

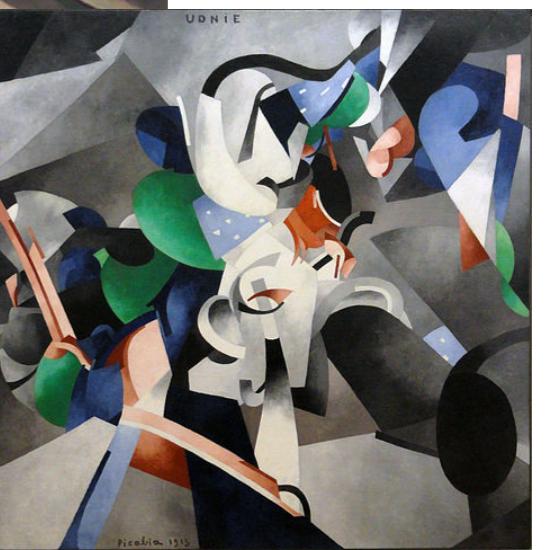


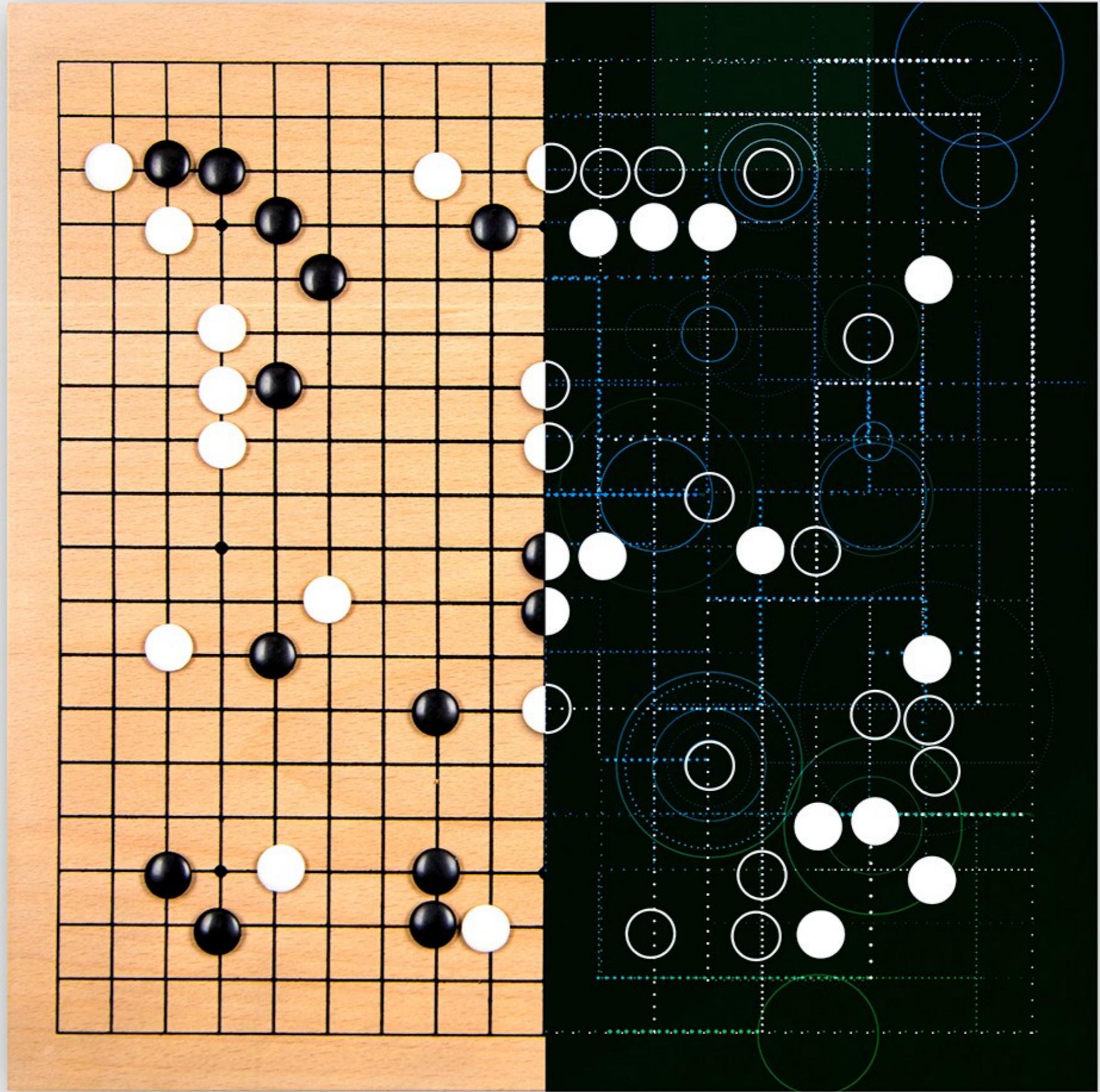
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Deep Reinforcement Learning on AlphaZero example

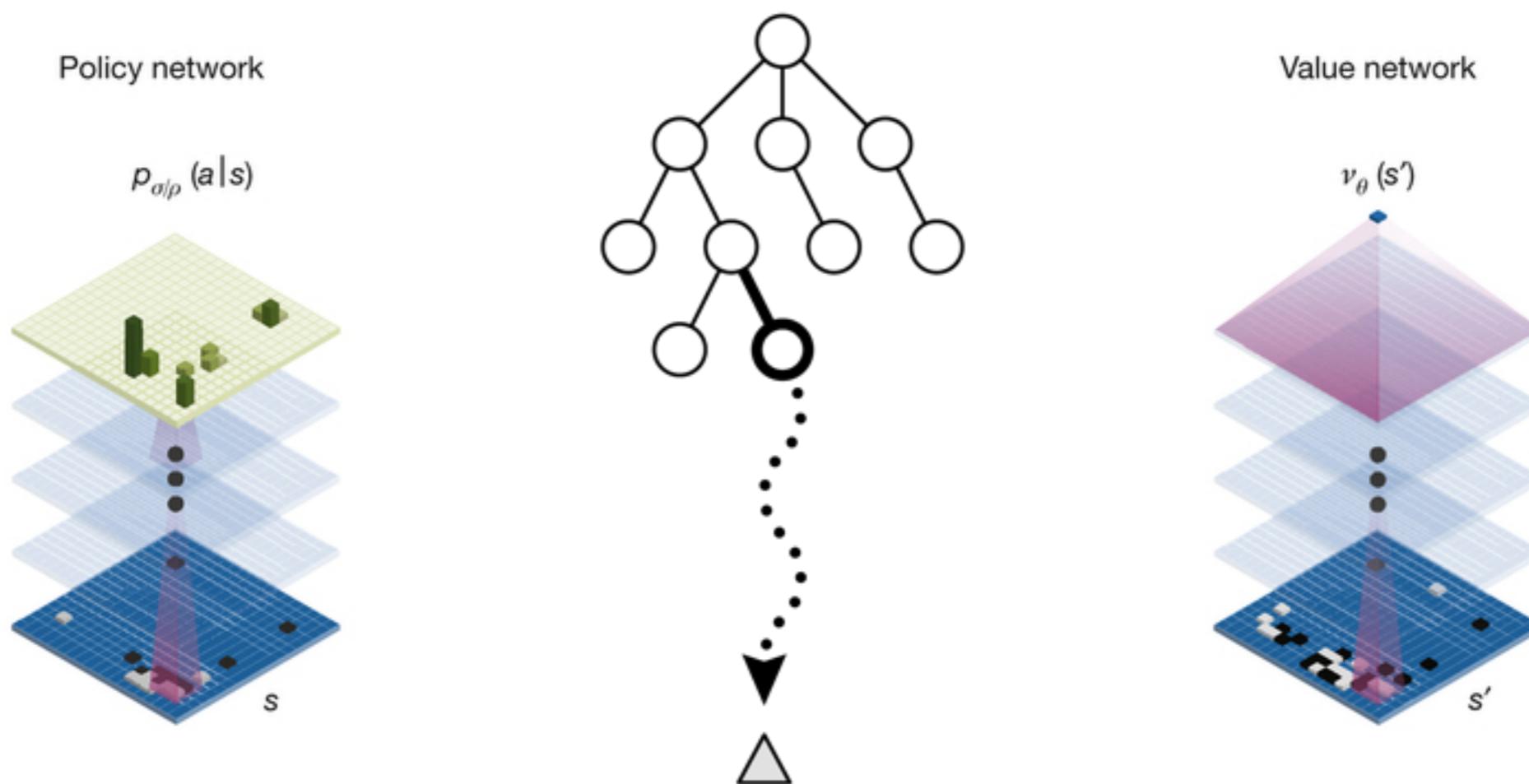


Piotr Januszewski





AlphaZero architecture



DeepMind's AlphaGo

AlphaGo Lee version of this algorithm became **the first AI to beat a human grandmaster of Go** in March of 2016.

It is huge achievement as for a long time people thought that **Go is the holy grail of artificial intelligence** and we were still many years before AI will beat humans in this game!



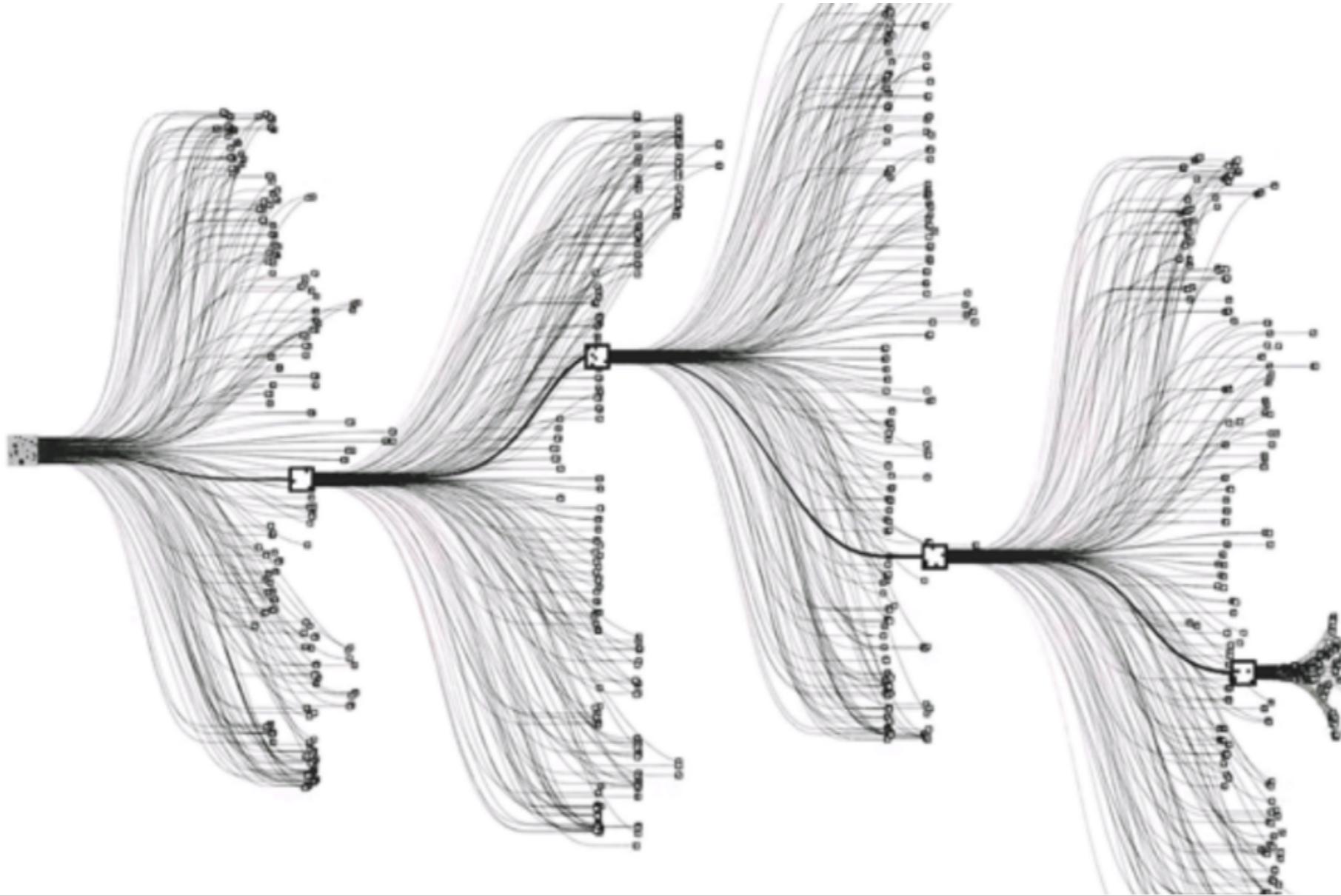
Learning procedure



AlphaGo is initially trained on **thousands of human amateur and professional games** to learn how to play Go.

Then, it is being set to play large numbers of games **against itself**, using reinforcement learning to improve its play. In doing so, it surpassed human level of play.

Up to 36¹ legal moves



Around 10^{170} states



Around 10^{80} atoms

Black is winning?...



...or white is winning?

