

# human/machine interaction is a *sensorimotor game*

*follow along!* <https://bit.ly/2022-DW>



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Associate Chair for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

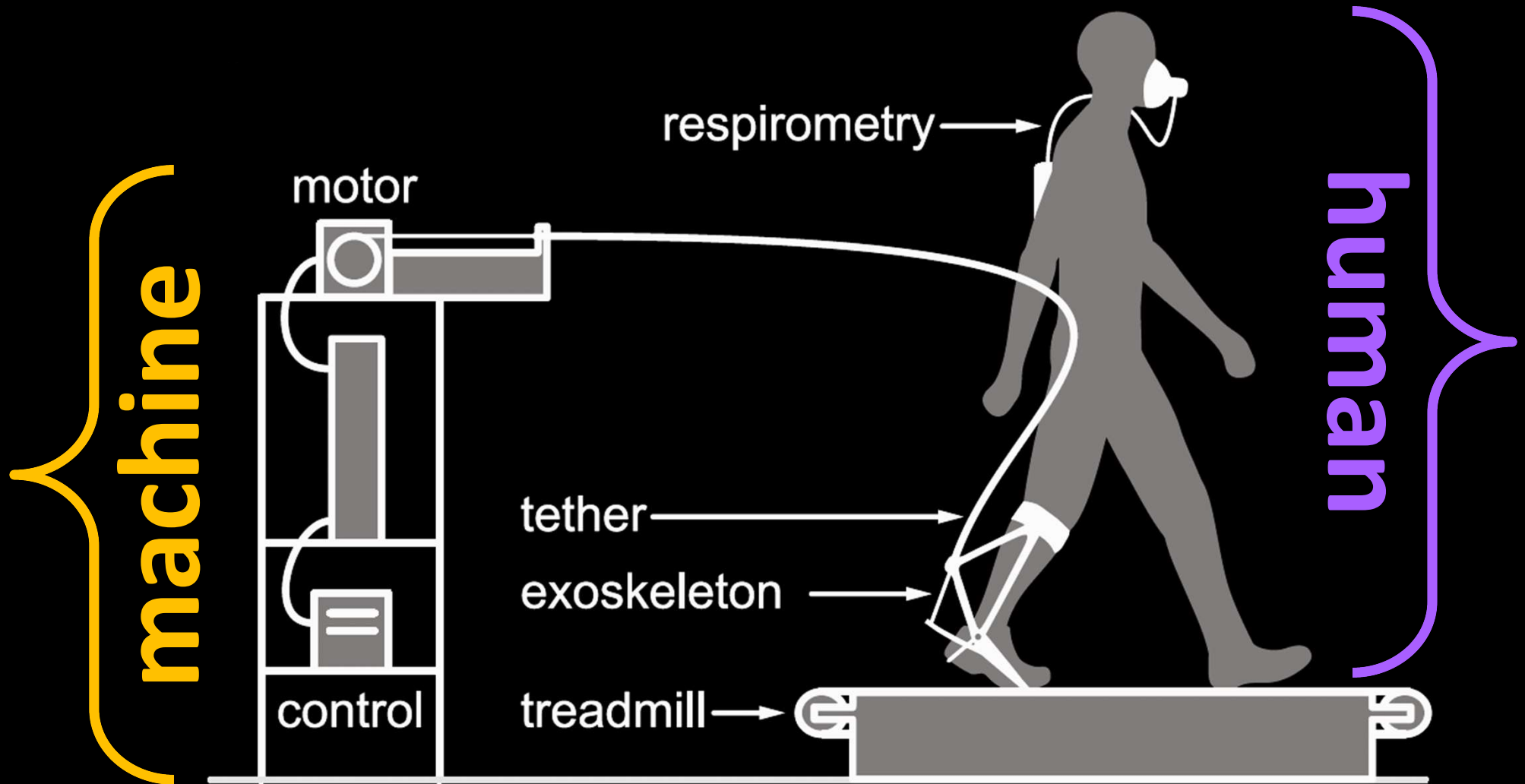
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# human/machine interaction example: assistive robot



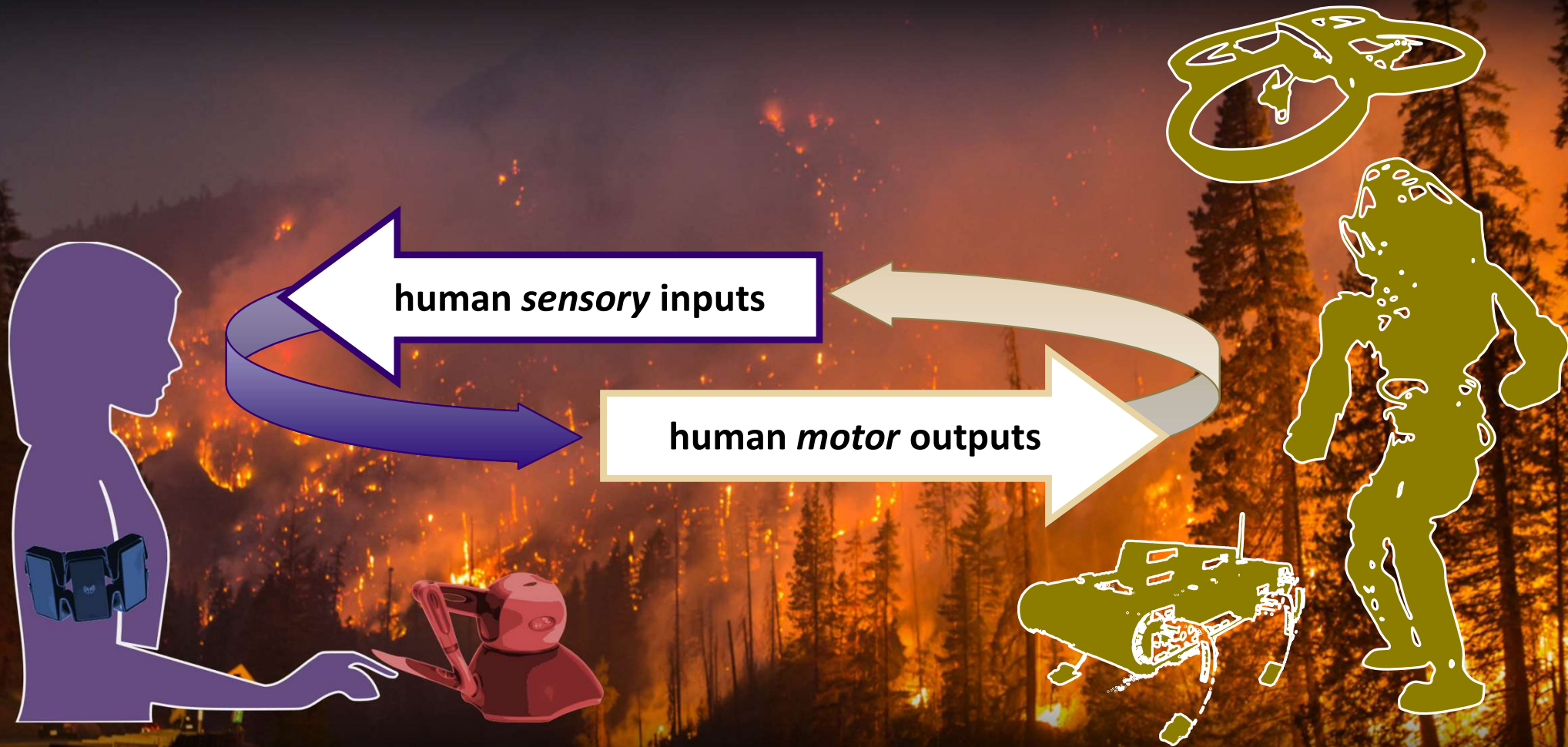
Felt, Selinger, Donelan, Remy, *PLoS One* 2015

