

'Cognitive Robots' : From Affordance to Action & back

Vishwanathan Mohan

Robotics, Brain and Cognitive Sciences Dept
Italian Institute of Technology,
Genova, Italy



iit

Istituto italiano di tecnologia



Today's Menu

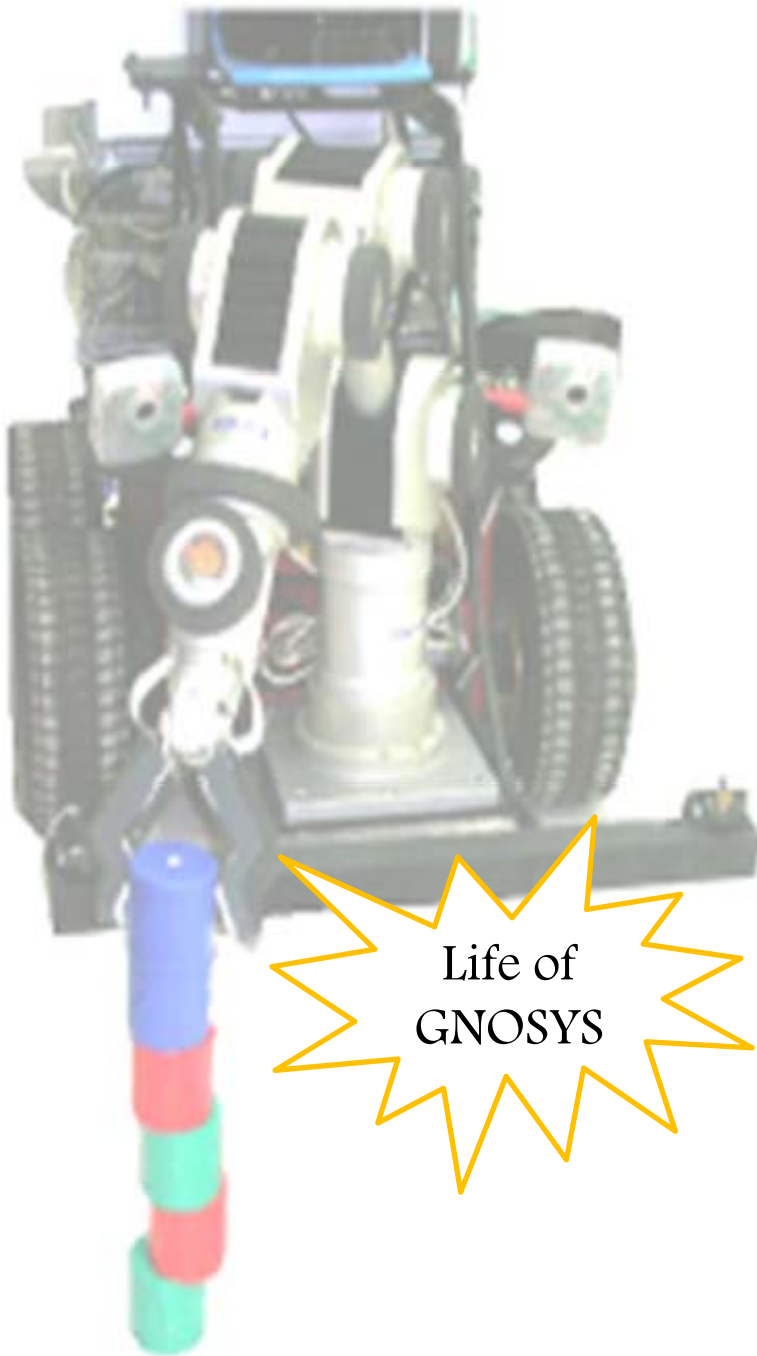


- Objectives (**Overview**)
- Actions (**Local View**)
- 'Reasoning' about 'Actions' (**Global View**)
- Fabric of Reason's and Action's
(**Objective/ Subjective View**)
- Atomic Cognitive Agents (**Future View**)

Today's Menu

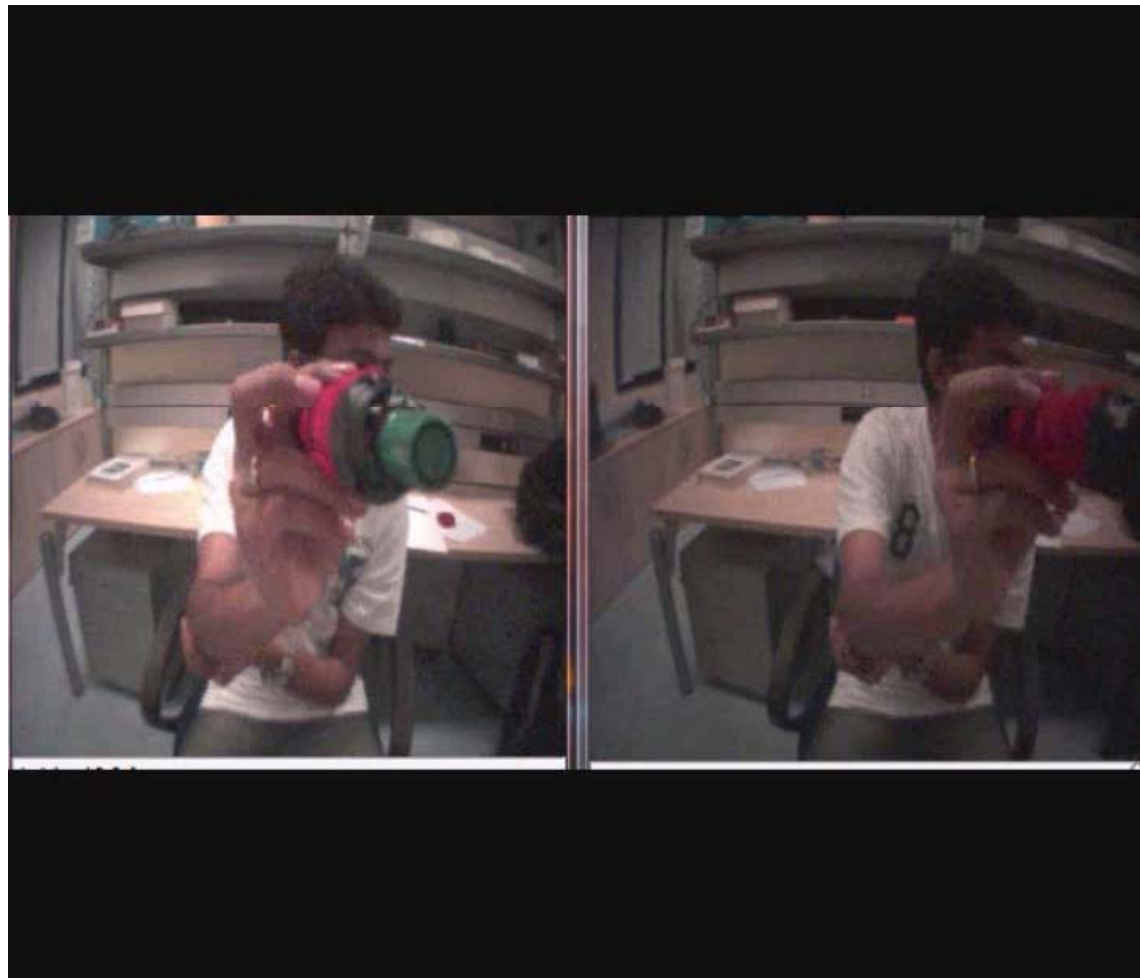
Download: [Neurolab Webpage/movies](#)

- Conclusions 'Reverse Engineered'
- The *Arena* of Action
- Actions (*Internal Models*)
 - > Computing With the '*Body*'
 - > Computing in the '*World*'
- Reasoning about Actions
 - > Computing in the '*Mind*'
- Atomic Cognitive Agents
 - Abstraction: *Atoms* everywhere
 - Speaking Atoms*: A WITS Enabled world



Tomorrow's Menu

Perception and Synthesis of 'Shape'



A B C D

$$1 + 1 = 3$$





Reaching 'Goals': From Affordance to Action



Reaching 'Goals': From Affordance to Action



Well Connected
system of
body
and
environment
in order to
realize a
goal

Affordances are the seeds of Action

& back



Goals

Actions

Objects

Relationships

Choices

Experiences

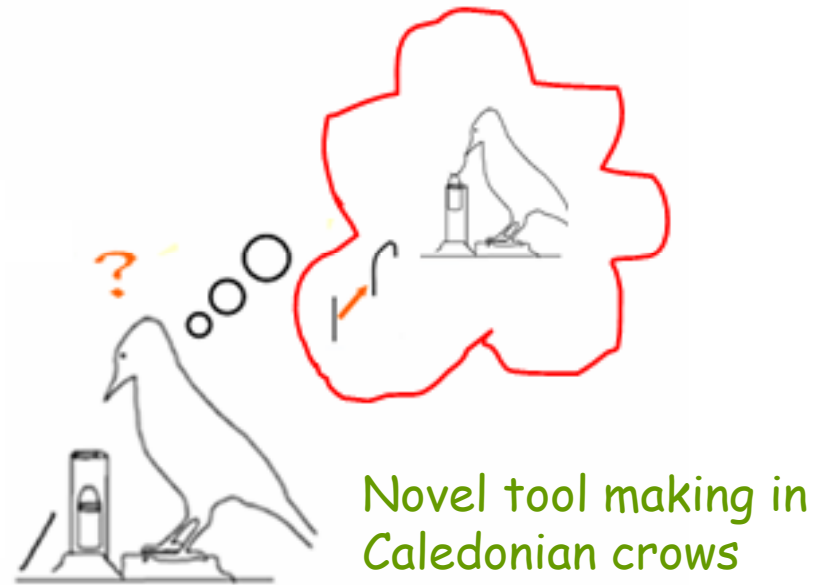
What is **Possible** (Environment and Body)

What is **Useful** (in the **Context** of an Active Goal)

Exploit

Structure

Moving in the Mental Space for Acting in the Physical Space



Using '**Thoughts**' at the service of '**Action**'

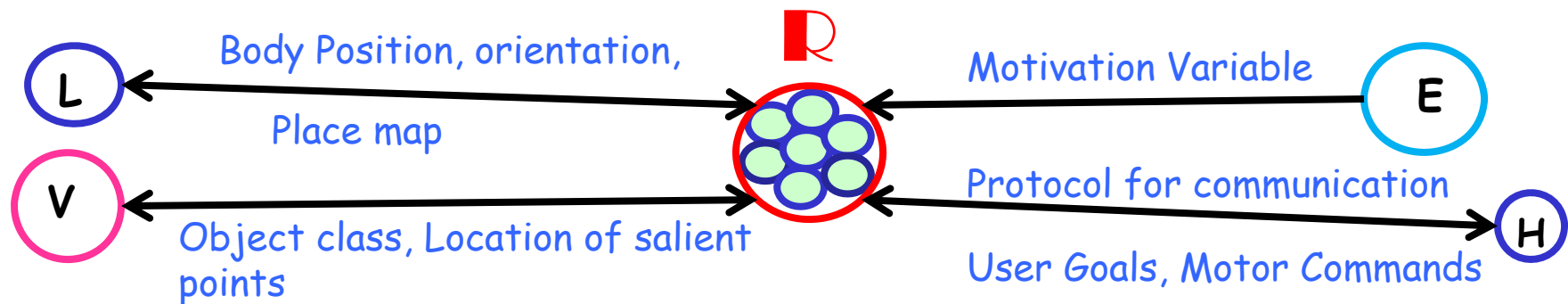
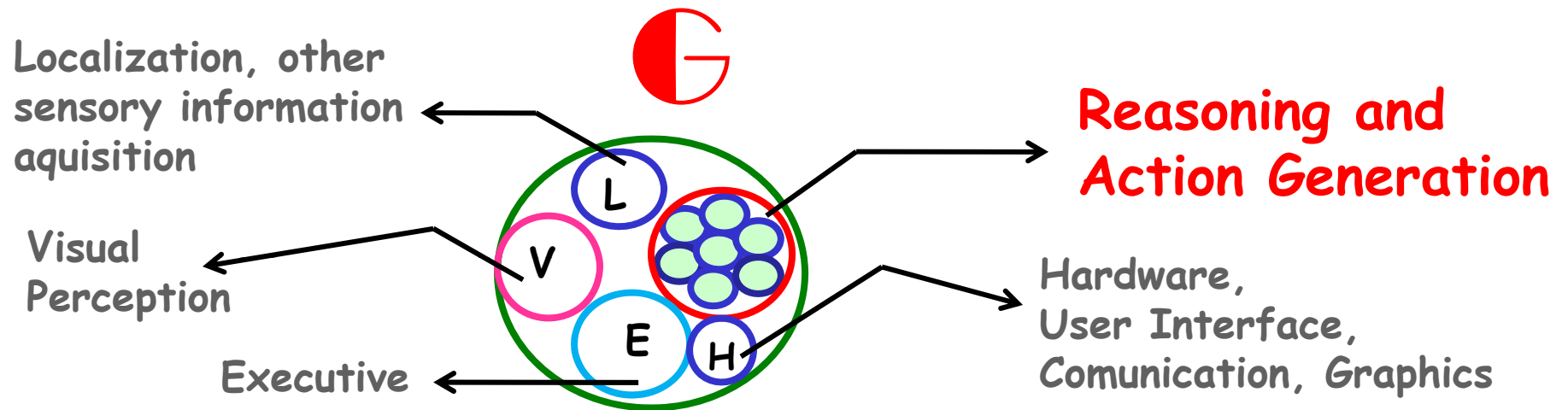
What '**Additional affordances**' can **I create** in the world ?

How will the world **change** as a result of my actions?

Will that be **useful** in the **context** of my internal goals?

Decouple behaviour from the direct control of the environment and react to situations that donot exist but could exist as a result of ones actions in the world

Developing a **Computational framework 'G'** which could drive an Artificial agent / **Robot** to exhibit a preliminary level of **cognitive control** over its **perception, action and imagination**

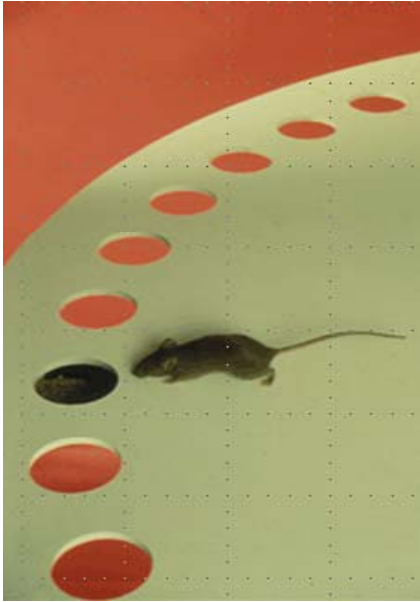


FOUNDATION
FOR RESEARCH
AND TECHNOLOGY
HELLAS

EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN



Playful Physical Interaction is Critical



Prediction

Judgment

Modeling/Causality

Experimentation / Diagnosis

Describing, Negotiating, Team Work

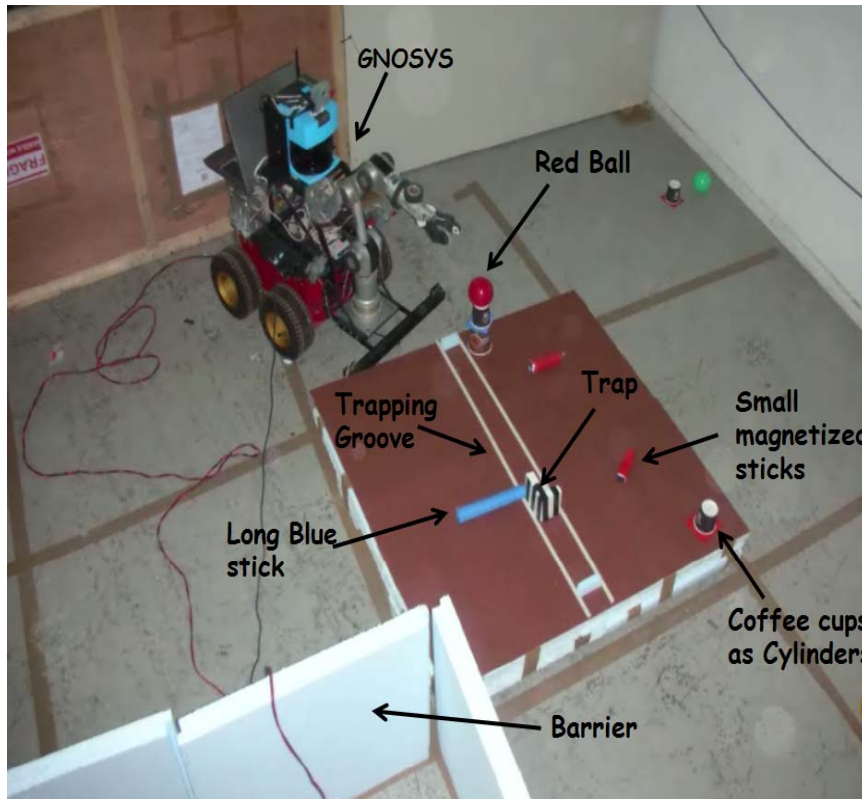
Artistry

Planning

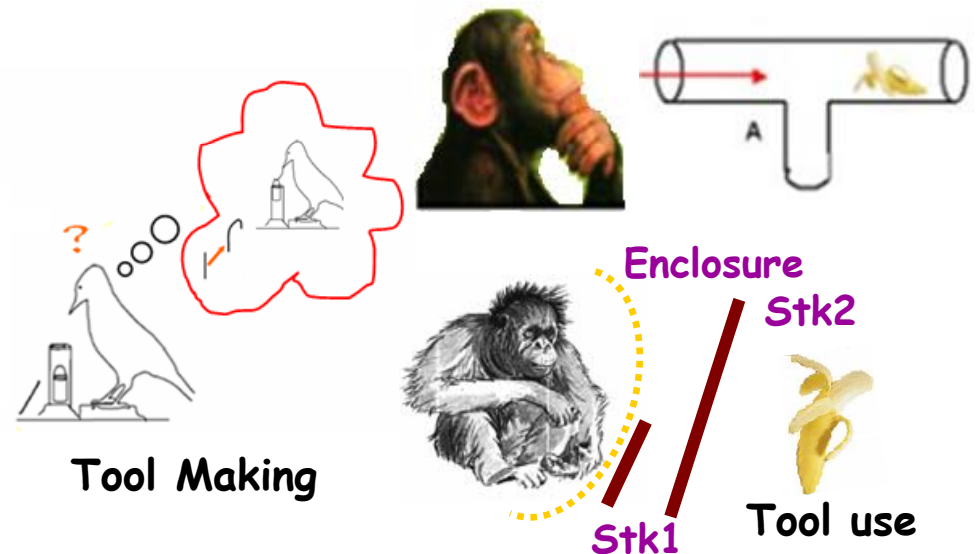
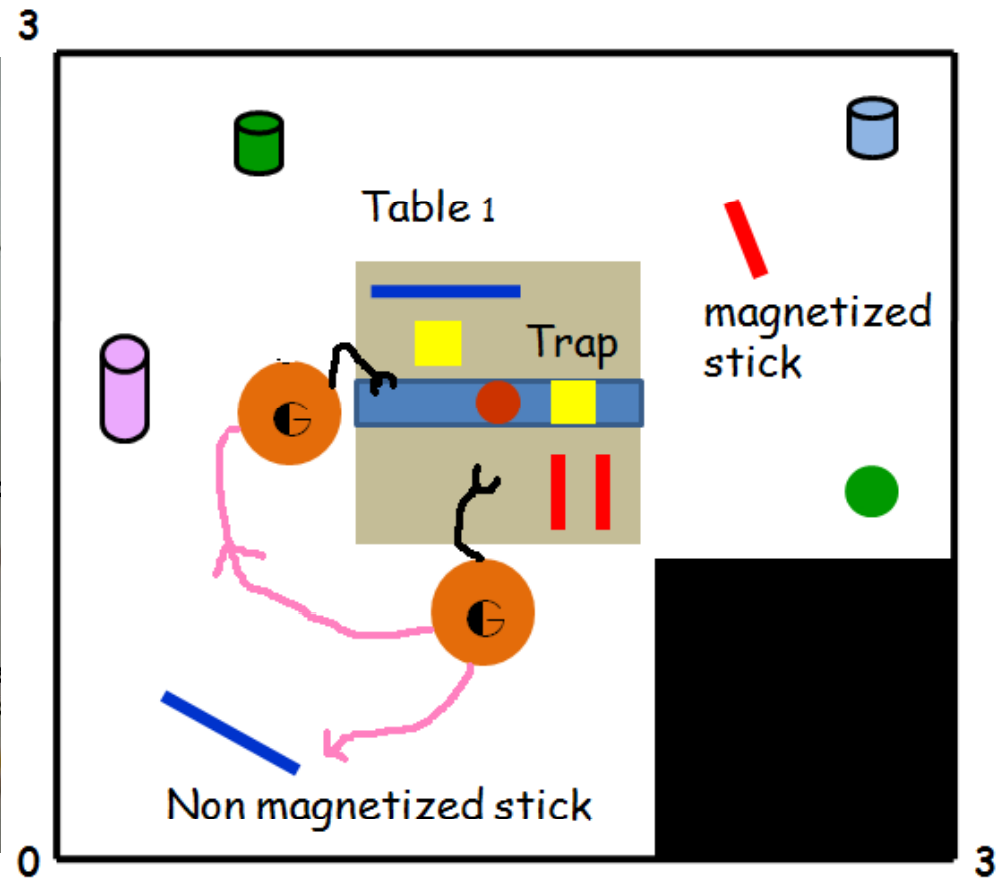
Playing is the most natural thing we do and there is much more to it than just having fun.

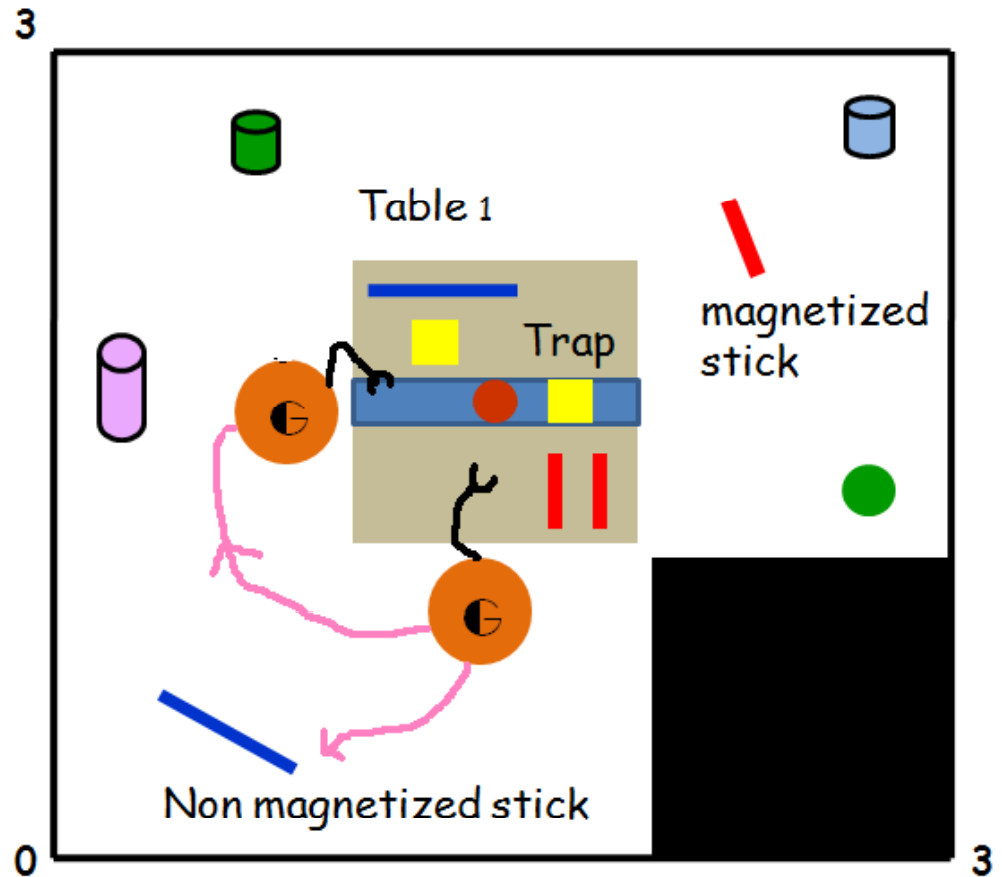
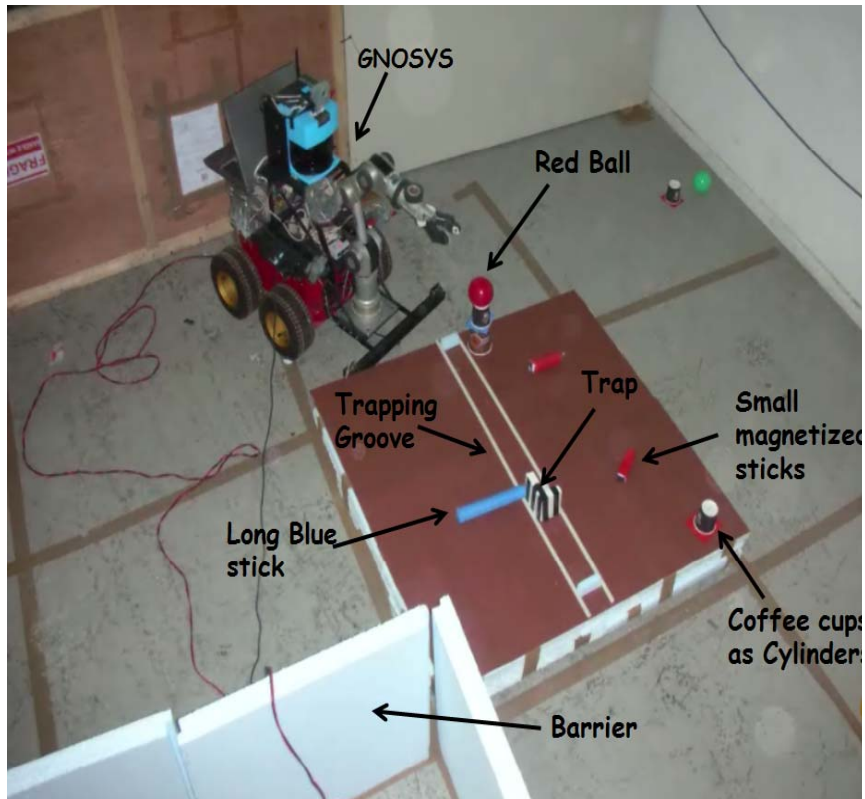
GNOSYS Playground: The Arena of Action





The playground designed for GNOSYS robot implicitly hosts experimental scenarios of tasks related to physical cognition known to be solved by different species of primates, corvids and children below 3 years.





Reach (Reaching Goals)

Grasp, Fetch

Push

Stack, Collect

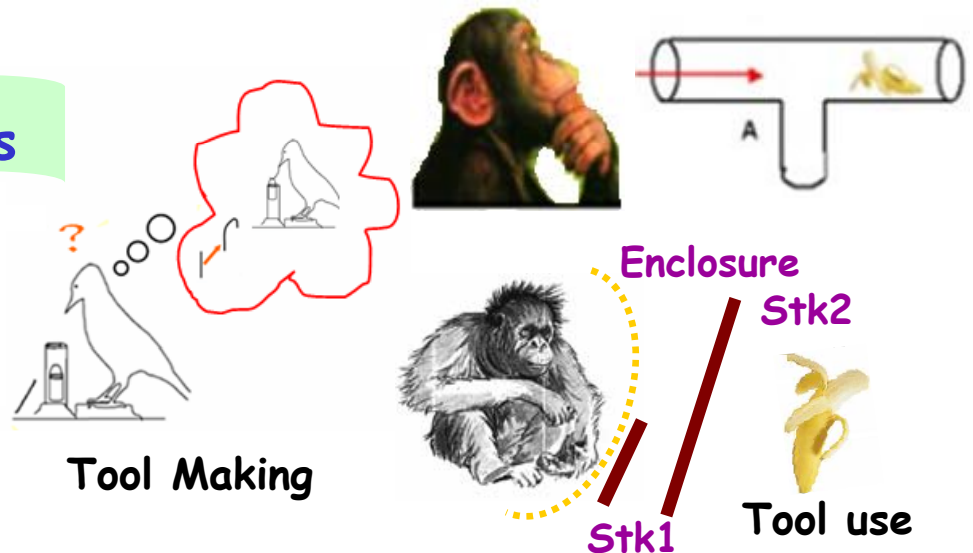
Use Sticks as Tools

Use Magnetized sticks as tools

Imagine using objects as tools

Imagine creating new tools

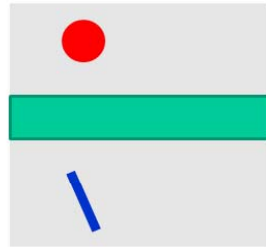
User Goals



Real / Mental Action Generation in
Cognitive robots (Internal Models, spatial
mental map, pushing model)



Oh my god!
Motor
redundancy,
Infinite
solutions,
Internal,
external,
temporal
Constraints



I see the blue
stick, It
carries a
reward of 50
if I grasp it.

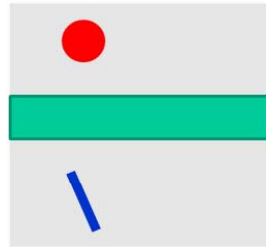


Robot

Real / Mental Action Generation in
Cognitive robots (Internal Models, spatial
mental map, pushing model)



Oh my god!
Motor
redundancy,
Infinite
solutions,
Internal,
external,
temporal
Constraints



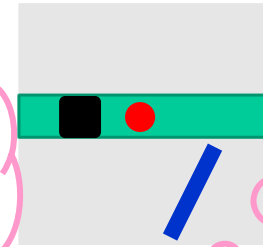
I see the blue
stick, It
carries a
reward of 50
if I grasp it.



Robot

Exploiting Structure and
Thinking about 'Exploiting
Structure'

Simulating
goal directed
action
sequences?
Push-move
reach-grasp?



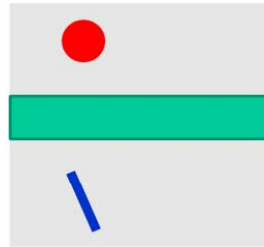
The Blue stick
seems useful.
May be using
it I can push
the ball to the
corner of the
table and then
try to grasp it



Real / Mental Action Generation in
Cognitive robots (Internal Models, spatial
mental map, pushing model)



Oh my god!
Motor
redundancy,
Infinite
solutions,
Internal,
external,
temporal
Constraints



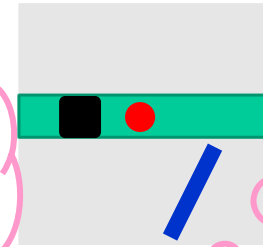
I see the blue
stick, It
carries a
reward of 50
if I grasp it.



Robot

Exploiting Structure and
Thinking about 'Exploiting
Structure'

Simulating
goal directed
action
sequences?
Push-move
reach-grasp?

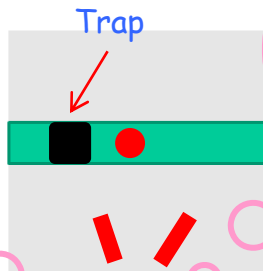


The Blue stick
seems useful.
May be using
it I can push
the ball to the
corner of the
table and then
try to grasp it

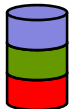


Using past experiences to shape behaviour
(mental/physical)

I should try
pushing
intelligently.
That black
object seems
troublesome
for some
reason.



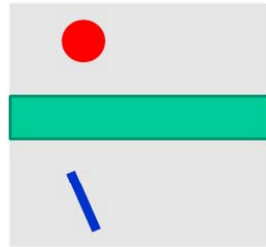
Oh the small
red sticks! I
remember
making longer
sticks using
them. Will it
now help me in
getting the
ball?



Real / Mental Action Generation in
Cognitive robots (Internal Models, spatial
mental map, pushing model)



Oh my god!
Motor
redundancy,
Infinite
solutions,
Internal,
external,
temporal
Constraints



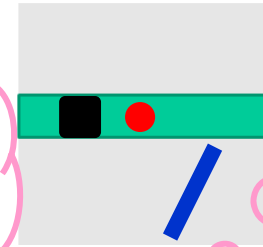
I see the blue
stick, It
carries a
reward of 50
if I grasp it.



Robot

Exploiting Structure and
Thinking about 'Exploiting
Structure'

Simulating
goal directed
action
sequences?
Push-move
reach-grasp?

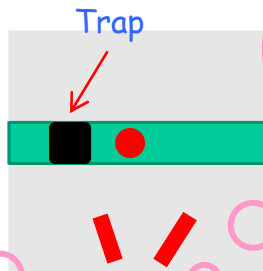


The Blue stick
seems useful.
May be using
it I can push
the ball to the
corner of the
table and then
try to grasp it

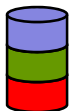


Using past experiences to shape behaviour
(mental/physical)

I should try
pushing
intelligently.
That black
object seems
troublesome
for some
reason.

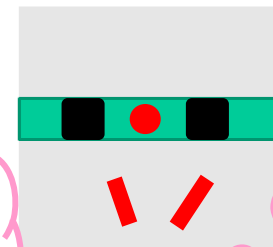


Oh the small
red sticks! I
remember
making longer
sticks using
them. Will it
now help me in
getting the
ball?



Generalization of past experiences,
foresight, Quitting, Having reasons to
Quit

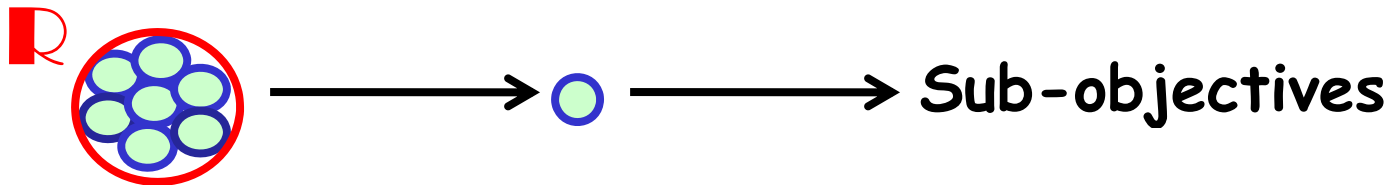
Its a waste of
time and
energy trying
anything here



I can make a
tool using the
small red
sticks.
But wait, the
ball is bound to
get trapped!

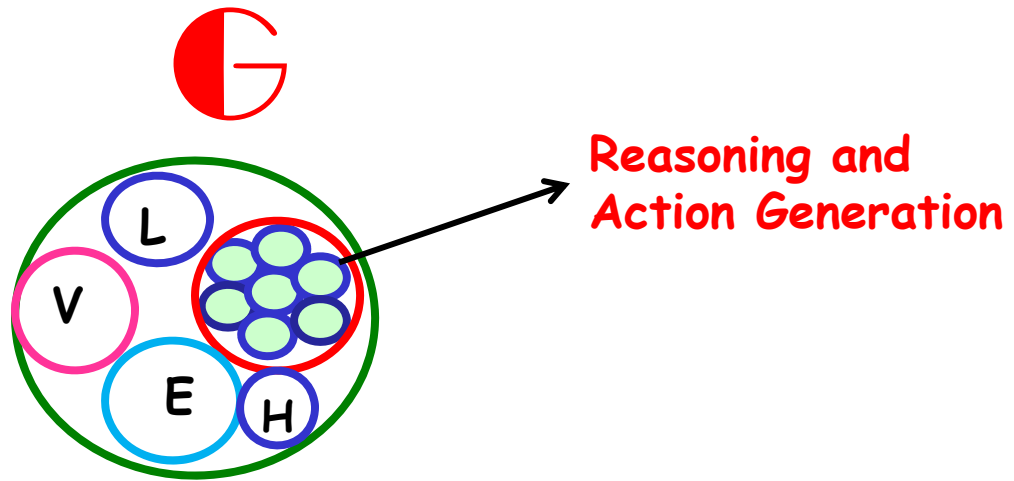
Restricted
Zone in
environment

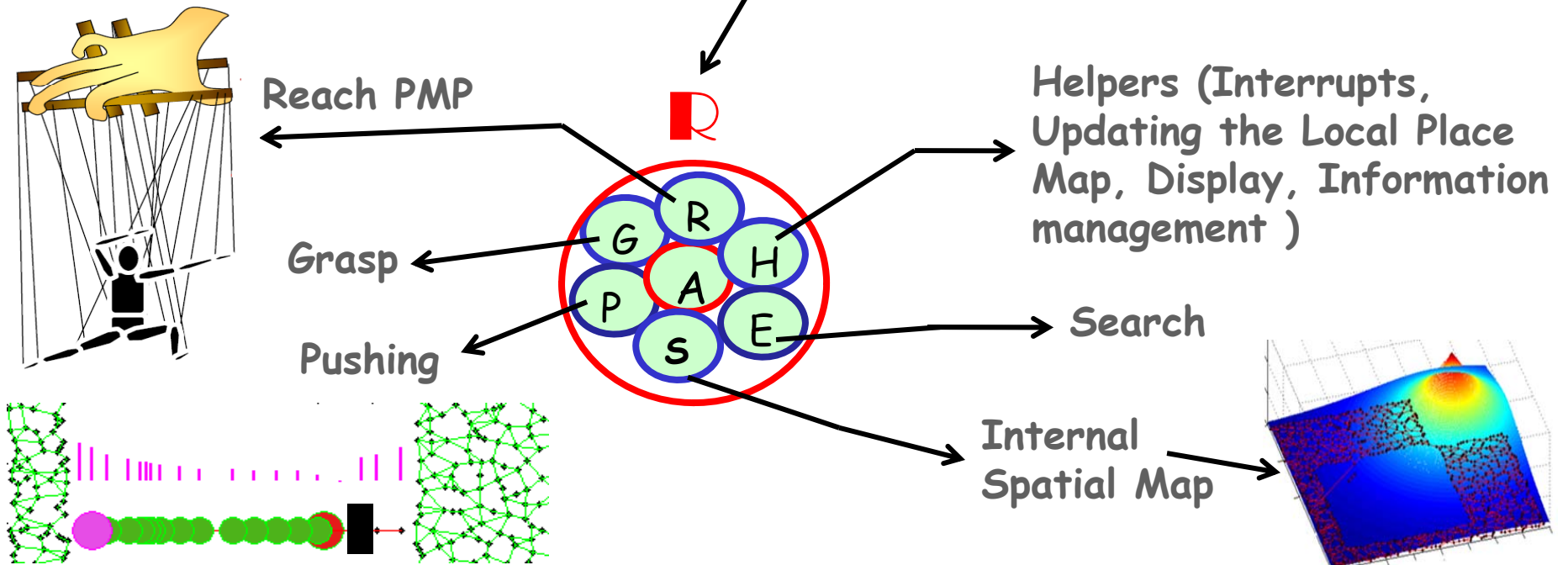
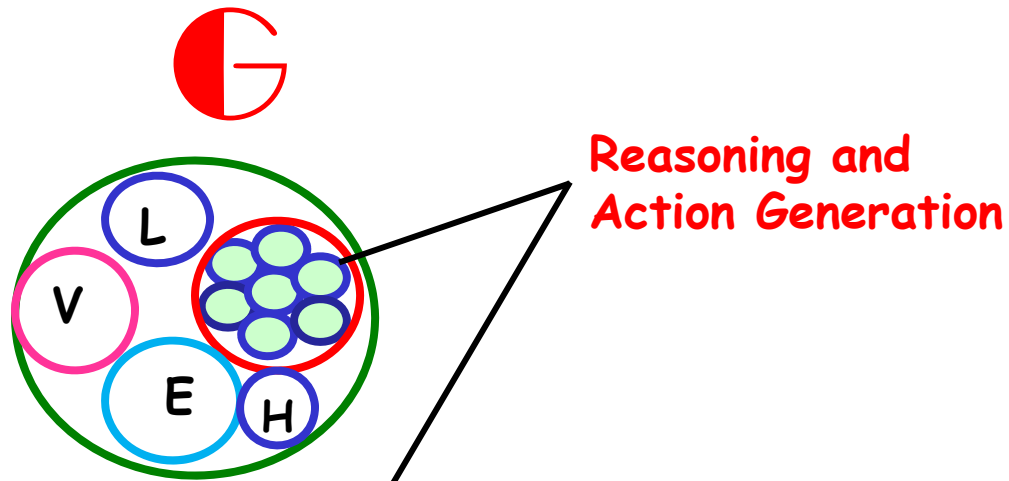
Developing a **Computational framework** which could drive an Artificial agent / Robot to exhibit similar levels of **cognitive control** over its perception, action and imagination ?

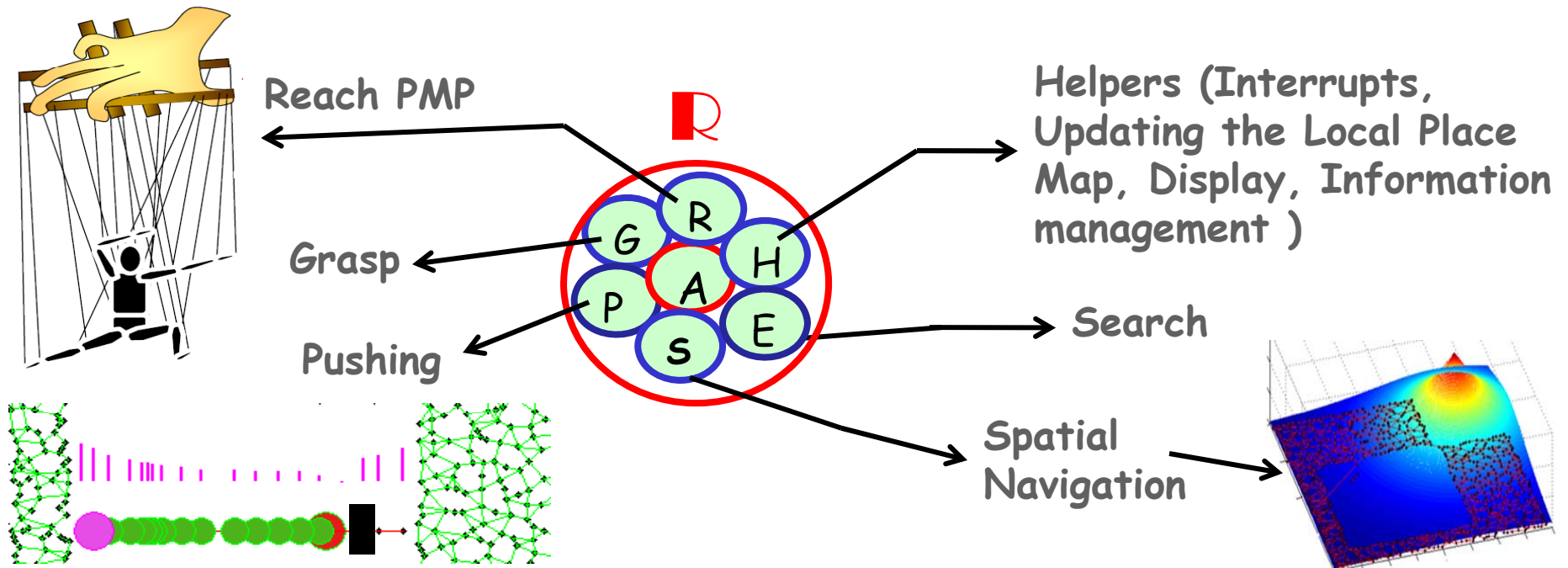


- **Internal Models:** Forward/Inverse functions of sensorimotor dependencies
- **Representation:** Goal directed planning, Virtual experiments, Value Fields
- **Learning** : State representations (sensory/motor), Dynamic Changes
- **Redundancy** : Heterogenous optimality criteria in a task specific way
- **Temporal synchrony:** maintenance of continuity in perception, action and time
- **Integration:** Top Down, Bottom Up , Goal
- **Coherence** : To switch between explorative and normal dynamics to maintain psycho-logical consistency in the sensorimotor world

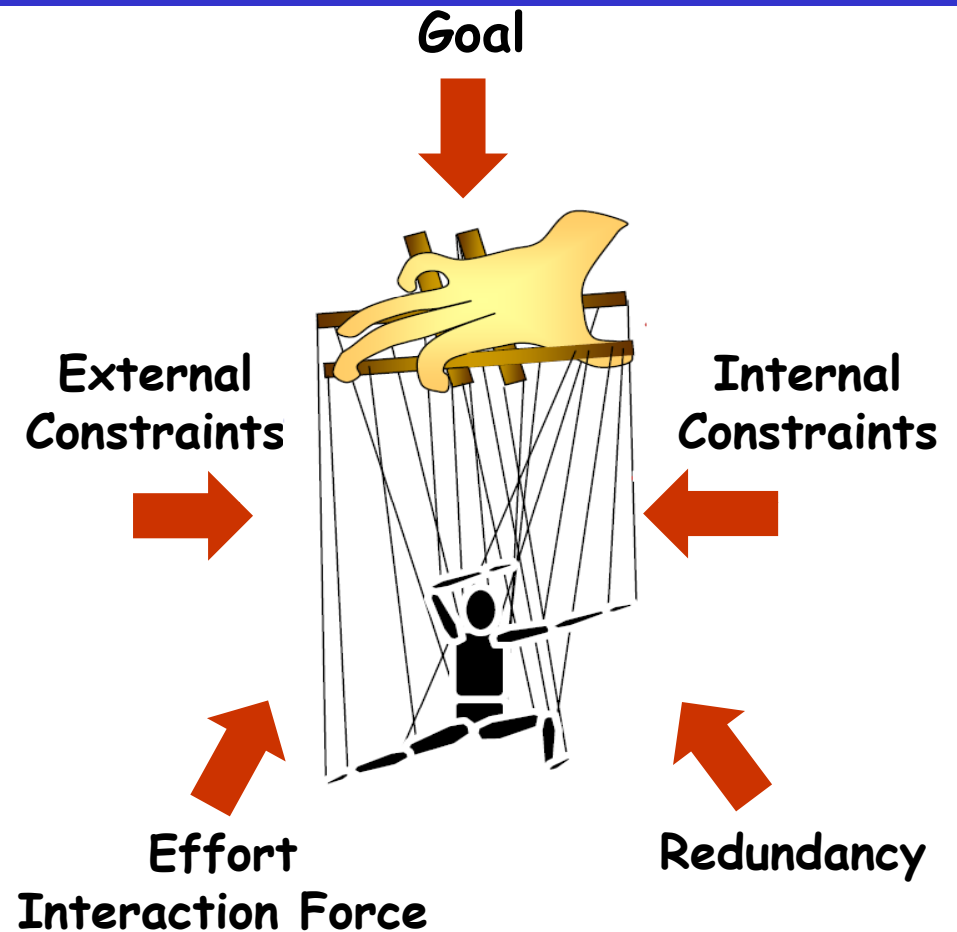
Demonstrate: the effectiveness of the architecture in a physical instantiation, acting in ecologically realistic environments, and goals





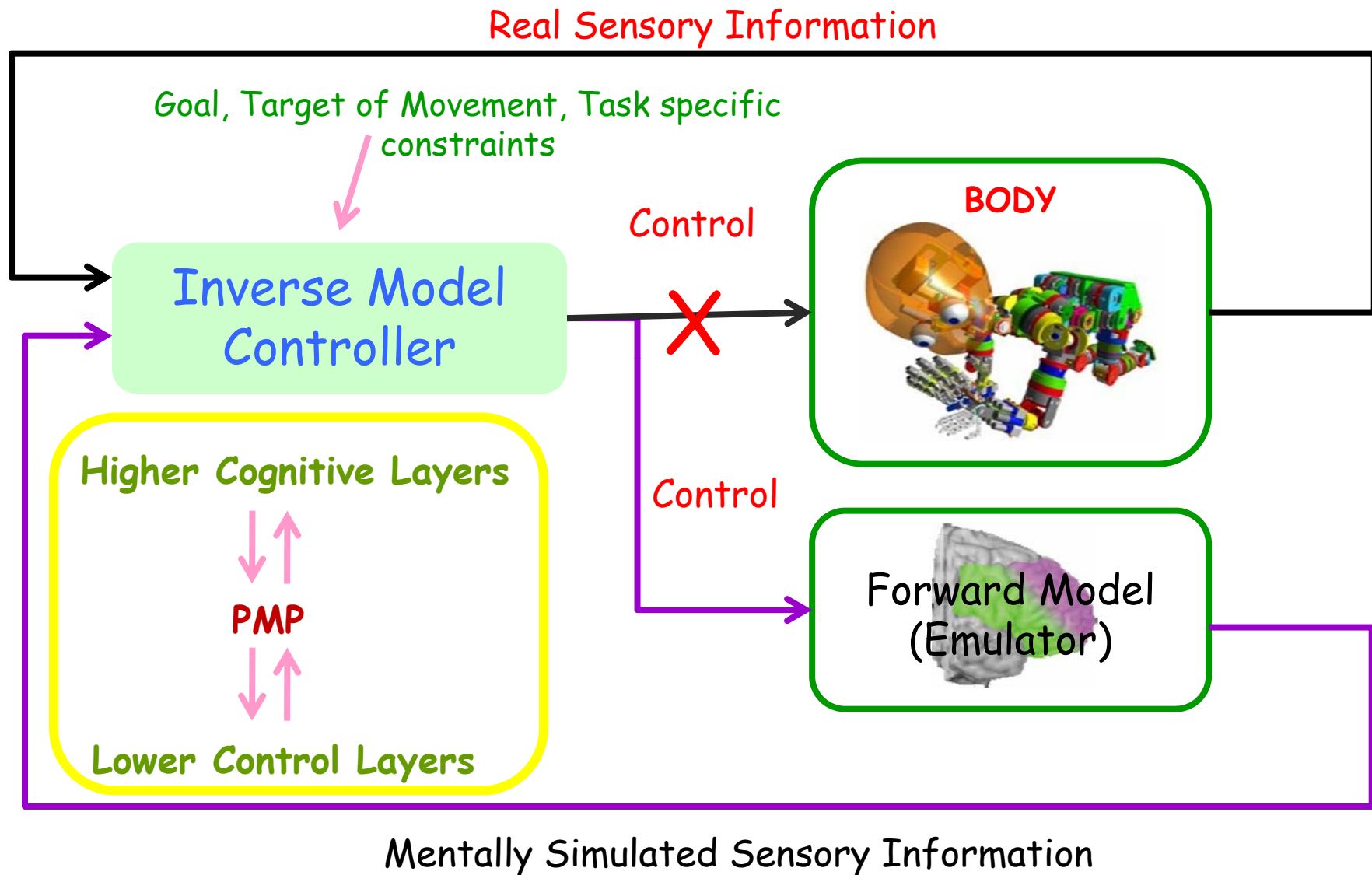


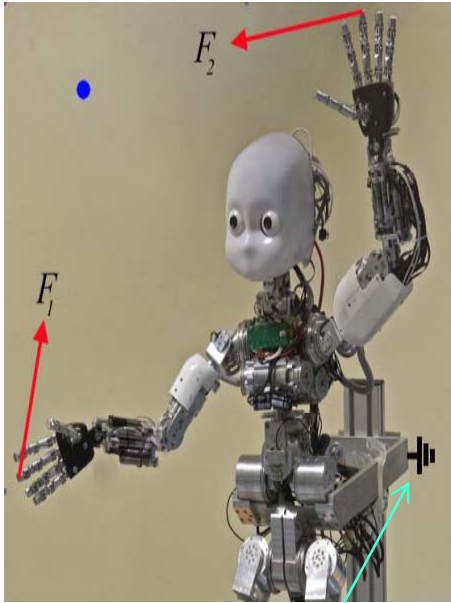
Passive Motion Paradigm (PMP): Real/Mental Action Generation



- 'Multireferential' Non Linear Attractor dynamics
- Local to Global computing
- Compositionality
- Forward inverse models

