

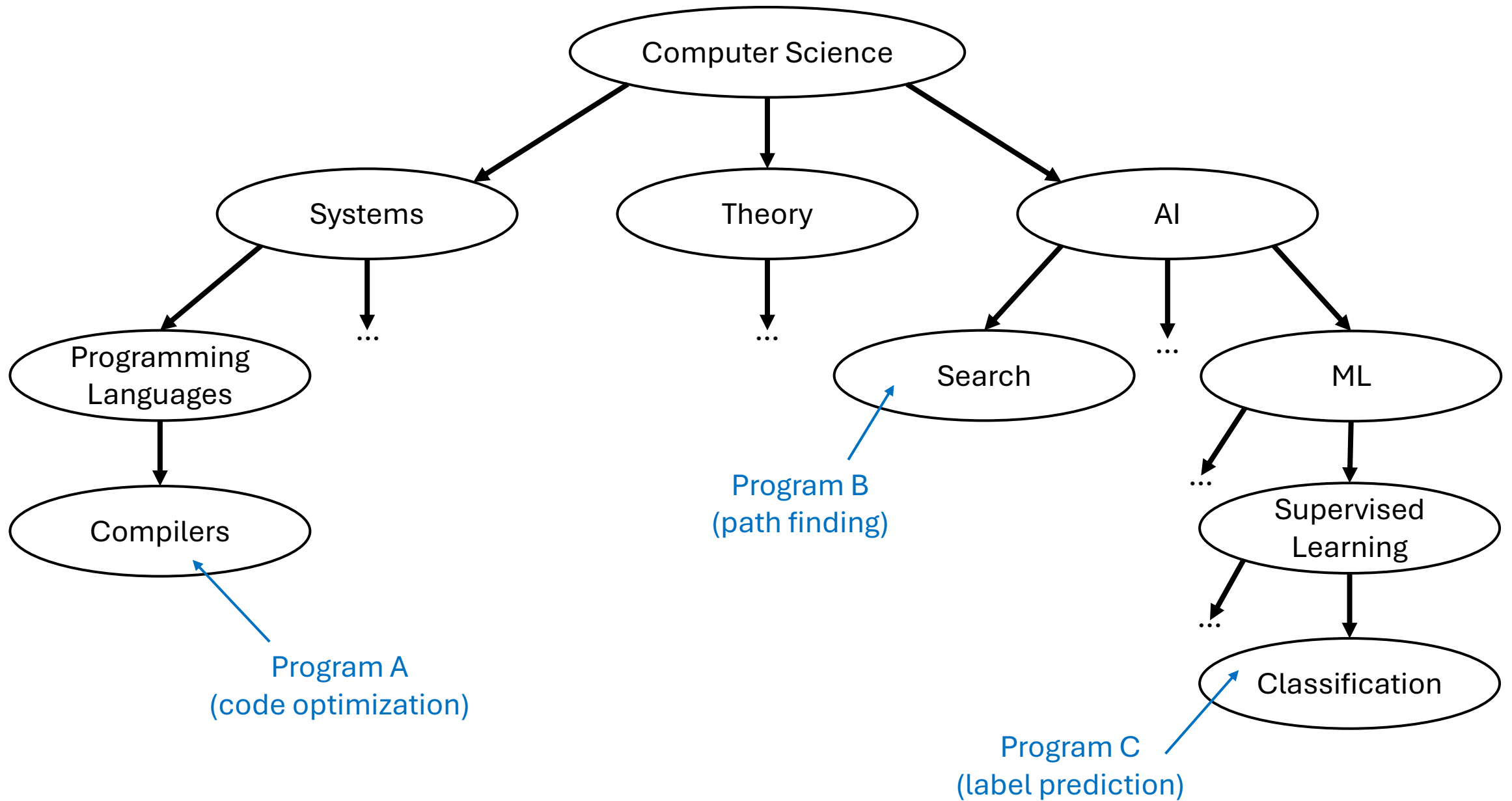


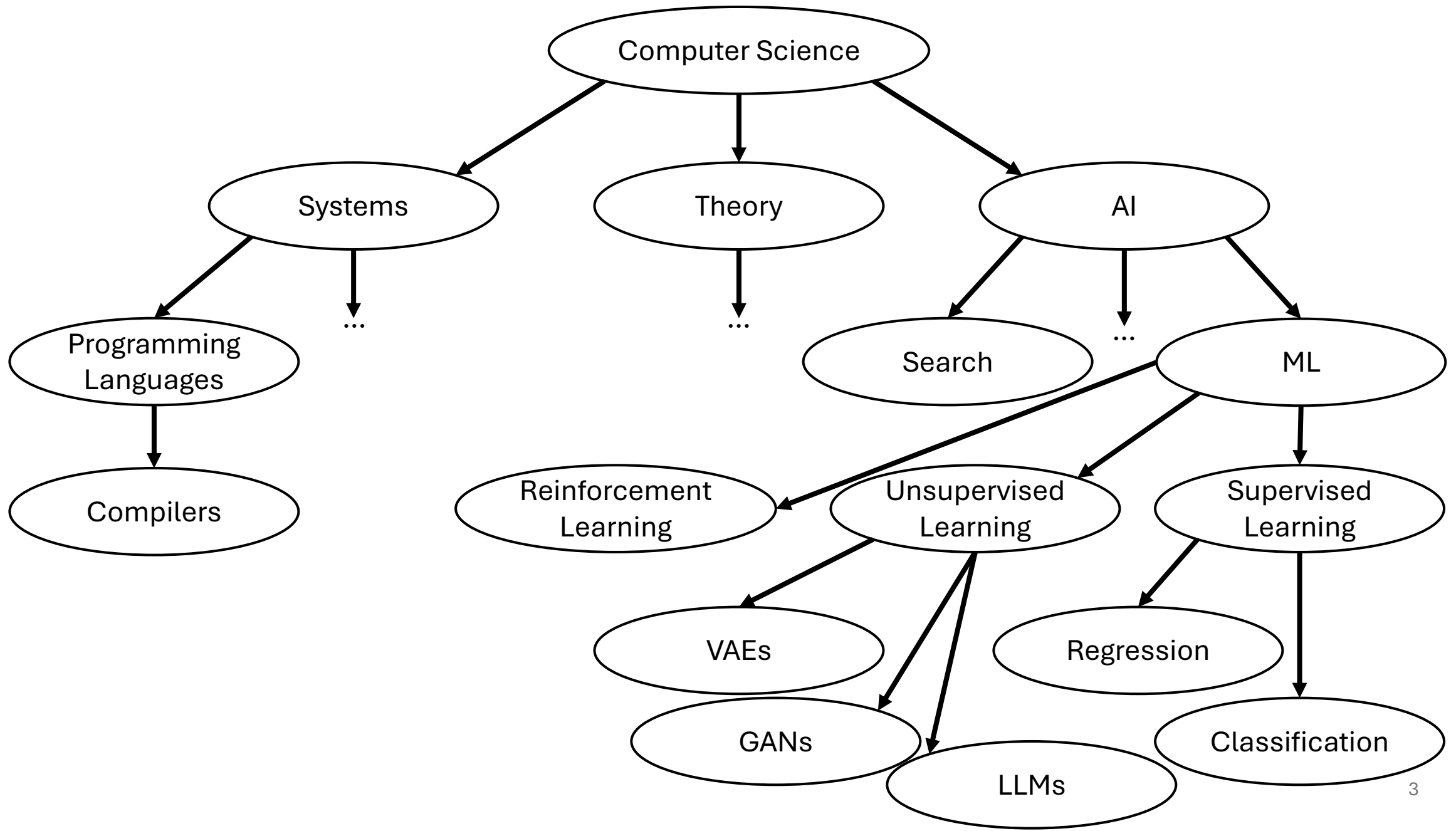
COMPSCI 389

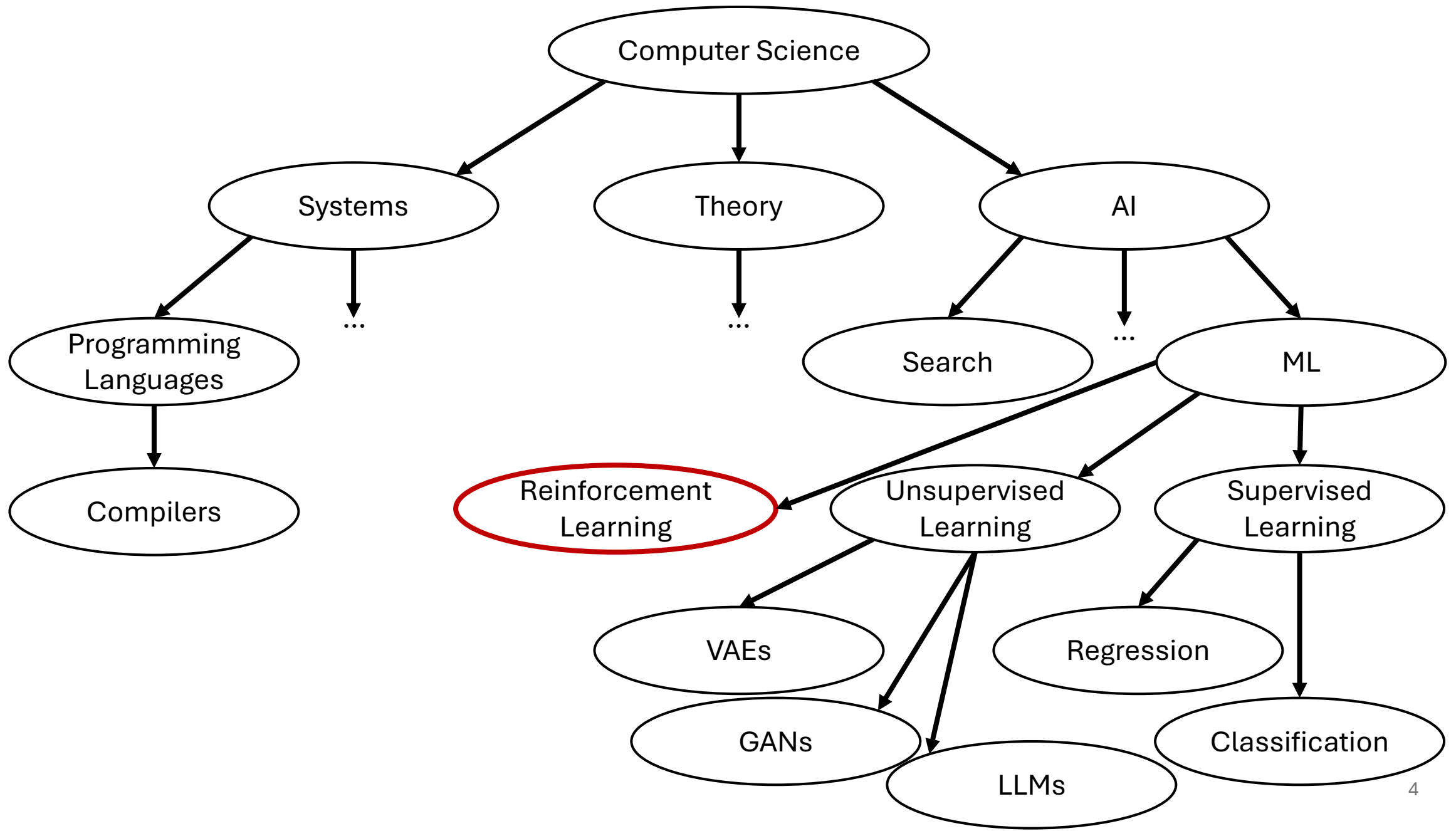
Introduction to Machine Learning

Reinforcement Learning

Prof. Philip S. Thomas (pthomas@cs.umass.edu)







Supervised and Unsupervised Learning

- Algorithm learns from a fixed data set
- Supervised: Data includes labels
- Unsupervised: Data does not include labels
- **Semi-Supervised Learning:** Some data includes labels
 - Use unlabeled data to learn a representation (e.g., features)
 - Use labeled data to train a model using the learned representation
 - Not discussed further in this class

