

On the Design of **LQR** Kernels for Efficient Controller Learning

Alonso Marco¹, Philipp Hennig¹, Stefan Schaal^{1,2} and Sebastian Trimpe¹

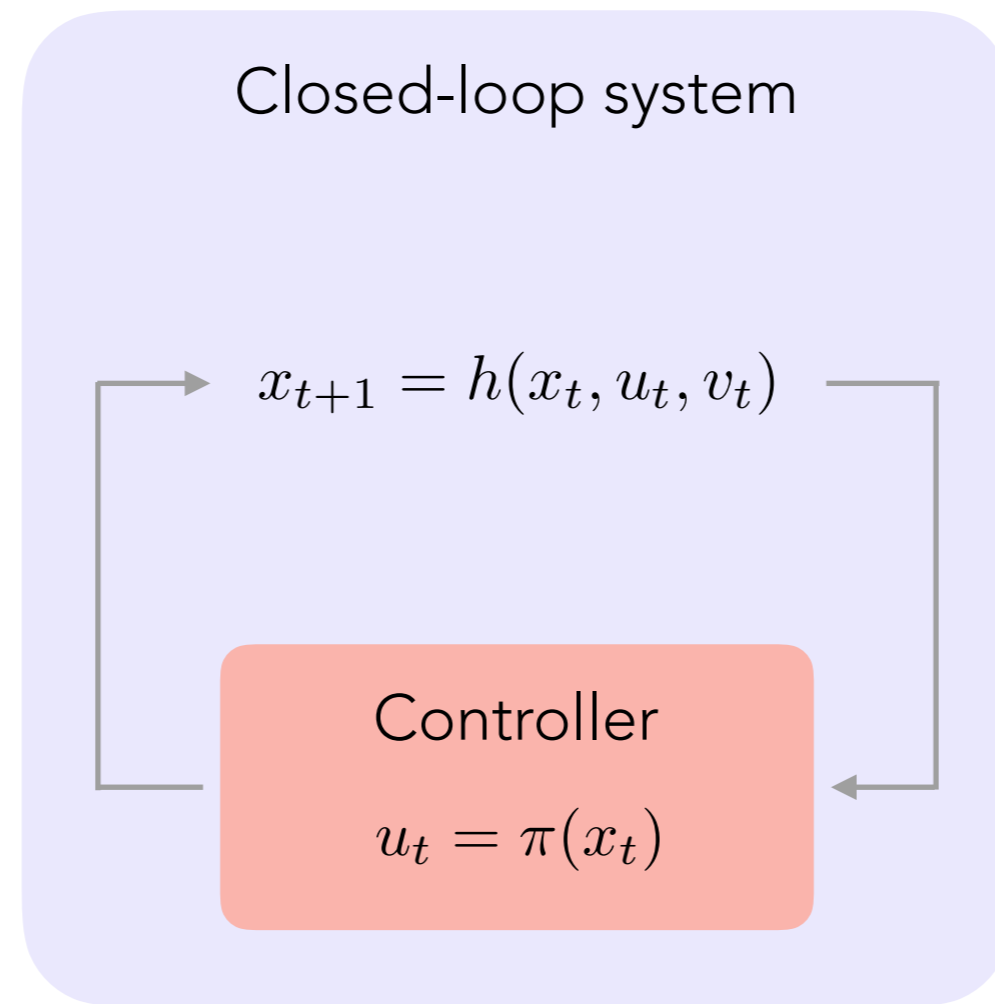
*Learning-based control
Invited session
Chair: Sebastian Trimpe
Co-chair: Angela P. Schoellig*

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Melbourne, Australia
12-15 Dec, 2017



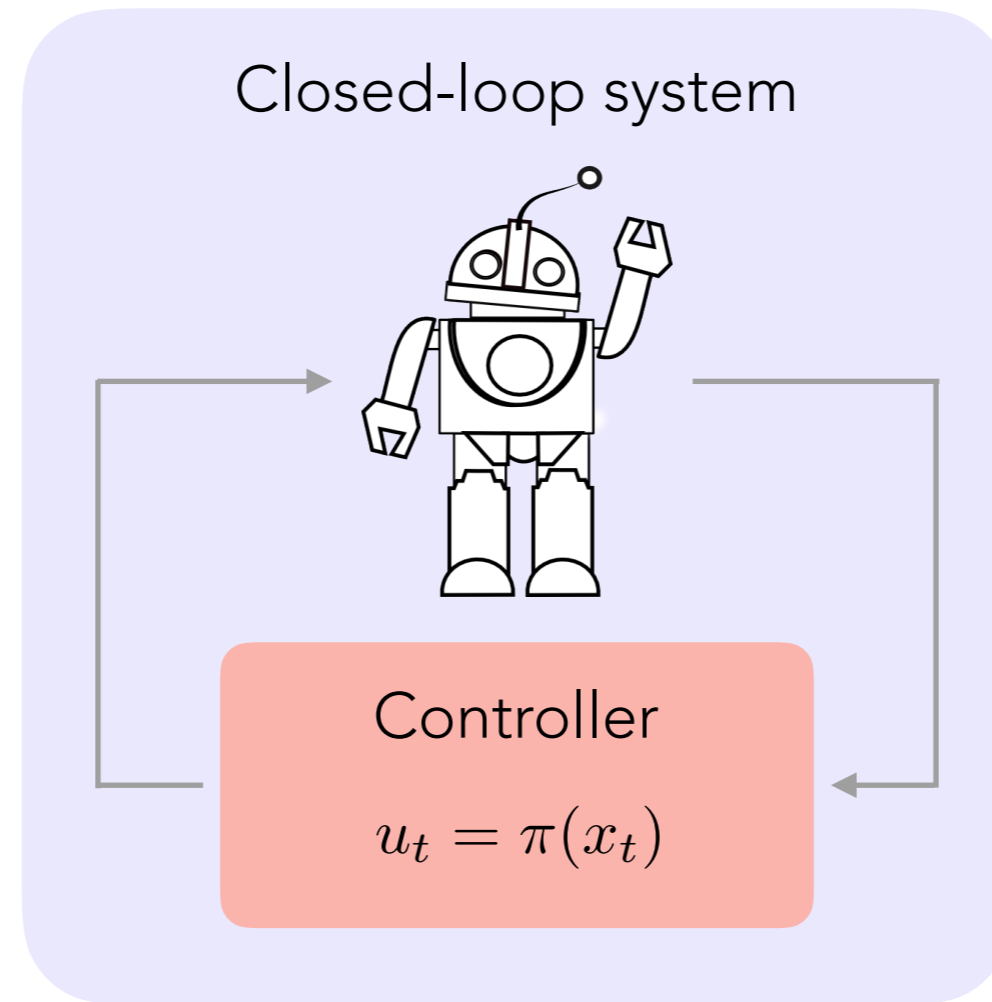
¹Autonomous Motion Department, Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, Tübingen, Germany

²Computational Learning and Motor Control Lab, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA



x_t : states
 u_t : control input
 v_t : process noise

π : feedback controller



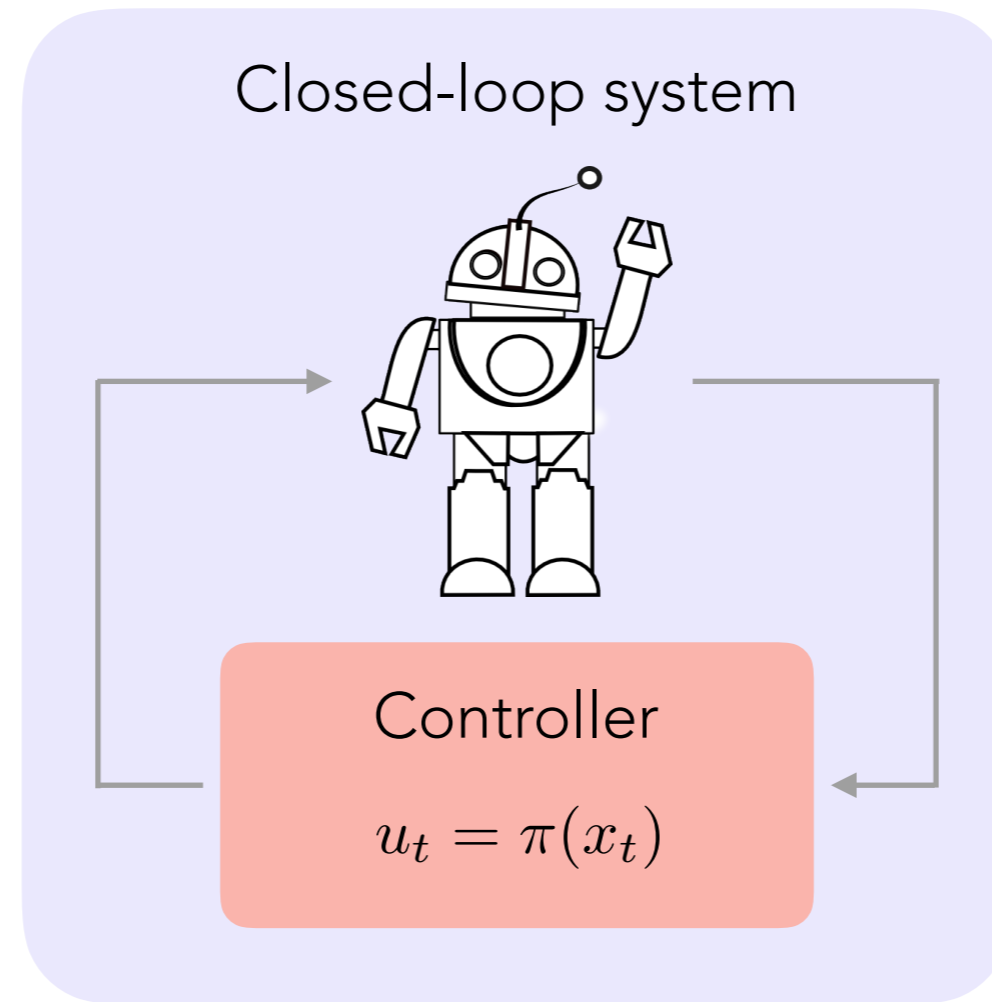
$$x_{t+1} = h(x_t, u_t, v_t)$$

x_t : states

u_t : control input

v_t : process noise

π : feedback controller



$$x_{t+1} = h(x_t, u_t, v_t)$$

x_t : states

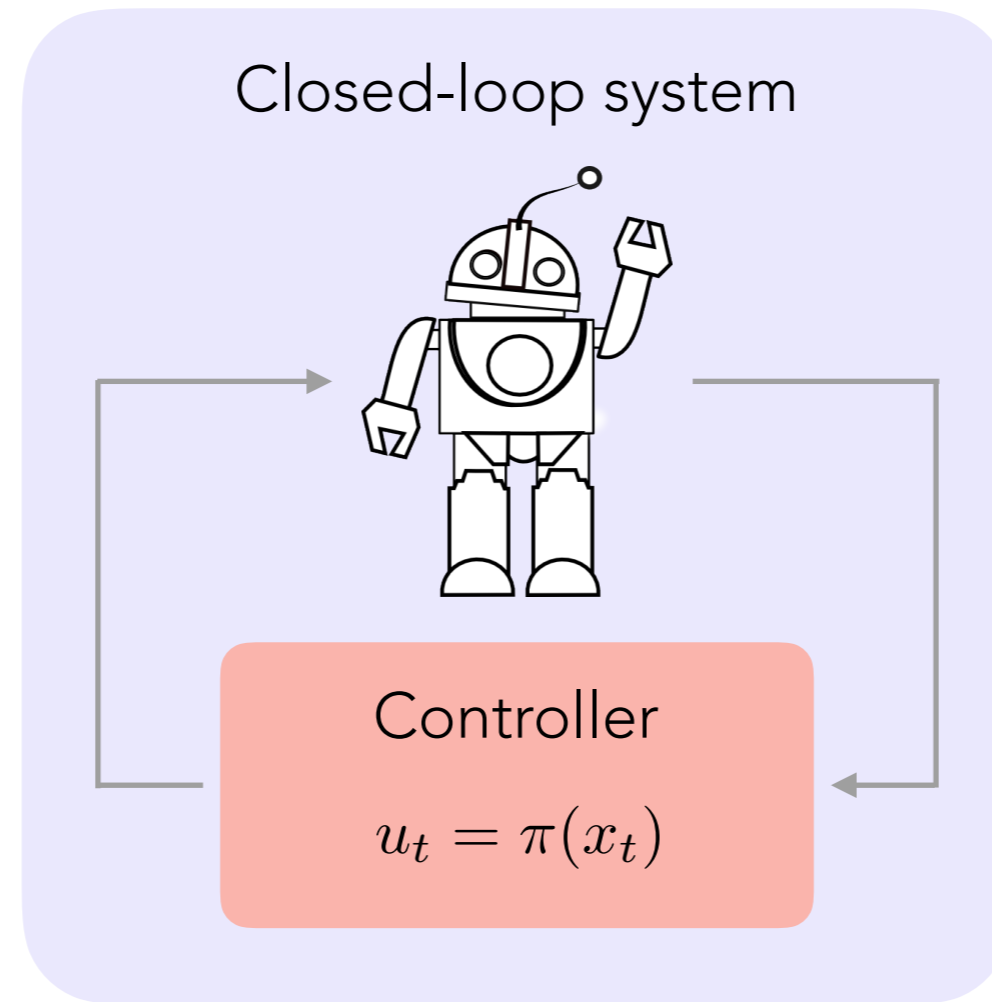
u_t : control input

v_t : process noise

π : feedback controller

Linearized model

$$\tilde{x}_{t+1} = A\tilde{x}_t + B\tilde{u}_t + v_t$$



$$x_{t+1} = h(x_t, u_t, v_t)$$

x_t : states

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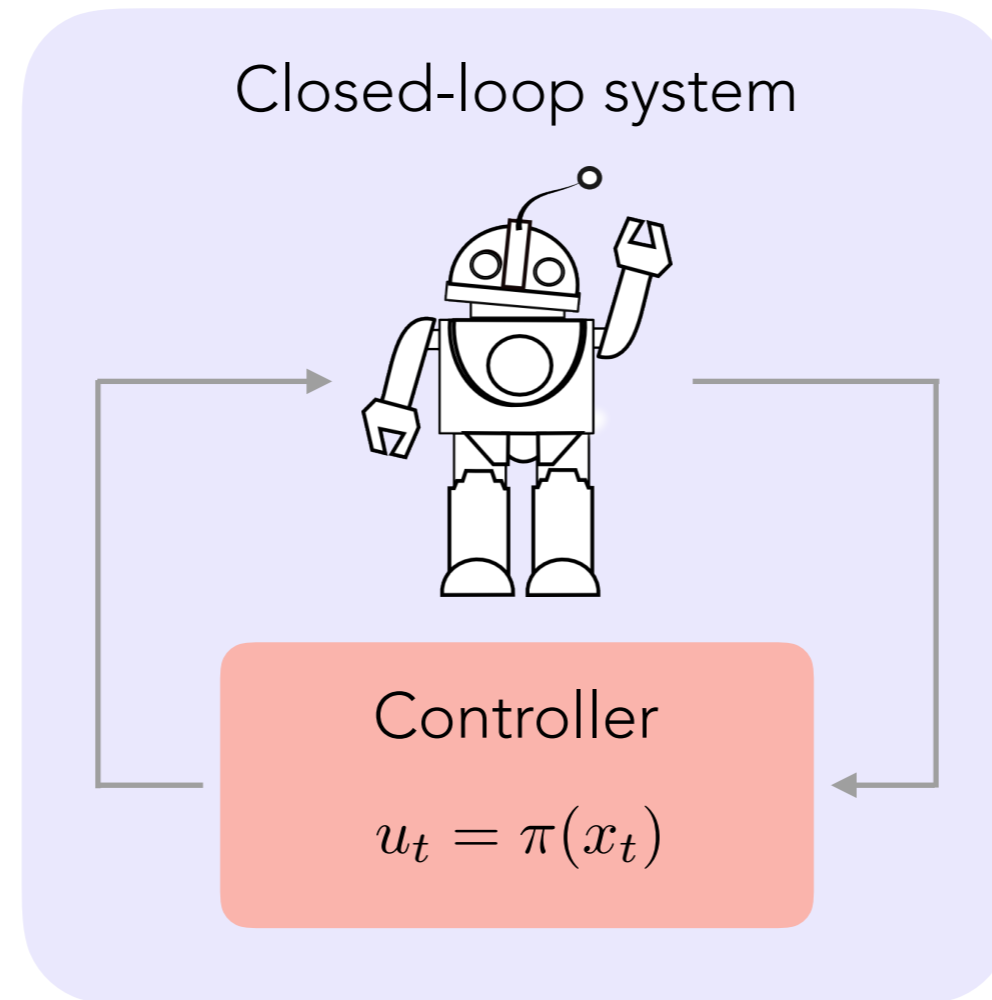
π : feedback controller

Linearized model

$$\tilde{x}_{t+1} = A\tilde{x}_t + B\tilde{u}_t + v_t$$

Quadratic cost

$$J = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \tilde{x}_t^T Q \tilde{x}_t + \tilde{u}_t^T R \tilde{u}_t \right]$$



$$x_{t+1} = h(x_t, u_t, v_t)$$

x_t : states

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π : feedback controller

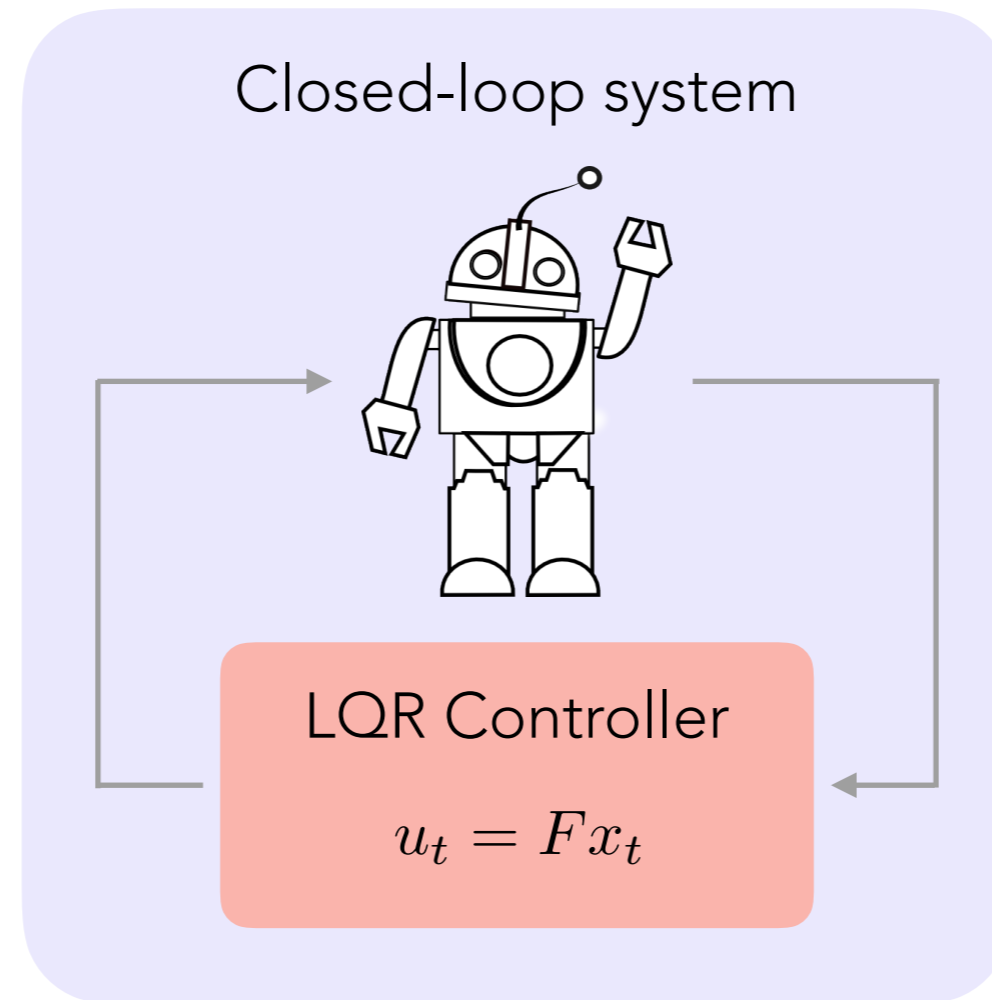
Linearized model

$$\tilde{x}_{t+1} = A\tilde{x}_t + B\tilde{u}_t + v_t$$

Quadratic cost

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Which controller $u_t = \pi(x_t)$ minimizes J ?



$$x_{t+1} = h(x_t, u_t, v_t)$$

x_t : states

u_t : control input

v_t : process noise

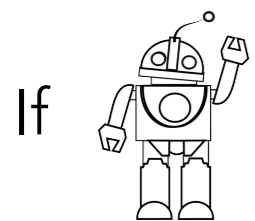
F : feedback gain

Linearized model

$$\tilde{x}_{t+1} = A\tilde{x}_t + B\tilde{u}_t + v_t$$

Quadratic cost

$$J = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \tilde{x}_t^T Q \tilde{x}_t + \tilde{u}_t^T R \tilde{u}_t \right]$$



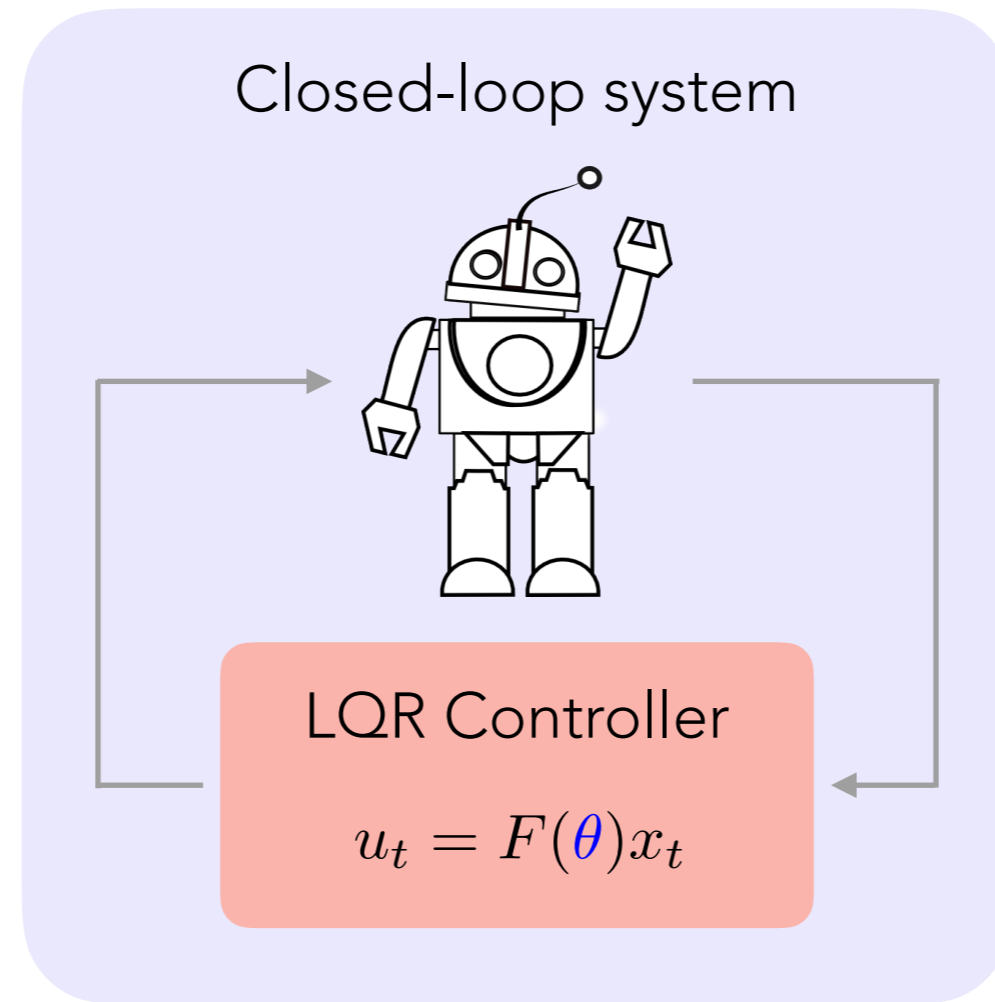
If

was linear (A, B)



LQR is optimal

$$\begin{cases} u_t = F x_t \\ F = \text{lqr}(A, B, Q, R) \end{cases}$$



$$x_{t+1} = h(x_t, u_t, v_t)$$

x_t : states

u_t : control input

v_t : process noise

$F(\theta)$: feedback gain

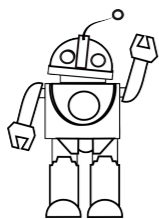
θ : parameters

Linearized model

$$\tilde{x}_{t+1} = A\tilde{x}_t + B\tilde{u}_t + v_t$$

Quadratic cost

$$J = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \tilde{x}_t^T Q \tilde{x}_t + \tilde{u}_t^T R \tilde{u}_t \right]$$



