Machine Learning V01: Introduction

Logistics of this module History and breadth of Machine Learning Inductive supervised learning What is learnable? (CLT)

Prerequisites (in this order):

- Ch. 1.2–1.4 from [Murphy, ML-APP, 2012]
- Ch. 1.1–1.2 from [Mitchell, ML, 1997]
- Ch. 18.4 from [Russell & Norvig, AIMA, 2010]



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0. LOGISTICS OF THIS MODULE

Zurich University of Applied Sciences and Arts InIT Institute of Applied Information Technology (stdm) Thilo Stadelmann

About me

- Born 1980, married
- Studied computer science in Giessen & Marburg, then doctorate (AI, voice recognition)
- Passion for programming & artificial intelligence (>20 years experience)

At ZHAW

- Email: <u>stdm@zhaw.ch</u>, office: TD 03.16 (Obere Kirchgasse 2)
- Tel.: 058 934 72 08, web: <u>https://stdm.github.io/</u>
- Professor for AI/ML at InIT/School of Engineering, scientific director of ZHAW digital

Interests



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About You





Logistics

Lecture

- Theory & some practice intertwined
- Break between 45min blocks?

Self-study

• Read & experiment as much as possible at home (\rightarrow see literature & exercises)

Material

- Find everything on the course e-learning platform
- Video recording, if done, is best-effort only and is no replacement for your presence in the lectures

Labs & grading

• See terms & conditions on the course platform / next slide





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Terms & conditions MSE – TSM_MachLe

Course platform: <u>https://moodle.msengineering.ch/course/view.php?id=1076</u> or https://stdm.github.io/ml-course/ (video-lectures)

Dates

- 90 min lecture, 45 min lab per date (in 2 groups, sequentially)
- 19.02. 19.03.: 5x <u>Thilo Stadelmann</u> (stdm@zhaw.ch)
- 26.03. 07.05.: 6x Christoph Würsch (christoph.wuersch@ntb.ch)
- 21.05. 28.05.: 2x Thilo Stadelmann

Labs

- Please **split autonomously** into 2 groups
- As long as there is space / resources, both groups can be present at any lab
- Time serves as a starter to the task → material suffices to go on during self study time

Grading

- 120 min written exam, pen & paper (no electronic devices used/allowed)
- Closed book, but a 2-sided A4 sheet with handwritten notes is allowed (not copied / printed)







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Module schedule MSE – TSM_MachLe



Neek	Date	Торіс	Content	Practice	Self study	Lecture	
		Preparation			P01.1-5		
1	19.02.	Introduction	V01: Introduction V01/P01: Discuss ML F fundamentals		P01.6-7	stdm	
2	26.02.		V02: Formulating learning problems		P02.1: Linear regression from scratch		
3	05.03.	Supervised learning	V03: Model assessment & selection	P04.1 Analyzing cross validation	P03	stdm	
4	12.03.		V04: SVMs	P04.2: SVM in IPython		stdm	
5	19.03.		V05: Ensembles	P04.3: Ensembles in practice	P05	stdm	
6	26.03.		V06.3: Debugging ML algorithms V07.1: System development - what to give priority?			würc	
7	02.04.		V08: Feature engineering	Lab08	würc		
8	09.04.		V09a: Probabilistic reasoning, Gaussian distribution and Bayes' therom	Lab09a 09a read		würc	
9	16.04.		V09b: Gaussian processes		Do, 2017	würc	
10	23.04.		holiday (Easer)				
11	30.04.	Unsupervised learning	V10: Dimensionality reduction	Lab10	Raschka ch. 5	würc	
12	07.05.		V11: Clustering	Lab11	Raschka ch. 11; Ng	würc	
13	21.05.	Selected chapters	V12a: Learning games from selfplay	P12: Selfplay for Tic-Tac-Toe	stdm		
14	28.05.		Open / FAQ	Open / FAQ		stdm	

Superior educational objectives



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- You have a solid foundation and best practices for the application of ML
- You can go on from here increasing your foundation through self study
- You apply ML algorithms using Python and state-of-the-art libraries
- You are able to select a suitable learning algorithm and prepare respective features for a given data set

→ We focus on overarching principles & practical advice
 → Read the literature to know more algorithms

aw

Literature



Tag	Authors	Title	Year	Subjective impression
Murphy	Murphy	Machine Learning - A Probabilistic Perspective	2012	Very comprehensive, lots of details, quite academic \rightarrow required reading for overview of the field (Ch. 1)
Mitchell	Mitchell	Machine Learning	1997	Very concise, rigorous thoughts but explanatory & accessible \rightarrow required reading for background on general learning (Ch. 1)
AIMA	Russel, Norvig	Artificial Intelligence - A Modern Approach, 3rd Edition	2010	Concise overview from an AI perspective in 2 chapters \rightarrow required reading for learnability & model selection (Ch. 18)
WEKA	Witten, Frank	Data Mining - Practical Machine Learning Tools & Techniques, 2nd Ed.	2005	Very readable introduction from a data mining perspective \rightarrow suitable for self study, companion to Java WEKA toolkit
ISL	James, Witten, Hastie, Tibshirani	An Introduction to Statistical Learning with Applications in R, 4th Printing	2014	Great concise introduction for using statistical learning → great read and application-relevant, R & python code
ESL	Hastie, Tibshirani, Friedman	The Elements of Statistical Learning, 2nd Edition	2009	Very comprehensive, lots of mathematical details → big brother of ISL when more details are needed
Duda et al.	Duda, Hart, Stork	Pattern Classification, 2nd Edition	2001	Focus on Pattern Recognition applications → great overview when dealing with pattern recognition data
Dlbook	Goodfellow, Bengio, Courville	Deep Learning	2016	Principled compendium to all things dl, good intro to math → complementary to others, see <u>www.deeplearningbook.com</u>









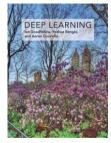
Gareth James Daniela Witten Trevor Hastie Robert Tibshira





See literature-guide.xlsx on the course site (/Material)





TO

Educational objectives for today

- Know the history and breadth of the discipline of Machine Learning to categorize material
- Understand what is (machine) learnable under the paradigm of inductive (supervised) learning
- Comfortably tap into (scientific) machine learning literature



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1. HISTORY AND BREADTH OF MACHINE LEARNING

What is Machine Learning?

...and how does it relate to learning in general?

Wikipedia on «Learning», 2015:

«...the act of acquiring new, or modifying and reinforcing, existing knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences and may involve synthesizing different types of information.»

"do something"

A. Samuel, 1959:

«...gives computers the ability to learn without being explicitly programmed.»

T.M. Mitchell, 1997:

«...if its **performance** at tasks in T, as measured by P, improves with experience E.»

