

# AWS re:Invent

NOV. 28 – DEC. 2, 2022 | LAS VEGAS, NV

DPR202-R6

# AWS DeepRacer: Get hands-on with machine learning

Tim O'Brien

Principal Solutions Architect  
AWS



PRESENTED BY

intel®



© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

# Agenda

Introducing AWS DeepRacer

Introduction to reinforcement learning

Training using the AWS DeepRacer console

Hands-on workshop

# Introducing AWS DeepRacer



How can we put  
reinforcement  
learning in the hands  
of all developers?

*Literally*



# A closer look

- 1:18 4WD scale car
- Intel Atom processor
- Intel distribution of OpenVINO toolkit
- Stereo camera (4MP)
- 360-degree, 12-meter scanning radius Lidar sensor
- System memory: 4 GB RAM
- 802.11ac Wi-Fi
- Ubuntu 20.04 Focal Fossa
- ROS 2 Foxy Fitzroy



OpenVINO™



# Get hands-on experience with reinforcement learning



AWS DeepRacer  
Evo

# Get hands-on experience with reinforcement learning



AWS DeepRacer  
Evo



3D racing  
simulator

# Get hands-on experience with reinforcement learning



AWS DeepRacer  
Evo



3D racing  
simulator



PRESENTED BY

**intel**

AWS DeepRacer  
League

# Get hands-on experience with reinforcement learning



AWS DeepRacer  
Evo



3D racing  
simulator



PRESENTED BY

**intel**

AWS DeepRacer  
League



Community  
races

# Introduction to reinforcement learning

# Reinforcement learning in the broad AI context

Artificial  
intelligence

**building algorithms  
which can take and  
process information to  
