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# Co-adaptive Human Machine Teaming with a Reinforcement Learning Agent

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# Human Collaboration with Technology

## Safety



USAir Flight 5050



Asiana Flight 214



Garuda Indonesia Flight 200

- Number of crash incidents increased when pilot and co-pilot flew together for the first time
- Due to a lack of mutual understanding / co-adaptation

## Efficiency and Adoption

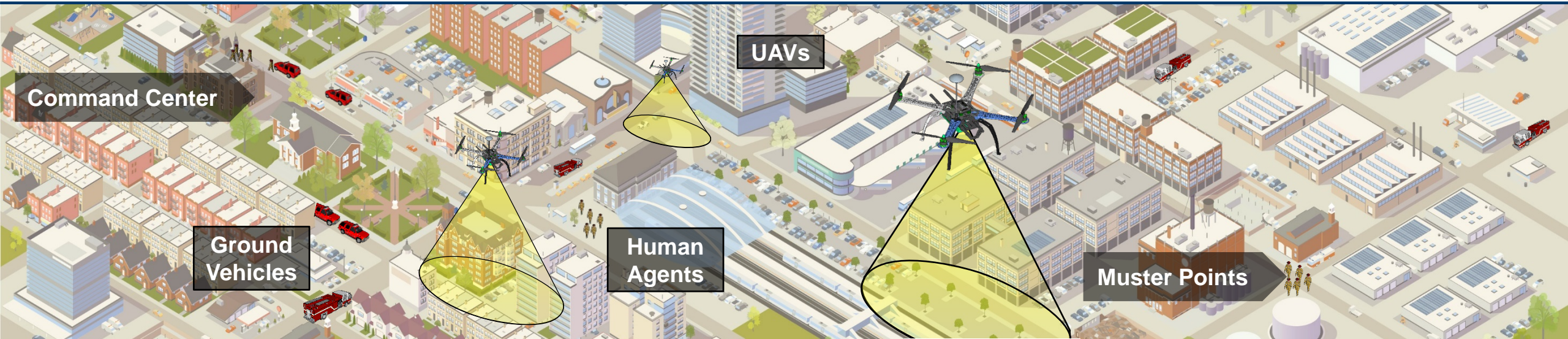


- Scrub nurses learn over years to anticipate surgeons' needs
- Robots require surgeon to select tools using gestures or voice commands
- This manual tasking slows down surgery, negating adoption, and potentially endangering patient

**Systems (human or automated) that do not understand their human collaborator suffer from decreased safety, efficiency, and rates of adoption**



# Collaboration Example: Search and Rescue



- **Humans team with autonomous vehicles to manage multiple roles and missions in complex environments**
- **Imagine introducing a swarm of smart UAVs to assist**
  - Will the technology be used?
  - Will it be used effectively?
  - Is the human-AI system robust?

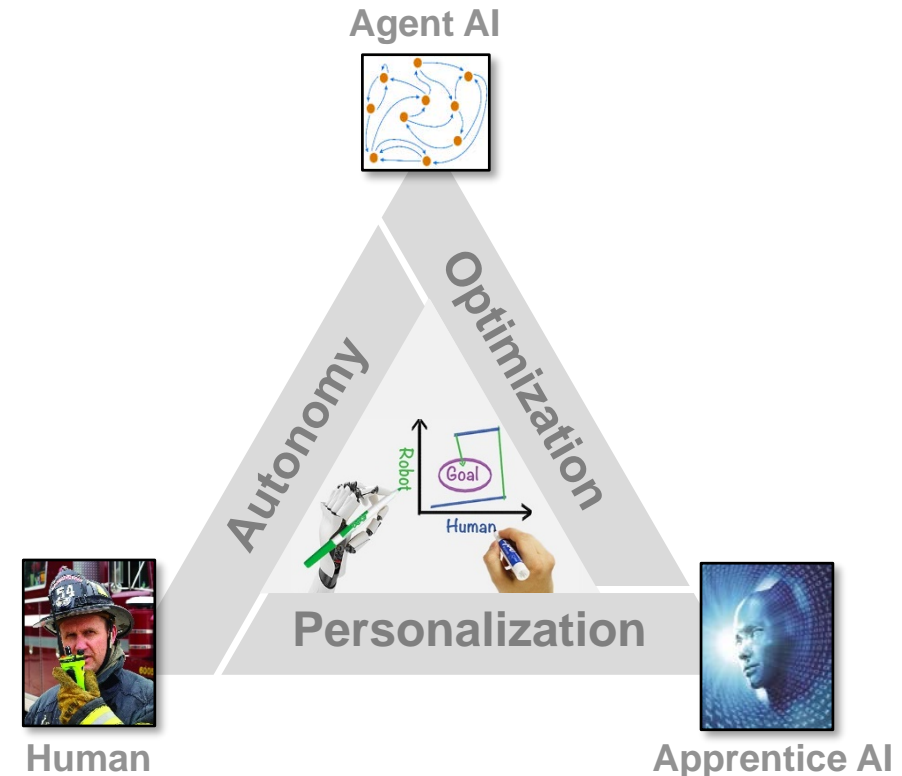
**Need to evaluate adoption and performance of human collaborators with new technology**





# Elements for Robust Human-AI Collaboration

- Flexible, human-aware AI
- Natural interface between human and machine
- Low barrier of entry for human involvement
- Iterative feedback process that incorporates behavior and performance



