

Learning Causal Variables from Temporal Observations

Phillip Lippe

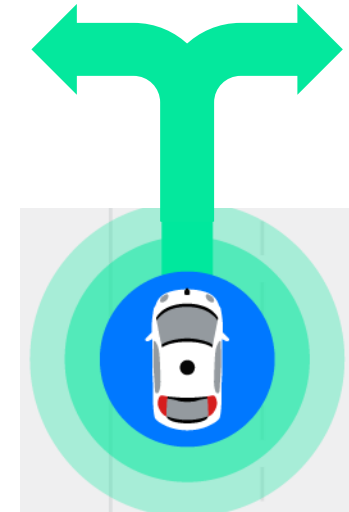
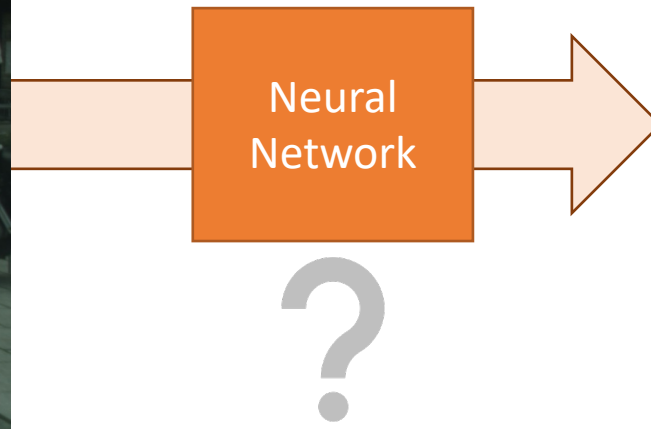
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21. February 2023

Introduction

Representation Learning

Vision



*Autonomous
driving*

Not interpretable
Unknown robustness

...

Figure credits:

[1] Waymo tech block, 2017

[2] Cordts et al., The Cityscapes dataset. CVPR 2016.

Introduction

Representation Learning

Vision



Neural Network

Structured Representation

AD: Human guidance what to model, causal factors



Interpretable

Generalizable

Robust

Reasoning-oriented

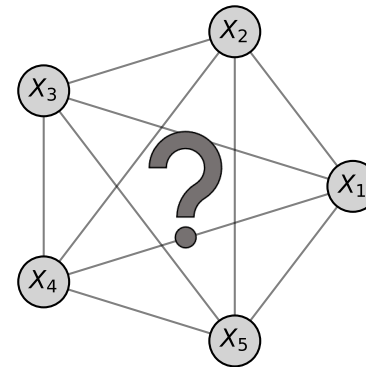
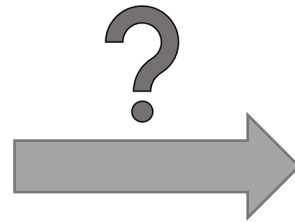
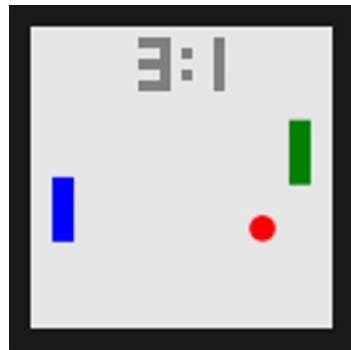
Structure learned?

Causal Representation Learning

Figure credits:
[1] Waymo tech block, 2017
[2] Cordts et al., The Cityscapes dataset. CVPR 2016.