inform future decisions**

Machine learning

**teaching an algorithm how  
to learn without explicitly  
being programmed to do so**

Supervised  
learning

Unsupervised  
learning

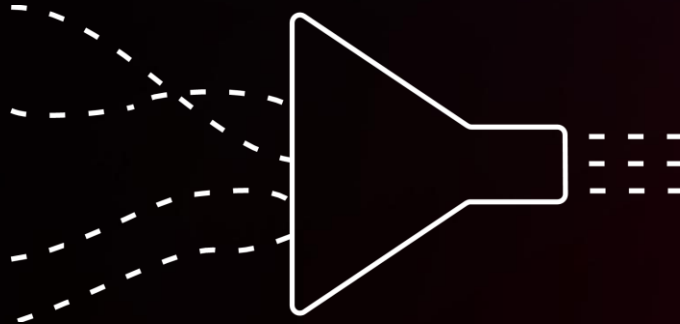
Reinforcement  
learning

# ML overview



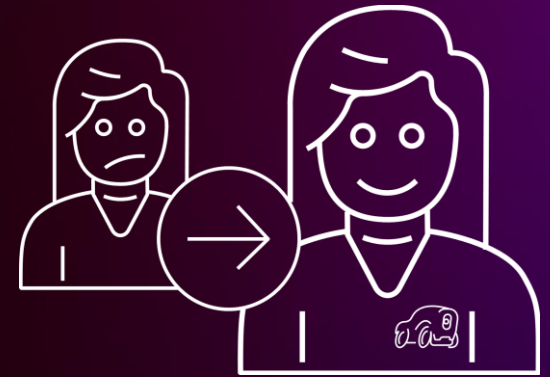
## Supervised

Example-driven training; every datum has a corresponding label



## Unsupervised

No labels for training data; useful for clustering like data



## Reinforcement

Learns through consequences of actions in a specific environment

# Reinforcement learning in the real world



Reward positive behavior



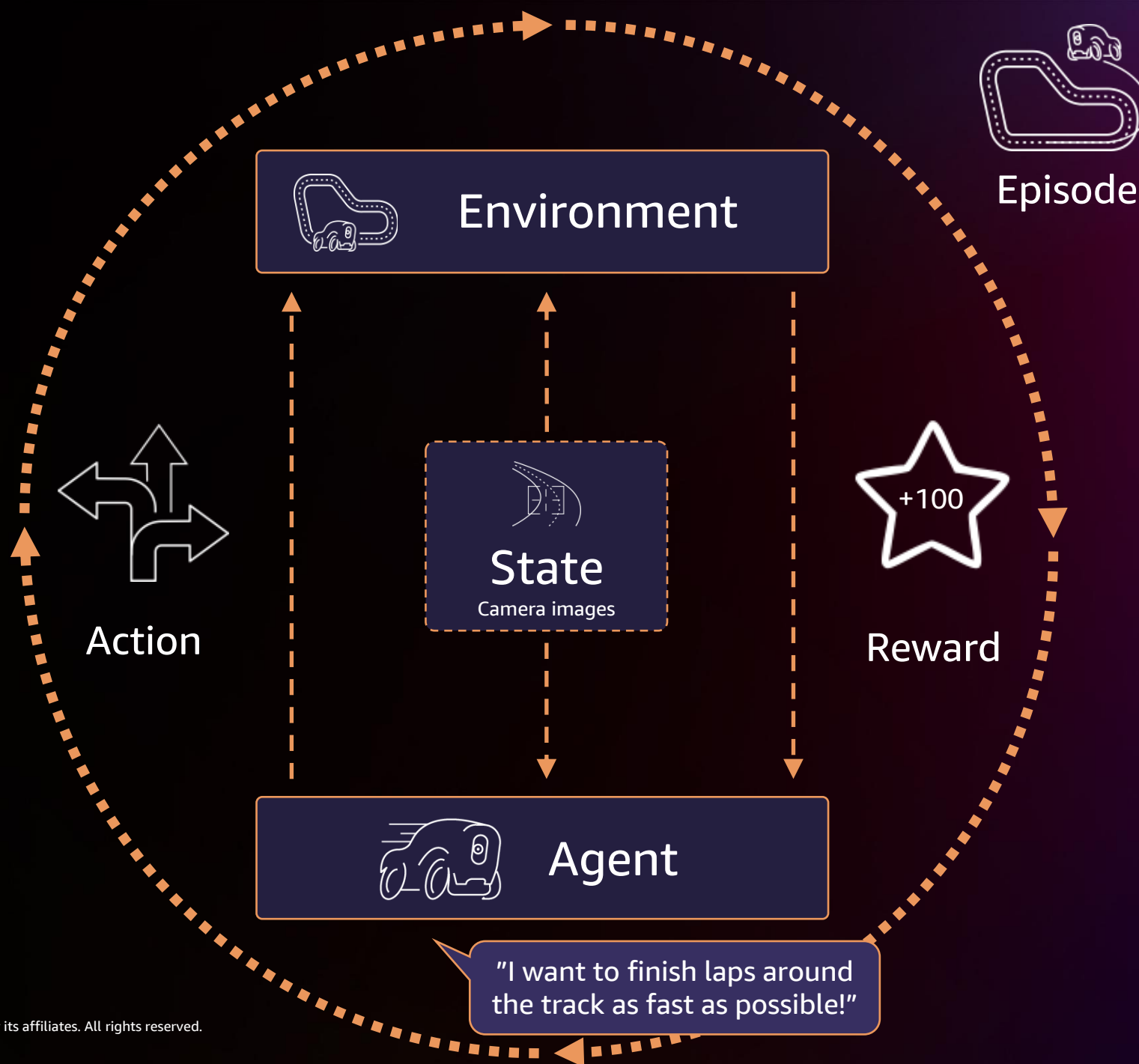
Don't reward negative behavior



The result

# Reinforcement learning

## key terms



# The reward function

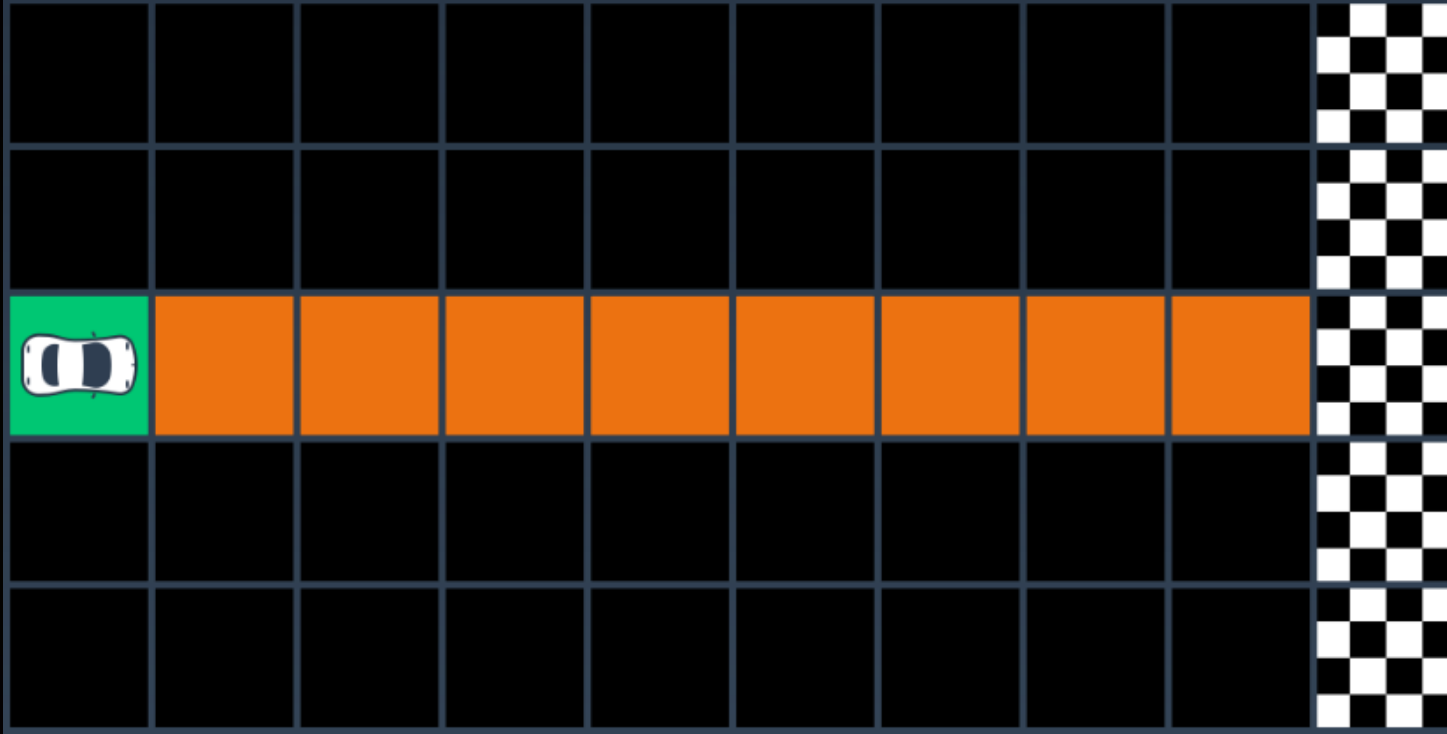


The reward function incentivizes particular behaviors and is at the core of reinforcement learning

# The reward function: Straight track race









Agent



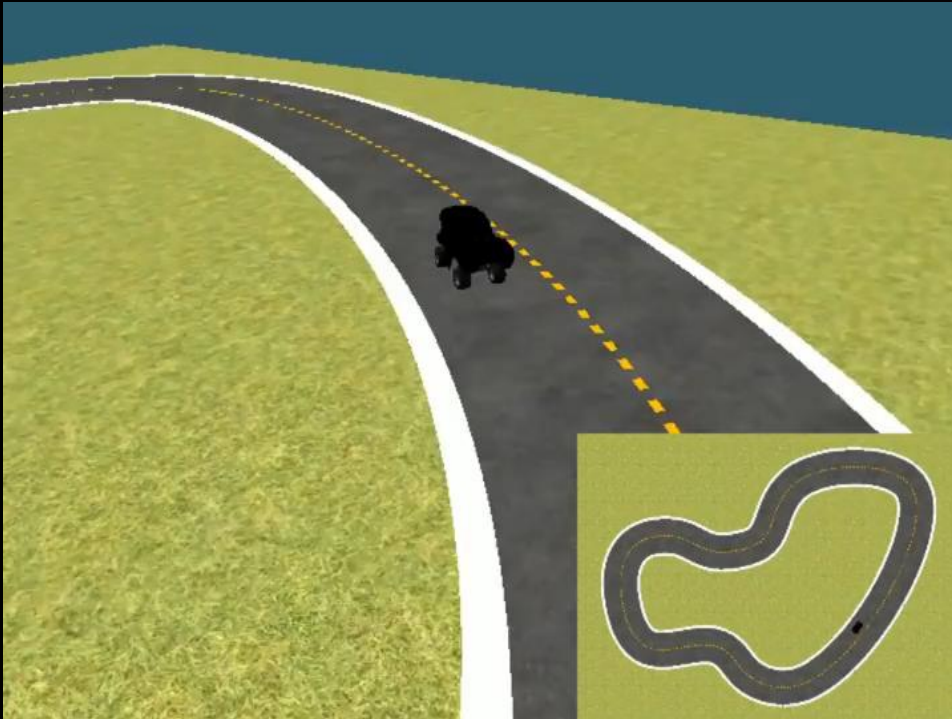
Goal

# Rewards that incentivize center-line driving

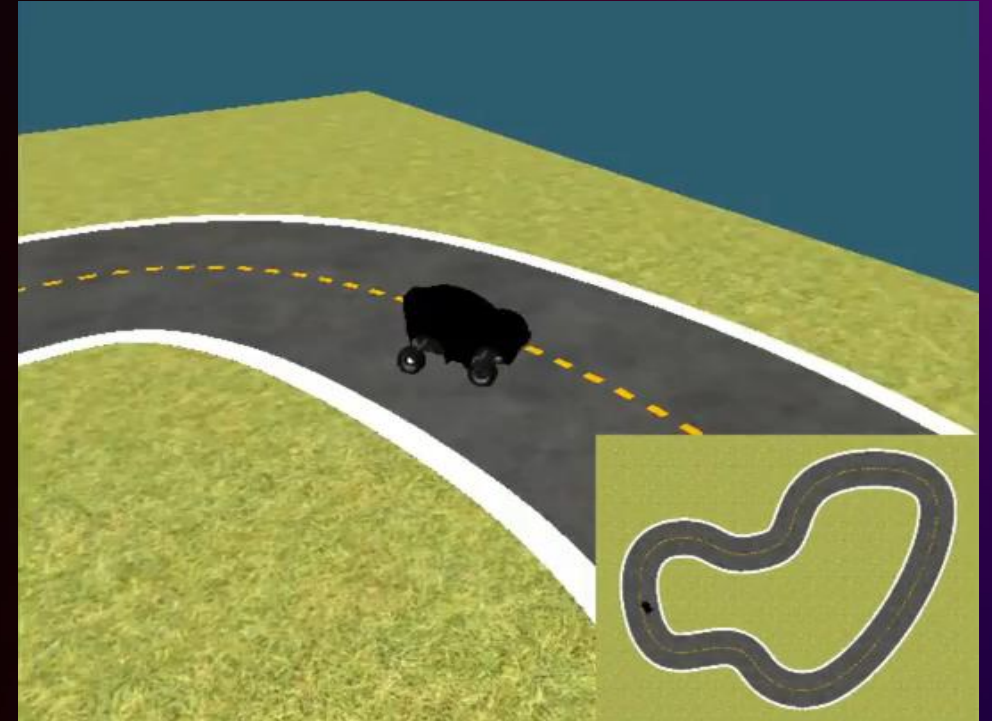
|   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
| x   | x   | x   | x   | x   | x   | x   | x   | x   |   |
| 0.2   | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |   |
|  | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   |   |
| 0.2   | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |   |
| x   | x   | x   | x   | x   | x   | x   | x   | x   |  |