→ In practice: Fitting parameters of a function to a set of data (data usually handcrafted, function chosen heuristically)

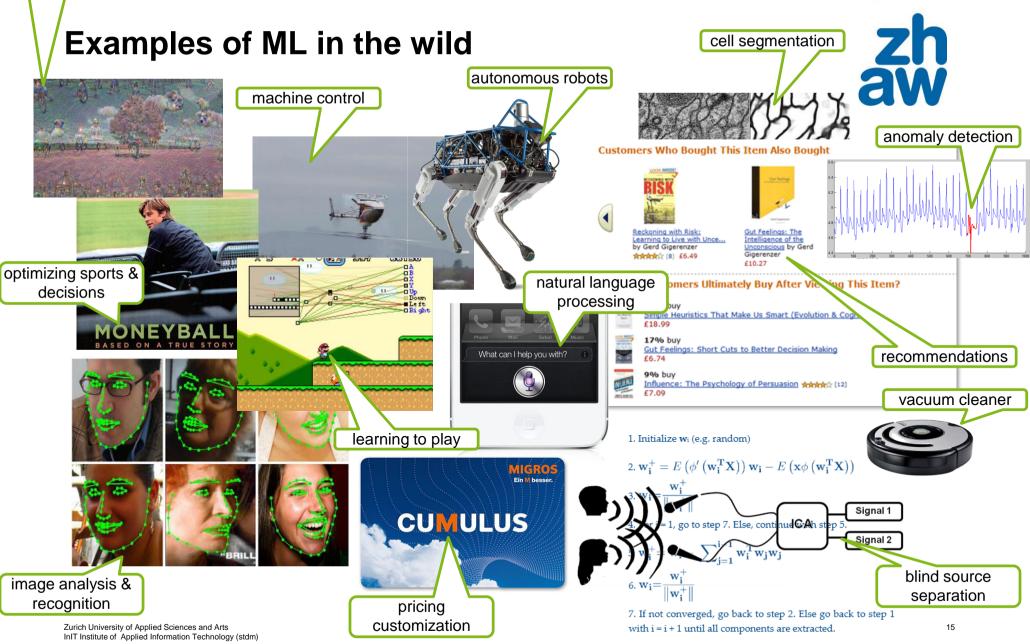




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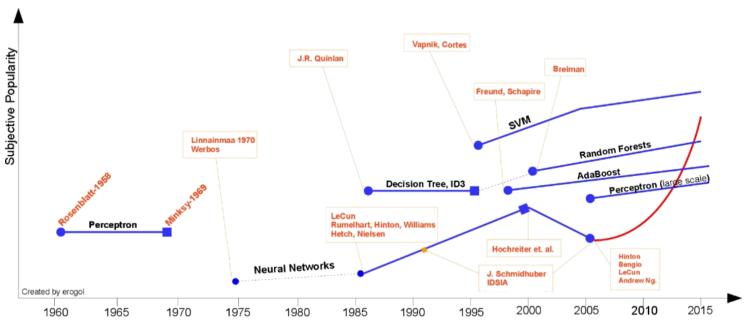
A simplified history of Machine Learning

• Discipline has its roots in Al

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- · Many methods have roots in statistics
- Two cultures: model-driven vs. «algorithmic»
 → see [Breiman, 2001]







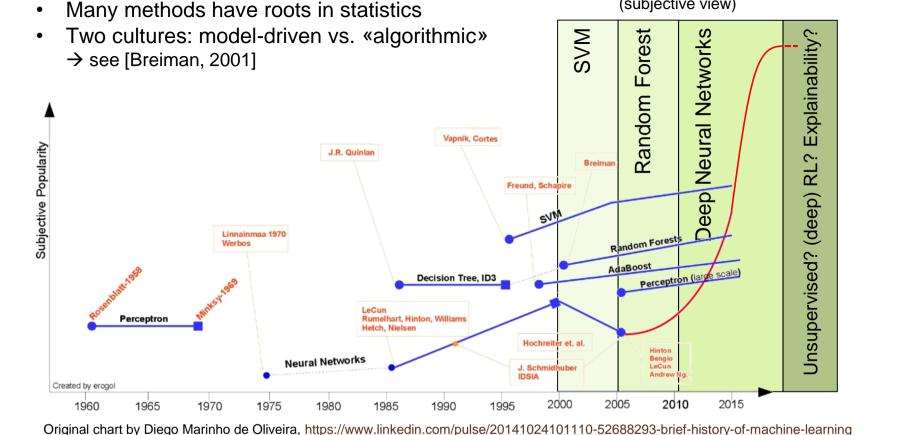
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A simplified history of Machine Learning

Discipline has its roots in Al

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Trends in research-oriented practice

(subjective view)

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Exercise: Recap from P01 reading assignment

→ Your 2 facts & 3 questions?

Important points

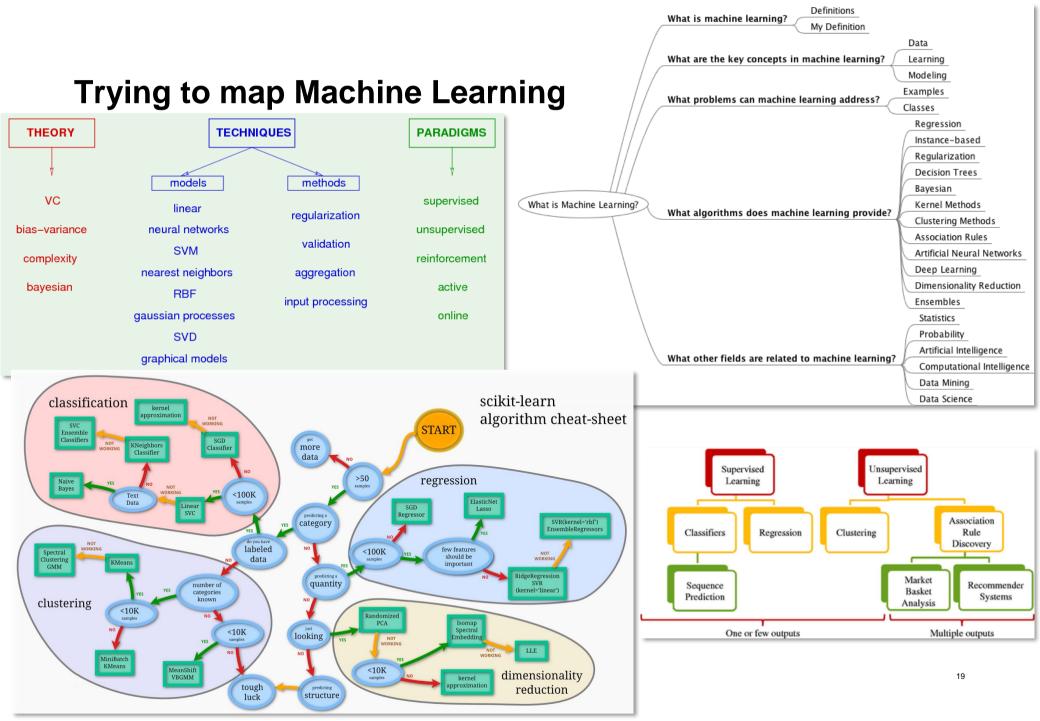
- Brief examples for supervised and unsupervised learning [Murphy, 1.3–1.4]
- Basic idea of few algorithms: kNN, linear regression & logistic regression [Murphy, 1.4.1–1.4.6]
- What is a well posed learning problem? [Mitchell, 1.1]
- One detailed example of formulating a learning problem
 [Mitchell, 1.2]
- Model flexibility and the bias-variance trade-off
 → the need for evaluation
 [Murphy, 1.4.7–1.4.9] [Russell & Norvig, 18.4]

