

Using  
evolutionary  
robotics  
to study  
embodied  
cognition.

**Josh Bongard**  
University of Vermont





**UVM Complex Systems Center** @uvmcomplexity · 17h



The **Vermont Complex** Systems Center has 7 Ph.D./Master's fellowships open in **Complex** Systems and Data Science. Applications are now open for Fall 2019. Help us spread the word! Learn more here [bit.ly/complex-fellow...](https://bit.ly/complex-fellow...)



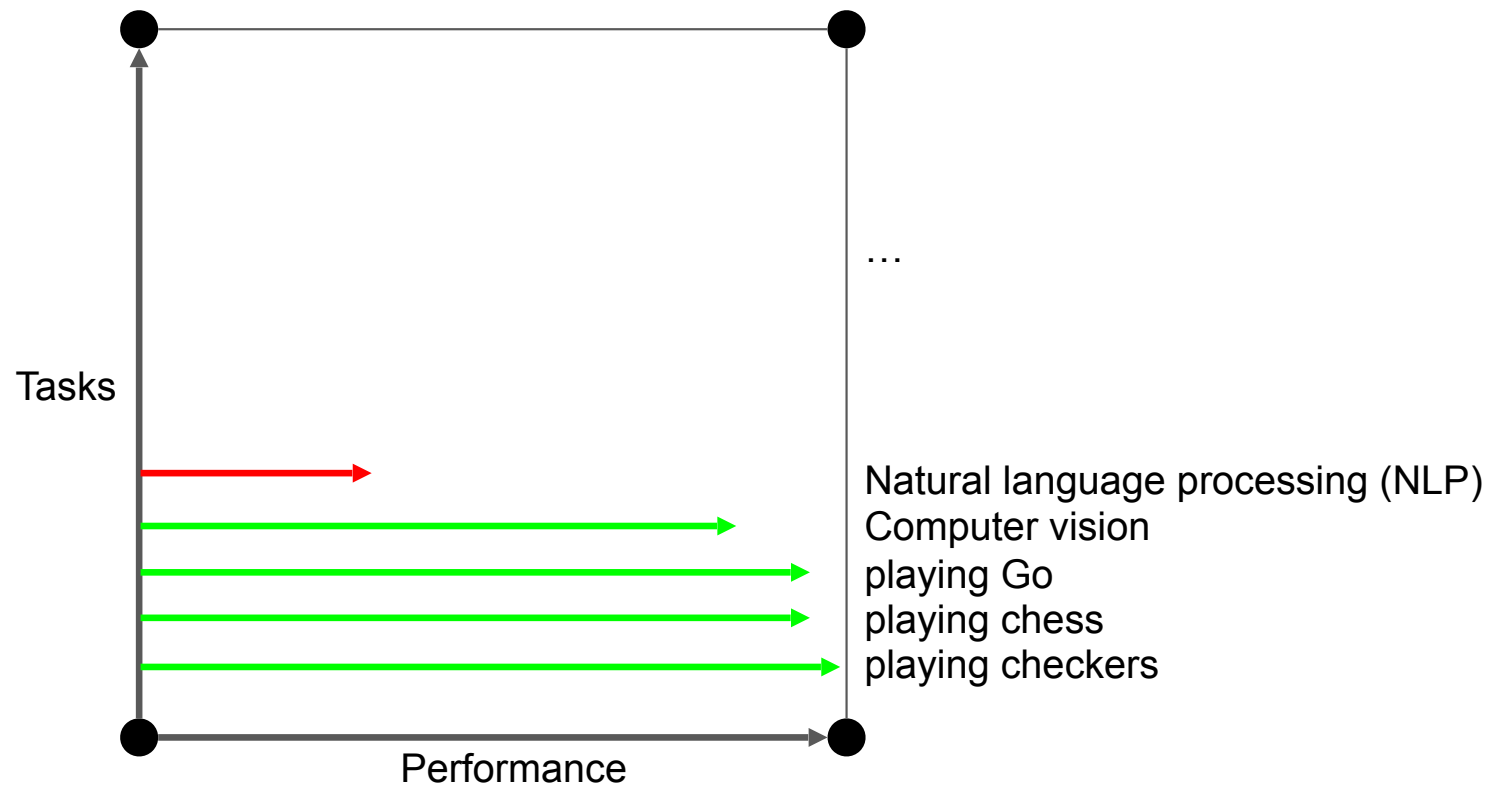
50% accuracy

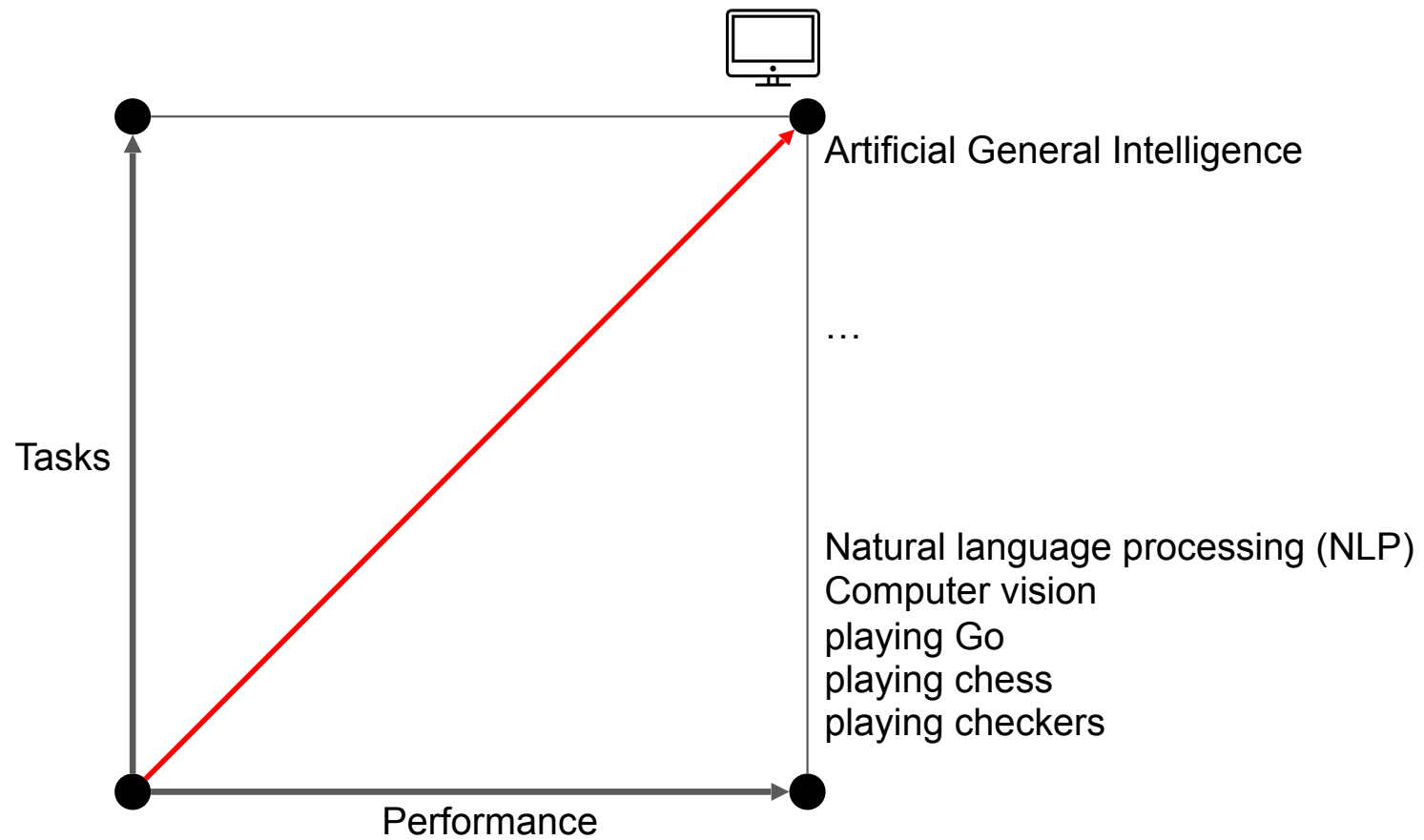
99% accuracy