Reinforcement Learning

- There is no fixed data set.
- The decisions (predictions) made by the agent change the data the agent receives!
- Modeled as an agent interacting with an environment

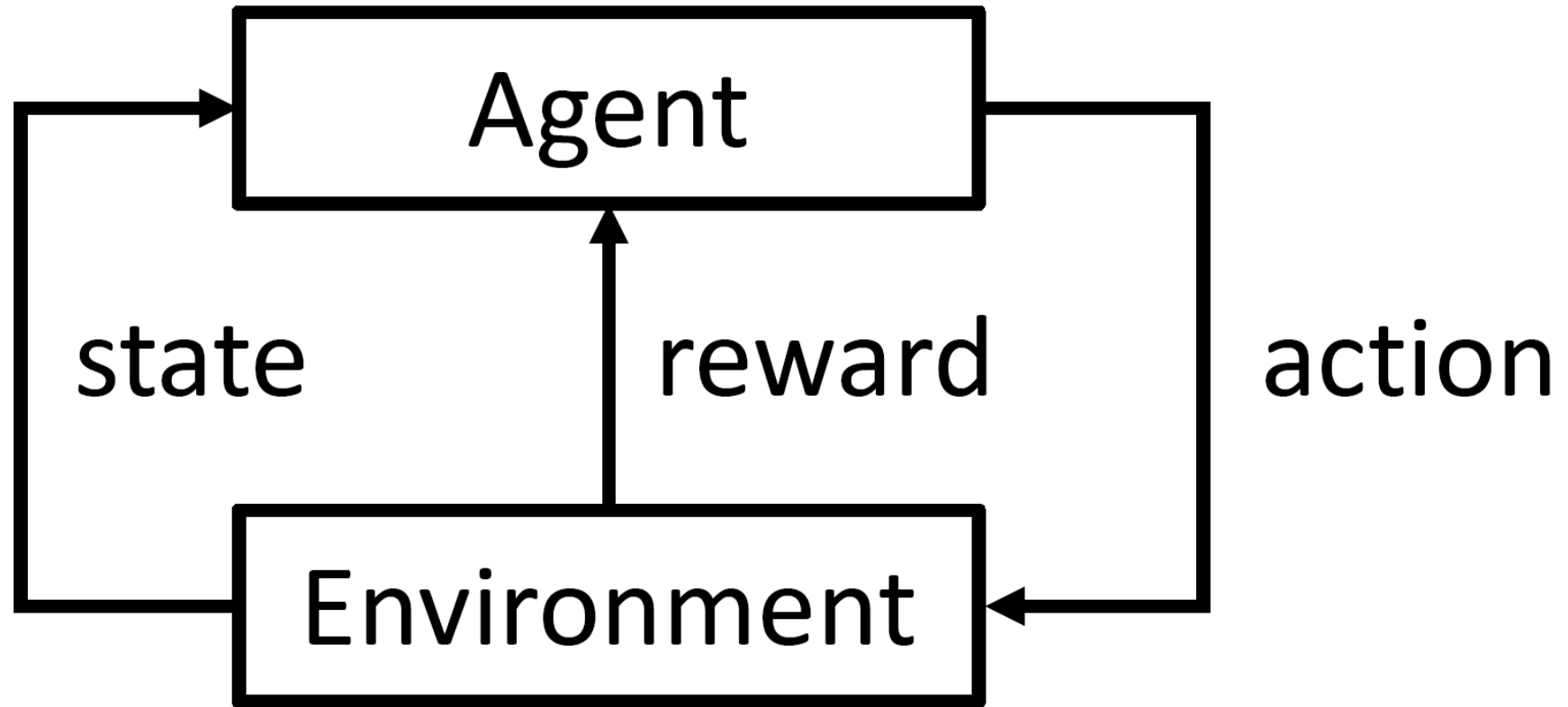
*Reinforcement learning is an area of machine learning, inspired by **behaviorist psychology**, concerned with how an agent can learn from interactions with an environment*

– Wikipedia / Sutton&Barto / Phil

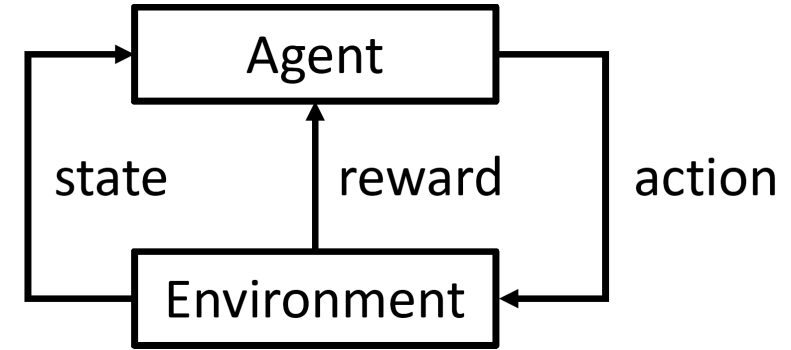


How rewards and punishments
shape our behavior.