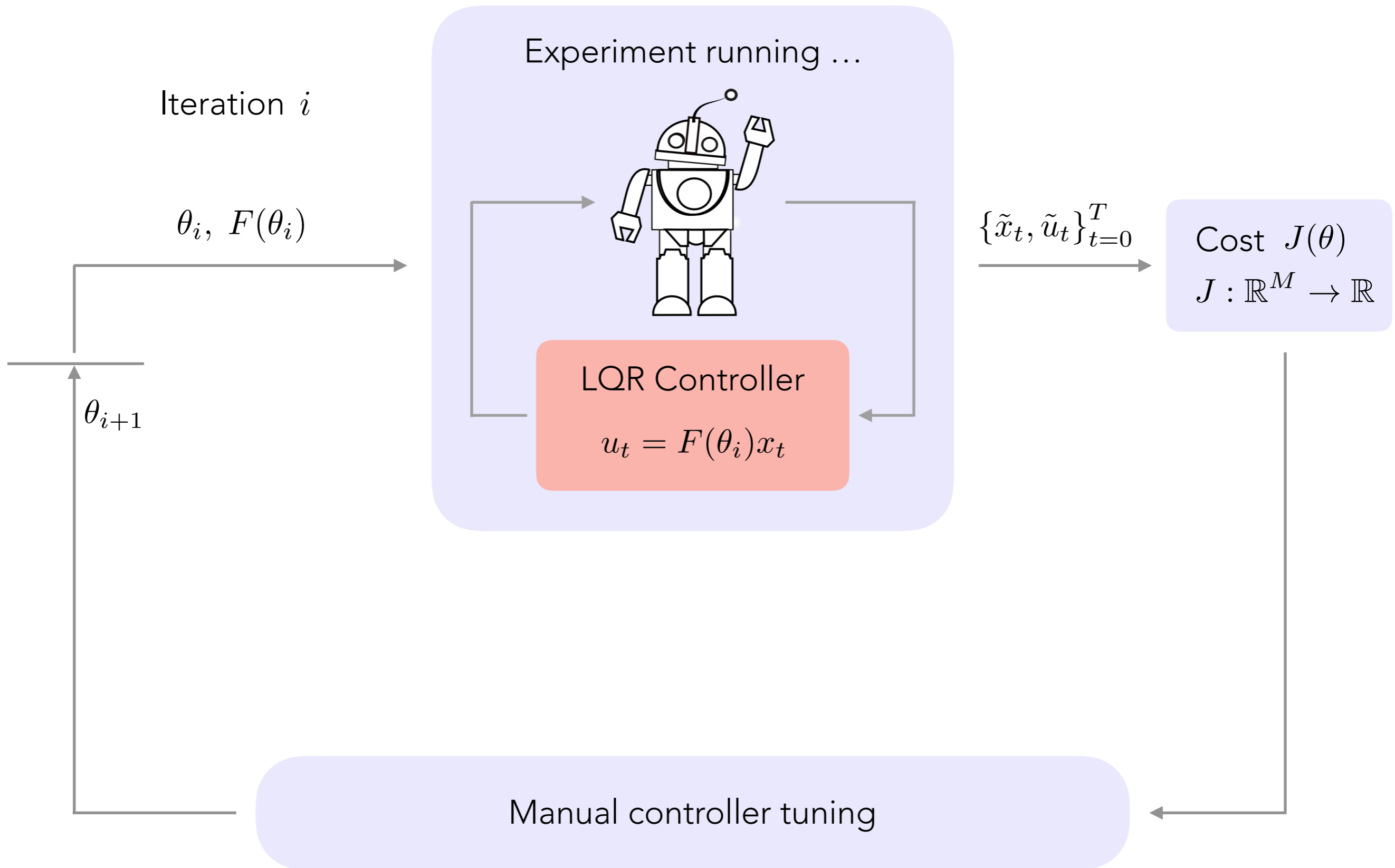
is non-linear

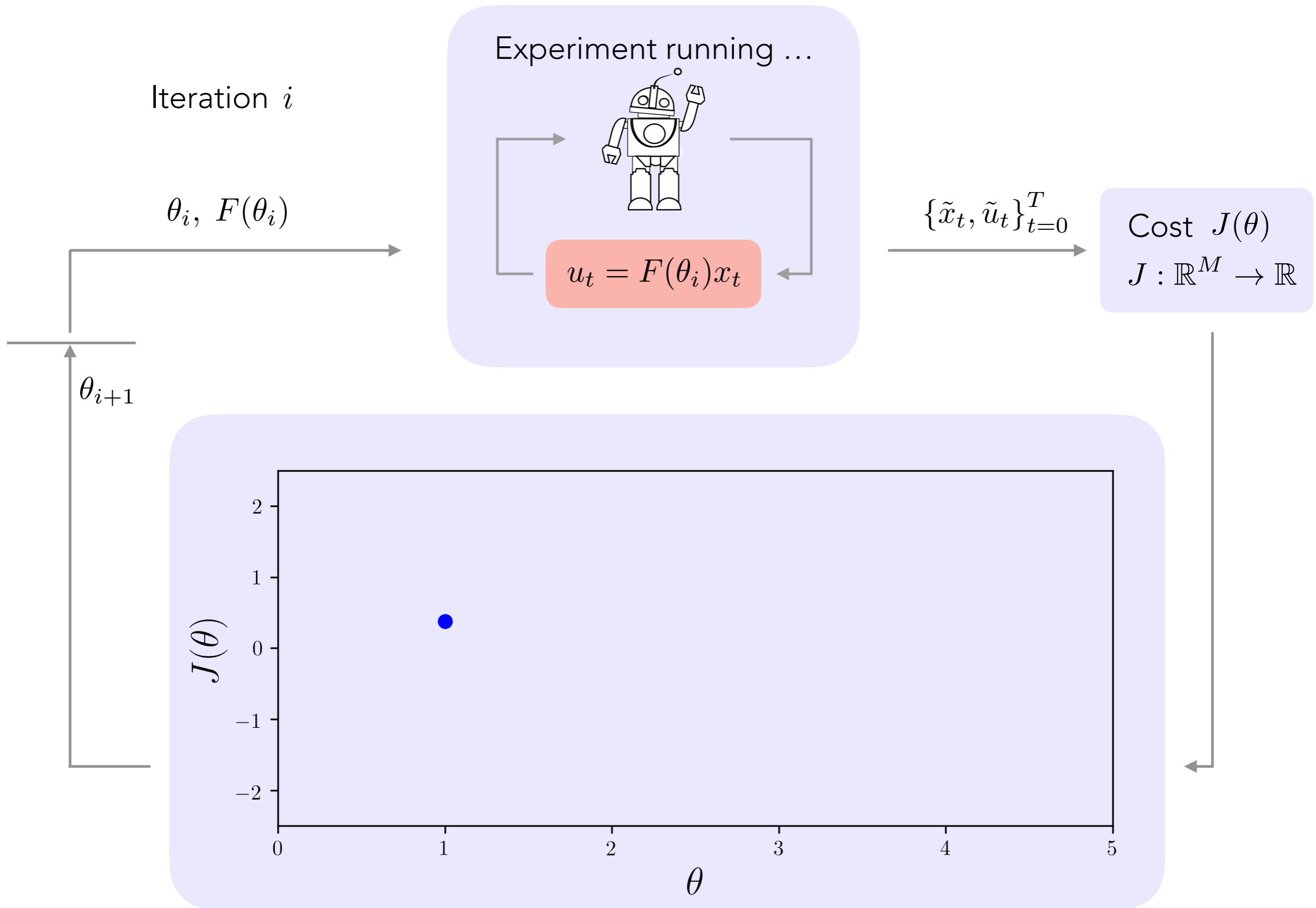


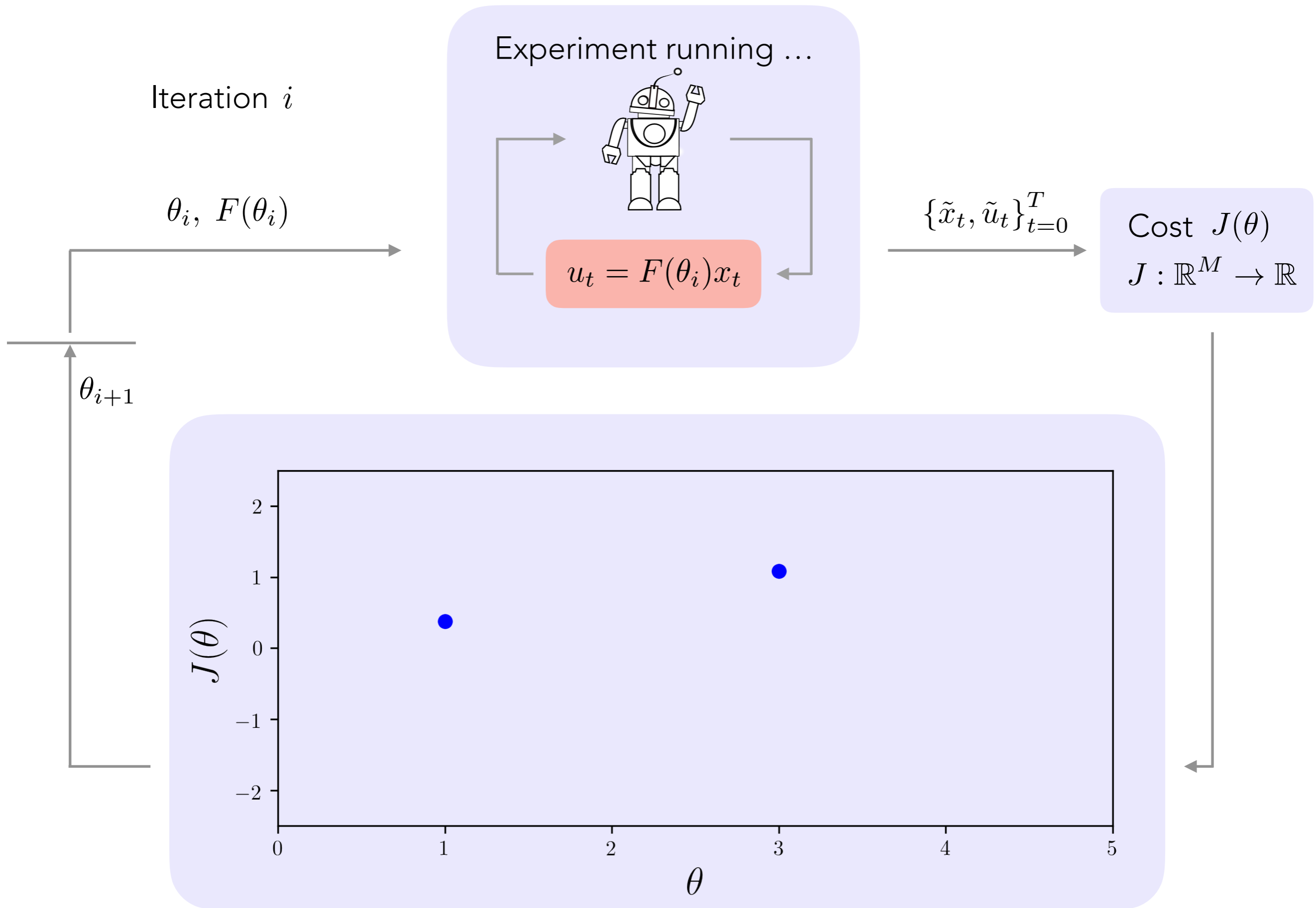
LQR is **suboptimal**

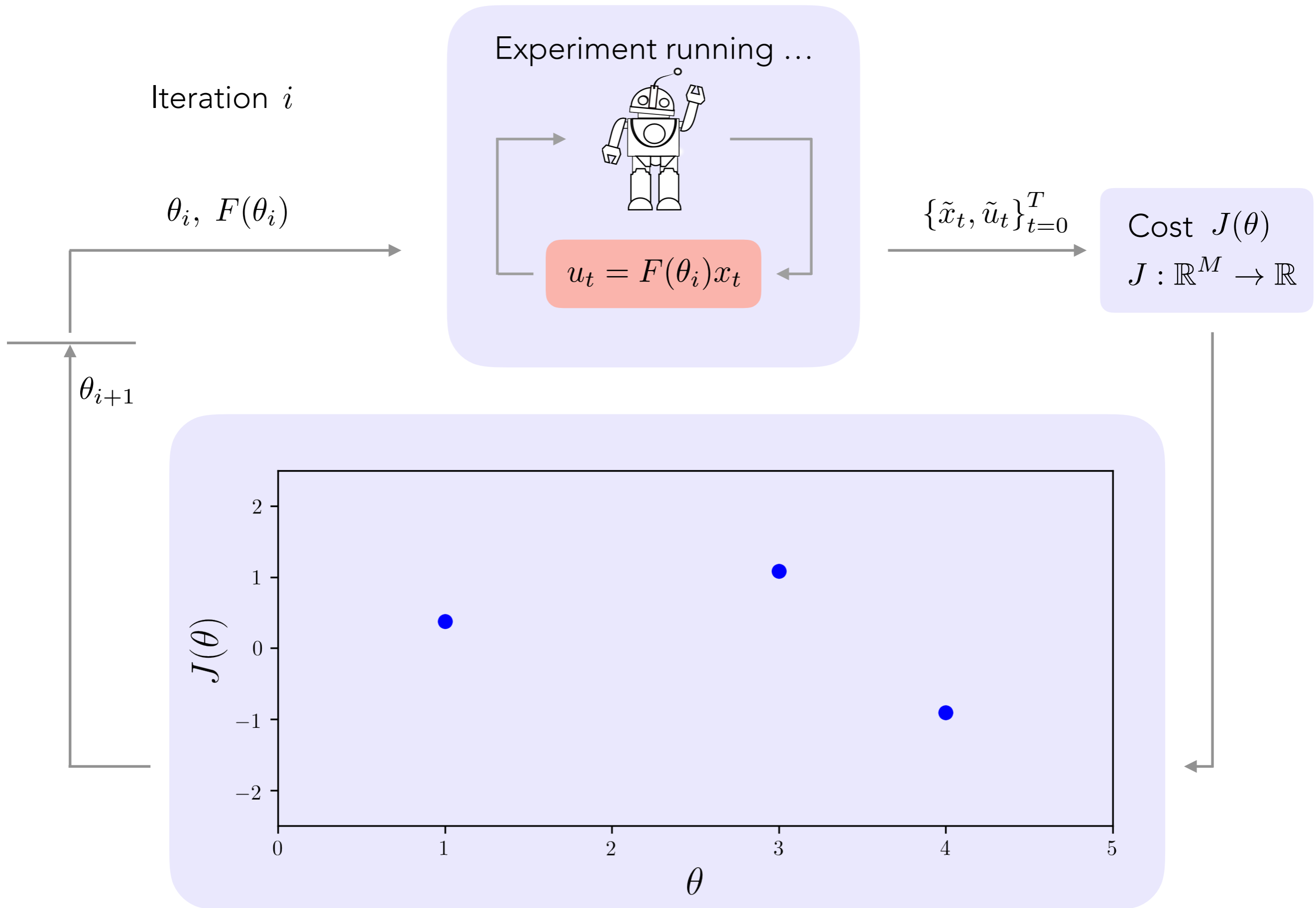


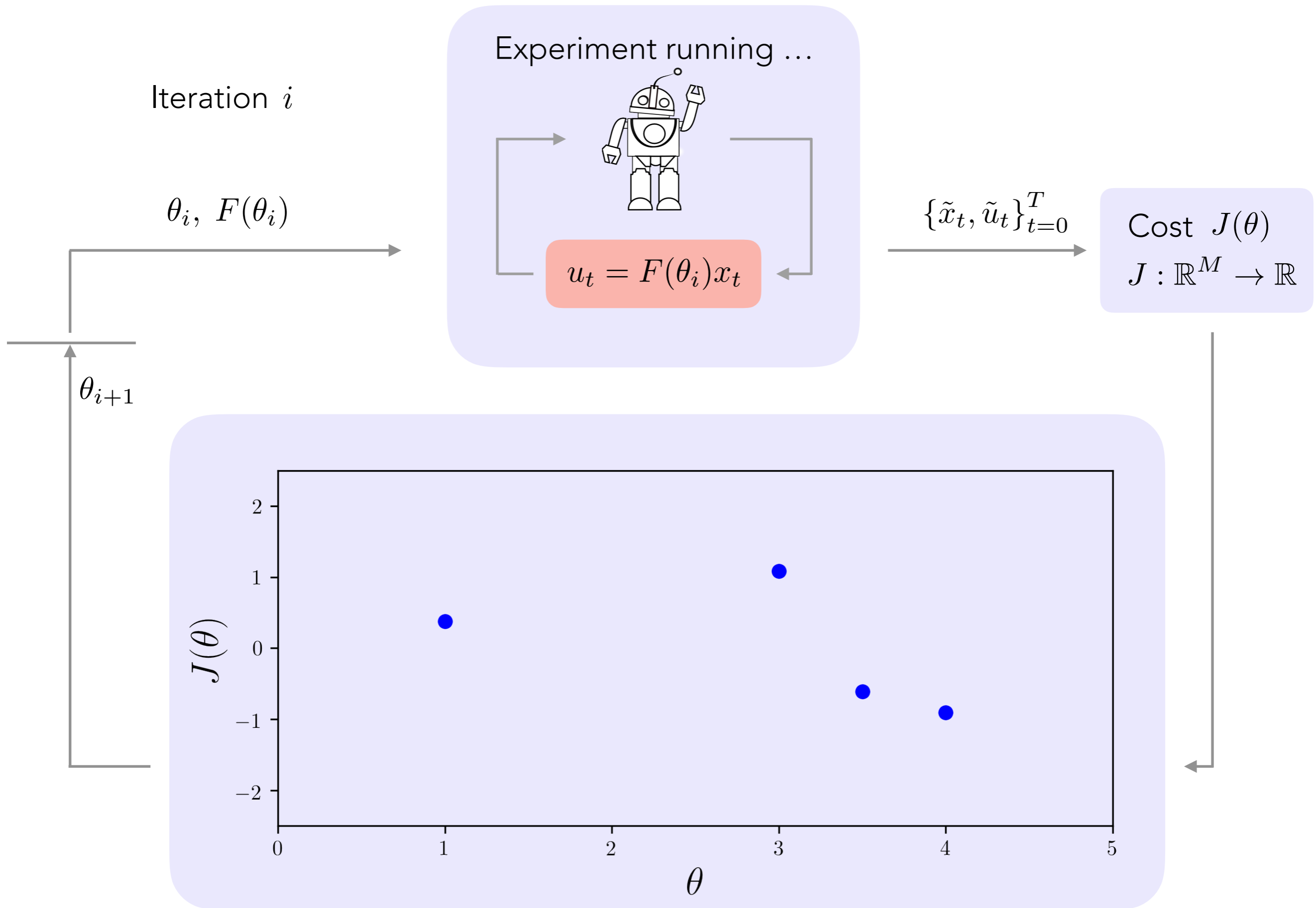
Parametrize $F(\theta)$

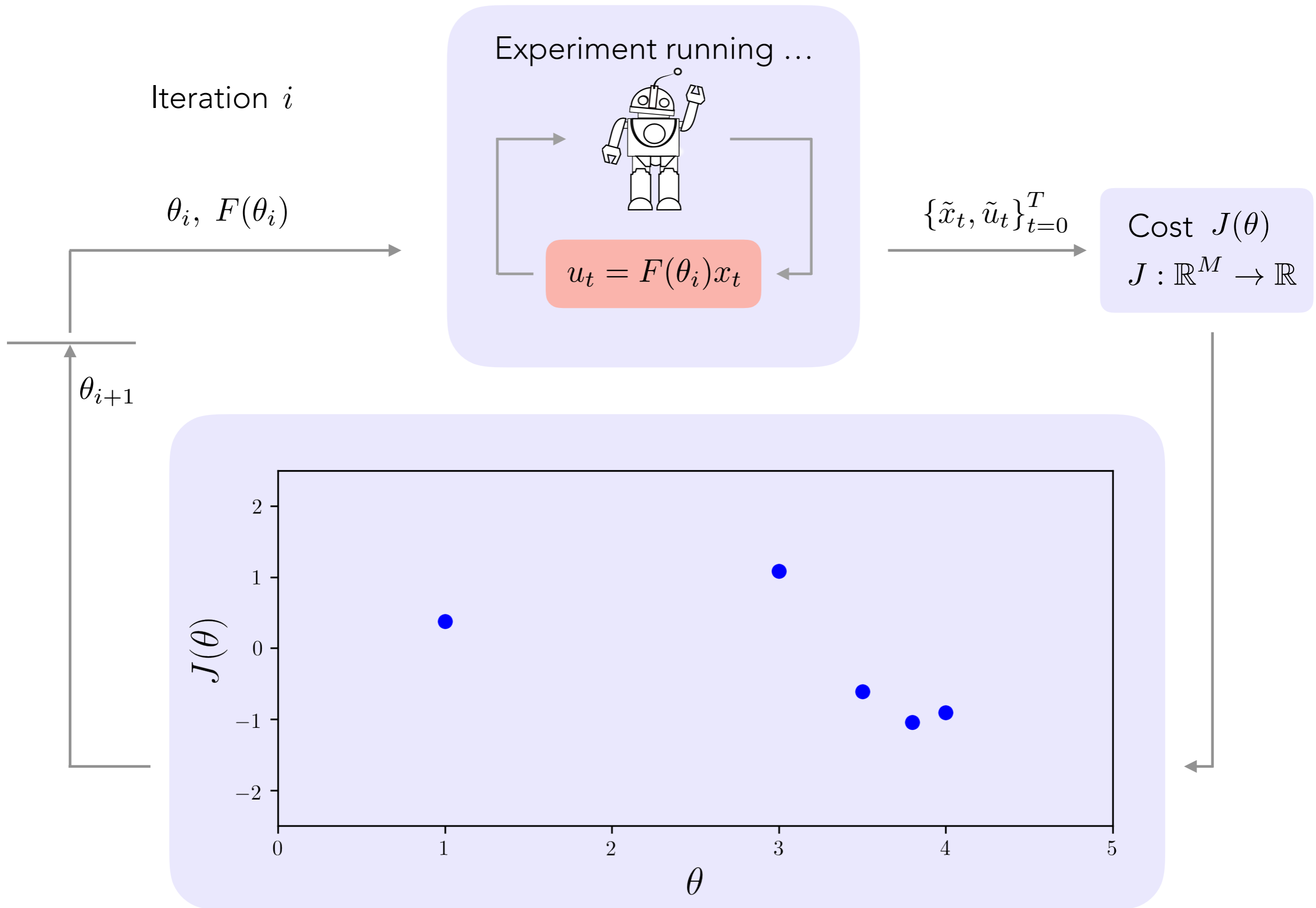


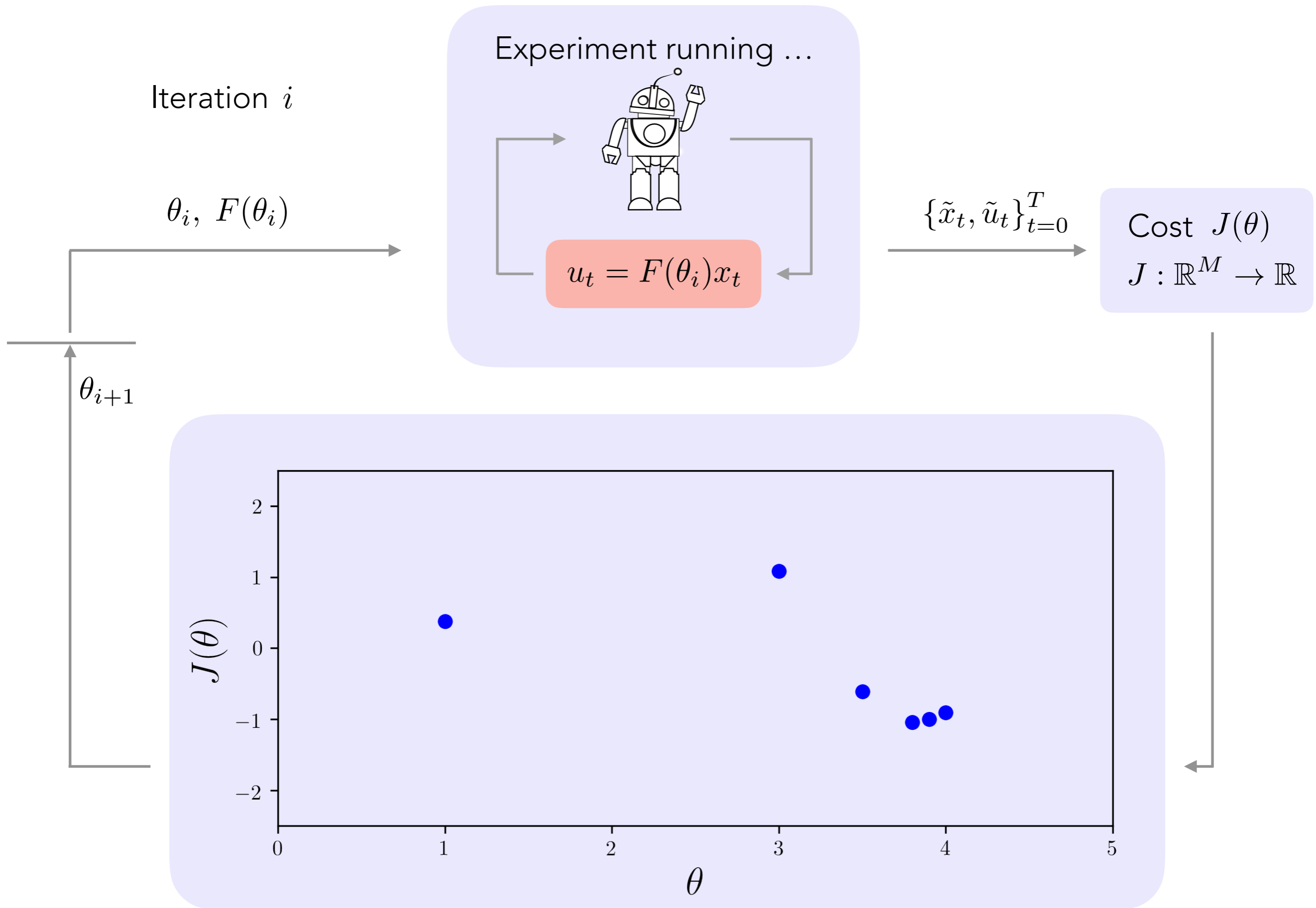


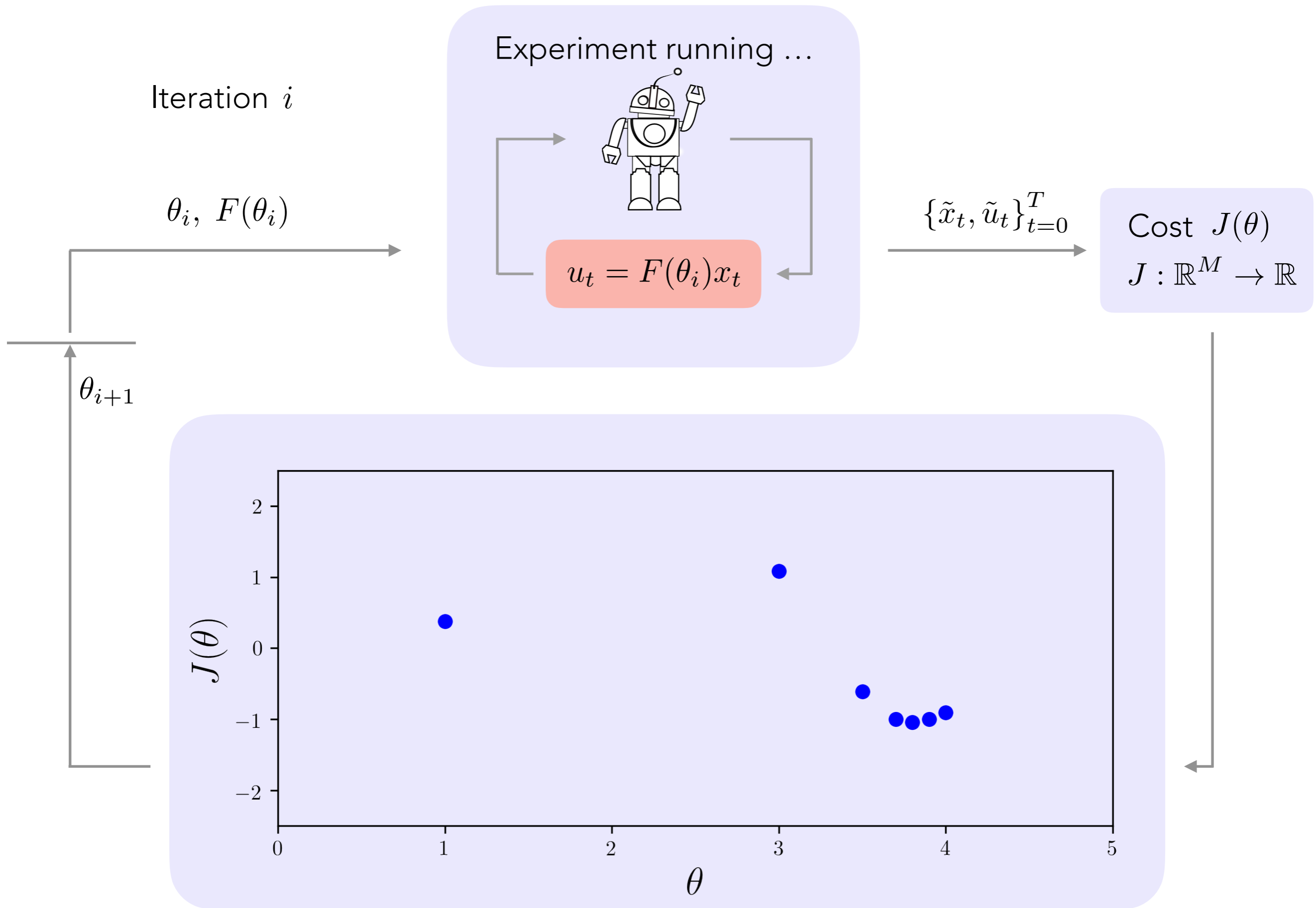


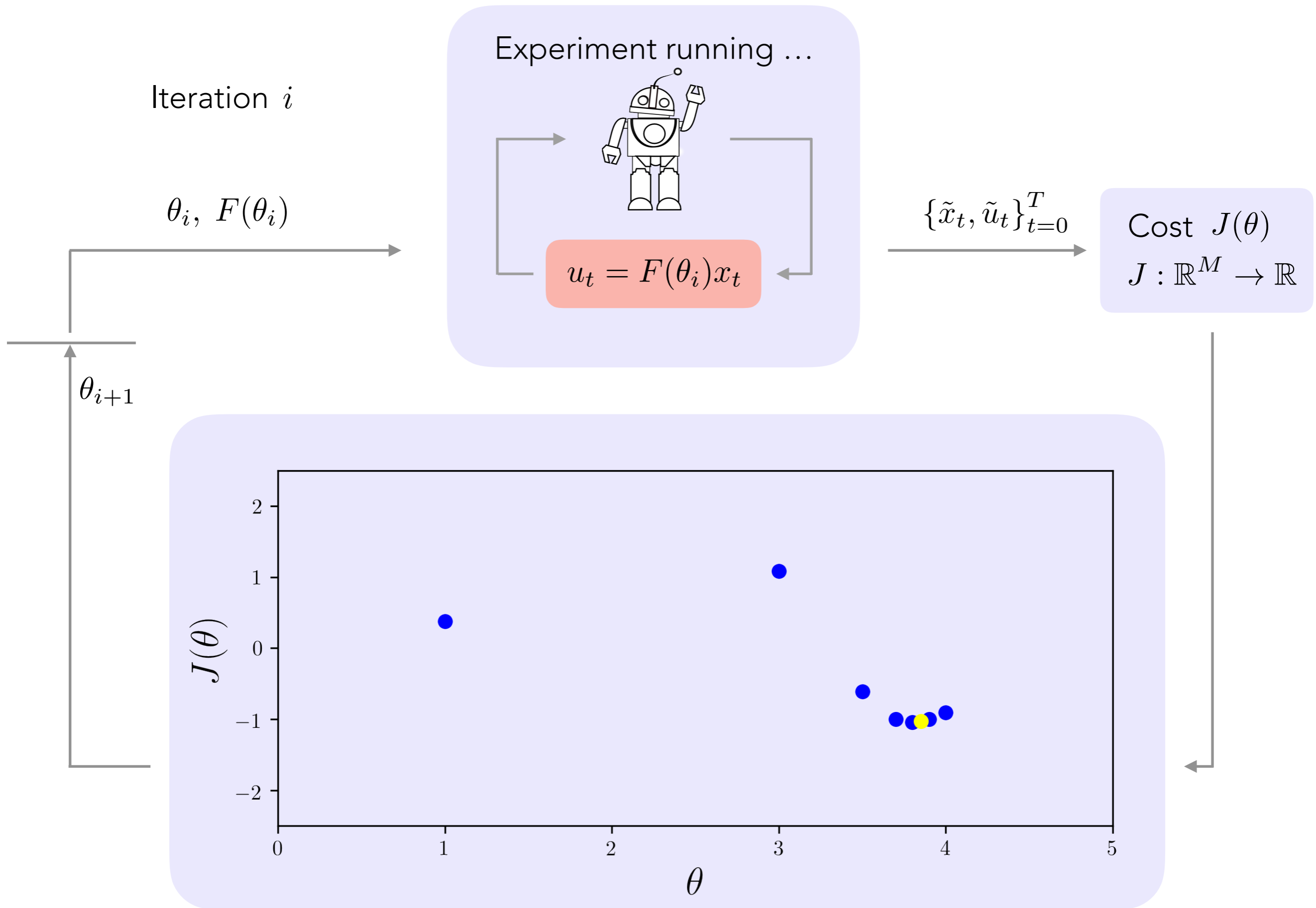


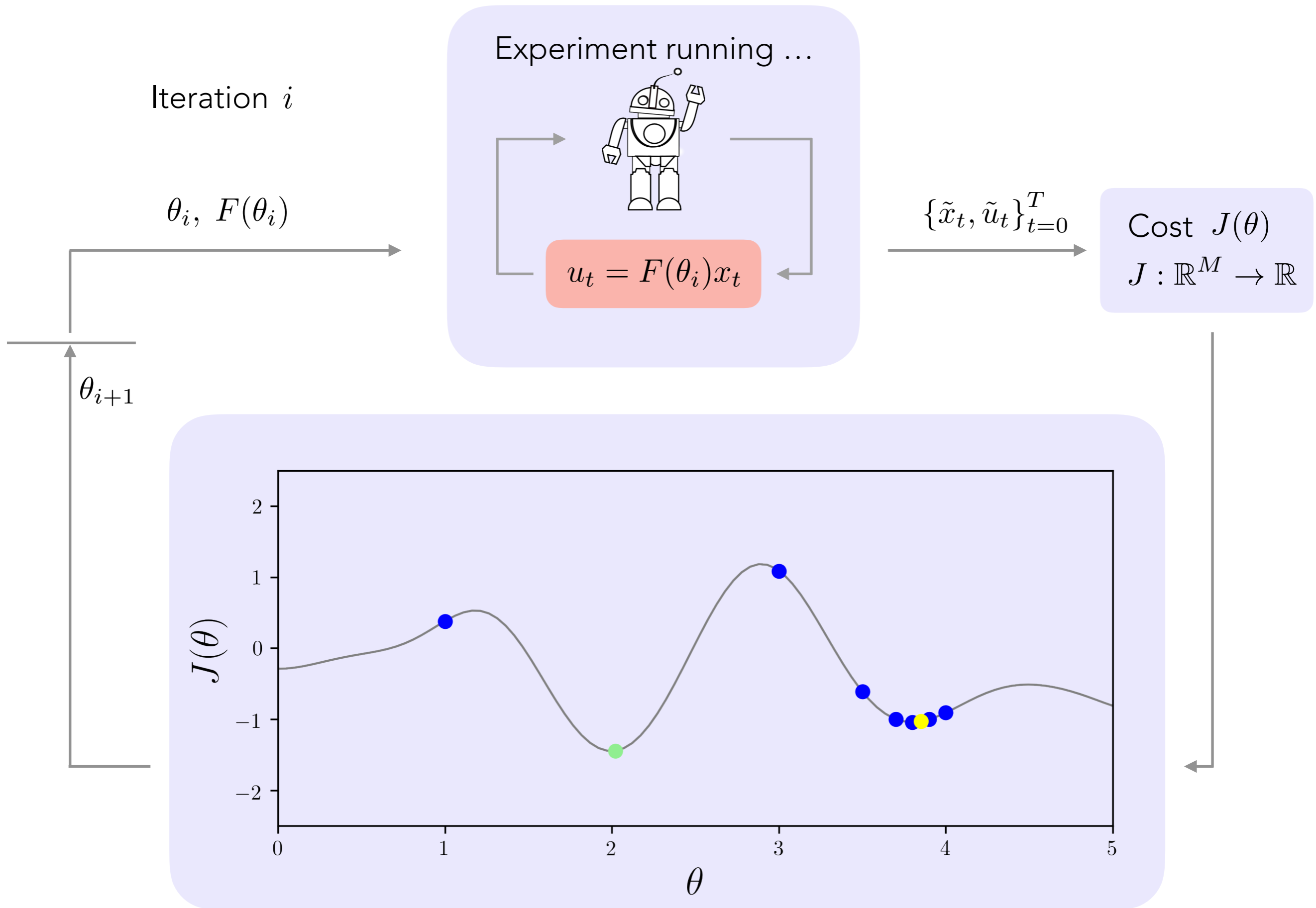


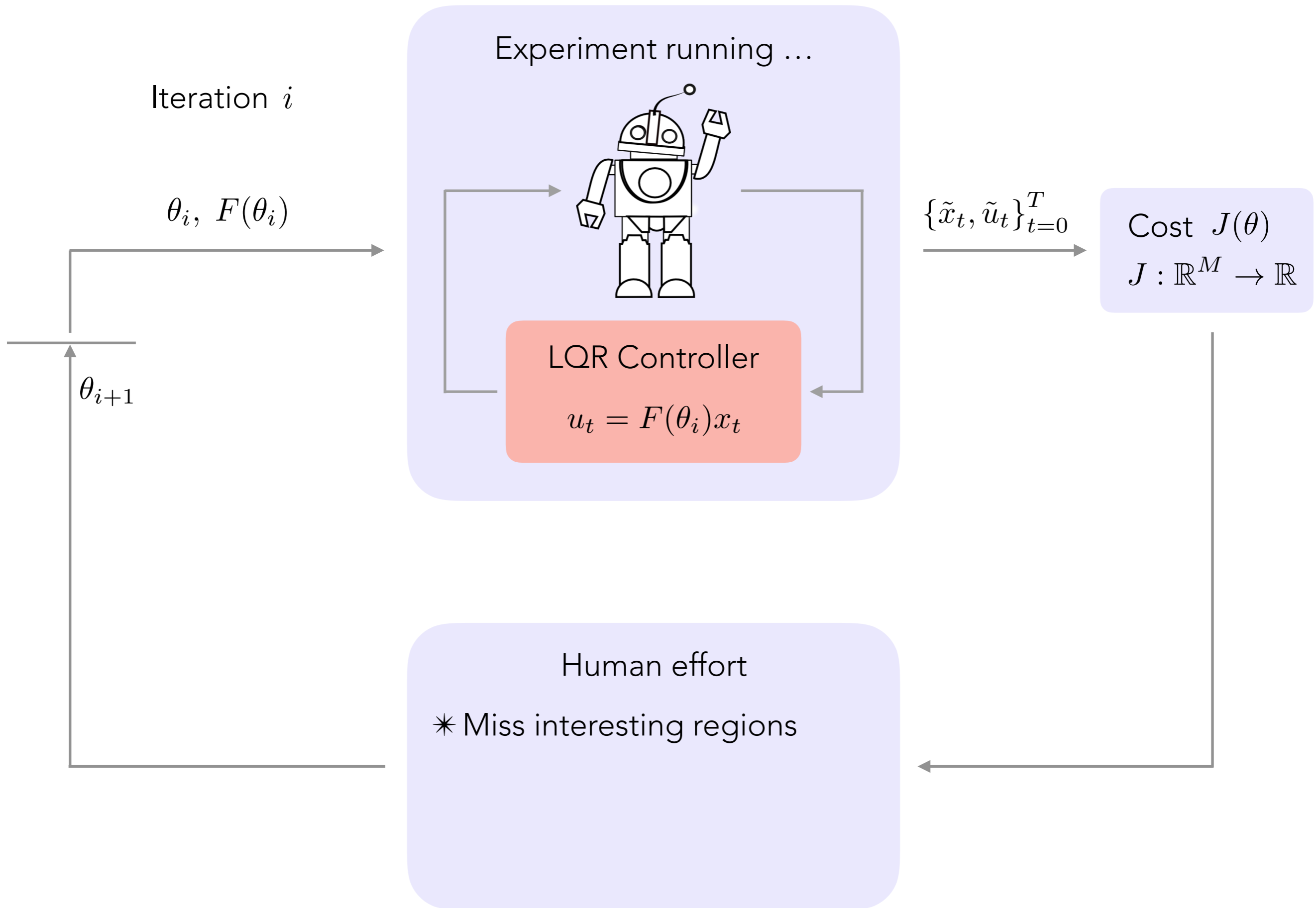






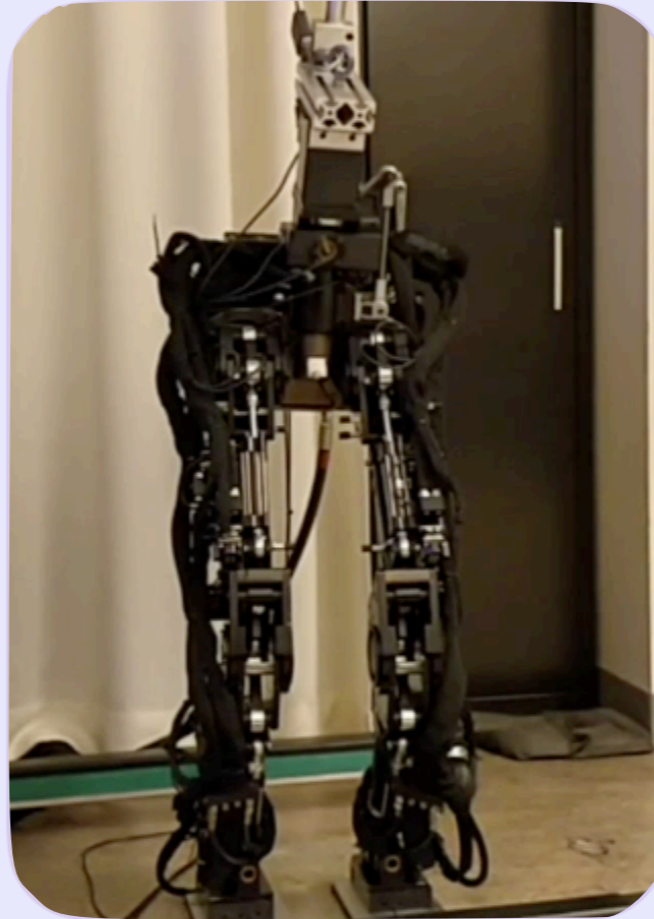






Iteration i

$\theta_i, F(\theta_i)$



$\{\tilde{x}_t, \tilde{u}_t\}_{t=0}^T$

Cost $J(\theta)$
 $J : \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

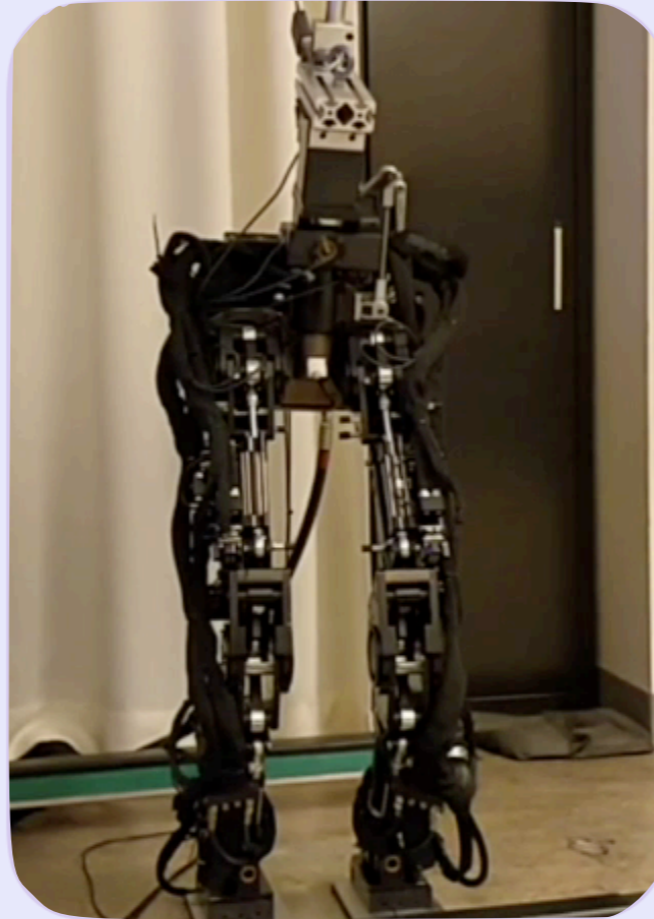
θ_{i+1}

Human effort

- * Miss interesting regions
- * $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^M$, with M large

Iteration i

$\theta_i, F(\theta_i)$



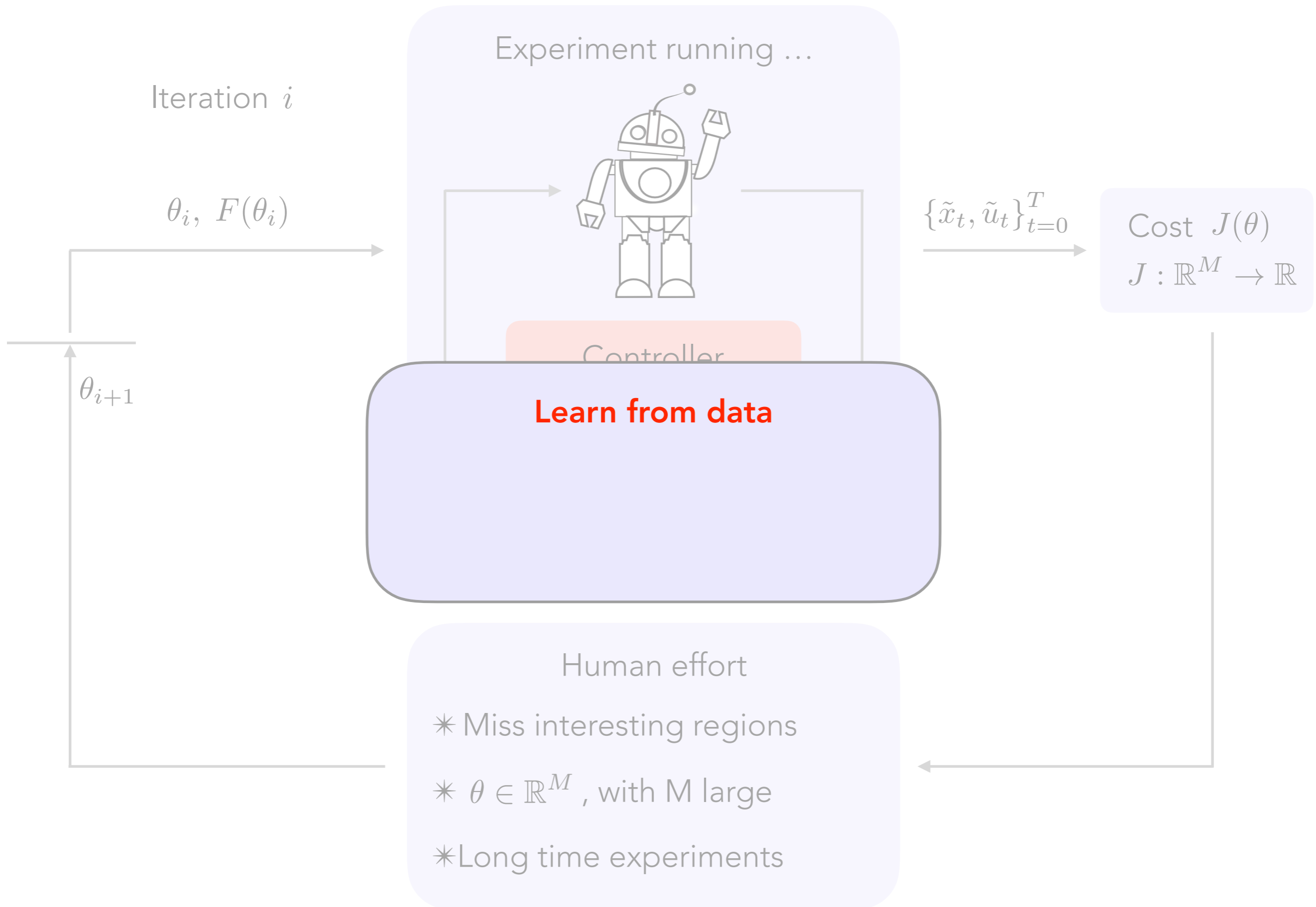
$\{\tilde{x}_t, \tilde{u}_t\}_{t=0}^T$

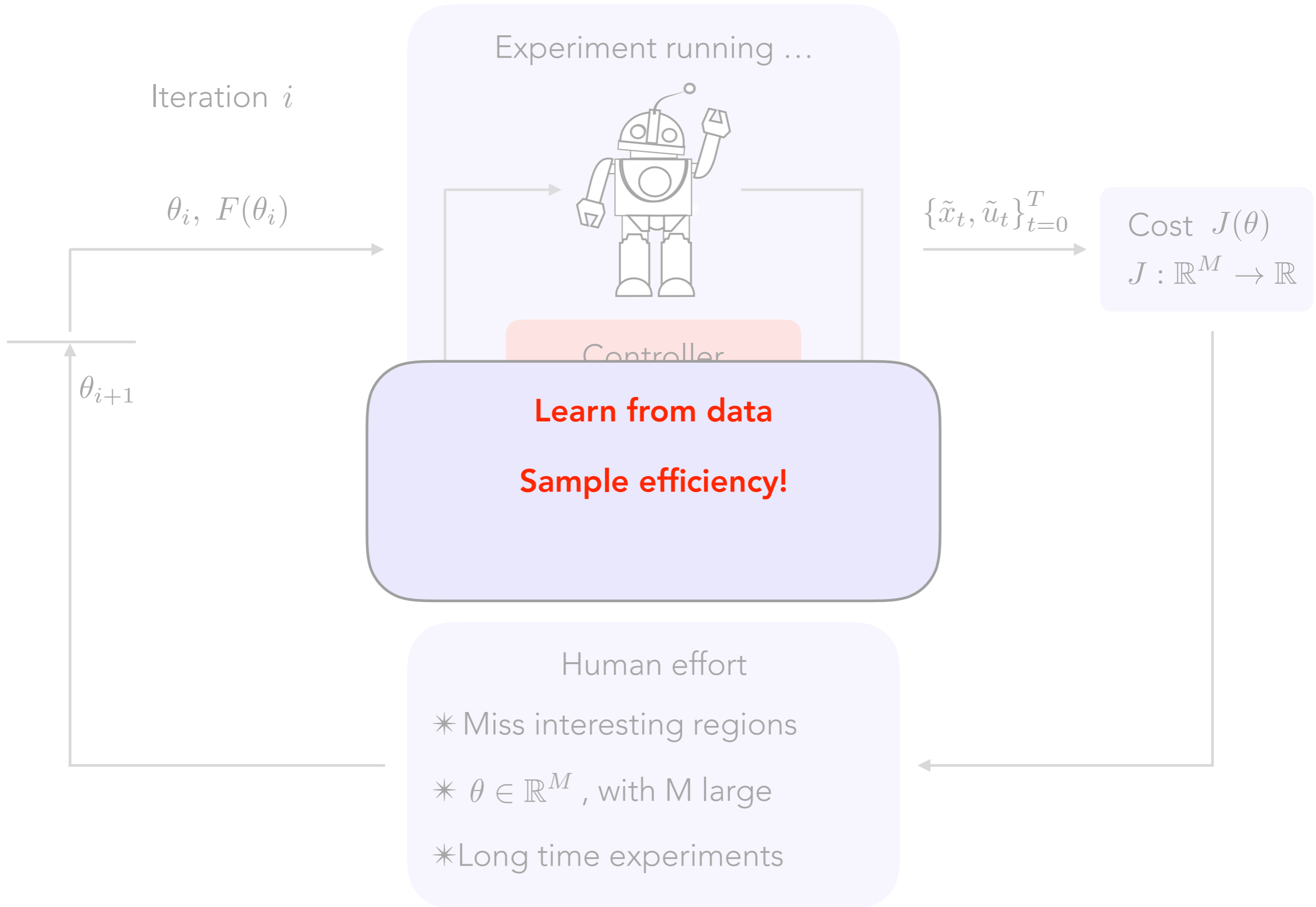
Cost $J(\theta)$
 $J : \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

