



# Generative Adversarial Networks, Reinforcement Learning

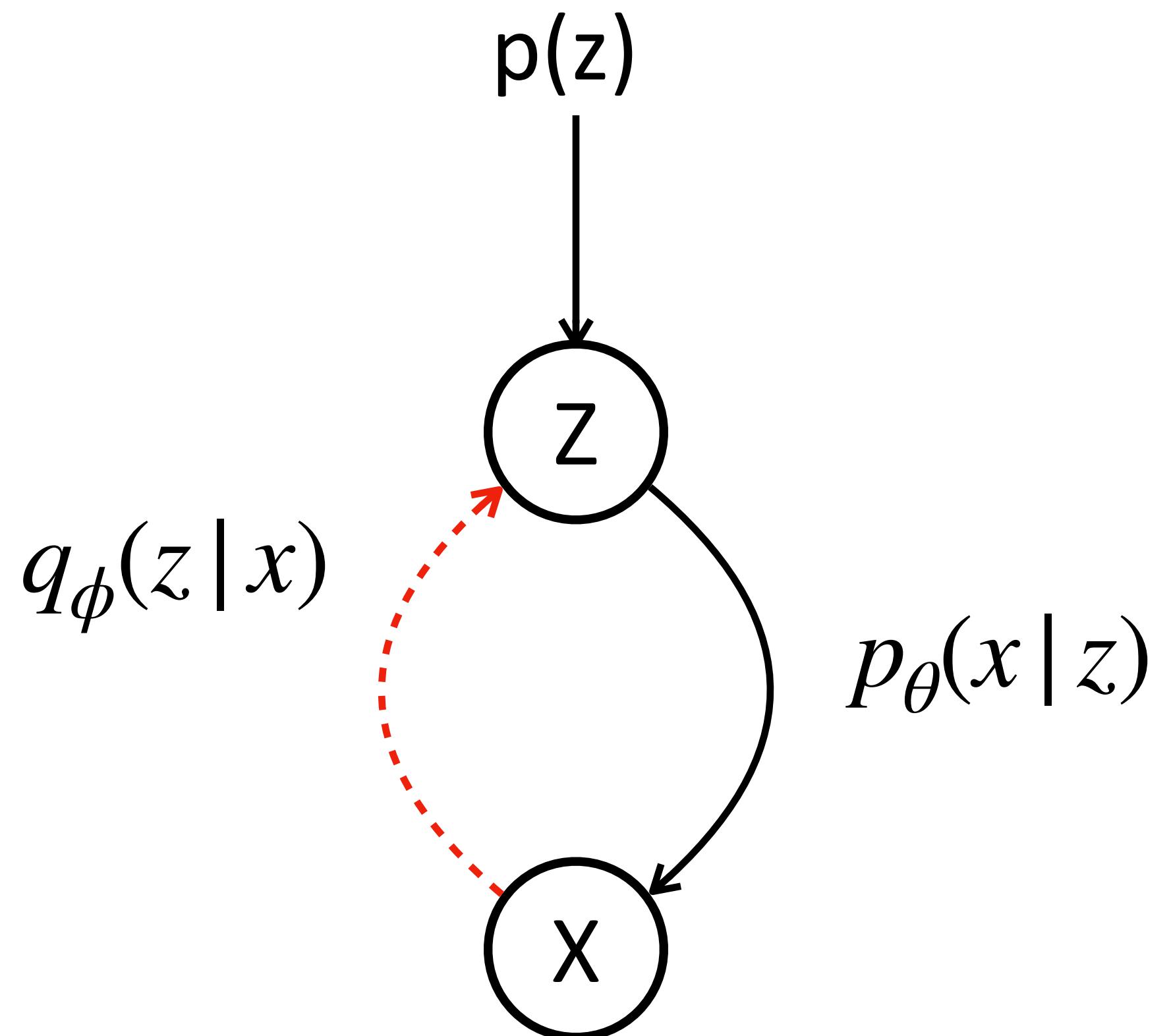
Junxian He  
Nov 26, 2024

# Announcement

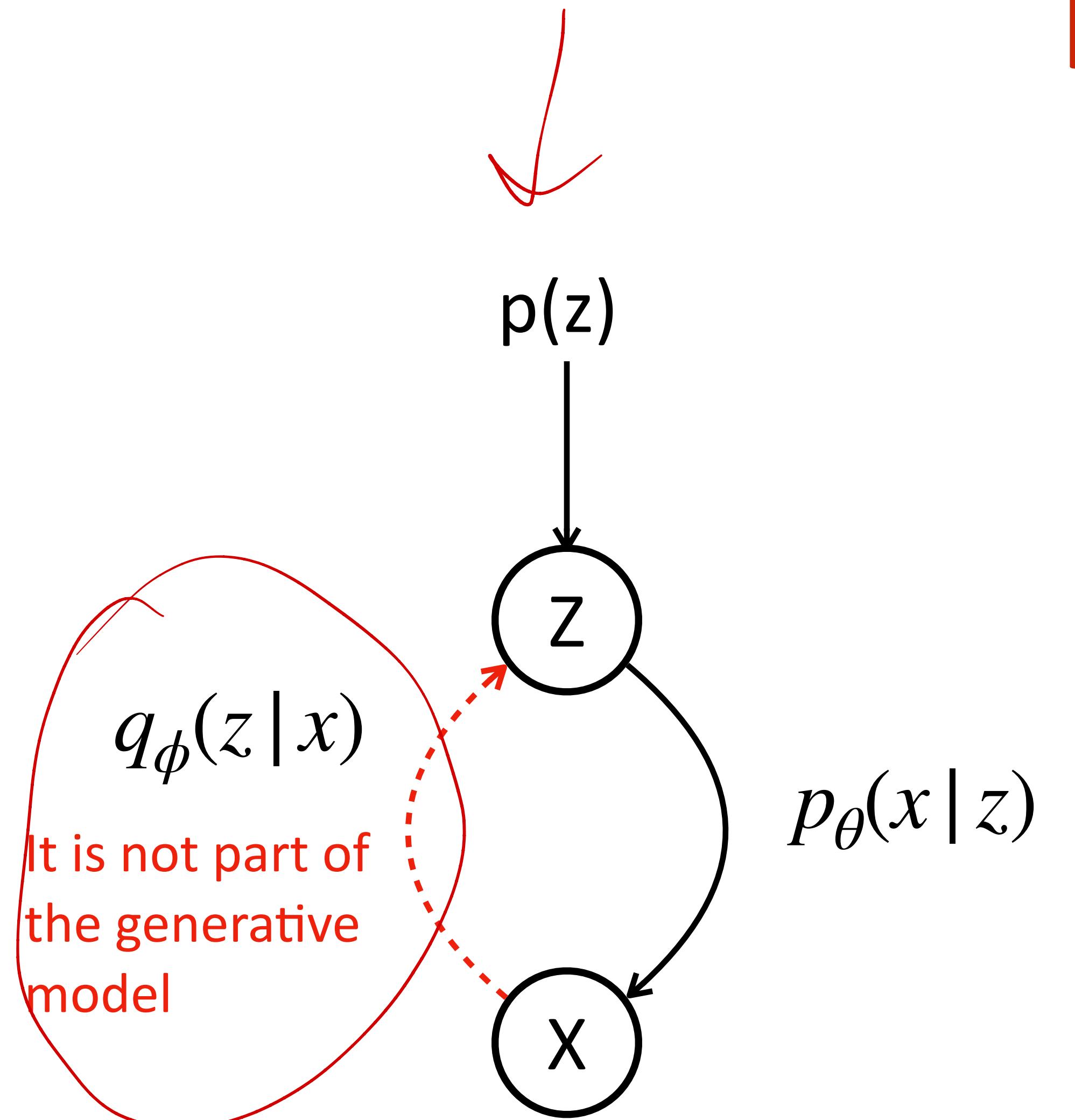
- HW4 is out, it is fairly easy, mainly a reflection of all the COMP5212 contents with only multi-choice questions
- The first round of Kaggle private leaderboard was released last night — do not overoptimize the public leaderboard too much



# Recap: VAEs

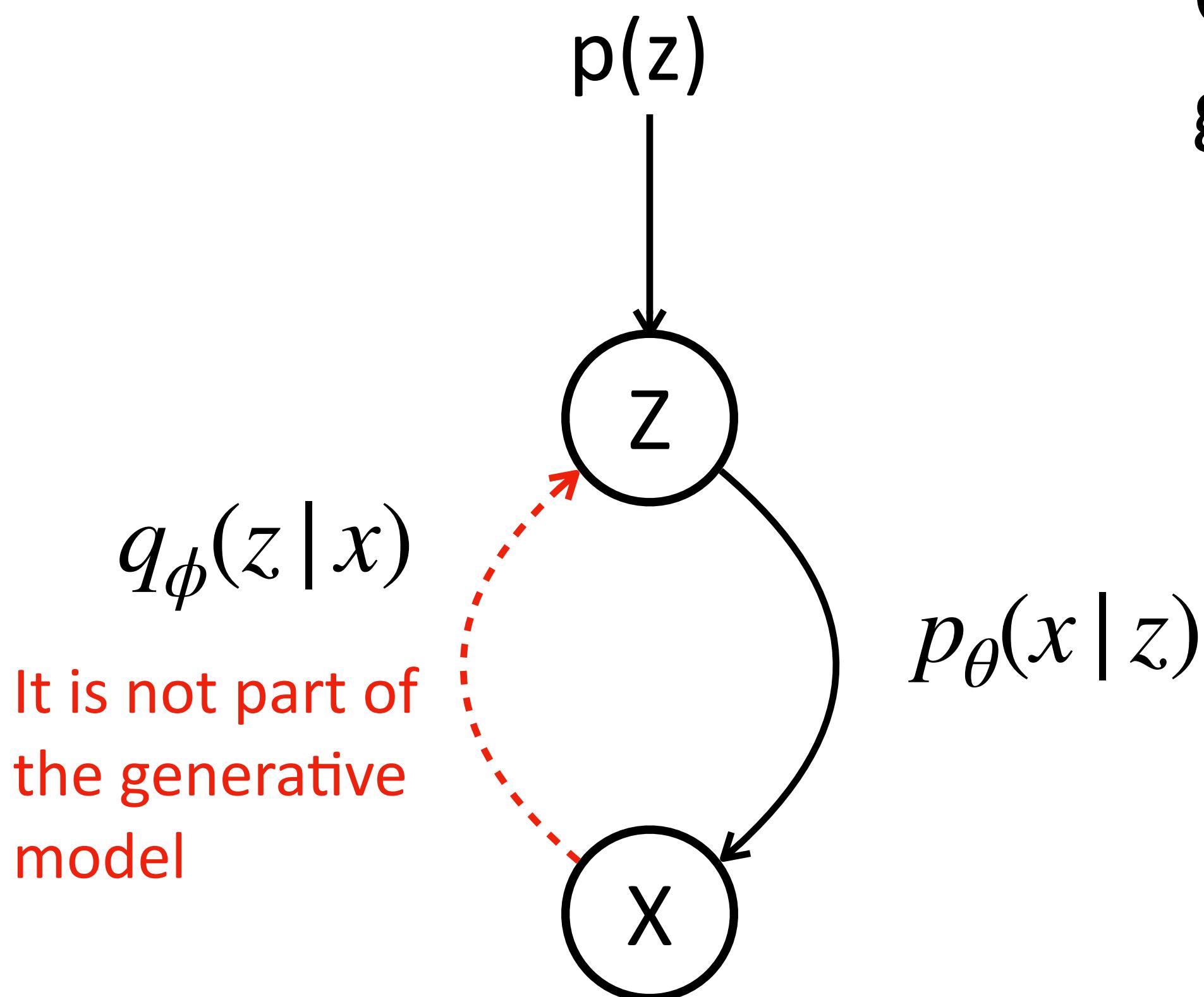


# Recap: VAEs

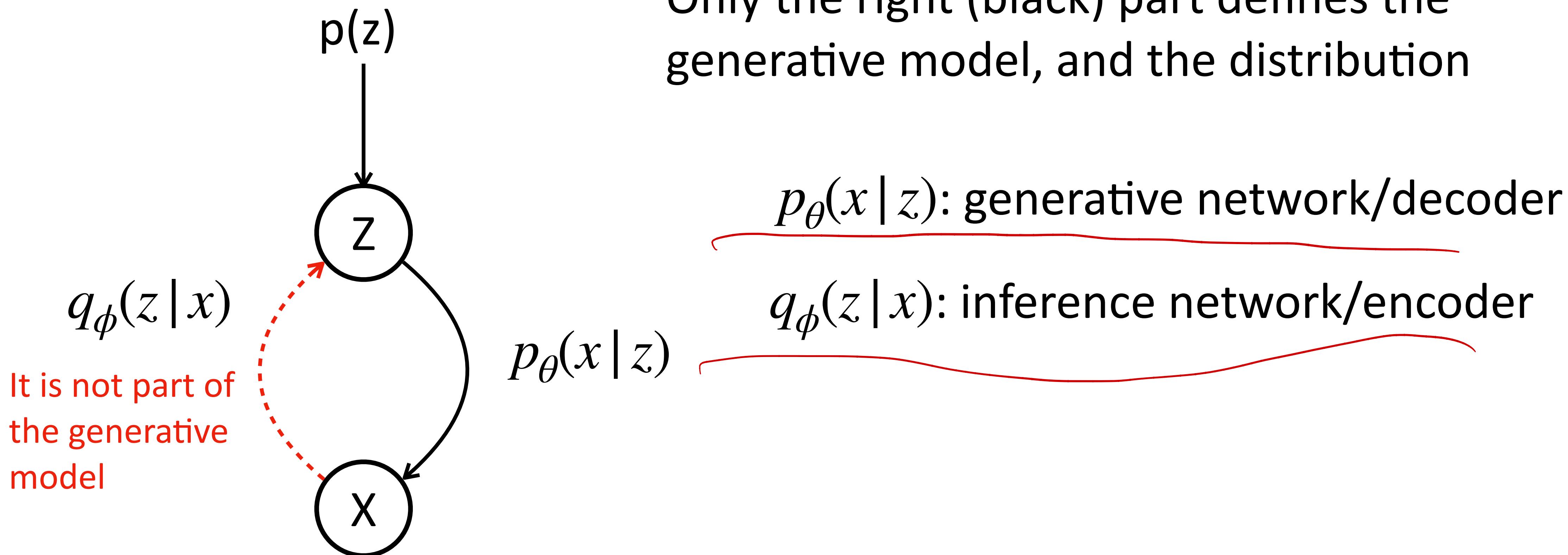


# Recap: VAEs

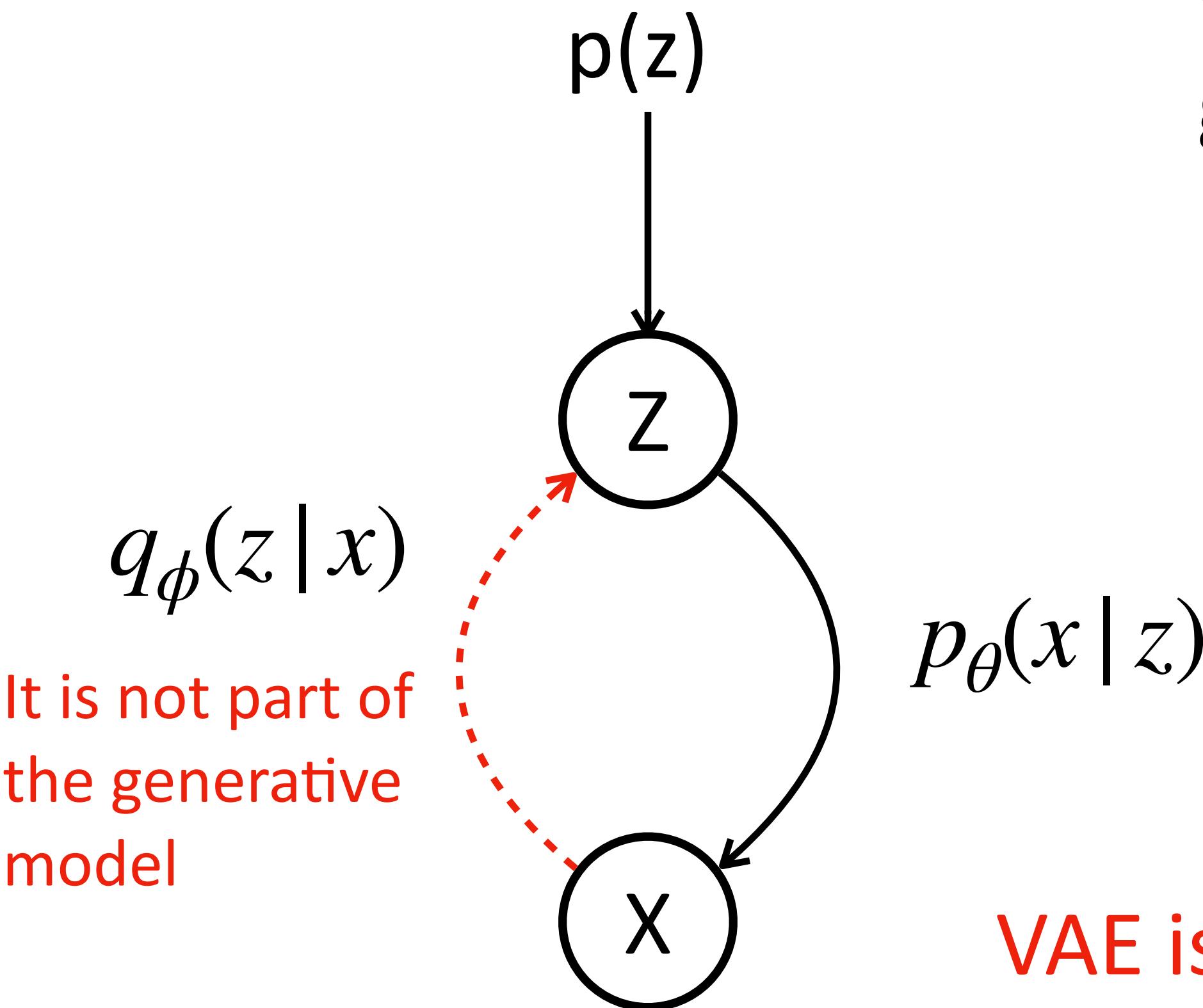
Only the right (black) part defines the generative model, and the distribution



# Recap: VAEs



# Recap: VAEs



Only the right (black) part defines the generative model, and the distribution

$p_\theta(x|z)$ : generative network/decoder

$q_\phi(z|x)$ : inference network/encoder

VAE is a name to represent both the model  $p(x)$  and the inference network that is used to train the model, but do not confuse them together

# Training VAEs

E-Step:

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{\phi} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})}[\log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z})]}_{\text{Reconstruction Loss}} - \underbrace{D_{\text{KL}}(q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})||p(\mathbf{z}))}_{\text{KL Regularizer}}$$

M-Step:

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})}[\log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z})]}_{\text{Reconstruction Loss}} - \underbrace{D_{\text{KL}}(q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})||p(\mathbf{z}))}_{\text{KL Regularizer}}$$

*ELBO*

# Training VAEs

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Intuitively we hope to approximate  $p(z|x)$  with  $q(z|x)$  accurately in the E-step, to approximate the true EM algorithm

# Training VAEs

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**Algorithm 1** Minibatch version of the Auto-Encoding VB (AEVB) algorithm. Either of the two SGVB estimators in section 2.3 can be used. We use settings  $M = 100$  and  $L = 1$  in experiments.