*Body-in-the-loop: Optimizing device parameters using measures of instantaneous energetic cost*

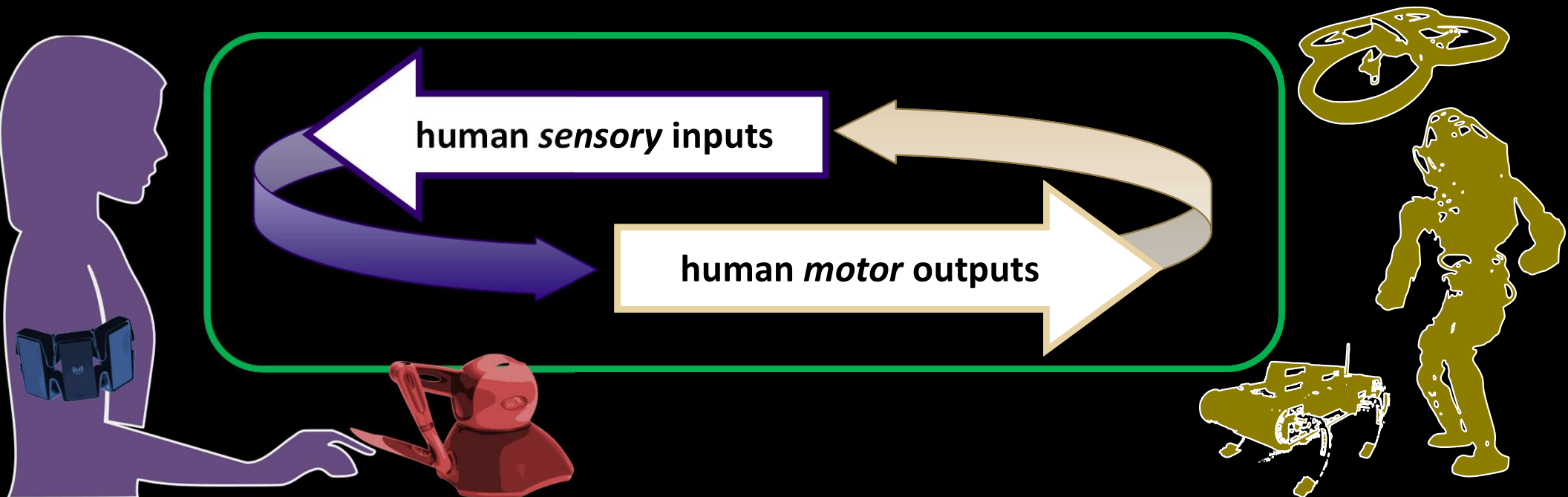
Zhang, Fiers, Witte, Jackson, Poggensee, Atkeson, Collins *Science* 2017

Human-in-the-loop optimization of exoskeleton assistance during walking

# human/machine interaction example: robot teleoperation



# human/machine interaction is a **sensorimotor** game



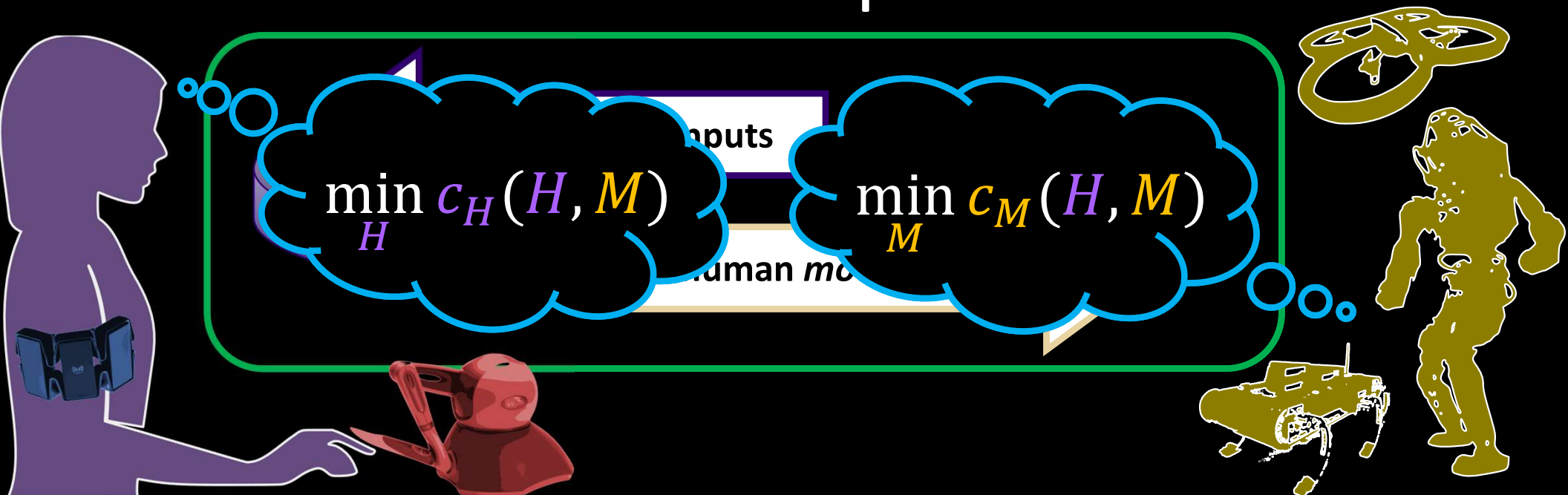
# human/machine interaction is a sensorimotor game

Simon *Decision and Organization* 1972  
*Theories of Bounded Rationality*  
Russell, Wefald *Artificial Intelligence* 1991  
*Principles of Metareasoning*

Gershman, Horvitz, Tenenbaum *Science* 2015  
*Computational Rationality: A Converging Paradigm for  
Intelligence in Brains, Minds, and Machines*  
Papadimitriou, Piliouras *ACM SIGecom Exchanges* 2018  
*Game Dynamics as the Meaning of a Game*