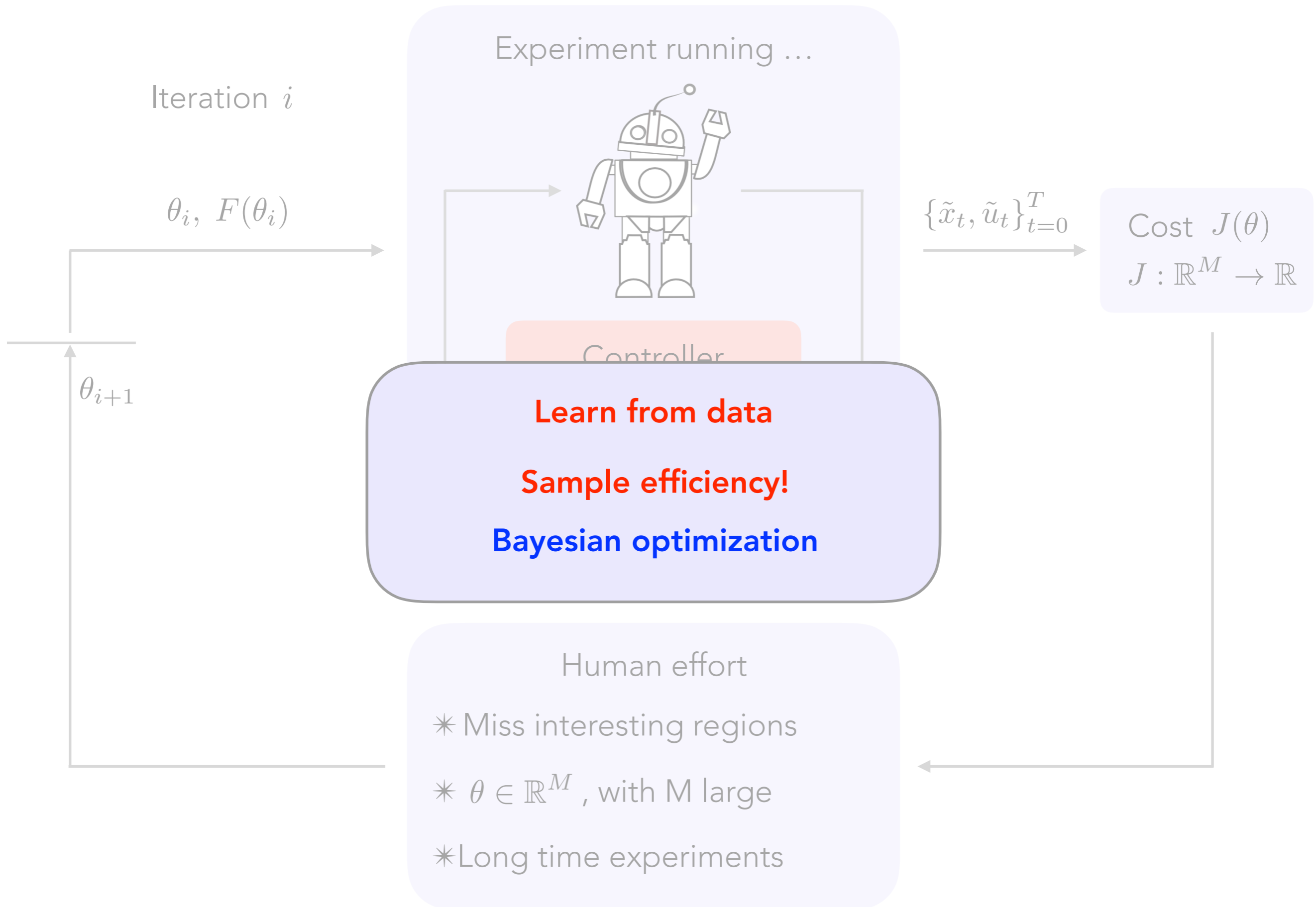
θ_{i+1}

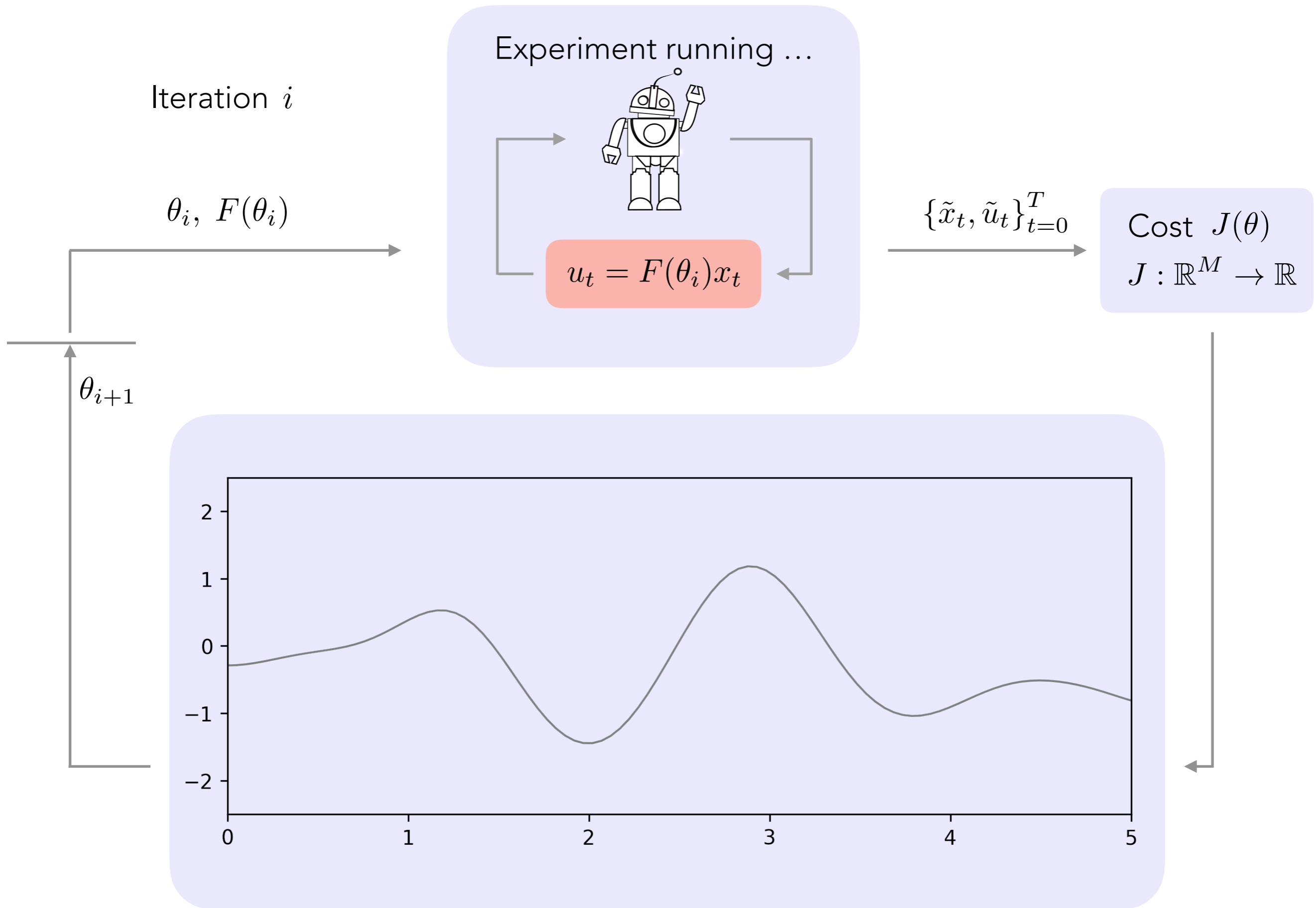
Human effort

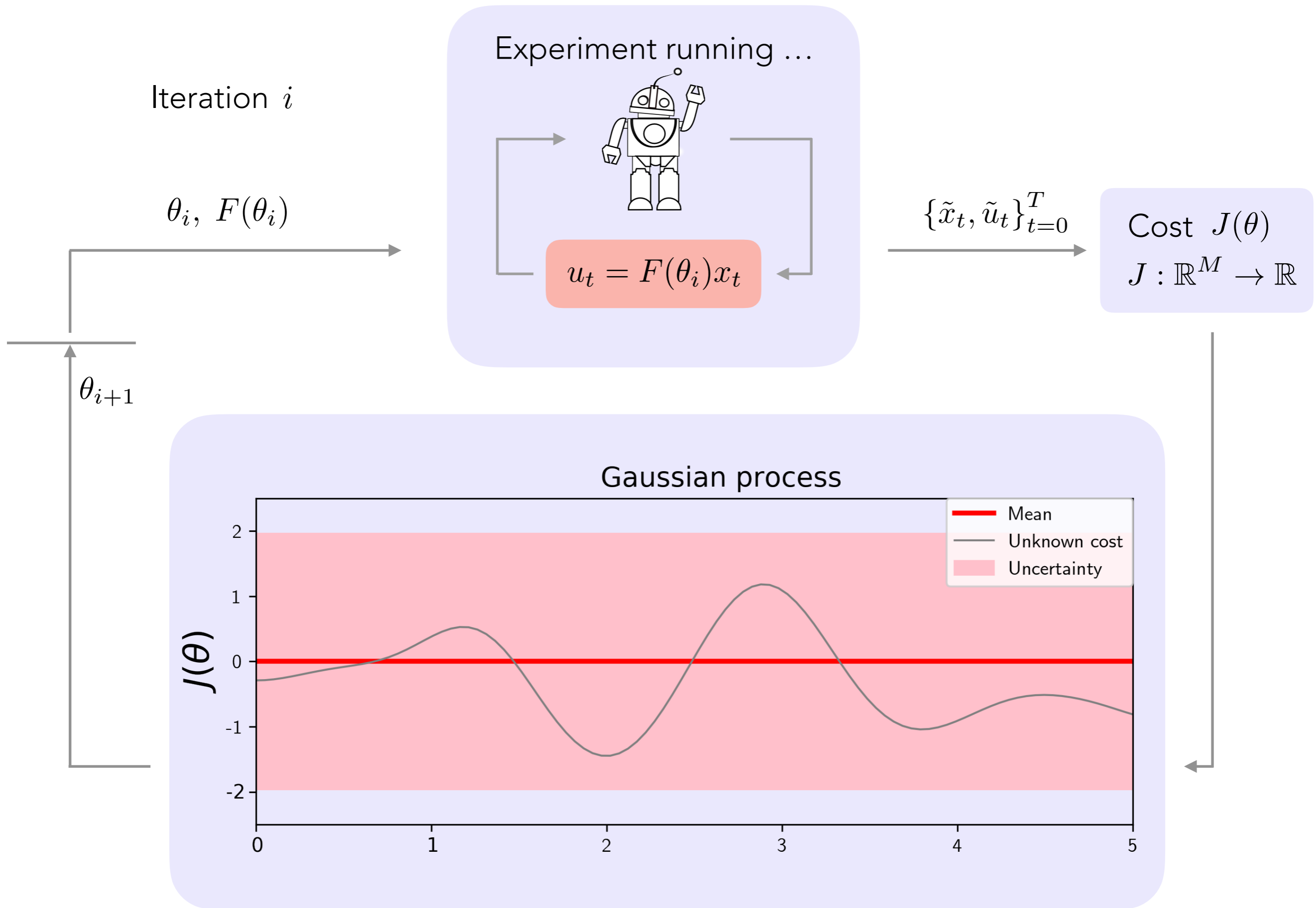
- * Miss interesting regions
- * $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^M$, with M large
- * Wait for experiments

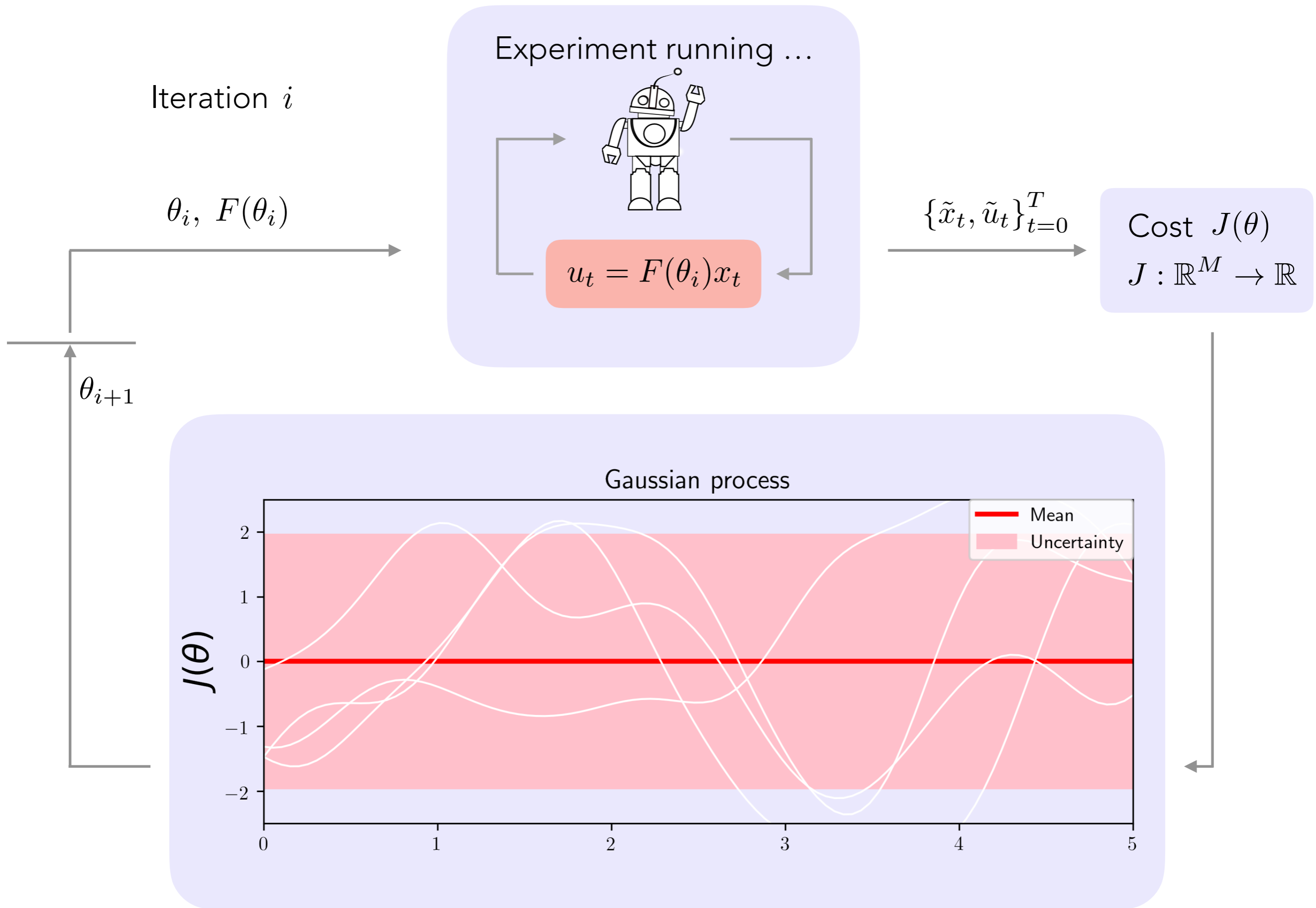


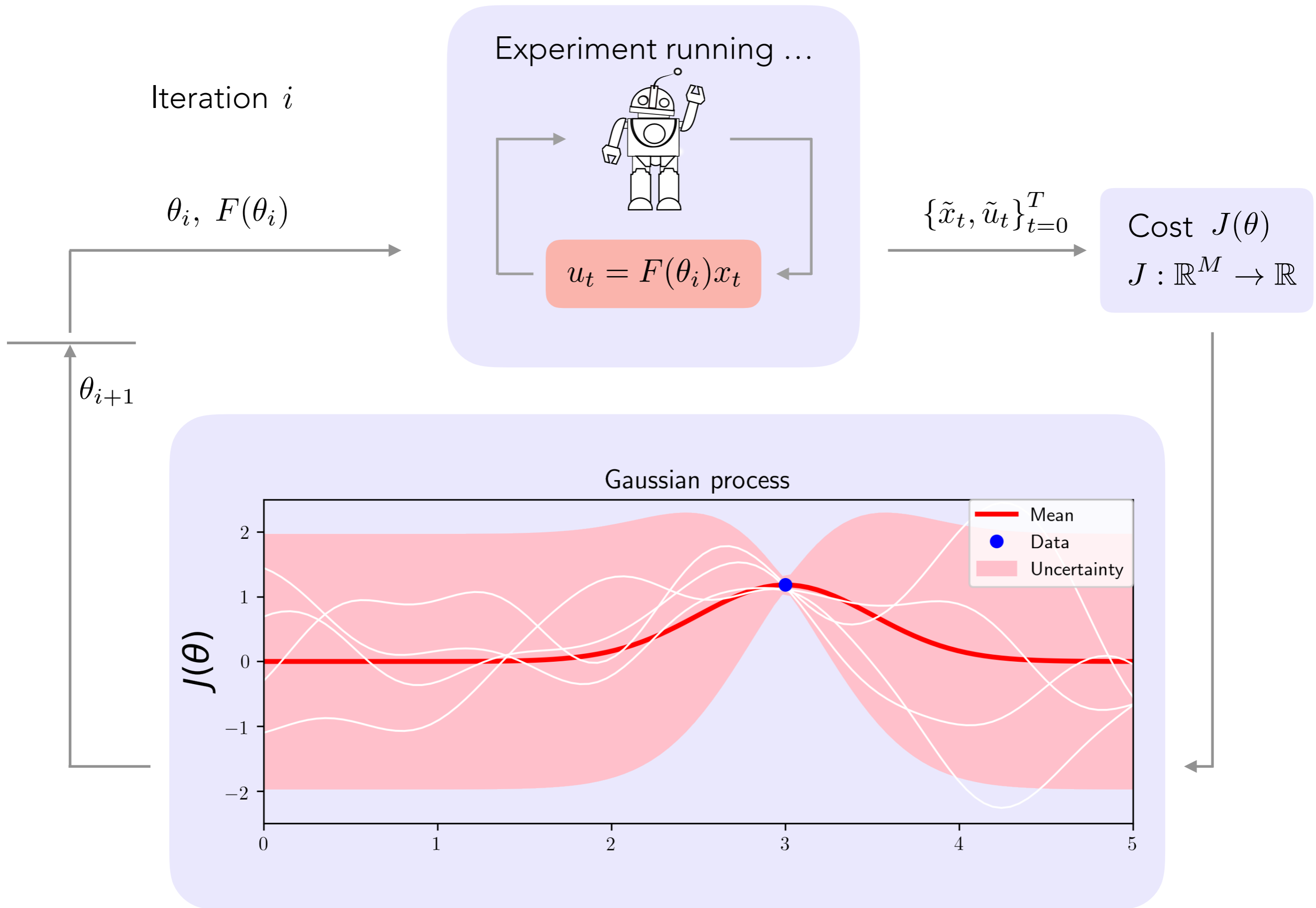








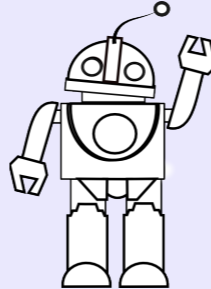




Iteration i

$\theta_i, F(\theta_i)$

Experiment running ...



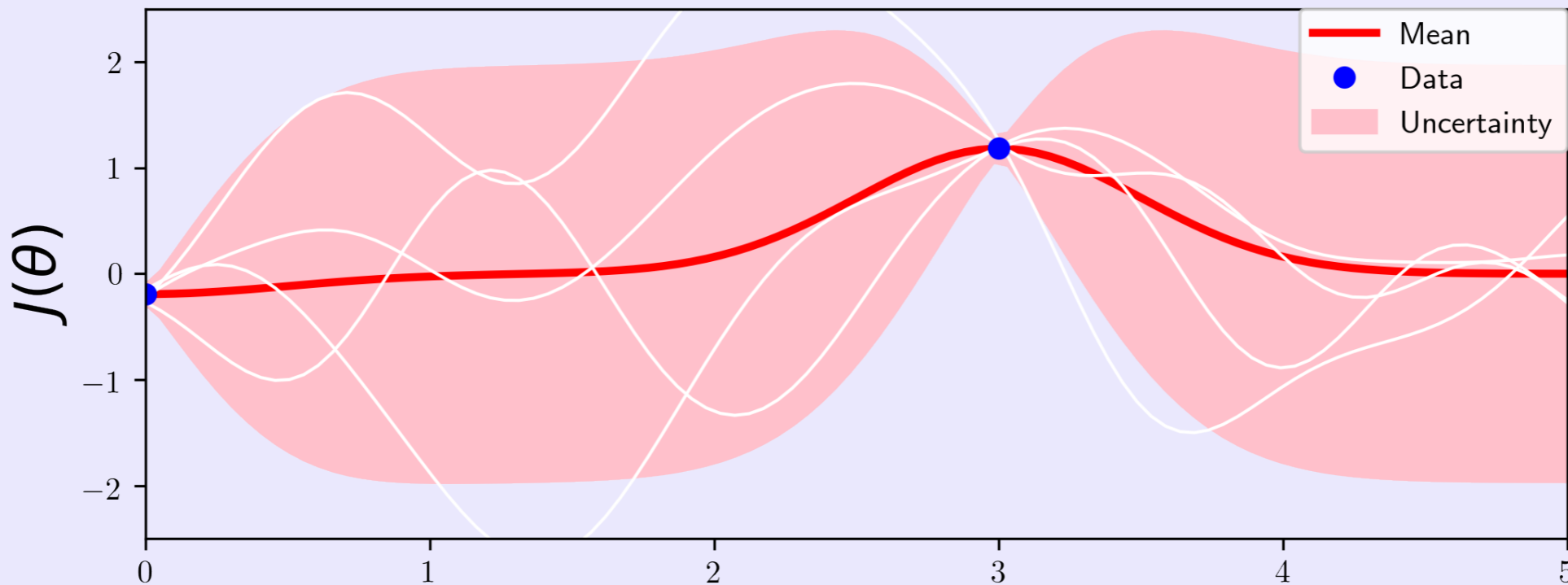
$$u_t = F(\theta_i)x_t$$

$\{\tilde{x}_t, \tilde{u}_t\}_{t=0}^T$

Cost $J(\theta)$
 $J : \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

θ_{i+1}

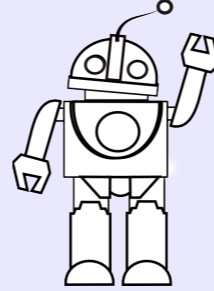
Gaussian process



Iteration i

$\theta_i, F(\theta_i)$

Experiment running ...



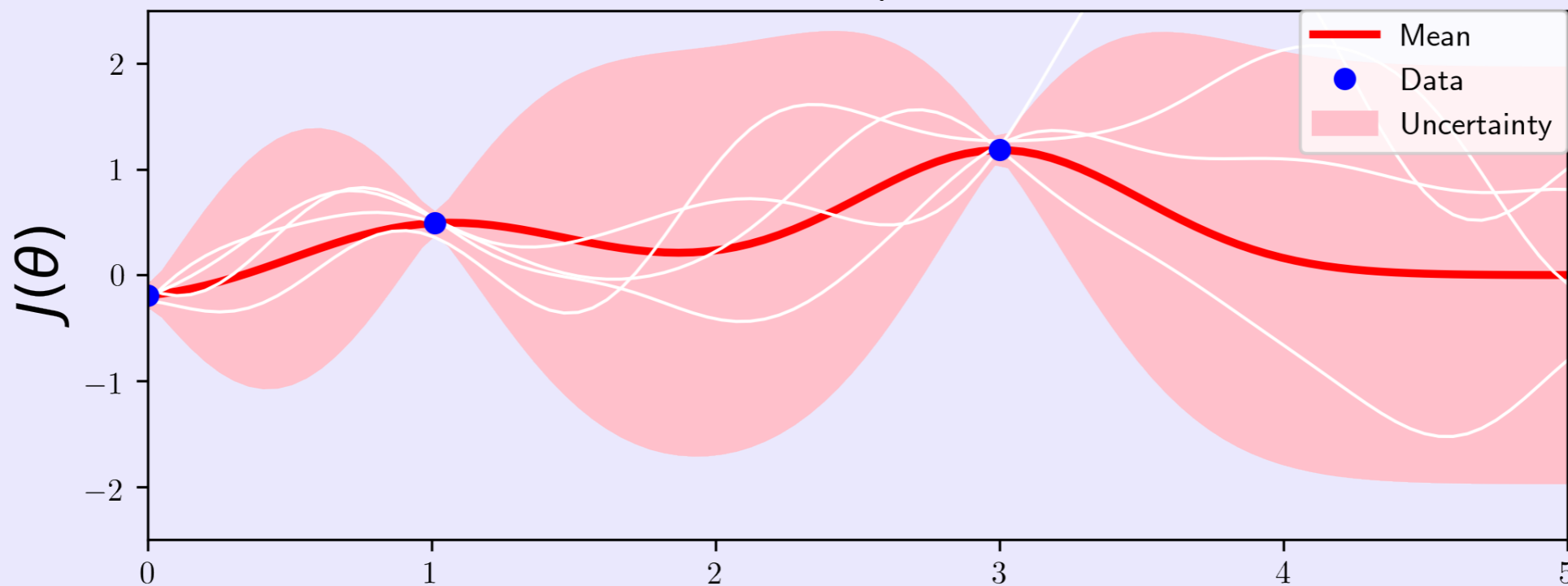
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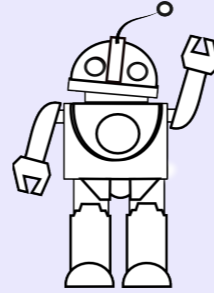
Gaussian process



Iteration i

$\theta_i, F(\theta_i)$

Experiment running ...



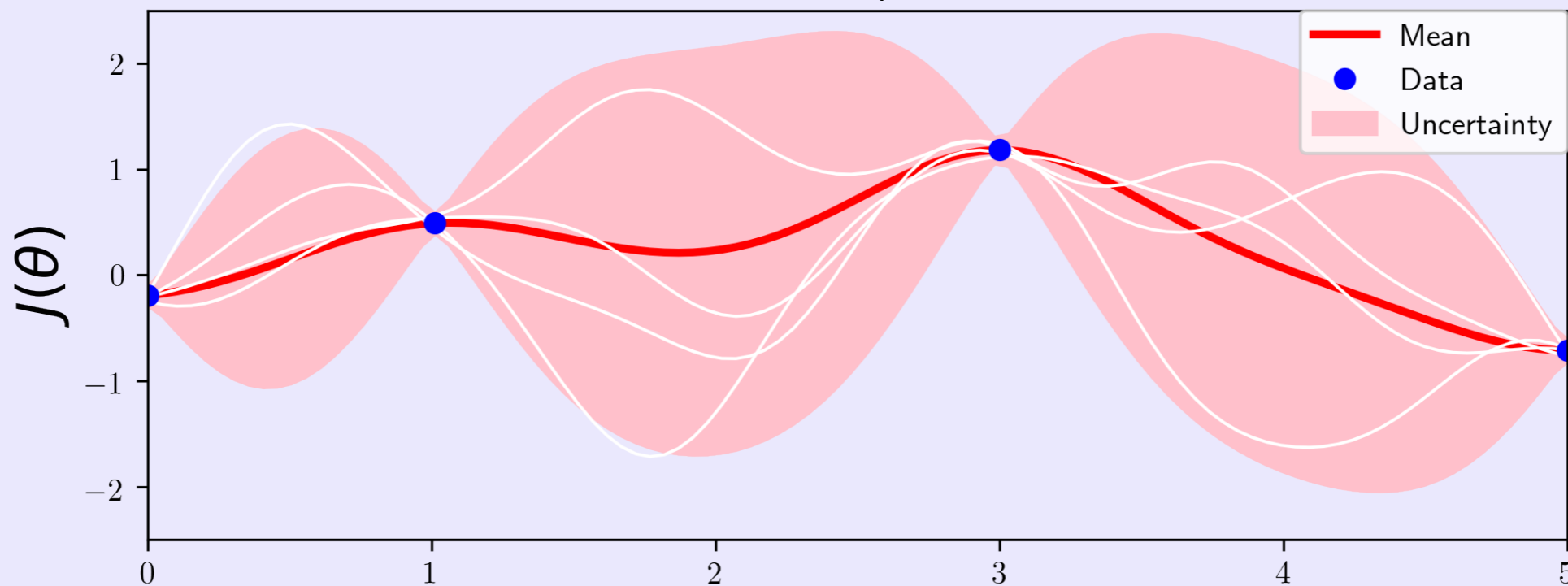
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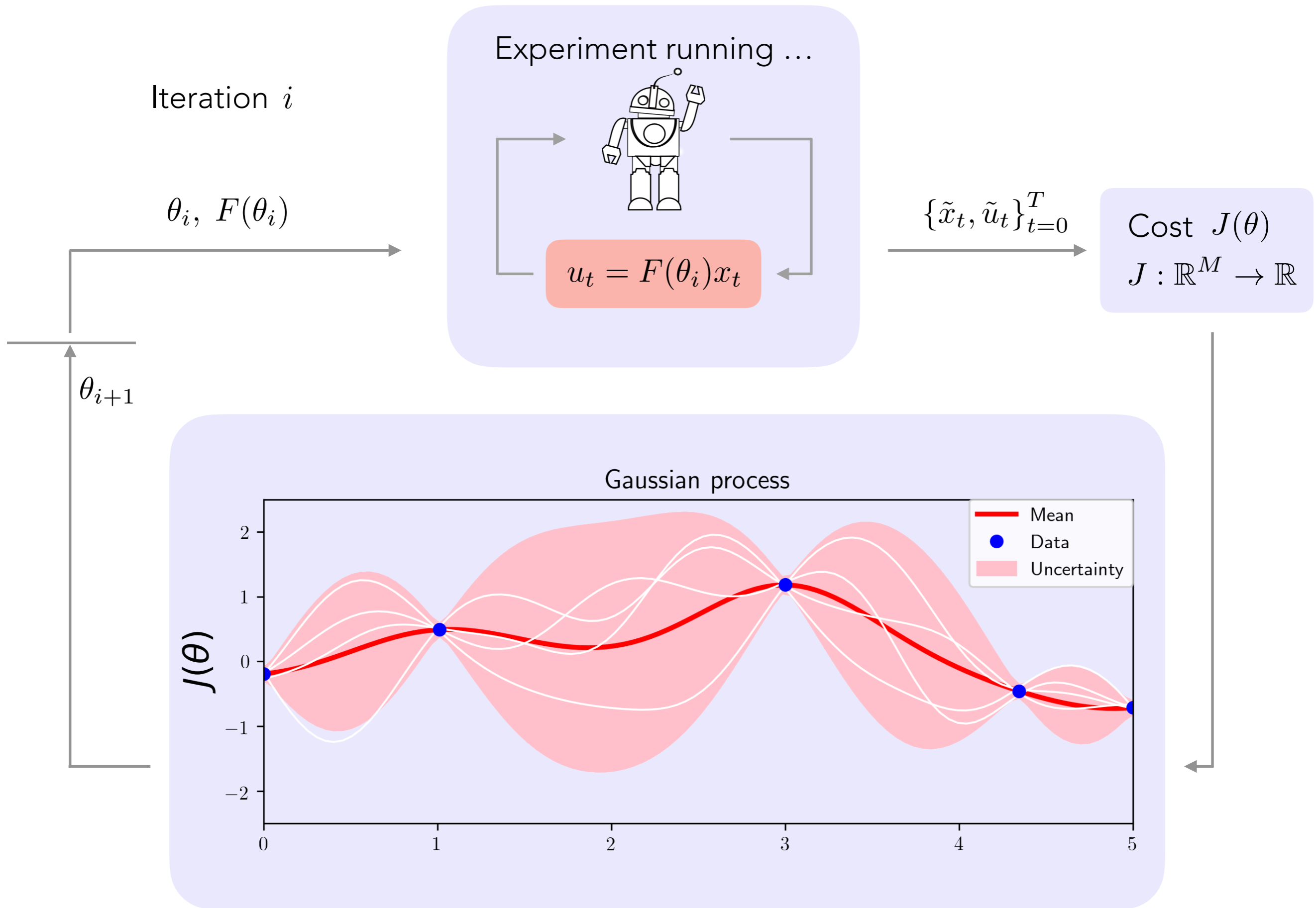
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Gaussian process

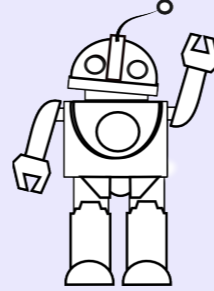




Iteration i

$\theta_i, F(\theta_i)$

Experiment running ...



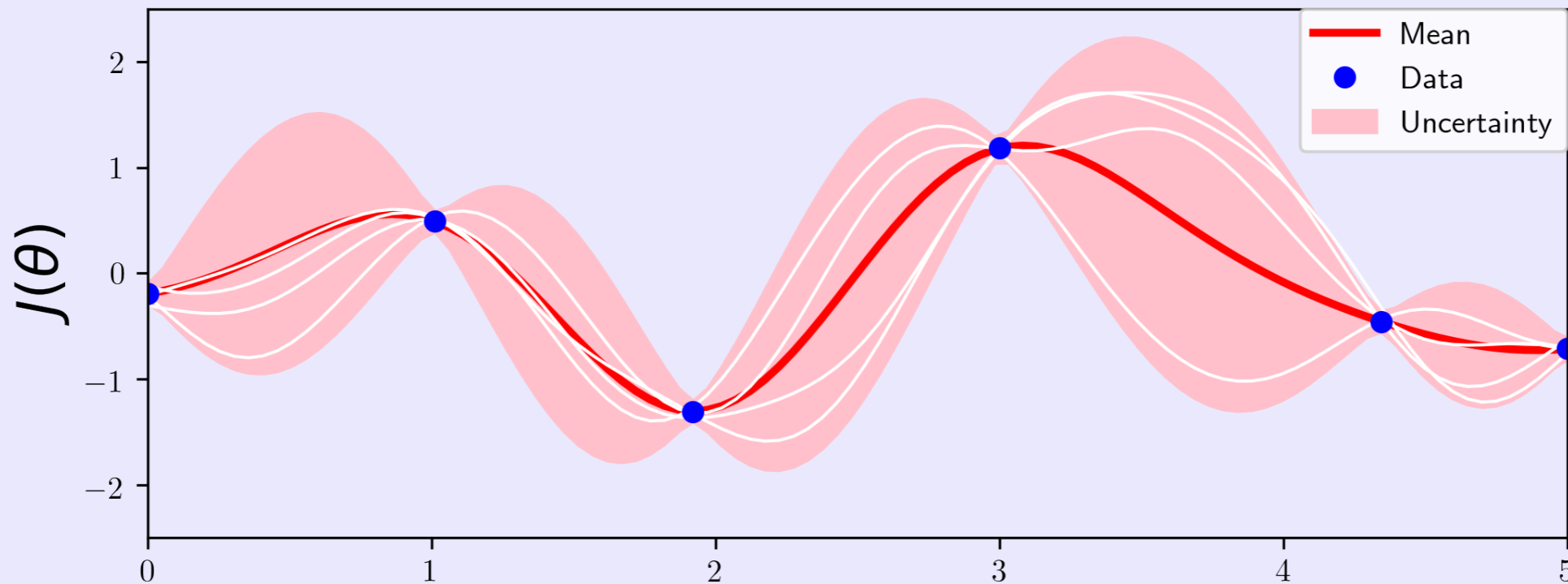
$$u_t = F(\theta_i)x_t$$

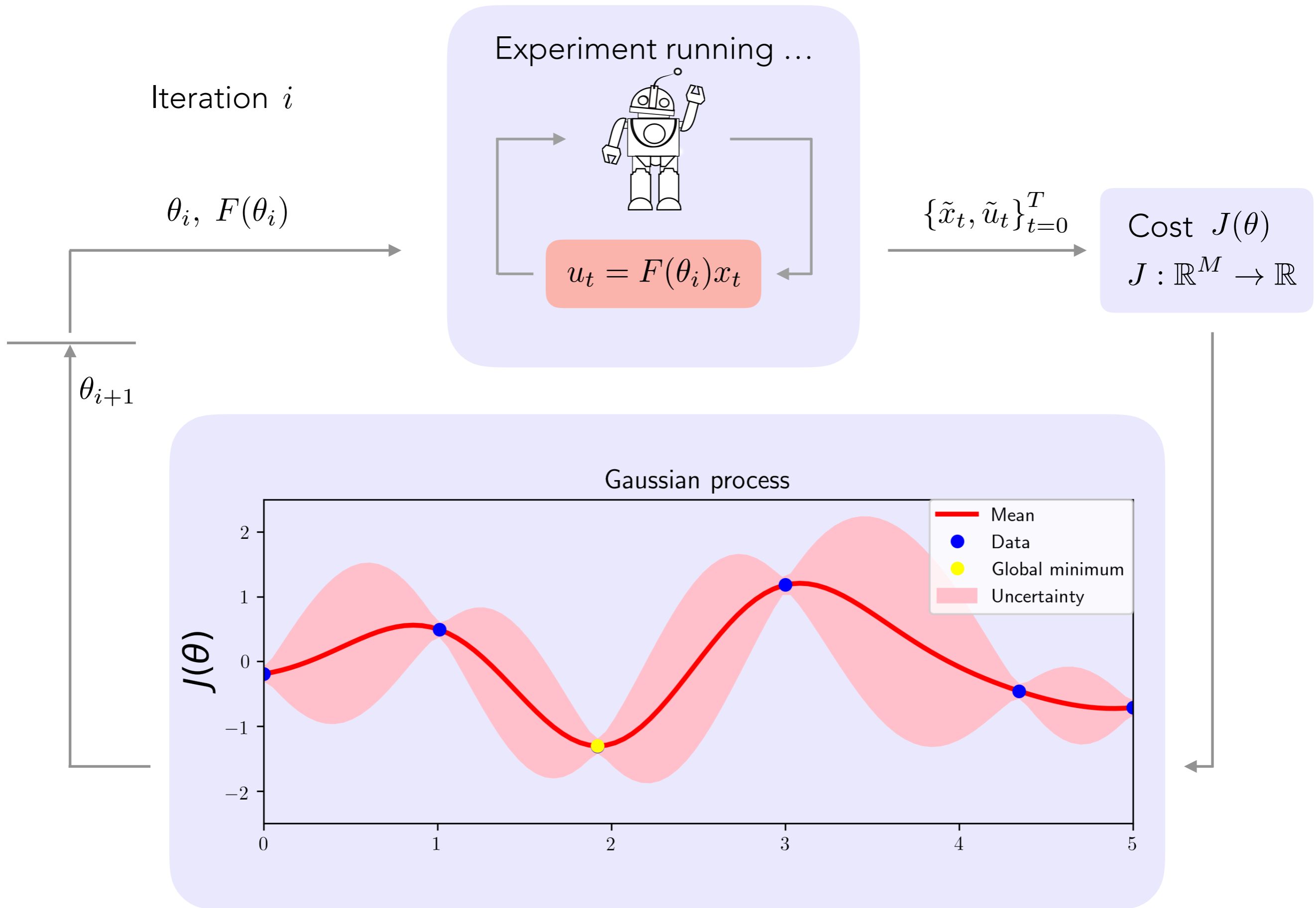
$\{\tilde{x}_t, \tilde{u}_t\}_{t=0}^T$

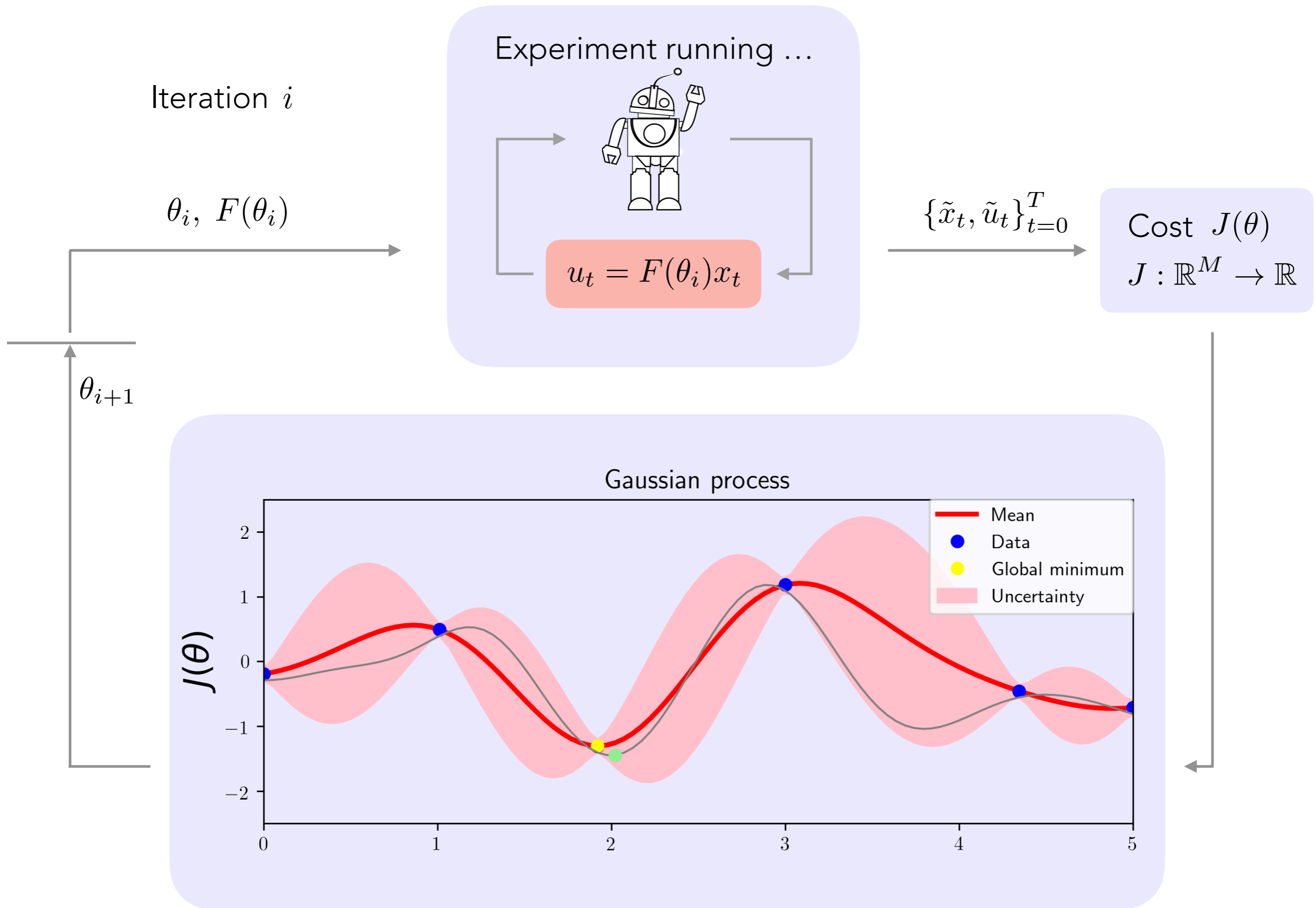
Cost $J(\theta)$
 $J : \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