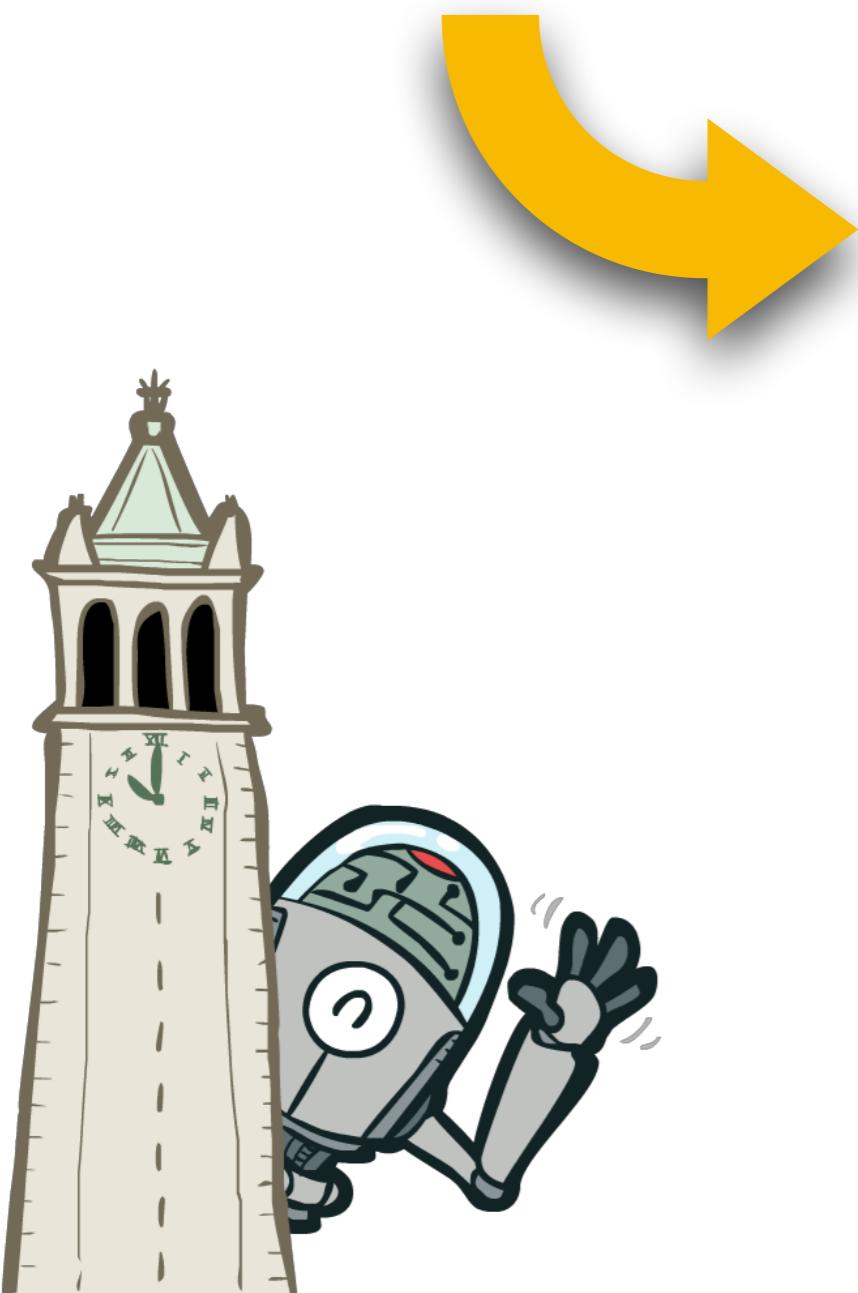
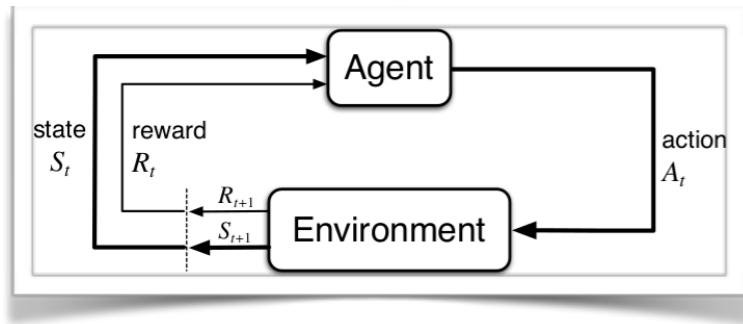
DeepMind's AlphaZero



In October of 2017, DeepMind published new AlphaGo version. **AlphaGo Zero had defeated AlphaGo 100–0**. Incredibly, it had done so by learning solely through self-play. No longer was a database of human expert games required to build a super-human AI.

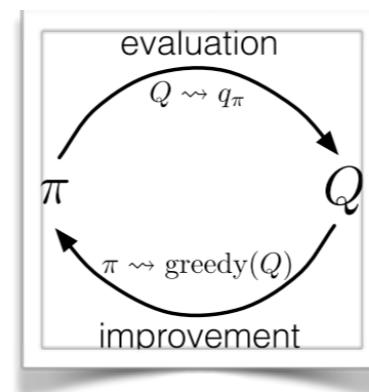
48 days later they publish current state-of-the-art version AlphaZero, which can play other games like Chess and Shogi. **It can beat the world-champion programs StockFish (for Chess) and Elmo (for Shogi) learning through self-play for only about 4 and 2 hours respectively!**

Reinforcement Learning

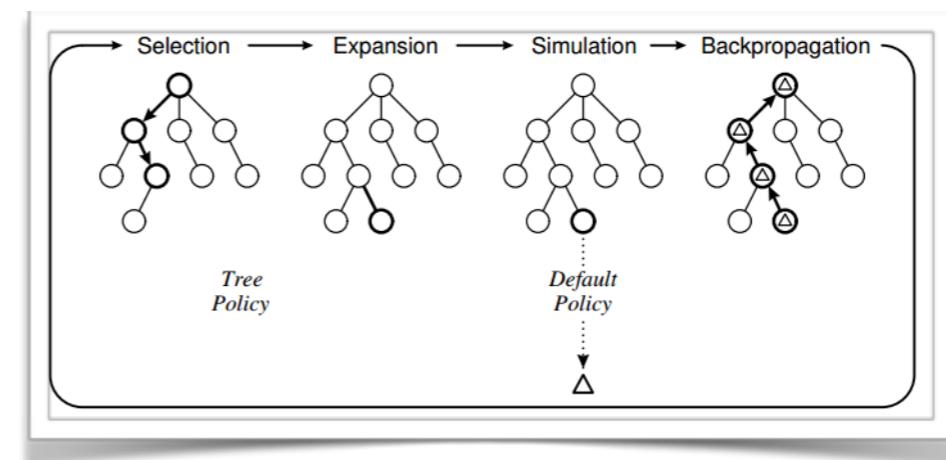


Agenda

Policy iteration



Simulation-based search and AlphaZero



Reinforcement Learning



Where is it used?

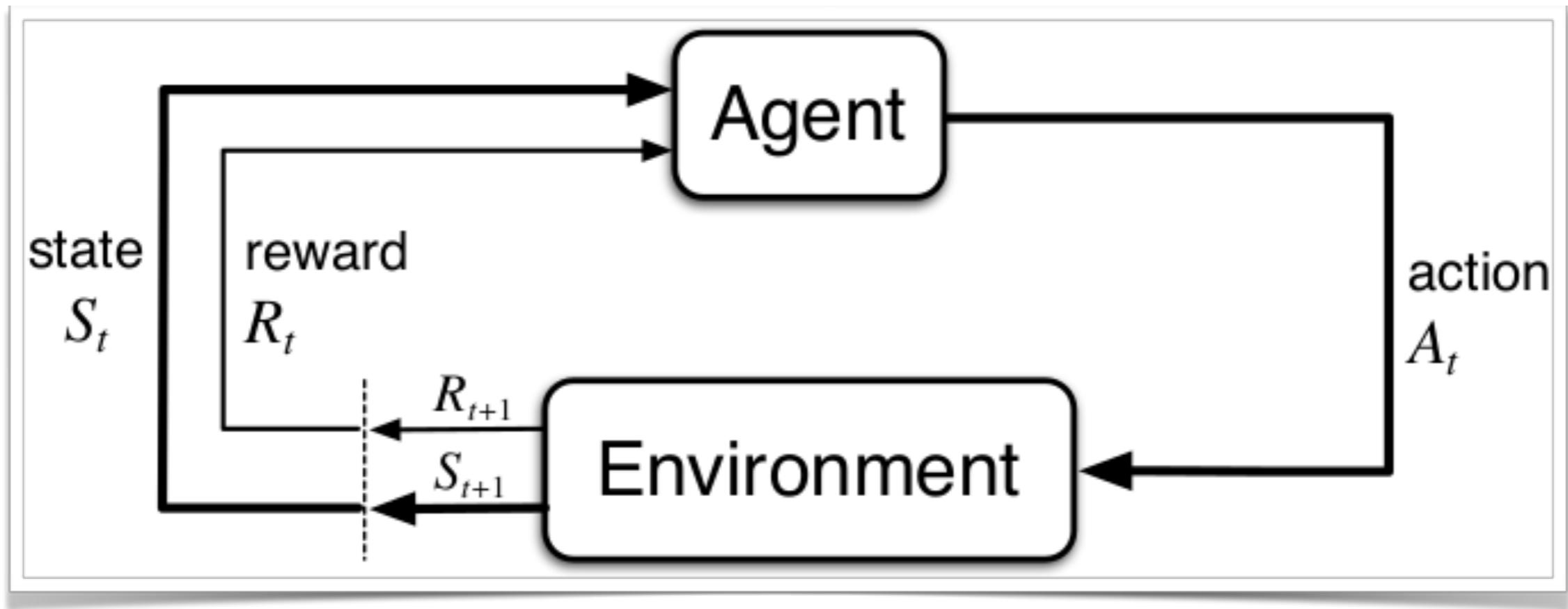
- Robotics
- Video games
- Conversational systems
- Medical intervention
- Algorithm improvement
- Improvisational theatre
- Autonomous driving
- Prosthetic arm control
- Financial trading
- Query completion

RL is a natural way of learning for animals and humans

E.g. playing video games:

1. You start with exploration, what is possible?
2. You learn what gives you high rewards.
3. And finally, you exploit gained knowledge to win.

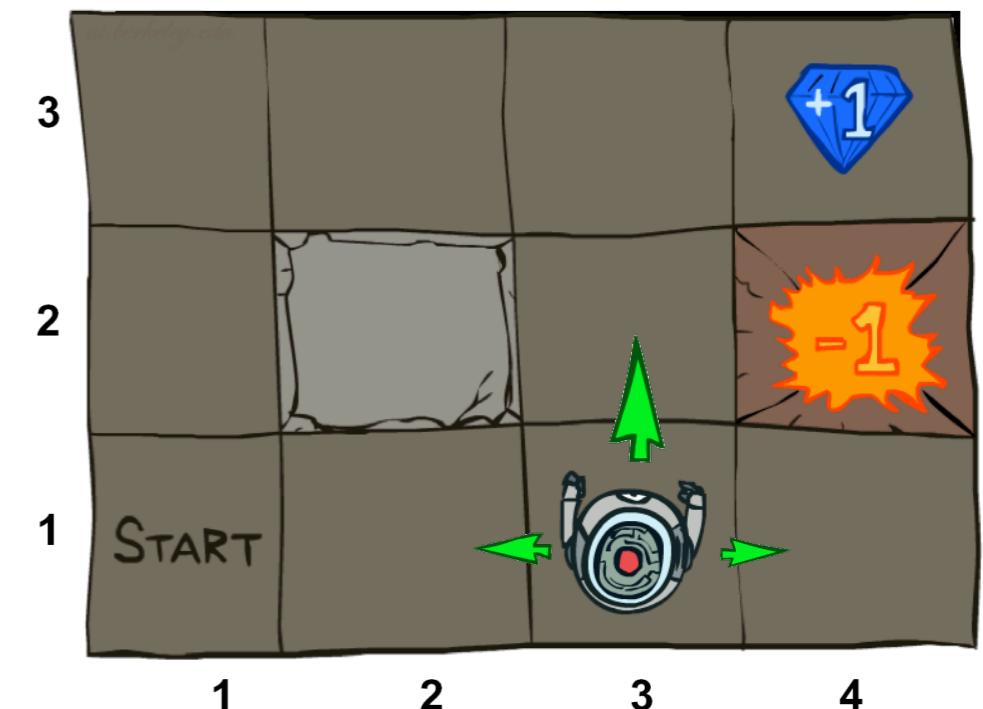




- Inspired by psychology – Agent + Environment
 - Agent selects actions to maximise total reward (return).
- Learning by trial-and-error, in real-time.
- Improves with experience.

Example: Grid World

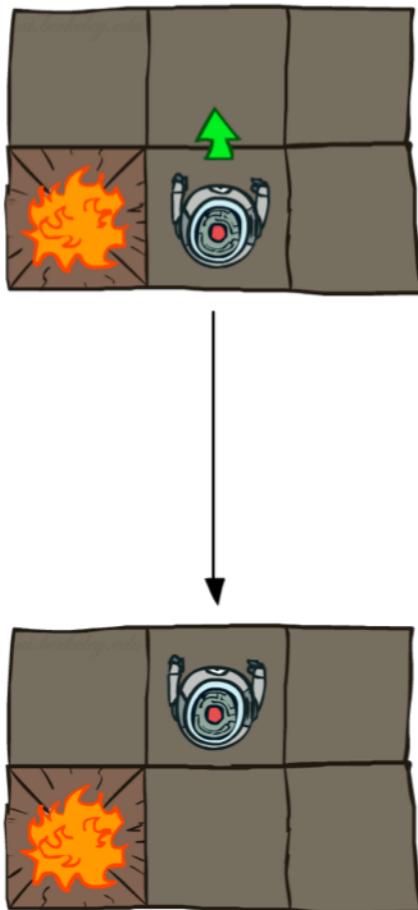
- A maze-like problem
 - The agent lives in a grid
 - Walls block the agent's path
 - States are robot positions
- The agent receives rewards each time step
 - Small “living” reward each step (can be negative)
 - Big rewards come at the end (good or bad)
- Goal: maximise sum of rewards



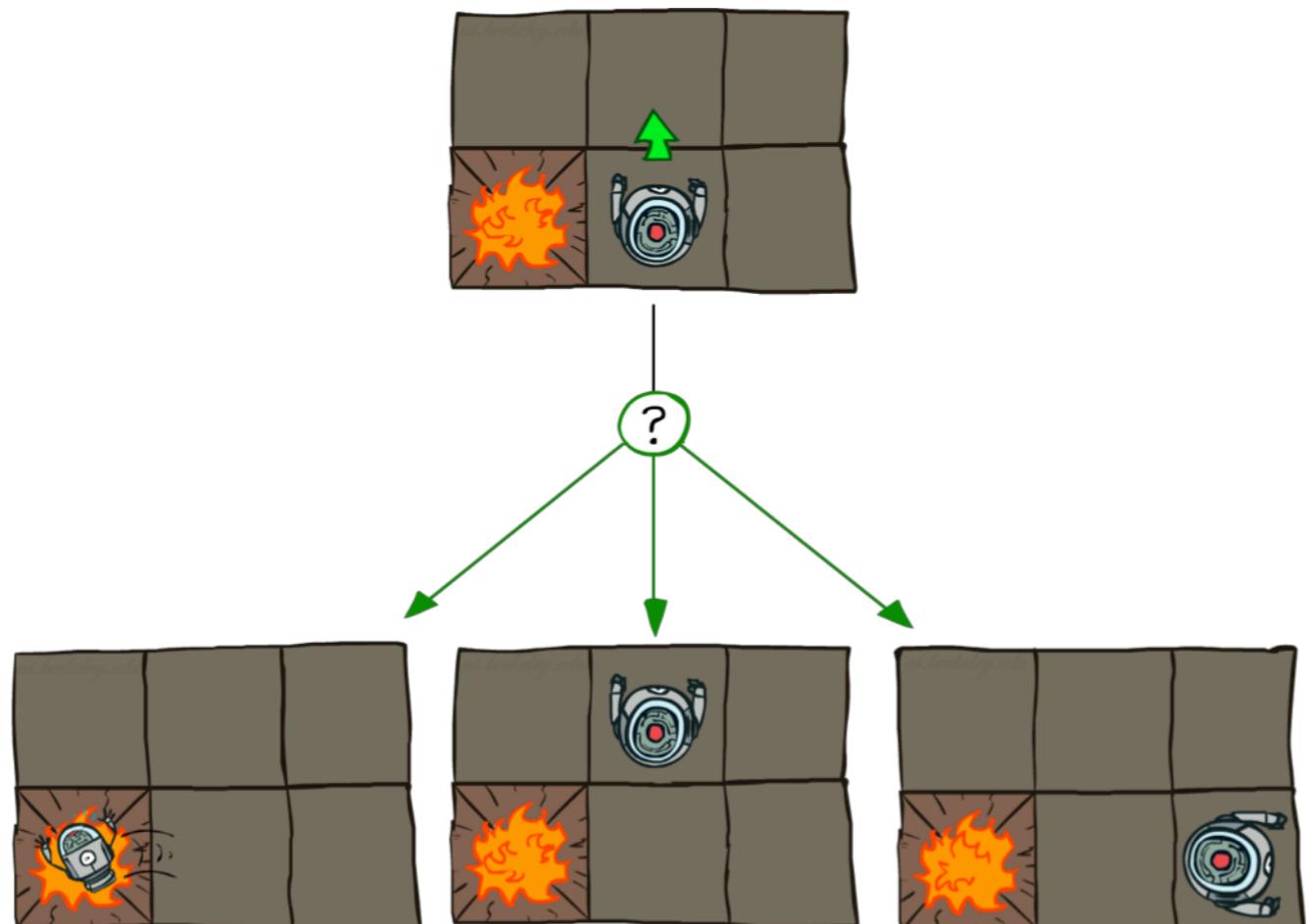
Source: [UC Berkeley CS188 Intro to AI](#)

