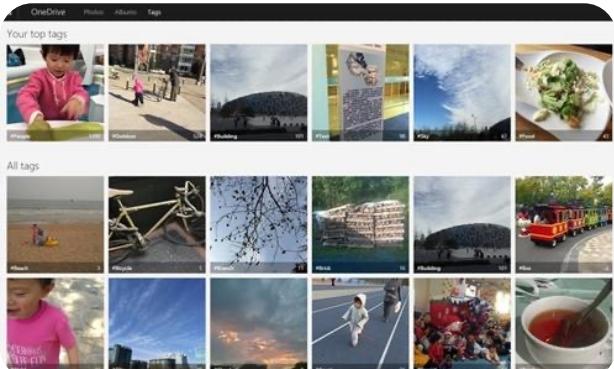


# Lifelong Learning Inspired by the Brain

Hava Siegelmann  
Umass Amherst

# AI: Super Human? Robust?

Beyond human capabilities



© Ibm: i2.kknews.cc/SIG=29vh65/2175/  
3455714929.jpg



©DeepMind Technologies

Not fully trustworthy in unstructured environments!



[www.bbc.com/news/technology-44300952](http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-44300952)



# Chief source of Untrustworthy AI

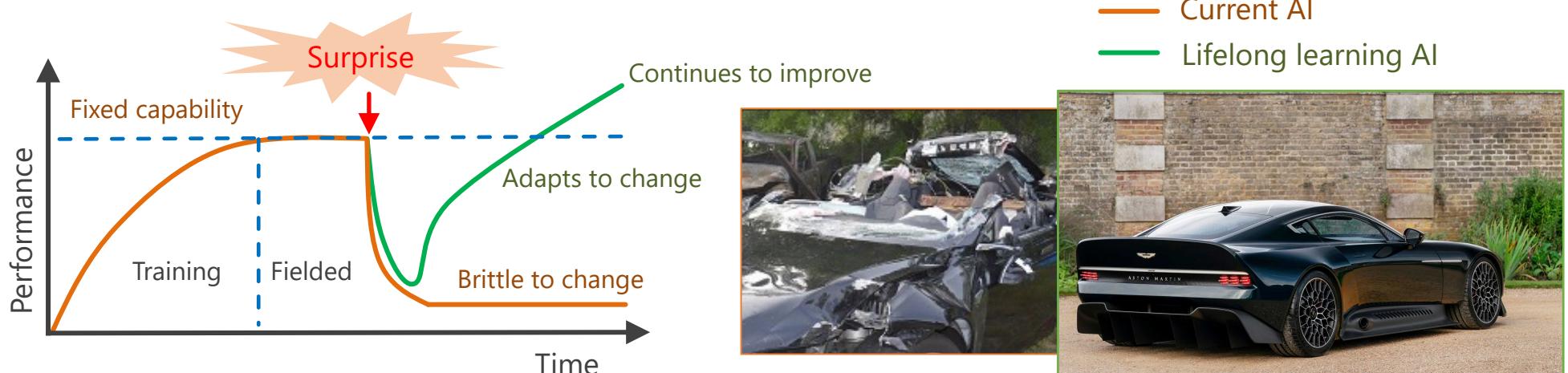
Mainly 2 type of AI:

Programmed (**If** fever>38 **then** covid test)

Trained (provide: dataset, network, training)

Frozen once ready: AI fully relies on what it was taught advance

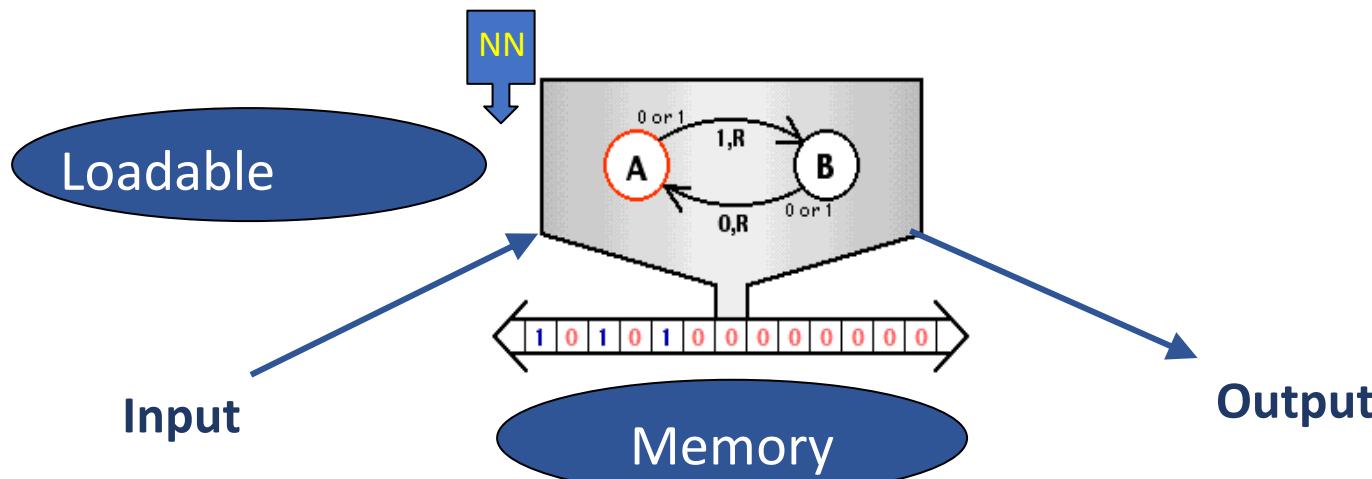
- No way to prepare a training set capturing all possible futures
- Malfunctions in unseen circumstances
- It is easy to attack a non-changing system



# Background:

---

- Universal **Turing Machine** (1936): Does what the **program** fed in to it tells to do
- **Neural Networks** AI (1940's), 200) 0's "Deep learning" : Does what the **database** showed it as knowledge



1. Program and rules (coding expert behavior)
2. Network, dataset (training on Data)

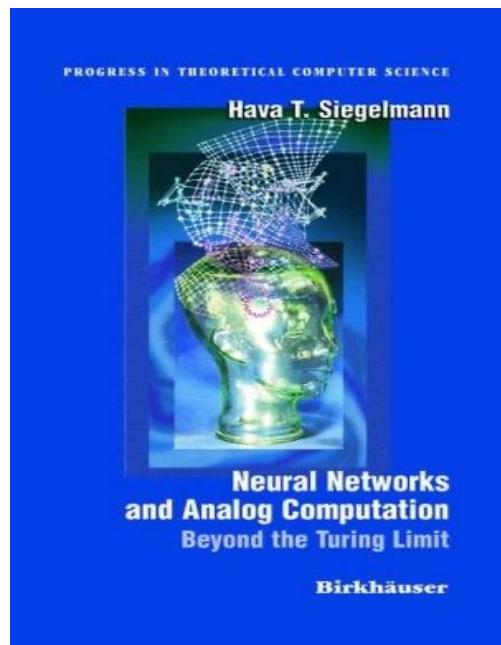


# 1990's: Super-Turing Continuum Hierarchy: Biological Type Computation

## Continuum of computational hierarchy

### Turing –computation: Fixed programs

- 1. Discrete (Q)
- 2. Deterministic
- 3. Pre-programmed
- Center model: Turing machines

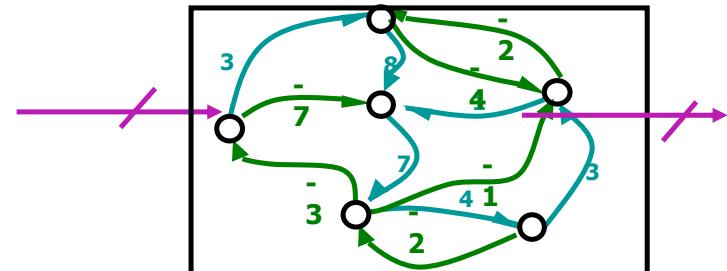


### Super Turing, variable programs

- 1. Physical values (Real)
- 2. Randomness/asynchronous
- 3. Lifelong Learning, evolving
- 4. Series of TM's

Kolmogorov $[f(n),g(n)]$  UTM  
calculates  $\alpha[n\text{-prefix}]$   
from  $f(n)$  bits in  $g(n)$  time  
 $P=K[1,p(n)]$  AnalogP=K[n,n]

- Center model: Recurrent NN





# DARPA's Lifelong Learning Machines (L2M)

---

DARPA's large group effort to advance AI 2017-2022

Create AI systems that can adapt during runtime

Looking at neuroscience to find how lifelong learning is possible:

We came up with a number of ways to advance AI learning from experience (not from pre-prepared datasets)

[“Biological Underpinnings for Lifelong Learning Machines,” \*Nature Machine Intelligence\*, 03/2022](#)

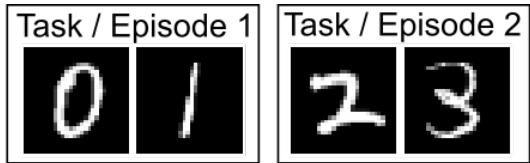
Most successful solutions:

- bio-inspired Replay
- self Supervision
- adaptive modularity

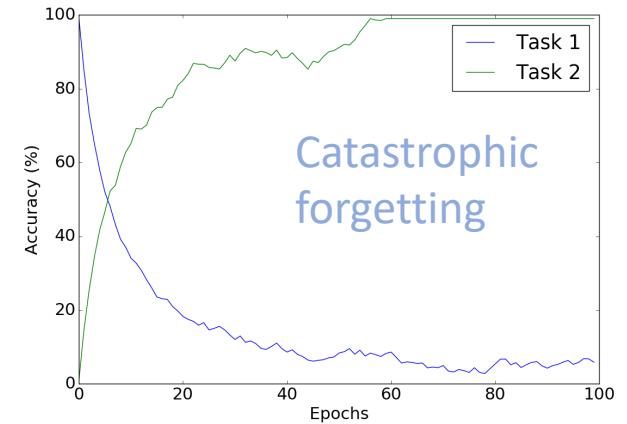


# Continual learning

---



**Task-Incremental Learning (Task-IL)**  
Choice between 2 known digits (e.g., '0')



# Improvement: Brain Inspired Replay

(Nature Communication August 2020: with Gido van de Ven & Andreas Tolias, Baylor)