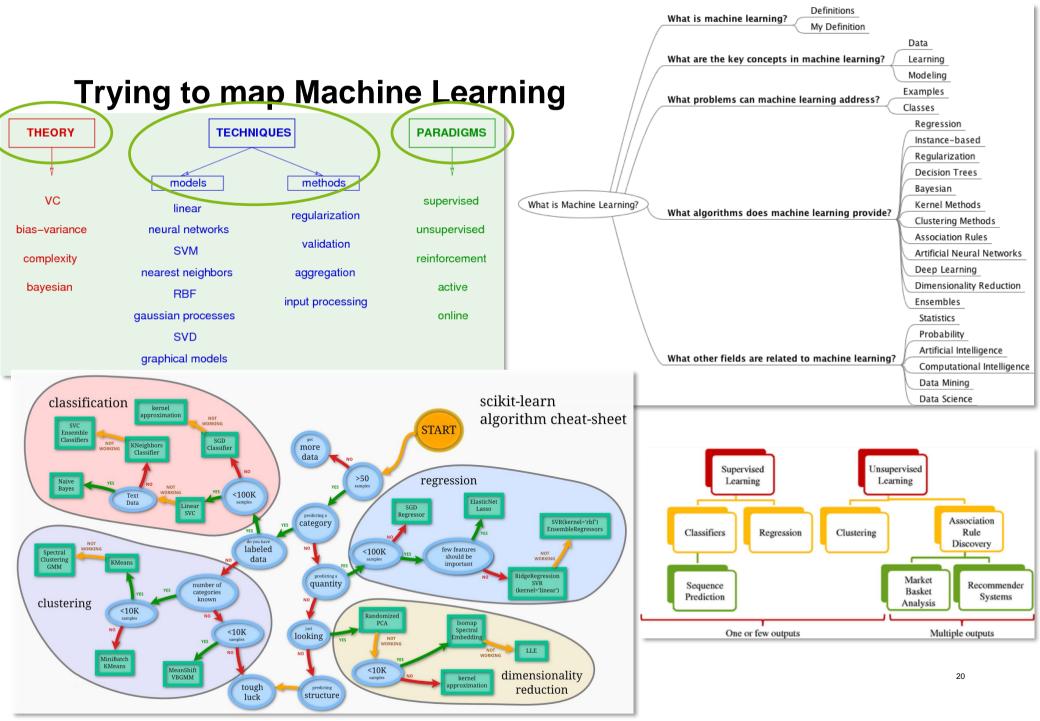
Not covered here specifically

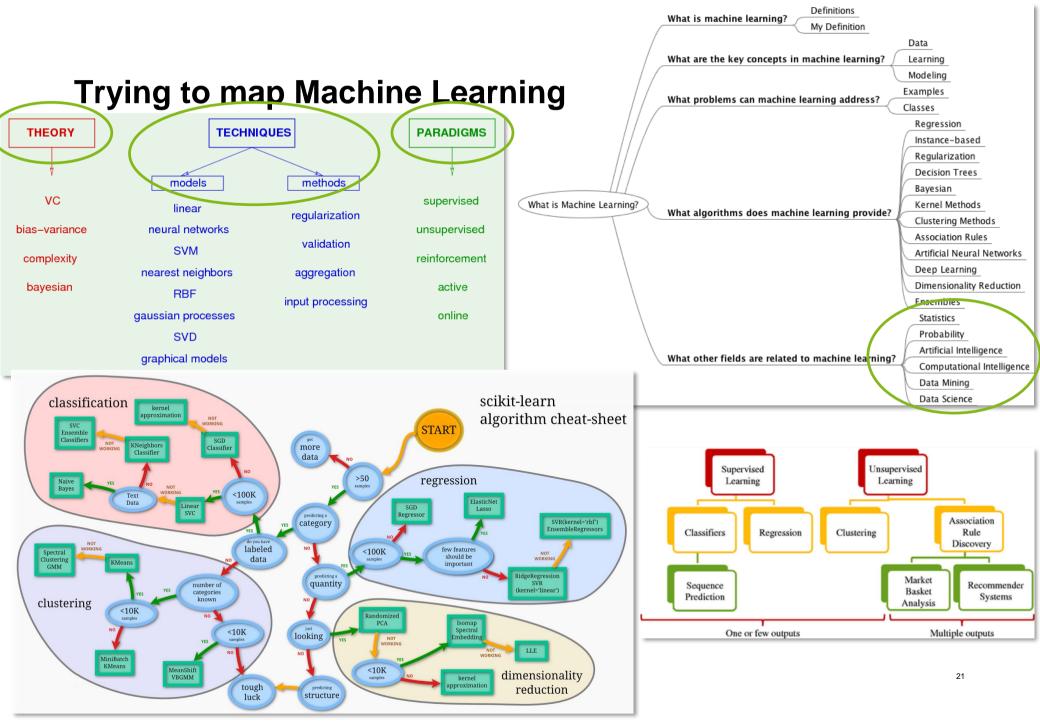
- Statistical perspective on hierarchical clustering
- Statistical perspective on kNN, CART, Random Forest