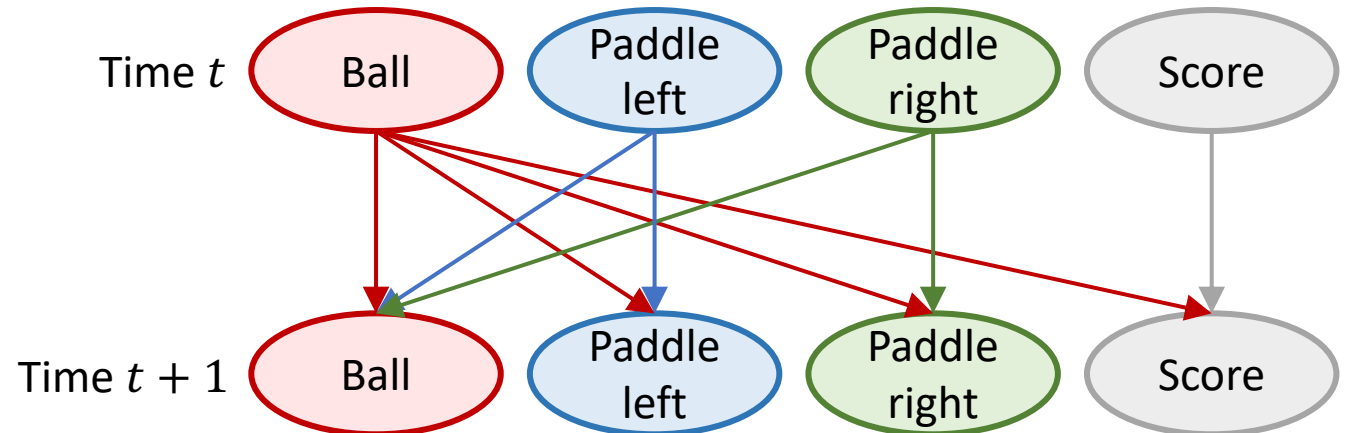
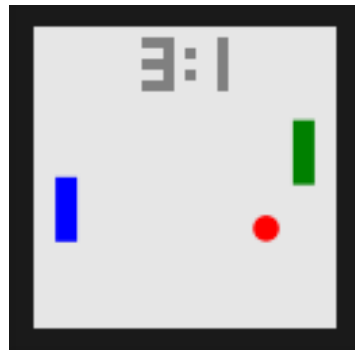
Causal Representation Learning

- Given high-dimensional observations of a (dynamical) system, what is its latent causal structure?
 - Causal variables
 - Their cause-effect relations