Passive Motion Paradigm: Forward Inverse Model pair



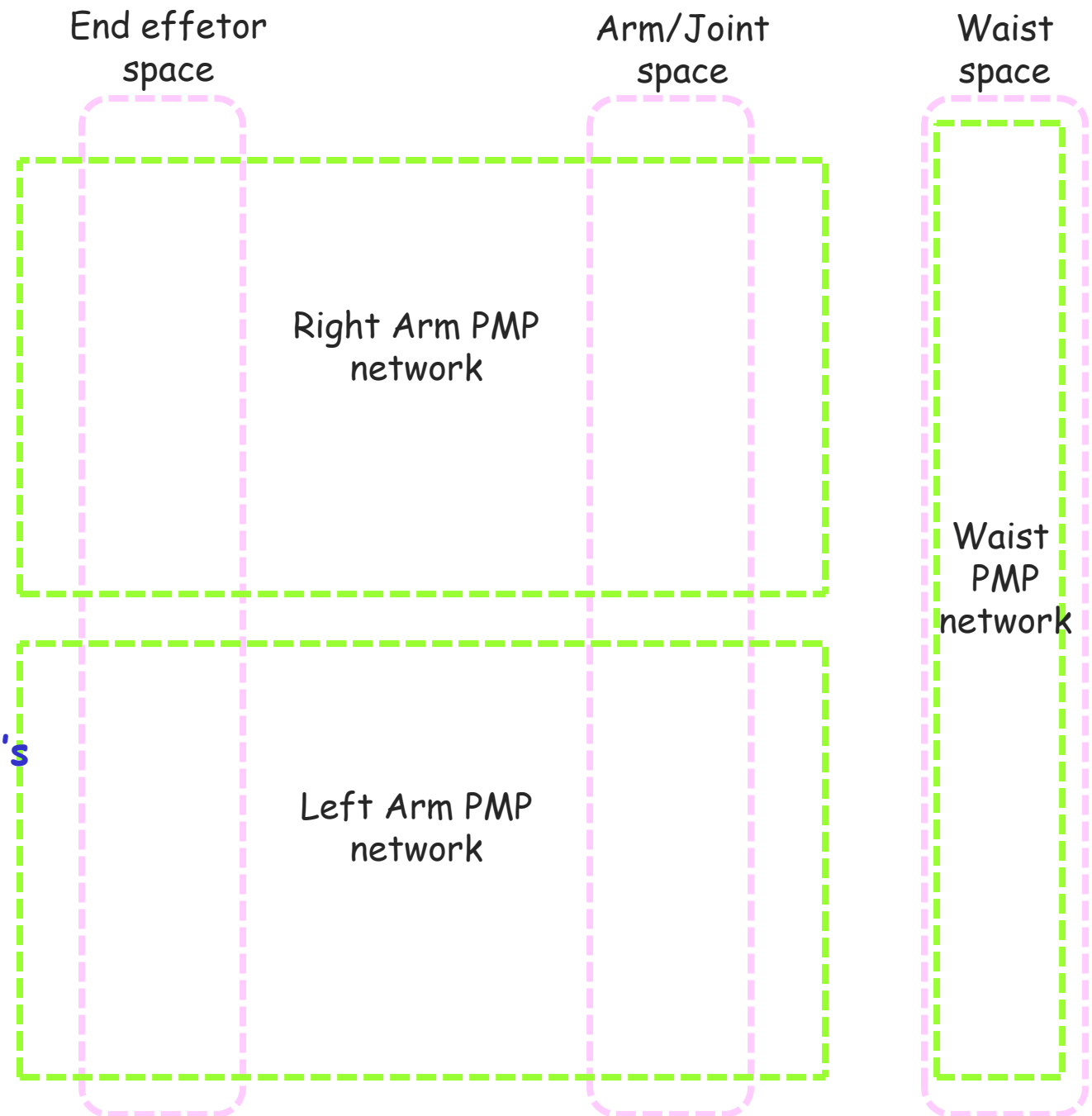


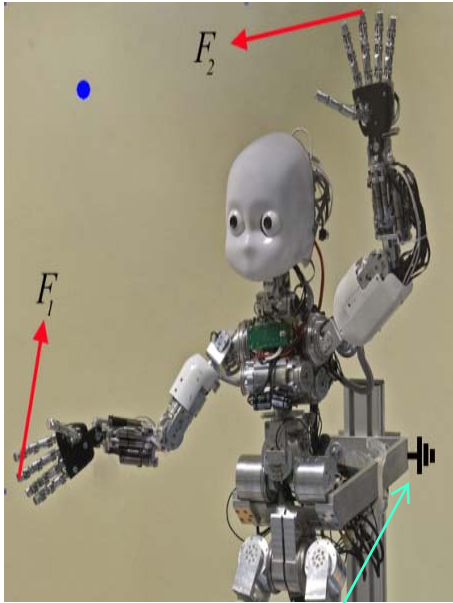
Waist is
Grounded

Grounding

Different Motor space's

Will focus on
Compositionality
in PMP
(iCub Centric)





Waist is
Grounded

Grounding

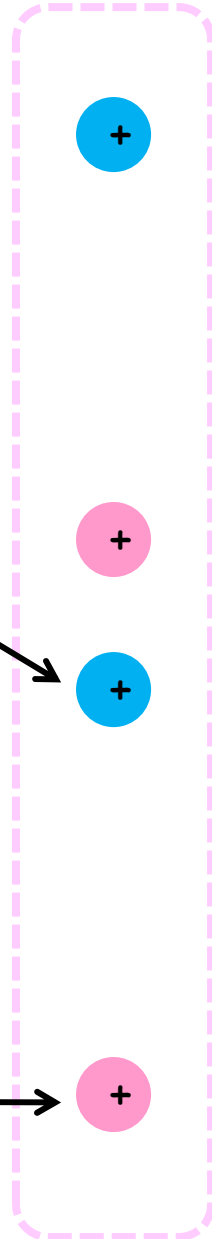
Different Motor space's

Work Units

Generalized
Displacement
node

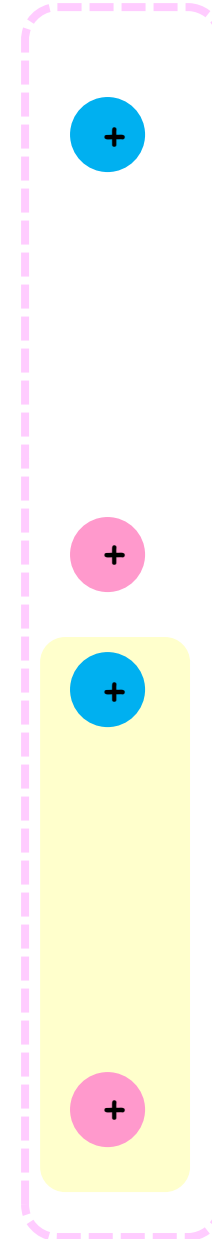
Generalized
Force node

End effector
space



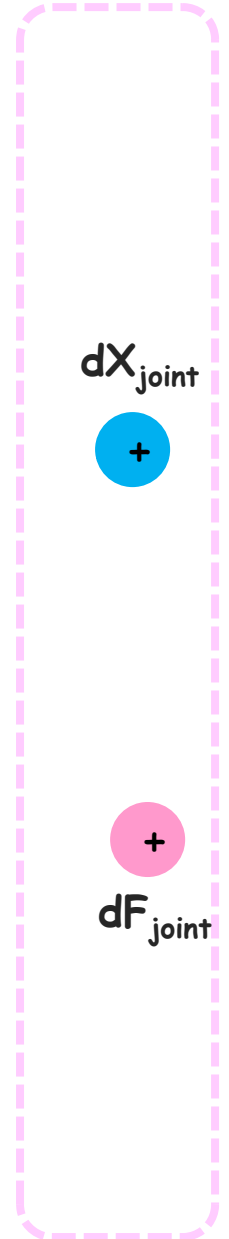
Right Arm PMP
network

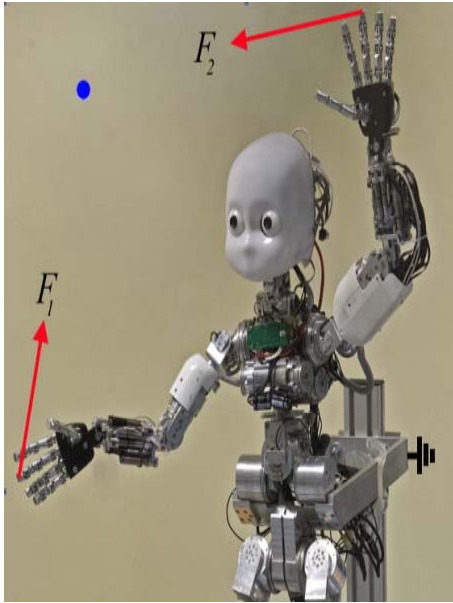
Arm/Joint
space



Left Arm PMP
network

Waist
space





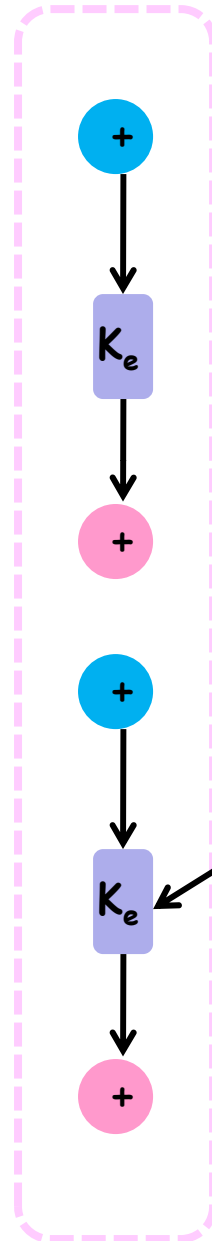
Grounding

Different Motor space's

Work Units

Elastic
Transformation

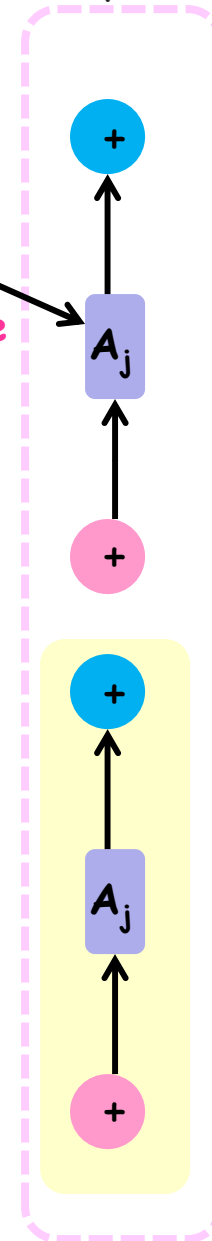
End effector
space



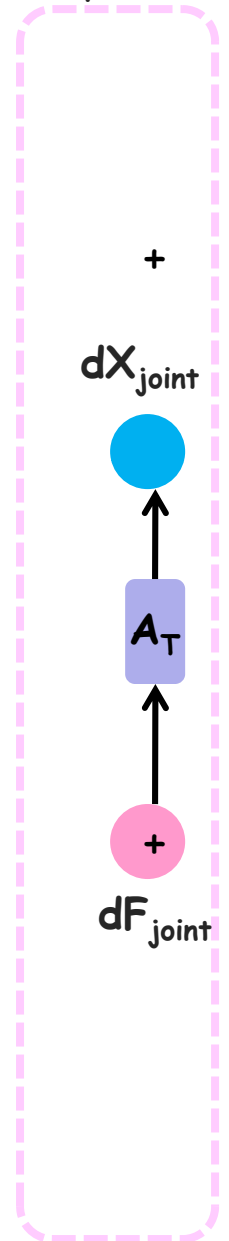
Virtual Stiffness
in end effector
space

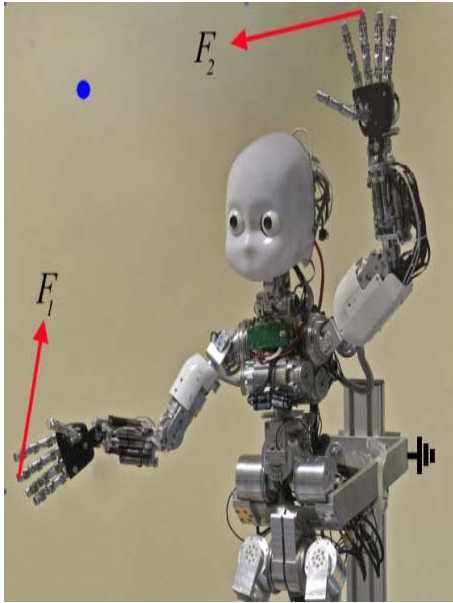
Virtual
admittance
matrix in the
joint space

Arm/Joint
space



Waist
space





Grounding

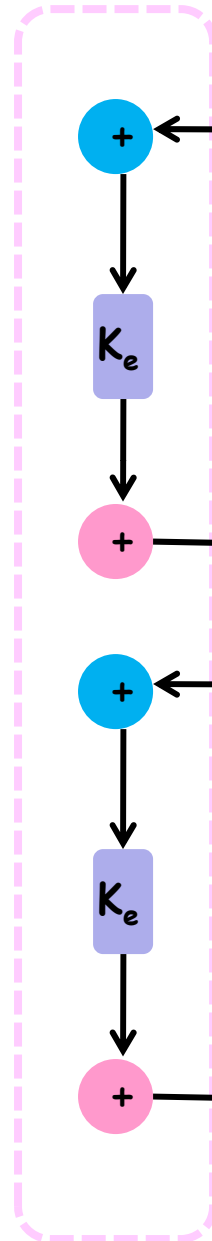
Different Motor space's

Work Units

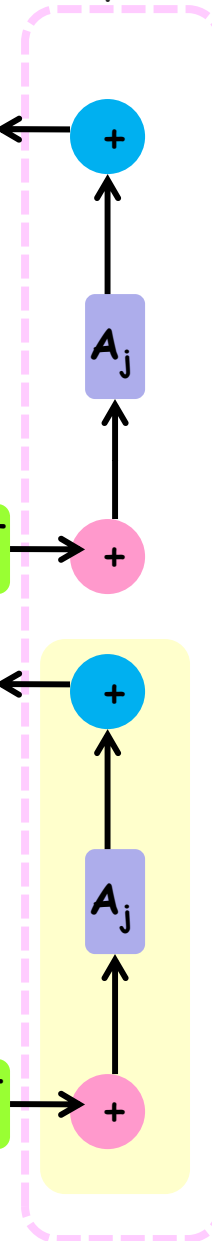
Elastic Transformation

Geometric Transformation

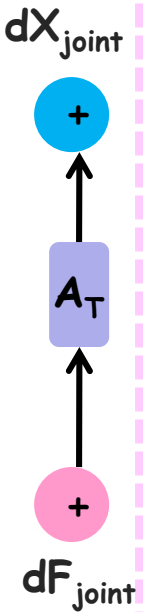
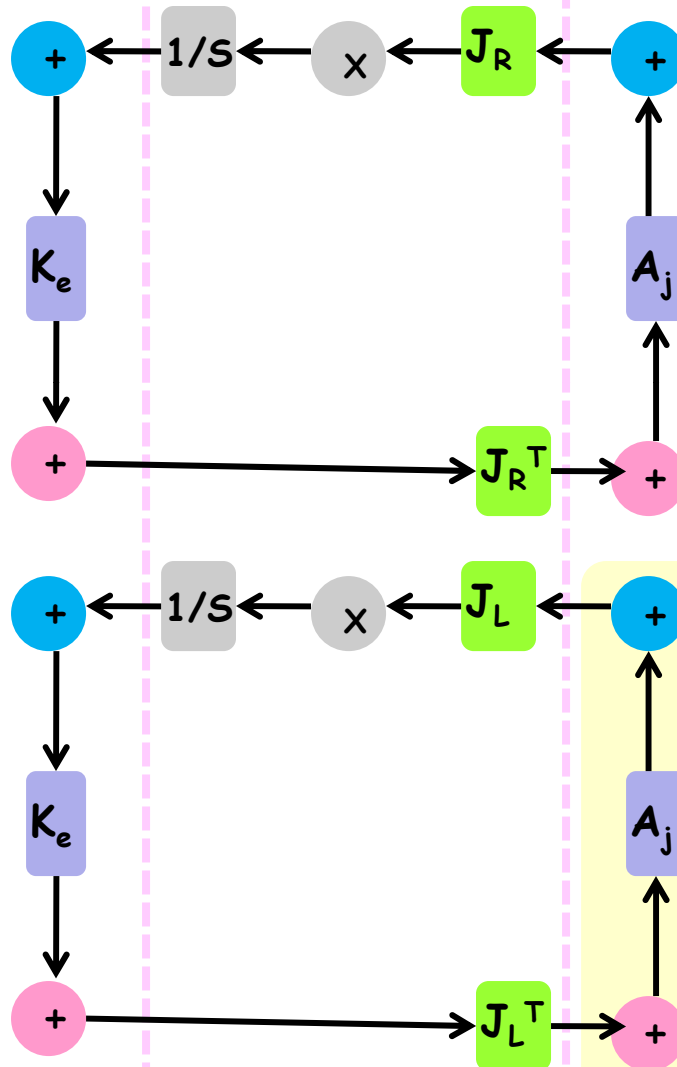
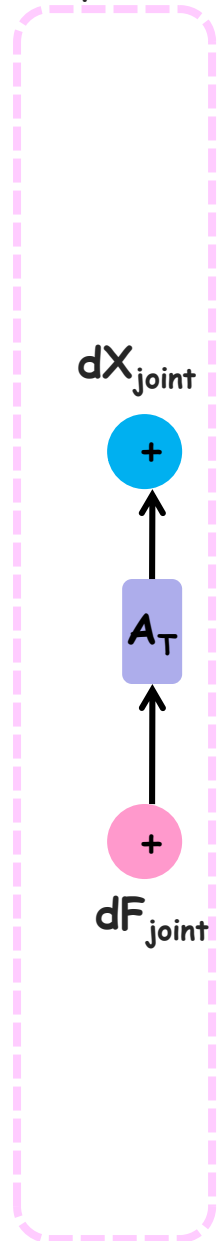
End effector space

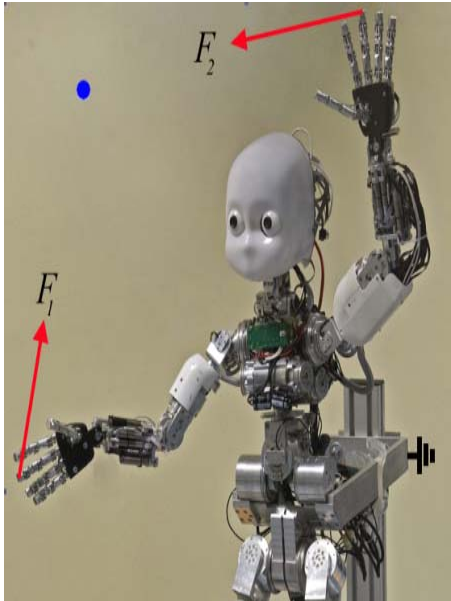


Arm/Joint space



Waist space





Grounding

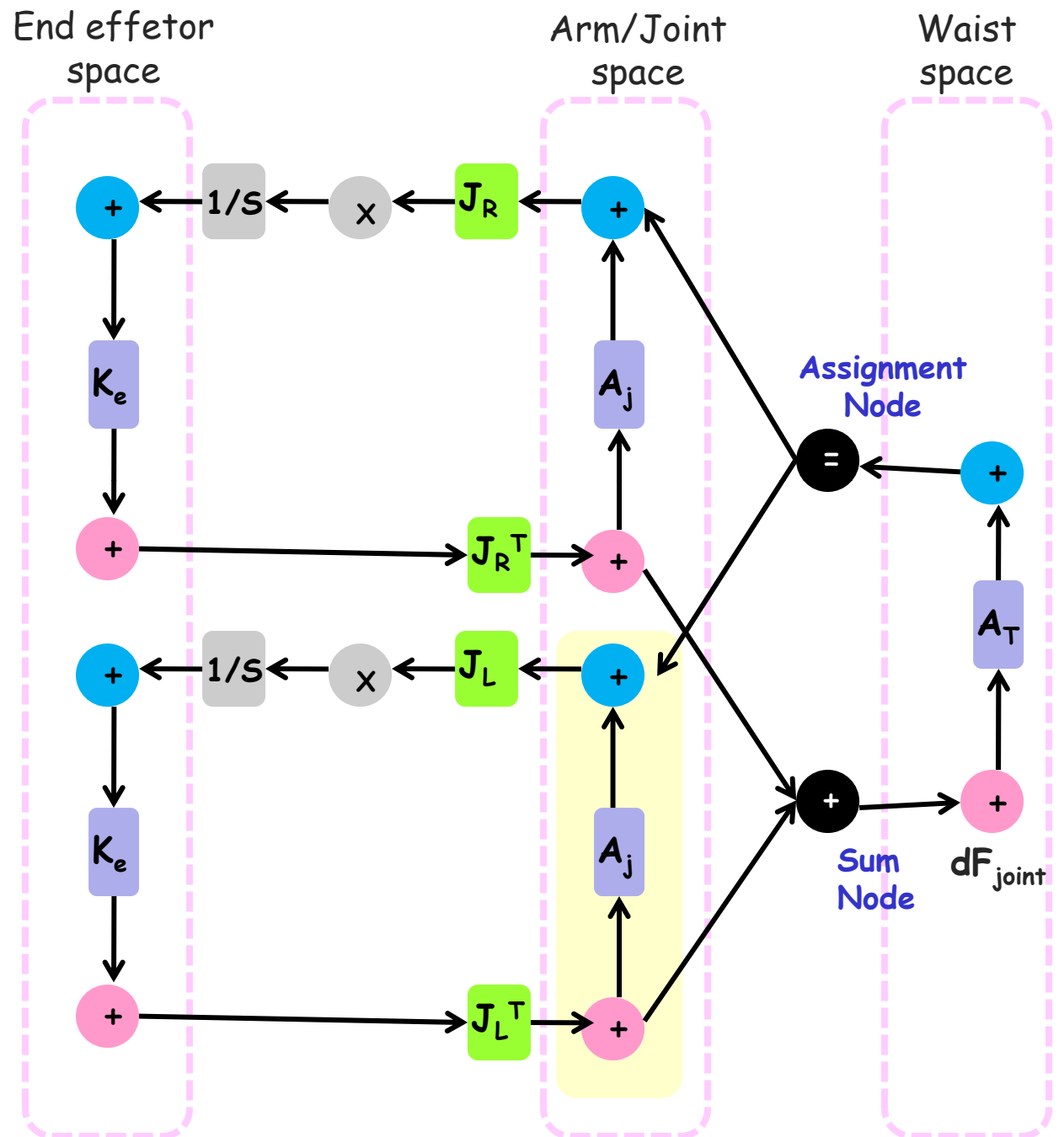
Different Motor space's

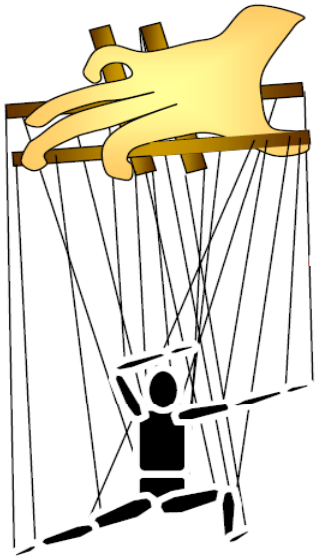
Work Units

Elastic Transformation

Geometric Transformation

Branching Nodes





Grounding

Different Motor space's

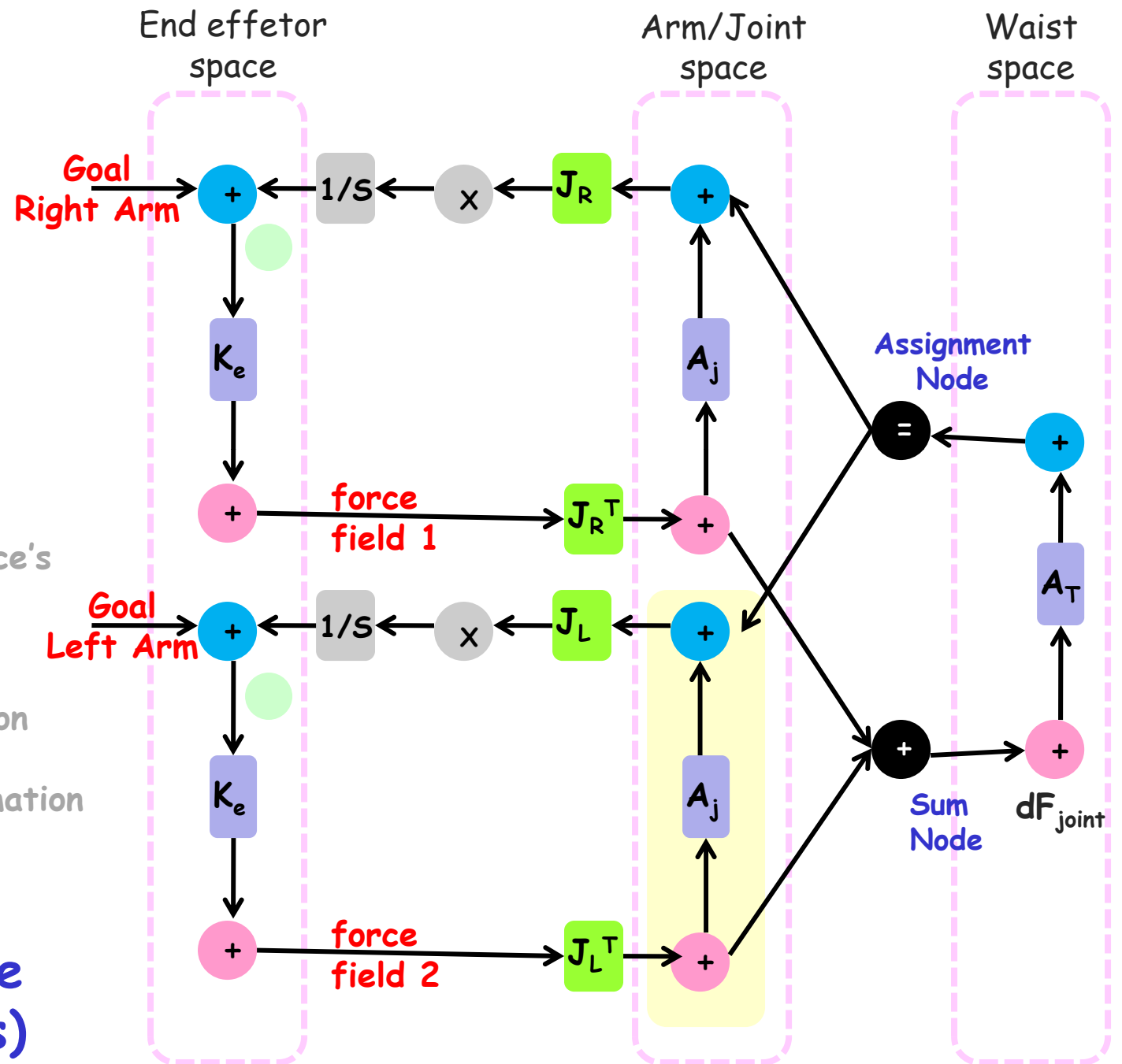
Work Units

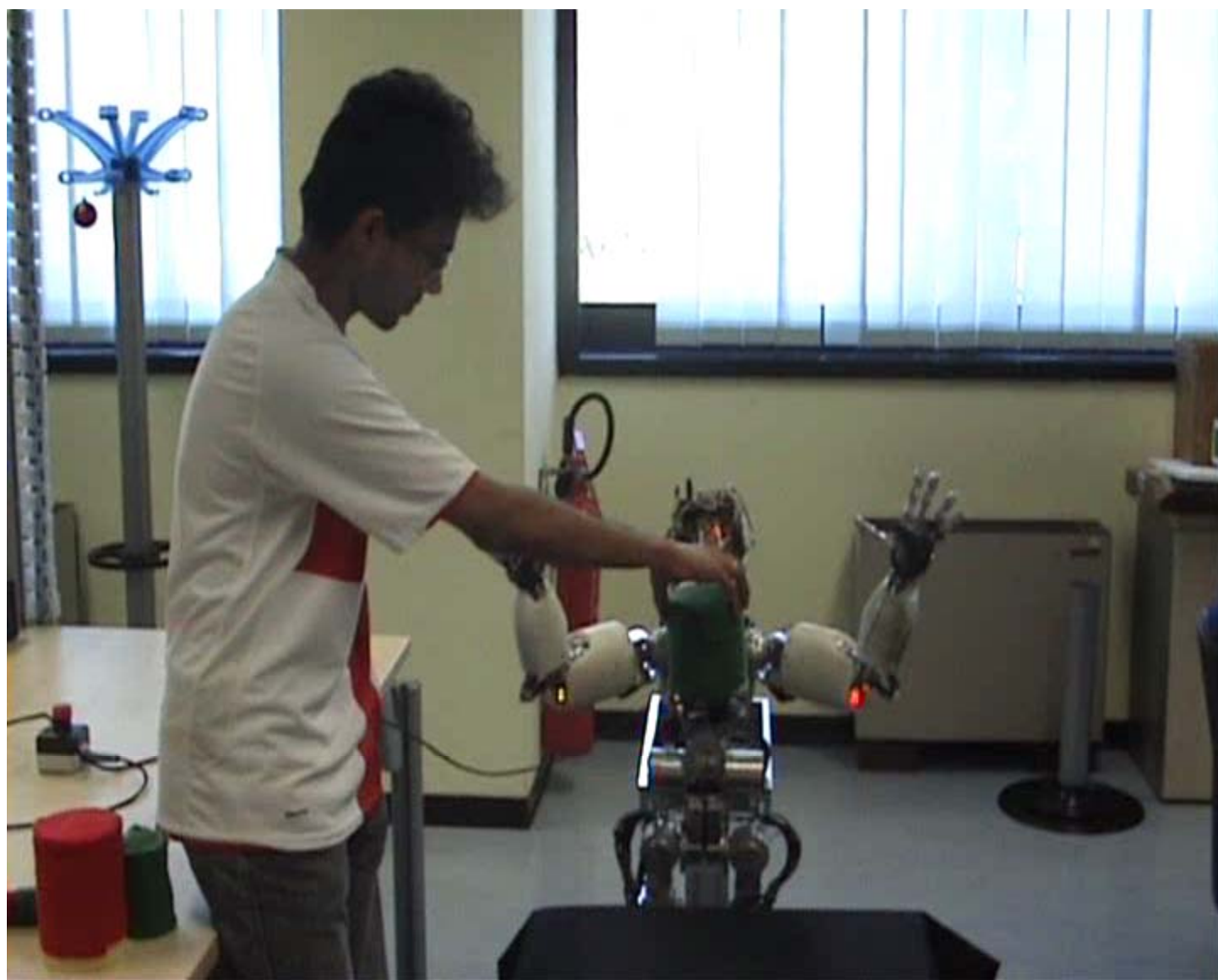
Elastic Transformation

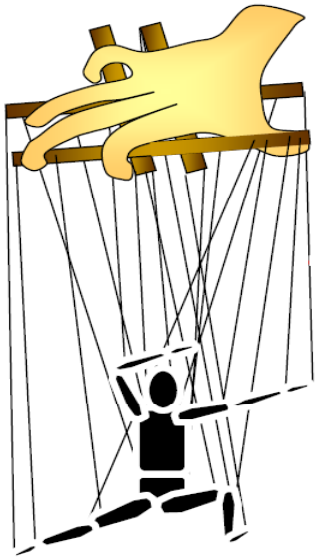
Geometric Transformation

Branching Nodes

A set of Force fields (Strings)







Grounding

Different Motor space's

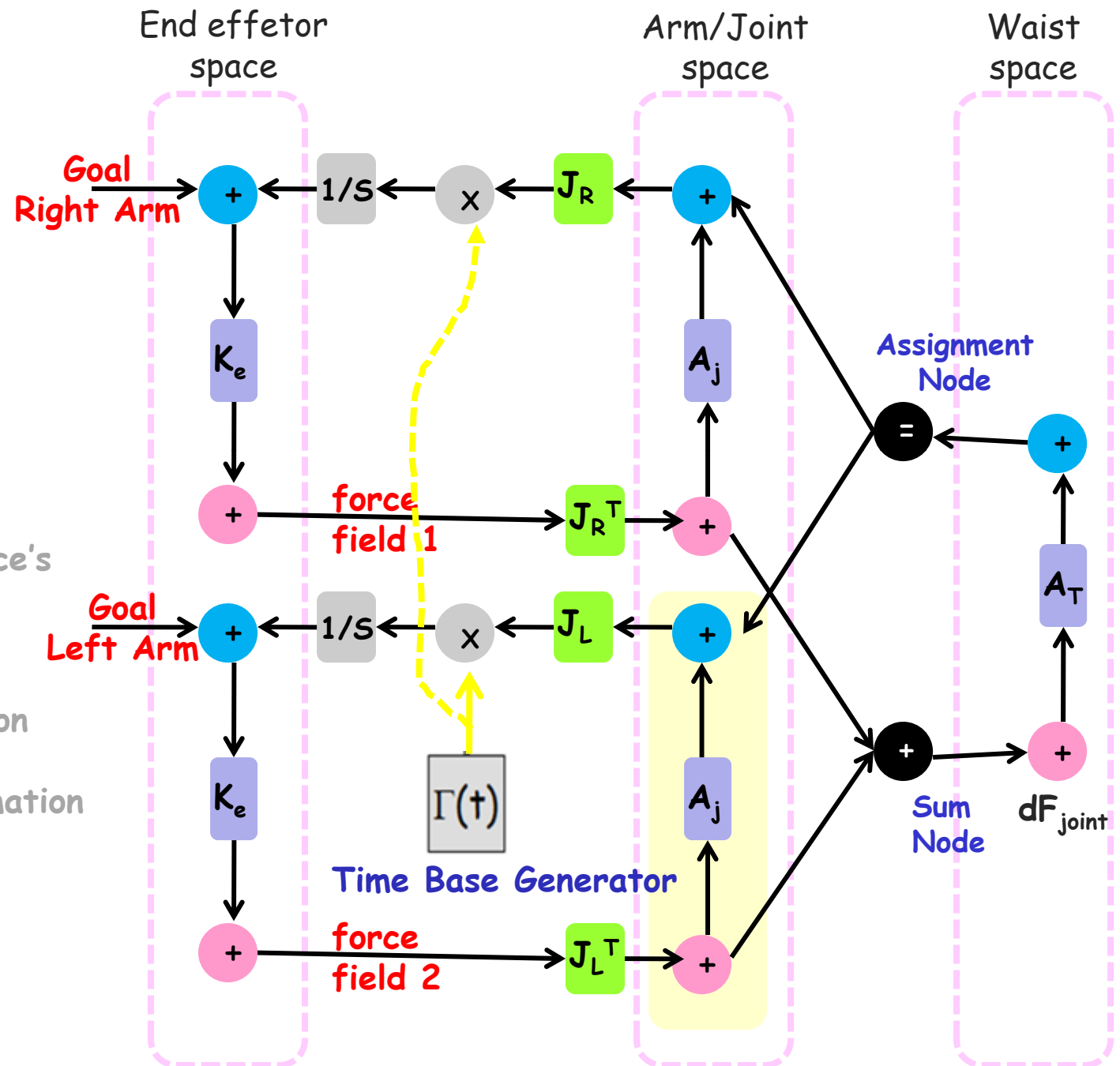
Work Units

Elastic Transformation

Geometric Transformation

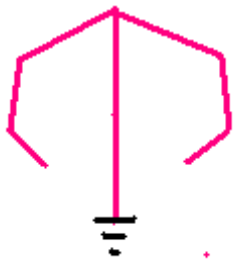
Branching Nodes

Timing



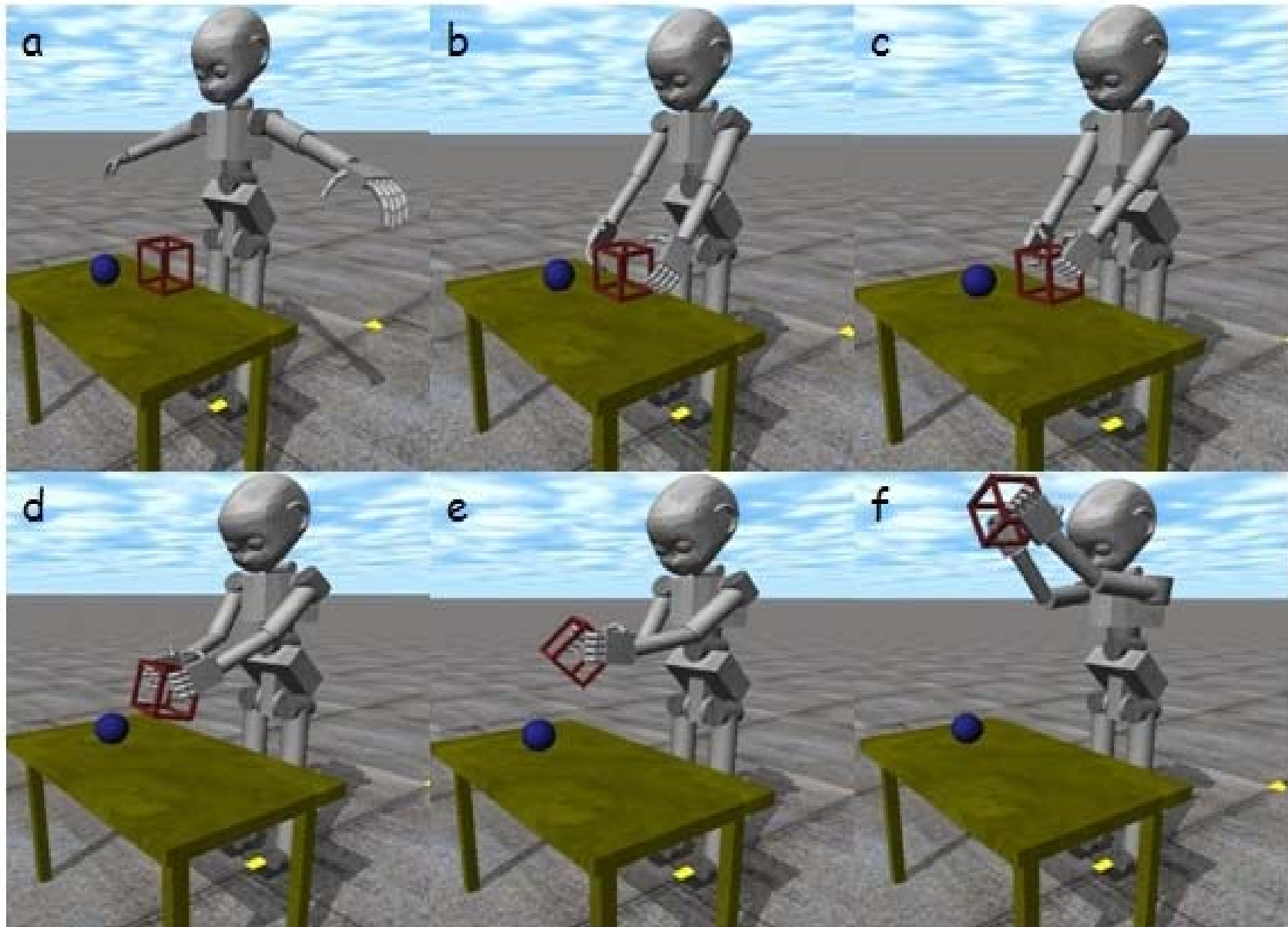
Bimanual Coordination Task

Right Arm- Waist-Left Arm Network

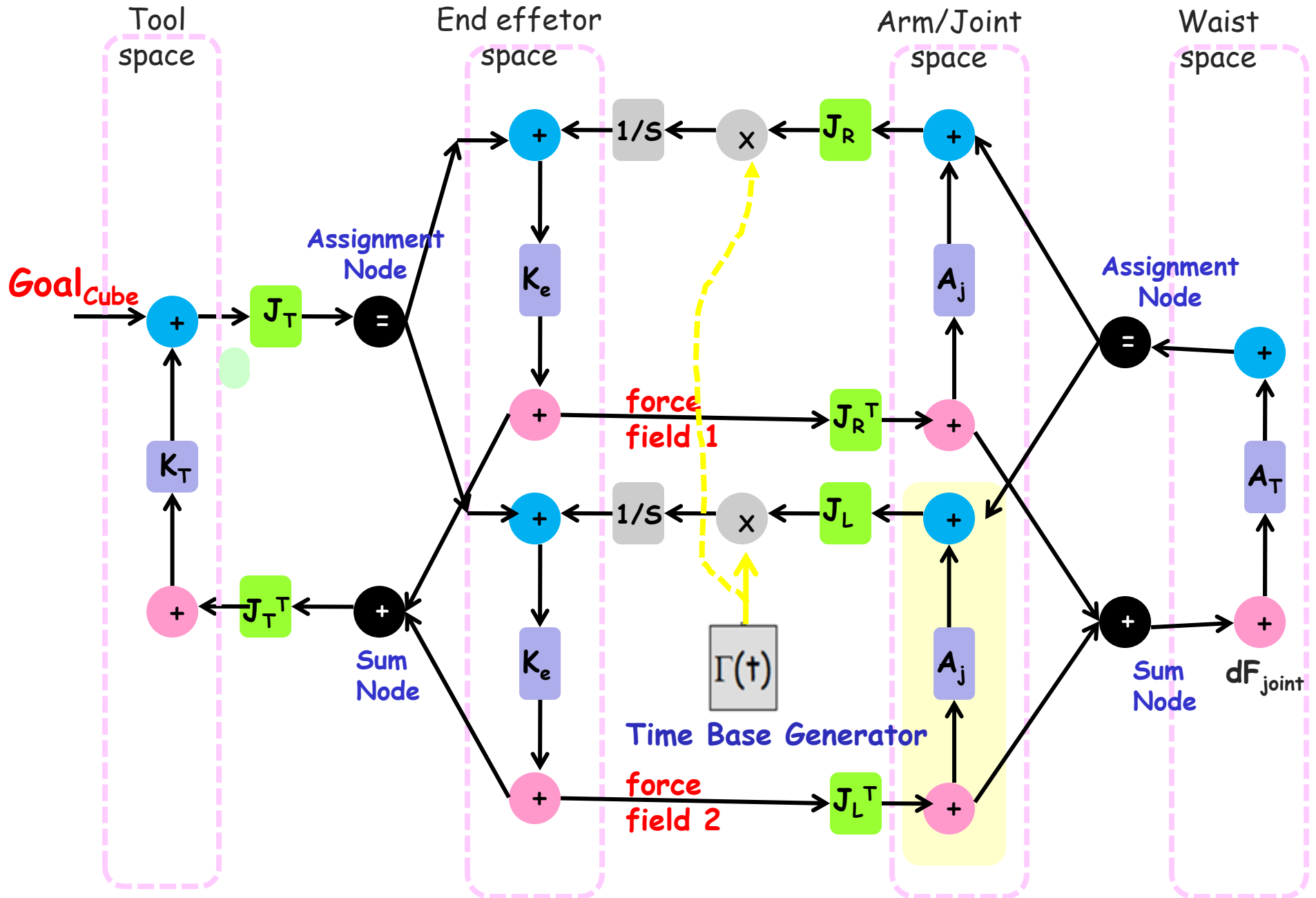


If the trunk is very stiff, only the DoFs of the arms contribute to the final solution reached by the system: this is equivalent to "ground" both shoulders.

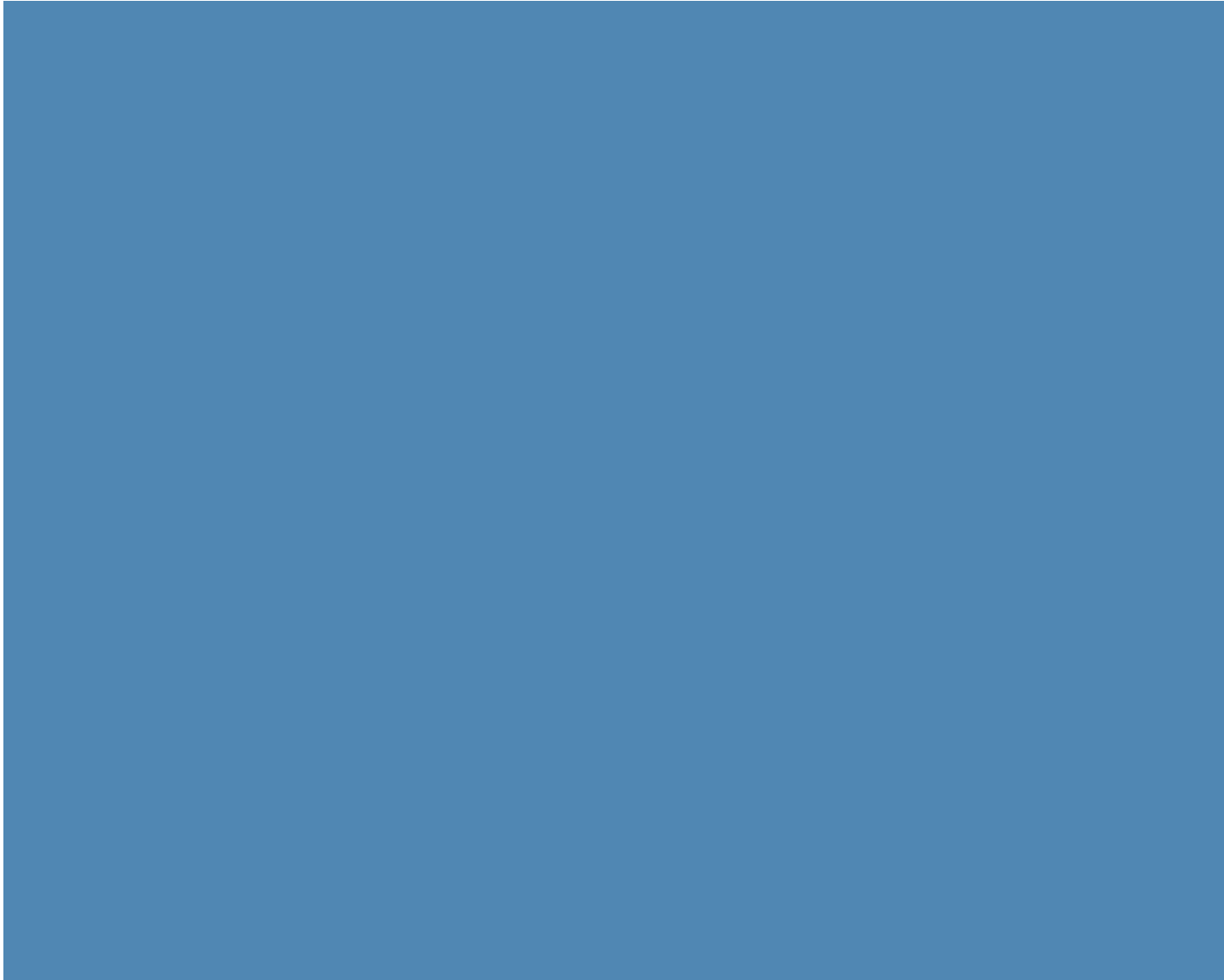
When External objects are coupled to the body

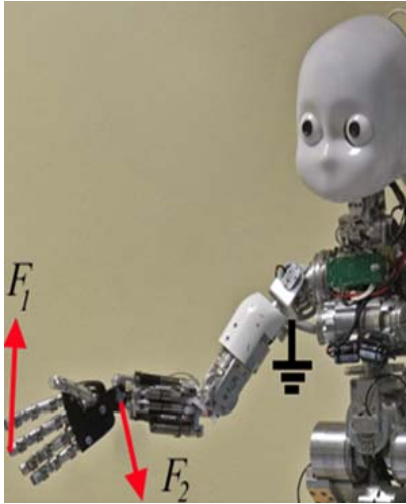


Goal --- > External object ---> End Effector(s) ---> Joints ----> Muscles

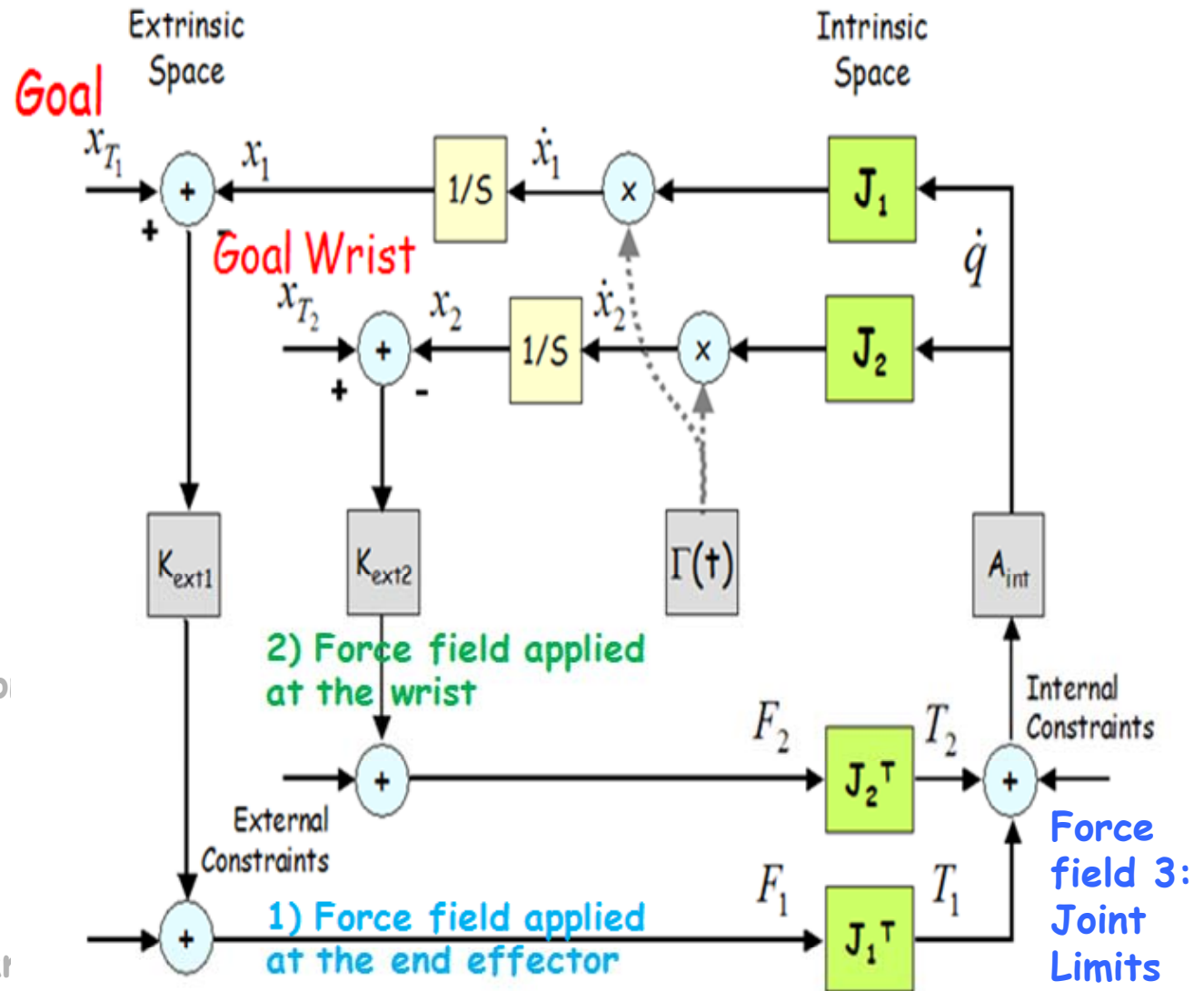


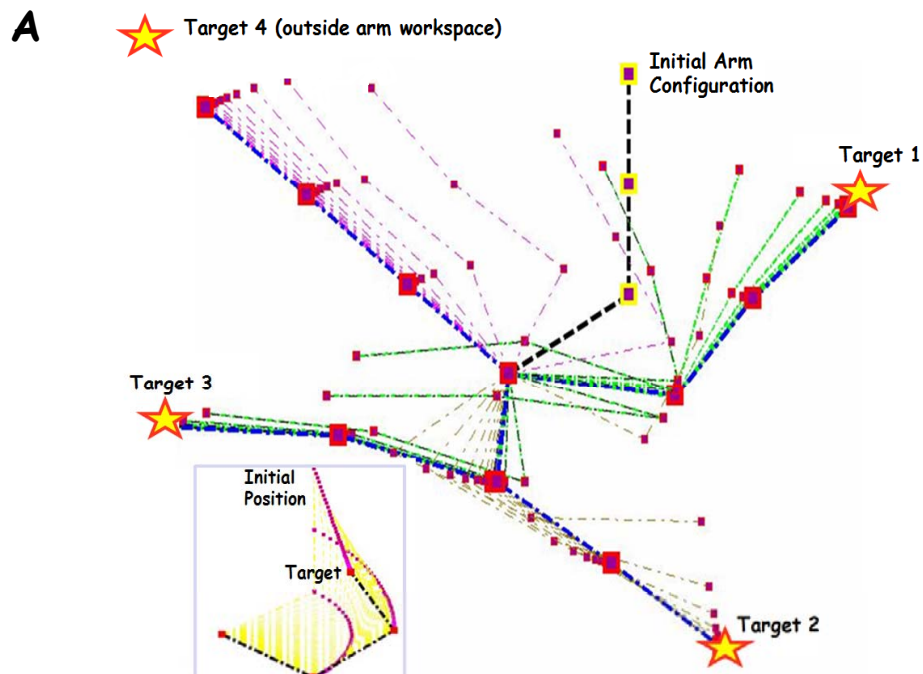
iCub Bimanual Coordination III: Bimanual Transportation Task





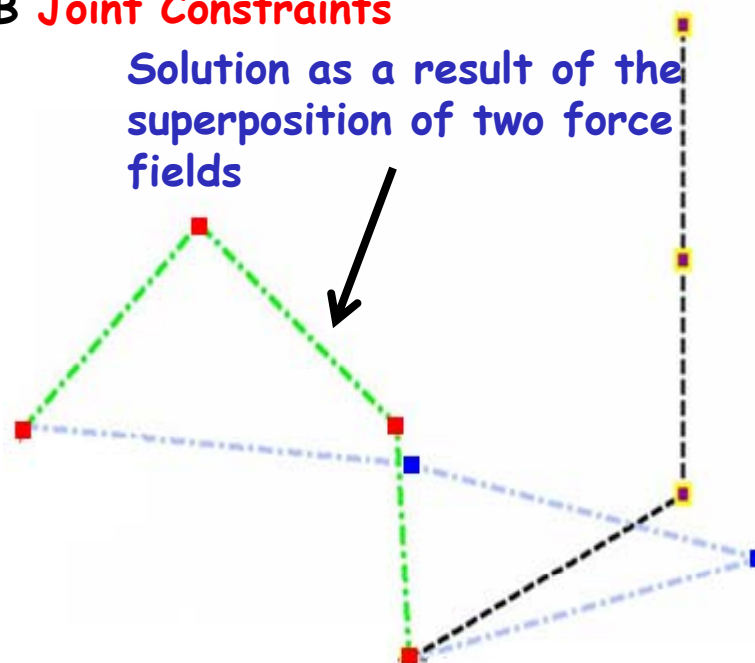
Compositionality: Inside the PMP for a single arm



