

Toward Natural Language Supervision

AAAI 2023

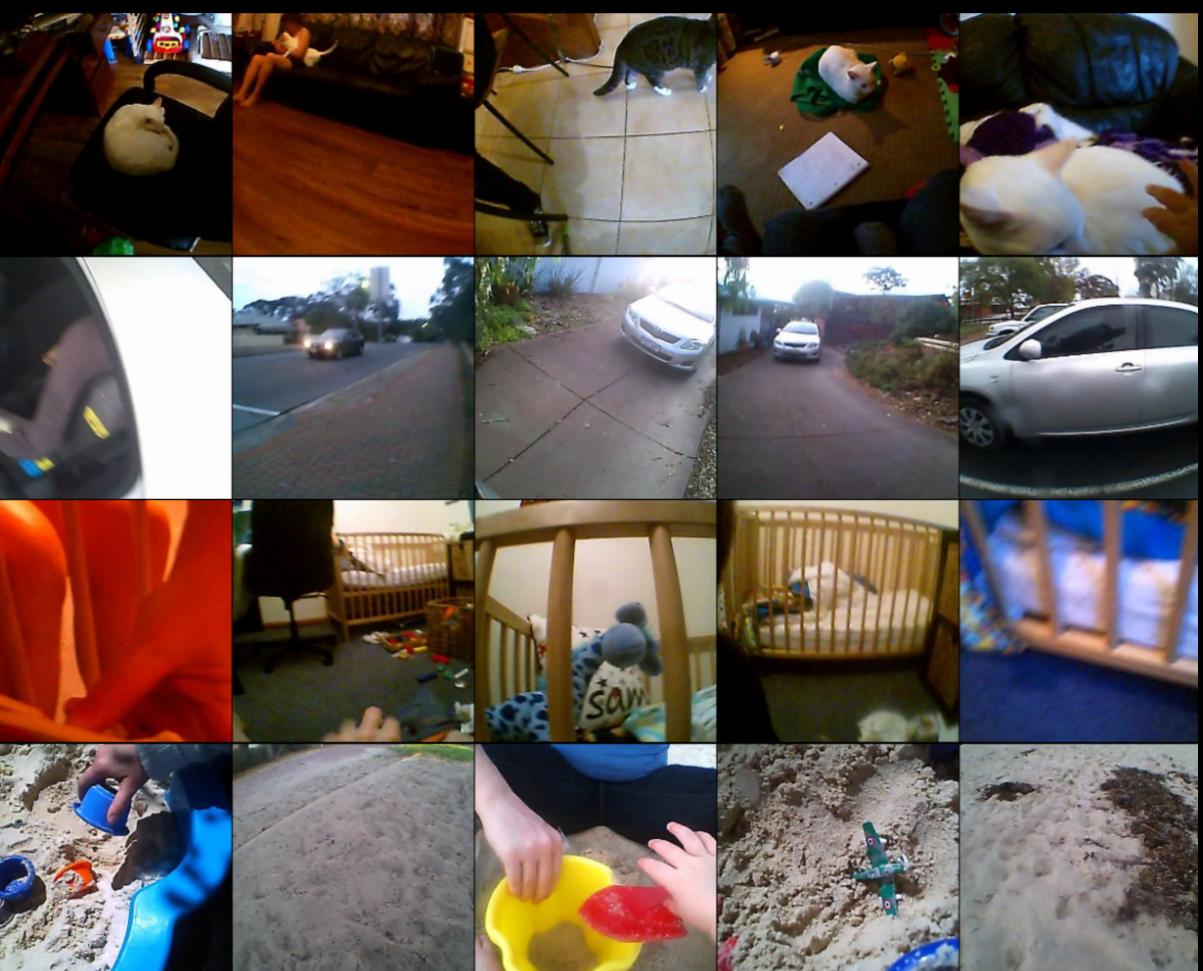
Jacob Andreas



lingo.csail.mit.edu

How do we learn?

from
observations



from
exploration



from
demonstrations



from
language



[Sullivan et al. 2020]

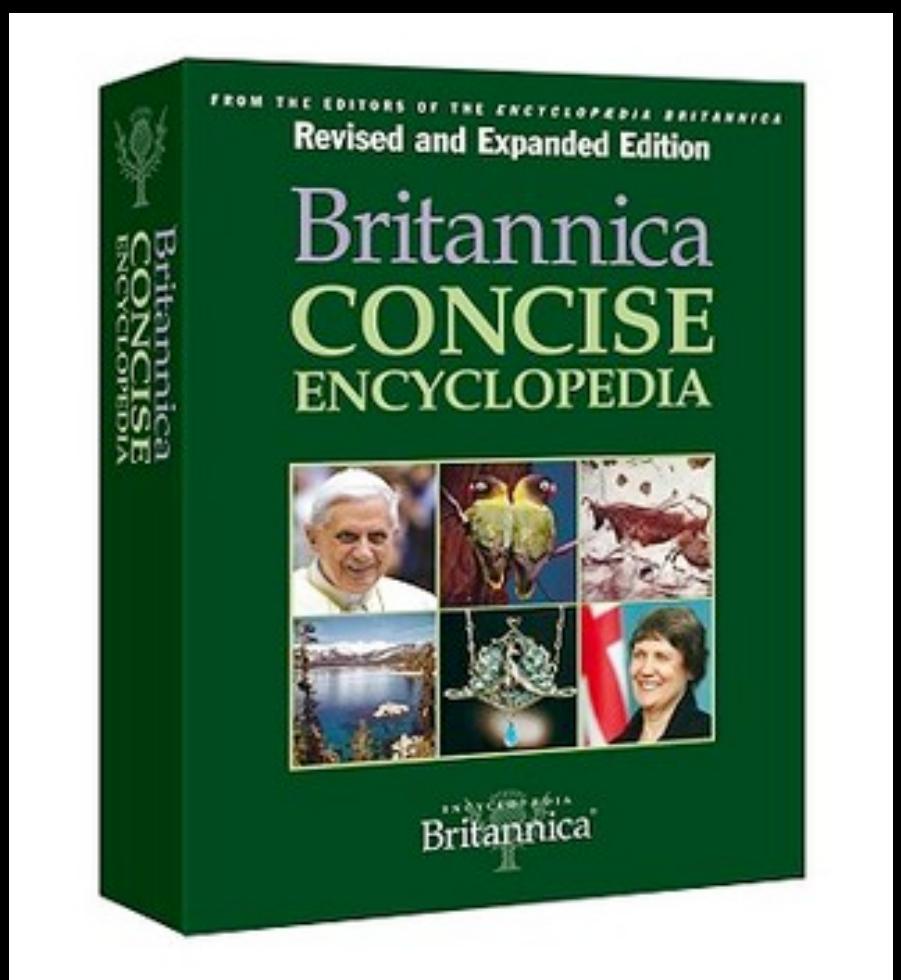
[Legare 2012]

[Buchsbaum et al. 2010]

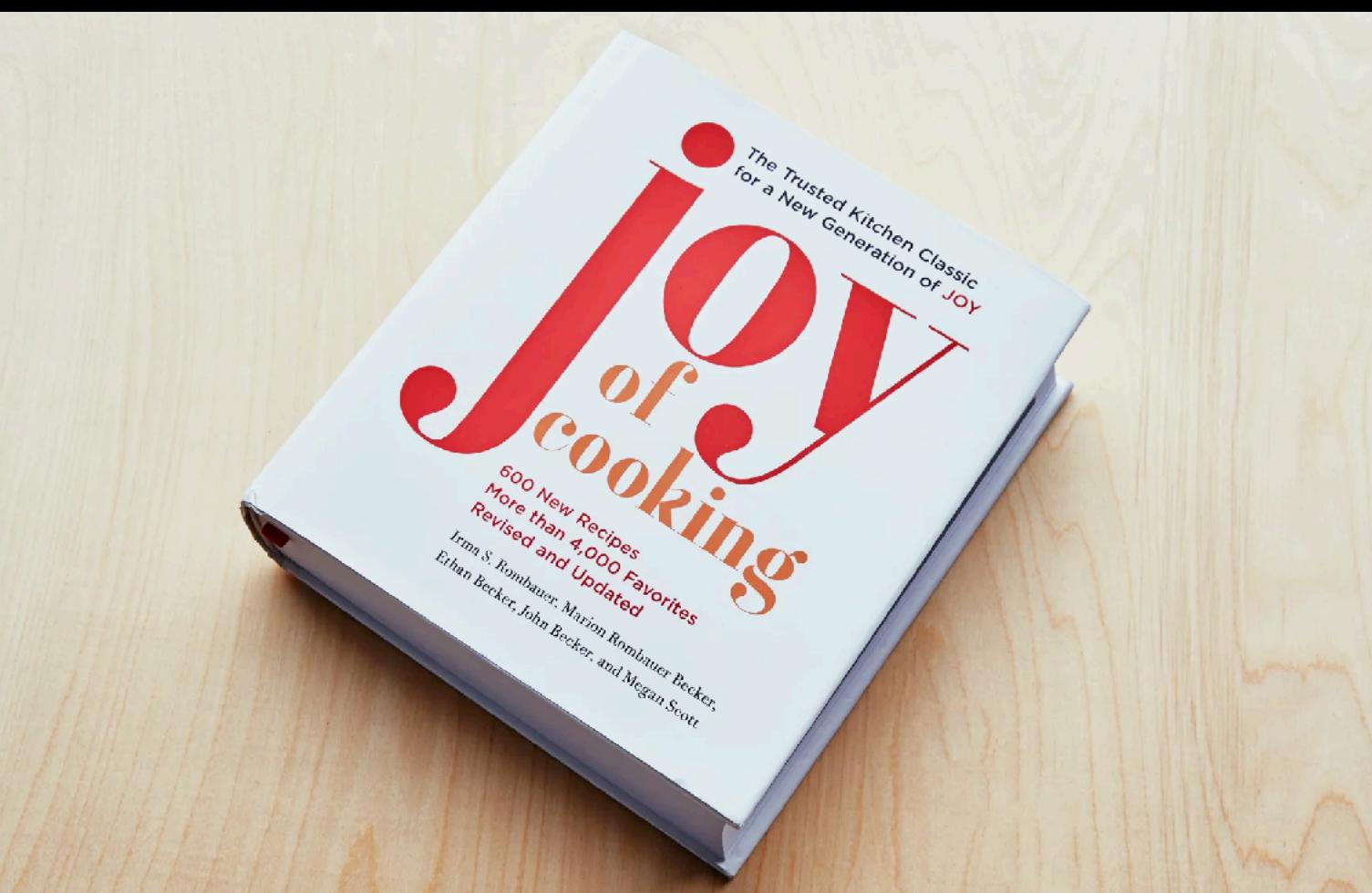
[Morgan et al. 2015]

What do we learn from language?

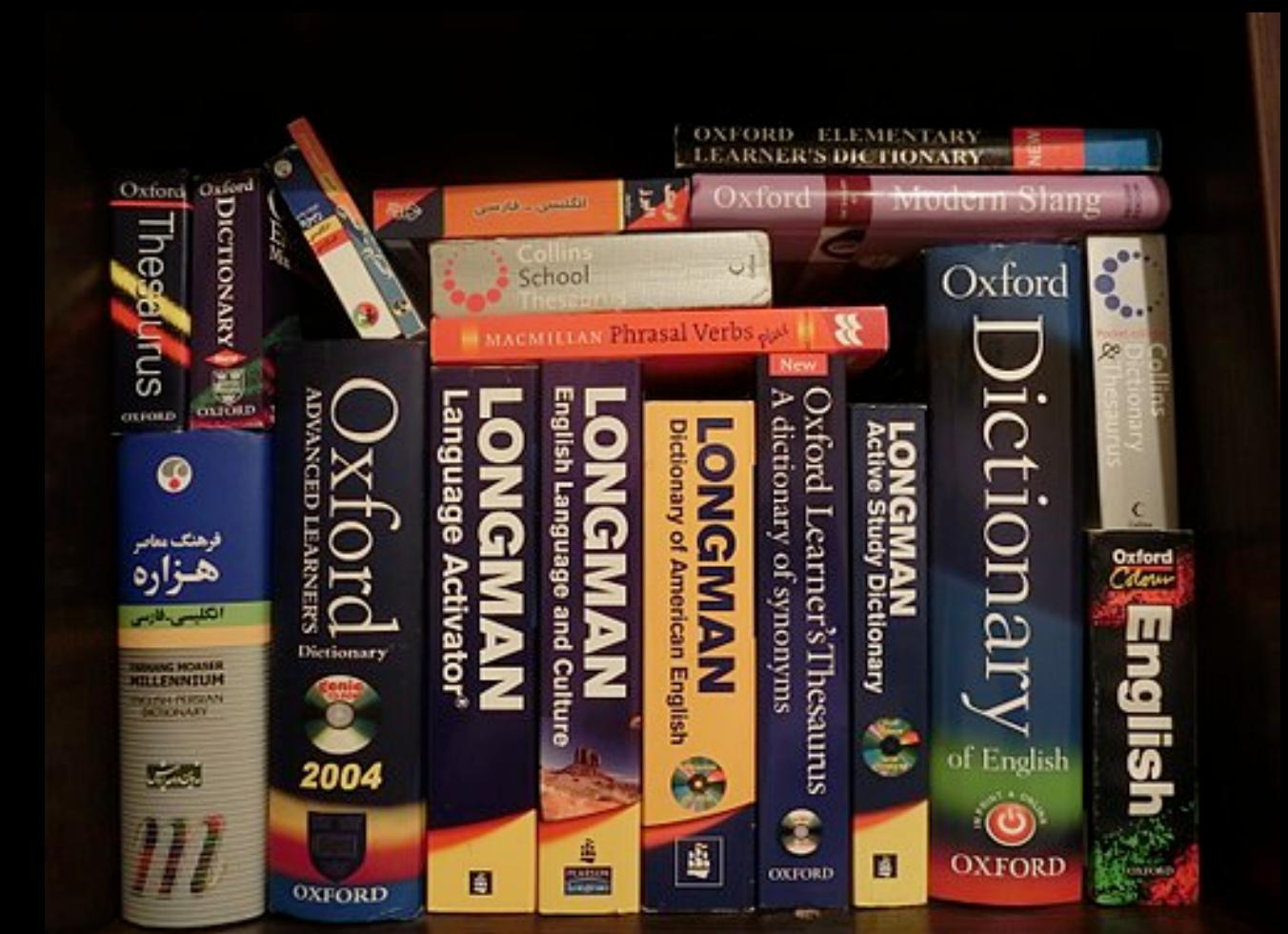
facts

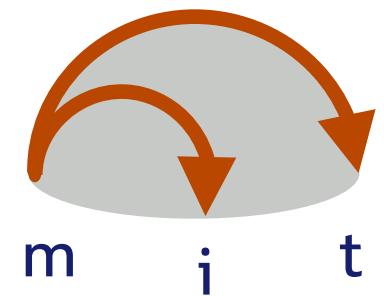


procedures

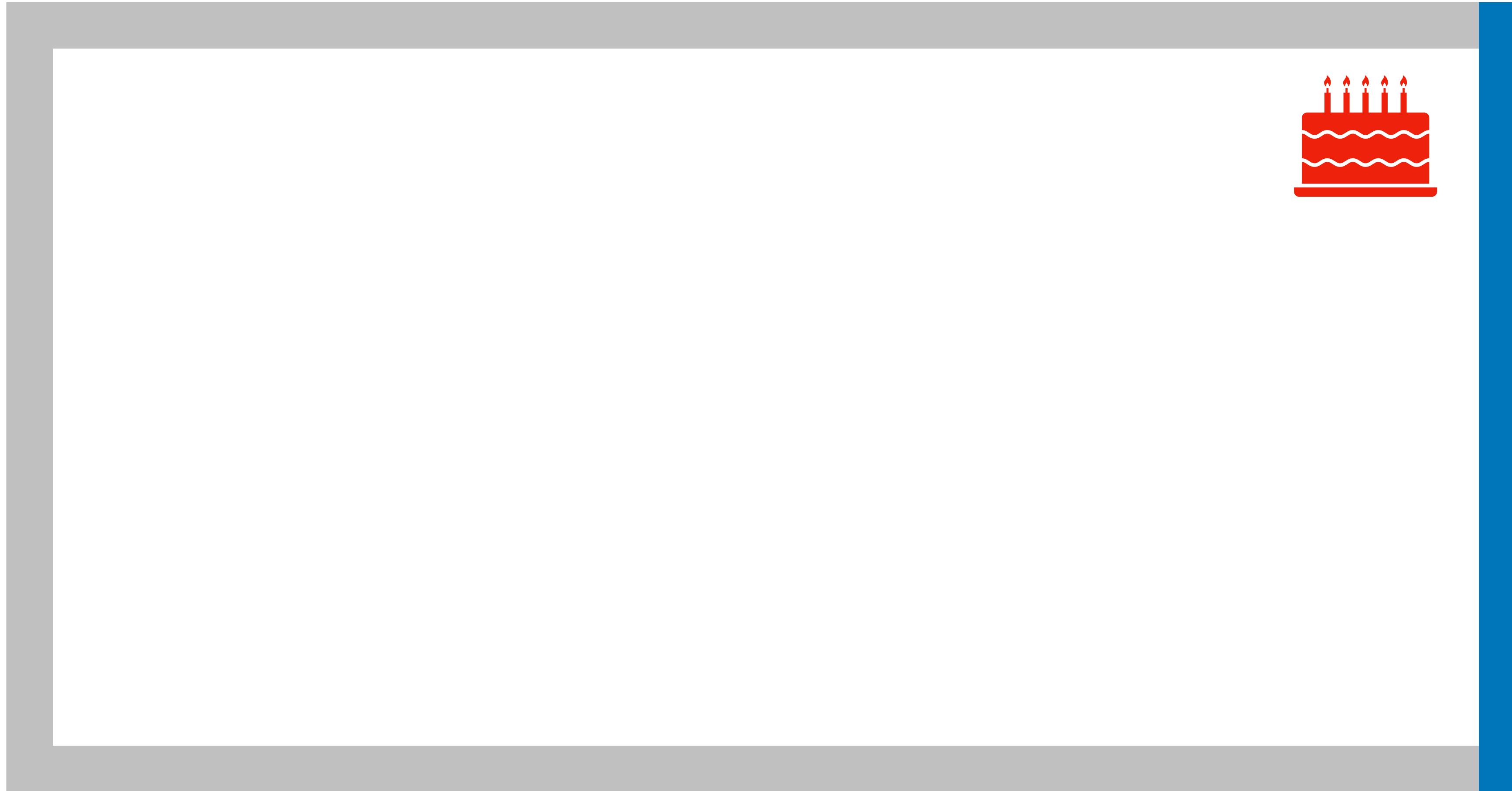


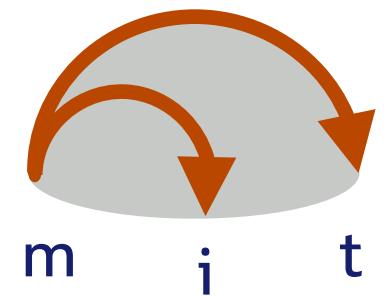
language!



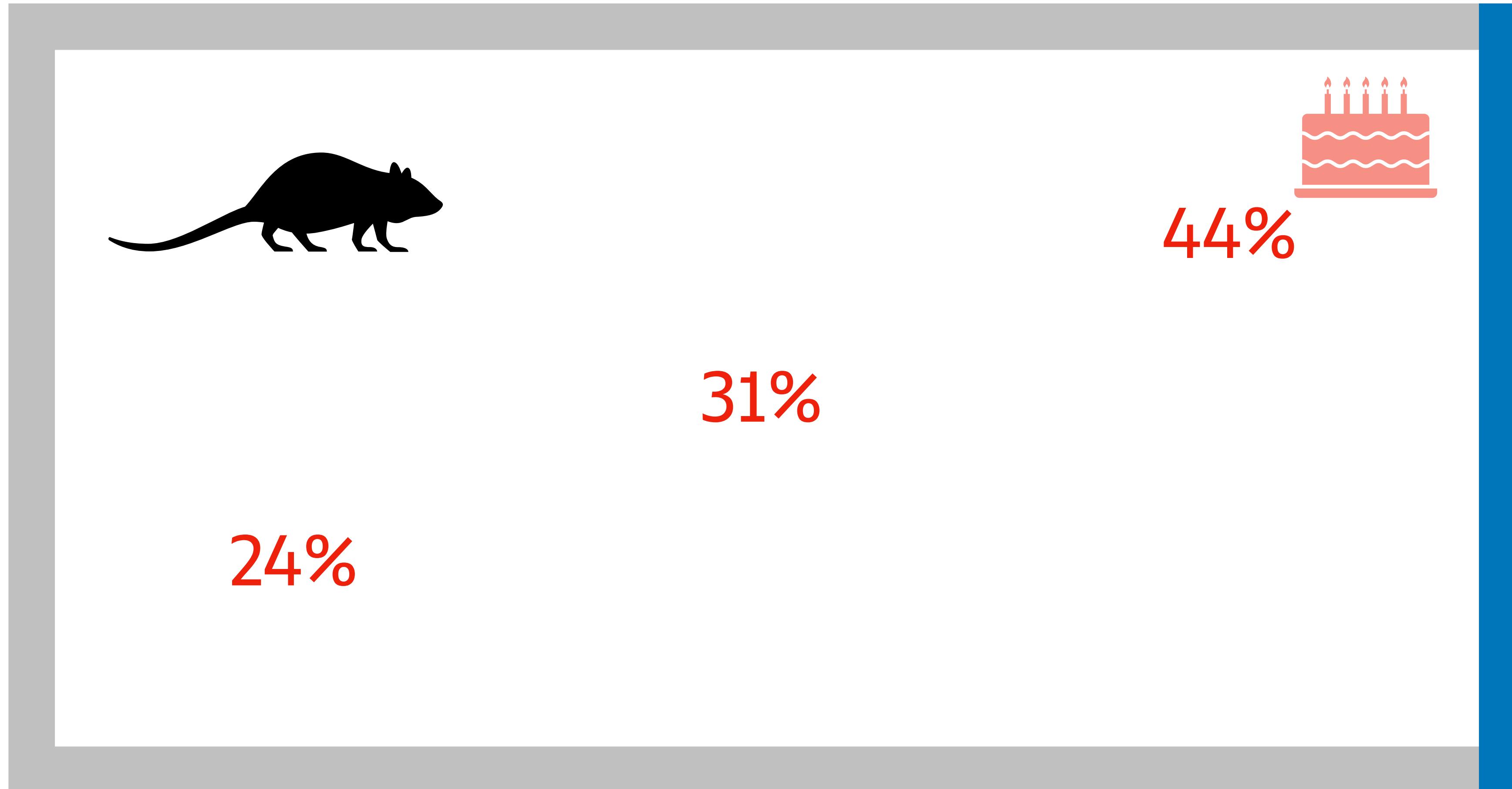


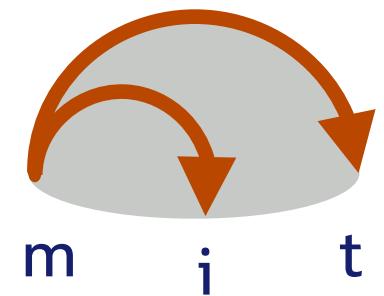
Language in human decision-making



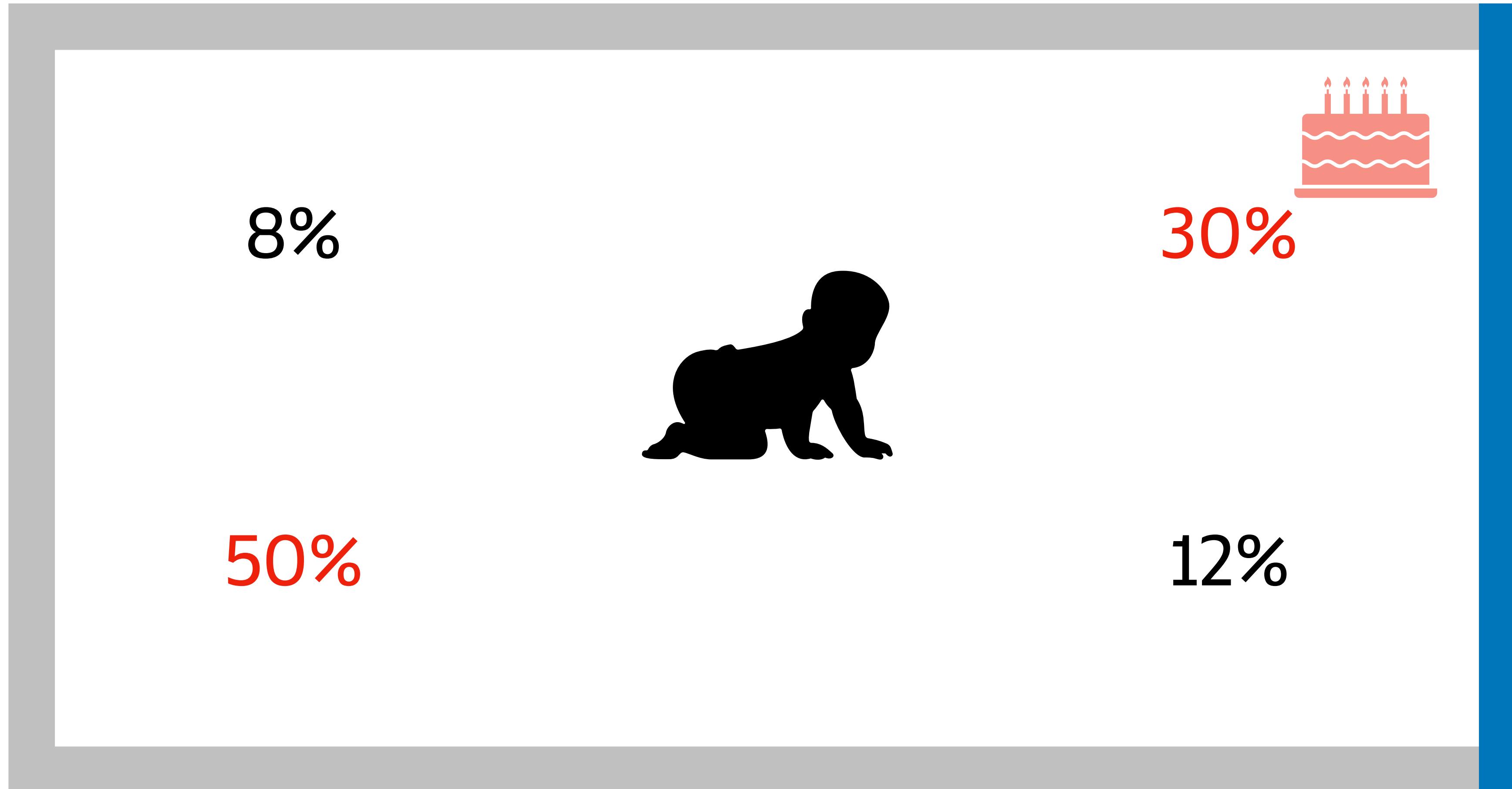


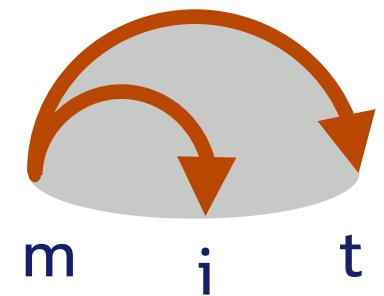
Language in human decision-making



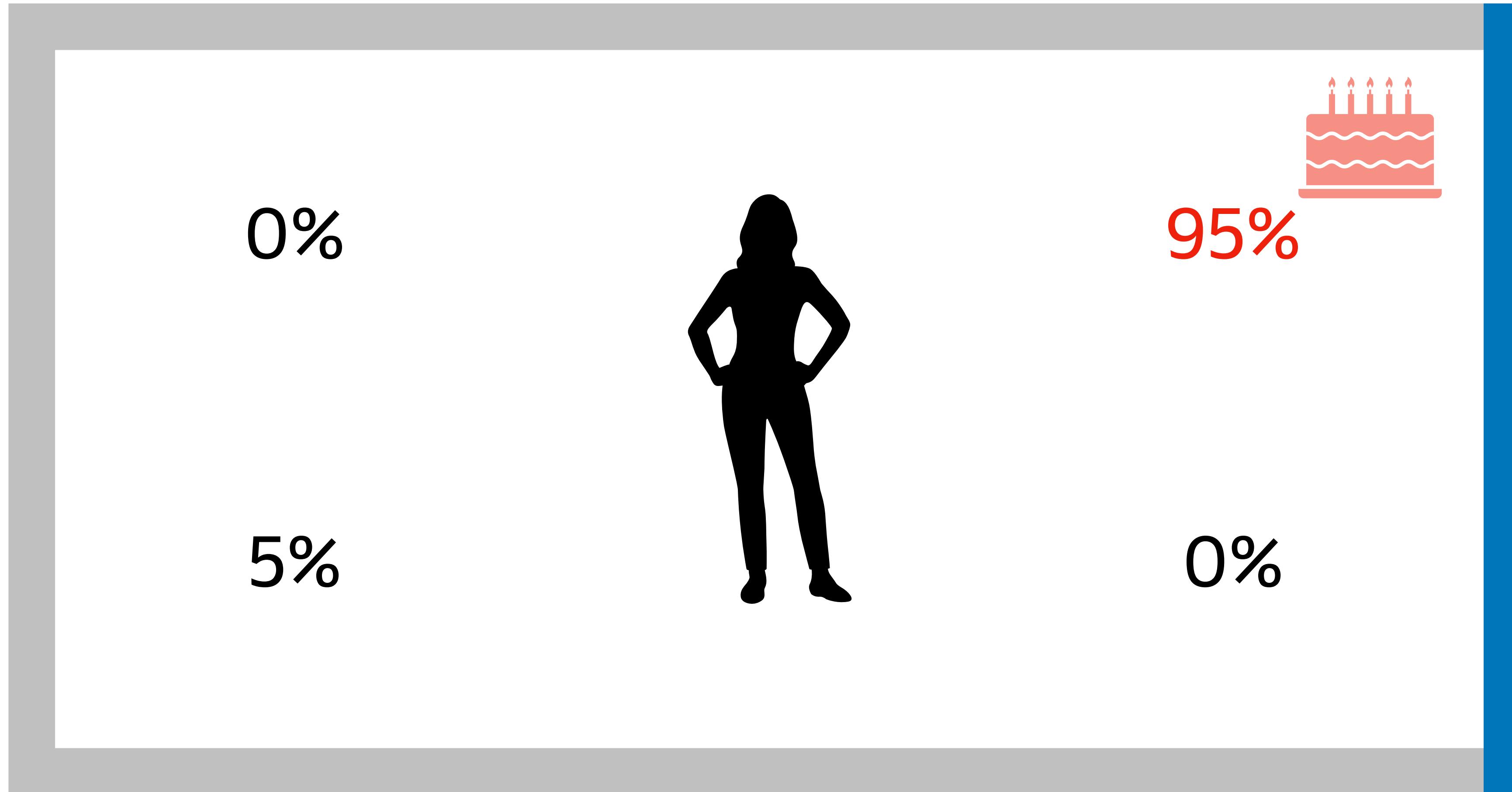


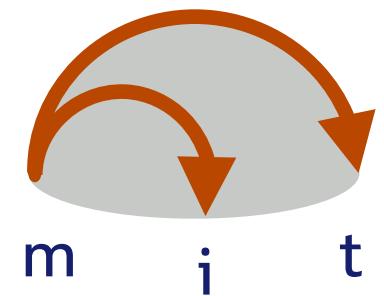
Language in human decision-making



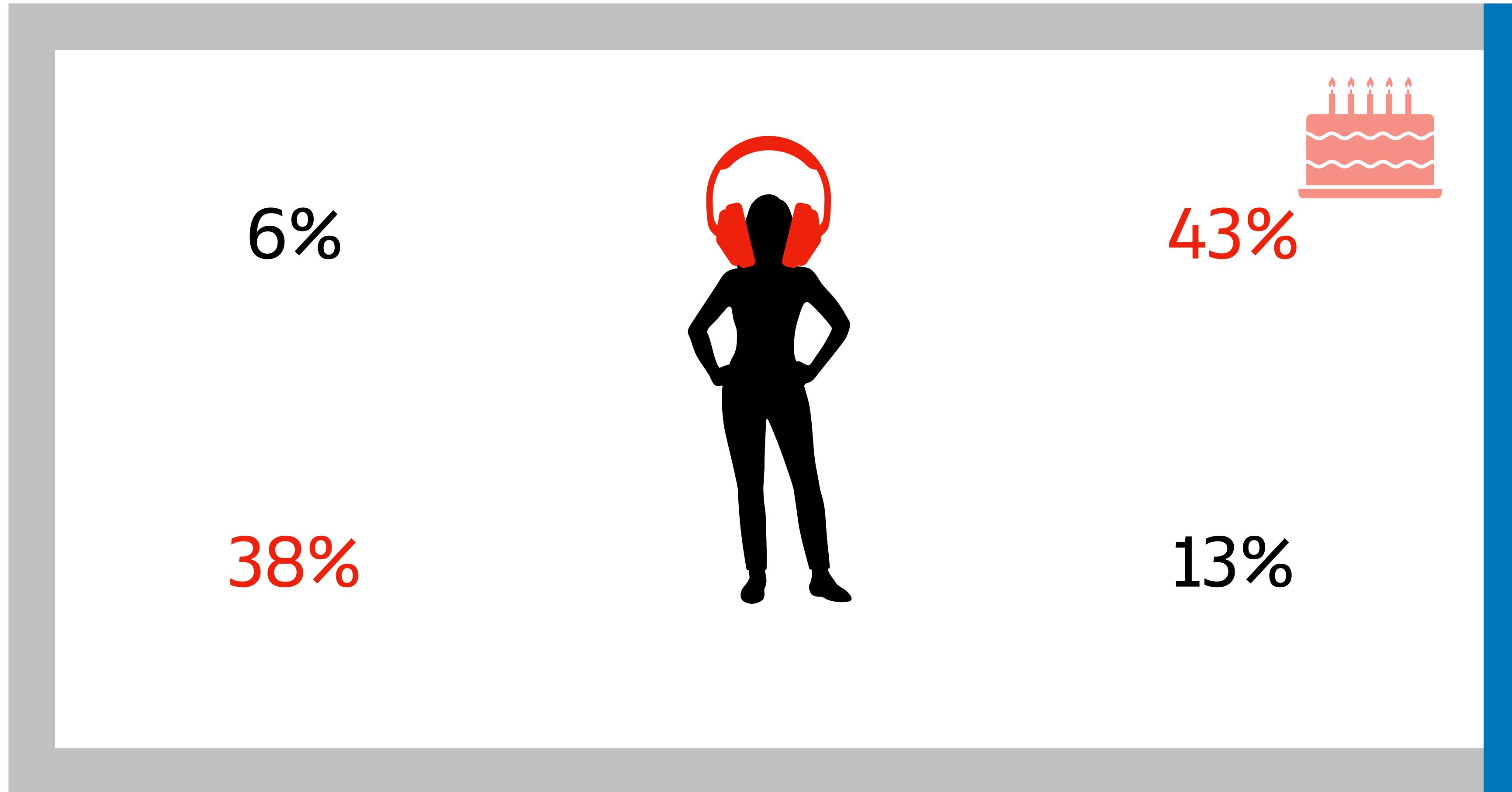


Language in human decision-making



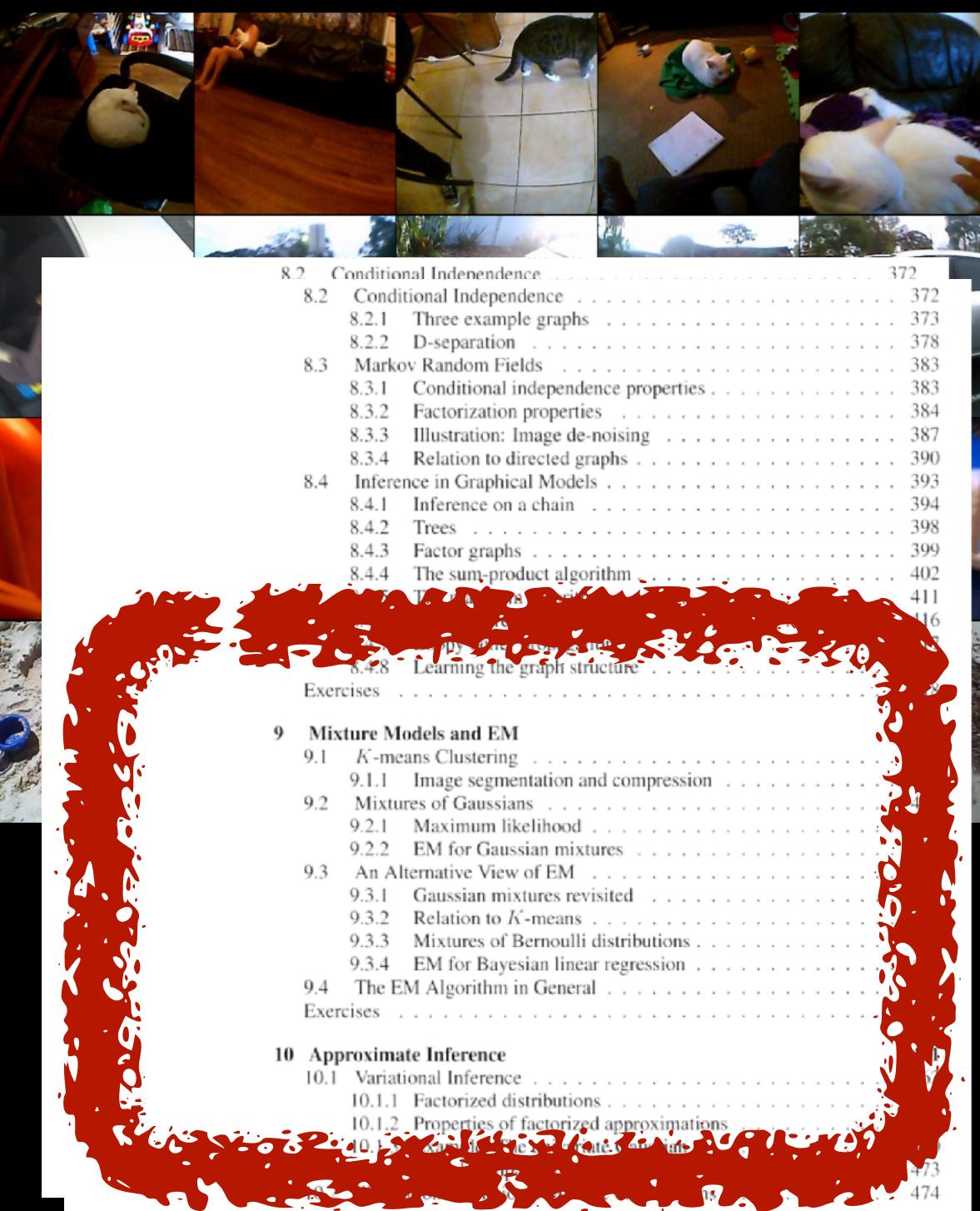


Language in human decision-making

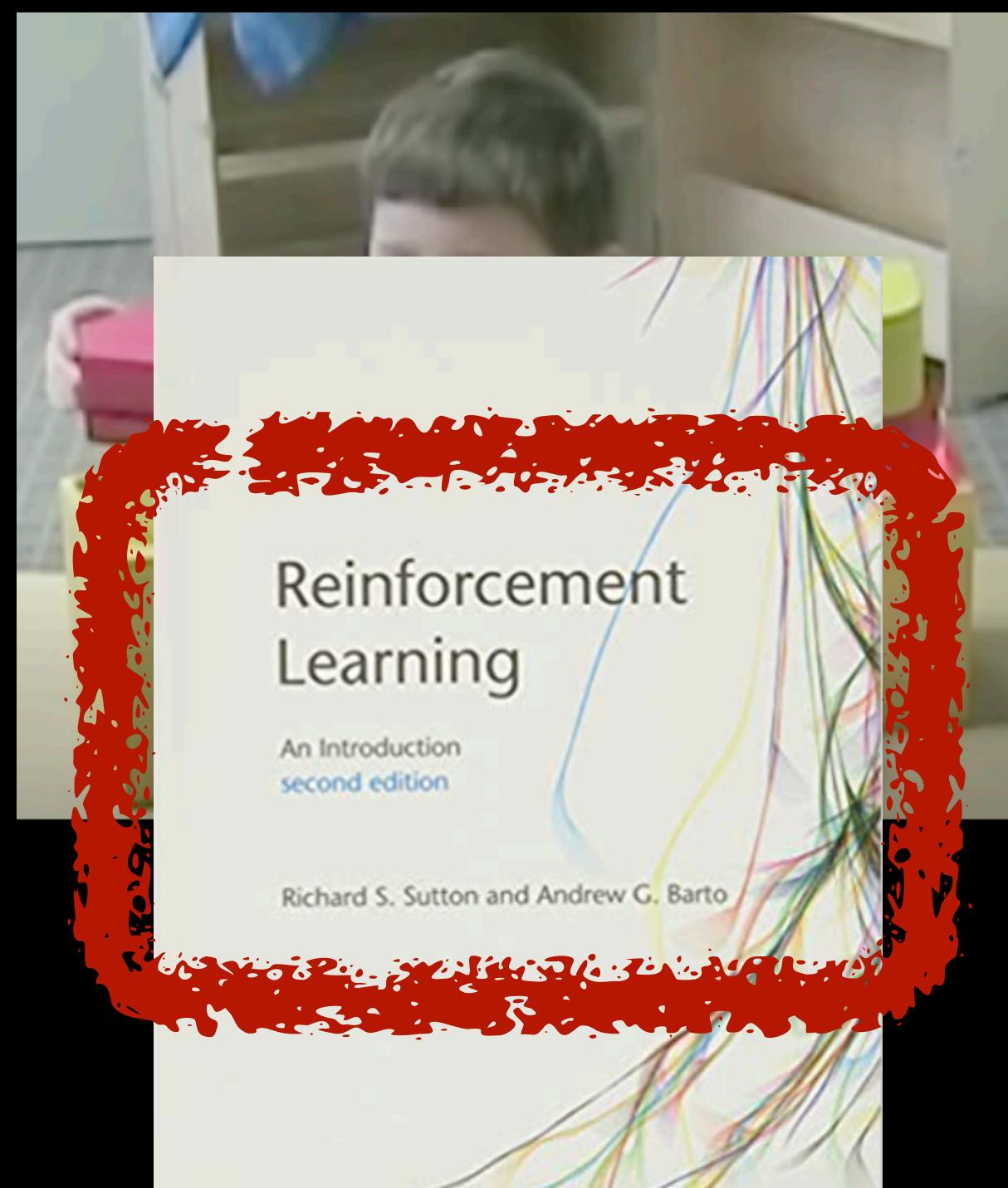


How do machines learn?

