### The Objects of Our Curiosity

Intrinsic Motivation, Intuitive Physics and Self-Supervised Learning

NeurIPS Workshop: Modeling the Physical World 2018.12.07

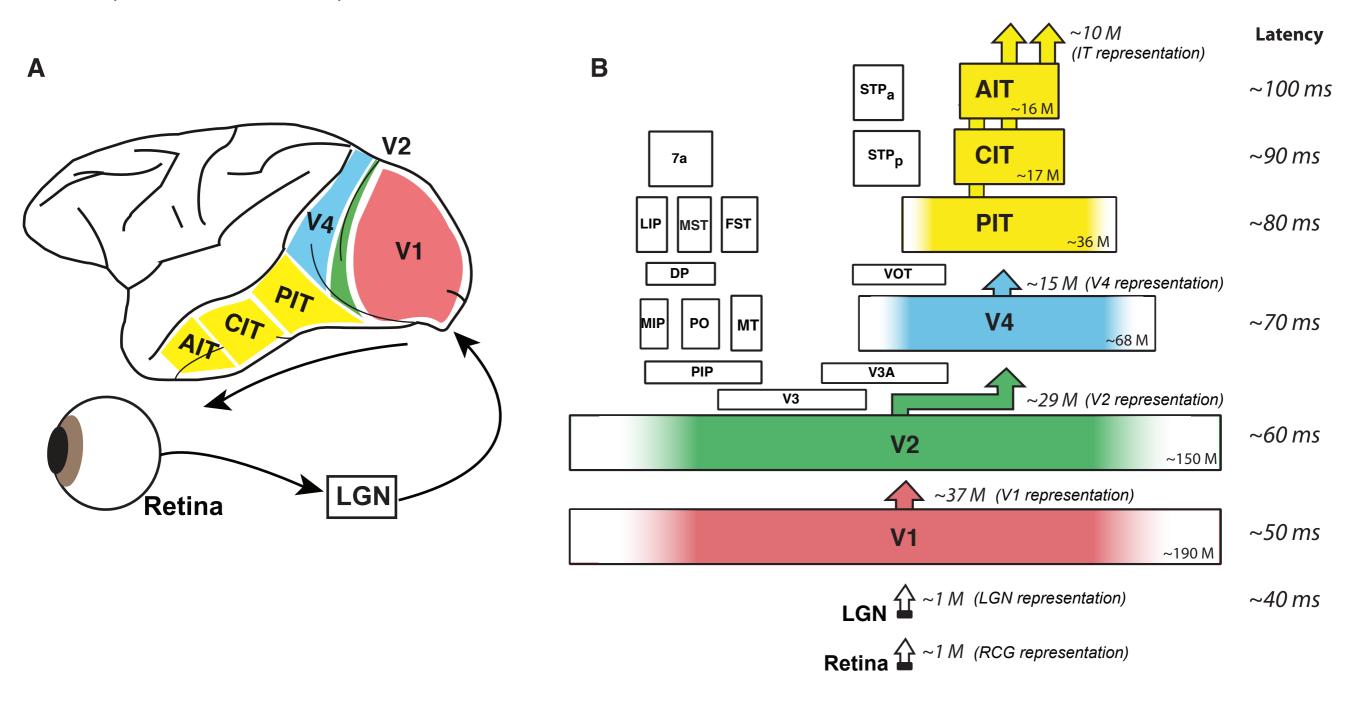
Daniel Yamins Stanford Neurosciences Institute Stanford Artificial Intelligence Laboratory Departments of Psychology and Computer Science Stanford University



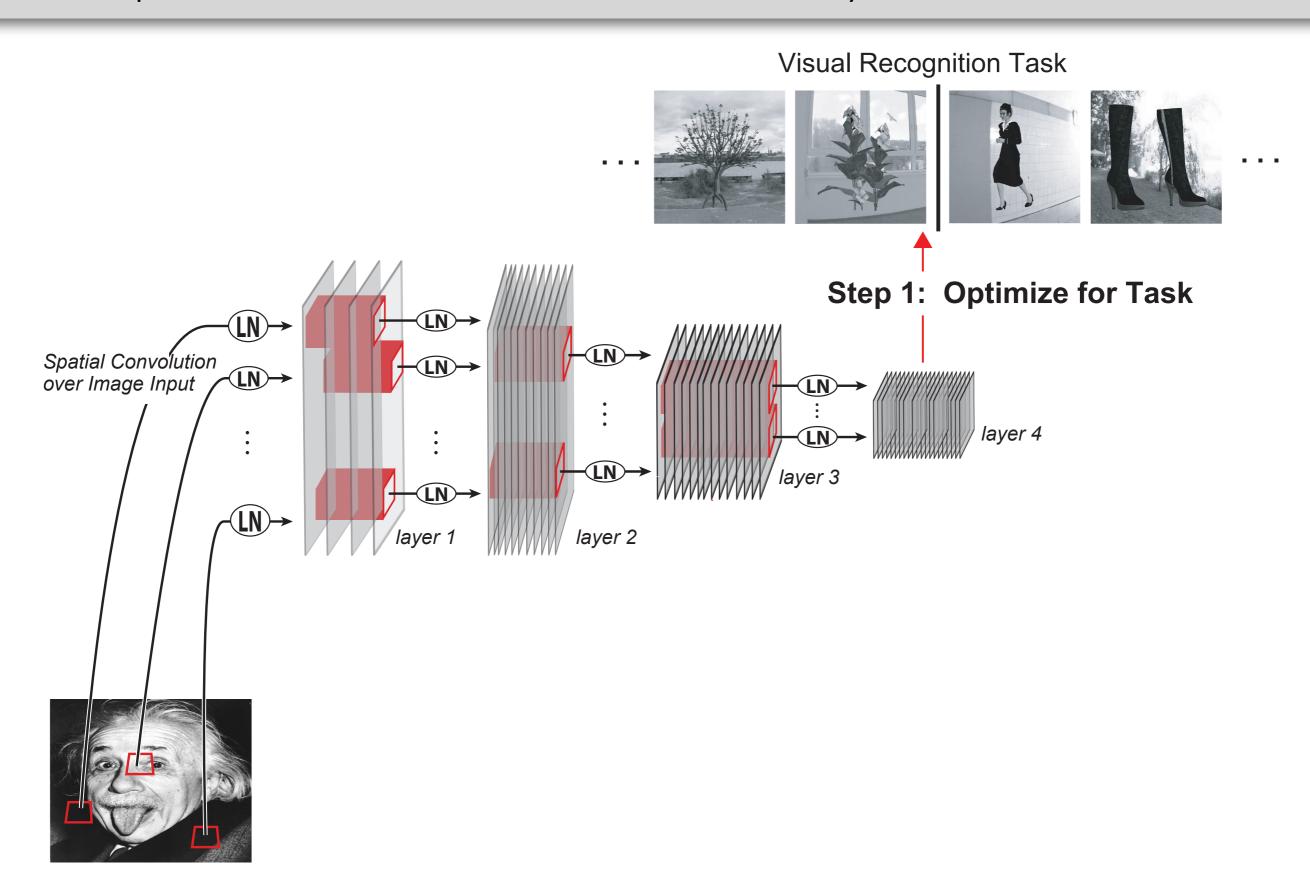
Our work is founded on two mutually reinforcing goals:

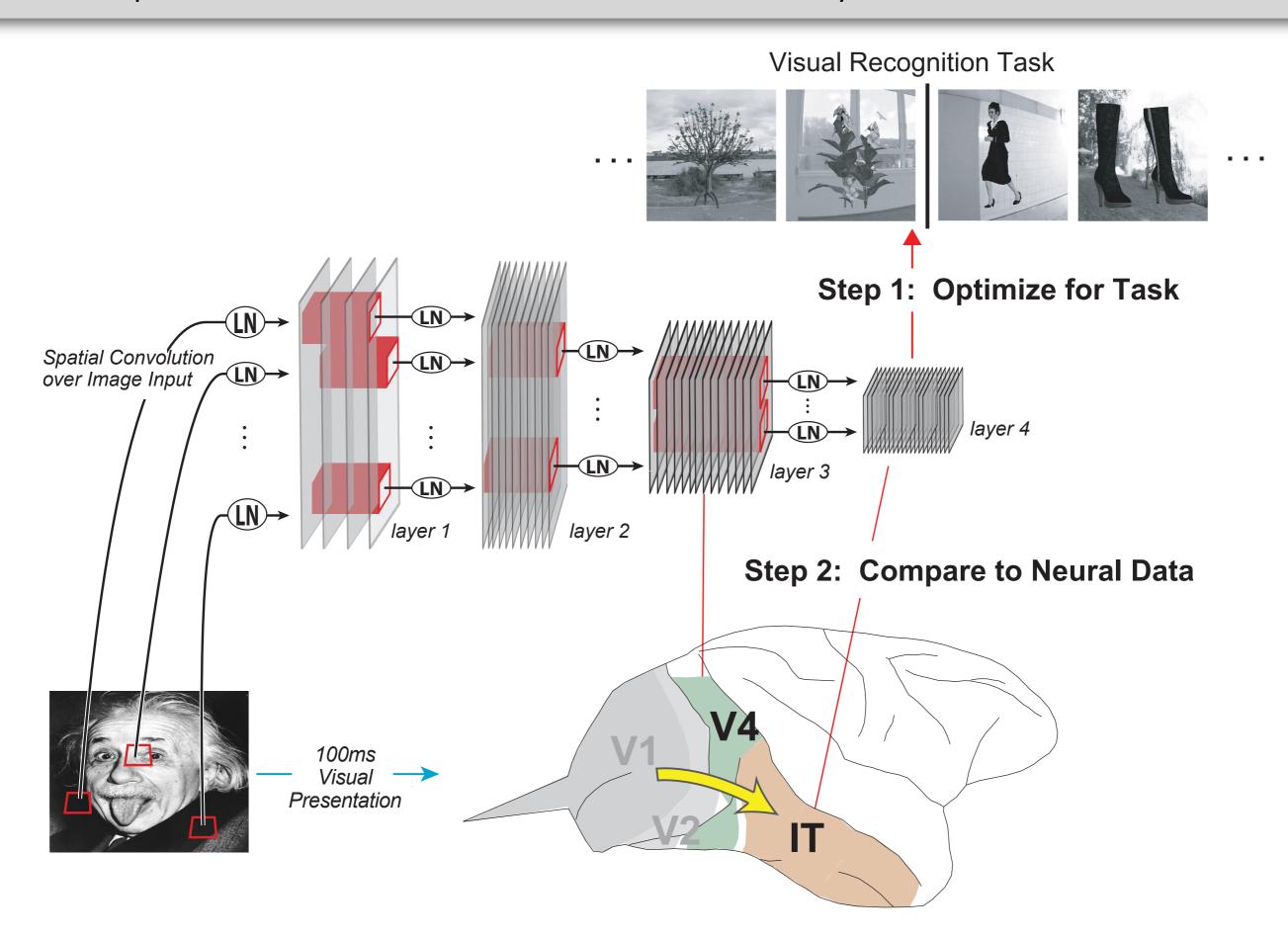


The primate visual system as a hierarchical, convolutional neural network:

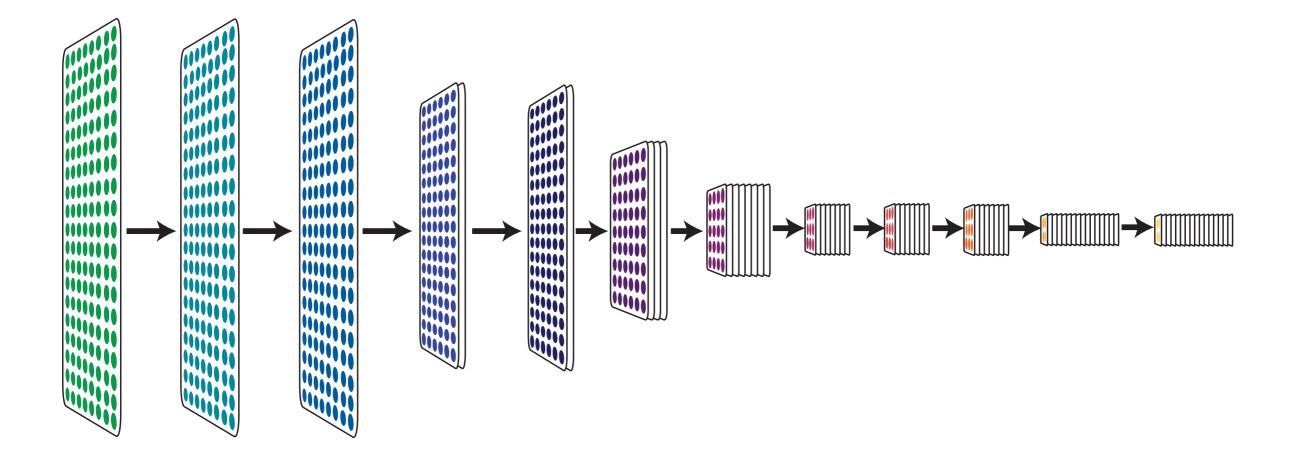


Adapted from DiCarlo et al. 2012

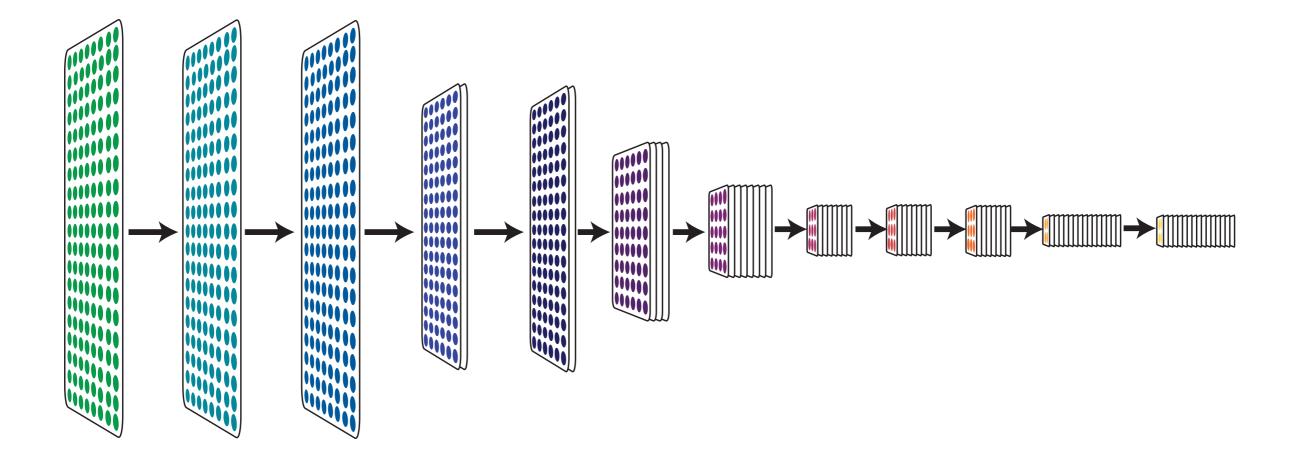




To our knowledge best (in terms of neural prediction) feedforward model is a  $\sim$ I2-layer CNN



To our knowledge best (in terms of neural prediction) feedforward model is a  $\sim$ I2-layer CNN



... trained on ImageNet Categorization.

There's just no way that these creatures receive millions of high-level semantic labels during learning.



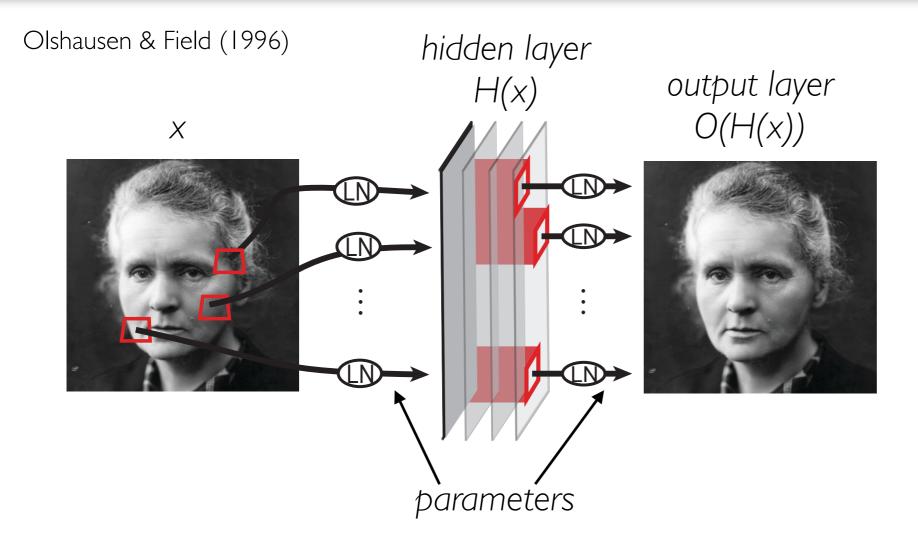


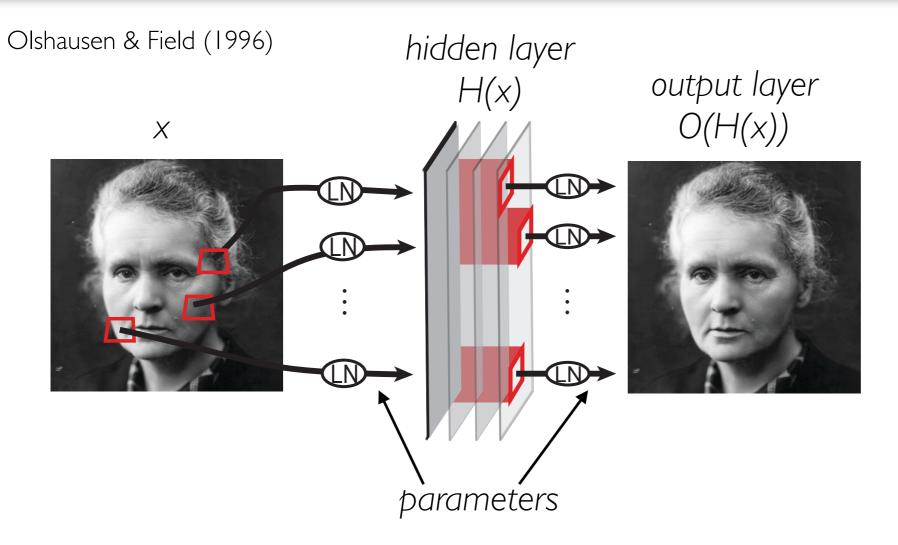
ImageNet is a pretty effective proxy, but just obviously deeply wrong.

There's just no way that these creatures receive millions of high-level semantic labels during learning.

Must find some sort of semi-, self-, or unsupervised loss function / task that is "realistically costly" to the creature but is sufficiently powerful that it constructs useful representations.

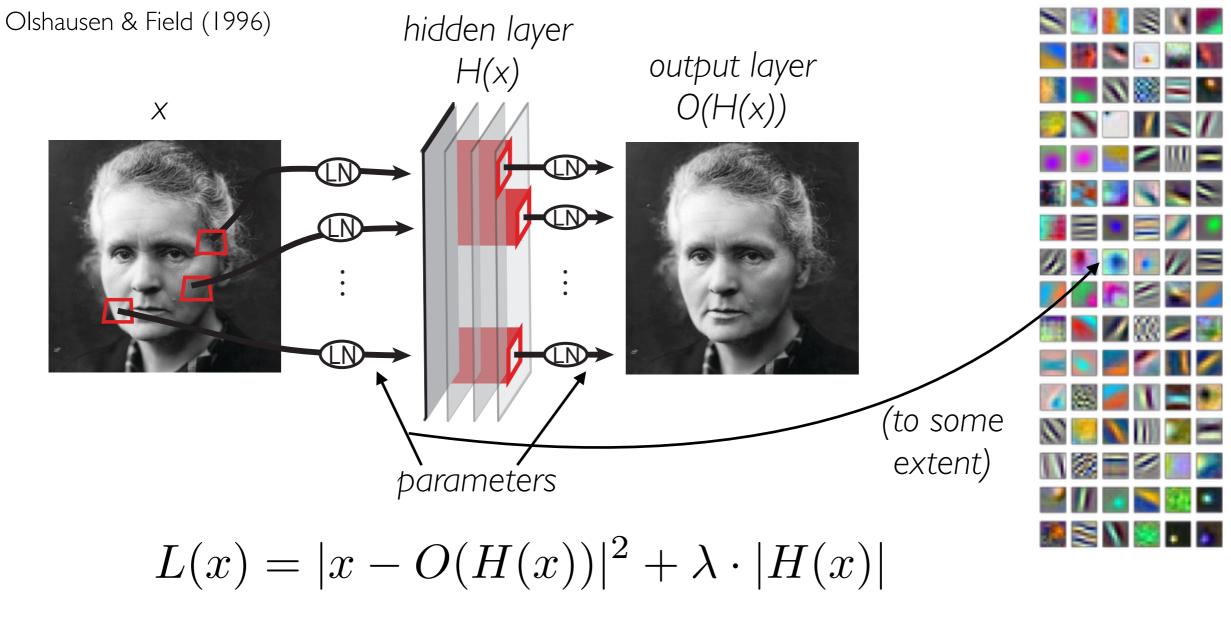
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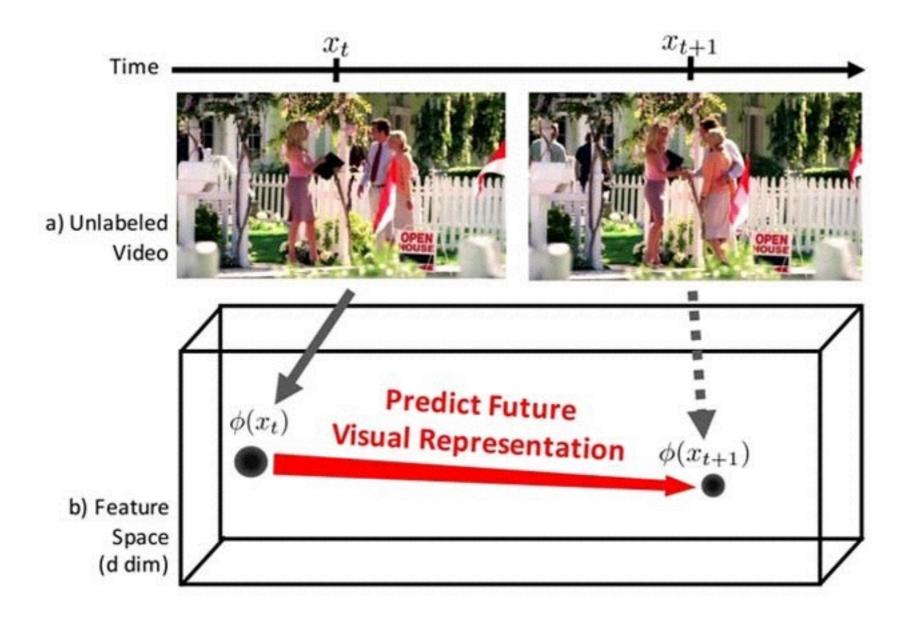
$$L(x) = |x - O(H(x))|^2 + \lambda \cdot |H(x)|$$

