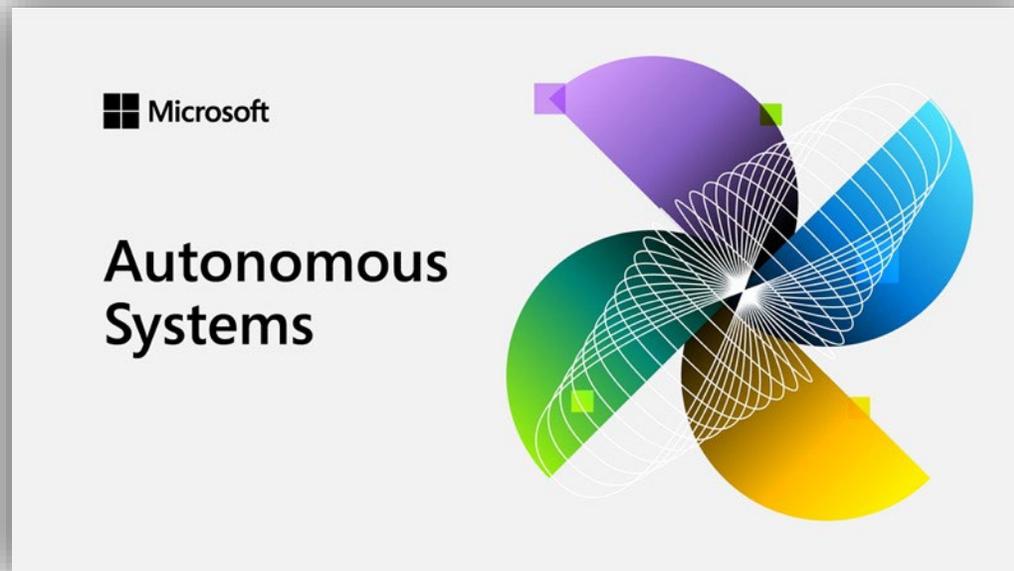


# AI Driven Autonomous Operation of Process Systems



Chris Kahrs	Microsoft
Varsha Raju	Microsoft
Dr David Smith	AVEVA

# Speaker Introduction



**Chris Kahrs,**

Chris Kahrs is a long time Microsoft employee working in the Data and AI space for the past 7 years.

In his current position as a Technical PM in the Autonomous Systems group at Microsoft he works with Simulation Vendors and Partners to integrate Simulation with the Bonsai (Deep Reinforcement Learning) toolchain. This allows non data science, control engineers to teach the machine to learn an autonomous policy for system control. Chris holds a Computer Science degree from The Citadel, in Charleston, South Carolina.



**Dr. David Smith**

Senior Analytical Solutions Engineer, AI Center of Excellence, United Kingdom:

Dr. Smith is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer and holds a Ph.D. in Fluid Mechanics from Imperial College London. Until 2018 he worked in the industry mainly for EPC companies, leading design, development, and commissioning of Power Plant processes and combustion systems.

Moving to AVEVA, Dr. Smith joined the AI Center of Excellence where his main activities are the integration of AI technologies with AVEVA's first principles simulation products as well as being an SME for Power.



**Varsha Raju**

Varsha Raju is a Principal Program Manager in the Microsoft Bonsai team, which is part of Microsoft AI. She has over 20 years of experience working in partnerships, go-to-market, and engineering roles in industrial settings. She has worked with a diverse set of companies, including those in aerospace, chemicals, discrete manufacturing, and renewable energy. Varsha holds an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and an MBA from Harvard University. She is based in San Francisco, California.

# Credits



**David Coe**  
Bonsai Engineer,  
Microsoft



**Cyrill Glockner**  
Director of  
Simulation  
Partnerships,  
Microsoft



**Andrea Macri'**  
Product Manager  
AVEVA Dynamic  
Simulation,  
AVEVA

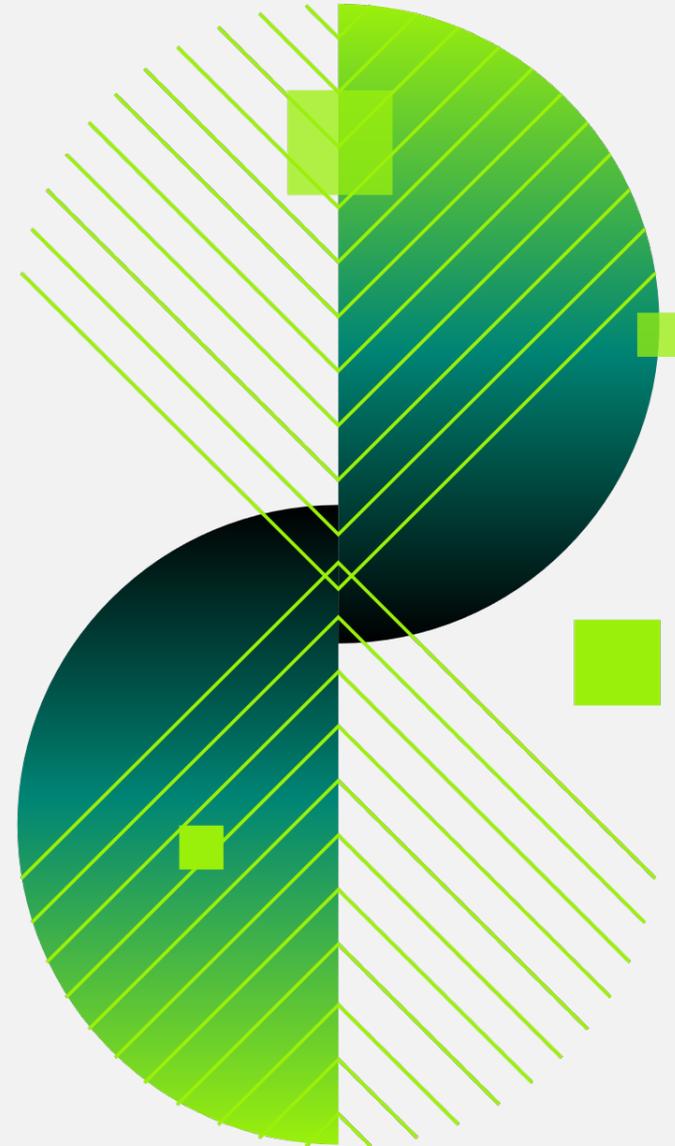


**Doug Mills**  
Senior Consulting  
Manager, OTS  
Group,  
AVEVA

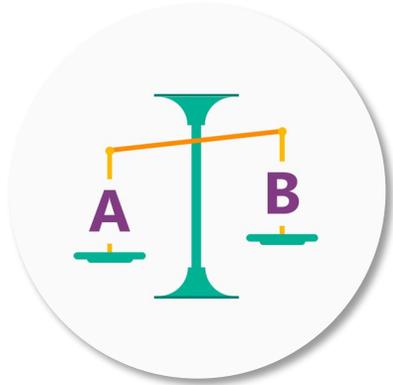


# Project Bonsai

Autonomous Systems  
Answering 'Next Optimal Action'?



# Key questions answered by ML



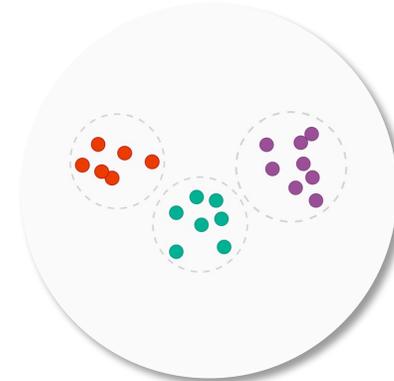
Is this A or B?



How much  
– or –  
How many?



Is this weird?



How is this  
organized?



What should  
I do next?