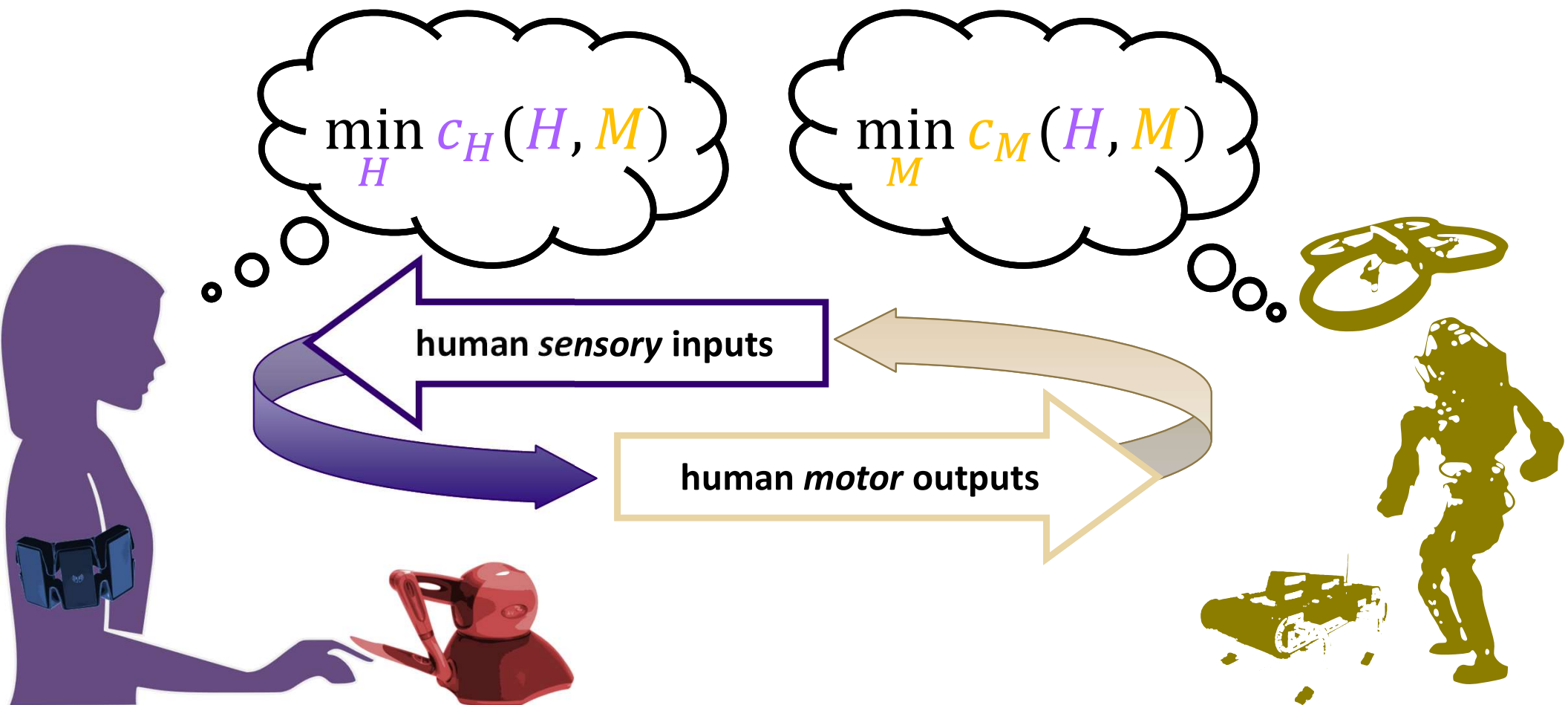
\* with “bounded rationality”

**observation:** humans and machines  
minimize\* interdependent costs



# human/machine interaction is a *sensorimotor game* ...

... so what? (why) does it matter ??



# standard algorithms may not work ...

## optimization

$$\min_x c(x)$$

standard algorithms like  
(stochastic) *gradient descent*

$$\dot{x} \approx -\alpha \nabla_x c(x)$$

or *sampling*

$$x^+ \sim P(x; \theta)$$

are **guaranteed to converge**  
to (local) minimizers of  $c$

## game

$$\min_x c_1(x, y) \quad \min_y c_2(x, y)$$

gradient descent

$$\dot{x} \approx -\alpha_1 \nabla_x c_1(x, y)$$

$$\dot{y} \approx -\alpha_2 \nabla_y c_2(x, y)$$

can easily converge to  
maximizers, saddles, cycles,  
or **fail to converge entirely**



Chasnov, Ratliff, Mazumdar, Burden *UAI* 2019  
*Convergence analysis for gradient-based learning  
in continuous games*

Ma, Chen, Jin, Flammarion, Jordan *PNAS* 2019  
*Sampling can be faster than optimization*

# definition of “solution” isn’t obvious ...

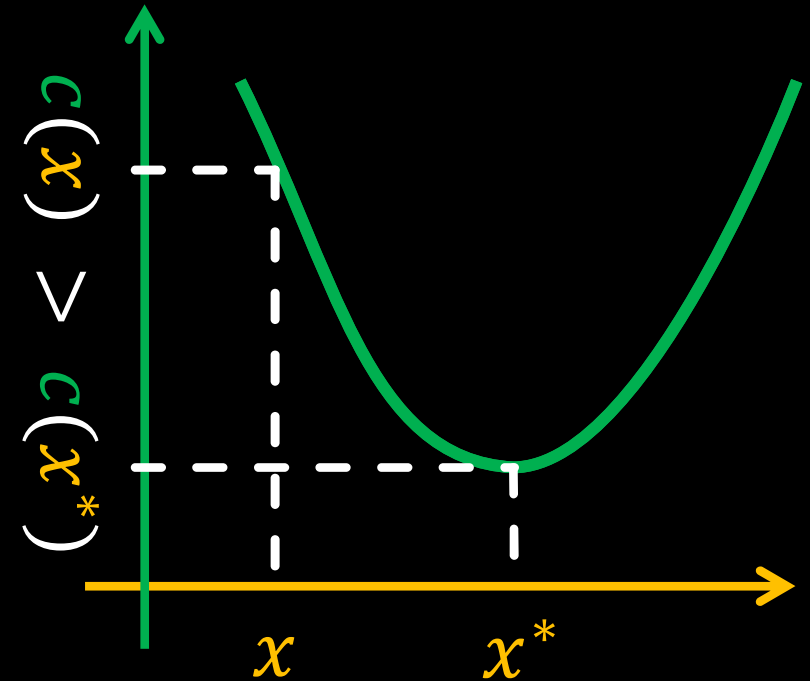
## optimization

Bertsekas 1999 *Nonlinear programming*

$$\min_x c(x)$$

*def:*  $x^*$  is a *minimum* if  
deviation increases cost

$$x \neq x^* \implies c(x) > c(x^*)$$





# definition of “solution” isn’t obvious ...

## game

Hespanha 2017 *Noncooperative game theory*

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{—} & \min_x c_1(x, y) & \text{—} & \min_y c_2(x, y) \\ \bullet & \min_{x,y} c_1(x, y) & \bullet & \min_{x,y} c_2(x, y) \end{array}$$

def:  $(x^*, y^*)$  is a *Nash equilibrium* if unilateral deviation increases cost

