

# Teacher-Learner Interaction for Robot Active Learning

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Lectio Praecursoria - 30/10/2020  
The defence will start at 14.05 EET

**A!** Aalto University  
School of Electrical  
Engineering

# ROBOTS: BEYOND INDUSTRIAL SETTINGS



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# NEW USERS, NEW CHALLENGES



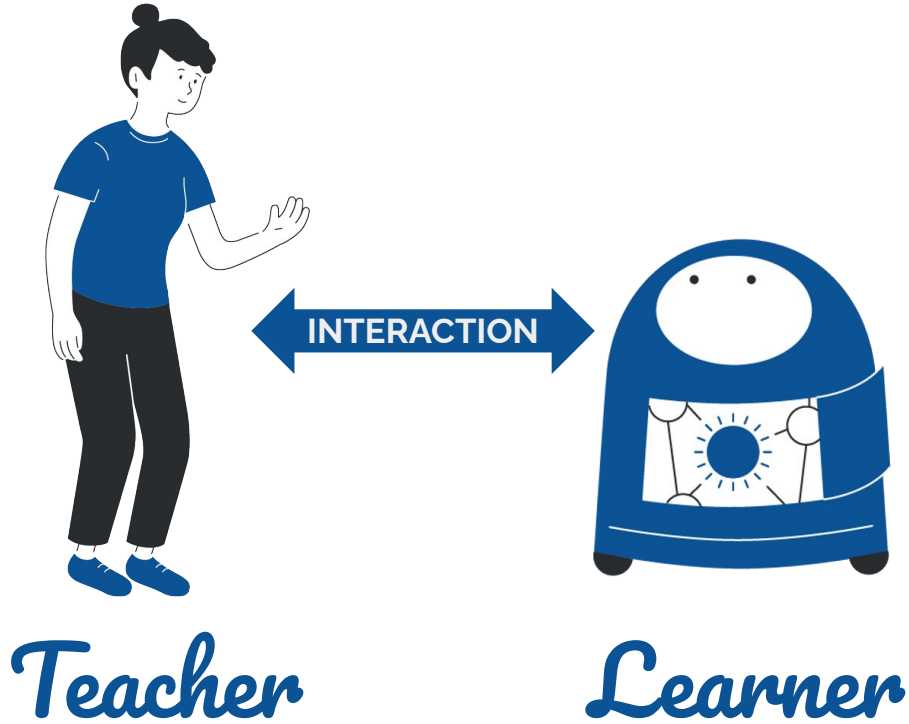


# NEW USERS, NEW CHALLENGES



```
1 #!/usr/bin/env python
2
3 import rospy
4 import copy
5 import panda_primitive as pp
6 import program_interpreter as interpreter
7 from panda_pbd.srv import EnableTeaching, EnableTeachingRequest
8 from panda_pbd.msg import UserSyncGoal, MoveToContactGoal, MoveToEEGoal
9 from panda_pbd.srv import MoveFingersRequest, ApplyForceFingersRequest
10 from sensor_msgs.msg import JointState
11
12
13 class PandaPBDInterface(object):
14     def __init__(self):
15         self.program = pp.PandaProgram('A Panda Program')
16
17         self.last_pose = None
18         self.last_gripper_width = None
19         self.relaxed = False
20
21         self.default_parameters = {'kinesthetic_ft_threshold': 5.0,
22                                   'move_to_ee_default_position_speed': 0.07,
23                                   'move_to_ee_default_rotation_speed': -1.0,
24                                   'user_sync_default_force_threshold': 10.0,
25                                   'apply_force_fingers_default_force': 20.0,
26                                   'move_to_contact_default_force_threshold': 10.0,
27                                   'move_to_contact_default_torque_threshold': 10.0,
28                                   'move_to_contact_default_position_speed': 0.07,
29                                   'move_to_contact_default_rotation_speed': -1.0}
30
31     for parameter_name in self.default_parameters.keys():
32         if not rospy.has_param('~' + parameter_name):
```

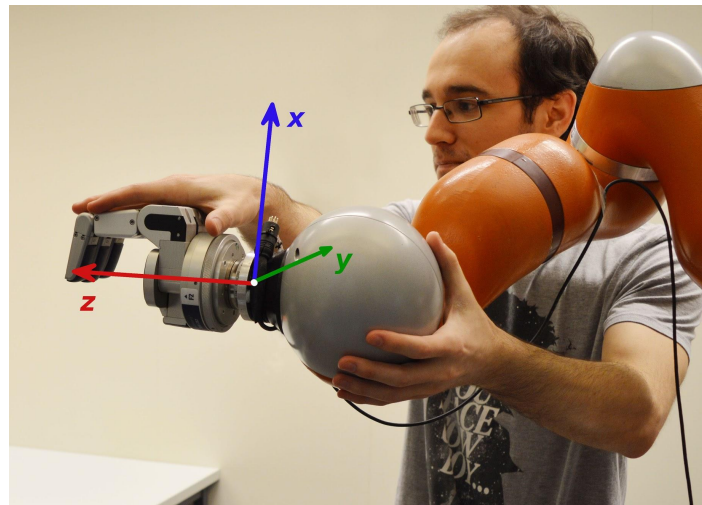
# NEW USERS, NEW CHALLENGES



# LEARNING FROM DEMONSTRATIONS

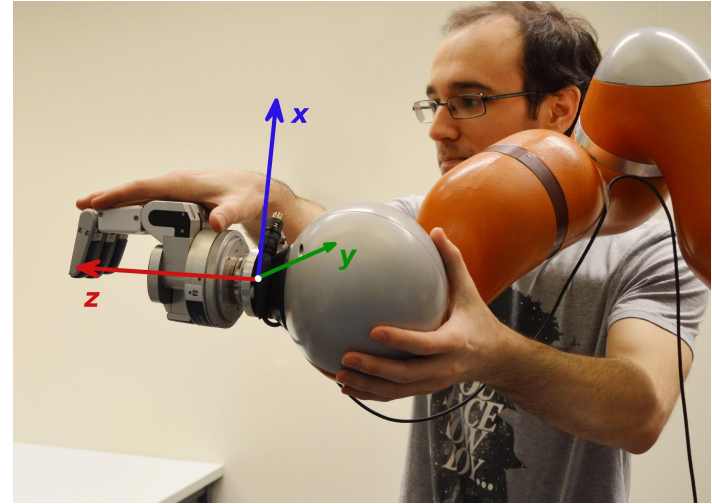


# LEARNING FROM DEMONSTRATIONS



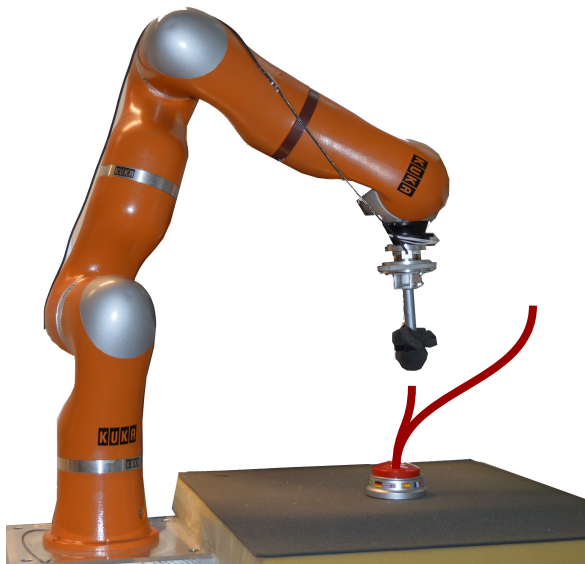


# LEARNING FROM DEMONSTRATIONS

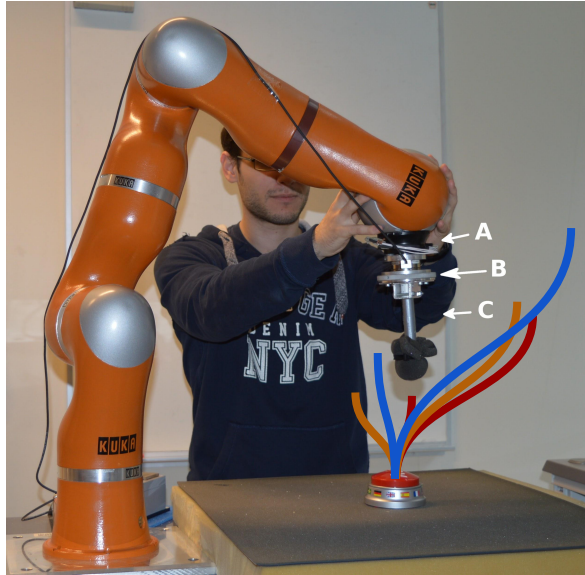


Effective teaching interface when the task is difficult to encode in a declarative way

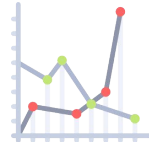
# LEARNING IN-CONTACT TASKS



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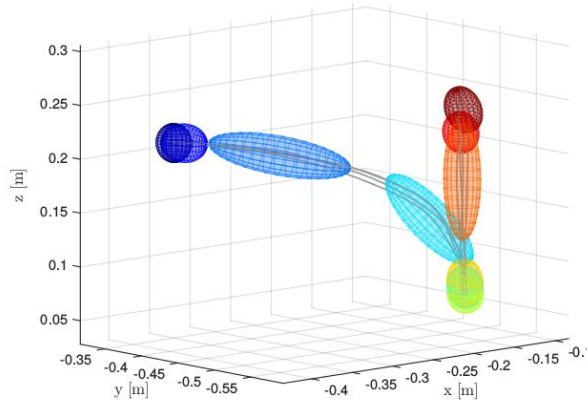
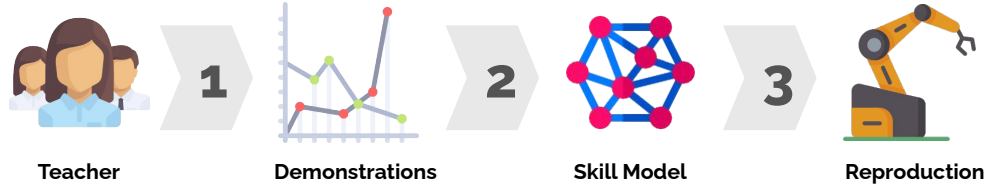
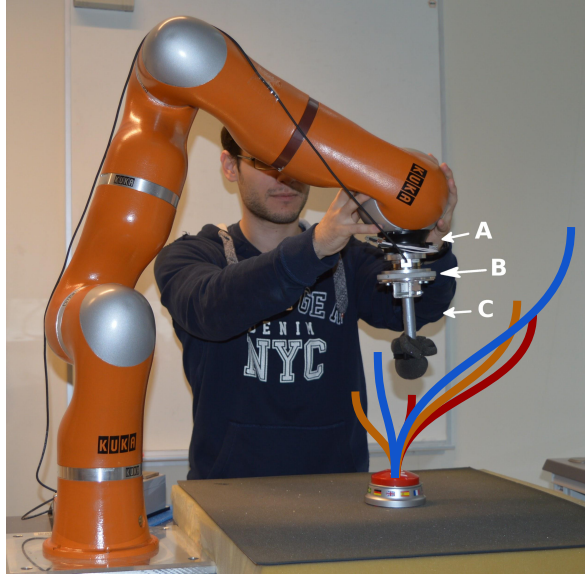