# Exploration versus exploitation

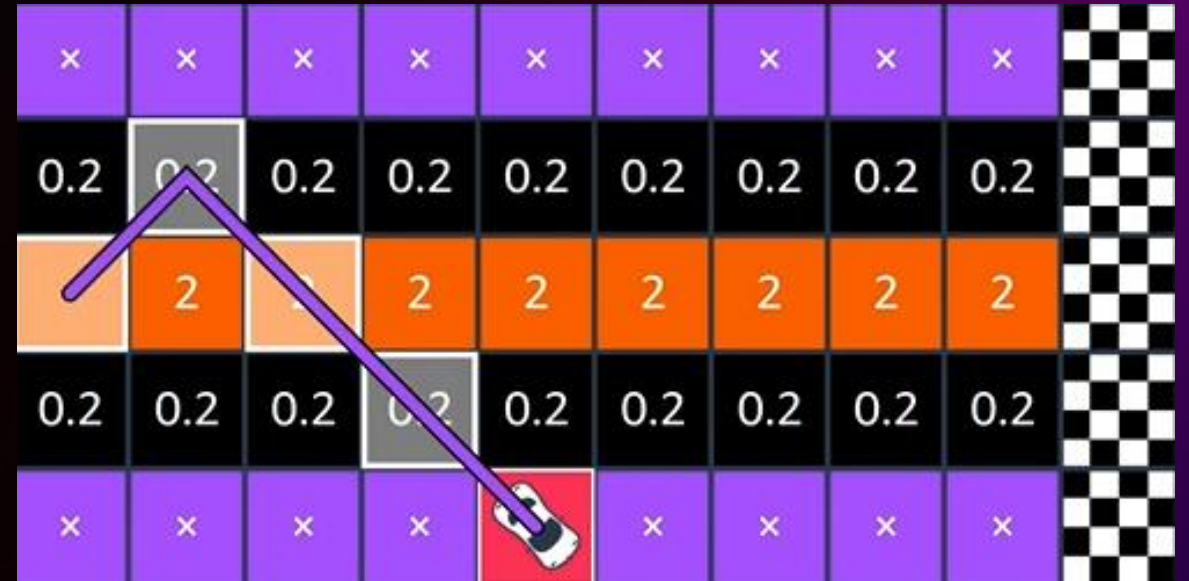
Exploration



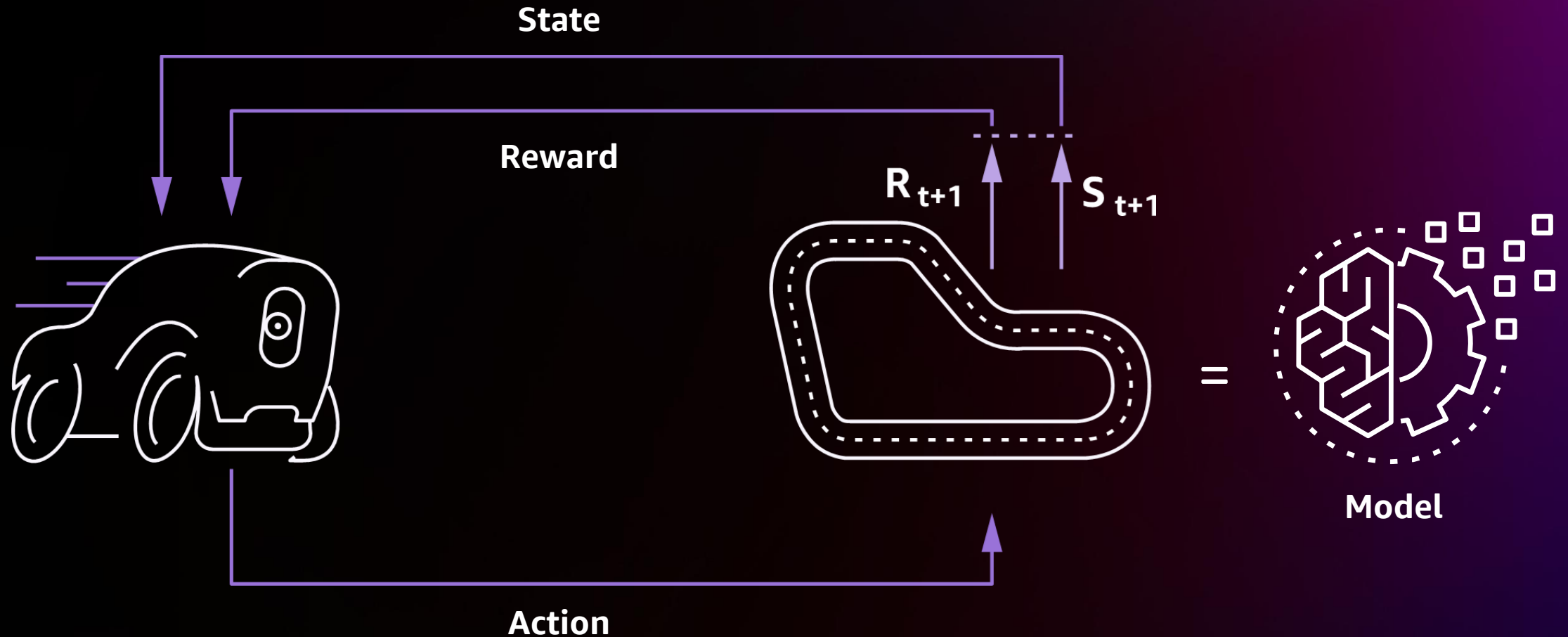
Exploitation



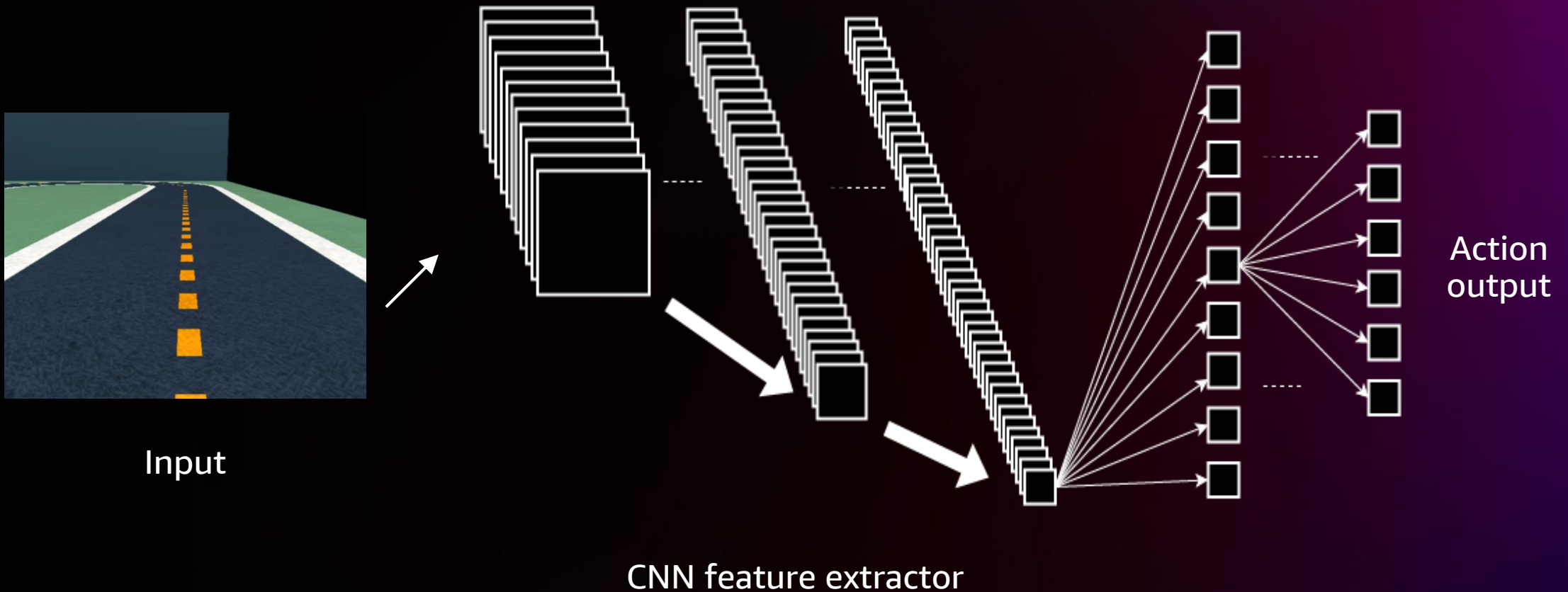
# Iteration and convergence



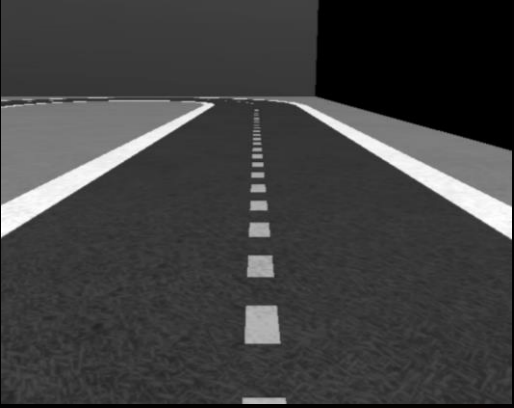
# How does the learning (training) happen?



