

The background features a dark blue gradient on the left, transitioning into a large, abstract, curved shape on the right. This shape is composed of overlapping layers in shades of purple, magenta, and a hint of orange at the bottom right corner, creating a sense of depth and movement.

aws SUMMIT

LONDON | APR 27 2022

ML-06

Speed-up your ML career with AWS DeepRacer

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Sr. Solutions Architect

Amazon Web Services



Agenda

AWS DeepRacer origin

RL for the Sunday driver

Virtual simulator

Under the hood

Rubber meets the road

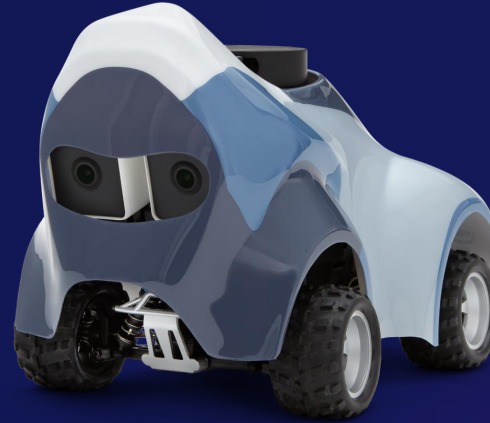
AWS DeepRacer origin



Building your team's skills



AWS DeepLens
Deep Learning



AWS DeepRacer
Reinforcement
Learning



AWS DeepComposer
Generative AI

AWS DeepRacer origin

How can we put reinforcement learning in the hands of all developers? *literally*



AWS DeepRacer is the perfect first date with ML

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

CIO JOURNAL

Ready, Set, Algorithms! Teams Learn AI by Racing Cars

Morningstar, Liberty Mutual workers are coming up with business ideas after exploring machine learning via mini self-driving vehicles



Morningstar hosted a DeepRacer competition in its Mumbai offices on Sept. 23.

PHOTO: MORNINGSTAR INC.

AWS DeepRacer: An exciting way for developers to get hands-on experience with reinforcement learning



AWS
DeepRacer Evo



3D racing
simulator



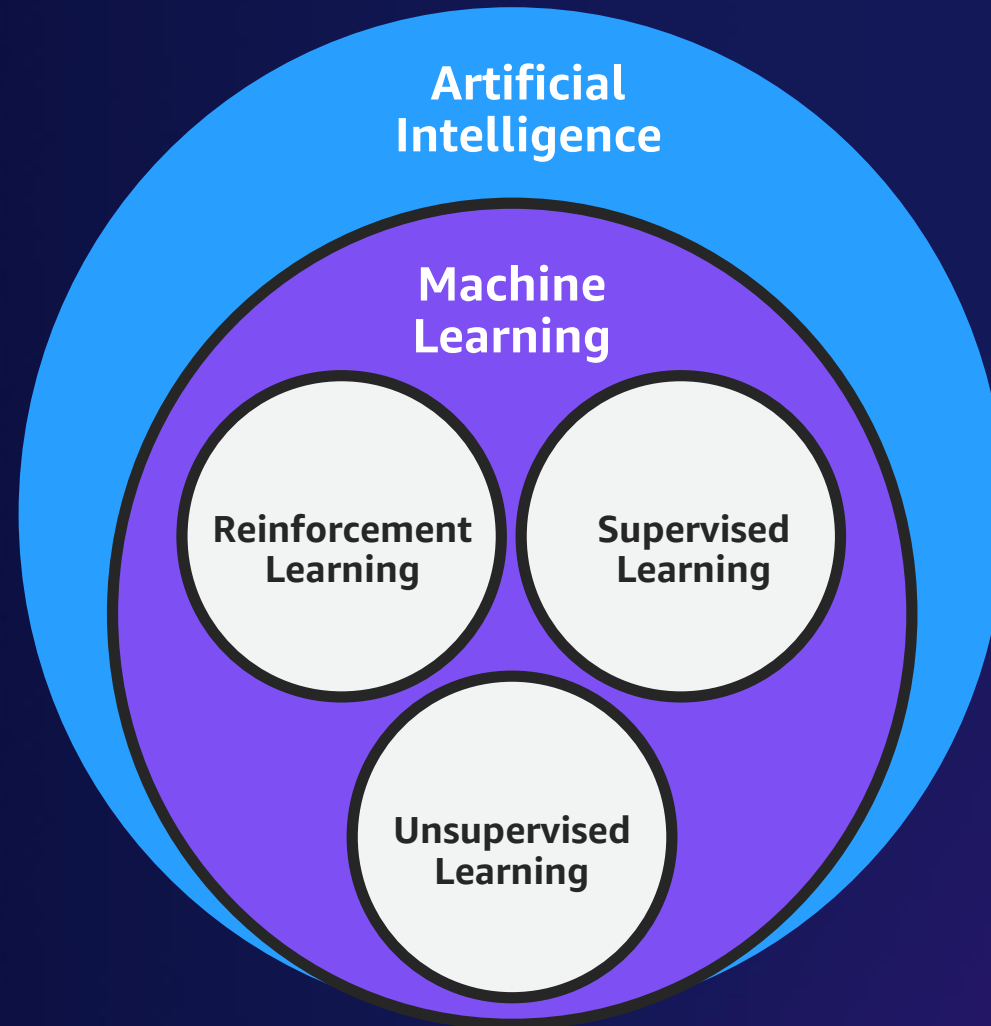
Global
Racing
League



Community
Races

RL for the Sunday driver

The AWS ML Stack

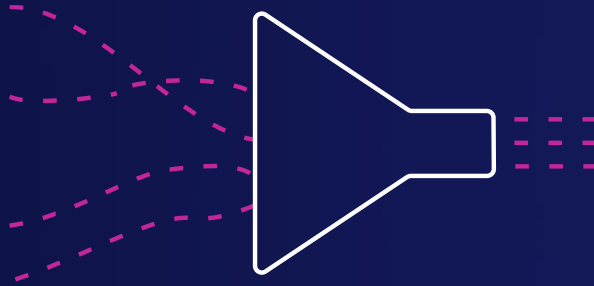


Machine learning overview



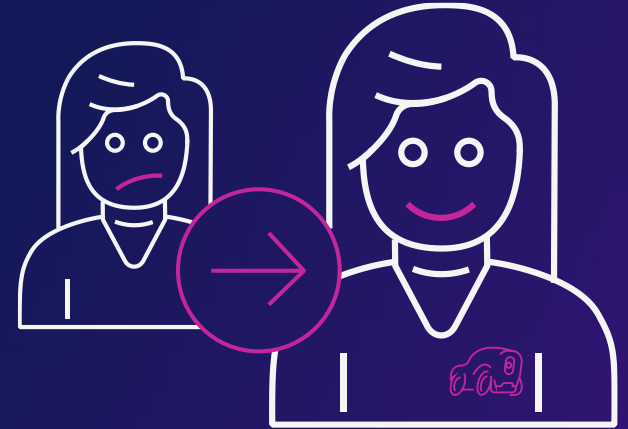
SUPERVISED

Example driven training—every datum has a corresponding label



UNSUPERVISED

No labels for training data



REINFORCEMENT

Learns through consequences of actions in a specific environment

Reinforcement learning in the real world



**Reward positive
behavior**



**Don't reward
negative
behavior**



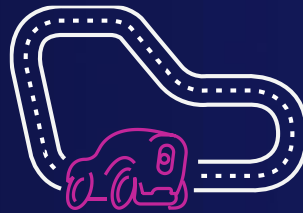
The result!