Supervised Learning



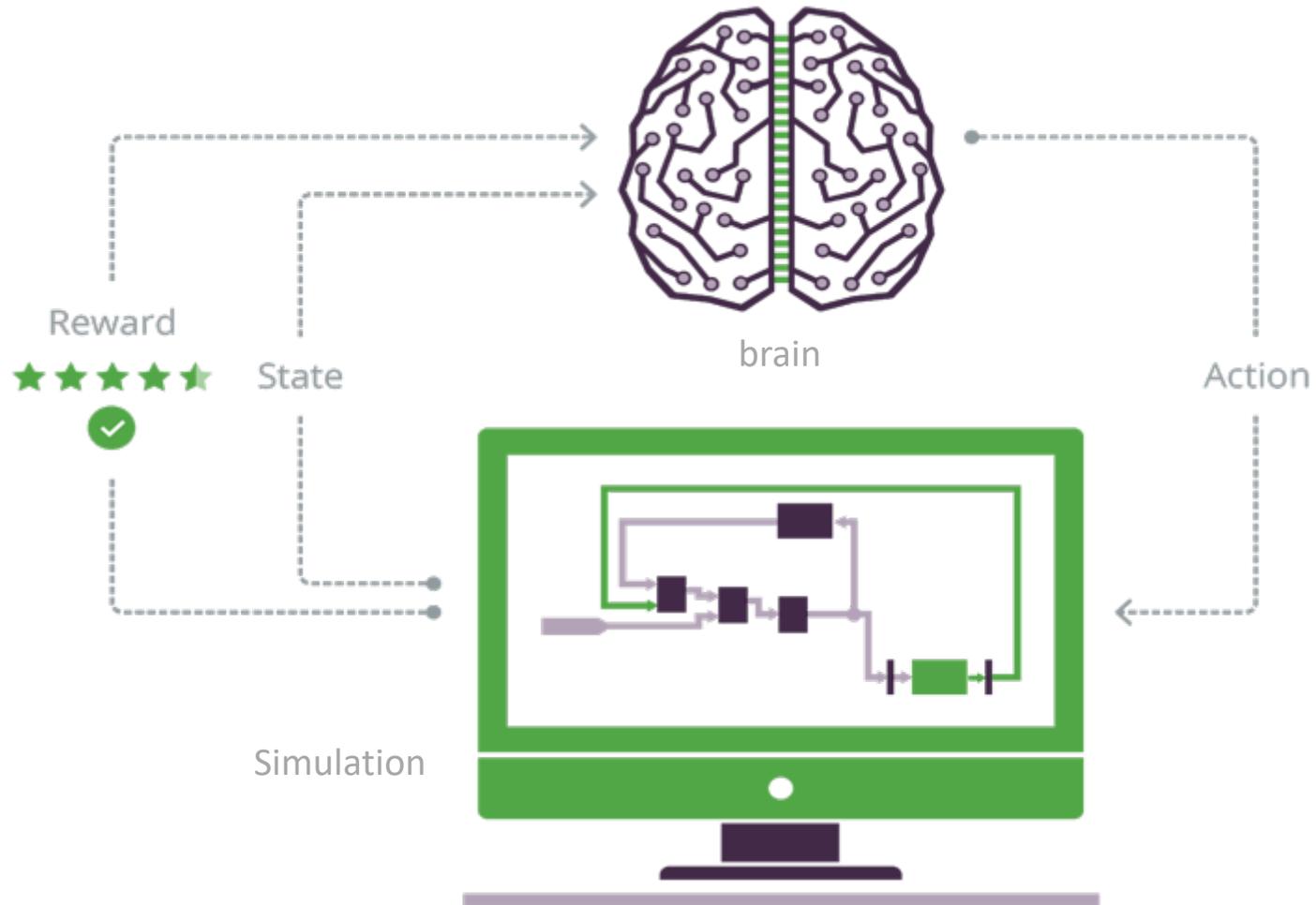
Unsupervised Learning



Reinforcement Learning

# Building brains for Industrial Control Systems

Combining state-of-the-art techniques in DRL, simulations, and machine teaching



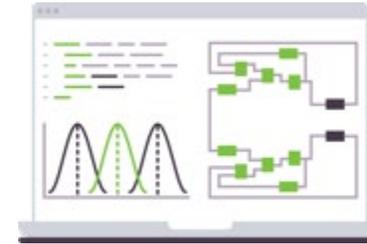
# Bonsai Service Overview

A complete toolchain to build, train, and deploy brains

1. Machine Teaching injects subject matter expertise into brain training



2. Simulation tools for accelerated integration and scale of training



3. AI Engine automates the generation and management of neural networks and DRL algorithms



4. Flexible runtime to deploy and scale models in the real world



# Machine Teaching infuses subject matter expertise into AI models

## Machine Learning



## Machine Teaching



Scale your  
subject matter  
expertise

Achieve faster  
training times

Produce  
explainable models

Easily share and  
reuse concepts

Project Moab – <https://aka.ms/moab>

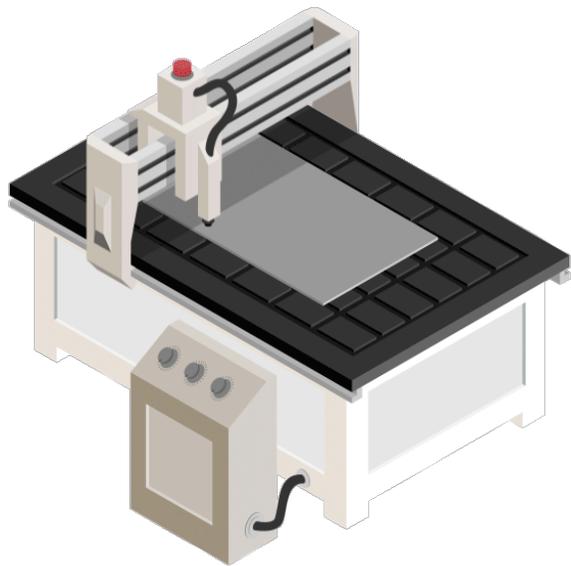


# Autonomous Systems Online Demos

<https://aidemos.microsoft.com/machineteaching>

Machine  
Calibration

---



Smart  
Buildings

---



Motion  
Control

---

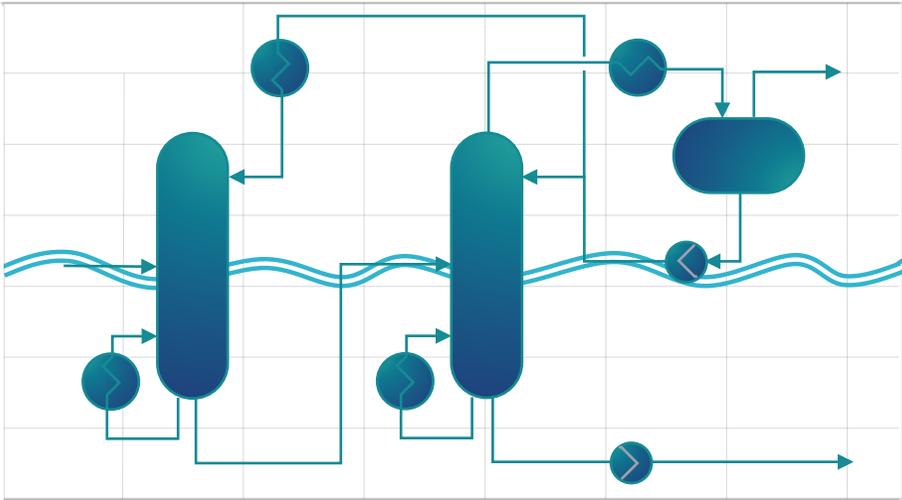


# Microsoft Bonsai and AVEVA Dynamic Simulation for the Autonomous Plant

AVEVA



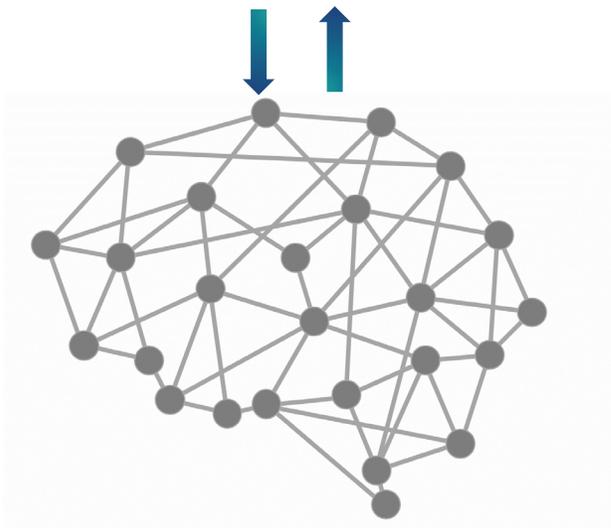
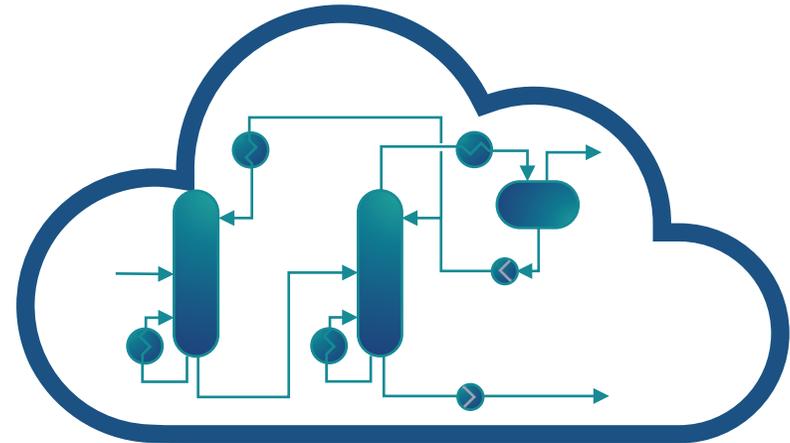
# Problem Statement