Teacher



Demonstrations

# LEARNING IN-CONTACT TASKS



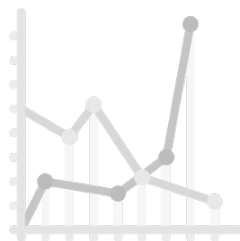
- Kinesthetic Teaching
- **Hidden Semi-Markov Models (HSMM)**
- Gaussian Mixture Regression (GMR)

# WEAKNESSES of DEMONSTRATIONS



Teachers

1



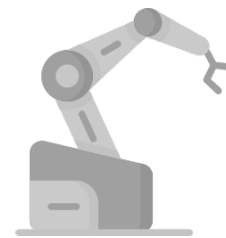
Demonstrations

2



Skill Model

3



Reproduction

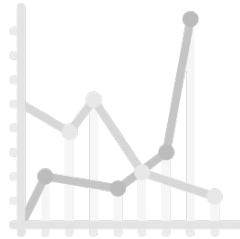


# WEAKNESSES of DEMONSTRATIONS



Teachers

1



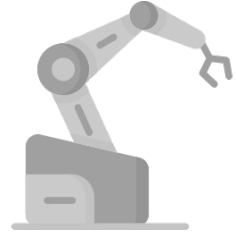
Demonstrations

2



Skill Model

3

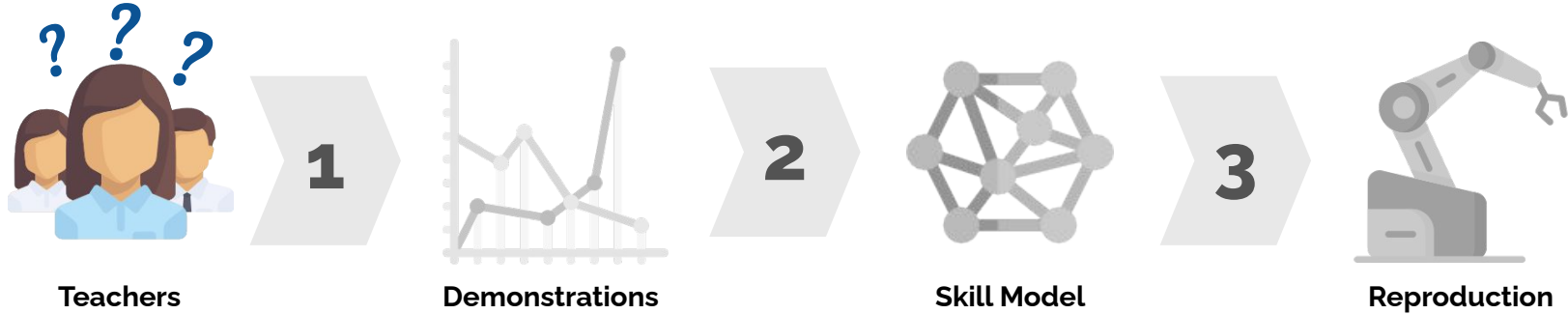


Reproduction

## Informative Demonstrations:

demonstrations that allow the robot to learn a reliable model of the taught task

# WEAKNESSES of DEMONSTRATIONS

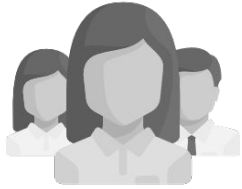


## Informative Demonstrations:

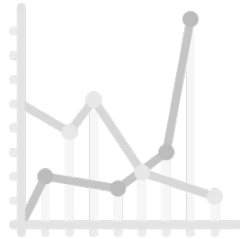
demonstrations that allow the robot to learn a reliable model of the taught task

Require some understanding of the underlying Machine Learning process!

# WEAKNESSES of DEMONSTRATIONS



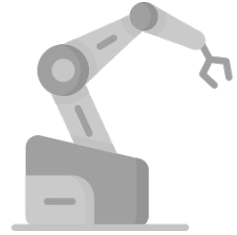
Teachers



Demonstrations

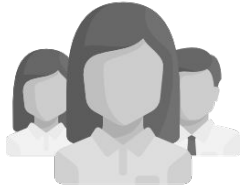


Skill Model

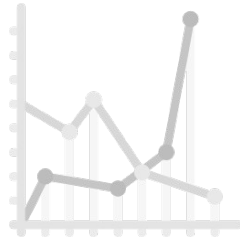


Reproduction

# WEAKNESSES of DEMONSTRATIONS



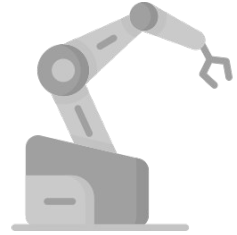
Teachers



Demonstrations



Skill Model

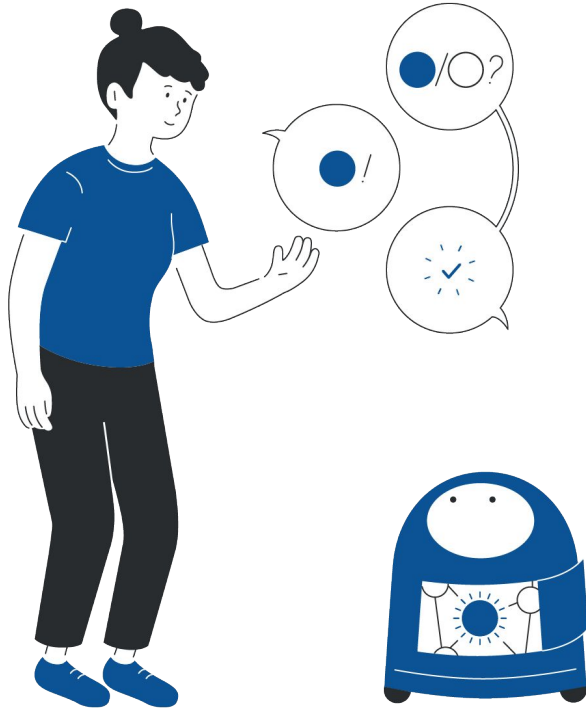


Reproduction

## G.I.G.O.

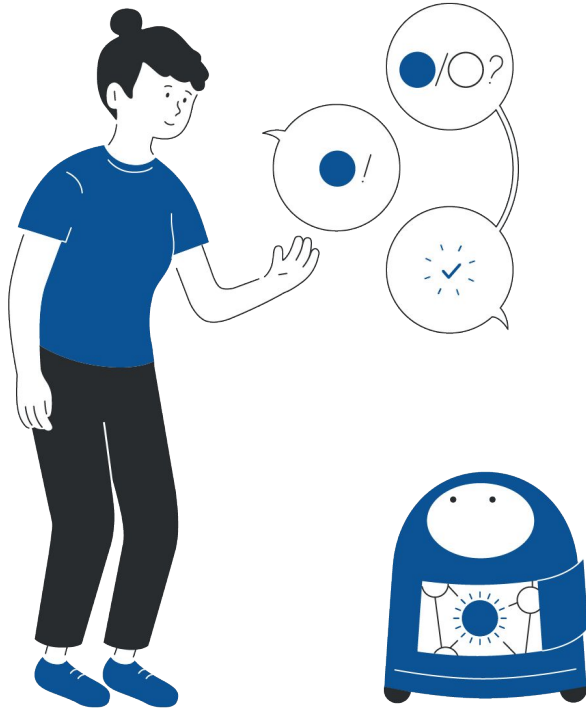
Garbage in, Garbage out

# WEAKNESSES of DEMONSTRATIONS

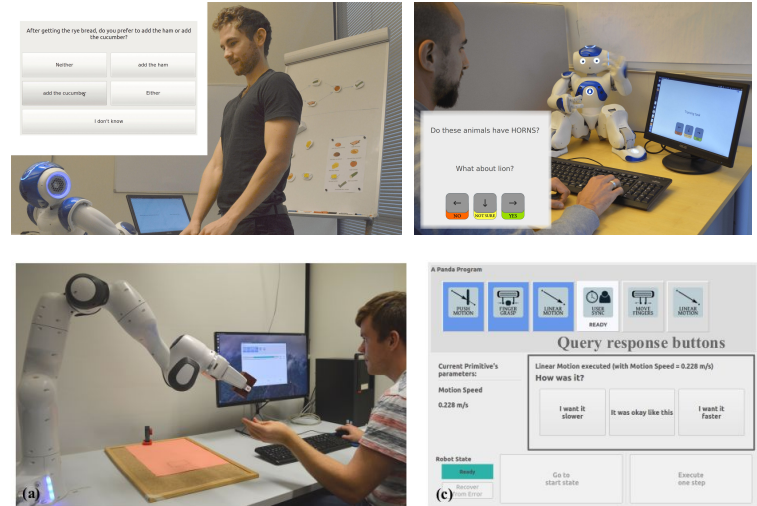




# WEAKNESSES of DEMONSTRATIONS



# ACTIVE LEARNING



# ACTIVE LEARNING FROM QUESTIONS



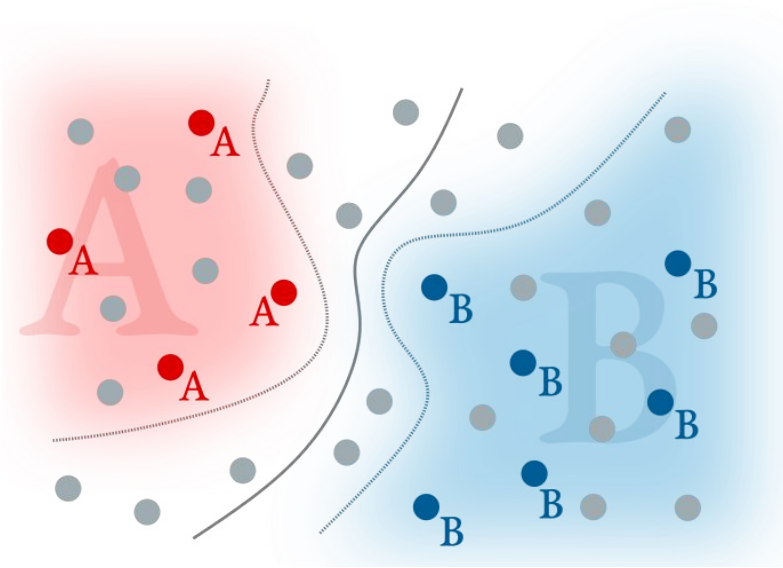
# ACTIVE LEARNING FROM QUESTIONS



## Queries:

requests of information aimed at steering the training process to cover the current knowledge gaps of the learner.

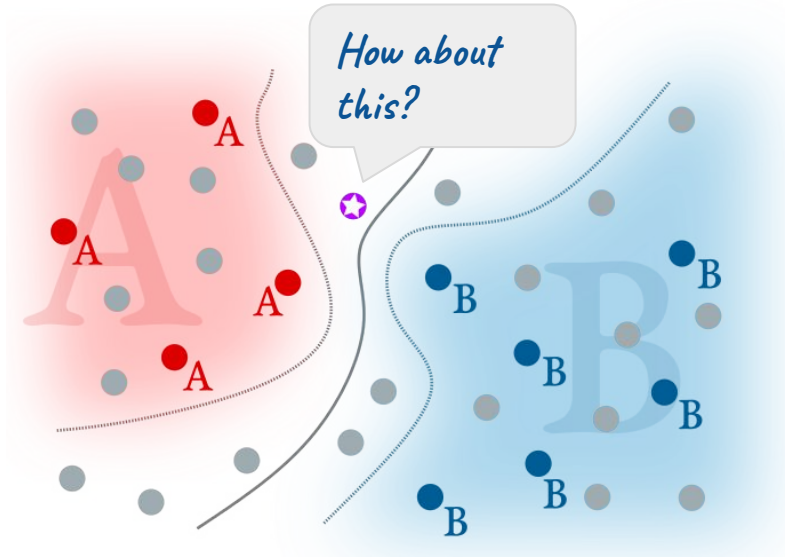
# ACTIVE LEARNING 101



## Queries:

requests of information aimed at steering the training process to cover the current knowledge gaps of the learner.