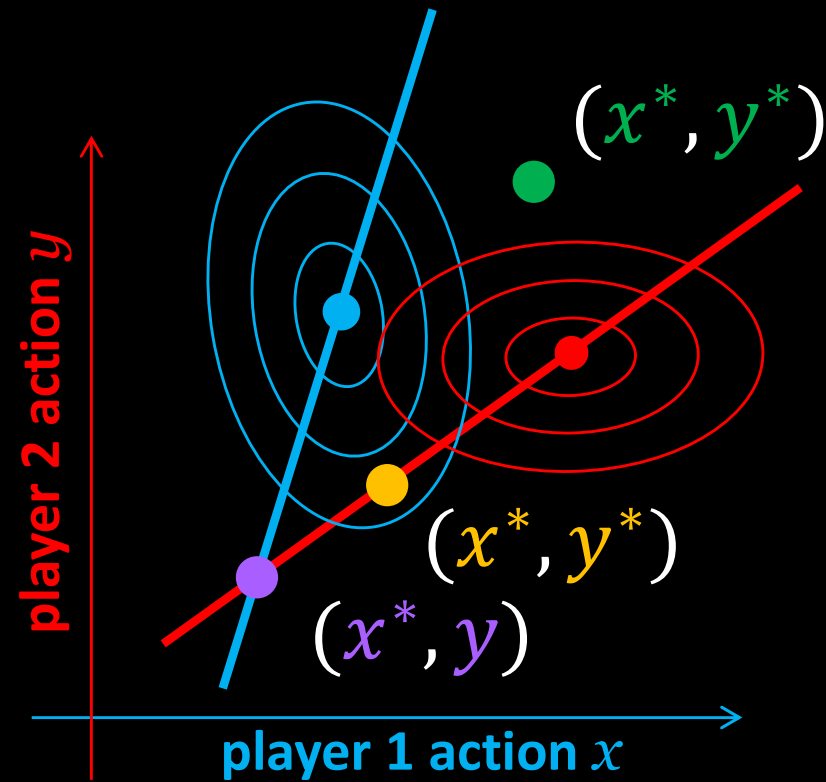
$$x \neq x^* \implies c_1(x, y^*) > c_1(x^*, y^*)$$

$$y \neq y^* \implies c_2(x^*, y) > c_2(x^*, y^*)$$

def:  $(x^*, y^*)$  is a (player 1 led) *Stackelberg equilibrium* if

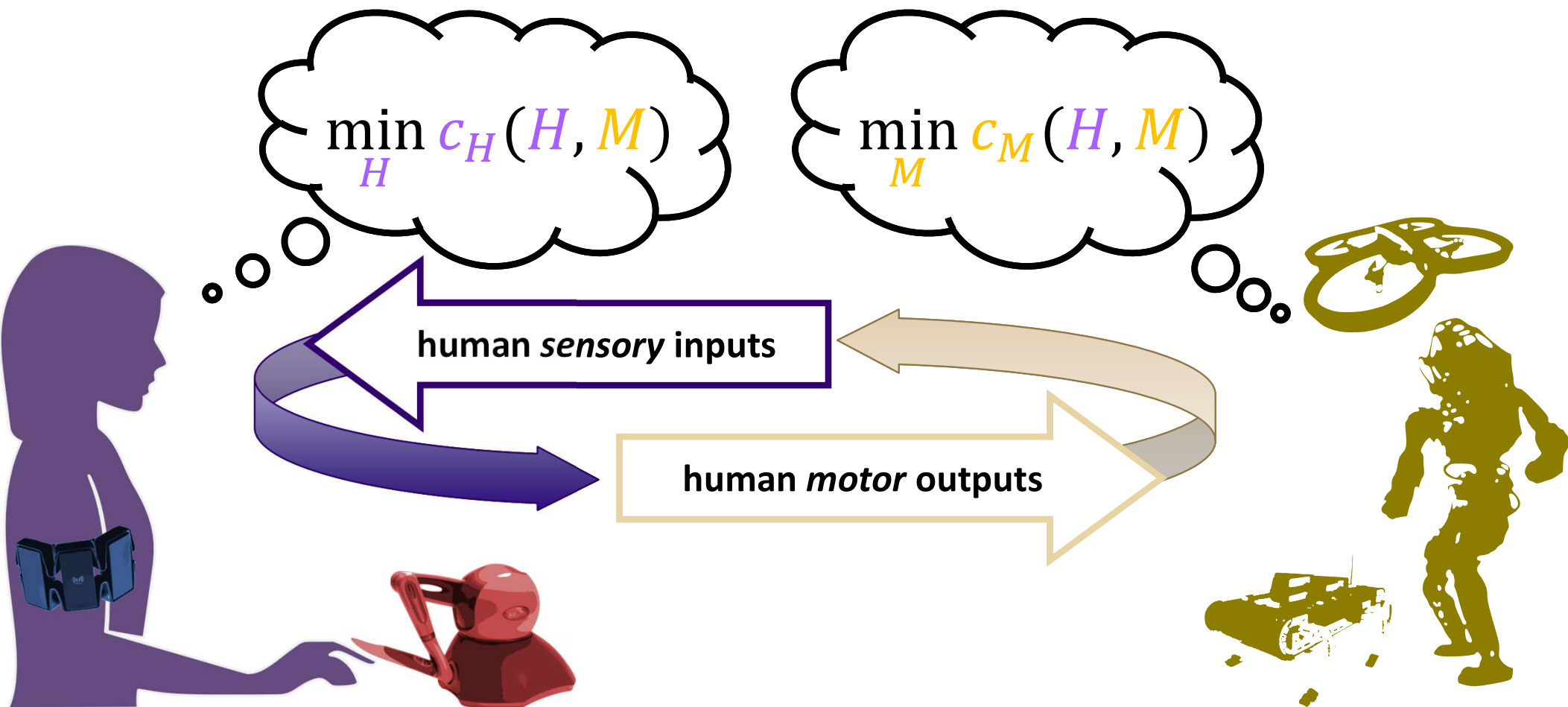
$$x^* = \operatorname{argmin}_x \{c_1(x, y^*) \mid y^* = \operatorname{argmin}_y c_2(x, y)\}$$

def:  $(x^*, y^*)$  is a *consistent conjectural variations eq.* if ...



# human/machine interaction is a *sensorimotor game* ...

... (how) can machine influence outcomes?



