

# DSC291: Machine Learning with Few Labels

## World Model

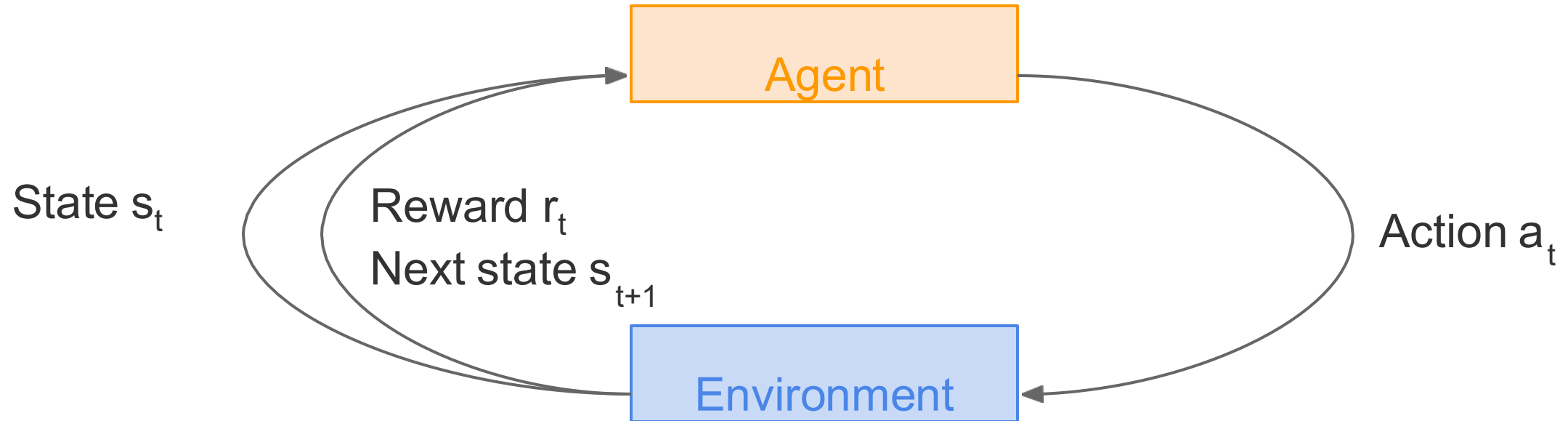
**Zhiting Hu**

Lecture 17, May 27, 2025

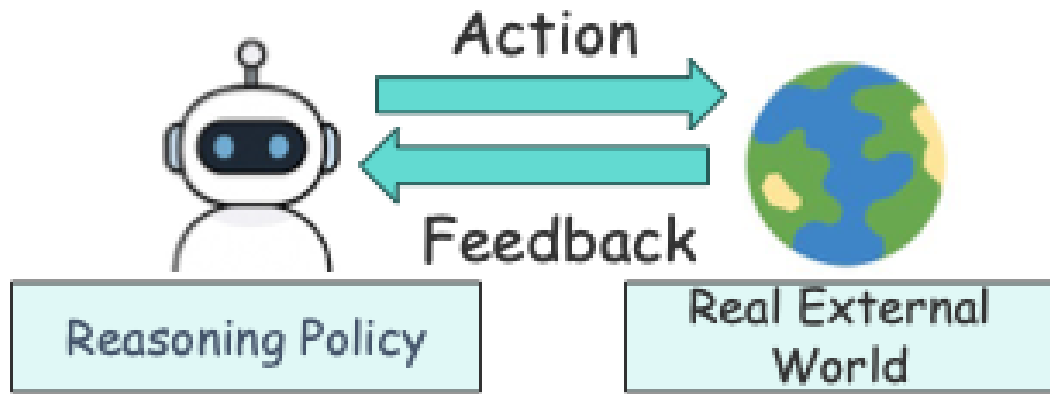
# Outline

- World Model
- Paper presentation:
  - Sijin Lyu, Tianhao Zhou: "Improving noisy student training for low-resource languages in End-to-End ASR using CycleGAN and inter-domain losses"

# Reinforcement Learning



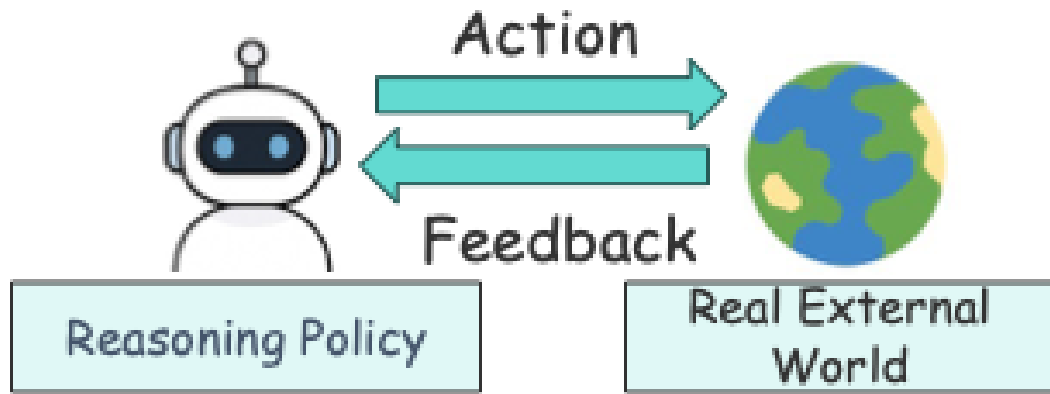
# Reinforcement Learning



- Deployed in the real world
- Expensive, slow to get feedback

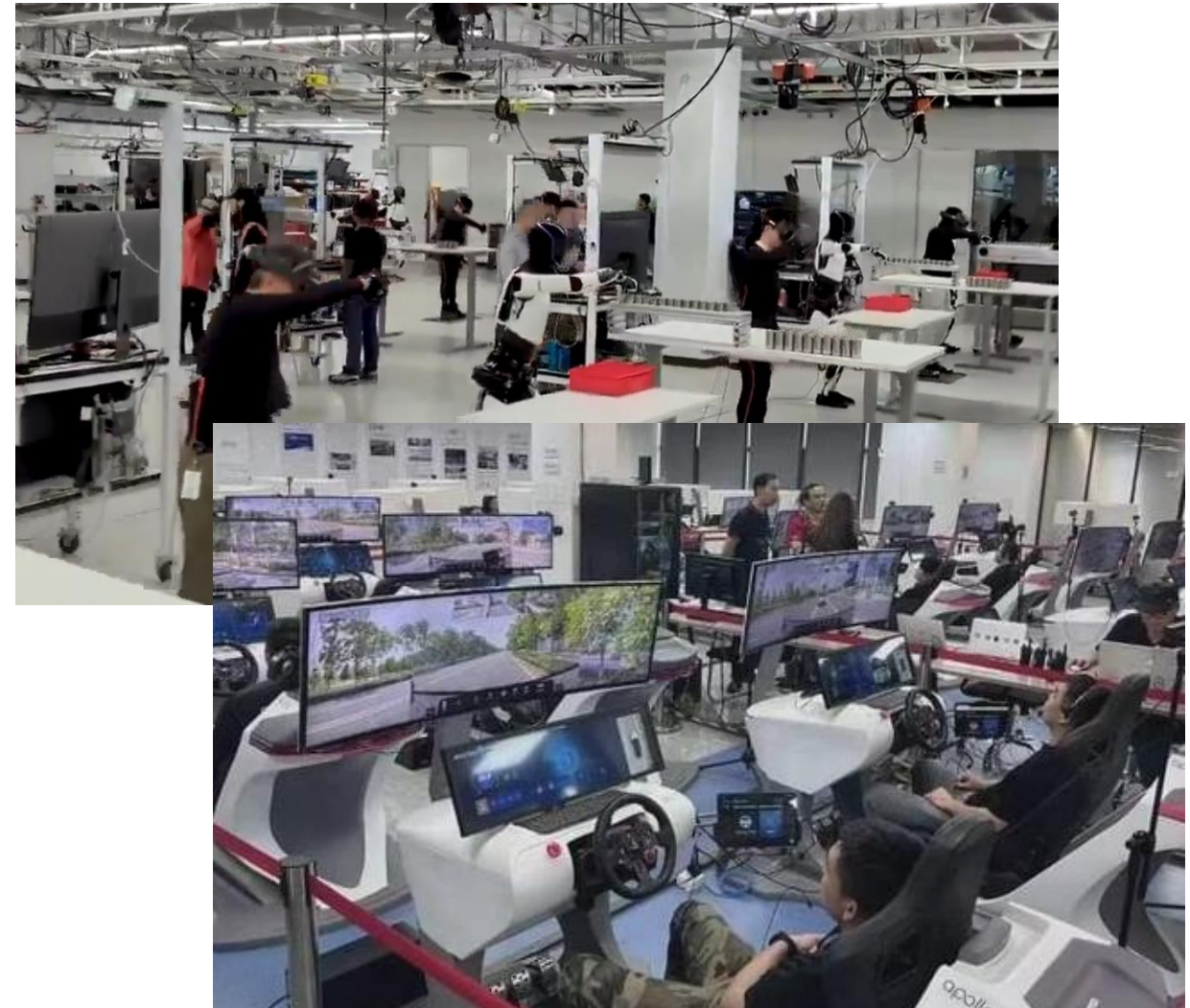


# Reinforcement Learning

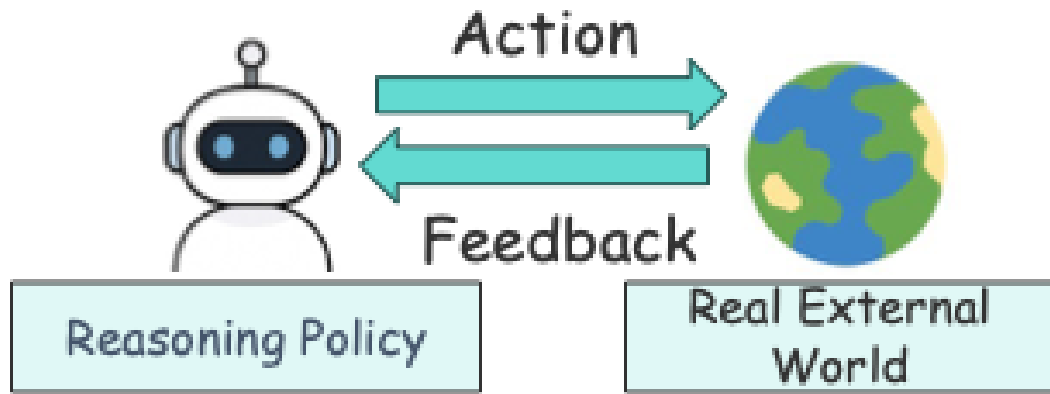


- Deployed in the real world
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Human data collection farm

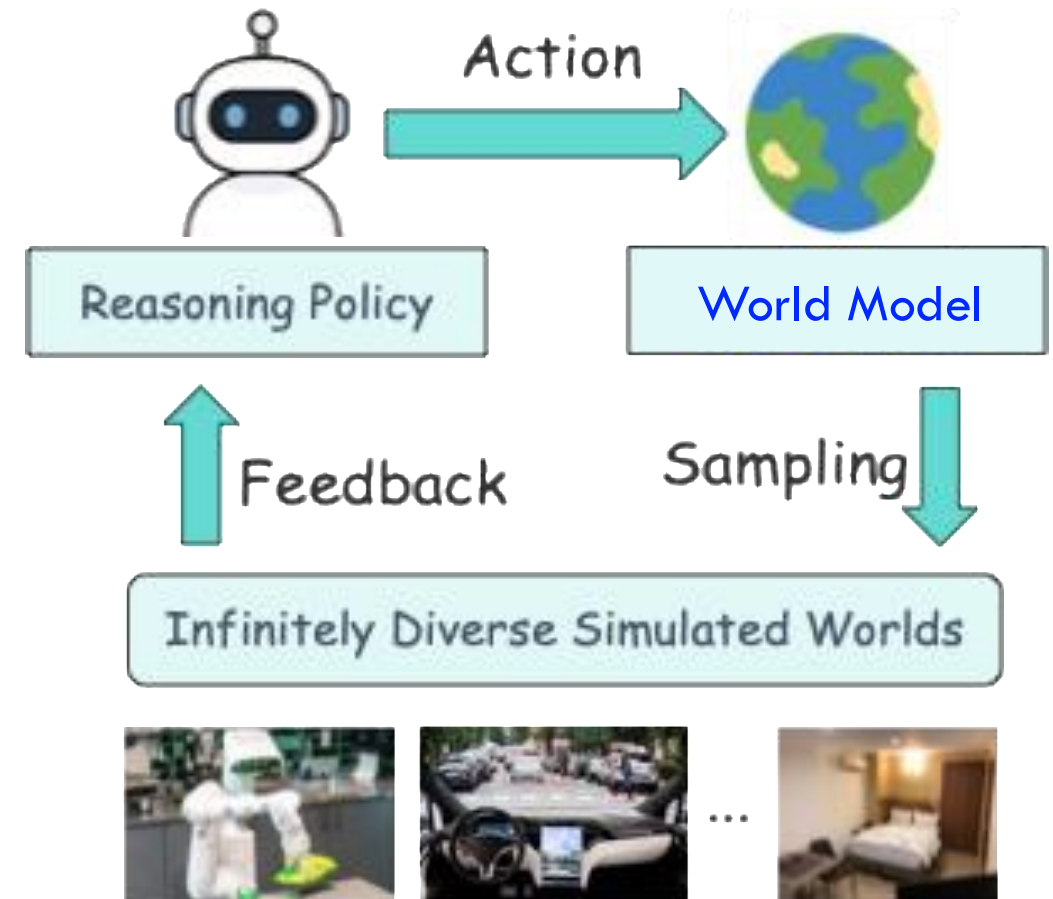


# Reinforcement Learning



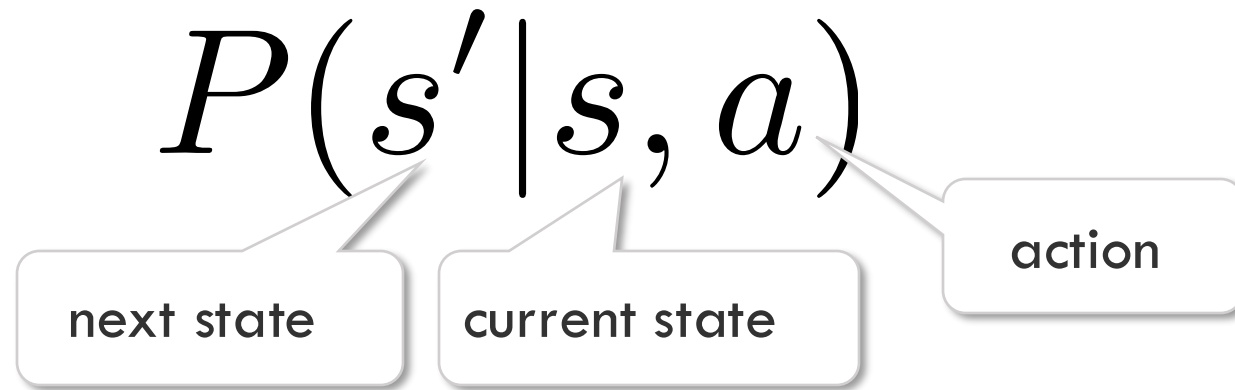
- Deployed in the real world
- Expensive, slow to get feedback

