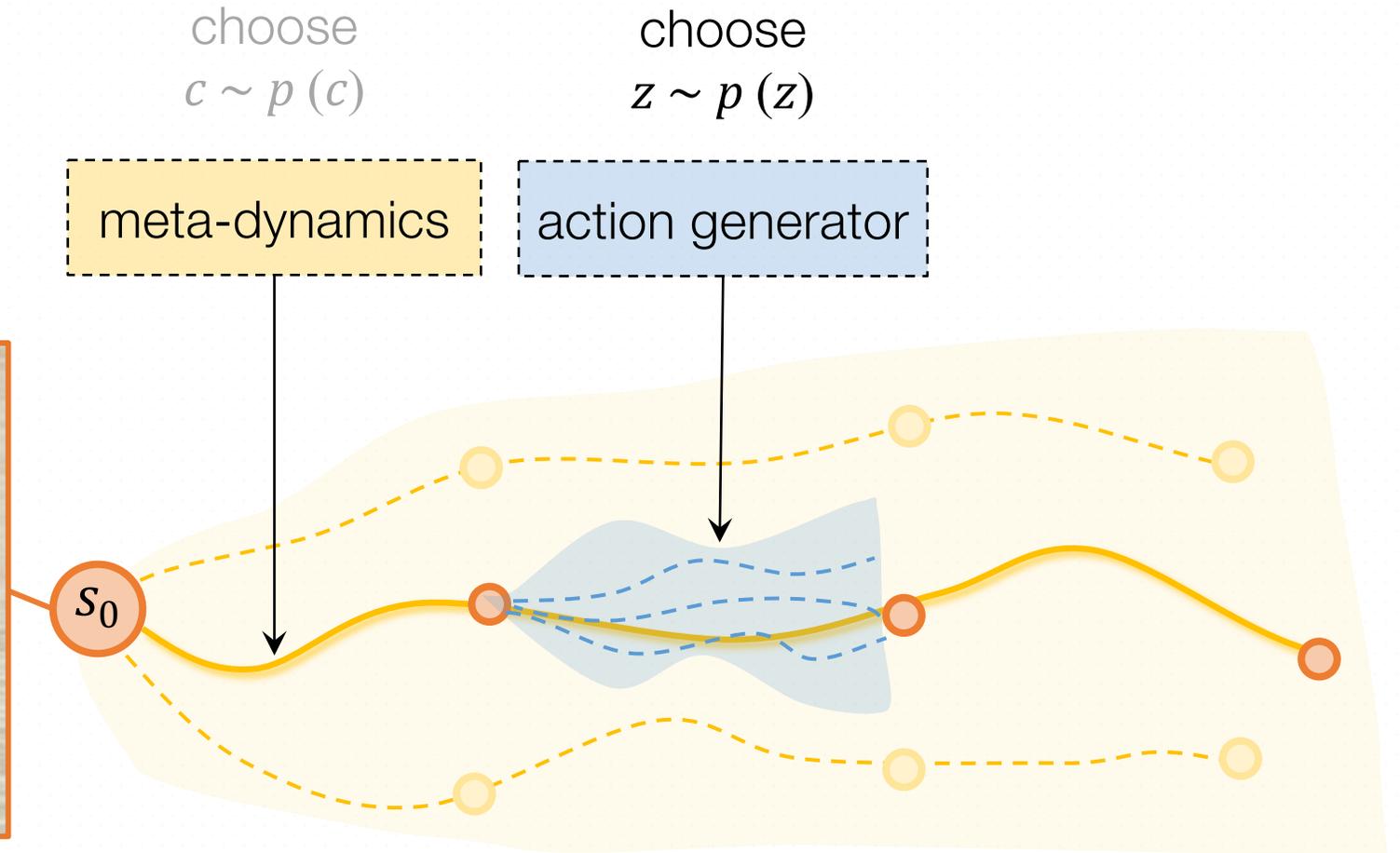
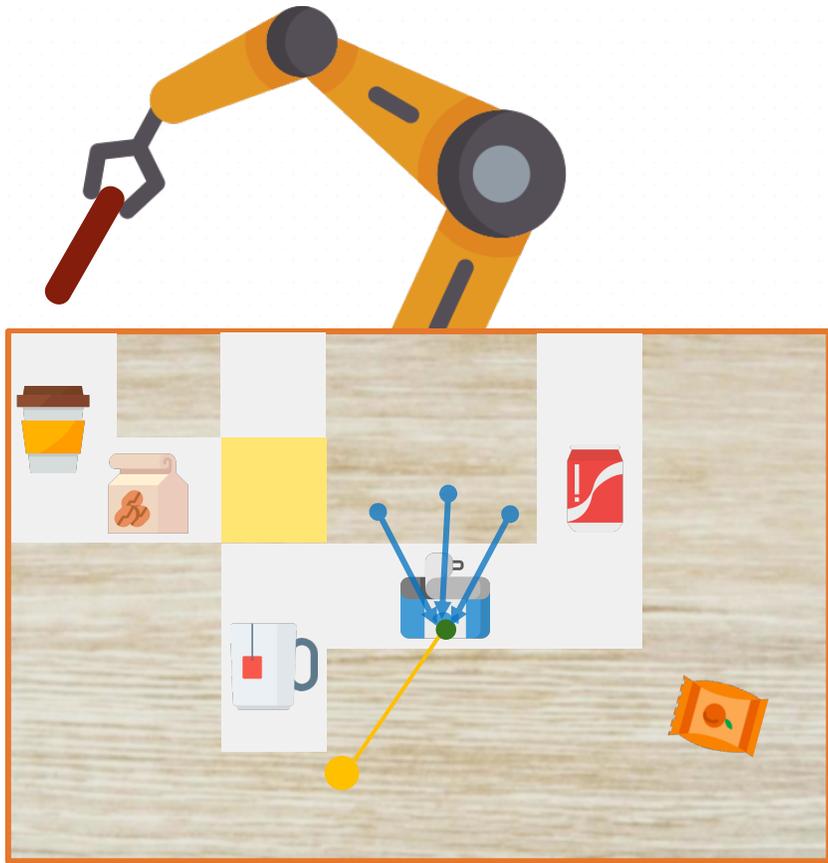
CAVIN: Hierarchical planning in learned latent spaces



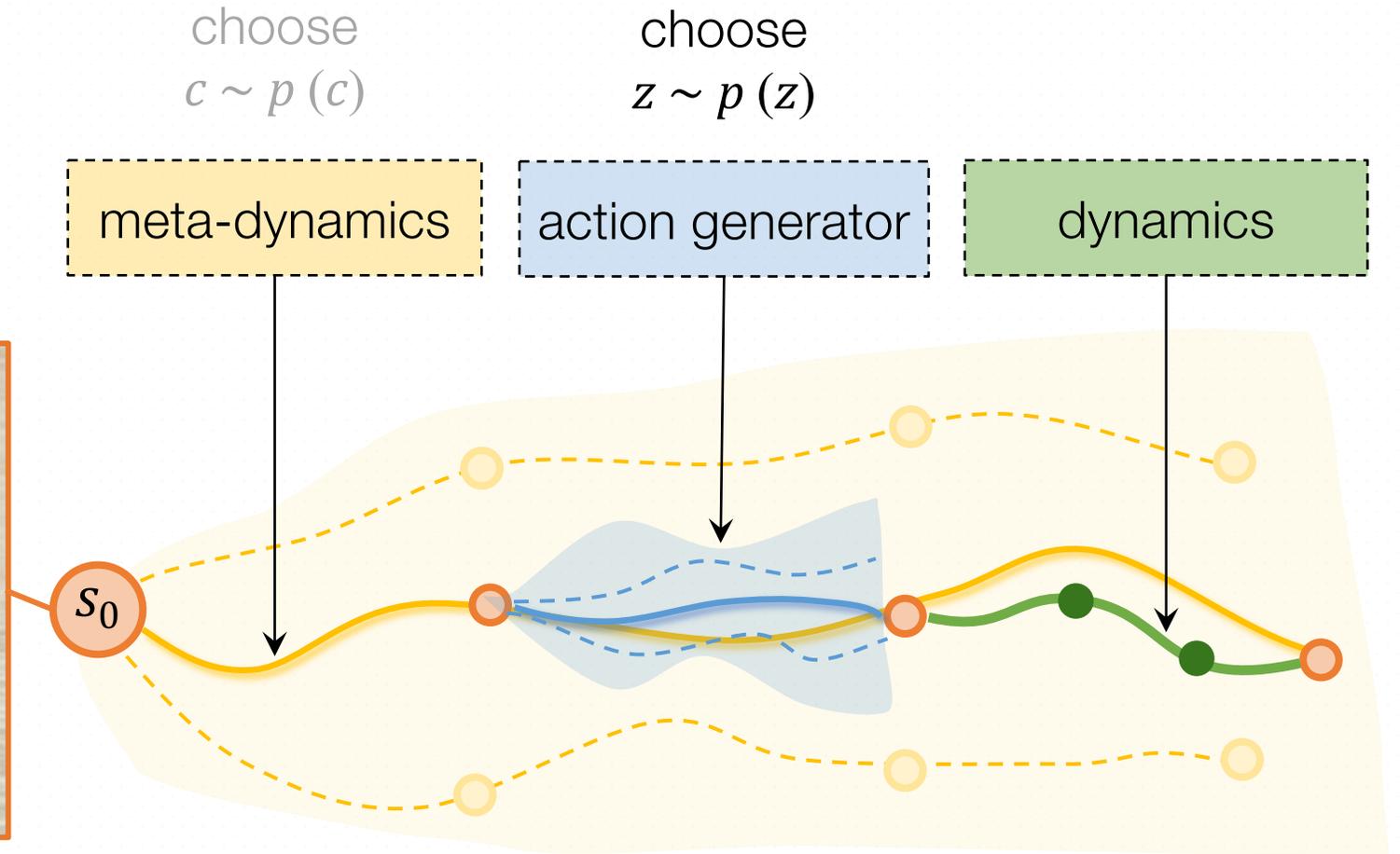
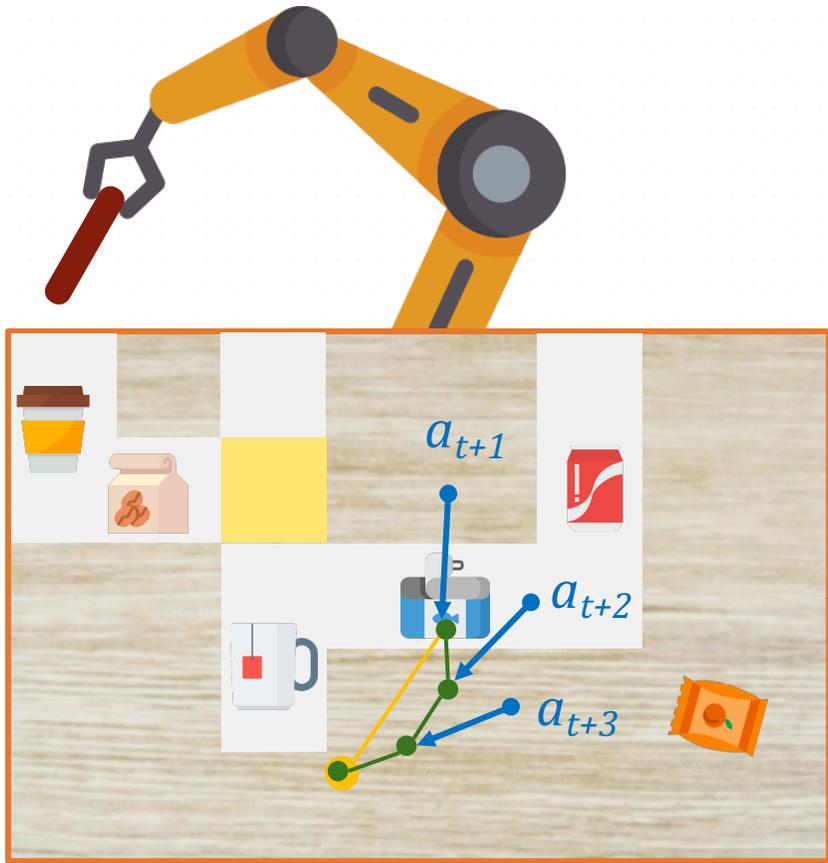
CAVIN: Hierarchical planning in learned latent spaces



Hierarchical planning in learned latent spaces

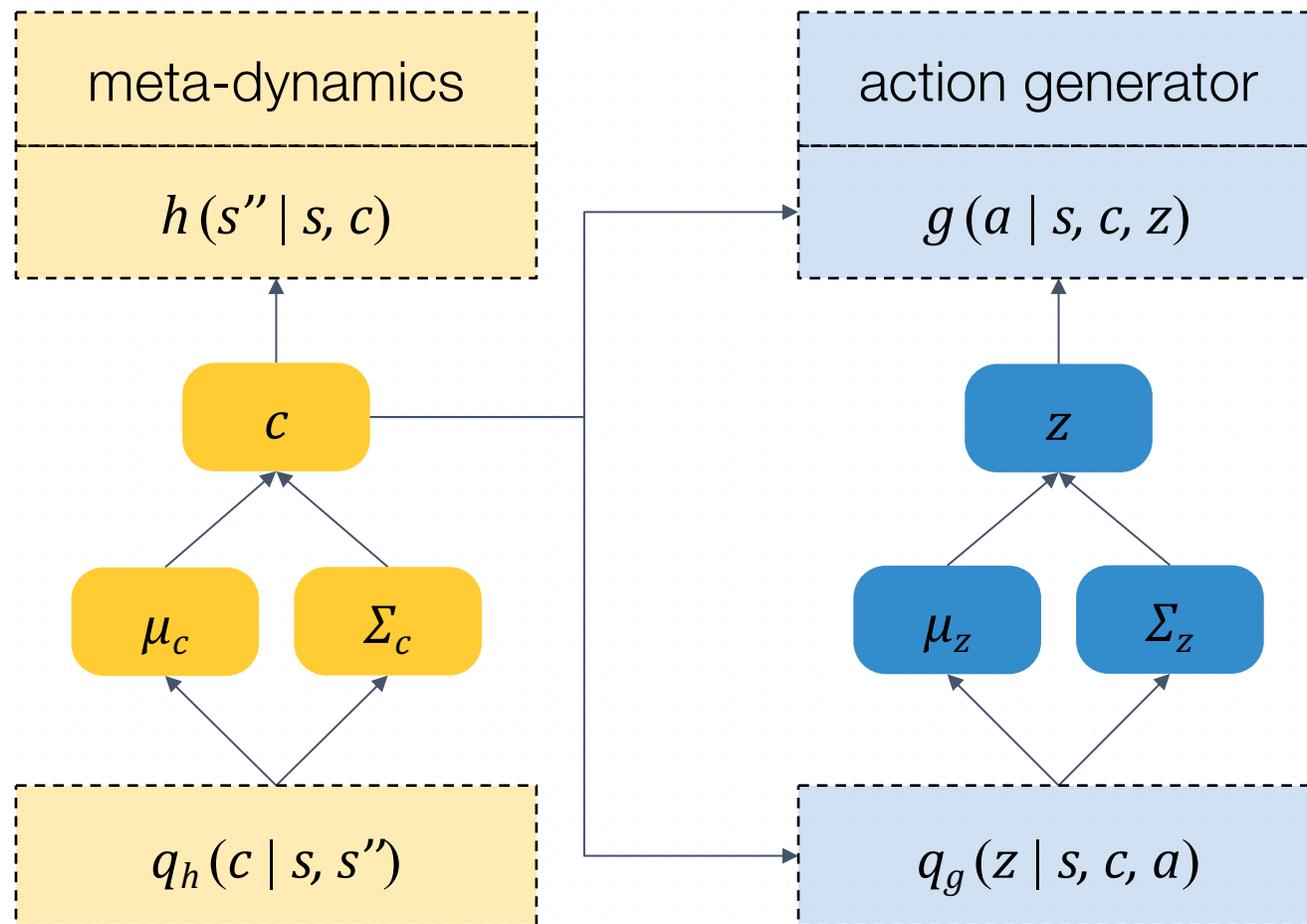
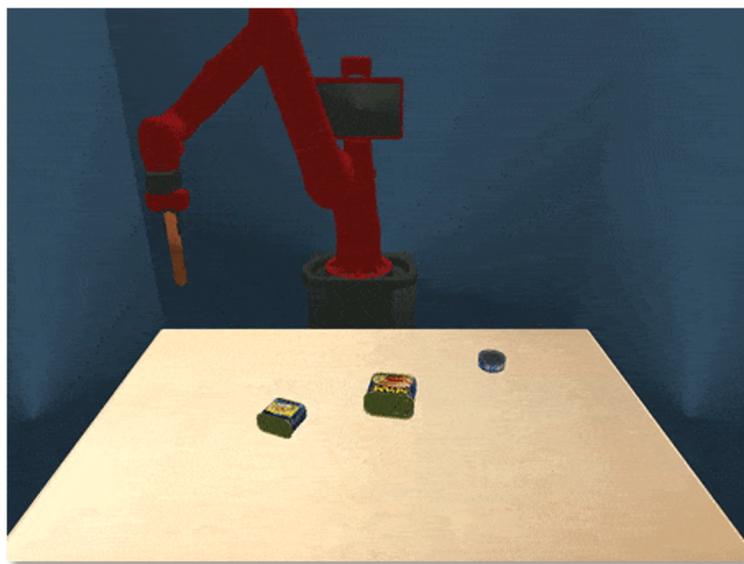


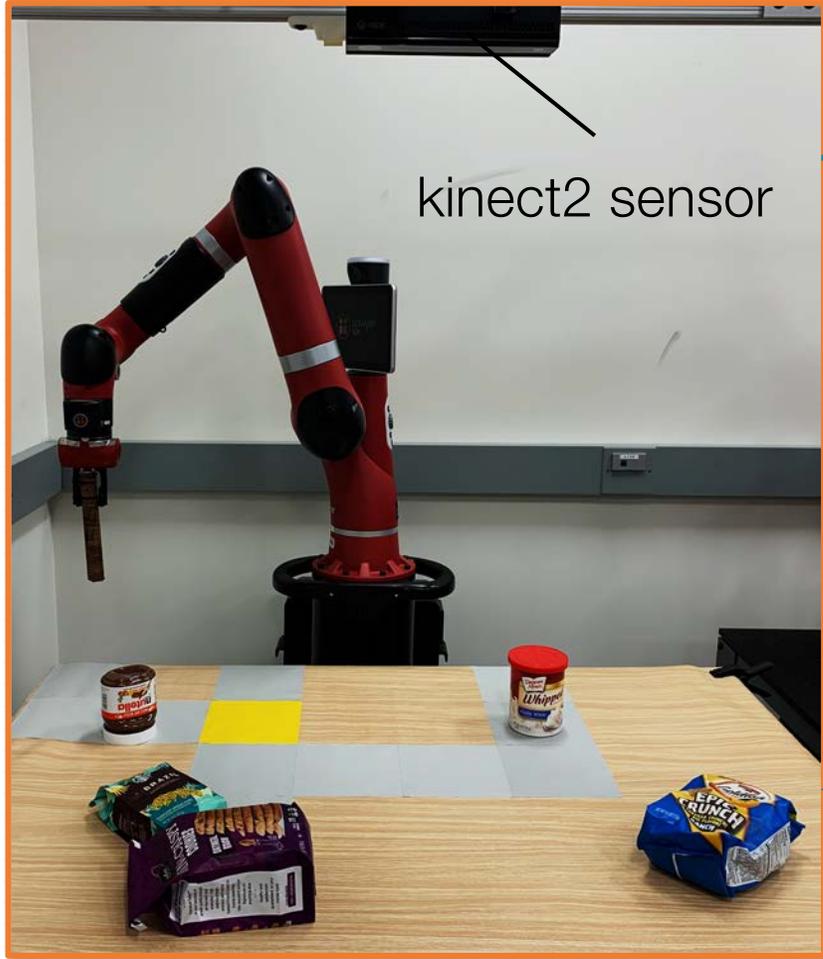
CAVIN: Hierarchical planning in learned latent spaces



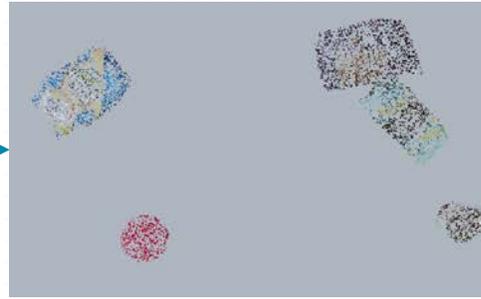
Learning with cascaded variational inference

task-agnostic interaction





visual observation



preprocess

S_t

CAVIN Planner

action
 $[x, y, \Delta x, \Delta y]$

Tasks

clearing



Clear all objects within the area of **blue tiles**.

insertion



Move the target to the goal without traversing **red tiles**.