reconstruction loss complexity penalty

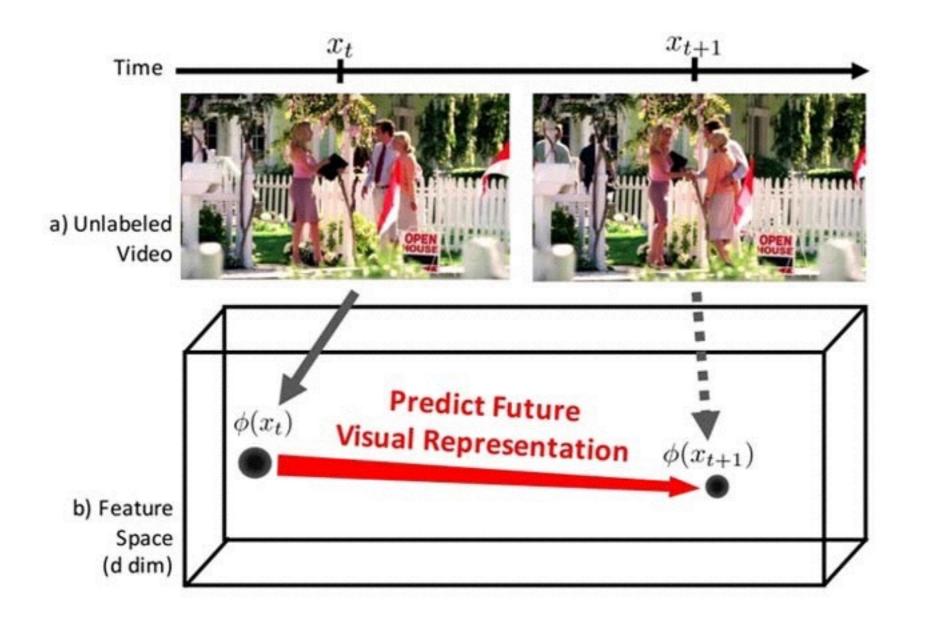


reconstruction loss complexity penalty

Dynamics might give richer signal

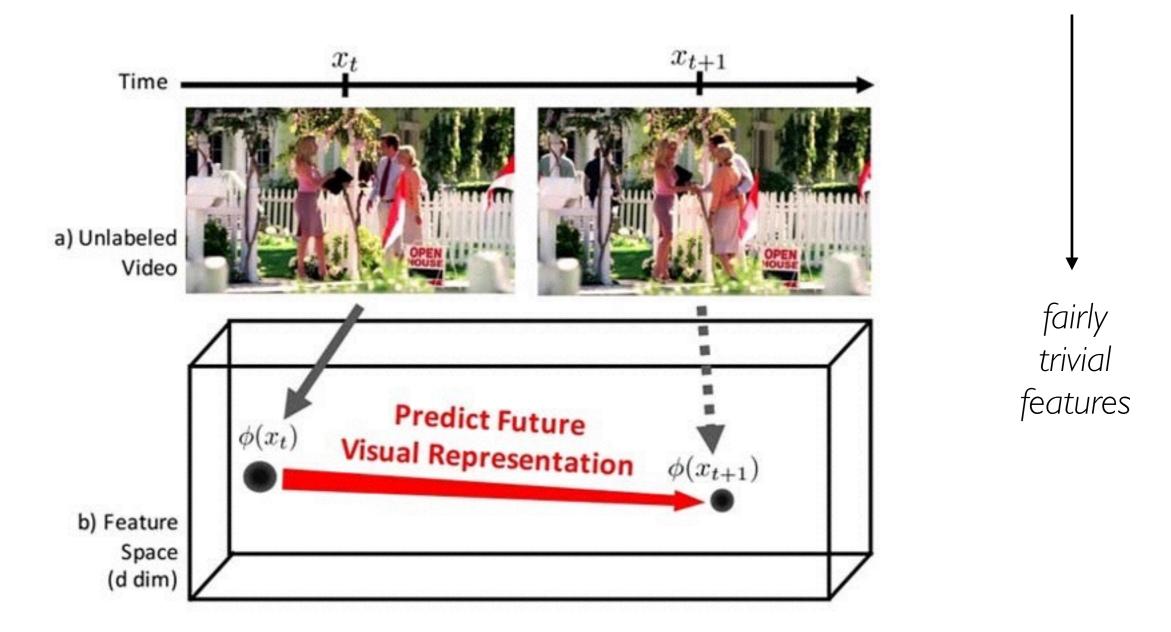


Dynamics might give richer signal

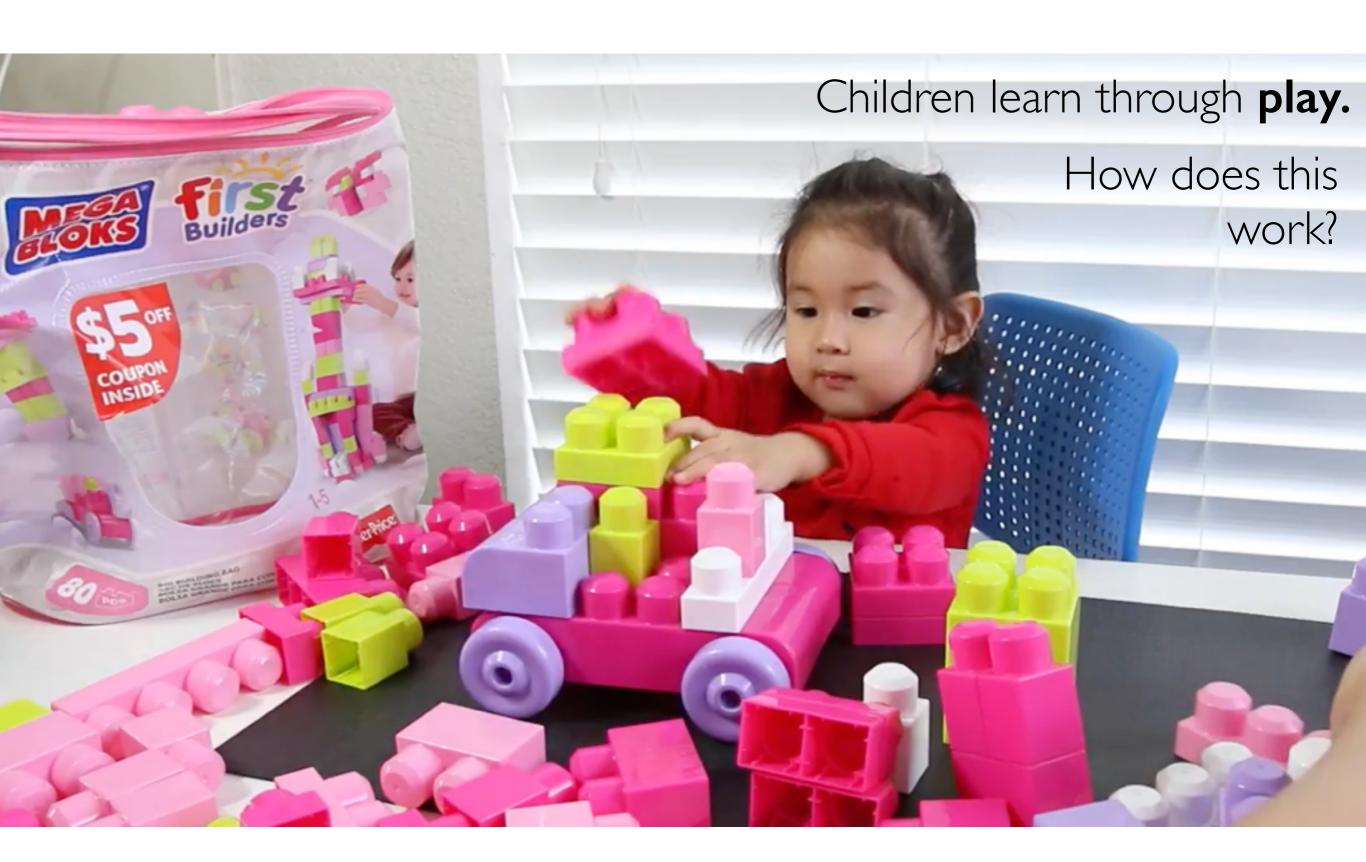


 $L(x) = |x_{t+1} - \text{Decode}(\text{Encode}(x_t))|^2 + \lambda \cdot \text{Penalty}(\text{Encode}(x_t))$ 

Dynamics might give richer signal ... but most passive video sequences are **quite boring** 



 $L(x) = |x_{t+1} - \text{Decode}(\text{Encode}(x_t))|^2 + \lambda \cdot \text{Penalty}(\text{Encode}(x_t))$ 



Give agent some kind of volition to take actions



 $L(x) = |x_{t+1}^{\text{action}} - \text{Decode}(\text{Encode}(x_t))|^2 + \lambda \cdot \text{Penalty}(\text{Encode}(x_t))$ 

Give agent some kind of volition to take actions ... but now the agent will be **lazy** 



 $L(x) = |x_{t+1}^{\text{action}} - \text{Decode}(\text{Encode}(x_t))|^2 + \lambda \cdot \text{Penalty}(\text{Encode}(x_t))$ 

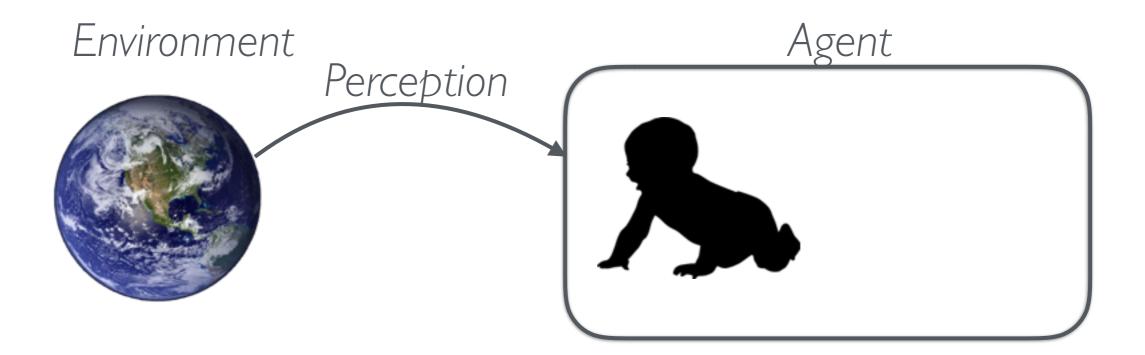
Give agent some kind of volition to take actions ... but now the agent will be **lazy** 

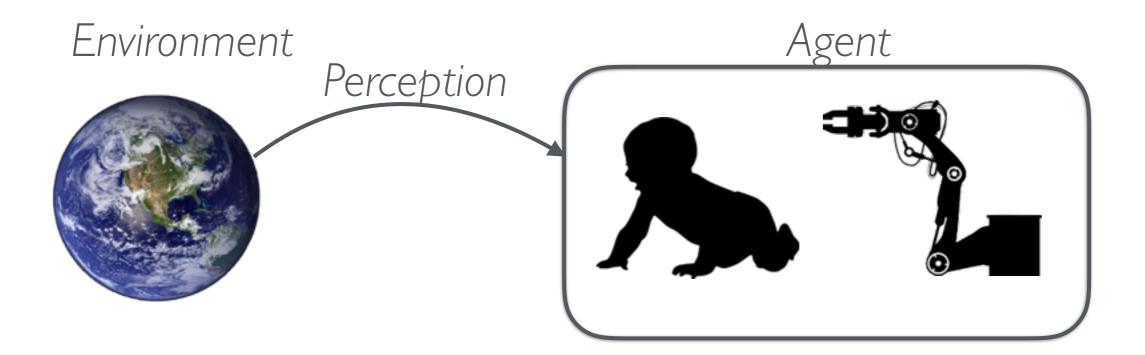


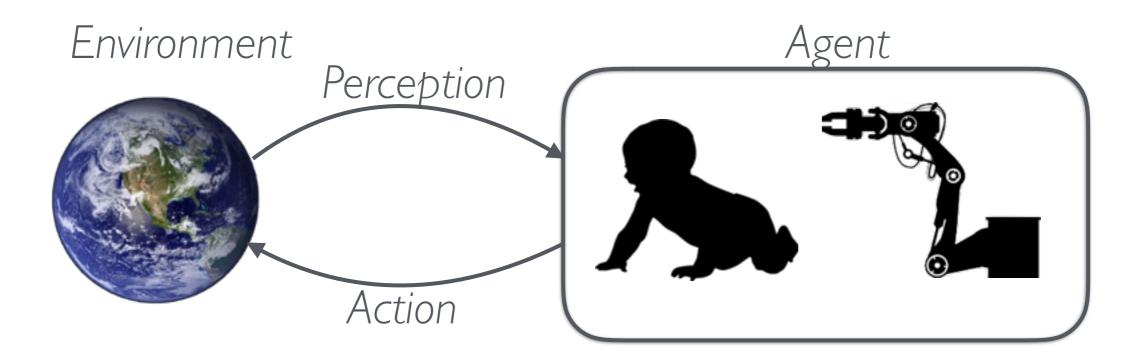
 $L(x) = |x^{\text{action}}_{t+1} - \text{Decode}(\text{Encode}(x_t))|^2 + \lambda \cdot \text{Penalty}(\text{Encode}(x_t)) + \text{Intrinsic Motivation}$ 