- Deployed in infinitely diverse simulated worlds
- Cheap, fast to get feedback



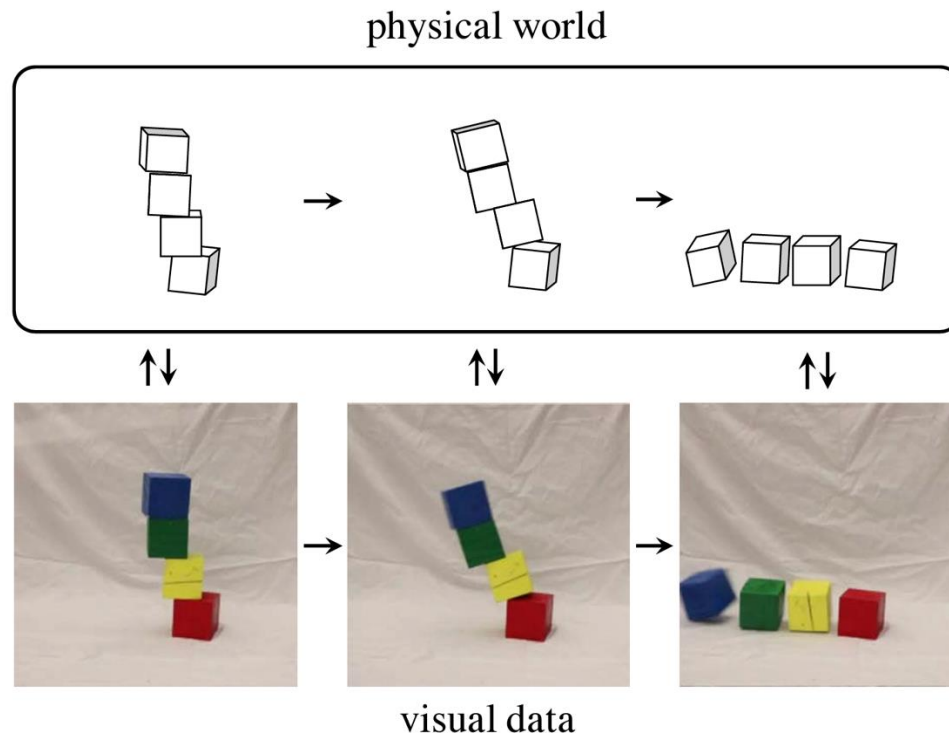
# World model

- State transition probabilities
- Next “world” prediction



# World model

- Next “world” prediction  $P(s'|s, a)$
- Prior research built **domain-specific world models**
  - Primarily in robotics and embodied AI



(i) Computer vision: model-based physical scene understanding

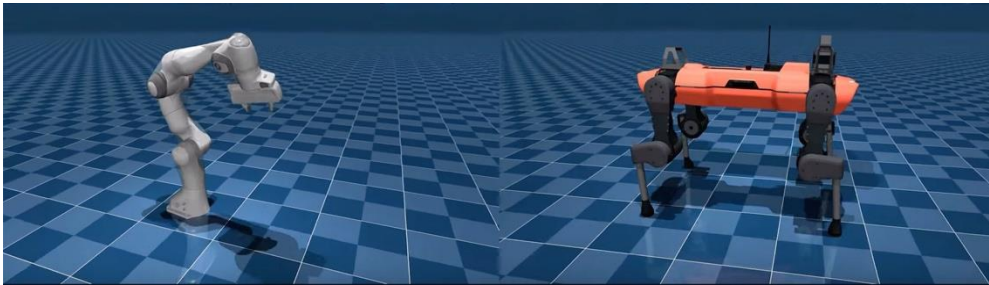
Wu et al. (2017)



# World model

- Next “world” prediction  $P(s'|s, a)$
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**MuJoCo**



Todorov et al. (2012)

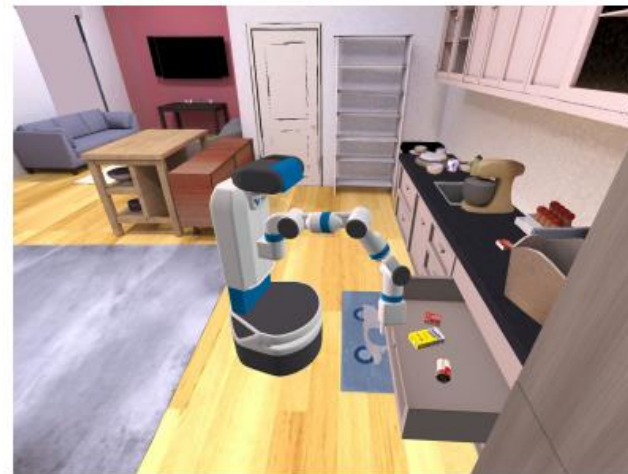
**AI2-THOR**



Kolve et al. (2017)

(ii) Physics engines / embodied simulators

**Habitat 2.0**

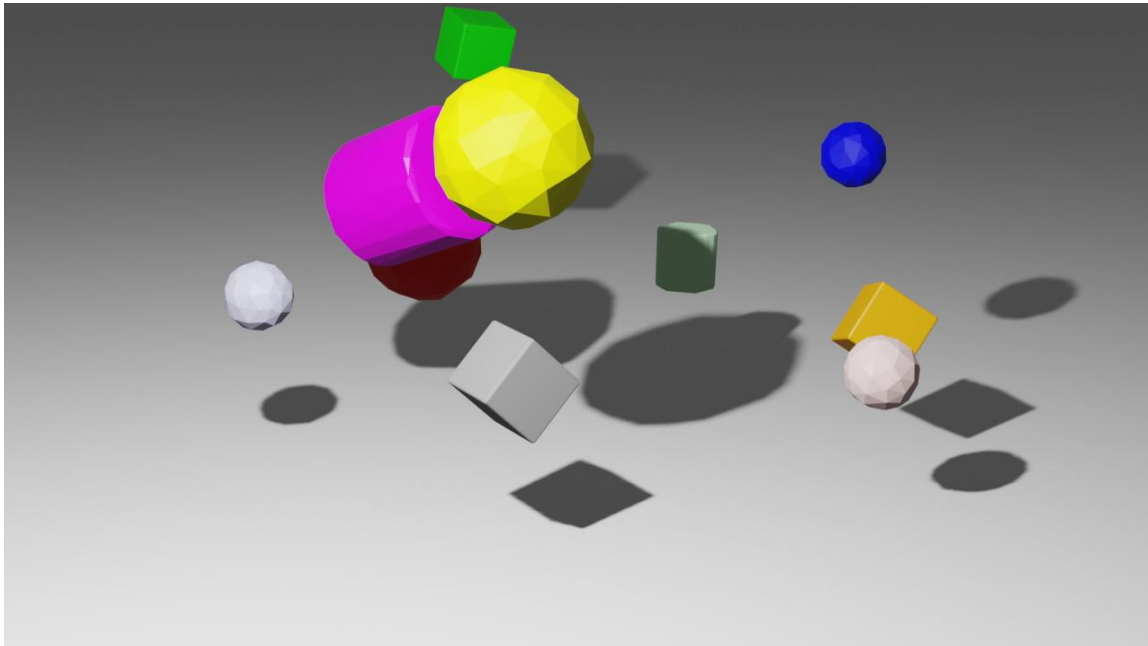


Szot et al. (2021)

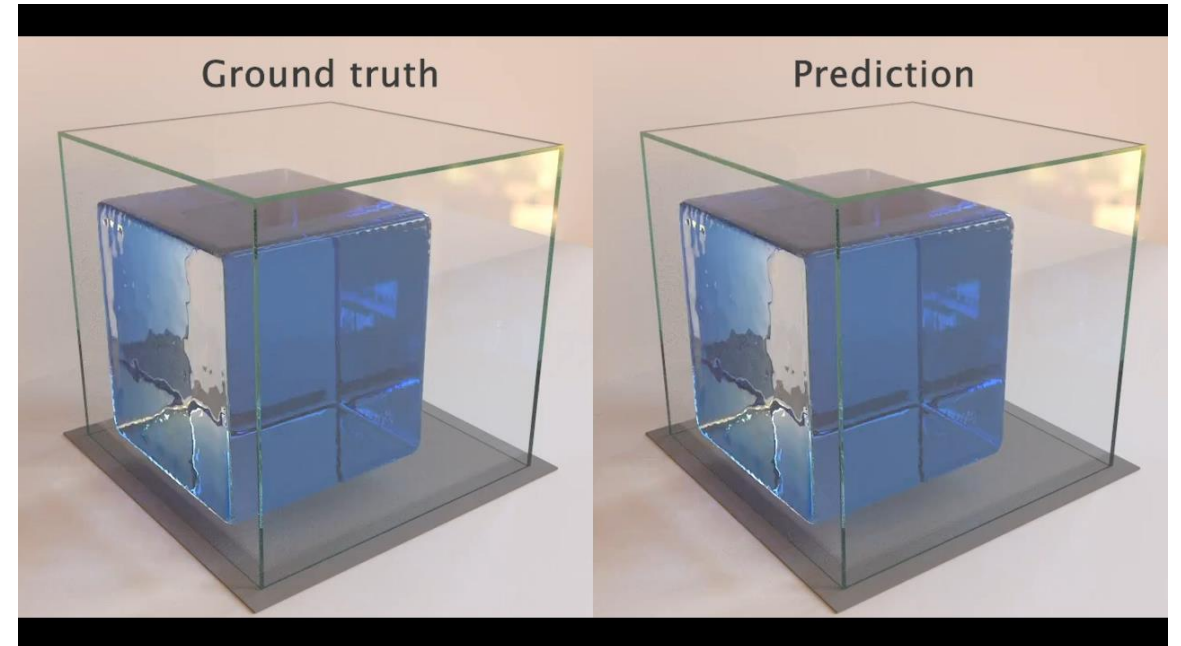
# World model

- Next “world” prediction  $P(s'|s, a)$
- Prior research built **domain-specific world models**
  - Primarily in robotics and embodied AI

## (iii) Learned neural physics engines



Allen et al. (2023)



Sanchez-Gonzalez et al. (2020)

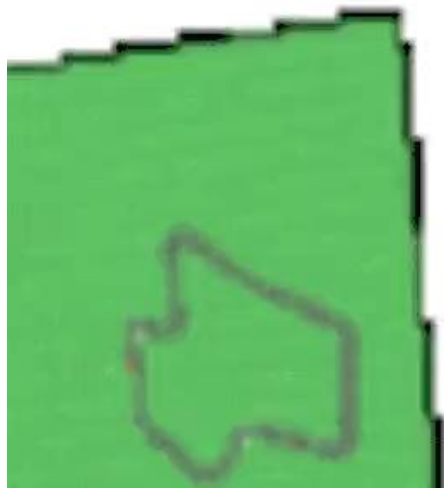
# World model

- Next “world” prediction  $P(s'|s, a)$
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  - Primarily in robotics and embodied AI

## (iv) Video prediction models

Ground-truth

Synthesis

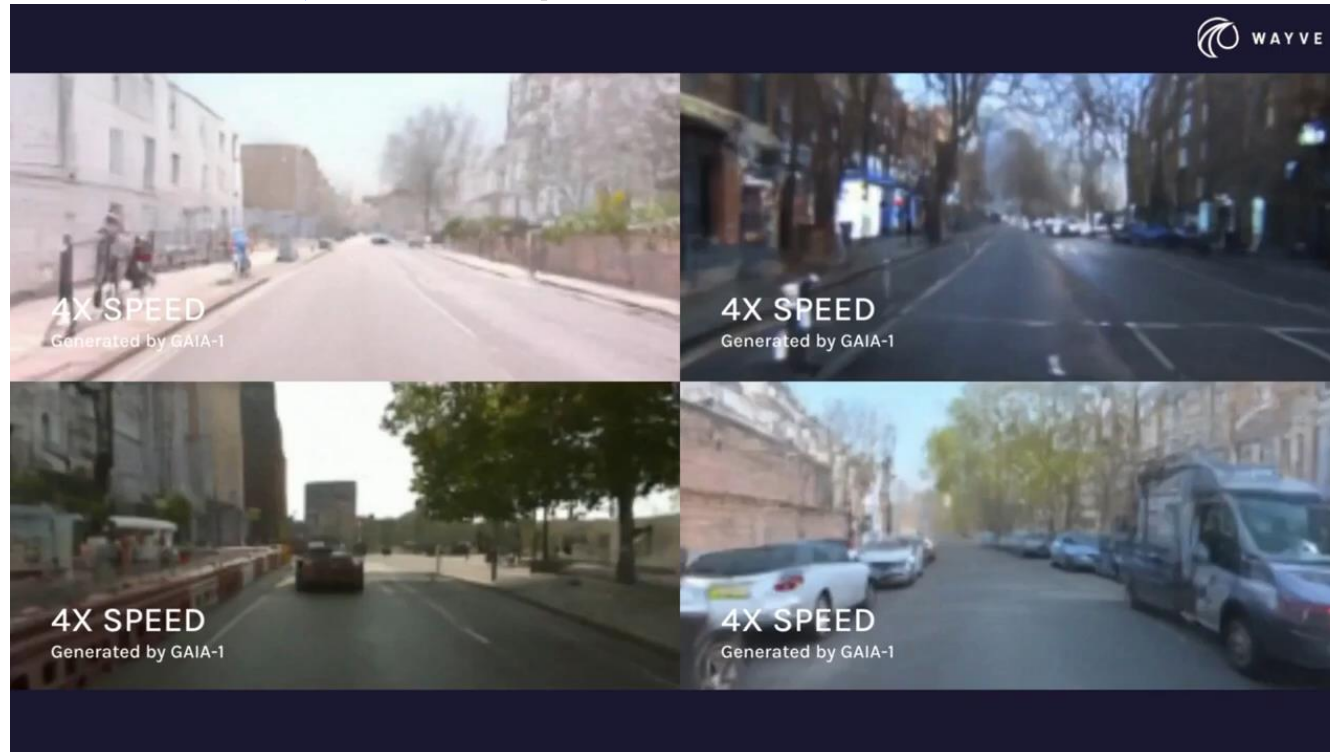


Ha & Schmidhuber (2018)

# World model

- Next “world” prediction  $P(s'|s, a)$
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## (iv) Video prediction models



GAIA-1

# World model

- Next “world” prediction  $P(s'|s, a)$
- Prior research built **domain-specific world models**
  - Primarily in robotics and embodied AI

## (iv) Video prediction models



Simulating long sequence of human activities.

