

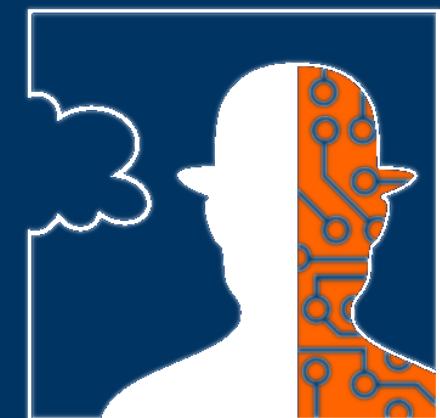
# Wasserstein Auto-encoded MDPs

Formal Verification of Efficiently Distilled RL Policies with  
Many-sided Guarantees

*Florent Delgrange*, Ann Nowé, Guillermo A. Pérez



**ICLR**



ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE  
RESEARCH GROUP

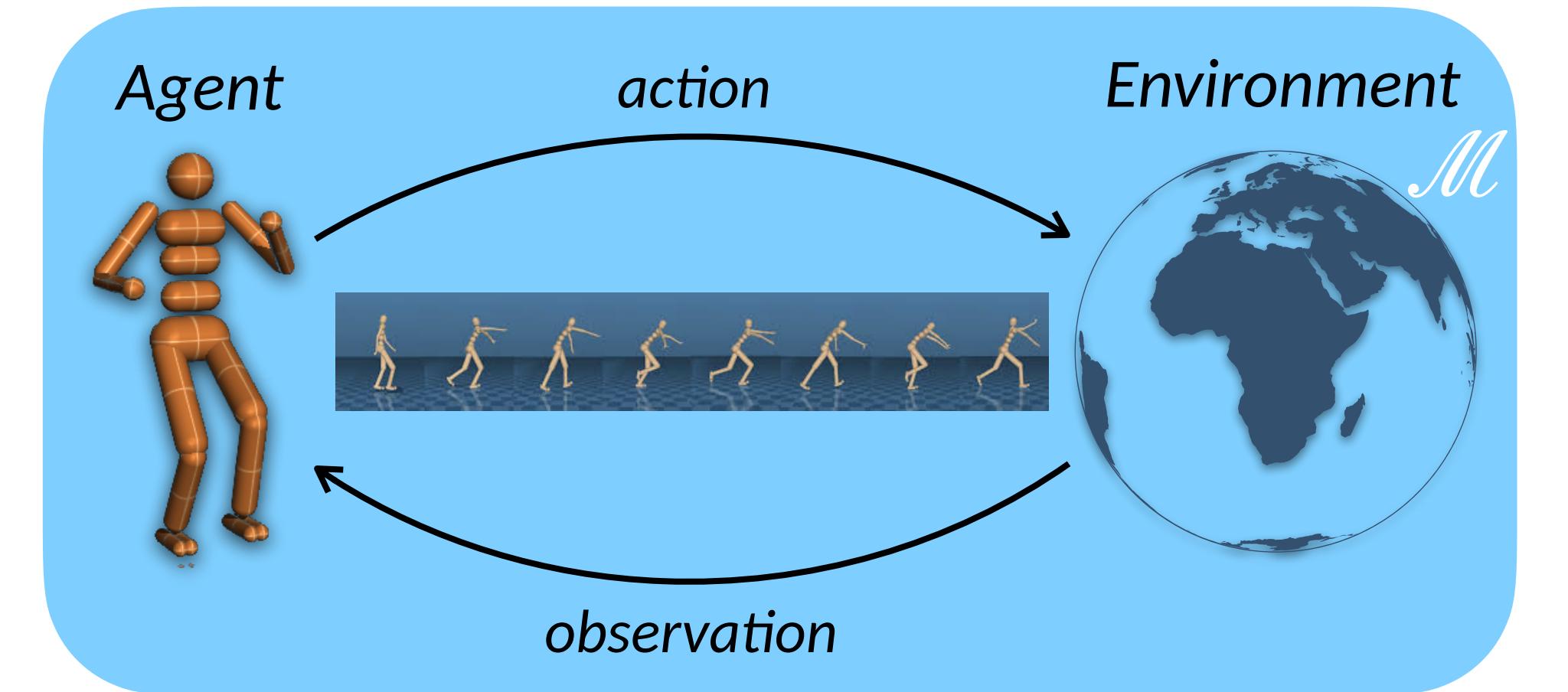


Universiteit  
Antwerpen



# Overview

## Reinforcement Learning

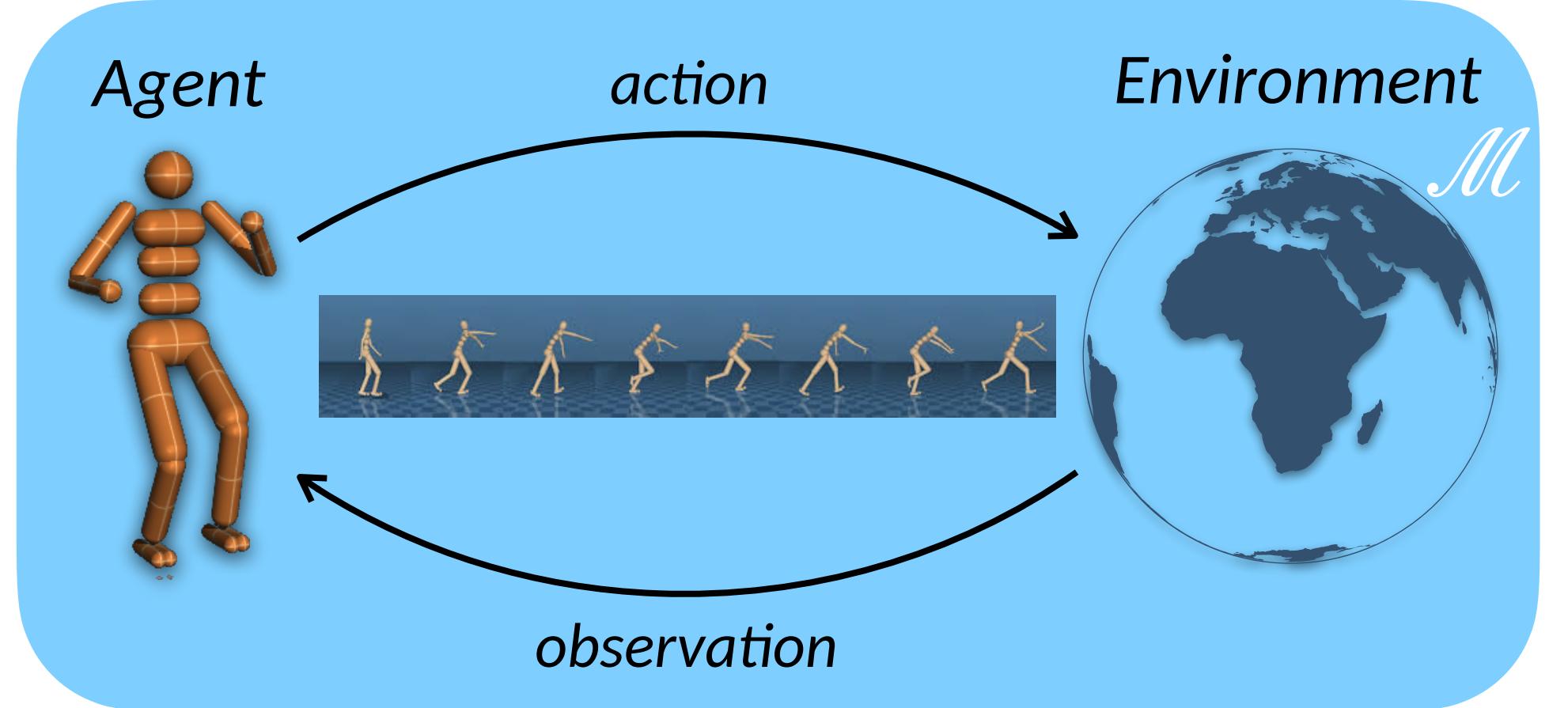


$\pi$

*control  
policy*

# Overview

## Reinforcement Learning



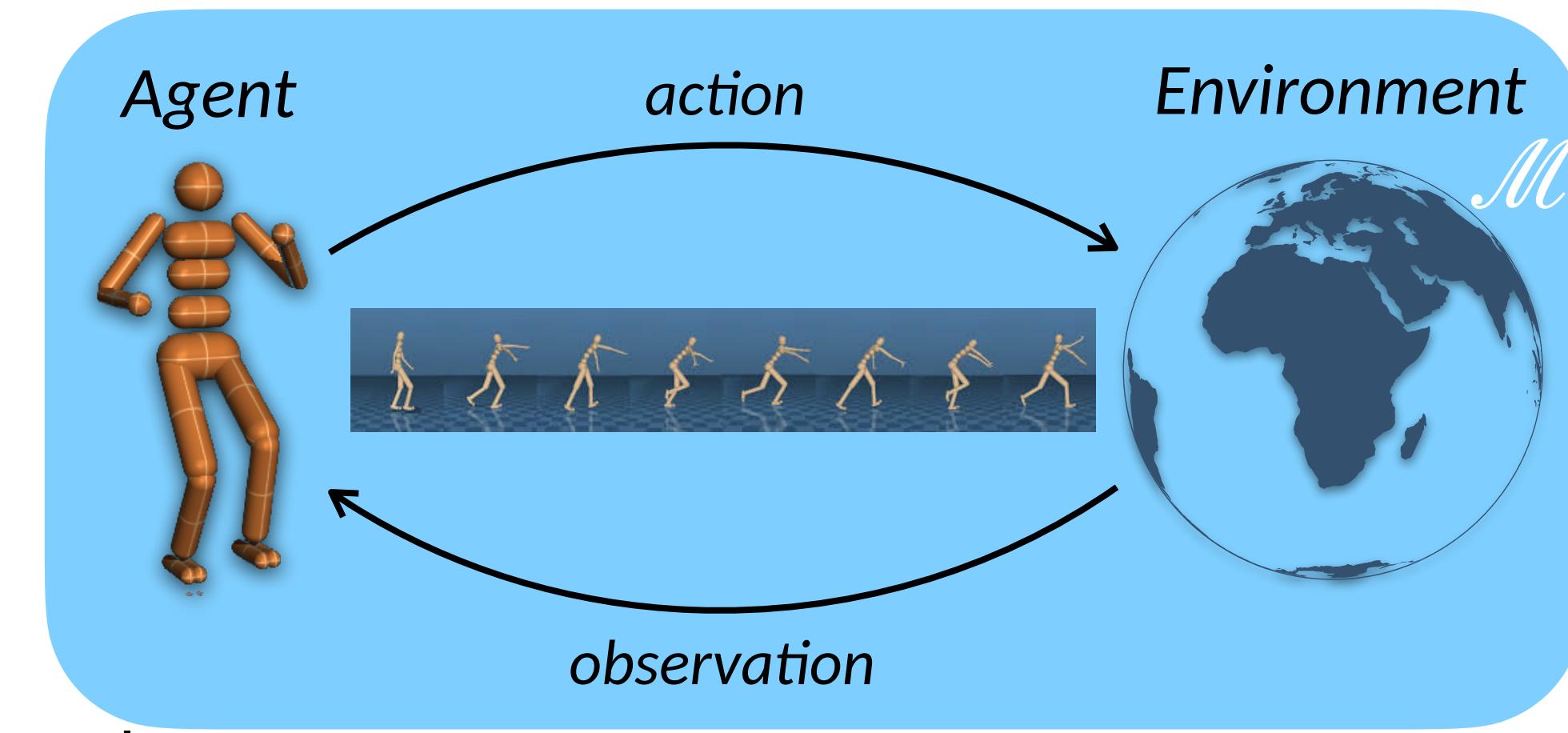
$\pi$

control  
policy

- Unknown environment
- Continuous state/action spaces

# Overview

## Reinforcement Learning



$\pi$

control  
policy

- Unknown environment
- Continuous state/action spaces

282

Theorem

Given bounded rewards  $|r_n| \leq R$ , learning rates  $0 \leq \alpha_n < 1$ , and

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_n^{i(x,a)} = \infty, \quad \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} [\alpha_n^{i(x,a)}]^2 < \infty, \quad \forall x, a,$$

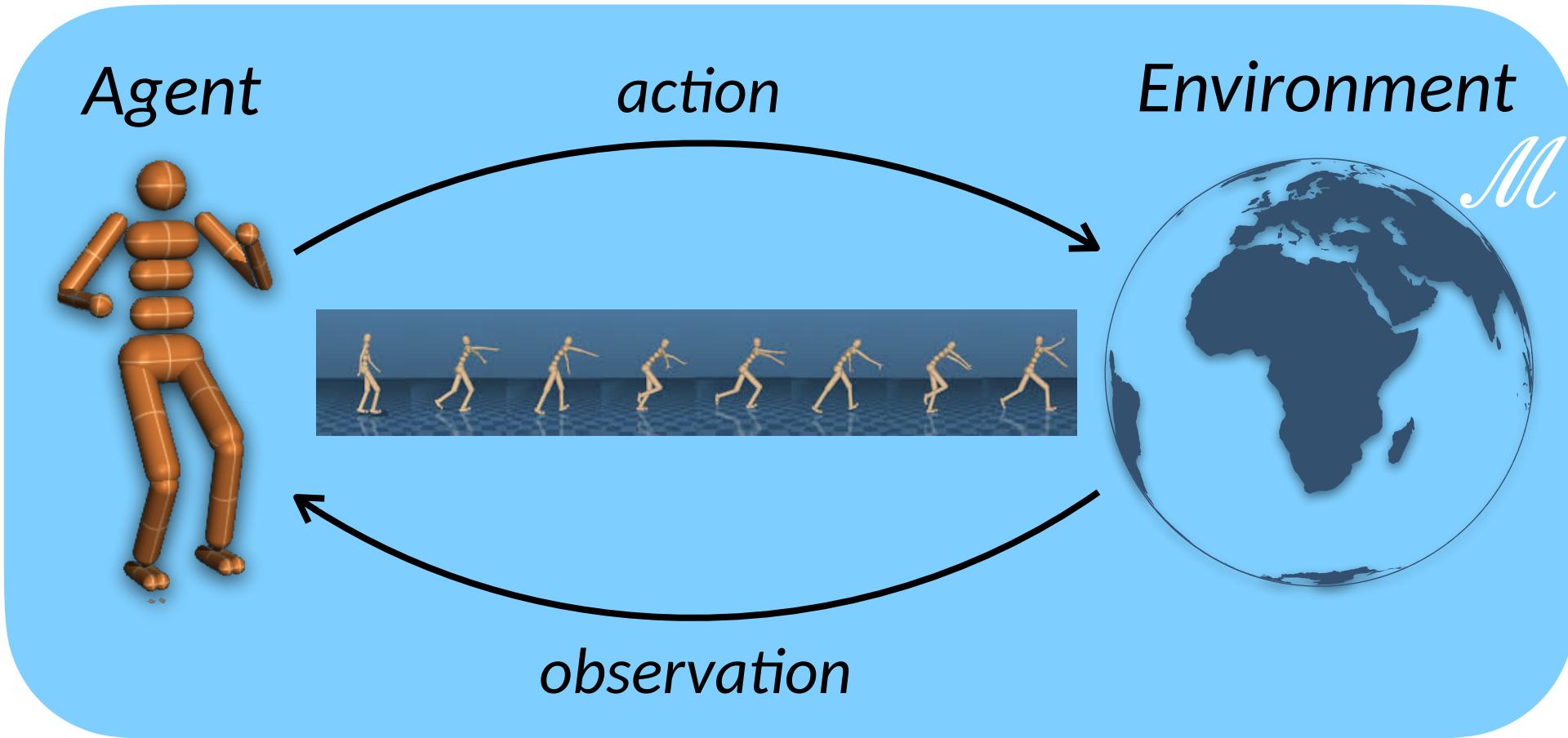
then  $Q_n(x, a) \rightarrow Q^*(x, a)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\forall x, a$ , with probability 1.

3. The convergence proof

The key to the convergence proof is an artificial controlled Markov process called the action-replay process ARP, which is constructed from the episode sequence and the learning rate sequence  $\alpha_n$ . A description of the ARP is given in the appendix, but the easiest way to think of it is as a card game. Imagine each episode  $(x_i, a_i, y_i, r_i, \alpha_i)$  written on a card. Take an infinite deck, with the first episode-card next-to-bottom. The bottom card (numbered 0) has written on it a state  $x$  and  $a$ . A state of the ARP,  $(x, n)$ , is defined as follows:

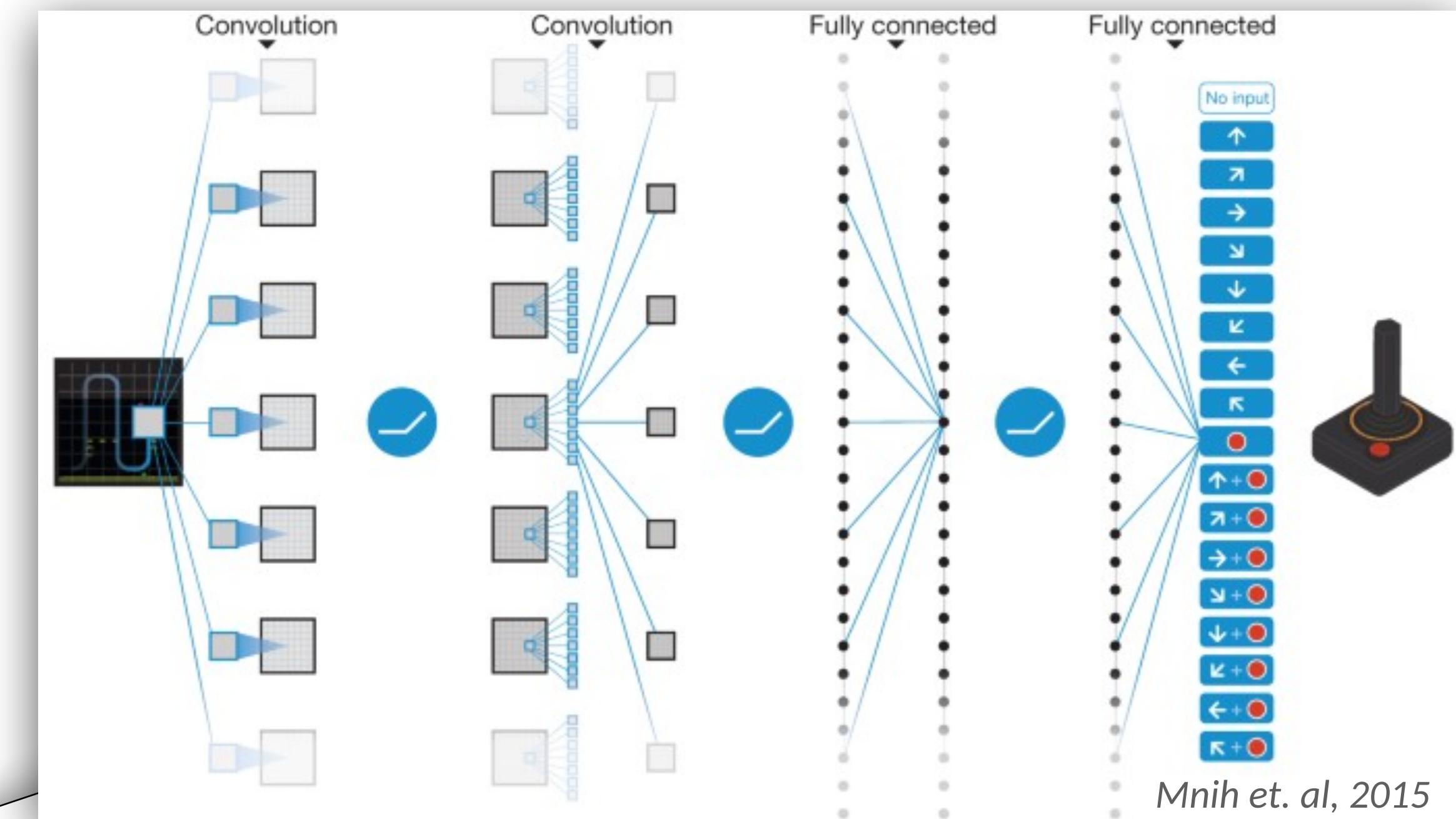
# Overview

## Reinforcement Learning



$\pi$   
control  
policy

- Unknown environment
- Continuous state/action spaces

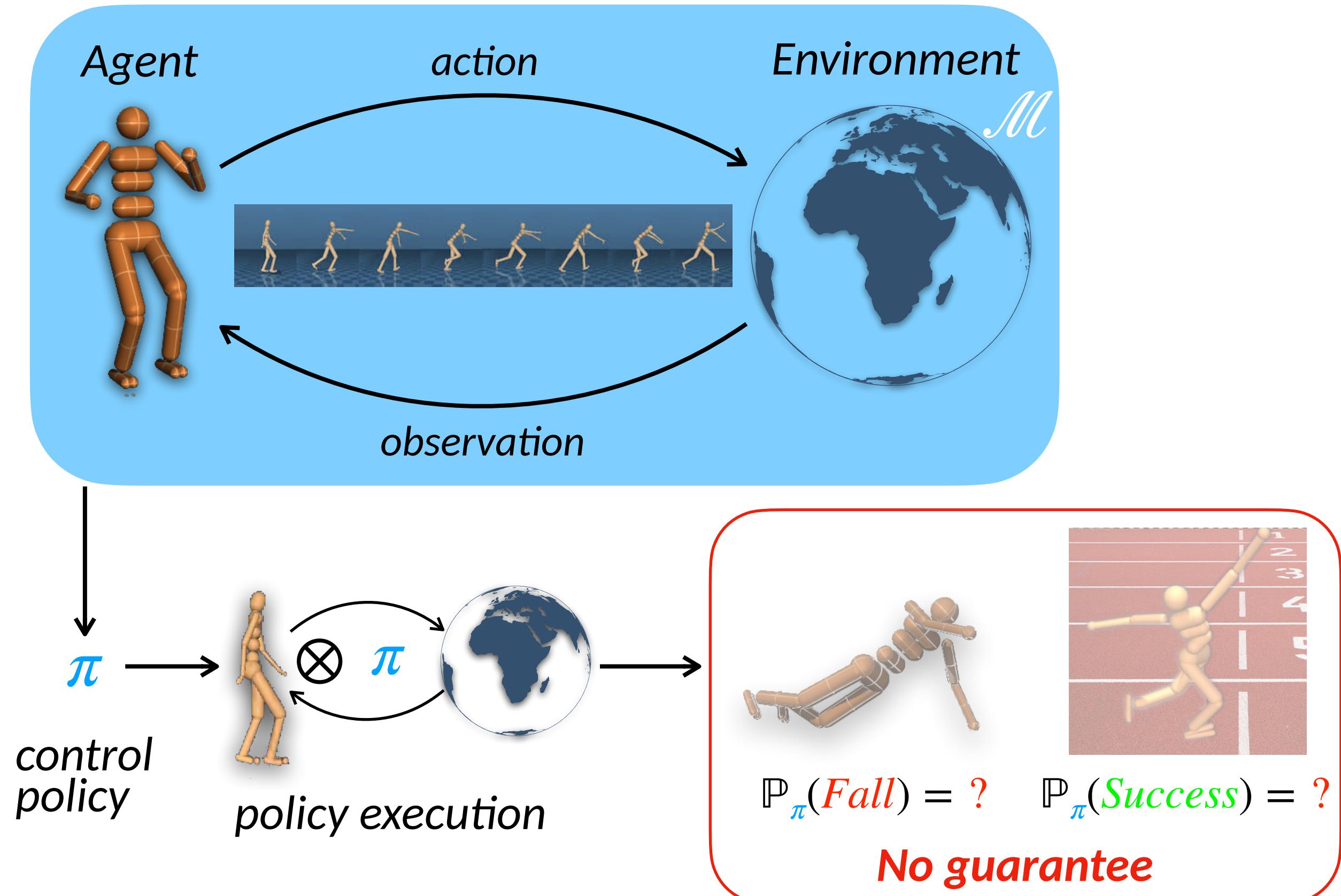


282  
Theorem  
Given bounded rewards  $|r_n| \leq R$ , learning rates  $0 \leq \alpha_n < 1$ , and  
 $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_n^i(x,a) = \infty$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} [\alpha_n^i(x,a)]^2 < \infty, \forall x, a$ ,  
then  $Q_n(x, a) \rightarrow Q^*(x, a)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty, \forall x, a$ , with probability 1.  
3. The convergence proof

The key to the convergence proof is an artificial controlled Markov process called the *action-replay process ARP*, which is constructed from the episode sequence and the learning rate sequence  $\alpha_n$ . A description of the ARP is given in the appendix, but the easiest way to think of it is as a card game. Imagine each episode  $(x_i, a_i, y_i, r_i, \alpha_i)$  written on a card. Take an infinite deck, with the first episode-card next-to-bottom. The bottom card (numbered 0) has written on it a state  $x$  and  $a$ . A state of the ARP,  $(x, n)$ , is defined as follows:

# Overview

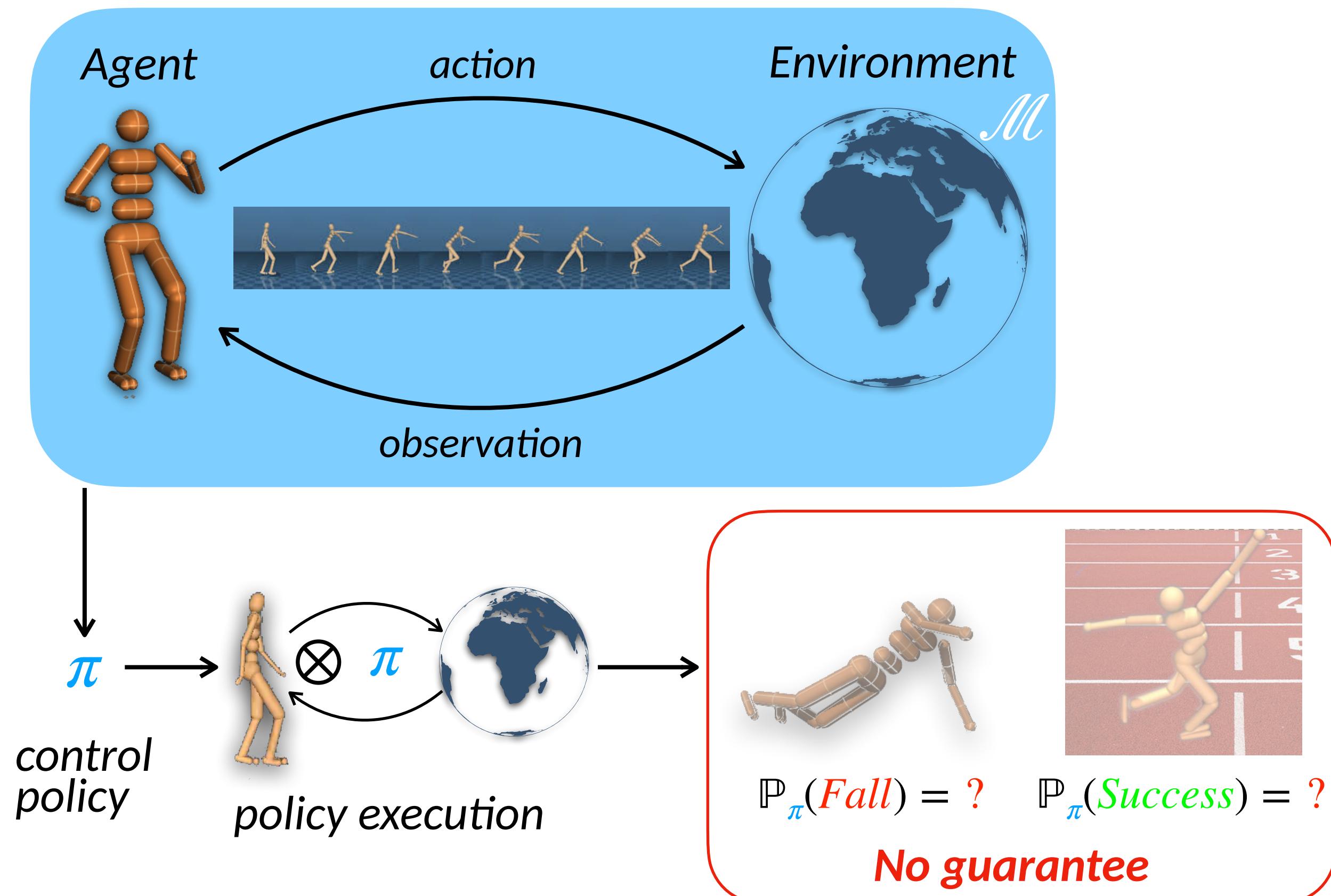
## Reinforcement Learning



- Unknown environment
- Continuous state/action spaces

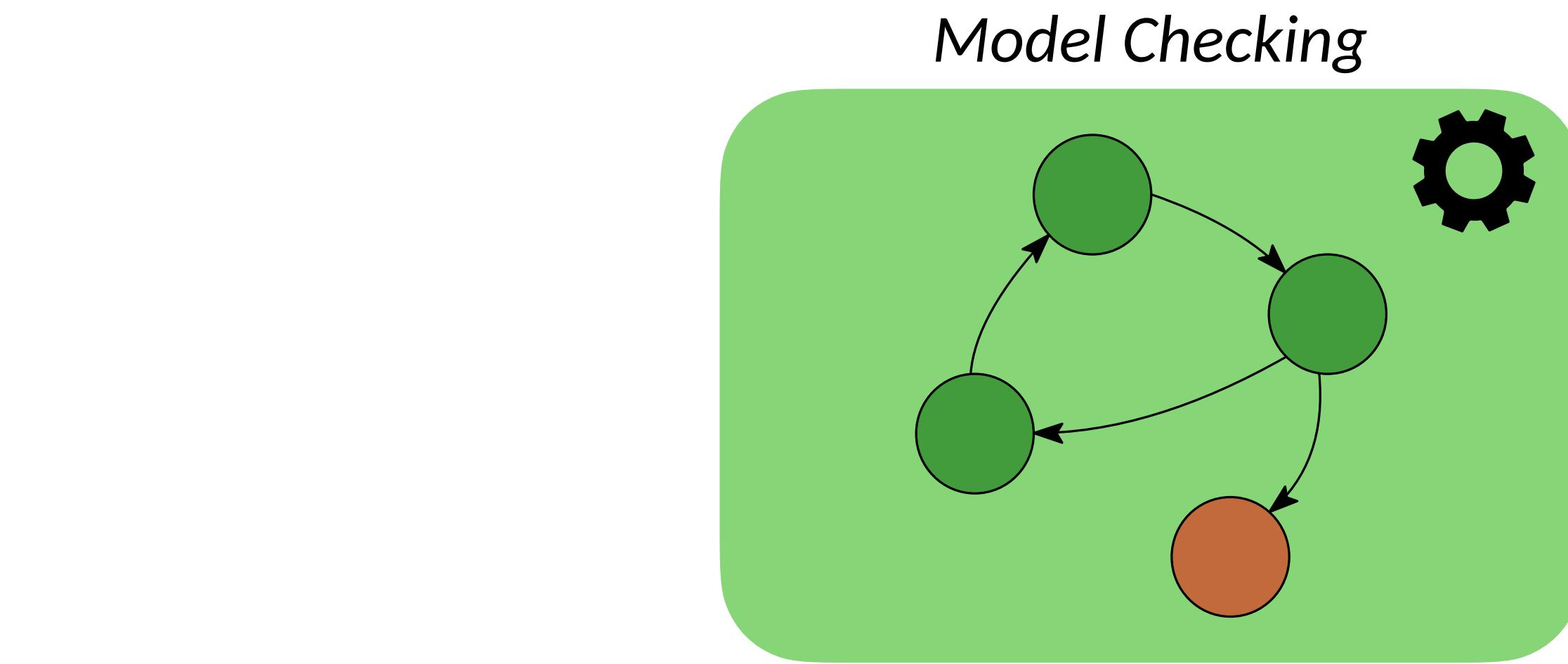
# Overview

## Reinforcement Learning



- Unknown environment
- Continuous state/action spaces

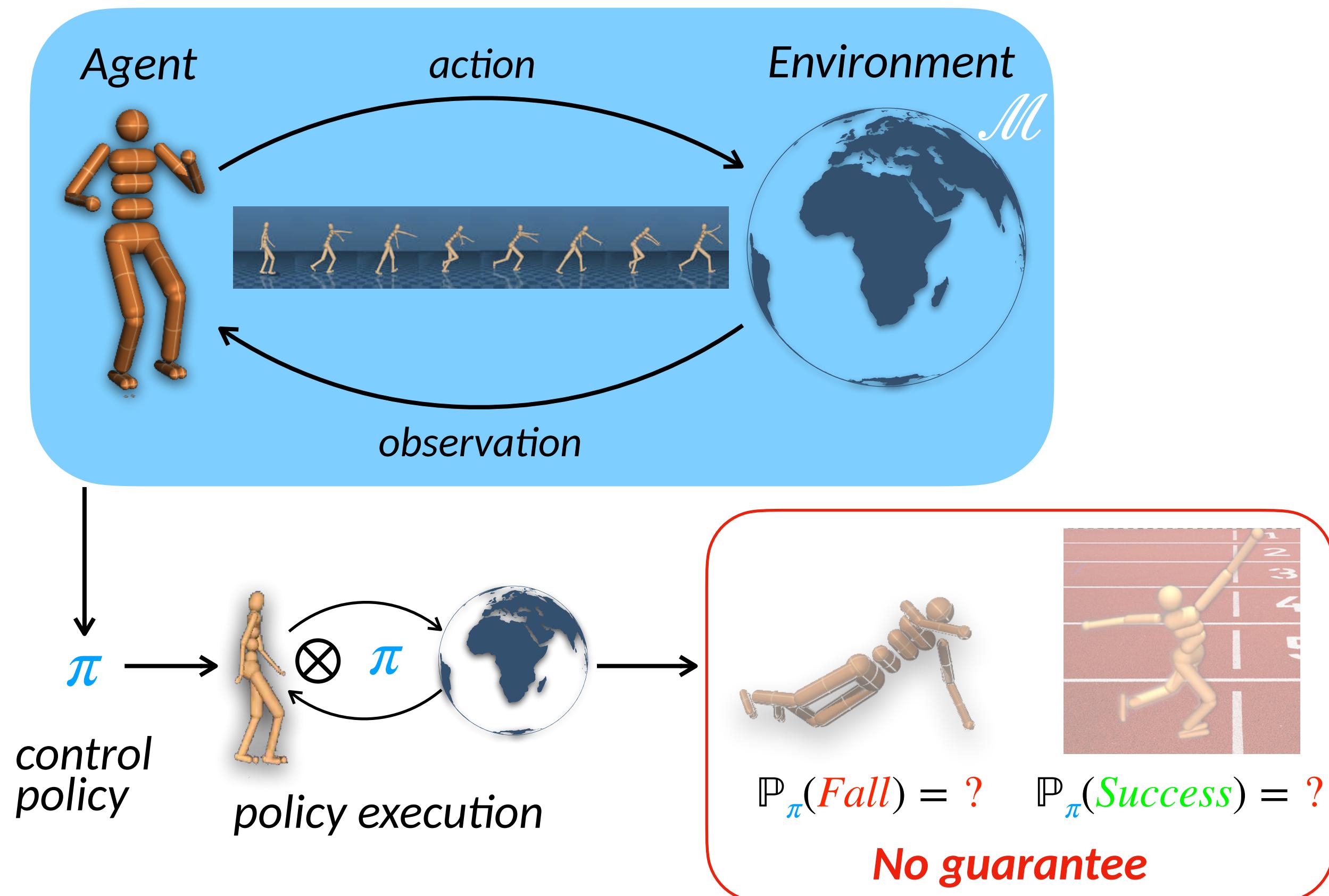
## Formal Guarantees



- Full knowledge of the model of the interaction

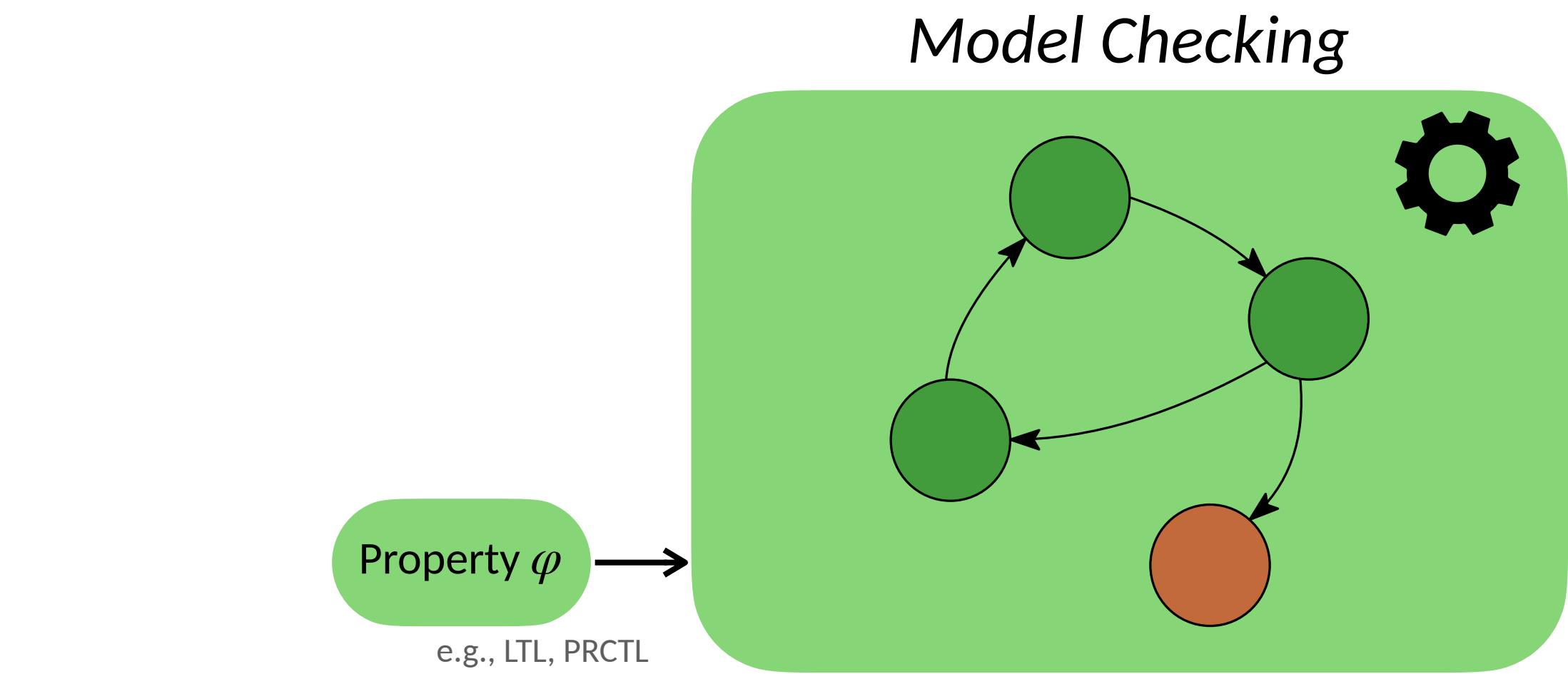
# Overview

## Reinforcement Learning



- Unknown environment
- Continuous state/action spaces

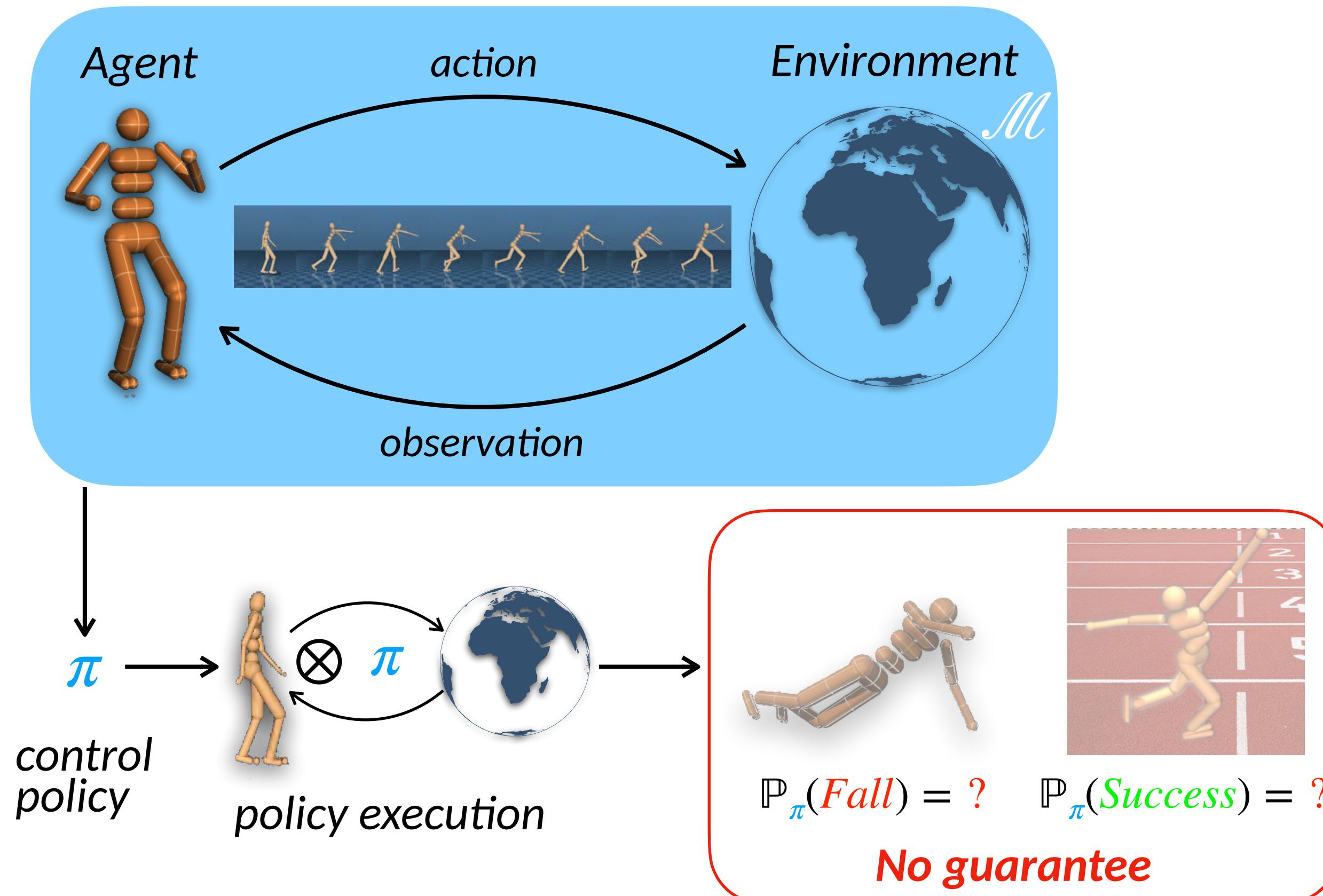
## Formal Guarantees



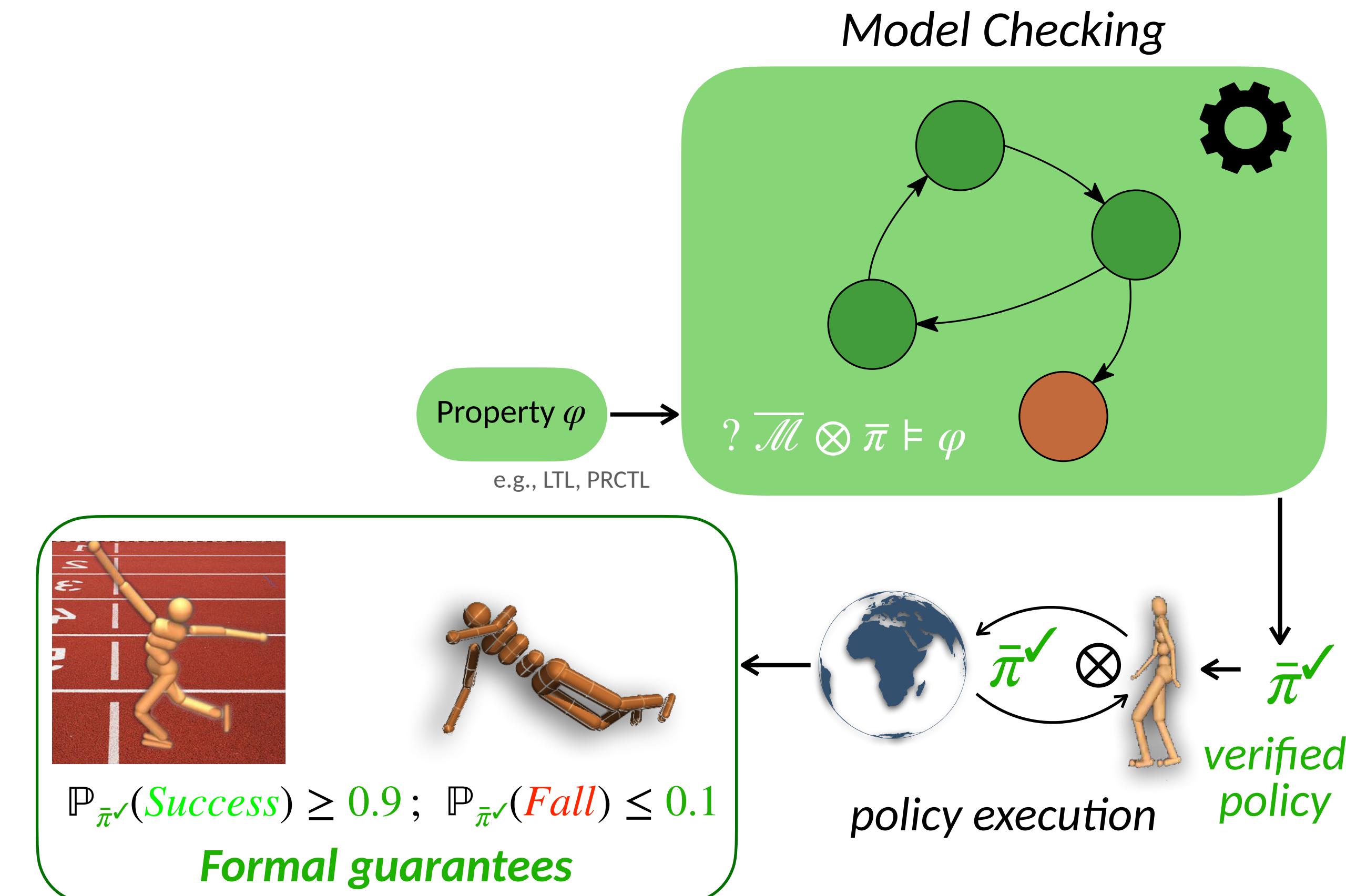
- Full knowledge of the model of the interaction

# Overview

## Reinforcement Learning



## Formal Guarantees

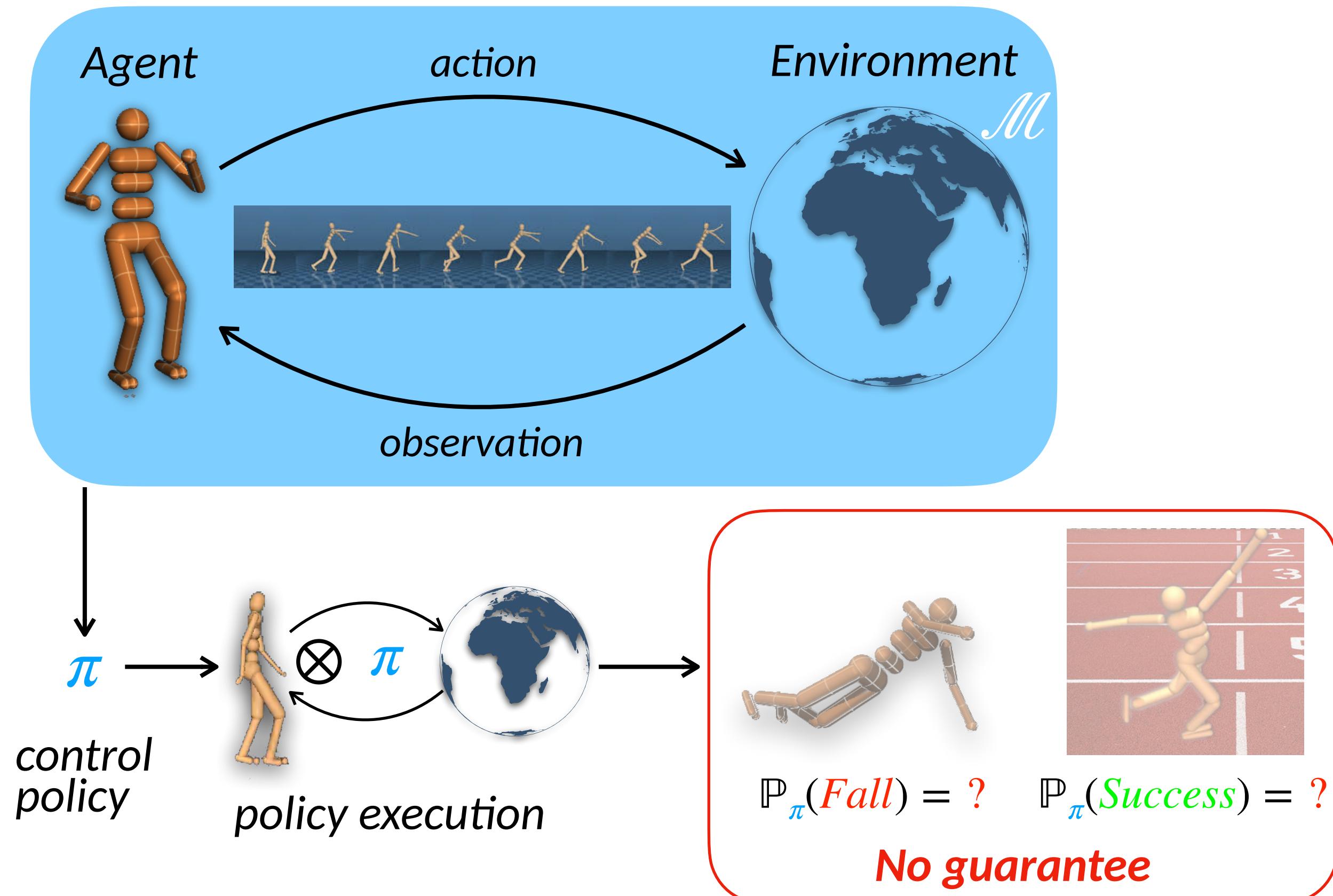


- Unknown environment
- Continuous state/action spaces

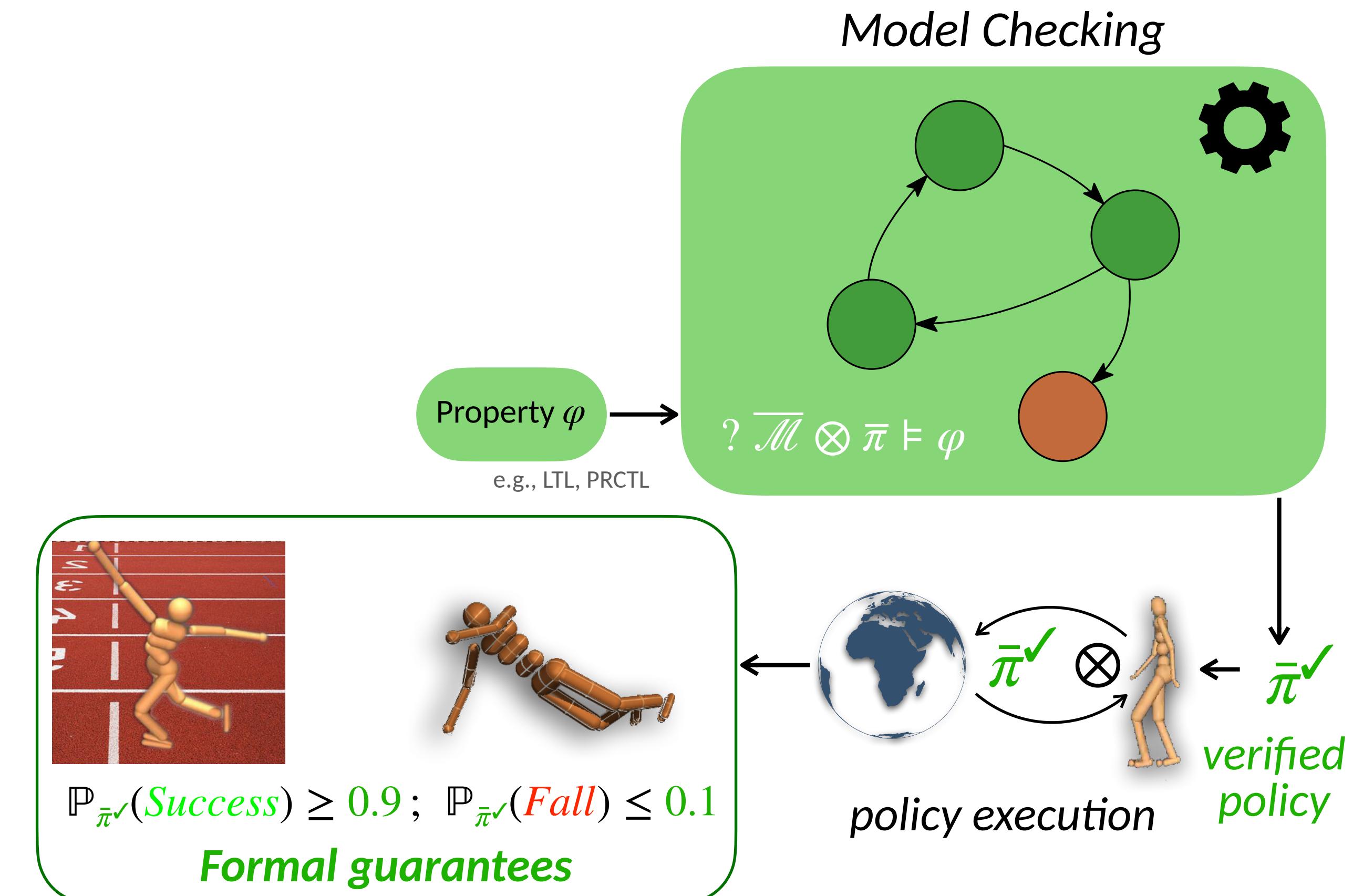
- Full knowledge of the model of the interaction

# Overview

## Reinforcement Learning



## Formal Guarantees

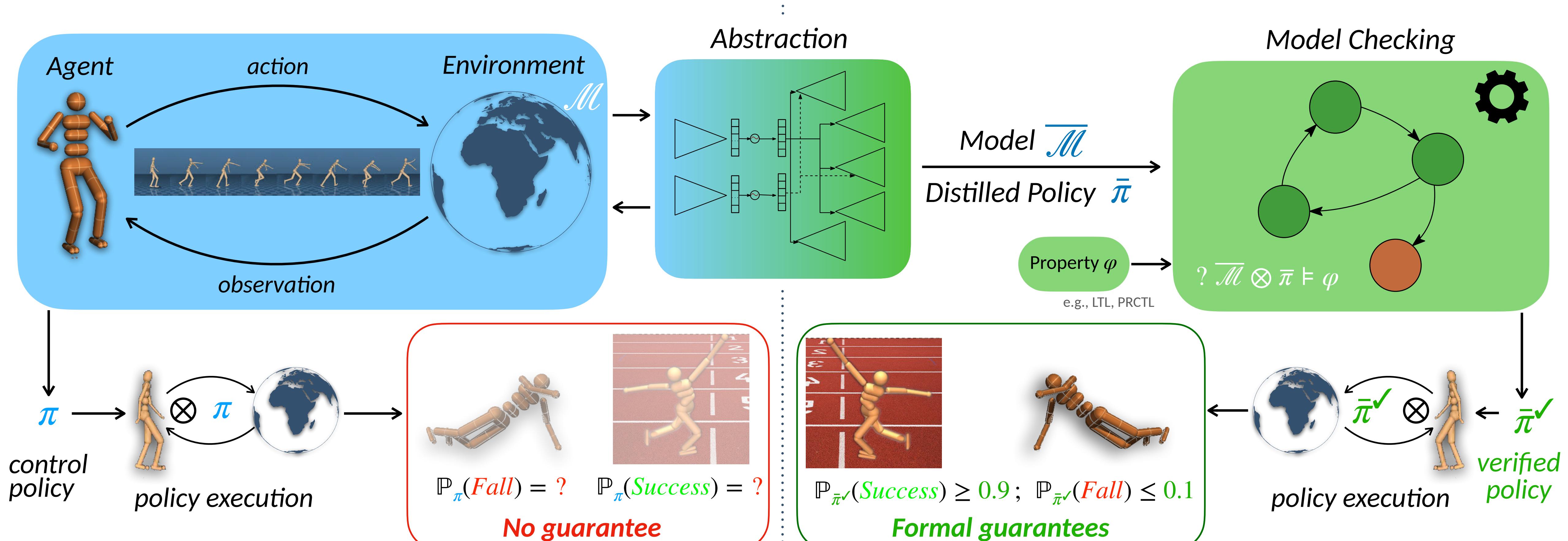


- Unknown environment
- Continuous state/action spaces

- Full knowledge of the model of the interaction
- Exhaustive exploration of the model
- Sensitive to the state space explosion problem

# Overview

## Reinforcement Learning Policies with Formal Guarantees



- Unknown environment
- Continuous state/action spaces

- Full knowledge of the model of the interaction
- Exhaustive exploration of the model
- Sensitive to the state space explosion problem

# Bisimulation distance

Continuous-spaces MDP



$$\mathcal{M} = \langle \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{R}, \mathbf{P}, \ell \rangle$$

distance?

