

# Is Deep Reinforcement Learning ready for applications?

Elena Mocanu

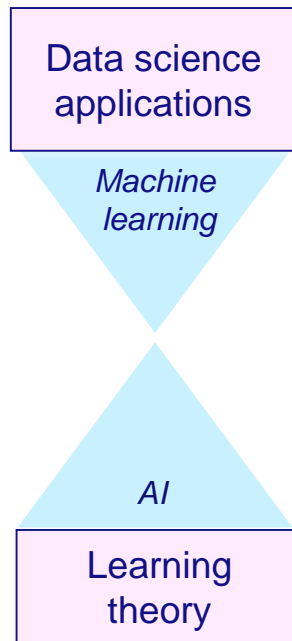
Mechanical Engineering,  
Control System Technology group  
Dynamics and Control group

**TU** / **e**

Technische Universiteit  
**Eindhoven**  
University of Technology

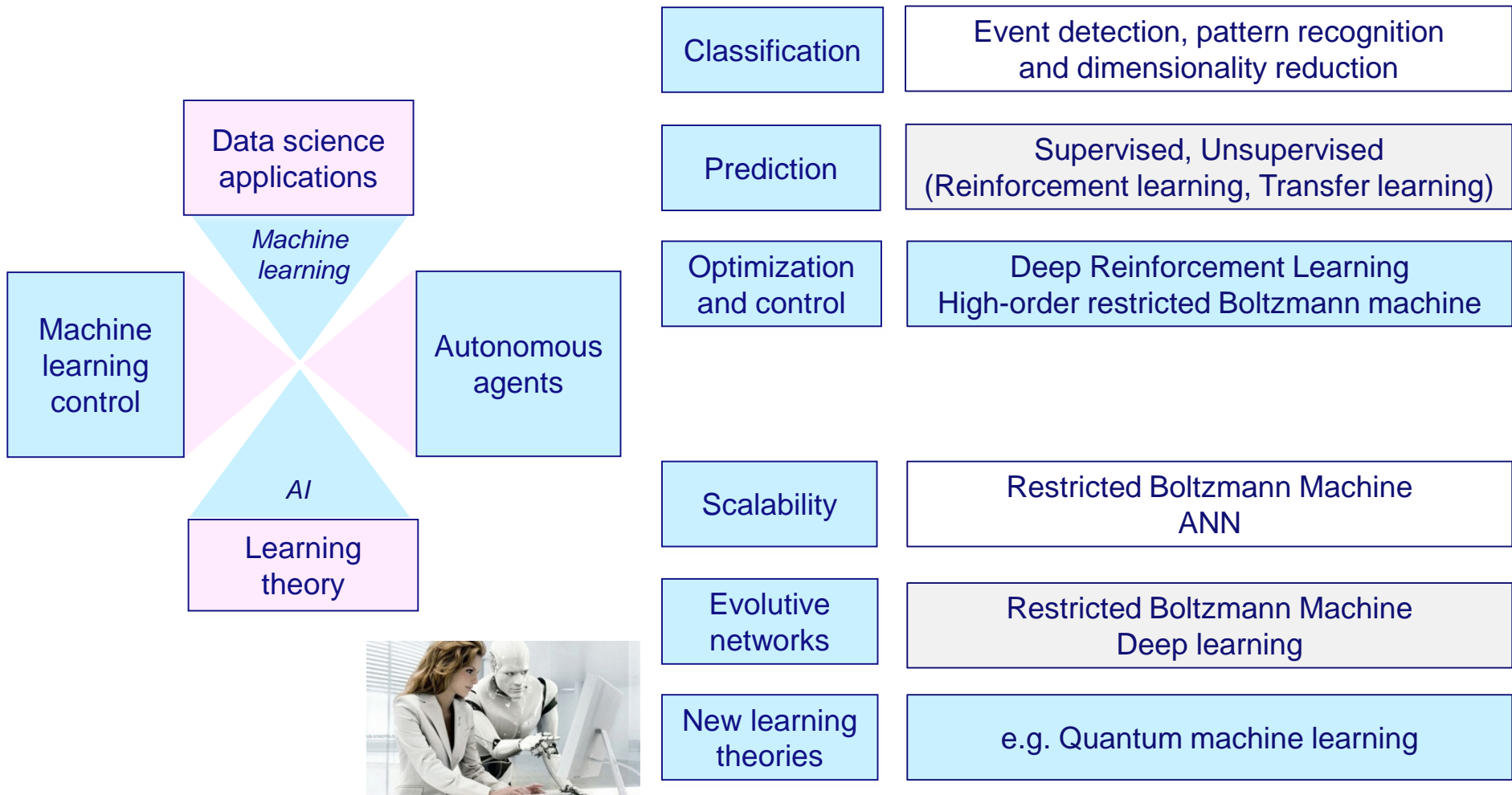
**Where innovation starts**

# Research background



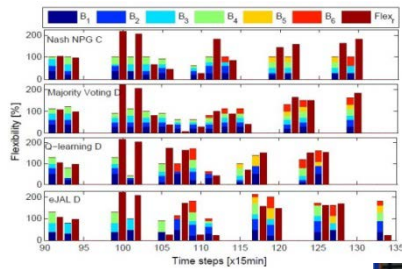
Classification	Event detection, pattern recognition and dimensionality reduction
Prediction	Supervised, Unsupervised (Reinforcement learning, Transfer learning)
Optimization and control	Deep Reinforcement Learning High-order restricted Boltzmann machine
Scalability	Restricted Boltzmann Machine Artificial Neural Networks
Evolutionary networks	Restricted Boltzmann Machine Deep learning

