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ADVANCED TOPICS IN COMPUTER VISION

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<https://vita-group.github.io/>

Progress in AI

- Generation 1: Good Old Fashioned AI
 - Handcraft predictions
 - Learn nothing
- Generation 2: Shallow Learning
 - Handcraft features
 - Learn predictions
- Generation 3: Deep Learning
 - Handcraft algorithm (architectures, data processing, ...)
 - Learn features and predictions end-to-end
- Generation 4: Learn2Learn (?)
 - Handcraft nothing
 - Learn algorithm, features and predictions end-to-end



The Rise of Automation for ML



Hyperparameter Tuning
(algorithm optimization)

*Auto-Weka, Auto-sklearn,
H2O AutoML...*



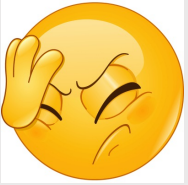
Neural Architecture Search
(model construction)

Auto-Keras, AutoGluon...



*Platform & Full Pipeline
Automation*

*Google Cloud AutoML,
AWS Autopilot, H2O
Driverless AI ...*



Traditional ML Lifecycle

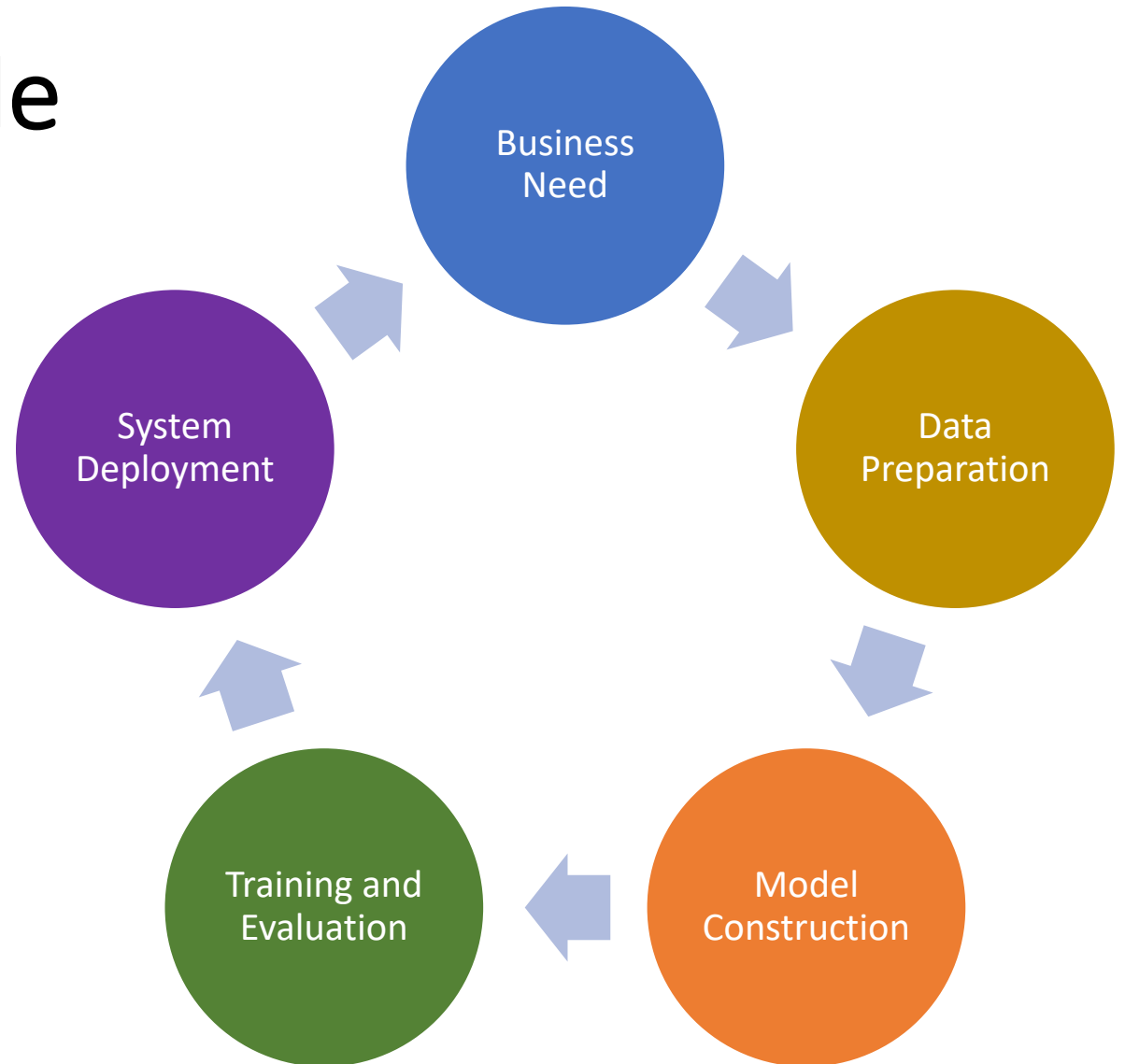
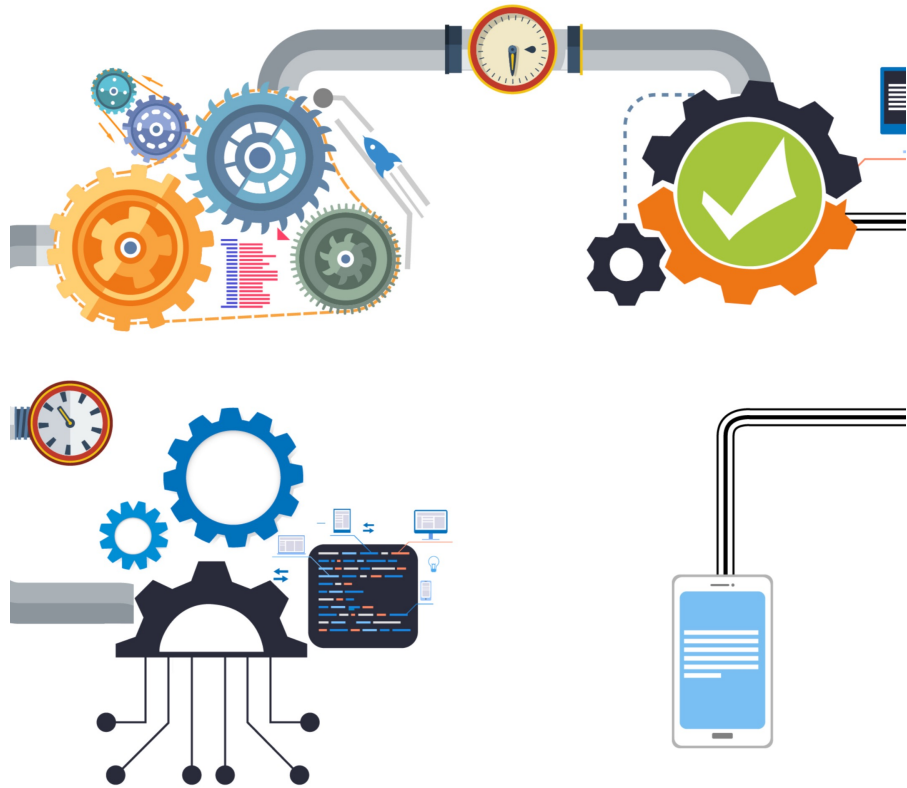
- **Model:** What to Use
 - By cross-validation, trial-and-error ...
 - Or experience (a.k.a. luck)
- **Algorithm:** How to Train
 - Analytical algorithms, or heuristics
 - Deep learning: SGD etc. for them all
- **Hardware:** How to Deploy
 - Manual design of hardware & system
 - ... and separately from model/algorithm



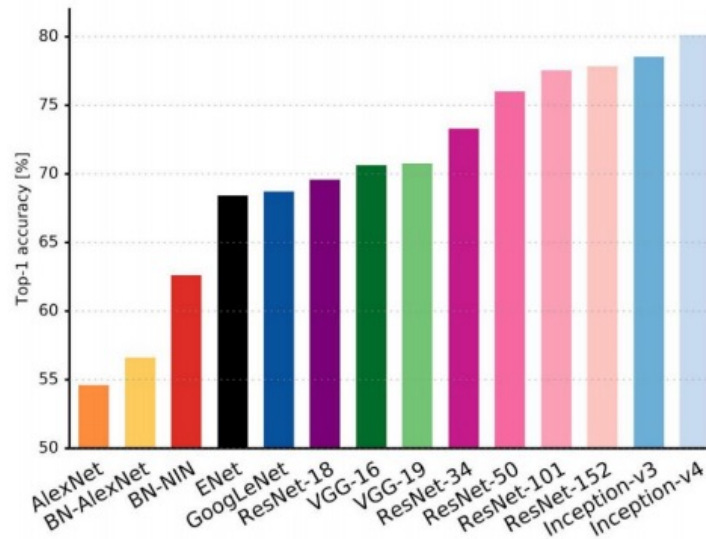
Automated ML Lifecycle

- **Model:** What to Use
 - Automatically discover the best model from the specific problem and data
- **Algorithm:** How to Train
 - Automatically customize an algorithm for the specific problem, data & model
- **Hardware:** How to Deploy
 - Automatically explore the co-design space for joint system-level optimization

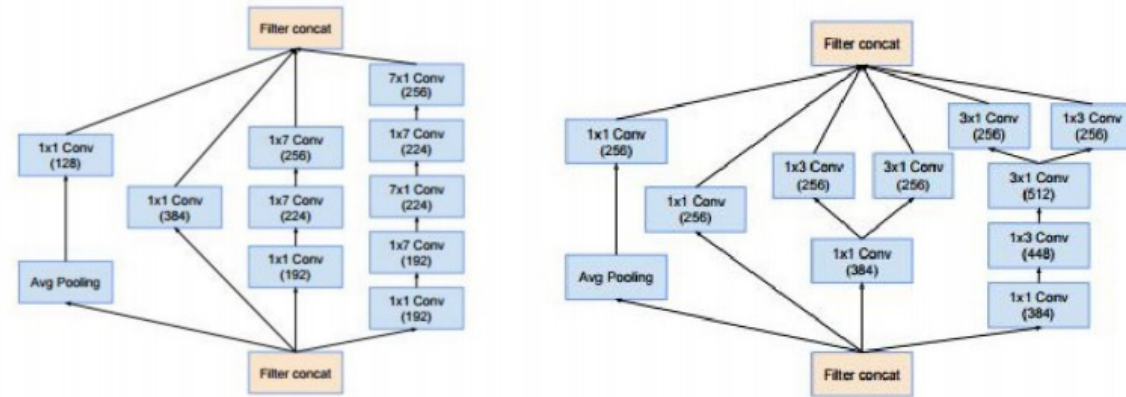
Automating ML Lifecycle



Architecture: the workhorse of Deep Learning



Canziani et al (2017)

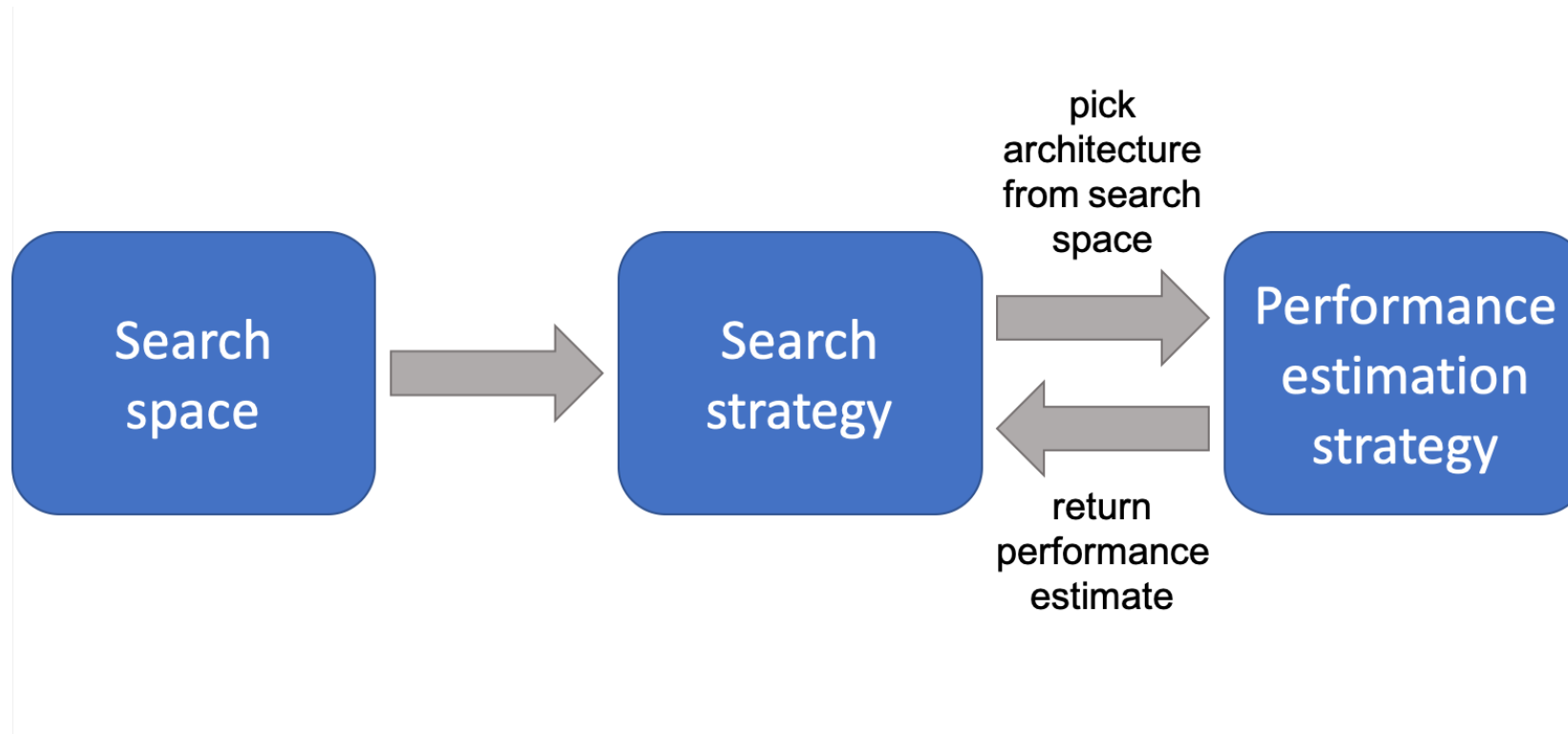


Complex hand-engineered layers from Inception-V4 (Szegedy et al., 2017)

Design Innovations (2012 - Present): Deeper networks, stacked modules, skip connections, squeeze-excitation block, ...

Can we try and learn good architectures automatically?