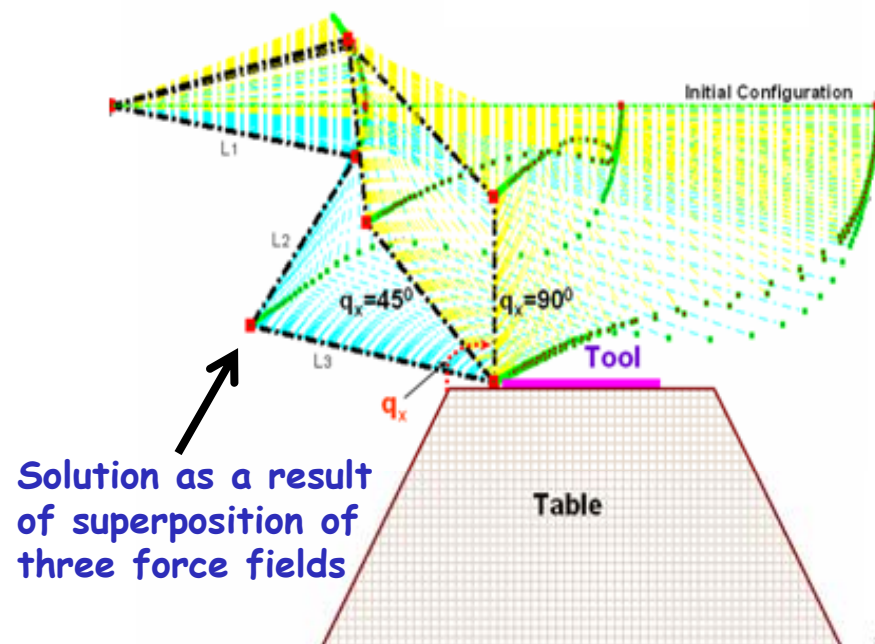


B Joint Constraints

Solution as a result of the superposition of two force fields

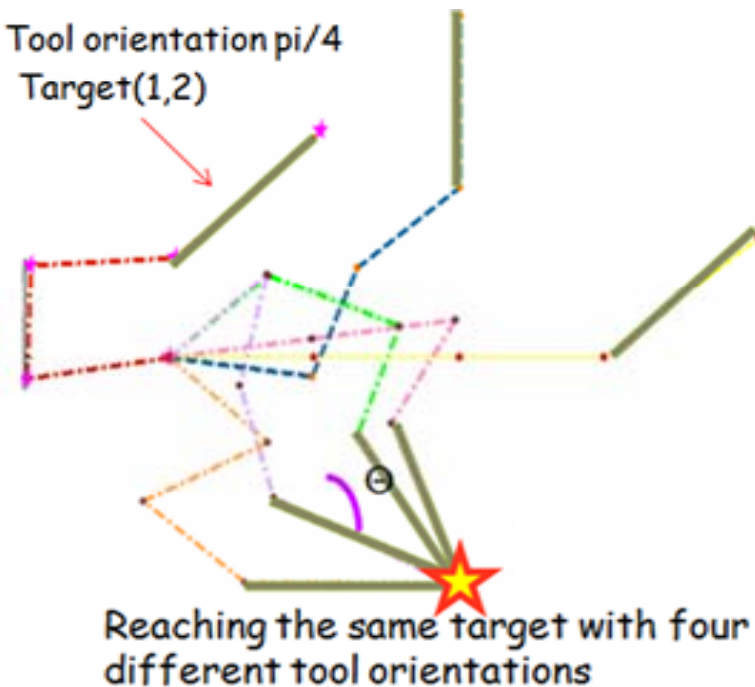


C Wrist orientation



D

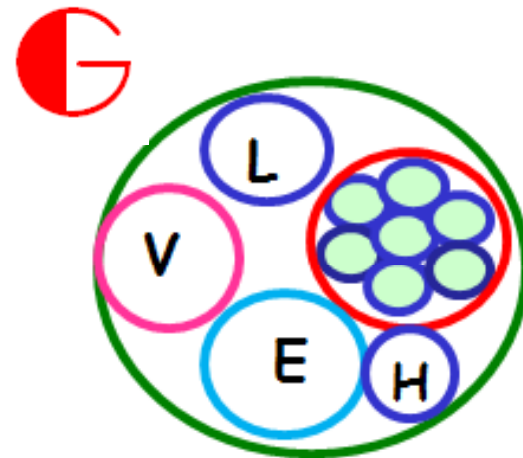
Tool orientation $\pi/4$
Target(1,2)



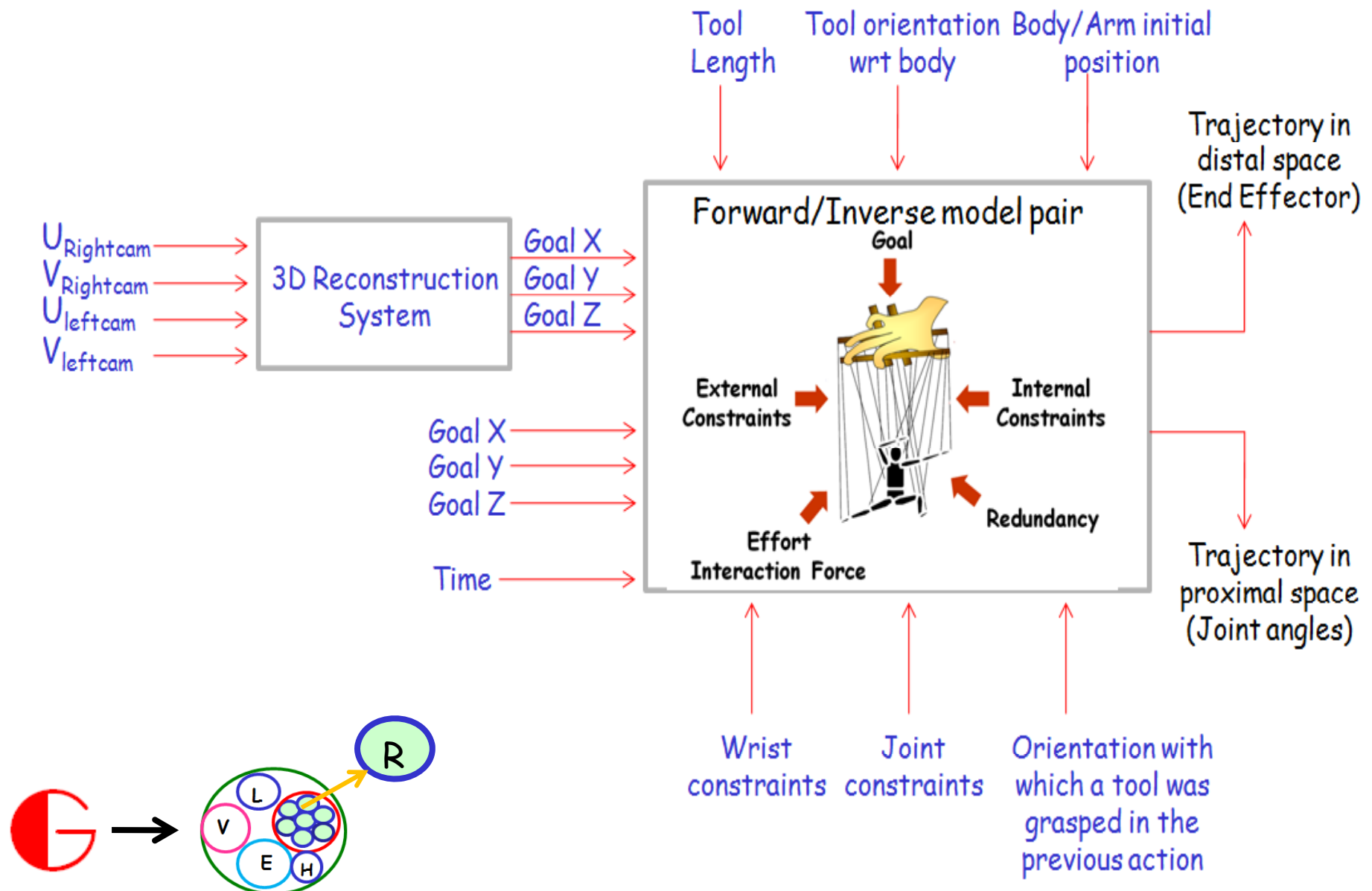


Fine Tuning the Motor

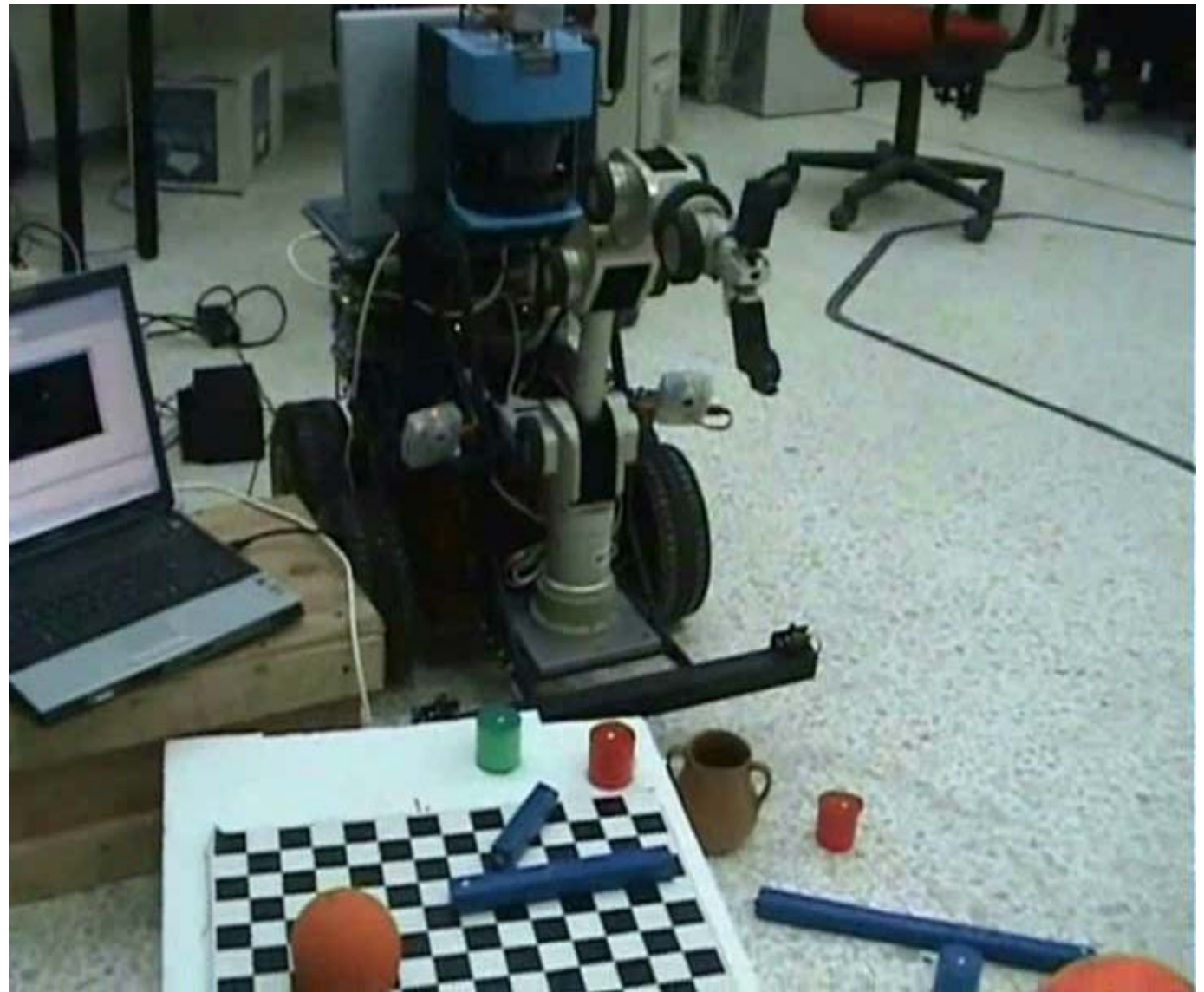
System of GNOSYS



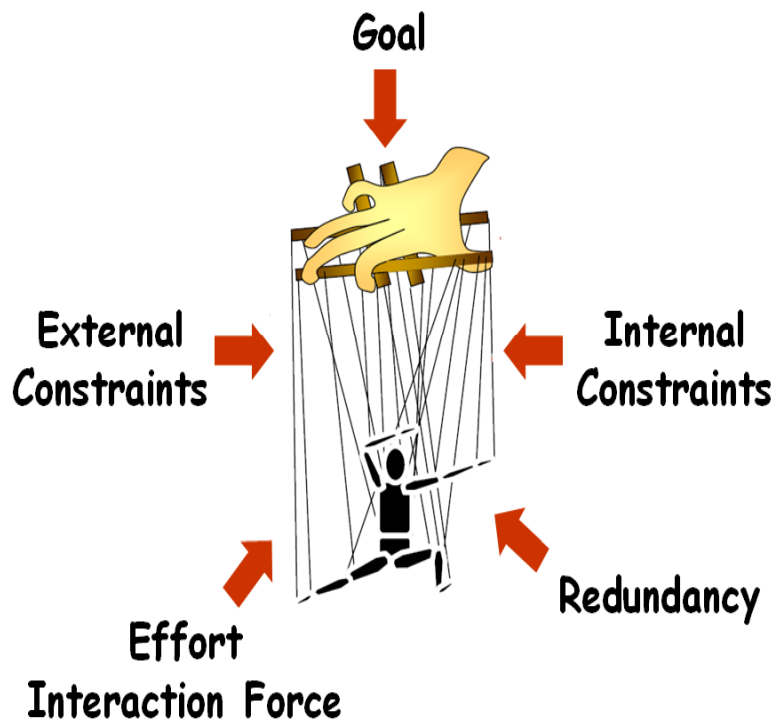
Input/output interfaces to the forward inverse model pair in the GNOSYS robot



ACTION GENERATION SYSTEM in "action" on GNOSYS



Outline



- Objectives (Overview)
- Actions (Local View)
 - > Arena of Action
 - > Computing With the 'Body'
 - > Computing in the 'World'
- Reasoning about Actions (Global View)
 - > Computing in the 'Mind'
- Fabric of Reason's and Action's
(Objective/ Subjective View)
- Atomic Cognitive Agents (Future View)

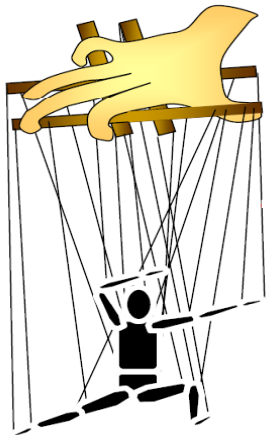
Localization, other
sensory information
acquisition

Visual
Perception

Executive

Reasoning and
Action Generation

Hardware,
User Interface,
Communication, Graphics



Reach PMP

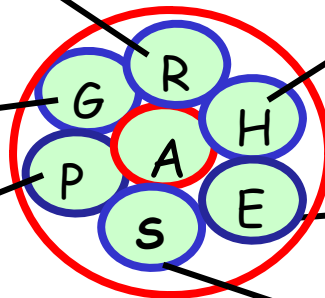
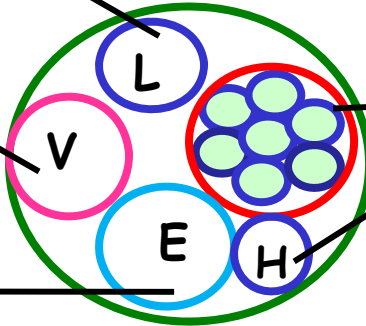
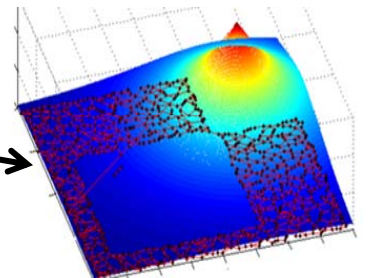
Grasp

Pushing

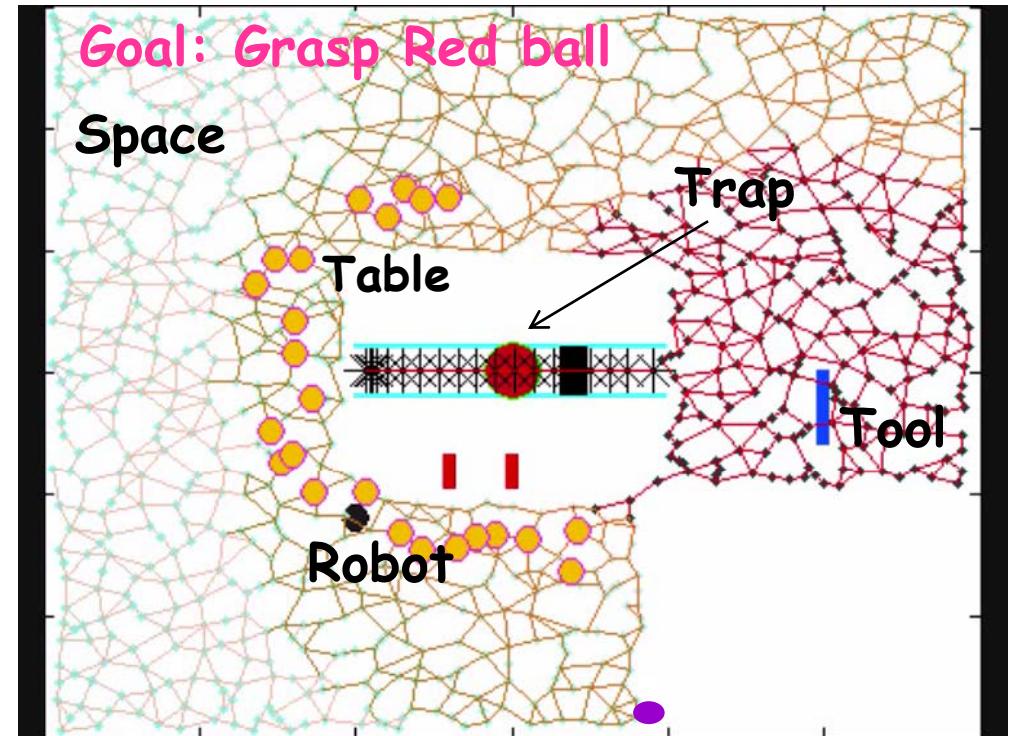
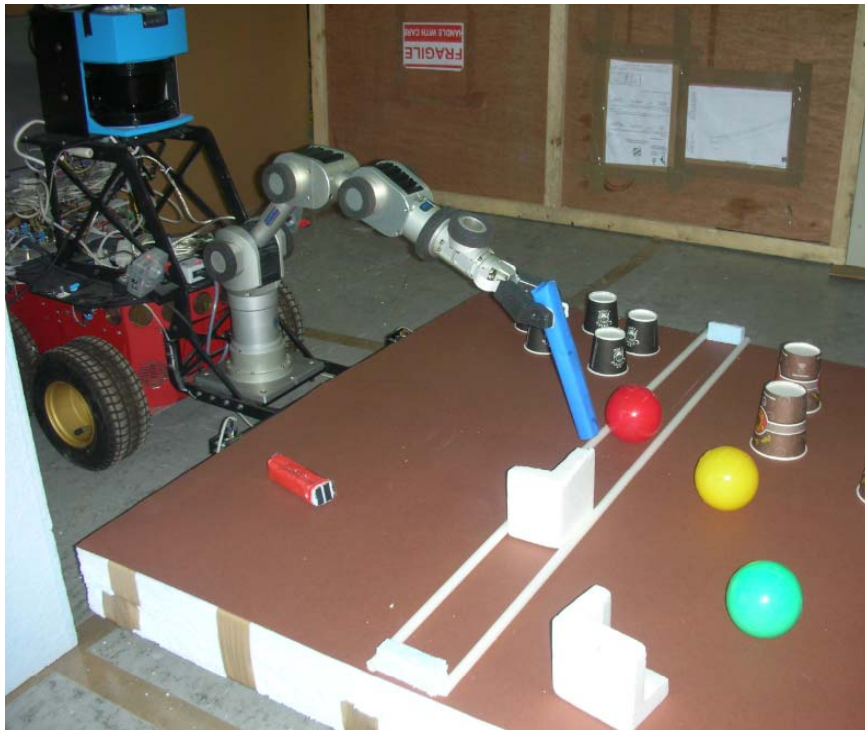
Helpers (Interrupts,
Updating the Local Place
Map, Display, Information
management)

Search

Spatial Map



Central Principles (Invariants)



1) Sensorimotor Exploration

2) Self organization

3) Field Computing

4) Value Dependent learning

5) Abstraction

6) Recursivity

- 1) A set of **sensorimotor variables** (State space)
- 2) A set of **connectivity structures** (Interactions)
- 3) A set of **value fields** (Goal-directedness)
- 4) A set of **trajectories** (output)

T.Kohonen (Self organization), M.Toussaint (Sensorimotor Maps),
Hopfield (AM), Barto, Sutton and Watkins (RL), Amari (Neural Fields)

1) A set of sensory-motor variables

> Forward/Inverse model for Reaching

Motor: Array of Joint angles (DoF)

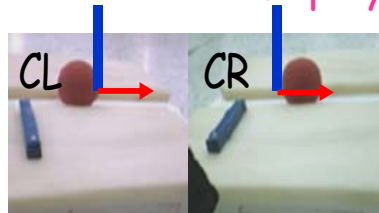
Sensory: End Effector Positions

> Internal Spatial Map

Motor : Input array (Of Translation, Rotation vectors)

Sensory : Global location in the playground

> Pushing



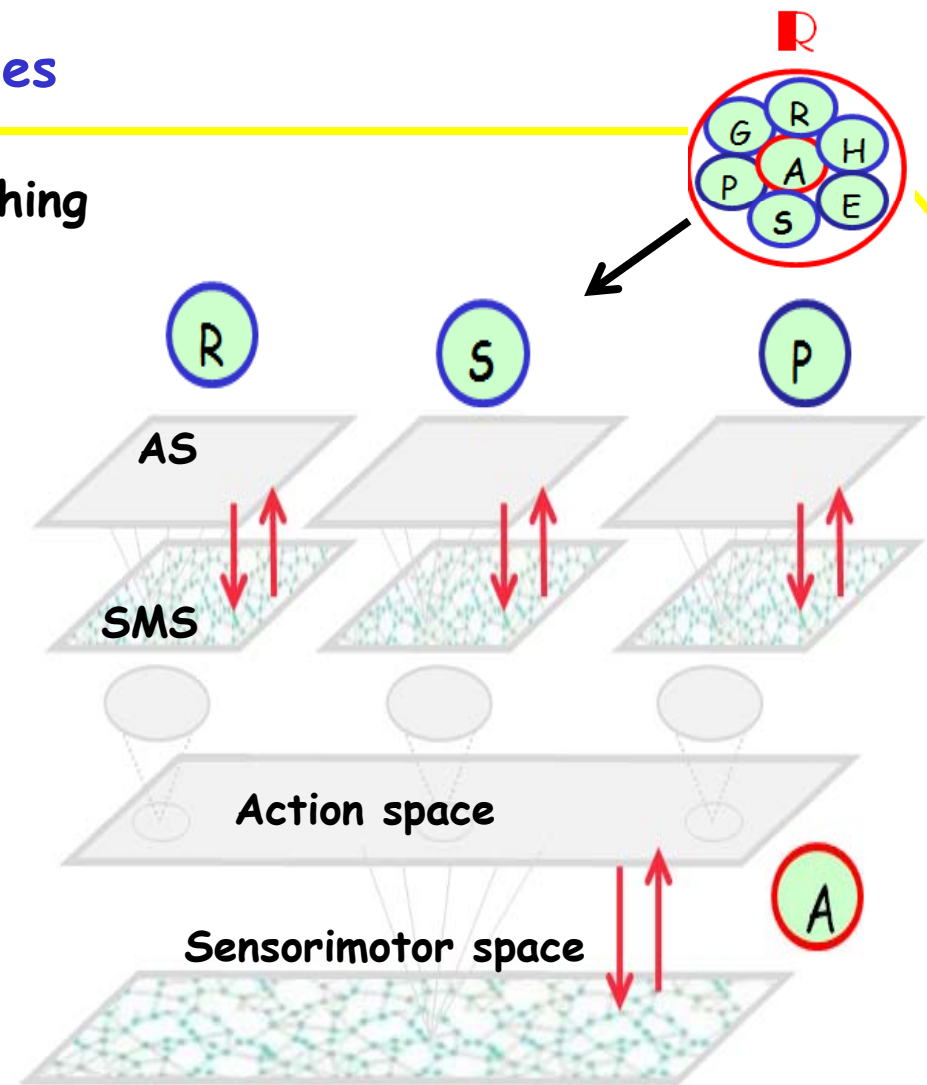
Motor : Direction of Pushing,
Location of tool wrt object

Sensory : Position of object after push

> Abstract Reasoning

Motor : Array of Actions {Reaching, Pushing, S.navigation, Visual Exploration, Grasp, H}

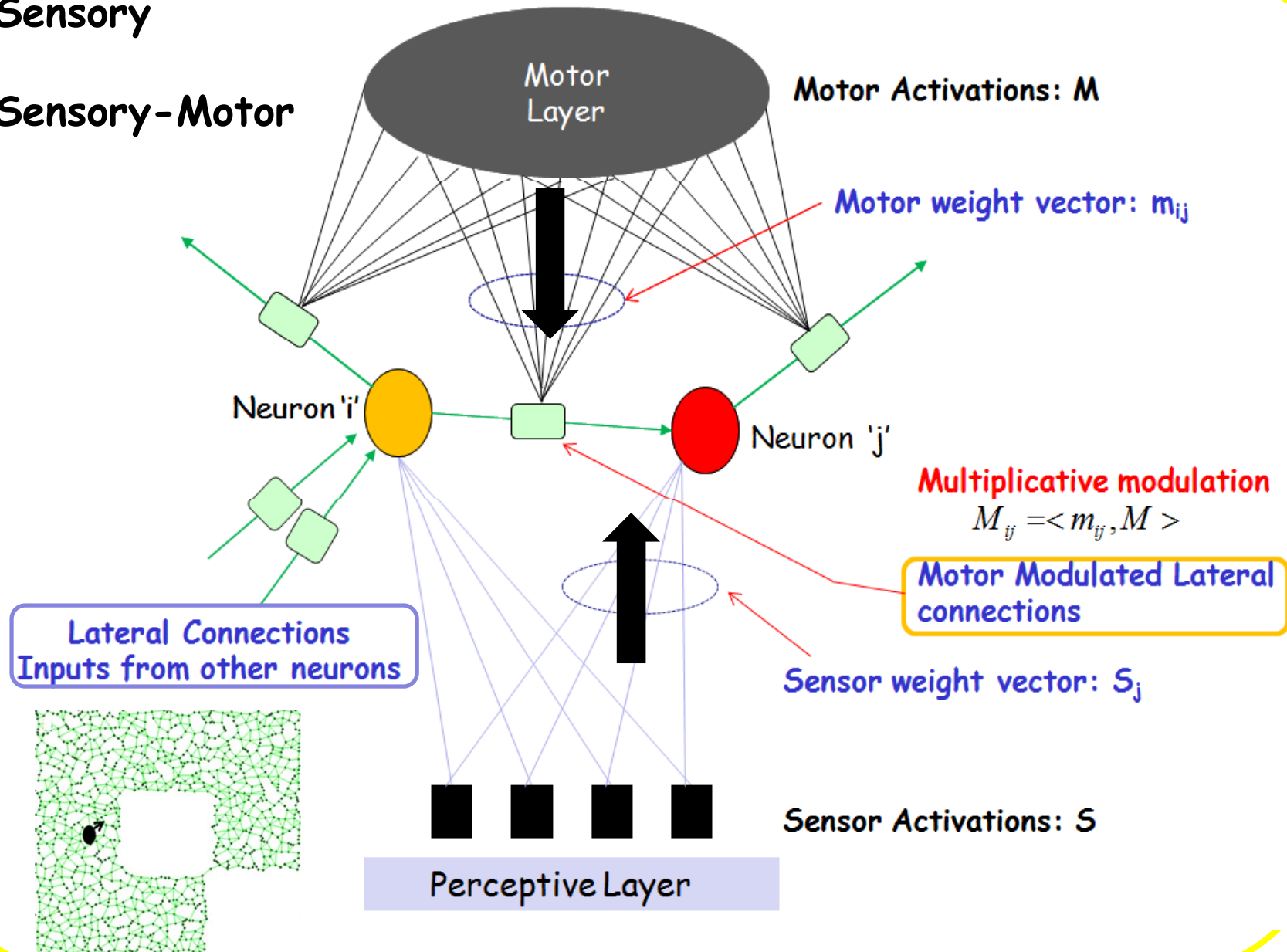
Sensory : Composite Agent State Body : (F/I models, Gripper, Vision, Motivation, Activity flag) Environment: (object descriptors: Goal and tool if any)



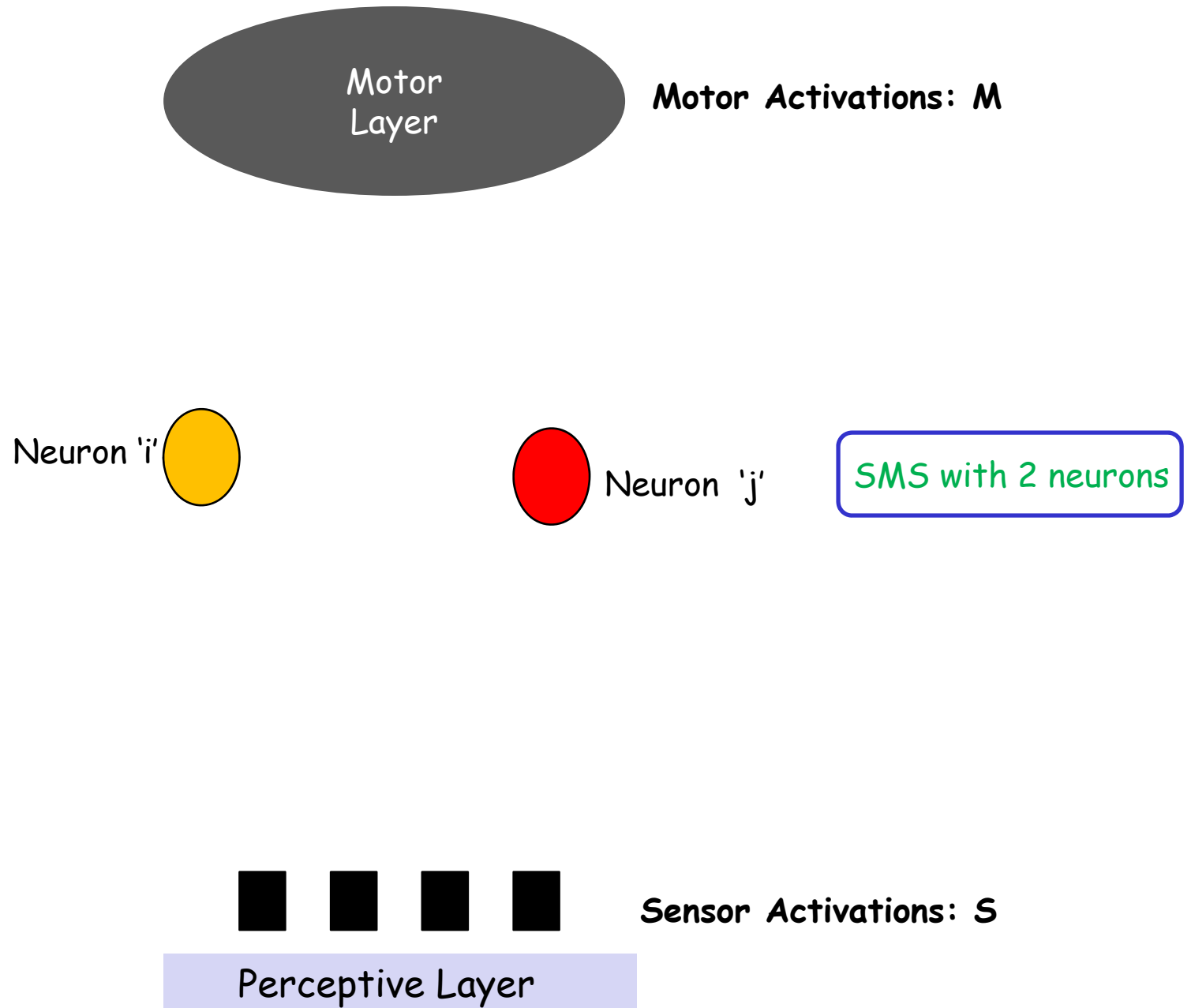
Computational Substrate (A two neuron zoomed view)

L1. Sensory

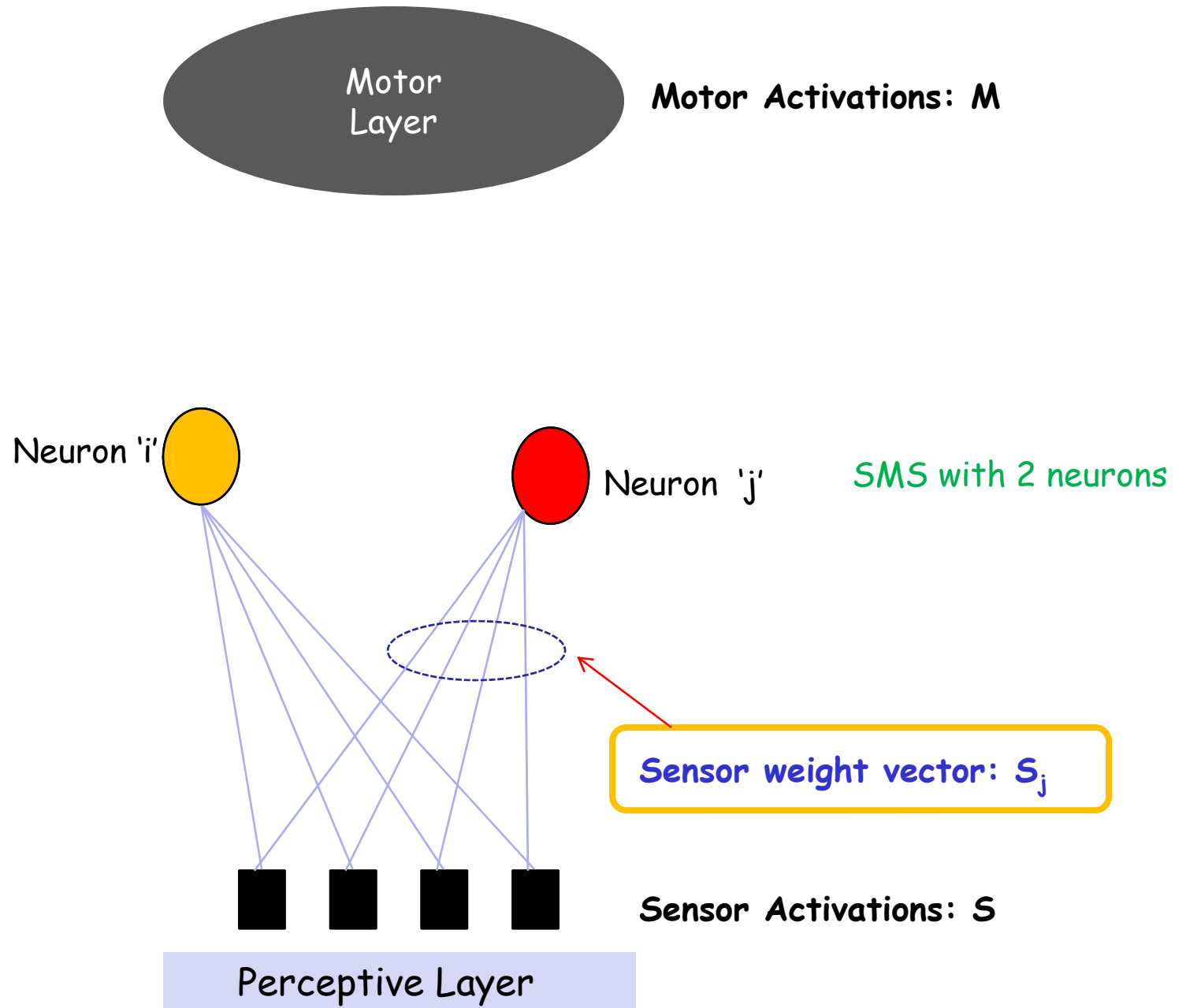
L2. Sensory-Motor



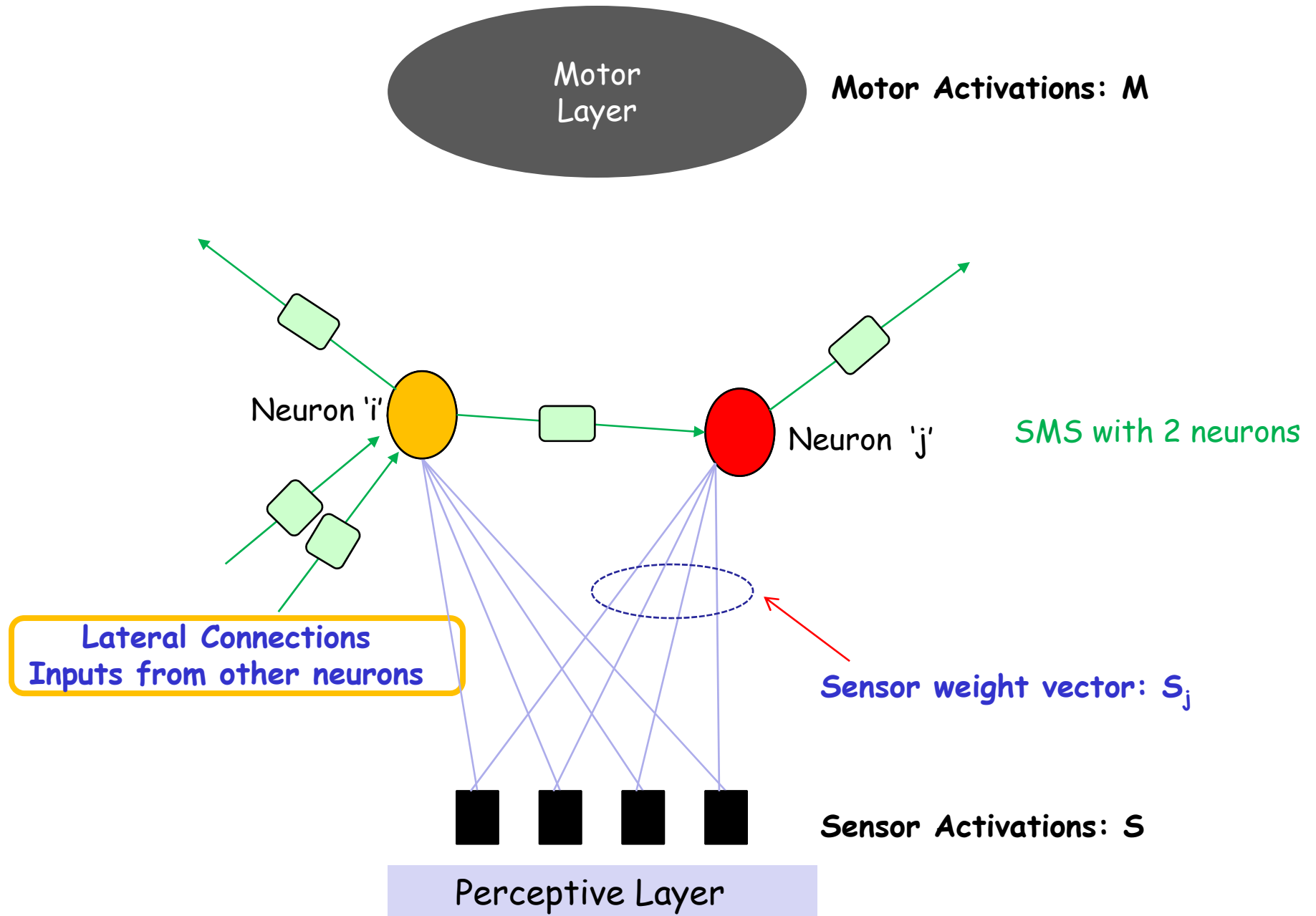
Connectivity in the Sensorimotor space (SMS)



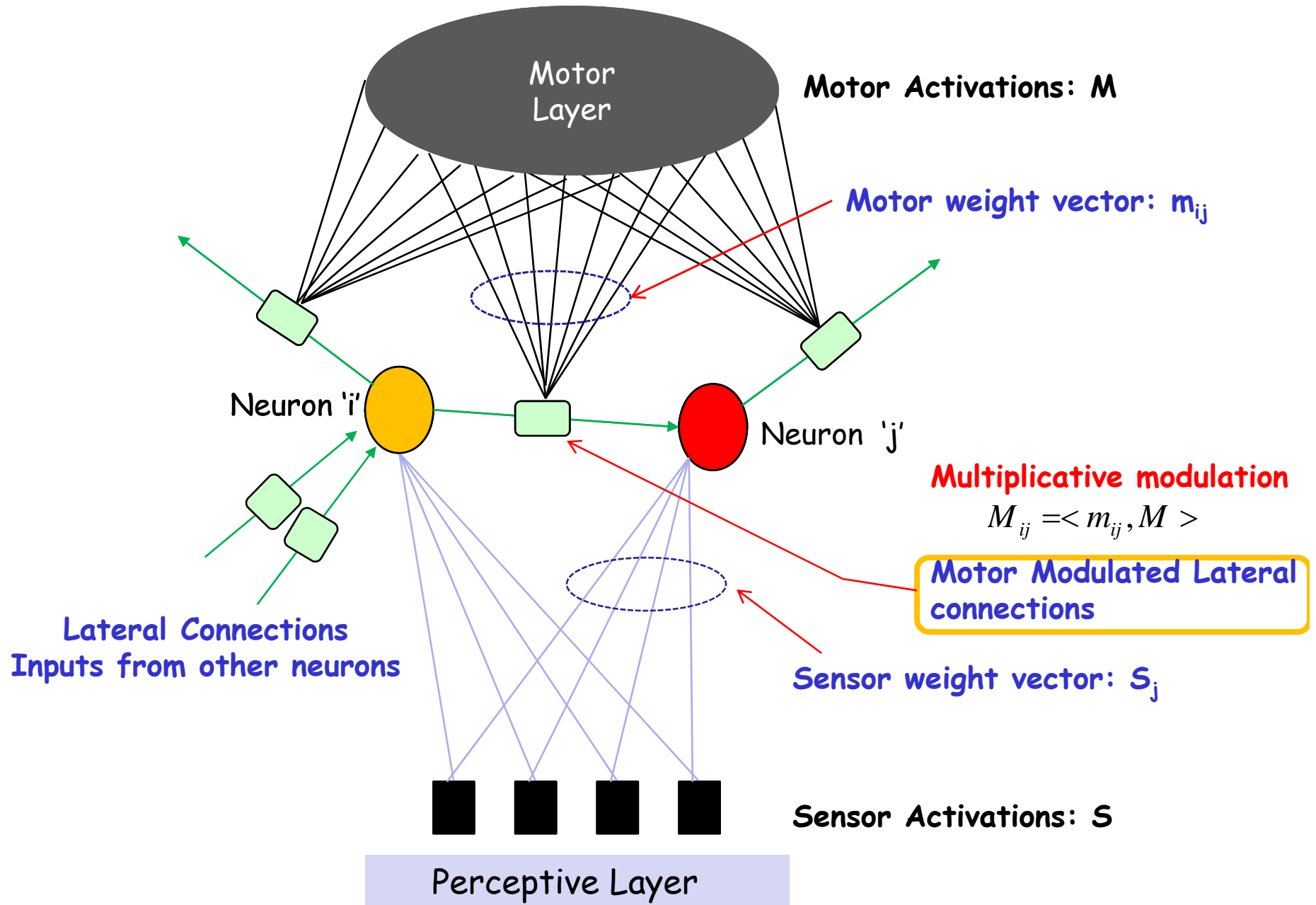
Connectivity in the Sensorimotor space (SMS)



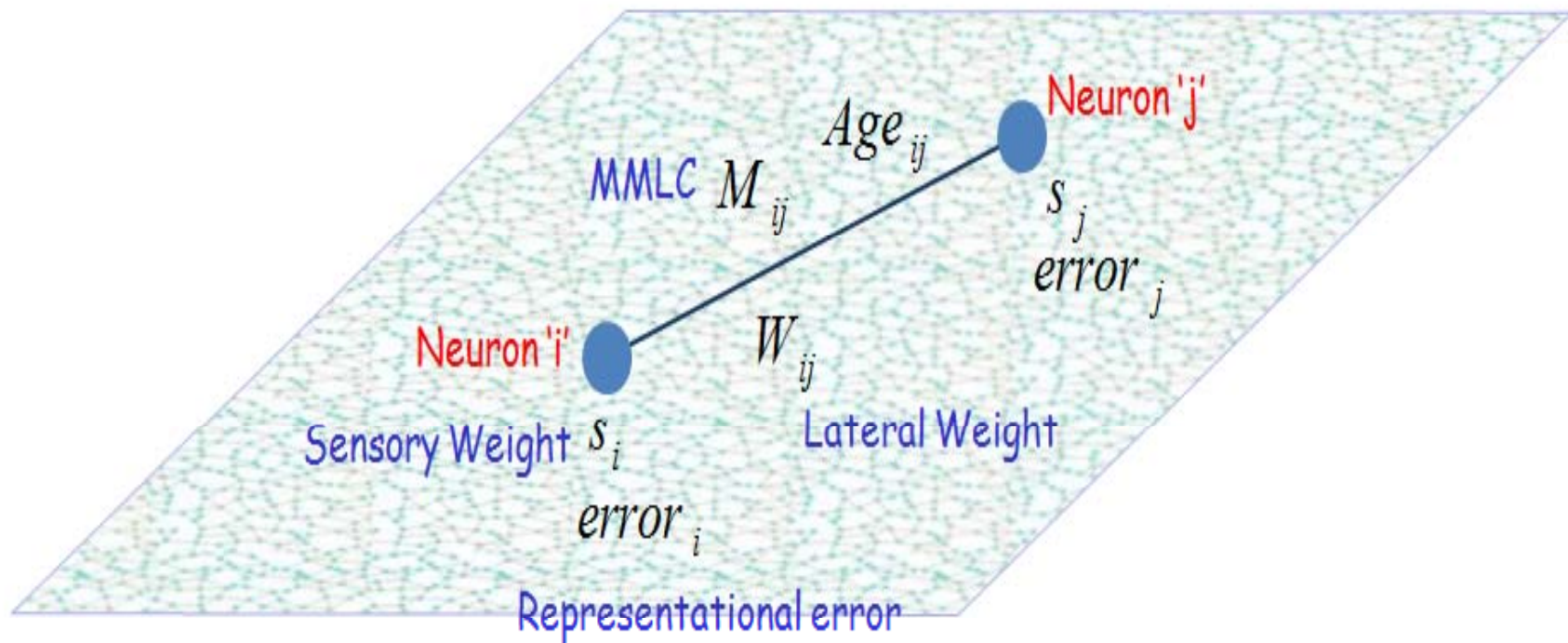
Connectivity in the Sensorimotor space (SMS)



Connectivity in the Sensorimotor space (SMS)



Free variables that need to be learnt in this phase of self organization.



N: No. of neurons in the sensorimotor space (**N**);

S: Sensory weights for each neuron ($N \times D_{\text{Sensor}}$), these are randomly initialized;

error_i: local estimate of representational error (useful information for growing) (**N**)

W_{ij}: Lateral weights ($N \times N$)

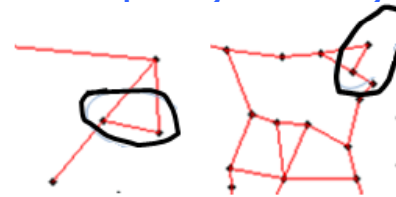
Age_{ij}: Age of lateral connection ($N \times N$).