Store and retrain



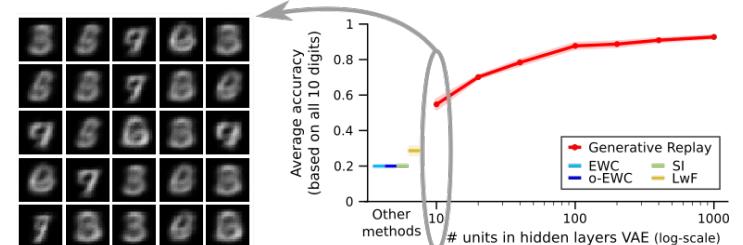
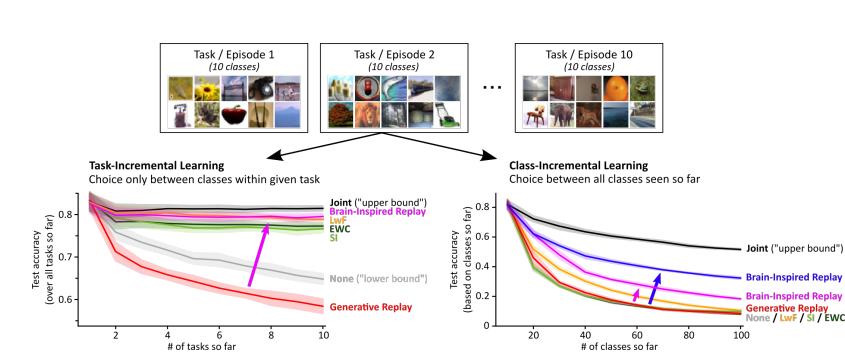
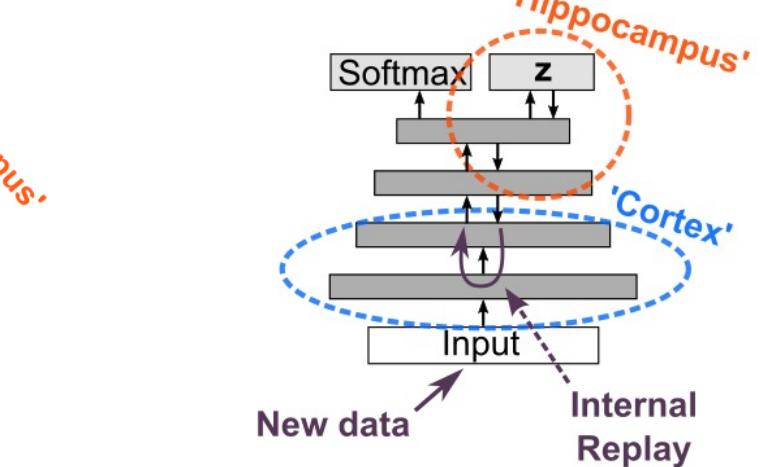
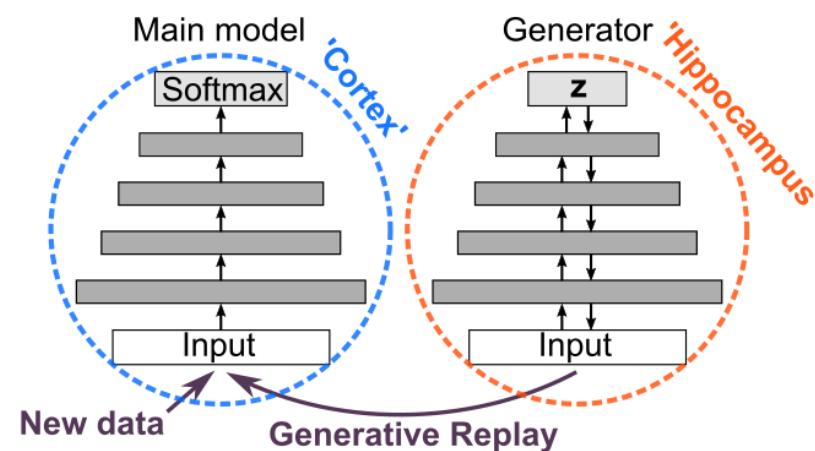
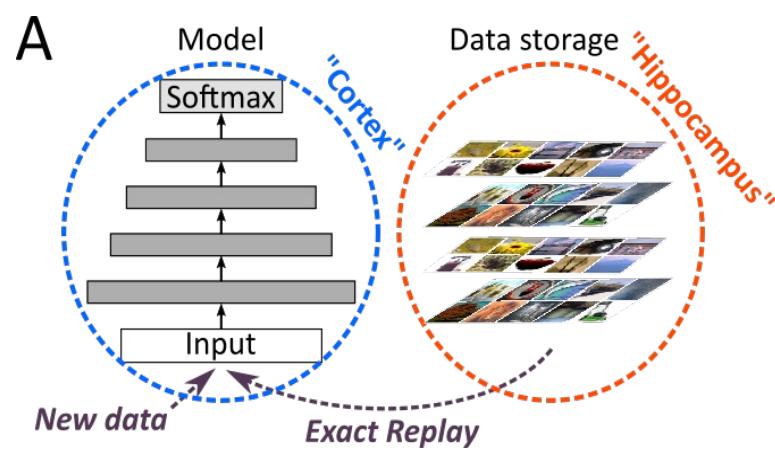
Generate and replay



Brain-like

Generate abstractions and replay

A



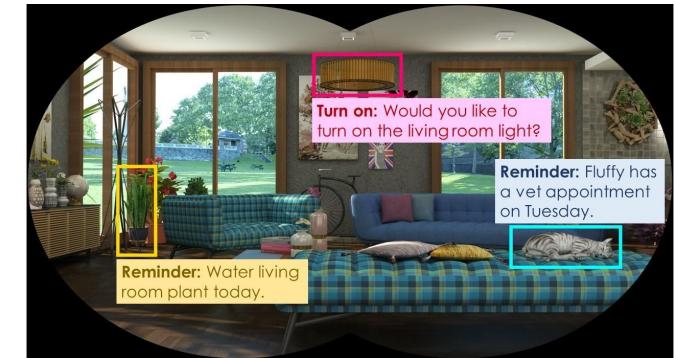
low quality generative model could suffice – better “abstraction”

# When and What to Replay?

**1. When to replay:** Pervasive applications - mobile phones, virtual/augmented reality (VR/AR) headsets, household robots: that learn the identity of the individuals, pets, and objects in the house:

**Learning online** incorporates experience immediately

**Offline consolidation** while the mobile device charged or its owner is asleep.



Virtual/Augmenter reality: input arrives naturally, not one class after the other (From Chris Kanan)

**2. What to replay?** *Similarity-weighted interleaved learning (SWIL):*

Only previous memories with **high similarity to the new data**: substantially less data

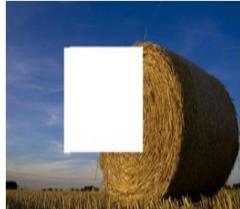
Rajat Saxena , Justin L. Shobe, and Bruce L. McNaughton “Learning in deep neural networks and brains with similarity-weighted interleaved learning ” PNAS 06/2022

# Internal Explorations: Self Directed Learning

Agent uses downtimes to challenge itself with tasks: learn even in the absence of explicit labels (**Toyota, UMass, NYU/Facebook**)

Intelligent search – apply self-learned (visual/functional) associations

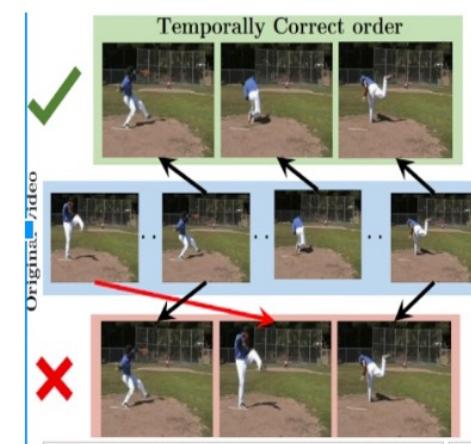
Fill in the blank



Colorization



Temporal order



Reference Image



Image matching



"kettle"



# Internal Explorations: Self Supervised Learning

Agent uses downtimes to c  
the absence of explicit label

Fill in the blank



Reference Image



NEWS | ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

## Meta's AI Takes an Unsupervised Step Forward

> In the quest for human-level intelligent AI, Meta is betting on self-supervised learning

BY ELIZA STRICKLAND | 29 JUN 2022 | 6 MIN READ |

# Evaluating lifetime learning – APL

Standard ML datasets don't capture lifelong learning challenges. Richer datasets and environments are needed.

## SRI

Modified StarCraft2\* interface enables surprises to be injected into the game on-the-fly:

- Change terrain
- Alter unit capability
- Switch friends to foes
- Move goals
- Increase weapon range



\* Blizzard Entertainment, 2010

Example simulation with injected surprises

# How to Make Lifelong Learning more Robust?

---

What else can neuroscience tell us?

## I. Robustness

1. Inherent abstraction - generalization
2. Reflexes save against surprises - safety
3. Temporal understanding of the environment – awareness

## II. Ever-learning enablers:

4. Forward propagation algorithm
5. Parallel and distributed structures

## III. Structural Efficiency

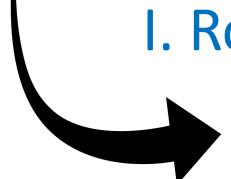
6. Fast adapting compact circuits: multifunctionality and neuromodulations
7. Rich multiscale neurons – computability
8. Asynchronous Computing

# How to Make Lifelong Learning Effective?

---

What else can neuroscience tell us?

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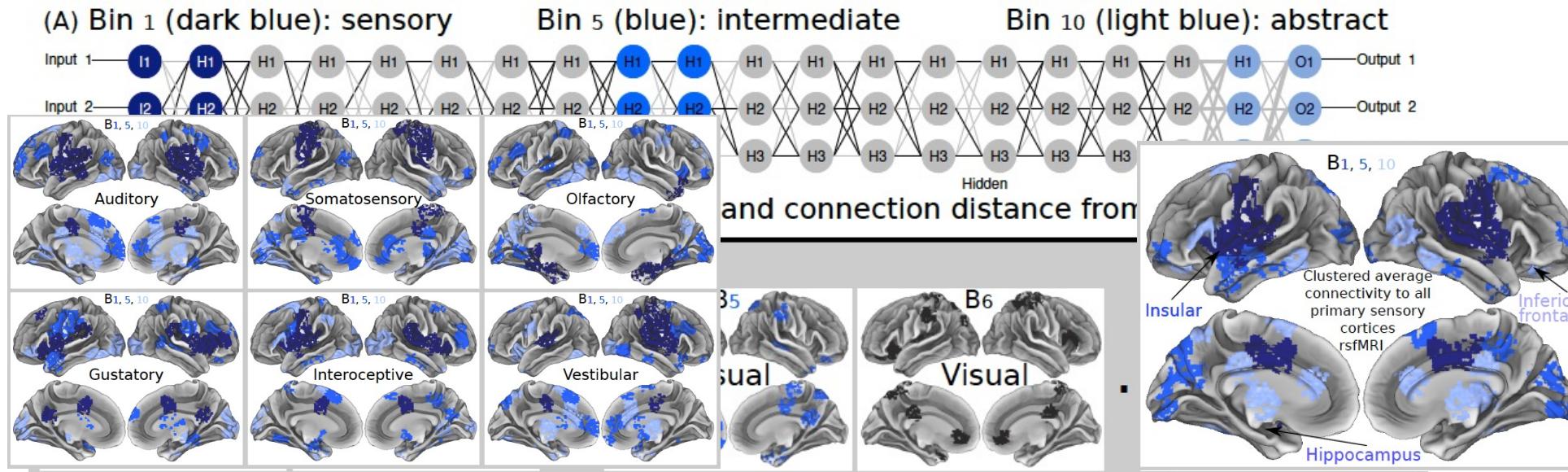
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# How to Make Lifelong Learning Effective?