The plant is changing feed weekly

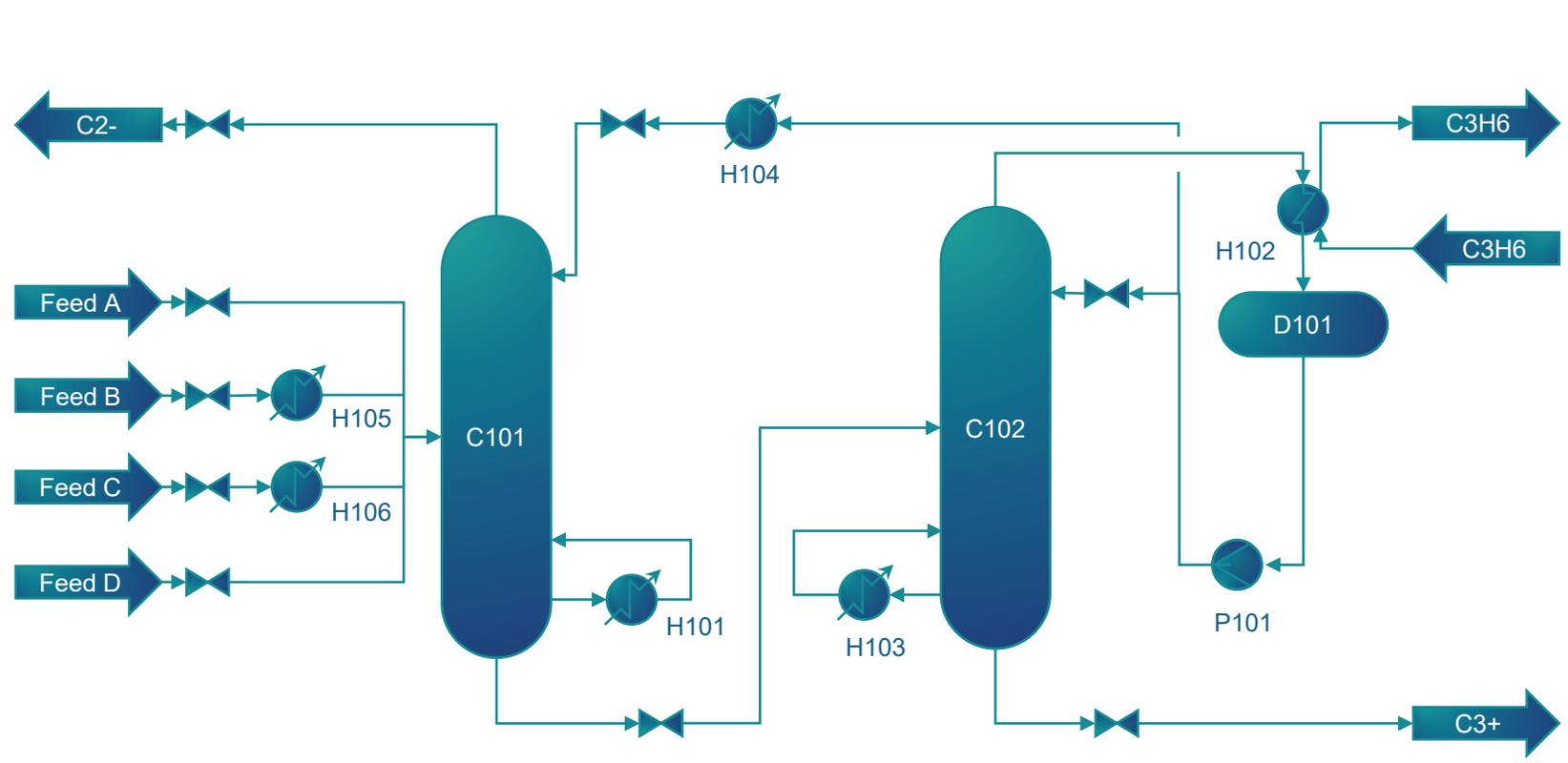
It takes the operators 8 hours to re-stabilize the plant

**Several days of production are lost every year**



Bonsai Brain can be trained to optimize the operation using a digital replica of the plant in the cloud

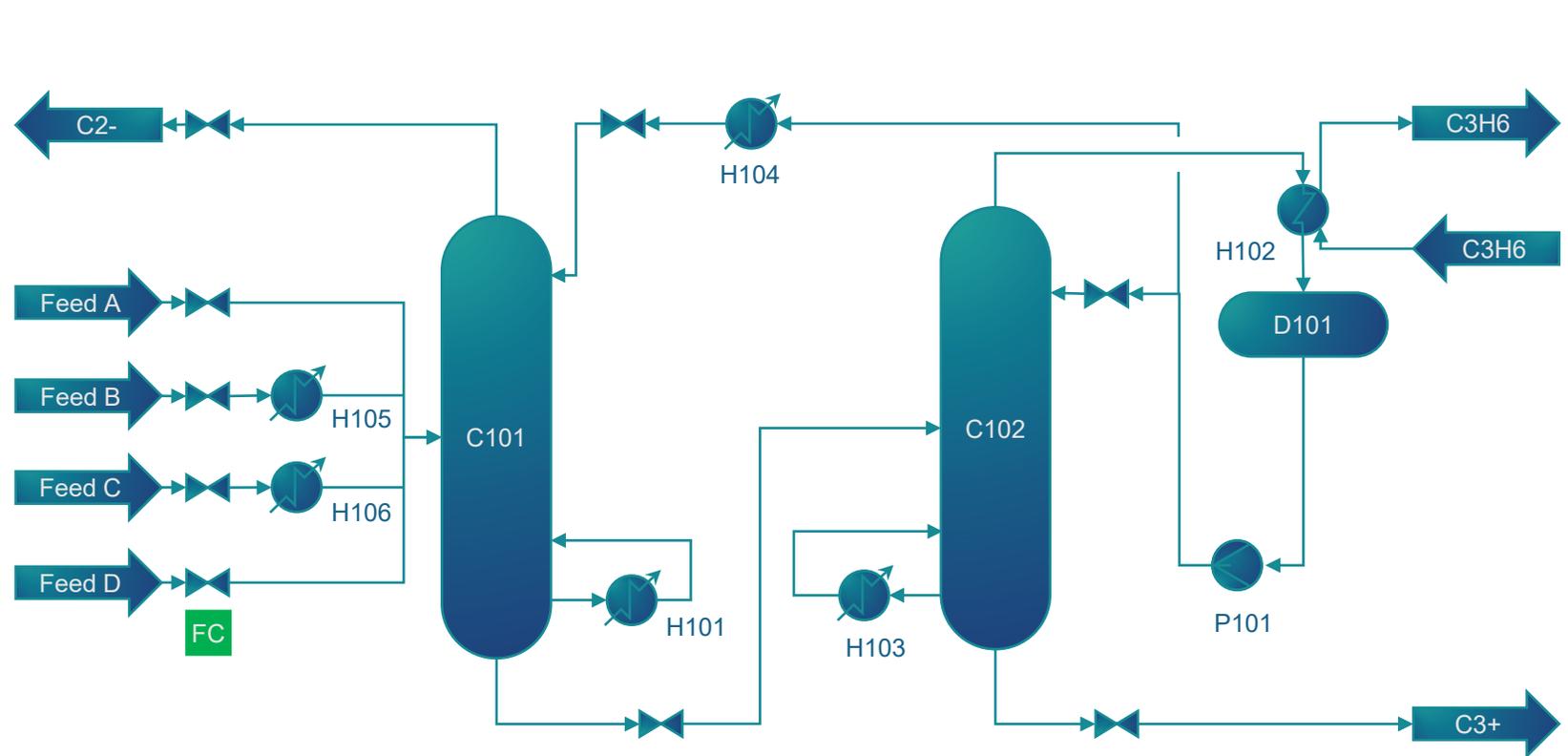
# Process Description and Problem Definition



-  Initial Change
-  FC Raw Condensates Feed
-  Action Space
-  FC C102 reflux flow controller (set point)
-  FC C101 bottom flow controller (set point)
-  TC C102 temperature controller (set point)
-  State Space
-  TT C101 top temperature
-  TT C101 bottom temperature
-  PT C101 top pressure
-  AT C101 top C3 concentration
-  AT C101 top C2 concentration
-  LT C101 level
-  TT C102 top temperature
-  TT C102 bottom temperature
-  PT C102 top pressure
-  AT C102 top C3 concentration
-  AT C102 bottom C2 concentration
-  LT C102 level
-  LT H102 level
-  LT D101 level

This distillation unit separates the raw gas and raw condensate feed streams into a light gas (C2-) and a heavier liquid (C3+) outlet. Column C101 operates as an absorber in the upper part and stripper in the lower part; column C102 works as a normal rectification column.

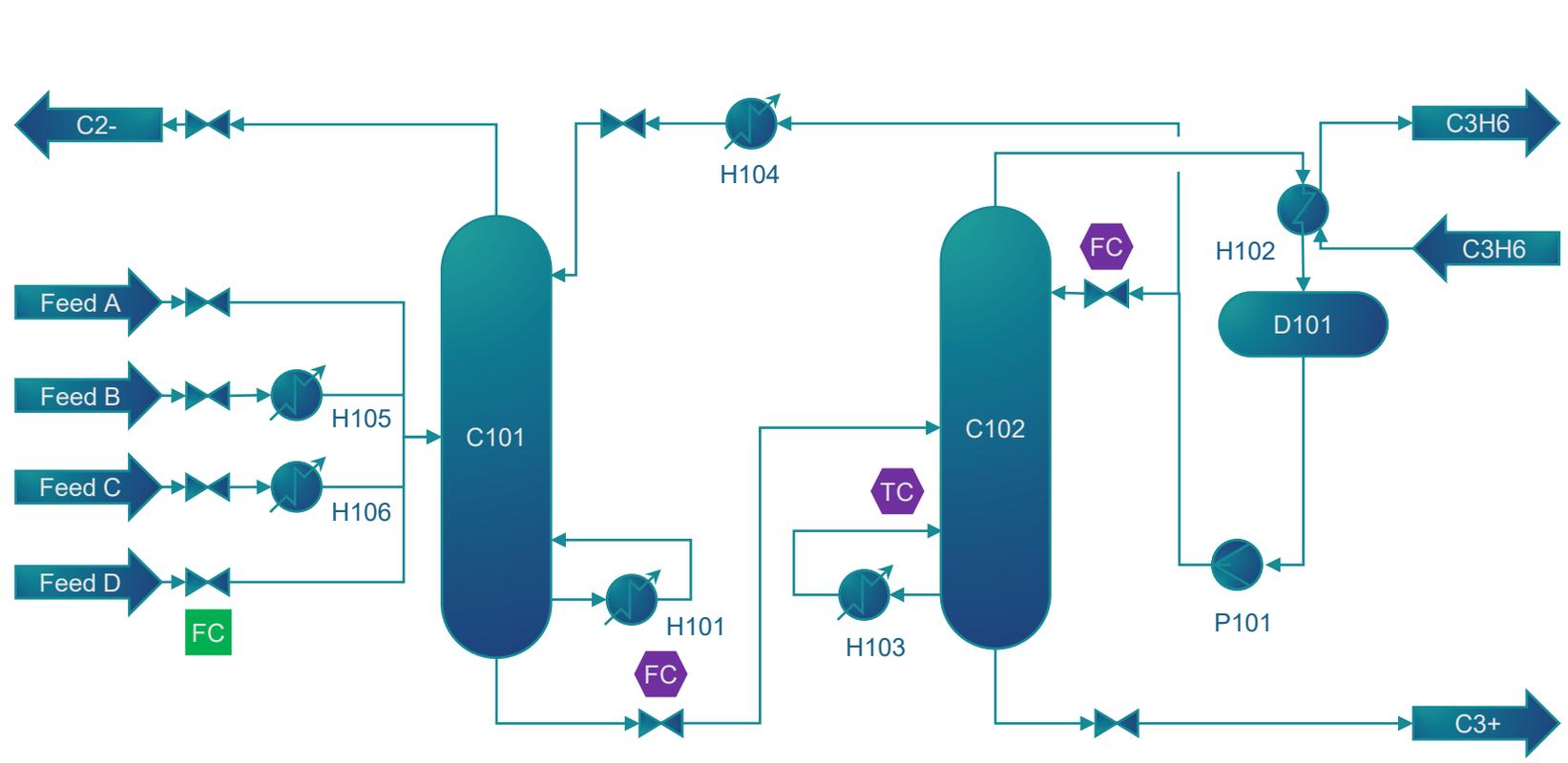
# Process Description and Problem Definition