# ACTIVE LEARNING 101

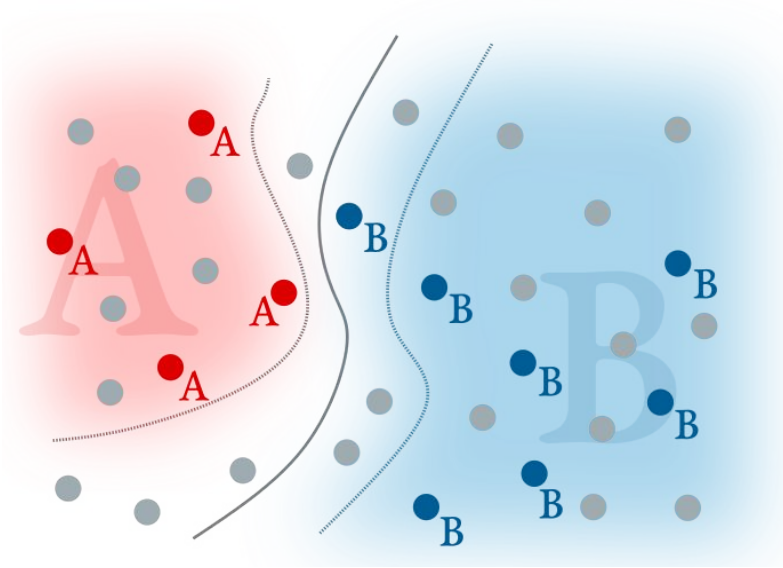


## Queries:

requests of information aimed at steering the training process to cover the current knowledge gaps of the learner.



# ACTIVE LEARNING 101



## Queries:

requests of information aimed at steering the training process to cover the current knowledge gaps of the learner.

# DEMONSTRATIONS and QUESTIONS

After getting the rye bread, do you prefer to add the ham or add the cucumber?

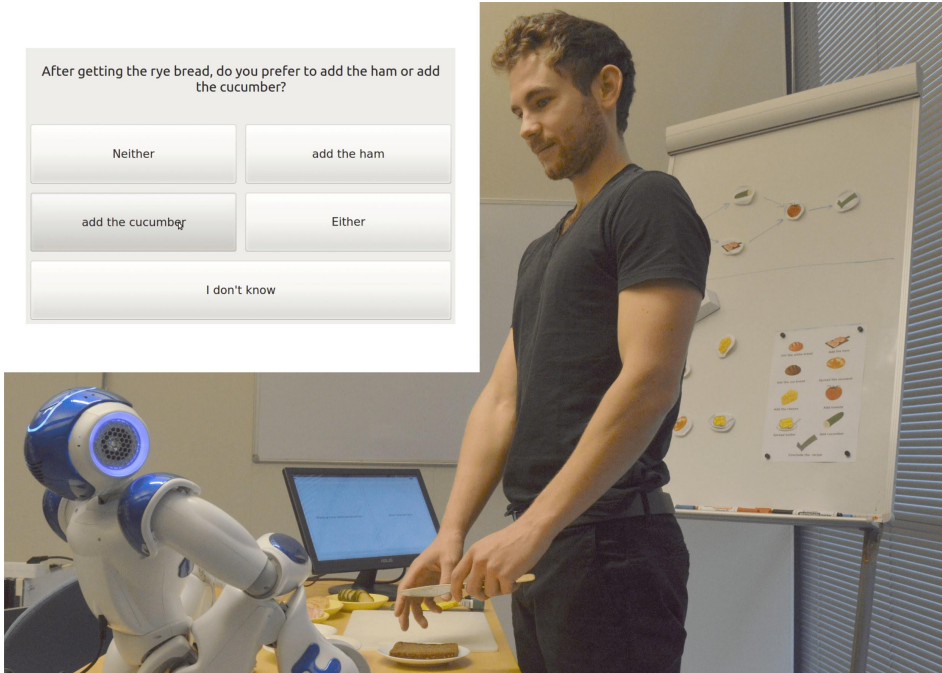
Neither

add the ham

add the cucumber

Either

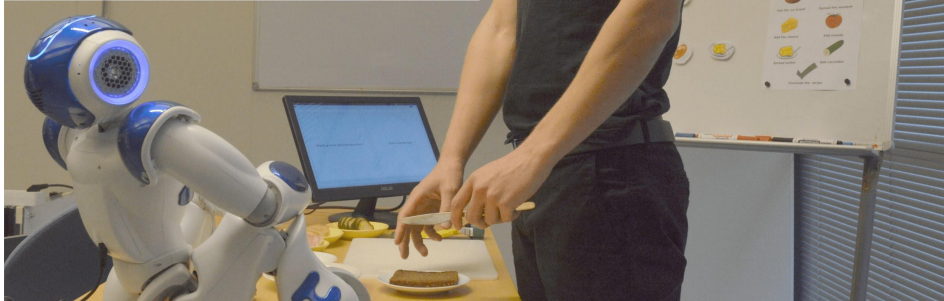
I don't know



# DEMONSTRATIONS and QUESTIONS

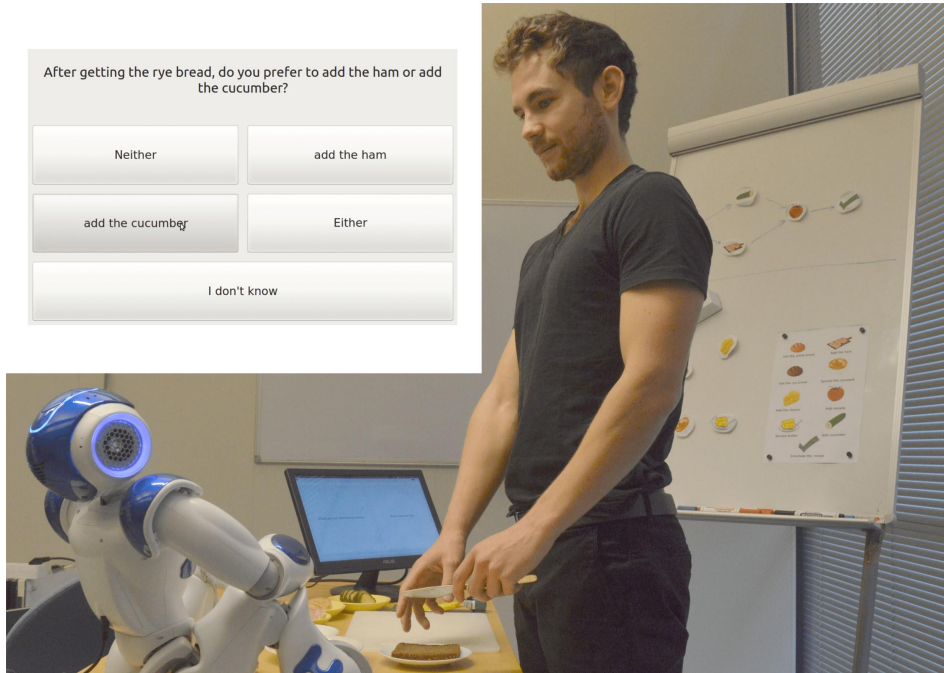
After getting the rye bread, do you prefer to add the ham or add the cucumber?

Neither	add the ham
add the cucumber	Either
I don't know	



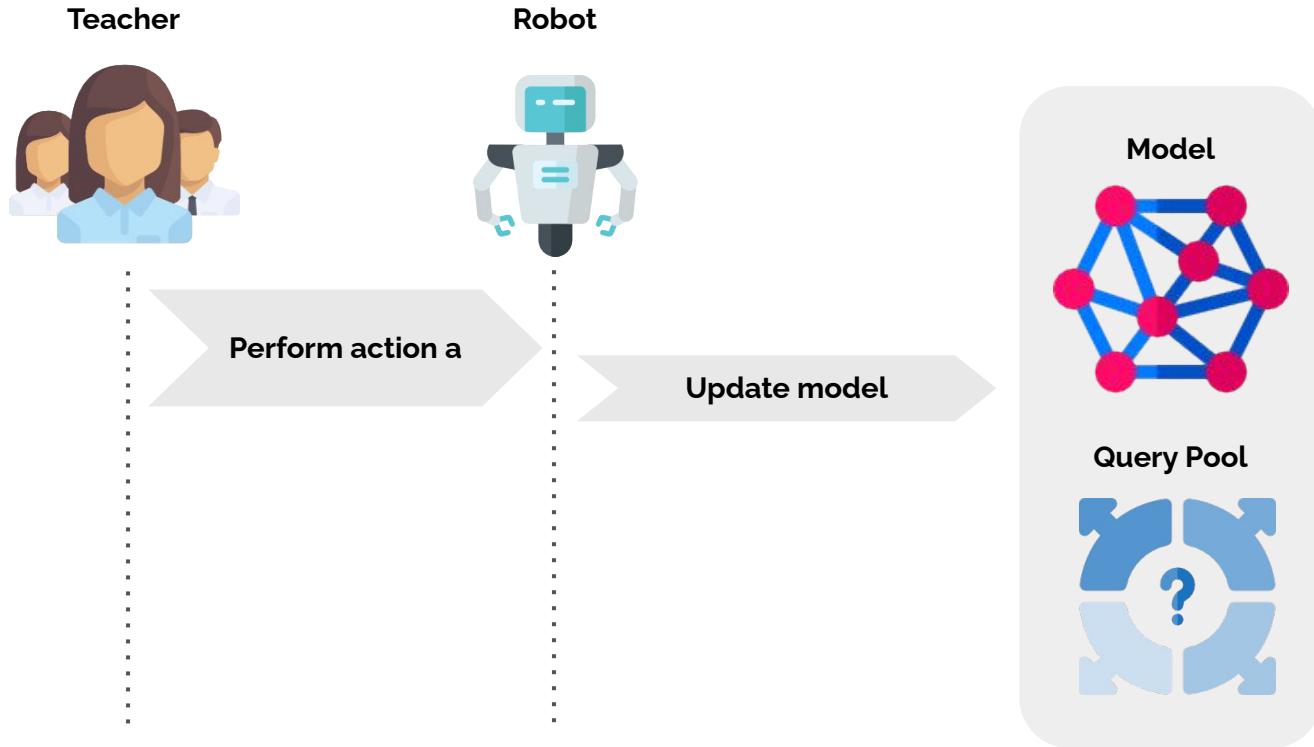
- **Demos + Queries:**  
the model must support both!

