



University of Essex



From learning to search to finding what others miss: Developing a theory of mind

Dimitri Ognibene

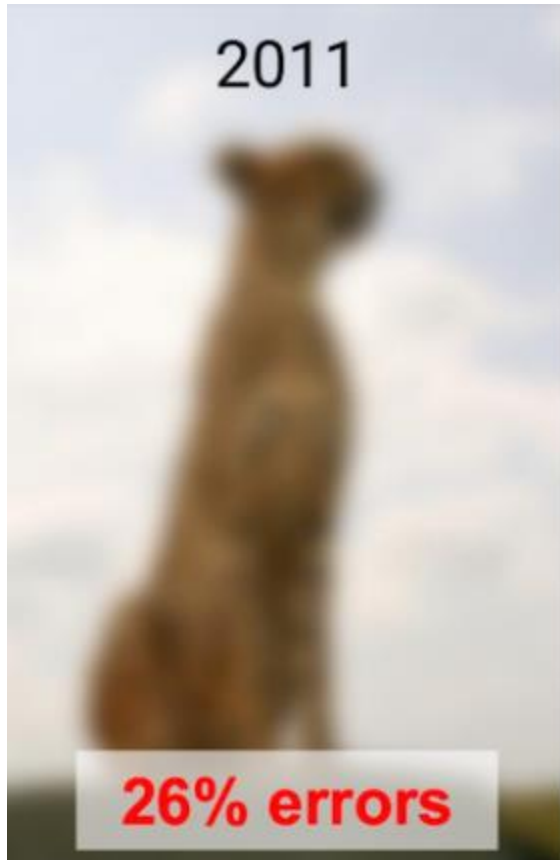
Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca



A Timeless Classic: Passive Vision

Why does this first-person clip seem unnatural?

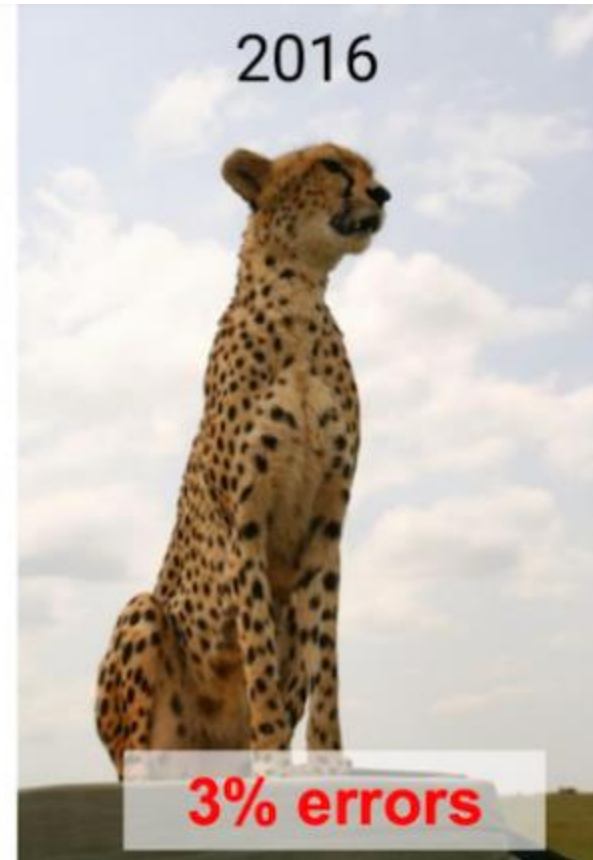
Computer Vision Success



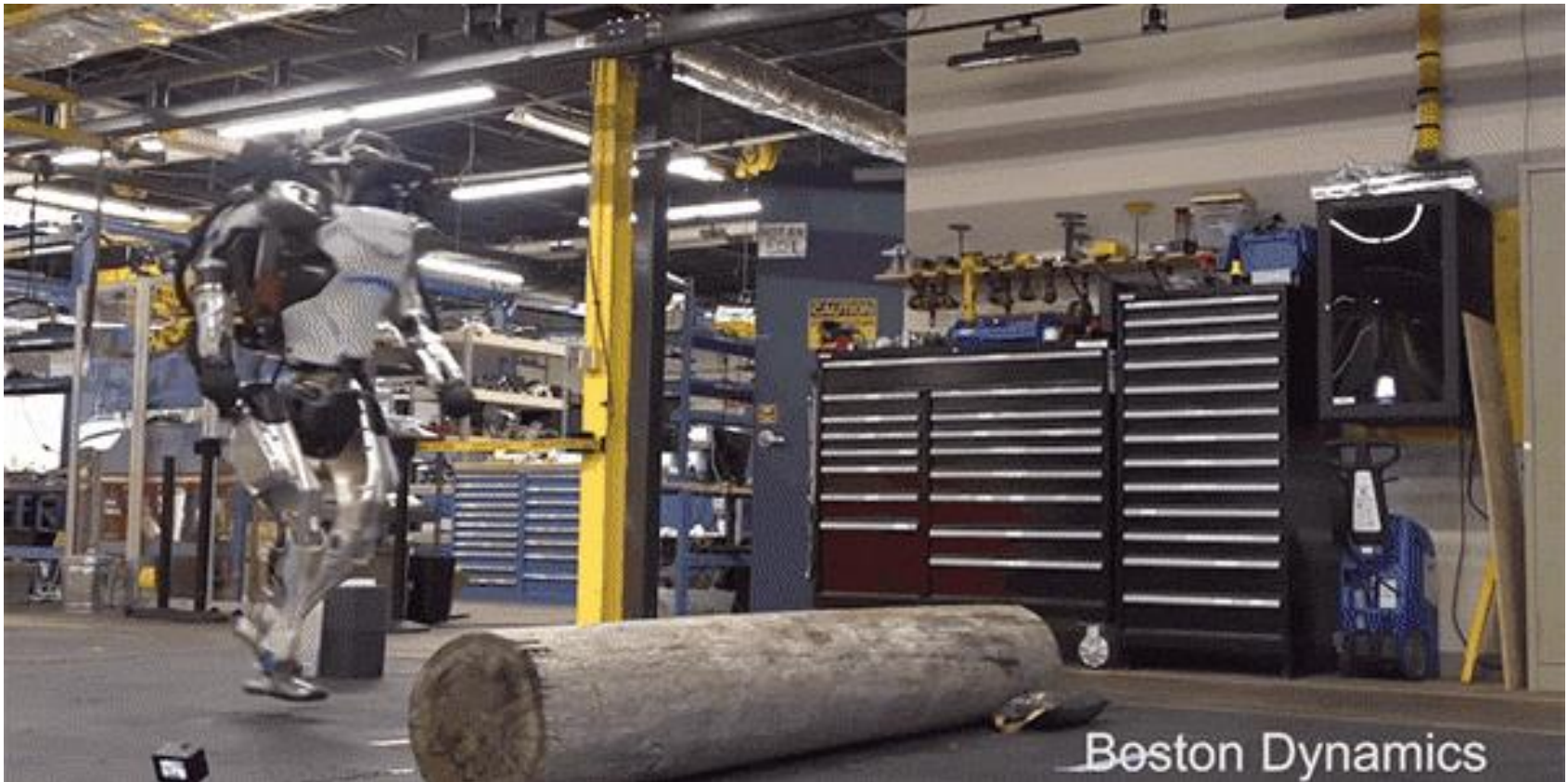
humans



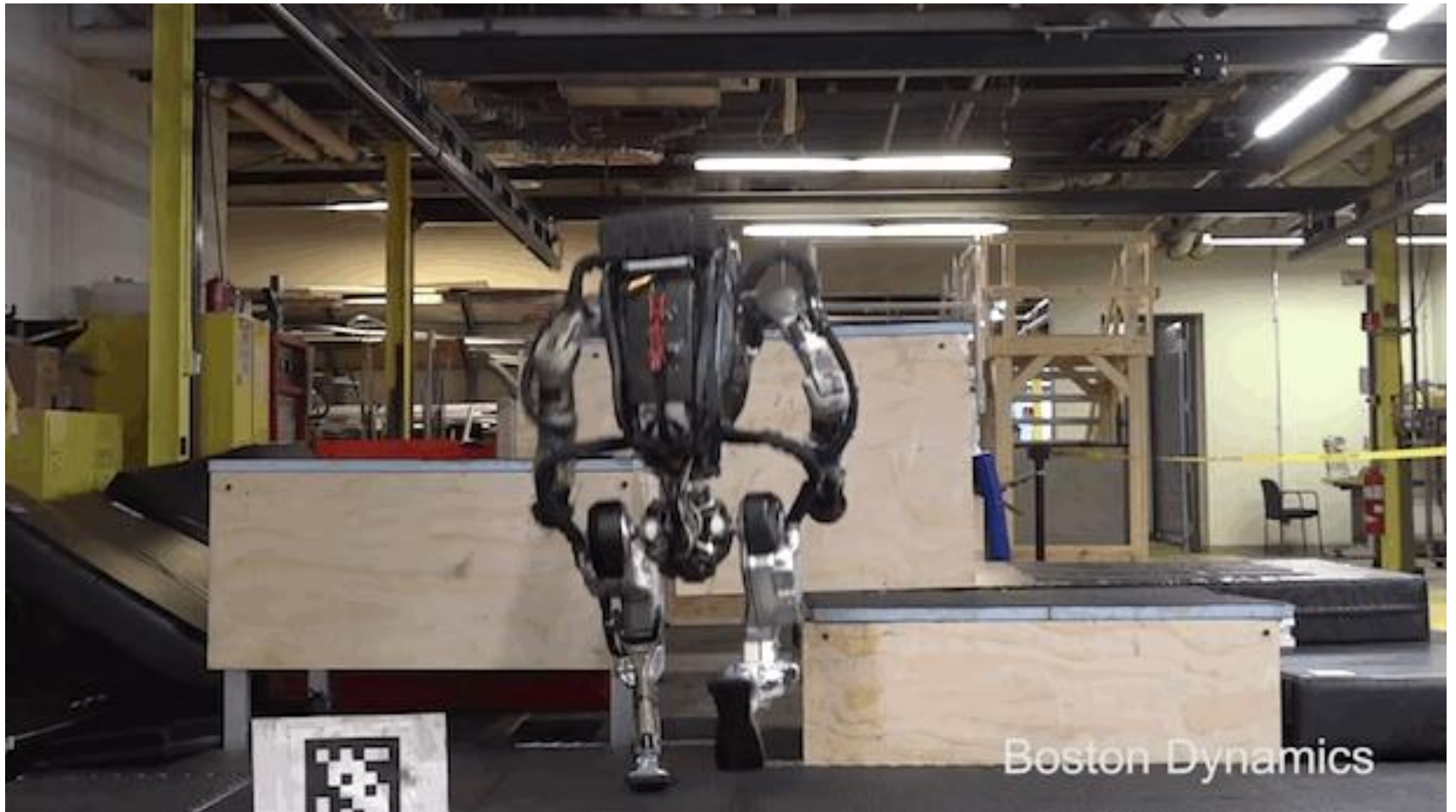
5% errors



Robotic Success



Robotic Success





why **Actively** control our **Perception?**

A relevant question for several fields





#HazardSpotting





Perceiving in these environments is very complex:

- **Unstructured**
 - **Changing**
- **Many different objects of different scales and shapes**
 - **Occlusions**
- **Other moving agents to perceive and coordinate with**

Currently only humans are able to cope with such level of perceptual complexity...

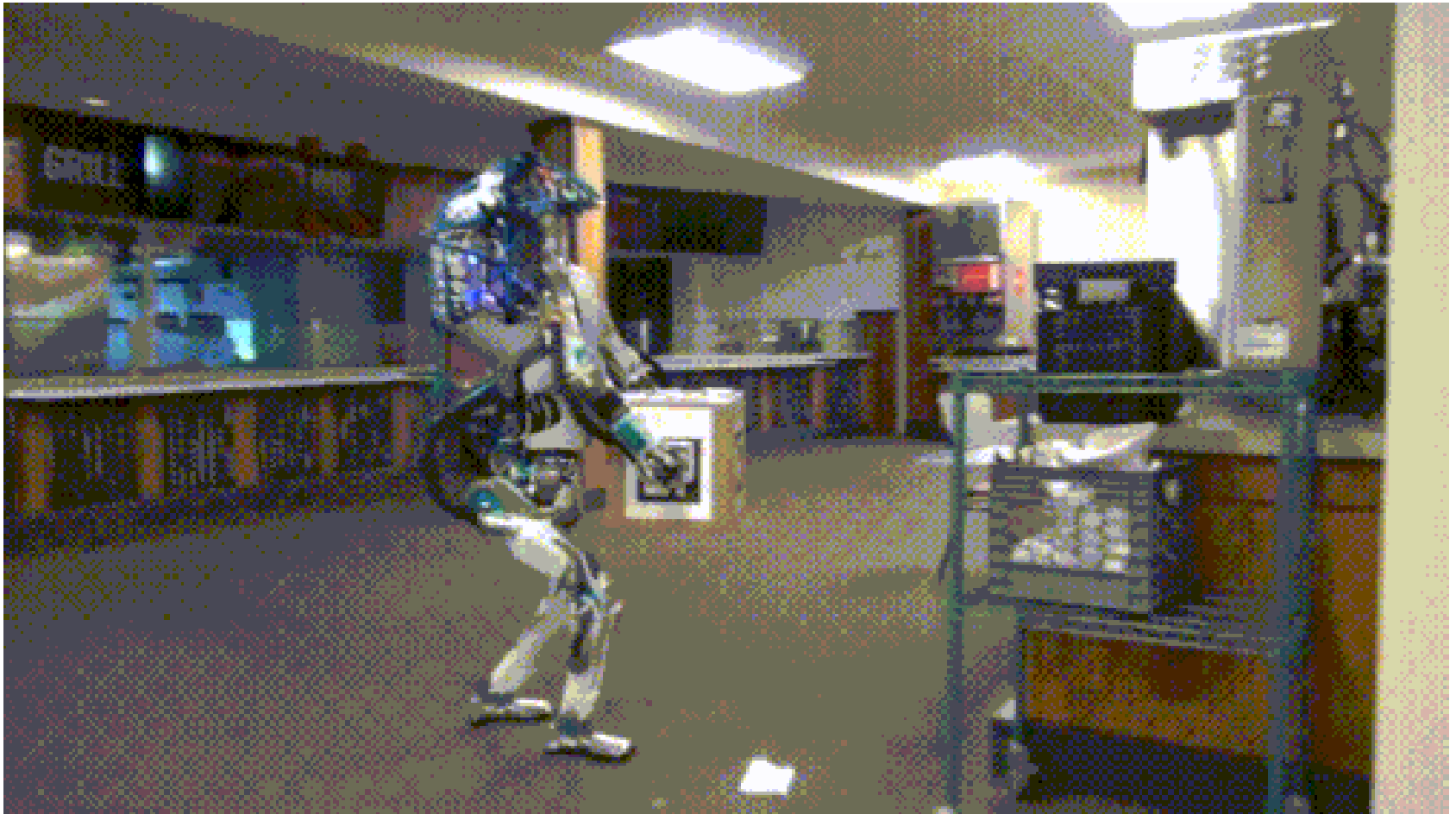
And humans perceive (pro-)actively...

Occlusions/Interference CV Failures



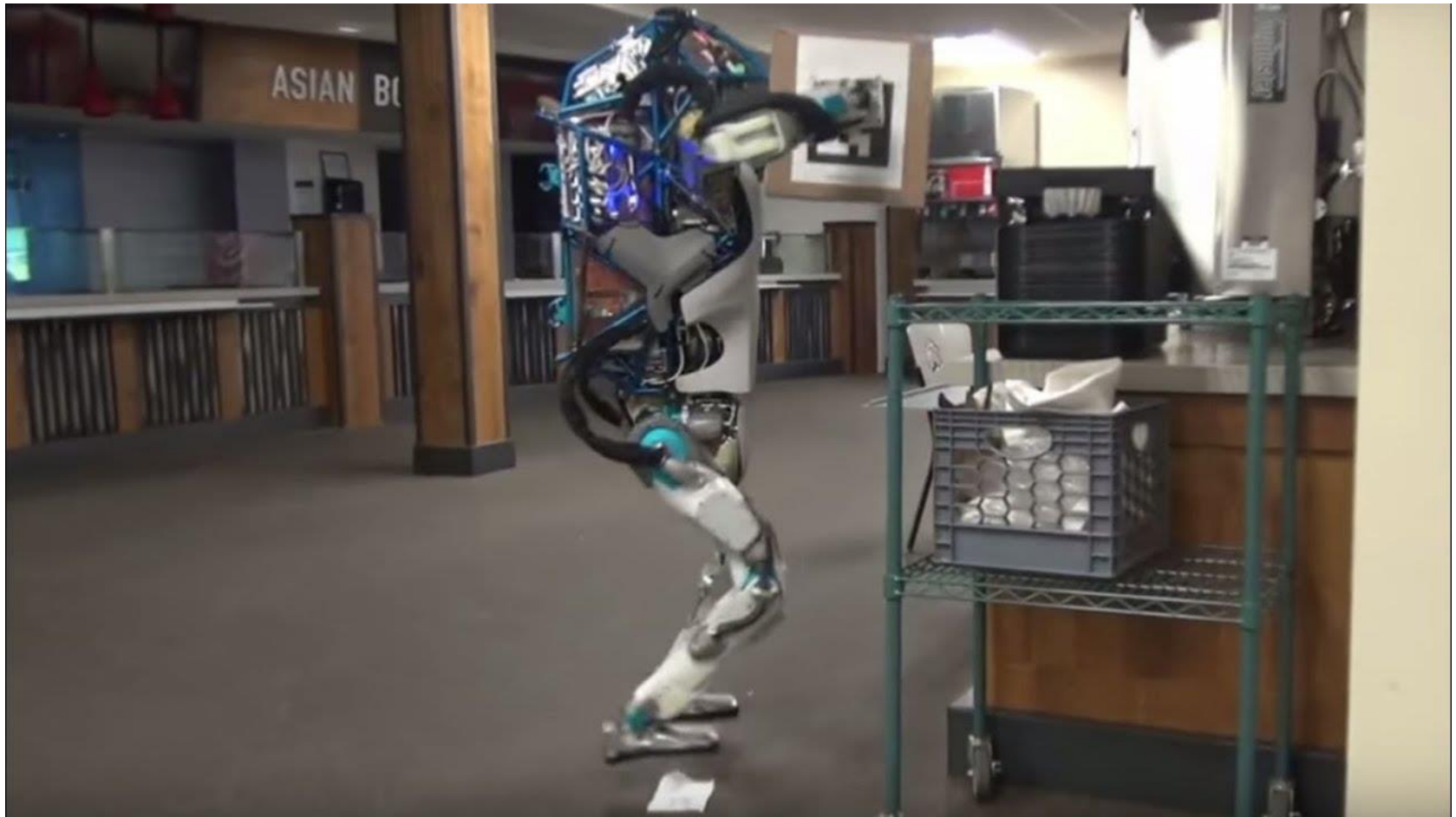
Rosenfeld, Zemel & Tsotsos. ArXiv 2018

Robotic (not) Success



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0TaYhjpOfo>

Robotic (not) Success



Self occlusion...