# Research background



# Data science applications

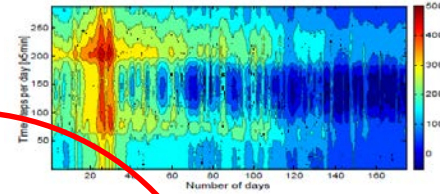
Resource allocation (MAS strategies)



Handwritten Digit Recognition



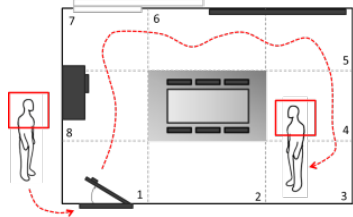
Energy prediction



Machine learning control of respiratory system



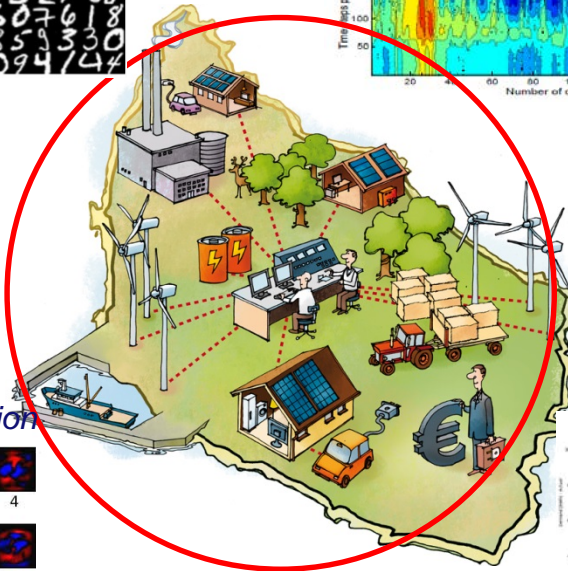
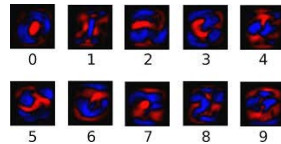
People detection and tracking



Robotics

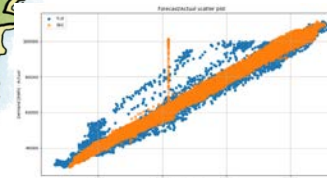


Image classification

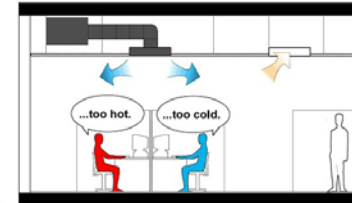


Learning theory

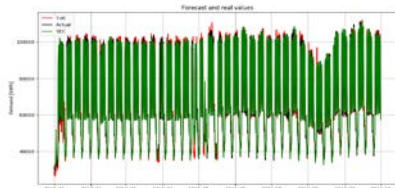
Pattern recognition



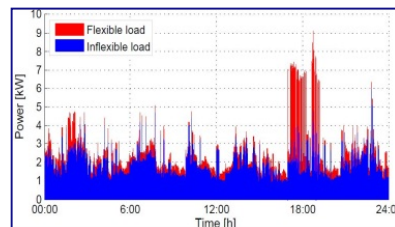
Thermal comfort



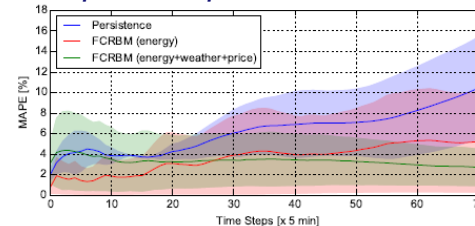
Price forecasting



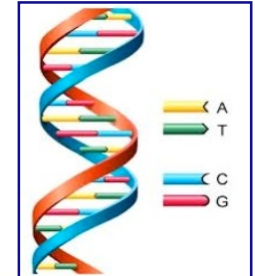
Energy disaggregation



Demand forecast in a price-responsive context



MicroRNA identification

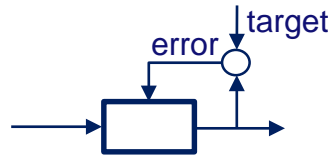


Technische Universiteit Eindhoven University of Technology

# Why Deep Reinforcement Learning?

- ML in a Nutshell

## Supervised learning



### Methods

- ▶ Support Vector Machine
- ▶ Artificial Neural Networks
- ▶ Decision Trees,...

### Specific tasks:

- ▶ Classification
- ▶ Regression (prediction)

### Type of data:

- ▶ **Training data includes desired outputs.**

## Unsupervised learning



### Methods

- ▶ k-mean clustering
- ▶ Restricted Boltzmann Machine

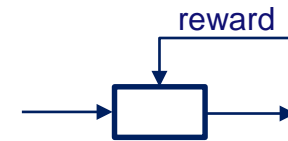
### Specific tasks:

- ▶ Discover clusters
- ▶ Discover factors/structures

### Type of data:

- ▶ **Training data does not include desired outputs.**
- ▶ 75% data are unlabeled

## Reinforcement learning



### Methods

- ▶ Q-learning
- ▶ SARSA

### Specific tasks:

- ▶ Decision making process
- ▶ Control
- ▶ Strategic optimization
- ▶ On-line learning

**Rewards from sequence of actions.**

# Reinforcement Learning

- **Fundamental concepts -  
Dynamic Game Theory**



From 2-player Zero-Sum Games...