# DEMONSTRATIONS and QUESTIONS



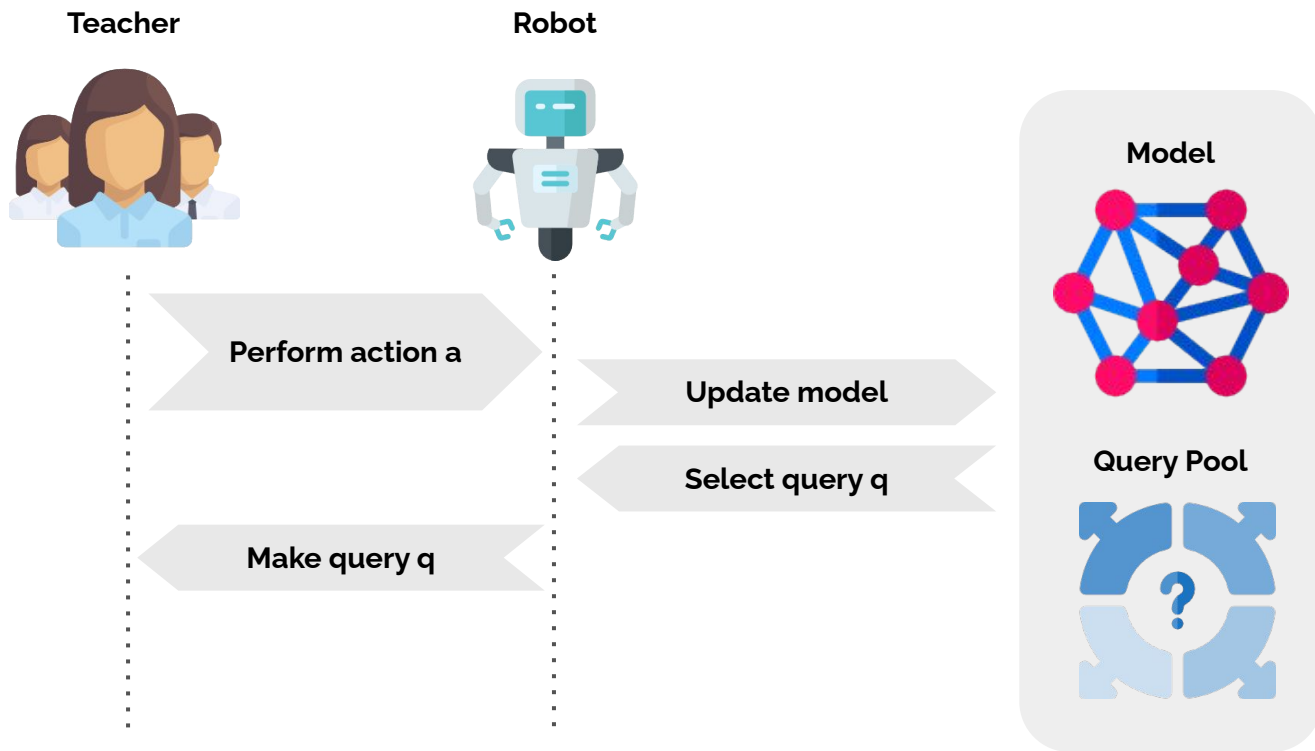
- **Demos + Queries:**  
the model must support both!
- **Temporal aspect:**  
careful design of queries

# DEMONSTRATIONS and QUESTIONS

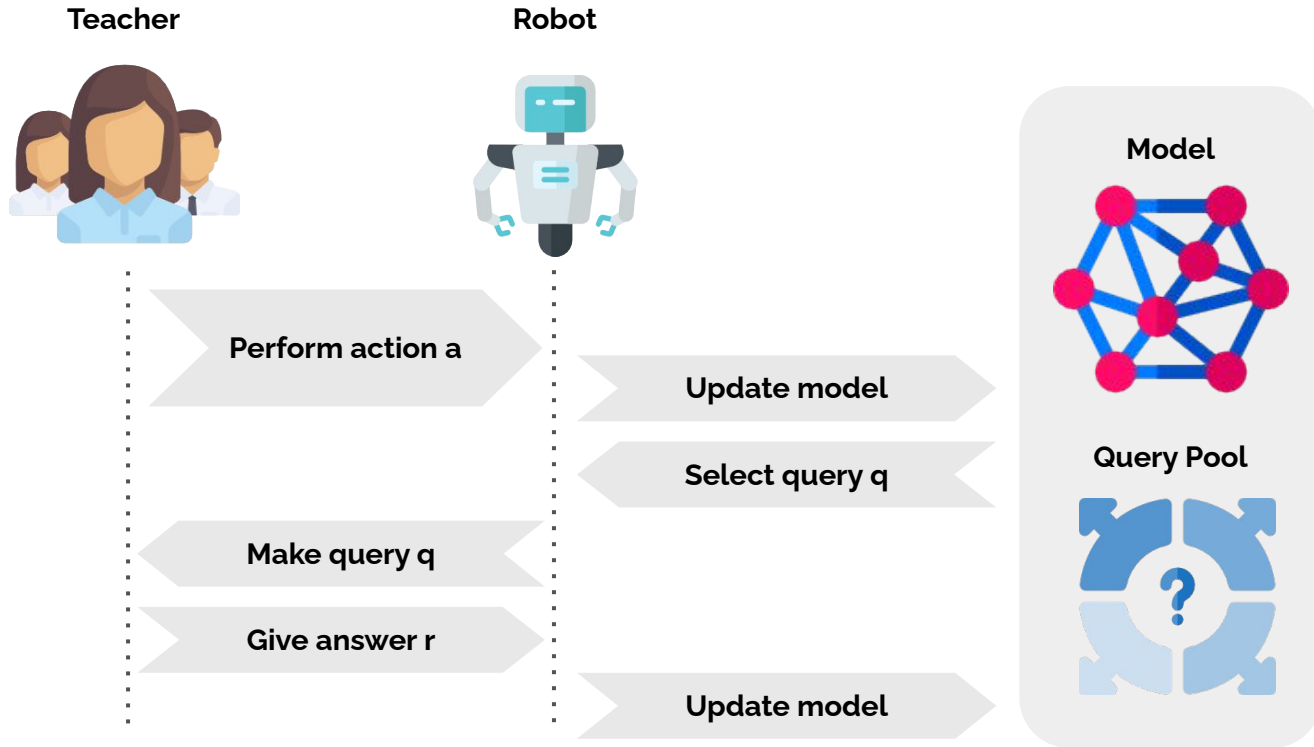




# DEMONSTRATIONS and QUESTIONS



# DEMONSTRATIONS and QUESTIONS



# QUERY DESIGN

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“With what probability  
you do action A after  
action B?”

“Do you do action A  
after action B with  
probability 0.3?”

# QUERY DESIGN

“With what probability you do action A after action B?”

“Do you do action A after action B with probability 0.3?”

Frequency Queries

“Do you **always /often/never** do action A after B?”

Disambiguation Queries

“After action B, **do you prefer** to do action A or C?”

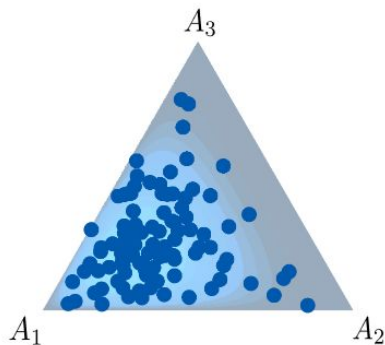
Model Friendly



User Friendly

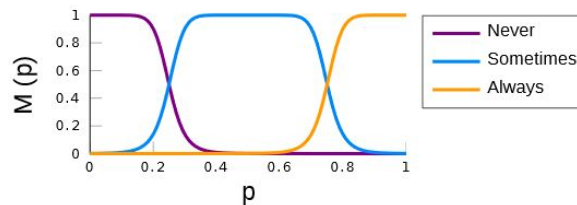
# MODEL UPDATE

Question  $q$



1. Sample the pre-query Dirichlet

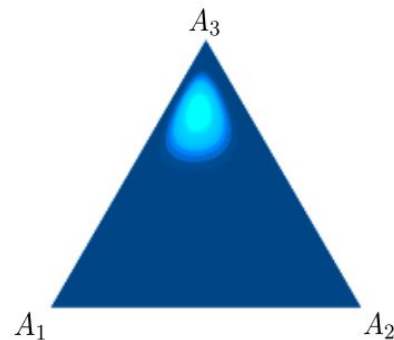
Answer  $a$



$$w_s(q^*, r^*) = \begin{cases} M_f(s(a_{post})) & \text{if } r^* = \text{'yes'} \\ 1 - M_f(s(a_{post})) & \text{if } r^* = \text{'no'} \end{cases}$$
$$w_s(q^*, r^*) = M_{r^*}(s(a_1), s(a_2))$$

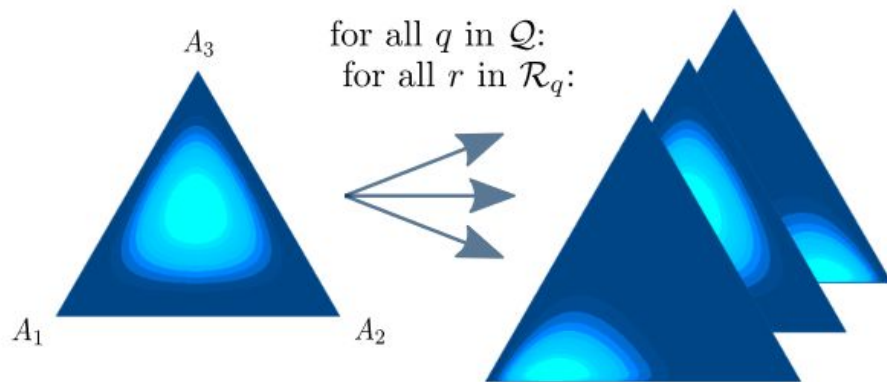
2. Filter/Weight samples based on answer

Updated model



3. Fit the post-query Dirichlet

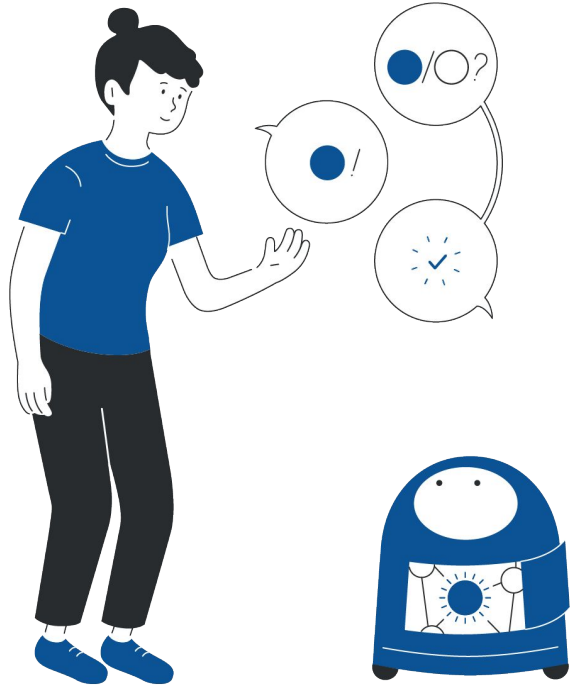
# QUERY SELECTION



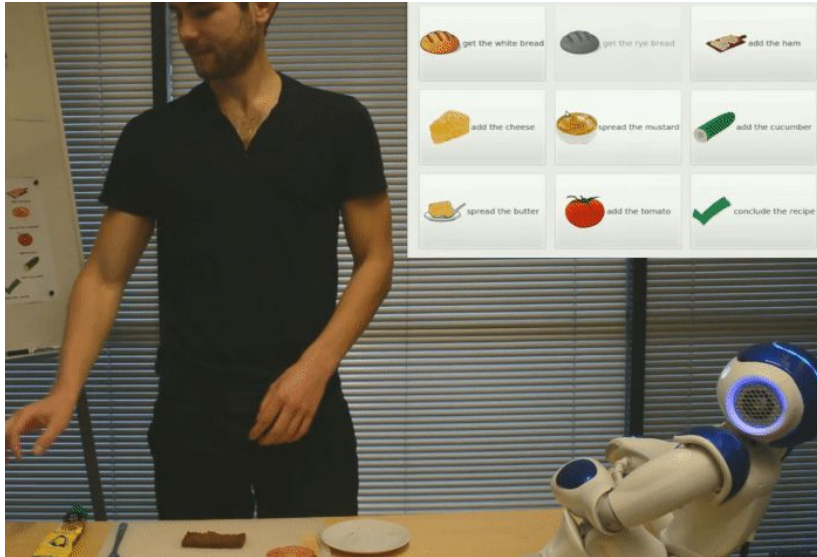
$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\mathbb{H}_q &= \overbrace{\mathbb{E}_r[\mathbb{H}(\text{Dir}(\cdot|\boldsymbol{\alpha}, q, r))]}^{\text{post-query}} - \overbrace{\mathbb{H}(\text{Dir}(\cdot|\boldsymbol{\alpha}))}^{\text{pre-query}} \\ &= \sum_r p(r|q)\mathbb{H}(\text{Dir}(\cdot|\boldsymbol{\alpha}, q, r)) - \mathbb{H}(\text{Dir}(\cdot|\boldsymbol{\alpha})),\end{aligned}$$



