OpenAI

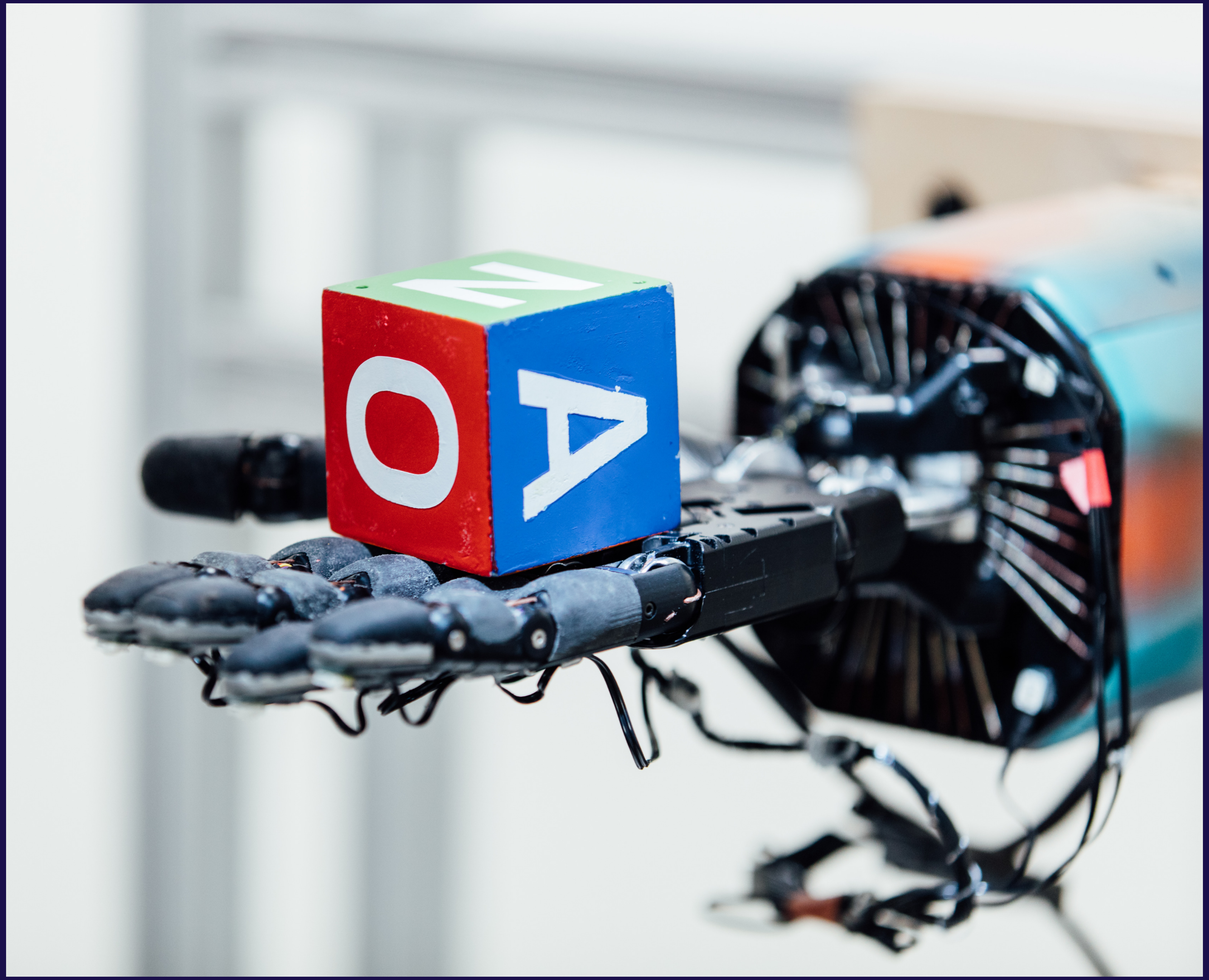
Learning Dexterity

OpenAI Robotics

Marcin Andrychowicz, Bowen Baker, Maciek Chociej, Rafał Józefowicz, Bob McGrew, Jakub Pachocki, Arthur Petron, **Matthias Plappert**, Glenn Powell, Alex Ray, Jonas Schneider, Szymon Sidor, Josh Tobin, Peter Welinder, Lilian Weng, and Wojciech Zaremba

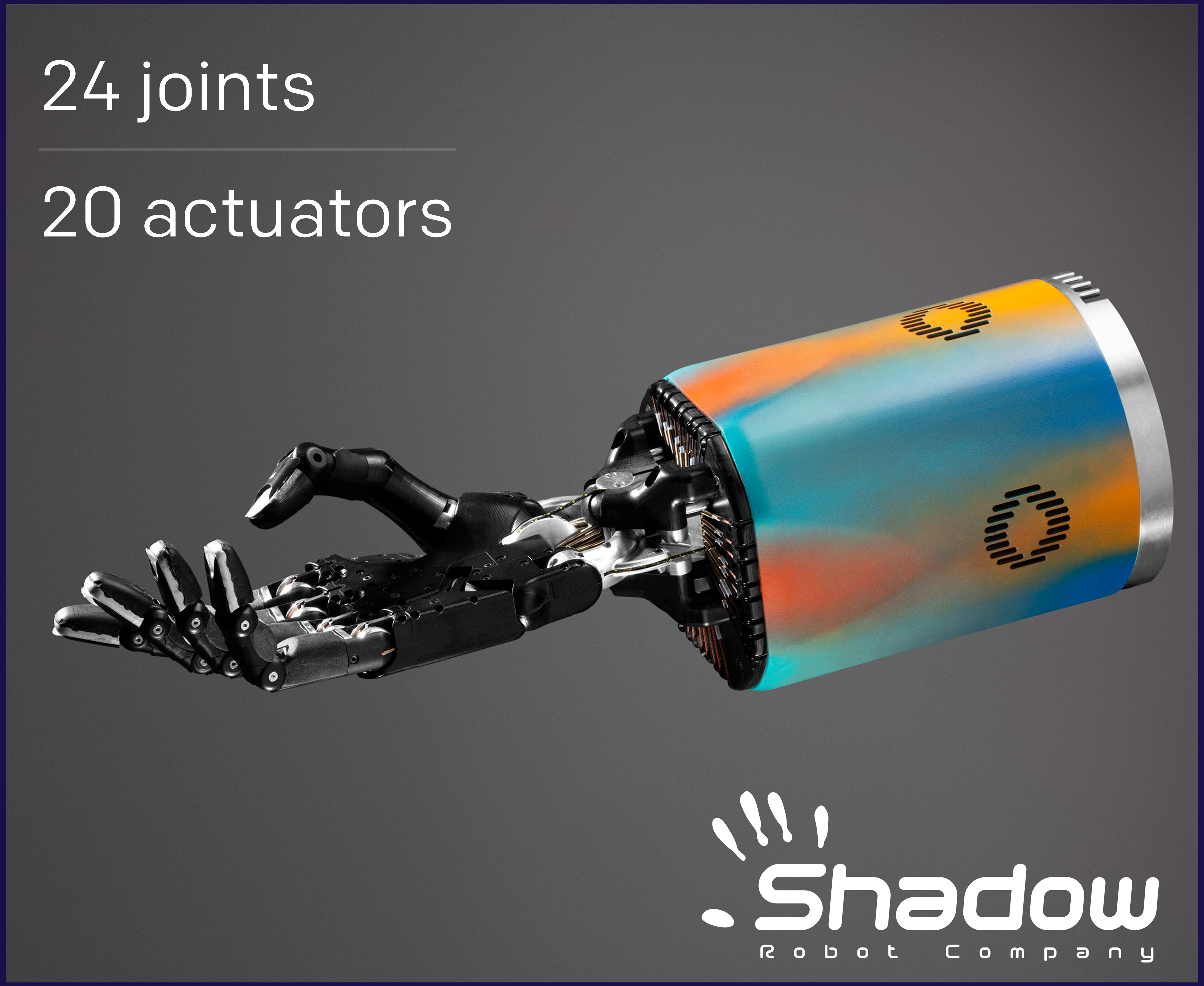
NEURIPS 2018

Dexterous In-Hand Manipulation



- A humanoid 5-fingered hand
- A human hand is a universal end-effector
- Long standing unachieved goal for classical robotics