Reinforcement learning terms

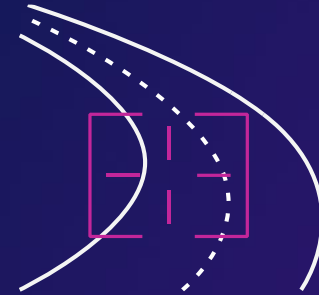
AGENT



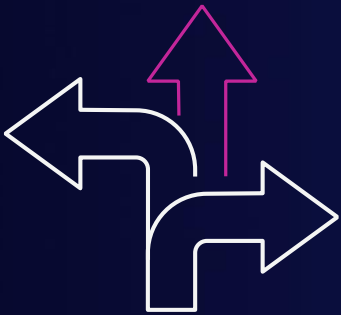
ENVIRONMENT



STATE



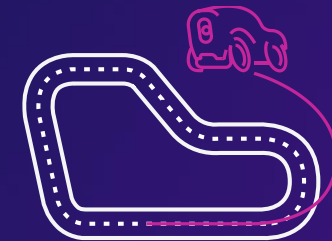
ACTION



REWARD



EPISODE



The reward function



The reward function incentivizes particular behaviors and is at the core of reinforcement learning

How to train a reinforcement learning model



AGENT

×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	
0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	



GOAL

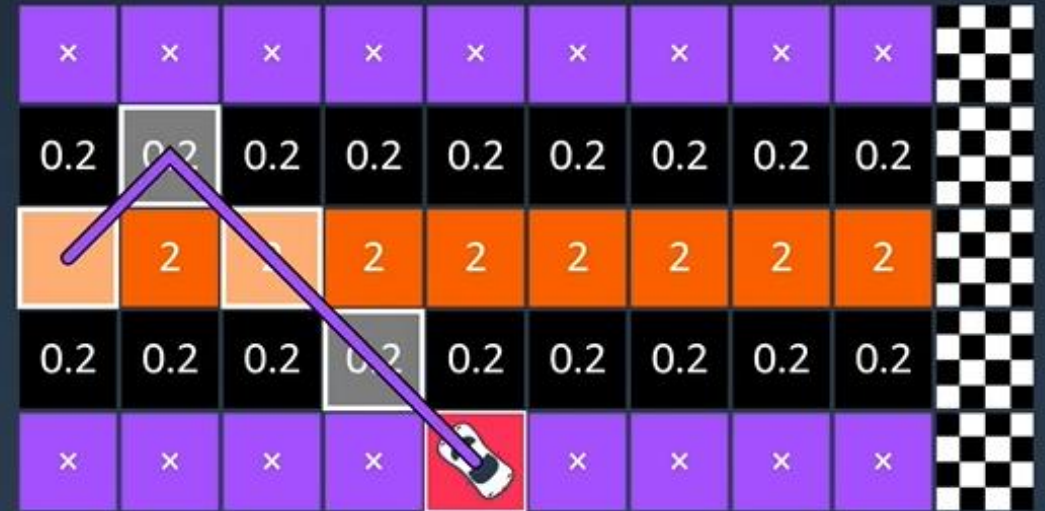
Iteration and convergence

Iteration

Reinforcement learning algorithms are trained by repeated optimization of cumulative rewards.

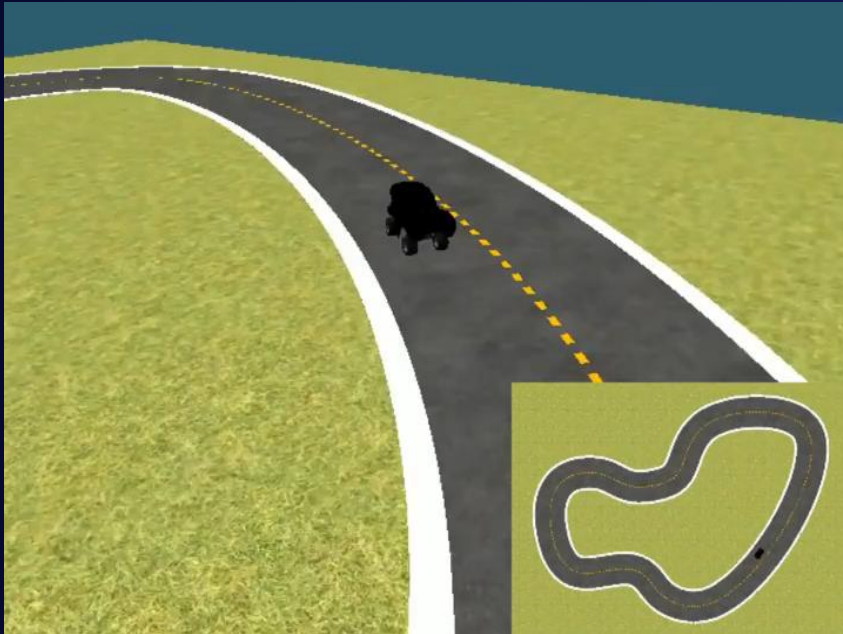
The model will learn which action (and then subsequent actions) will result in the highest cumulative reward on the way to the goal.

Learning doesn't just happen on the first go; it takes some iteration. First, the agent needs to explore and see where it can get the highest rewards, before it can exploit that knowledge.

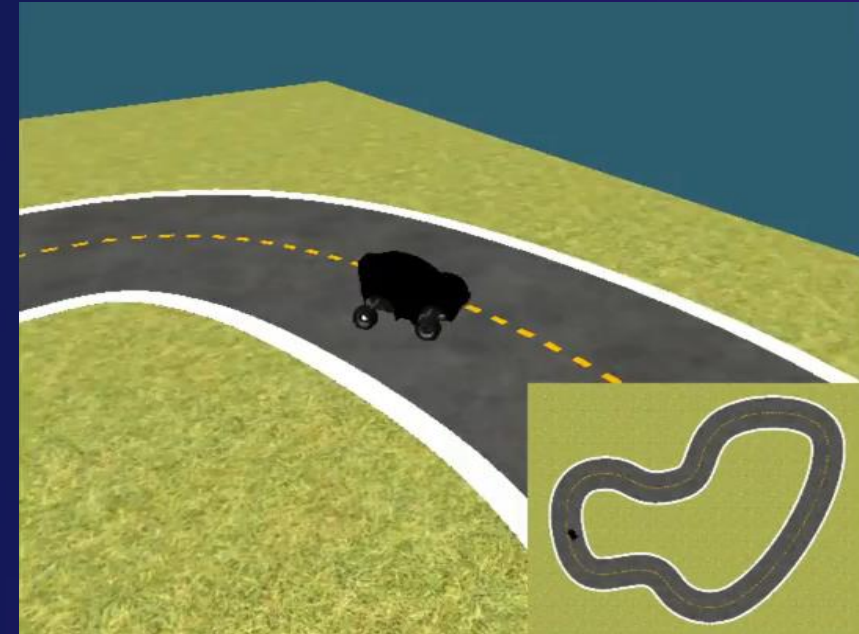


Exploration vs. Exploitation

Exploration




Exploitation

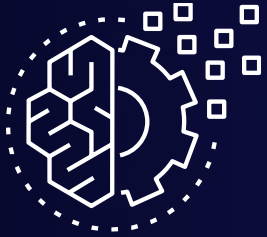


Recap before we continue



x	x	x	x	x
0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
	2	2	2	2
0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
x	x	x	x	x