---

```
 $\theta, \phi \leftarrow$  Initialize parameters  
repeat  
     $\mathbf{X}^M \leftarrow$  Random minibatch of  $M$  datapoints (drawn from full dataset)  
     $\epsilon \leftarrow$  Random samples from noise distribution  $p(\epsilon)$   
     $\mathbf{g} \leftarrow \nabla_{\theta, \phi} \tilde{\mathcal{L}}^M(\theta, \phi; \mathbf{X}^M, \epsilon)$  (Gradients of minibatch estimator (8)) ELBO  
     $\theta, \phi \leftarrow$  Update parameters using gradients  $\mathbf{g}$  (e.g. SGD or Adagrad [DHS10])  
until convergence of parameters  $(\theta, \phi)$   
return  $\theta, \phi$ 
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# Training VAEs

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End-to-end, because the objectives are the same (ELBO)

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---

End-to-end, because the objectives are the same (ELBO)

VAE training is optimizing ELBO with gradient descent

# AutoEncoders

# AutoEncoders

$$\text{VAE: } \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})}[\log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z})]}_{\text{Reconstruction Loss}} - \underbrace{D_{\text{KL}}(q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})||p(\mathbf{z}))}_{\text{KL Regularizer}}$$

# AutoEncoders

VAE:

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AE:

$$\log p_{\theta}(x|q(x))$$

$\mathcal{Z} = g(x)$  deterministic

$$z \sim q(z; f(x))$$

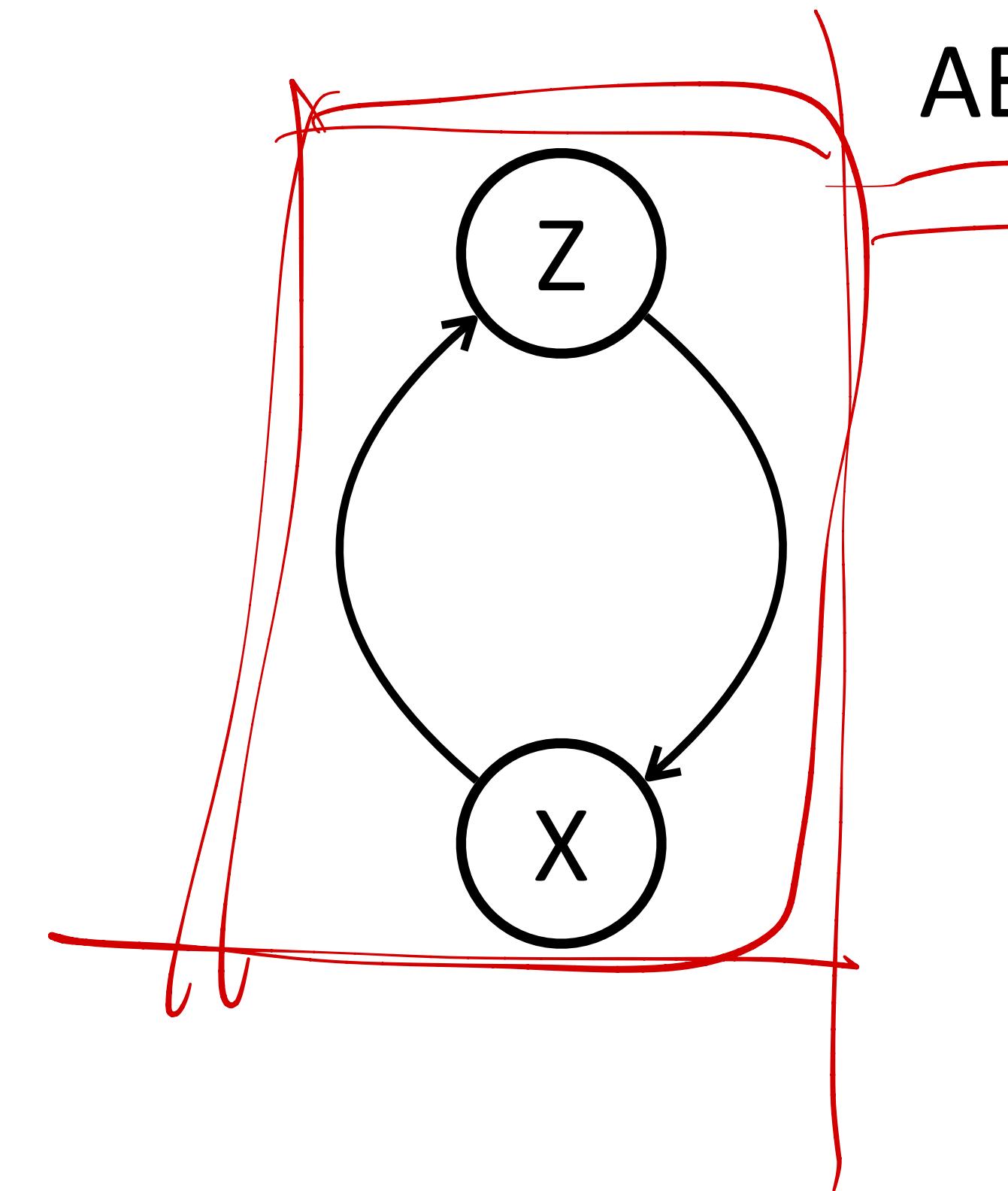
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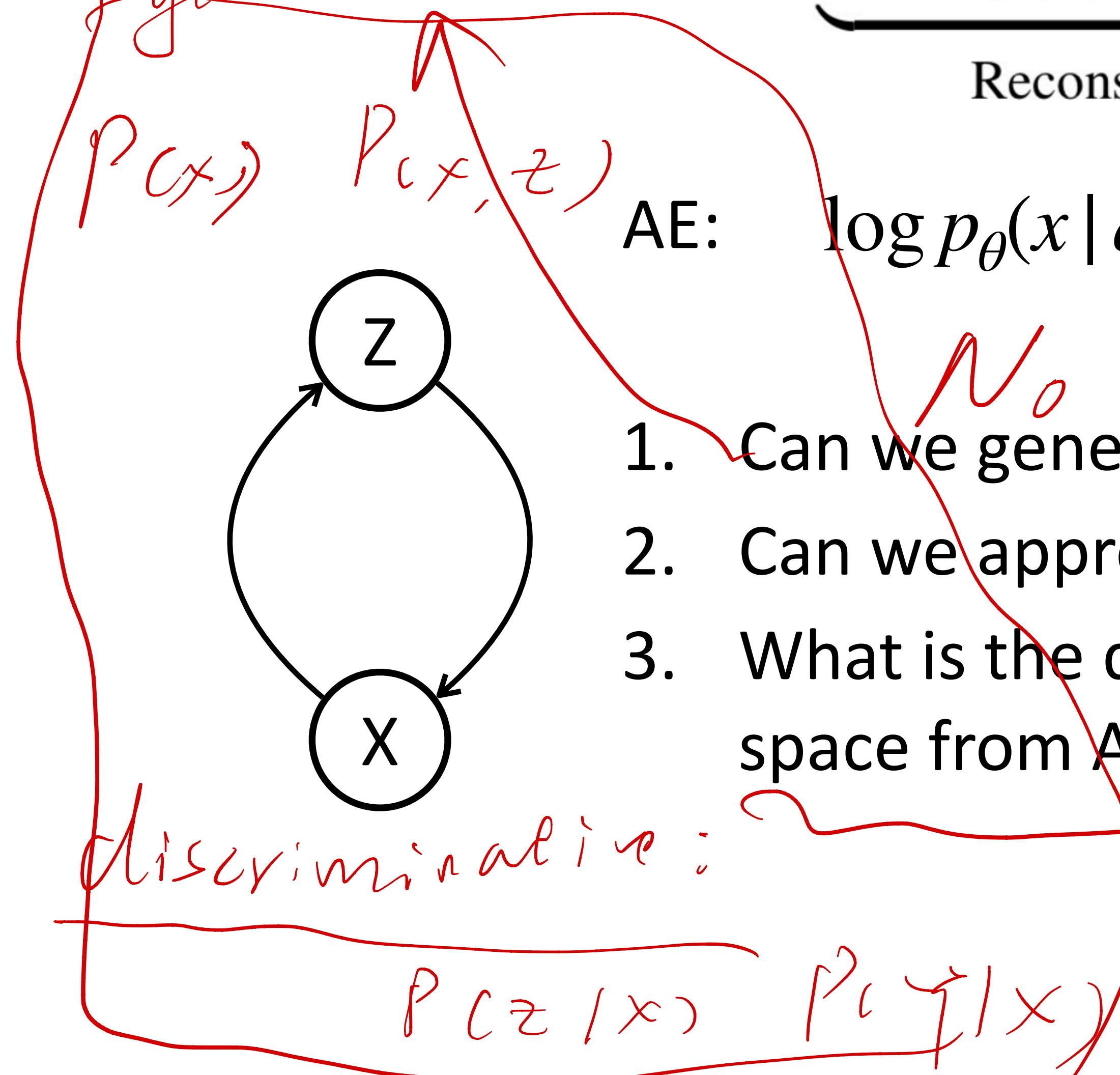
AE:

$$\log p_{\theta}(x | q(x))$$



# AutoEncoders

~~AE is not  
generative mode /~~ VAE:



$$\underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})} [\log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z})]}_{\text{Reconstruction Loss}}$$

$$\log p_\theta(x \mid q(x))$$

$$-\underbrace{D_{\text{KL}}(q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})||p(\mathbf{z}))}_{\text{KL Regularizer}}$$

$P_{Cx}$

1. Can we generate  $X$  samples from an autoencoder?
  2. Can we approximate  $p(x)$  given  $x$  with an autoencoder?
  3. What is the difference between the representation space from AE and VAE?  
2

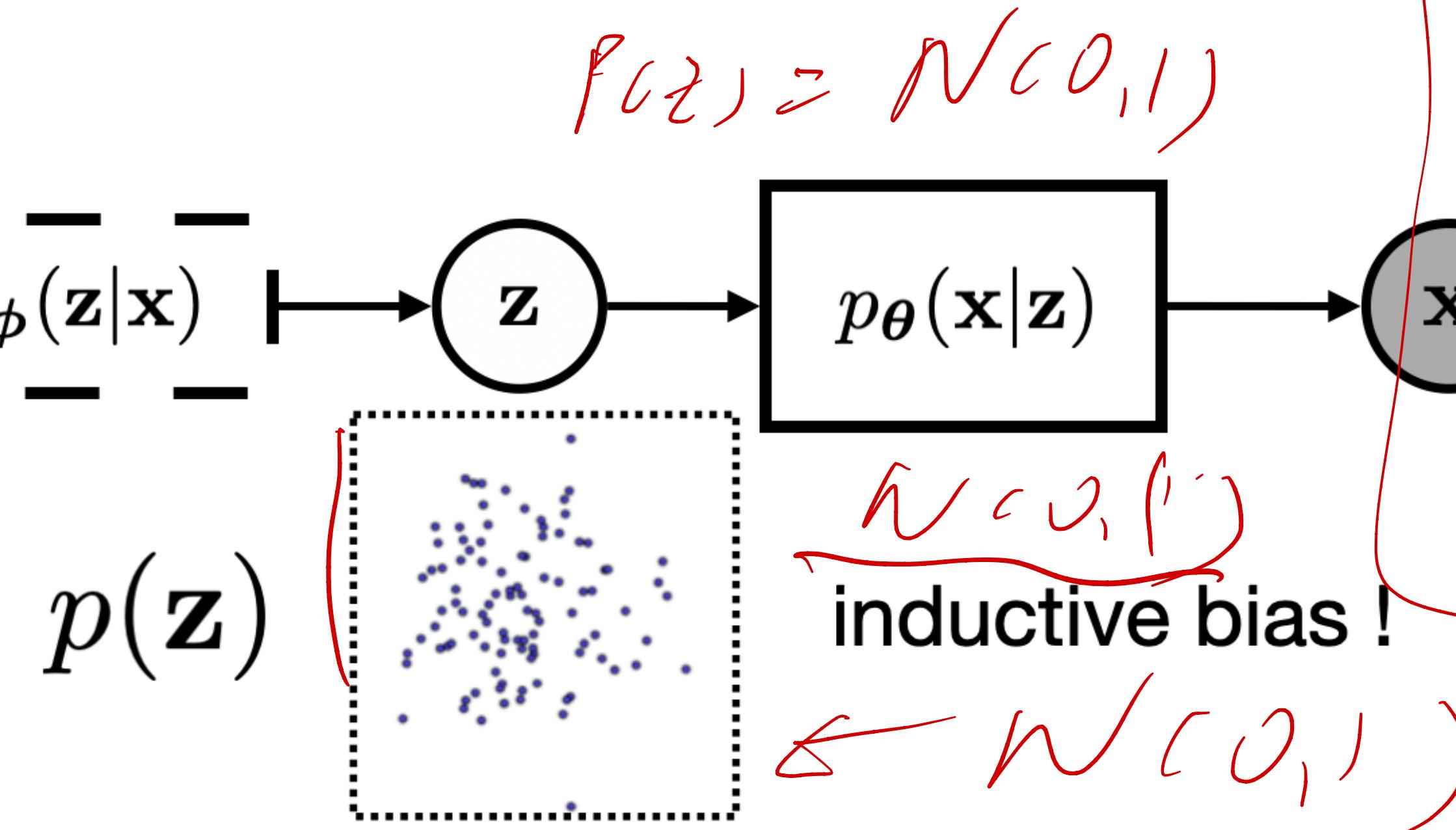
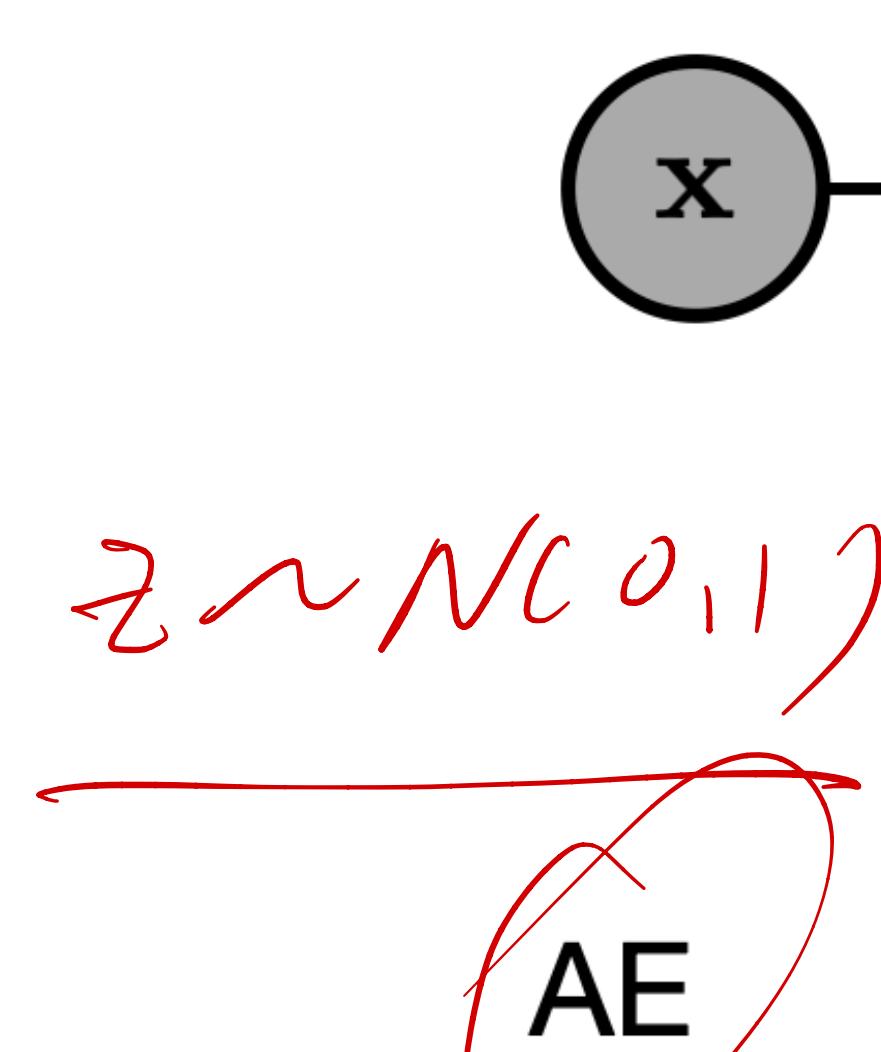
$$z \sim N(0, 1)$$

Pcz

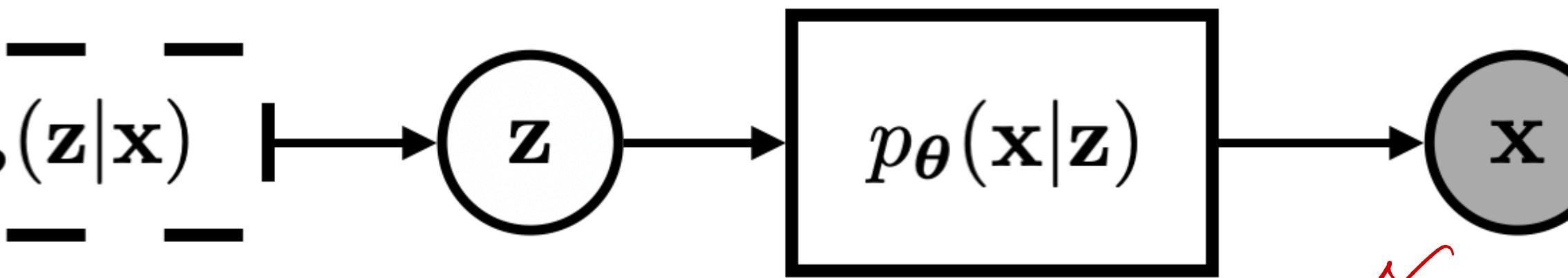
AEG. 27

# VAE v.s. AE

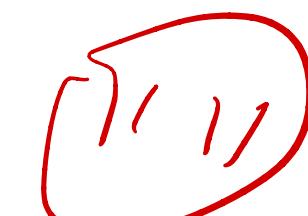
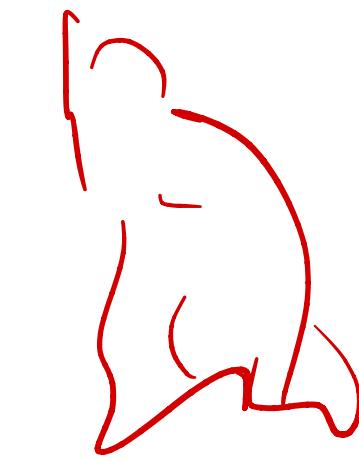
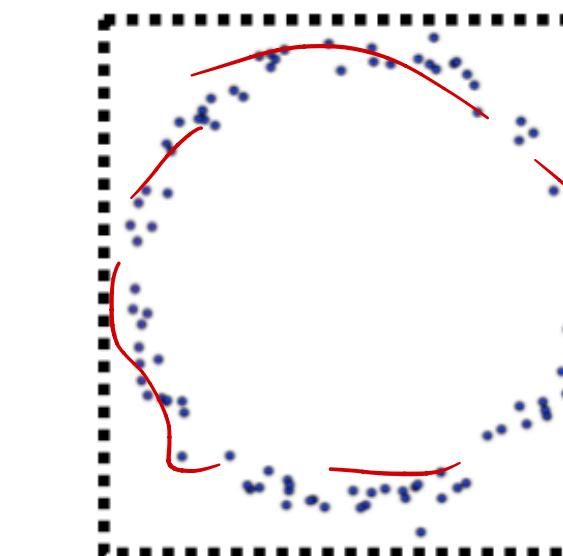
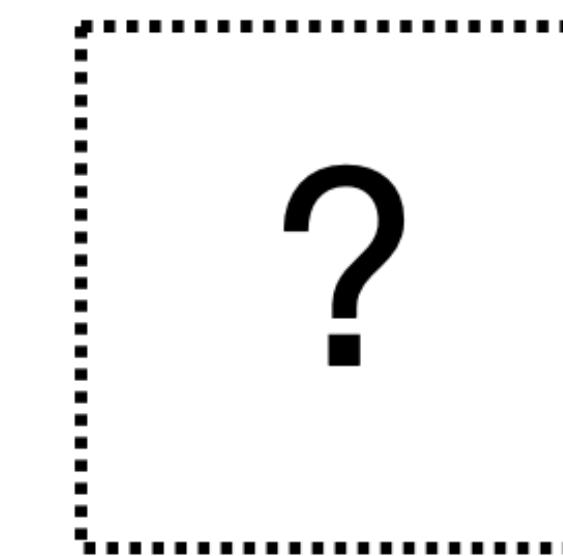
VAE

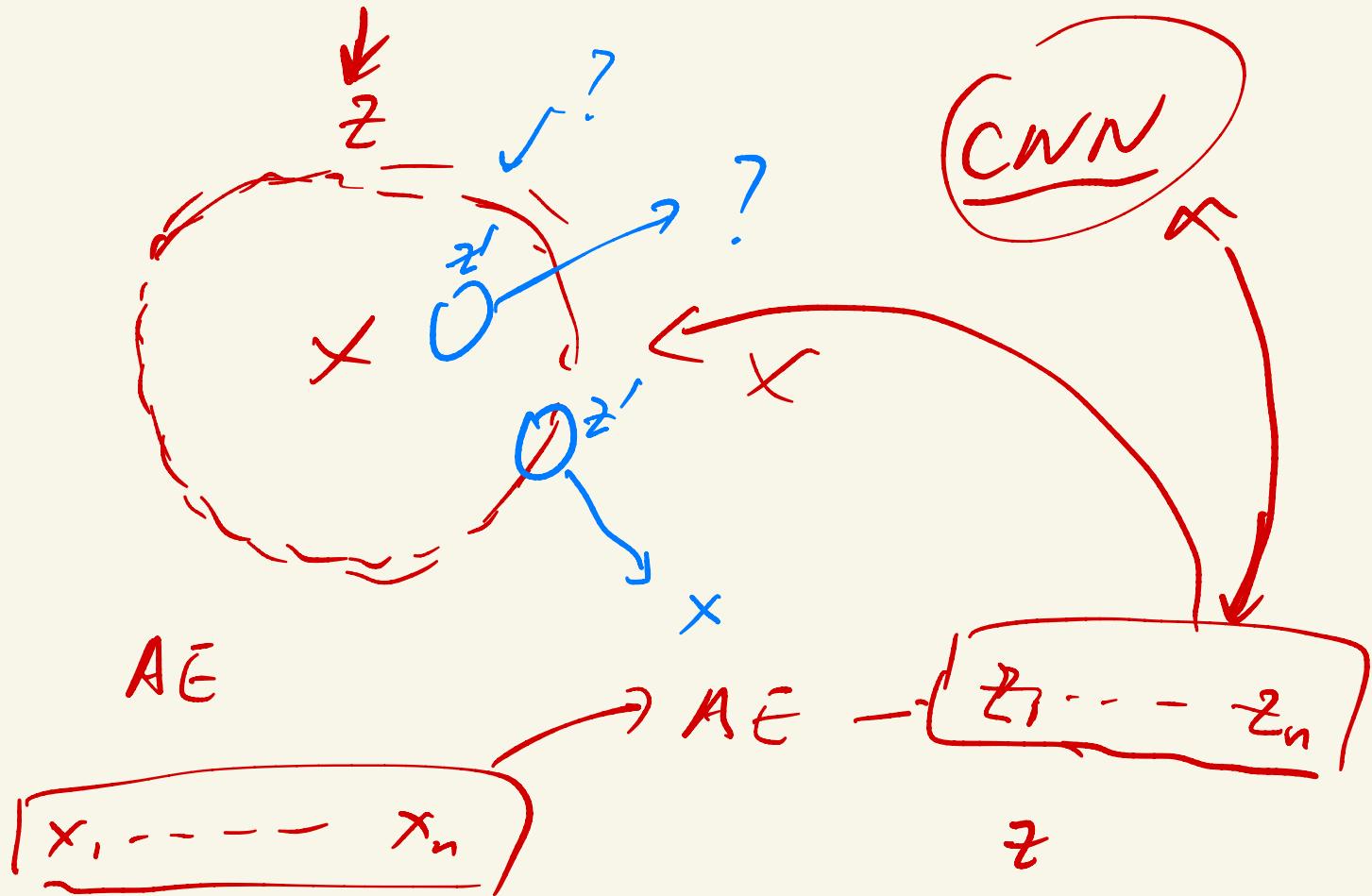


AE



$p(z)$





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## Generative Adversarial Nets

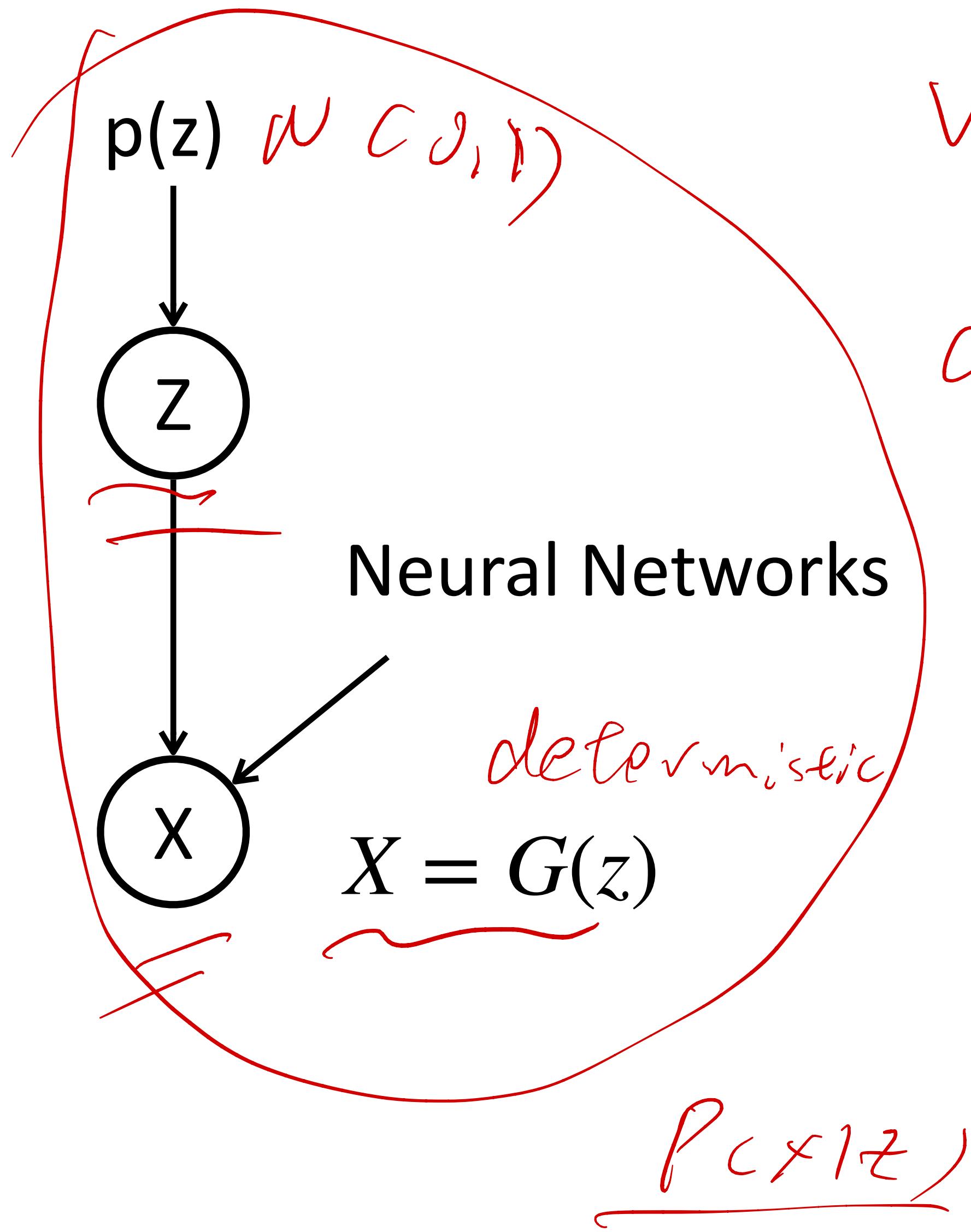
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Sherjil Ozair†, Aaron Courville, Yoshua Bengio‡  
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# Generative Adversarial Networks



# The GAN Model

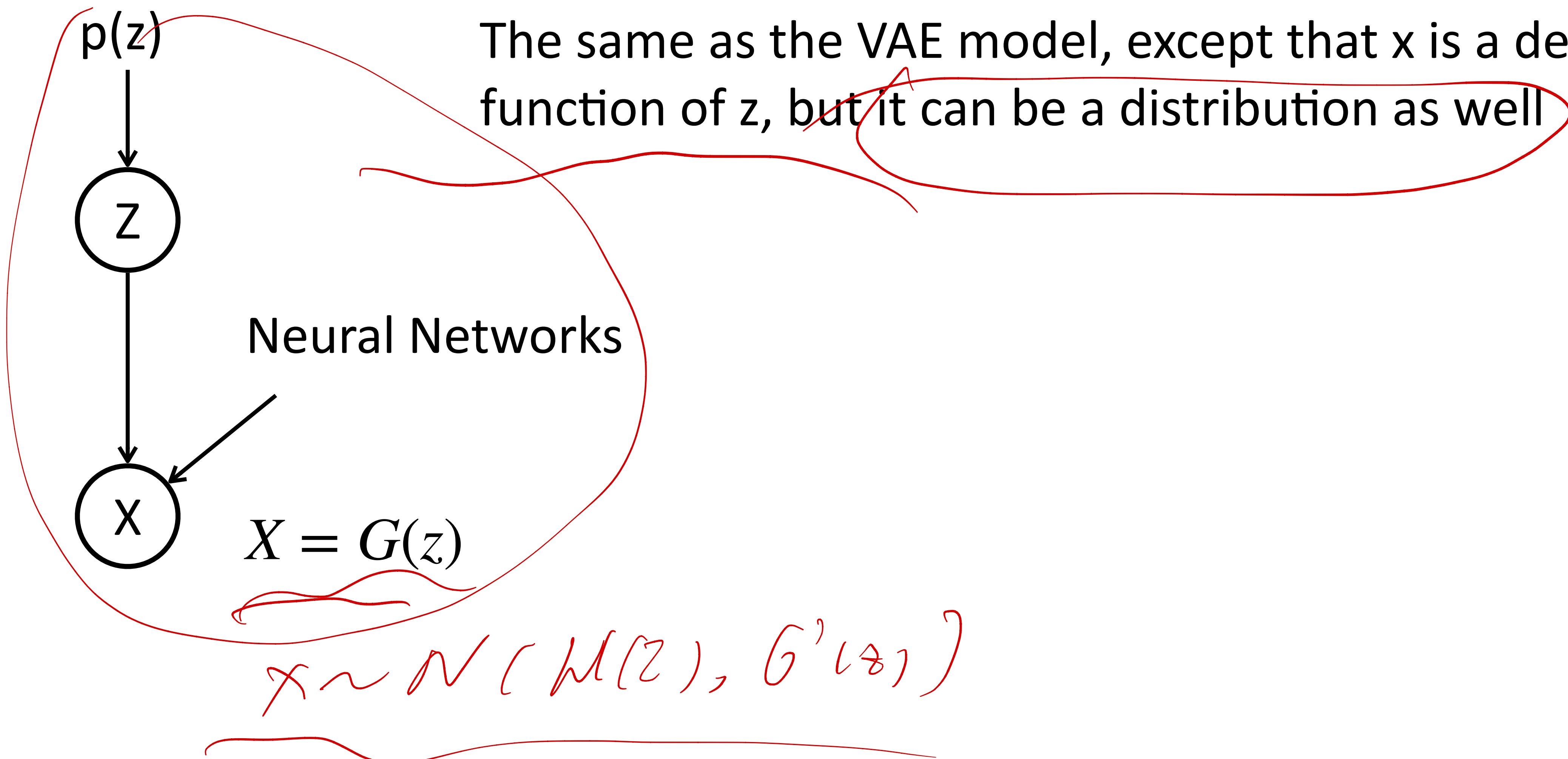


VAE:  $x \sim N(\mu_z, \Sigma(z))$

GAN:  $x \sim G(z; \theta)$

$[P(x|z)] \sim \mathcal{N}$

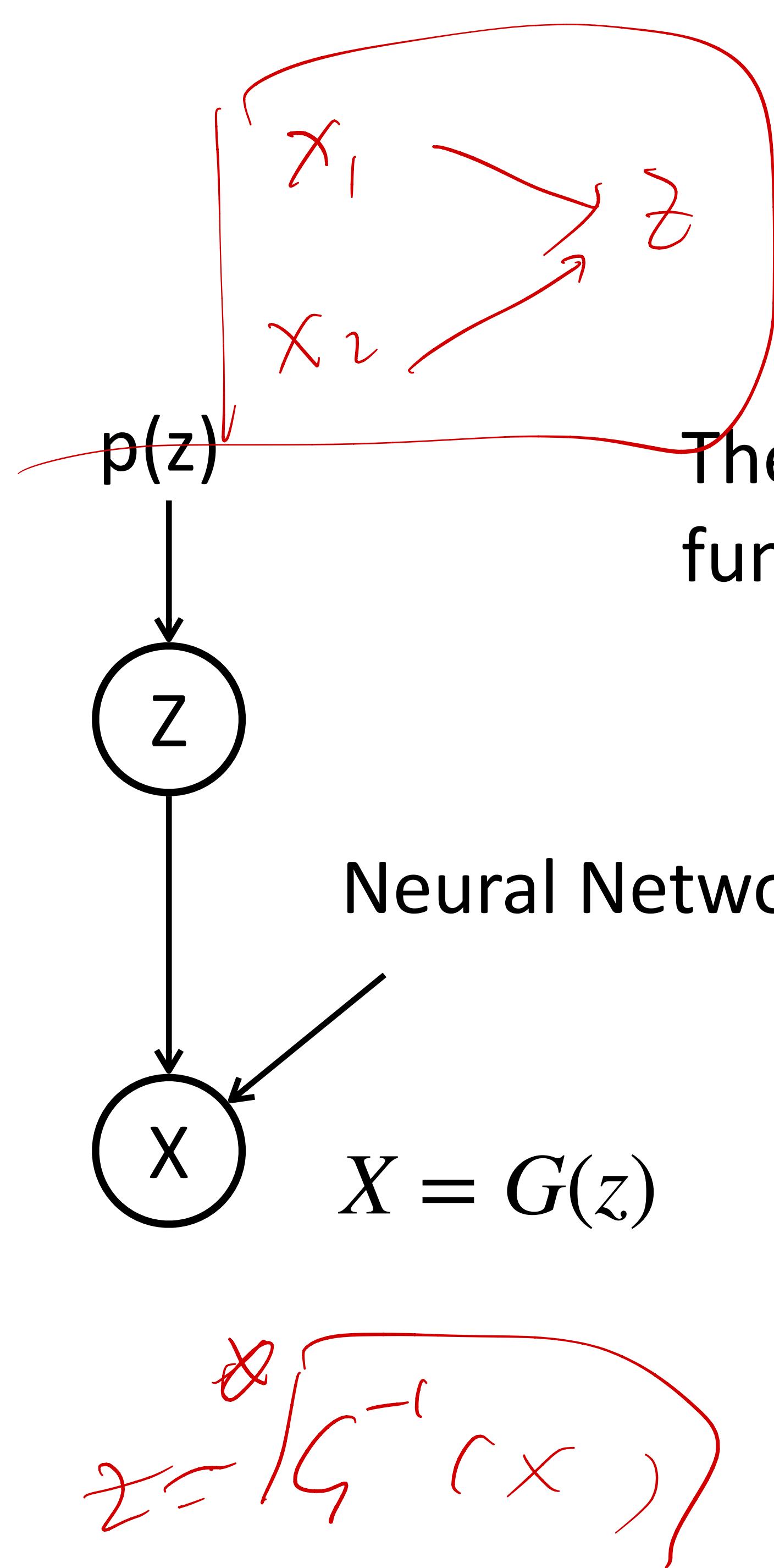
# The GAN Model



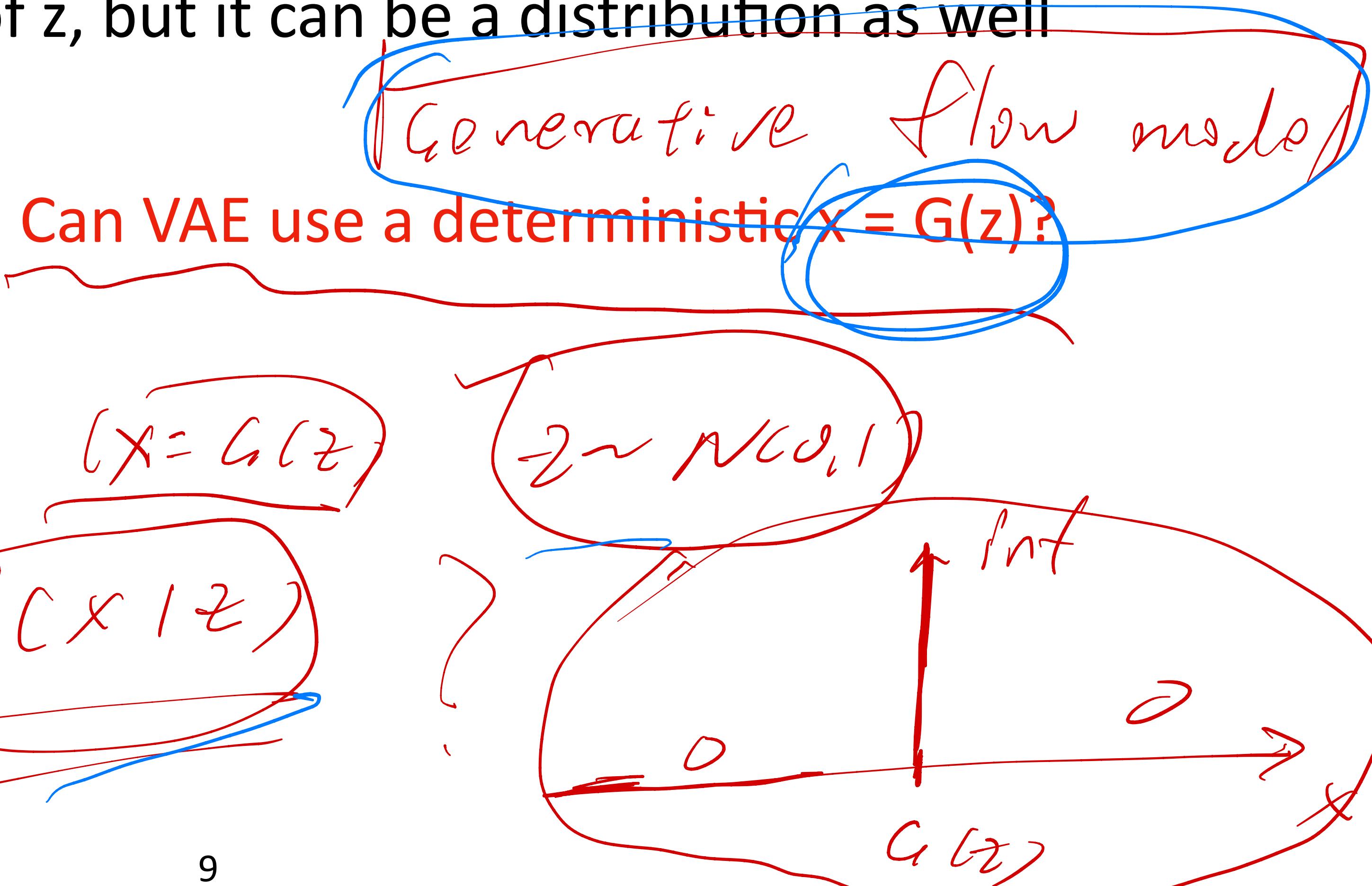
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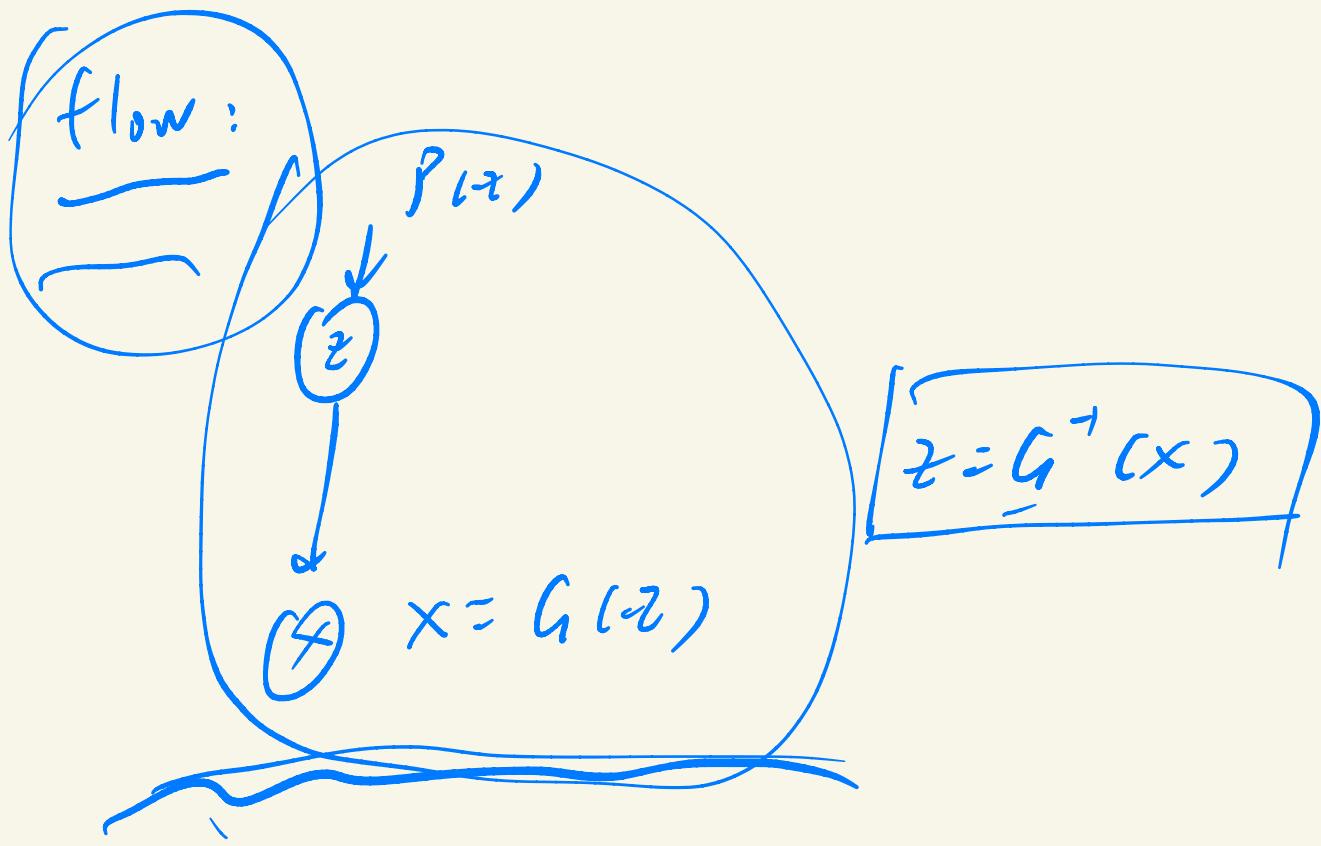
$$x = G(z)$$

$$z = G^{-1}(x)$$

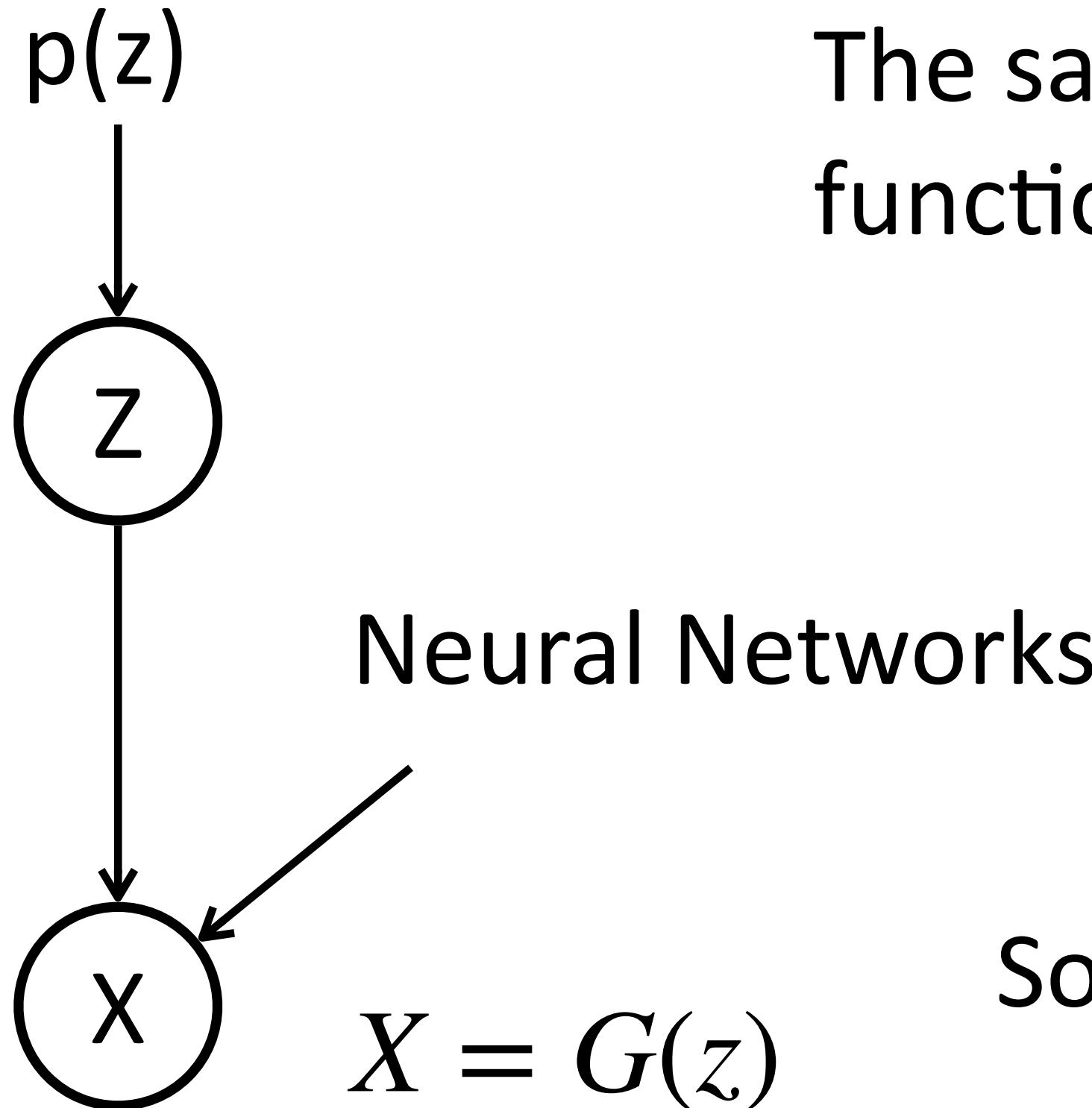


The same as the VAE model, except that  $x$  is a deterministic function of  $z$ , but it can be a distribution as well





# The GAN Model



The same as the VAE model, except that  $x$  is a deterministic function of  $z$ , but it can be a distribution as well

Can VAE use a deterministic  $x = G(z)$ ?