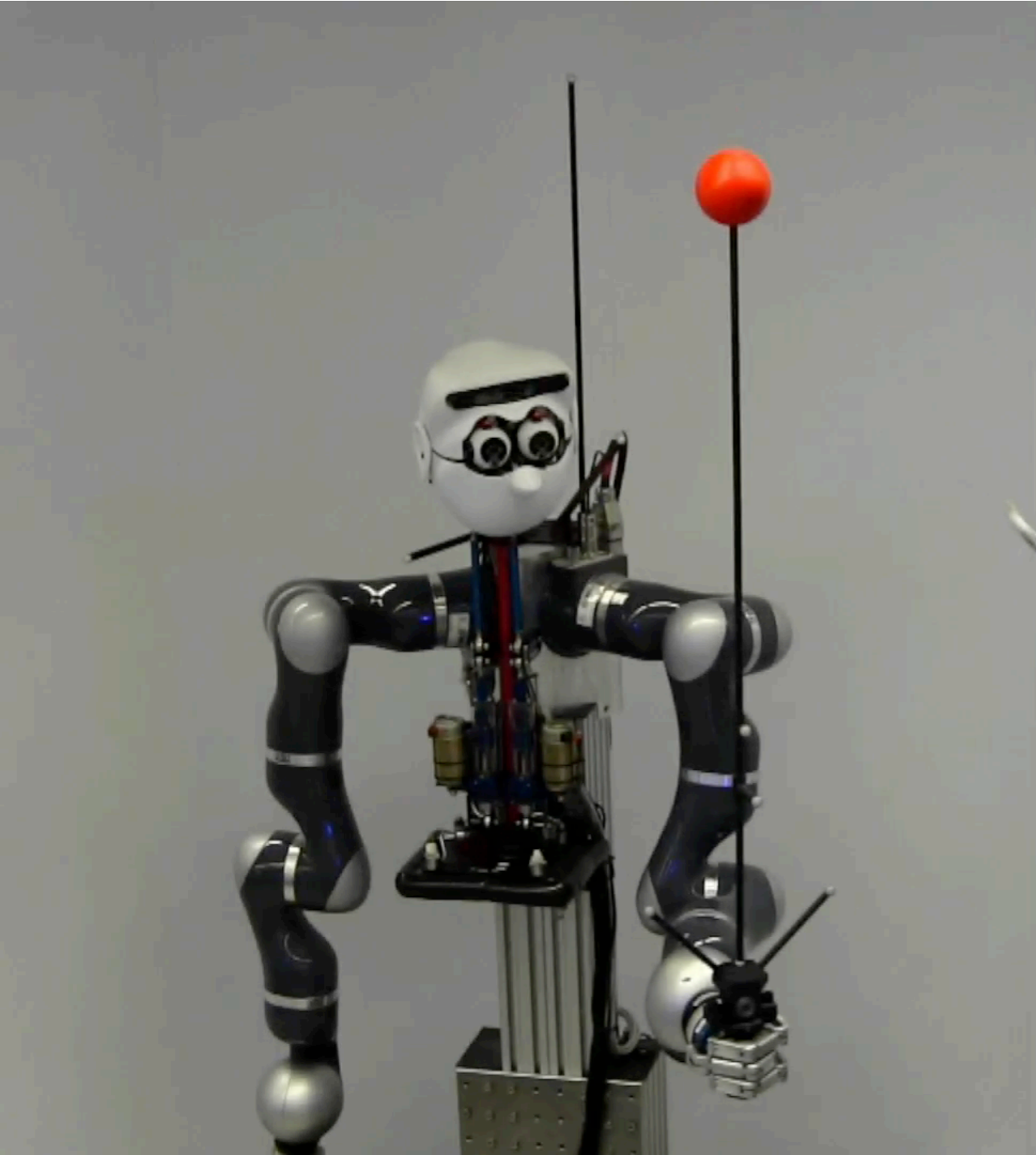
θ_{i+1}

Gaussian process

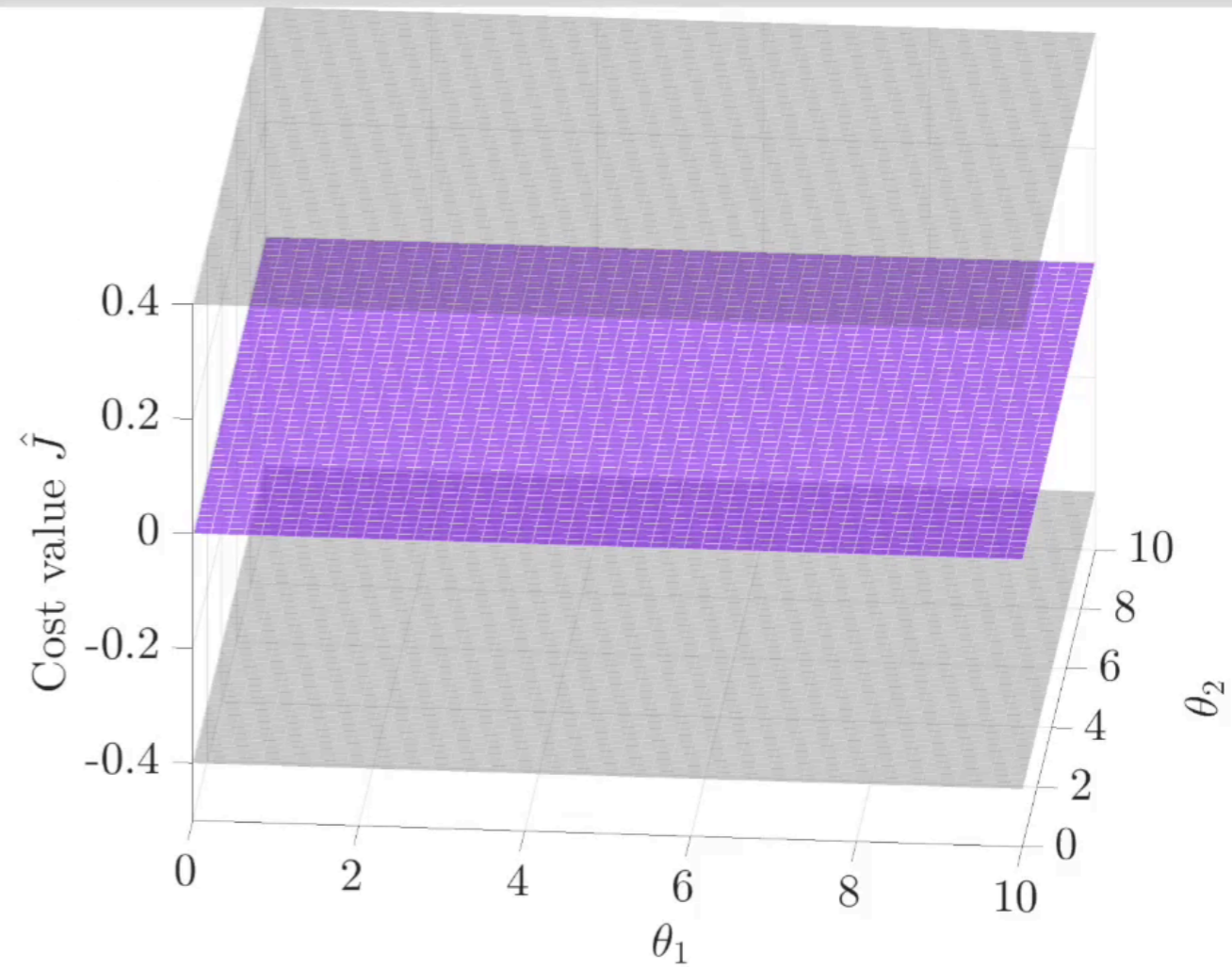


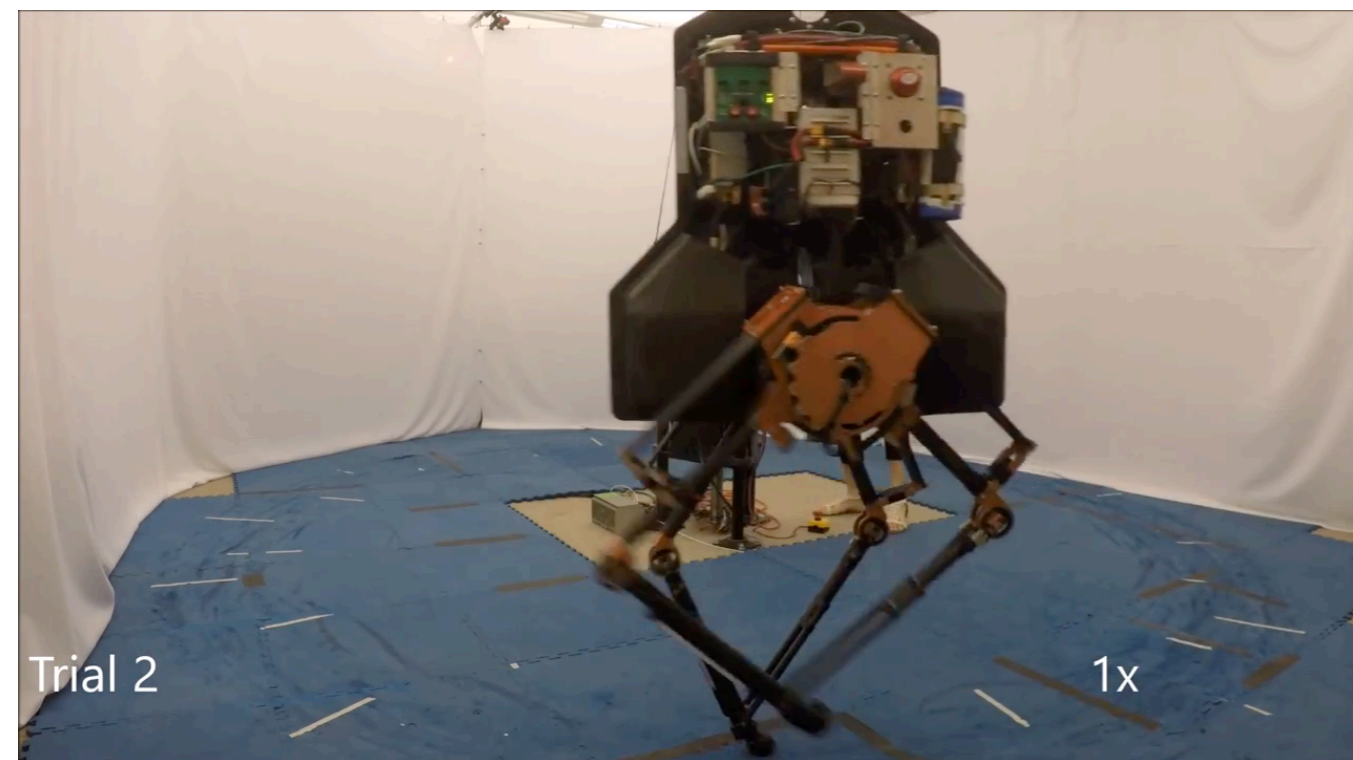




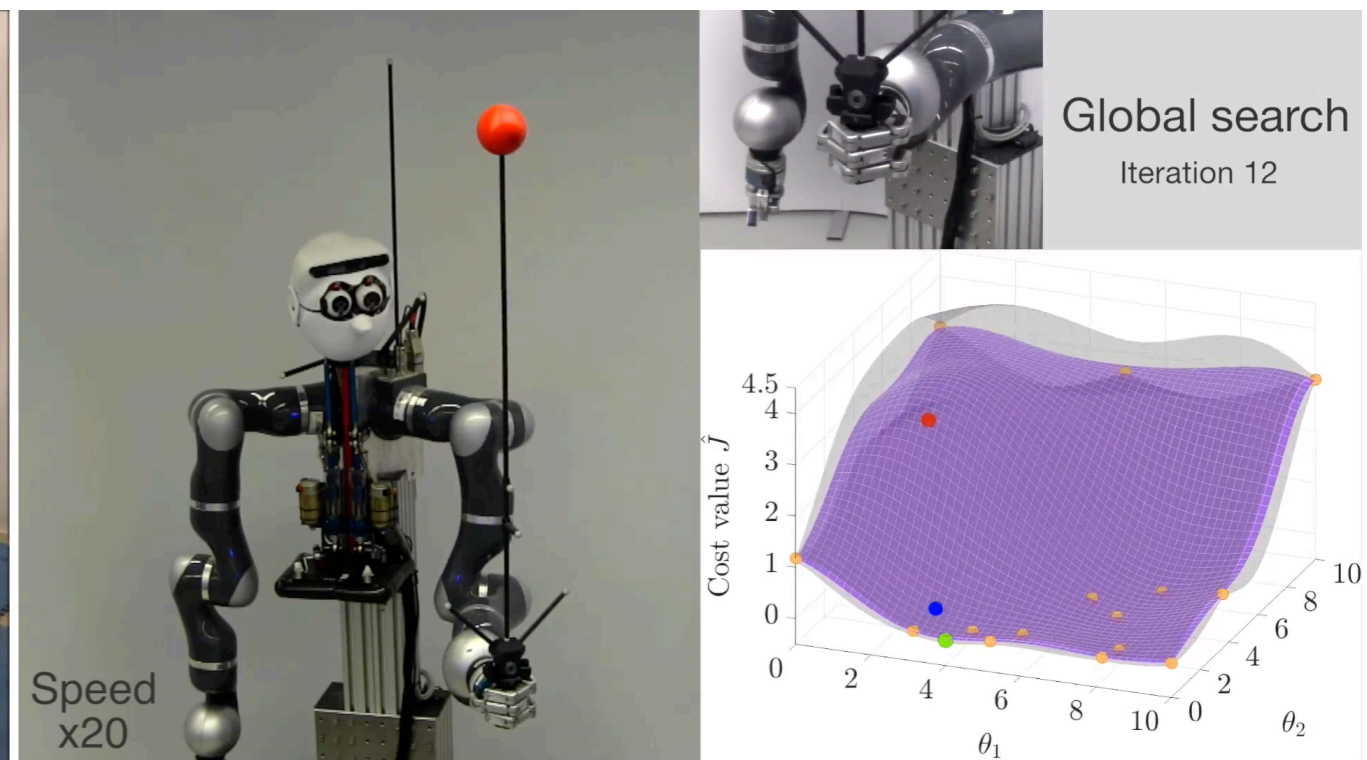


Experimental cost function captured by Gaussian process

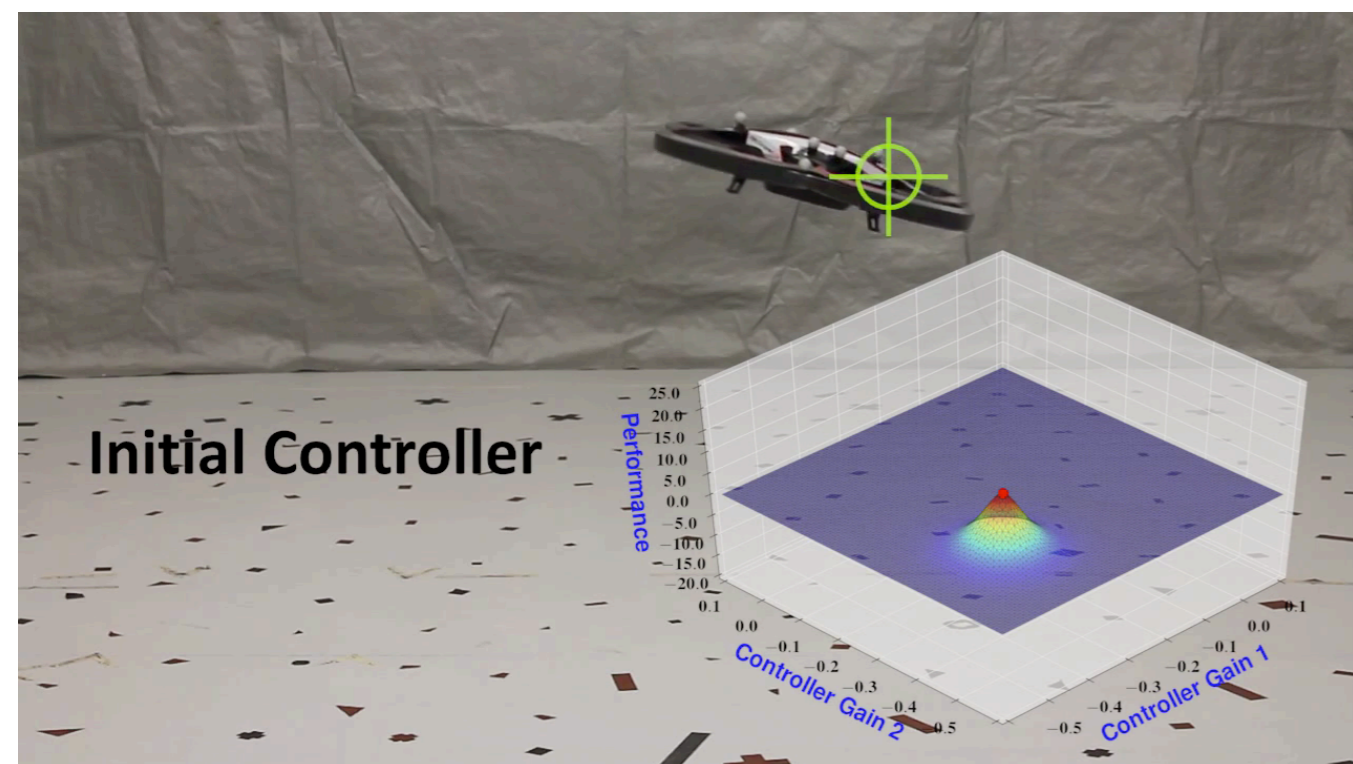




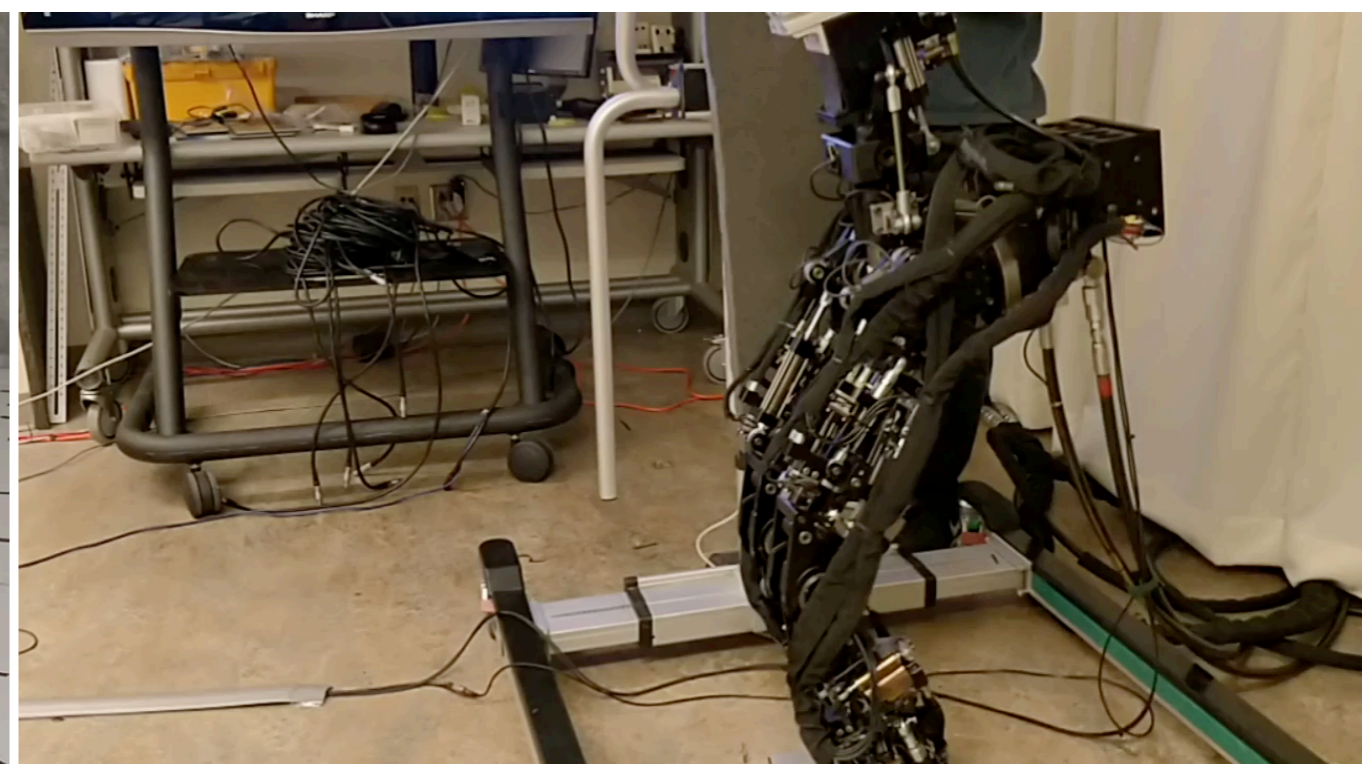
Antonova, R., et al., CoRL 2017

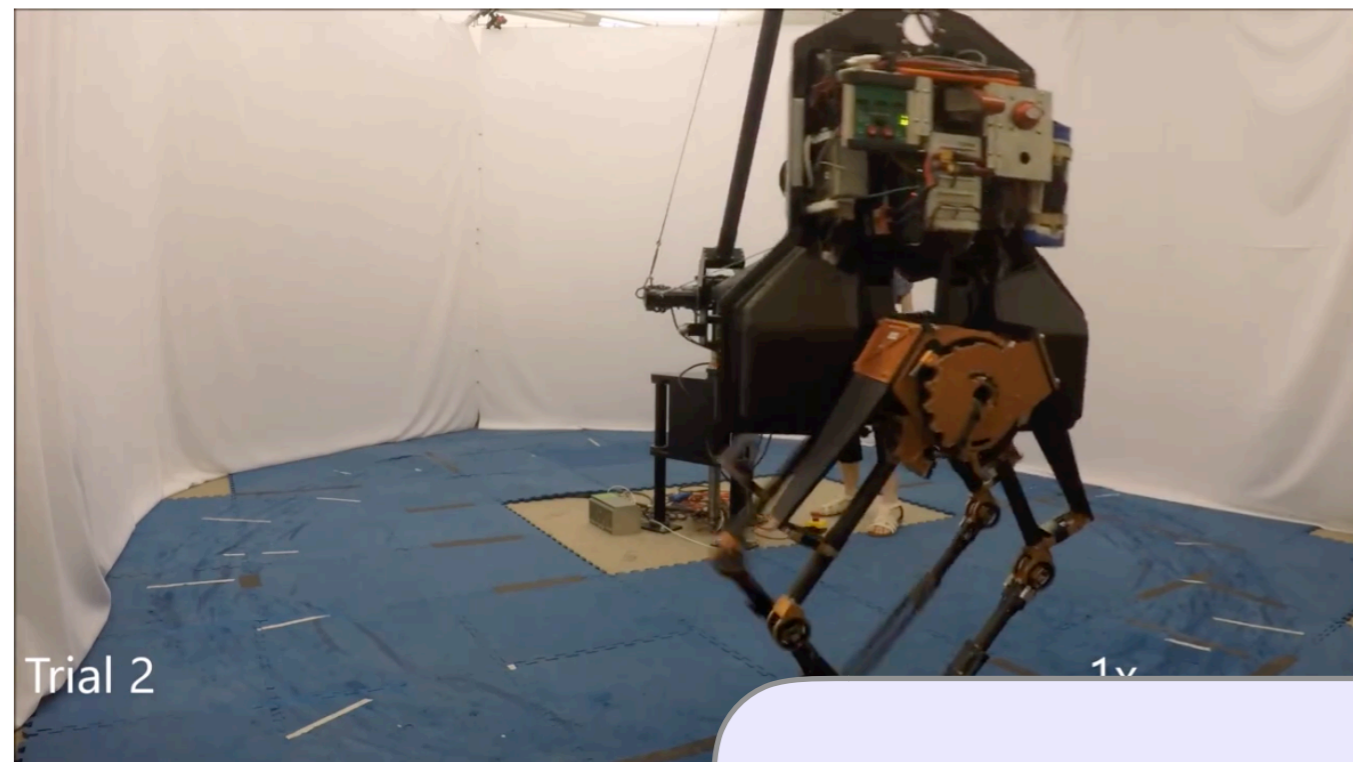


Marco. A, et al., ICRA 2016

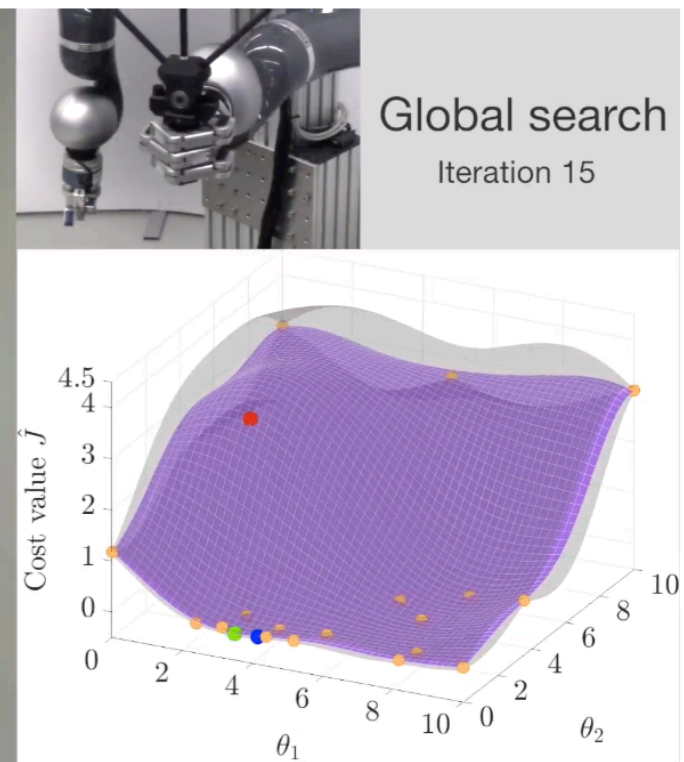
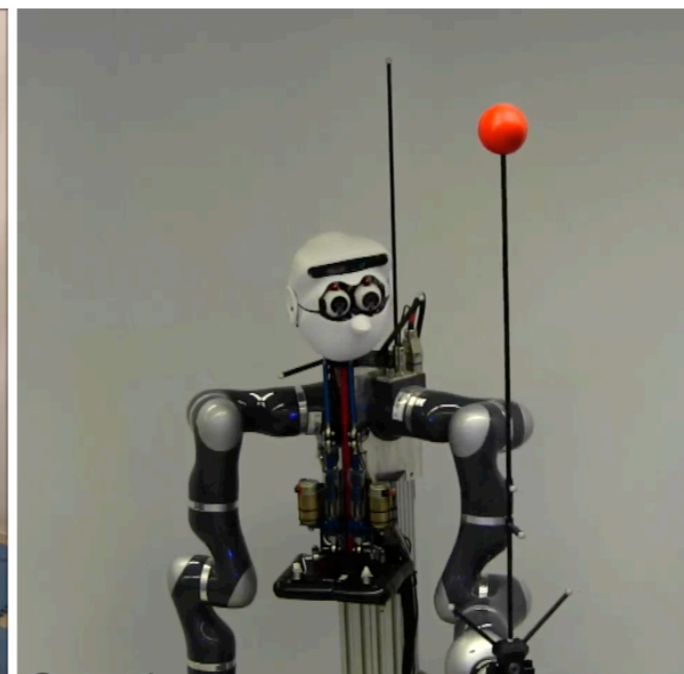


Berkenkamp, F., et al., ICRA 2017



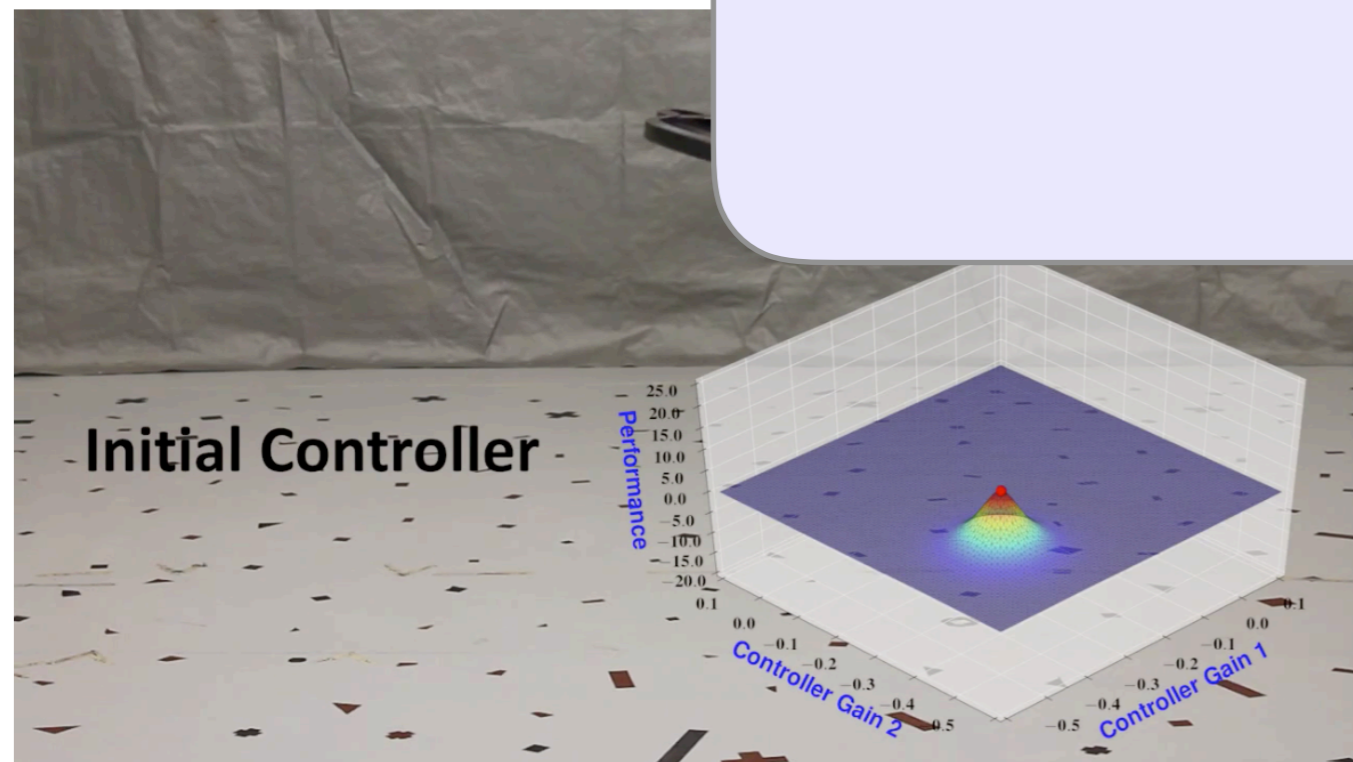


Antonova, R., et

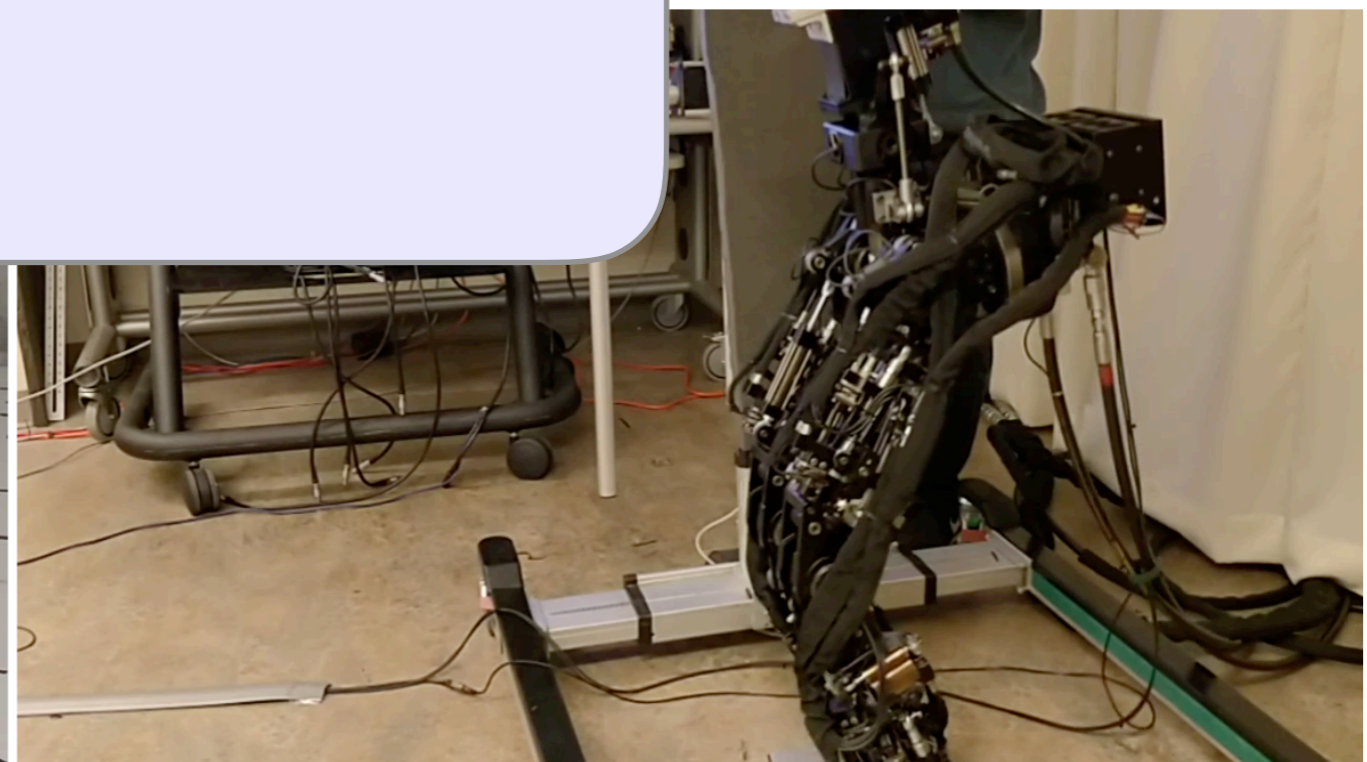


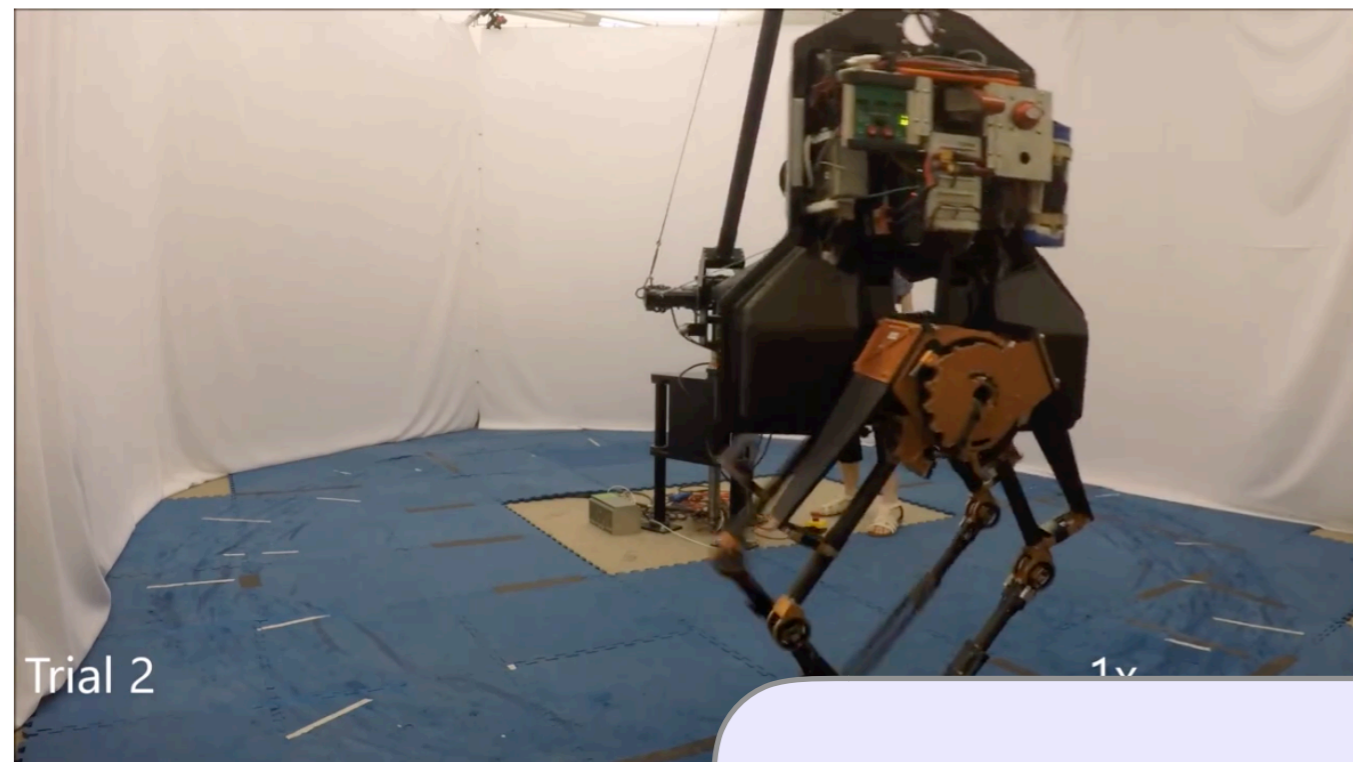
et al., ICRA 2016

GP unaware of controller structure

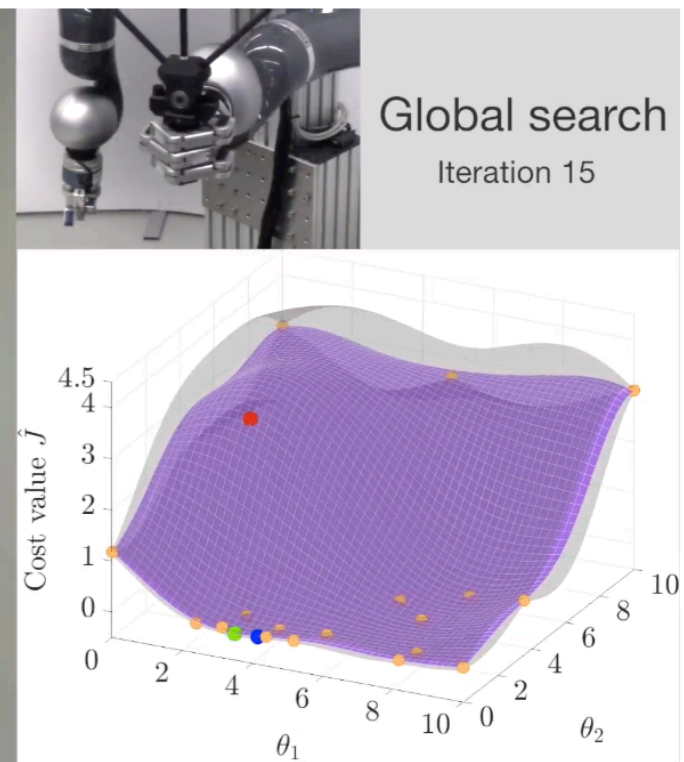
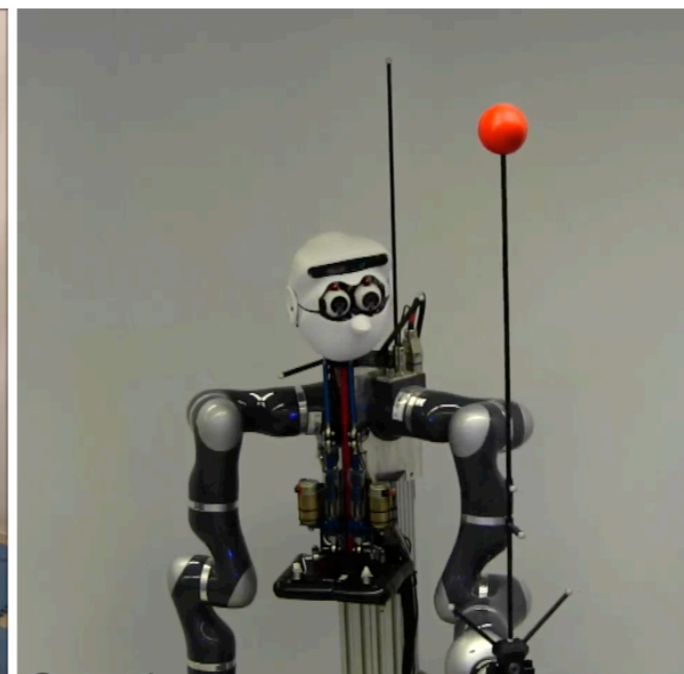