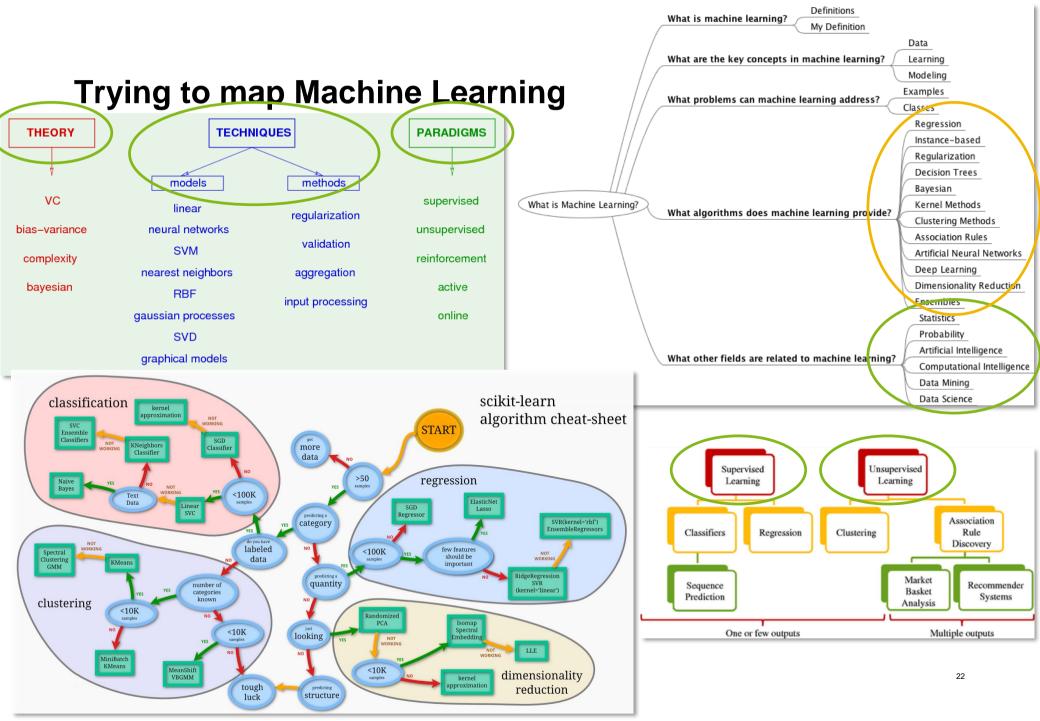


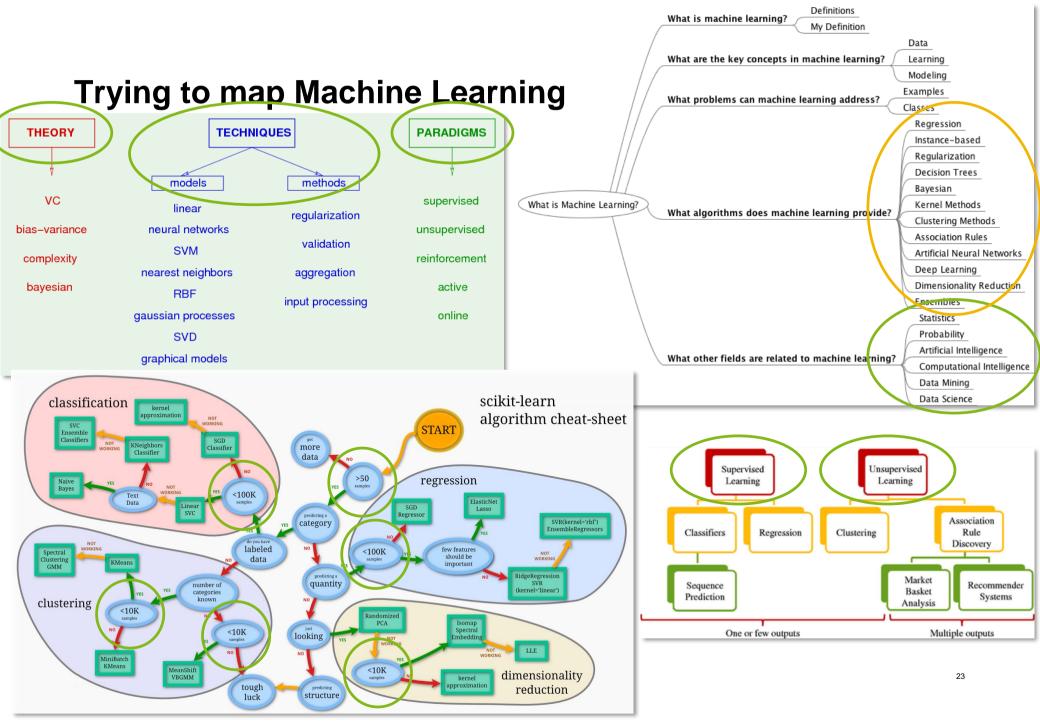


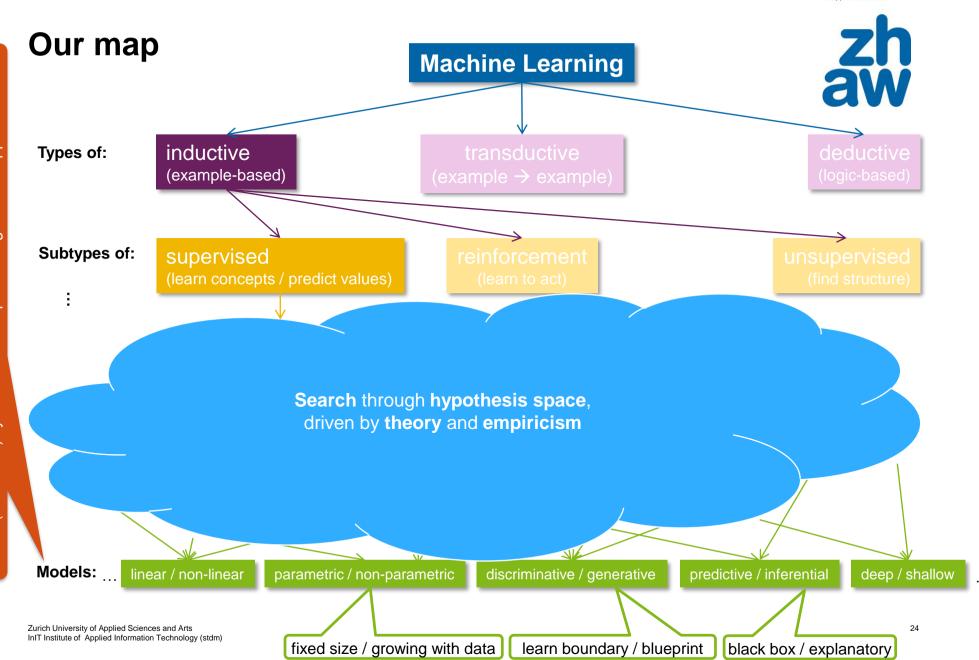














2. INDUCTIVE SUPERVISED LEARNING

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Inductive learning



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Goal

• Discover general concepts from a limited set of examples (experience)

Methods are based on inductive reasoning:

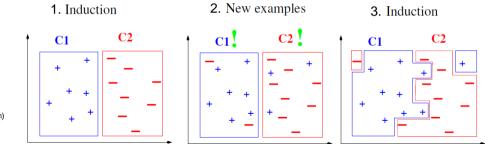
- It obtains general knowledge (a model) from specific information
- The knowledge obtained is new (i.e., not implicitly present in a logical theory)
- Its not truth preserving (new information can invalidate the knowledge obtained)
- It is heuristic in nature (i.e., no well-founded theory)
- → Assumption: A model fitted to sufficiently large example set will generalize to unseen data

called the «inductive learning hypothesis»

What is sufficient? Basic ML research question!

Only one counterexample invalidates the result

→ But, most of the human learning is inductive!



Inductive supervised learning Classification & regression



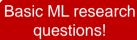
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Semi-formal representation

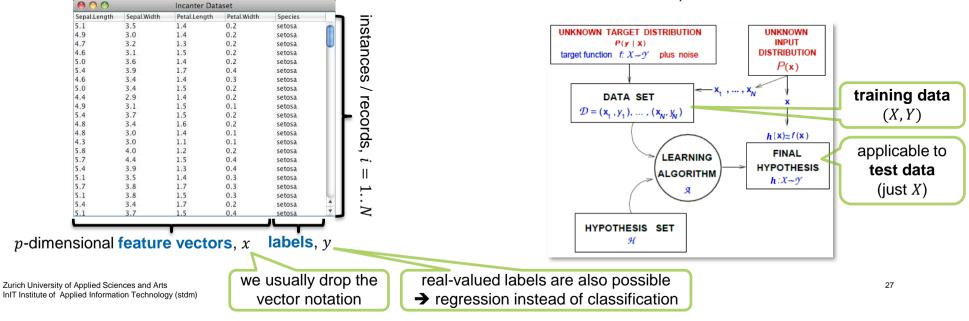
- *N* Examples are usually described by attribute-label pairs (\vec{x}_i, y_i) , i = 1..N
- Labels usually denote concepts,
 e.g. y_i = 0 for "red", y_i = 1 for "blue"
- Examples have been generated by some unknown function f(x) = y, and noise

Goal

- Approximate the mapping function from example x to label y with a hypothesis $h(x) = \hat{y} \approx f(x)$
- ...such that it **generalizes** well!