Agent-Environment Diagram

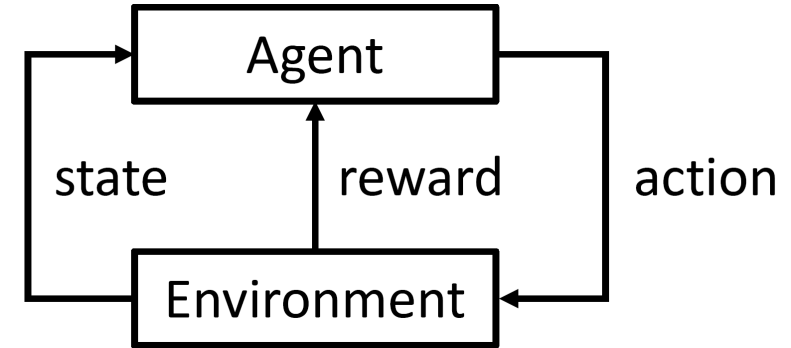


RL Problem Description



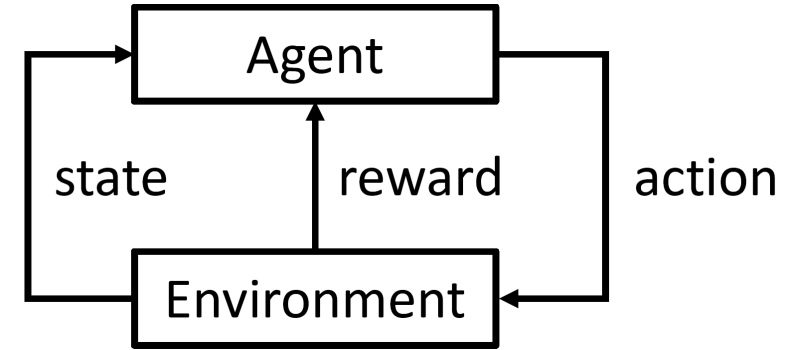
- The agent interacts with the environment over time $t \in \{0, 1, \dots\}$.
- At each time the agent observes the **state** of the environment
 - For now, we assume that it observes the full state of the environment.
 - This is called the **fully observable** setting.
 - In general, the agent might only make a partial (noisy) observation about the state of the environment through its sensors.
 - This is called the **partially observable** setting.
- Based on its observation of the state, the agent selects an **action**.
 - The “parametric model” in RL is the mechanism in the agent that takes a state as input and produces an action as output.
 - This mechanism is called a **policy**.
 - Worse, in RL, **model** means something completely different! (A *model* of the environment)
 - It can be deterministic (always producing the same action given a state) or stochastic (producing a distribution over actions given the state).

RL Problem Description



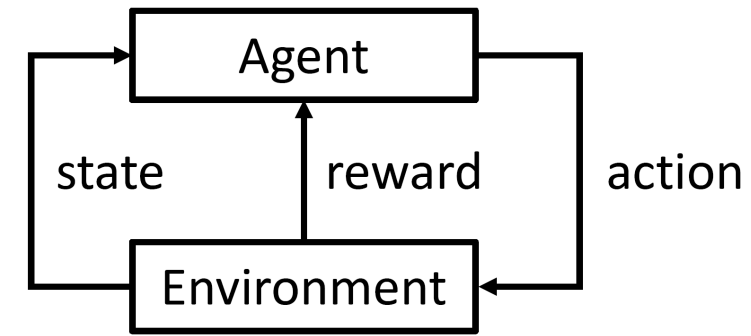
- The agent interacts with the environment over time $t \in \{0, 1, \dots\}$.
- At each time the agent observes the **state** of the environment
- Based on its observation of the state, the agent selects an **action**.
 - The **policy** is the mechanism that determines the action given the state.
- The action causes the state of the environment to change.
 - This is called a **state transition**.
- When the state transitions, the environment also emits a scalar **reward**.
 - Intuitively, this reward indicates how “good” the current state is in the short term.
 - Sometimes it is called the **immediate reward** to emphasize the short-term nature of its evaluation.
- The sequence of agent-environment interactions can end, and the process restarts.
 - Each sequence of agent-environment interactions starting from time 0 is called an **episode**
 - This is the **episodic setting**. If the sequence of interactions never ends, it is called the **continuing setting**.
- The agent’s goal is to find a policy that maximizes the total amount of reward that it receives.
 - The **return** is the sum of rewards that the agent receives during one episode.
 - The same policy can produce different returns during different episodes due to stochasticity in the state transitions, rewards, and policy.
 - The agent’s goal is to maximize the **expected return**.

RL Problem Description



- The agent interacts with the environment over time $t \in \{0, 1, \dots\}$.
- At each time the agent observes the **state** of the environment
- Based on its observation of the state, the agent selects an **action**.
 - The **policy** is the mechanism that determines the action given the state.
- The action causes a **state transition**.
- When the state transitions, the environment also emits a scalar **reward**.
- Each sequences of agent-environment interactions starting from time 0 is called an **episode**. Episodes can end (terminate).
- The **return** is the sum of rewards that the agent receives during one episode.
- The agent's goal is to maximize the **expected return**.

Key Properties of RL



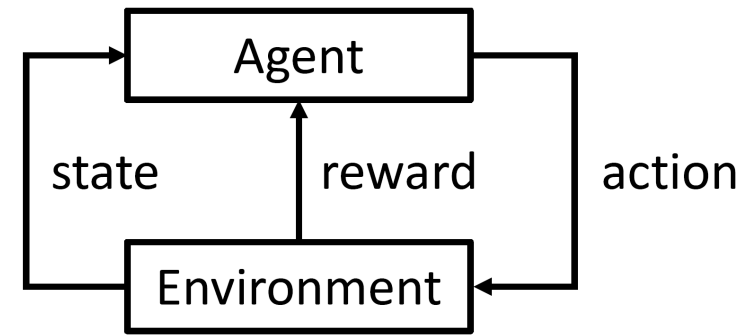
- **Evaluative feedback, not instructive feedback**

- **Instructive feedback** tells an agent what the correct decisions would have been
 - Labels in supervised learning provide instructive feedback.
- **Evaluative feedback** tells an agent how good its decisions were
 - Rewards in RL provide evaluative feedback.
 - Evaluative feedback can be noisy (random)
 - The range of possible feedback values may not be known.
 - Is a reward of +10 good or bad? The agent must interact with the environment to figure this out!

- **Sequential**

- The agent's goal is to maximize the expected return (expected sum of rewards).
- This can require it to forgo larger short-term rewards to obtain larger rewards in the future.

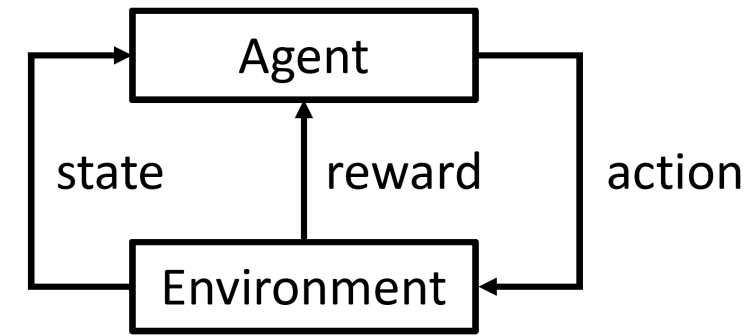
RL Examples



- **Agent:** Child
- **Environment:** World
- **Goal:** The child may learn to grasp an object or get a parent's attention
- **State:** The state of the world around the child (partially observed!)
- **Action:** Decision of how much to activate each muscle
- **Reward:** Positive when an object is picked up, negative when an object is dropped, positive when a parent responds, etc.