Neural Architecture Search (NAS)



- **View 1:** NAS as constrained optimization
- **View 2:** NAS as an MCMC process

NEURAL ARCHITECTURE SEARCH WITH REINFORCEMENT LEARNING

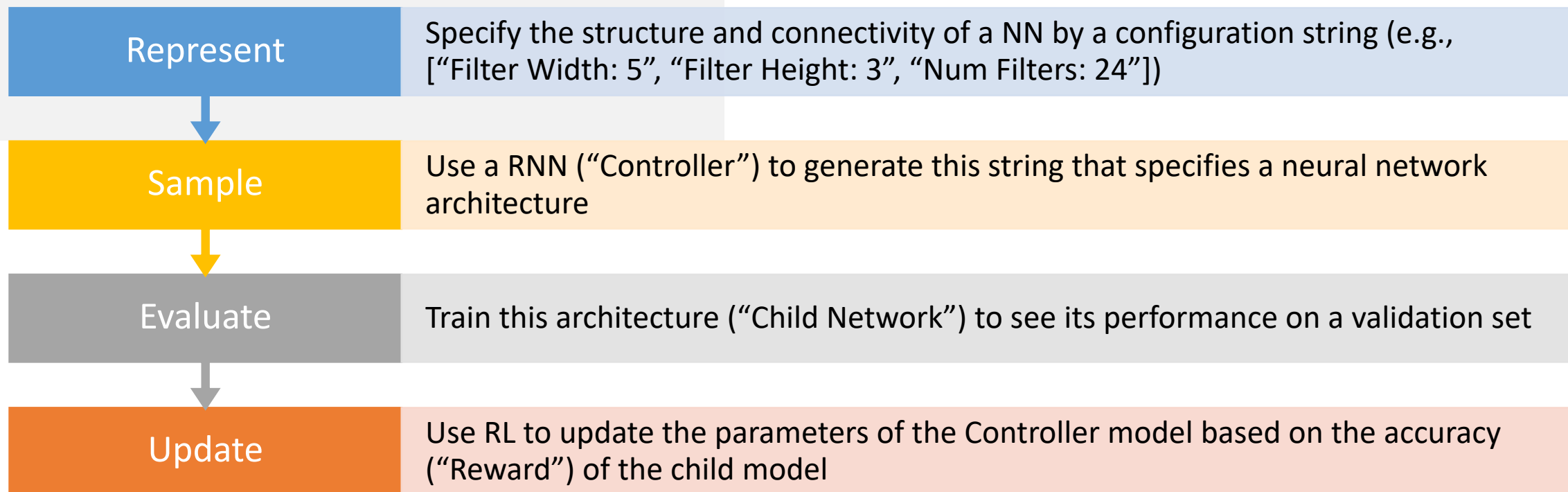
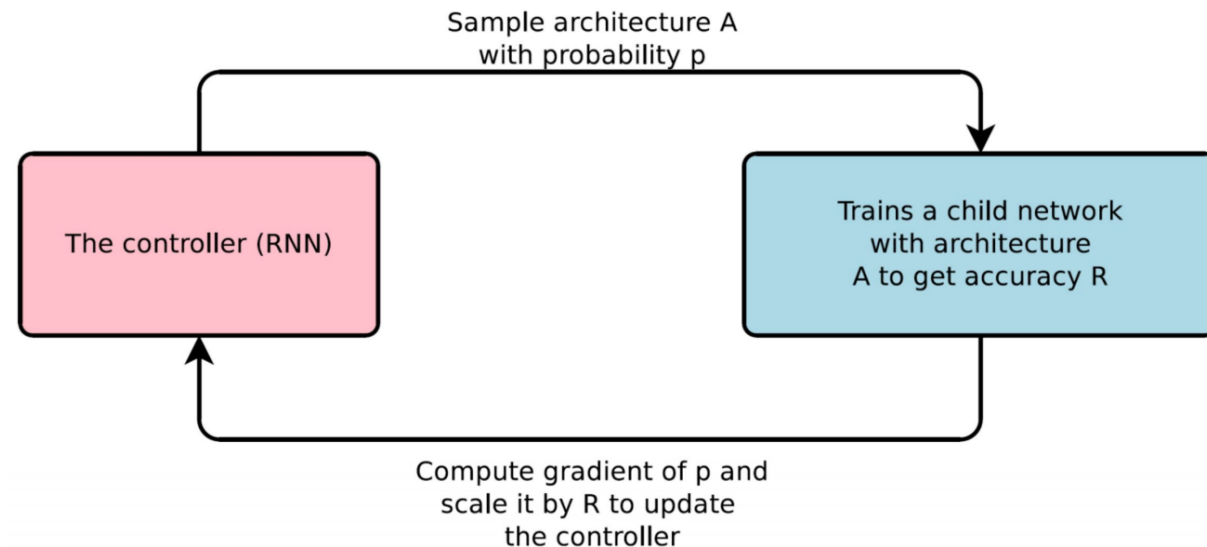
Barret Zoph*, Quoc V. Le
Google Brain

DESIGNING NEURAL NETWORK ARCHITECTURES USING REINFORCEMENT LEARNING

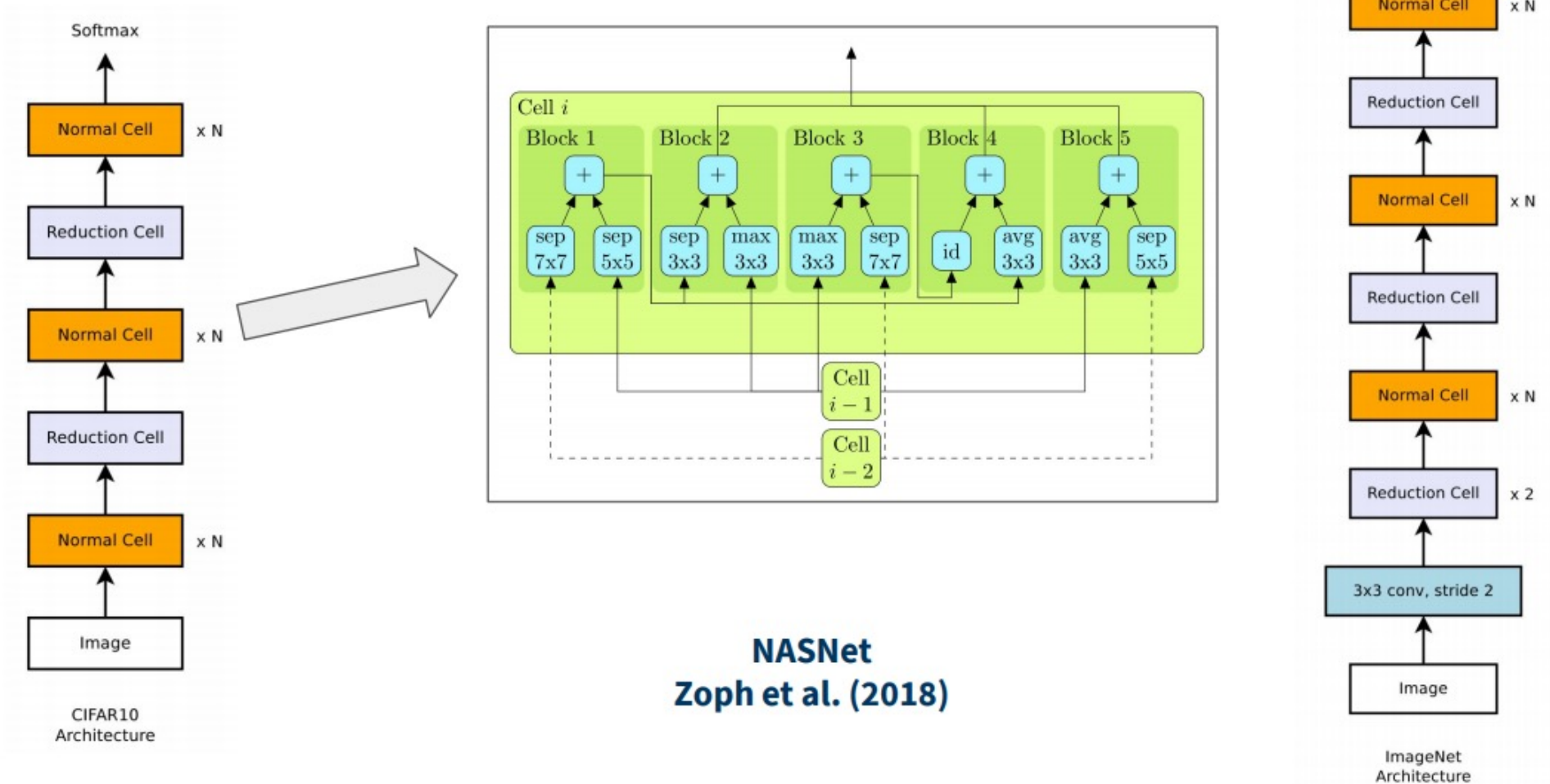
Bowen Baker, Otkrist Gupta, Nikhil Naik & Ramesh Raskar
Media Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Key Ideas: NAS via RL: Zoph and Le (2017)



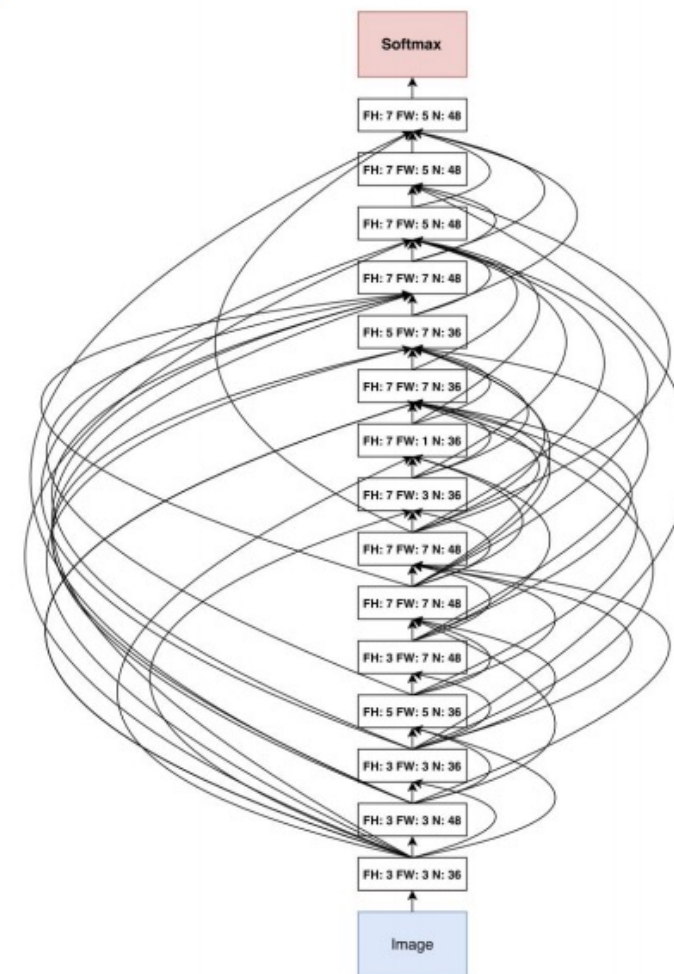
Cell-based Search Space



Results on CIFAR-10

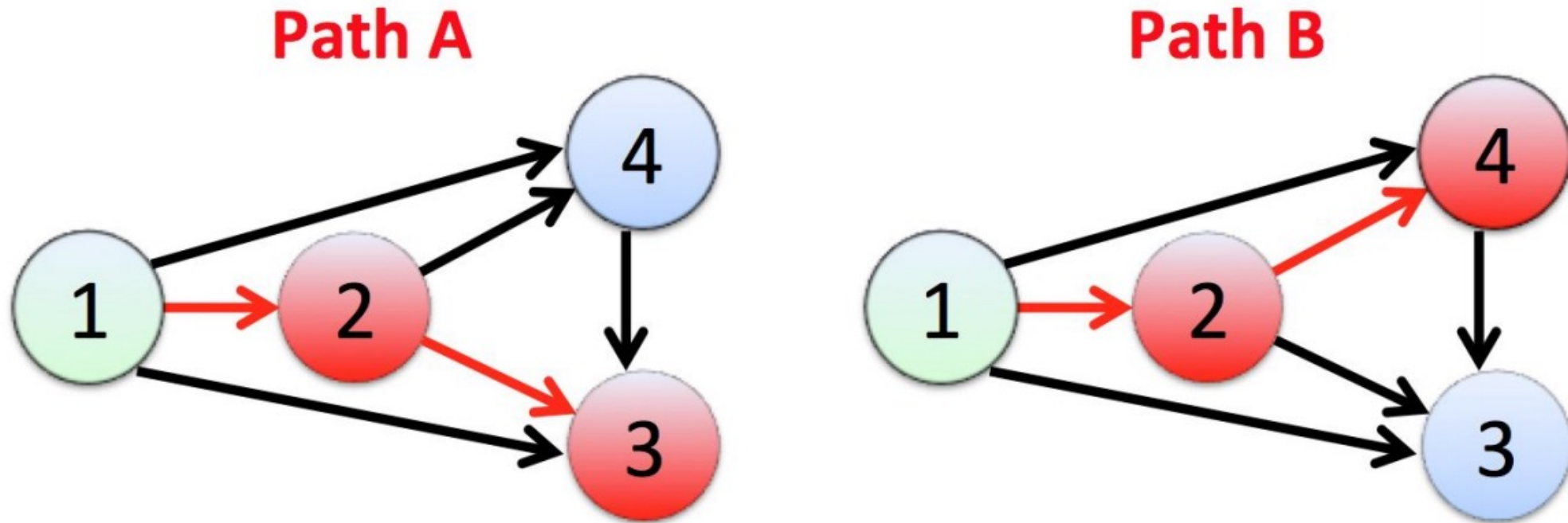
Model	Depth	Parameters	Error rate (%)
Wide ResNet (Zagoruyko & Komodakis, 2016)	16	11.0M	4.81
	28	36.5M	4.17
ResNet (pre-activation) (He et al., 2016b)	164	1.7M	5.46
	1001	10.2M	4.62
DenseNet ($L = 40, k = 12$) Huang et al. (2016a)	40	1.0M	5.24
DenseNet ($L = 100, k = 12$) Huang et al. (2016a)	100	7.0M	4.10
DenseNet ($L = 100, k = 24$) Huang et al. (2016a)	100	27.2M	3.74
DenseNet-BC ($L = 100, k = 40$) Huang et al. (2016b)	190	25.6M	3.46
Neural Architecture Search v1 no stride or pooling	15	4.2M	5.50
Neural Architecture Search v2 predicting strides	20	2.5M	6.01
Neural Architecture Search v3 max pooling	39	7.1M	4.47
Neural Architecture Search v3 max pooling + more filters	39	37.4M	3.65
MetaQNN (Baker et al. 2017) no skip connections	12	11.8M	6.92

Comparable accuracy to best
human-designed models ~2017



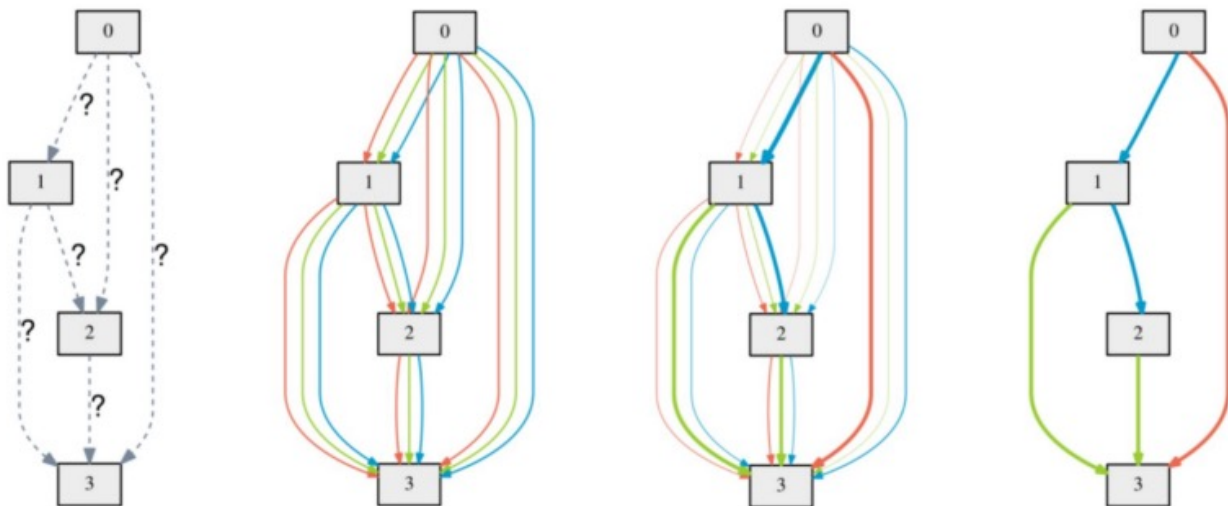
Best NAS Architecture on CIFAR-10
Zoph and Le (2017)

How To Make NAS More Efficient?



- Currently, models defined by **path A** and **path B** are trained independently
- Instead, treat all model trajectories as sub-graphs of a single directed acyclic graph
- Use a search strategy (e.g., RL, Evolution) to choose sub-graphs. Proposed in ENAS (Pham et al, 2018)

Gradient-based NAS with Weight Sharing



Find encoding weights α^* that

$$\min_{\alpha} \mathcal{L}_{val}(w^*(\alpha), \alpha)$$

$$\text{s.t. } w^*(\alpha) = \operatorname{argmin}_w \mathcal{L}_{train}(w, \alpha)$$

Learn design of normal and reduction cells

DARTS (Liu et al., 2018)

Create a mixed operation $\bar{o}^{(i,j)}$ parametrized by $\alpha^{(i,j)}$ for each edge (i, j)

while not converged do

- 1. Update architecture α by descending $\nabla_{\alpha} \mathcal{L}_{val}(w - \xi \nabla_w \mathcal{L}_{train}(w, \alpha), \alpha)$
($\xi = 0$ if using first-order approximation)
- 2. Update weights w by descending $\nabla_w \mathcal{L}_{train}(w, \alpha)$

Derive the final architecture based on the learned α .

