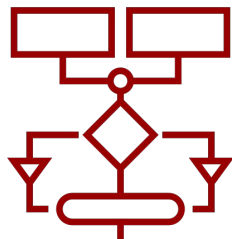


# Lecture 5

The challenge with interacting with models

# A shift in AI: From algorithms to machine learning



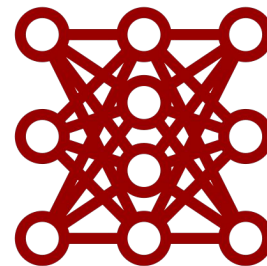
## Classical algorithms

**Problems:** precisely defined algebraically

**Example:** Graphcut algorithm

**Accuracy:** measured by correctness

**Artifact:** provably correct, transparent process



## Empirical machine learning

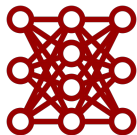
**Problems:** loosely defined by datasets

**Example:** ResNet50 trained on ImageNet 1K

**Accuracy:** measured using test set

**Artifact:** stochastic black box model

# The last few decades of AI



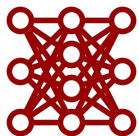
Model-centric AI

**Goal:** improve accuracy

**Output:** robust model

**Artifact:** Training algorithm /  
model

# Current shifts within machine learning



## Model-centric AI

**Goal:** improve accuracy

**Output:** robust model

**Artifact:** Training algorithm /  
model



## Data-centric AI

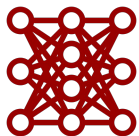
**Goal:** improving data efficiency

**Output:** quality data

**Artifact:** active learning  
algorithms



# The new shift we should move towards.



## Model-centric AI

**Goal:** improve accuracy

**Output:** robust model

**Artifact:** Training algorithm /  
model

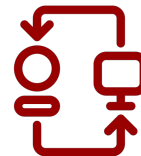


## Data-centric AI

**Goal:** improving data efficiency

**Output:** quality data

**Artifact:** active learning  
algorithms



## Interaction-centric AI

**Goal:** success on new goals  
(sometimes defined by user)

**Output:** useful model

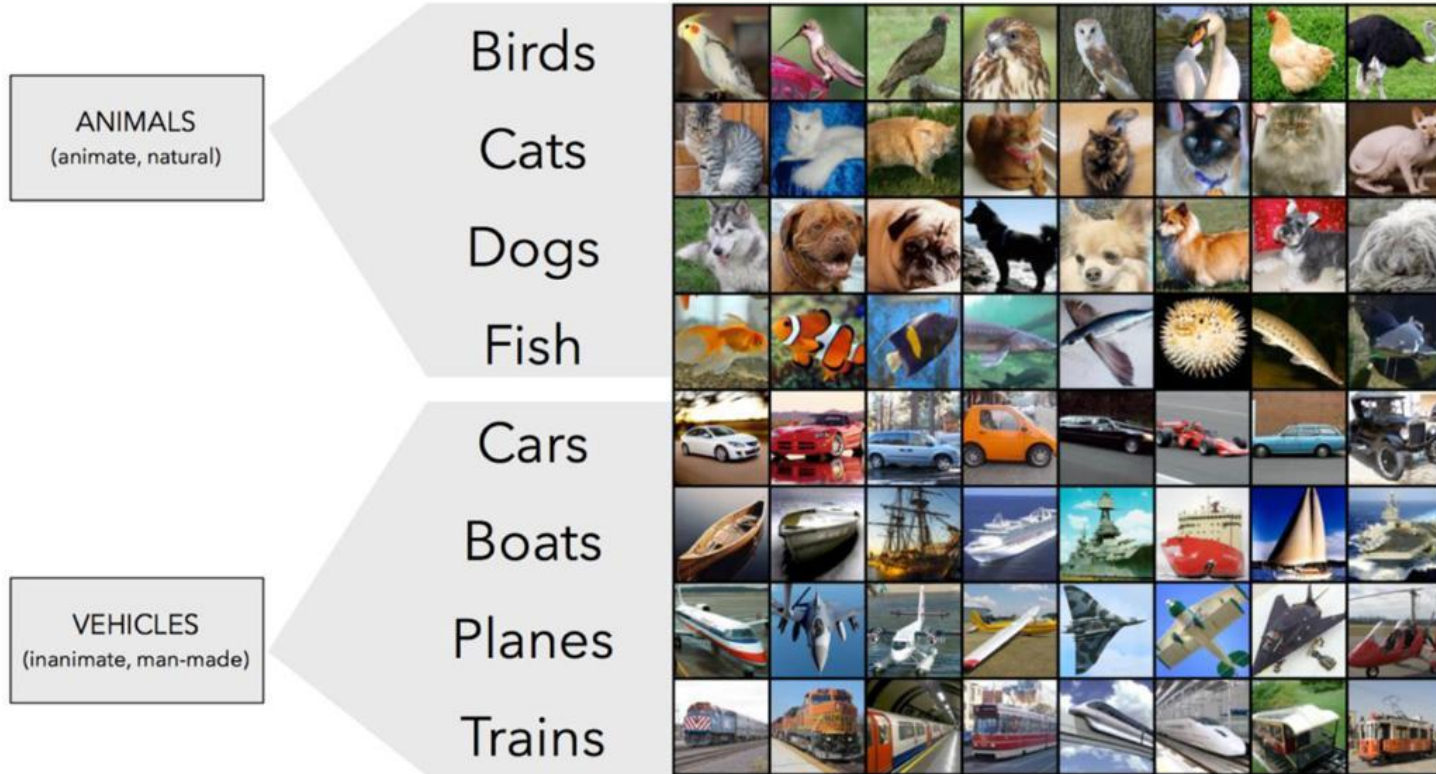
**Artifact:** human-AI interaction

# Interaction-centric AI

- Placing the human directly within the training cycle
- Expecting to see and operate on inputs never before seen
- Continuously improve model with more interactions

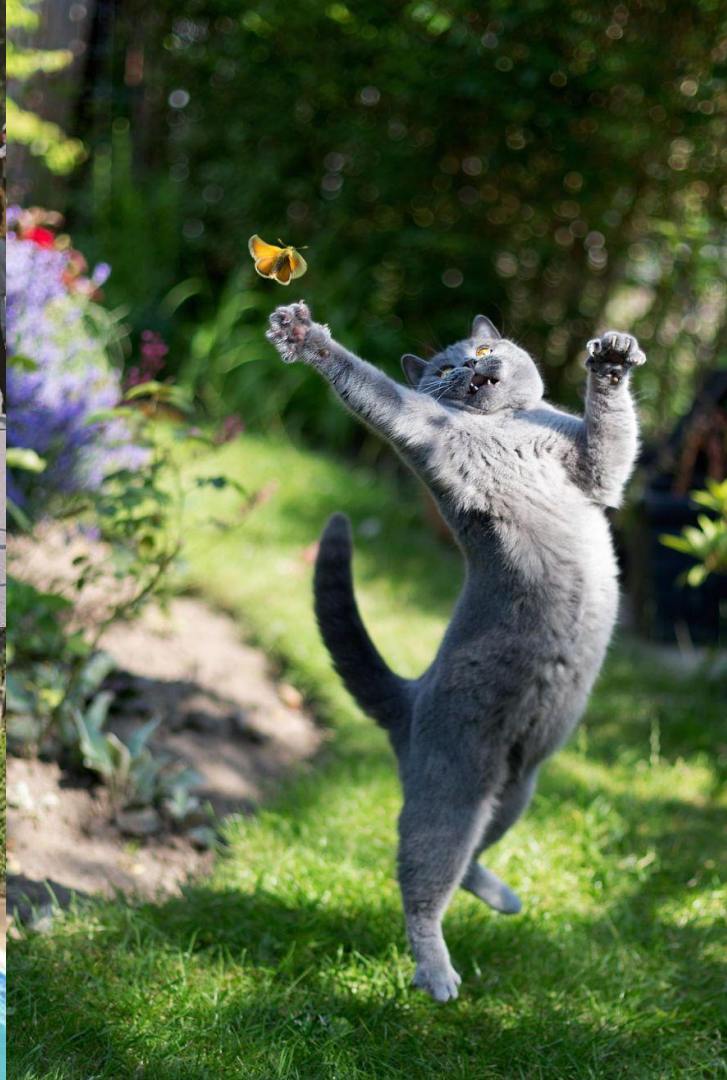
Deep dive into how we can apply this framework in computer vision

# Our world is more than a collection of objects

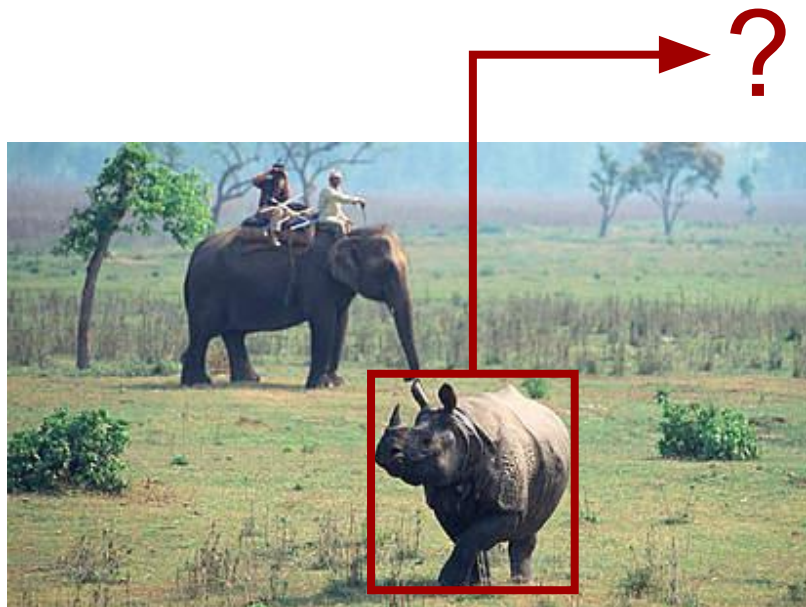








# Models fail when they encounter **new concepts**

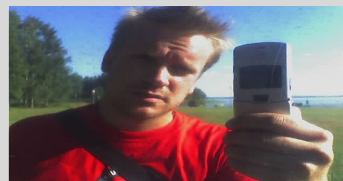
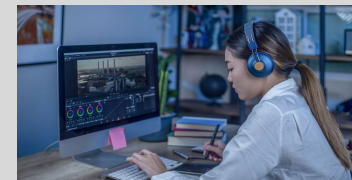
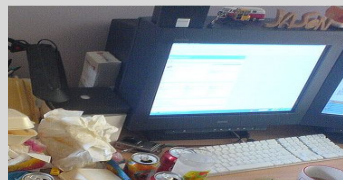