Berkenkamp, F., et al., ICRA 2017





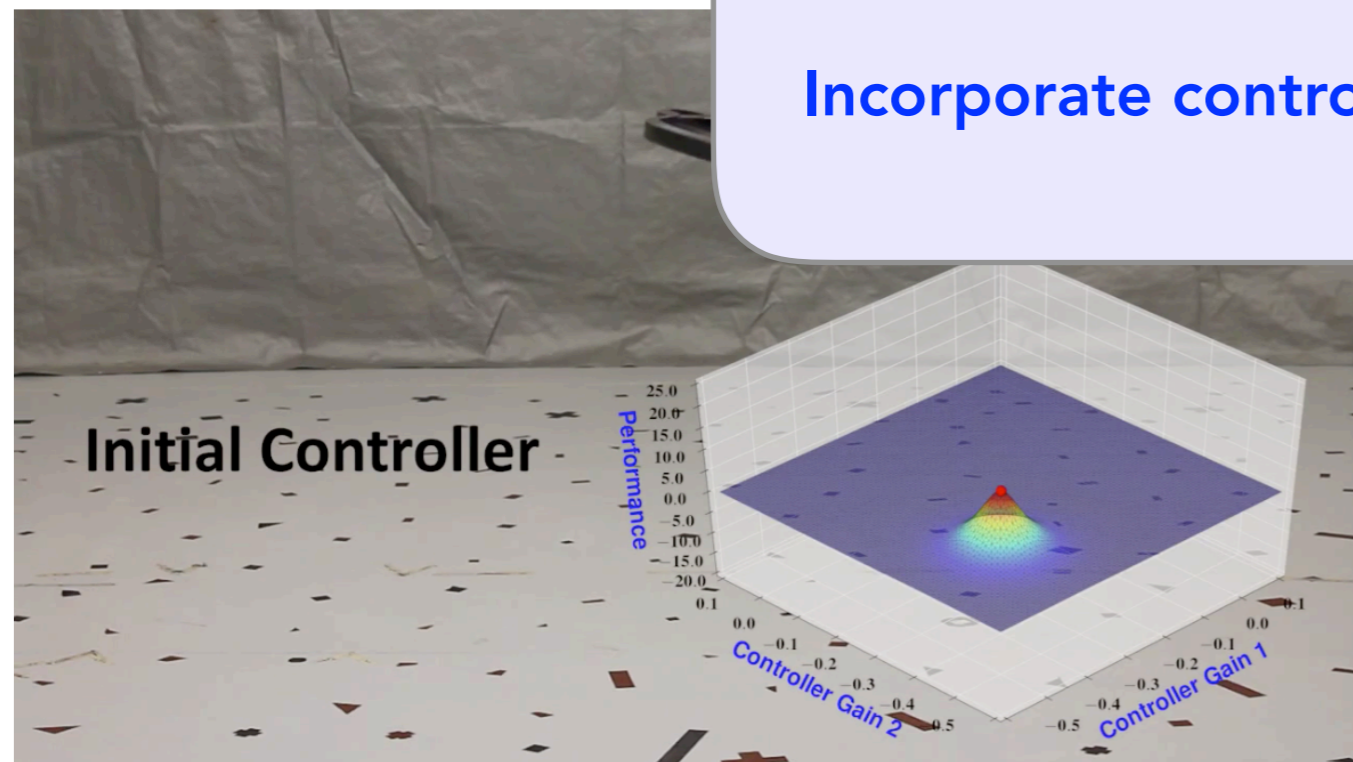
Antonova, R., et



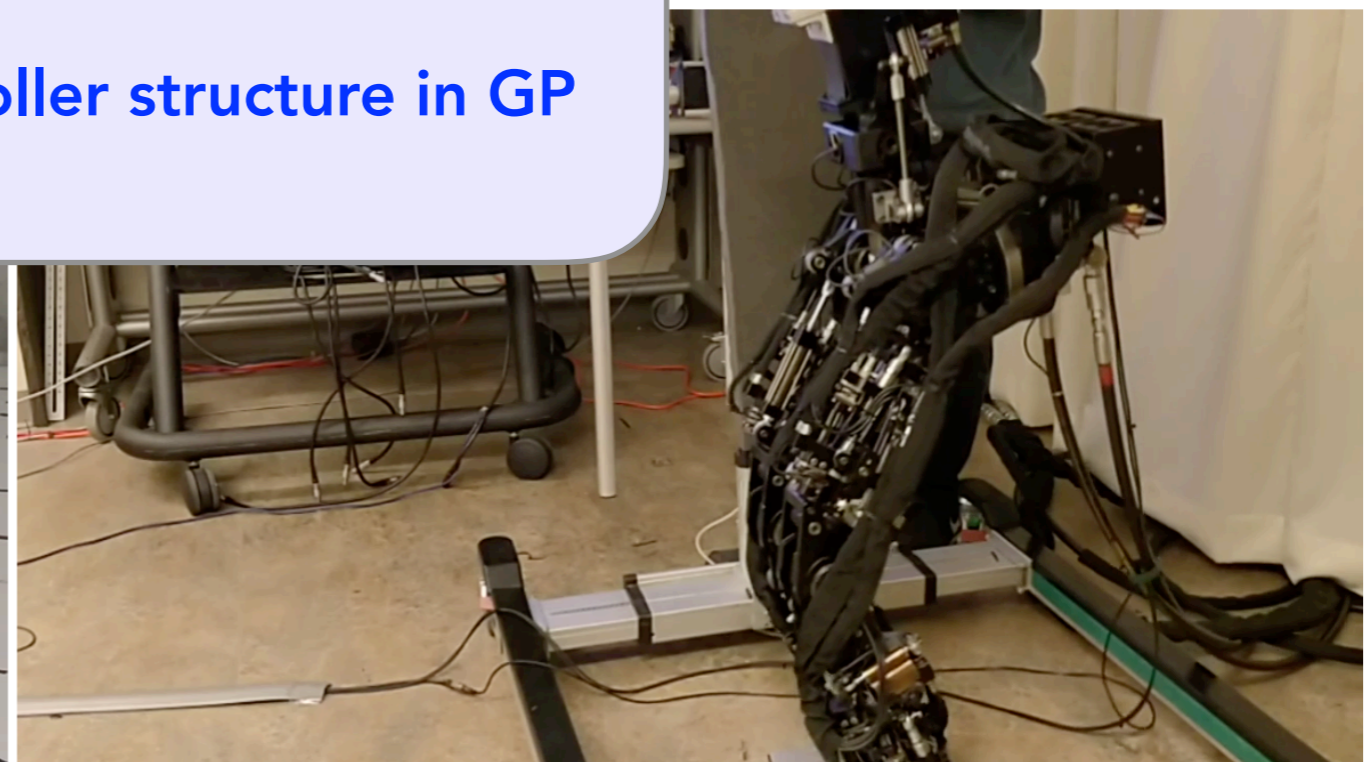
et al., ICRA 2016

GP unaware of controller structure

Incorporate controller structure in GP



Berkenkamp, F., et al., ICRA 2017



*Gaussian process: mean and kernel

$$J(\theta) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mu(\theta), k(\theta, \theta'))$$

$$\mu(\theta) = \mathbb{E}[J(\theta)]$$

$$k(\theta, \theta') = \text{Cov}[J(\theta), J(\theta')]$$

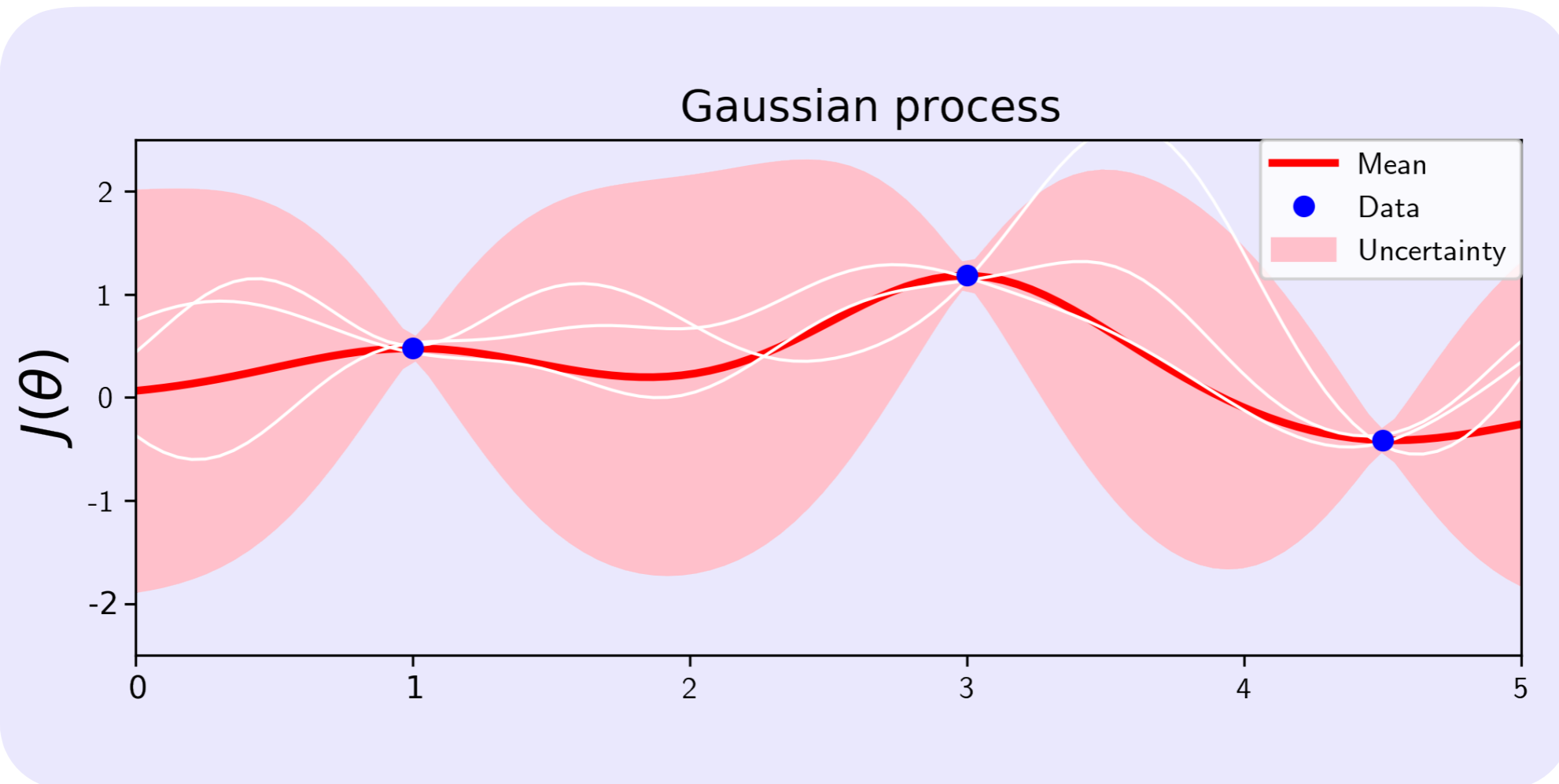
$\theta_i, F(\theta_i)$

$$u_t = F(\theta_i)x_t$$

$\{\tilde{x}_t, \tilde{u}_t\}_{t=0}^T$

Cost $J(\theta)$
 $J: \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

θ_{i+1}



*kernel encodes the **type of functions** we expect

Smooth functions

Iterat

$\theta_i, F(\theta_i)$

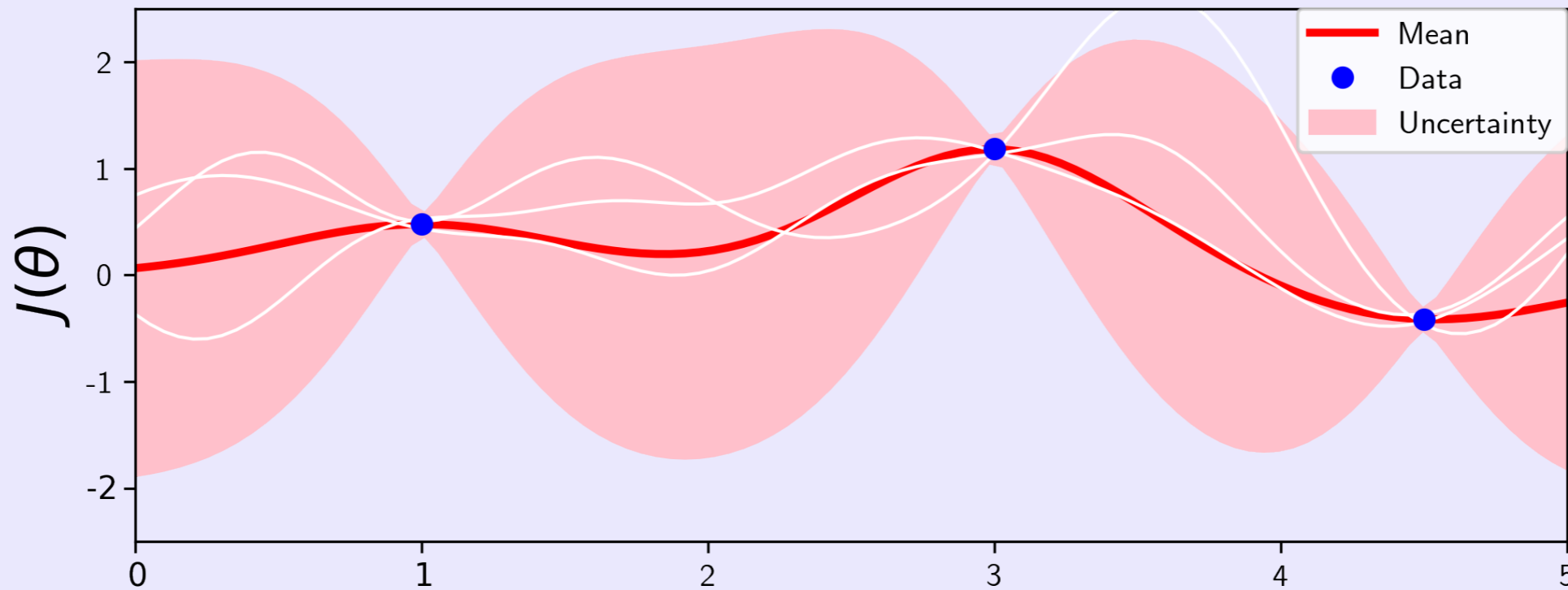
$$u_t = F(\theta_i)x_t$$

$(\omega_t, \omega_t)_{t=0}$

Cost $J(\theta)$
 $J : \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

θ_{i+1}

Gaussian process



*kernel encodes the **type of functions** we expect

Sharp functions

Iterat

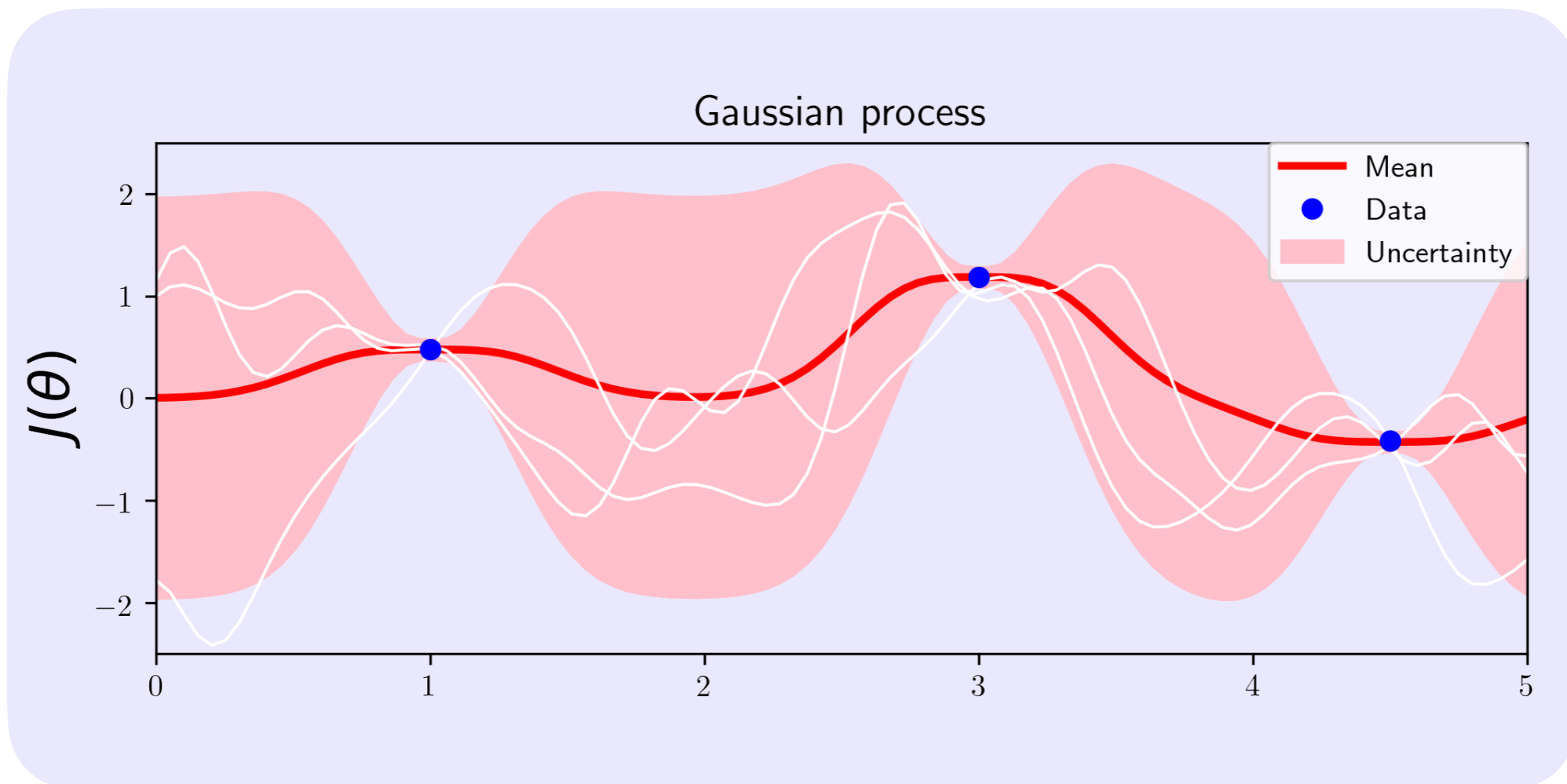
$\theta_i, F(\theta_i)$

$$u_t = F(\theta_i)x_t$$

$\{x_t, y_t\}_{t=0}$

Cost $J(\theta)$
 $J : \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

θ_{i+1}



*kernel encodes the **type of functions** we expect

Rapidly-changing functions

Iterat

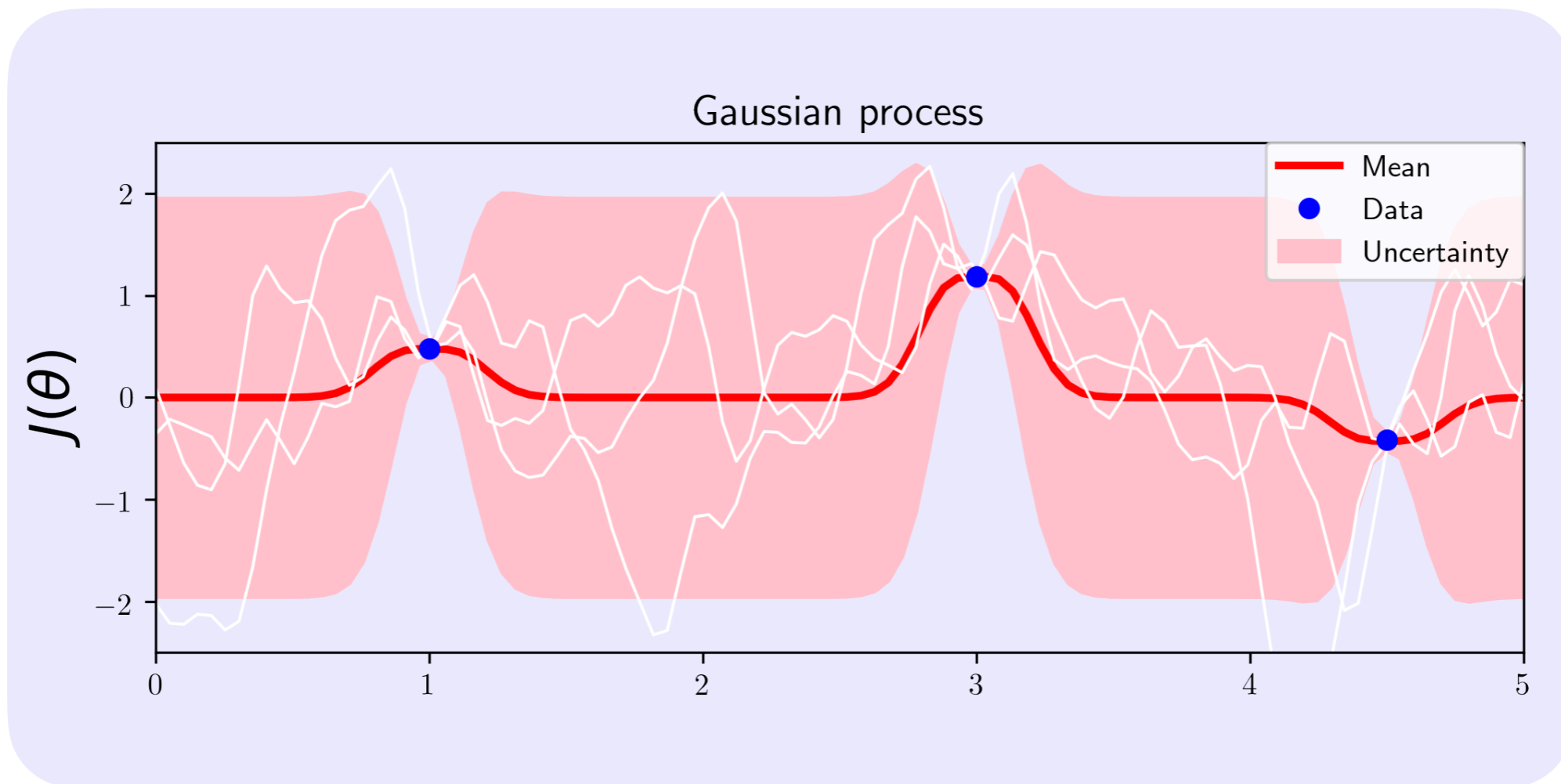
$\theta_i, F(\theta_i)$

$$u_t = F(\theta_i)x_t$$

$\{x_t, y_t\}_{t=0}$

Cost $J(\theta)$
 $J : \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

θ_{i+1}



Iterate

$\theta_i, F(\theta_i)$

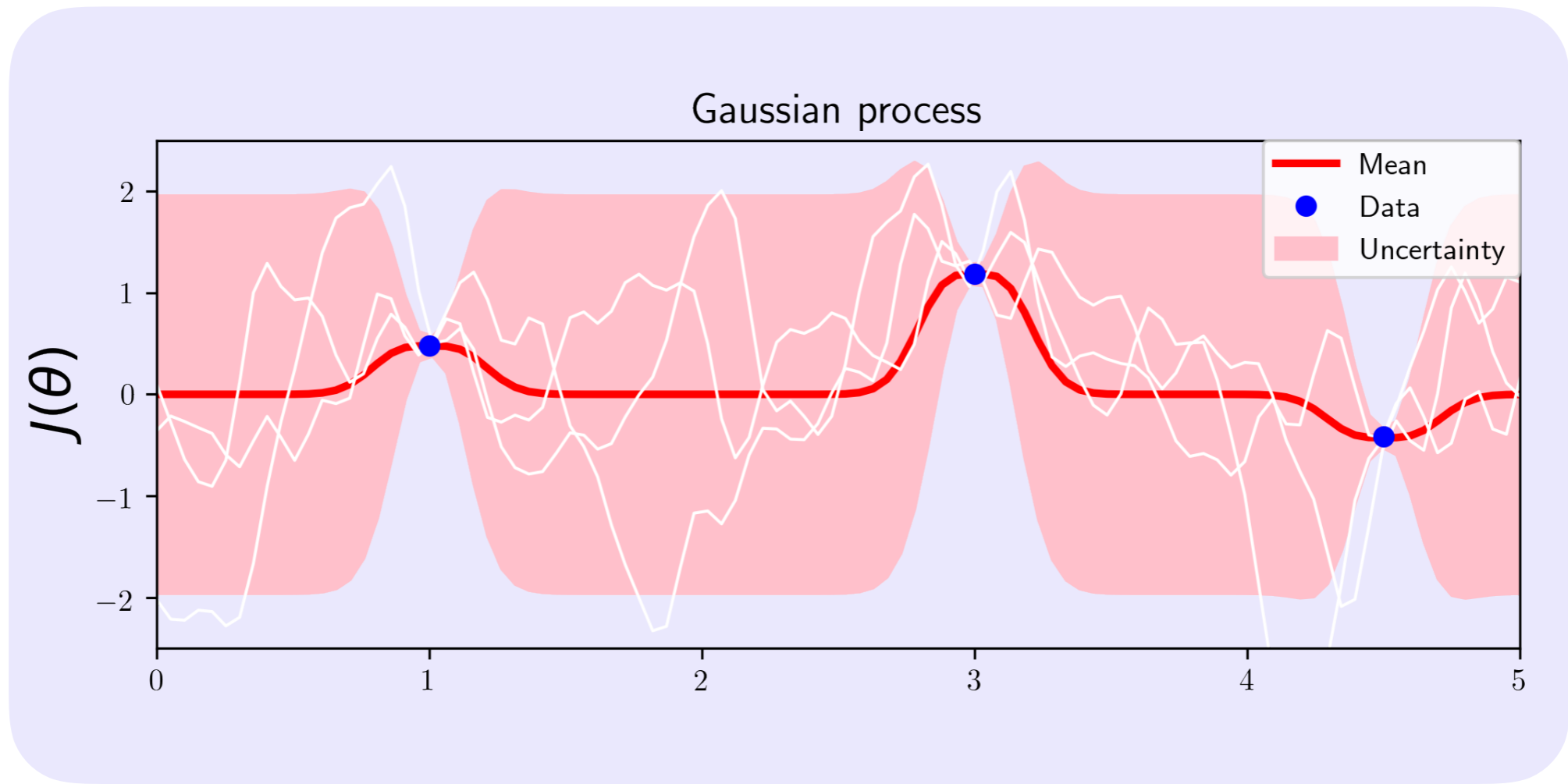
Which kernel describes my data better?

$$u_t = F(\theta_i)x_t$$

$\{x_t, u_t\}_{t=0}$

Cost $J(\theta)$
 $J : \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

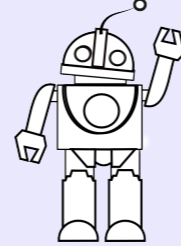
θ_{i+1}



Iterat

Which kernel describes my data better?

Controller



Data

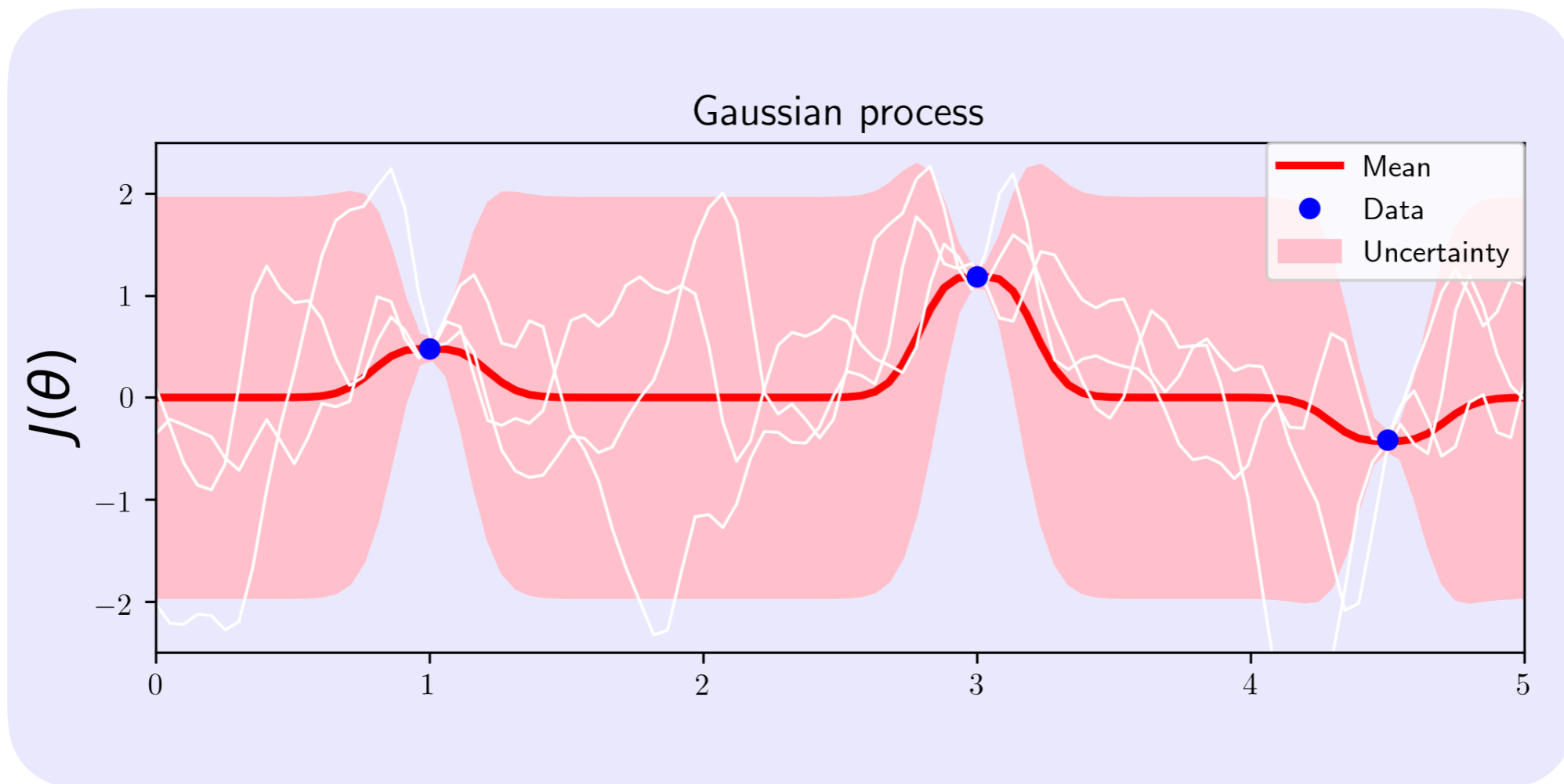
$\theta_i, F(\theta_i)$

$$u_t = F(\theta_i)x_t$$

$\{x_t, y_t\}_{t=0}$

Cost $J(\theta)$
 $J : \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

θ_{i+1}



Iterat

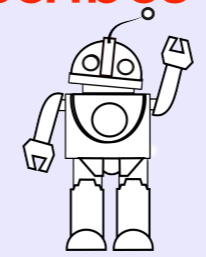
$\theta_i, F(\theta_i)$

$(\omega_t, \omega_t)_{t=0}$

Cost $J(\theta)$
 $J : \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Which kernel describes my data better?

Controller

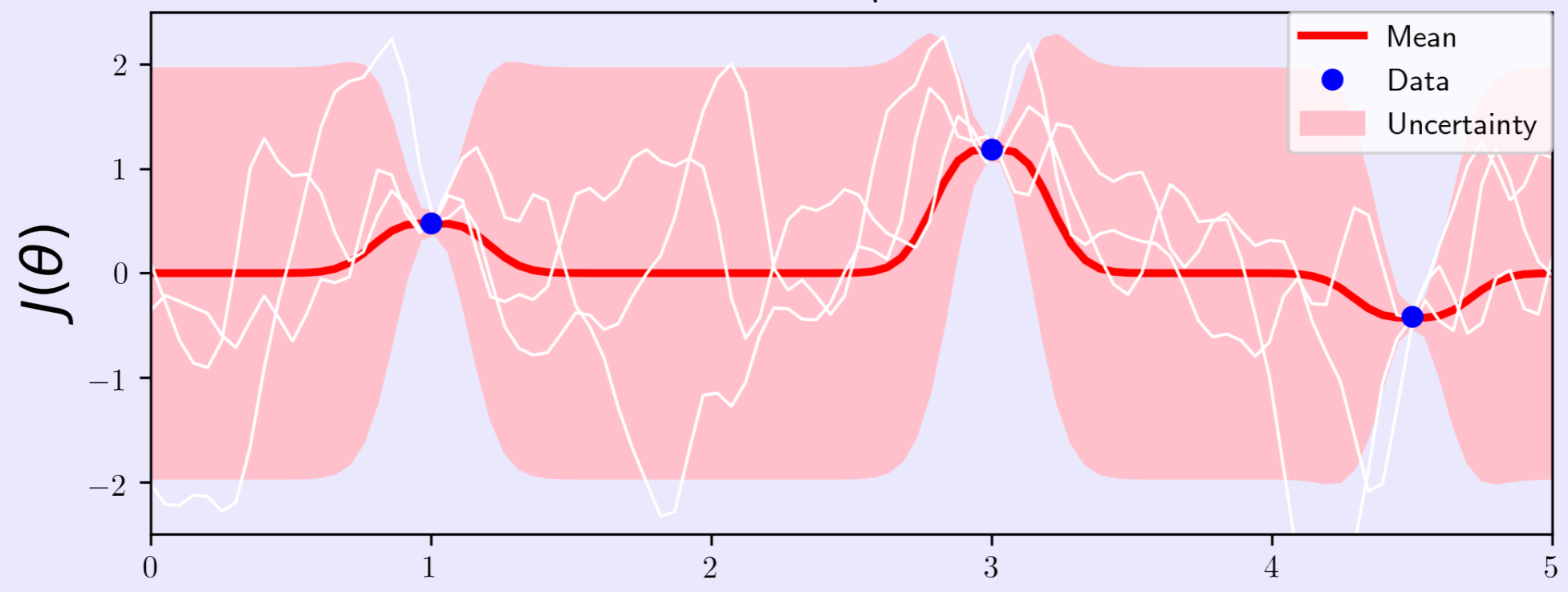


Data

Controller structure into kernel $k(\theta, \theta')$

θ_{i+1}

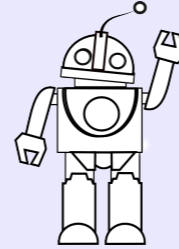
Gaussian process



Iterat

Which kernel describes my data better?

LQR
Controller



Data

$\theta_i, F(\theta_i)$

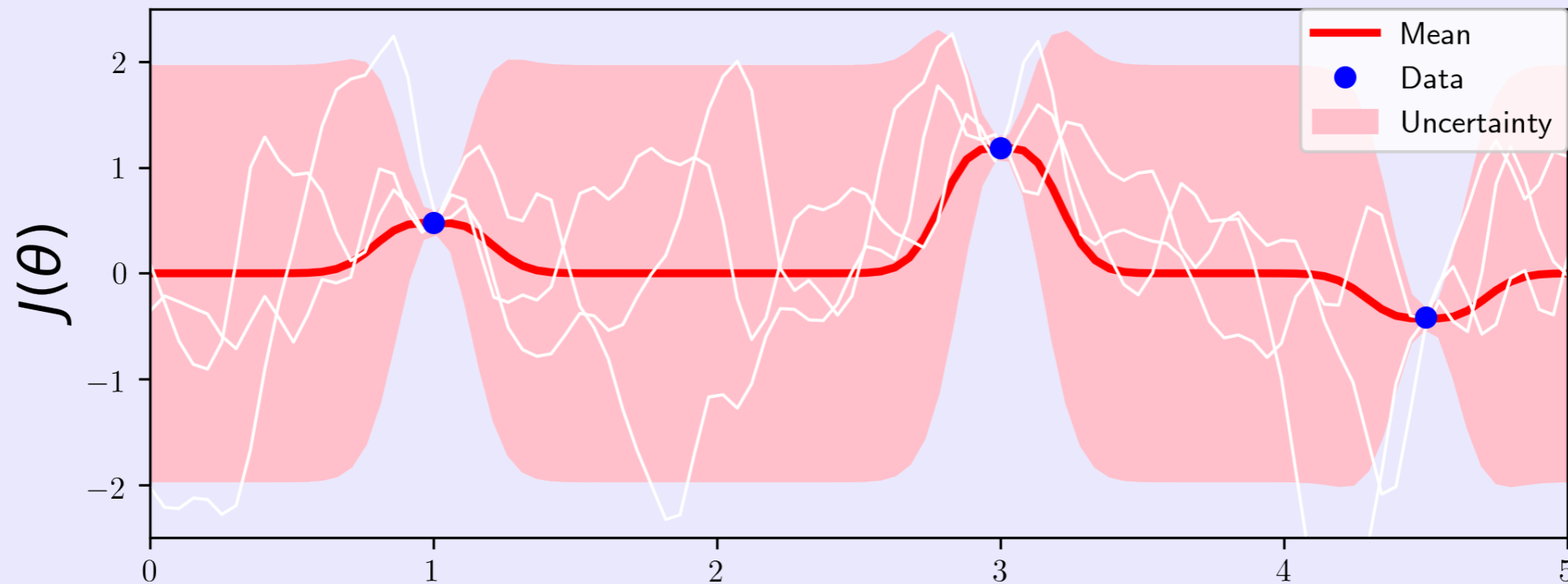
$(\omega_t, \omega_t)_{t=0}$

Cost $J(\theta)$
 $J : \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

LQR kernel

θ_{i+1}

Gaussian process



Goal

*Incorporate LQR controller structure into kernel

Goal

*Incorporate LQR controller structure into kernel

Consider

✓Scalar linear system

Goal

*Incorporate LQR controller structure into kernel

Consider

✓Scalar linear system

Steps

- *Parametric LQR kernel
- *Non-parametric LQR kernel
- *Simulation results

Parametric LQR kernel

Consider a scalar LTI system (\hat{a}, \hat{b})

$$x_{t+1} = \hat{a}x_t + \hat{b}u_t + v_t, \quad v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, v)$$

Model available (a, b)

$$x_{t+1} = ax_t + bu_t + v_t, \quad v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, v)$$

State feedback controller

$$u_t = fx_t$$

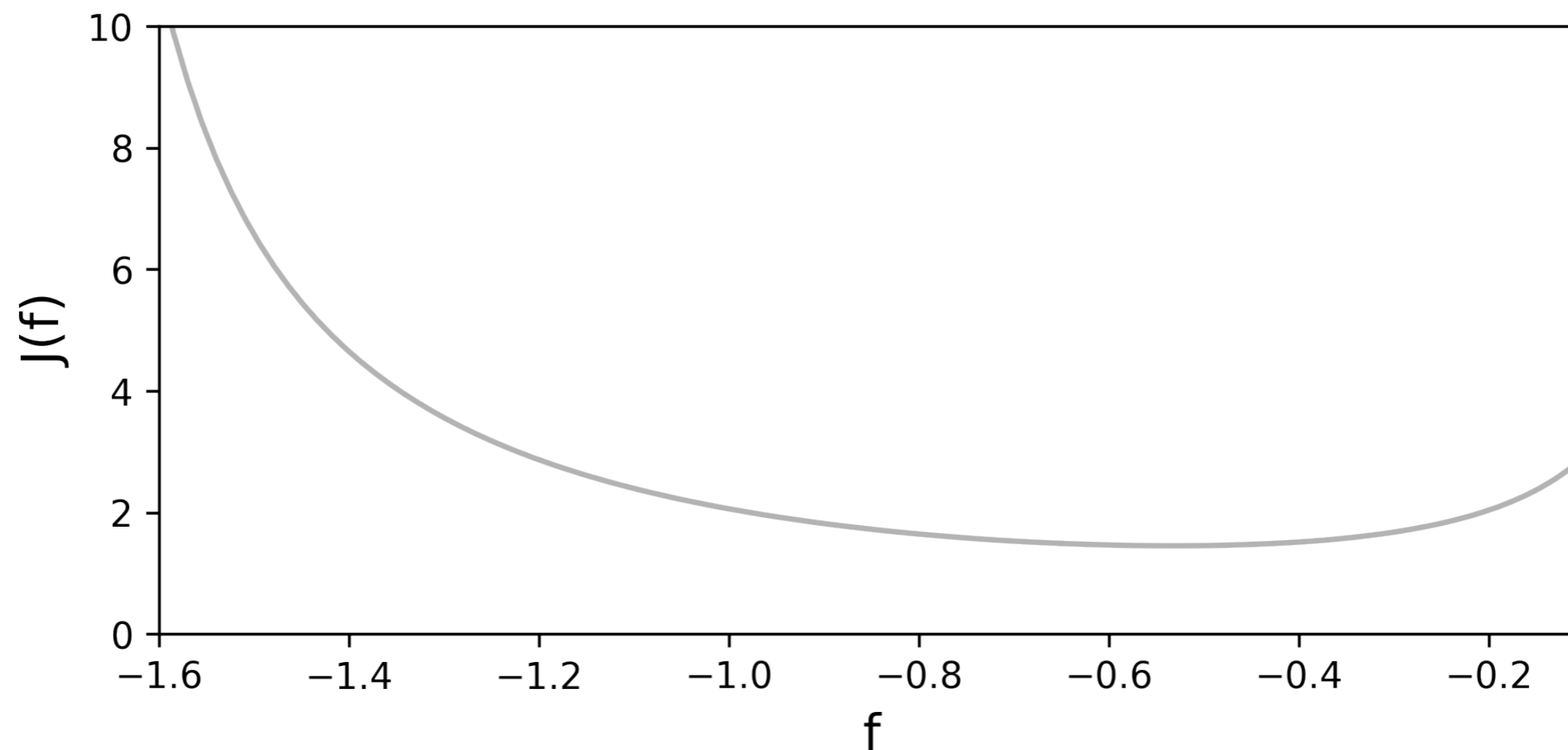
Quadratic cost function

$$J = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{T-1} qx_t^2 + ru_t^2 \right] \longrightarrow J(f) = v \frac{q + rf^2}{1 - (a + bf)^2}$$

Parametric LQR kernel

Deterministic cost function

$$J(f) = v \frac{q + r f^2}{1 - (a + b f)^2}$$



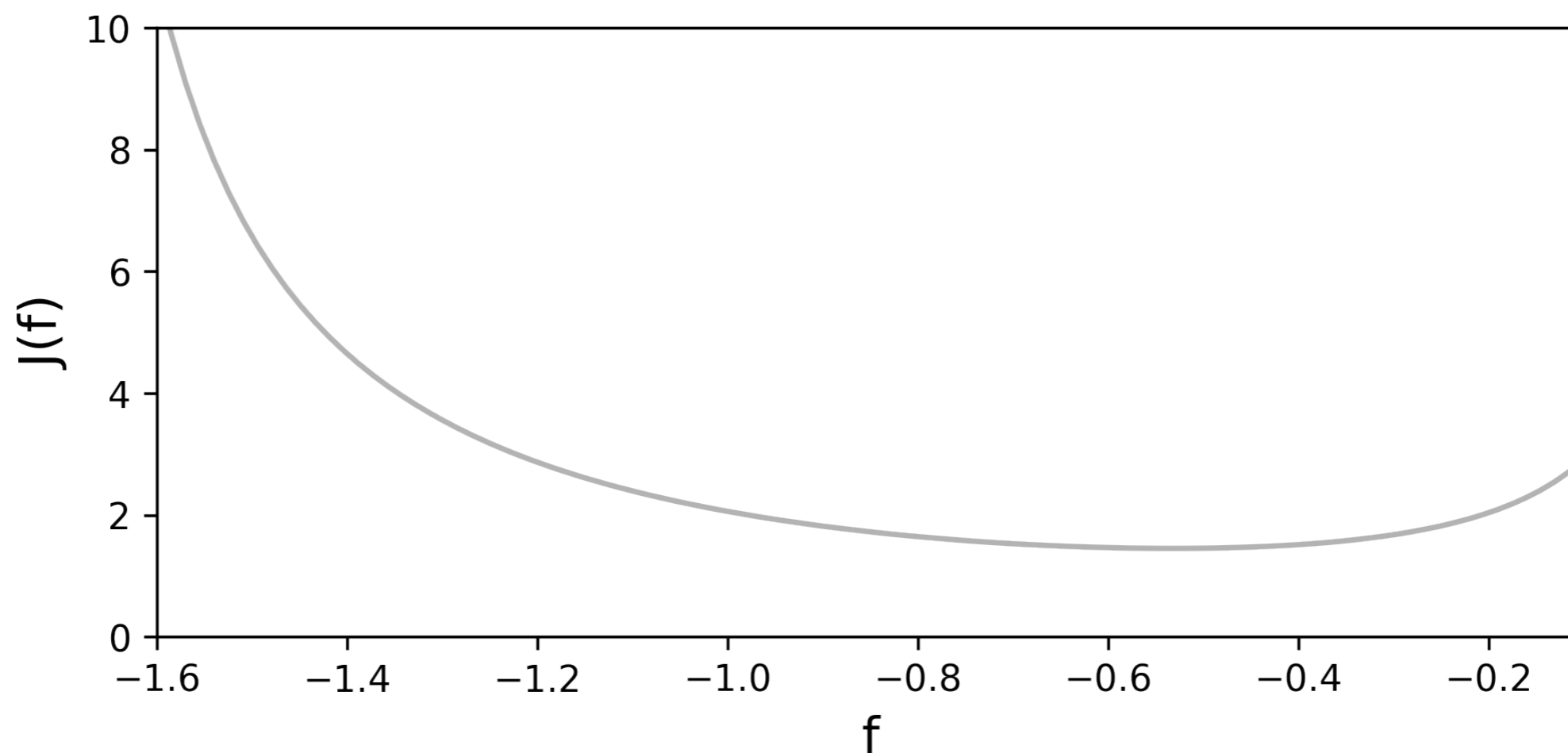
Parametric LQR kernel

Deterministic cost function

$$J(f) = v \frac{q + r f^2}{1 - (a + b f)^2} =: \underline{\phi_{(a,b)}(f)}$$

Stochastic cost function

$$J_{\text{LQR}}(f) = w \underline{\phi_{(a,b)}(f)}, \quad w \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_w^2)$$