# AWS DeepRacer neural network architecture

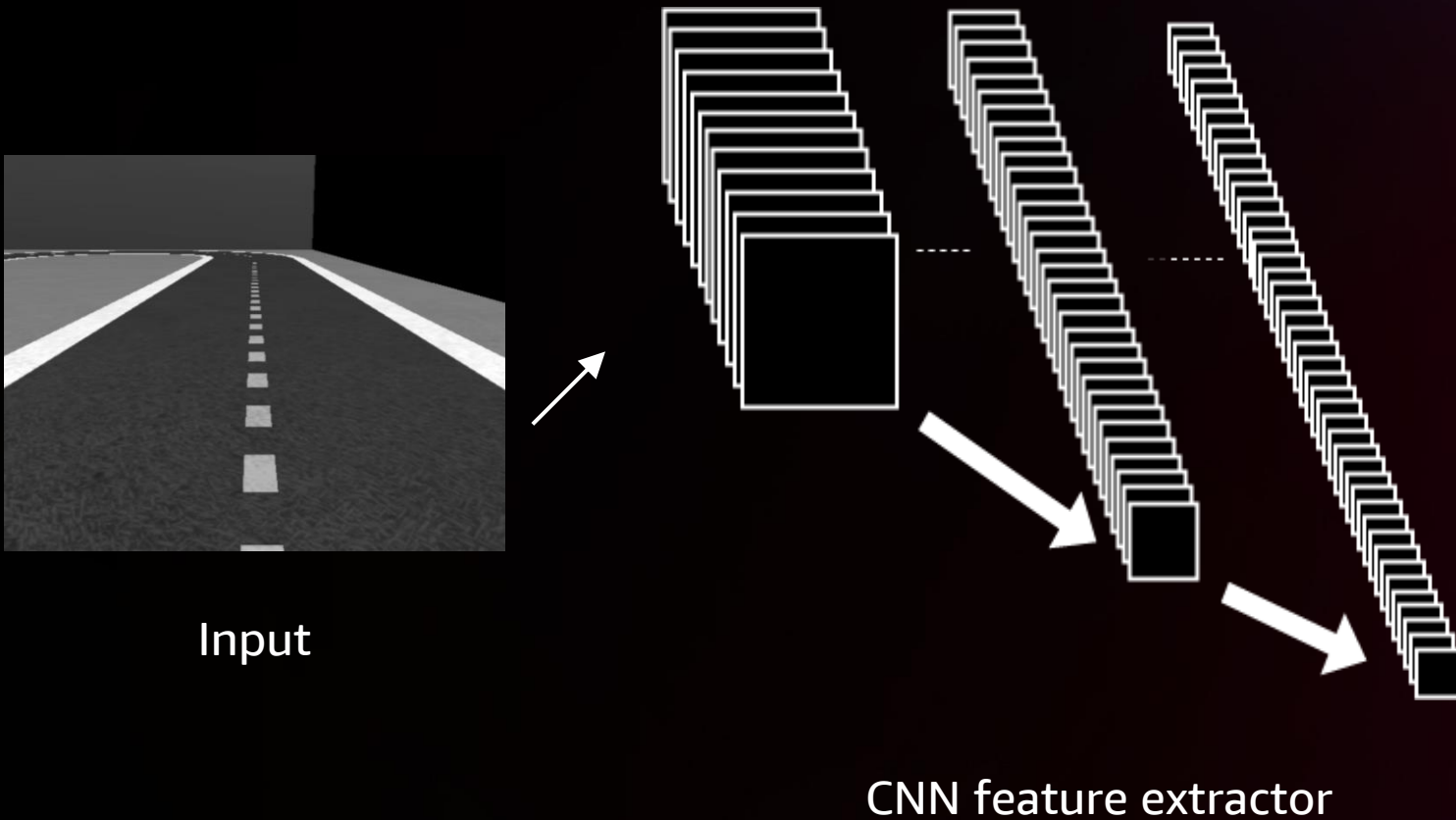


# AWS DeepRacer neural network architecture

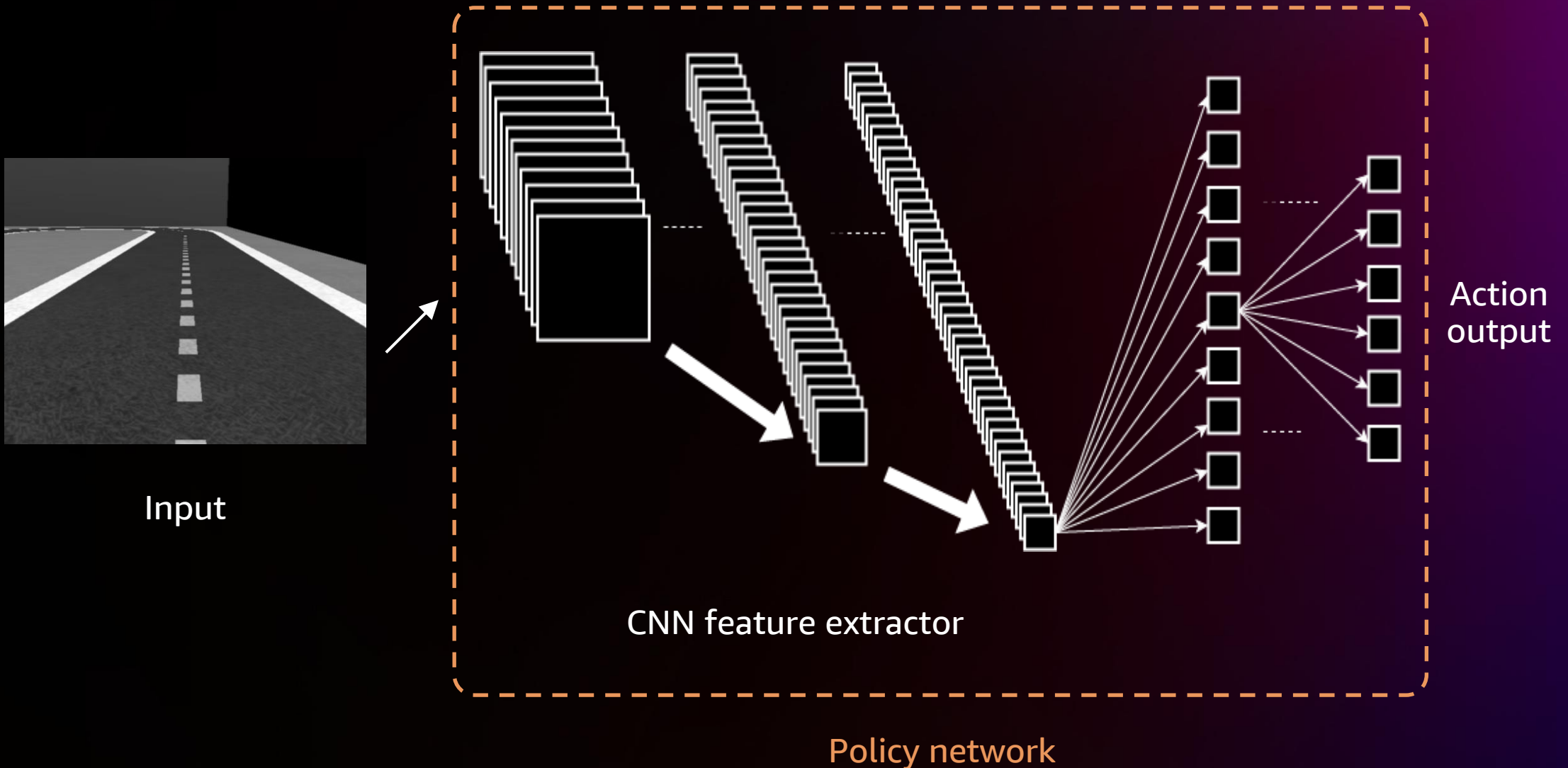


Input

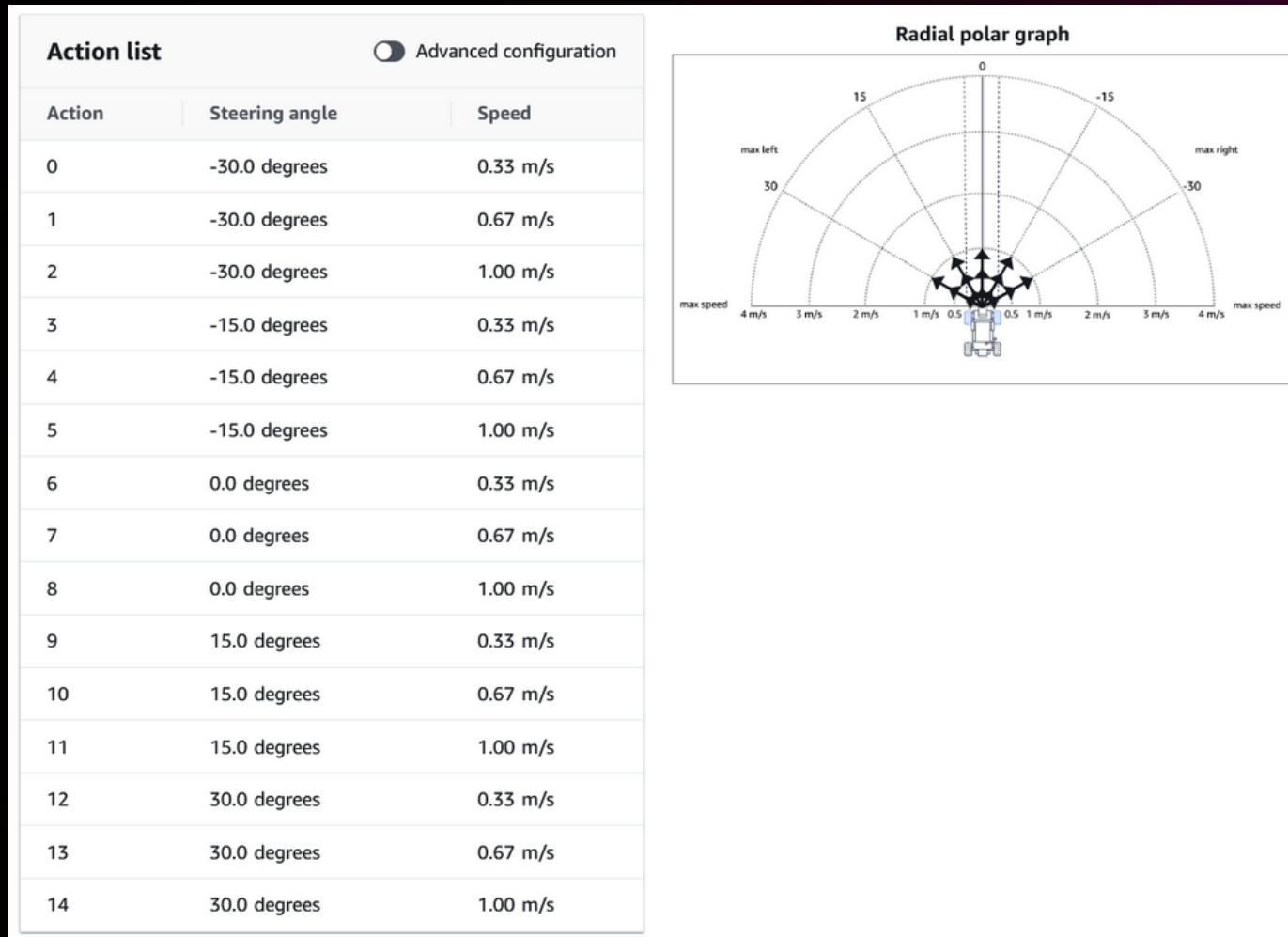
# AWS DeepRacer neural network architecture



# AWS DeepRacer neural network architecture



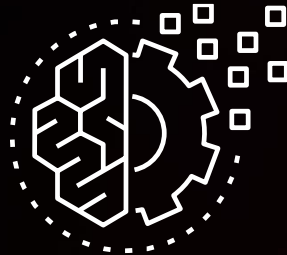
# Action space



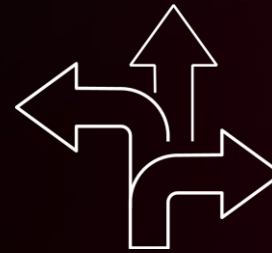
# Optimizing and inferencing with OpenVINO



**Input data**



**OpenVINO  
optimized  
model**



**OpenVINO  
inference  
results**



**Racing**

Free download: [software.intel.com/openvino-toolkit](https://software.intel.com/openvino-toolkit)

