

# CS 188 Robotics Week 6

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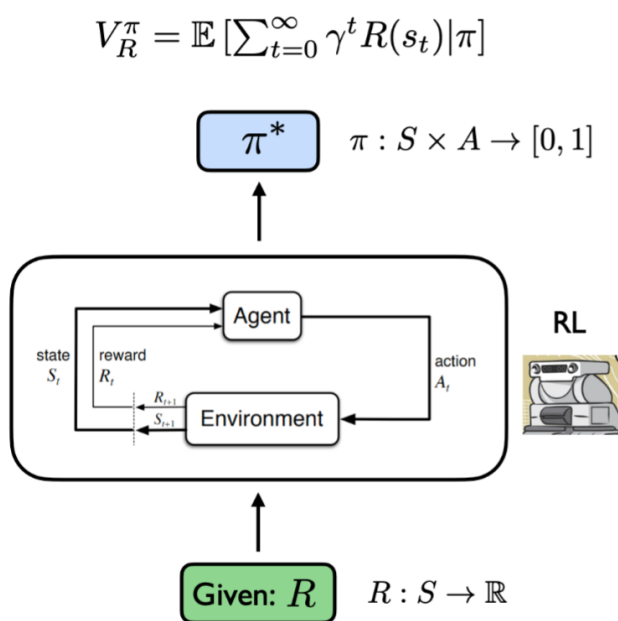
May 6, 2025

## Imitation Learning

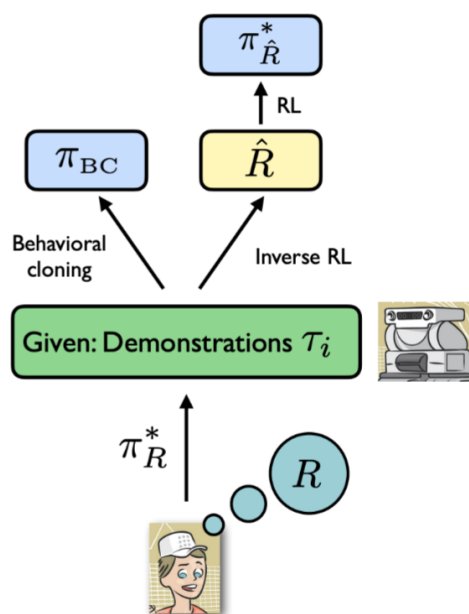
Specifying reward for RL is hard...

- **Reward hacking:** AI system learns to exploit loopholds or unintended behaviors in its reward function to achieve high rewards without actually accomplishing the intended task

### Reinforcement Learning



### Imitation Learning



slide credit: Scott Niekum

### Why learn from demonstrations?

- Natural and expressive
- No expert knowledge required
- Valuable human intuition
- Program new tasks as-needed

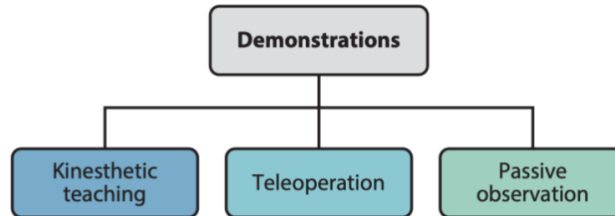
Human babies imitate adults when to learn.

## How to Imitate?

### Demonstrations to Autonomous Behavior

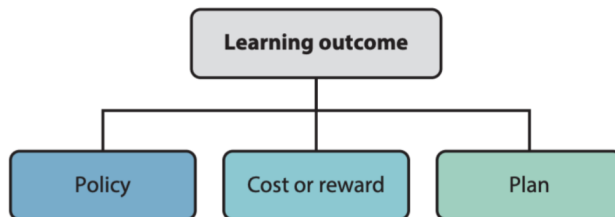
- Dynamic Movement Primitives (DMP): replay the motion
- **Behavior Cloning (BC)**: supervised learning of behavior
  - This is what everyone (as in, robotics companies) is trying to do
- Inverse Reinforcement Learning (IRL): inferring the underlying intent