For robust human-AI teams, need AI technologies that can co-adapt



# Outline

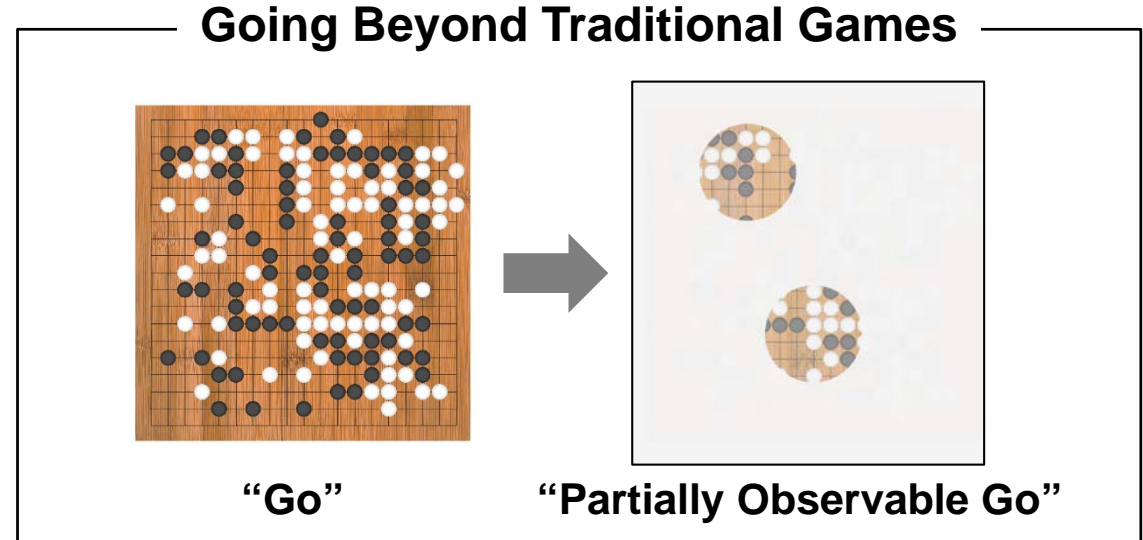
- **Motivation**
- **Development of Co-adaptive AI**
  - ➔ – **Optimization under Uncertainty**
  - **Personalization**
- **Human-machine Teaming Study**
- **Summary**



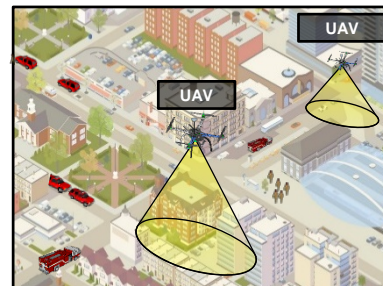
# Optimization under Real-world Conditions

<b>Optimization Challenges</b>
Environment Uncertainty
Outcome Uncertainty
Communication Limitations
Adversarial Behavior
High-dimensional Domain

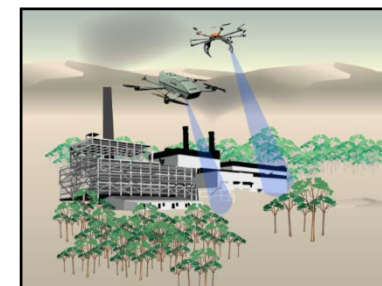
Optimization algorithms must deal with the *fog*, *friction*, and *chance* of real-world scenarios



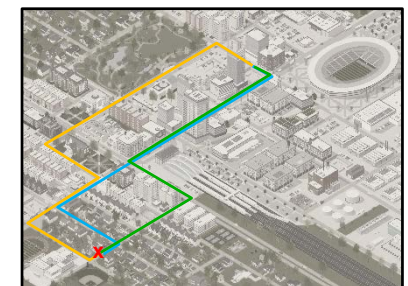
## Examples of Complex Real-world Problems



