

# Collaborative modelling, design and decision making with AI, Part I

*Samuel Kaski*

**FCAI**

Funded by:



# FCAI

Finnish  
Center for  
Artificial  
Intelligence



Aalto University



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME

# Finland for AI

Finland provides a favorable operating environment for the creation, development and utilization of AI technologies:

- Helsinki is among the top 50 global AI talent hubs, despite some heavy competition (*Harvard Business Review 2021*)
- Finland hosts LUMI, the fastest supercomputer in Europe and #3 in the world
- Finland #3 in Data Science (*Coursera's Global Skills Report 2022*)
- Finland is the 5th cited country in the EU (*OECD.AI 2022; Nordic Innovation 2022*)
- Finland #4 (*Government AI Readiness Index 2021*)
- AI adoption rate #3 in the EU (*European Commission 2022*)

# FCAI: Finland's AI hub

## What is FCAI?

- Academy of Finland Flagship for 2019–26
- Built on the long track record of pioneering machine learning research and multidisciplinary collaboration
- Top-level research and wide impact together with industry and public sector
- 70 professors and their groups, volume 250 M€

## In four years of operation



*\*) Combination of artificial intelligence, machine learning, human-computer-interaction, 2019–21*



# Finland in the European ecosystem

- **Pioneer in AI and machine learning, world-class fundamental research since 1960's**
- **Hosting one of the first ELLIS nodes**
- **Leading EU's European Network of AI Excellence Centres — ELISE, which builds and executes a European Strategic Research Agenda in AI**



**e l l i s**  
European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems

# Contents

1. Motivation: Virtual laboratories
2. How to engage with the domain expert
3. Simplified setting: knowledge elicitation
4. But: Scientist is not just a data source
5. General setting: AI-assisted decisions, design, modelling
6. What is still needed?

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# Virtual Laboratories: Transforming research with AI

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**Arto Klami<sup>1,3</sup>, Theodoros Damoulas<sup>2,4</sup>, Ola Engkvist<sup>5,6</sup>, Patrick Rinke<sup>1,7</sup>, Samuel Kaski<sup>1,2,8,9</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>*Finnish Center for Artificial Intelligence FCAI*, <sup>2</sup>*Alan Turing Institute*, <sup>3</sup>*Dept. of Computer Science, University of Helsinki*,

<sup>4</sup>*Depts. of Computer Science and Statistics, University of Warwick*, <sup>5</sup>*Molecular AI, Discovery Sciences, R&D, AstraZeneca*,

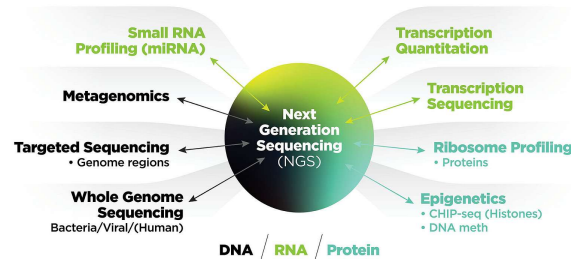
<sup>6</sup>*Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering, Chalmers University of Technology*, <sup>7</sup>*Dept. of Applied Physics, Aalto University*,

<sup>8</sup>*Dept. of Computer Science, Aalto University*, <sup>9</sup>*Dept. of Computer Science, University of Manchester*

DOI

[10.36227/techrxiv.20412540.v1](https://doi.org/10.36227/techrxiv.20412540.v1)

# How can we help with the global challenges?



Source: Mehta NAL, Dow DJ, Batram AM. 2011. DNA sequencing technologies and emerging applications in drug discovery. European Pharmaceutical Review website. <https://www.europeanpharmaceuticalreview.com/article/10403/dna-sequencing-technologies-and-emerging-applications-in-drug-discovery/>. Accessed May 4, 2020.  
Note: Colors used in the diagram are an adaptation of the original.

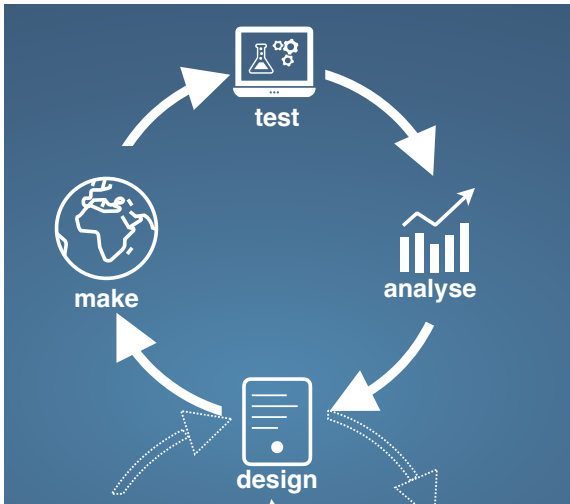
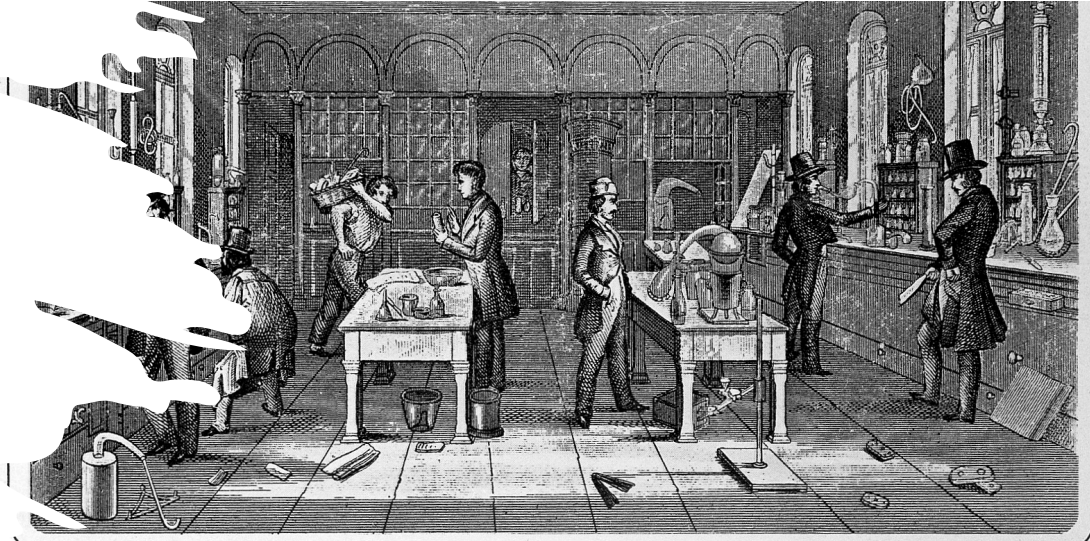


By becoming domain scientists? Good choice for some

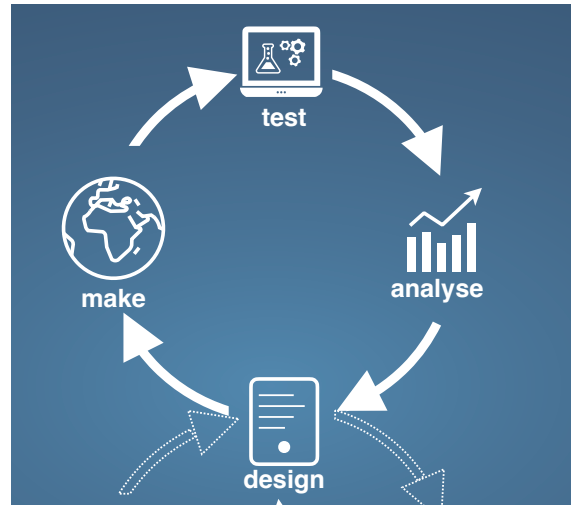
Alternative: Improve the research process

First part: Joint work with Arto Klami, Chris McGreavy, Carlos Sevilla Salcedo et al.