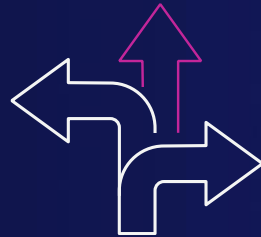
AWS DeepRacer problem formulation



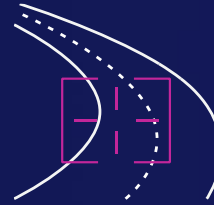
MODEL



AGENT



ACTION



STATE

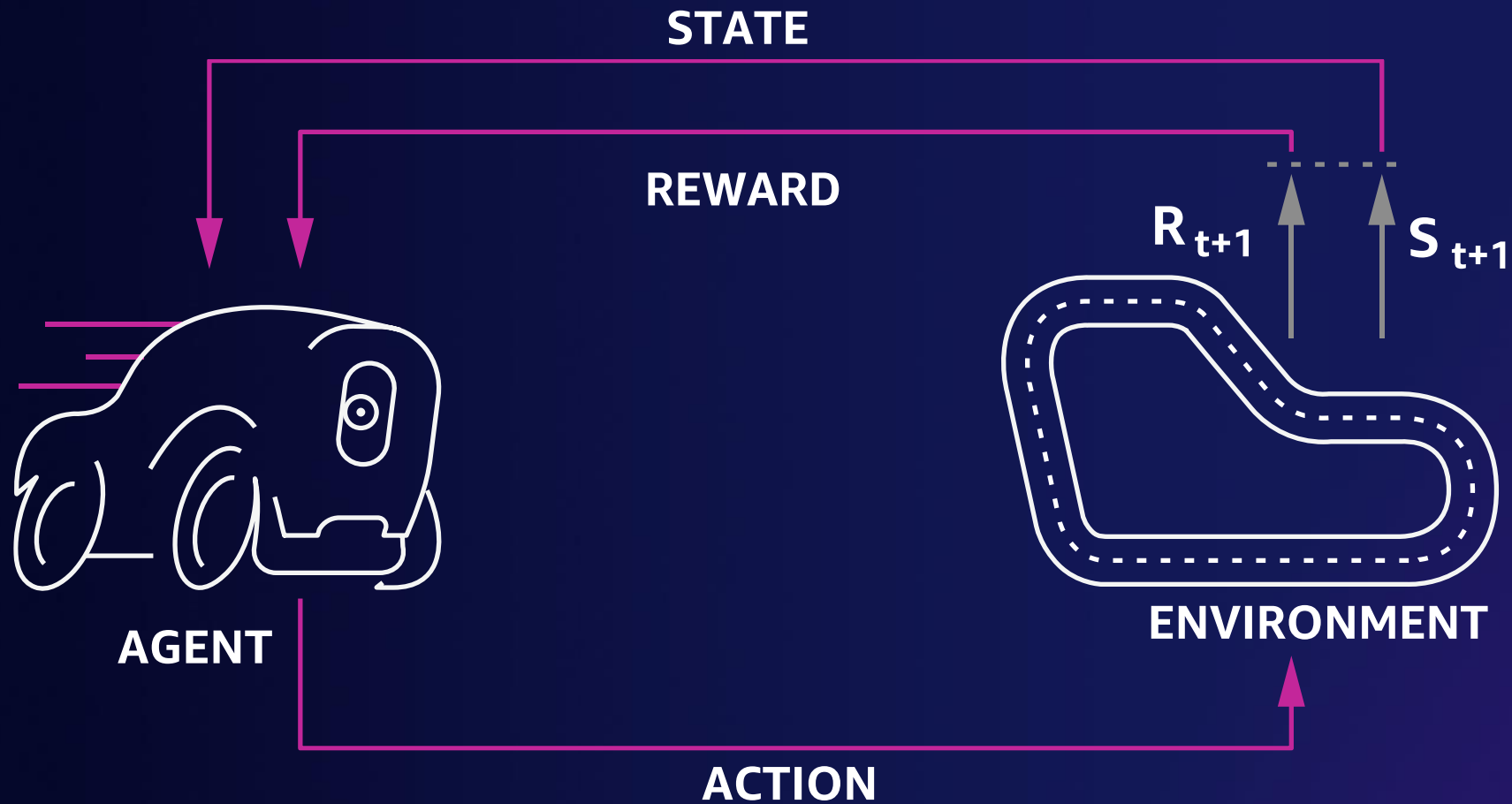


ENVIRONMENT



GOAL

How does learning happen?