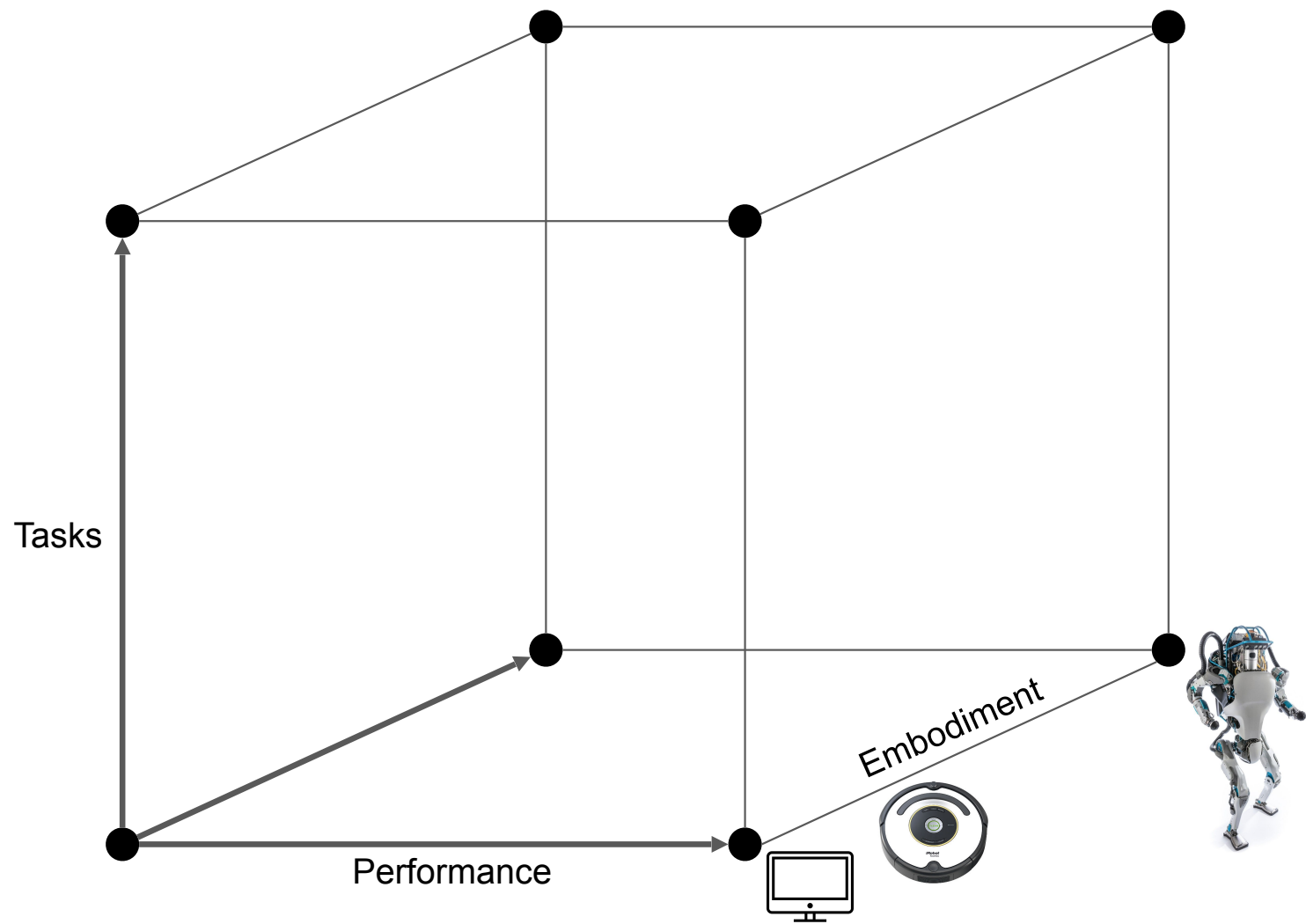


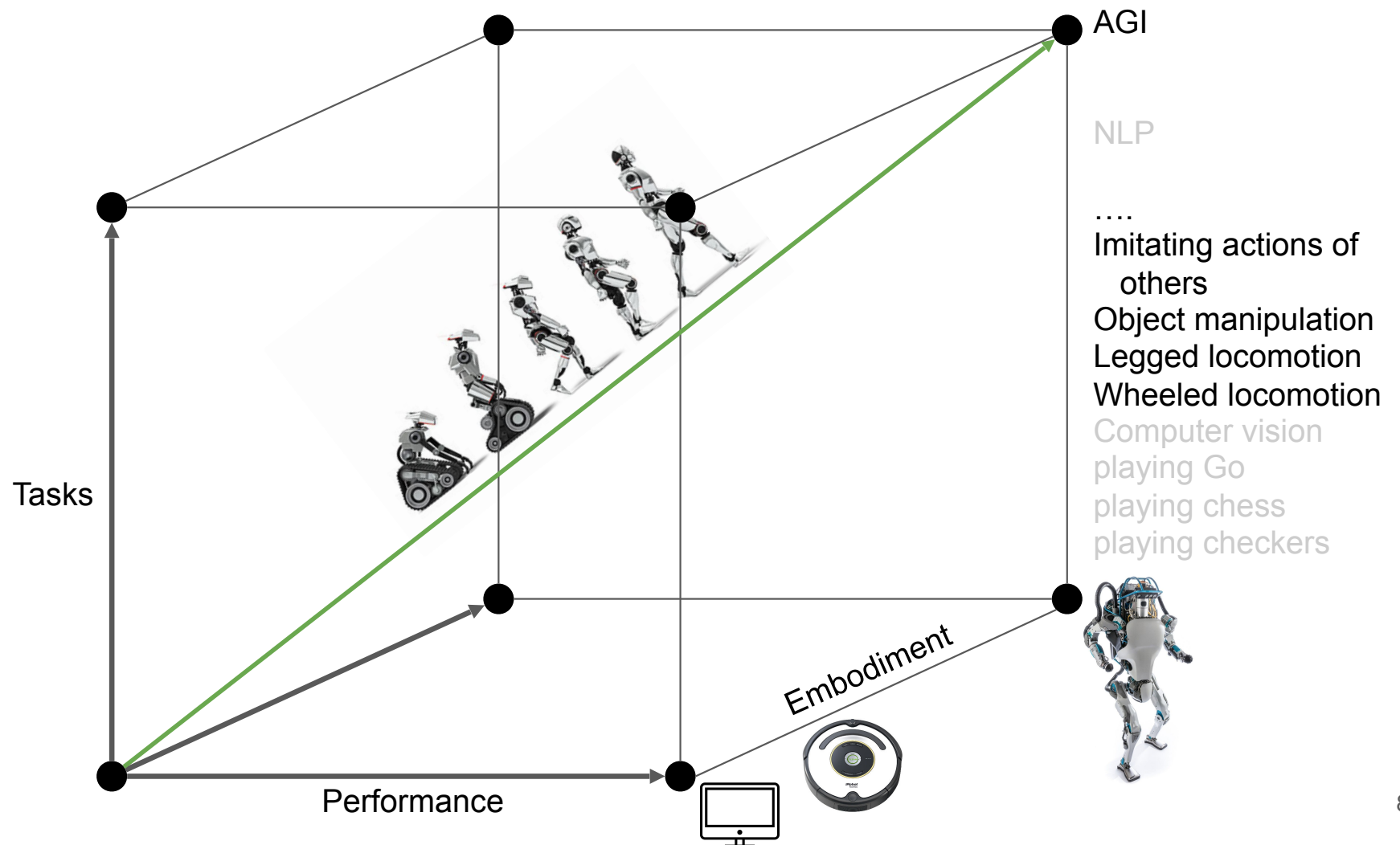
Performance











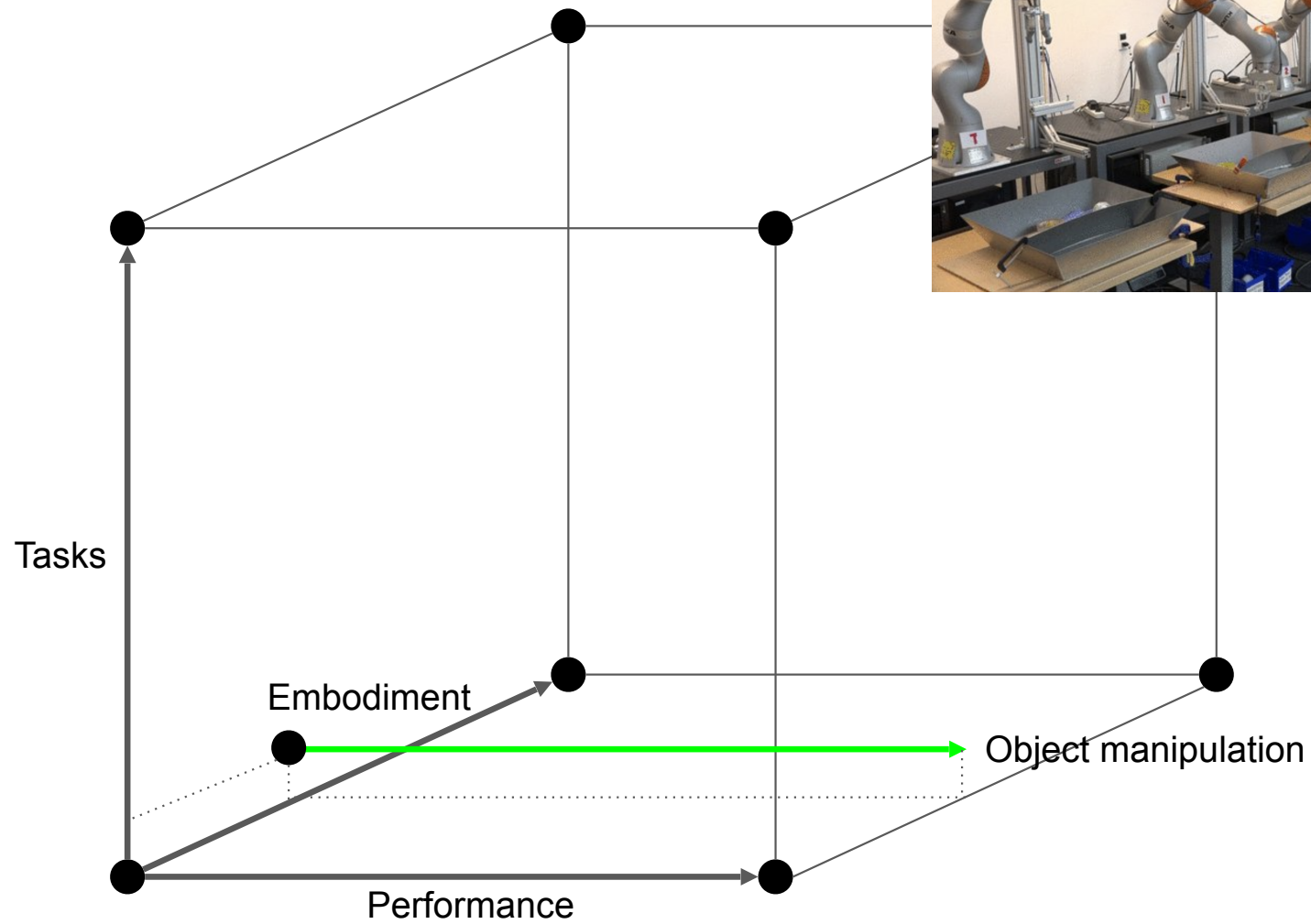
**Andrej Karpathy** ✓ @karpathy · Jun 30 2018

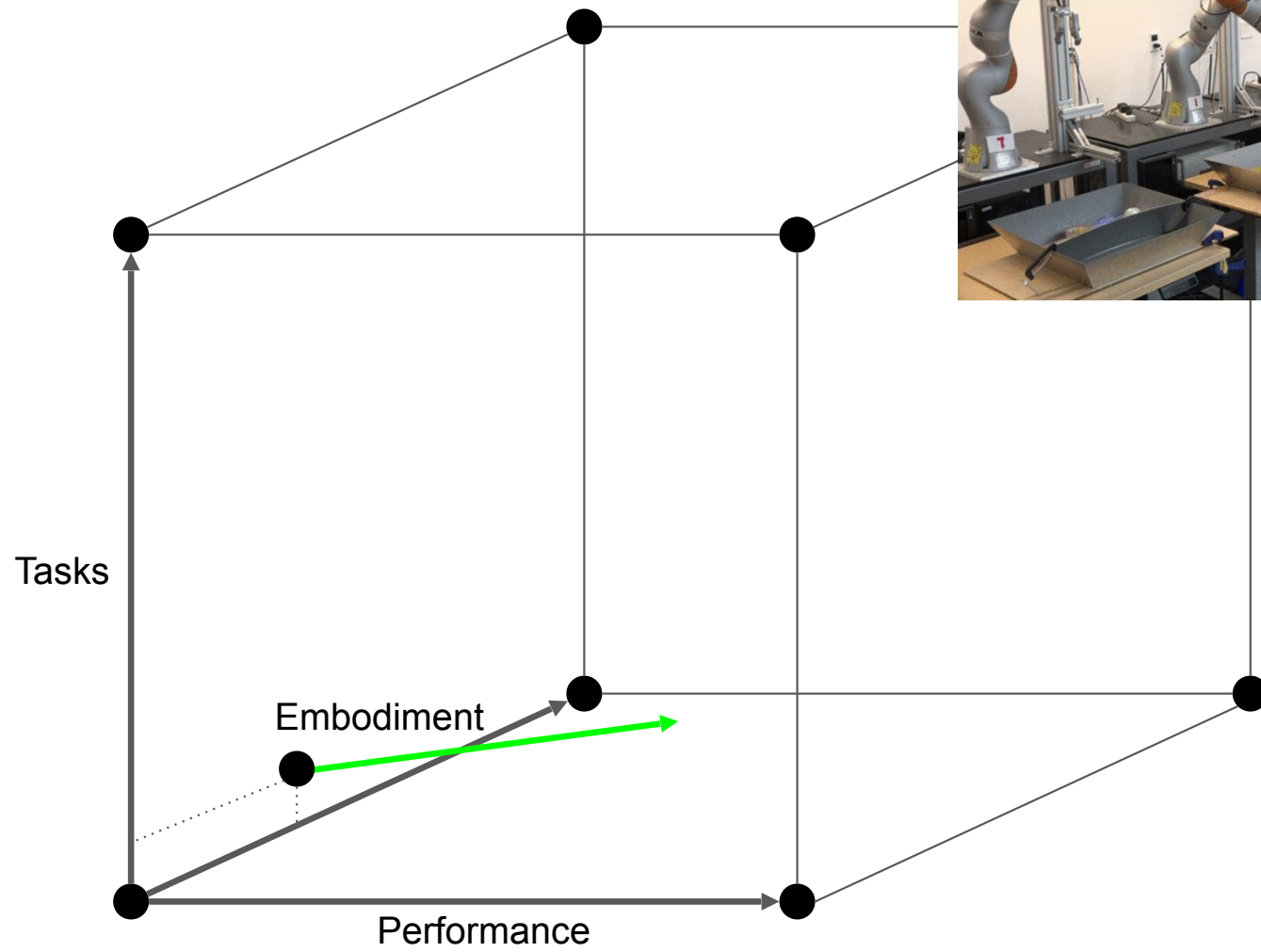
Scalable Deep Reinforcement Learning for Robotic Manipulation