-  Initial Change  
 Raw Condensates Feed
-  Action Space  
 FC C102 reflux flow controller (set point)  
 FC C101 bottom flow controller (set point)  
 TC C102 temperature controller (set point)
-  State Space  
 TT C101 top temperature  
 TT C101 bottom temperature  
 PT C101 top pressure  
 AT C101 top C3 concentration  
 AT C101 top C2 concentration  
 LT C101 level  
 TT C102 top temperature  
 TT C102 bottom temperature  
 PT C102 top pressure  
 AT C102 top C3 concentration  
 AT C102 bottom C2 concentration  
 LT C102 level  
 LT H102 level  
 LT D101 level

The objective is to stabilize the unit after a change in the raw feed condensate (Feed D) in the lowest time possible.

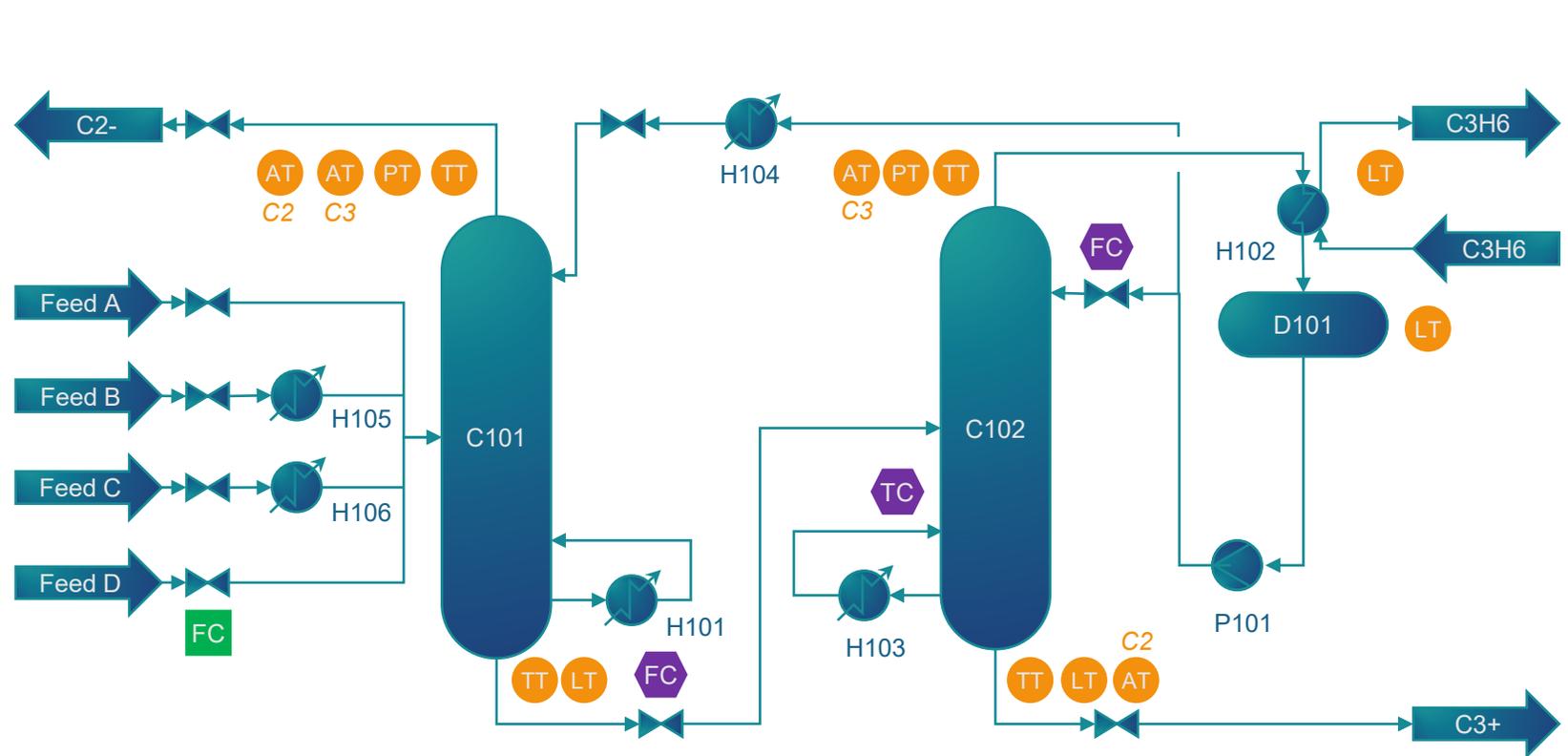
# Process Description and Problem Definition



- 
**Initial Change**  
 Raw Condensates Feed
- 
**Action Space**  
 C102 reflux flow controller (set point)  
 C101 bottom flow controller (set point)  
 C102 temperature controller (set point)
- 
**State Space**
  - TT C101 top temperature
  - TT C101 bottom temperature
  - PT C101 top pressure
  - AT C101 top C3 concentration
  - AT C101 top C2 concentration
  - LT C101 level
  - TT C102 top temperature
  - TT C102 bottom temperature
  - PT C102 top pressure
  - AT C102 top C3 concentration
  - AT C102 bottom C2 concentration
  - LT C102 level
  - LT H102 level
  - LT D101 level

The AI agent can change the setpoint of the C101 bottom flow rate, C102 reflux flow rate and C102 temperature.

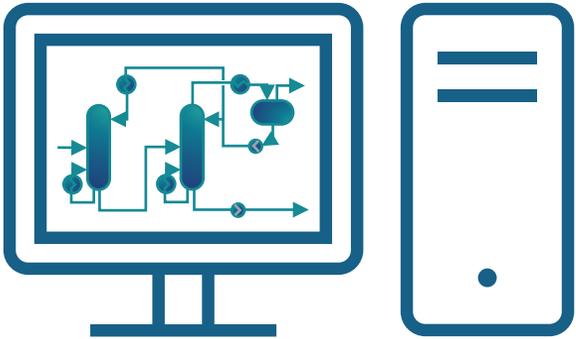
# Process Description and Problem Definition



-  Initial Change
  - Raw Condensates Feed
-  Action Space
  - C102 reflux flow controller (set point)
  - C101 bottom flow controller (set point)
  - C102 temperature controller (set point)
-  Observation Space
  - C101 top temperature
  - C101 bottom temperature
  - C101 top pressure
  - C101 top C3 concentration
  - C101 top C2 concentration
  - C101 level
  - C102 top temperature
  - C102 bottom temperature
  - C102 top pressure
  - C102 top C3 concentration
  - C102 bottom C2 concentration
  - C102 level
  - H102 level
  - D101 level

The episode is considered successfully completed when all 14 key process variables are stabilized (fluctuations drop below 2% of their range) and no alarm is triggered during the operation.

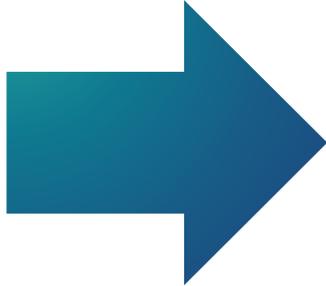
# Containerization and the Cloud



Simulation  
ADS <-> Bonsai adaptor  
Operating System  
Hardware

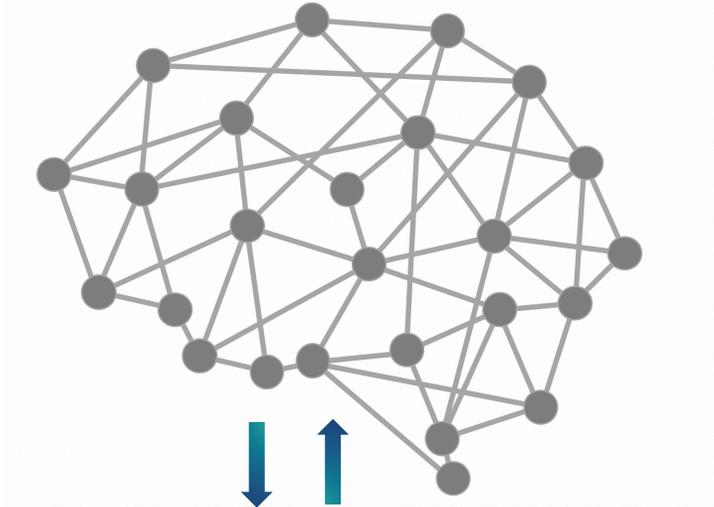


Container



Containers

## Bonsai Brain





# Training Bonsai



ACTIONS									

STATES									



Not  
stabilized in  
the given  
time



The episode is considered **failed** when the process is not reaching stability within the maximum allowed duration.