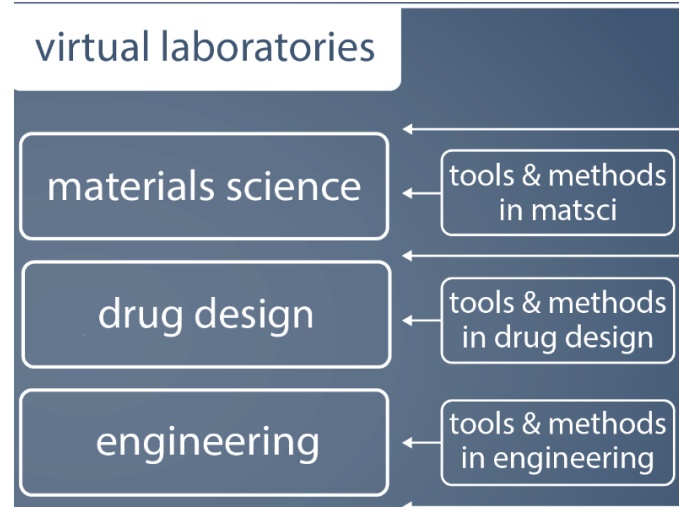
Research is still  
iterative refinement  
of hypotheses



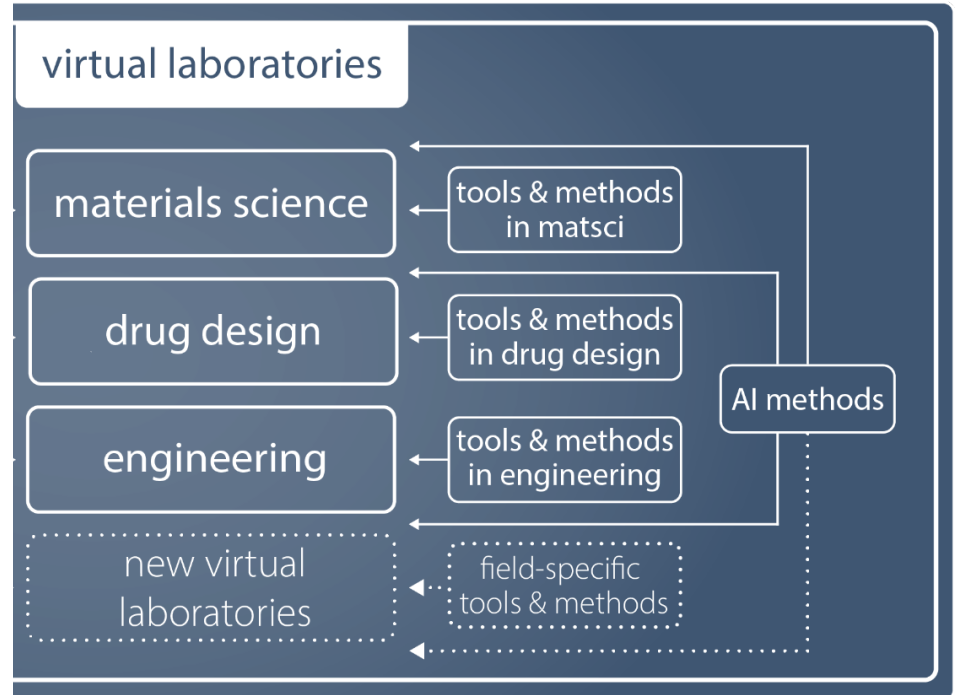
# Research and design: Design-make-test-analyze loop