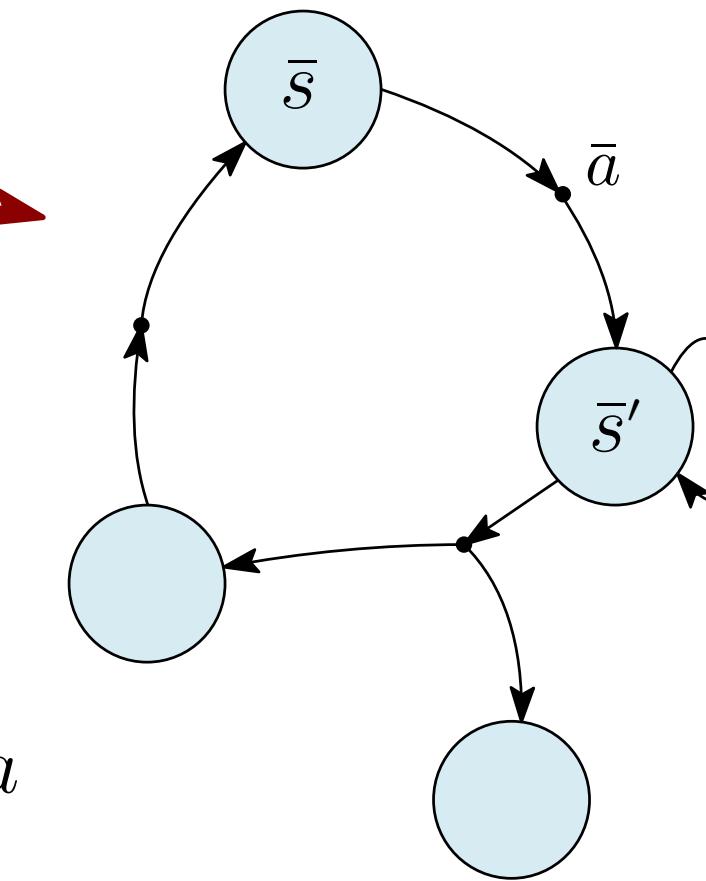
state embedding

$$\phi: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \bar{\mathcal{S}}, s \mapsto \bar{s}$$

action embedding

$$\psi: \mathcal{S} \times \bar{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}, \langle s, \bar{a} \rangle \mapsto a$$

Discrete latent MDP



$$\overline{\mathcal{M}} = \langle \overline{\mathcal{S}}, \overline{\mathcal{A}}, \overline{\mathcal{R}}, \overline{\mathbf{P}}, \ell \rangle$$

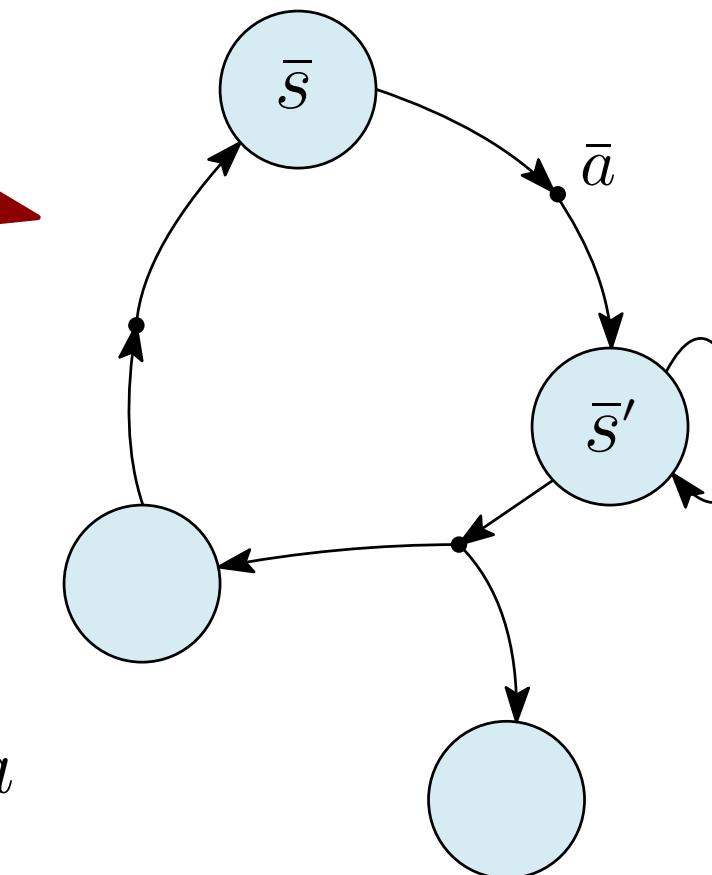
# Bisimulation distance

Continuous-spaces MDP



$$\mathcal{M} = \langle \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{R}, \mathbf{P}, \ell \rangle$$

Discrete latent MDP



$$\overline{\mathcal{M}} = \langle \overline{\mathcal{S}}, \overline{\mathcal{A}}, \overline{\mathcal{R}}, \overline{\mathbf{P}}, \ell \rangle$$

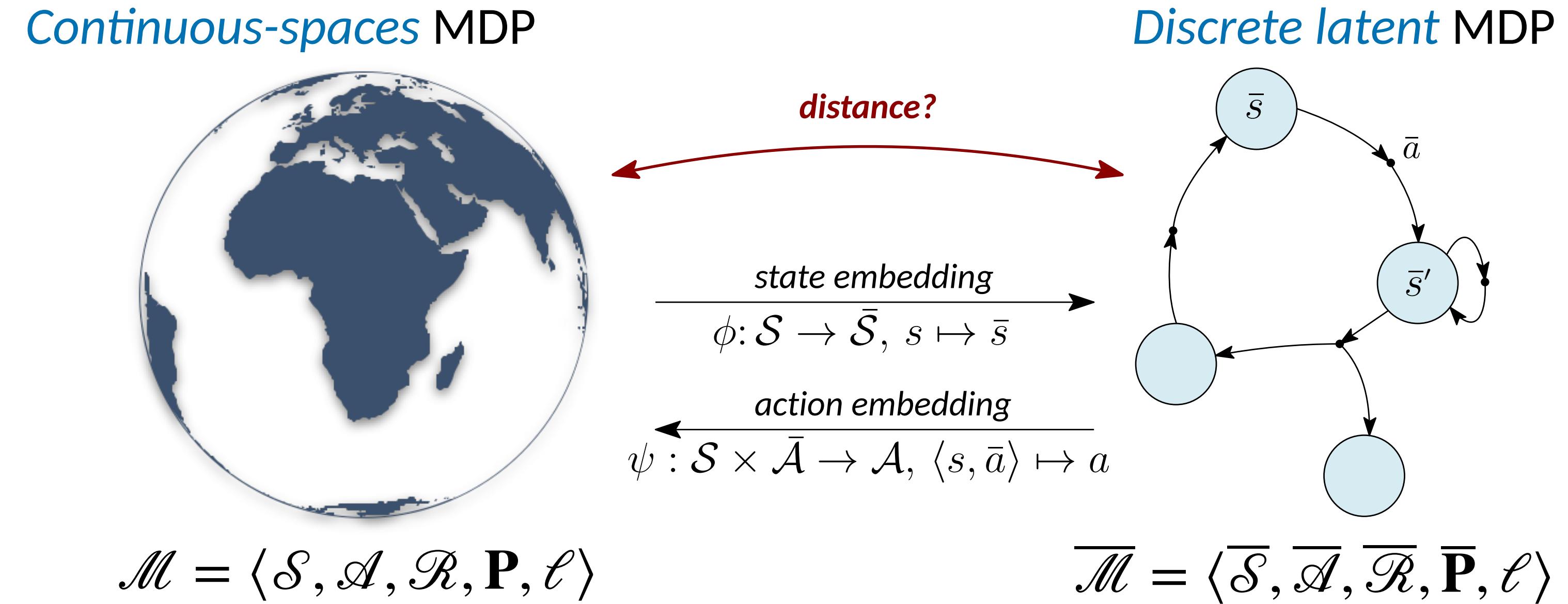
- For policy  $\pi$ ,  $\gamma \in [0,1[$ , and formal logic  $\mathcal{L}$ :

→ **Bisimulation distance:** largest behavioral difference (Desharnais et. al, 2004)

$$\tilde{d}_\pi(s_1, s_2) = \sup_{V \in \mathcal{F}_\gamma^{\mathcal{L}}(\pi)} |V_\pi(s_1) - V_\pi(s_2)| \quad \forall s_1, s_2 \in \mathcal{S}$$

where  $\mathcal{F}_\gamma^{\mathcal{L}}(\pi)$  is a logical family of functional expressions defining the semantics of  $\mathcal{L}$

# Bisimulation distance



- For policy  $\pi$ ,  $\gamma \in [0,1[$ , and formal logic  $\mathcal{L}$ :
  - ➡ **Bisimulation distance:** largest behavioral difference (Desharnais et. al, 2004)

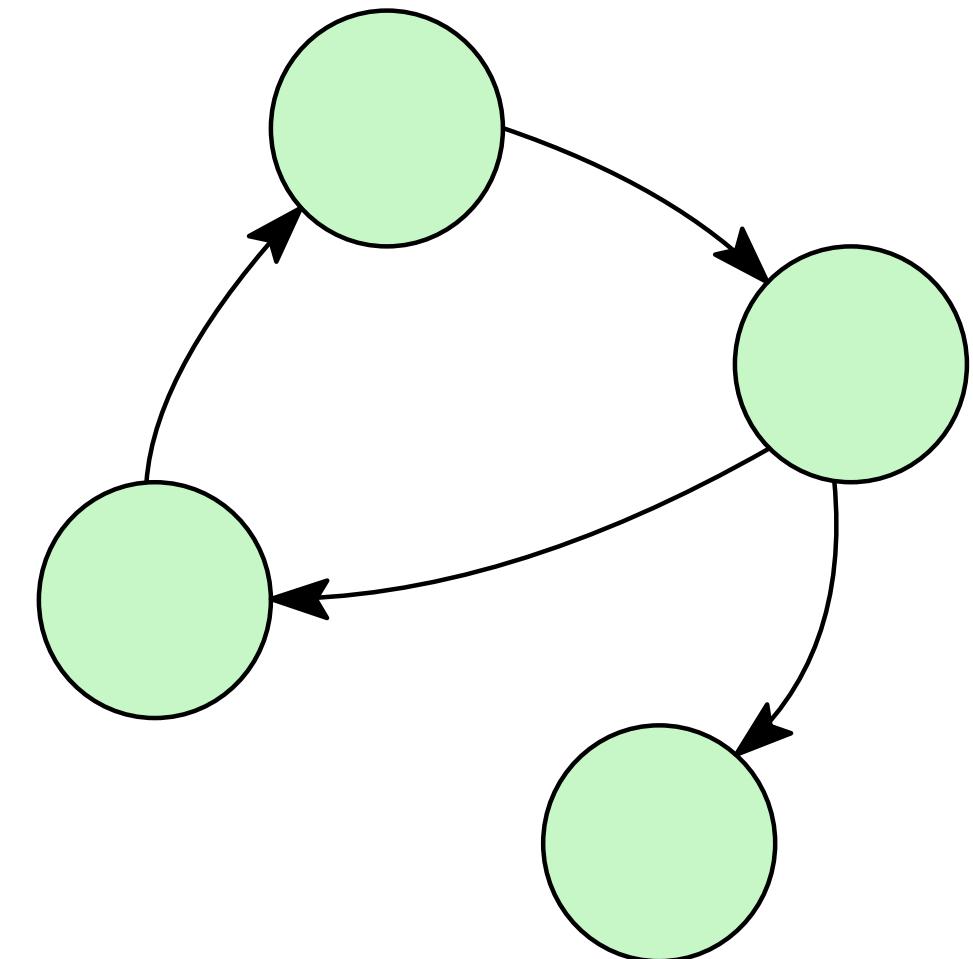
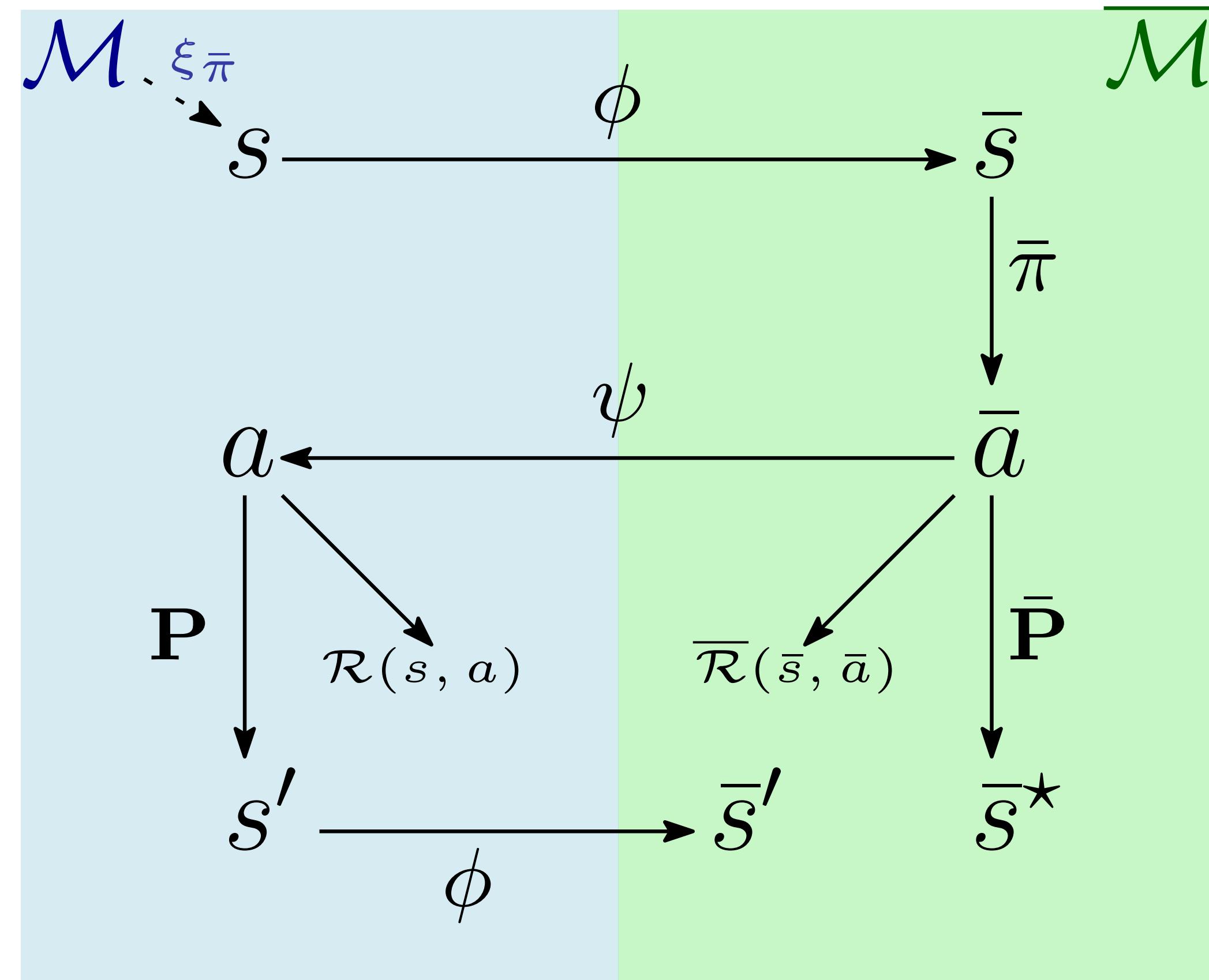
$$\tilde{d}_\pi(s_1, s_2) = \sup_{V \in \mathcal{F}_\gamma^{\mathcal{L}}(\pi)} |V_\pi(s_1) - V_\pi(s_2)| \quad \forall s_1, s_2 \in \mathcal{S}$$

where  $\mathcal{F}_\gamma^{\mathcal{L}}(\pi)$  is a logical family of functional expressions defining the semantics of  $\mathcal{L}$

➡ **Kernel is bisimilarity:**  $\tilde{d}_\pi(s_1, s_2) = 0 \iff s_1 \sim s_2$

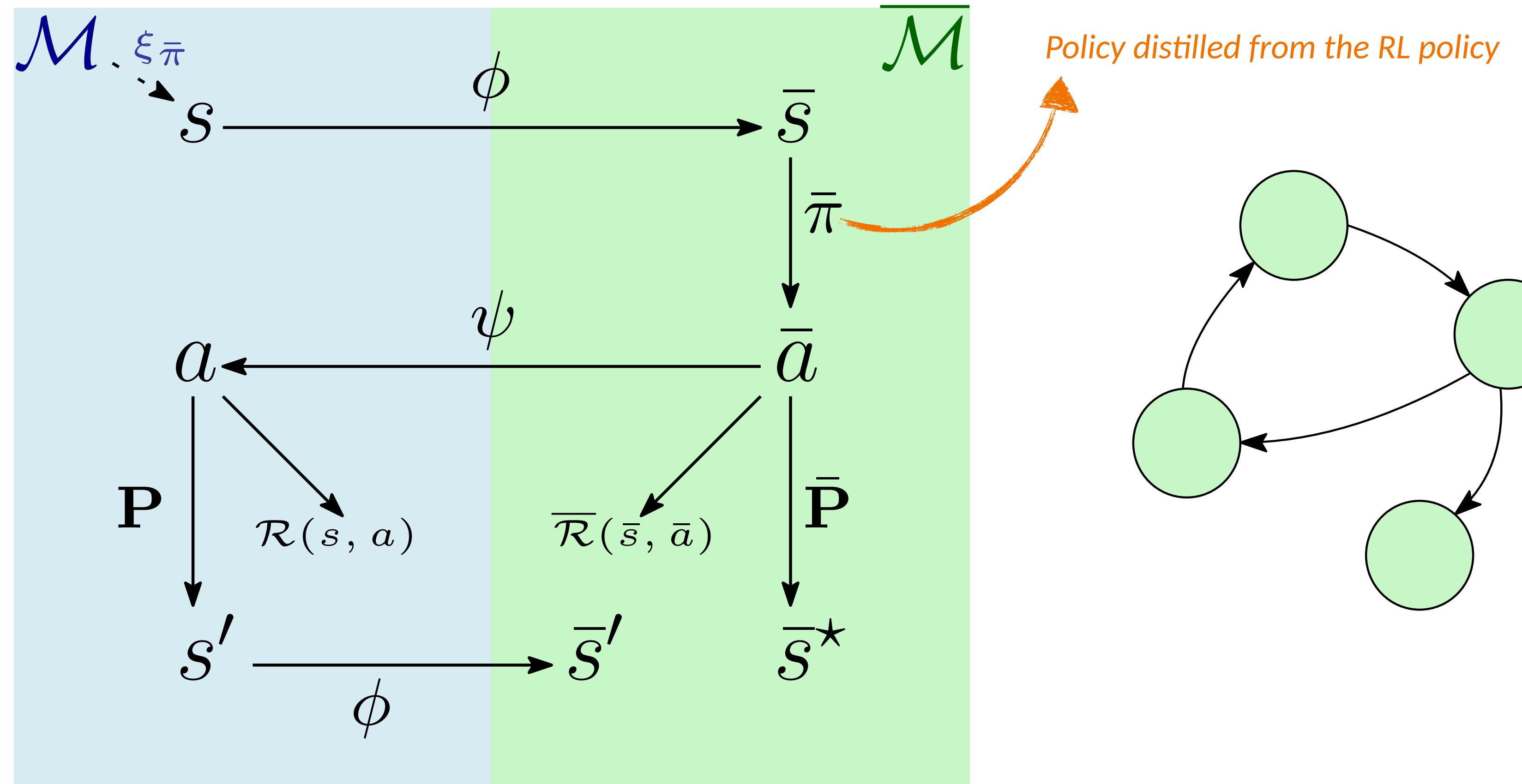
# Latent Flow

*Execution of a latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$  in the original model*