Also see: SNAS (Xie et al. 2019)

Efficient NAS with Weight Sharing: Results on CIFAR-10

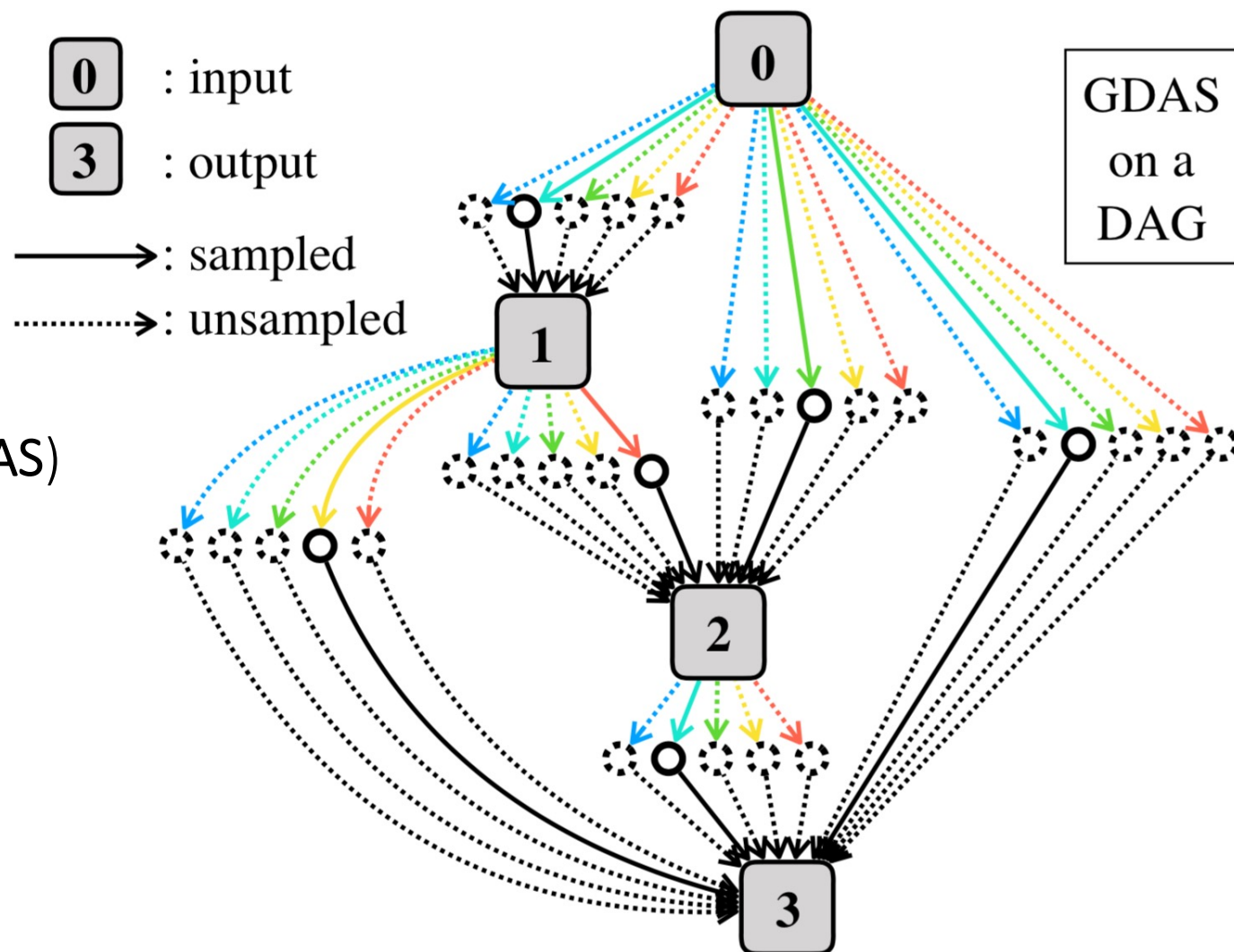
Reference	Error (%)	Params (Millions)	GPU Days
Pham et al. (2018)	3.54	4.6	0.5
Pham et al. (2018) + Cutout	2.89	4.6	0.5
Bender et al. (2018)	4.00	5.0	N/A
Casale et al. (2019) + Cutout	2.81	3.7	1
Liu et al. (2018c) + Cutout	2.76	3.3	4
Xie et al. (2019b) + Cutout	2.85	2.8	1.5
Cai et al. (2019) + Cutout	2.08	5.7	8.33
Brock et al. (2018)	4.03	16.0	3
Zhang et al. (2019)	4.30	5.1	0.4

Limitations:

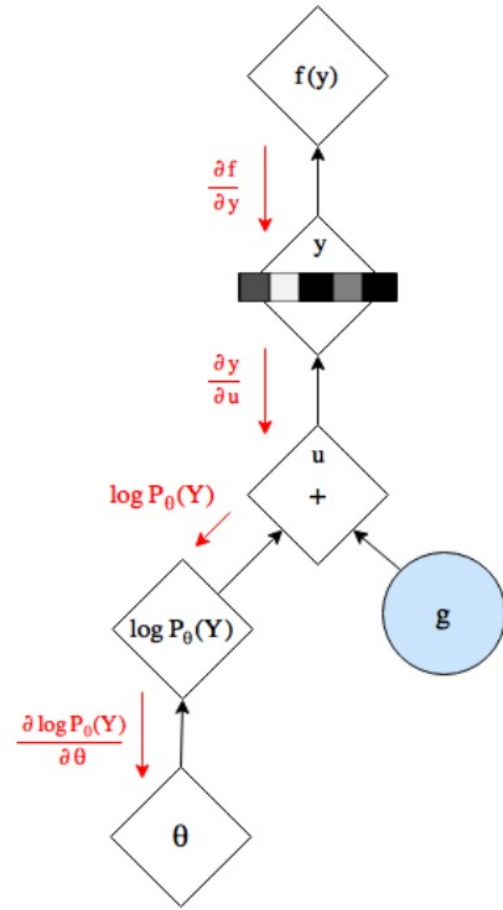
- Restrict the search space to the subgraphs of the supergraph
- Can bias the search towards certain regions of the search space
- In practice, the need to hold entire supergraph in GPU memory restricts search space size

Gradient-based NAS with Weight Sharing

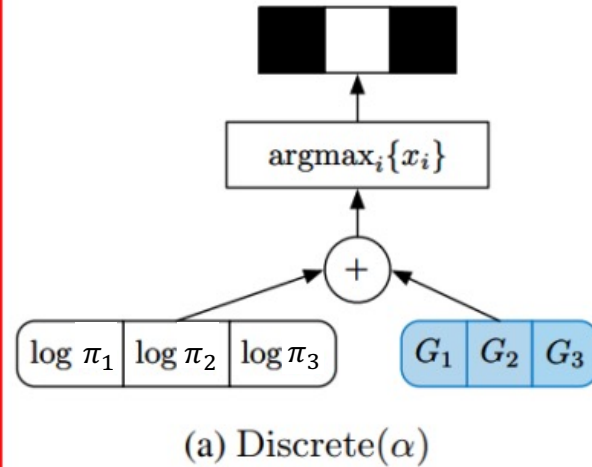
Gradient-based **search** using
Differentiable **Architecture** Sampler (GDAS)



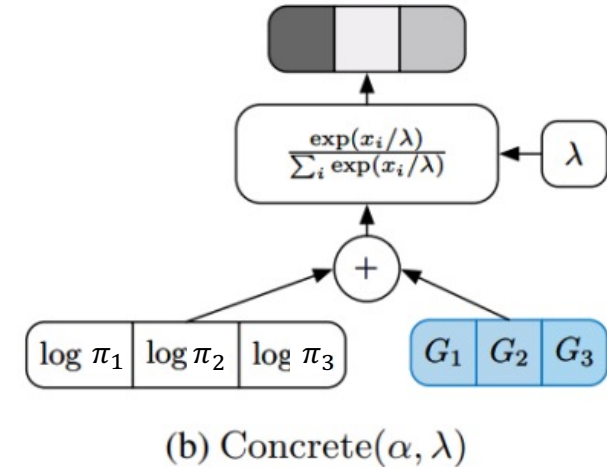
Gradient-based NAS with Weight Sharing



Gumbel-Max Trick

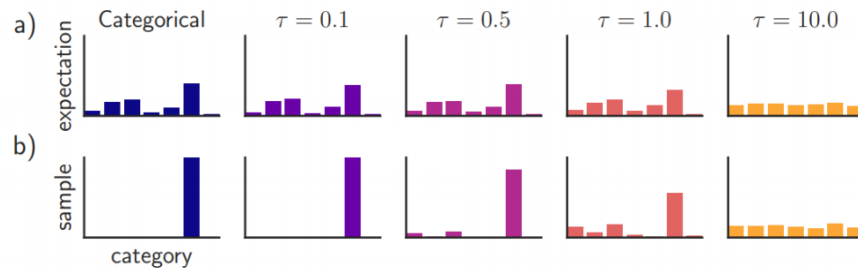


Gumbel-Softmax Trick



draw samples z from a categorical distribution with class probabilities π :

$$z = \text{one_hot} \left(\arg \max_i [g_i + \log \pi_i] \right)$$



To sample from a discrete categorical distribution we draw a sample of Gumbel noise, add it to $\log(\pi_i)$, and use *argmax* to find the value of i that produces the maximum.

Gradient-based NAS with Weight Sharing

```
def gumbel_max_sample(x):  
    z = gumbel(loc=0, scale=1, size=x.shape)  
    return (x + z).argmax(axis=1)
```

Inverse Transform Sampling

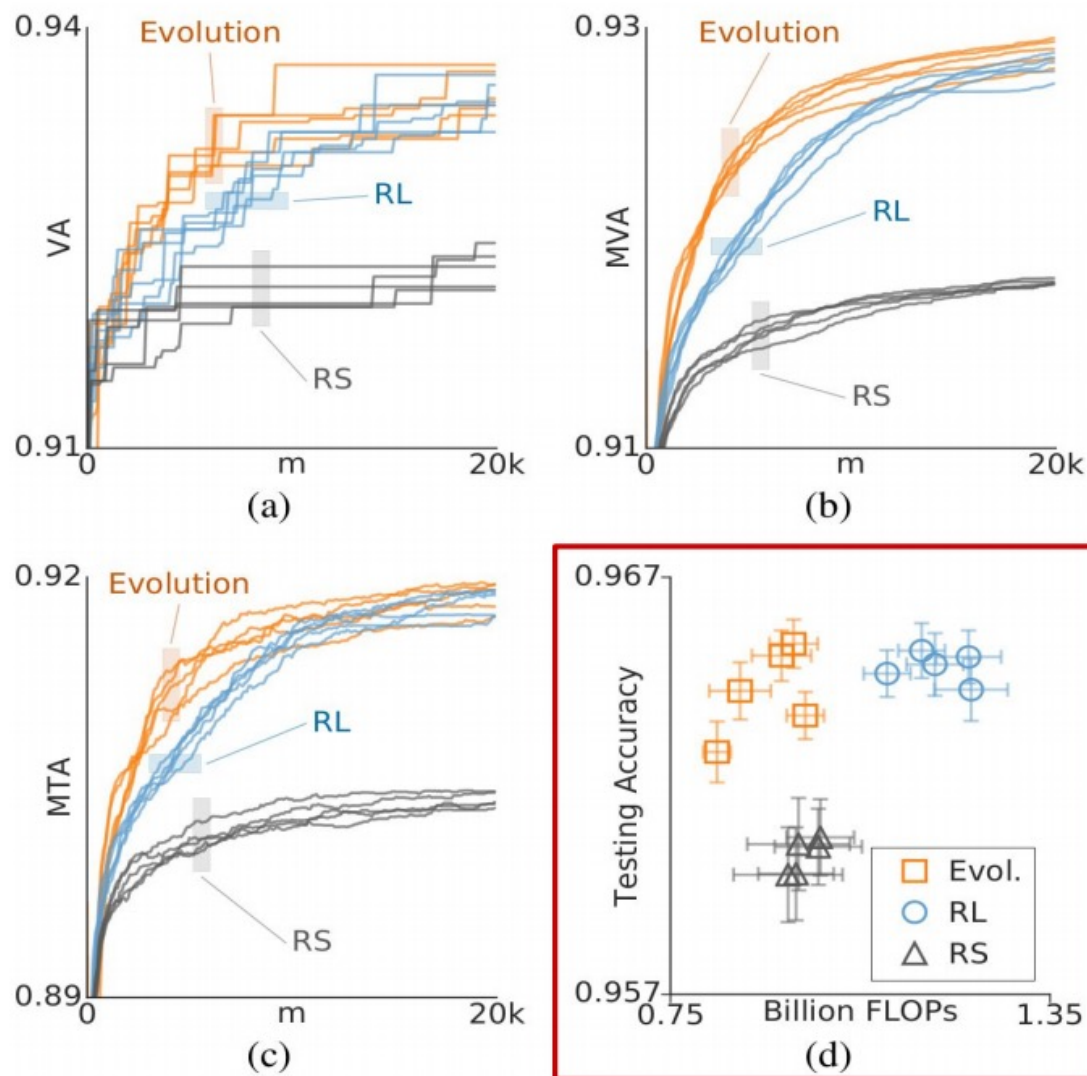
```
def sample_gumbel(shape, eps=1e-20):  
    """Sample from Gumbel(0, 1)"""  
    U = tf.random_uniform(shape, minval=0, maxval=1)  
    return -tf.log(-tf.log(U + eps) + eps)
```

```
def gumbel_softmax_sample(logits, temperature):  
    """ Draw a sample from the Gumbel-Softmax distribution"""  
    y = logits + sample_gumbel(tf.shape(logits))  
    return tf.nn.softmax( y / temperature)
```

Smoothing relaxation

- **Biased but low variance estimator**
(Biased estimator w.r.t. original discrete objective but low variance & unbiased estimator w.r.t. continuous surrogate objective)
- **Plug & play (easy to code and implement)**
- **Computational efficiency**
- ~~Better performance~~

Are Intelligent Search Strategies Better Than Random Search?



Real et al. (2018)

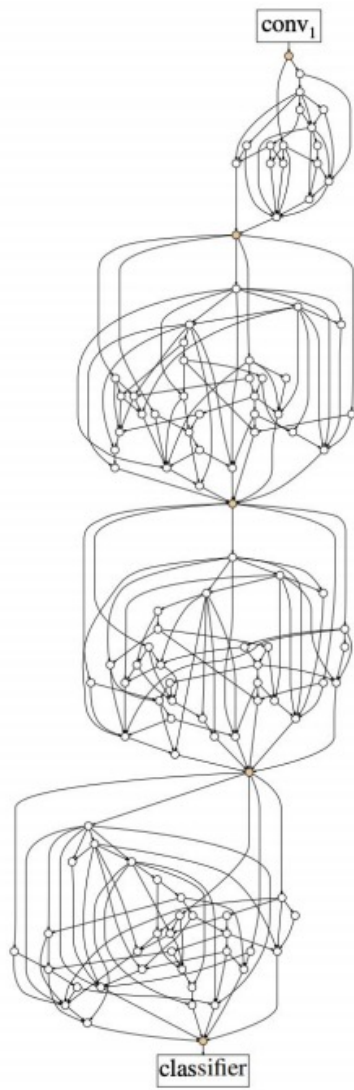
The difference in accuracy between best models found by random search, RL, and Evolution is **less than 1%** on CIFAR-10

Are Intelligent Search Strategies Better Than Random Search?

Architecture	Source	Test Error		Params
		Best	Average	(M)
NASNet-A ^{#*}	[52]	N/A	2.65	3.3
AmoebaNet-B [*]	[43]	N/A	2.55 ± 0.05	2.8
ProxylessNAS [†]	[7]	2.08	N/A	5.7
GHN ^{#†}	[50]	N/A	2.84 ± 0.07	5.7
SNAS [†]	[47]	N/A	2.85 ± 0.02	2.8
ENAS [†]	[41]	2.89	N/A	4.6
ENAS	[34]	2.91	N/A	4.2
Random search baseline	[34]	N/A	3.29 ± 0.15	3.2
DARTS (first order)	[34]	N/A	3.00 ± 0.14	3.3
DARTS (second order)	[34]	N/A	2.76 ± 0.09	3.3
DARTS (second order) [‡]	Ours	2.62	2.78 ± 0.12	3.3
ASHA baseline	Ours	2.85	3.03 ± 0.13	2.2
Random search WS [‡]	Ours	2.71	2.85 ± 0.08	4.3

Li and Talwalkar (2019)
Random search baseline
finds a model with 2.71%
error on CIFAR-10,
comparable to best NAS
methods based on RL,
Evolution, Gradient Descent

Are Intelligent Search Strategies Better Than Random Search?