# Virtual laboratories with field-specific tools

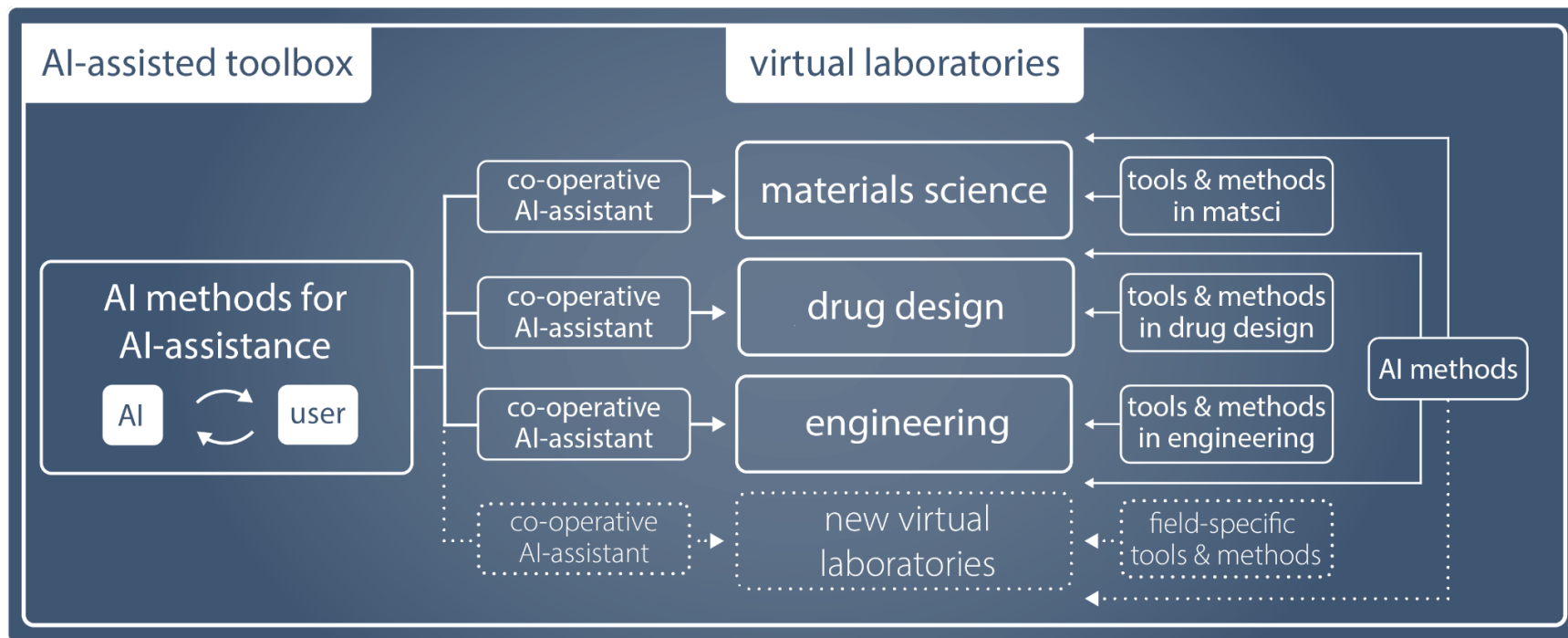


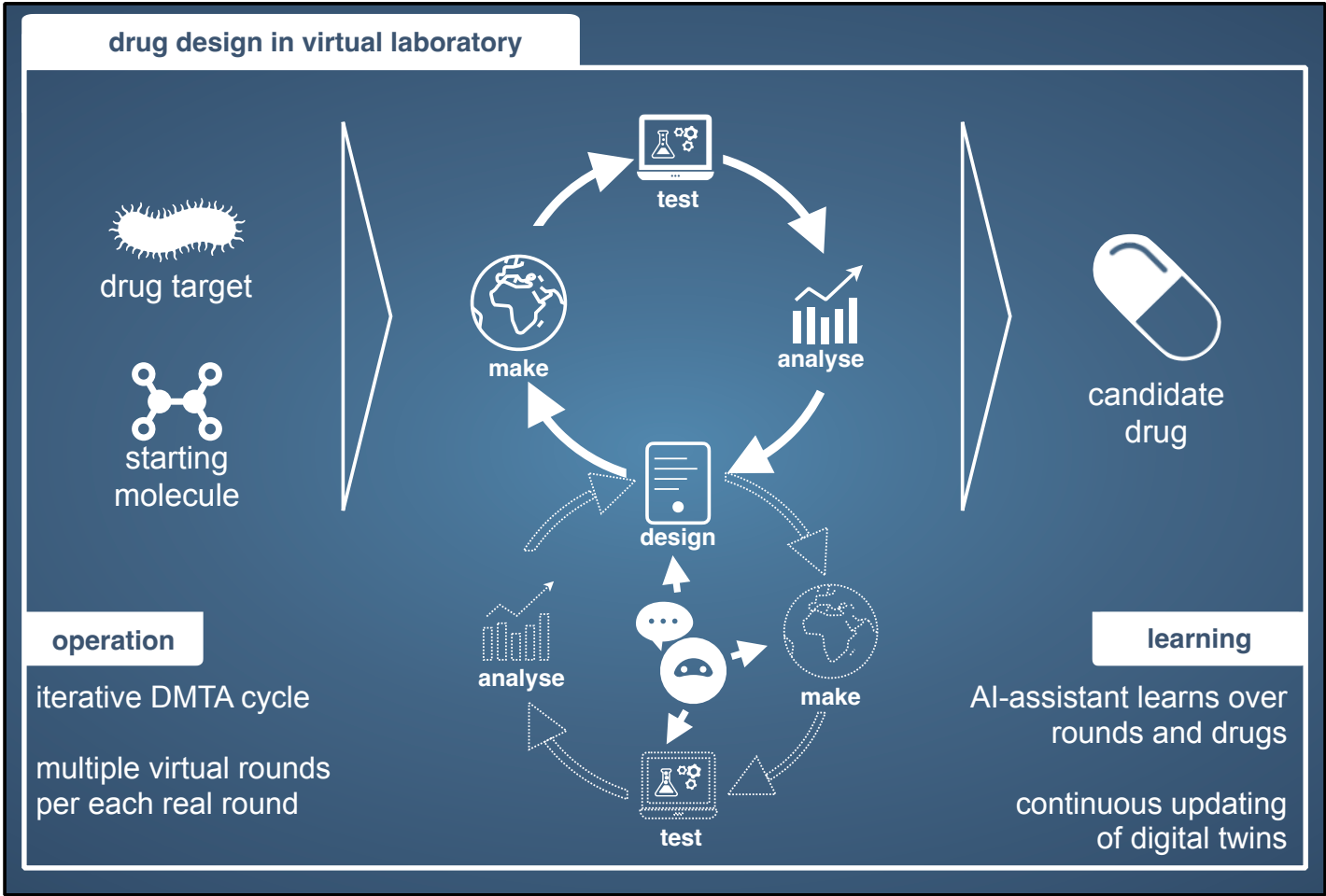
# Scale advantage: AI tools across fields





# Future: AI-assisted virtual laboratories





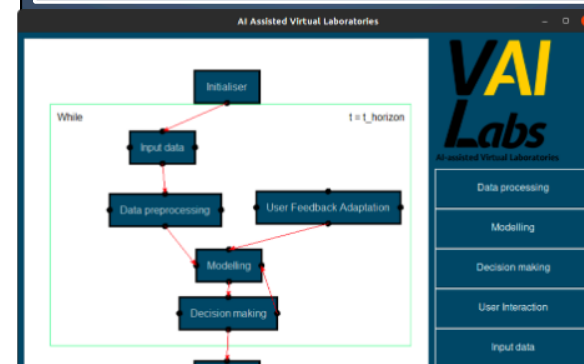
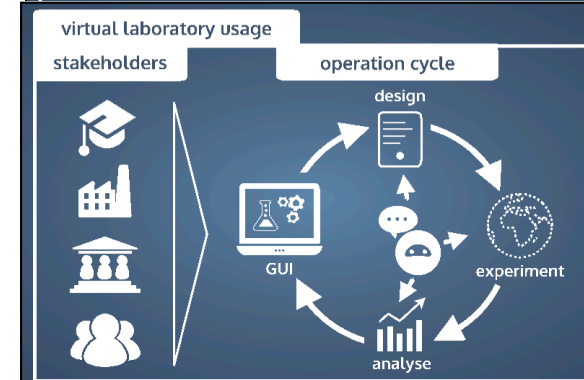
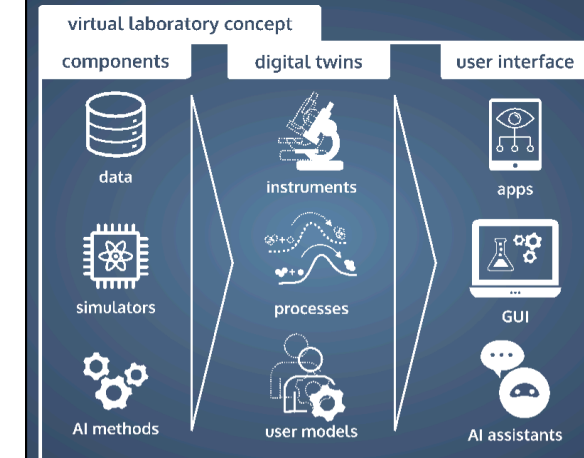
# Virtual Laboratory

**FCAI** Finnish Center for Artificial Intelligence

Rather than developing AI solutions for R&D of one field, we create them for the **R&D process itself**

## A Virtual Laboratory

- Combines digital twins of instruments and processes with models of the researcher's intentions and capabilities
- Enables AI-assistance for supporting the researcher
- Klami et al. **Virtual Laboratories: Transforming research with AI**. <https://doi.org/10.36227/techrxiv.20412540.v1>
- First labs under way: material science, drug design, sustainable mobility
- Software: <https://github.com/AaltoPML/VAI-Lab>
- Open community - welcome to join



# Why?

## For VL hosts

- No need to create everything from scratch
- AI solutions for unimaginable problems, all advances easy to take in use
- Faster research cycle

## For AI researchers

- Enables AI research with and without collaboration with VL hosts
- High-profile demonstrations
- Focus on your favorite part but benefit from what others have done

10% effort for ten times the impact



# AI-assisted Virtual Laboratories (VAI Labs)

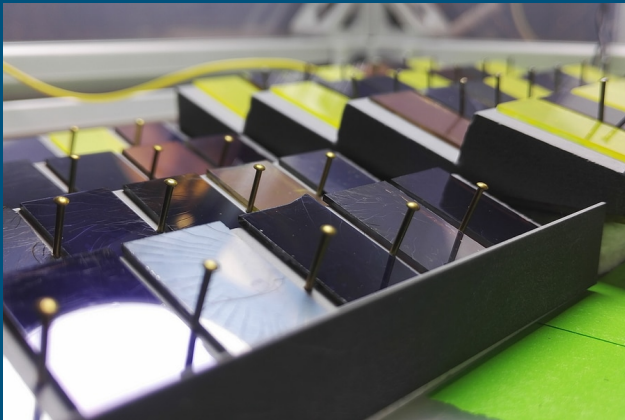
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Chris McGreavy, Carlos Sevilla  
Salcedo, Samuel Kaski, Arto Klami

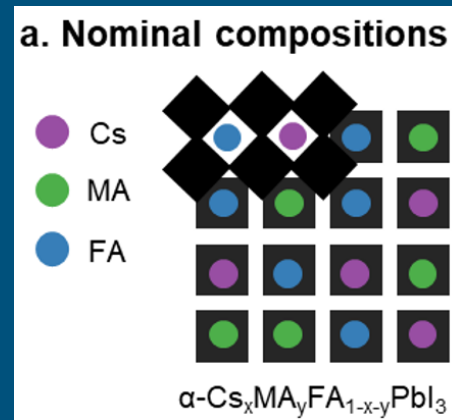


# Material Stability using Bayesian Optimisation

Aim: Find crystal composition to maximise durability of solar panel material using rapid age-testing