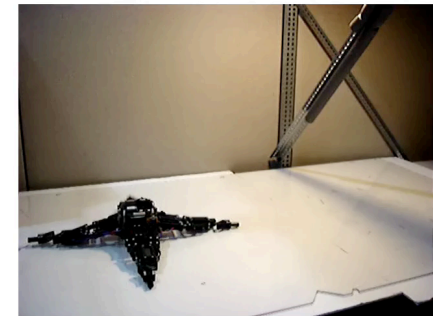
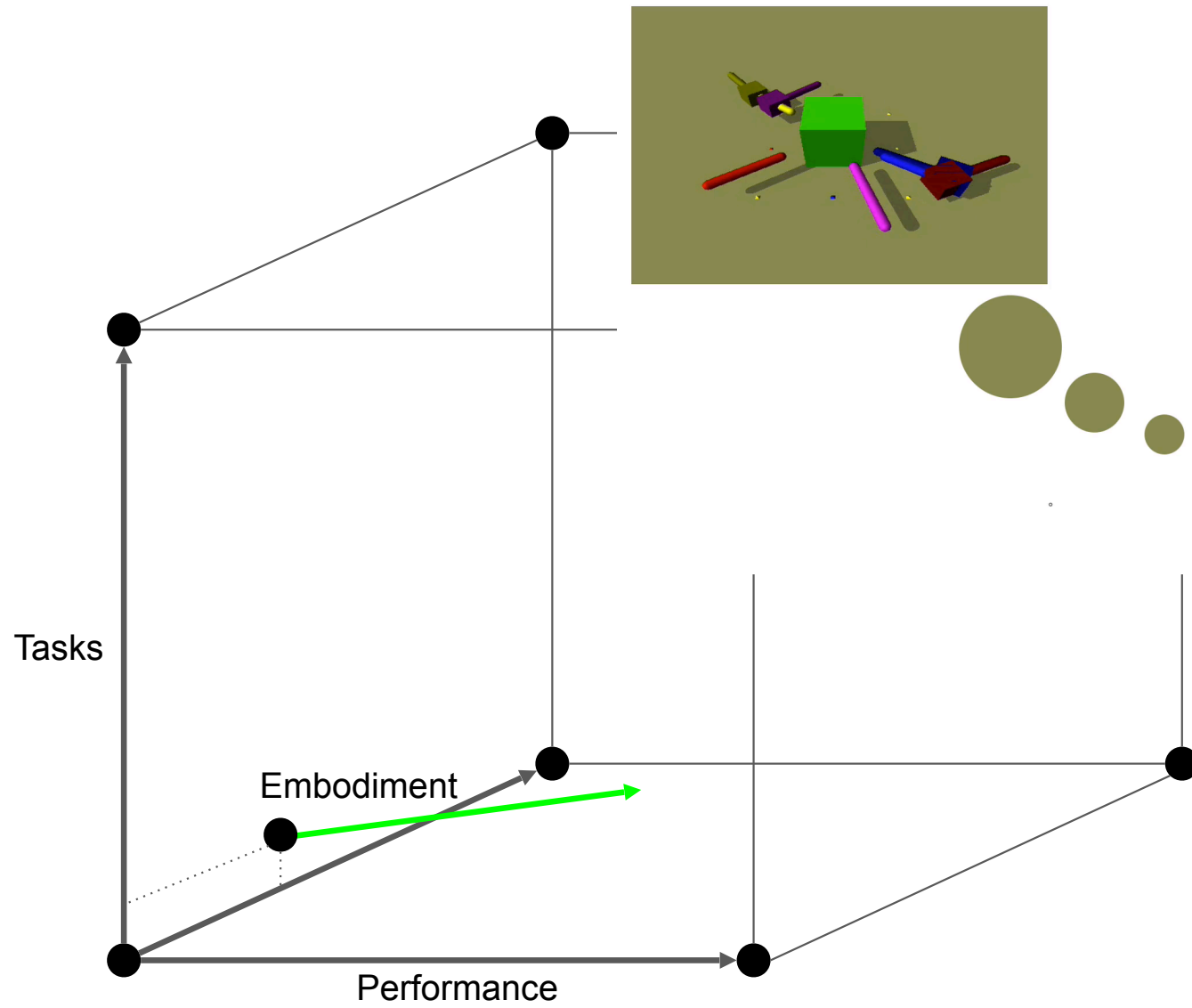
[ai.googleblog.com/2018/06/scalab...](https://ai.googleblog.com/2018/06/scalab...) hand-designed init -> 580k grasp attempts on 7 **robot** arms over 4 months (raw monocular RGB camera input) -> 1.2M param net -> **96%** successful test set grasps



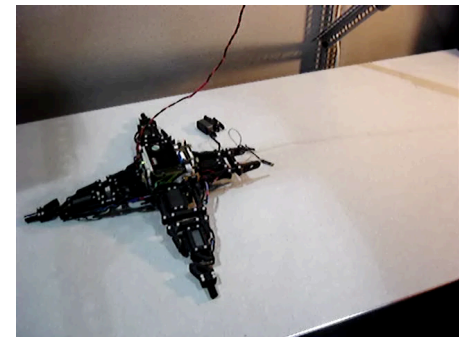
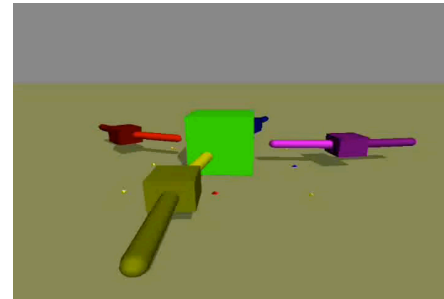
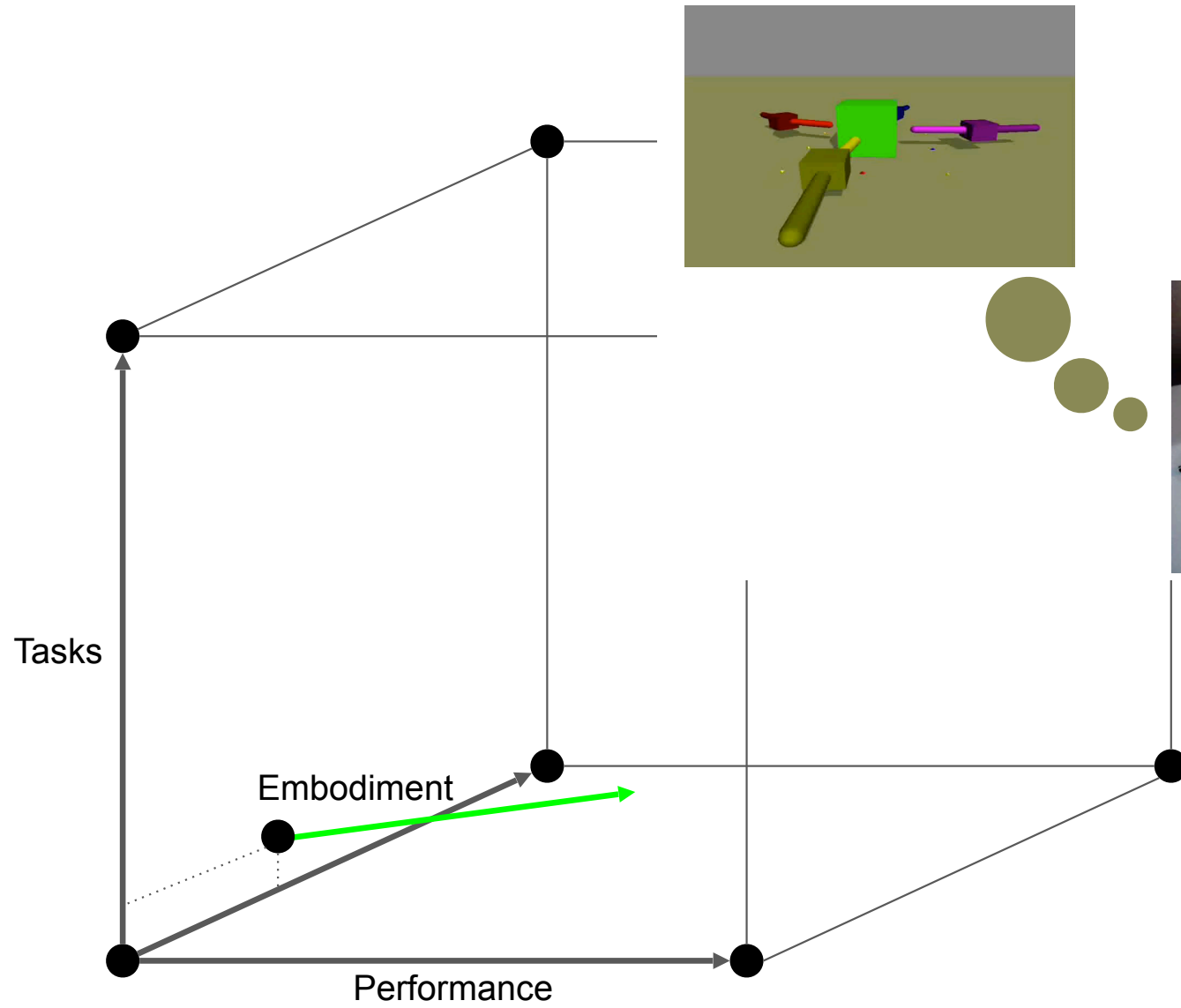