## 1. Inherent abstraction - generalization

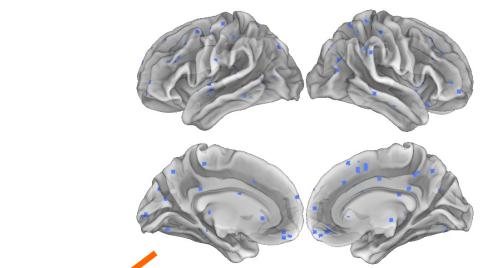
Is there a hierarchy (visual like) for cognition?

Connectome models are recursive, but we can define “distance” from inputs’ cortices via time (rs-fmri) and highways (DTI)



*“The global landscape of cognition: hierarchical aggregation as an organizational principle of human cortical networks and functions,” Nature Scientific Reports 2015.*

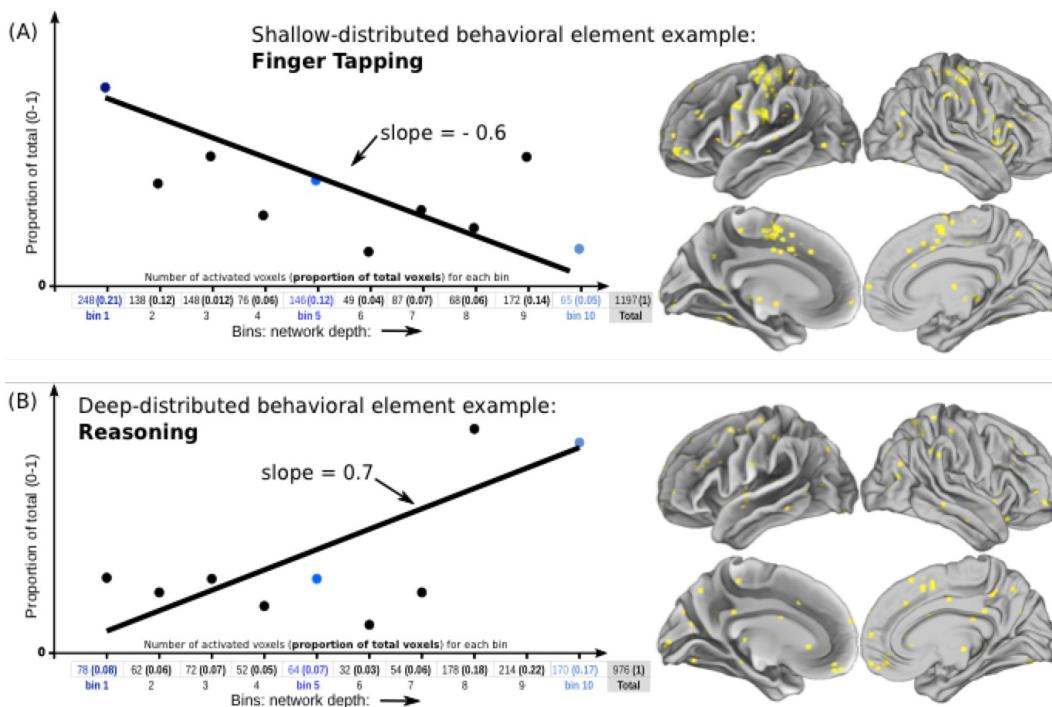
Relating behavior with depth?



# How to Make Lifelong Learning Effective?

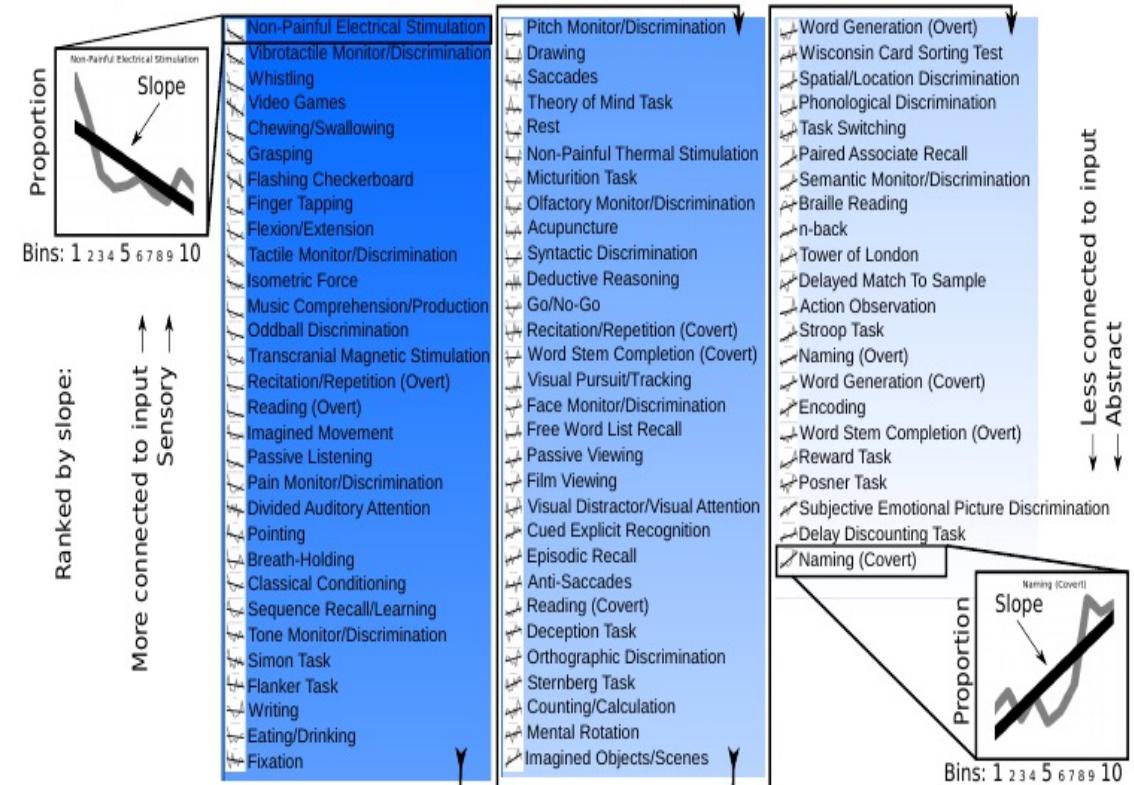
## 1. Inherent abstraction - generalization

Neural activity hierarchy via fMRI ("sloped based")



*"The global landscape of cognition: hierarchical aggregation as an organizational principle of human cortical networks and functions," Nature Scientific Reports 2015.*

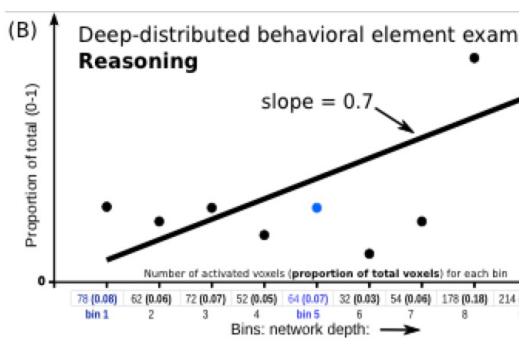
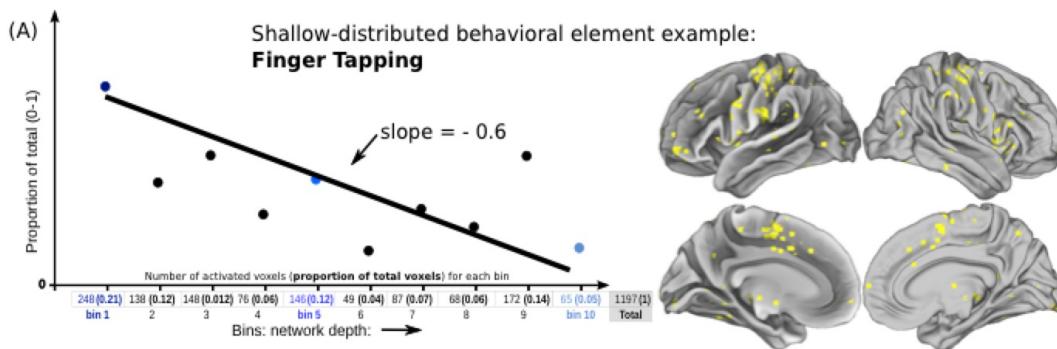
Abstract thoughts: aggregation & abstractions



# How to Make Lifelong Learning Effective?

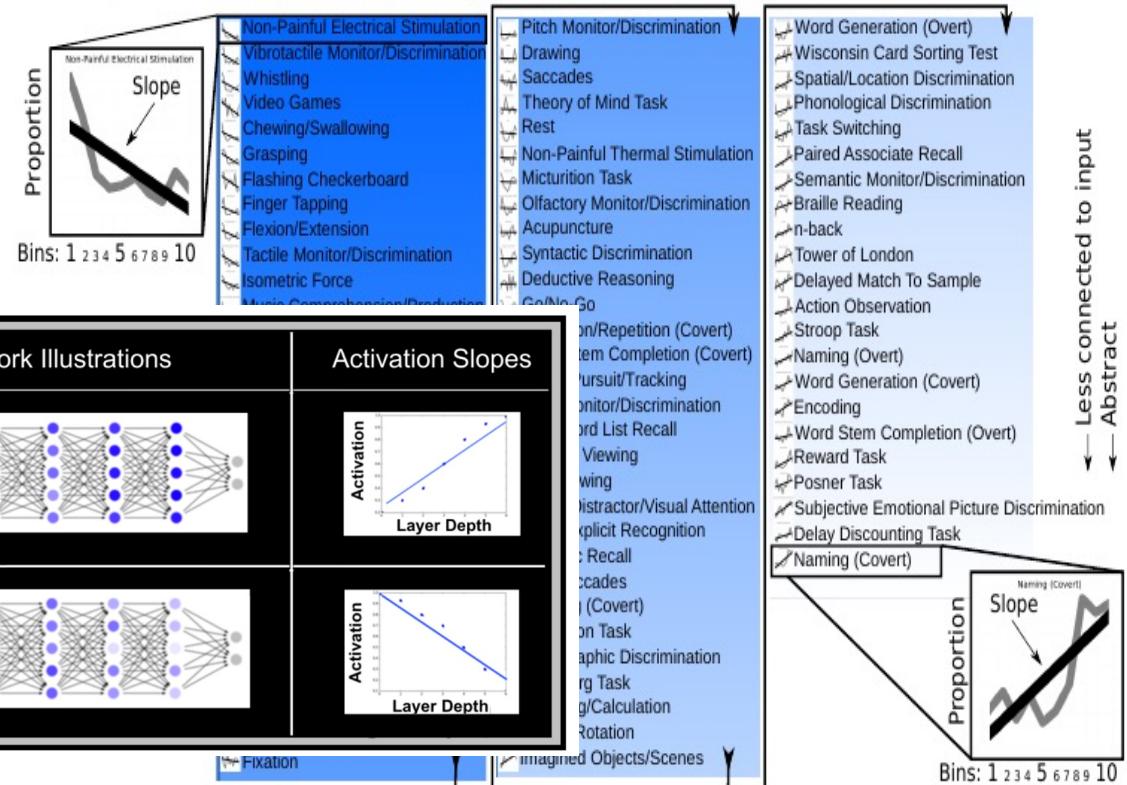
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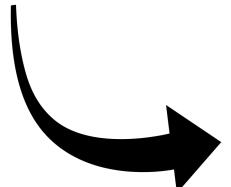