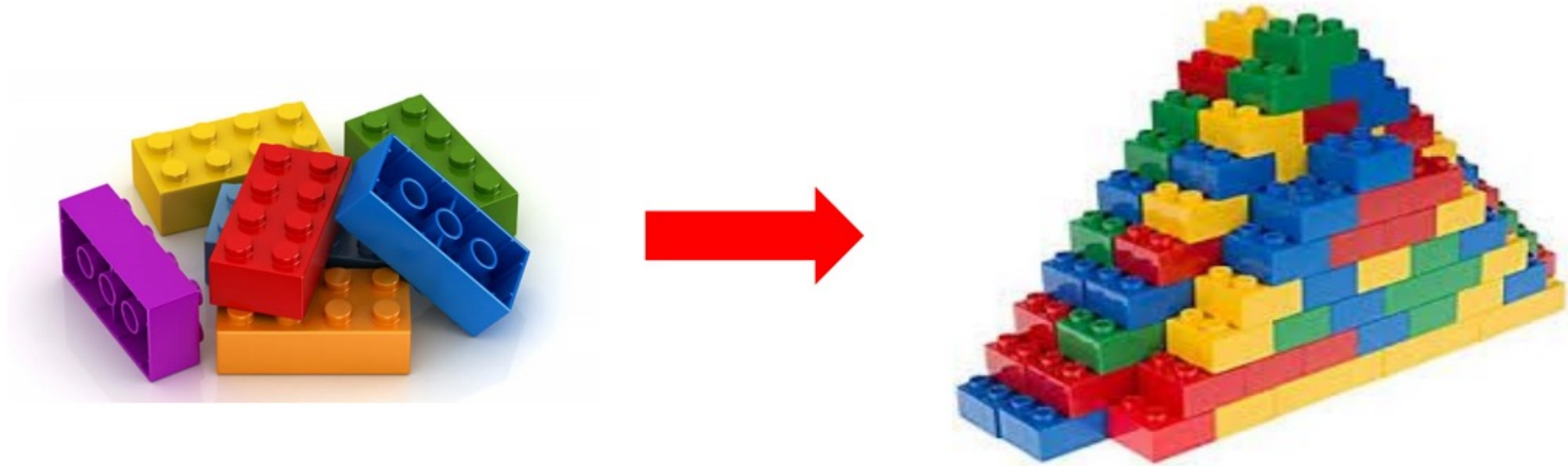


Xie et al. (2019)

A network consisting of multiple randomly wired “cells” is only **1.3% less accurate** than a similar capacity NAS models on **ImageNet**

network	test size	epochs	top-1 acc.	top-5 acc.	FLOPs (B)	params (M)
NASNet-A [56]	331^2	>250	82.7	96.2	23.8	88.9
Amoeba-B [34]	331^2	>250	82.3	96.1	22.3	84.0
Amoeba-A [34]	331^2	>250	82.8	96.1	23.1	86.7
PNASNet-5 [26]	331^2	>250	82.9	96.2	25.0	86.1
RandWire-WS	320^2	100	$81.6_{\pm 0.13}$	$95.6_{\pm 0.07}$	$16.0_{\pm 0.36}$	$61.5_{\pm 1.32}$

Are Intelligent Search Strategies Better Than Random Search?



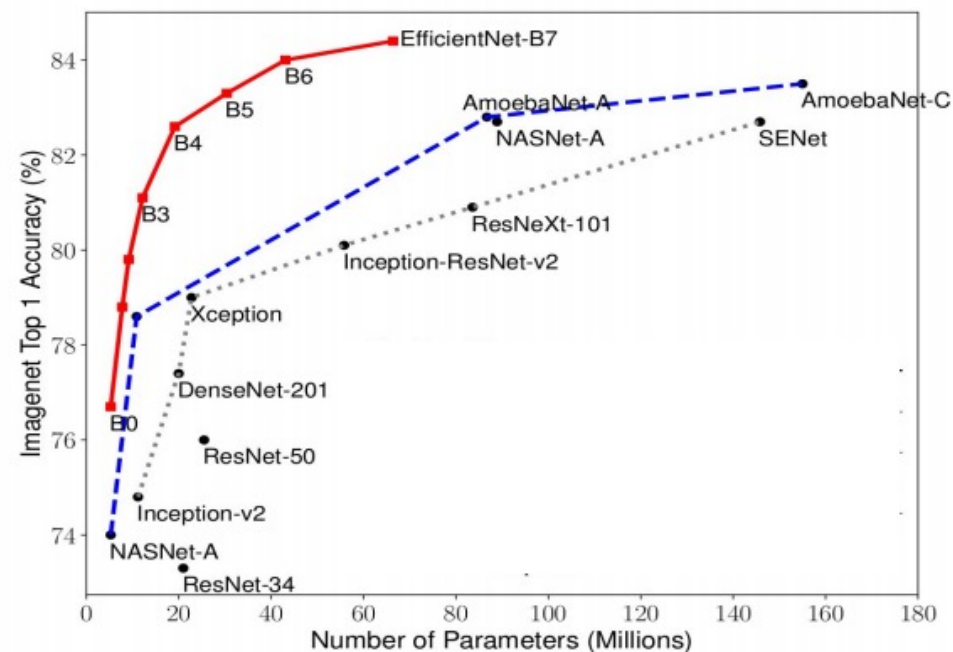
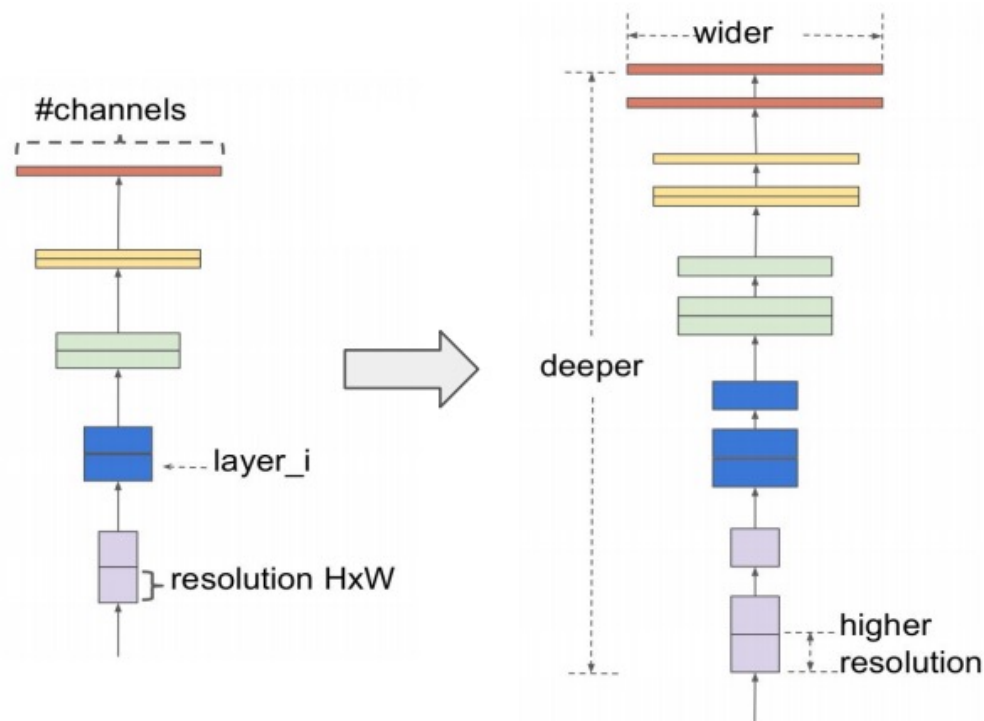
- Random search is a competitive baseline
- How do you design more flexible search spaces and sample-efficient search methods?
- Can intelligent search methods help discover new design motifs and basic building blocks?

Designing Efficient Architectures

Introduce constraints like memory and inference time in addition to accuracy

NAS Method	References
Constrained Optimization	Tan et al. (2018), Cai et al. (2018), Hsu et al. (2018)
Multi-objective Optimization	Kim et al. (2017), Cai et al. (2019), Lu et al. (2018), Dong et al. (2018), Elsken et al. (2019), Tan and Le (2019)
Automated Pruning	He et al. (2019)

Designing Efficient Architectures from Scratch

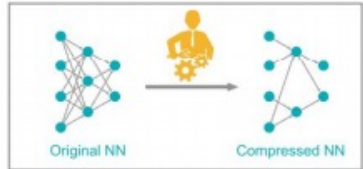


EfficientNet (Tan and Le, 2019)

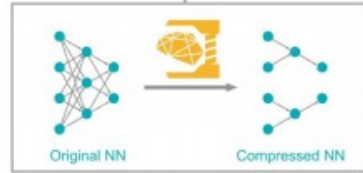
RL-based architecture search for a feed-forward block + scaling up using grid search
80% Top-1 Accuracy on ImageNet with 5x fewer parameters and 13x fewer FLOPS
than best human-designed model

Designing Efficient Architectures: Auto-Pruning

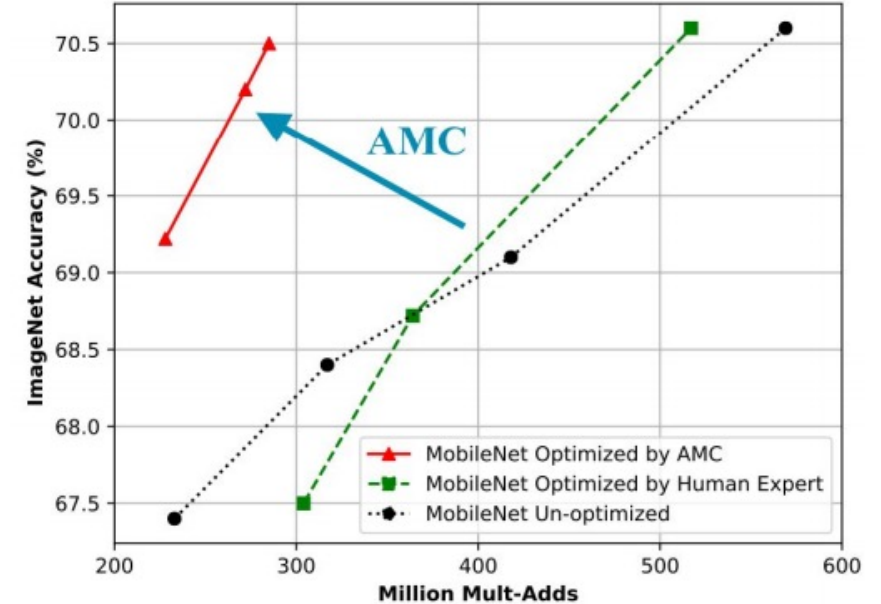
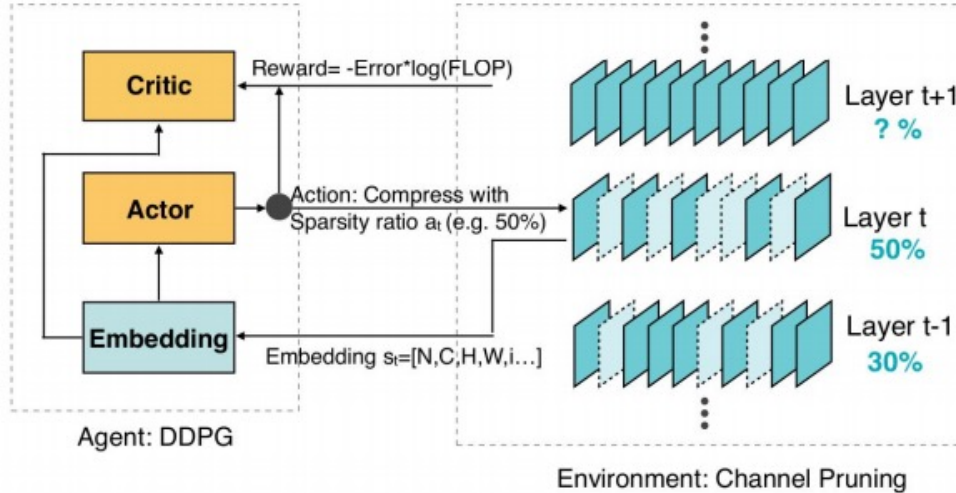
Model Compression by Human:
Labor Consuming, Sub-optimal



AMC Engine



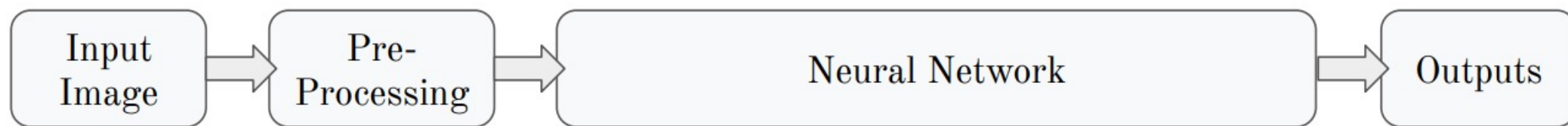
Model Compression by AI:
Automated, Higher Compression Rate, Faster



AMC: AutoML for Model Compression (He et al., 2019)







Using Deep Deterministic Policy Gradients to learn pruning ratio for each layer

Automating the Deep Learning Stack



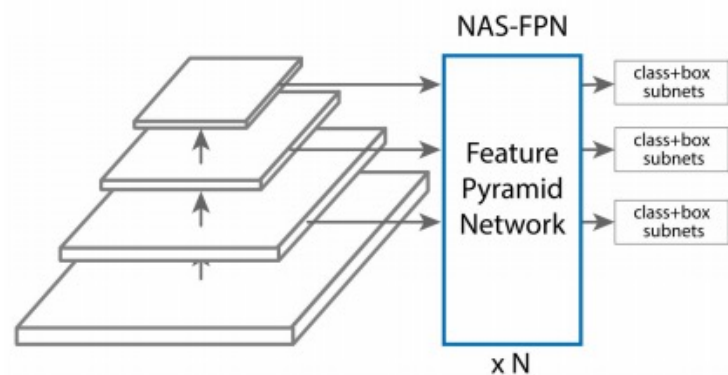
Data Augmentation
(AutoAugment,
Cubuk et al., 2018)

Activation Function (Ramachandran et al., 2018)
Optimizer (Bello et al., 2017)

Original	Sub-policy 1	Sub-policy 2	Sub-policy 3	Sub-policy 4	Sub-policy 5
					
	Equalize, 0.4, 4 Rotate, 0.8, 8	Solarize, 0.6, 3 Equalize, 0.6, 7	Posterize, 0.8, 5 Equalize, 1.0, 2	Rotate, 0.2, 3 Solarize, 0.6, 8	Equalize, 0.6, 8 Posterize, 0.4, 6

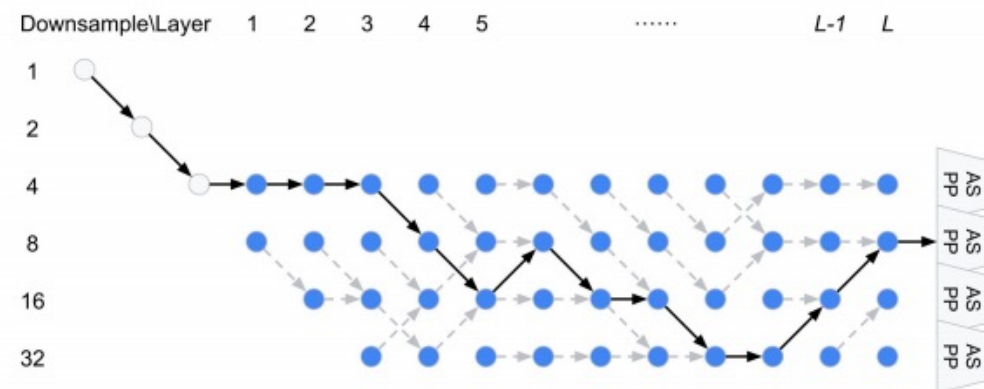
Model	Baseline	Inception Pre-processing [14]	AutoAugment
ResNet-50 [15]	24.70 / 7.80	23.69 / 6.92	22.37 / 6.18
ResNet-200 [15]	-	21.52 / 5.85	20.00 / 4.99

Neural Architecture Search: Beyond Image Classification



Object Detection

E.g. NAS-FPN (Ghaisi et al., 2019)



Semantic Segmentation

E.g. Auto-DeepLab (Liu et al., 2019)

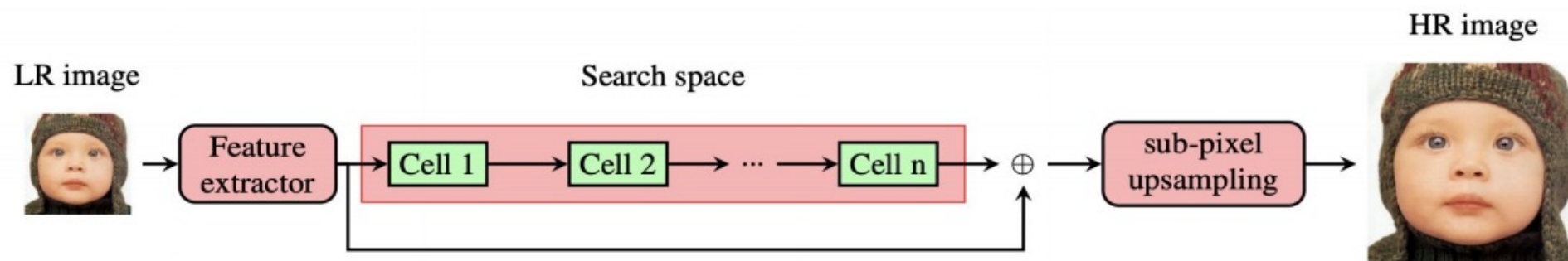


Image Super-Resolution e.g. MoreMNAS(Chu et al., 2019)

Neural Architecture Search (NAS): Summary

Status Quo:

- *Nascent area*: most work on image domain

What Remains to be Explored?