Grid World Actions

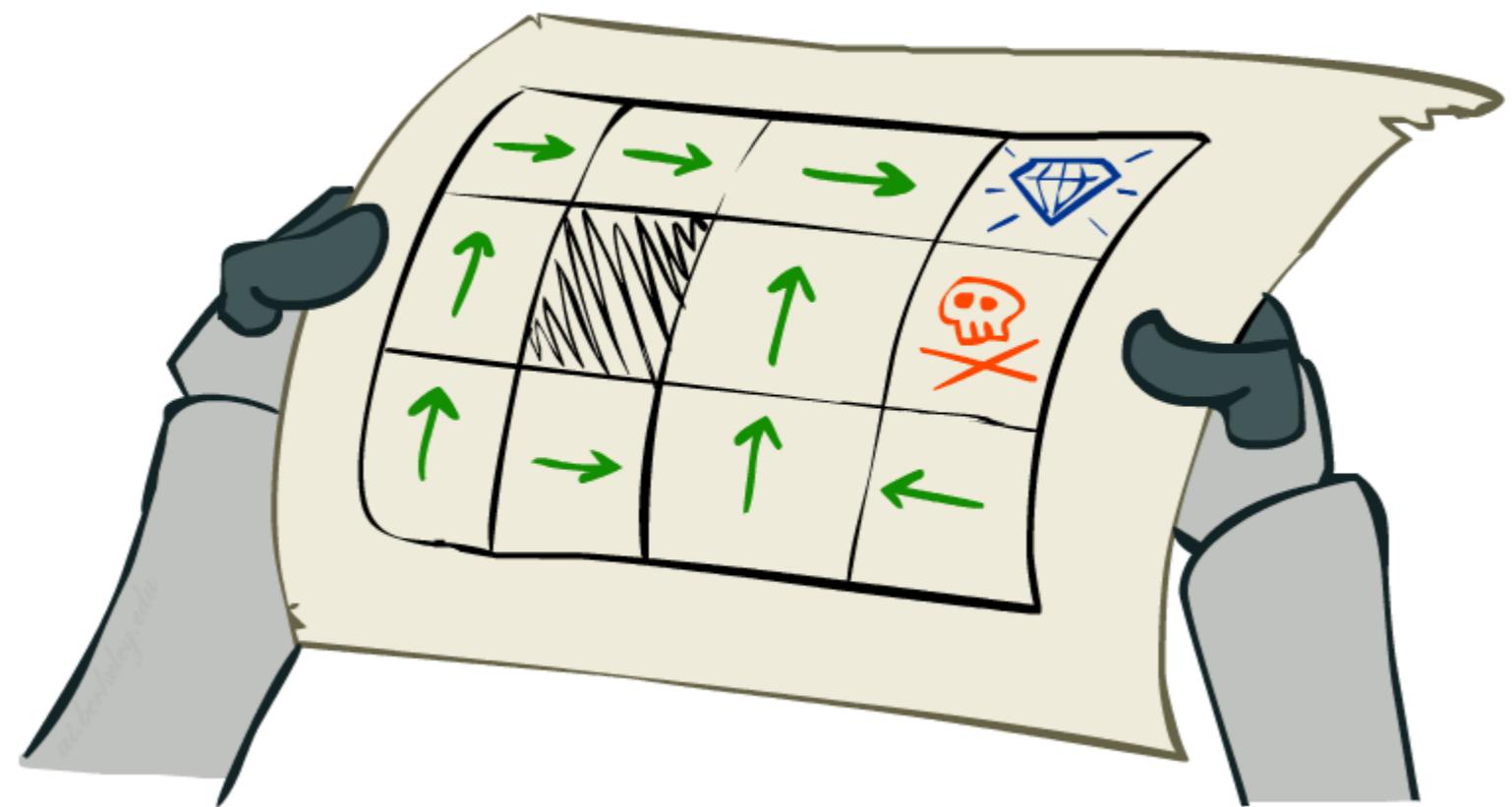
Deterministic Grid World



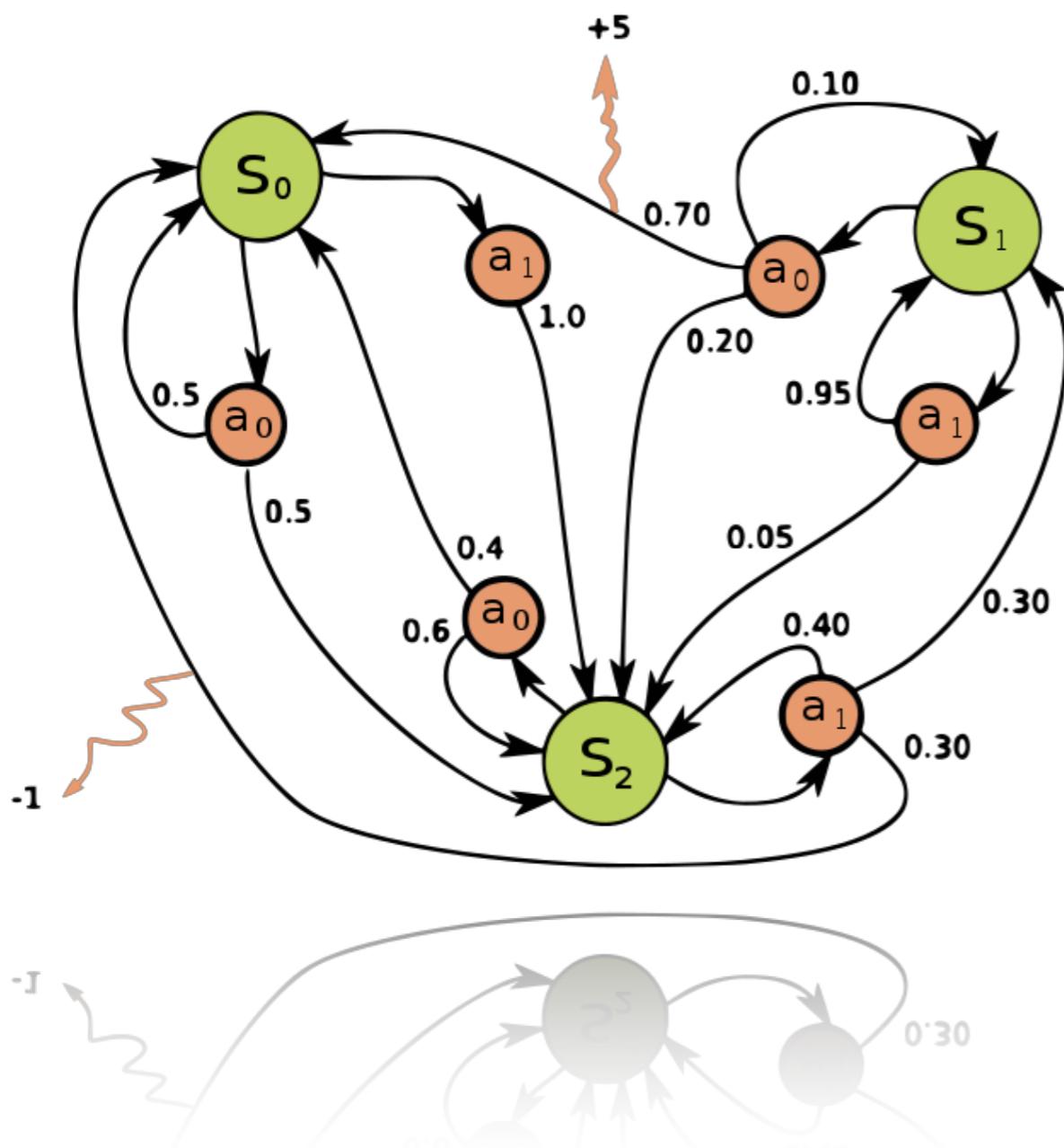
Stochastic Grid World



Policy tells an agent how it should behave



Markov Decision Process



- Set of states: S with initial s_0
- Set of actions: A
- The dynamics of the MDP or transition probabilities:
$$P_{ss'}^a = Pr(S_{t+1} = s' | S_t = s, A_t = a)$$
- Reward function:
$$R_{ss'}^a = R(s, a, s')$$
- Policy: $\pi(s, a) = Pr(A_t = a | S_t = s)$
- Discounting factor: γ

Markov property

$$P_{ss'}^a = \Pr(S_{t+1} = s' | S_t = s, A_t = a)$$

The probability of reaching s' from s depends only on s and a and not on the history of earlier states.



Andrey A. Markov was a Russian mathematician best known for his work on stochastic processes.

Expected return

G_t – future expected (discounted) return from time t

R_t – random variable, reward at time t

Continuous environment

$$G_t \doteq \mathbb{E}[r_t + r_{t+1} + r_{t+2} + \dots] = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} R_{t+i}$$

$$G_t \doteq \mathbb{E}[r_t + \gamma r_{t+1} + \gamma^2 r_{t+2} + \dots] = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \gamma^i R_{t+i}$$



1

Worth Now



γ

Worth Next Step



γ^2

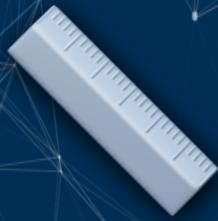
Worth In Two Steps

Episodic environment

$$G_t \doteq \mathbb{E}[r_t + r_{t+1} + r_{t+2} + \dots + r_T] = \sum_{i=0}^{T-t} R_{t+i}$$

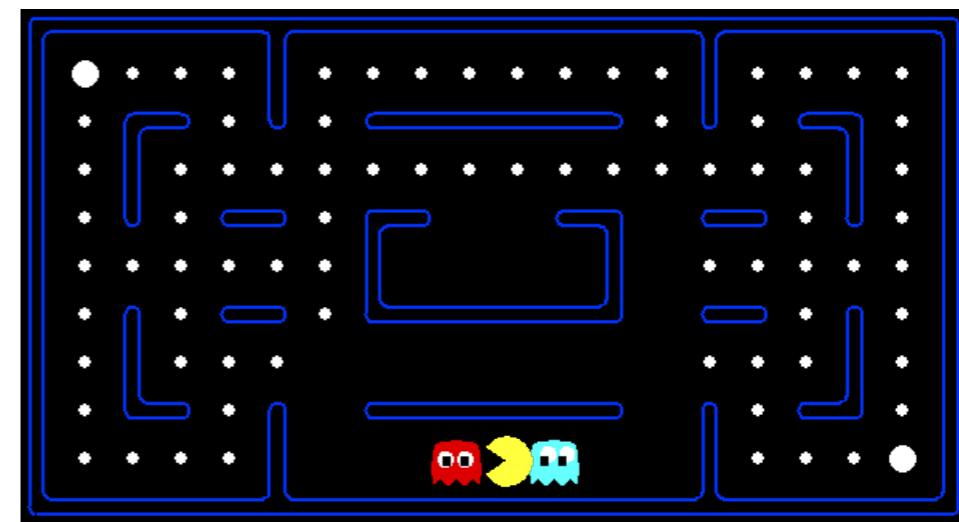
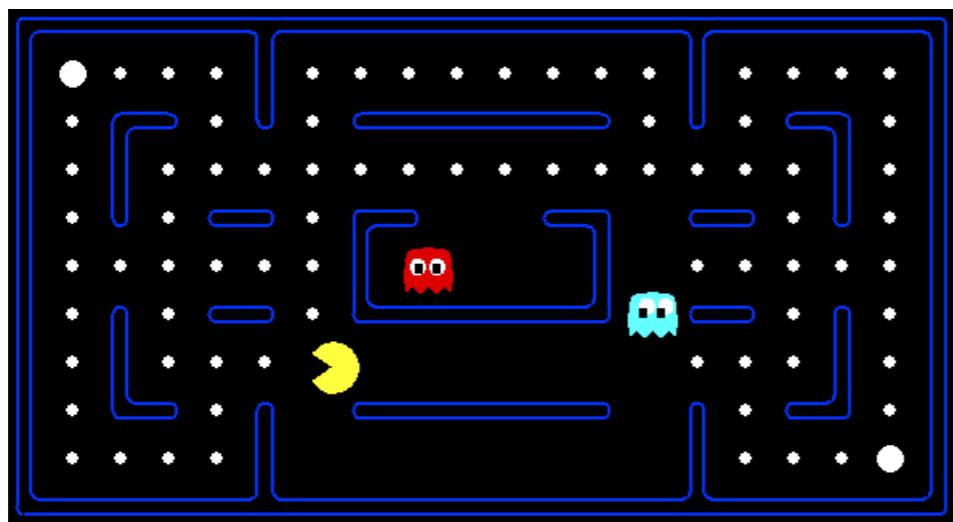
$$G_t \doteq \mathbb{E}[r_t + \gamma r_{t+1} + \gamma^2 r_{t+2} + \dots + \gamma^{T-t} r_T] = \sum_{i=0}^{T-t} \gamma^i R_{t+i}$$

Value Function



Which state has higher “value”?