Dexterous In-Hand Manipulation

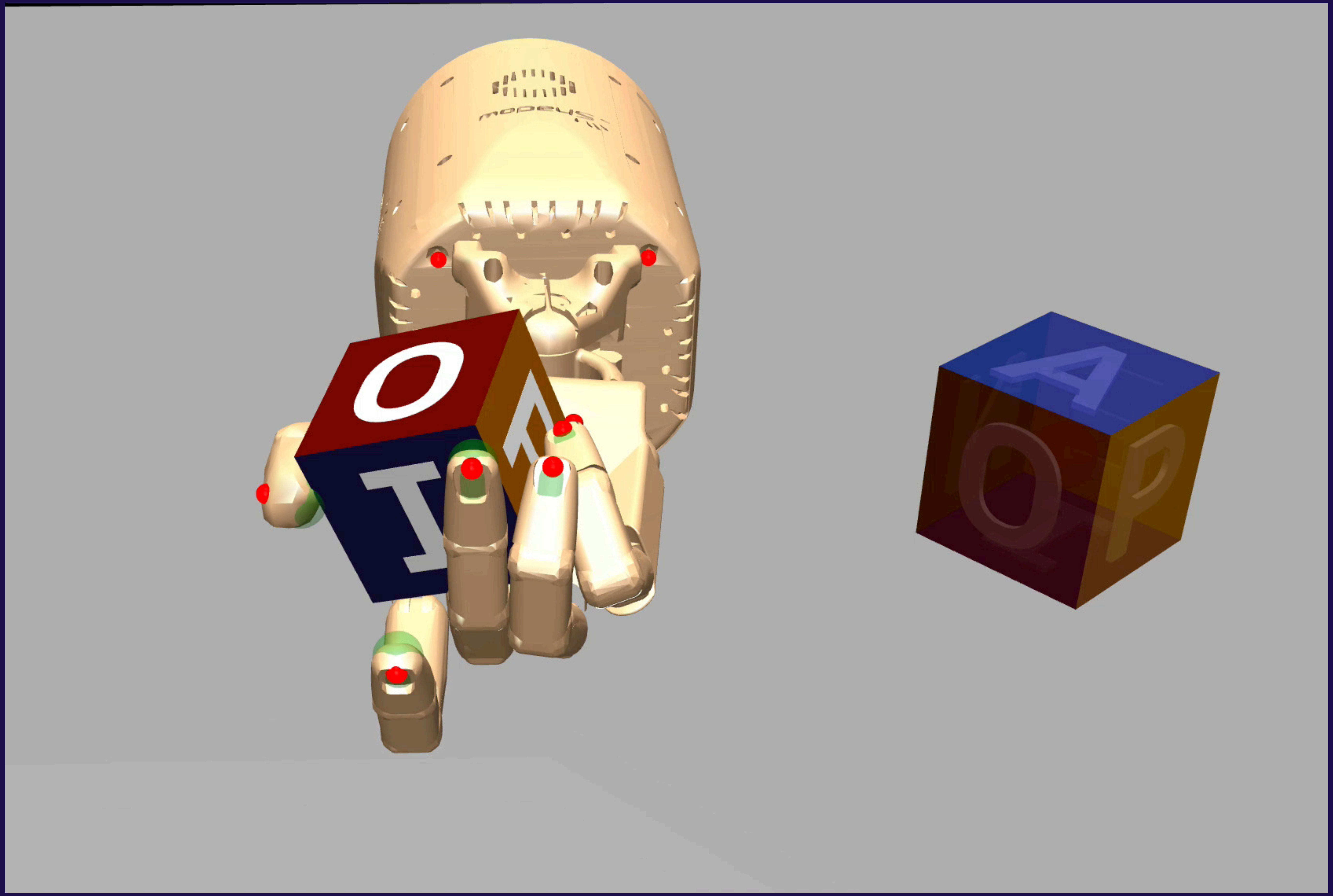


- High-dimensional control
- Real-world hardware
- Noisy and delayed sensor readings
- Partial observability
- Hard to simulate

