



# aws INNOVATE

AI/ML EDITION

24 February 2022

# Start your engines with AWS DeepRacer

Calvin Ngo

Developer Specialist Solutions Architect

AWS



# Agenda

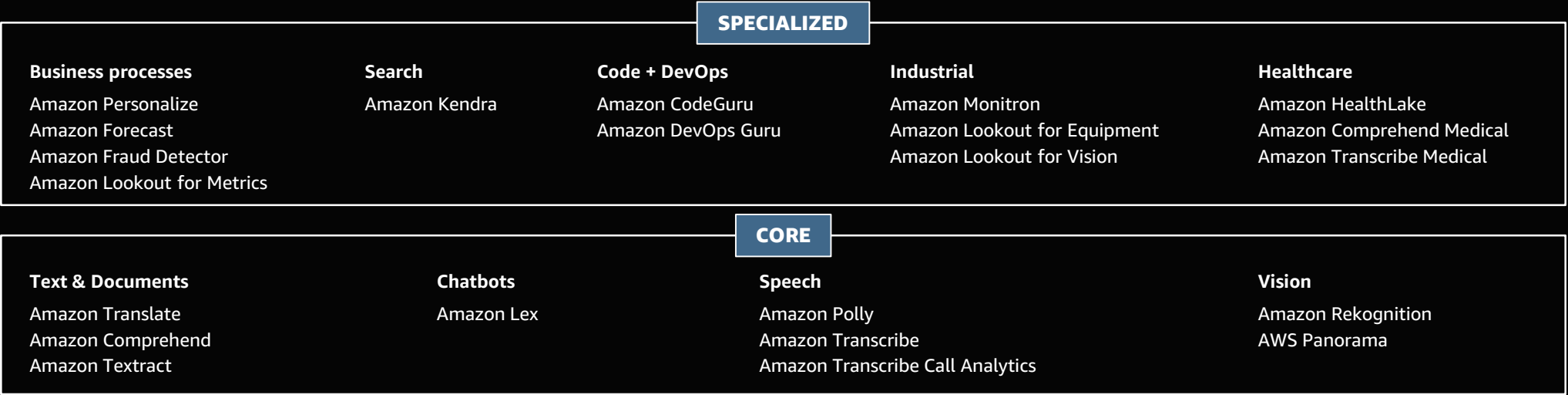
1. Machine Learning on AWS
2. Introducing AWS DeepRacer
3. Introduction to Reinforcement Learning
4. AWS DeepRacer Console
5. Demo
6. Additional resources

# Machine Learning on AWS

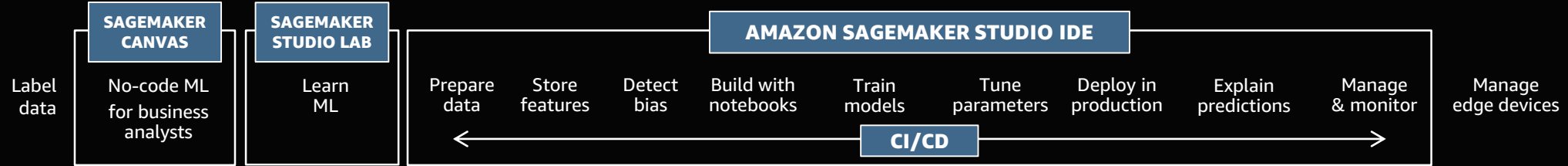
# The AWS ML Stack

BROADEST AND MOST COMPLETE SET OF MACHINE LEARNING CAPABILITIES

AI SERVICES



ML SERVICES



ML FRAMEWORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE



# Building your team's skills

## HANDS-ON LEARNING



AWS DeepLens  
Deep learning



AWS DeepRacer  
Reinforcement learning



AWS DeepComposer  
Generative AI

# Introducing AWS DeepRacer

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

***Literally***





# Under the hood

- 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 16.04.3 LTS
- ROS kinetic



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



AWS DeepRacer  
League

# Get hands-on experience with reinforcement learning



AWS  
DeepRacer Evo



3D-racing  
simulator



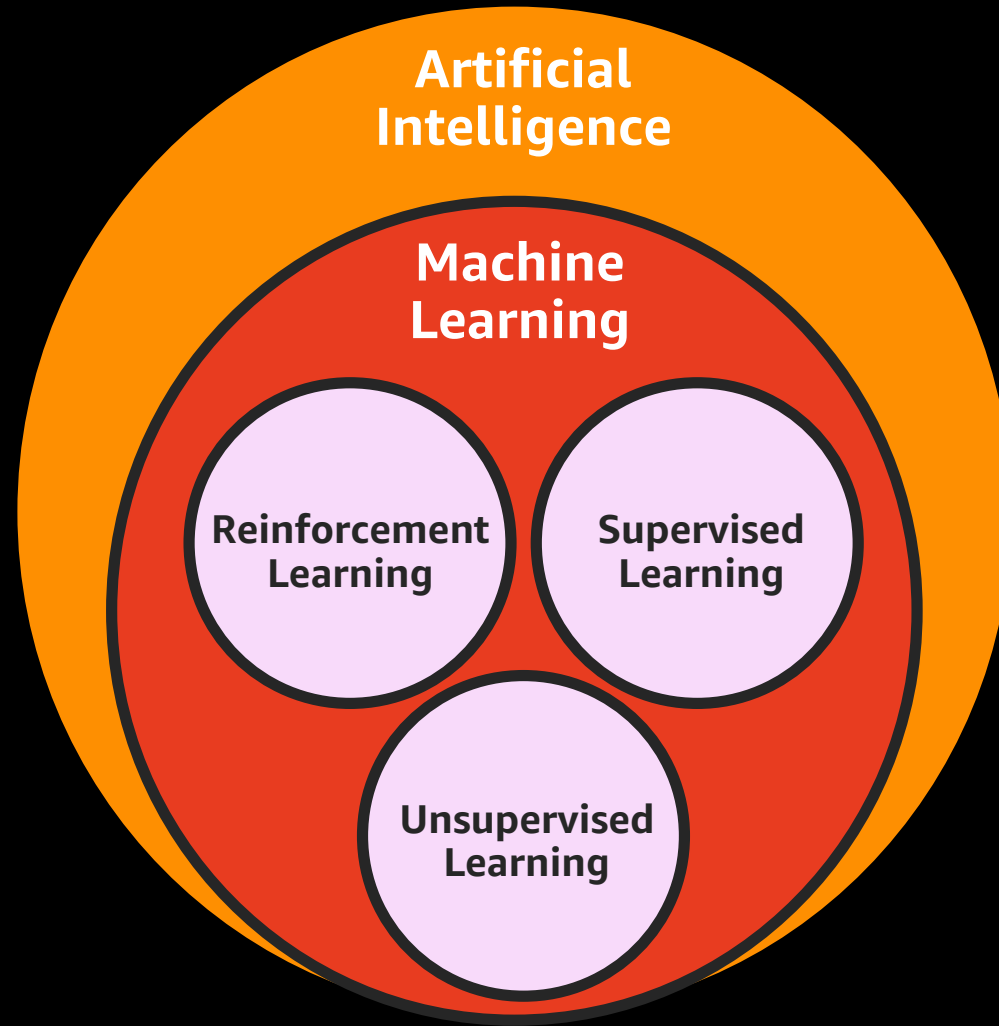
AWS DeepRacer  
League



Community  
races

# **Introduction to Reinforcement Learning**

# Reinforcement learning in context of AI





# Real world reinforcement learning



**Reward  
positive  
behavior**



**Don't reward  
negative  
behavior**



***The result!***

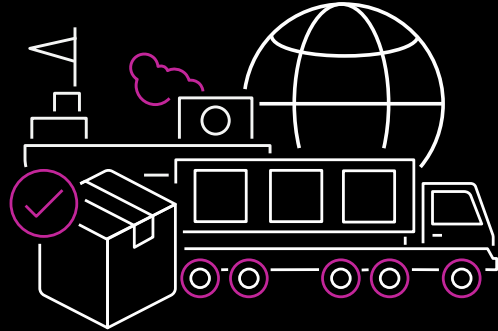


# Reinforcement learning use cases

## AUTONOMOUS CARS



## FLEET LOGISTICS



## FINANCIAL TRADING

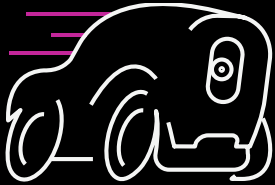


## DATA CENTER COOLING

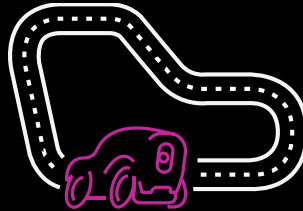


# Reinforcement learning terminology

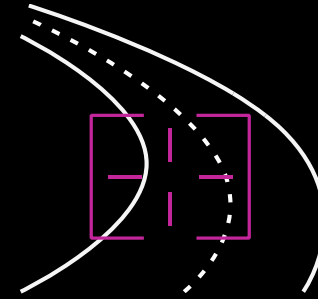
## AGENT



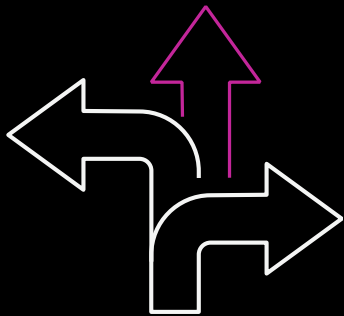
## ENVIRONMENT



## STATE



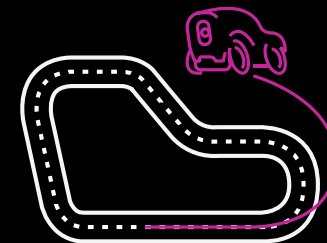
## ACTION



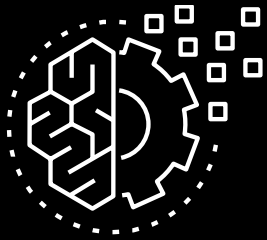
## REWARD



## EPISODE



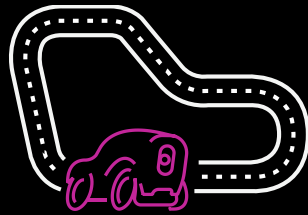
# What is reinforcement learning?