Sometimes we call GANs ~~implicit~~ generative models

You can draw samples, but hard to evaluate  $p(x)$

$P(x)$

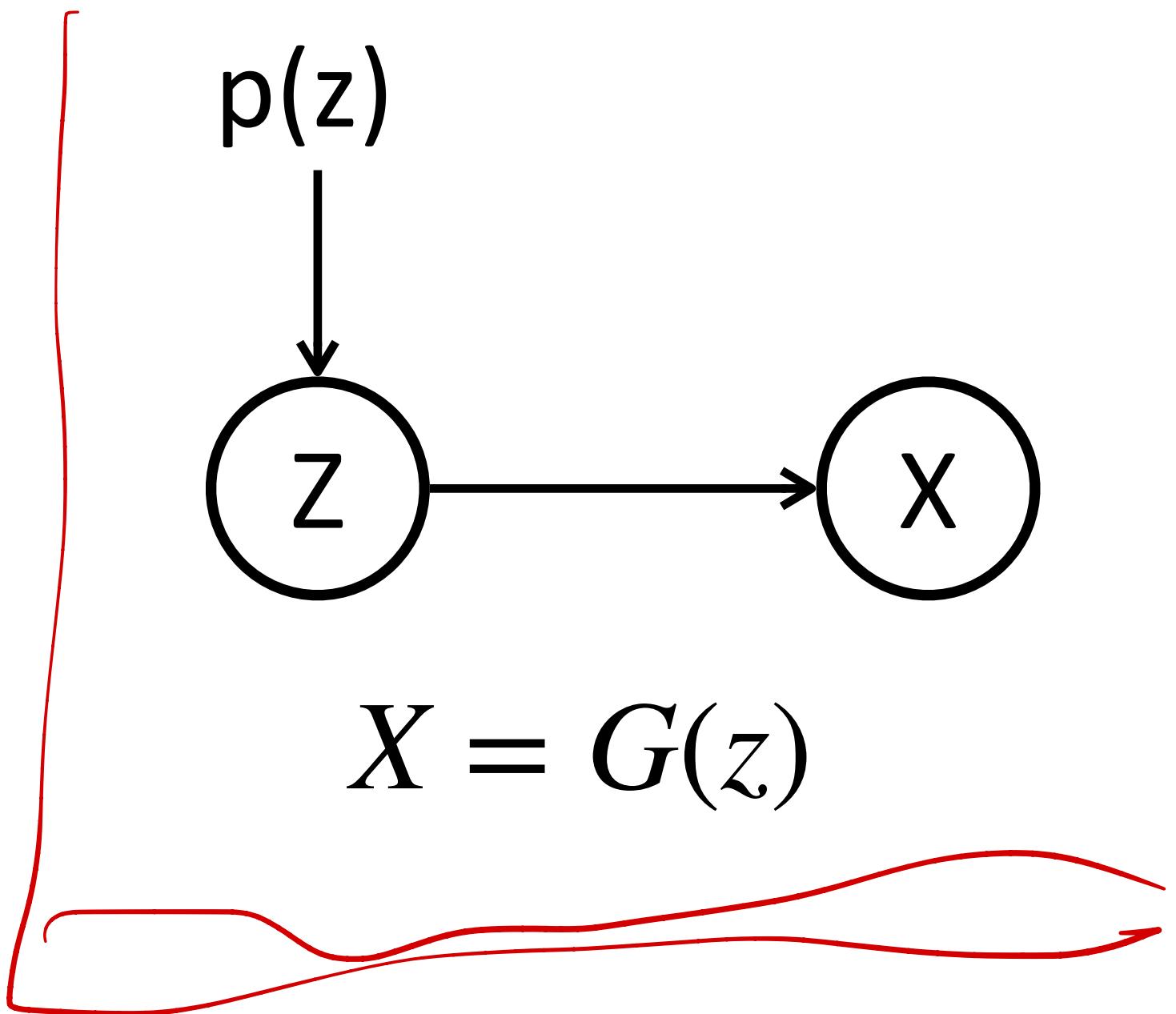
$$z \sim N(0, 1)$$

$$x = G(z)$$

$$\mathbb{E}_{\tilde{P}(B)}[\log P(x_0)] ?$$

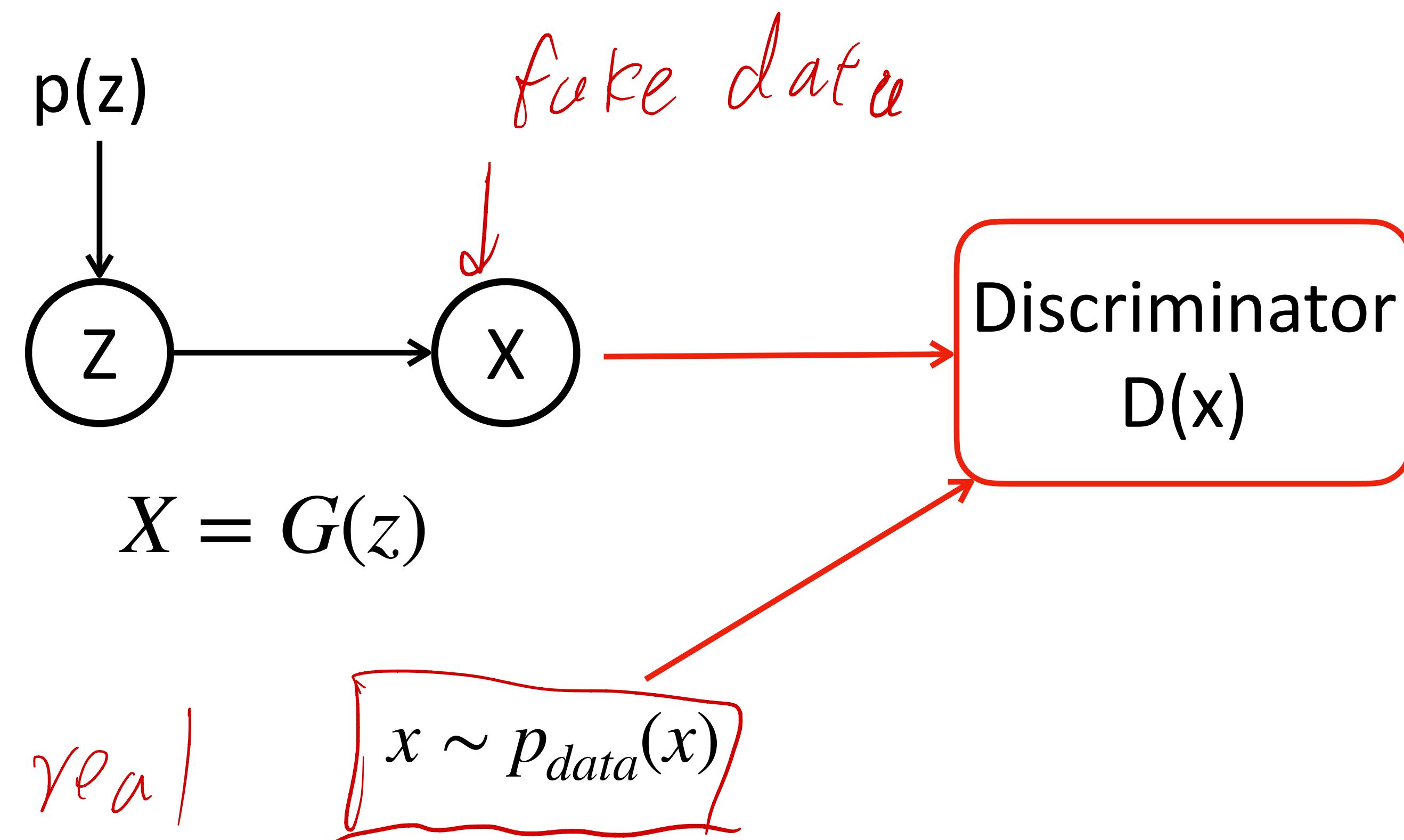
# Training GANs

## Computation Graph



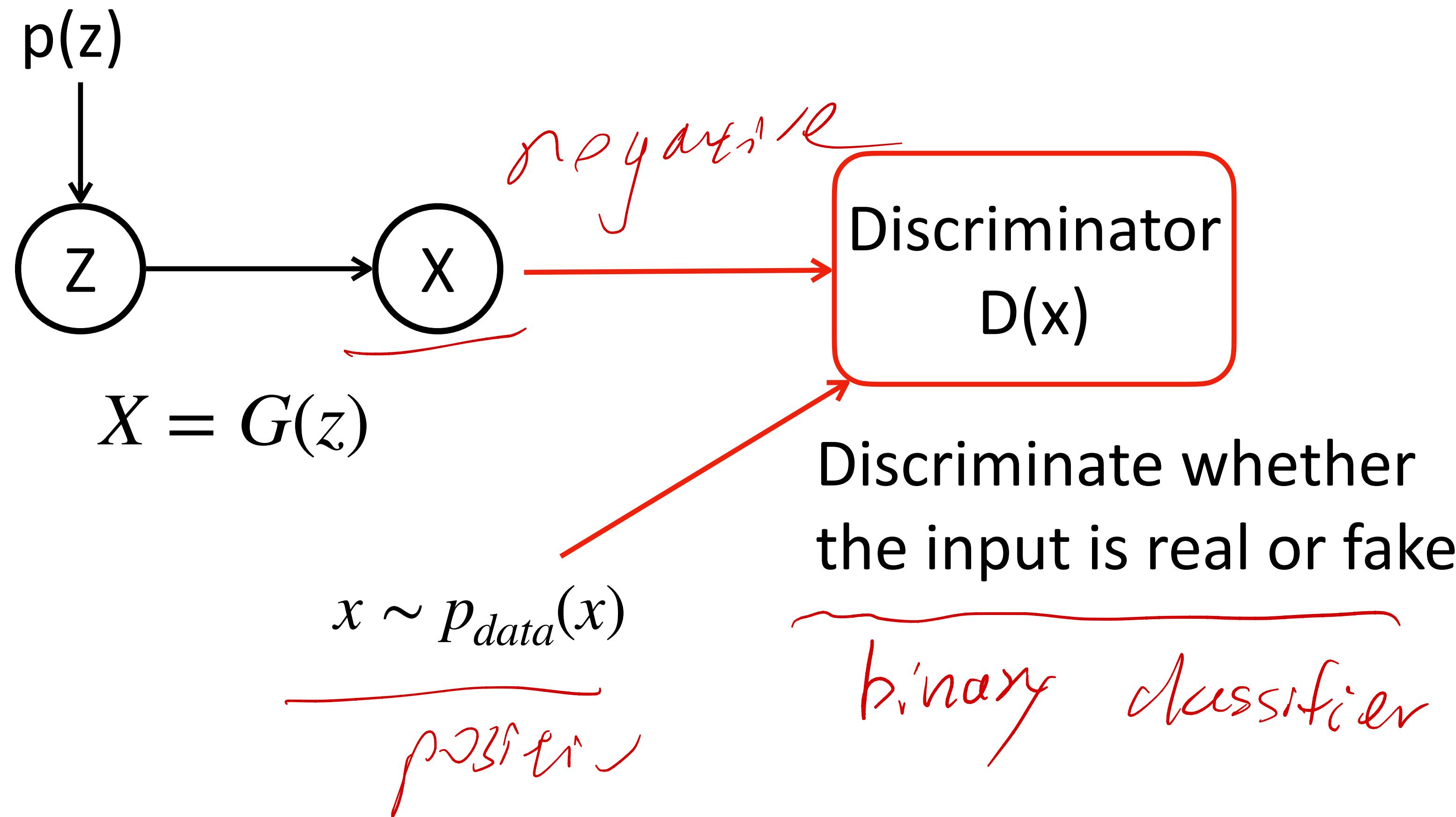
# Training GANs

Computation Graph



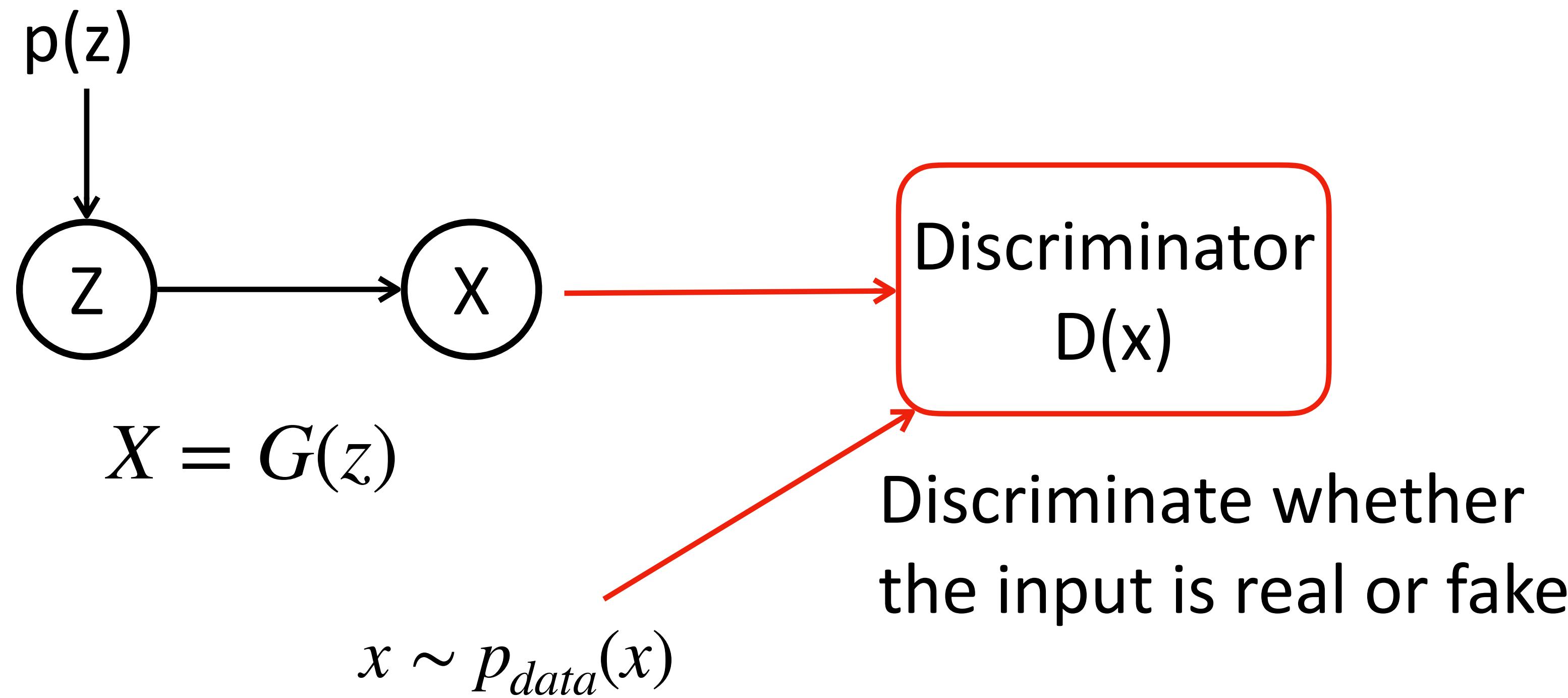
# Training GANs

Computation Graph



# Training GANs

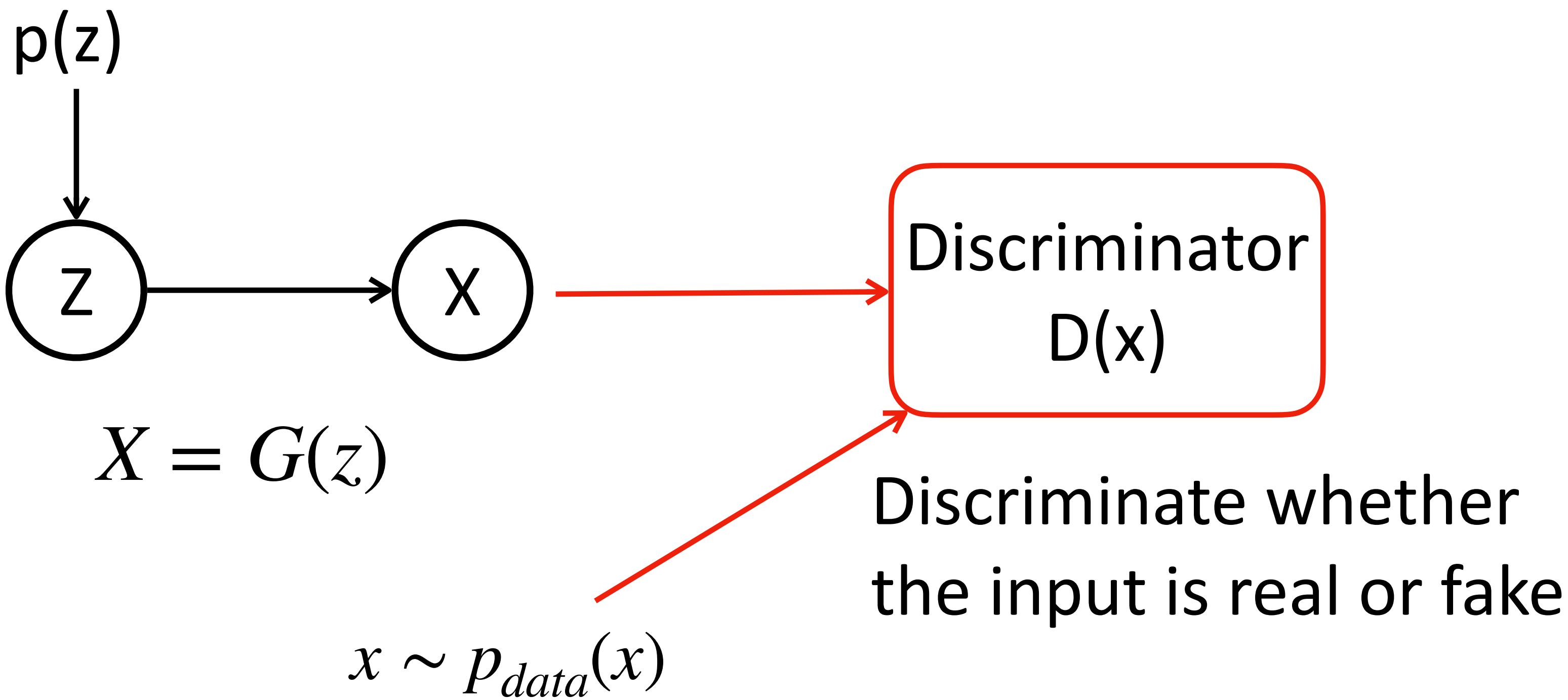
Computation Graph



1. Generator is trained to produce realistic examples to fool the discriminator

# Training GANs

## Computation Graph



1. Generator is trained to produce realistic examples to fool the discriminator
2. Discriminator is trained to discriminate real and fake examples

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The two objectives are against each other

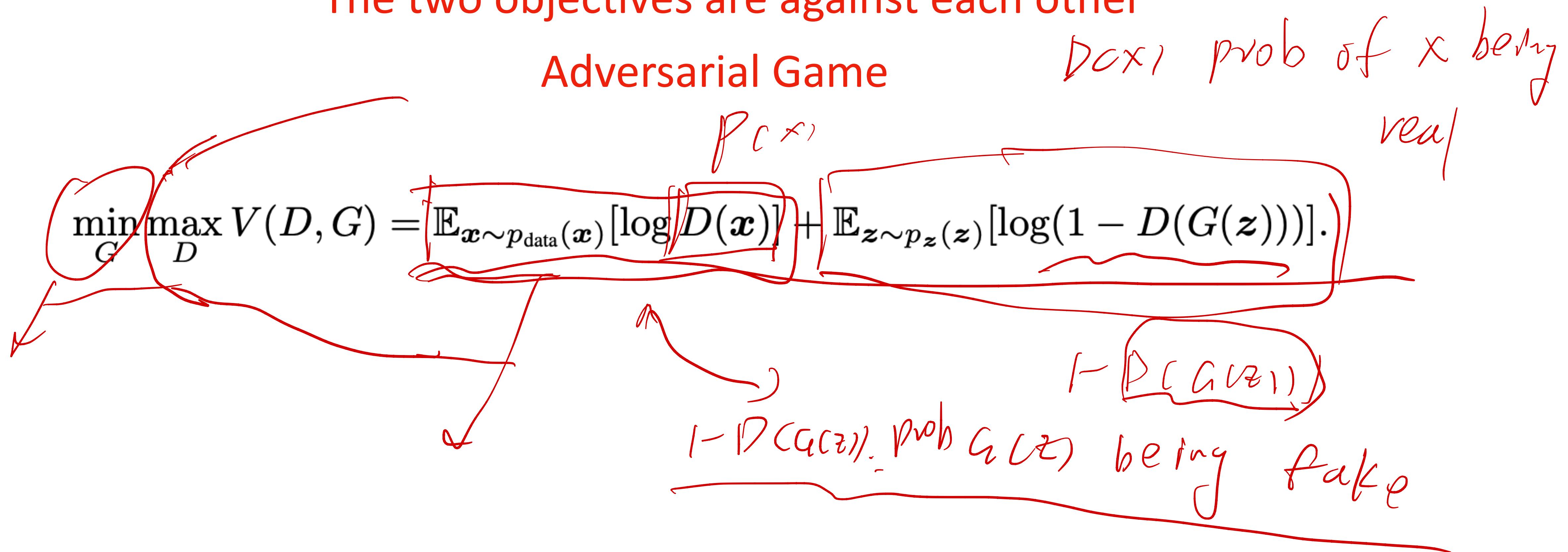
Adversarial Game

Generative Adversarial Model

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Adversarial Game

$$\min_G \max_D V(D, G) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x})} [\log D(\mathbf{x})] + \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim p_{\mathbf{z}}(\mathbf{z})} [\log(1 - D(G(\mathbf{z})))].$$

Classification loss

# Training GANs

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Classification loss

$G(z)$  is trained to minimize the probability of  $G(z)$  recognized as “fake” by  $D$

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Classification loss

*optimization*

$G(z)$  is trained to minimize the probability of  $G(z)$  recognized as “fake” by  $D$

$D(x)$  is trained with a standard classification loss

# Training GANs

1. GAN is a new algorithm to train a common generative model (VAE as well)
2. GAN training is not MLE

# Theory of GANs

$$\min_G \max_D V(D, G) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x})} [\log D(\mathbf{x})] + \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim p_{\mathbf{z}}(\mathbf{z})} [\log(1 - D(G(\mathbf{z})))].$$

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**Proposition 1.** For  $G$  fixed, the optimal discriminator  $D$  is

$$D_G^*(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x})}{p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x}) + p_g(\mathbf{x})}$$

$\downarrow \min \max$

$$\begin{array}{c} G \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} D \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$G^*$$

$$P_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \hline \\ \hline \end{array}$$

# Theory of GANs

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$$D_G^*(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x})}{p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x}) + p_g(\mathbf{x})}$$

$$C(G) = \max_D V(G, D)$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_{\text{data}}} [\log D_G^*(\mathbf{x})] + \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim p_{\mathbf{z}}} [\log(1 - D_G^*(G(\mathbf{z})))]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_{\text{data}}} [\log D_G^*(\mathbf{x})] + \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_g} [\log(1 - D_G^*(\mathbf{x}))]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_{\text{data}}} \left[ \log \frac{p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x})}{P_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x}) + p_g(\mathbf{x})} \right] + \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_g} \left[ \log \frac{p_g(\mathbf{x})}{p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x}) + p_g(\mathbf{x})} \right]$$

