

# Robotics

## Part I: From Control to Learning Model-based Control

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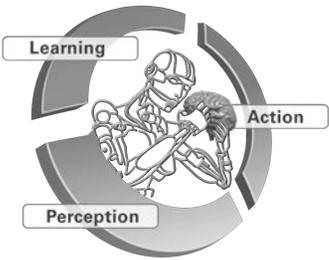
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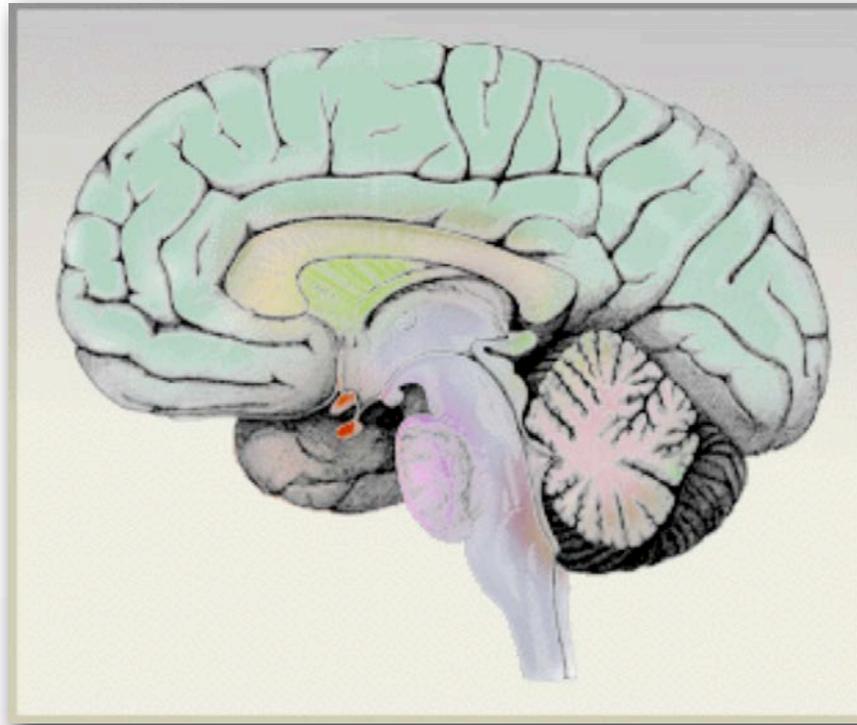
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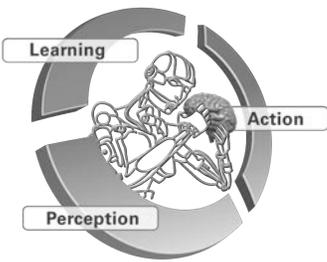


# Grand Challenge #1: The Human Brain



**How does the brain learn and control complex motor skills?**

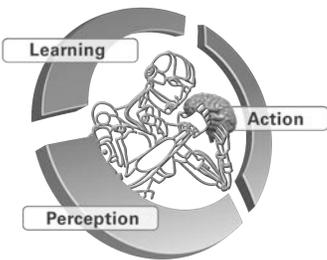
Applications: Facilitate learning, neuro-prosthetics, brain machine interfaces, movement rehabilitation, etc.



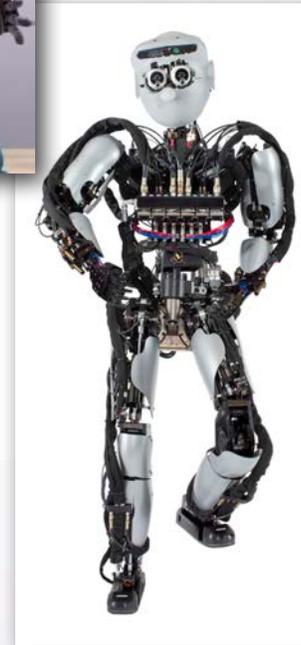
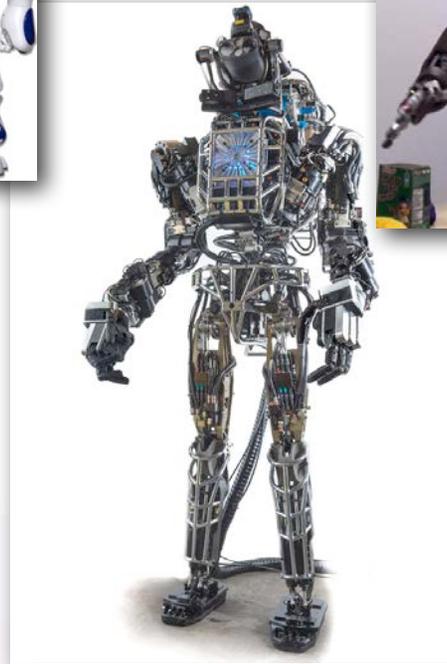
# Example Application: Revolutionary Prosthetics



**A Key Question for Research:**  
How does the brain control  
muscles and coordinate  
movement?

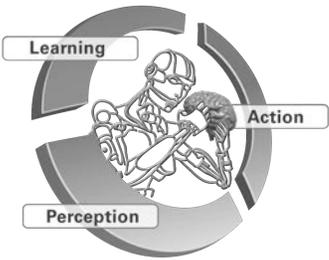


# Grand Challenge #II: Humanoids

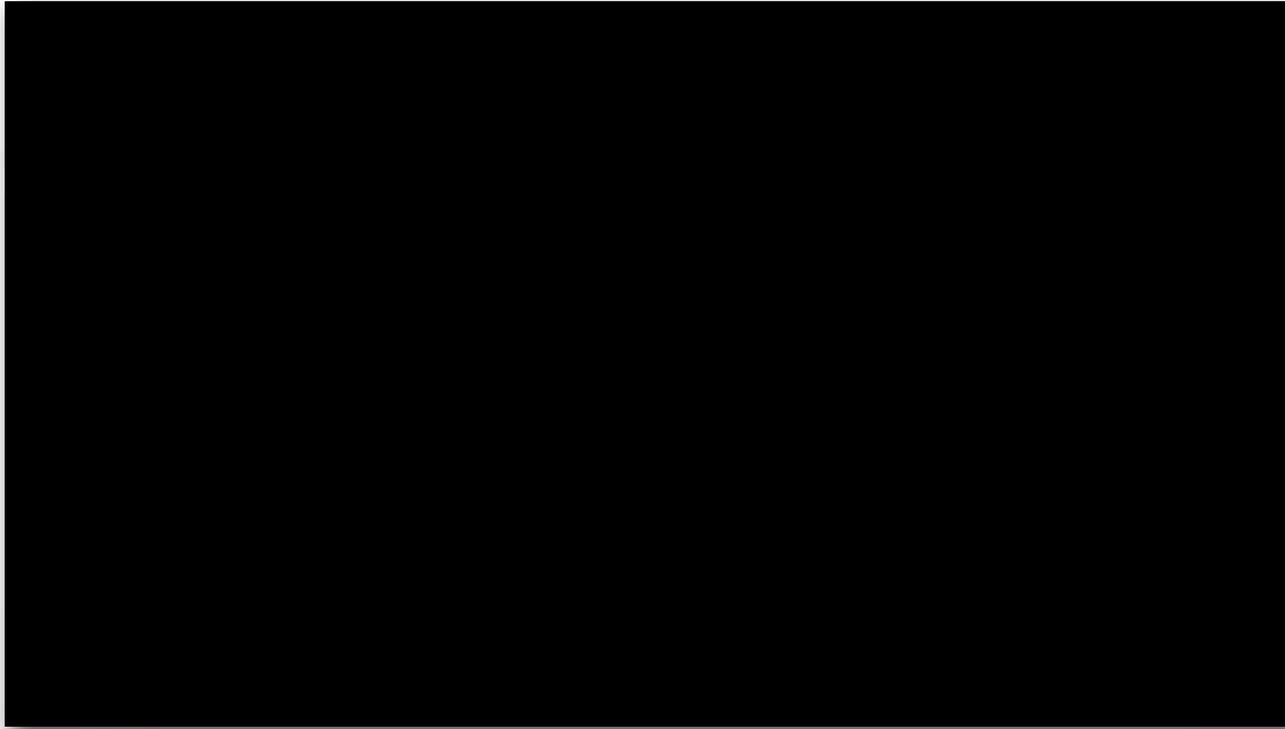


Can we create an autonomous humanoid robot?

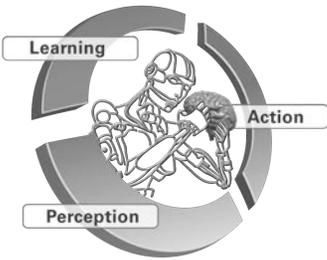
Applications: assistive robotics, hazardous environments, space exploration, etc.