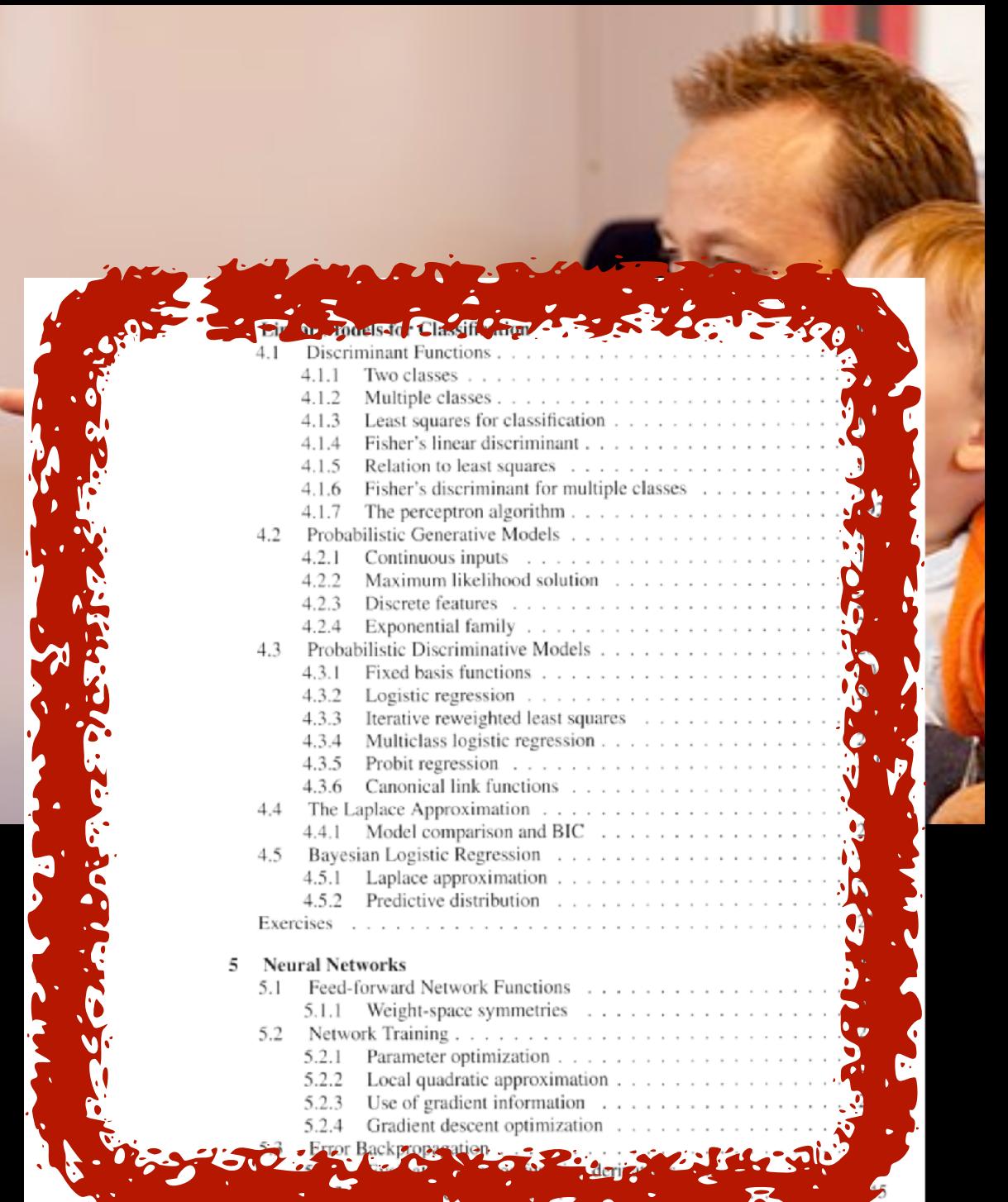
from
observations



from
exploration



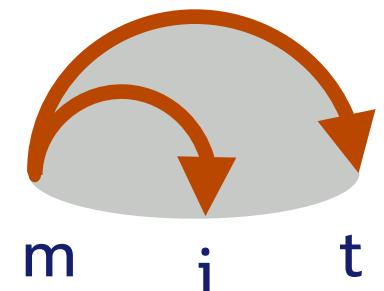
from
demonstrations



from
language



???



Today's talk

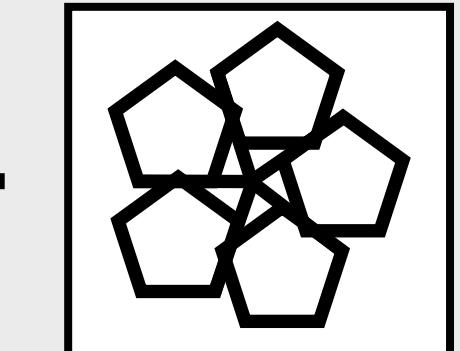
Learning to act

*cook an
egg* →

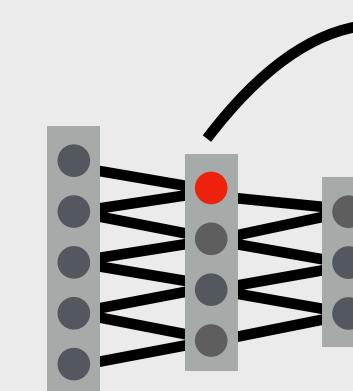
```
turn(90);  
pick(pan);  
goto(stove);  
place(pan)...
```

Learning to program

```
(f24 5 (λ  
(x) (get/set  
(λ (y) (f2 1  
(f41 5 y)))  
x)) z)
```



Learning to explain



*dog faces
& wheels*

Learning skills from demonstrations and instructions



**Pratyusha
Sharma**

+ Antonio Torralba

[Skill Induction & Planning w/ Latent Language. ACL 2022.]

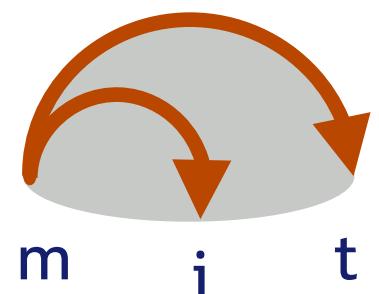
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-6591753>



Goal: "Put a clean bowl of water on the kitchen island"

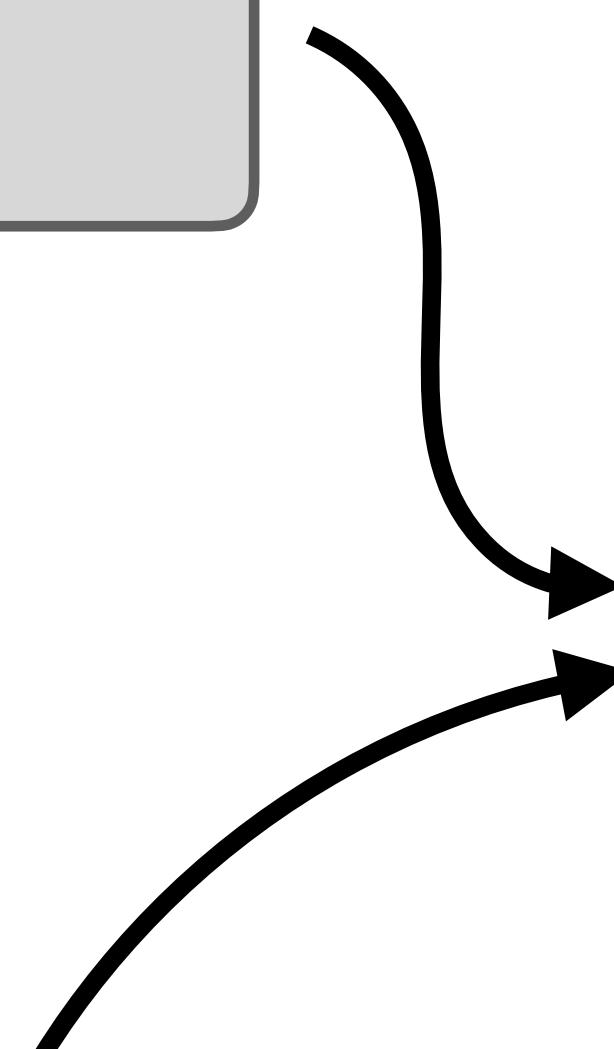


[Shridhar et al. 2020]

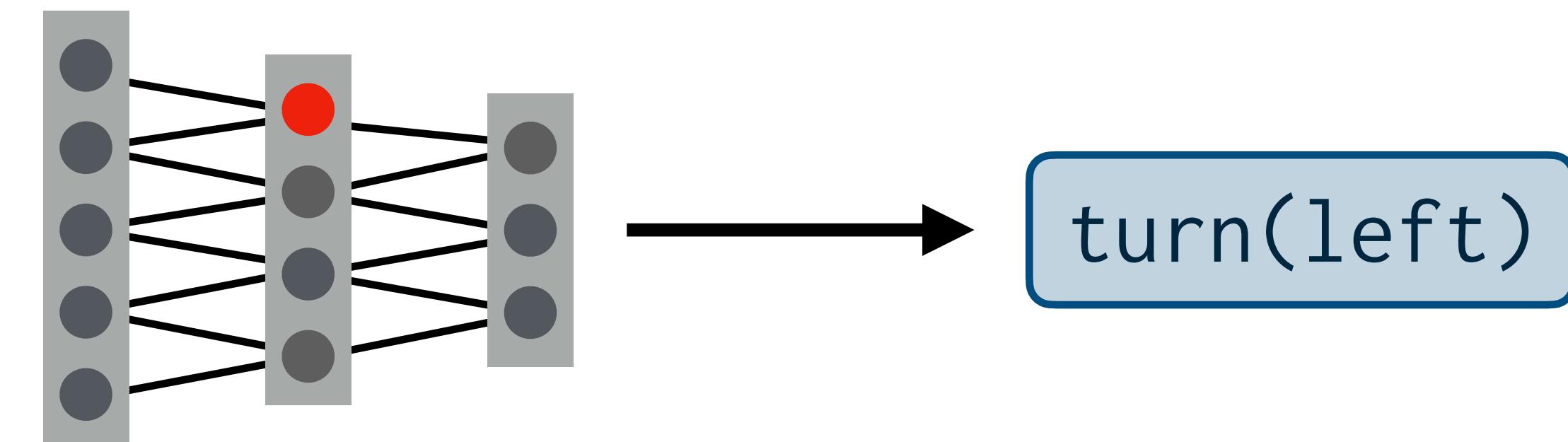


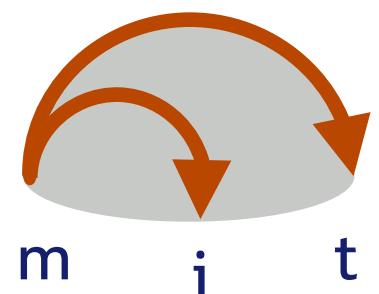
Learning to act

put a sliced tomato on the kitchen counter



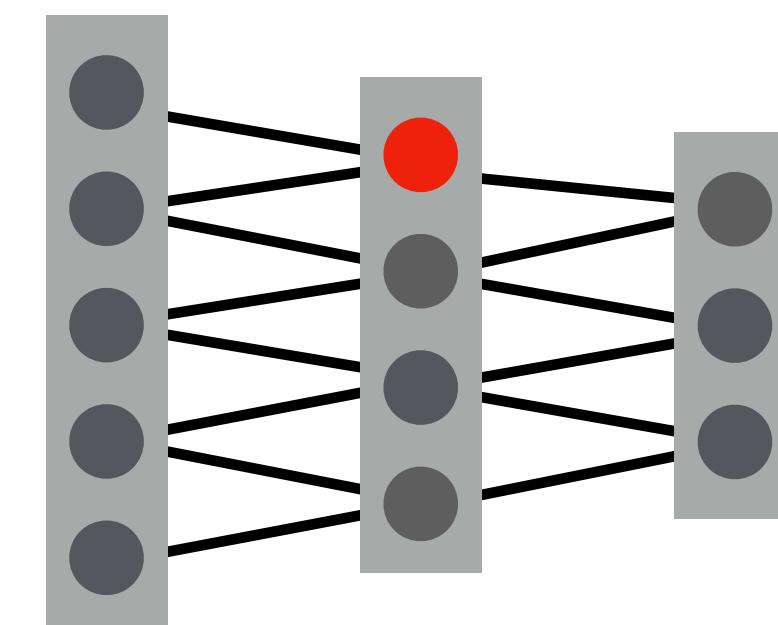
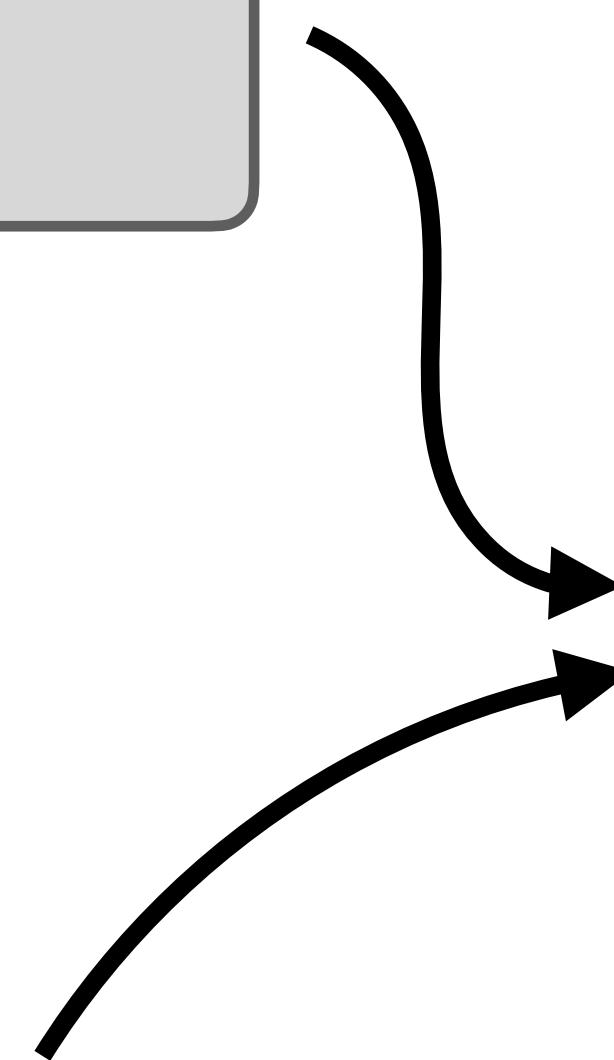
Can we train a fixed model
to map goals → actions?





Learning to act

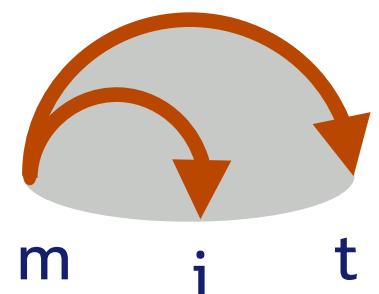
put a sliced tomato on the kitchen counter



Can we train a fixed model
to map goals → actions?

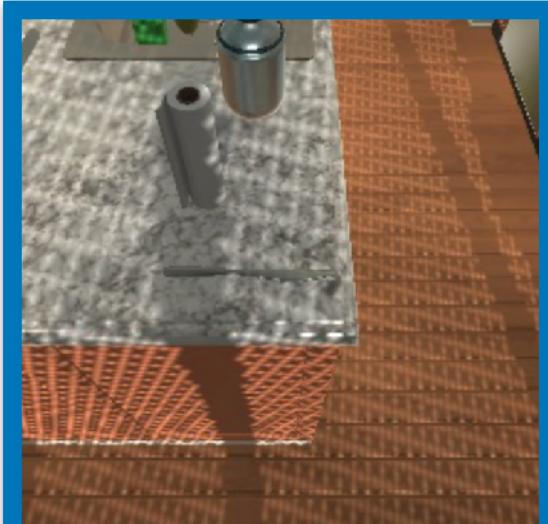
turn(left)

0% success rate!

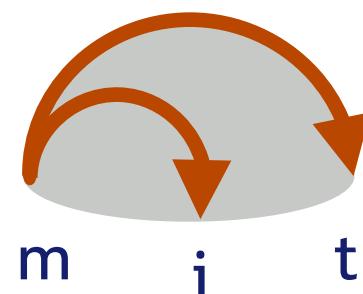


Long horizon tasks

put a sliced tomato on the kitchen counter

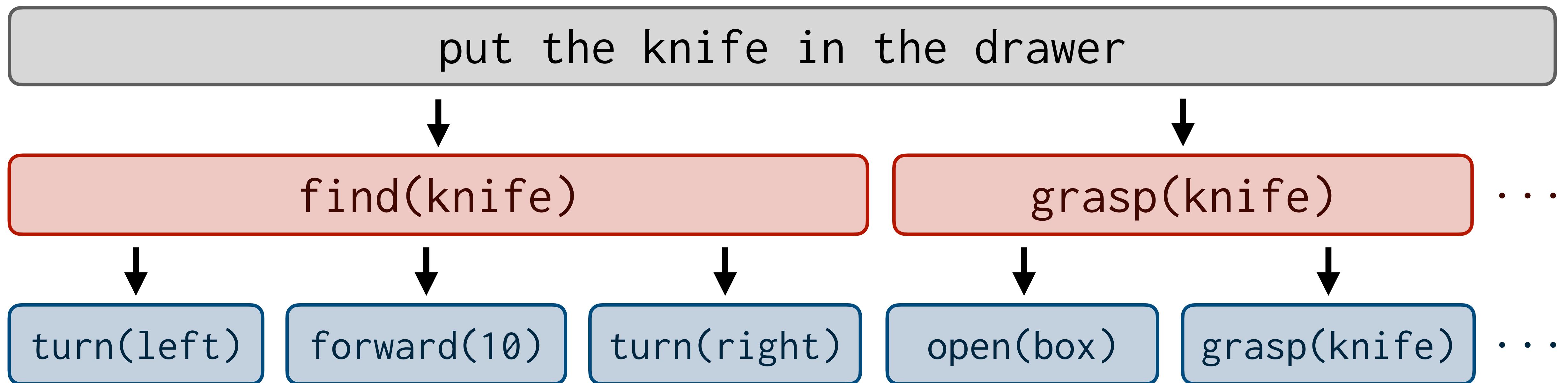


look(down)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	rotate(right)	forward(10)
forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)
forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	rotate(right)	look(down)	
pick(knife)	look(up)	rotate(right)	forward(10)	forward(10)	rotate(left)	forward(10)	forward(10)	rotate(right)	
forward(10)	look(down)	slice(tomato)	look(up)	rotate(left)	rotate(left)	forward(10)	rotate(right)	forward(10)	
forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)
forward(10)	rotate(right)	look(down)	put(knife,sink)	look(up)	rotate(left)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)
forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	rotate(left)	
forward(10)	look(down)	pick(sliced(tomato))	look(up)	rotate(left)	forward(10)	rotate(right)	forward(10)		
forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)
rotate(right)	look(down)	open(fridge)	put(sliced(tomato),fridge)	close(fridge)	open(fridge)	pick(sliced(tomato))			
close(fridge)	look(up)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)
forward(10)	forward(10)	forward(10)	rotate(left)	put(sliced(tomato),counter)					



Hierarchical policies

Explicitly decomposing tasks into subtasks makes this problem easier...



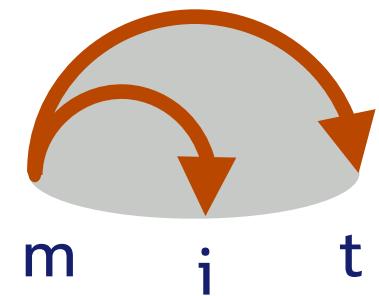
[Hand-engineered hierarchies: Parr & Russell, 1998; Andre & Russell, 2002]

[Supervised training of sub-policies: Kearns & Singh 02, Kulkarni et al. 16]

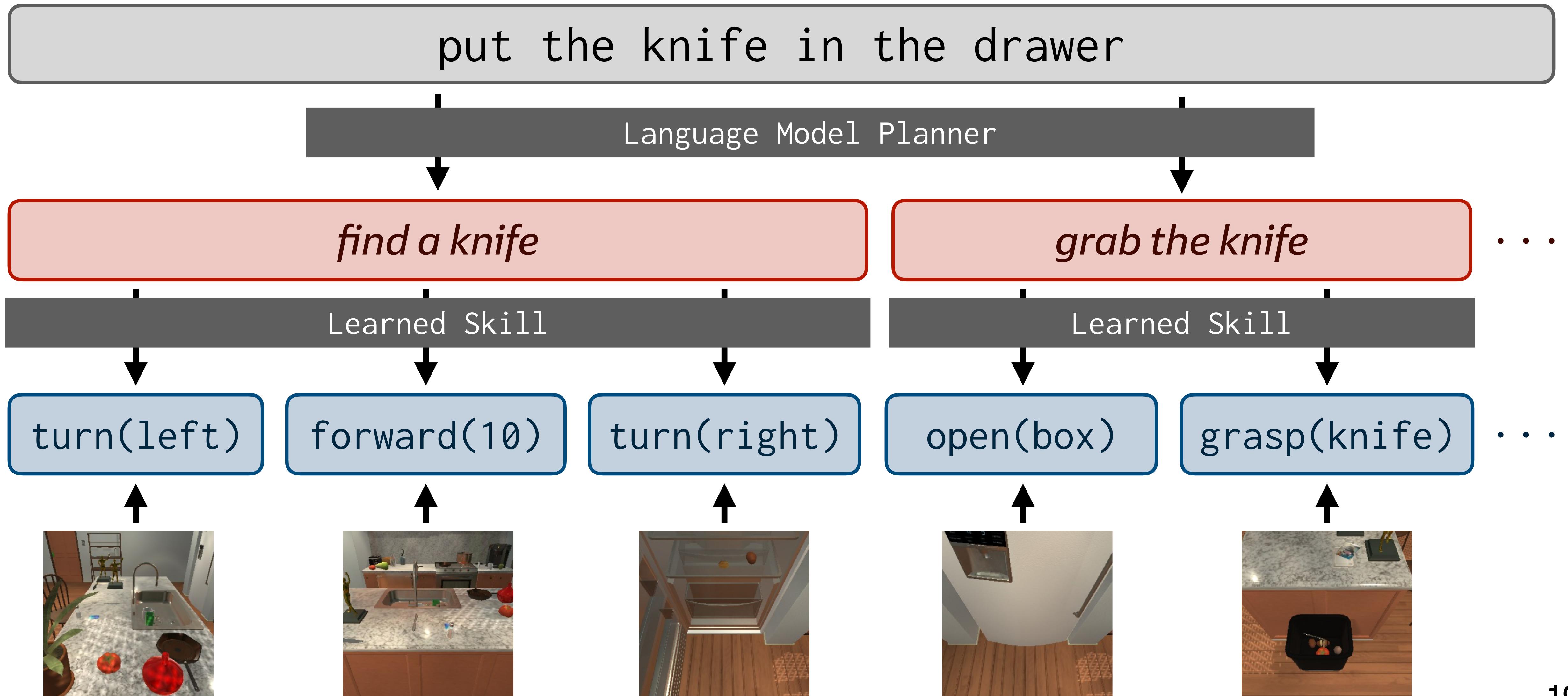
[Fully unsupervised: Stolle & Precup 02, Fox & Krishnan et al. 16]

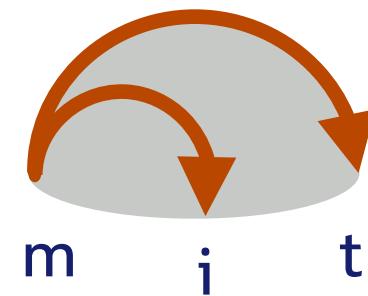
**...but existing methods
require lots of domain-specific engineering.**

How can language help?

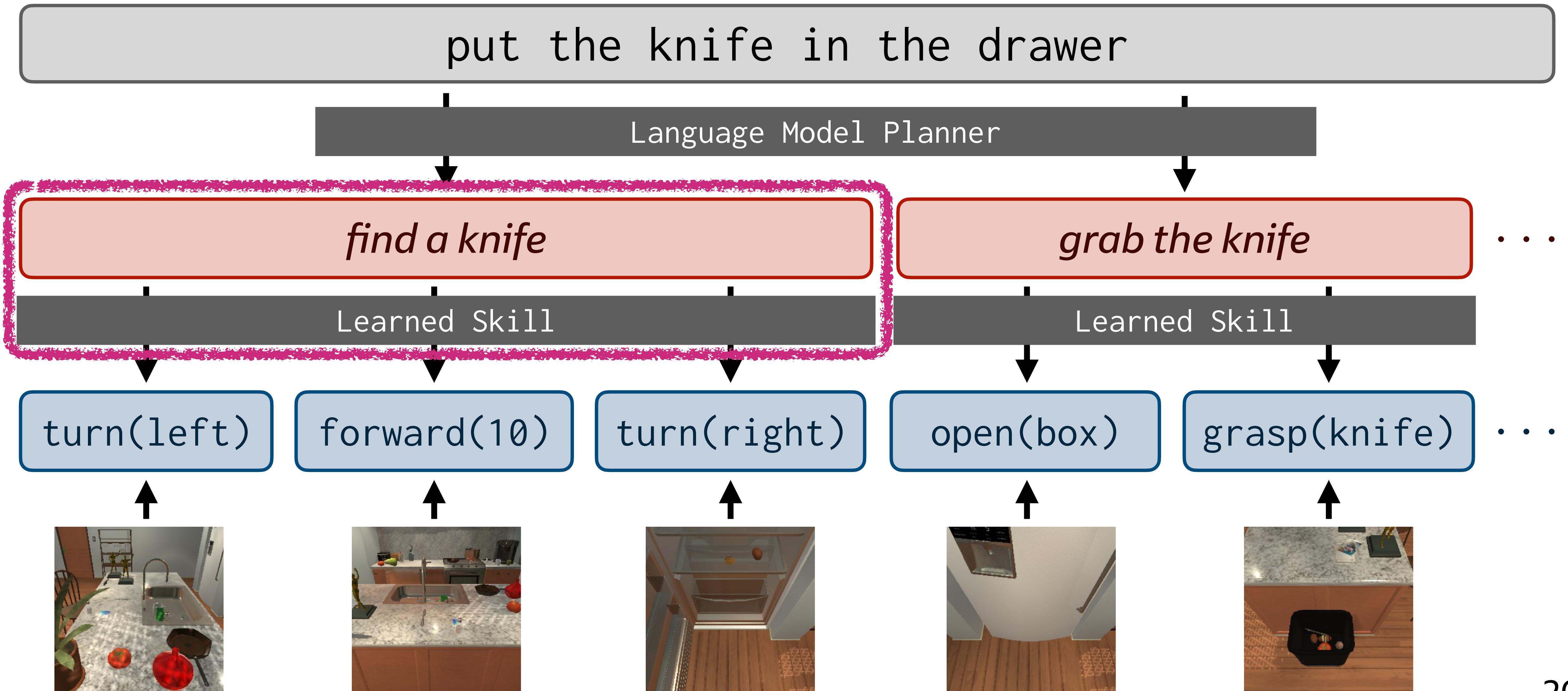


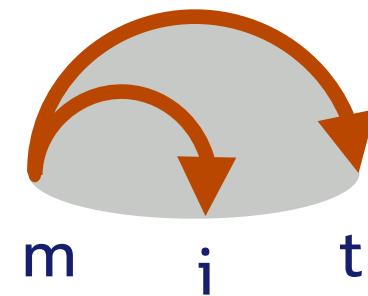
A hierarchical policy with latent language



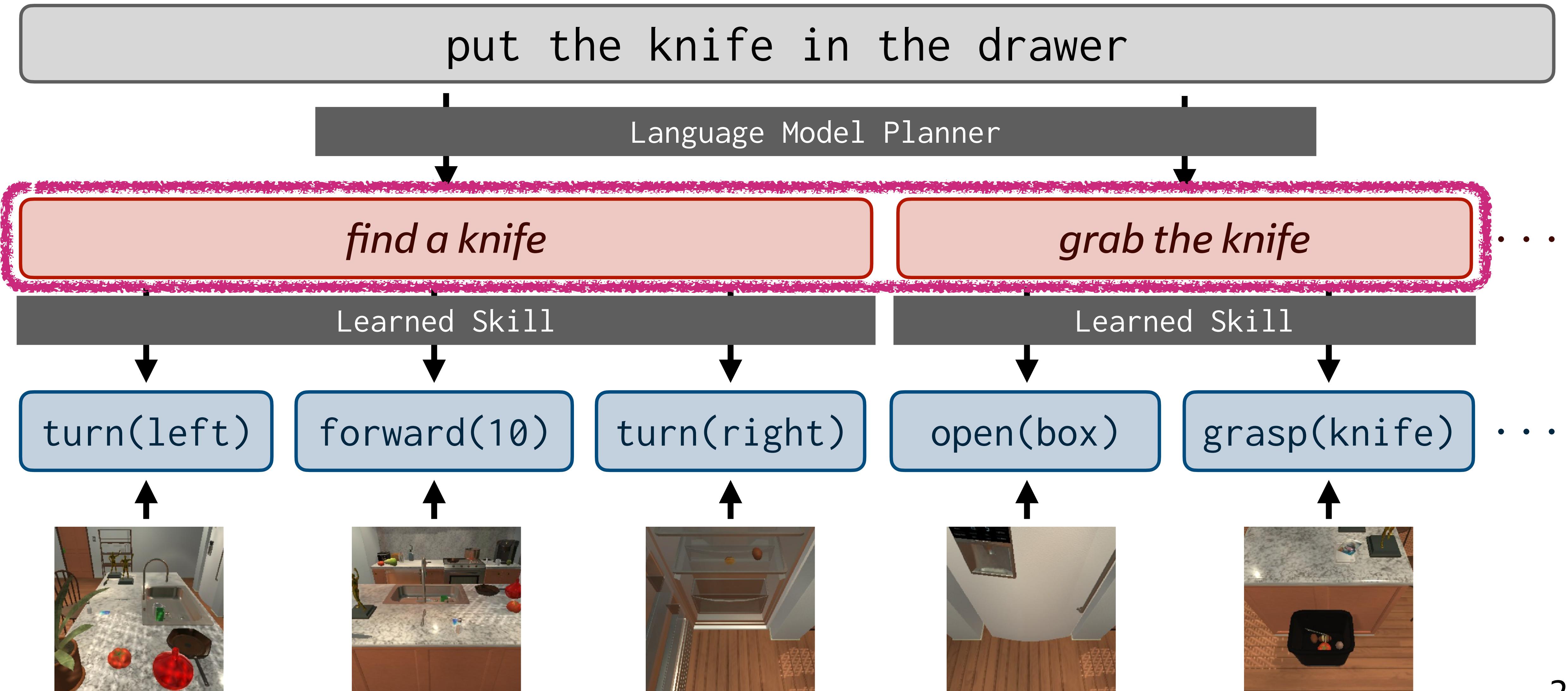


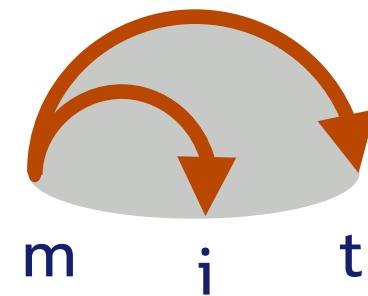
Language as a repr. of composable skills





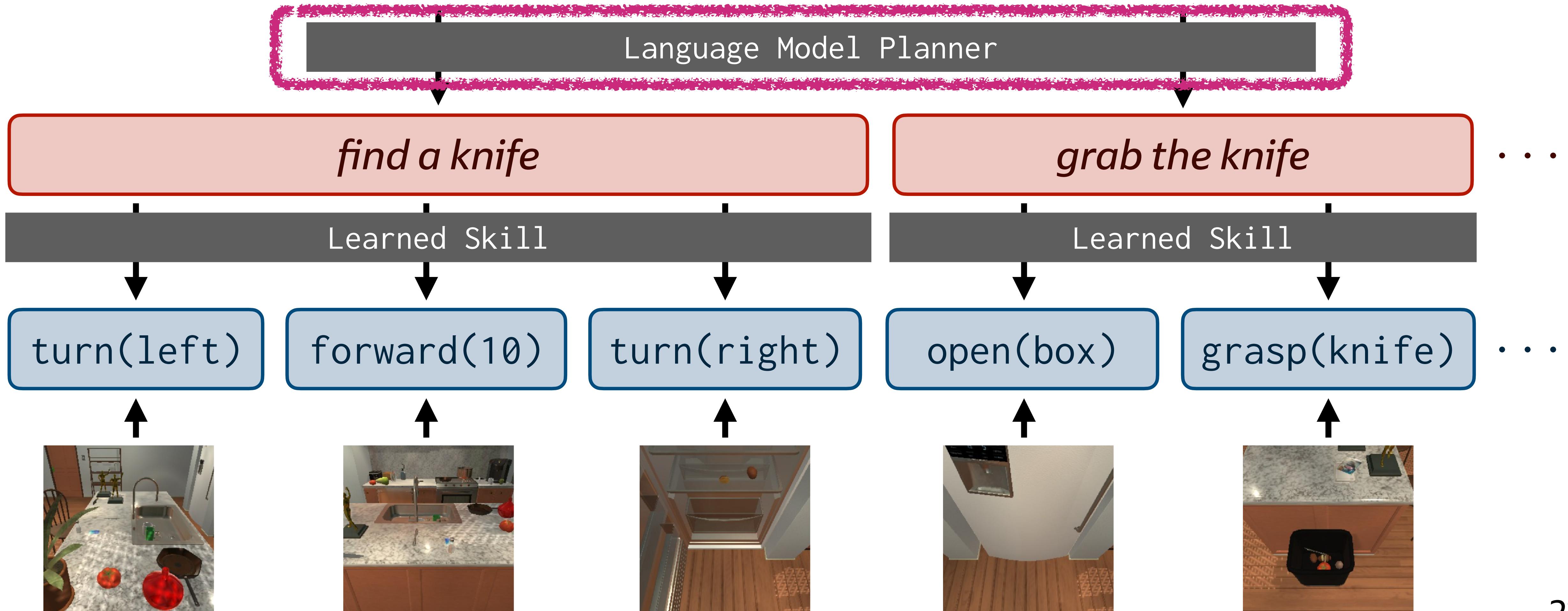
Instructions as a source of easy supervision





Text corpora as priors on plausible plans

put the knife in the drawer

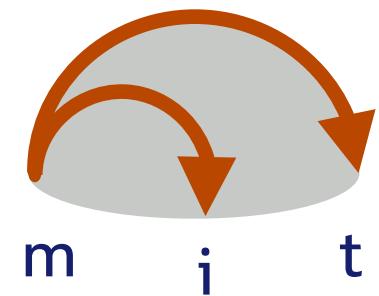


How can language help?

Representation of composable skills

Supervision for a planning model

Generalization to novel goals



Learning to plan and act with language

put the knife in the drawer

turn(left)



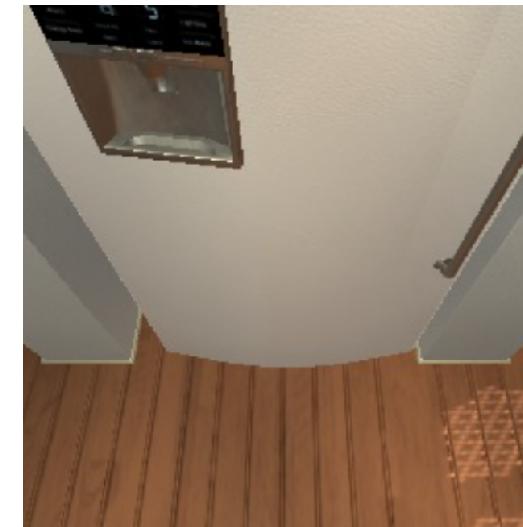
forward(10)



turn(right)



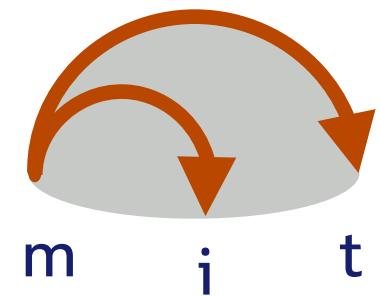
open(box)



grasp(knife)



...



Learning to plan and act with language

put the knife in the drawer

find a knife

grab knife

go to the drawer

...

turn(left)

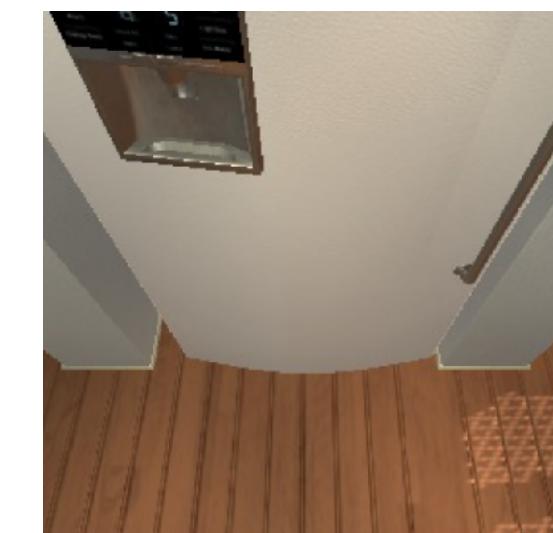
forward(10)

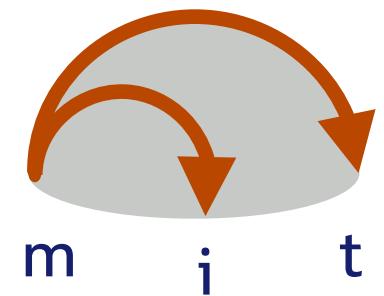
turn(right)

open(box)

grasp(knife)

...





Learning to plan and act with language

put the knife in the drawer

find a knife

grab knife

...

turn(left)

forward(10)

...

Annotated
demonstrations

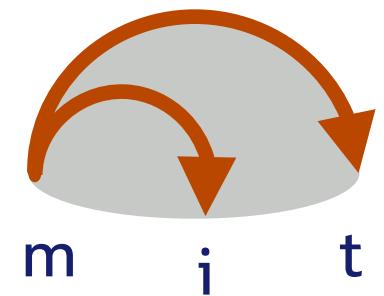
cook the egg

grasp(egg)

forward(9)

...

Unannotated
demonstrations (x9)



Learning to plan and act with language

put the knife in the drawer

find a knife

grab knife

...



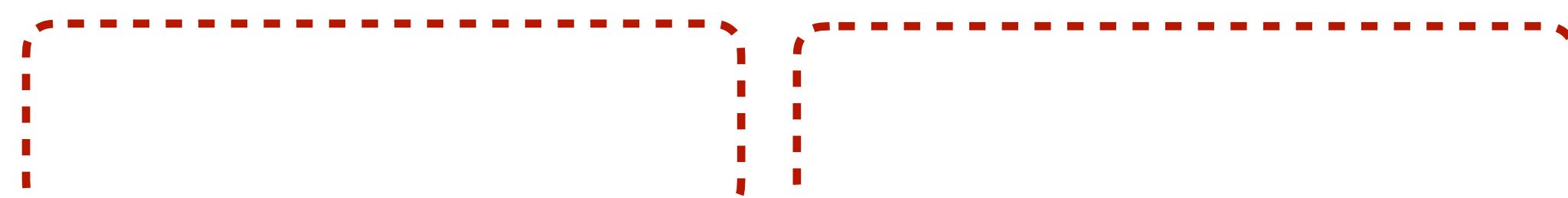
turn(left)

forward(10)

...

Latent alignments!

cook the egg

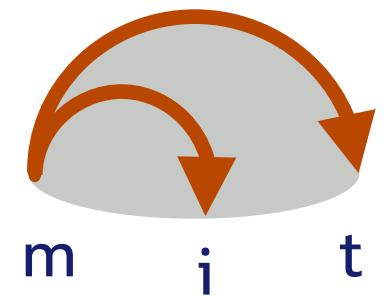


grasp(egg)

forward(9)

...

Latent plans and
alignments!



Learning to plan and act with language

put the knife in the drawer

find a knife

grab knife

...

turn(left)

forward(10)

...

cook the egg

find an egg

locate stove

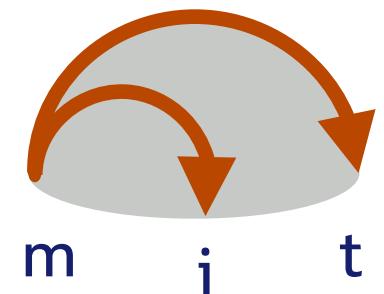
grasp(egg)

forward(9)

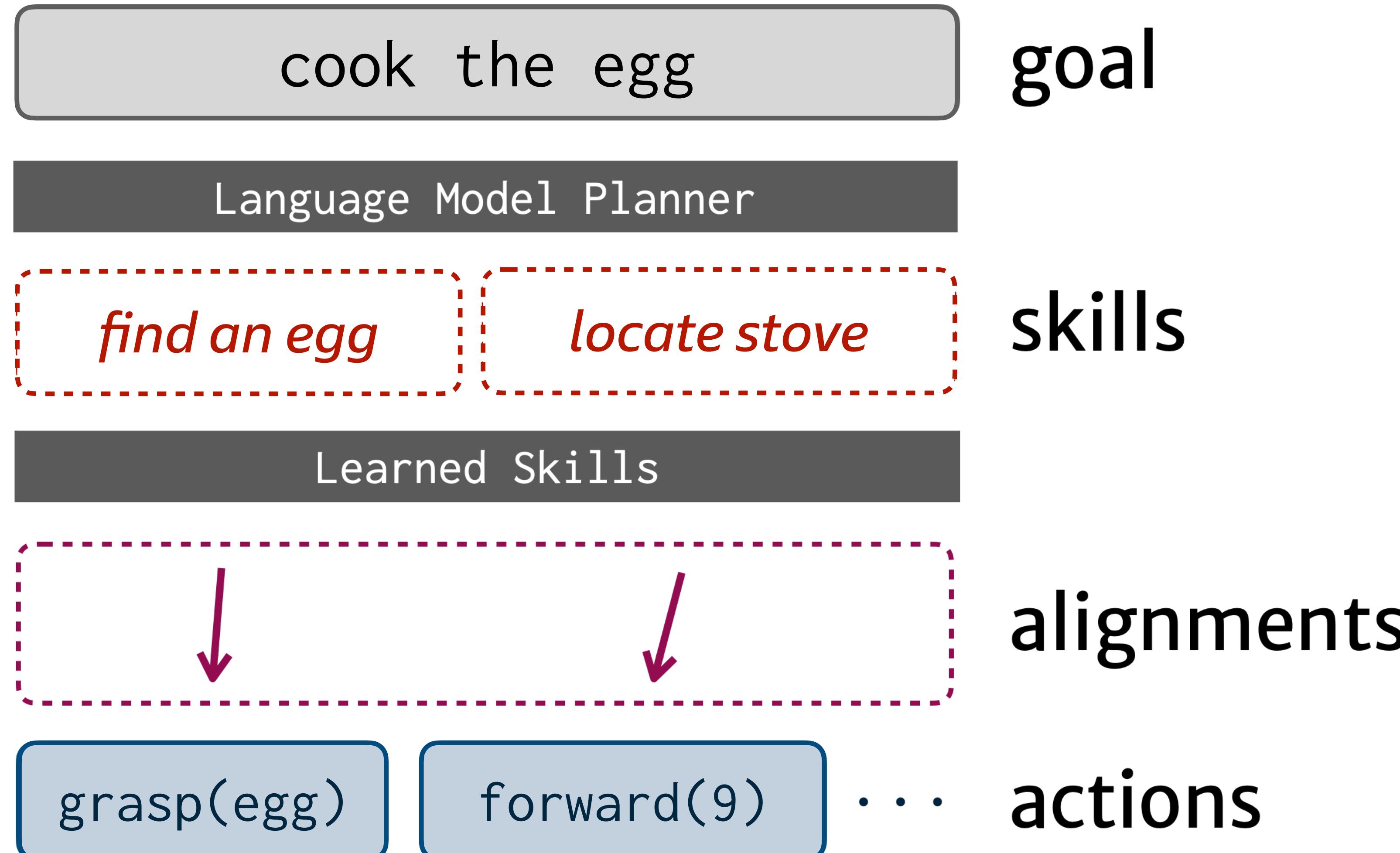
...

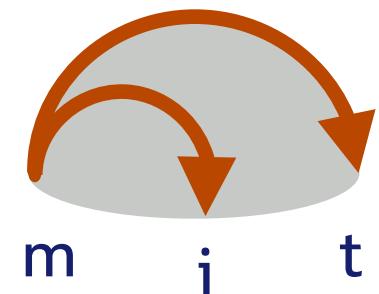
Latent alignments!

Latent plans and
alignments!