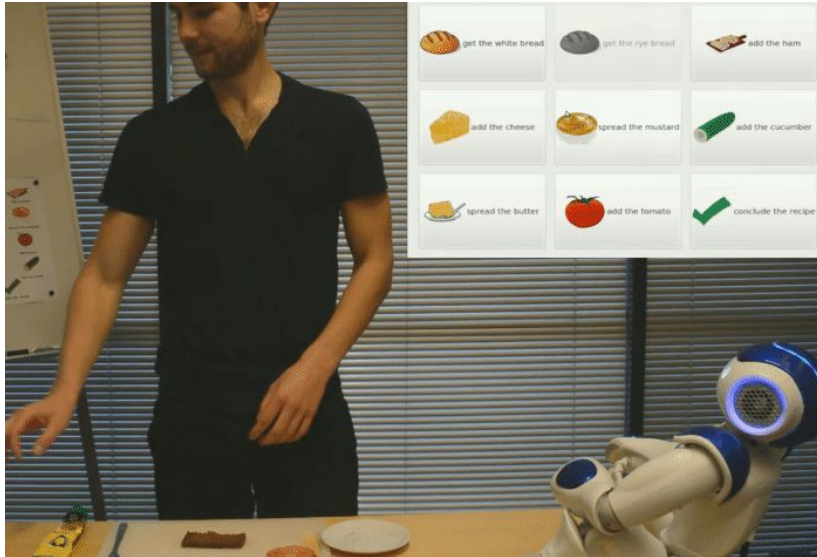
# INTERACTING with an ACTIVE LEARNING ROBOT



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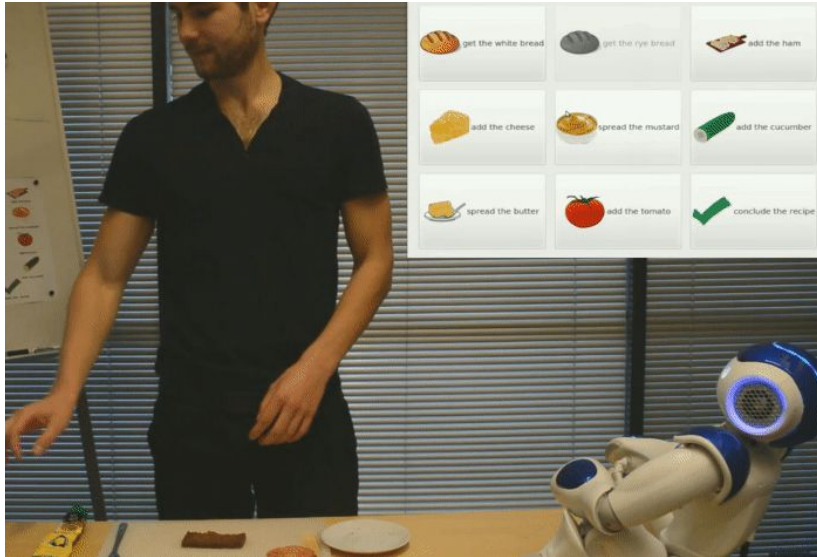
# INTERACTING with an ACTIVE LEARNING ROBOT



## User study:

- perception of robots using different selection strategies and effects on the teacher

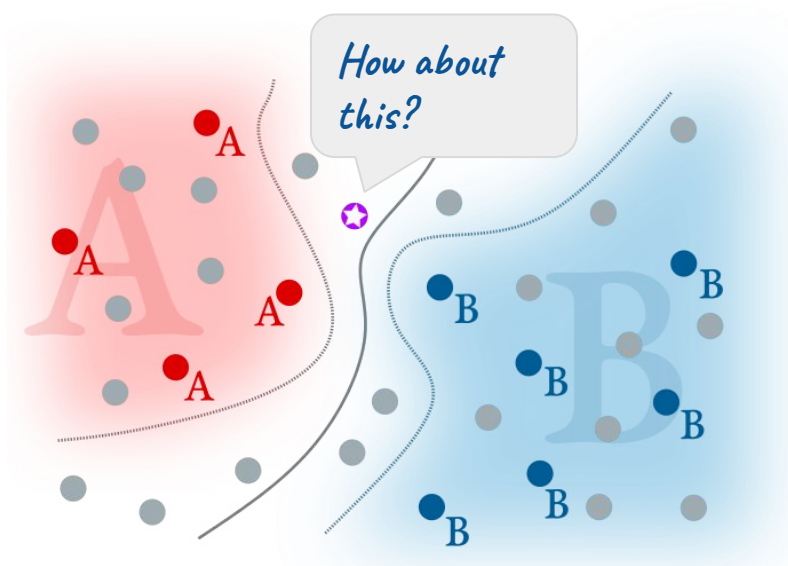
# INTERACTING with an ACTIVE LEARNING ROBOT



## User study:

- perception of robots using different selection strategies and effects on the teacher
- interpretation of learning behaviours, with frequent mismatches!

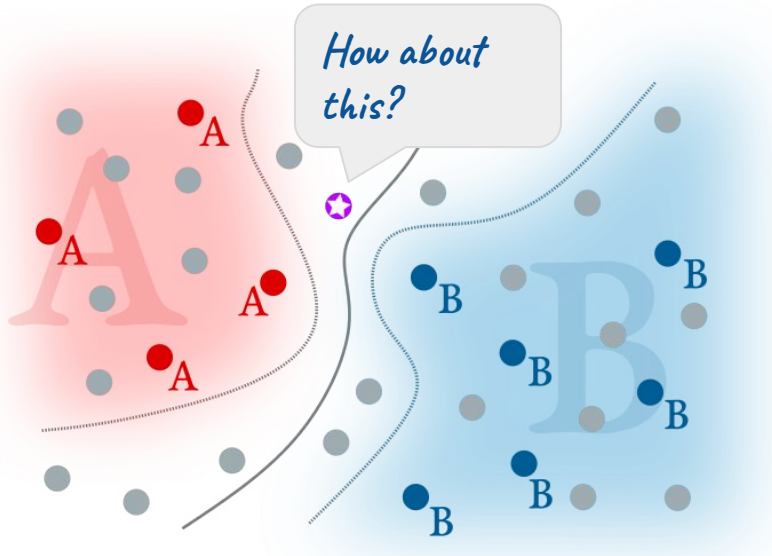
# ROBOT QUERIES and REAL TEACHERS



## Sample Efficiency:

- learning faster and/or with less data

# ROBOT QUERIES and REAL TEACHERS



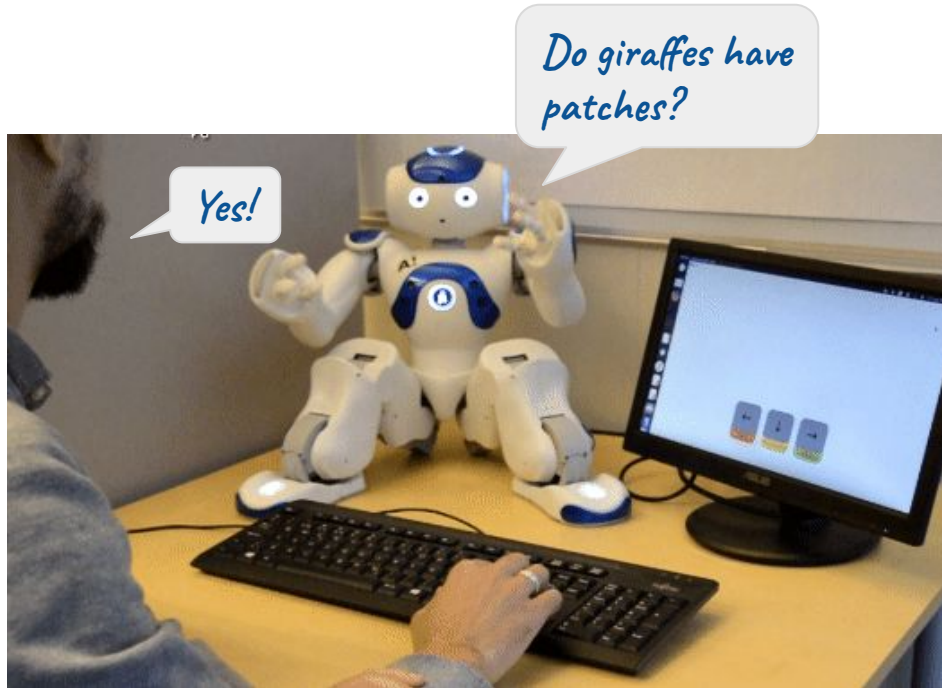
## Sample Efficiency:

- learning faster and/or with less data

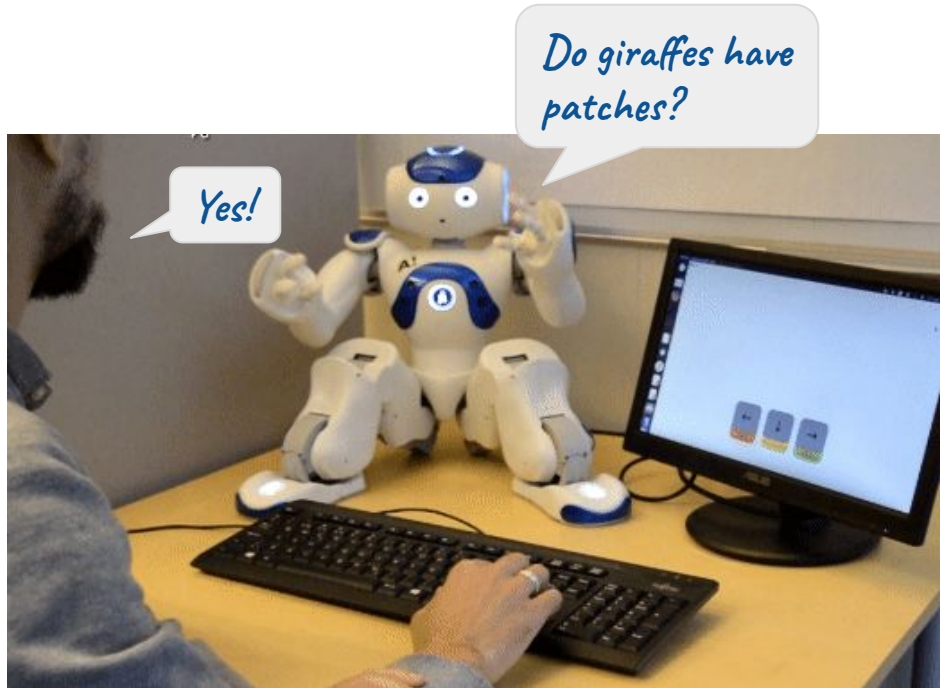
## What if the efficient query selection is not the best for the teacher?