# Example: The Hollywood View of Assistive Robotics



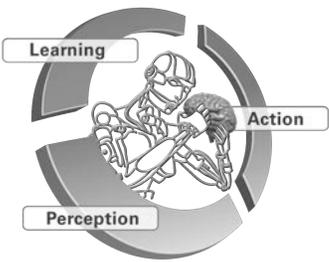
From the movie "I, Robot"



# The Hollywood Future Is Not So Far ...

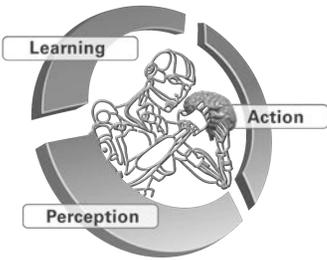
## Geminoid Summit

ATR Nara, March 2010



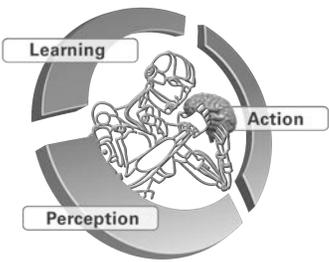
# The Hollywood Future Is Not So Far ...





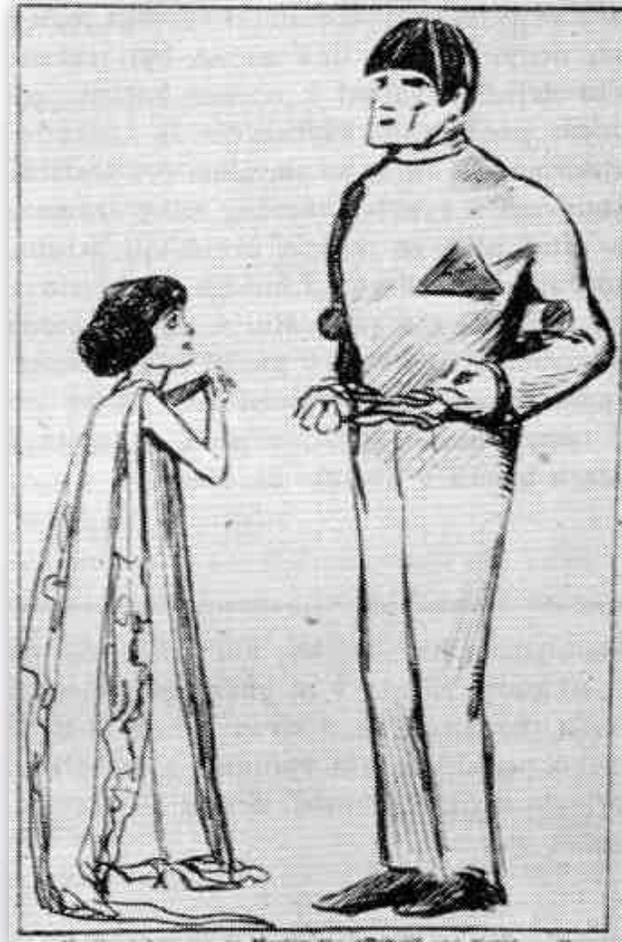
# Outline

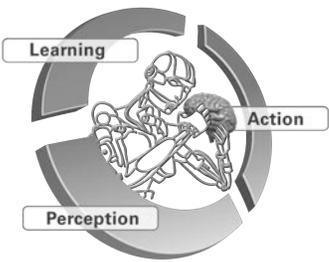
- A Bit of Robotics History
- Foundations of Control
- Adaptive Control
- Learning Control
  - Model-based Robot Learning



# Robotics—The Original Vision

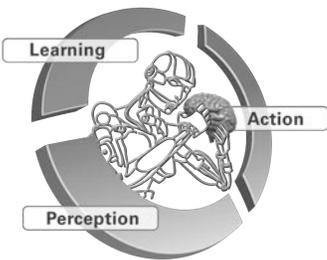
Karel Capek 1920:  
Rossum's Universal Robots





# Robotics—The Initial Reality





# Some History Bullets

1750

Swiss craftsmen create automatons with clockwork mechanisms to play tunes and write letters.

1917

The word "robot" first appears in literature, coined in the play *Opilek* by playwright Karel Capek, who derived it from the Czech word "robotnik" meaning "slave."

1921

The term robot is made famous by Capek's play *R.U.R.* (Rossum's Universal Robots).

1938

Isaac Asimov coins the term robotics in his science fiction novels, and formulates the Three Laws of Robotics which prevent robots from harming humans.

1954

The first United Kingdom robotics patent, No. 781465, is granted in England on March 29.

1956

The *Logic Theorist*, an artificial intelligence machine capable of proving logical propositions point-by-point, is unveiled at Dartmouth College.

1958

Joseph F. Engelberger sets up a business in his garage called Consolidated Controls, making aircraft components. Joseph F. Engleberger and George C. Devol name their first robot "Unimate." The first Unimate is installed at a General Motors plant to work with heated die-casting machines. Devol founds Unimation, the first commercial company to make robots. Unimation stood for Universal automation.

1960

Artificial intelligence teams at Stanford Research Institute in California and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland begin work on the development of machine vision.

1961

George C. Devol obtains the first U.S. robot patent, No. 2,998,237.

1961

First production version Unimate industrial robot is installed in a die-casting machine.

1961

The MH-1, Mechanical Hand with sensors, is developed at MIT by Ernst.

1962

Consolidated Diesel Electric Company (Condec) and Pullman Corporation enter into joint venture and form Unimation, Inc. (Unimation stood for "Universal Automation").

1963

The Versatran industrial robot became commercially available.

1964

The first Tralfa robot is used to paint wheelbarrows in a Norwegian factory during a human labor shortage.

1966

The first prototype painting robots are installed in factories in Byrne, Norway.

1966

The robotic spacecraft "Surveyor" (United States) lands on the moon.

1968

"Shakey," the first complete robot system is built at Stanford Research Institute, in California.

1968

Unimation takes its first multi-robot order from General Motors.

1969

Robot vision, for mobile robot guidance, is demonstrated at the Stanford Research Institute.

1969

Unimate robots assemble Chevrolet Vega automobile bodies for General Motors.

1970

General Motors becomes the first company to use machine vision in an industrial application. The Consight system is installed at a foundry in St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada.

1970

The Russian lunar rover Lunakhod, wheels about on the moon.

1970

The first American symposium on robots meets in Chicago.

1971

Japan establishes the Japanese Industrial Robot Association (JIRA), and becomes the first nation to have such an organization.

1972

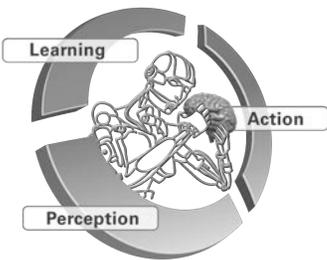
The SIRCH machine, capable of recognizing and orienting randomly presented two-dimensional parts, is developed at the University of Nottingham, England.

1972

Kawasaki installs a robot assembly line at Nissan, Japan, using robots supplied by Unimation, Inc.

1973

"The Industrial Robot," the first international journal of robotics, begins publication.



# Some History Bullets

1973  
The ASEA Group of Vasteras, Sweden, introduces its all- electric IRb 6 and IRb 60 robots, designed for automatic grinding operations.

1974  
Hitachi uses touch and force sensing with its Hi-T-Hand robot, allowing the robot hand to guide pins into holes.

1974  
The Robotics Industries Association is founded.

1975  
Cincinnati Milacron introduces its first T3 robot for drilling applications.

The ASEA 60kg robot is the first robot installed in an iron foundry; the Cincinnati Milacron T3 becomes the first robot to be used in the aerospace industry.

1976  
The Trallfa spray-painting robot is adapted for arc welding at the British agricultural implement firm of Ransome, Sims and Jefferies.

1976  
Remote Center Compliance evolves from research at Charles Stark Draper Labs, Cambridge, Mass. Dynamics of part mating are developed, allowing robots to line up parts with holes both laterally and rotationally.

1976  
The robotic spacecraft "Viking" (United States) lands on the Martian surface.

1977  
California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) demonstrates a robotic hand-eye system can be integrated with a self-propelled vehicle for planetary exploration. (Mars Rover)

1977  
The British Robotics Association (BRA) is founded.

1978  
The first PUMA (Programmable Universal Assembly) robot is developed by Unimation for General Motors.

1978  
The Machine Intelligence Company is organized by Charles A. Rosen and associates.

1979  
Japan introduces the SCARA (Selective Compliance Assembly Robot Arm); Digital Electronic Automation (DEA) of Turin, Italy, introduces the PRAGMA robot, which is licensed to General Motors.

1980  
Robotics languages are developed to ease programming bottlenecks.

1981  
IBM enters the robotics field with its 7535 and 7565 Manufacturing Systems.

1982  
The Pedesco robot (Pedesco, Scarborough, Ontario) is used to clean up after a nuclear fuel spill at an atomic power plant. A task too dangerous for direct human contact.