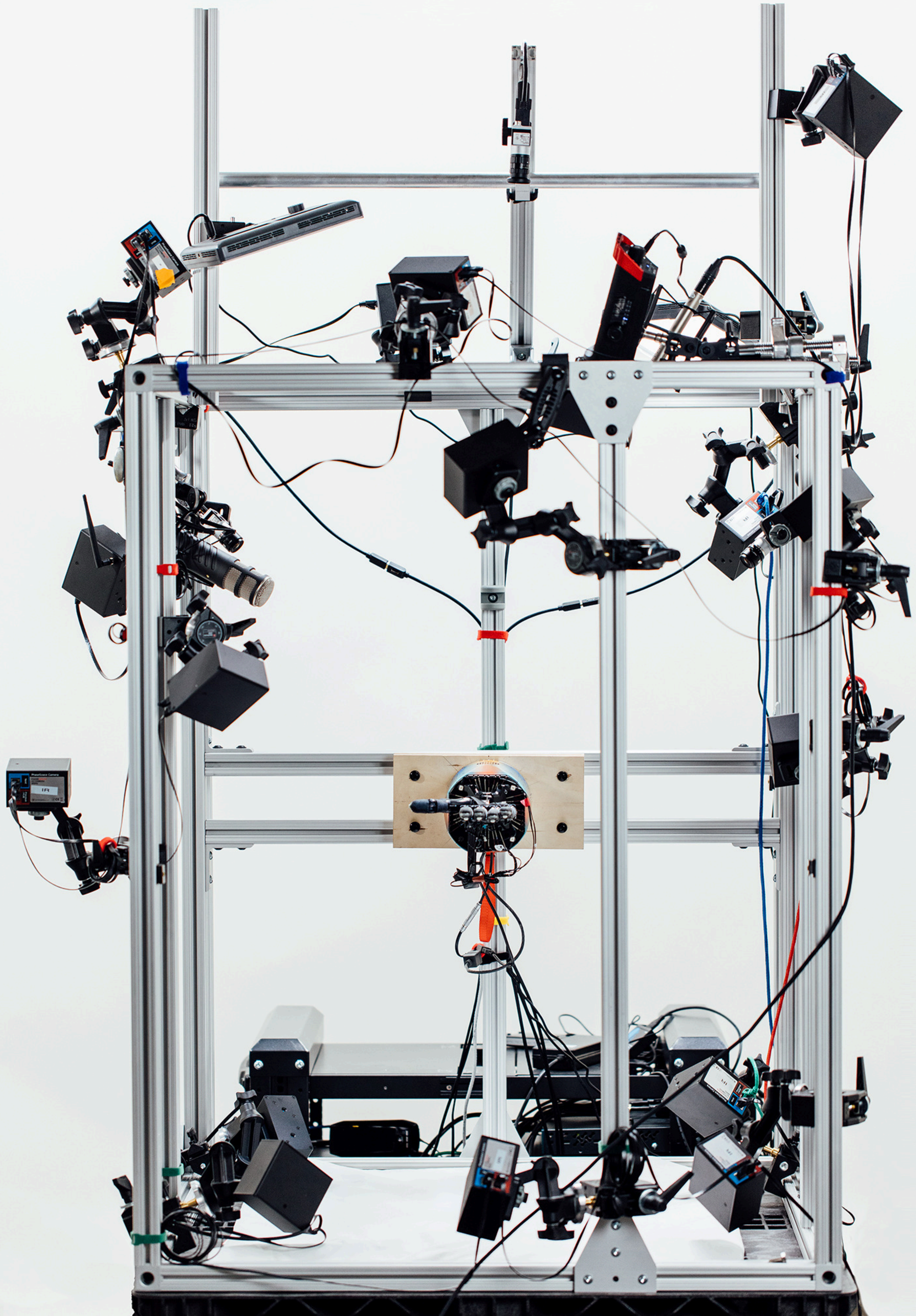
Sim2Real

Transfer

Simulation



Task: reorient the object in-hand




Shadow Dexterous Hand


PhaseSpace tracking

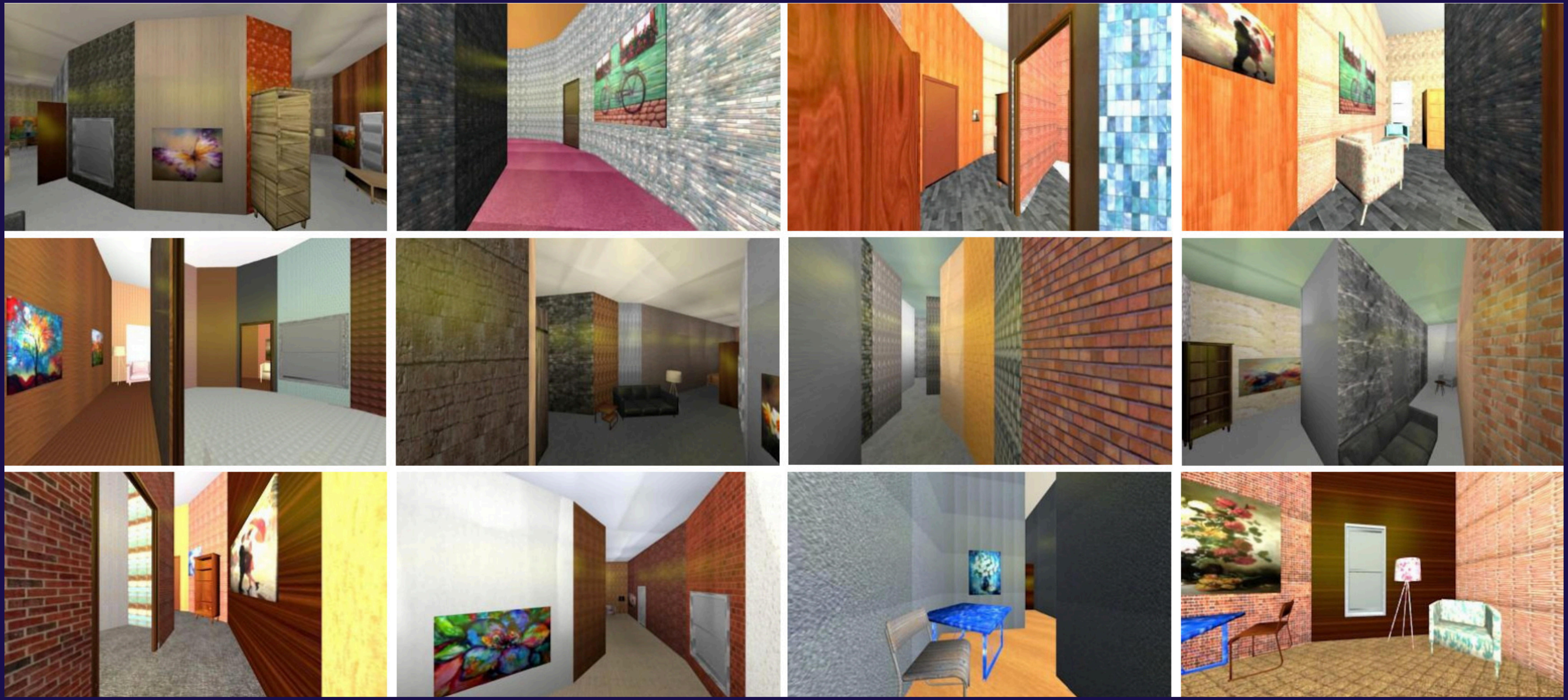

Top RGB camera
Right RGB camera
Left RGB camera

Sim2Real

Transfer

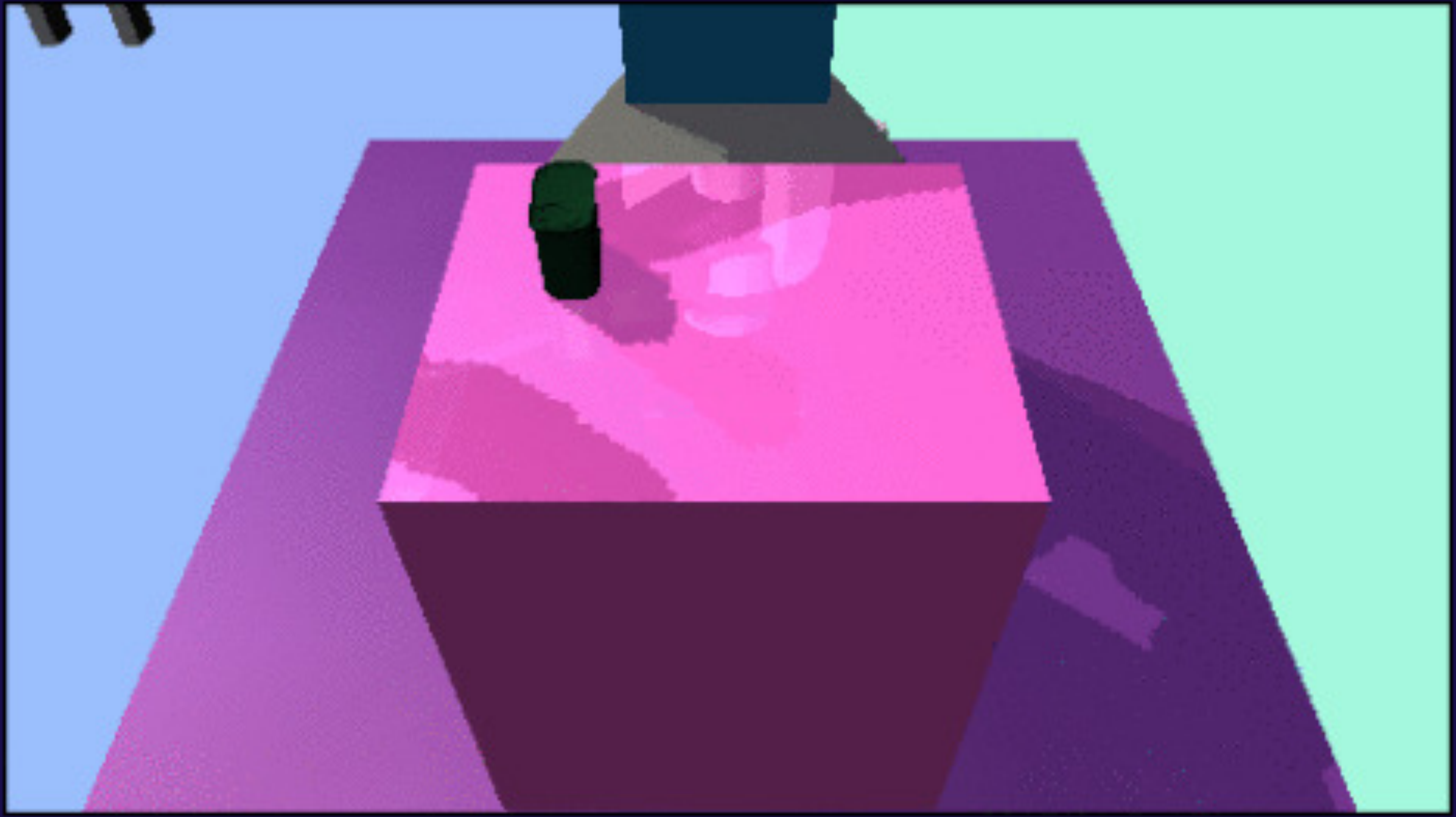
Domain Randomization

Domain Randomization



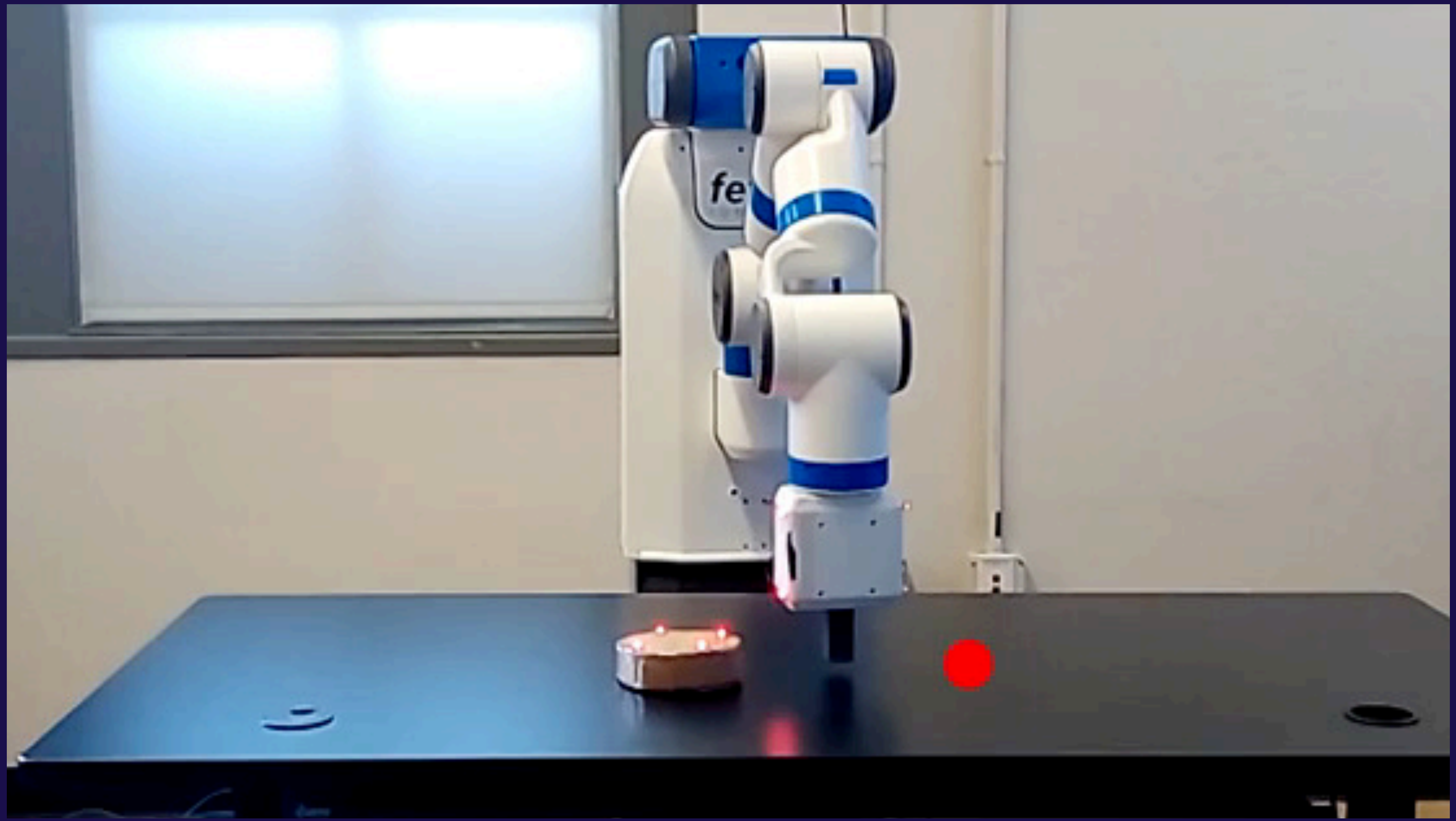
Sadeghi & Levine (2016)