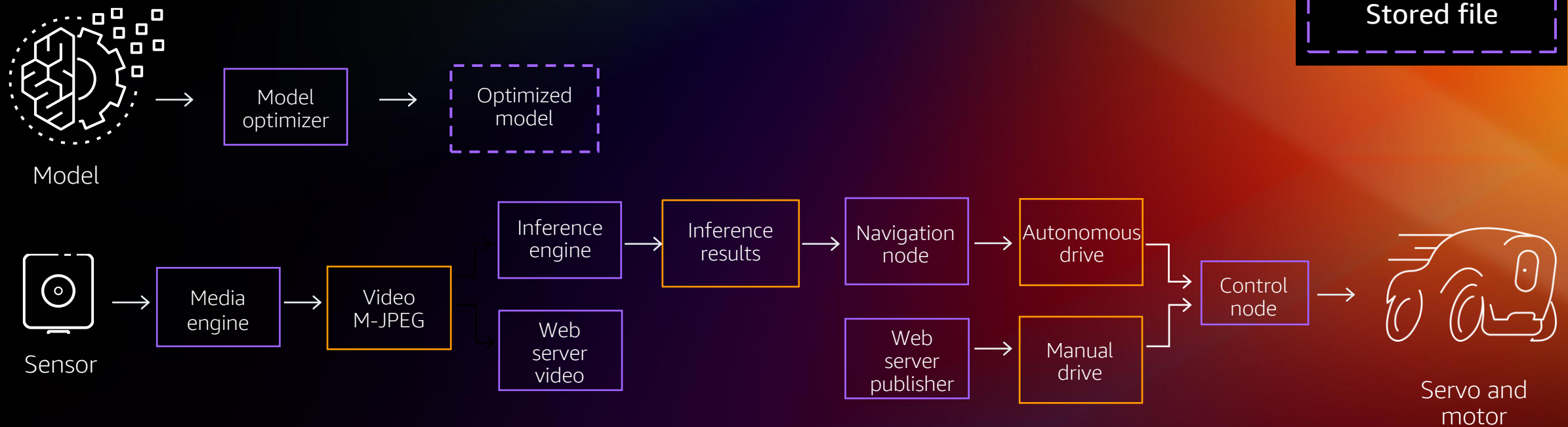
Open-source version: [github.com/openvinotoolkit/openvino](https://github.com/openvinotoolkit/openvino)



© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

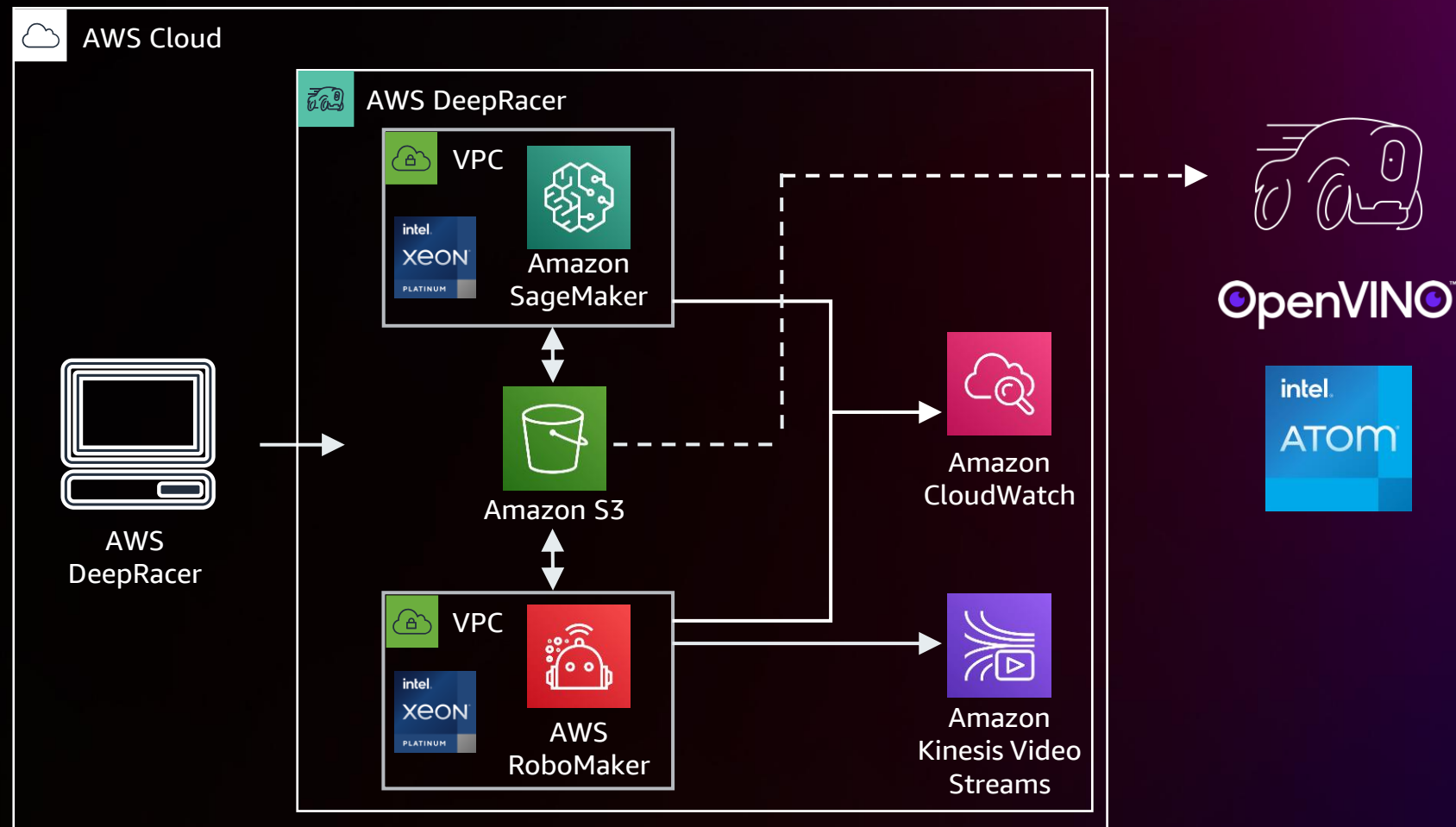


# AWS DeepRacer software architecture



# Training using the AWS DeepRacer console

# AWS DeepRacer simulator architecture



# Programming your own reward function

**Reward function** [Info](#)

The reward function describes immediate feedback (as a score for reward or penalty) when the vehicle takes an action to move from a given position on the track to a new position. Its purpose is to encourage the vehicle to make moves along the track to reach its destination quickly. The model training process will attempt to find a policy which maximizes the average total reward the vehicle experiences.