M_{ij}: Motor Modulated lateral connections ($N \times N \times D_{\text{motor}}$)

- 1) Start with **one neuron** with randomly initialized sensory weights
- 2) Generate a **random motor activation M^t** and **observe** the incoming sensory information S^t
- 3) Find the neuron ' i ' that shows maximum activity for the observed sensory stimulus S^t at time t . (**Winner**)
- 4) **Grow** based on local representational error
- 5) Adapt the **sensory weights** of the Winner and its topological neighbors

$$s_i \longleftarrow s_i + e_w (\bar{S} - \bar{s}_i)$$

$$s_n \longleftarrow s_n + e_n (\bar{S} - \bar{s}_n), \forall n \in \text{Neighbours } (i)$$



- 6) Adapt the **motor weights** and **lateral weights** for all the neurons

$$m_{ij}^T = \frac{1}{\sum_{t'=1}^T \alpha_{ij}^{t'}} \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_{ij}^t M^t$$

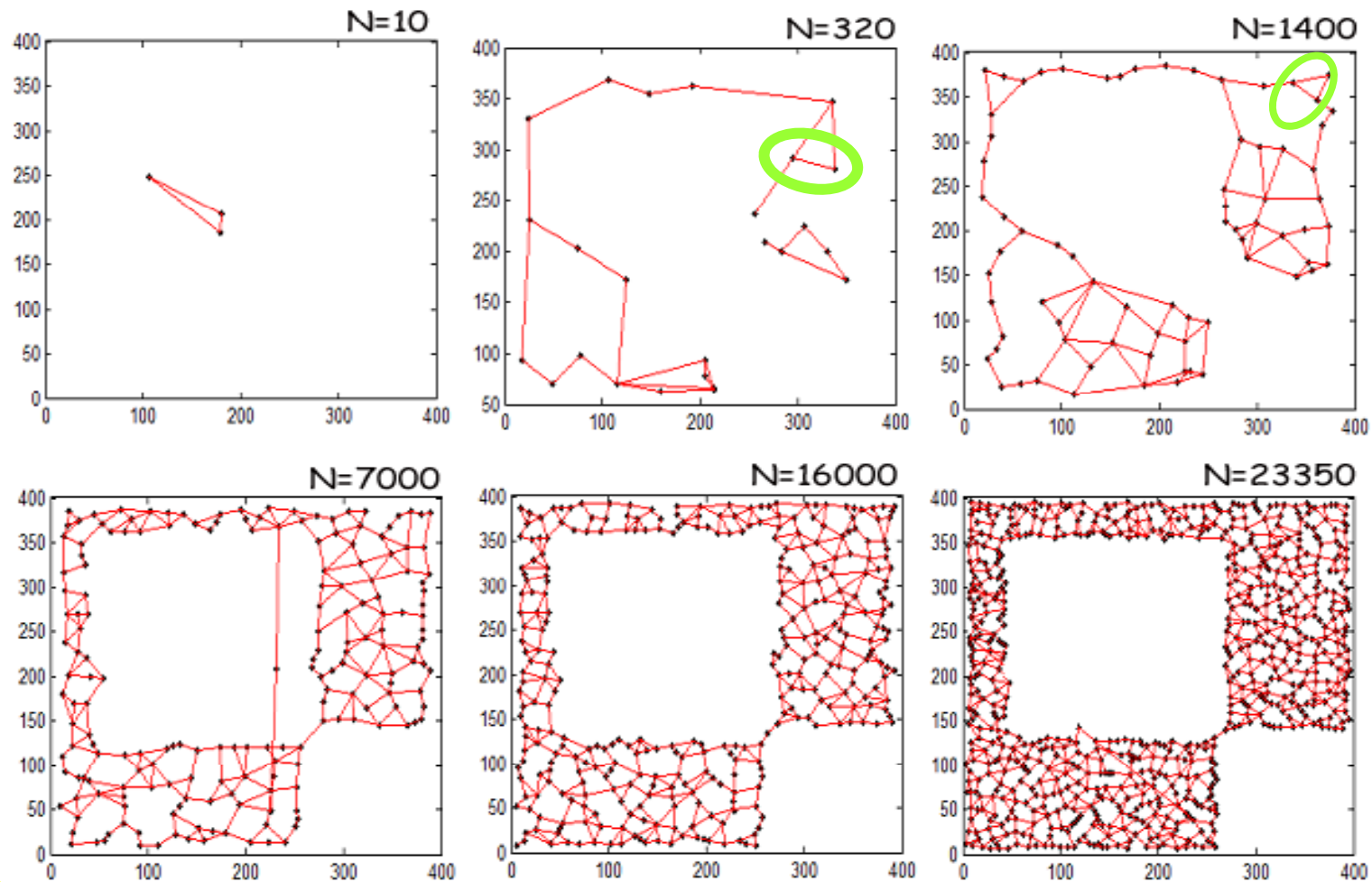
$w_{ij}=1$ (if motor action M^t from ' j ' resulted in ' i ')
 $w_{ij}=0$ (otherwise)

- 7) Make the **age** of the ' i - j ' lateral connection zero, increase the age of all other lateral connections. Eliminate lateral connections who's Age > Age_{max}. Eliminate dead neurons.
- 8) Move to next step of random motor action generation, observation and self organization

growing.avi

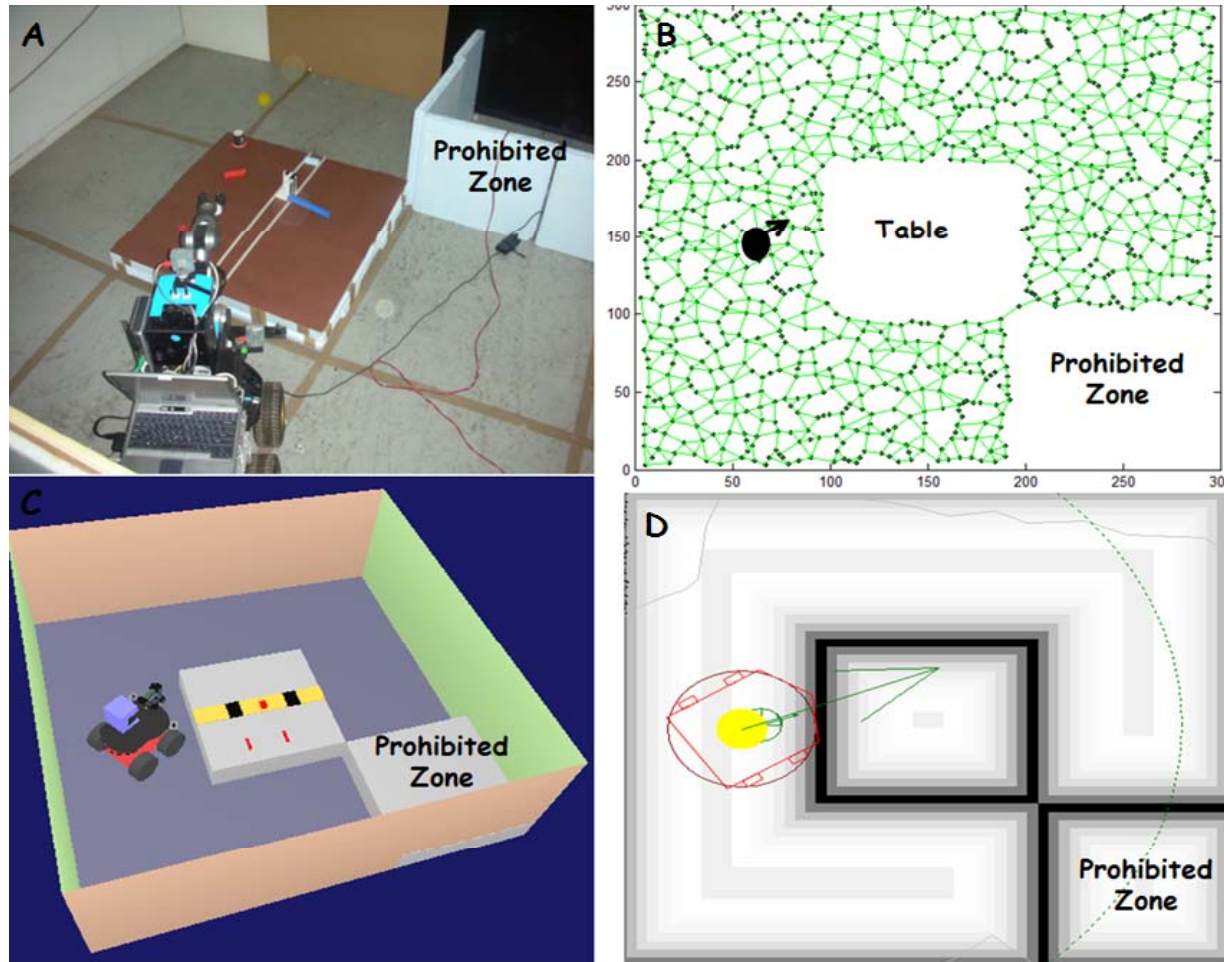
1) A set of sensory-motor variables

2) Learning the Sensorimotor space (through self organization of sequences of randomly generated sensory motor data)

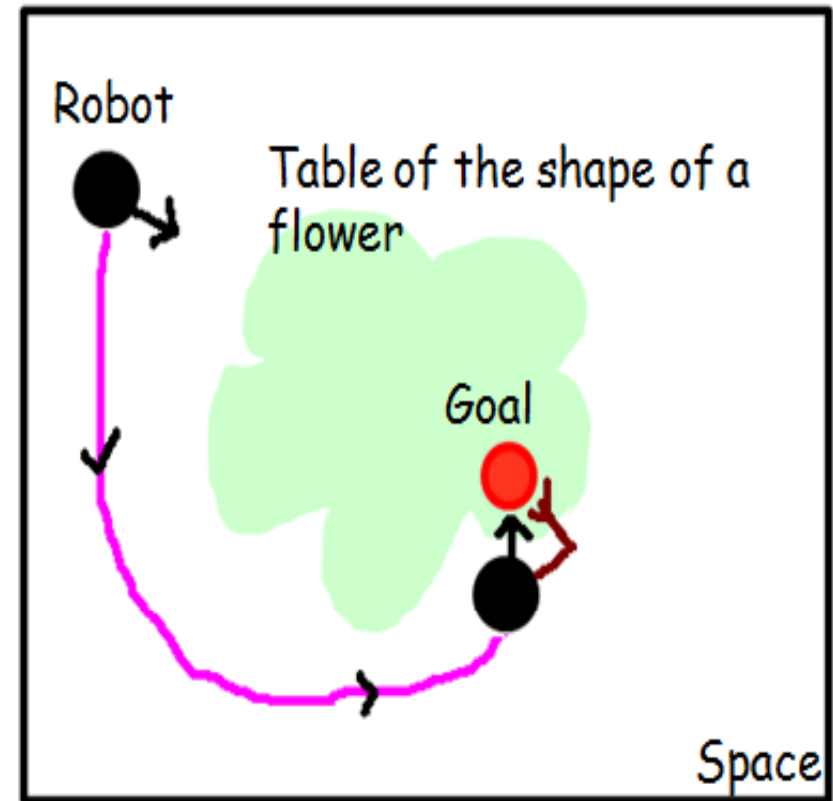
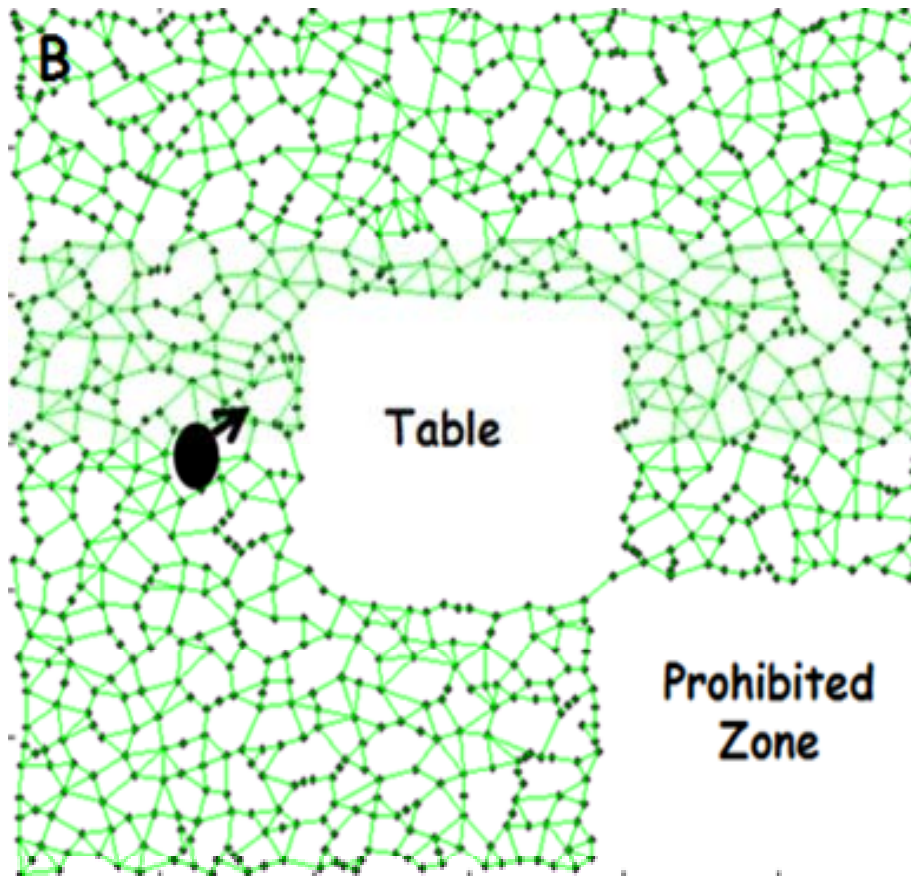


1) A set of sensory-motor variables

2) Learning the Sensorimotor space (through self organization of sequences of randomly generated sensory motor data)



Obstacles are implicitly represented in the SMS

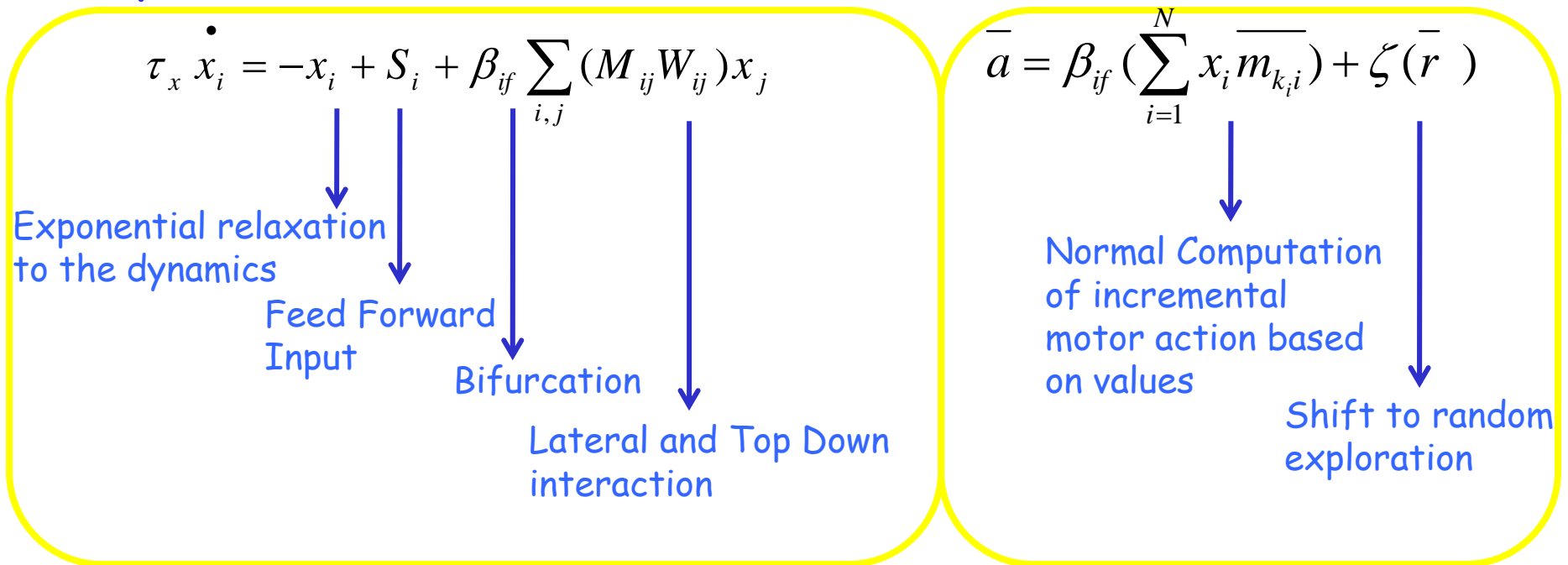


What is learnt through exploration is the free space where motion is possible and whatever remains independent of its geometry is an obstacle in the playground.

1) A set of sensory-motor variables

2) Learning the Sensorimotor space (through self organization of sequences of randomly generated sensory motor data)

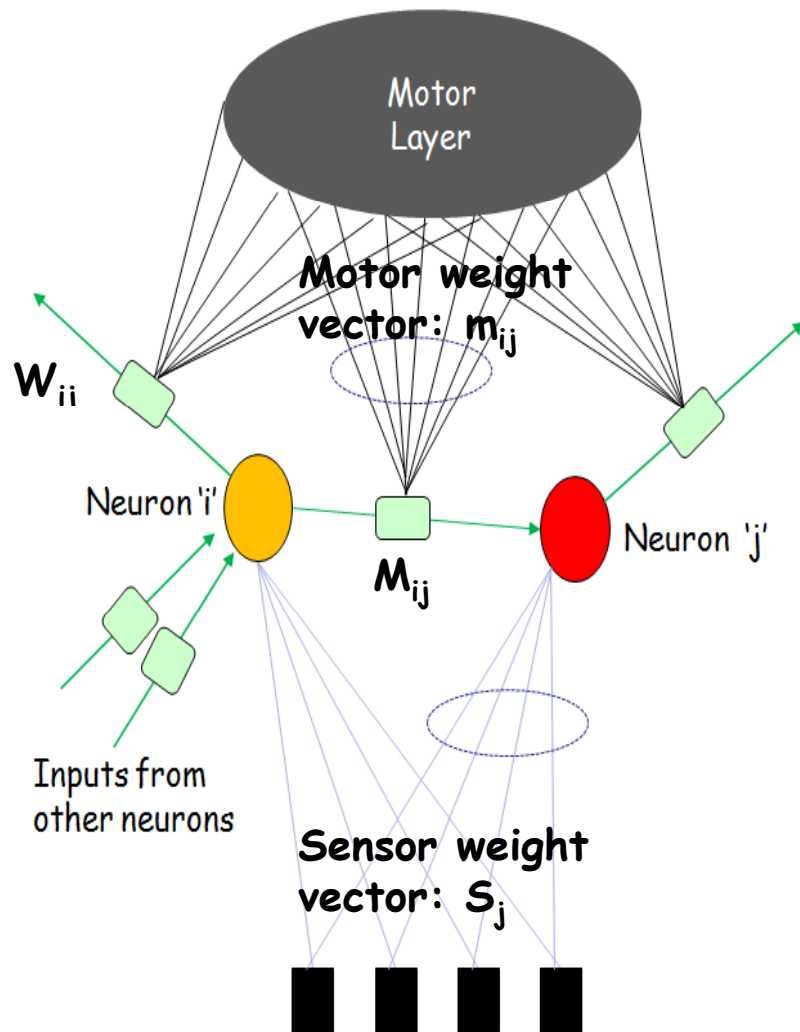
3) Dynamics of the SMS



How activity moves Bidirectionally between sensory and motor units

Dynamics: On moving in the sensorimotor space

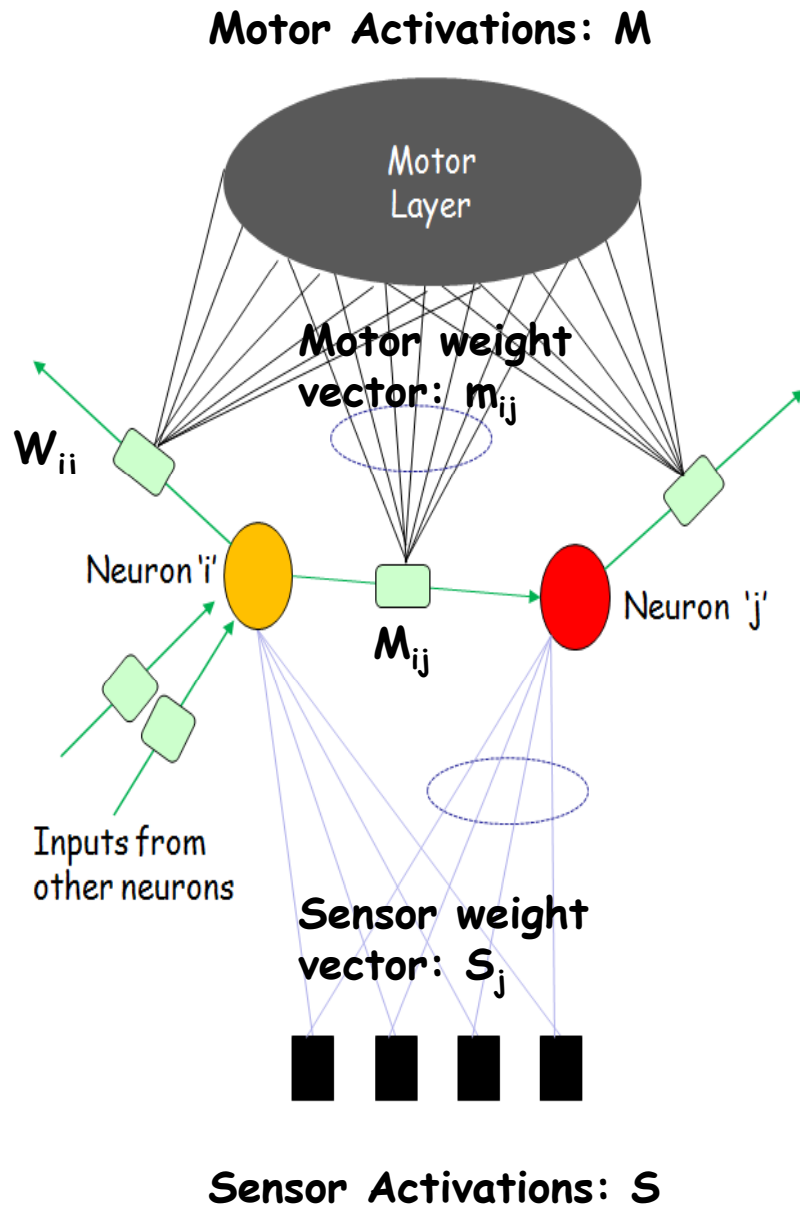
Motor Activations: M



Sensor Activations: S

$$\tau_x \dot{x}_i = -x_i + S_i + \beta_{if} \sum_{i,j} (M_{ij} W_{ij}) x_j$$

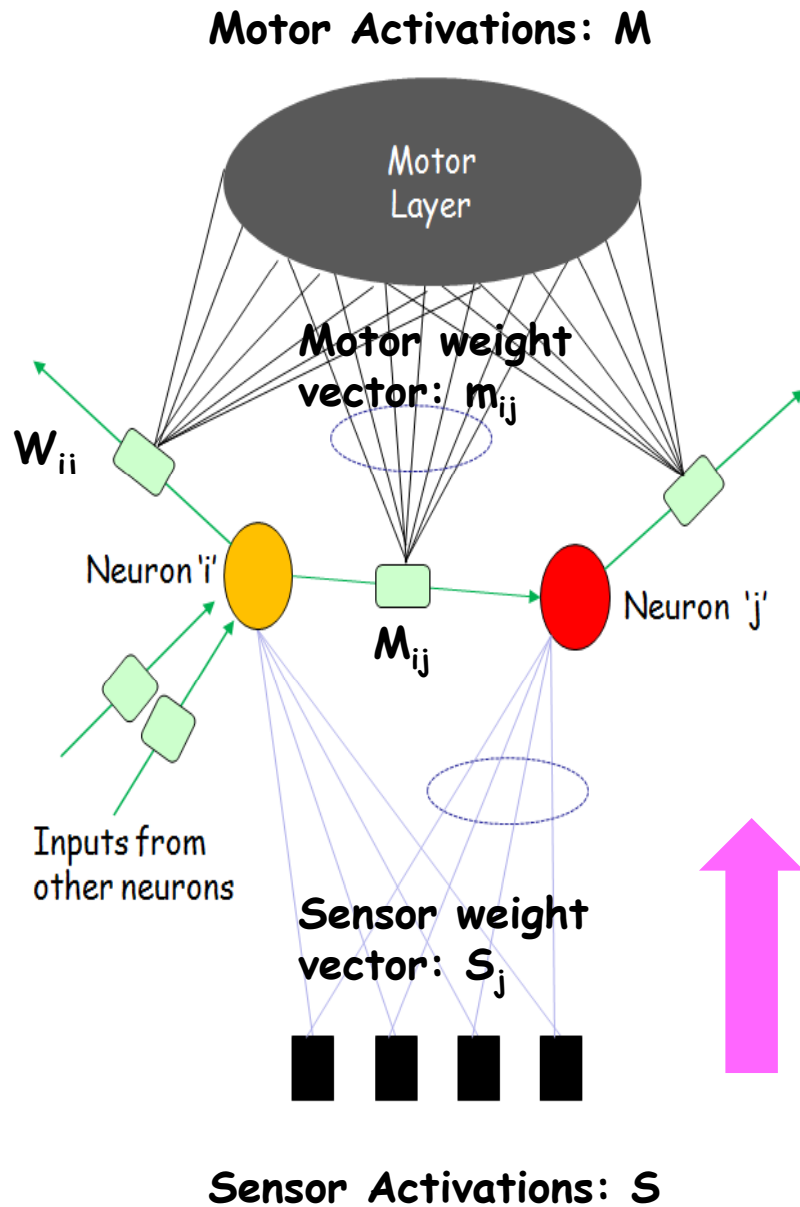
Dynamics: On moving in the sensorimotor space



$$\tau_x \dot{x}_i = -x_i + S_i + \beta_{if} \sum_{i,j} (M_{ij} W_{ij}) x_j$$

Exponential relaxation to the dynamics

Dynamics: On moving in the sensorimotor space



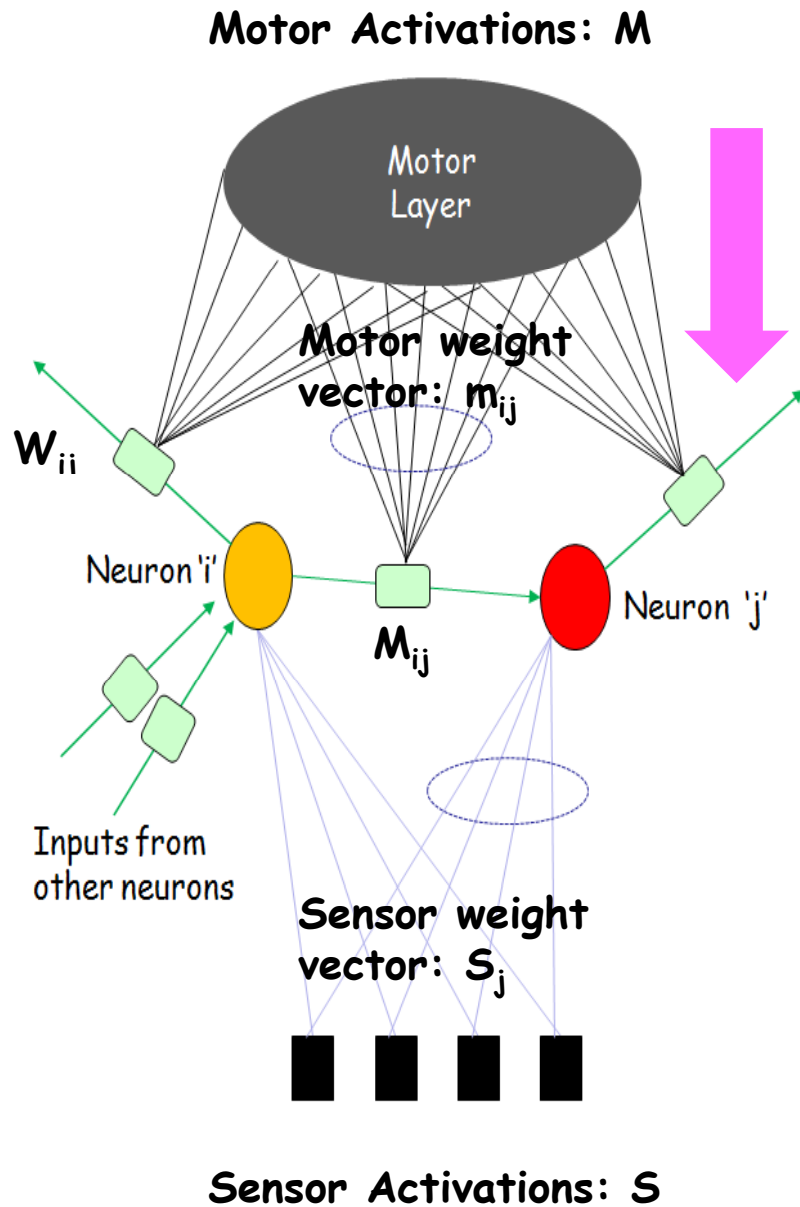
$$\tau_x \dot{x}_i = -x_i + S_i + \beta_{if} \sum_{i,j} (M_{ij} W_{ij}) x_j$$

Feed Forward Input (bottom up)

$$S_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_s} e^{\frac{-(s_i - S)^2}{2\sigma_s^2}}$$

The Gaussian kernel compares the sensory weight s_i of neuron i with current sensor activations S^\dagger .

Dynamics: On moving in the sensorimotor space



$$\tau_x \dot{x}_i = -x_i + S_i + \beta_{if} \sum_{i,j} (M_{ij} W_{ij}) x_j$$



Lateral and Top Down Input

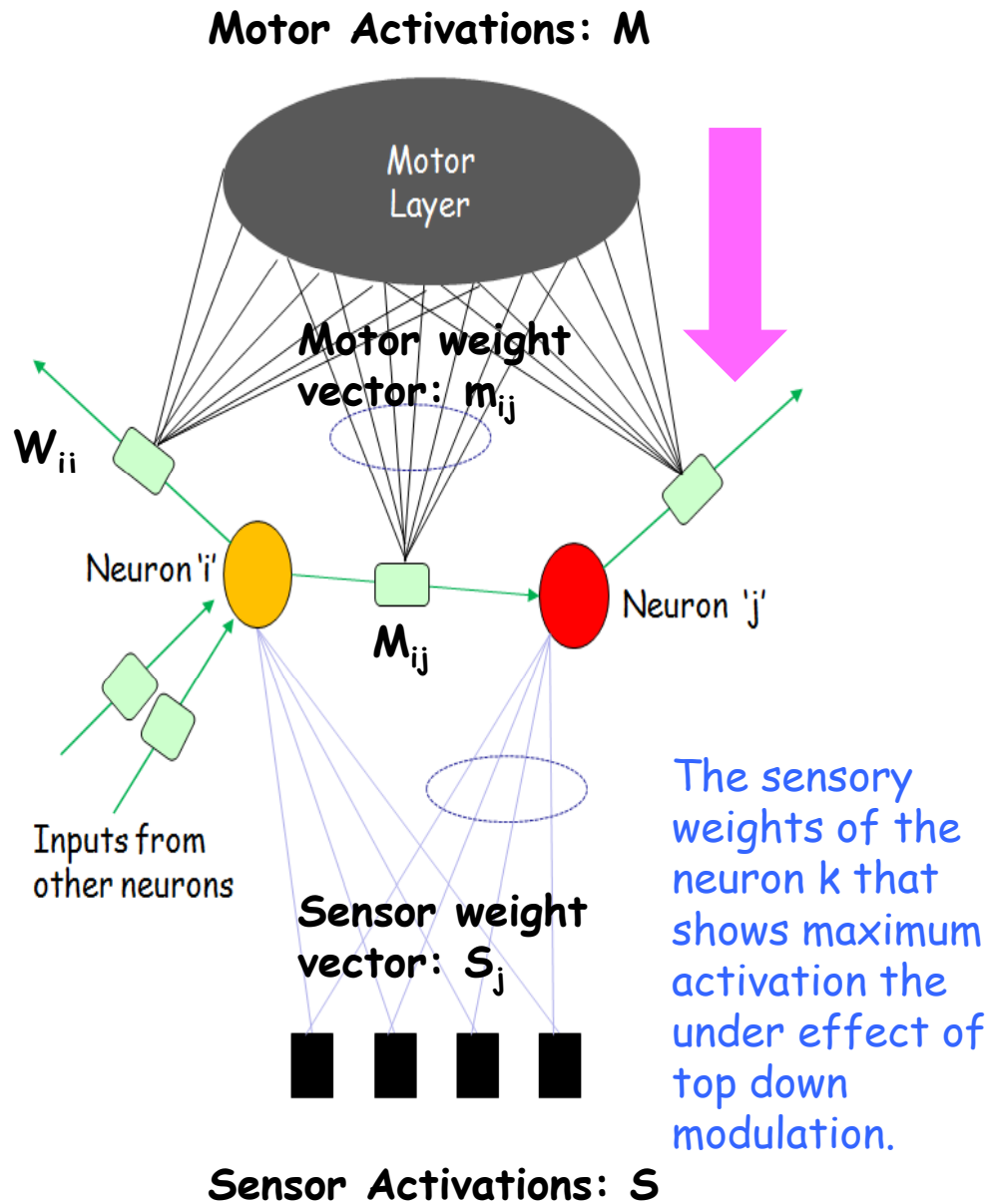
$$M_{ij} = \langle m_{ij}, M \rangle$$

The instantaneous value M_{ij} i.e. the scalar product of motor weight vector m_{ij} with the ongoing motor activations M keeps changing with the activity in the action space.

Due to this multiplicative coupling, a lateral connection contributes to lateral interaction between two neurons only when the current motor activity correlates with the motor weight vector of this connection.

Situation-Action-Consequence loop

Dynamics: On moving in the sensorimotor space



$$\tau_x \dot{x}_i = -x_i + S_i + \beta_{if} \sum_{i,j} (M_{ij} W_{ij}) x_j$$

Bifurcation Parameter

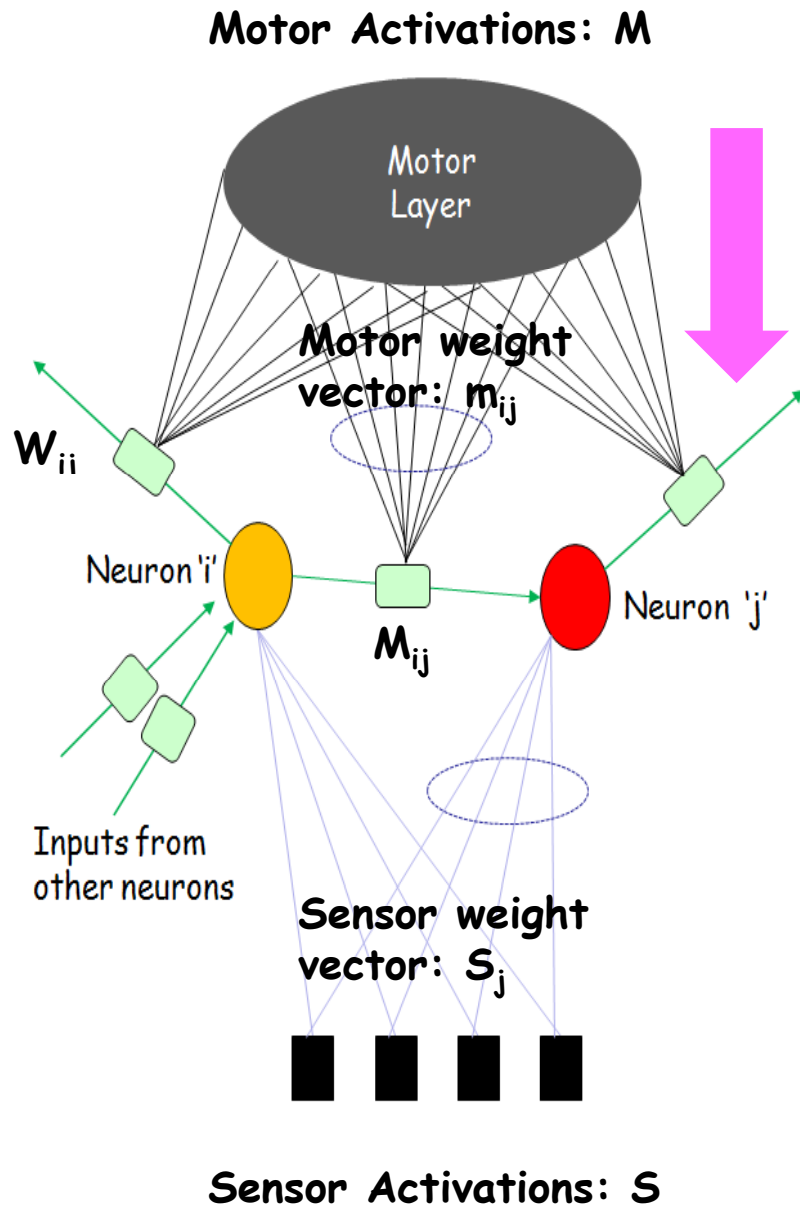
$$\beta_{if} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} e^{\frac{-(S_{Anticip}-S)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

How closely the top down prediction correlates with the real sensory information

$$\beta_{if} \longrightarrow 0$$

Implies that the internal model is locally inaccurate or there is a dynamic change in the real world i.e. 'the world is working differently in comparison to the way the robot thinks the world should be working'.

Dynamics: On moving in the sensorimotor space



$$\tau_x \dot{x}_i = -x_i + S_i + \beta_{if} \sum_{i,j} (M_{ij} W_{ij}) x_j$$

Motor Layer Dynamics

$$\bar{a} = \beta_{if} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N x_i \overline{m_{k_i i}} \right) + \zeta(\bar{r})$$

Small random motor signal

$$\beta_{if} \longrightarrow 0$$

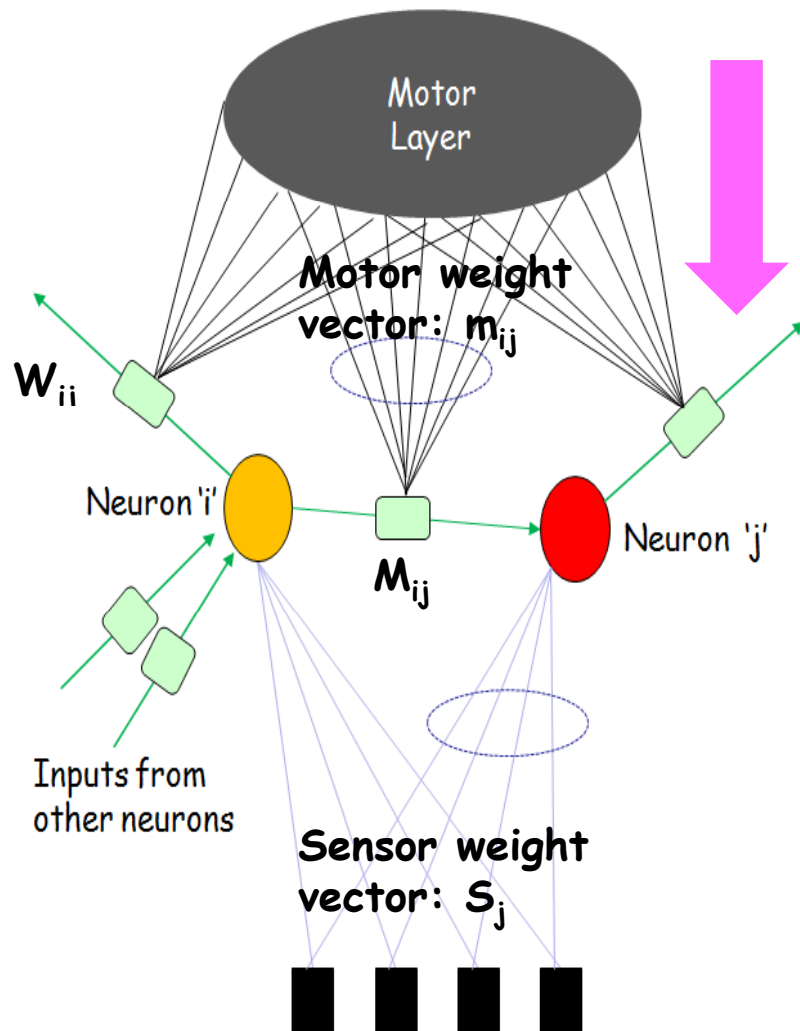
Dynamics is a function of only real sensory information (feed forward)
Contribution of first term in motor dynamics is zero

$$\zeta \longrightarrow 1$$

System dynamics switches to random exploration (like learning the SMS)

Dynamics: On moving in the sensorimotor space

Motor Activations: M



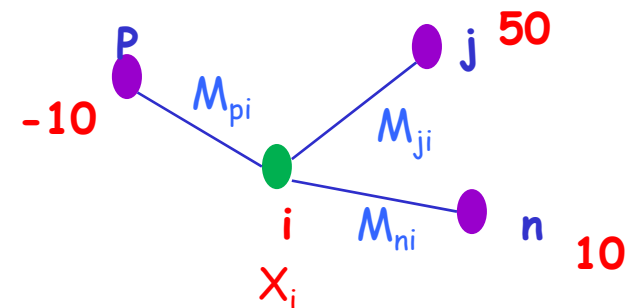
Sensor Activations: S

$$\tau_x \dot{x}_i = -x_i + S_i + \beta_{if} \sum_{i,j} (M_{ij} W_{ij}) x_j$$

Motor Layer Dynamics

$$\bar{a} = \beta_{if} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N x_i \overline{m_{k_i i}} \right) + \zeta(\bar{r})$$

Activation average of all motor weight vectors coded in the MMLC
Where K_i is the most valuable neighbor to the i^{th} neuron



$$k_i = \operatorname{argmax}_j (w_{ij} V_j)$$

1) A set of sensory-motor variables

2) Learning the Sensorimotor space (through self organization of sequences of randomly generated sensory motor data)

3) Dynamics of the SMS

How activity moves Bidirectionally between sensory and motor units

4) Value Field Dynamics (in a goal directed fashion)

1) A set of sensory-motor variables

2) Learning the Sensorimotor space (through self organization of sequences of randomly generated sensory motor data)

3) Dynamics of the SMS

How activity moves Bidirectionally between sensory and motor units
(in a goal directed fashion)

4) Value Field Dynamics

$$\tau_v \dot{v}_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

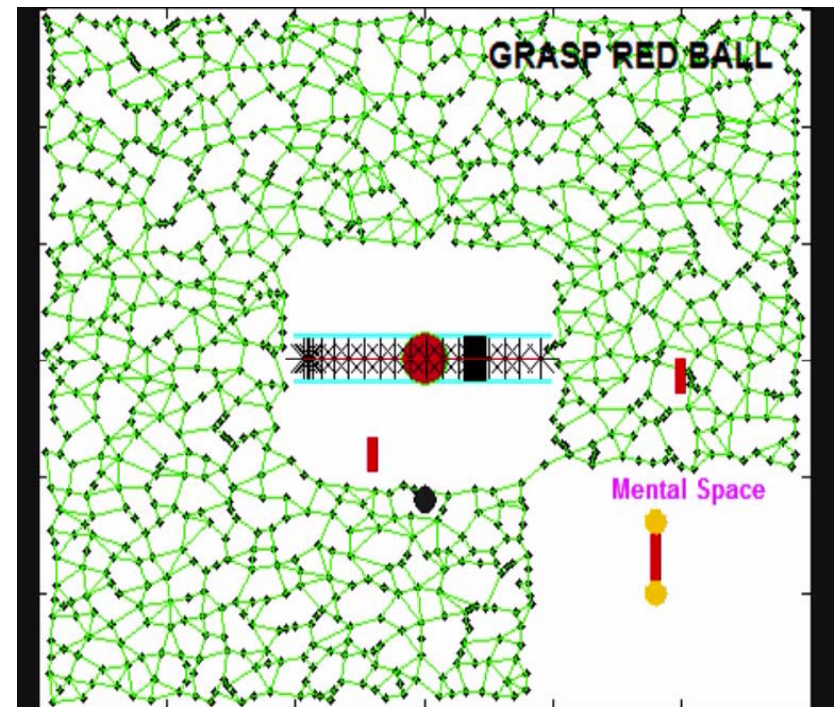
Instantaneous reward

Future Reward

Future reward

Value fields are Quastationary and change with goal

Cause Goal directed shifts in activity in the sensorimotor space



1) A set of sensory-motor variables

2) Learning the Sensorimotor space (through self organization of sequences of randomly generated sensory motor data)

3) Dynamics of the SMS

How activity moves Bidirectionally between sensory and motor units
(in a goal directed fashion)

4) Value Field Dynamics

$$\tau_v \dot{v}_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

$$\downarrow$$
$$R_i = DP + Q$$

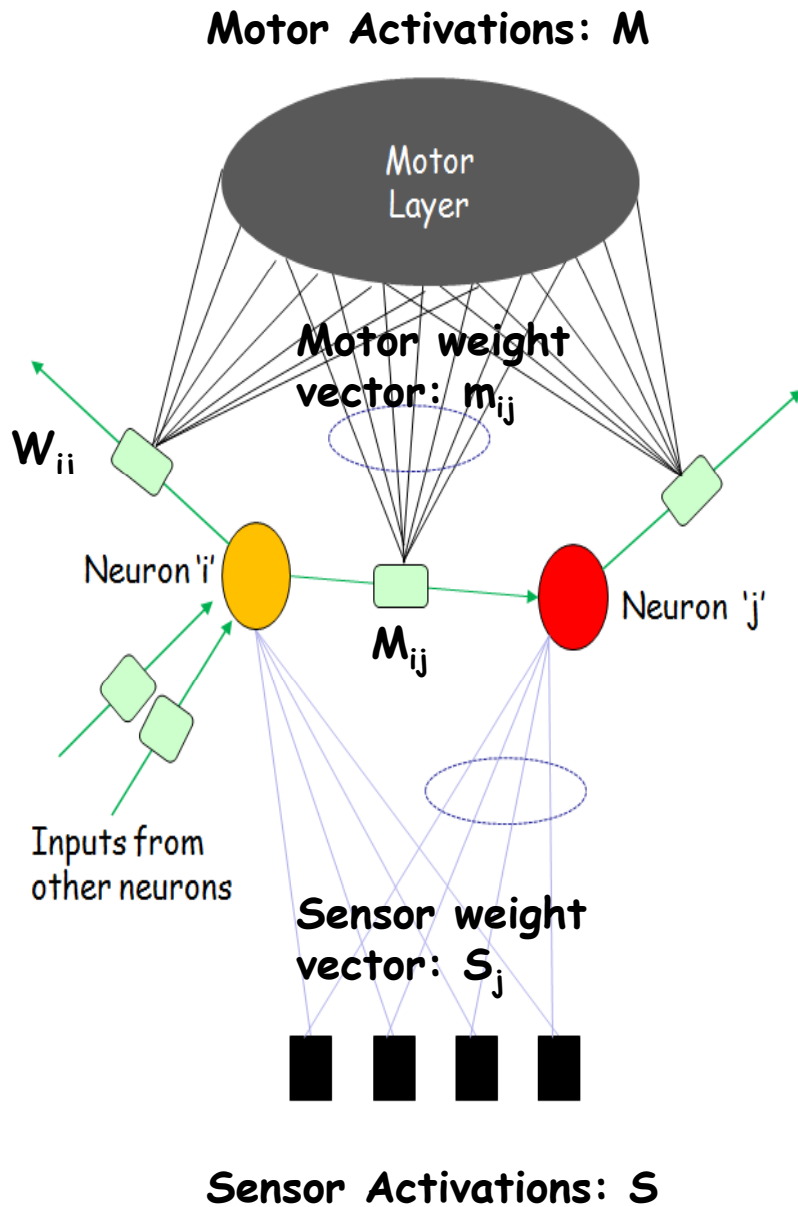
$$\downarrow$$
$$Q = q_1 + q_2 + \dots + q_n$$

$$\downarrow$$
$$q_i = \varphi_n \cdot U_i \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_G} e^{\frac{-(G-G_i)^2}{2\sigma_G^2}}$$

Default Plan (if any) + 'weighted Superposition' of new learnt reward fields in SMS

How much value a good/bad experience encountered in the past while performing a goal G_i holds in relation to the currently active goal G .

Dynamics: On moving in the sensorimotor space in a goal directed way



Sensorimotor space dynamics

$$\tau_x \dot{x}_i = -x_i + S_i + \beta_{if} \sum_{i,j} (M_{ij} W_{ij}) x_j$$

Motor space dynamics

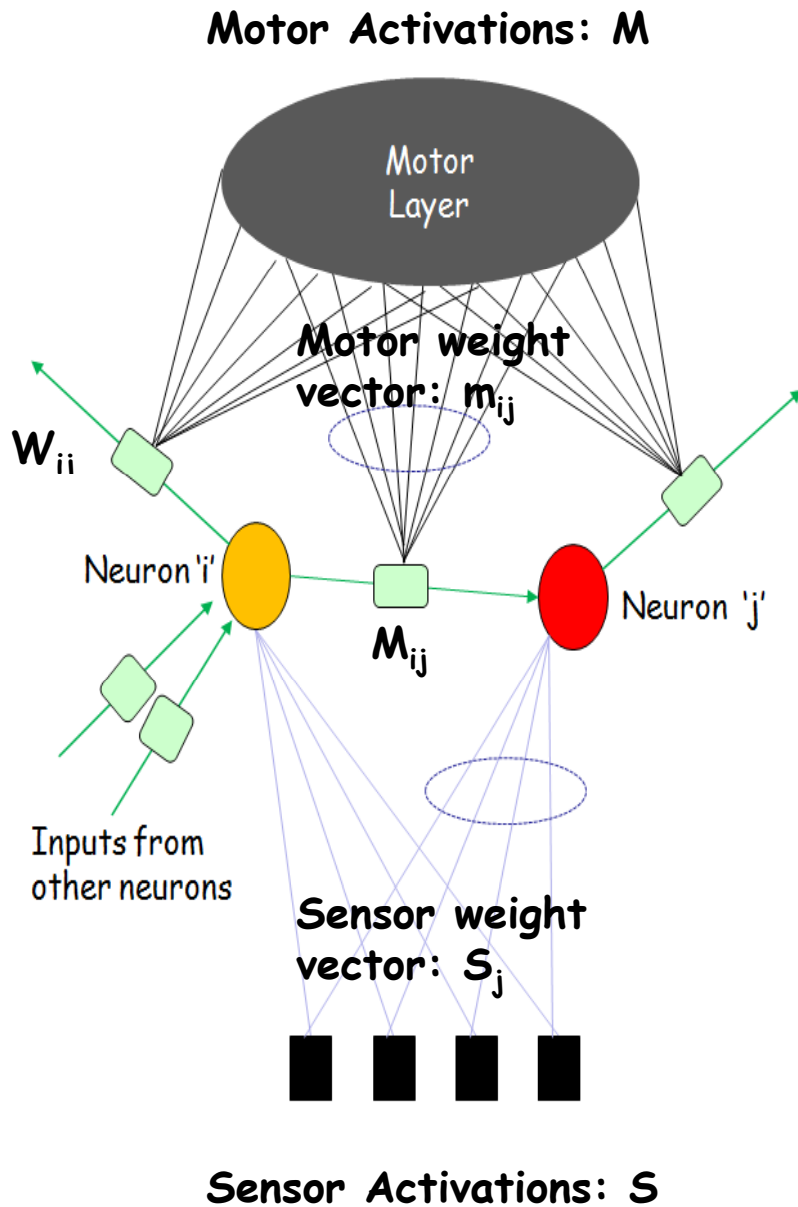
$$\bar{a} = \beta_{if} (\sum_{i=1}^N x_i \overline{m_{k_i i}}) + \zeta(\bar{r})$$

Value Field dynamics

$$\tau_v \dot{v}_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma(W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

$$R_i = DP$$

Dynamics: On moving in the sensorimotor space in a goal directed way



Sensorimotor space dynamics

$$\tau_x \dot{x}_i = -x_i + S_i + \beta_{if} \sum_{i,j} (M_{ij} W_{ij}) x_j$$

Motor space dynamics

$$\bar{a} = \beta_{if} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N x_i \overline{m_{k,i}} \right) + \zeta(\bar{r})$$

Value Field dynamics

$$\tau_v \dot{v}_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

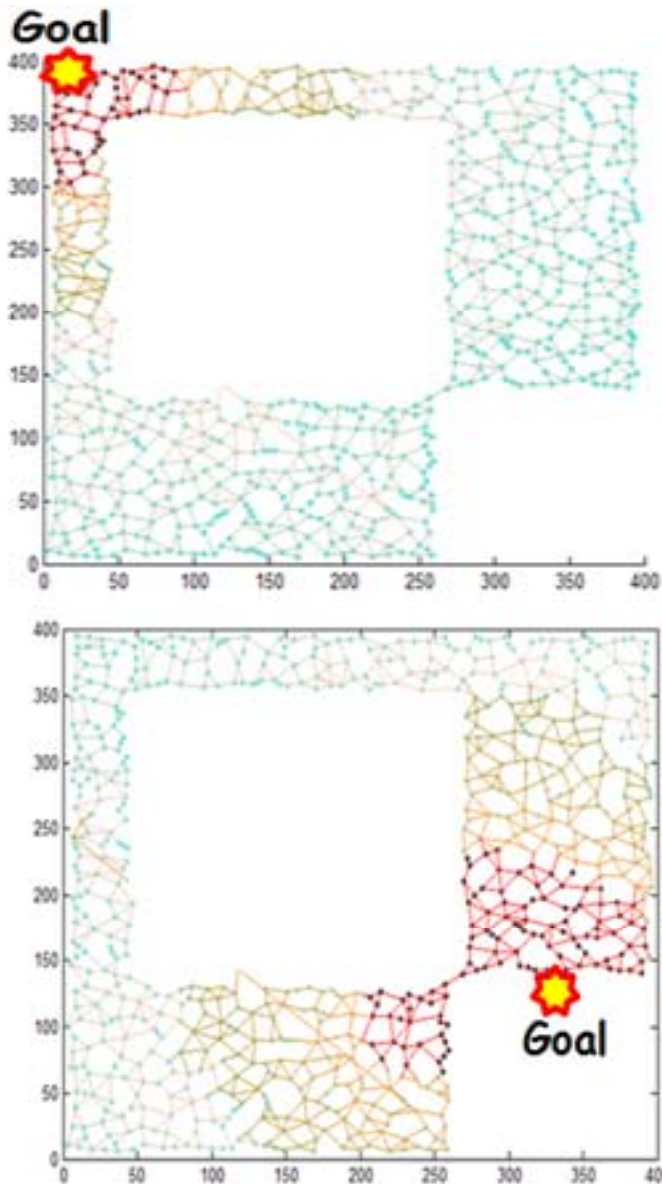


$$R_i = DP$$

$$R_i = \frac{1}{Z} e^{\frac{-(s_i - G)^2}{2\sigma_R^2}}$$

Simply, if we want to reach a goal = 5, neuron representing a state '4' will fetch greater reward than neuron representing a state '-1'

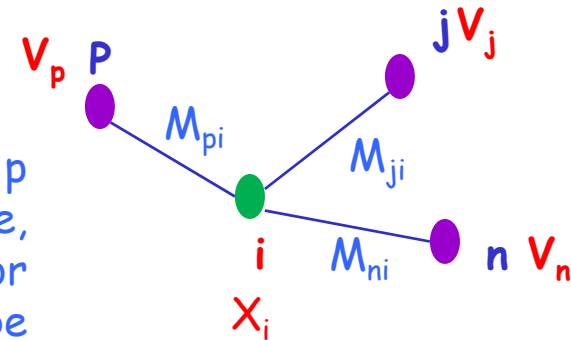
Coupling between the value field and the dynamics of the SMS



$$\text{Goal} \longrightarrow R_i = \frac{1}{Z} e^{\frac{-(s_i - G)^2}{2\sigma_R^2}}$$

$$\tau_v \dot{v}_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

$$v_i^* = R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

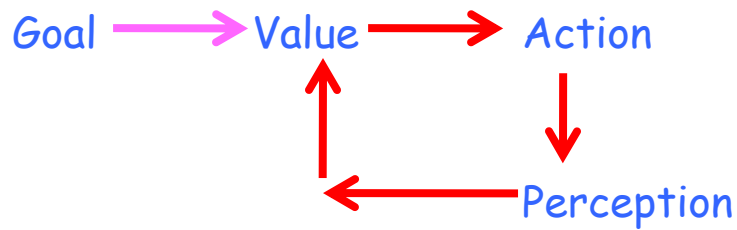


If wrt neuron i , neuron p holds maximum value, next incremental motor action that needs to be generated is M_{pi}

$$\bar{a} = \beta_{if} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N x_i \overline{m_{k,i}} \right) + \zeta(\bar{r})$$

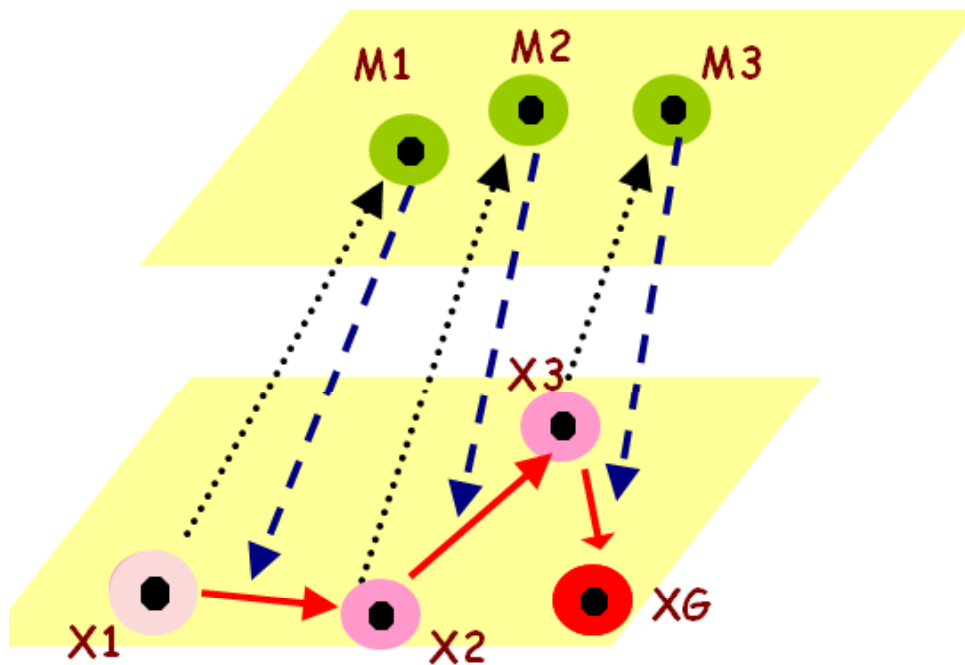
$$k_i = \text{argmax}_j (w_{ij} V_j)$$

Value field influences the motor activity by determining the neighboring neuron that holds maximum value with respect to the currently active goal.