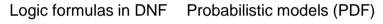


➔ Which is the best approximation, what are the candidates, how to search them?

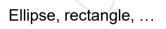


Learning as searchthrough a hypothesis space ${\mathcal H}$

Hypothesis spaces



Linear/non-linear functions



• \mathcal{H} contains all possible hypothesis that can be built with the chosen representation

Formal goal

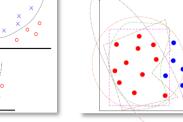
- Find the hypothesis $h^*(x, \theta) = \hat{y}$ that best fits the training data...
 - ...according to a loss function $L(h(x, \theta), y)$...
 - ... by searching the hypothesis space $\mathcal{H} = \{h(x, \theta) | \theta \in P\}$ (*P* is the set of all possible parameters)
- That is:

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• find $h^* = \underset{h \in \mathcal{H}}{\operatorname{arg min}} E_{emp}(h) \dots$ minimizing average loss

explicit reference to parameters θ

• ...by minimizing the empirical error $E_{emp}(h) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} L(h(x_i, \theta), y_i)$, with e.g. $L(\hat{y}, y) = \begin{cases} 0 & if \ y = \hat{y} \\ 1 & else \end{cases}$





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→ Very useful decomposition of inductive bias for practice: language bias | search bias | overfitting-avoidance bias

Inductive bias Guiding the search through \mathcal{H}



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«A learner that makes **no a priori assumptions** regarding the identity of the target concept has **no rational basis for classifying** any unseen instances» [Mitchell, 1997, Ch. 2.7.3]

No free lunch theorem regarding the general equivalence of learners

- When all functions f are equally likely, the probability of observing an arbitrary sequence of cost values during training does not depend upon the learning algorithm \mathcal{L} [Wolpert, 1996]
- → All learning algorithms have advantages & disadvantages, depending on the current data

Inductive bias of a learning algorithm \mathcal{L} for instances in X

- Any minimal set of assertions *B* that, together with \mathcal{L} and the training set, $D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}, i = 1..N, \text{ allows for deductively inferring the } y' \text{ for a new } x' \in X$
- That is: Make all assumptions **explicit** in *B* such that $\forall x' \in X$: $(B, \mathcal{L}, D, x') \Rightarrow y'$ is provable

i.e.: based on a priori knowledge

 \rightarrow Ultimately, ML depends on intelligent choice of the class of \mathcal{H} ; \mathcal{L} then optimizes the details

→ We can characterize ML algorithms by (the strength of) their inductive bias

Inductive unsupervised learning Clustering and beyond

Usual task: Clustering

- *N* Examples are described by feature vectors \vec{x}_i , i = 1.. N without any labels
- The examples naturally fall into K groups;
 K and the group membership function
 f(x) = y, y ∈ 1..K are unknown

Challenges

a form of inductive bias!

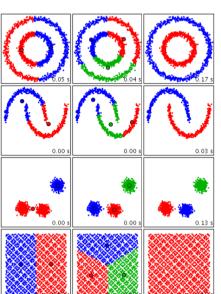
- Similarity by distance and/or density?
- Choice of parameters (i.e., range of K)

Also called «latent factors» or «hidden variables»

Other tasks

- Discovery of unobserved variables
- Dimensionality reduction
- Feature learning (e.g. autoencoders)
- Matrix completion (e.g. recommend, inpaint)
- Discovery of dependency structure in features (graph analysis)

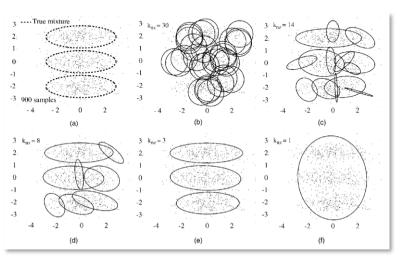
not graphics!





Left: Effect of density- vs. distance-based similarity. From left to right: K-Means (K = 2), K-Means (K = 3), DBSCAN (eps = .1, min = 3)

Bottom: Problem of parameter choice in fitting a number of Gaussians to data. Top left to bottom right: True mixture (3), K =30, 14, 8, 3, 1





3. WHAT IS LEARNABLE? (COMPUTATIONAL LEARNING THEORY)

What is learnable?



Previous findings

- Any target function f over an instance set X is learnable
- ... given an expressive enough (deterministic) hypothesis space \mathcal{H} ,
- ...a large enough training set *D*_{train},
- ...and stationarity of the distribution over X (i.e., instances in D_{train} and D_{test} are i.i.d.)

Better questions

- What size of *D*_{train} is **large enough**?
- Given that large enough training set, how well does the training error (empirical error over D_{train}) predict generalizability?

→ This is the domain of computational learning theory (CLT)



PAC Learnability and VC Complexity Measuring the complexity of infinite hypothesis spaces



Theoretical results (\rightarrow see appendix): Unrealistic but helpful

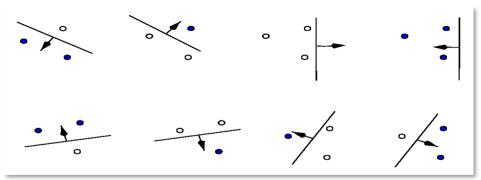
- Sample complexity bounds using $|\mathcal{H}|$ usually do a substantial overestimate
- The assumption that $f \in \mathcal{H}$ is unrealistic (would often need an unbiased \mathcal{H})
- But: Characterizing learning problem complexity and generalization improvement with *N* rocks!

«[VC] dimension is a way of measuring the complexity of a class of functions by assessing **how wiggly** its members can be.»

http://www.svms.org/vc-dimension/

Measuring Vapnik-Chervonenkis (VC) dimension for infinite \mathcal{H}

- $h \in \mathcal{H}$ is "shattering a set of instances $S \in X$ " *iif* h can partition S in any way possible
- $VC(\mathcal{H}) \coloneqq |\{S \in X | S \text{ is the largest subset of } X \text{ shattered by } any h \in \mathcal{H}\}|$
- $VC(\mathcal{H})$ can be used as an alternative measure of $|\mathcal{H}|$ to compute sample complexity



A 2d linear classifier (straight line) can shatter 3 points $\rightarrow VC(2D \ straight \ lines) = 3 \ (but \ |\mathcal{H}| = \infty)$.

VC Complexity contd.