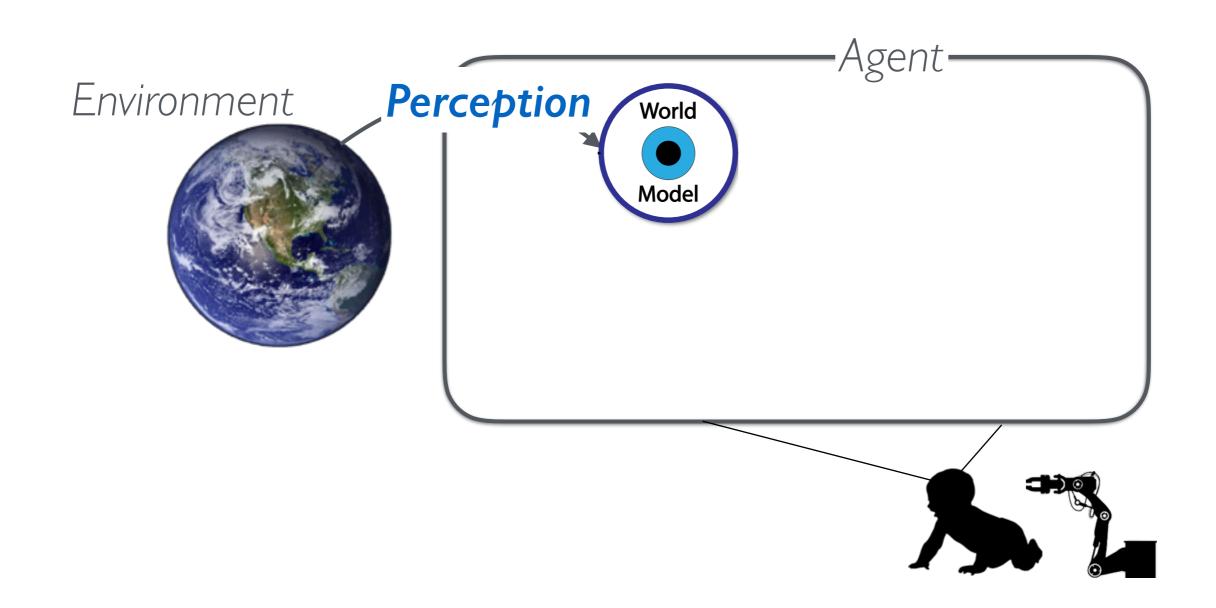
#### Environment

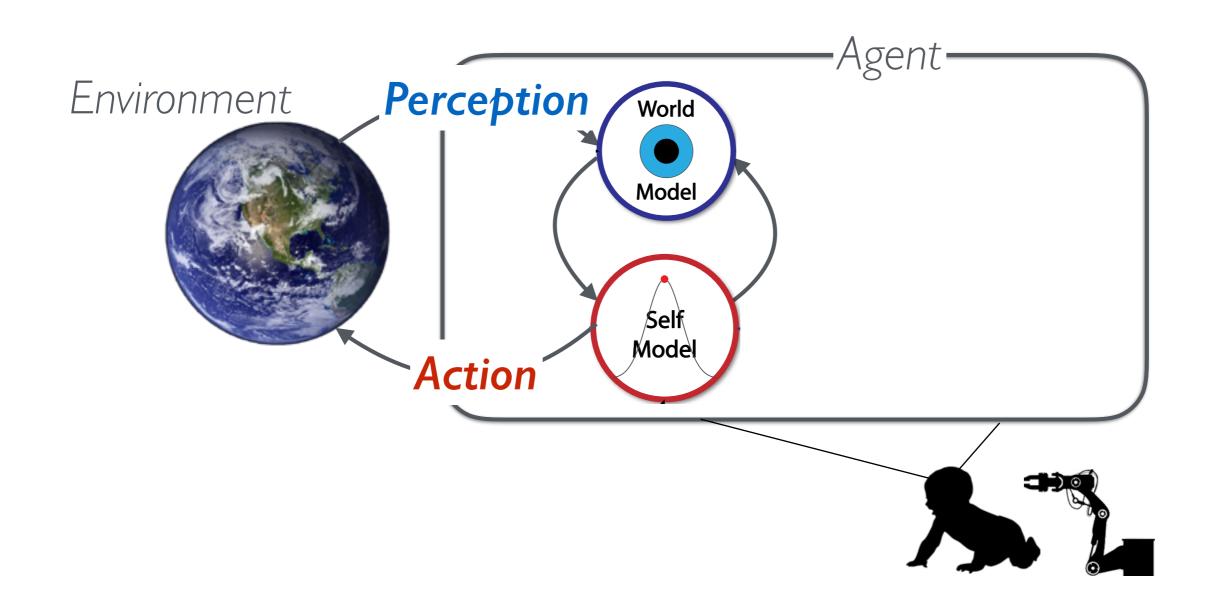


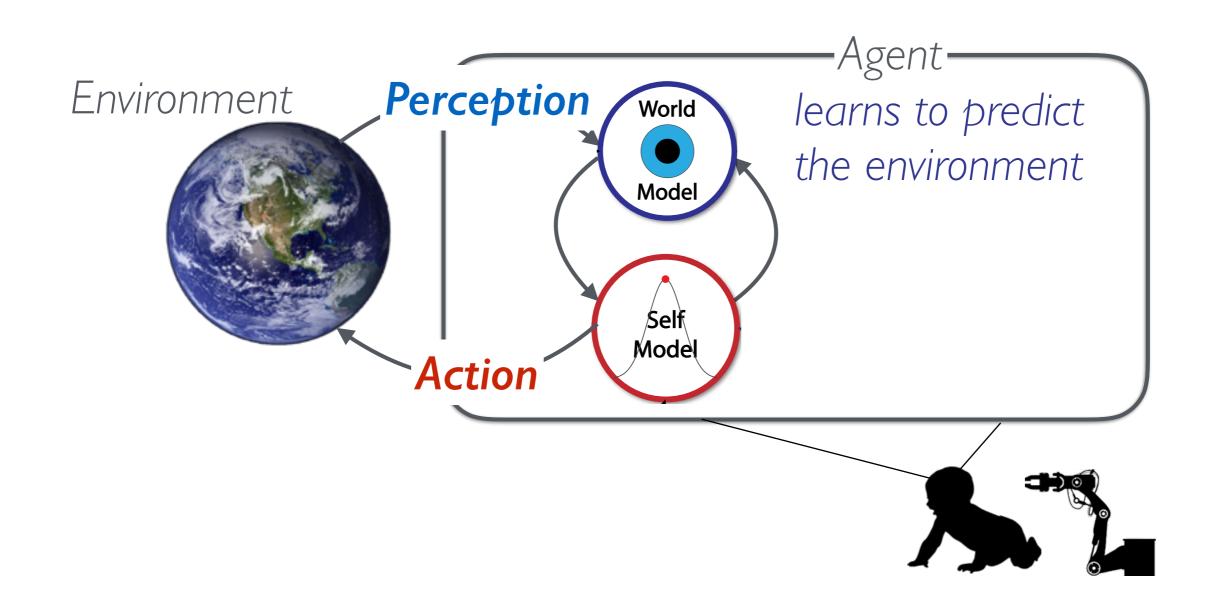


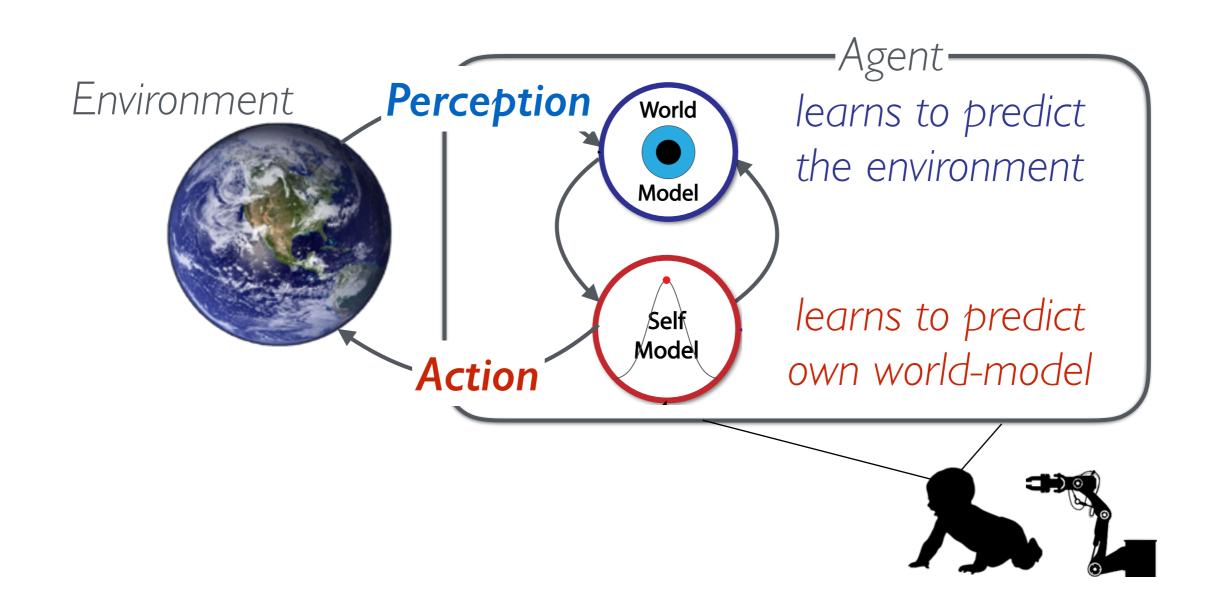


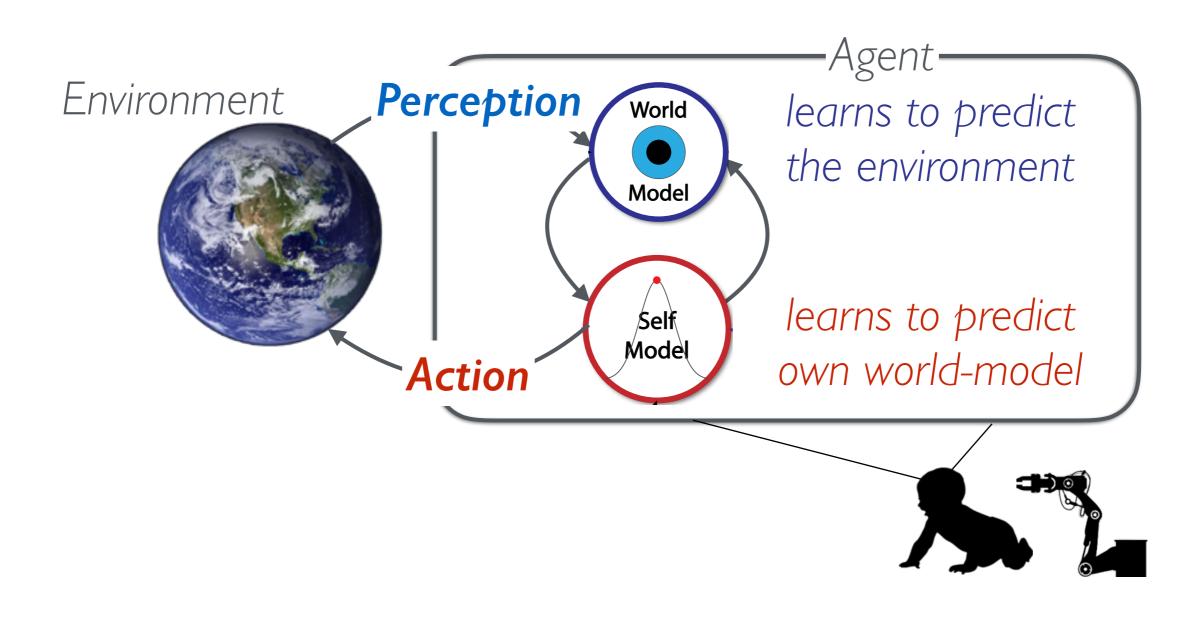


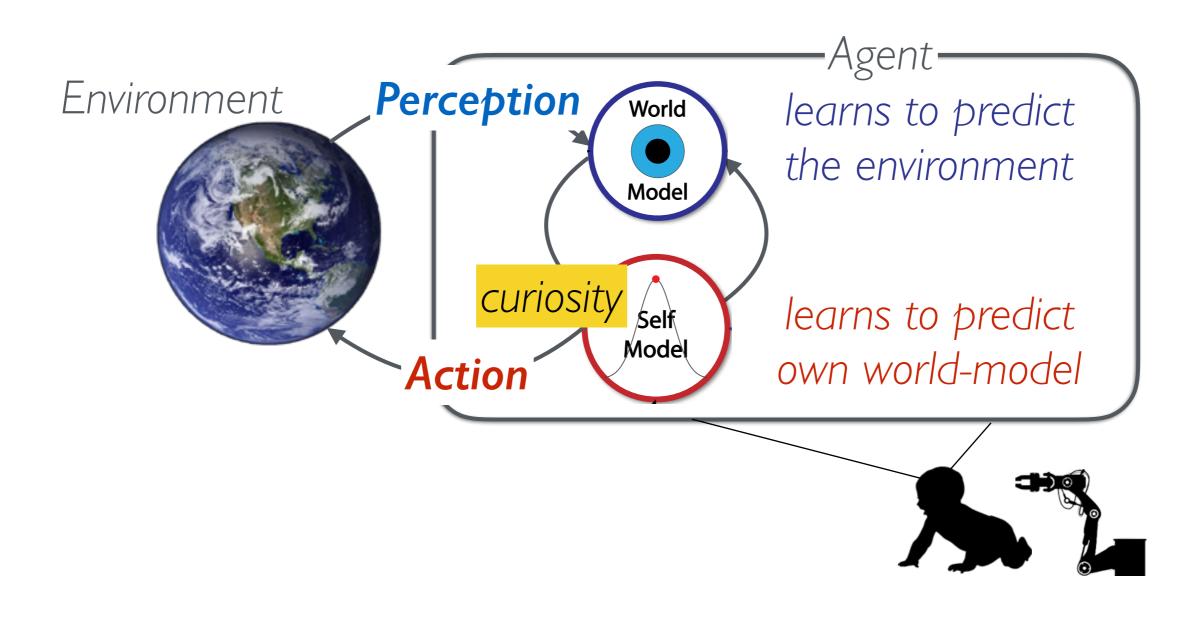


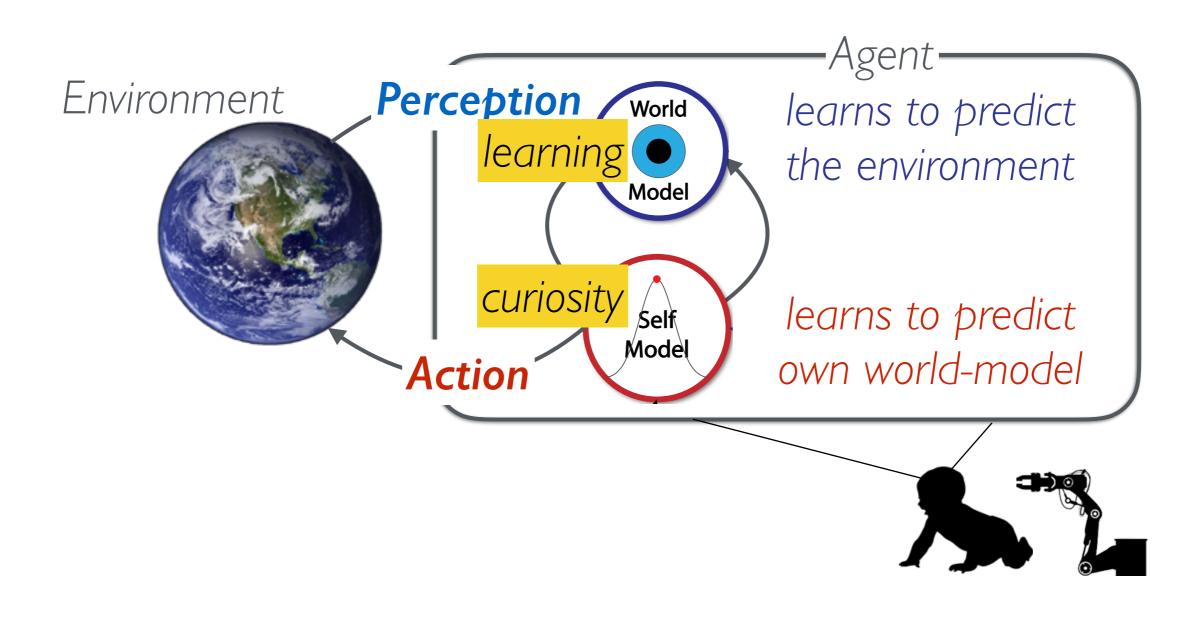


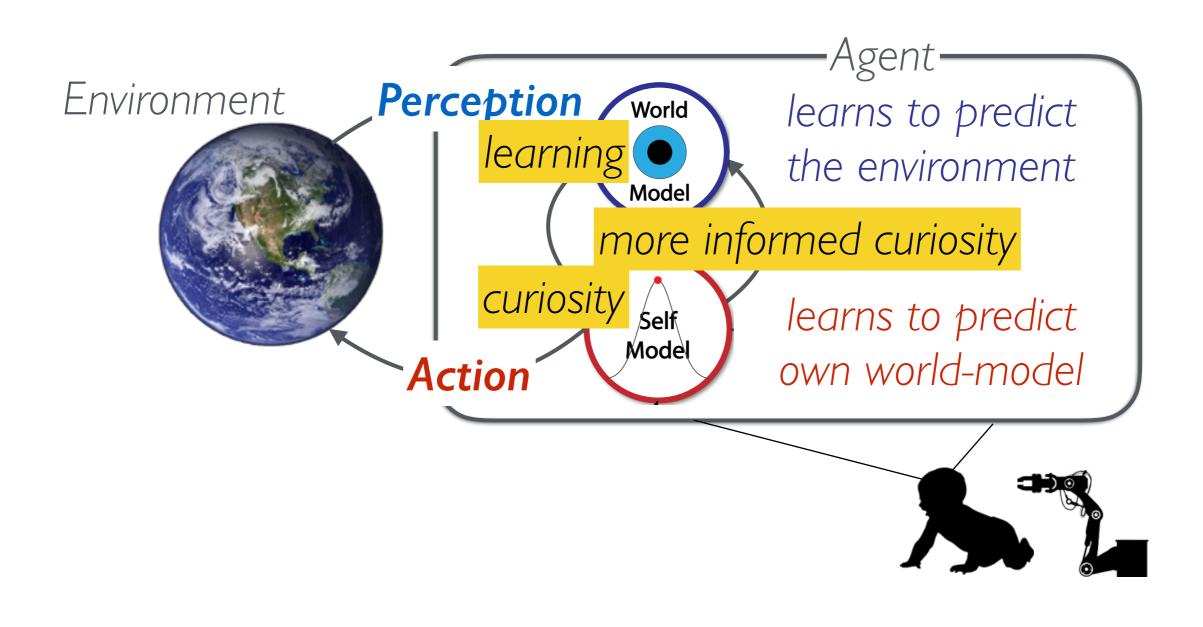












#### Learning to Play



Nick Haber

Damian Mrowca

Stephanie Wang

Fei-Fei Li

NIPS 2018

#### Learning to Play With Intrinsically-Motivated, Self-Aware Agents

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Departments of Psychology<sup>1</sup>, Pediatrics<sup>2</sup>, Biomedical Data Science<sup>3</sup>, Computer Science<sup>4</sup>, and Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute<sup>5</sup>, Stanford, CA 94305

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#### Abstract

Infants are experts at playing, with an amazing ability to generate novel structured behaviors in unstructured environments that lack clear extrinsic reward signals. We seek to mathematically formalize these abilities using a neural network that implements curiosity-driven intrinsic motivation. Using a simple but ecologically naturalistic simulated environment in which an agent can move and interact with objects it sees, we propose a "world-model" network that learns to predict the dynamic consequences of the agent's actions. Simultaneously, we train a separate explicit "self-model" that allows the agent to track the error map of its worldmodel. It then uses the self-model to adversarially challenge the developing world-model. We demonstrate that this policy causes the agent to explore novel and informative interactions with its environment, leading to the generation of a spectrum of complex behaviors, including ego-motion prediction, object attention, and object gathering. Moreover, the world-model that the agent learns supports improved performance on object dynamics prediction, detection, localization and recognition tasks. Taken together, our results are initial steps toward creating flexible autonomous agents that self-supervise in realistic physical environments.



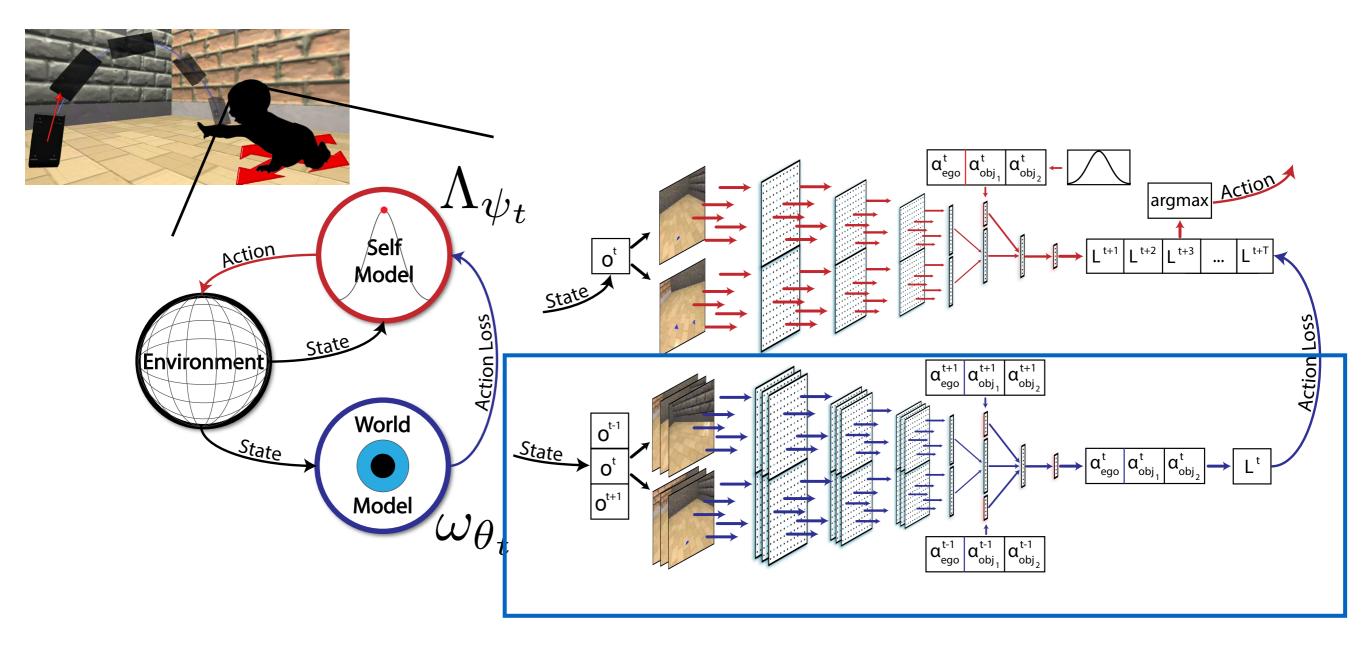
Agent ("baby") can (a) swivel its head

(b) move around the room

(c) apply forces to objects

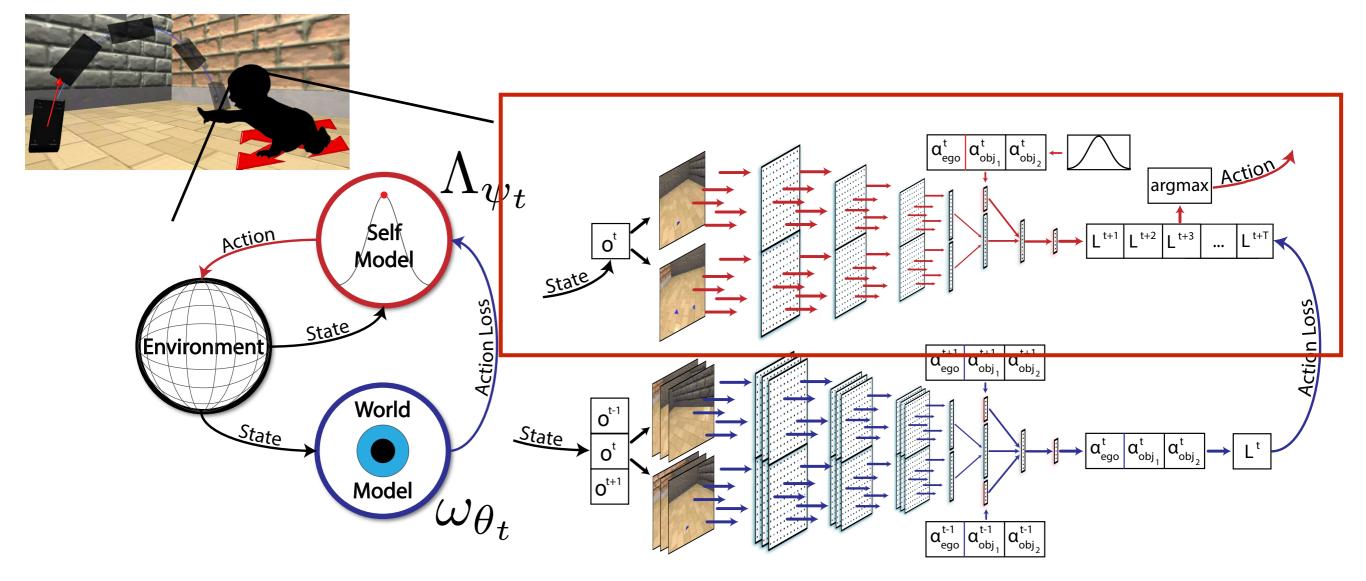
... and receives back images of what happened, given action

### Learning to Play — Overview



Model has two pieces: (1) World-Model

### Learning to Play — Overview

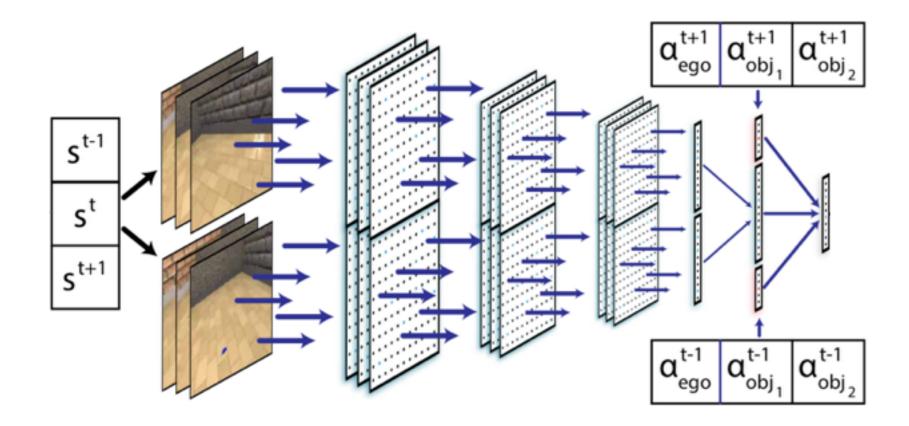


Model has two pieces: (1) World-Model (2) Self-Model

#### Learning to Play — World-Model

#### Goal of **world-model**:

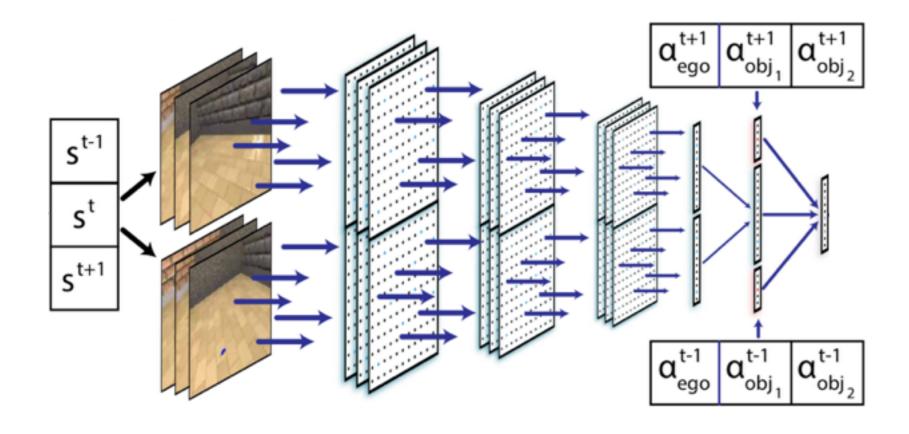
"Post-dict" the action taken given past and future states and actions



#### Learning to Play — World-Model

#### Goal of **world-model**:

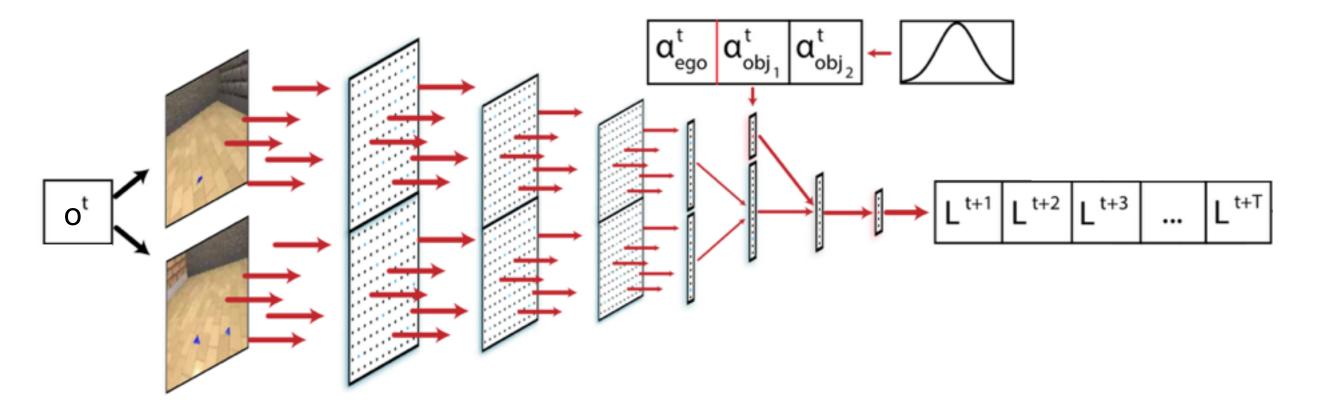
"Post-dict" the action taken given past and future states and actions



**ID** Inverse Dynamics

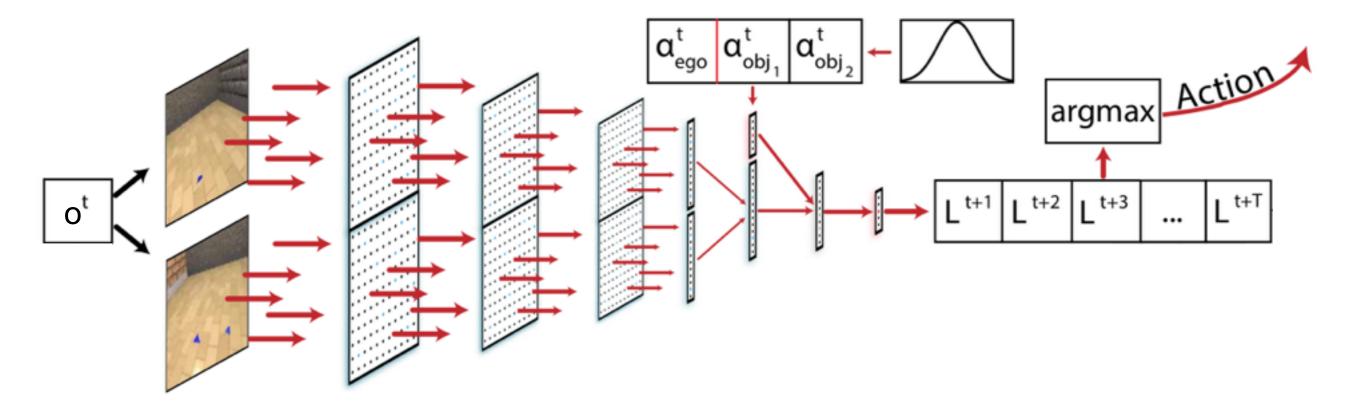
#### Learning to Play — Self-Model

Goal of self-model: Predict errors ("loss") of World-Model

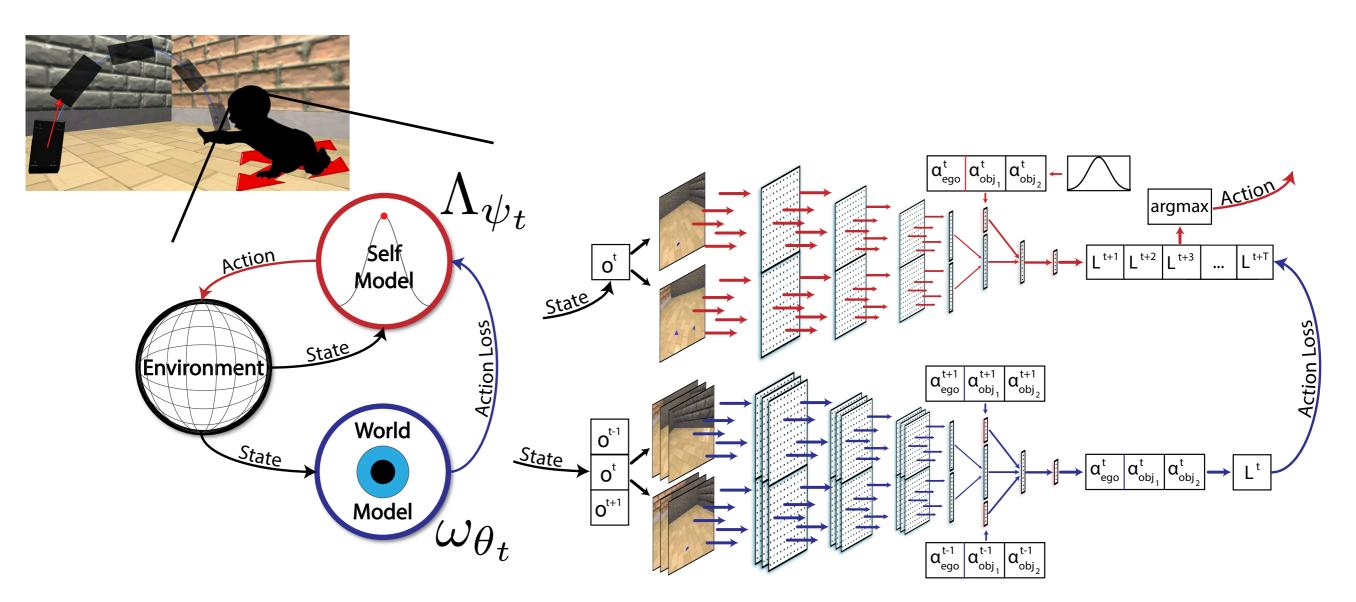


#### Learning to Play — Self-Model

Goal of **self-model**: Predict errors ("loss") of World-Model



## Learning to Play - Model overview

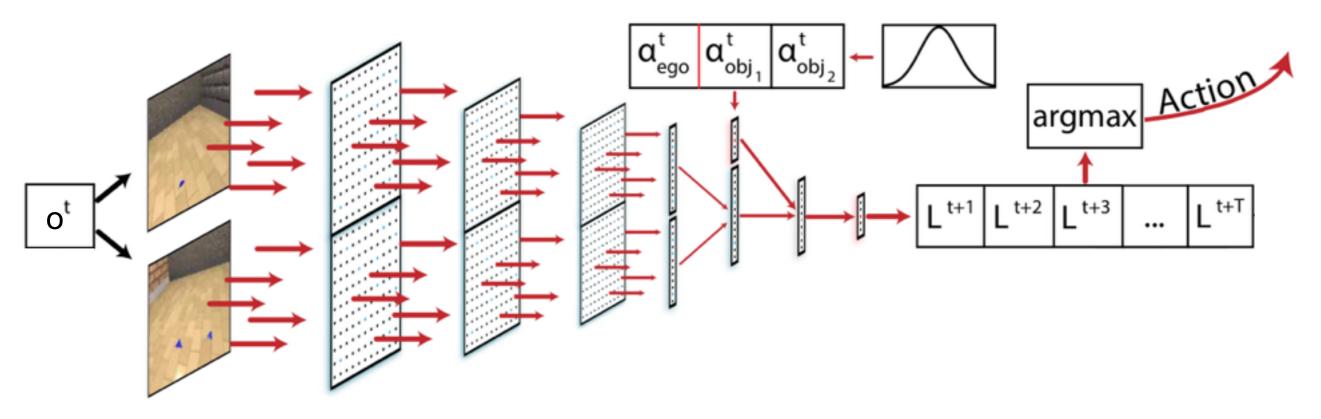


Goal of **world-model** network is to predict consequences of actions

Goal of **self-model** network is to predict errors of world-model ("self-aware")

#### Learning to Play — Self-Model

Goal of **self-model**: Predict errors ("loss") of World-Model



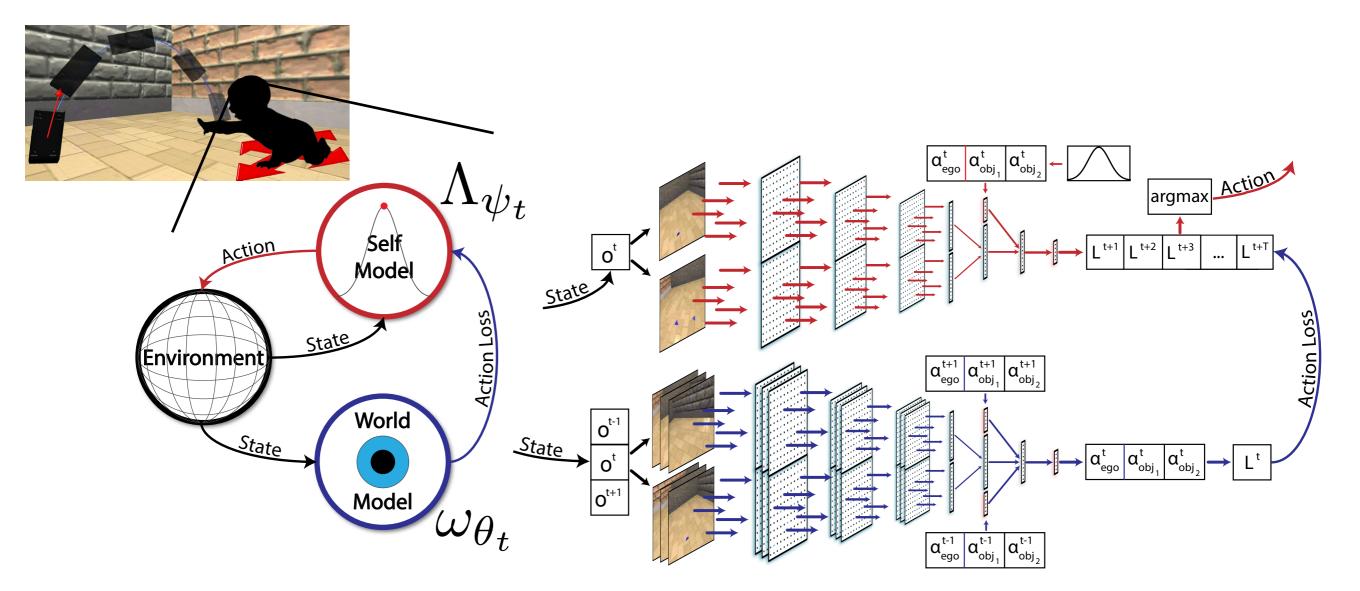
Sample 1000x actions and choose the one that maximizes the World-Model loss

$$\pi(a) \sim \exp(\beta \sigma_{\Lambda}(a))$$

**Policy** mechanism

#### Learning to Play — Adversarial Policy

Action choice: self-model is **adversarial** to world-model ("curious intrinsic motivation")