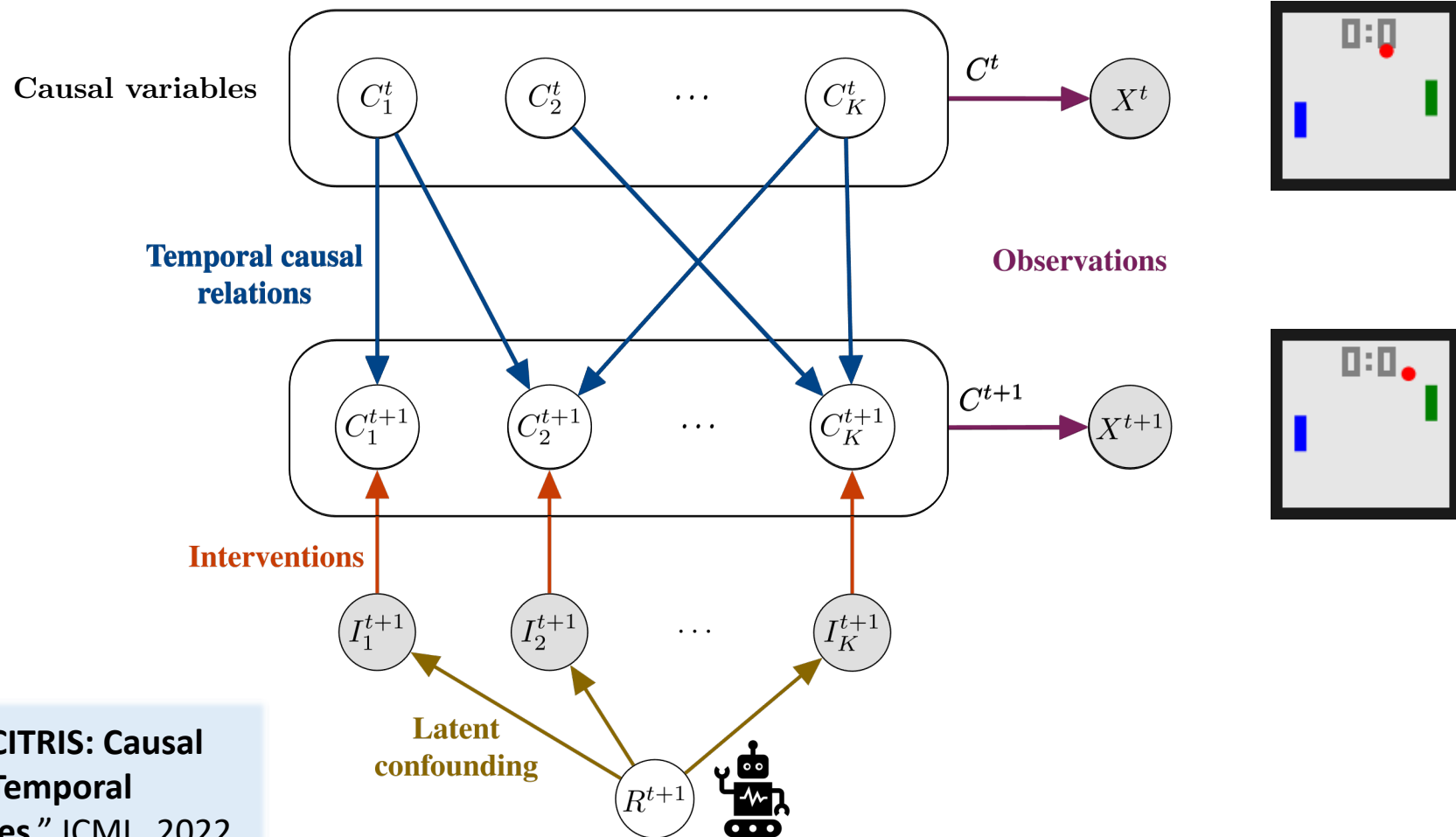


Causal Representation Learning

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