Search and Rescue



Hazardous Area Assessment



Dynamic Path Planning

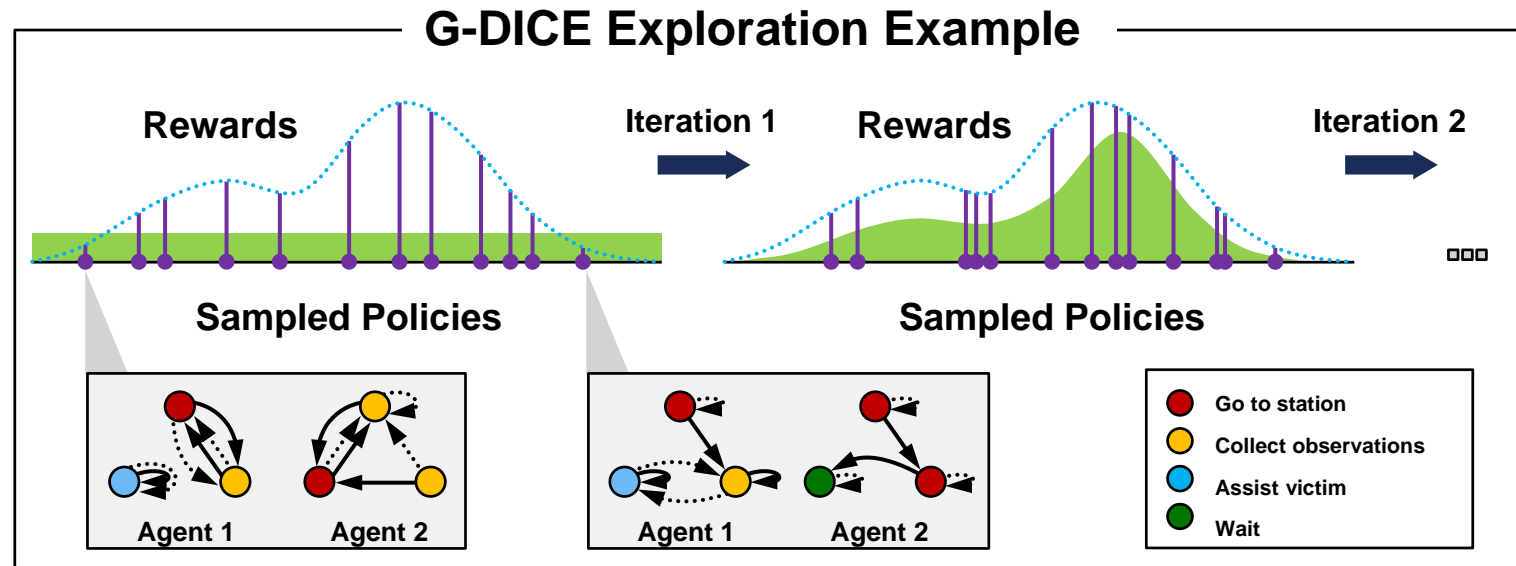
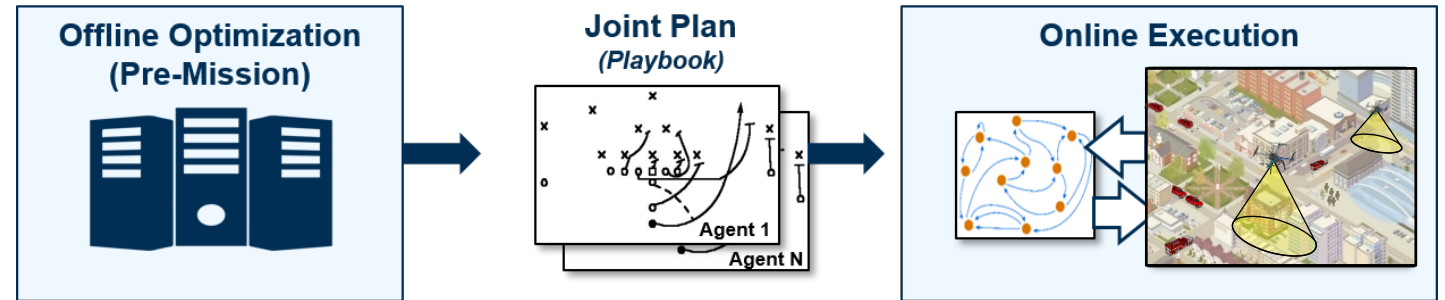


# Reinforcement Learning for Autonomous Agents

## Decentralized Multi-Agent Coordination with the G-DICE Algorithm



- Joint playbook optimized using the Graph-based Directed Cross Entropy (G-DICE) algorithm
  - General-purpose algorithm
  - Solves a Partially Observable Markov Decision Process (POMDP) with decentralized agents
  - Easily parallelized on a computing cluster
- Playbooks / policies executed as finite state machines in real-time
  - Require minimal computation
  - Adapt to changes and uncertainty in the environment
  - Work with or without communication