Manufactured crystals



Composition Space

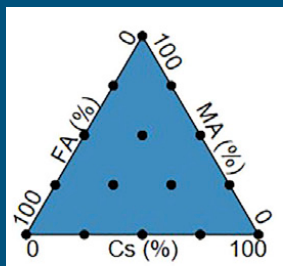


Age Testing w/image capture  
(5 days, 85°C, 85%, 0.15Sun)

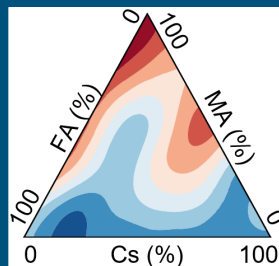
# Material Stability using Bayesian Optimisation

Search space: 3 material components (as % of overall composition)

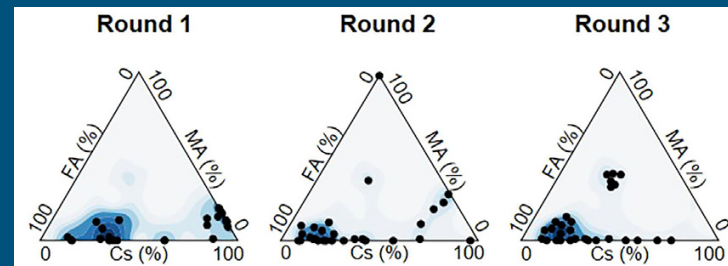
Method:



Uniformly  
sample  
search space

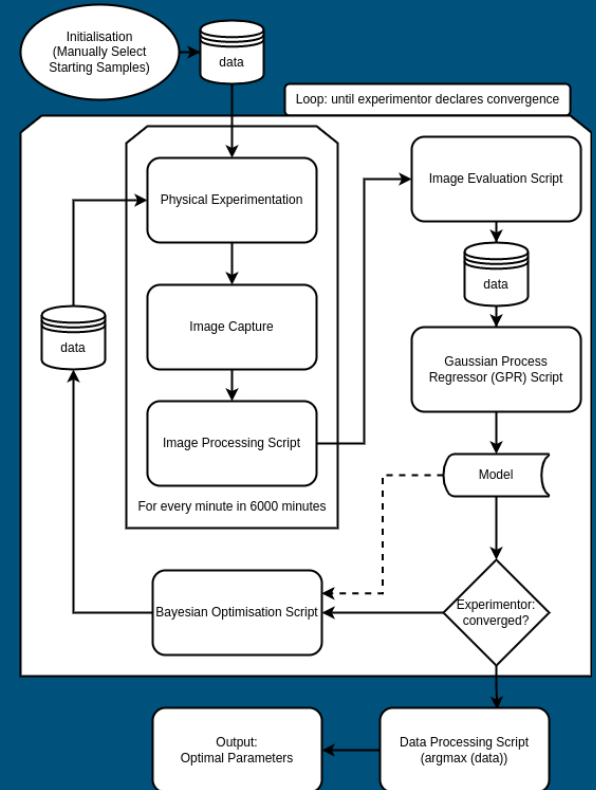
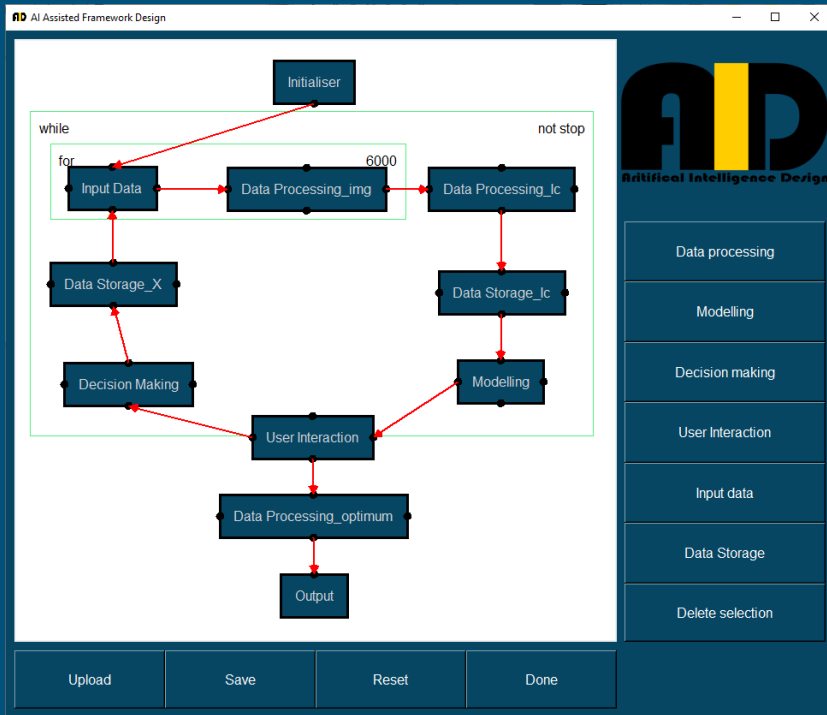


Generate ground  
truth model of  
stability  
(using GPR)



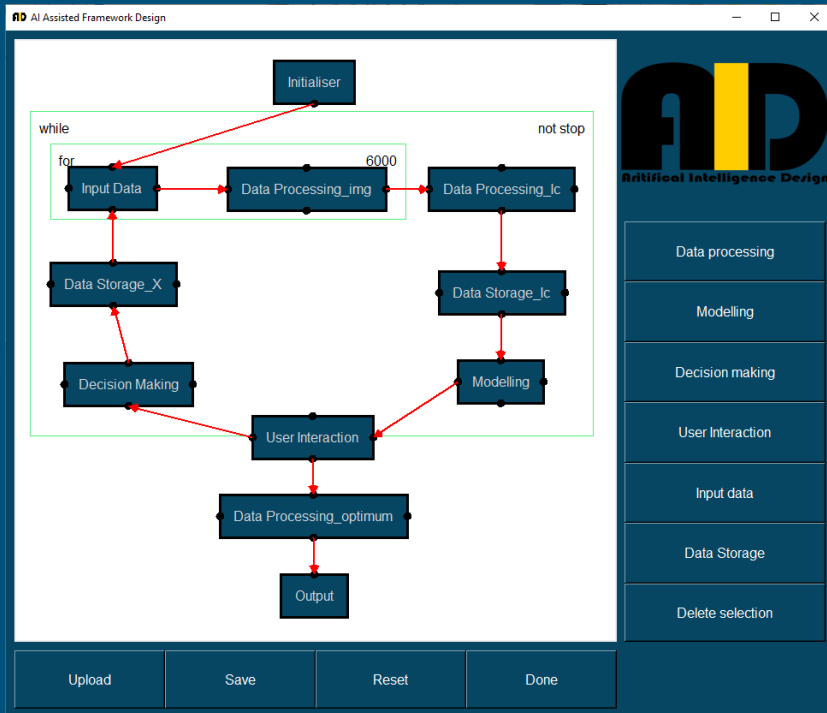
Bayesian Optimisation to search for  
optimally stable composition  
(using ground truth model)

# Material design - Use case





# Material design - Use case



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# Get involved!

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Our aim is to build a community to adopt and develop this framework.