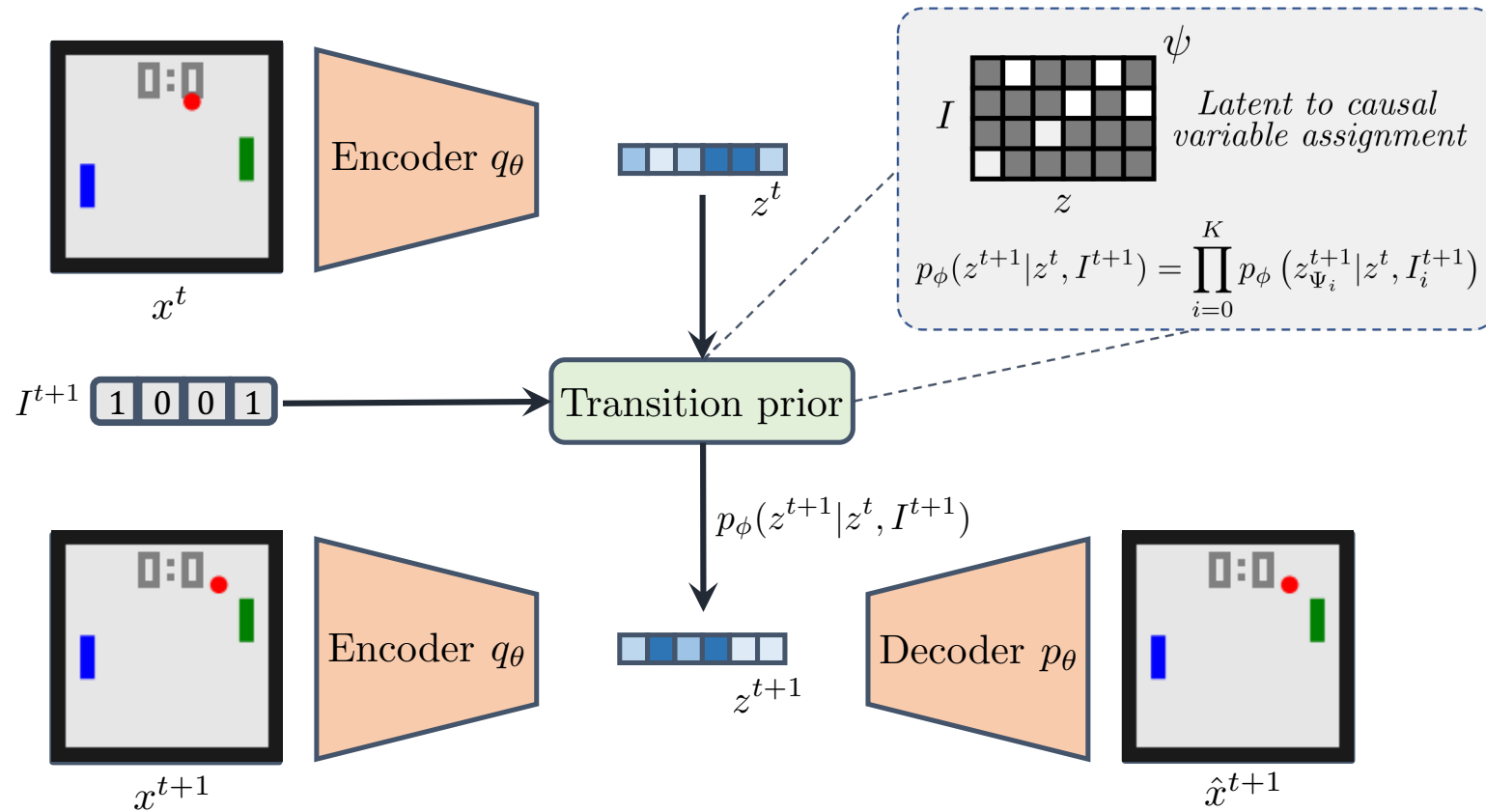
CITRIS: Causal Identifiability from Temporal Intervened Sequences Setup