(Neumann, 1928)



... to a solution for n-player Games.

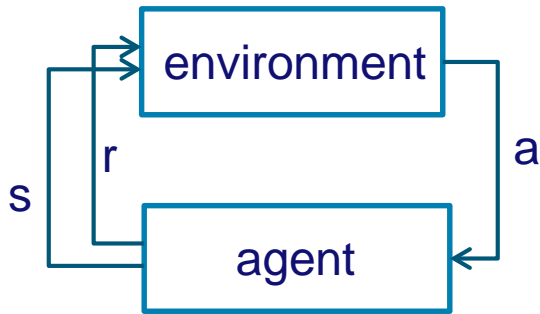
(John Nash, 1951)

**MIT  
Technology  
Review**

**10 Breakthrough  
Technologies  
2017**

1. Reversing Paralysis
2. Self-Driving Trucks
3. Paying with Your Face
4. Practical Quantum Computers
5. The 360-Degree Selfie
6. Hot Solar Cells
7. Gene Therapy 2.0
8. The Cell Atlas
9. Botnets of Things
10. Reinforcement Learning

# Reinforcement Learning



## Optimal Value Functions

$$Q^*(s, a) = \max_{\pi} Q^{\pi}(s, a)$$

An RL agent may include one or more of these components:

- **Policy ( $\pi$ )**: agent's behaviour function ( $s \rightarrow a$ )
- **Value function (Q)**: how good is each state and/or action
- **Model (M)**: agent's representation of the environment

- Q-value function gives expected total reward:

$$Q^{\pi}(s, a) = \mathbb{E} [r_{t+1} + \gamma r_{t+2} + \gamma^2 r_{t+3} + \dots | s, a]$$

- Value functions decompose into a Bellman equation

$$Q^{\pi}(s, a) = \mathbb{E}_{s', a'} [r + \gamma Q^{\pi}(s', a') | s, a]$$

[2015] Human-level control through deep reinforcement learning, Minh et al., Nature

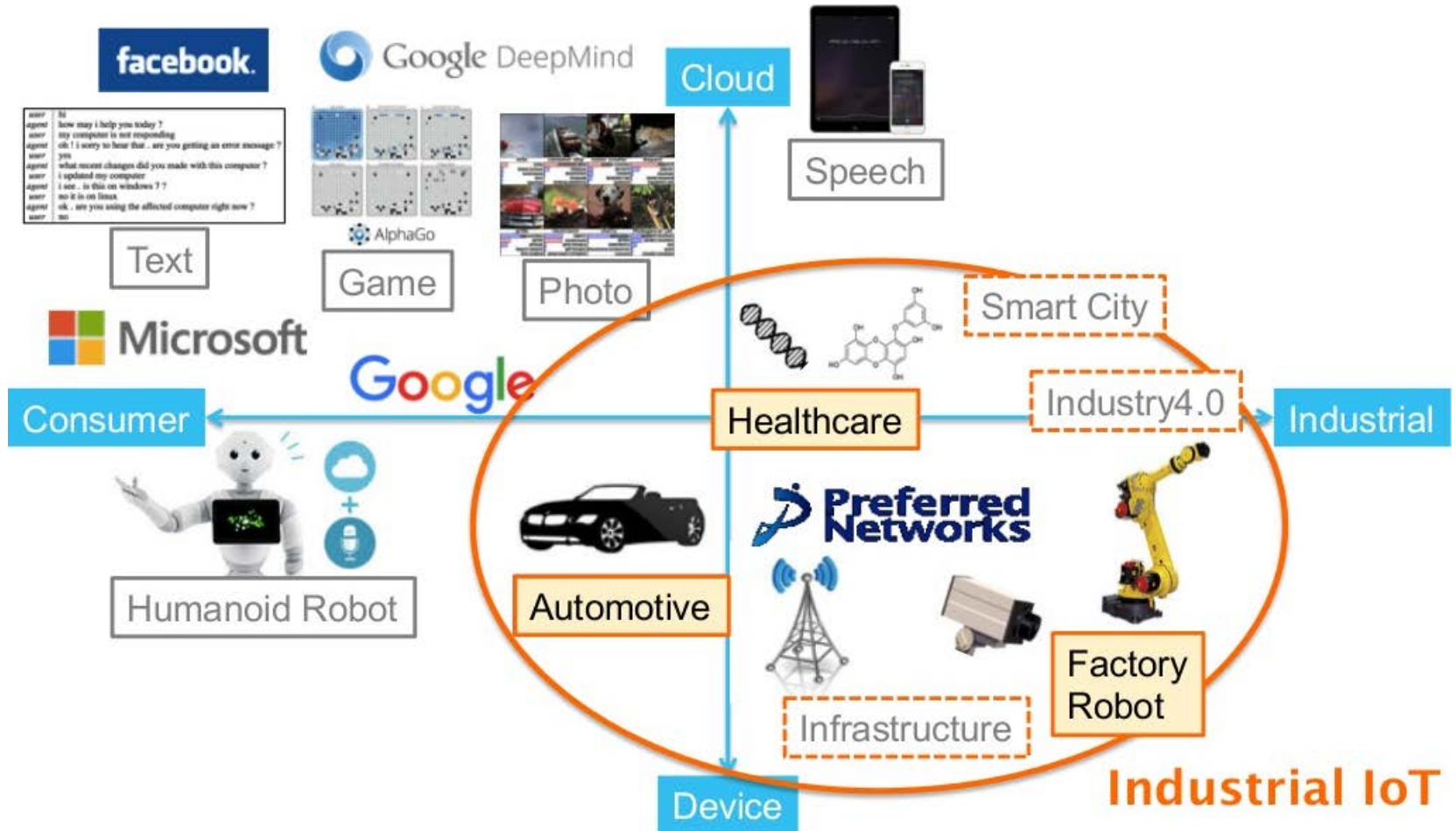
*“This work bridges the divide between high-dimensional sensory inputs and actions, resulting in **the first artificial agent** that is capable of learning to excel at a diverse array of challenging tasks.”*