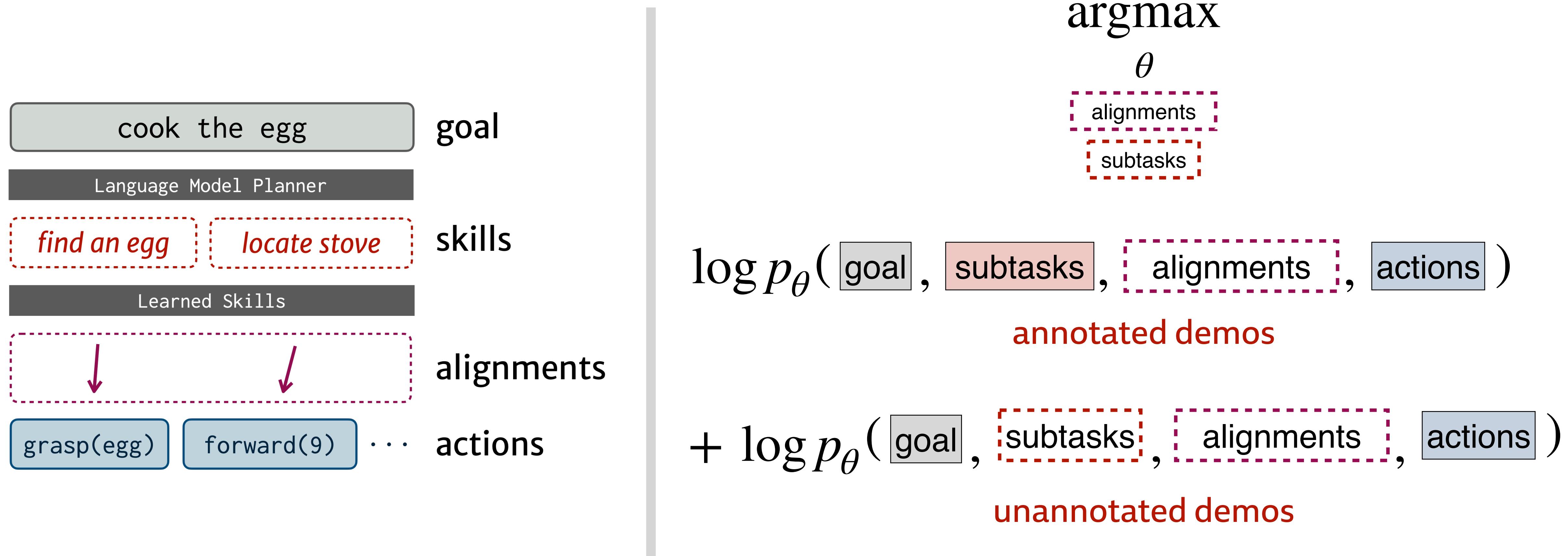


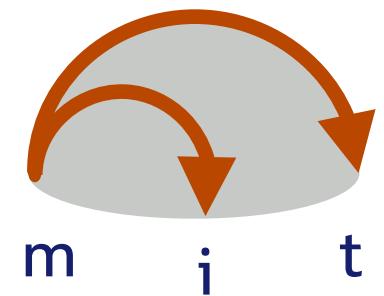
(SL)³: Semi-supervised skill learning w/ latent lang.



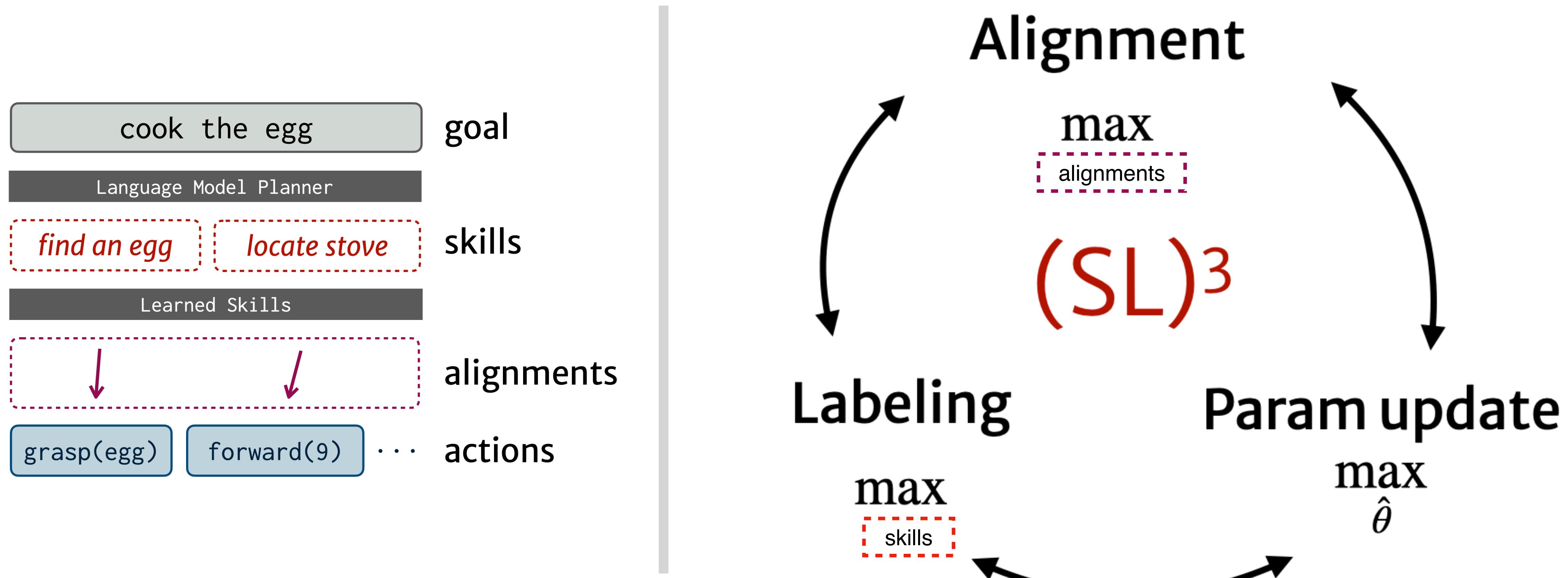


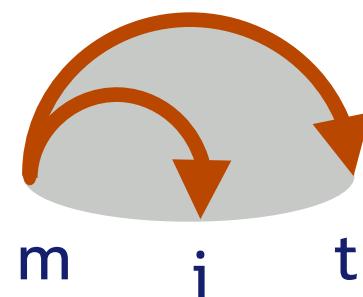
(SL)³: Semi-supervised skill learning w/ latent lang.



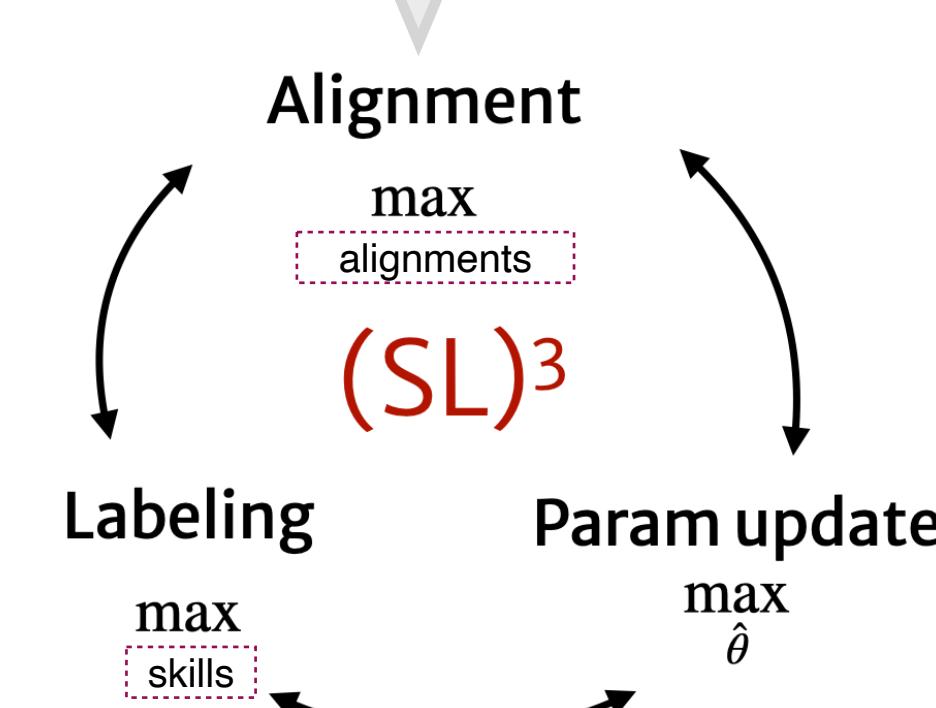
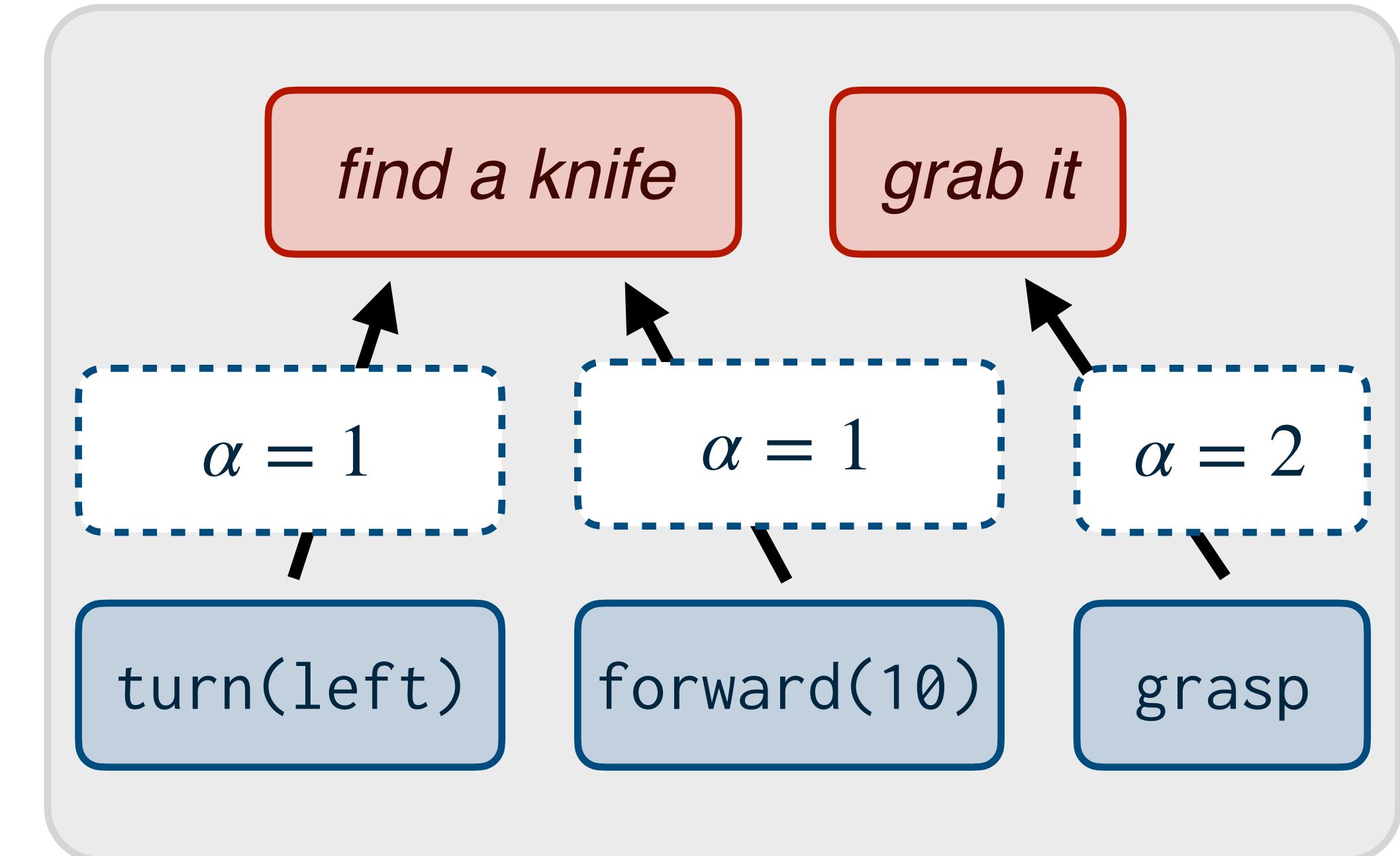
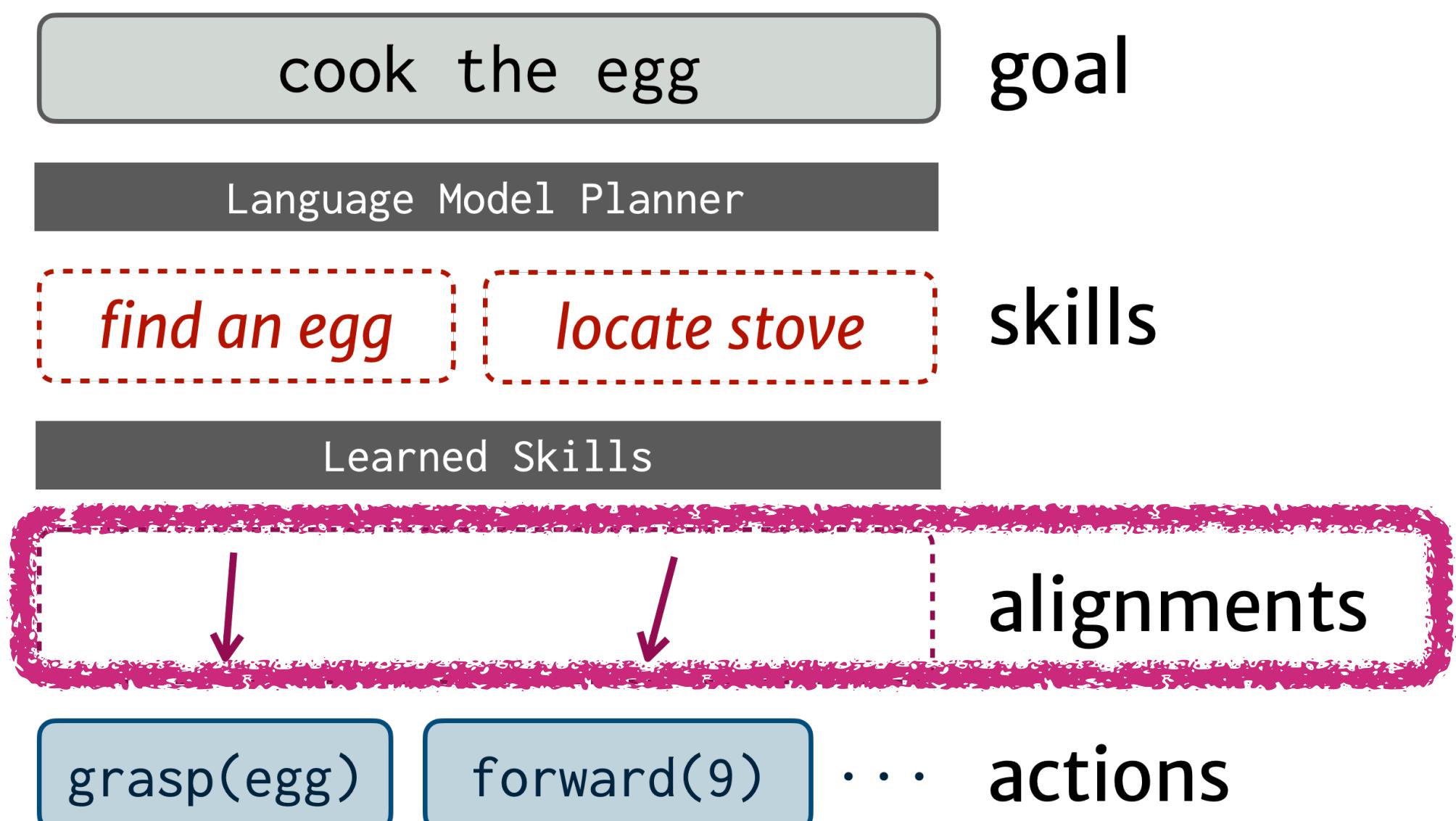


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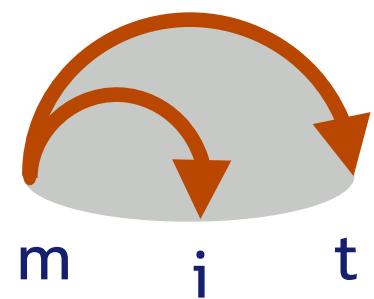




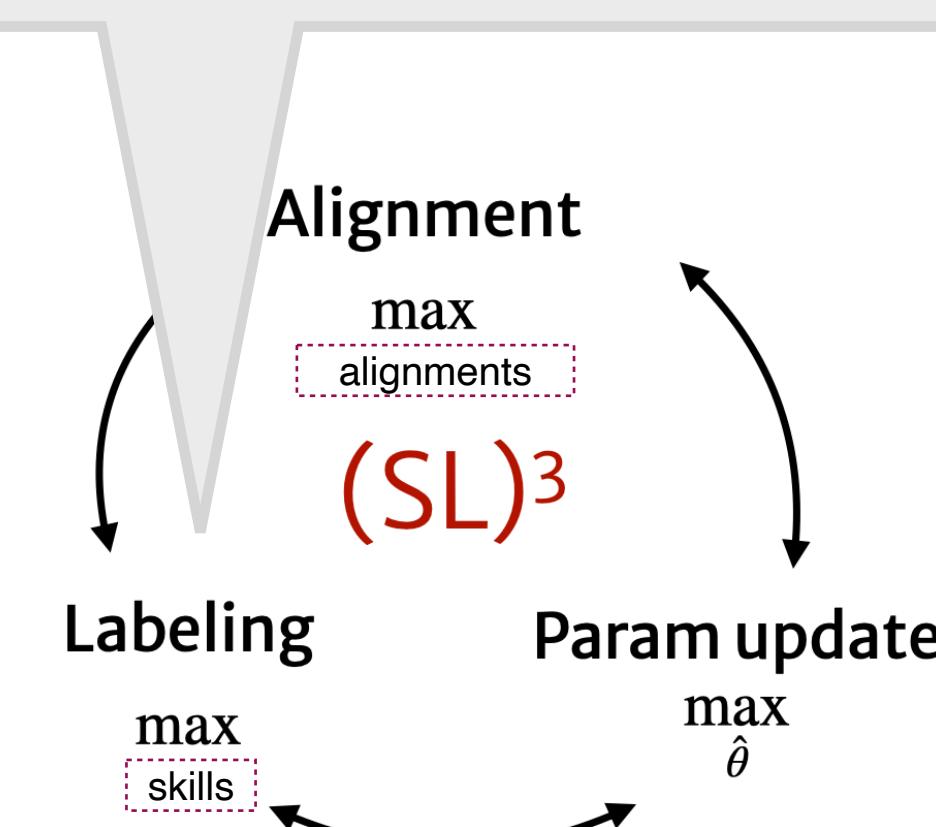
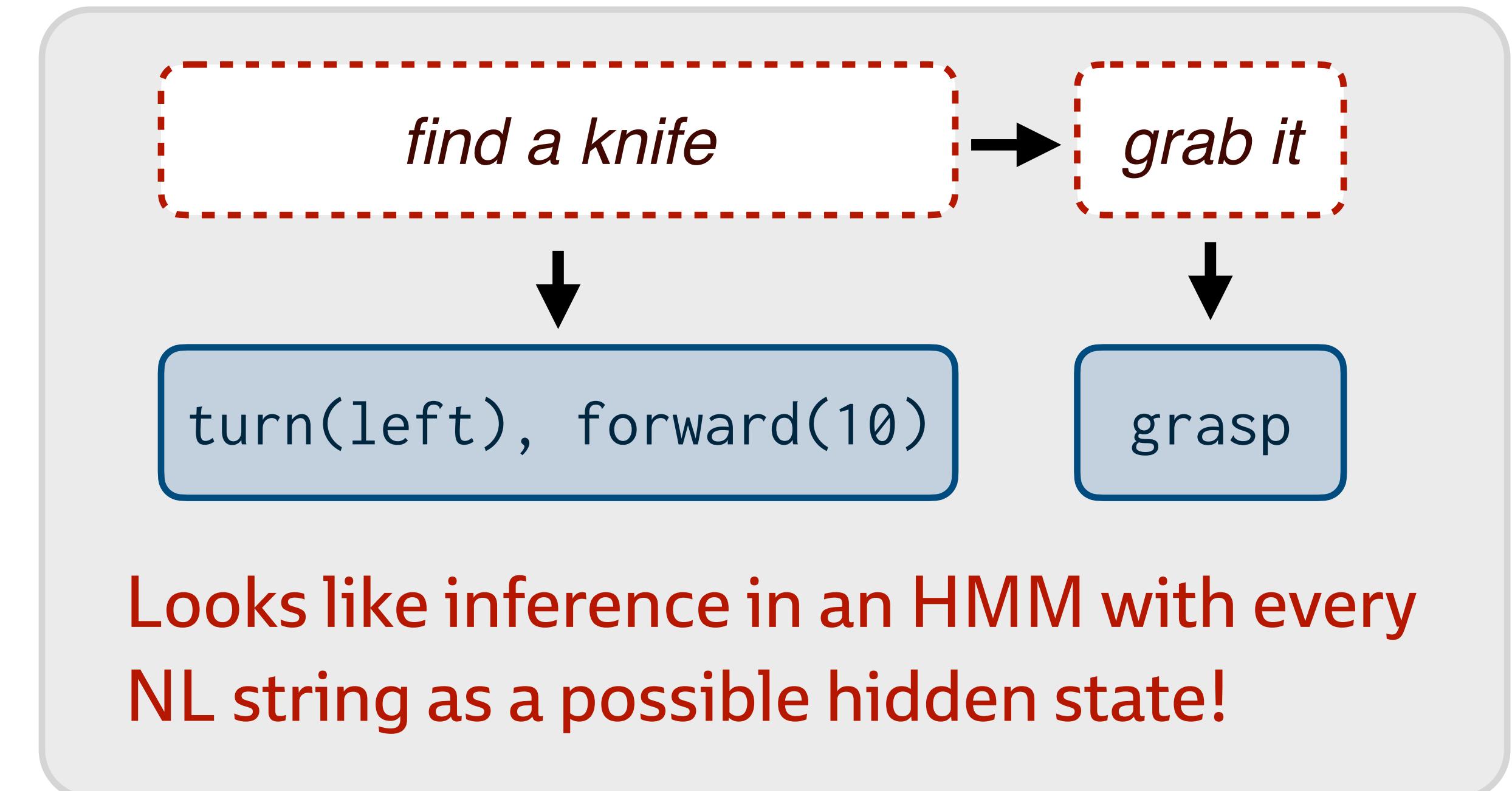
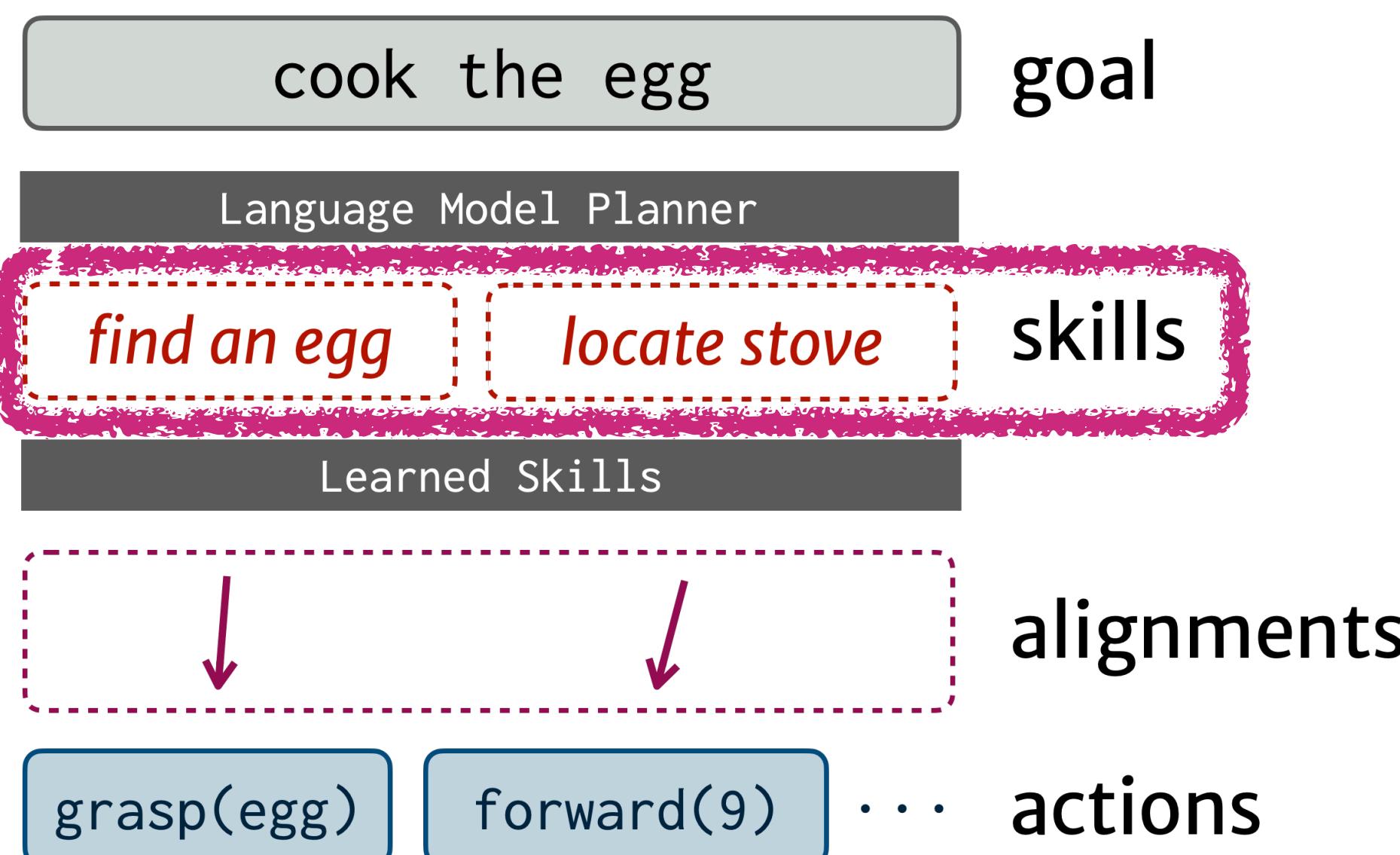
(SL)³: Semi-supervised skill learning w/ latent lang.



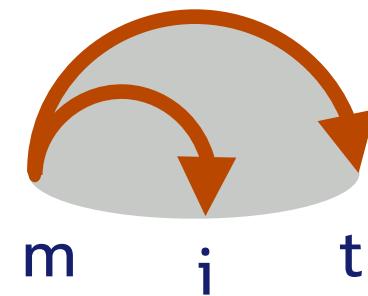
1. Improve alignments



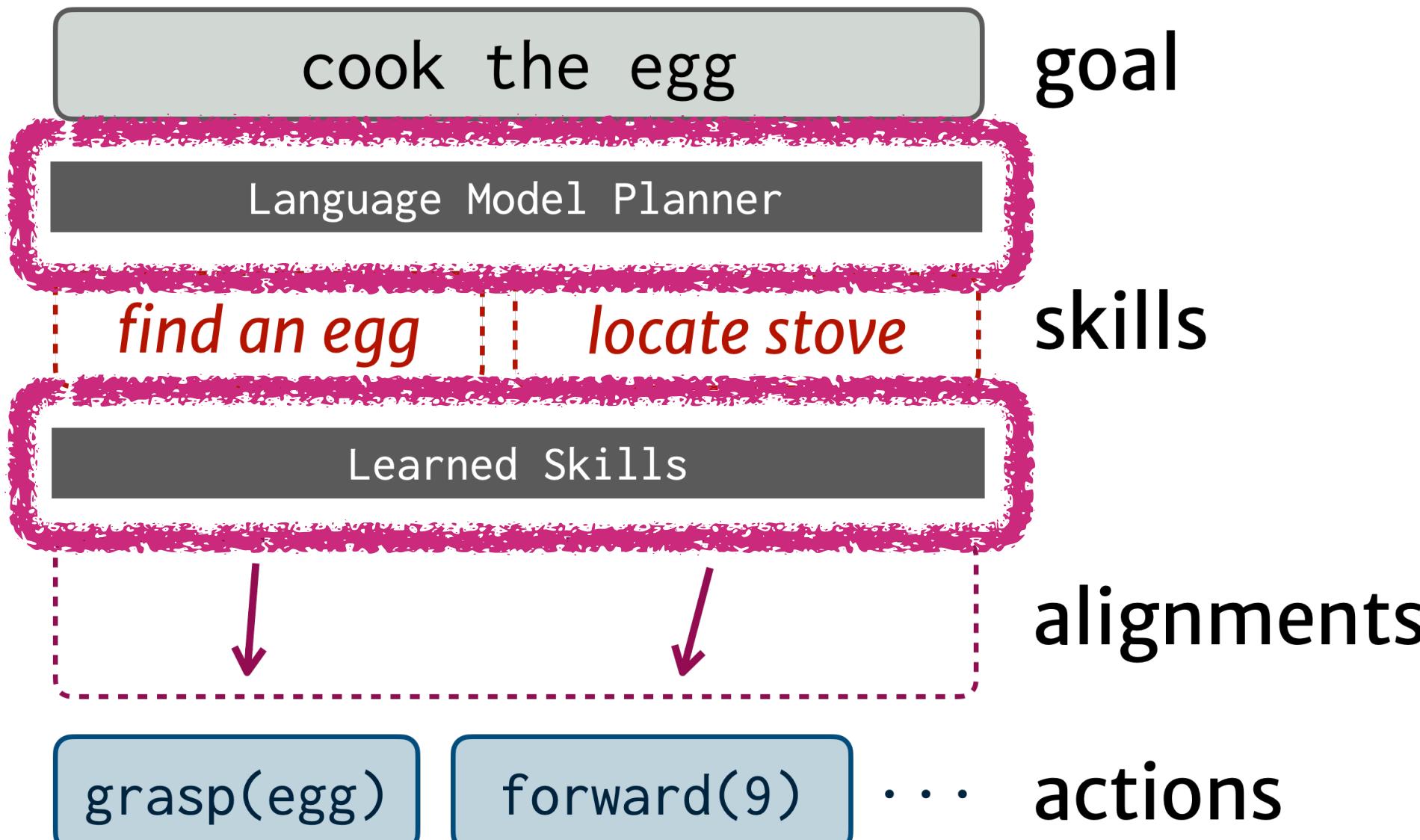
(SL)³: Semi-supervised skill learning w/ latent lang.



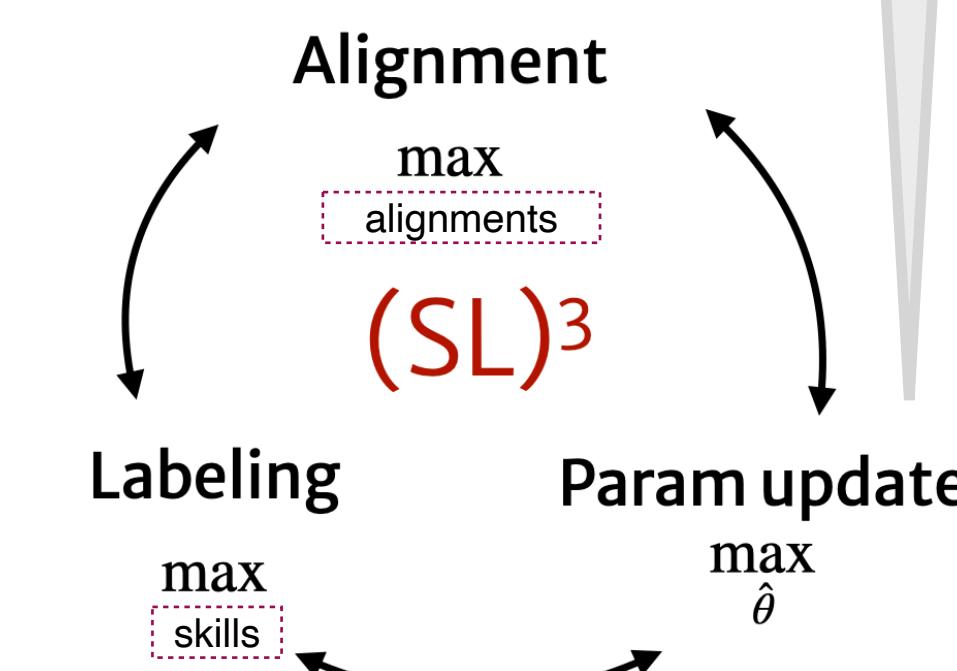
2. Improve labels



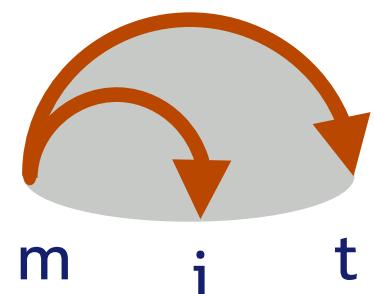
(SL)³: Semi-supervised skill learning w/ latent lang.



Just gradient descent.



3. Improve parameters



Inferred task decompositions

find the butter knife

```
look(down), forward(6), rotate(90), forward(17), rotate(90),
```

grab the knife on the counter

```
forward(3), rotate(90), look(down), pick(obj1), look(up),
```

find the tomato

```
rotate(90), forward(2), rotate(270), forward(1), rotate(90),
```

cut the tomato on the table into slices

go to the drawer

```
forward(1), look(down), cut(obj2, obj1), look(up), rotate(270),
```

```
rotate(270), forward(1), rotate(90), forward(14), rotate(90),
```

put the knife in the drawer

```
look(down), open(obj3), put(obj1, obj3), close(obj3), look(up),
```

find the tomato

pick up a slice of tomato from

```
rotate(90), forward(20), rotate(90), look(down), pick(obj4),
```

the table

go to the fridge

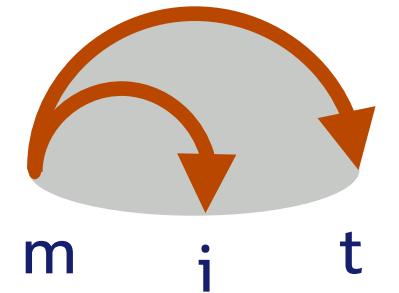
```
look(up), rotate(270), rotate(270), forward(1), rotate(90),
```

put the tomato slice on the top shelf of the refrigerator

```
forward(12), rotate(90), look(down), open(obj3), put(obj4, obj3),
```

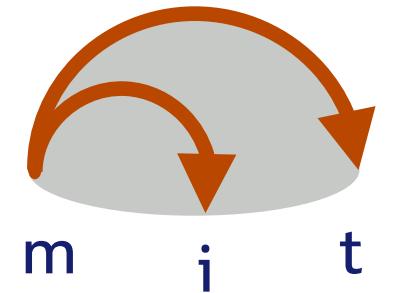


place a washed pan on the counter.

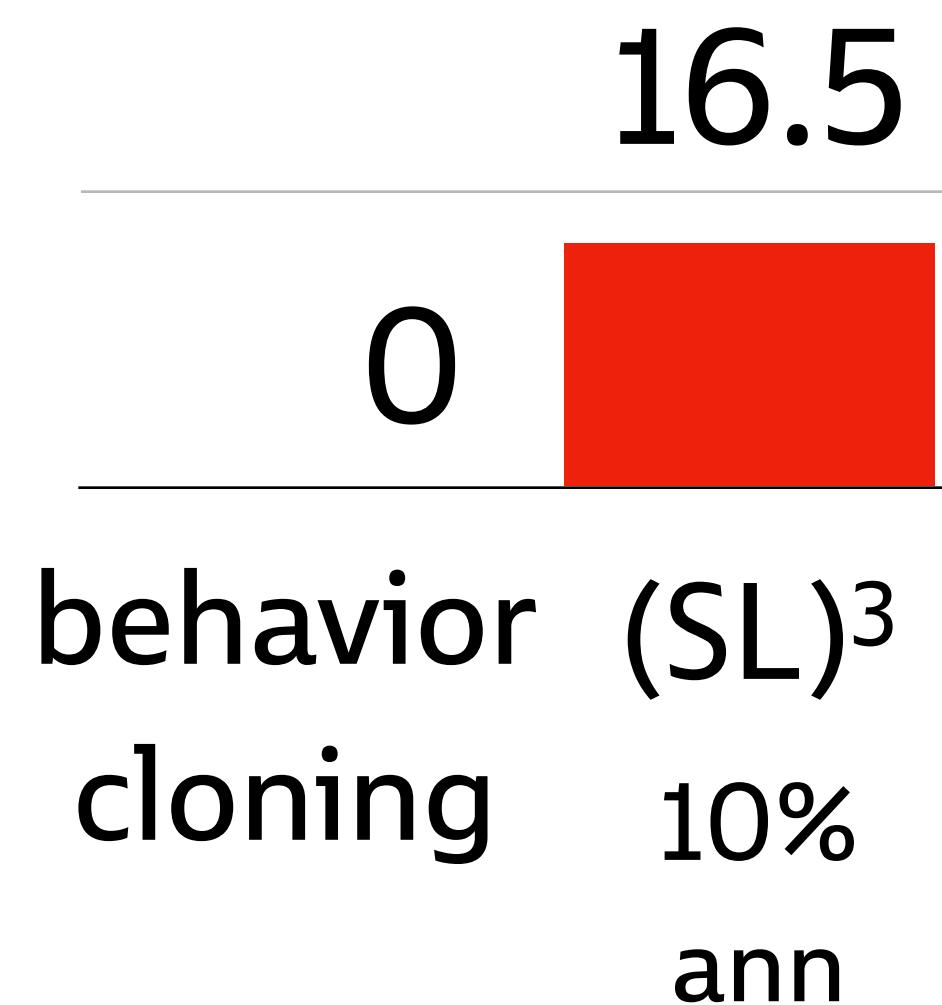


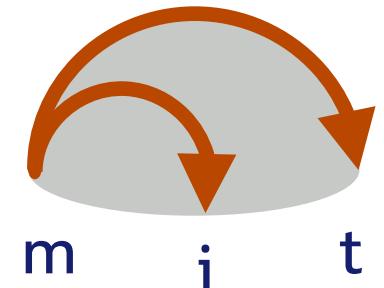
End to end success rates

0
behavior
cloning



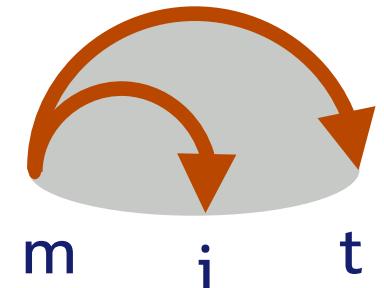
End to end success rates



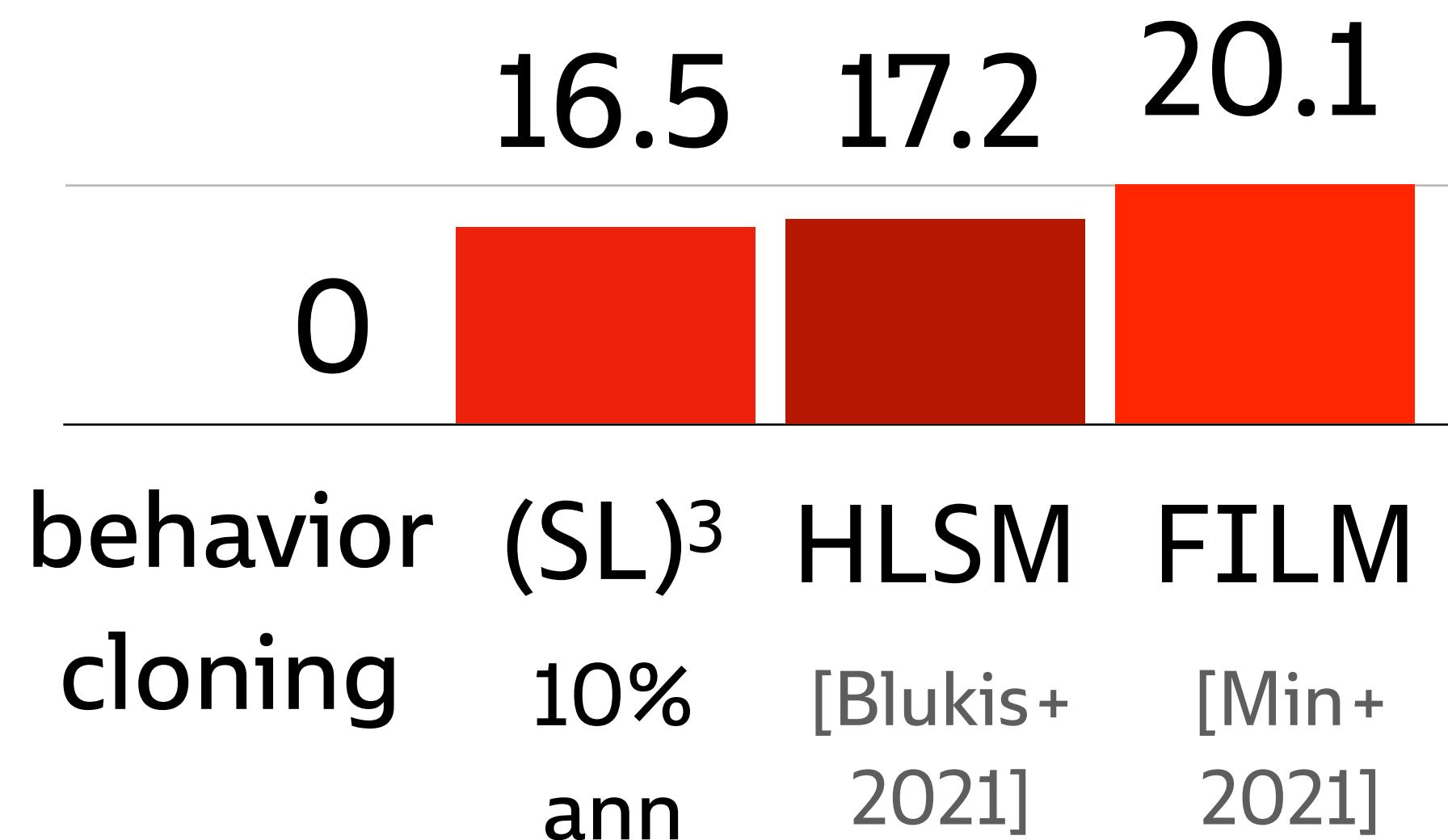


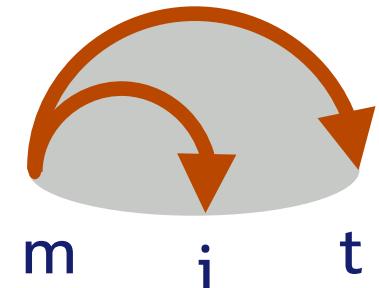
End to end success rates



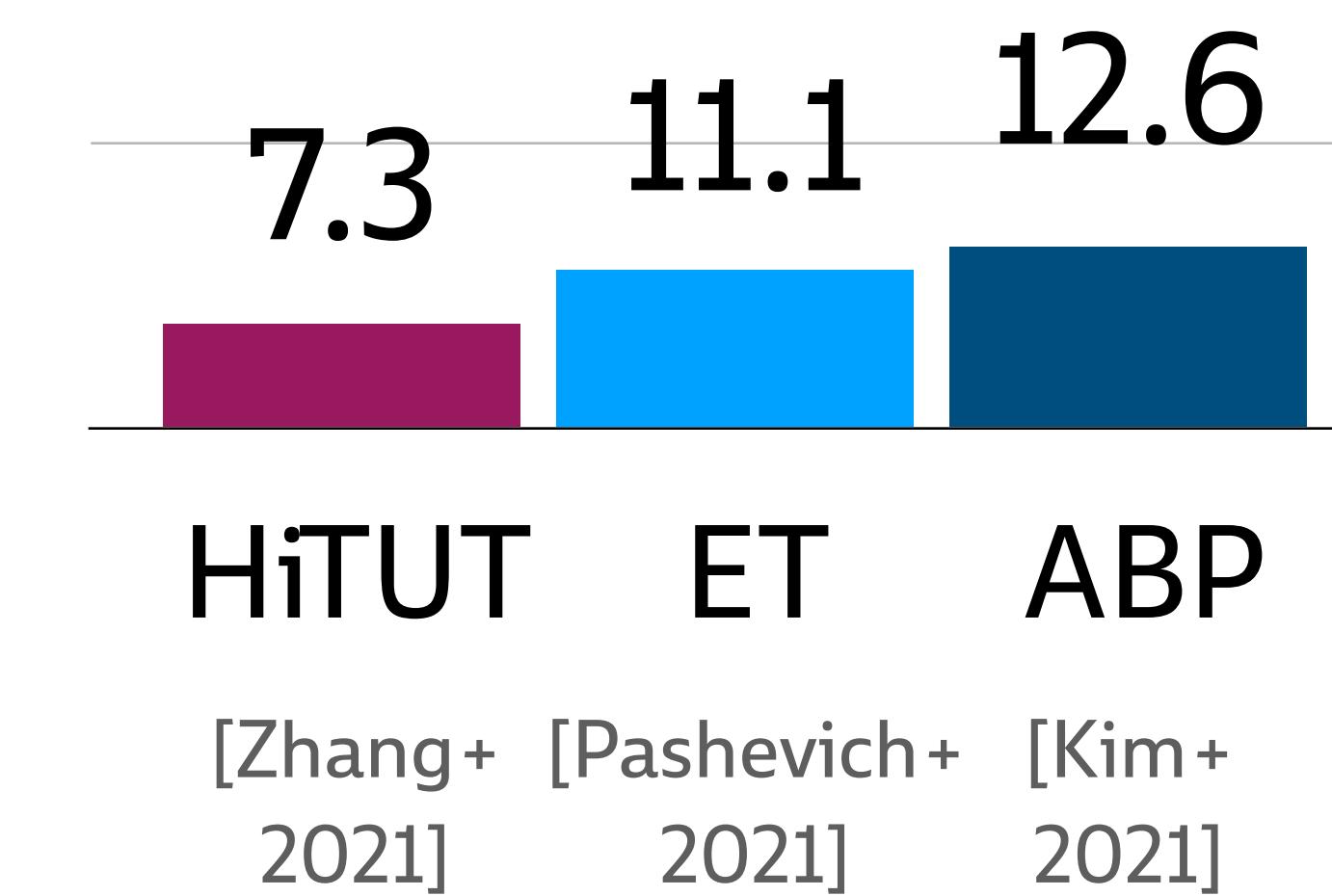
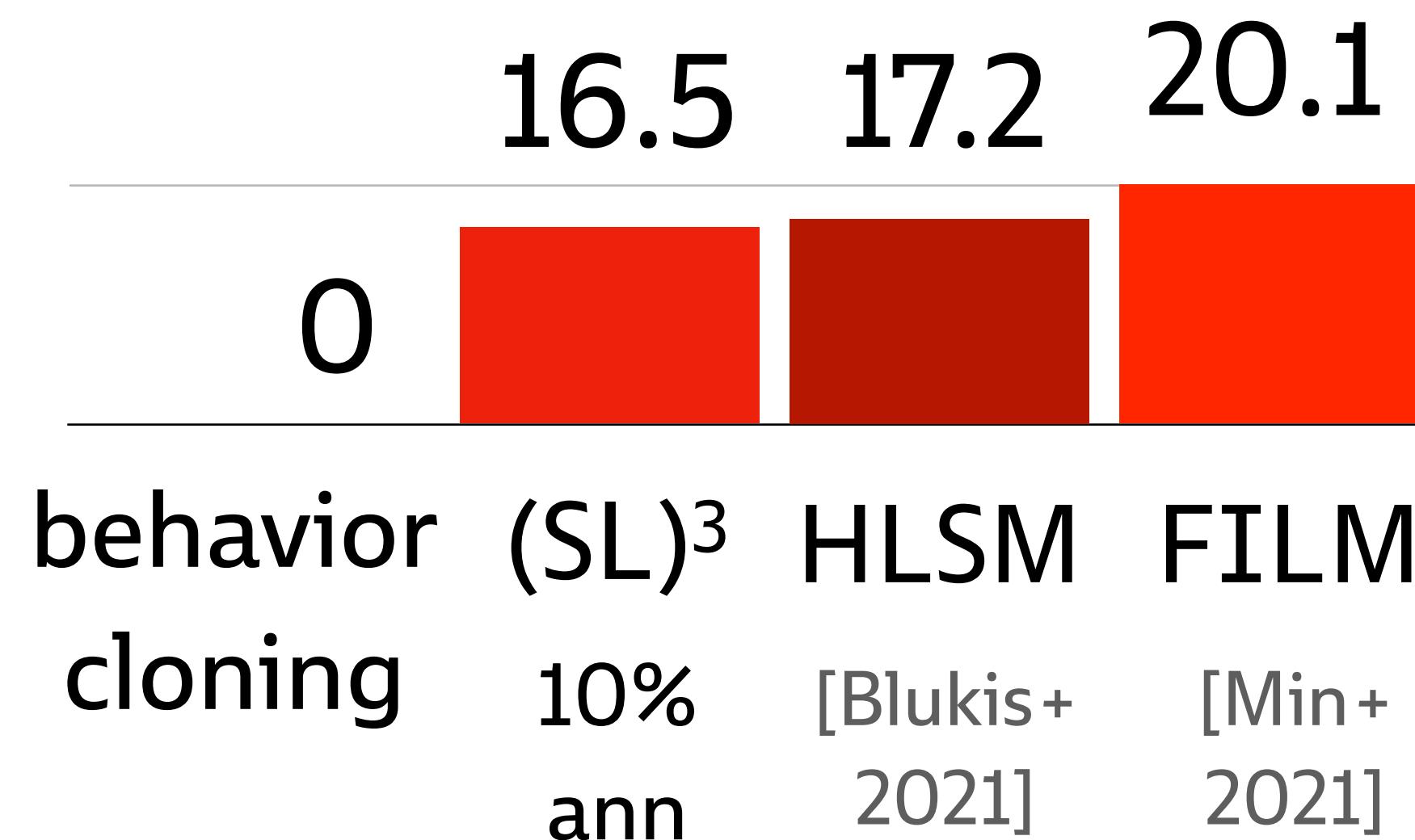