- Deng et al. CVPR 2009; Lin et al. ECCV 2014; Antol et al. CVPR 2015;
- image sources: [old](#) and [new](#) telephone, [old](#) and [new](#) computer, [airpods](#), [salamander](#), [rhino](#)

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## Existing concepts **evolve** over time

Images from MSCOCO (Lin et al. 2014)



## New concepts **invented** or **discovered**



Airpods



Carolina Salamander



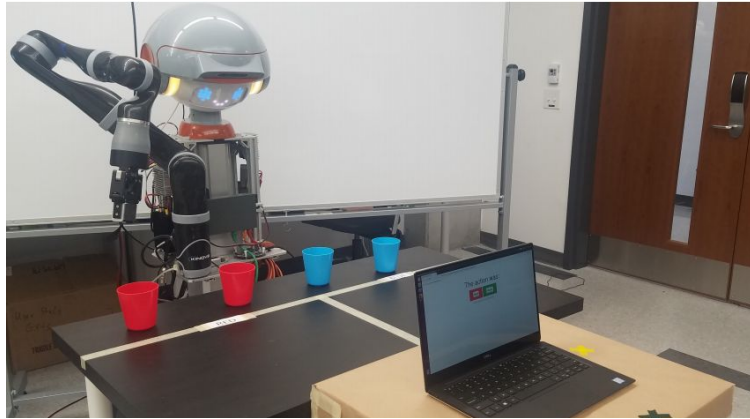
# Human development is a socially mediated process

Vygotsky. 1962; Reber. Journal of experimental psychology 1989; Gelman. Annual review of psychology 2009; Breazeal. MIT 2000; Greeno. American psychologist 1998; Darwiche. CACM 2018;



# Why is achieving visual intelligence a challenging problem?

Learning from people only possible if people provide **explicit** feedback



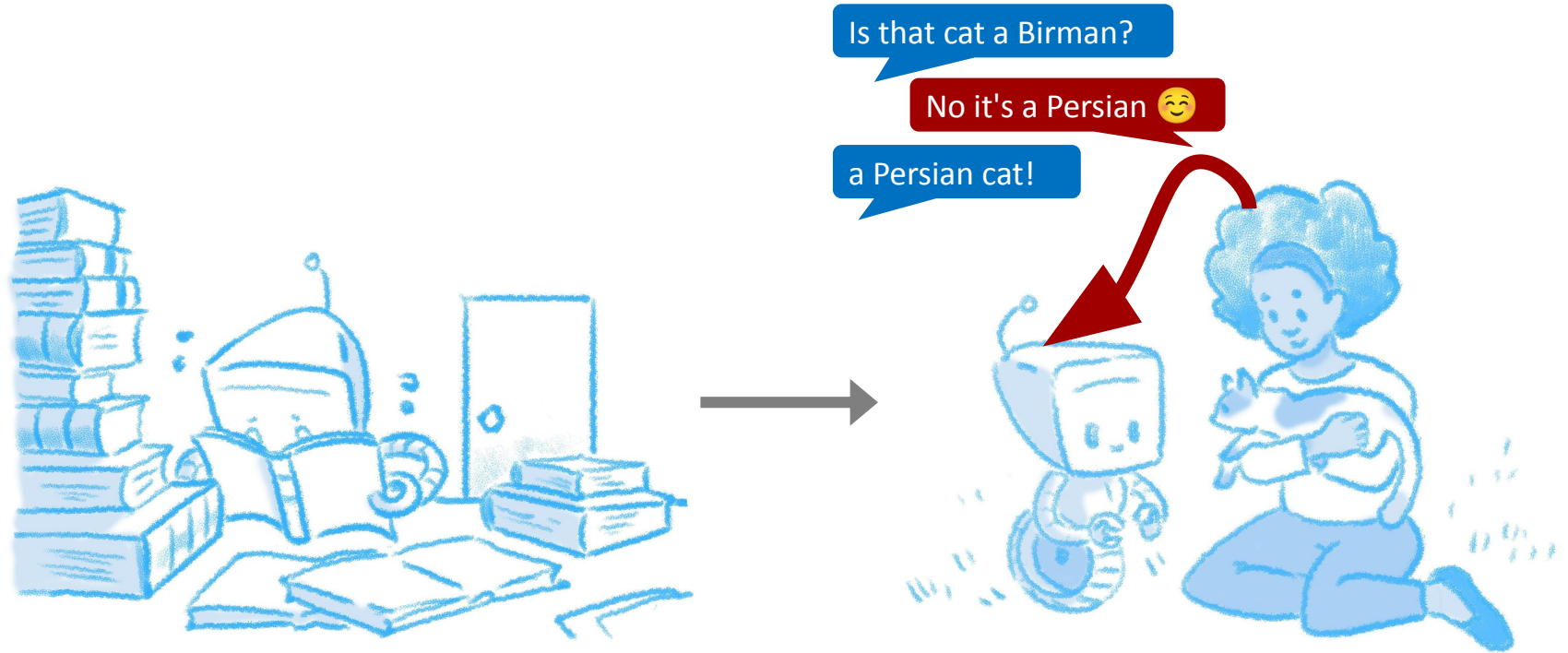
Christiano et al. NeurIPS, 2017; Silver et al. Nature 2016; Misra, et al. CVPR, 2018; Thomaz and Breazeal, AAI 2006; Thomaz and Breazeal, AI 2008; Cakmak and Thomaz, HRI 2012; Deng et al. CVPR, 2009; Krizhevsky et al. NeurIPS 2012; Devlin et al. NAACL-HLT 2019; Radford et al. ArXiv 2021; Brown et al. ArXiv 2020; Gray, Eamon Donlan Books 2019; Mitchell CACM 2018;



Research question:

How models learn from social interactions with people?

By learning to socially interact with people → models can learn new concepts



# Today's AI agents learn in **isolation**



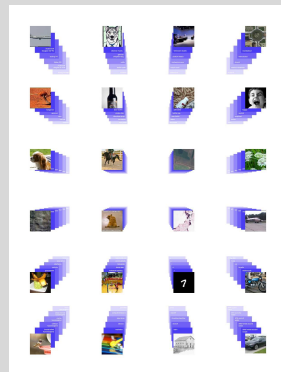
Breazeal. MIT 2000; Grudin and Jacques. CHI 2019; Marcus. Pantheon 2019;  
Winograd. Stanford 1987; Vygotsky. MIT 1962  
Drawing credit: Cathy Yuan

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## Datasets

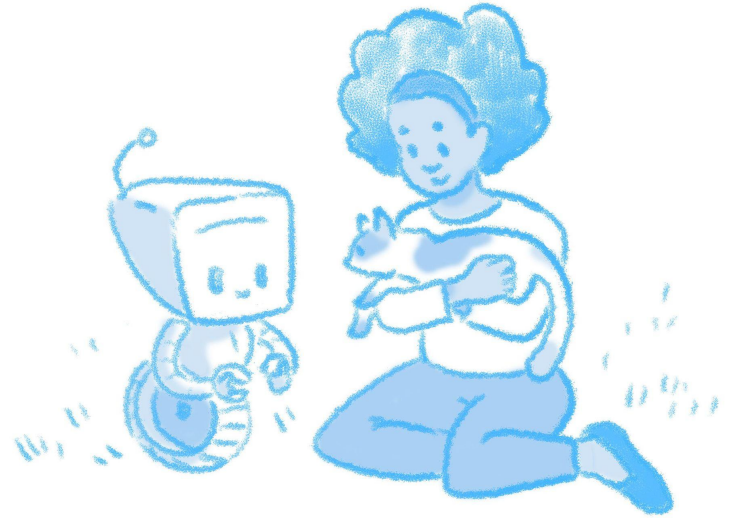


## Web scraping



Deng et al. CVPR, 2009; Krizhevsky et al. NeurIPS 2012; Devlin et al. NAACL-HLT 2019; Radford et al. ArXiv 2021; Brown et al. ArXiv 2020; Gray. Eamon Donlan Books 2019; Mitchell CACM 2018;

The walls of the room ossify agents to the evolving world



# Learning new concepts in social environments



Agent: *What is in front of the elephant?*

Human: that's a rhinoceros 😊

Grice. Academic Press 1975

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Agents must first learn  
*how* to interact with people

 Some questions are not informative

Agent: *What color is the grass?*

 Some questions will not receive response

Agent: *is the person sitting behind the person guiding the elephant holding their right hand or their left hand up to their eyes?*

Agents must tradeoff **informative** interactions with **social** interactions

To enable agents that can **interact to learn** new concepts,  
they must first **learn to interact**



Without **learning how to interact**, the agent will generate questions that people will refuse to respond to



Q: Is that food?

A: -----



Q: Is the color white?

A: -----



Q: How many branches are there?

A: -----



Q: Are there more black balls on top of the table or pink balls under it?

A: -----

# Our Socially situated AI framework generates interactions that people want to interact with



Q; What is the green vegetable?

A: it's bok choy!! So yummy 🙄🌿



Q: What type of dessert is that in the picture?

A: hi dear it's coconut cake, it tastes amazing :)



Q: What kind of bird is this?

A: A Barn Owl.

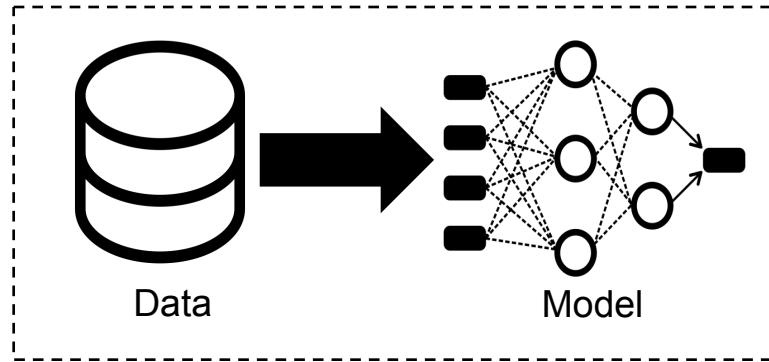


Q: What is on the counter?