- *More tasks*: “real” complicated applications
- *More model types*: e.g., generative models
- *More data modalities*: beyond images
- Moving towards less constrained search spaces
- Theory Understanding, Faster Search, Tiny ML...

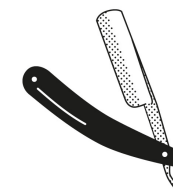
Key Challenges:

- Complicated applications → complex model → explosively larger search space
- Complex models → hard and unstable to train → affecting model selection

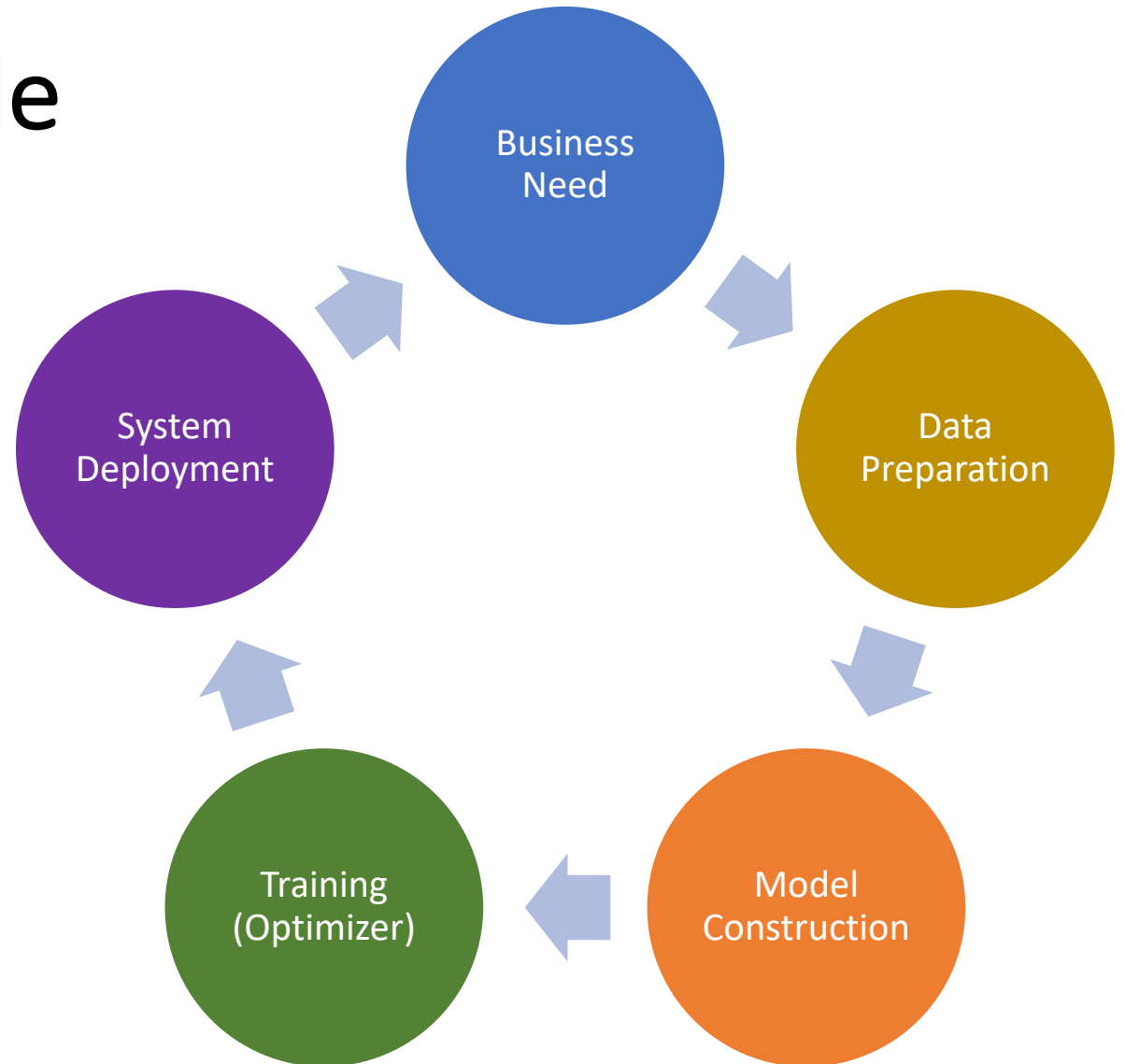
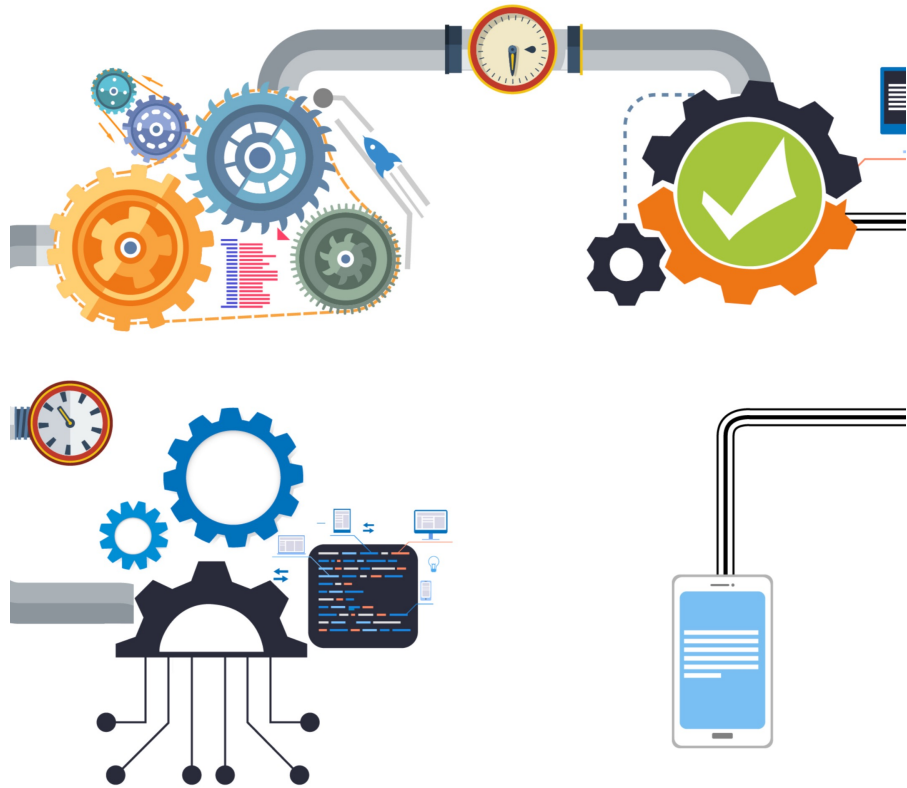


Mainstream Idea (for now): “Manual” Design as Priors

- Previous handcrafted models have identified consistent and successful design patterns
- Simplify search space and algorithm smartly, with those “manual design priors”
- But remember, it’s not really “auto” yet ...



Automating ML Lifecycle



Early Approaches to Meta-Learning

- Jürgen Schmidhuber

- Genetic Programming. PhD thesis. 1987
- Learning to control fast-weight memories: An alternative to dynamic recurrent networks. Neural Computation 1992
- A neural network that embeds its own meta-levels. ICNN 1993.

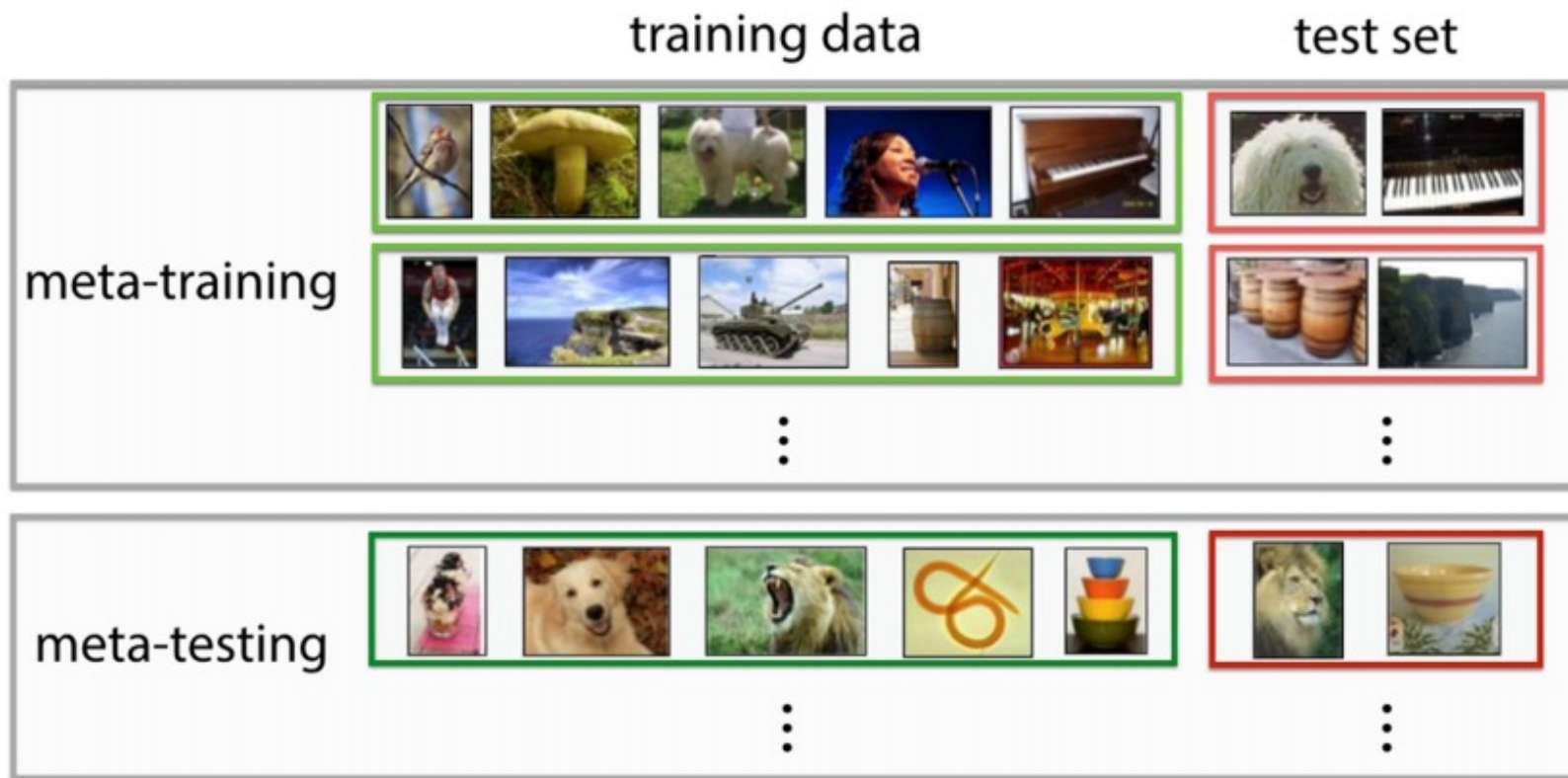


- Yoshua Bengio

- Learning a synaptic learning rule. Univ. Montreal. 1990.
- On the search for new learning rules for ANN. Neural Processing Letters 1992
 - Learning update rules with SGD



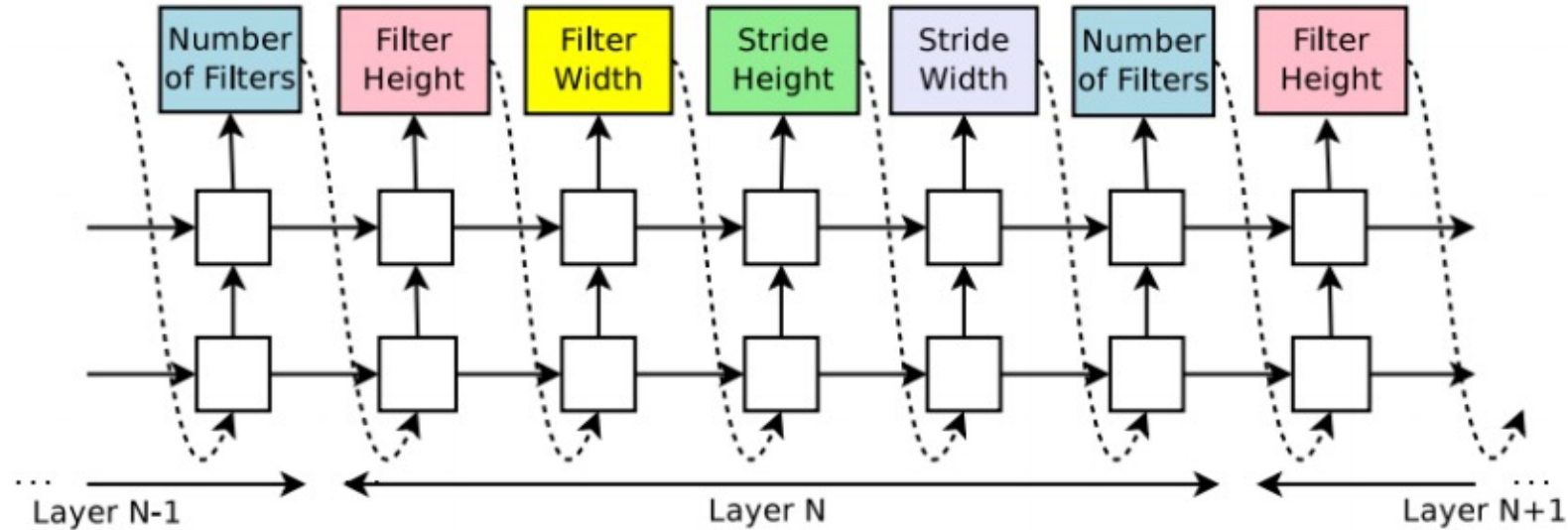
General Paradigm of Meta-Learning



Example meta-learning set-up for few-shot image classification

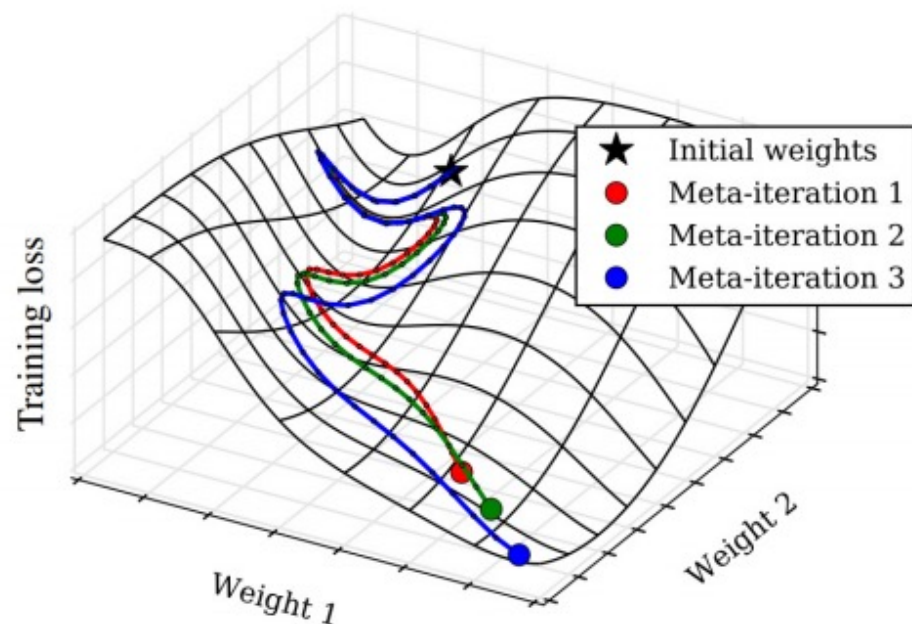
- During meta-learning, the model is trained to learn tasks in the meta-training set. Two optimizations:
 - The learner, which learns new tasks
 - The meta-learner, which trains the learner

Various Meta-Learning Tasks

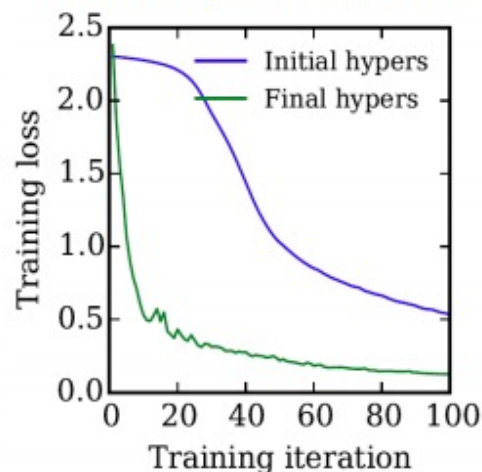


- Automatically search good network architectures
 - RL takes action of creating a network architecture and obtains reward by training & evaluating the network on a dataset
 - Barret Zoph and Quoc V. Le. Neural architecture search by reinforcement learning. ICLR 2017.