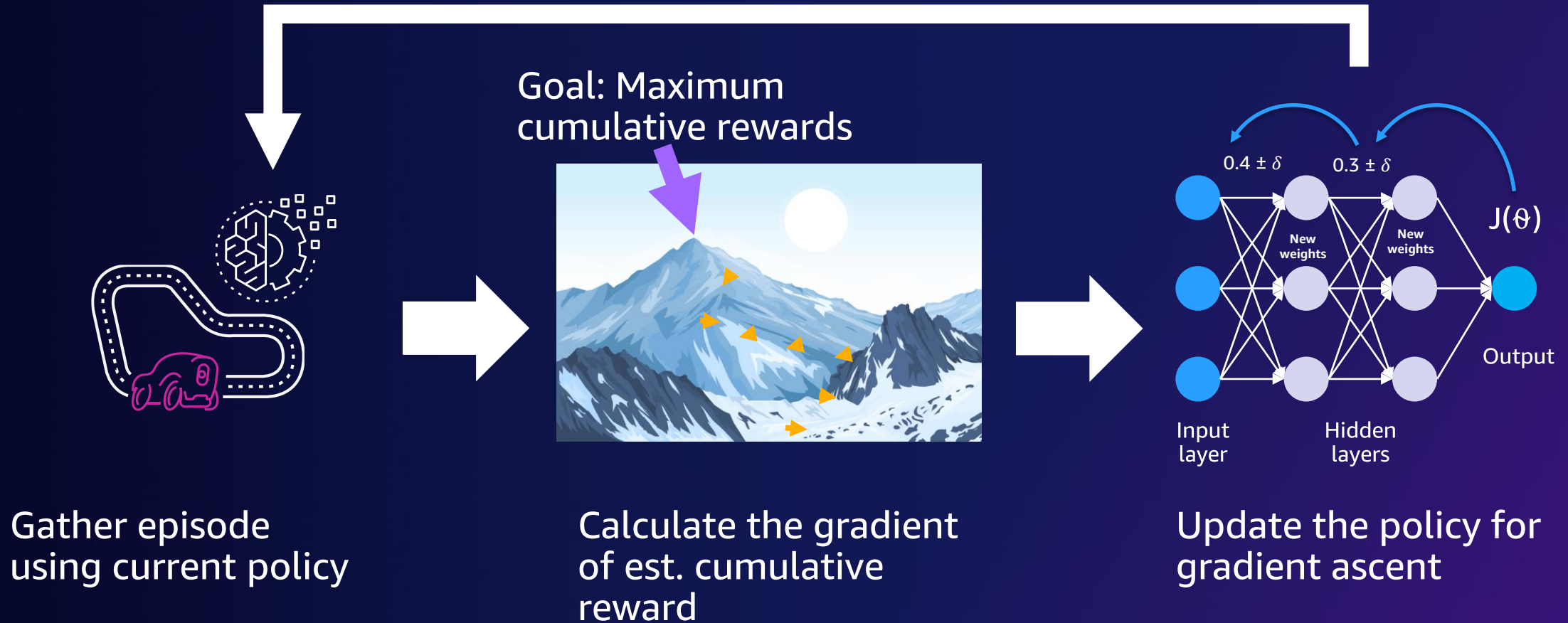
VALUE FUNCTION



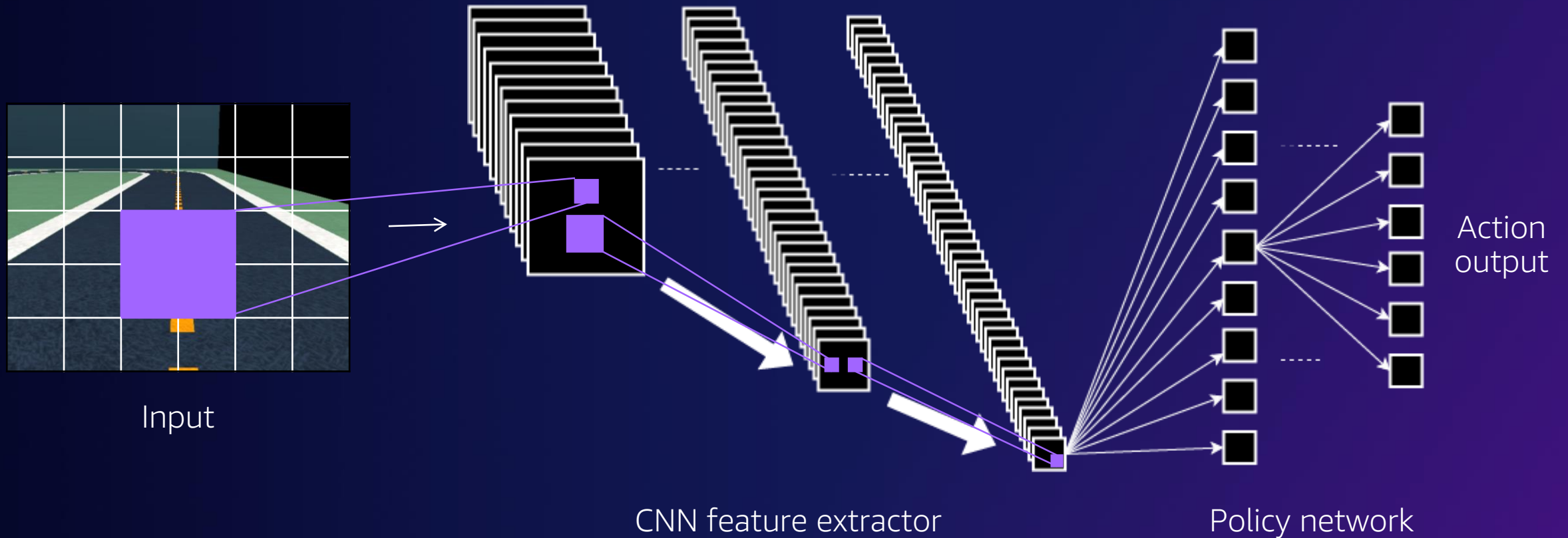
POLICY FUNCTION



RL algorithms: Vanilla policy gradient



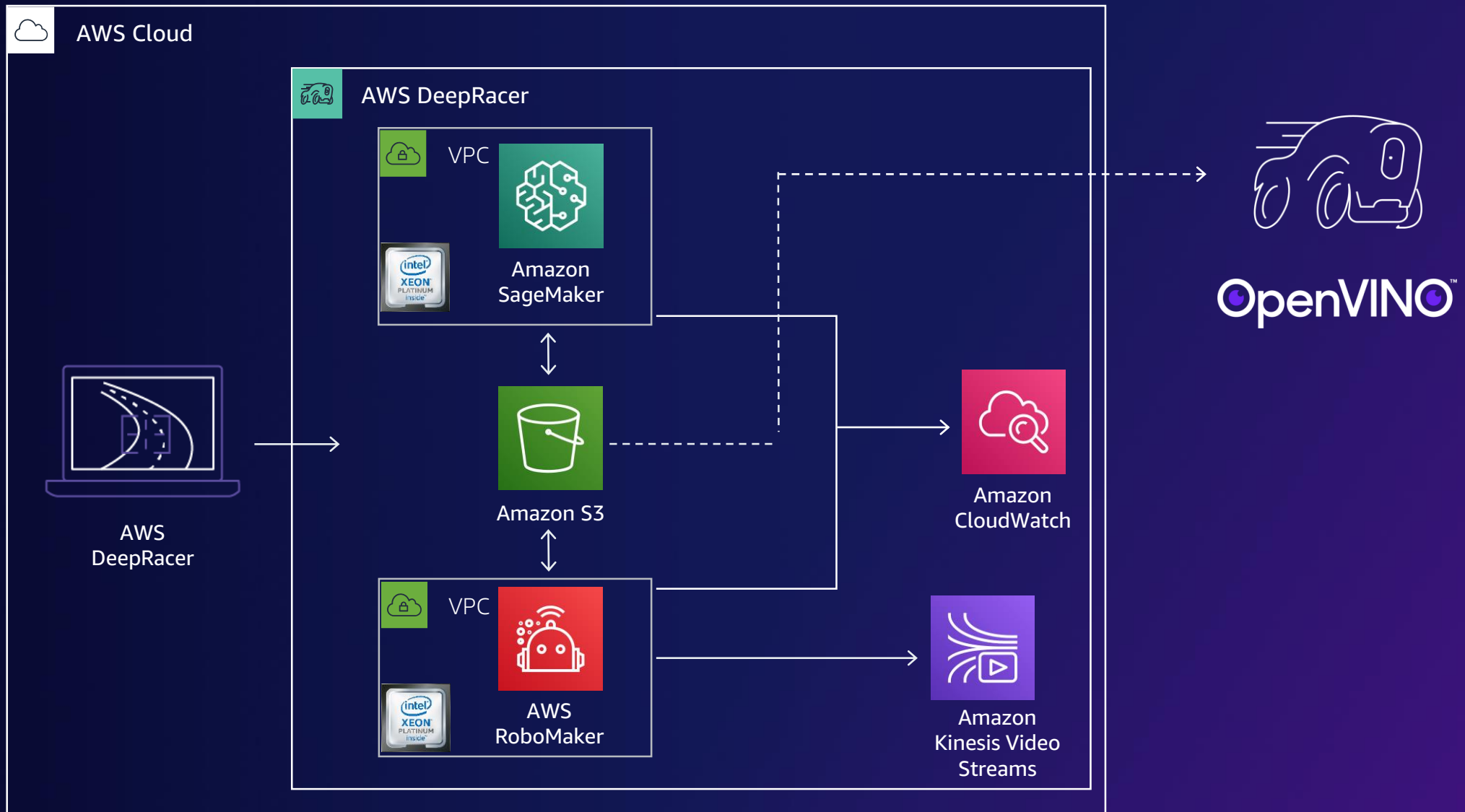
AWS DeepRacer neural network architecture