1982  
Stan Mintz and five co-employees of Hewlett-Packard Company left to form Intelledex Corporation, a manufacturer of light assembly robots, for such tasks as installing integrated circuits.

1981-1984  
Rehabilitation robots are enhanced by mobility, voice communication, and safety factors. Greater emphasis is placed on machine vision, tactile sensors, and languages. Battlefield and security robots are developed.

1983  
Westinghouse Electric Corporation buys Unimation, Inc., which becomes part of its factory automation enterprise. Westinghouse later sells Unimation to AEG of Pennsylvania.

1984  
Robot Defense Systems introduces the Prowler ("Programmable Robot Observer with Local Enemy Response"), the first in a series of battlefield robots.

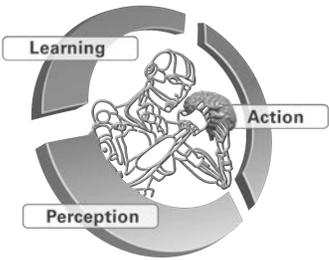
1984  
Intelledex Corporation introduces the Model 695 lite assembly robot, based on the Intel 8086 and 8087 microprocessor chips. Its software is called Robot Basic, a specialized version of Microsoft's Basic.

1993  
The University of Michigan's CARMEL robot wins first place at the 1992 Robot Competition sponsored by the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). CARMEL stands for computer-aided robotics for maintenance, emergency, and life support. The SRI International's robot "FLAKEY" wins second place. Both microcomputer- controlled machines use ultrasonic sonar sensors.

1997  
The Honda Humanoid Robot is introduced

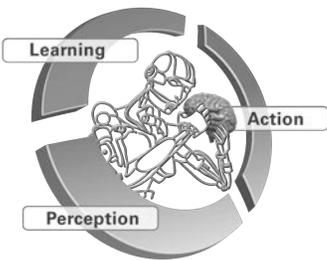
2002  
The Roomba Robot is the first household robot to be sold more than one million times

2005  
Autonomous Car Navigation in complex terrain in the DARPA Grand Challenge

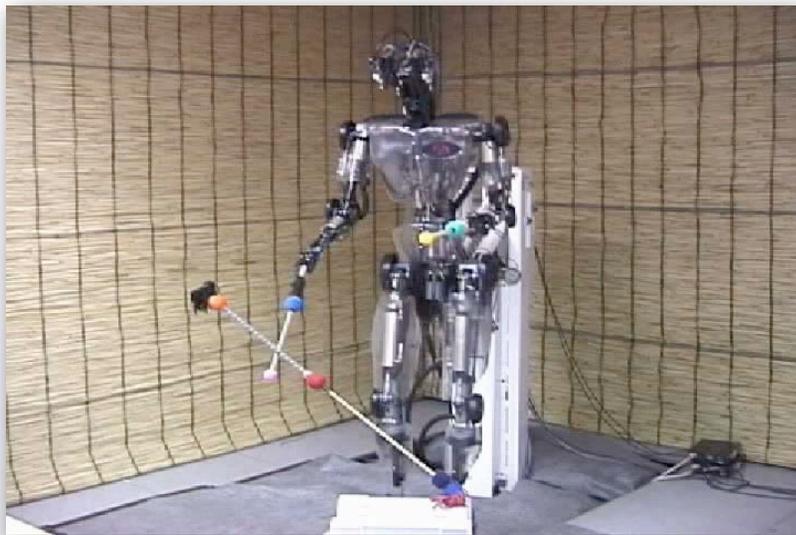


# Robotics—What We Might Want





# Some History of Robot Juggling

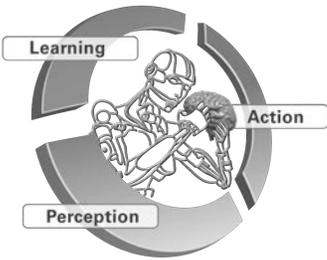


The Flying Machine Arena  
Quadrocopter Ball Juggling



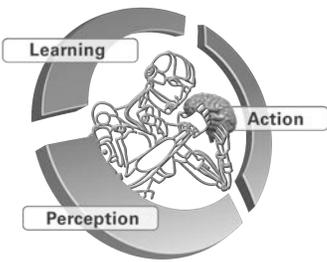
**ETH**

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

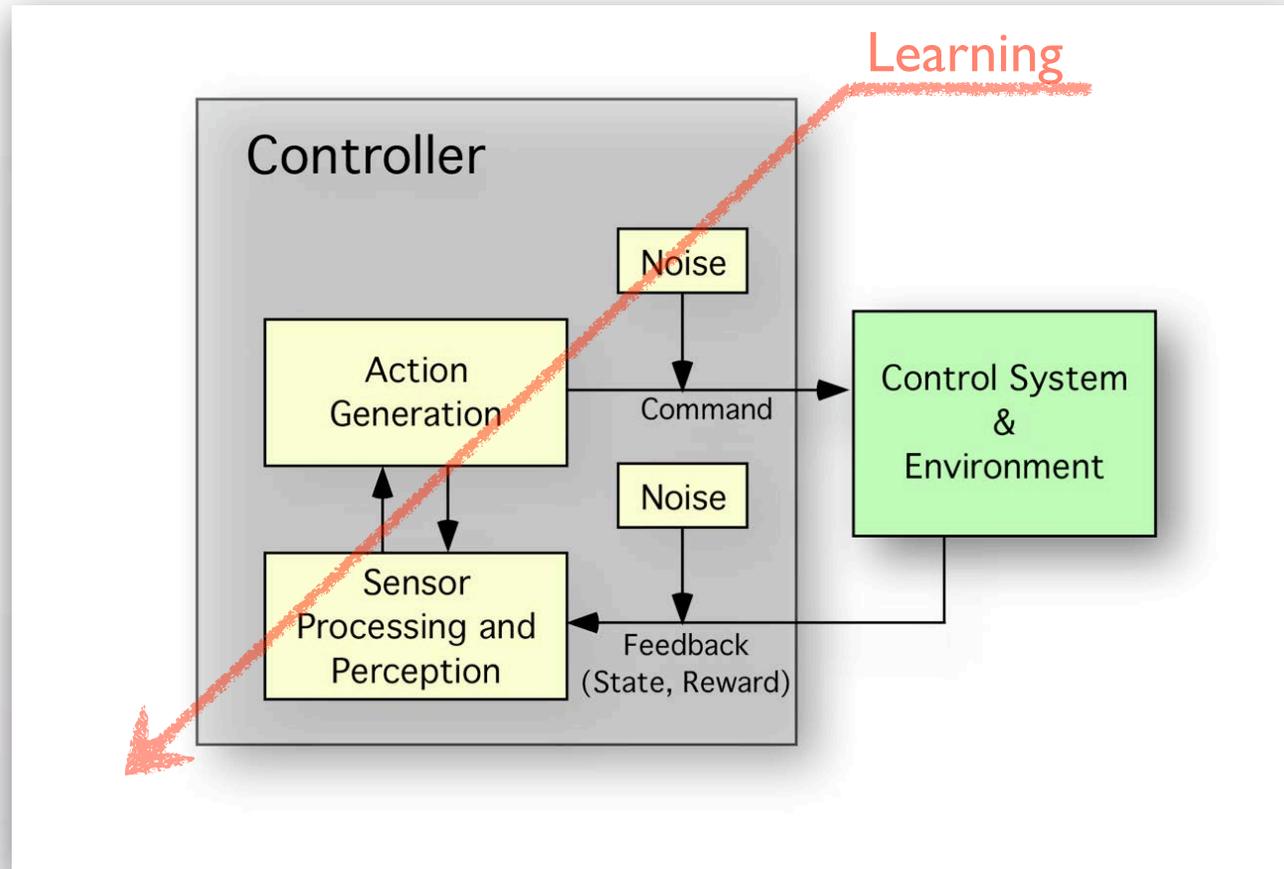


# Outline

- A Bit of Robotics History
- Foundations of Control
- Adaptive Control
- Learning Control
  - Model-based Robot Learning

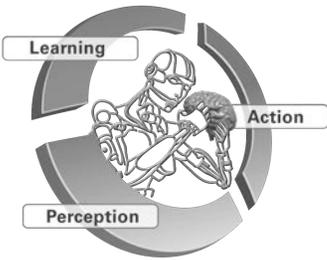


# Control Diagrams: Perception-Action-Learning



$$\text{System Model: } \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, t, \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_x)$$

$$\text{Observation Model: } \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, t, \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_y)$$