Domain Randomization

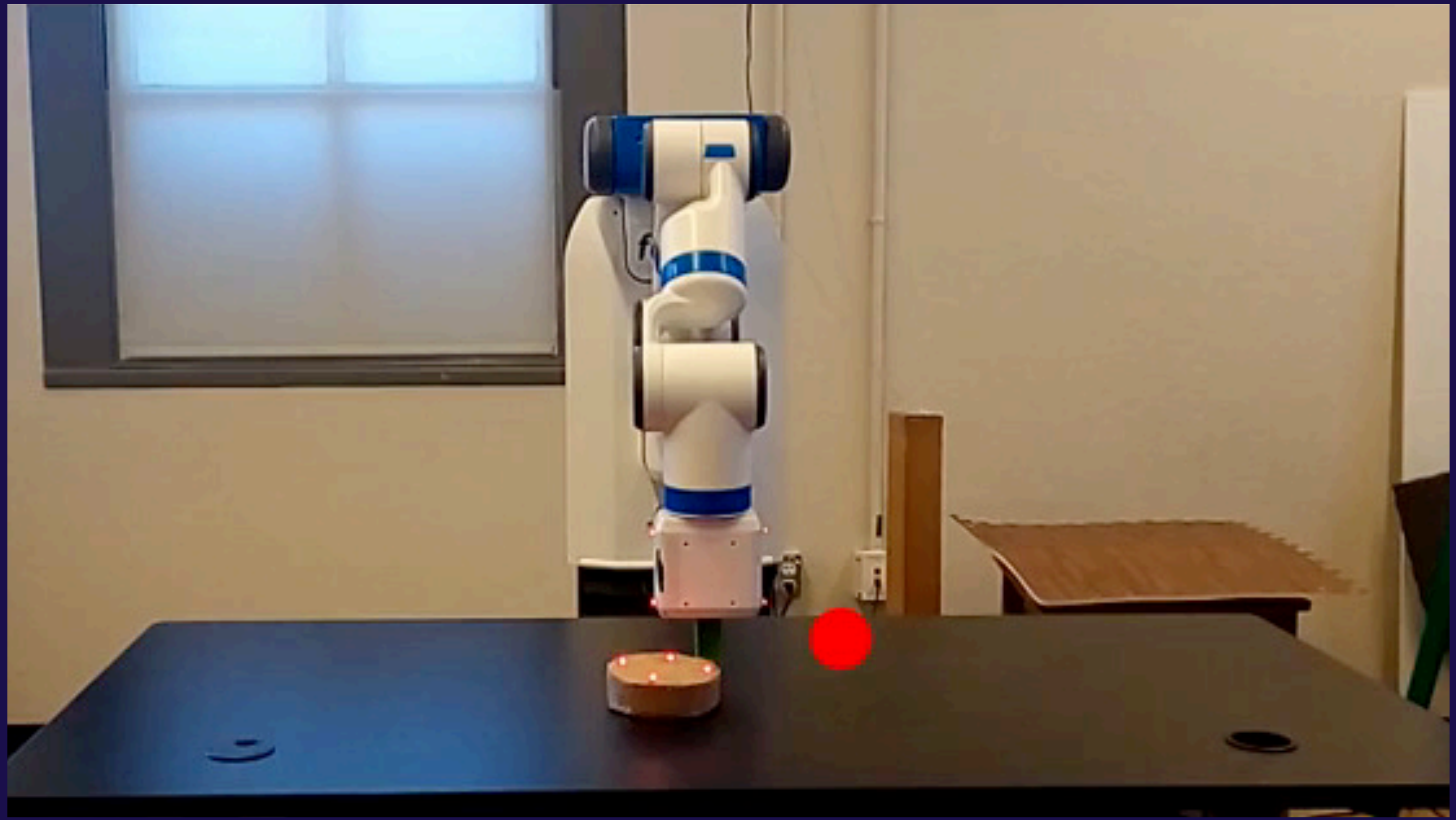


Tobin et al. (2017)

Physics Randomization



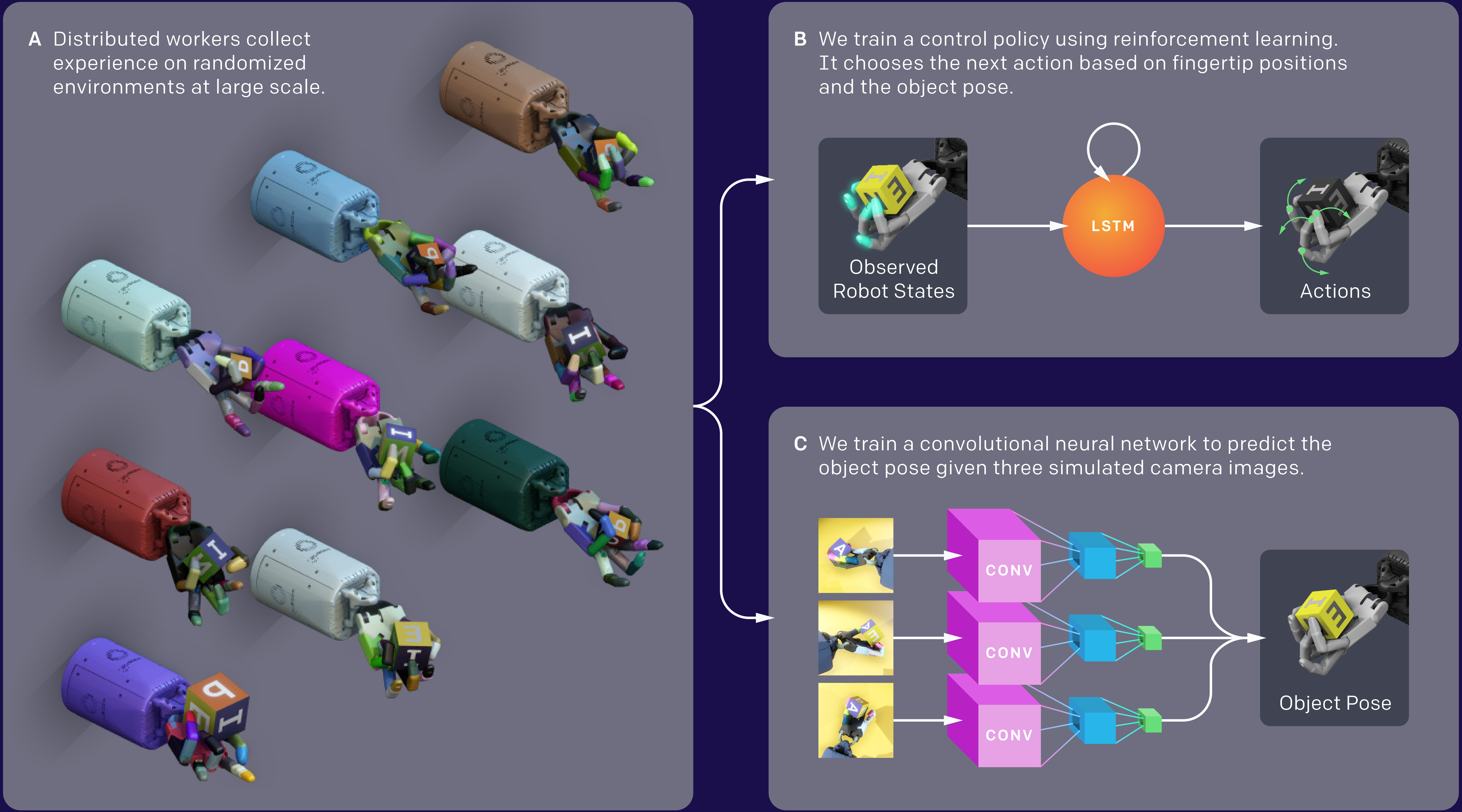
Physics randomization



No randomizations

Peng et al. (2017)

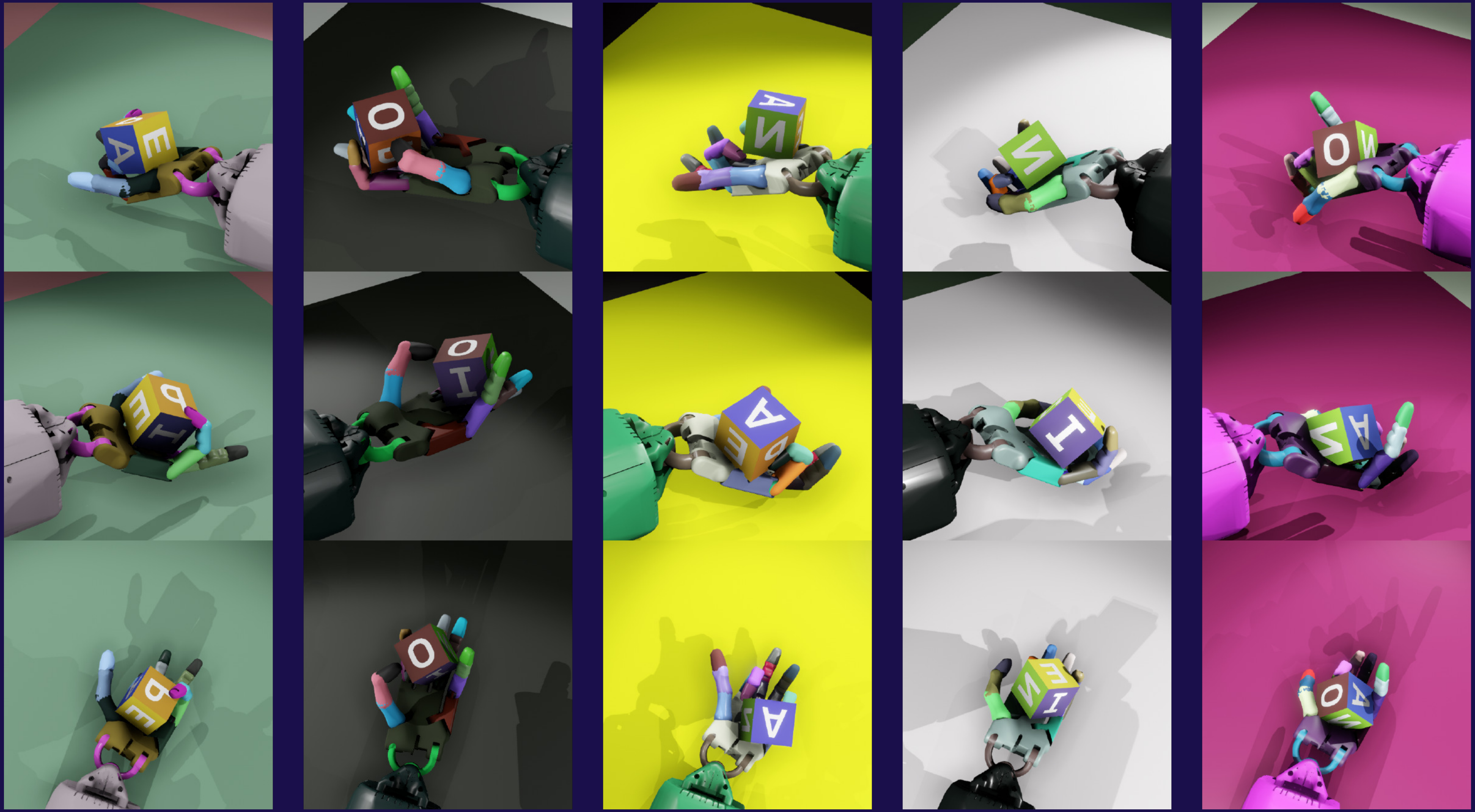
Learning Dexterity


A Distributed workers collect experience on randomized environments at large scale.
B We train a control policy using reinforcement learning. It chooses the next action based on fingertip positions and the object pose.
Observed Robot States
LSTM
Actions
C We train a convolutional neural network to predict the object pose given three simulated camera images.
CONV
CONV
CONV
Object Pose

Transfer to the Real World

D We combine the pose estimation network and the control policy to transfer to the real world.