What VC theory guarantees: «The size of training set required to ensure good generalisation scales linearly with [VC dimension] in the case of a consistent hypothesis». [Cristianini and Shawe-Taylor, 2000]

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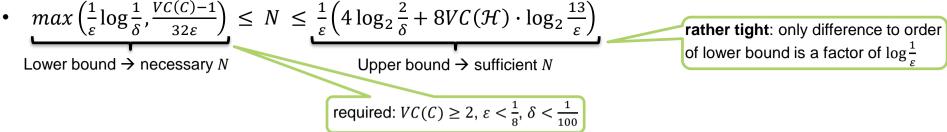
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Examples

- Provable: $VC(p \dim linear \ decision \ surface) = p + 1$
- **Provable**: *VC*(*conjunction of n Boolean literals*) = *n*
- Provable: $VC(multilayer neural net of n perceptrons) = 2(p + 1) \cdot n \cdot \log(e \cdot n)$
 - → Doesn't hold for backpropagation training (sigmoidal units, inductive bias for small weights)
 - → Sample complexity for NN should consider number **and** numerical size of weights!
 - Fits "Uncle Bernie's rule": $N \approx 10w$ (w is the number of weights; other estimate: $N = w \log w$)

VC dimension and sample complexity of a learning problem

• Learning problem defined by concept C and hypothesis space \mathcal{H} , ε and δ as in appendix



→ We can characterize ML algorithms regarding complexity by their VC dimension

Exercise: What's the point of CL theory?

Take some time with your neighbor and discuss:

- How can you determine the VC dimension of a practical ٠ MI method?
- How is $VC(\mathcal{H})$ related to the complexity of the learning ٠ task?
- Can you make statements on the complexity of a ٠ learning problem based on CLT results?
- Do you find concrete results on the web concerning ٠ sample complexity of algorithms you already know/use?



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Rehabilitation of ML Relativizing previous pessimistic statements

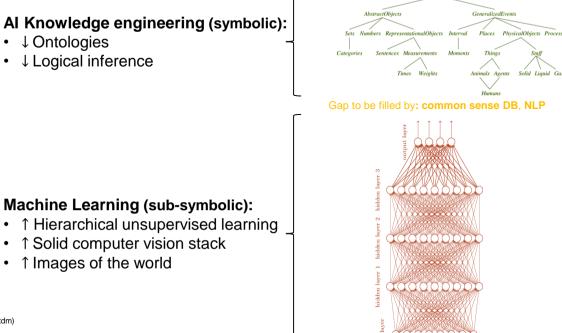
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"Fitting parameters of a function to a set of data (data usually handcrafted, function chosen heuristically)"

- Pure function fitting could be extended to a **feedback loop** (active learning): A "critic" reviews the result ٠ of a learner and operates a **simulation** to generate exactly the next data needed to enlighten current "blind spots"
- A model for practical "Al" (inspired by E. Mogenet, Google Research Europe): ٠

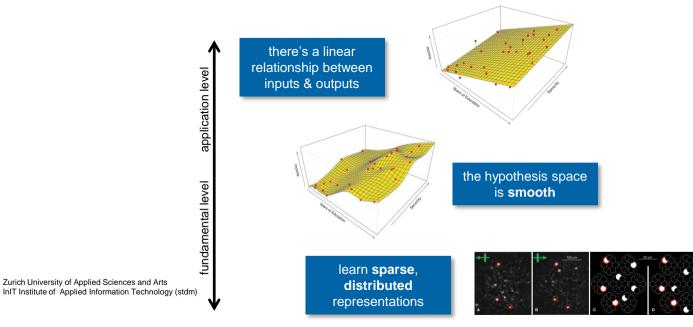


Rehabilitation of ML (contd.) Relativizing previous pessimistic statements



"Search through hypothesis space, driven by theory and empiricism (ultimately, ML depends on intelligent choice of the class of \mathcal{H} ; \mathcal{L} then optimizes the details)"

- Even if NFL states the *general* equivalence of all learners, **there might be a** single well-suited **learner** for the subclass of all practical problems encountered on earth
 - → Deep learning has shown some progress on the subclass of pattern recognition problems
- Two facts give hope: (a) bias-free learning is futile and (b) **good general learners** for all practical problems **do exist** (biological learners, especially humans)
 - → We might discover general inductive biases (i.e., learning algorithms) that are less domain-/problem-specific



Review

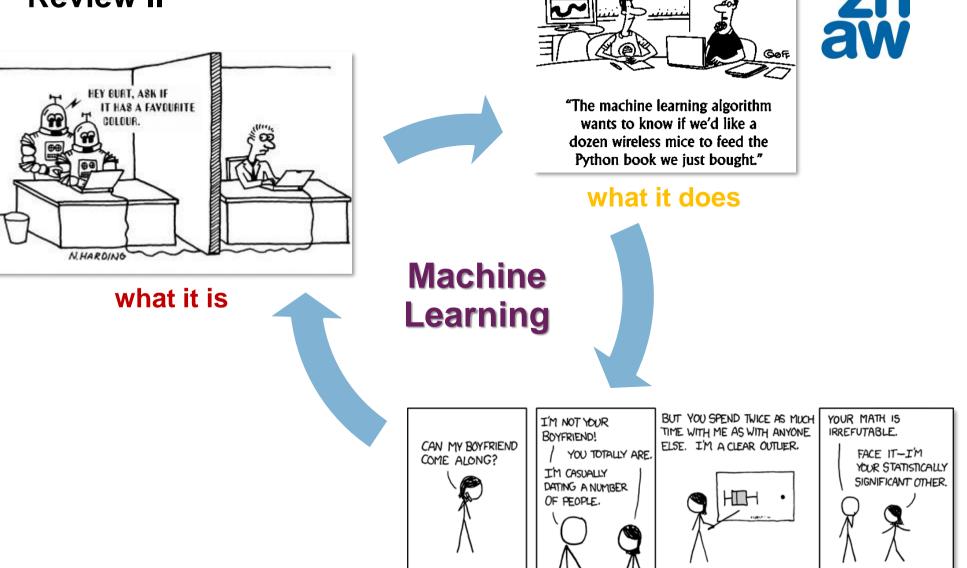
- Remember what you've read for **P01** (in particular algorithm examples)!
- Classic (inductive supervised) ML: **approximate a function** of your choice using given tabulated data X with labels $Y \rightarrow$ **training**
- Long-term goal: (artificial) intelligence → learn representation (of data & function) automatically
- The **inductive bias** guides the **search** through the chosen **hypothesis space**
- No single learner is best for all occasions (**no free lunch theorem**)
- Computational learning theory guarantees that the number of needed training data grows linearly with VC dimension



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Review II



how it works

© 2014 Ted Goff KDnuggets Cartoon

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APPENDIX

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Further reading

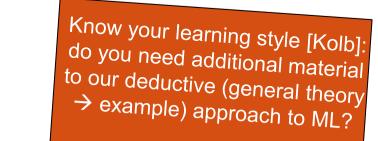
See also: https://stdm.github.io/Some-places-to-start-learning-ai-ml/