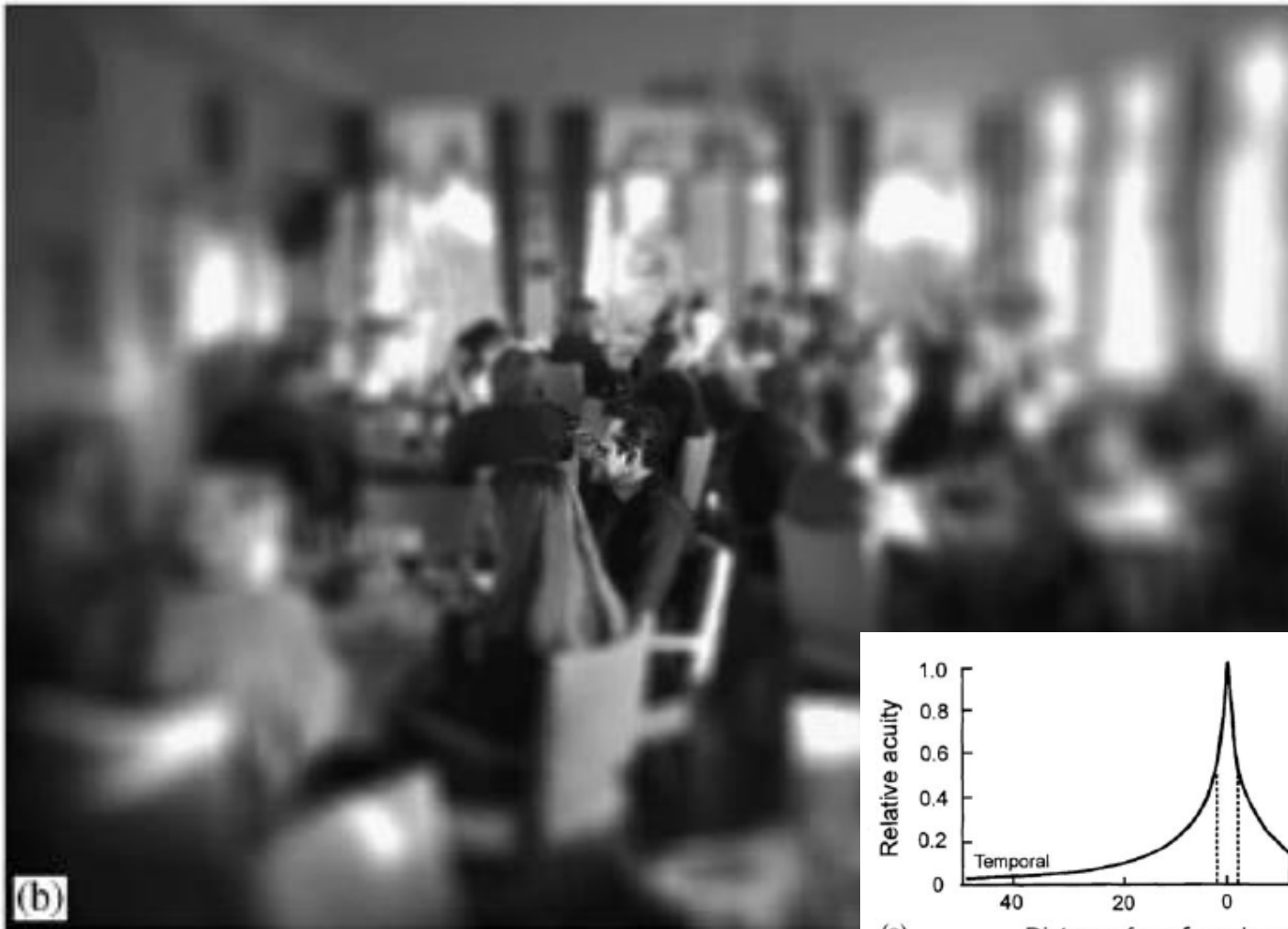
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0TaYhjpOfo>

Actively Control Sensors to overcome Perceptual Limits

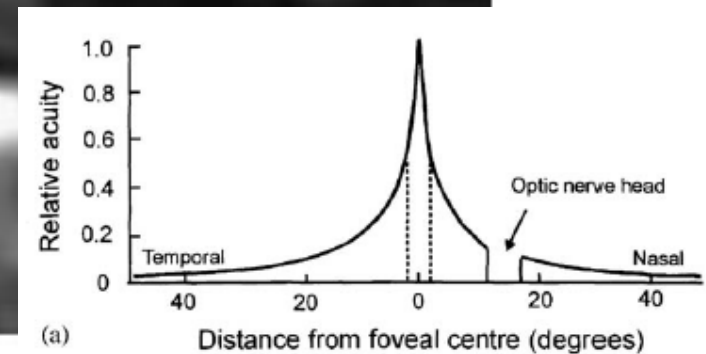
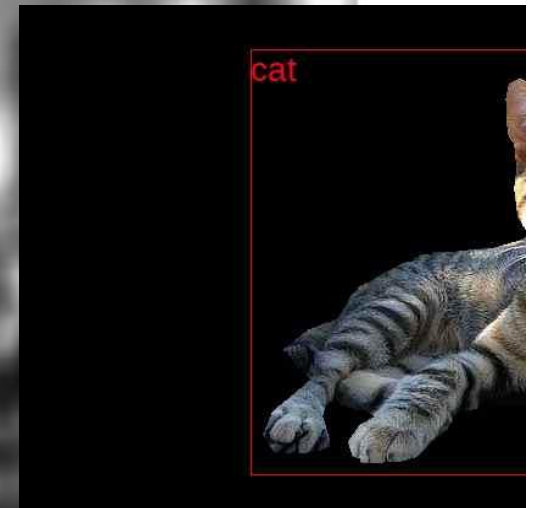
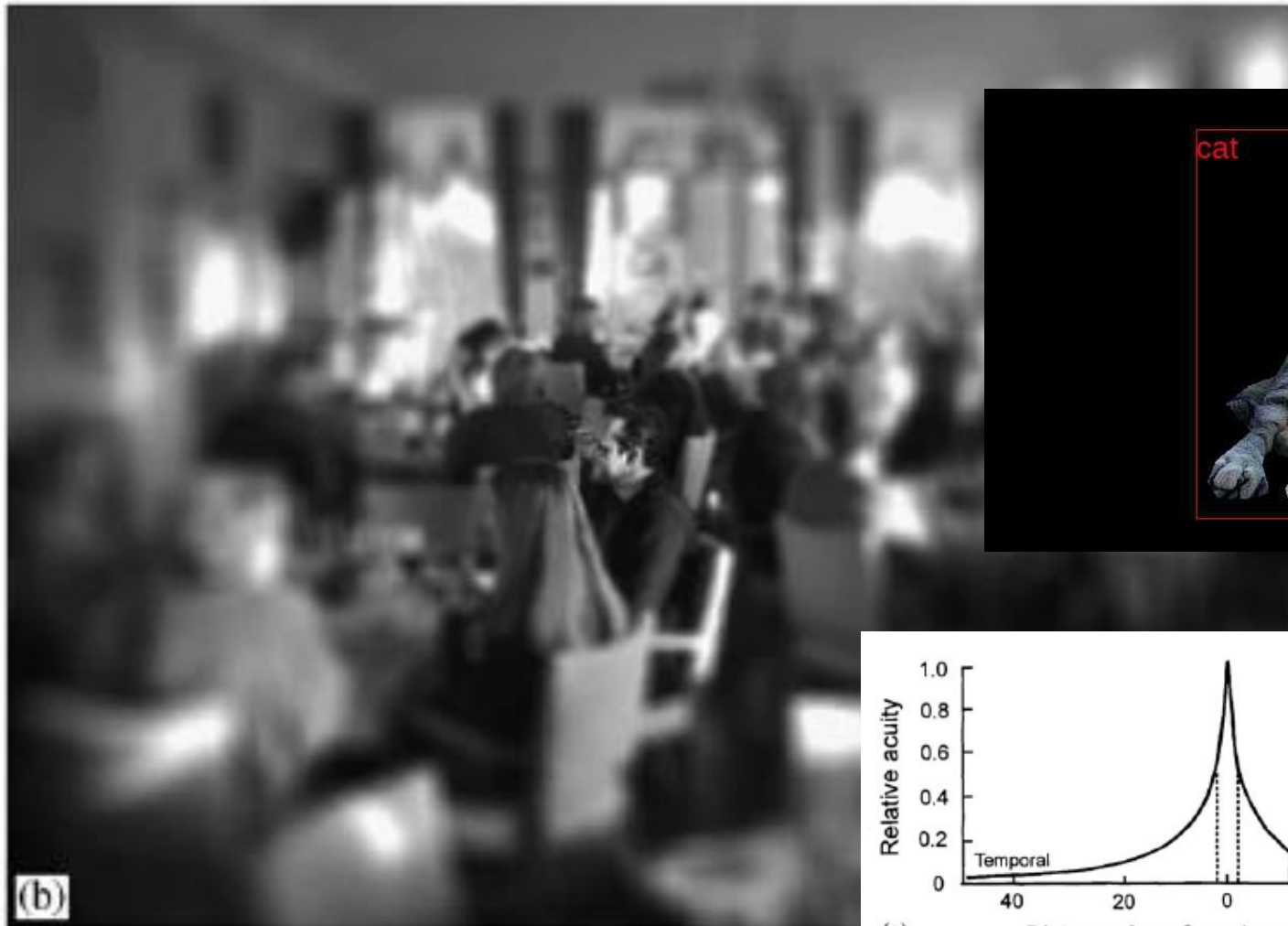
Occlusions, Sensor Resolution, Limited Field of View, Noise and other causes of Aliasing or Partial Observability



Foveal Vision: Human Eye Evolved to be Active and Focus on Relevant Cues



Foveal Vision: Human Eye Evolved to be Active and Focus on Relevant Cues



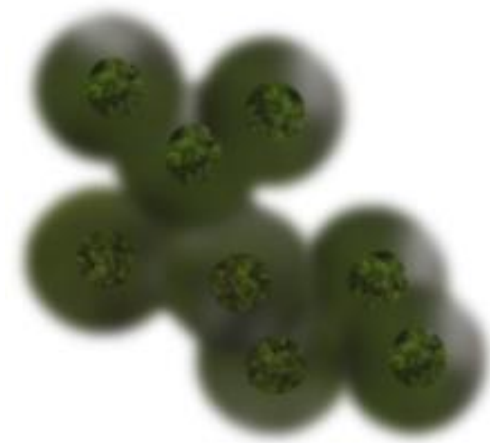
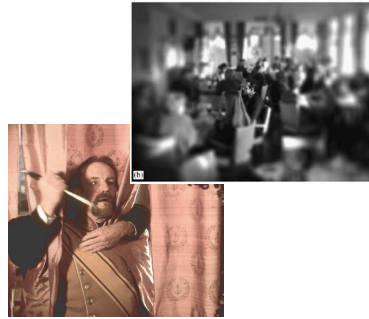
Active Perception (AP) Issues

- **Where to look?**

- What to remember?

- When to stop looking and start acting?

- Enough information?
- Enough time?
- Acquired information still valid?



*See also The Frame Problem



Where To look?

Task Based Exploration (Information On Demand)



Yarbus 1967

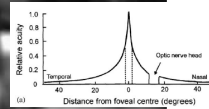
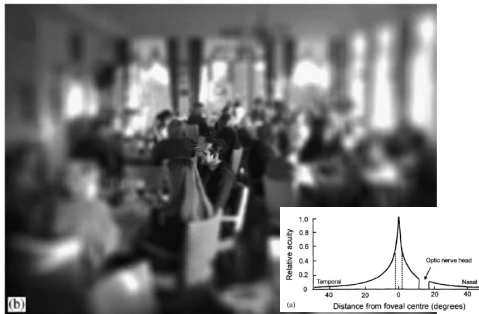
Insufficient Task or Goal Information

- Learning

Constraints



Focus

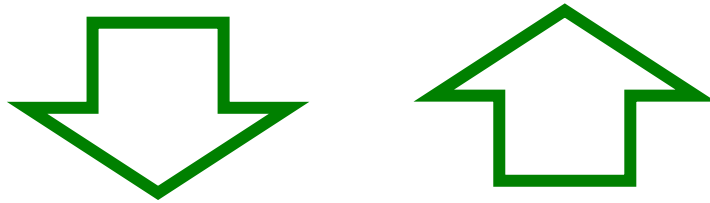


Task

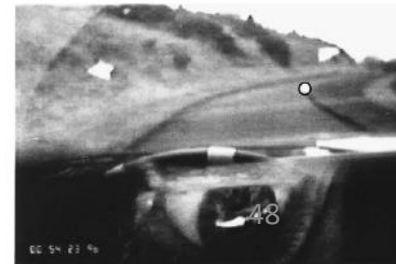
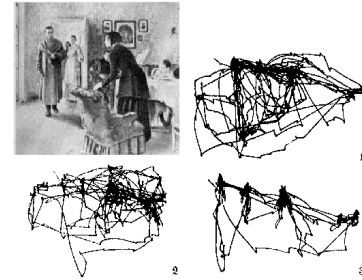


Active Perception and Learning

Active Perception is strongly dependent on the task



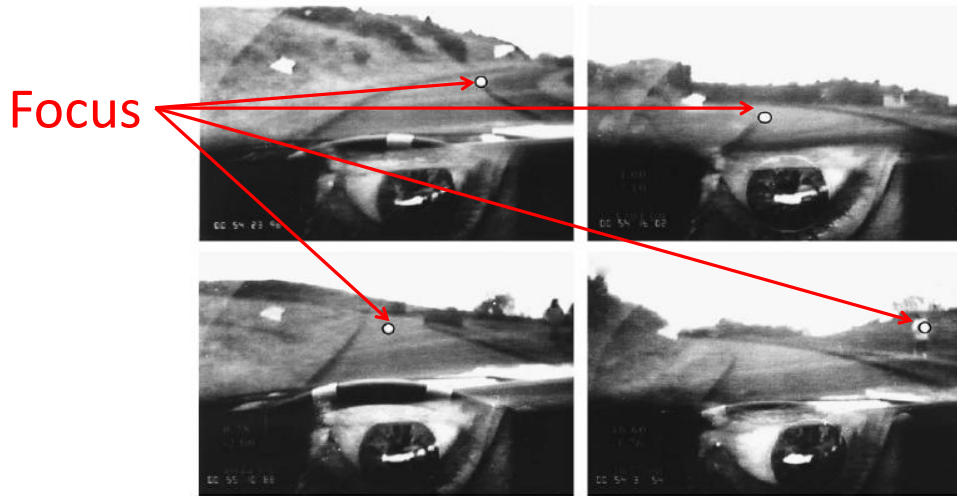
Learning a new task may require learning a new Active Perception policy



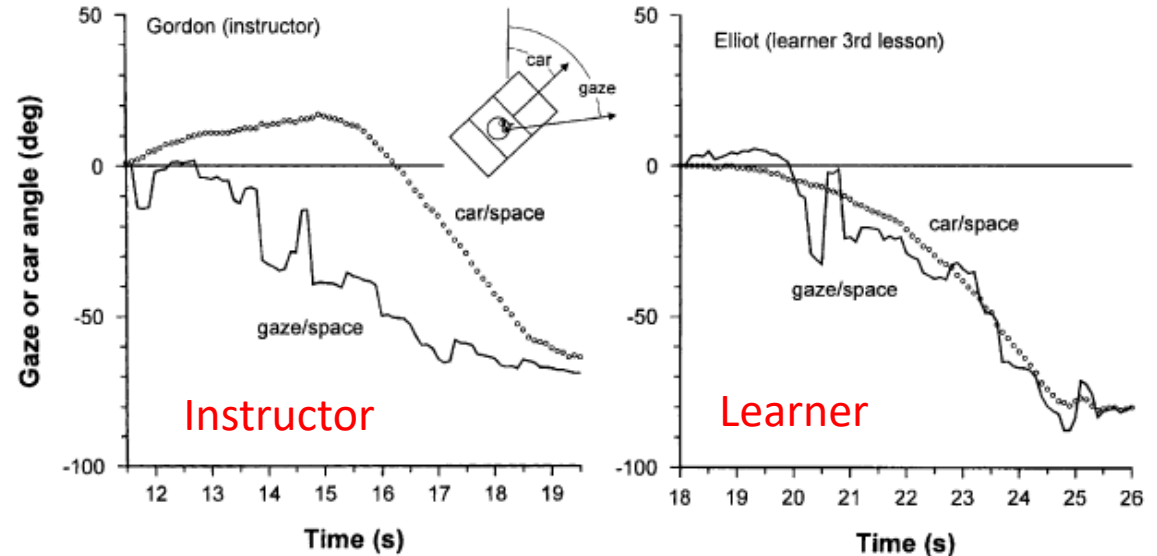
Active Percetion and Learning



Active Perception and Learning

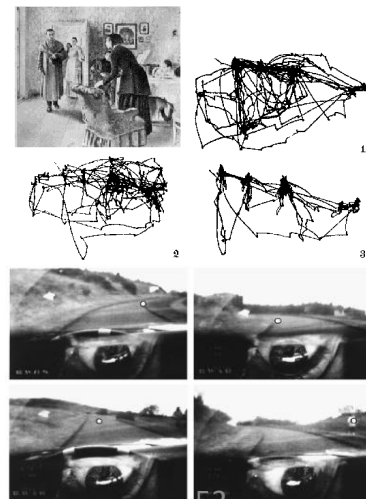
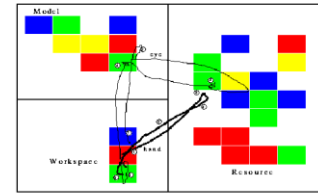


Land 2006

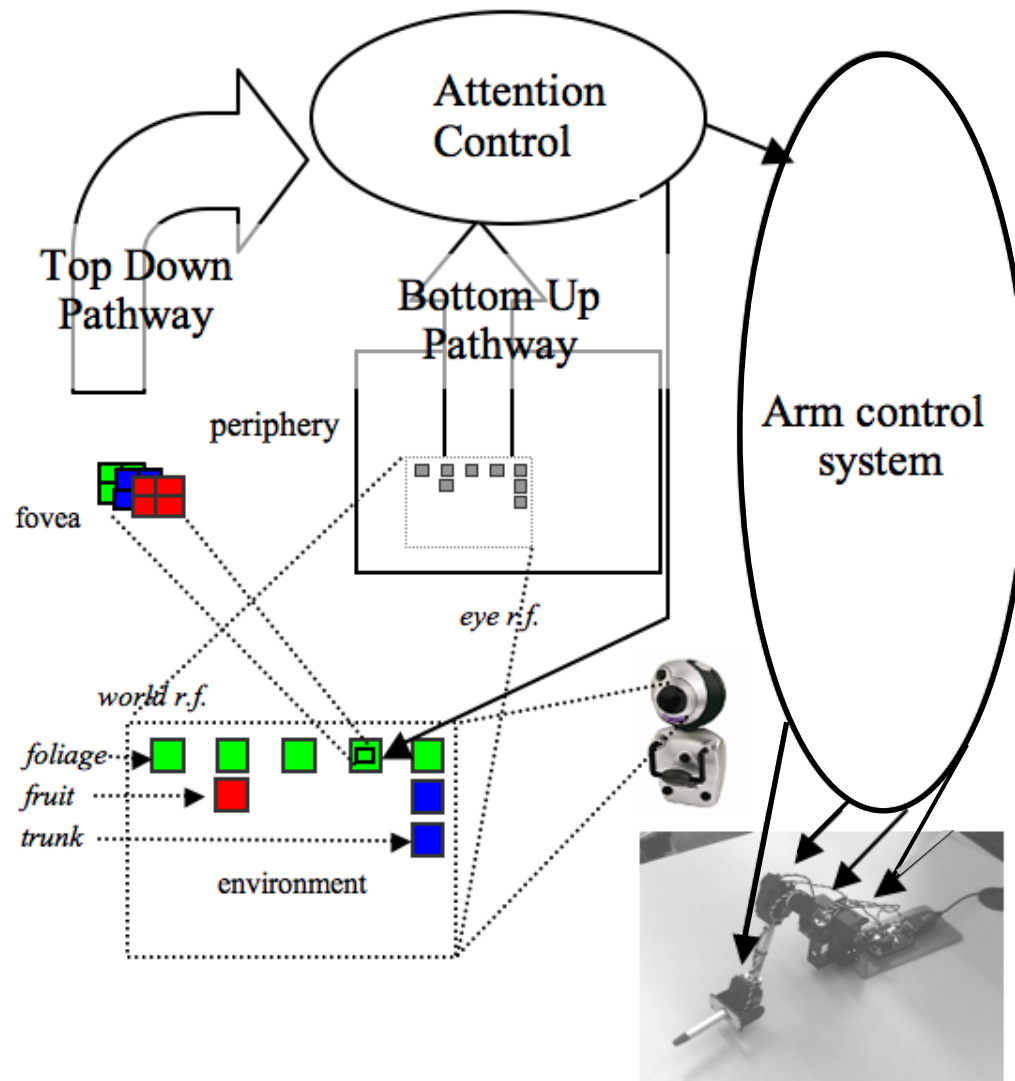


Difficulties of learning perception and action control

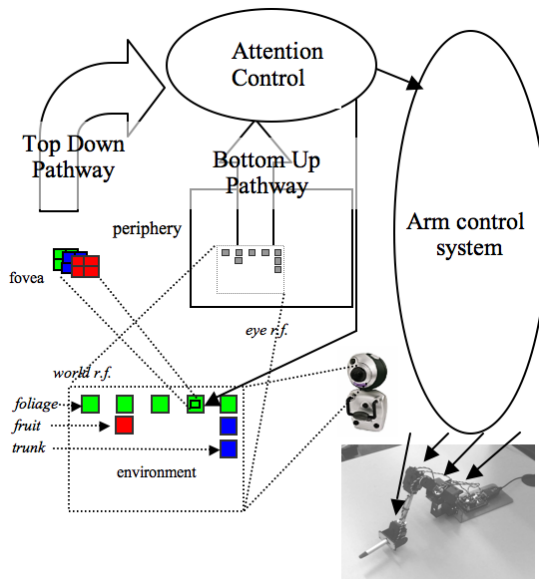
- High dimensionality of the observations
- Unknown/Infinite state dimensionality
- Partial Observability
 - check:
 - Ognibene, Volpi et al 2013
 - Whitehead and Lin 1995
- Need to learn reusable skills
- **No supervision or immediate feedback**
 - e.g. no reward for watching the right object



