



Can Machine Learning solve my problem?

9th BCD ISHEP Cargèse School - part I

28 March 2024 - Cargèse, France

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Clermont Ferrand, France*



*What
impressive
things machine
learning can
and/or will be
able to do?*



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Can Machine Learning solve my problem?

I do not know

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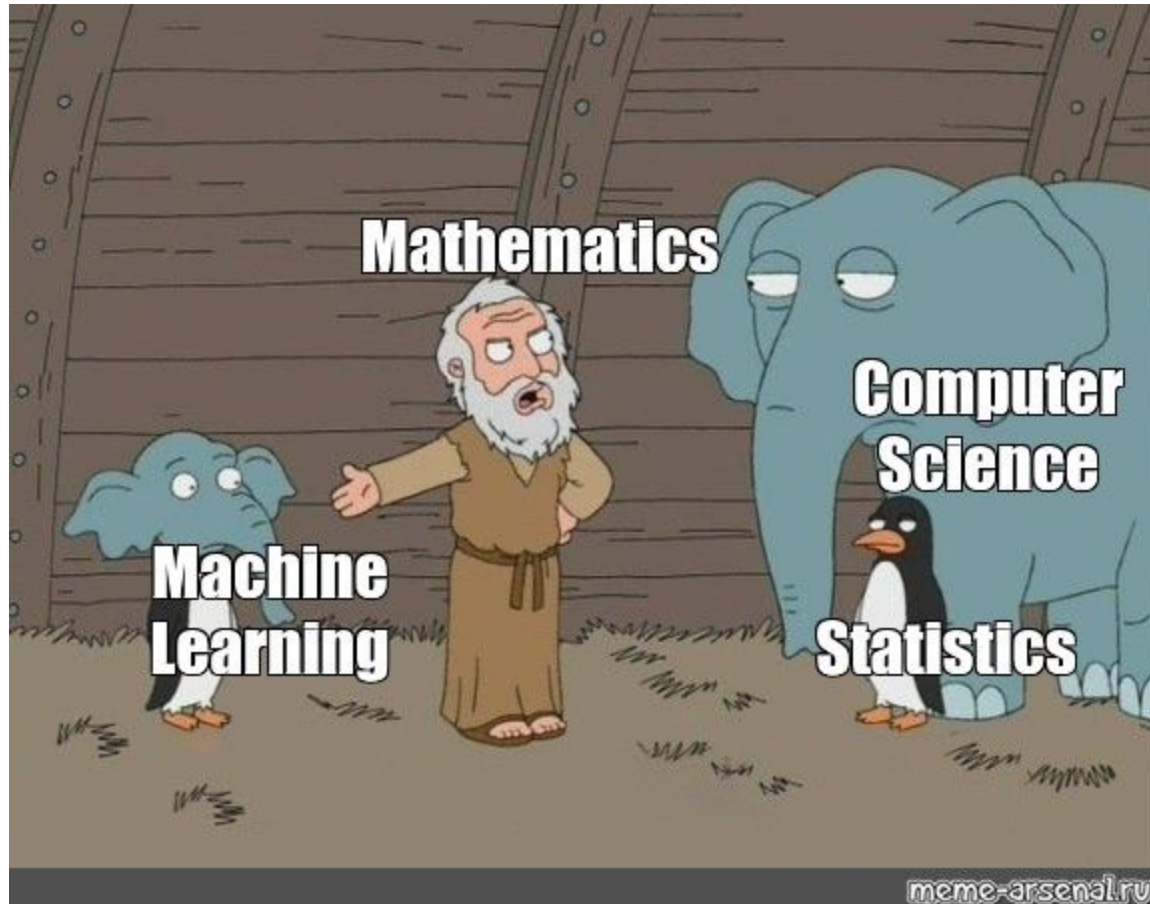
*Laboratoire de Physique de Clermont - Université Clermont-Auvergne
Clermont Ferrand, France*