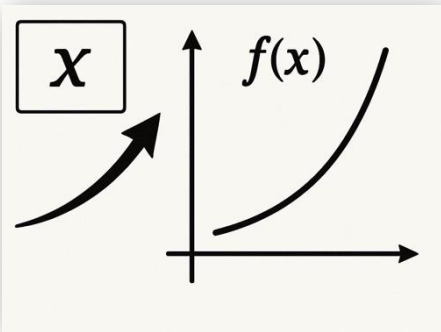
Step 1:



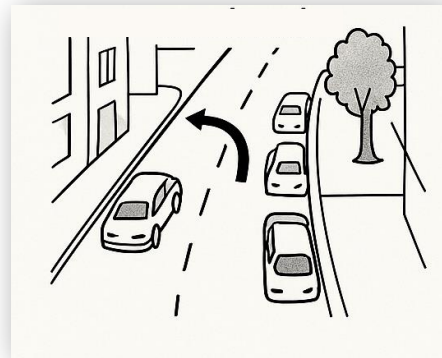


# World model

- Next “world” prediction  $P(s'|s, a)$
- Prior research built **domain-specific world models**
  - Primarily in robotics and embodied AI
- The scope of simulation defines the capability of reasoning
  - “More simulation, more intelligence“



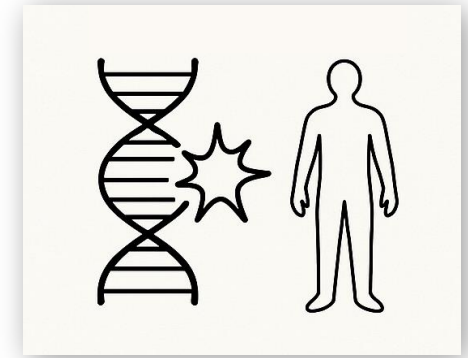
Would the value of a function increase if I changed this variable?



What would happen on the street if I turned the vehicle left

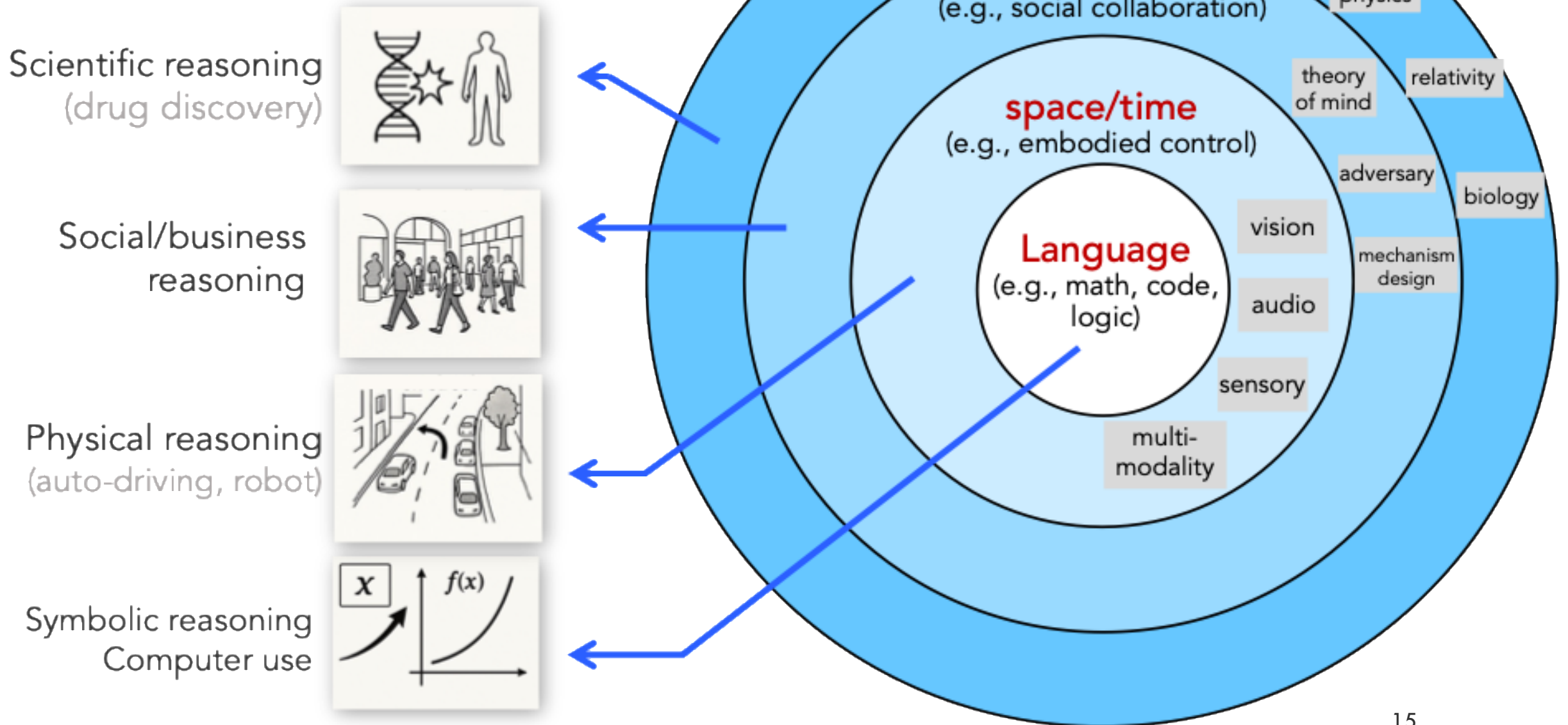


How might a business grow if a specific policy were applied



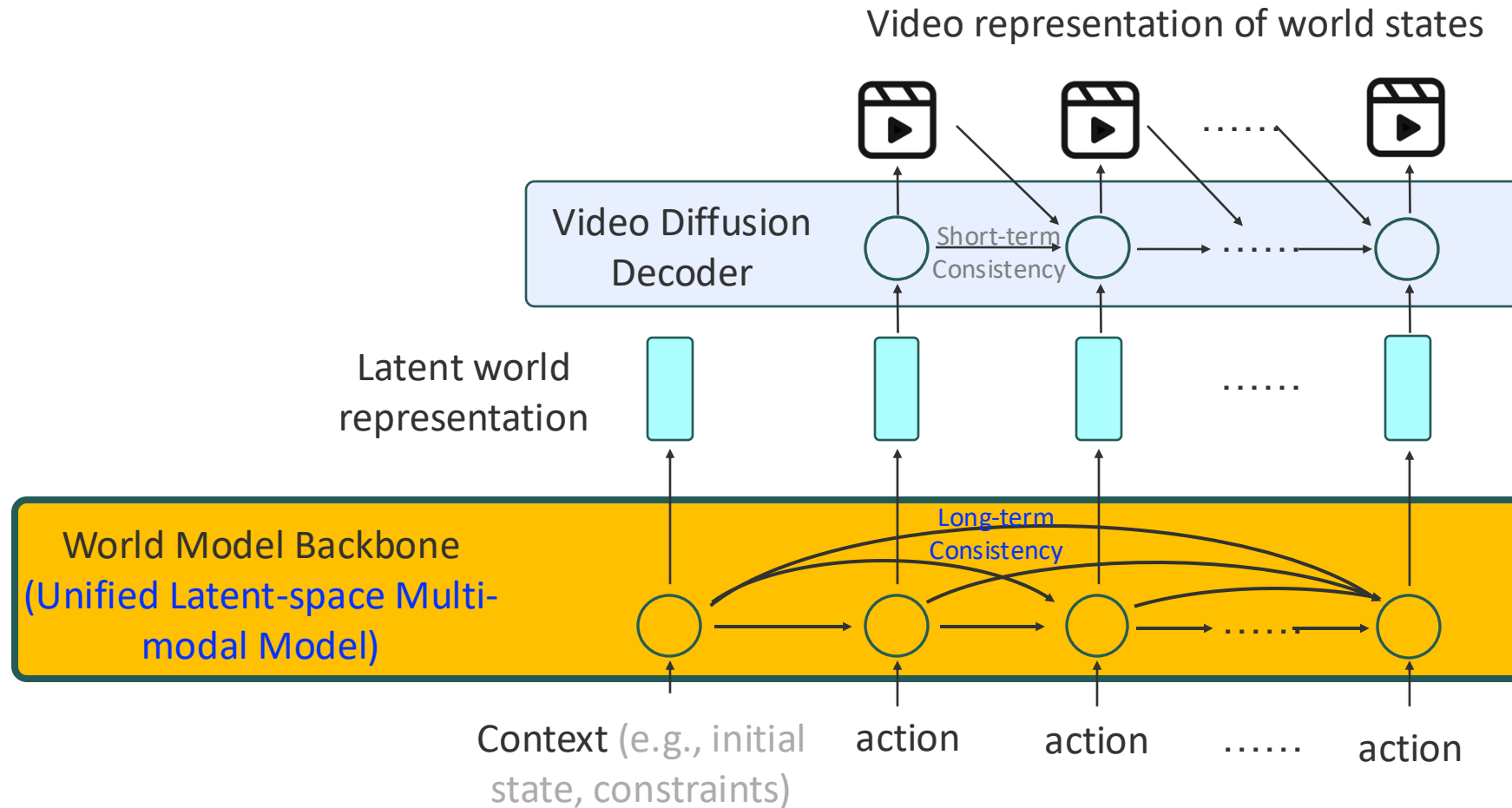
What biological effects would arise from a specific genetic mutation