crossing



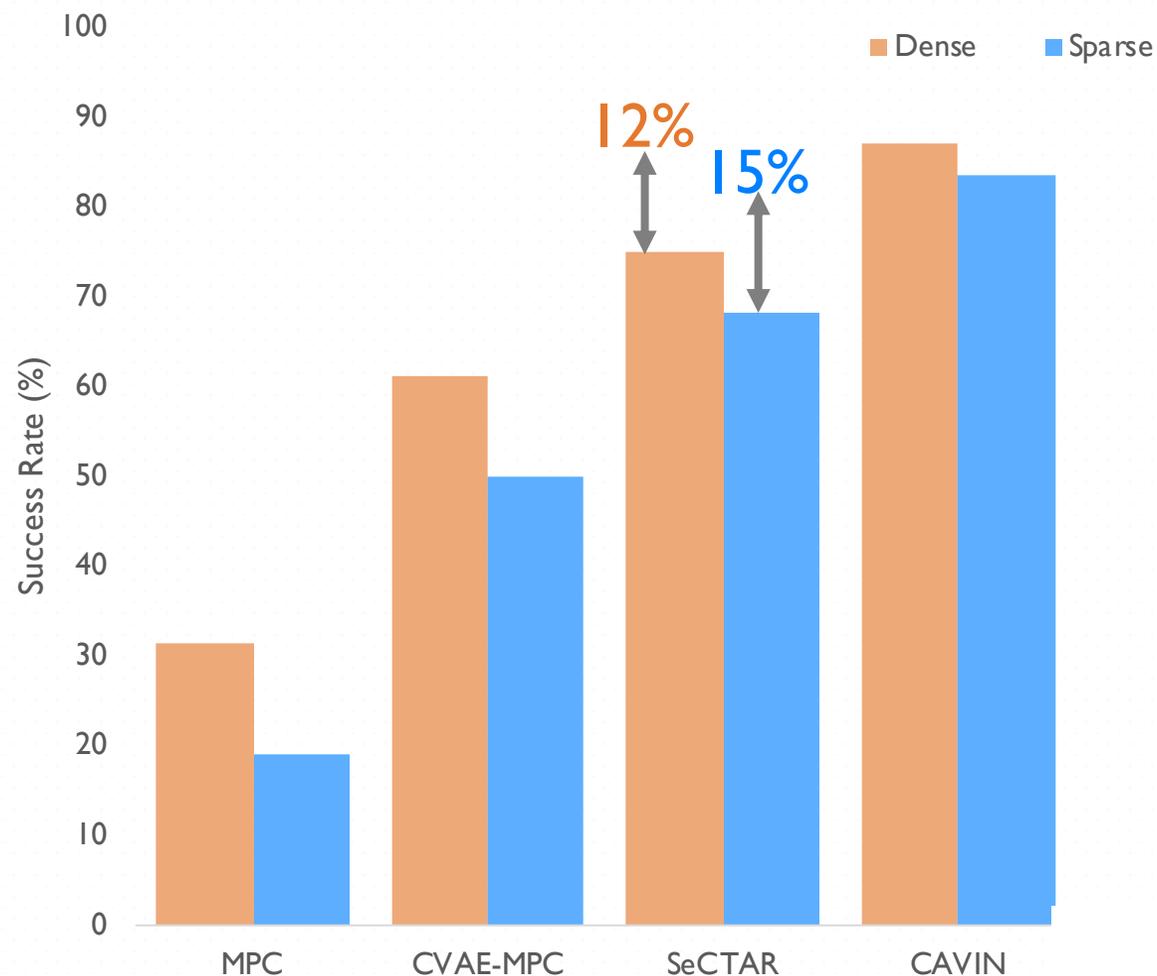
Move the target to the goal across **grey tiles**

Simulated

Real



Quantitative Evaluation



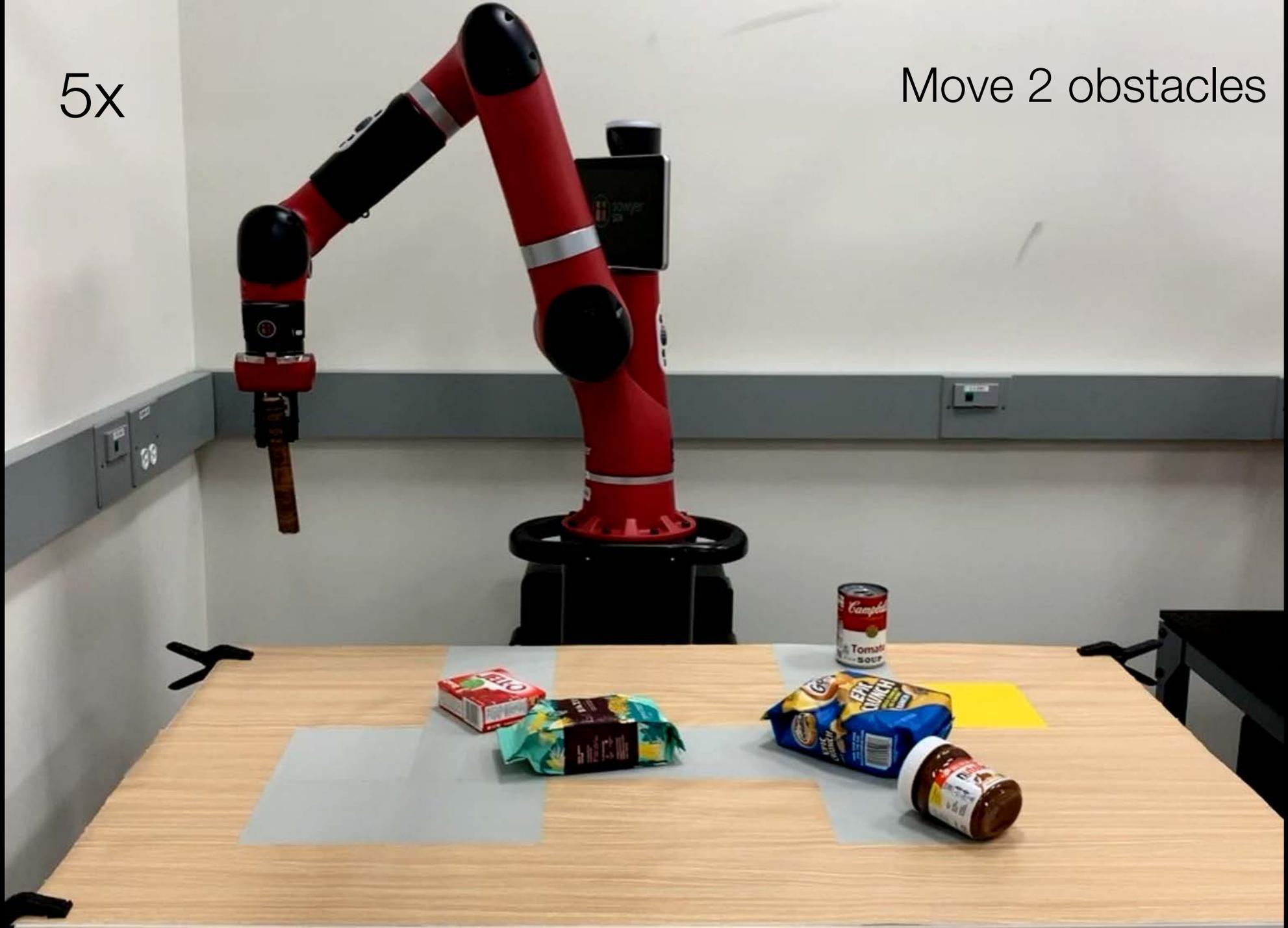
Hierarchical Latent space dyn.

↓
Better performance with sparse reward signal

Averaged over 3 Tasks
with 1000 test instances each

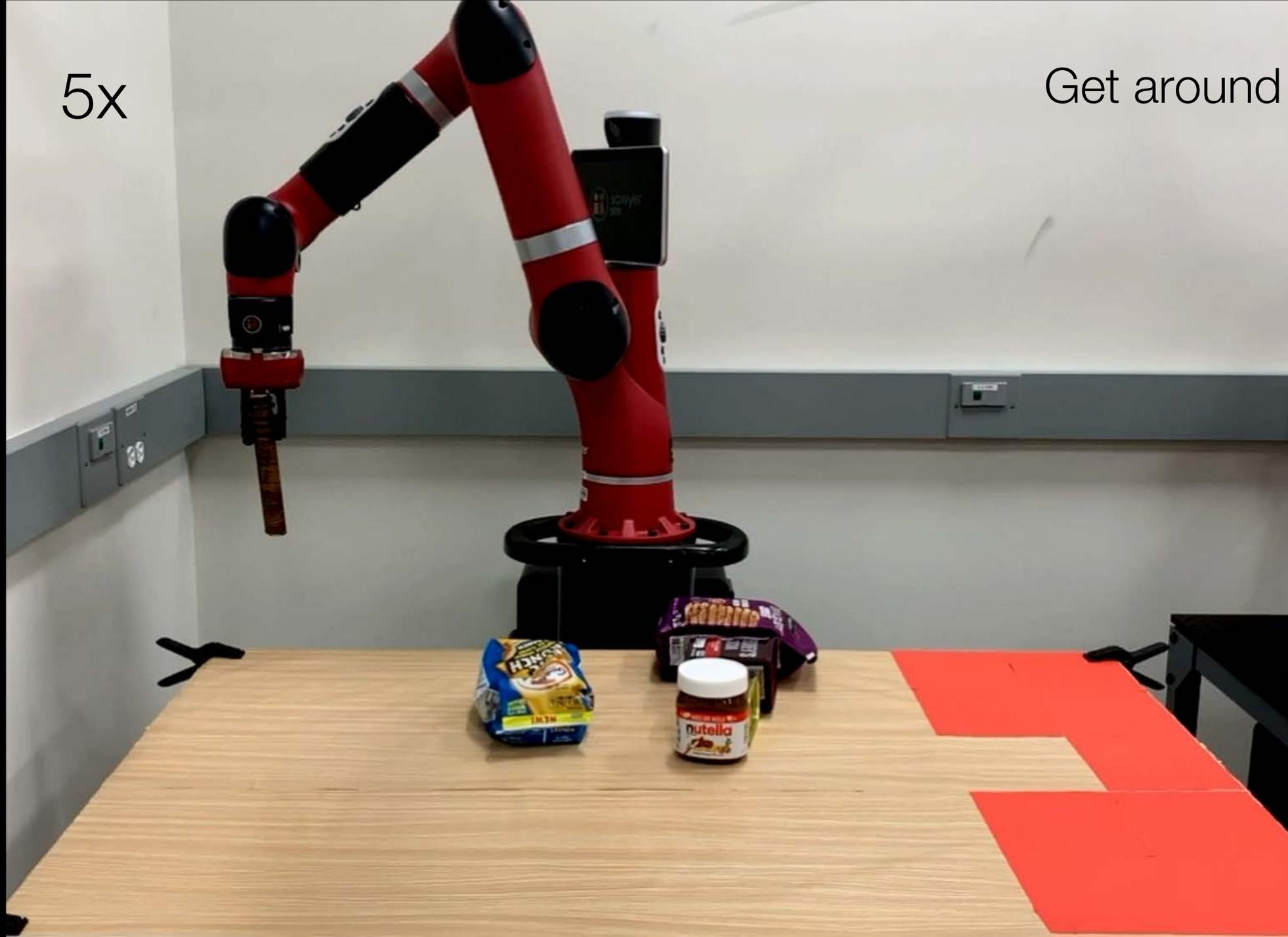
5x

Move 2 obstacles



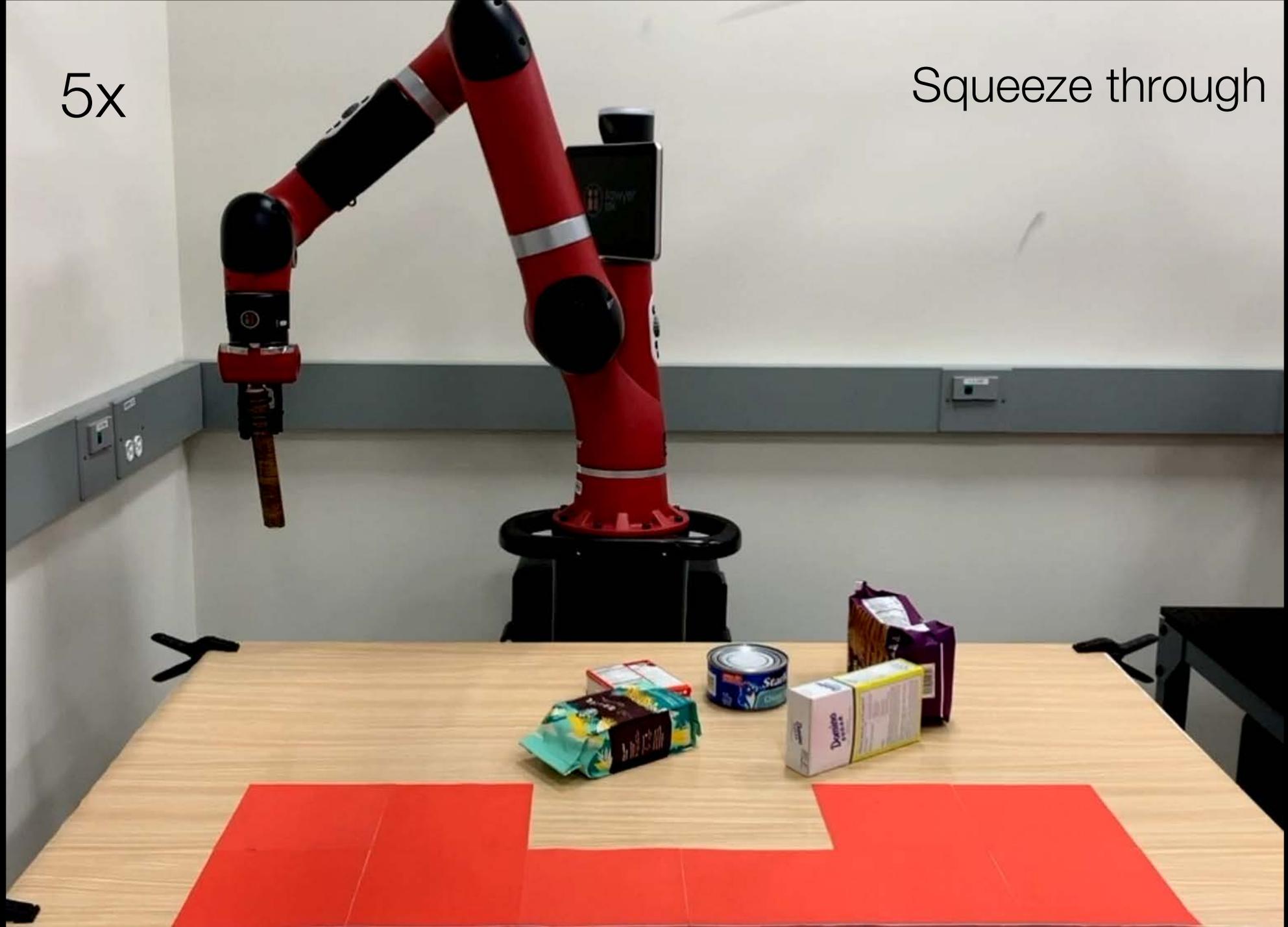
5x

Get around



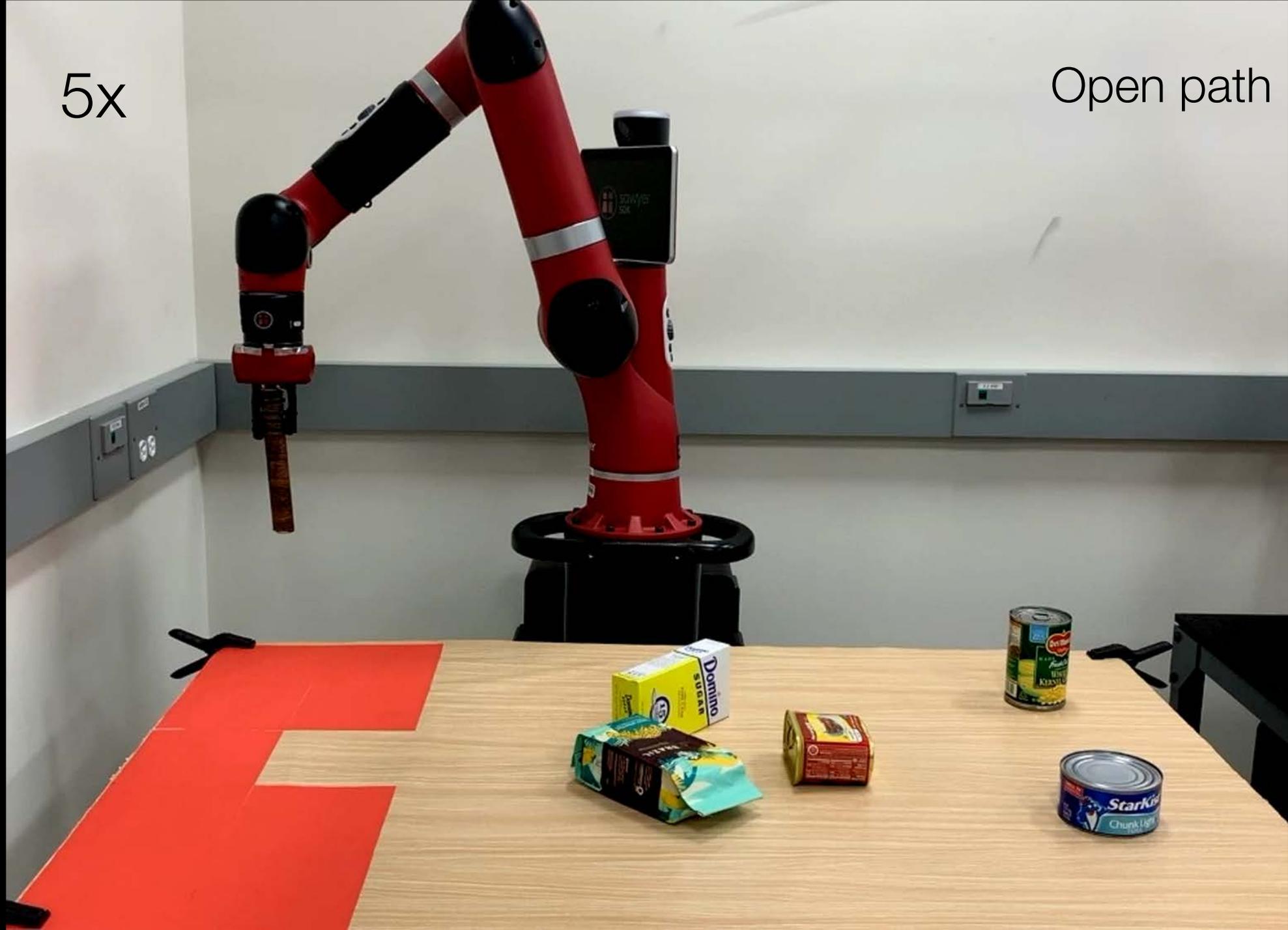
5x

Squeeze through

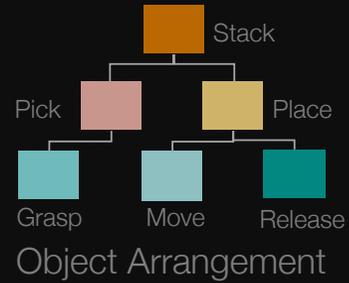


5x

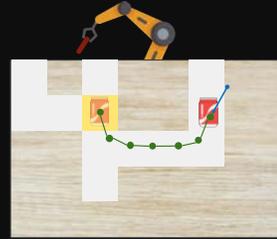
Open path



Compositional Planning



RSS 2018,
IJRR 2019

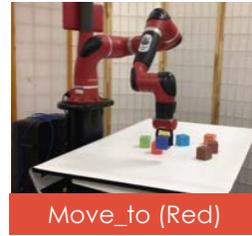
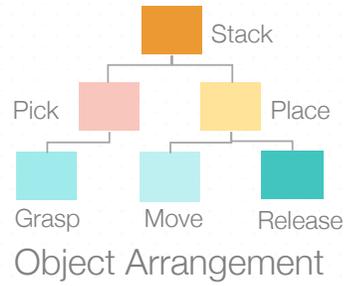


CoRL 2019 (oral)

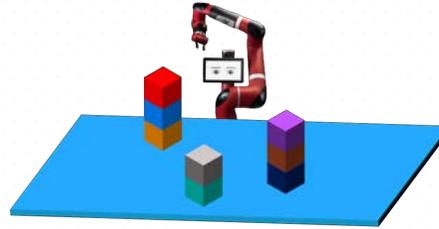


Self-Supervision and Structured Latent Variable Models
lead to good representations that generalize