Authors	Title	Year Category	Focus
Lipton	A Critical Review of Recurrent Neural Networks for Sequence Learning	2015 Algorithms	Sequential supervised learning
Chandola et al.	Anomaly Detection - A Survey	2009 Algorithms	Anomaly detection
Mitchell	Machine Learning, Chapter 6	1997 Algorithms	Bayesian Methods
James, Witten, Hastie, Tibshirani	Introduction to Statistical Learning, 4th Printing, Chapter 8	2014Algorithms	Tree-based methods
Duda, Hart, Stork	Pattern Classification, 2nd Edition, Chapter 9	2001 Fundamentals	More ML principles, classifier evaluation
James, Witten, Hastie, Tibshirani	Introduction to Statistical Learning, 4th Printing, Chapter 10	2014 Algorithms	Unsupervised learning
Mitchell	Machine Learning, Chapter 11+12	1997 Algorithms	Analytical (deductive) learning
Oza, Tumer	Classifier Ensembles - Select Real-World Applications	2008 Algorithms	Ensemble learning
LeCun, Bengio, Hinton	Deep Learning	2015 Algorithms	Deep Learning
Stanley, Miikulainen	Evolving Neural Networks through Augmenting Topologies	2002 Algorithms	Genetic algorithms train weights & structure of neural nets
LeCun et al.	Gradient-Based Learning Applied to Document Recognition	1998 Algorithms	Learning end to end
Hyärinen, Oja	Independent Component Analysis - A Tutorial	1999 Algorithms	Independent component analysis
Kaelbling et al.	Reinforcement Learning - A Survey	1996 Algorithms	Reinforcement learning
Breiman	Statistical Modeling - The Two Cultures	2001 Algorithms	Debating different approaches in statistics and machine learning (computer science)
Ke, Hoiem, Sukthankar	Computer Vision for Music Identification	2005 Applications	Audio fingerprinting
Ciresan et al.	Deep Neural Networks Segment Neuronal Membranes in Electron Microscopy Images	2012 Applications	Medical image segmentation
Yu et al.	Feature engineering and classifier ensemble for KDD cup 2010	2010 Applications	Feature extraction & ensemble building
Viola, Jones	Robust Real-Time Face Detection	2004 Applications	Face detection
Reynolds, Rose	Robust Text-Independent Speaker Identification Using Gaussian Mixture Speaker Models	1995 Applications	Speaker recognition
Mordvintsev et al.	Inceptionism: Going Deeper into Neural Networks	2015 Applications	Synthesizing psychedelic images from Neural Networks
Jimmy Ba, Volodymyr Mnih, Koray Kavukcuoglu	Multiple Object Recognition with Visual Attention	2015 Applications	Automatic creation of image captions using deep learning
Chung Hinton	Gated Feedback Recurrent Neural Network	2015 Algorithms	RNN architecture which learns
Dieleman et al.	Classifying plankton with deep neural nets	2015 Applications	Application of CNN to classify images from unbalanced small data sets
	k-Maxoids Clustering	2015 Algorithms	Clustering
Doersch	A Tutorial on Variational Autoencoders	2016 Algorithms	Unsupervised learning
Goodfellow et al.	Generative Adversarial Nets	2014 Algorithms	Unsupervised learning



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Formulate goals, cross-connect knowledge

Do **program**, do **take notes** (yourself)!

Secrets of success

«Most of the things you need will be brought to you; most of the things you want you have to go get.» (Bill Johnson)



Use self study possibilities

Google Acquires Artificial Intelligence Startup DeepMind For More Than \$500M

Posted Jan 26, 2014 by Catherine Shu (@catherineshu)



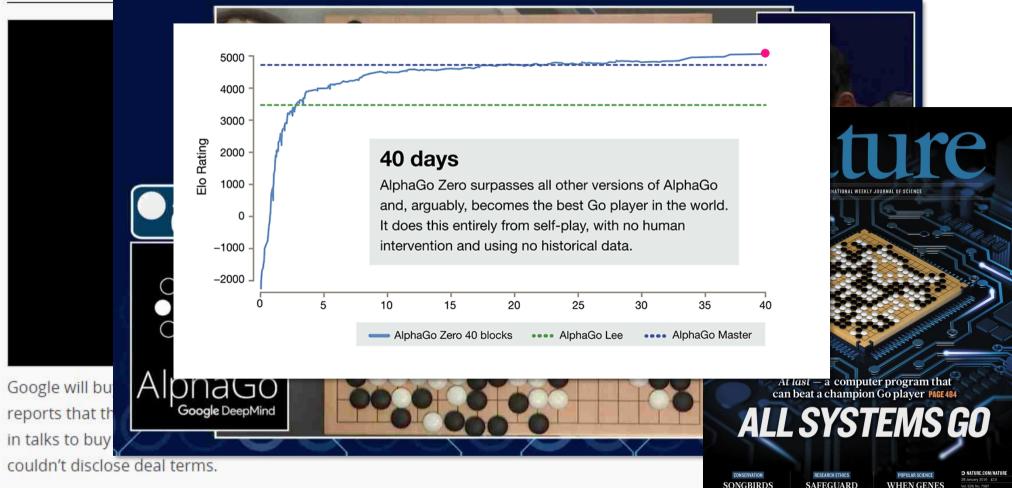


A CARTE

TRANSPARENCY

GOT 'SELFISH'

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The acquisition was originally confirmed by Google to Re/code.



Deep neural networks can now transfer the style of one photo onto another

And the results are impressive

by James Vincent | @jjvincent | Mar 30, 2017, 1:53pm EDT

TWEET in LINKEDIN & SHARE

Computing

Algorith Artistic Other In

A deep neural n other images.

by Emerging Tech

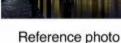
The nature of arti of Vincent Van C Edvard Munch's humans recogniz







Original photo





Result

You've probably heard of an AI technique known as "style transfer" - or, if you haven't heard of it, you've seen it. The process uses neural networks to apply the look and feel of one image to another, and appears in apps like Prisma and Facebook. These style transfers, however, are stylistic, not photorealistic. They look good because they look like they've been painted. Now a group of researchers from Cornell University and Adobe have augmented

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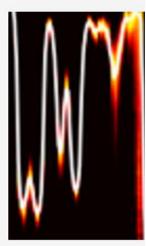
Künstliche Intelligenz

WaveNet lässt Computerenreche natürlich klingen

von Henning Steier / 12.9.201

Die Google-Tochter Deep№ macht auch Musik.





DeepMind lässt WaveNet Spra

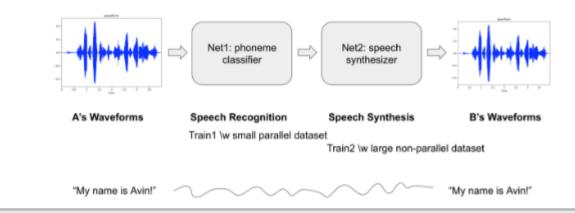
Die Google-Tochter Dee Spiel «Go» Schlagzeilen: einen der besten mensch Londoner Unternehmen erzeugt Sprache, die seh im Blogeintrag des Unter Massstab nimmt. Man ha What if you could imitate a famous celebrity's voice or sing like a famous singer? This project started with a goal to convert someone's voice to a specific target voice. So called, it's voice style transfer. We worked on this project that aims to convert someone's voice to a famous English actress Kate Winslet's voice. We implemented a deep neural networks to achieve that and more than 2 hours of audio book sentences read by Kate Winslet are used as a dataset.





Model Architecture

This is a many-to-one voice conversion system. The main significance of this work is that we could generate a target speaker's utterances without parallel data like <source's way, target's way>, <way, text> or <way, phone>, but only waveforms of the target speaker. (To make these parallel datasets needs a lot of effort.) All we need in this project is a number of waveforms of the target speaker's utterances and only a small set of <way, phone> pairs from a number of anonymous speakers.