Lippe, Phillip et al. "CITRIS: Causal Identifiability from Temporal Intervened Sequences." ICML, 2022.

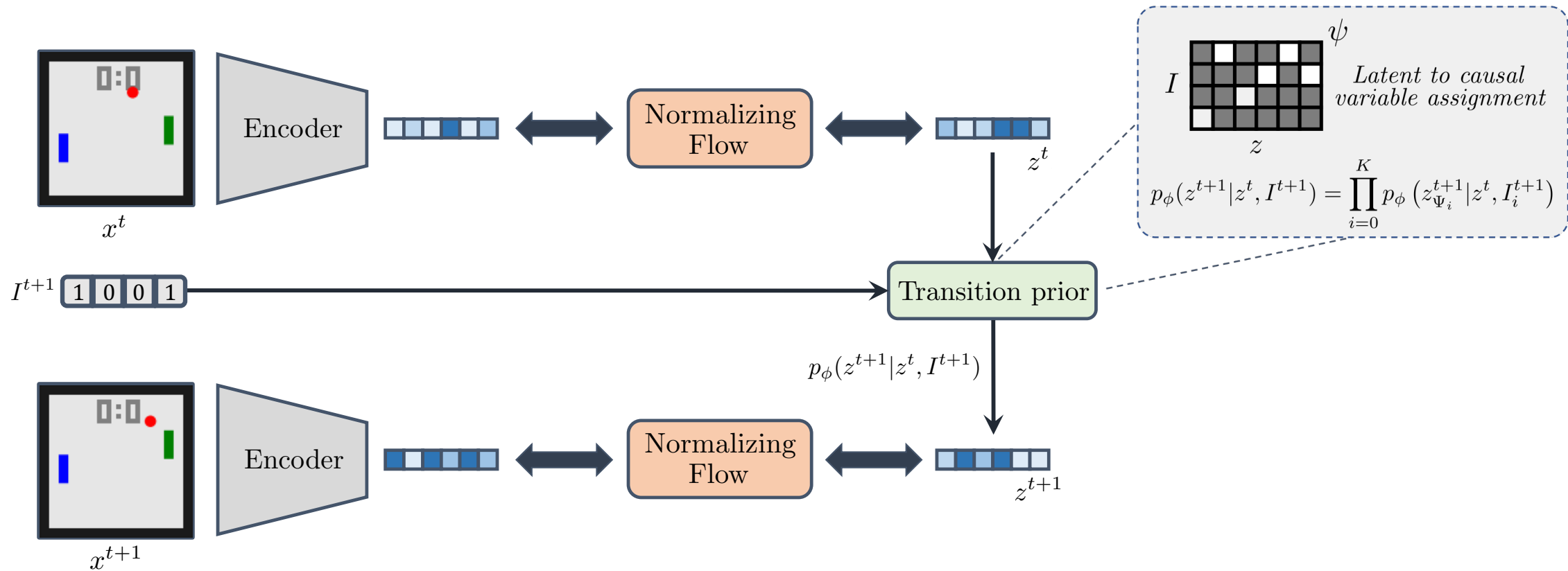
CITRIS Architecture

CITRIS-VAE



CITRIS Architecture

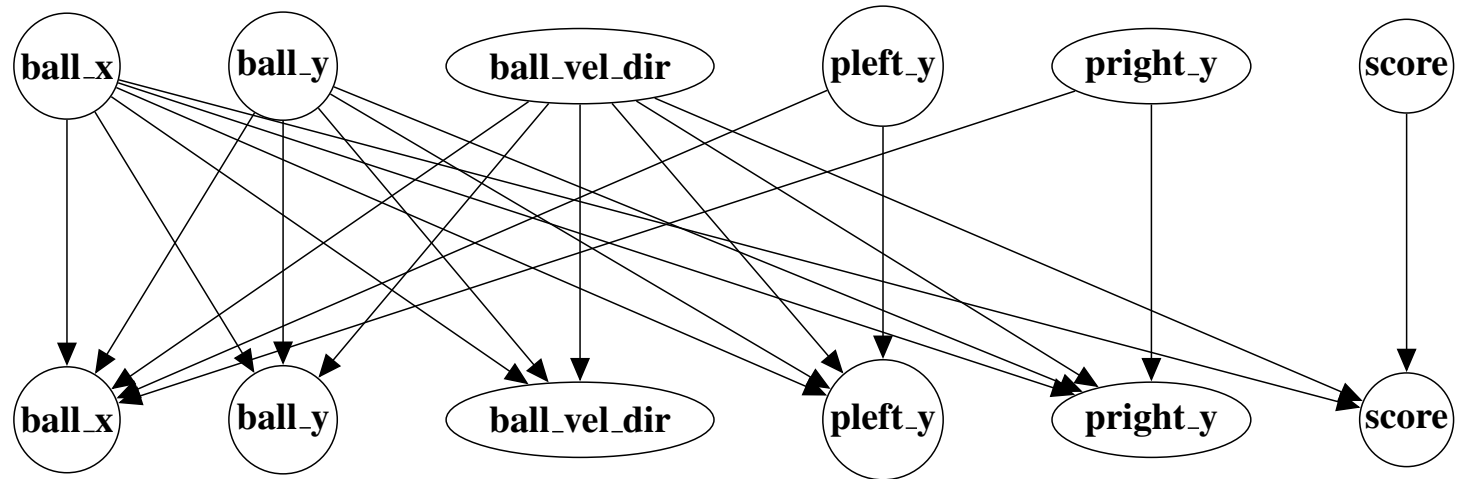
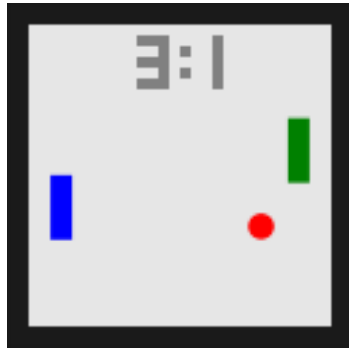
CITRIS-NF