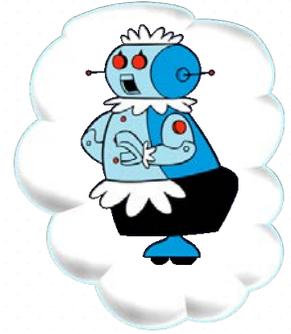
Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation



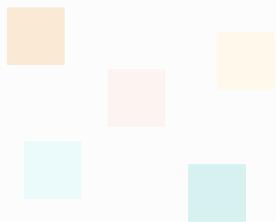
ICRA 2018



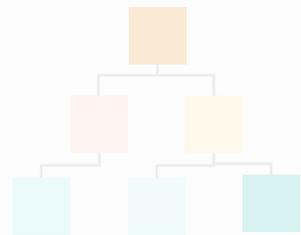
CVPR 2019 (oral)



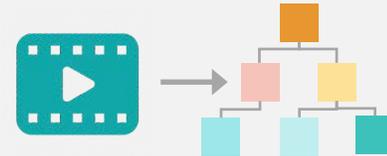
Visuo-Motor Skills



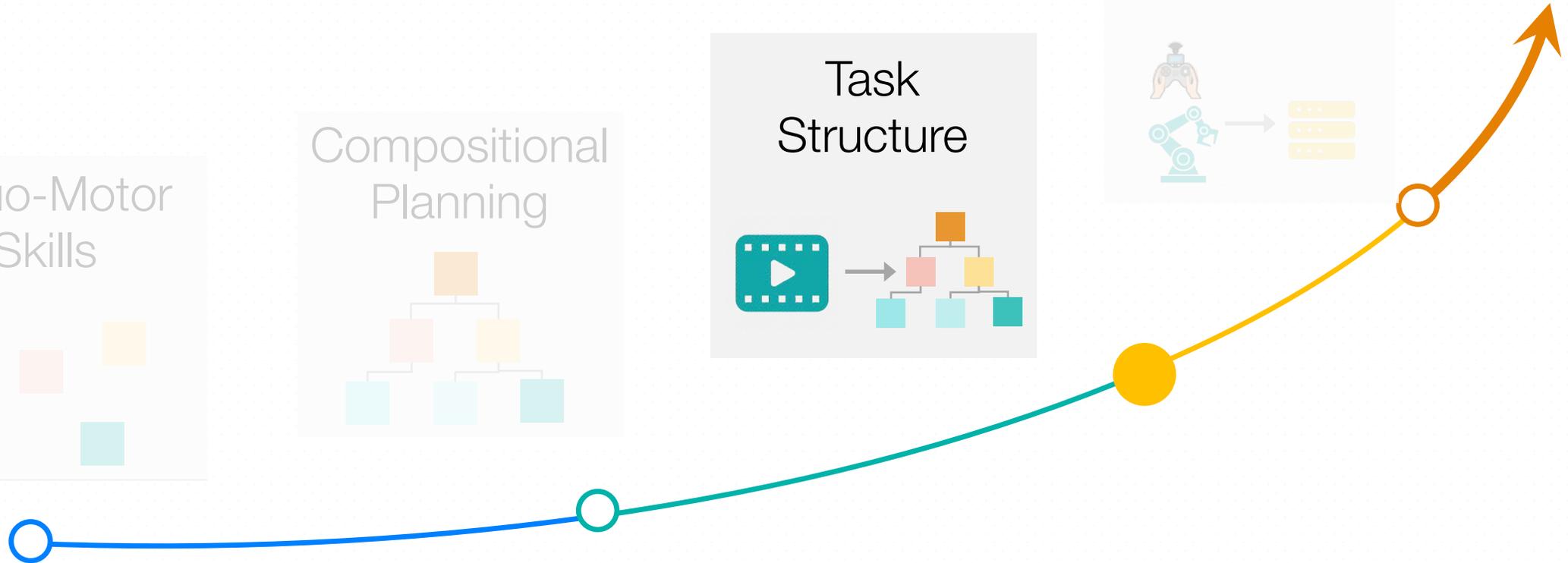
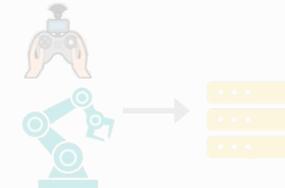
Compositional Planning



Task Structure



Data for Robotics



Complex Task Structure

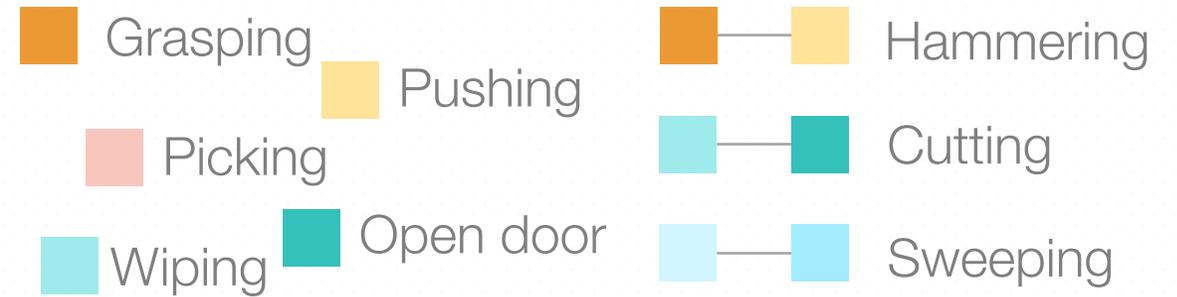


Visuo-Motor Skills

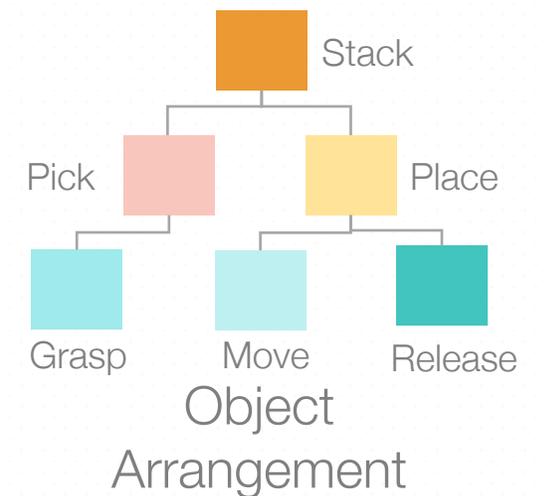
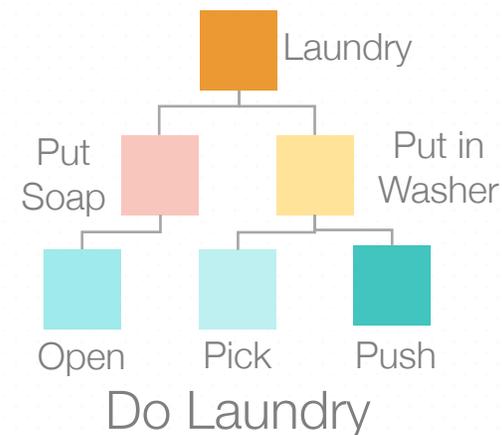


Complex Task Structure

Visuo-Motor Skills

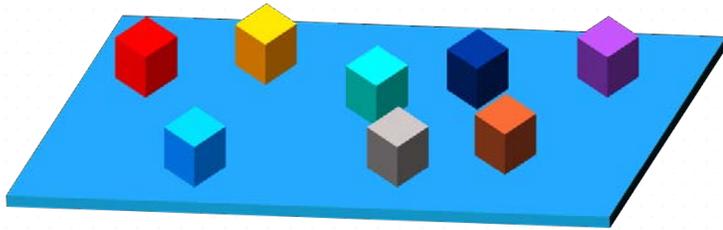


Complex Task Structure

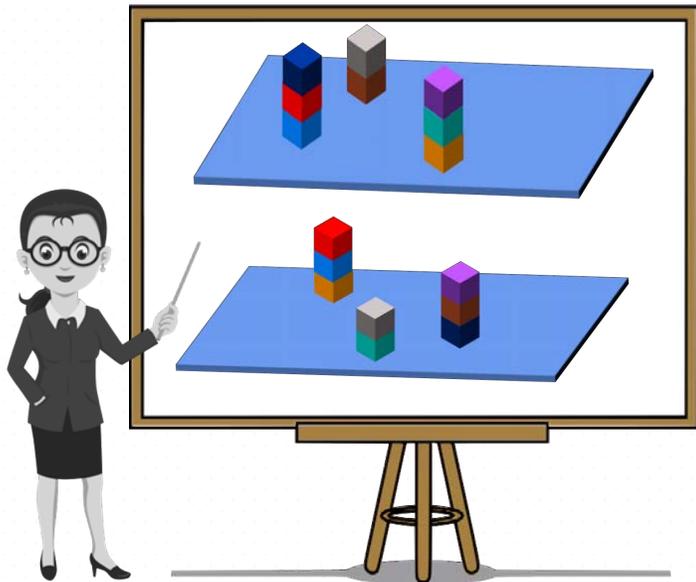


Compositional Planning: Challenge

Task Domain



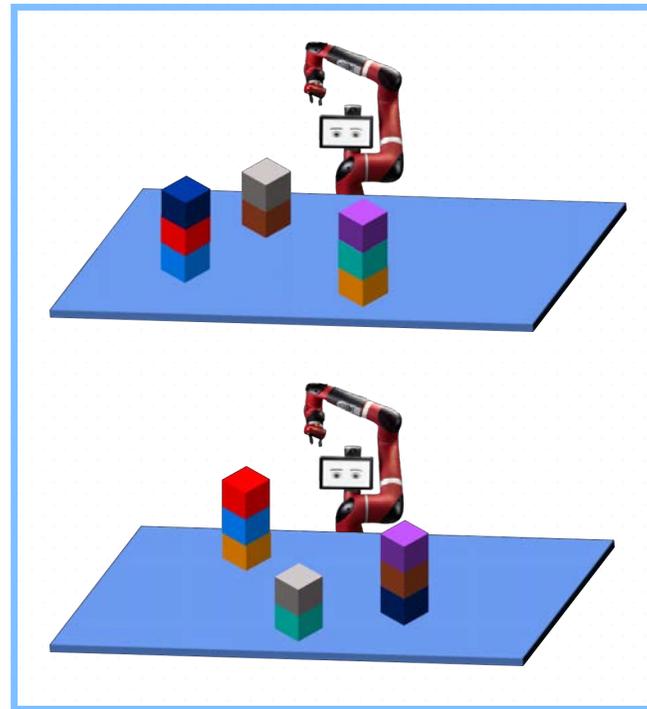
Instructional Demos



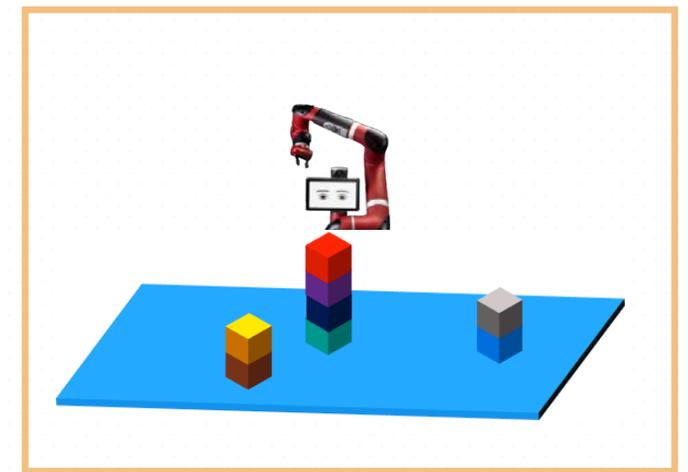
I. Learn **Multiple Tasks**
in the Same Domain

II. Generalize to New
Tasks with a **Single Demo**

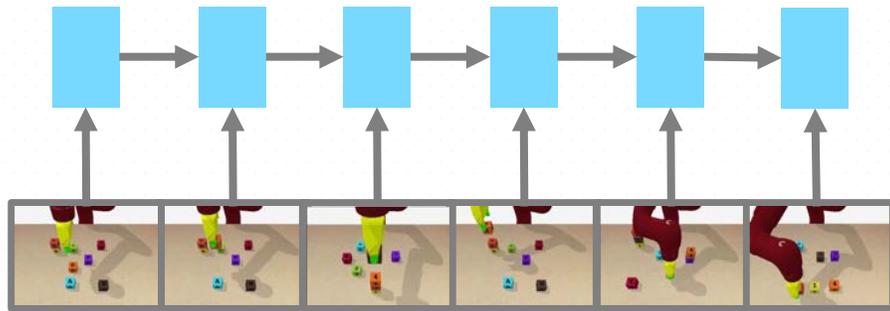
Training Tasks



Test Task

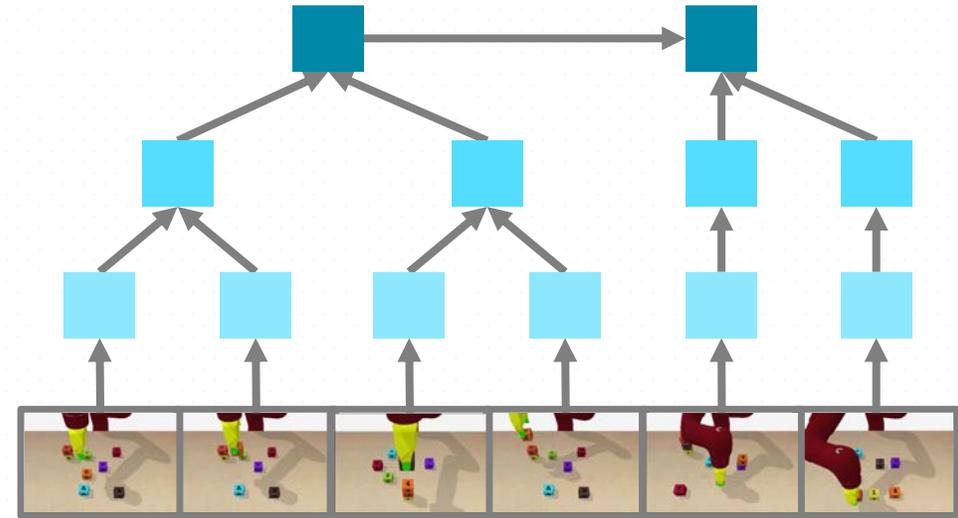


Compositional Planning



[Duan et al. 17; Finn et al. 2017;
Wang et al. 2017; Yu et al. 2018]

Models input demonstration
as a **flat sequence**



Our Method
[ICRA'18], [CVPR'19], [IROS'19]

Models input demonstration
as a **Compositional Hierarchy**

One Shot Imitation Learning from Videos

Compositional Planning: Task Programming

Block Stacking (...):

```
while (done):
```

```
  pick_and_place (RED, BLUE):
```

```
    pick (RED):
```

```
      move_to (RED)
```

```
      ↓ Grasp (RED)
```

```
      <end> Pop
```

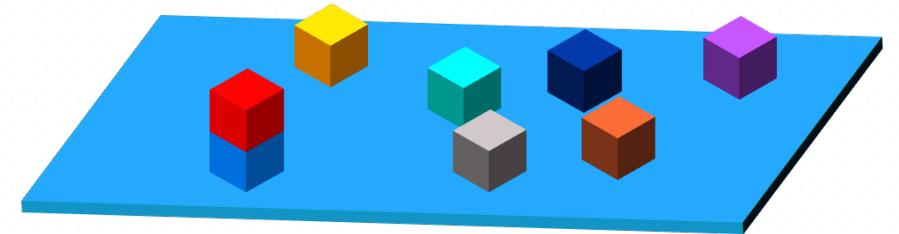
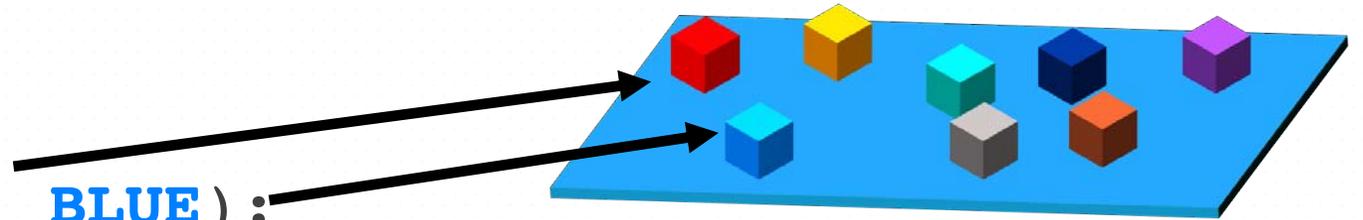
```
    place (BLUE):
```

```
      move_to (BLUE)
```

```
      ↓ Release (RED)
```

```
      <end> Pop
```

```
  <end> Pop
```



Task 1

Sub-task 1

Move Red-block on top of Blue

Compositional Planning: Task Programming

Block Stacking (...): Program 1

Block Stacking (...): Program 2

```
while (done):
```

```
  pick_and_place (RED, BLUE):
```

```
    pick (RED):
```

```
      move_to (RED)
```

```
      ↓ Grasp (RED)
```

```
      <end> Pop
```

```
    place (BLUE):
```

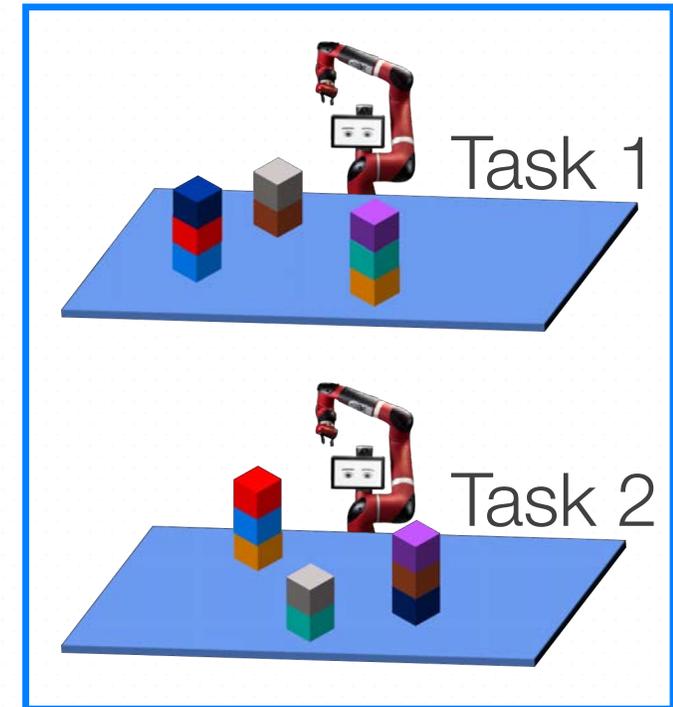
```
      move_to (BLUE)
```

```
      ↓ Release (RED)
```

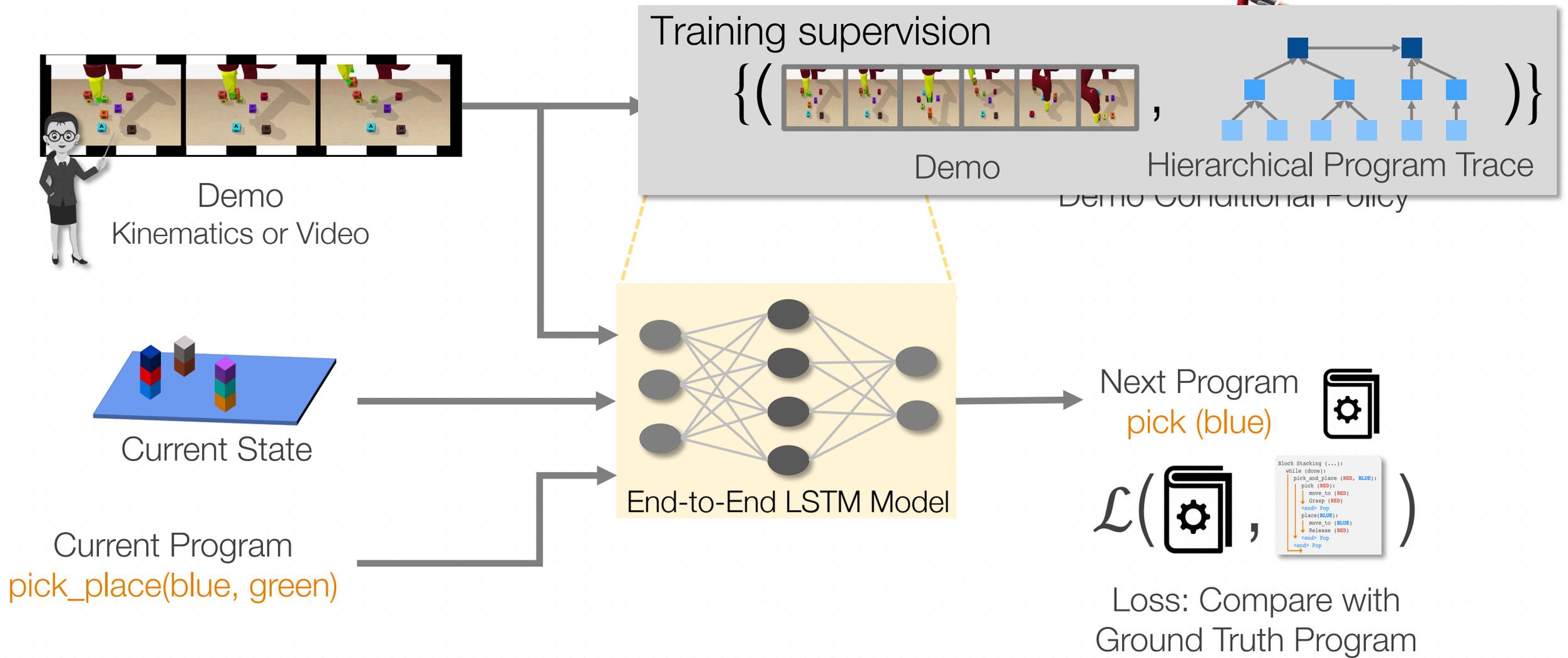
```
      <end> Pop
```

```
<end> Pop
```