Parametric LQR kernel

Deterministic cost function

$$J(f) = v \frac{q + r f^2}{1 - (a + b f)^2} =: \underline{\phi_{(a,b)}(f)}$$

Stochastic cost function

$$J_{\text{LQR}}(f) = w \underline{\phi_{(a,b)}(f)}, \quad w \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_w^2)$$

Expected value $\mathbb{E}[J_{\text{LQR}}(f)] = 0$

Covariance $\text{Cov}[J_{\text{LQR}}(f), J_{\text{LQR}}(f')] = \mathbb{E}[J_{\text{LQR}}(f) J_{\text{LQR}}(f')]$

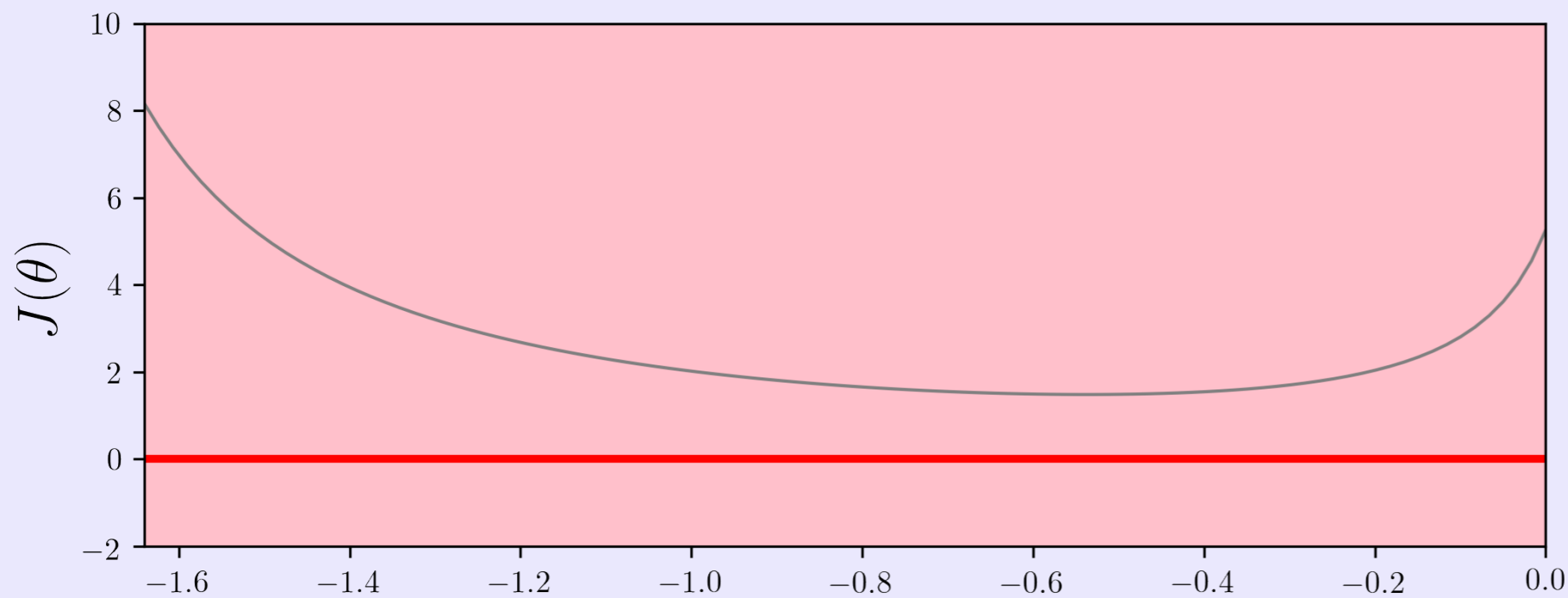
$$\begin{aligned} &= \mathbb{E}[w^2] \phi_{(\bar{a}, \bar{b})}(f) \phi_{(\bar{a}, \bar{b})}(f') \\ &= \sigma_w^2 \phi_{(\bar{a}, \bar{b})}(f) \phi_{(\bar{a}, \bar{b})}(f') \\ &= k_{\text{LQR}}(f, f') \end{aligned}$$

Parametric
LQR kernel

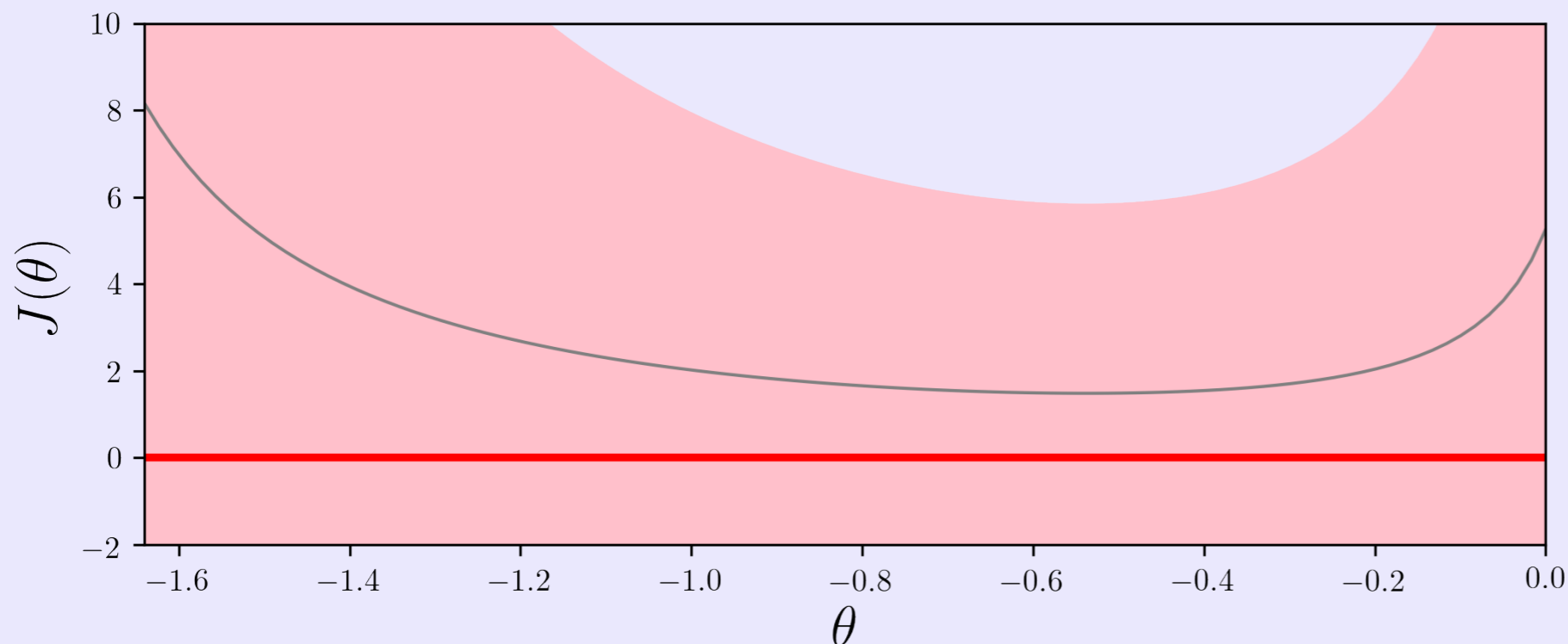
$$k_{\text{pLQR}}(f, f') = \sigma_w^2 \frac{v^2 (q + r f^2)(q + r f'^2)}{(1 - (\bar{a} + \bar{b} f)^2)(1 - (\bar{a} + \bar{b} f')^2)}$$

Parametric LQR kernel

True system $x_{t+1} = 0.9x_t + u_t + v_t, v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$



Standard kernel

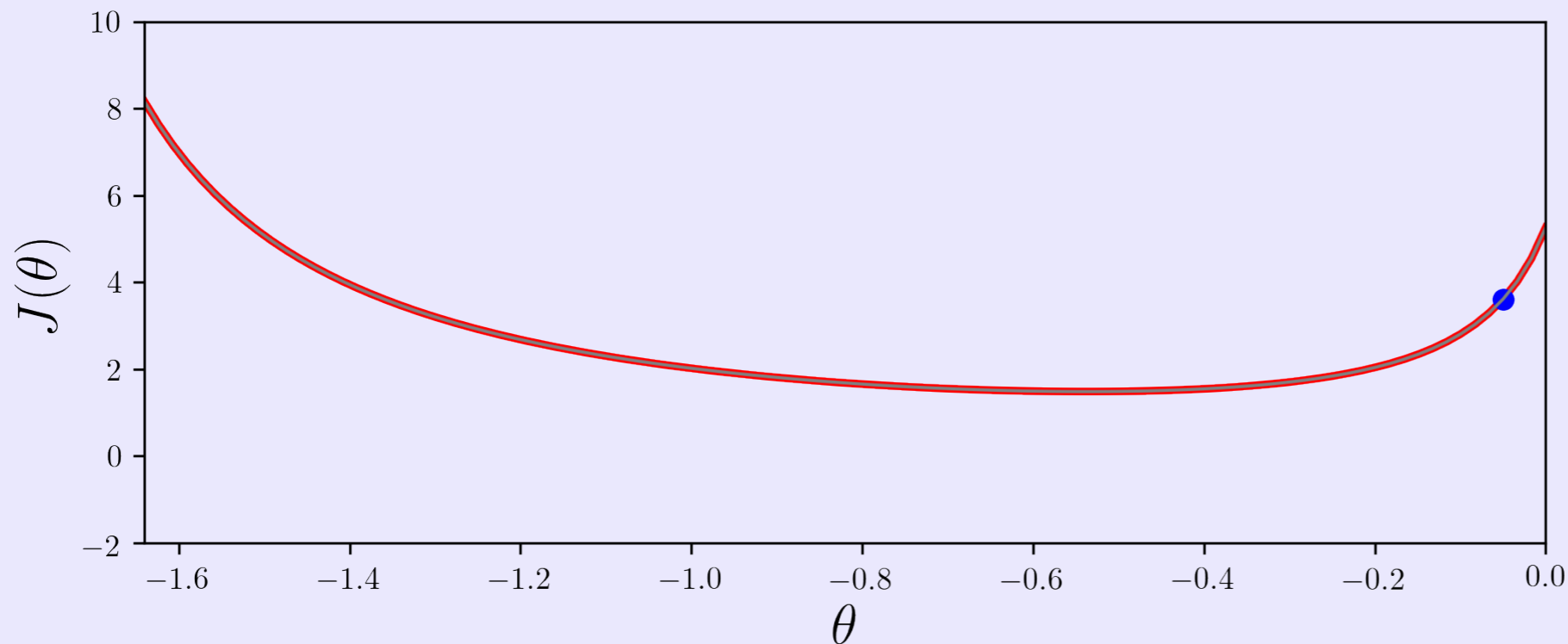
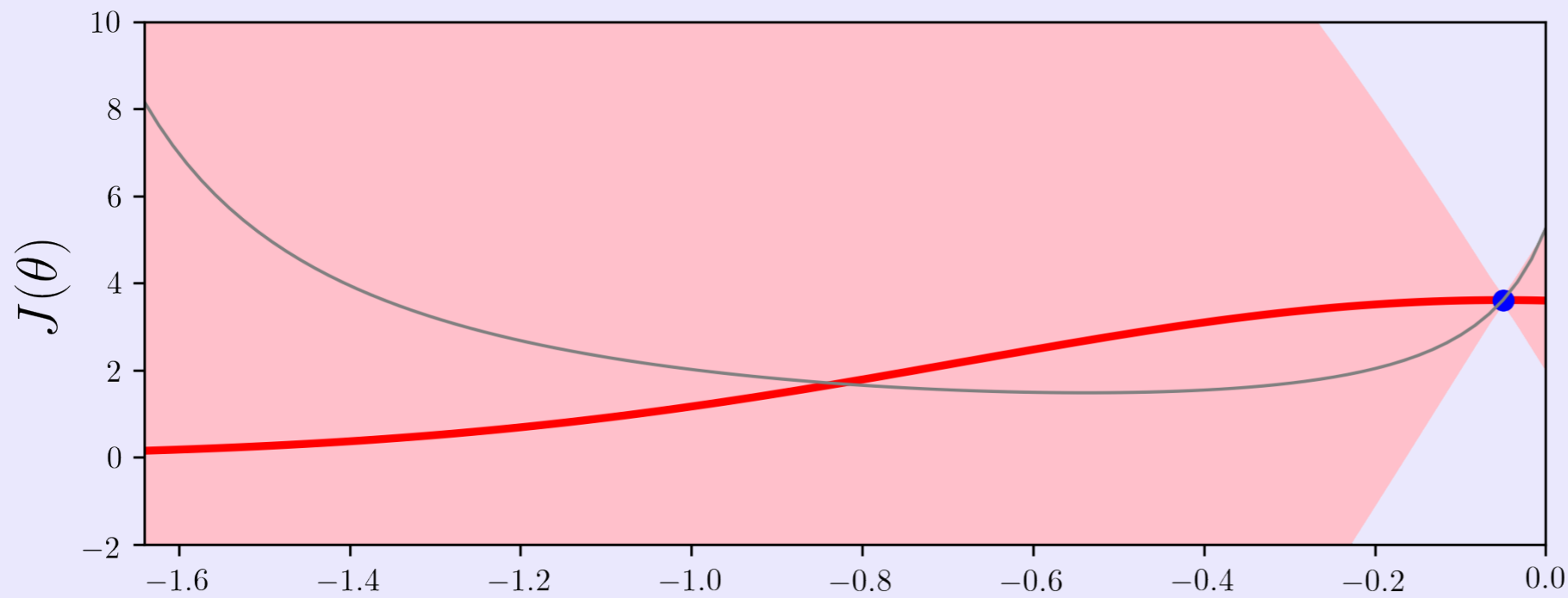


Parametric LQR kernel

$a = 0.9, b = 1$

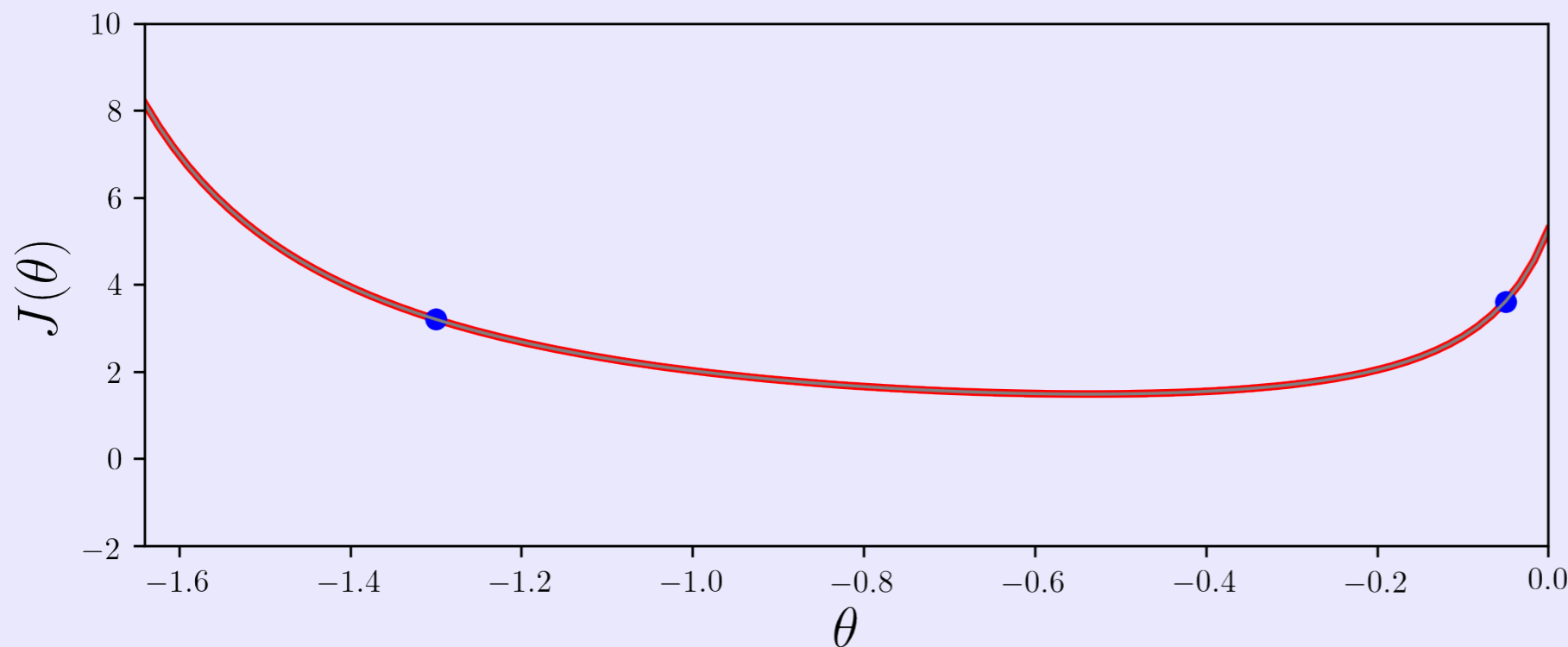
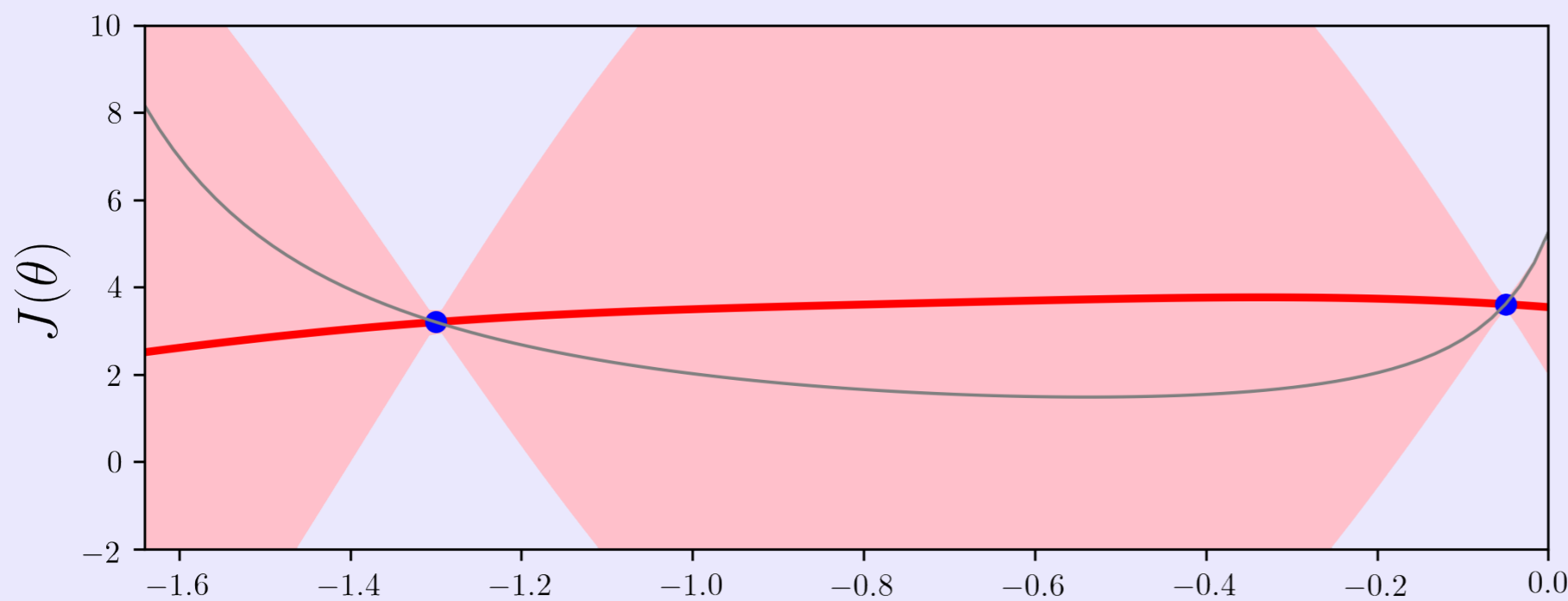
Parametric LQR kernel

True system $x_{t+1} = 0.9x_t + u_t + v_t, v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$



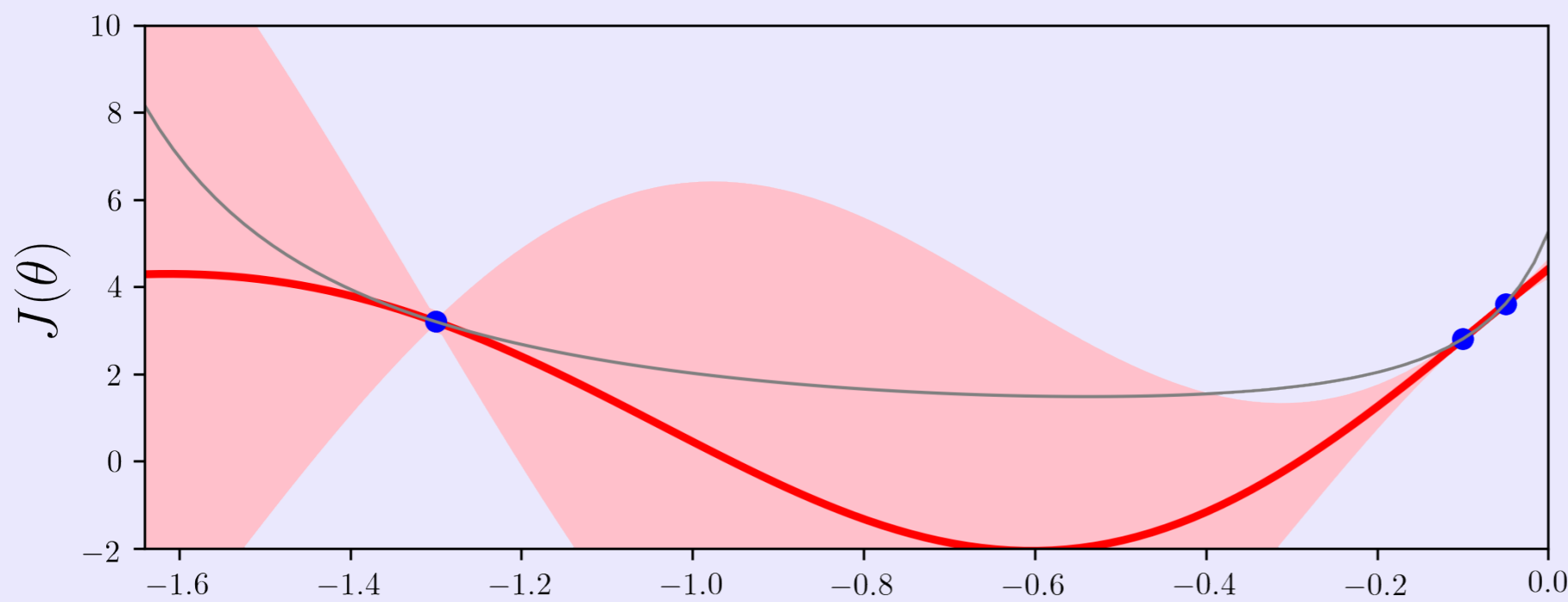
Parametric LQR kernel

True system $x_{t+1} = 0.9x_t + u_t + v_t, v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

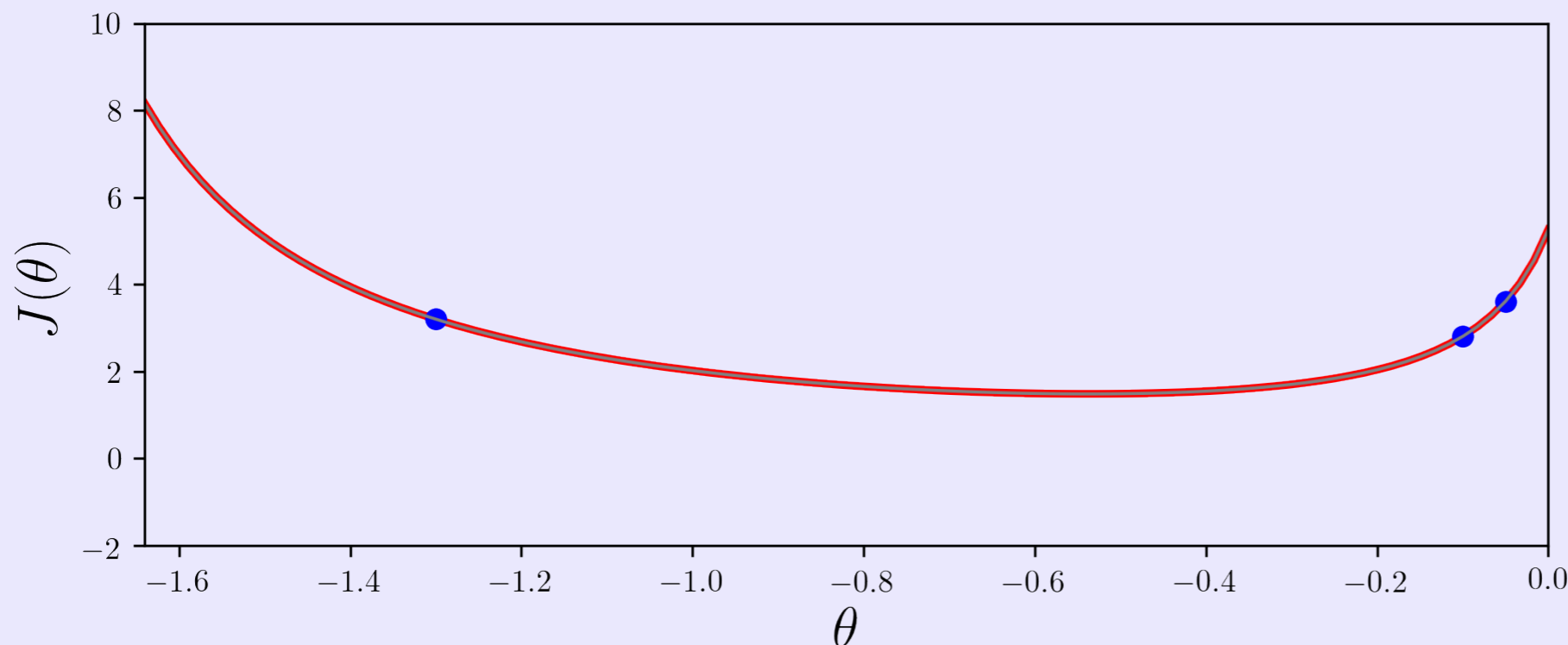


Parametric LQR kernel

True system $x_{t+1} = 0.9x_t + u_t + v_t, v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$



Standard kernel

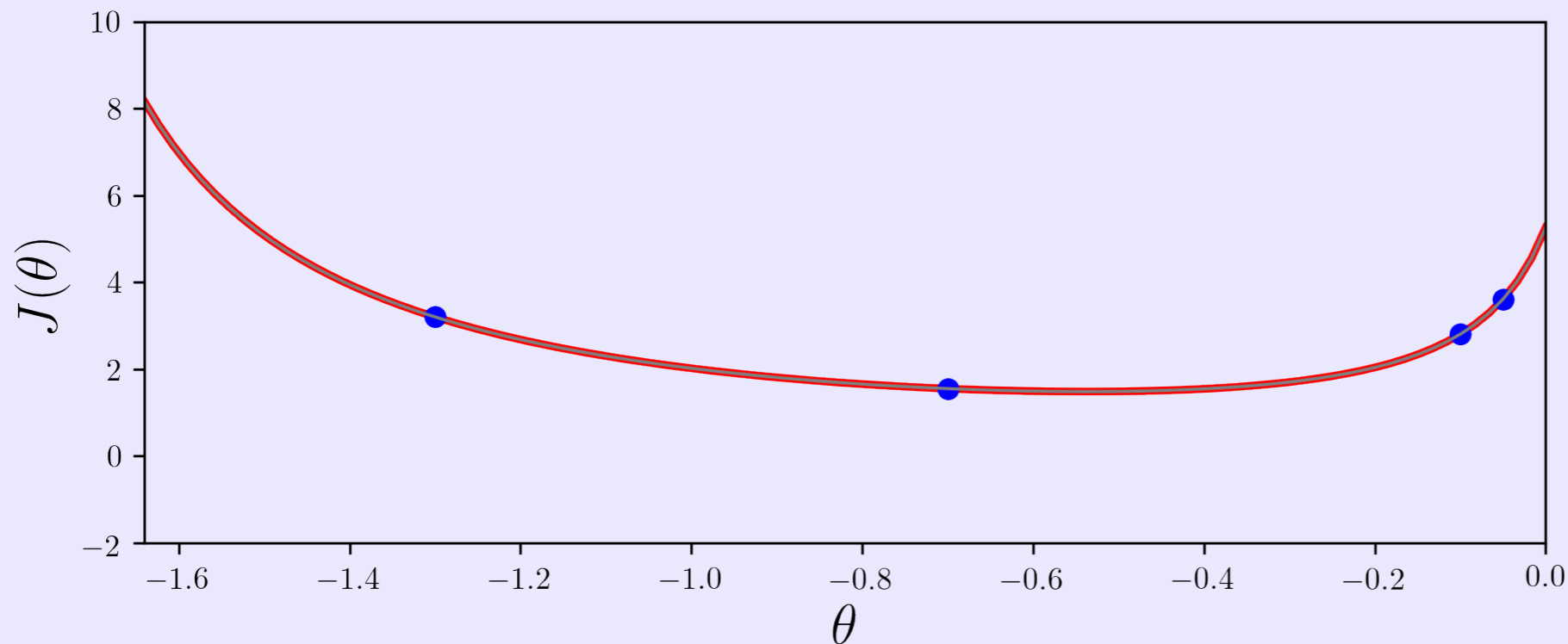
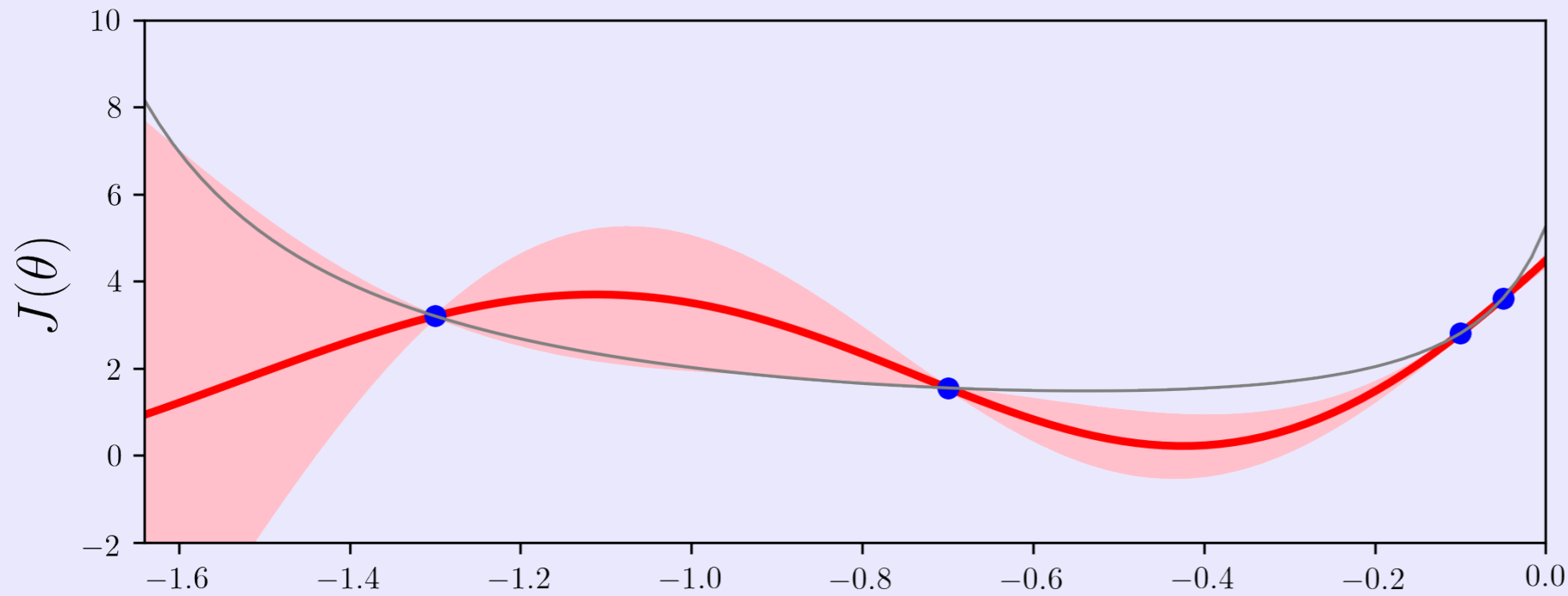


Parametric LQR kernel

$a = 0.9, b = 1$

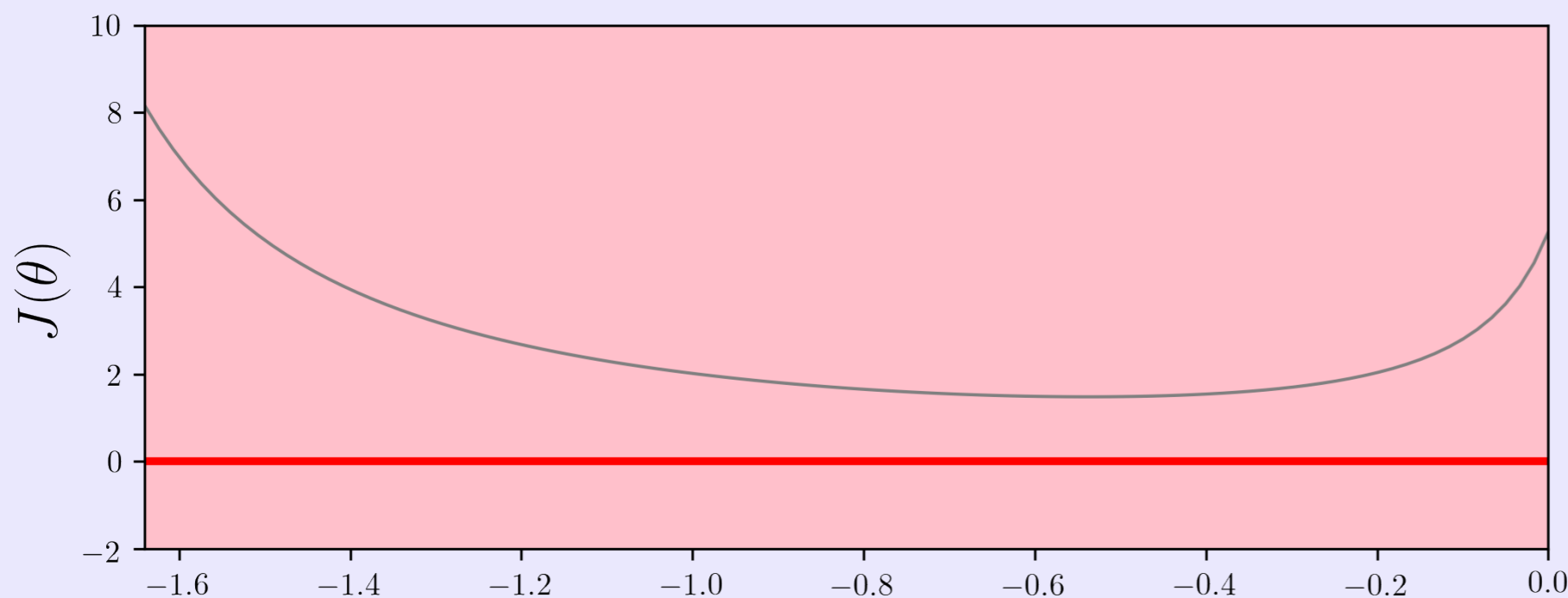
Parametric LQR kernel

True system $x_{t+1} = 0.9x_t + u_t + v_t, v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

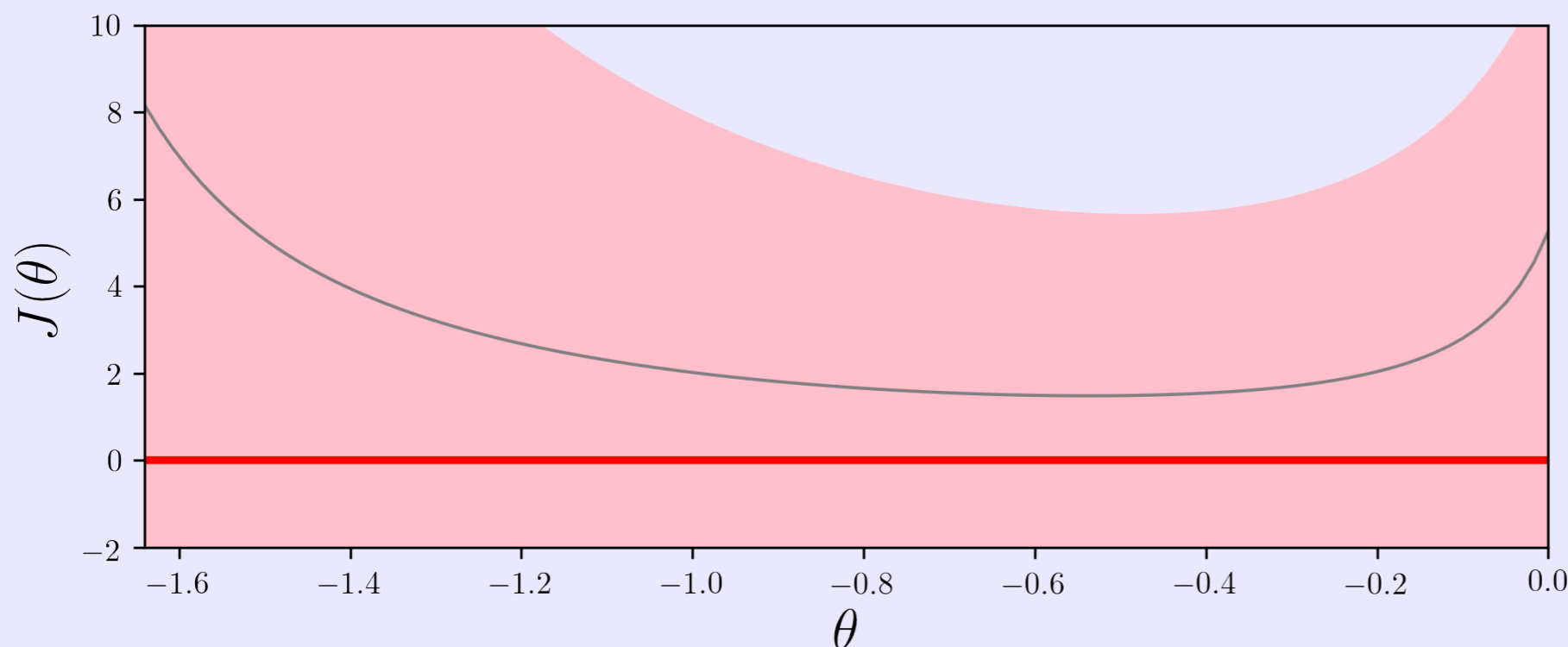


Parametric LQR kernel

True system $x_{t+1} = 0.9x_t + u_t + v_t, v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$



Standard kernel



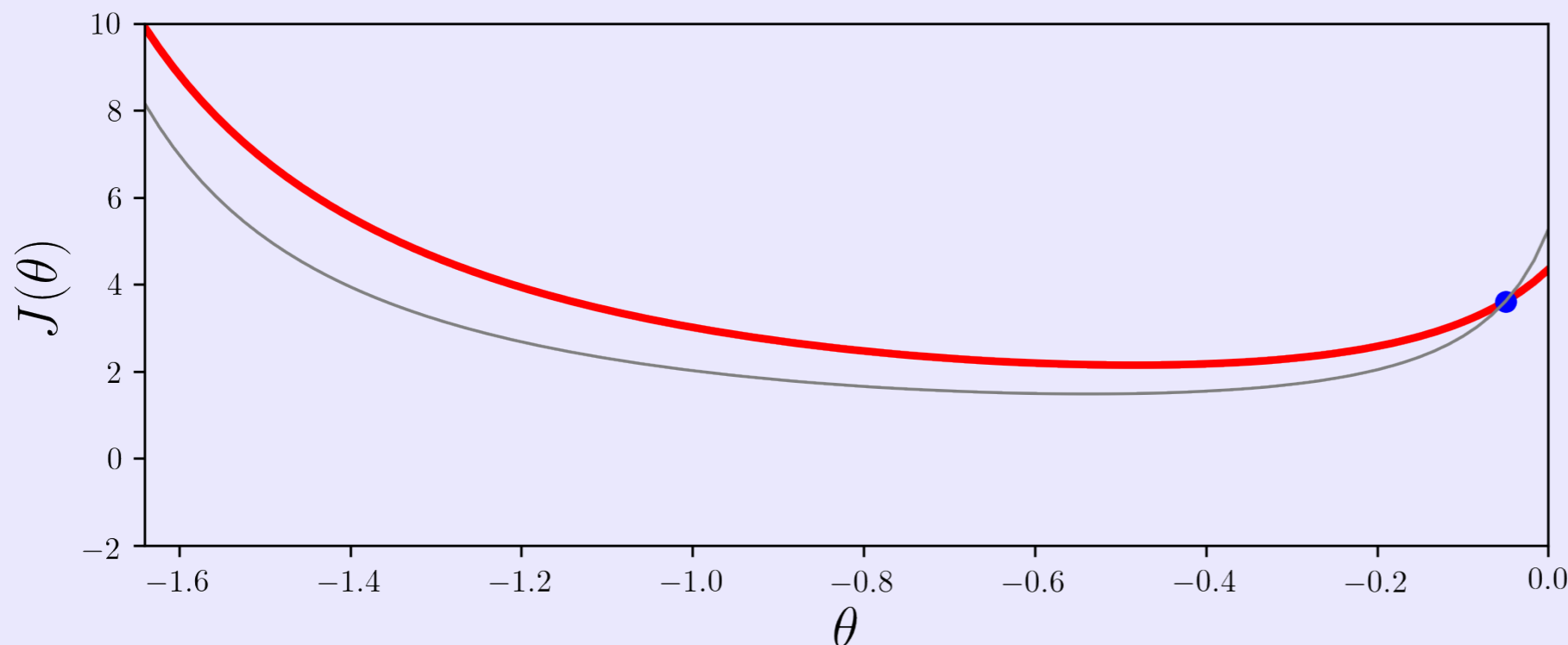
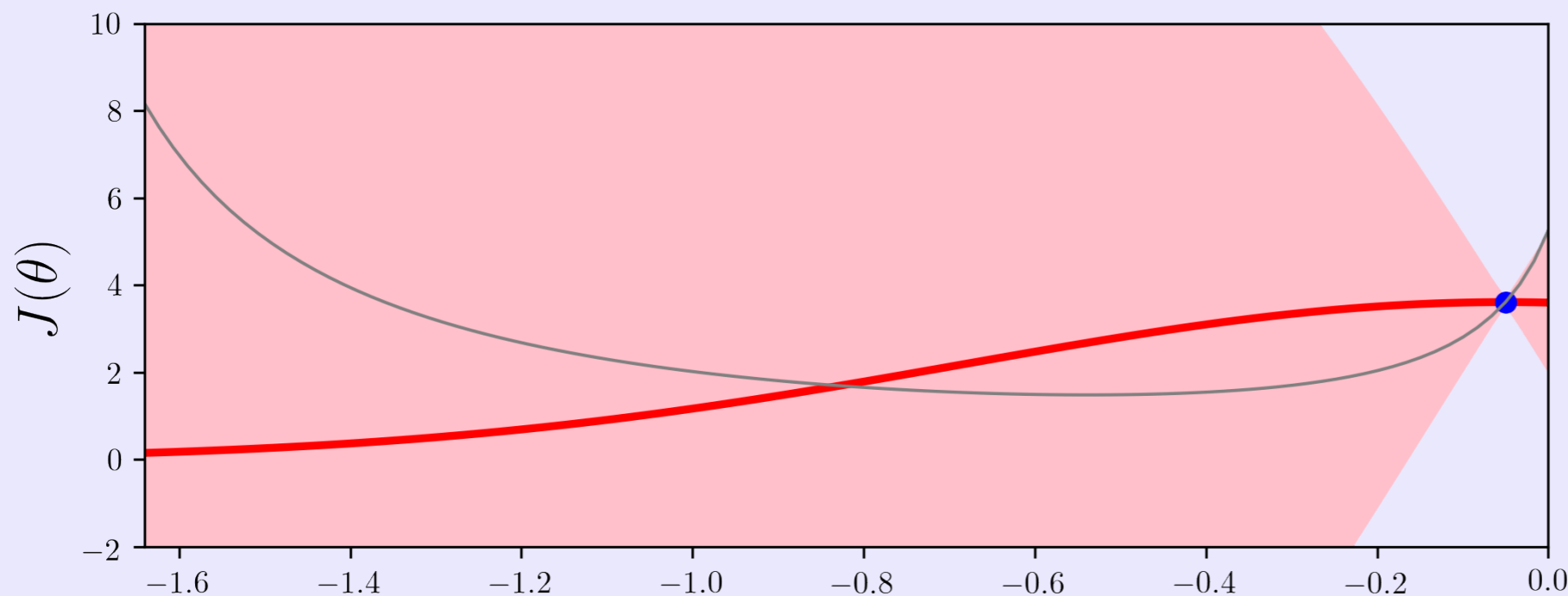
Parametric LQR kernel

$a = 0.8, b = 0.9$

~10% OFF!