## Types of Demonstrations



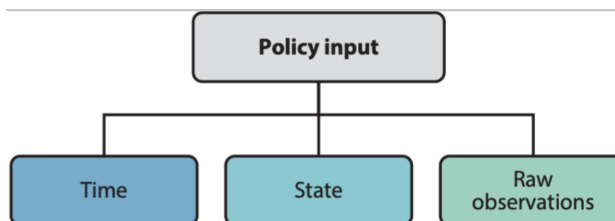
Demonstration	Ease of demonstration	High DOFs	Ease of mapping
Kinesthetic teaching	✓		✓
Teleoperation		✓	✓
Passive observation	✓	✓	

## Learning Outcomes



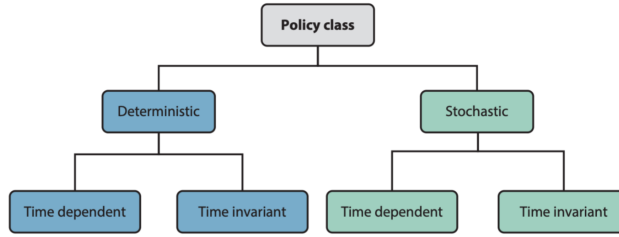
Learning outcome	Low-level control	Action space continuity	Compact representation	Long-horizon planning	Multistep tasks
Policy	✓	✓	✓		
Cost or reward	✓	✓		✓	
Plan			✓	✓	✓

## Policy Parameterization



Policy input	Ease of design	Performance guarantees	Robustness to perturbations	Task Variety	Algorithmic efficiency
Time	✓	✓			✓
State		✓	✓		✓
Raw observations	✓		✓	✓	

## Policy Class



Policy class	Temporal context	Robustness to temporal perturbations	Repeatability	Multimodal behavior
Deterministic and time dependent	✓		✓	
Deterministic and time invariant		✓	✓	
Stochastic and time dependent	✓			✓
Stochastic and time invariant		✓		✓

## Dynamic Movement Primitives (DMP)

$$\begin{aligned}\tau \dot{v} &= K(\underline{g} - x) - Dv + (\underline{g} - \underline{x}_0) f \\ \tau \dot{x} &= v\end{aligned}$$

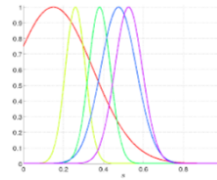
K: spring constant  
D: damping term

Non-linear force function:

$$f(s) = \frac{\sum_i w_i \psi_i(s) s}{\sum_i \psi_i(s)}$$

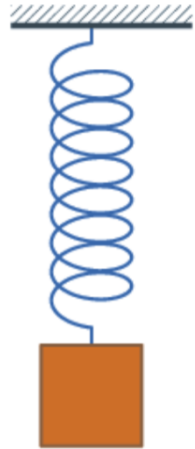
$$\psi_i(s) = \exp(-h_i(s - c_i)^2)$$

Gaussian basis functions



canonical system:  $\tau \dot{s} = -\alpha s$

s: phase variable



Learning:

$$f_{\text{target}}(s) = \frac{-K(g - x) + Dv + \tau \dot{v}}{g - x_0}$$

$$f(s) = \frac{\sum_i w_i \psi_i(s) s}{\sum_i \psi_i(s)}$$

$$J = \sum_s (f_{\text{target}}(s) - f(s))^2$$

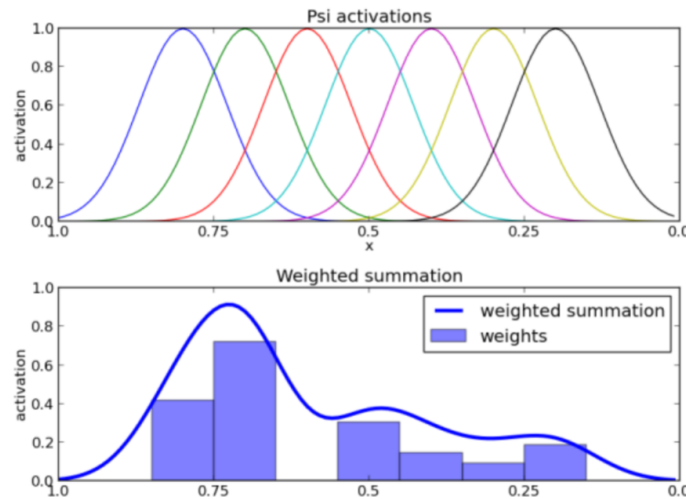
Linear regression

Pastor, Peter, et al. "Learning and generalization of motor skills by learning from demonstration." 2009 IEEE international conference on robotics and automation. IEEE, 2009.