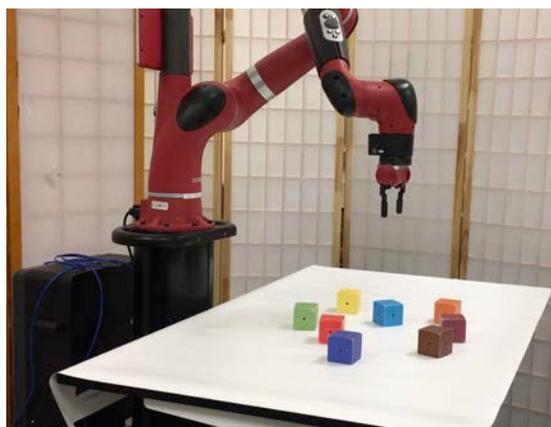
Training Task Structures



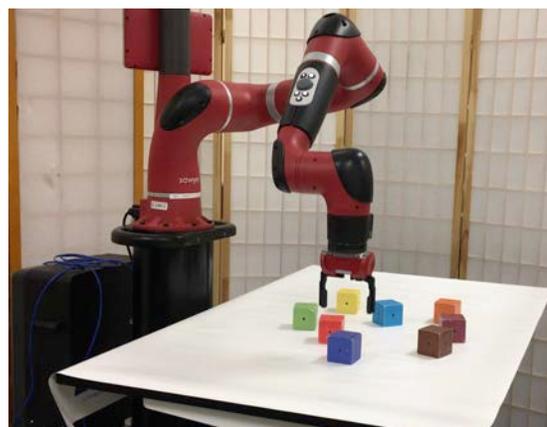
Neural Task Programming (NTP)



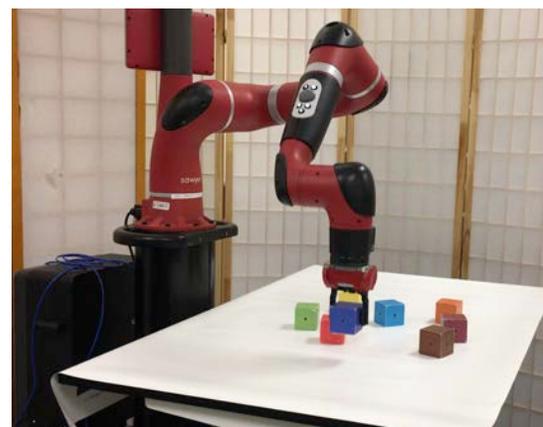
Hierarchical Policy Learning as Program Induction



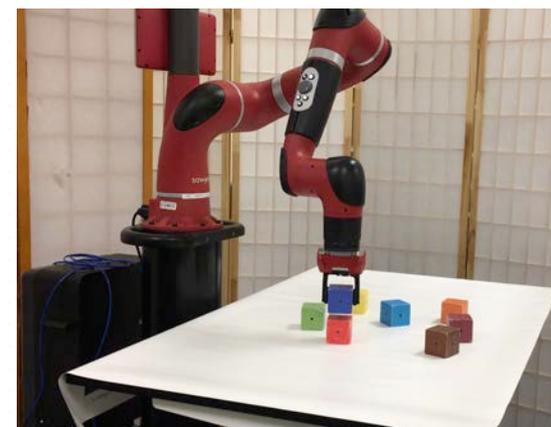
Move_to (Blue)



Grasp (Blue)



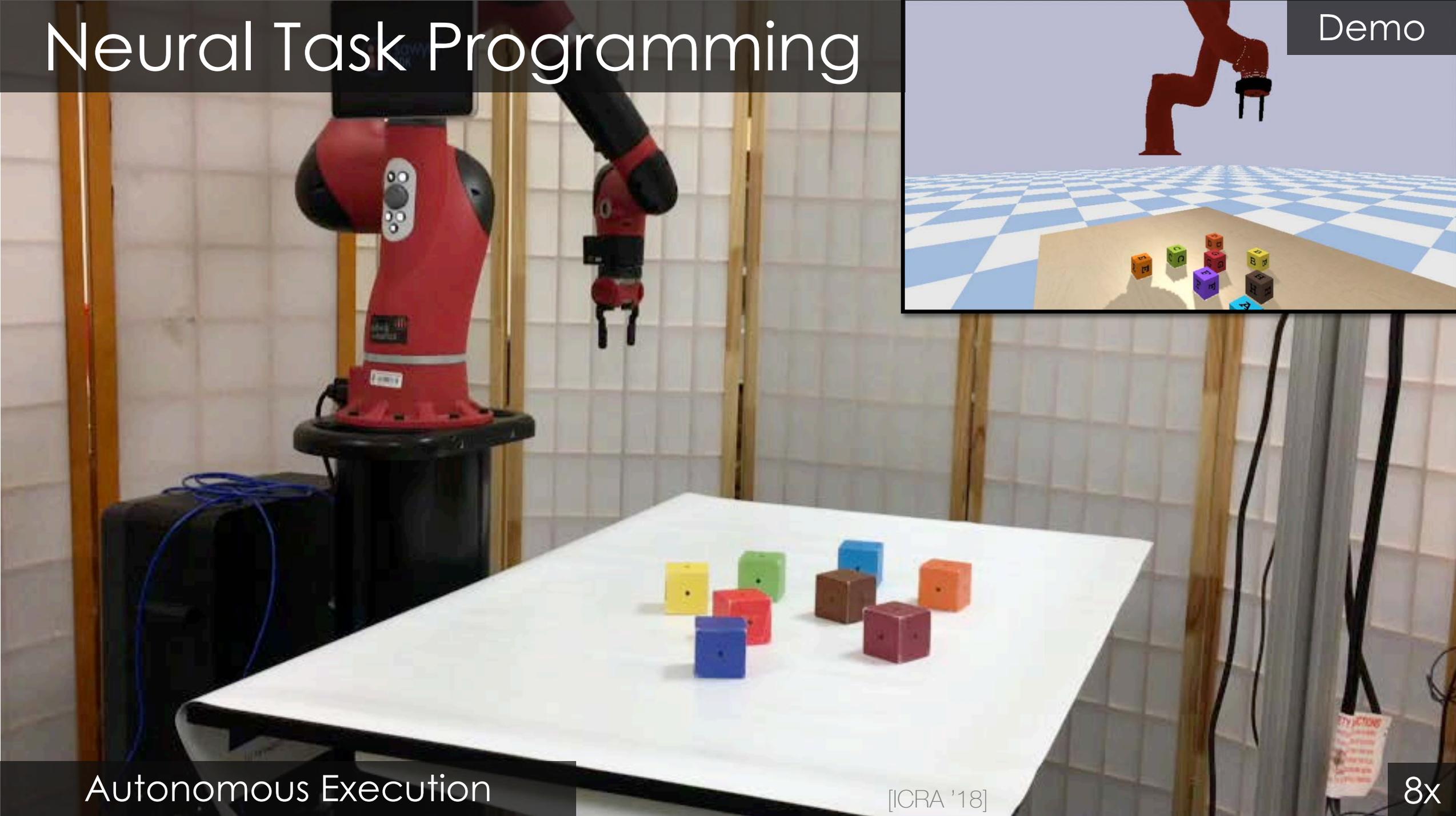
Move_to (Red)



Release ()

Neural Task Programming

Demo



Autonomous Execution

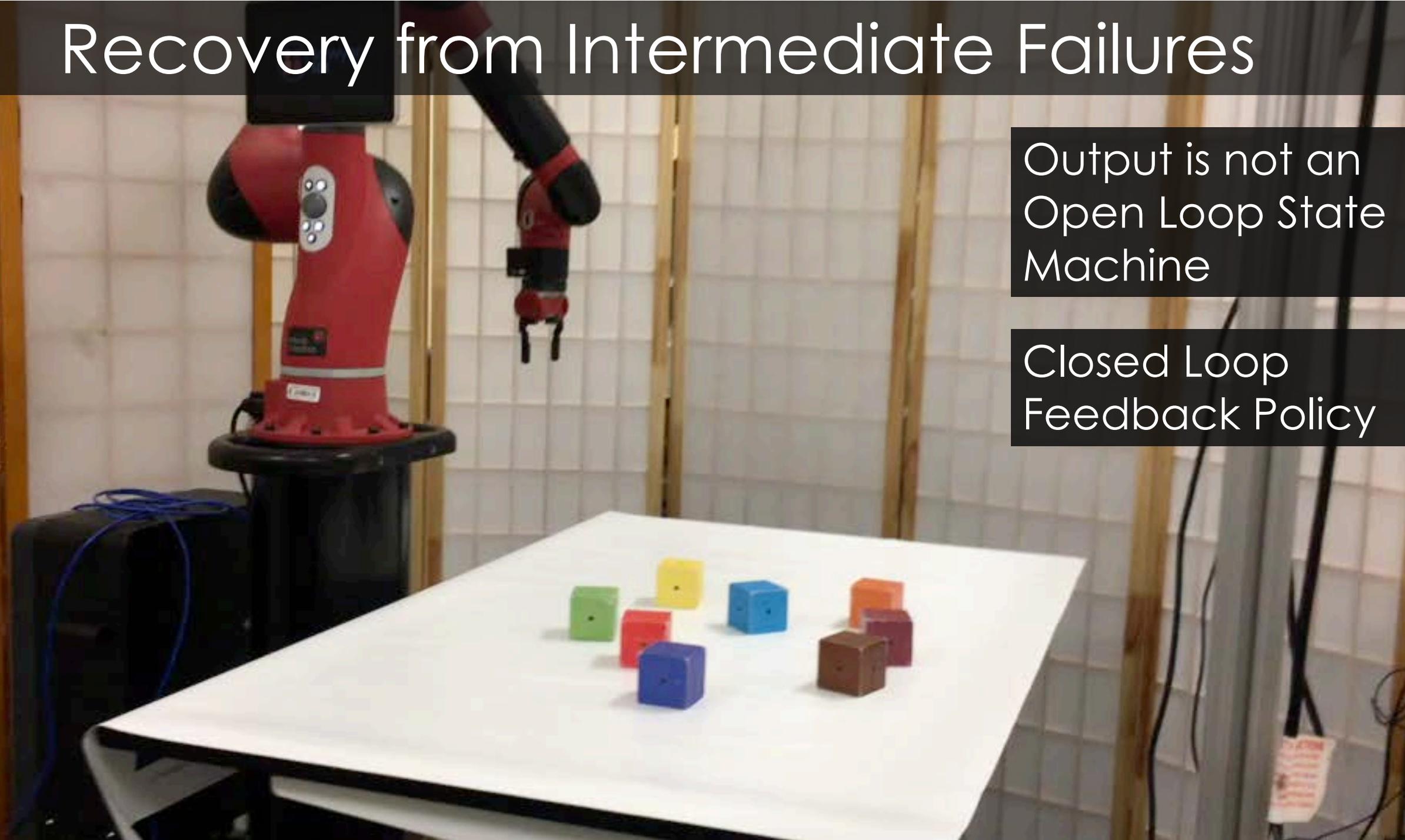
[ICRA '18]

8x

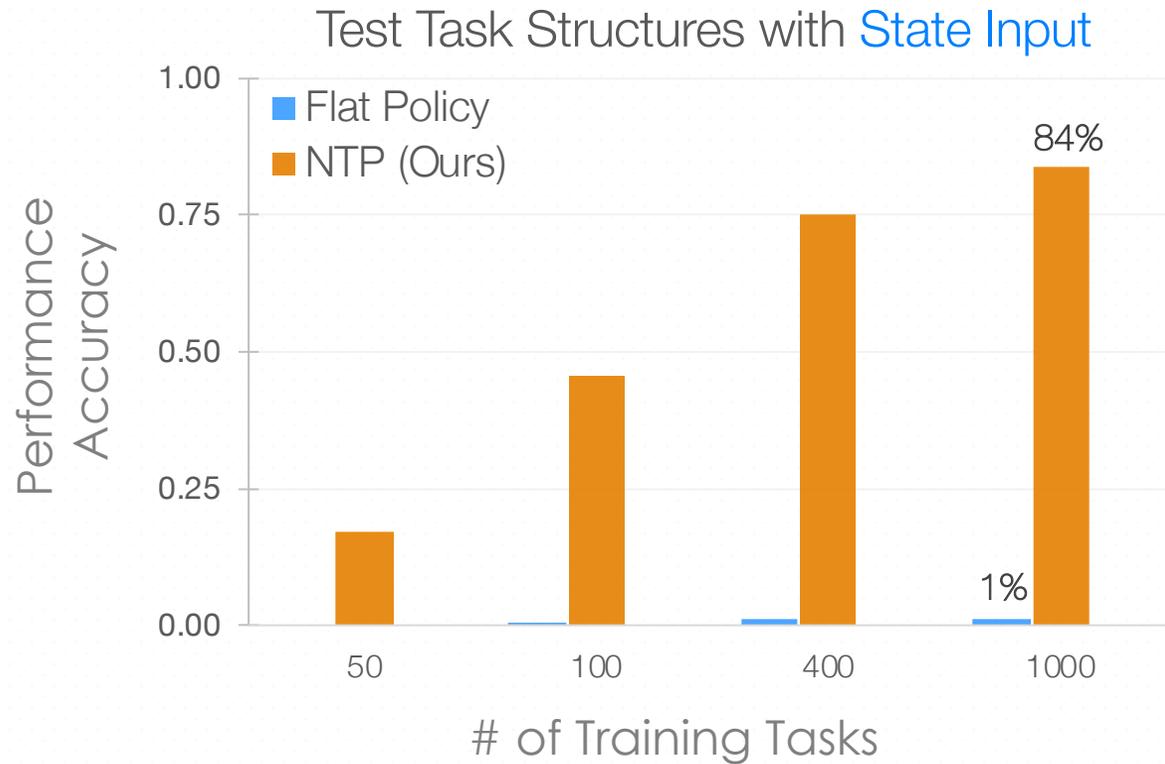
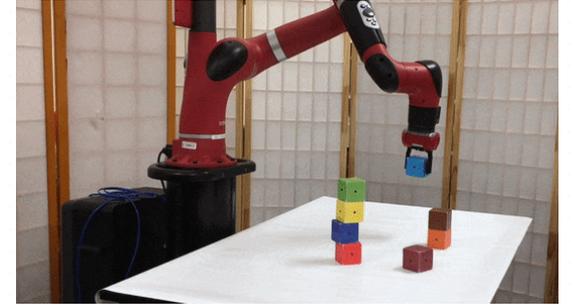
Recovery from Intermediate Failures