ANN Controlled Camera-Arm Robot



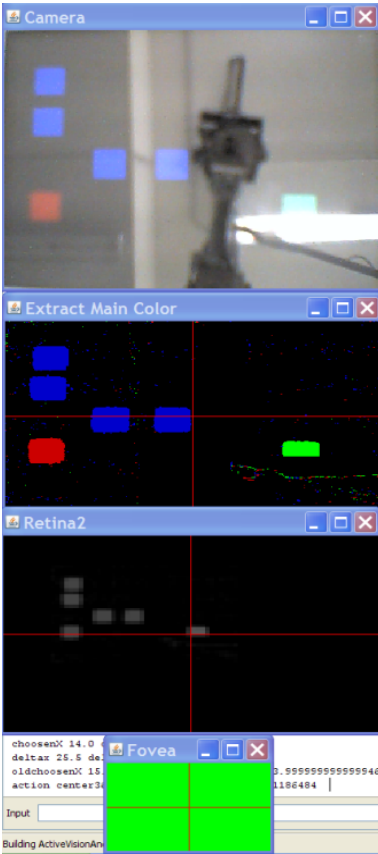
System Atlas



CAMERA

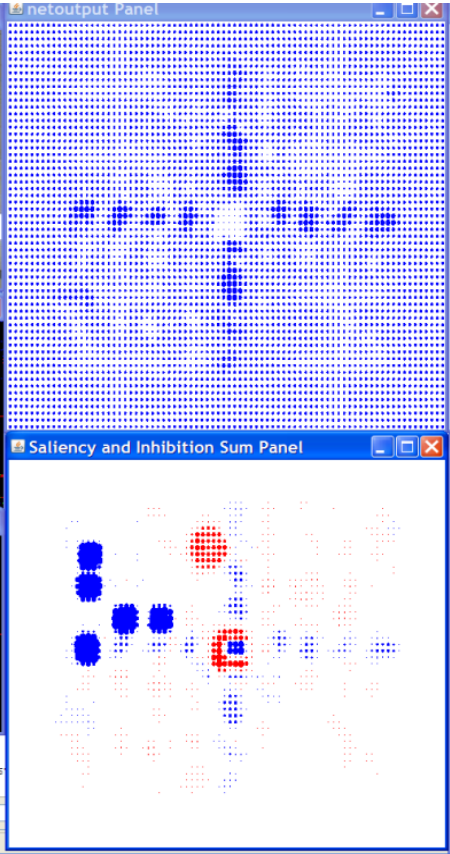
FILTERED IMAGE

BOTTOM-UP ATTENTION



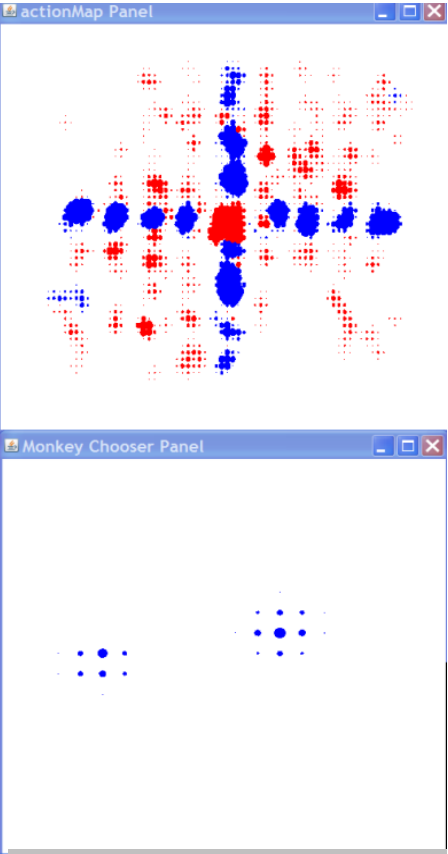
FOVEA

VOTES



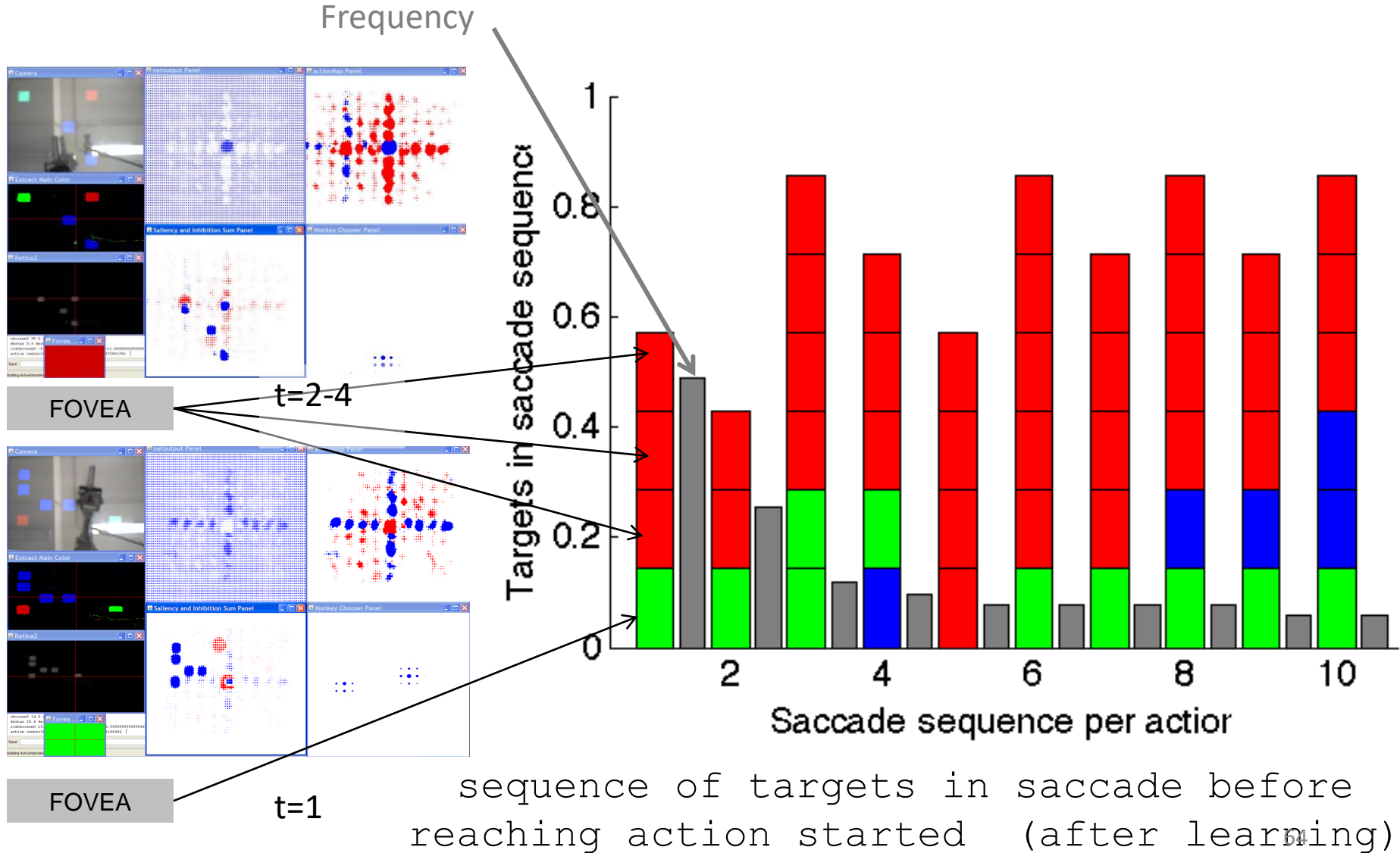
OVERALL SALIENCY

PAM

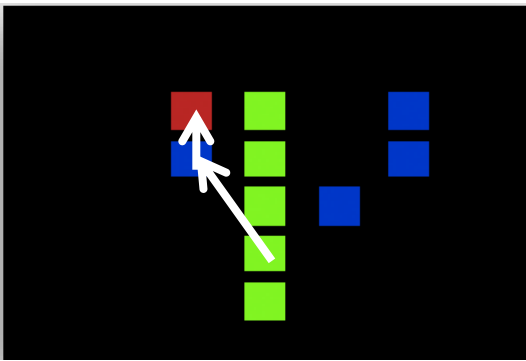


COMPETITION FOR ARM'S ACTION

Base Ecologic Task Behavioural analysis



Internal dynamic analysis

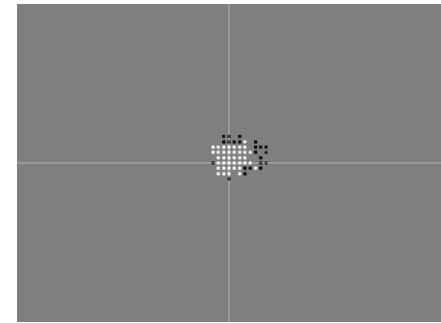
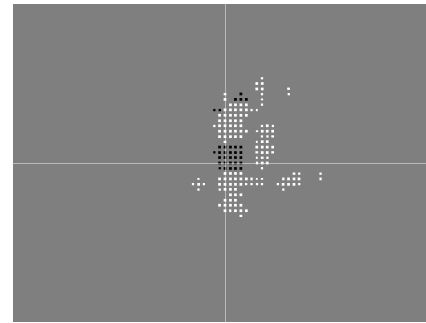
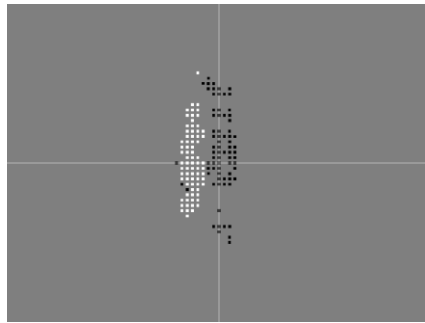


Cue (t=1)

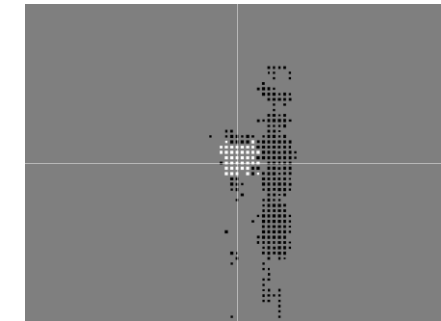
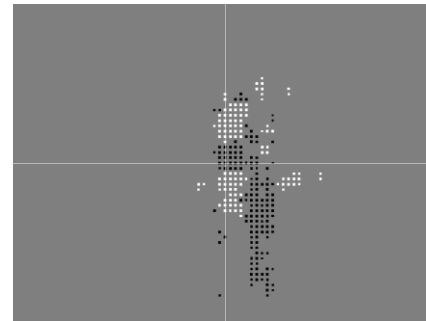
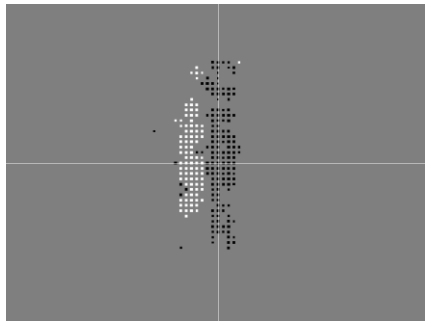
Distractor (t=2)

Target (t=3)

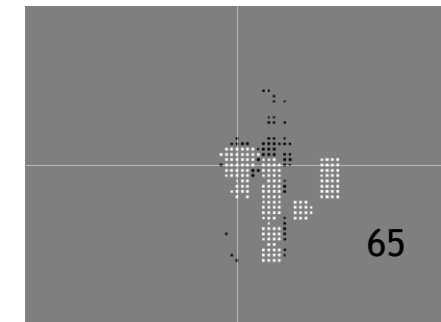
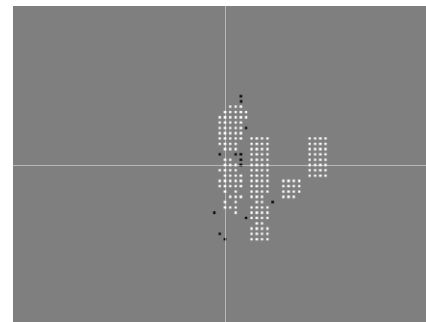
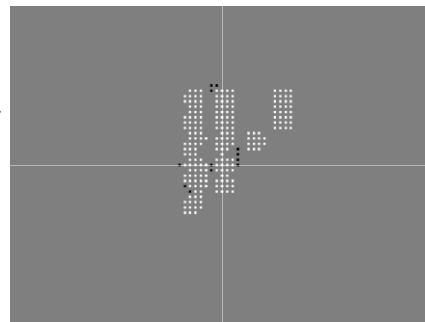
Votes



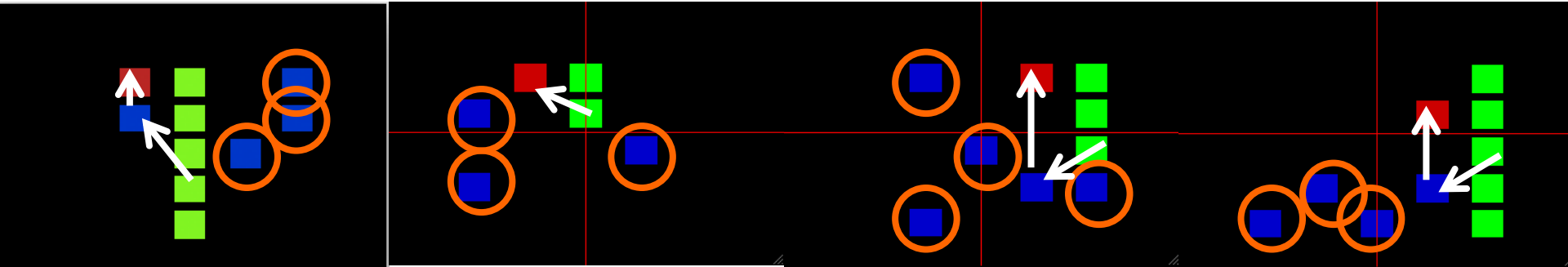
PAM



Saliency



Actual World Structure

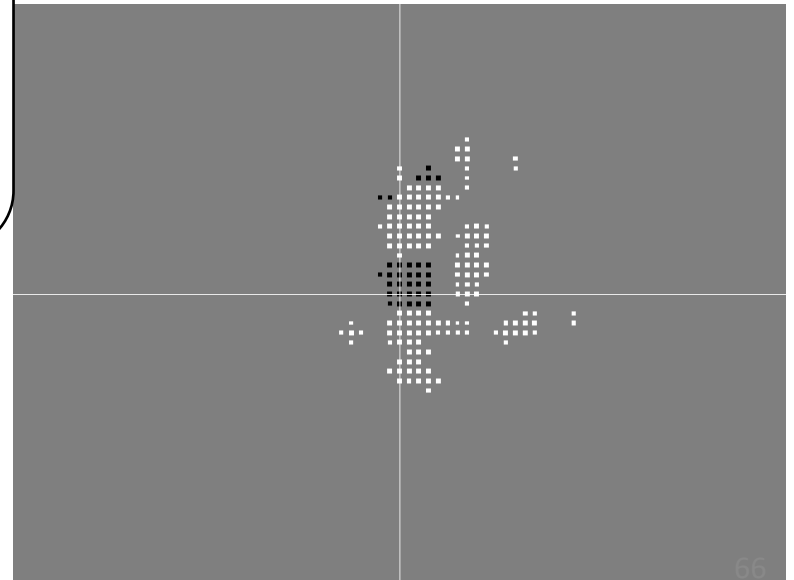


Task: in an environment with salient (bright and big) green object learn to find and touch the red object with no supervision. Agent can see the colour of one object at a time.

