

# HOURGLASS COMMUNICATION

## Hourglass Structure



The varying width of the hourglass represents the size of the intended audience for that section.

## Why the Hourglass?

- It helps craft your work into a compelling story.
- It makes your work more accessible by placing emphasis on its motivation and implications.
- It can be adapted to any type of technical communication, including papers, posters, and presentations

For more communication resources:



## Types of Hourglasses

The shape of the hourglass and the length of each section primarily depends on **the audience**:

Highly-specialized journal  
(e.g. *Additive Manufacturing*)



Scientific community at large  
(e.g. *Nature*)



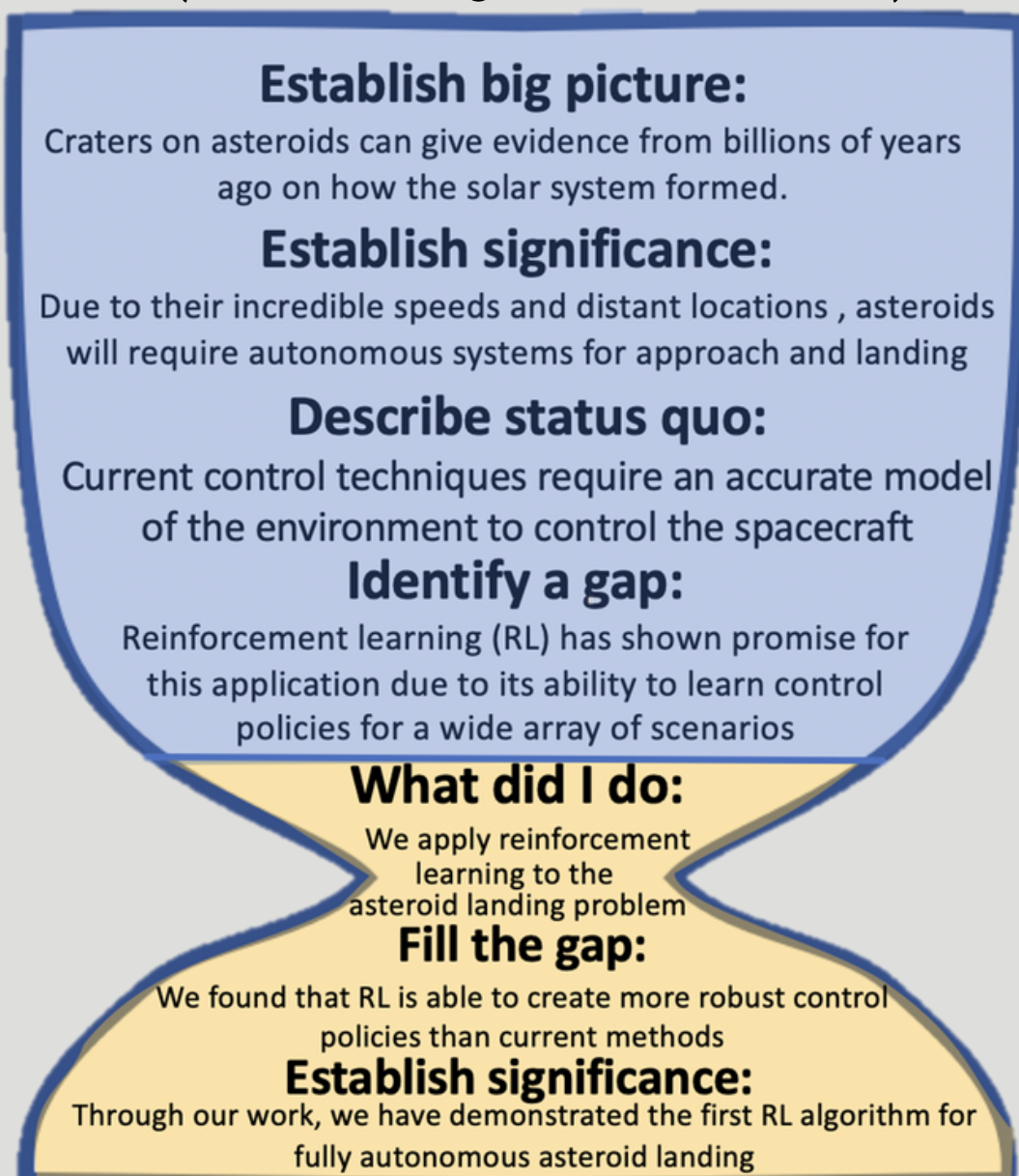
General interest  
(e.g. *Scientific American*)