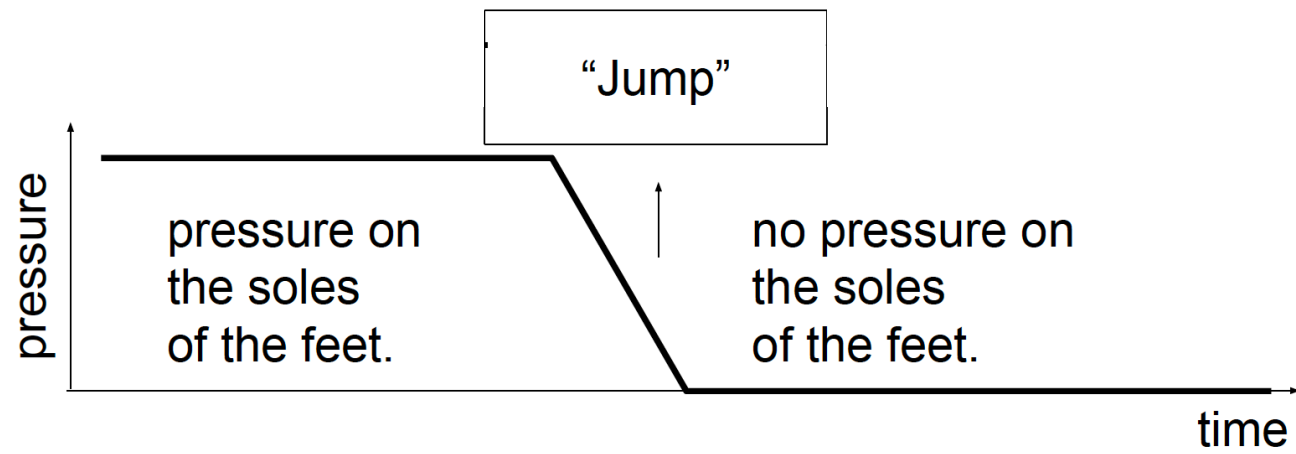




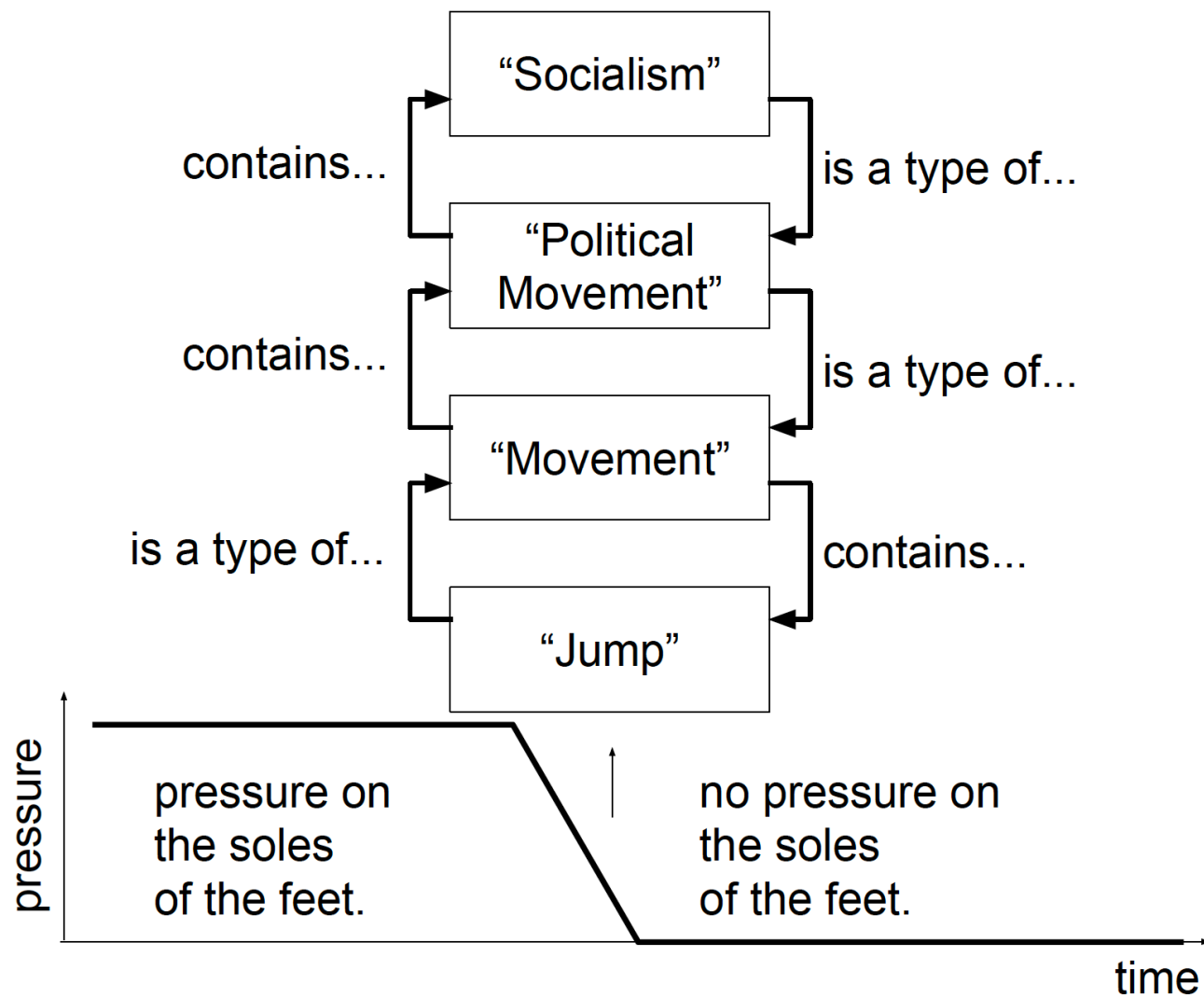
Bongard, Zykov, Lipson  
(2006).  
***Science***



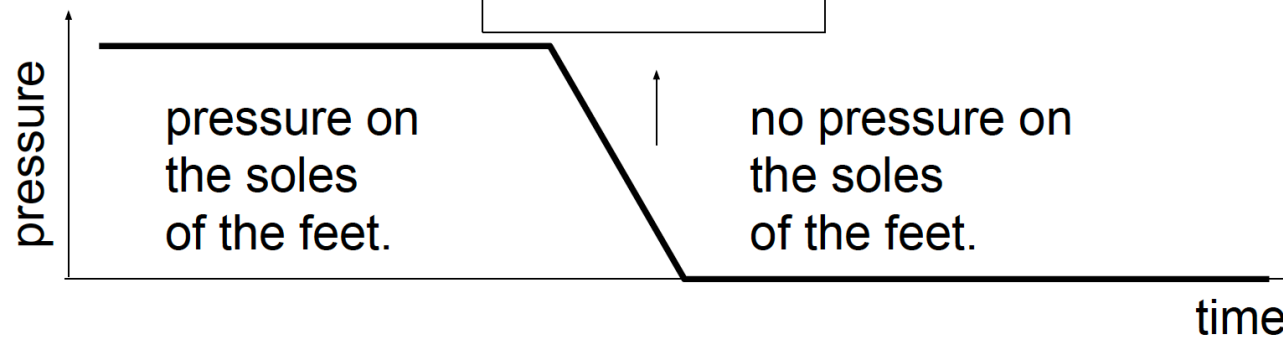
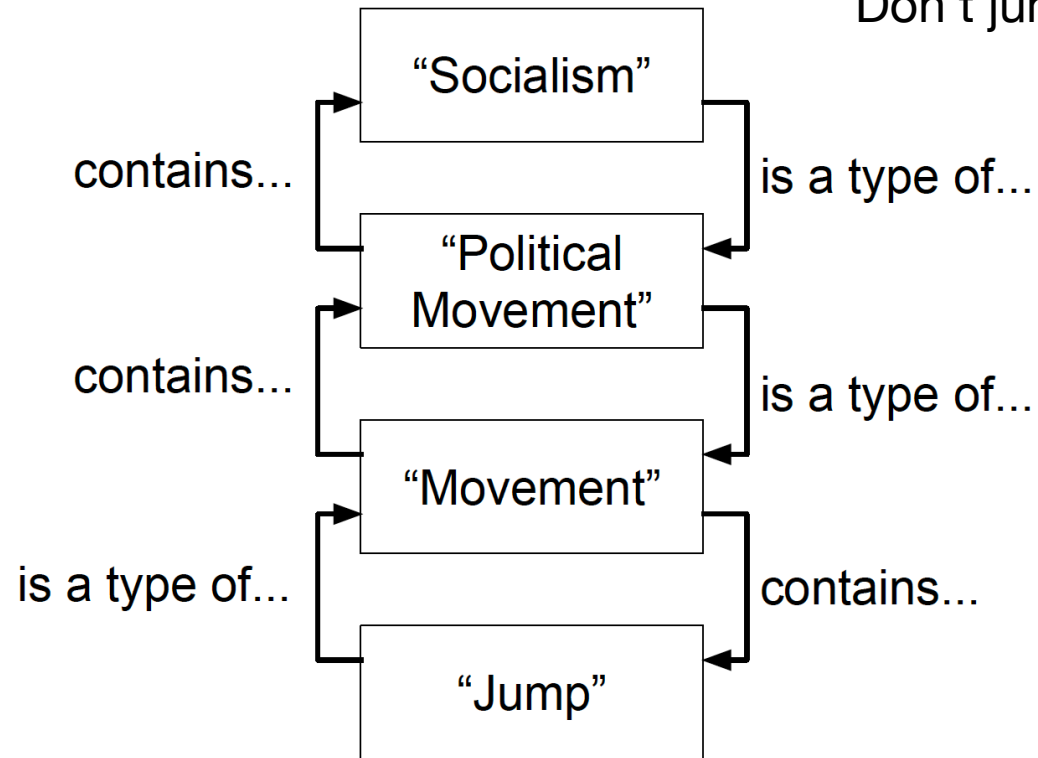
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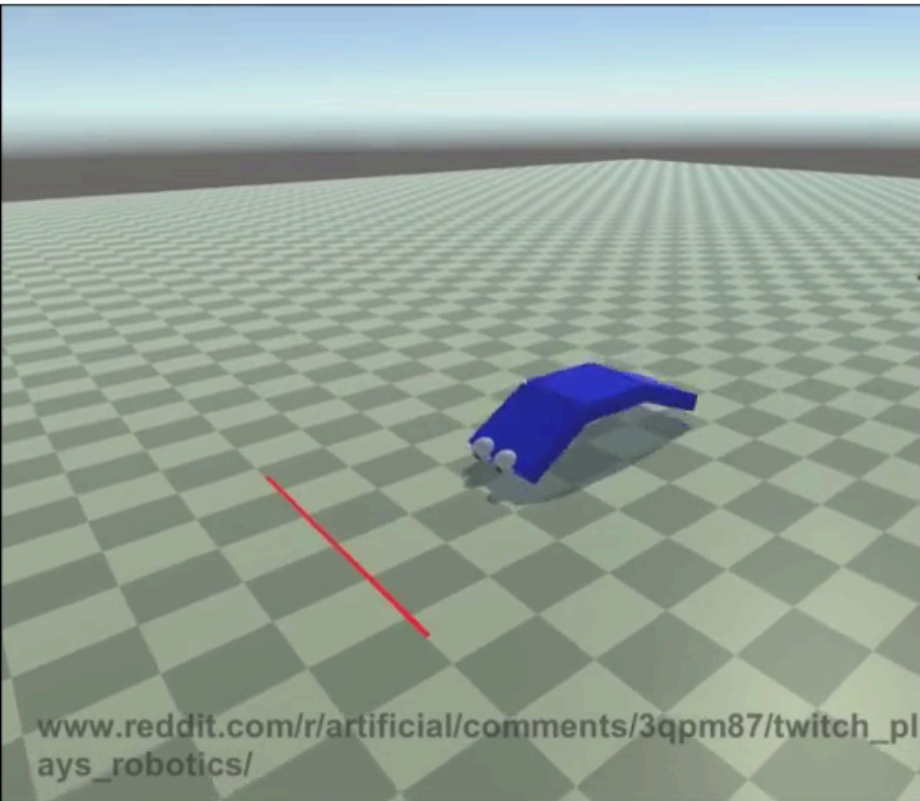