- cause errors and delays

# ROBOT QUERIES and REAL TEACHERS



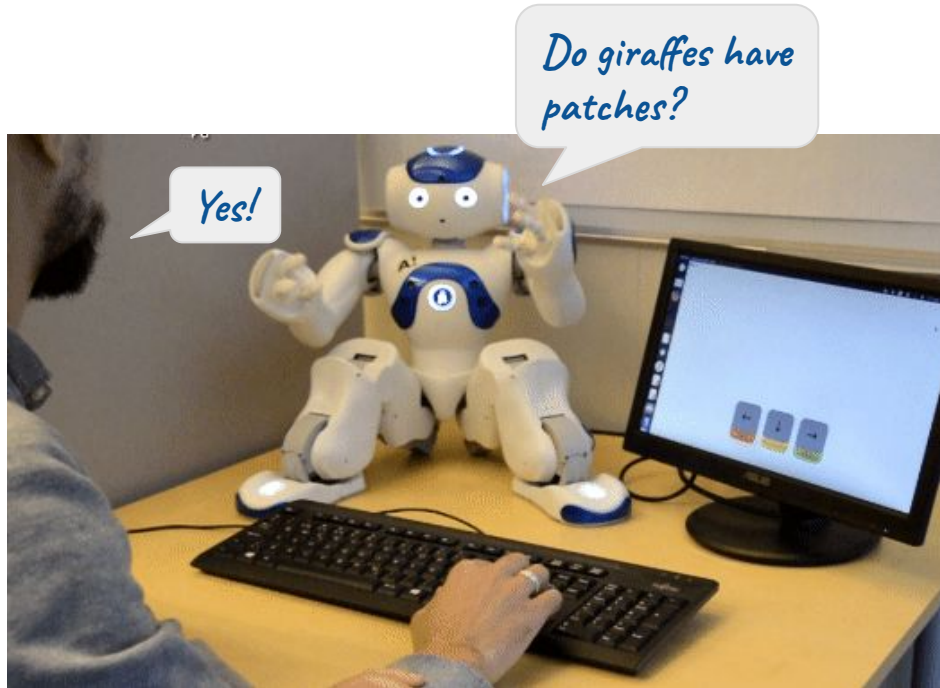
# ROBOT QUERIES and REAL TEACHERS



- **ACTIVE LEARNING STRATEGY**

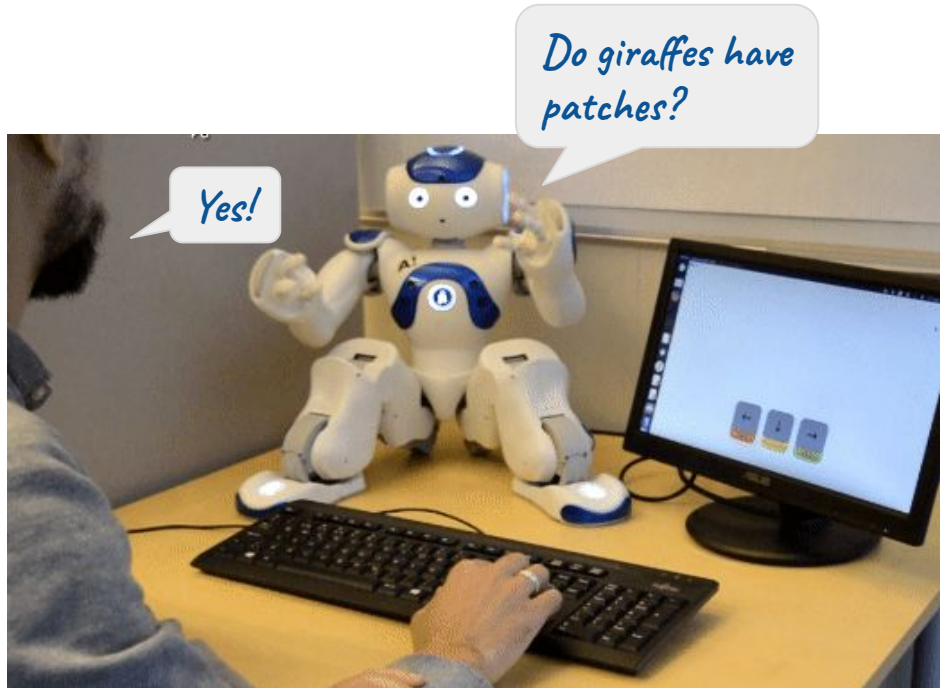


# ROBOT QUERIES and REAL TEACHERS



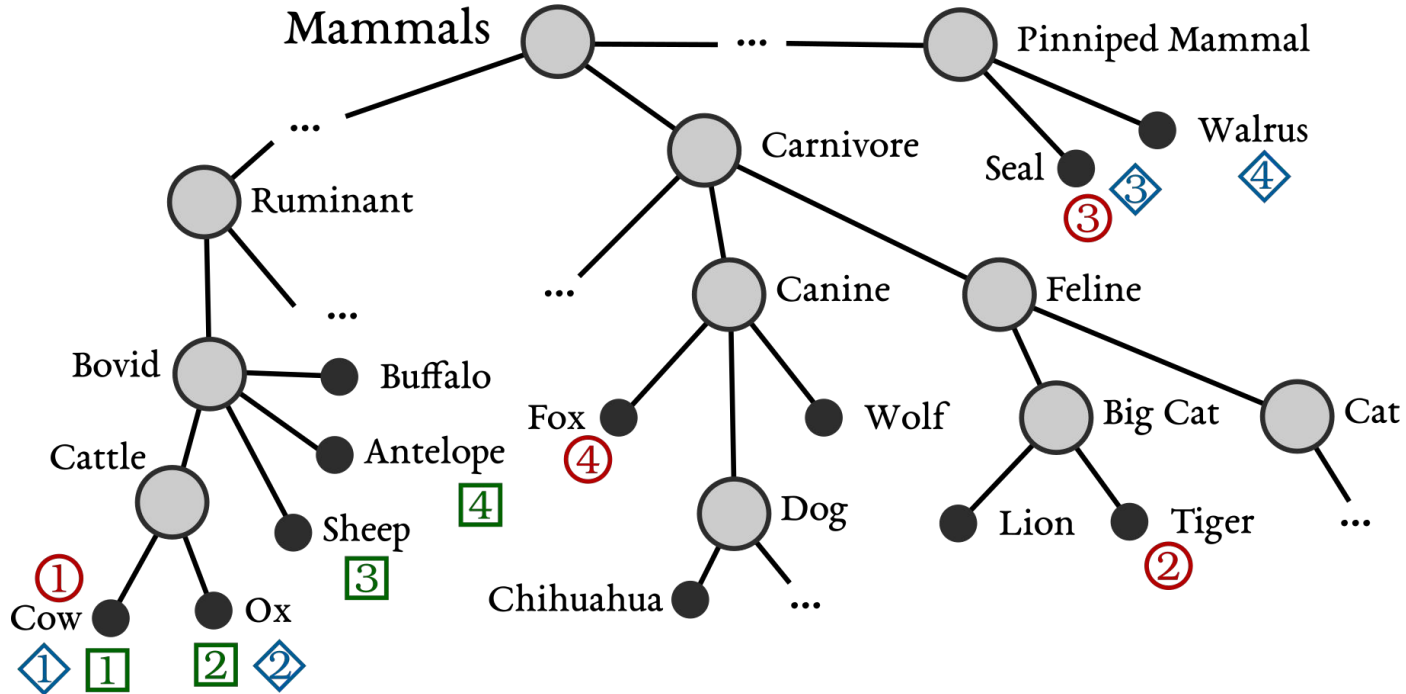
- **ACTIVE LEARNING STRATEGY**
- **MEMORY-AWARE STRATEGY**

# ROBOT QUERIES and REAL TEACHERS



- **ACTIVE LEARNING STRATEGY**
- **MEMORY-AWARE STRATEGY**
- **HYBRID STRATEGY**

# ROBOT QUERIES and REAL TEACHERS



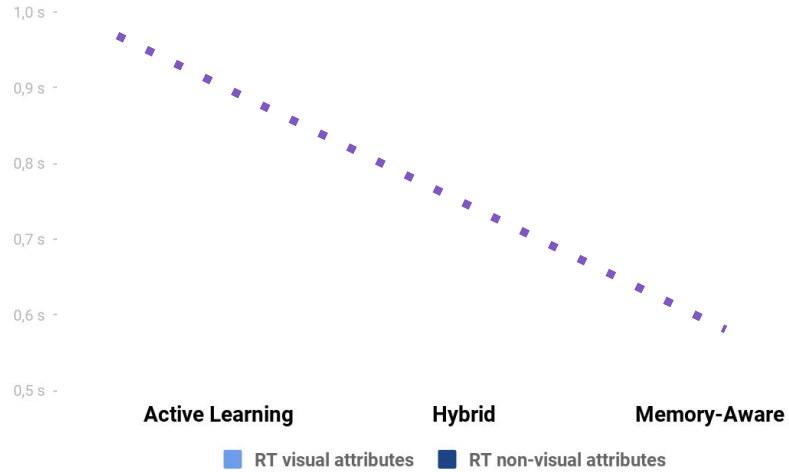
**ACTIVE LEARNING**

**MEMORY-AWARE**

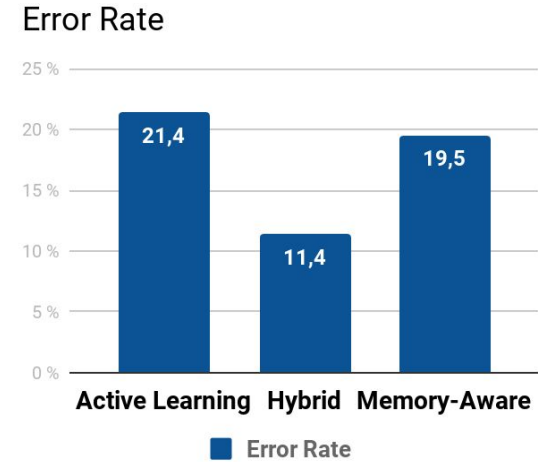
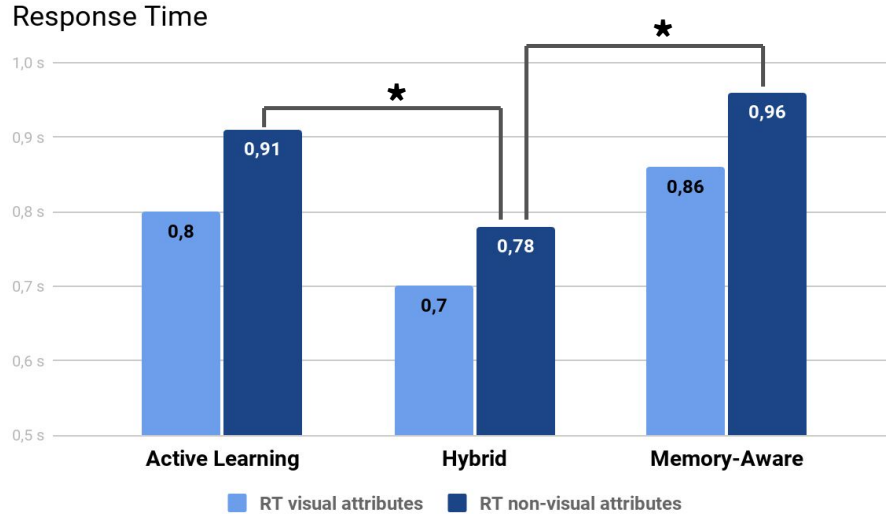
**HYBRID**