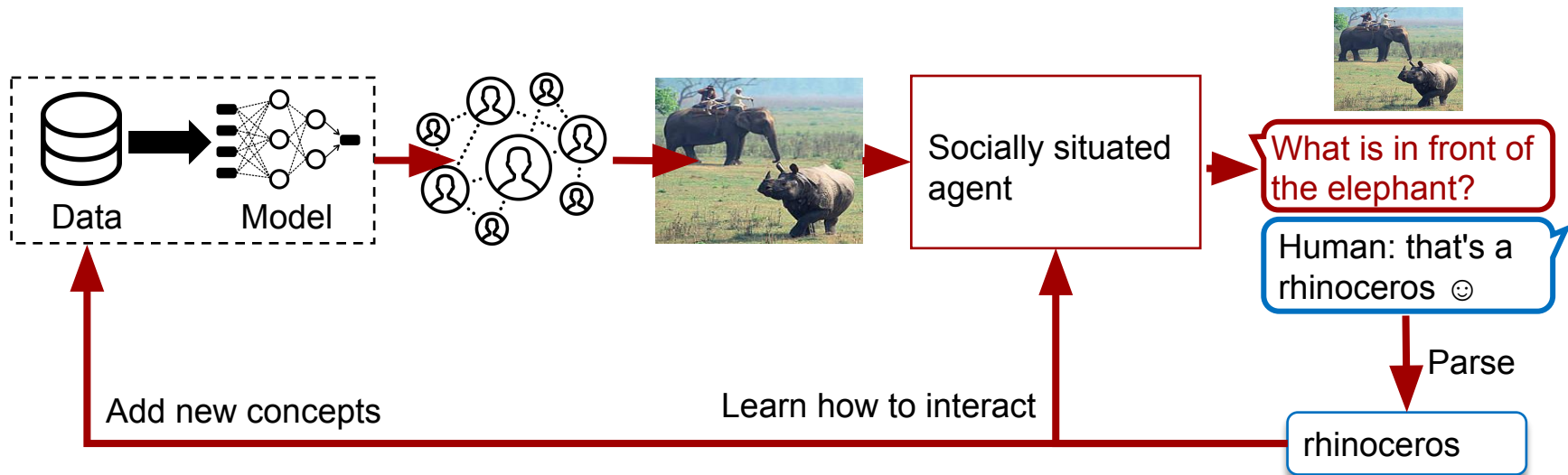
A: On the counter you can find a wide variety of chocolates, dragees and all kinds of refined sweets!



# Traditional AI training paradigm



# Socially situated artificial intelligence framework



# Formalizing as a question generation reinforcement learning task



Socially situated agent

What is in front of the elephant?

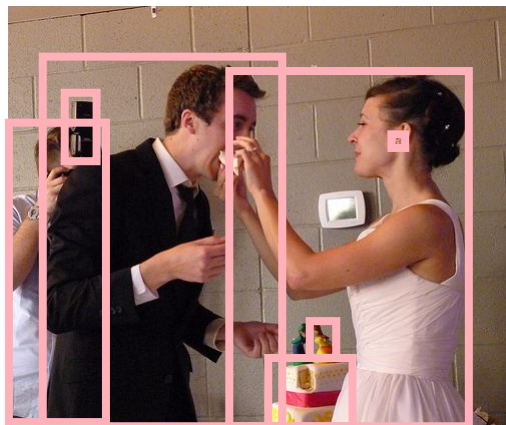


policy  
 $q \sim \pi_{\theta}(i)$

$q_1$	$q_2$	$q_3$	$q_4$	...
in	in	<b>in</b>	in	
front	front	front	<b>front</b>	
did	did	did	did	
<b>what</b>	what	what	what	
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
from	from	from	from	
is	<b>is</b>	is	is	
umbrella	umbrella	umbrella	umbrella	
where	where	where	where	

$q$ : What is in front of the elephant?

# Initialized using Visual Genome



108K images

## Questions

1. Why is she giving him cake? To celebrate.
2. What is on the wall? Thermostat.
3. How many people? 3.
4. Where is the wedding? In a building.
5. What is the person in the back holding? Camera.
6. What color is the dress? pink.
7. What is the person doing with the camera? Taking a picture.
8. Who is wearing the suit? Groom
9. Who is holding the cake? Bride.
10. What is on top of the cake? two statues
11. What is the man doing? Eating.
12. What is the girl doing? Feeding the man cake.
13. What color is the middle layer of the cake? Red.
14. is the bride's hair tied up? Yes.
15. Where is the thermostat? On the wall.
16. Who is taking the picture? The person behind the couple.
17. Are they celebrating a wedding? Yes.

1.7M questions

Krishna, Zhu, Hata, Johnson, Kravitz, Chen, Li, Shamma, Bernstein, Fei-Fei. IJCV 2017

Code and dataset available: <http://visualgenome.org>  
Visualization code: <https://github.com/ranjaykrishna/graphviz>

# Two rewards to guide the agent's behavior



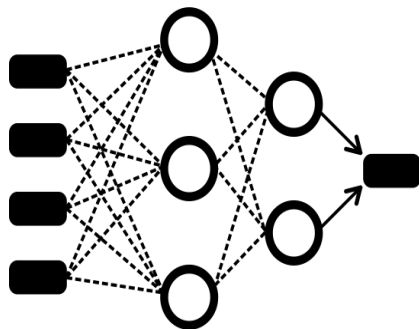
What is in front of the elephant?



**Knowledge reward:**  
Produce questions that are hard for the current model



**Interaction reward:**  
Produce questions that people will respond to



Uncertainty in output space

Sarah: What do you mean?

Sarah: <-no response->

Sarah: that's a rhinoceros 😊

Negative interactions

Informative responses are positive interactions

# Knowledge + interaction are both necessary



Only knowledge reward:

Agent will generate questions people don't want to respond to

Q: is the person sitting behind the person guiding the elephant holding their right hand or their left hand up to their eyes?



Only interaction reward:

Agent will generate questions it already knows the answer to

Q: What color is the grass?

Let's put all of this  
together in a workflow

# Socially situated AI – Putting it all together





First, we filter images with a trained model

### Social Media



images

Sarah: Found these little ones outside my apartment.

Our agent



OUTPUT: dynamically improving AI model



What is the food on the table?

it is a pizza



Why is the person wearing a helmet?

they are bicycling



What is the person sitting doing?

reading a book

First, we filter images with a trained model

### Social Media



images

### Our agent

 Interaction policy

Sarah: Found these little ones outside my apartment.

Agent: How many animals are here?

questions

OUTPUT: dynamically improving AI model



What is the food on the table?

it is a pizza



Why is the person wearing a helmet?

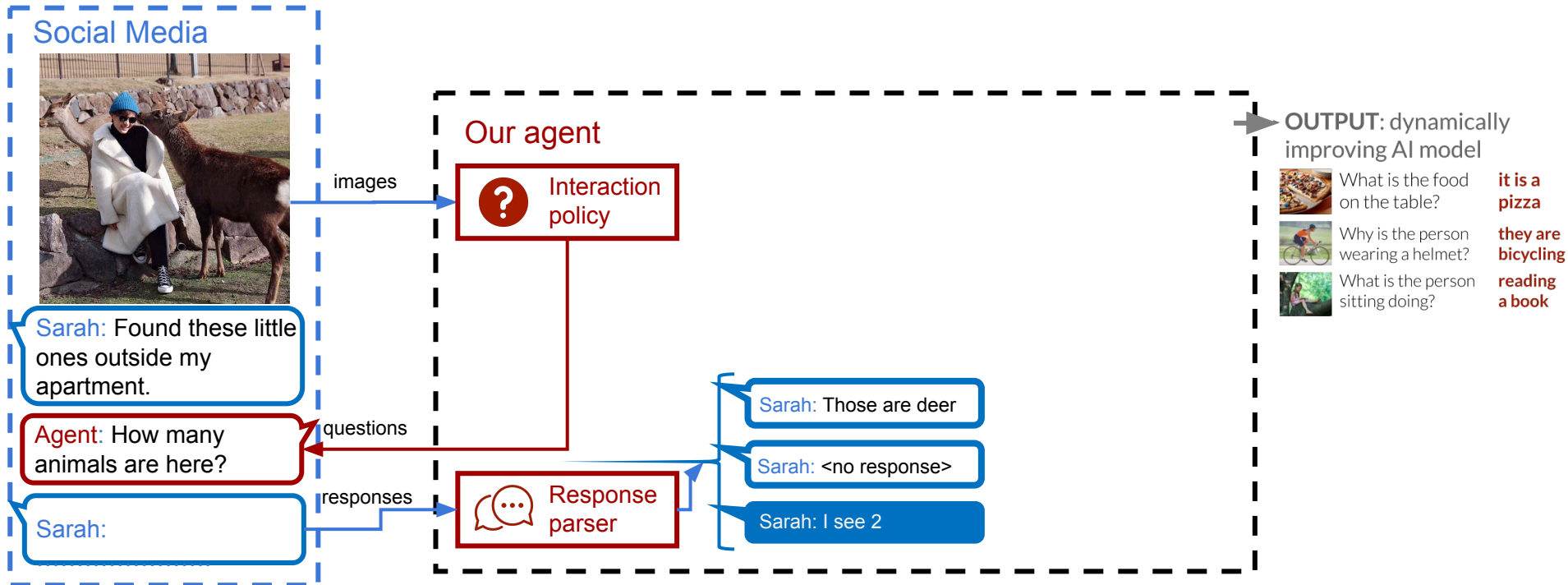
they are bicycling



What is the person sitting doing?

reading a book

First, we filter images with a trained model



First, we filter images with a trained model

Social Media



Sarah: Found these little ones outside my apartment.

Agent: How many animals are here?

Sarah:

images

Our agent

Interaction policy

Interaction reward

Response parser

questions

responses

Sarah: Those are deer

Sarah: <no response>

Sarah: I see 2

Negative (-1) reward if responses do not answer the question

OUTPUT: dynamically improving AI model



What is the food on the table?

it is a pizza



Why is the person wearing a helmet?

they are bicycling



What is the person sitting doing?

reading a book

First, we filter images with a trained model

Social Media



images

Our agent

Interaction policy

Uncertainty reward

Interaction reward

Accumulate new knowledge

Positive (+1) reward if answer is present

Negative (-1) reward if responses do not answer the question

questions

responses

Response parser

Sarah: Those are deer

Sarah: <no response>

Sarah: I see 2

OUTPUT: dynamically improving AI model



What is the food on the table?

it is a pizza



Why is the person wearing a helmet?

they are bicycling



What is the person sitting doing?

reading a book

# Learning to Interact – the complete reinforcement learning framework

## Social Media



images

Sarah: Found these little ones outside my apartment.