CITRIS Experiments

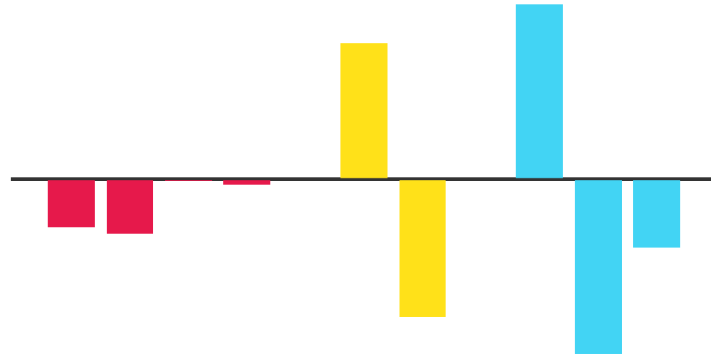
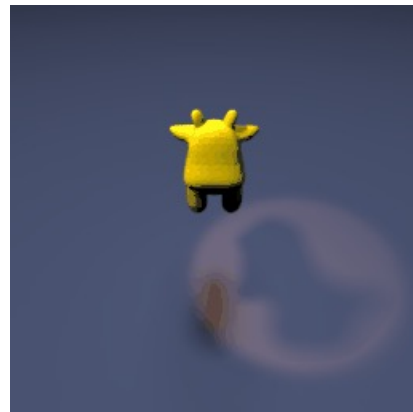
Pong

- CITRIS identifies the causal variables accurately
- Identified cause-effect relations closely follow ground truth






CITRIS Experiments

Visualizing the latent space



Learned latent variables

-  Object position
-  Spotlight rotation
-  Background hue

Novel combinations of causal factors

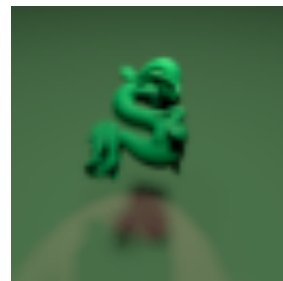
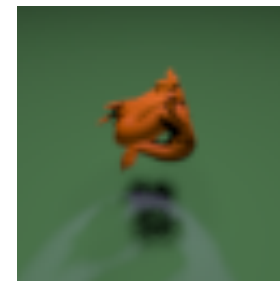