# The scope of WM simulation ⇒ the capability of reasoning

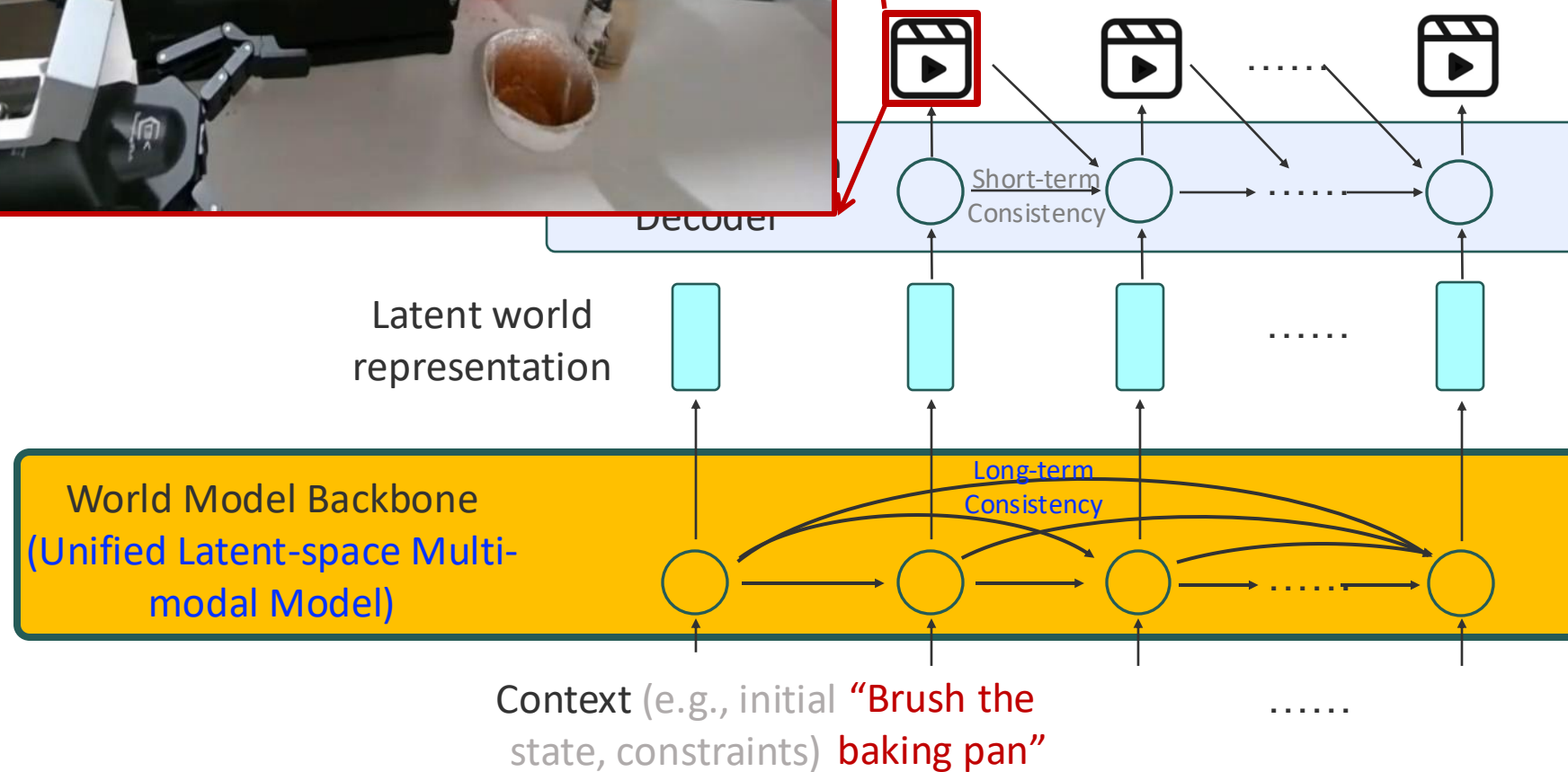


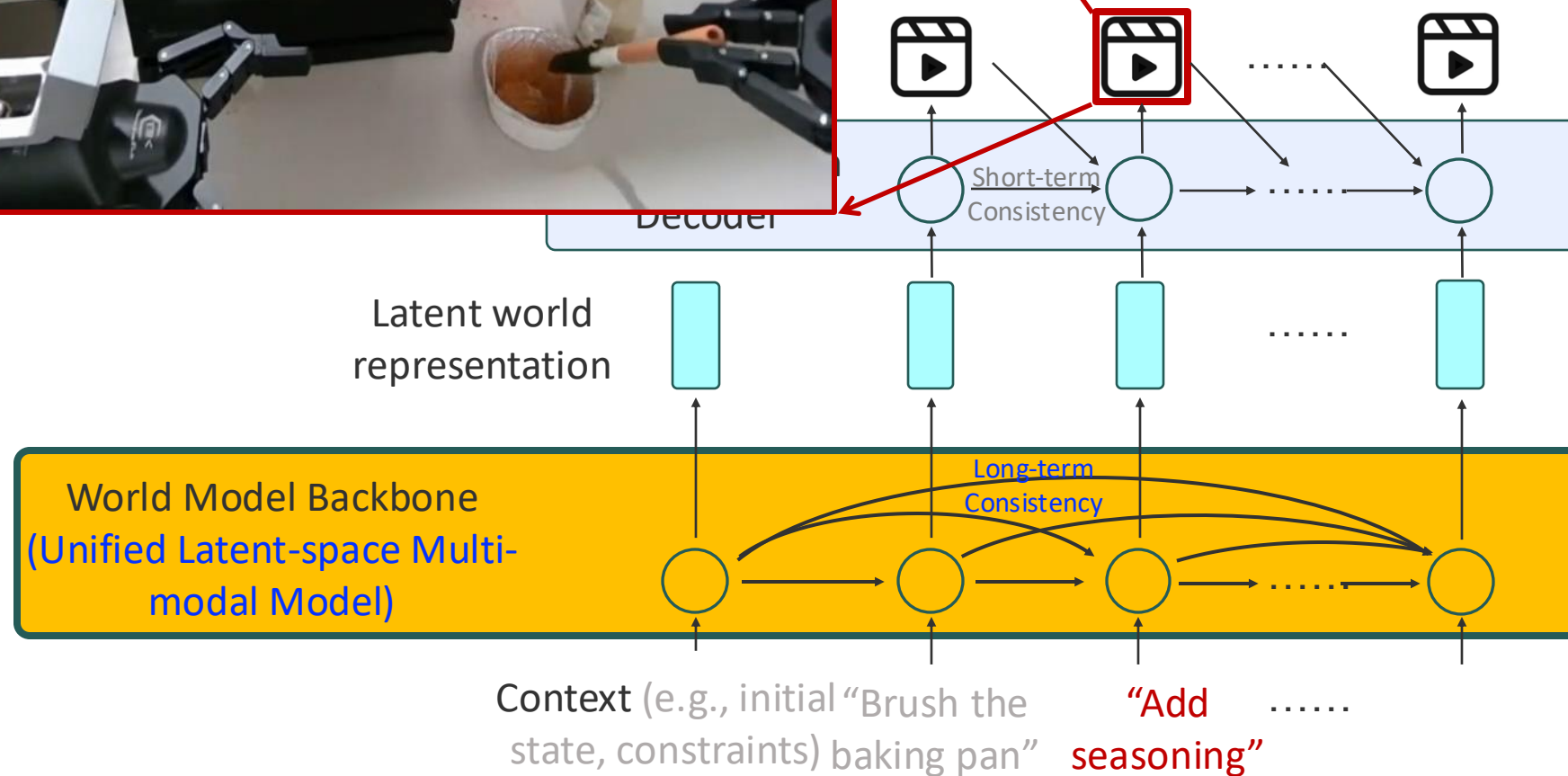
# PAN World Model

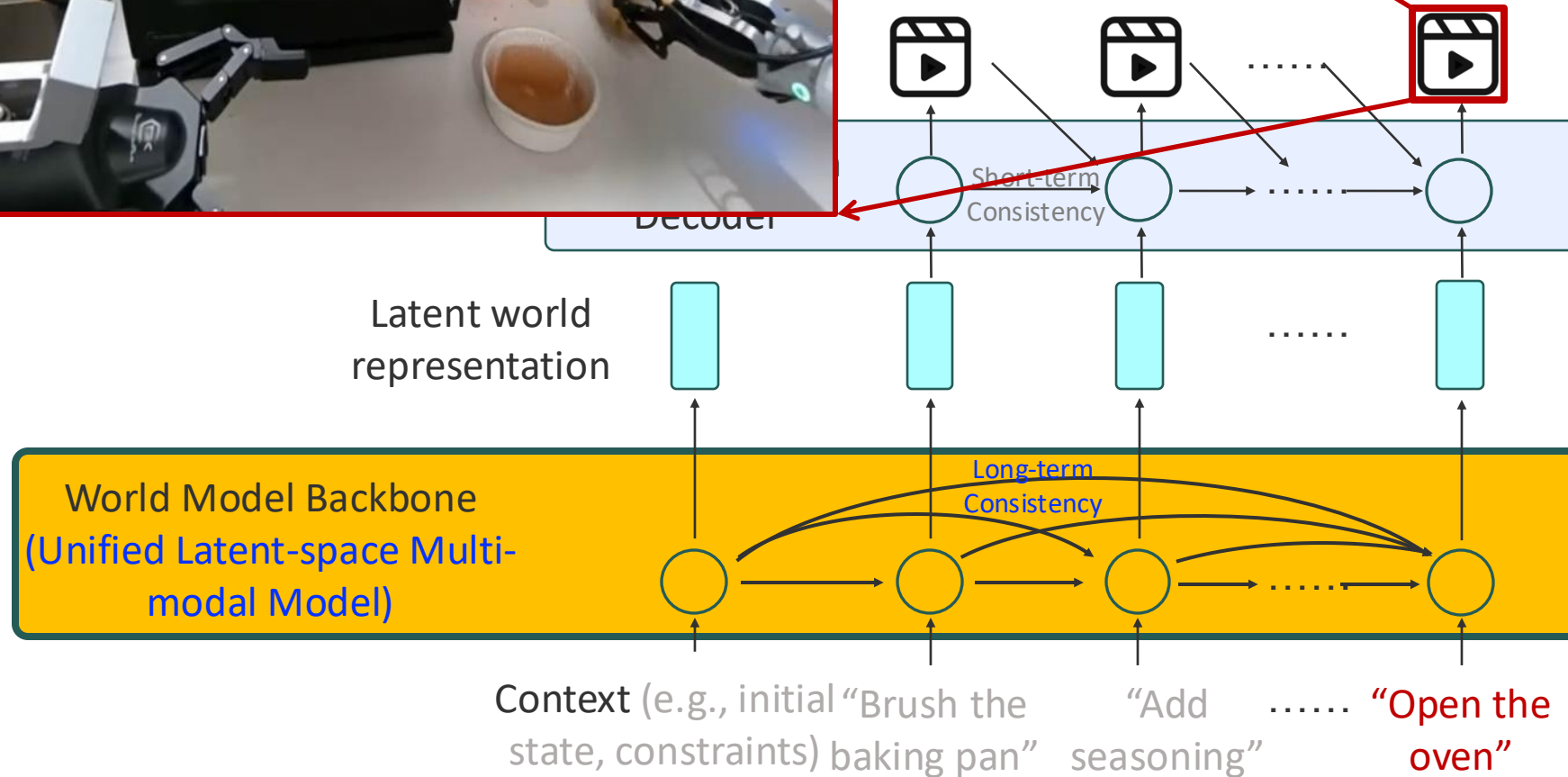
(Physical, Agentic, Nested)