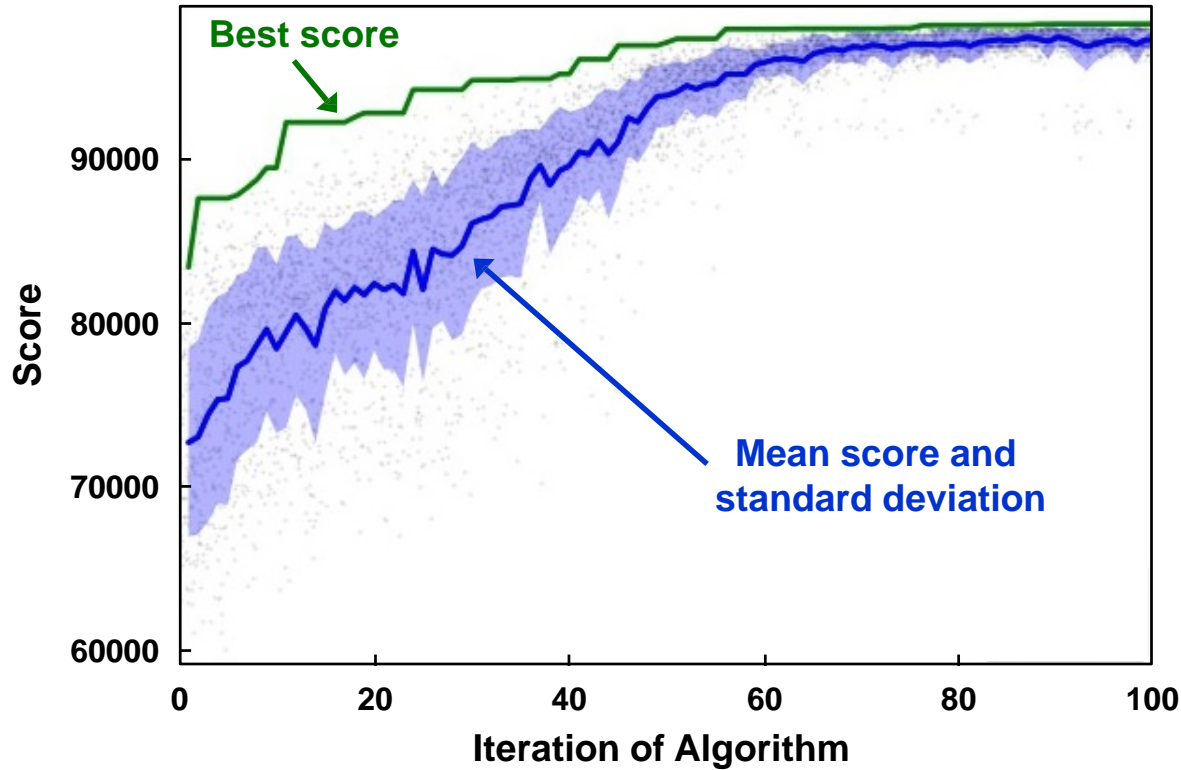


Approach can be applied to many challenging multi-agent coordination problems

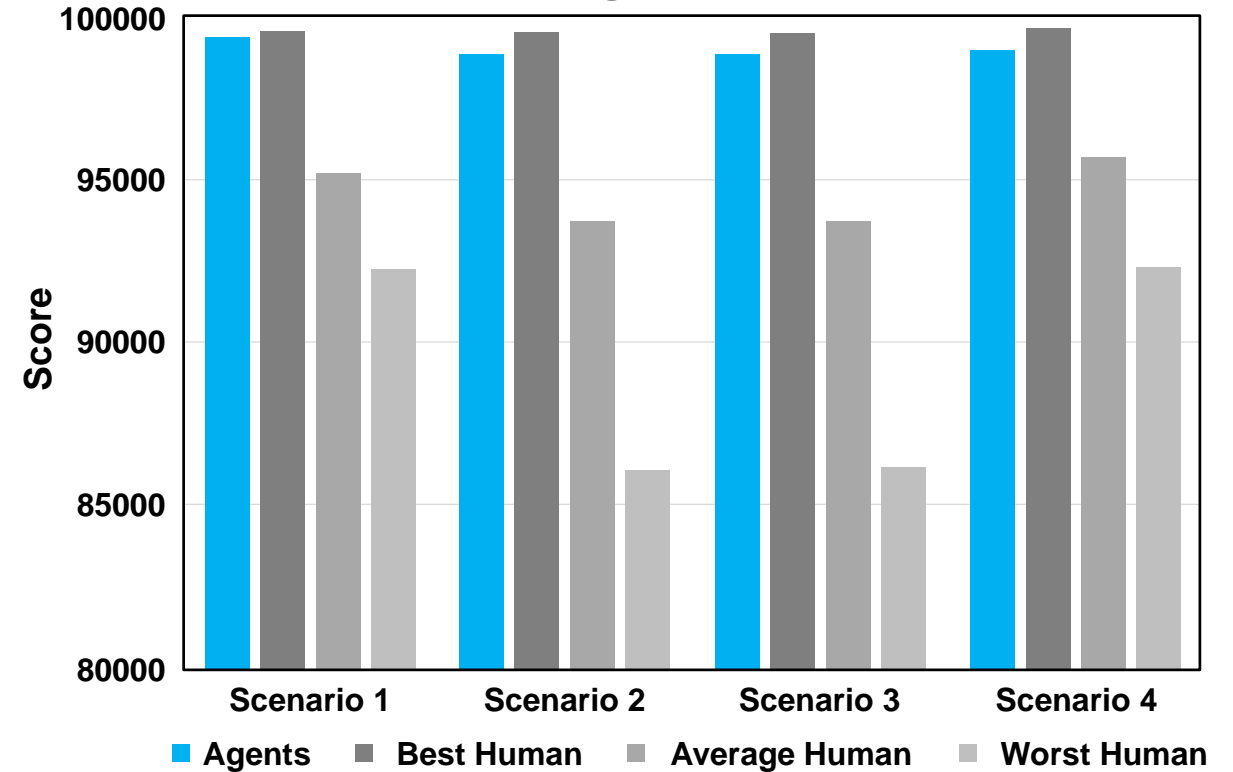


# G-DICE Agent Validation Results

### Gaming Environment Training Example



### Comparison with Human Performance in Gaming Environment



**Autonomous agent performance in game compares with that of high-performing humans**





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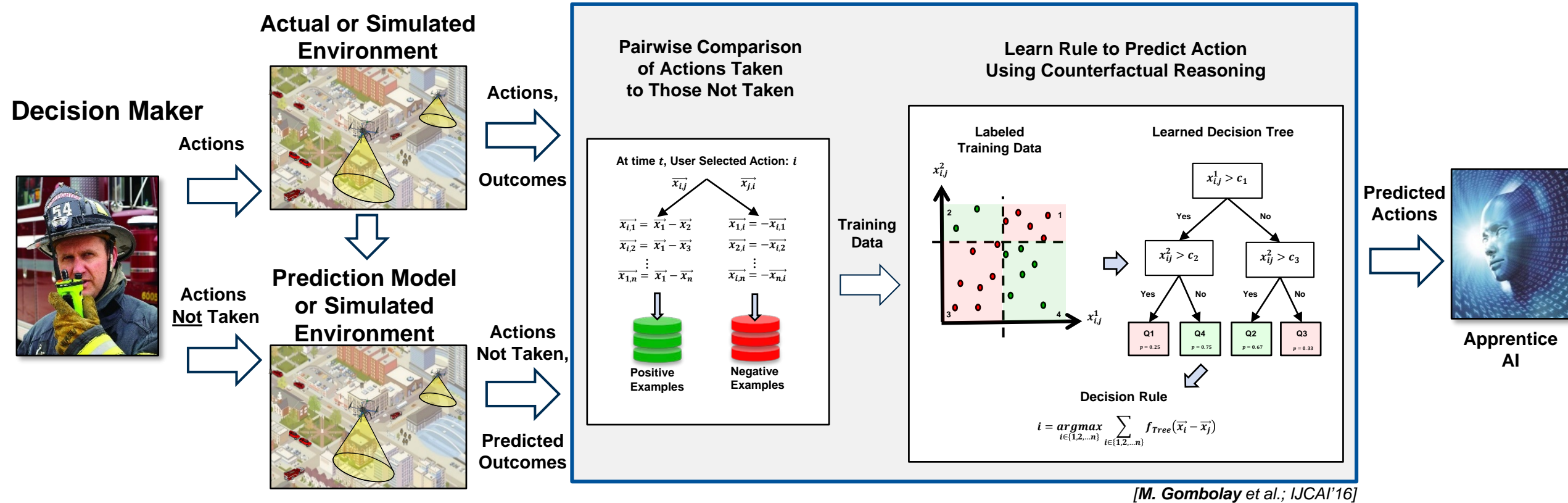
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# Modeling Human Behavior with Machine Learning: Apprentice AI