# Latent Flow

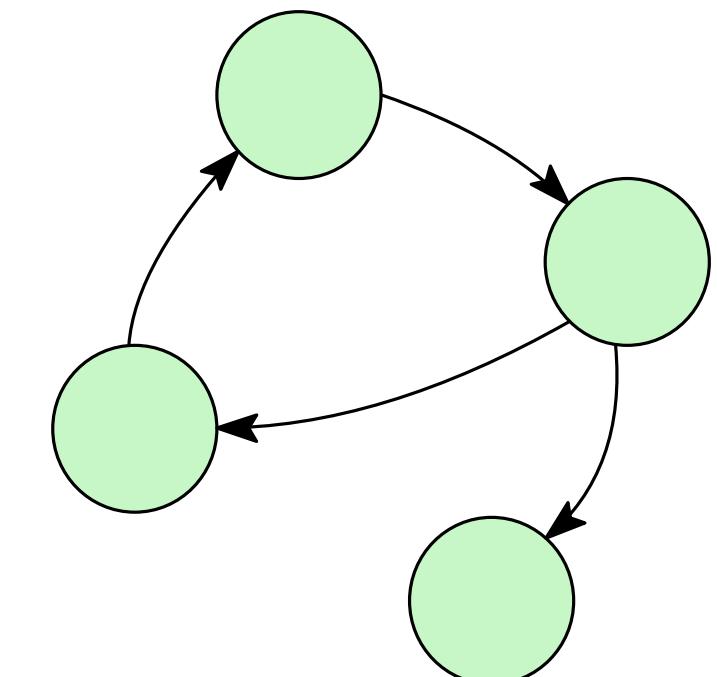
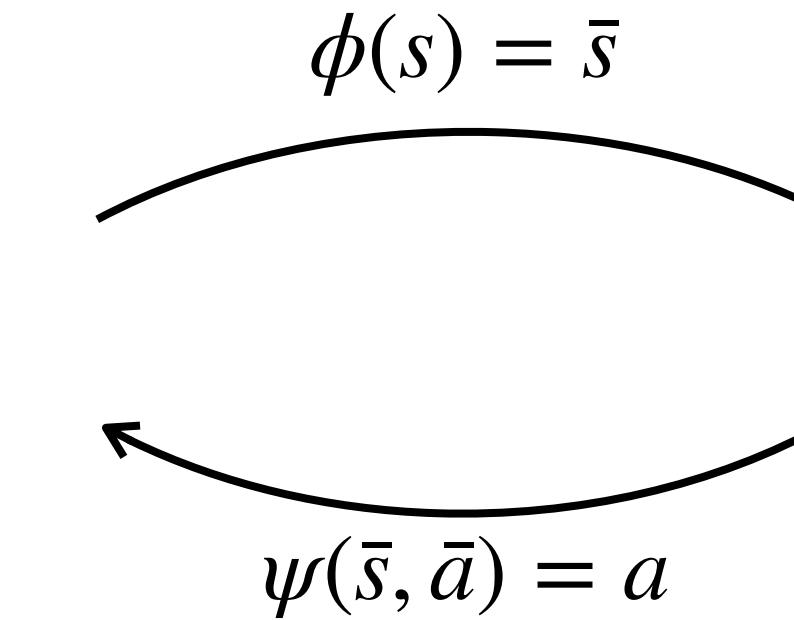
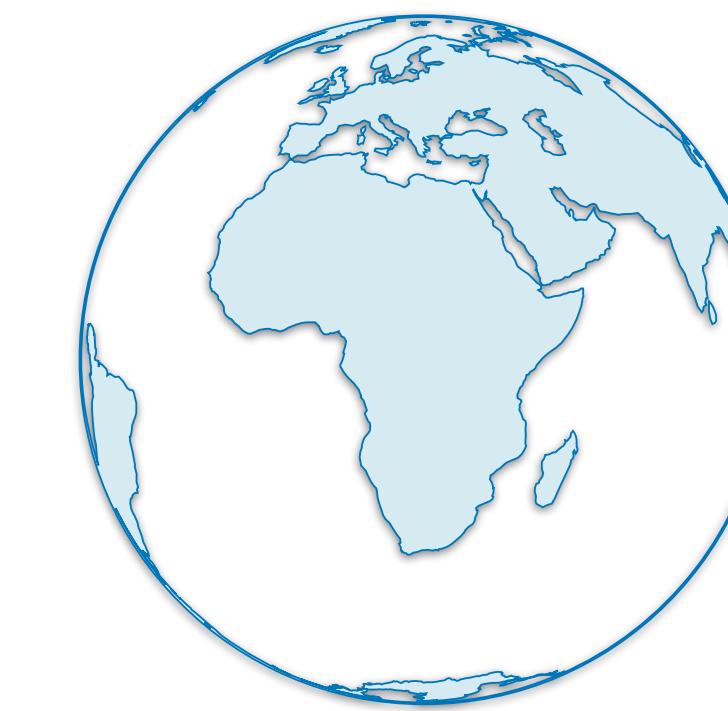
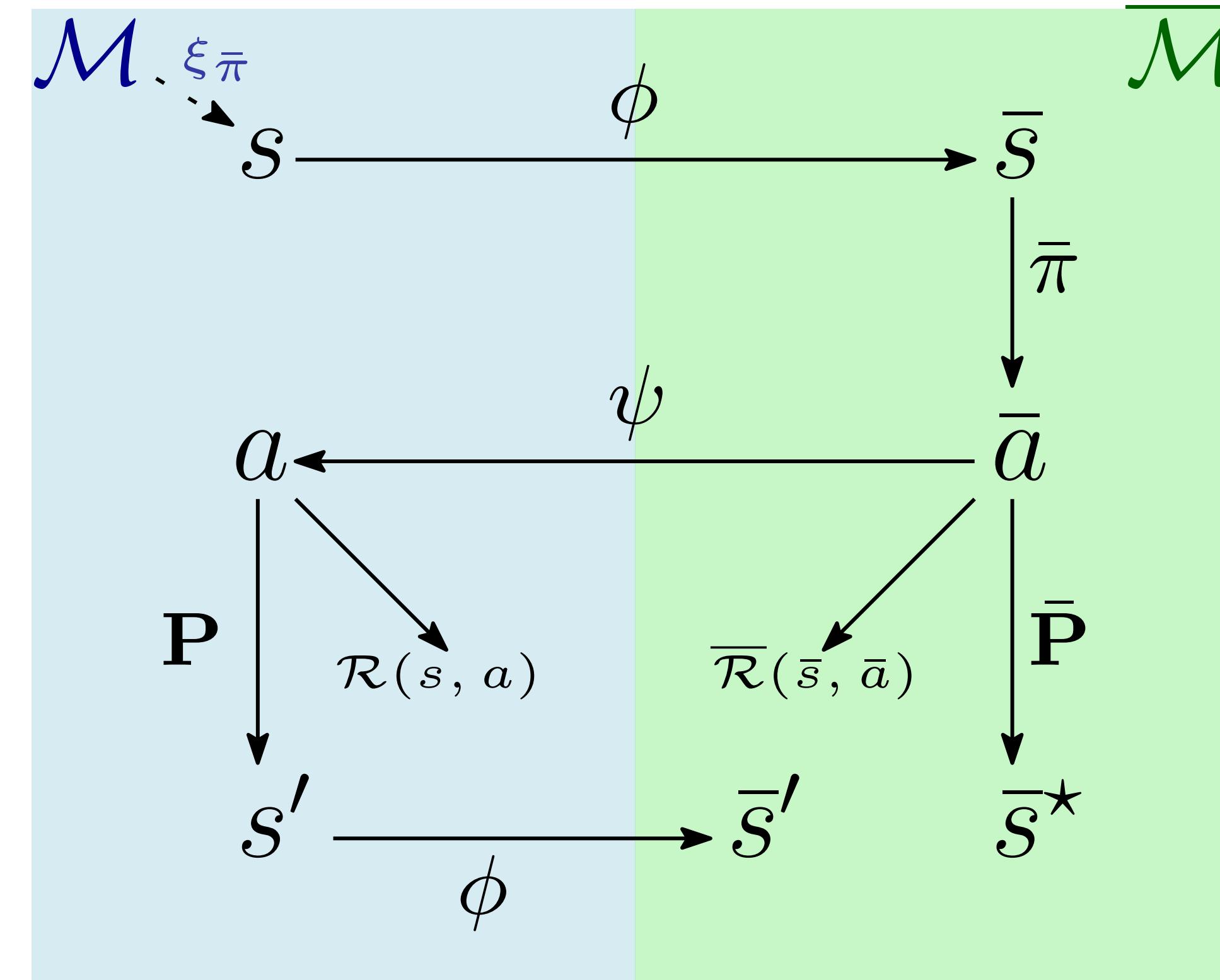
*Execution of a latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$  in the original model*



# Latent Flow

*Execution of a latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$  in the original model: Local Losses*

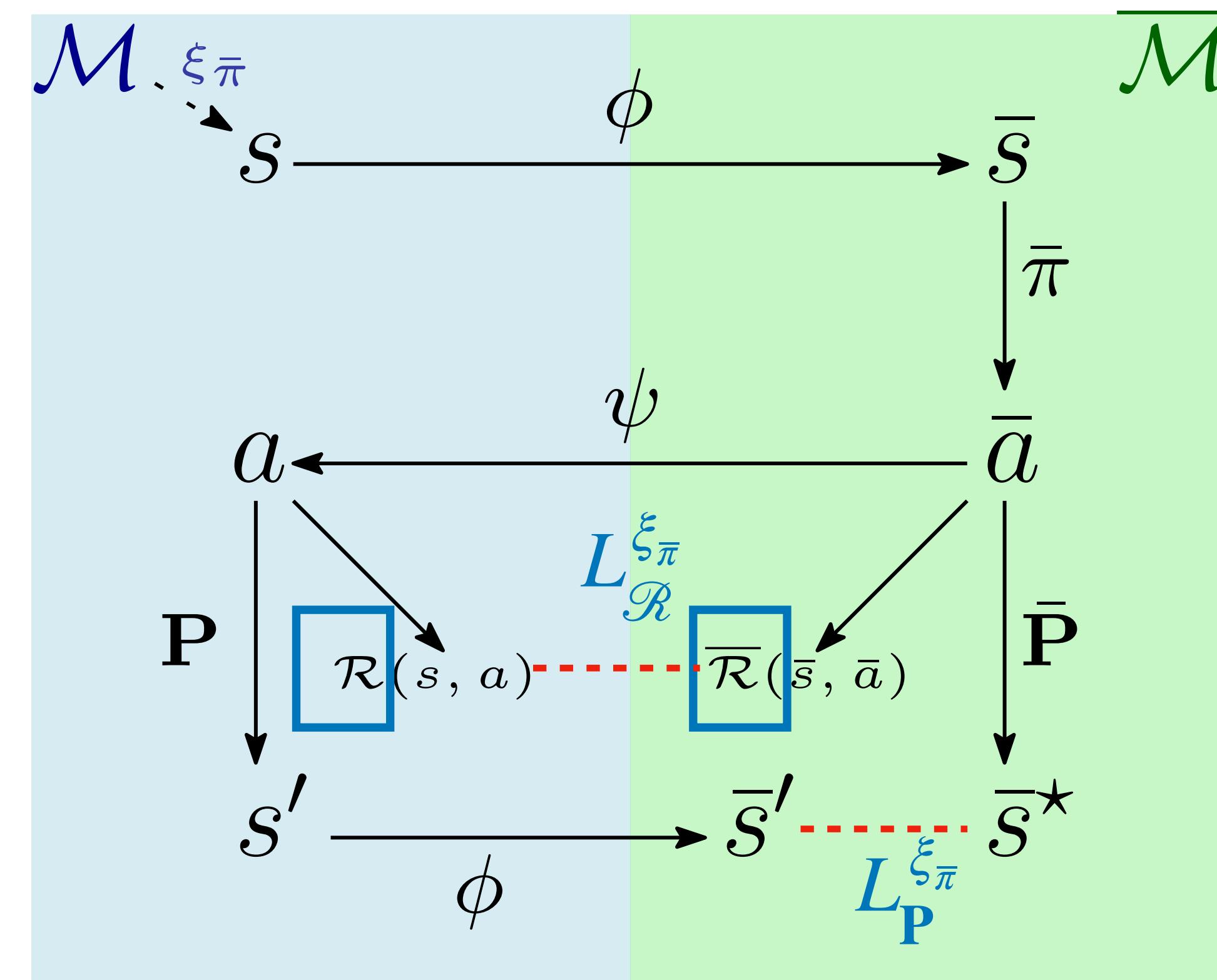
- Latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$ , stationary distribution  $\xi_{\bar{\pi}}$



# Latent Flow

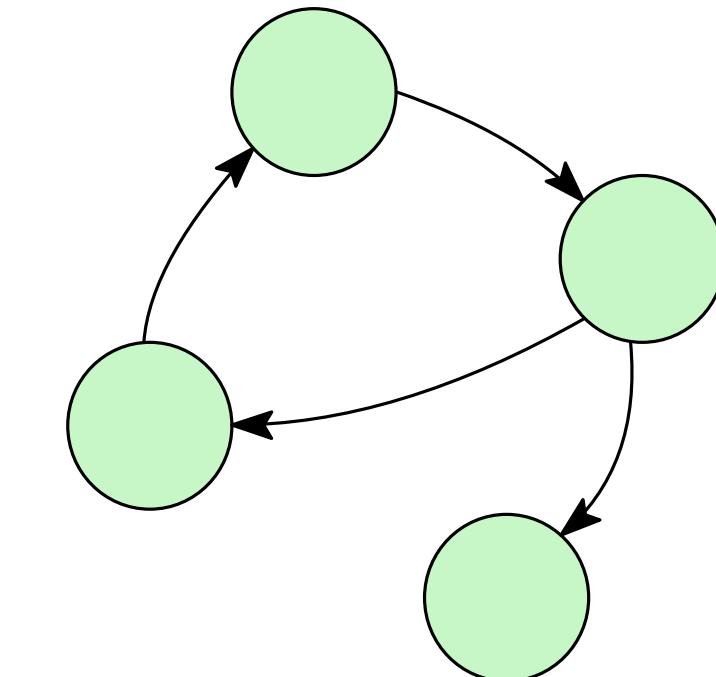
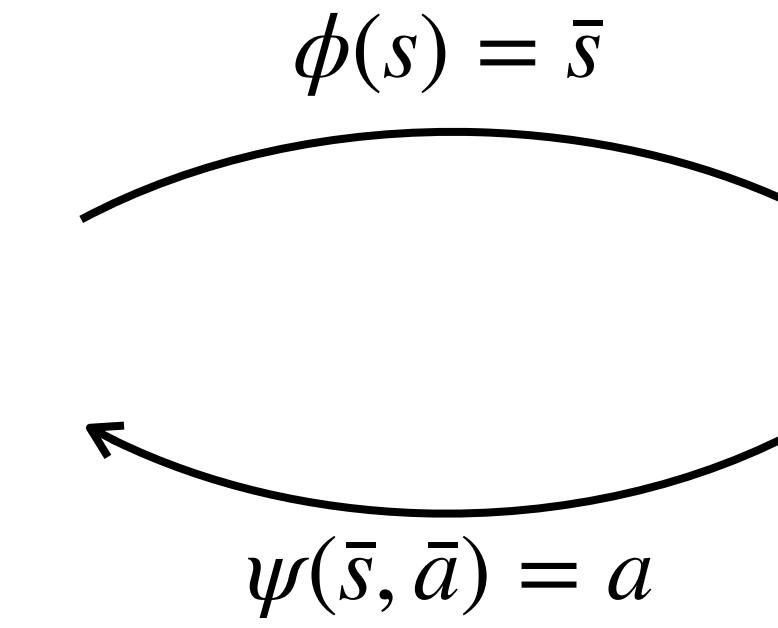
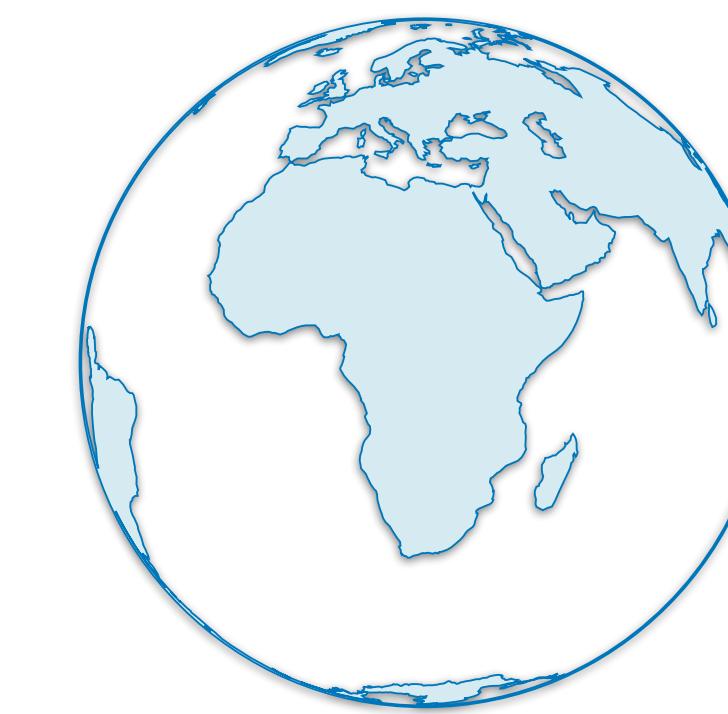
*Execution of a latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$  in the original model: Local Losses*

- Latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$ , stationary distribution  $\xi_{\bar{\pi}}$



$$L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} = \mathbb{E}_{s, \bar{a} \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} W_{d_{\bar{s}}} \left( \phi \mathbf{P} (\cdot | s, \bar{a}), \bar{\mathbf{P}} (\cdot | \phi(s), \bar{a}) \right)$$

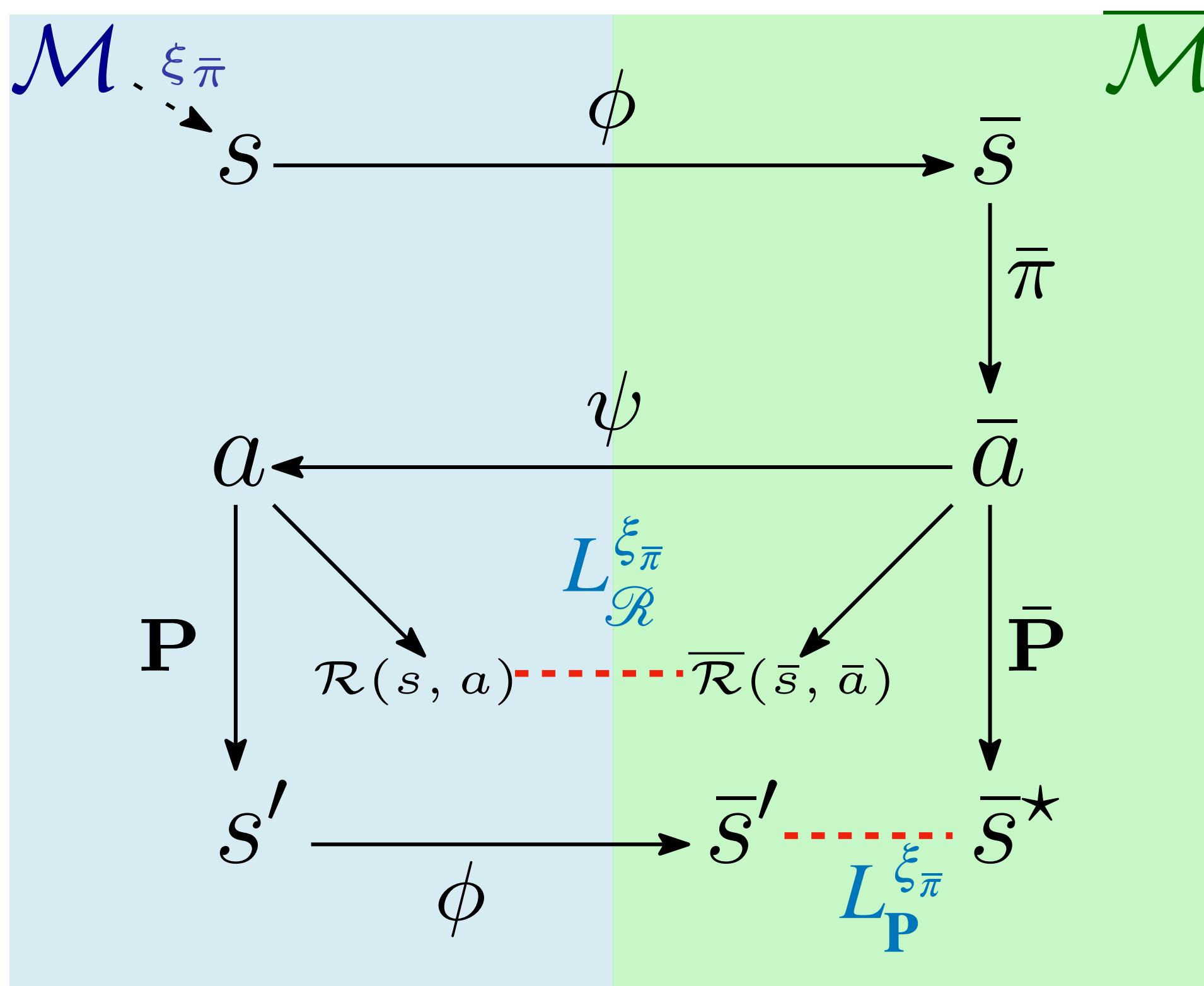
$$L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} = \mathbb{E}_{s, \bar{a} \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} \left| \mathcal{R}(s, a) - \bar{\mathcal{R}}(\phi(s), \bar{a}) \right|$$