“Don’t jump to conclusions”





If you want to...

...command the next robots...

...just tell them what to do in chat.

"crawl forward" 12

"new robot or riot" 8

"what even is so clos" 1

Next command in: 0s

...teach the [b]lue robot...

...say 'by' 1

...if [y]es, it's obeying the command:

"so close"

...say 'bn' 1

...If [n]o, it's not.

Next robot in: 3s

janetsbe

2:12 TCGMYT: hey, does it count multiple times?

2:12 kssummer: crawl forward

2:12 TCGMYT: crawl forward

2:12 IceIceChafey: Crawl forward

2:12 ArmyOfAnarchists: new robot or riot

2:12 Kinrany: moonwalk

2:12 ApatheticWrath: pitchforks ready -----E -----E

2:13 Rinsmaster: crawl forward

2:13 Jojo\_321: crawl forward

2:13 kssummer: bn

2:13 ArmyOfAnarchists: new robot or riot

2:13 kssummer: crawl forward

2:13 ArmyOfAnarchists: new robot or riot

2:13 ArmyOfAnarchists: new robot or riot

2:13 ArmyOfAnarchists: 😊

2:13 kssummer: bn

2:13 TCGMYT: crawl forward

2:13 Lukelinkt: crawl forward

2:13 kssummer: crawl forward

2:14 ArmyOfAnarchists: vy

2:14 ArmyOfAnarchists: by

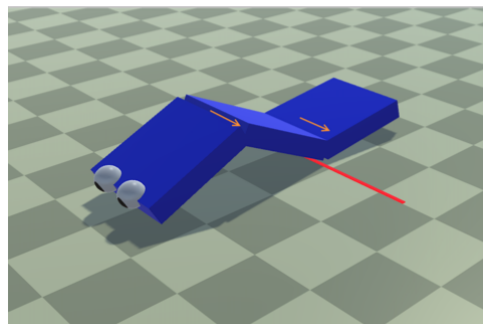
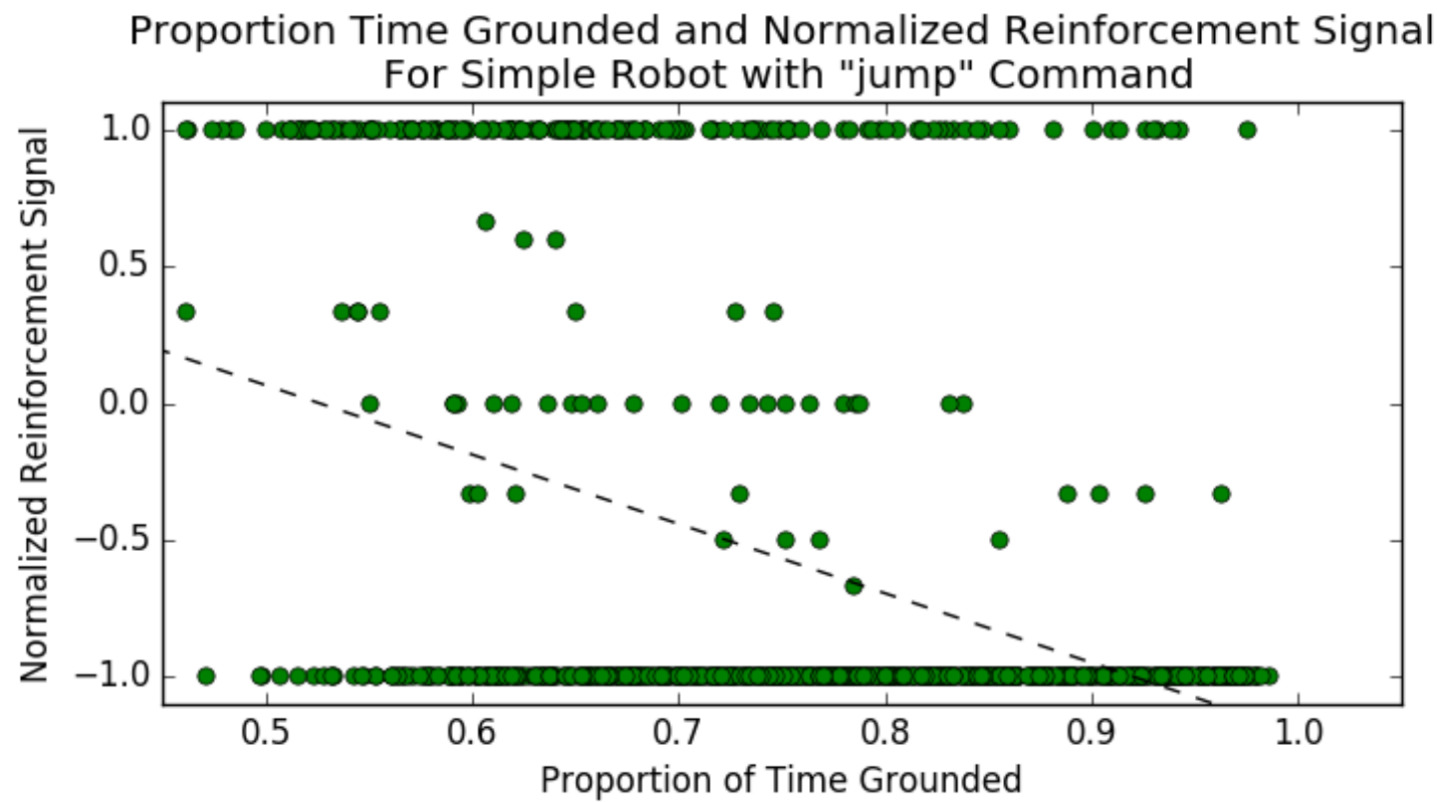
2:14 kssummer: bn