# human/machine interaction game



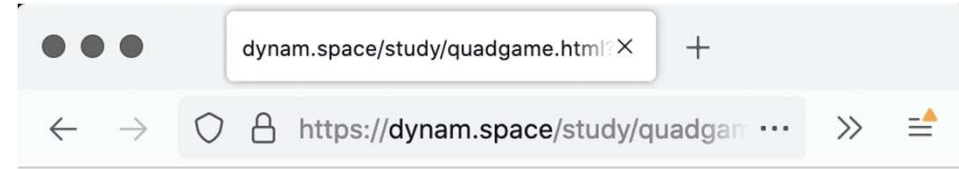
**Lillian Ratliff**

*UW ECE faculty*

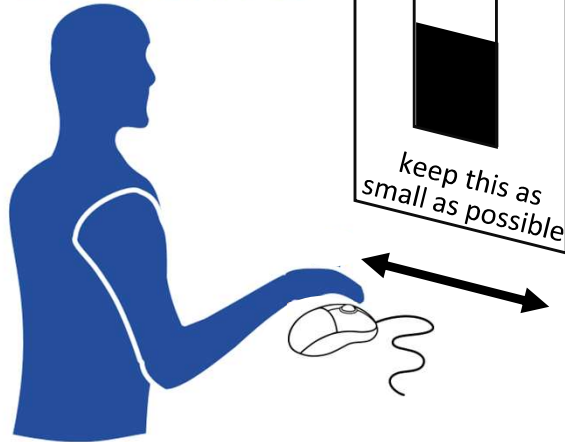


**Ben Chasnov**

*UW ECE PhD candidate*



**Ben will be on the academic job market 😊**



▶ click or touch the diamond



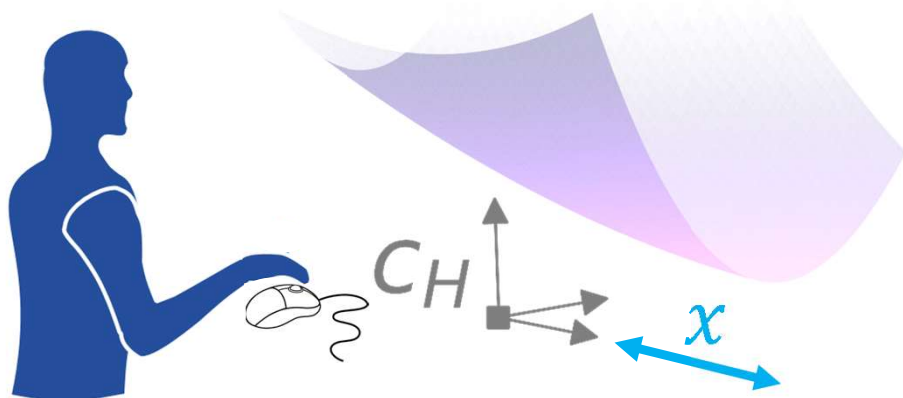
- $N = 20$  participants per experiment
- 10 trials of 40 second duration
- payout  $\approx$  \$2 USD

<https://dynam.space/study/quadgame.html>



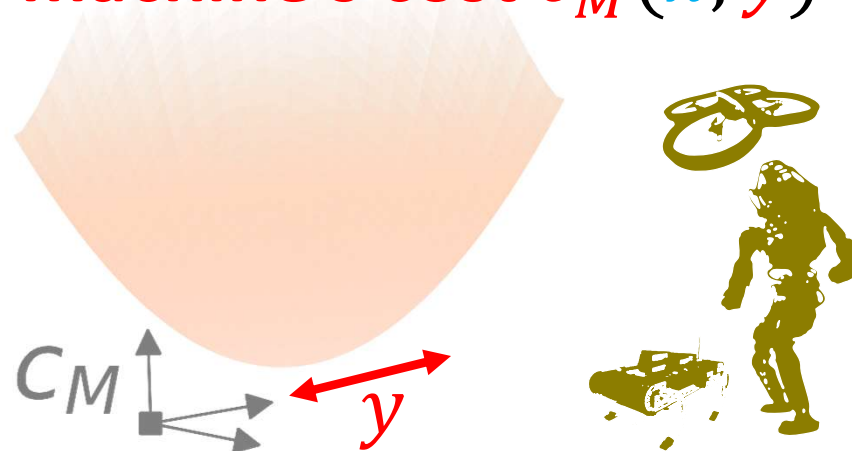
# experiment 1 (methods): vary machine's learning rate

human's cost  $c_H(x, y)$



human does  $\nabla_x(\cdot)$   
 $\dot{x} = ???$

machine's cost  $c_M(x, y)$



machine does gradient descent  
 $\dot{y} = -\alpha \nabla_y c_M(x, y)$   
learning rate changes each trial  
 $\alpha \in \{\text{slow, medium, fast}\}$

*other details:*

- costs are prescribed quadratics and do not change
- machine knows its cost function  $c_M$  and human action  $x$
- human only knows  $c_H(x, y)$ , doesn't know machine action  $y$