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~~Theorem 1.~~ The global minimum of the virtual training criterion  $C(G)$  is achieved if and only if  $p_g = p_{\text{data}}$ . At that point,  $C(G)$  achieves the value  $-\log 4$ .

$$p_g = p_{\text{data}}$$

$$P_g(x) = P_{\text{data}}(x)$$

MLE

:  $\max \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim P_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x})} \log P_g(\mathbf{x})$

$$MLE: \arg \min_{p_g(x)} KL(P_{\text{data}}(x) || P_g(x)) \geq 0$$

$$\arg \max_{P_g(x)} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P_{\text{data}}(x)} \log P_g(x)$$

$P_g(x) \neq P_{\text{data}}(x)$   $\Rightarrow$  Jensen's inequality

$$\arg \max_{P_g(x)} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P_{\text{data}}(x)} \log P_g(x) - \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P_{\text{data}}(x)} \log P_{\text{data}}(x)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \arg \min_{p_g(x)} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P_{\text{data}}} \log P_{\text{data}}(x) - \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P_{\text{data}}} \log P_g(x)$$

# Theory of GANs

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$$C(G) = -\log(4) + KL \left( p_{\text{data}} \middle\| \frac{p_{\text{data}} + p_g}{2} \right) + KL \left( p_g \middle\| \frac{p_{\text{data}} + p_g}{2} \right)$$



# Theory of GANs

$$\min_G \max_D V(D, G) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x})} [\log D(\mathbf{x})] + \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim p_{\mathbf{z}}(\mathbf{z})} [\log(1 - D(G(\mathbf{z})))].$$

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$$C(G) = -\log(4) + 2 \cdot JSD(p_{\text{data}} \| p_g)$$

# Theory of GANs

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$$C(G) = -\log(4) + 2 \cdot JSD(p_{\text{data}} \| p_g)$$

**Proposition 2.** *If  $G$  and  $D$  have enough capacity, and at each step of Algorithm 1, the discriminator is allowed to reach its optimum given  $G$ , and  $p_g$  is updated so as to improve the criterion*

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_{\text{data}}} [\log D_G^*(\mathbf{x})] + \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_g} [\log(1 - D_G^*(\mathbf{x}))]$$

*then  $p_g$  converges to  $p_{\text{data}}$*

# Theory of GANs

$$\min_G \max_D V(D, G) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x})} [\log D(\mathbf{x})] + \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim p_{\mathbf{z}}(\mathbf{z})} [\log(1 - D(G(\mathbf{z})))].$$

**Theorem 1.** *The global minimum of the virtual training criterion  $C(G)$  is achieved if and only if  $p_g = p_{\text{data}}$ . At that point,  $C(G)$  achieves the value  $-\log 4$ .*

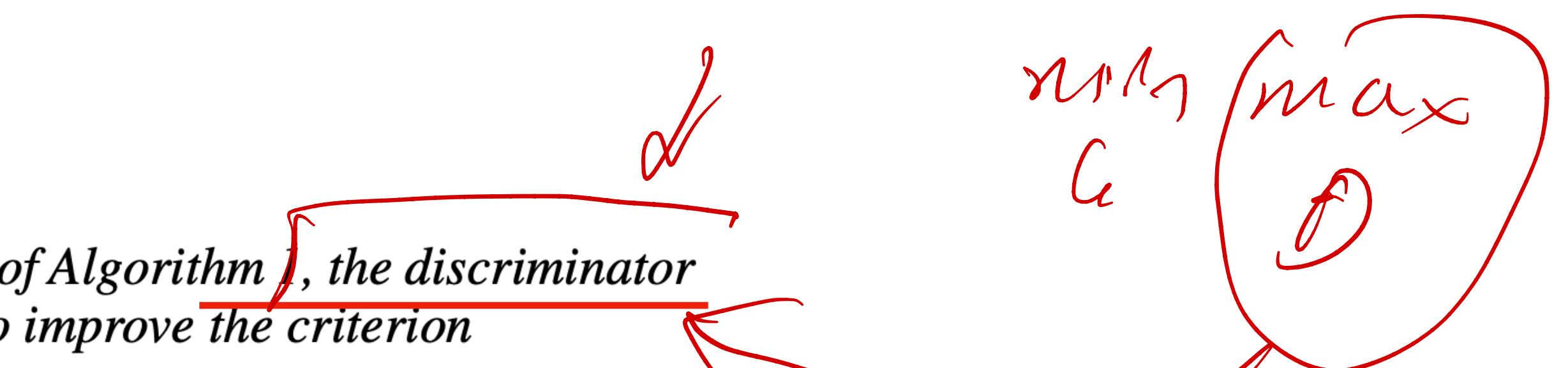
$$C(G) = -\log(4) + KL \left( p_{\text{data}} \middle\| \frac{p_{\text{data}} + p_g}{2} \right) + KL \left( p_g \middle\| \frac{p_{\text{data}} + p_g}{2} \right)$$

$$C(G) = -\log(4) + 2 \cdot JSD(p_{\text{data}} \| p_g)$$

**Proposition 2.** *If  $G$  and  $D$  have enough capacity, and at each step of Algorithm 1, the discriminator is allowed to reach its optimum given  $G$ , and  $p_g$  is updated so as to improve the criterion*

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_{\text{data}}} [\log D_G^*(\mathbf{x})] + \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_g} [\log(1 - D_G^*(\mathbf{x}))]$$

*then  $p_g$  converges to  $p_{\text{data}}$*



# Training GANs

---

**Algorithm 1** Minibatch stochastic gradient descent training of generative adversarial nets. The number of steps to apply to the discriminator,  $k$ , is a hyperparameter. We used  $k = 1$ , the least expensive option, in our experiments.

---