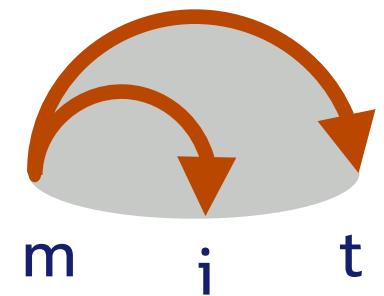
End to end success rates





End to end success rates



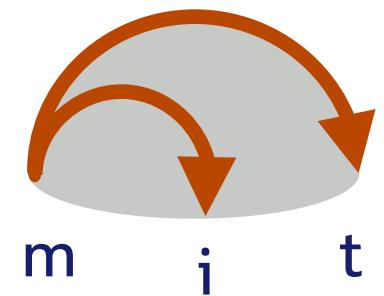


Subtask success rates (excl. navigation)

27

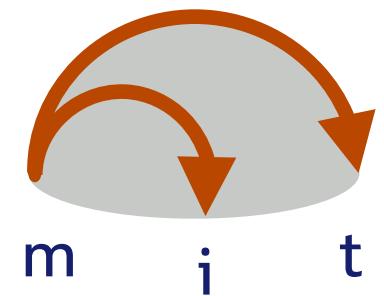


behavior
cloning

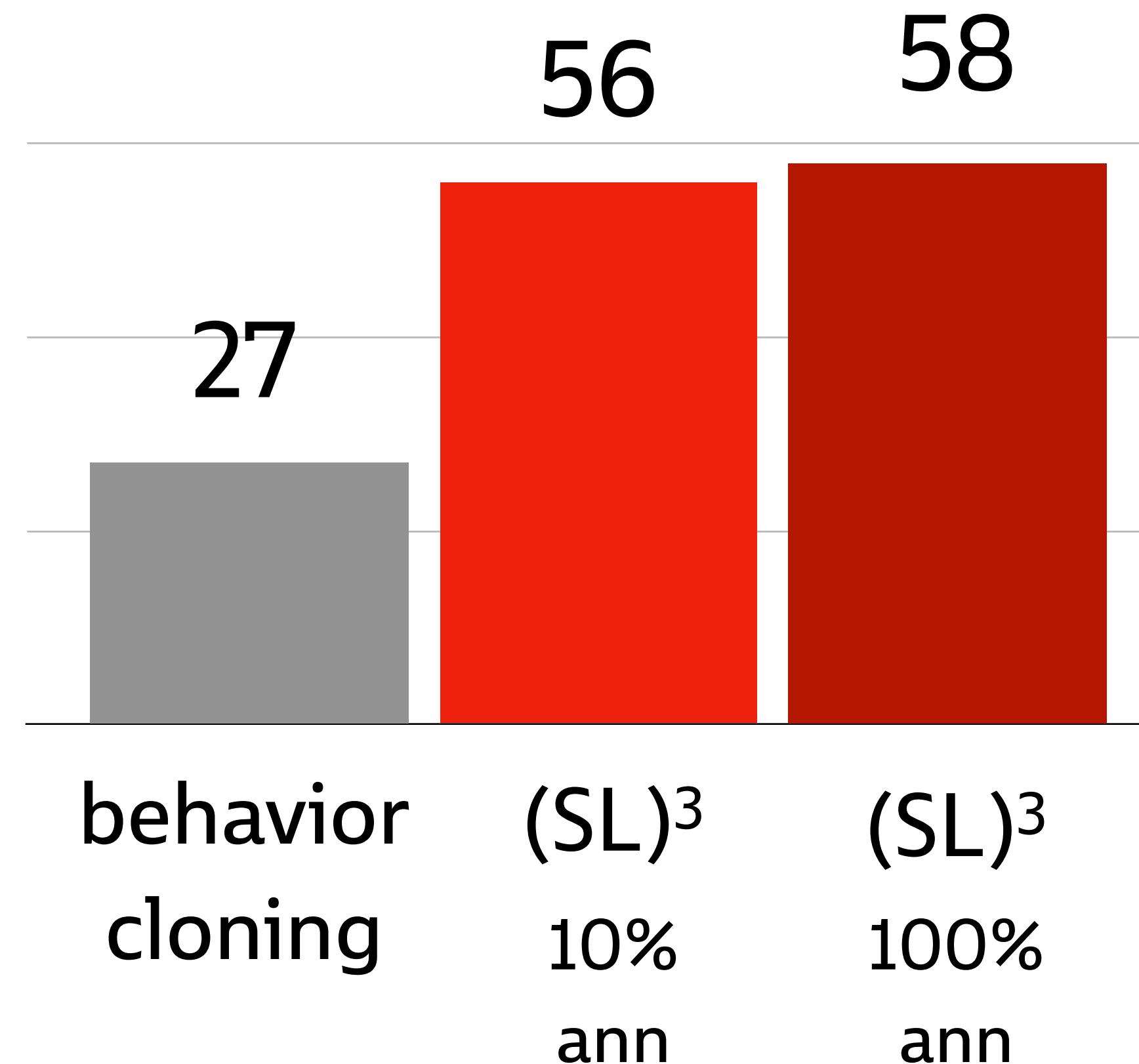


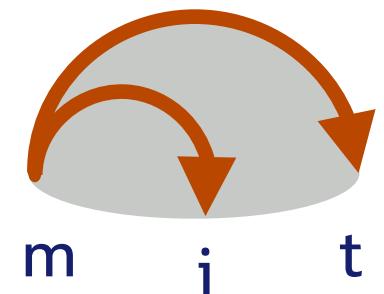
Subtask success rates (excl. navigation)



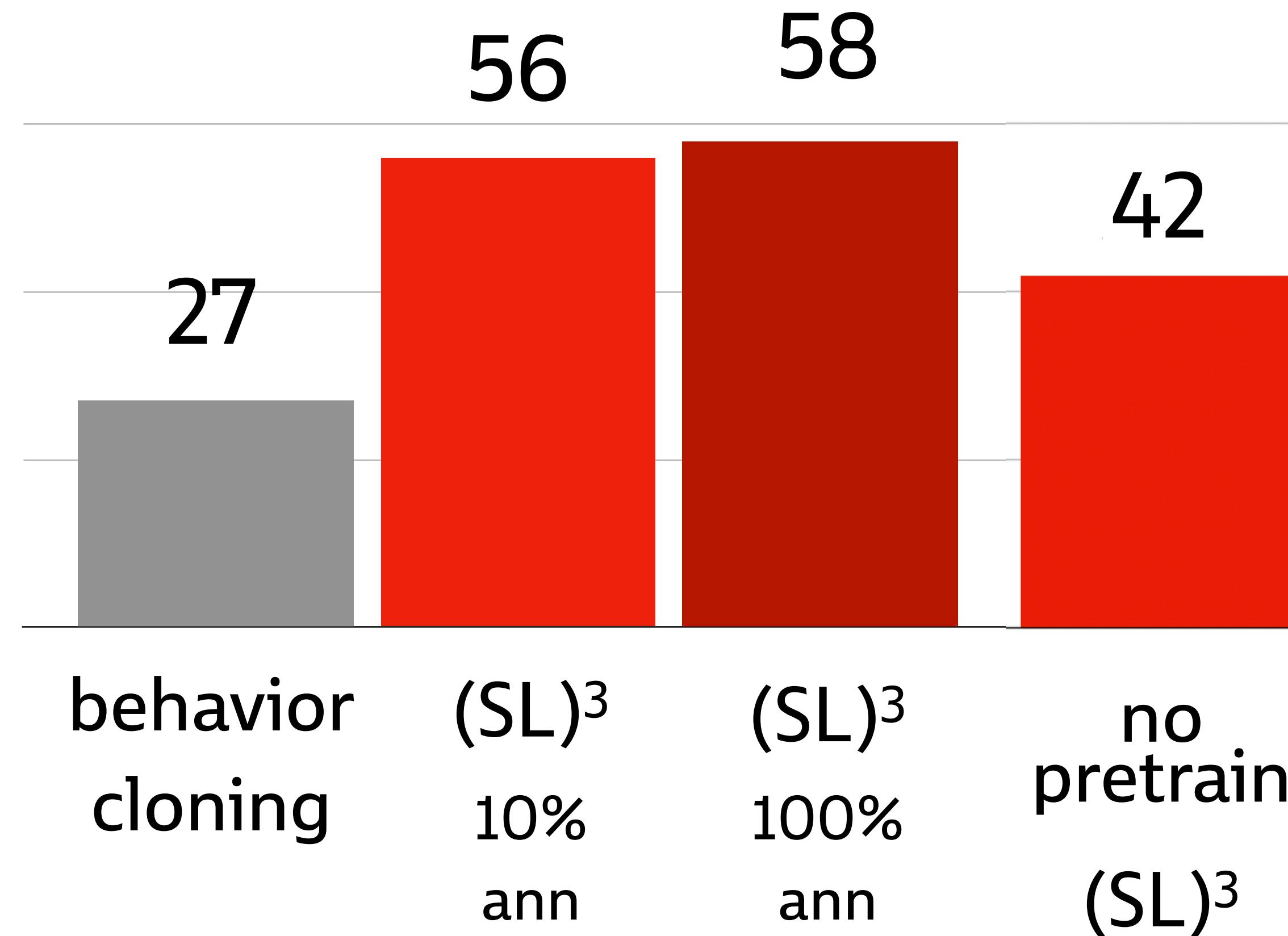


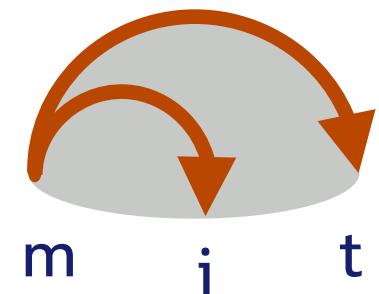
Subtask success rates (excl. navigation)



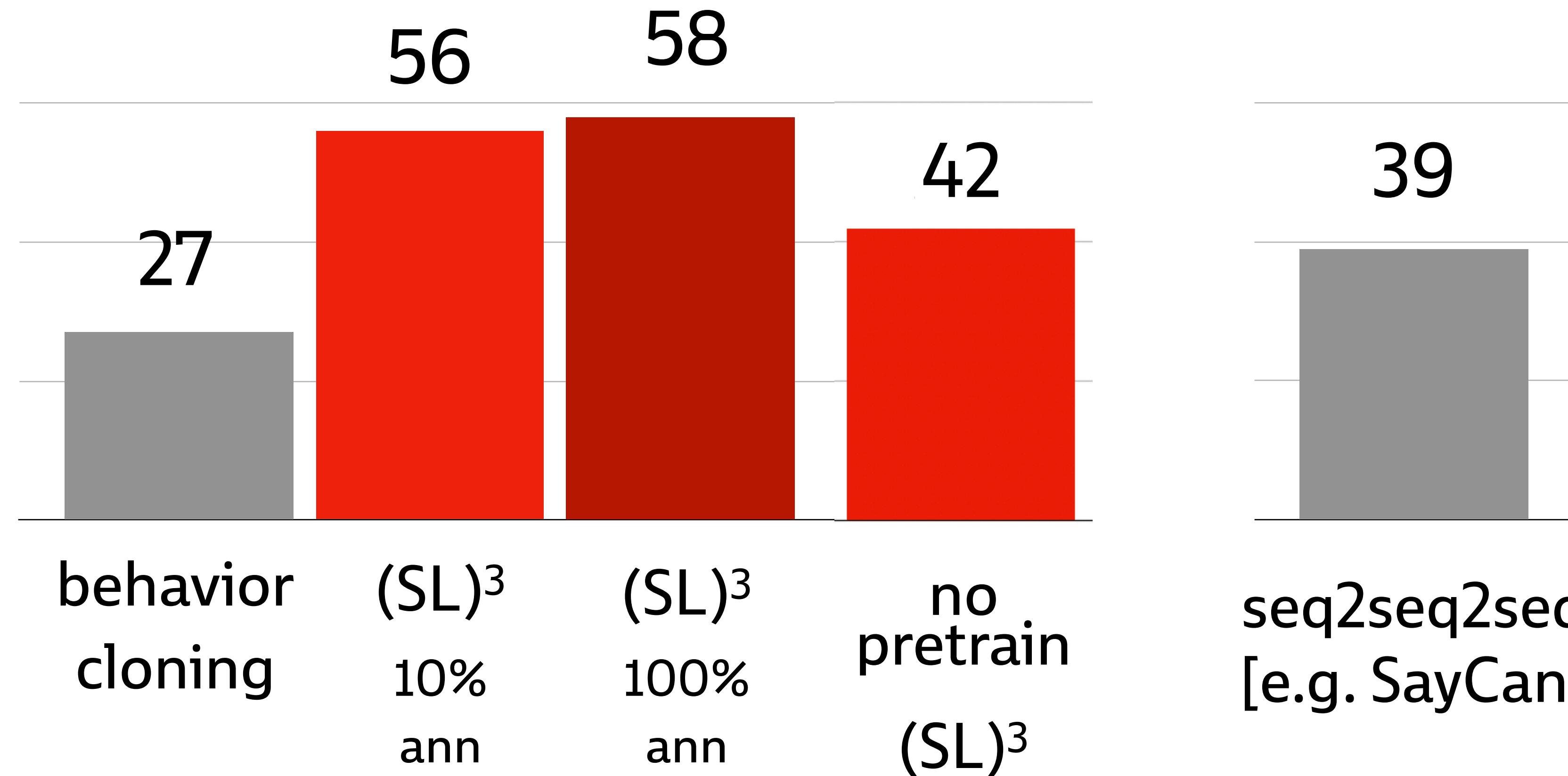


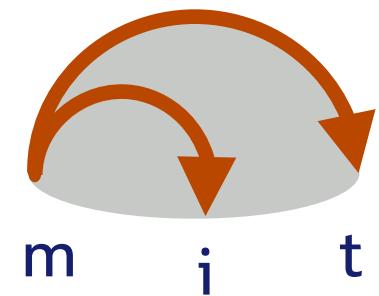
Subtask success rates (excl. navigation)



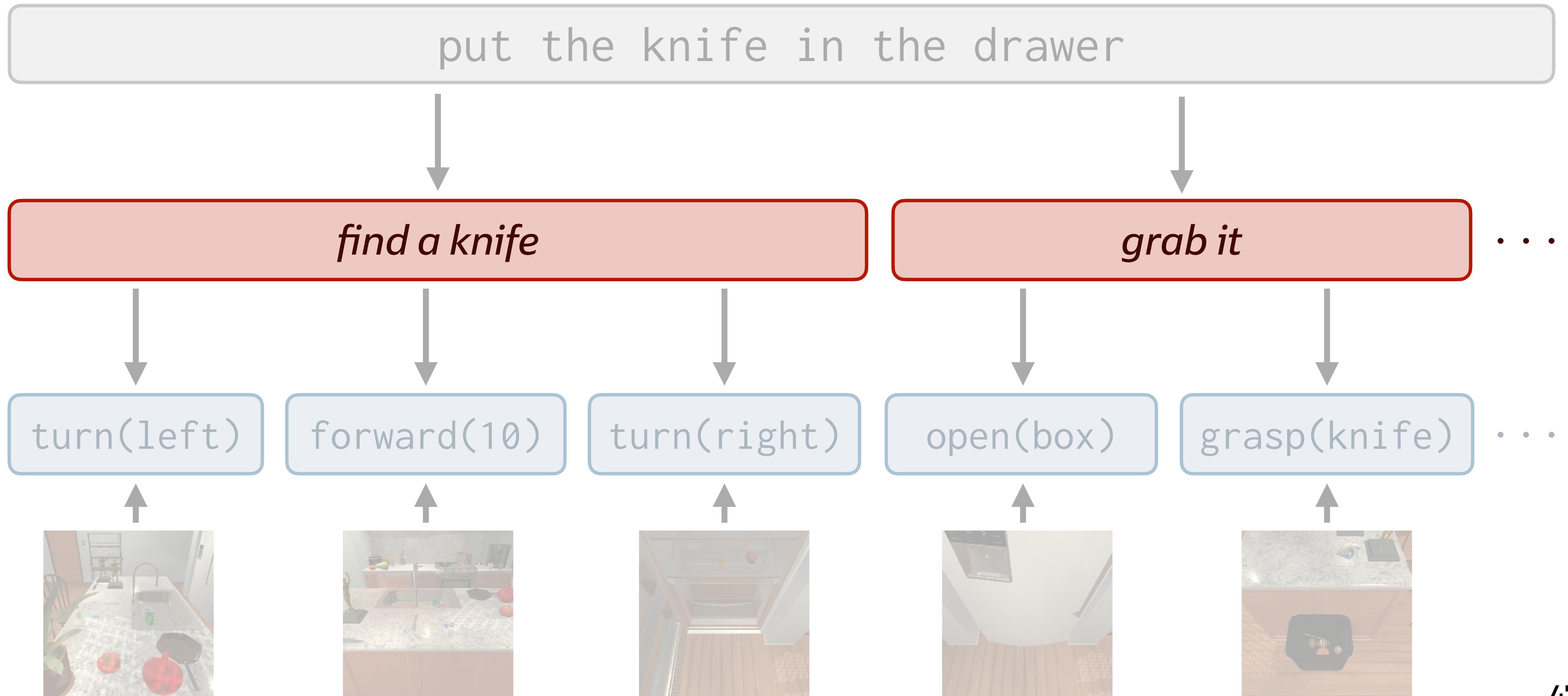


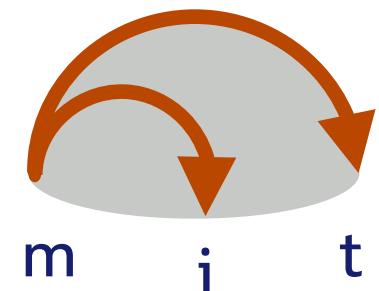
Subtask success rates (excl. navigation)



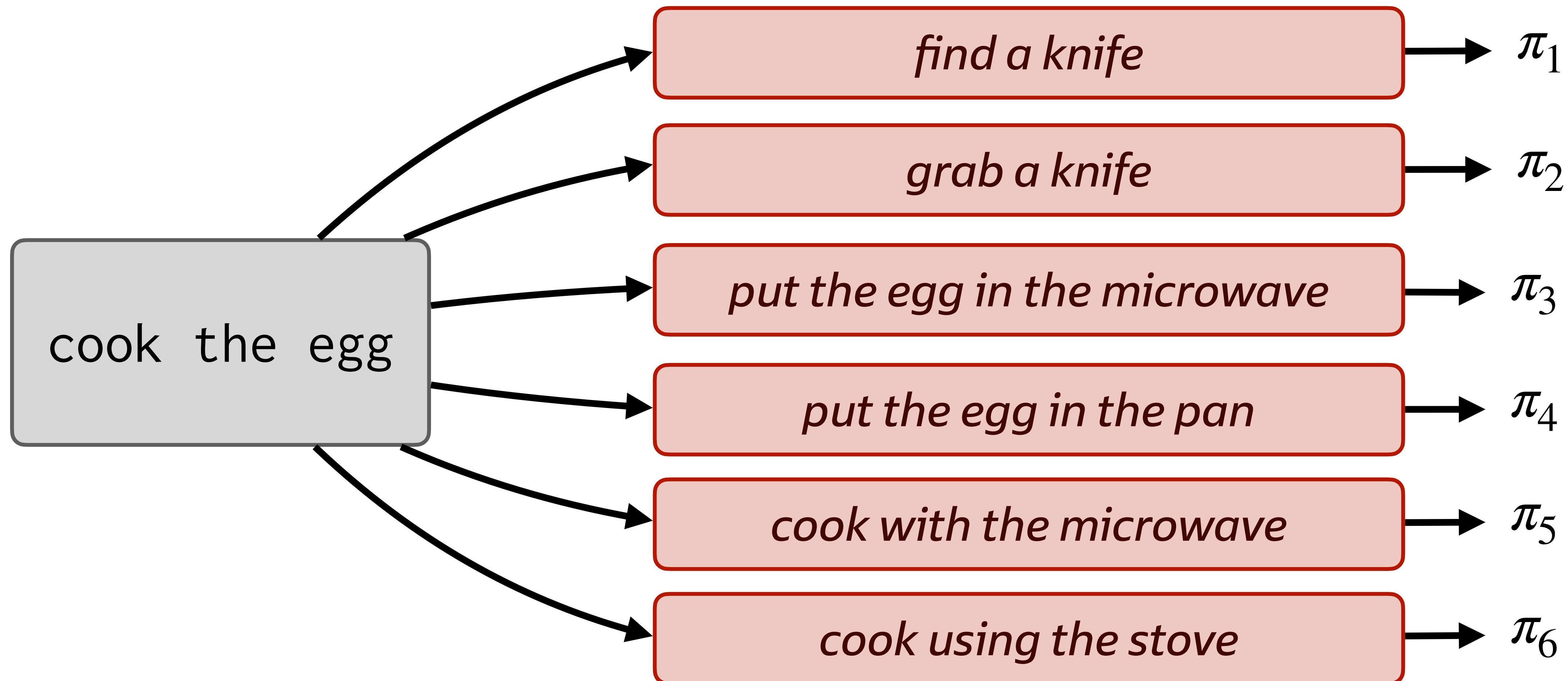


Planning with latent language?

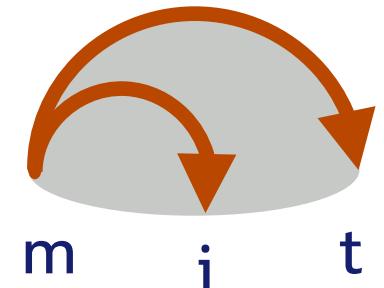




An implicit “library” of reusable skills



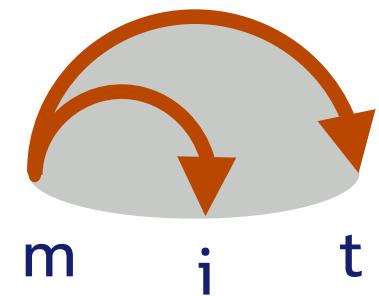
▪
▪
▪



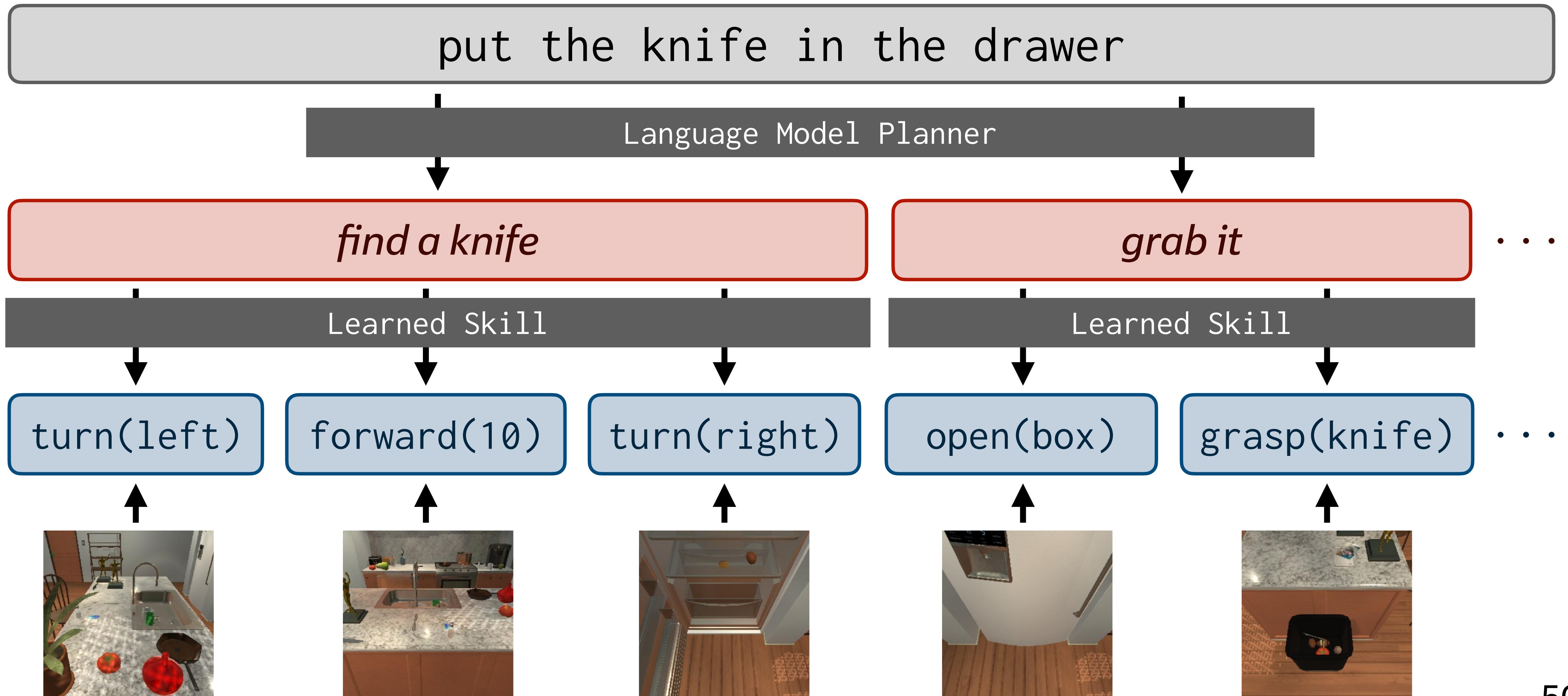
Learning from **text corpora**

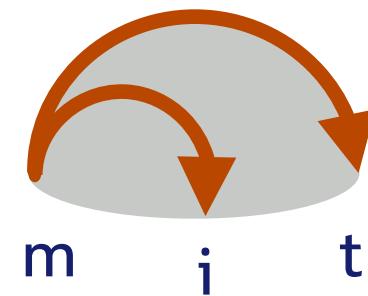
Query	Prediction
The color of a banana is [?].	green
I can use a [?] to chop a carrot.	knife
I can use a [?] to scrub a carrot.	brush
Plates are found in the [?] room.	dining
If I drop a glass, it will [?].	explode

[Devlin et al. NAACL 2019]



A hierarchical policy with latent language





Approach: learning from text corpora

pick two apples then heat them

Find the apple. Pick up the apple on the table. Go to the microwave. Heat the apple in the microwave. Go to the countertop. put the apple on the counter. Find the apple. pick up another apple on the table. Go to the microwave. open the microwave, put the apple in, close the door, heat it, then remove the apple from the microwave. Go to the diningtable. put the apple next to the other apple.

slice a heated apple

Find the apple. pick up the apple that is on the counter. Go to the microwave. open the microwave and place the apple inside then close the door and turn on the microwave for five seconds. Find the knife. pick up the yellow knife that is on the counter. Find the apple. slice the apple that is in the microwave.

clean and cool an apple

Find the apple. pick up the apple from the counter. Go to the sinkbasin. place the apple in the sink, clean it with water, take apple out. Go to the fridge. open the fridge, place apple on shelf to the left of the apple, close the fridge.

clean and cool a carrot

Find the lettuce. pick up the carrot from the island. Go to the sinkbasin. place the carrot in the sink and turn on the water. turn off the water and pick up the red carrot. Go to the fridge. open the fridge and place the carrot inside.

place two iPhones on the table

Find the cellphone. pick up the iphone from the table. Go to the sidetable. put the iphone on the table. Find the cellphone. pick up the other iphone from the table. Go to the sidetable. put the iphone on the table.

rinse some tomatoes

'Find the tomato. pick up the tomato sitting on the table. Go to the sinkbasin. put the tomato in the sink and rinse it. Go to the sidetable. put the tomato on the table.

(a)

(b)

Learning skills: summary

What:

Hierarchical policy learning from demonstrations with (sparse) natural language supervision.

How:

Automatic “parsing” of annotated & unannotated demos with dynamic programs for alignment and inference of string-valued latent variables.

Why:

Instructions are easy to collect; training with $< 1k$ of them gives performance comparable to state-of-the-art models evaluated with *ground truth* plans.

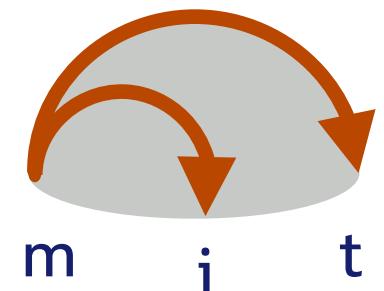
Learning functions from denotations and descriptions



Lio
Wong

+ Josh Tenenbaum

[Leveraging Language for Program Search and Abstraction Learning. ICML 2021.]

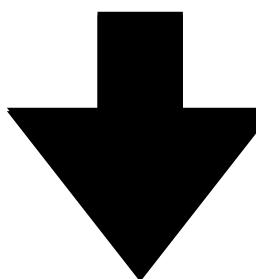


Inferring programs from specifications

previously:

Predict a program to execute
given a high-level goal.

cooked(egg)



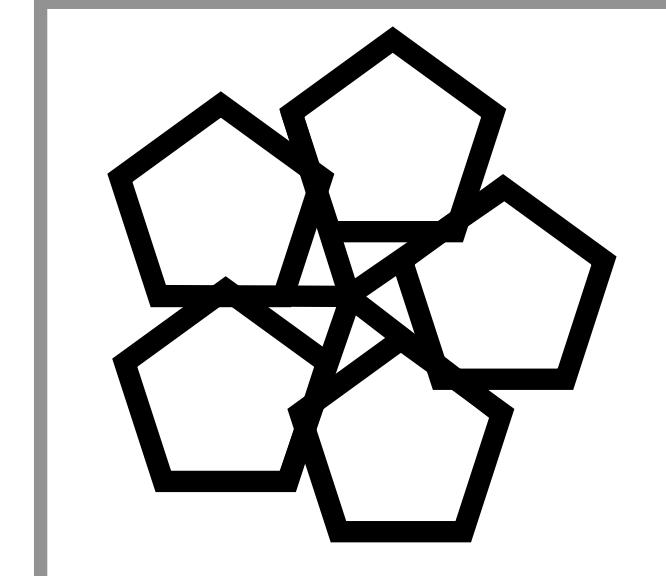
grasp(egg)

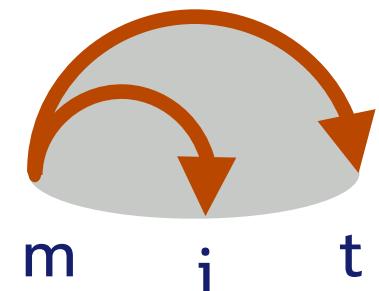
forward(9)

now:

Infer a program given the
results of execution.

(f24 5 (λ (x) (get/set (λ (y)
(f2 1 (f41 5 y))) x)) z)





Inferring programs from specifications

Many learning problems are naturally formulated as program synthesis.

s/Figure/Fig./g

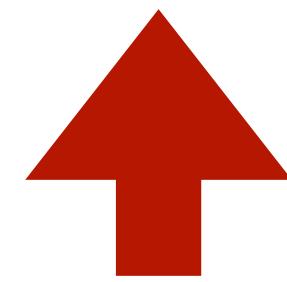
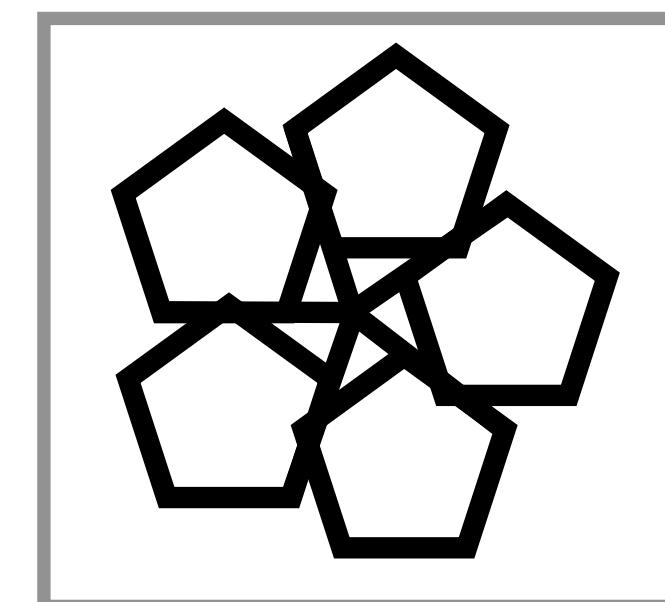
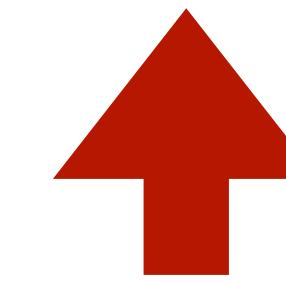


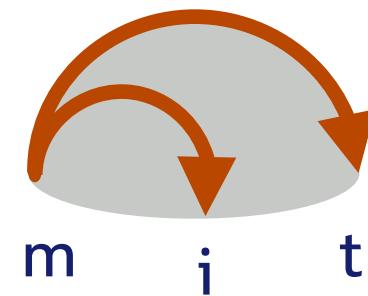
Figure 1 → *Fig. 1*

as in Figure 6a → *as in Fig. 6a*

a striking figure → *a striking figure*

(f24 5 (λ (x) (get/set (λ (y)
(f2 1 (f41 5 y))) x)) z)





Language & program abstractions

Programs are compositional.

```
look(down), forward(6), rotate(90), forward(17),
```

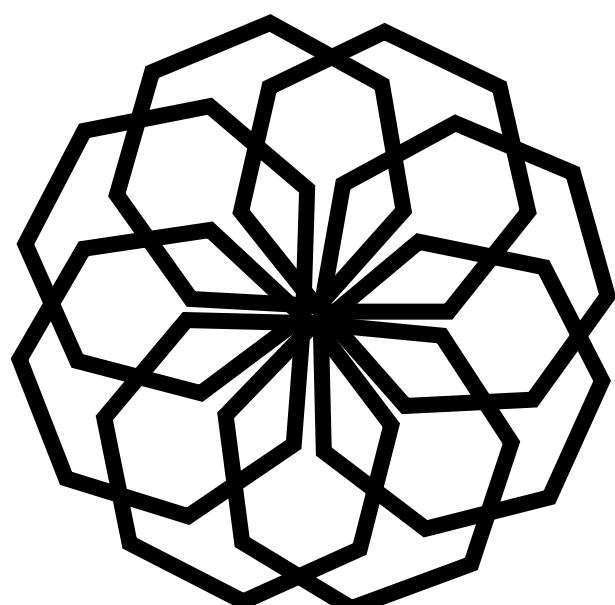
```
forward(3), rotate(90), look(down), pick(obj1)
```

```
rotate(90), forward(2), rotate(270), forward(1),
```

```
forward(1), look(down), cut(obj2, obj1), look(up),
```

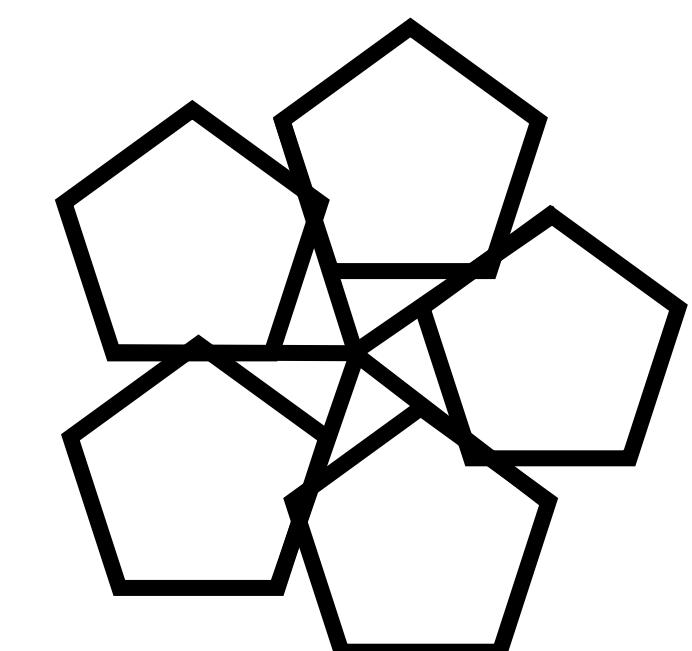
```
for i in range(8):  
    for j in range(7):  
        pendown()  
        forward(1cm)  
        penup()  
        rotate(129)  
        rotate(45)
```

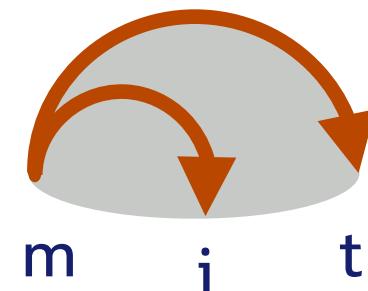
```
f1(8,  
f2(7, 1cm))
```



```
for i in range(5):  
    for j in range(5):  
        pendown()  
        forward(2cm)  
        penup()  
        rotate(108)  
        rotate(72)
```

```
f1(5,  
f2(5, 2cm))
```





Language & program abstractions

Programs are compositional.