RL Examples

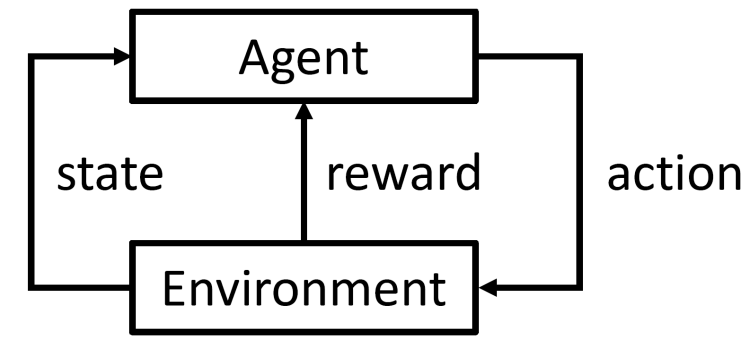
- **Agent:** Dog
- **Environment:** World
- **Goal:** Learn to fetch or catch





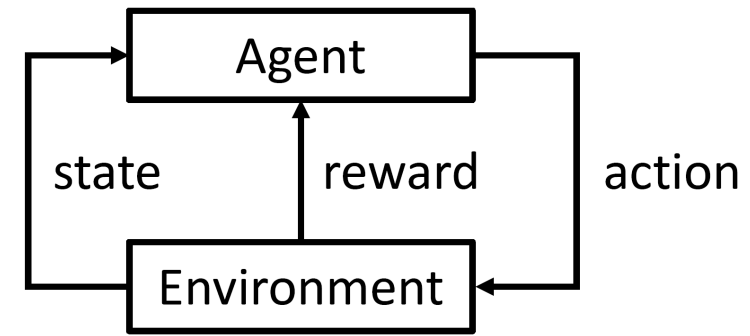
RL Examples

- **Agent:** Dog
- **Environment:** World
- **Goal:** Learn to fetch or catch
- **State:** The state of the world around the dog (partially observed!)
- **Action:** Decision of how much to activate each muscle
- **Reward:** Positive when food is obtained
- **Note:** Each catching attempt can be viewed as an **episode**.



RL Examples

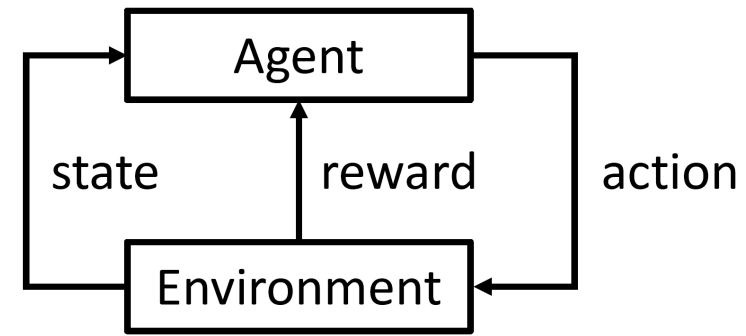
- **Agent:** Robot
- **Environment:** Lab
- **Goal:** Lift a heavy object





The learned policy exploits the container dynamics.

RL Examples



- **Agent:** Robot
- **Environment:** Lab
- **Goal:** Lift a heavy object
- **State:** State of the robot. Observation: Sensor readings for joint angles and angular velocities.
- **Action:** How much power to give to each motor
- **Reward:** Positive when the jug is successfully lifted above the robot's head
- **Note:** The above is a simplification. The policy search was done over target trajectories for the arm, using a low-level controller to achieve those positions.
- **Note:** Each lifting attempt is an **episode**.

Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES)



Elevator Scheduling



Loon Balloon



Targeted Advertisements

The screenshot displays the Adobe website's 'Products' page. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'http://www.adobe.com/products/cata' and the page title 'Adobe products'. The navigation menu includes 'Products', 'Business solutions', 'Support & Learning', 'Download', 'Company', and 'Buy'. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'Save 40% on all-new tools. Only in Creative Cloud.' and 'Introductory offer for CS customers.' with a 'Join now' button. To the right, a smaller advertisement promotes 'Photoshop CC plus Lightroom desktop and mobile for US\$9.99/mo.' with a 'Join now >' link. The page is viewed in a window with standard OS controls at the top and a scrollbar on the right.

Products Business solutions Support & Learning Download Company Buy Search

Privacy My cart Sign in to My Adobe

Products

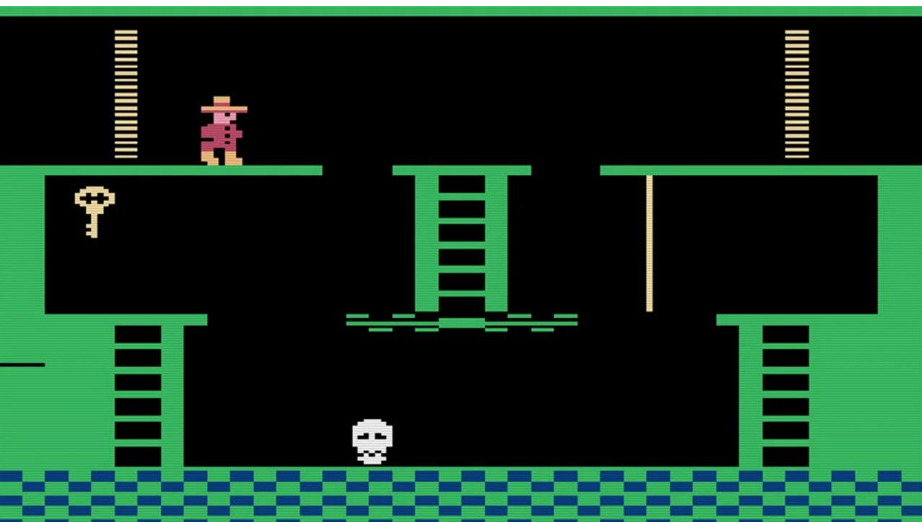
Overview Software Special offers

Save 40% on all-new tools.
Only in Creative Cloud.
Introductory offer for CS customers.