```
for number of training iterations do
    for  $k$  steps do
        • Sample minibatch of  $m$  noise samples  $\{\mathbf{z}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{z}^{(m)}\}$  from noise prior  $p_g(\mathbf{z})$ .
        • Sample minibatch of  $m$  examples  $\{\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(m)}\}$  from data generating distribution  $p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x})$ .
        • Update the discriminator by ascending its stochastic gradient:
```

$$\nabla_{\theta_d} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left[ \log D(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) + \log (1 - D(G(\mathbf{z}^{(i)}))) \right].$$

```
end for
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```

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```

The gradient-based updates can use any standard gradient-based learning rule. We used momentum in our experiments.

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**Algorithm 1** Minibatch stochastic gradient descent training of generative adversarial nets. The number of steps to apply to the discriminator,  $k$ , is a hyperparameter. We used  $k = 1$ , the least expensive option, in our experiments.

Inner loop to update  
discriminator first

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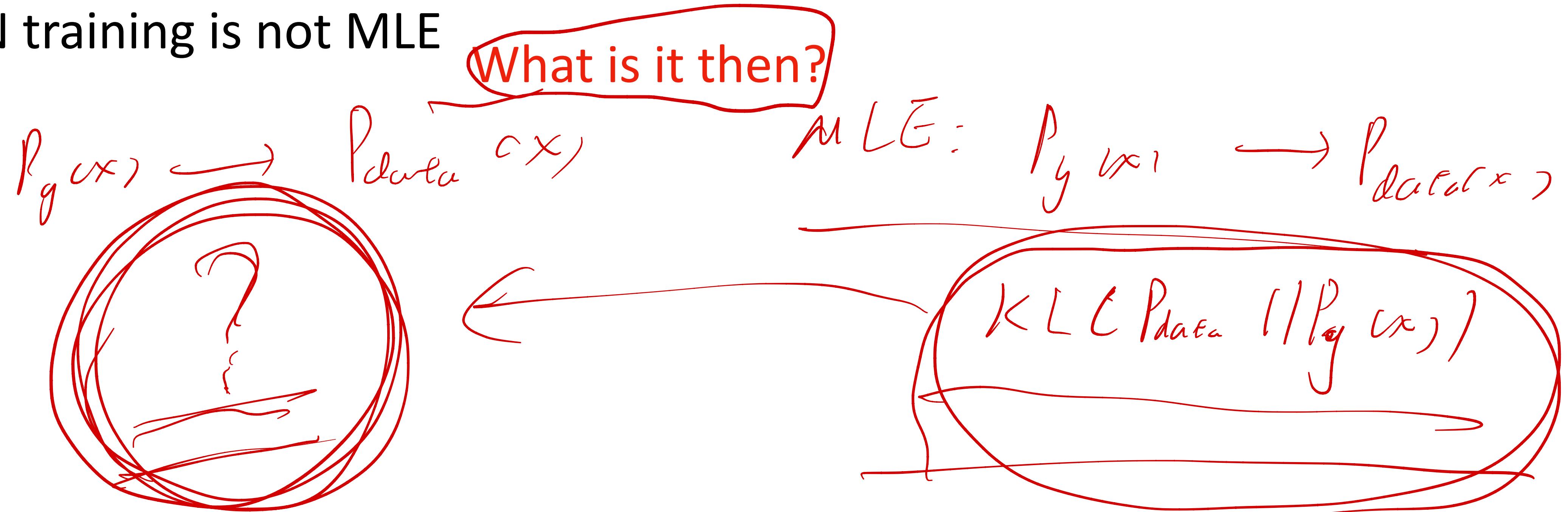
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$p_g^*$  is from the solution of the discriminator, which is fixed when optimizing  $\theta$

$\min \max$

$\theta$

$\mu$

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*KL distance is not symmetric*

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MLE:

$$\nabla_\theta C(G) = \nabla_\theta KL(p_g(x; \theta) || \frac{p_{data} + p_g^*(x)}{2})$$

$$KL(p_{data}(x) || p_g(x))$$

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$$KL(p || q) \neq KL(q || p)$$

$\text{KL}(P_g(x) || P_{data}) =$

$\quad \quad \quad E_{x \sim P_g(x)} [\log P_g(x)] - E_{x \sim P_g(x)} [\log P_{data}(x)]$

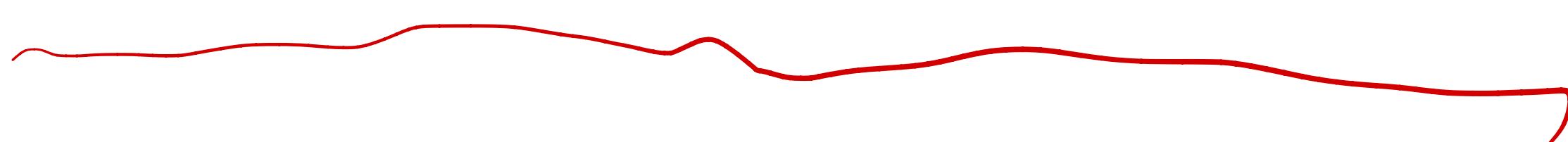
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$$KL(p || q) \neq KL(q || p)$$

KL divergence is asymmetric, and GANs' KL divergence is in the opposite direction with respect to MLE



# GANs v.s. VAEs

Brock et al. LARGE SCALE GAN TRAINING FOR HIGH  
FIDELITY NATURAL IMAGE SYNTHESIS. ICLR 2019.

## GANs v.s. VAEs

GANs are widely demonstrated to show superiority to VAEs on generating realistic, vivid images. In contrast, VAEs' generation is more blurred



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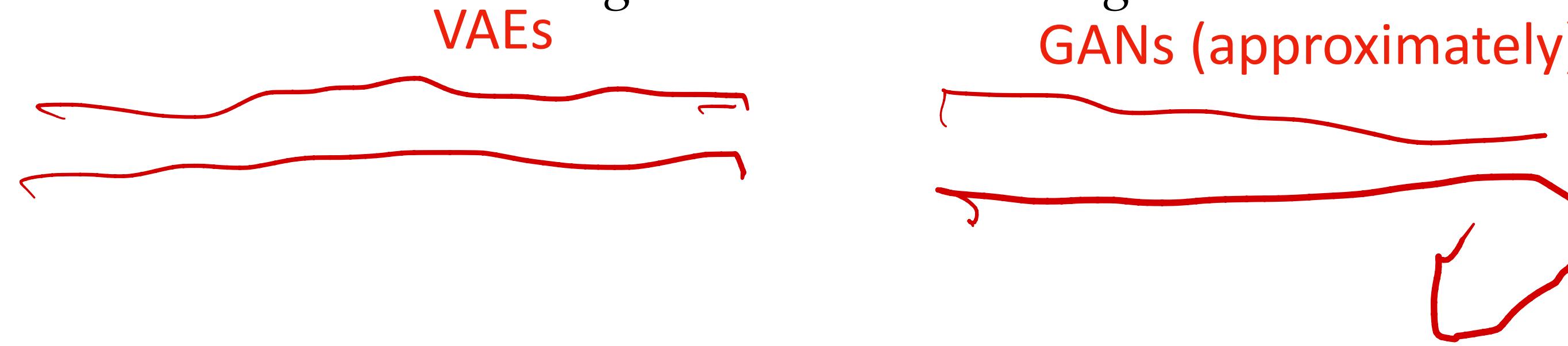
GANs' generated images

GANs' generation can “miss mode” of the data distribution, where the generated images are not diverse to cover all the data distributions (VAEs do not have this issue)

# Implication of the KL divergence

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$KL(p_{data}(x) \parallel p_g(x))$  v.s.  $KL(p_g(x) \parallel p_{data}(x))$

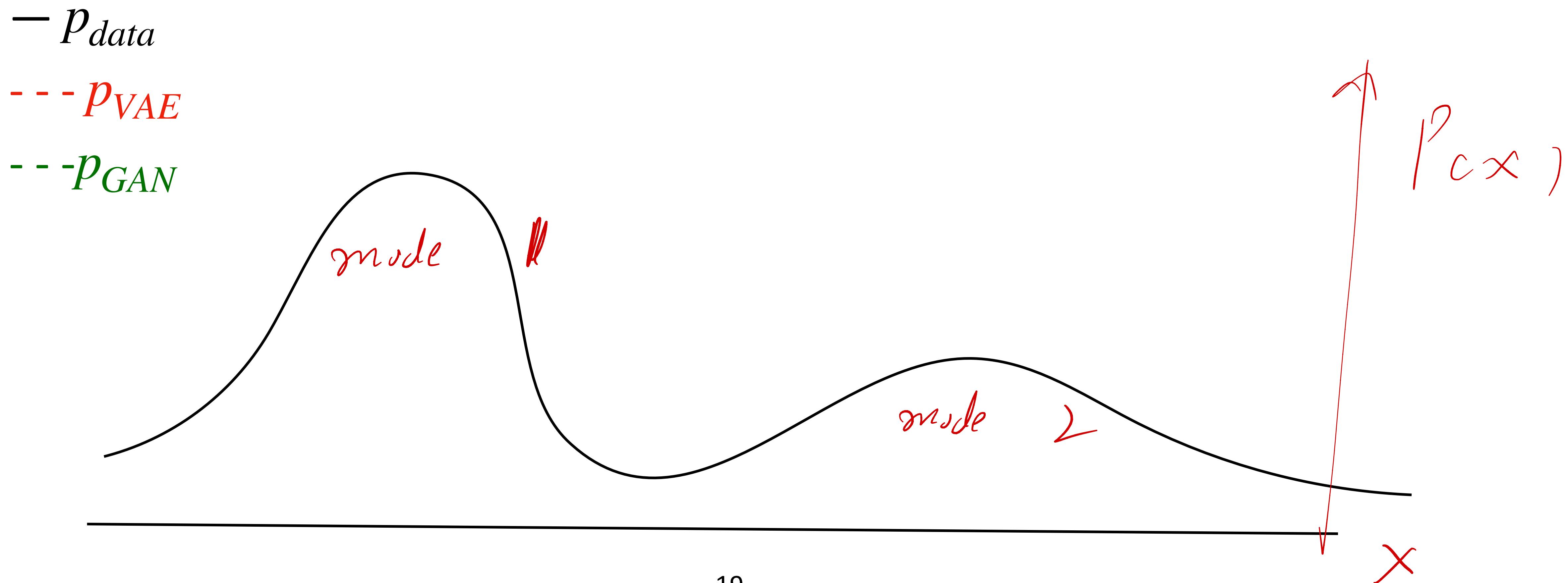


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VAEs

GANs (approximately)



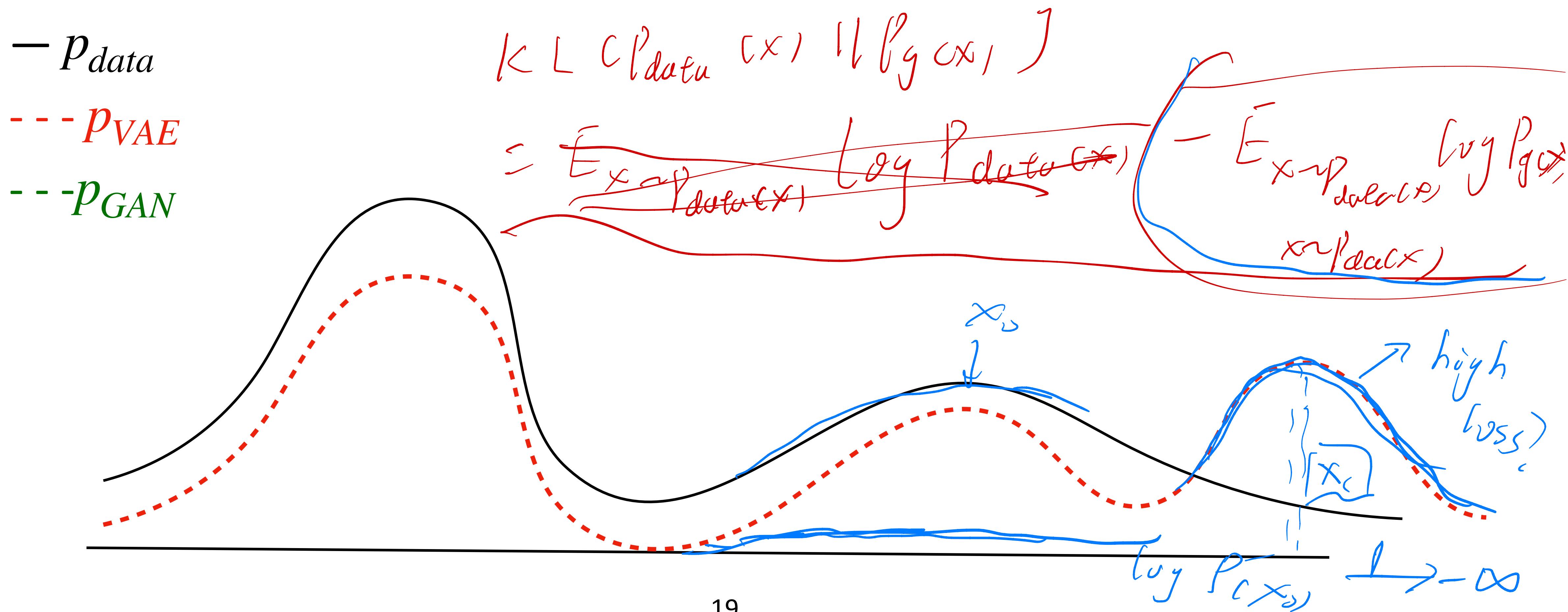
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$p_g(x)$