Output is not an
Open Loop State
Machine

Closed Loop
Feedback Policy



Neural Task Programming Results



Pose Est. + Plan
E2E Plan

Better Generalization than Flat Policy + Works with Vision

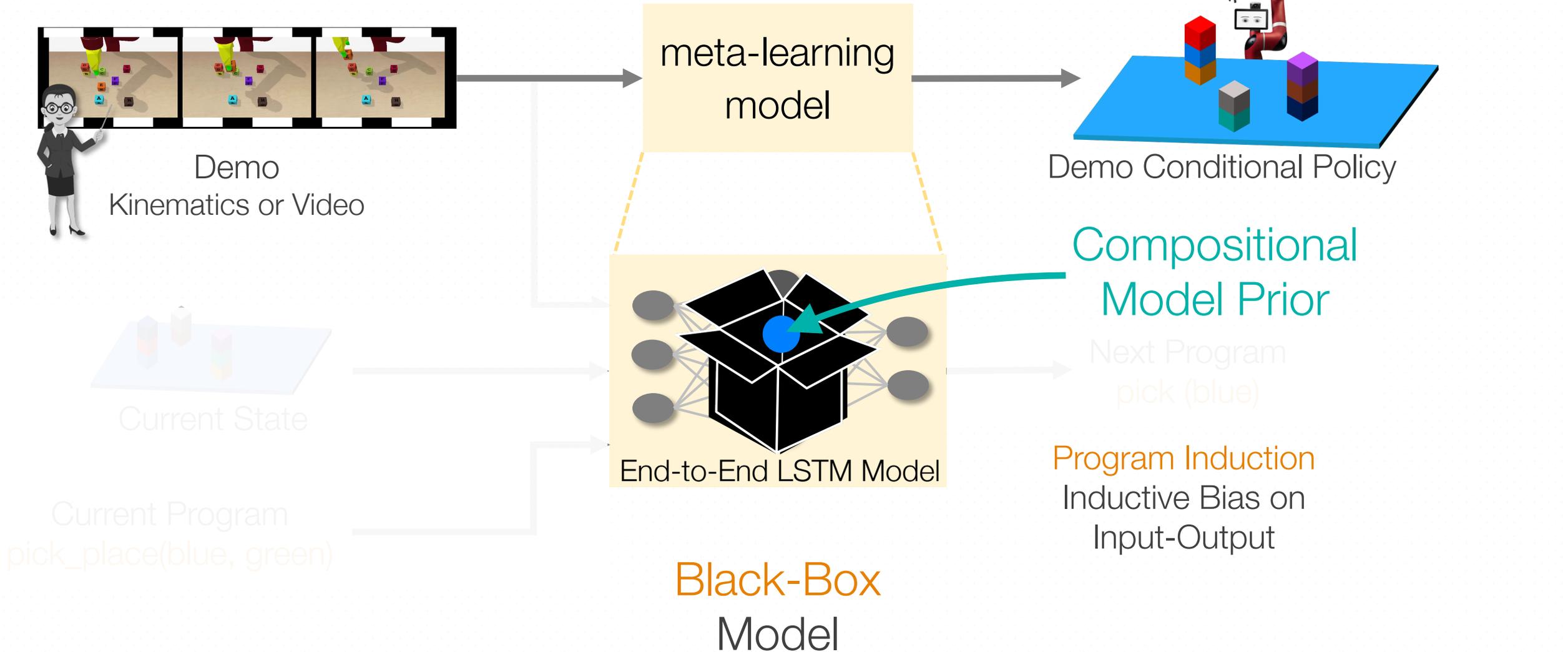
Failure Modes



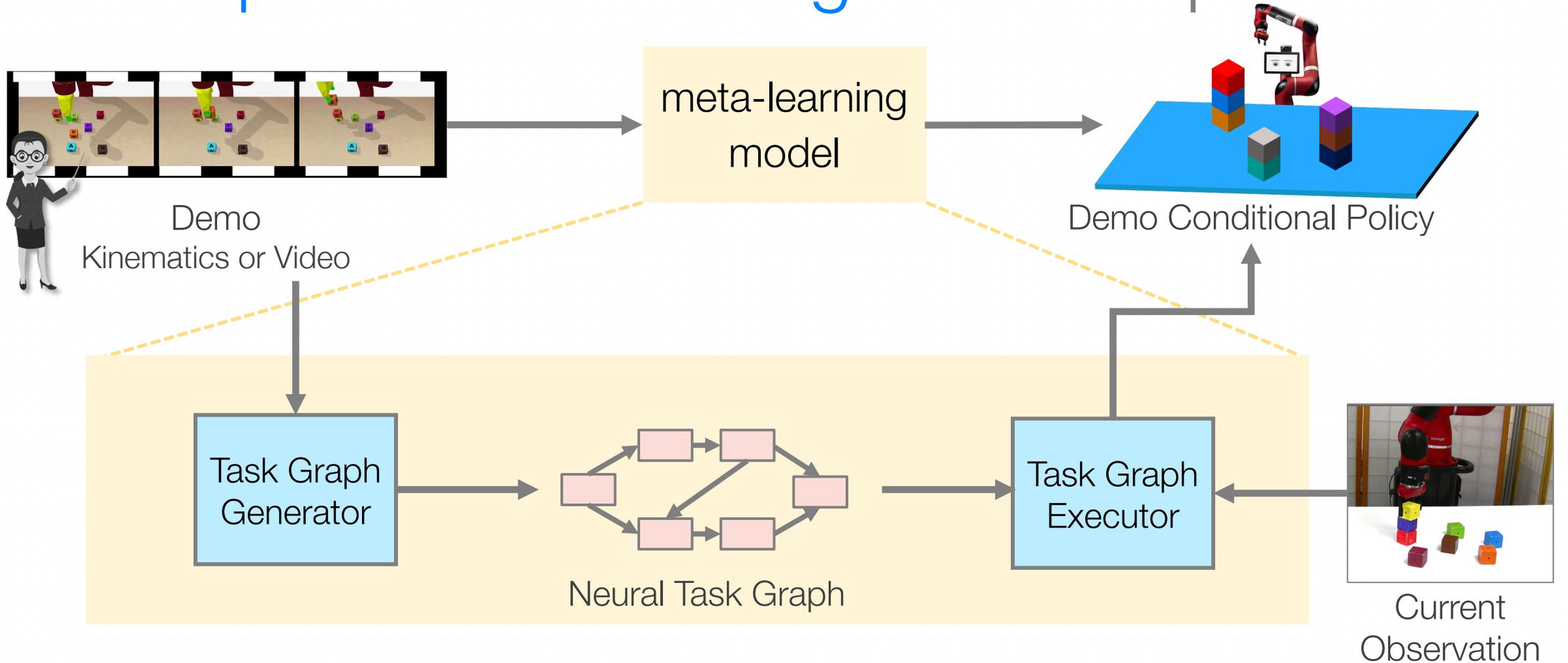
Grasping Failures

2x

Compositional Planning: Task Programming

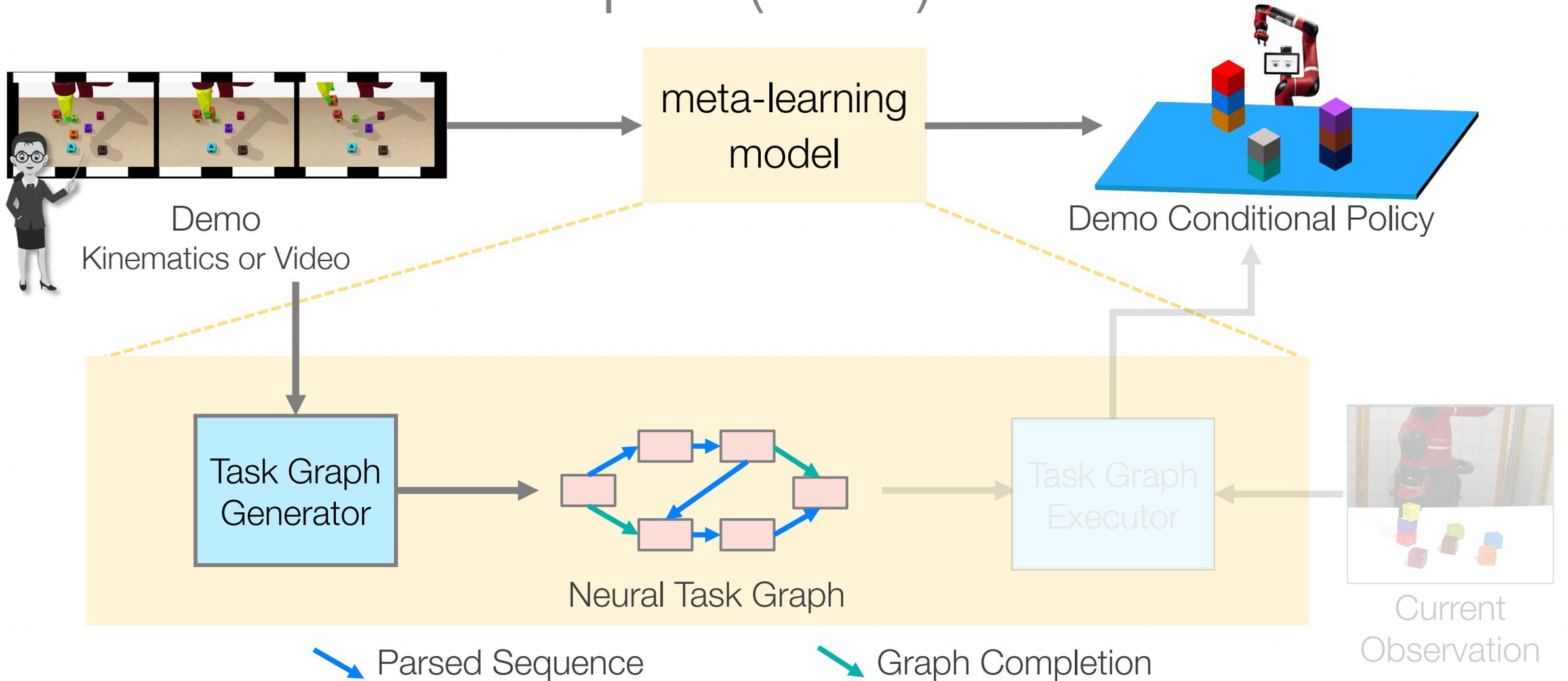


Compositional Planning: Task Graphs



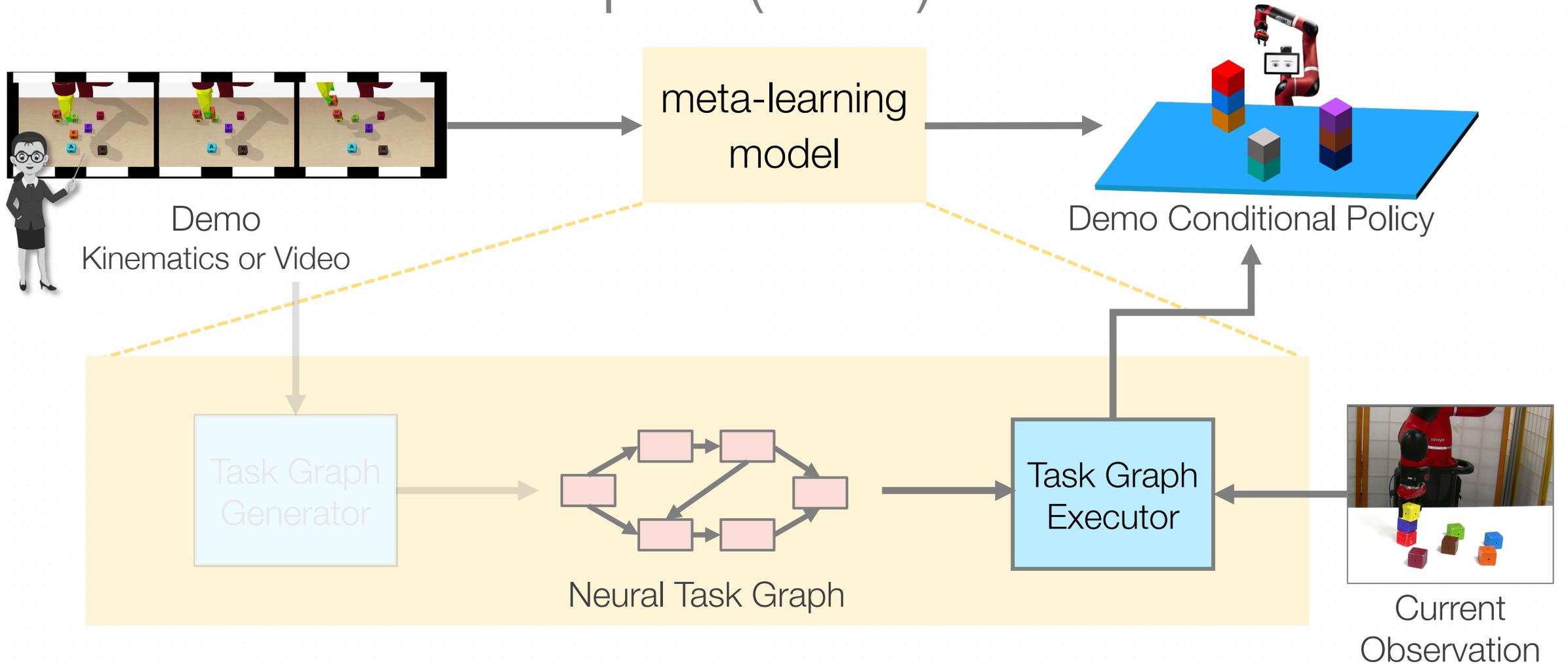
Hierarchical Policy Learning as **Graph Induction**

Neural Task Graphs (NTG)



Hierarchical Policy Learning as **Graph Induction**

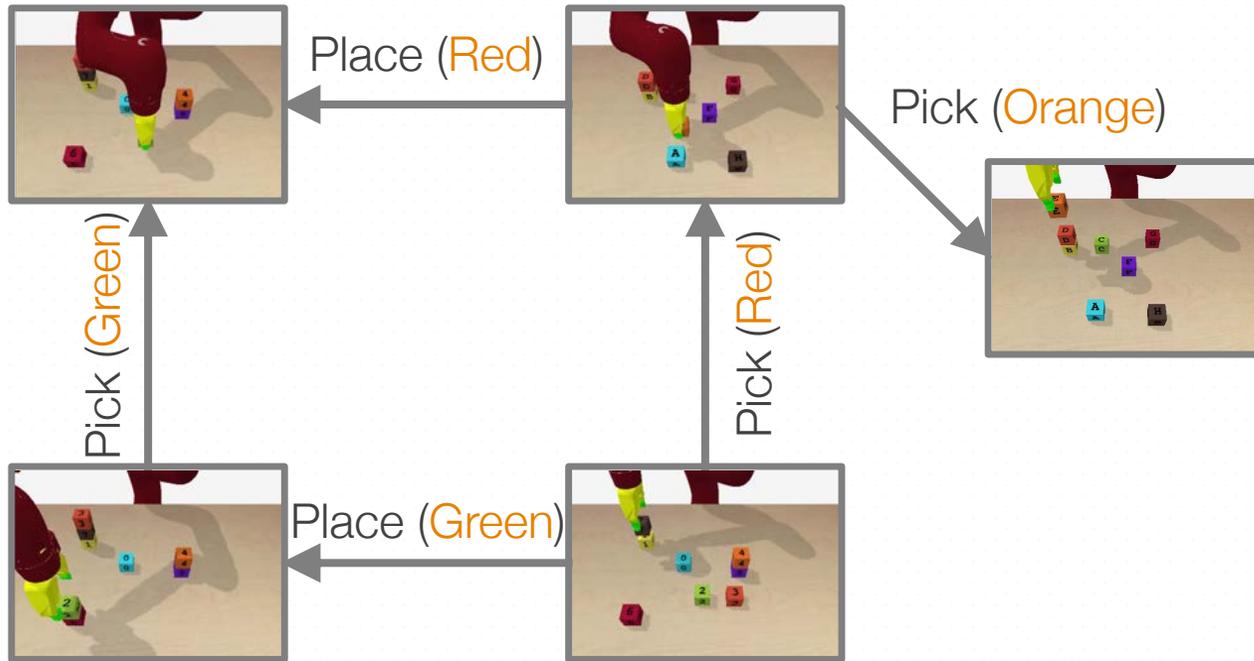
Neural Task Graphs (NTG)



Hierarchical Policy Learning as **Graph Induction**

Neural Task Graphs (NTG): Representation

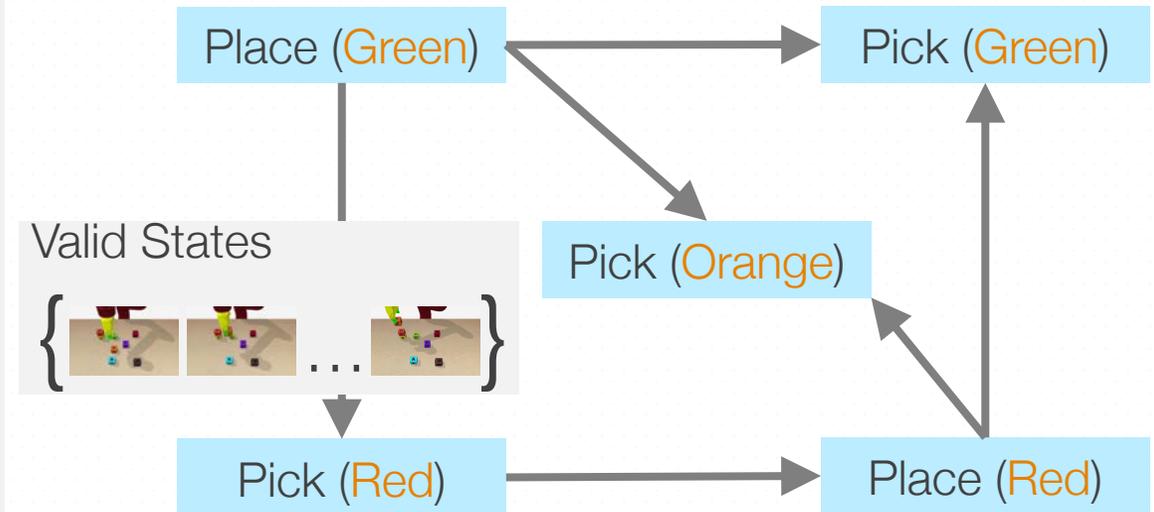
Task Graph



Nodes: States **Combinatorial**

Edges: Action

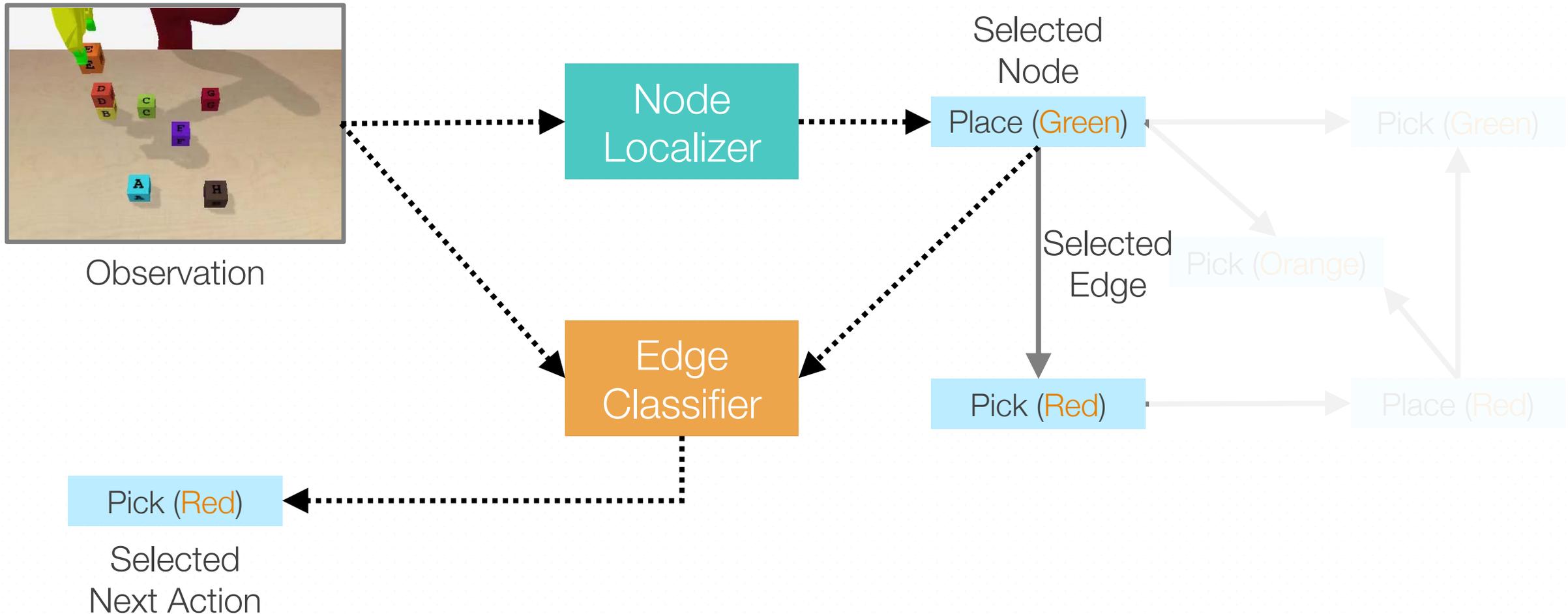
Conjugate Task Graph



Nodes: Actions **Finite**

Edges: States (Preconditions)

Neural Task Graphs (NTG): Execution



Neural Task Graphs (NTG)