## Apprenticeship Scheduler



**Apprentice AI predicts future user actions by forming a decision tree using pointwise comparisons between actions taken and not**

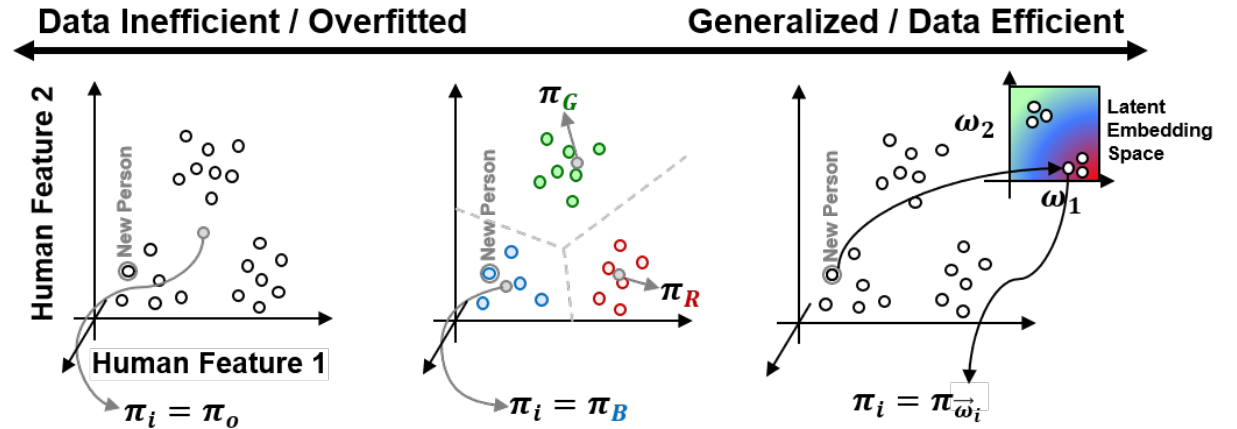


# Personalization with Apprenticeship Learning

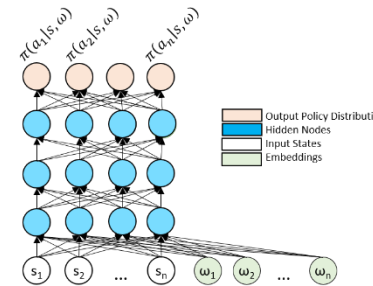


- Learn a personalized model using demonstrations from a heterogeneous population
  - Actions, observations, features are determined from gameplay
  - Personalized model leverages data from all users
  - Individual customization can be learned online
- World / transition model learned from gameplay
- Model variables represent individual qualities and can be interpreted from a decision tree

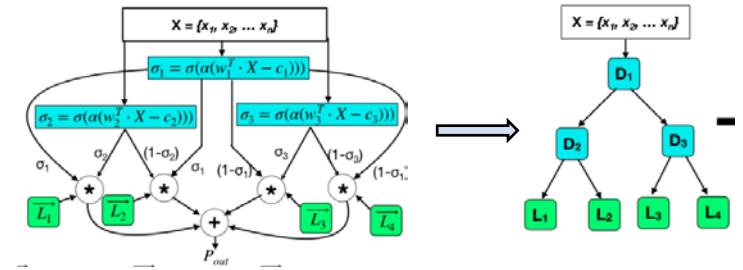
## Personalization with Heterogeneous Demonstrators