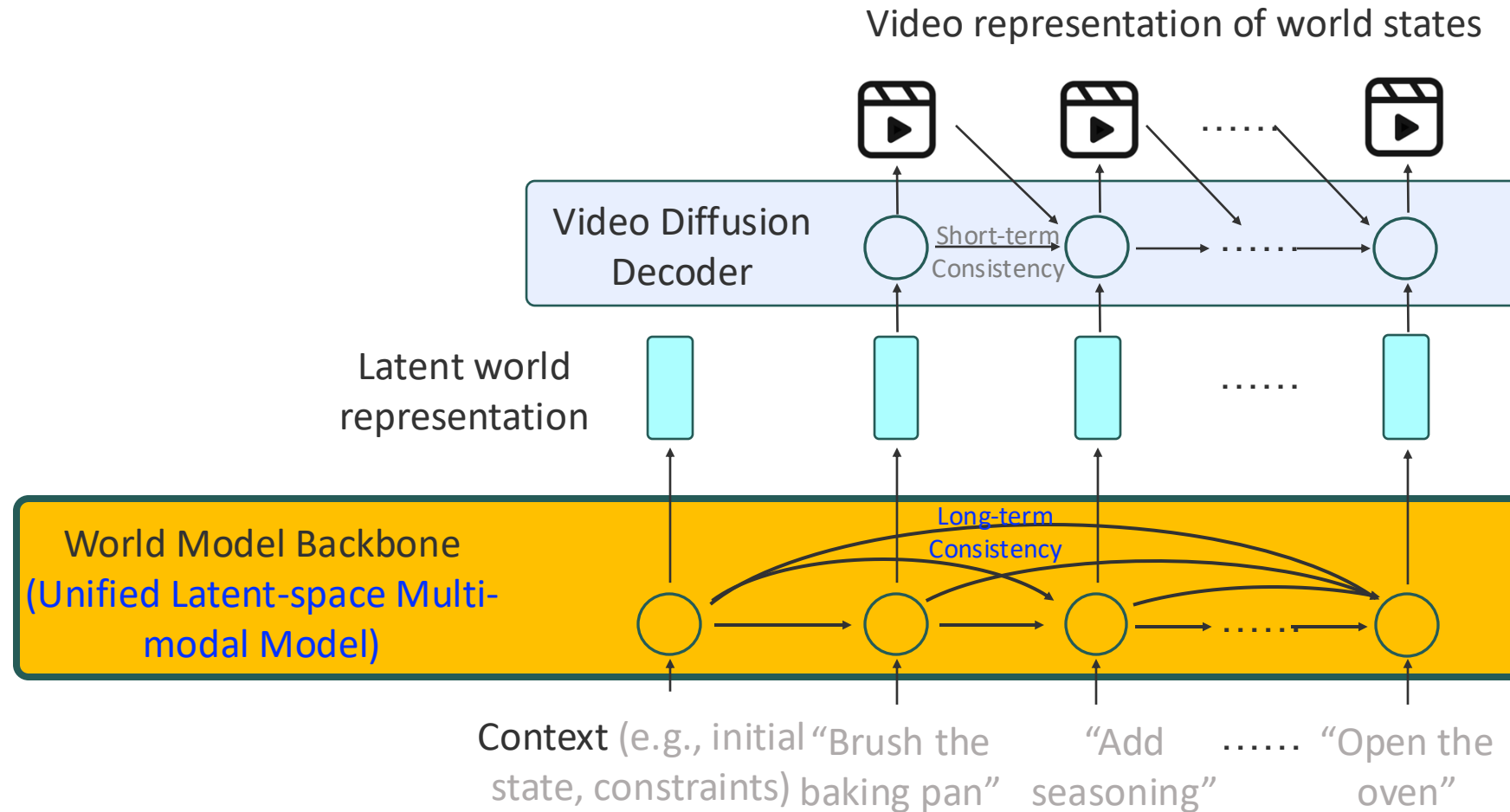




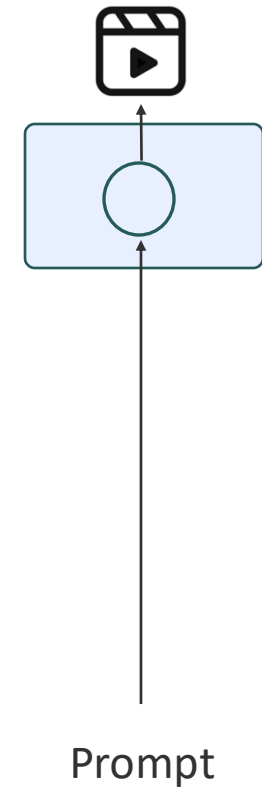




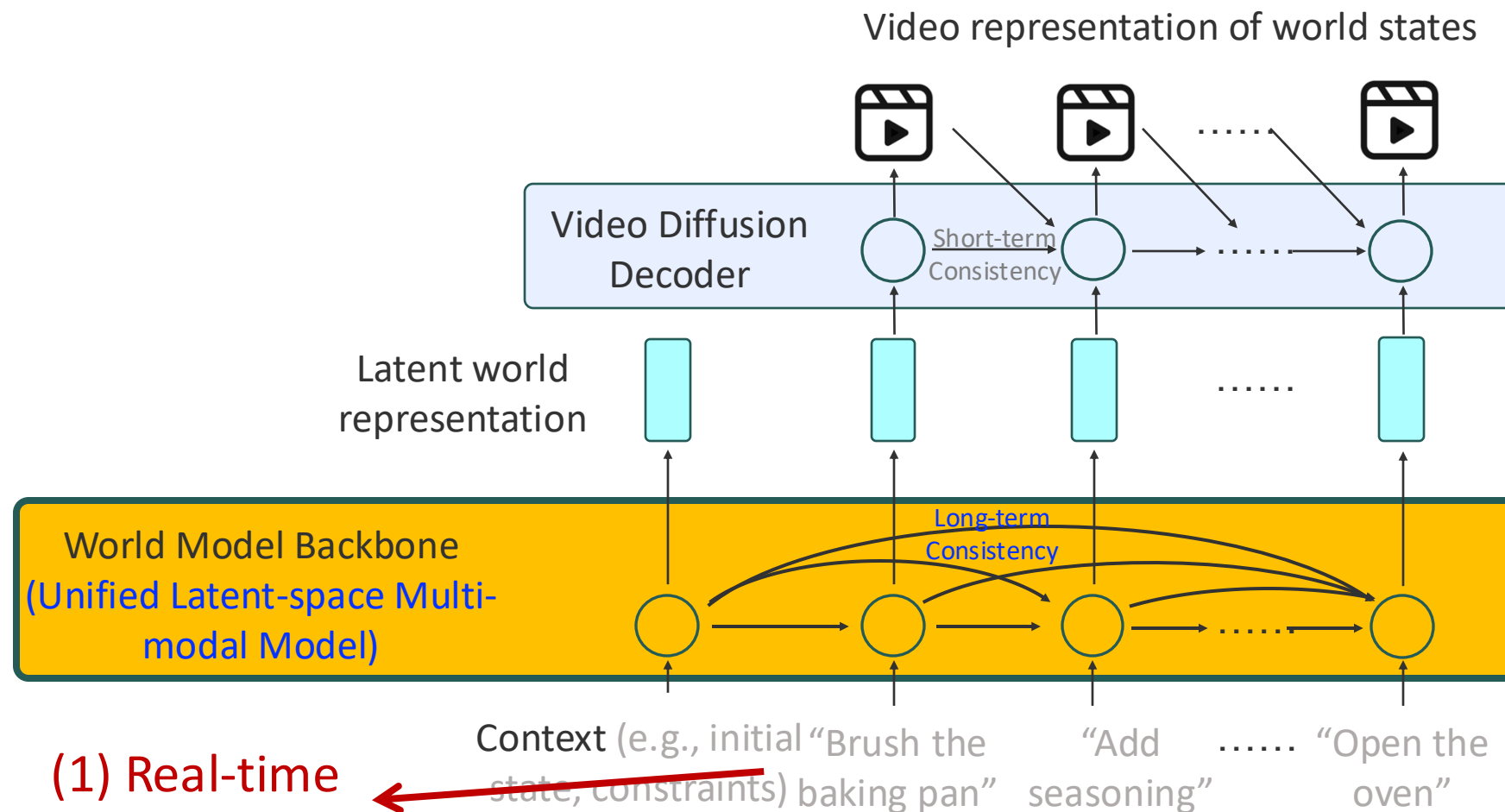
# PAN World Model



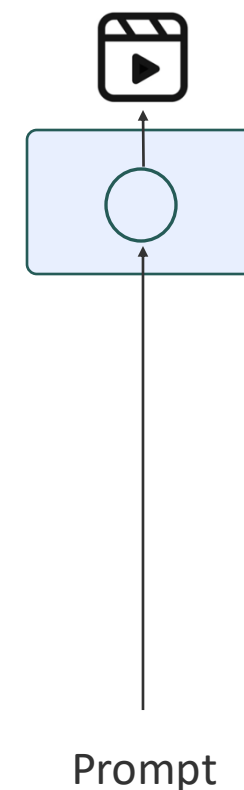
**V.S.** Video generation models (e.g., Sora, Veo-3, Cosmos)



# PAN World Model



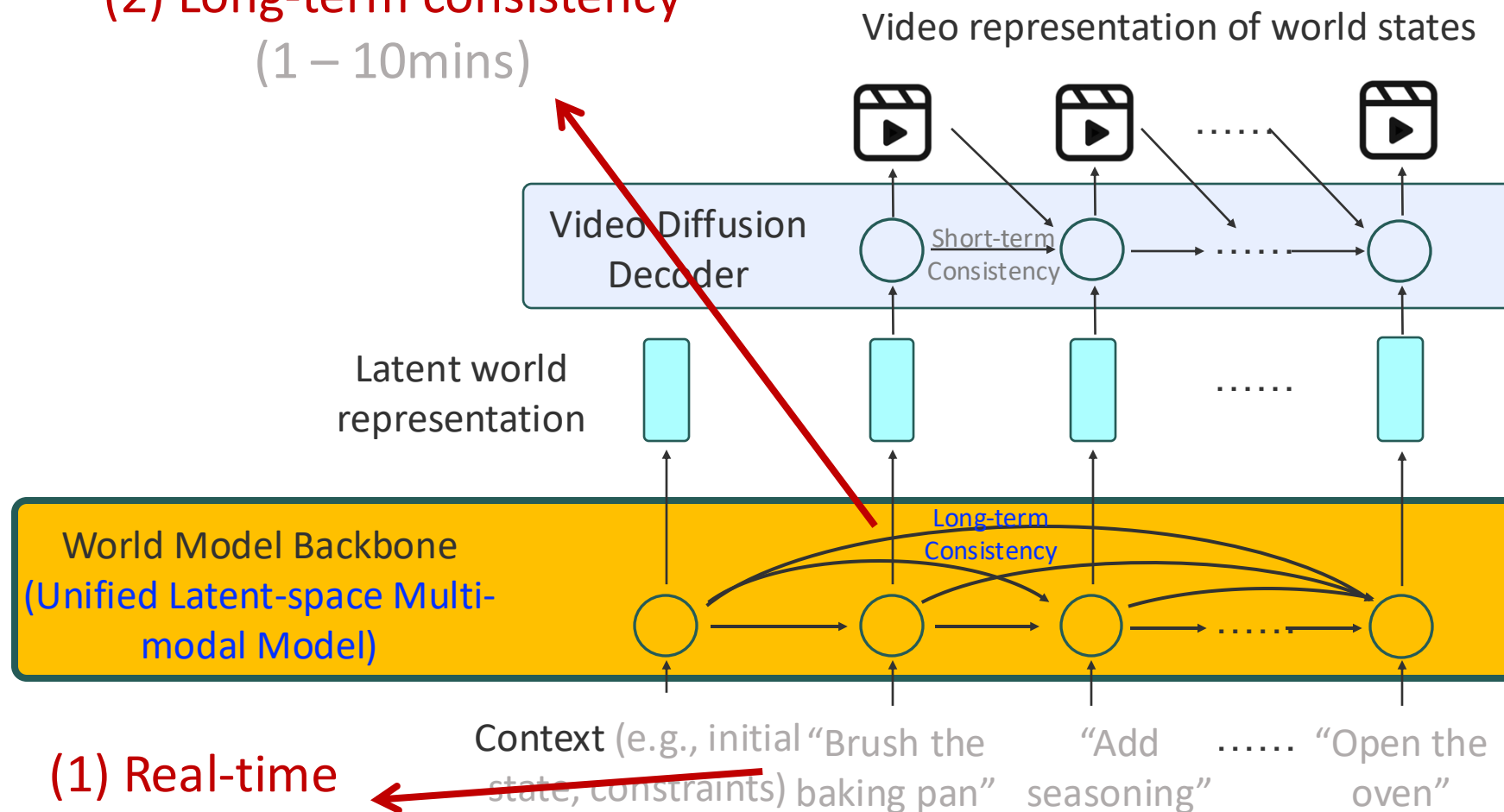
**V.S. Video generation models (e.g., Sora, Veo-3, Cosmos)**



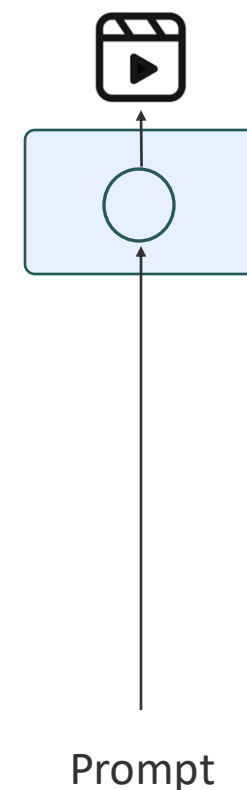
**(1) Real-time Interaction**

# PAN World Model

(2) Long-term consistency  
(1 – 10mins)



V.S. Video generation models (e.g., Sora, Veo-3, Cosmos)

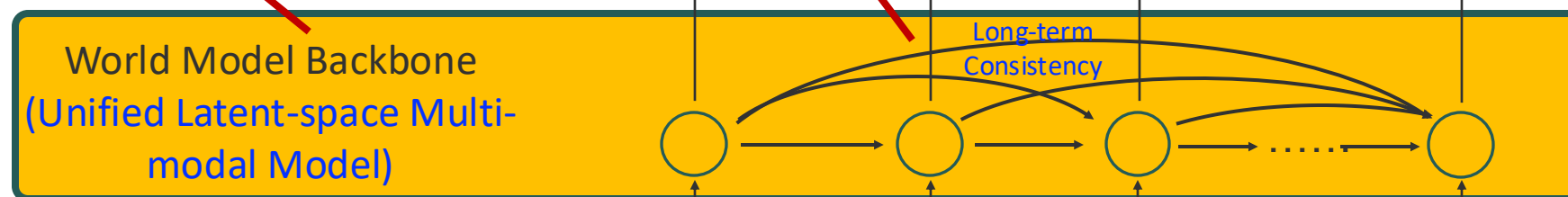


(1) Real-time Interaction

# PAN World Model

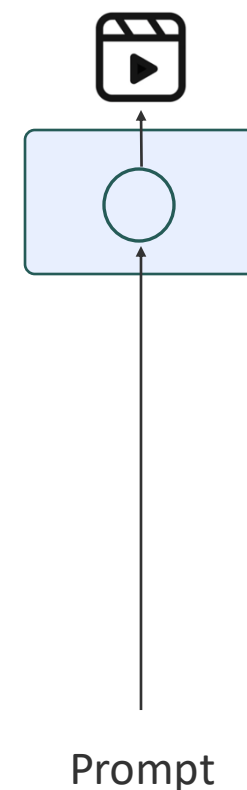
(2) Long-term consistency  
(1 – 10mins)

(3) Enhances over LLM  
with massive video-  
language data



Context (e.g., initial "Brush the state, constraints) baking pan" "Add seasoning" ..... "Open the oven"

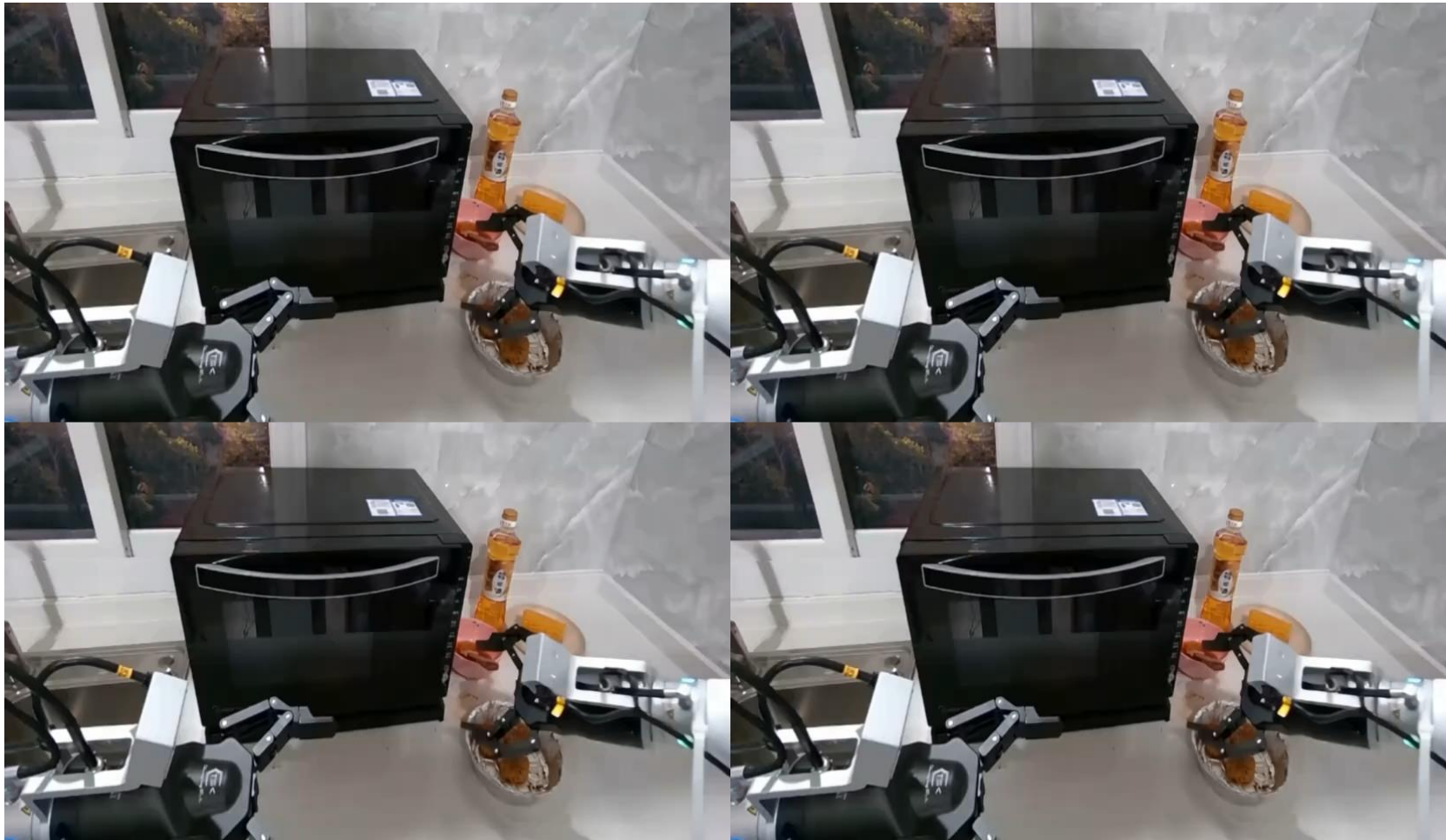
V.S. Video generation models (e.g., Sora, Veo-3, Cosmos)