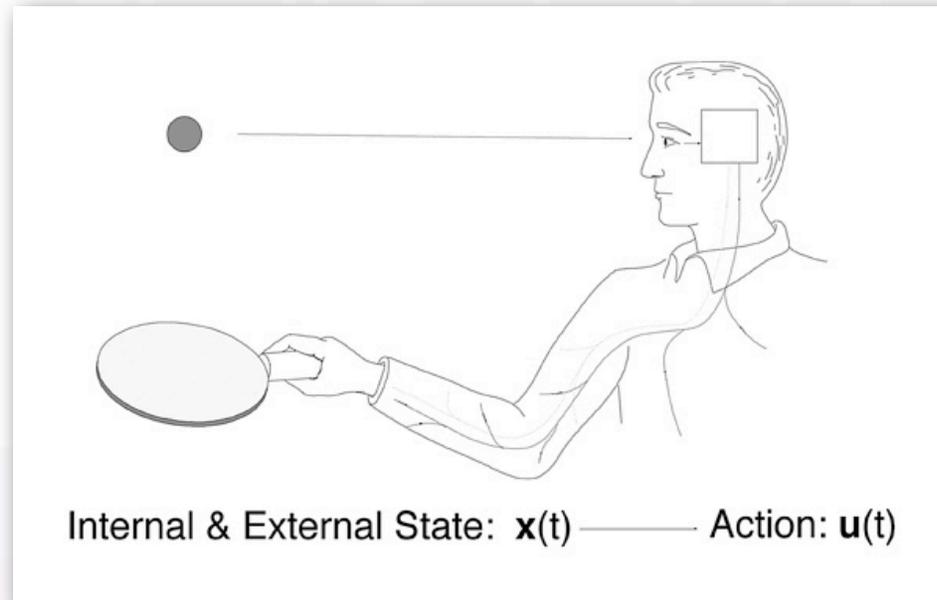


# Control Policies

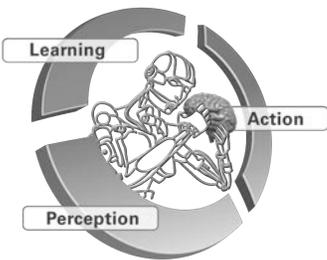
- The General Goal of Control:

Control Policies

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = \pi(\mathbf{x}(t), t, \alpha)$$



But how should control policies be represented?

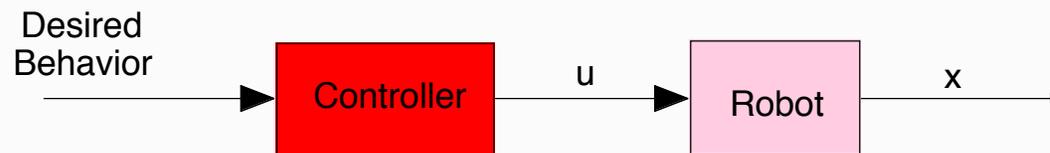


# Representing Control Policies

- **Feedforward Control:**

- Control policy **does not** receive feedback from the robot/environment

## Open Loop Control

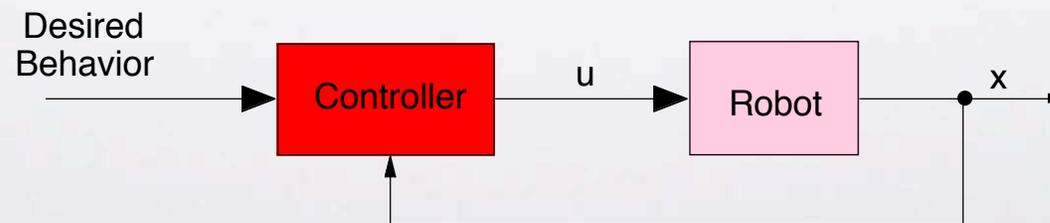


$$\mathbf{u} = \pi(\mathbf{x}, \alpha, t) = \pi(\alpha, t)$$

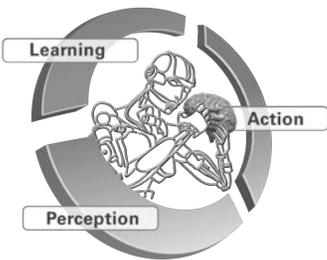
- **Feedback Control**

- Control policy **does** receive feedback from the robot/environment

## Closed Loop Control



$$\mathbf{u} = \pi(\mathbf{x}, \alpha, t)$$

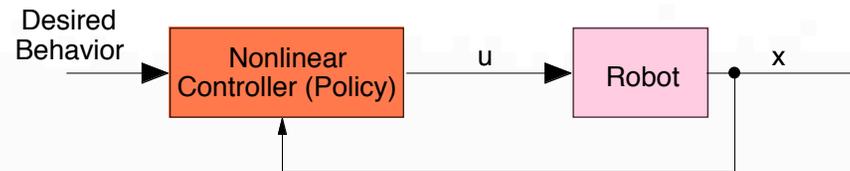


# Representing Control Policies: Types of Feedback Control

- General Feedback Control:

Feedback Control

$$\mathbf{u} = \pi(\mathbf{x}, \alpha, t)$$



- Negative Feedback Control

Negative Feedback Control

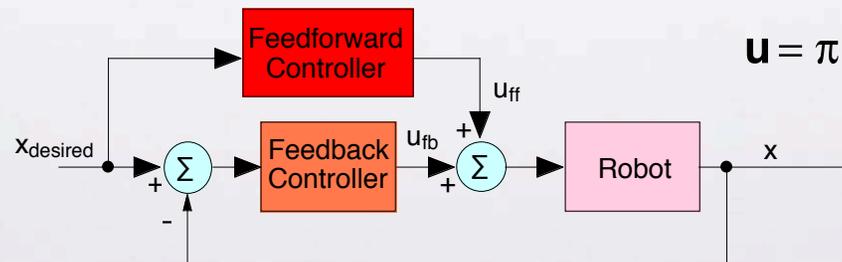
$$\mathbf{u} = \pi(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_{des}, \alpha, t)$$

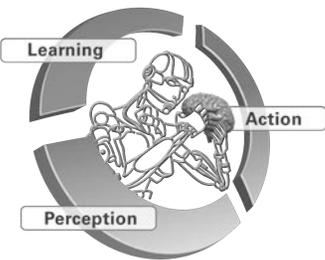


- Negative Feedback and Feedforward Control

Neg. Feedback & Feedforward Control

$$\mathbf{u} = \pi_{fb}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_{des}, \alpha, t) + \pi_{ff}(\mathbf{x}_{des}, \alpha, t)$$

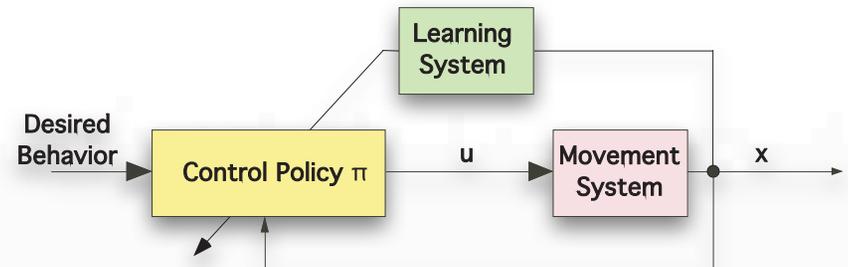




# Representing Control Policies: Variations of Closed-Loop Control

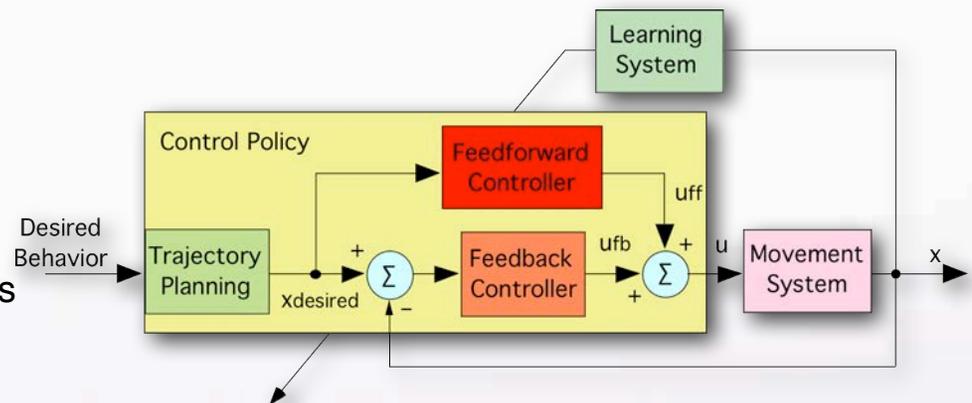
- **Direct Control:**

- policy creates directly motor commands
  - Pros: Very general representation
  - Cons: Hard to find these control policies, hard to re-use (generalization)



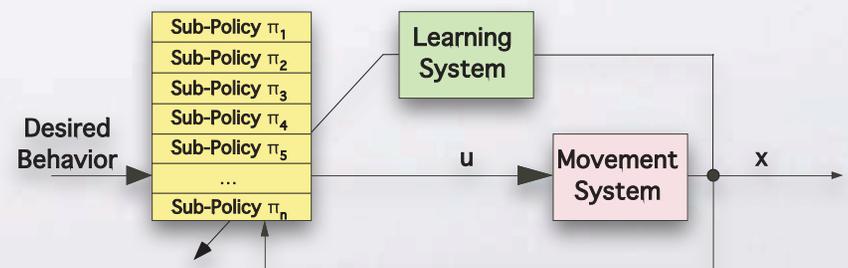
- **Indirect Control**

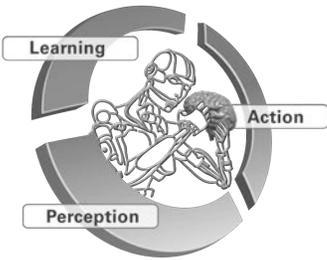
- policy creates kinematic trajectory plans, and converts them to motor commands
  - Pros: easier to re-use
  - Cons: more pre-structure required, less flexible in representational power



- **Modularization**

- Motor primitives are used to generate complex behaviors from smaller pieces
  - Pros: easier generalization and re-use
  - Cons: less representational power, how to determine/learn the modularization?