**Code editor** **Reward function examples** **Reset** **Validate**

```
1 def reward_function(params):
2     '''
3     Example of rewarding the agent to follow center line
4     '''
5
6     # Read input parameters
7     track_width = params['track_width']
8     distance_from_center = params['distance_from_center']
9
10    # Calculate 3 markers that are at varying distances away from the center line
11    marker_1 = 0.1 * track_width
12    marker_2 = 0.25 * track_width
13    marker_3 = 0.5 * track_width
14
15    # Give higher reward if the car is closer to center line and vice versa
16    if distance_from_center <= marker_1:
17        reward = 1.0
18    elif distance_from_center <= marker_2:
19        reward = 0.5
20    elif distance_from_center <= marker_3:
21        reward = 0.1
22    else:
23        reward = 1e-3 # likely crashed/ close to off track
24
25    return float(reward)
```

Code editor: Python 3 syntax

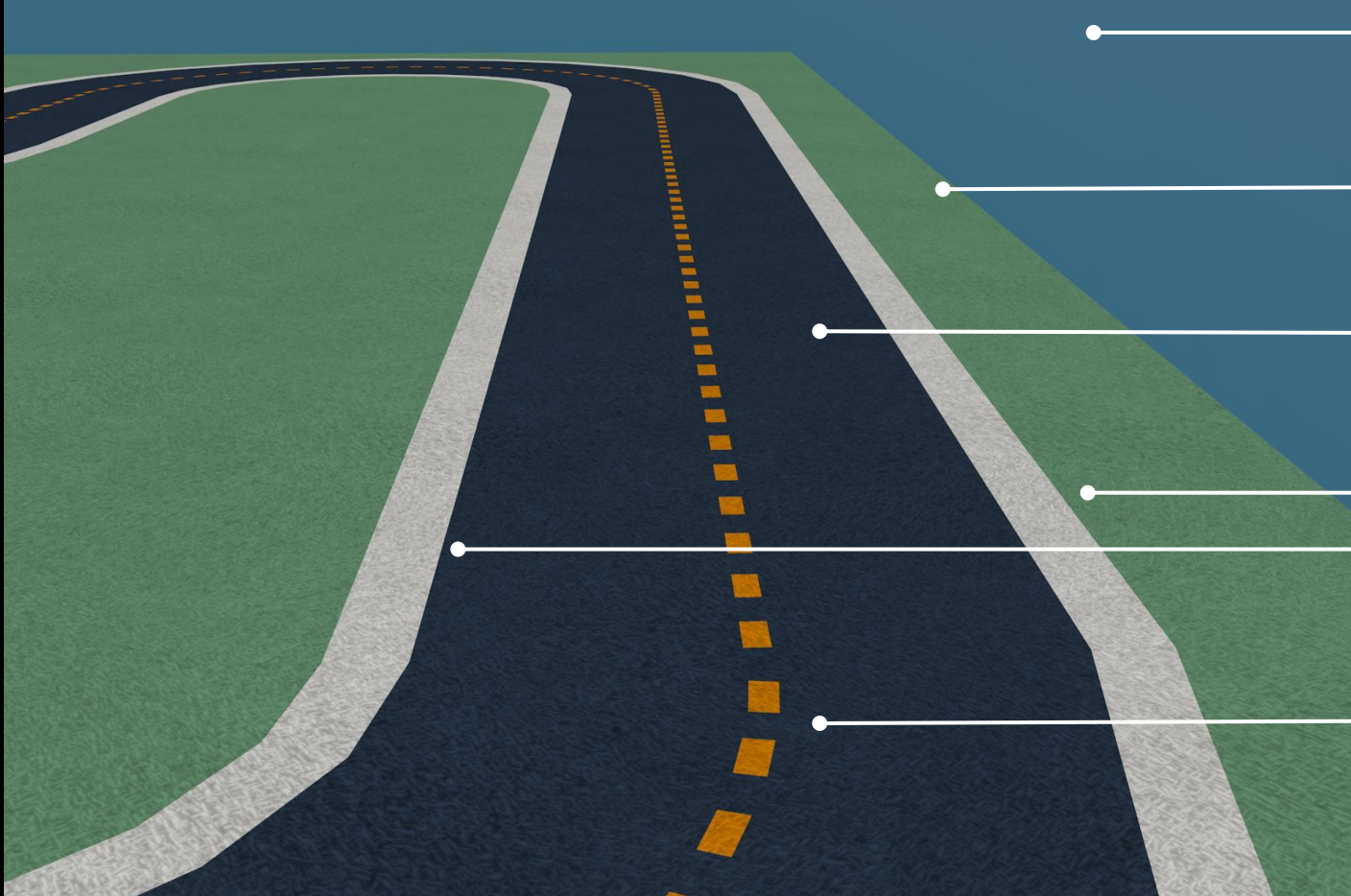
Three example reward functions

Code validation via Lambda

**Code editor** **Reward function examples** **Reset** **Validate**

✓ Your reward function passed validation. ✕

# Track components



Track wall

Field (off-track)

Track surface (on-track)