[2016] AlphaGO versus Lee Sedol - professional Go player

$\sim 10^{170}$  compared to  $\sim 10^{50}$  for chess (Kasparov, 1997)



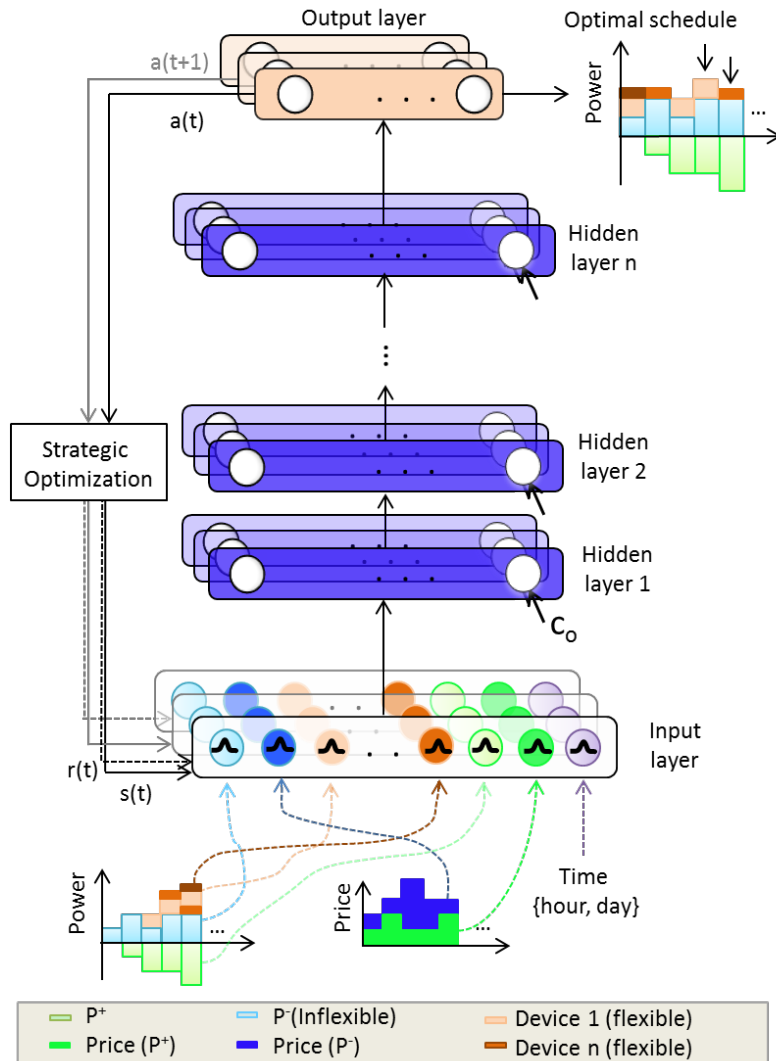
# Deep Learning



Credit: Yahoo Japan, 20 March 2016



# On-line building energy optimization



## Reinforcement learning

$$\{s, a\} \rightarrow Q(s, a)$$

## Deep learning

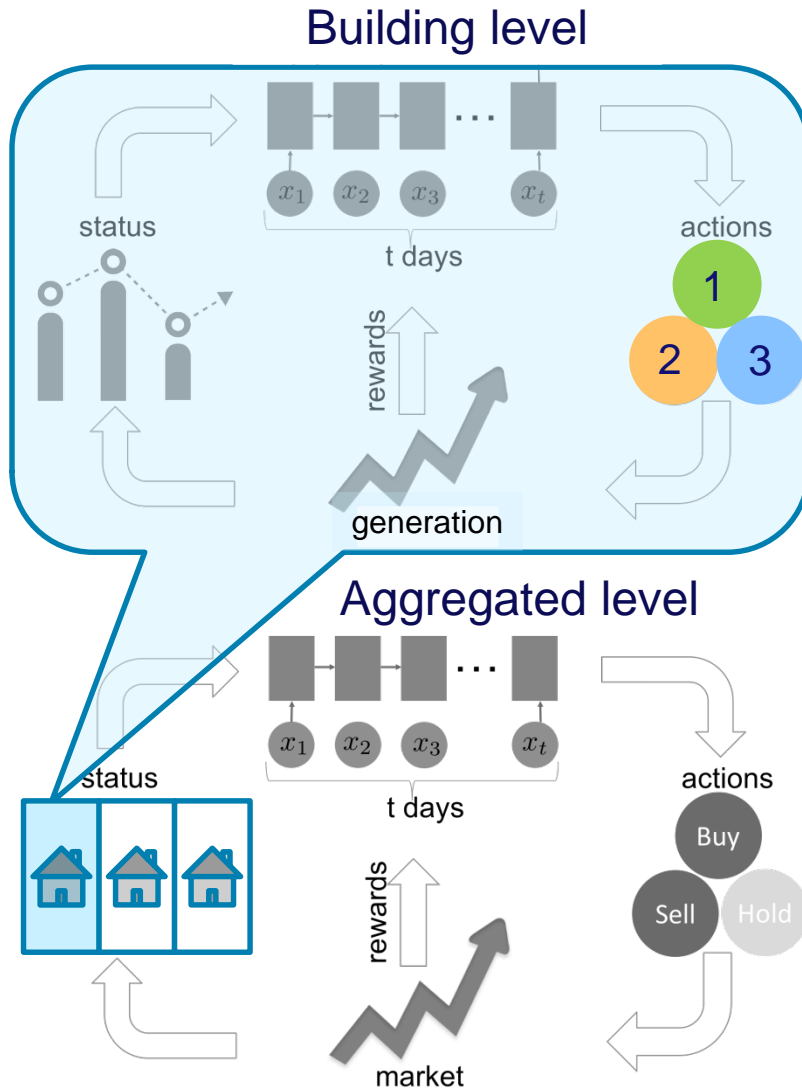
$$\frac{\text{In}}{\text{Data}} \rightarrow DNN_{(k)} \xrightarrow{\text{Out}} \text{Data estimation}$$

## Deep reinforcement learning

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \frac{\text{In}}{\text{States}} \rightarrow DNN_{(k)} \xrightarrow{\text{Out}} Q(s, a) \\ \frac{\text{In}}{\text{States}} \rightarrow DNN_{(k)} \xrightarrow{\text{Out}} p(a|s) \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Deep Q-learning} \\ \text{Deep Policy Gradient} \end{array}$$