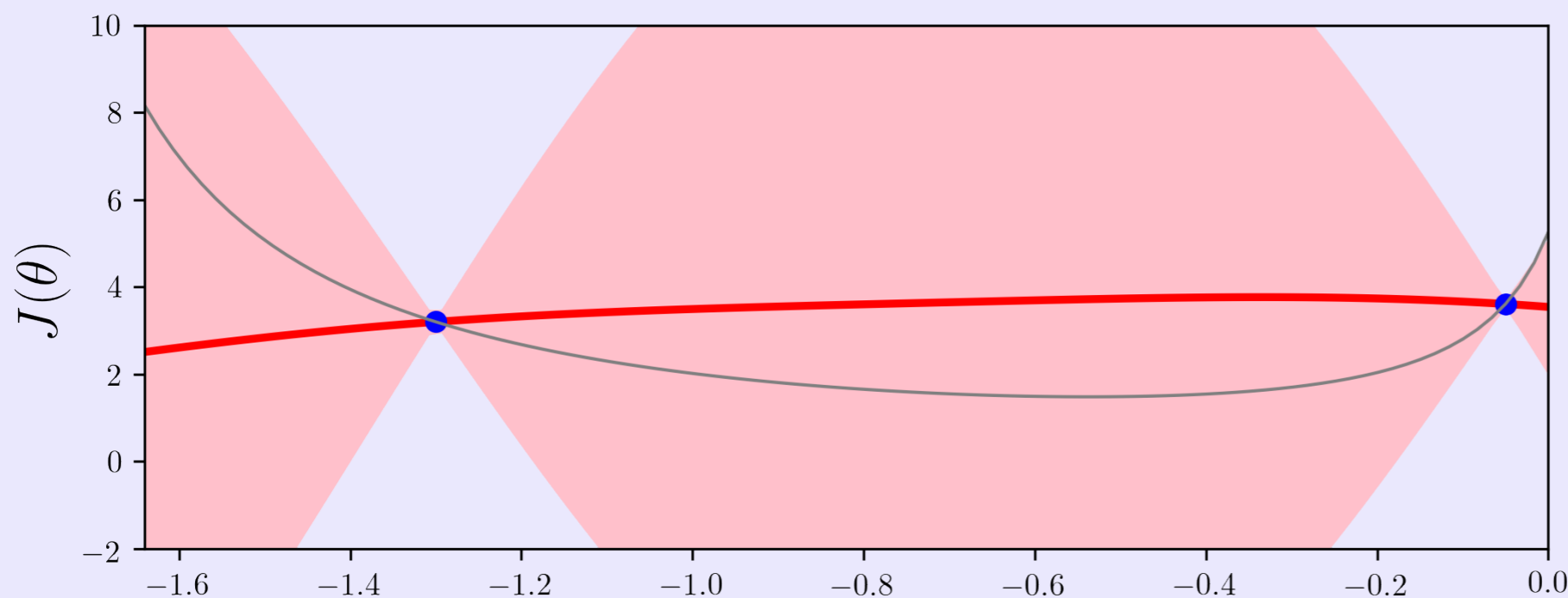
Parametric LQR kernel

True system $x_{t+1} = 0.9x_t + u_t + v_t, v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

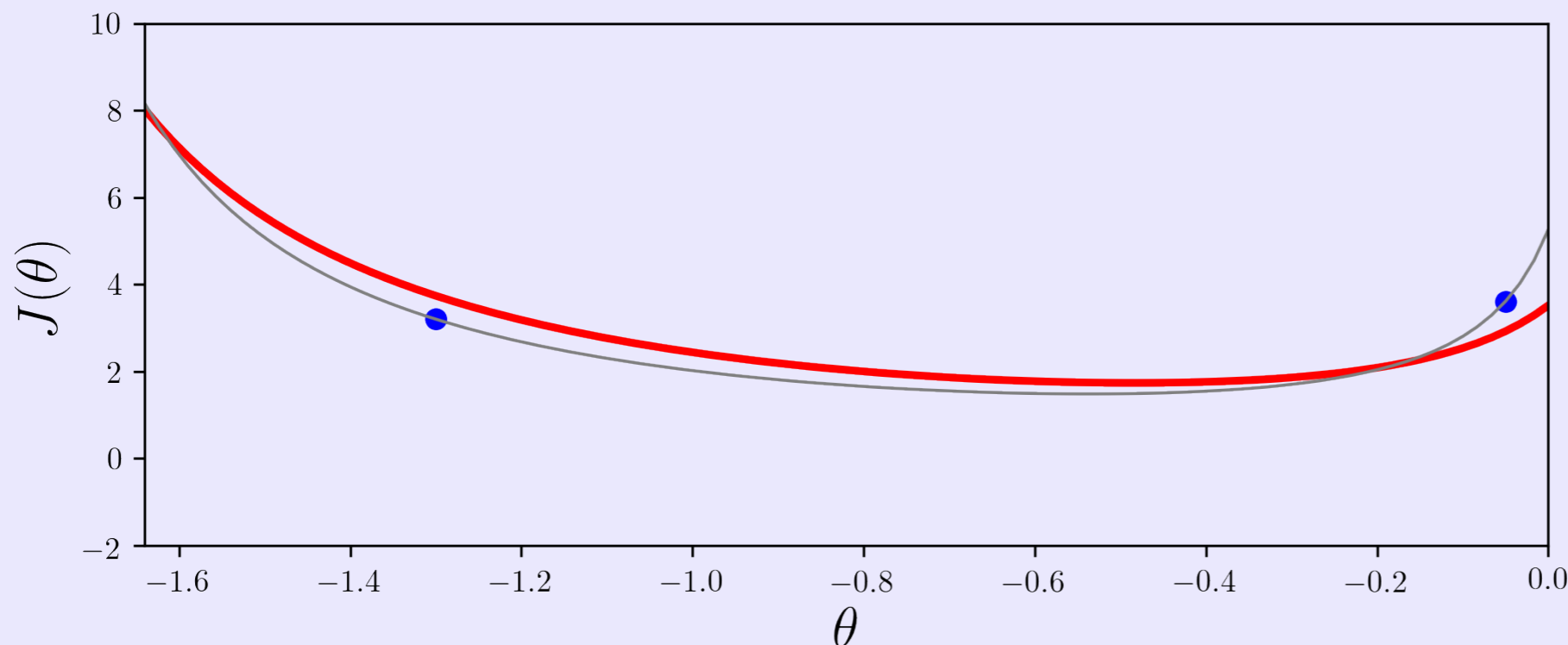


Parametric LQR kernel

True system $x_{t+1} = 0.9x_t + u_t + v_t, v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$



Standard kernel



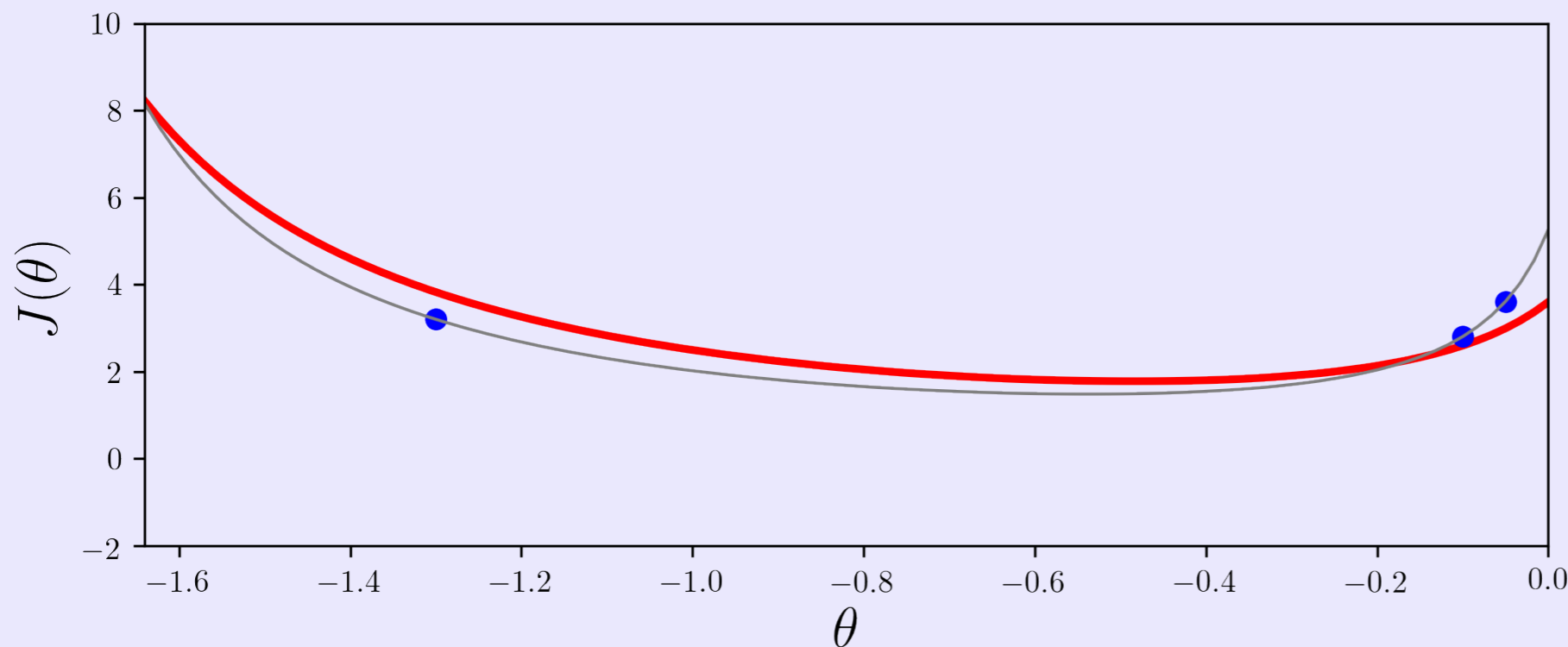
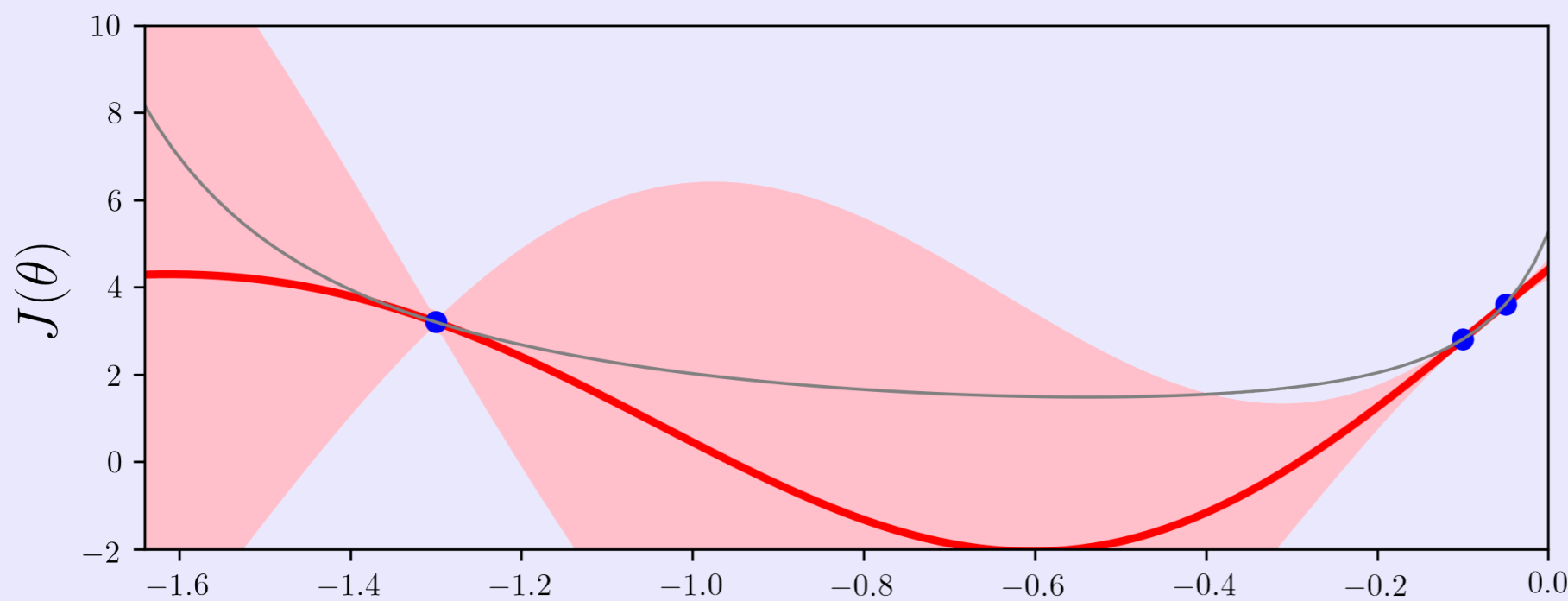
Parametric LQR kernel

$a = 0.8, b = 0.9$

~10% OFF!

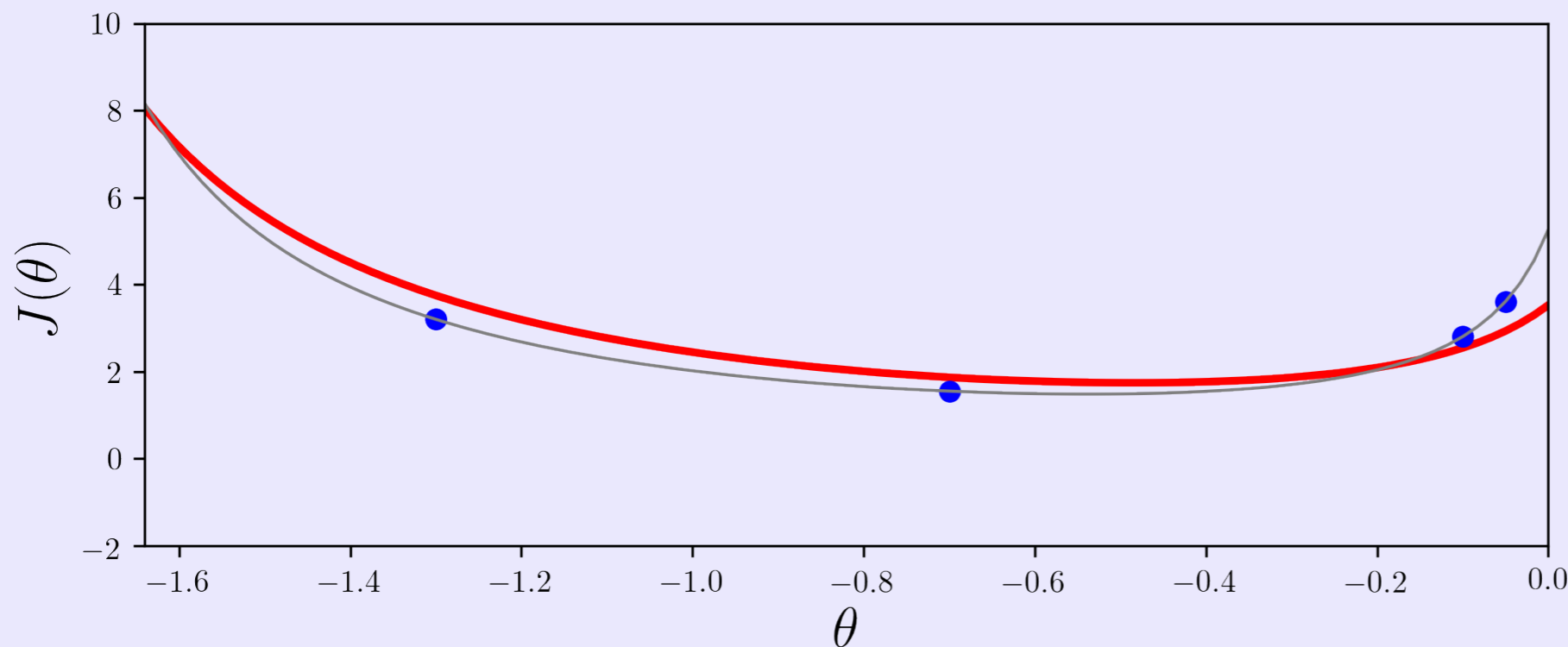
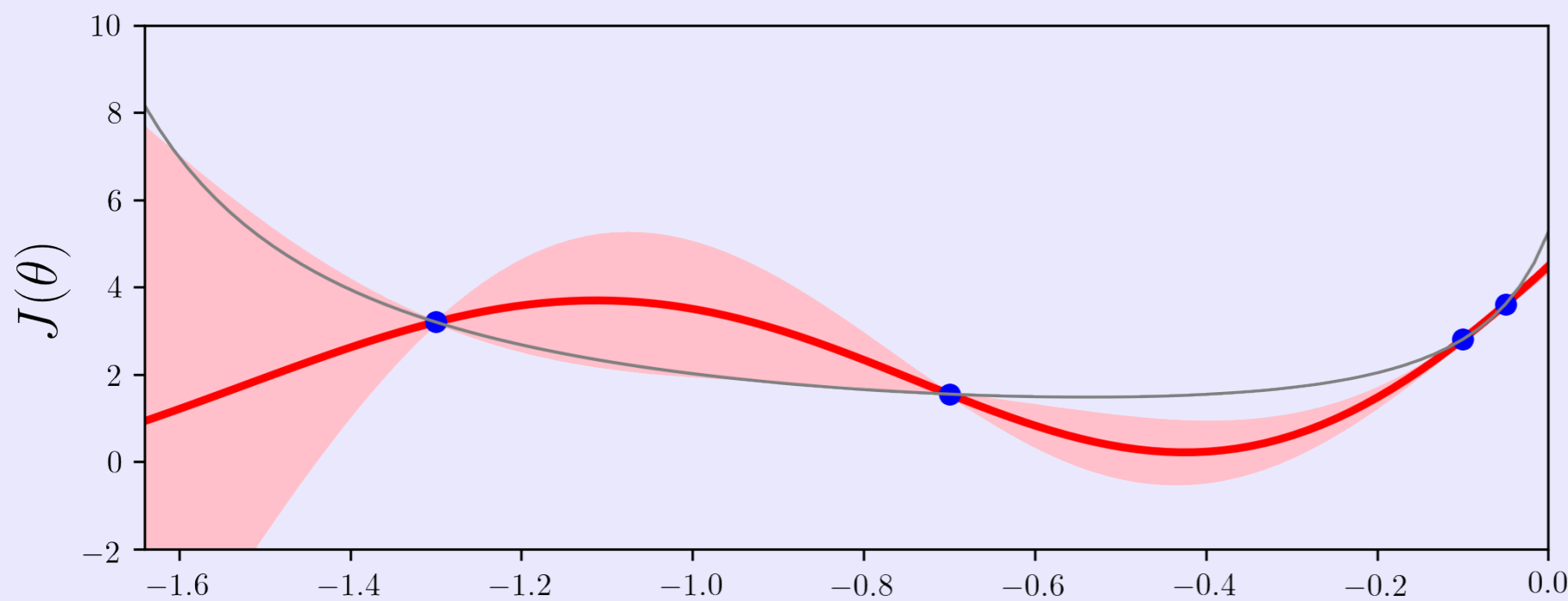
Parametric LQR kernel

True system $x_{t+1} = 0.9x_t + u_t + v_t, v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$



Parametric LQR kernel

True system $x_{t+1} = 0.9x_t + u_t + v_t, v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$



Goal

* Incorporate LQR controller structure into kernel

Consider

✓ Scalar linear system

Steps

✓ Parametric LQR kernel

* **Non-parametric LQR kernel**

* Simulated results

Non-parametric LQR kernel

Consider a scalar LTI system (\hat{a}, \hat{b})

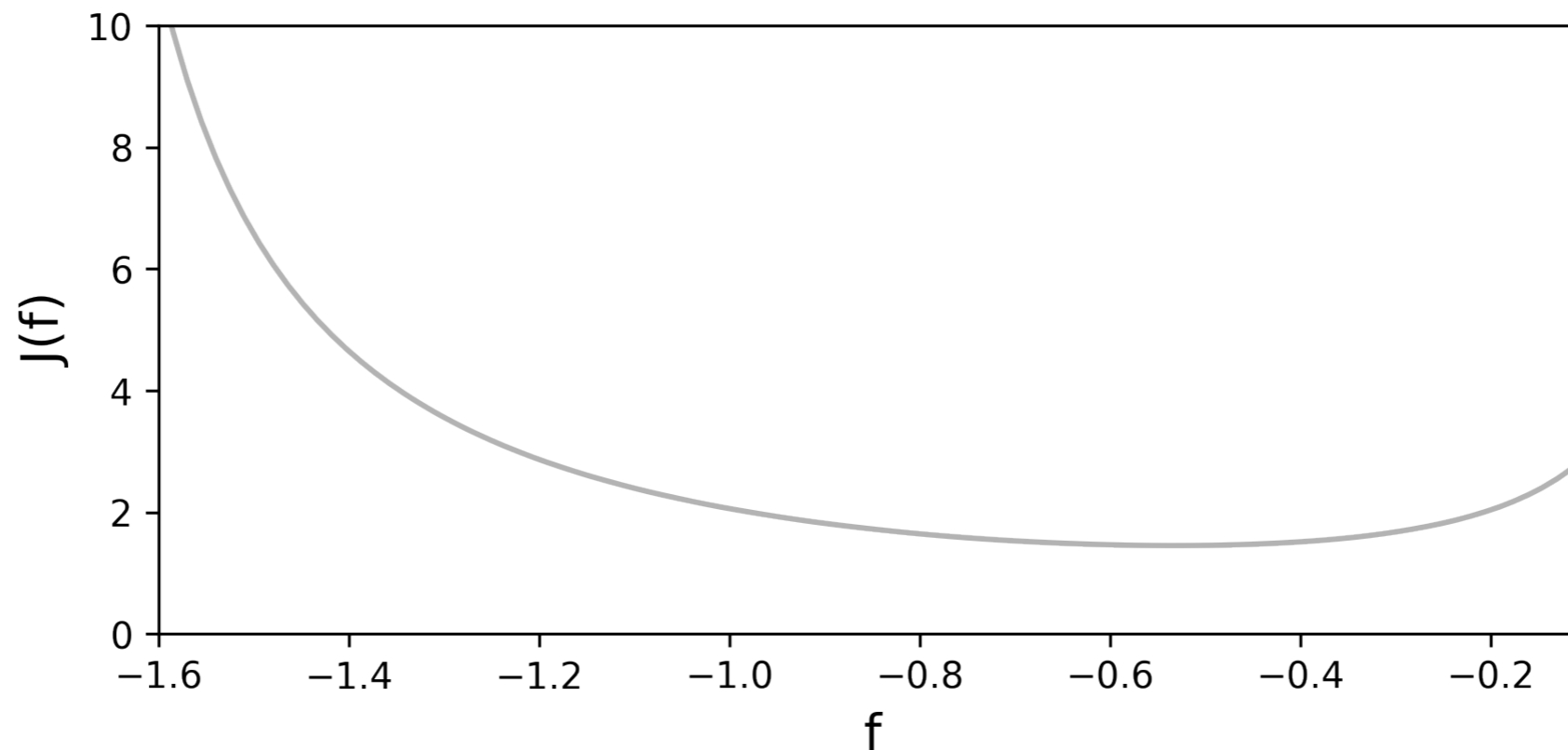
$$x_{t+1} = \hat{a}x_t + \hat{b}u_t + v_t, \quad v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, v)$$

Uncertain model (a, b)

$$x_{t+1} = ax_t + bu_t + v_t, \quad v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, v)$$
$$a \in [a_{\min}, a_{\max}], b \in [b_{\min}, b_{\max}]$$

Stochastic cost: one feature

$$J_{\text{LQR}}(f) = w \phi_{(a,b)}(f), \quad w \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_w^2)$$



Non-parametric LQR kernel

Consider a scalar LTI system (\hat{a}, \hat{b})

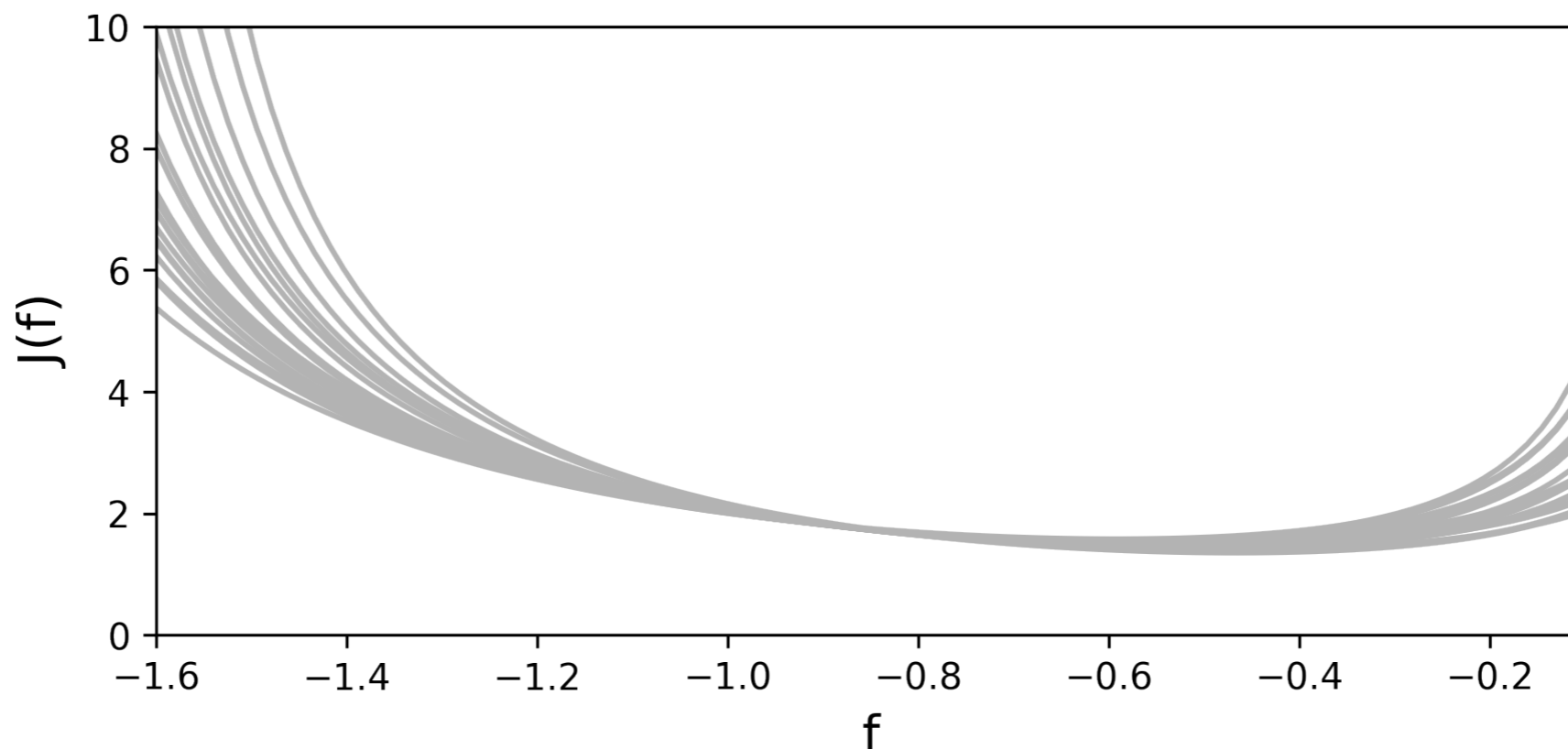
$$x_{t+1} = \hat{a}x_t + \hat{b}u_t + v_t, \quad v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, v)$$

Uncertain model (a, b)

$$x_{t+1} = ax_t + bu_t + v_t, \quad v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, v)$$
$$a \in [a_{\min}, a_{\max}], b \in [b_{\min}, b_{\max}]$$

Stochastic cost: m features

$$J_{\text{LQR}}(f) = \underbrace{[\phi_{(a_1, b_1)}(f) \quad \phi_{(a_2, b_2)}(f) \quad \cdots \quad \phi_{(a_m, b_m)}(f)]}_{=:\Phi^T(f)} w = \Phi^T(f)w, \quad w \in \mathbb{R}^m, w \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_w)$$



Non-parametric LQR kernel

Consider a scalar LTI system (\hat{a}, \hat{b})

$$x_{t+1} = \hat{a}x_t + \hat{b}u_t + v_t, \quad v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, v)$$

Uncertain model (a, b)

$$x_{t+1} = ax_t + bu_t + v_t, \quad v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, v)$$
$$a \in [a_{\min}, a_{\max}], \quad b \in [b_{\min}, b_{\max}]$$

Stochastic cost: m features

$$J_{\text{LQR}}(f) = \underbrace{[\phi_{(a_1, b_1)}(f) \quad \phi_{(a_2, b_2)}(f) \quad \cdots \quad \phi_{(a_m, b_m)}(f)]}_{=:\Phi^{\text{T}}(f)} w = \Phi^{\text{T}}(f)w, \quad w \in \mathbb{R}^m, w \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_w)$$

Parametric LQR kernel with m features

$$k_{\text{pLQR}, m}(f, f') = \Phi^{\text{T}}(f) \Sigma_w \Phi(f')$$

Non-parametric LQR kernel

Consider a scalar LTI system (\hat{a}, \hat{b})

$$x_{t+1} = \hat{a}x_t + \hat{b}u_t + v_t, \quad v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, v)$$

Uncertain model (a, b)

$$x_{t+1} = ax_t + bu_t + v_t, \quad v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, v)$$

$$a \in [a_{\min}, a_{\max}], \quad b \in [b_{\min}, b_{\max}]$$

Stochastic cost: m features

$$J_{\text{LQR}}(f) = \underbrace{[\phi_{(a_1, b_1)}(f) \quad \phi_{(a_2, b_2)}(f) \quad \cdots \quad \phi_{(a_m, b_m)}(f)]}_{=:\Phi^T(f)} w = \Phi^T(f)w, \quad w \in \mathbb{R}^m, w \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_w)$$

Parametric LQR kernel with m features

$$k_{\text{pLQR}, m}(f, f') = \Phi^T(f) \Sigma_w \Phi(f')$$

Kernel trick

$$\Sigma_w = \sigma_w^2 I, \quad \sigma_w \propto 1/m$$

Use as many features as possible: $m \rightarrow \infty$

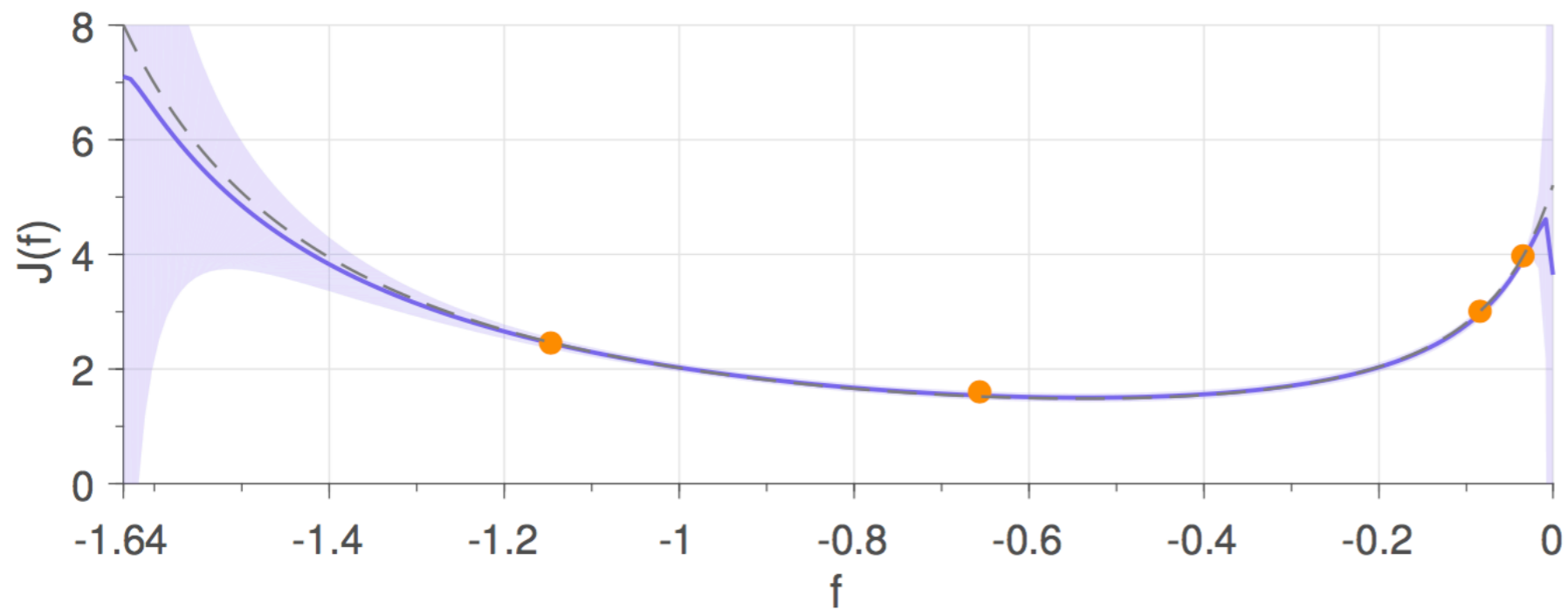
$$k_{\text{nLQR}}(f, f') = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} k_{\text{pLQR}, m}(f, f')$$

$$= \sigma_n^2 \int_{b_{\min}}^{b_{\max}} \int_{a_{\min}}^{a_{\max}} \phi_{(a, b)}(f) \phi_{(a, b)}(f') da db$$

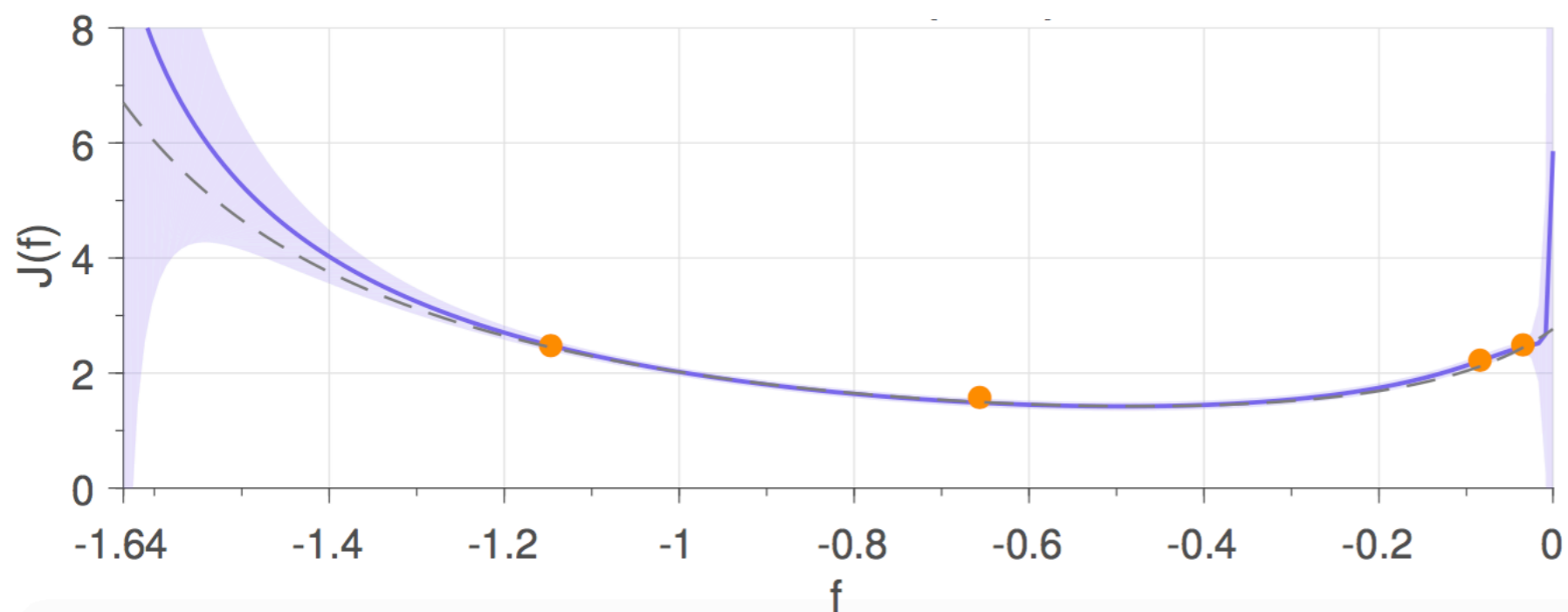
Non-parametric LQR kernel

Non-parametric LQR kernel

Uncertainty ranges $a \in [0.8, 1.0]$, $b \in [0.9, 1.1]$



$$(\hat{a}, \hat{b}) = (0.9, 1.0)$$



$$(\hat{a}, \hat{b}) = (0.8, 0.9)$$

Goal

*Incorporate LQR controller structure into kernel

Consider

✓Scalar linear system

Steps

✓Parametric LQR kernel

✓Non-parametric LQR kernel

*Simulated results

Simulations

LQR kernel fitting performance: 1000 simulations, 2 evaluations

Kernel	RMSE
Squared exponential	2.49
Parametric LQR kernel	1.02
Parametric LQR kernel - infer (a,b)	1.09
Non-parametric LQR kernel	1.22