Appearance Randomizations



Physics Randomizations

object dimensions

object and robot link masses

surface friction coefficients

robot joint damping coefficients

actuator force gains

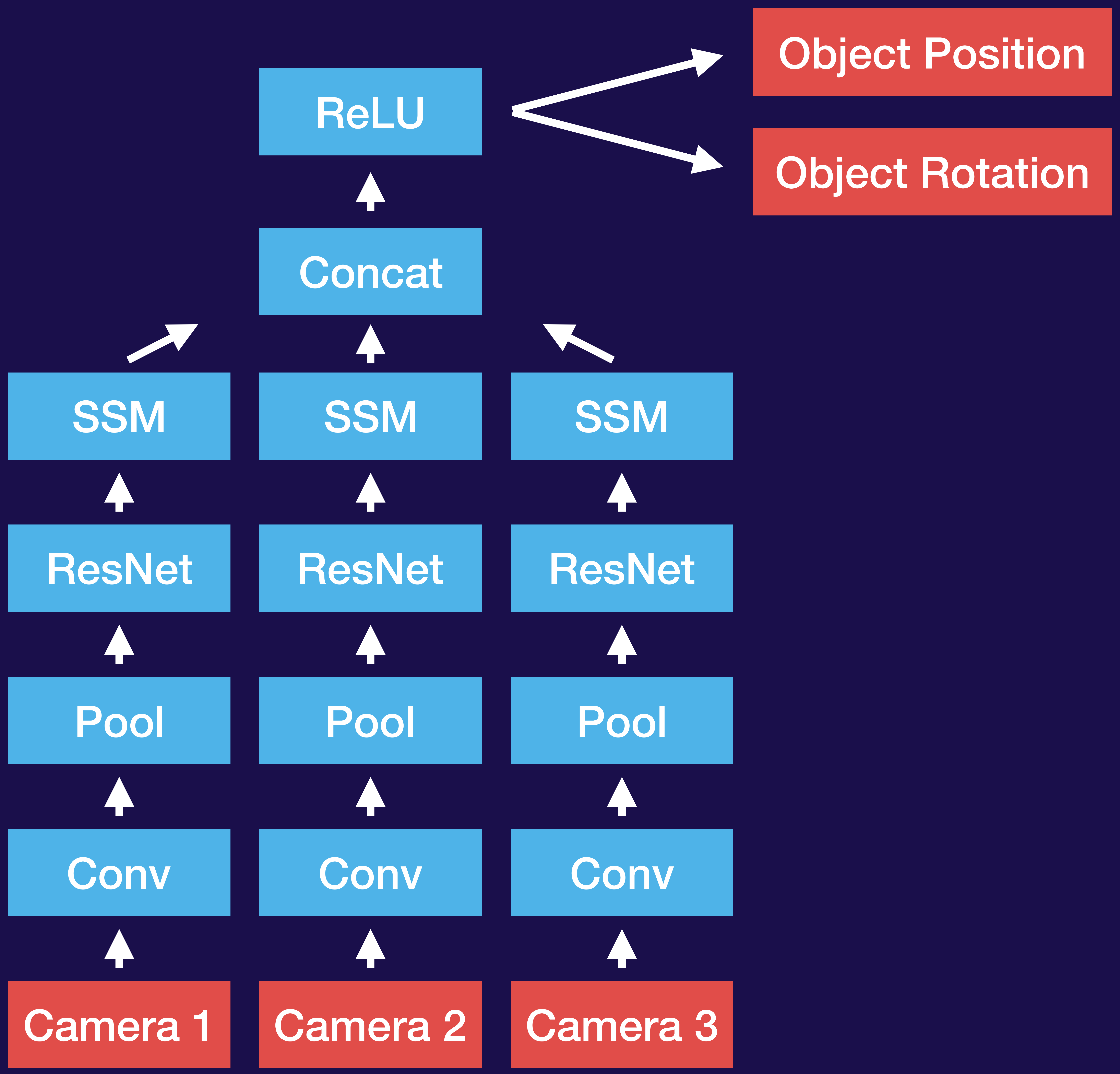
joint limits

gravity vector

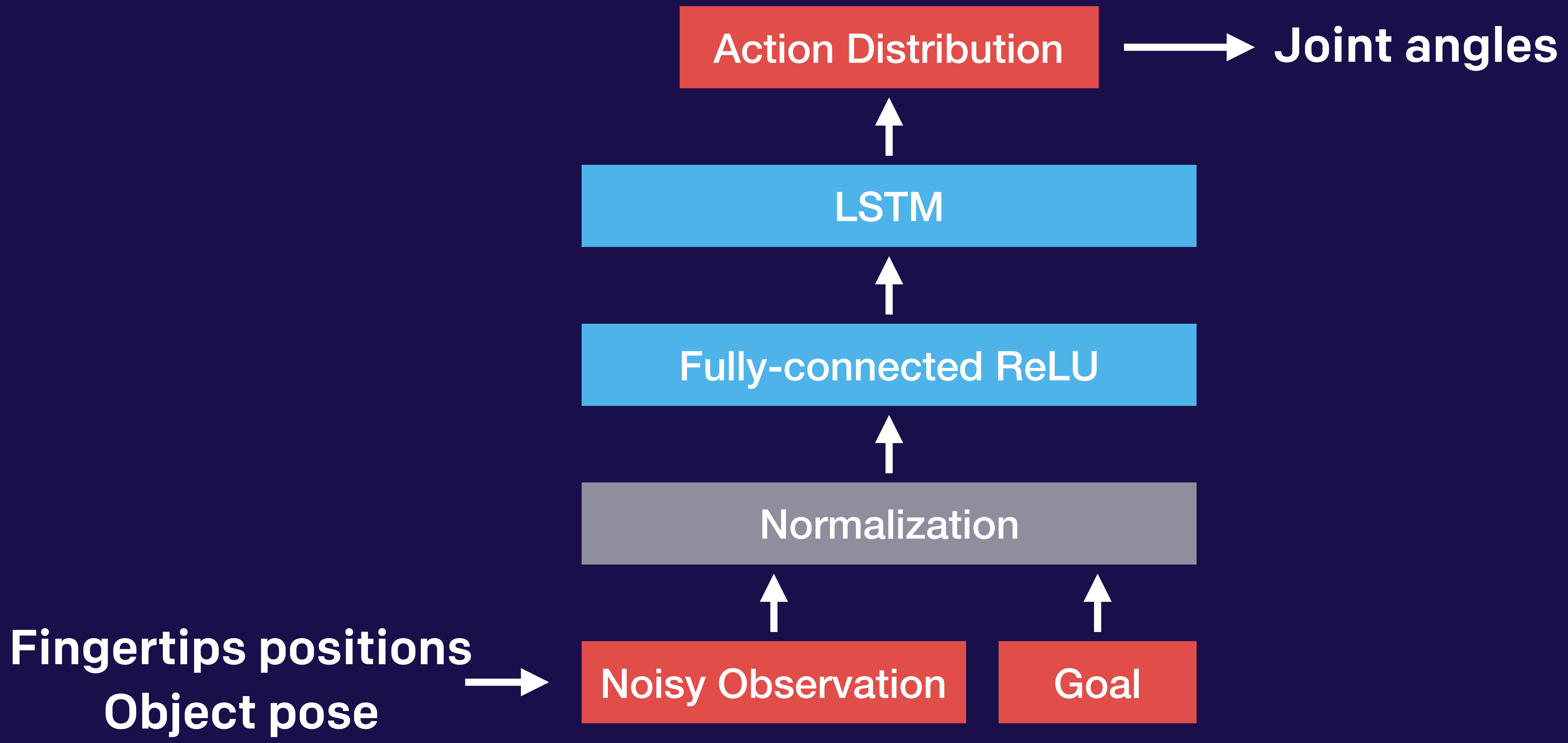
noisy observations

noisy actions

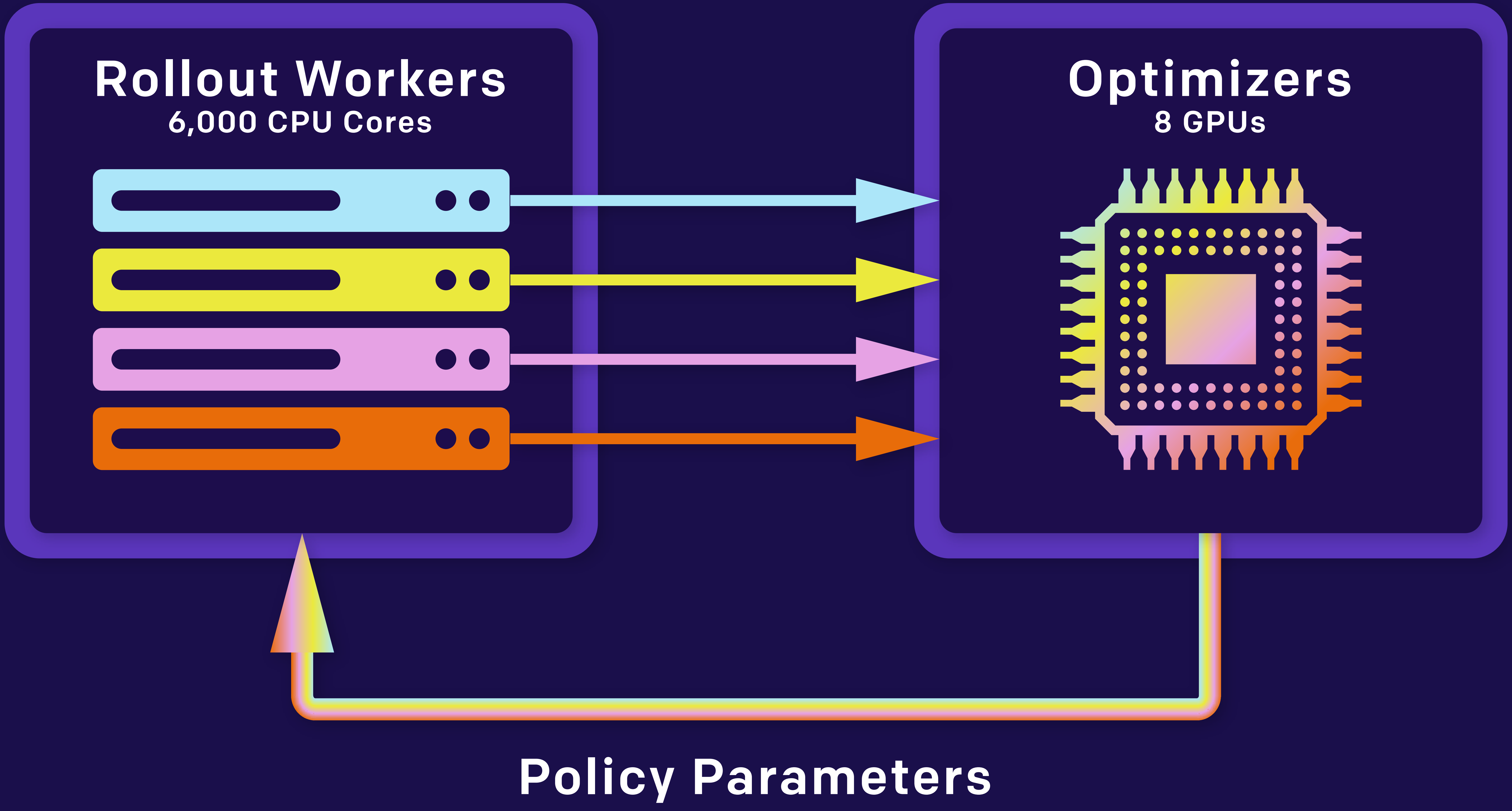