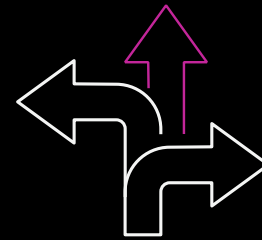
**MODEL**



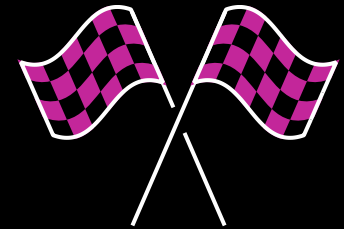
**AGENT**



**ENVIRONMENT**



**ACTION**

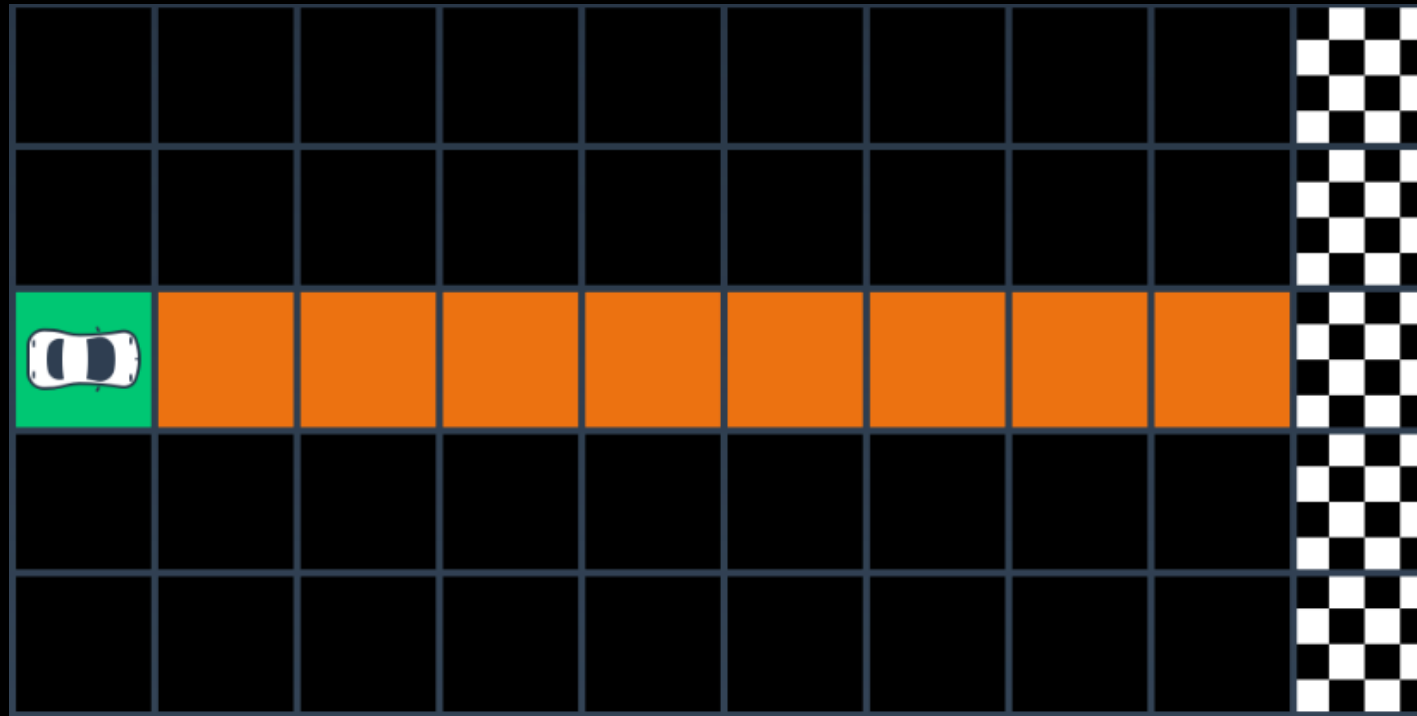


**GOAL**

# Reward function in a grid race









**Agent**

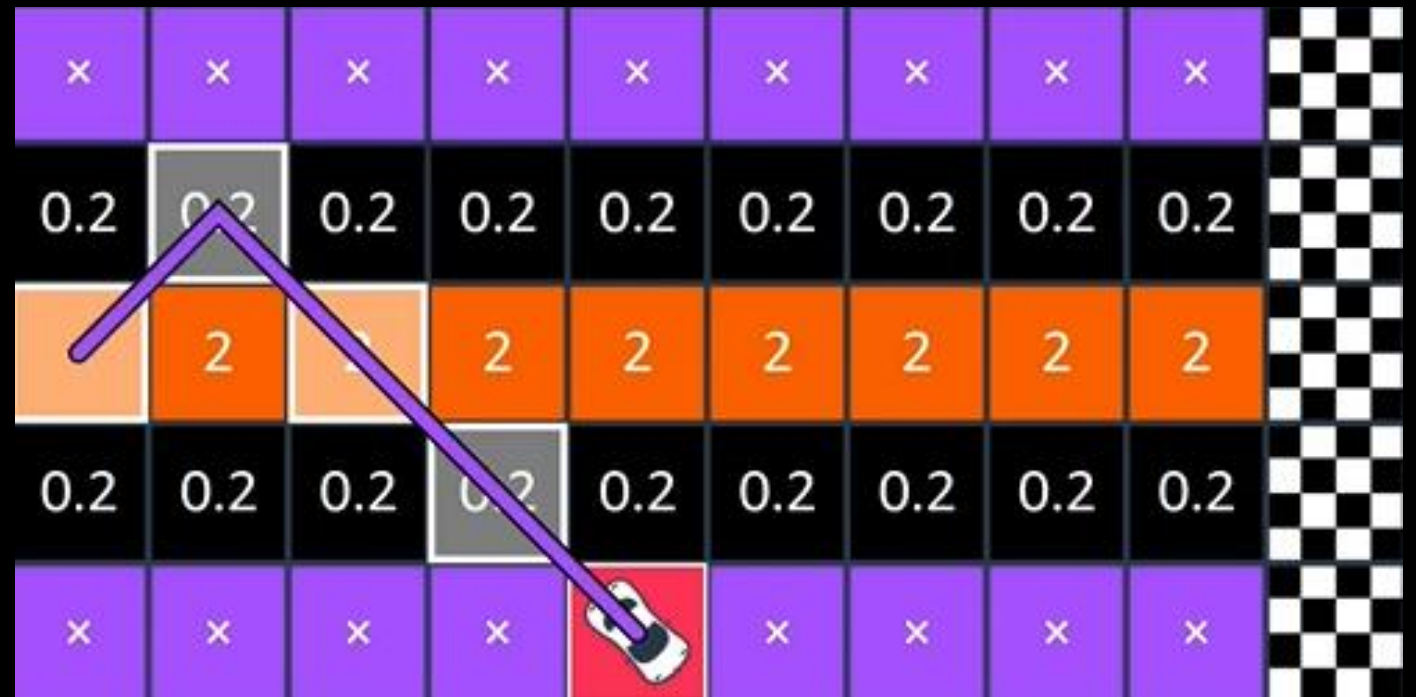


**Goal**

# Incentivize center-line driving

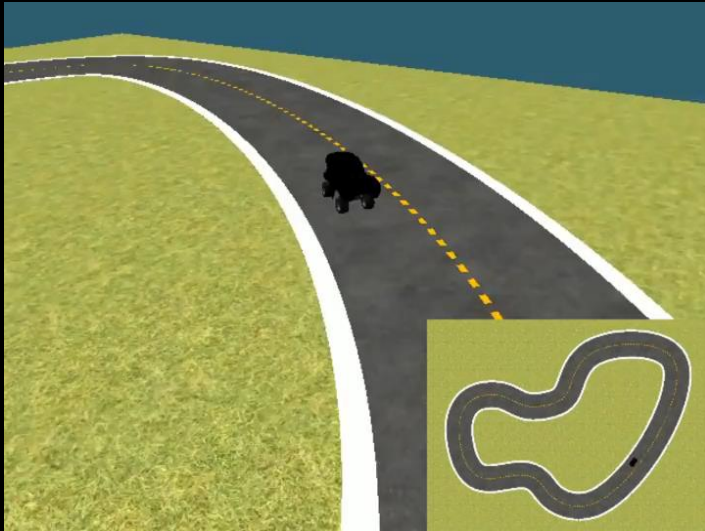
x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