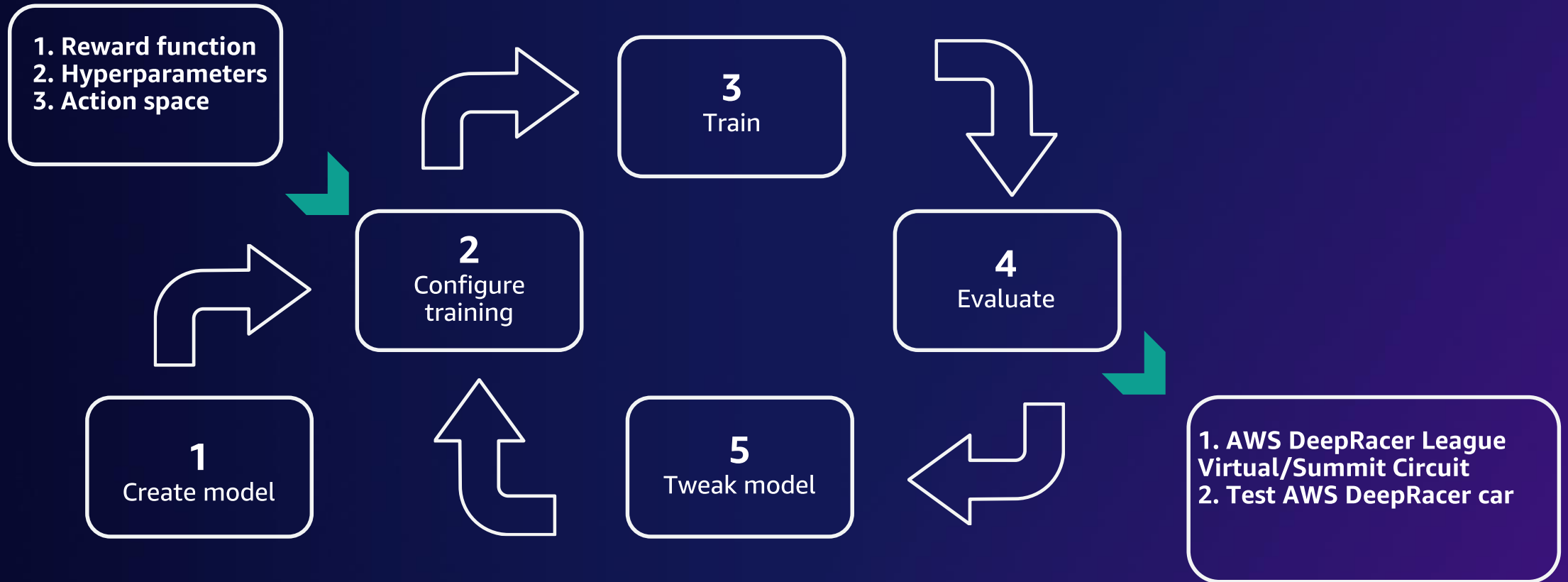
Virtual simulator



AWS DeepRacer simulator architecture



AWS DeepRacer console diagram



Programming your own reward function

Reward function [Info](#)

The reward function describes immediate feedback (as a score for reward or penalty) when the vehicle takes an action to move from a given position on the track to a new position. Its purpose is to encourage the vehicle to make moves along the track to reach its destination quickly. The model training process will attempt to find a policy which maximizes the average total reward the vehicle experiences.

Code editor **Reward function examples** **Reset** **Validate**

```
1 def reward_function(params):
2     ...
3     Example of rewarding the agent to follow center line
4     ...
5
6     # Read input parameters
7     track_width = params['track_width']
8     distance_from_center = params['distance_from_center']
9
10    # Calculate 3 markers that are at varying distances away from the center line
11    marker_1 = 0.1 * track_width
12    marker_2 = 0.25 * track_width
13    marker_3 = 0.5 * track_width
14
15    # Give higher reward if the car is closer to center line and vice versa
16    if distance_from_center <= marker_1:
17        reward = 1.0
18    elif distance_from_center <= marker_2:
19        reward = 0.5
20    elif distance_from_center <= marker_3:
21        reward = 0.1
22    else:
23        reward = 1e-3 # likely crashed/ close to off track
24
25    return float(reward)
```

Code editor: Python 3 Syntax

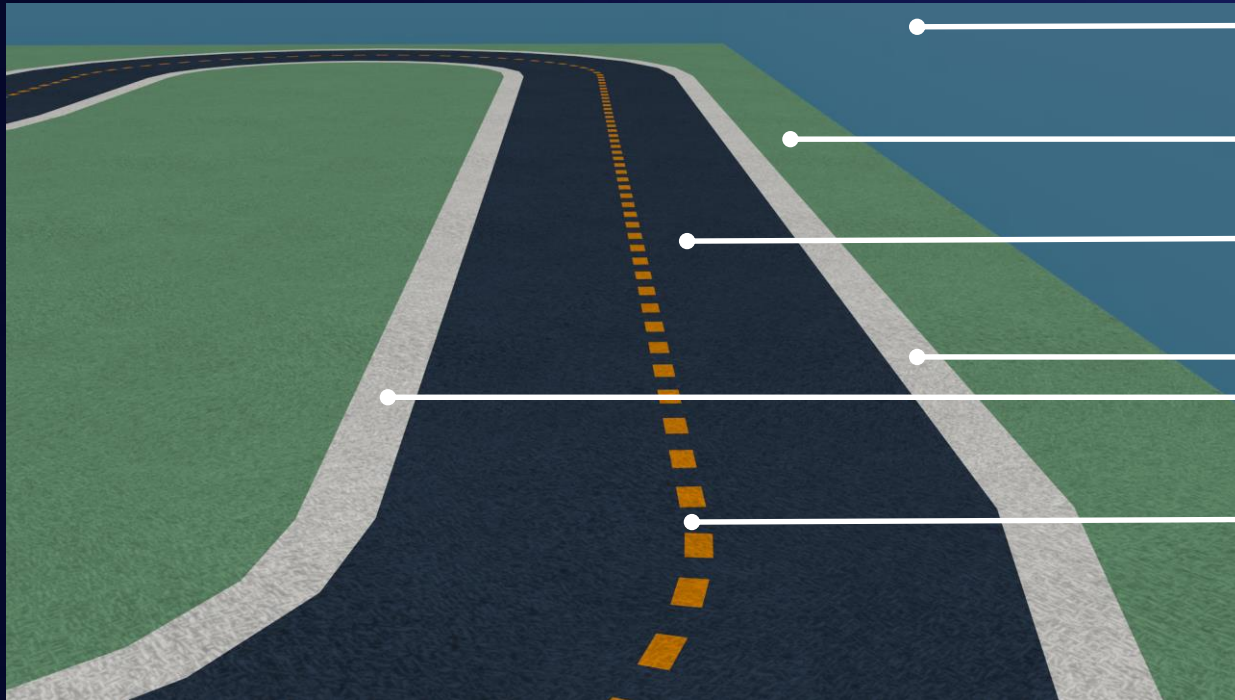
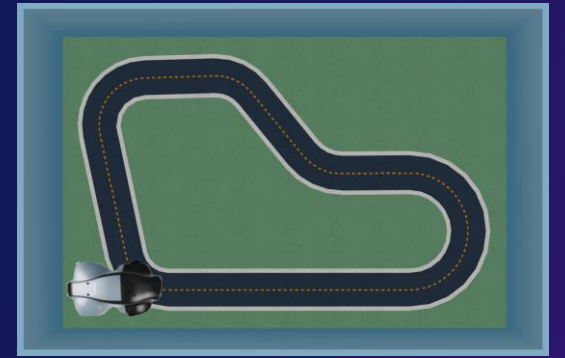
Code validation via AWS Lambda