# Training Bonsai



ACTIONS													

STATES													

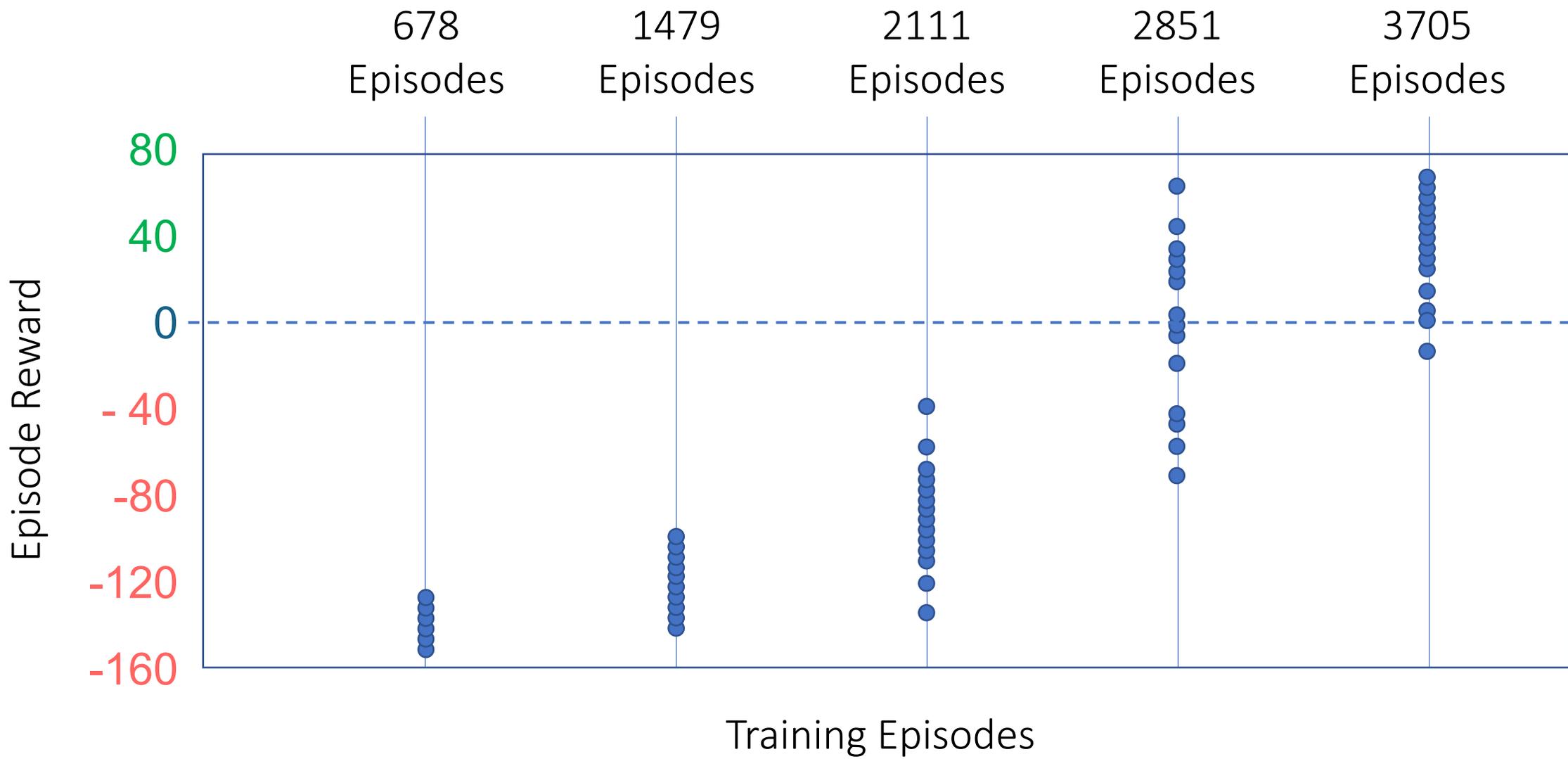


All variables  
are stable



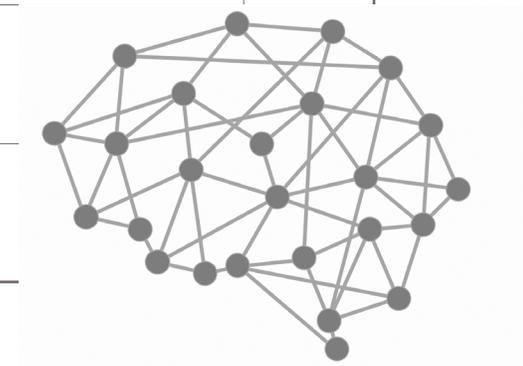
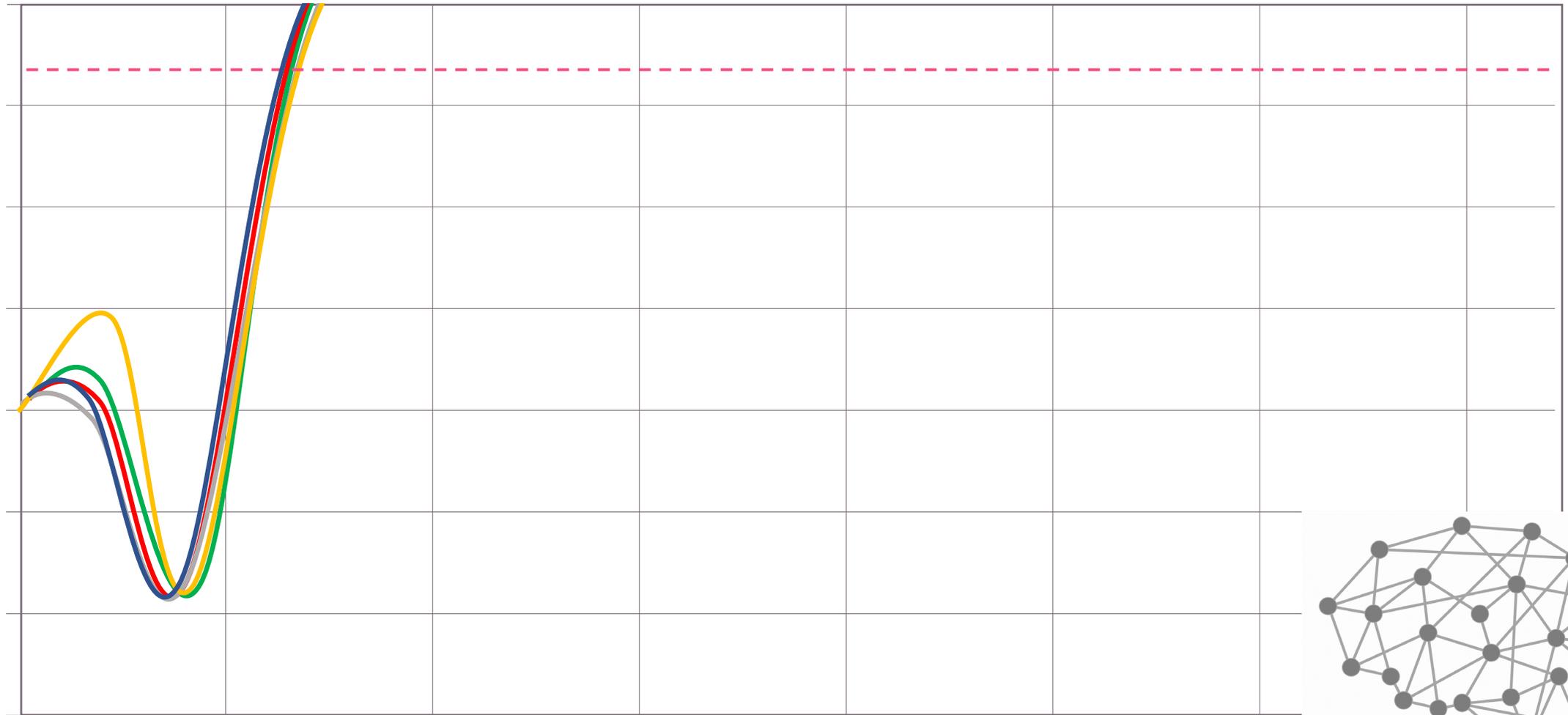
The episode is considered **successful** when all 14 key process variables are stabilized without triggering any alarms.