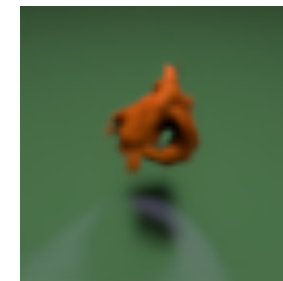
Image 1



Image 2

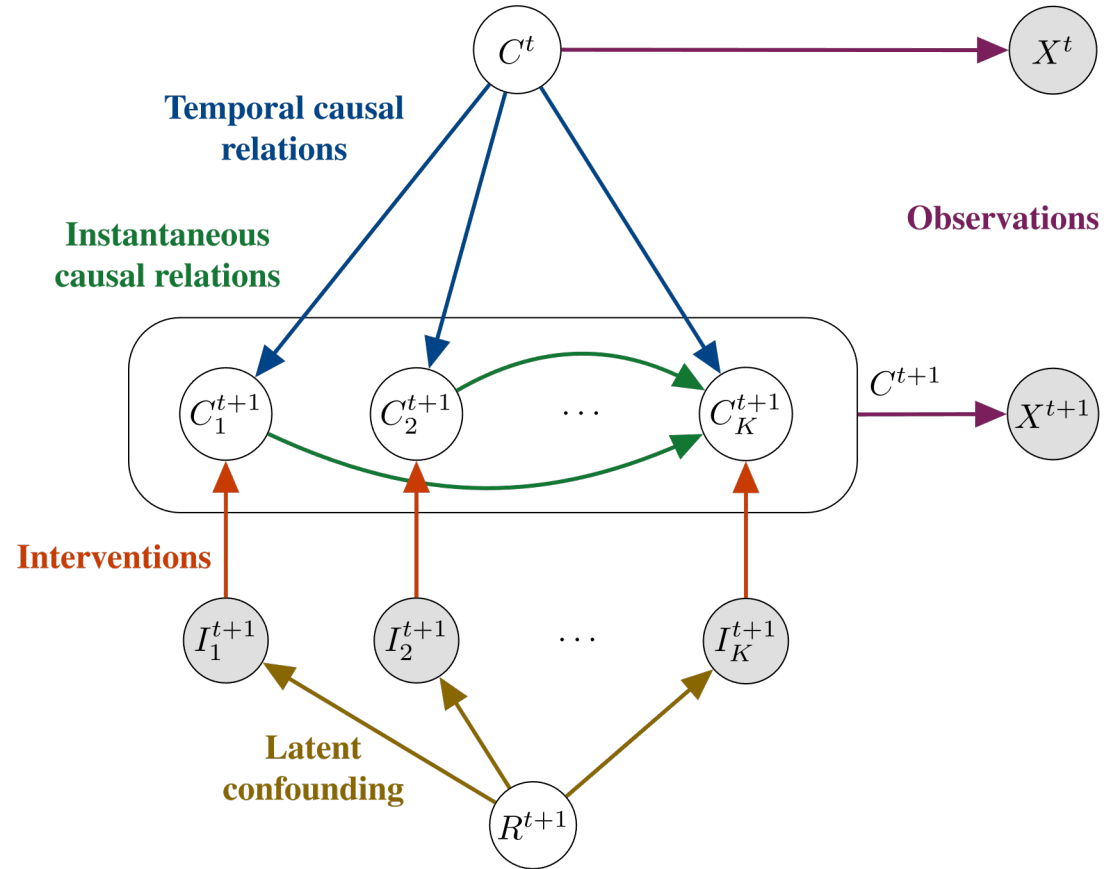
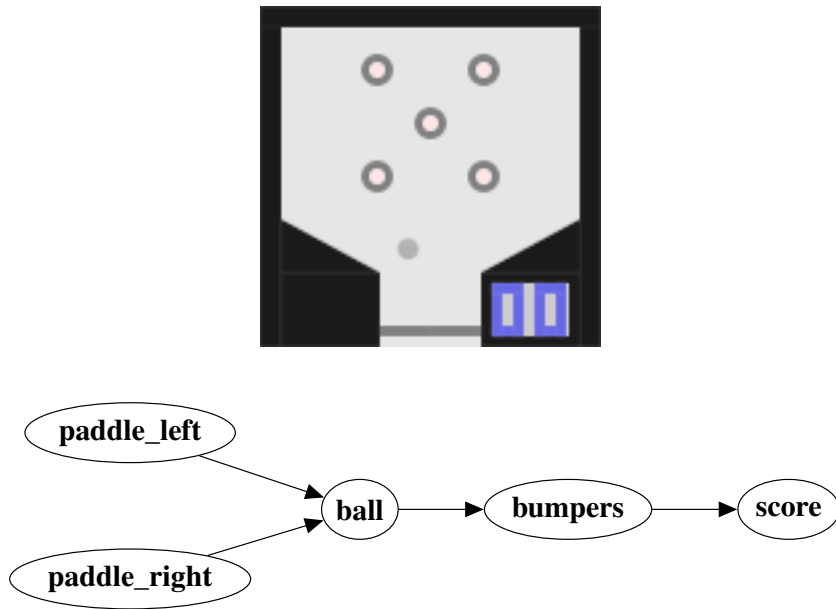


Ground Truth



Prediction

Causal Representation Learning for Instantaneous Effects



Lippe, Phillip et al. "Causal Representation Learning for Instantaneous and Temporal Effects." ICLR, 2023.

Summary

- **Causal Representation Learning** aims to learn generalizable, robust representations of causal variables in an environment
- **CITRIS** identifies causal variables in variety of environments by information about interventions
- Allows for interpretable, controllable latent spaces
- Opportunity for learning representations in complex, interactive environments like Embodied AI



References



Phillip Lippe, Sara Magliacane, Sindy Löwe, Yuki M. Asano, Taco Cohen, and Efstratios Gavves. "**CITRIS: Causal Identifiability from Temporal Intervened Sequences.**" In International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML). PMLR, 2022.



Phillip Lippe, Sara Magliacane, Sindy Löwe, Yuki M. Asano, Taco Cohen, and Efstratios Gavves. "**Causal Representation Learning for Instantaneous and Temporal Effects.**" In International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2023.



Johann Brehmer, Pim de Haan, Phillip Lippe, Taco Cohen. "**Weakly supervised causal representation learning.**" In Advanced in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2022.

Slides and Papers