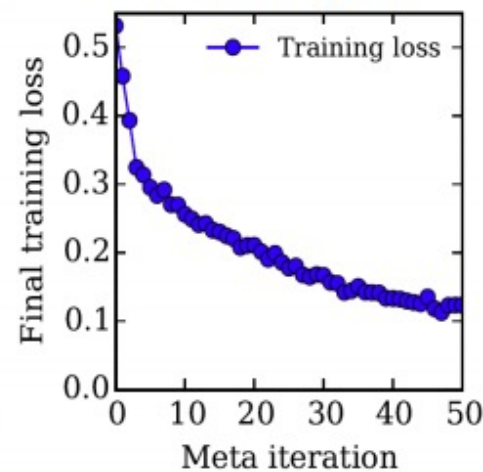
Various Meta-Learning Tasks



Elementary learning curves

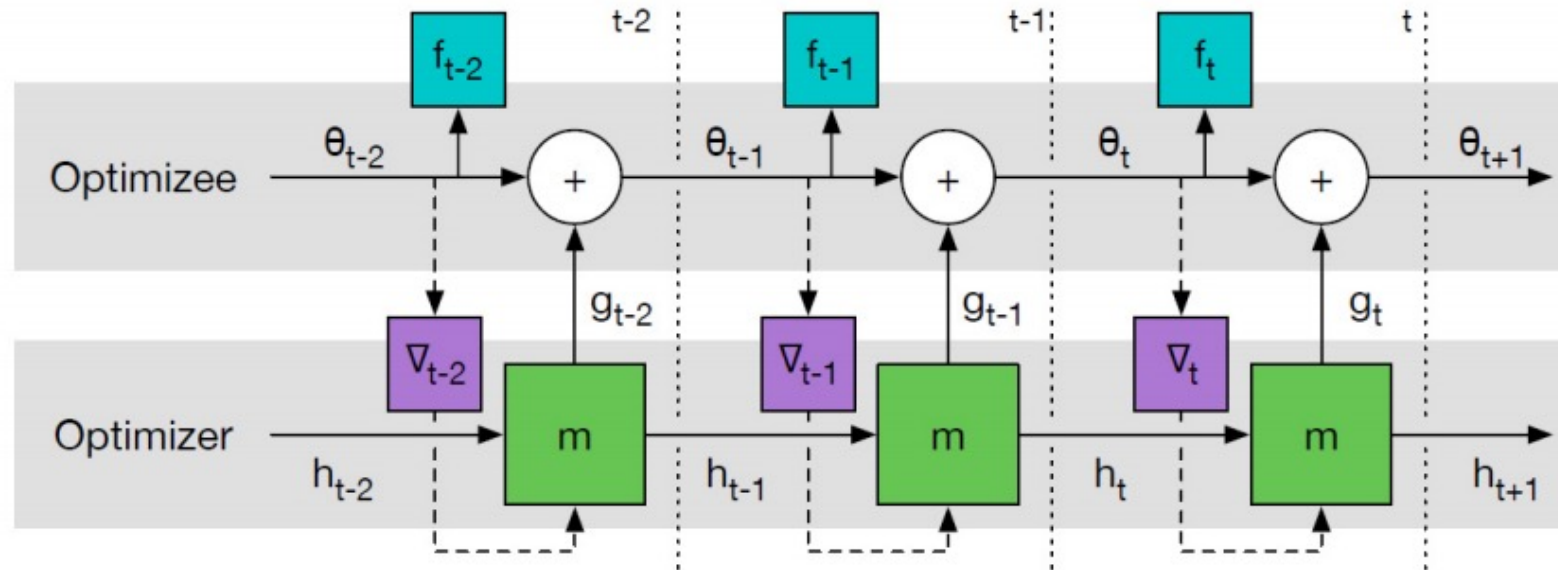


Meta-learning curve



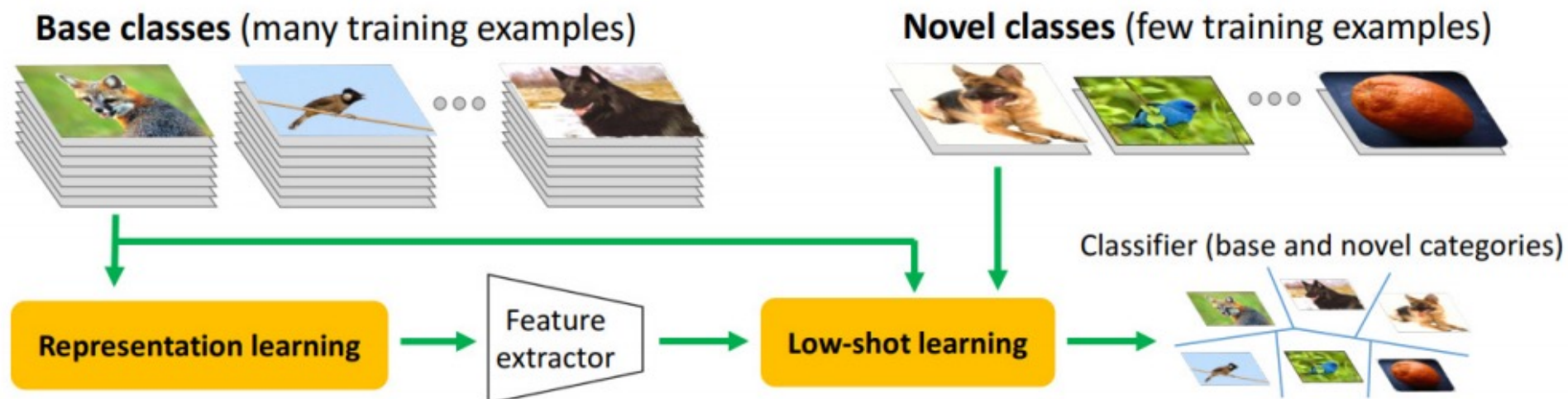
- Hyperparameter optimization
 - Compute exact gradients of cross-validation performance with respect to all hyperparameters by chaining derivatives backwards through the entire training procedure
 - Maclaurin et al. Gradient-based Hyperparameter Optimization through Reversible Learning. ICML 2015.

Various Meta-Learning Tasks



- **Learn to produce good gradient**
 - An RNN with hidden memory units takes in new raw gradient and outputs a tuned gradient so as to better train the model
 - Andrychowicz et al. Learning to learn by gradient descent by gradient descent. NIPS 2016.

Various Meta-Learning Tasks



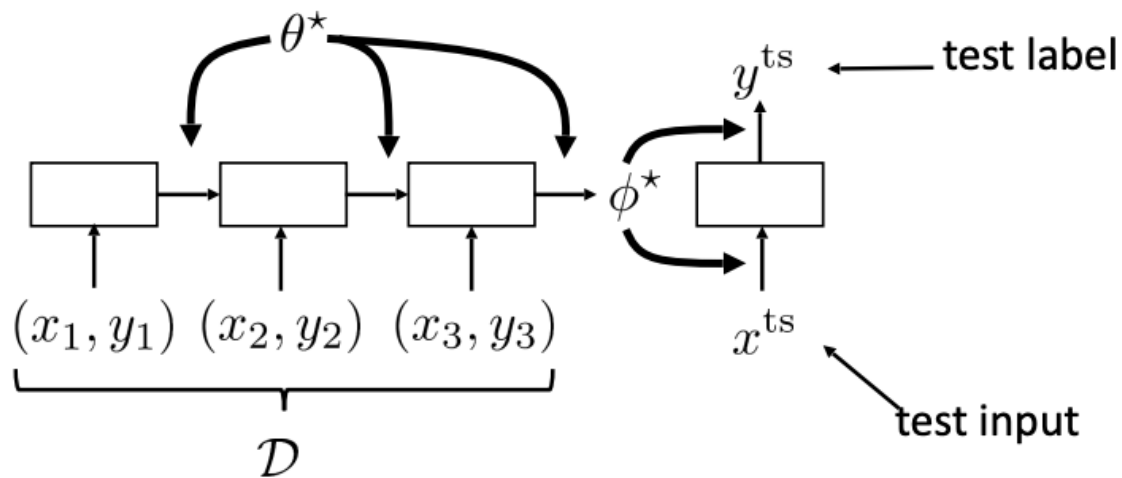
- **Few-shot learning**

- Learn a model from a large dataset that can be easily adapted to new classes with few instances
- Hariharan and Girshick. Low-shot Visual Recognition by Shrinking and Hallucinating Features. ICCV 2017.

General Math Form

meta-learning: $\theta^* = \arg \max_{\theta} \log p(\theta | \mathcal{D}_{\text{meta-train}})$

adaptation: $\phi^* = \arg \max_{\phi} \log p(\phi | \mathcal{D}, \theta^*)$



$$\mathcal{D} = \{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_k, y_k)\}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{\text{meta-train}} = \{\mathcal{D}_1, \dots, \mathcal{D}_n\}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_i = \{(x_1^i, y_1^i), \dots, (x_k^i, y_k^i)\}$$



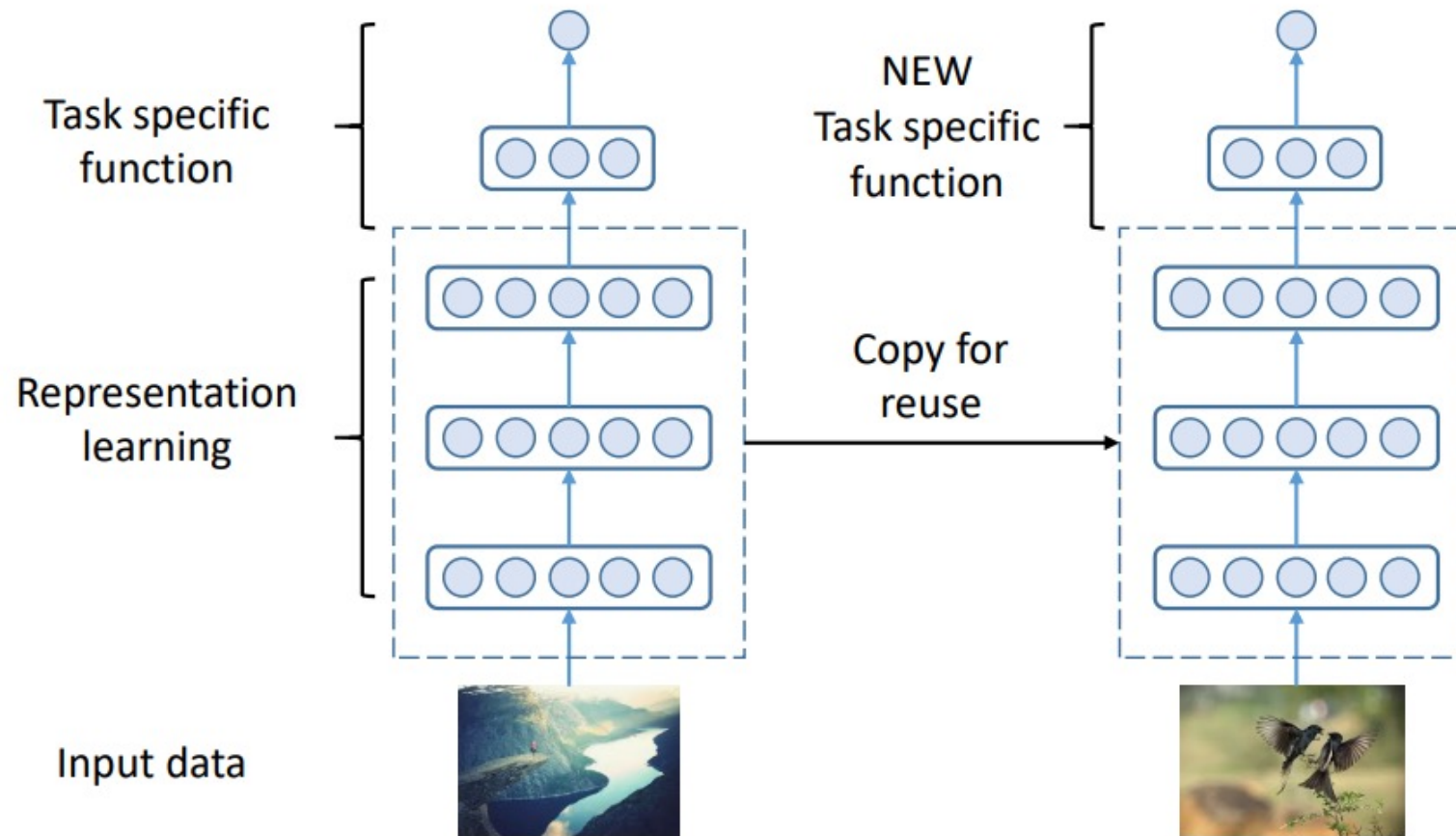
Meta-learning Methods

- Initialization based methods
 - Learning how to initialize the model for the new task
- Recurrent neural network methods
 - Learning how to produce good gradient in an auto-regressive manner
- Reinforcement learning methods
 - Learning how to produce good gradient in a reinforcement learning manner

REVIEW

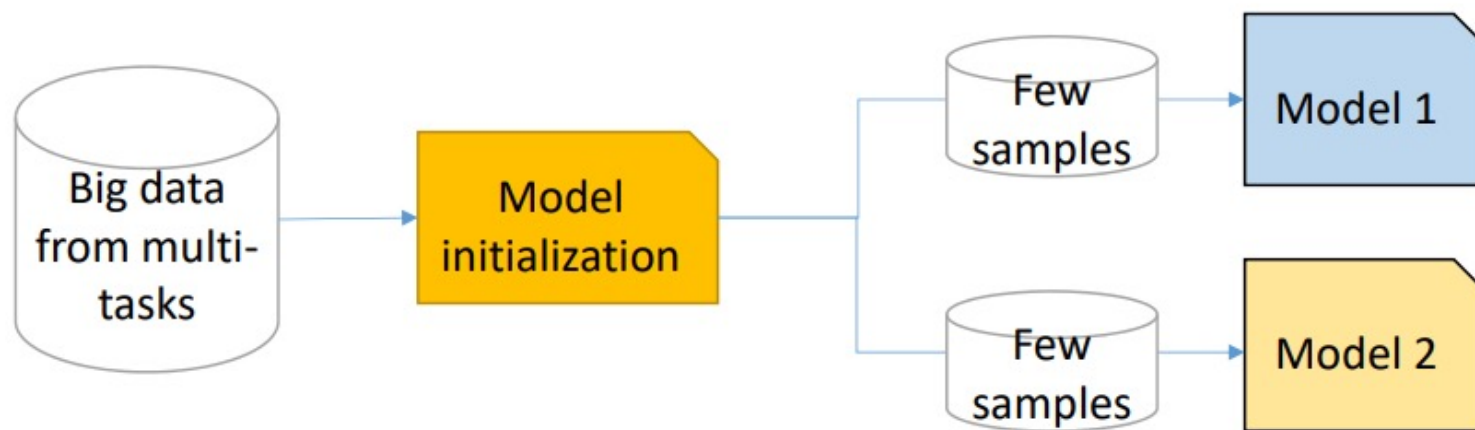
Network Parameter Reuse

- Treat lower layers as representation learning module and reuse them as good feature extractors