# Learning Results



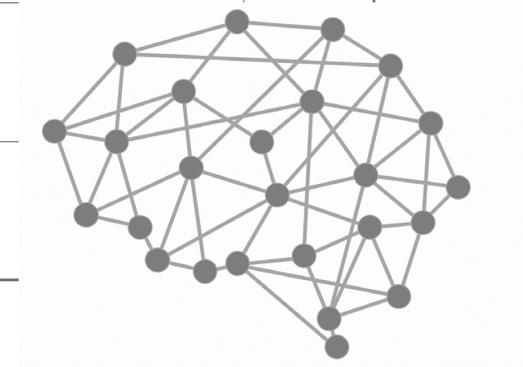
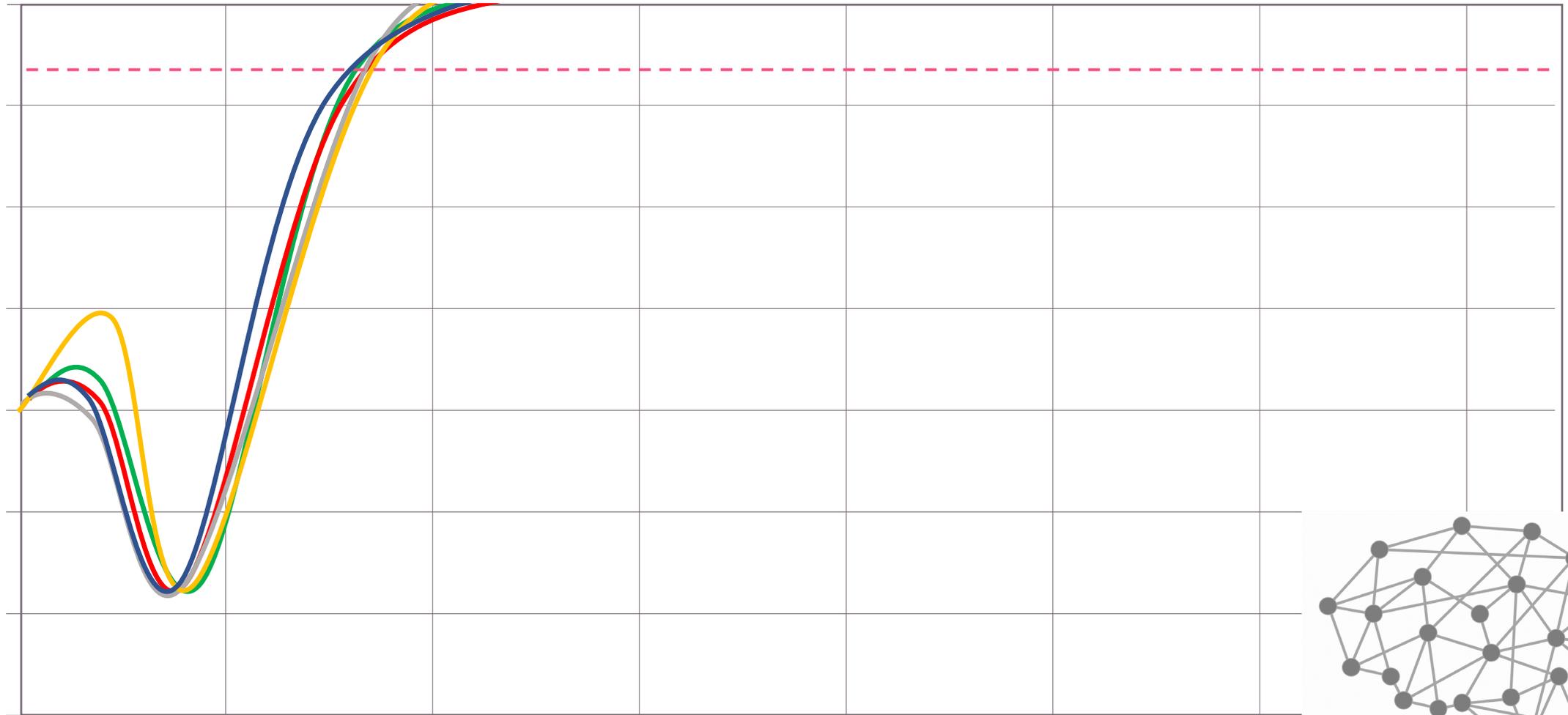
# 135 Episodes

C101 top C3 concentration



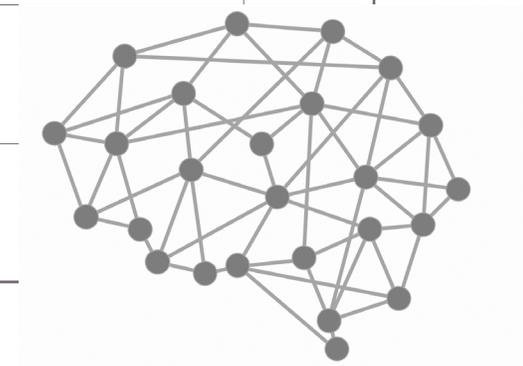
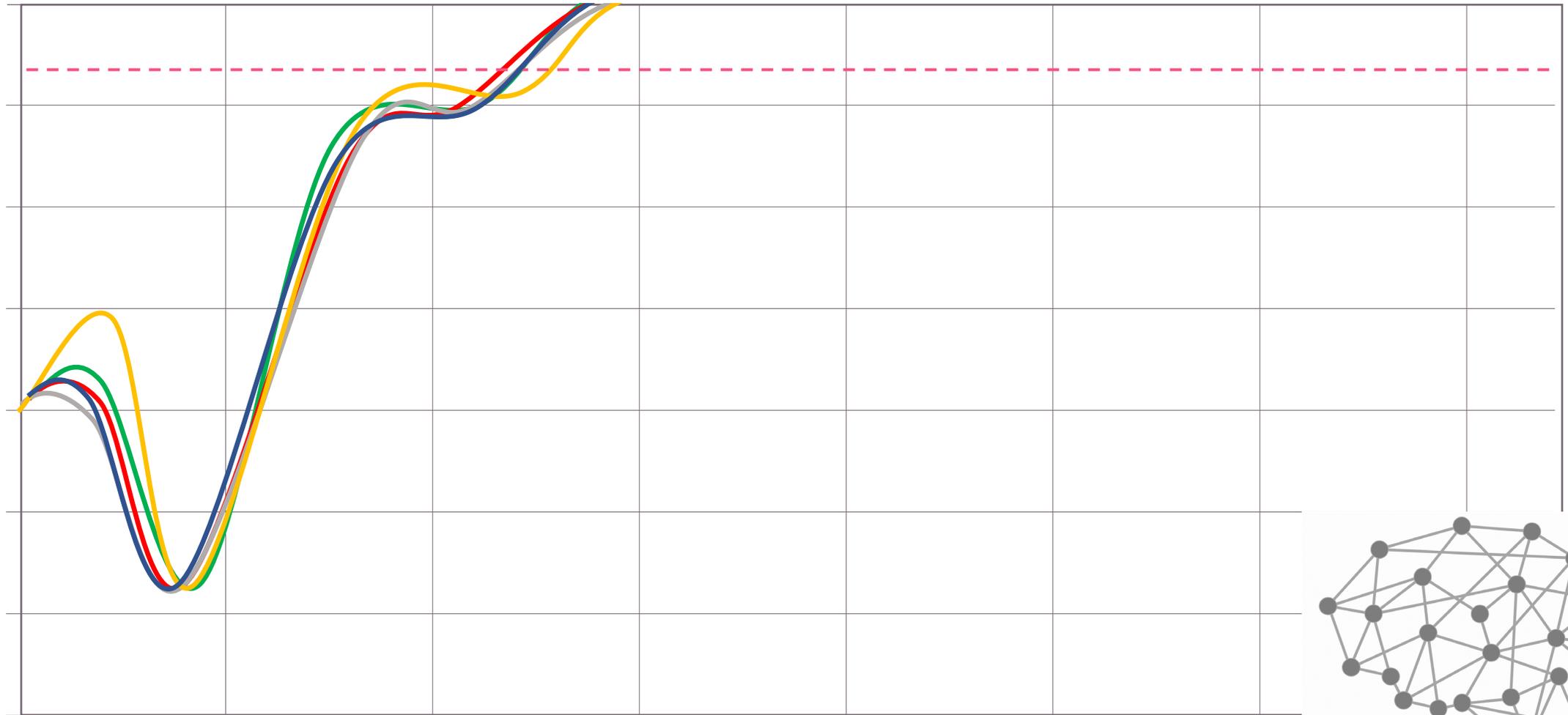
# 678 Episodes