## Personalized Neural Networks and Decision Trees



Multi-layer Long Short-Term Memory Network with Personalized Embeddings



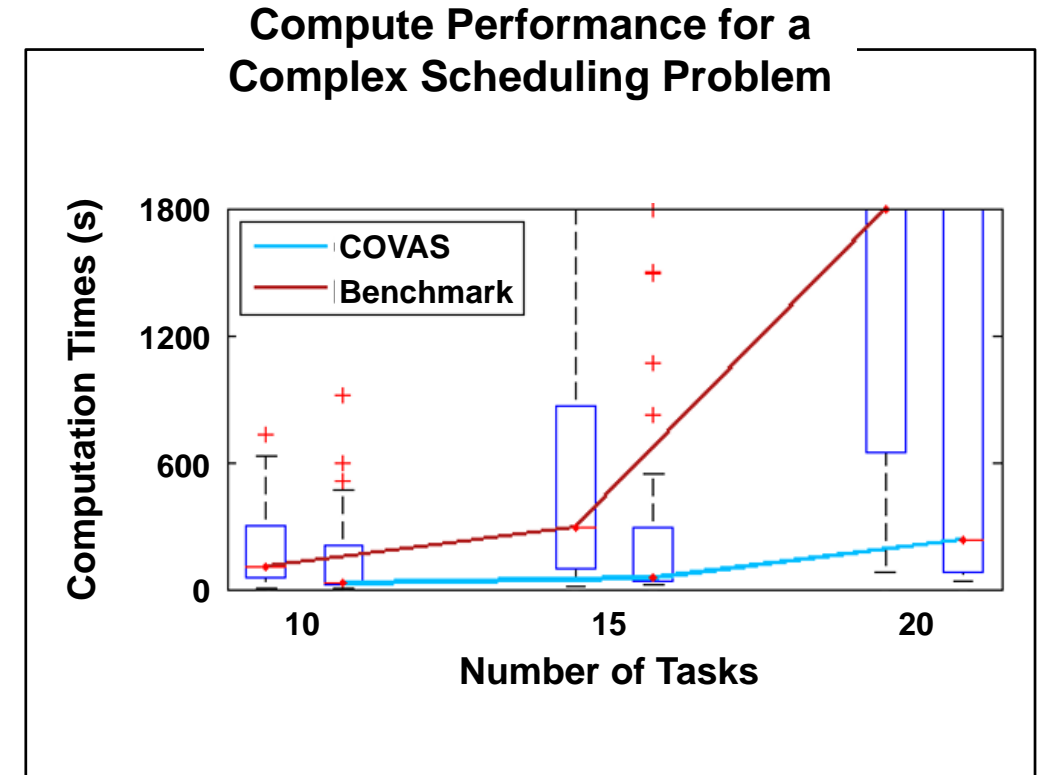
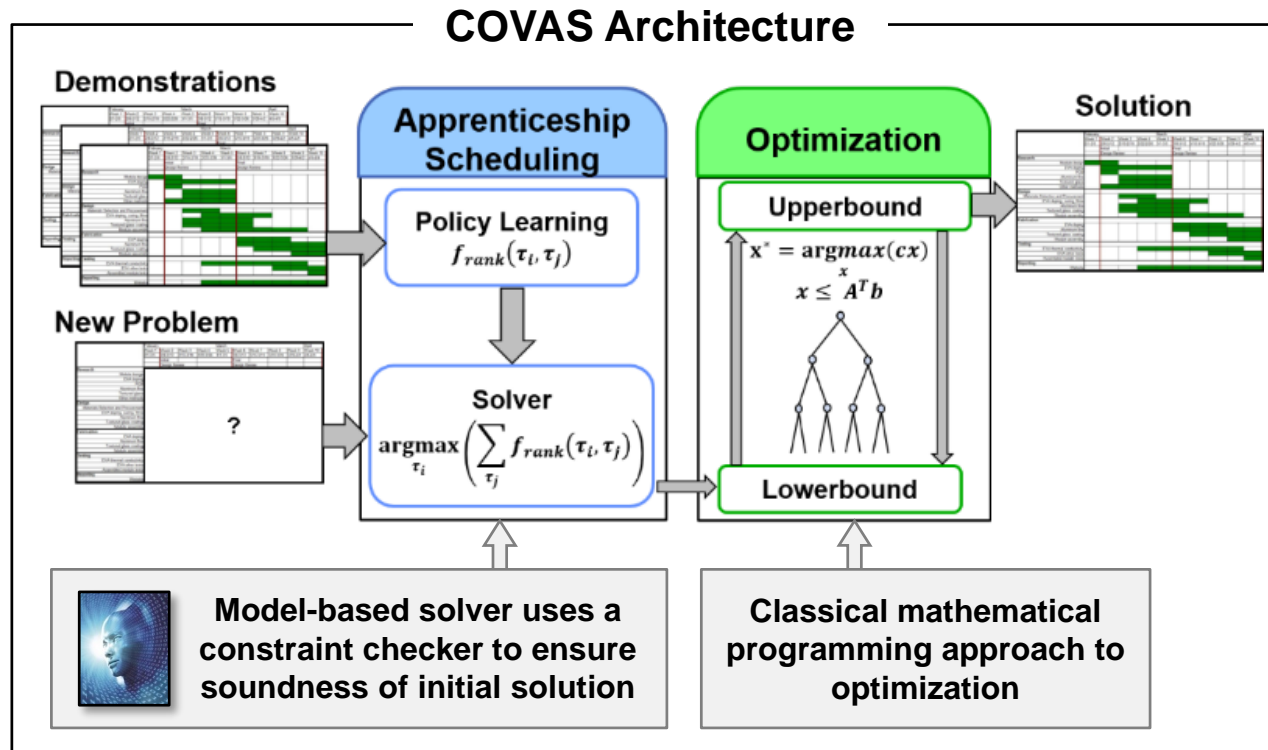
Conversion of Neural Network to Differentiable Decision Tree for Interpretability



# Collaborative Optimization Via Apprenticeship Scheduling (COVAS)



- Traditional optimization approaches rely on “warm starts,” which provide an initial guess lower bound on the optimality
- COVAS is a human-machine optimization technique that learns from human demonstrations how to warm start