This compositional structure is reflected in language!

pick up a knife, find a tomato, then go to the counter and slice it

find_knife

```
look(down), forward(6), rotate(90), forward(17),  
      find_tomato
```

```
forward(3), rotate(90), look(down), pick(obj1)
```

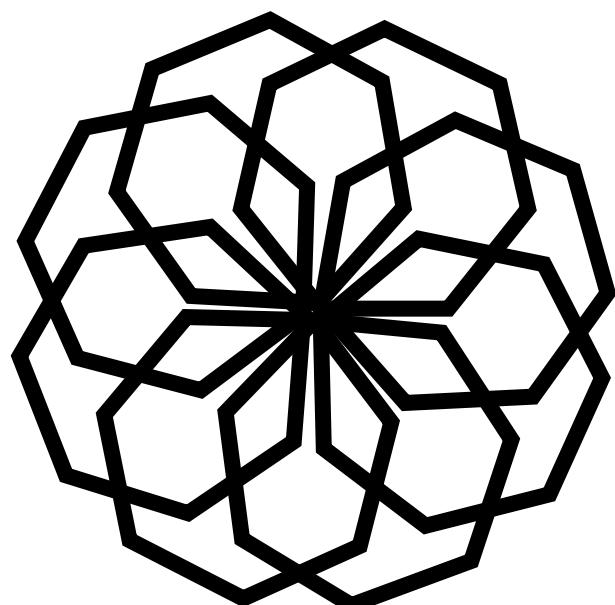
goto_counter

```
rotate(90), forward(2), rotate(270), forward(1),  
      slice
```

```
forward(1), look(down), cut(obj2, obj1), look(up),
```

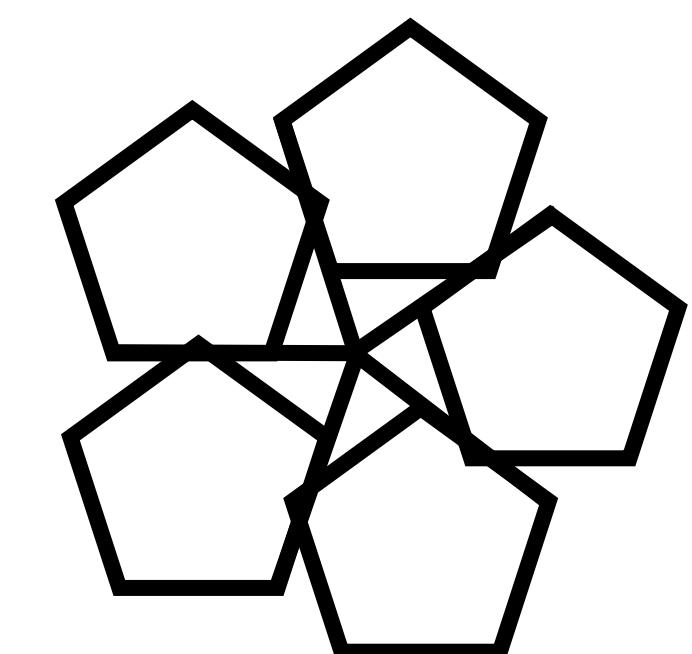
a pinwheel made of 8 heptagons

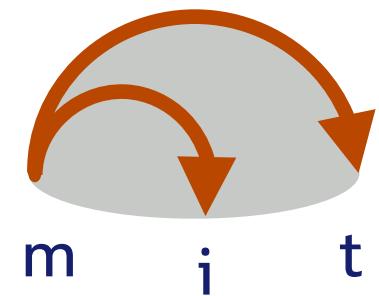
```
pinwheel(8,  
         gon(7, 1cm))
```



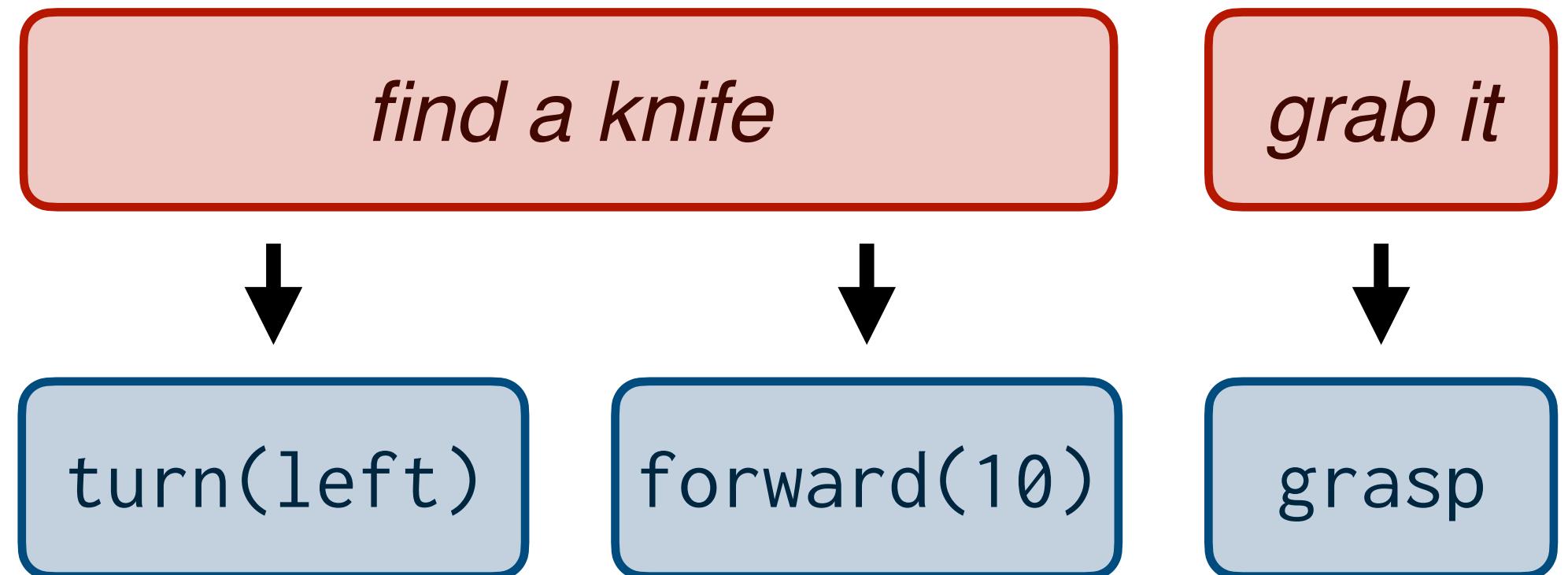
a pinwheel made of 5 pentagons

```
pinwheel(5,  
         gon(5, 2cm))
```

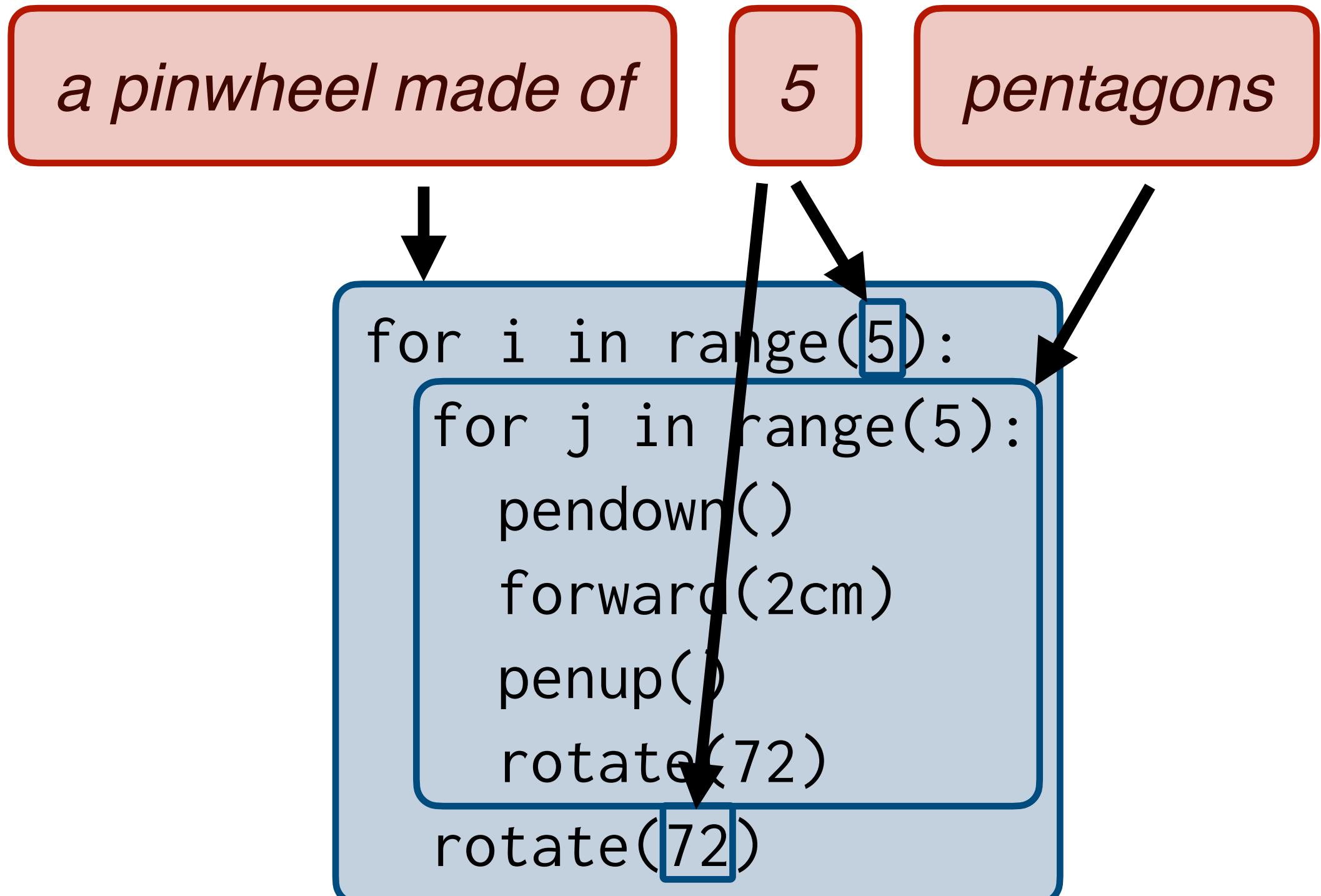


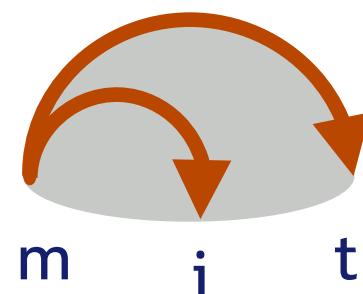


Language & program abstractions

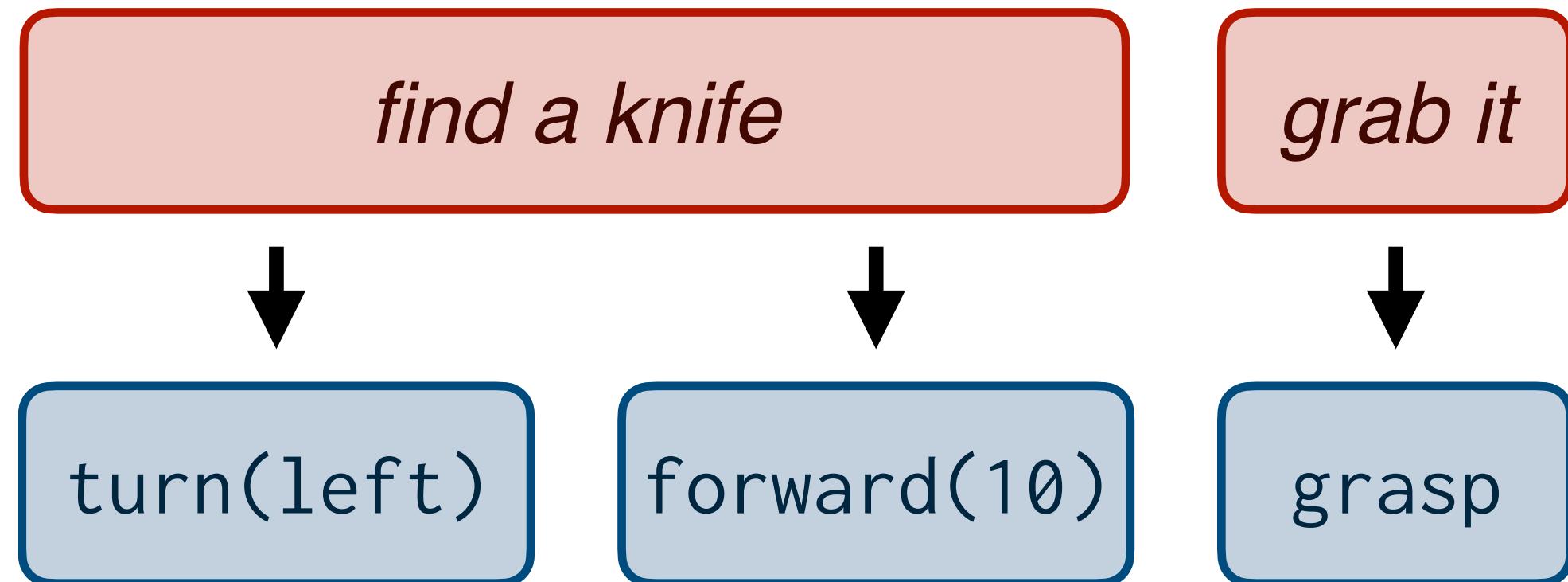


Can we use language to learn
from denotations the same
way we used it to learn with full
supervision?



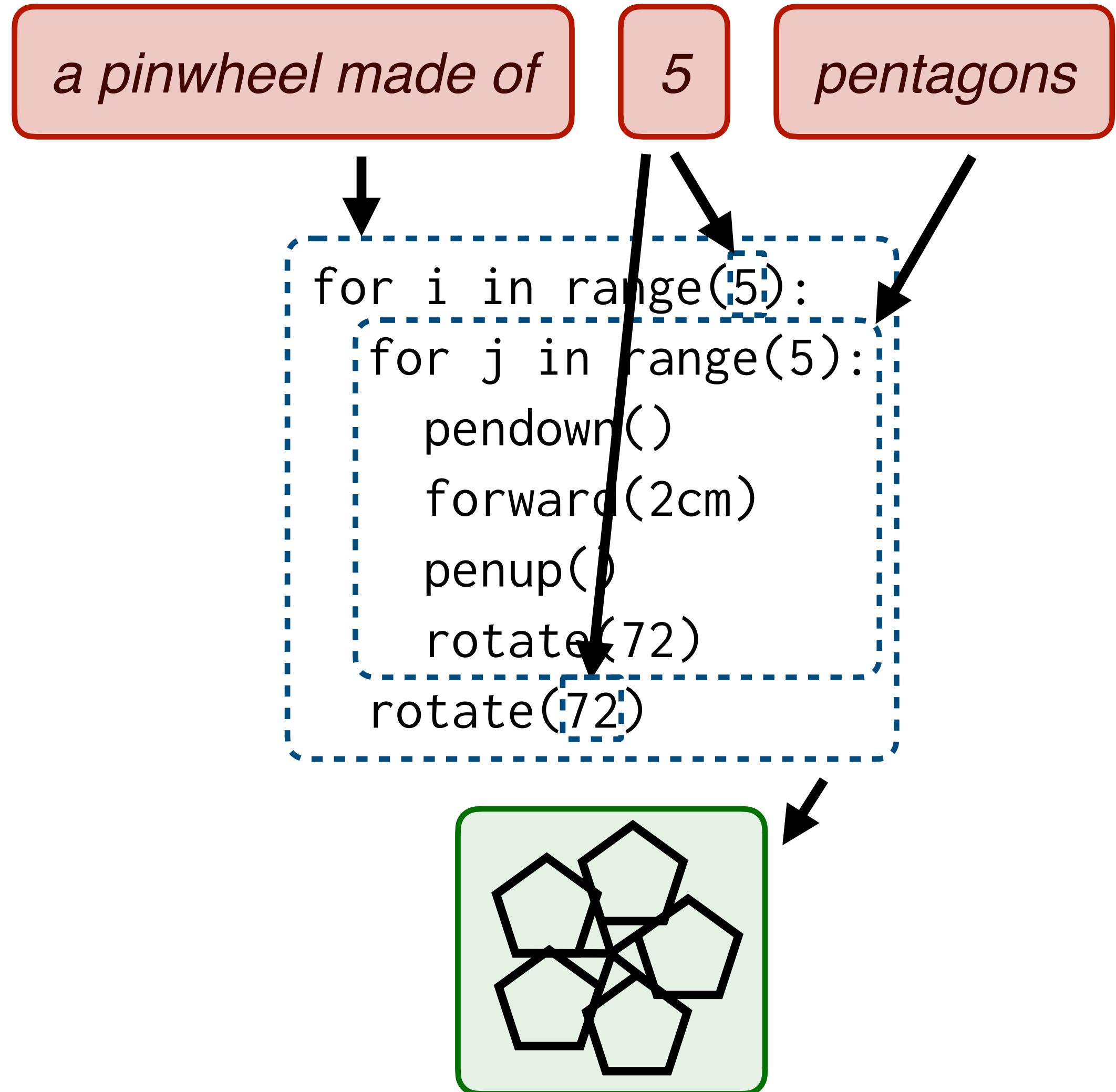


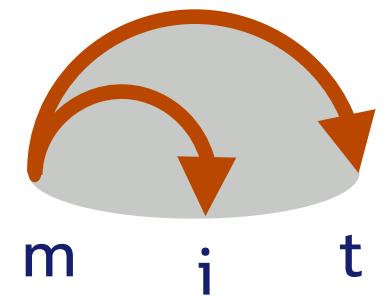
Language & program abstractions



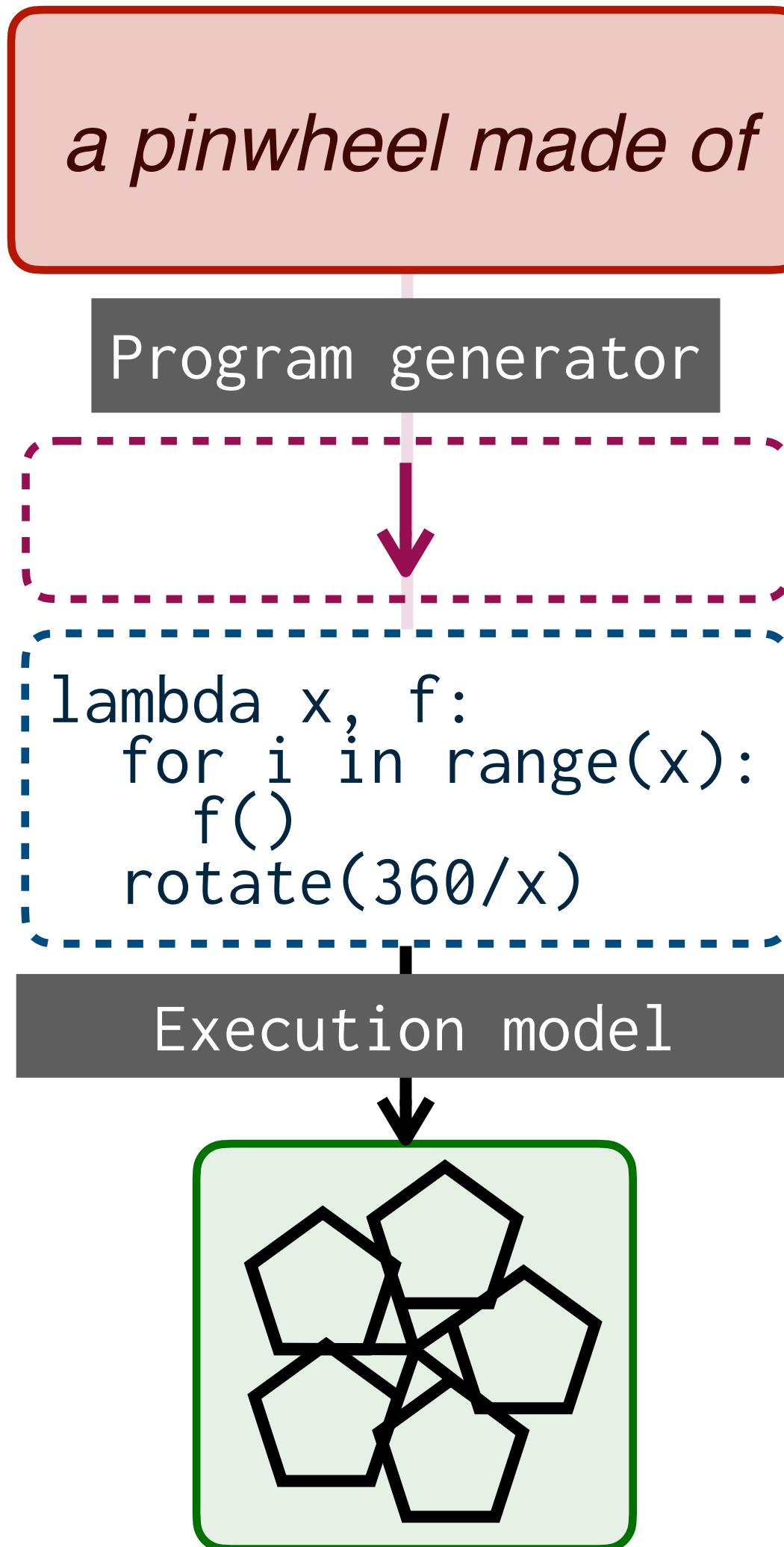
Can we use language to learn
from denotations the same
way we used it to learn with full
supervision?

Key challenge: we need to infer
programs along with all the
other latent vars!





LAPS: lang. for abstraction & program search

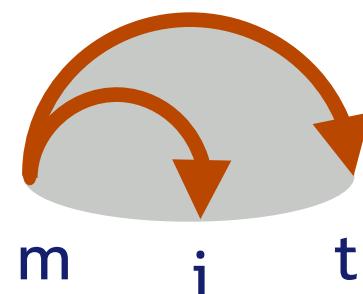


annotation

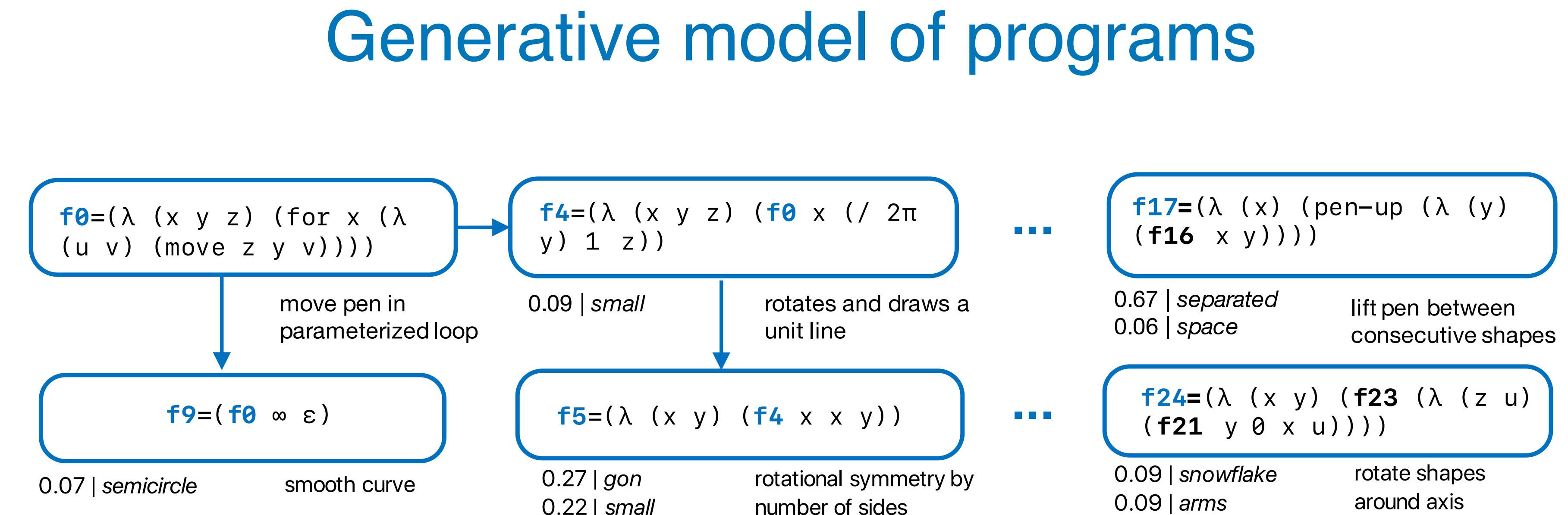
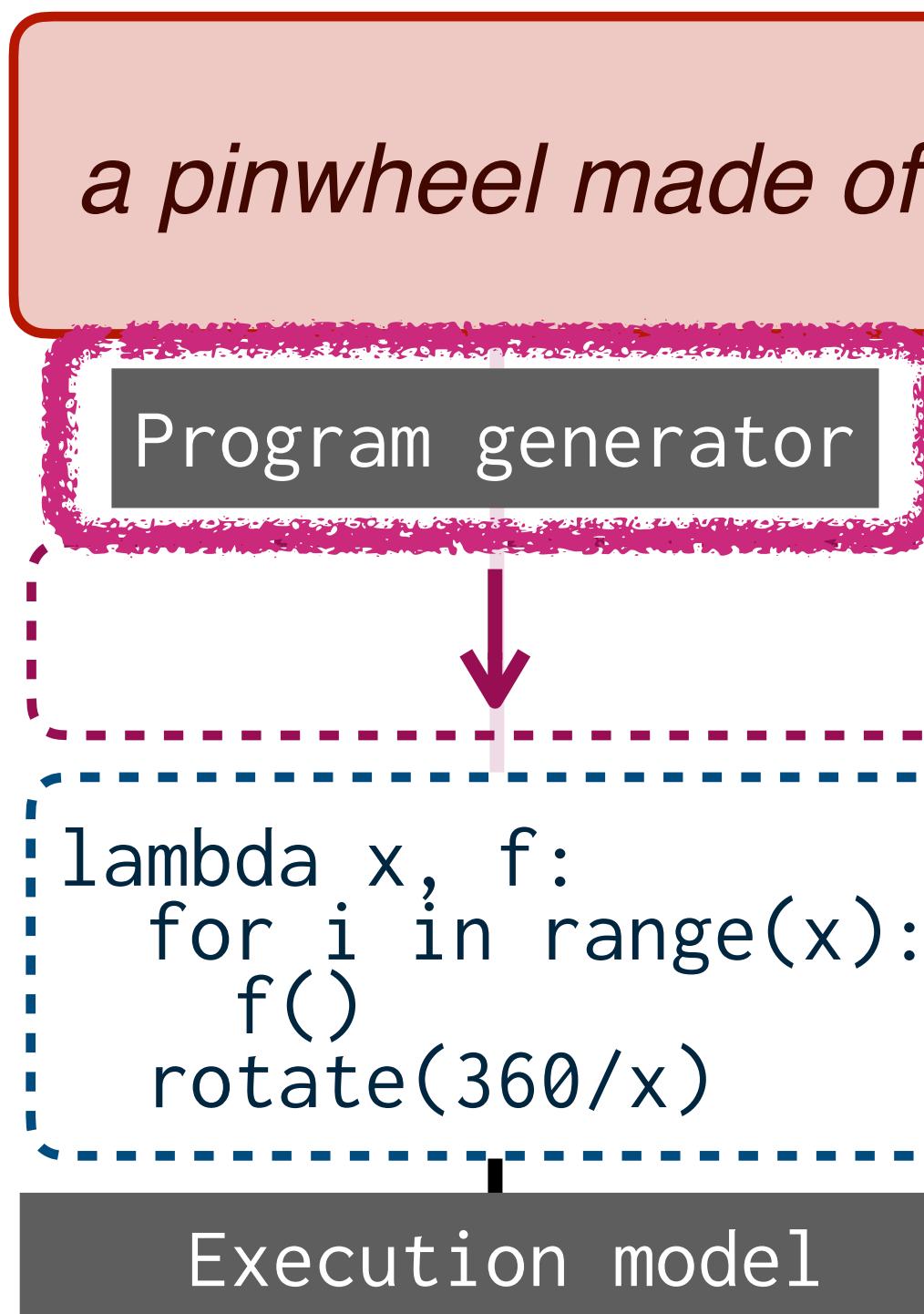
alignment

program

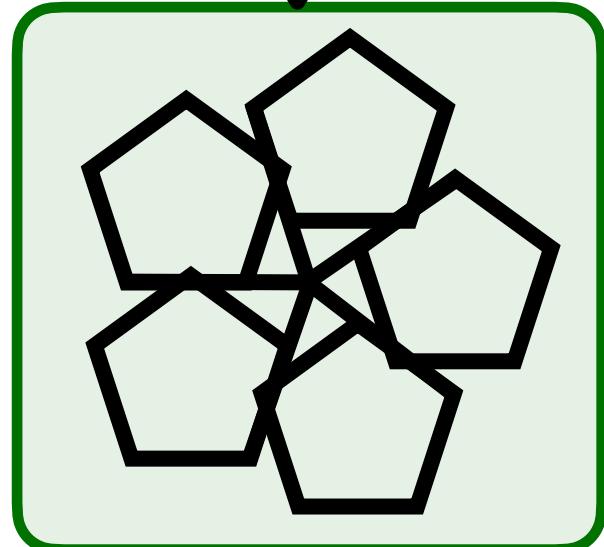
output

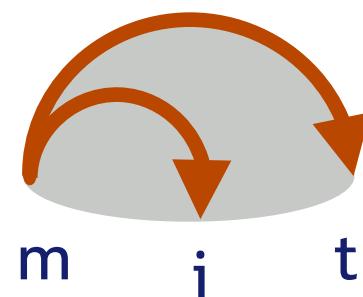


An explicit library of reusable functions

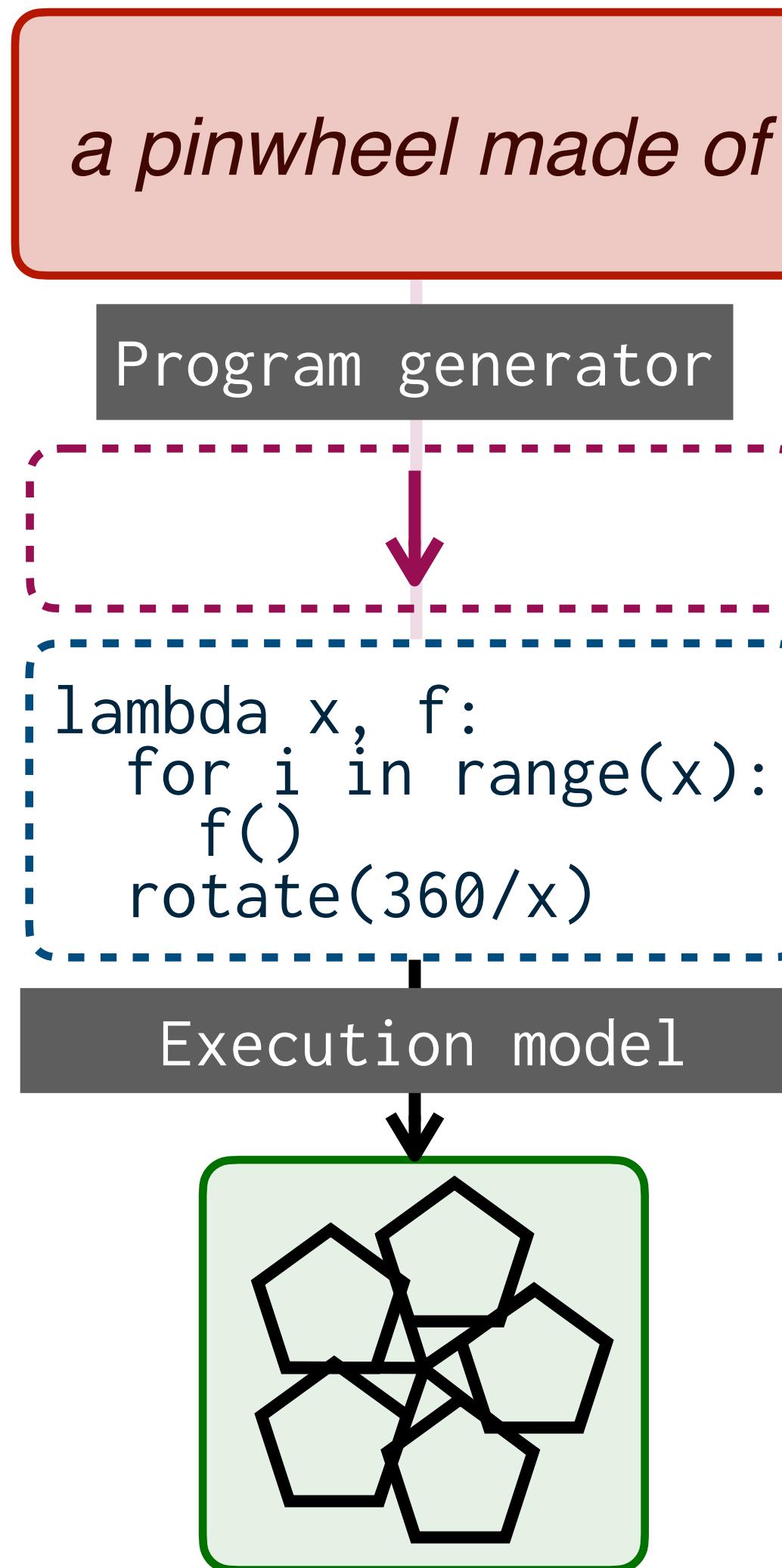


composes functions from a library of
program fragments given words





LAPS: lang. for abstraction & program search



annotation

alignment

program

output

Library learning

max
library fns

LAPS

Program search

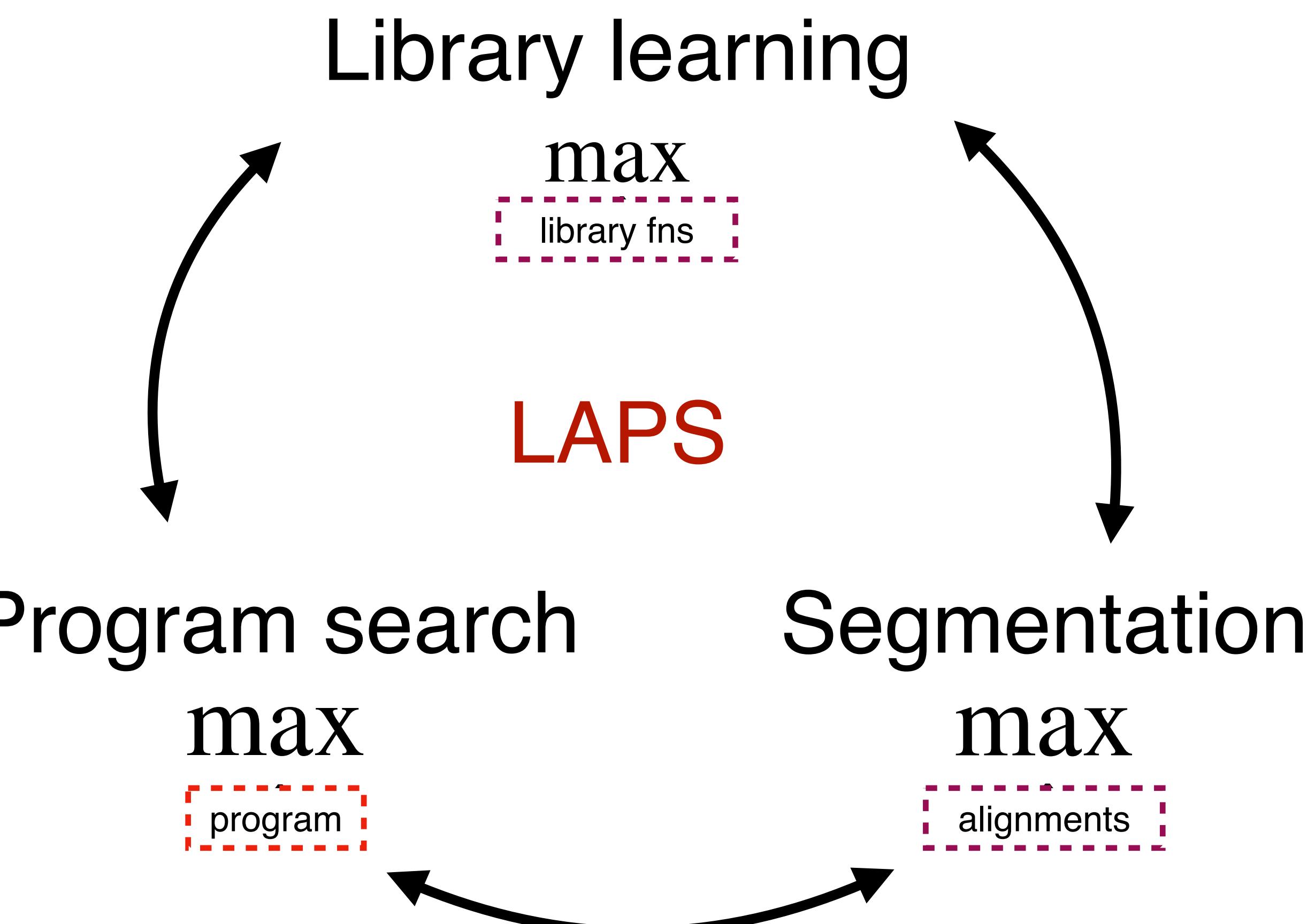
max

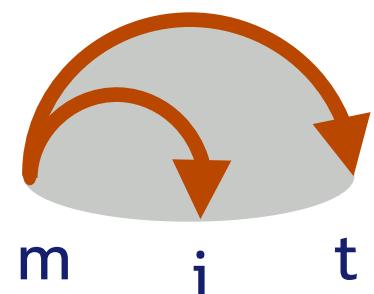
program

Segmentation

max

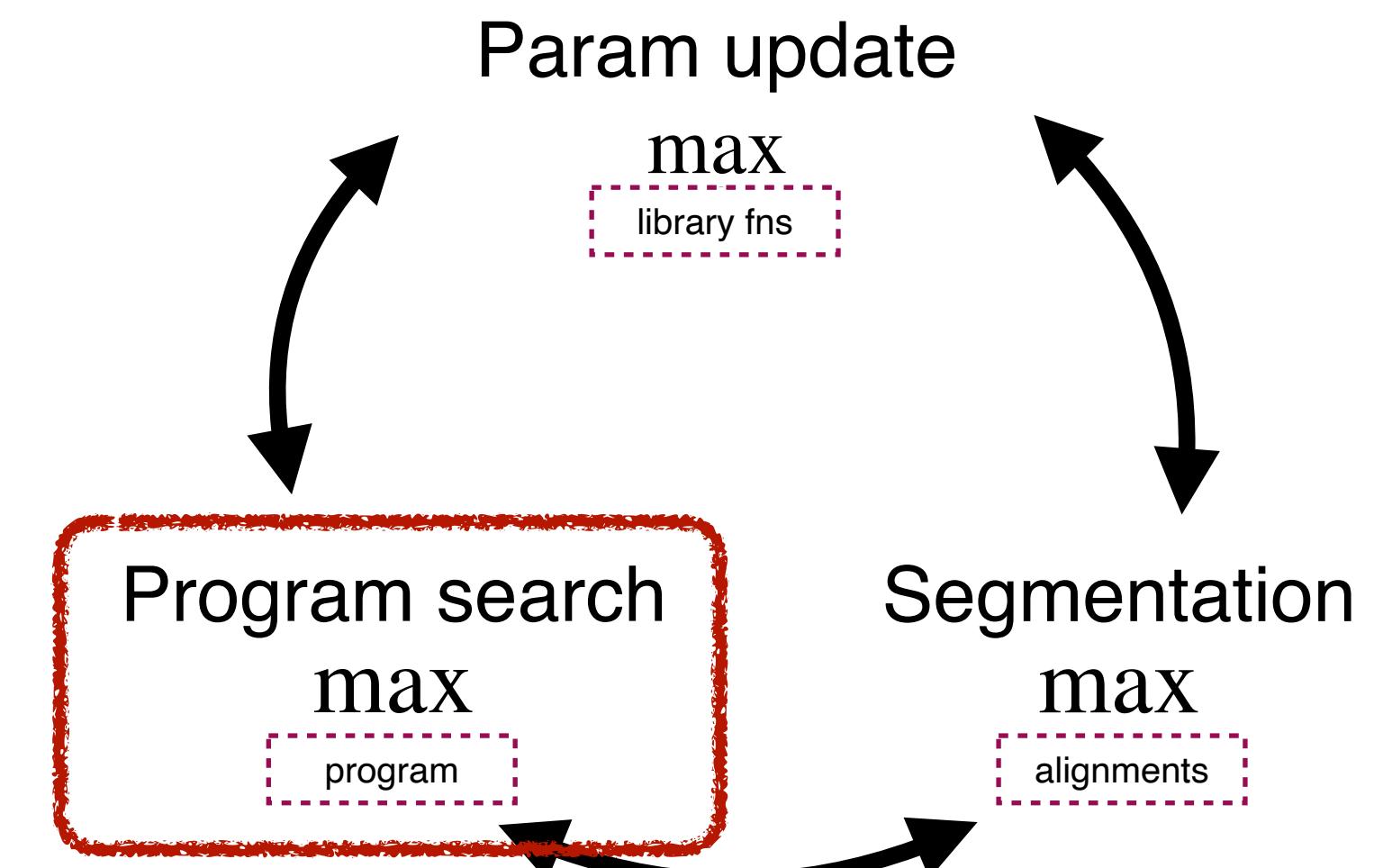
alignments





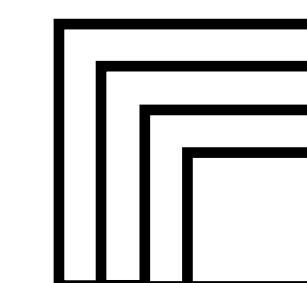
Growing the library and the set of solved programs

[c.f. Ellis et al. 21, *DreamCoder.*]

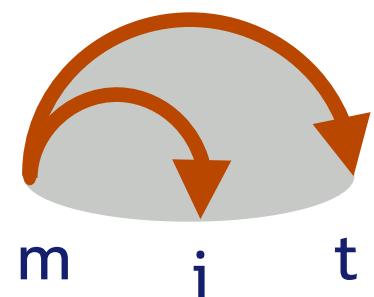


a small square

a medium square



4 nested squares



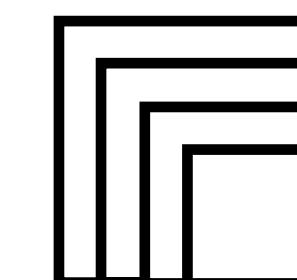
Growing the library and the set of solved programs

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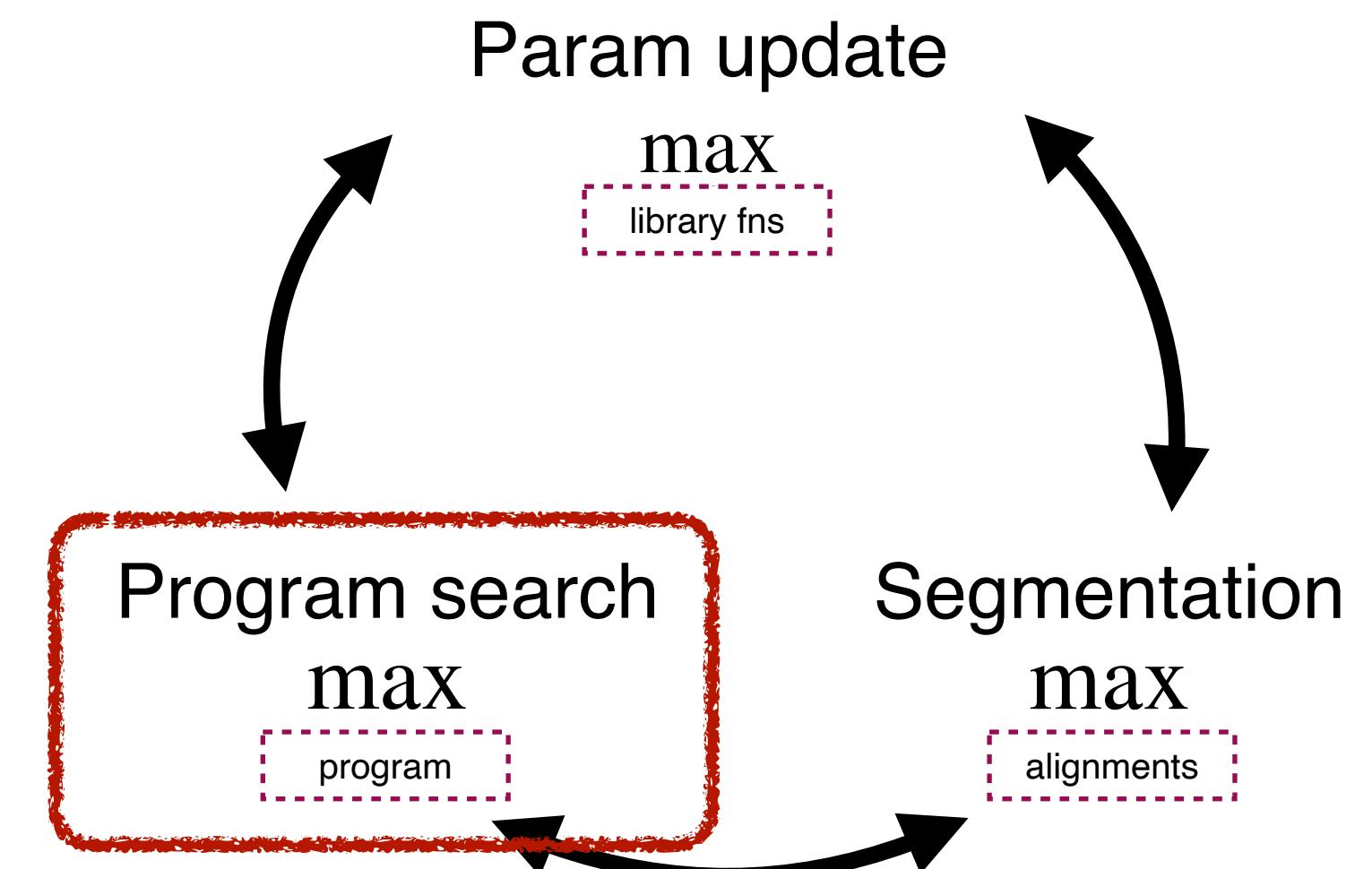
```
for i in range(4):
    pendown()
    forward(1)
    penup()
    rotate(90)
```