Goal \downarrow
Value Field on SMS (Quasistationary)

$$\tau_v \dot{v}_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$



$\xrightarrow{\text{red}}$ **Value to action**

$$k_i = \text{argmax}_j (w_{ij} V_j)$$

$$\bar{a} = \beta_{if} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N x_i \overline{m_{k,i}} \right) + \zeta(\bar{r})$$

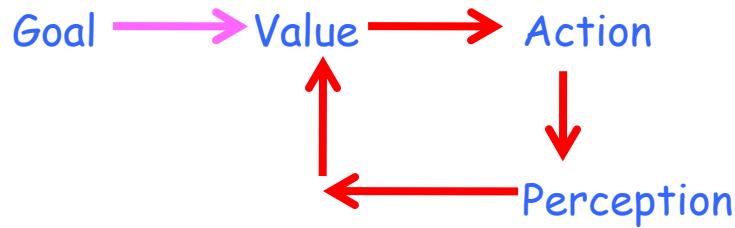
\downarrow
Motor Activity modulates lateral connections in SMS

$$M_{ij} = \langle m_{ij}, M \rangle$$

\downarrow
Activity shift in SMS

$$\tau_x \dot{x}_i = -x_i + S_i + \beta_{if} \sum_{i,j} (M_{ij} W_{ij}) x_j$$





Goal

Value Field on SMS (Quasistationary)

$$\tau_v \dot{v}_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

Value to action

$$k_i = \arg \max_j (w_{ij} V_j)$$

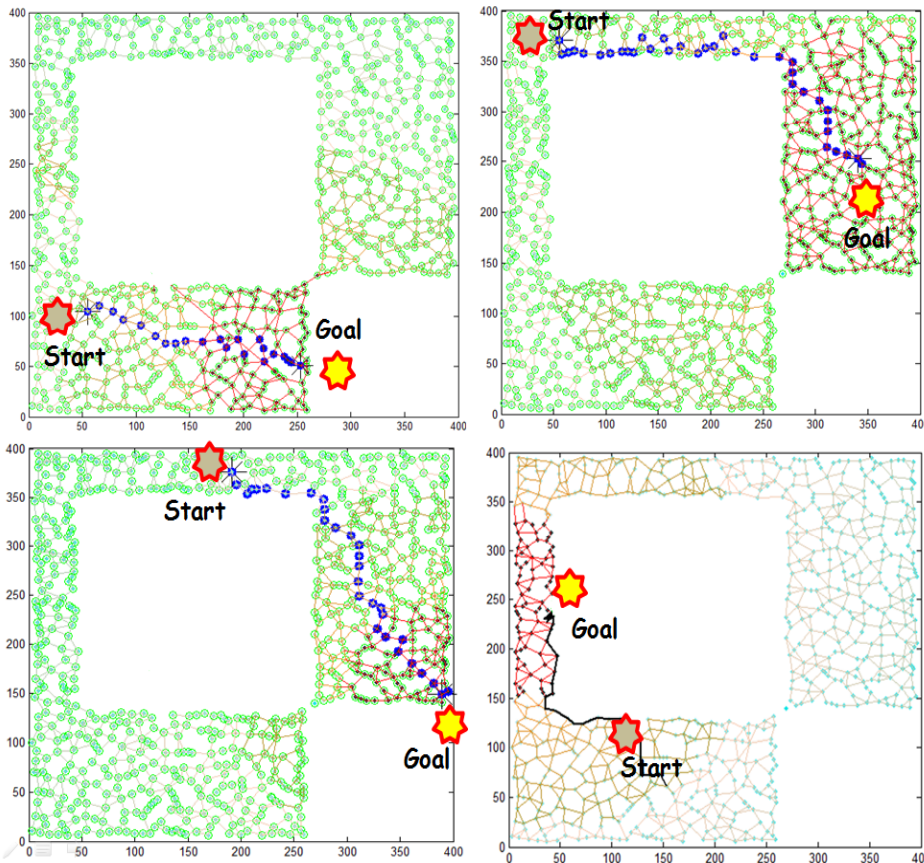
$$\bar{a} = \beta_{if} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N x_i \overline{m_{k_i i}} \right) + \zeta(\bar{r})$$

Motor Activity modulates lateral connections in SMS

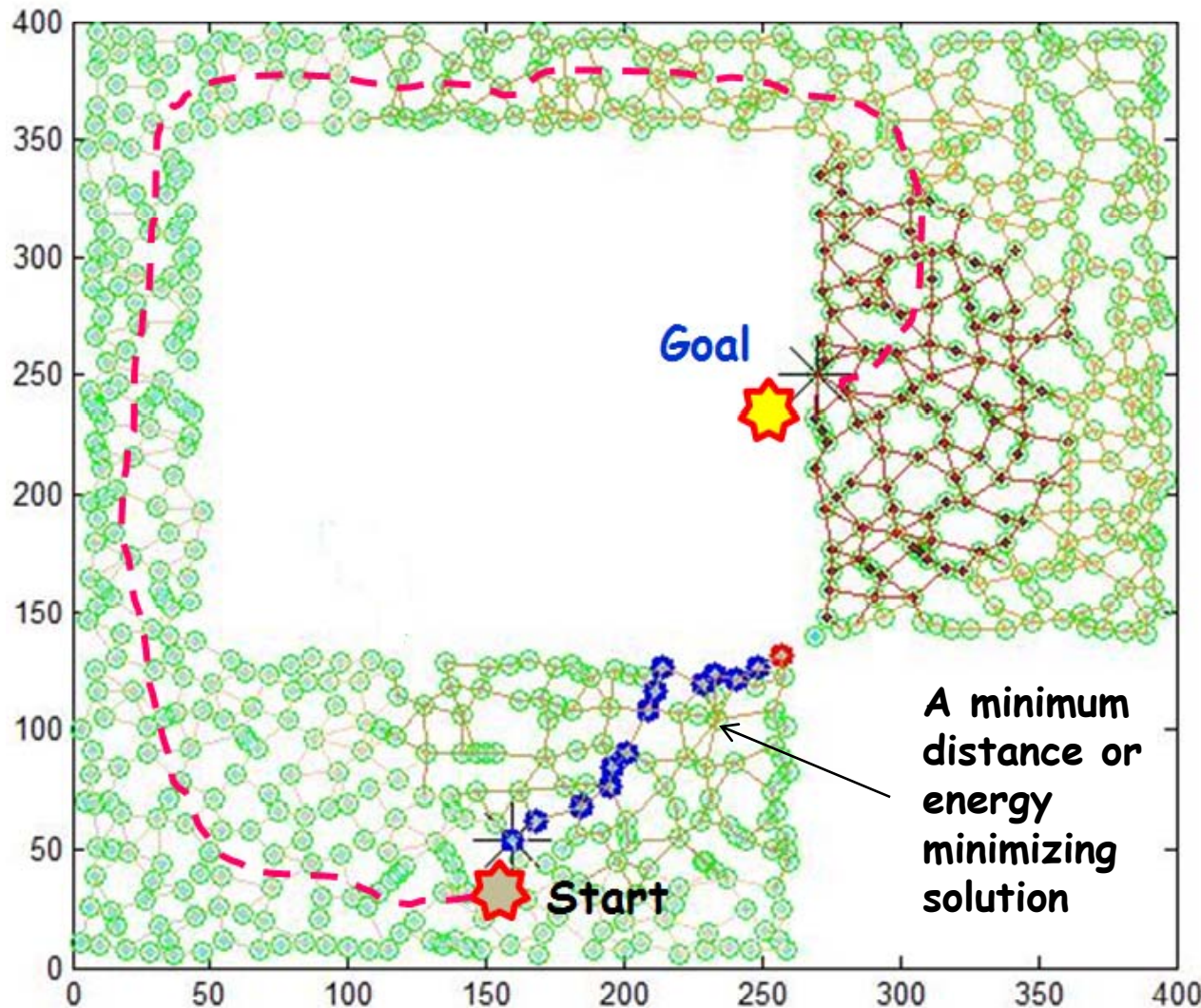
$$M_{ij} = \langle m_{ij}, M \rangle$$

Activity shift in SMS

$$\tau_x \dot{x}_i = -x_i + S_i + \beta_{if} \sum_{i,j} (M_{ij} W_{ij}) x_j$$



Constraints: Learning 'when' to optimize 'what'



Value Field dynamics

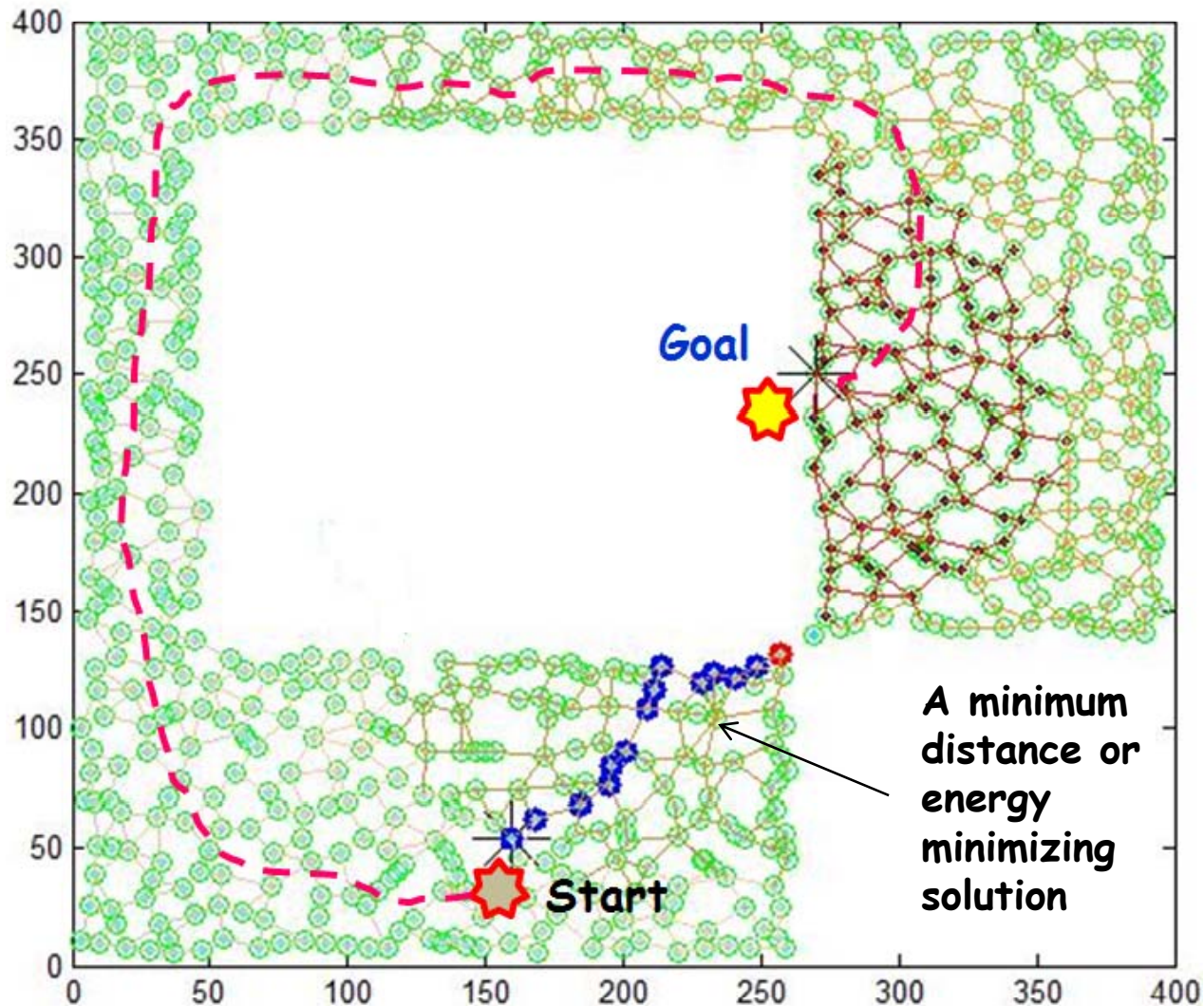
$$\tau_v \dot{v}_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

$$R_i = DP + Q$$

Default Plan

$$R_i = \frac{1}{Z} e^{\frac{-(s_i - G)^2}{2\sigma_R^2}}$$

Constraints: Learning 'when' to optimize 'what'



Maze navigation problem

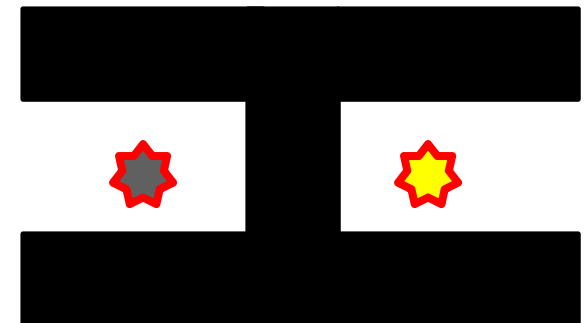
Value Field dynamics

$$\tau_v v_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

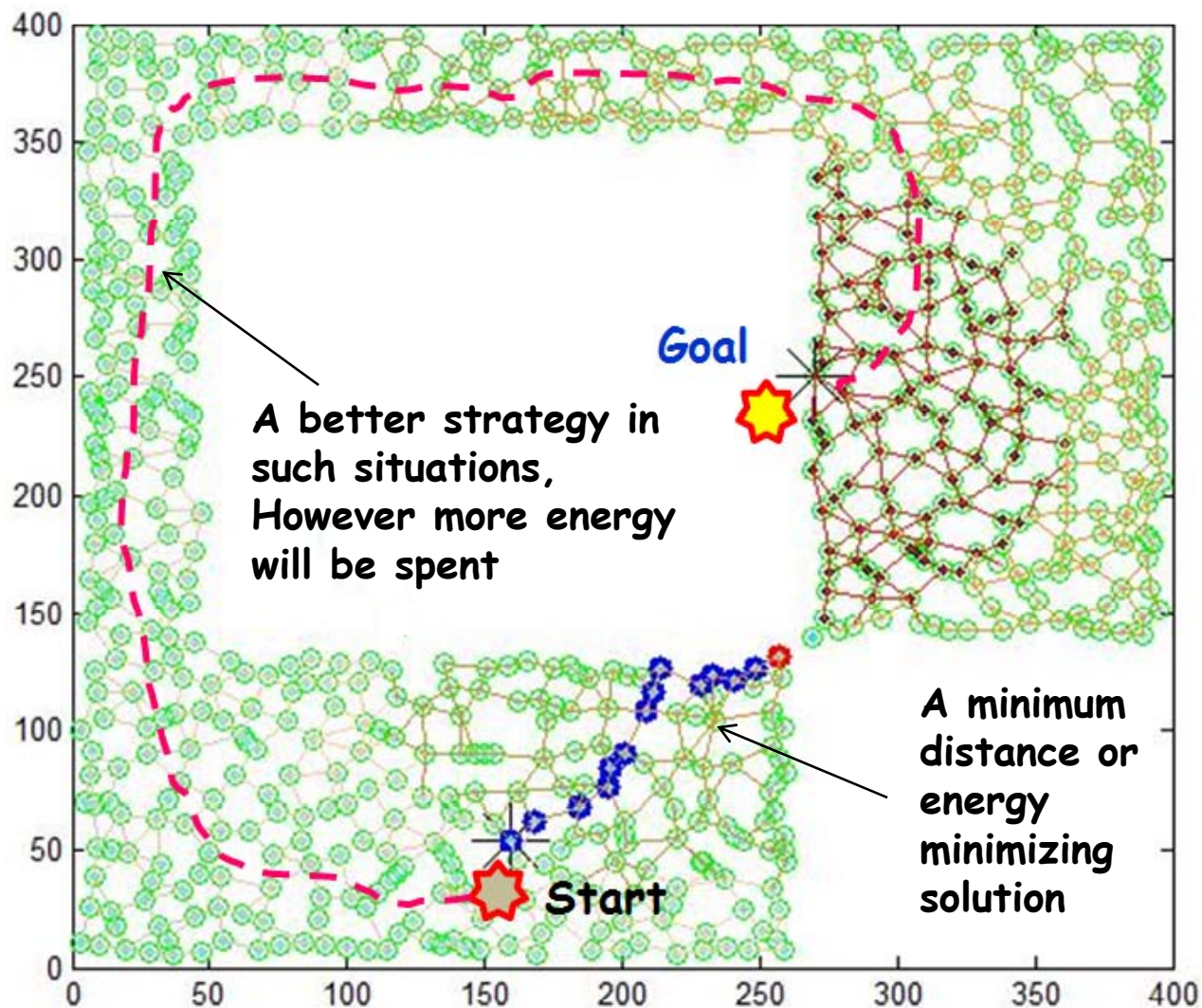
$$R_i = DP + Q$$

Default Plan

$$R_i = \frac{1}{Z} e^{\frac{-(s_i - G)^2}{2\sigma_R^2}}$$



Constraints: Learning 'when' to optimize 'what'



Maze navigation problem

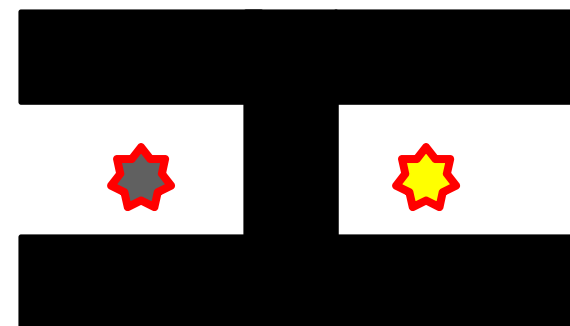
Value Field dynamics

$$\tau_v v_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

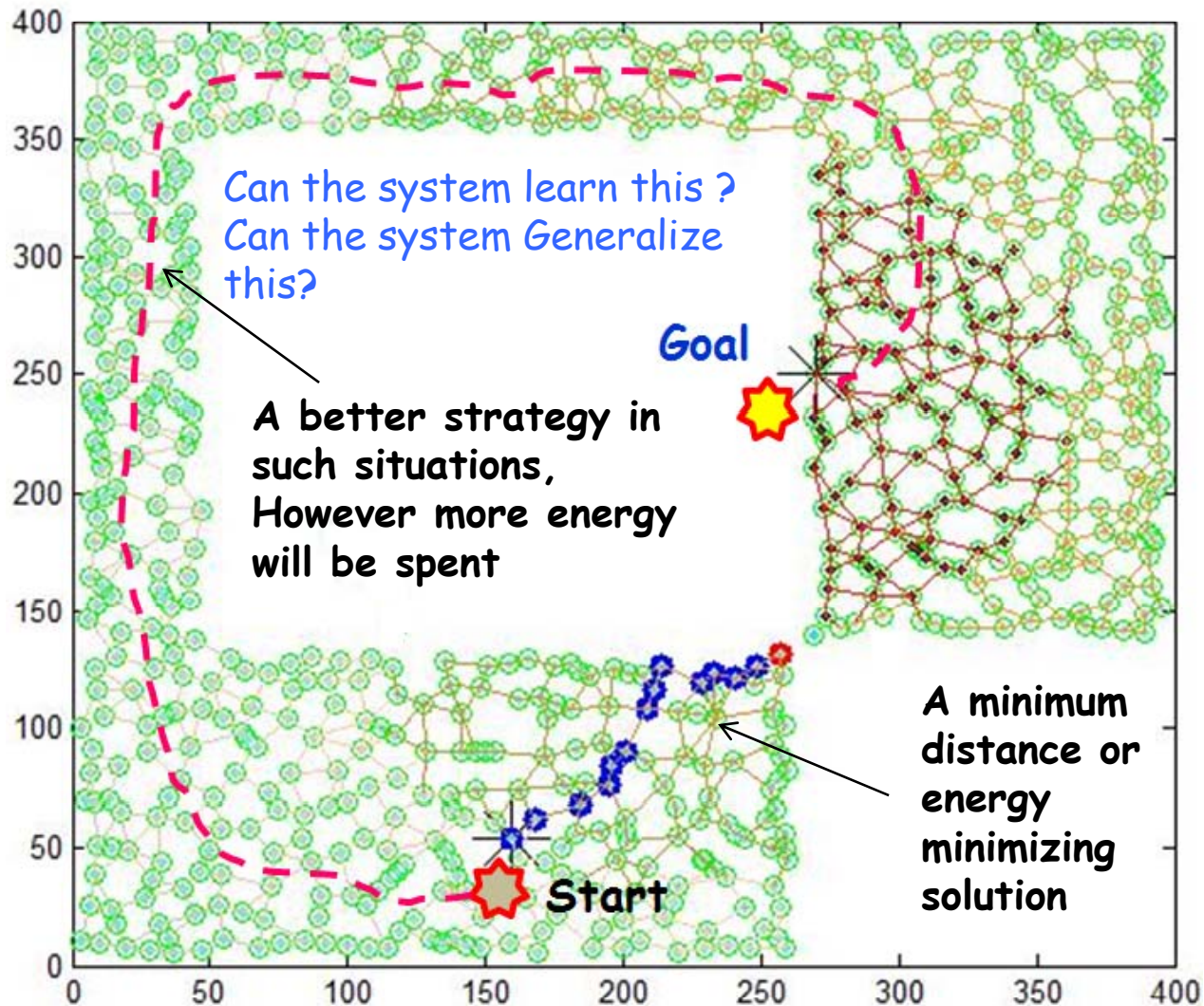
$$R_i = DP + Q$$

Default Plan

$$R_i = \frac{1}{Z} e^{\frac{-(s_i - G)^2}{2\sigma_R^2}}$$



Constraints: Learning 'when' to optimize 'what'



Maze navigation problem

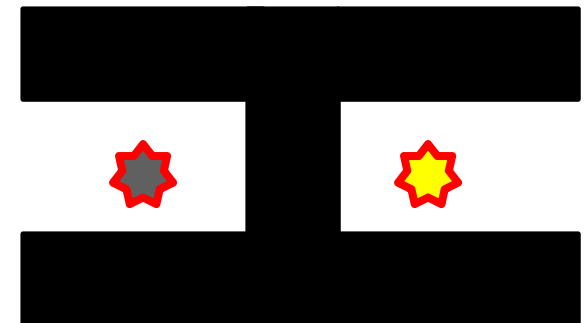
Value Field dynamics

$$\tau_v v_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

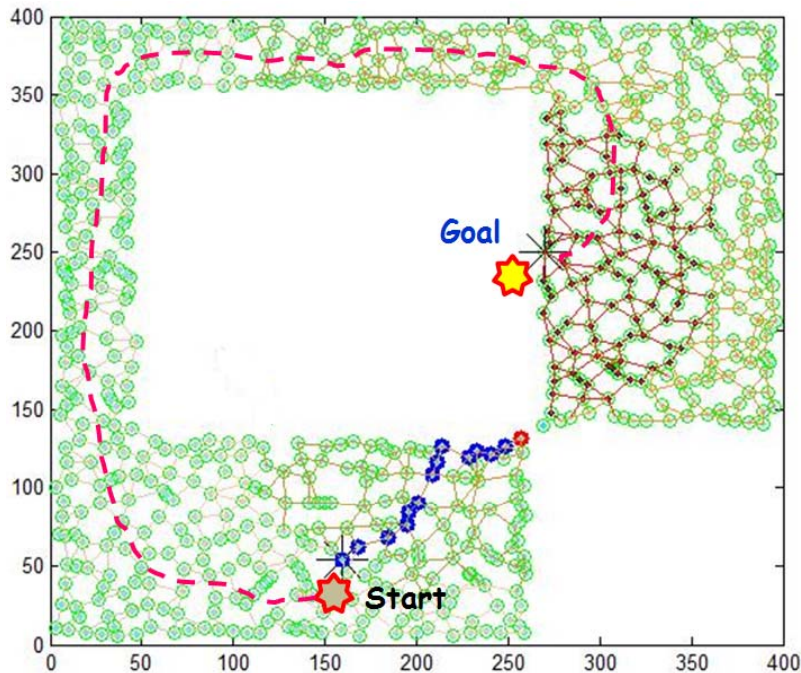
$$R_i = DP + Q$$

Default Plan

$$R_i = \frac{1}{Z} e^{\frac{-(s_i - G)^2}{2\sigma_R^2}}$$



Constraints: Learning 'when' to optimize 'what'



Value Field dynamics

$$\tau_v v_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

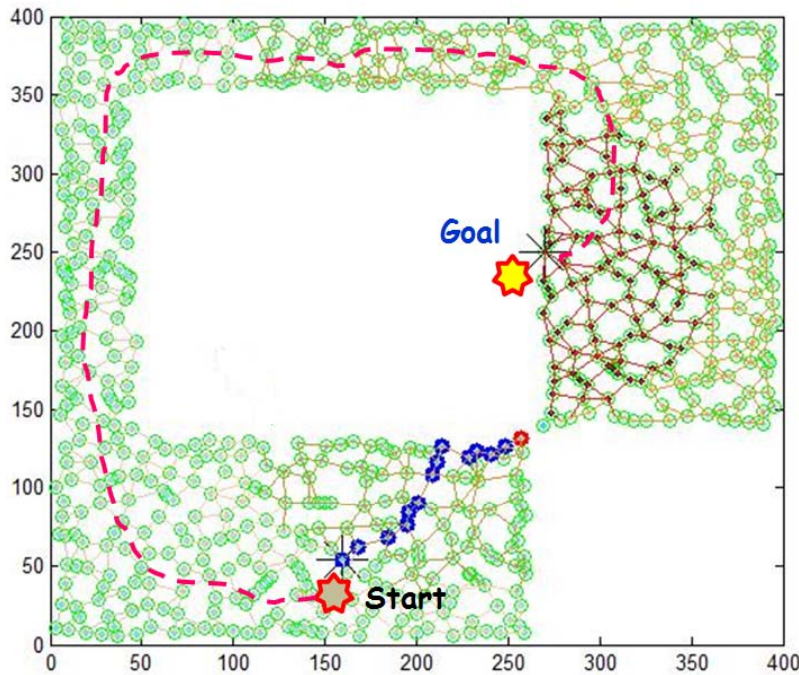
$$R_i = DP + Q$$

$$Q = q_1 + q_2 + \dots + q_n$$

Q is a superposition of a set of learnt 'Experience' fields $q_1, q_2 \dots q_n$

Every individual component ' q_i ' has a scalar value on every neuron in the SMS.

Constraints: Learning 'when' to optimize 'what'



Value Field dynamics

$$\tau_v \dot{v}_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

$$R_i = DP + Q$$

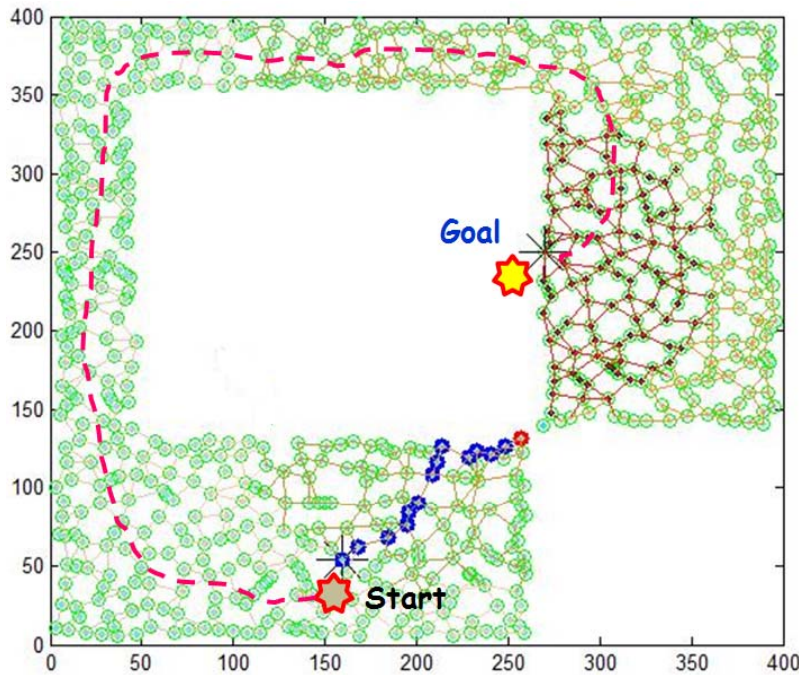
$$Q = q_1 + q_2 + \dots + q_n$$

$$q_i = \varphi_n \cdot U_i \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_G}} e^{\frac{-(G-G_i)^2}{2\sigma_G^2}}$$

U_i is the i^{th} interactive or self penalization/reward given to the system.

For example, a penalty of -5 is given to a bad solution (during i^{th} trial)

Constraints: Learning 'when' to optimize 'what'



Value Field dynamics

$$\tau_v \dot{v}_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

$$R_i = DP + Q$$

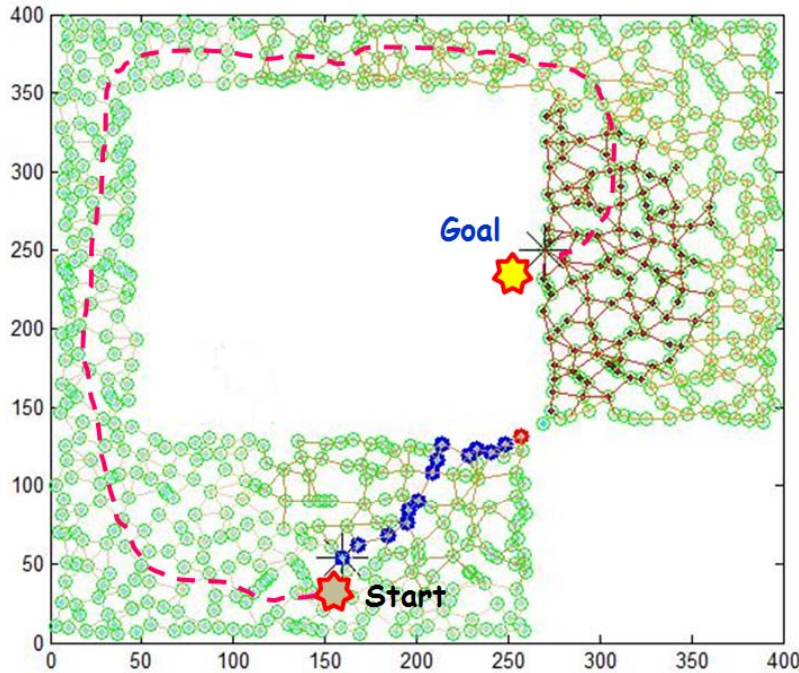
$$Q = q_1 + q_2 + \dots + q_n$$

$$q_i = \varphi_n \cdot U_i \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_G} e^{-\frac{(G-G_i)^2}{2\sigma_G^2}}$$

Scaling term for the n^{th} neuron

(Penalty U_i is given only at the end, and we need to distribute the punishments and rewards to other neurons in some way)

Constraints: Learning 'when' to optimize 'what'



Value Field dynamics

$$\tau_v \dot{v}_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

$$R_i = DP + Q$$

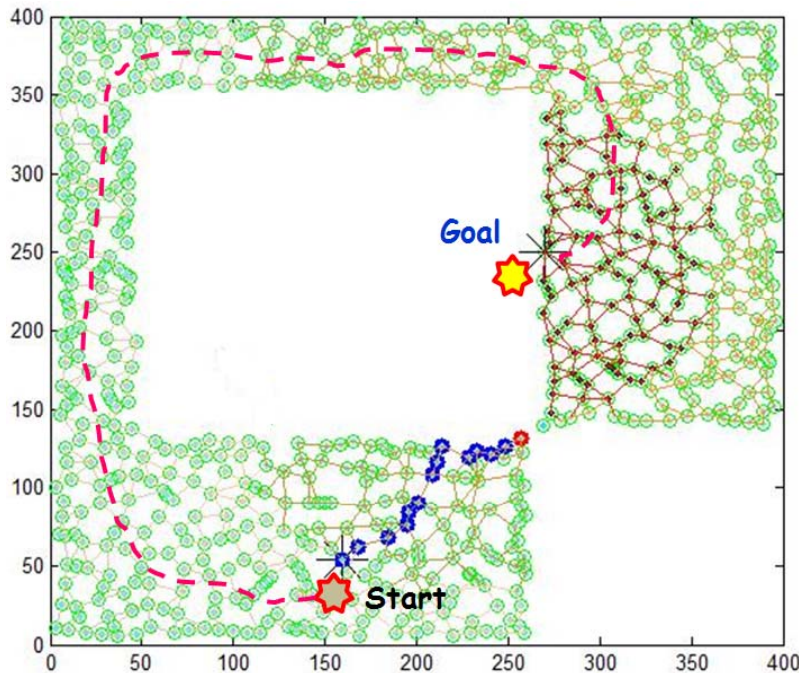
$$Q = q_1 + q_2 + \dots + q_n$$

$$q_i = \varphi_n \cdot U_i \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_G}} e^{-\frac{(G-G_i)^2}{2\sigma_G^2}}$$

The final term encodes the dependency of the goal, the solution for which the agent was rewarded/penalized.

This term allows the system to generalize the presence/absence of value field q_i for other goals.

Constraints: Learning 'when' to optimize 'what'



$$q_i = \varphi_n \cdot U_i \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_G} e^{\frac{-(G-G_i)^2}{2\sigma_G^2}}$$

↓

The final term encodes the dependency of the goal, the solution for which the agent was rewarded/penalized.

This term allows the system to generalize the presence/absence of value field q_i for other goals.

Value Field dynamics

$$\tau_v v_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

↓

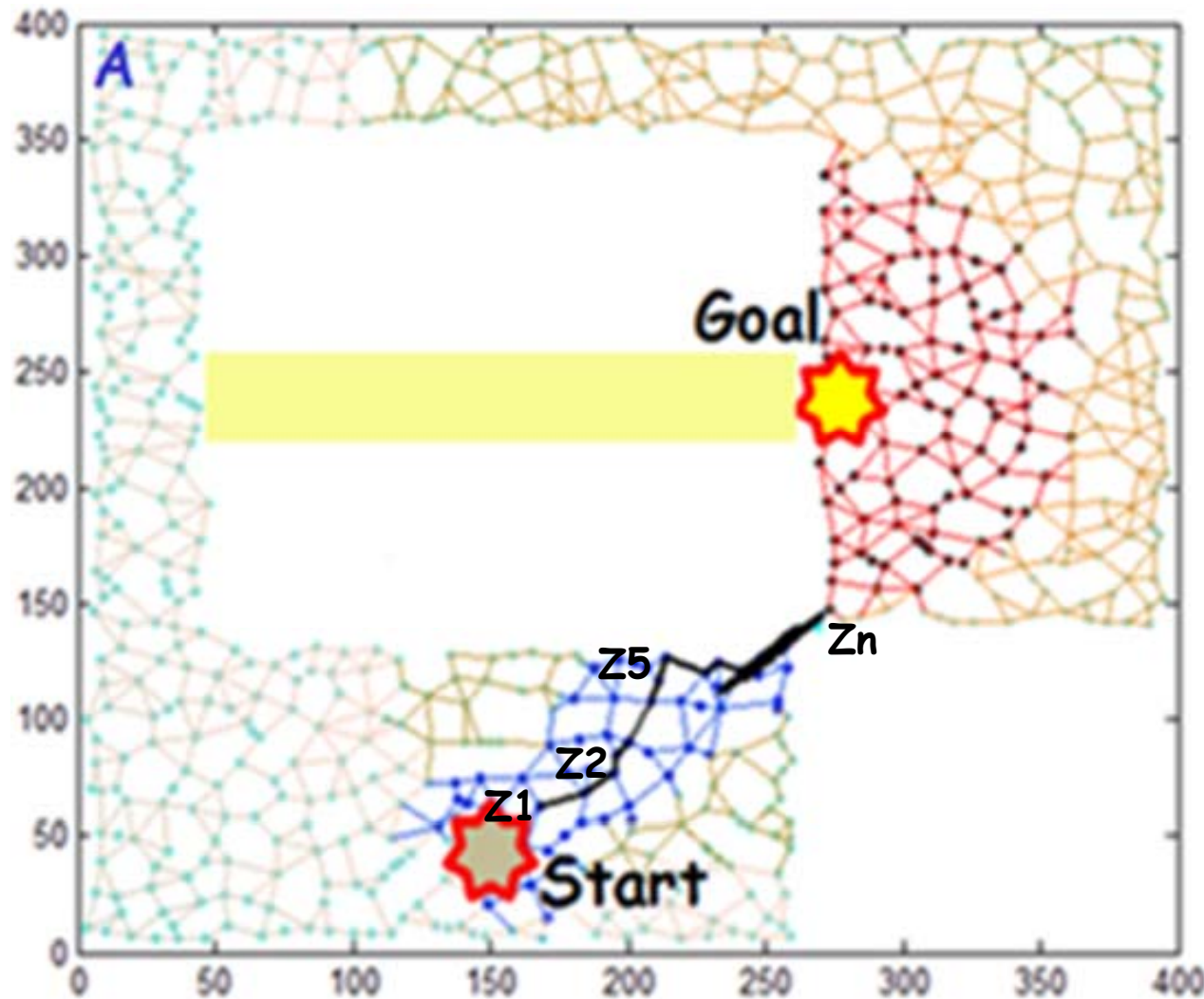
$$R_i = DP + Q$$

↓

$$Q = q_1 + q_2 + \dots + q_n$$

This term evaluates how much relevance a good/bad experience encountered in the past while performing a goal G_i (for which the additional field q_i was learnt) holds in relation to the currently active goal G .

The first solution (using just the DP component of the reward)



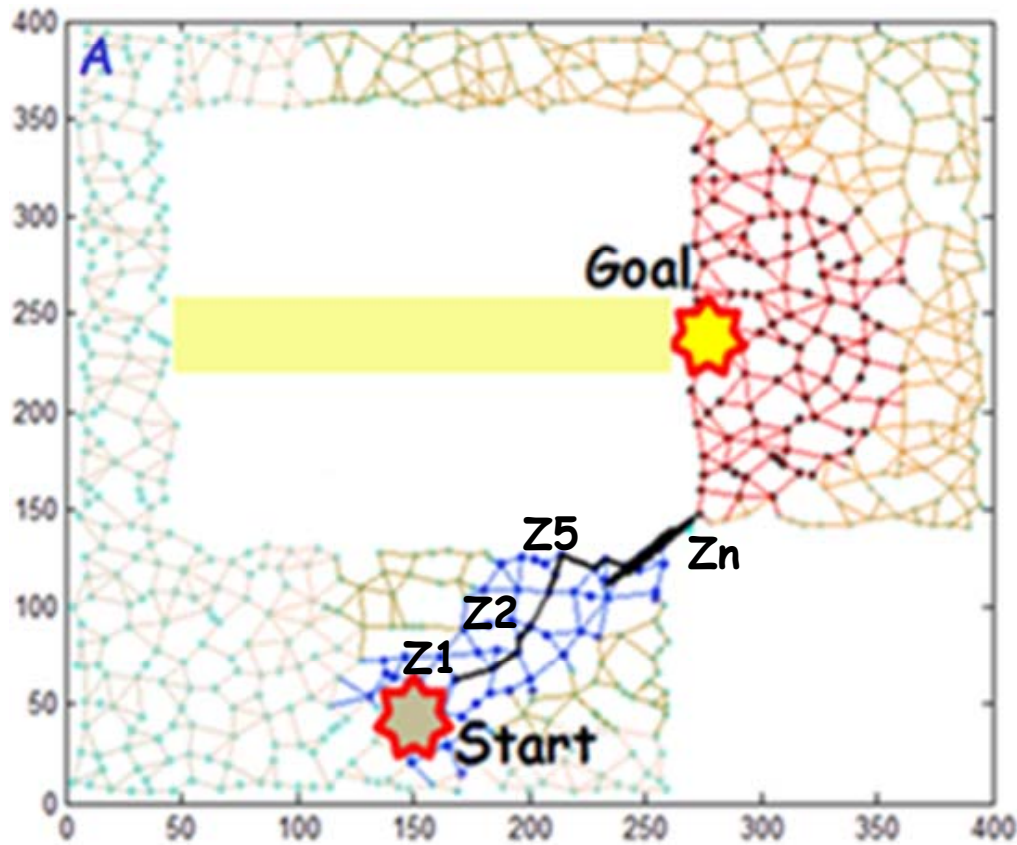
High dimensional State space

Need to find simple way to distribute rewards and penalties

It is always possible to keep track of the temporal sequence of neurons that fired in the SMS during the performance of behaviour.

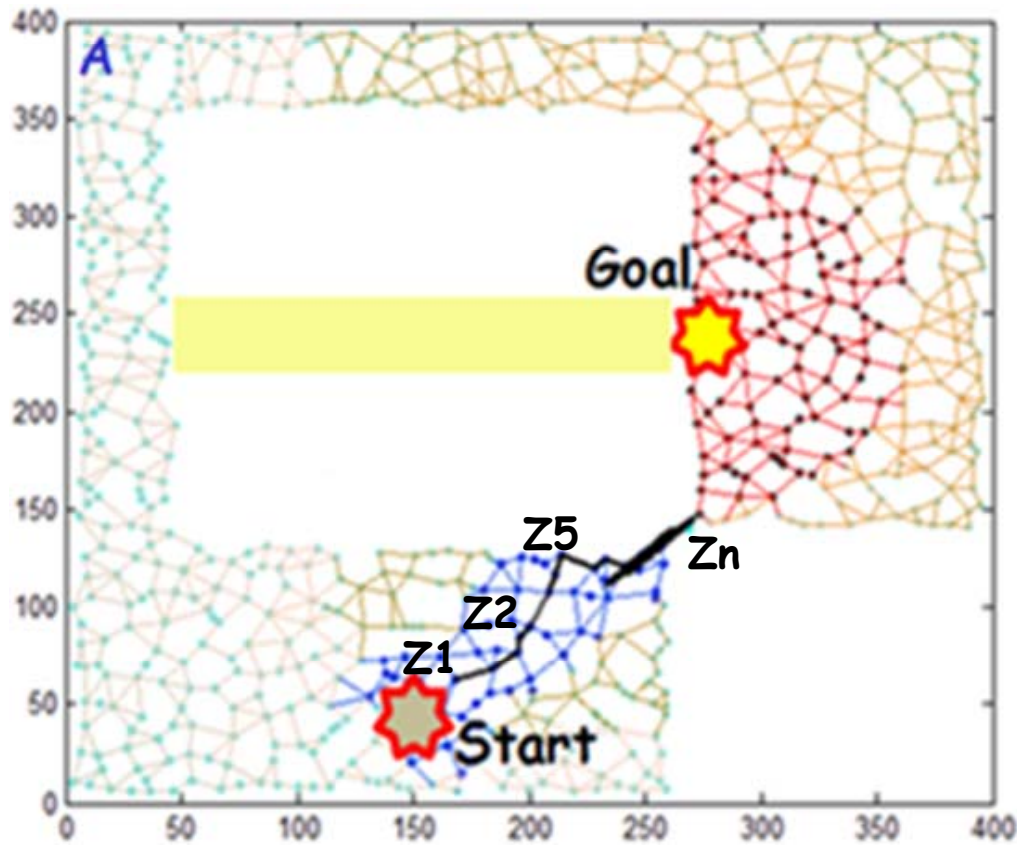
We can also track their approximate neighbourhood (if a lateral connection is present)

How to distribute rewards/penalties



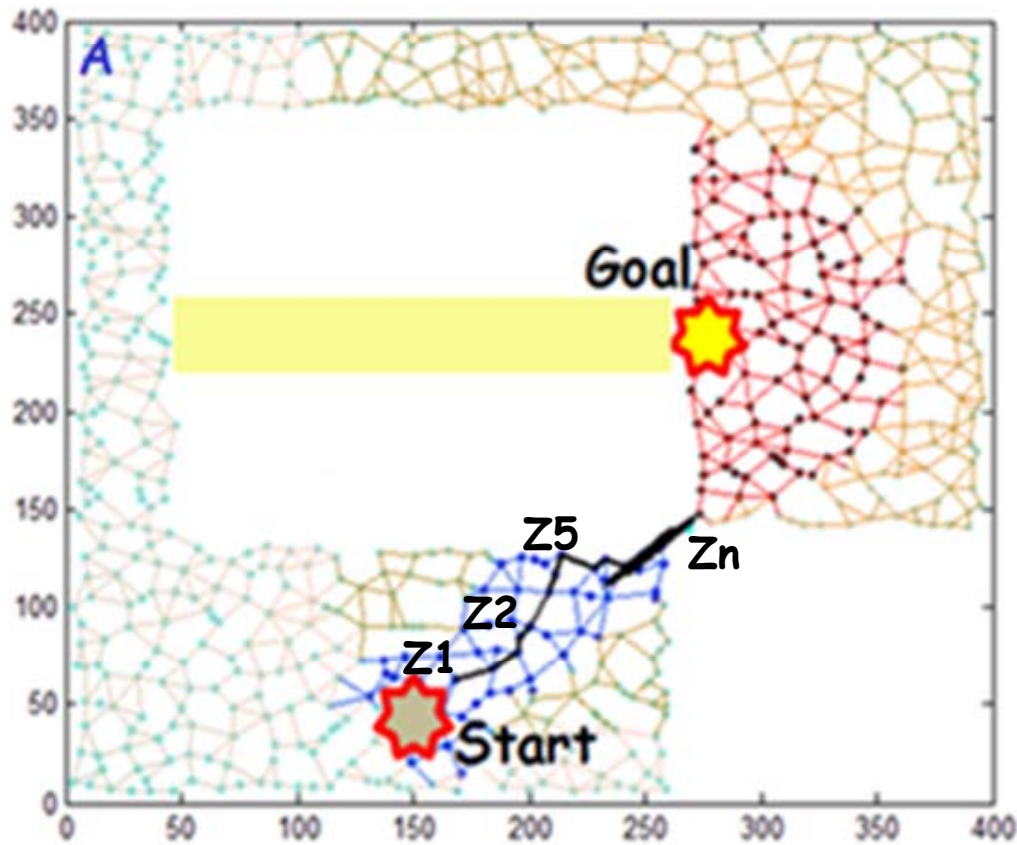
- 1) In case of a penalization, the most proximal neuron z_1 receives the maximum penalty U_i , and all other neurons (z_2 - z_n) receive scaled versions $\varphi_n \cdot U_i$ of the penalty.
- 2)

How to distribute rewards/penalties



- 1) In case of a penalization, the most proximal neuron z_1 receives the maximum penalty U_i , and all other neurons (z_2 - z_n) receive scaled versions $\varphi_n \cdot U_i$ of the penalty.
- 2) In case of a reward, the most distal neuron z_n receives maximum reward and all others receive scaled versions

How to distribute rewards/penalties

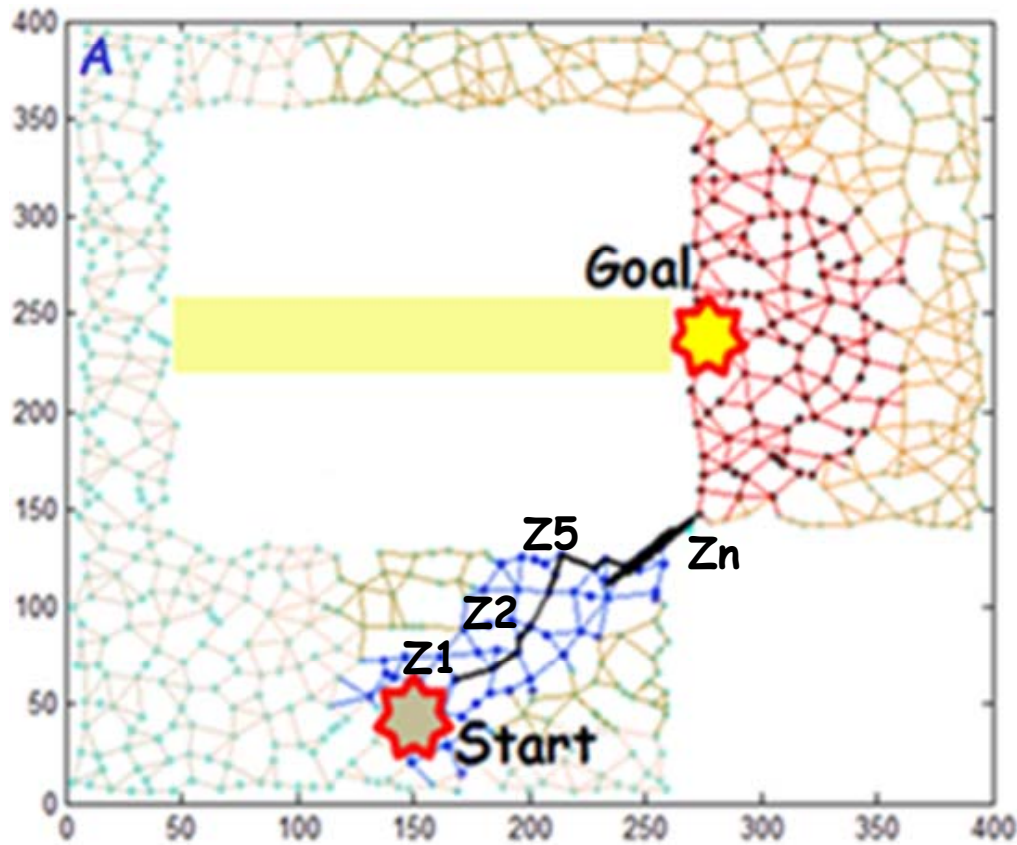


- 1) In case of a penalization, the most proximal neuron z_1 receives the maximum penalty U_i , and all other neurons (z_2 - z_n) receive scaled versions $\varphi_n \cdot U_i$ of the penalty.
- 2) In case of a reward, the most distal neuron z_n receives maximum reward and all others receive scaled versions

Simple logic: In case of a problem or **bad performance**, the **root is attacked**

In case of success all the contributing elements get the rewards in ways such that elements higher up in the hierarchy earn more benefits than those at the bottom.

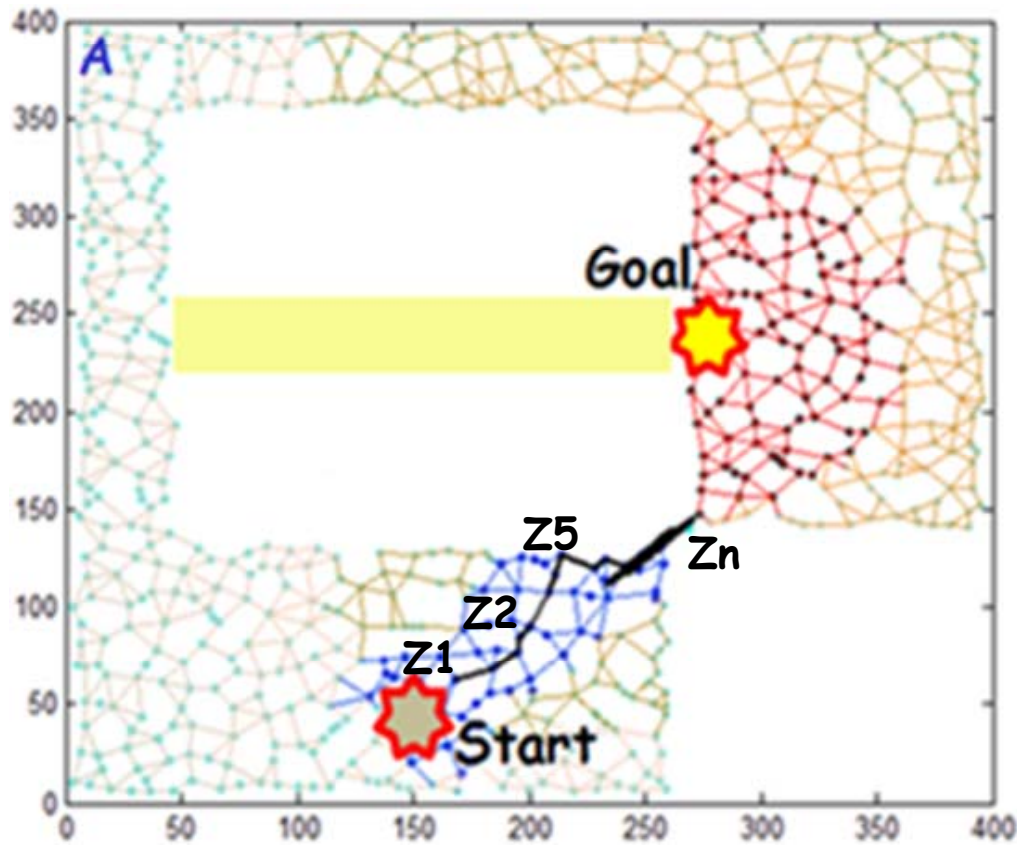
How to distribute rewards/penalties



- 1) In case of a penalization, the most proximal neuron z_1 receives the maximum penalty U_i , and all other neurons (z_2 - z_n) receive scaled versions $\varphi_n \cdot U_i$ of the penalty.
- 2) In case of a reward, the most distal neuron z_n receives maximum reward and all others receive scaled versions

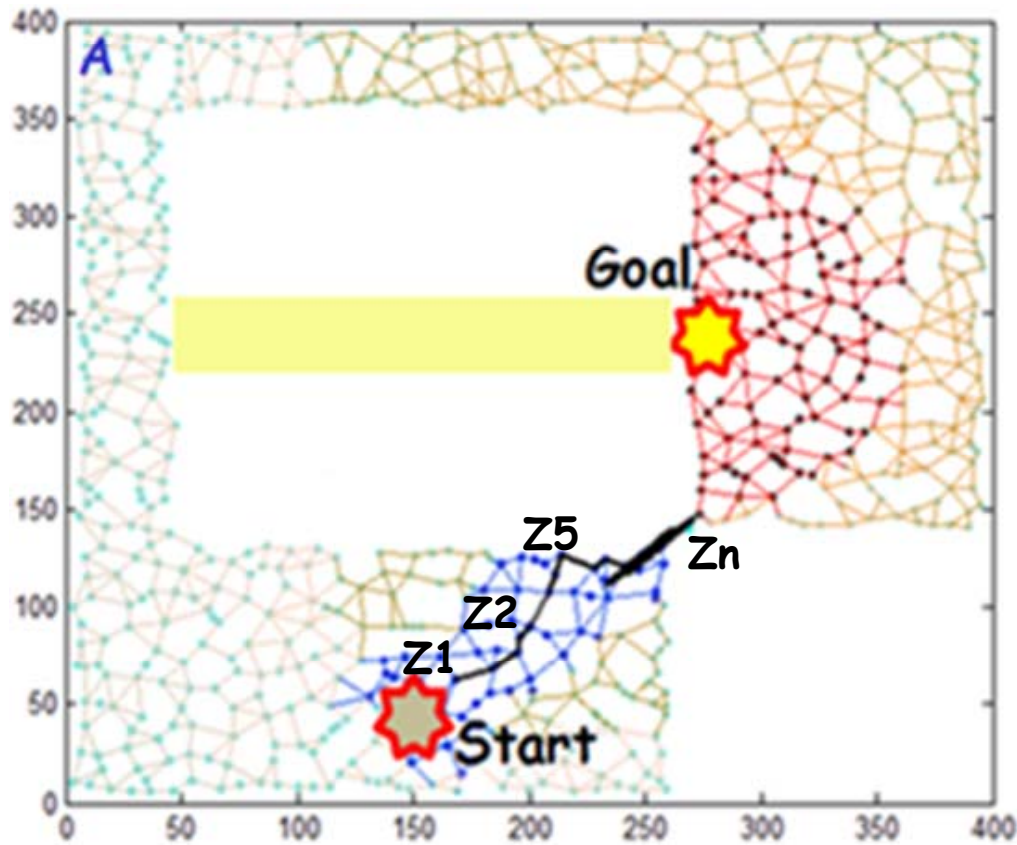
This simple heuristic of distribution of rewards underlies basic human nature of attribution of credits to any collective goal directed behavior. In case of problems, elements at the bottom of the hierarchy face maximum damage and in case of success elements at the top of the hierarchy reap maximum profits!