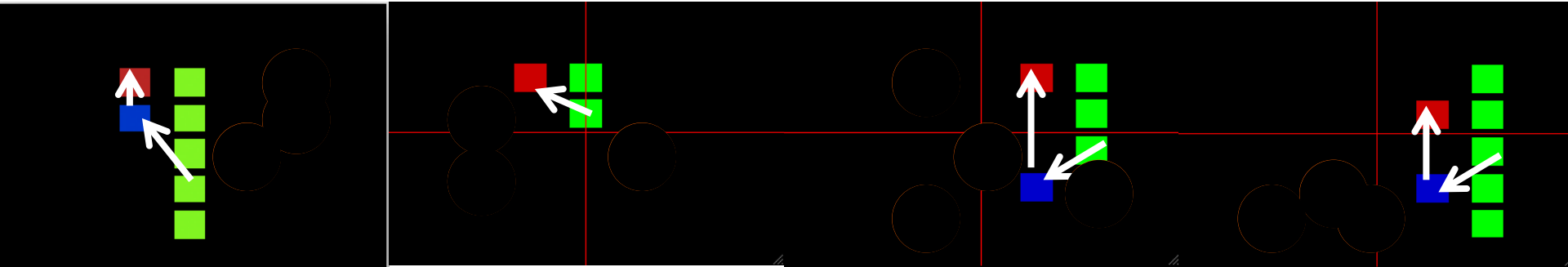
The blue objects are **randomly positioned**

Acquired neural representation of blue stimulus describing next gaze movement convenient to perform the task: up,down,near right

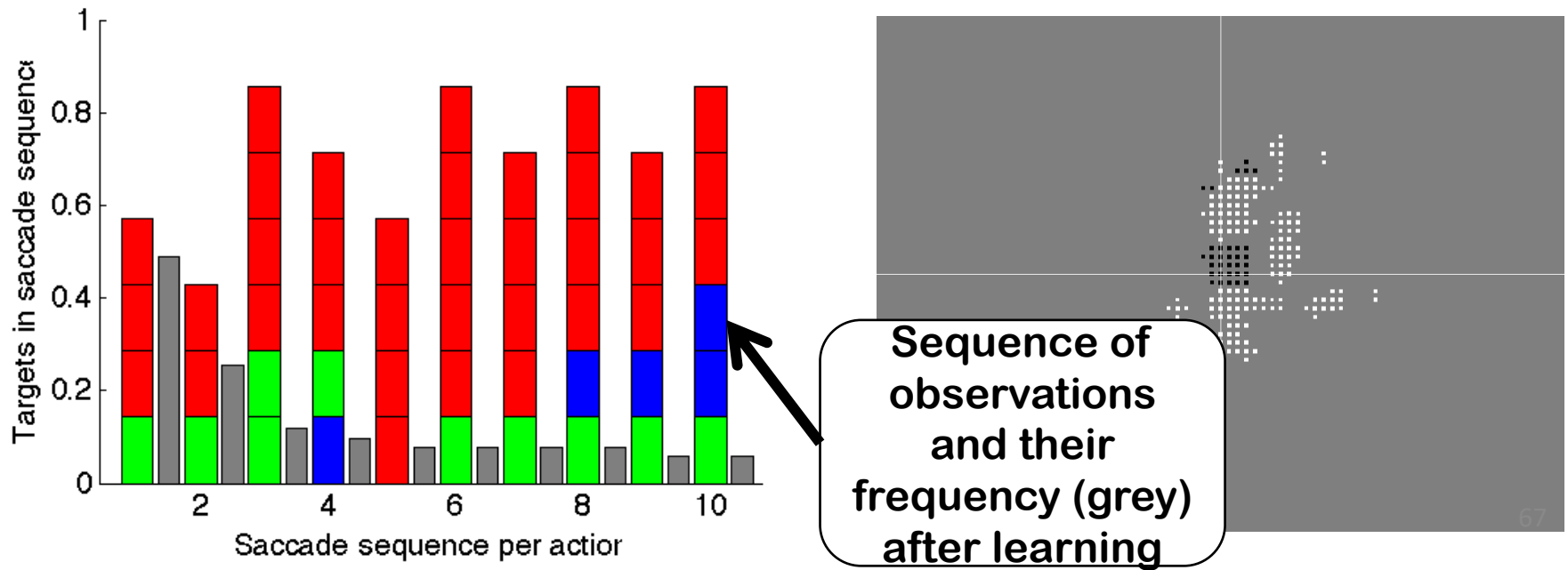
It presents order!



Subjective and efficient representations



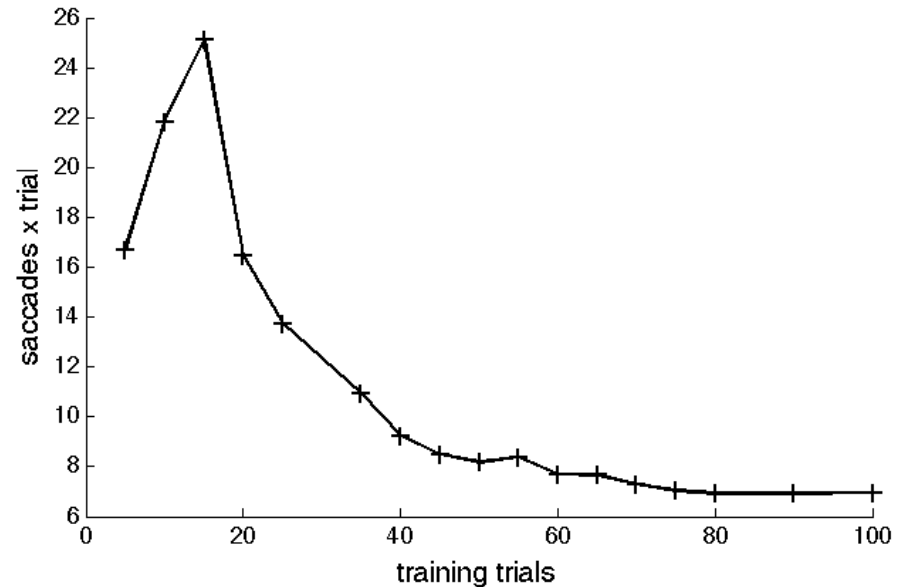
Perceived World biased by Active Perception



Ognibene & Baldassarre, IEEE TAMM, 2014

Experimental Results: Decision Time

- Initially a reaching action starts after 17 saccades after scene changed
- Increases to 26 saccades
- Stabilises at about 7 saccades



Average number of
saccades per reaching
action during learning

Saliency Role Test

saliency		number of saccades				
cue	distr.	trials to steady	avg. reward	max	initial avg.	final avg.
0.6	0.6	1	1	14	5.1331	5.0821
0.8	0.6	4	0.9951	60	6.1678	5.8852
1.0	0.6	41	0.9957	55	6.8448	5.9302
0.6	0.8	7	0.9851	42	6.7102	6.1334
0.8	0.8	4	0.9778	35	6.9981	6.4806
1.0	0.8	23	0.9811	66	7.0478	6.2394
0.6	1.0	83	0.9502	145	9.9367	7.8187
0.8	1.0	78	0.9804	387	12.2187	7.4450
1.0	1.0	74	0.9604	1727	16.3086	7.2732

Target saliency 0.8

Only learning is affected by clutter while final performance are minimally affected by cue saliency

The trial to steady is very dependent on the presence of an object that is more salient than the target

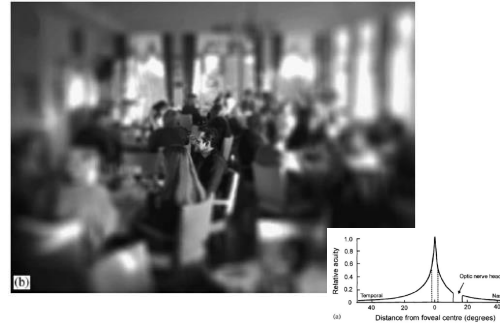
Foveal Vision *May* Speed-up Task Learning

Reinforcement Learning Framework for Autonomous Task Learning.
Usually problematic with partial observability (core for AP).

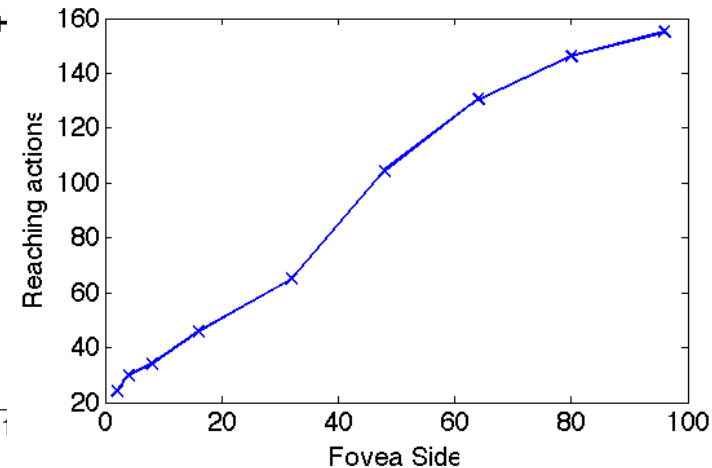
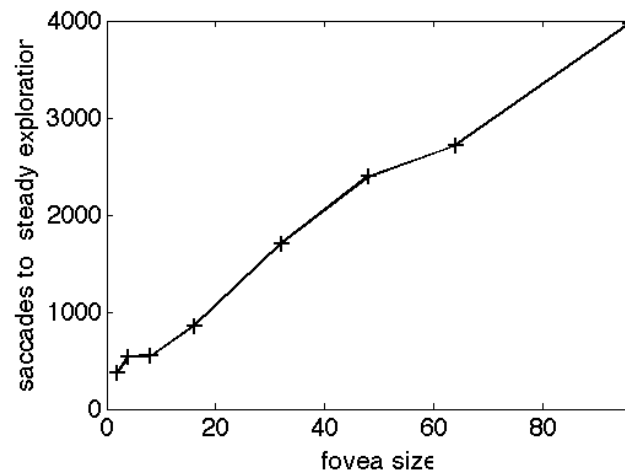
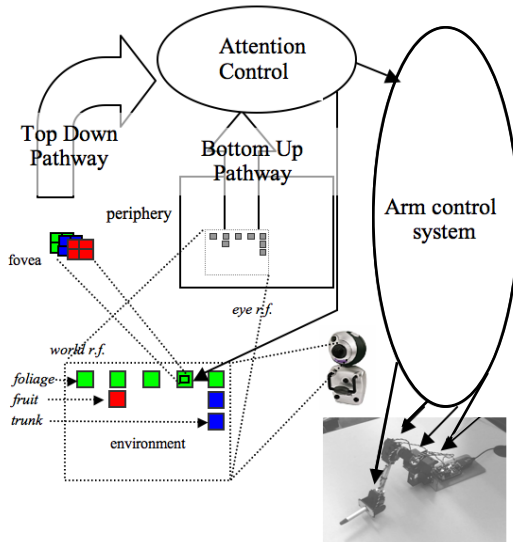
Constraints



Focus



Task



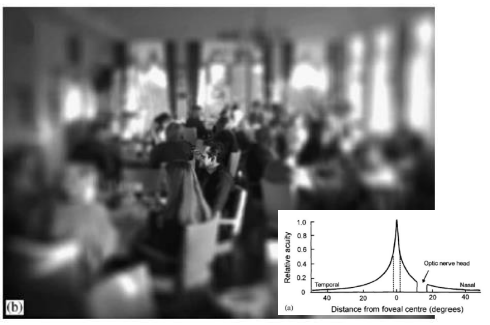
Insufficient Task or Goal Information

- Learning
- Deciding what task to execute
- Task/Goal depending on other **agents' presence/intentions**

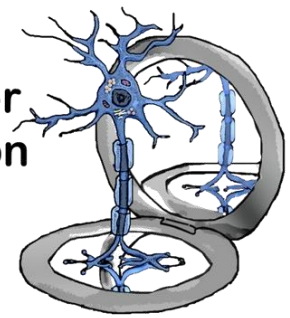
Constraints



Focus



mirror neuron

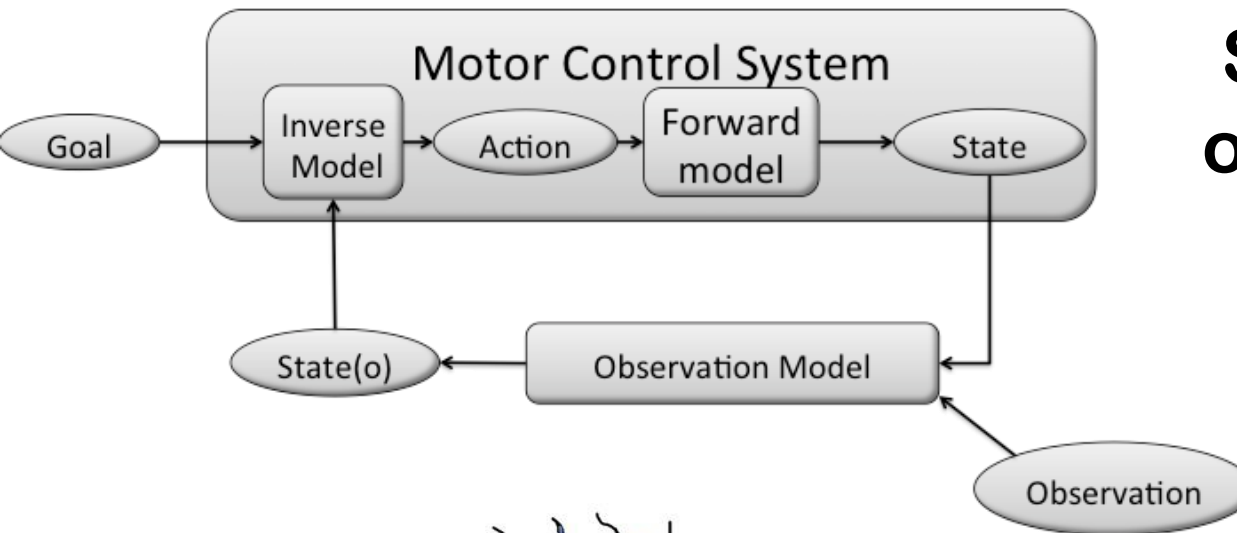


Task

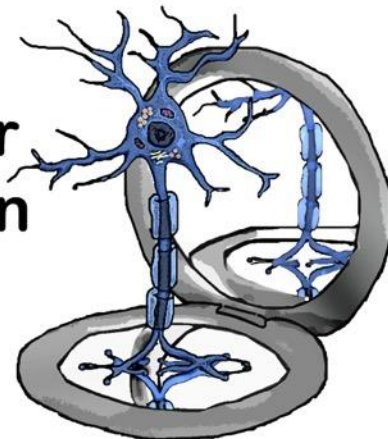


Active Perception and Mirror Neurons

Simulation theory



mirror
neuron

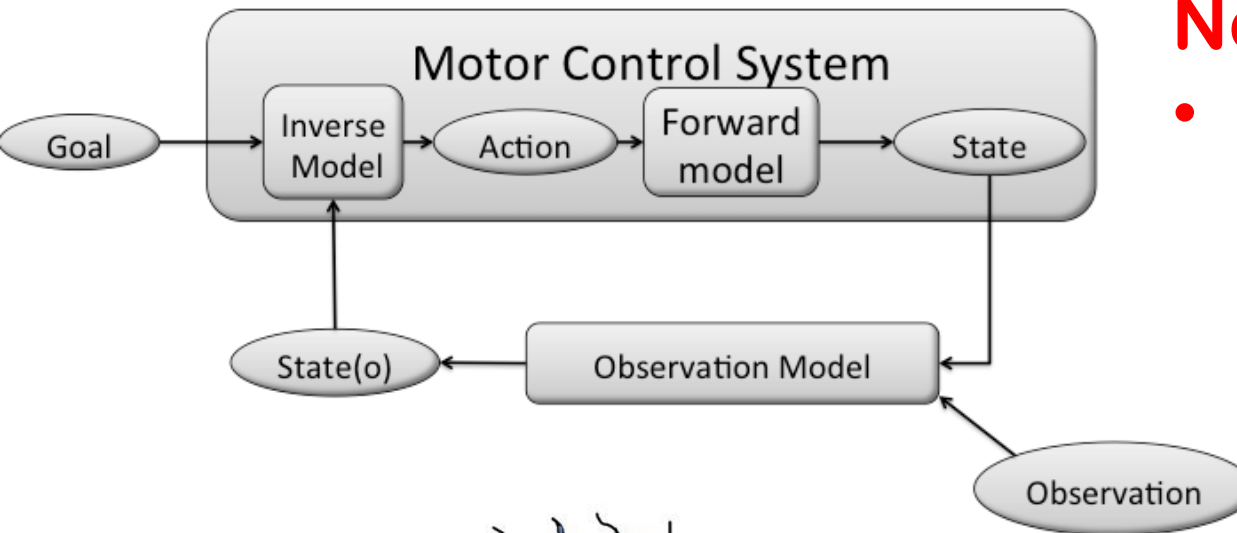


Can Motor Control System predict others' actions?

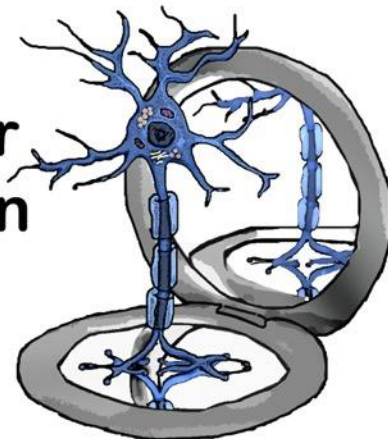
- Encode action goal
- Abstracts trajectory
- **Needs perceptions**

Active Perception and Mirror Neurons

Simulation theory



mirror
neuron

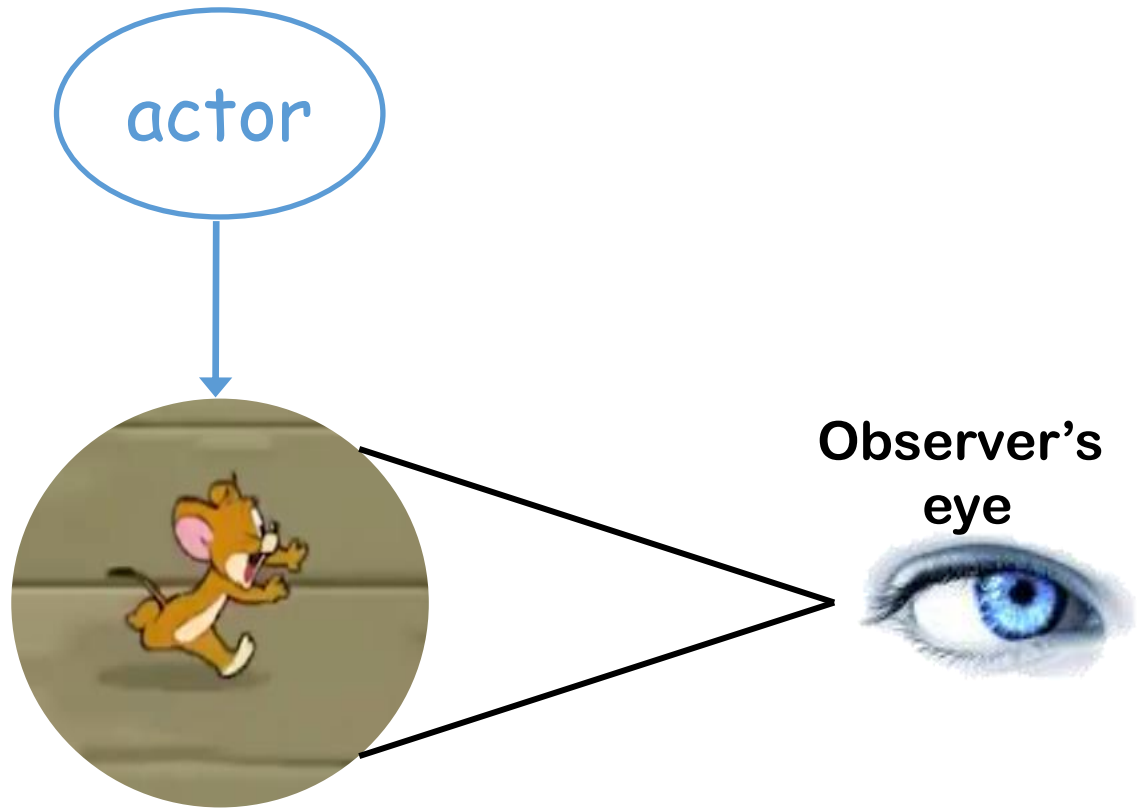


Needs perceptions:

- **Affordance:**
 - Presence
 - Identity
 - Position
 - Orientation
- **Effector:**
 - Timing
 - Configuration
- **Context**

Hunting or being hunted?