Code editor **Reward function examples** **Reset** **Validate**

✓ Your reward function passed validation. ✕

Three example reward functions

Track components



TRACK WALL

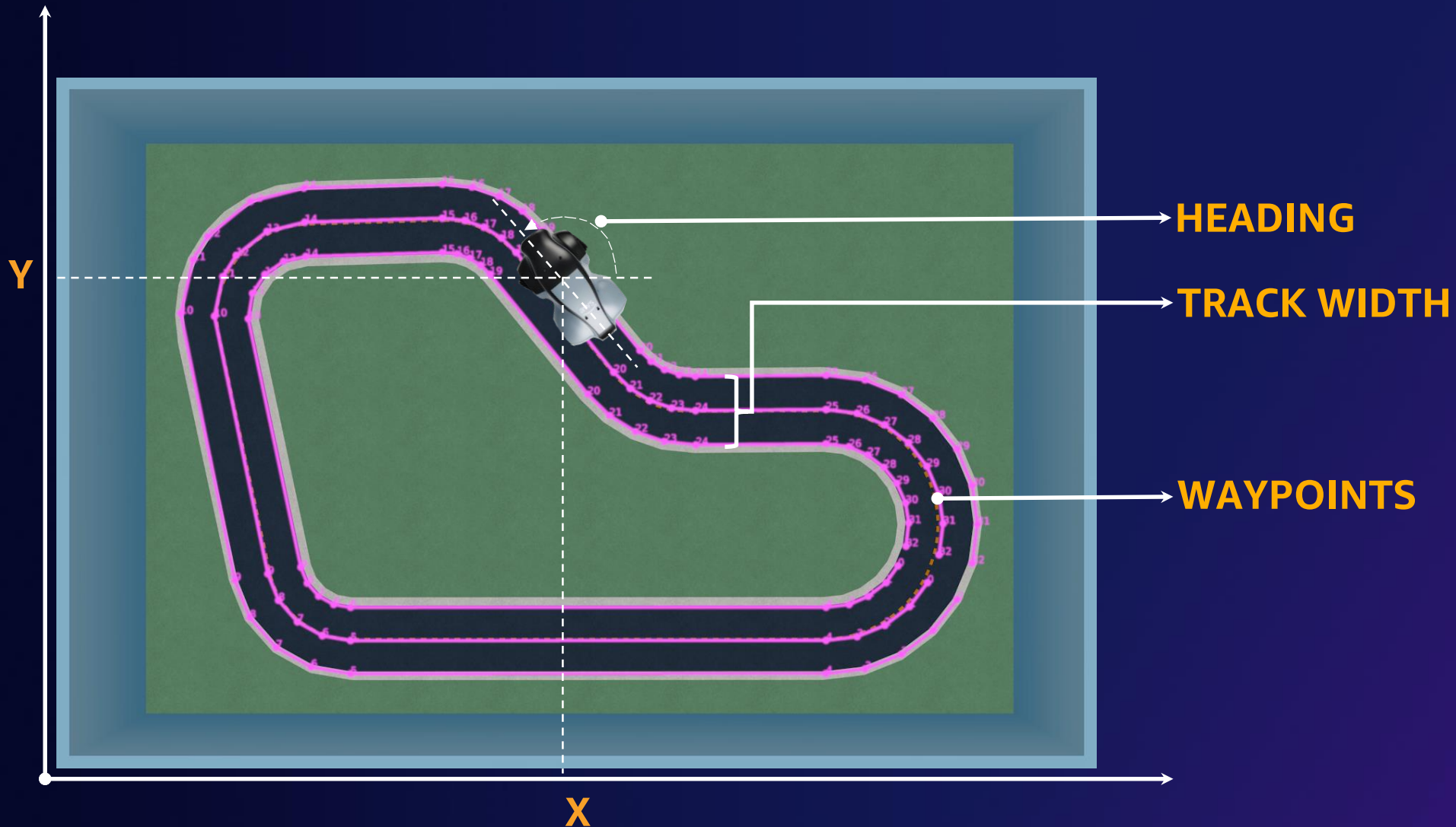
FIELD aka OFF-TRACK

TRACK SURFACE aka ON-TRACK

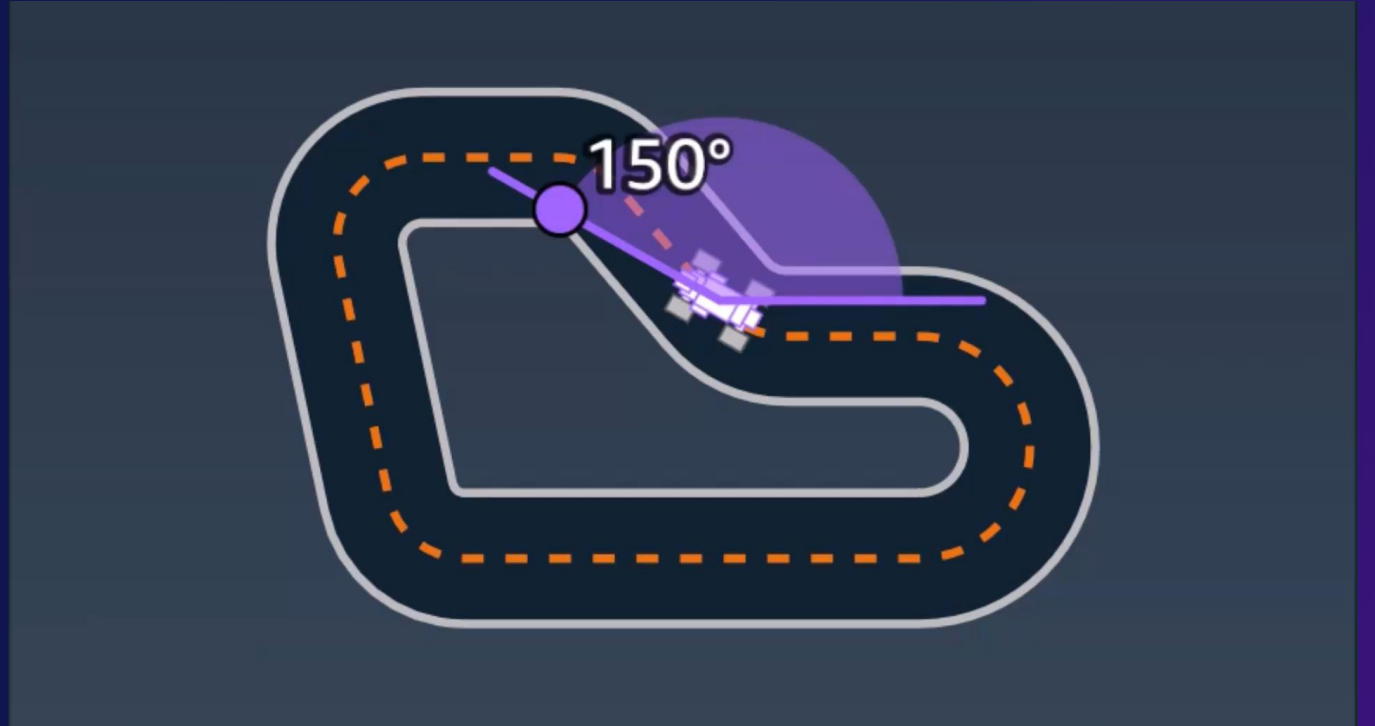
TRACK BOUNDARIES

TRACK CENTER

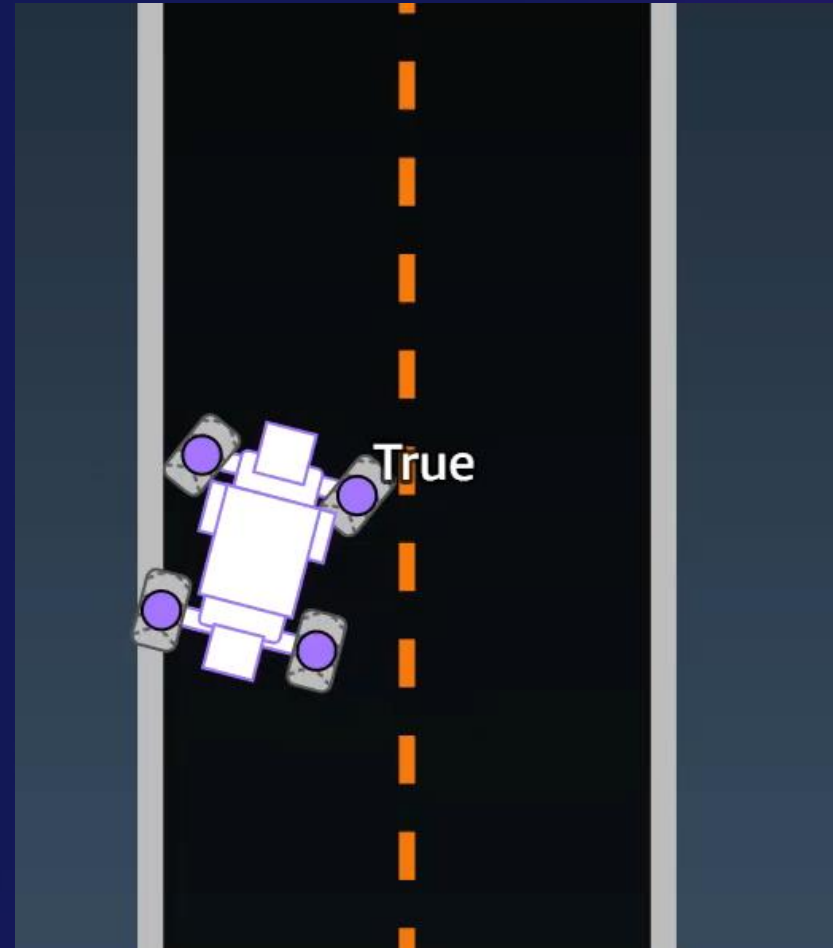
Coordinate system and track waypoints



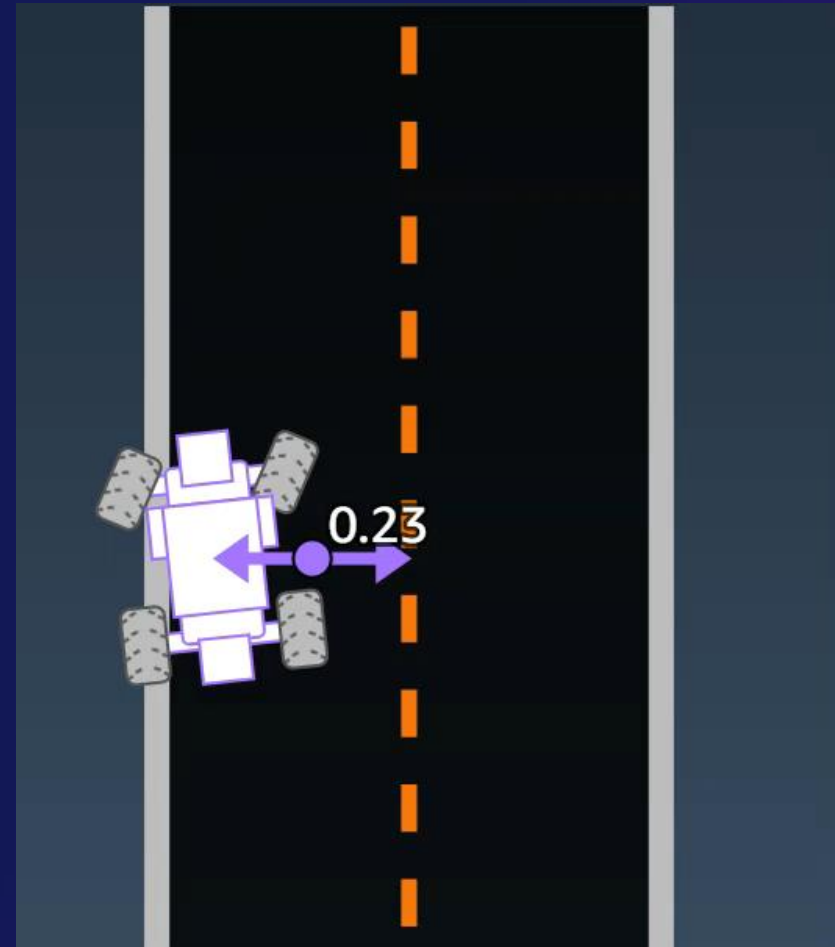
Example parameter:
heading



Example parameter:
`all_wheels_on_track`



Example parameter:
`distance_from_center`



AWS DeepRacer in the console



<https://console.aws.amazon.com/deepracer/>

Customize your agent's sensors in the Garage

[AWS DeepRacer](#) > [Reinforcement learning](#) > [Garage](#)

Garage

[Create model](#)[Build new vehicle](#)

The garage shows the DeepRacer vehicles that you can train models for. You can add vehicles by using the "build new vehicle button"

Evo

[Mod vehicle](#)

Sensor

Lidar


Stereo cameras

Neural network topology

DCN Shallow

Action space

Speed: 4 m/s Steering Angle: 30°



Mod your own vehicle

Mod specifications

The garage shows the DeepRacer vehicles that you can train models for. You can add vehicles by using the "build new vehicle button"

Sensor modification

Swap sensors to improve your DeepRacer's racing performance

☐ Front-facing camera

Single camera that captures the images with sizes of 160 x 120 in front of the agent at 15 fps. The camera has 120 wide angle lens. The images are converted into grey scale before being fed to the neural network