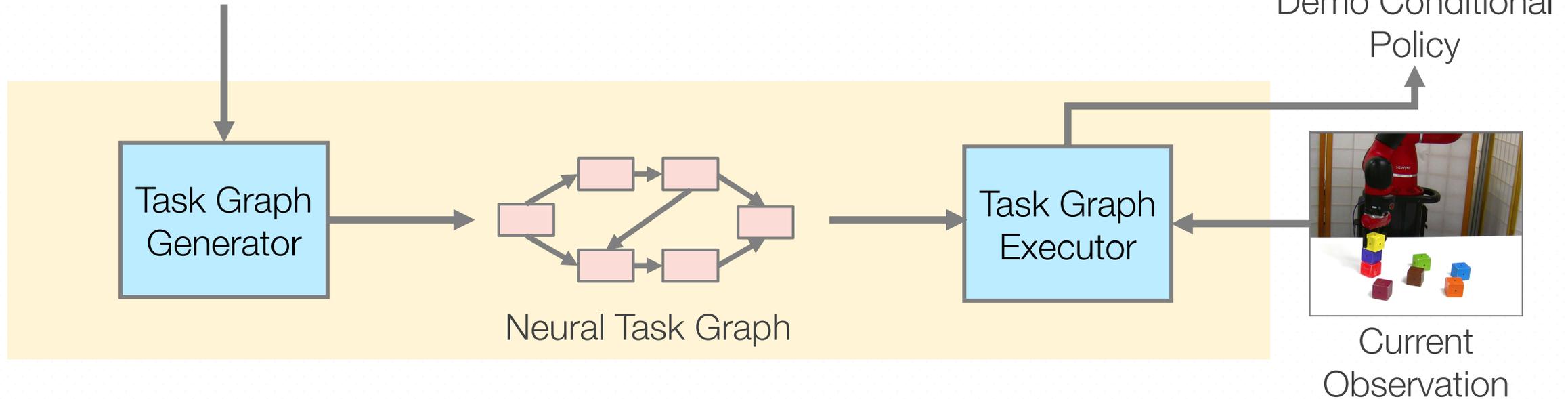
Demo
Kinematics or Video

Training supervision



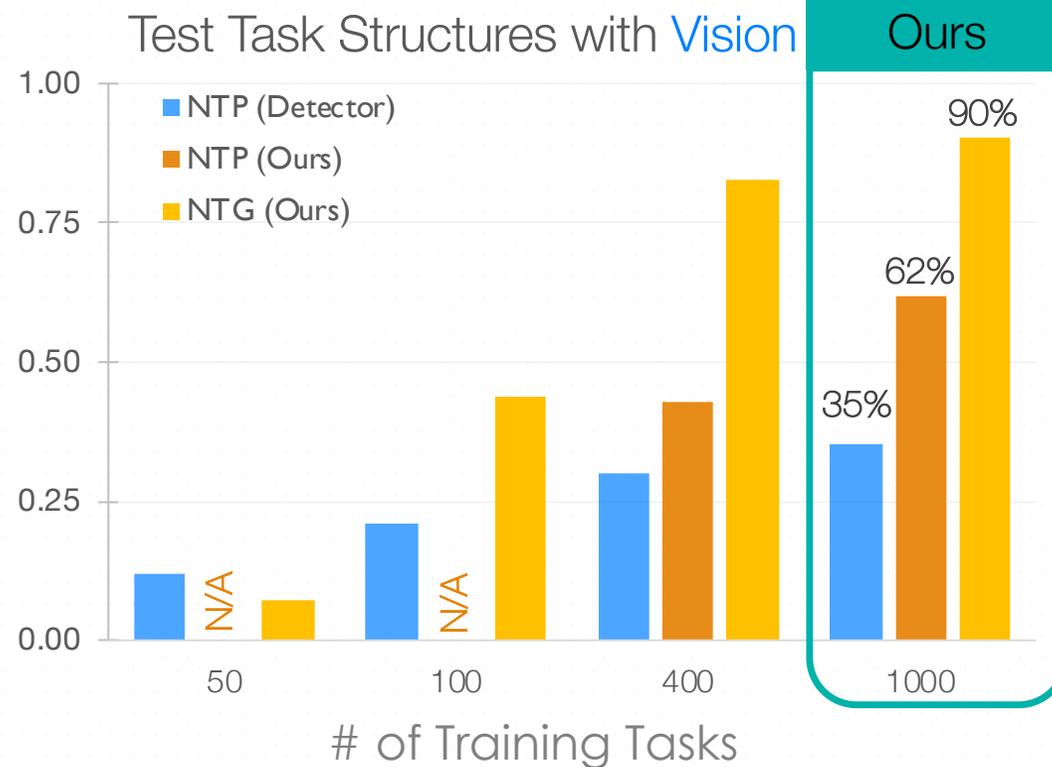
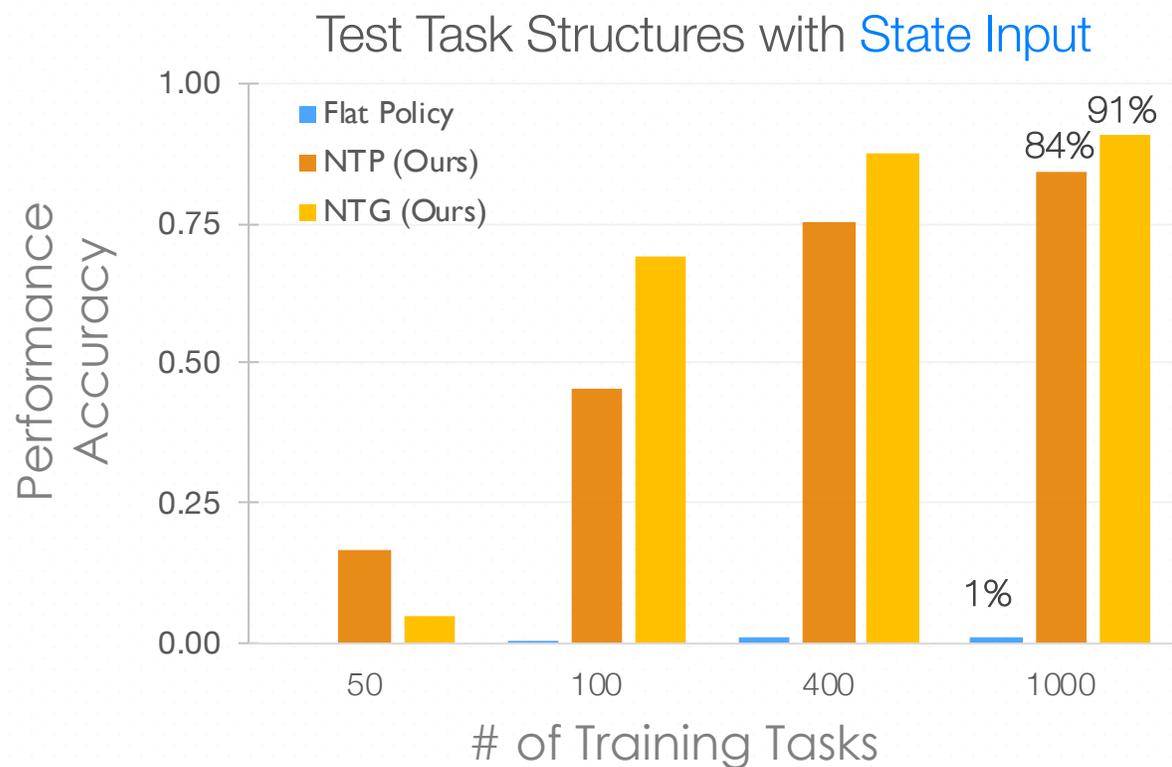
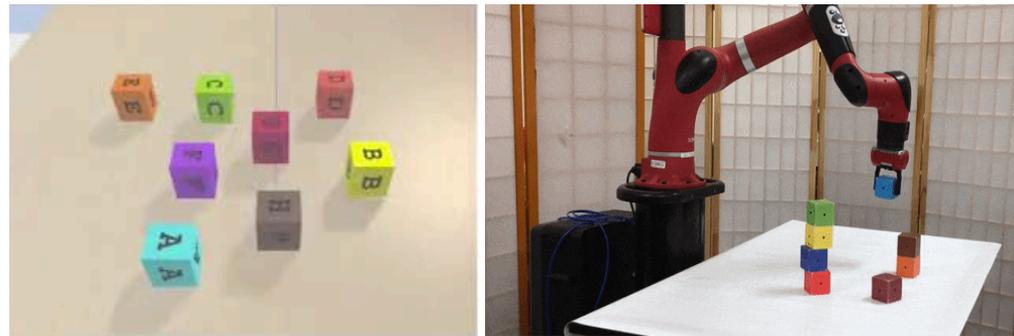
Demo

Action Sequence



Hierarchical Policy Learning as **Graph Induction**

Neural Task Graph Results



Weaker Supervision and Better Generalization

Compositional Planning: NTP and NTG



Object Sorting
(NTP)

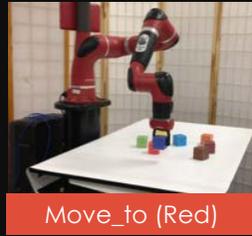
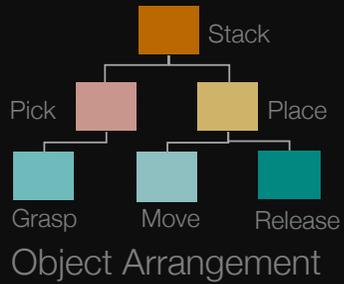


Table Clean Up
(NTP)

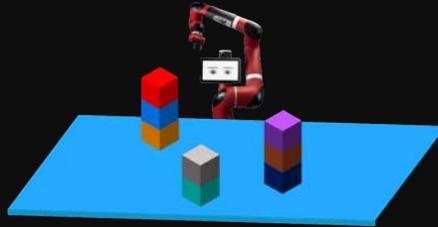


Sequential Search and Prediction
AI2 Thor with NTG

Task Structure Learning



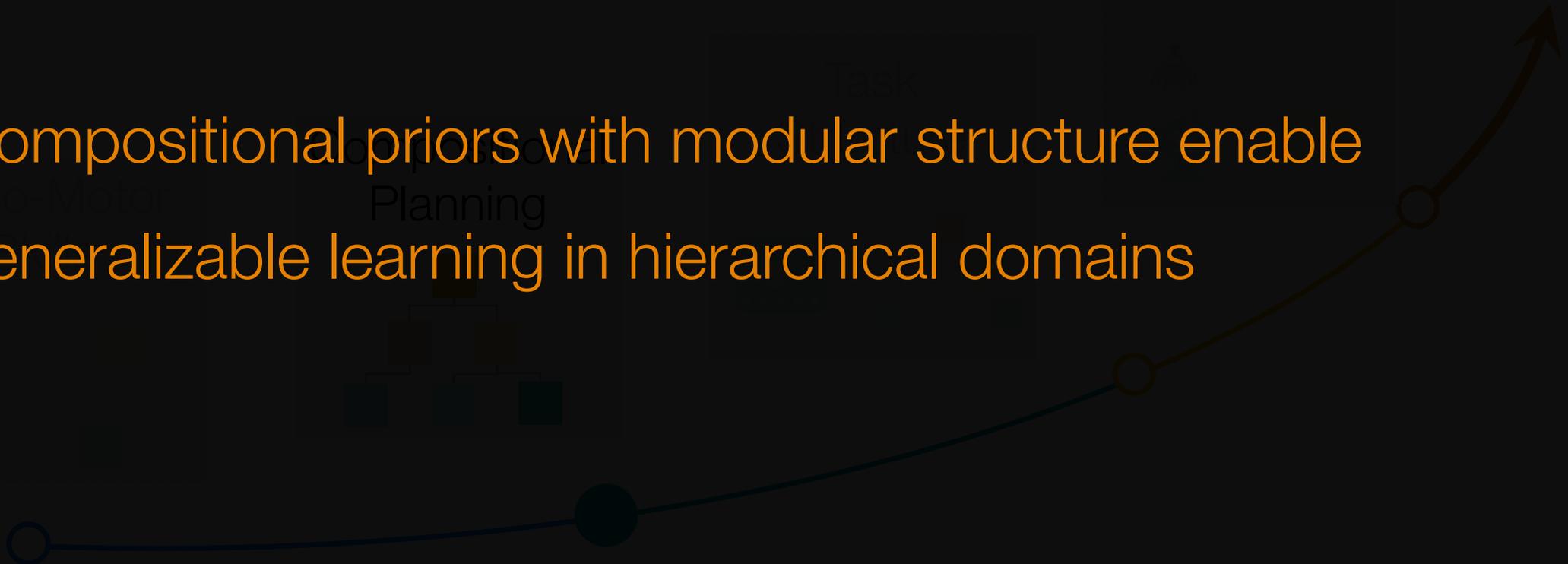
ICRA 2018



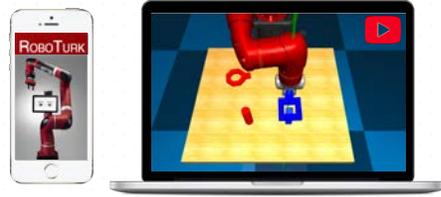
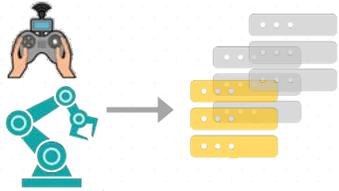
CVPR 2019 (oral)



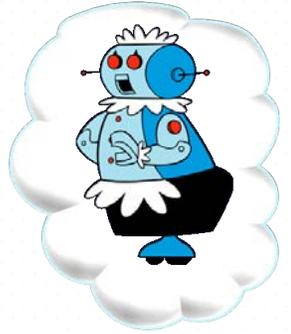
Compositional priors with modular structure enable generalizable learning in hierarchical domains



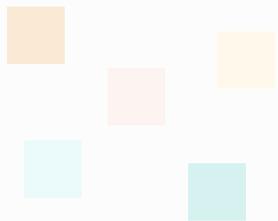
Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation



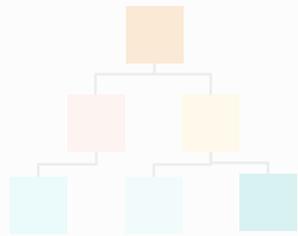
CoRL 2018, IROS 2019



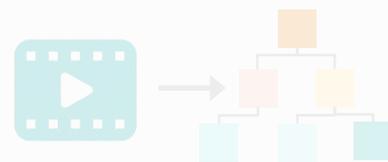
Visuo-Motor Skills



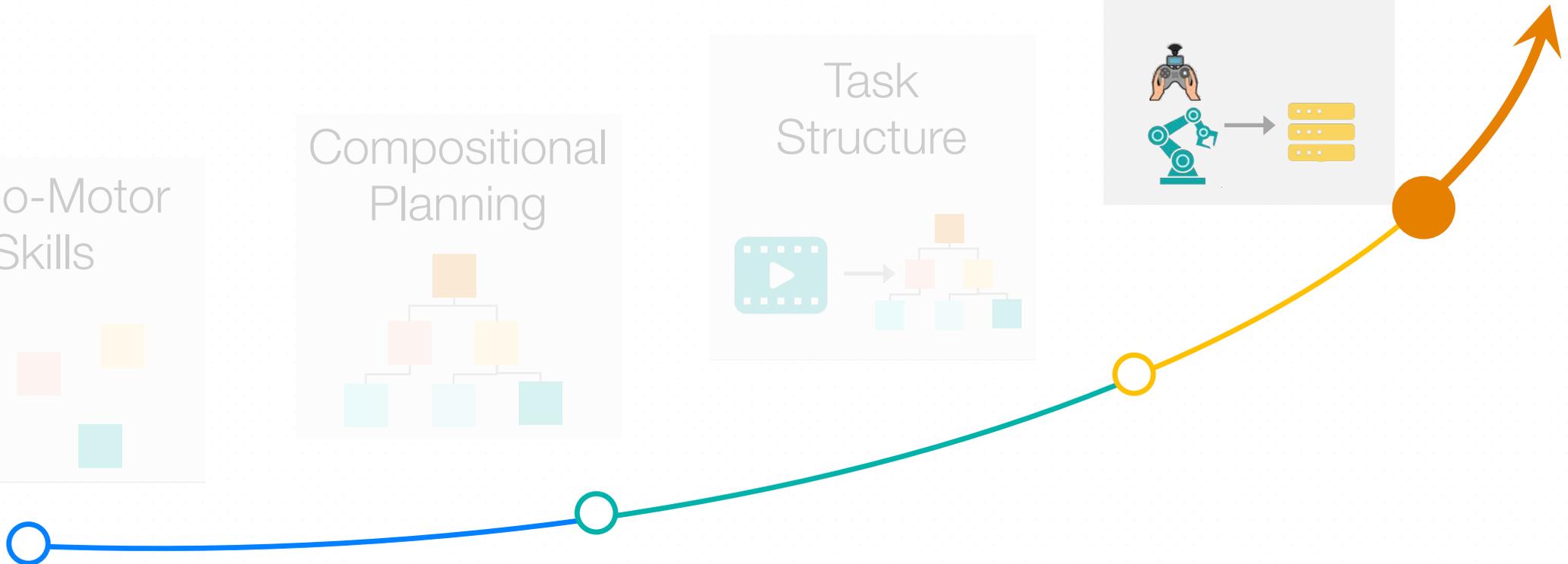
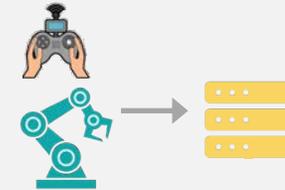
Compositional Planning



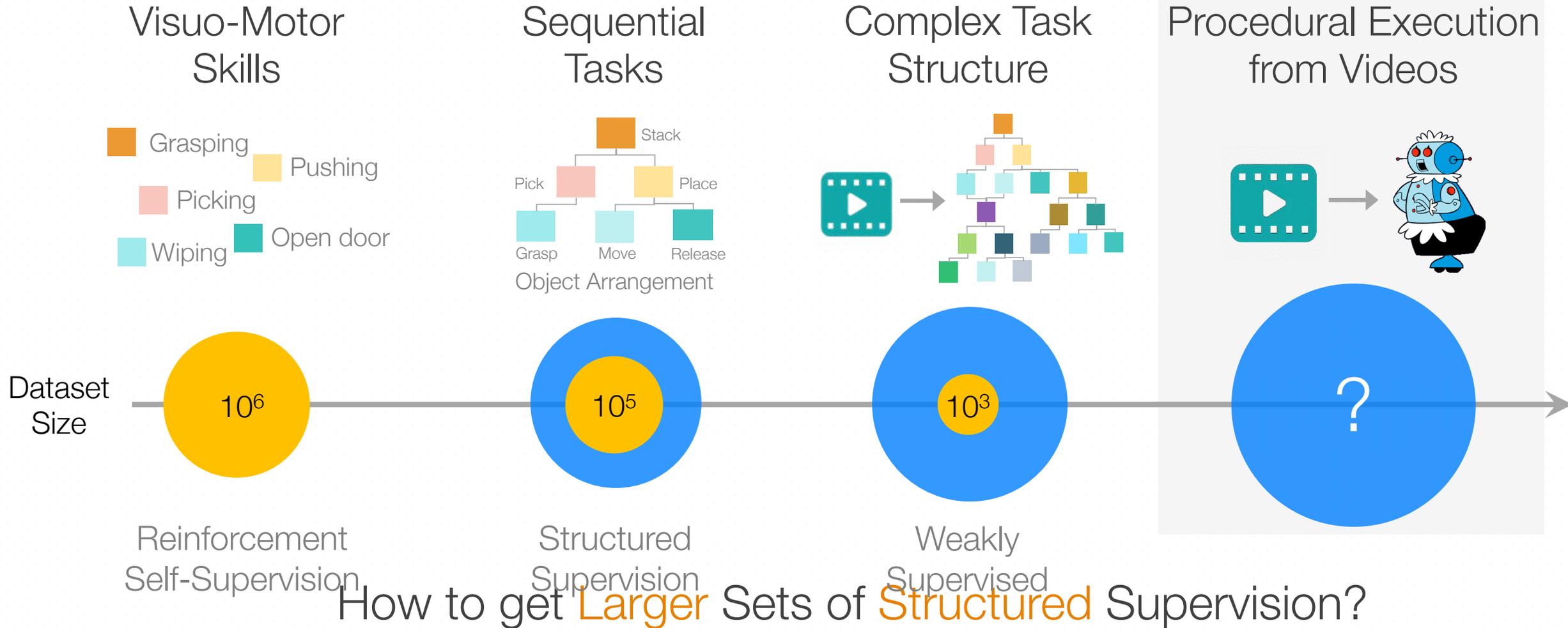
Task Structure



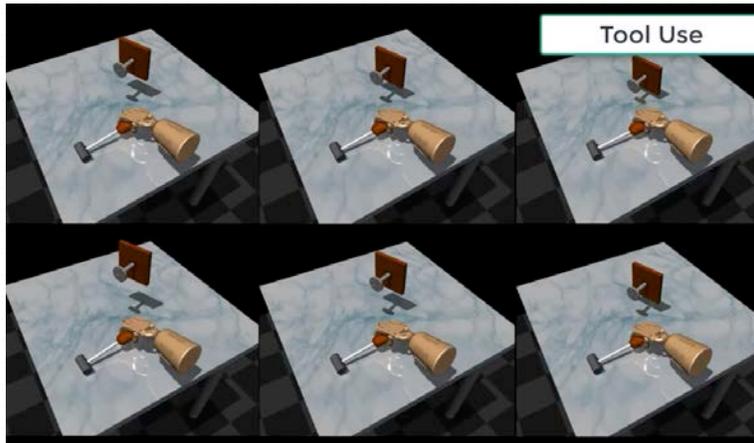
Data for Robotics



Data for Robotics



Data for Robotics: Imitation + RL



Rajeswaran et al. (2018)

25 demonstrations
~ 10 Minutes



Finn et al. (2017)