Model-Agnostic Meta Learning

- Goal: train a model that can be fast adapted to different tasks via few shots
- MAML idea: directly optimize for an initial representation that can be effectively fine-tuned from a small number of examples



Model-Agnostic Meta Learning

- Goal: train a model that can be fast adapted to different tasks via few shots

Traditional multi-task learning SGD

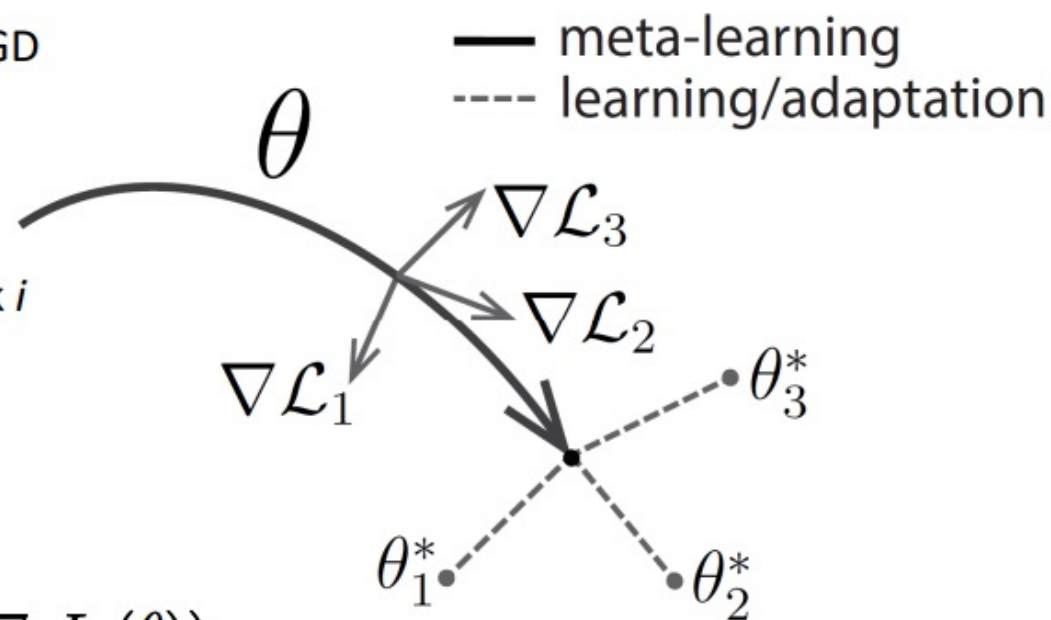
$$\theta \leftarrow \theta - \eta \sum_i \nabla_{\theta} L_i(\theta)$$

Imagined good parameter for task i

$$\theta^i \leftarrow \theta - \eta \nabla_{\theta} L_i(\theta)$$

MAML SGD

$$\theta \leftarrow \theta - \eta \sum_i \nabla_{\theta} L_i(\theta - \eta \nabla_{\theta} L_i(\theta))$$



Meta-learning Methods

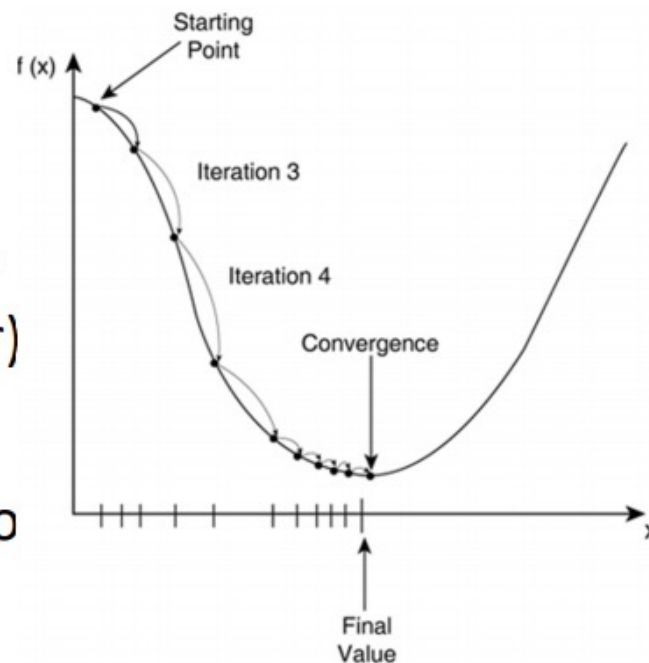
- Initialization based methods
 - Learning how to initialize the model for the new task
- Recurrent neural network methods
 - Learning how to produce good gradient in an auto-regressive manner
- Reinforcement learning methods
 - Learning how to produce good gradient in a reinforcement learning manner

Rethink About the Gradient Learning

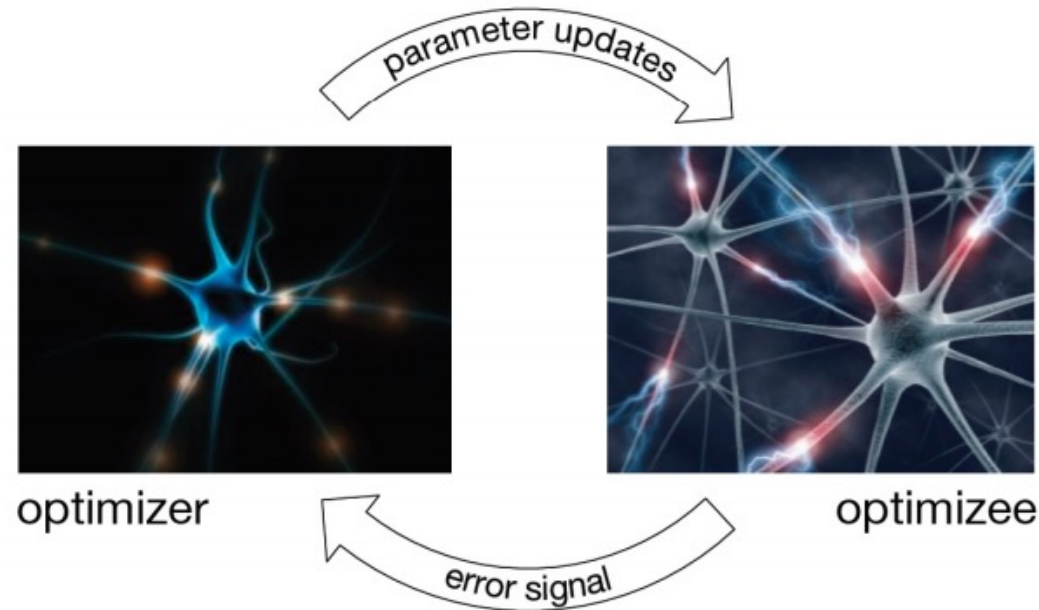
- The traditional gradient in machine learning

$$\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \eta_t \nabla_{\theta_t} L(\theta_t)$$

- Problems of it
 - Learning rate is fixed or changes with a heuristic rule
 - No consideration of second-order information (or even higher-order)
- Feasible idea
 - Memorize the historic gradients to better decide the next gradient

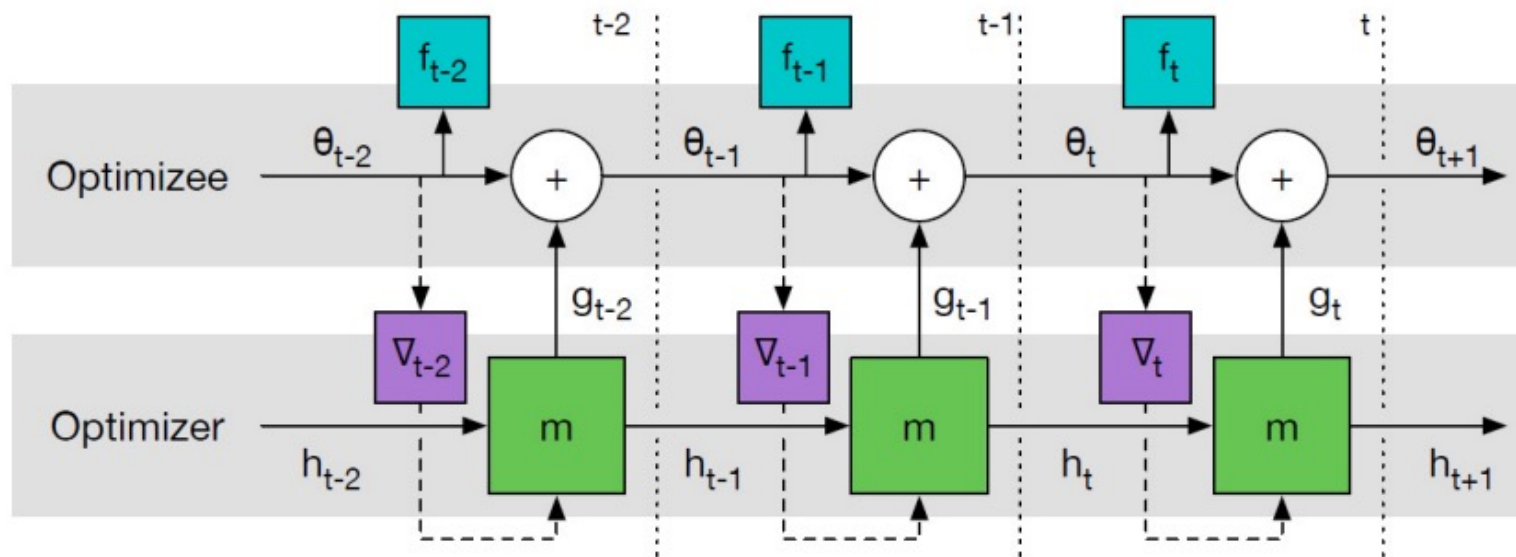


An Optimizer Module to Decide How to Optimize



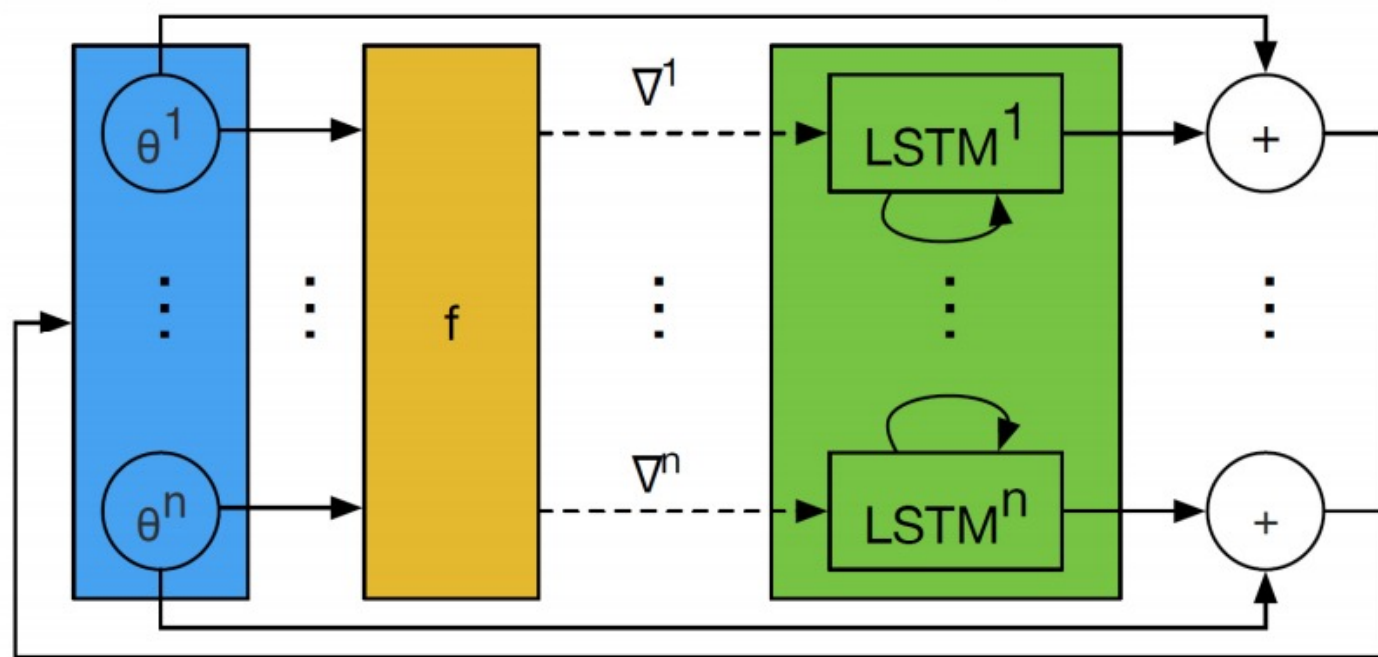
- Two components: optimizer and optimee
- The optimizer (left) is provided with performance of the optimee (right) and proposes updates to increase the optimee's performance

Recurrent Network for Meta-Learning



- With an RNN, the optimizer memorize the historic gradient information within its hidden layer
- The RNN can be directly updated with back-prop algorithms from the loss function

Coordinatewise LSTM Optimizer



- Normally the parameter number n is large, thus a fully connected RNN is not feasible to train
- Above presents a coordinated LSRM, i.e., an $LSTM^i$ for each individual parameter θ^i with shared LSTM parameters

Meta-learning Methods

- Initialization based methods
 - Learning how to initialize the model for the new task
- Recurrent neural network methods
 - Learning how to produce good gradient in an auto-regressive manner
- Reinforcement learning methods
 - Learning how to produce good gradient in a reinforcement learning manner

Review of Meta-Learning Methods

Algorithm 1 General structure of optimization algorithms

Require: Objective function f

$x^{(0)} \leftarrow$ random point in the domain of f

for $i = 1, 2, \dots$ **do**

$\Delta x \leftarrow \phi(\{x^{(j)}, f(x^{(j)}), \nabla f(x^{(j)})\}_{j=0}^{i-1})$

if stopping condition is met **then**

return $x^{(i-1)}$

end if

$x^{(i)} \leftarrow x^{(i-1)} + \Delta x$

end for

Gradient descent $\phi(\cdot) = -\eta \nabla f(x^{(i-1)})$

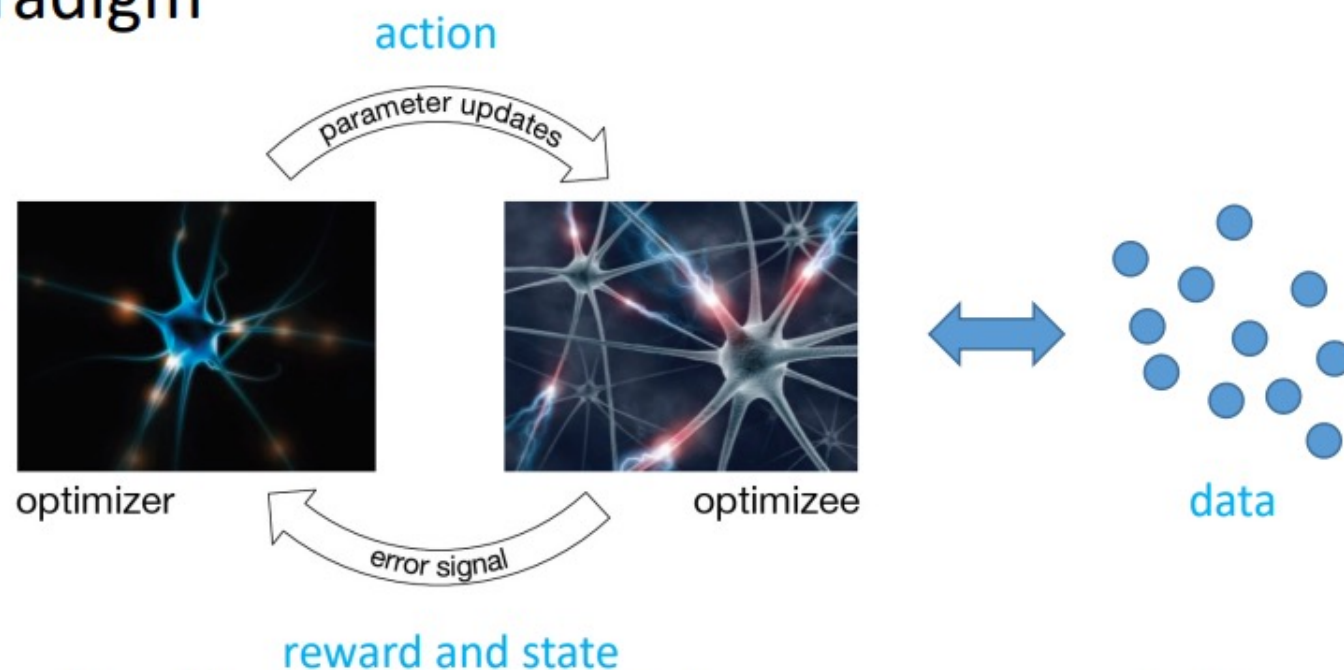
Momentum $\phi(\cdot) = -\eta \left(\sum_{j=0}^{i-1} \eta^{i-1-j} \nabla f(x^{(j)}) \right)$