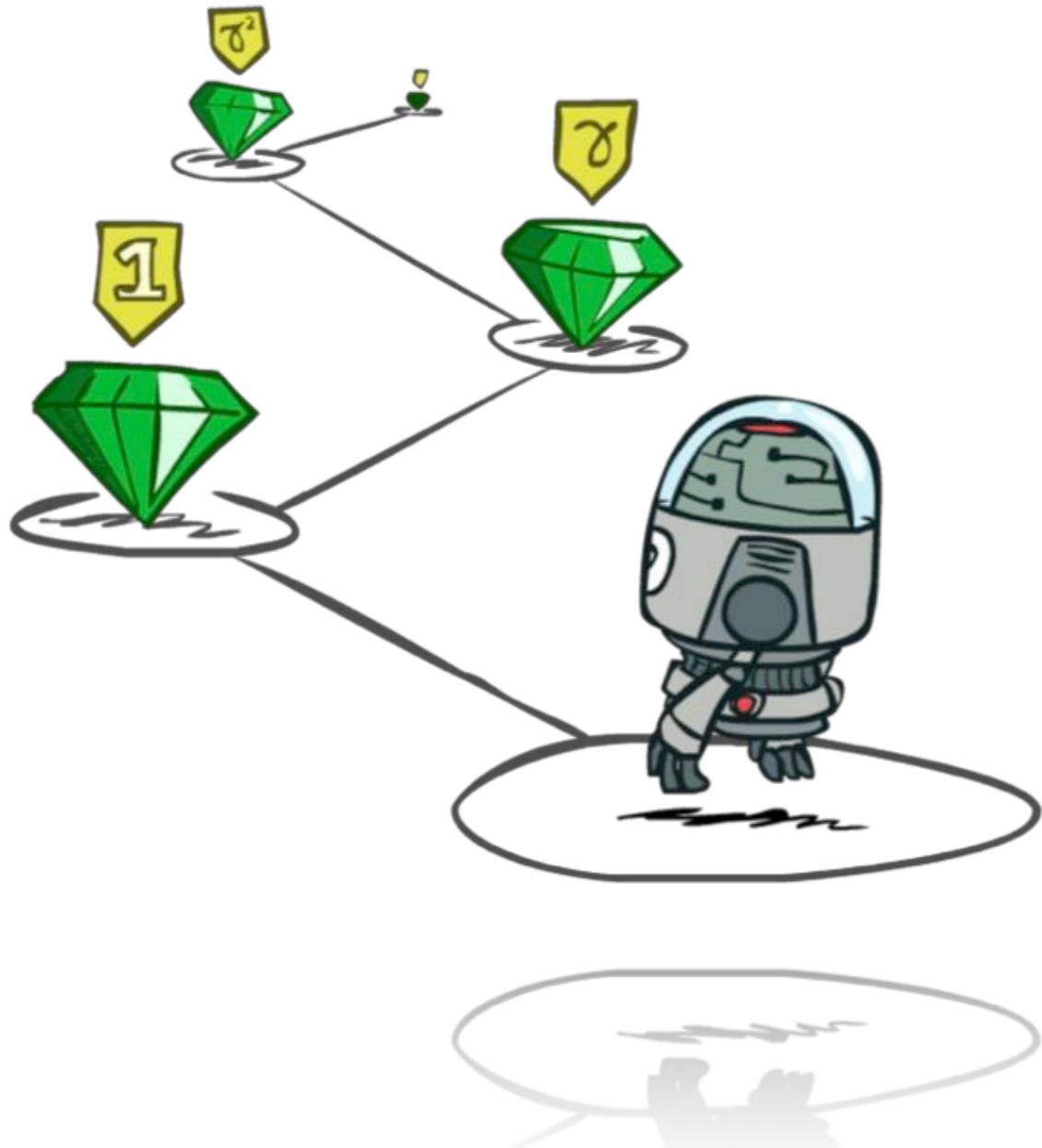
**...or which state is better to be at, if you want to maximise
the total sum of the collected white dots?**



But why?

Value function

$$v_{\pi}(s) = \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[G_t | S_t = s] = \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[R_{t+1} + \gamma R_{t+2} + \gamma^2 R_{t+3} + \dots] = \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[R_{t+1} + \gamma v_{\pi}(S_{t+1})]$$

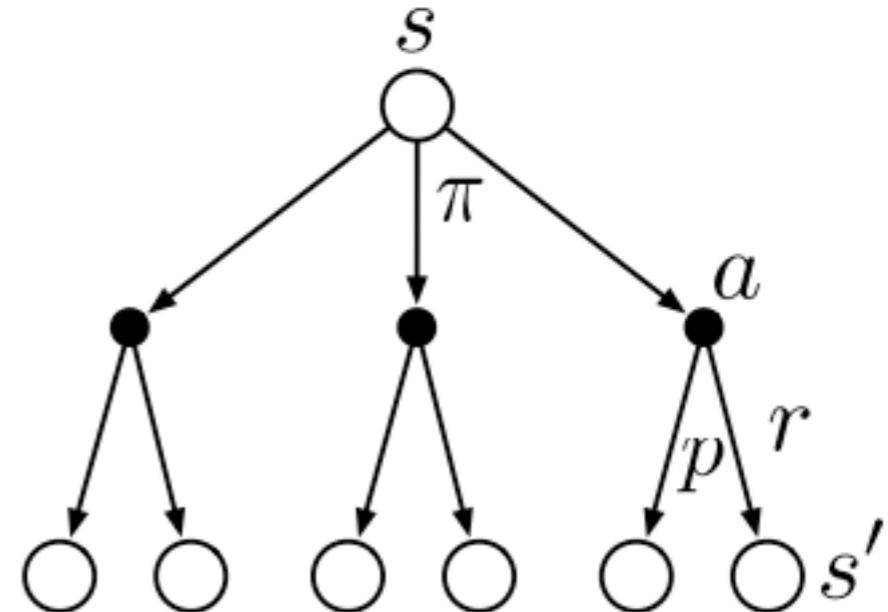


Value function estimates how good it is for the agent to be in a given state. The notion of “how good” here is defined in terms of **future rewards that can be expected**, or to be precise, in terms of **expected return from a given state following agent’s policy**.

Value function

$$v_\pi(s) = \mathbb{E}_\pi[R_{t+1} + \gamma v_\pi(S_{t+1})] = \sum_a \pi(s, a) \sum_{s'} Pr(S_{t+1} = s' | S_t = s, A_t = a) [r_{t+1} + \gamma v_\pi(s')]$$

The value of the state must equal the (discounted) value of the expected next state, plus the reward expected along the way.



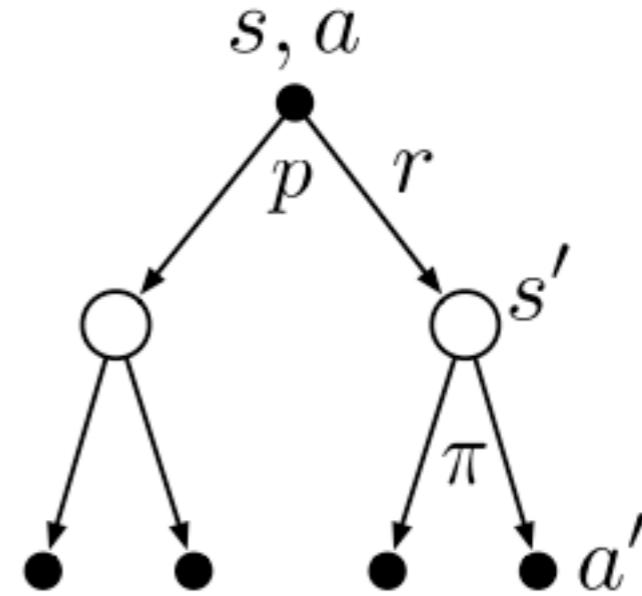
Backup diagram for value of state “s”

Quality function

$$q_\pi(s, a) = \mathbf{E}_\pi[G_t | s_t = s, a_t = a] = \mathbf{E}_\pi[R_{t+1} + \gamma R_{t+2} + \gamma^2 R_{t+3} + \dots] = \mathbf{E}_\pi[R_{t+1} + \gamma v_\pi(s')]$$

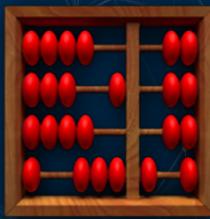
$$v_\pi(s) = \sum_a \pi(s, a) q_\pi(s, a)$$

The quality of the state-action pair is **expected return when taking the given action in the given state and following agent's policy afterwards.**

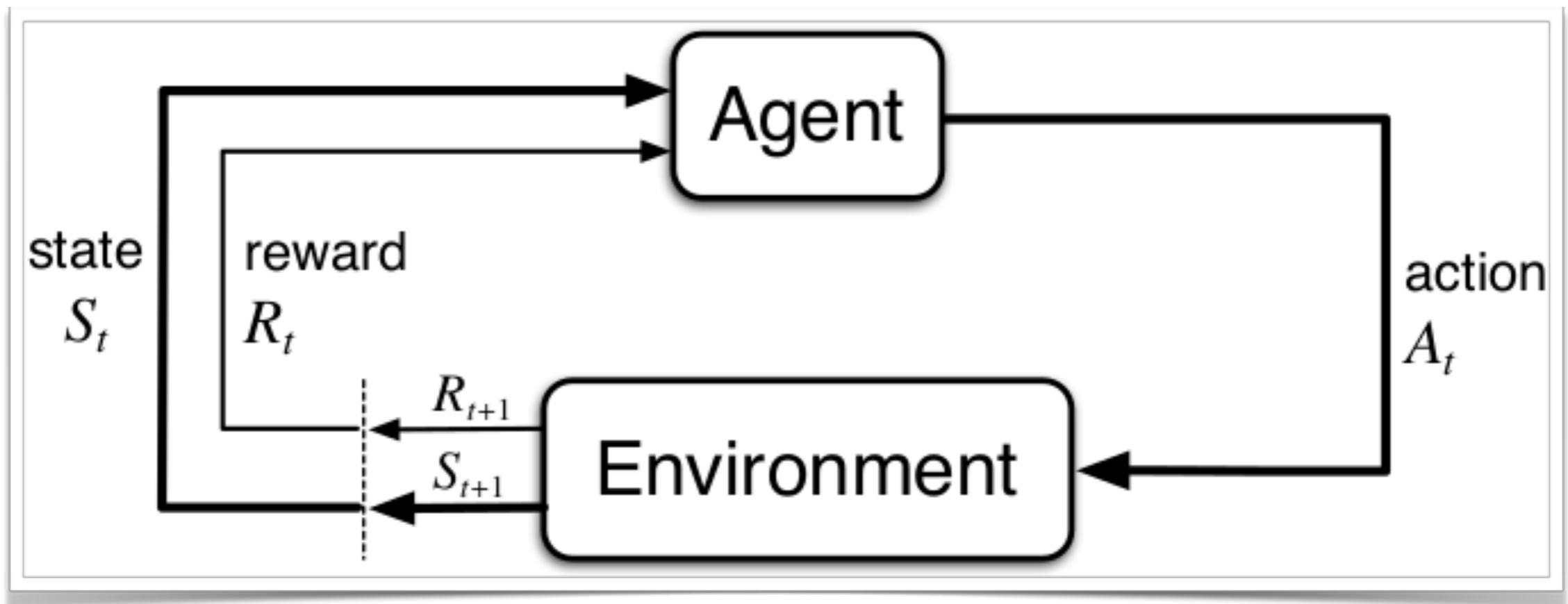


Backup diagram for quality of state-action pair “ s, a ”

Policy Evaluation



Reminder

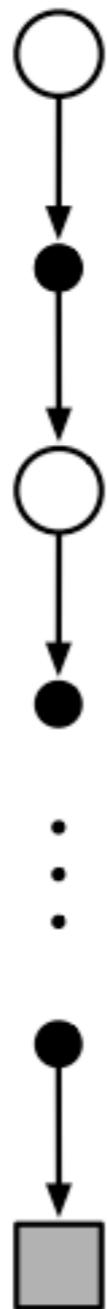


You can only take actions and receive a feedback from the environment

Monte Carlo!



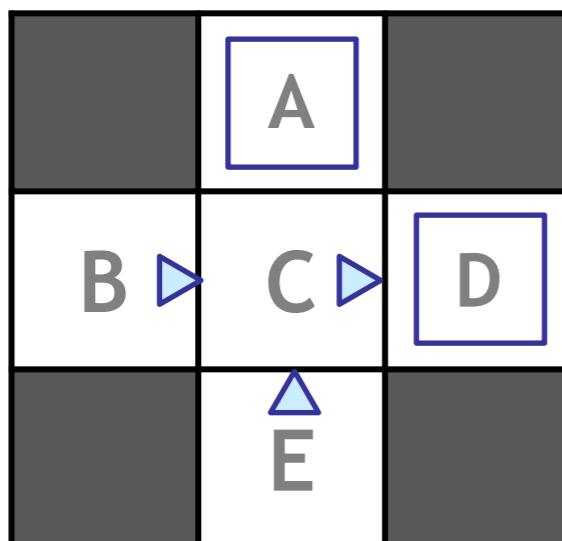
Monte-Carlo prediction



1. Rollout a given policy to gather experience.
2. Average the returns observed after visiting each state.
3. As more returns are observed, the average will converge to the expected value.