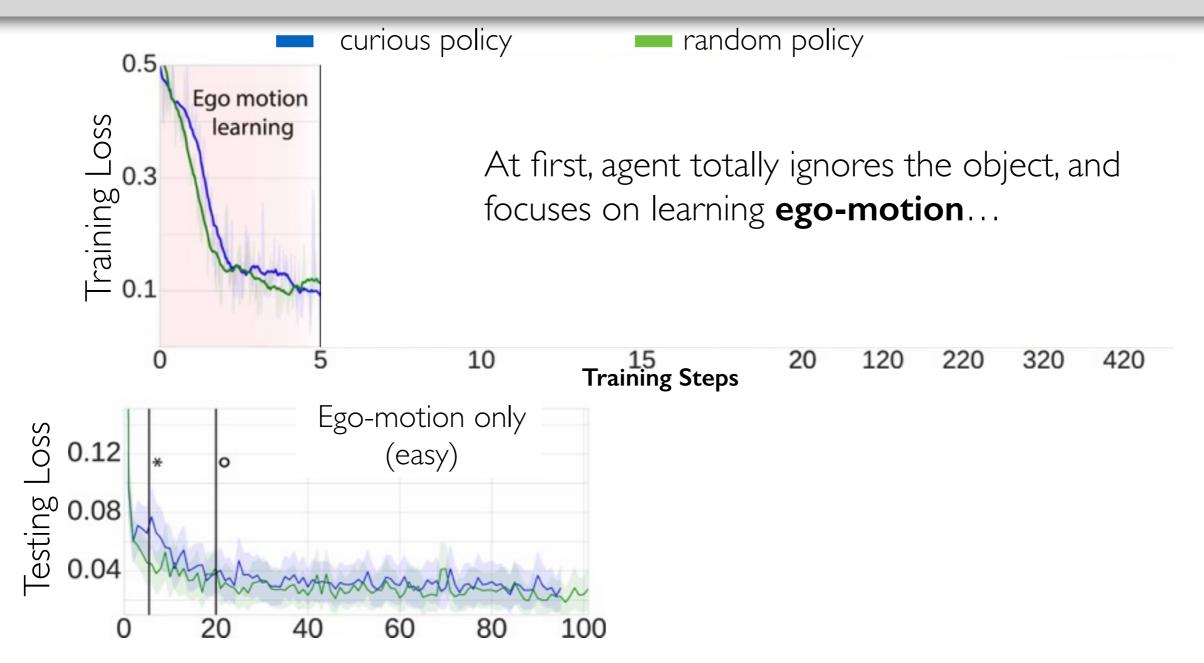


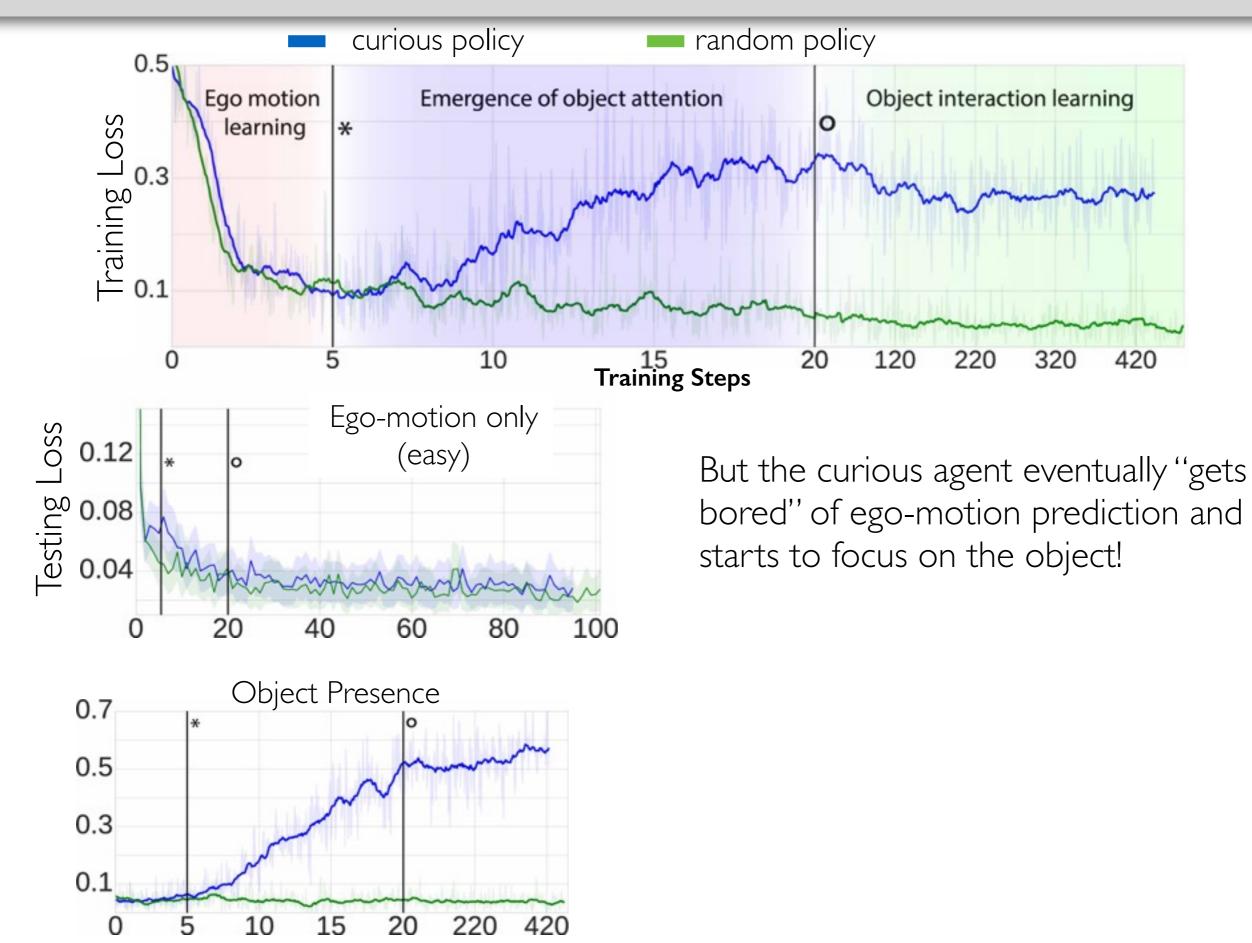
Goal of **world-model** network is to predict consequences of actions

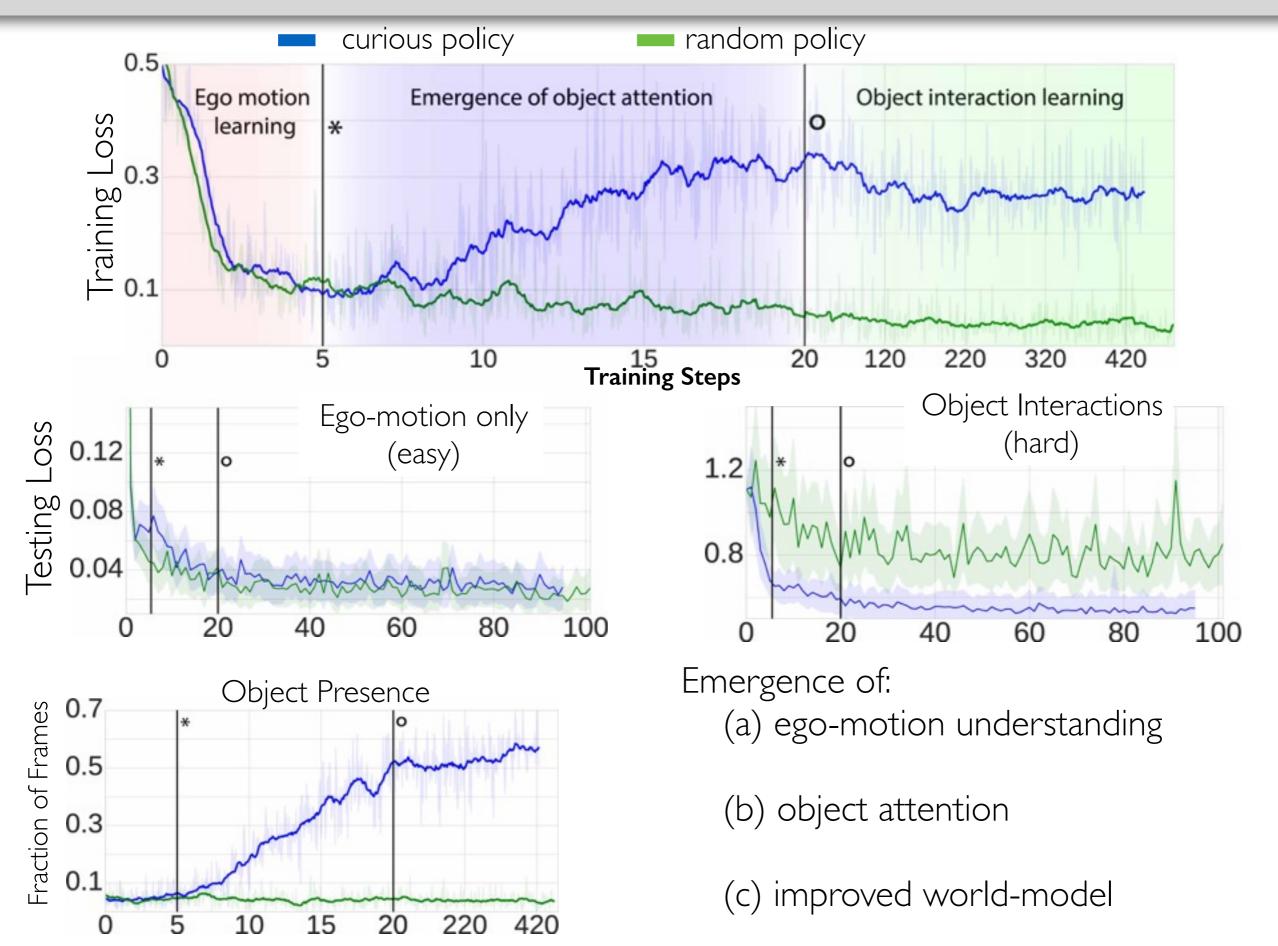
Goal of **self-model** network is to predict errors of world-model ("self-aware")

Place agent in room with a single object.

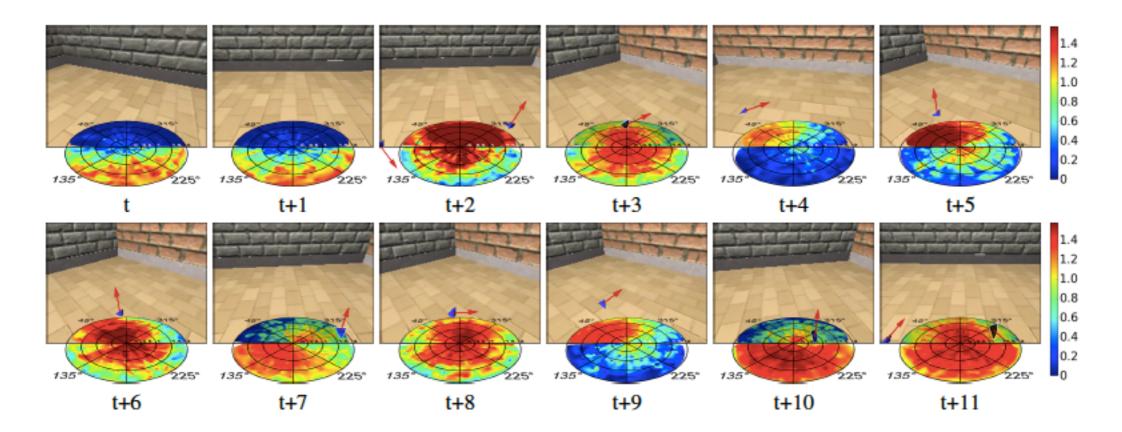






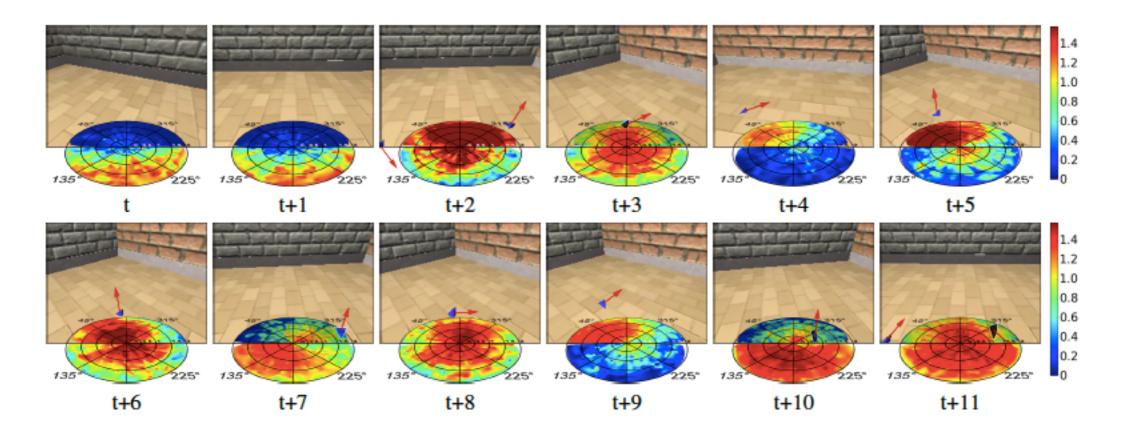


Simple navigation and planning behavior emerges ...



If an object is not in view, the agent turns to find one...

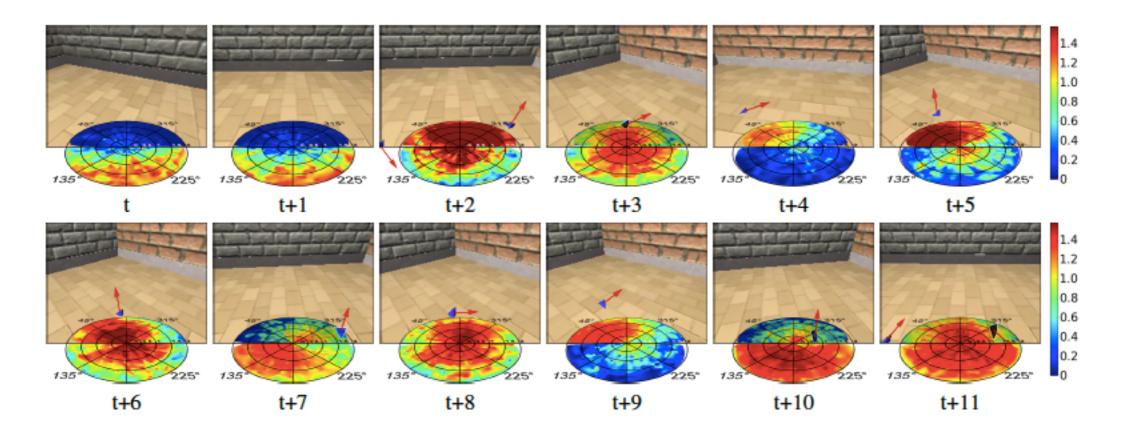
Simple navigation and planning behavior emerges ...



If an object is not in view, the agent turns to find one...

... if an object is too far to touch, the agent moves toward one.

Simple navigation and planning behavior emerges ...

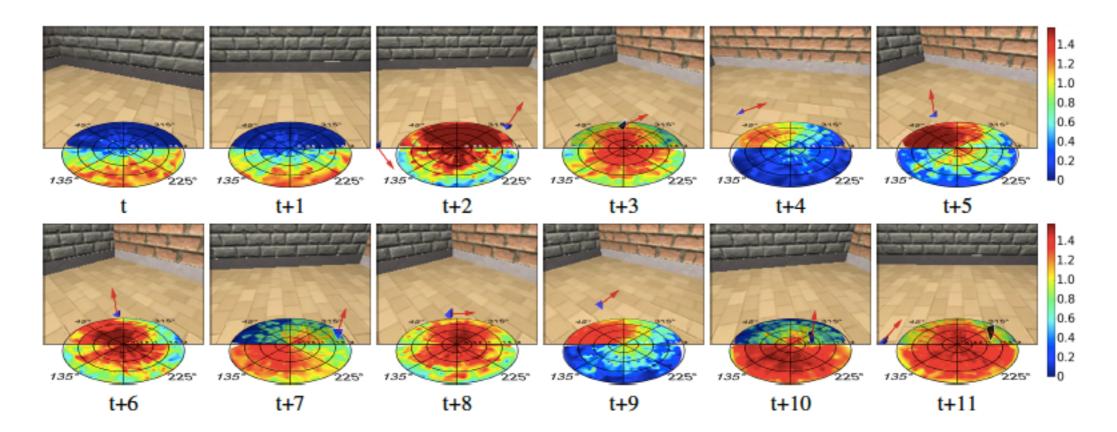


If an object is not in view, the agent turns to find one...

... if an object is too far to touch, the agent moves toward one.

... and once the agent is close to an object, it stays close and interacts with it.

Simple navigation and planning behavior emerges ...

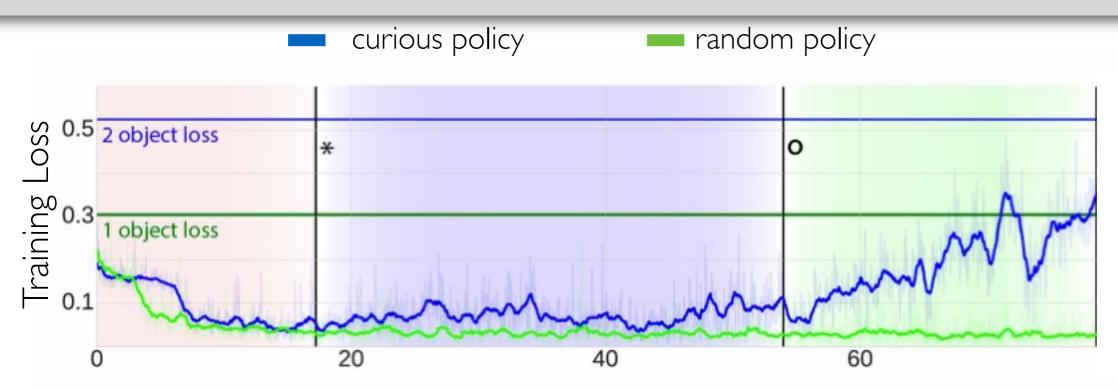


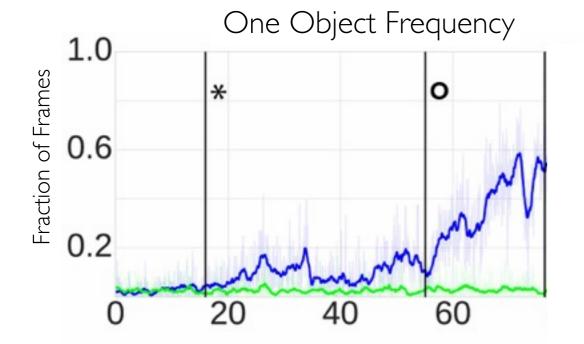
Moreover, substantially improved transfer learning accuracy:

(a) object detection (present or not):  $\sim 8\%$  vs  $\sim 40\%$  accuracy

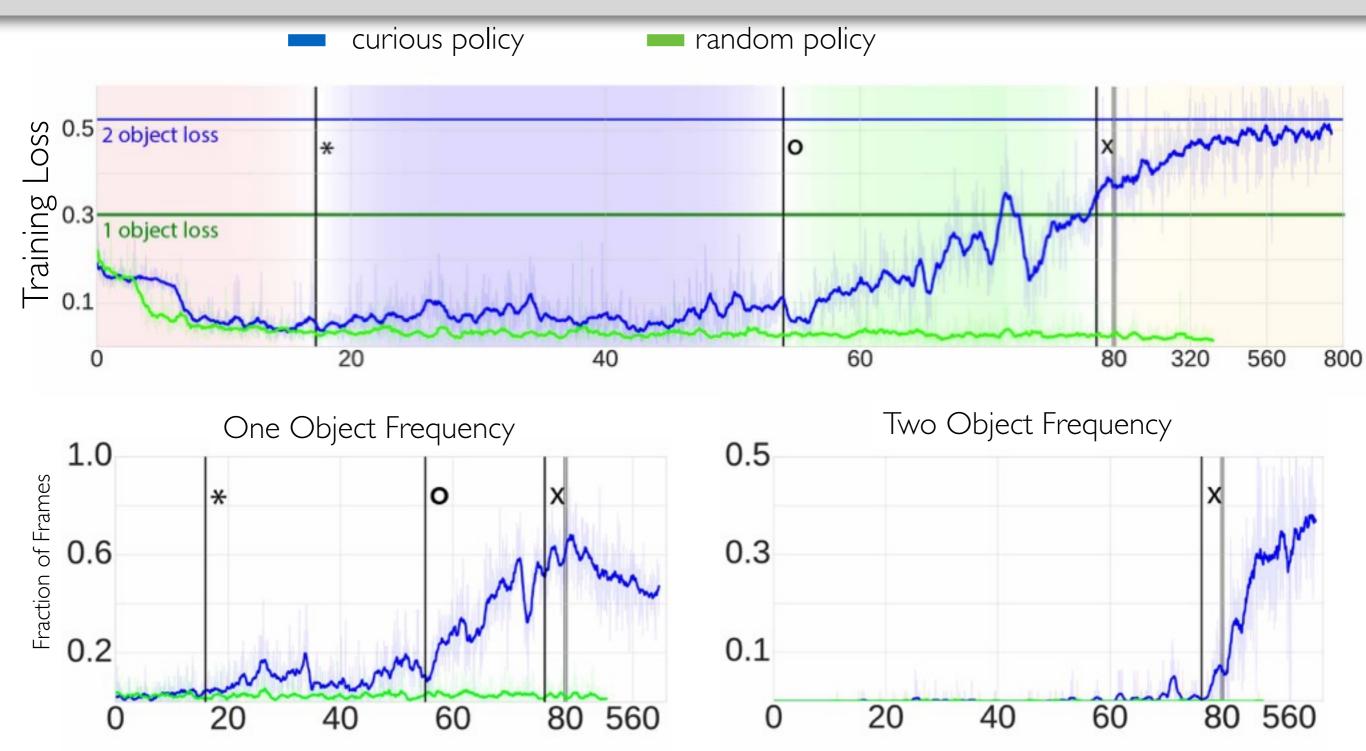
(b) object position:  $\sim 6px$  vs  $\sim 4px$  error

(c) object recognition (among 16 geometries):  $\sim 12\%$  vs  $\sim 30\%$  accuracy

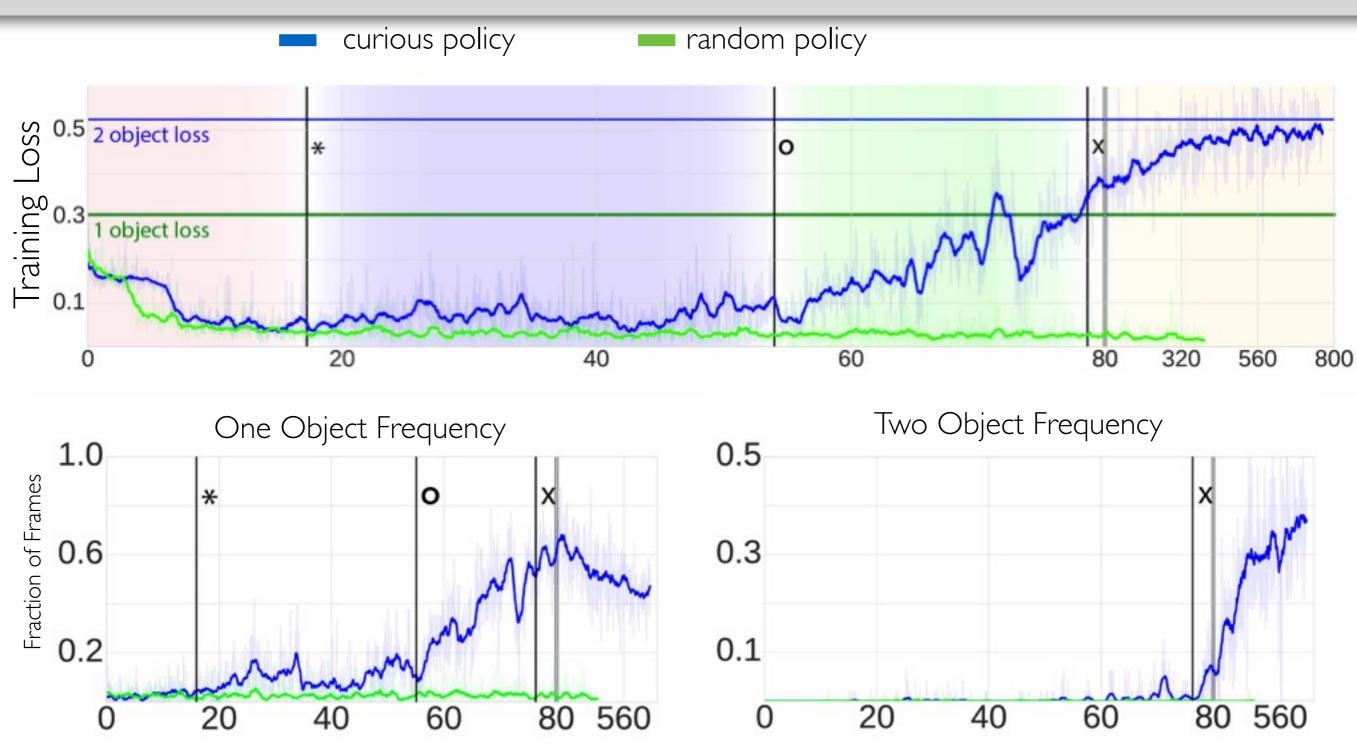




When multiple objects are present, the agent at first recapitulates its behavior with a single object ...