Agent: How many animals are here?

questions

Sarah:

responses

**?** Interaction policy

Interaction policy maximizes knowledge and interaction

**⚙️** Uncertainty reward

**🗨️** Interaction reward

**💬** Response parser

Sarah: Those are deer

Sarah: <no response>

Sarah: I see 2

Accumulate new knowledge

Positive (+1) reward if answer is present

Negative (-1) reward if responses do not answer the question

**OUTPUT: dynamically improving AI model**



What is the food on the table?

**it is a pizza**



Why is the person wearing a helmet?

**they are bicycling**



What is the person sitting doing?

**reading a book**

$$\arg \max_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \pi_{\theta}(i)} [\alpha X(i, \text{dec}_{\phi}(q|z)) + (1 - \alpha)U(i, \text{dec}_{\phi}(q|z))]$$

# Responses parsed using finetuned BERT-small model

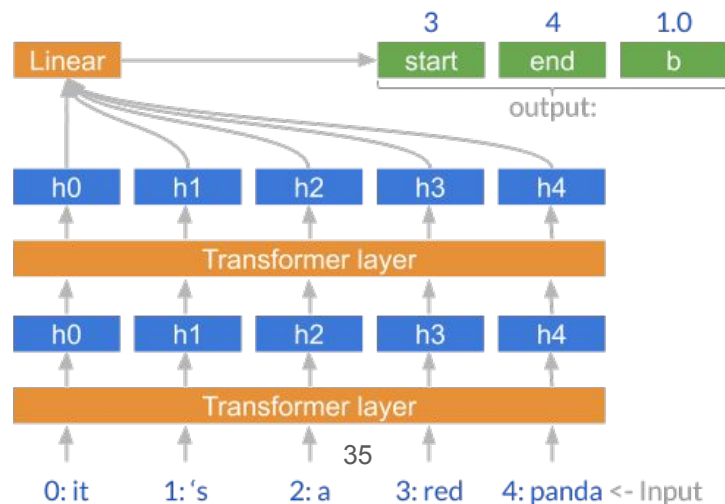
- We train on a dataset of 50K human parsed responses from social media (annotated by crowd workers)

Answer exists:

- Precision: 0.73
- Recall: 0.67

Answer Span Prediction

- Precision: 0.73
- Recall: 0.67



Reinforcement learning  
in language space is  
really hard to train



# Formalizing as a question generation reinforcement learning task



Socially situated agent

What is in front of the elephant?

Latent space of interactions



encoder  
 $z \sim \pi_{\theta}(i)$

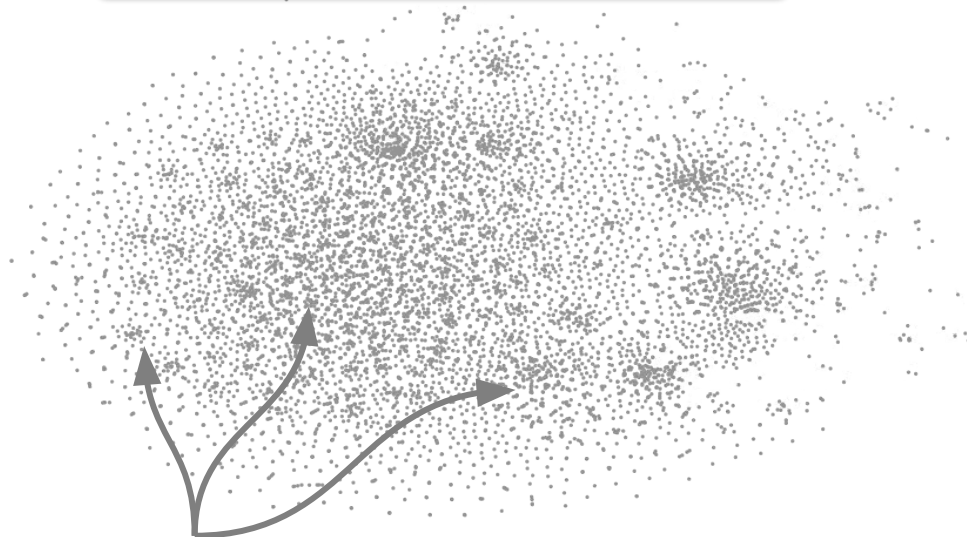
decoder  
 $q \sim \text{dec}_{\phi}(z)$

$q_1$	$q_2$	$q_3$	$q_4$	...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ in</li> <li>■ front</li> <li>■ did</li> <li>■ what</li> <li>⋮</li> <li>■ from</li> <li>■ is</li> <li>■ umbrella</li> <li>■ where</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ in</li> <li>■ front</li> <li>■ did</li> <li>■ what</li> <li>⋮</li> <li>■ from</li> <li>■ is</li> <li>■ umbrella</li> <li>■ where</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ in</li> <li>■ front</li> <li>■ did</li> <li>■ what</li> <li>⋮</li> <li>■ from</li> <li>■ is</li> <li>■ umbrella</li> <li>■ where</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ in</li> <li>■ front</li> <li>■ did</li> <li>■ what</li> <li>⋮</li> <li>■ from</li> <li>■ is</li> <li>■ umbrella</li> <li>■ where</li> </ul>	...

$q$  : What is in front of the elephant?

# The space of interactions is **combinatorically** vast

Latent space of interactions



Interactions that people will understand

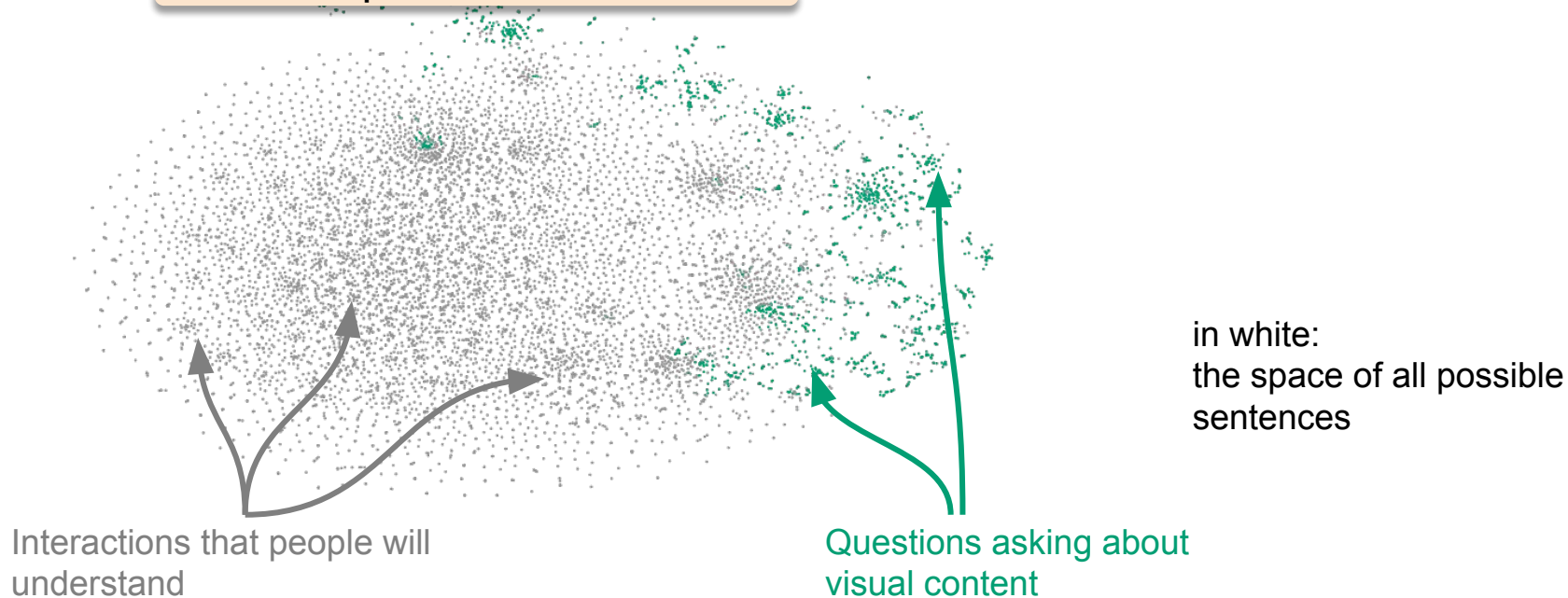


Language reward

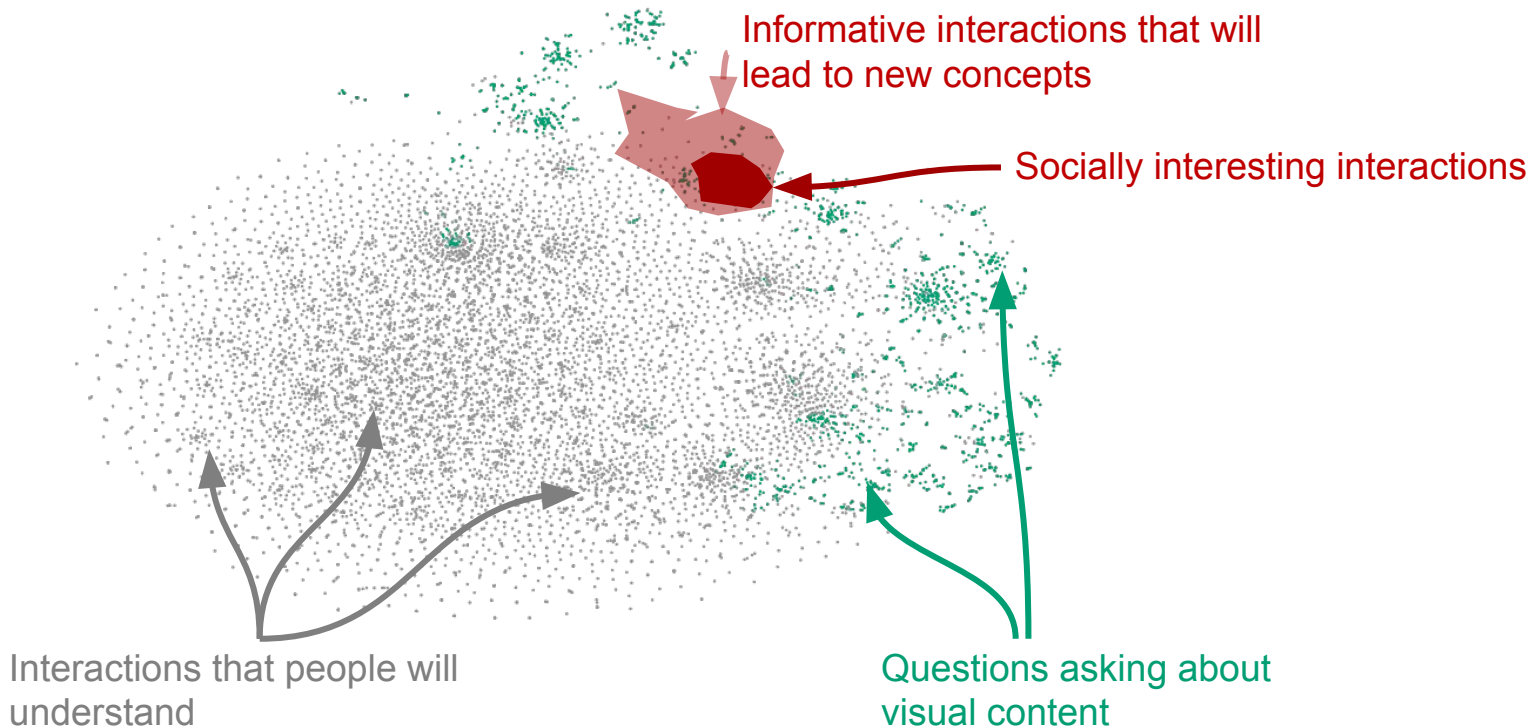
in white:  
the space of all possible  
sentences