Monte-Carlo prediction

Input Policy π



Assume: $\gamma = 1$

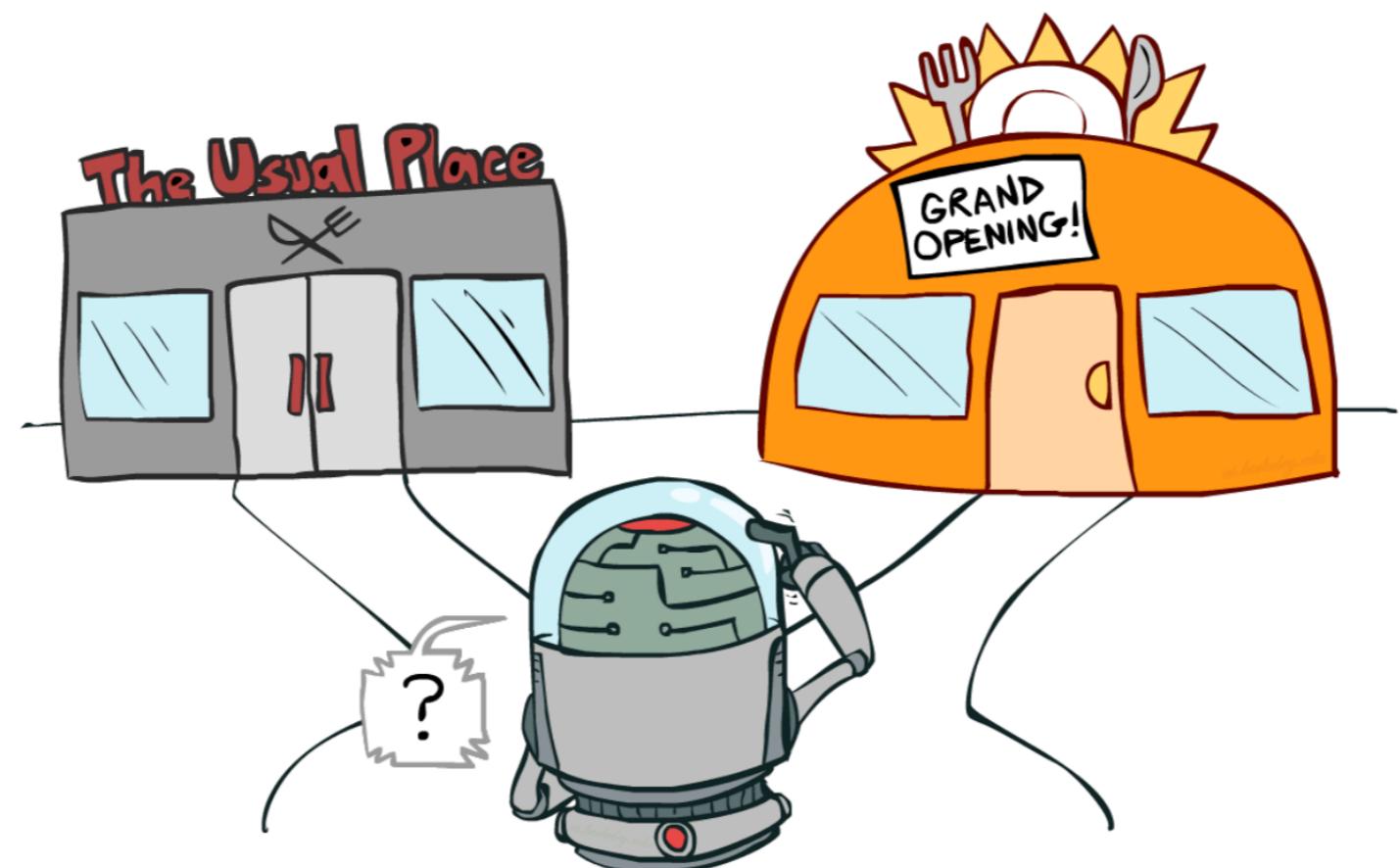
Episodes:

1. B -> East -> -1 -> C -> East -> -1 -> D -> exit -> +10
2. B -> East -> -1 -> C -> East -> -1 -> D -> exit -> +10
3. E -> North -> -1 -> C -> East -> -1 -> D -> exit -> +10
4. E -> North -> -1 -> C -> East -> -1 -> A -> exit -> -10

Monte-Carlo estimation of action values

- Track the return after visiting each state-action pair.
- Many state-action pairs may never be visited if a policy is deterministic.
- This means no information about how good are other actions and no way to improve our policy.

Exploration-exploitation



Policy Improvement



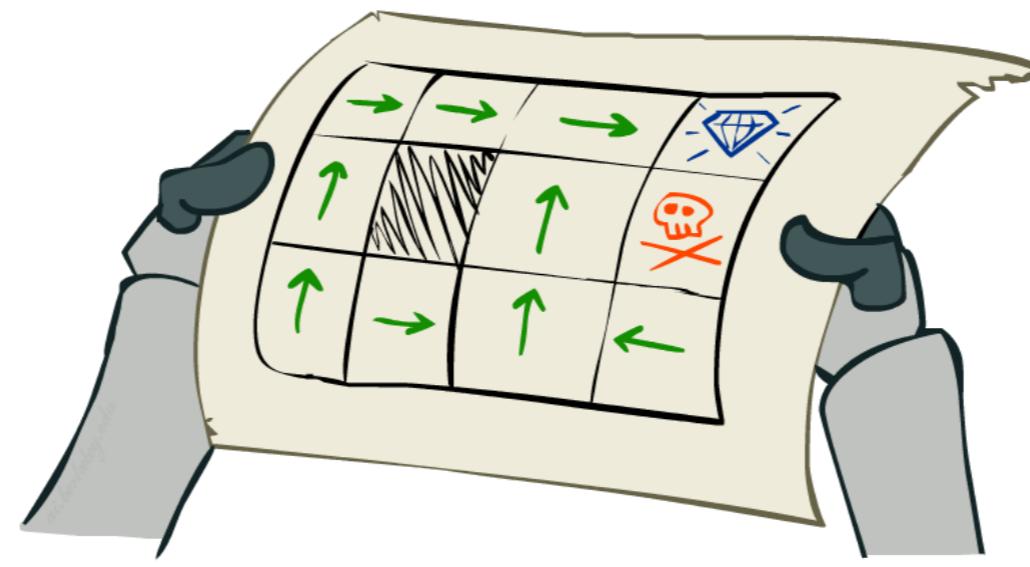
**Choose best
action now and
follow your policy
from next state
onwards**



One step look-ahead

$$\pi'(s) \doteq \operatorname{argmax}_a q_\pi(s, a)$$

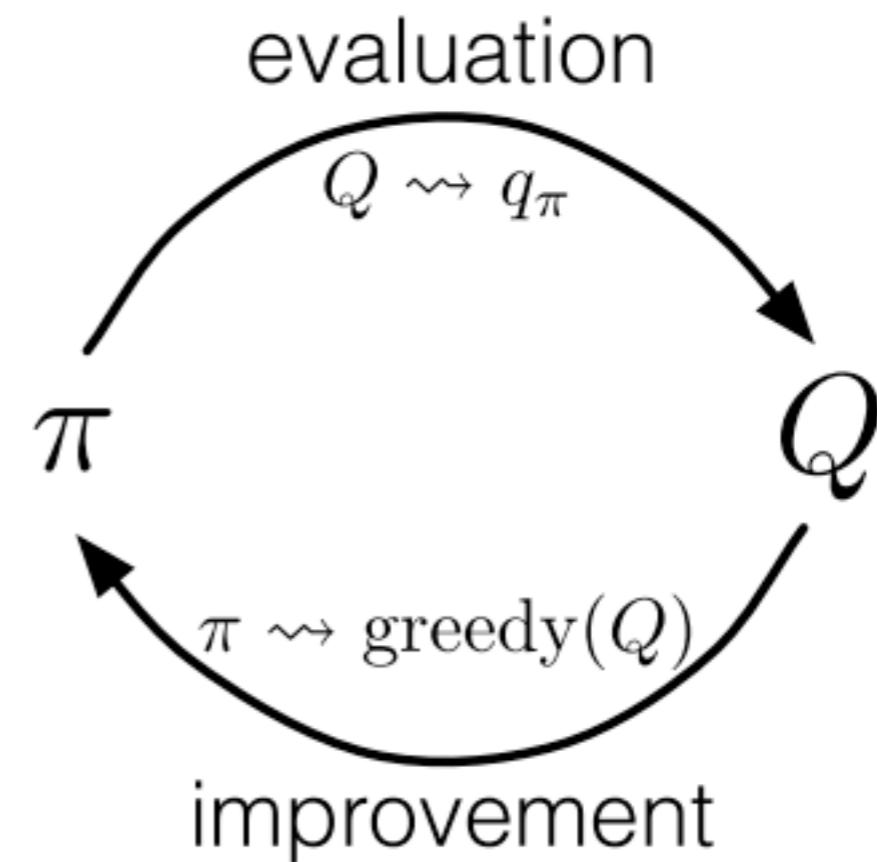
$$\forall_s \pi'(s) \geq \pi(s)$$



Policy Iteration

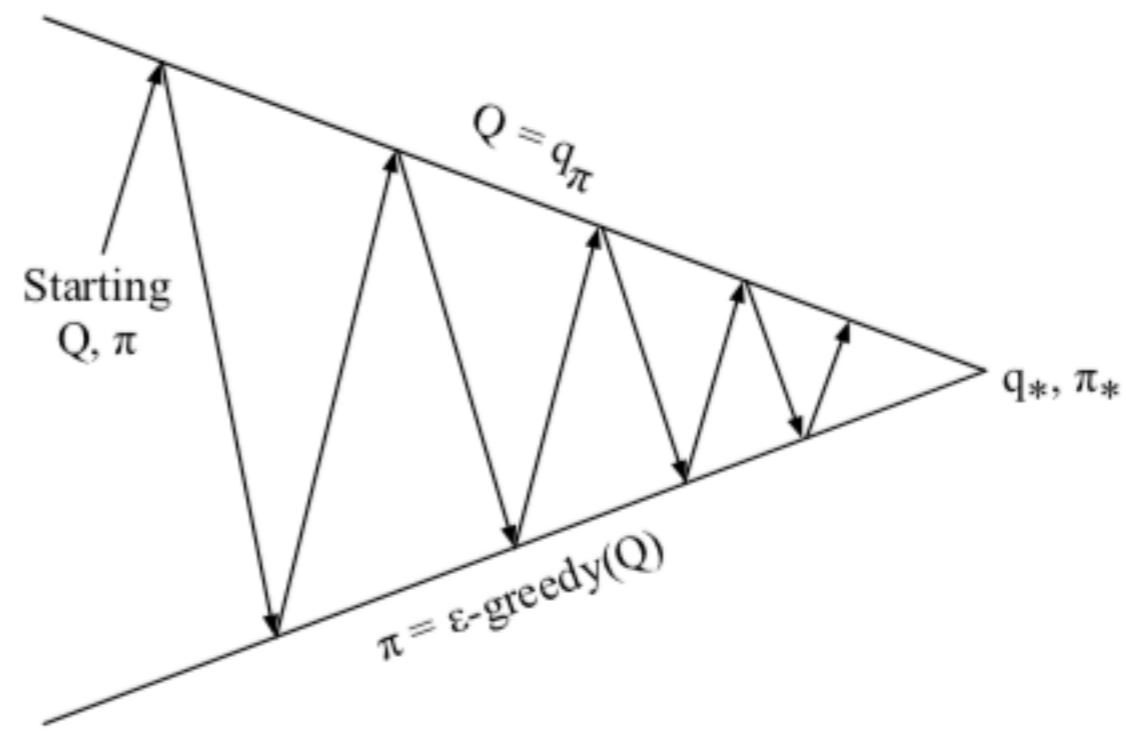


**Evaluate your
current policy**
then improve it and start
over!



Monte-Carlo control

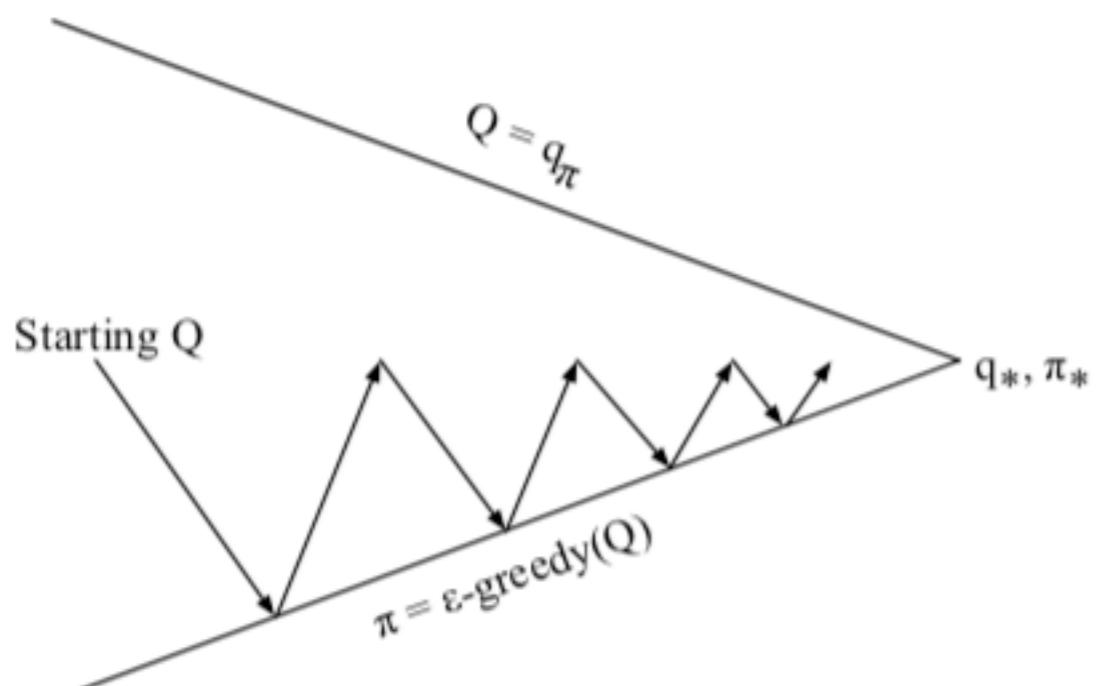
1. Start with an arbitrary policy and Q-values.
2. Alternate between policy evaluation and policy improvement.
3. When the policy doesn't change anymore, you've reached the optimal point.



$$q_\pi(s, a) = \mathbb{E}[R_{t+1} + \gamma \max_{a'} q_\pi(S_{t+1}, a') | S_t = s, A_t = a] \iff \pi = \pi^*$$

Bellman optimality equation

Iterative implementation

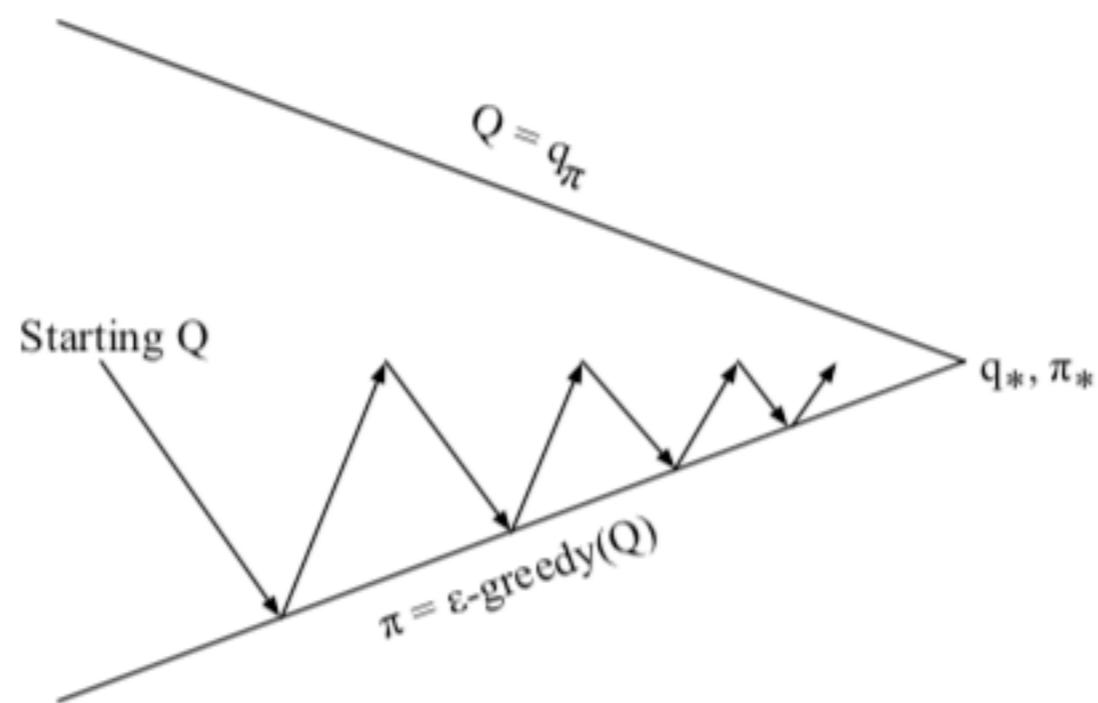


Interleave policy evaluation and policy improvement on an episode-by-episode basis.