Learned Algo. $\phi(\cdot) =$ Neural Net

- The key of meta-learning (or learning to learn) is to design a good function that
 - takes previous observations and learning behaviors
 - outputs appropriate gradient for the ML model to update

Reinforcement Learning for Meta-Learning

- Idea: at each timestep, the meta-learner learns to deliver an optimization action to the learner and then observe the performance of the learner, which is very similar with reinforcement learning paradigm



Formulation as an RL Problem

Algorithm 1 General structure of optimization algorithms

Require: Objective function f

$x^{(0)} \leftarrow$ random point in the domain of f

for $i = 1, 2, \dots$ **do**

$\Delta x \leftarrow \phi(\Phi(\{x^{(j)}, f(x^{(j)}), \nabla f(x^{(j)})\}_{j=0}^{i-1}))$

if stopping condition is met **then**

return $x^{(i-1)}$

end if

$\Phi(\cdot)$ and $x^{(i)} \leftarrow x^{(i-1)} + \Delta x$

end for

Policy

Action


Space

Reward

$L(x^{(i)})$

- State representation is generated from a function $\Phi(\cdot)$ mapping the observed data and learning behavior to a latent representation
- The policy outputs the gradient which is the action
- The reward is from the loss function w.r.t. the current model parameters

Learning to Optimize (L2O): A Rising AutoML field



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Academic Information

MIT Professional Education

EECS curriculum - dynamic graphical display

Subject Updates Fall 2019

Subject UPDATES Spring 2019

6.S077

6.S081

6.S082/6.888


6.645

6.036

6.890 Learning-Augmented Algorithms

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Graduate Level
Units: 3-0-9
Prerequisites: 6.036 or equivalent, 6.046 or equivalent
Instructors: Professors Costis Daskalakis and Piotr Indyk




Summer Workshop on Learning-Based Algorithms

This workshop will cover recent developments in using machine learning to improve the performance of “classical” algorithms, by adapting their behavior to the properties of the input distribution. This reduces their running time, space usage or improves their accuracy, while (often) retaining worst case guarantees.

The workshop will cover general approaches to designing such algorithms, as well as specific case studies. We plan to cover learning-augmented methods for designing data structures, streaming and sketching algorithms, on-line algorithms, compressive sensing and recovery, error-correcting codes, scheduling algorithms, and combinatorial optimization. The attendees span a diverse set of areas, including theoretical computer science, machine learning, algorithmic game theory, coding theory, databases and systems.

When: 12 - 14 August 2019
Where: Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago (TTIC)
6045 S Kenwood Ave,
Chicago, IL 60637

Organizers: [Piotr Indyk](#) (MIT), [Yaron Singer](#) (Harvard), [Ali Vakilian](#) (MIT) and [Sergei Vassilvitskii](#) (Google NYC)



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Tianlong-Chen Examine all models again 06d3860 on May 21, 2021 45 commits

Figs	Updated main README	last year
Model_Base_L2O	Model-based files	last year
Model_Free_L2O	Examine all models again	last year
.gitignore	remove .vscode	2 years ago
LICENSE	Init Toolbox	2 years ago
README.md	Update README.md	last year

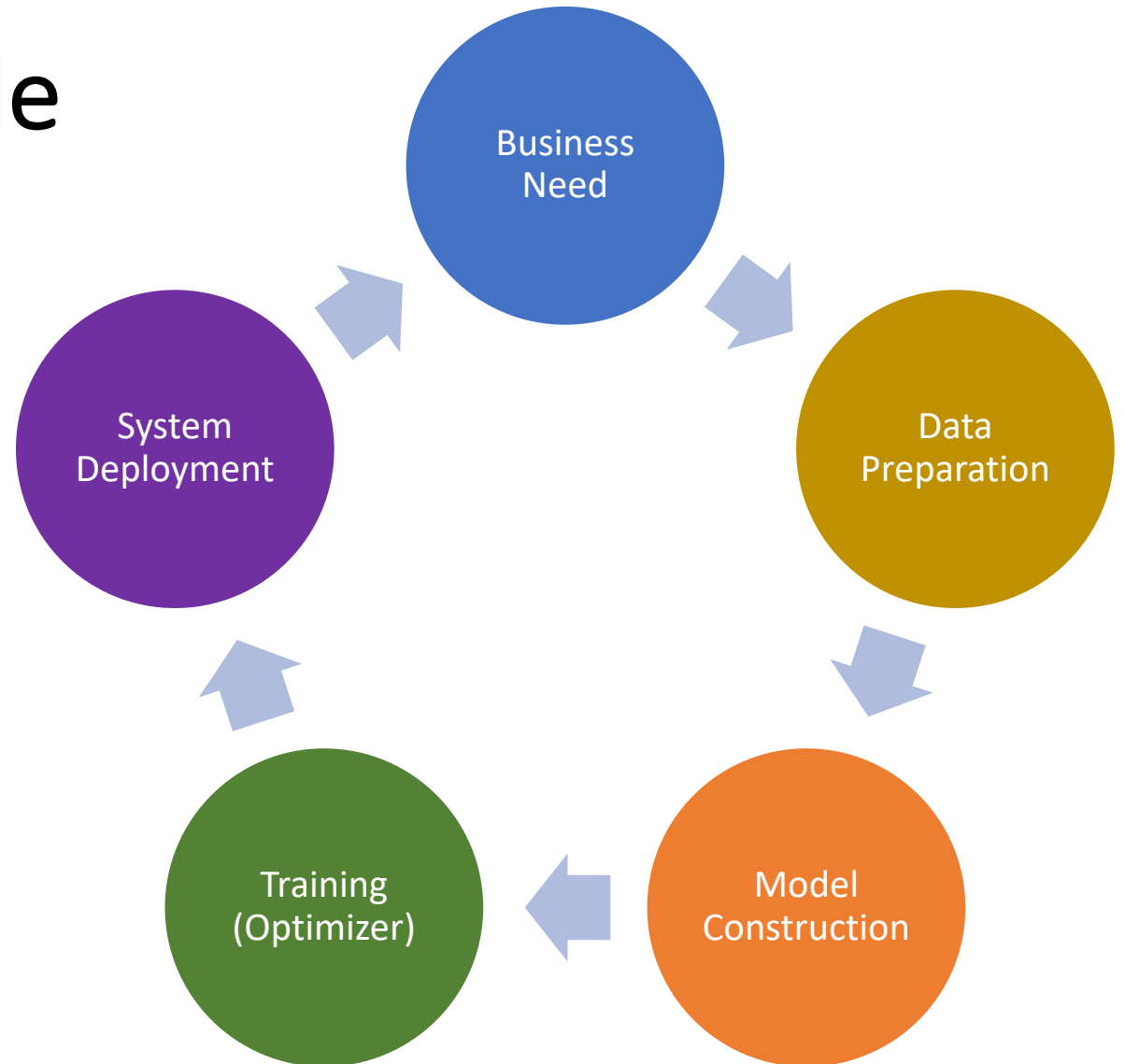
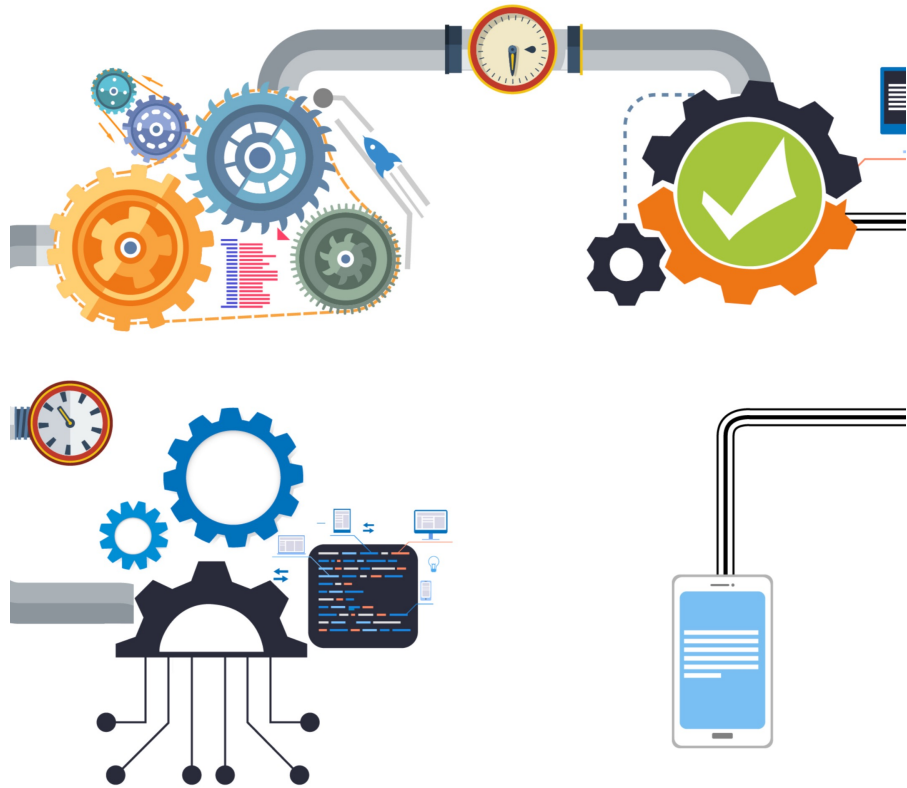
README.md

Open-L2O

This repository establishes the first comprehensive benchmark efforts of existing learning to optimize (L2O) approaches on a number of problems and settings. We release our software implementation and data as the Open-L2O package, for reproducible research and fair benchmarking in the L2O field. [\[Paper\]](#)

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Automating ML Lifecycle



Automated System Deployment: Model-Hardware

- Automatically Discover ML **Model** with Hardware/Platform Awareness

Numerous Applications

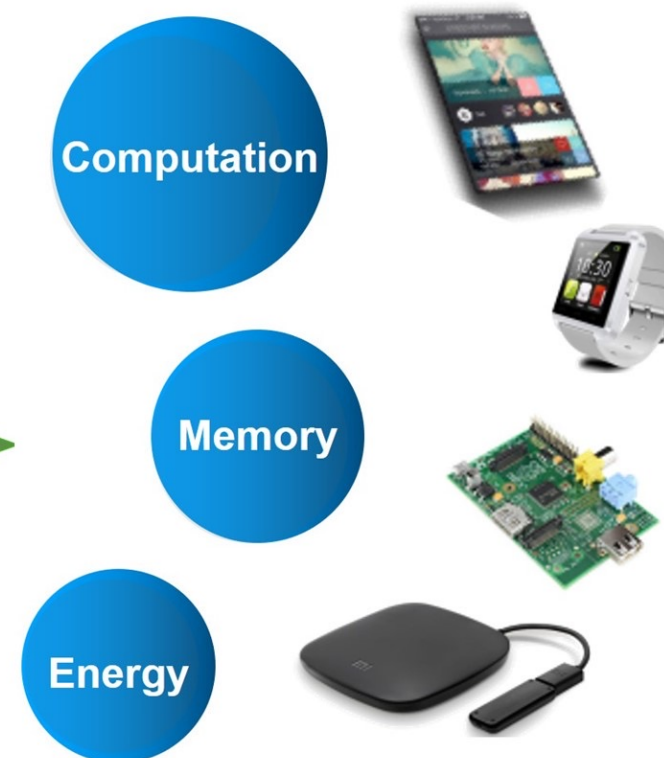


+

Diverse DNN Models

LeNet	AlexNet
VGG	ResNet

Various Resource Constraints



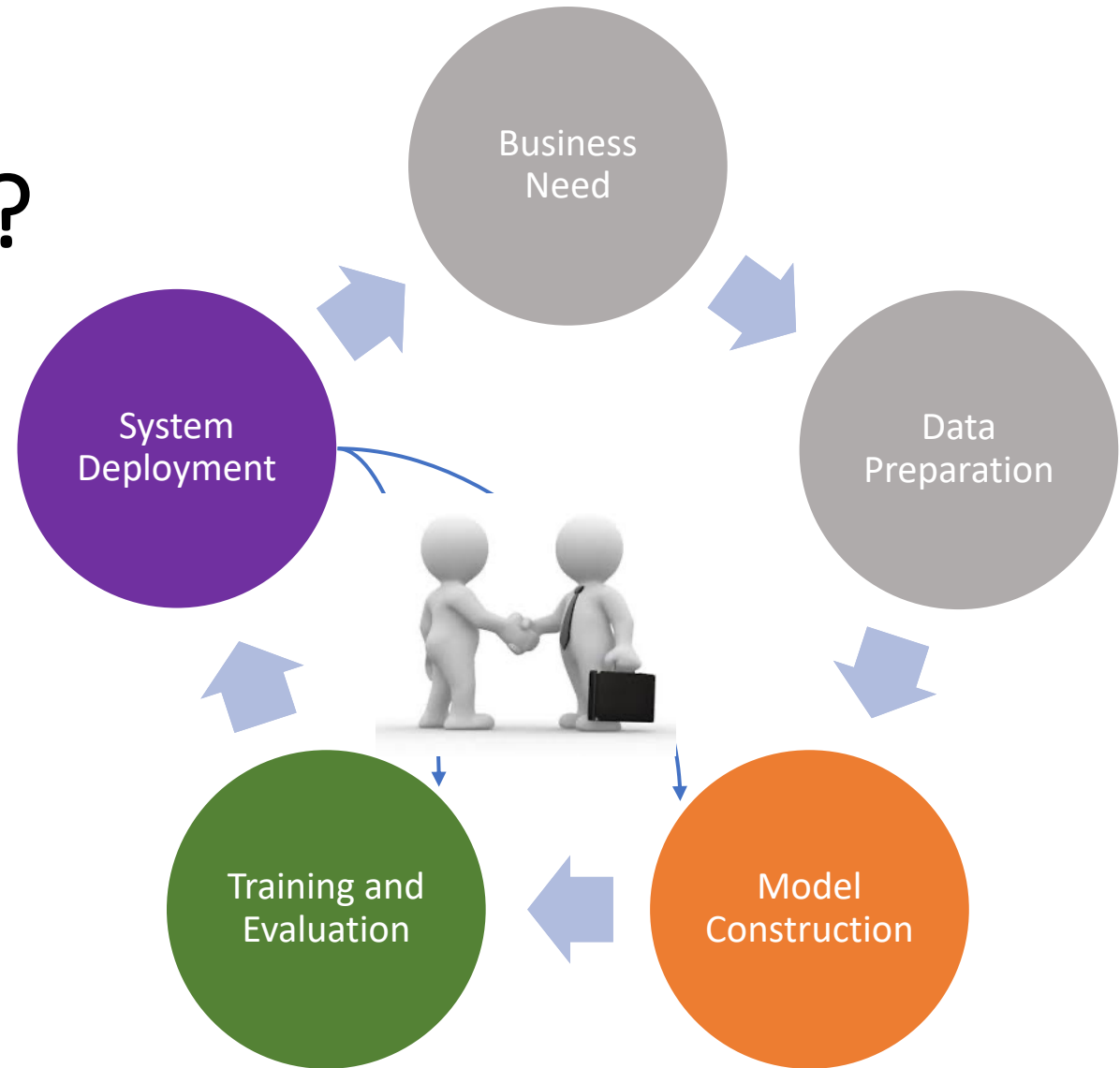
Non-expert developer



Bridge ?

Automated System Deployment: Next Level?

- **Hardware/Platform Awareness:**
now as given, fixed constraint ...
- **Next Level Gain: Automated System-Level Co-Optimization!**
 - *Isolated (auto)-design is never optimal!*





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