... but then discovers the interest of bringing objects together.



Object recognition in testing (one object per image):  $\sim 16\%$  vs  $\sim 40\%$  accuracy ... especially large gain compared to training in single-obj case

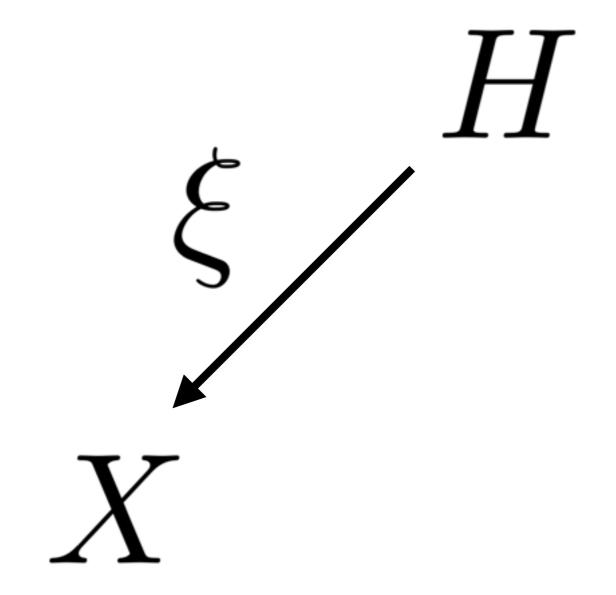
#### Glossing over a key problem:

The above ideas rely on having the agent solve a dynamics prediction problem about the world.

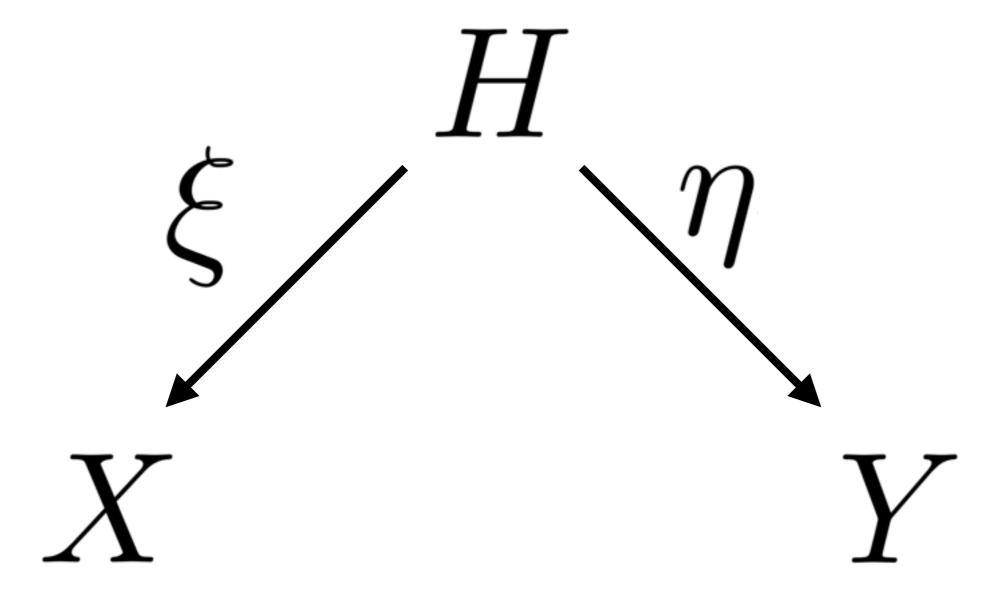
Start with some data H...

# H

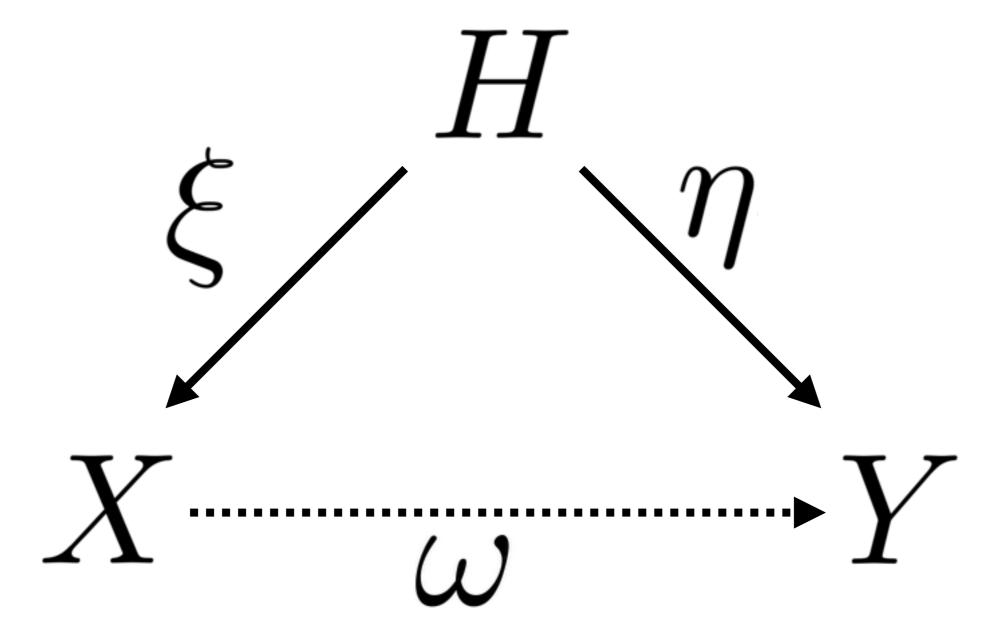
... Create input data X from H...

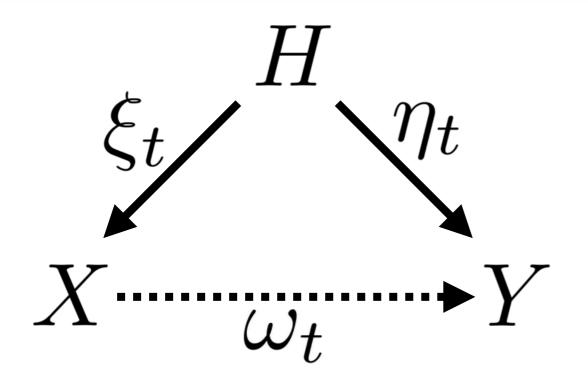


... Create output data Y from H...



... Predict Y from X.

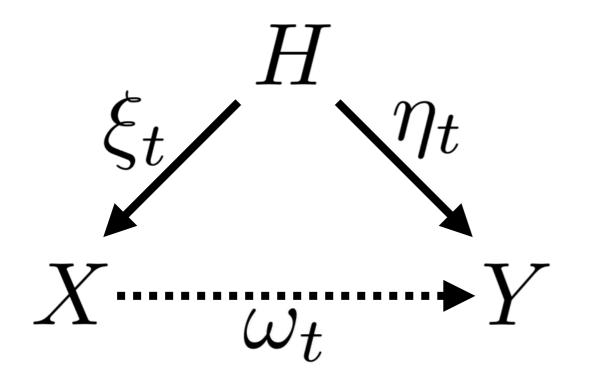




Examples:

I) Forward future prediction

 $state(t), action(t) \implies state(t+1)$ 



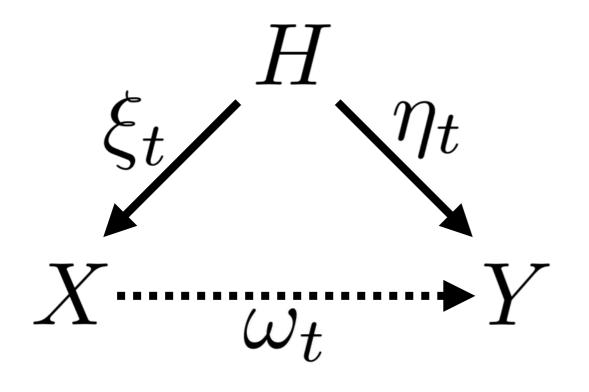
Examples:

I) Forward future prediction

 $state(t), action(t) \implies state(t+1)$ 

2) inverse dynamics prediction

 $state(t), state(t+1) \implies action(t)$ 



Examples:

I) Forward future prediction

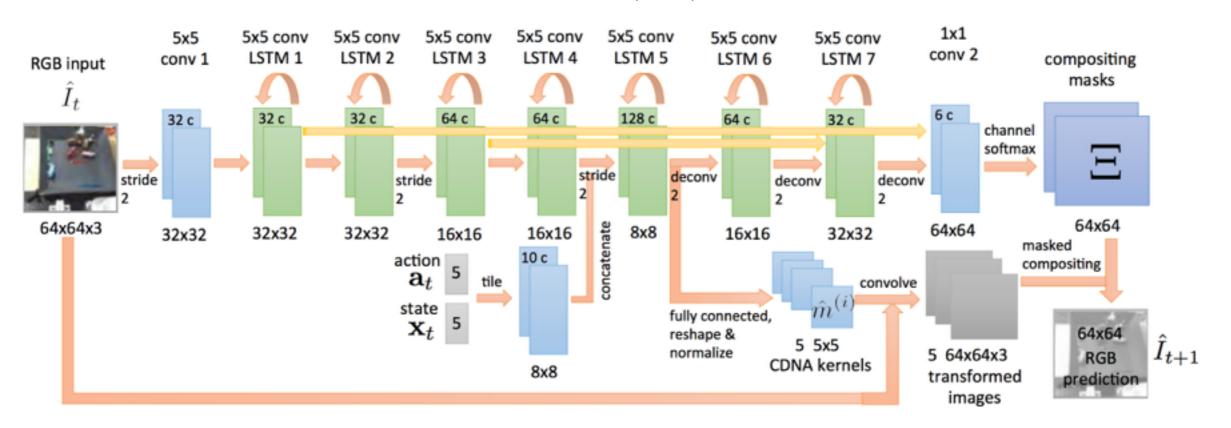
 $state(t), action(t) \implies state(t+1)$ 

2) inverse dynamics prediction

 $state(t), state(t+1) \implies action(t)$ 

1) is hard, because ... pixel prediction is hard!

Obvious idea: just predict future pixels



Finn et. al (2016)

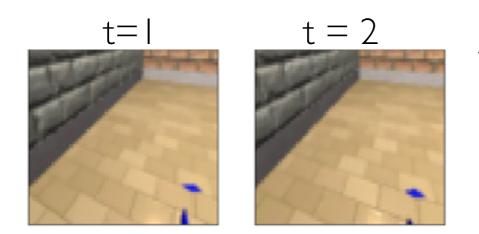
PredRNN(2017) ; Wang (2018) ; among many others

Pixel prediction is hard.



Two blue objects in a room

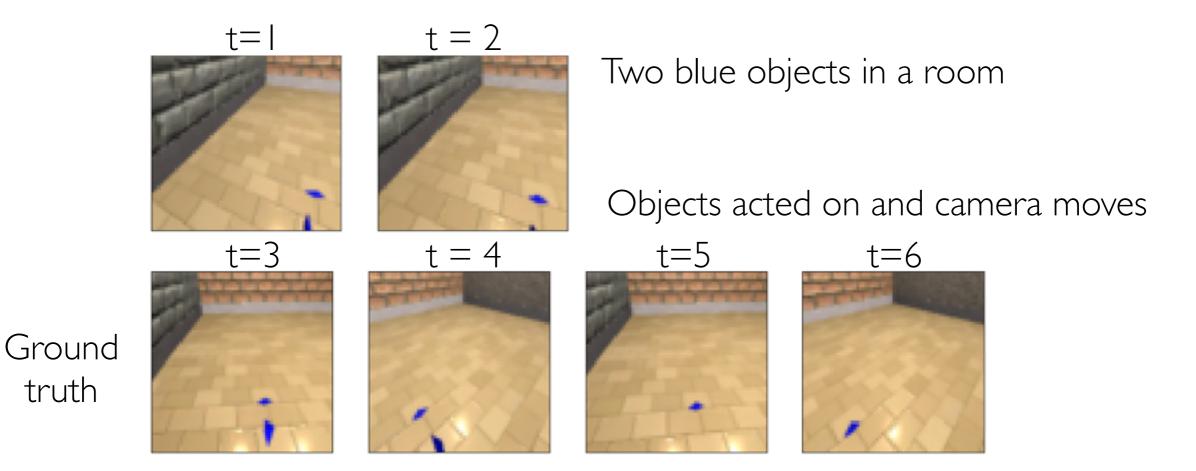
Pixel prediction is hard.



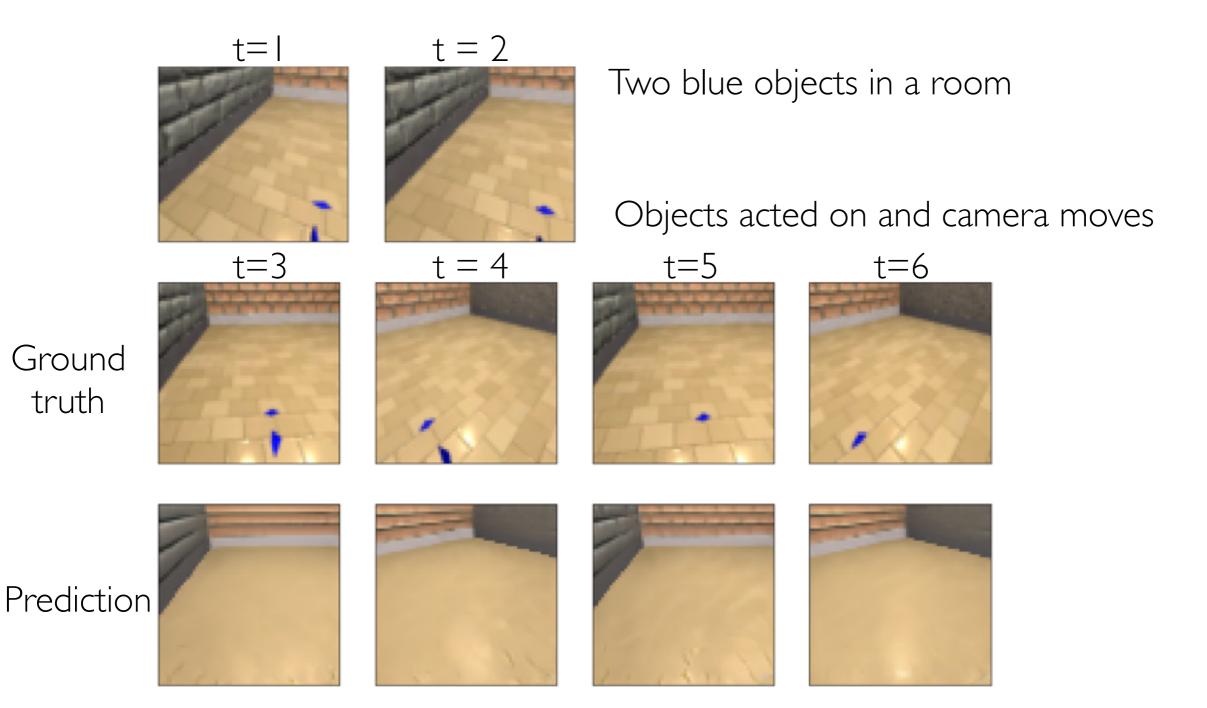
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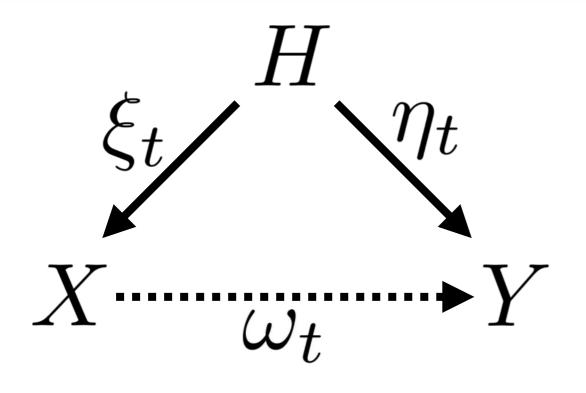
Objects acted on and camera moves

Pixel prediction is hard.



Pixel prediction is hard.





Examples:

I) Forward future prediction

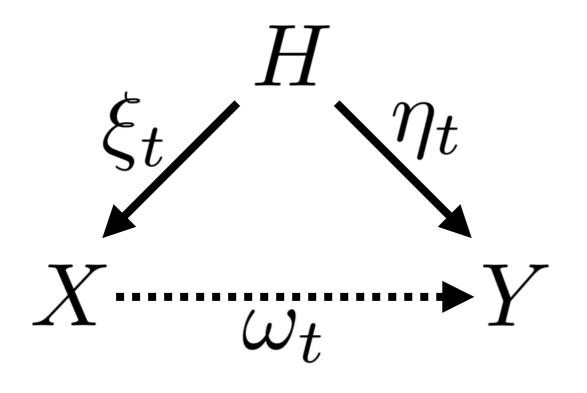
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2) inverse dynamics prediction

 $state(t), state(t+1) \implies action(t)$ 

1) is hard, because ... pixel prediction is hard!

2) is mostly what we did in the work described above because it's easier ...



Examples:

I) Forward future prediction

 $state(t), action(t) \implies state(t+1)$ 

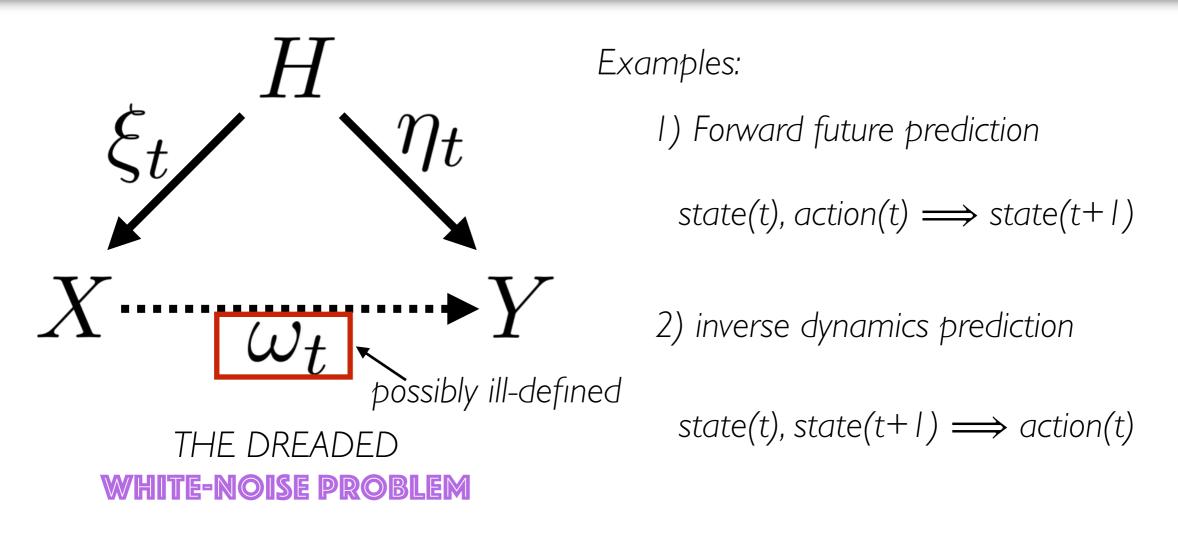
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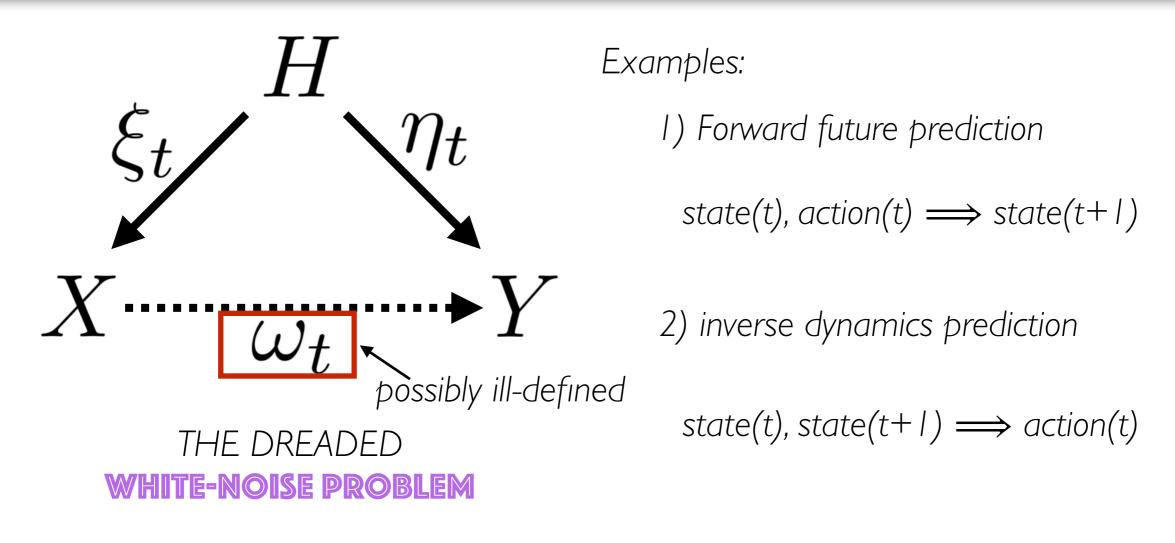
BUT DEGENERATE!



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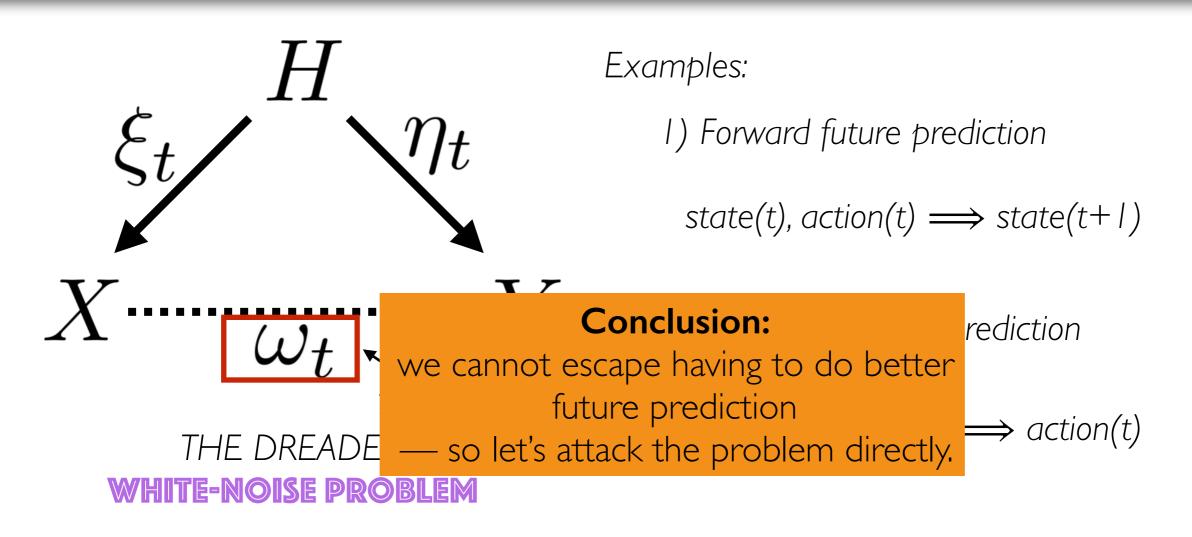


1) is hard, because ... pixel prediction is hard!