How to distribute rewards/penalties



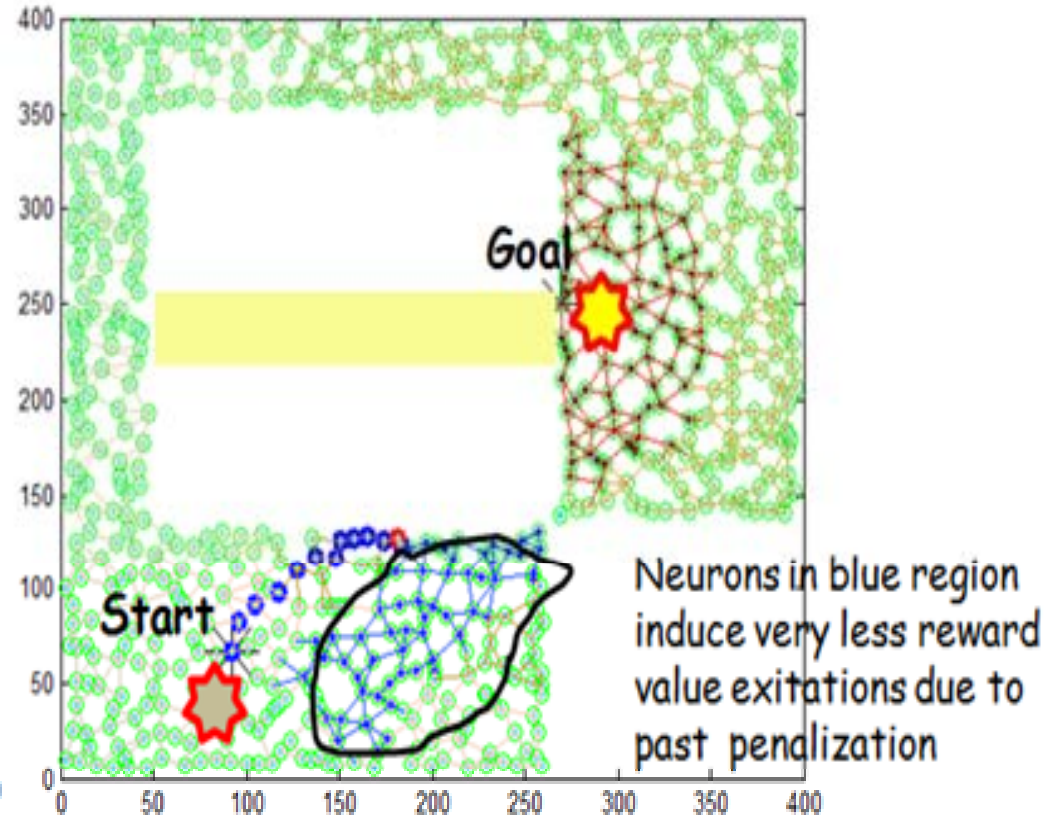
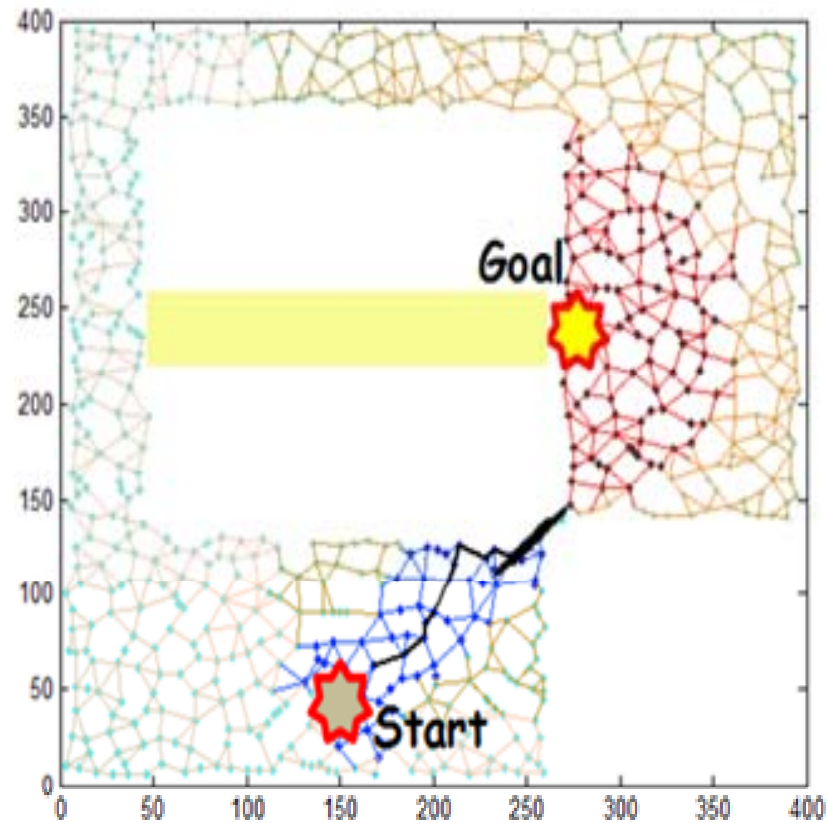
- 1) In case of a penalization, the most proximal neuron z_1 receives the maximum penalty U_i , and all other neurons (z_2 - z_n) receive scaled versions $\varphi_n \cdot U_i$ of the penalty.
- 2) In case of a reward, the most distal neuron z_n receives maximum reward and all others receive scaled versions
- 3) Neighbours get scaled versions of rewards/penalty that the master got

How to distribute rewards/penalties

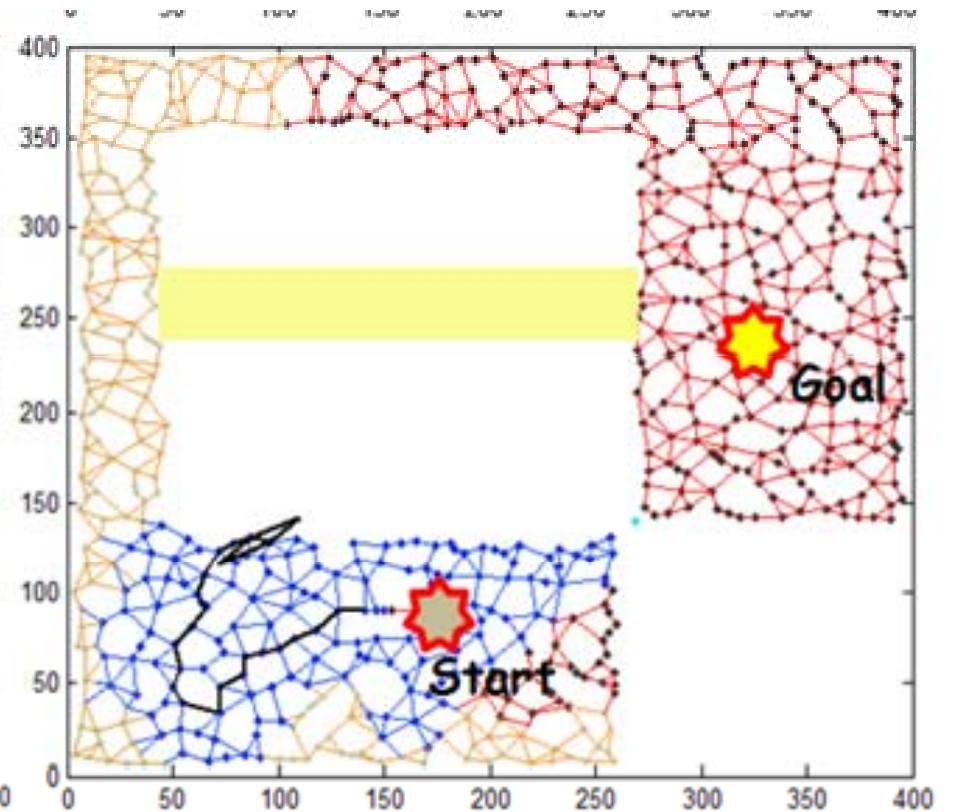
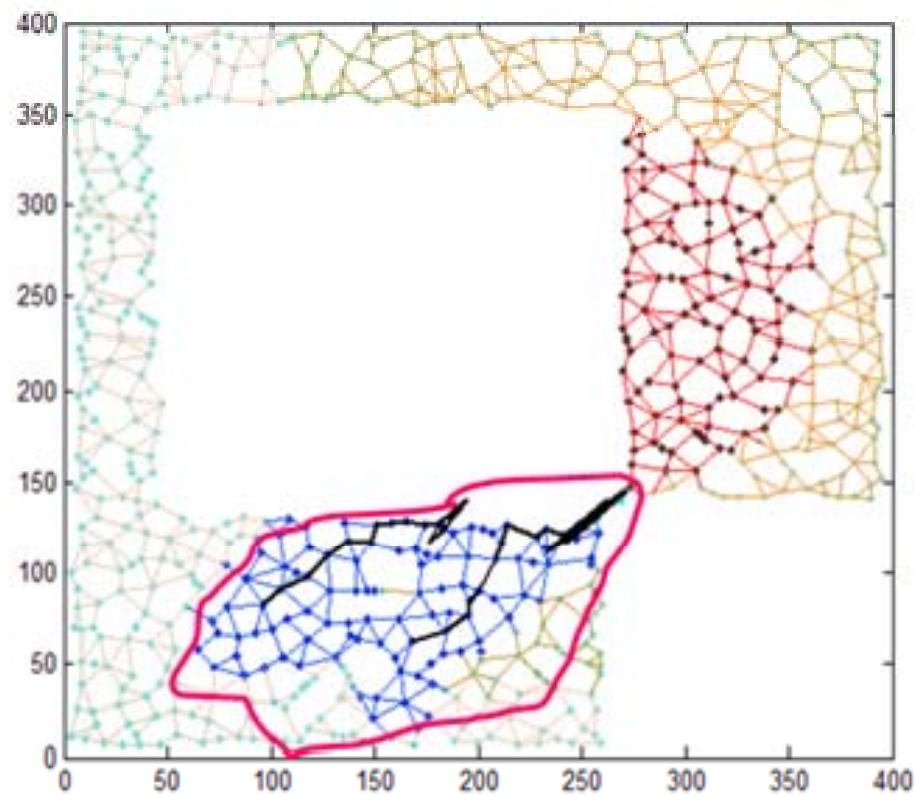


- 1) In case of a penalization, the most proximal neuron z_1 receives the maximum penalty U_i , and all other neurons (z_2 - z_n) receive scaled versions $\varphi_n \cdot U_i$ of the penalty.
- 2) In case of a reward, the most distal neuron z_n receives maximum reward and all others receive scaled versions
- 3) Neighbours get scaled versions of rewards/penalty that the master got
- 4) Penalize circular solutions

Second solution (after first penalization)

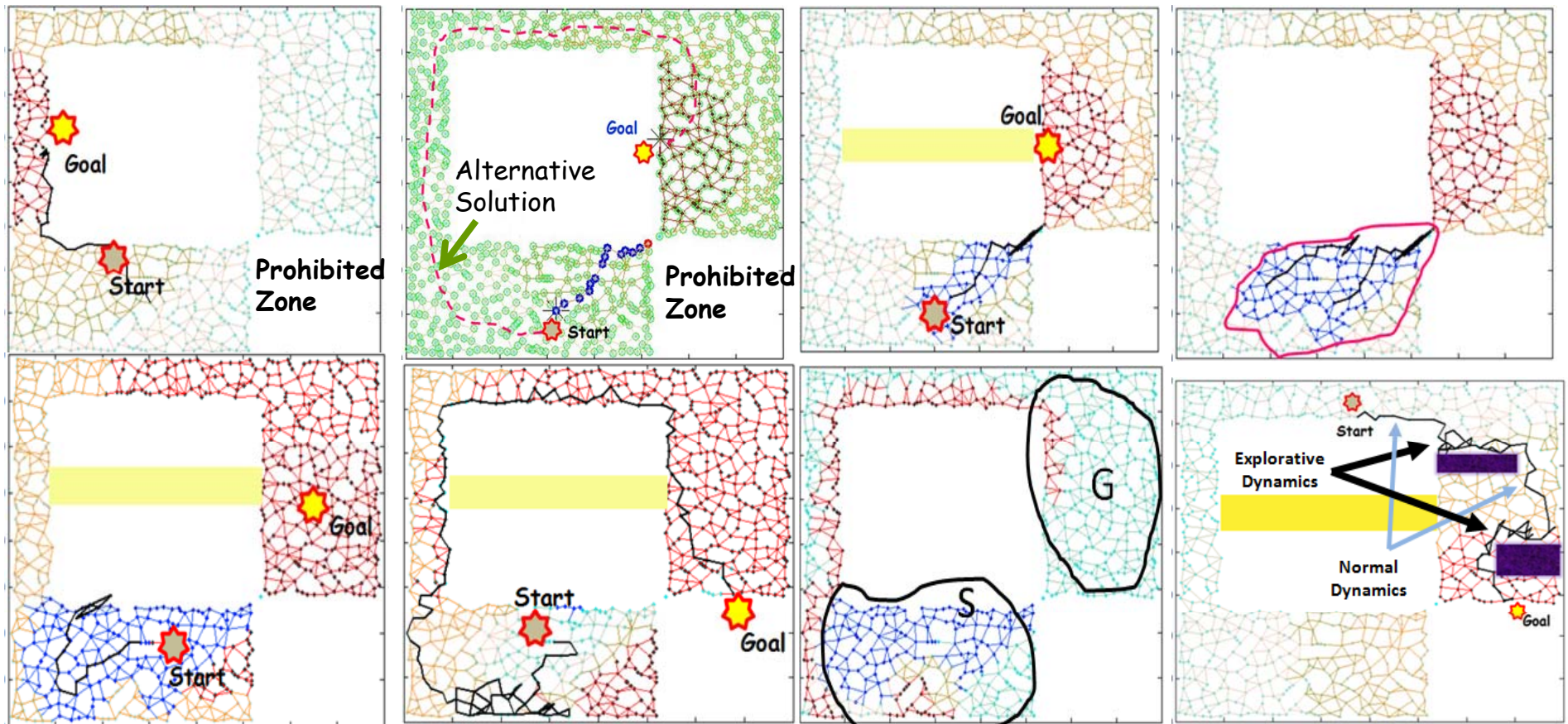


Solutions in newer field structures



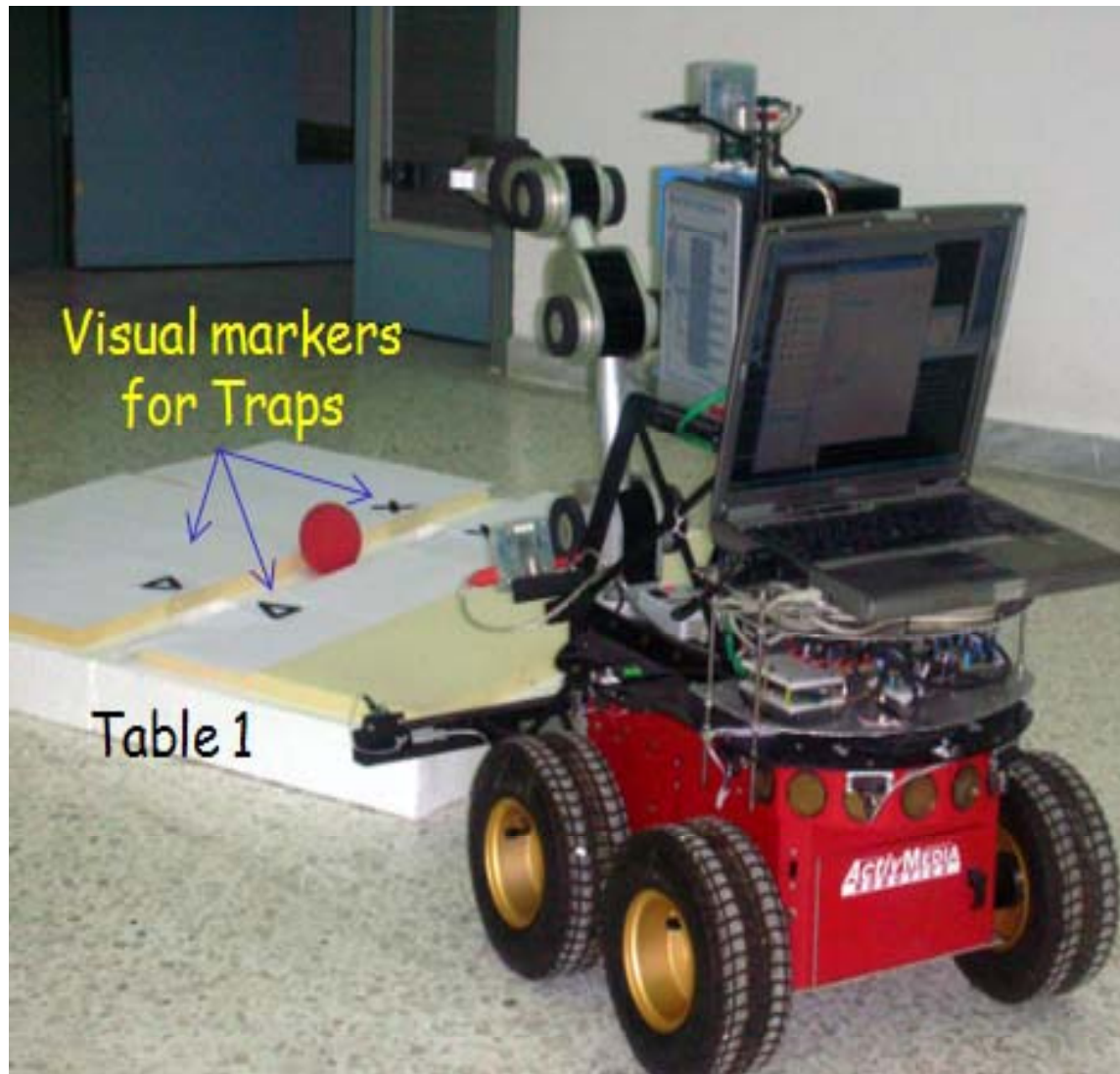
→ Emitting Goal directed motor sequences

A set of 'weighted' Value fields: Learnt, Adapted

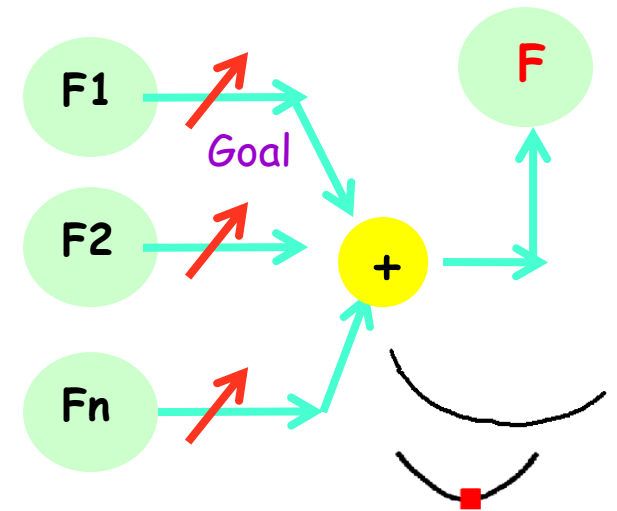
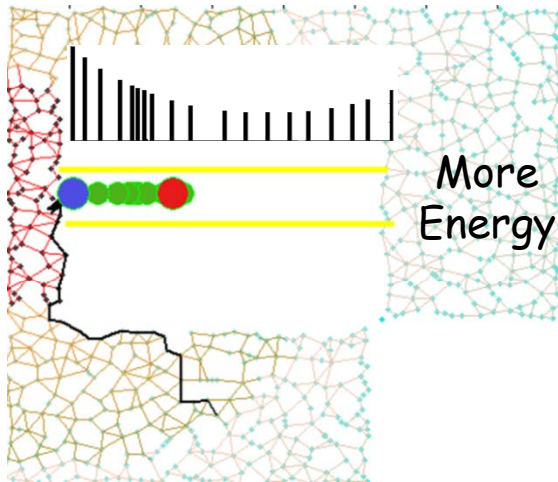


How relevant a past experience is in the **context** of current goal

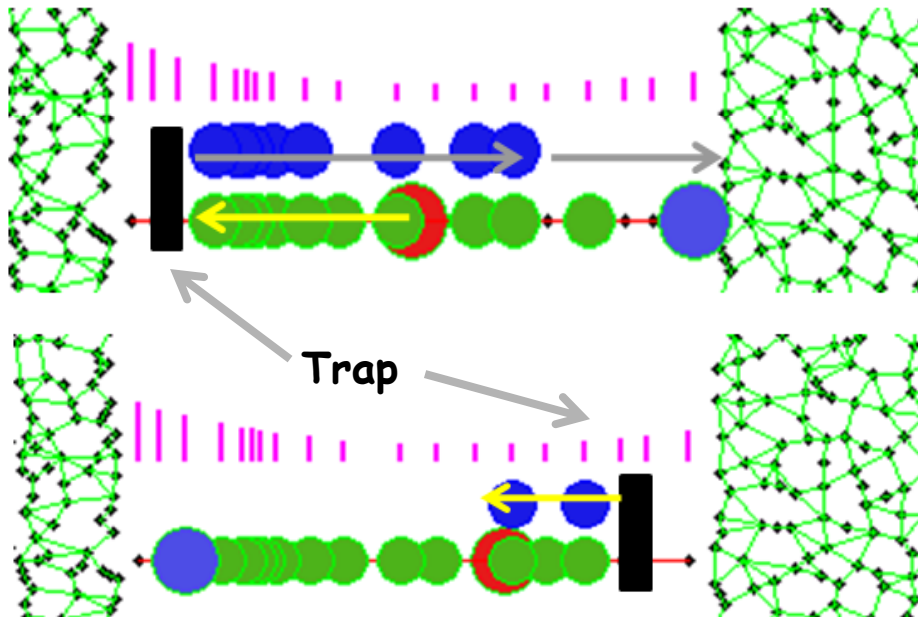
New Experiences: Learning to Avoid Traps



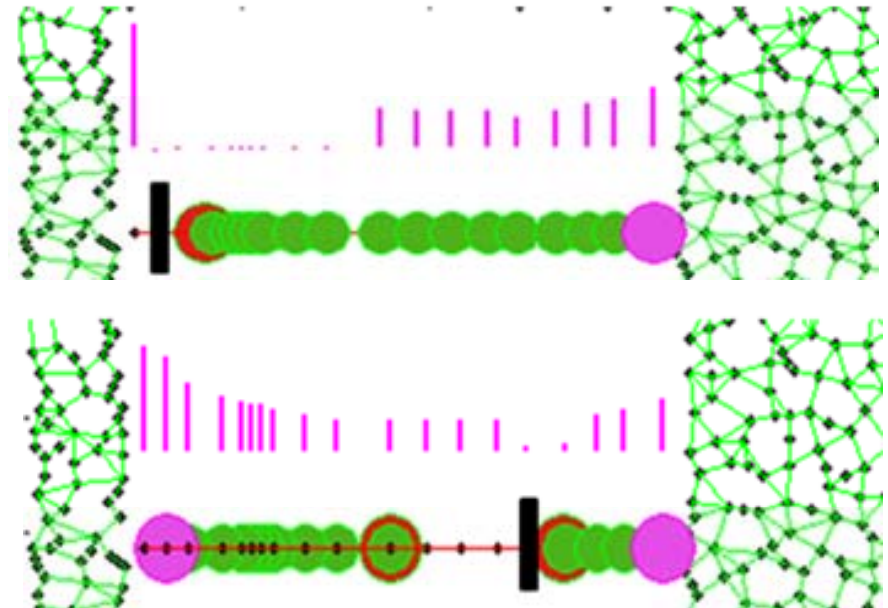
PUSHING : Learning new value fields by exploration



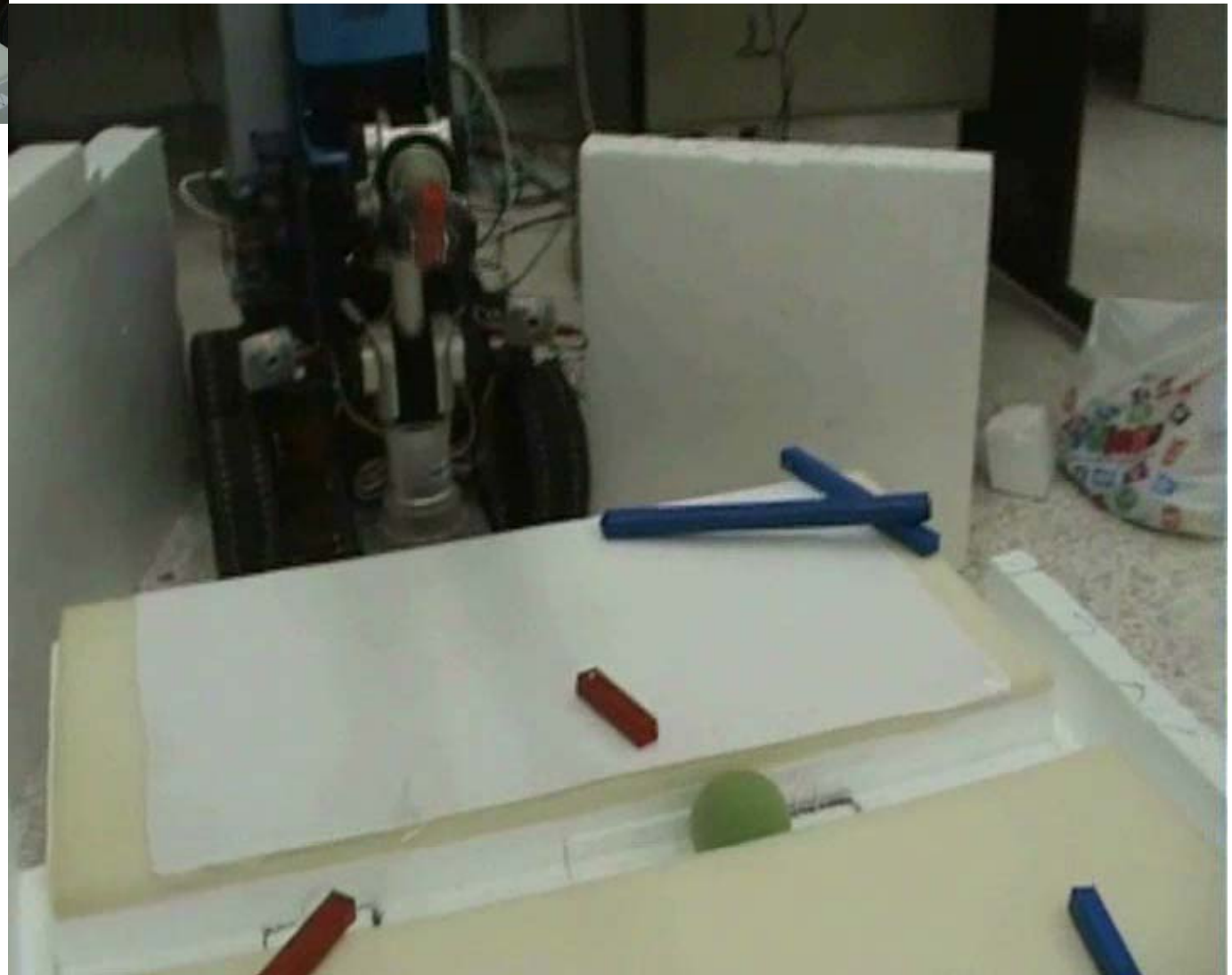
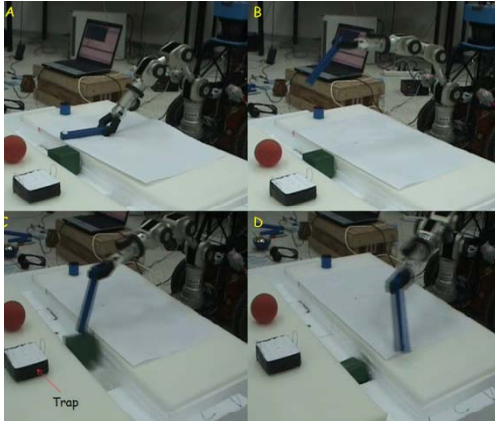
Experience



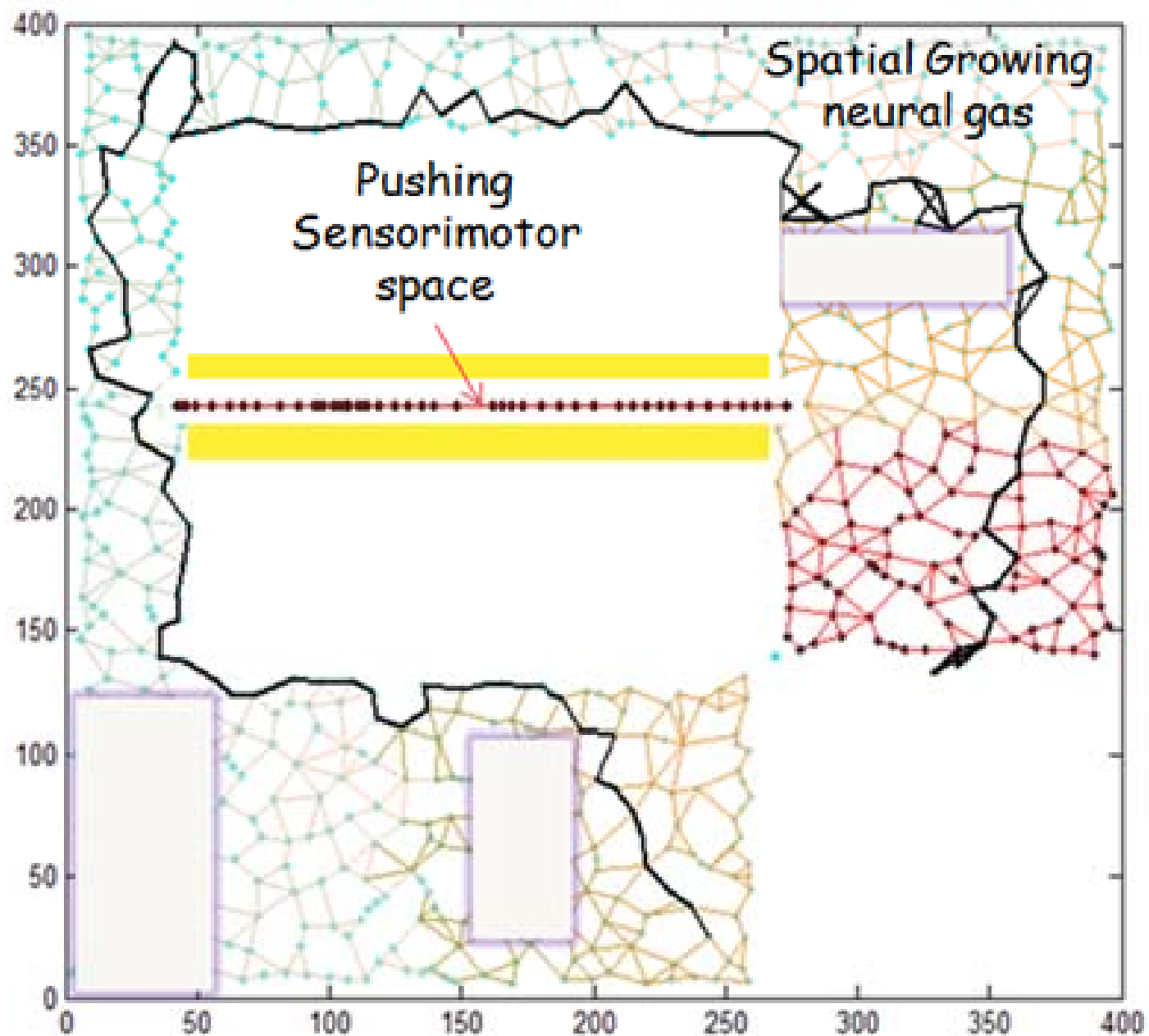
Trap Dependent field change



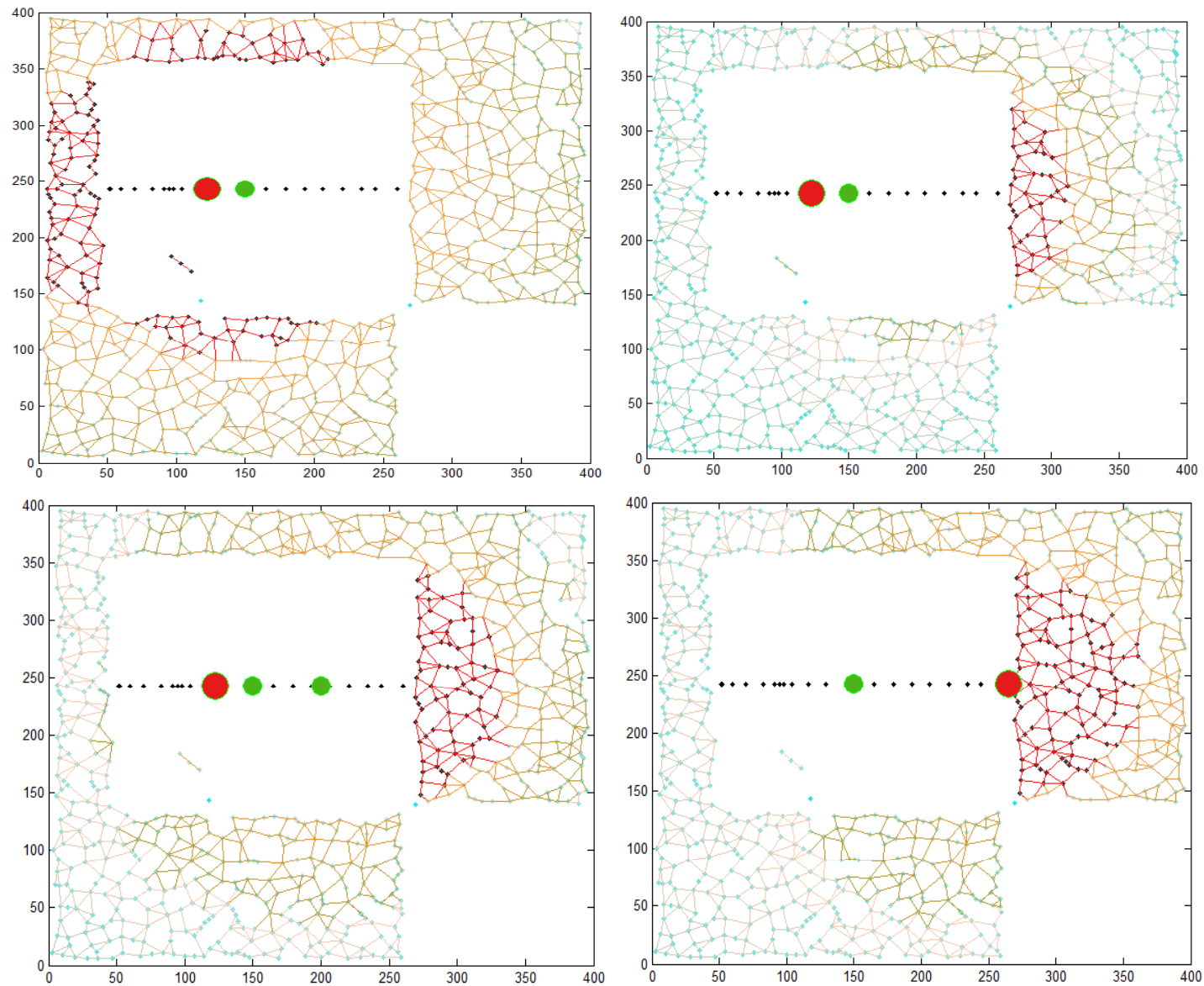
Self organizing the Pushing SMS



Pushing Sensorimotor space



Movement of the Goal due to Pushing can induce reward excitations on the internal spatial map

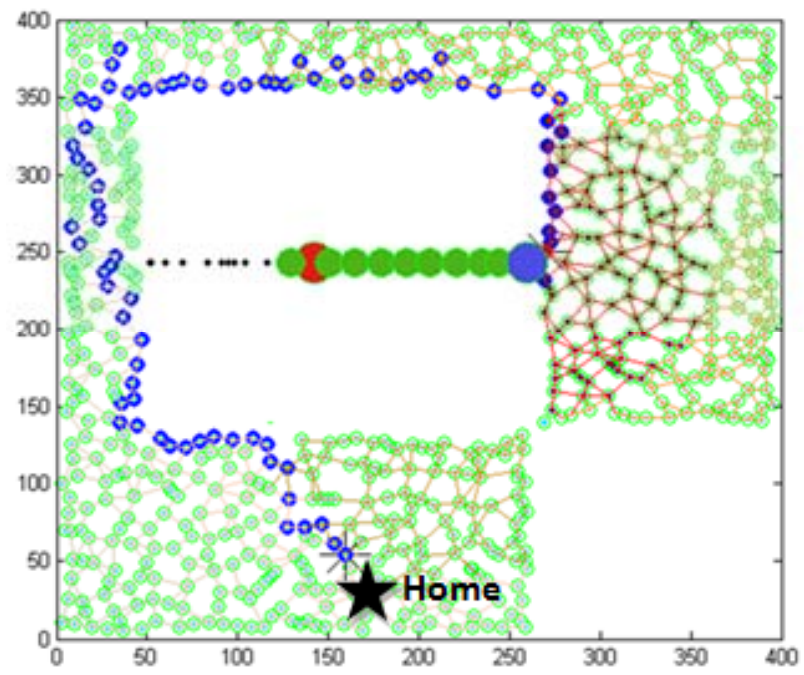
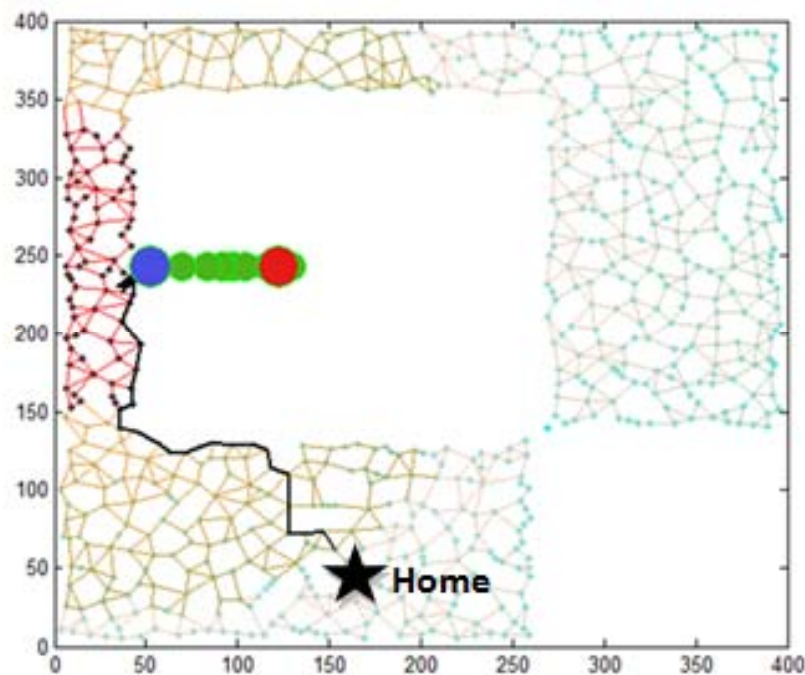


Pushing in ways that are rewarding: Learning the Pushing reward structure

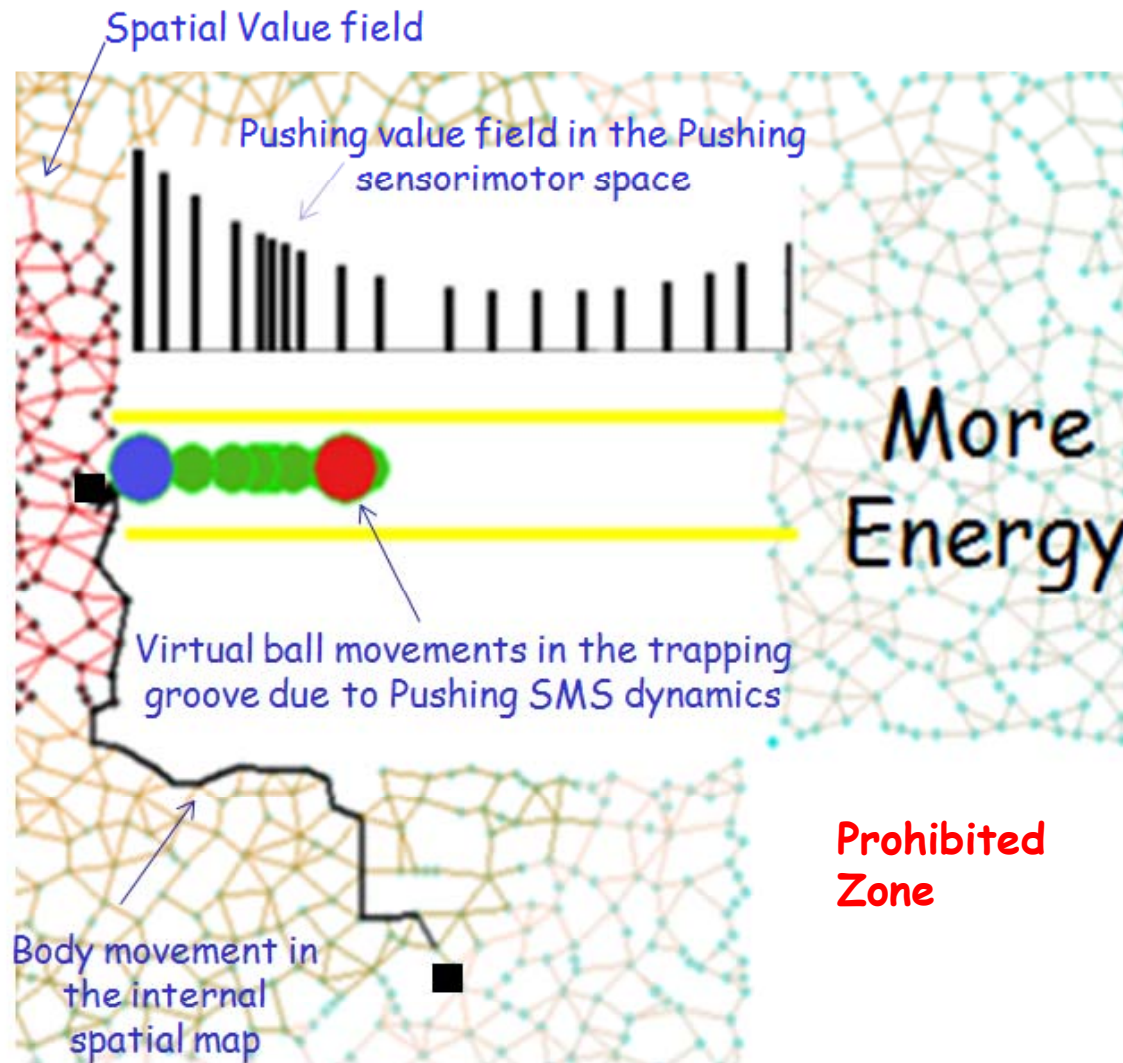
$$R_i = DP + Q$$

There is no need to have a default plan

DP can be learnt by repeated trials of random explorative pushing of the goal in different directions along the groove, followed by an attempt to grasp the goal (by moving and pushing).



Energy related constraints can also be embedded in the reward structure



$$R_T = R_{net} \text{ if } Dist_{iter} < \delta$$

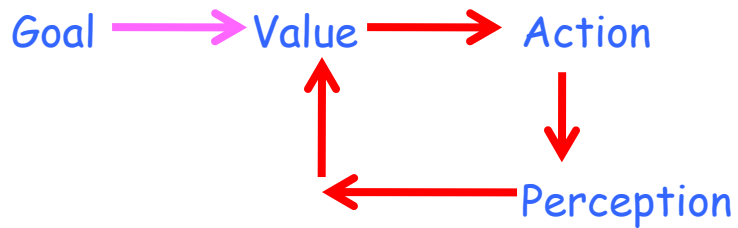
$$R_T = R_{nst} e^{-(Dist_{iter}/125)} \text{ if } Dist_{iter} < \delta$$

$$\delta = \frac{Goal - Initpos}{1.5}$$

R_T is the actual reward received in the end of the T^{th} trial in case of success

R_{net} is the net reward promised (= 50)

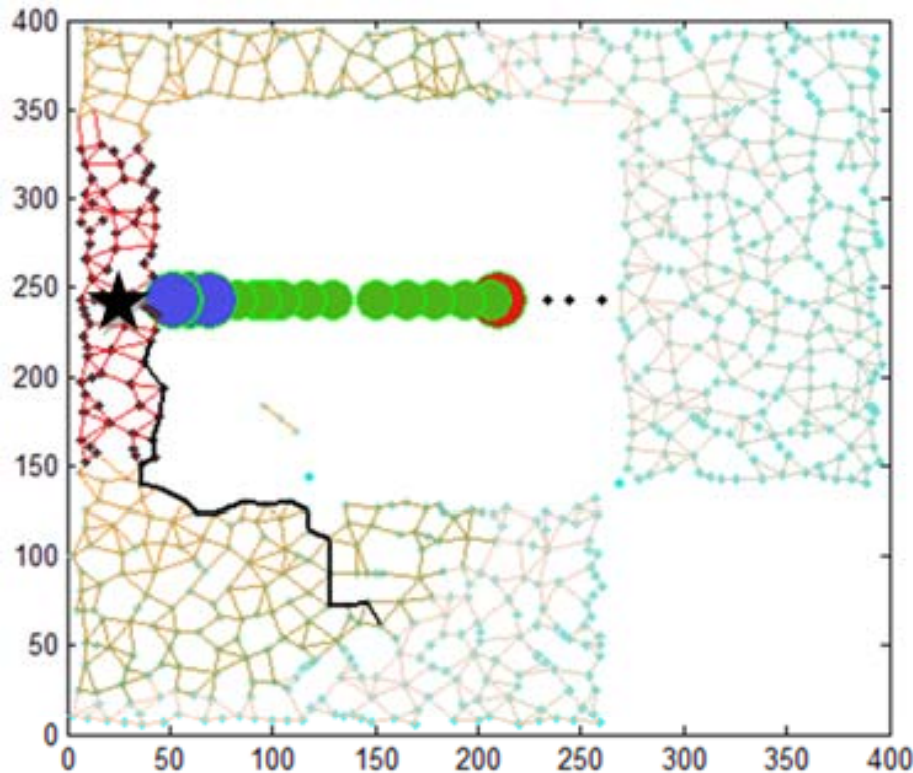
$Dist_{iter}$ is an approximate calculation of the distance navigated by the robot to get the goal



Goal

Value Field on SMS (Quasistationary)

$$\tau_v \dot{v}_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$



Value to action

$$k_i = \arg \max_j (w_{ij} V_j)$$

$$\bar{a} = \beta_{if} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N x_i \overline{m_{k,i}} \right) + \zeta(\bar{r})$$

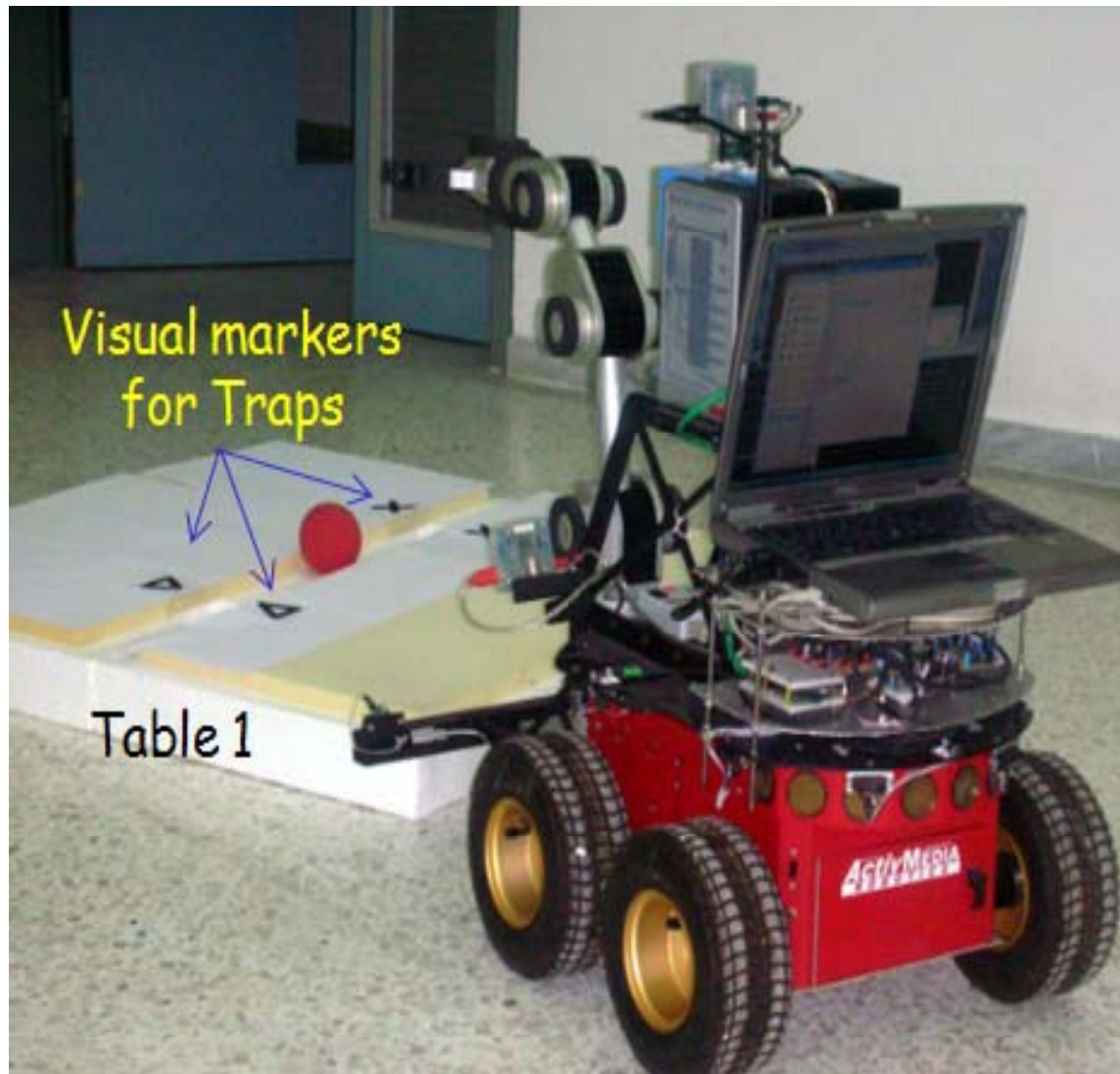
Motor Activity modulates lateral connections in SMS

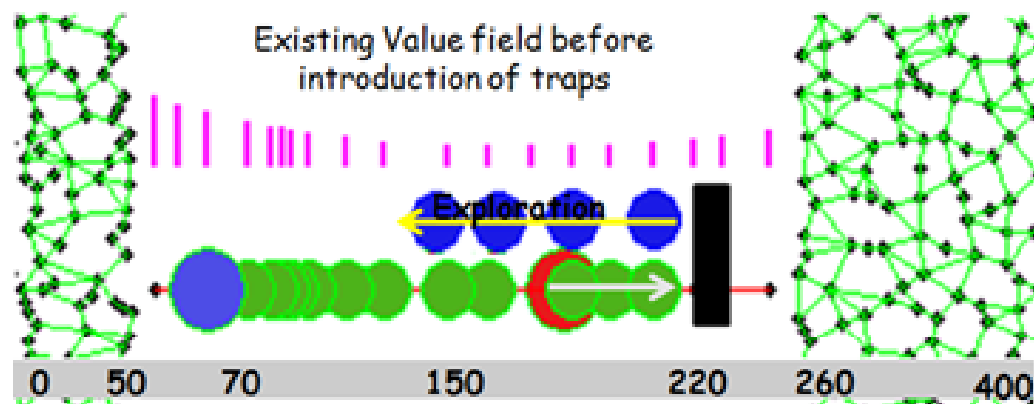
$$M_{ij} = \langle m_{ij}, M \rangle$$

Activity shift in SMS

$$\tau_x \dot{x}_i = -x_i + S_i + \beta_{if} \sum_{i,j} (M_{ij} W_{ij}) x_j$$

New Experiences: Learning to Avoid Traps

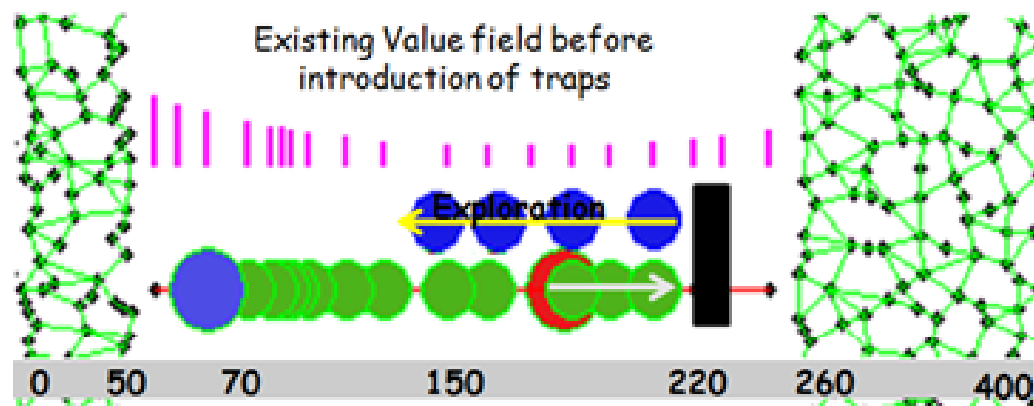




$$\beta_{if} \longrightarrow 0$$

$$\zeta \rightarrow 1$$

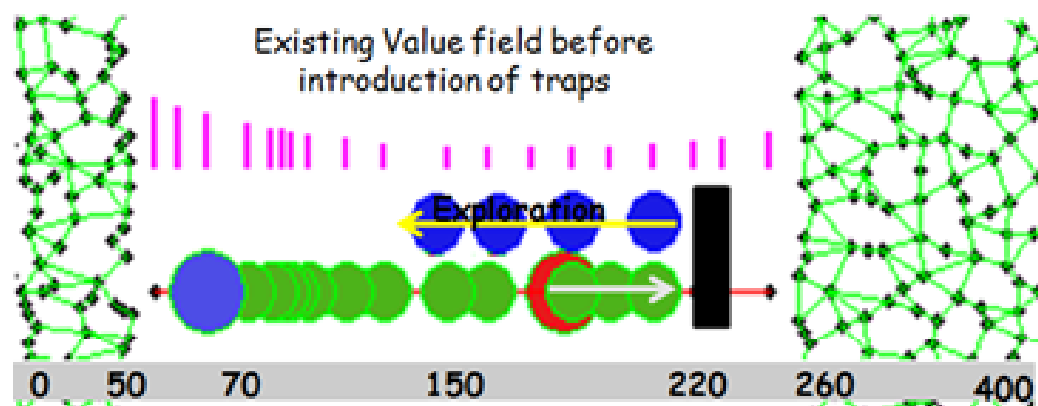
In every trial the robot has
 an experience of contradiction because of the trap,
 an experience of exploration which characterizes its attempt to nullify
 the effect of the trap so as to realize the goal



$$\beta_{if} \longrightarrow 0$$

$$\zeta \rightarrow 1$$

In every trial the robot has
 an experience of contradiction because of the trap,
 an experience of exploration which characterizes its attempt to nullify the
 effect of the trap so as to realize the goal
an experience of being rewarded by the user/self in case of success.