E. Mocanu, D.C. Mocanu, P.H. Nguyen, A. Liotta, M.E. Webber, M. Gibescu, and J.G. Slootweg, On-line Building Energy Optimization using Deep Reinforcement Learning, IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid, 2018

# On-line building energy optimization



Energy minimization

Price reduction

Reinforcement learning

- Q-learning (Watkins, 1989)

$$Q^\pi(s, a)$$

Deep reinforcement learning

- Deep Q-learning

$$Q(s, a, \theta) \approx Q^\pi(s, a)$$

- Deep Policy Gradients

$$p(a|s_t, \theta), \forall a \in A$$

Our contribution:

- multiple actions simultaneously

# Experimental Results

## Reinforcement learning formalism (Markov Decision Process)

### States:

DRL: continuous states

Q-learning: 11 inputs (2048 discrete states)

### Actions:

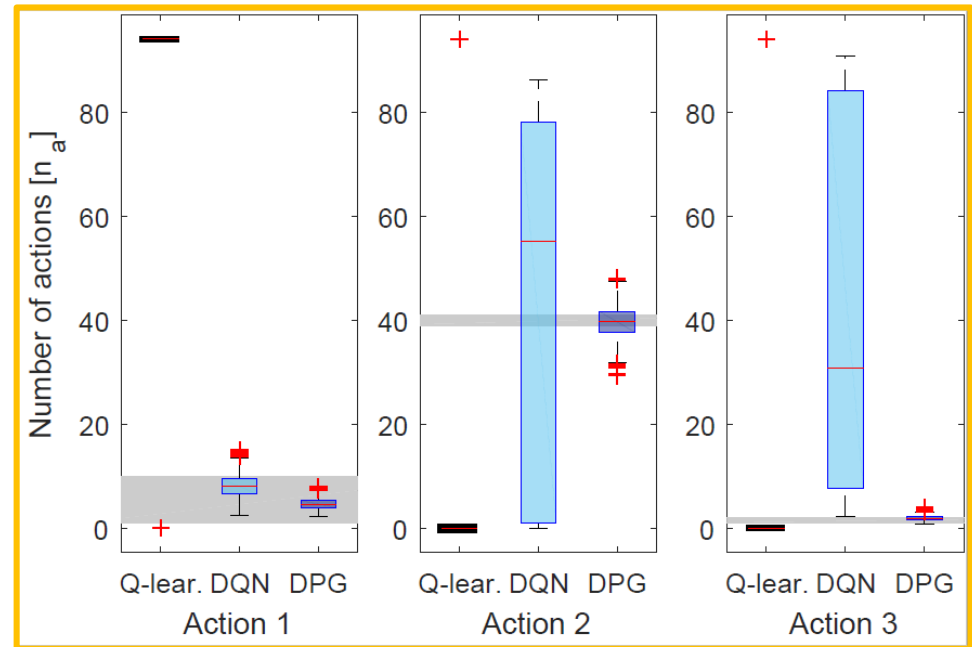
- 1 : **time-scaling** electrical device  
e.g. air conditioning load
- 2 : **time-shifting** electrical device  
e.g. dishwasher
- 3 : **time-scaling** and **time-shifting**  
e.g. electric vehicle