Find more information on the project at:

<https://aaltoqml.github.io/VAI-Lab/>



Contact via email: [carlos.sevillasalcedo@aalto.fi](mailto:carlos.sevillasalcedo@aalto.fi)

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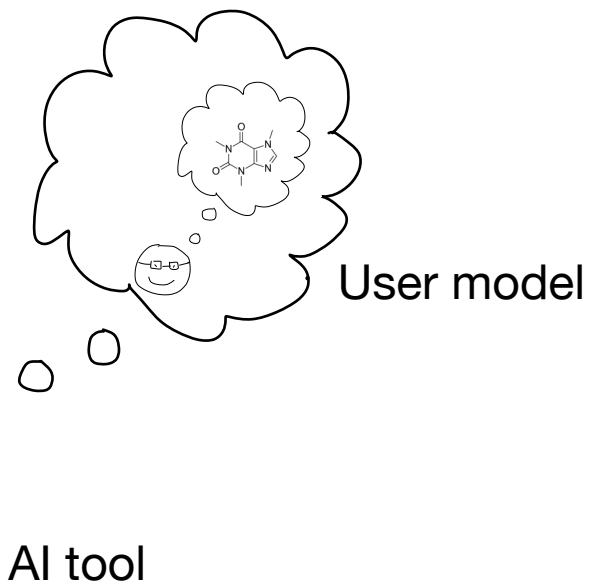
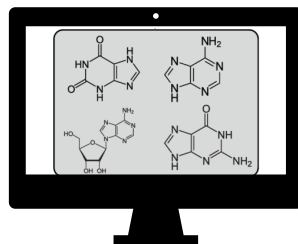
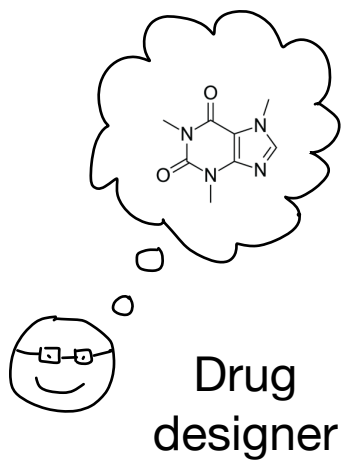
## **Approach - or dream**

"Sidekick" intelligence: AI to help users achieve their goals even when desired outcomes are tacit, uncertain or evolving

In short, needs to simultaneously model problem and expert

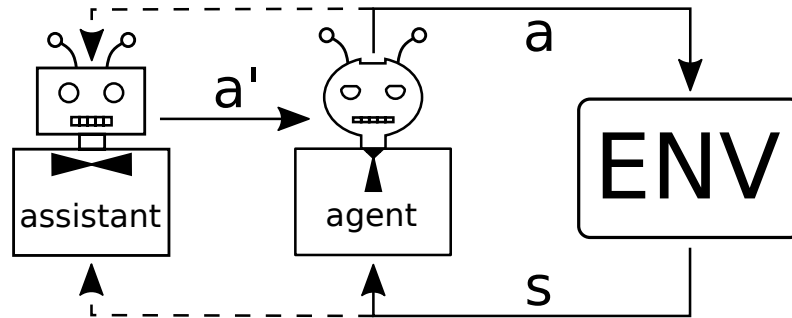
*New types of AI assistants*

# Drug design example



# AI problem: Formulate an agent capable of learning to assist another agent

Setup:



For AI: essentially a delayed-reward decision problem;  
for starters: in a simple game setting

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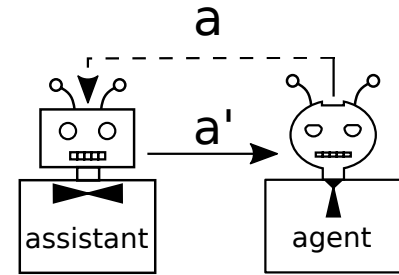
1. Motivation: Virtual laboratories
2. How to engage with the domain expert
- 3. Simplified setting: knowledge elicitation**
4. But: Scientist is not just a data source
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# Simplified setting: Knowledge elicitation

No external environment yet

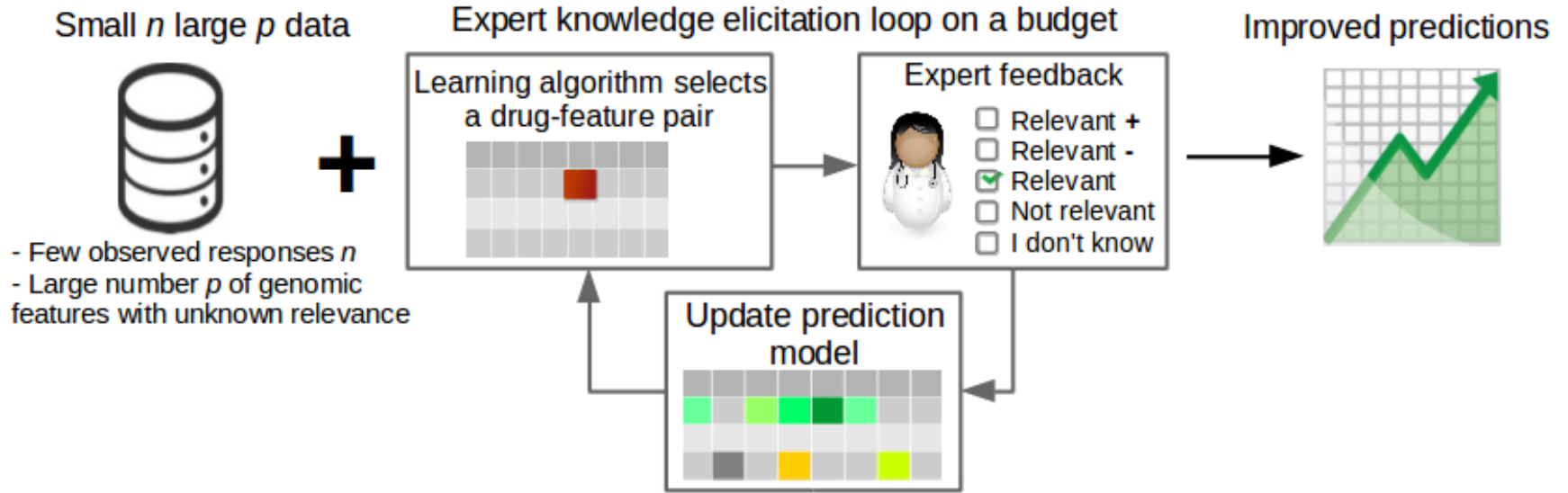
Assistant queries with  $a'$ : suggestion, question, any other change such as displaying information

Agent responds with  $a$ : Answer to question, or other available action



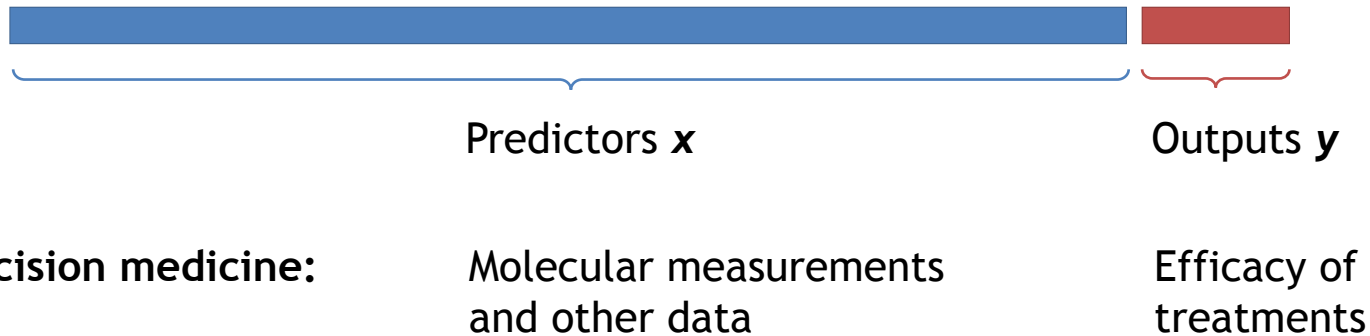


# Interactive relevance elicitation for prediction



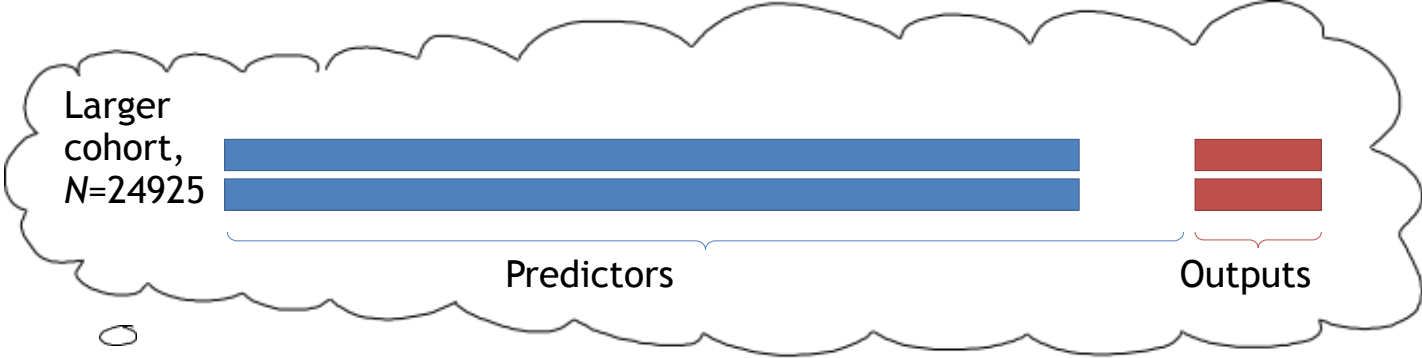
Interactive system brings an expert to the loop