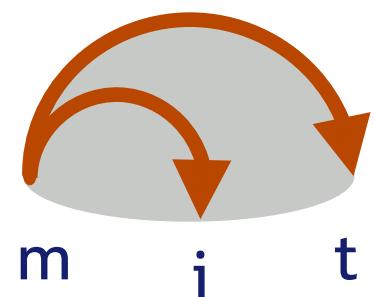
a small square

a medium square



4 nested squares





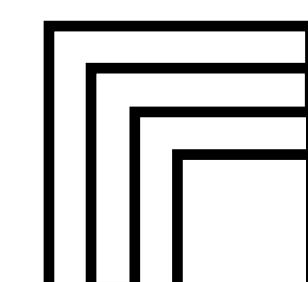
Growing the library and the set of solved programs

[c.f. Ellis et al. 21, *DreamCoder.*]

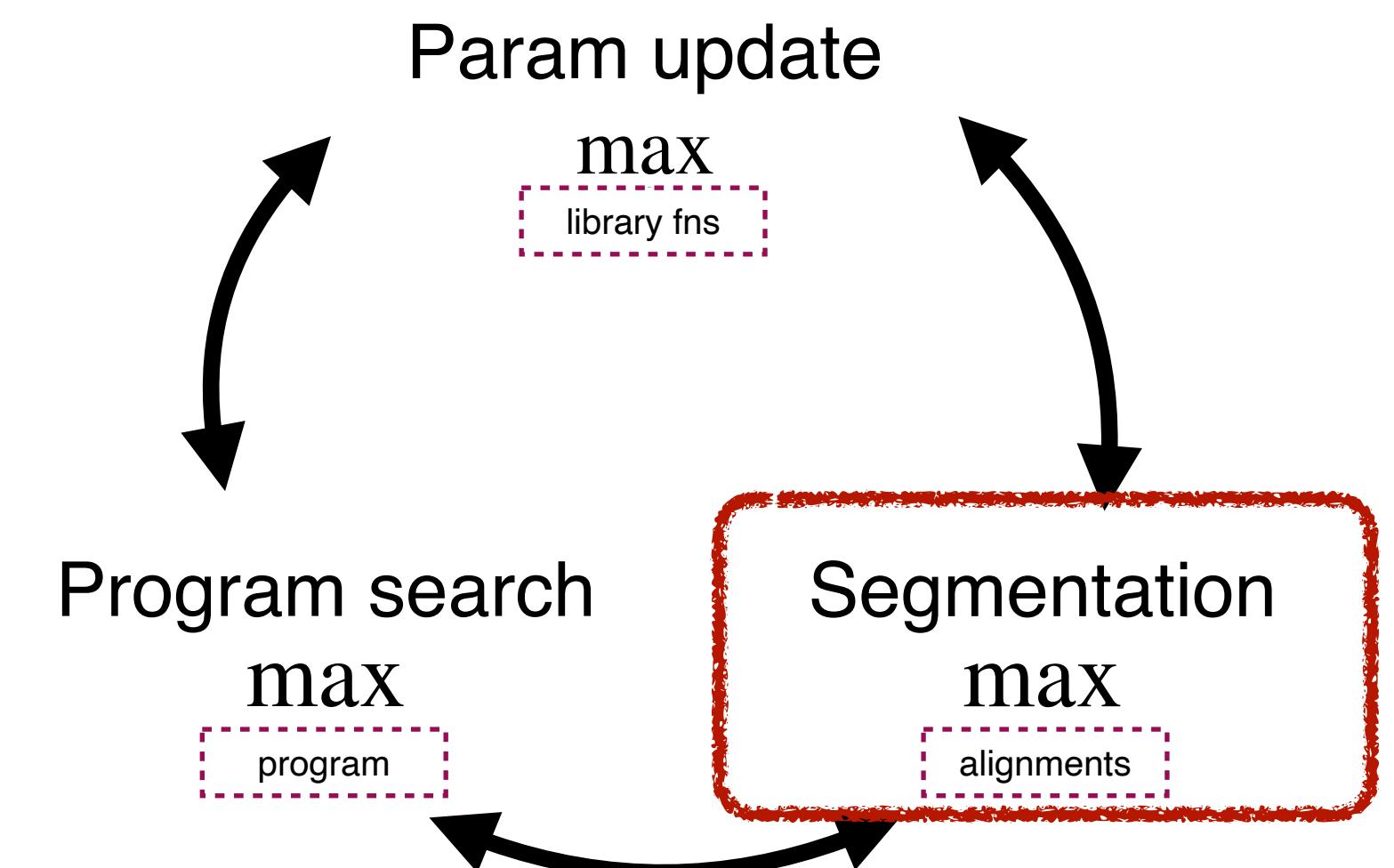
```
for i in range(4):
    pendown()
    forward(1)
    penup()
    rotate(90)
```

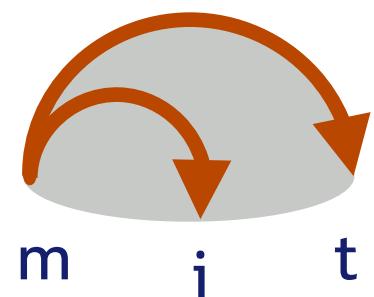
a small square

a medium square



4 nested squares





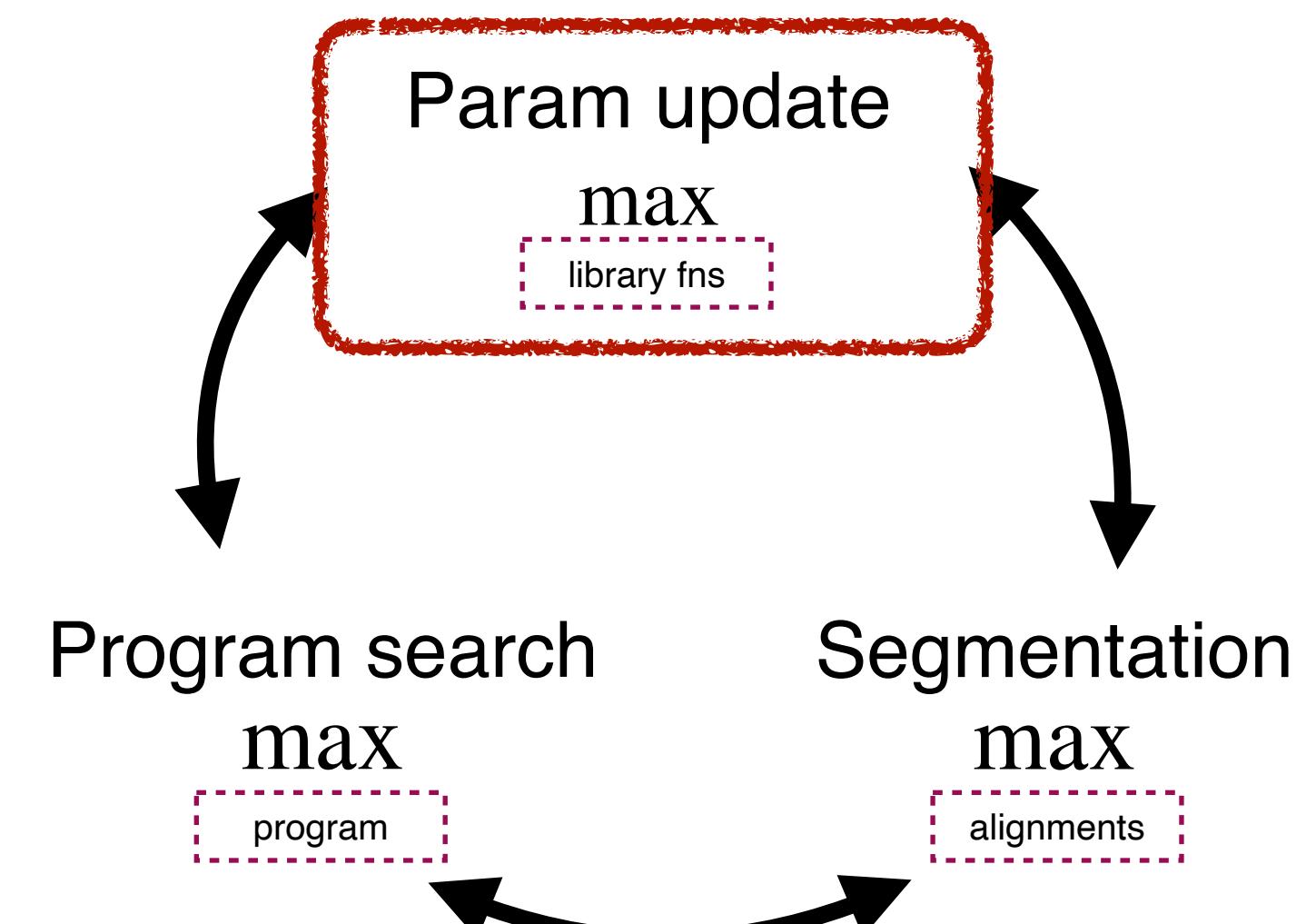
Growing the library and the set of solved programs

[c.f. Ellis et al. 21, DreamCoder.]

square

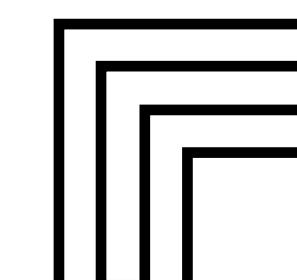
```
def fn0(fn):
    for i in range(4):
        fn()
    rotate(90)
```

fn0(
 lambda: (
 pendown();
 forward(1);
 penup()
)

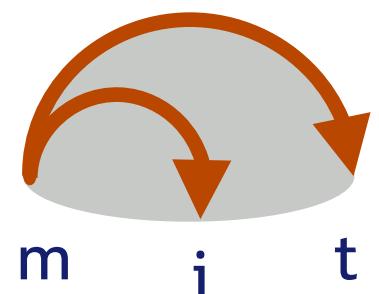


a small **square**

a medium square



4 nested squares



Growing the library and the set of solved programs

[c.f. Ellis et al. 21, DreamCoder.]

square

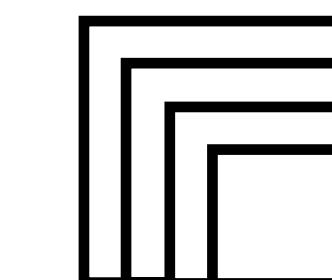
```
def fn0(fn):  
    for i in range(4):  
        fn()  
        rotate(90)
```

```
fn0(  
    lambda: (  
        pendown();  
        forward(1);  
        penup()  
)
```

```
fn0(  
    lambda: (  
        pendown();  
        forward(2);  
        penup()  
)
```

a small square

a medium square



4 nested squares

Param update

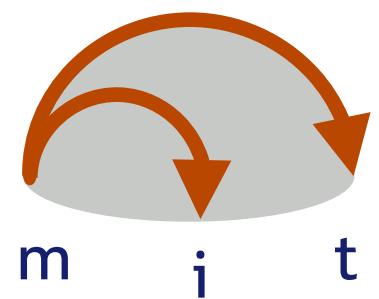
max
library fns

Program search
max

program

Segmentation
max

alignments



Growing the library and the set of solved programs

[c.f. Ellis et al. 21, DreamCoder.]

square

```
def fn0(fn):  
    for i in range(4):  
        fn()  
        rotate(90)
```

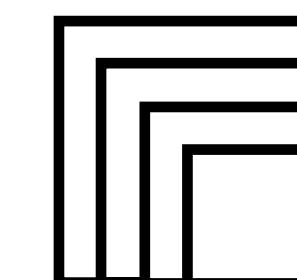
```
def fn1(x):  
    pendown()  
    forward(x)  
    penup()
```

```
square(fn1(1))
```

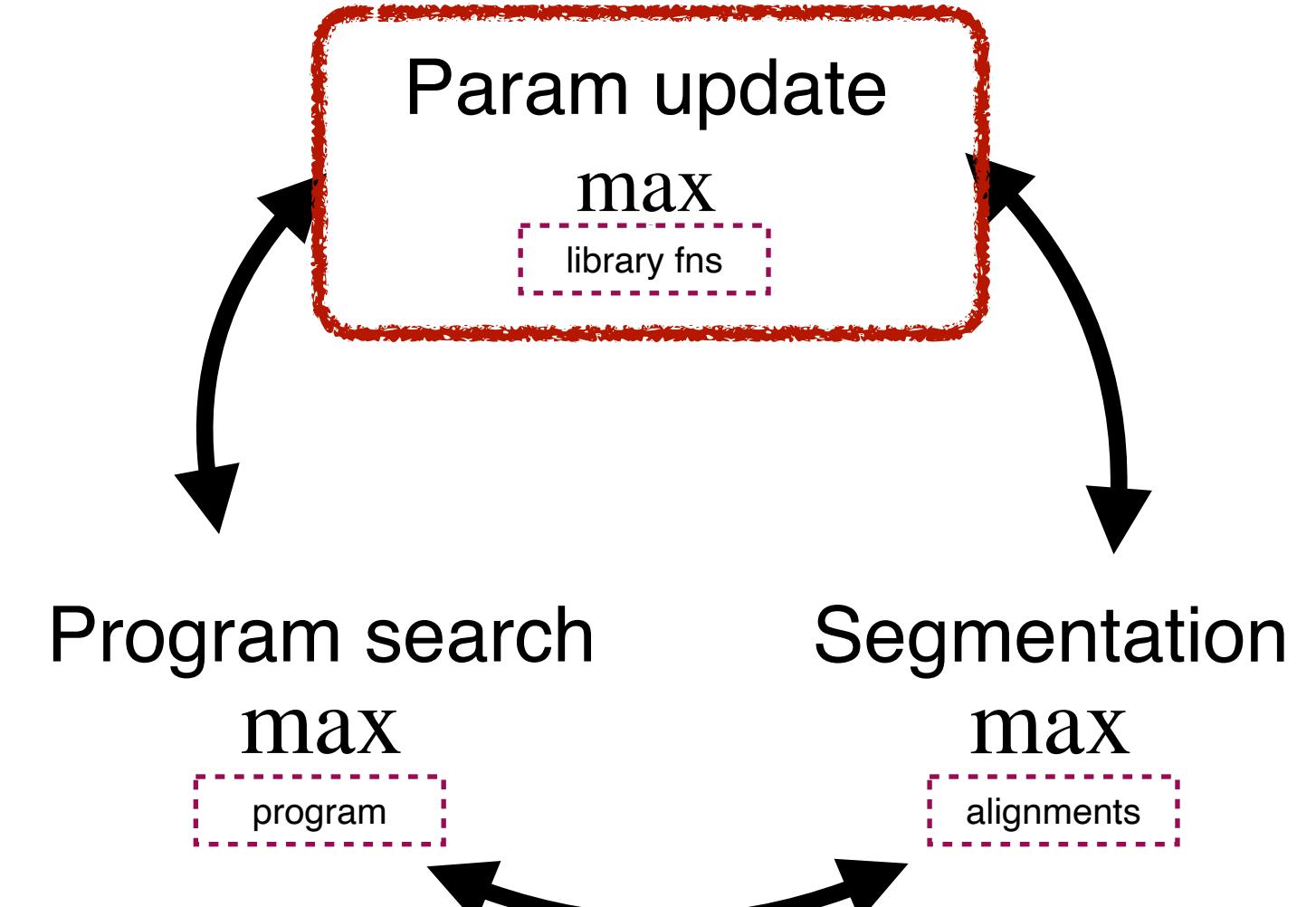
```
square(fn1(2))
```

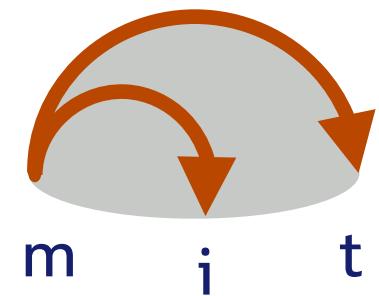
a small square

a medium square



4 nested squares





Data: inverse graphics

200 training images:

Simple shapes

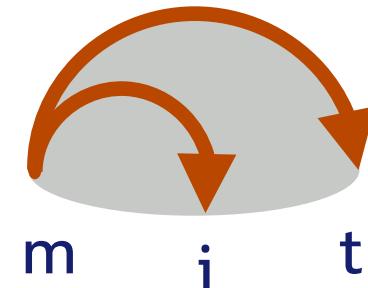
- a small triangle
small triangle
- a medium square
one medium square
- a medium eight gon
octogon
- a big circle
just a circle

Complex objects

- a seven pointed star
a seven sided snowflake with long triangles as arms
- a four stepped zigzag
four step ladder going from top to bottom
- a greek spiral with eight turns
a long line that curls in on itself at right angles

Compositional objects and relations

- a small five gon next to a small seven gon
a five sided gon beside a seven sided gon
- a small nine gon separated by a big space from a small circle
nine gon on left with small circle on right not connected
- a small triangle connected by a big line to a medium triangle
a small triangle with a long line and a medium triangle
- a seven sided snowflake with a short space and a short line and a short space and a small triangle as arms
a seven sided snowflake with seven triangles and line
- four nested squares
four stacked squares
- six small five gons in a row
six overlapped pentagons going left to right



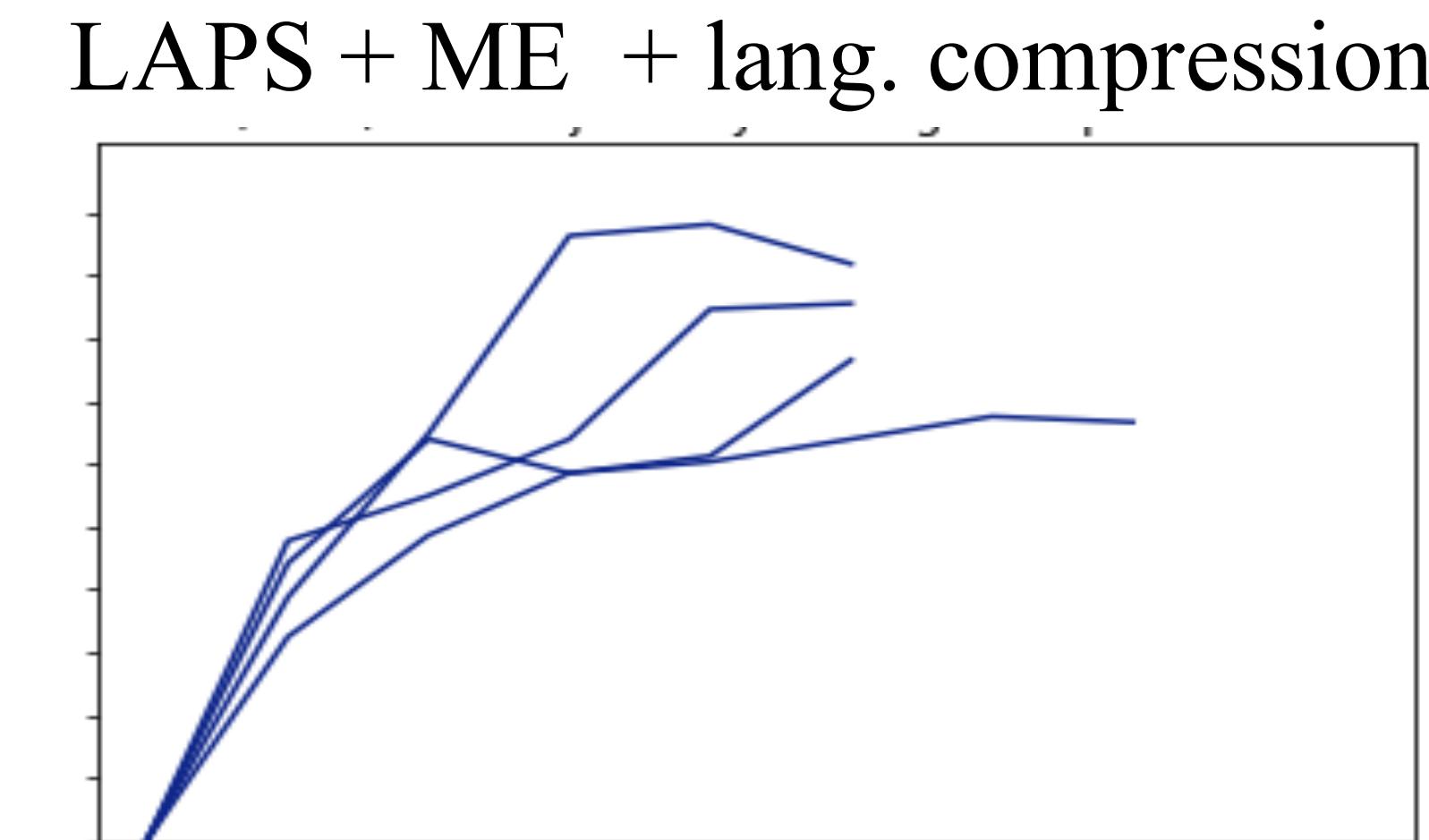
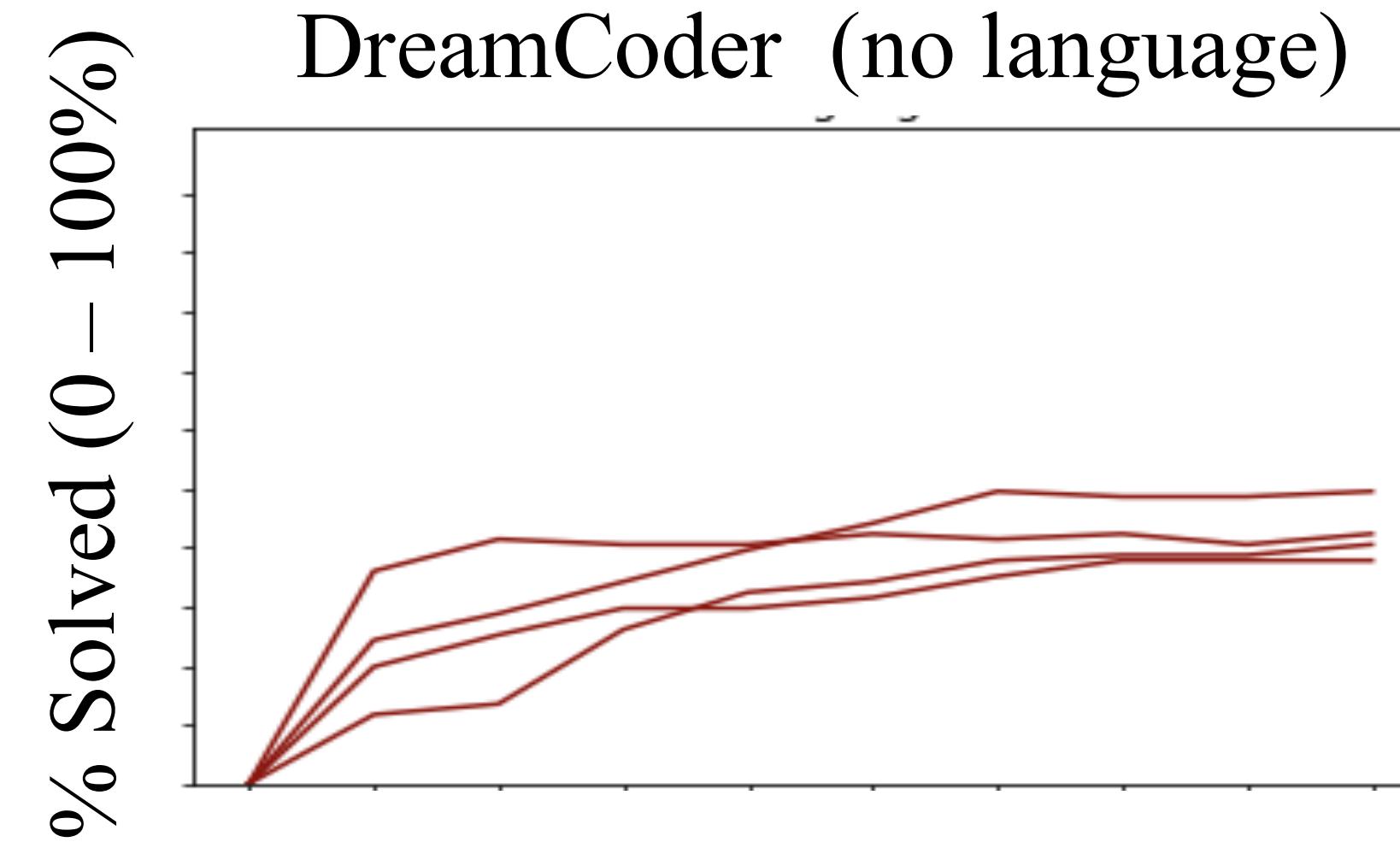
Results: inverse graphics

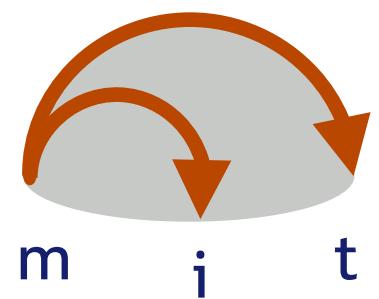
, a small semicircle
(**f19** (**f9** 0 x))
) a medium semicircle
(**f3** (**f9** 0 x))
) a big semicircle
(**f9** (* (/ ε 1) 5) x)

◊ a small five gon
(**f5** 5 x)
○ a small nine gon
(**f5** 9 x)
○ a medium seven gon
(**f5** 2 (**f20** 7 x))


a small seven gon as arms
(**f24** 7 8 x)

five sided snowflake with a short line
and a medium five gon as arms
(**f24** 5 (λ (x) (get/set (λ (y)
(**f2** 1 (**f41** 5 y)))x)) z)





Language guides discovery of program abstractions

Original DSL primitives

```
for
move
pen-up
⋮
1
```

0.31 | line
0.31 | short
0.09 | a

2

3

0.91 | three
0.98 | triangle

4

0.94 | four
0.89 | square

Learned translation
probabilities $p(\pi | u)$

New primitives added through abstraction learning

$f4 = (\lambda (x y z) (f0 x (/ 2\pi y) 1 z))$
0.09 | small
rotates and draws a unit line

$f0 = (\lambda (x y z) (for x (\lambda (u v) (move z y v))))$
move pen in parameterized loop

0.07 | semicircle

- › a small semicircle ($f19 (f9 0 x)$)
- › a medium semicircle ($f3 (f9 0 x)$)
- › a big semicircle ($f9 (* (/ \varepsilon 1) 5) x$)

$f5 = (\lambda (x y) (f4 x x y))$
0.27 | gon
0.22 | small
rotational symmetry by number of sides

$f9 = (f0 \infty \varepsilon)$
0.07 | semicircle

$f14 = (\lambda (x y) (for 7 (\lambda (z u) (f9 x u)) y))$
0.16 | circle
0.08 | turns
0.09 | nested

$f14$ (logo_DIVL 1 4) x
a big circle
 $f14$ (logo_DIVL ε 1) x
a small circle
 $f14$ ε ($f14 \varepsilon (f16 x)$)
two nested circles

$f6 = (\lambda (x y z u) (for y (\lambda (v w) (f5 z (f5 x w))) u))$

$f17 = (\lambda (x) (pen-up (\lambda (y) (f16 x y))))$

0.67 | separated
0.15 | next
0.06 | space

a small circle next to a small six gon
 $f14 \varepsilon (f14 \varepsilon (f5 6 x))$
a small nine gon next to a medium square
 $f5 9 (f5 1 (f17 1 (f20 4 x)))$

$f32 = (\lambda (x) (get/set (\lambda (y) (f2 1 (f41 5 y)))) z)$
a seven stepped staircase

$f32 = (\lambda (x) (get/set (\lambda (y) (f2 1 (f41 5 y)))) z)$
a four stepped staircase

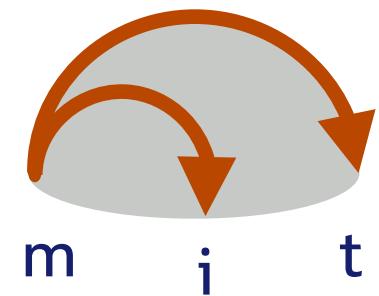
$f25 = (\lambda (x) x) 3 8 (f32 5 y)$
a five stepped zigzag

$f32 = (\lambda (x) (for x (\lambda (y z) (move 1 (/ 2\pi 4) (move 1 (- 2\pi (/ 2\pi 4)) z))))$
1.0 | stepped
0.64 | staircase
0.36 | zigzag

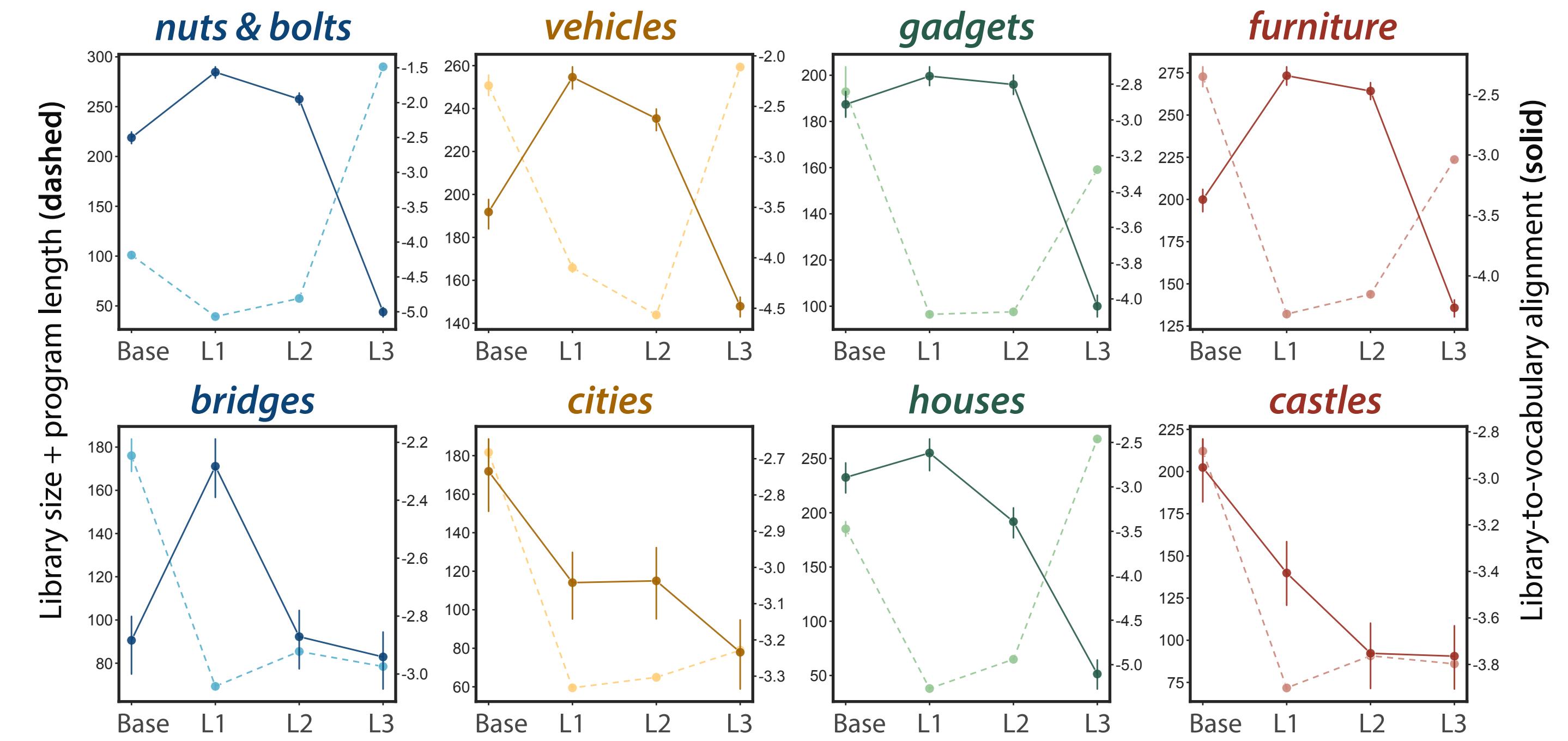
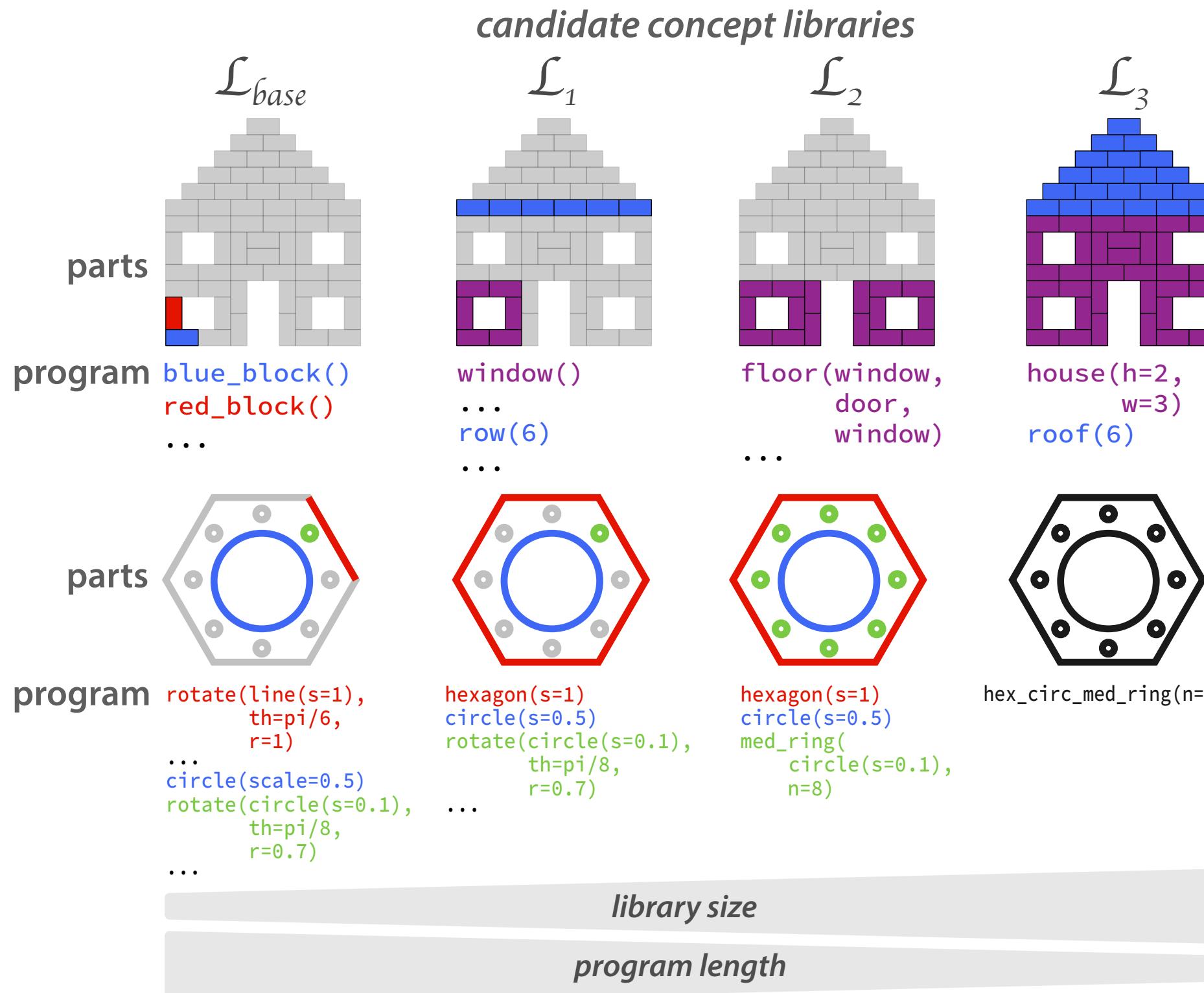
$f24 = (\lambda (x y) (f23 (\lambda (z u) (f21 y 0 x u))))$
0.09 | snowflake
0.09 | arms

eight sided snowflake with a small seven gon as arms
 $f24 7 8 x$

five sided snowflake with a short line and a medium five gon as arms
 $f24 5 (\lambda (x) (get/set (\lambda (y) (f2 1 (f41 5 y)))) z)$



Library learning as a scientific tool



Learning libraries: summary

What:

Inductive program synthesis with natural language guidance.

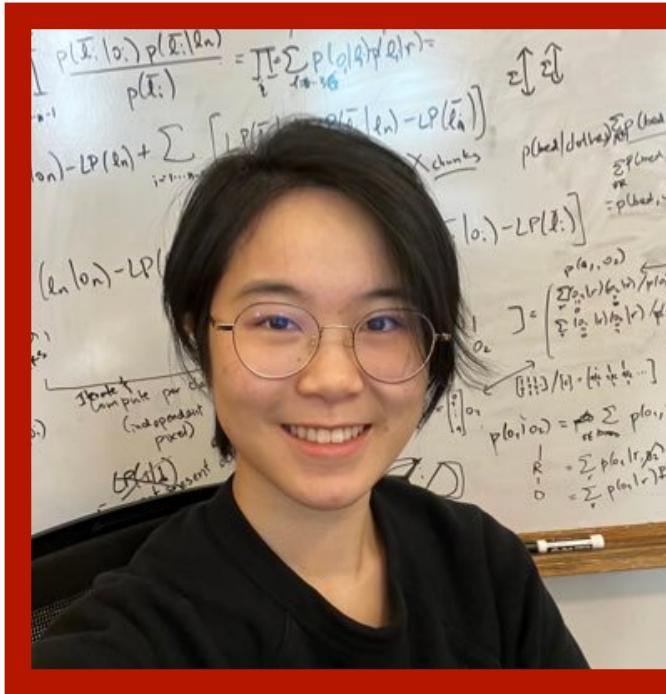
How:

Discovery of reusable program fragments using language to guide a library learning procedure.

Why:

With only 100s of annotations, solve 72% more program synthesis tasks than a leading synthesizer.