Vision Architecture



Policy Architecture



Distributed Training with PPO



Value Function

policy
inputs
(noisy)

fingertip positions

object pose

target orientation

---

hand joints angles

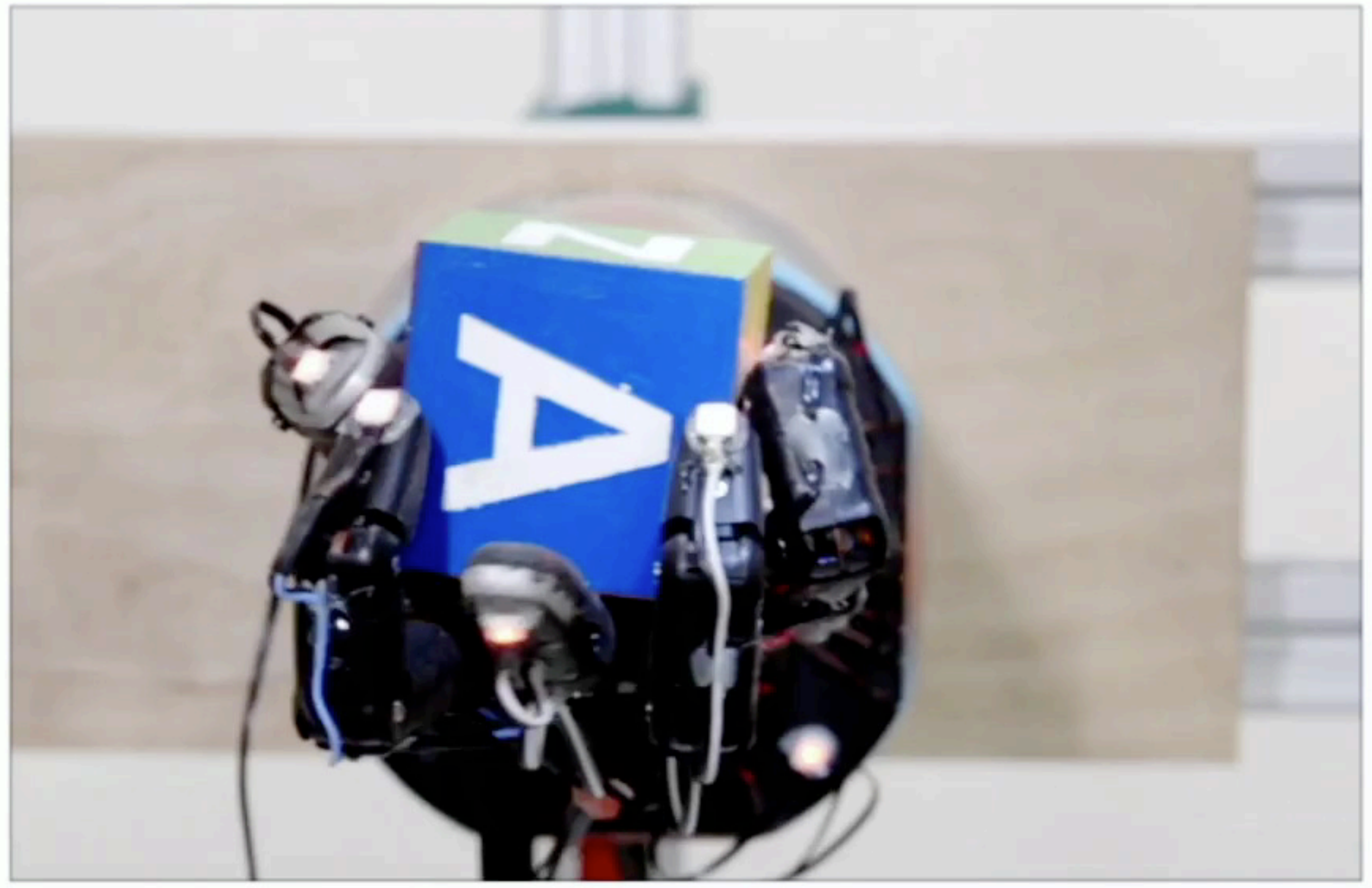
hand joints velocities

object velocity

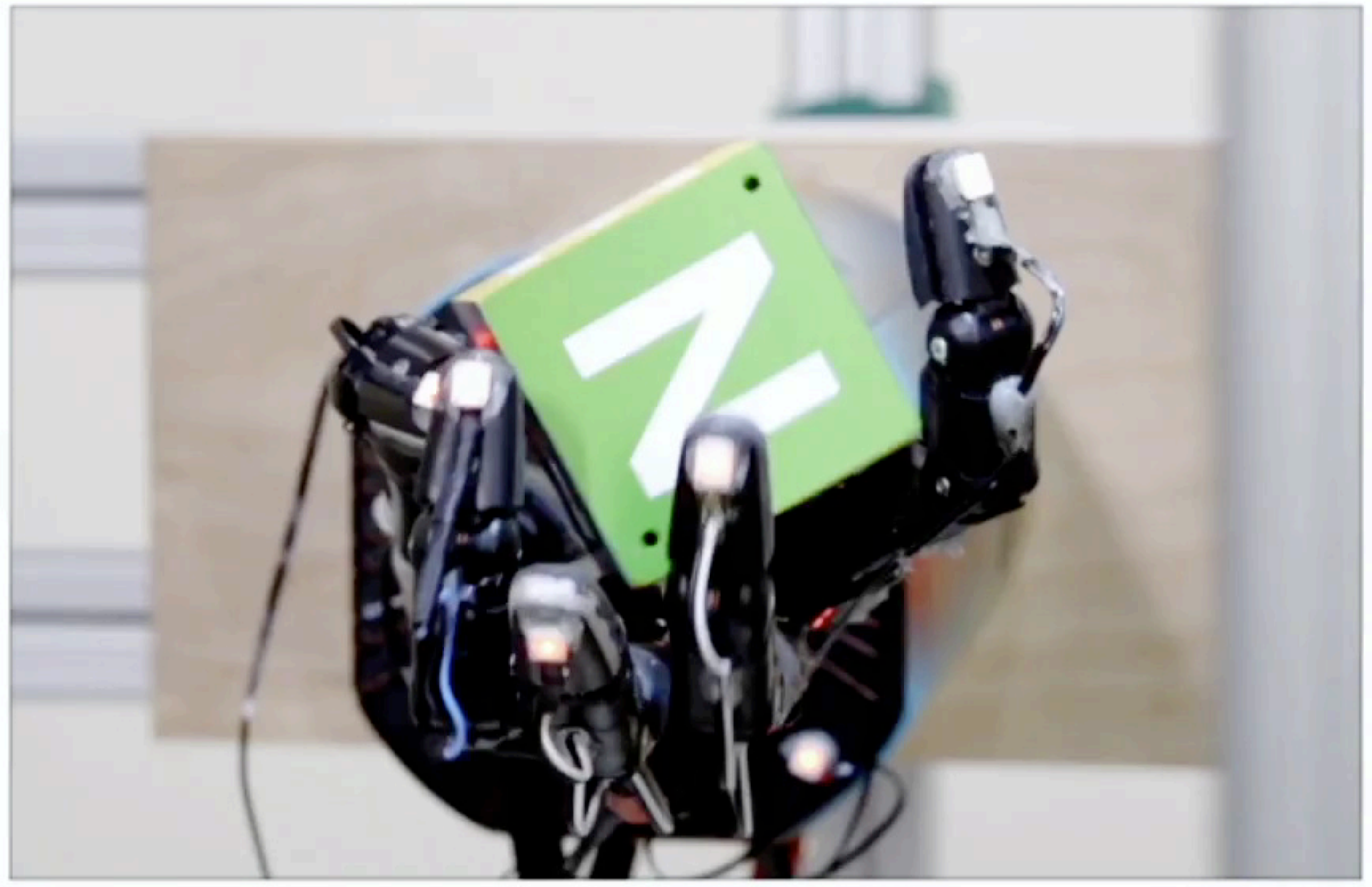
value function
inputs
(noise-free)