Questions aiming to learn is a **small subset** of all interactions

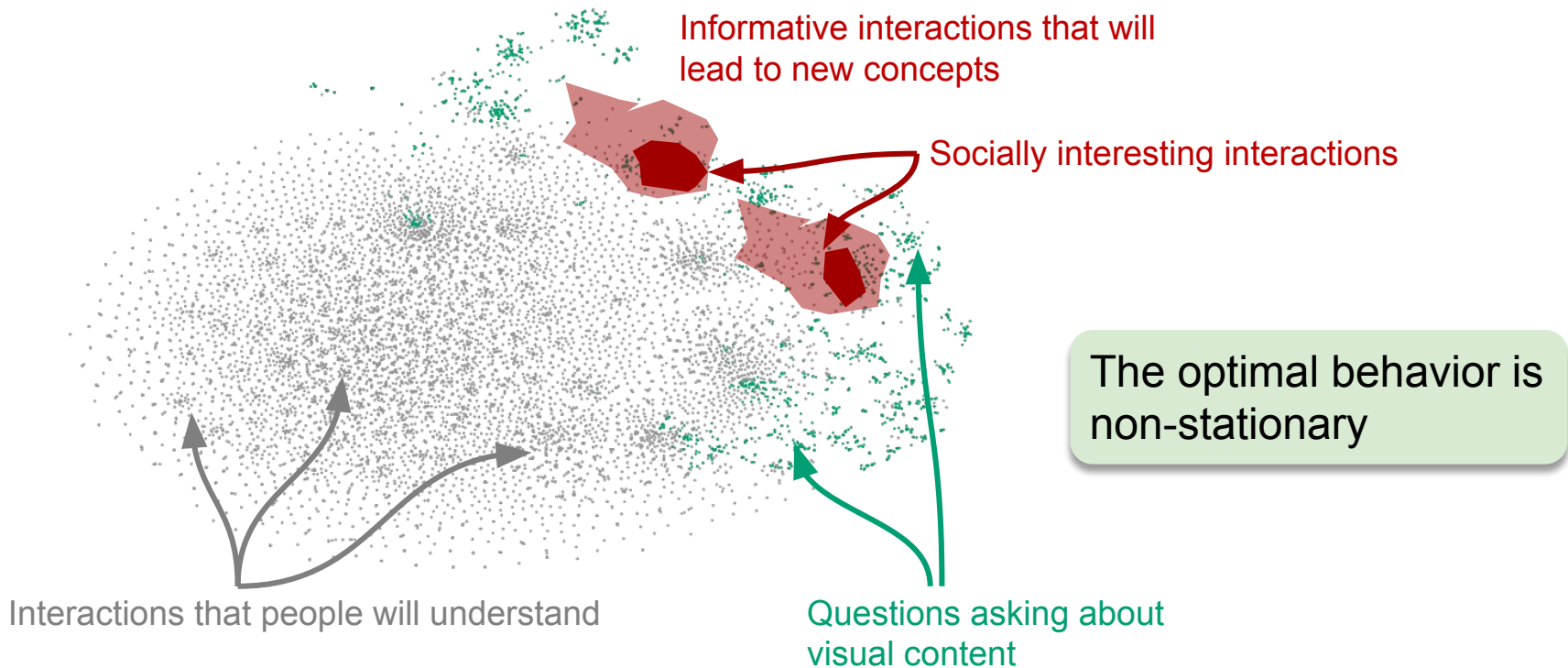
Latent space of interactions



# Agent must uncover **informative AND social** interactions



As the model learns, the informative space will **shift**

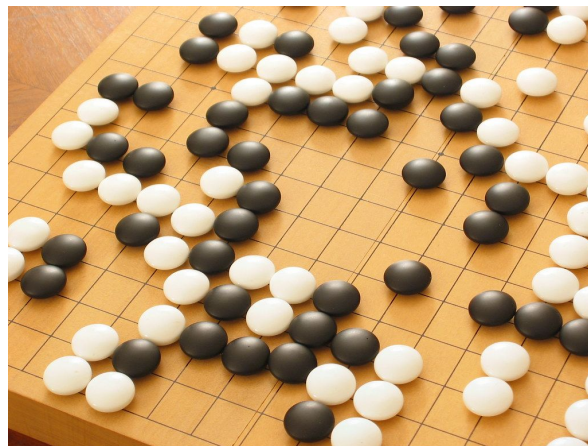


# Existing methods only successful under 2 conditions:

(1) Feedback from people is explicit



(2) Small action spaces



# Existing methods struggle to explore this space of interactions

## Rewards



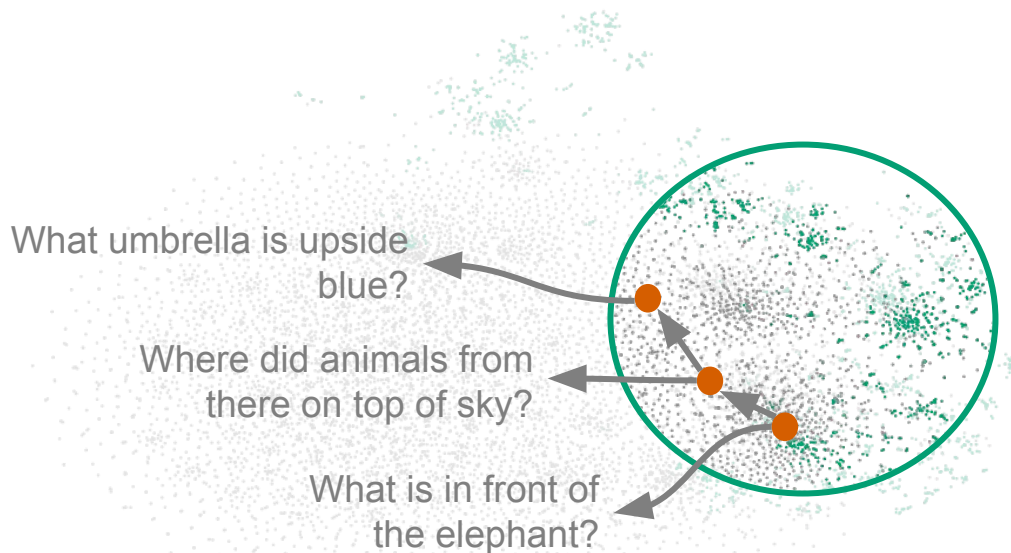
Interaction reward



Knowledge reward

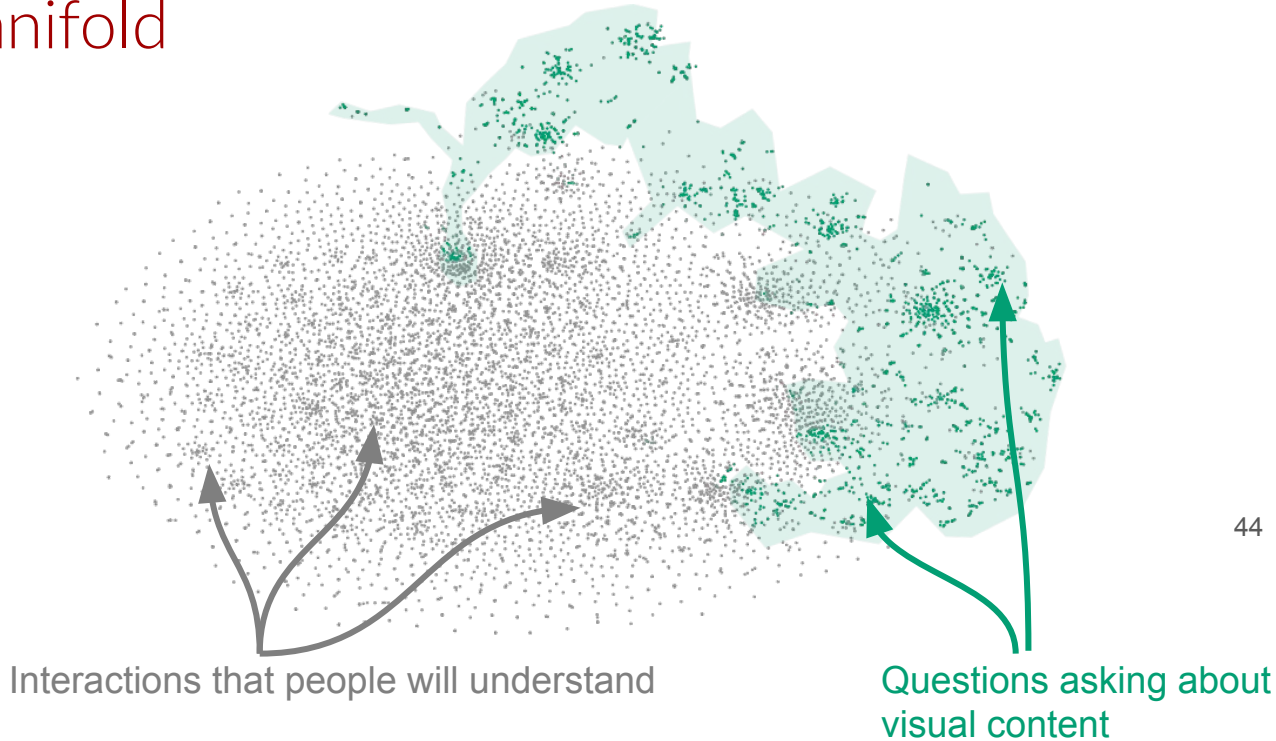


Language reward





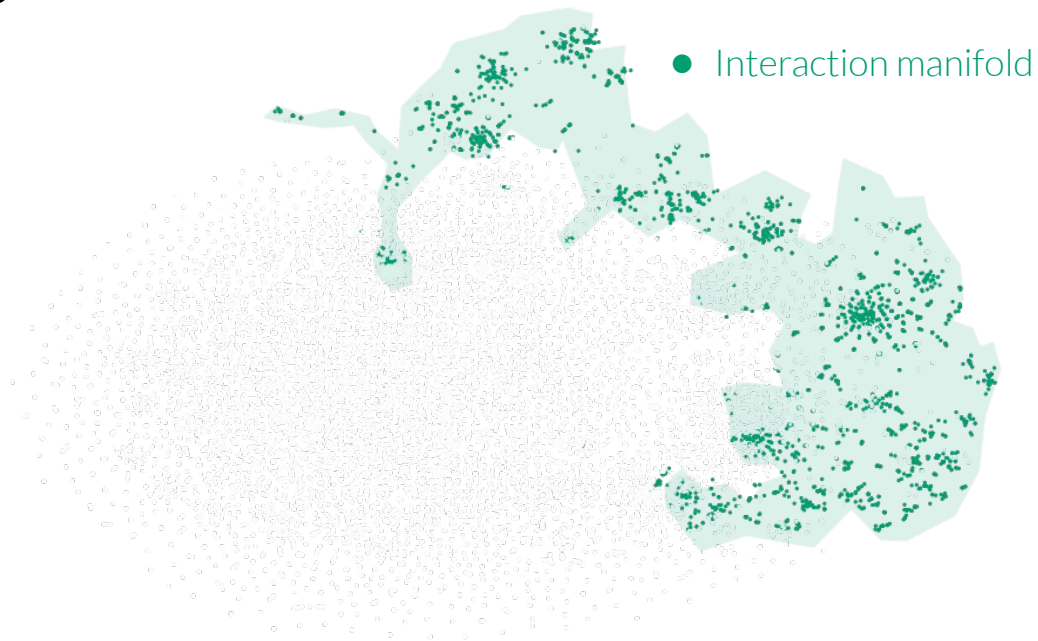