Learning from unannotated text alone



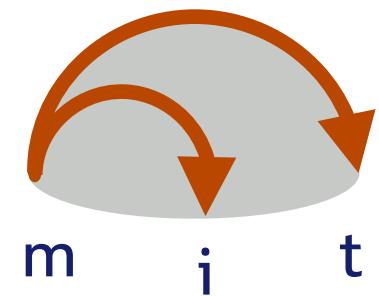
**Belinda
Li**



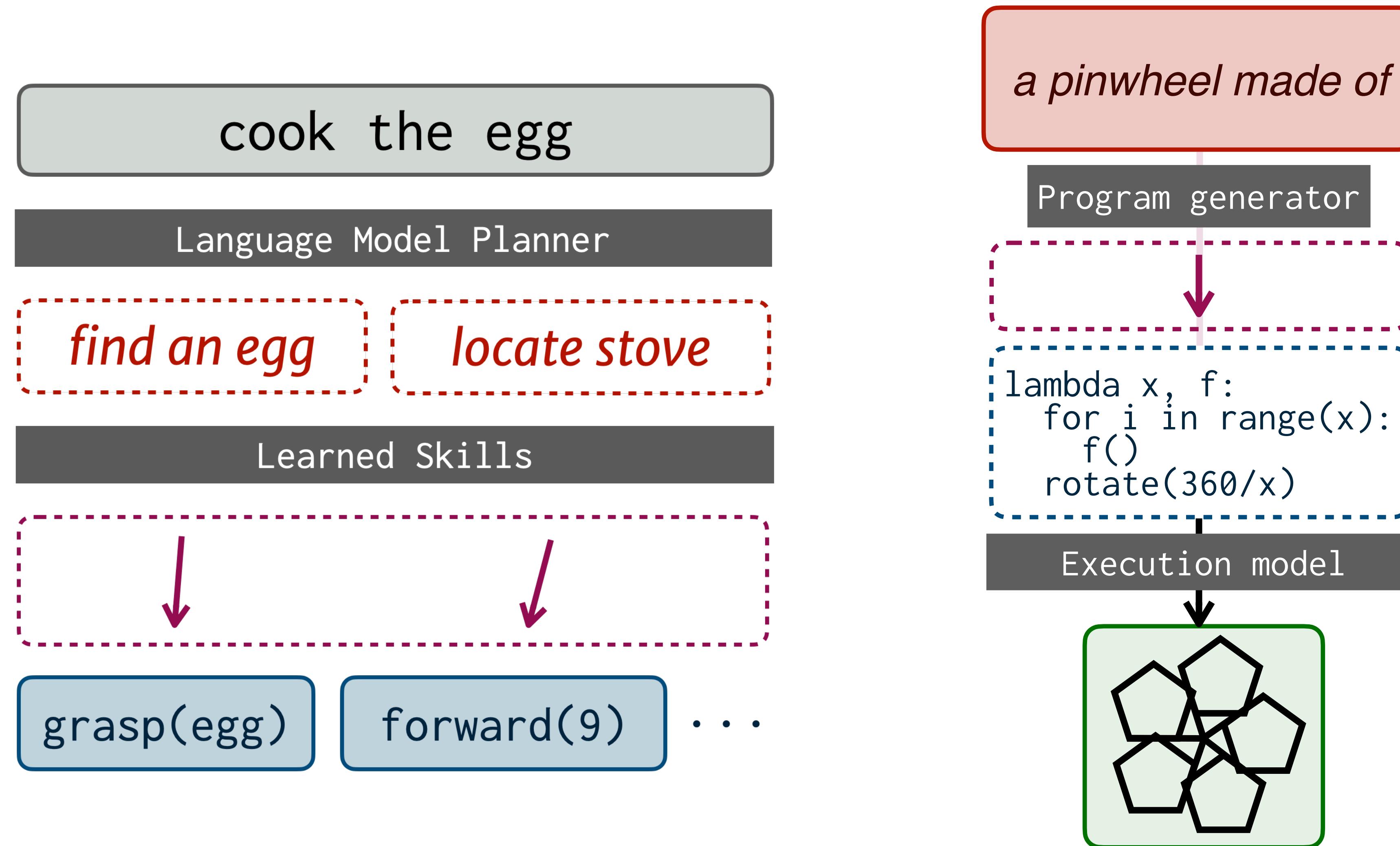
**Will
Chen**

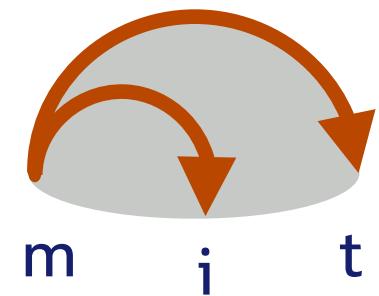


**Pratyusha
Sharma**



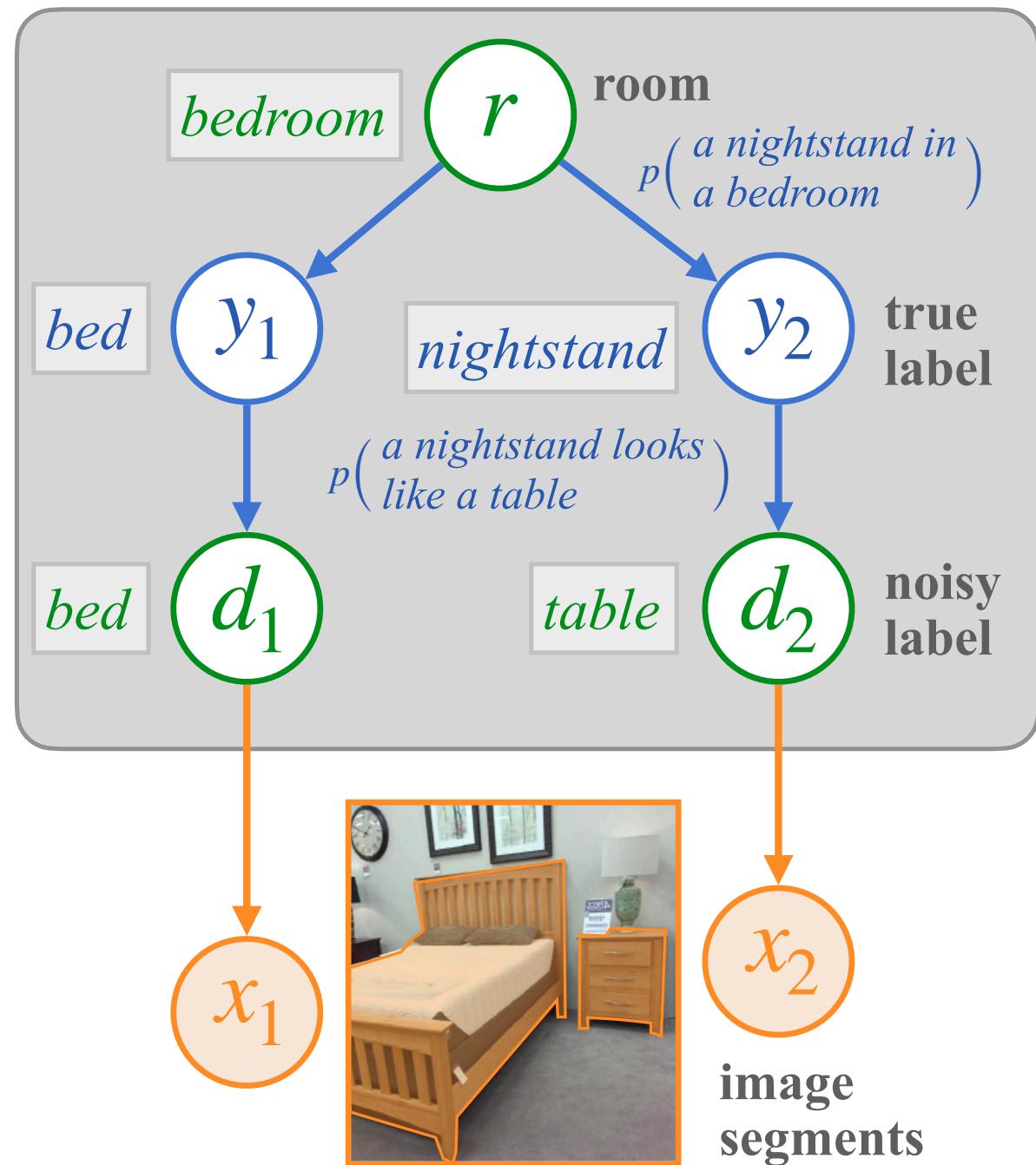
Language as a latent variable, LMs as priors



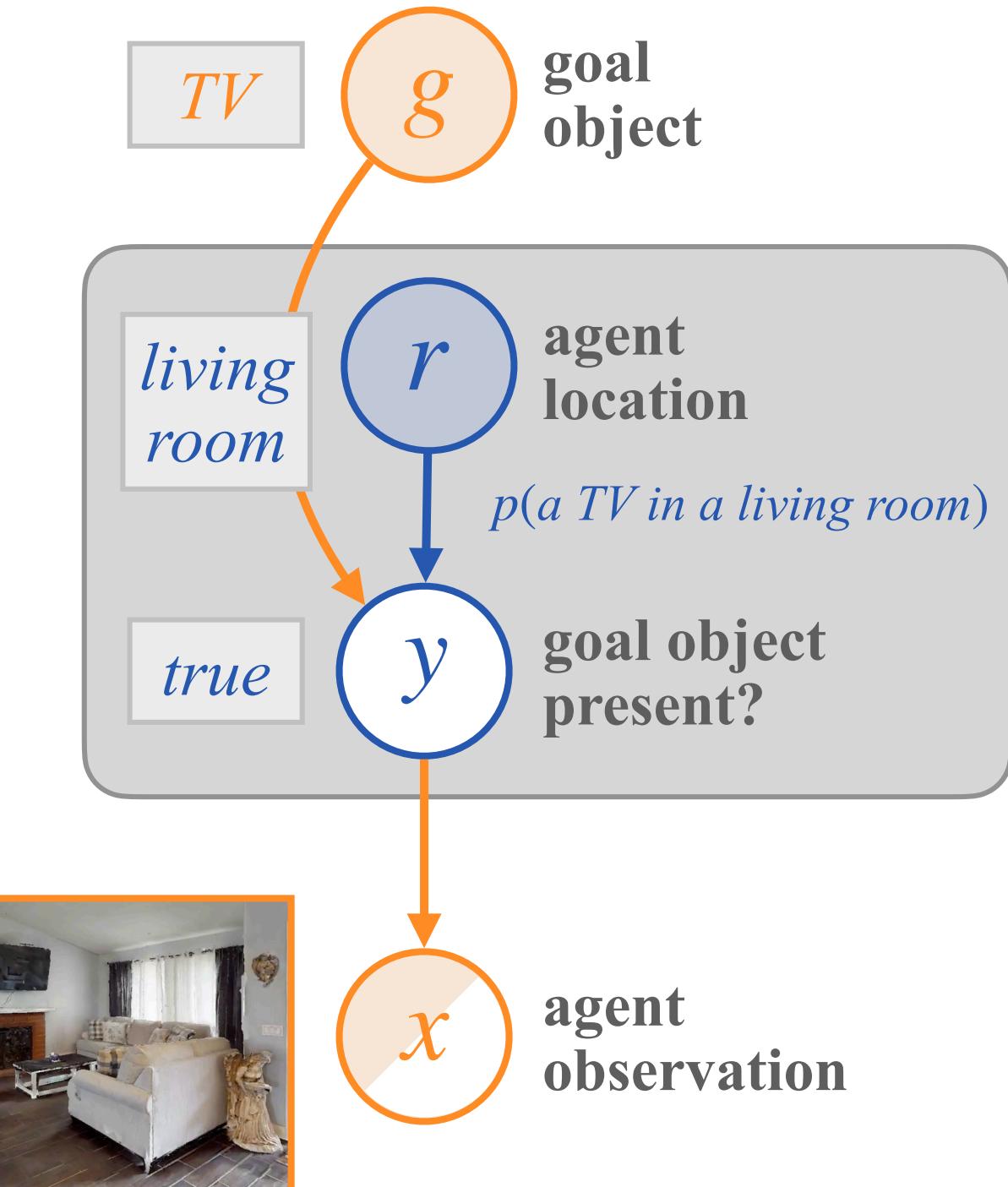


LM priors for vision & beyond!

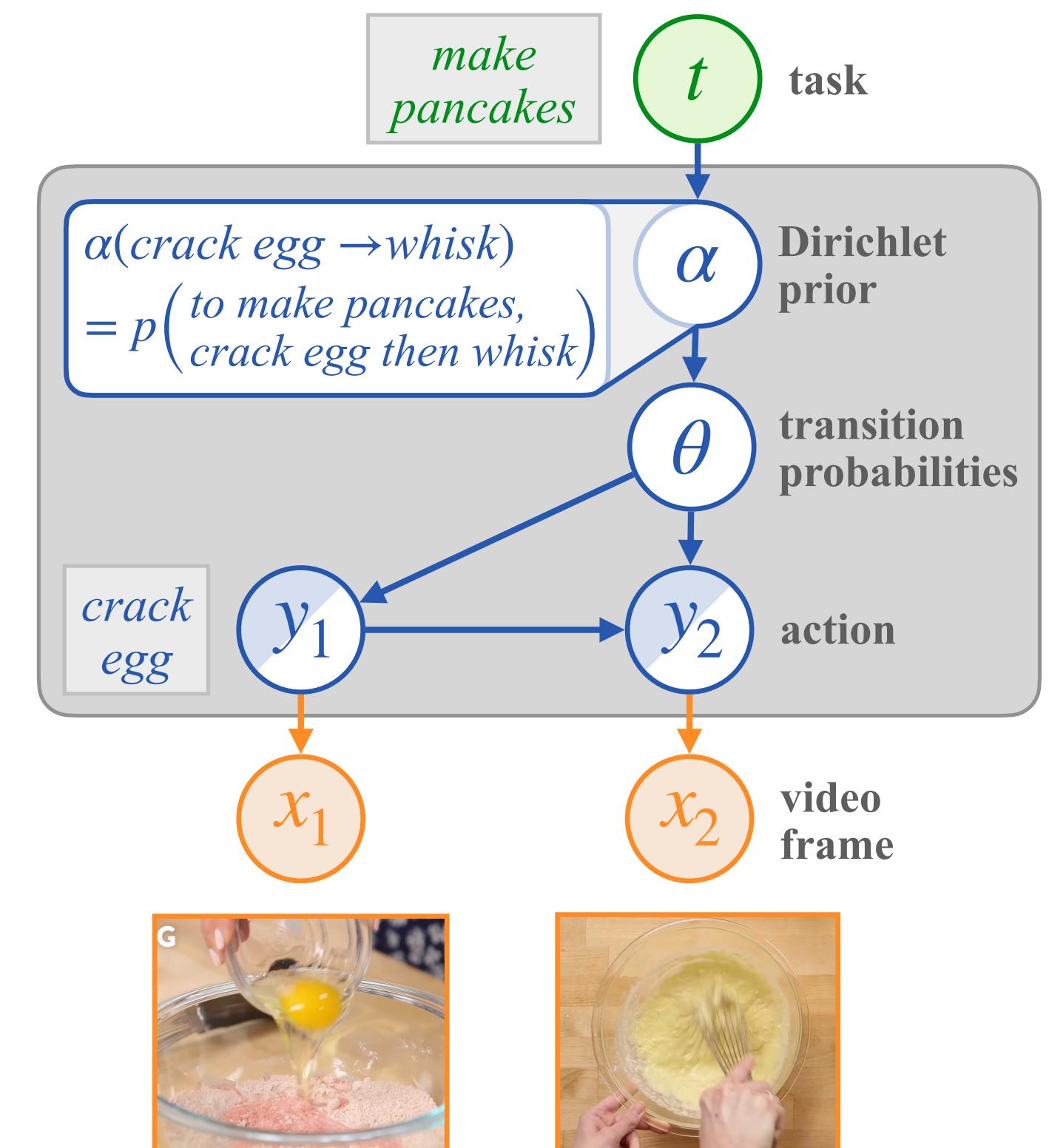
Semantic segmentation!

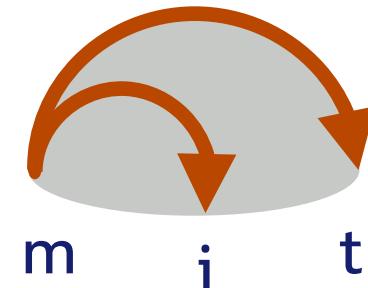


Household navigation!



Activity recognition!





LM priors improve generalization

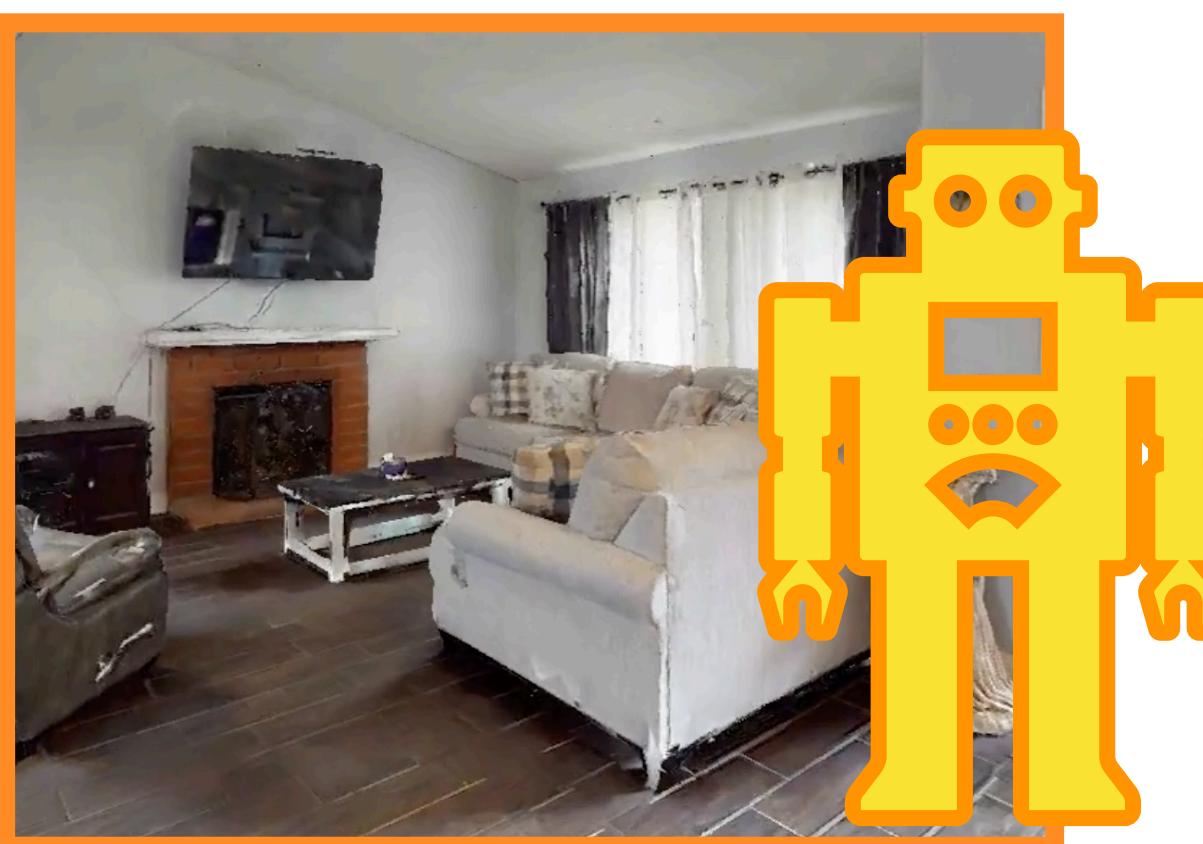
	Model	mIoU	Best/Worst Object (Δ IoU)
ID	Base model	47.8	-
	Model chaining	37.5	shower curtain (+16.9) toilet (-37.2)
OOD	LAMPP	48.3	shower curtain (+18.9) desk (-2.16)
	Base model	33.8	-
	LAMPP	34.0	nightstand (+8.92) sofa (-2.50)

	Success rate		
Model	Class	Freq.	Best/Worst Object (Δ SR)
Base model	52.7	53.8	-
Uniform prior	52.1	51.7	-
Model chaining	61.2	65.3	Toilet (+20.9) TV Monitor (-4.2)
LAMPP	66.5	65.9	TV Monitor (+33.0) Plant (-0.0)



Bed

Nightstand



LM priors: summary

What:

Language as a source of background knowledge in general probabilistic models.

How:

Query LMs to *parameterize* domain-specific graphical models.

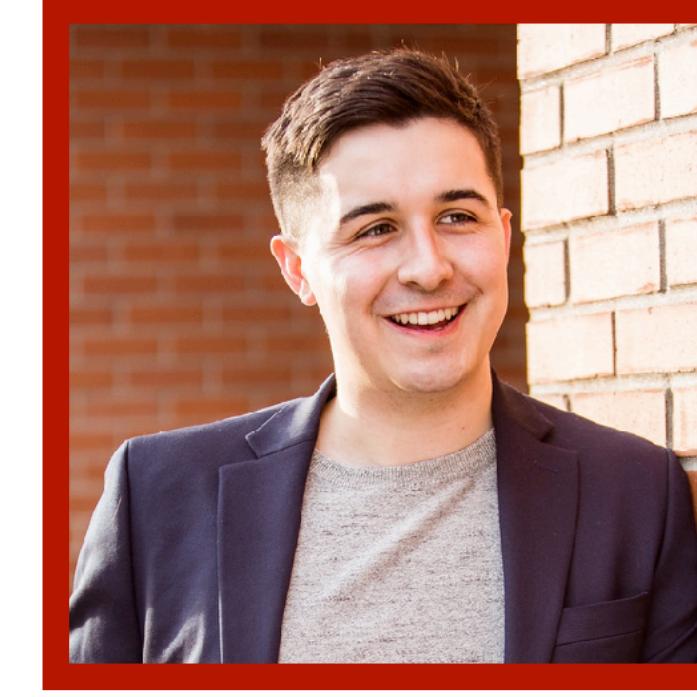
Why:

Big increases on accuracy on rare labels, input configurations.

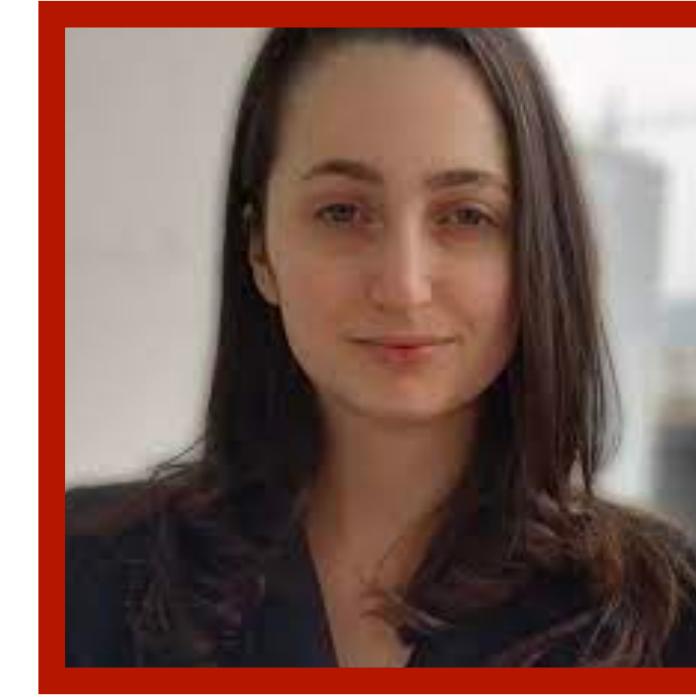
Learning interactively



**Jesse
Mu**



**Evan
Hernandez**



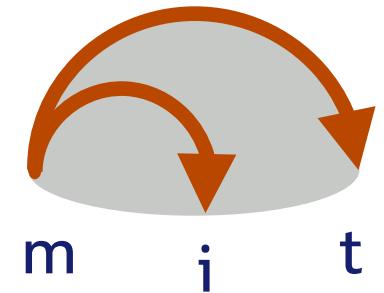
**Teona
Bagashvili**



**Sarah
Schwettmann**

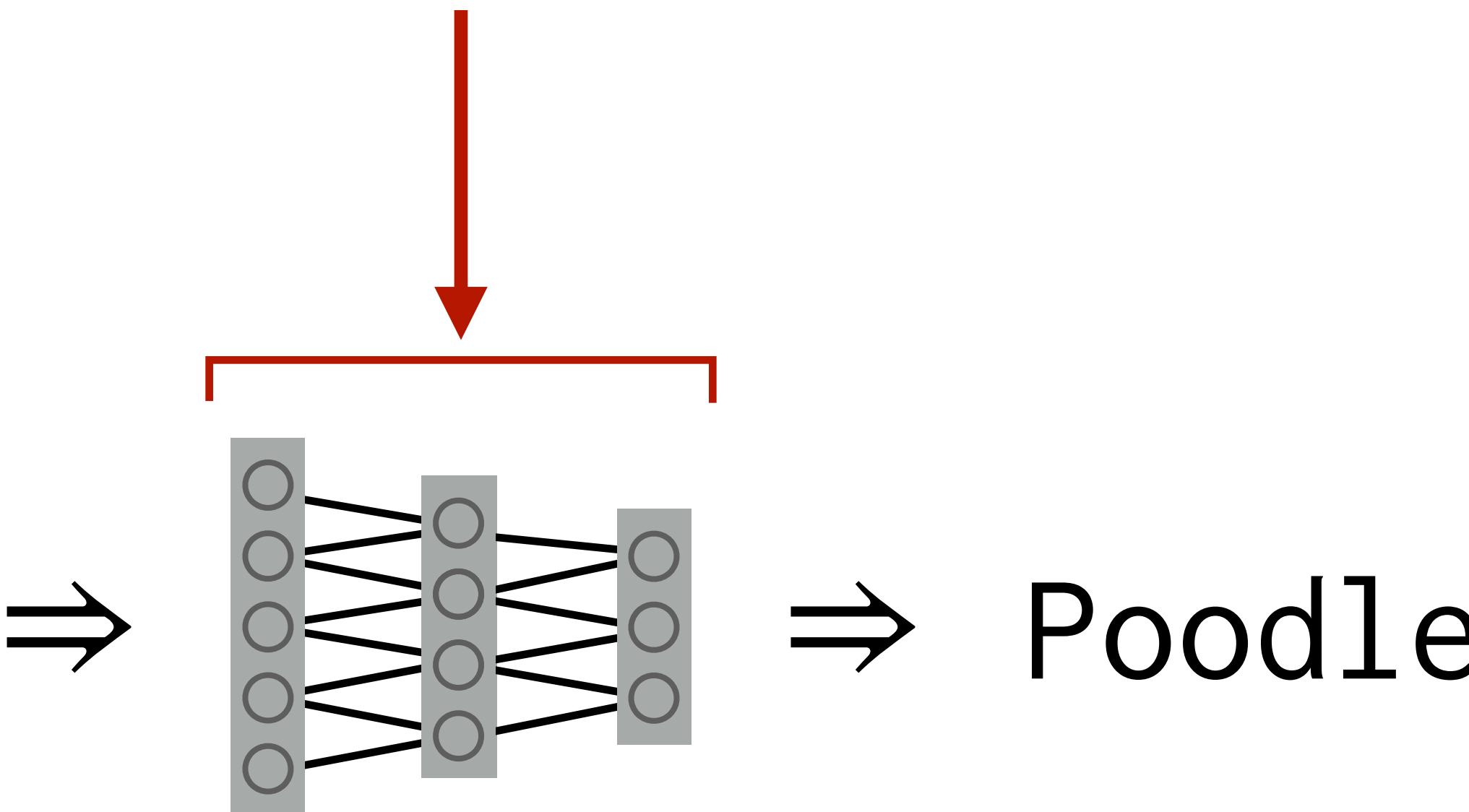
[Compositional Explanations
of Neurons. NeurIPS 2020.]

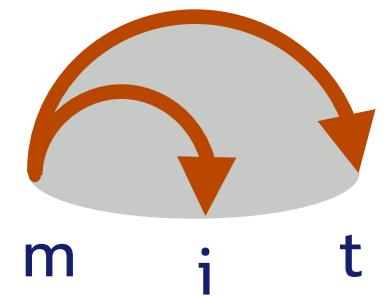
+ David Bau and Antonio Torralba
[Natural Language Descriptions of
Deep Visual Features. ICLR 2022.]



Understanding deep networks

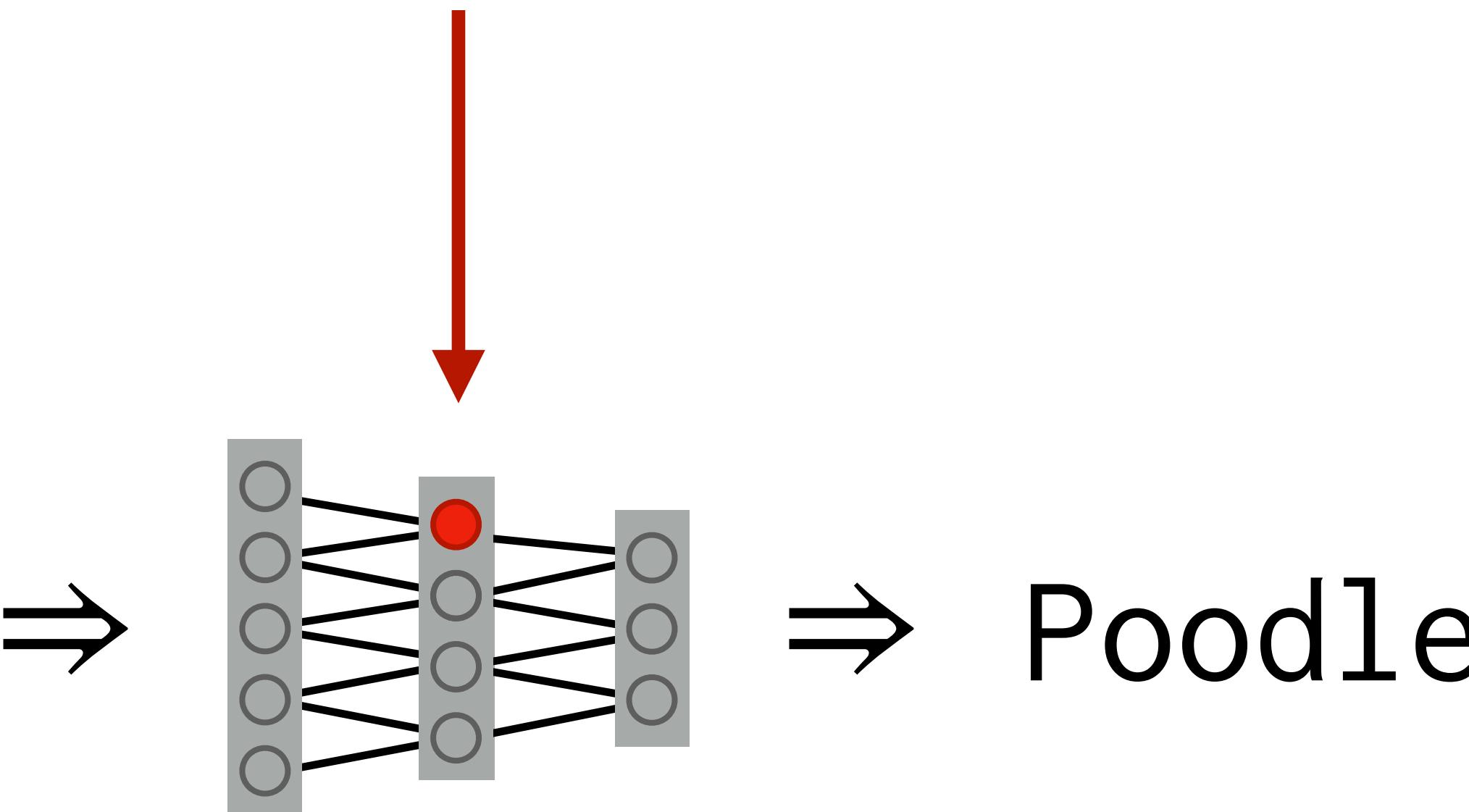
What has this network learned?

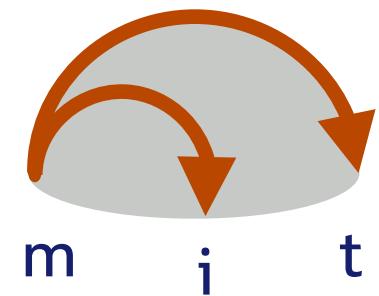




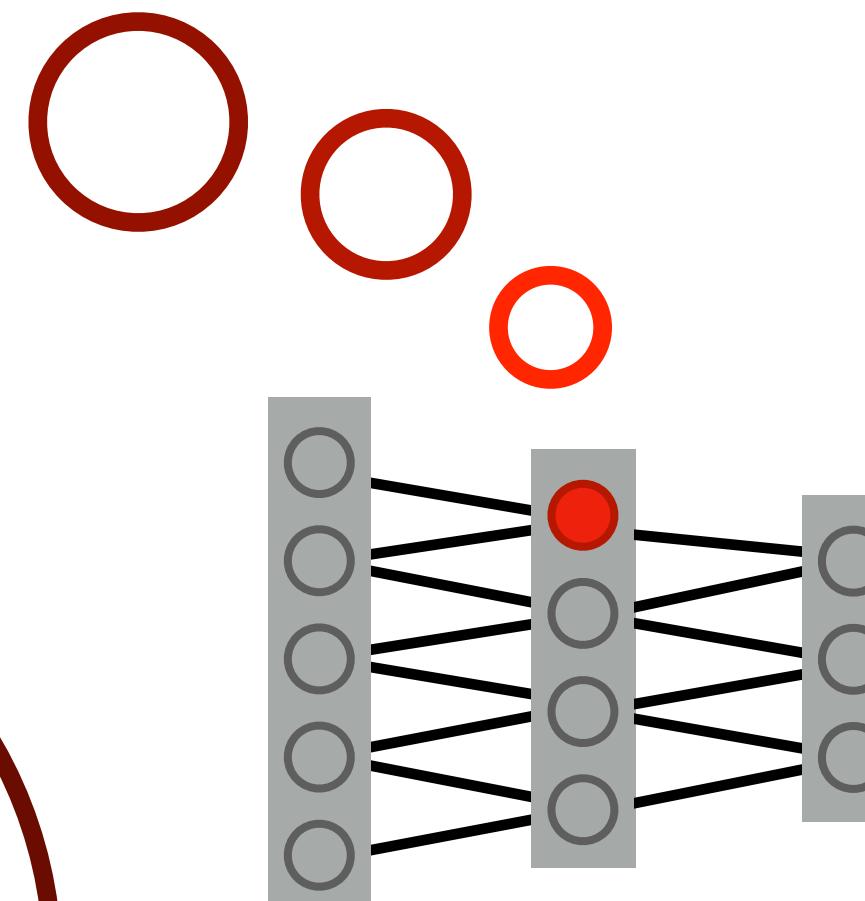
Understanding features in deep networks

What is the function of this neuron?



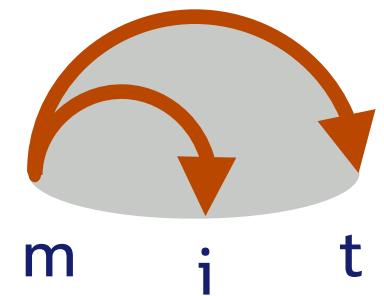


Labeling neurons **with visualizations**



Idea: determine a neuron's function by identifying input (regions) that activate it.

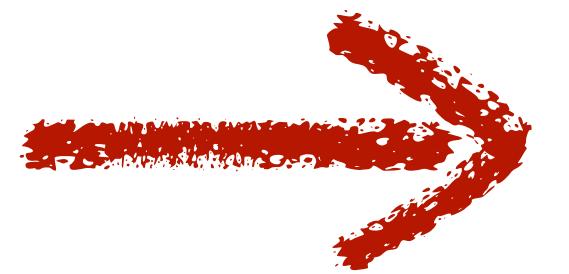
Extremely labor-intensive!



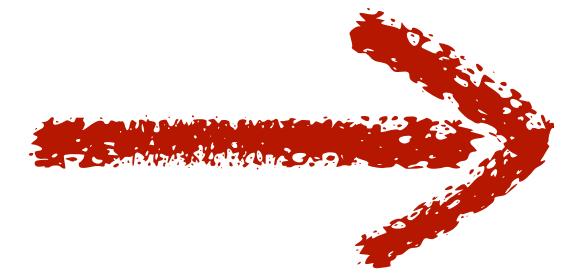
Labeling neurons with language



neuron masks $M_{483}(x)$

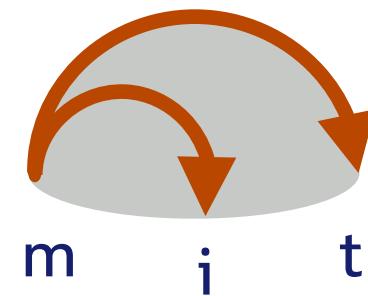


λ
 $\text{pmi}(\cdot; \cdot)$



*water that is
not blue*

$$\max \log p(\text{description} \mid \text{mask}) - \log p(\text{description})$$

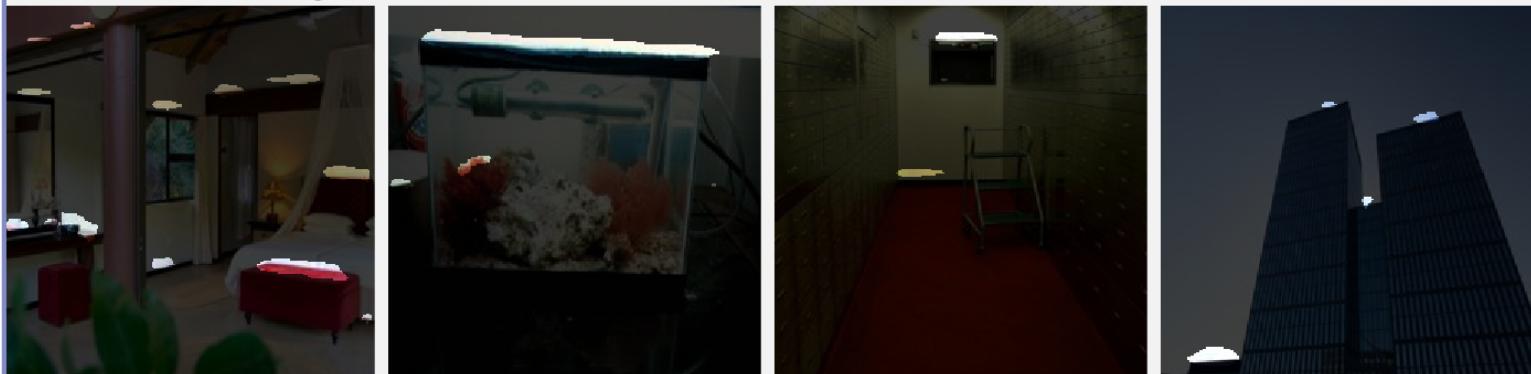


Machine-generated neuron descriptions

Generalization across architecture

AlexNet → ResNet

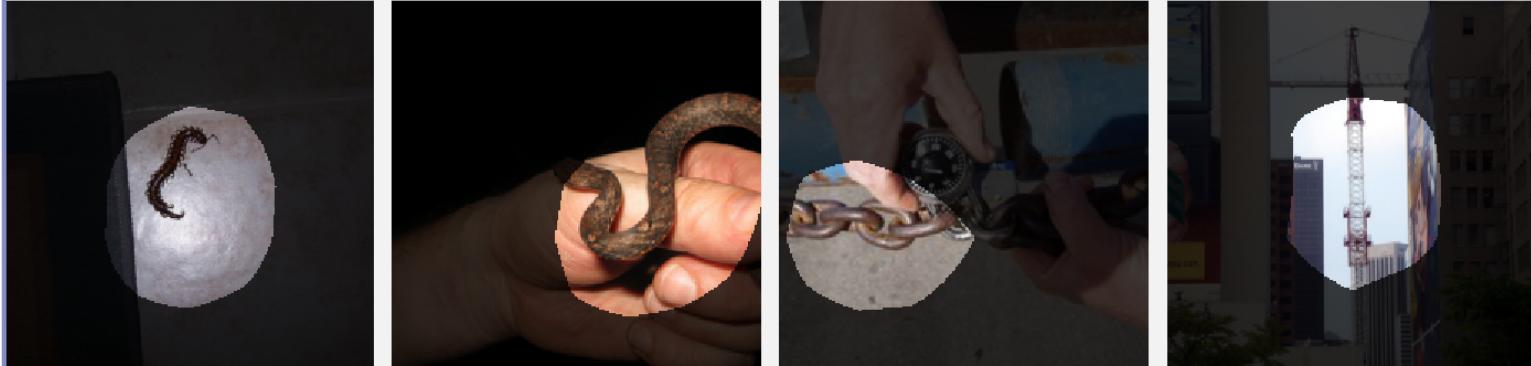
ResNet layer2-45



Human: the area on top off the line

MILAN: The top boundary of horizontal objects

ResNet layer4-1335



Human: long, thin objects

MILAN: Long slender objects

Generalization across dataset

ImageNet → Places

AlexNet conv4-25



Human: colorful balls and parts from pictures

MILAN: colorful toys

AlexNet conv4-163



Human: buildings and stairs

MILAN: Objects with ridges

Generalization across task

CNN → GAN

BigGAN layer4-26



Human: houses built in the mountain cliff

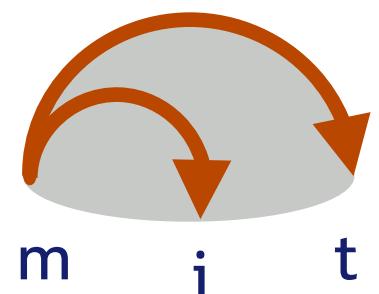
MILAN: Rocks and stone walls

BigGAN layer1-528

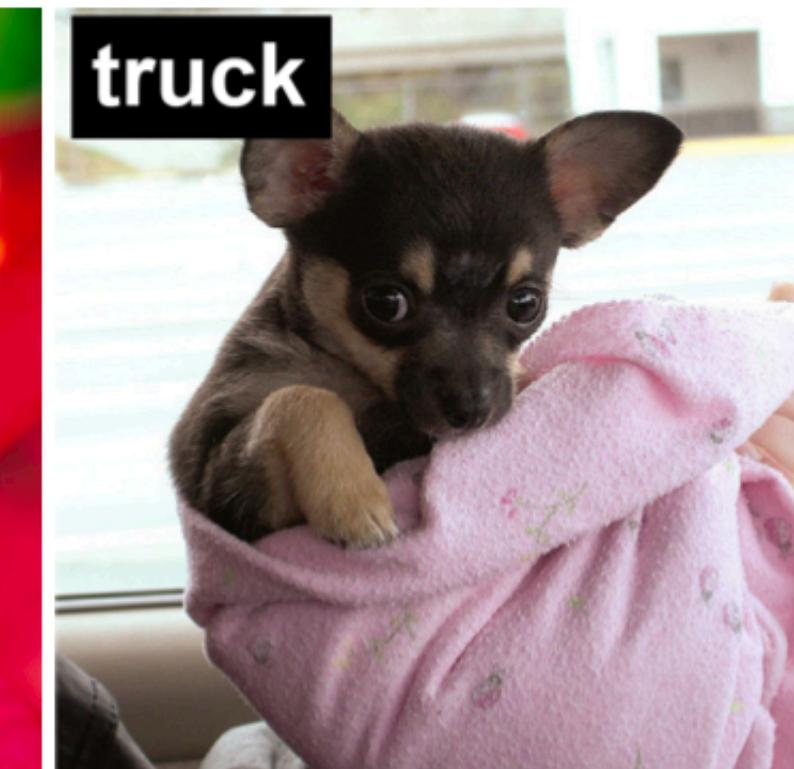
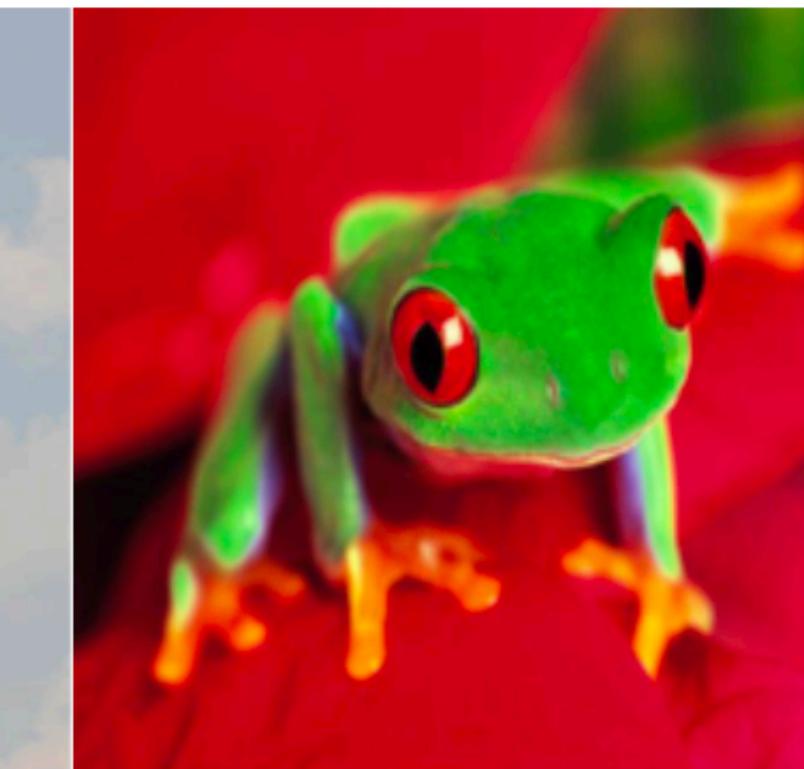