► Benefits of the front-facing camera

☒ Stereo cameras (right/left) sensor

Composed of two front-facing cameras, stereo cameras can generate depth information of the objects in front of the agent and thus be used to detect and avoid obstacles on the track. The cameras capture images with the same resolution and frequency. Images from both cameras are converted into grey scale, stacked and then fed into the neural network.

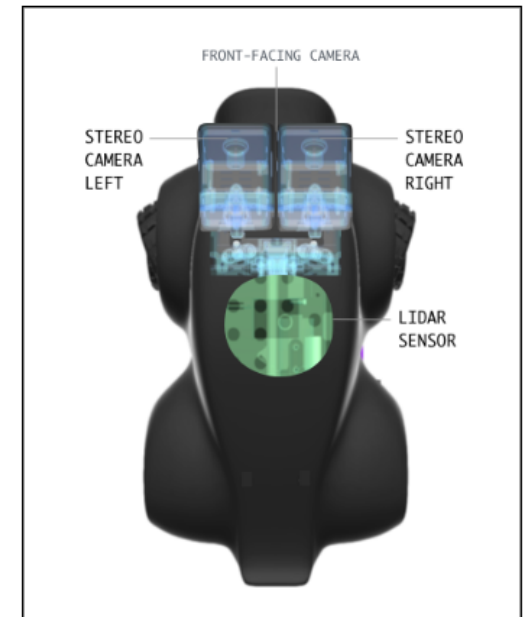
► Benefits of the stereo camera

Add-on sensors

☒ LIDAR sensor

LIDAR is a surveying method that measures a distance to a target by illuminating the target with laser light and measuring the reflected light with a sensor.

► How LIDAR works with autonomous driving



Action space



Action space [Info](#)

Action space defines the specific actions an agent can take in both the simulator and physical world. While a real vehicle can choose from a continuum of actions, AWS DeepRacer simplifies the agent's decision-making process by reducing that space to a set of discrete actions.

Configure this discrete action space by setting the range and granularity for speed and steering angle. The system automatically generates an action space according to that specification. Note that your model will take longer to train under a larger action space.

Maximum steering angle

30 degrees

Max values are between 1 and 30.

Steering angle granularity

5

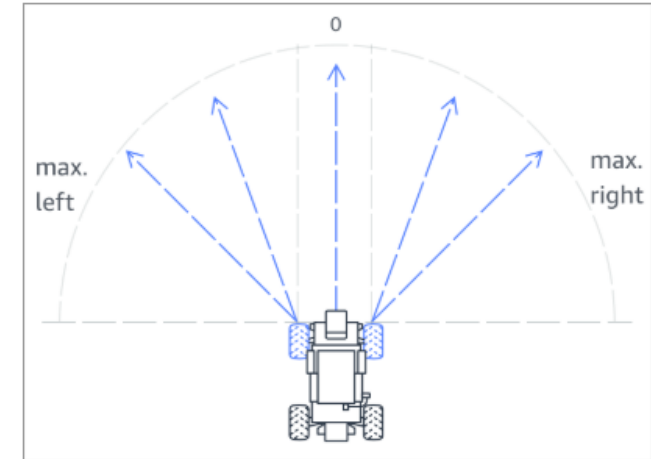
Maximum speed

4 m/s

Select values between 0.1 and 4.