# Iterate, iterate and converge

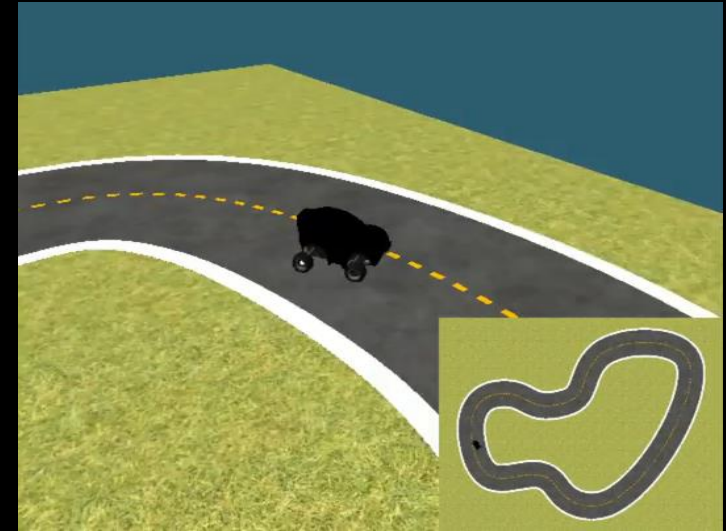


# Exploration vs. Exploitation

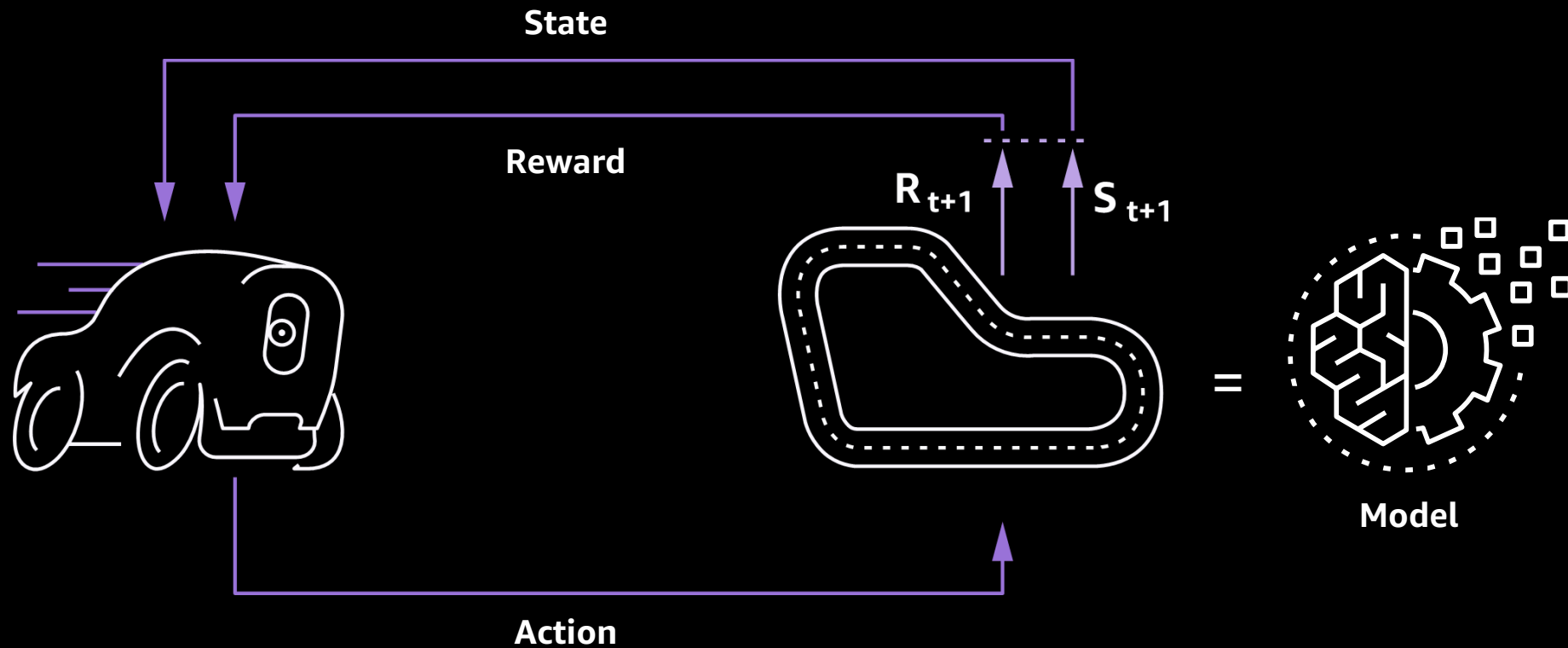
## EXPLORATION



## EXPLOITATION

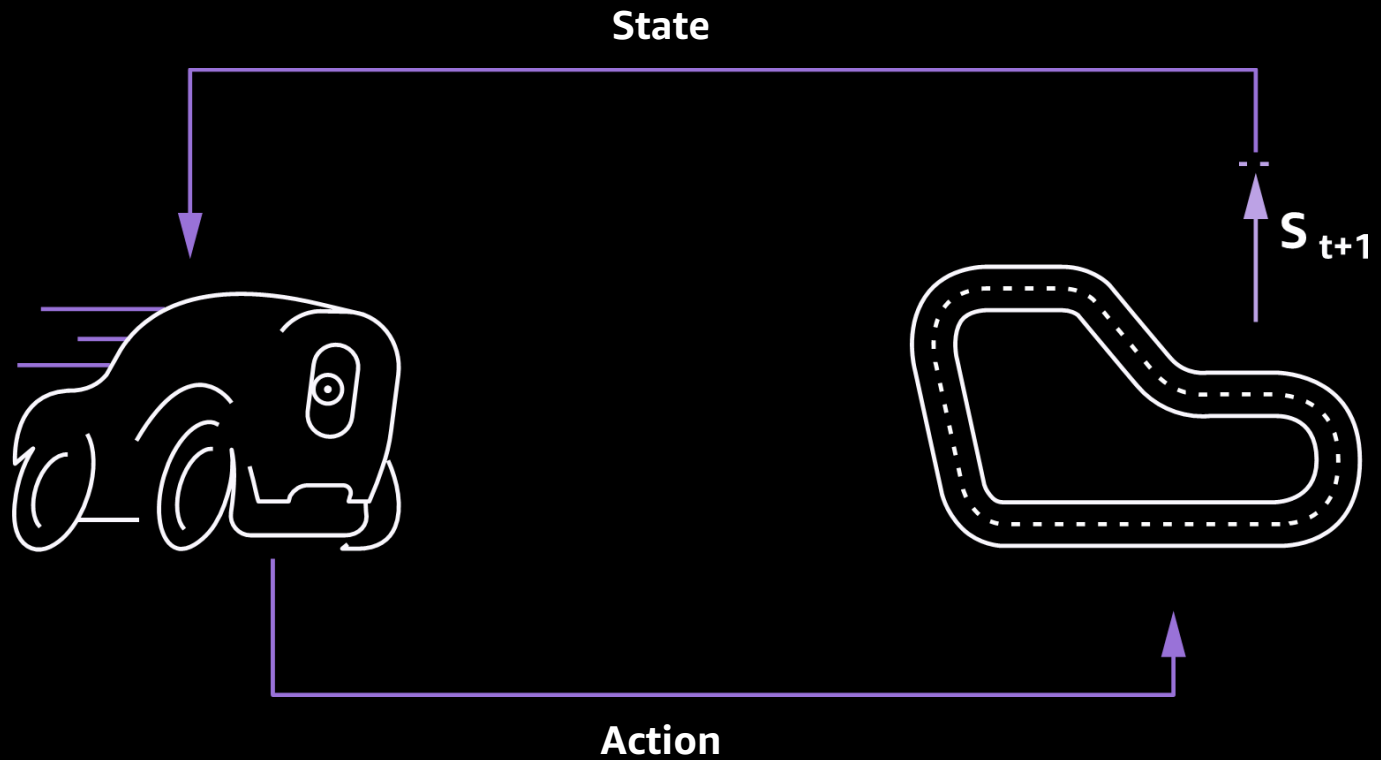


# How does learning happen?

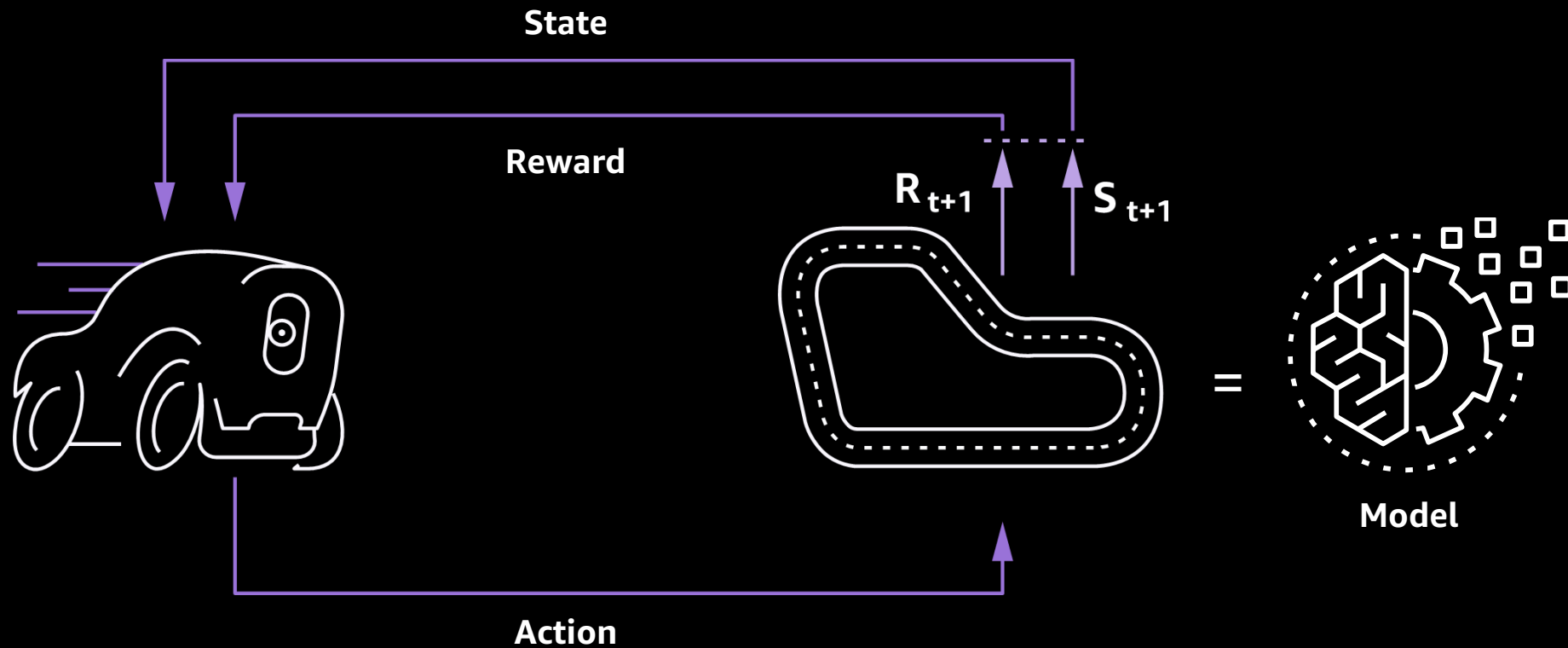




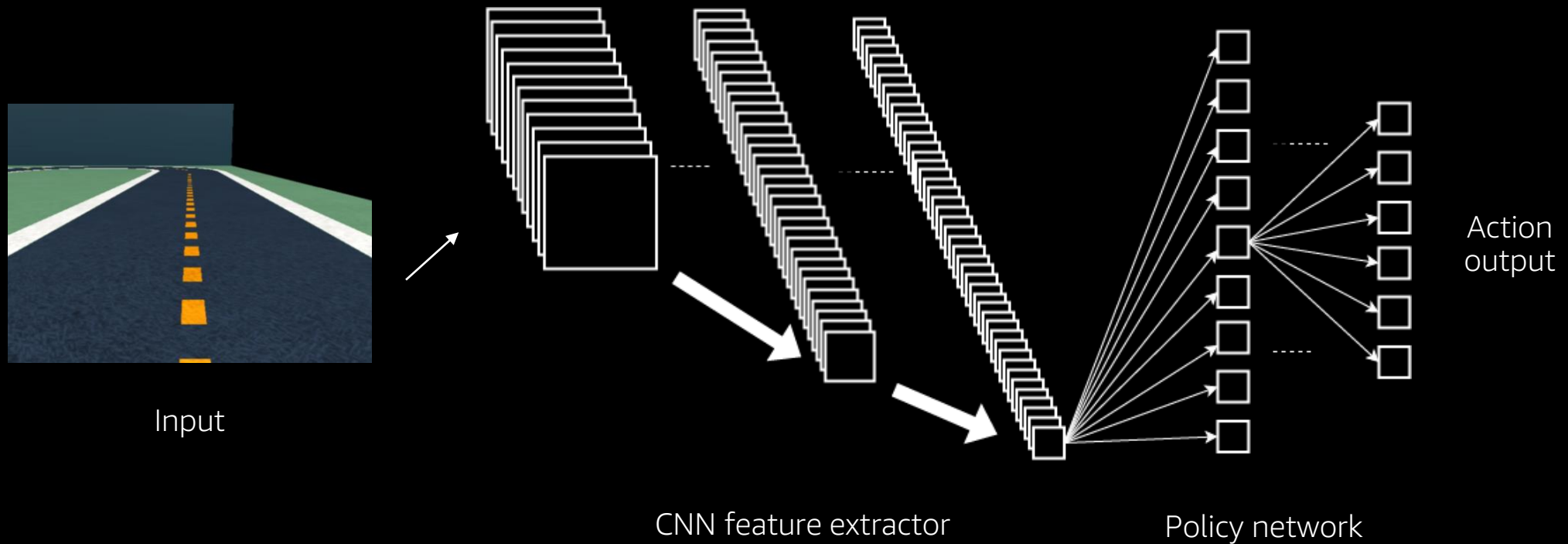
# How does learning happen?