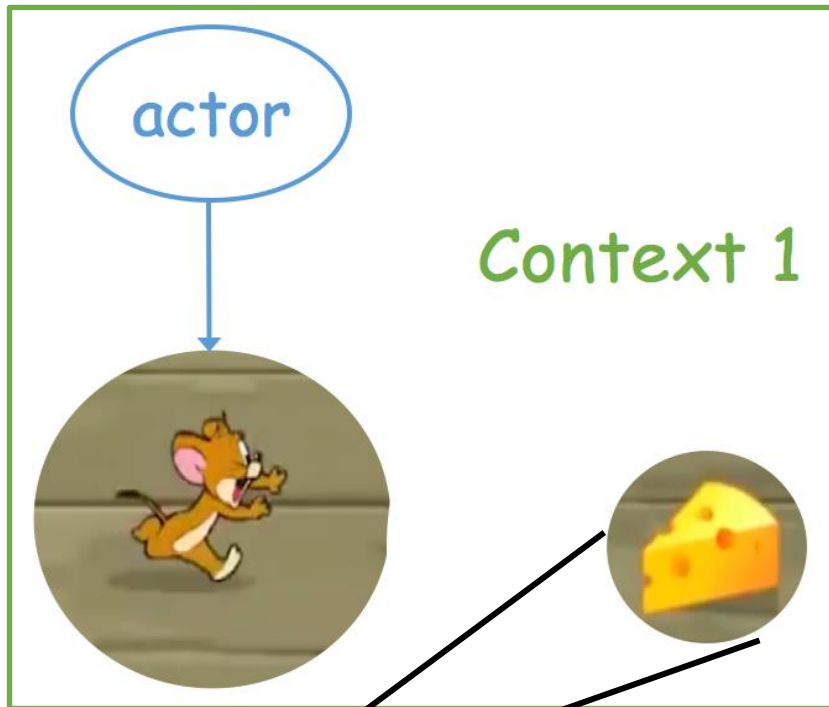
Context in behavior prediction



Time constraints and Structured context

Context in behavior prediction

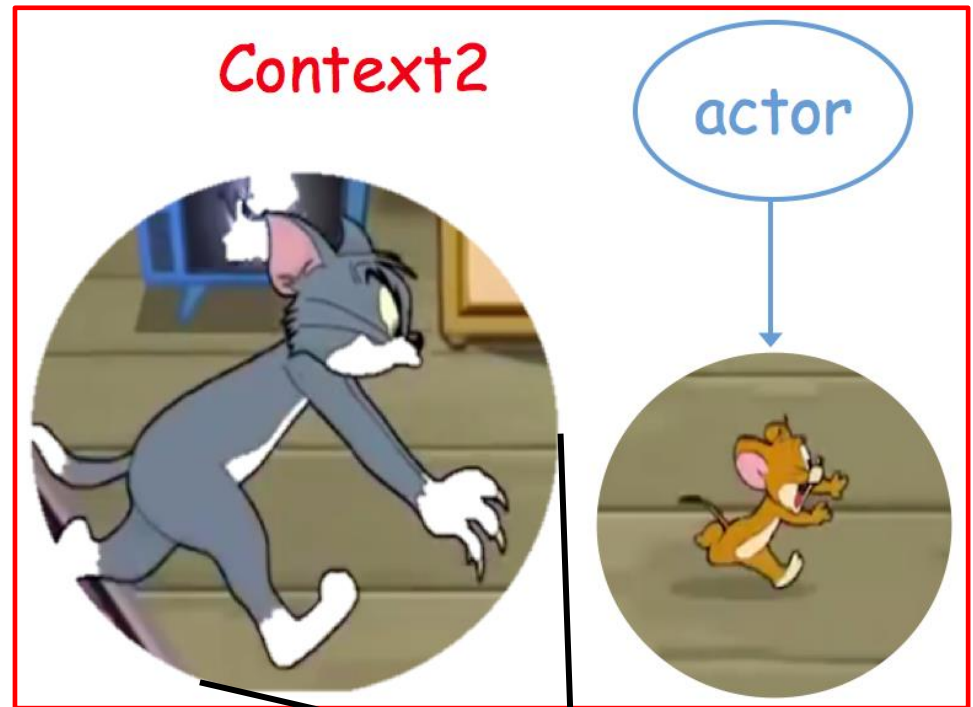
Hunting or hunted?



Time constraints and Structured context

Context in behavior prediction

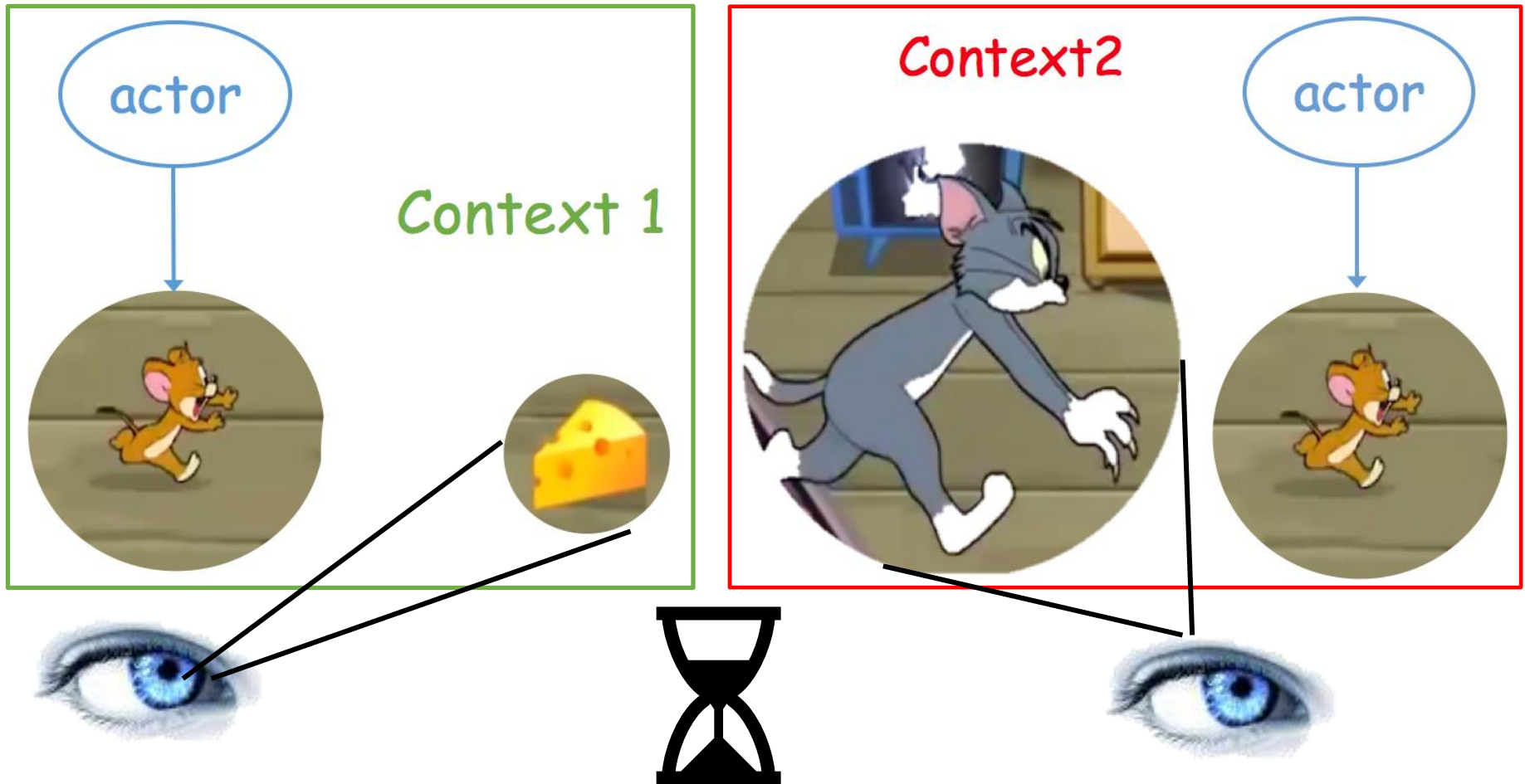
Hunting or hunted?



Time constraints and Structured context

Context in behavior prediction

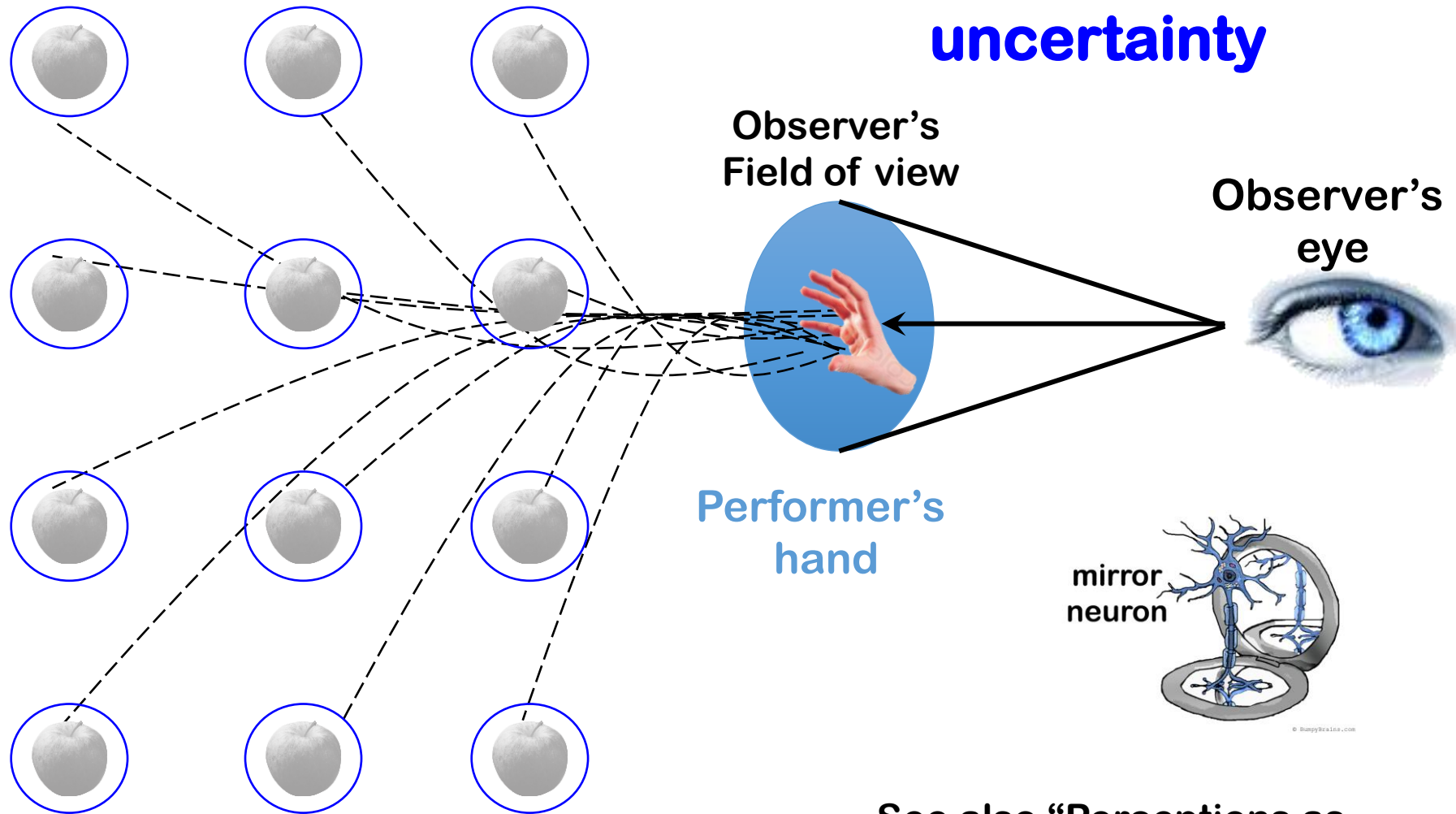
Hunting or hunted?



Different hypotheses of target position

Equally probable, not seen

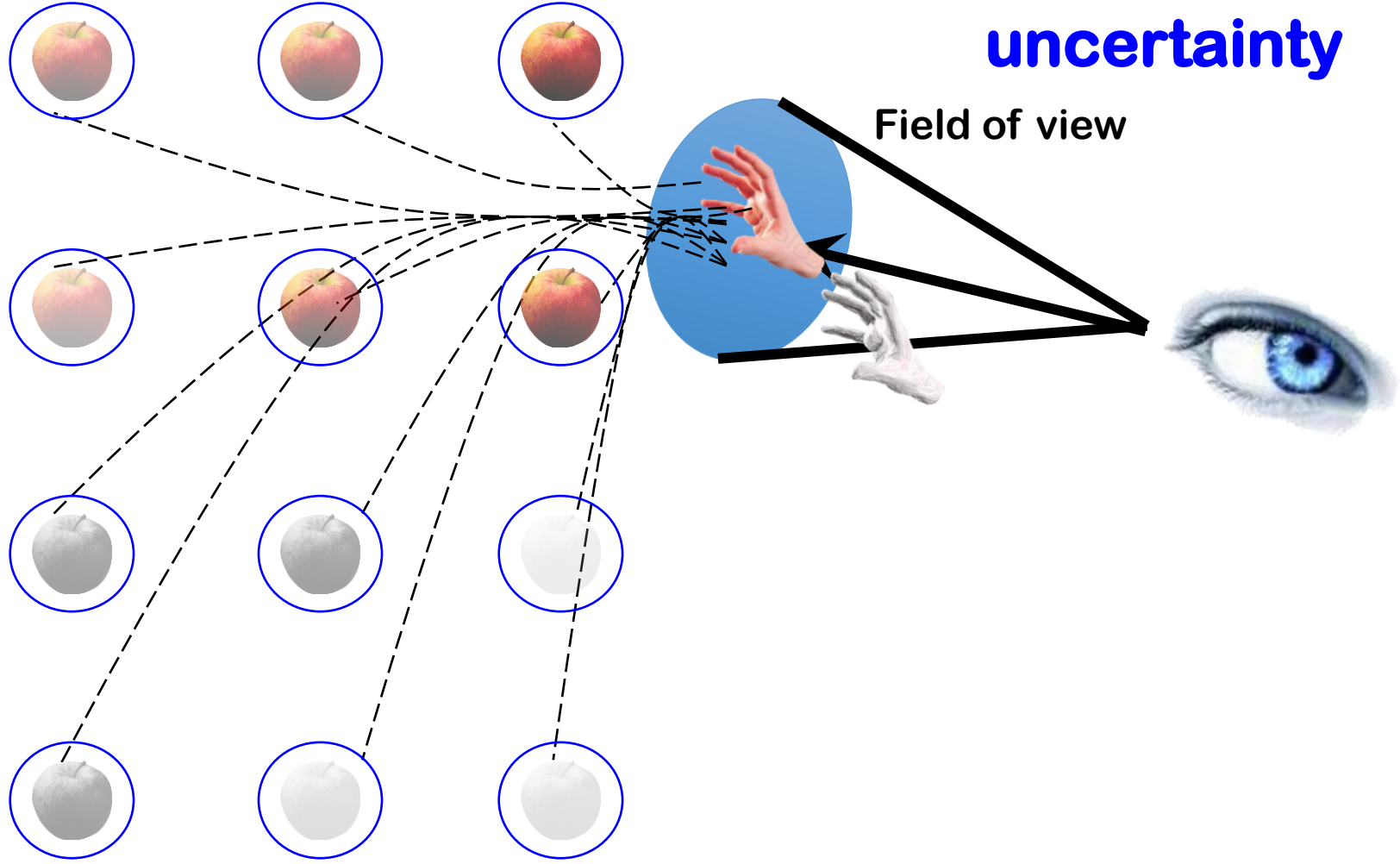
Perceive to reduce uncertainty



See also "Perceptions as hypotheses: saccades as experiments, Friston et al. 2012"

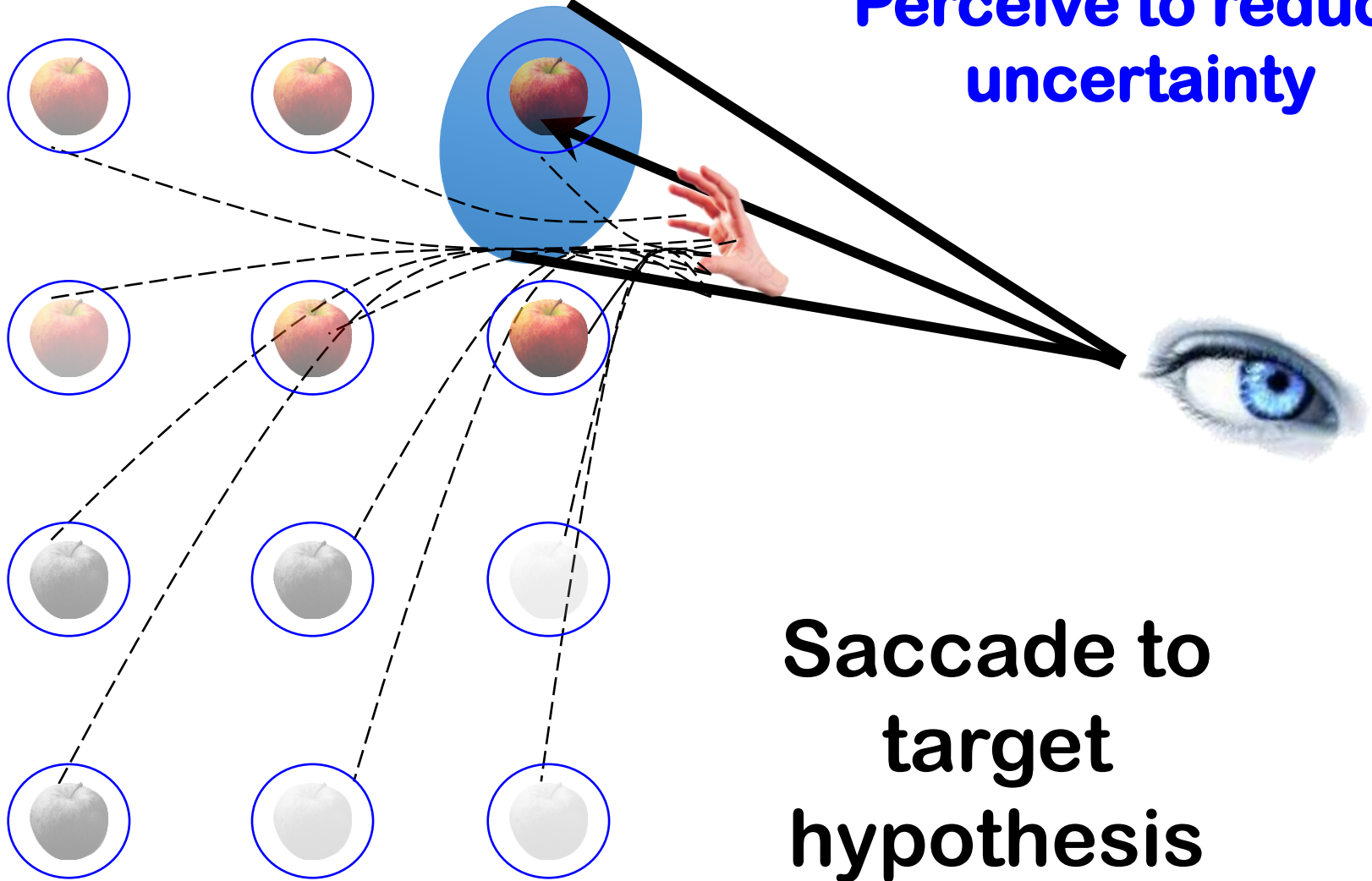
Hand movement changes distribution on target position