**Reward:** joint reward function

Scale: up to 50 buildings

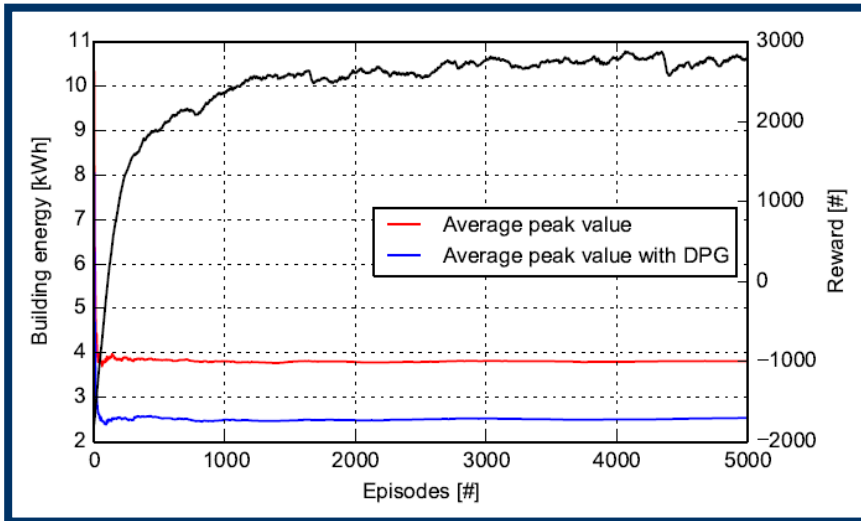
Pecan Street datasets

## Learning to satisfy the constraints bounds on one building

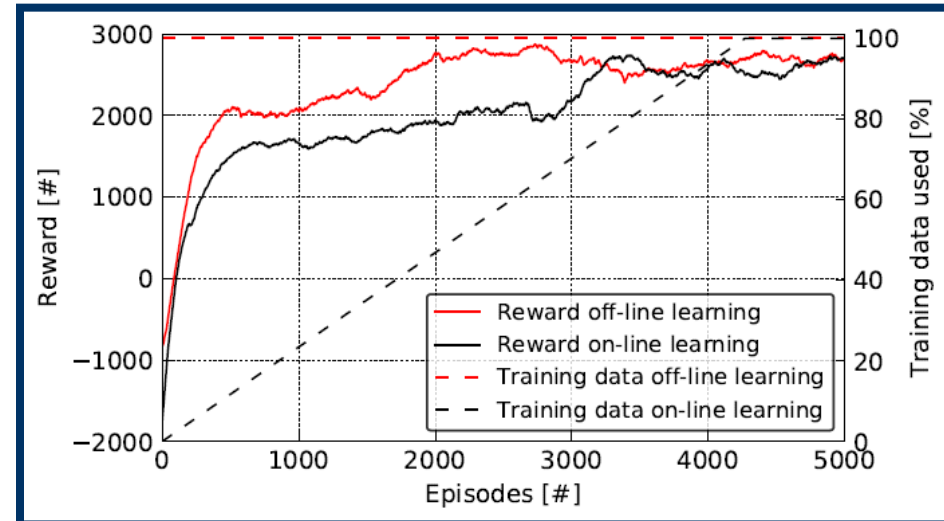


# Learning capabilities of DRL

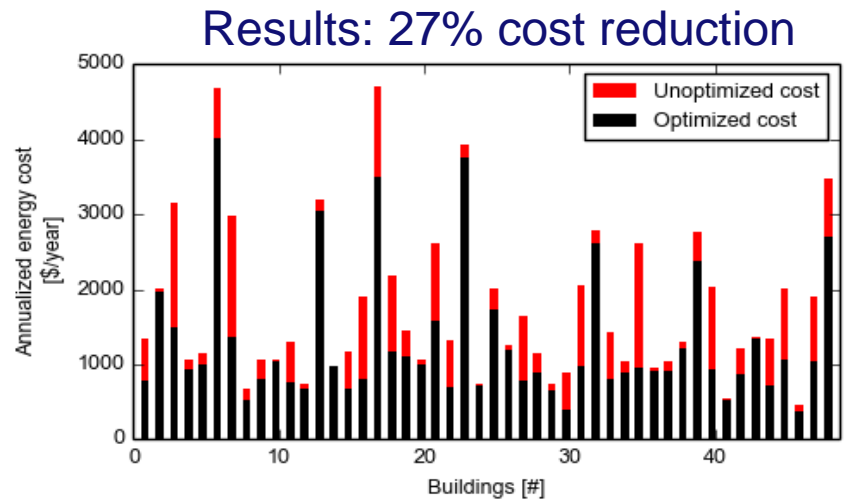
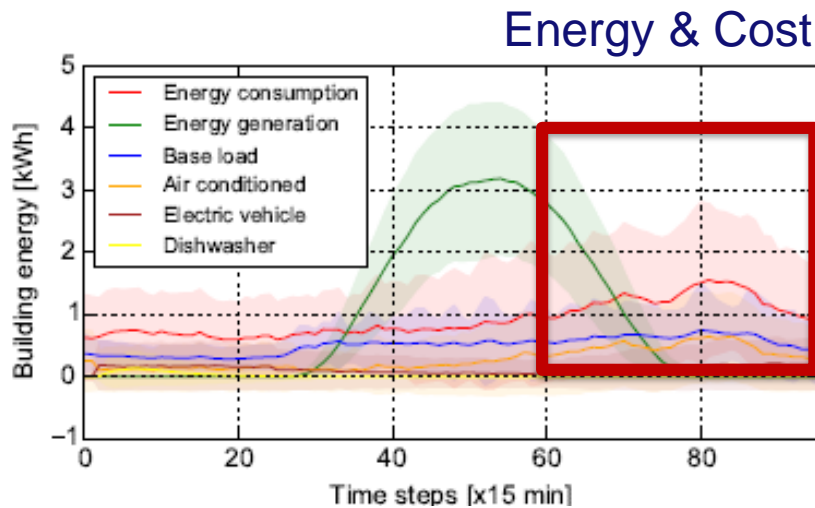
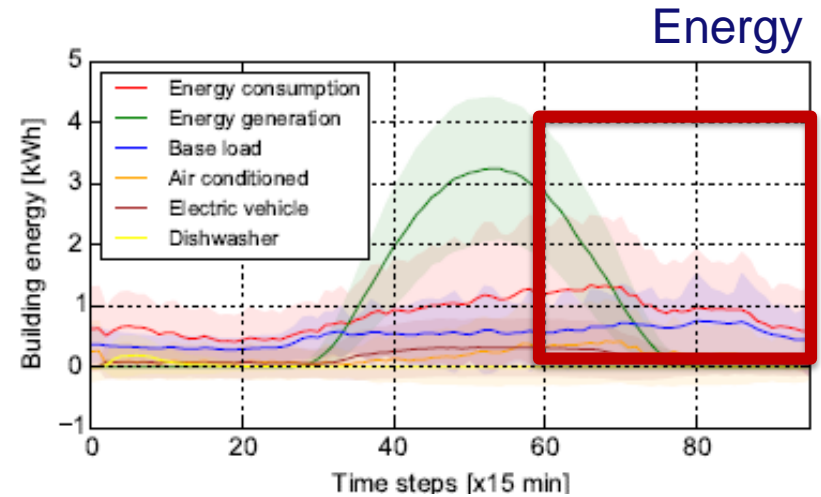