# How to Make Lifelong Learning Effective?

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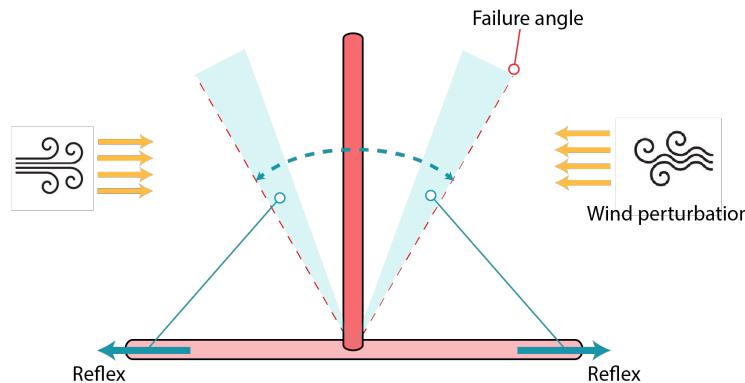
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# Saving from unknown disasters

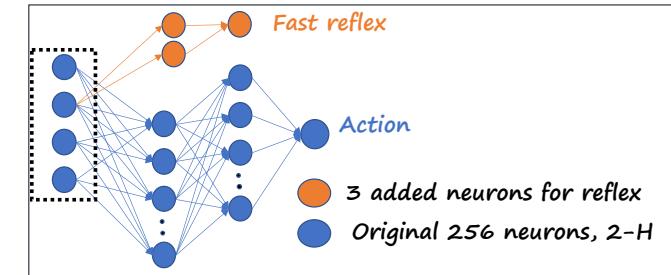
## 2. Reflexes save against surprises - safety

*Devdhar Patel, Francesca Walsh, Terry Sejnowski*

Protecting AI systems without increasing power requirements:  
Fast reflexes help survival in adversarial environments



Reflex activated at angles  $> 0.15$   
(agent fails at angles  $> 0.2$ )

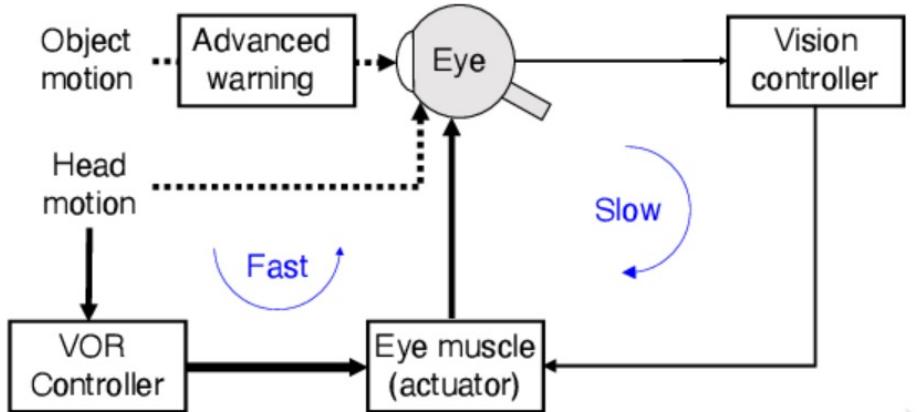


# Saving from unknown disasters

## 2. Reflexes save against surprises - safety

General solution of temporal layered architecture (TLA):

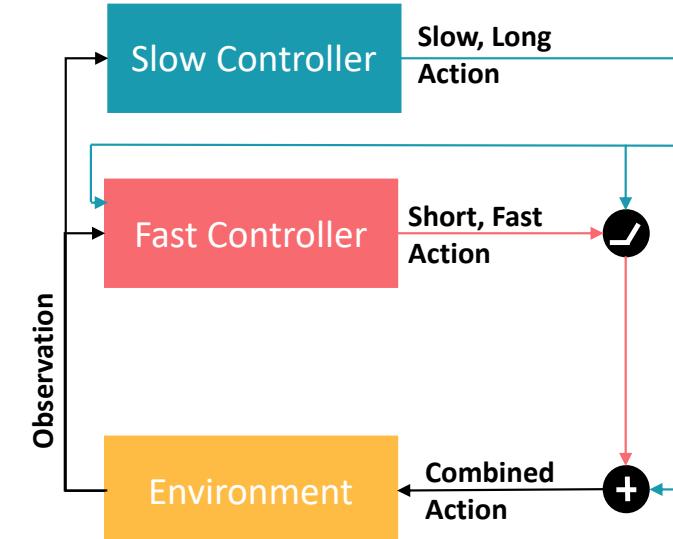
Brain may be using two layers together:



Picture taken from:

Nakahira, Yorie et al. "Diversity-enabled sweet spots in layered architectures and speed–accuracy trade-offs in sensorimotor control." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118 (2021): n. pag.

Devdhar Patel, Francesca Walsh, Terry Sejnowski – submitted

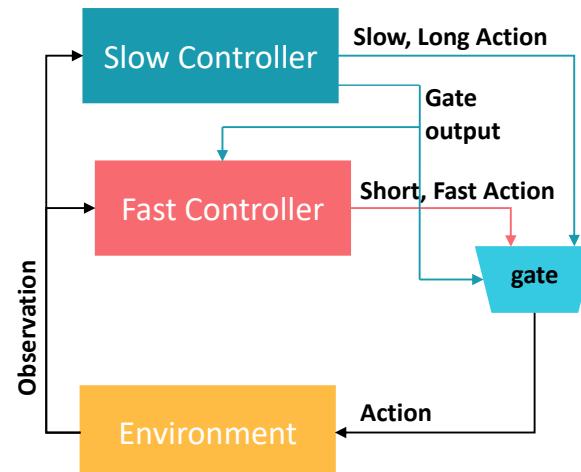
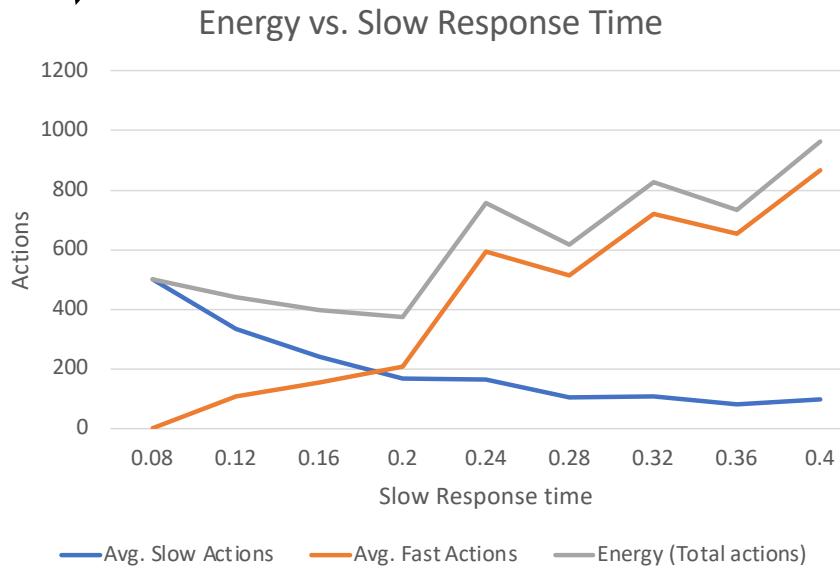


- Layer a fast controller over a slow controller. Gate fast action based on its value.
- Training slow controller first also allows faster exploration due to increase step sizes
- Improved training for fast controller and common activity

Also – towards distributed AI, different response times corresponds to communication and computation delays

# Saving from unknown disasters

## 2. Reflexes save against surprises - safety



Devdhar Patel, Francesca Walsh, Terry Sejnowski – submitted

Return per Action RPA:  
TLA best among RL variances for dynamic environments

Environment	TLA			TD3		
	Response Time	Avg. Return	RPA	Response Time	Avg. Return	RPA
InvertedPendulum-v2	0.04s, 0.08s	<b>1000 ± 0</b>	<b>1.9</b>	0.04s	1000 ± 0	1.00
InvertedDoublePendulum-v2	0.05s, 0.1s	<b>9358.94 ± 0.82</b>	<b>18.49</b>	0.05s	9358.48 ± 2.5	9.36
Hopper-v2	0.008s, 0.016s	<b>3443.21 ± 131.6</b>	<b>3.74</b>	0.008s	3032.25 ± 262.8	3.20
Walker2d-v2	0.008s, 0.016s	<b>3694.04 ± 128.58</b>	<b>3.96</b>	0.008s	3233.77 ± 895.3	3.23

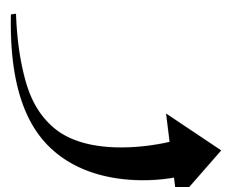
# How to Make Lifelong Learning Effective?

---

What else can neuroscience tell us?

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## II. Ever-learning enablers:

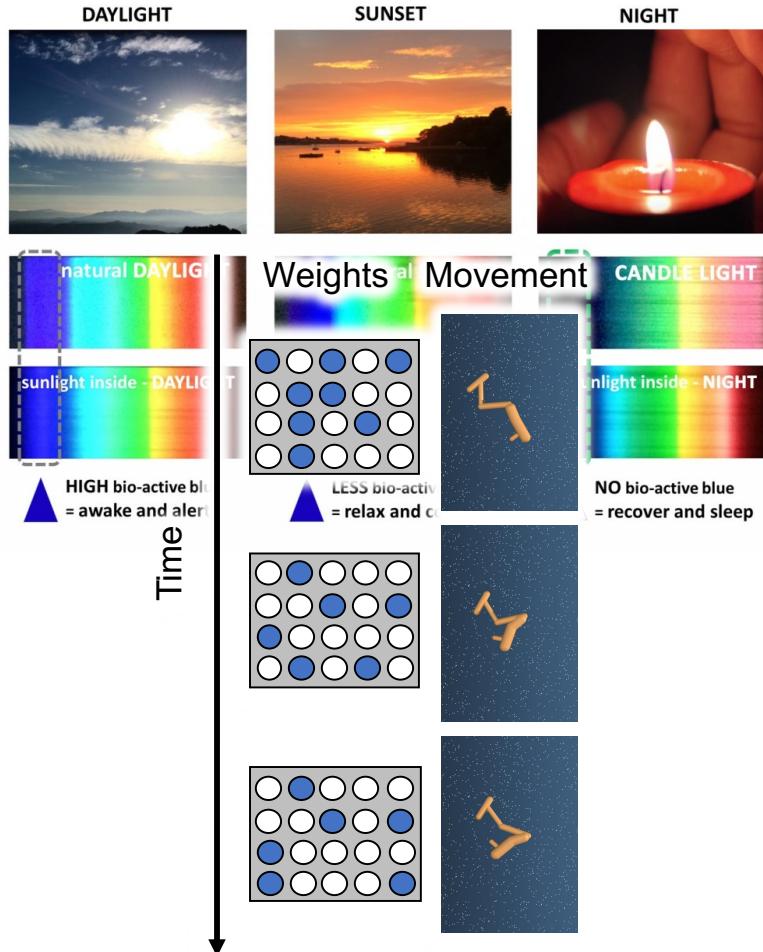
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# How to Make Lifelong Learning Effective?