# Linear Negative Feedback Control

- Proportional-Derivative-Integral (PID) Control:

$$\mathbf{u}_{fb} = \mathbf{u}_P + \mathbf{u}_D + \mathbf{u}_I$$

- Proportional Control (“Position Error”)

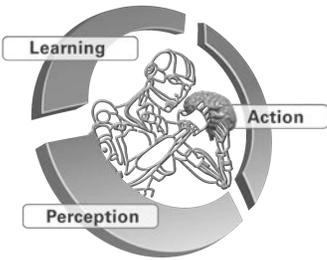
$$\mathbf{u}_P = \pi(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_{des}, \alpha, t) = \mathbf{K}_P(\mathbf{x}_{des}(t) - \mathbf{x}(t))$$

- Derivative Control (“Damping”)

$$\mathbf{u}_D = \pi(\dot{\mathbf{x}} - \dot{\mathbf{x}}_{des}, \alpha, t) = \mathbf{K}_D(\dot{\mathbf{x}}_{des}(t) - \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t))$$

- Integral Control (“Steady State Error”)

$$\mathbf{u}_I(t) = \mathbf{K}_I \int_{\tau=0}^{\tau=t} (\mathbf{x}_{des}(t) - \mathbf{x}(t)) dt$$



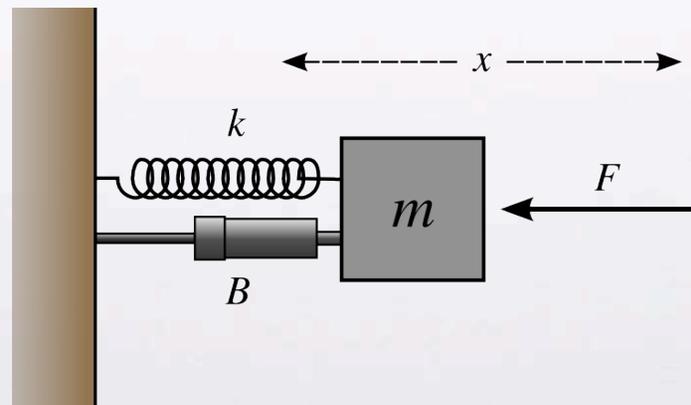
# Model-based Feedforward Control

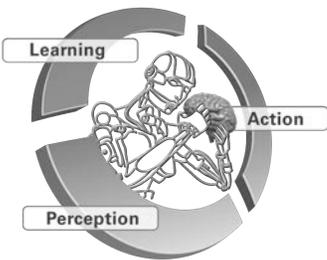
- Rigid-Body Dynamics: A General Modeling Framework for most robots

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{q}) = \boldsymbol{\tau}$$

- One of the simplest examples: Linear mass-spring-damper

$$m\ddot{x} + B\dot{x} + k(x - x_0) = F$$





# Model-based Feedforward Control

- Some notation:

- Inverse dynamics:

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{q}) = \boldsymbol{\tau}$$

- Forward dynamics:

$$\ddot{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{q})(\boldsymbol{\tau} - \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} - \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{q}))$$

- Control Affine Dynamics:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u}$$

- Control Law:

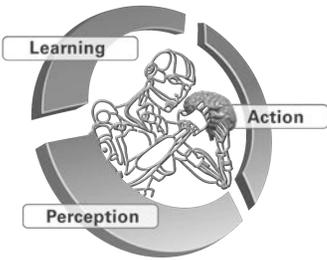
$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_{fb} + \mathbf{u}_{ff}$$

with, for example, Computed Torque Control:

$$\mathbf{u}_{ff} = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q}_{des})\ddot{\mathbf{q}}_{des} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}_{des}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}_{des})\dot{\mathbf{q}}_{des} + \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{q}_{des})$$

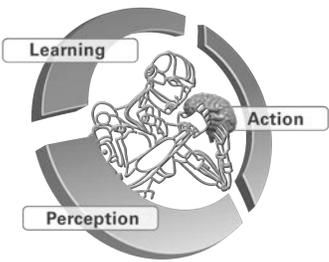
$$\mathbf{u}_{fb} = \mathbf{K}_P(\mathbf{q}_{des} - \mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{K}_D(\dot{\mathbf{q}}_{des} - \dot{\mathbf{q}})$$

$\mathbf{K}_P, \mathbf{K}_D$  are positive definite



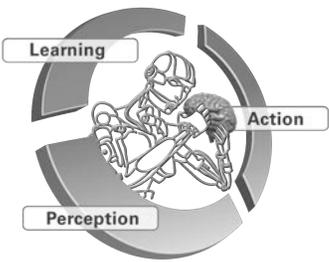
# Model-based Control

- Some Important Properties
  - most industrial robots only use feedback control
  - rigid body dynamics models require special software to derive, as equations easily go over 10-100 pages
  - compliant control requires model-based control and accurate models
  - negative feedback control is always needed for error/perturbation rejection
  - damping is very important to ensure stability
  - modern, compliant robots require model-based control



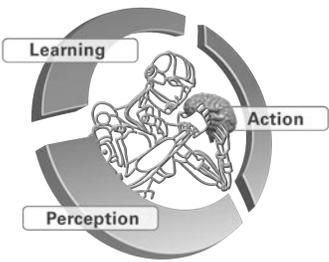
# Example: Model-based Control of a Robot Dog





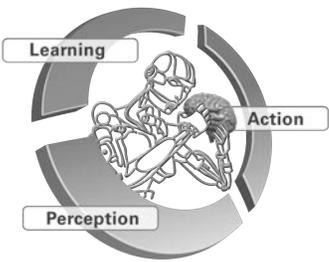
# Example: Model-based Control of a Robot Dog





# Example: Model-based Control of a Robot Dog

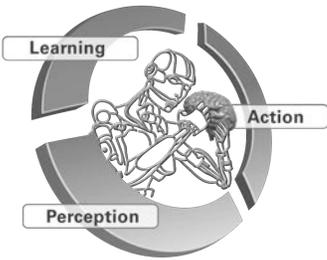




# Example: Model-based Control of a Robot Dog

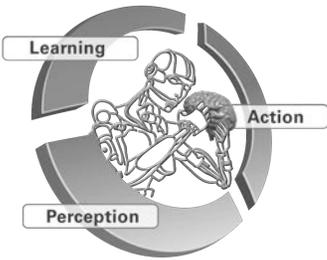


**Cpl. Christofer Baines**  
Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall



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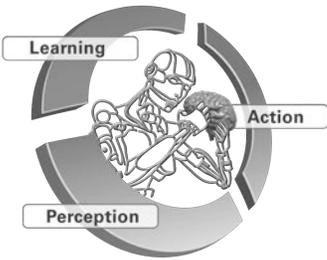
# Adaptive Control

- Terminology

- Adaptive Control, in control theory, denotes an adaptation (=learning) process where the control system IS NOT PERMITTED TO FAIL
- This is in contrast to Learning Control, which does allow for trial-and-error learning with failure
- Emphasis on the closed-loop system's stability, which really matters the most in robotics

- Basic Steps of Adaptive Control

- Characterize the desired behavior of the closed loop system
- Determine a suitable control law with adjustable parameters
- Find a mechanism for adjusting the parameters
- Implement the control law