**COVAS can solve problems with more tasks an order of magnitude faster than pure optimization**



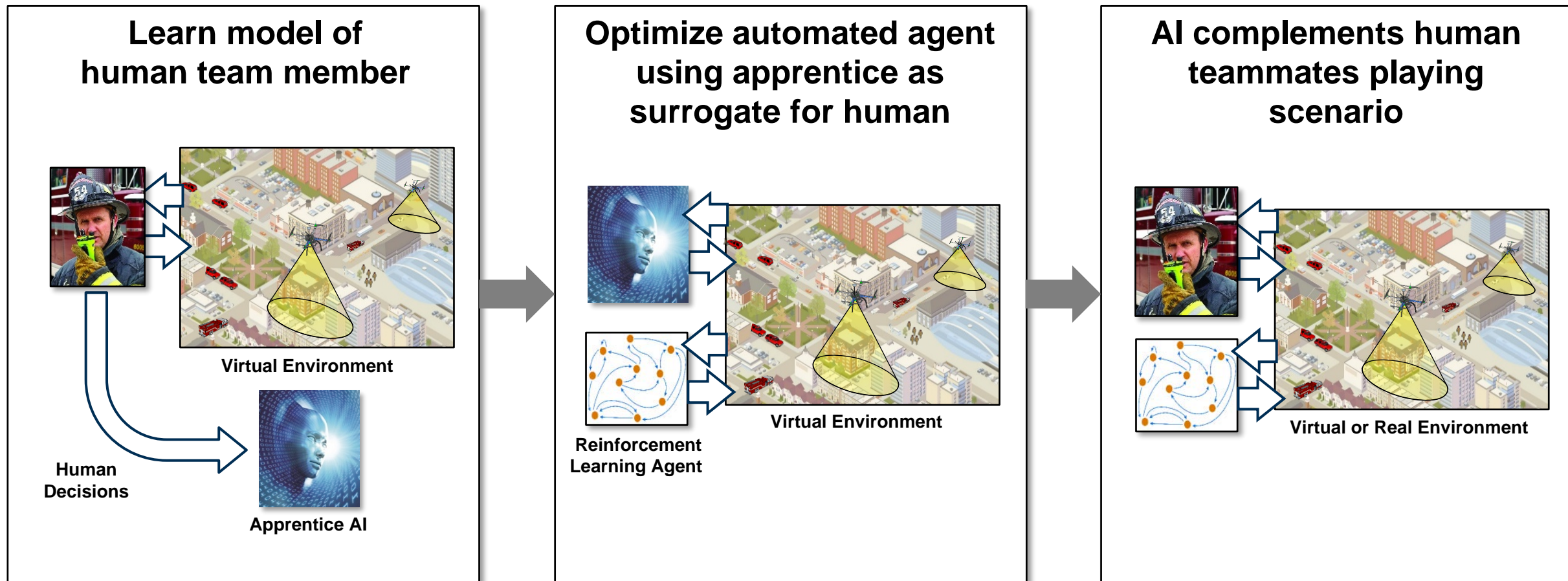


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# Human-Machine Teaming with Autonomous Agents



Iteration with co-adaptive AI enables robust human-AI teaming



# Human-Machine Teaming Study Overview

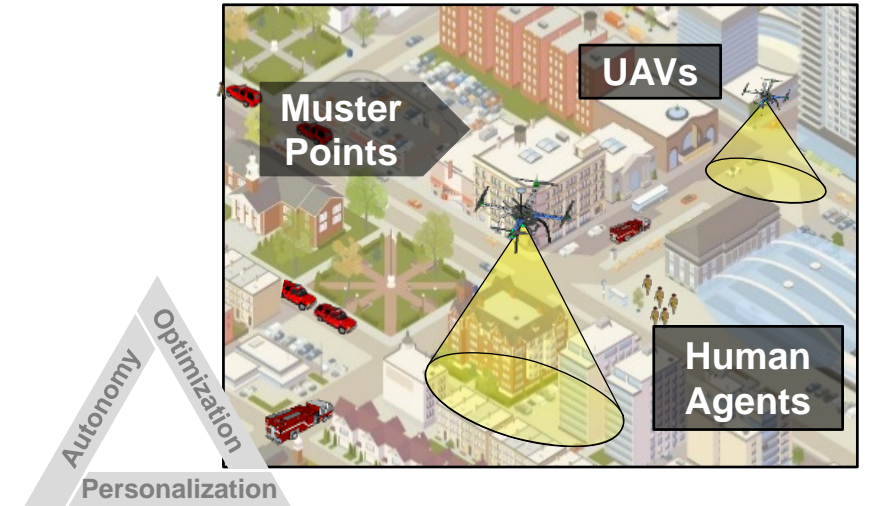


## • Hypothesis

- Human team with **personalized, optimized** autonomous helper agent will be preferred and most efficient

## • Scenario

- Human given a task in a virtual environment to rescue victims using rescue personnel and an unmanned air vehicle (UAV) decoy
- Player must use both personnel and the UAV to obtain perfect score
- UAV controlled by an automated algorithm trained under four conditions:

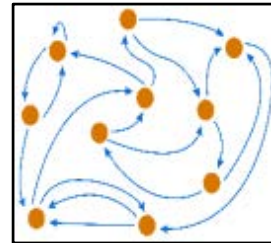


Manual (untrained)



Human user controls personnel and UAV

Optimized Without User Input



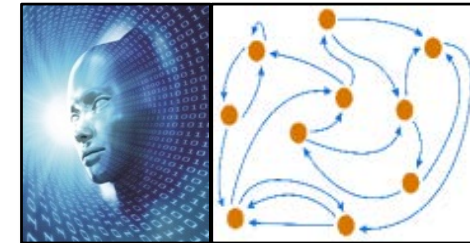
UAV finds optimal stations ignoring user preferences