# Latent Flow

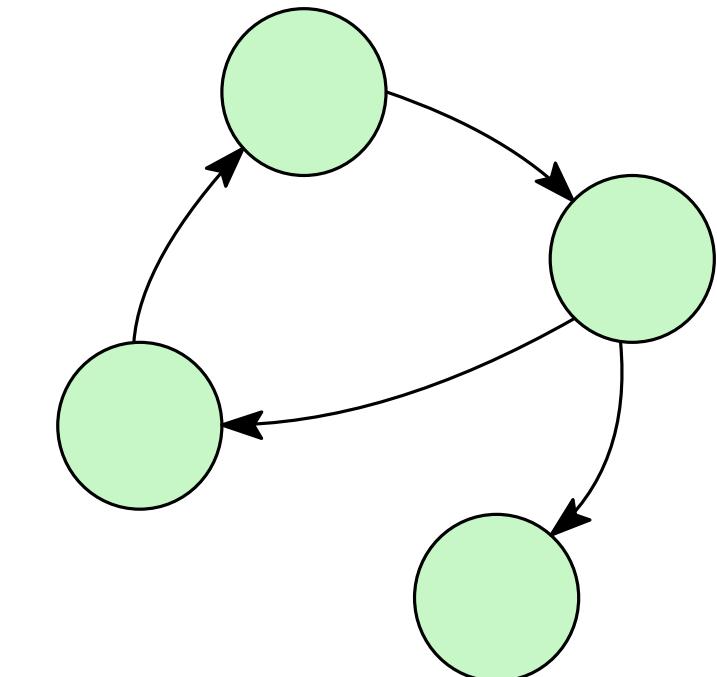
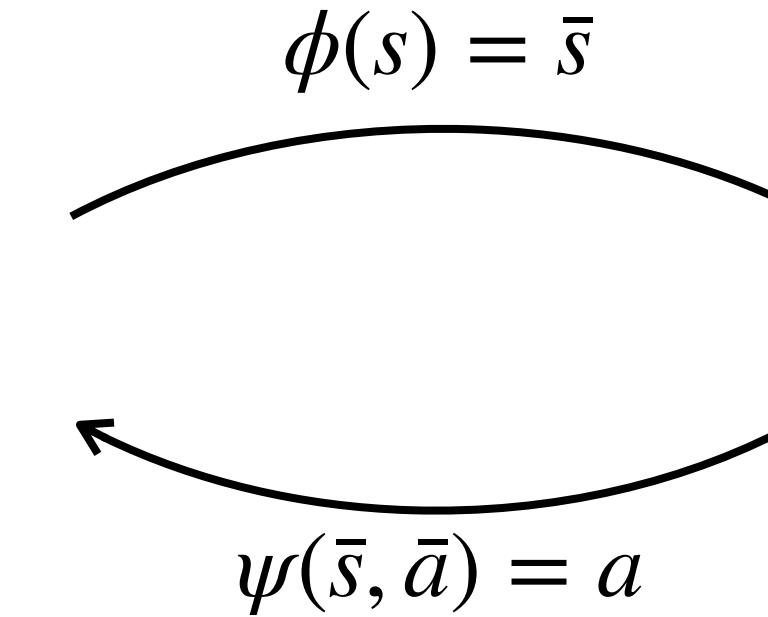
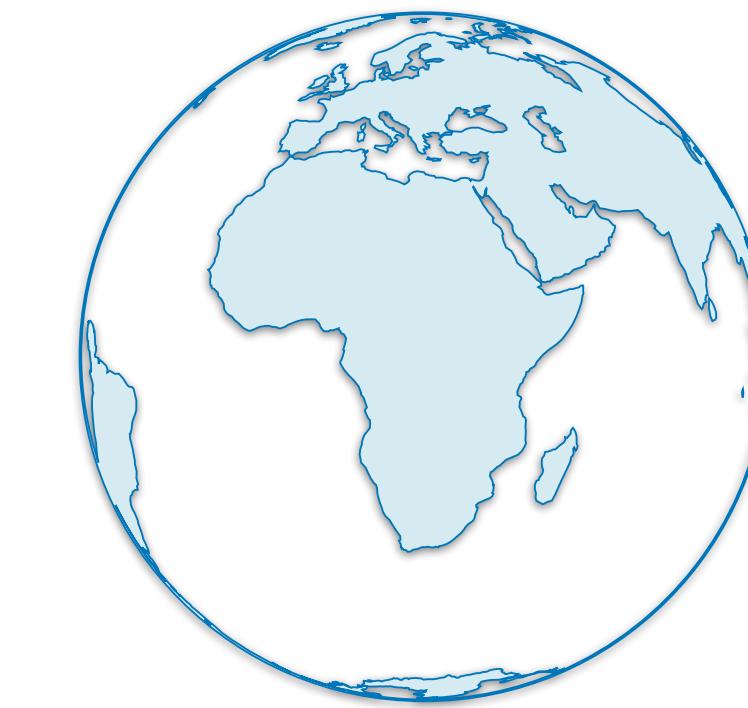
*Execution of a latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$  in the original model: Local Losses*

- Latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$ , stationary distribution  $\xi_{\bar{\pi}}$



$$L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} = \mathbb{E}_{s, \bar{a} \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} W_{d_{\bar{s}}} \left( \phi \mathbf{P}(\cdot | s, \bar{a}), \bar{\mathbf{P}}(\cdot | \phi(s), \bar{a}) \right)$$

$$L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} = \mathbb{E}_{s, \bar{a} \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} \left| \mathcal{R}(s, \bar{a}) - \bar{\mathcal{R}}(\phi(s), \bar{a}) \right|$$



# Latent Flow

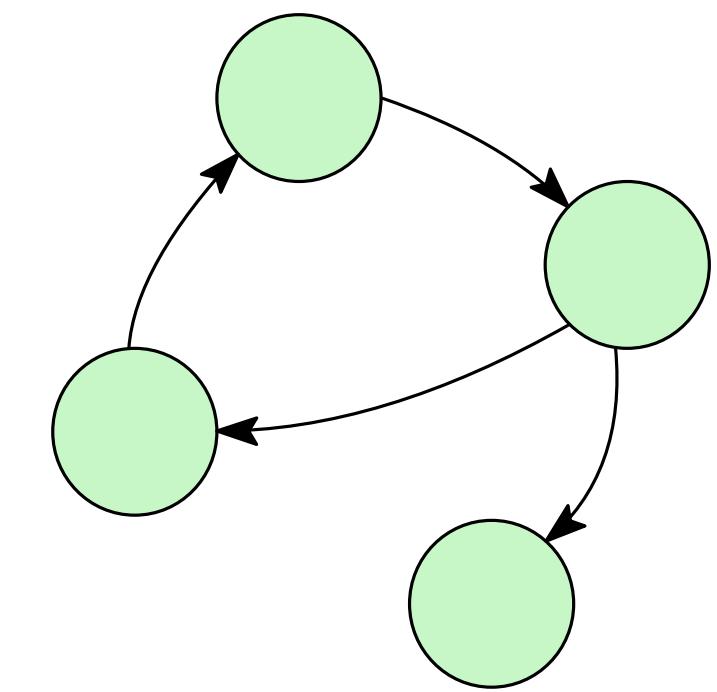
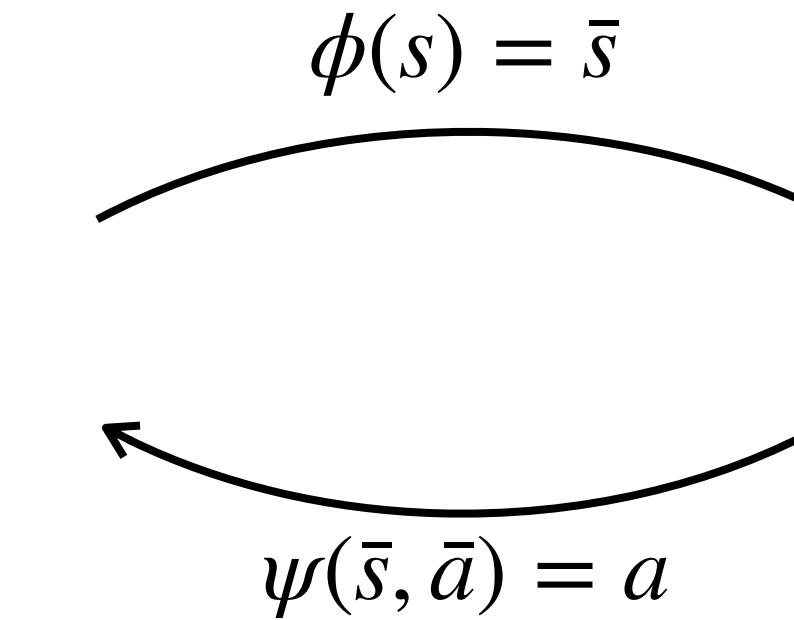
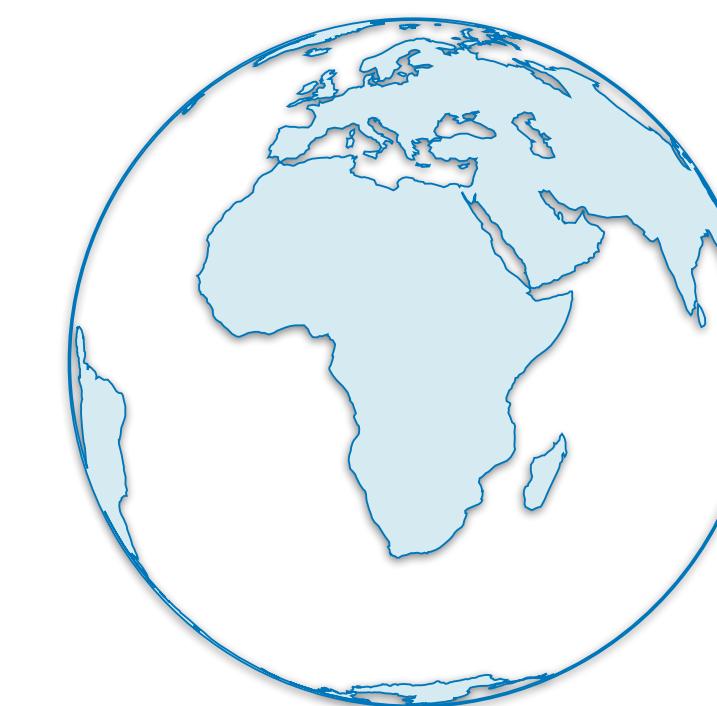
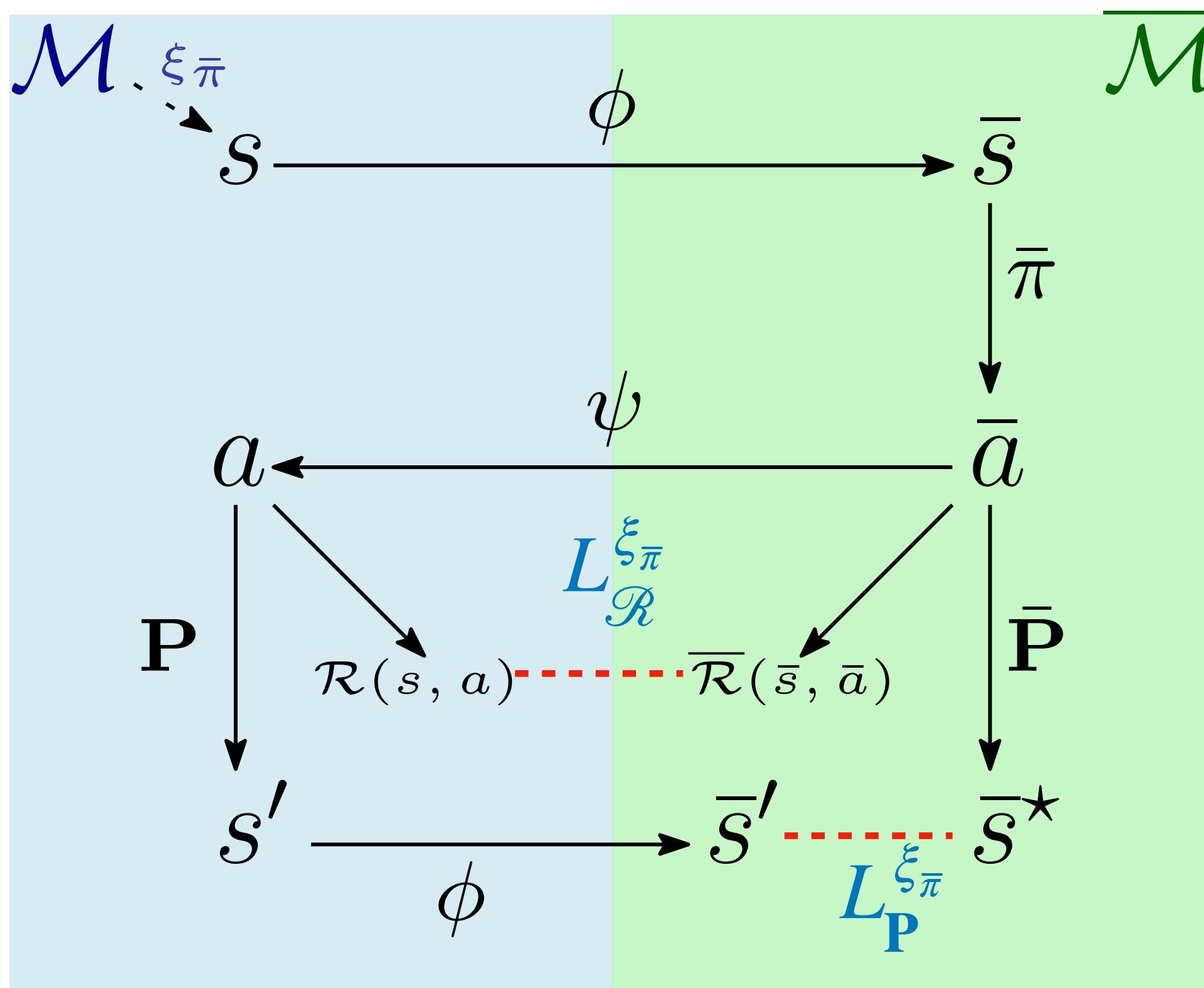
*Execution of a latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$  in the original model: Local Losses*

- Latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$ , stationary distribution  $\xi_{\bar{\pi}}$

$$L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} = \mathbb{E}_{s, \bar{a} \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} W_{d_{\bar{s}}} \left( \phi \mathbf{P} (\cdot | s, \bar{a}), \bar{\mathbf{P}} (\cdot | \phi(s), \bar{a}) \right)$$

$$L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} = \mathbb{E}_{s, \bar{a} \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} \left| \mathcal{R}(s, a) - \bar{\mathcal{R}}(\phi(s), \bar{a}) \right|$$

- Abstraction quality:**  $\mathbb{E}_{s \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} \tilde{d}_{\bar{\pi}}(s, \phi(s)) \leq \frac{L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} + \gamma L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}}}{1 - \gamma}$



# Latent Flow

*Execution of a latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$  in the original model: Local Losses*

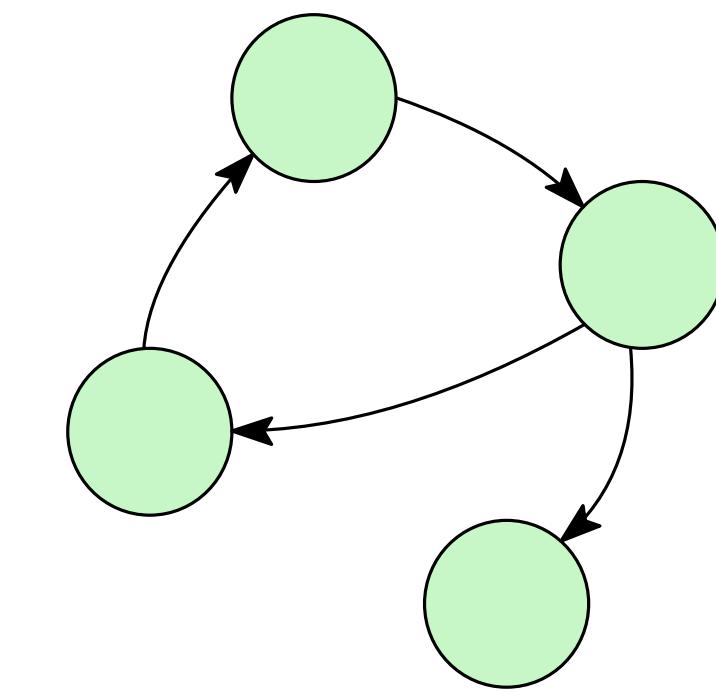
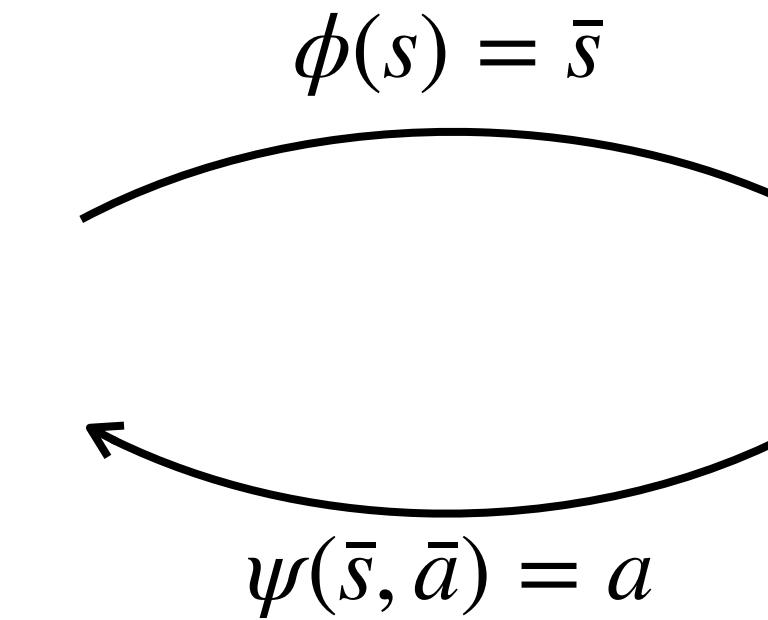
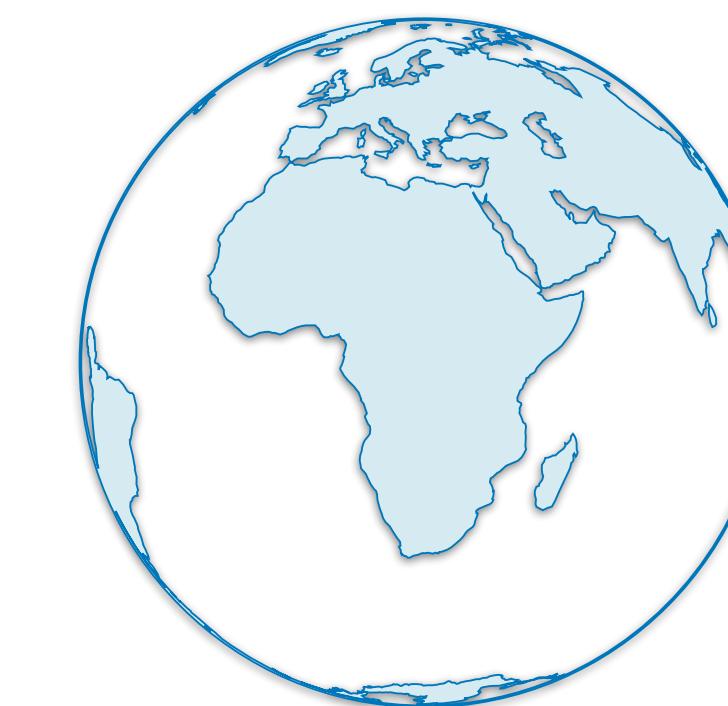
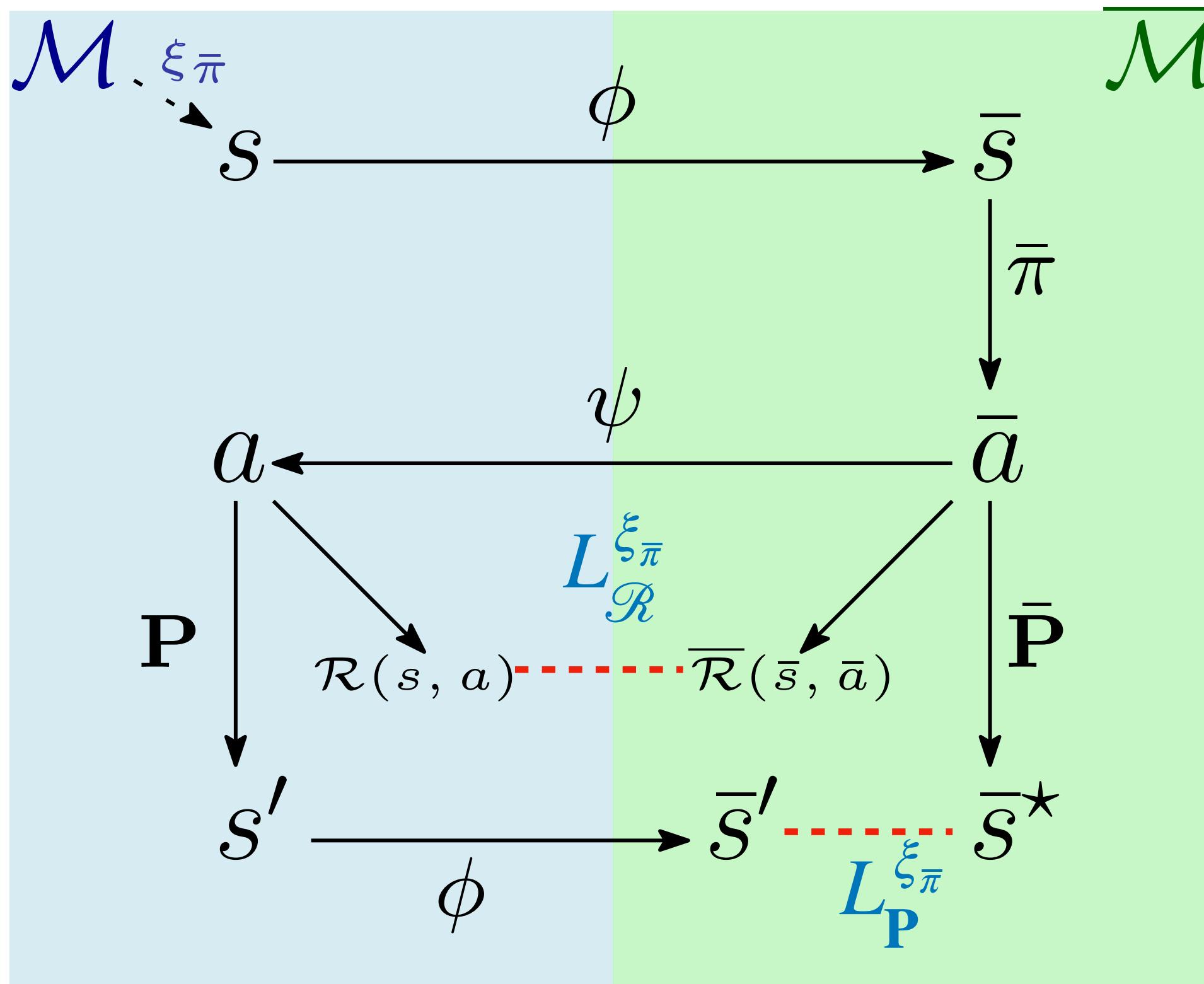
- Latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$ , stationary distribution  $\xi_{\bar{\pi}}$

$$L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} = \mathbb{E}_{s, \bar{a} \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} W_{d_{\bar{s}}} \left( \phi \mathbf{P} (\cdot | s, \bar{a}), \bar{\mathbf{P}} (\cdot | \phi(s), \bar{a}) \right)$$

$$L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} = \mathbb{E}_{s, \bar{a} \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} \left| \mathcal{R}(s, a) - \bar{\mathcal{R}}(\phi(s), \bar{a}) \right|$$