# HYPOTHESES

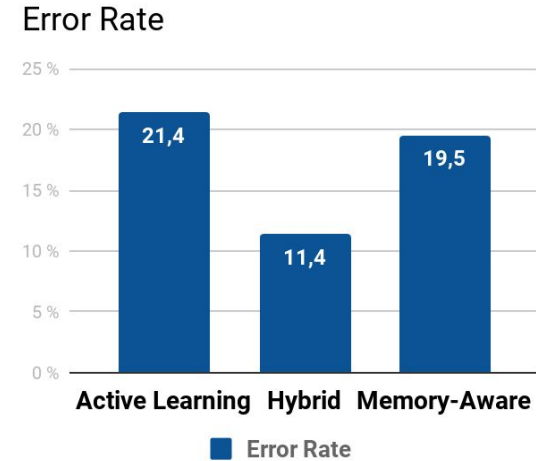
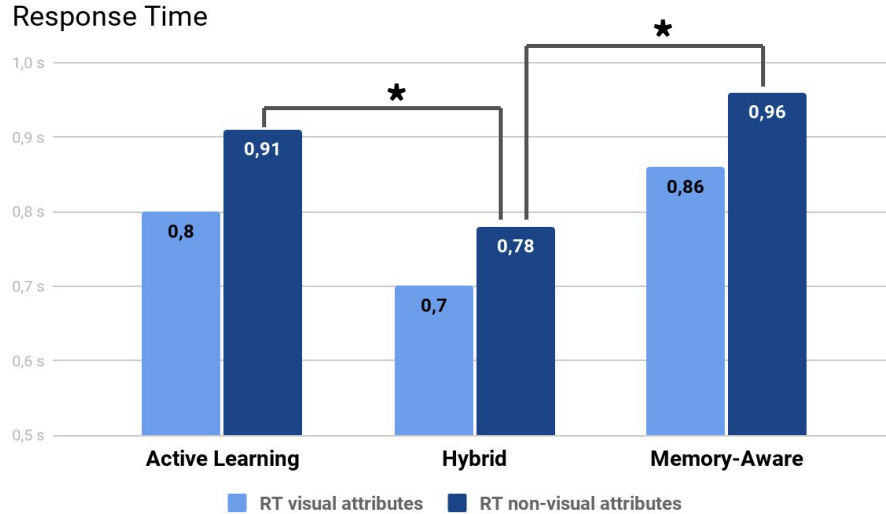
Response Time



# UNEXPECTED RESULTS

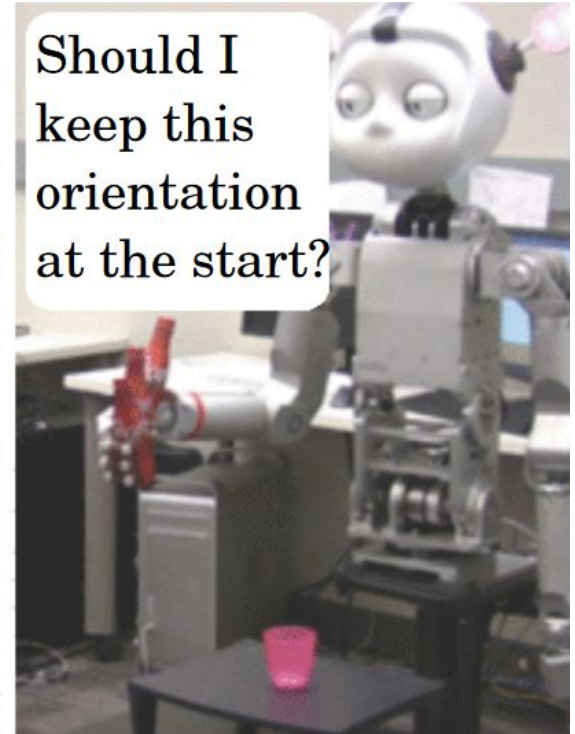
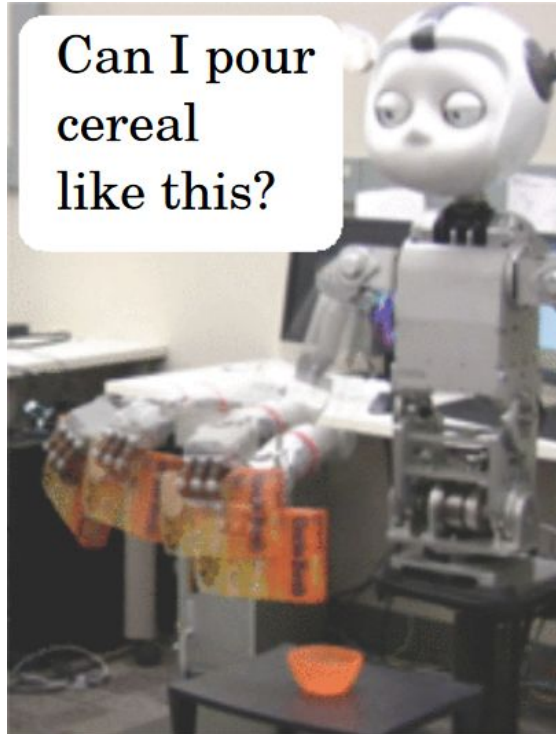


# UNEXPECTED RESULTS



**Different strategies drastically impact the human teacher!**

# EMBODIED QUESTIONS



# EMBODIED QUESTIONS for ROBOT PROGRAMMING





# EMBODIED QUESTIONS for ROBOT PROGRAMMING



## PARAMETERS

- Goal Pose
- Translational Speed
- Collision Threshold (move until you sense a contact)



# TUNING ROBOT PROGRAMS

A Panda Program

PUSH MOTION FINGER GRASP LINEAR MOTION USER SYNC MOVE FINGERS LINEAR MOTION

READY

Current Primitive's parameters:  
Motion Speed  
0.228 m/s

I will execute this Linear Motion now with Motion Speed = 0.228 m/s

Robot State

READY

Recover from Error

Go to start state

Execute one step



# TUNING ROBOT PROGRAMS

## User study:

- tune parameters faster and closer to how experts would tune them



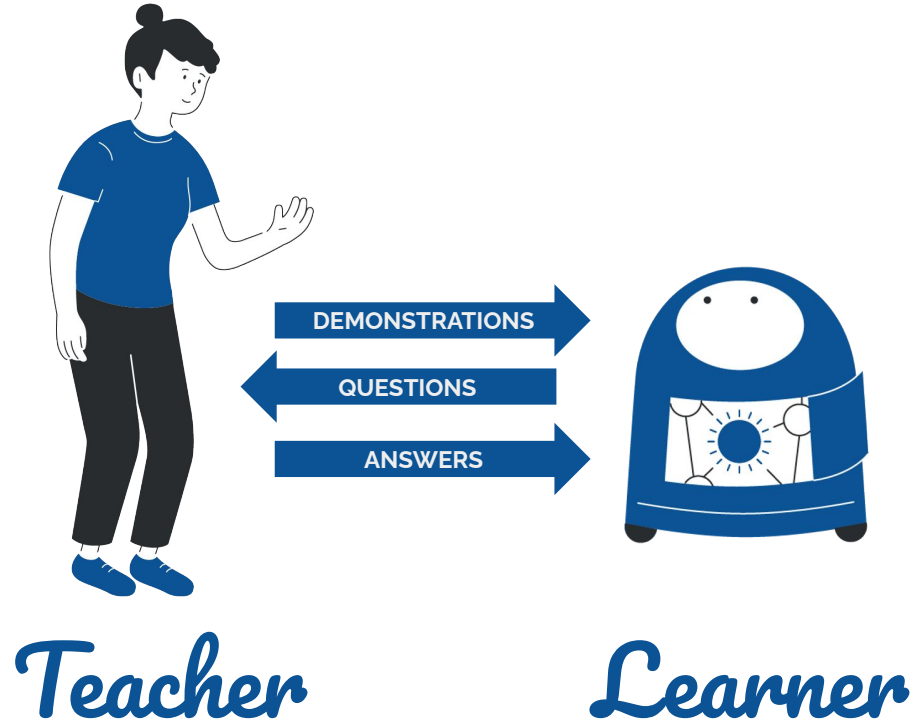
# TUNING ROBOT PROGRAMS

## User study:

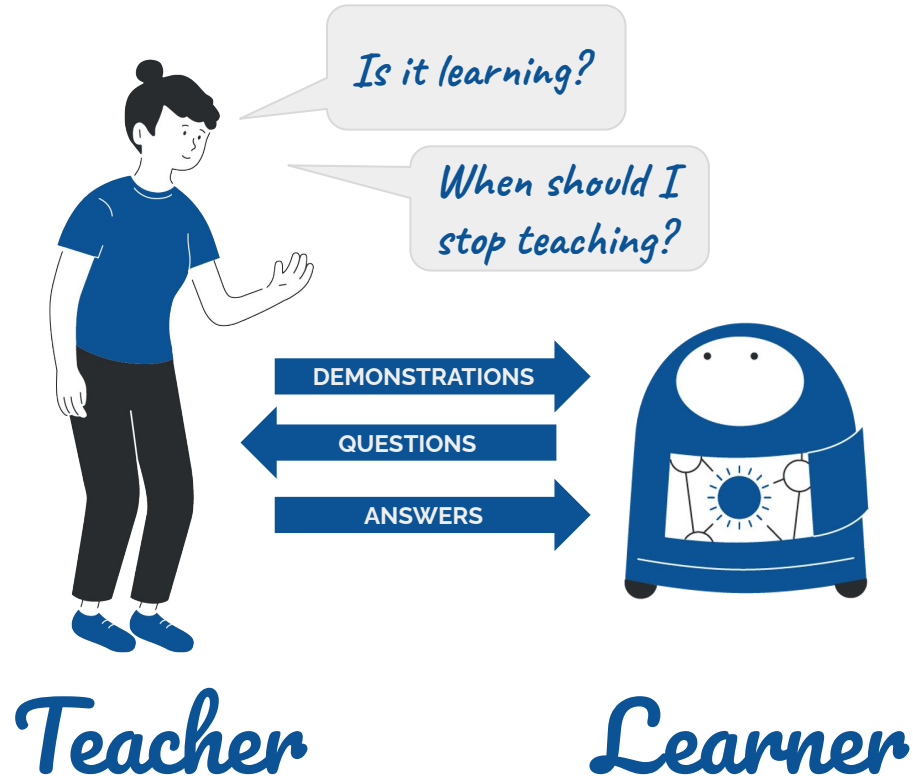
- tune parameters faster and closer to how experts would tune them
- integration of Active Learning in commercially available robot programming interface



# TEACHER-LEARNER TRANSPARENCY



# TEACHER-LEARNER TRANSPARENCY



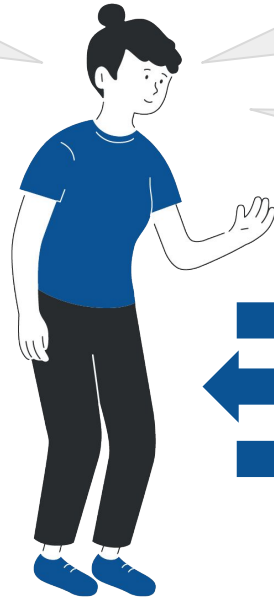
# TEACHER-LEARNER TRANSPARENCY

*I think it's enough!*

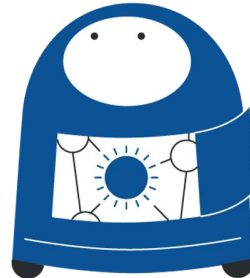
**SPOILER:** It was not.