# Task: prediction for high-dim data

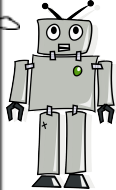


Problem: too little data for estimating the predictor  
("small  $n$ , large  $p$ ")

# Case: Predict cholesterol levels



Expert feedback



- Relevant +
- Relevant -
- Relevant
- Not relevant
- I don't know

This block contains a small robot icon on the left and a list of five feedback options on the right. The 'Relevant' option is selected with a green checkmark.

Simulated expert

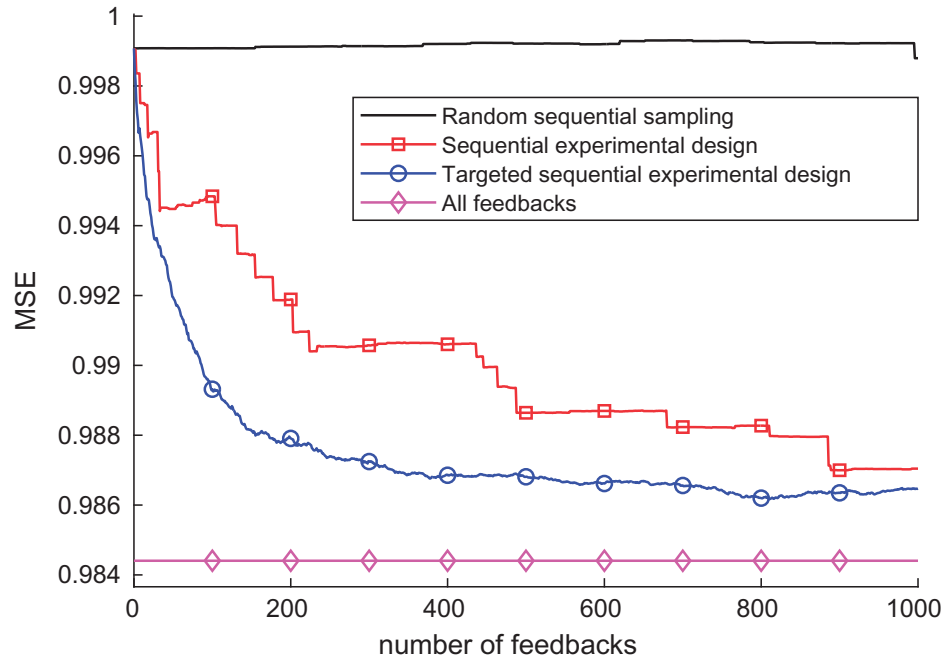
Smaller cohort, N=3918



HDL, LDL, TC, TG

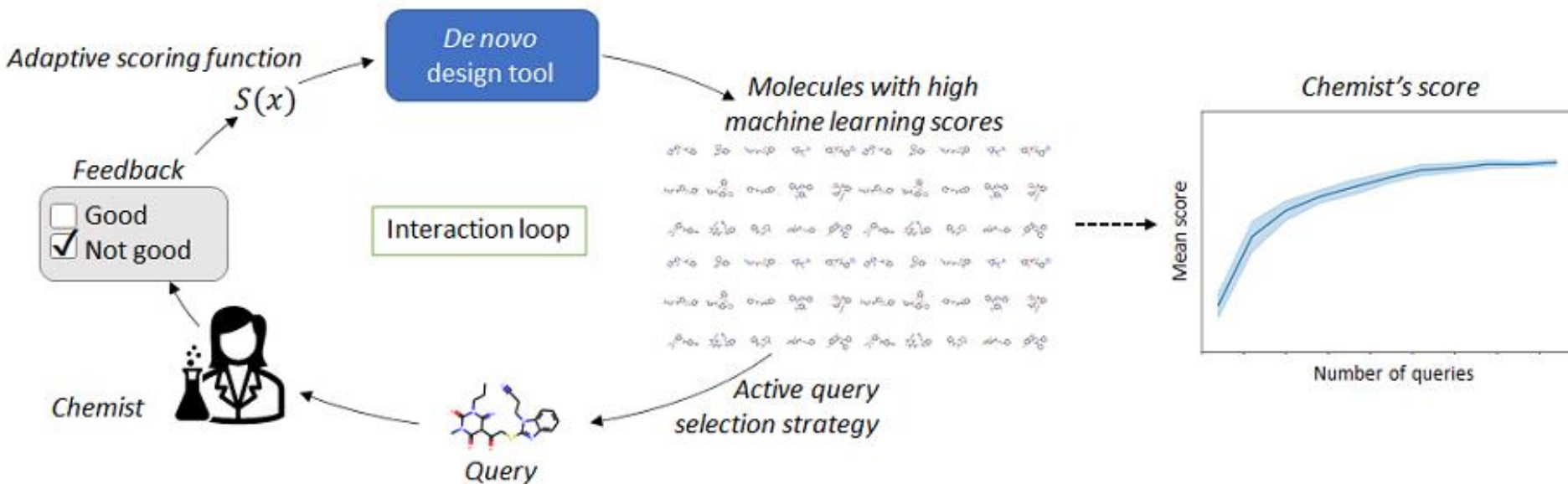


# Case: Predict cholesterol levels



# Drug Design

Active learning of feedback for a reinforcement learning engine



# What if the expert does not know?

Is human-in-the-loop ML a good idea when we do not know how much the particular human knows?

We can give guarantees that it is, for optimization, formulated as multi-fidelity Bayesian optimization robust towards adding unreliable information sources

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## Multi-Fidelity Bayesian Optimization with Unreliable Information Sources

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**Petrus Mikkola**  
Aalto University

**Julien Martinelli**  
Aalto University

**Louis Filstroff**  
ENSAI, CREST

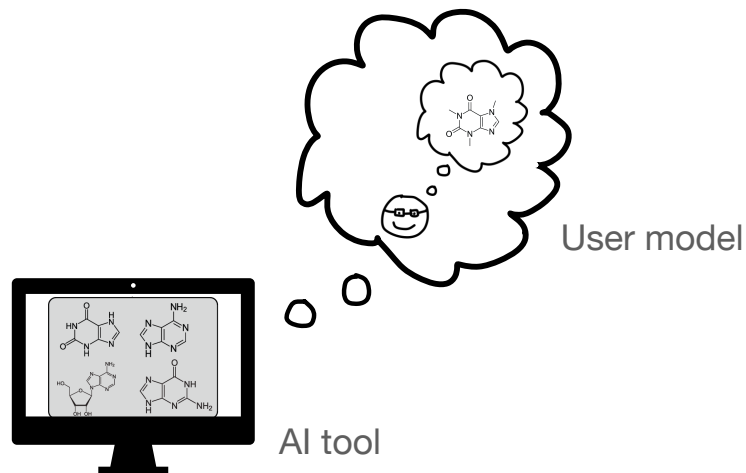
**Samuel Kaski**  
Aalto University  
University of Manchester

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# User Modelling

We need to combine prior knowledge from cognitive science with learning from data



COGNITIVE SCIENCE

A Multidisciplinary Journal



Parameter Inference for Computational Cognitive Models  
With Approximate Bayesian Computation

Antti Kangasrääsio,<sup>a</sup> Jussi P. P. Jokinen,<sup>b</sup> Antti Oulasvirta,<sup>b</sup> Andrew  
Howes,<sup>c</sup> Samuel Kaski<sup>a</sup>



# Useful formulation: Computational Rationality

Assumption: humans act rationally (+noise) *given their constraints and limitations*

Some of the constraints we get from cognitive science, some from the task definition. The rest needs to be learned from data.