**Our insight:** Large percentage of the variance of human interactions lie on a low-dimensional manifold



44



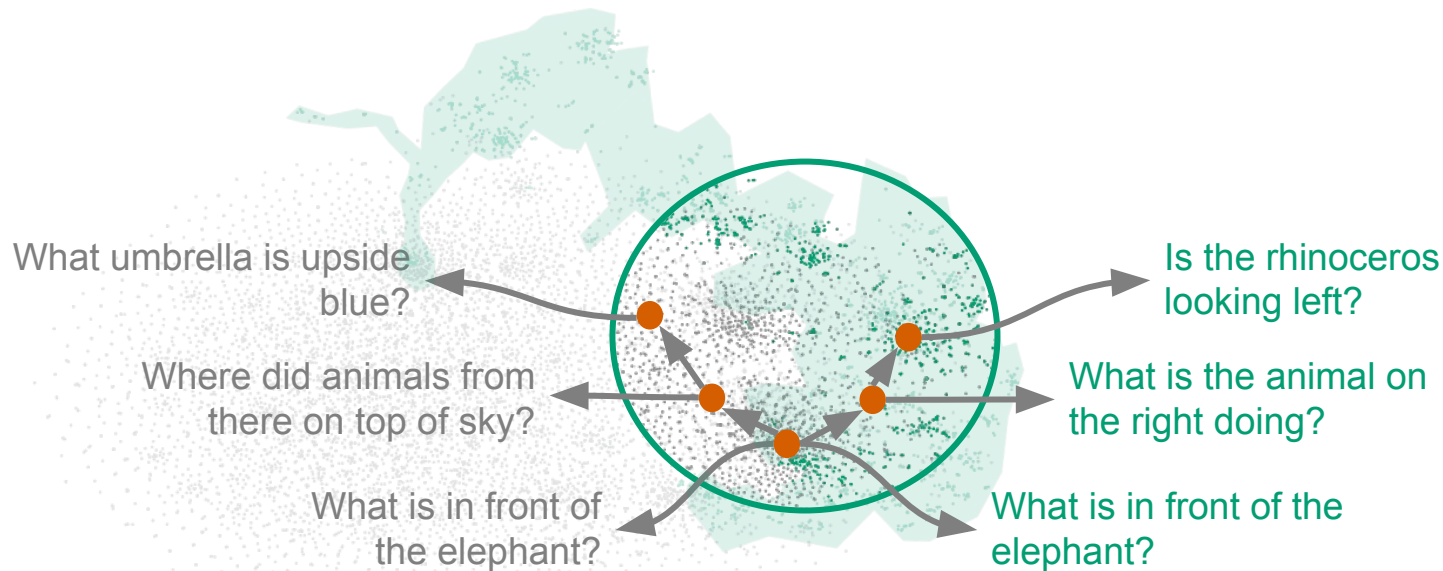
# Our algorithm: an interaction manifold as a surrogate action space



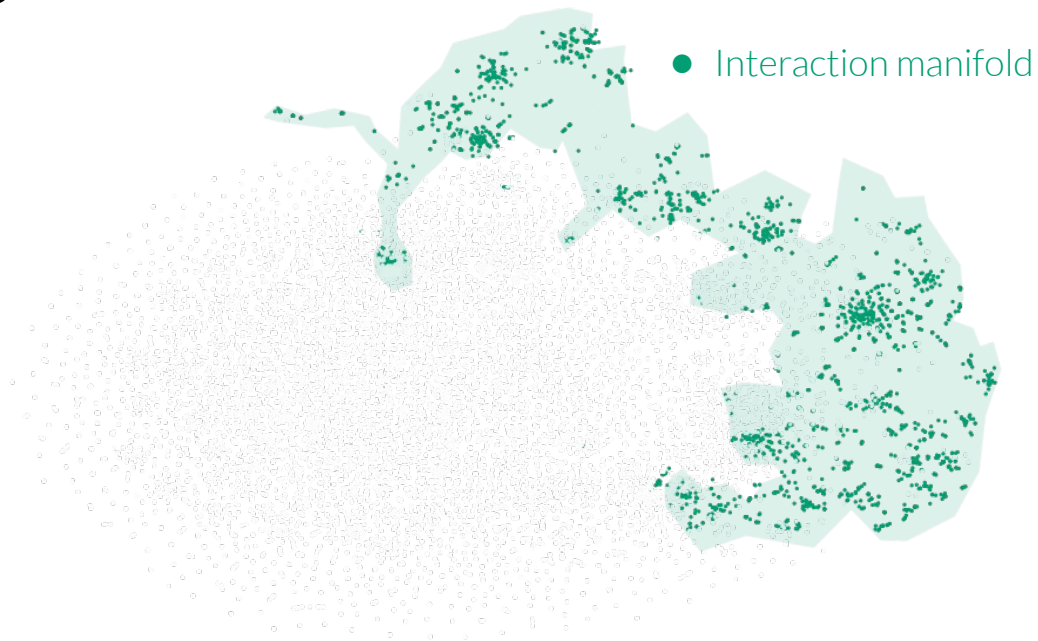
Krishna, Bernstein, Fei-Fei. Information maximizing visual question generation CVPR 2019

Ranjay Krishna | ranjay@cs.washington.edu

# Restricting actions to lie within the **interaction manifold**



# Our algorithm: the interaction manifold as a surrogate action space



## Rewards



Interaction reward

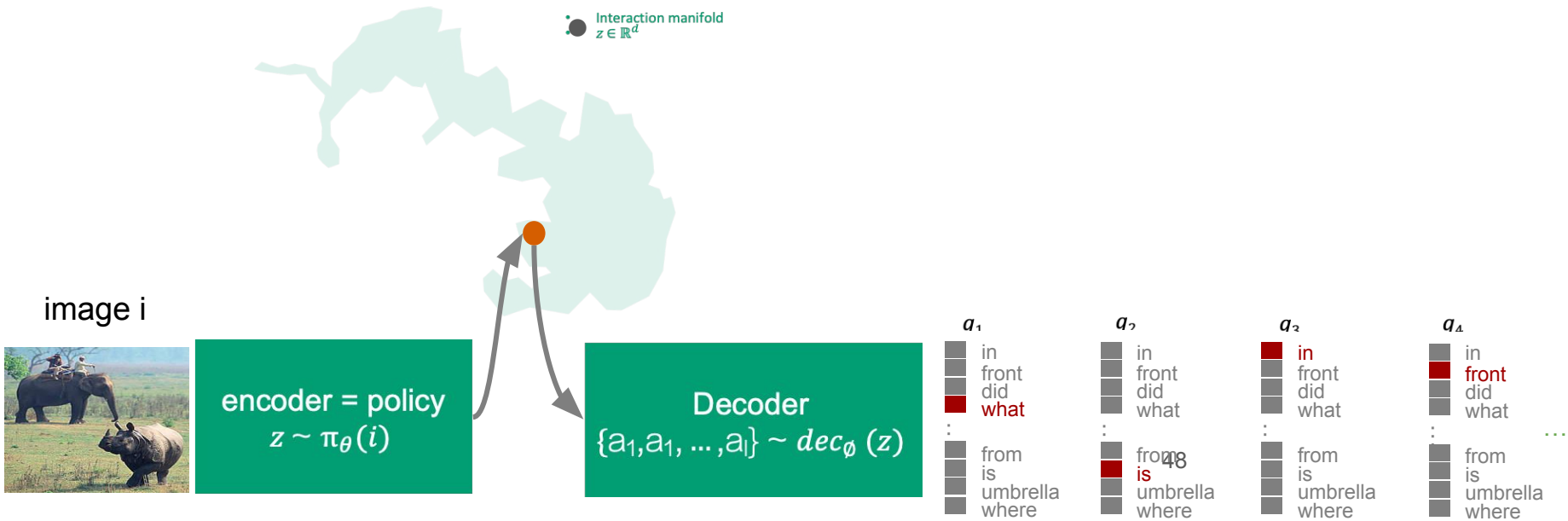


Knowledge reward



Language reward

# Putting it all together



Action space:  $d = 500$

# Post to Social Media

## Social Media



Agent: What is in front of the elephant?