Speed granularity

1



Action list

Action number	Steering	Speed
0	-30 degrees	4 m/s
1	-15 degrees	4 m/s
2	0 degrees	4 m/s
3	15 degrees	4 m/s
4	30 degrees	4 m/s

AWS DeepRacer – Under the hood



Under the hood

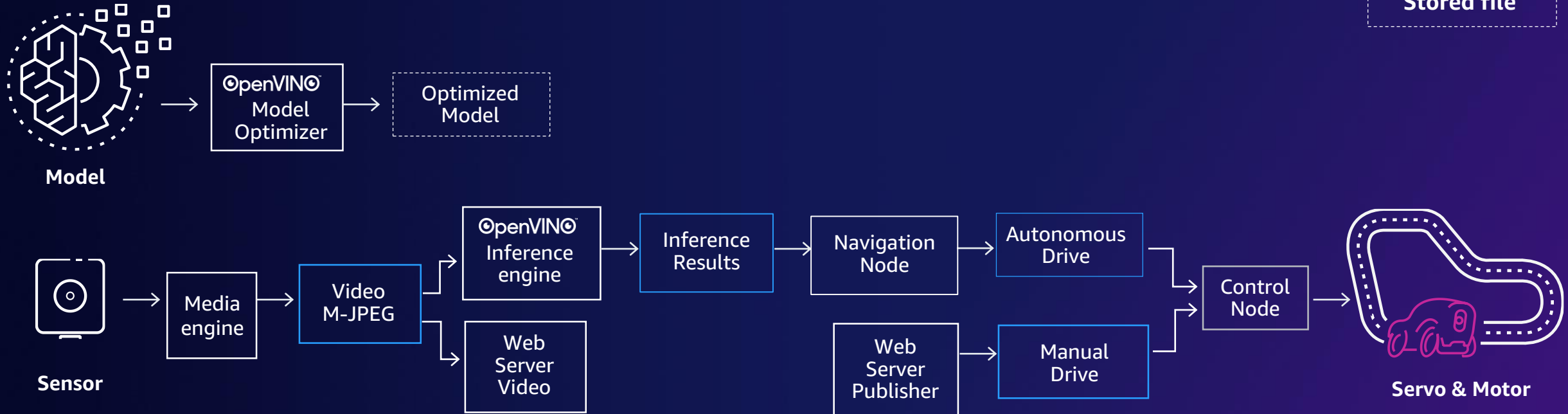
- 1:18 4WD scale car
- Intel Atom processor
- Intel distribution of OpenVINO toolkit
- Stereo Camera (4MP)
- 360 Degree 12 Meters Scanning Radius LIDAR Sensor
- System memory: 4 GB RAM
- 802.11ac Wi-Fi
- Ubuntu 16.04.3 LTS
- ROS Kinetic



OpenVINO™



AWS DeepRacer software architecture



Optimizing and inferencing with OpenVINO™



Input data



OpenVINO™
optimized model



OpenVINO™
inference results



Racing

Free Download: software.intel.com/openvino-toolkit
Open Source version: 01.org/openvinotoolkit

OpenVINO™



Rubber meets the road



Race for prizes and glory in the AWS DeepRacer League

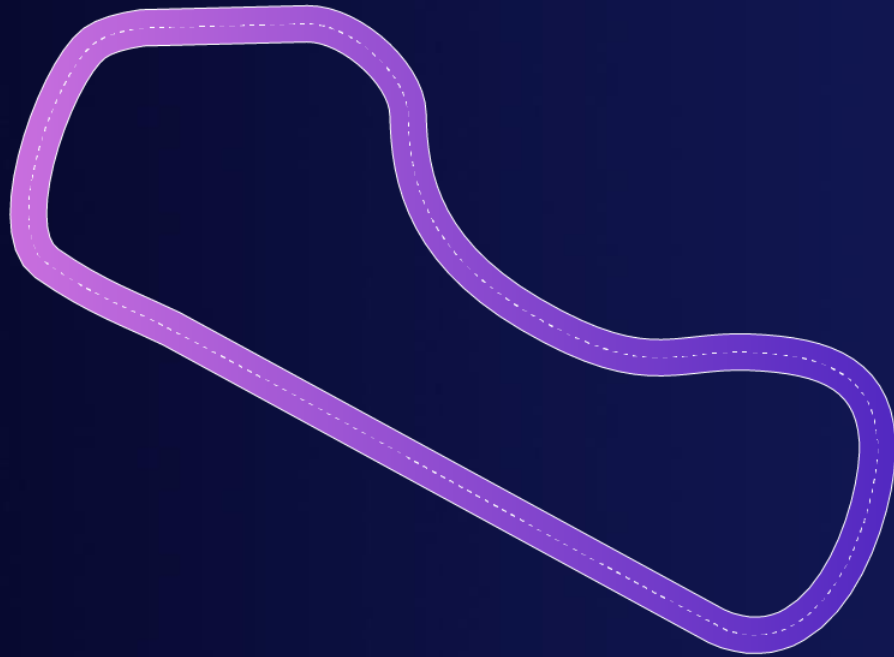
- Train your AWS DeepRacer model and compete
 - Online in the Virtual Circuit
- In person in the Summit Circuit (visit the Expo Hall)



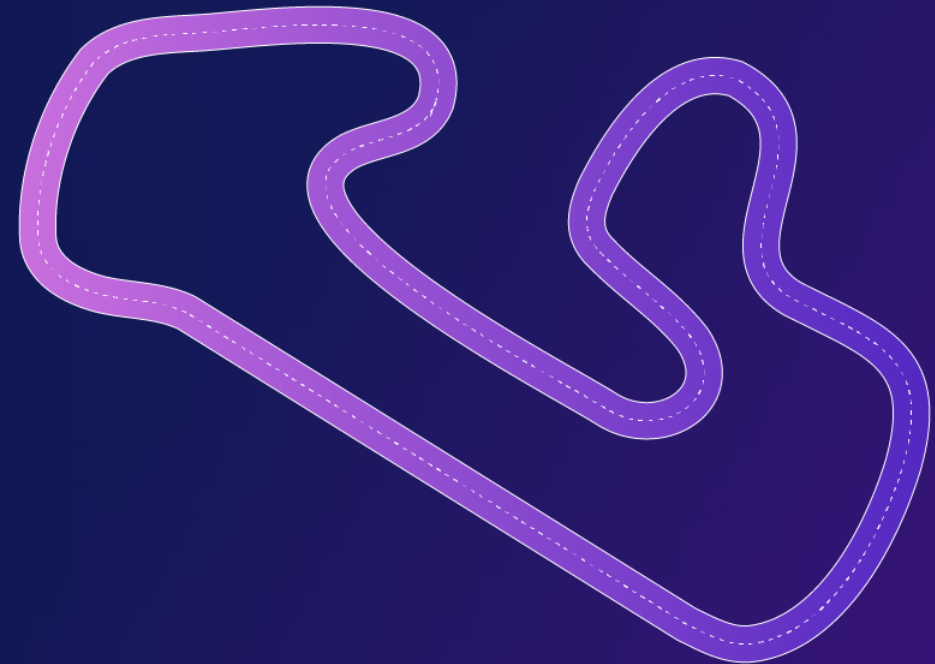
www.deepracerleague.com

Join and compete in the 2022 League

Open Division



Pro Division



Additional resources

- DeepRacer Slack Community: <http://join.deepracing.io/>
- GitHub: <https://github.com/aws-samples/aws-deepracer-workshops/>
- Free video course: <https://www.aws.training/Details/eLearning?id=32143>
- Tips: <https://aws.amazon.com/deepracer/racing-tips/>
- Forum: <https://forums.aws.amazon.com/forum.jspa?forumID=318>
- Intel® Distribution of OpenVINO™ toolkit: <https://software.intel.com/en-us/openvino-toolkit>



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Ananth Balasubramanyam
ananthrb (linkedin)





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