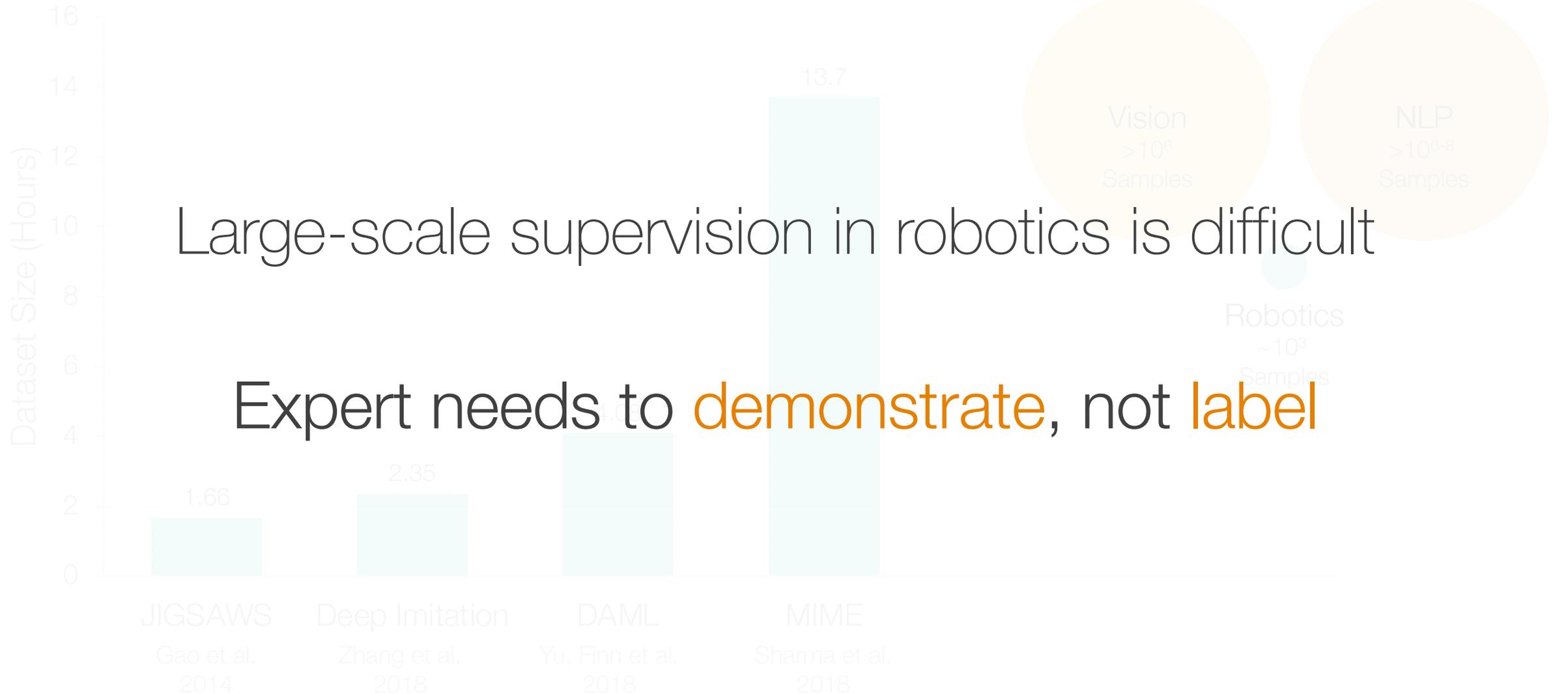
30 demonstrations
~ 10 Minutes



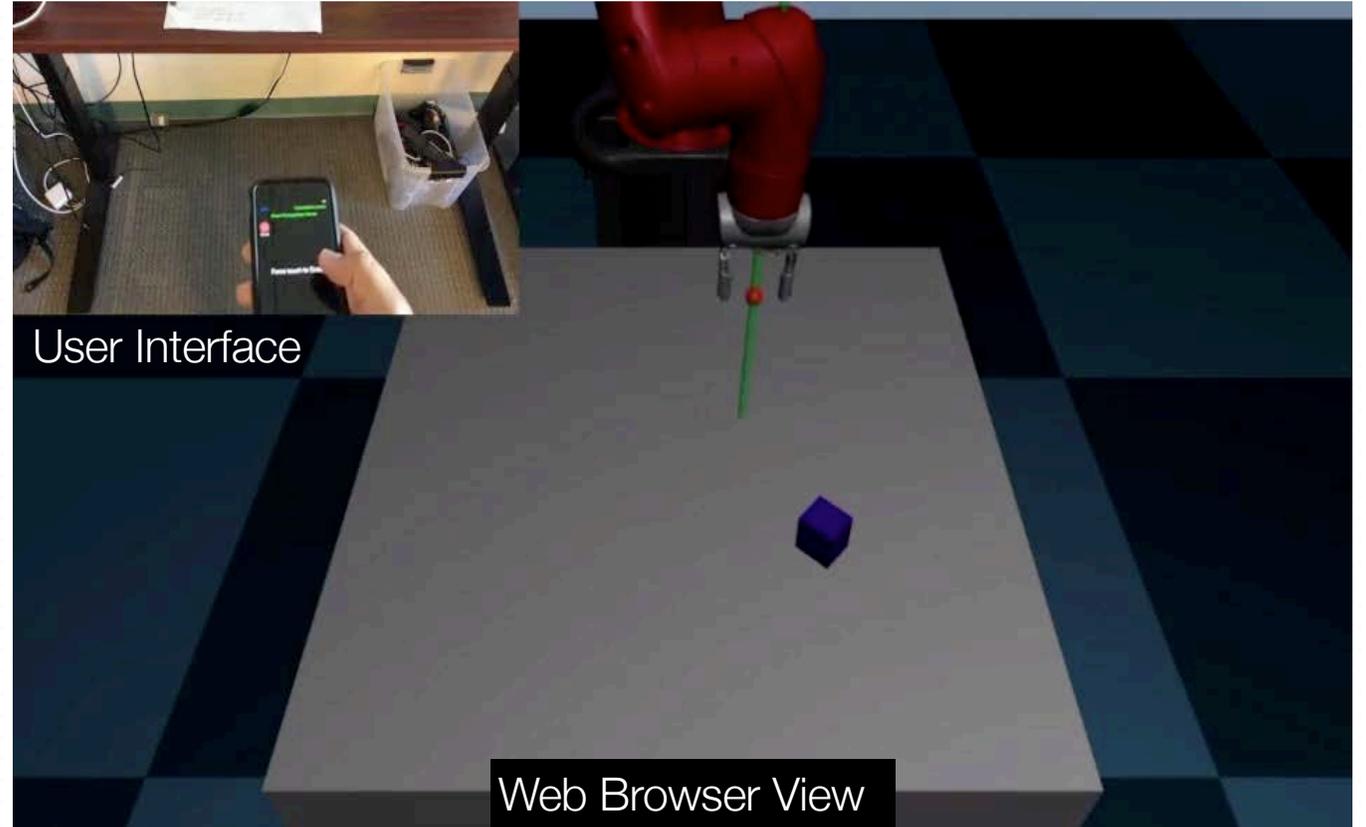
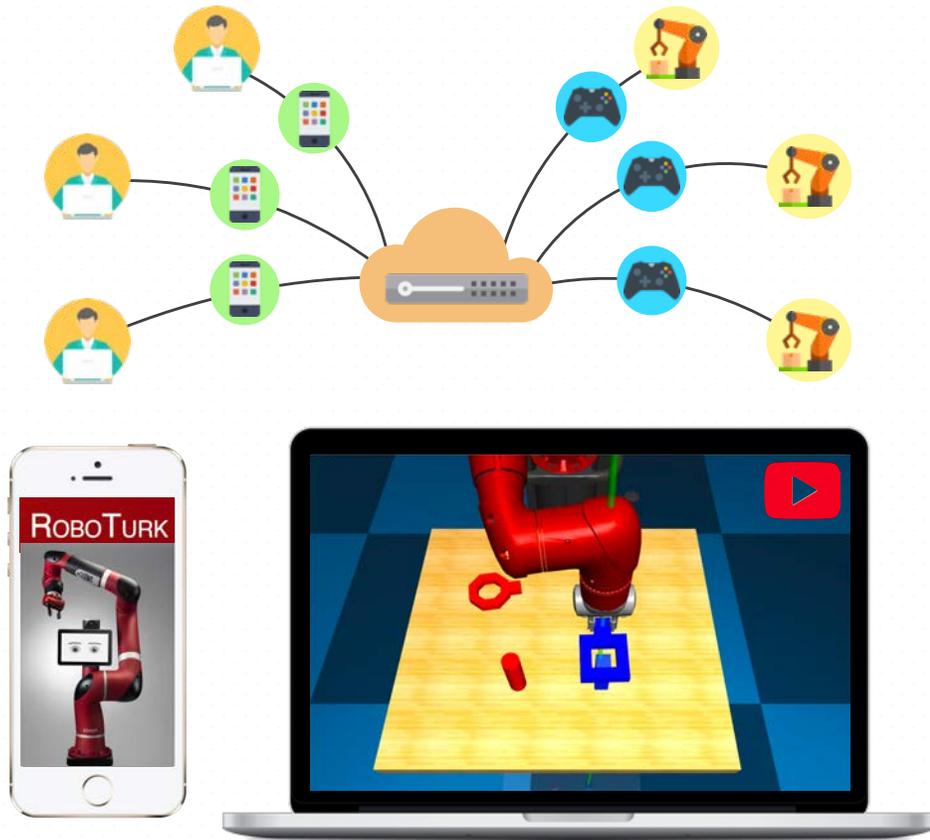
Vecerik et al. (2017)