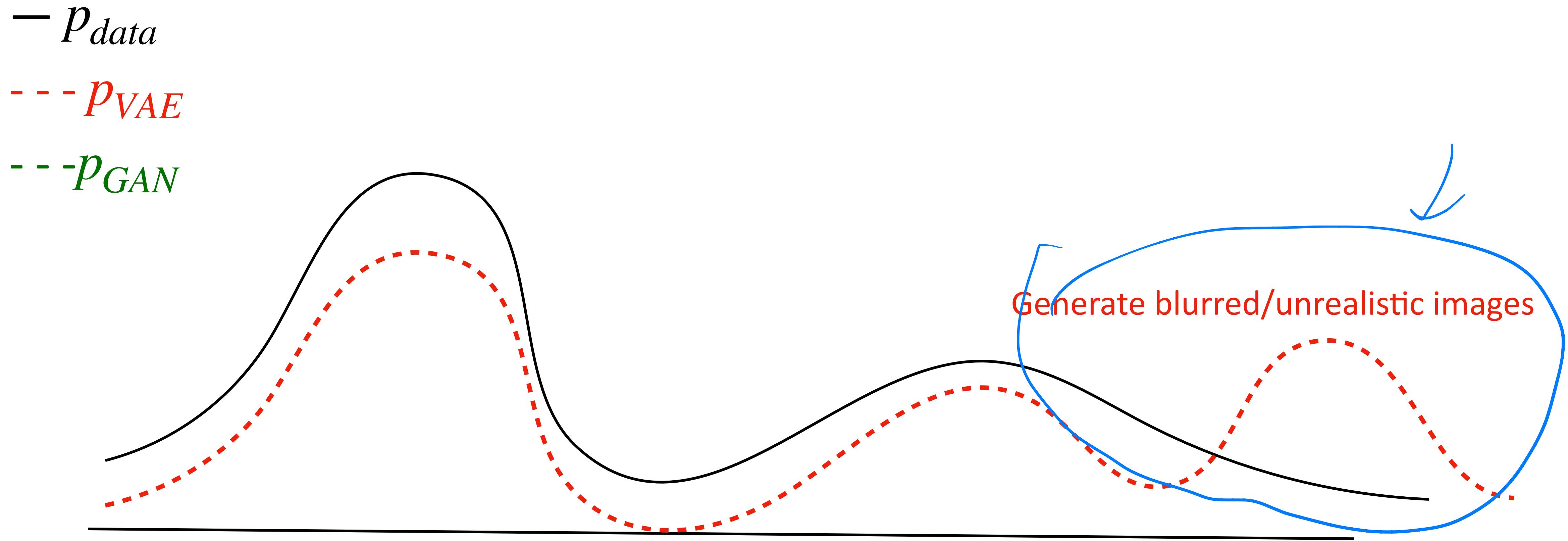


# Implication of the KL divergence

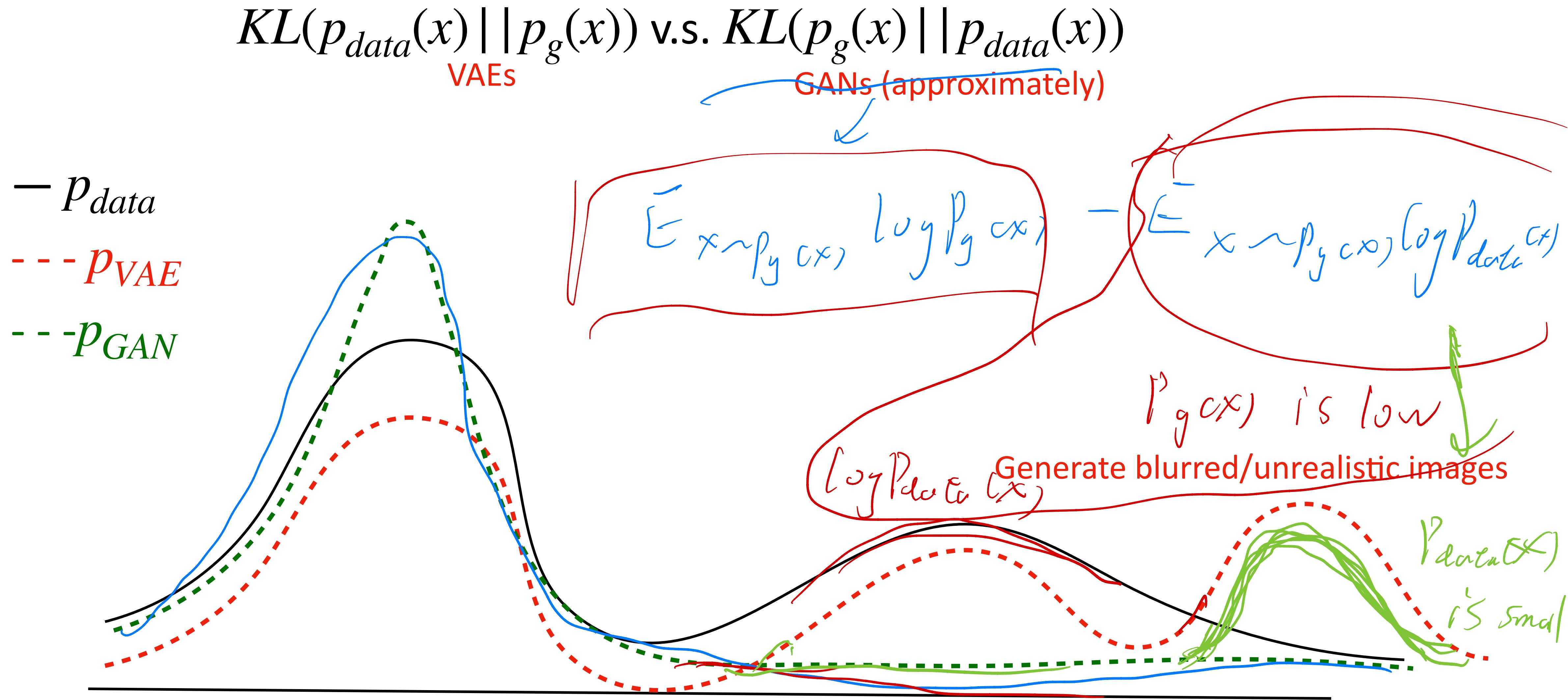
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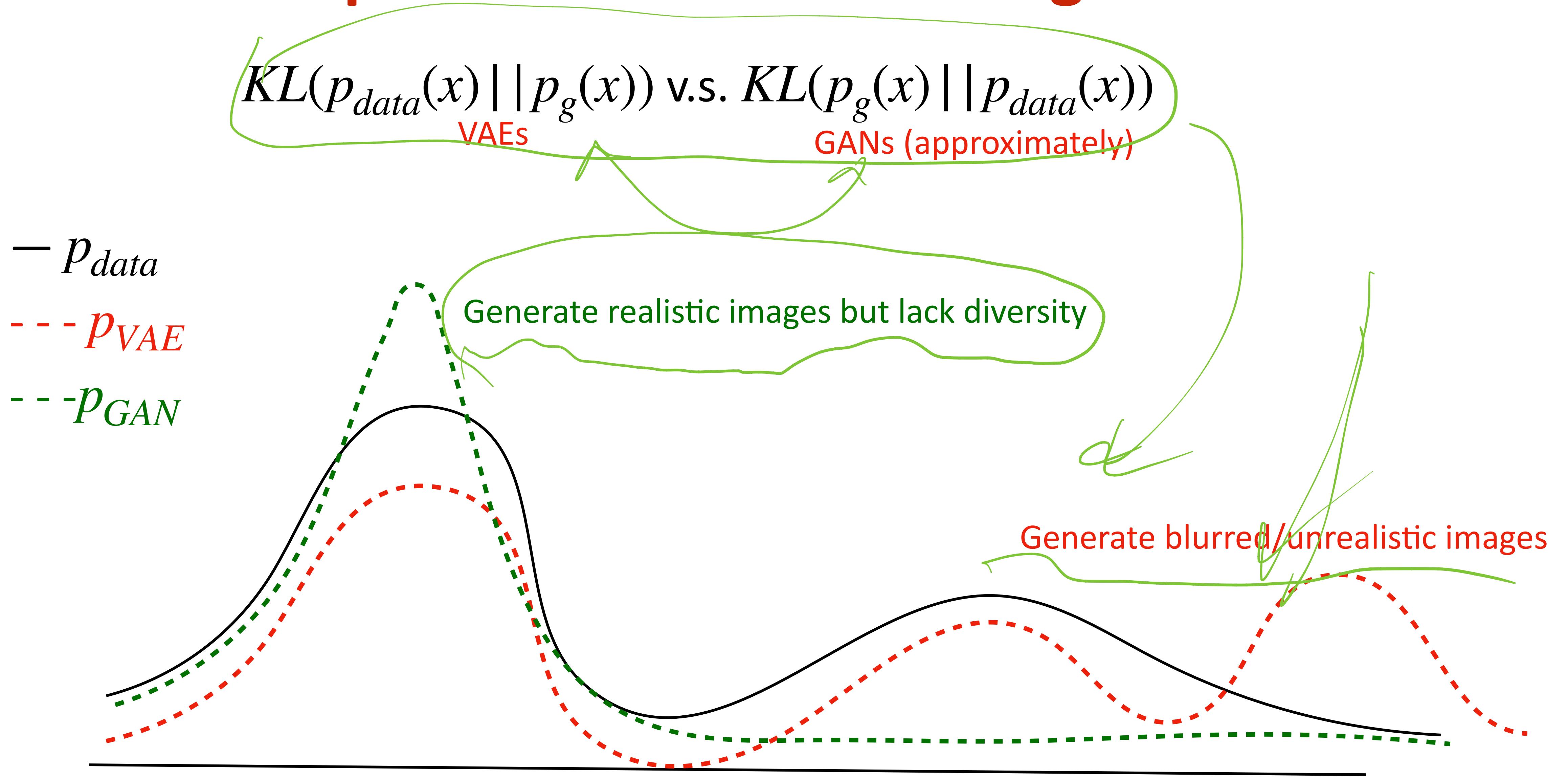
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# Implication of the KL divergence



# Implication of the KL divergence



# Reinforcement Learning

# Learning Tasks

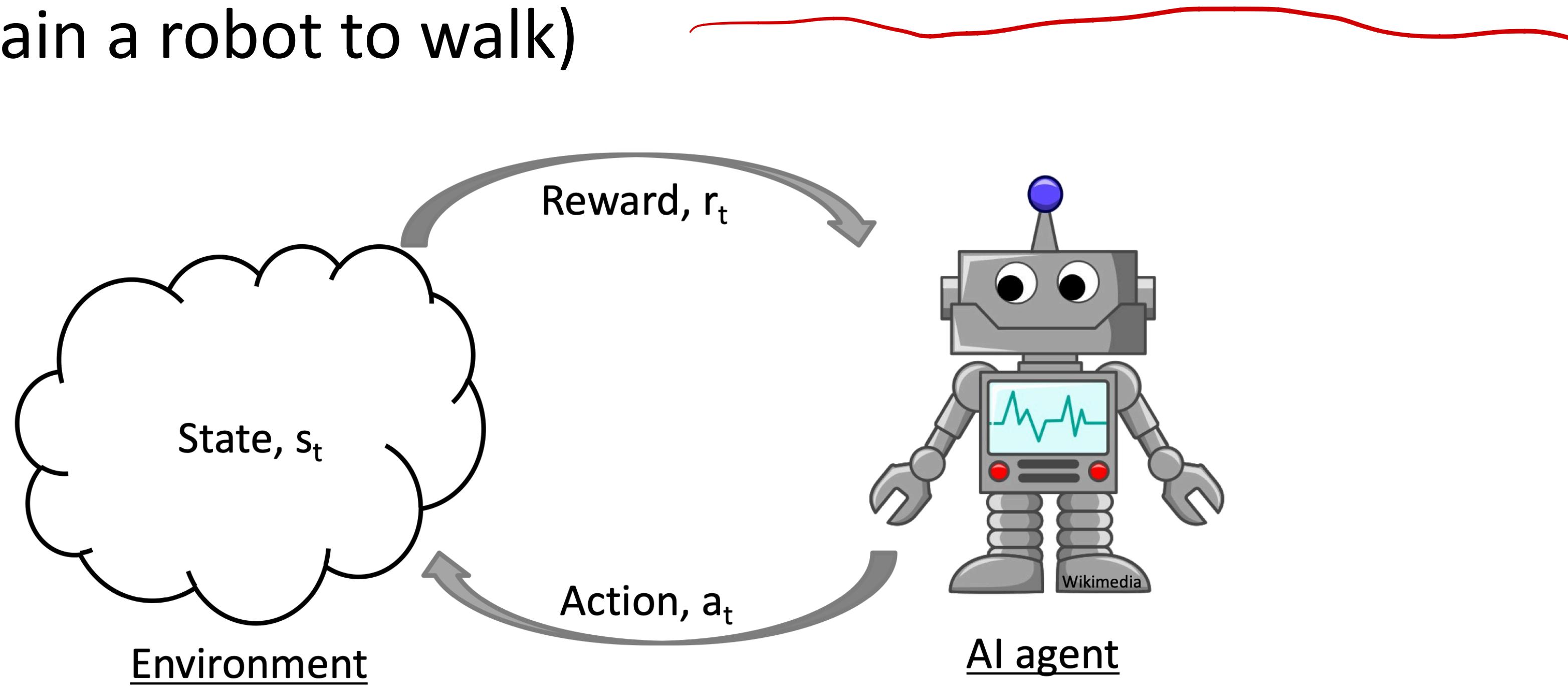
- Supervised learning -  $\mathcal{D} = \{(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}, y^{(i)})\}_{i=1}^N$ 
  - Regression -  $y^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}$
  - Classification -  $y^{(i)} \in \{1, \dots, C\}$
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- Reinforcement learning -  $\mathcal{D} = \{(\mathbf{s}^{(t)}, \mathbf{a}^{(t)}, r^{(t)})\}_{t=1}^T$

# RL Setup

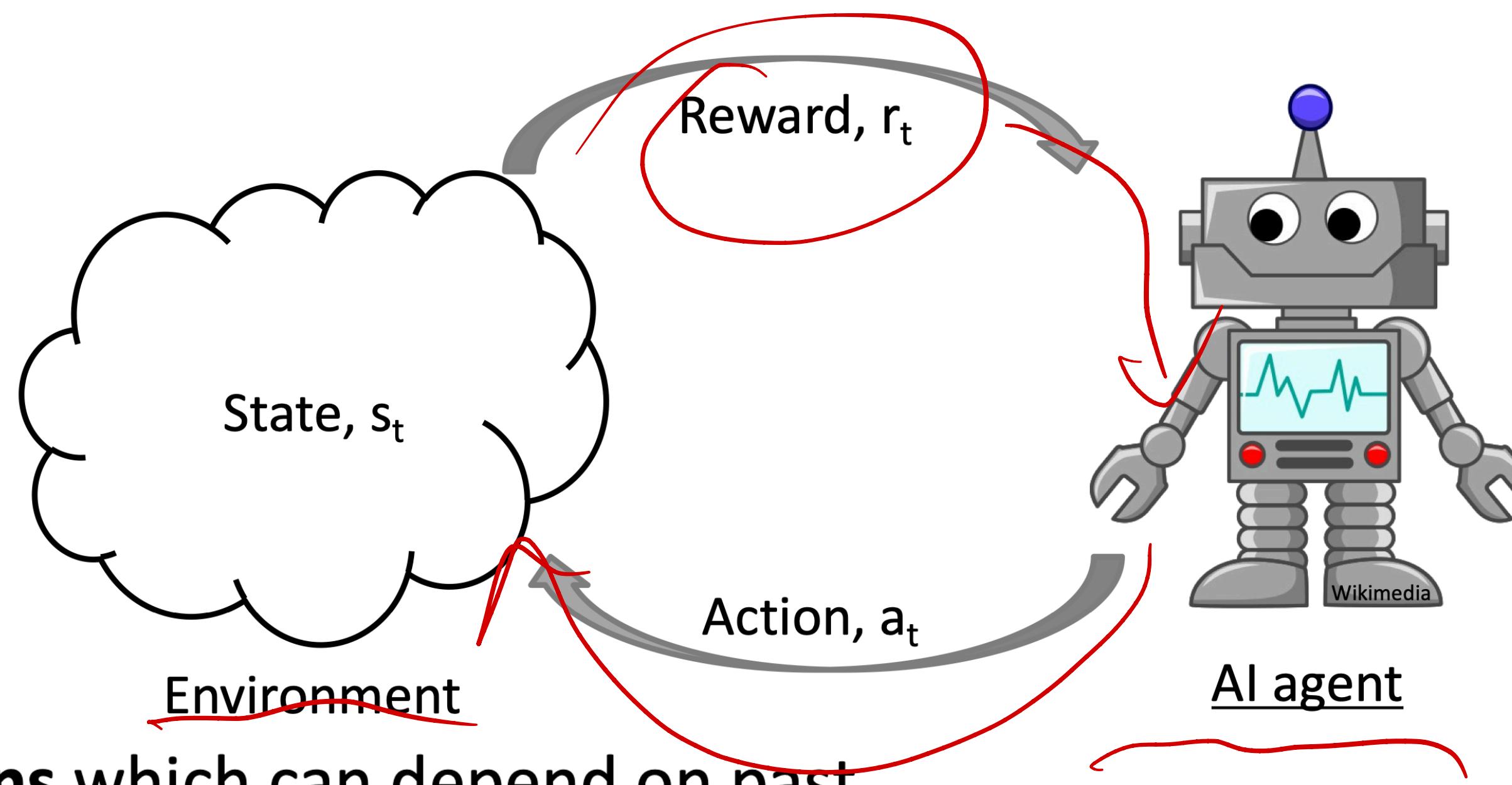
In many cases, we cannot precisely define what the correct output is (think of we want to train a robot to walk)



*Supervised  $\Rightarrow$  imitation learning*

# RL Setup

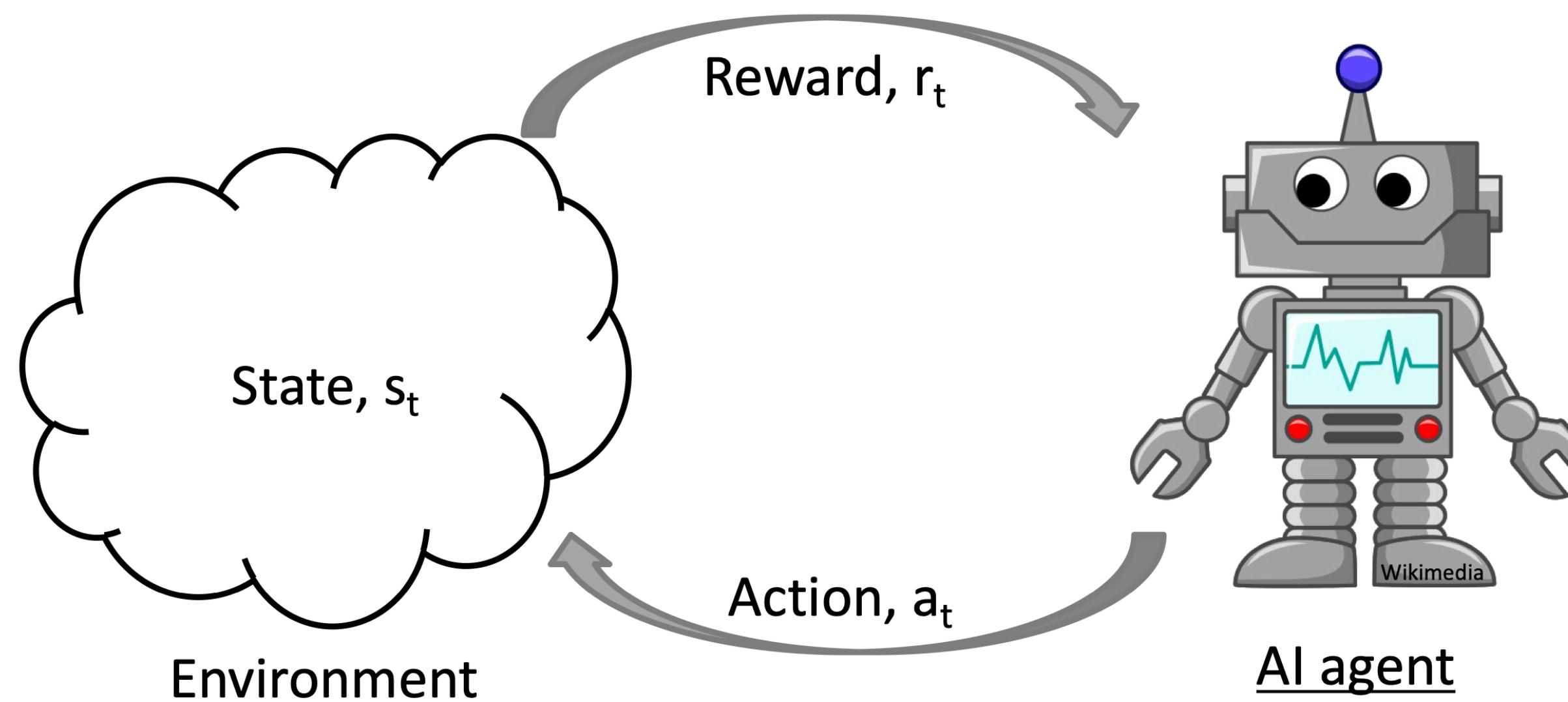
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Agent chooses **actions** which can depend on past

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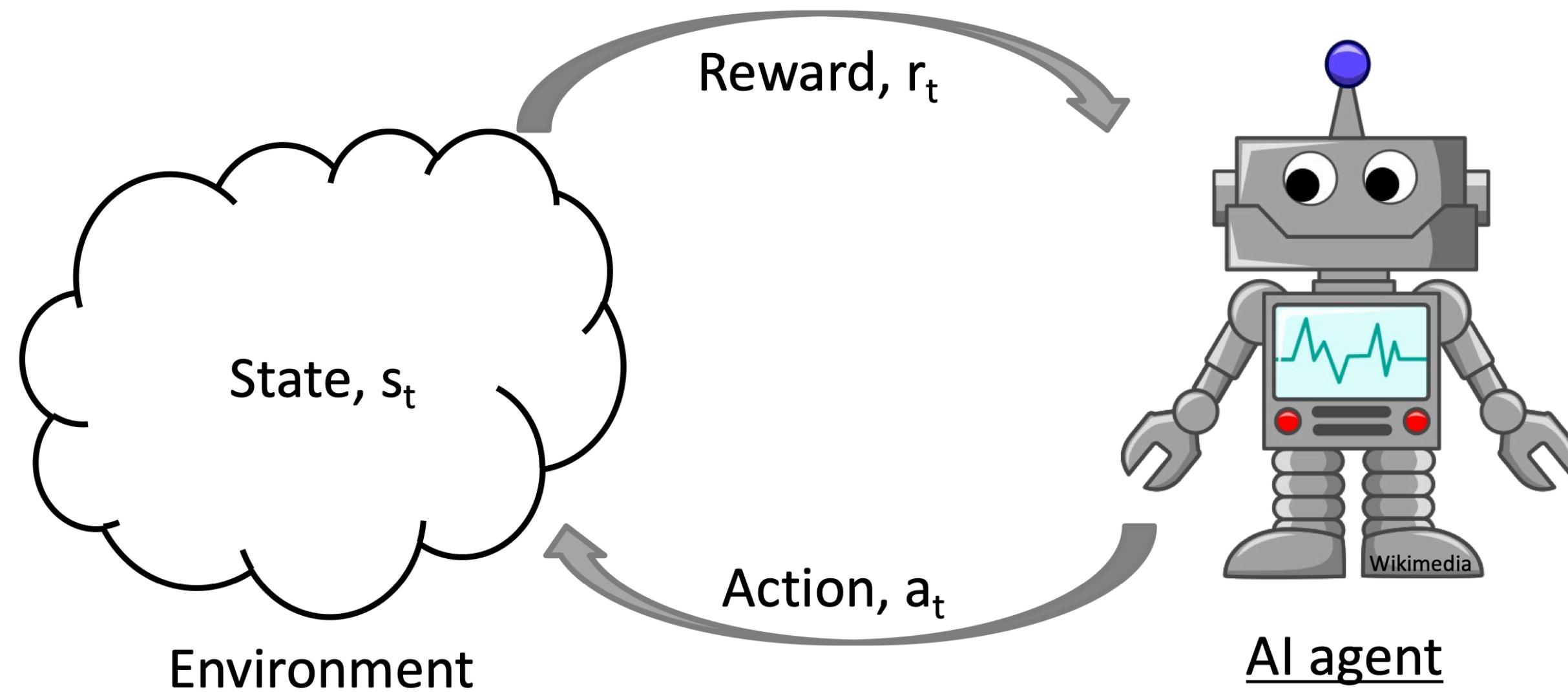