- **Abstraction quality:**  $\mathbb{E}_{s \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} \tilde{d}_{\bar{\pi}}(s, \phi(s)) \leq \frac{L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} + \gamma L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}}}{1 - \gamma}$
- **Representation quality:** for all  $s_1, s_2 \in \mathcal{S}$  such that  $\phi(s_1) = \phi(s_2)$

$$\tilde{d}_{\bar{\pi}}(s_1, s_2) \leq \left( \frac{L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} + \gamma L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}}}{1 - \gamma} \right) \cdot \left( \xi_{\bar{\pi}}^{-1}(s_1) + \xi_{\bar{\pi}}^{-1}(s_2) \right)$$



# Latent Flow

*Execution of a latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$  in the original model: Local Losses*

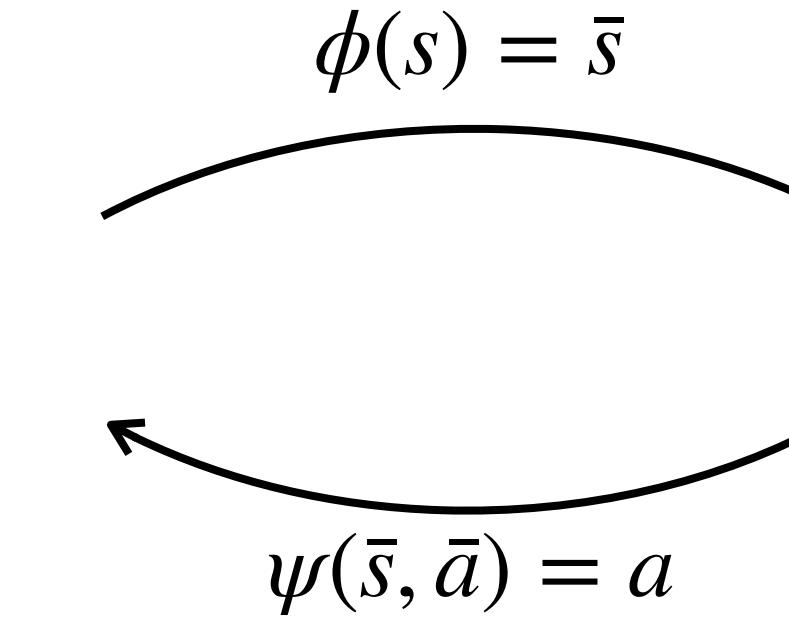
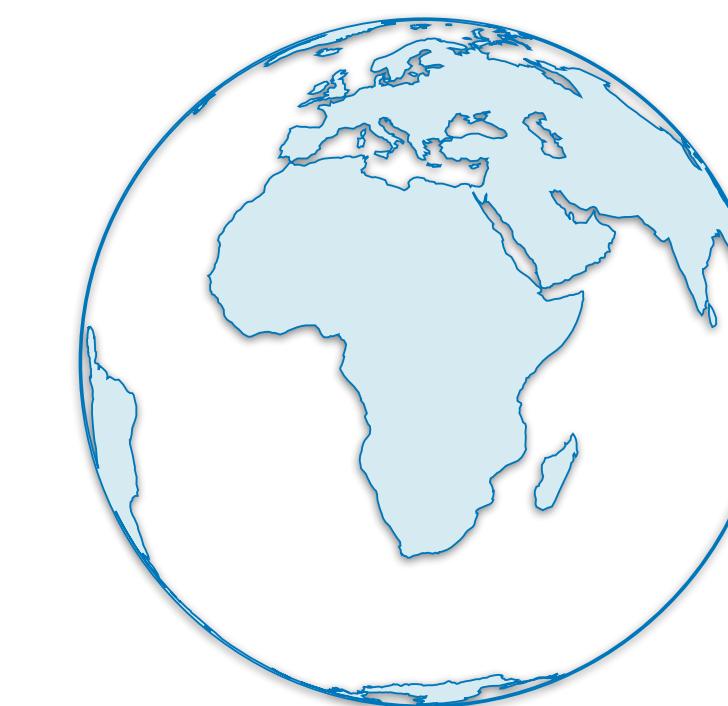
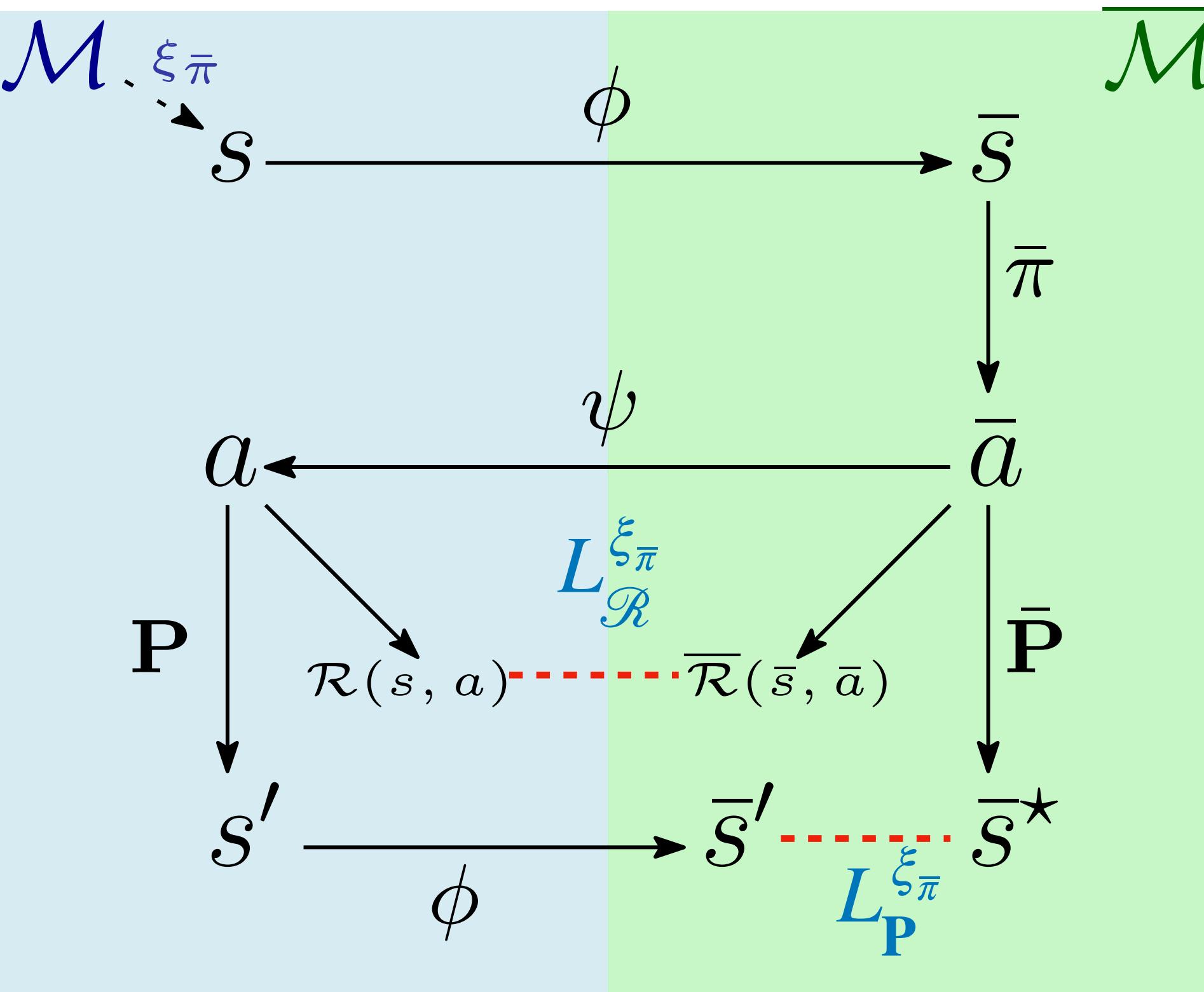
- Latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$ , stationary distribution  $\xi_{\bar{\pi}}$

$$L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} = \mathbb{E}_{s, \bar{a} \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} W_{d_{\bar{s}}} \left( \phi \mathbf{P} (\cdot | s, \bar{a}), \bar{\mathbf{P}} (\cdot | \phi(s), \bar{a}) \right)$$

$$L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} = \mathbb{E}_{s, \bar{a} \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} \left| \mathcal{R}(s, a) - \bar{\mathcal{R}}(\phi(s), \bar{a}) \right|$$

- **Abstraction quality:**  $\mathbb{E}_{s \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} \tilde{d}_{\bar{\pi}}(s, \phi(s)) \leq \frac{L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} + \gamma L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}}}{1 - \gamma}$
- **Representation quality:** for all  $s_1, s_2 \in \mathcal{S}$  such that  $\phi(s_1) = \phi(s_2)$

$$\tilde{d}_{\bar{\pi}}(s_1, s_2) \leq \left( \frac{L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} + \gamma L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}}}{1 - \gamma} \right) \cdot \left( \xi_{\bar{\pi}}^{-1}(s_1) + \xi_{\bar{\pi}}^{-1}(s_2) \right)$$



$$\psi(\bar{s}, \bar{a}) = a$$

# Latent Flow

*Execution of a latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$  in the original model: Local Losses*

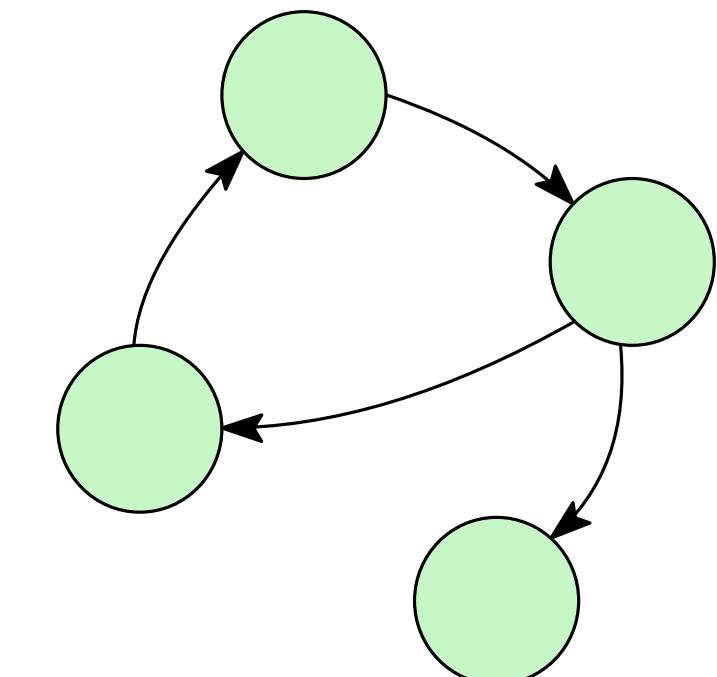
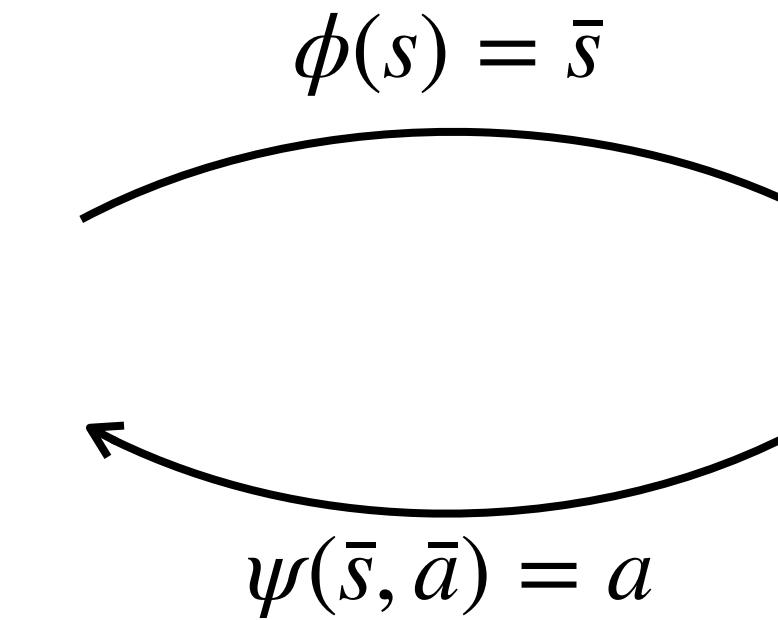
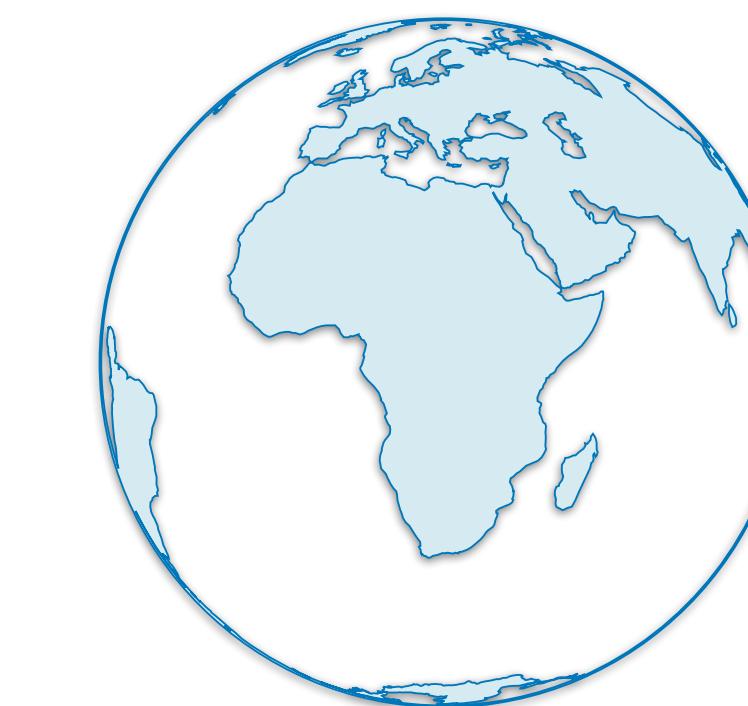
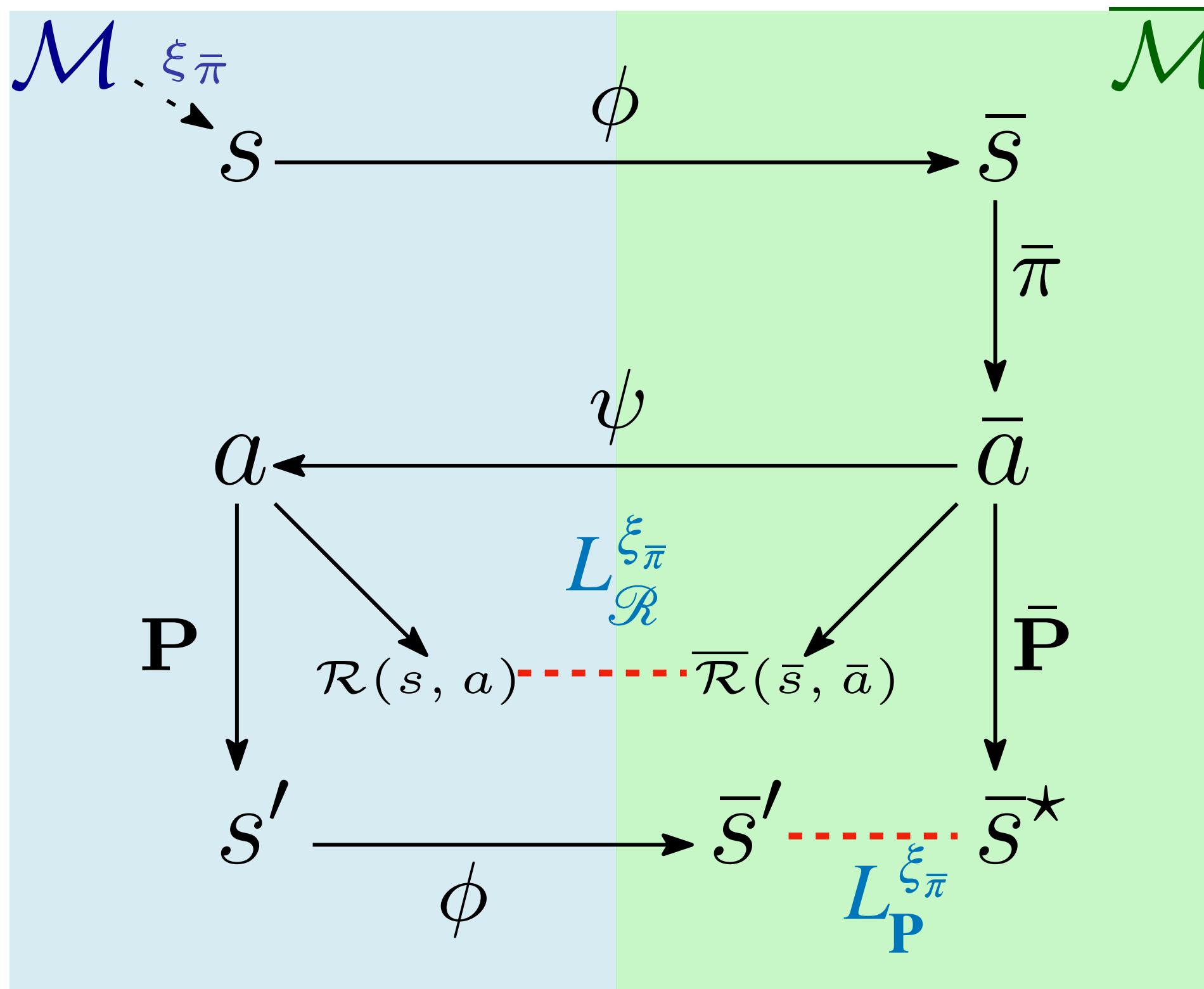
- Latent policy  $\bar{\pi}$ , stationary distribution  $\xi_{\bar{\pi}}$

$$L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} = \mathbb{E}_{s, \bar{a} \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} W_{d_{\bar{s}}} \left( \phi \mathbf{P} (\cdot | s, \bar{a}), \bar{\mathbf{P}} (\cdot | \phi(s), \bar{a}) \right)$$

$$L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} = \mathbb{E}_{s, \bar{a} \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} \left| \mathcal{R}(s, a) - \bar{\mathcal{R}}(\phi(s), \bar{a}) \right|$$