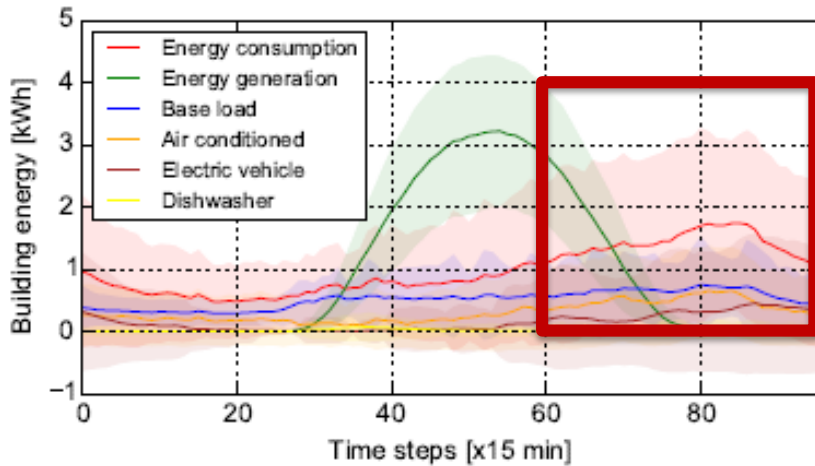
Learning capabilities of DPG method in terms of peak reduction and their corresponding reward function



On-line versus off-line learning capabilities of DPG in terms of reward function and their corresponding training data used

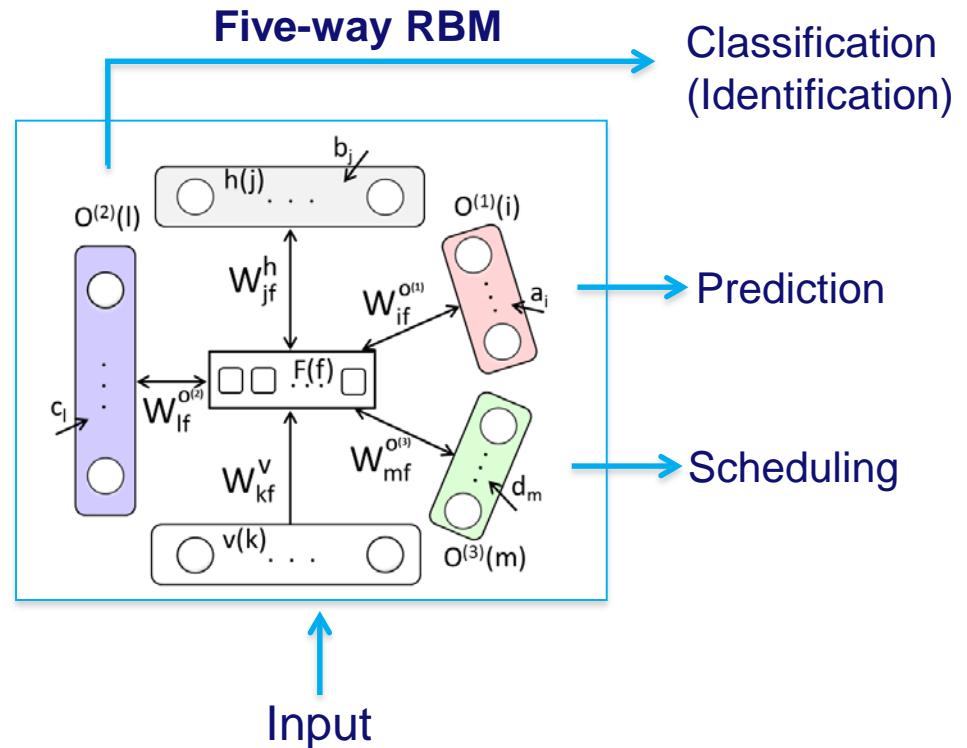
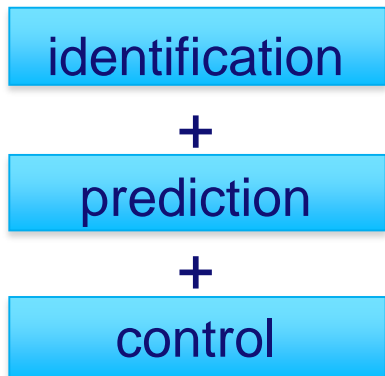