Human: *that's a rhinoceros*

Interaction manifold  
 $z \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Rewards

image  $i$

encoder = policy  
 $z \sim \pi_{\theta}(i)$

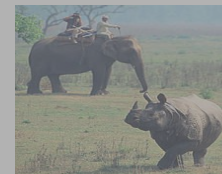
Decoder  
 $\{a_1, a_1, \dots, a_l\} \sim \text{dec}_{\phi}(z)$

- | $a_1$       | $a_7$     | $a_2$     | $a_4$        |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| in          | in        | <b>in</b> | in           |
| front       | front     | front     | <b>front</b> |
| did         | did       | did       | did          |
| <b>what</b> | what      | what      | what         |
| ⋮           | ⋮         | ⋮         | ⋮            |
| from        | from      | from      | from         |
| is          | <b>is</b> | is        | is           |
| umbrella    | umbrella  | umbrella  | umbrella     |
| where       | where     | where     | where        |

Each interaction updates the encoder;  
decoder is held constant

Environment

Social Media



Agent: What is in front of the elephant?

Human: that's a rhinoceros

image  $i$

encoder = policy  
 $z \sim \pi_{\theta}(i)$

Decoder

$\{a_1, a_1, \dots, a_1\} \sim dec_{\phi}(z)$

$a_1$

in  
front  
did  
what

from  
is  
umbrella  
where

$a_2$

in  
front  
did  
what

from  
is  
umbrella  
where

$a_3$

in  
front  
did  
what

from  
is  
umbrella  
where

$a_4$

in  
front  
did  
what

from  
is  
umbrella  
where

# Interacting with people on social media



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Interacted with 230K people over 8 months

# Real interactions between our agent & people on social media



Q: What is the dog's tail resting on?

A: it's a public restroom.



Q; Is the board room carpeted?

A: we use wood floor.



Q: Is this person wearing a life vest?

A: Ahahah not at all !  
She is wearing a big coat 😊



# Questions about **objects**



Q: What is the white stuff on the table?

A: mayo!.



Q: Is that a real bird?

A: 😂😂😂 it's a crocodile



Q: Is this a commercial plane?

A: yes, you're right!  
Flight coming from Amsterdam to Saint Martin!

# Questions about attributes



Q: What is the shape of the sink?

A: It's a square.



Q: What material is the counter?

A: It looks as though it is marble, however this isn't my design so I can't be 100%. It's gorgeous though isn't it!

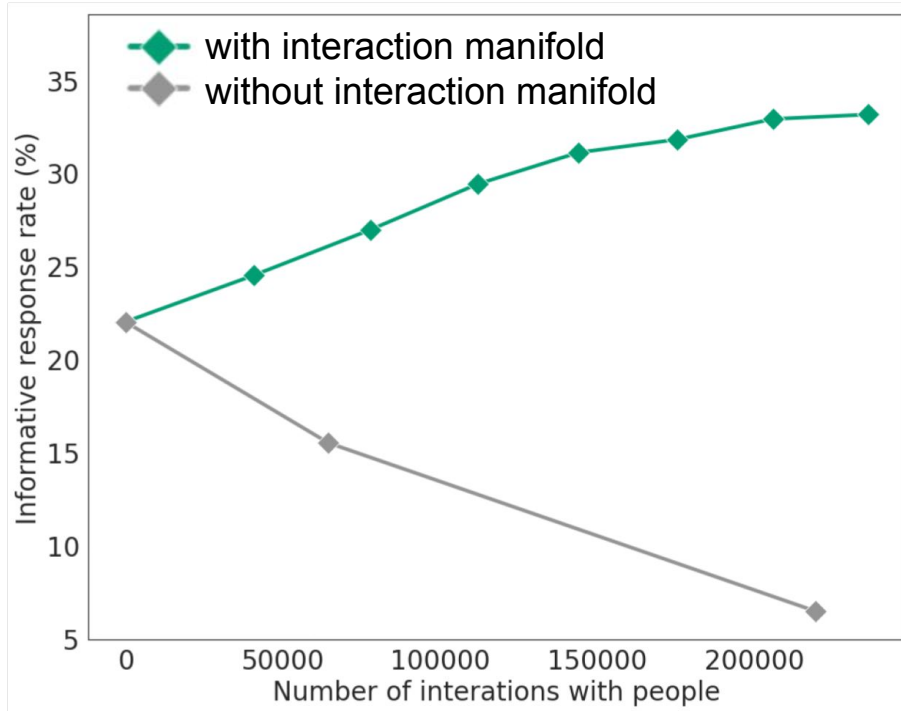


Q: What kind are the pink ones?

A: Hi, it is japanese cherry flower - *Prunus serrulata*, the others: paeonia, anemone, ranunculus.

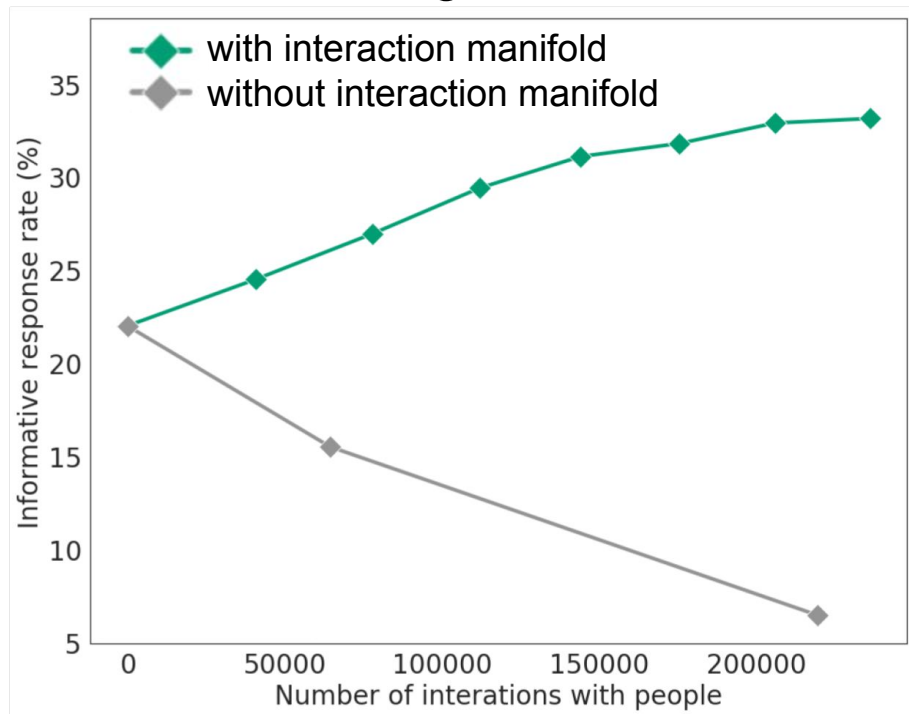
# Informative response rate with and w/o the interaction manifold

## Learning to interact

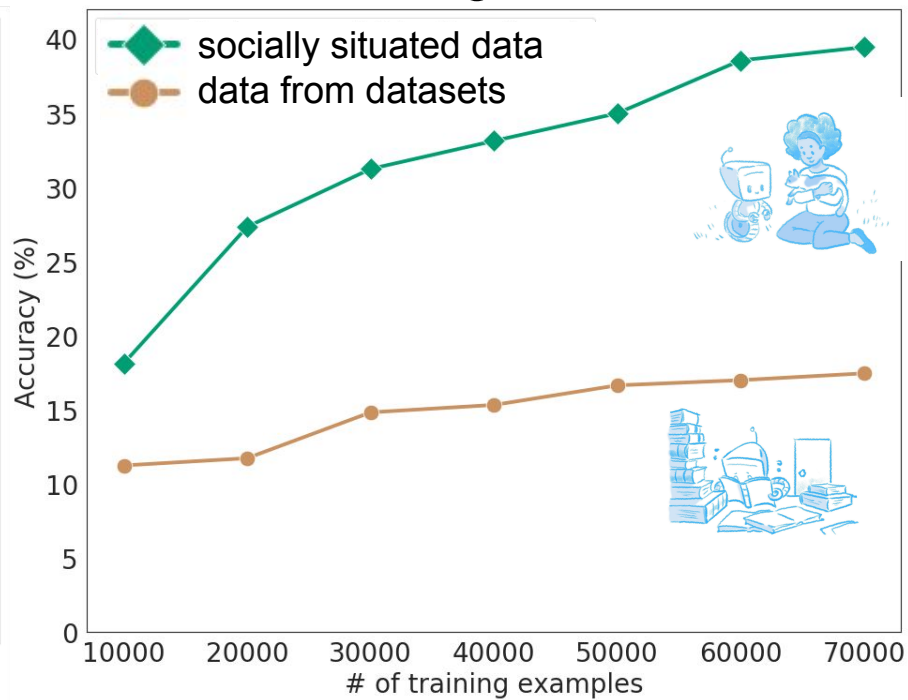


# Learning with traditional versus socially situated data

## Learning to interact



## Interacting to learn



# We acquire new concepts that need expert knowledge



Q: What kind of bird is that?

A (by AI): Magpie



Q: What kind of flower is that?

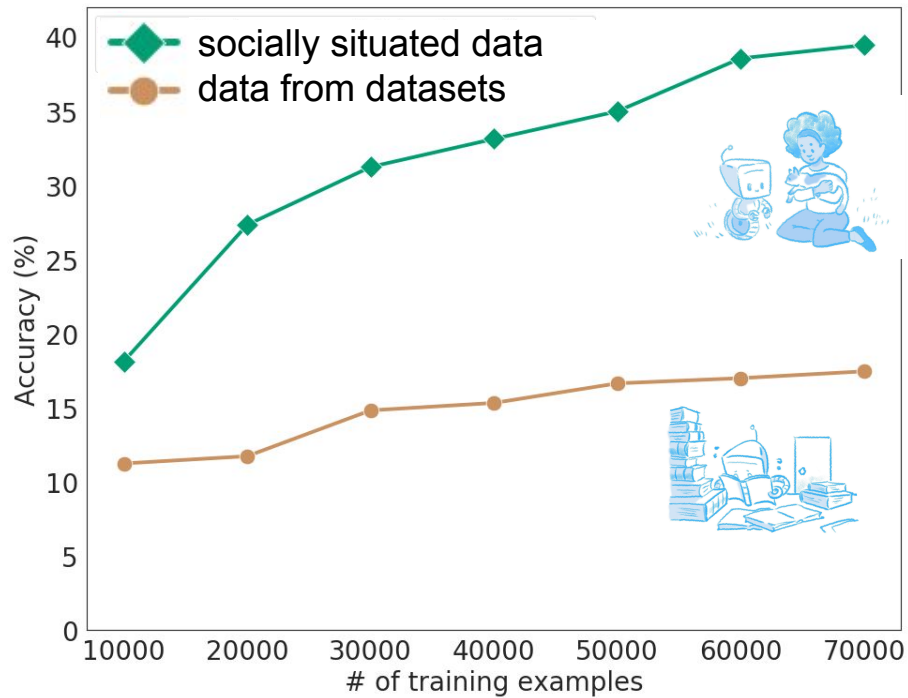
A (by AI): Dahlias



Q: What is the white stuff on the plate?