Perceive to reduce uncertainty



Field of view

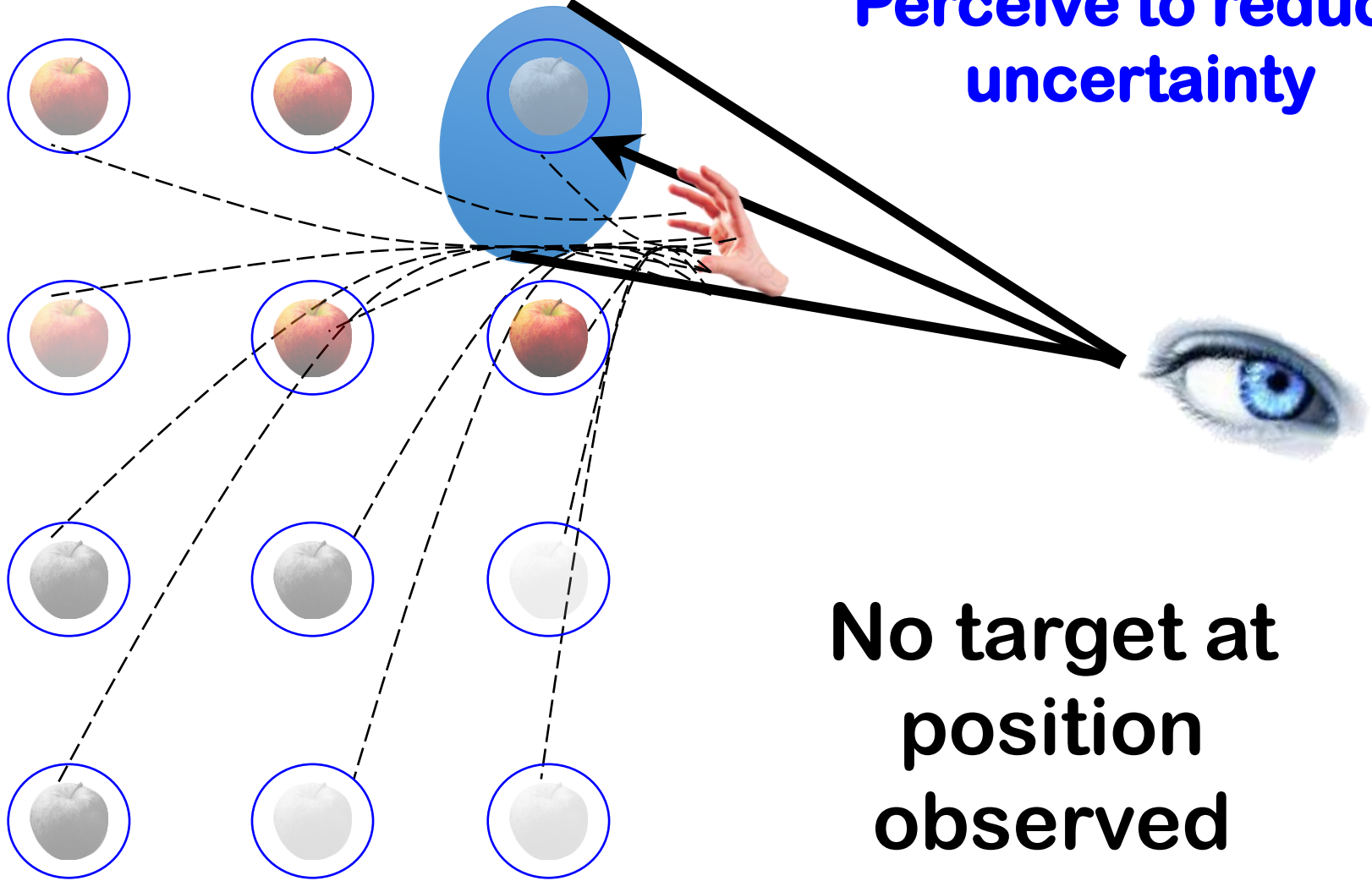
Perceive to reduce uncertainty



Saccade to target hypothesis

Field of view

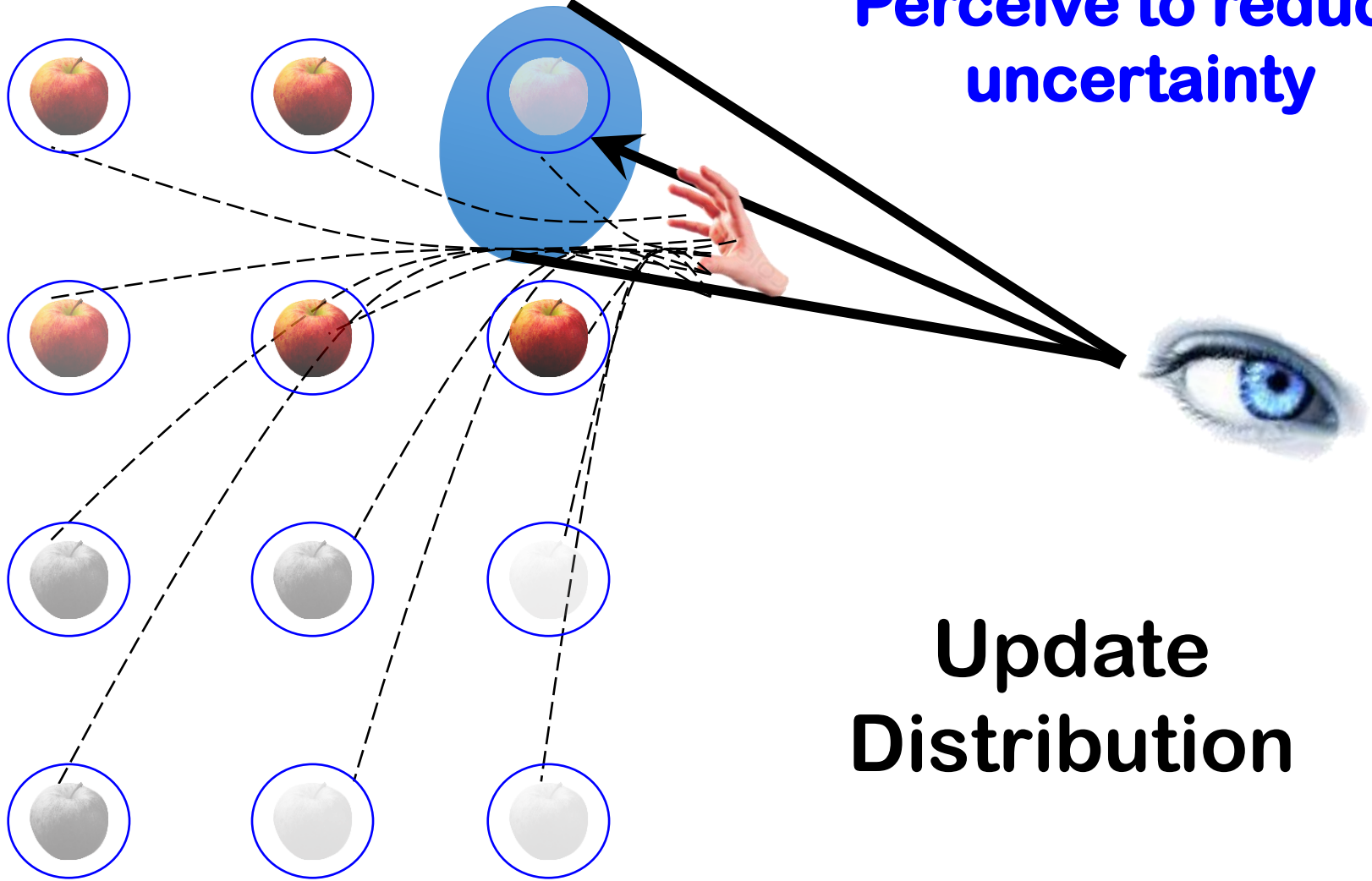
Perceive to reduce uncertainty



**No target at
position
observed**

Field of view

Perceive to reduce uncertainty



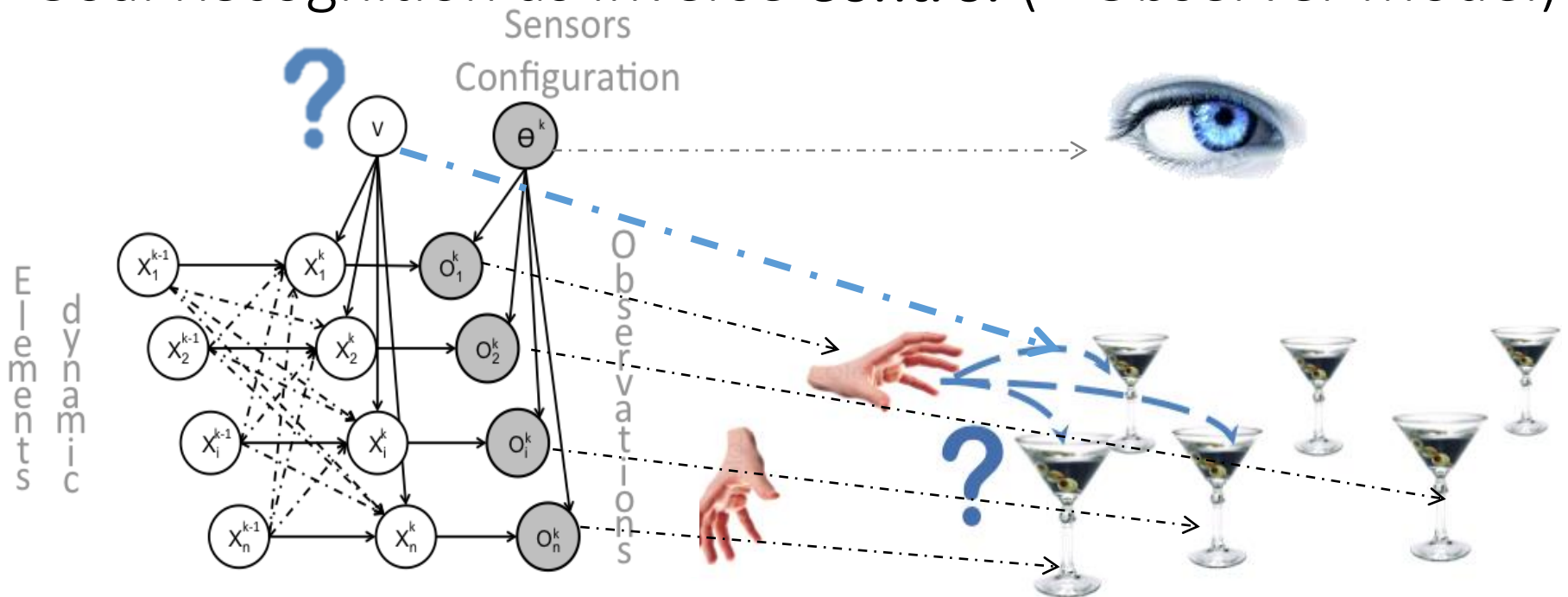
**Update
Distribution**

Info Gain Perception Control for Action Anticipation

Observe to Minimize Expected Uncertainty of Event (V)

$$\hat{\theta}^t = \operatorname{argmin}_{\theta^t} \int_{\mathbf{o}} p(\mathbf{o}^t | \mathbf{o}^{0\dots t-1}, \theta^t) H(V | \mathbf{o}^{0\dots t}, \theta^{0\dots t}) d\mathbf{o}^t$$

Goal Recognition as Inverse **Control** (+ Observer Model)

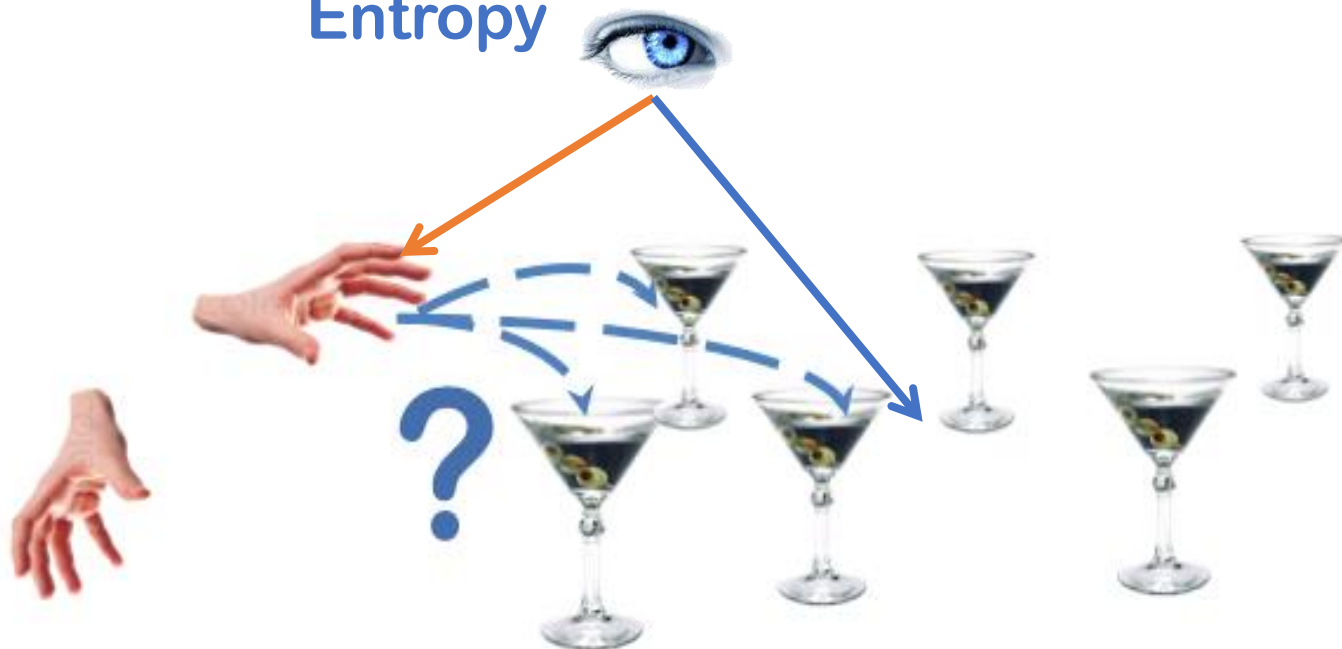


Info Gain Using Kalman Filters

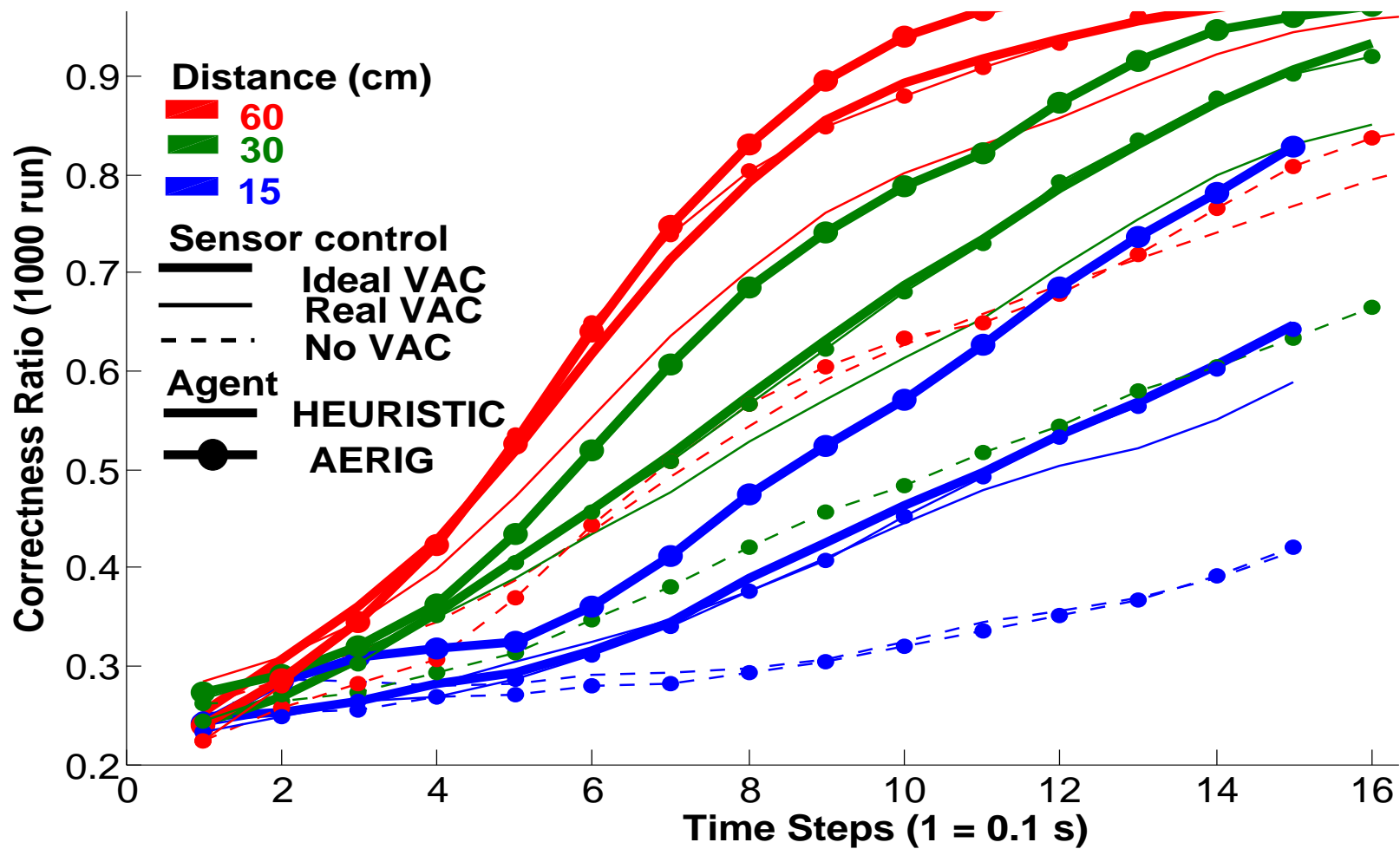
$$\hat{\theta}^{t+1} \approx \operatorname{argmin}_{\theta} \sum_v P(v) \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln |\mathbf{S}_{v, \theta^{t+1}}^{t+1}| + \ln \sum_{v'} \left(P(v') \mathcal{N}(\bar{\mathbf{o}}_{v, \theta}; \bar{\mathbf{o}}_{v', \theta^{t+1}}^{t+1}, \mathbf{S}_{v', \theta^{t+1}}^{t+1}) \right) \right]$$