# How does learning happen?



# AWS DeepRacer neural network architecture

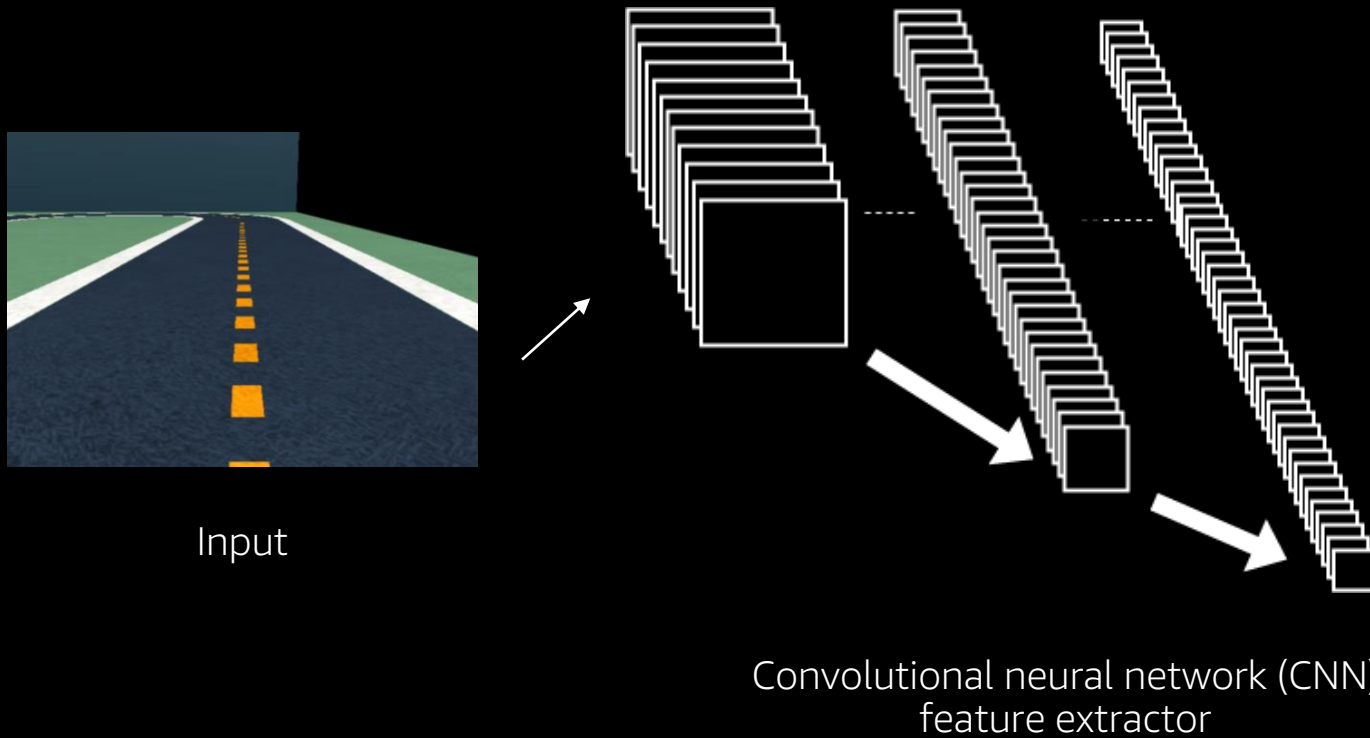


# AWS DeepRacer neural network architecture

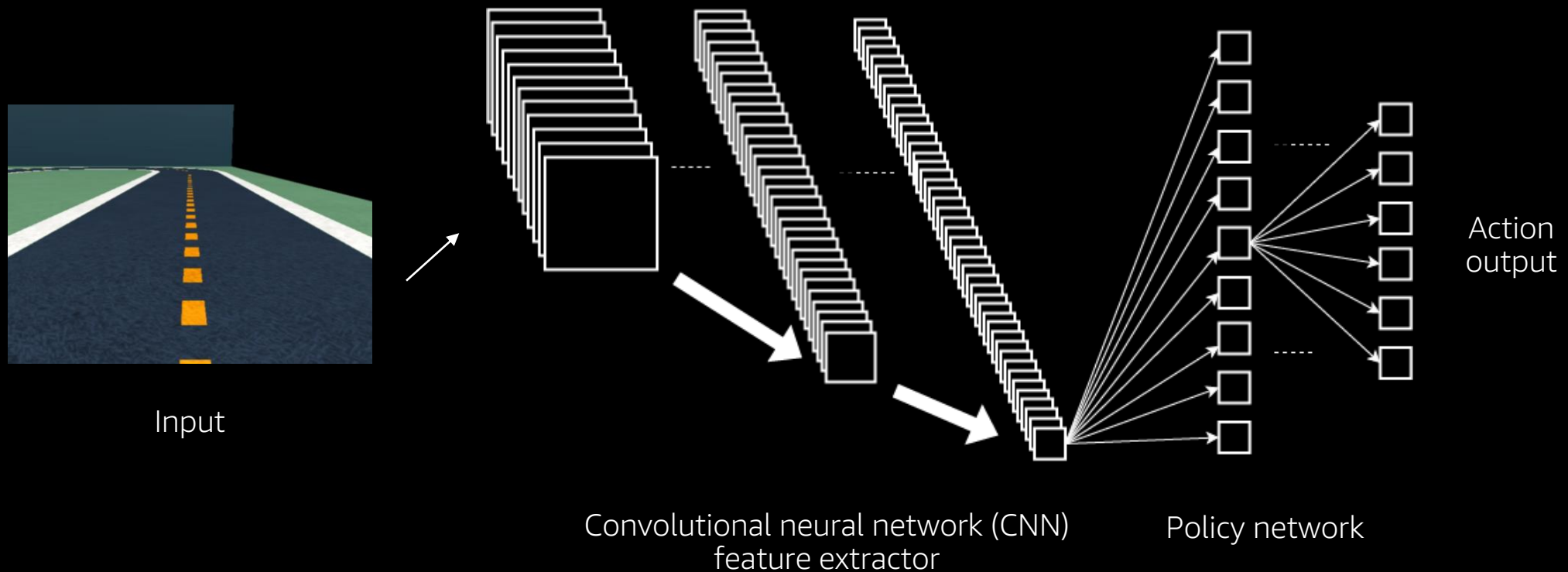


Input

# AWS DeepRacer neural network architecture

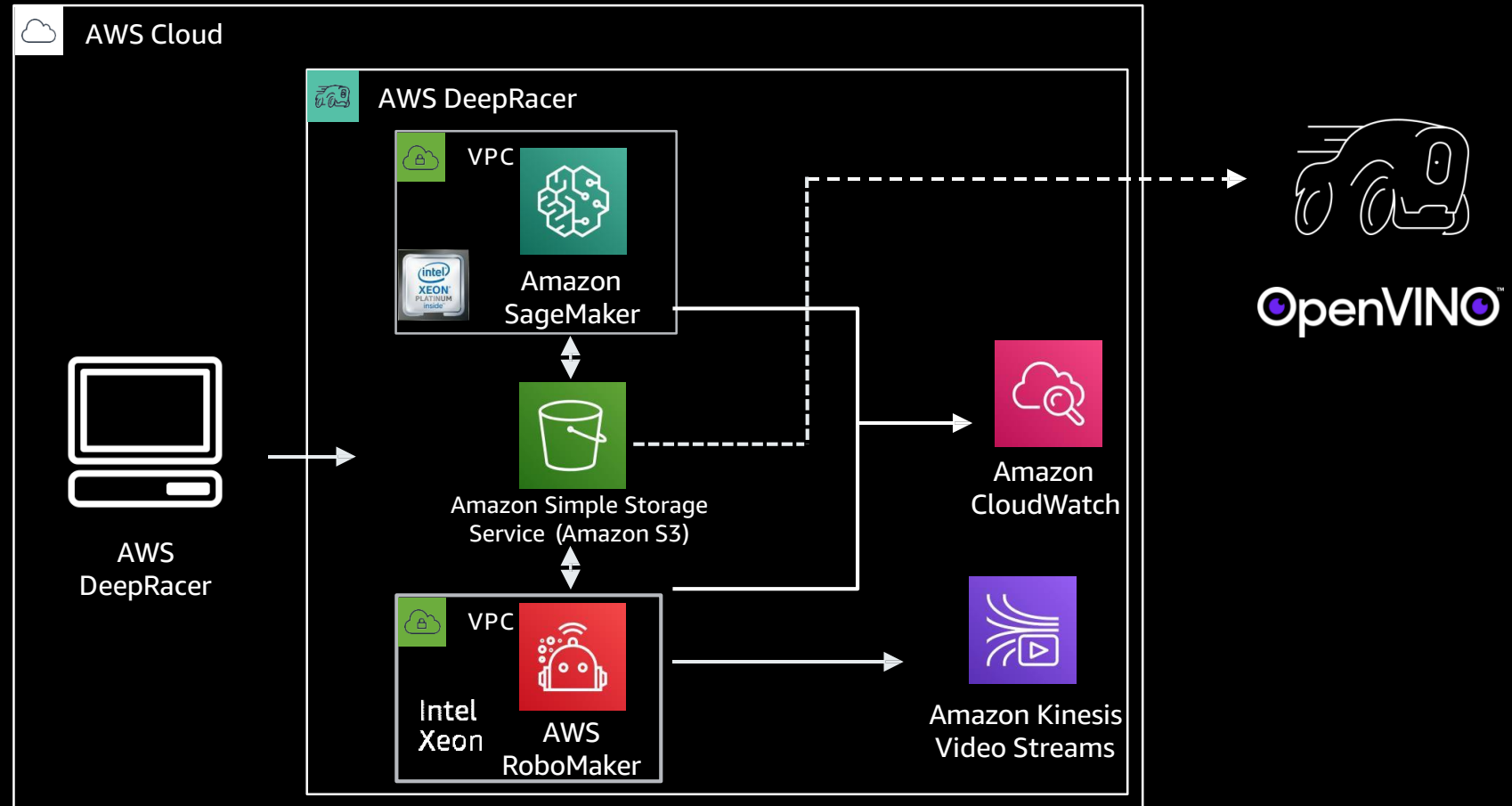


# AWS DeepRacer neural network architecture



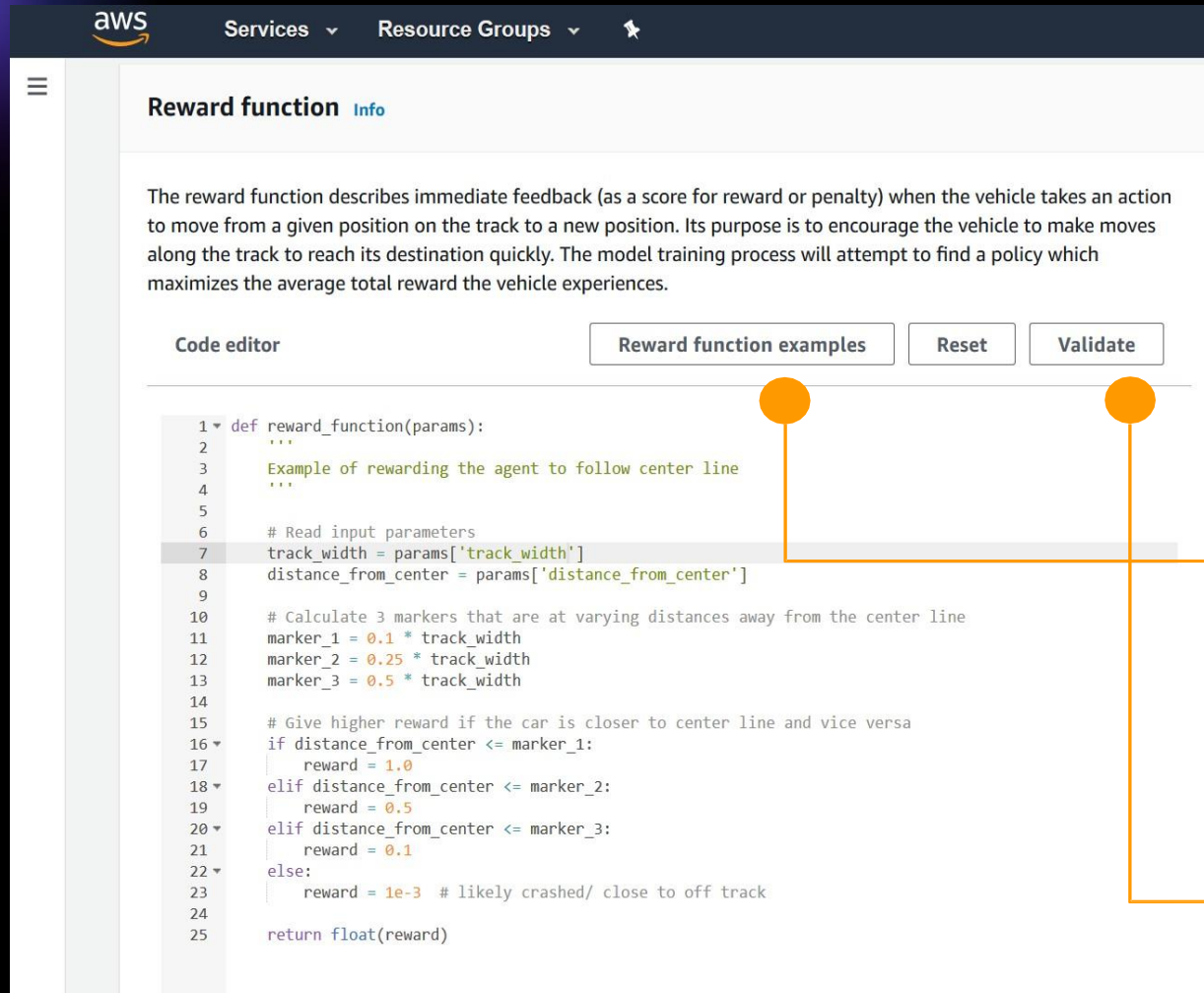
# **AWS DeepRacer console**

# AWS DeepRacer simulator architecture





# Programming your own reward function



The screenshot shows the AWS Lambda console interface for a function named "Reward function". The "Code editor" tab is active, displaying a Python 3 code snippet. The code defines a `reward_function` that takes `params` and returns a float reward. It calculates markers for track width and assigns rewards based on the car's distance from the center line. The "Reward function examples" button is highlighted with an orange circle, and an arrow points from it to the text "Three example reward functions". Another orange circle is on the "Validate" button, with an arrow pointing to the text "Code validation via AWS Lambda".