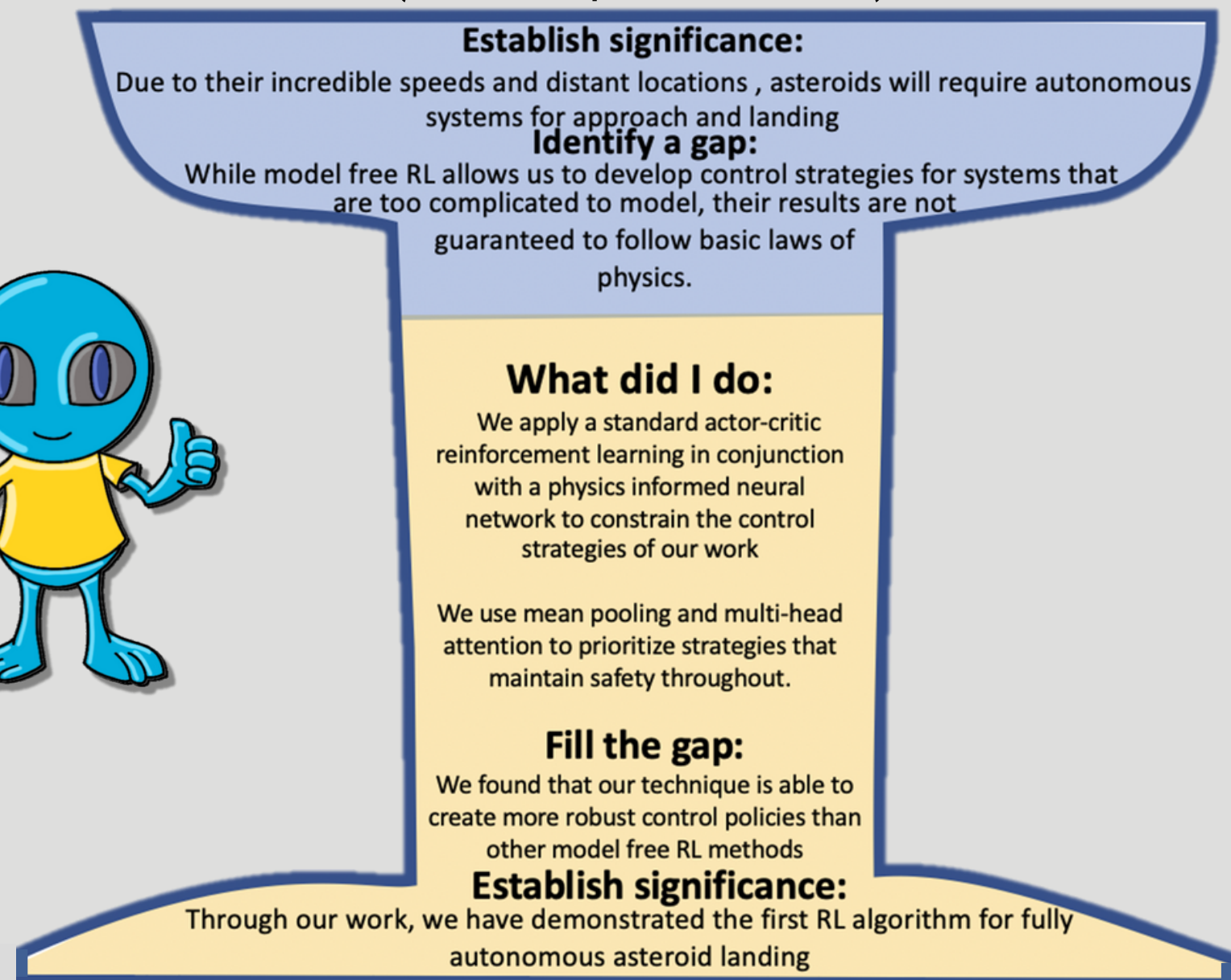
Images by Spiegelau, Waterford, & Hat Shark  
Adapted from Dr. Ardon Shorr, Carnegie Mellon University

## Hourglass Examples: Research Papers

(for a more general audience)



(for an expert audience)



Paper: B. Gaudet, R. Linares, and R. Furfaro. "Six Degree-of-Freedom Hovering over an Asteroid with Unknown Environmental Dynamics via Reinforcement Learning", *AIAA Scitech 2020 Forum*