Join now

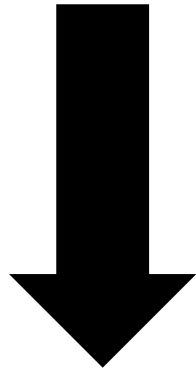
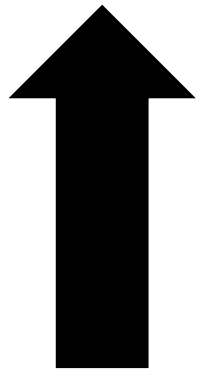
Ps Lr
Photoshop CC plus
Lightroom desktop and
mobile for US\$9.99/mo.
Join now >

Atari 2600

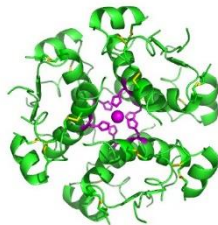


Example Applications: Diabetes Treatment

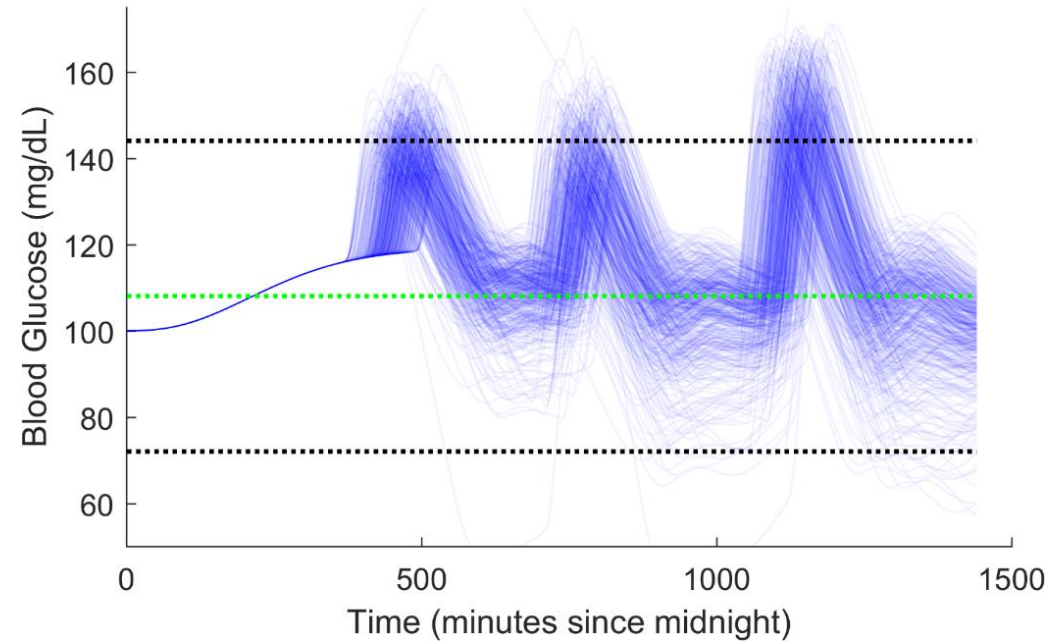
Blood Glucose
(sugar)