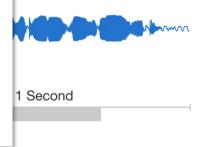


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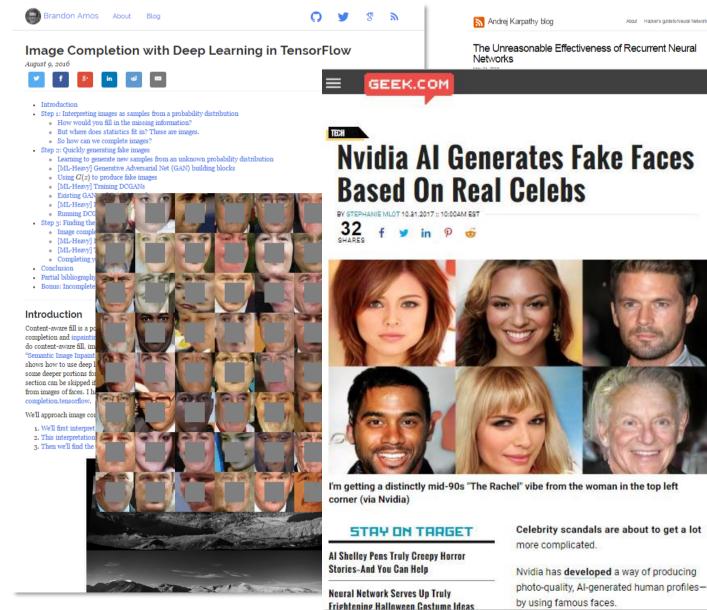
of Applied Sciences

nerierte Sprache Is Texteingabe»

nerierte Musik ine Inhaltsvorgabe»



... und die Liste liesse sich fortsetzen!



aw

the morning paper

The amazing power of word vectors APRIL 21, 2016

About Hacker's oulde to Neural Networks

hand,

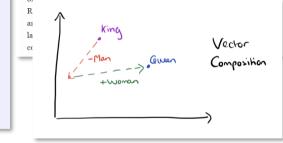
Law,

ls,

For today's post, I've drawn material not just from one paper, but from five! The subject matter is 'word2vec' - the work of Mikolov et al. at Google on efficient vector representations of words (and what you can do with them). The papers are:

- * Efficient Estimation of Word Representations in Vector Space - Mikolov et al. 2013
- * Distributed Representations of Words and Phrases and their Compositionality – Mikolov et al. 2013
- * Linguistic Regularities in Continuous Space Word Representations - Mikolov et al. 2013
- * word2vec Parameter Learning Explained Rong 2014
- * word2vec Explained: Deriving Mikolov et al's Negative Sampling Word-Embedding Method - Goldberg and Levy 2014

From the first of these papers ('Efficient estimation...') we get a description of the Continuous Bag-of-Words and Continuous Skip-gram models for learning word vectors (we'll talk about what a word vector is in a moment...). From the second paper we get more illustrations of the power of word vectors, some additional information on optimisations for the skipgram model (hierarchical softmax and negative sampling), and a discussion of analysing wood wastons to alwasse. The third name ('I inguistic



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On modeling and abstraction



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Quoted from *AIMA*, p. 68-69, sec. 3.1.2

- A model [is] an abstract mathematical description [...] and not the real thing
- The process of removing detail from a representation is called abstraction
- The abstraction is *valid* if we can expand any abstract solution into a solution in the more detailed world
- The abstraction is *useful* if carrying out each of the actions in the solution is easier than the original problem
- The choice of a good abstraction thus involves removing as much detail as possible while retaining validity and ensuring that the abstract actions are easy to carry out
- ➔ Were it not for the ability to construct useful abstractions, machine learning solutions would be completely swamped by the real world



An example ...of the futility of bias-free learning



Example	Sky	AirTemp	Humidity	Wind	Water	Forecast	EnjoySport	
1	Sunny	Warm	Normal	Strong	Warm	Same	Yes	
2	Sunny	Warm	High	Strong	Warm	Same	Yes	
3	Rainy	Cold	High	Strong	Warm	Change	No	
4	Sunny	Warm	High	Strong	Cool	Change	Yes	

Example	Sky	AirTemp	Humidity	Wind	Water	Forecast	EnjoySport
$\begin{array}{c}1\\2\\3\end{array}$	Sunny	Warm	Normal	Strong	Cool	Change	Yes
	Cloudy	Warm	Normal	Strong	Cool	Change	Yes
	Rainy	Warm	Normal	Strong	Cool	Change	No

Training set *D*_{train} (left) and unseen test set *D*_{test} (right) for the concept "EnjoySport" (from [Mitchell, 1997, Ch. 2]).

- The CandidateElimination algorithm finds all hypotheses $V = \{h \in \mathcal{H} | h \text{ consistent with } D_{train}\}$
 - Classifies an unknown instance positive *iif* it is classified positive by all $h \in V$
 - Searches by enumerating the sets of **most general** and **most specific** consistent hypotheses (V_q, V_s)
- Suppose *H* includes **conjunctions of constraints** on all features (specific values & wildcards)

 - → No $h \in V$ classifies all 3 instances in D_{test} correctly (disjunction needed)
- Change \mathcal{H} so it allows arbitrary **combinations** of **conjunction**, **disjunction** and **negation**
 - → \mathcal{H} now contains all possible concepts → it is unbiased
 - → CandidateElimination will just memorize D_{train} ($V_q = V_s$ = instances themselves)
 - → No generalization possible!

Inductive bias of *CandidateElimination*: The concept can be represented in its (limited) \mathcal{H} .

PAC Learnability Framework for characterizing learners over finite $|\mathcal{H}|$

with probability $1 - \delta$

A learning algorithm is said to learn probably approximately correct (PAC) *iif*

• We can find N such that after seeing N training examples, all consistent $h \in \mathcal{H}$ will be approximately correct with high probability after reasonable computational time

with true error $< \varepsilon$

• That is: Computational effort & needed training samples grow only polynomial with $\frac{1}{2} \otimes \frac{1}{8}$

Advantages if one can show an algorithm to be a PAC learner

- «Any hypothesis that is consistent with a sufficiently large set of training examples is unlikely to be seriously wrong» [Russell & Norvig, 2010, Ch. 18.5]
- There are provable upper bounds on the sample complexity of learners over specific $\mathcal H$
 - E.g., $N \ge \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left(\ln \frac{1}{\delta} + \ln |\mathcal{H}| \right)$ for any consistent PAC learning algorithm.

Example: CandidateElimination (see appendix)

- 96 distinct instances possible for *EnjoySports* task
- |*H*| = 973 (just conjunctions), let ε = 0.01, δ = 0.95
 → N should be greater than 693

\rightarrow $|\mathcal{H}|$ needs to be restricted to allow for reasonable N-

"Consistent" learners have 0 training error. Replace $\frac{1}{\varepsilon}$ with $\frac{1}{2\varepsilon^2}$ for "**agnostic**" learners ($f \notin \mathcal{H}$); replace $|\mathcal{H}|$ with $c \cdot 2^p$ for an **unbiased** \mathcal{H} with pdimensional features (c is a constant).

E.g. via inductive bias, regularization → more in V06.



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