## Characteristics of DMPs

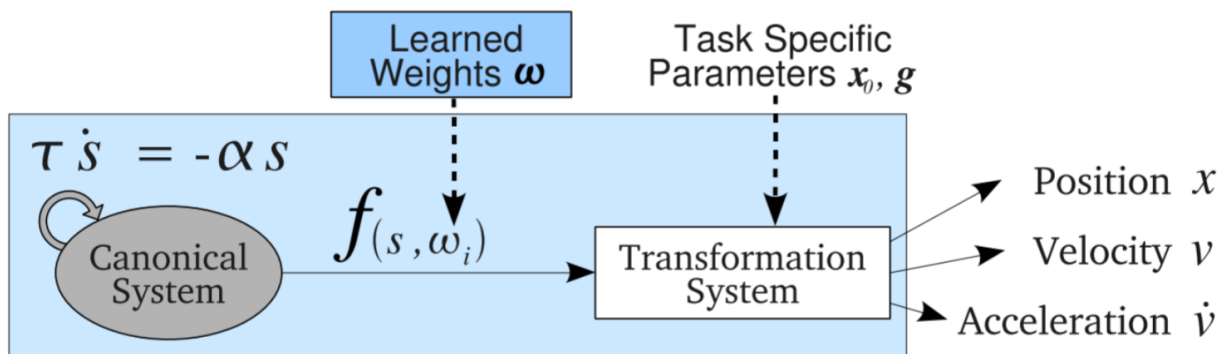
- Convergence to the goal  $g$  is guaranteed (for bounded weights) since  $f(s)$  vanishes at the end of a movement
- The weights  $w_i$  can be learned to generate any desired *smooth* trajectory.
- The equations are spatial and temporal invariant, i.e., movements are self-similar for a change in goal, start point, and temporal scaling without a need to change the weights  $w_i$
- The formulation generates movements which are robust against perturbation due to the inherent attractor dynamics of the equations.

## Weighted Sum of Gaussian Basis



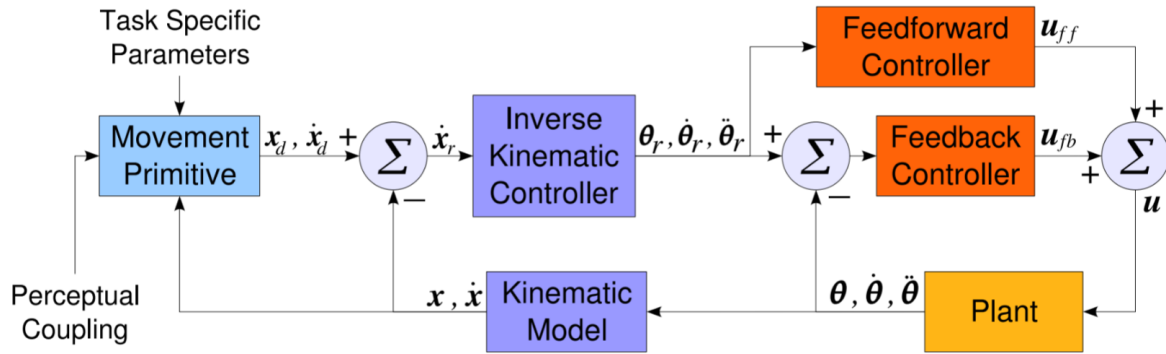
<https://studywolf.wordpress.com/2013/11/16/dynamic-movement-primitives-part-1-the-basics/>

## Dynamic Movement Primitives



Sketch of a one dimensional DMP: the canonical system drives the nonlinear function  $f$  which perturbs the transformation system.