Elements
Average
Expected
Entropy

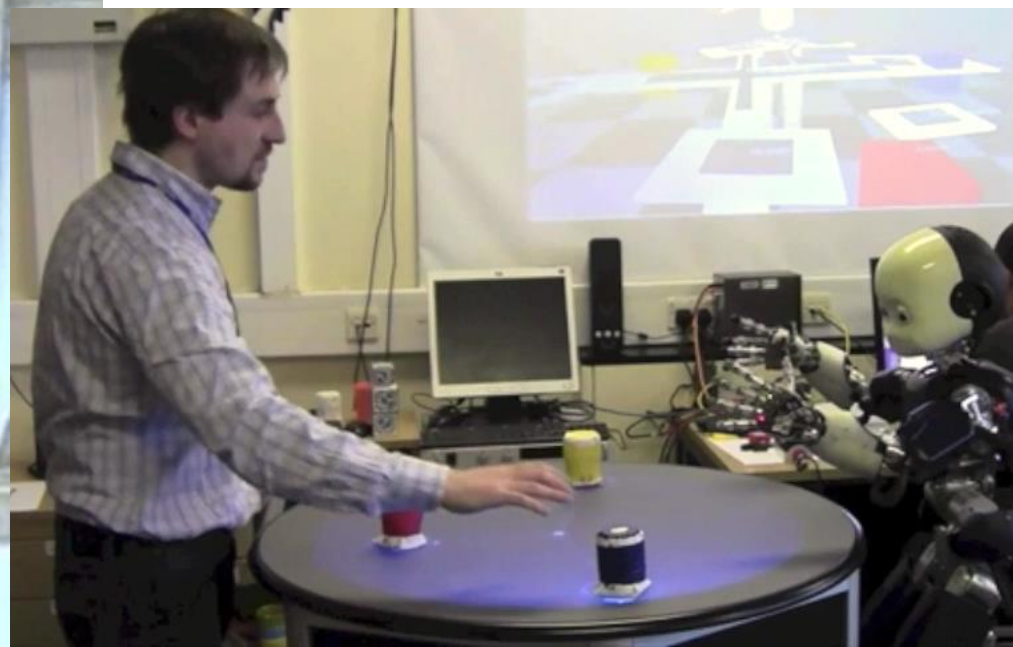
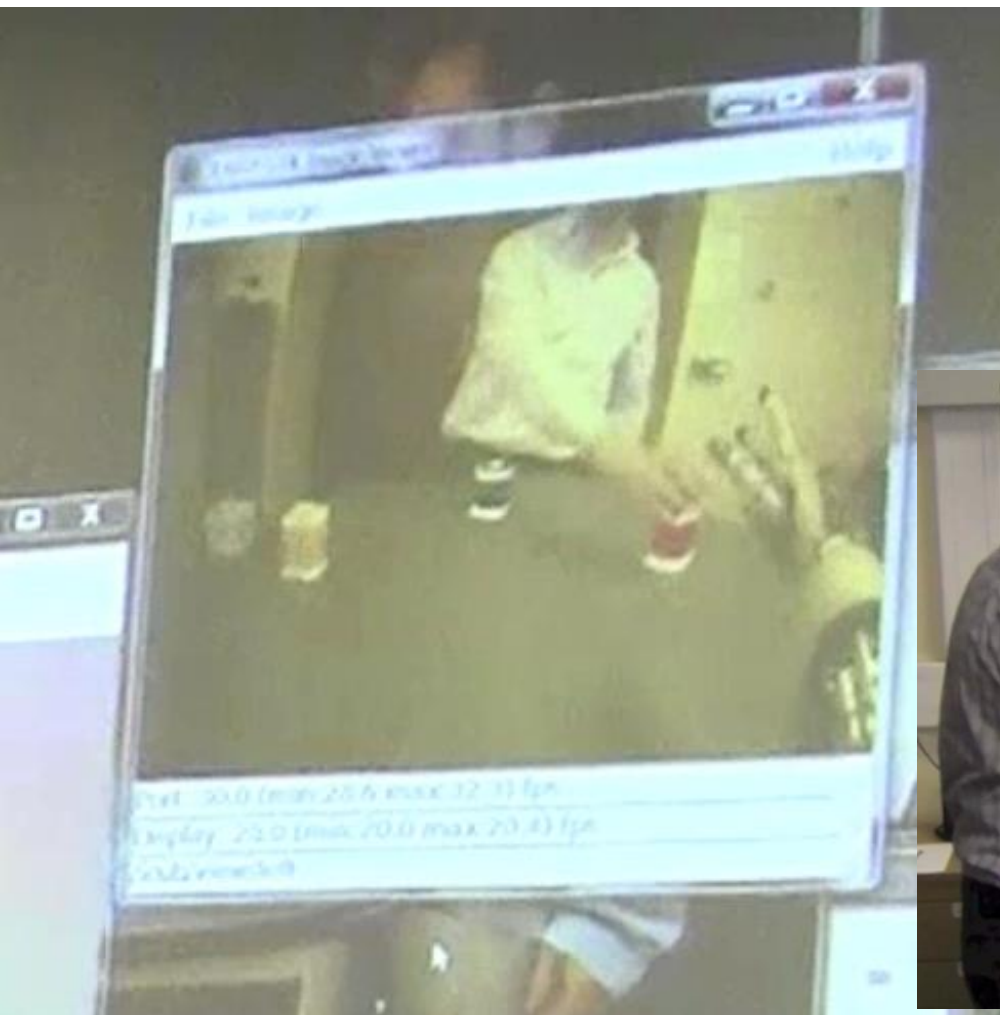
Similarity between
predictions for different
events



Results

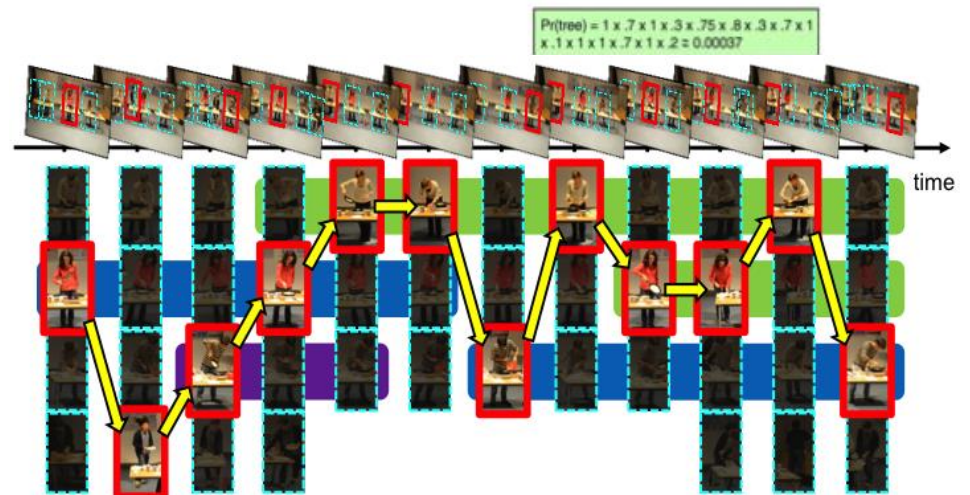
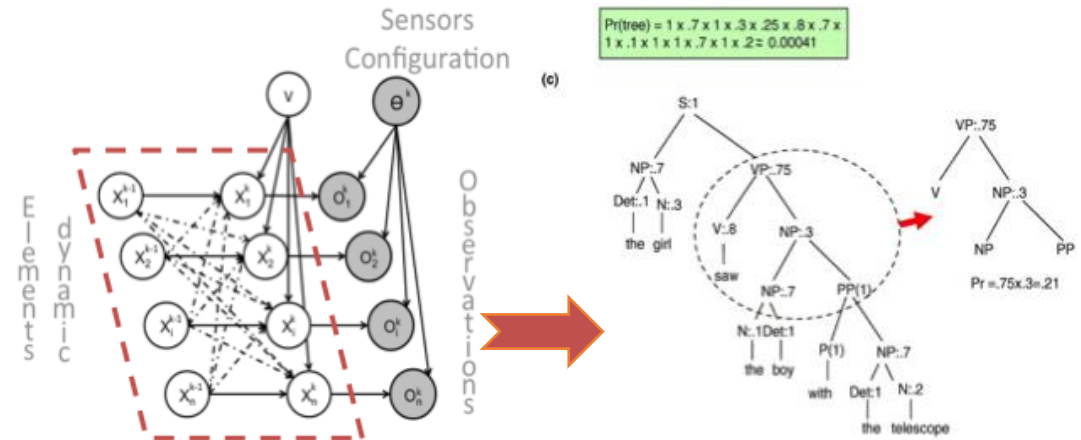


Results: Anticipate Performer Hand



STARE

Spatio-Temporal Attention Relocation for Multiple Structured Activities Detection



Multi-VIEW Image (MVI) in NM



Carmelo Calafiore, Tom Foulsham
University of Essex, Colchester, UK

$\phi_0=45^\circ$					
$\phi_1=90^\circ$					
$\phi_2=135^\circ$					
	$\theta_0=-180^\circ$	$\theta_1=-135^\circ$	$\theta_2=-90^\circ$	$\theta_3=-45^\circ$	$\theta_4=0^\circ$

- 15 views:
5 thetas x 3 phis

An example of Multi-View Video for N



Carmelo Calafiore, Tom Foulsham
University of Essex, Colchester, UK

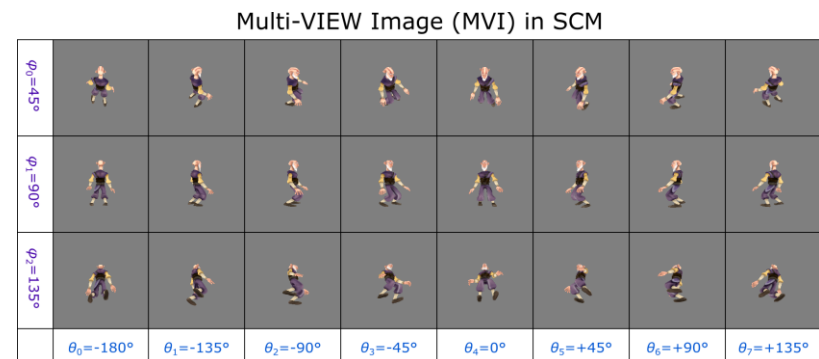
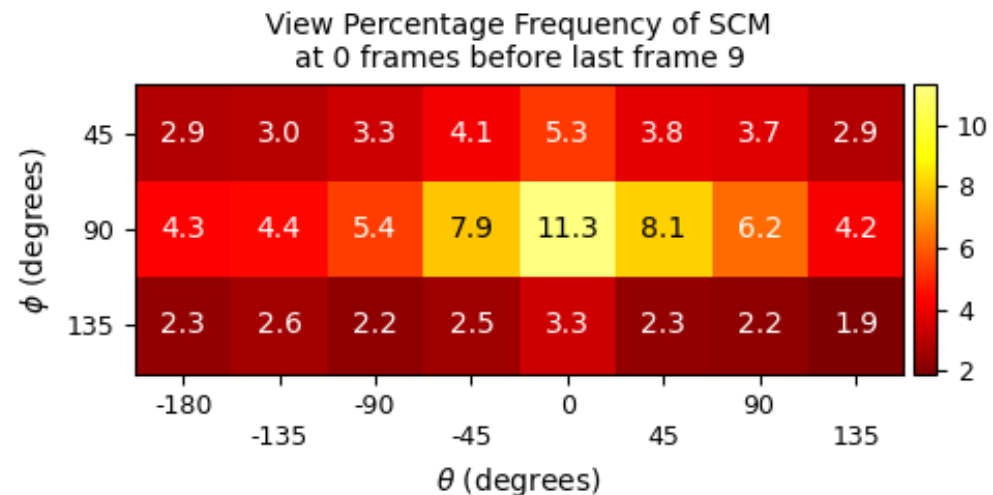




Carmelo Calafiore, Tom Foulsham
University of Essex, Colchester, UK

View Percentage Frequency in SCM

- Humans in the SCM selected more often the front and middle-height views than the chance.
- They selected less often the bottom, top-back views than the chance;
- Chance is 4.16% (100 % / 24 views);
- The view selection positively correlates with of the NM view accuracy, $r=.60$, $p<.01$;
- The view selection negatively correlates with of the NM view RT, $r=.62$, $p<.01$;
- People selected views efficiently.





Multi-VIEW Image (MVI) in IC and ISC

Carmelo Calafiore, Tom Foulsham
University of Essex, Colchester, UK

$\phi_0=0^\circ$								
$\phi_1=45^\circ$								
$\phi_2=90^\circ$								
$\phi_3=135^\circ$								
$\phi_4=180^\circ$								
	$\theta_0=-180^\circ$	$\theta_1=-135^\circ$	$\theta_2=-90^\circ$	$\theta_3=-45^\circ$	$\theta_4=0^\circ$	$\theta_5=+45^\circ$	$\theta_6=+90^\circ$	$\theta_7=+135^\circ$

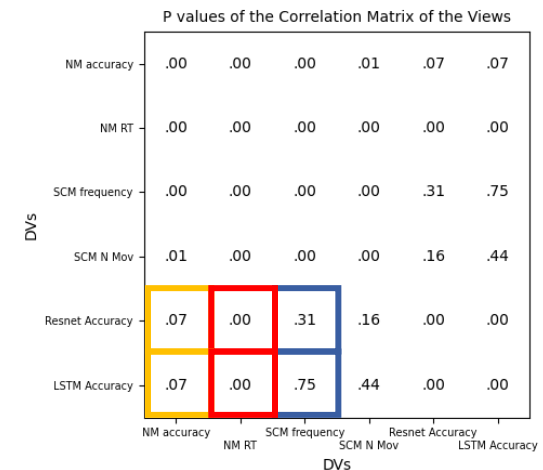
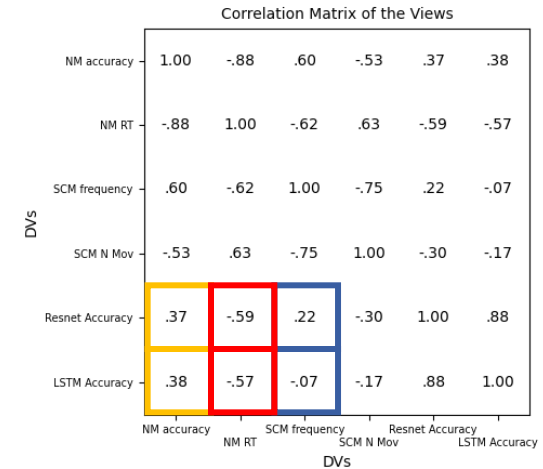
- 40 views:
8 thetas x 5 phis

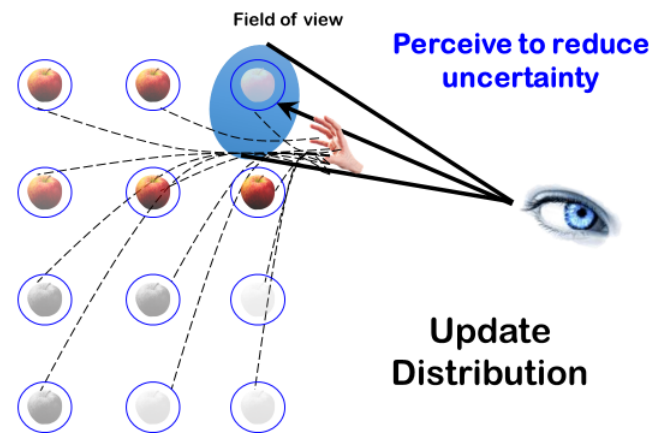


Carmelo Calafiore, Tom Foulsham
University of Essex, Colchester, UK

Correlation of different DVs of the views

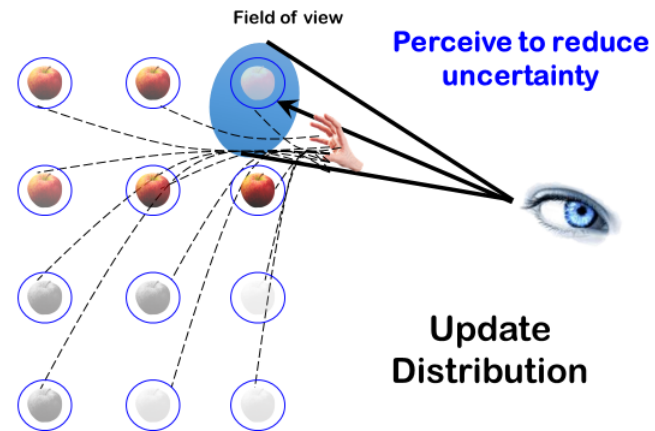
- The view selection does not correlate with the view accuracy of both computer models;
- The view accuracy of the models positively correlates with of the NM view accuracy;
- The view accuracy of the models negatively correlates with of the NM view RT;





Goal Directed Behaviours

WHAT HAPPENS IF WHO WE OBSERVE IS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TOO?



Goal Directed Behaviours

WHAT HAPPENS IF WHO WE OBSERVE IS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TOO?



How do we learn to predict what partners are missing and **need to see** for any context and task?

Bianco & Ognibene HRI 2020
Bianco & Ognibene ICSR 2019
Bianco & Ognibene CEEC 2019

EMBODIED MODELS FOR EMERGENCE OF THEORY OF MIND



Francesca
Bianco

Theory of mind (ToM), or mentalizing, is the cognitive ability to attribute & represent others' mental states, i.e. intentions, beliefs and desires .

It has advantages for:

- Coordinating and managing false-beliefs
- Proactivity and preparation
- Active perception
- Learning



Ognibene & Demiris IJCAI 2013
Ognibene & Baldassarre AMD 2015
Bianco & Ognibene ICSR 2019
Ognibene et al. ICSR 2019
Bianco & Ognibene HRI 2020

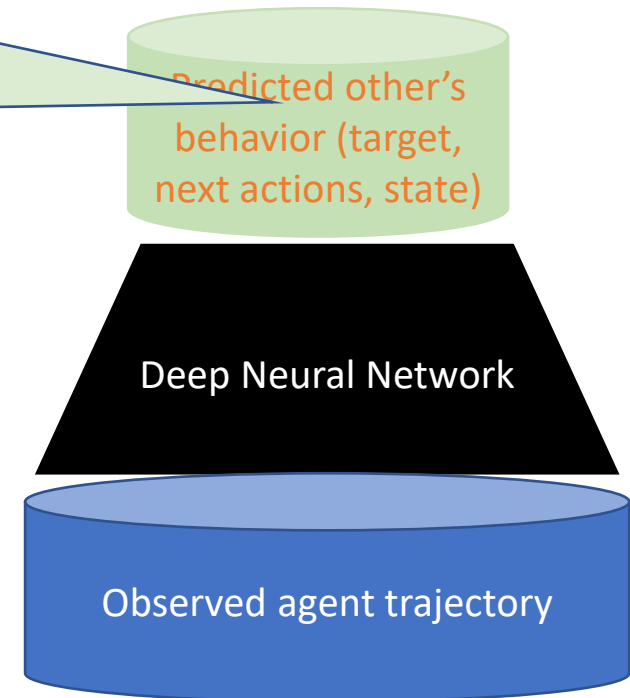
EMBODIED MODELS FOR EMERGENCE OF THEORY OF MIND



Francesca Bianco

Rabinowitz et al NIPS 2018

Learns autonomously to predict **“belief-determined behaviors”** with no explicit information about *other’s beliefs*, which are not accessible



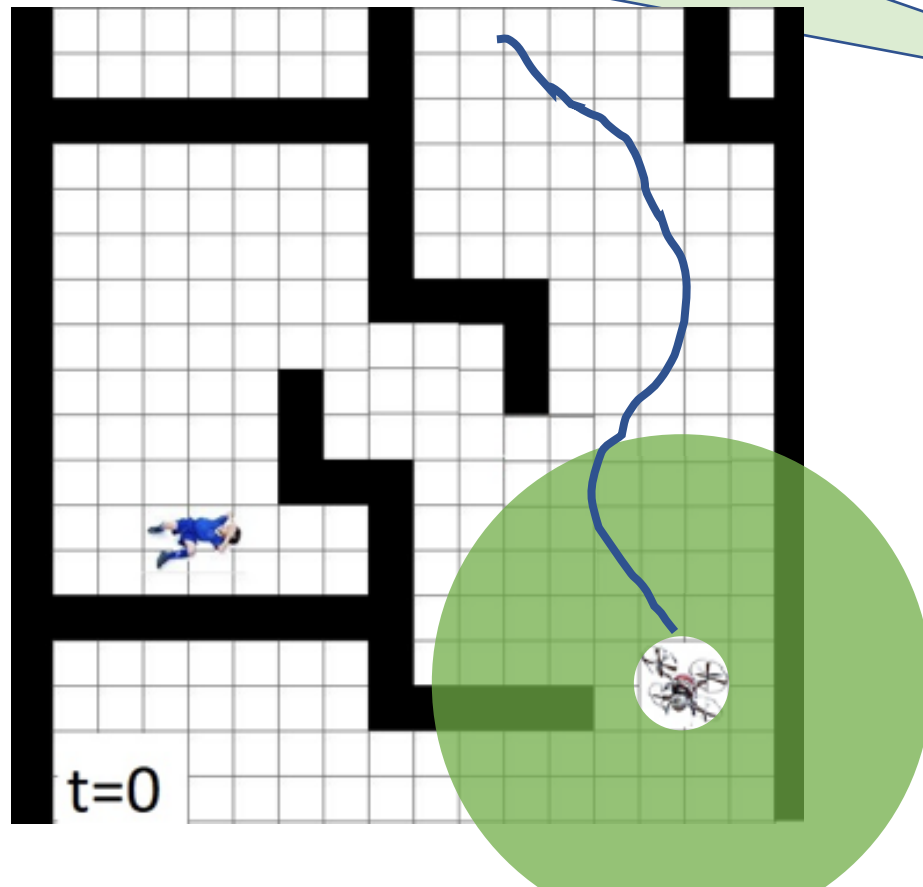
EMBODIED MODELS FOR EMERGENCE OF THEORY OF MIND