- **Abstraction quality:**  $\mathbb{E}_{s \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} \tilde{d}_{\bar{\pi}}(s, \phi(s)) \leq \frac{L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} + \gamma L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}}}{1 - \gamma}$
- **Representation quality:** for all  $s_1, s_2 \in \mathcal{S}$  such that  $\phi(s_1) = \phi(s_2)$

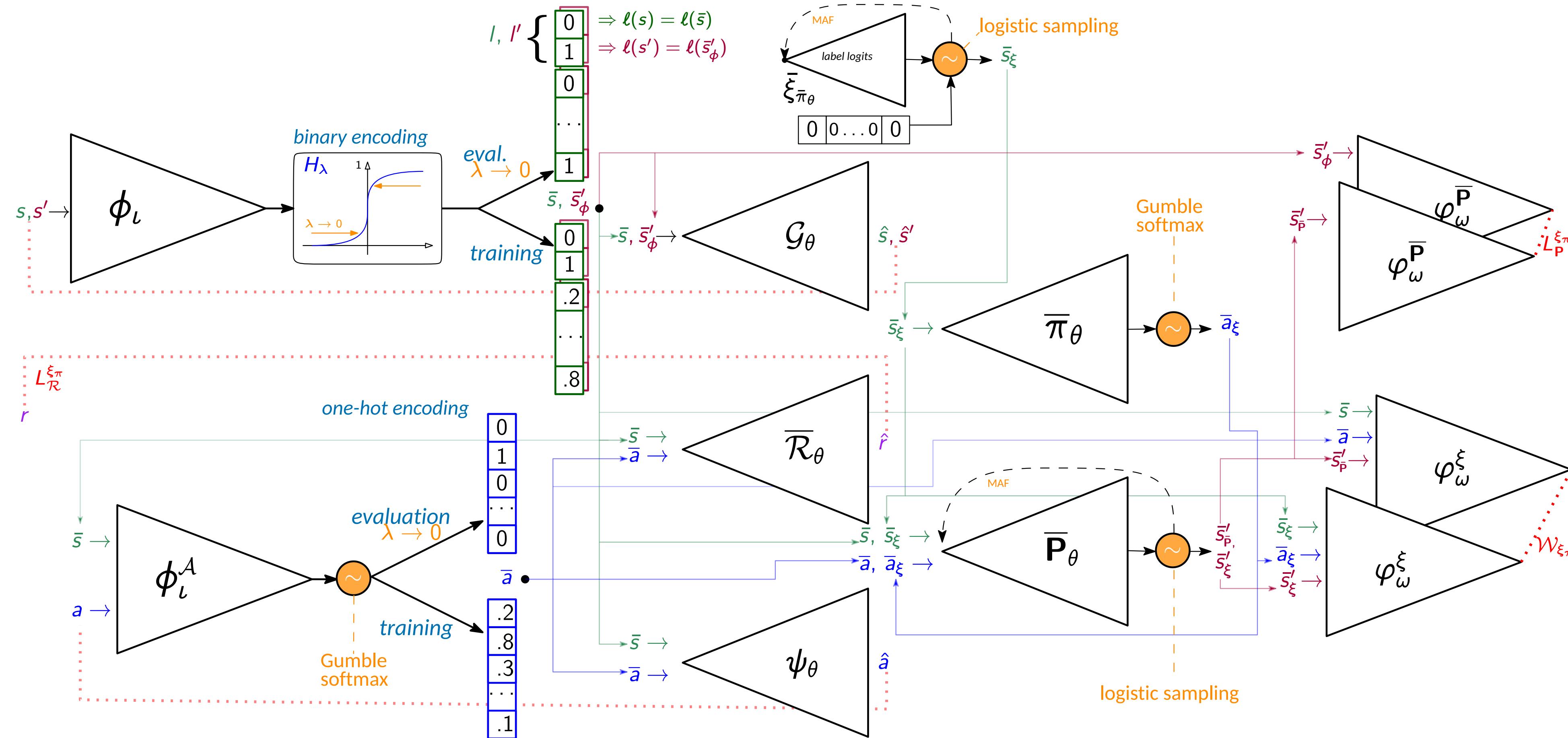
$$\tilde{d}_{\bar{\pi}}(s_1, s_2) \leq \left( \frac{L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}} + \gamma L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_{\bar{\pi}}}}{1 - \gamma} \right) \cdot \left( \xi_{\bar{\pi}}^{-1}(s_1) + \xi_{\bar{\pi}}^{-1}(s_2) \right)$$



$$\min_{\iota,\theta} \; \mathbb{E}_{s,a,s' \sim \xi_\pi} \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s},\bar{a},\bar{s}' \sim \phi_\iota(\cdot \mid s,a,s')} \; \| \langle s,a,s' \rangle - \langle \mathcal{G}_\theta(\bar{s}), \psi_\theta(\bar{s},\bar{a}), \mathcal{G}_\theta(\bar{s}') \rangle \| + \textcolor{red}{L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi_\pi}} + \beta \left( \mathscr{W}_{\xi_\pi} + \textcolor{red}{L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_\pi}} \right)$$

# Wasserstein Auto-encoded Markov Decision Process

$$\min_{\iota, \theta} \mathbb{E}_{s, a, s' \sim \xi} \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s}, \bar{a}, \bar{s}' \sim \phi_\iota(\cdot | s, a, s')} \| \langle s, a, s' \rangle - \langle \mathcal{G}_\theta(\bar{s}), \psi_\theta(\bar{s}, \bar{a}), \mathcal{G}_\theta(\bar{s}') \rangle \| + L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi\pi} + \beta (\mathcal{W}_{\xi\pi} + L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi\pi})$$

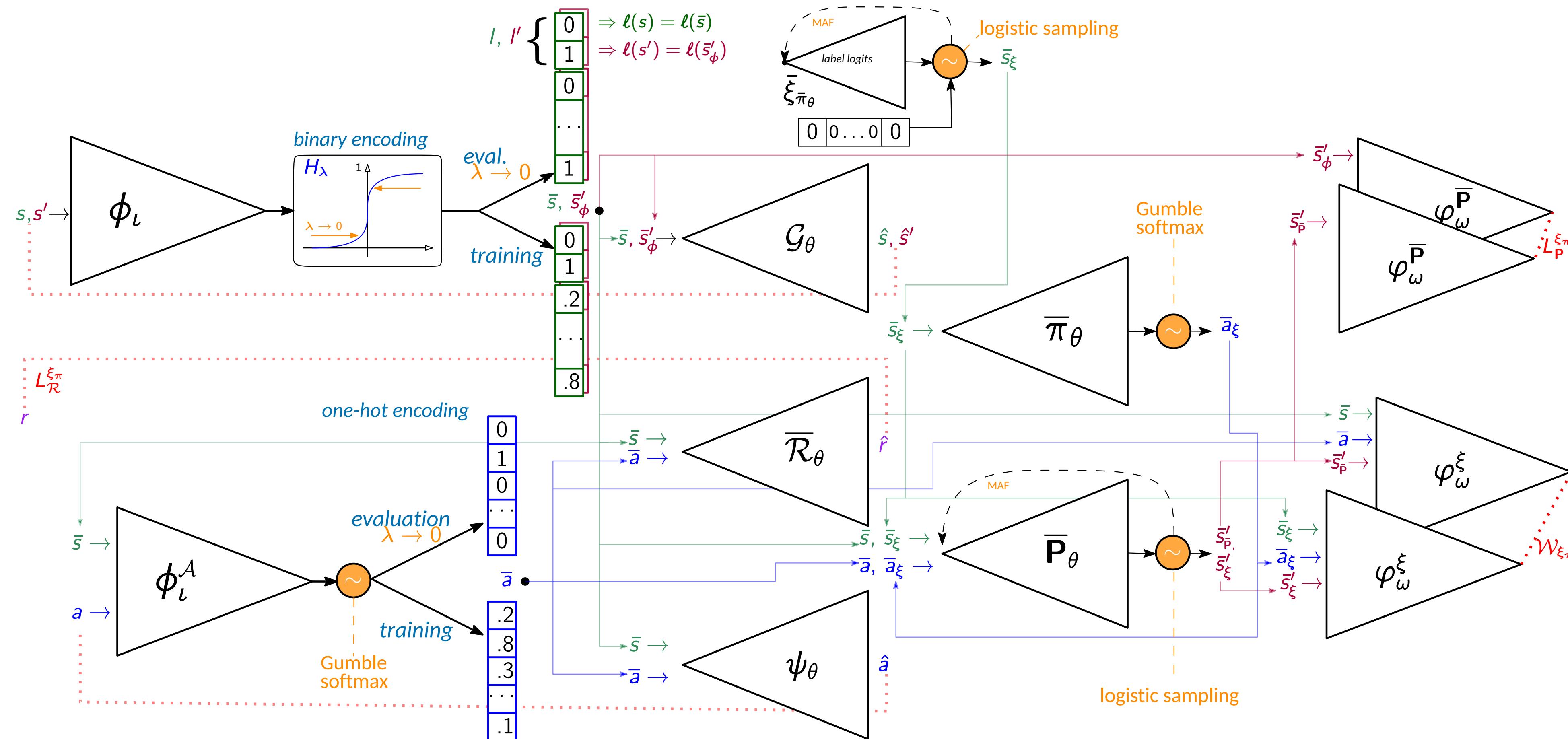


- $\mathcal{W}_{\xi\pi} = \max_{\omega: \|\varphi_\omega^\xi\| \leq 1} \mathbb{E}_{s, a \sim \xi} \mathbb{E}_{\bar{a} \sim \phi_\iota^A(\cdot | \phi_\iota(s), a)} \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s}' \sim \overline{\mathbf{P}}_\theta(\cdot | \bar{s}, \bar{a})} \varphi_\omega^\xi(\phi_\iota(s), \bar{a}, \bar{s}') - \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s}, \bar{a}, \bar{s}' \sim \xi} \varphi_\omega^\xi(\bar{s}, \bar{a}, \bar{s}')$

- $L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi\pi} = \max_{\omega: \|\varphi_\omega^{\mathbf{P}}\| \leq 1} \mathbb{E}_{s, a, s' \sim \xi} \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s}, \bar{a}, \bar{s}' \sim \phi_\iota(\cdot | s, a, s')} [\varphi_\omega^{\mathbf{P}}(s, a, \bar{s}, \bar{a}, \bar{s}') - \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s}' \sim \overline{\mathbf{P}}_\theta(\cdot | \bar{s}, \bar{a})} \varphi_\omega^{\mathbf{P}}(s, a, \bar{s}, \bar{a}, \bar{s}'_\mathbf{P})]$

# Wasserstein Auto-encoded Markov Decision Process

$$\min_{\iota, \theta} \mathbb{E}_{s, a, s' \sim \xi} \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s}, \bar{a}, \bar{s}' \sim \phi_\iota(\cdot | s, a, s')} \| \langle s, a, s' \rangle - \langle \mathcal{G}_\theta(\bar{s}), \psi_\theta(\bar{s}, \bar{a}), \mathcal{G}_\theta(\bar{s}') \rangle \| + L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi\pi} + \beta (\mathcal{W}_{\xi\pi} + L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi\pi})$$

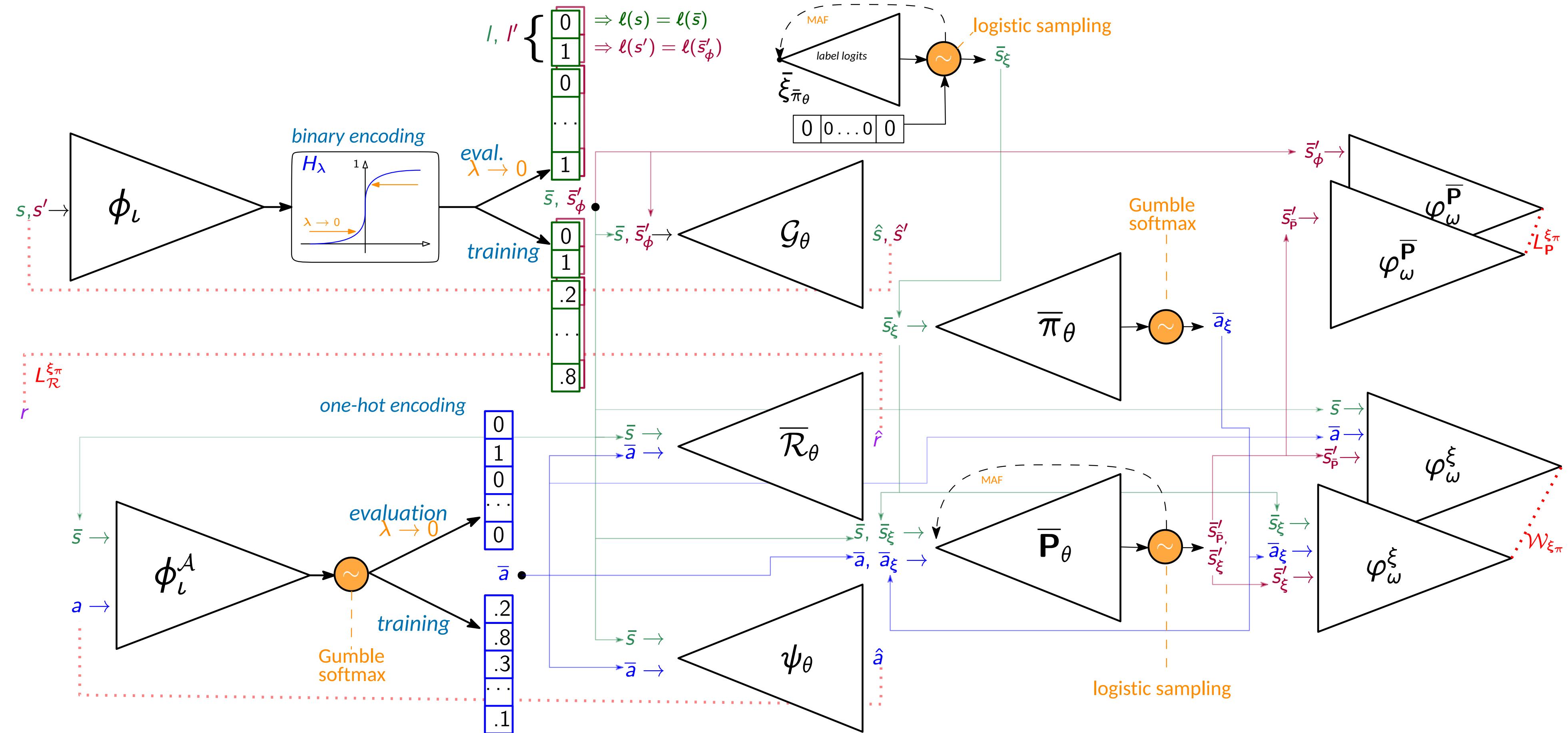


$$\bullet \quad \mathcal{W}_{\xi\pi} = \max_{\omega: \|\varphi_\omega^\xi\| \leq 1} \mathbb{E}_{s, a \sim \xi} \mathbb{E}_{\bar{a} \sim \phi_\iota^A(\cdot | \phi_\iota(s), a)} \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s}' \sim \bar{\mathbf{P}}_\theta(\cdot | \bar{s}, \bar{a})} \varphi_\omega^\xi(\phi_\iota(s), \bar{a}, \bar{s}') - \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s}, \bar{a}, \bar{s}' \sim \xi} \varphi_\omega^\xi(\bar{s}, \bar{a}, \bar{s}')$$

$$\bullet \quad L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi\pi} = \max_{\omega: \|\varphi_\omega^\mathbf{P}\| \leq 1} \mathbb{E}_{s, a, s' \sim \xi} \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s}, \bar{a}, \bar{s}' \sim \phi_\iota(\cdot | s, a, s')} \left[ \varphi_\omega^\mathbf{P}(s, a, \bar{s}, \bar{a}, \bar{s}') - \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s}' \sim \bar{\mathbf{P}}_\theta(\cdot | \bar{s}, \bar{a})} \varphi_\omega^\mathbf{P}(s, a, \bar{s}, \bar{a}, \bar{s}'_\mathbf{P}) \right]$$

# Wasserstein Auto-encoded Markov Decision Process

$$\min_{\iota, \theta} \mathbb{E}_{s,a,s' \sim \xi_\pi} \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s},\bar{a},\bar{s}' \sim \phi_\iota(\cdot | s,a,s')} \| \langle s, a, s' \rangle - \langle \mathcal{G}_\theta(\bar{s}), \psi_\theta(\bar{s}, \bar{a}), \mathcal{G}_\theta(\bar{s}') \rangle \| + L_{\mathcal{R}}^{\xi_\pi} + \beta \left( \mathcal{W}_{\xi_\pi} + L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_\pi} \right)$$

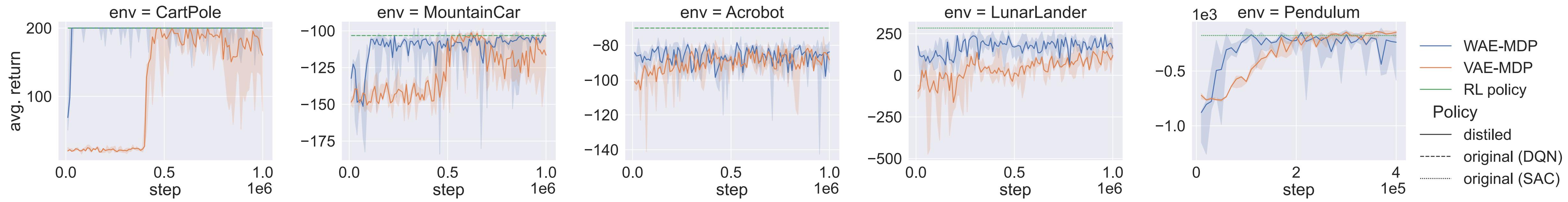


- $$\mathcal{W}_{\xi_\pi} = \max_{\omega: \|\varphi_\omega^\xi\| \leq 1} \mathbb{E}_{s,a \sim \xi_\pi} \mathbb{E}_{\bar{a} \sim \phi_i^{\mathcal{A}}(\cdot | \phi_i(s), a)} \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s}' \sim \bar{\mathbf{P}}_\theta(\cdot | \bar{s}, \bar{a})} \varphi_\omega^\xi(\phi_i(s), \bar{a}, \bar{s}') - \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s}, \bar{a}, \bar{s}' \sim \xi_{\bar{\pi}}} \varphi_\omega^\xi(\bar{s}, \bar{a}, \bar{s}')$$

- $$L_{\mathbf{P}}^{\xi_\pi} = \max_{\omega: \|\varphi_\omega^{\mathbf{P}}\| \leq 1} \mathbb{E}_{s,a,s' \sim \xi_\pi} \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s},\bar{a},\bar{s}' \sim \phi_i(\cdot | s,a,s')} \left[ \varphi_\omega^{\mathbf{P}}(s,a,\bar{s},\bar{a},\bar{s}') - \mathbb{E}_{\bar{s}'_{\mathbf{P}} \sim \bar{\mathbf{P}}_\theta(\cdot | \bar{s},\bar{a})} \varphi_\omega^{\mathbf{P}}(s,a,\bar{s},\bar{a},\bar{s}'_{\mathbf{P}}) \right]$$

# Evaluation

*Distillation: performance of  $\bar{\pi}$*



**WAE-MDPs distill policies up to 10 times faster than VAE-MDPs**

- *Faster*
- *Better performance*
- *Learning guarantees*
- *Similar or even better model quality*

*Distillation of RL Policies with Formal Guarantees via Variational Abstraction of Markov Decision Processes.*  
Florent Delgrange, Ann Nowé, Guillermo A. Pérez (2022). AAAI 2022.