Policy iteration will converge, regardless of evaluation and improvement steps arrangement.

One last problem

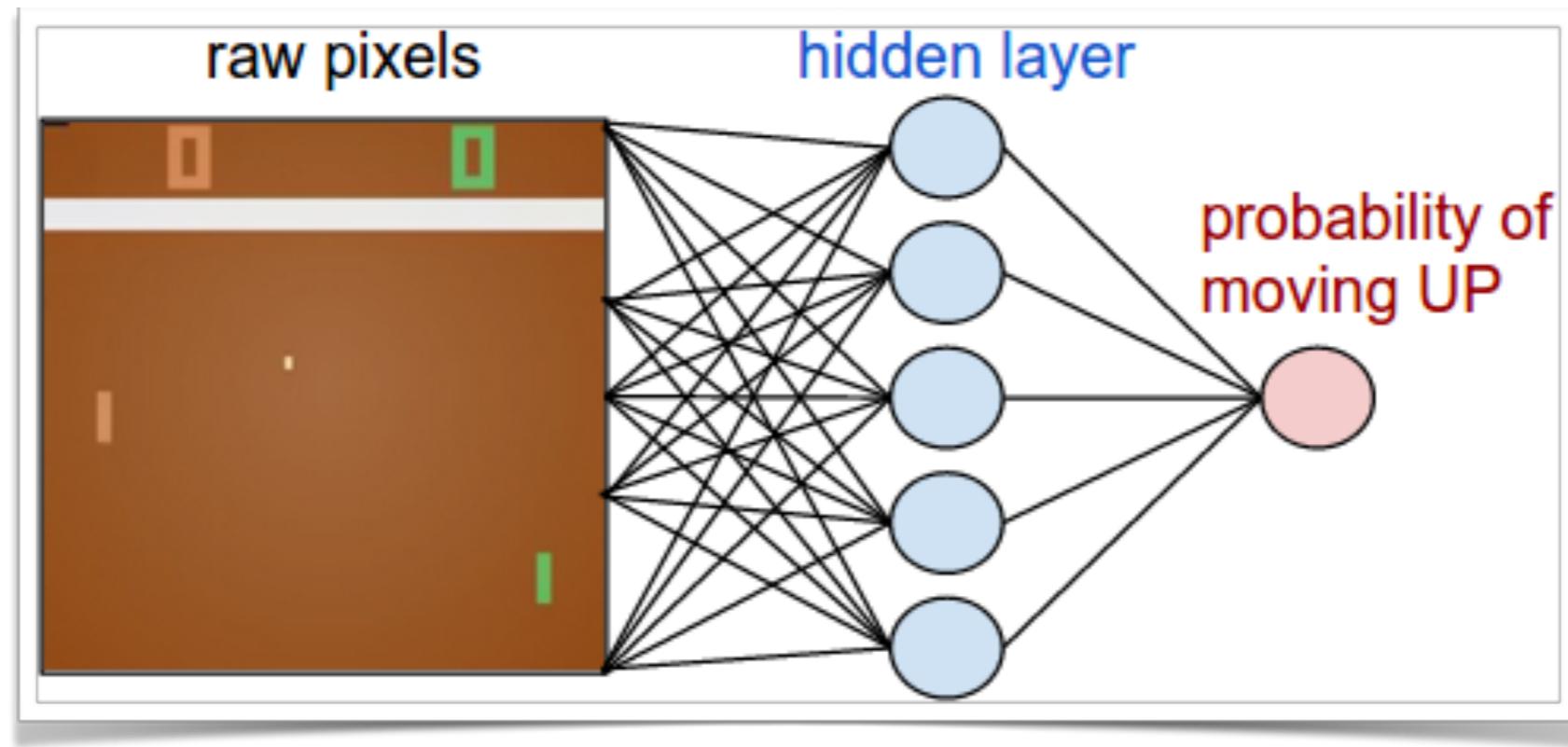
Q-values of what policy do we learn?



Policy Gradients

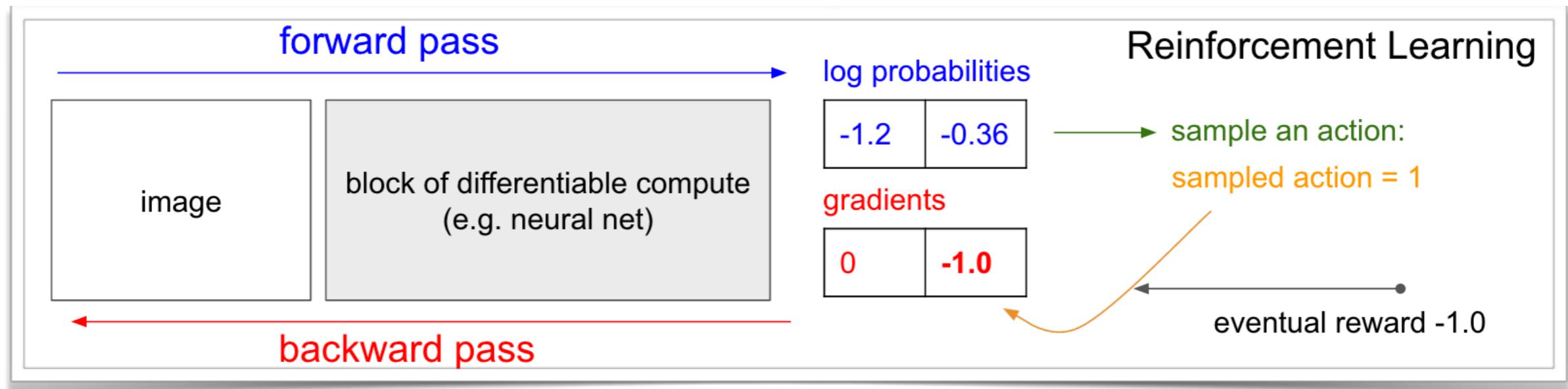
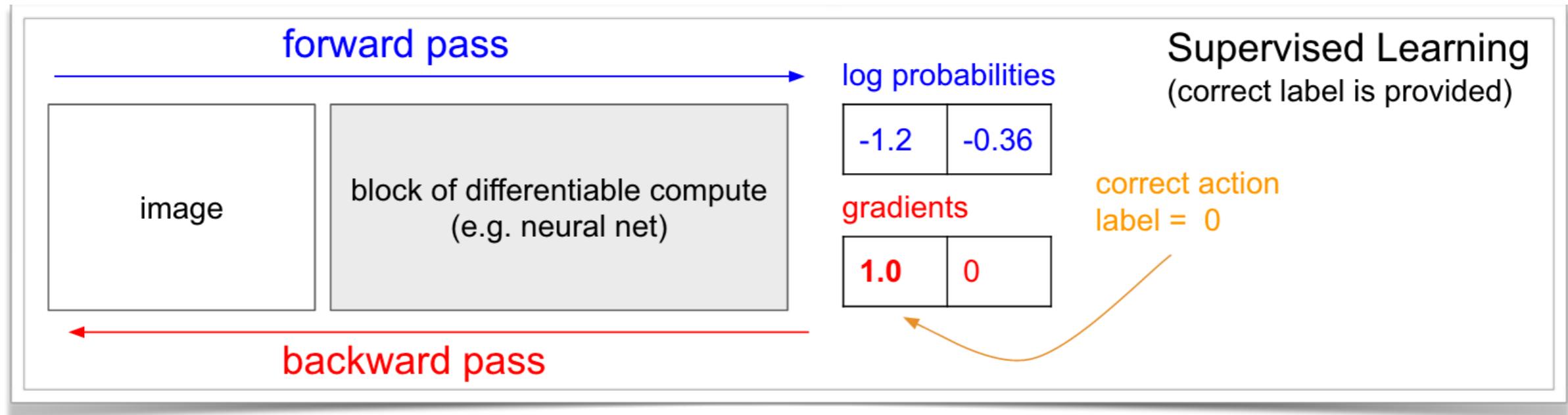


Why to learn some values, if all we care about is policy?

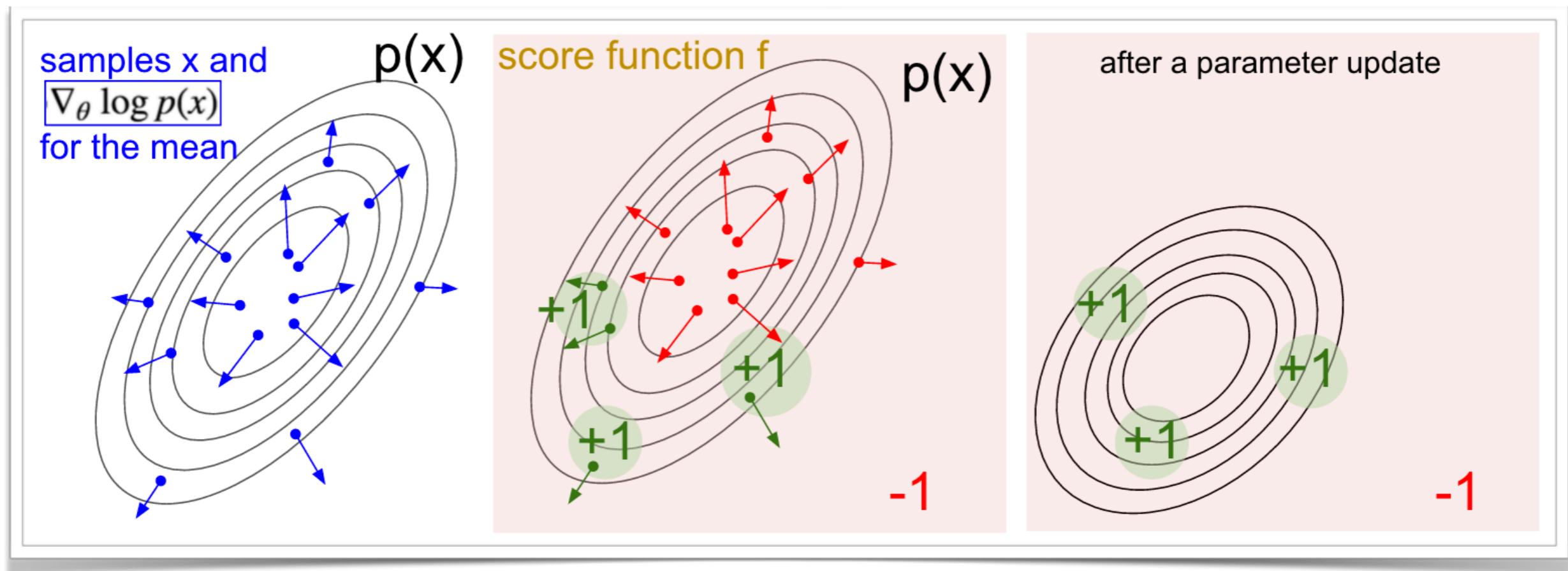


Our NN takes a current game state, processes it and returns probabilities of particular actions (it's the parametrised distribution over actions). Then we sample from this distribution to decide what action to take.

How is RL related to SL?



Plug-in reward as a label



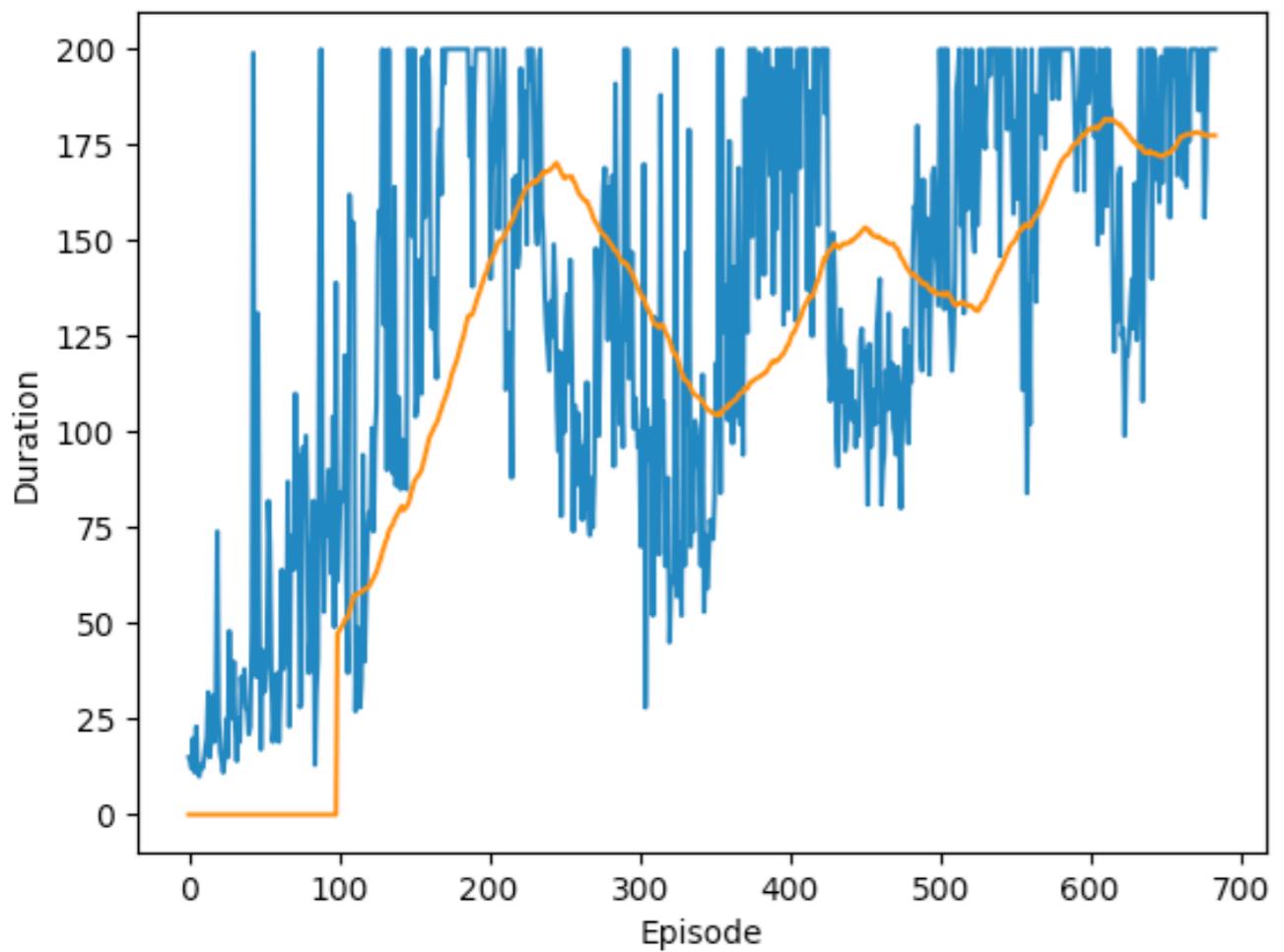
What happens is we shift action distribution (which depends on current state) to areas where actions result in higher rewards. We encourage NN to take “good” actions and discourage it to take “bad” actions.