C101 top C3 concentration



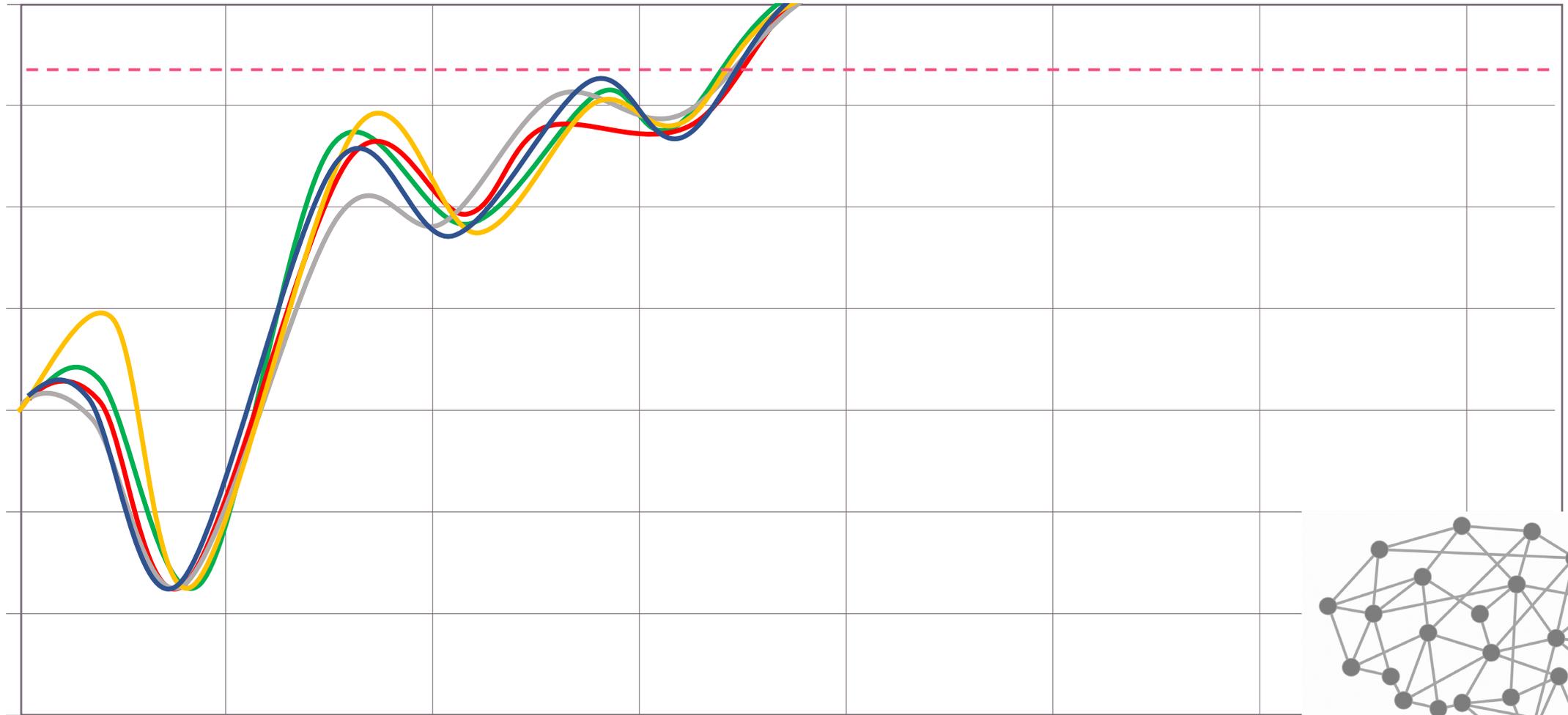
# 1479 Episodes

## C101 top C3 concentration



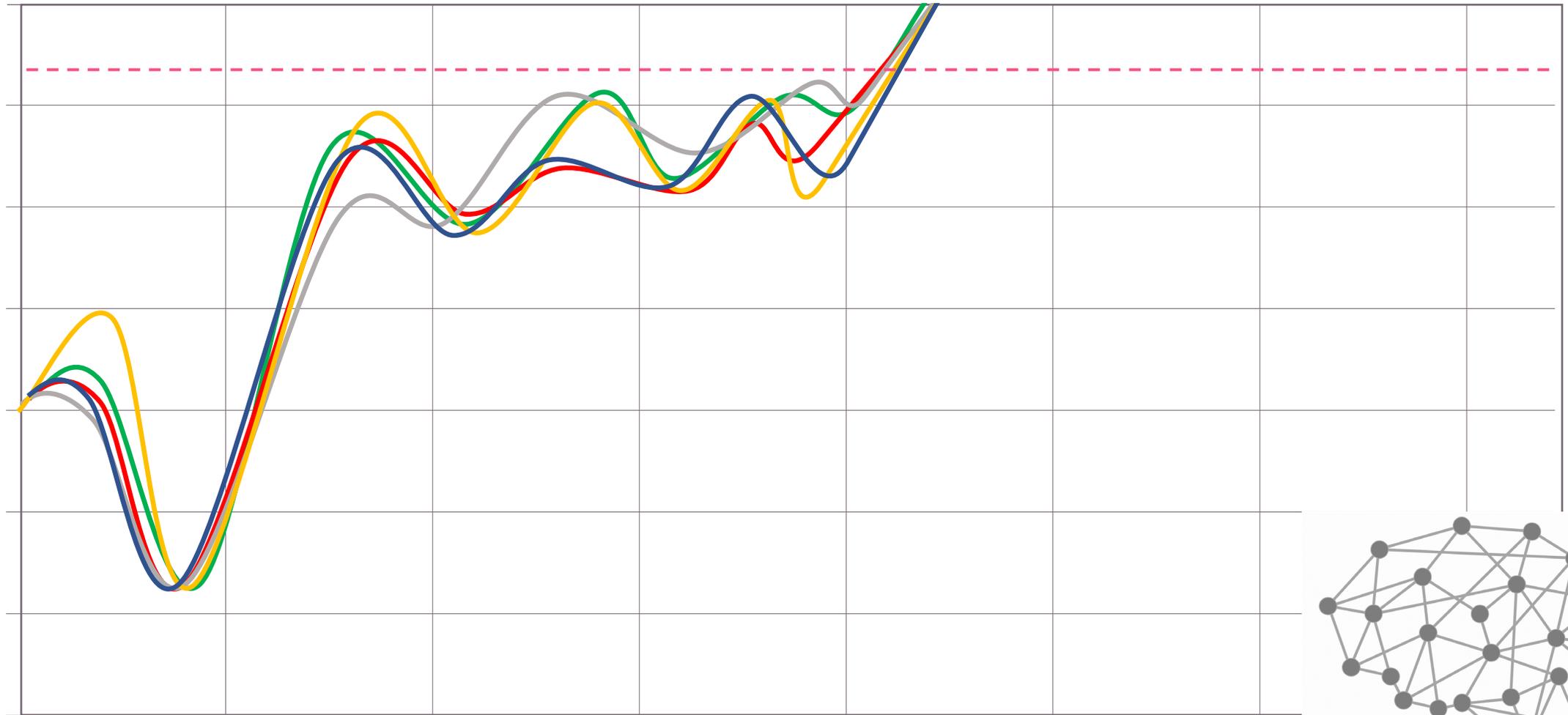
# 2111 Episodes

C101 top C3 concentration



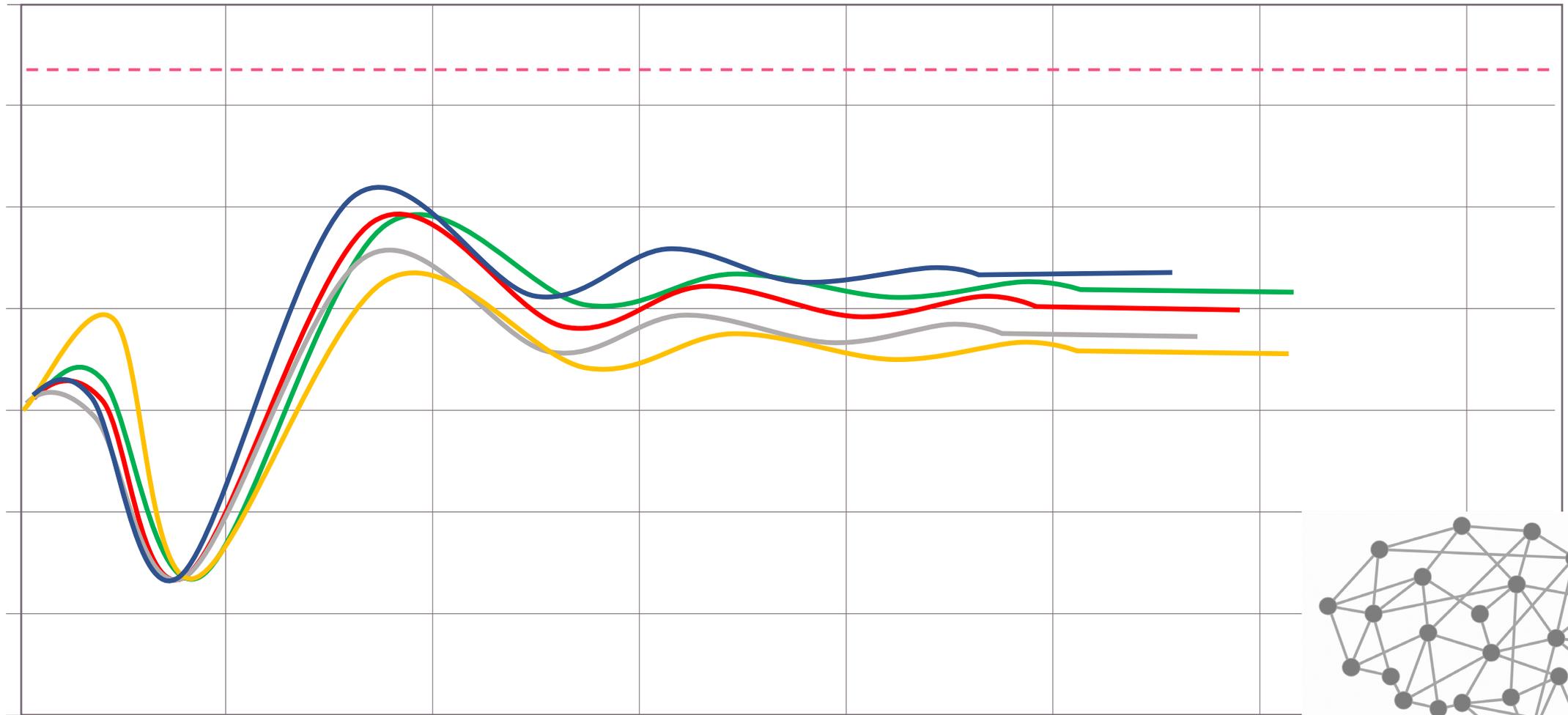
# 2851 Episodes

## C101 top C3 concentration



# 3705 Episodes

## C101 top C3 concentration



**BonsaiPoC - Microsoft Azure** | Teach: Dynsim\_WebServer\_Test\_L1 | Teach: Dynsim\_WebServer\_Test\_L1 | Teach: ContainerDynsimV20

preview.bonsai.ai/workspaces/5aa1b0c9-4d47-451d-9cdf-d65524238a4a/brains/Dynsim\_WebServer\_Test\_C2\_V0/versions/1/train

bonsai PREVIEW ALPHA BETA | david.a.smith@aveva.com

Search by name

**Dynsim\_WebServer\_Test\_C2\_V0 | v01** Teach Train | Export brain

Brains + Create brain | Simulators + Add sim | Datasets + Add dataset | Exported Brains

**StabiliseProcessQuickly (In Progress)**  
The chart below updates when the brain finds an improved policy during train...  
Mean brain performance: 25.73  
Brain performance: 0.11  
Exploration performance: 0.00