Agent chooses actions which can depend on past

Environment can change state with each action

# RL Setup

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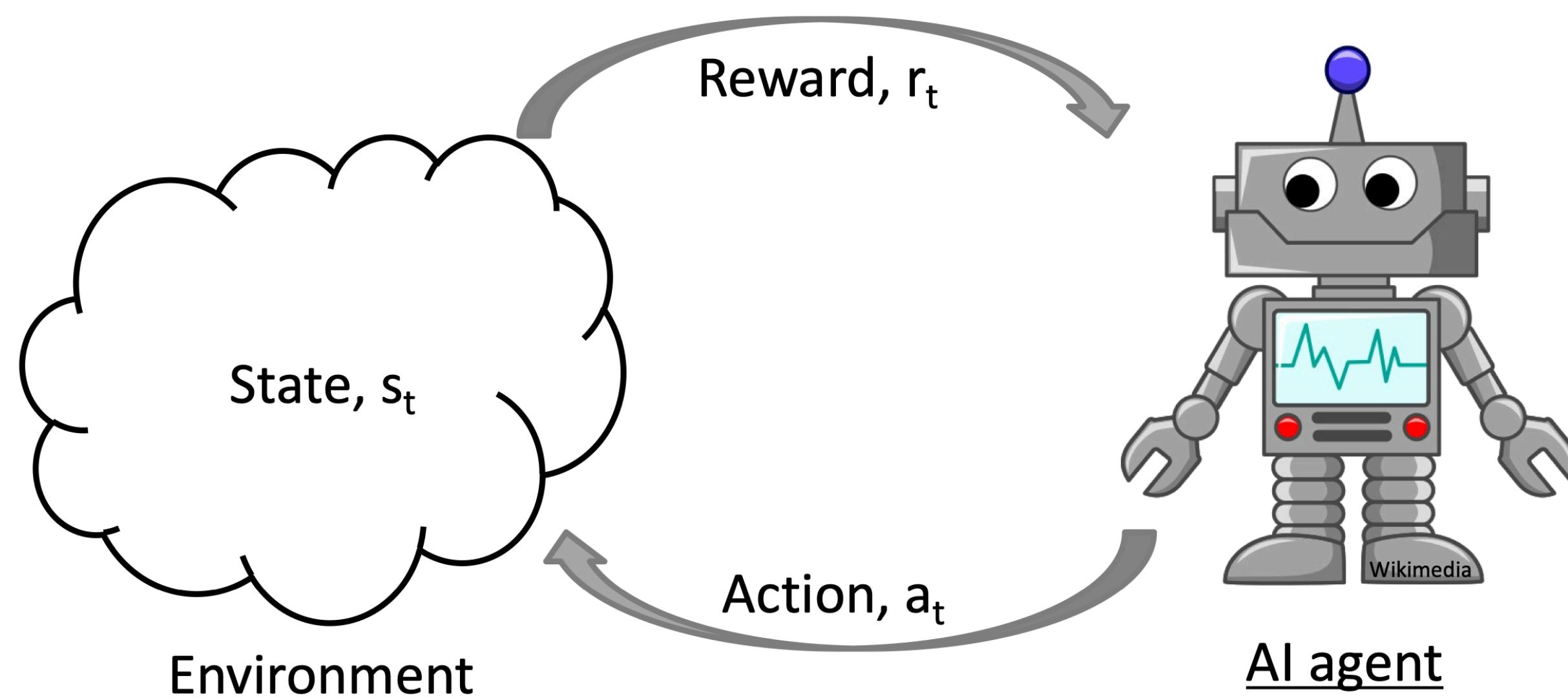
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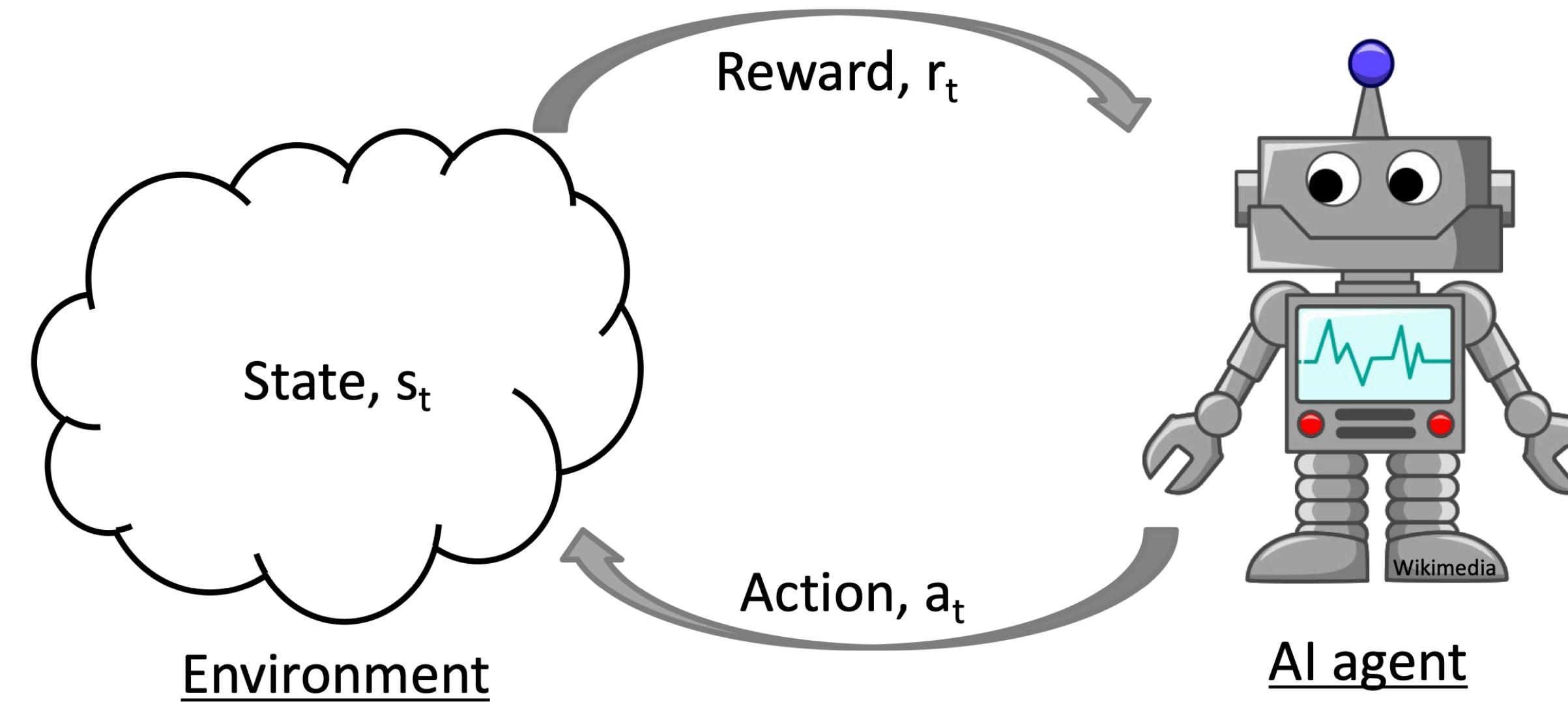
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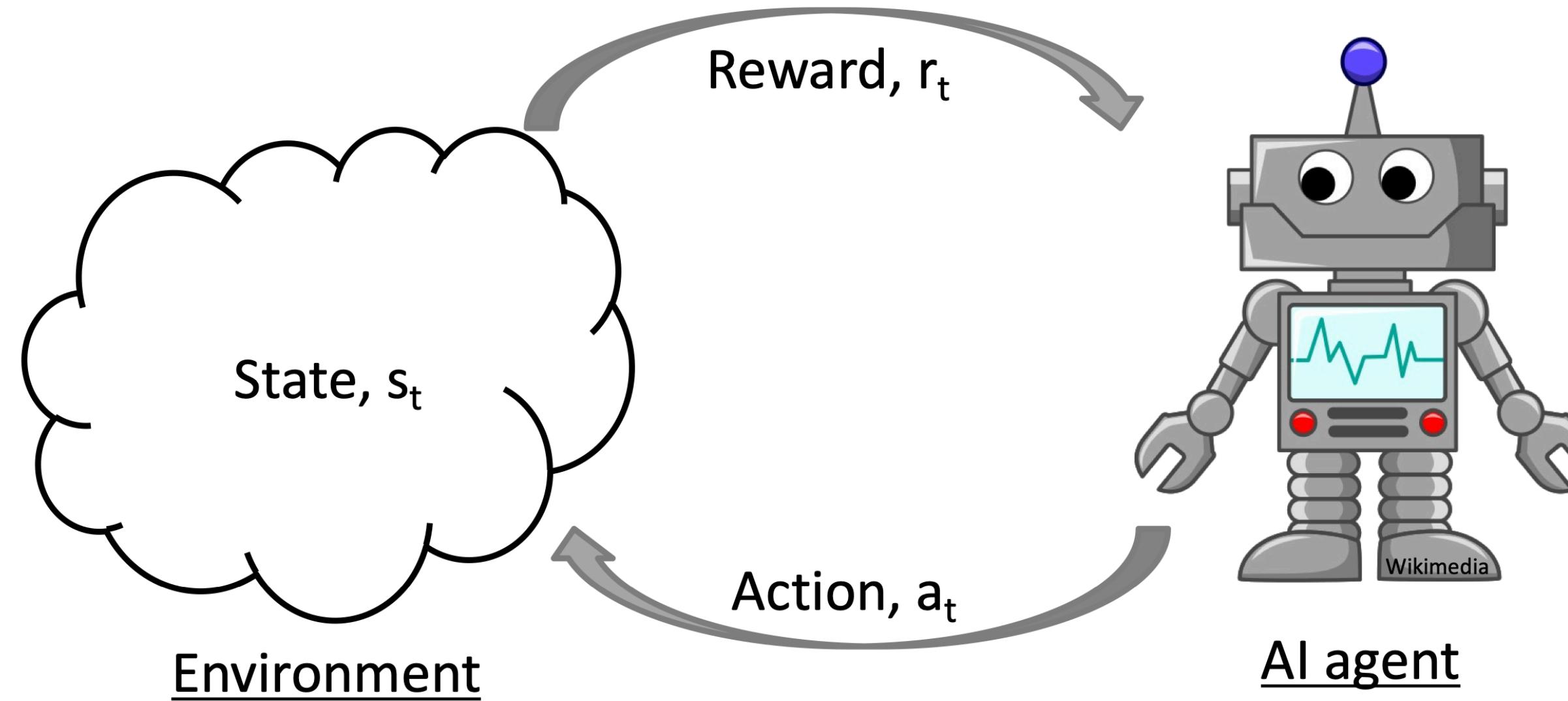
**Reward** (Output) depends on (Inputs) action and state of environment

**Goal: maximize the total reward**

# Differences from Supervised Learning

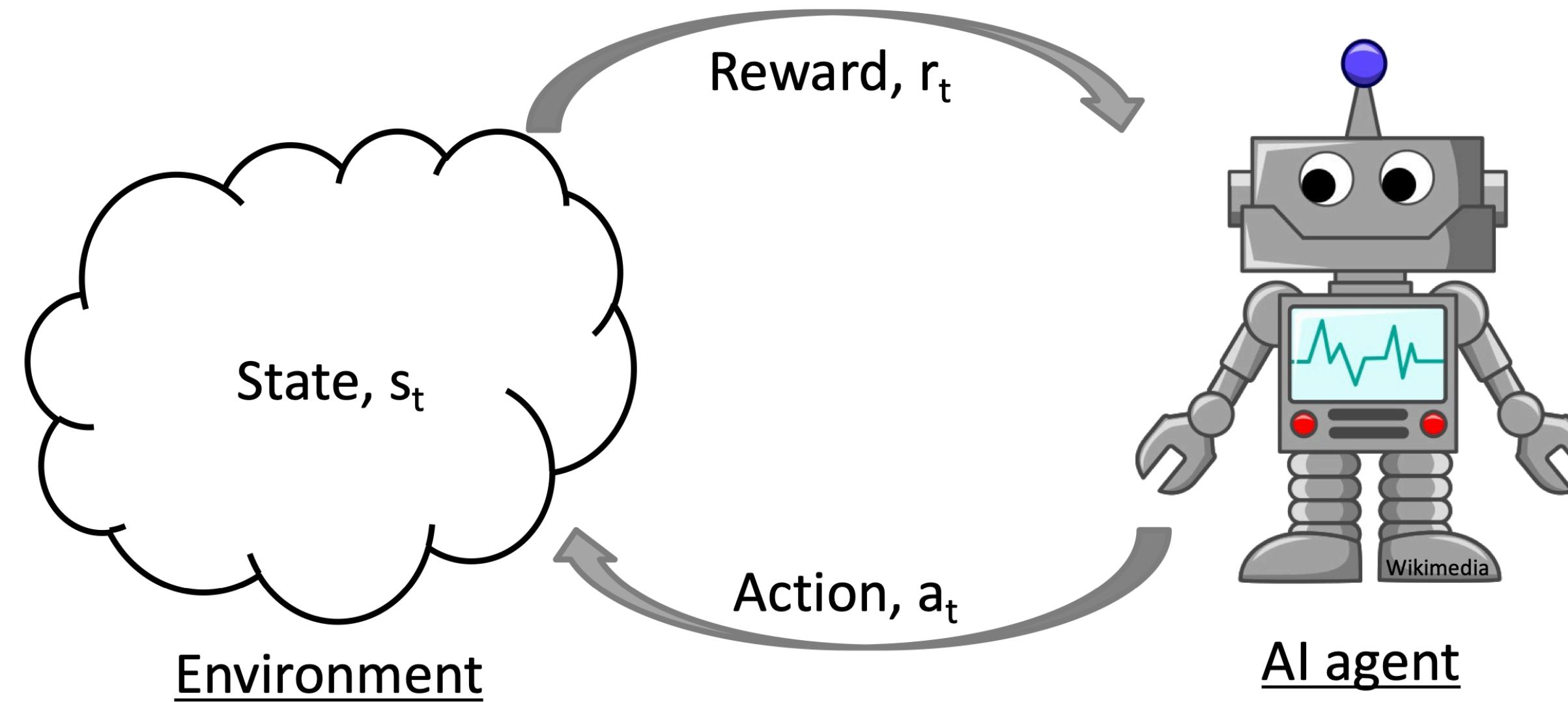


# Differences from Supervised Learning



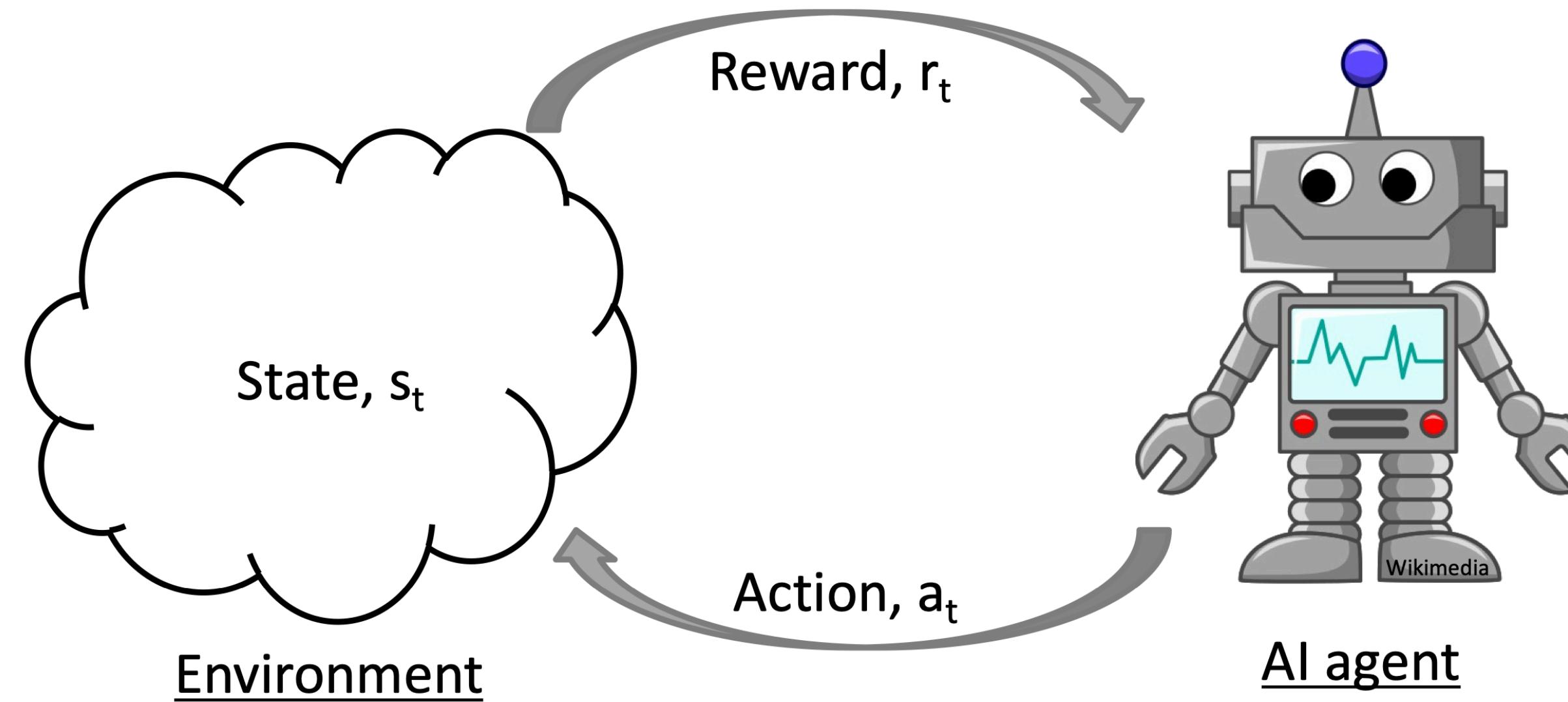
- Maximize reward (rather than learn reward)

# Differences from Supervised Learning



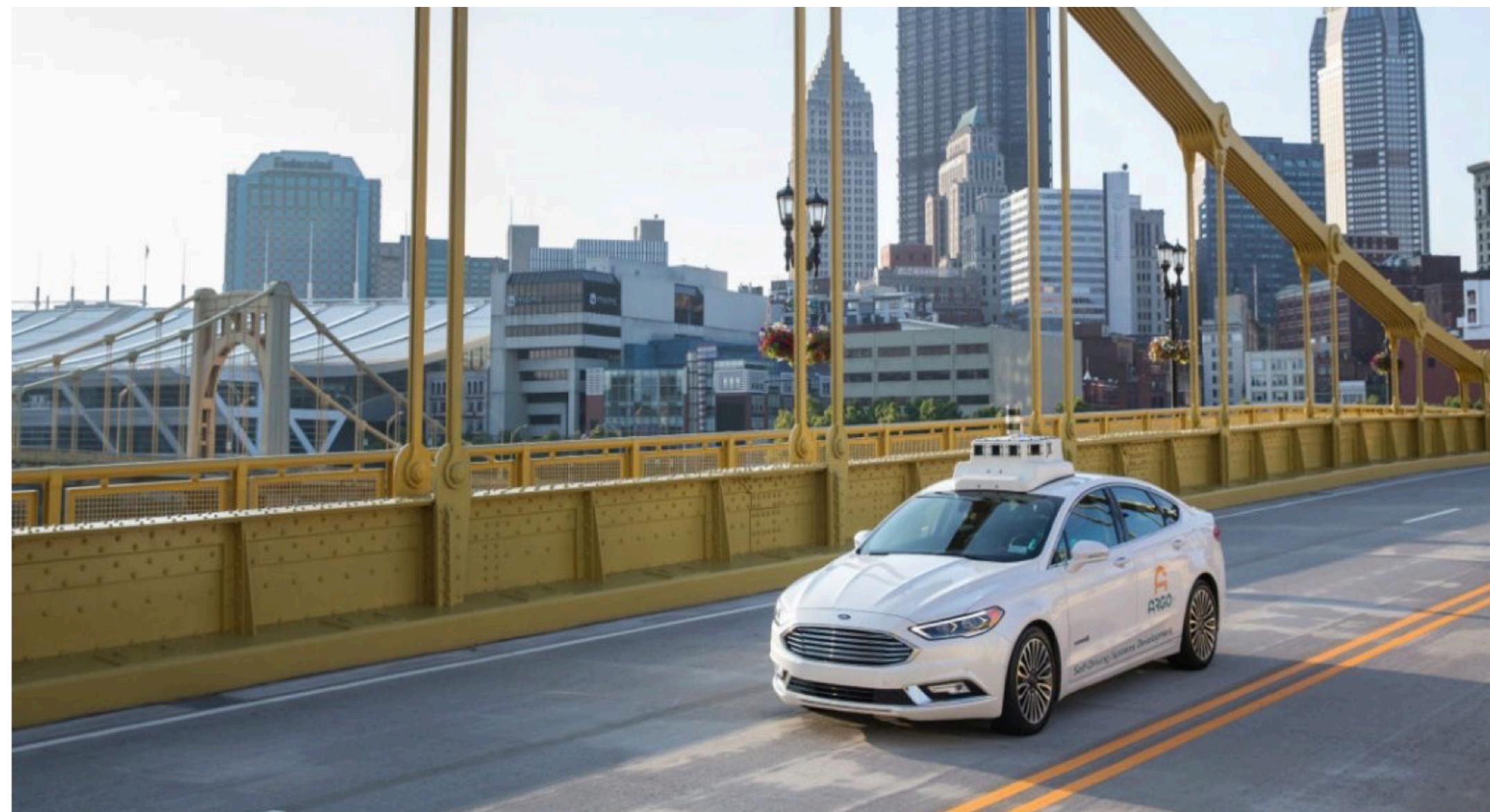
- Maximize reward (rather than learn reward) Supervised training is like imitation

# Differences from Supervised Learning



- Maximize reward (rather than learn reward) **Supervised training is like imitation**
- Inputs are not iid – state & action depends on past

# RL Examples



# RL Setup

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- State space,  $\mathcal{S}$
- Action space,  $\mathcal{A}$

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- State space,  $\mathcal{S}$
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In this lecture, we assume they are known

# RL Setup

- Policy,  $\pi : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ 
  - Specifies an action to take in *every* state

# RL Setup

- Policy,  $\pi : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ 
  - Specifies an action to take in *every* state
- Value function,  $V^\pi : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ 
  - Measures the expected total reward of starting in some state  $s$  and executing policy  $\pi$ , i.e., in every state, taking the action that  $\pi$  returns