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BUT DEGENERATE!

Ex: pushing down on an object

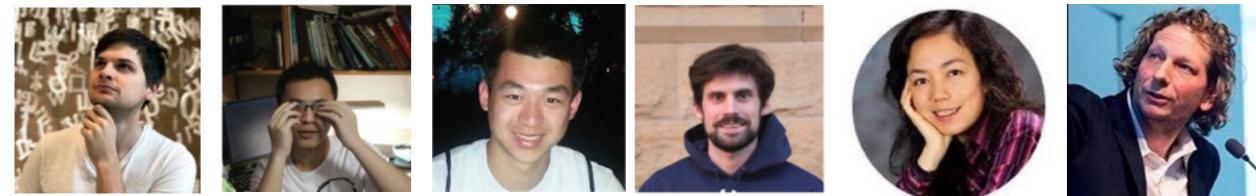


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BUT DEGENERATE!

Ex: pushing down on an object



#### Damian Mrowca\* Chengxu Zhuang\*

t-n ....

Eli Wang

Nick Haber



Fei-Fei Li

Josh Tenenbaum

NIPS 2018

#### Flexible Neural Representation for Physics Prediction

Damian Mrowca<sup>1,\*</sup>, Chengxu Zhuang<sup>2,\*</sup>, Elias Wang<sup>3,\*</sup>, Nick Haber<sup>2,4,5</sup>, Li Fei-Fei<sup>1</sup>, Joshua B. Tenenbaum<sup>7,8</sup>, and Daniel L. K. Yamins<sup>1,2,6</sup>

Department of Computer Science<sup>1</sup>, Psychology<sup>2</sup>, Electrical Engineering<sup>3</sup>, Pediatrics<sup>4</sup> and Biomedical Data Science<sup>5</sup>, and Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute<sup>6</sup>, Stanford, CA 94305 Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences7, and Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory8, MIT, Cambridge, MA 02139

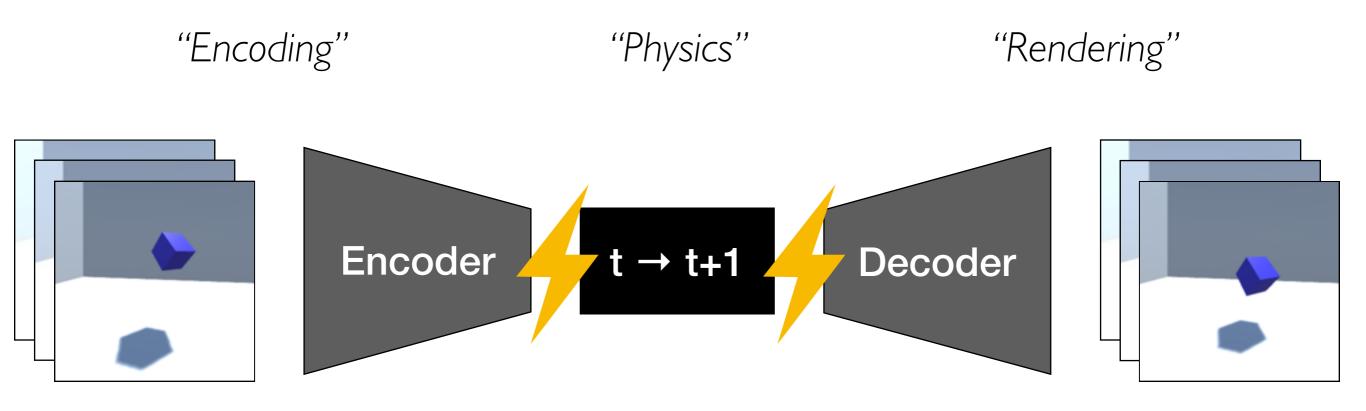
{mrowca, chengxuz, eliwang}@stanford.edu

#### Abstract

Humans have a remarkable capacity to understand the physical dynamics of objects in their environment, flexibly capturing complex structures and interactions at multiple levels of detail. Inspired by this ability, we propose a hierarchical particlebased object representation that covers a wide variety of types of three-dimensional objects, including both arbitrary rigid geometrical shapes and deformable materials. We then describe the Hierarchical Relation Network (HRN), an end-to-end differentiable neural network based on hierarchical graph convolution, that learns to predict physical dynamics in this representation. Compared to other neural network baselines, the HRN accurately handles complex collisions and nonrigid deformations, generating plausible dynamics predictions at long time scales in novel settings, and scaling to large scene configurations. These results demonstrate an architecture with the potential to form the basis of next-generation physics predictors for use in computer vision, robotics, and quantitative cognitive science.

.... t+k

# Discovering the proper latent space for physical prediction...





Experimental results with infants: **object permanence** present very early, perhaps by 3 months.

Liz Spelke



Liz Spelke

Experimental results with infants: **object permanence** present very early ...



Cognition Volume 20, Issue 3, 1985, Pages 191-208



Object permanence in five-month-old infants 🛧

Renée Baillargeon <sup>A</sup>\*, Elizabeth S. Spelke \*, Stanley Wasserman \*

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Experimental results with infants: **object permanence** present very early ...



Cognition Volume 20, Issue 3, 1985, Pages 191-208



Object permanence in five-month-old infants  $\, \bigstar \,$ 

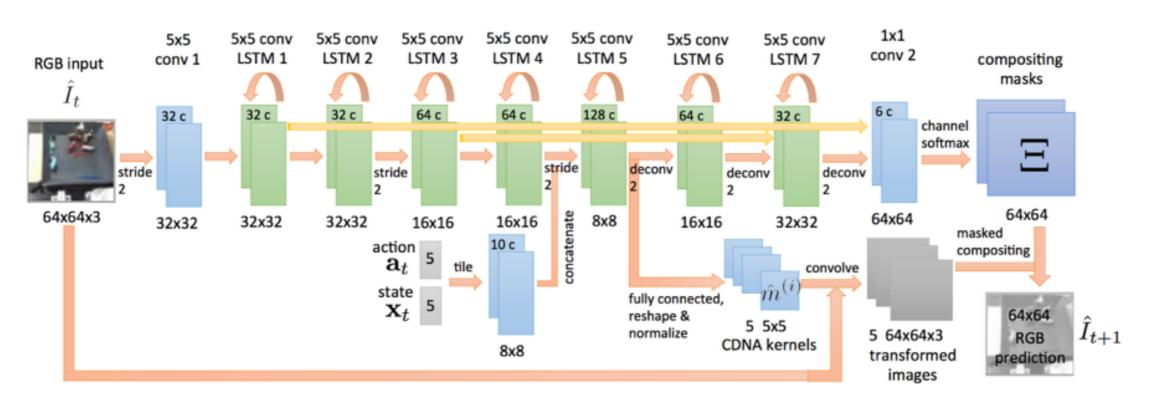
Renée Baillargeon <sup>A</sup>\*, Elizabeth S. Spelke \*, Stanley Wasserman \*

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#### Conv2d structures, even with RNNs, have trouble with object permanence.

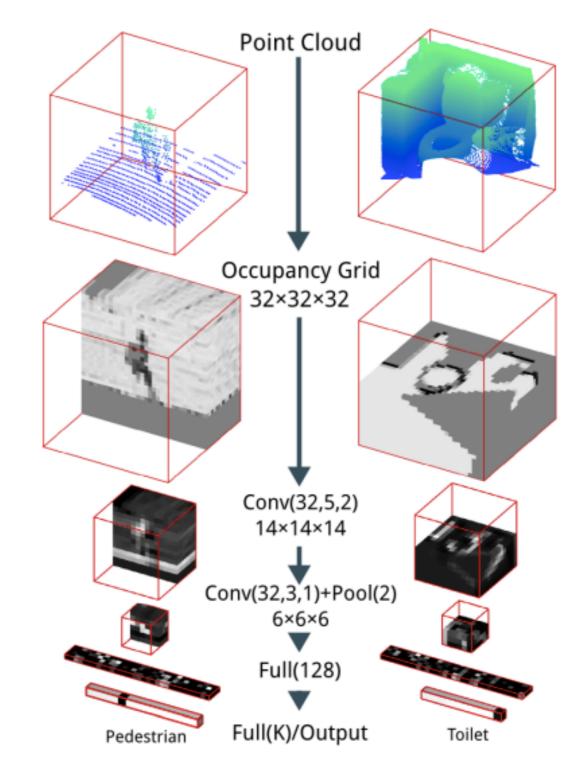




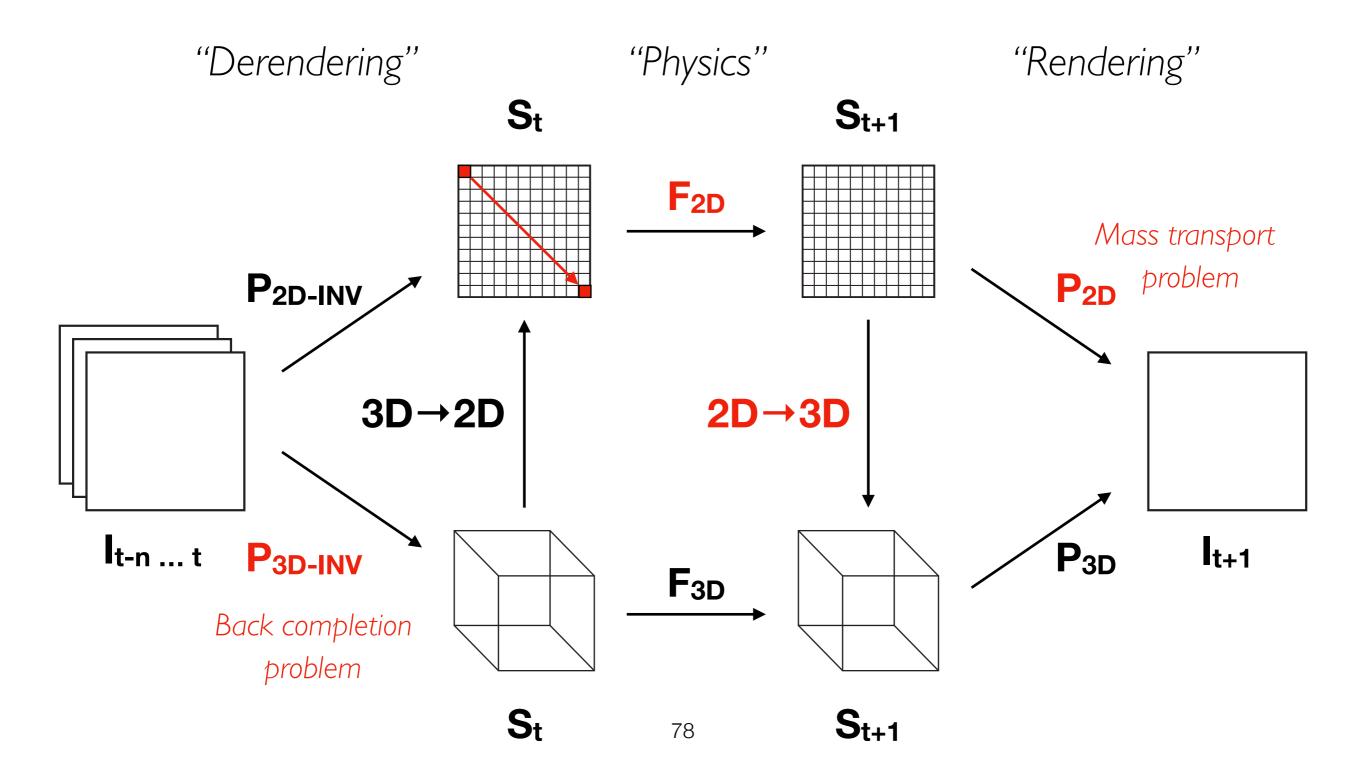
Liz Spelke

Conv3d structures are better for object permanence, but very inefficient: hard to achieve high resolution.

Experimental results with infants: **object permanence** present very early, perhaps by 3 months.



# Spatial convolutions are not ideal for physics propagation

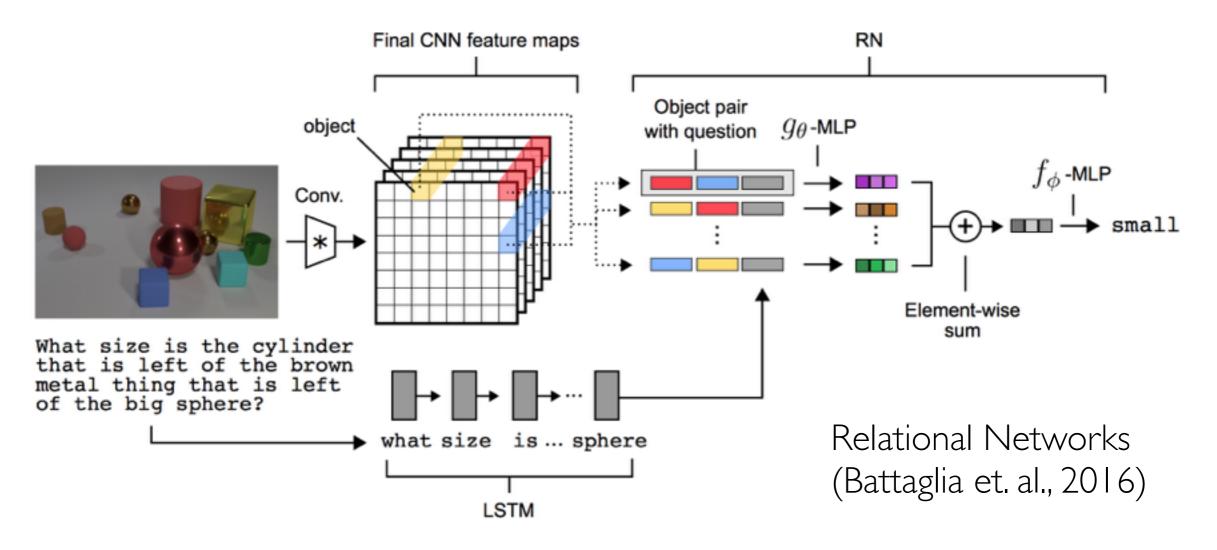




Experimental results with infants: **object permanence** present very early, perhaps by 3 months.

Alternative to spatially-uniform priors are graph-based priors

Liz Spelke

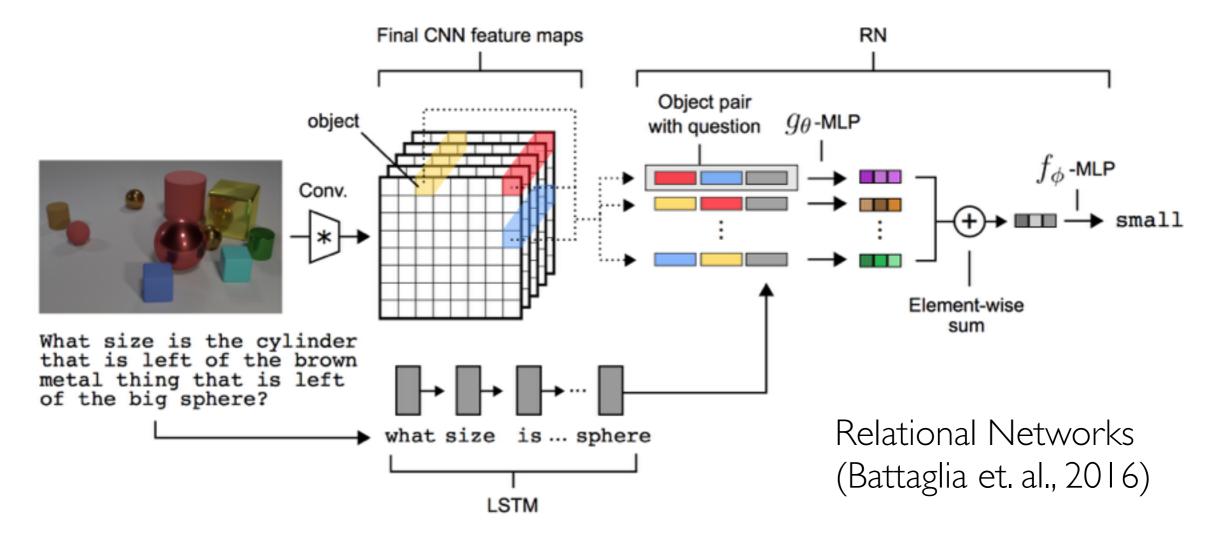




Experimental results with infants: **object permanence** present very early, perhaps by 3 months.

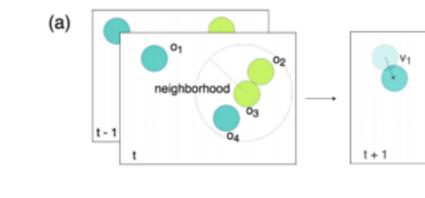
Alternative to spatially-uniform priors are **graph-based** priors ... still local and convolutional, just on the graph.

Liz Spelke

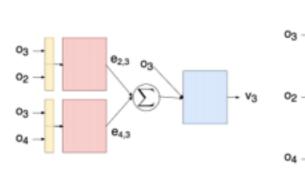


Relational Networks (Battaglia et. al., 2016)

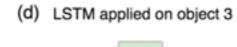
Neural Physics Engine (Chang et. al., 2016)