# PAN World Model: Simulation Results

Robot: Complex manipulation

Locomotion



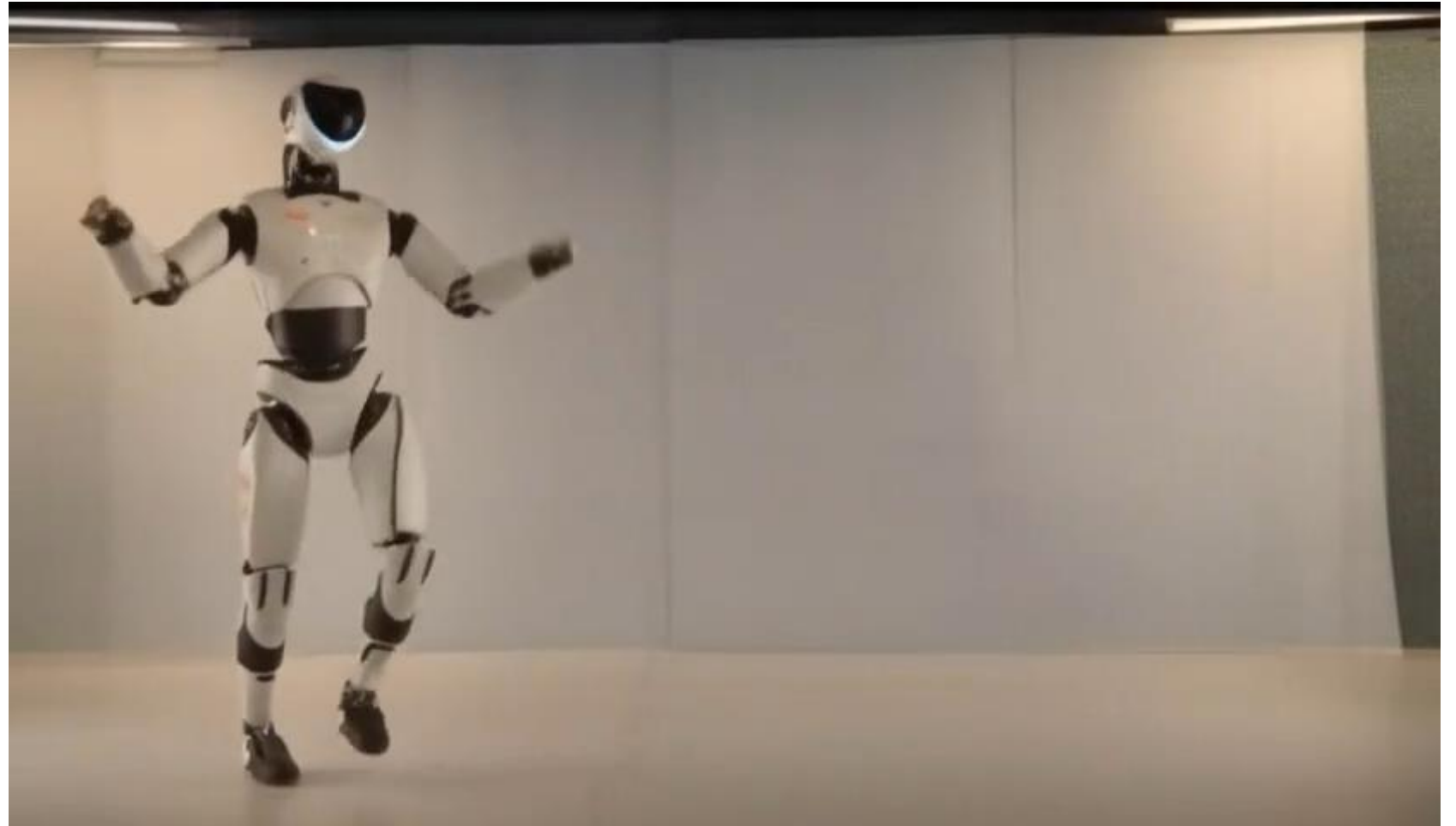


# PAN World Model: Simulation Results

Robot: Complex manipulation  
Locomotion

## Input actions:

- > Wave arms and jump
- > Dance dance dance!
- > Grasp a rose behind and show to the audience
- > ...
- > Make a heart shape with hands



# PAN World Model: Simulation Results

Driving: Dangerous situations



# PAN World Model: Simulation Results

Complex environments in various styles





# PAN World Model: Simulation Results

Complex environments in various styles



# PAN World Model: Simulation Results

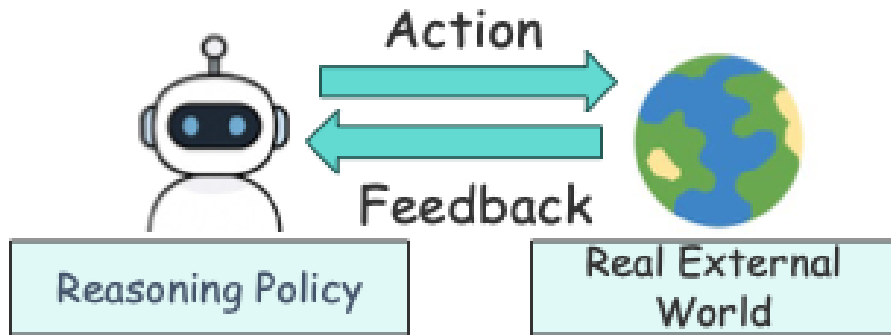
Complex environments in various styles



# Summary so far

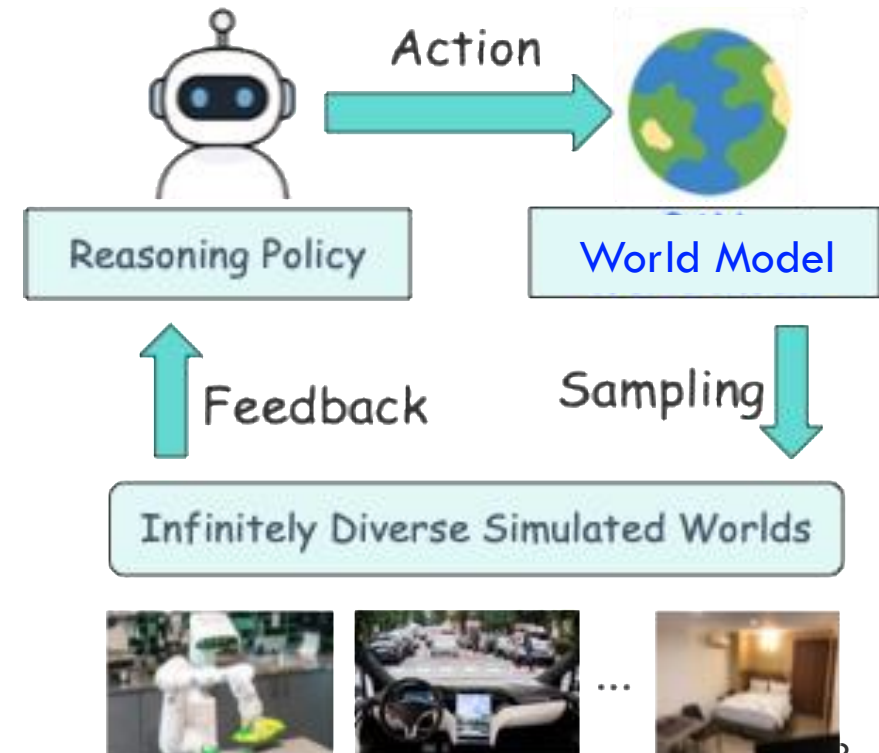
## Traditional Reinforcement Learning

- Deployed in the real world
- Expensive, slow to get feedback

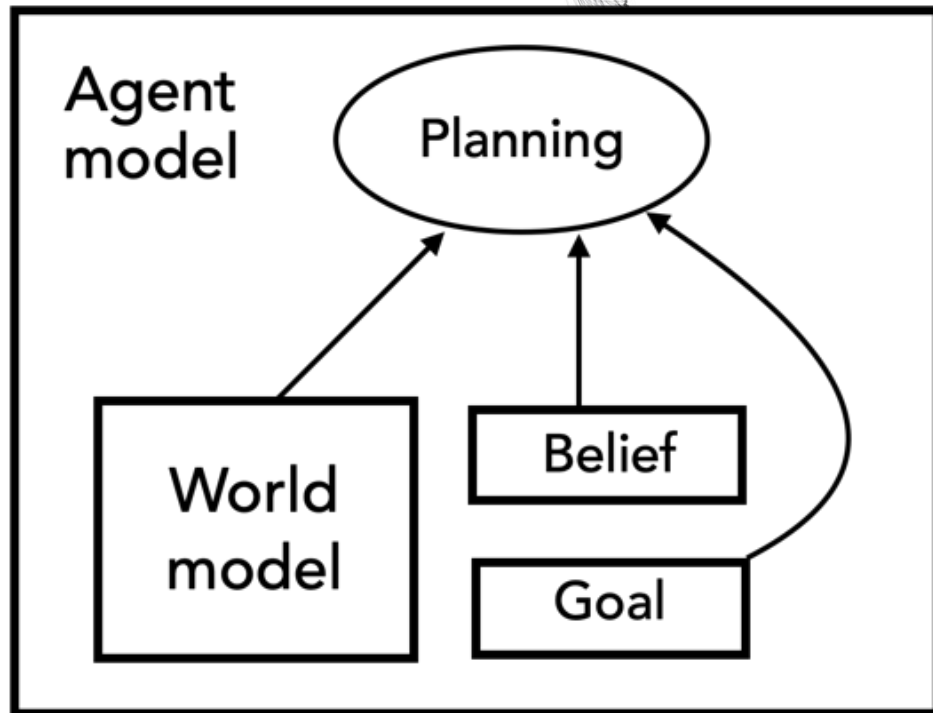
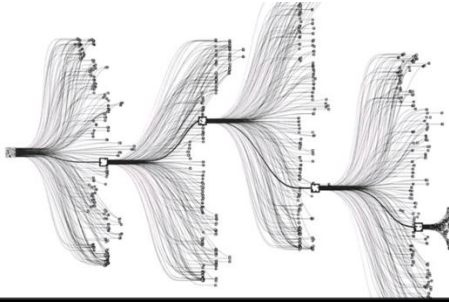


## “Dream”-time learning

- Deployed in infinitely diverse simulated worlds
- Cheap, fast to get feedback

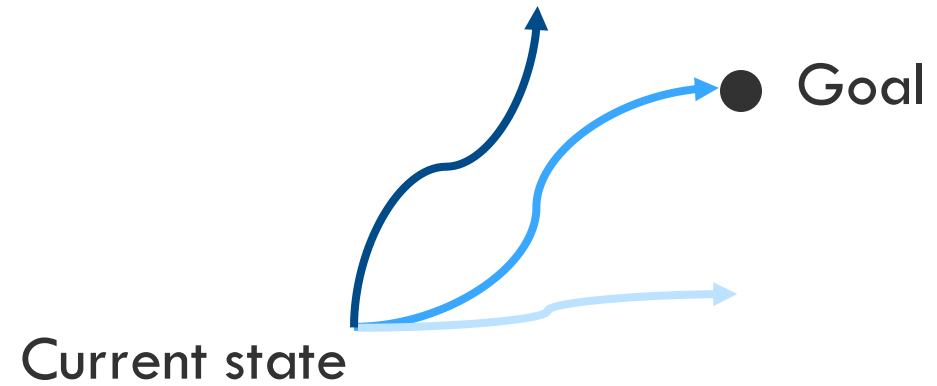
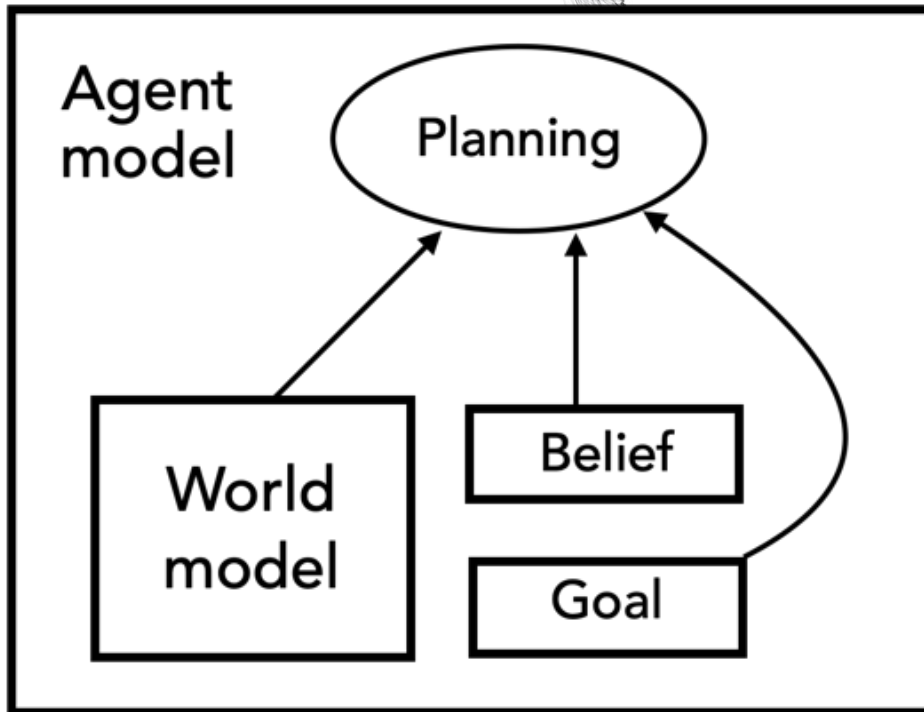
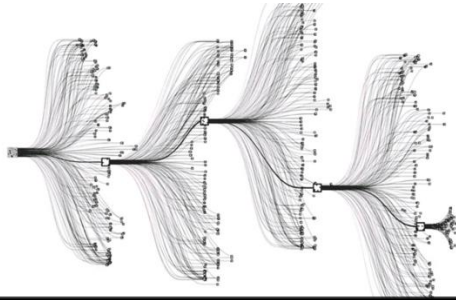


# World Model for Inference-Time Planning

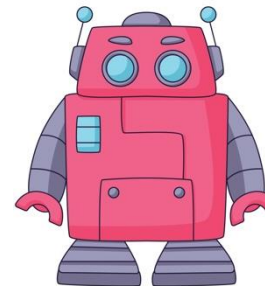


$$P(s'|s, a)$$

# World Model for Inference-Time Planning



- Simulate plans with world model
- Choose the best plan

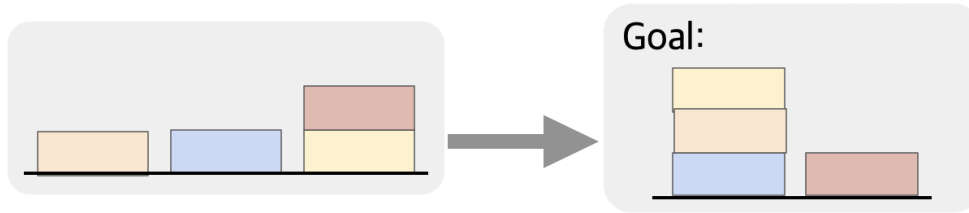




$$P(s'|s, a)$$

# World Model for Inference-Time Planning

How to move the blocks to the goal state?