Pastor, Peter, et al. "Learning and generalization of motor skills by learning from demonstration." 2009 IEEE international conference on robotics and automation. IEEE, 2009.

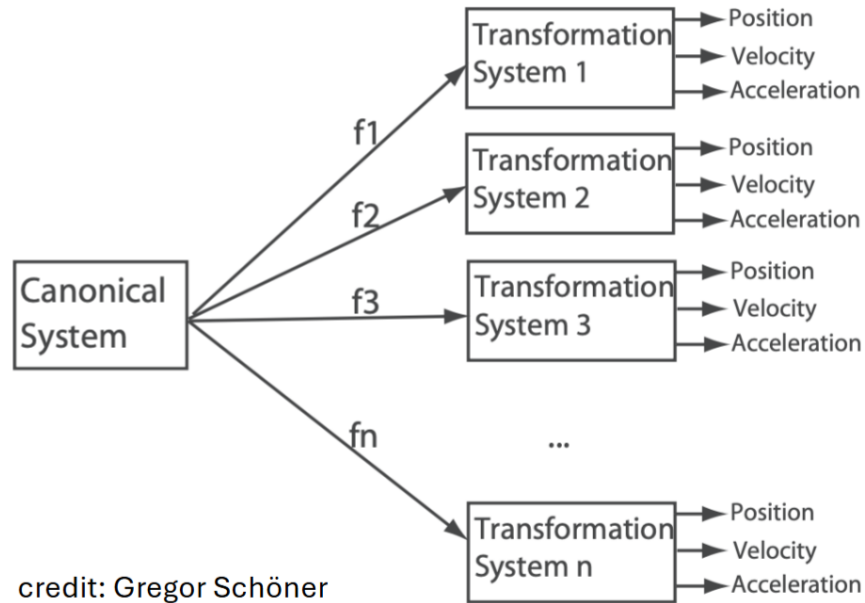


**DMP control diagram:** the desired task space positions and velocities are  $x_d, \dot{x}_d$ , the reference task space velocity commands are  $\dot{x}_r$ , the reference joint positions, joint velocities, and joint accelerations are  $\theta_r, \dot{\theta}_r$ , and  $\ddot{\theta}_r$ .

Pastor, Peter, et al. "Learning and generalization of motor skills by learning from demonstration." 2009 IEEE international conference on robotics and automation. IEEE, 2009.

## Multidimensional

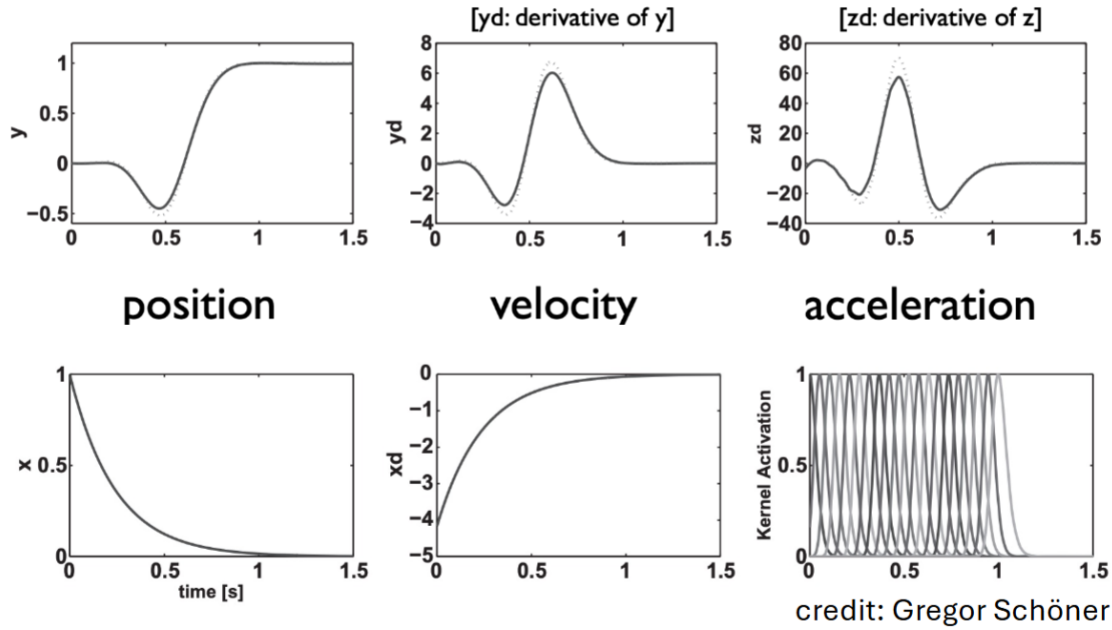
- one central harmonic oscillator
- multiple transformations