**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.

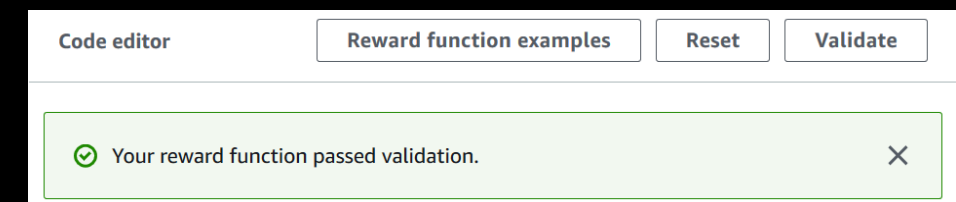
Code editor    Reward function examples    Reset    Validate

```
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 AWS Lambda

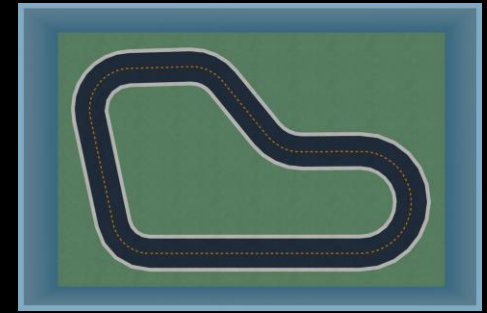


This screenshot shows the bottom part of the AWS Lambda console interface. The "Validate" button has been clicked, and a green success message is displayed in a box: "Your reward function passed validation." with a green checkmark icon and a close button (X).

Code editor    Reward function examples    Reset    Validate

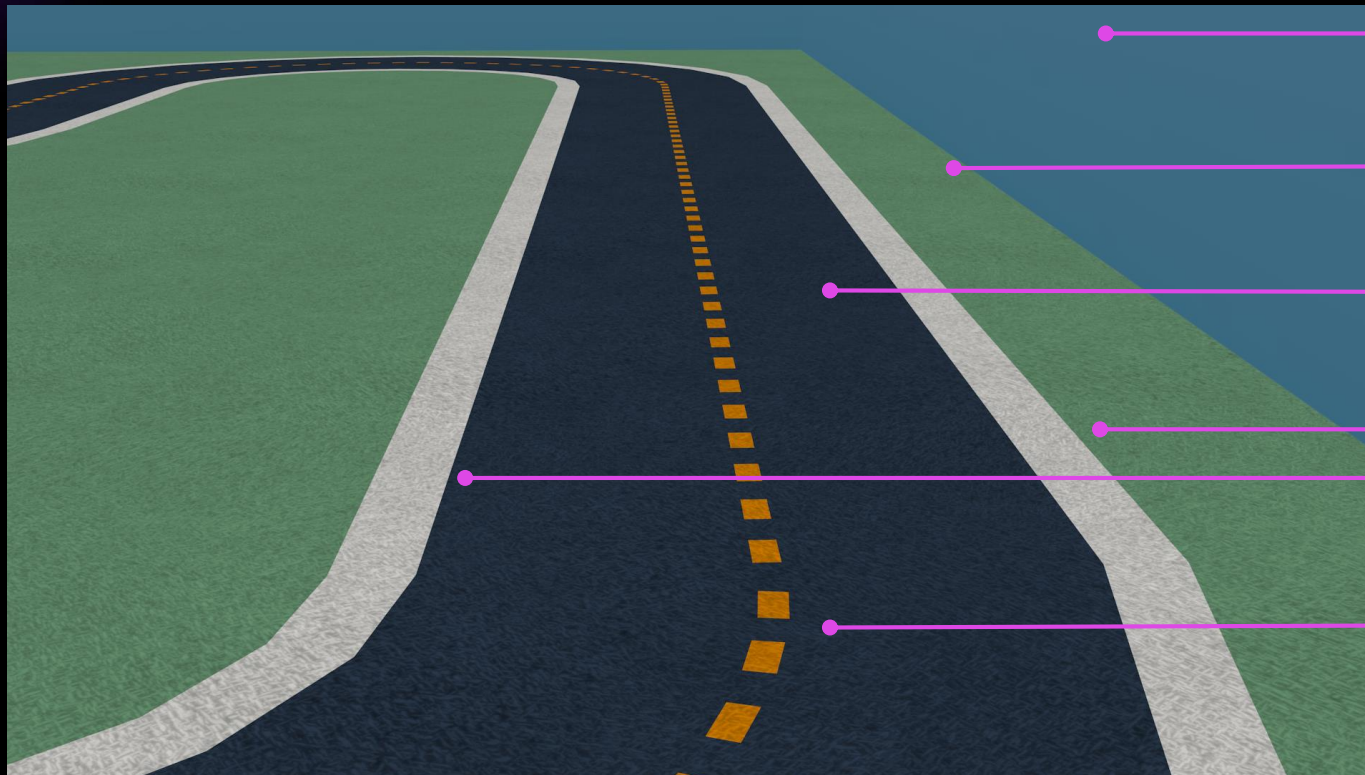
✔ Your reward function passed validation. ✕

# Track components



Track wall

# Track components



Track wall

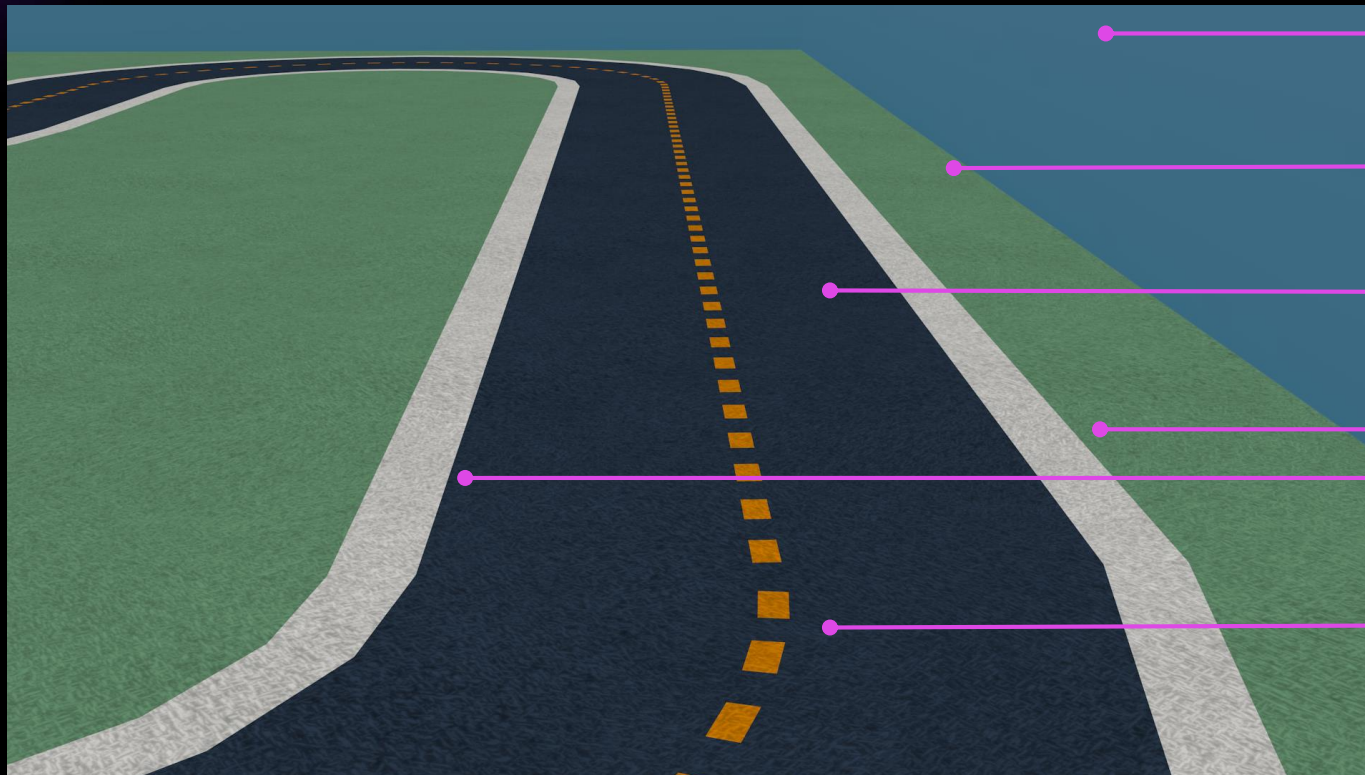
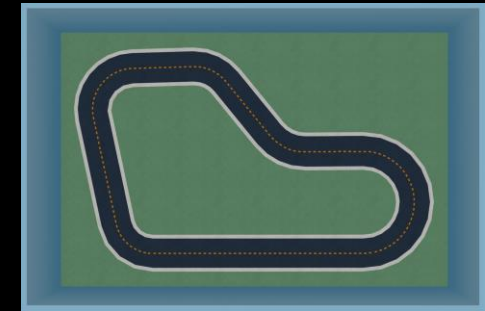
Field aka off-track

Track surface aka on-track

Track boundaries

Track center

# Track components



Track wall

Field aka off-track

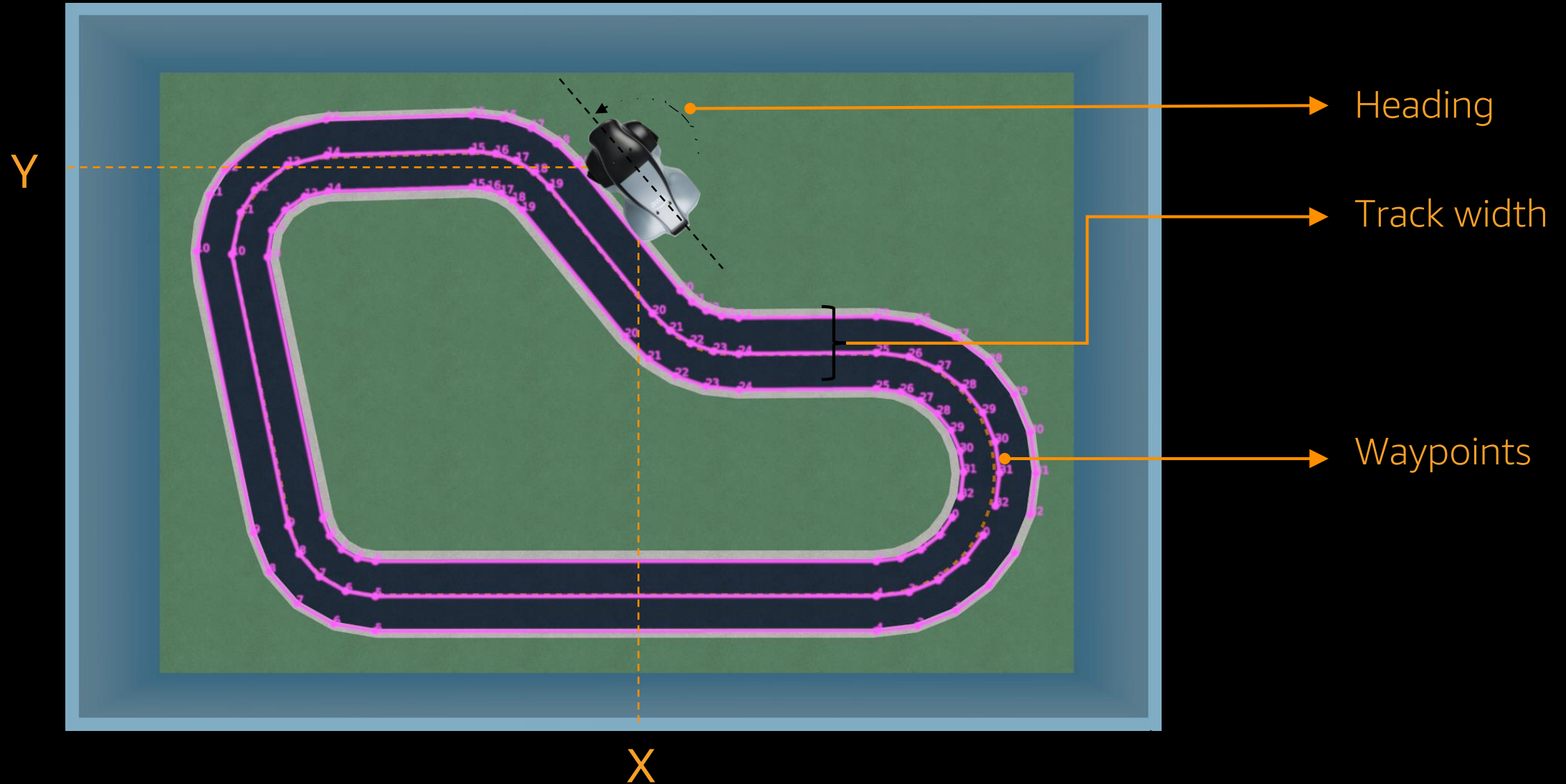
Track surface aka on-track

Track boundaries

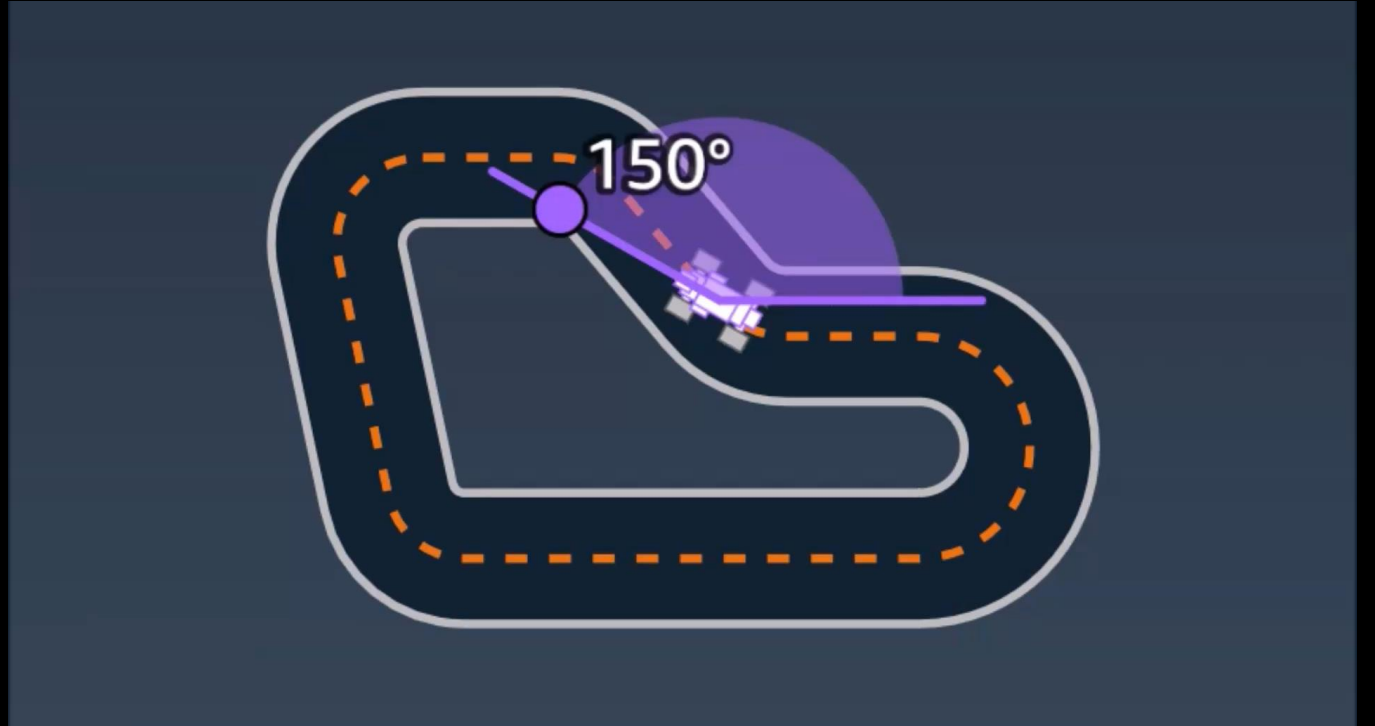
Track center



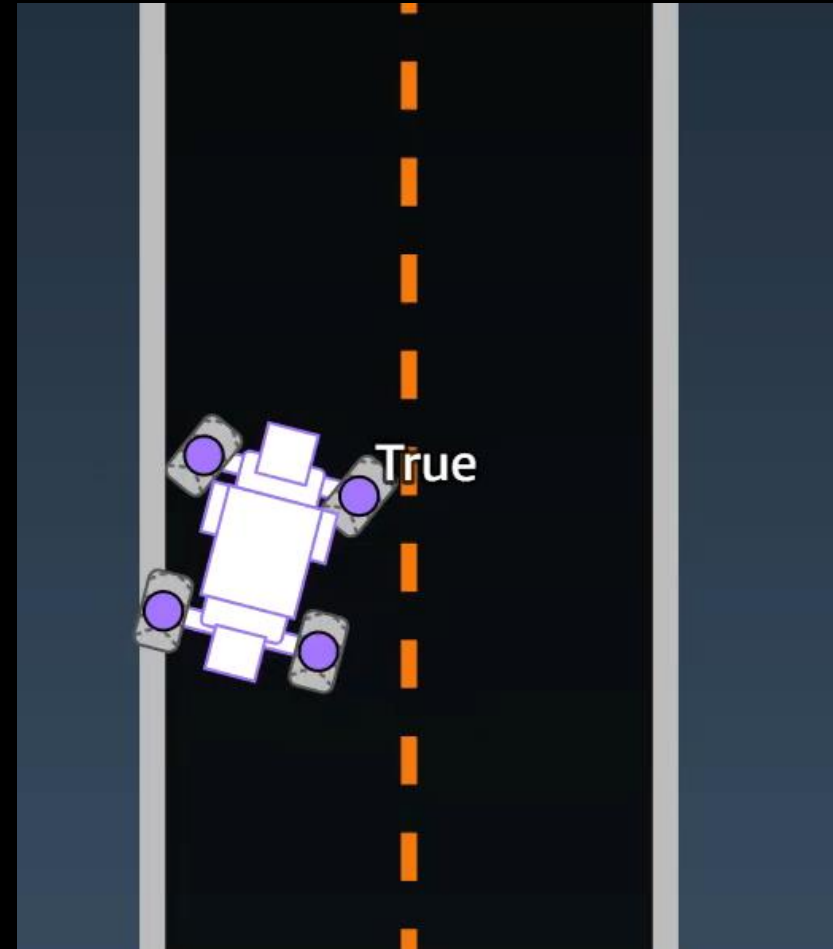
# Coordinates system and track waypoints



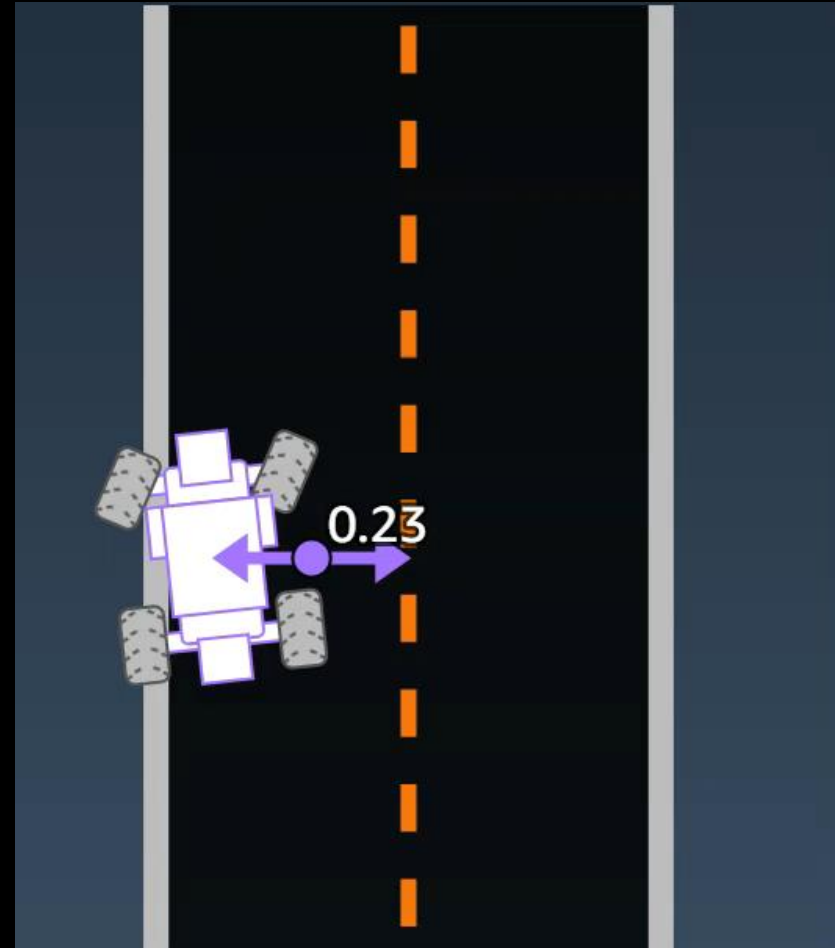
# Example parameter – heading



Example parameter –  
**all\_wheels\_on\_track**



Example parameter –  