## 3. Temporal understanding of environment



Current AI, including L2 makes no use of repetitions and periodic behavior  
Required for understanding of environment

# How to Make Lifelong Learning Effective?

## 3. Temporal understanding of environment

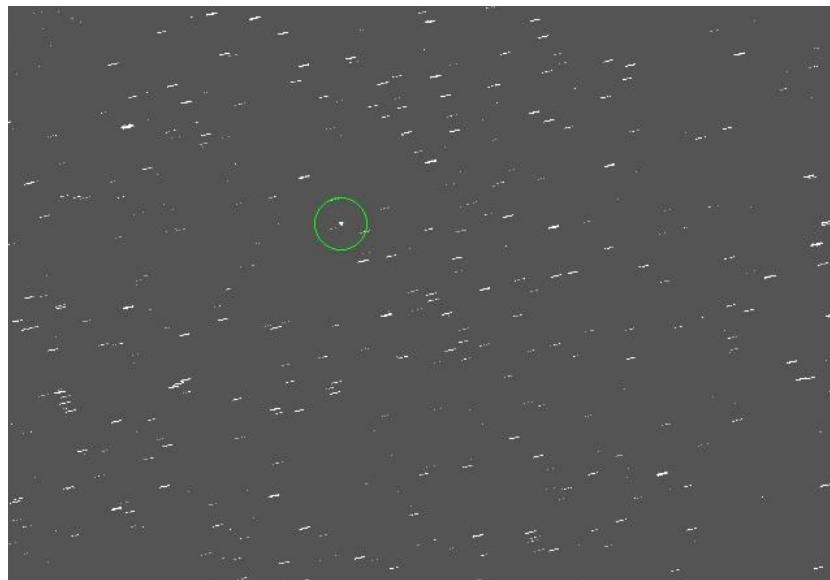
**Goal:** Develop a new class of temporal aware neural networks:

- a. High prediction accuracy
- b. Irregular and missing data (realistic)
- c. Fast learning and reaction
- d. Get small networks first (rather than late pruning)

Health Monitoring: detect/predict anomalies to be reported or acted upon



Event Based Identification: improved tracking, partial irregular info

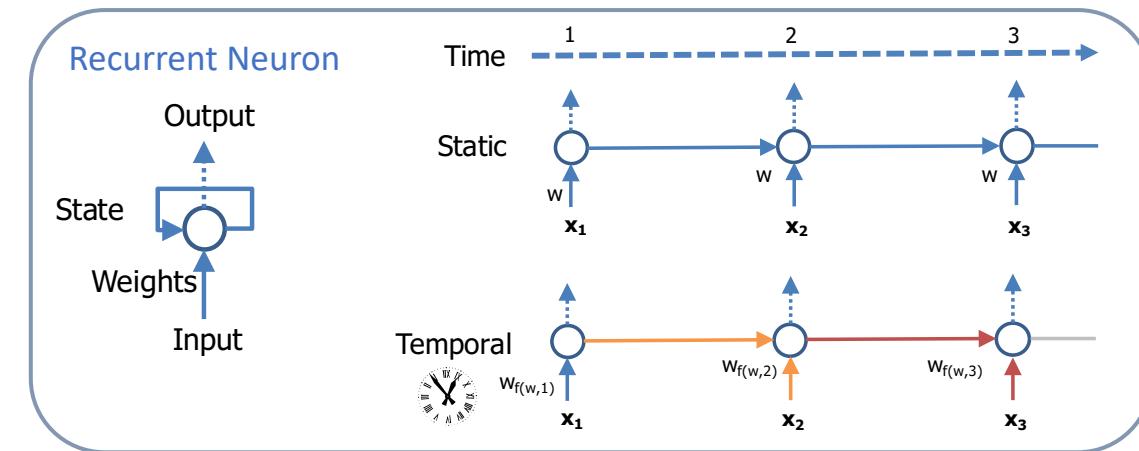


# Solution: Neural Networks that Temporally Change

**Goal:** Develop a new class of temporal aware neural networks:

- High prediction accuracy
- Irregular and missing data (realistic)
- Fast learning and reaction
- Get small networks first (rather than late pruning)

**Solution:** Temporally changing weights



**Inspiration:** Turing 1948

# NOTCH's Equations and Algorithm

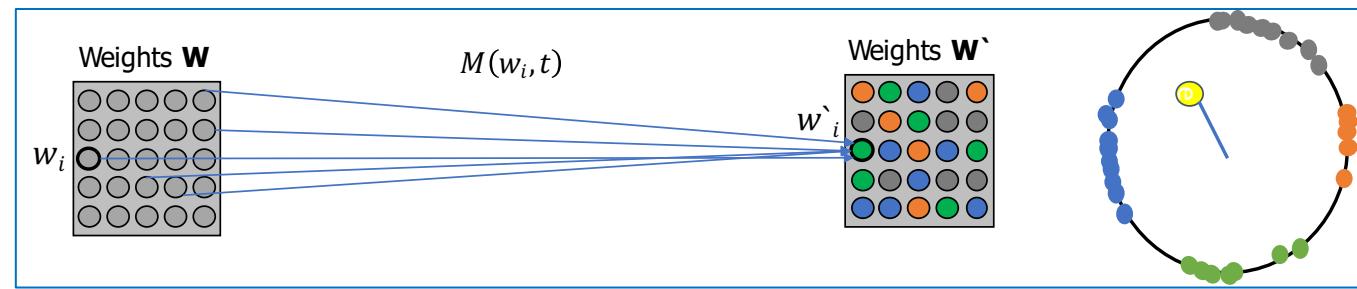
**Calculate temporal weights:**

$$M_i(W_l, t) = \frac{1}{\#W} \sum_{j=1}^{\#W} K_{\{ij\}} \sin[f(t) * (w_i - w_j) + \phi(t)]$$

Where:

- $f(t)$  time-varying frequency
- $\phi(t)$  time-varying phase shift
- $K$  matrix of coupling coefficients
- $W_l$  meta-weights of layer l

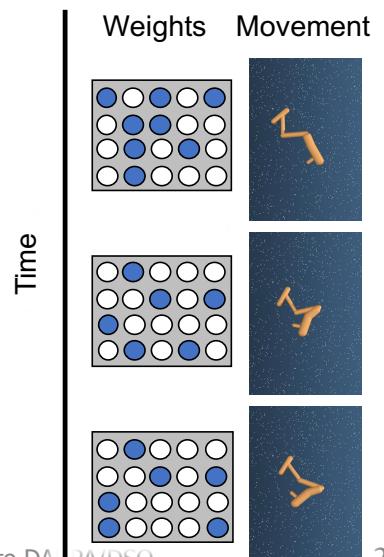
All learned simultaneously with the weights



**Kuramoto Model:** behavior of systems of chemical and biological oscillators

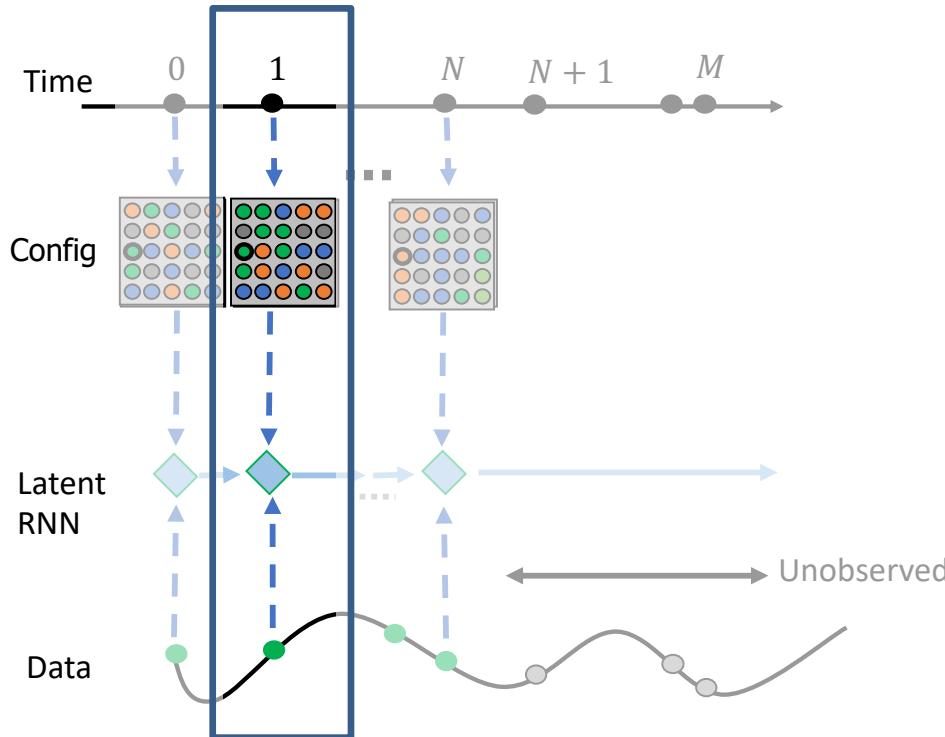
$$\frac{d\theta_i}{dt} = \omega_i + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N K_{ij} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j)$$

- Composed of  $N$  limit-cycle oscillators, with phases  $\theta_i$ , and coupling constant  $K$
- Interactions depend sinusoidally on the phase difference between every two oscillators