Results

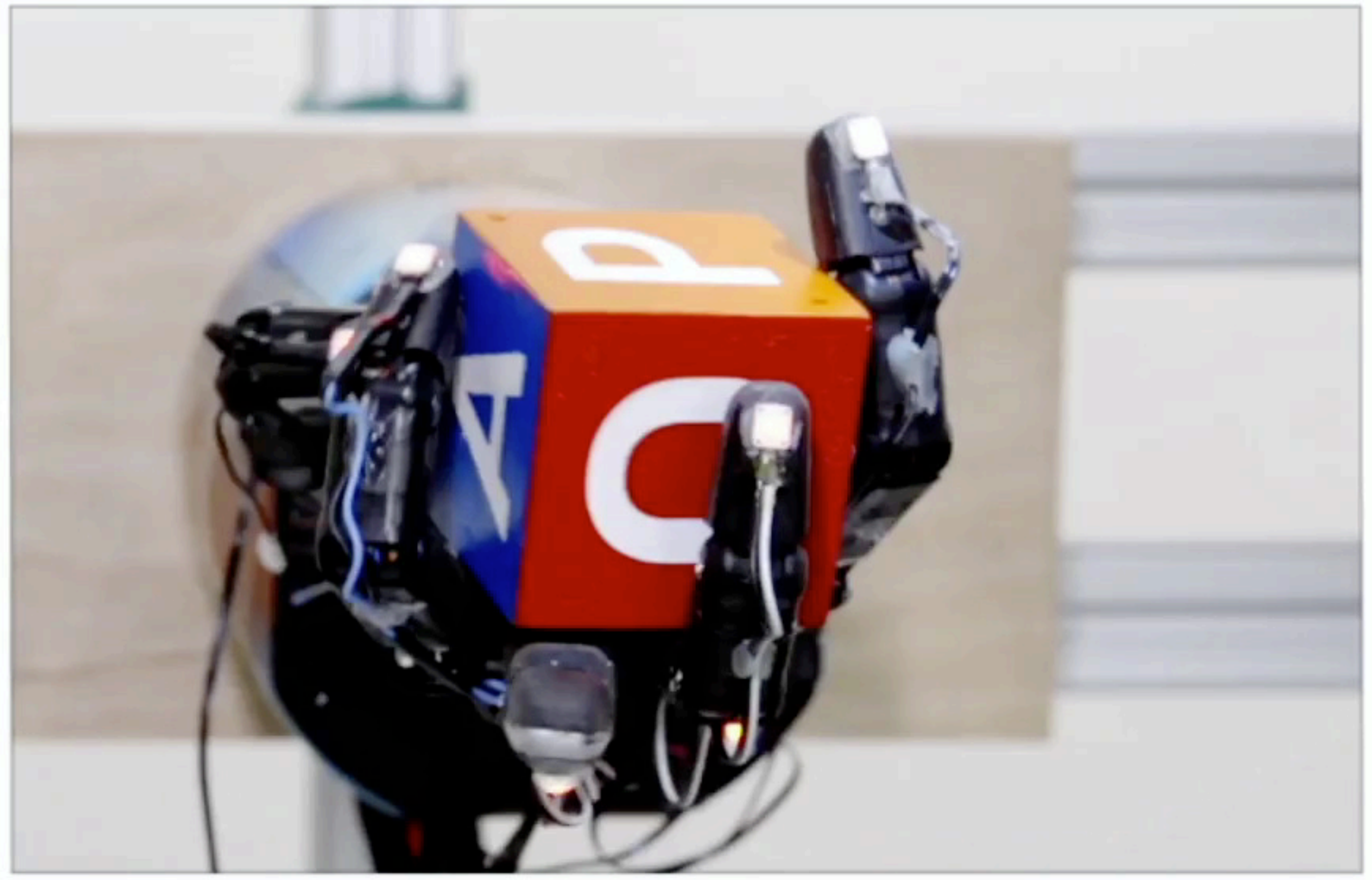
Emergent Behaviors



FINGER PIVOTING



SLIDING



FINGER GAITING

RANDOMIZATONS	OBJECT TRACKING	POLICY	NUMBER OF SUCCESSES	
			MEDIAN	MAX
None	Motion tracking	LSTM	0	6
All	Motion tracking	LSTM	13	50
All	Vision	LSTM	11.5	46
All	Motion tracking	FF	3.5	15

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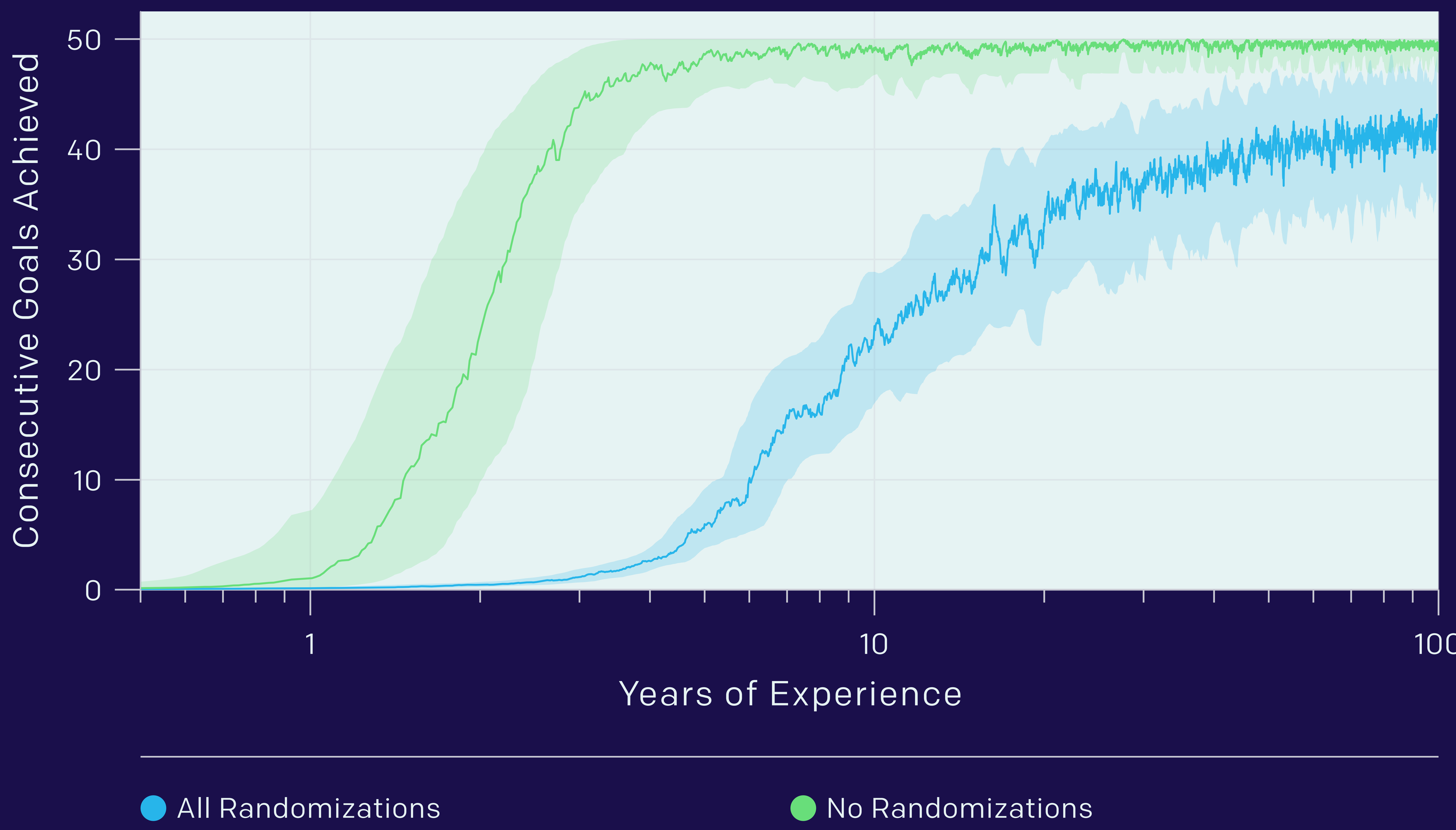
Training time



Distribution of environments

+

Memory

=

Meta-Learning

Thank You!