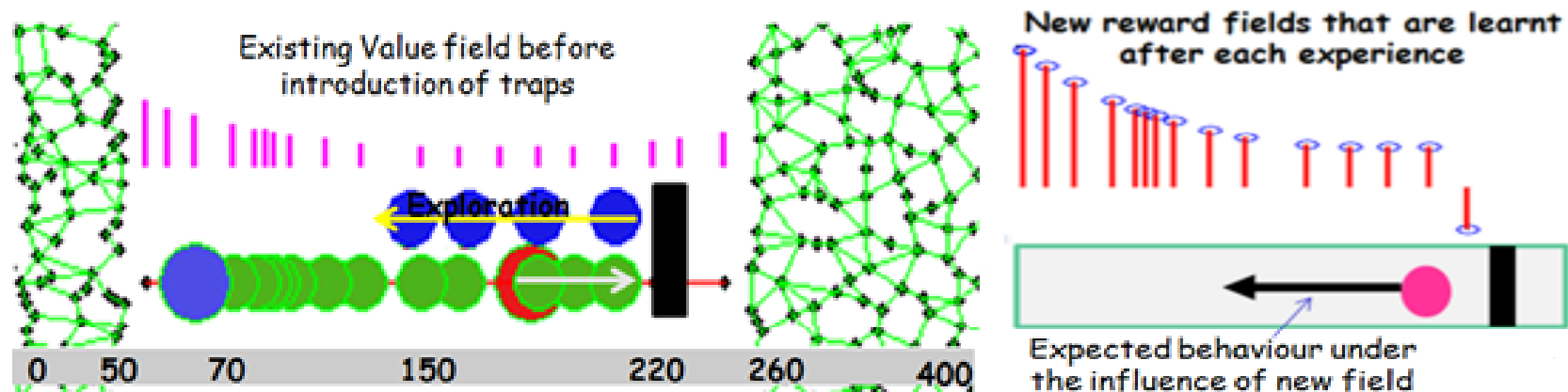


$$\beta_{if} \longrightarrow 0$$

$$\zeta \rightarrow 1$$

In every trial the robot has
 an experience of contradiction because of the trap,
 an experience of exploration which characterizes its attempt to nullify the
 effect of the trap so as to realize the goal
 an experience of being rewarded by the user in case of success

Rewards are distributed using the simple 3 point heuristics

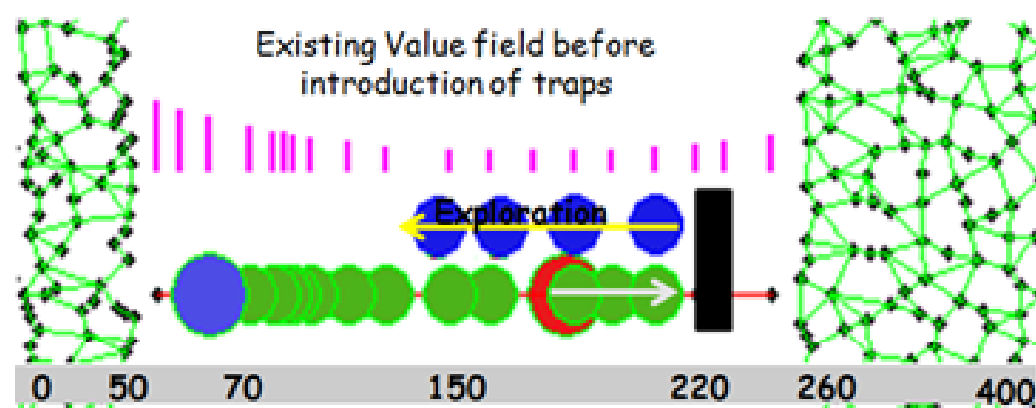


In every trial the robot has

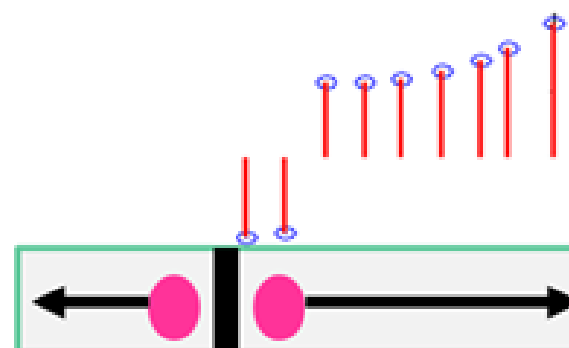
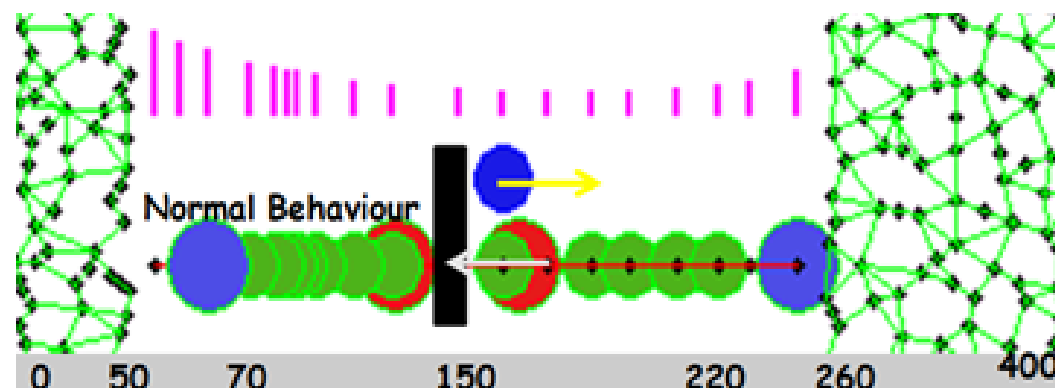
- an experience of contradiction because of the trap,
- an experience of exploration which characterizes its attempt to nullify the effect of the trap so as to realize the goal
- an experience of being rewarded by the user in case of success

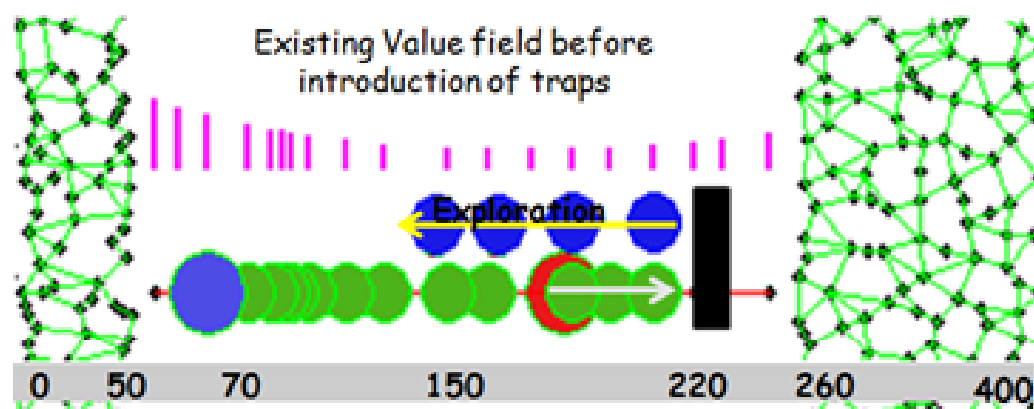
Rewards are distributed using the simple 3 point heuristics

Each experience is represented in the form of a reward field in the pushing sensorimotor space.

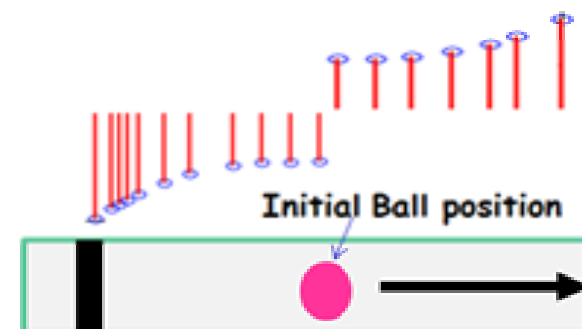
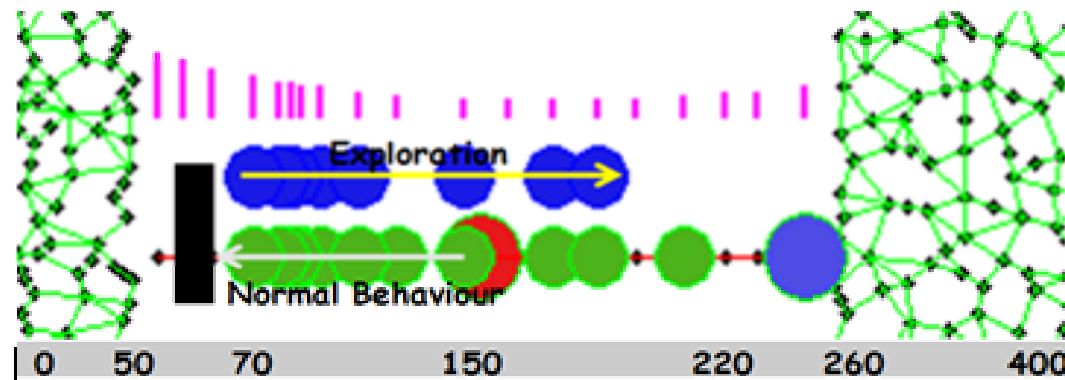
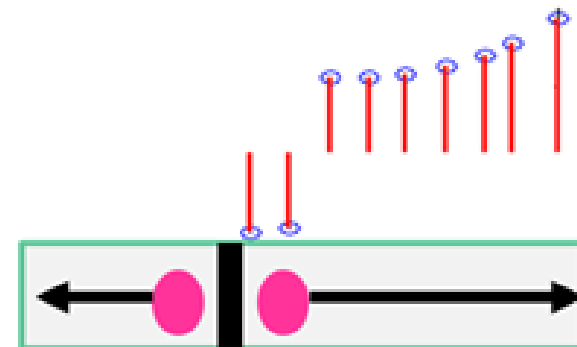
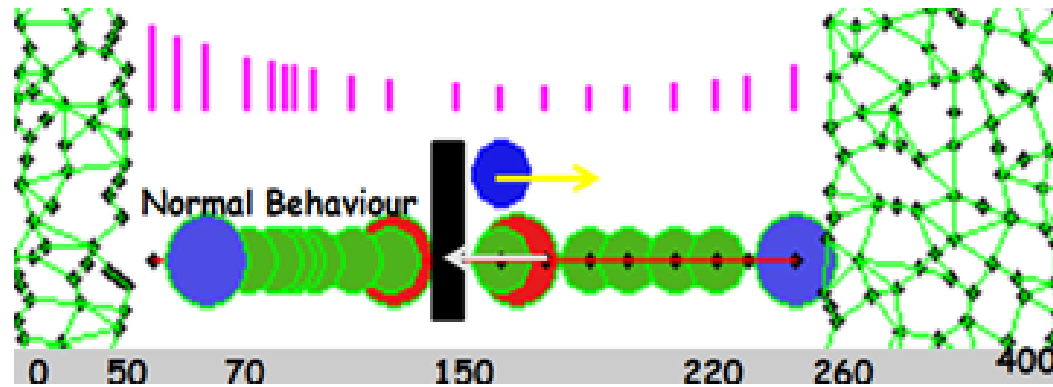
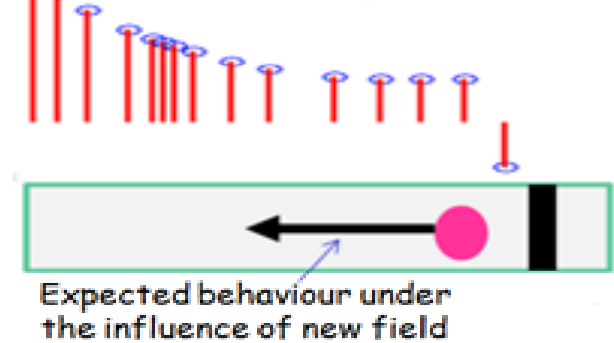


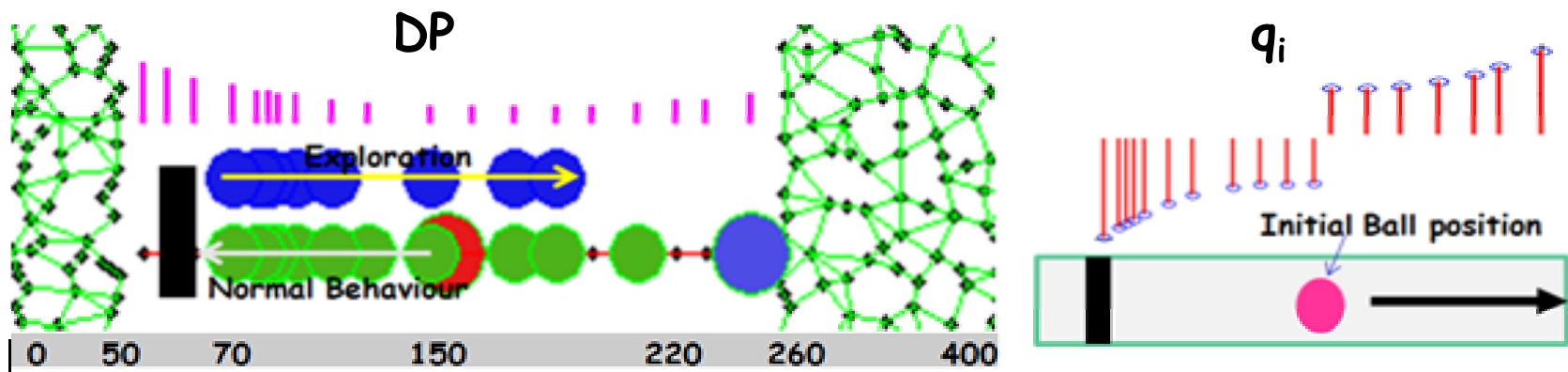
New reward fields that are learnt after each experience



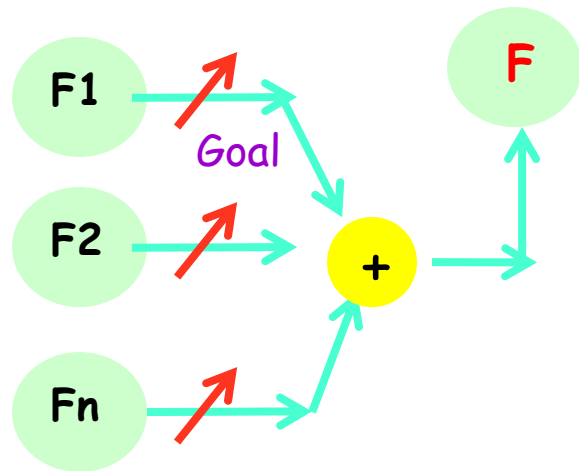


New reward fields that are learnt after each experience





Generalizing the learnt new fields



$$\tau_v \dot{v}_i = -v_i + R_i + \gamma (W_{ij} v_j)_{\max}$$

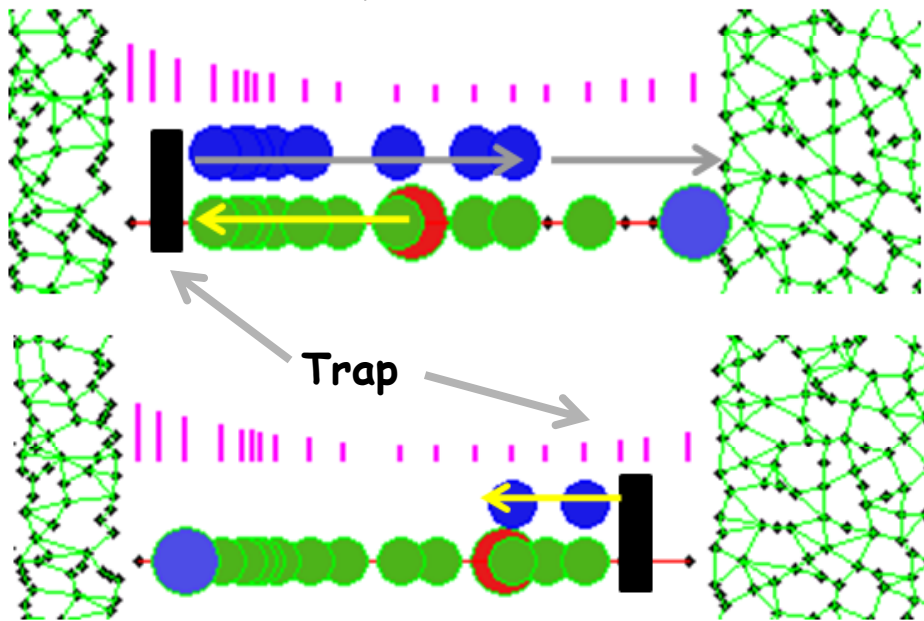
$$R_i = DP + Q$$

$$Q = q_1 + q_2 + \dots + q_n$$

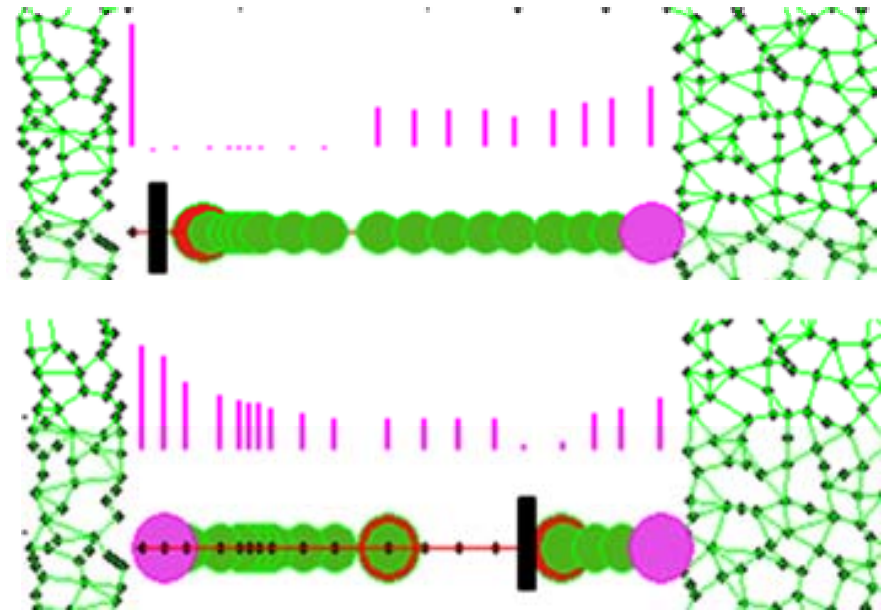
$$q_i = \varphi_n \cdot U_i \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_G}} e^{\frac{-(G-G_i)^2}{2\sigma_G^2}}$$

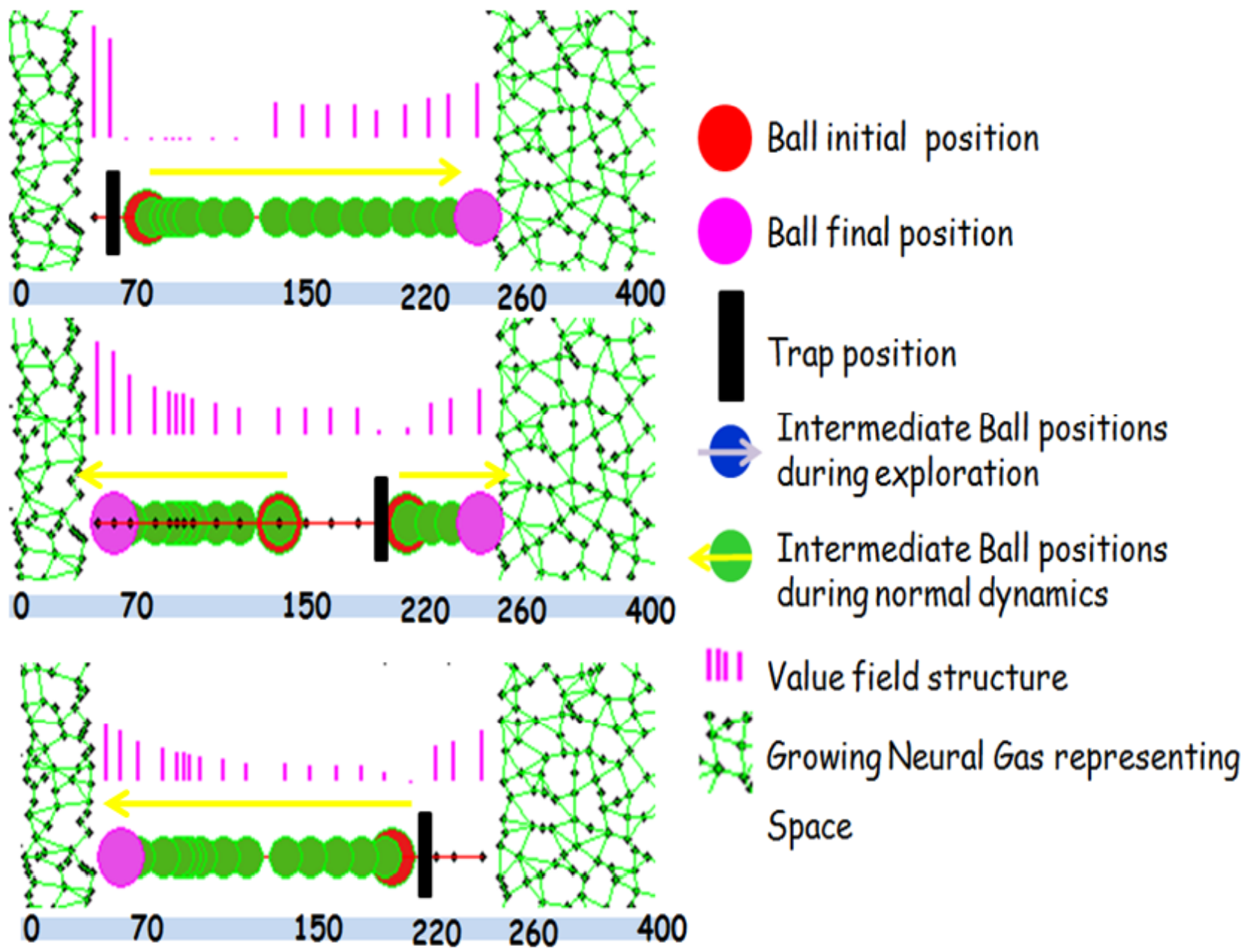
$$R = R_{default} + \sum_{T=1}^N \sum_{E=1}^m R_E \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_T}} e^{\frac{-(Trap_T - Trap_E)^2}{2\sigma_T^2}}$$

Experience

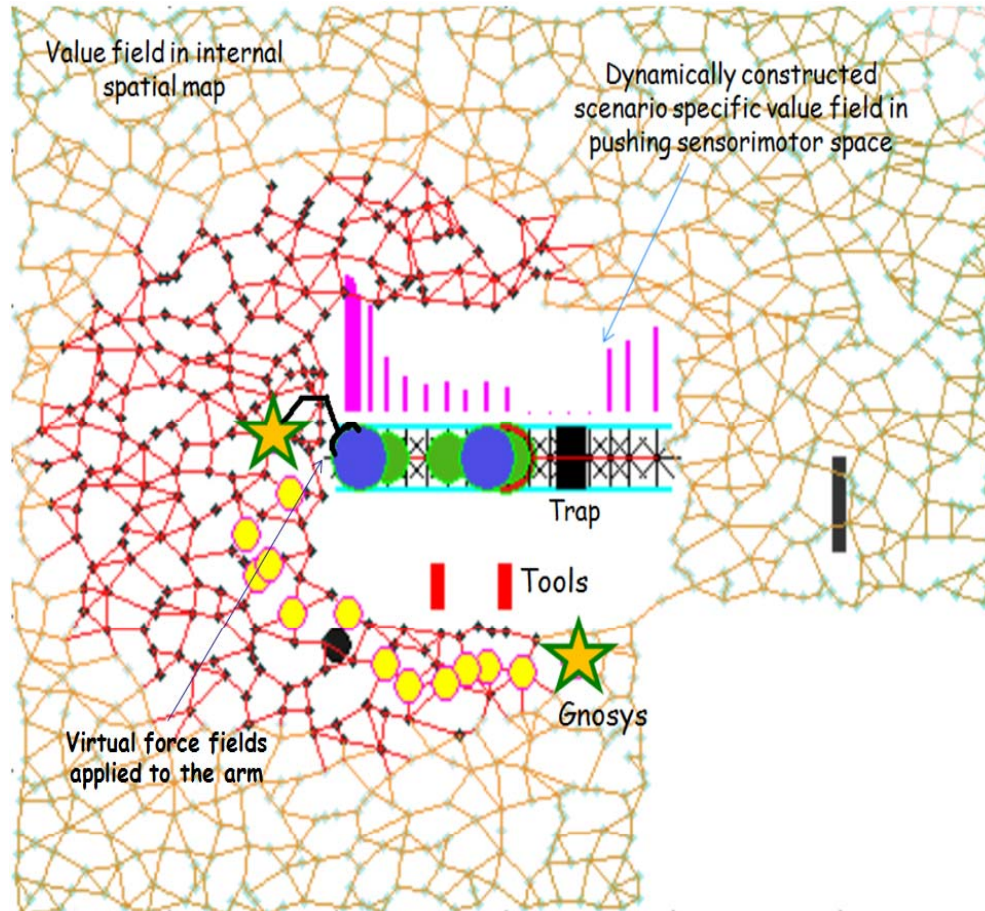


Trap Dependent field change





A virtual sequence of 'Push-Move-Reach'



> Pushing Internal Model

A virtual trajectory of the goal object

> Internal Spatial Map

A virtual trajectory of the body

> Arm F/I model (PMP)

(Which now receives two crucial pieces of information to trigger PMP X_T and X_{ini})

A virtual trajectory of the end effector

“... since there is a trap there, it is advantageous to push in that direction; if I push in that direction, the ball may eventually go to that side of the table; in case I move my body closer to that edge, I may be in a position to grasp the ball and get some rewards ...”.

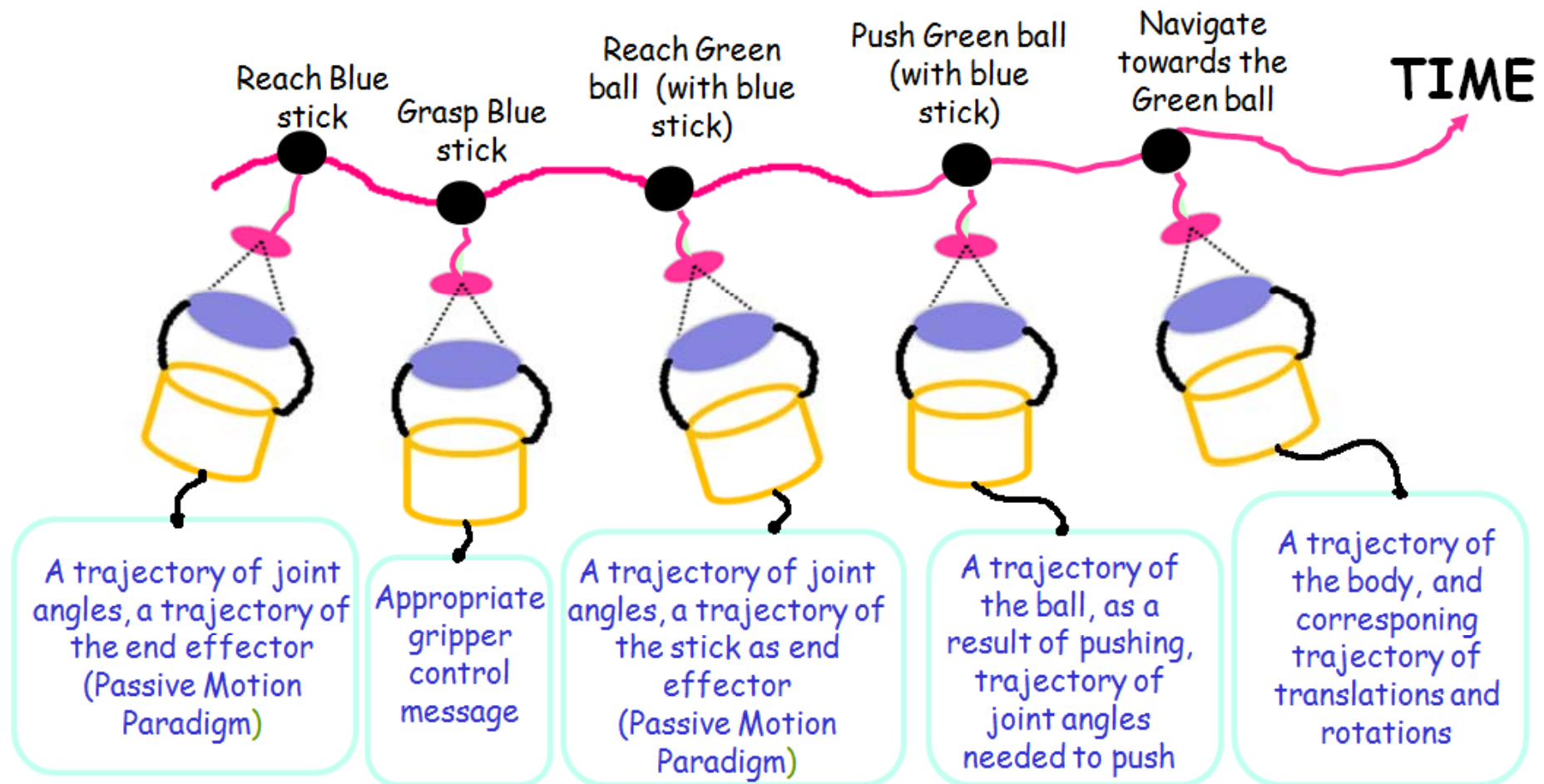
Abstract Reasoning: From 'Force-Flows' to 'Situation-Action'

Transform

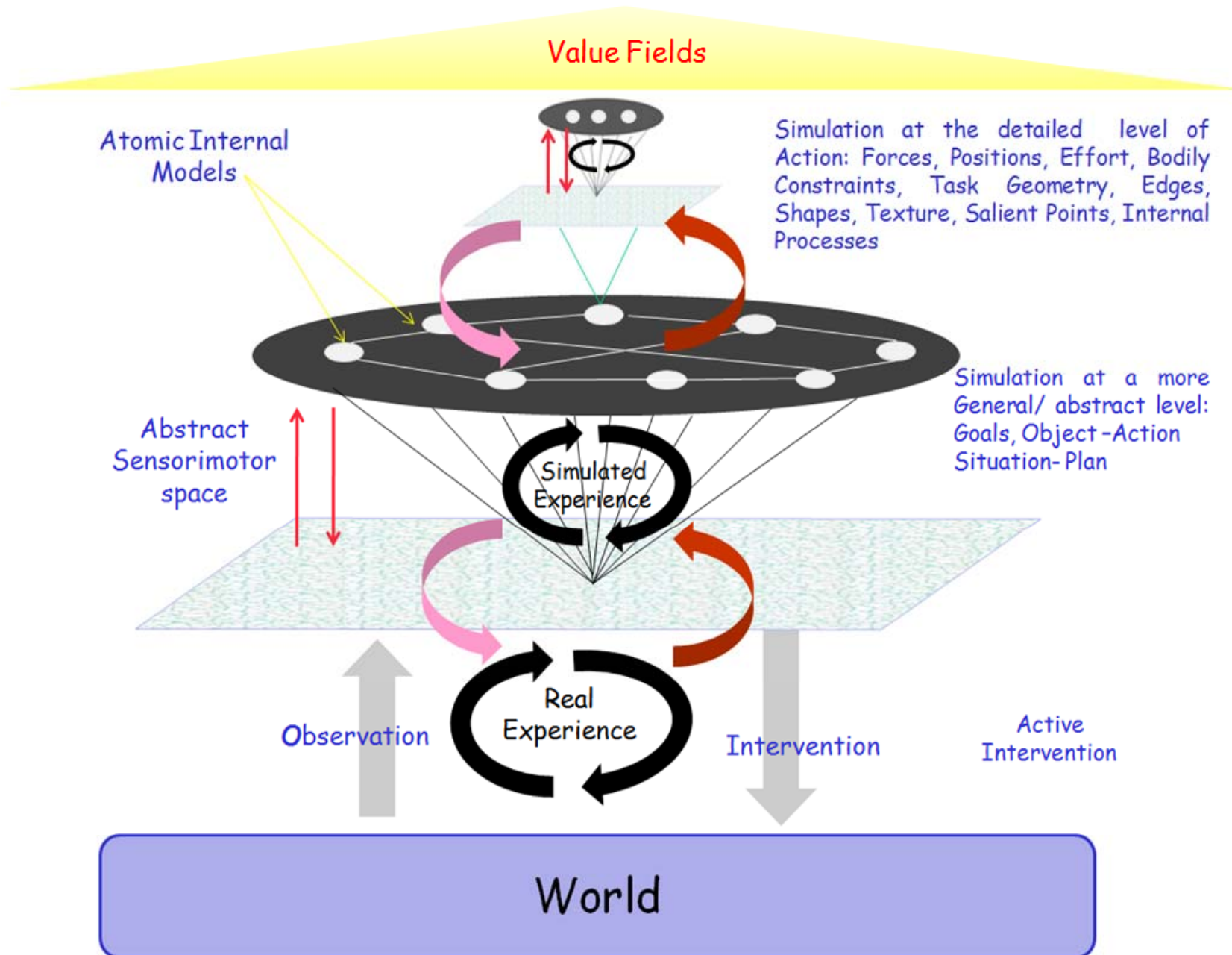
High level 'user goal'
+ World/Body state
+ Existing Knowledge



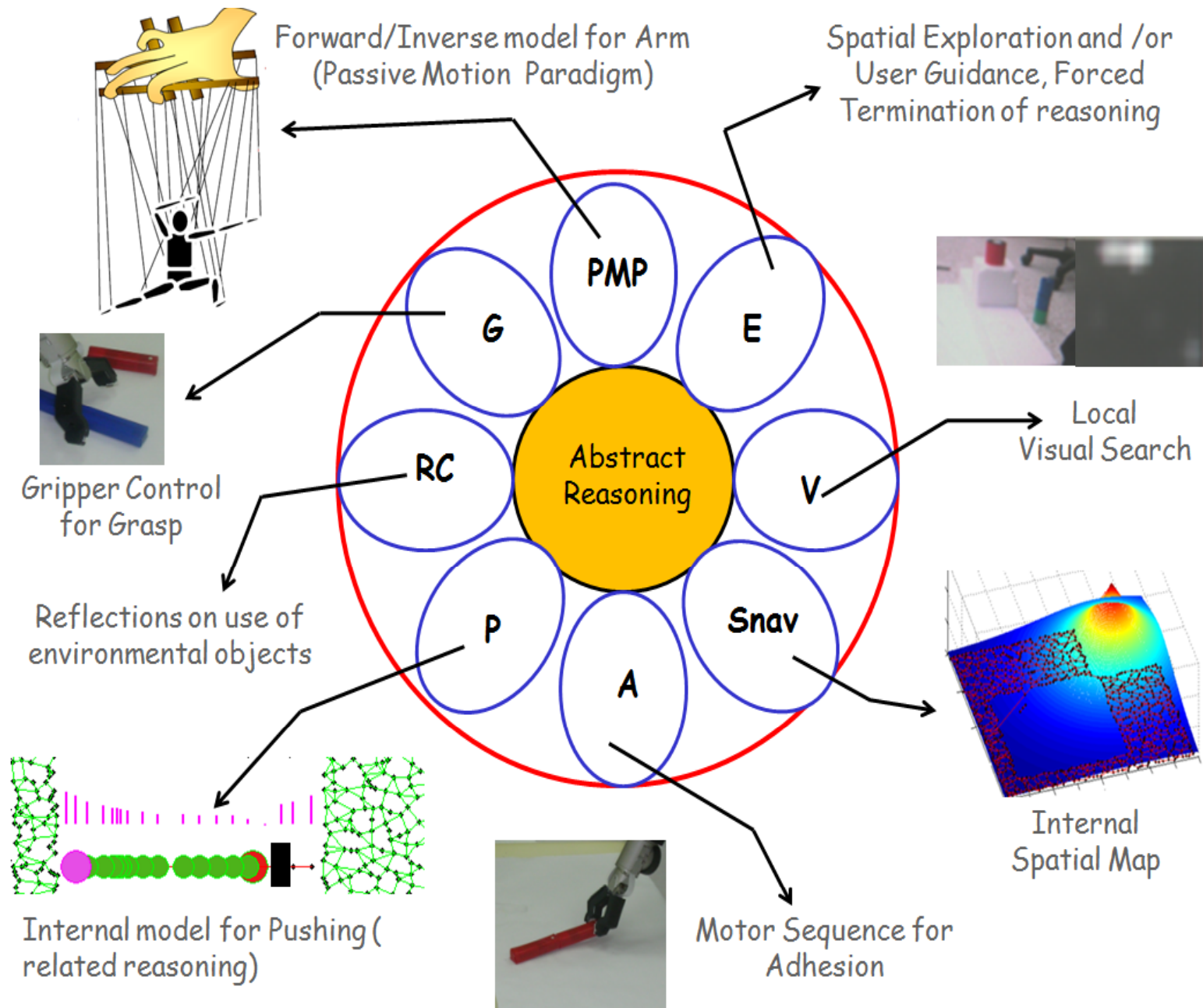
Concrete goals for the various
internal action models and
support processes in the system



From 'Force-Flows' to 'Situation-Action'



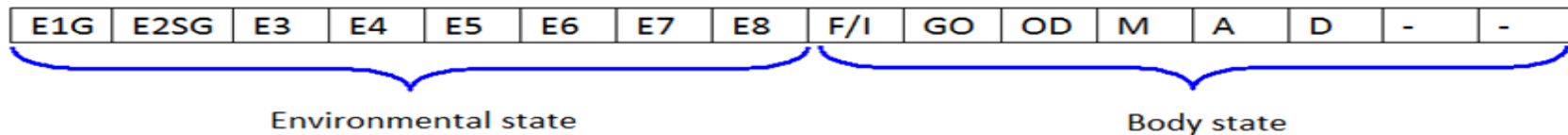
Action Primitives (functional and relatively well developed)



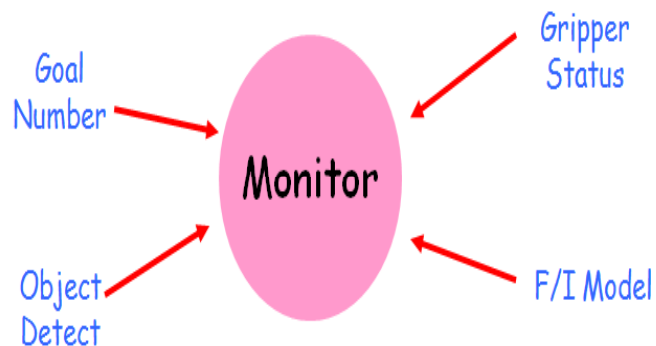
Dynamic memory structures for efficient information organization to manage a continuously changing world

1) Action Primitives (functional and relatively well developed)

2) Sensory Datagram

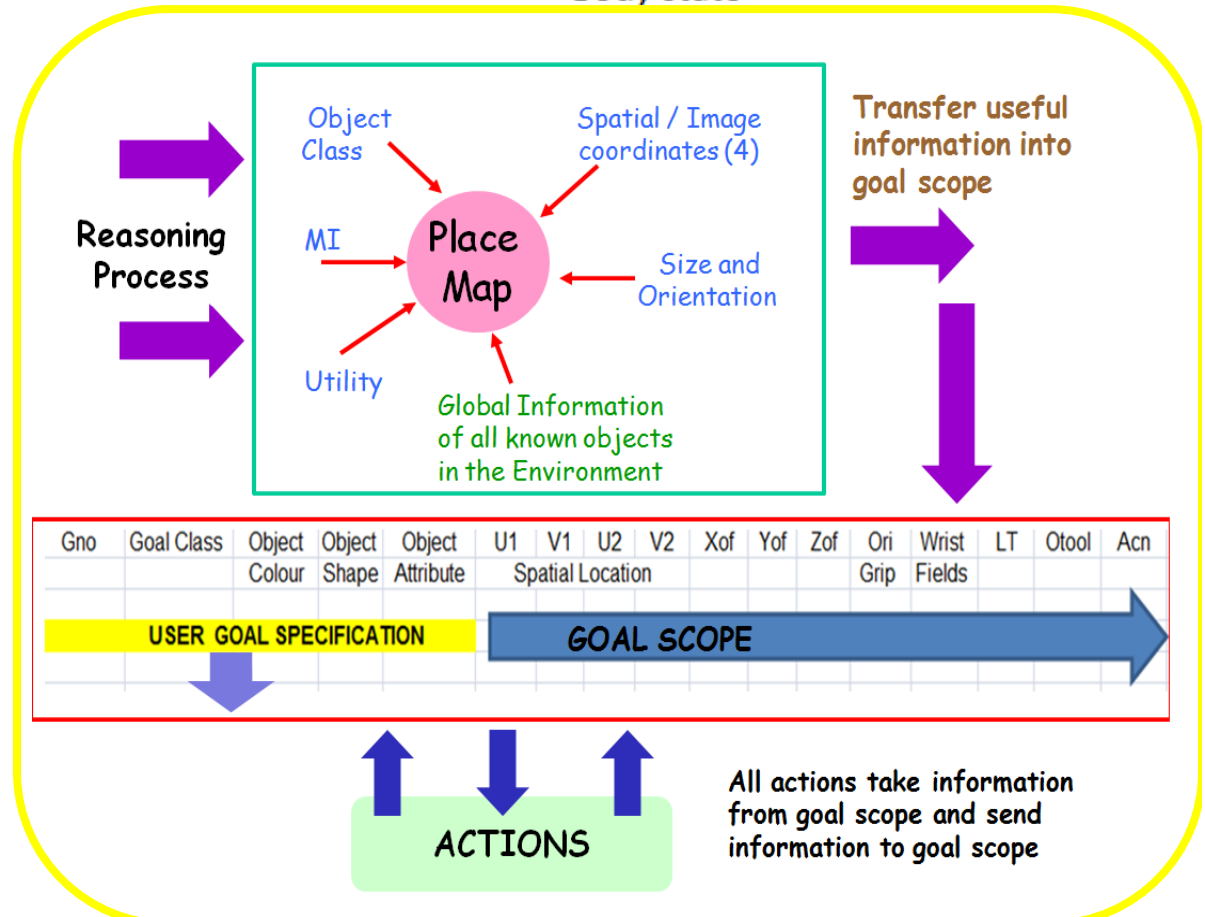


3) Monitor



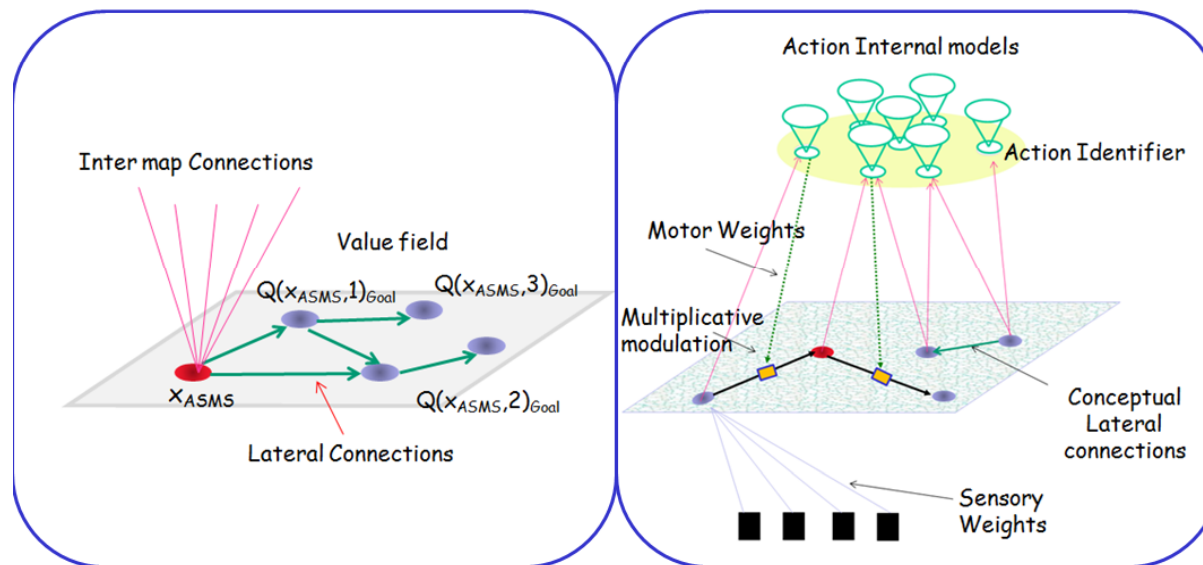
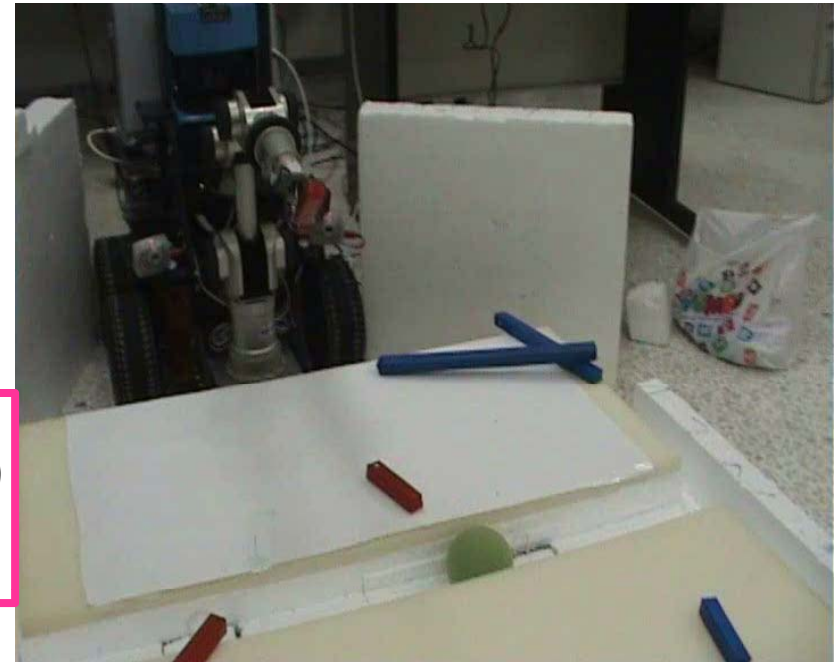
4) Place Map

5) Goal Space



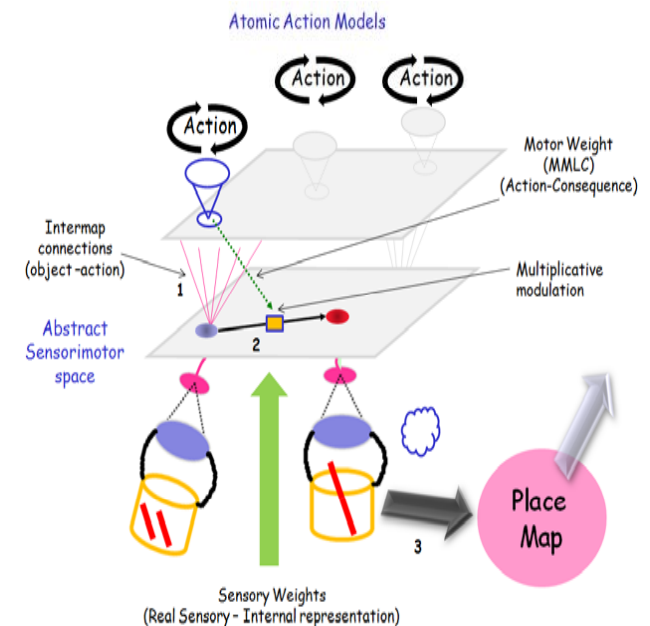
Connectivity Structures

- 1) Sensory weights
(Perceptive layer to Sensorimotor map)
- 2) Lateral weights
(Activity spread, Value computation)
- 3) Motor Modulated lateral connections
(Action -perception)
- 4) Intermap Connections
(Perception- action, Generally w/o linked value)
- 5) Conceptual Lateral connections
(Peception-Perception, w/o motor influence)
- 6) Growing reward matrices (Whats useful)

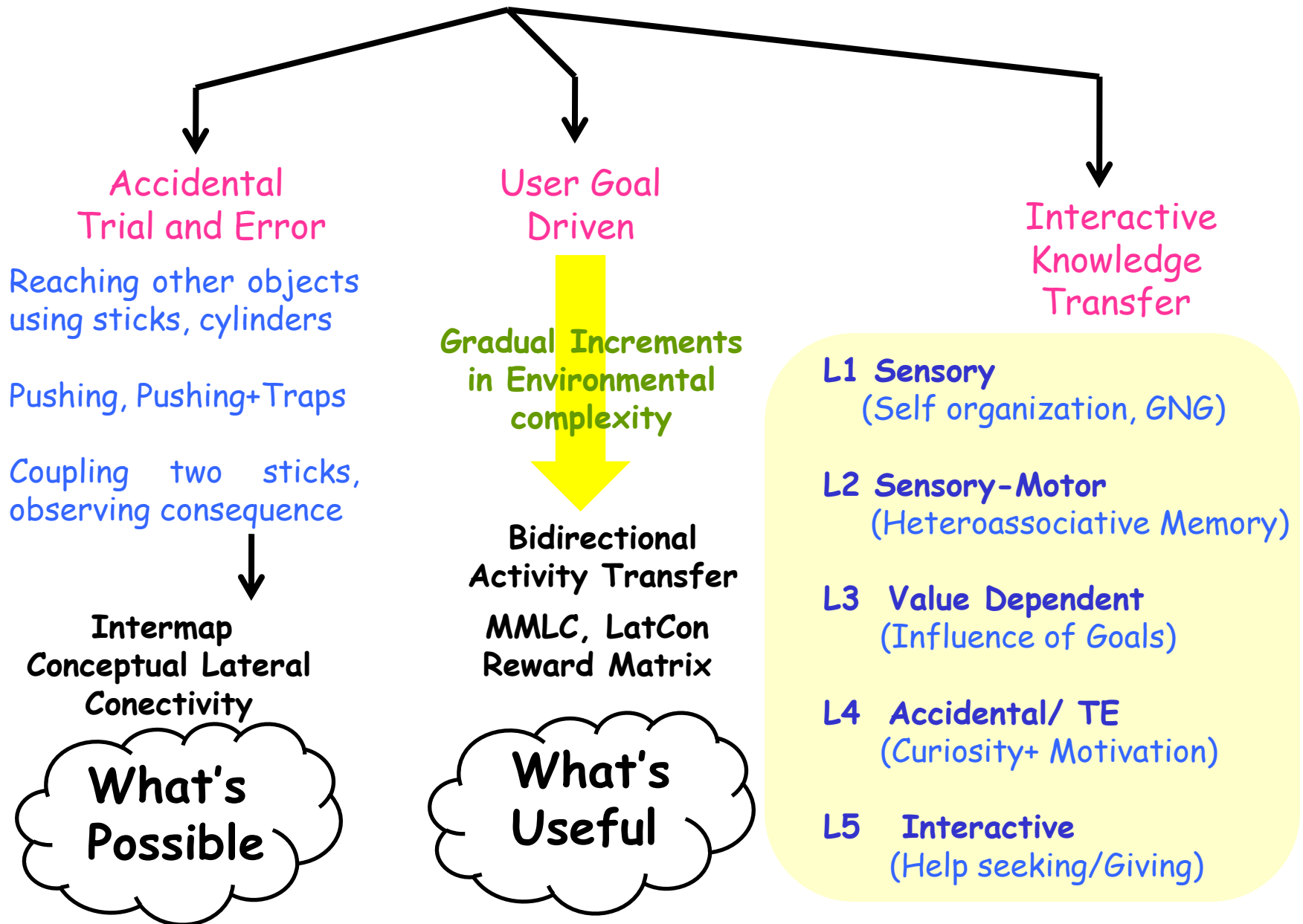


Situation-Goal-Value-Action loop in ASMS

Situation-Action-Consequence loop in ASMS



Continuously Learning System (Reasoning and Exploration are always loosely coupled, no separate phases of learning etc)