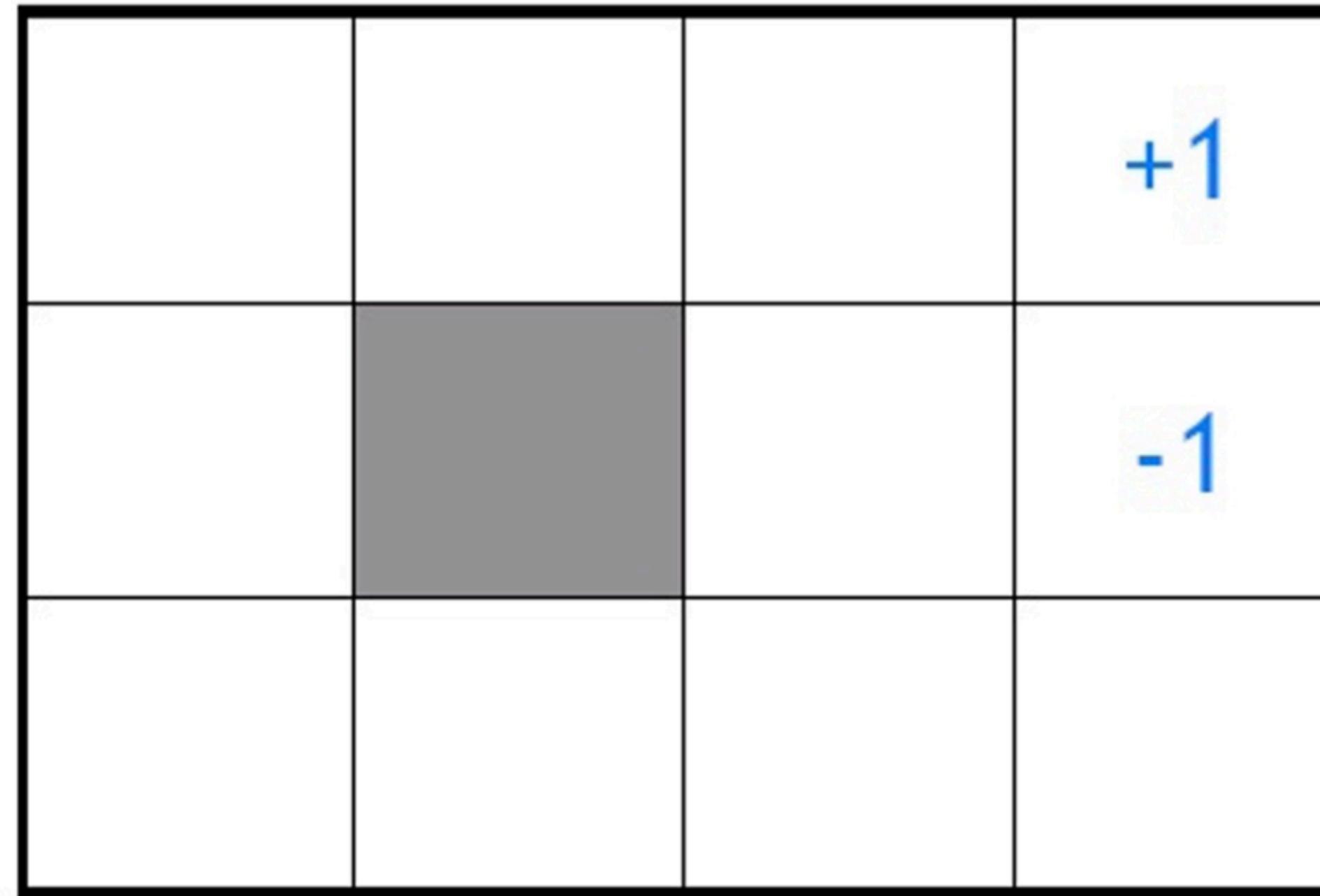
# RL Example - gridworld

$S$  = all empty squares in the grid

$\mathcal{A}$  = {up, down, left, right}

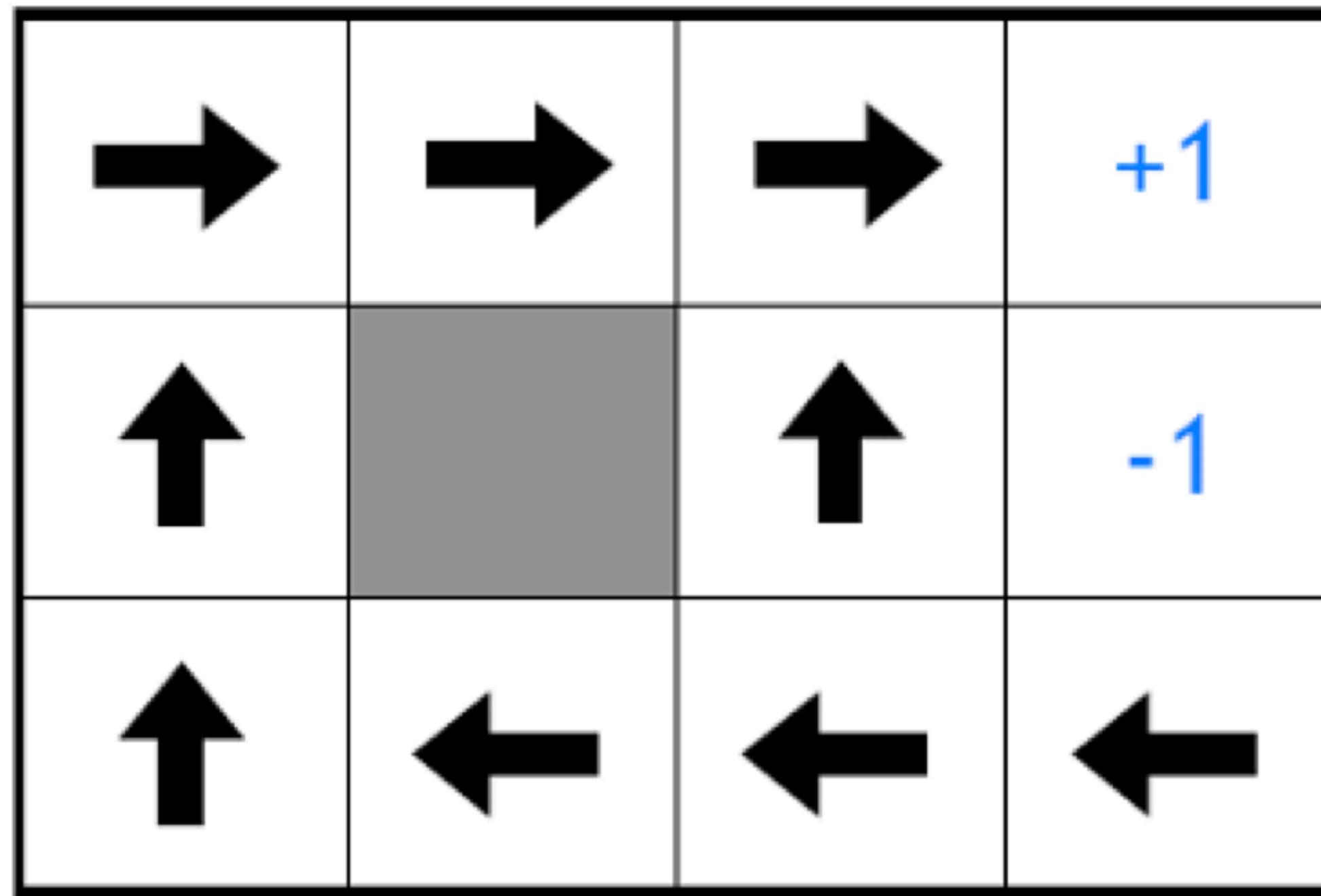
Deterministic transitions

Rewards of +1 and -1 for entering the labelled squares

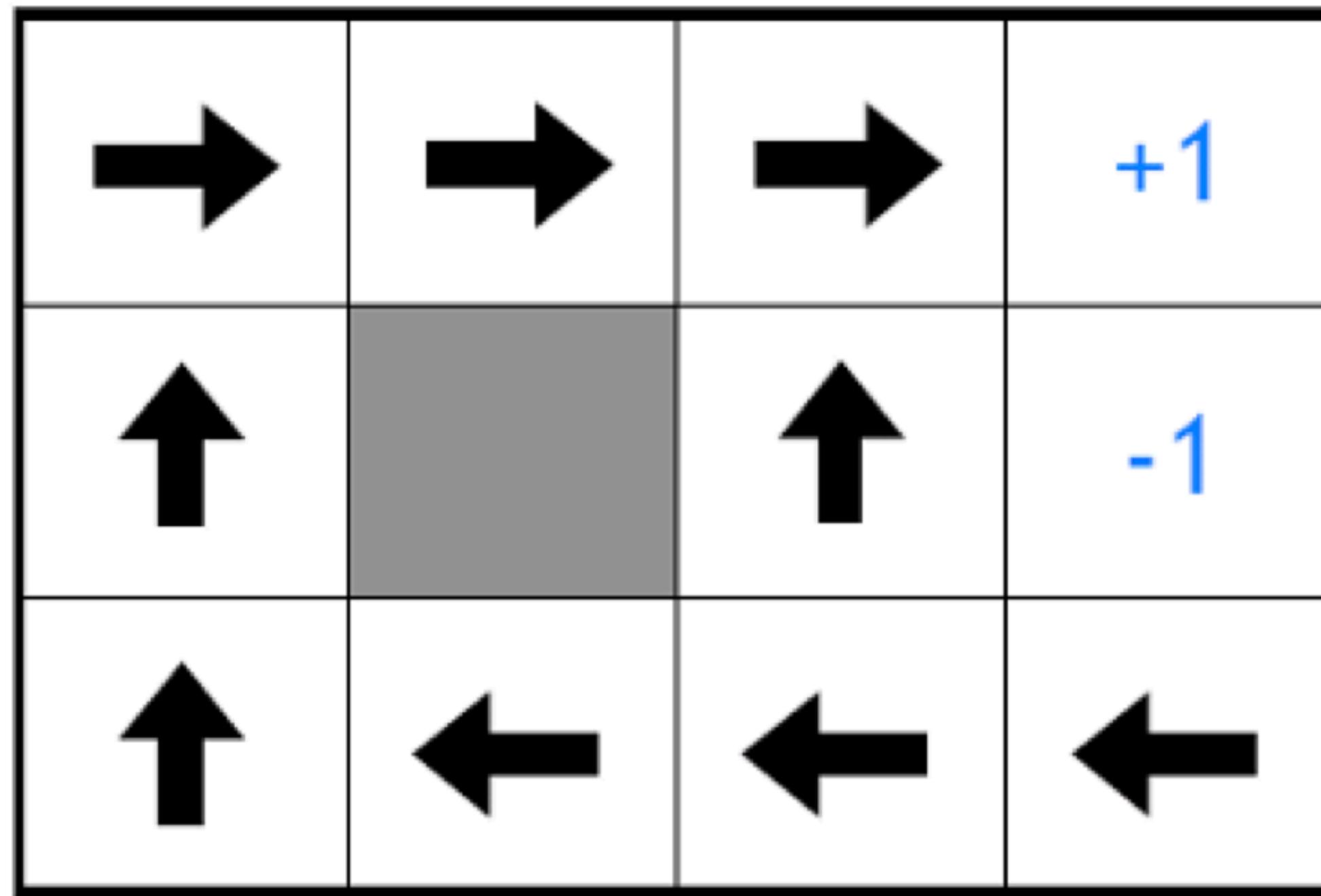


Terminate after receiving either reward

# RL Example - gridworld



# RL Example - gridworld



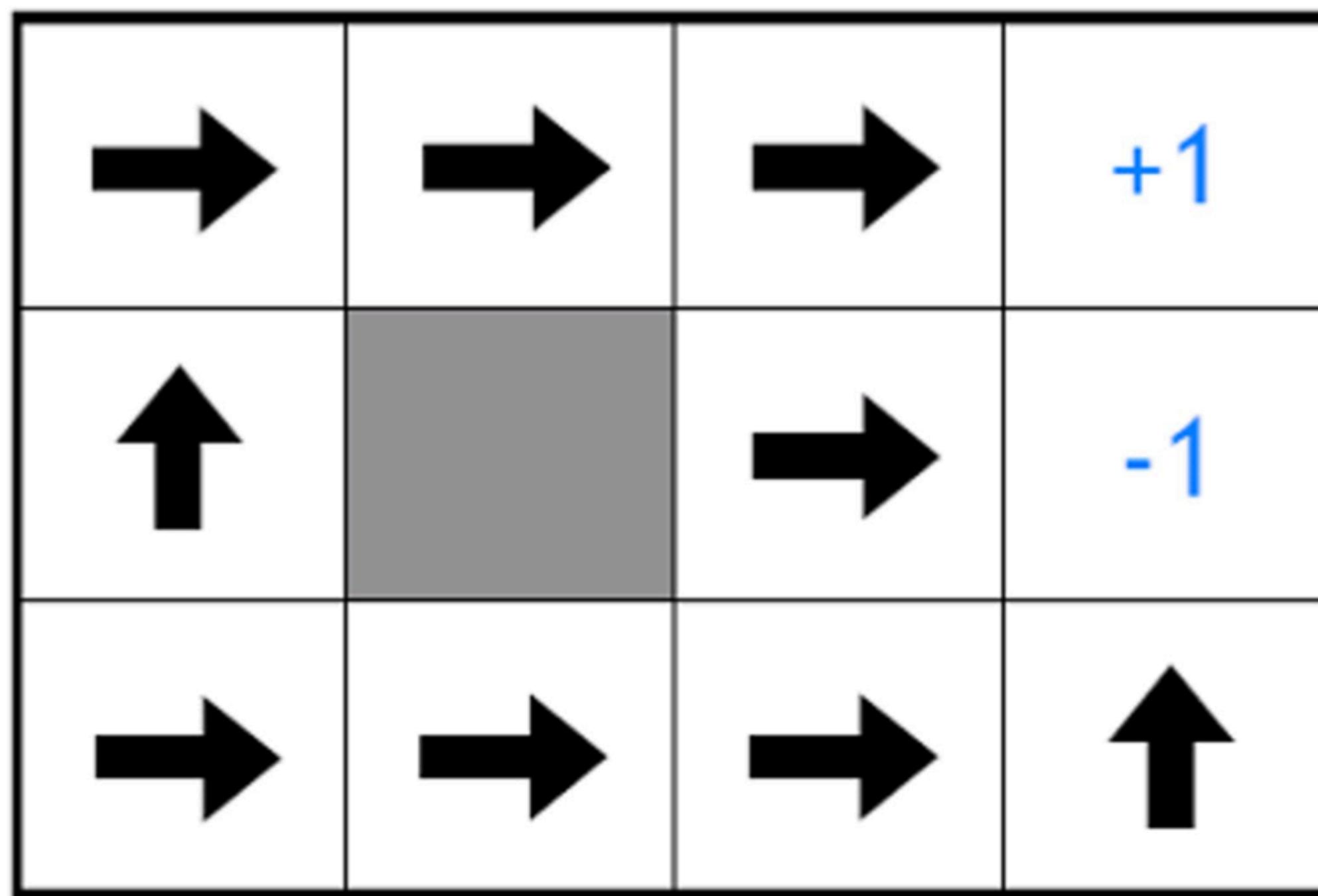
Is this policy optimal?

# RL Example - gridworld

Optimal policy given a reward of -2 per step

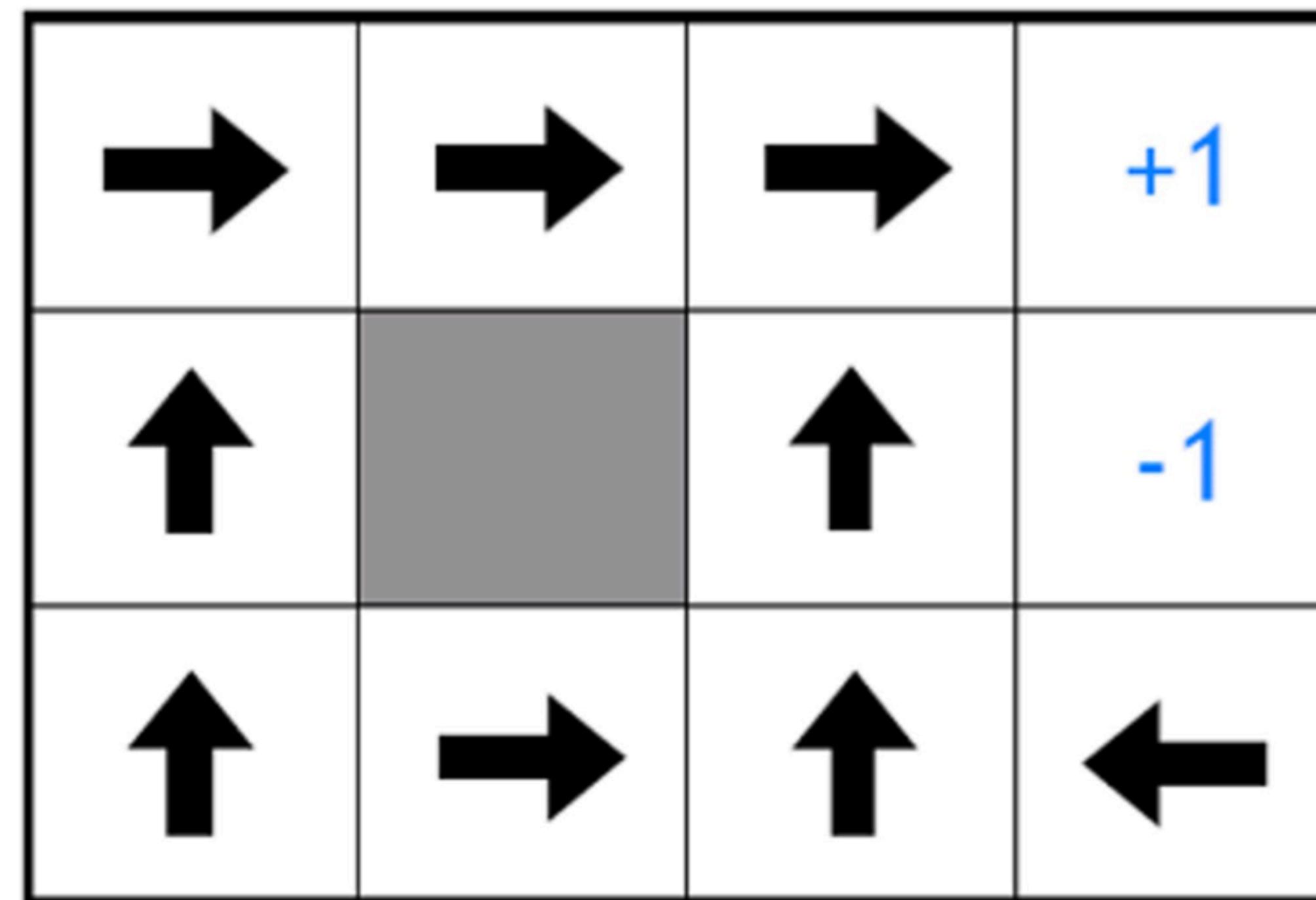
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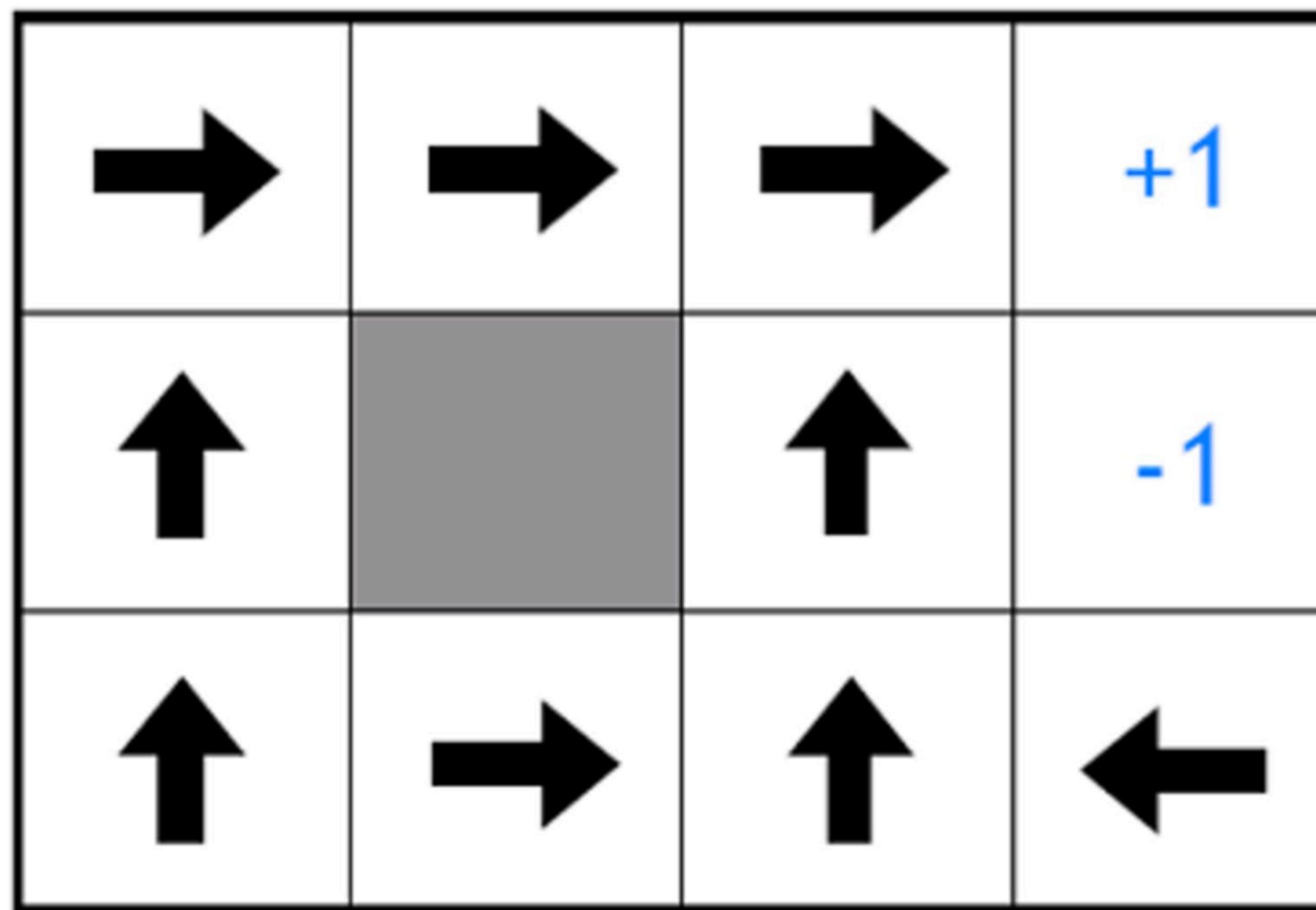
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Optimal policy given a reward of -0.5 per step



# RL Example - gridworld

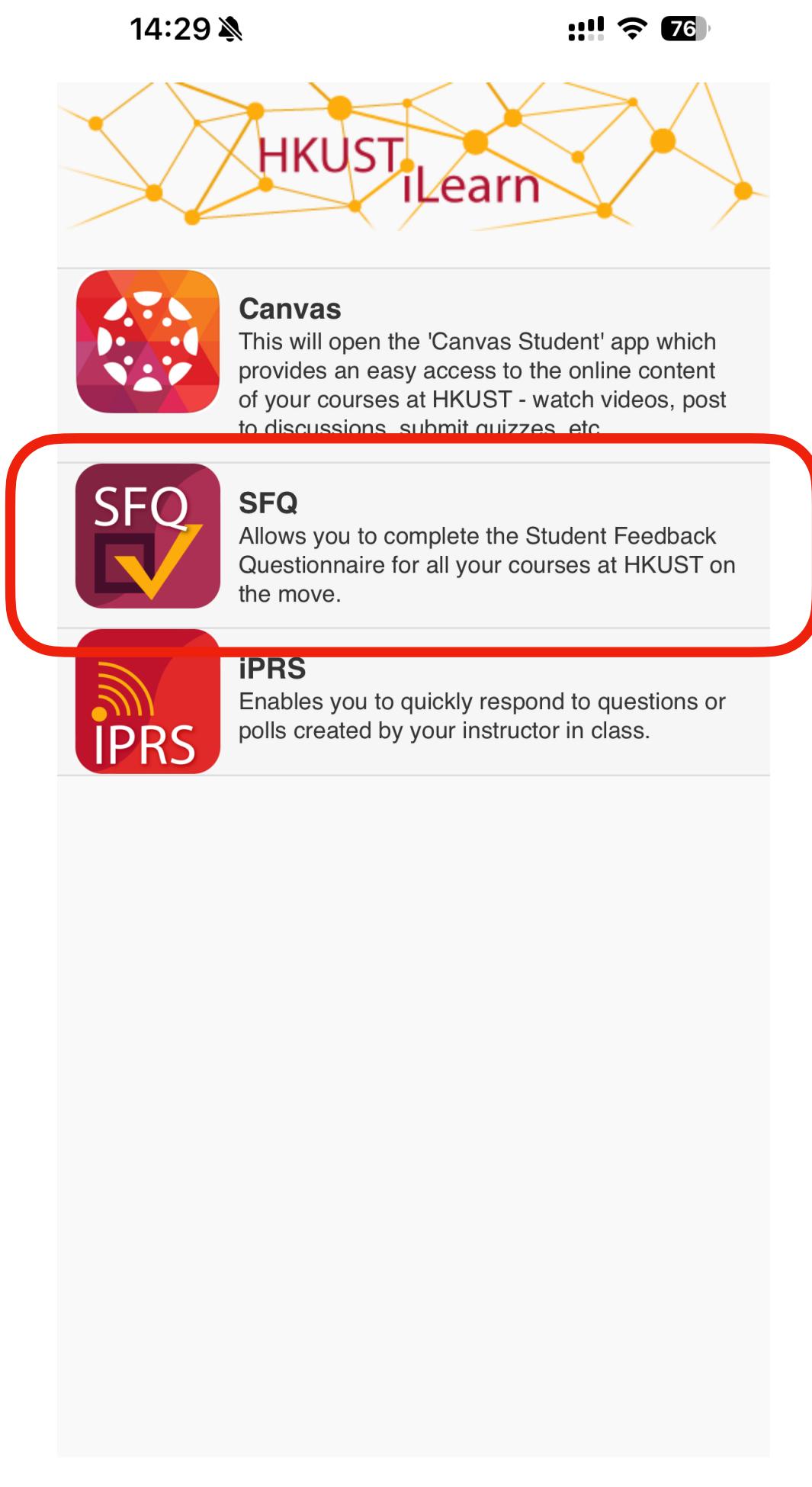
Optimal policy given a reward of -0.5 per step



What would be the algorithm to find the optimal policy automatically?

# Course Evaluation

Anonymous to instructors



Or



<https://survey.ust.hk/hkust/>