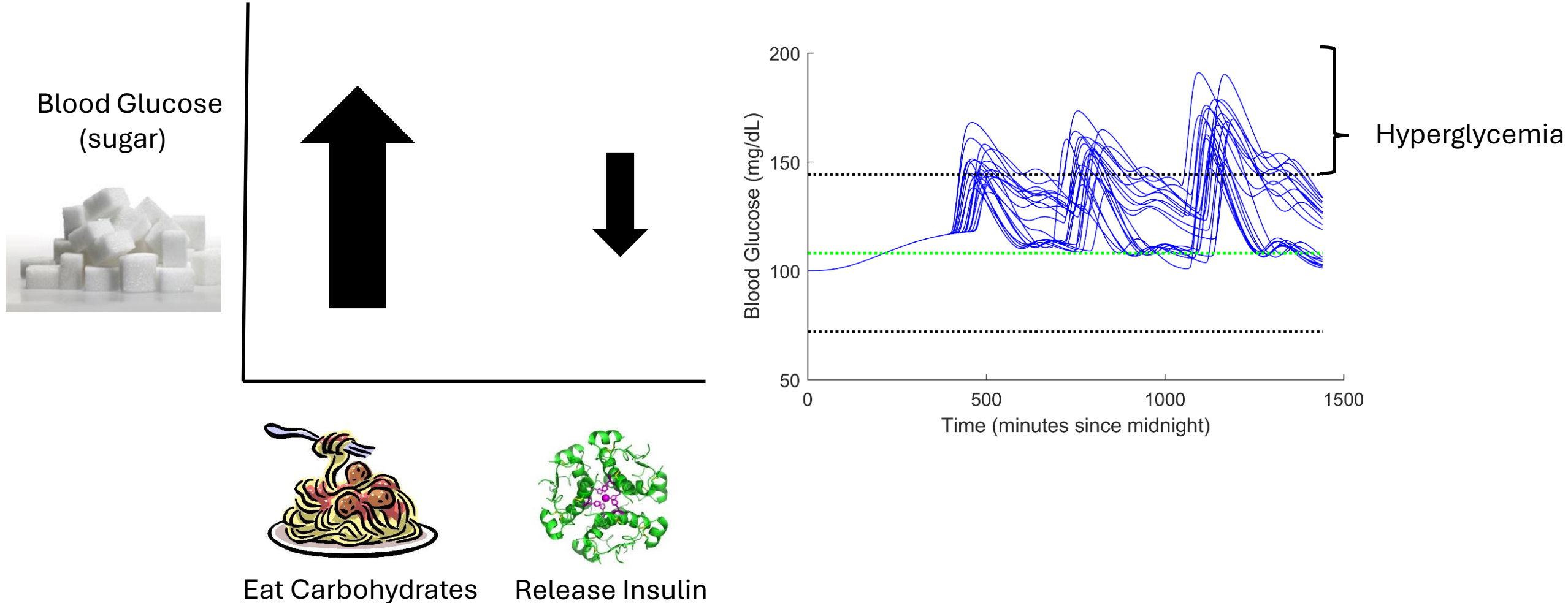
Eat Carbohydrates



Release Insulin



Type 1 Diabetes Treatment



Example Applications: Diabetes Treatment

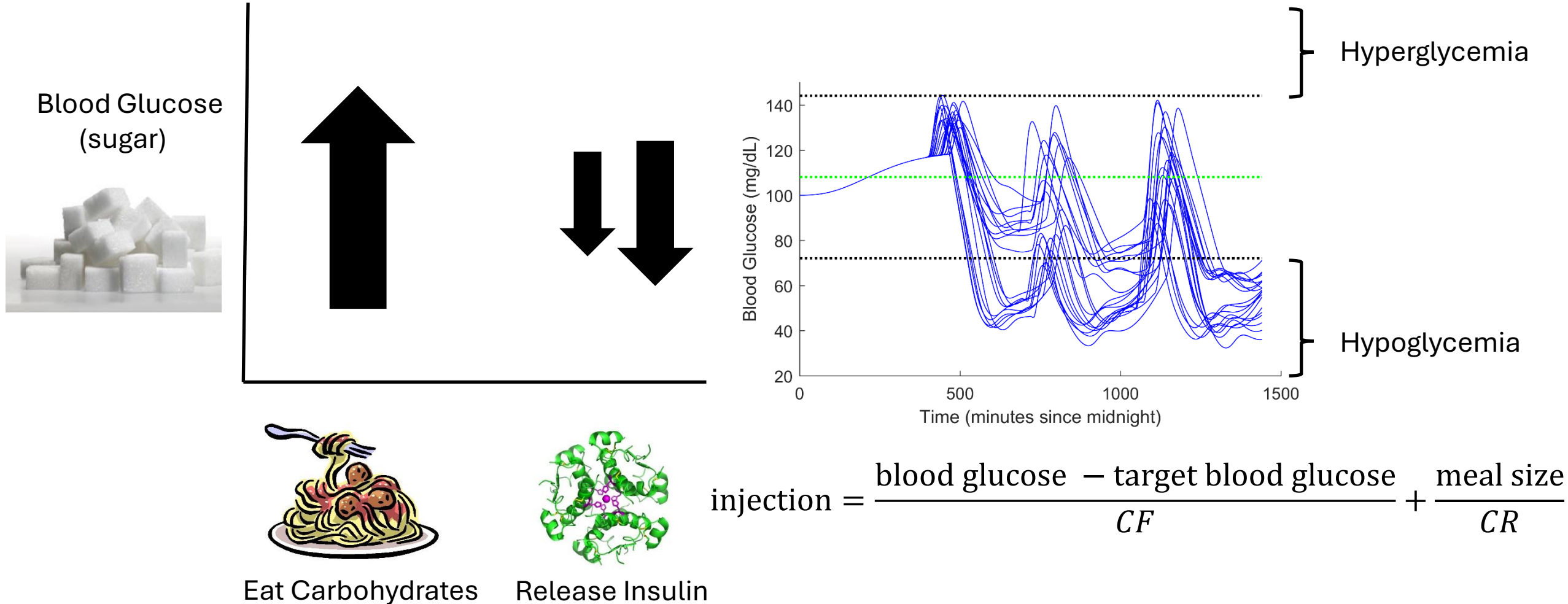
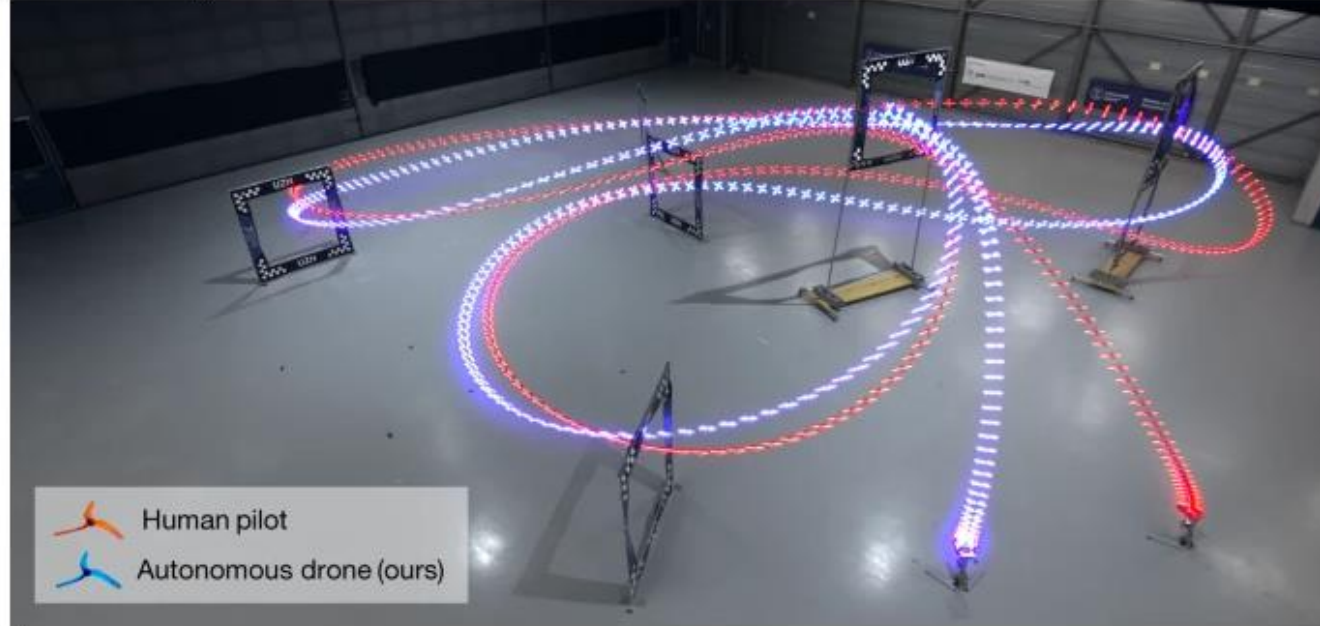