On-policy learning: pros and cons

We train NN policy directly, that's great! But also we learn on-policy, from current policy experience. It means that what we do has high impact on what we learn.

Figure 2

Training...

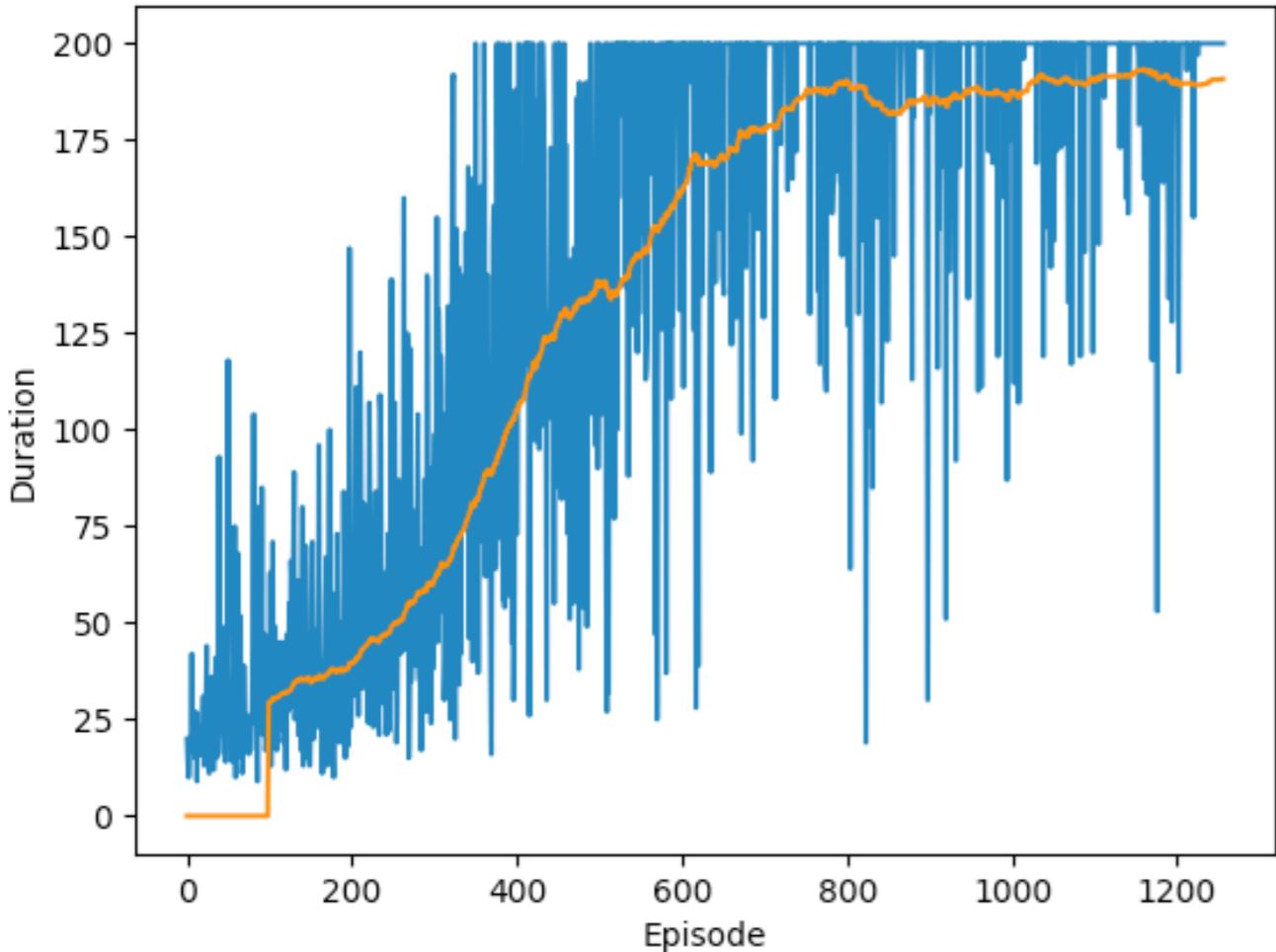


pg.py

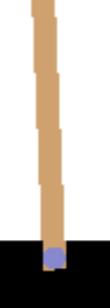


Figure 2

Training...



pg.py



**Time for questions and a
short break**



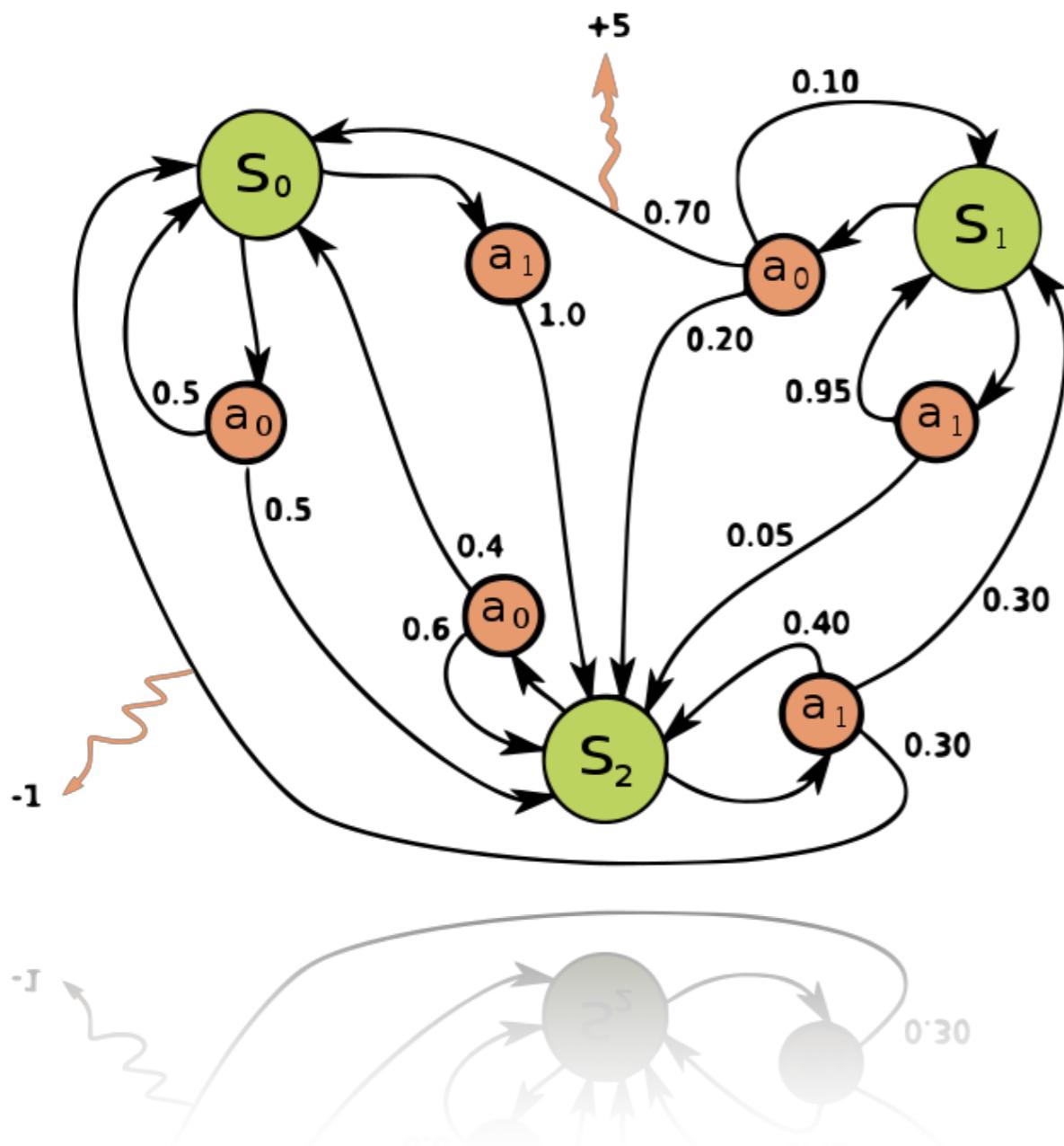
Simulation-based search



Temporality

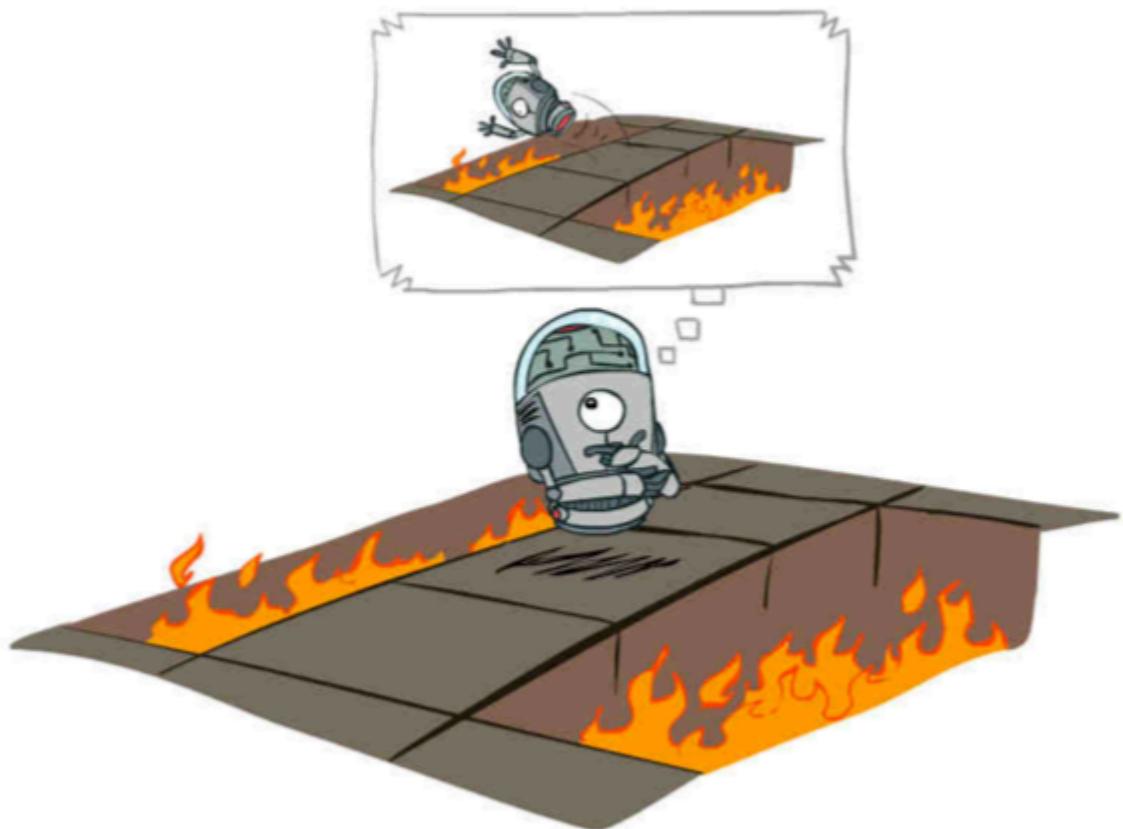


sub-MDP



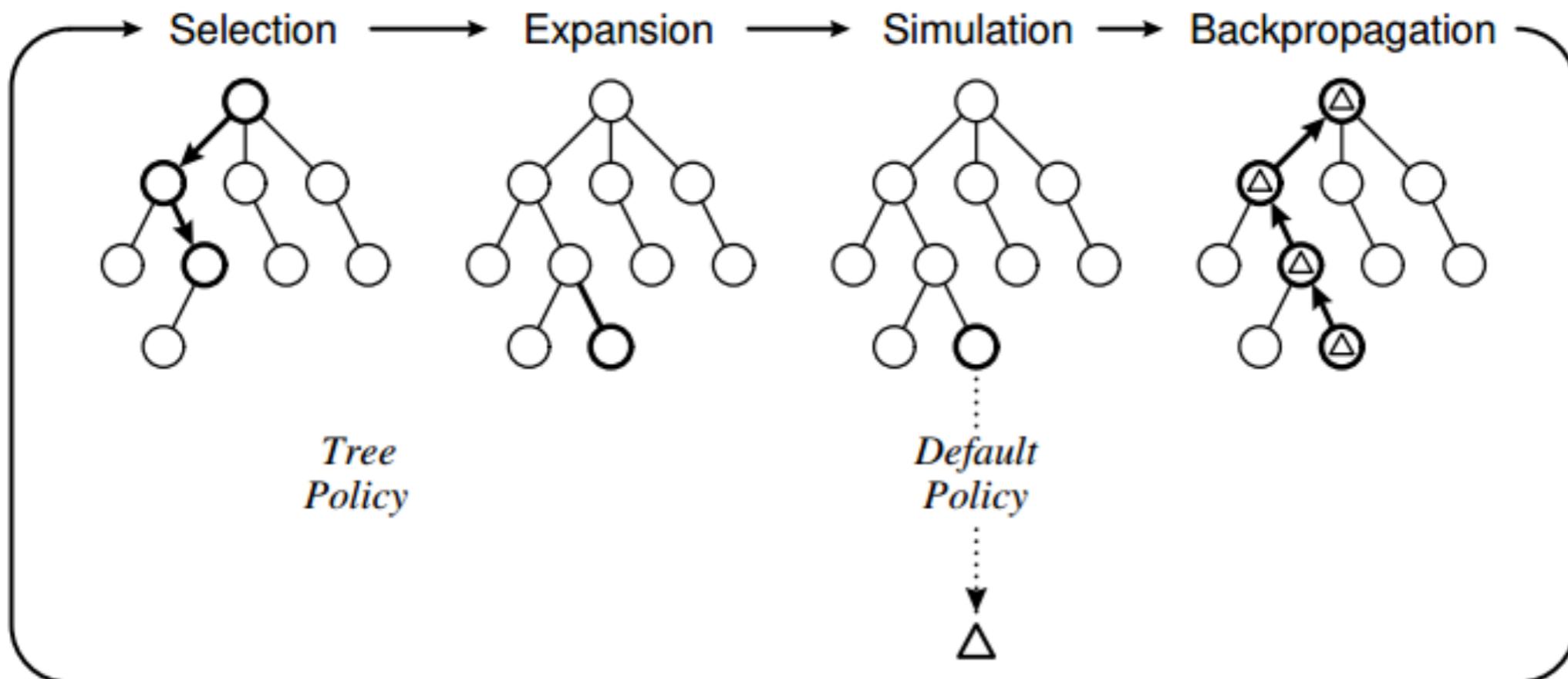
- Set of states: S with initial s_t
- Set of actions: A
- The dynamics of the MDP or transition probabilities:
$$P_{ss'}^a = \Pr(S_{t+1} = s' | S_t = s, A_t = a)$$
- Reward function:
$$R_{ss'}^a = R(s, a, s')$$
- Policy: $\pi(s, a) = \Pr(A_t = a | S_t = s)$
- Discounting factor: γ