User Goal
No Knowledge

User Goal
Initialize with existing Knowledge

Goal from Motivation
system

Initialization of the Reasoning system ()

↓ Goal that has to be transformed into a strategy

Reasoning system

↓ X_{ASMS} Currently Active state in ASMS (Initial Condition)

Motor Dynamics to compute next incremental action (Situation-Goal-Action)
Heteroassociation, Value field computation, extraction of action identifier

Action

Action Unknown

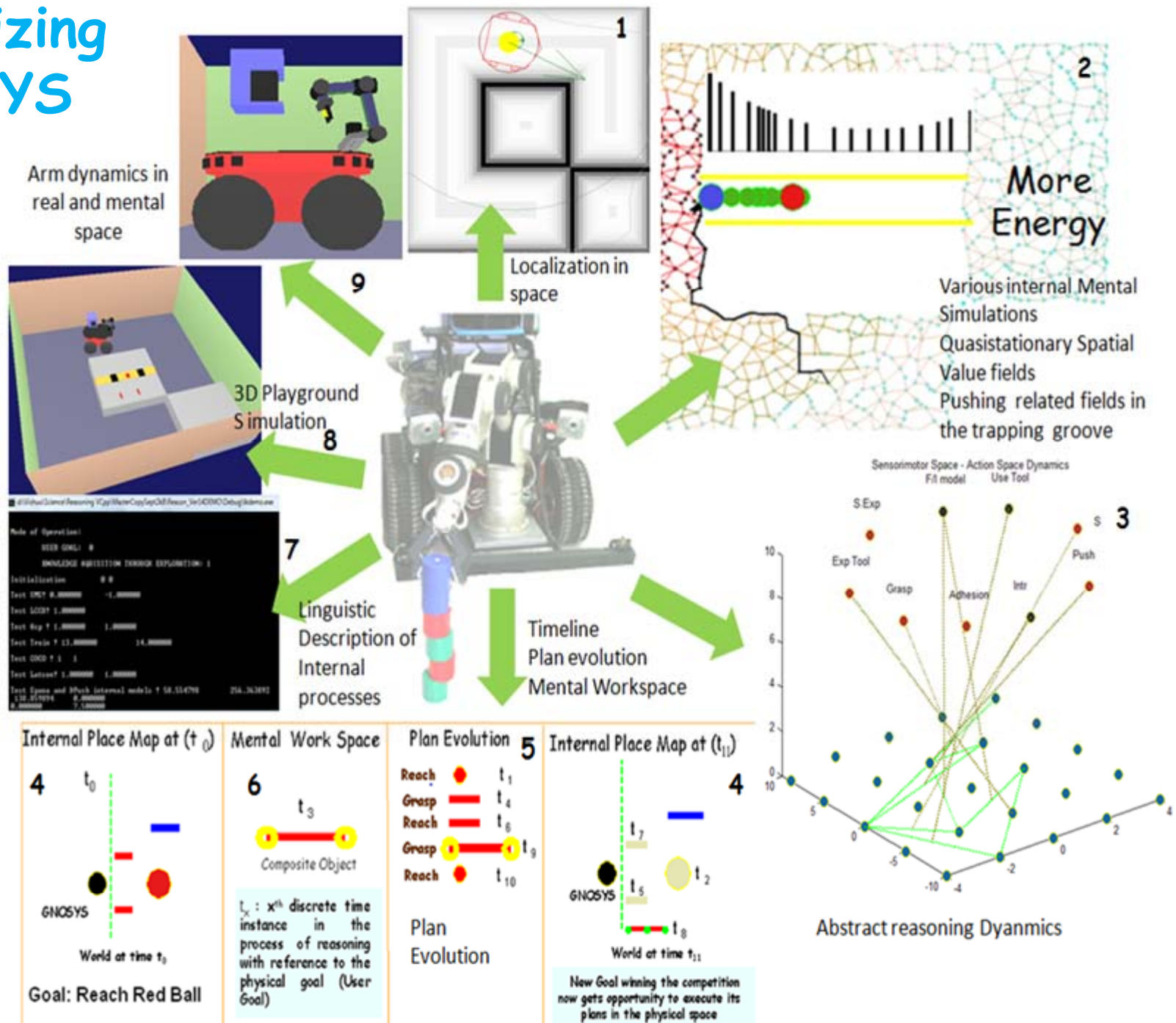
Random motor exploration (with user consent)
1. Random selection of any action whose
necessary arguments for execution are available
from the goal space

Execution of the requested action (on the concerned object in the world) using the appropriate Action model
(Place Map - Goal Space - Internal model loop) [Primitives, Executives, Real models]

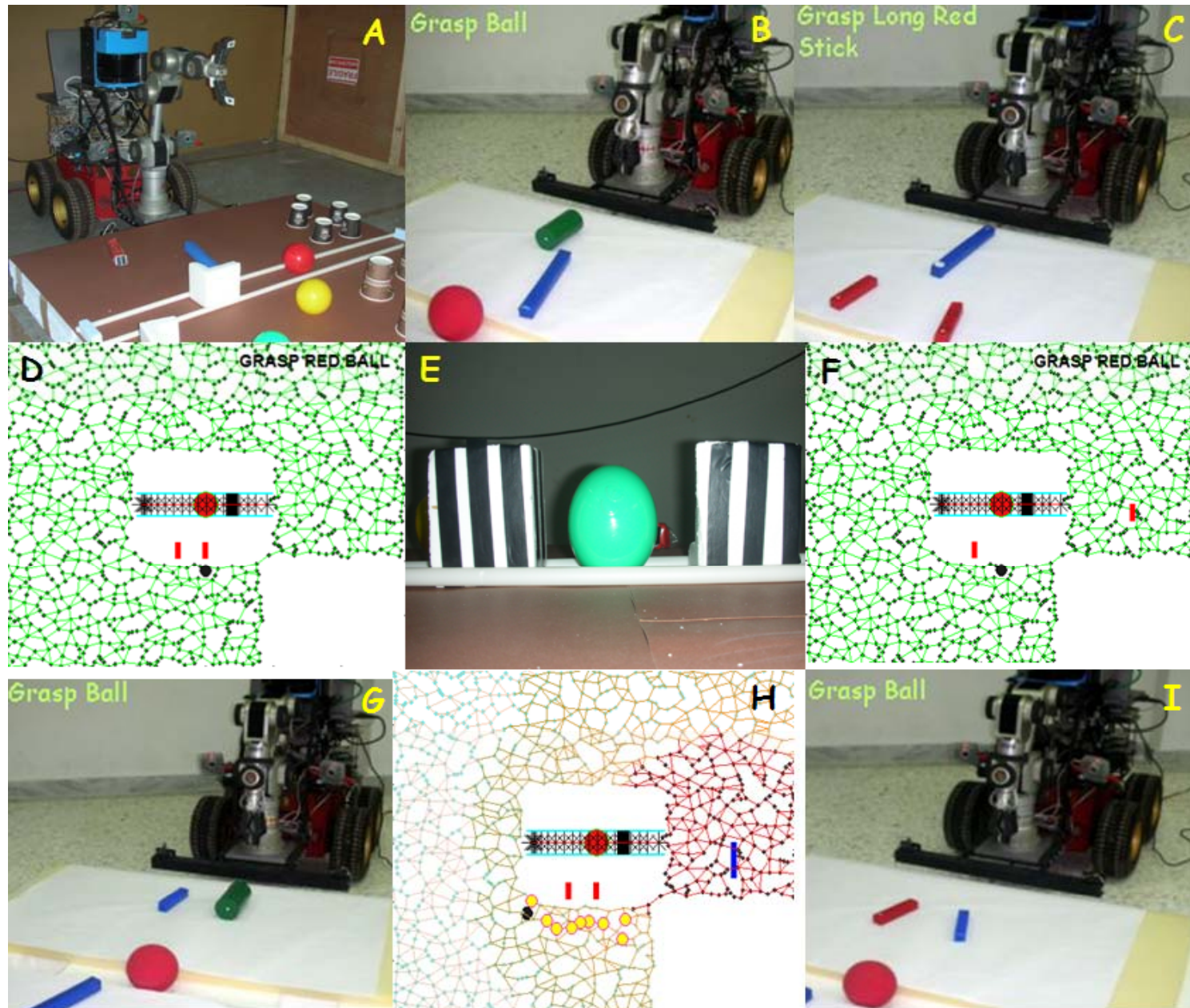
Sensorimotor space dynamics (Situation-Action-Consequence Loop)
Tracking (Arriving at an updated situation in ASMS)

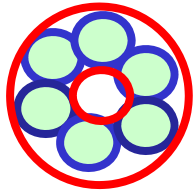
Monitor Process (Terminate Goal, Control Transfer, Update knowledge, return back to next
incremental action computation)

Visualizing GNOSYS

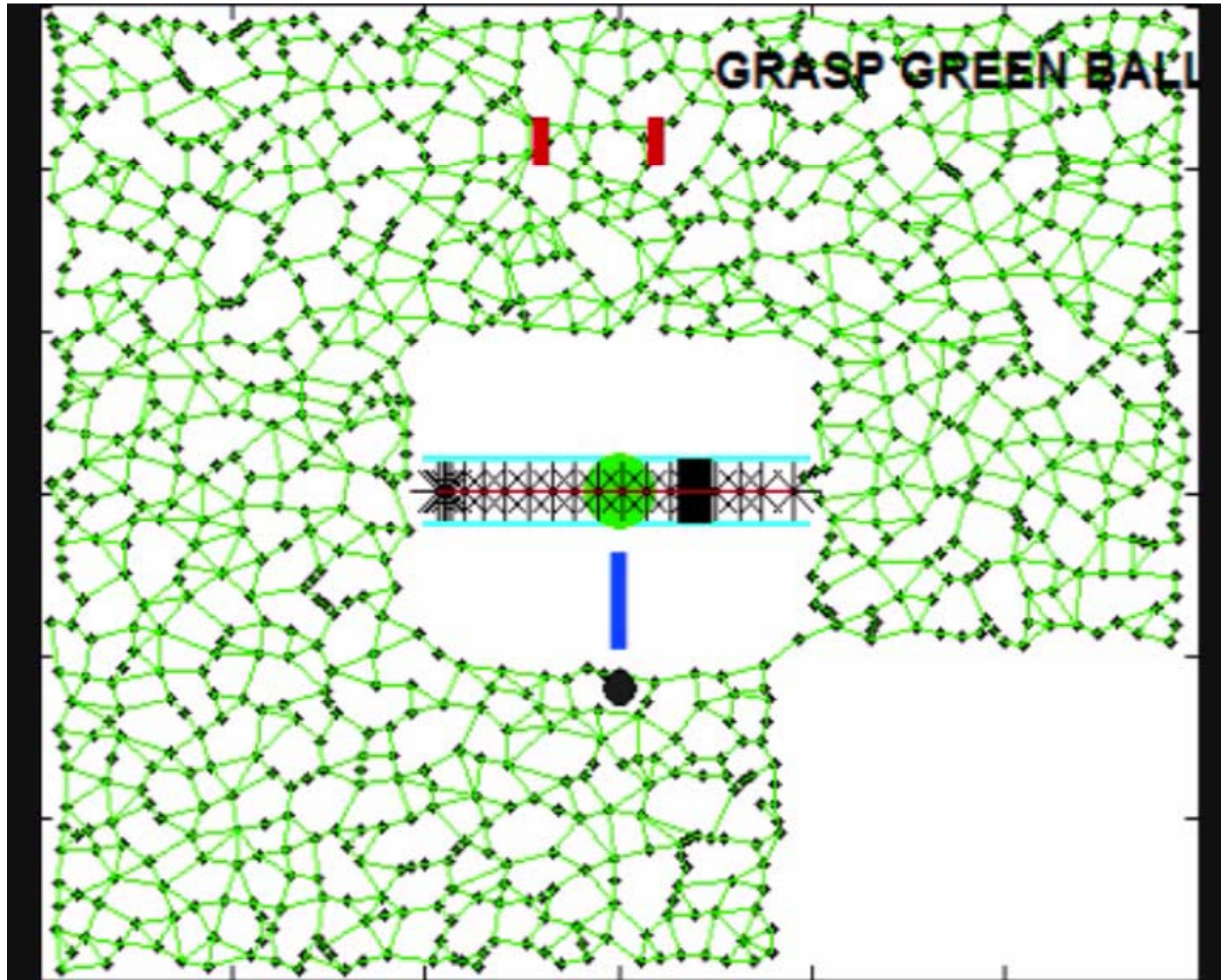


Some Test Scenarios

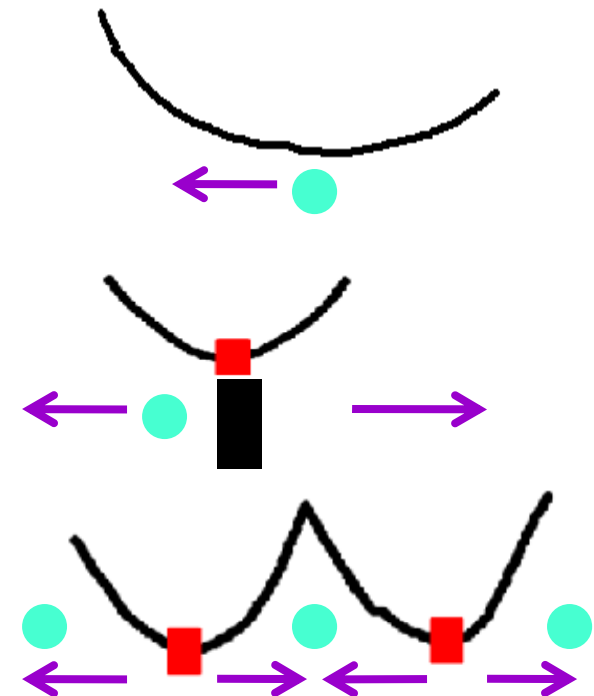
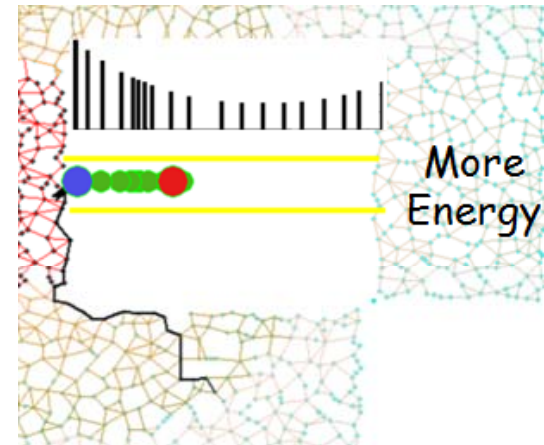
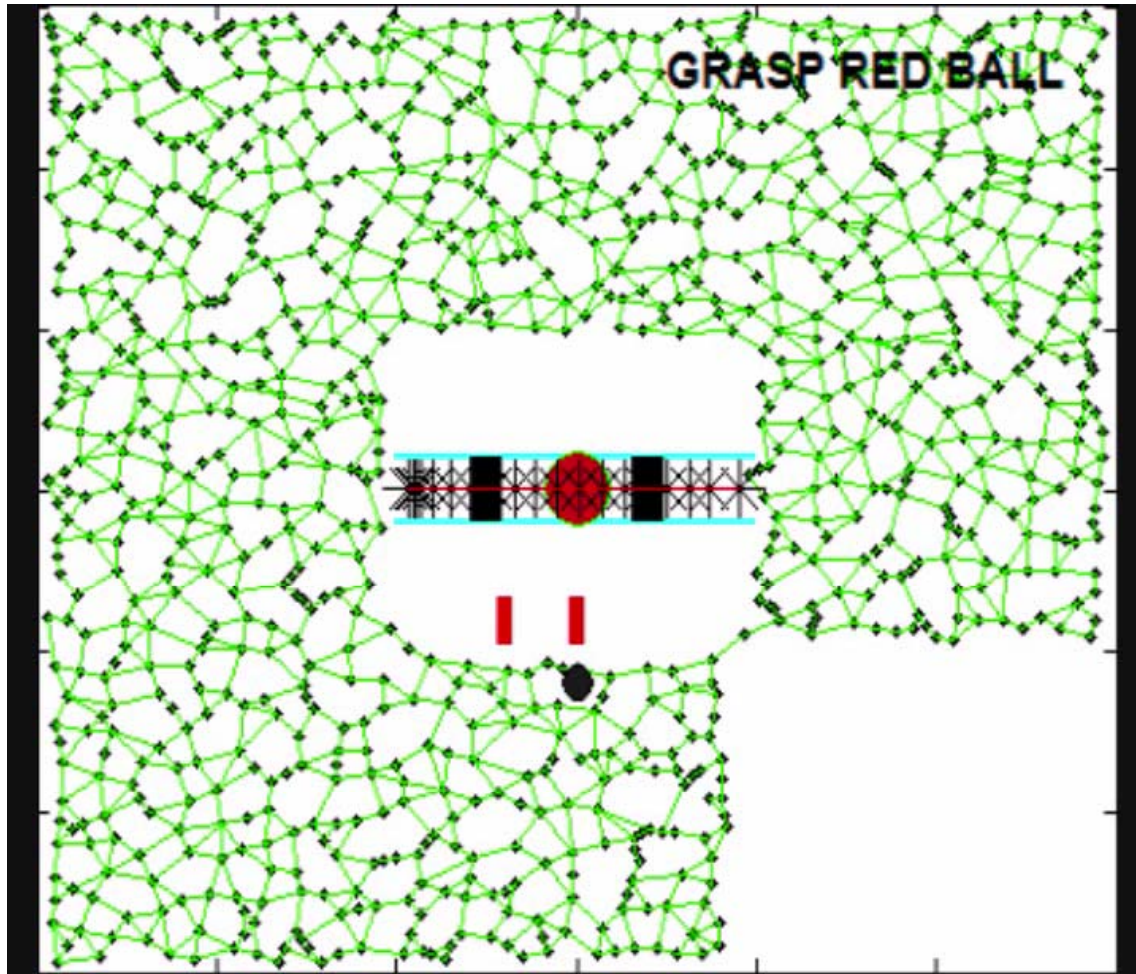




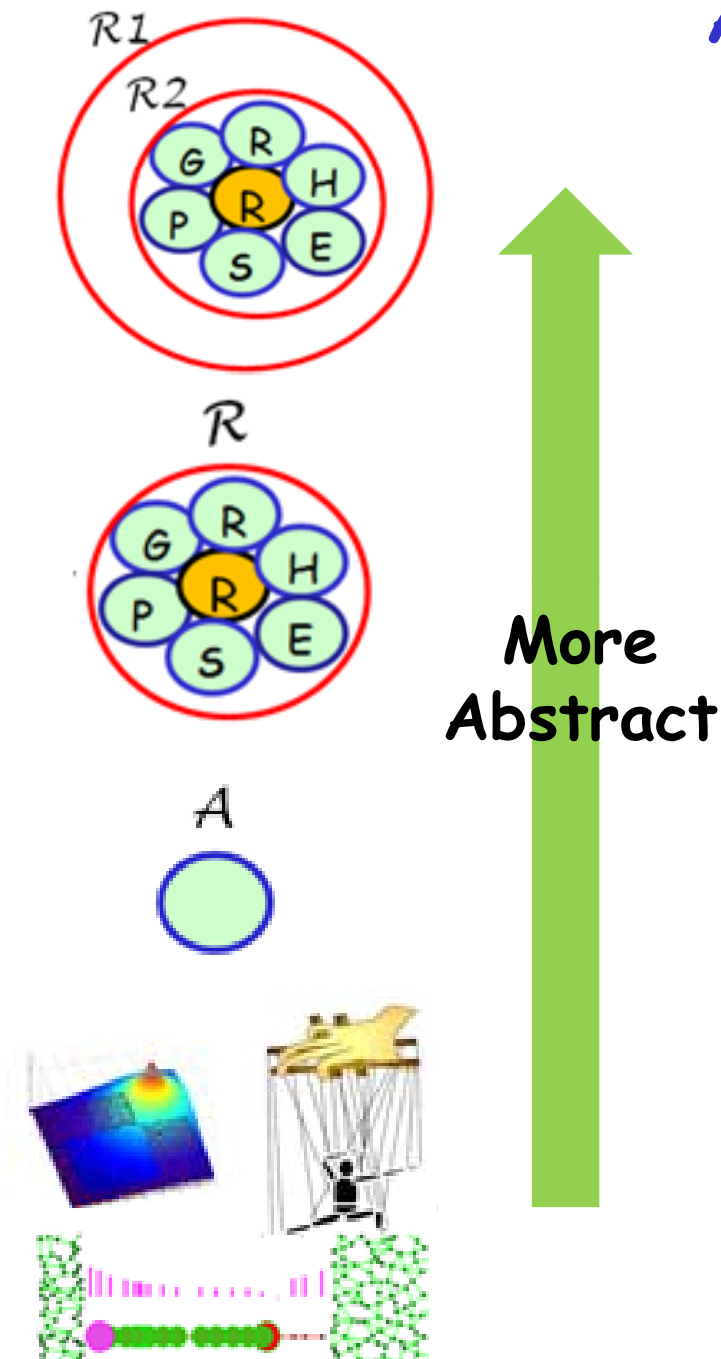
'Grasp Green Ball' --- GNOSYS Demo



'Quitting' and having a **REASON** to QUIT



Abstraction and Modularity



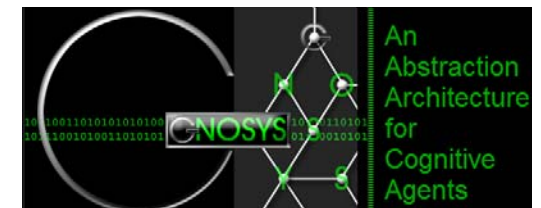
vtcs - Microsoft Visual Studio

File Edit View Project Build Debug Tools Wi

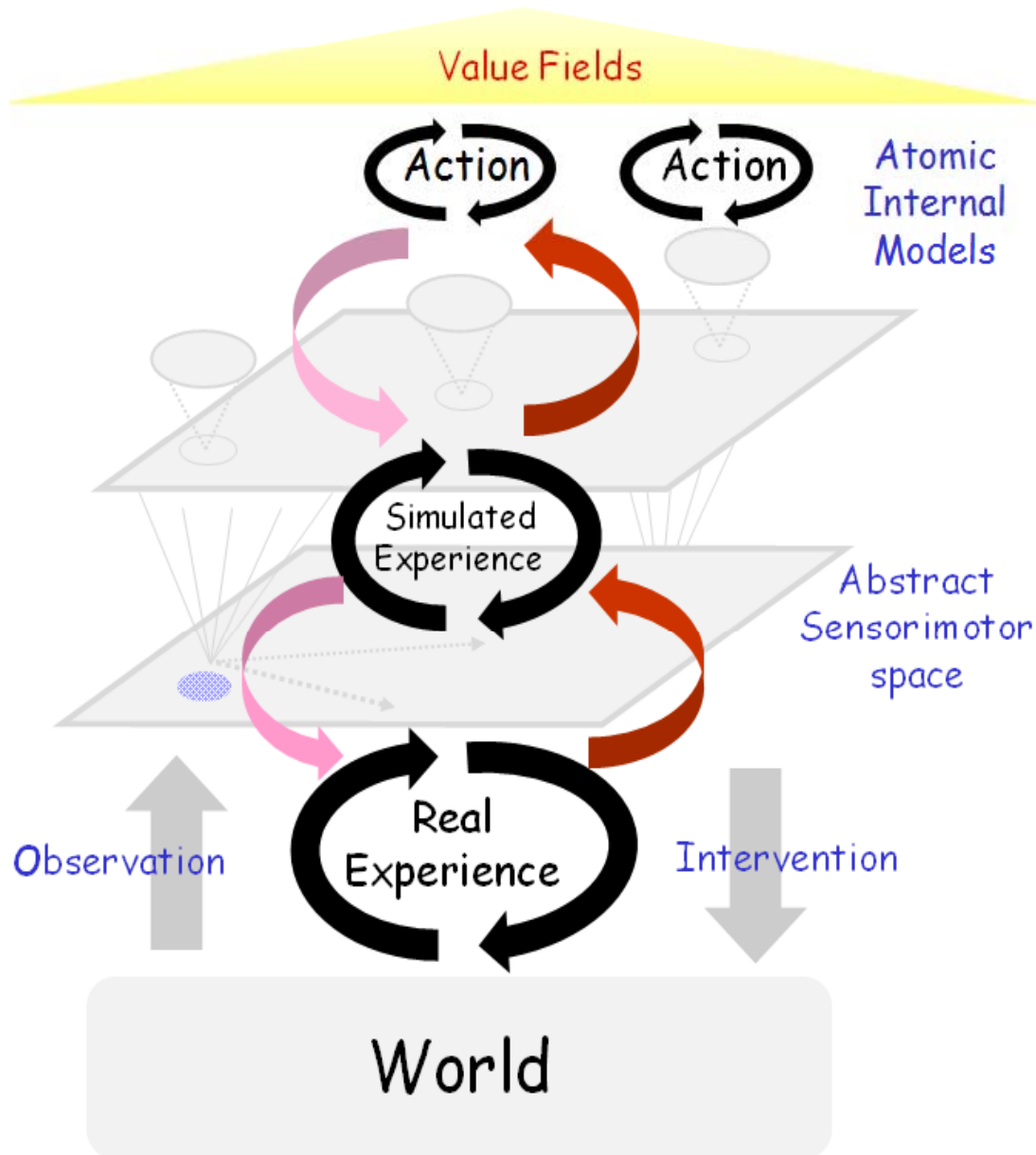
Error List Output AReasSys.h vtcs.cpp

(Global Scope)

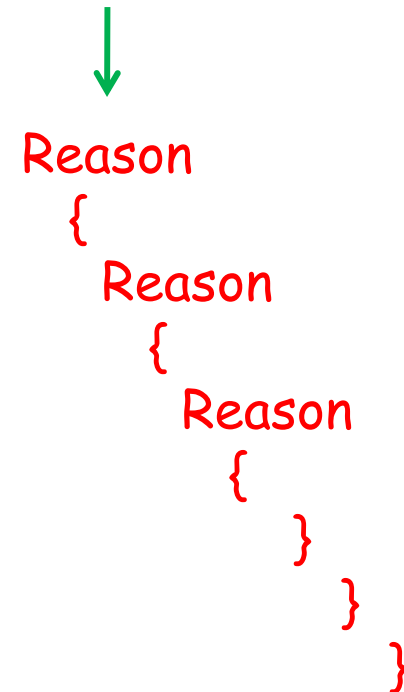
```
1 #include "reas\ReasSys.h"
2
3 // Test script to run IIT Reason
4 // Last Modification: 4 oct Vish
5
6 void main()
7 {
8     ReasSys R,S;
9     S.Run();
10    S=R;
11 }
12
13
14
```



Circularity and Recursivity



Root Goal

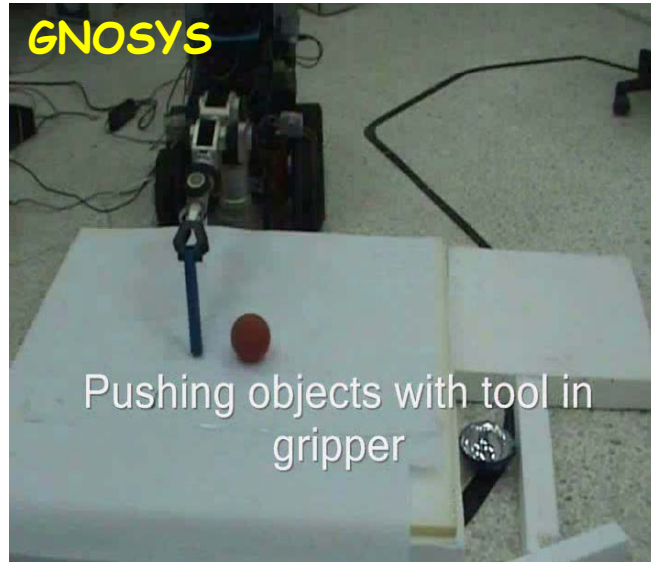


Portability and Scalability

SCORBOT



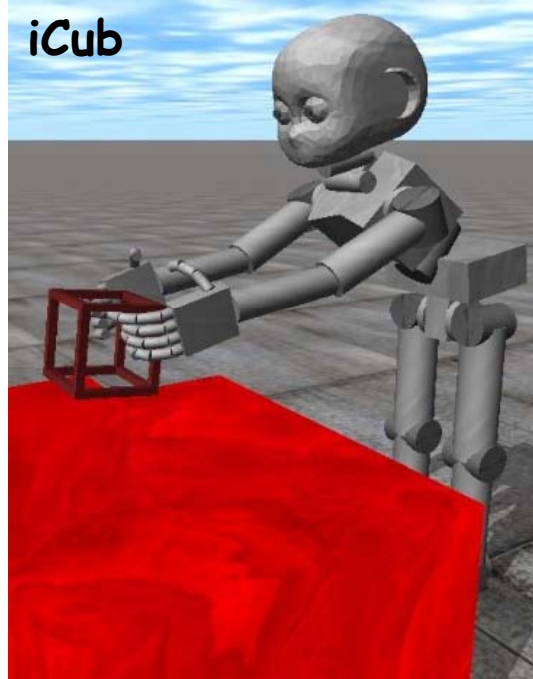
GNOSYS



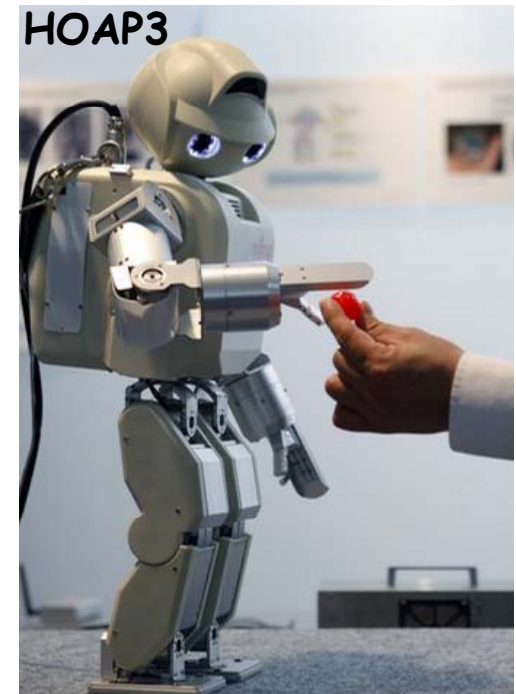
FESTOS



iCub



HOAP3

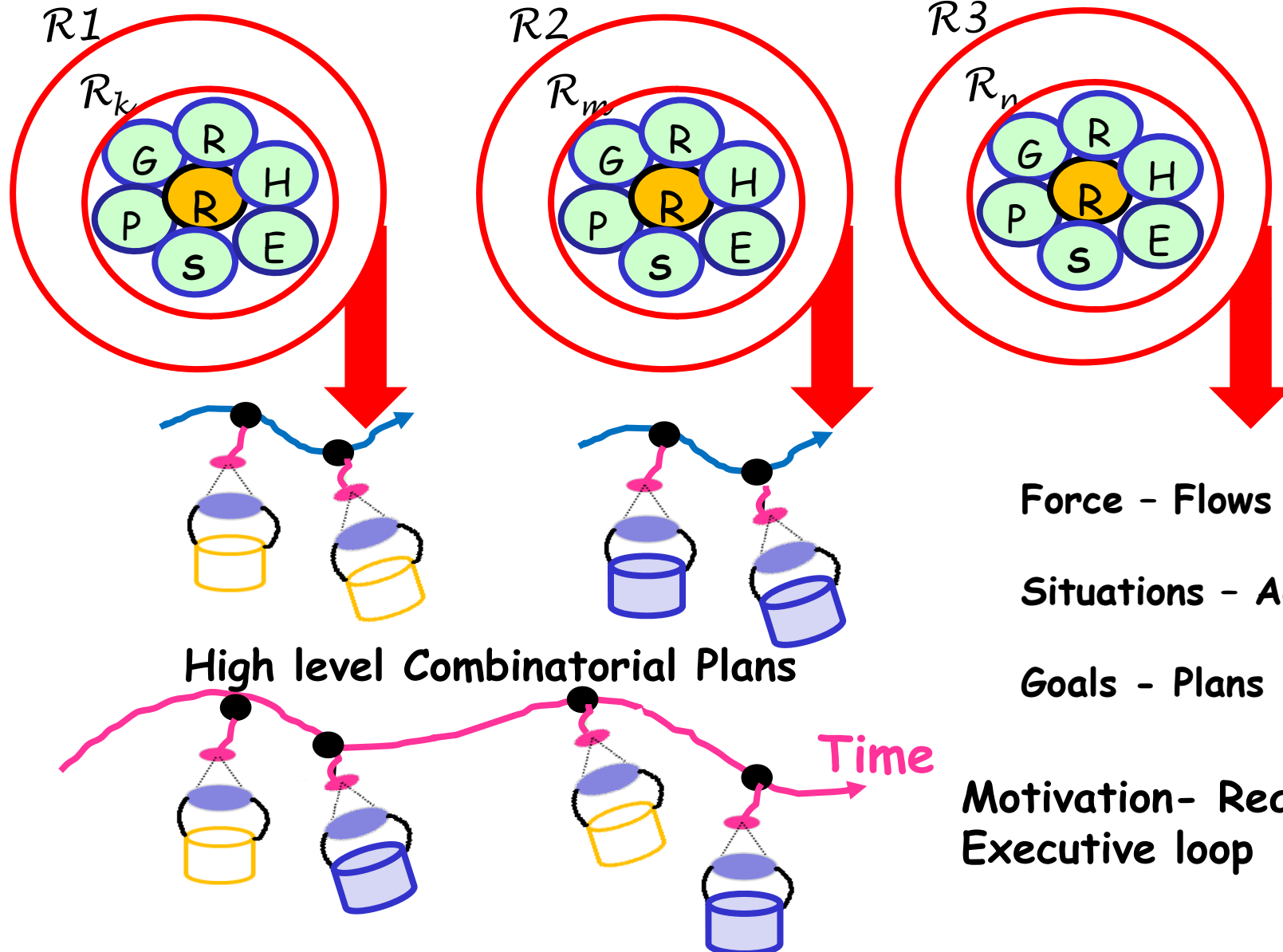


When Goals Compete for the Body....

Goal A

Goal B

Goal C



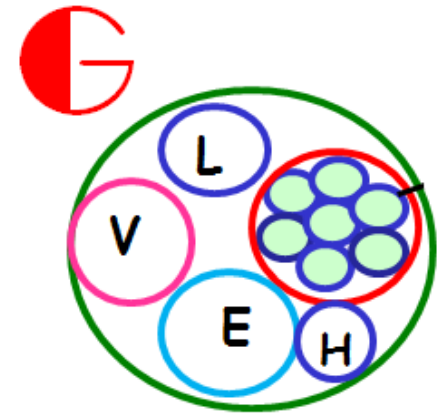
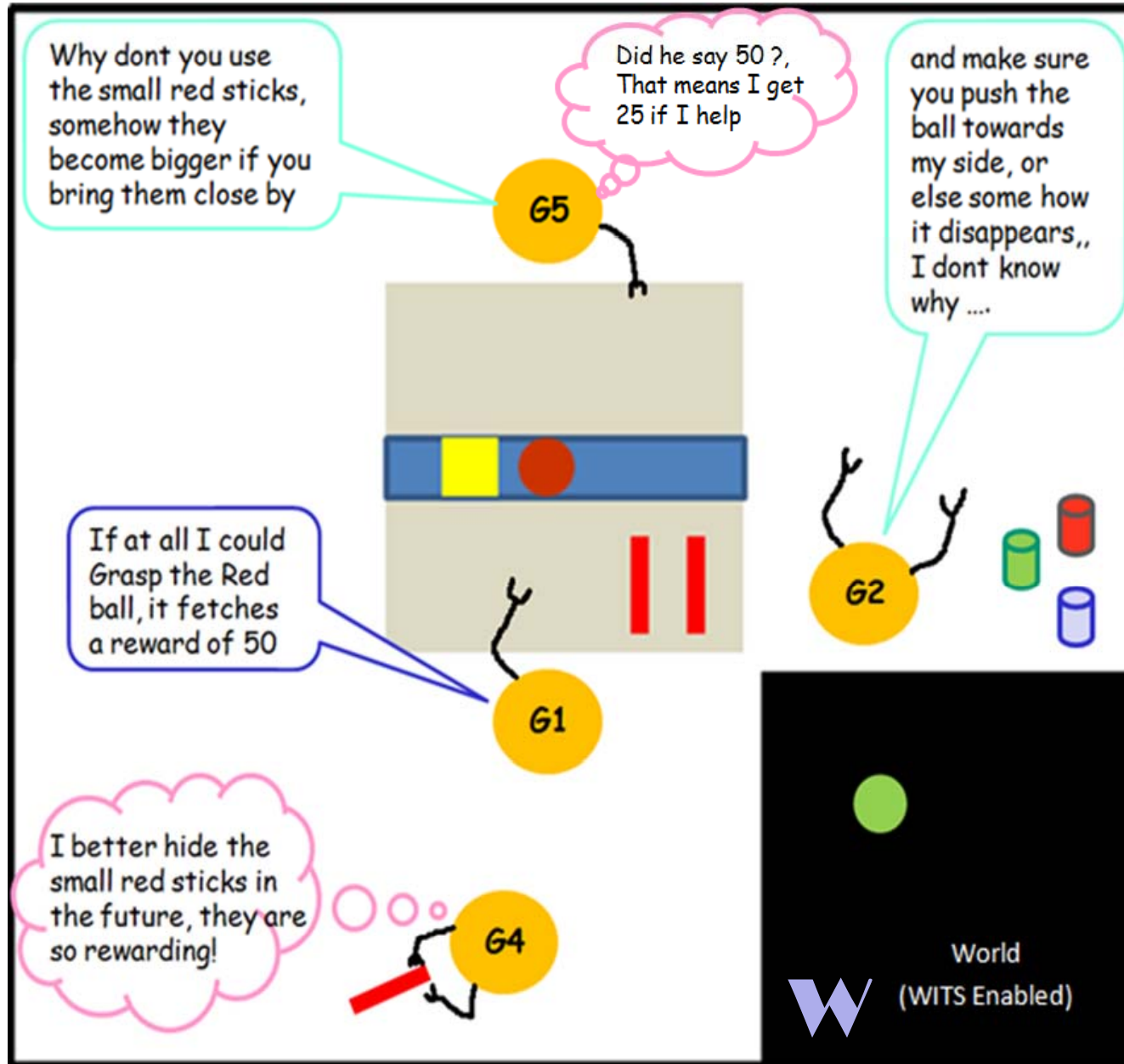
Force - Flows

Situations - Actions

Goals - Plans

Motivation- Reasoning-
Executive loop

When bodies Compete for the World....



$W \rightarrow G$
Agents Compete

$G \rightarrow R$
Goals Compete

$R \rightarrow A$
Actions Compete

$A \rightarrow F$
Fields Compete

GNOSYS : An Abstraction Architecture for Cognitive agents

www.ics.forth.gr/gnosys or neurolab webpage (DIST, Univ.Genoa) for Publications, Deliverables, Movies



John Taylor



Pietro Morasso



Giulio Sandini



Giorgio Metta



Stathis Kasderidis



Hans Peter Mallot



Panos Trahanias



Harris Baltzakis



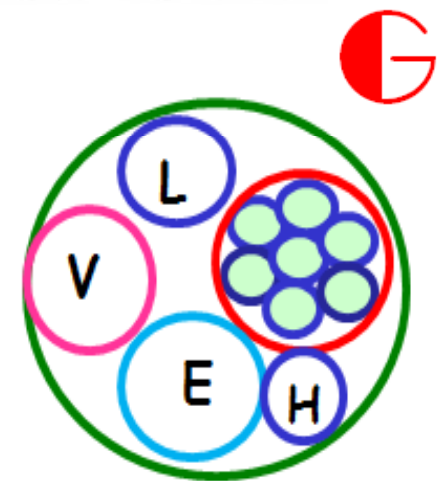
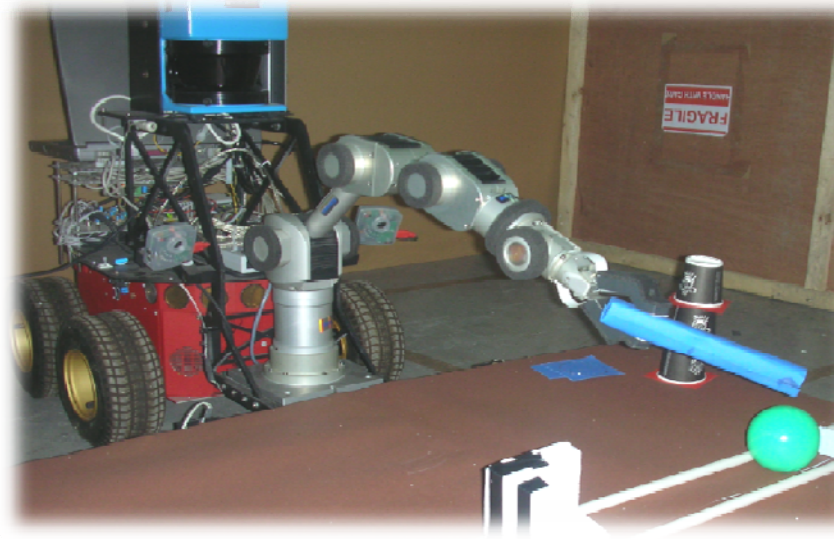
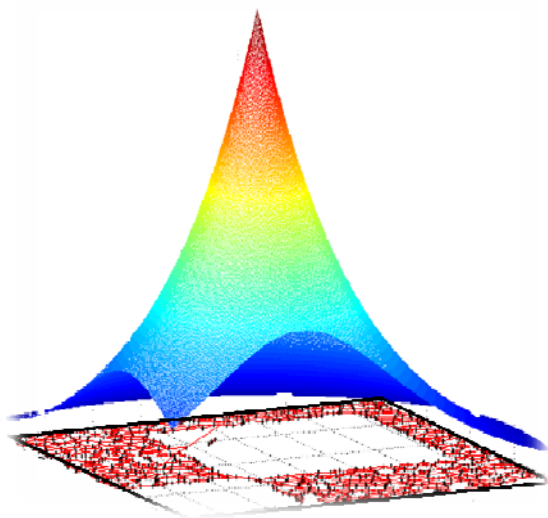
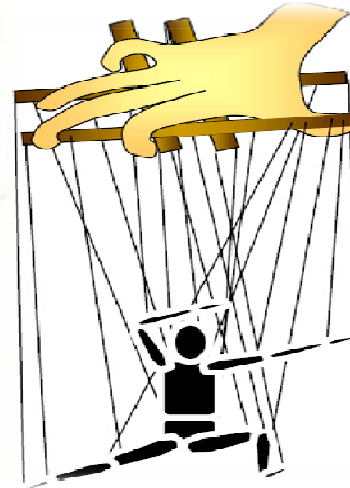
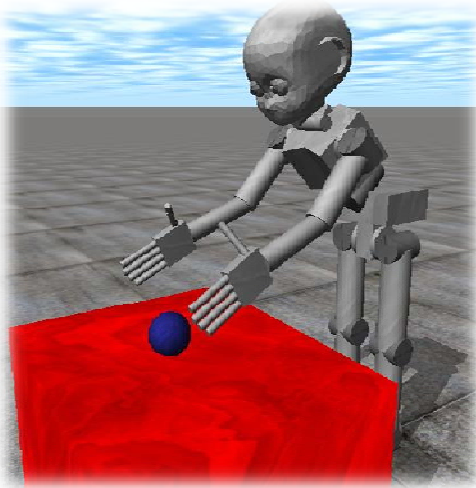
Christo Panchev



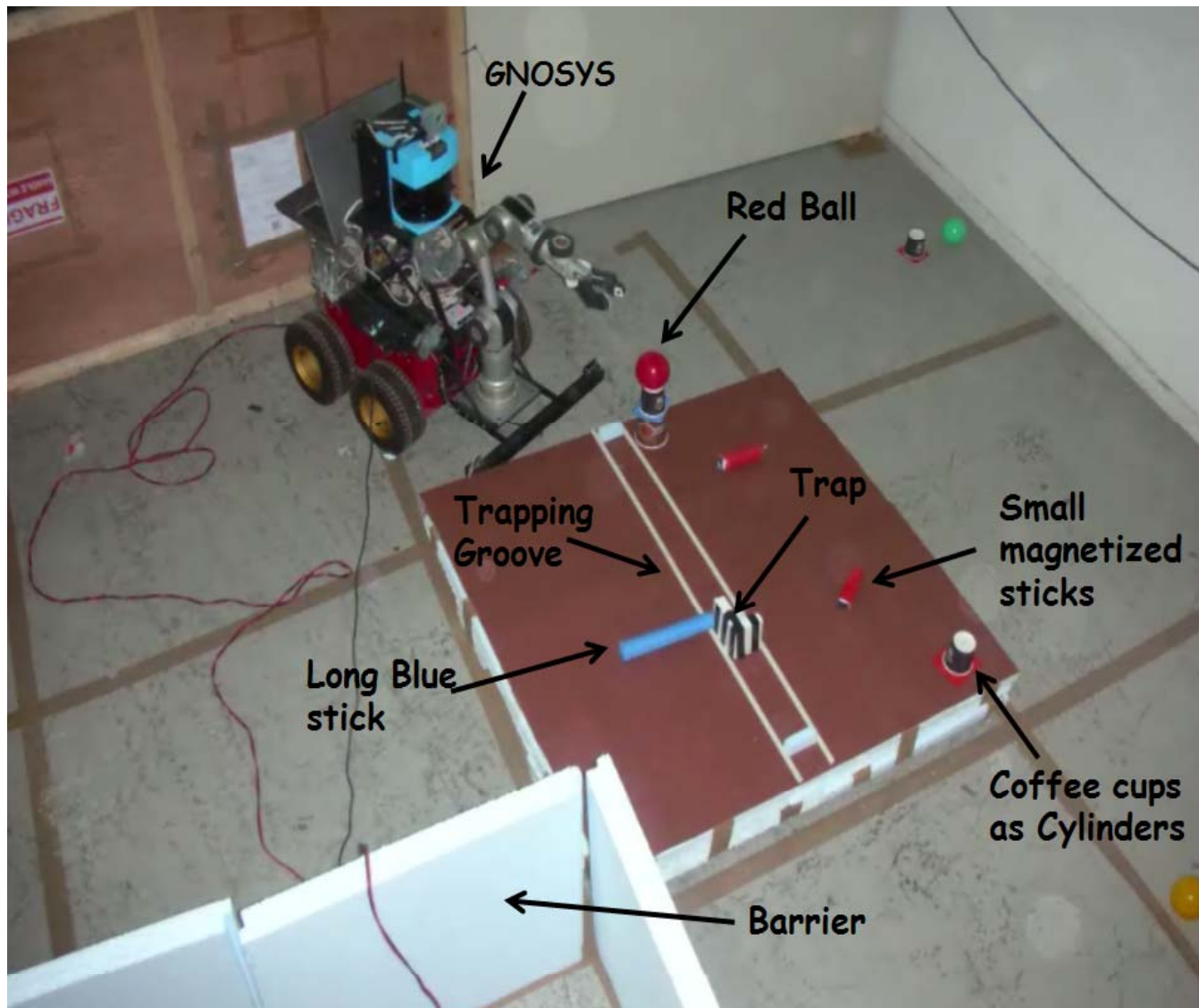
Wolfgang Heubner



Thank You + Questions ?



In the real world



Bimanual Reaching

DLT Based
Calibration

Stacking Coffee Cups

Bimanual stacking

Using Sticks,
Pushing Internal
Model

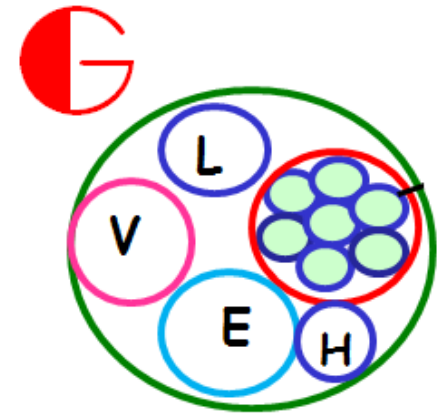
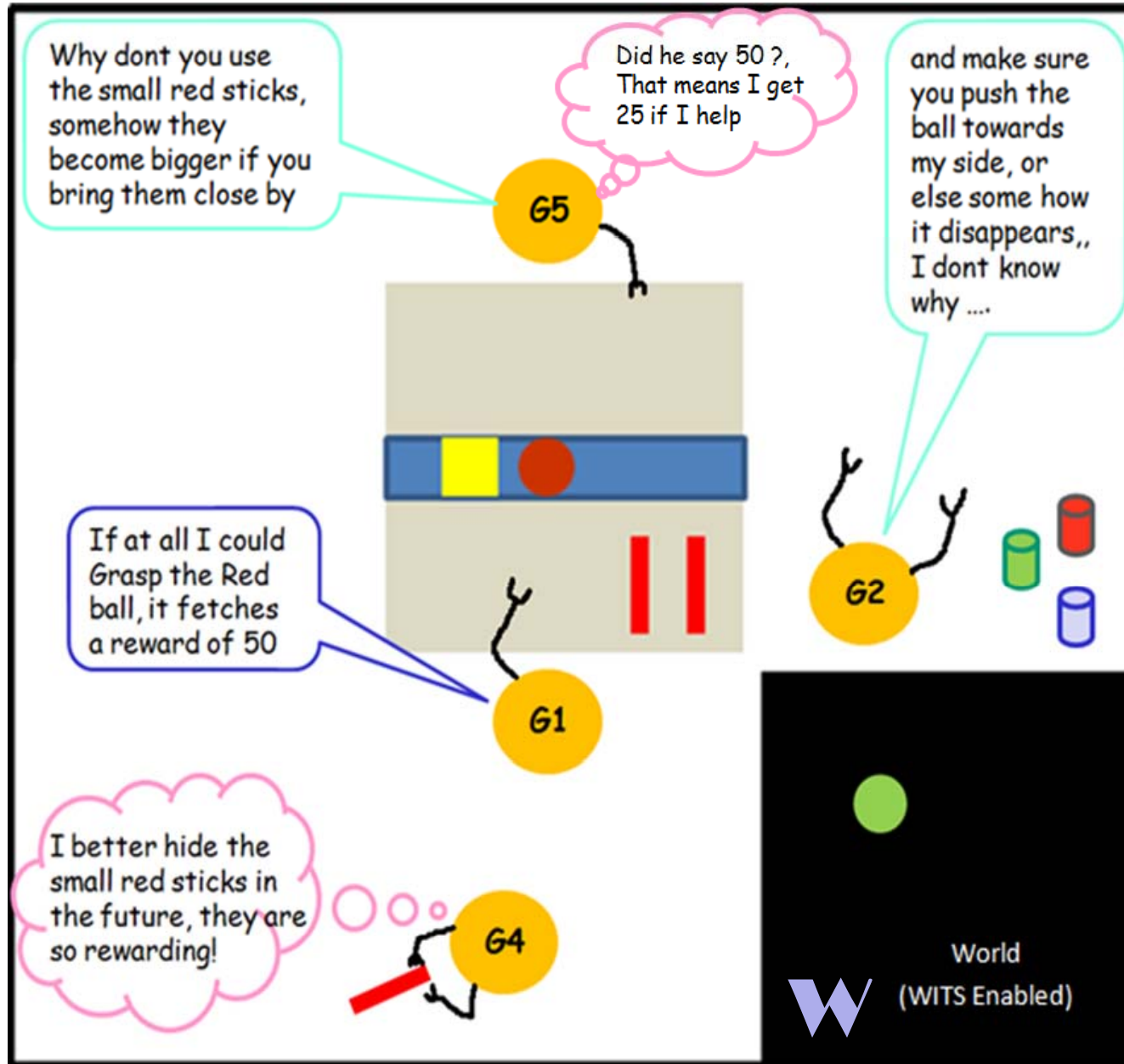
Addition of Internal
Spatial Map
(Mobile iCub ?)

Reasoning Tasks

Parametrized PMP for
Verb Grounding

Lingusitic goals

When bodies Compete for the World....



$W \rightarrow G$
Agents Compete

$G \rightarrow R$
Goals Compete

$R \rightarrow A$
Actions Compete

$A \rightarrow F$
Fields Compete