Francesca Bianco

Learns autonomously to predict “**belief-determined behaviors**” with no explicit information about other’s beliefs, which are not accessible

Rabinowitz et al NIPS 2018



Predicted other’s behavior (target, next actions, state)

Deep Neural Network

Observed agent trajectory

EMBODIED MODELS FOR EMERGENCE OF THEORY OF MIND



Francesca Bianco

et al NIPS 2018

Learns autonomously to predict “**belief-determined behaviors**” with no explicit information about other’s beliefs, w

- Can we learn a more explicit and «*shared*» representation?

other’s target, state)

Neural Network

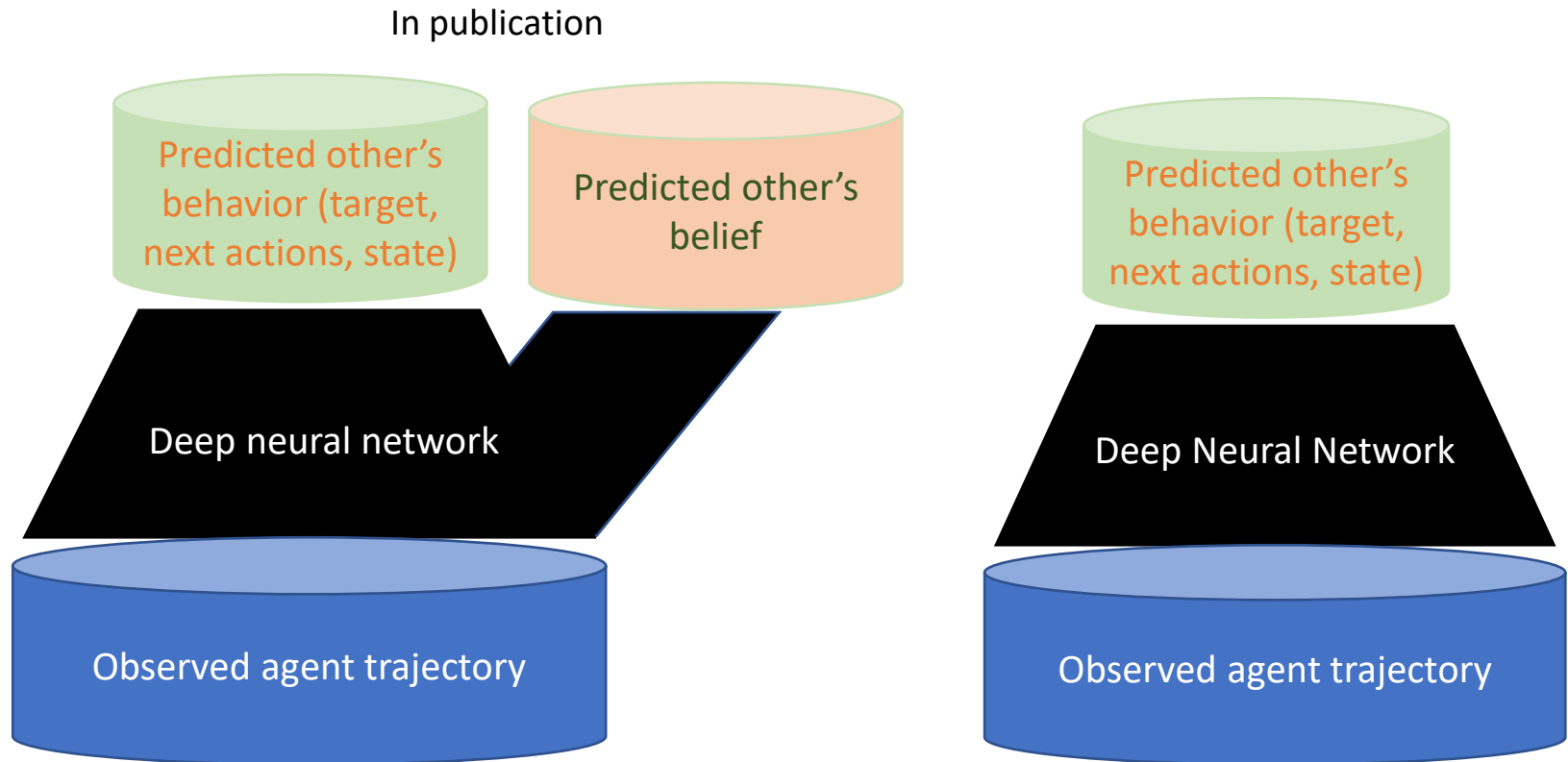
Observed agent trajectory

t=0

EMBODIED MODELS FOR EMERGENCE OF THEORY OF MIND



Francesca Bianco

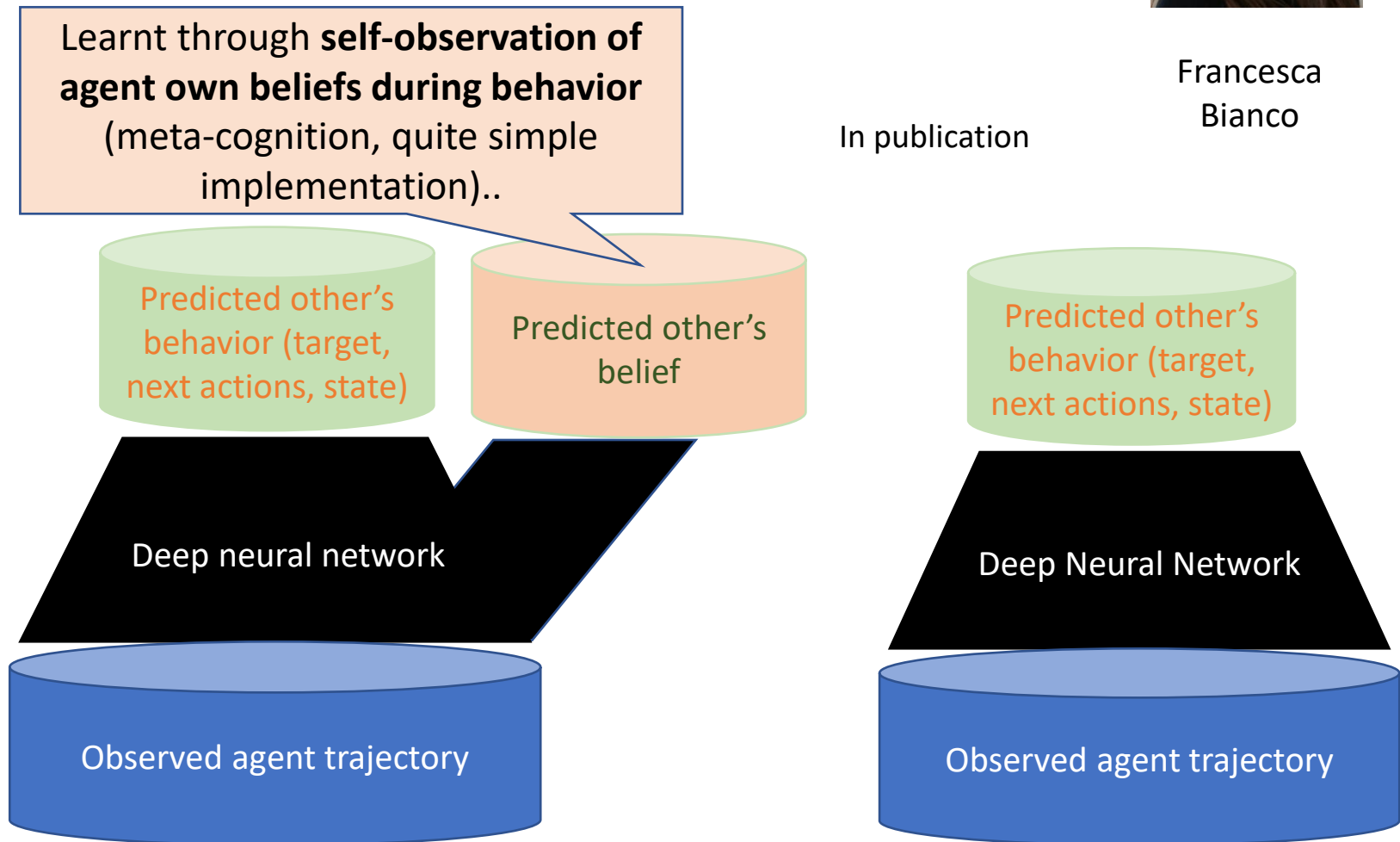


EMBODIED MODELS FOR EMERGENCE OF THEORY OF MIND



Francesca Bianco

In publication



EMBODIED MODELS FOR EMERGENCE OF THEORY OF MIND



Francesca Bianco

Learnt through **self-observation of agent own beliefs** of **behavior**

- Can we learn a more explicit and «*shared*» representation?
- *Is learning two things at the same time harder?*

Other's target, state)

Neural Network

Observed agent trajectory

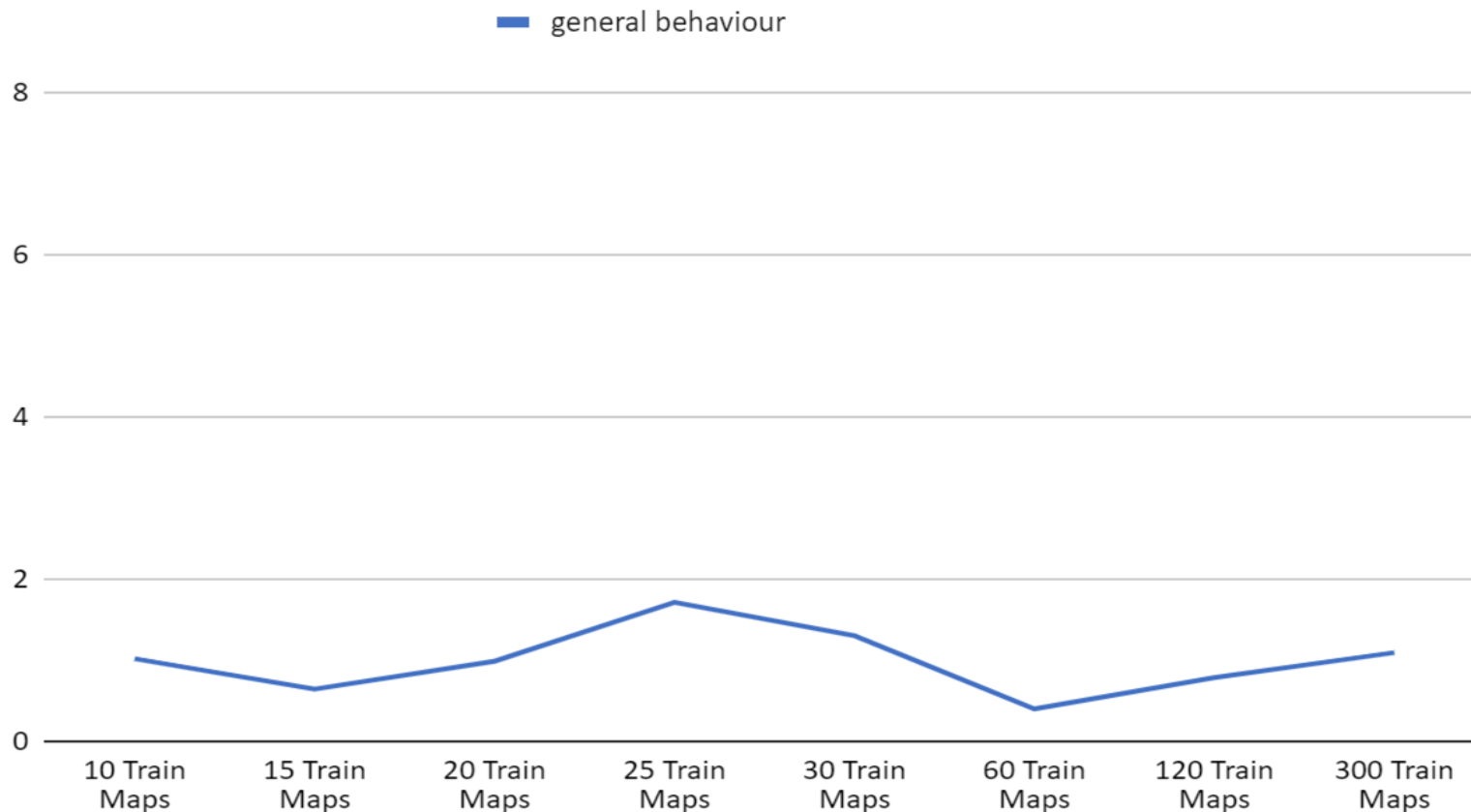
Observed agent trajectory

EMBODIED MODELS FOR EMERGENCE OF THEORY OF MIND



Francesca Bianco

Relative performance gain of explicit belief architecture in generic behavior

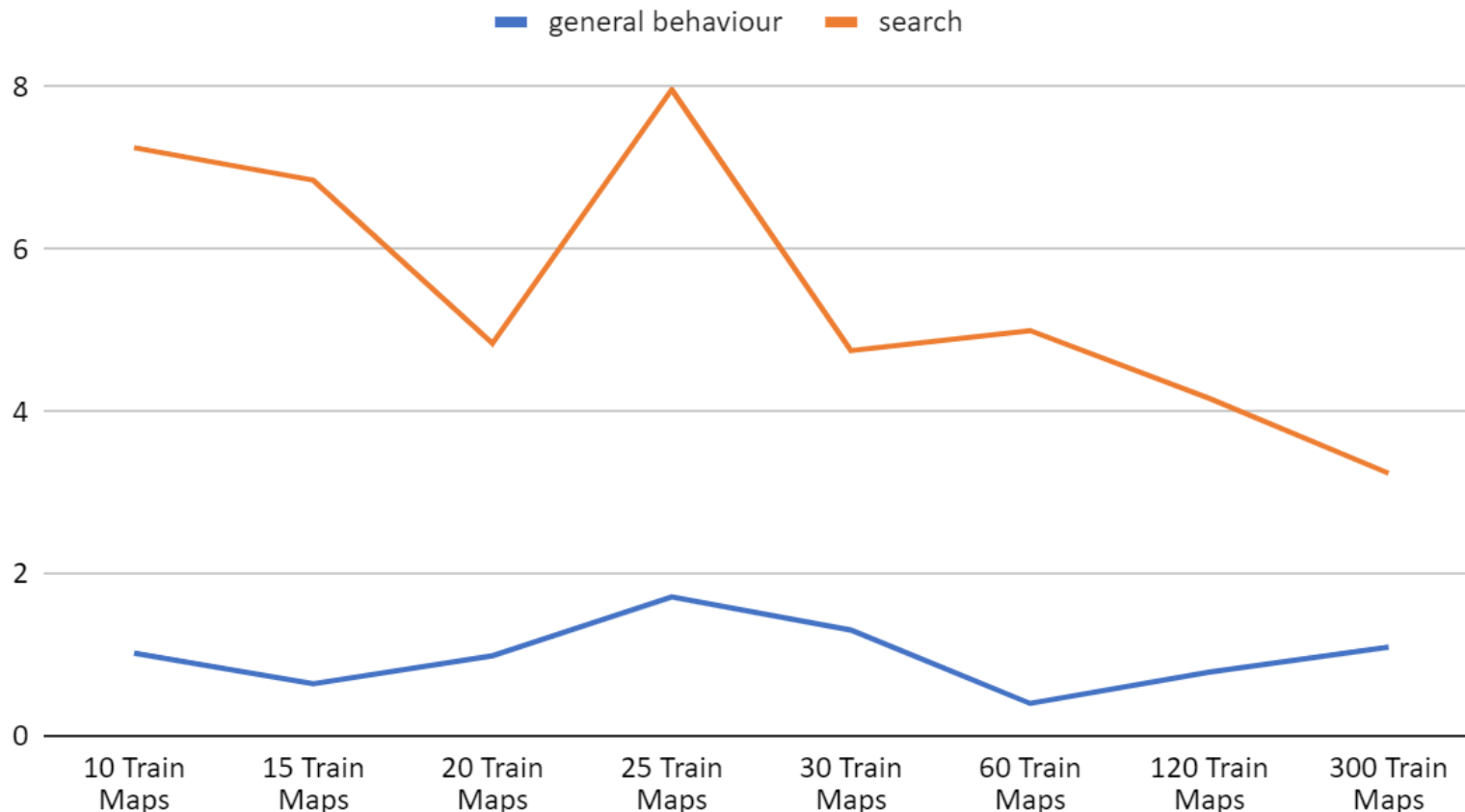


EMBODIED MODELS FOR EMERGENCE OF THEORY OF MIND



Francesca Bianco

Relative performance gain of explicit belief architecture in generic behavior and in the search segment



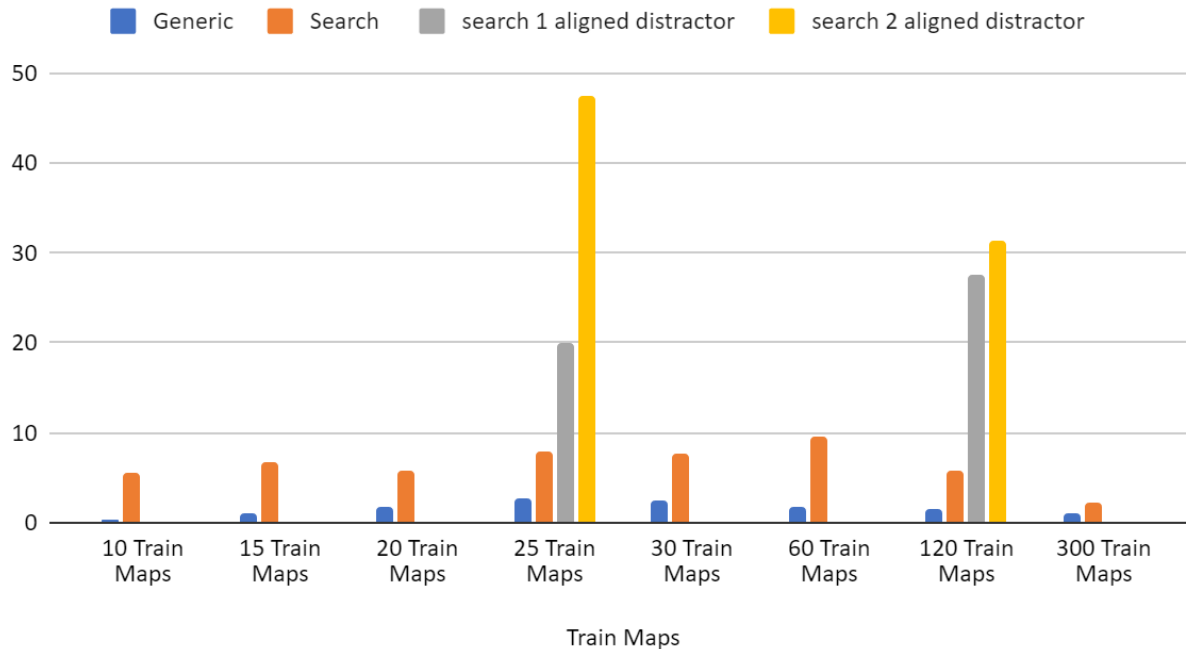
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Francesca Bianco

Relative performance gain of explicit belief architecture in generic behavior and in the search segment

Generic, Search , search 1 obj and search 2 obj



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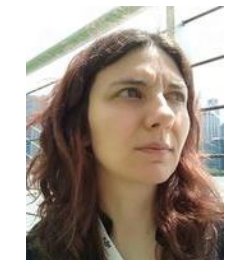
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Thanks for your attention