# experiment 1 (results, $N = 1$ ): vary machine's learning rate

human's cost  $c_H(x, y)$

human does  $\arg\min_y c_H(x, y)$

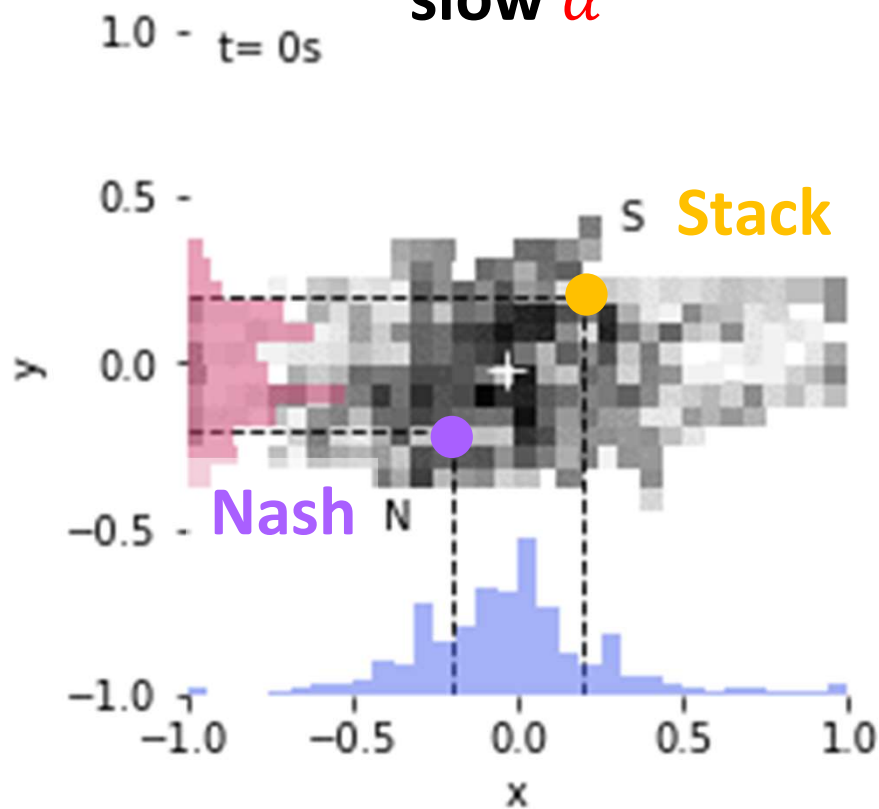
$$\dot{x} = ???$$

machine's cost  $c_M(x, y)$

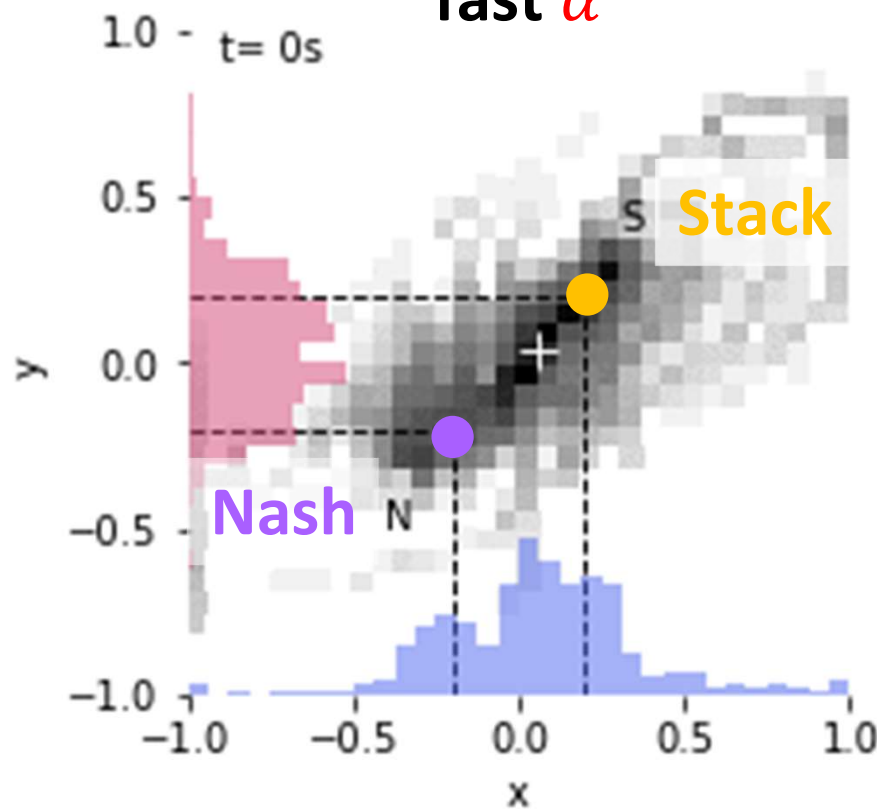
machine does gradient descent

$$\dot{y} = -\alpha \nabla_y c_M(x, y)$$

slow  $\alpha$



fast  $\alpha$





# experiment 1 (results, $N = 20$ ): vary machine's learning rate

human's cost  $c_H(x, y)$

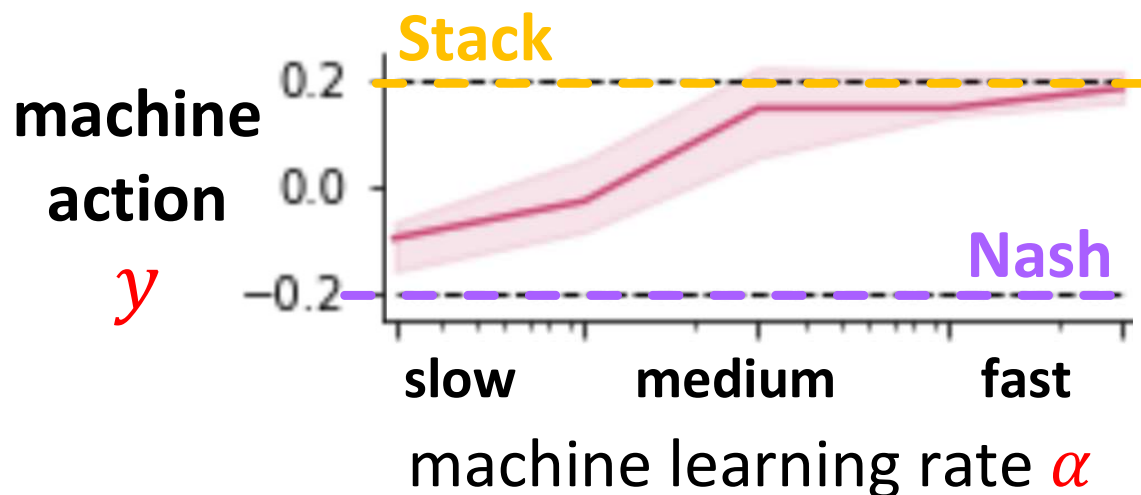
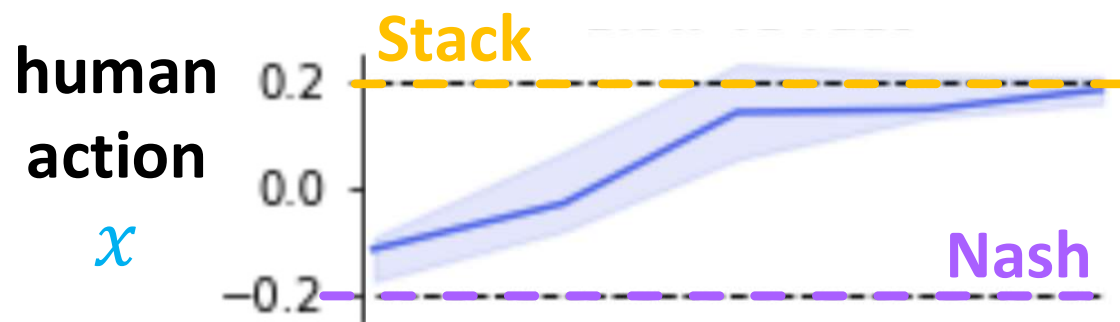
human does  $\arg\min_x c_H(x, y)$

$$\dot{x} = ???$$

machine's cost  $c_M(x, y)$

machine does gradient descent

$$\dot{y} = -\alpha \nabla_y c_M(x, y)$$



findings:

- increasing machine's learning rate shifts outcome from **Nash** to **Stackelberg** equilibrium
- \* human **cannot** (only) be doing gradient descent! (learning rates do not change stationary points)



experiment 2 (methods):

# internal models / conjectures

since cost is quadratic, machine's best-response is linear,

$$y = L_M(x - x_M^*) \quad x_M^* = x \text{ coord of } M\text{'s global min}$$

similarly, natural to hypothesize human responds linearly,

$$x \approx L_H(y - y_H^*) \quad y_H^* = y \text{ coord of } H\text{'s global min}$$

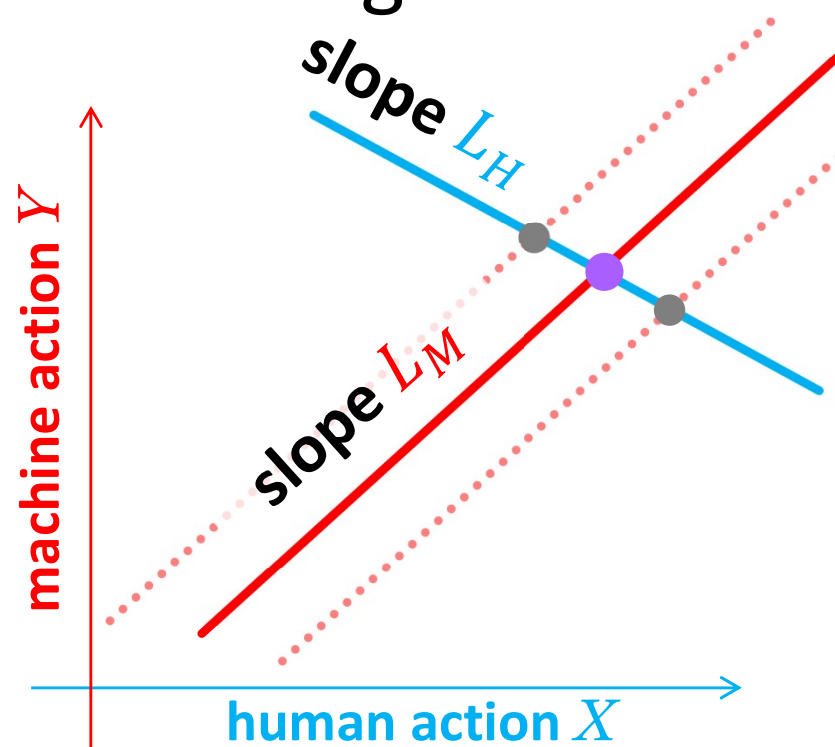
what if machine estimates  $L_H$ ?