Episode reward vs Training iterations

Training duration: 141days 4h | Training iterations: Speed: 0.11 iteration/s, Total: 533 | Simulators: Registered: 1, In Use: 1 | Diagnostics: View simulator logs | View policy performance

DynSimSimulator (Live) | II Pause charts

States: FC\_1001\_PV, FC\_1001\_SP, FC\_1002\_PV, FC\_1002\_SP, FC\_1003\_PV | time

Errors & Output | Notes

**AVEVA Dynamic Simulation 2022**

View Run Tools Settings Draw Users Help

Single Step | Set Speed: 9999 | Speed: 0% | Time: 0:11:15.00 | RUNNING | IC Summary IC: 5 - FeedChange

Home\_Page\_AI\_DeC2\_24May22 | F01\_C101\_AI\_DeC2\_24May22

Row 1, Col 1 | 100% | Model Editing

**C-101** | **H-101**

150.53 kWh3/hr  
160.1k\*nm3/hr  
FT\_1506

Feed 1: Temperature -36.0 C, Pressure 35.40 barg  
Feed 2: Temperature -20.2 C, Pressure 39.00 barg  
Feed 3: Temperature -10.0 C, Pressure 38.00 barg  
Feed 4: Temperature 15.0 C, Pressure 35.00 barg

80.26 tonm3/hr  
49.06 tonm3/hr  
58.7 m3/hr  
80.8 m3/hr  
78.43 m3/hr  
97.1m3/hr  
FT\_1101

1.433 m3/hr  
49.0 tonm3/hr  
29.96 tonm3/hr  
30.0 tonm3/hr  
42.33 tonm3/hr  
46.5 tonm3/hr  
FC\_1001  
FC\_1002  
FC\_1003  
FC\_1004

36.9 C  
-36.3 C  
-36.6 C  
-39.7 C  
-39.1 C  
-37.6 C  
-20.6 C  
9.2 C  
14.7 C  
0.499 vol%  
0.5 percent  
0.40 percent  
CH4  
75.2 percent  
33.94 C  
36.6 C  
34.687 barg  
34.784 barg

103.0 m3/hr  
105.0 m3/hr  
28.00 C  
-16.98 C  
-14.5 C  
0.651  
0.000  
0.4 bar  
0.39 bar  
PDT\_1101  
0.0 tonm3/hr  
0.0 tonm3/hr  
6.68 M3/Sec  
6.60 M3/Sec  
241.1 m3/hr  
175.6 m3/hr  
234.5 ton  
170.7 ton  
FT\_110  
FT\_110

Messages: DA\_3101A[3MRP], DA\_3101A[STAGE34], S\_045\_110ZMASS[PROPENE], ANALYZERS\_HOUSE\_1.0UT[0] | Data Collection will be skipped for these points.

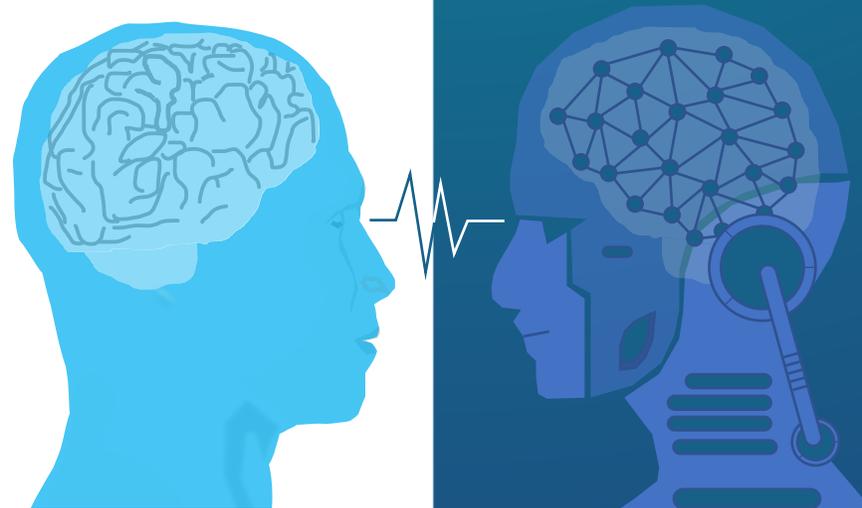
Warning: Invalid points specified in the Data Historian - FC\_3102.PV, FC\_3102.OUT, FC\_3102

User: simsci | Environment: Engineer | SimExecutive: SimExec

# Human

VS

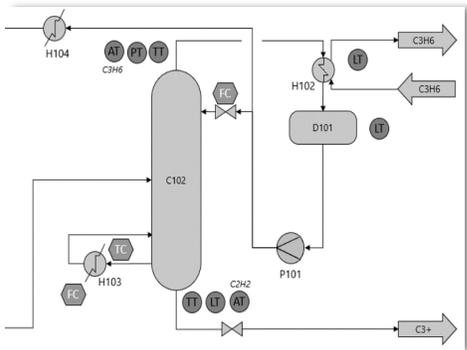
# AI Agent



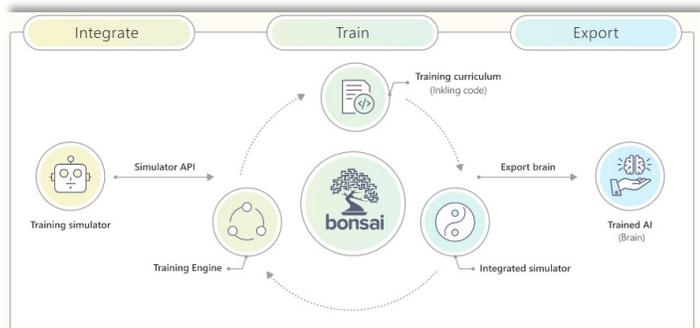
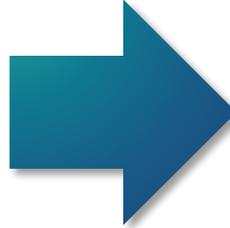
# Deploy: Open Loop Advisor

The image displays two software interfaces side-by-side. The left interface is PI Vision, titled 'Online AI Process Advisor', showing a process flow diagram with two columns of distillation columns (C101 and C102) and various pumps (H101-H106, P101) and heat exchangers (H101, H102). It includes several data plots: 'QT\_1101.MV' at 0.007%, 'FC\_1004.SP' and 'FC\_1004.PV' both at 42.0 ton/m<sup>3</sup>hr, and 'UC\_1103' at 102.3 m<sup>3</sup>hr. The right interface is SIMATIC Manager, showing a detailed process control diagram for unit 'C-101'. It features multiple 'Operate PID' windows for FC\_1108 (Setpoint: 152.1 m<sup>3</sup>hr) and FC\_1004 (Setpoint: 42.0 ton/m<sup>3</sup>hr). The diagram includes various sensors (FT, TT, TC, PV, FV), valves (VS, VV), and pumps (P, H). A 'FLARE' section is also visible at the top. The bottom status bar of SIMATIC Manager shows 'Selected: QT\_1101.N(ppm)'.

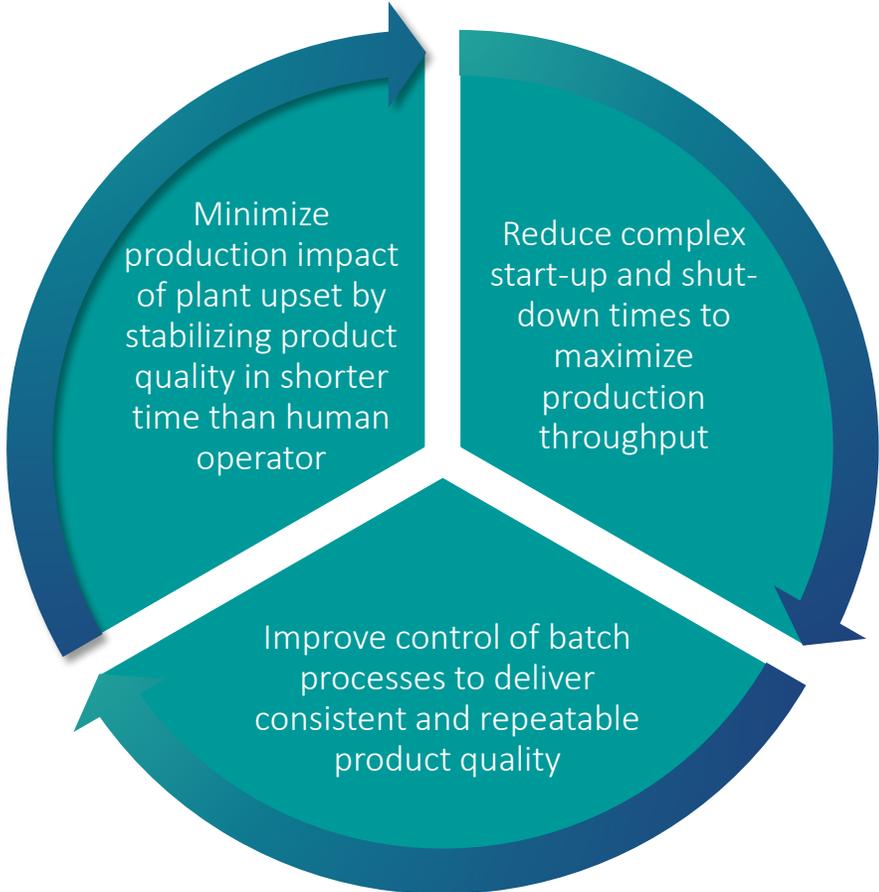
# Conclusion



**AVEVA** Simulation



**Reinforcement Learning Platform**



**Autonomous Operations for Process Plant**

Questions?