Preference-based



UAV finds stations based on user demonstrations

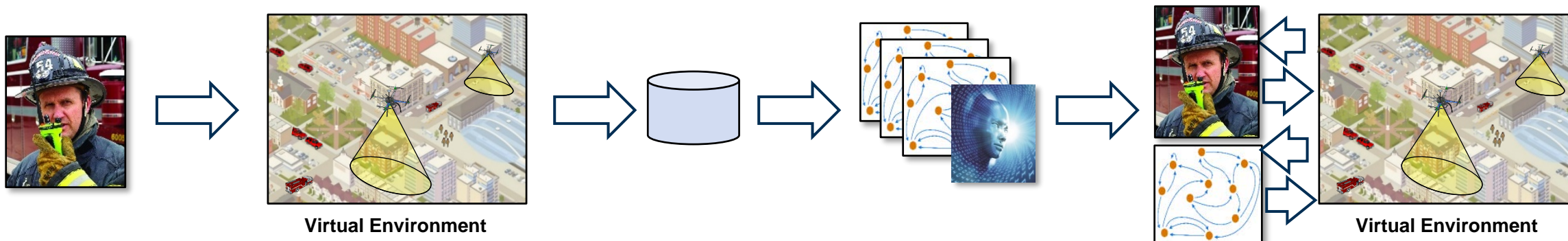
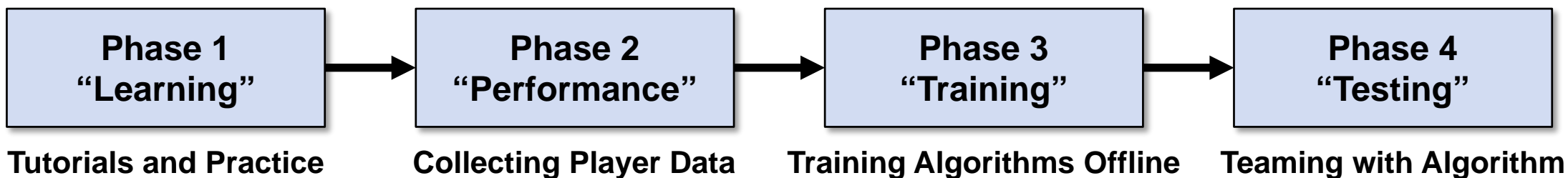
Preference-based and Optimized



UAV finds optimal stations given user demonstrations



# Experiment Implementation



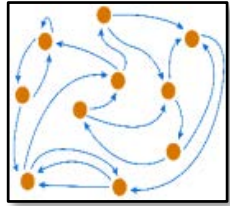
- Participants play long enough to settle on a strategy but not enough to get perfect score
- UAV agent algorithm trained offline between Performance and Testing sessions
- Participants team with UAV agent but are not told algorithm objectives or training conditions





# Example Human-Machine Teaming Results

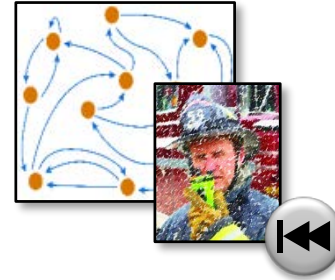
Human Agnostic (“Idle”)



Raw Playback



Raw Playback + Randomization



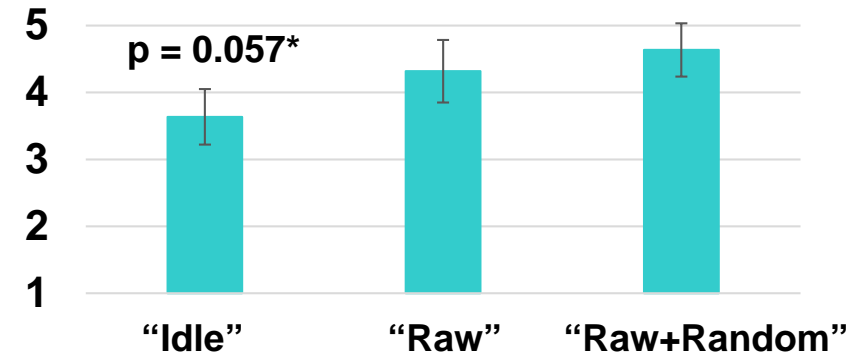
Human-Trained Apprentice



### Number of Resources Used per Agent Type



### Subjective Score for “The AI lowered my workload”



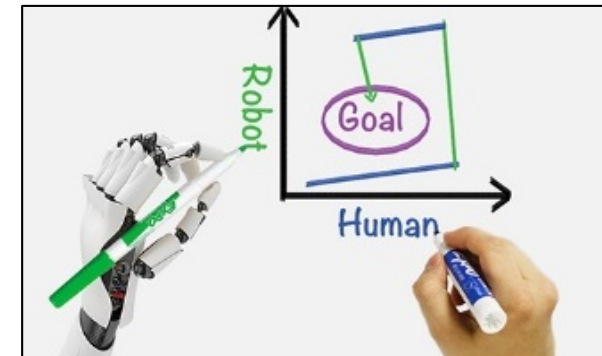
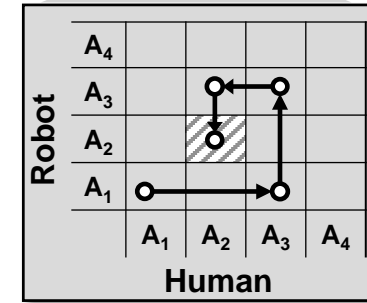
Players used fewer resources when teaming with AI trained with previous gameplay

Players indicated lower workload when using AI trained with previous gameplay



# Next Steps

- **Complete 2019 study analysis**
  - Tested all four conditions, including apprentice with personalized embeddings
  - Over 40 participants
- **Teach learning agents to co-adapt as human changes behavior**
  - Agent learns changing objectives
  - Assess convergence or divergence of human and AI within game-theoretic framework
- **Dynamically share roles and tasks over time**
  - Human takes over or cedes tasks depending on cognitive load and performance
  - AI naturally adjusts





# Summary

- **Must consider the human element when designing AI solutions with human teammates**
- **Flexible AI solutions exist that can incorporate individual preferences and population behaviors in a natural way**
- **Preliminary experiment results suggest reinforcement learning algorithm with human demonstrations may increase efficiency and reduce workload**
- **Work to incorporate co-adaptation and task sharing ongoing**



# Acknowledgements

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