Brute-force solution: Simulator-based inference with RL in the inner loop

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# General setting: AI-assisted decision-making and design

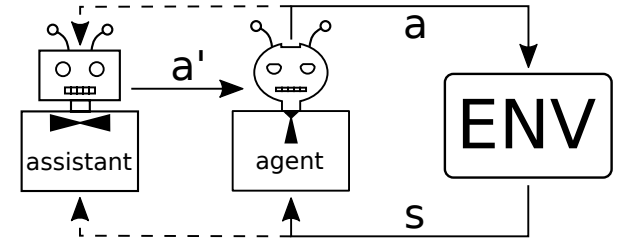
## Decision-making

- $a$ : which treatment
- $a'$ : suggestion + predicted effectiveness

## Design

- $a$ : design change
- $a'$ : suggestion + predicted properties of design

Utility/reward becomes only known further down the line

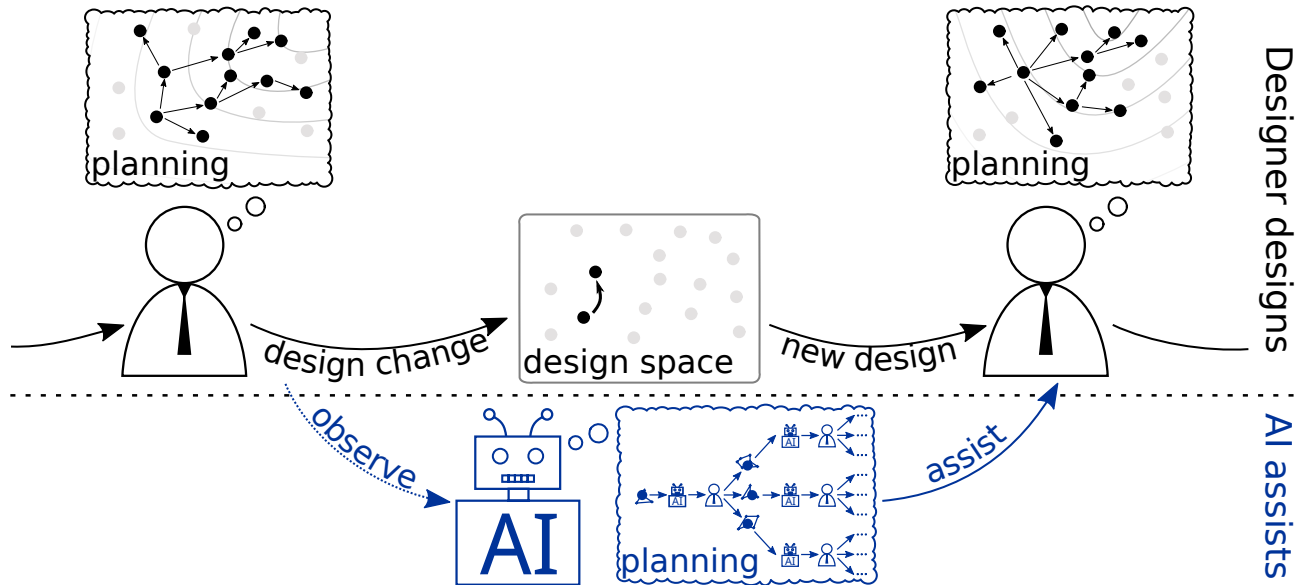


# Zero-shot assistance

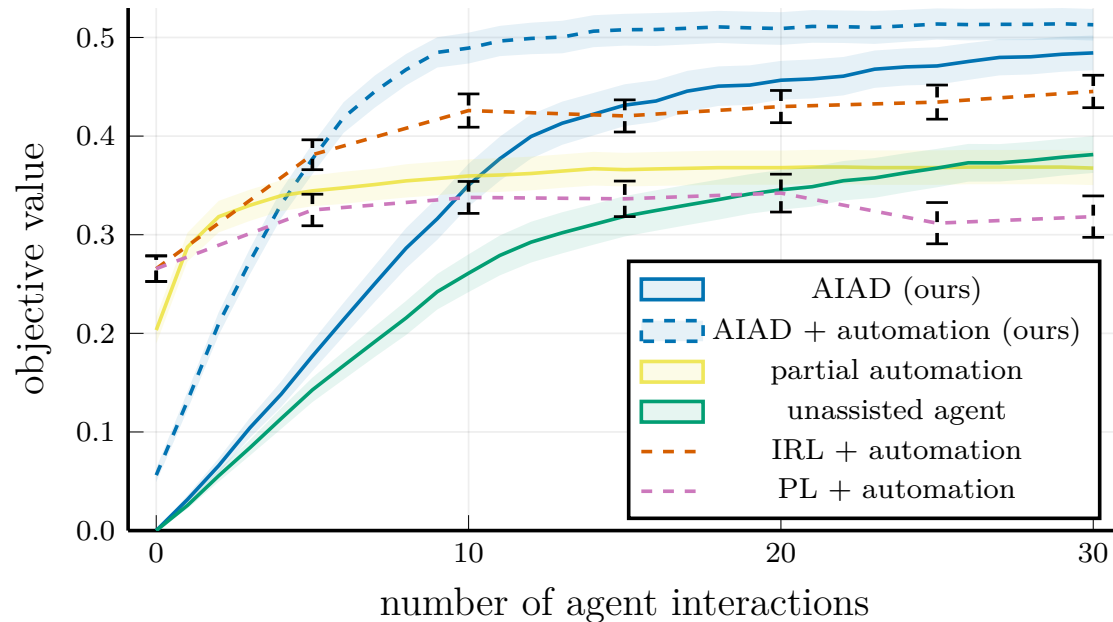
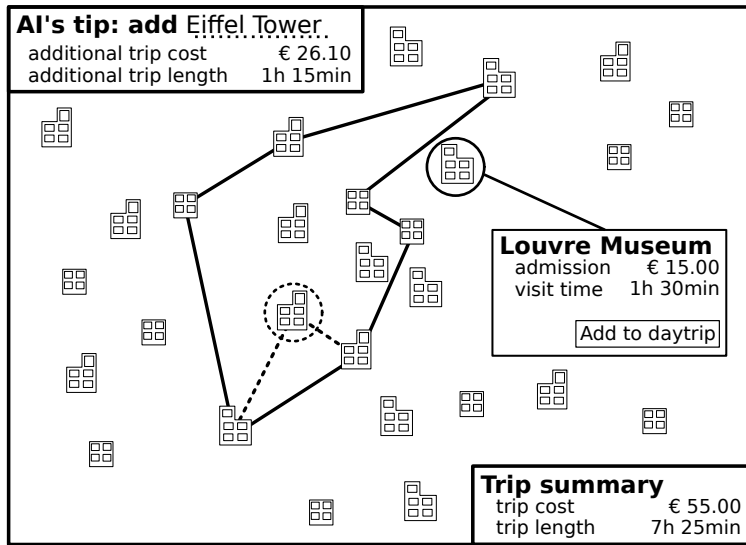
How to help an agent solve a sequential delayed-reward decision making task, when we know nothing about the reward function?