## LLMs: Autoregressive plan generation

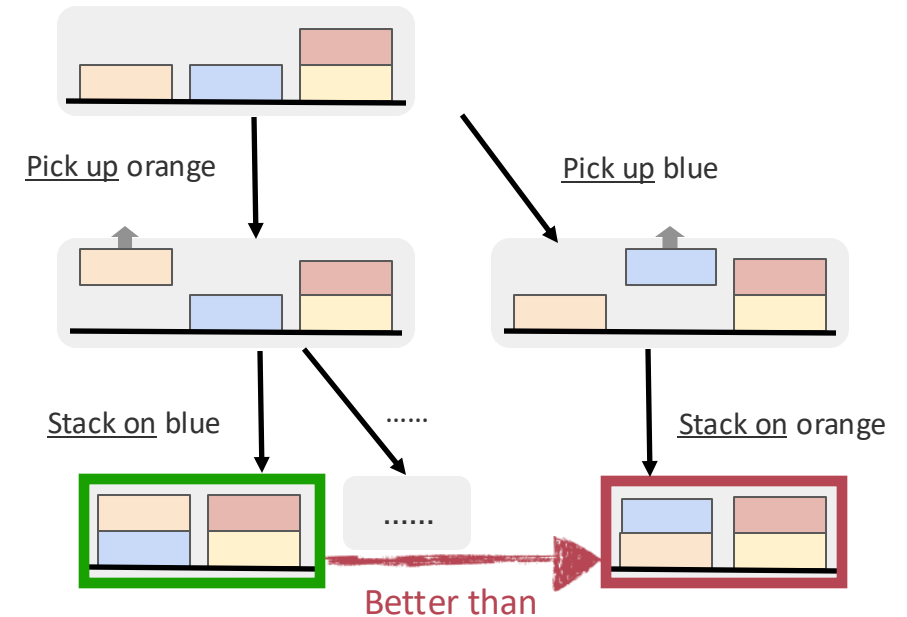


**Invalid Action!**  
The yellow block is still under the red one.

1. Pick up the orange block.
2. Stack it on the blue block.
3. Pick up the yellow block. ❌
4. Stack it on the orange block.
5. Pick up the red block.
6. Put it on the table.

## Human: strategic planning

- Internal **world model** to predict states
- **Simulation** of alternative plans
- Assess outcomes to refine/pick the best



# How Nature Works

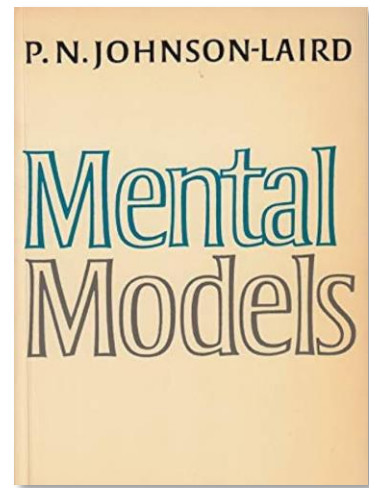
Simulates possibilities recursively; complexity emerges

# How Nature Works

Simulates possibilities recursively; complexity emerges

## Example 1: Human reasoning

- Humans “reason by thinking about what’s possible”

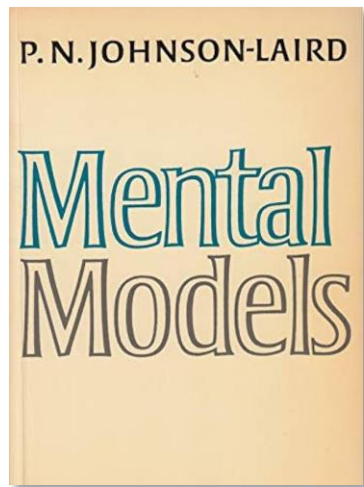
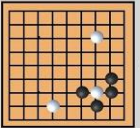


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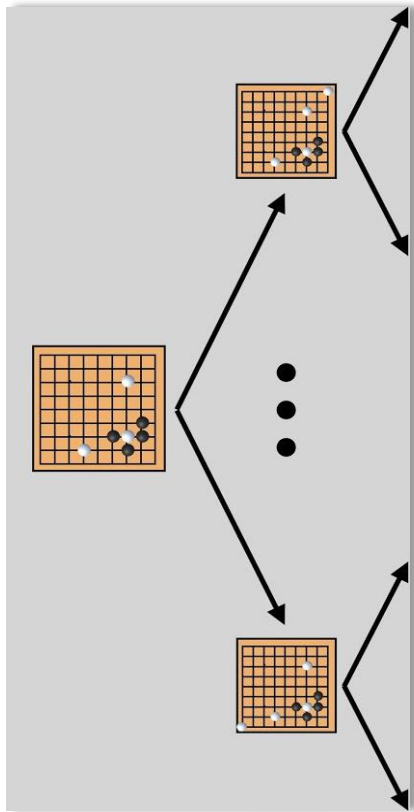


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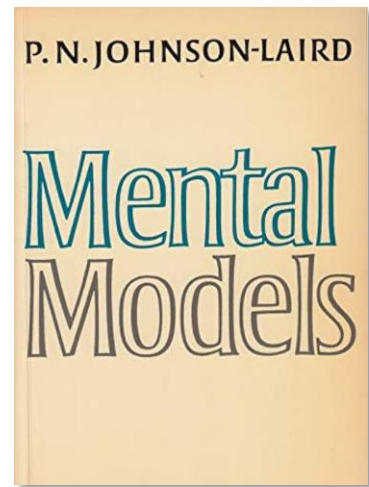
Simulates possibilities recursively; complexity emerges

## Example 1: Human reasoning

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- Simulate alternative hypothetical worlds with **mental models**

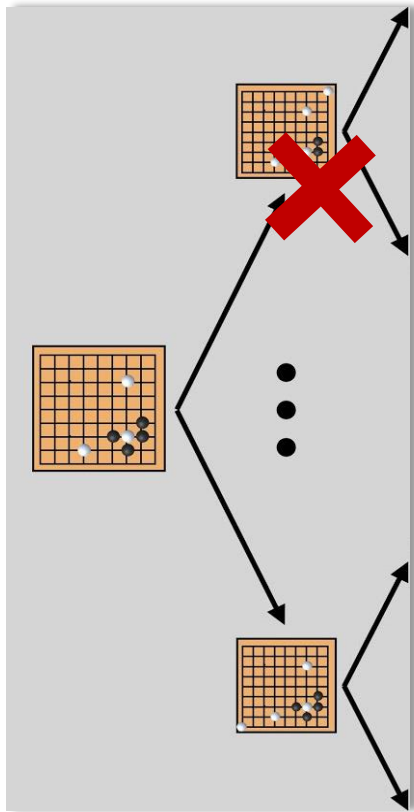


# How Nature Works

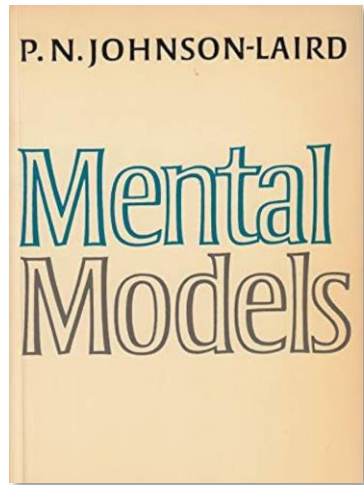
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## Example 1: Human reasoning

- Humans “reason by thinking about what’s possible”



- Simulate alternative hypothetical worlds with **mental models**
- Rule out possibilities that do not fit context, knowledge, or goals

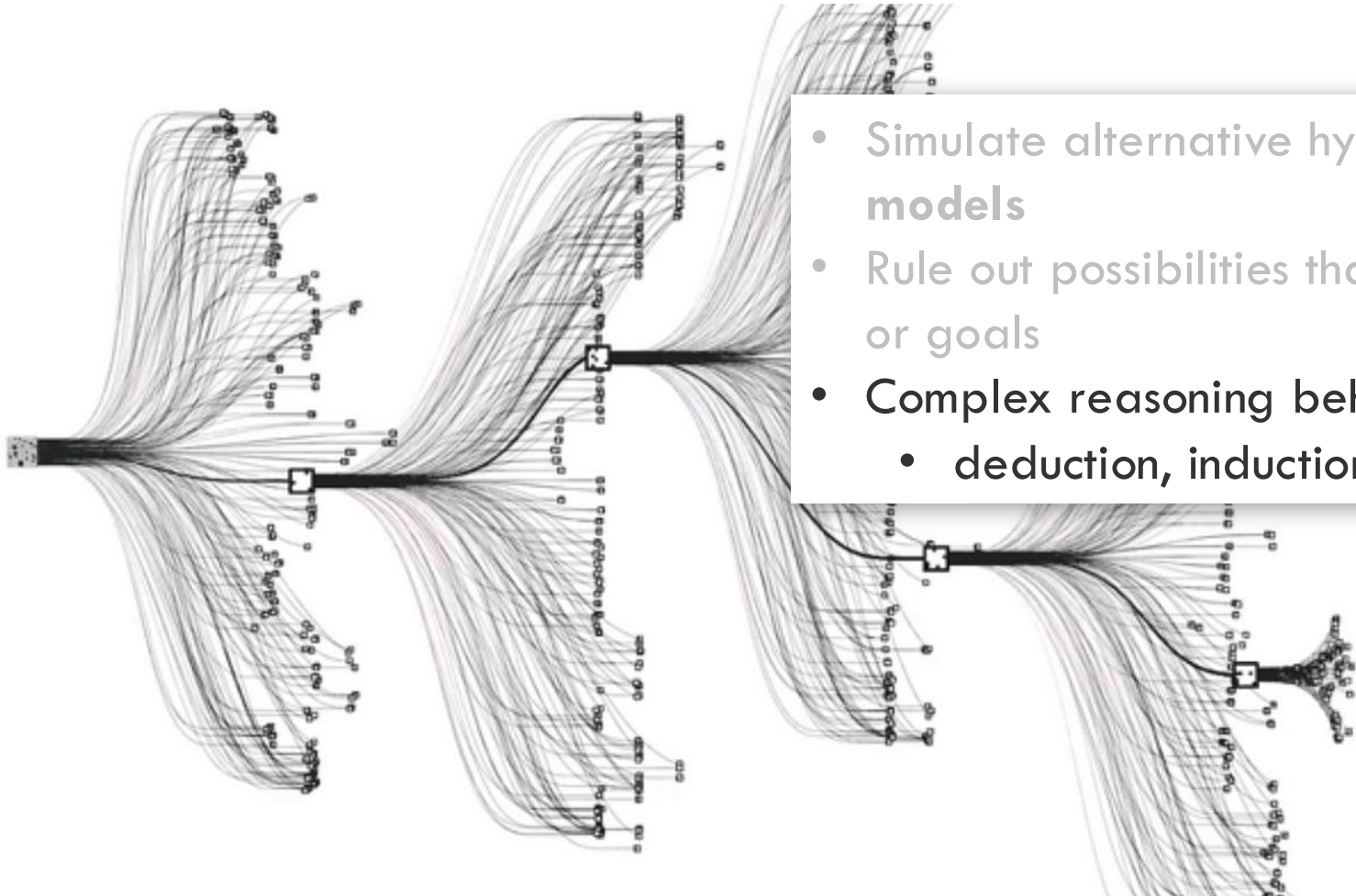
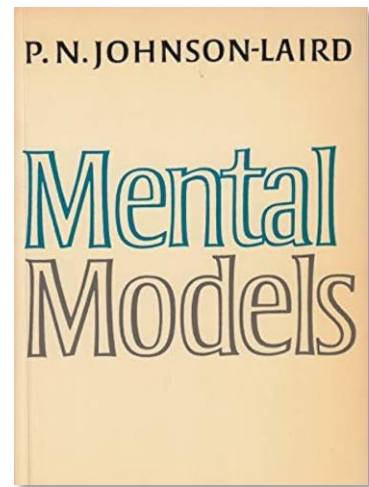


# How Nature Works

Simulates possibilities recursively; complexity emerges

## Example 1: Human reasoning

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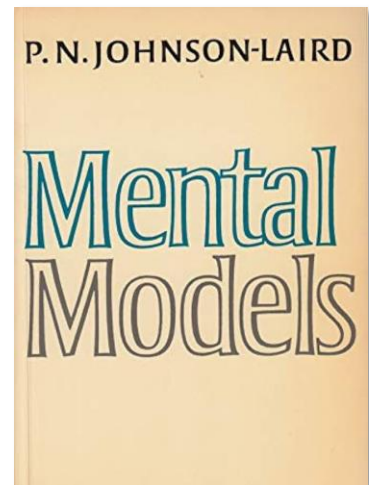
- Simulate alternative hypothetical worlds with **mental models**
- Rule out possibilities that do not fit context, knowledge, or goals
- Complex reasoning behaviors emerge
  - deduction, induction, abduction, ...

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Simulates possibilities recursively; complexity emerges

## Example 1: Human reasoning

- Humans “reason by thinking about what’s possible”



- Simulate alternative hypothetical worlds with **mental models**
- Rule out possibilities that do not fit context, knowledge, or goals
- Complex reasoning behaviors emerge
  - deduction, induction, abduction, ...