2:14 kssummer: crawl forward

2:14 TCGMYT: crawl forward

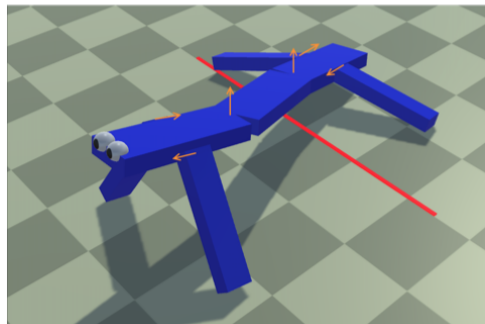
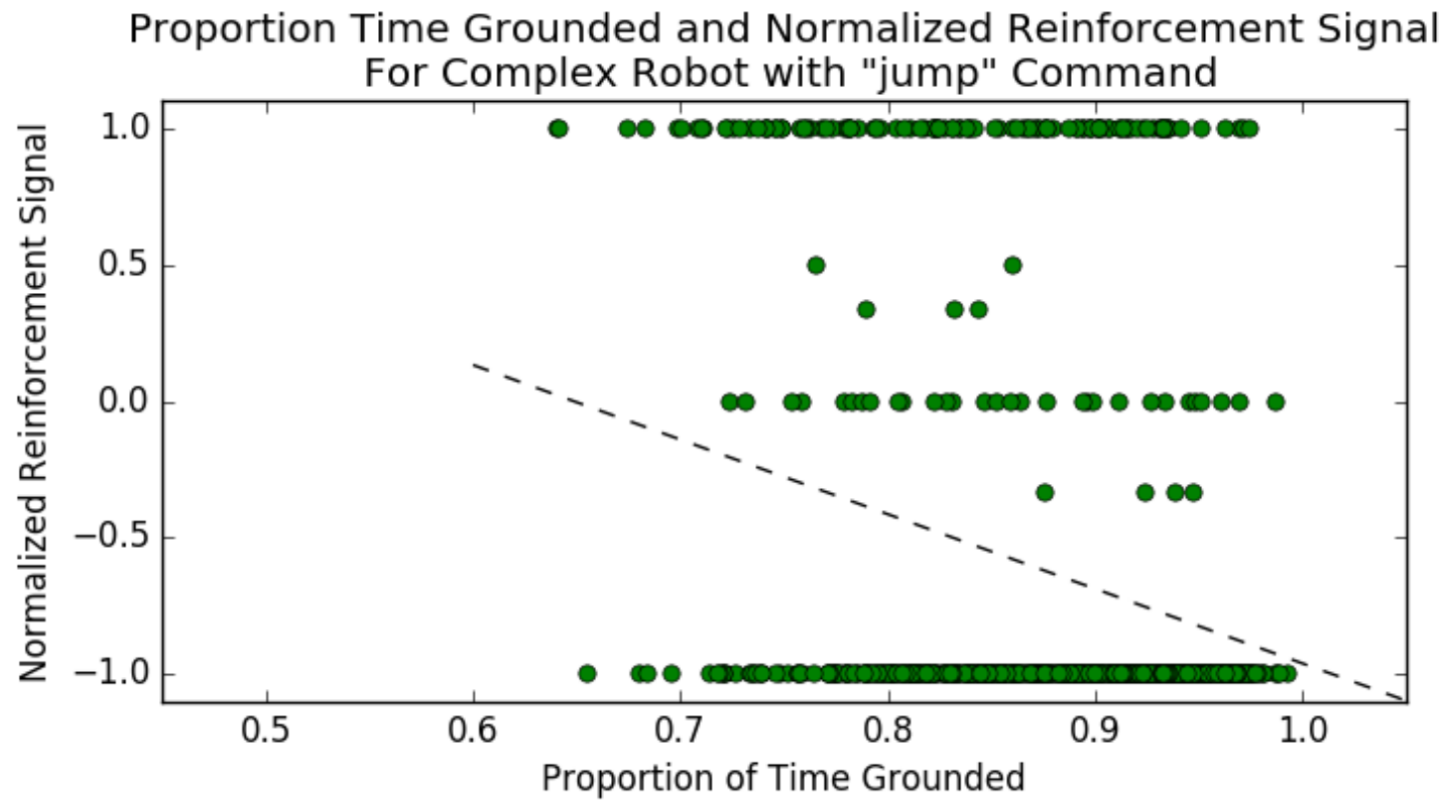
Send a message

Chat



Anetsberger & Bongard (2016). *Procs of ALife*.

[twitch.tv/twitchplaysrobotics](https://www.twitch.tv/twitchplaysrobotics)



Anetsberger & Bongard (2016). *Procs of ALife*.

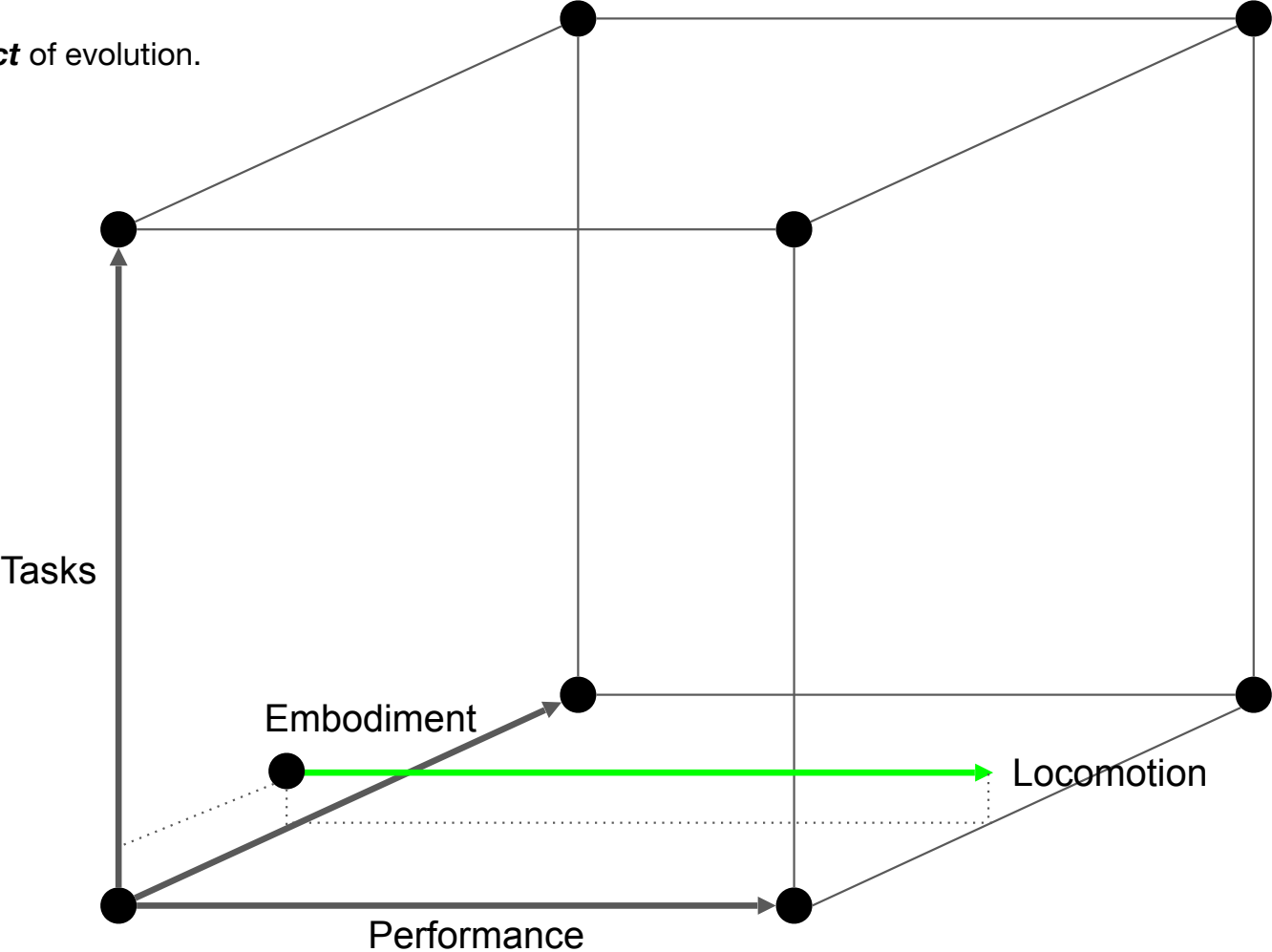
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Tinbergen: **Proximate** mechanisms.