Fig. 1: Drone racing.

a Drone racing: human versus autonomous



b Head-to-head competition



c Human champions



a, Swift (blue) races head-to-head against Alex Vanover, the 2019 Drone Racing League world champion (red). The track comprises seven square gates that must be passed in order in each lap. To

Sepsis Treatment

Sepsis FACTS

Sepsis arises when the body's response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs. It may lead to shock, multi-organ failure, and death - especially if not recognized early and treated promptly. Sepsis is the final common pathway to death from most infectious diseases worldwide, including viruses such as SARS-CoV-2.

**47 - 50
million**
cases
per year¹

At least
**11
million**
deaths per year²

1 in 5 deaths
worldwide is
associated
with **sepsis**³

Sepsis is the number

1

- Cause of death in hospitals⁴
- Cause for hospital readmissions⁵
- Healthcare cost⁶
(e.g. \$62 billion is spent on sepsis healthcare costs in the US alone)

Up to **50%**
of sepsis survivors
suffer from long-term
physical and/or
psychological effects⁷

40%
of cases
are
children
under 5⁸

80%
of sepsis cases
occur
outside
of a hospital⁹

SEPSIS
is always caused by an
infection
like pneumonia or
diarrheal illness¹⁰

SEPSIS is a medical
emergency - if you or someone
you know shows signs of sepsis,
seek medical care immediately.
Every hour counts.¹¹

These signs may indicate sepsis:



Slurred Speech
or Confusion



Extreme Shivering
or Muscle Pain
/Fever



Passing No
Urine
All Day



Severe
Breathlessness



It Feels Like
You're Going
to Die



Skin Mottled
or Discolored

September 13

You can help
#StopSepsis
and
#SaveLives
Get involved at
worldsepsisday.org



References

1. 2. 3. 8. 10. Rudd et al.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(19\)32989-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(19)32989-7).
4. Rhee et al.
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2724768>
5. Torio et al.
<https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb204-Most-Expensive-Hospital-Conditions.pdf>
6. Buchman et al.
https://journals.lww.com/ccmjournal/Fulltext/2020/03000/Sepsis_Among_Medicare_Beneficiaries_3_The_4.aspx
7. Prescott et al.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5839473/>
9. Rhee et al.
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2654107>
11. Seymour et al.
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/10.1056/NEJMoa1703058>

Warehouse Robotics

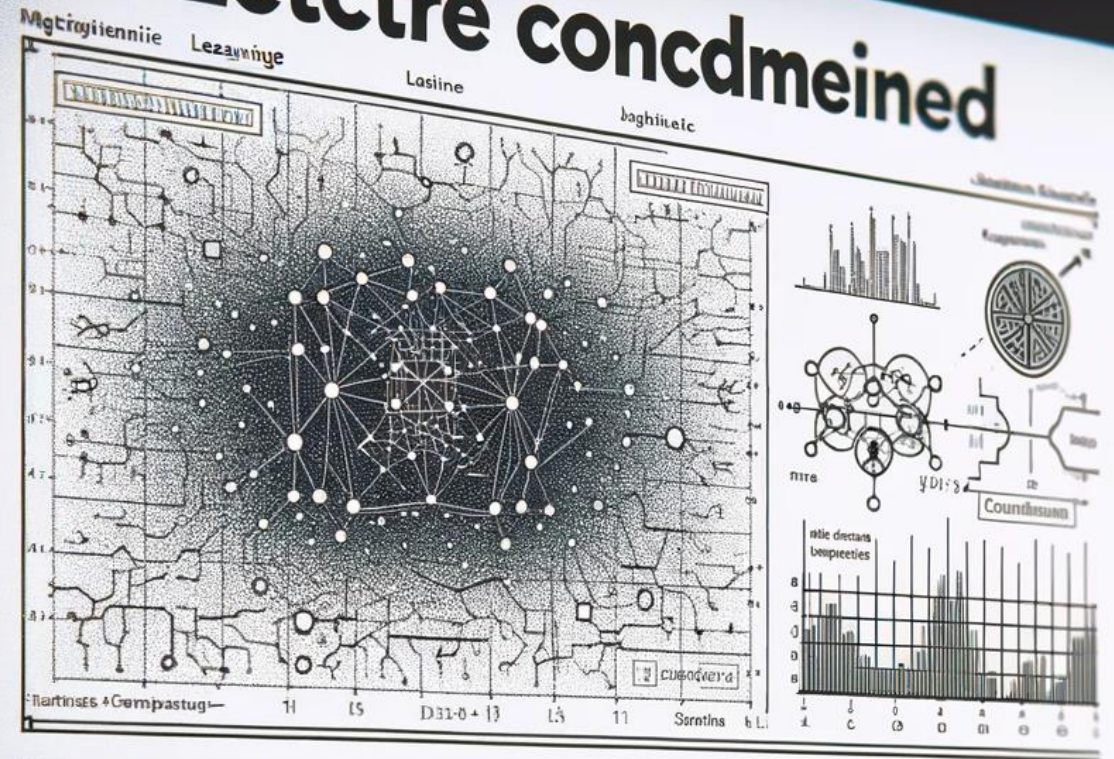


Note

- Despite the many *proposed* and *simulated* examples of important RL problems, there are extremely few examples of RL agents actually learning and interacting with real environments in useful ways.
 - There are examples of RL agents learning in simulation, and the learned policies being useful (e.g., Loon balloons).
- In recent years RL has been used for fine-tuning LLMs based on human feedback
 - E.g., Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback (RLHF)
- Why so few applications of RL?
 - RL is challenging to get working, as we will see!

End

Letctre concdmeined



Dgainmnic



Mbcime Learning

Thank you.