Determining whether a conclusion holds  
in all plausible worlds

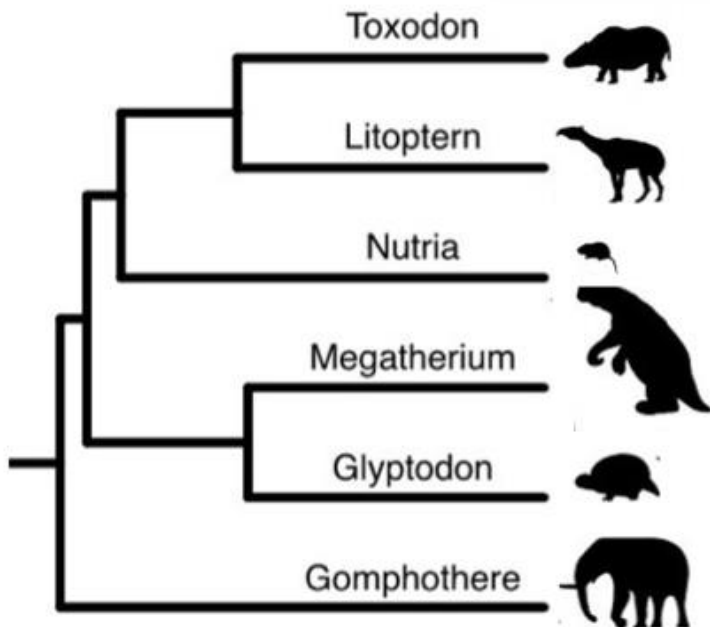


# How Nature Works

Simulates possibilities recursively; complexity emerges

## Example 2: Natural evolution

- Generate mutations with **molecular genetic mechanisms** (genotype -> phenotype)

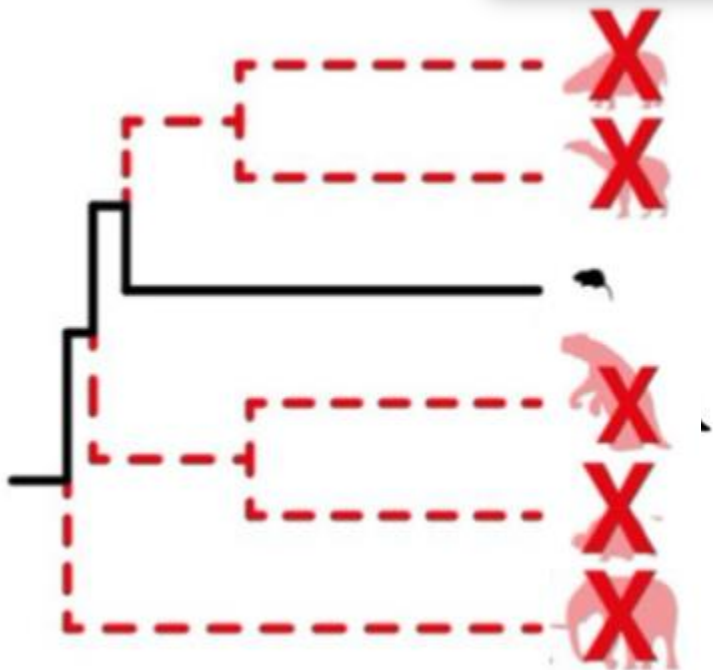


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## Example 2: Natural evolution

- Generate mutations with molecular genetic mechanisms (genotype  $\rightarrow$  phenotype)
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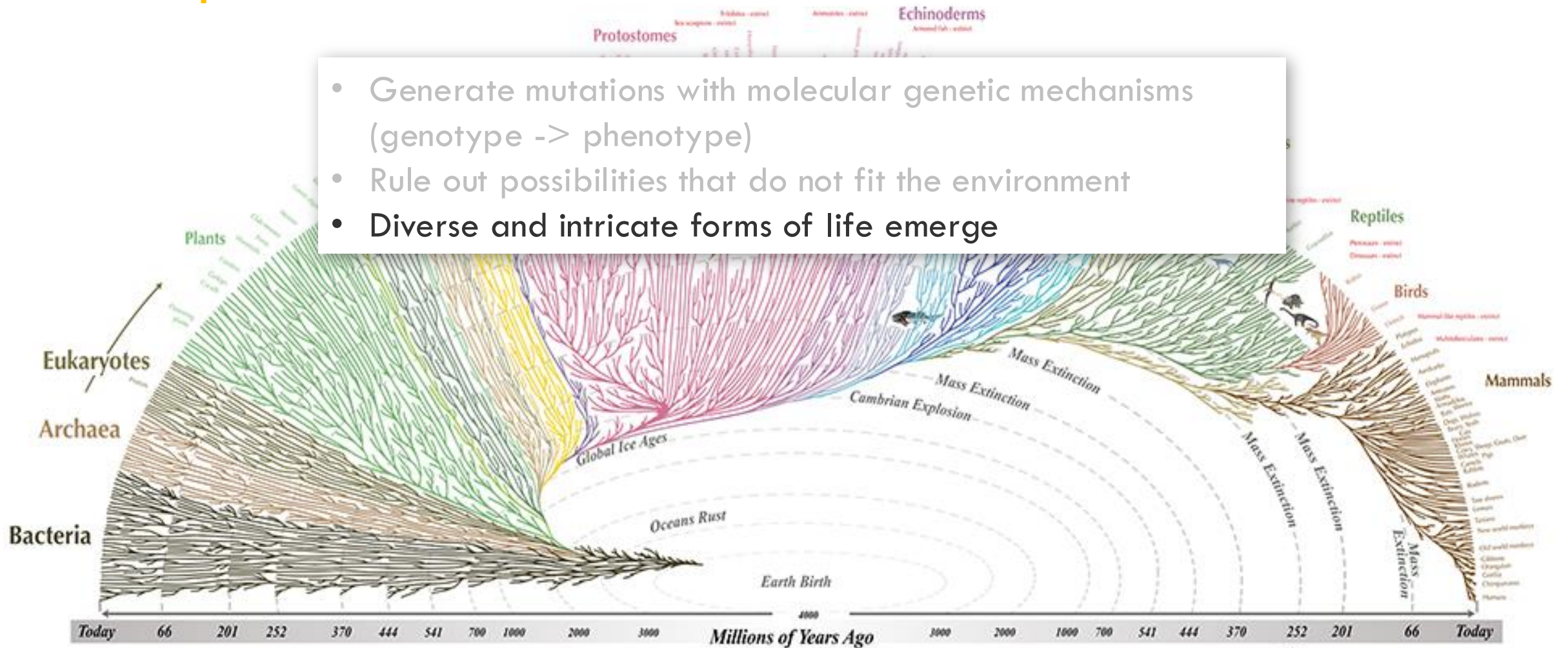


# How Nature Works

Simulates possibilities recursively; complexity emerges

## Example 2: Natural evolution

- Generate mutations with molecular genetic mechanisms (genotype -> phenotype)
- Rule out possibilities that do not fit the environment
- Diverse and intricate forms of life emerge



All the major and many of the minor living branches of life are shown on this diagram, but only a few of those that have gone extinct are shown. Example: Dinosaurs - extinct



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# How Nature Works

Simulates possibilities recursively; complexity emerges

**Human reasoning**

Mental models

**Natural evolution**

Molecular genetic mechanisms

Simulating possible consequences of an action

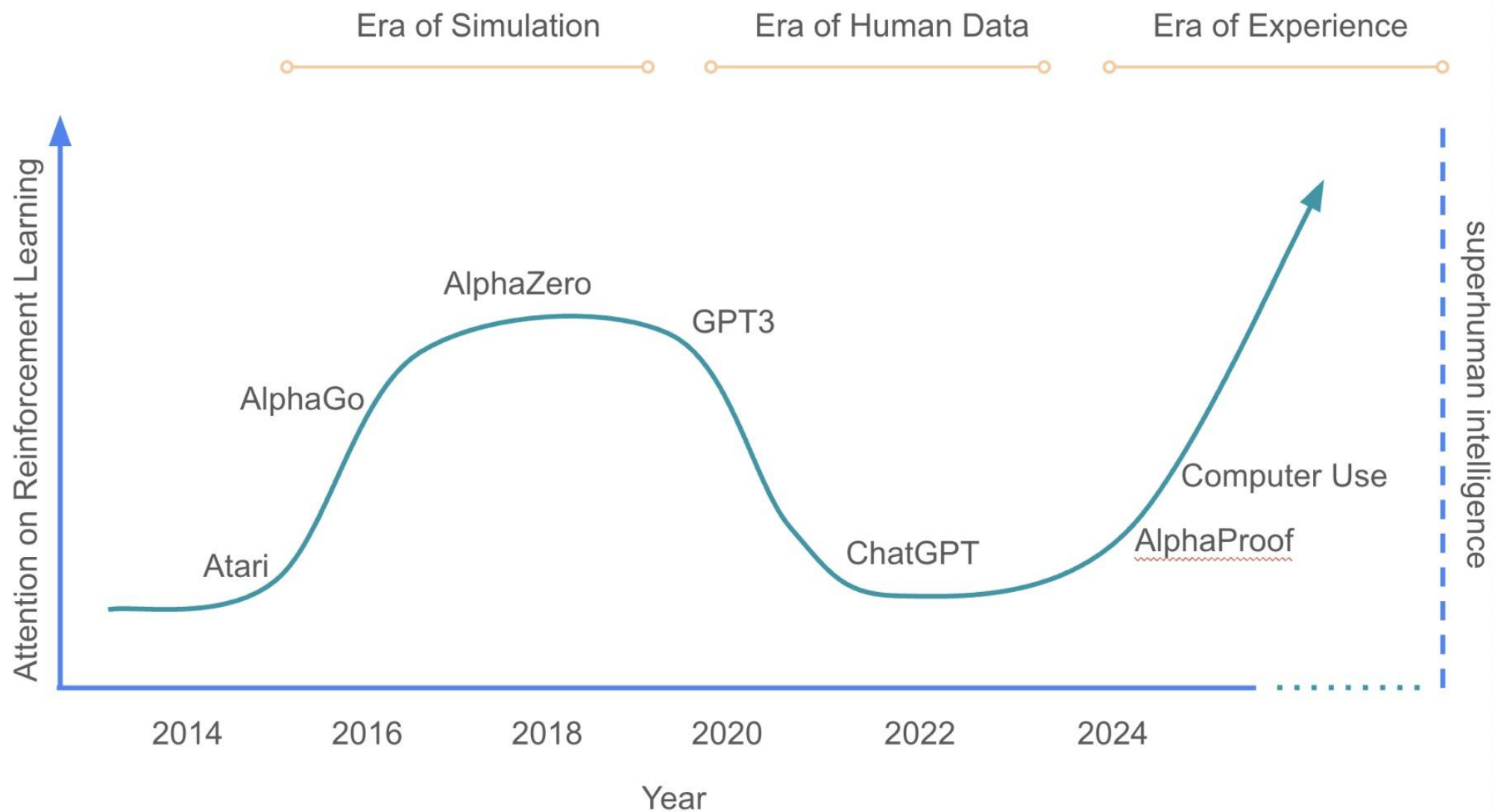
$$P(s' | s, a)$$

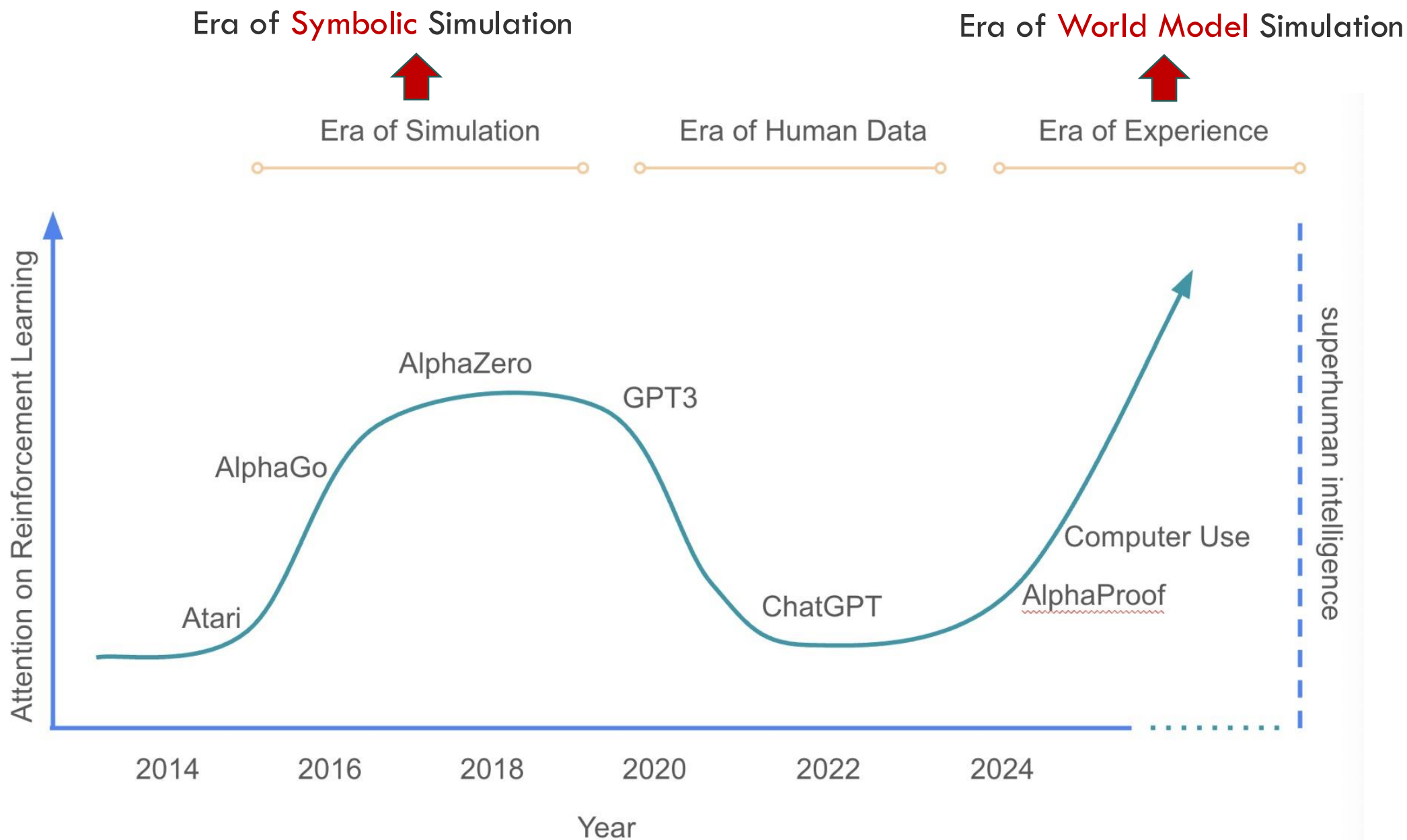


“World Model”

# Welcome to the Era of Experience

David Silver, Richard S. Sutton\*







**Questions?**