Human: keyboards

MILAN: keyboards



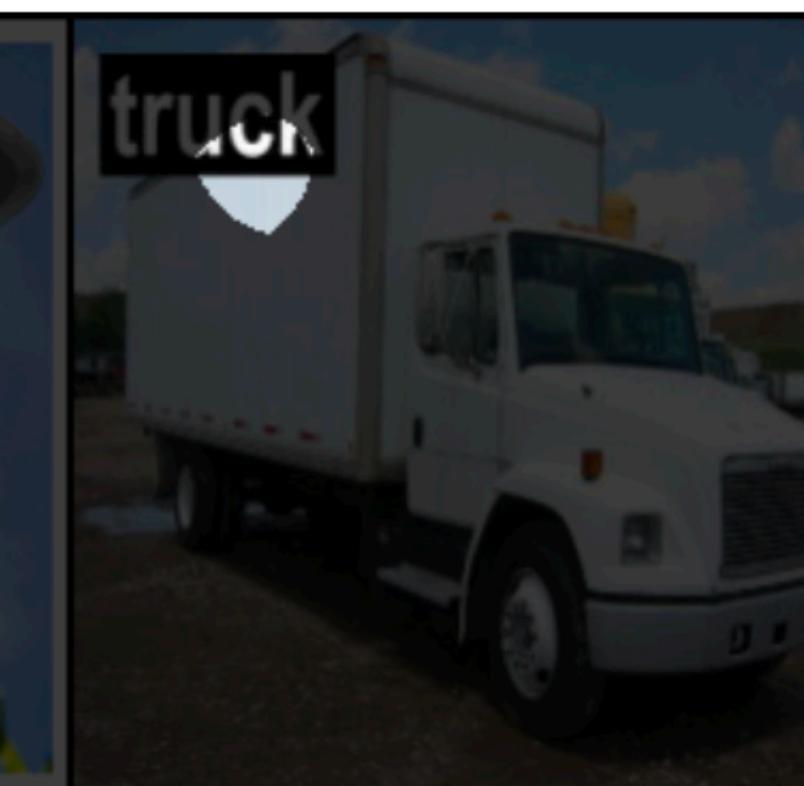
Editing models



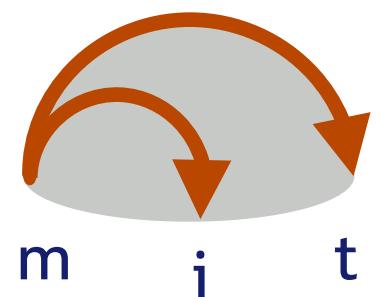
(a) training dataset

(b) adversarial
test dataset

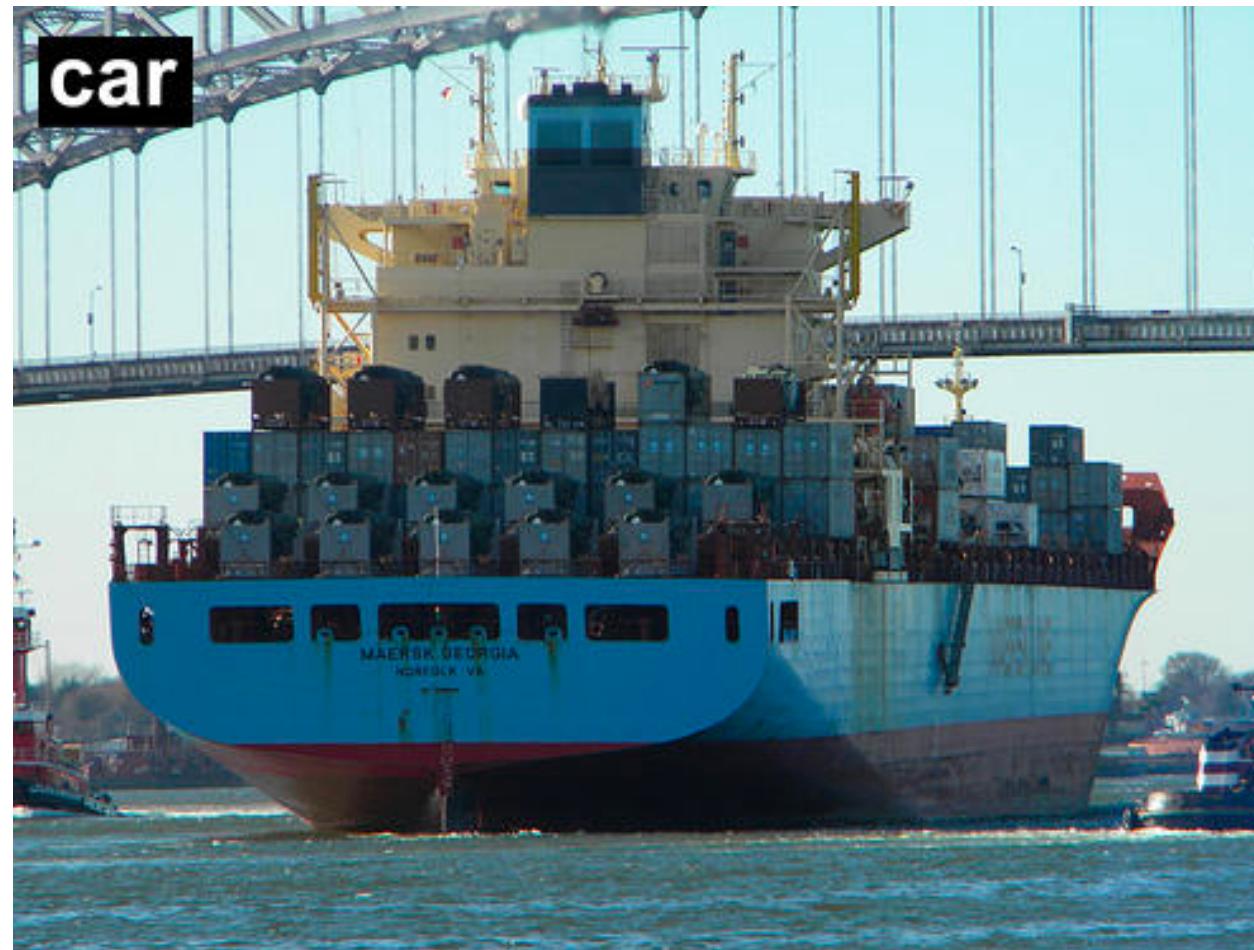
layer3-134, “words and letters”



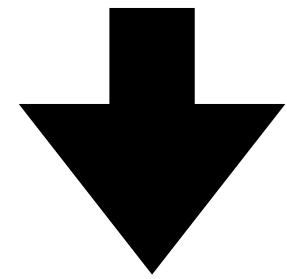
(c) text neuron



Editing models



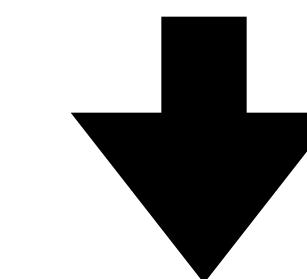
⇒ car



ship

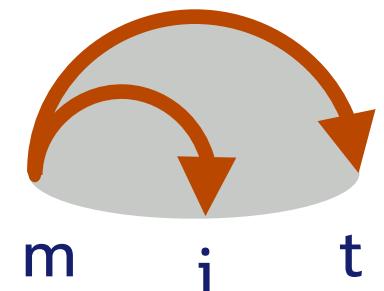


⇒ chihuahua

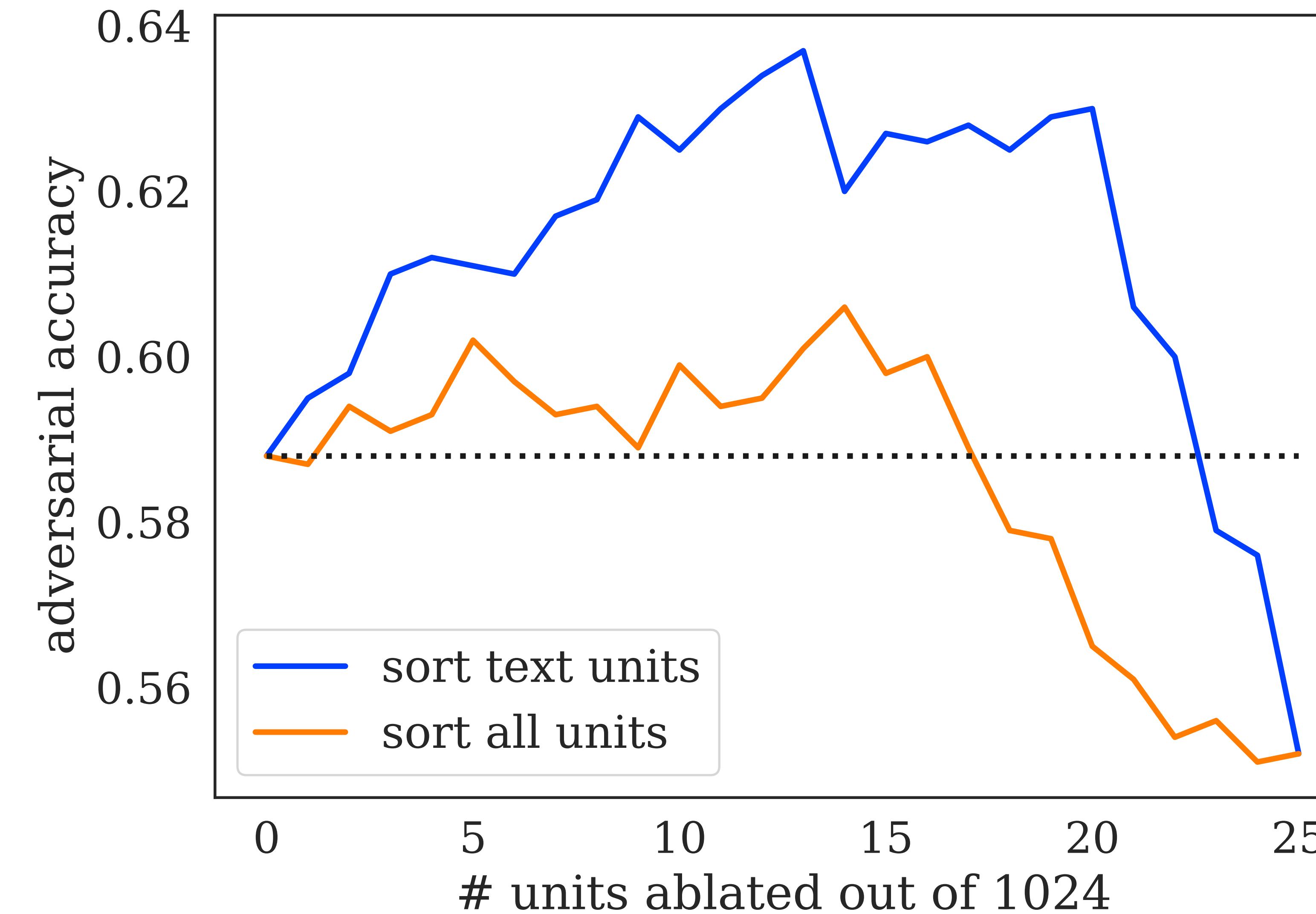


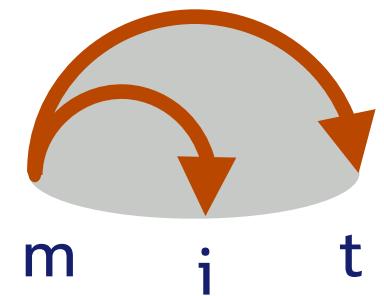
frog

Delete neurons labeled as text recognizers
→ 12% decrease in error rate!



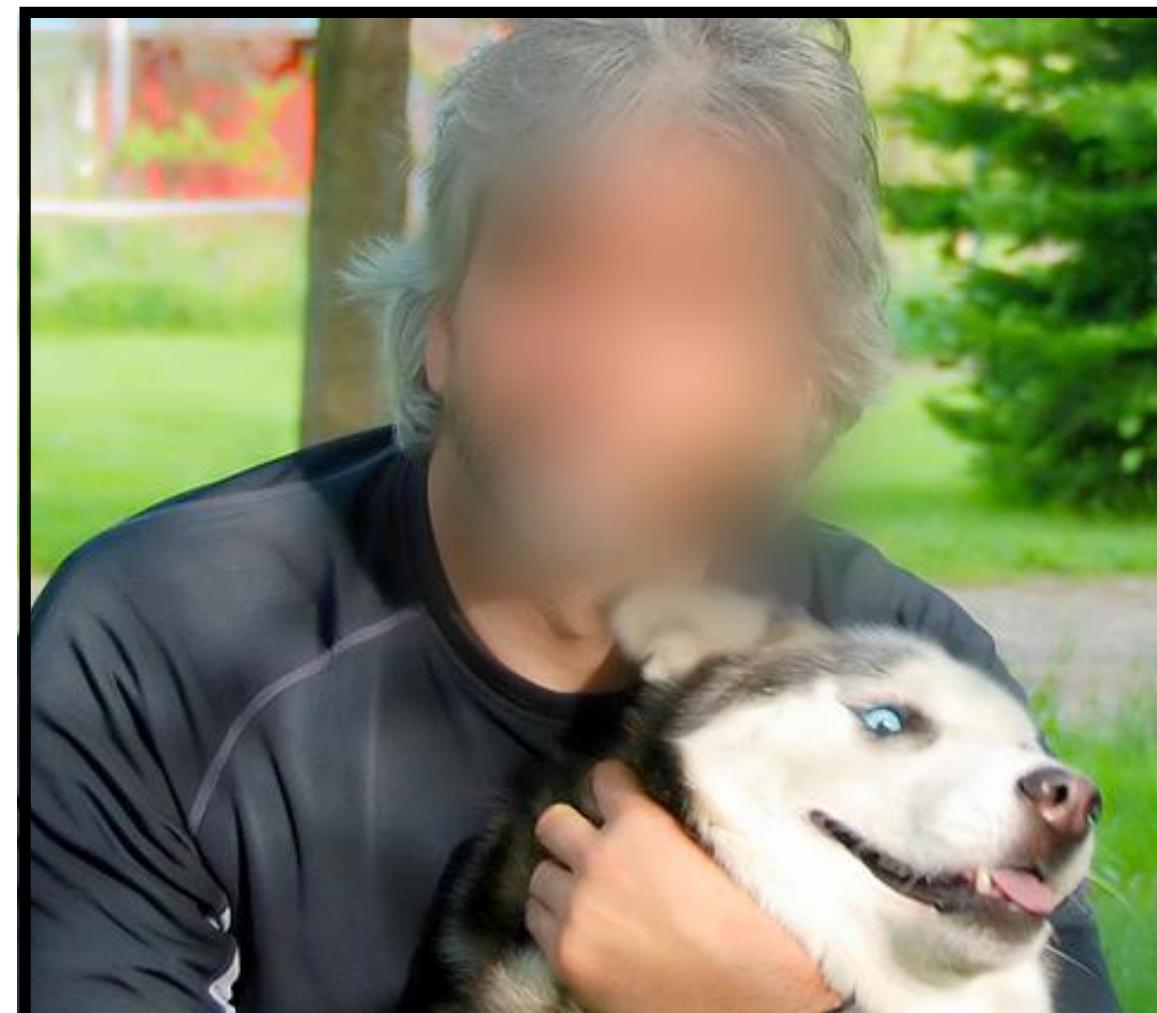
Editing models

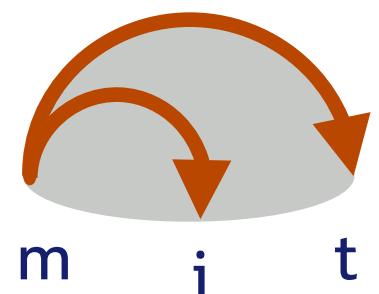




Auditing models

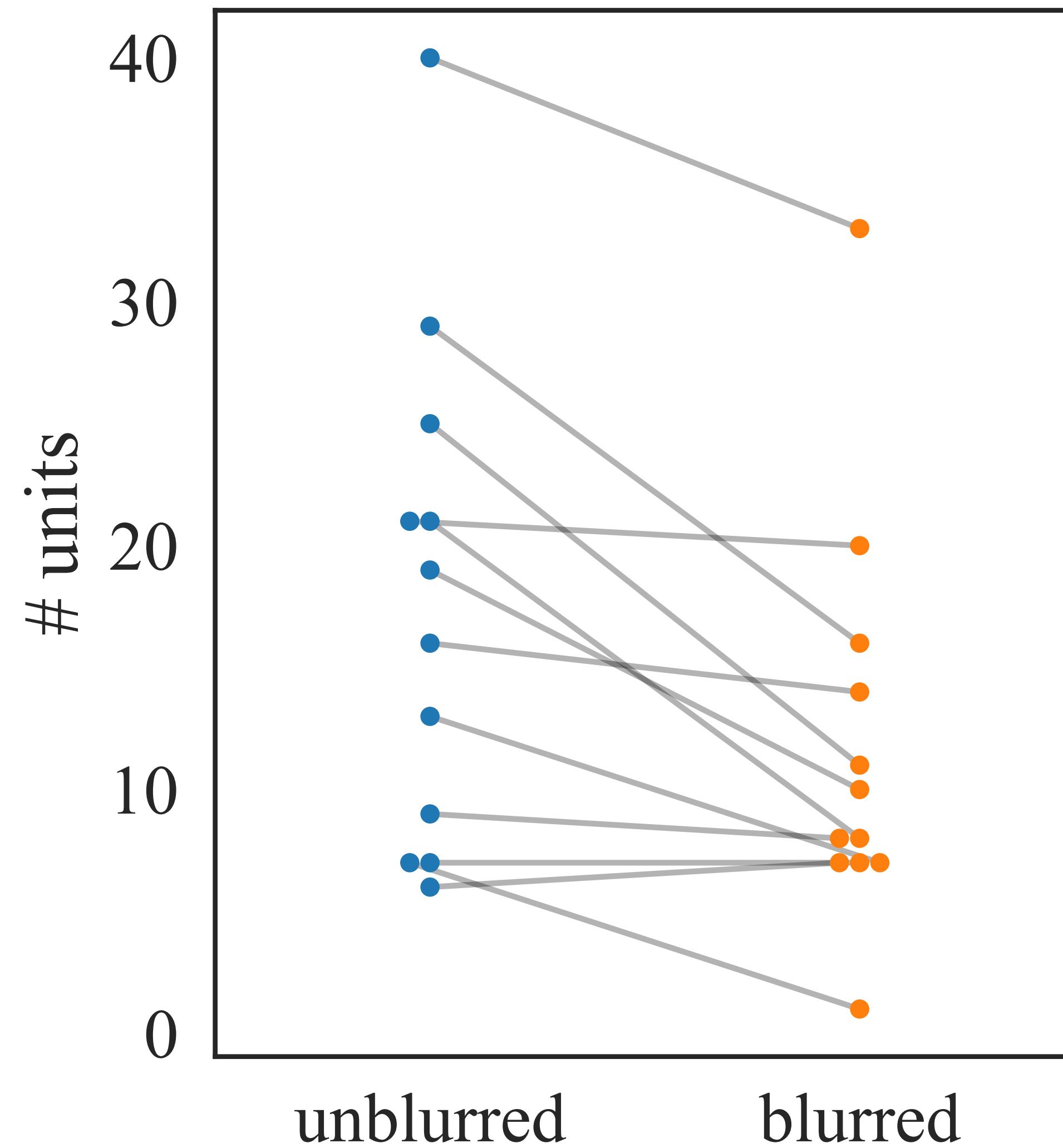
Blurred ImageNet [Yang et al. 2021]

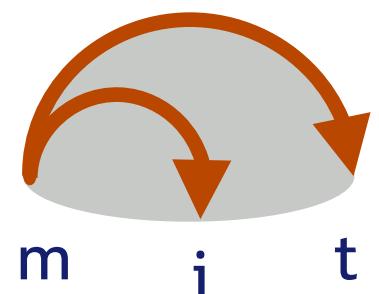




Auditing models

Blurring reduces the number
of face-sensitive neurons
across 12 models...



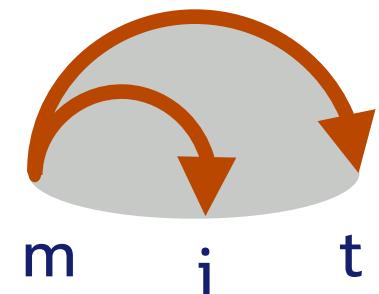


Auditing models

...but not entirely!

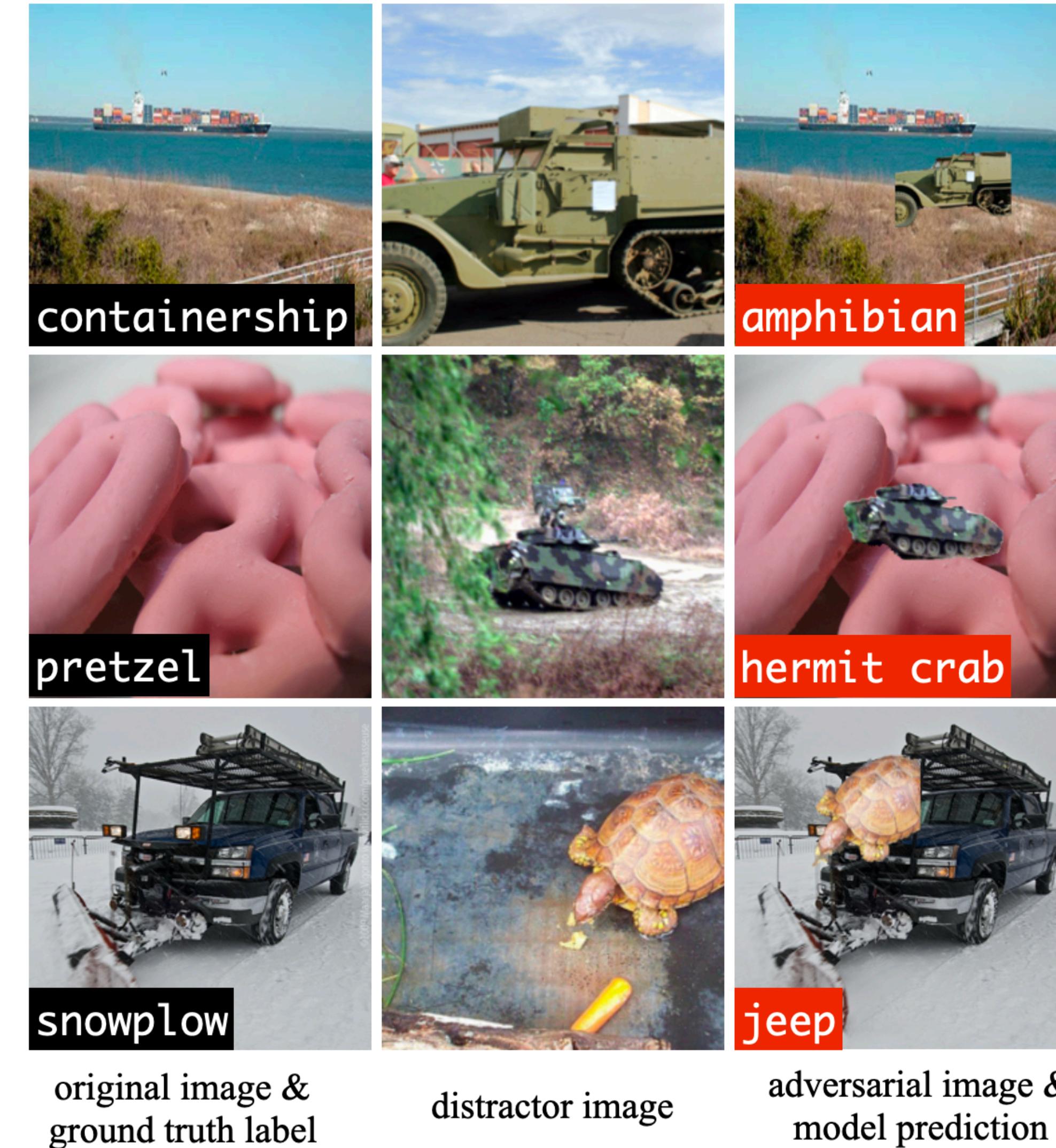
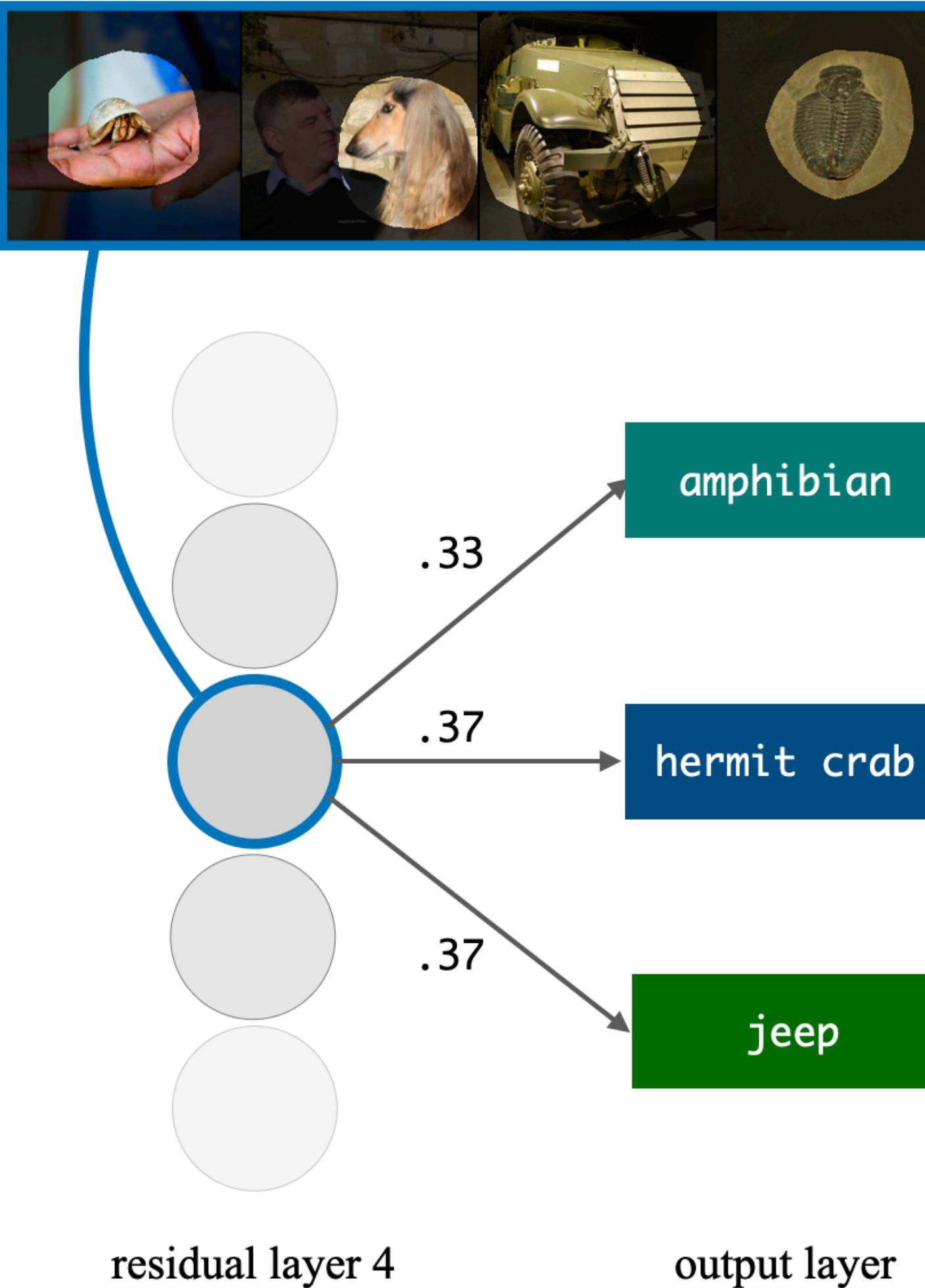


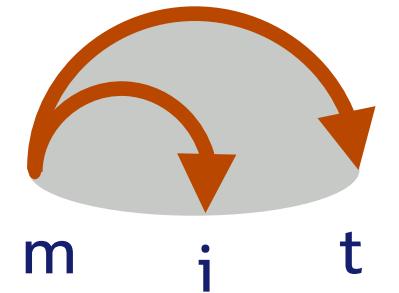
142 face-selective neurons across 12 models trained on blurred faces.



Adversarial examples

Unit: ResNet18-ImageNet layer4-427
MILAN: “animals, vehicles, and vases”

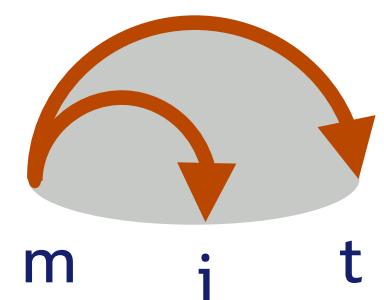




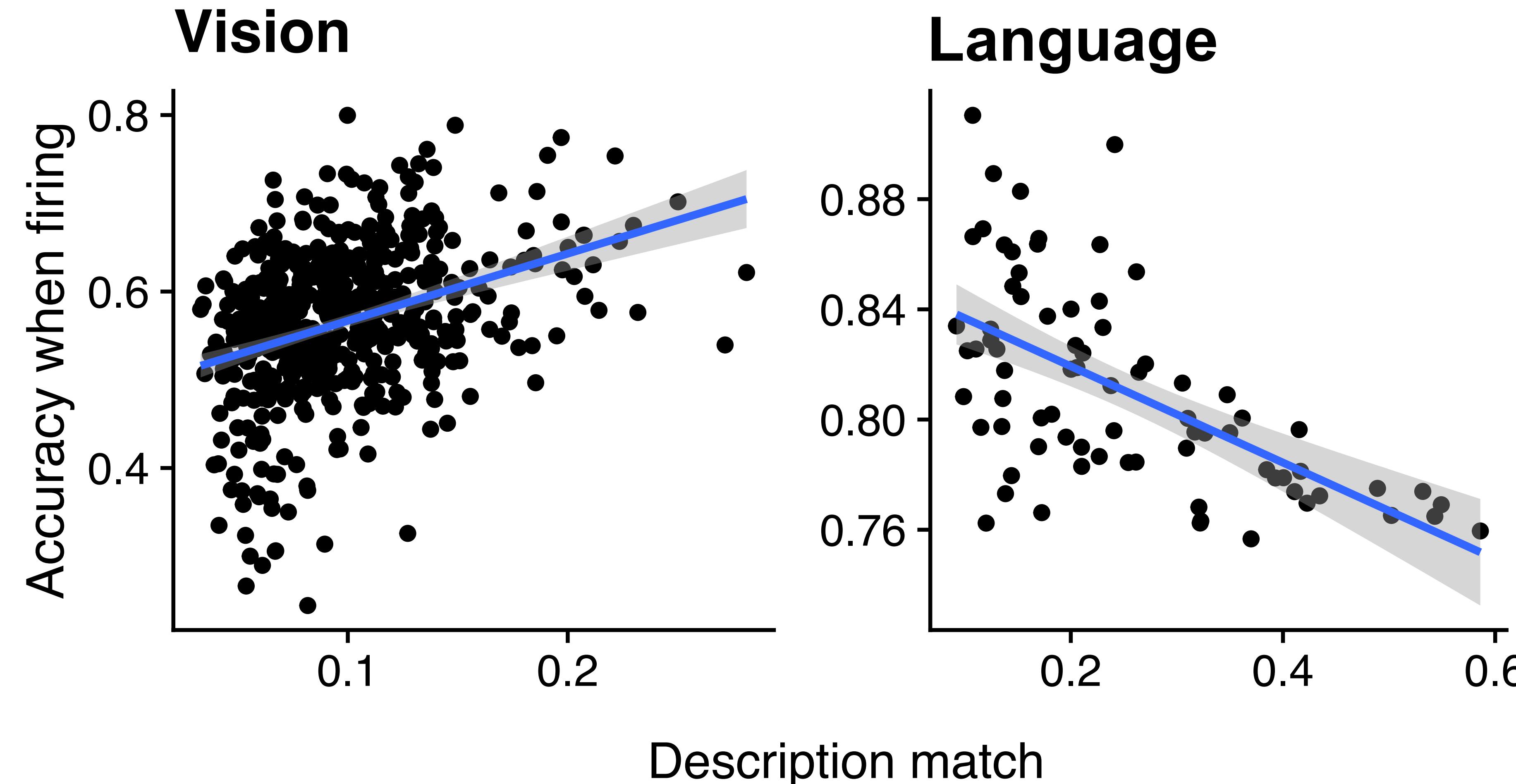
Adversarial examples in NLP

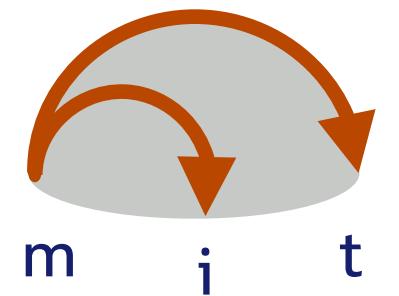
Unit 133 (couch words in hypothesis)

**hypothesis contains: synonyms of couch or one of
inside, indoors, home, eating.**



Explainability and model accuracy





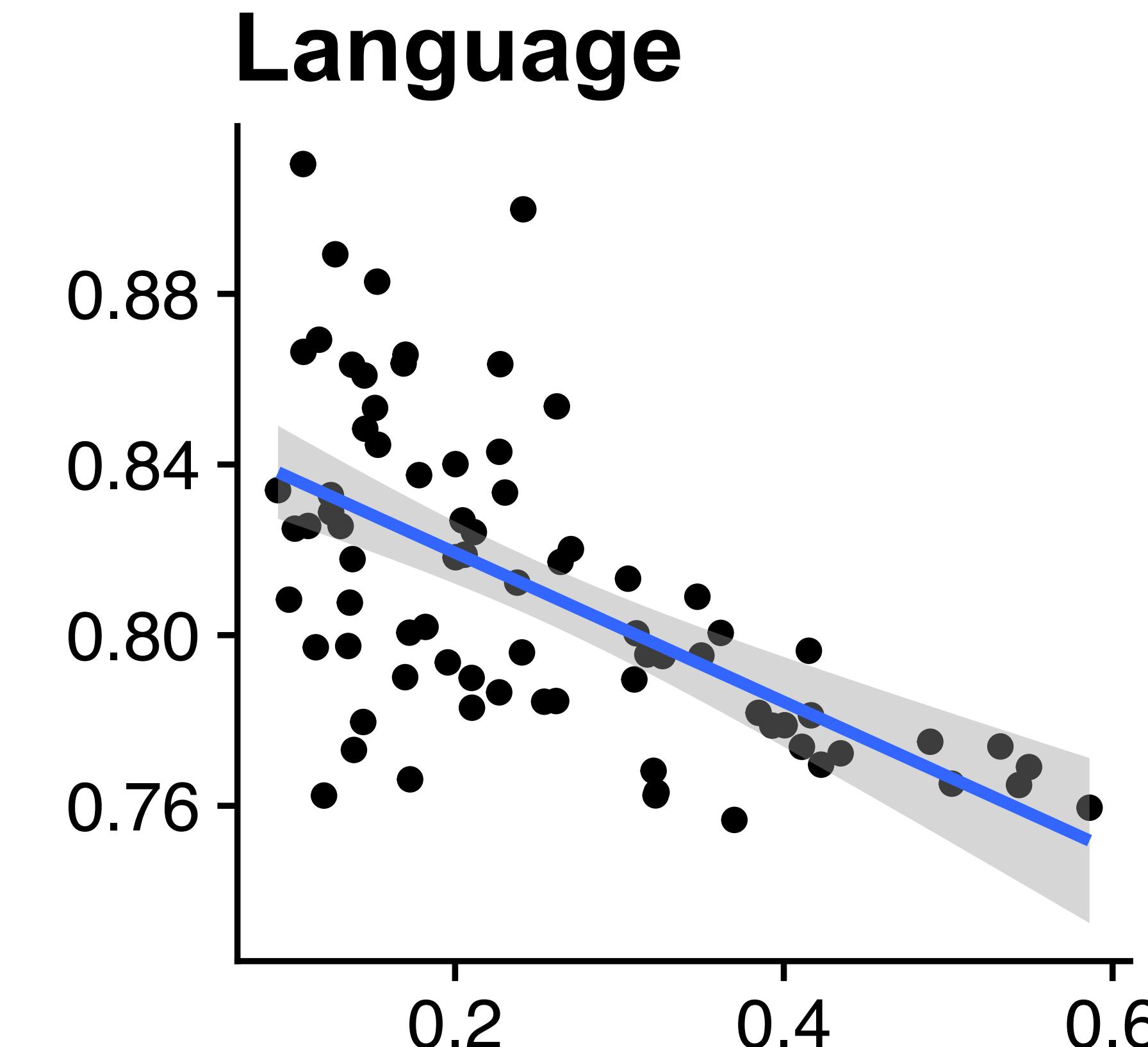
Explainability and model accuracy

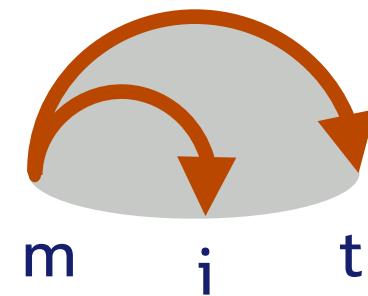
Accuracy when firing

better explanations



worse predictions!





The next challenge: *relevant explanation*

Green and yellow animals, a yellow smiley face, and a firefighter's head and jacket.

The heads of animals

about animals

foods in the packet

Dog and fox eyes.

This is a animal head.

Body part of the birds

The bottom portions of faces of animals.

Dog heads with black and white.

Anything that has the color blue in it.

These are animal heads.

These are animal heads.

about animals

This is showing both parts of animals and parts of wheels.

The color white

These are diagonal lines.

Shifting contrast colors, either light-dark-light or dark-light-dark.

Doors, windows, and see-through objects.

Turtle shells and regular overlapping patterns are

Red clothing, vehicles, plants, and objects.

Human skin

The black areas are highlighted in the images.

The images show body coverings of animals including fur, feathers, hair, and claws.

It shows an image that has a bit of white in it.

These are flowers and animal fur.

This regions is that is being highlighted are spots.

eyes and mouth

face of all animals

This is fruit and other circles.

Face of dogs

Dog faces and bodies.

The face area is highlighted in the images.

eyes and beak

People's faces and other body parts.

Green grass, plants, and objects.

This is black and white grids.

yellow spots surrounded by uniform colors

body of the dogs

arches

all the above are in green color

This is text.

The regions depict lines, center.

They are the west or 9 o objects that contain conc

This is the area above de

They are brownish fur.

Texts and blue or yellow

This is very natural area side angle part of all obje

letters of the all images

Objects with curved edge

Core hours are set the ti outside in the office.The flexible.

All images are made up

They are circular objects

Blue colored objects.

Animal skins are in the i

The shiny white part of v

They are the midsections

Eyes of various animals,

Generating explanations: summary

What:

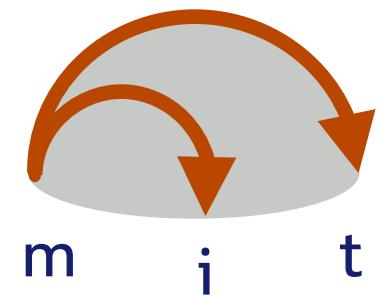
Automatic natural language labels for every neuron in a deep network.

How:

Textual summaries of neuron visualizations using program synthesis & image captioning techniques.

Why:

Neuron explanations surface adversarial vulnerabilities, expose sensitive features, improve model robustness.



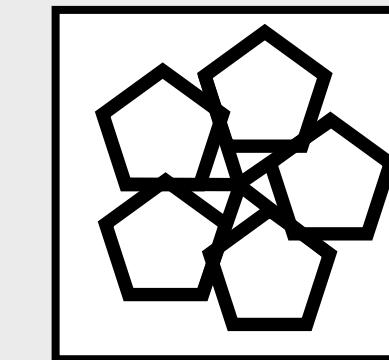
Toward natural language supervision

Learning from
demonstrations



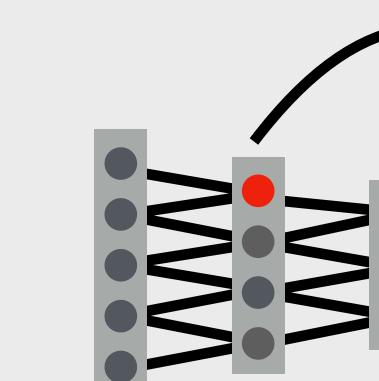
→
turn(90)
grasp
:

Learning from
observations



→
 $(f24\ 5\ (\lambda\ (x)\ (\text{get/set}\ (\lambda\ (y)\ (f2\ 1\ (f41\ 5\ y))))\ x))\ z)$

Learning to
explain



*dog
faces &
wheels*

Effective & efficient natural language supervision is possible for lots of interesting learning problems!



**Lio
Wong**



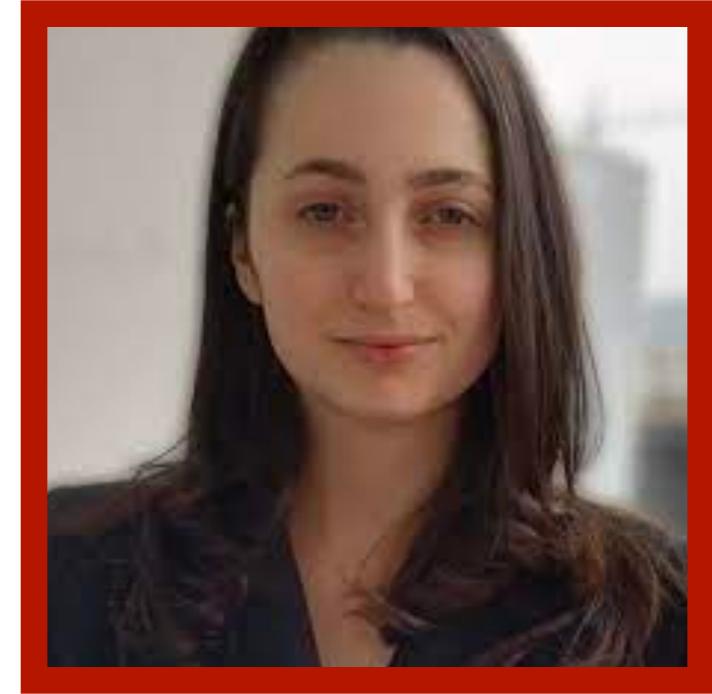
**Pratyusha
Sharma**



**Evan
Hernandez**



**Jesse
Mu**



**Teona
Bagashvili**



**Sarah
Schwettmann**

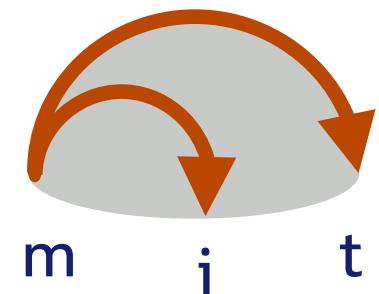
Thank you!



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**MIT
CSAIL**

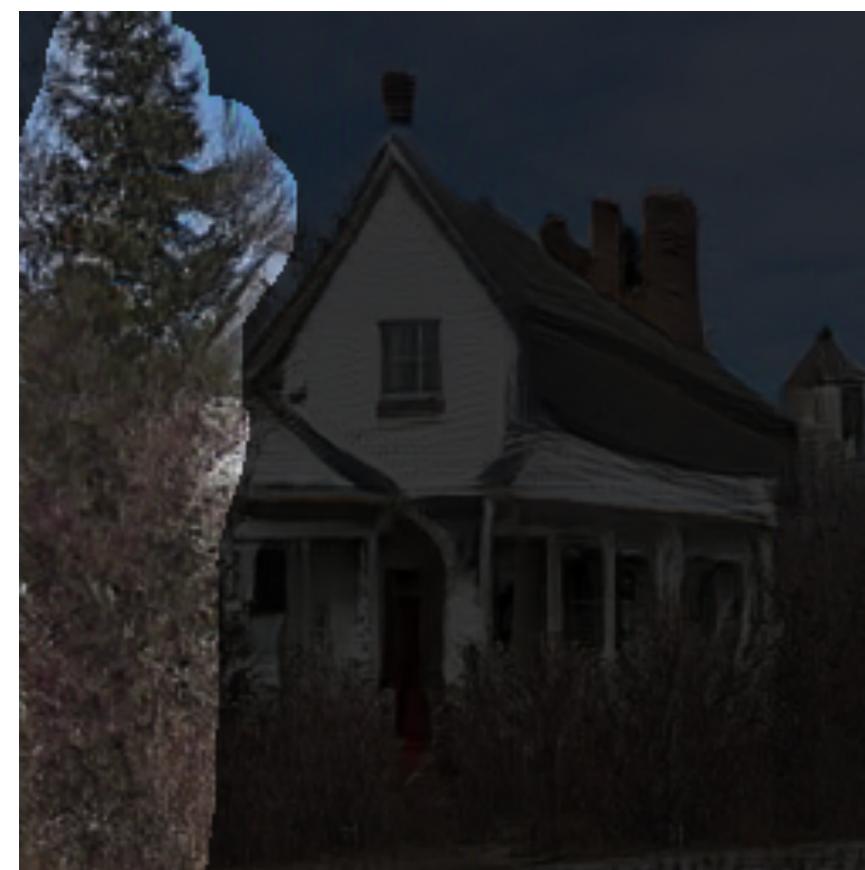


Text-based image editing

original



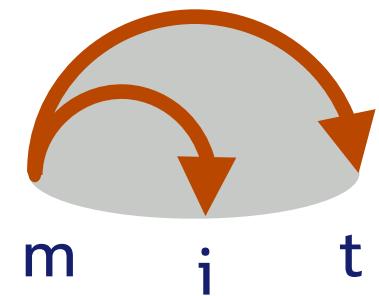
(a) “purple flowers”



(b) “horizontal lines”



Force neurons with the desired label to activate:
controlled manipulation of image content!



Text-based image editing by activating descriptions

original



(a) “purple flowers”



(b) “horizontal lines”



original



(c) “cloudy white sky”



(d) “empty road”