Bayesian optimization: 100 runs, 2 evaluations

Kernel	Regret
Squared exponential	1.34
Parametric LQR kernel	0.30
Parametric LQR kernel - infer (a,b)	0.32
Non-parametric LQR kernel	0.35

Combined kernel

Non-linear system

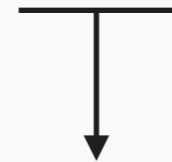
$$x_{t+1} = h(x_t, u_t, v_t)$$

Uncertain model (a, b)

$$x_{t+1} = ax_t + bu_t + v_t, \quad v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, v)$$

$$a \in [a_{\min}, a_{\max}], b \in [b_{\min}, b_{\max}]$$

$$J(f) = J_{\text{LQR}}(f) + J_{\Delta}(f)$$



Error term

$$J(f) \sim \mathcal{GP}(0, k_{\text{LQR}}(f) + k_{\text{SE}}(f))$$

Goal

- ✓ Incorporate LQR controller structure into kernel

Consider

- ✓ Scalar linear system

Steps

- ✓ Parametric LQR kernel
- ✓ Non-parametric LQR kernel
- ✓ Simulated results

Conclusions

- ✓ Parametric LQR kernel
- ✓ Non-parametric LQR kernel
- ✓ Sample efficiency for LQR problems
- ✓ Non-linear systems

Goal

- ✓ Incorporate LQR controller structure into kernel

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- ✓ Parametric LQR kernel
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Conclusions

- ✓ Parametric LQR kernel
- ✓ Non-parametric LQR kernel
- ✓ Sample efficiency for LQR problems
- ✓ Non-linear systems

Future work

- * Extensions to vector systems
- * Real system experiments

Thank you for your attention

Backup slides

*Gaussian process: mean and kernel

$$J(\theta) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mu(\theta), k(\theta, \theta'))$$

*kernel defines correlation

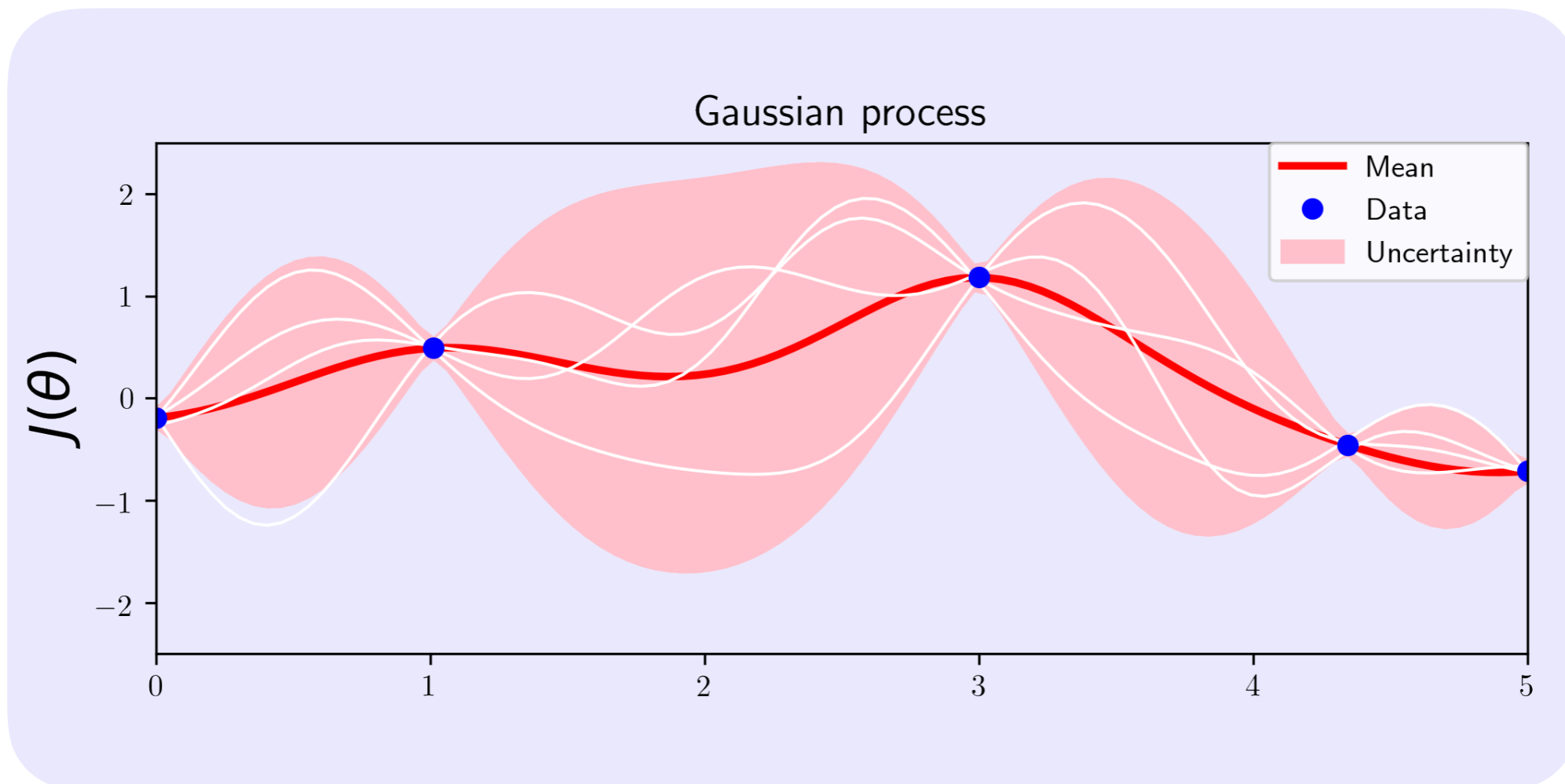
$$k(\theta, \theta') = \text{Cov}(J(\theta), J(\theta'))$$

Cost $J(\theta)$
 $J : \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Iterat

$\theta_i,$

θ_{i+1}



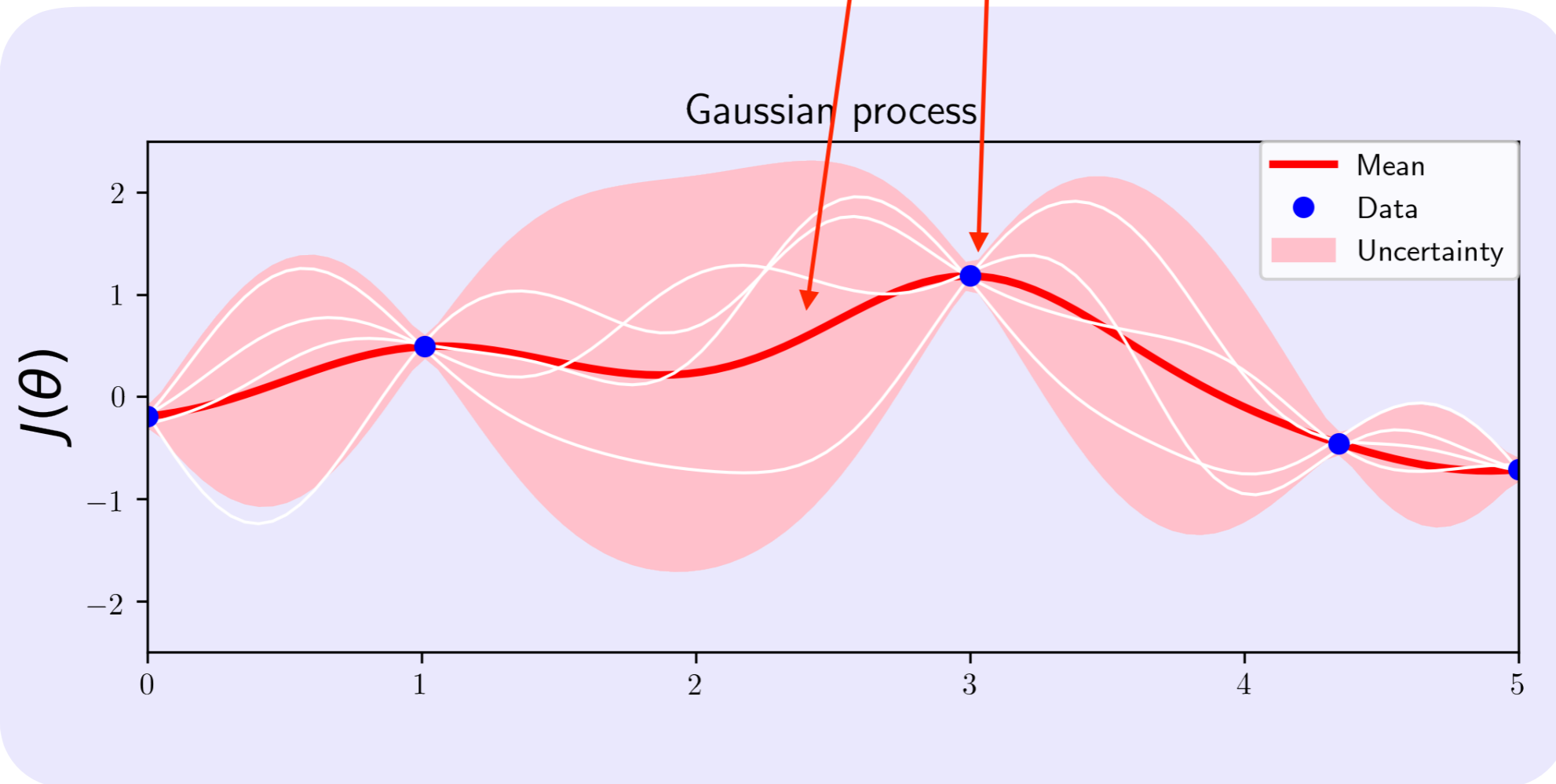
*Gaussian process: mean and kernel

$$J(\theta) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mu(\theta), k(\theta, \theta'))$$

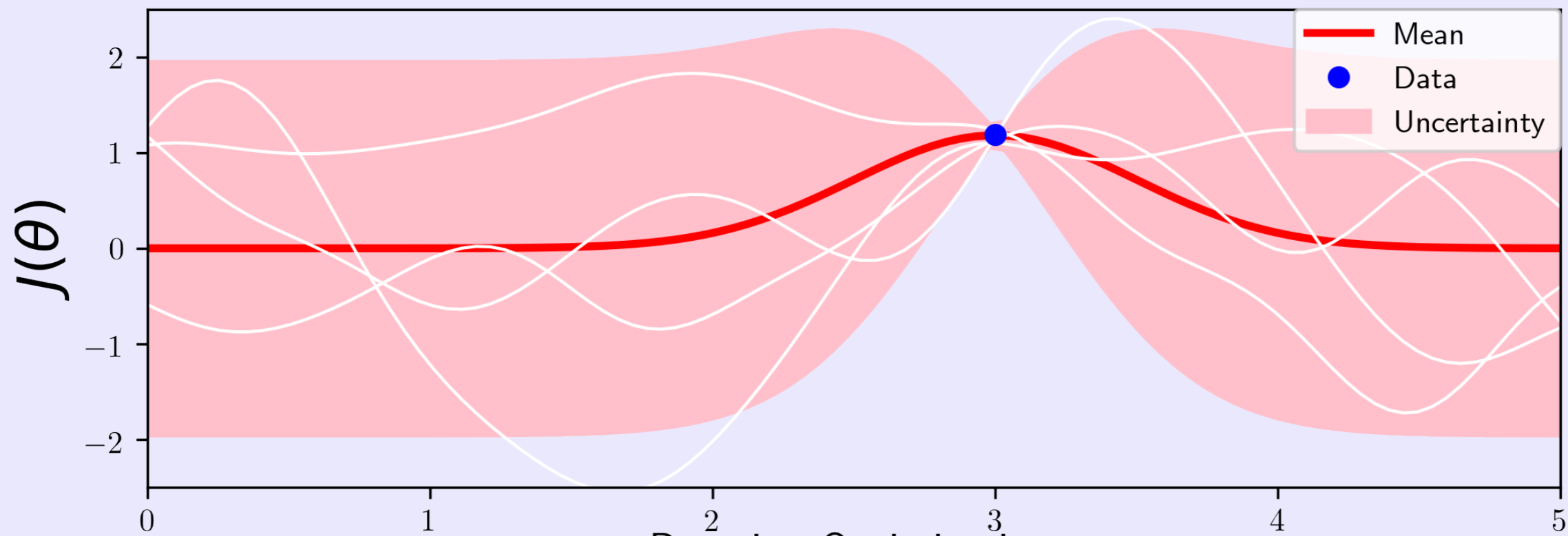
*kernel defines correlation

$$k(\theta, \theta') = \text{Cov}(J(\theta), J(\theta'))$$

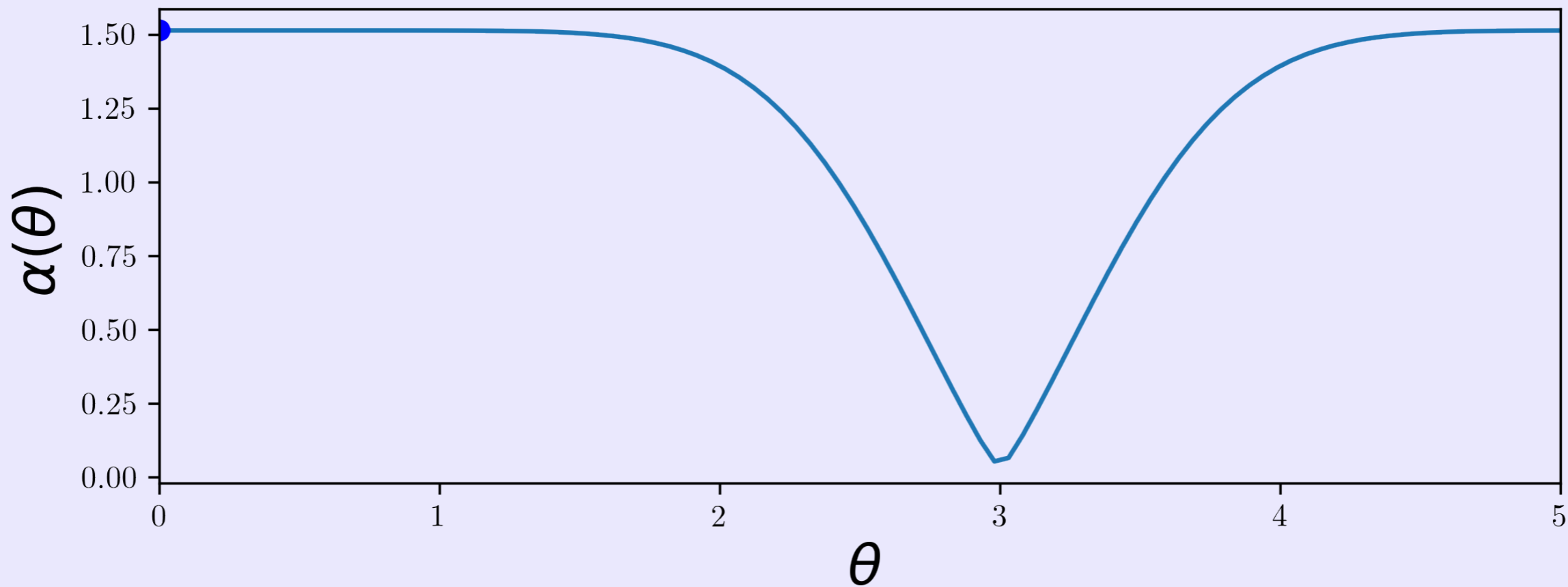
Cost $J(\theta)$
 $J : \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$



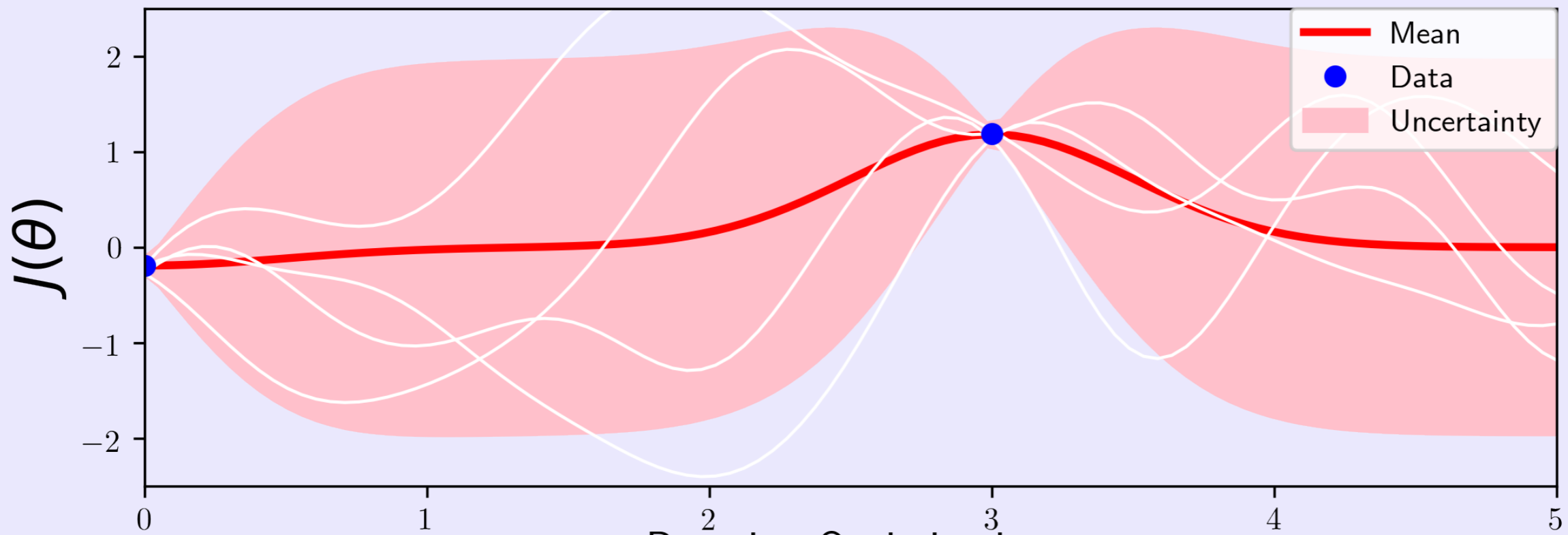
Gaussian process



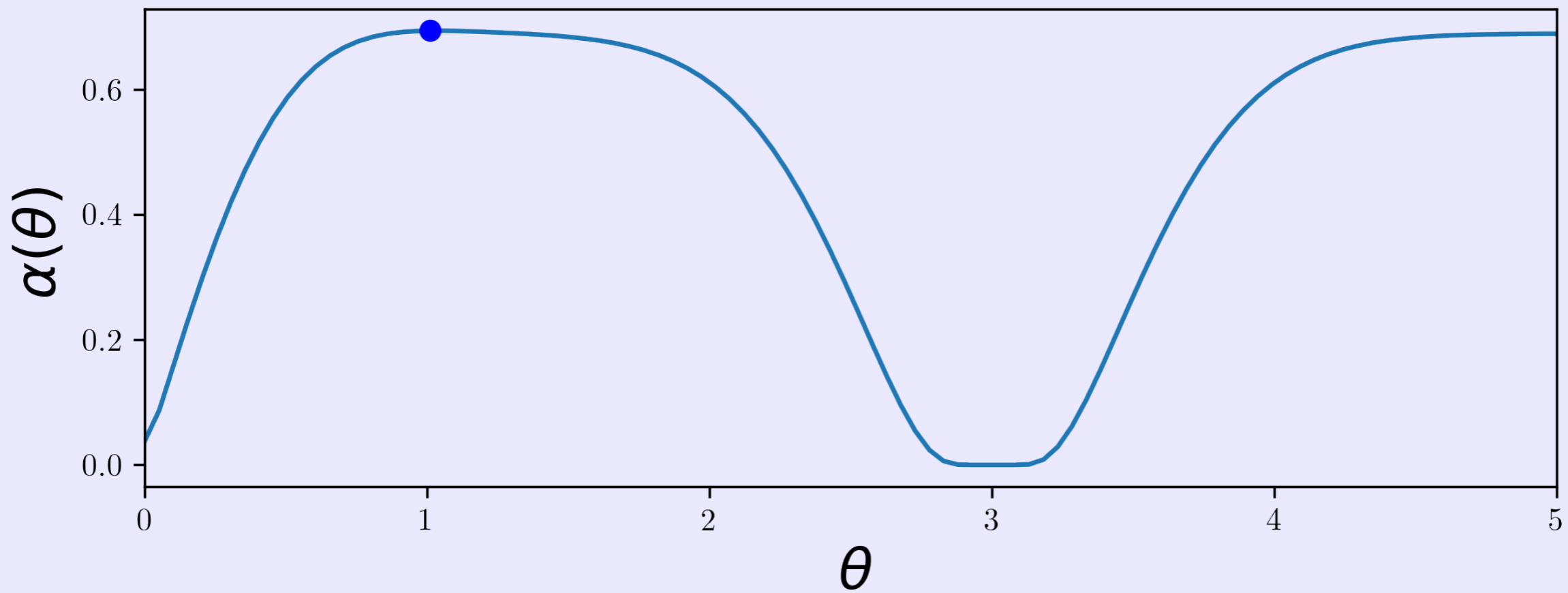
Bayesian Optimization



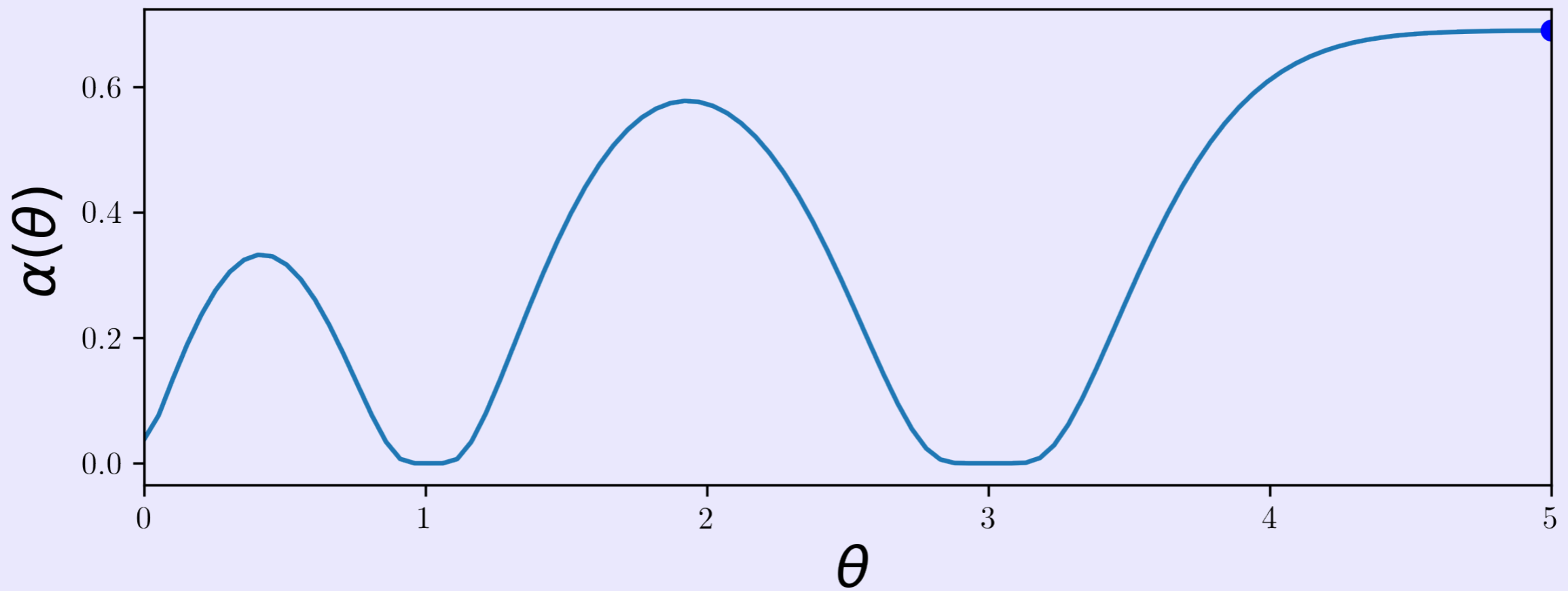
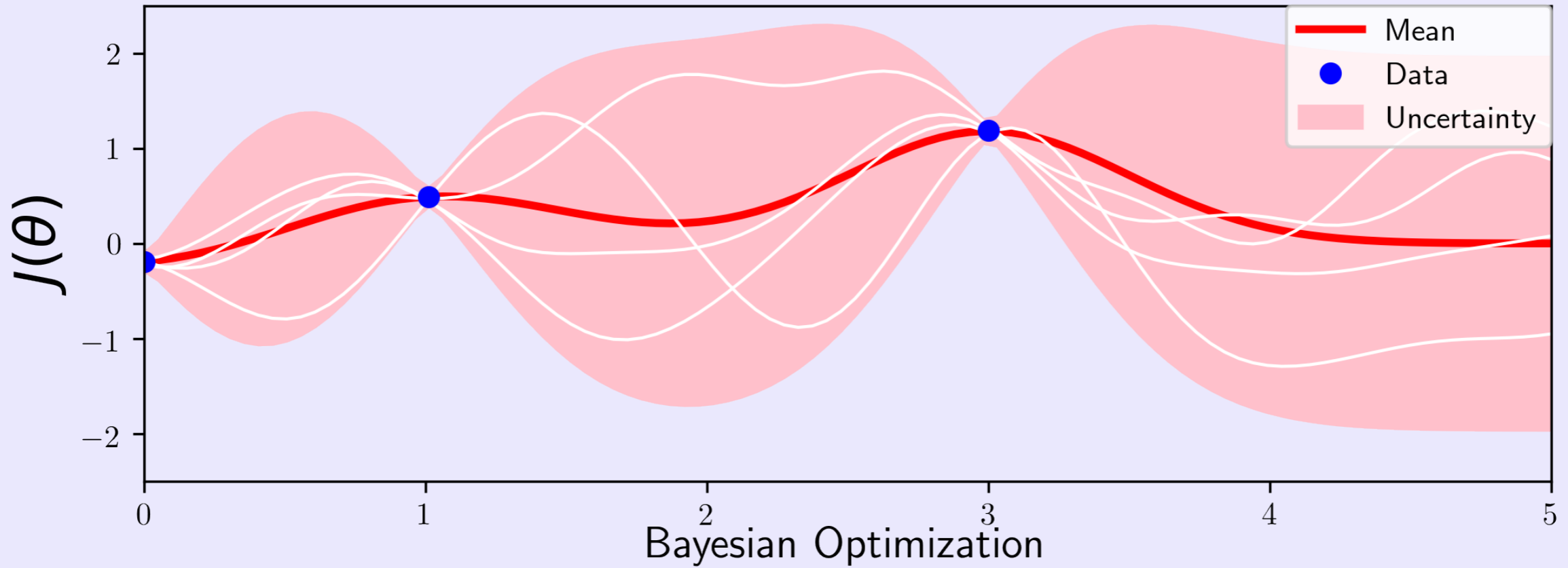
Gaussian process



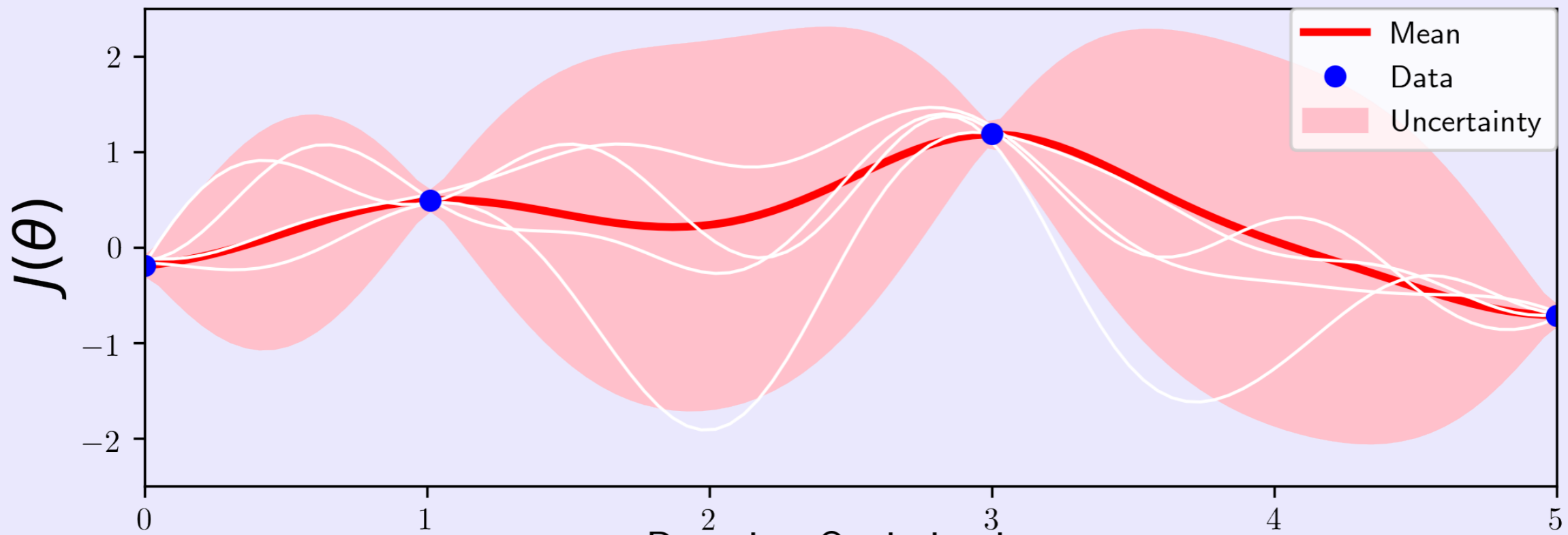
Bayesian Optimization



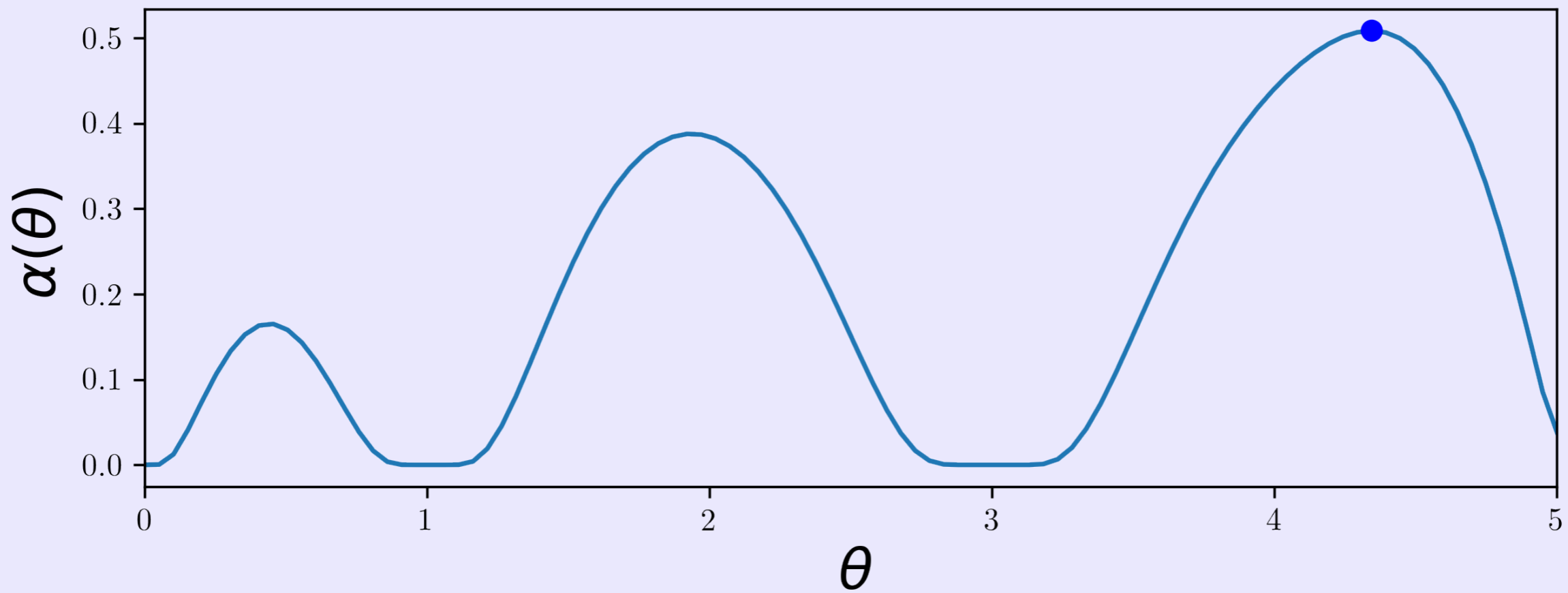
Gaussian process



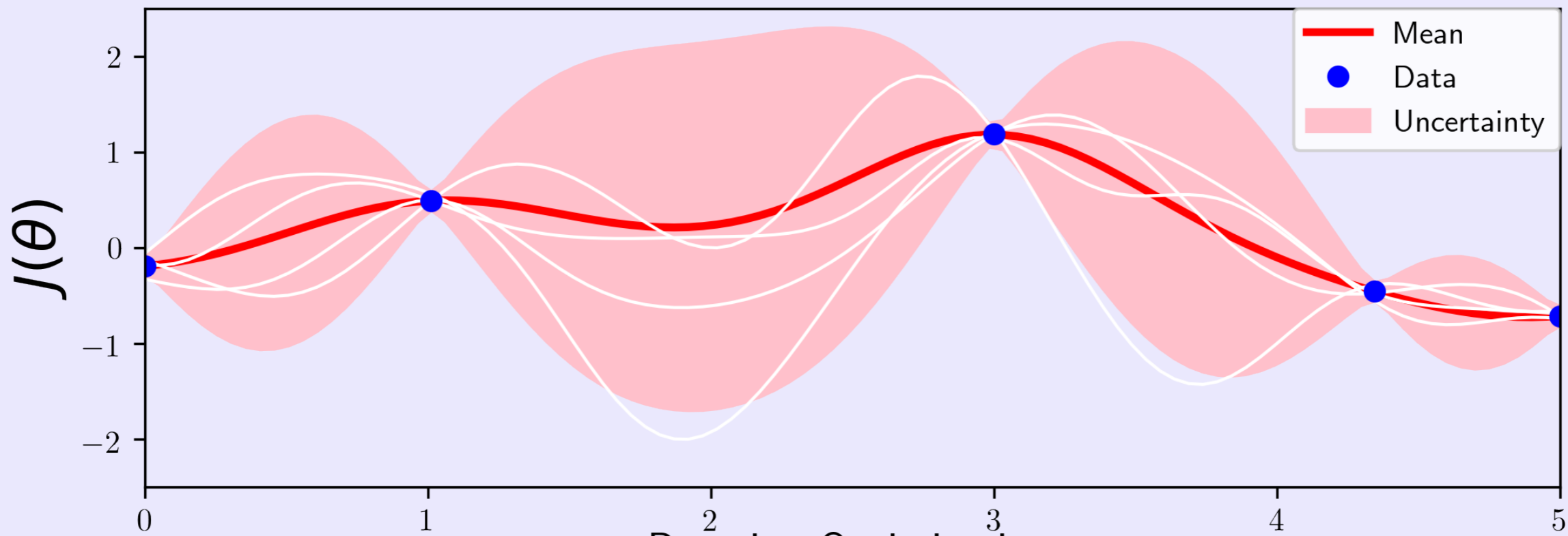
Gaussian process



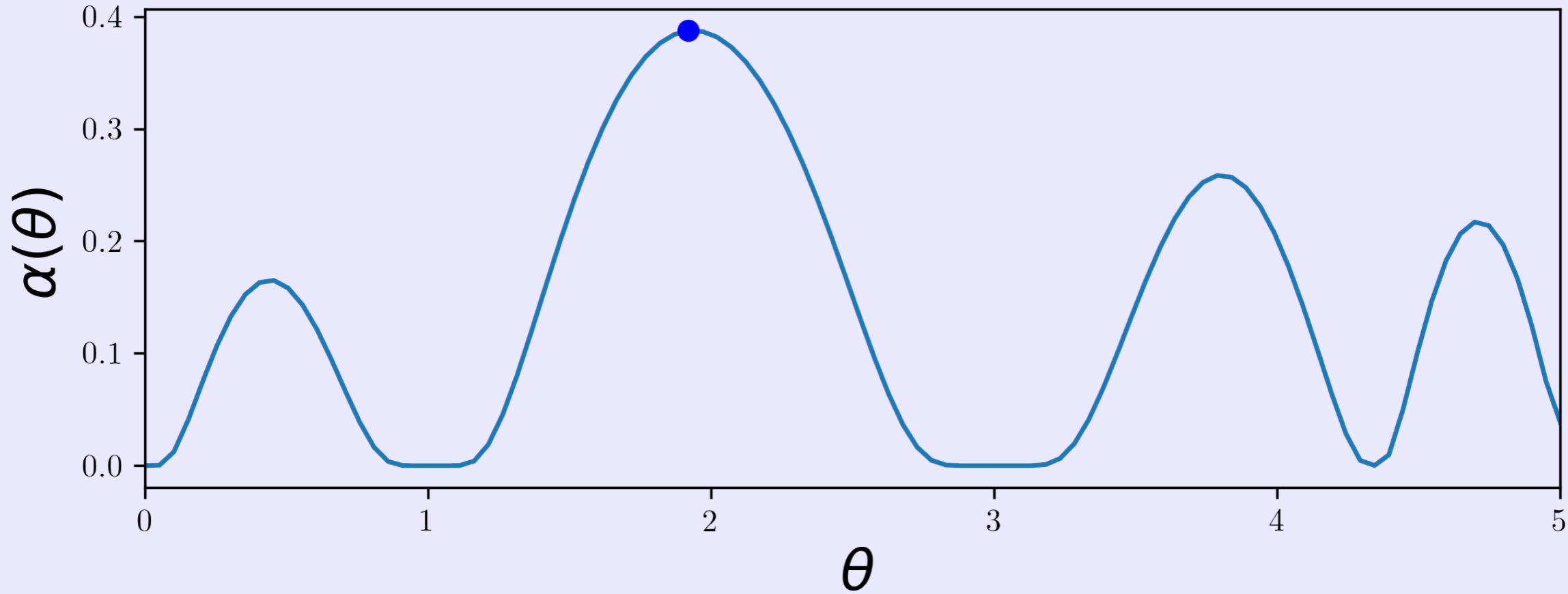
Bayesian Optimization



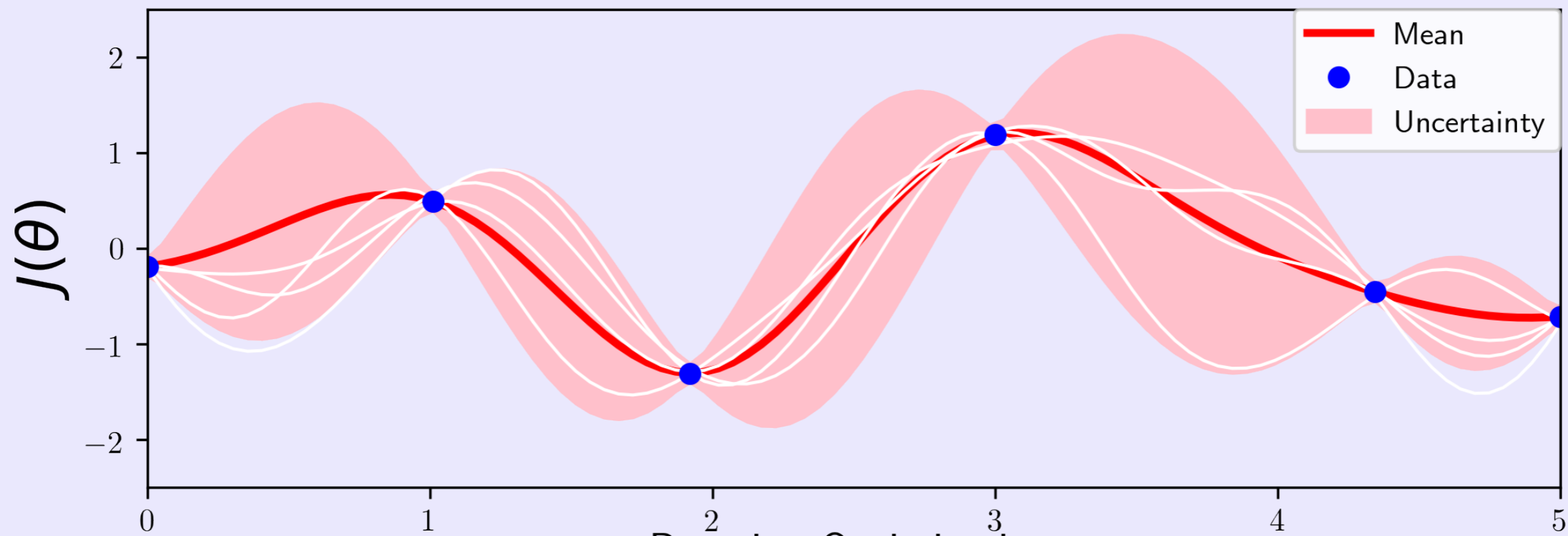
Gaussian process



Bayesian Optimization



Gaussian process



Bayesian Optimization