Planning vs. learning



Monte-Carlo Tree Search

in policy iteration framework



Each node keeps track of:

$N(s)$ – a total count for the state

$N(s, a)$ – a total count for the action in the state

$Q(s, a)$ – value of the action in the state

What about exploration?

Tree policy in Monte-Carlo Tree Search (MCTS)

$$\pi_{tree}(s) \doteq \operatorname{argmax}_a Q(s, a)$$

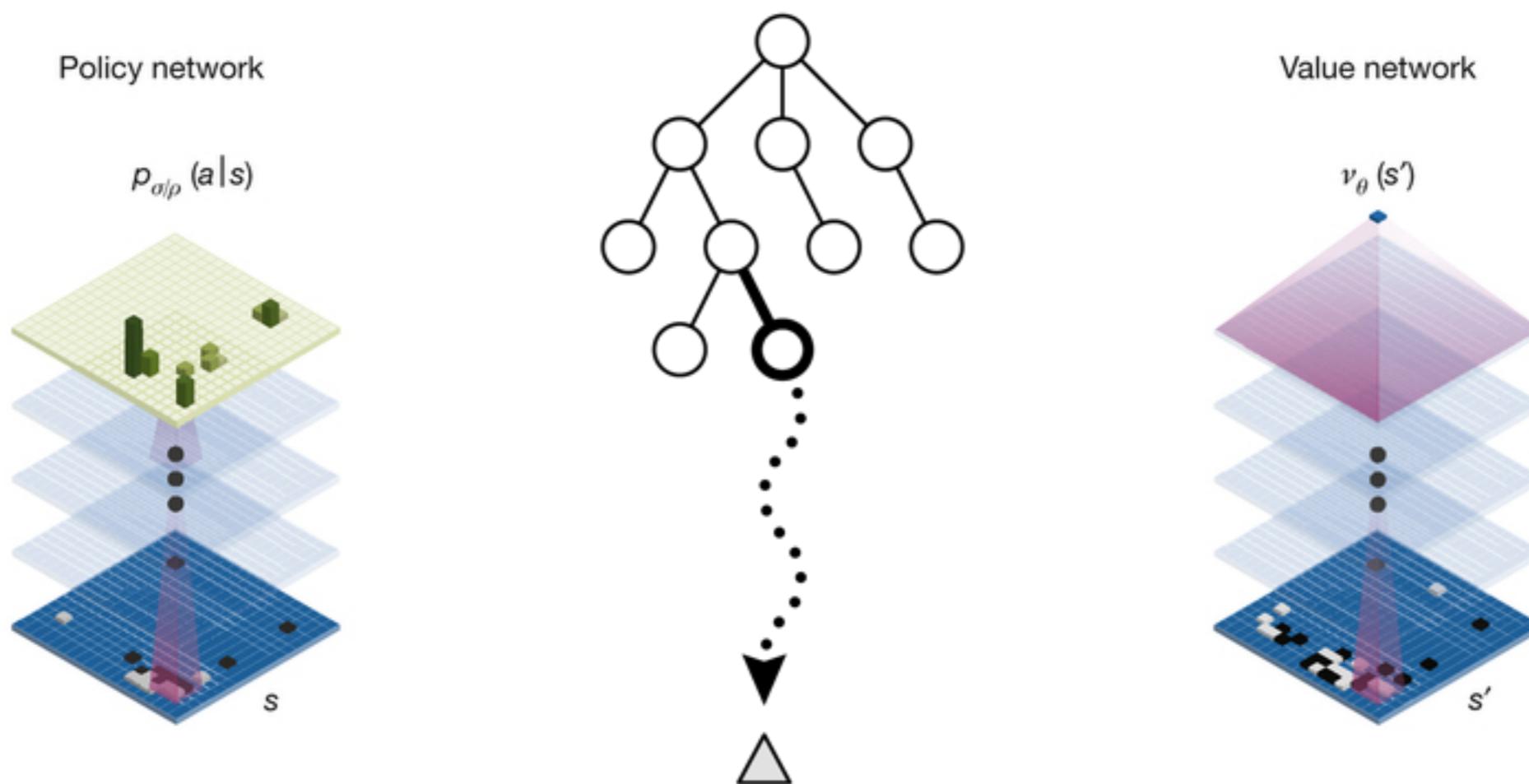
Tree policy in Upper Confidence Tree (UCT)

$$\pi_{tree}(s) \doteq \operatorname{argmax}_a \left[Q(s, a) + c \sqrt{\frac{\ln N(s)}{N(s, a)}} \right]$$

AlphaZero demystified



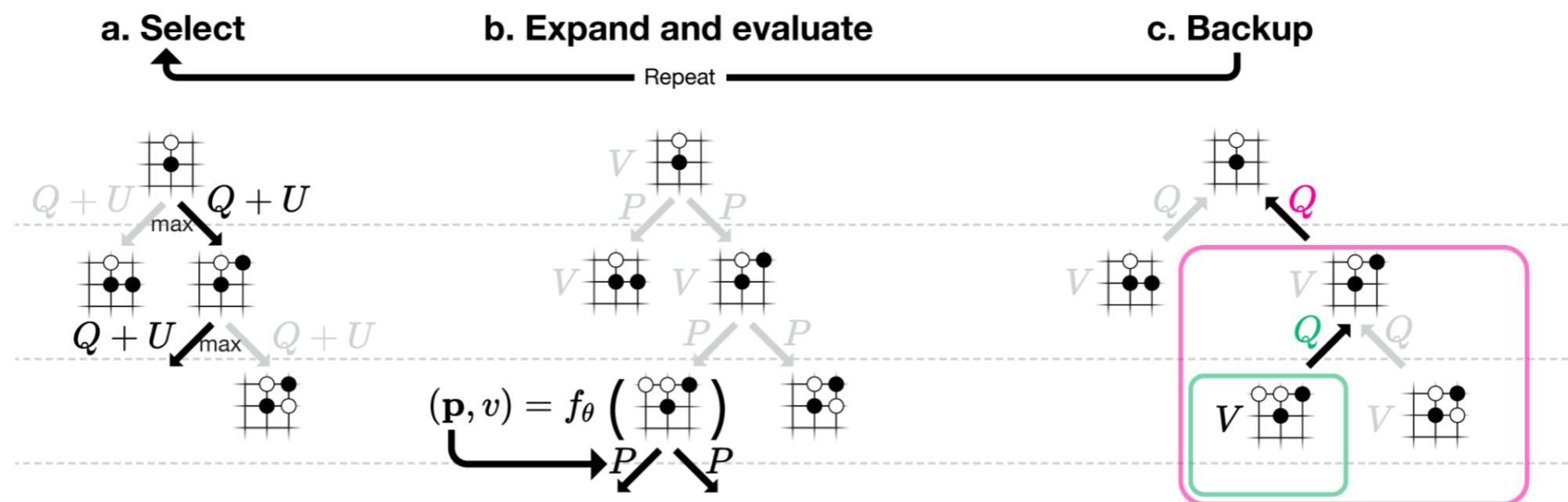
AlphaZero architecture



Requirements on problem kind

- **discrete** - states and actions sets form a discontinuous sequences, put simply they are discrete.
- **deterministic** - every move has one possible outcome.
- with **perfect information** - both players have perfect knowledge about current game state.
- access to **game rules** - there need to be some sort of environment simulator.

AlphaZero Tree Search



This algorithm meets anytime property. Estimates gets better and better with each simulation and we can cut calculations any time we have to.

Efficiency Through Value Function

Games like chess  and Go  have very (in Go I mean VERY) large state space - legal board game positions.

Any ideas how to obtain the value function?

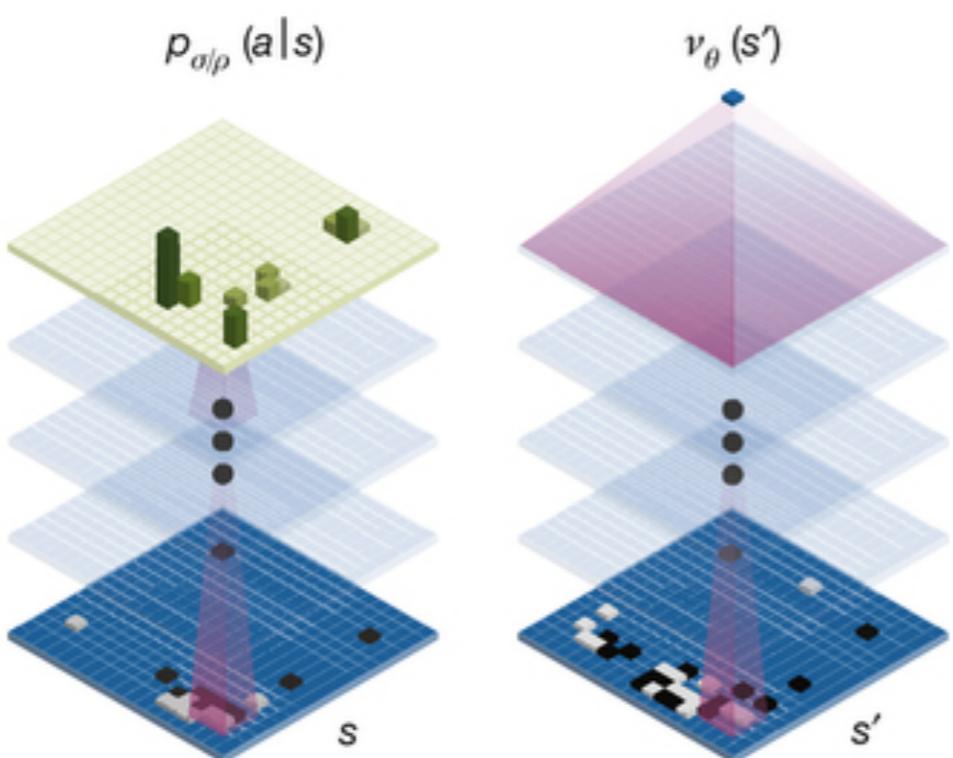
Efficiency Through Expert Policy

Also, games like chess  and Go  have very (in Go I mean VERY) large branching factor - possible moves in each state.

$$\pi_{tree}(s) \doteq \operatorname{argmax}_a \left[Q(s, a) + c \cdot P(s, a) \cdot \frac{\sqrt{N(s)}}{1 + N(s, a)} \right]$$

Any ideas how to obtain the expert policy?

How to model the value function and the expert policy?



Train through Policy Iteration

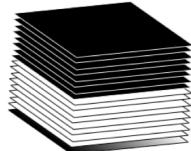
SELF PLAY

Create a 'training set'

The best current player plays 25,000 games against itself

See MCTS section to understand how AlphaGo Zero selects each move

At each move, the following information is stored



The game state
(see 'What is a Game State section')



The search probabilities
(from the MCTS)



The winner
(+1 if this player won, -1 if this player lost - added once the game has finished)

RETRAIN NETWORK

Optimise the network weights

A TRAINING LOOP

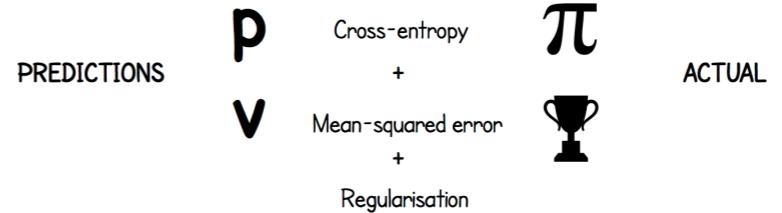
Sample a mini-batch of 2048 positions from the last 500,000 games

Retrain the current neural network on these positions

- The game states are the input (see 'Deep Neural Network Architecture')

Loss function

Compares predictions from the neural network with the search probabilities and actual winner



After every 1,000 training loops, evaluate the network

Full infographic in references, highly recommend to give a look

Case Study



Thank you 😊

You can find this presentation and AlphaZero implementation (along other projects) on my GitHub:
<https://github.com/piojanu>

Sources and Good Reads

- [A Simple Alpha\(Go\) Zero Tutorial](#) by Surag Nair
- [AlphaGo Zero cheatsheet](#) by David Foster
- [AlphaGo Zero - How and Why it Works](#) by Tim Wheeler
- [Deep Reinforcement Learning: Pong from Pixels](#) by Andrej Karpathy
- [UC Berkeley AI course](#)
- [Mastering the game of Go without Human Knowledge](#) by David Silver et al.
- [UCL Course on RL](#) by David Silver
- [The Multi-Armed Bandit Problem and Its Solutions](#) by Lilian Weng
- [Deep Learning and Reinforcement Learning Summer School, Montreal 2017](#)
- Reinforcement Learning: An Introduction 2nd edition
- **AlphaGo movie on Netflix** 