# Scalability capabilities of DRL



# Is Deep Reinforcement Learning ready for applications?

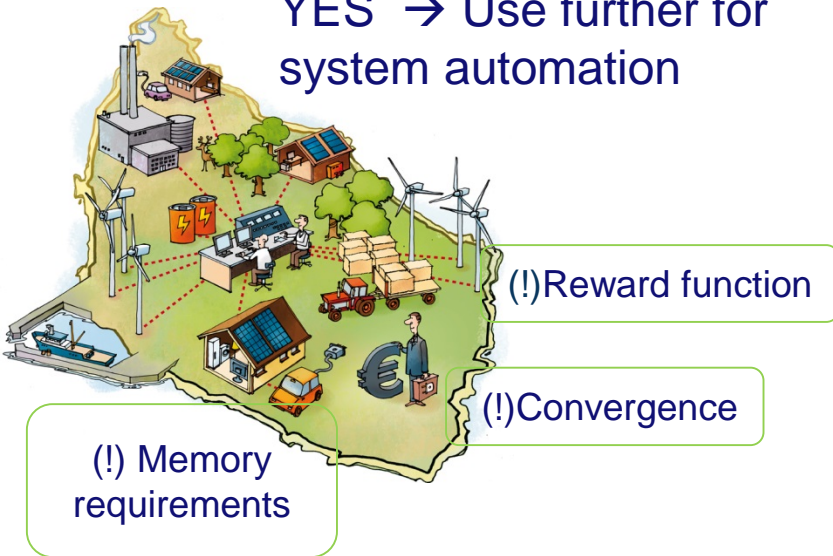
- For this particular case and few others, YES!
- Use further for system automation



References: E. Mocanu, Machine Learning applied to Smart Grids, PhD thesis, 2017 (Chapter 5)

# Is Deep Reinforcement Learning ready for applications?

YES → Use further for system automation



(?) small datasets



DRL and

- one-shot learning
- transfer learning
- sparse ANN
- ...

(?) large datasets

- generalization to multi-tasks
- efficient training of deep learning models to apply them at scale across increasingly more complex and diverse tasks.



(?) very large datasets

Computational power:

- scalable ANN
- some AI hardware under development, such as neuromorphic chips or even quantum computing systems, could factor into the new equation for AI innovation.

# Is Deep Reinforcement Learning ready for applications?

## References

1. E. Mocanu, D.C. Mocanu, P.H. Nguyen, A. Liotta, M.E. Webber, M. Gibescu, and J.G. Slootweg, On-line Building Energy Optimization using Deep Reinforcement Learning, **IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid**, 2018.
2. L. A. Hurtado Munoz, E. Mocanu, H.P. Nguyen, M. Gibescu & I.G. Kamphuis, Enabling cooperative behavior for building demand response based on extended joint action learning, **IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics**, 2018.
3. E. Mocanu, Machine Learning applied to Smart Grids, **PhD thesis**, 2017 (Ch 5)

AI for  
stochastic  
decision  
making



Thank  
you!

4. D.C. Mocanu, E. Mocanu, P.H. Nguyen, M. Gibescu, and A. Liotta, Evolutionary Training of Sparse Artificial Neural Networks: A Network Science Perspective, **Nature Communications**, 2018.
5. D.C. Mocanu, E. Mocanu, P.H. Nguyen, M. Gibescu, and A. Liotta, A topological insight into restricted Boltzmann machines, **Machine Learning**, 2017.
6. D.C. Mocanu and E. Mocanu. One-shot learning using mixture of variational autoencoders: a generalization learning approach. **AAMAS 2018**, Sweden.
7. E. Mocanu, P.H. Nguyen, M. Gibescu, and W. Kling Unsupervised energy prediction in a smart grid context using reinforcement cross-buildings transfer learning, **Energy and Buildings**, 2016.

Learning  
Theory

One-shot  
learning

Transfer  
learning