# Model-Reference Adaptive Control

- Performance is supposed to correspond to a particular reference model

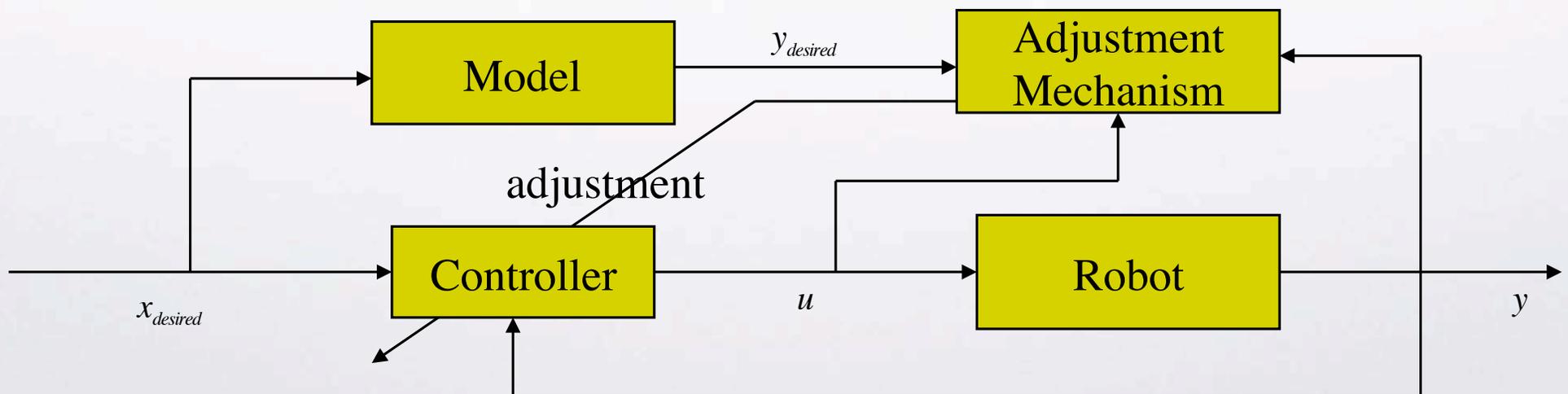
$$y_{desired} = x_{desired}$$

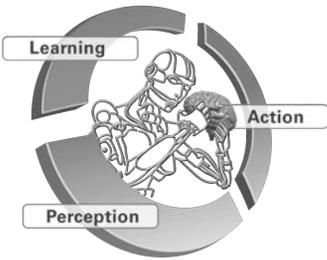
- for example:

*or*

$$\dot{y}_{desired} = \alpha (x_{desired} - y_{desired})$$

- this defines a cost function, which allows to adjust parameters, e.g., by gradient descent





# Example: Deriving A Simple Adaptive Control Law

- Consider a generic control affine system

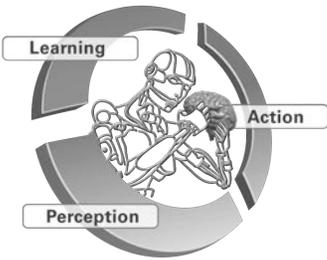
$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u}$$

- Let's make it even simpler

$$\dot{x} = f(x) + u$$

- Control objective: accurately follow  $x_d$
- Assume that  $f$  is unknown and needs to be estimated by a learning process. Thus, we can formulate a model-based control law:

$$u = -\hat{f}(x) + \dot{x}_d - k(x - x_d)$$



# Example: Deriving A Simple Adaptive Control Law

- Assume that  $f$  can be modeled accurately by a linear system

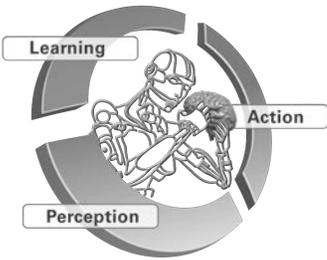
$$f(x) = \theta x$$

$$\hat{f}(x) = \hat{\theta} x$$

- such that our control law becomes:

$$u = -\hat{\theta} x + \dot{x}_d - k(x - x_d)$$

- The goal of model-reference adaptive control is to adjust the open parameter and the control law such that the system is ALWAYS stable



# Example: Deriving A Simple Adaptive Control Law

- After inserting the control law, the system dynamics is:

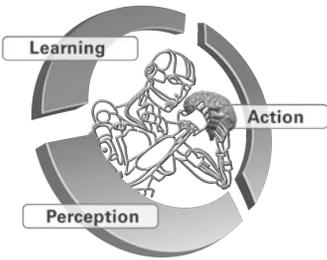
$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x} &= f(x) + u \\ &= \theta x - \hat{\theta} x + \dot{x}_d - k(x - x_d)\end{aligned}$$

- Define errors:

$$\begin{aligned}e &= x_d - x \\ \tilde{\theta} &= \theta - \hat{\theta}\end{aligned}$$

- Insert into system dynamics to obtain erro dynamics:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x} &= \theta x - \hat{\theta} x + \dot{x}_d - k(x - x_d) \\ &= \tilde{\theta} x + \dot{x}_d + ke \\ \dot{e} &= -ke - \tilde{\theta} x\end{aligned}$$



# Example: Deriving A Simple Adaptive Control Law

- Define a Lyapunov function:
  - Control stability is guaranteed if  $dV/dt < 0$

$$V = \frac{1}{2}e^2 + \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\theta} \Gamma^{-1}\tilde{\theta}$$

- Take time derivative of Lyapunov function:

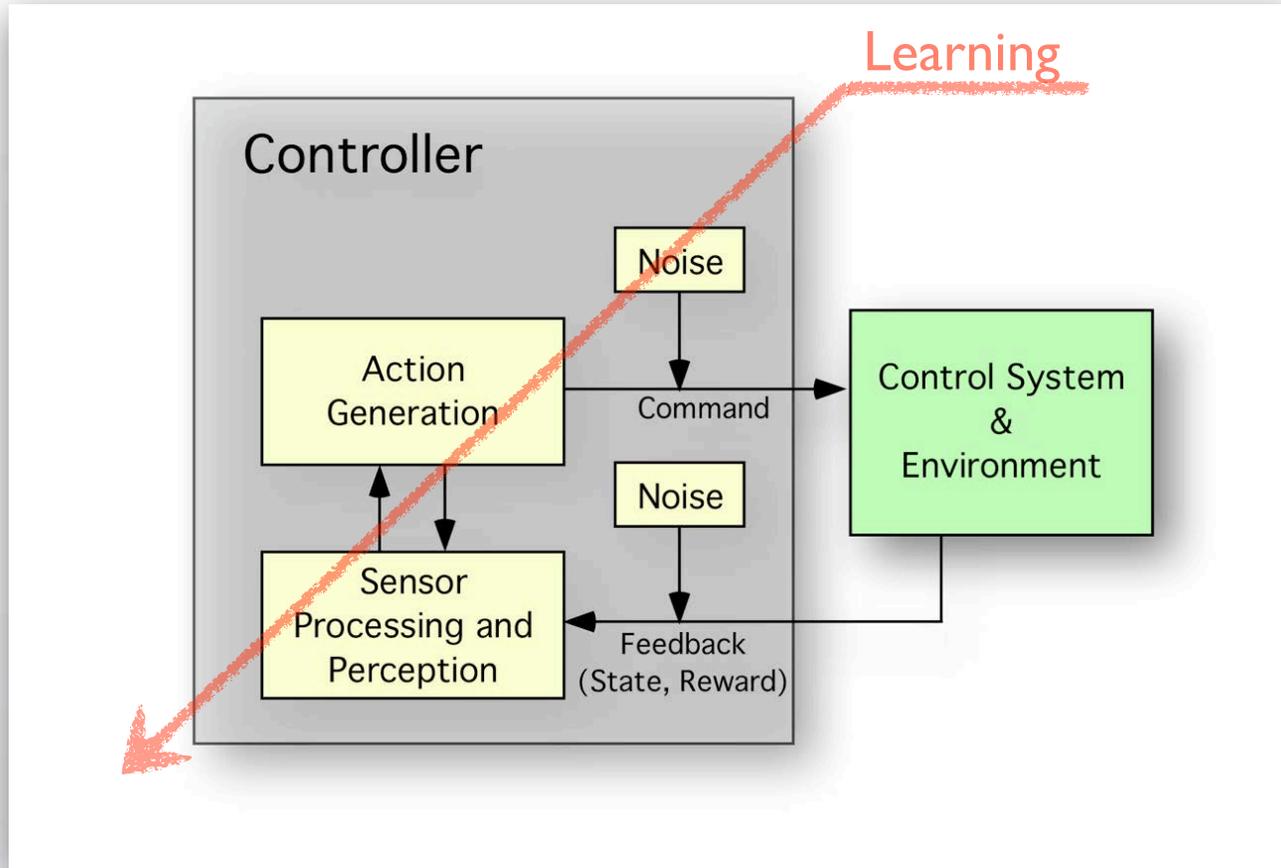
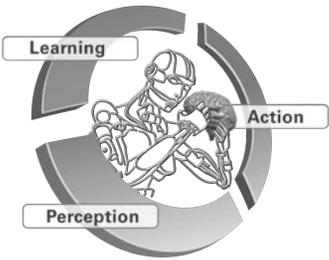
$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V} &= e\dot{e} + \tilde{\theta} \Gamma^{-1}\dot{\tilde{\theta}} \\ &= e\dot{e} - \tilde{\theta} \Gamma^{-1}\hat{\theta} \\ &= e(-x \tilde{\theta} - ke) - \tilde{\theta} \Gamma^{-1}\hat{\theta} \\ &= -ex\tilde{\theta} - ke^2 - \tilde{\theta} \Gamma^{-1}\hat{\theta} \end{aligned}$$

- Choose open parameters such that  $dV/dt < 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} -ex\tilde{\theta} - \tilde{\theta} \Gamma^{-1}\hat{\theta} &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow \\ \hat{\theta} &= -\Gamma ex \end{aligned}$$

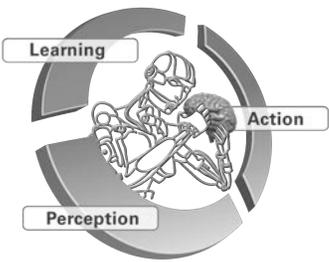
This parameter adaptation law guarantees stability!