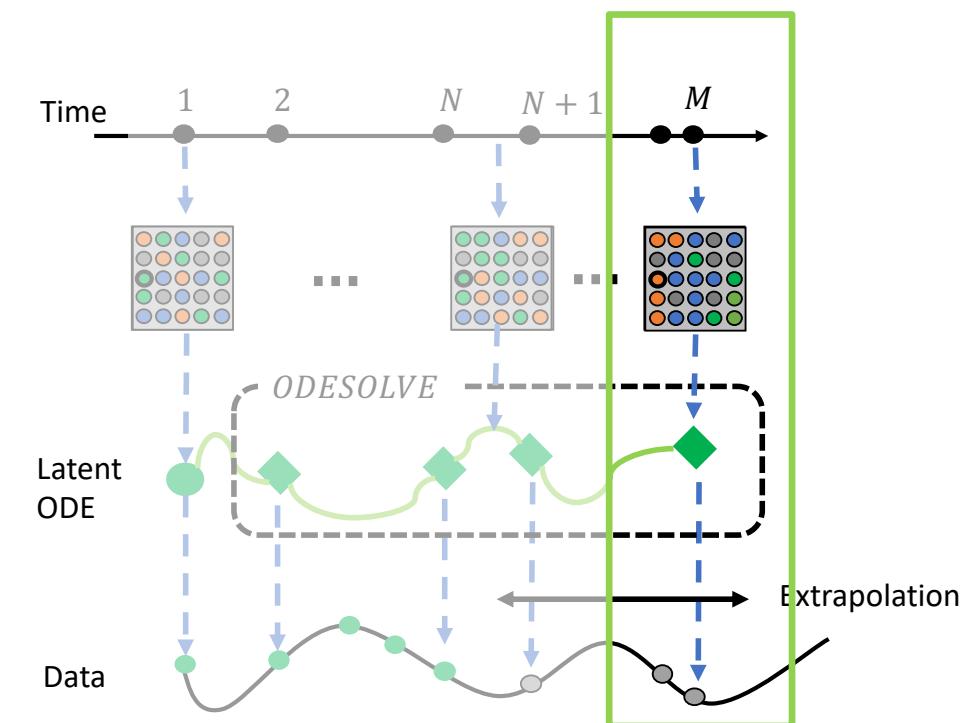


# NOTCH with Discrete or Continuous Models

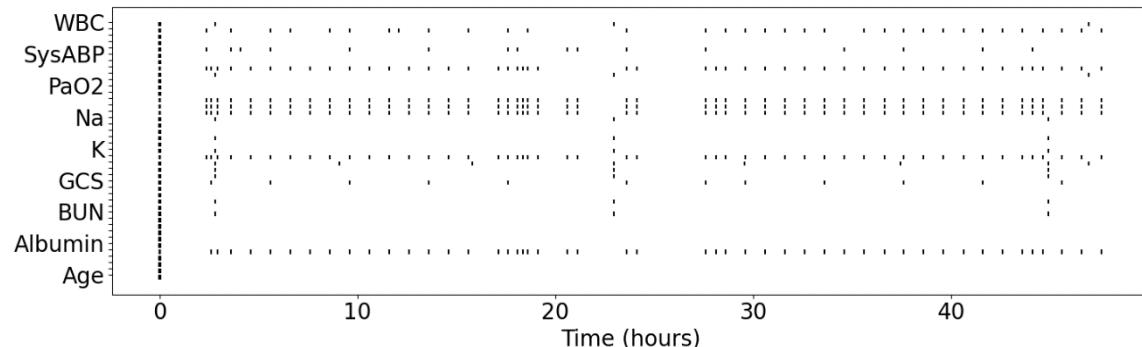
**RNN/GRU** generates weights  
with inputs



**NeuralODE** generates weights  
1. with inputs  
2. in between inputs  
3. predicting for future points



# Results: Slide 1: ICU Measurements Dataset



12,000 stays in the ICU

48 hours of a patient's admission to ICU

2,880 possible measurements (mostly lab) per time series

37 highly irregular measurements, 80% missing values

Released home ("1") or die in hospital ("0") - 86 vs. 14%

## Discriminative Task

### Task 1A: Predict in-hospital mortality

1. Observe first 48 hours of ICU measurements of patient
2. Predict in the hospital survival (1) or not (0)

Method	AUC	Epochs	# Params
LatentODE	0.829	> 100	163,972
LatentODE Scaling (Ours)	0.861	31	76,427

## Generative Tasks

### Task 1B: Predict the 80% missing points in time series

1. Observe ICU measurements (black points)
2. Given only an initial latent vector  $z$ , reconstruct all measurements

Method	Error (MSE)	Epochs	# Params
LatentODE	$2.118 \times 10^{-3}$	83	67,071
LatentODE Scaling (Ours)	$1.370 \times 10^{-3}$	49	52,016

10% data similar results

### Task 1C: Predict future points in time series

1. Observe the first 24 hours of ICU measurements
2. Predict ICU measurements for next 24 hours

Method	Error (MSE)	Epochs	# Params
LatentODE	$2.208 \times 10^{-3}$	98	67,071
LatentODE Scaling (Ours)	$1.900 \times 10^{-3}$	16	52,016

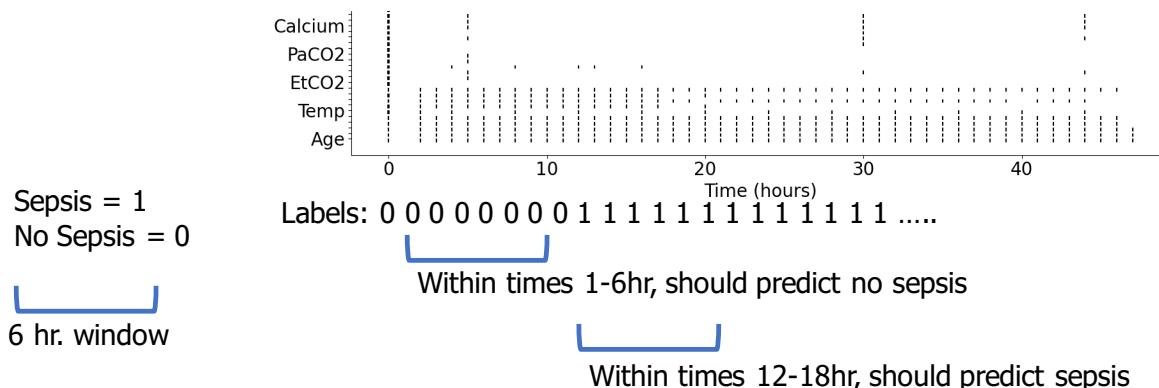
## NOTCH:

- Improved training efficiency
- Better performance
- Smaller Model

## **Results Slide 2: Online Sepsis Prediction**

## Discriminative Task

Predict at every hour whether the patient will have sepsis within the next 6 to 12 hours



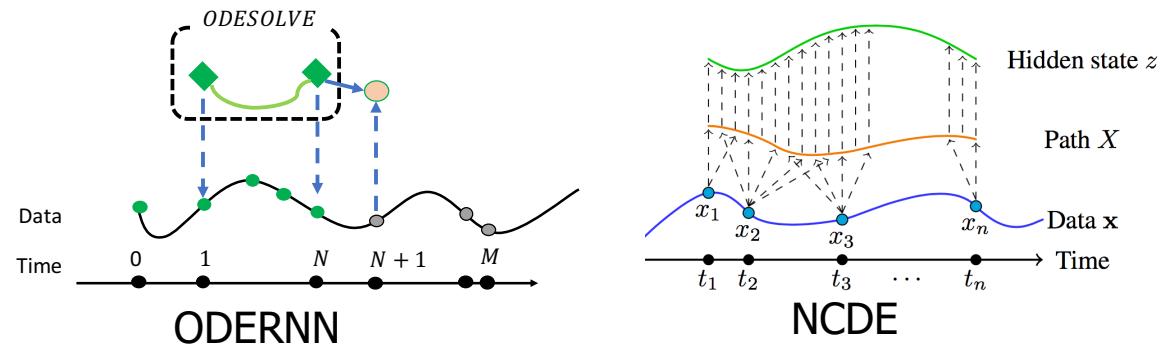
## Task 2A: Discrete Model

Method	Performance (AUC)	Epochs	# Params
GRU	0.781	> 100	1,132,544
w/ Scaling (Ours)	0.784	20	22,529
w/ Scaling (Ours)	0.774	65	4,998

Similar results with 0.1% - 25 examples

## Task 2B: Continuous Models

Method	Performance (AUC)	Epochs	# Params
ODERNN [1]	0.689	67	148,672
ODERNN [1]	0.765	86	680,462
w/ Scaling (Ours)	0.787	24	149,519
NCDE [2]	0.925	130	55,949
NCDE [2]	0.925	110	193,541
w/ Scaling (Ours)	0.931	180	58,553



[1] Rubanova, Yulia, Ricky TQ Chen, and David K. Duvenaud. "Latent ordinary differential equations for irregularly-sampled time series." *Advances in neural information processing systems* 32 (2019).

[2] Kidger, Patrick, et al. "Neural controlled differential equations for irregular time series." *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems* 33 (2020): 6696-6707.

# Results Slide 3: MuJoCo Hopper and Human Activity Prediction

## Generative Tasks: Hopper Physics

### Task 3A: Predict missing points in Hopper time series

1. Observe irregular and sparse body positions



2. Generate missing body positions



### Task 3B: Generate next in Hopper body positions

Predict future points in time series: Observe 50, generate 50

Method	Error (MSE)	Epochs	# Params
LatentODE	$3.60 \times 10^{-3}$	> 100	617,619
w/ Scaling (Ours)	$2.40 \times 10^{-3}$	57	112,739

Method	Error (MSE)	Epochs	# Params
LatentODE	$14.41 \times 10^{-3}$	> 100	617,619
w/ Scaling (Ours)	$12.72(11.91) \times 10^{-3}$	40(65)	112,739



## Discriminative Task: Human Activity Prediction

### Task 3C: Classify each point to activity

Method	Performance (AUC)	Epochs	# Params
Latent ODE [1]	0.846	> 100	1,696,763
w/ Scaling (Ours)	0.870	10	141,023

- NOTCH:**
- Improved training efficiency
  - Better performance
  - Smaller Model

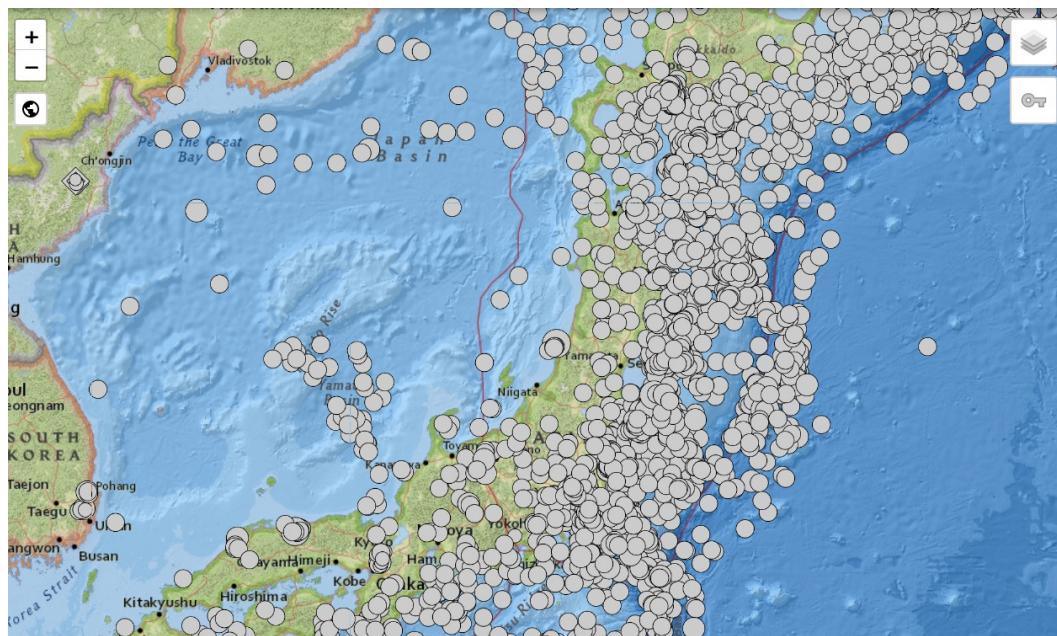
[1] Rubanova, Yulia, Ricky TQ Chen, and David K. Duvenaud. "Latent ordinary differential equations for irregularly-sampled time series." *Advances in neural information processing systems* 32 (2019).  
<https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-large-crowd-of-people-gathered-around-man-sitting-on-grass-watching-horse-jumping-event-at-the-great-yorkshire-show-england.html>