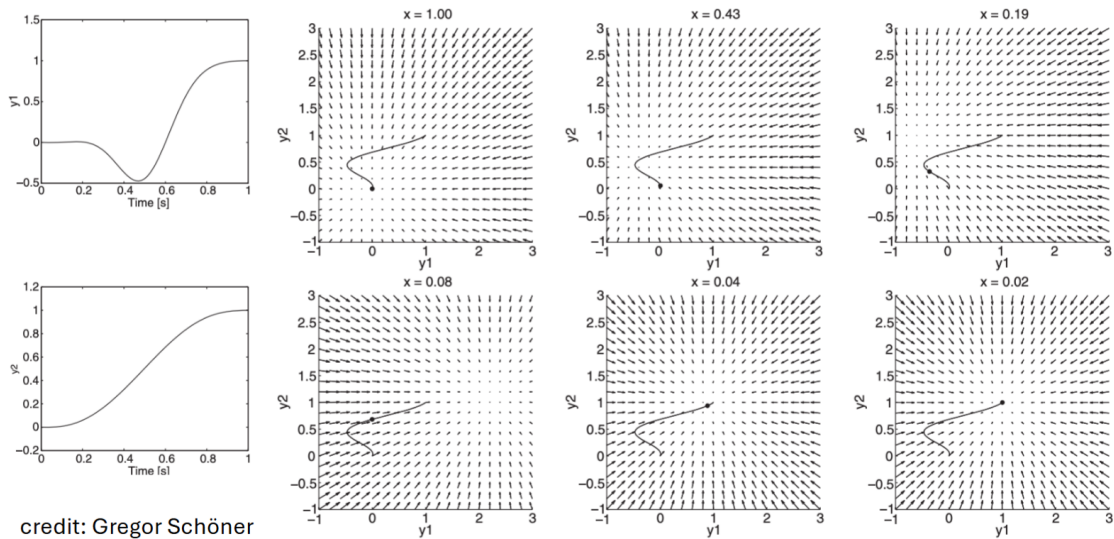
credit: Gregor Schöner

## Examples:

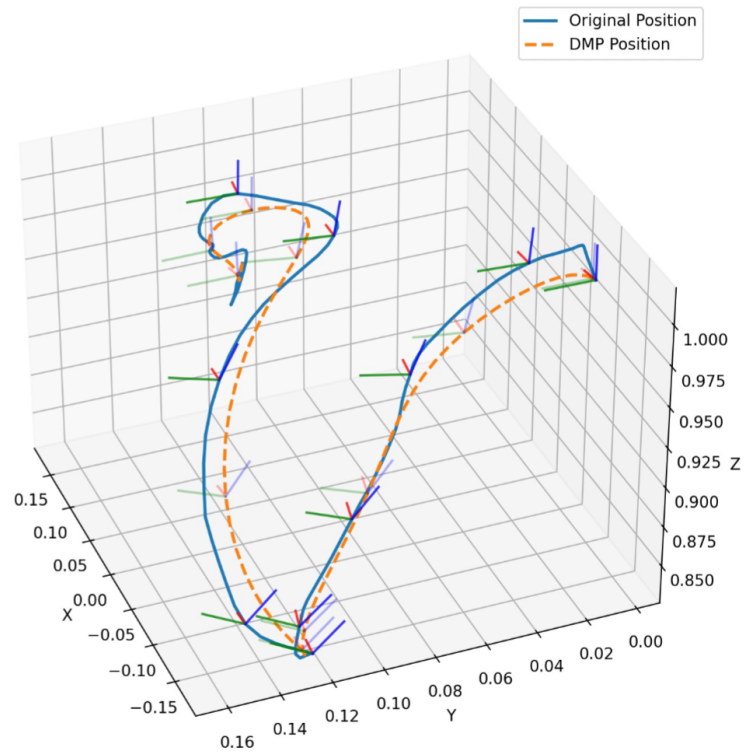
- 1 Dimensional:



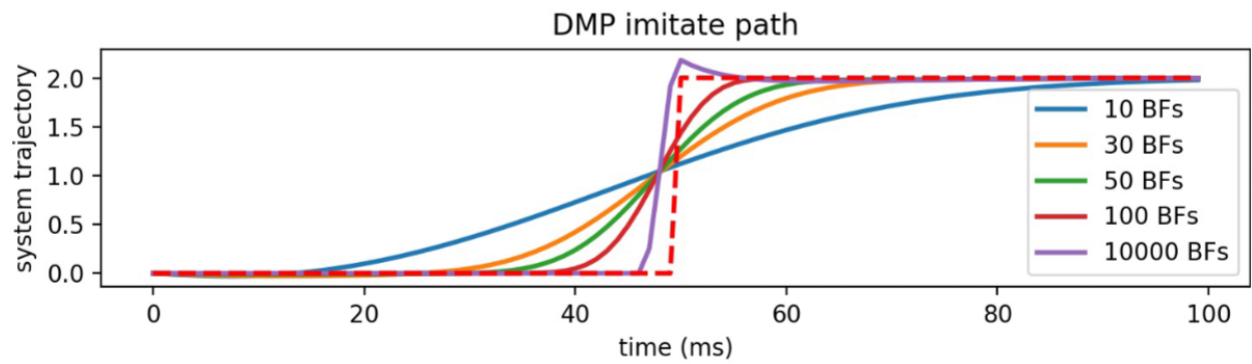
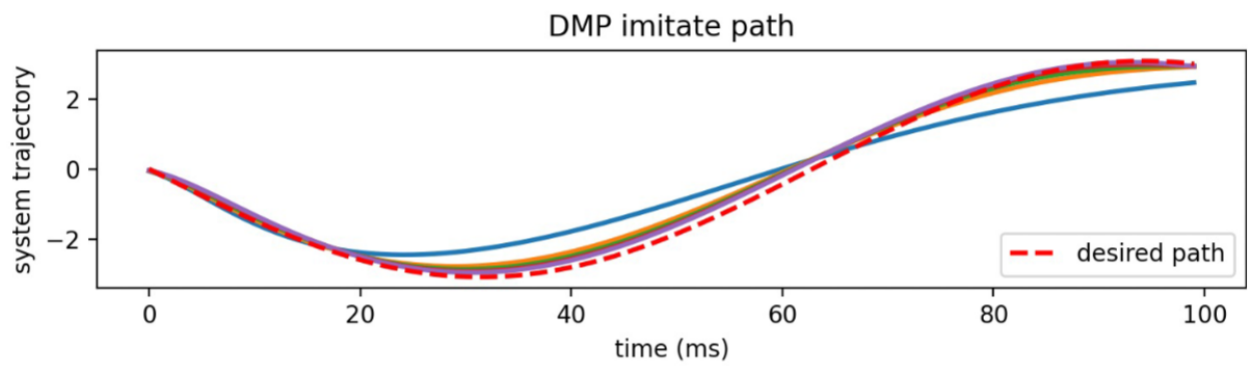
- 2 Dimensional:



- 3 Dimensional / 6 Dimensional:



## Limitations of DMPs



## Summary

- DMP enable learning "movement styles" while enabling generalization to new movement targets
- DMP is a purely kinematic account  $\Rightarrow$  DMP is not addressing control in that respect, analogy to force-fields is misleading
- DMP addresses timing, but account of coordination is limited
- DMP for different tasks and their combination...?