- agent cannot specify or communicate the reward
- agent has not solved it before, so no previous behavior to learn from

# AI-assisted design



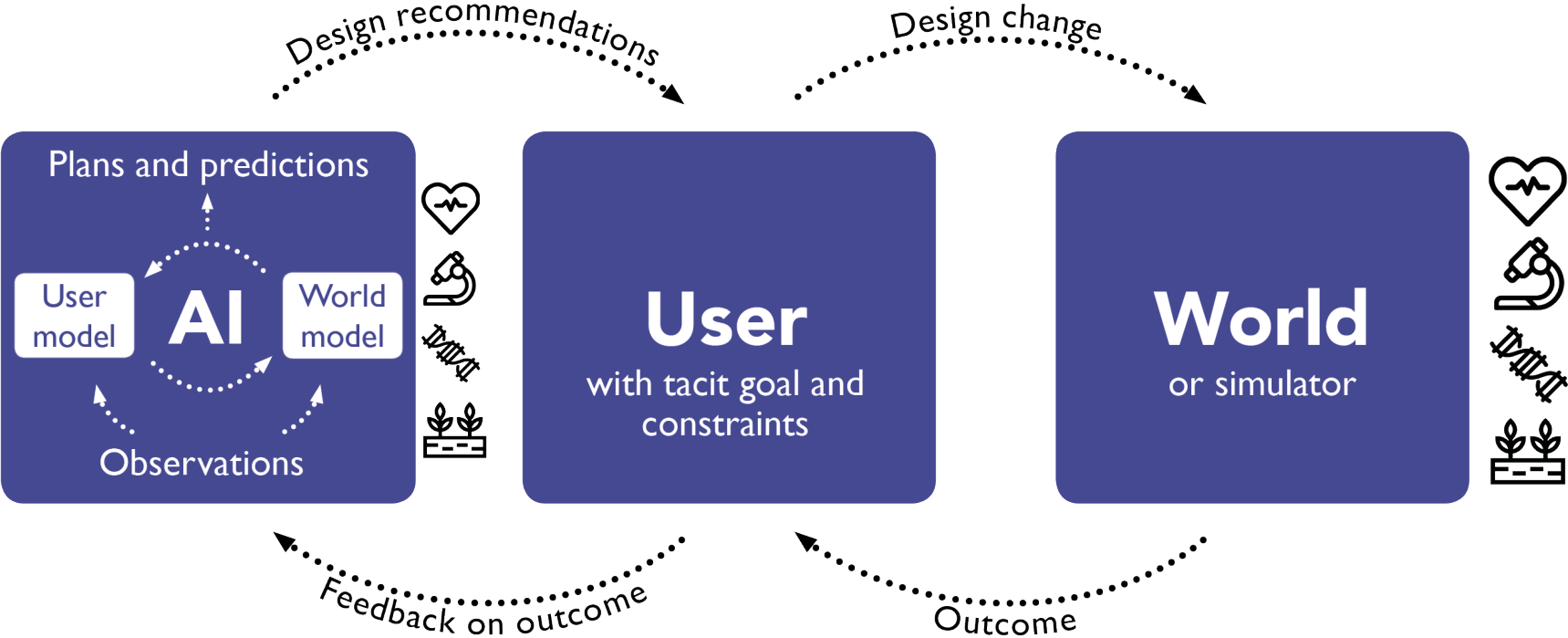
# AI-assisted design: Trip planning



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# Collaborative decision making with AI



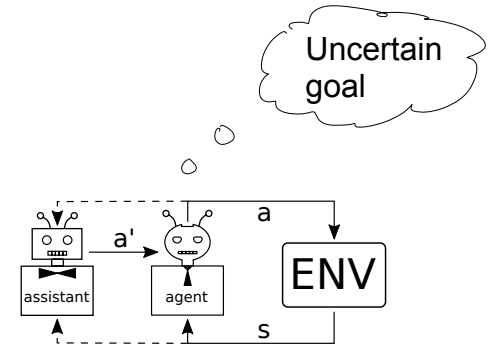
AI-assisted decision-making, design and modelling



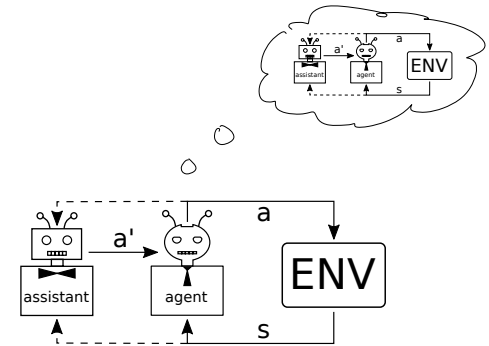
# What is needed of user modelling?

Generative model capable of producing:

1. Goal-driven behaviour with constraints:  
Computational rationality

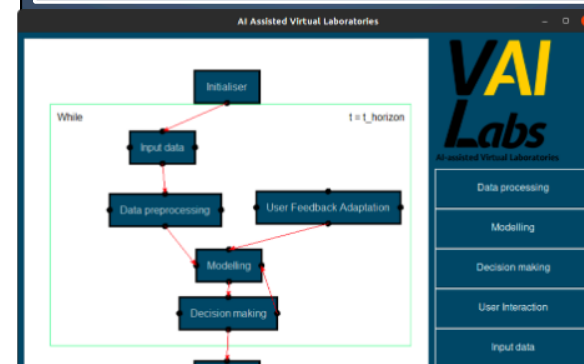
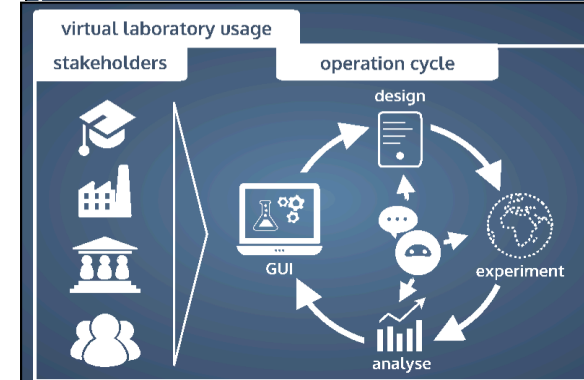
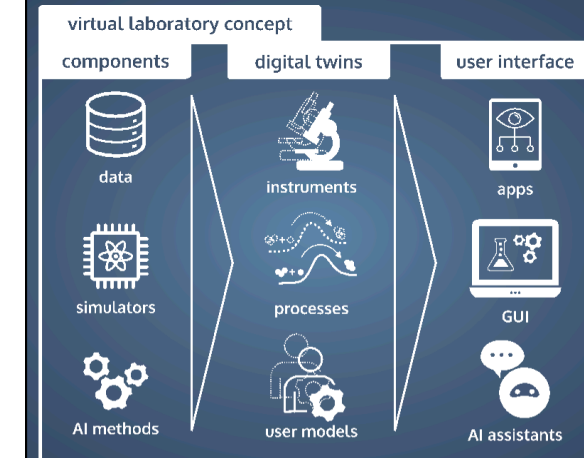


2. In an environment containing other goal-oriented agents, having representations of other agents:  
Theory of Mind



# With these tools, close to AI-assisted Virtual Laboratories for Science and Engineering

- Concept: Klami et al. **Virtual Laboratories: Transforming research with AI.** <https://doi.org/10.36227/techrxiv.20412540.v1>
- Software: <https://github.com/AaltoPML/VAI-Lab>
- First labs under way, in collaboration of FCAI, Turing, a few companies: material science, drug design, sustainable mobility
- Open community - welcome to join!



# Where?



UK Government

Turing AI World-Leading Researcher Fellowship

**STEERING AI IN  
EXPERIMENTAL  
DESIGN AND  
DECISION-MAKING**



Professor  
**Samuel Kaski**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

#TuringAIFellows



# FCAI

Thank you: To a number of group members and collaborators, who are authors of the mentioned papers