*Is it learning?*

*When should I stop teaching?*



*Teacher*



*Learner*

# TEACHER-LEARNER TRANSPARENCY

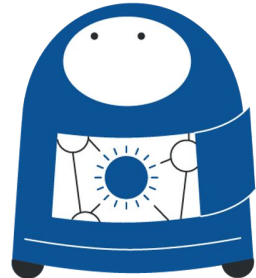
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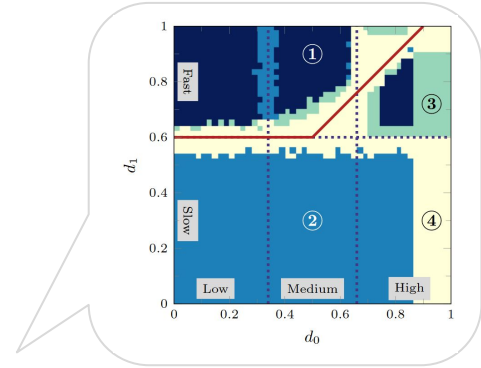
*Is it learning?*

*When should I stop teaching?*



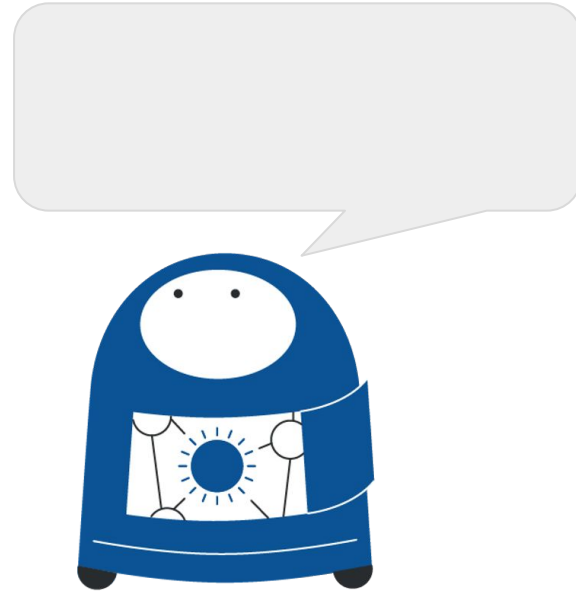
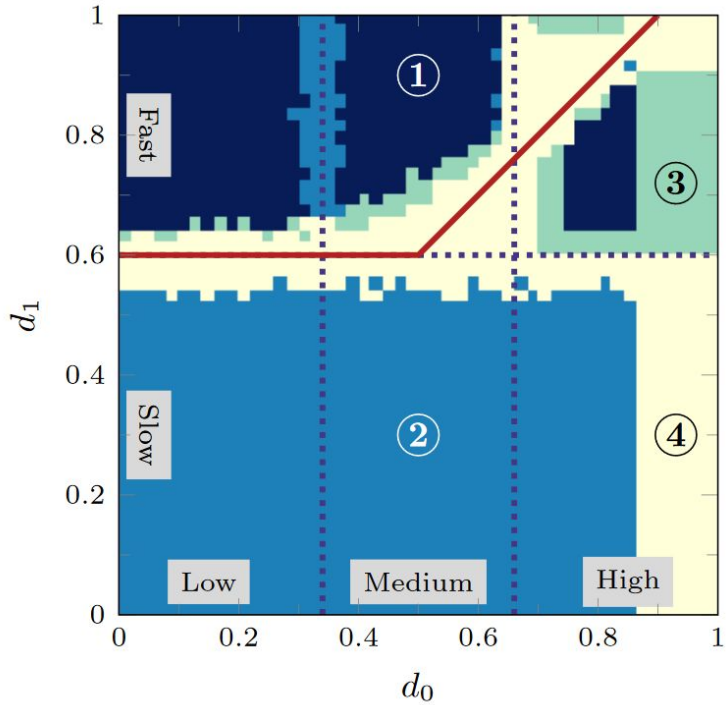
*Teacher*

*Learner*

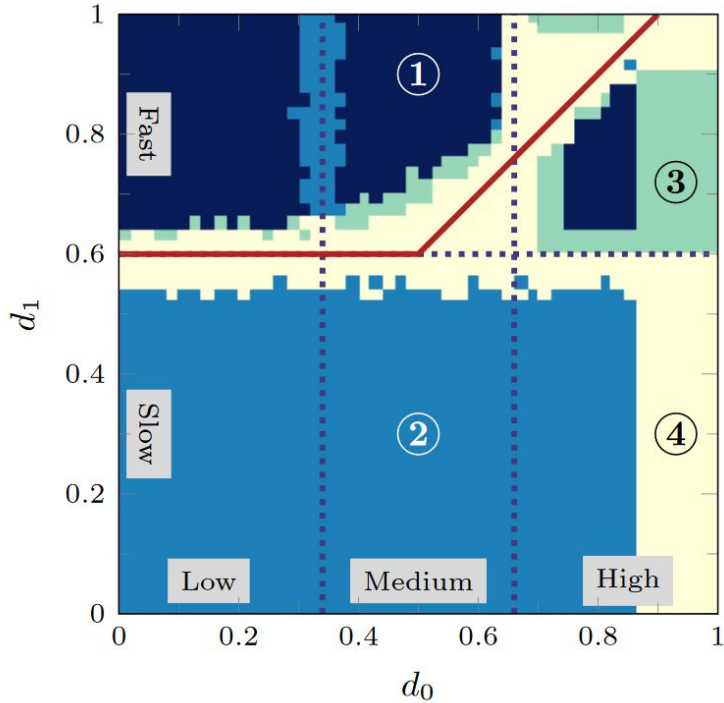




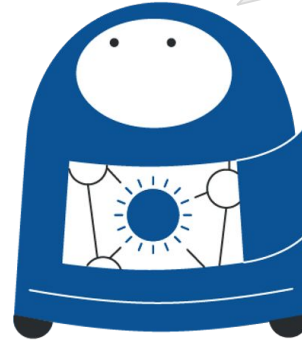
# POLICY EXPLANATION



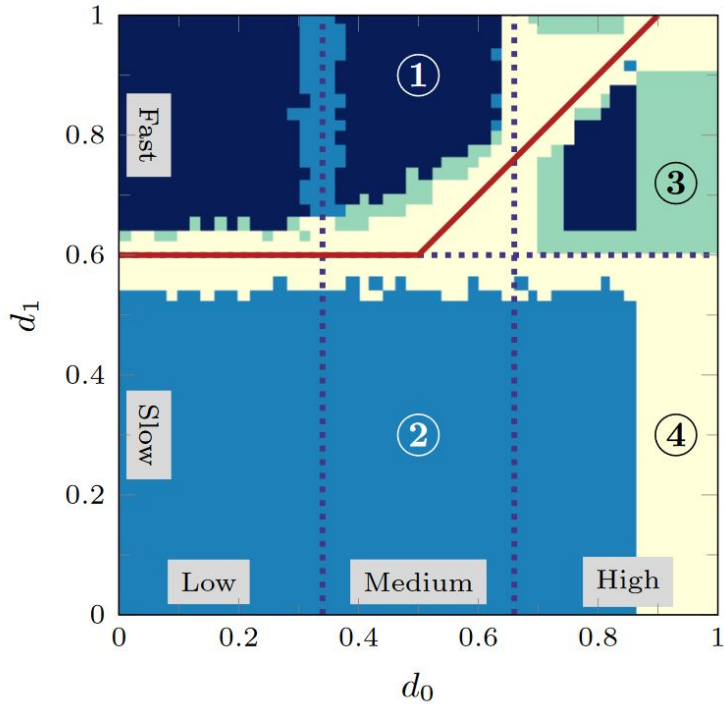
# POLICY EXPLANATION



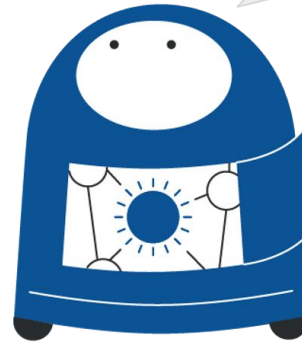
*I go to charge because my battery is low and today it's Friday and ...*



# FOCUSED POLICY EXPLANATION



*I go to charge because my battery is low ~~and today it's Friday and ...~~*



# FOCUSED POLICY EXPLANATION

## 1 Mars Rover - learning phase

Battery Level	Ground Quality	Signal Strength	Storage	Temperature
low middle high 92.0	low high 0.31	low middle high 0.83	low high 25.5	low middle high 9.3

## 2 Possible Actions:

- 1: move
- 2: stop and charge
- 3: stop and collect ground sample
- 4: send data to earth
- 5: return and unload the collected samples



Current Scenario: 2/3

State: 1/7

Next State

## 3

Explanations:

The action was: move

**"I did move because Battery Level was high and Ground Quality was low"**

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**Better understanding of robot policies!**

but we have a long way to go before we have Interpretable Machine Learning!



# **Interactive Robot Learning with human-in-the-loop**

A large blue triangle is positioned on the left side of the slide, pointing towards the right. It serves as a decorative element for the title text.

# **Interactive Robot Learning with human-in-the-loop**

**Active Learning  
Learning from Demonstration**



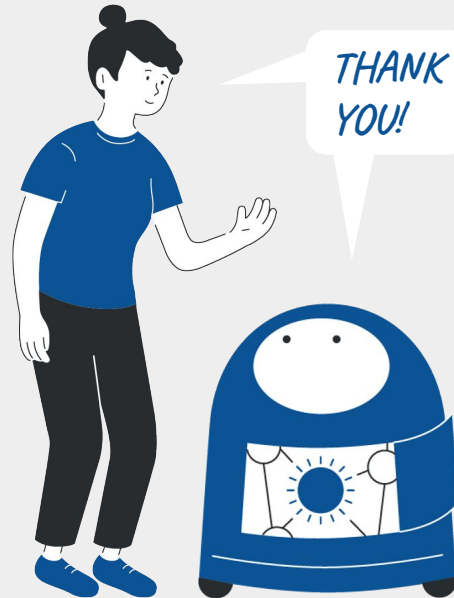
# **Interactive Robot Learning with human-in-the-loop**

**Active Learning  
Learning from Demonstration**

**Focus on the Human-Robot Interaction**



# Teacher-Learner Interaction for Robot Active Learning



**A!**

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School of Electrical  
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**Mattia Racca**