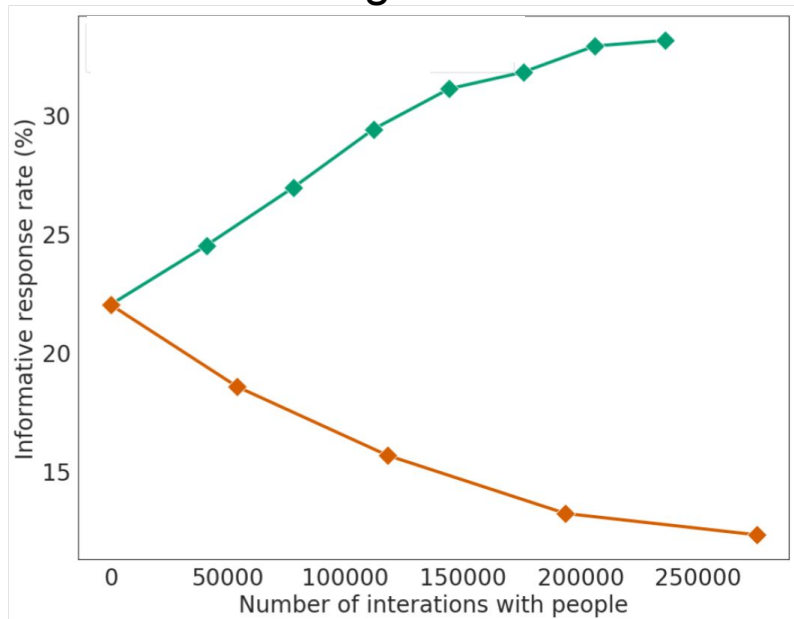
A (by AI): Feta cheese

## Interacting to learn

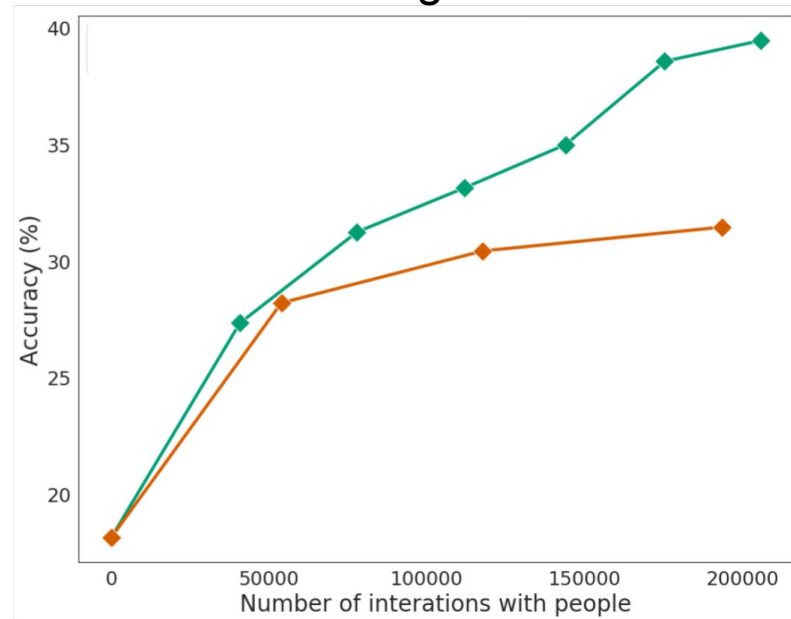


# Why the interaction reward is important – not following norms results in fewer interactions

## Learning to interact



## Interacting to learn



◆ with knowledge + interaction reward  
◆ only with knowledge reward

# Emergent agent behavior was consistent with social science lit

## Easy to answer

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### Existence questions

Is **this** a restaurant?  
Is **that** a bear?

### Color questions

What is the **color** of the wall behind the fabric?

## Questions with multiple correct answers

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### Questions asking why

**Why** is the man wearing gloves?

### Vague questions

What is the child doing?

## Questions that exhibit social proof

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### Mentioning known concepts

What is in front of the **teddy**?  
What is the **orange food**?

## Questions that require cognitive load

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### Long questions

is the tool held by the person in the middle made for someone right-handed or left-handed?



# How people ask for help: People augment questions with **social** strategies



Q: that is very good looking, what is the name of the dish?

A: it is a caribbean dish named << crab pie >>, very tasty!



Q: What type of bread is this? It looks like a sourdough with something in it.

A: yes, there are sun dried tomatoes and beet greens in it.



Q: this type of art is called what, i have seen it before?

A: looks a bit steampunk I suppose, but created well before that term was thought of



Q: I love the colors in this, was it edited in any way or natural?

A: thank you so much, not edited at all, just nature doing its best work! 🌞😊

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■ questions written by hired workers   ■ response from an online user

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Murgia. "Who's using your face? The ugly truth about facial recognition." Financial Times, 2019  
Solon. "Facial Recognition's 'Dirty Little Secret': Millions of Online Photos Scraped without Consent." NBC News, 2019

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Cialdini. "Influence: The psychology of persuasion." 1993

Cheng, et al. "Anyone can become a troll: Causes of trolling behavior in online discussions." CSCW. 2017

Kramer et al. "Experimental evidence of massive-scale emotional contagion through social networks." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 2014

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- What are the biases inherited from readily available data?
- - Manual cleanup and inspection of datasets used

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# Ethics & design decisions – Biases on social media





# Limitations – not capitalizing on corrective responses




**Agent:** What is the cat doing?

**Sarah:** You mean the goat? It is trying to climb a tree.

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# Limitations – longer dialogues



A cat drinking water out of a coffee mug.

White and red

No, something is there can't tell what it is

Yes, they are

Yes, magazines, books, toaster and basket, and a plate

What color is the mug?

Are there any pictures on it?

Is the mug and cat on a table?

Are there other items on the table?

The image shows a grey tabby cat leaning over a table to drink from a blue and white coffee mug. On the table, there are several items including a magazine with a portrait, a book, a toaster, and a plate. The background shows a tiled wall and a kitchen counter.

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# Surprisingly - ChatGPT has a similar set of training steps

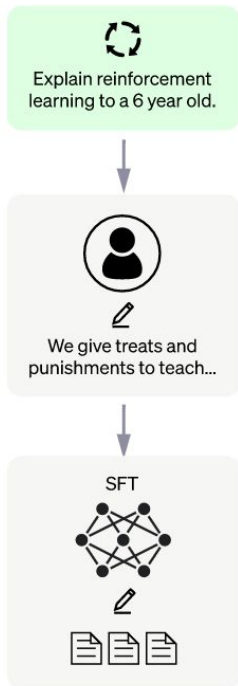
## Instruct GPT

- Finetunes GPT-3 using human generated instructions and outputs
  - Similar to our question generation from visual genome)
- Trains a reward model that ranks good versus bad generations
  - Similar to our knowledge and interaction rewards
- Using reinforcement learning to train using the reward model
  - Similar to our step

## Step 1

### Collect demonstration data and train a supervised policy.

A prompt is sampled from our prompt dataset.



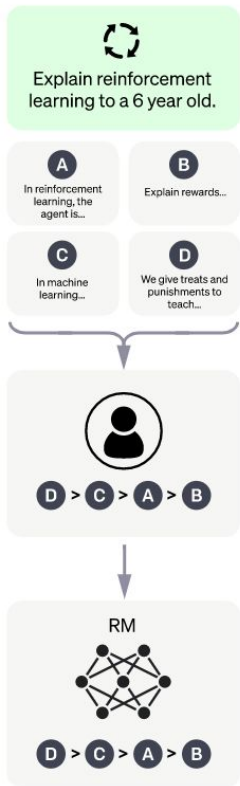
A labeler demonstrates the desired output behavior.

This data is used to fine-tune GPT-3.5 with supervised learning.

## Step 2

### Collect comparison data and train a reward model.

A prompt and several model outputs are sampled.



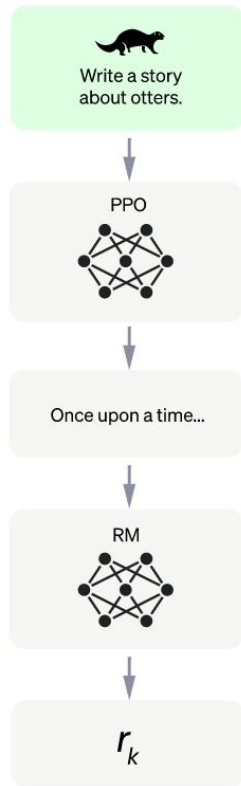
A labeler ranks the outputs from best to worst.

This data is used to train our reward model.

## Step 3

### Optimize a policy against the reward model using the PPO reinforcement learning algorithm.

A new prompt is sampled from the dataset.



The PPO model is initialized from the supervised policy.

The policy generates an output.

The reward model calculates a reward for the output.

The reward is used to update the policy using PPO.

# What we do differently?

- No foundation models when we started this project
- Models are much smaller
- No rankings used
- Released on real social environment.
  - No training people how to interact but learn interactions from implicit signals
- Only interacted with using questions and not instructions
- Iteratively ran multiple rounds of reinforcement learning and reward model training

# Opportunities for so much future research

What is the right interaction modality?

Is pretraining necessary?

How noisy can our reward models be?

How quickly can we bootstrap reward models?

Can we allow a single person to design few-shot reward models and personalize their foundation models?

How do we prevent RL from degrading original model?

Next time:  
Creativity and  
generative models