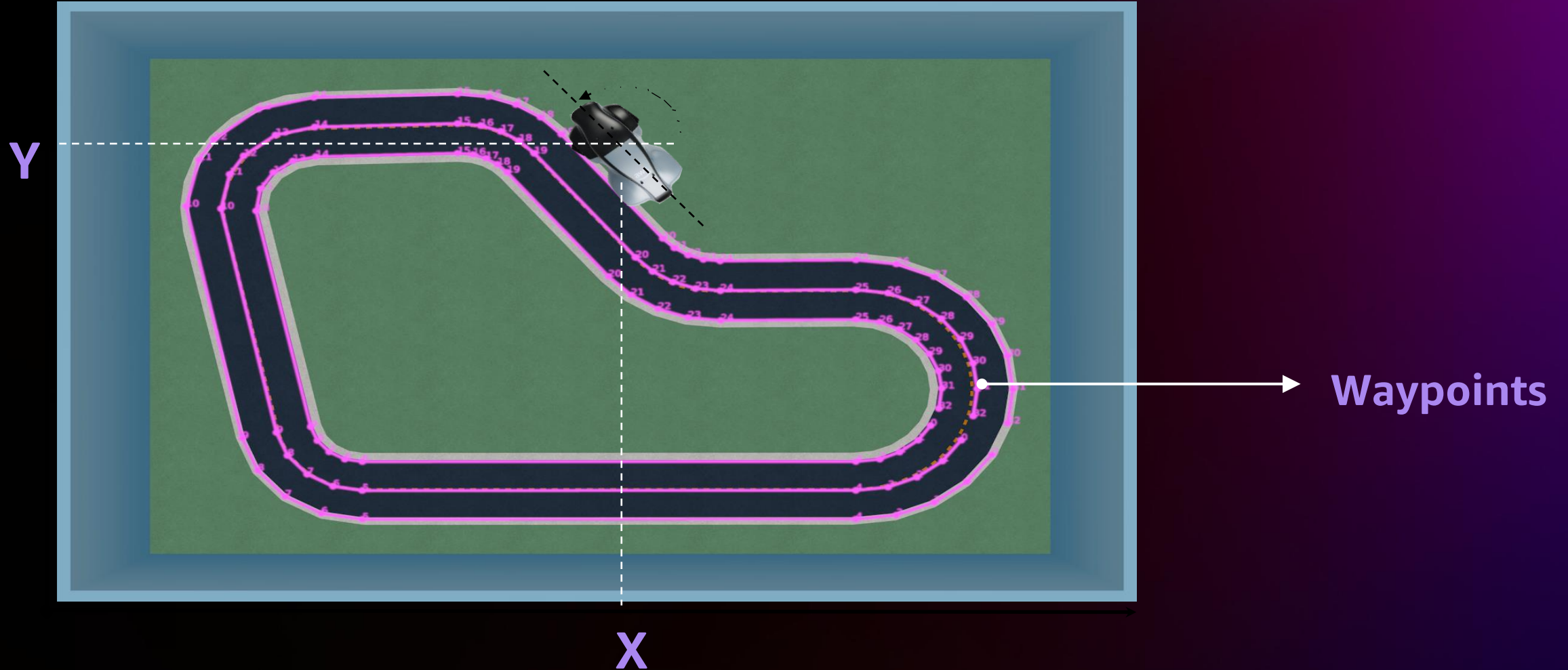
Track boundaries

Track center

# Reward function input parameters

```
{
  "all_wheels_on_track": Boolean,      # flag to indicate if the agent is on the track
  "x": float,                          # agent's x-coordinate in meters
  "y": float,                          # agent's y-coordinate in meters
  "closest_objects": [int, int],       # zero-based indices of the two closest objects to the agent's current position of (x, y).
  "closest_waypoints": [int, int],     # indices of the two nearest waypoints.
  "distance_from_center": float,       # distance in meters from the track center
  "is_crashed": Boolean,               # Boolean flag to indicate whether the agent has crashed.
  "is_left_of_center": Boolean,         # Flag to indicate if the agent is on the left side to the track center or not.
  "is_offtrack": Boolean,              # Boolean flag to indicate whether the agent has gone off track.
  "is_reversed": Boolean,              # flag to indicate if the agent is driving clockwise (True) or counter clockwise (False).
  "heading": float,                   # agent's yaw in degrees
  "objects_distance": [float, ],       # list of the objects' distances in meters between 0 and track_length in relation to the starting line.
  "objects_heading": [float, ],        # list of the objects' headings in degrees between -180 and 180.
  "objects_left_of_center": [Boolean, ], # list of Boolean flags indicating whether elements' objects are left of the center (True) or not (False).
  "objects_location": [(float, float)], # list of object locations [(x,y), ...].
  "objects_speed": [float, ],          # list of the objects' speeds in meters per second.
  "progress": float,                   # percentage of track completed
  "speed": float,                     # agent's speed in meters per second (m/s)
  "steering_angle": float,             # agent's steering angle in degrees
  "steps": int,                       # number steps completed
  "track_length": float,               # track length in meters.
  "track_width": float,                # width of the track
  "waypoints": [(float, float), ]     # list of (x,y) as milestones along the track center
}
```

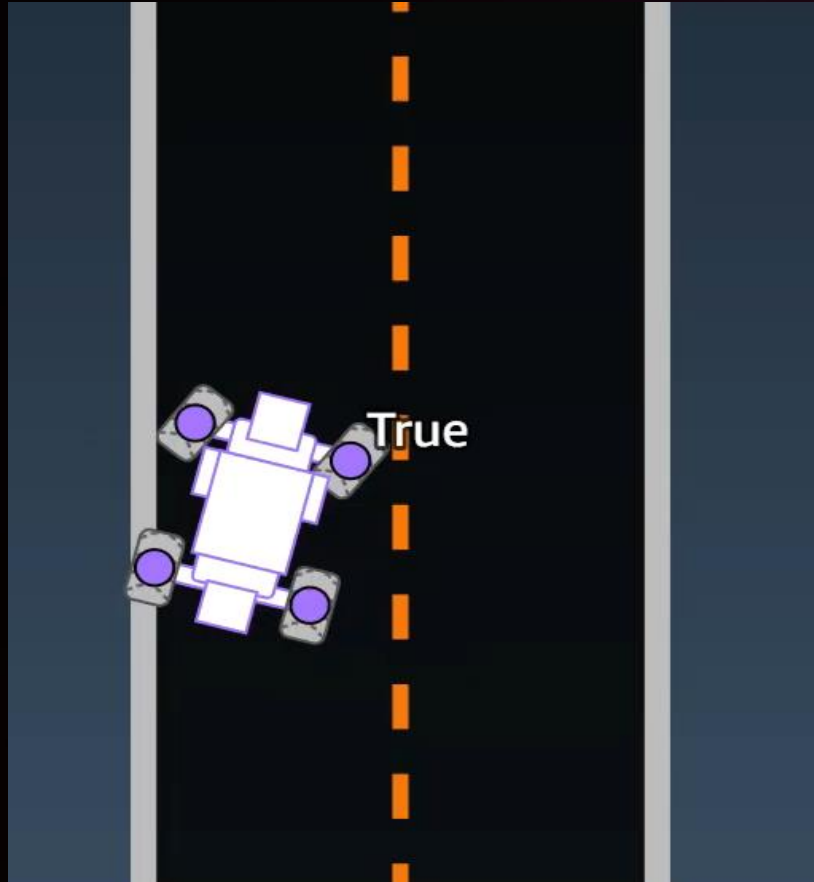
# Coordinate system and track waypoints



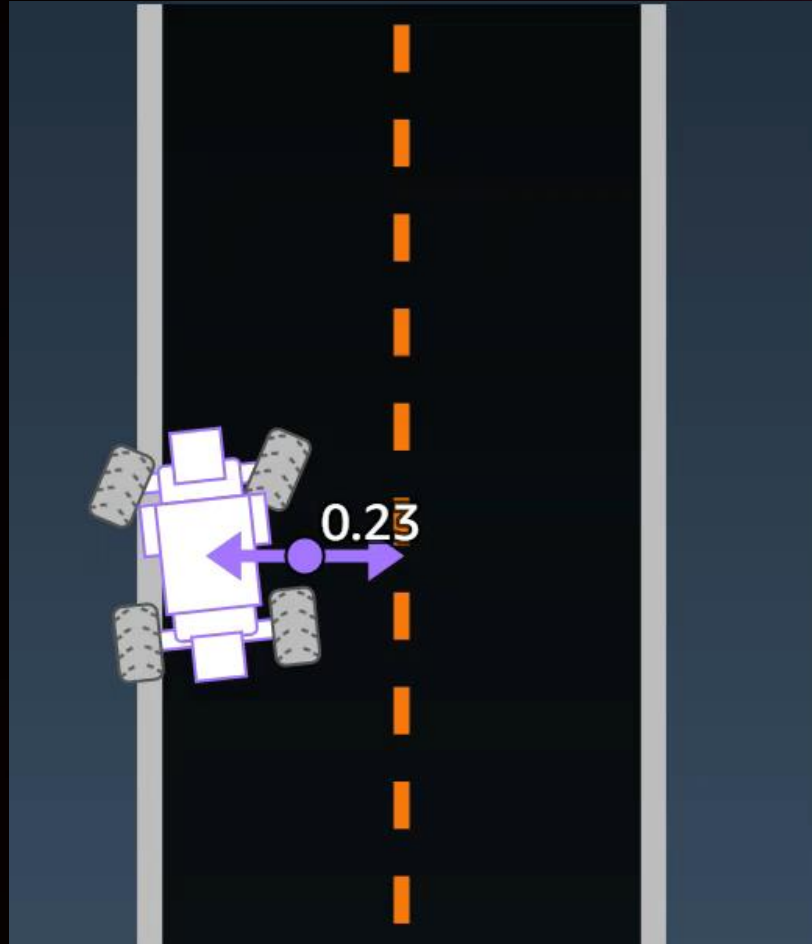
# Example parameter: heading



# Example parameter: `all_wheels_on_track`



# Example parameter: `distance_from_center`



# Hands-on workshop



# Getting started with this workshop

<https://catalog.workshops.aws/deepracer-200l/en-US>



# Next steps

## Win an in-person driving experience!

Get behind the wheel of a DeepRacer Arcade or take your model for a spin in our open tracks in the MGM between Monday at 8:00 AM and Wednesday at 4:00 PM

You'll be automatically entered to win one of four spots to race full size exotic cars alongside our 2022 Champions and AWS VIP's at the **DeepRacer Winner's Circle Driving Experience at the Las Vegas Speedway** - no competition required!

# Next steps

**Win a wildcard spot in the 2023 Championship Cup at a ticket to next year's re:Invent**

Race your model at any DeepRacer track on Thursday (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM) during the **re:Invent 2023 Open** to see how you stack up against the competition

All tracks across re:Invent will lead to one leaderboard, and the fastest developer will secure their spot (and ticket!) at next year's finals

# Thank you!

Tim O'Brien

tpobrien@amazon.com



Please complete the session survey in the **mobile app**



© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.