**distance\_from\_center**





# Customize your agent's sensor in the garage

[AWS DeepRacer](#) > [Reinforcement learning](#) > [Garage](#)

## Garage

[Create model](#) [Build new vehicle](#)

The garage shows the DeepRacer vehicles that you can train models for. You can add vehicles by using the "build new vehicle button"

### Evo

Sensor

Lidar

Stereo cameras

Neural network topology


DCN Shallow

Action space

Speed: 4 m/s

Steering Angle: 30°

[Mod vehicle](#)



## Mod your own vehicle

### Mod specifications

The garage shows the DeepRacer vehicles that you can train models for. You can add vehicles by using the "build new vehicle button"

#### Sensor modification

Swap sensors to improve your DeepRacer's racing performance

☐ Front-facing camera

Single camera that captures the images with sizes of 160 x 120 in front of the agent at 15 fps. The camera has 120 wide angle lens. The images are converted into grey scale before being fed to the neural network

► Benefits of the front-facing camera

☒ Stereo cameras (right/left) sensor

Composed of two front-facing cameras, stereo cameras can generate depth information of the objects in front of the agent and thus be used to detect and avoid obstacles on the track. The cameras capture images with the same resolution and frequency. Images from both cameras are converted into grey scale, stacked and then fed into the neural network.

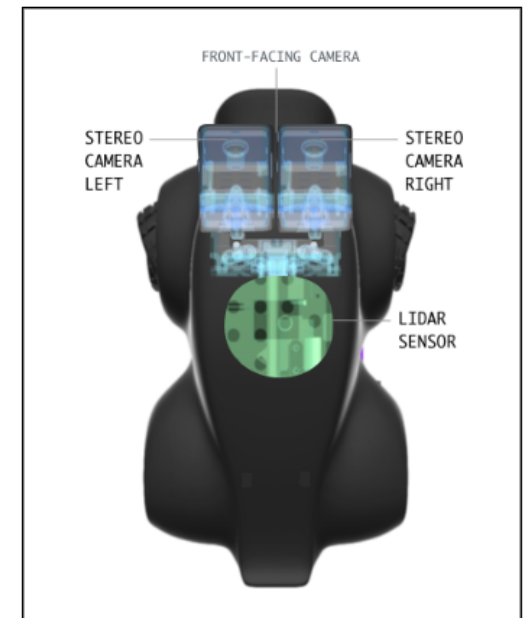
► Benefits of the stereo camera