# Results Slide 4: SpatioTemporal

## Generative Task

### Task 4A: Earthquake events in Japan

Method	Error (NLL)	Epochs	# Params
Time-var. CNF [2]	1.510 (1.955)	(497)	13,064
w/ Scaling (Ours)	1.481 (1.552)	(350)	6,669



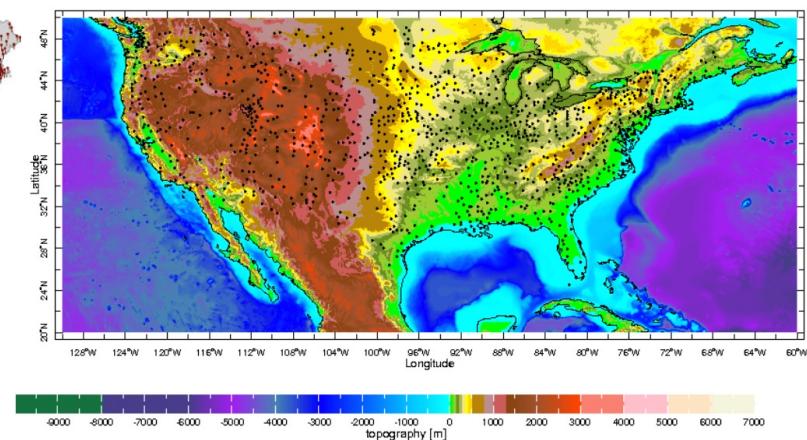
[1] De Brouwer, Edward, et al. "Gru-ode-bayes: Continuous modeling of sporadically-observed time series." *Advances in neural information processing systems* 32 (2019).

[2] Chen, Ricky TQ, Brandon Amos, and Maximilian Nickel. "Neural Spatio-Temporal Point Processes." *International Conference on Learning Representations*. 2020.

## Discriminative Task: Climate Prediction

### Task 4B: Given 3 years of observations, predict the next 3 measurements

Method	Error (MSE)	Epochs	# Params
GRUODE [1]	0.43	74	42,640
w/ Scaling (Ours)	0.40	68	9,105



### NOTCH:

- Improved training efficiency
- Better performance
- Smaller Model

# Results Slide 5: SpatioTemporal

## Generative Tasks

### Task 4C: Covid cases for the state of New Jersey

Method	Error (NLL)	Epochs	# Params
Time-var. CNF [1]	1.952 (2.182)	(231)	13,064
w/ Scaling (Ours)	1.916 (2.151)	(197)	6,669

### Task 4D: Location of Bike Rentals

Method	Error (NLL)	# Params
Time-var. CNF [1]	2.315	13,064
w/ Scaling (Ours)	1.480	6,669

### Task 4E: Timestamps of page edits in Wiki

Pseudo Spatial - pages have different linking distances to each-other

Method	Error (NLL)	Epochs	# Params
Jump ODE [2]	1.550 (1.170)	(6)	576,769
w/ Scaling (Ours)	0.083 (-0.394)	(159)	280,229



[1] Chen, Ricky TQ, Brandon Amos, and Maximilian Nickel. "Neural Spatio-Temporal Point Processes." *International Conference on Learning Representations*. 2020.

[2] Jia, Junteng, and Austin R. Benson. "Neural jump stochastic differential equations." *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems* 32 (2019).

- NOTCH:**
- Improved training efficiency
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# How to Make Lifelong Learning Effective?

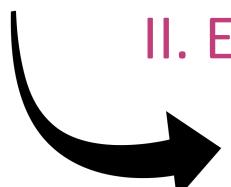
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What else can neuroscience tell us?

## I. Robustness

1. Inherent abstraction - generalization
2. Reflexes save against surprises - safety
3. Temporal understanding of the environment – awareness

## II. Ever-learning enablers:

- 
4. Forward propagation algorithm
  5. Parallel and distributed structures

## III. Structural Efficiency

6. Fast adapting compact circuits: multifunctionality and neuromodulations
7. Rich multiscale neurons – computability
8. Asynchronous Computing

# How to Make Lifelong Learning Effective?

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## 6. Forward propagation algorithm

*Adam Kohan and Ed Rietman – under review*  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2204.01723>

Backprop:

- a. Freezes: forward, backward passes errors
- b. Neurons need to remember their output
- c. Need to process one I/O at a time

- Hardware excessive
- Problem with online activity
- Not biological

Forward Learning:

Forward pass  
Local update follows local compute  
Pipeline possible

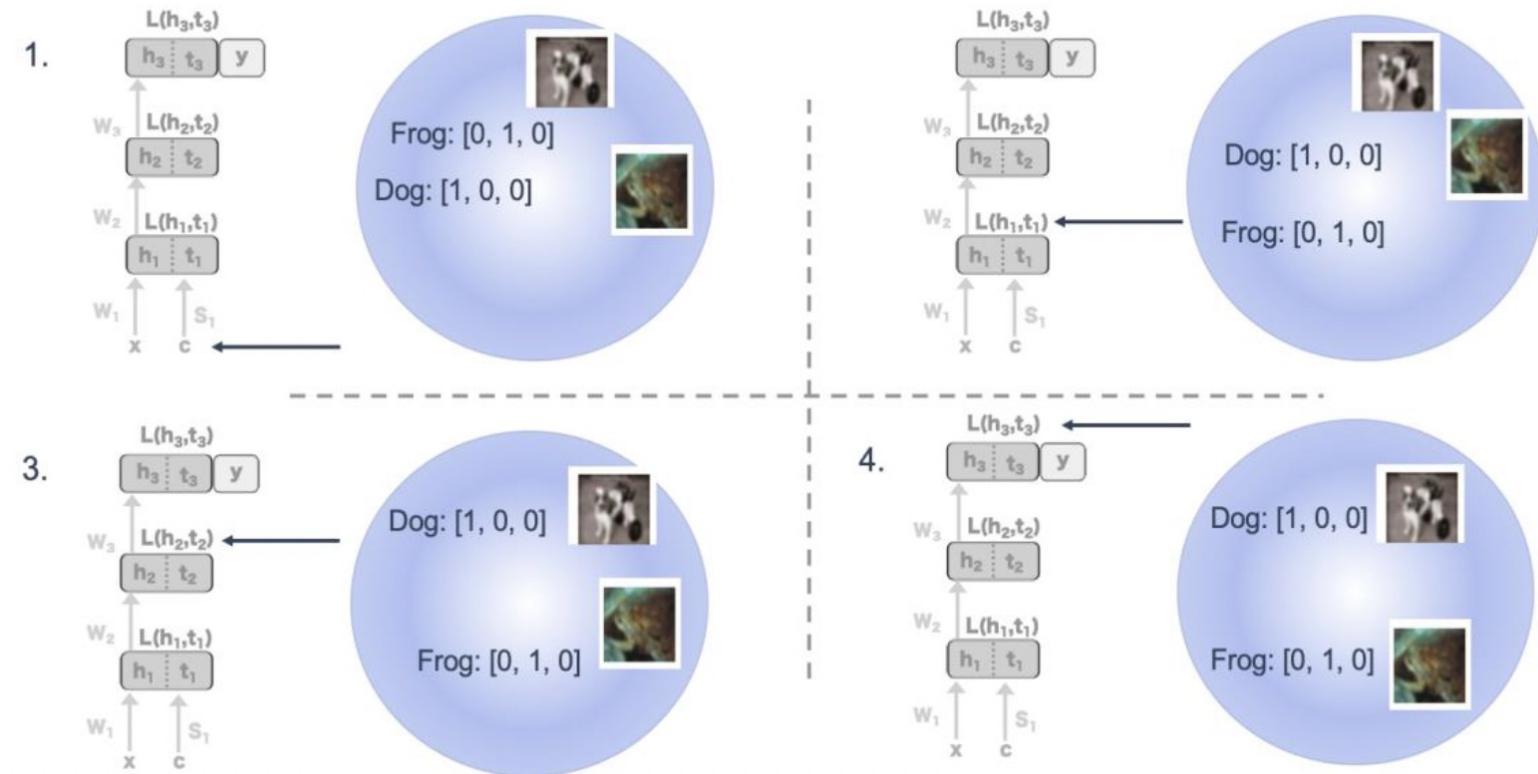
- No feedback connectivity
- Online addition of classes
- New idea for learning signals

# How to Make Lifelong Learning Effective?

## 6. Forward propagation algorithm

- ✓ Add classes on the go
- ✓ Local update, targeted learning
- ✓ No need for backward pass

ForProp Algorithm in training mode, receives input and target/label. It first morphs them to a common state space, and only then updates the weights to assure that at the output layer, the input and label are co-transformed to match



# How to Make Lifelong Learning Effective?

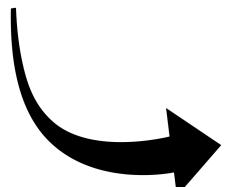
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# How to Make Lifelong Learning Effective?

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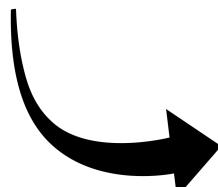
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# How to Make Lifelong Learning Effective?

## 8. Reliable asynchronous computing:

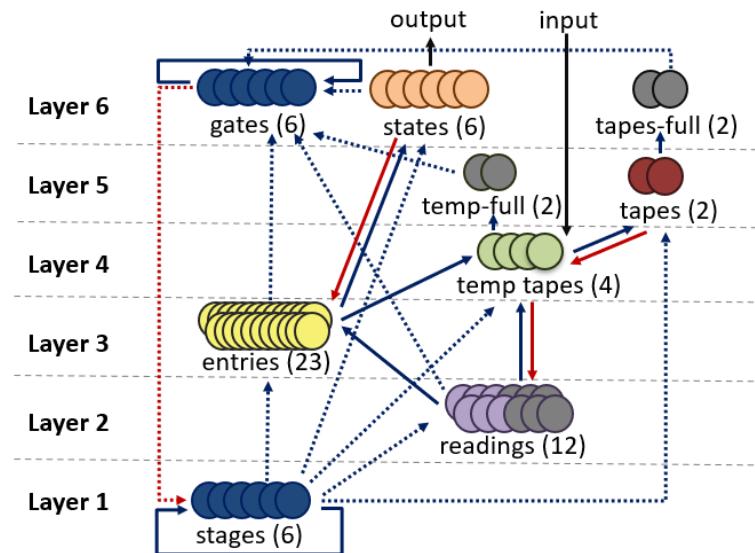
*Steven Chung and Hava Siegelmann, NeurIPS2021: No need of large neural precision for Turing universality*

The brain is made of asynchronous neural networks, but SOTA computational complexity neural models is synchronous, having a global clock which assures that the neurons update at the same times.