100 demonstrations
~ 30 Minutes

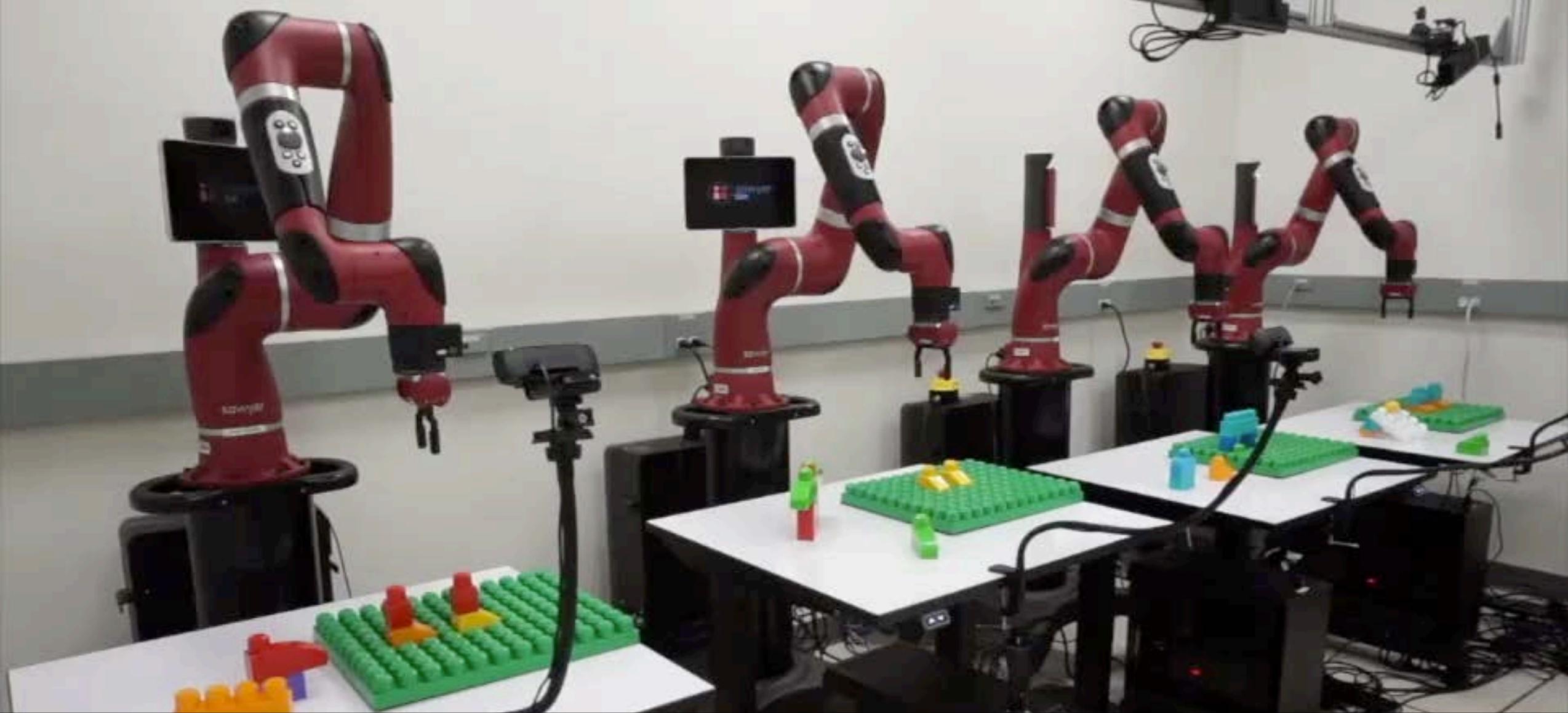
Data for Robotics



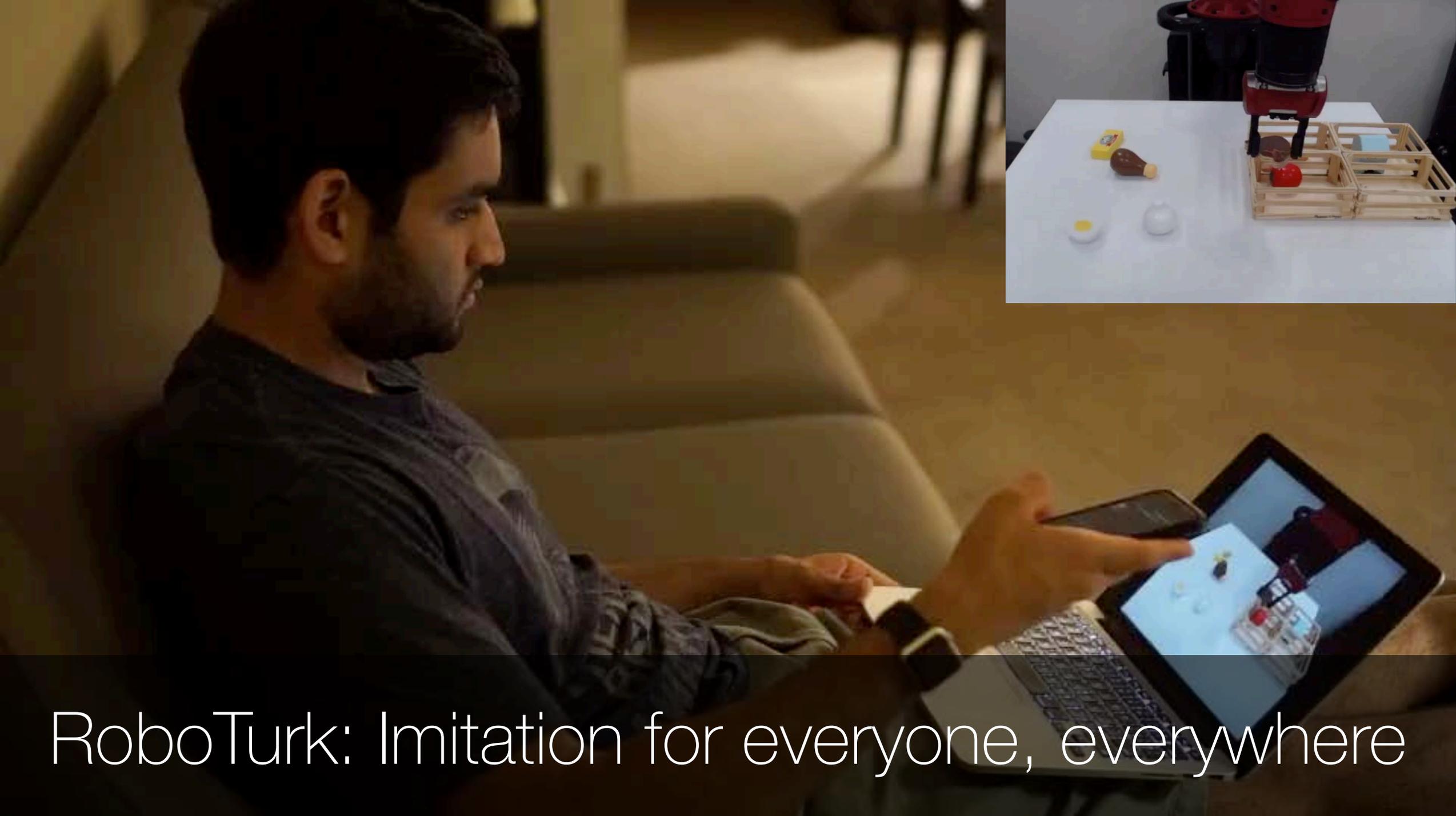
Data for Robotics: RoboTurk



- + Scales easily with commodity hardware
- + Natural 6-DoF Free Space Control



RoboTurk: Scaling Imitation with Cloud



RoboTurk: Imitation for everyone, everywhere

RoboTurk Pilot Datasets

Simulated Data

137.5 hours of demonstrations

22 hours of total platform usage

3 dexterous manipulation tasks

3224 total attempted demos

15 novice, remote users

Real Robot Data

111 hours of robot demos

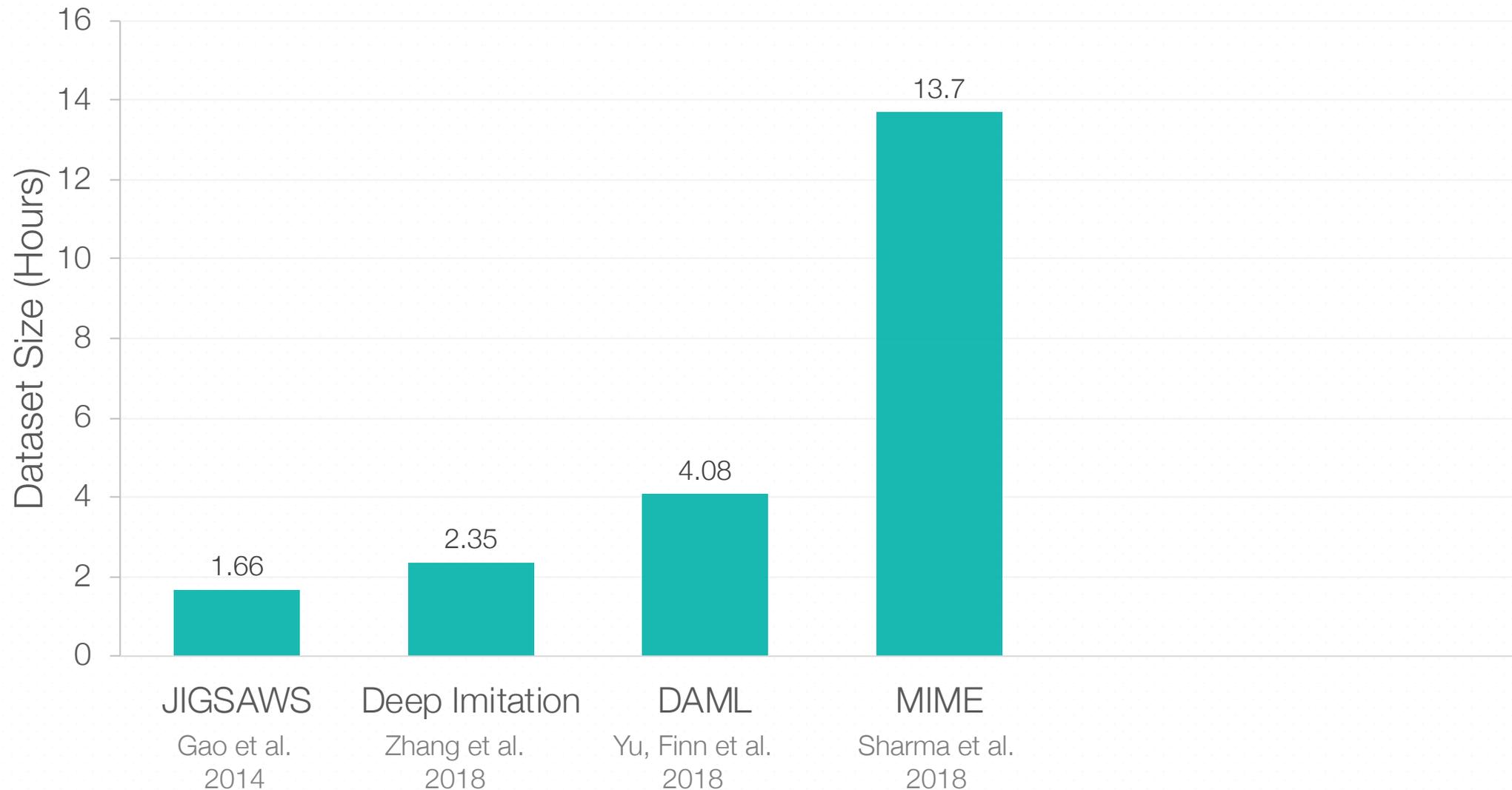
1 week of data collection

3 dexterous manipulation tasks

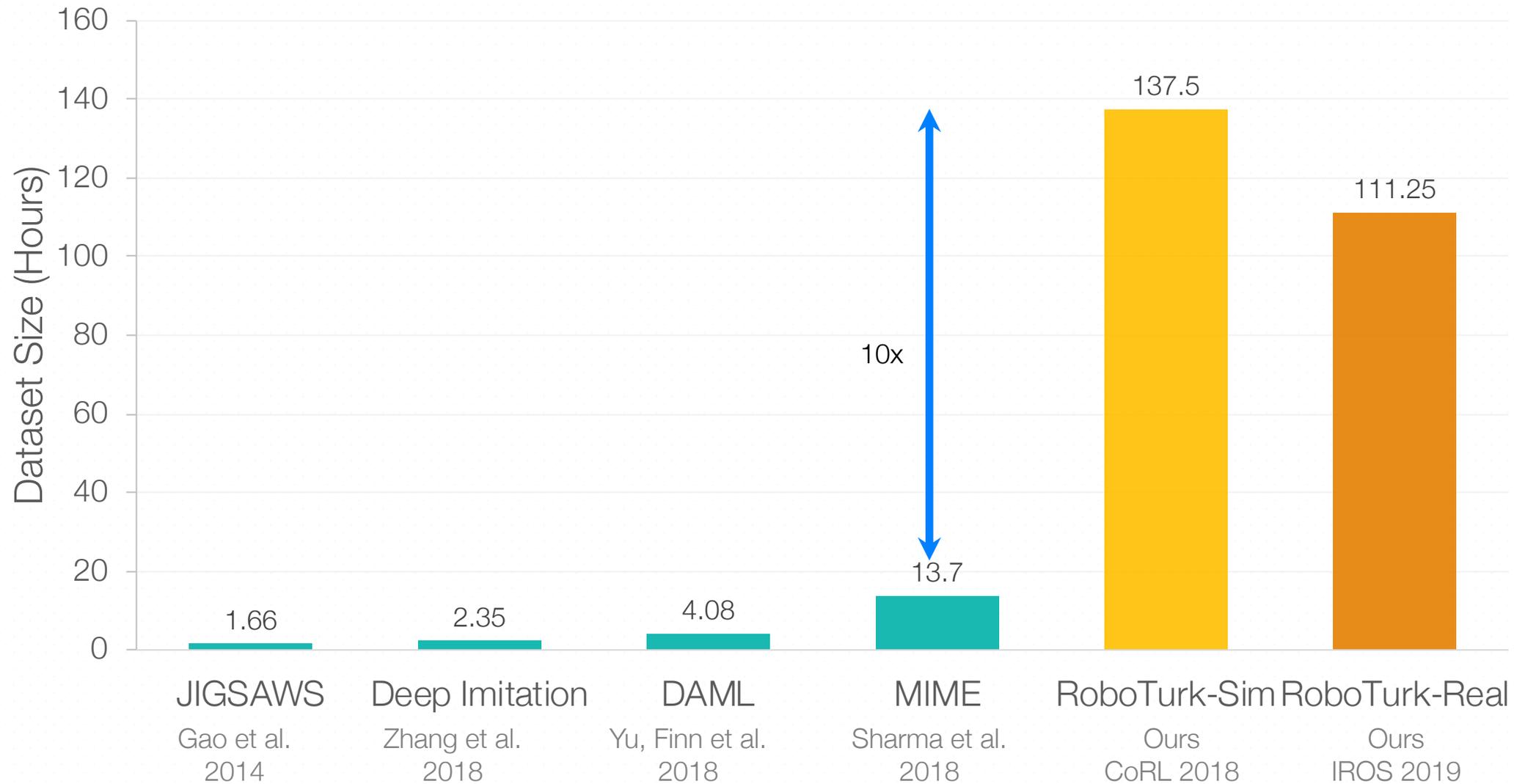
2144 total demonstrations

54 non-expert users

Data for Robotics: RoboTurk



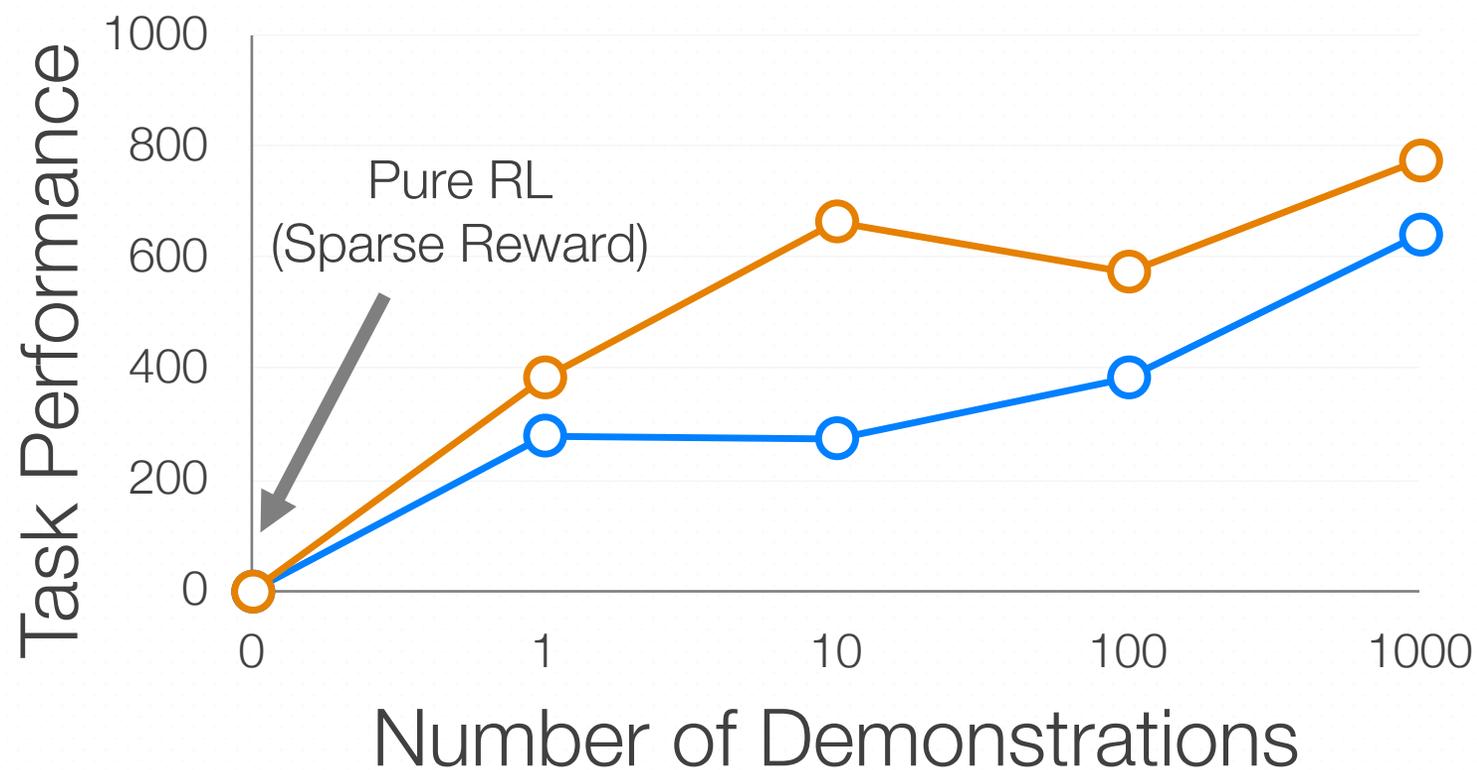
Data for Robotics: RoboTurk



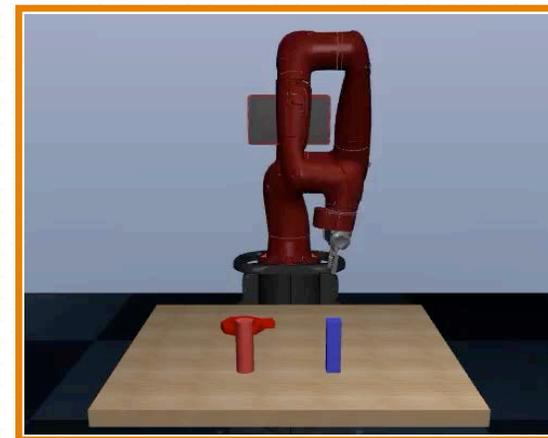
Data for Robotics: RoboTurk

Imitation + RL

Task Performance vs. Number of Demonstrations



Trained Policy Rollout



Nut Assembly



Bin Picking

Data for Robotics: RoboTurk

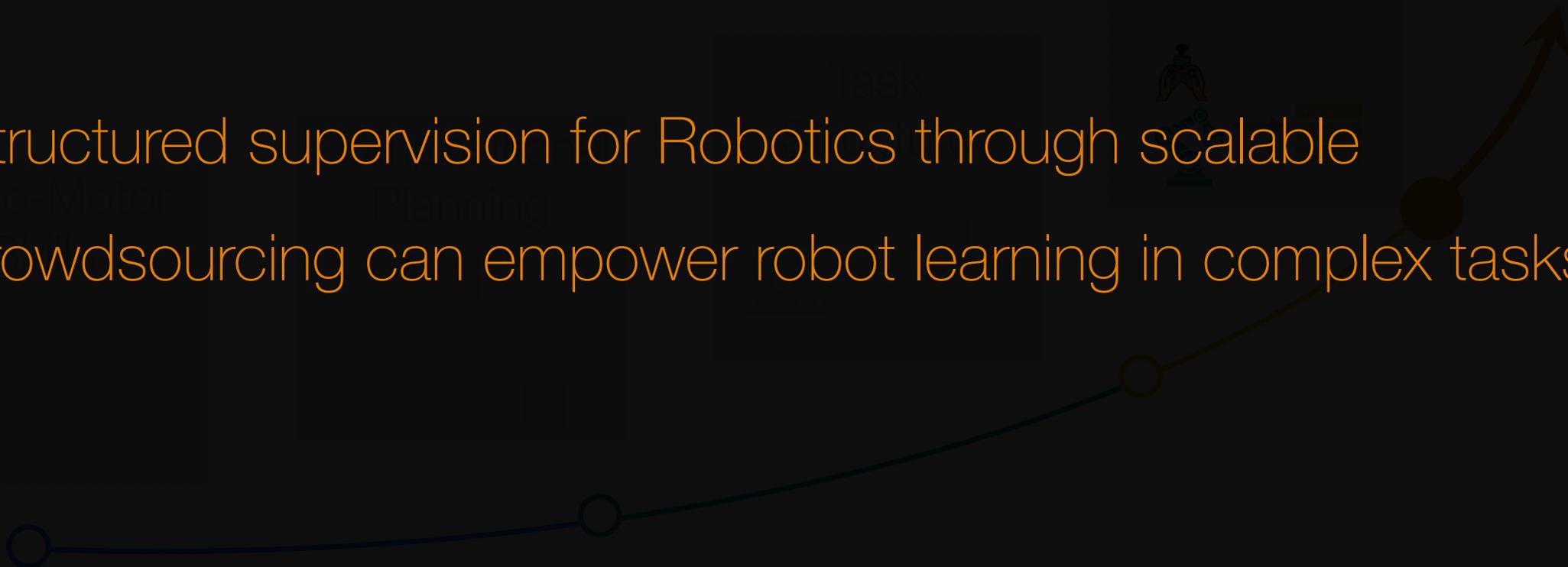


CoRL 2018, IROS 2019

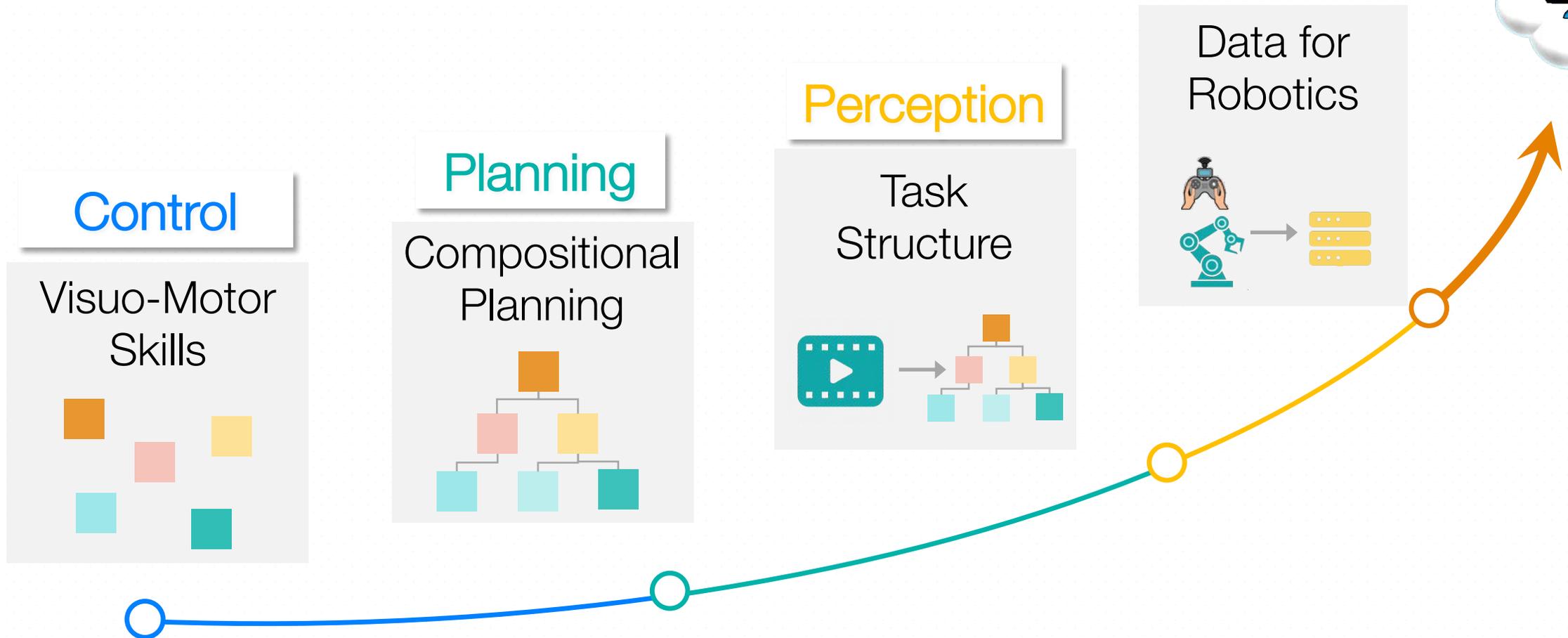
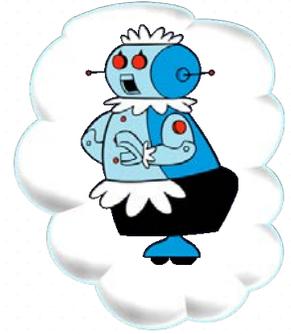
Data for
Robotics



Structured supervision for Robotics through scalable crowdsourcing can empower robot learning in complex tasks.



Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation



Opportunity: Personal Robotics



Instructional Youtube Video
How to make Meatball Pasta?



Where / How should Rosie start?
What is the recipe?
How to execute the plan?
How to plan?

Reasoning for Physical Interaction

Understanding Purpose



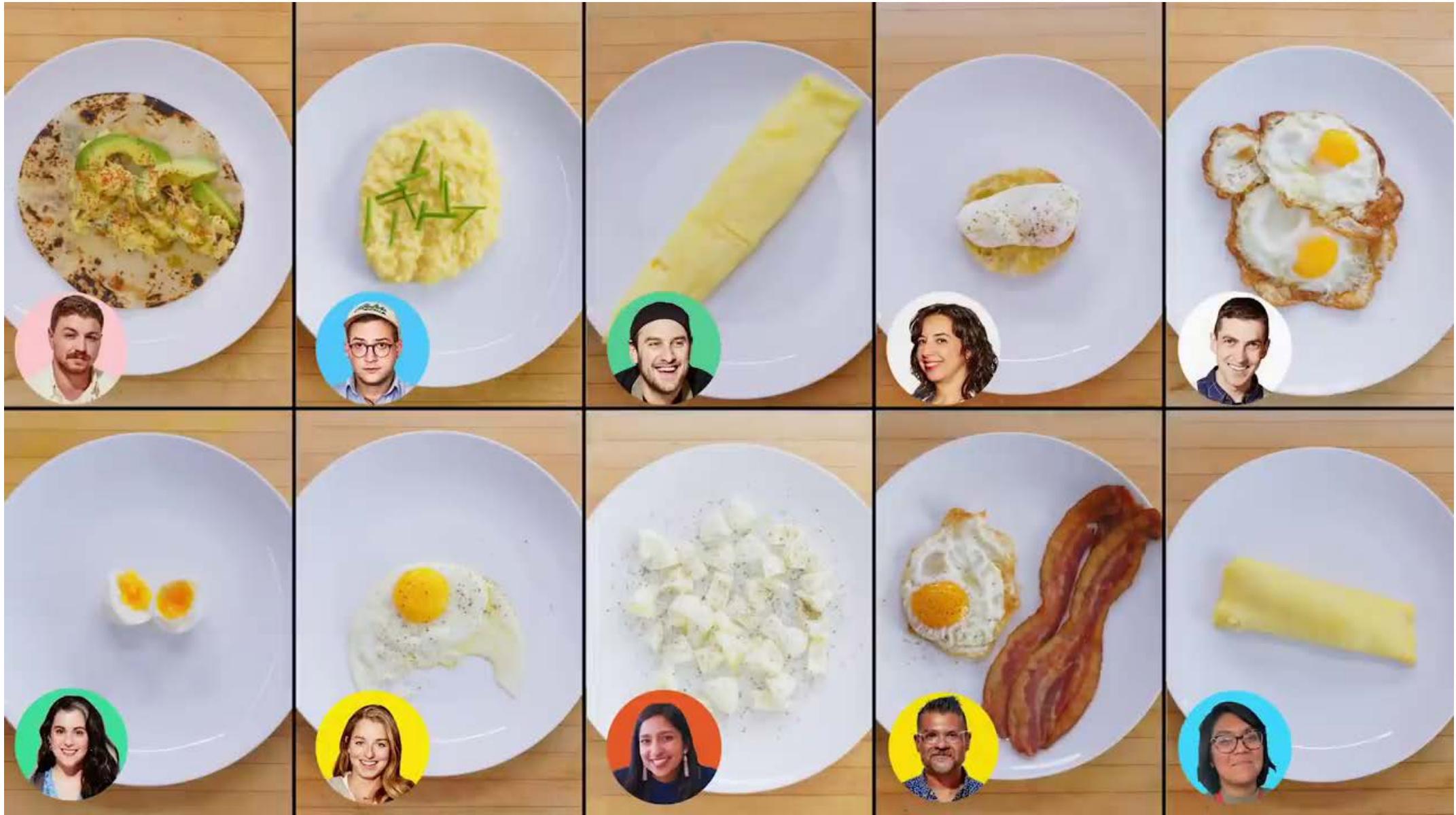
Ideal Tool
During Training



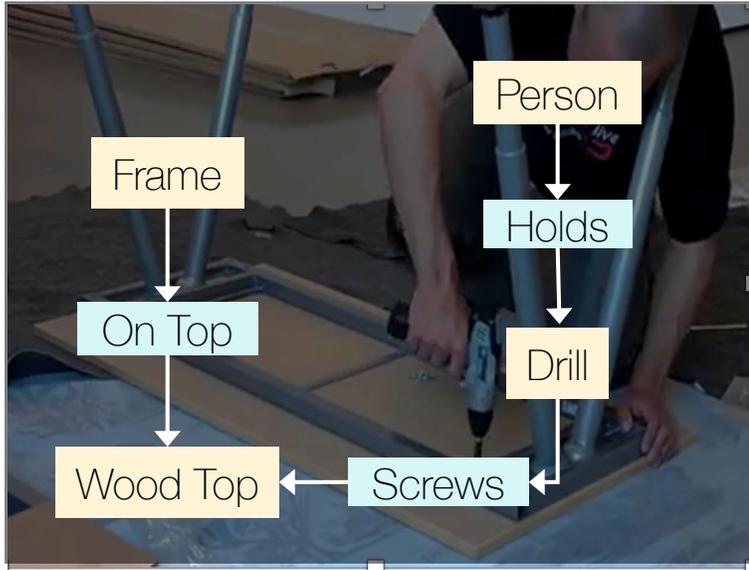
Task-Based Tool Adaptation
During Execution



Grounding: So many ways to “make eggs”



Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation



Higher-Order **Semantics**



What makes an **object** a **hammer**?



State Change: Breaking Eggs

- Perception for Physical Interaction
- Reasoning through Learned Dynamics
- Transfer Learning with Formal Guarantees
- Continual Skill Adaptation & Accumulation

Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation

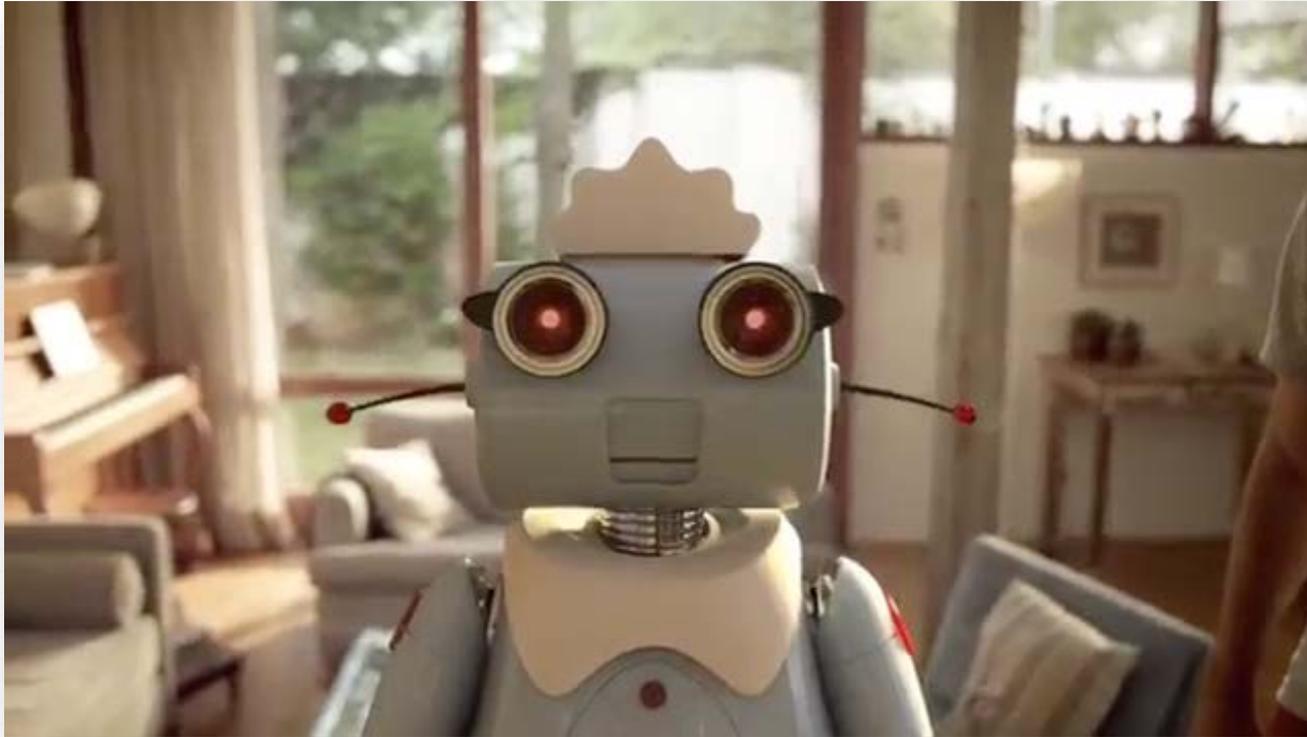


Learning with **Structured** Inductive Bias and Priors

- Efficiency and Generalization
- Combine: Domain Expertise + Data-Driven Methods



Generalizable Autonomy in Robot Manipulation



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