**How** does legged locomotion work?

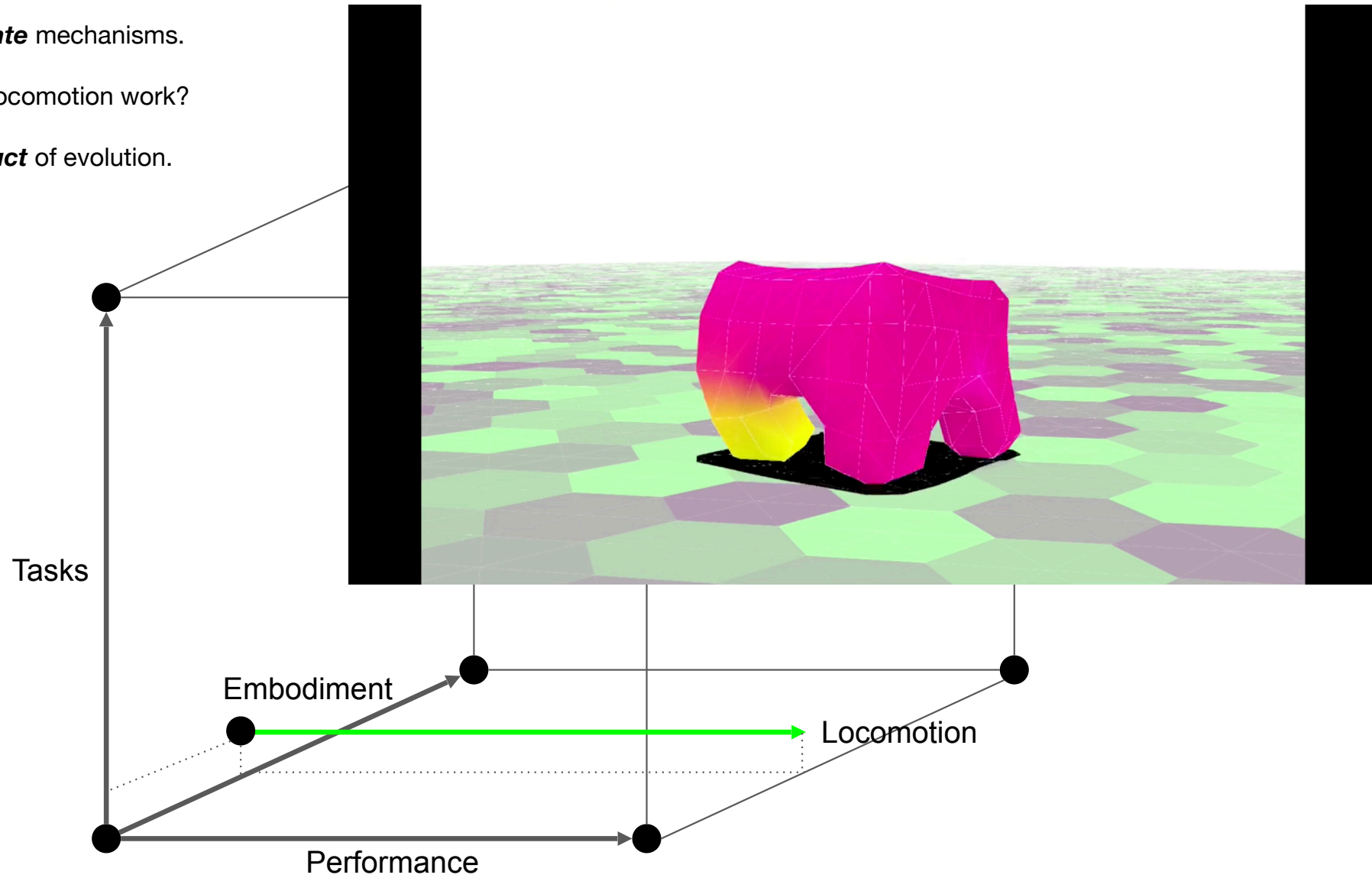
Replicating a **product** of evolution.



Tinbergen: **Proximate** mechanisms.

## **How** does legged locomotion work?

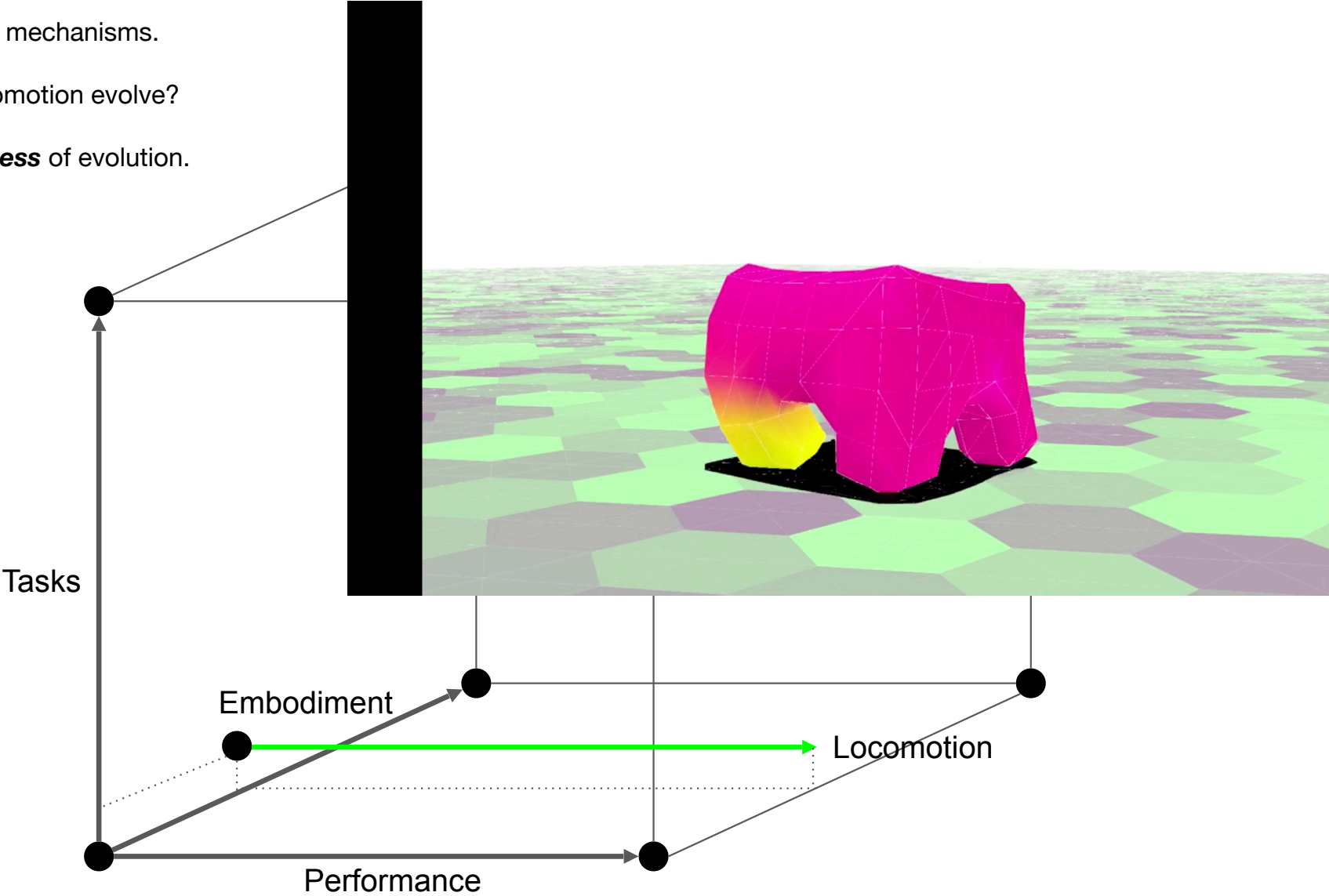
Replicating a **product** of evolution.



Tinbergen: *Ultimate* mechanisms.

*Why* did legged locomotion evolve?

Replicating the *process* of evolution.



Tinbergen: *Ultimate* mechanisms.

*Why* did legged locomotion evolve?

Replicating the *process* of evolution.