Asynchronicity is a key feature of biological intelligence: associations among inputs and modalities for correlations and perhaps causality. Time sensitive adaptivity (STDP), great energy saving

Circuits with 80-100 neurons, bear a striking similarity to cortical minicolumns – the building blocks of the mammalian brain - in both size and architectural details.

Hypotheses: the brain can run close to billion algorithms in parallel and that it can tune to be stronger than today's computers.



# Lifelong Learning Robust AI

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Perhaps, in a few years, much of what we call AI won't be considered intelligent without lifelong brain-inspired robust learning

# BINDS Lab

Bioinspired Neural & Dynamical Systems



Work with:

Terrance Sejnowski (UCSD)

Ed Rietman

Adam Kohan

Devdhar Patel

Francesca Walsh

Joshua Russel

Peter Delmastro

Ignacio Gavier

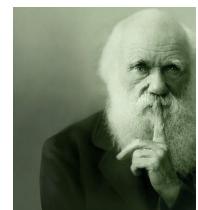
Cooper Sigrist

Rushiv Arora

Arjun Karuvally

*“...it is not the strongest that survives; but...the one that is able best to adapt...to the changing environment....”*

*L.C. Megginson, re  
“On the Origin of Species”*



Thank you !

# For-Propagation Algorithm Results

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	CIFAR-10			CIFAR-100			SVHN		
	LL-BP	LL-FA	LAMA	LL-BP	LL-FA	LAMA	LL-BP	LL-FA	LAMA
Accuracy (%)	94.42	90.98	91.66	70.69	61.59	65.70	98.23	97.45	97.85
Time (s)	8.11	8.50	5.91	10.20	9.44	6.25	95.51	89.32	69.74
Memory (MiB)	8.85	13.03	6.19	11.45	5.51	5.19	11.41	5.43	4.91

Local targeted learning allows true online without missing important environmental changes

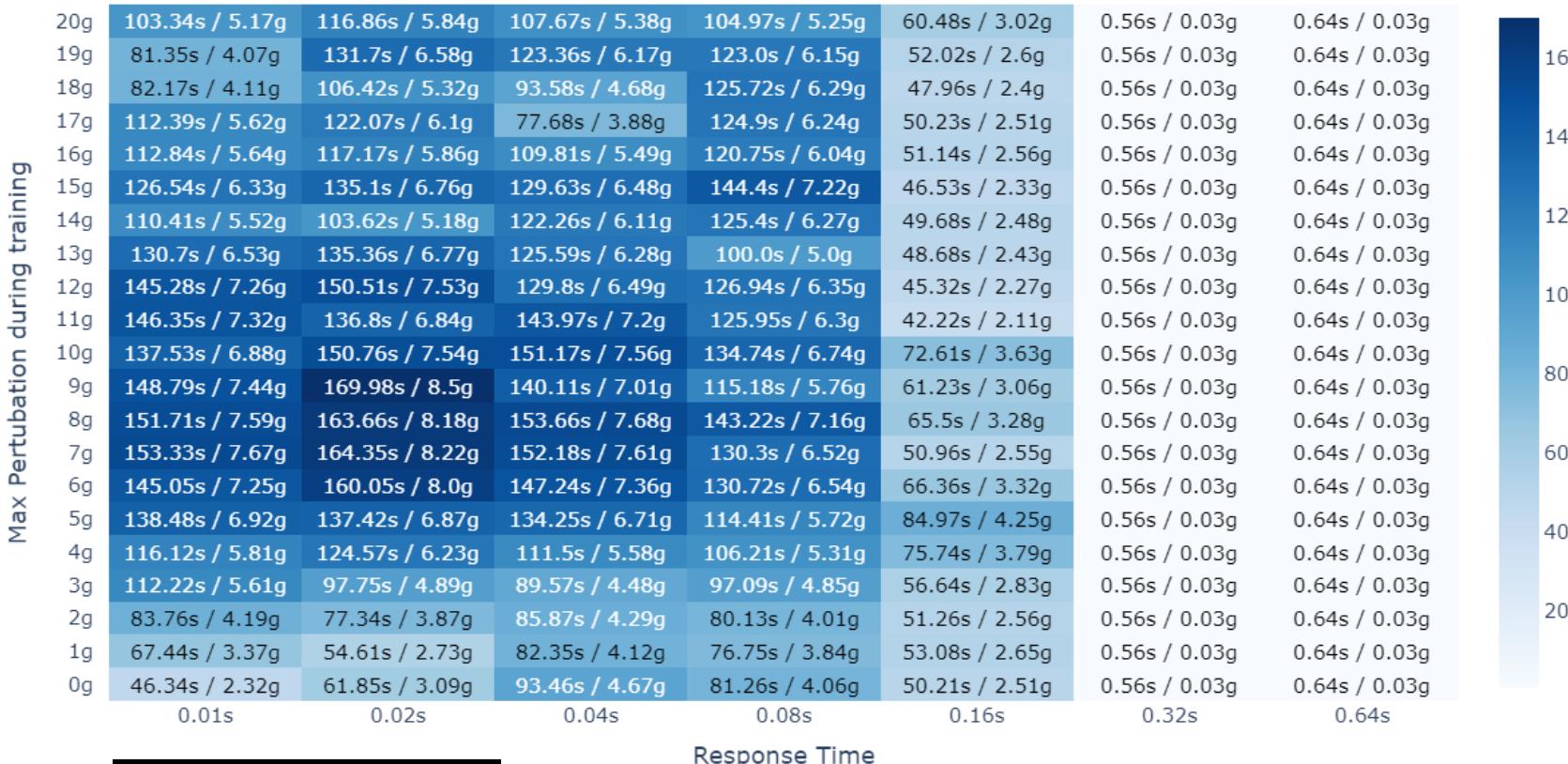
The Label Morphing Algorithm (LAMA) vs. SOTA local backpropagation (LL-BP) and local feedback alignment (LL-FA). LL-BP computes local errors by using additional hardware - local auxiliary networks at each layer - and training them with backprop. LAMA neither waits (as in the other local algorithms) nor adds hardware (in LL-BP), keeping low memory and time. It works in lifelong learning setups where new classes are formed online .

# How to be ready for fast changes?

## Sweet Spot of Response Rate

- *Not too fast:* An agent that responds too fast will need to handle a larger number of states, making it harder to learn
- *Not too slow:* An agent that is too slow to respond will fail when fast perturbation is applied

Avg. seconds in test environment / Min. Perturbation force required for failure



(Avg. over 5 trials)

# Human in the Loop – But Smartly (work with Patrick Taylor)

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Assistive technology that empowers controller to manage many tasks, work efficiently, reduce biases & errors, limit cognitive load ([Taylor & Siege, USP 2020](#). [Taylor et al \*Frontiers in ICT\* 2:15, 2015](#))

Computerized externalization of short-term working memory greatly aids real-time interaction



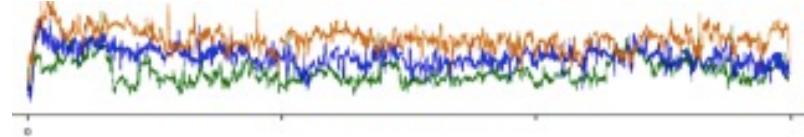
1. Operator defines “panels” - (frame/filled, transparent, color)
2. Can be overlayed on application
3. Provides visual cues to assist operators in determining the appropriate time to look at a specific location on the screen



# Demonstration in semi-autonomous robots

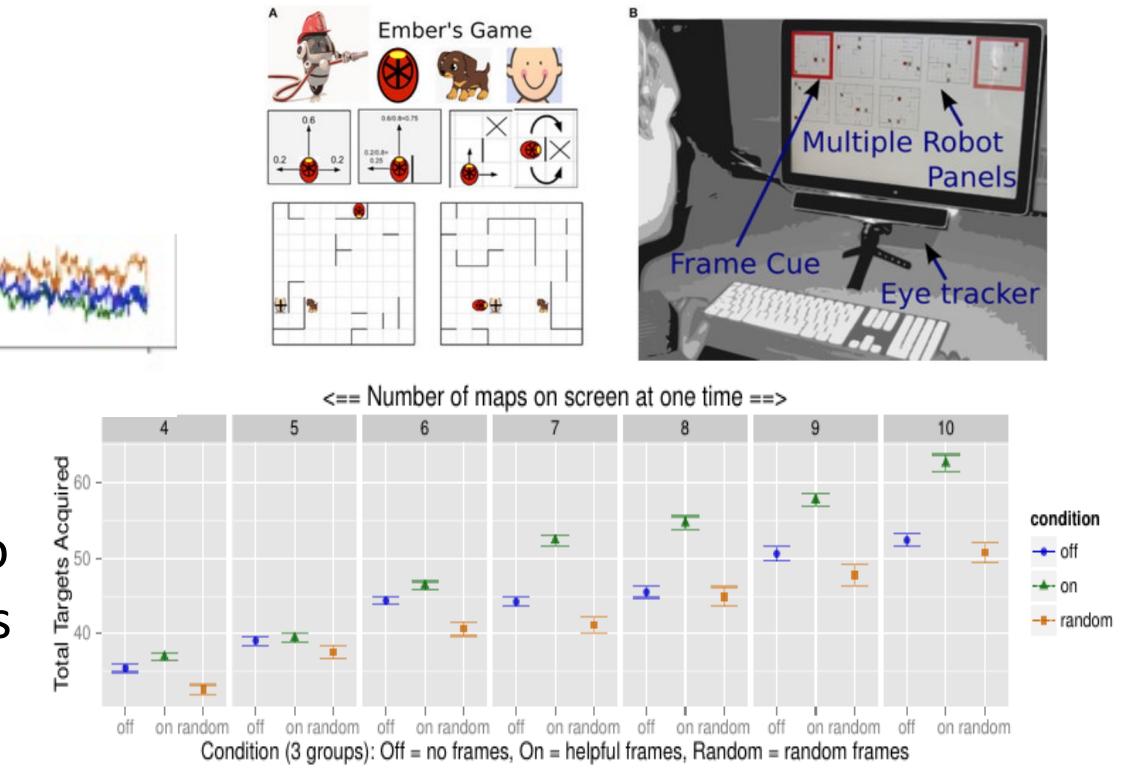
Evaluation: 3 groups: frames on, off, random frames

a. Cognitive load reduced



b. Improved # total targets

Participants manage better: (A) Faster to set paths to targets, (B) Robots wait less time at targets, (C) Users acquire points faster, and (D) Reduced bias



c. Micromanaging reduced: Utilizing automated system to fullest: Gaze and mouse moves optimized: (A) Macro-level gaze –more search (less fixation)  
(B) mouse total mileage bigger, but more clustered locally  
(C) Gaze and mouse meet rarely (Hand faster than eye, 33ms)