#### Add-on sensors

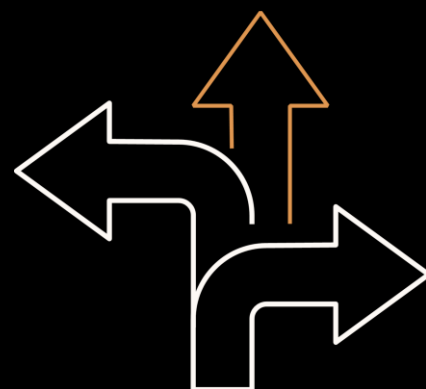
☒ LIDAR sensor

LIDAR is a surveying method that measures a distance to a target by illuminating the target with laser light and measuring the reflected light with a sensor.

► How LIDAR works with autonomous driving



# Action space



## Action space [Info](#)

Action space defines the specific actions an agent can take in both the simulator and physical world. While a real vehicle can choose from a continuum of actions, AWS DeepRacer simplifies the agent's decision-making process by reducing that space to a set of discrete actions.

Configure this discrete action space by setting the range and granularity for speed and steering angle. The system automatically generates an action space according to that specification. Note that your model will take longer to train under a larger action space.

Maximum steering angle

degrees

Max values are between 1 and 30.

Steering angle granularity

▼

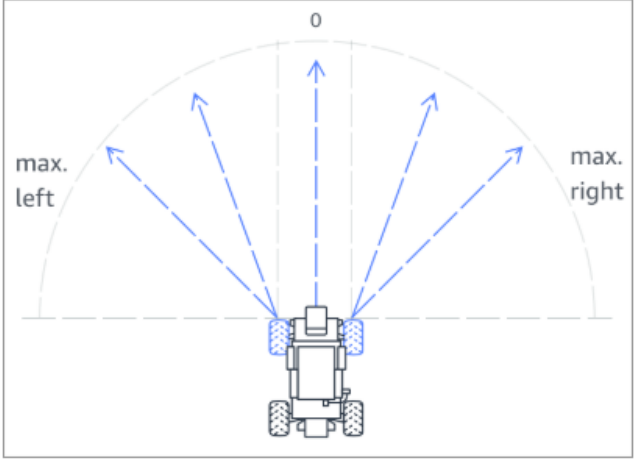
Maximum speed

m/s

Select values between 0.1 and 4.

Speed granularity

▼



## Action list

Action number	Steering	Speed
0	-30 degrees	4 m/s
1	-15 degrees	4 m/s
2	0 degrees	4 m/s
3	15 degrees	4 m/s
4	30 degrees	4 m/s

# Use Python modules for your reward function

Consider using Python built-in modules such as numpy, scipy, and shapely to reduce the heavy lifting of waypoint math:

```
from shapely.geometry import Point, Polygon
from shapely.geometry.polygon import LinearRing, LineString

track = LinearRing(params['waypoints'])

first_object_location = Point(params['objects_location'][0])
object_distance_from_center_line = first_object_location.distance(track)
```

# Demo

# AWS DeepRacer League



<https://console.aws.amazon.com/deepracer/home?region=us-east-1#league>

# Additional resources

- AWS DeepRacer Slack community: <http://join.deepracing.io/>
- GitHub: <https://github.com/aws-samples/aws-deepracer-workshops/>
- Free video course: <https://www.aws.training/Details/eLearning?id=32143>
- Tips: <https://aws.amazon.com/deepracer/racing-tips/>
- Intel distribution of OpenVINO toolkit: <https://software.intel.com/en-us/openvino-toolkit>
- AWS Developer Acceleration twitch channel - <https://www.twitch.tv/devaxconnect>

# Visit the AI & Machine Learning resource hub for more resources

Dive deeper into these resources, get inspired and learn how you can use AI and machine learning to accelerate your business outcomes.

- The machine learning journey e-book
- 7 leading machine learning use cases e-book
- A strategic playbook for data, analytics, and machine learning e-book
- Accelerate machine learning innovation with the right cloud services & infrastructure e-book
- Choosing the right compute infrastructure for machine learning e-book
- Improving service and reducing costs in contact centers e-book
- Why ML is essential in your fight against online fraud e-book
- ... and more!



<https://bit.ly/3mwi59V>

Visit resource hub

# AWS Machine Learning (ML) Training and Certification



## AWS is how you build machine learning skills

Courses built on the curriculum leveraged by Amazon's own teams. Learn from the experts at AWS.

[aws.training/machinelearning](https://aws.training/machinelearning)



## Flexibility to learn your way

Learn online with on-demand digital courses or live with virtual instructor-led training, plus hands-on labs and opportunities for practical application.

[explore.skillbuilder.aws/learn](https://explore.skillbuilder.aws/learn)



## Validate your expertise

Demonstrate expertise in building, training, tuning, and deploying machine learning models with an industry-recognized credential.

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# Thank you for attending AWS Innovate – AI/ML Edition

We hope you found it interesting! A kind reminder to **complete the survey**.  
Let us know what you thought of today's event and how we can improve the event experience for you in the future.



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# Thank you!

Calvin Ngo