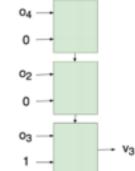


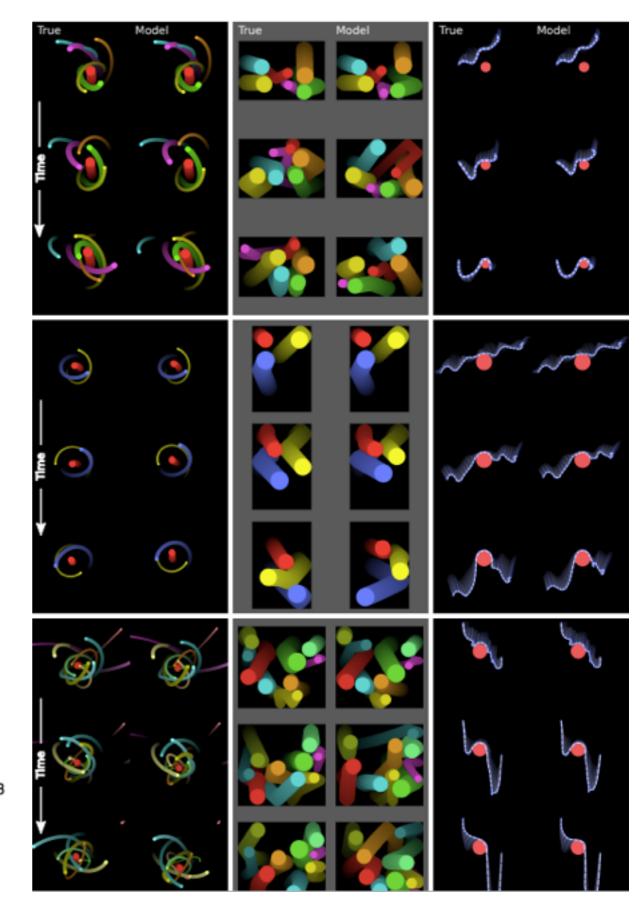
(b) NPE applied on object 3











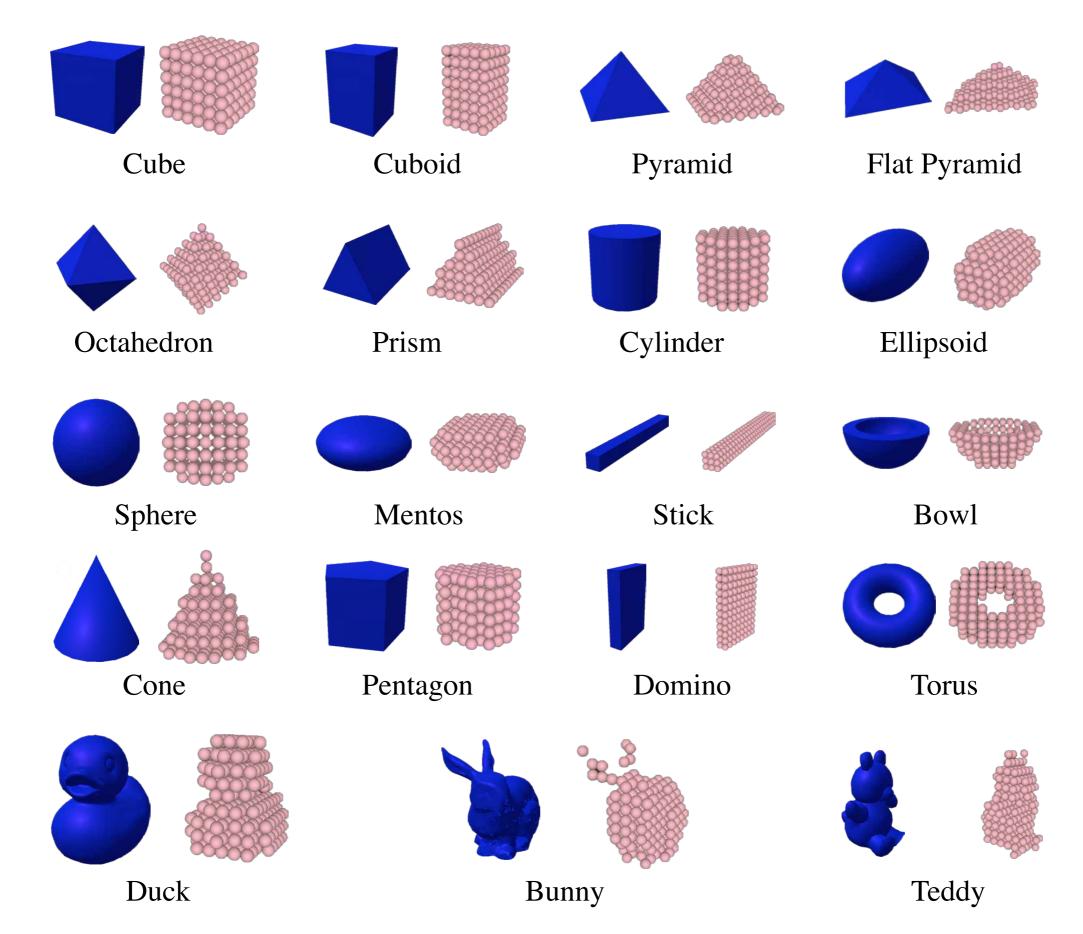
#### Complex Scenes

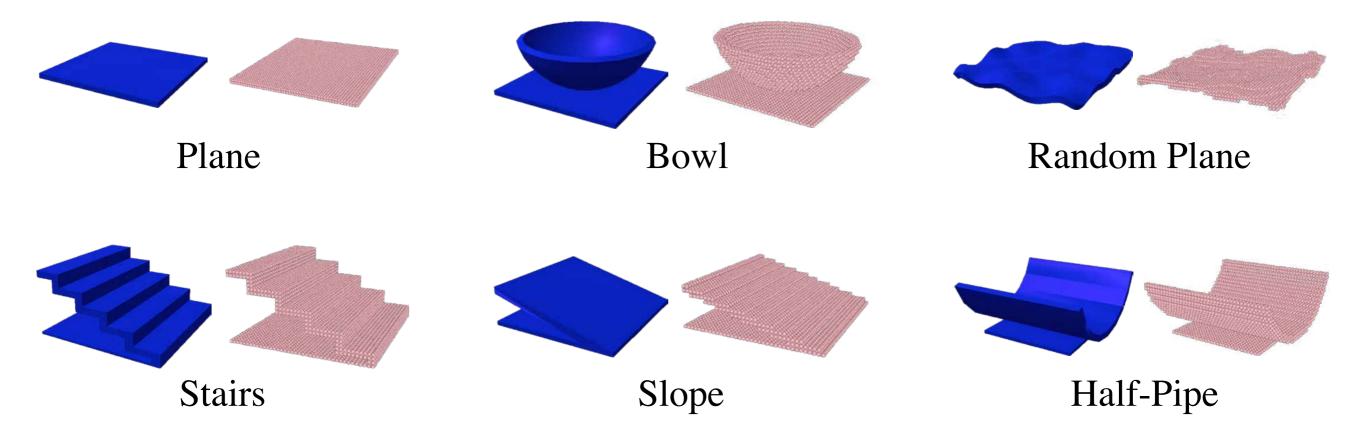
**Complex Materials** 

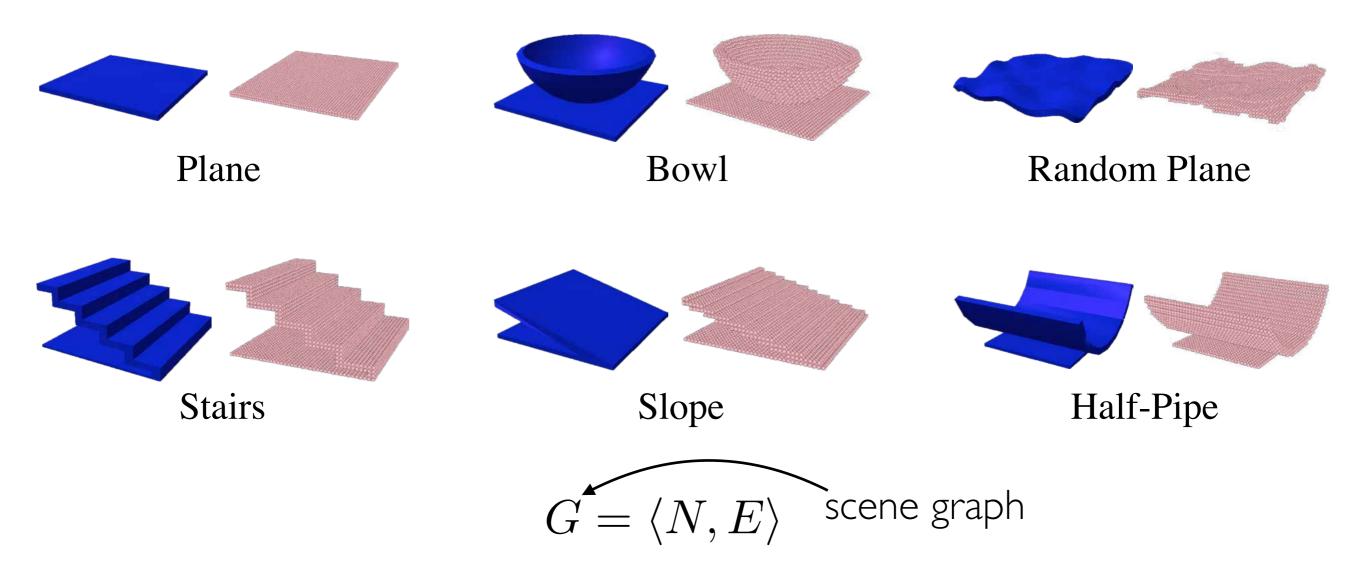


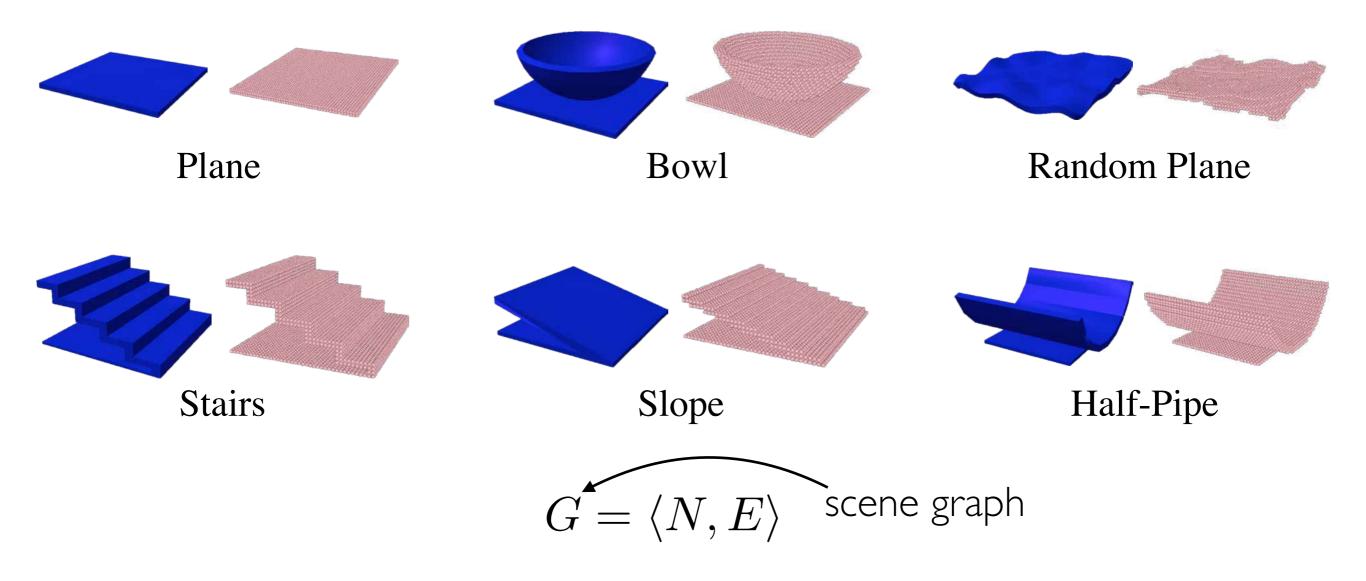


Describe objects through complex graphs:



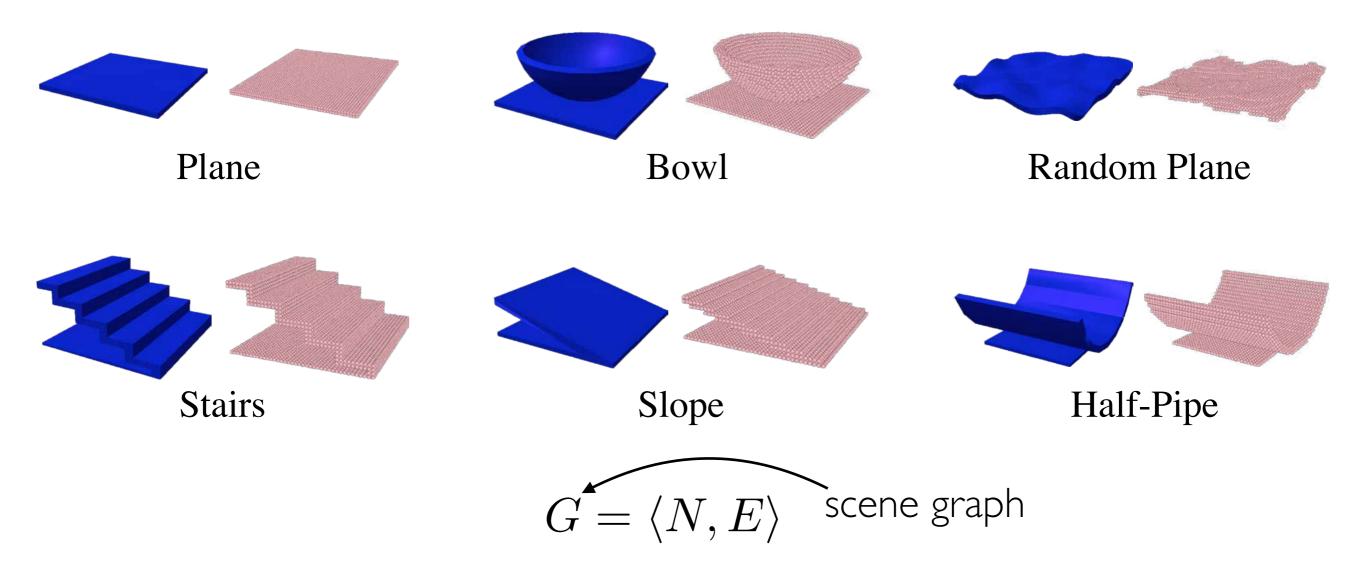






N = nodes corresponding to particles comprising objects

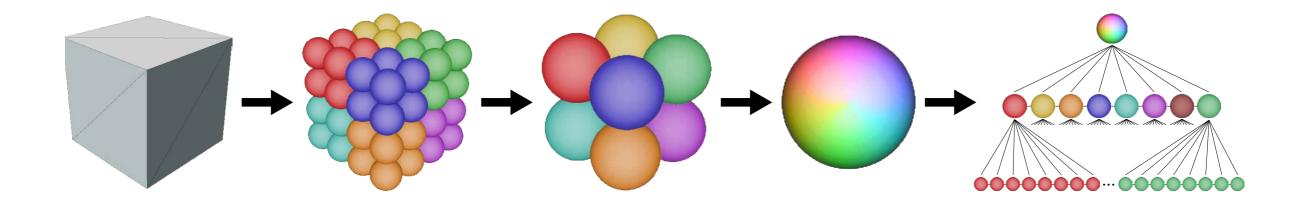
E = edges corresponding to relationships between particles



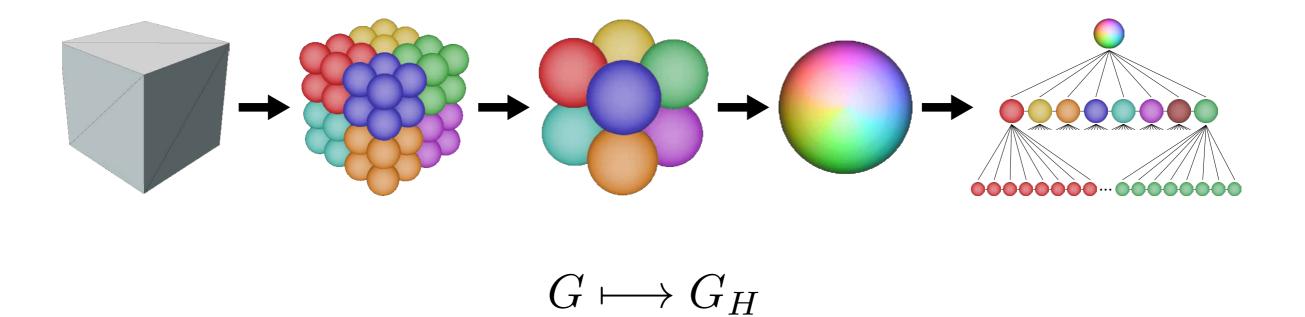
N = nodes corresponding to particles comprising objects

E = edges corresponding to relationships between particles edges are labelled by vector capturing bond characteristics

Of course, humans don't think about all the particles at once all the time.

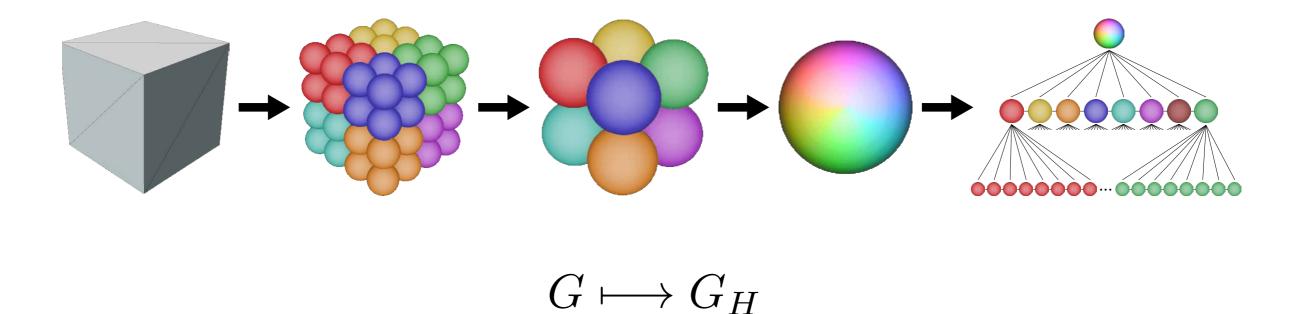


Of course, humans don't think about all the particles at once all the time.



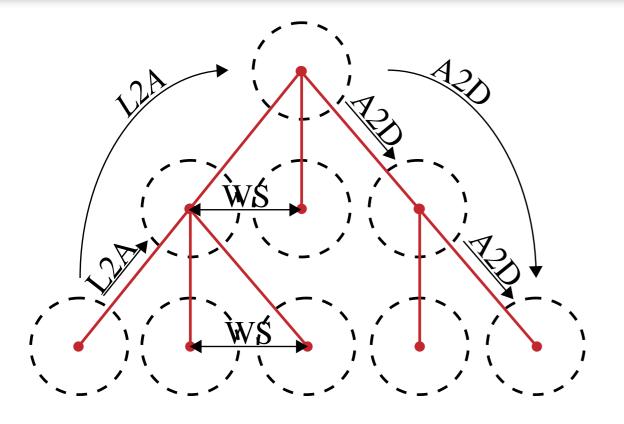
 $G_H$  = dynamic "hierarchicalization" of underlying scene graph (right now computed via k-means)

Of course, humans don't think about all the particles at once all the time.



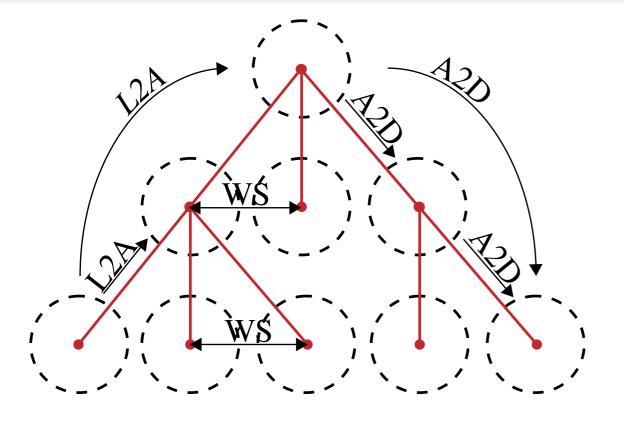
 $G_H$  = dynamic "hierarchicalization" of underlying scene graph (*right now computed via k-means*)

graph convolution  $\rightarrow$  hierarchical graph convolution



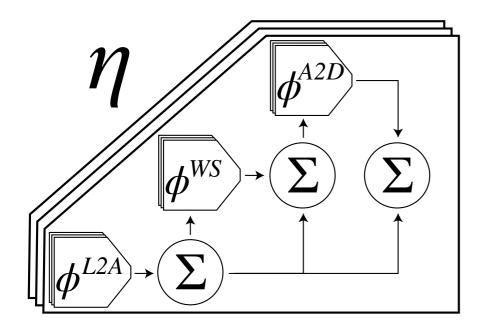
 $\phi^{L2A}$ graph conv. leaves to ancestors  $\phi^{WS}$ graph conv. with siblings graph conv. ancestors to  $\phi^{A2D}$ 

descendants



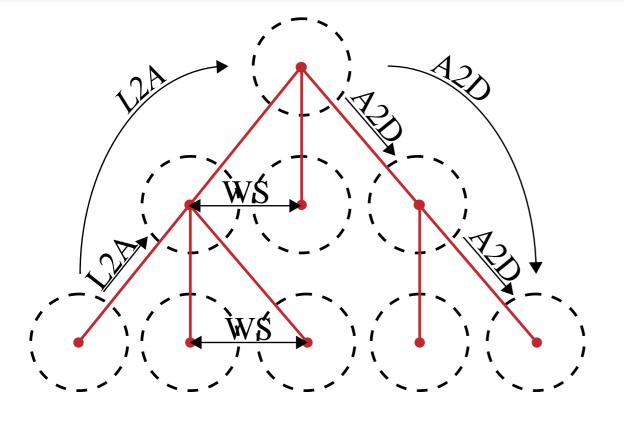
 $\phi^{L2A}$  graph conv. leaves to ancestors  $\phi^{WS}$  graph conv. with siblings

 $\phi^{A2D} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{graph conv. ancestors to} \\ \text{descendants} \end{array}$ 



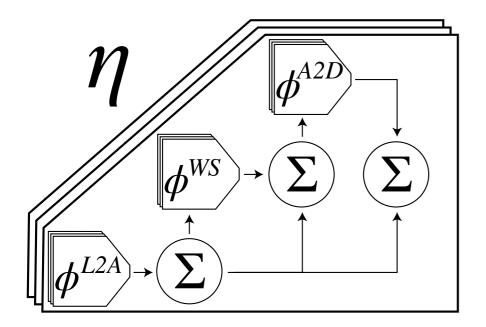
module composing these three operations from one up-down cycle, adding physical effects

 $\eta$ 



 $\phi^{L2A}$  graph conv. leaves to ancestors  $\phi^{WS}$  graph conv. with siblings

 $\phi^{A2D} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{graph conv. ancestors to} \\ \text{descendants} \end{array}$ 

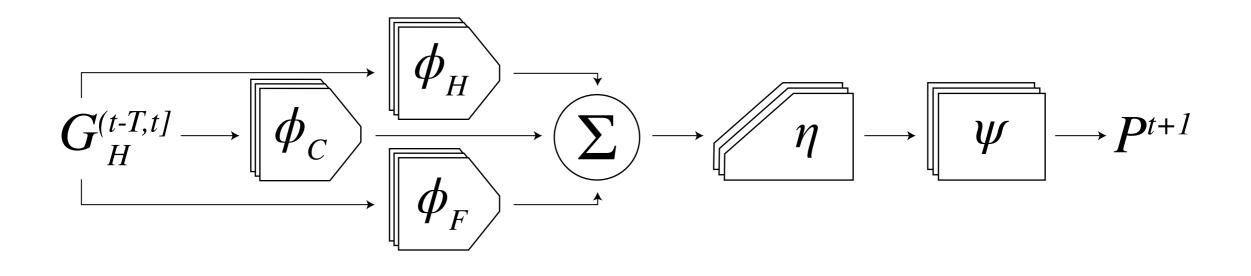


module composing these three operations from one up-down cycle, adding physical effects

Hierarchical graph convolution propagates interactions efficiently

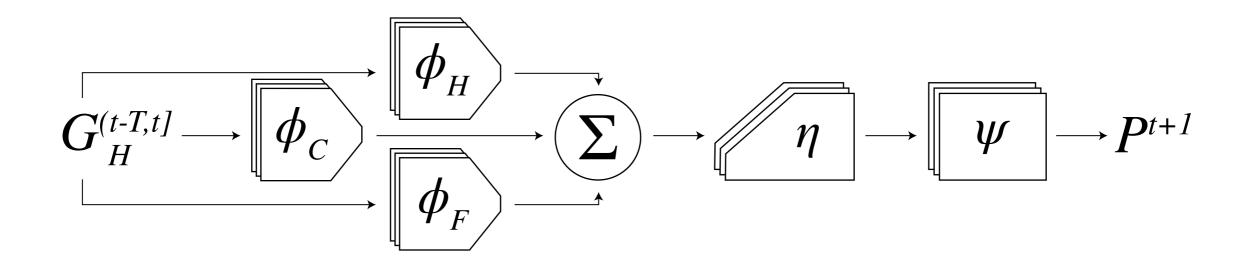
 $\eta$ 

Hierarchical Relational Network (HRN):



... generates momentum updates  $(\mathbf{P})$  from hierarchical graph state  $(\mathbf{G})$ .

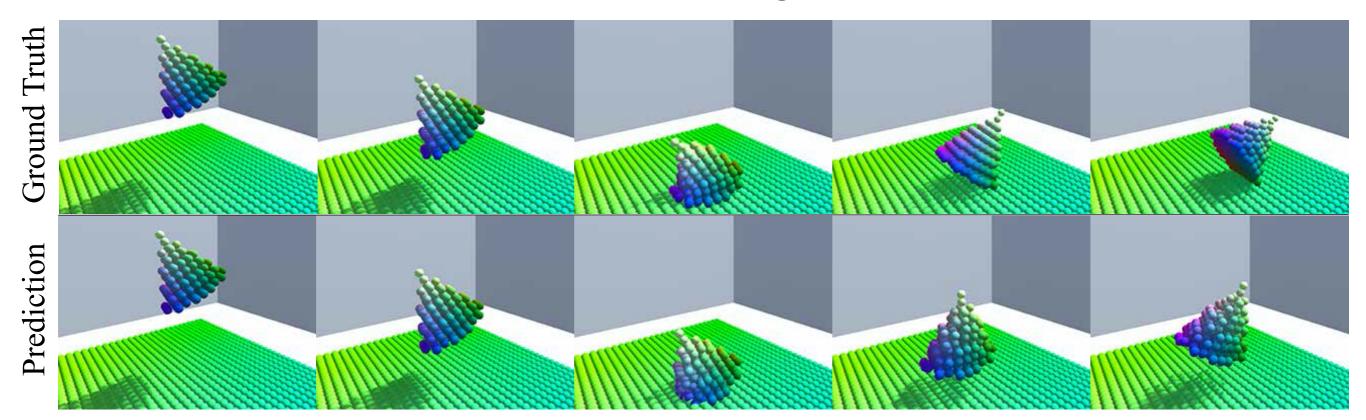
Hierarchical Relational Network (HRN):



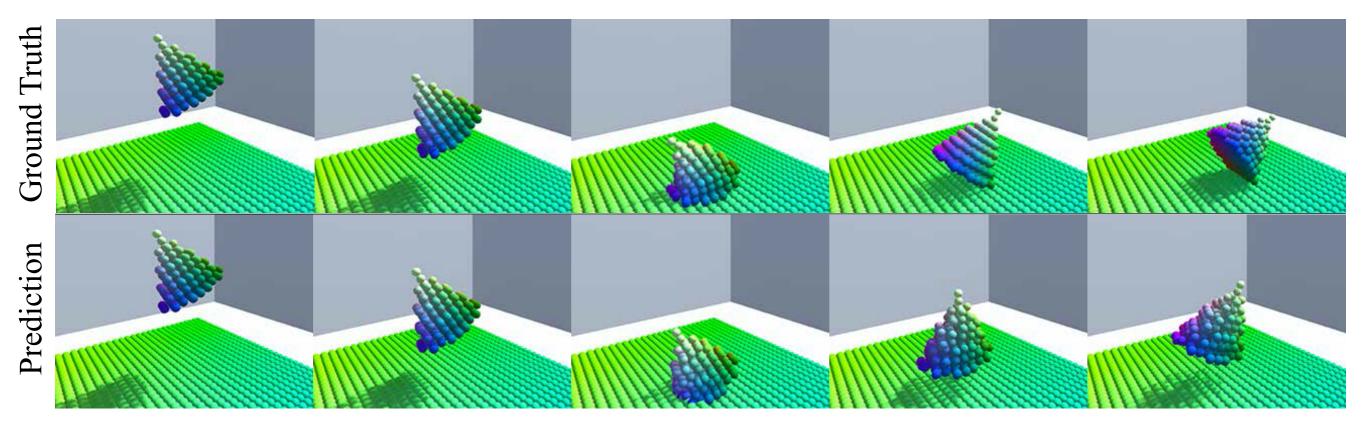
... generates momentum updates (P) from hierarchical graph state (G).

Network learns to interpret graph structure (including meaning of material-vector edge labels)...