what if machine uses this  
*internal model / conjecture*  
to “outsmart” the human?

$$\min_y \{c_M(x, y) \mid x \approx L_H(y - y_H^*)\}$$

if human responds similarly,

iterating converges to *consistent conjectural variations eq.*



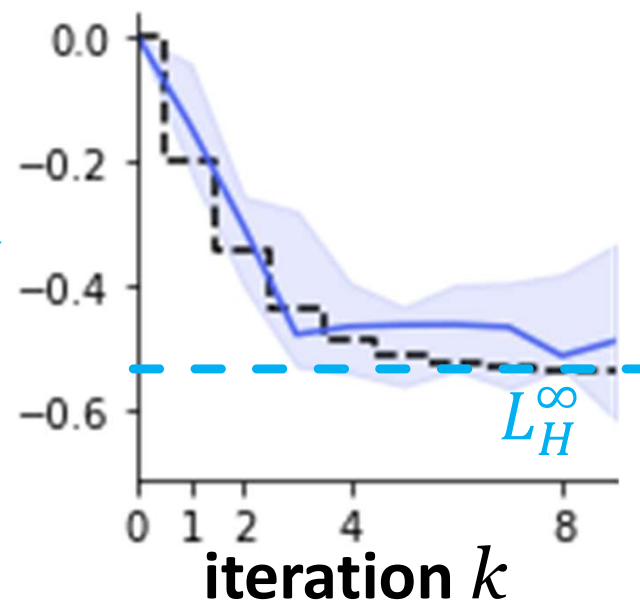


experiment 2 (results,  $N = 20$ ):

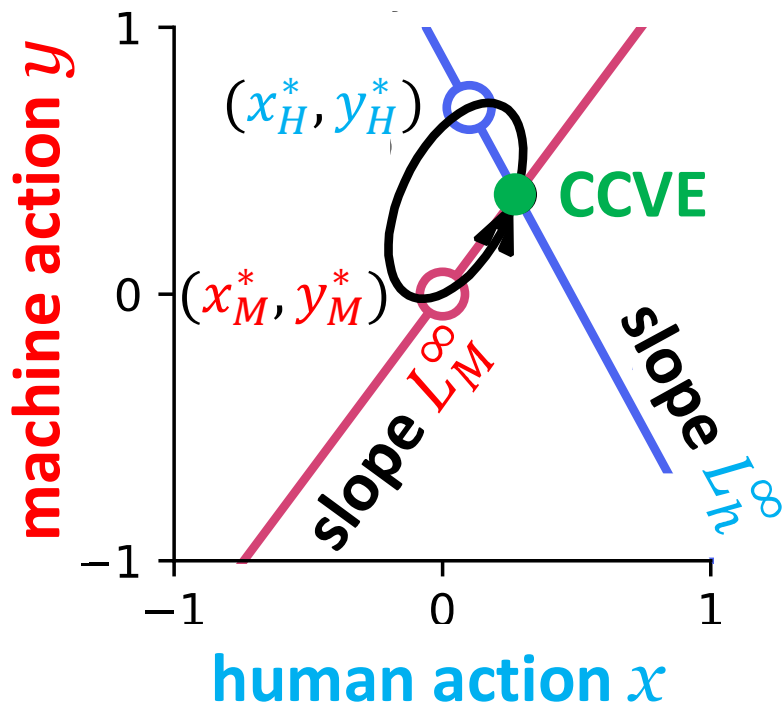
# internal models / conjectures

*finding:* iterating to “outsmart” ...

$$\begin{aligned}
 & y = L_M^k (x - x_M^*) & x & \approx L_H^k (y - y_H^*) \\
 & y = L_M^{k+1} (x - x_M^*) & x & \approx L_H^{k+1} (y - y_H^*) \\
 & \dots & & \dots \\
 & y = L_M^\infty (x - x_M^*) & x & \approx L_H^\infty (y - y_H^*)
 \end{aligned}$$

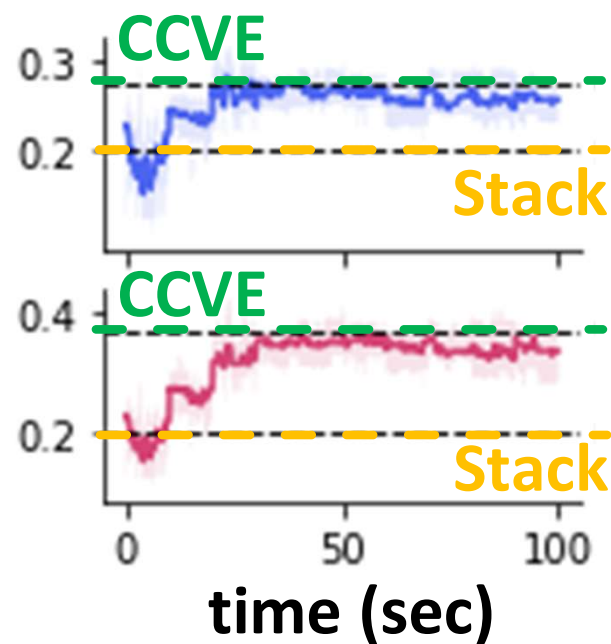


... converges to *consistent conjectures*



human  
action  
 $x$

machine  
action  
 $y$







# experiment 3 (methods): machine manipulation

now suppose the machine wants a specific outcome,  
e.g. its global minimum  $(x_M^*, y_M^*)$

then it can implement a perturbed linear strategy,

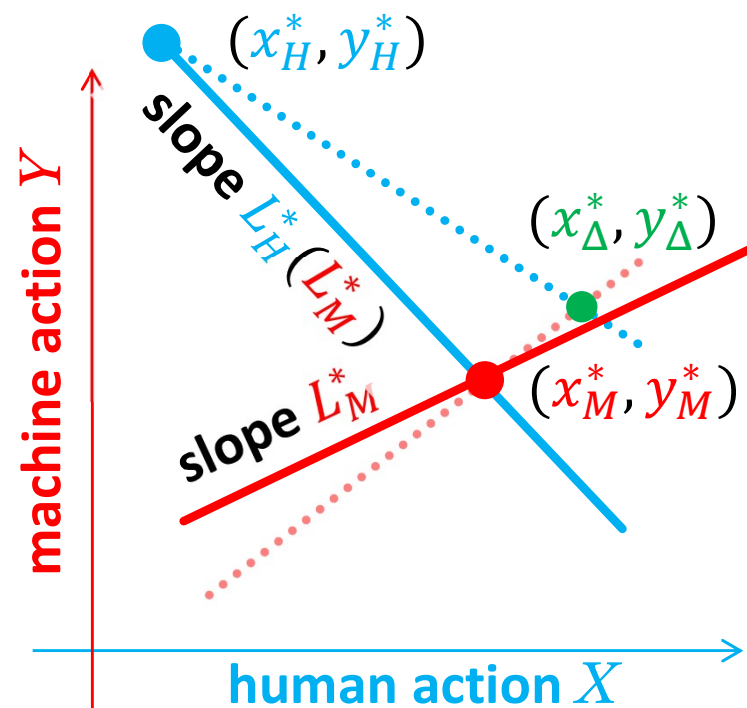
$$y = (L_M + \Delta)(x - x_M^*)$$

wait for the interaction to converge  
(to *reverse Stackelberg* equilibrium),

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (x(t), y(t)) = (x_\Delta^*, y_\Delta^*)$$