# Adaptive Control Cares About The Closed Loop System!

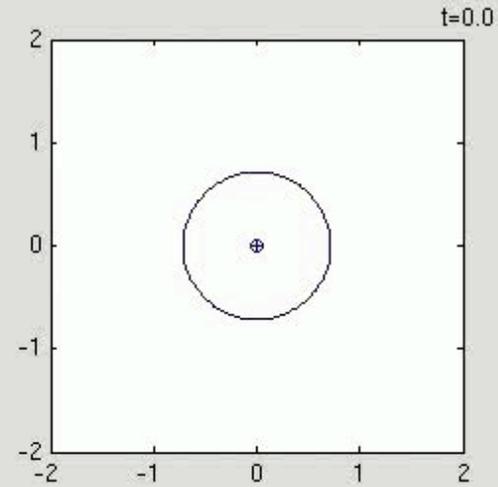
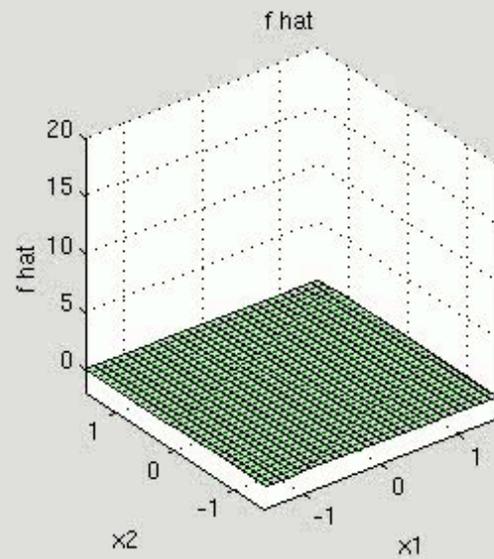


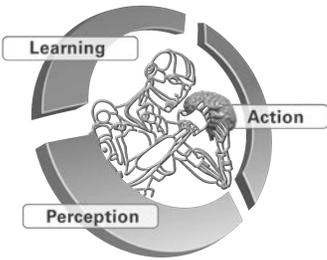
$$\text{System Model: } \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, t, \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_x)$$

$$\text{Observation Model: } \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, t, \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_y)$$



# A Nonlinear Example

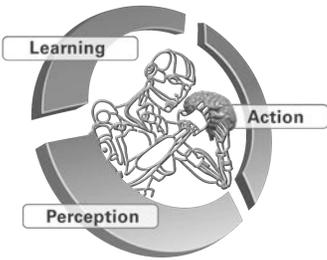




# Example of Nonlinear Adaptive Control

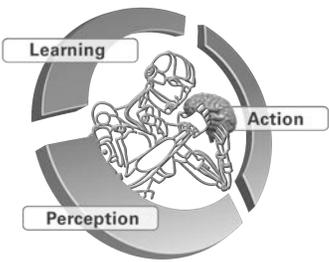
## Whole Arm Manipulator Catching

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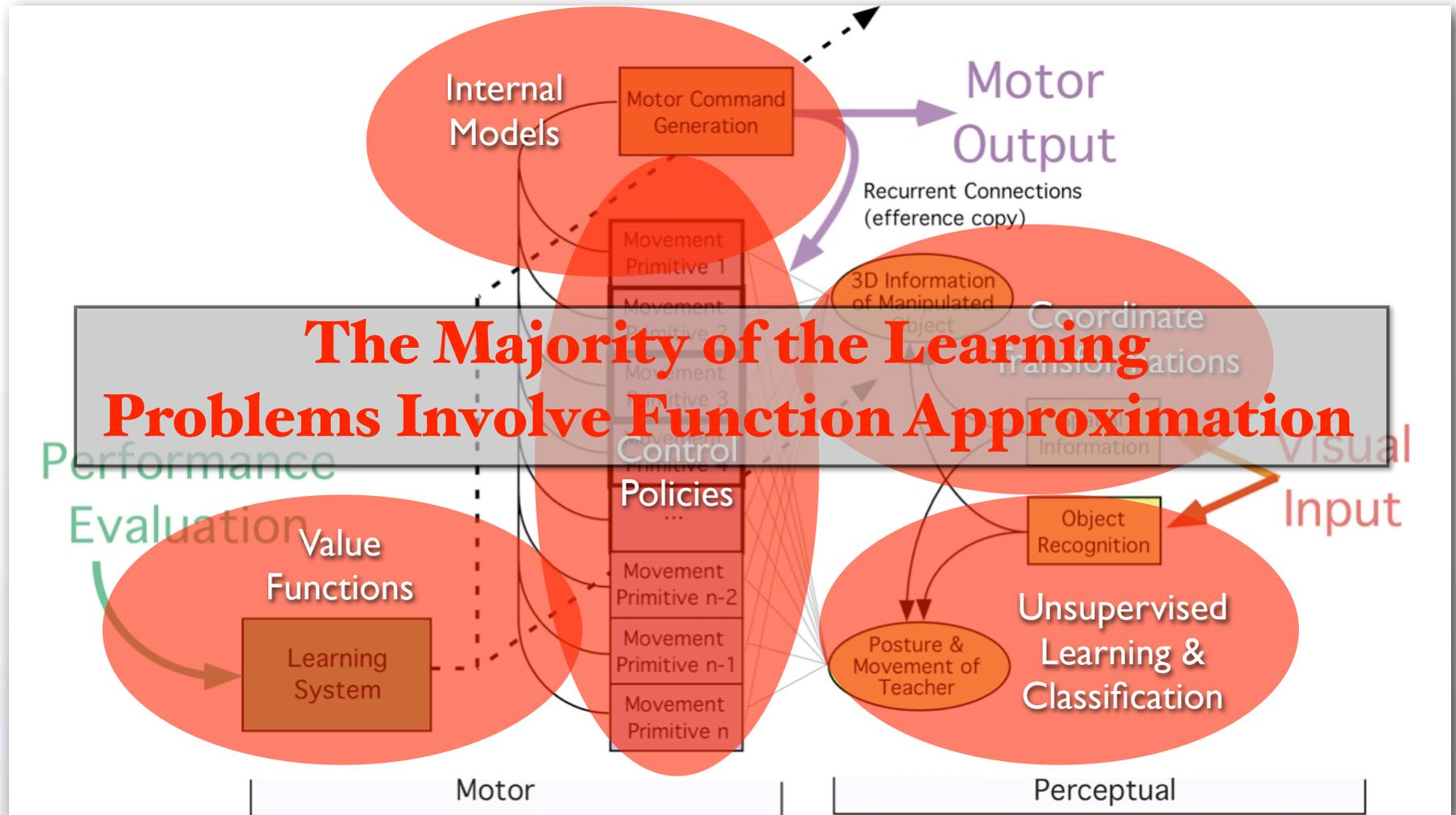


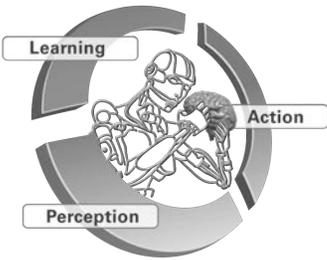
# Outline

- A Bit of Robotics History
- Foundations of Control
- Adaptive Control
- Learning Control
  - Model-based Robot Learning



# What Needs to Be Learned in Learning Control?





# Learning Internal Models

- **Forward Models**

- models the causal functional relationship

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$$

- for example:

$$\ddot{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{q})(\boldsymbol{\tau} - \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} - \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{q}))$$

- **Inverse Models**

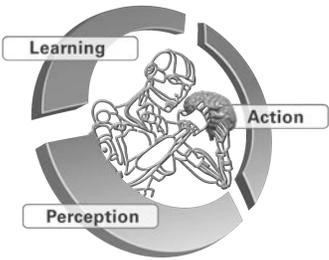
- models the inverse of the causal functional relationship

