



Universität
Zürich^{UZH}

Faculty of Science
Gender Equality and Diversity

...τήν ἡδονὴν ἀρχὴν καὶ
τέλος λέγομεν εἶναι τοῦ
μακαρίως ζῆν

ἀρχὰς εἶναι τῶν
ὅλων ἀτόμους καὶ
κενόν, τὰ δ' ἄλλα
πάντα νενομίσθαι

$\gamma^3 r_{t+3} + \dots$

$R_t = r_t +$
 $R_t = r_t +$
 $0 \leq$

WHAT REINFORCEMENT LEARNING
TELLS ME ABOUT HAPPINESS

Prof. Dr. Eleni Vasilaki
Inge Strauch Visiting Professor
Institute of Neuroinformatics
University of Zurich and ETH Zurich

12 November 2021, 16.00-17.45
Lecture Hall Y24 G 45
Campus Irchel, University of Zurich
Winterthurerstrasse 190

What reinforcement learning tells me about happiness

Reinforcement Learning is a type of learning that takes place with no explicit instructions but rather a generic feedback of success or failure. Arguably a most relevant type of learning to human and animal life, it has inspired machine learning for the last few decades. In this talk, I will take us on a trip to Ancient Greece to find links between reinforcement learning, wine, and Epicurean Philosophy and to neuroscience experiments that help us understand the brain mechanisms related to reinforcement learning. I will present what Reinforcement Learning tells us about living a successful life and conclude that simple mechanisms could underline phenomenally complex behaviours. And yes, there will be equations, but they are not necessary to follow the interpretations or conclusions.

12 November 2021, 16.00-17.45

Lecture Hall Y24 G 45, Campus Irchel, Winterthurerstrasse 190, 8057 Zürich

4:15 pm

Welcome remarks

Prof. Dr. Roland Sigel, Dean, Faculty of Science, UZH

Lecture

What reinforcement learning tells me about happiness

Prof. Dr. Eleni Vasilaki

Professor Eleni Vasilaki is visiting professor at the Institute of Neuroinformatics, University of Zurich and ETH Zurich. She is chair of Bioinspired Machine Learning and the head of the Machine Learning Group in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Sheffield, UK. Inspired by biology, Prof. Vasilaki and her team design novel machine learning techniques with a focus on reinforcement learning and reservoir computing. She also works closely with material scientists and engineers to design hardware that computes in a brain-like manner.

Discussion

Moderation by Prof. Dr. Giacomo Indiveri

Institute of Neuroinformatics, University of Zurich and ETH Zurich

5:45 pm

Reception at Irchel Lichthof

Registration required:

equality@mnf.uzh.ch

Admission only with Covid Certificate



More information on the Inge
Strauch Guest Professorship
Program