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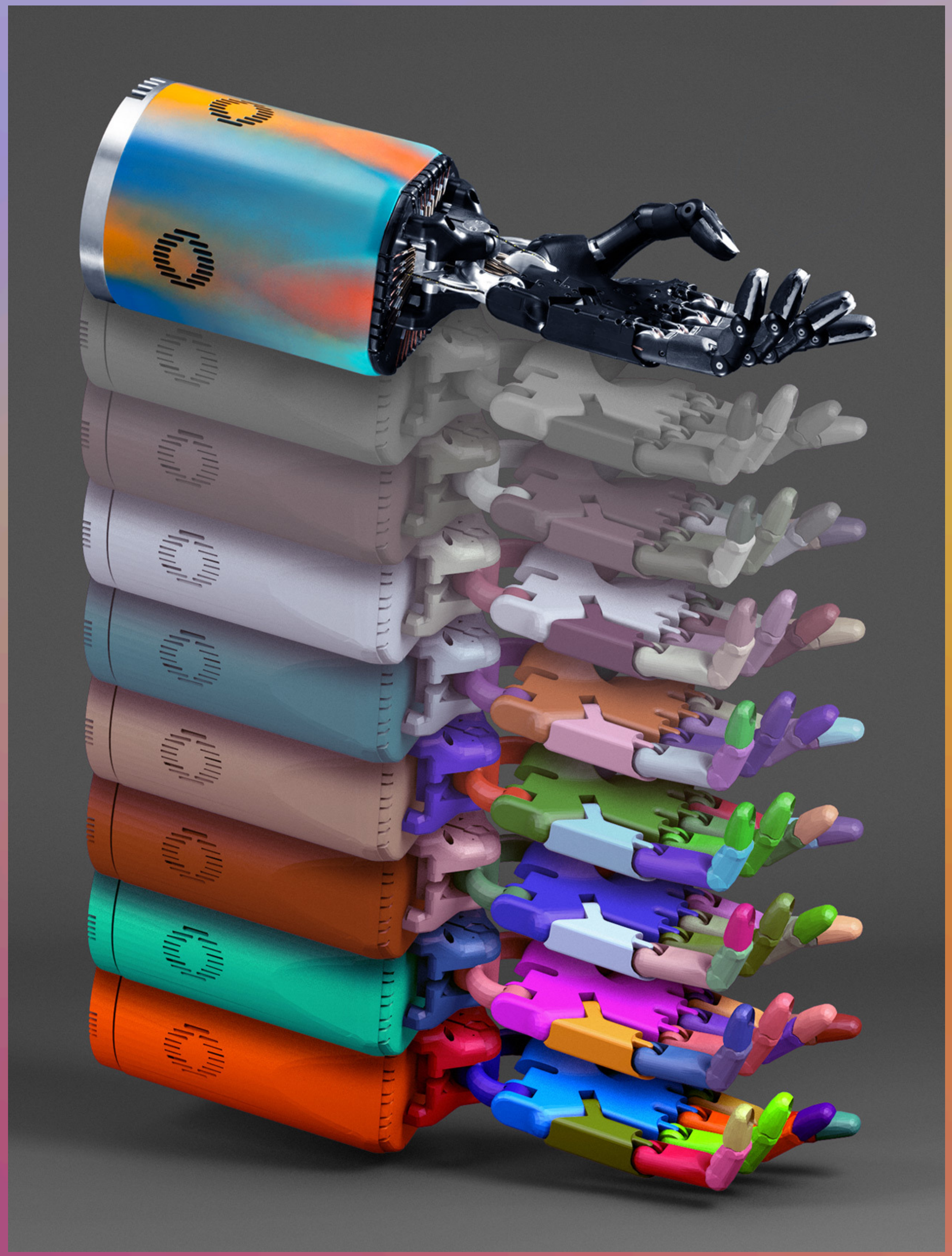
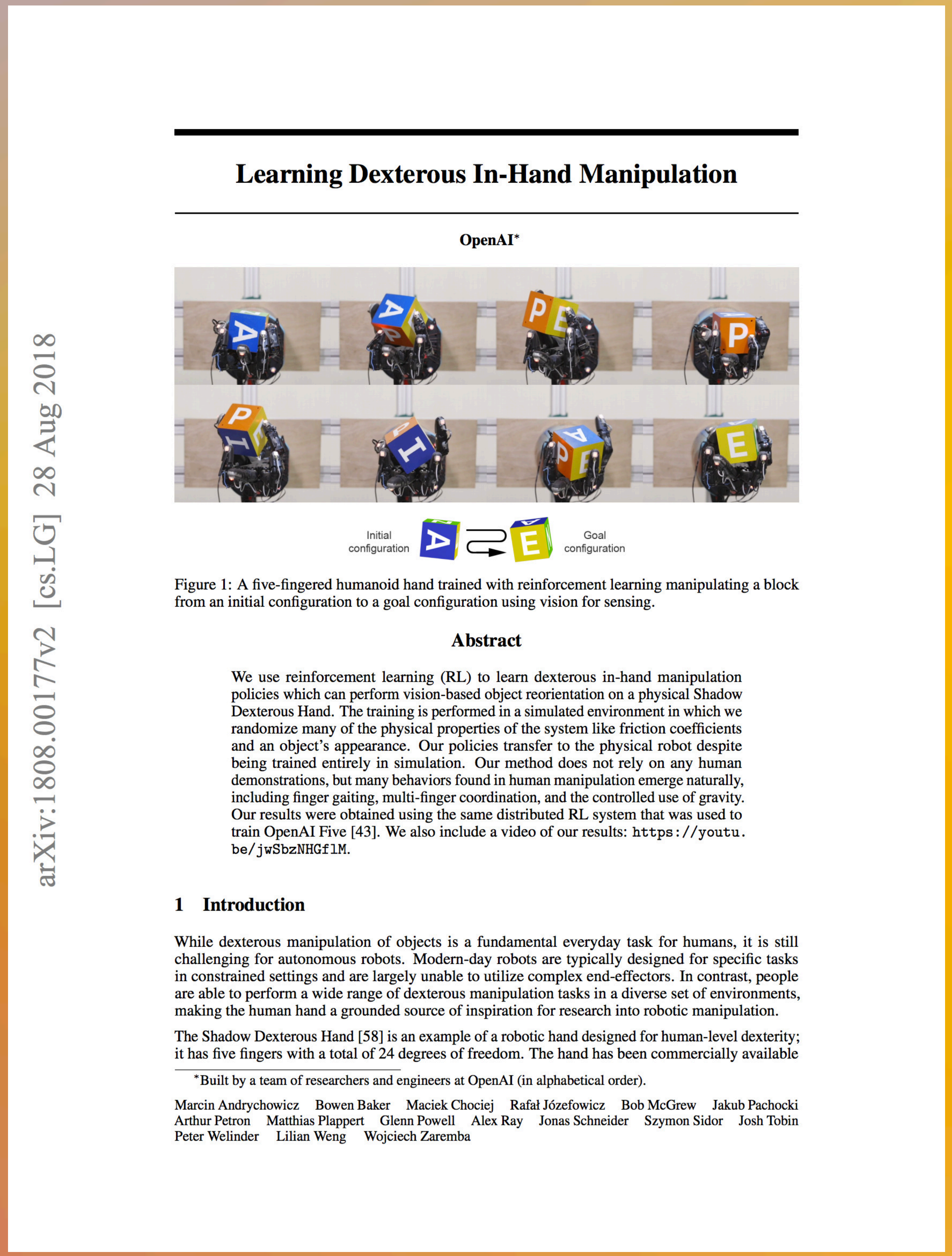
Blog Post



blog.openai.com/learning-dexterity

Paper



arXiv:1808.00177v2 [cs.LG] 28 Aug 2018

Learning Dexterous In-Hand Manipulation

OpenAI*

Initial configuration

Goal configuration

Figure 1: A five-fingered humanoid hand trained with reinforcement learning manipulating a block from an initial configuration to a goal configuration using vision for sensing.

Abstract

We use reinforcement learning (RL) to learn dexterous in-hand manipulation policies which can perform vision-based object reorientation on a physical Shadow Dexterous Hand. The training is performed in a simulated environment in which we randomize many of the physical properties of the system like friction coefficients and an object's appearance. Our policies transfer to the physical robot despite being trained entirely in simulation. Our method does not rely on any human demonstrations, but many behaviors found in human manipulation emerge naturally, including finger gaiting, multi-finger coordination, and the controlled use of gravity. Our results were obtained using the same distributed RL system that was used to train OpenAI Five [43]. We also include a video of our results: https://youtu.be/jwSbzNHGflM.

1 Introduction

While dexterous manipulation of objects is a fundamental everyday task for humans, it is still challenging for autonomous robots. Modern-day robots are typically designed for specific tasks in constrained settings and are largely unable to utilize complex end-effectors. In contrast, people are able to perform a wide range of dexterous manipulation tasks in a diverse set of environments, making the human hand a grounded source of inspiration for research into robotic manipulation.

The Shadow Dexterous Hand [58] is an example of a robotic hand designed for human-level dexterity; it has five fingers with a total of 24 degrees of freedom. The hand has been commercially available

*Built by a team of researchers and engineers at OpenAI (in alphabetical order).

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arxiv.org/abs/1808.00177