and use this data to descend cost  
gradient in strategy space,

$$\dot{L}_M = -\alpha \nabla_{L_M} C_M$$



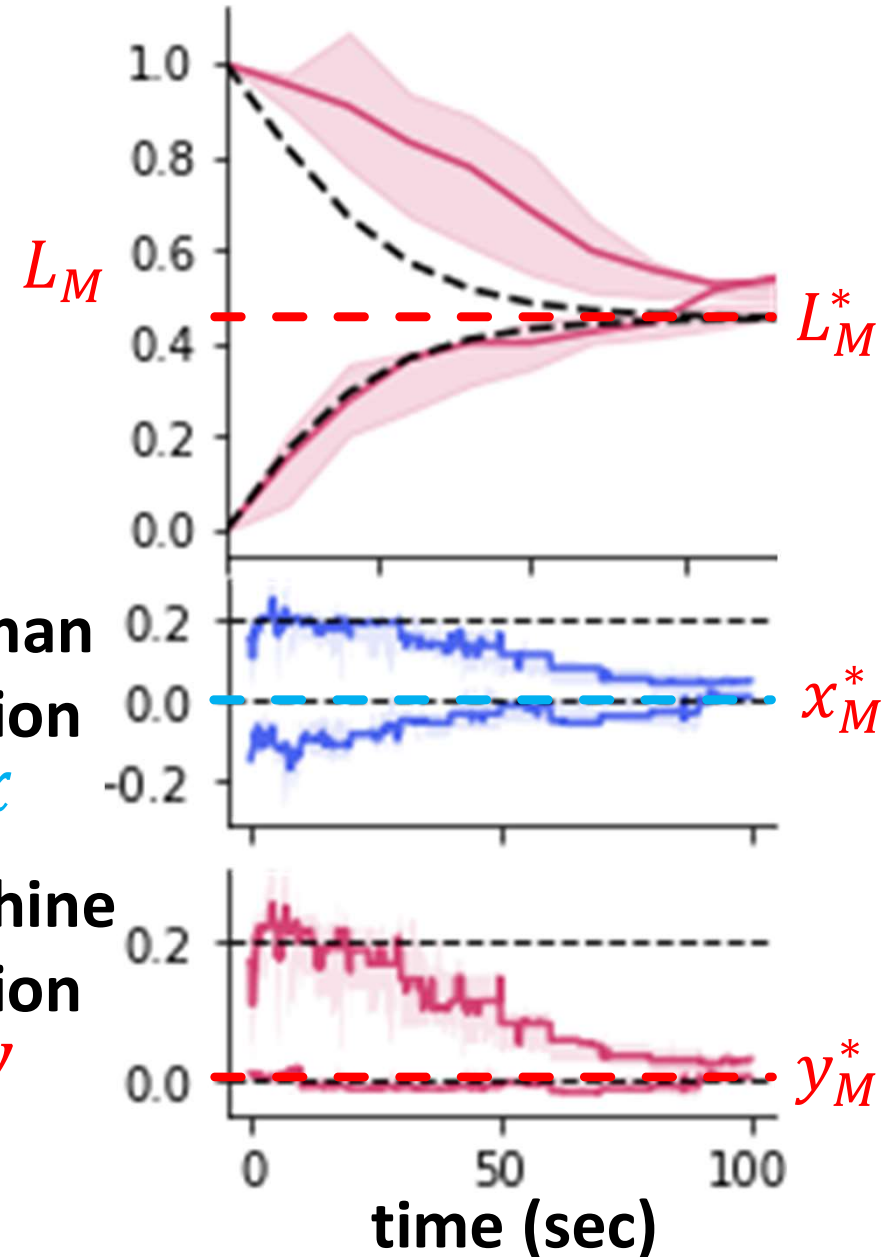
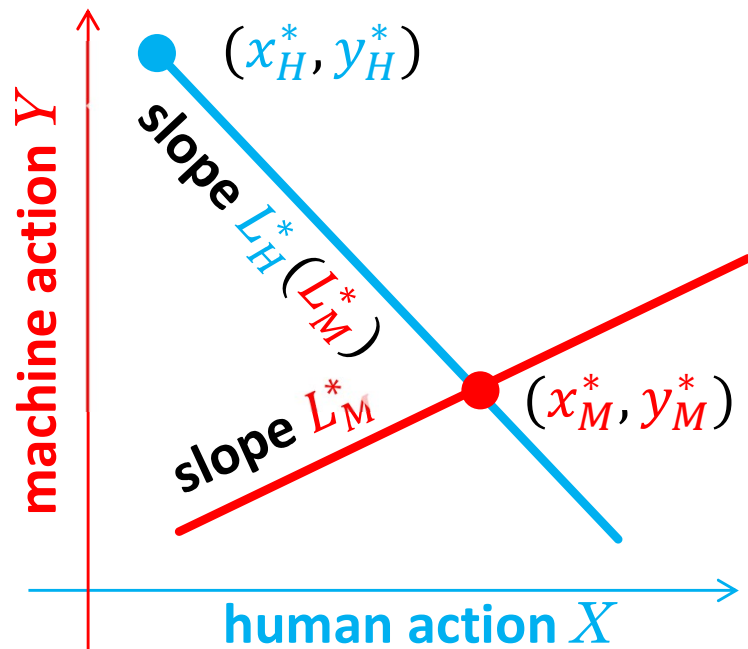


# experiment 3 (results, $N = 20$ ): machine manipulation

*finding:*

\* machine can “coerce” human to play **any** desired equilibrium using data-driven algorithm,

$$\dot{L}_M = -\alpha \nabla_{L_M} C_M$$



# human/machine sensorimotor game: assistive robot

does assistance optimization converge?

if so, to what equilibrium?

can the assistive device decide?

(how) can we converge to  $H$ 's minimum?

*Body-in-the-loop: Optimizing device parameters using measures of instantaneous energetic cost*

Zhang, Fiers, Witte, Jackson, Poggensee, Atkeson, Collins *Science* 2017

Human-in-the-loop optimization of exoskeleton assistance during walking

# thank you!

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**Human/Machine Collaborative**

**Learning and Control of  
Contact-Rich Dynamics**



*NSF CPS Medium #1836819:*

**Certifiable reinforcement learning  
for cyber-physical systems**

*findings:*

- when  $H$  and  $M$  play a game
- the outcome is never the same
  - there are so many ways
  - to outsmart with plays
- that I can't recall all their names ...