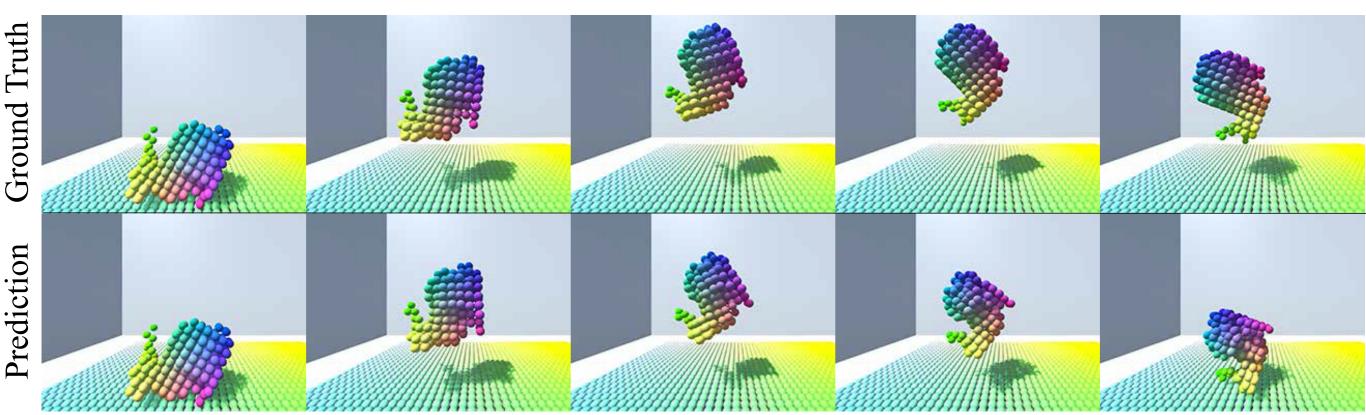
# Deformable cone bouncing off a flat floor



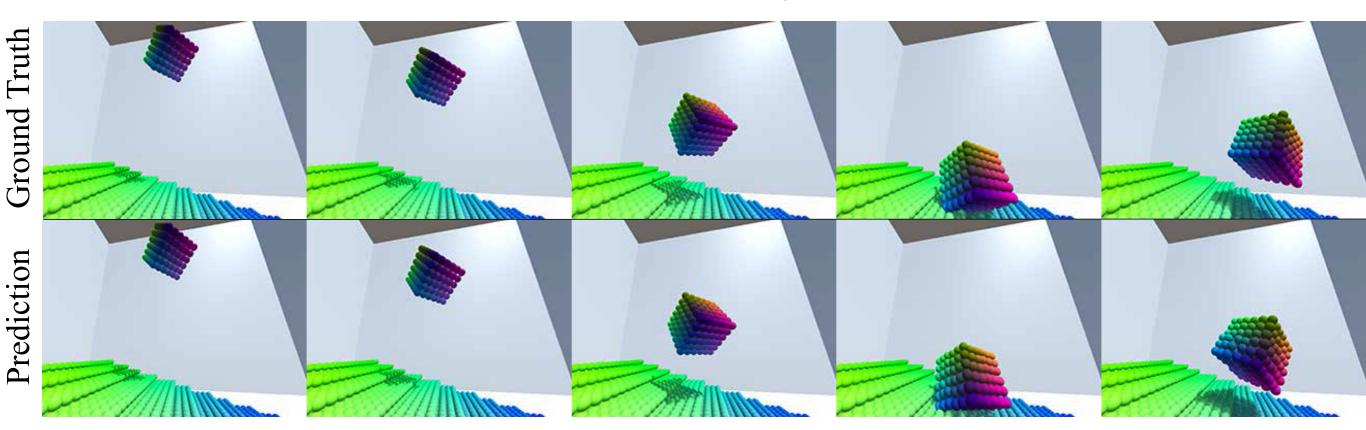
# Deformable cone bouncing off a flat floor



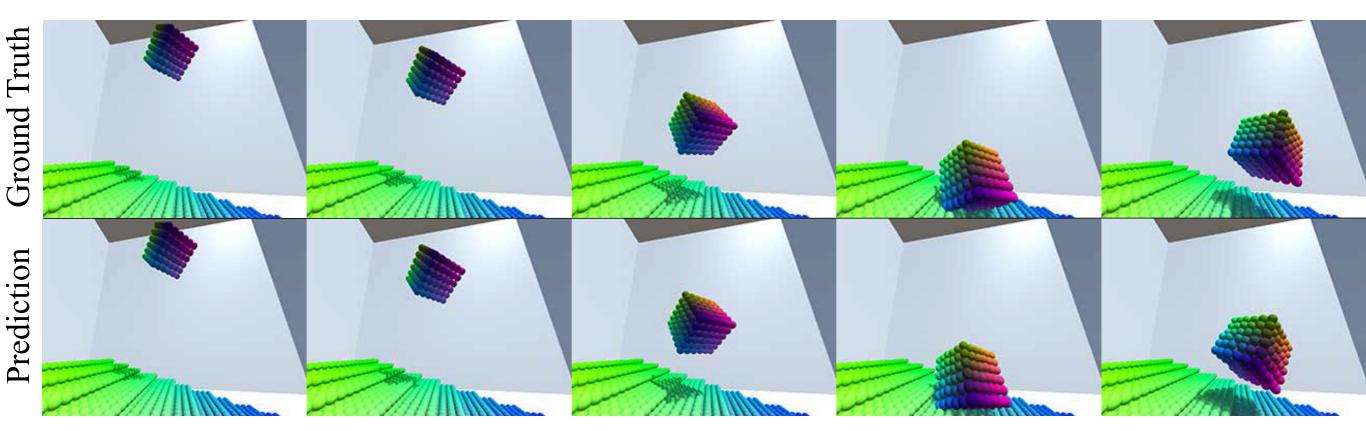
#### Stanford bunny



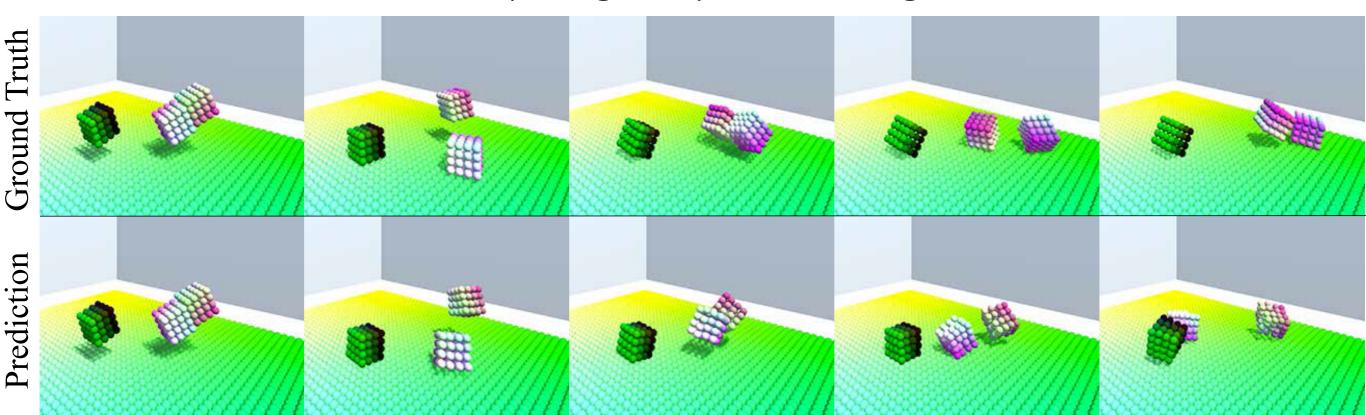
# Deformable box bouncing off an incline



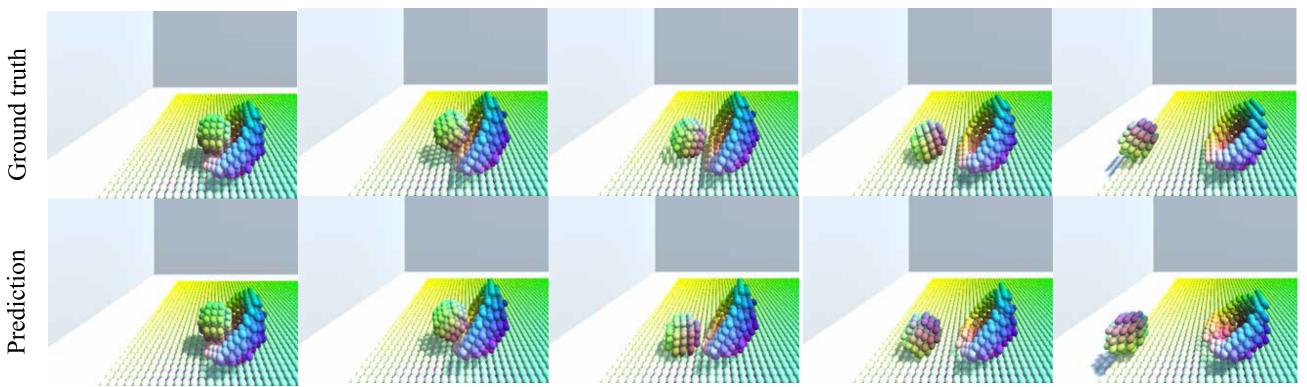
#### Deformable box bouncing off an incline



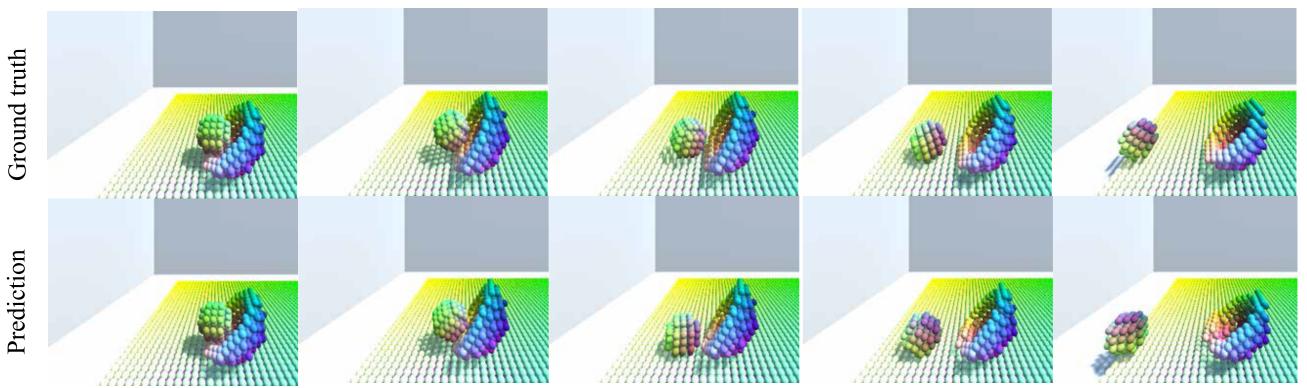
#### Multiple rigid objects colliding



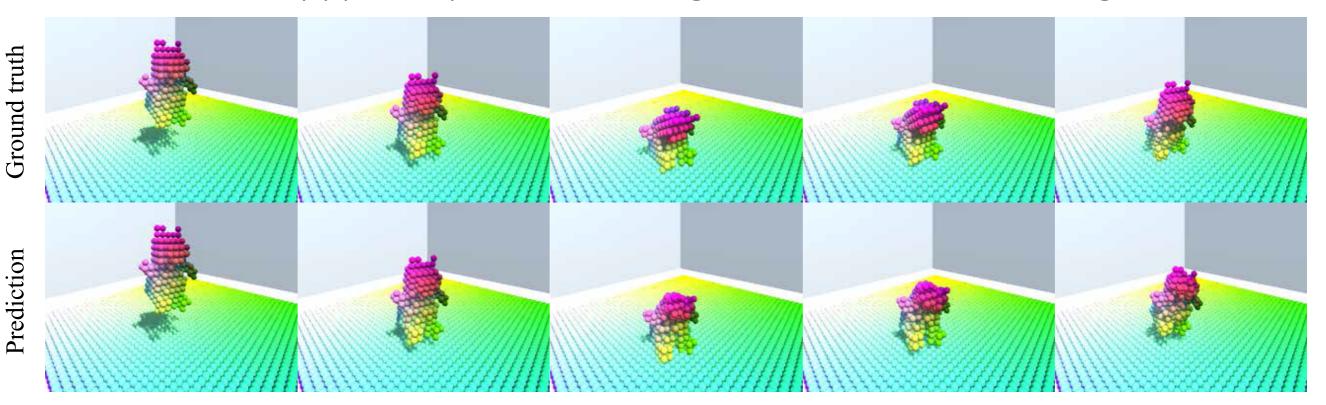
# rigid sphere rolling out of rigid bowl



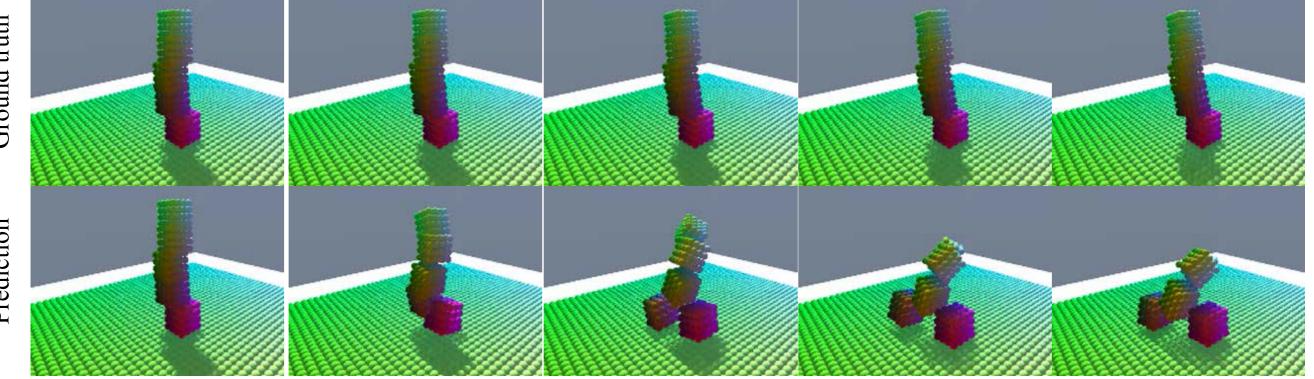
# rigid sphere rolling out of rigid bowl



#### floppy teddybear bouncing off floor and recovering

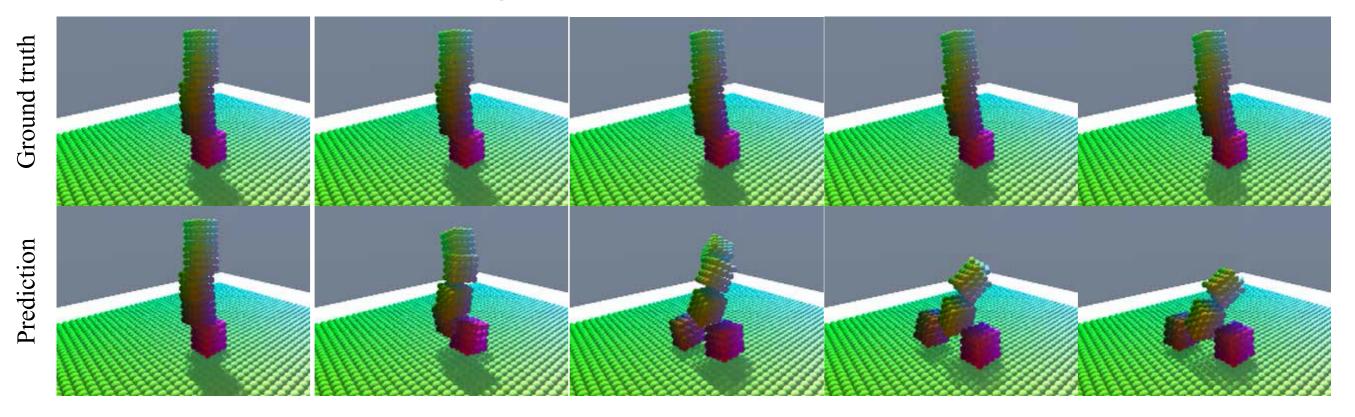


#### knocking over an unstable block tower

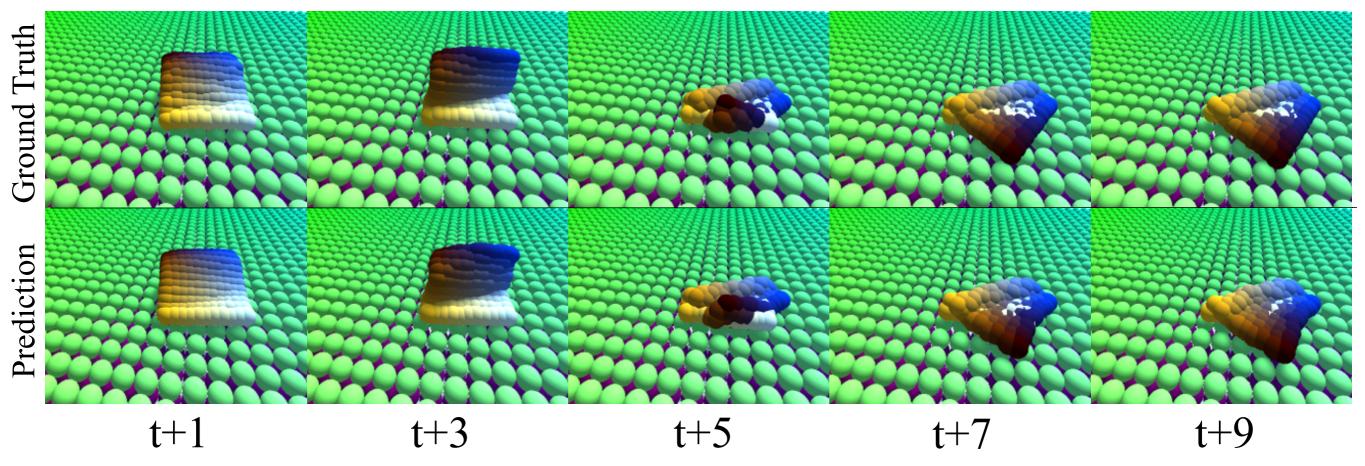


in GT the tower does fall, but prediction falls too fast ....

# knocking over an unstable block tower



#### Folding Cloth



#### knocking over an unstable block tower

Ground truth

Interactions between all material types are possible — as well as non-uniform materials since the edge-labelled graph structure can accommodate them.

t+5

t+7

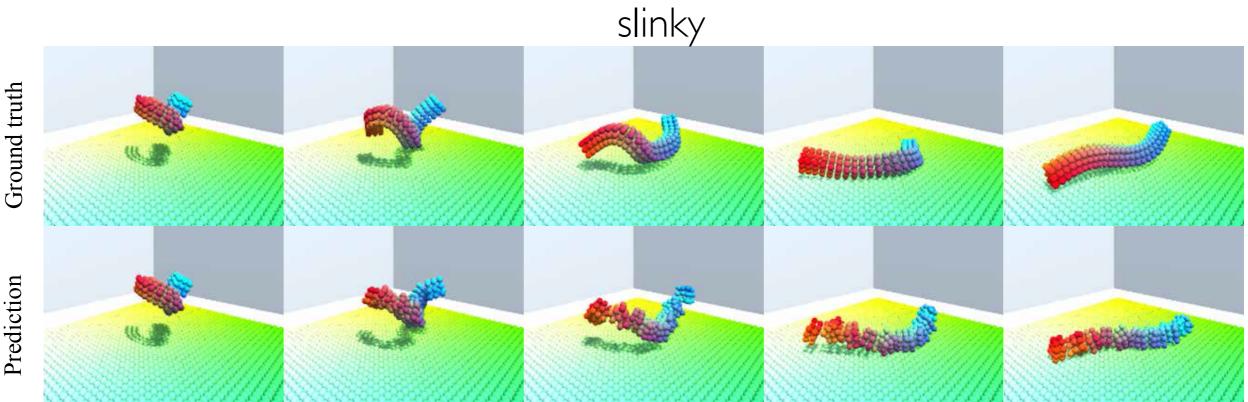
t+9

rediction Ground Truth

t+1

t+3

Prediction



shape is not preserved super well over long rollouts...

Pediction Provide Advancements of the second second

shape is not preserved super well over long rollouts...

Easy to impose simple shape conversation rules — in a "per material" way. (e.g. rigid different than cloth different than soft-body)

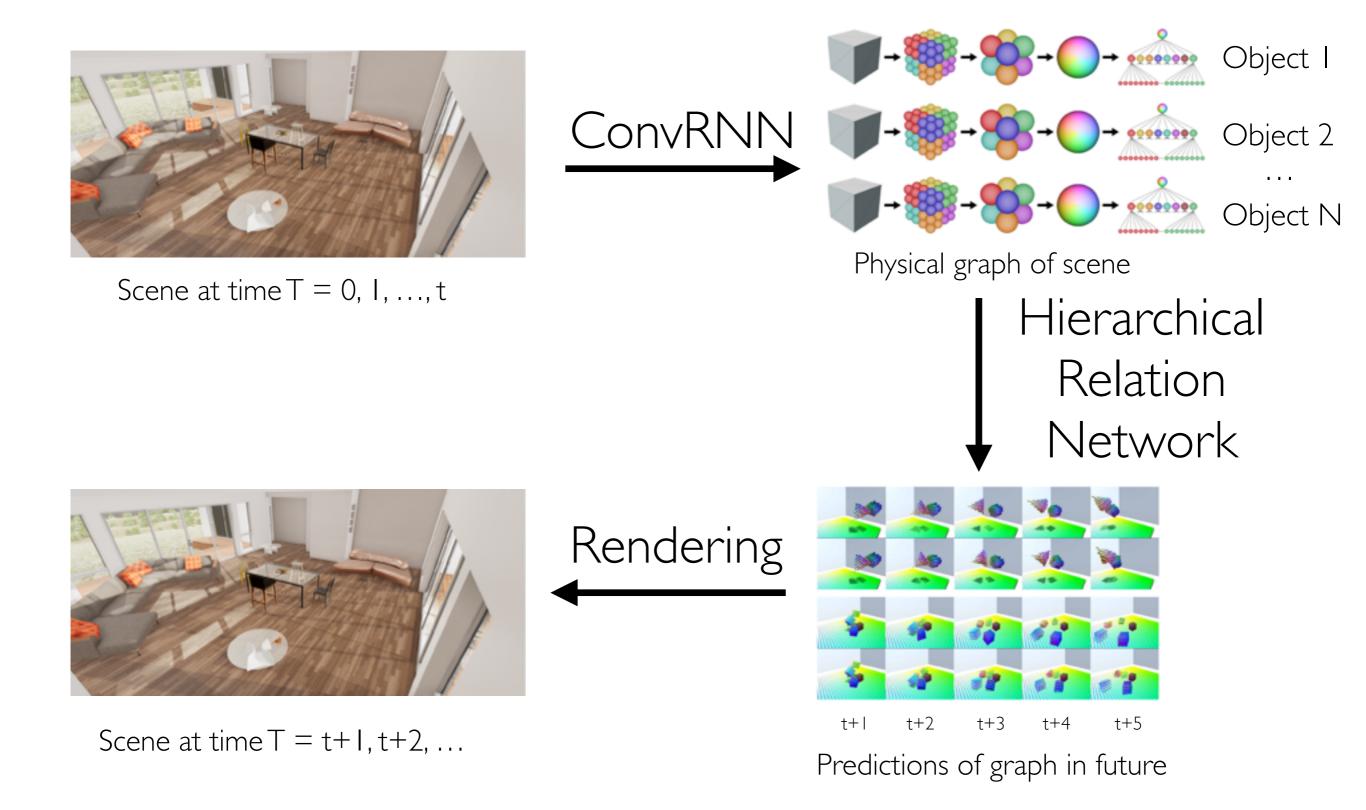
slinky Ground truth

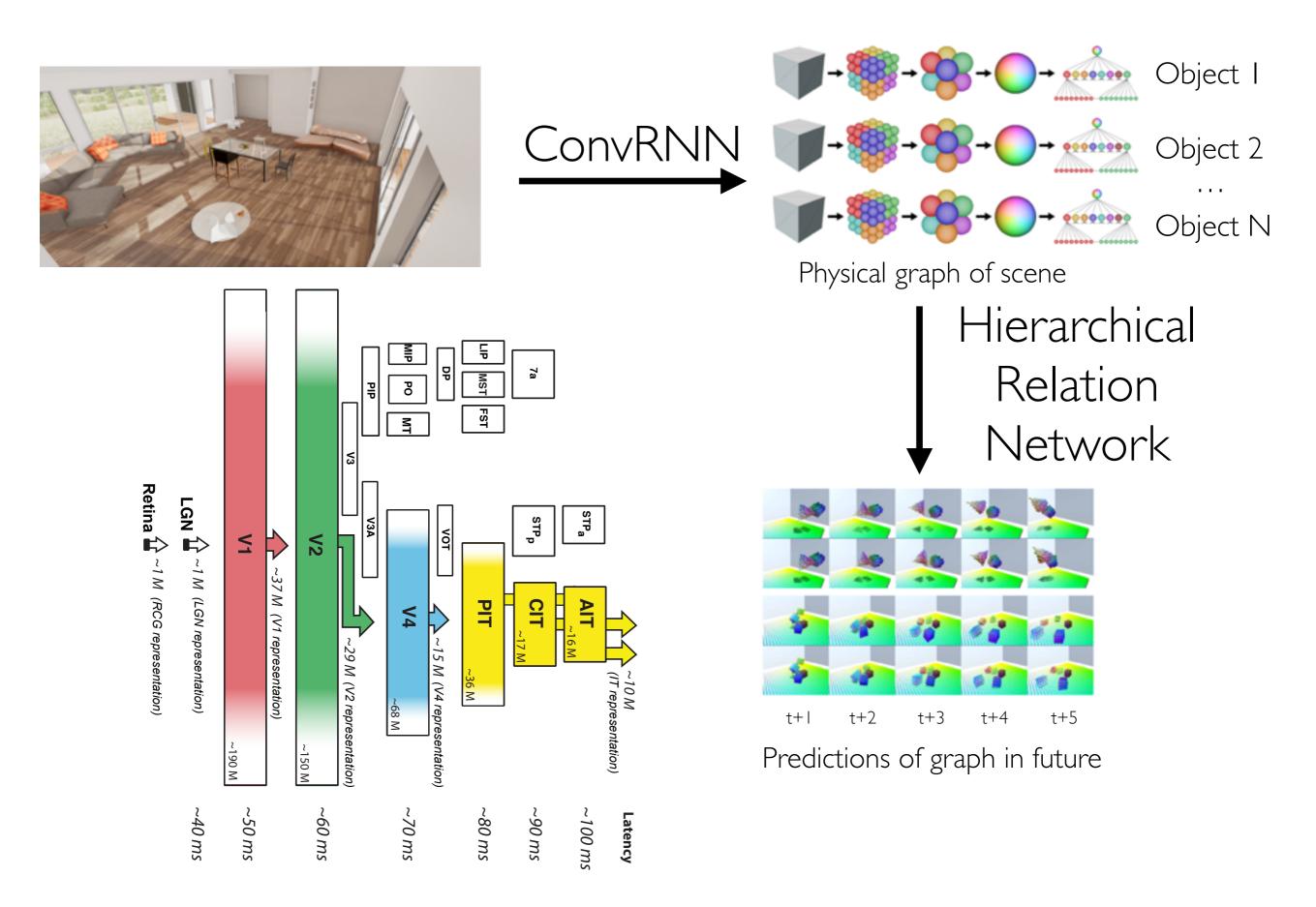
shape is not preserved super well over long rollouts...

Easy to impose simple shape conversation rules — in a "per material" way. (e.g. rigid different than cloth different than soft-body)

... less easy to understand how to do this in material-agnostic way.

Extracting the graph description from video.





# Human-centered feedback loop