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{f}^{-1}(\mathbf{y})$$

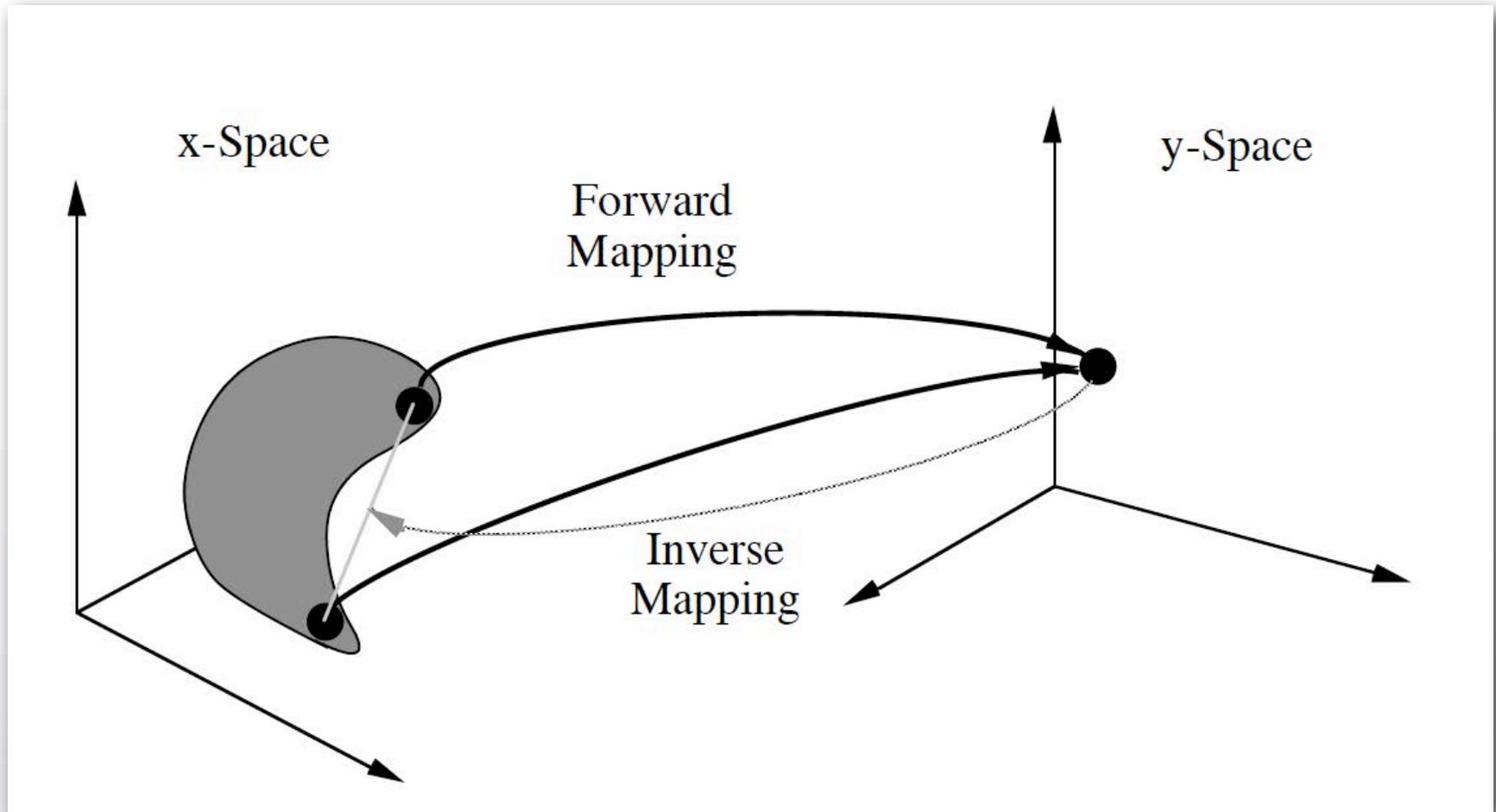
- for example:

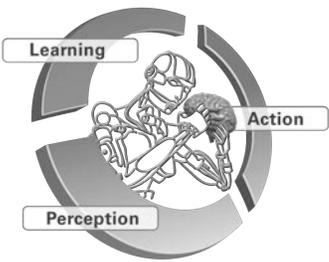
$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{q}) = \boldsymbol{\tau}$$

- NOTE: inverse models are not necessarily functions any more!



# Inverse Models May Not Be Trivially Learnable



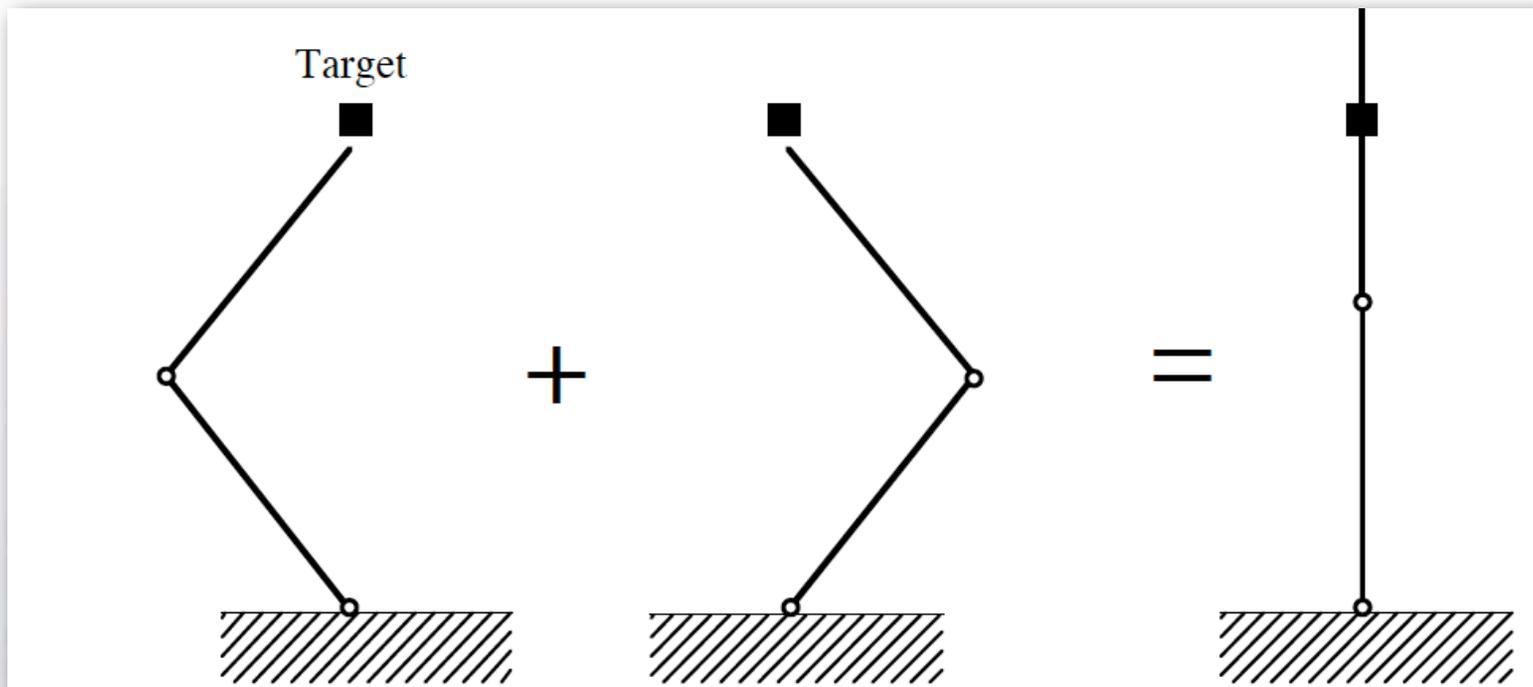


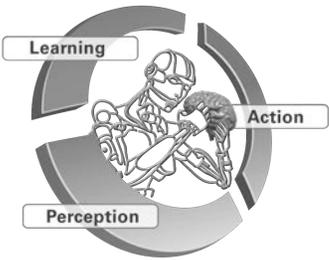
# Inverse Models May Not Be Trivially Learnable

$$\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{f}(\theta_1^1, \theta_2^1)$$

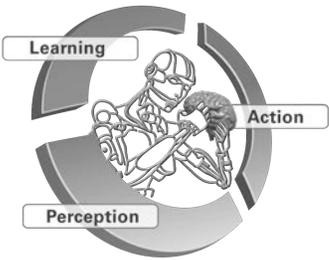
$$\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{f}(\theta_1^2, \theta_2^2)$$

what is  $\mathbf{f}^{-1}(\mathbf{t})$ ?





... continued in the next lecture.



# A Cool Robot Movie