WARNING

MATH AHEAD

**DON'T PANIC!
SKIM IF YOU HAVE TO.**



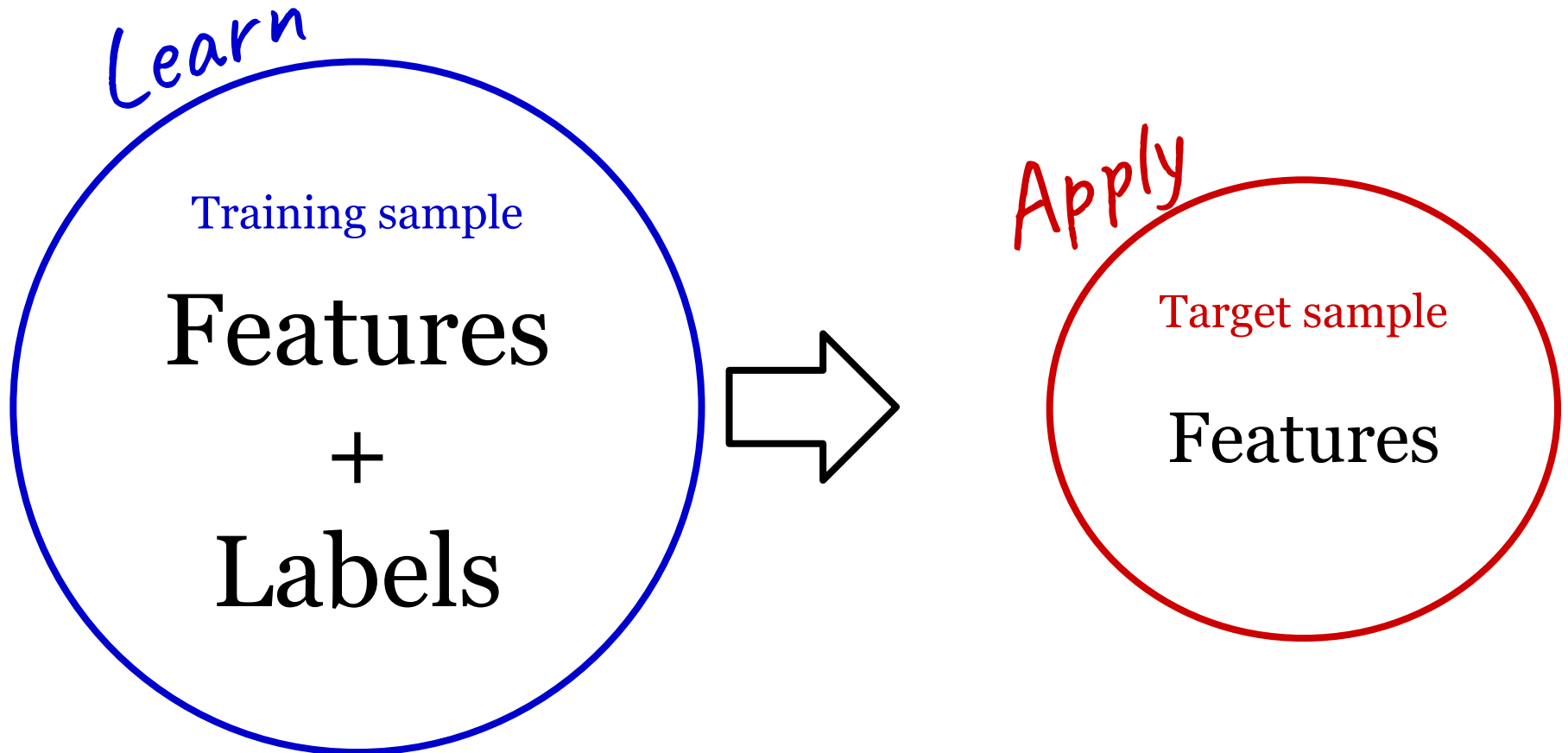
What is learning ?

“A relatively permanent change in behaviour due to past experiences.”

Start from the beginning ...

Supervised Learning

Learn by example



Question:

List 2 animals that you believe are capable of learning.



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Examples from natural learning ...

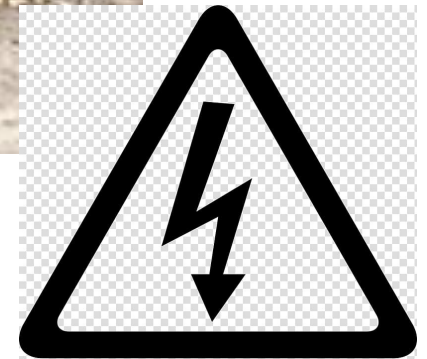
Rat bait shyness - I



Rat bait shyness - II



ComputerHope.com



Question:

- Do you believe the rat will learn the correlation between bad food \Rightarrow shock and/or sound \Rightarrow nausea?



Join at [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) with code: 7907 6385

Question:

- What aspect of the rat learning model prevents it from understanding the input \Rightarrow output correlation?

Examples from natural learning ...

Pigeon superstition



Skinner, B. F. "Superstition' in the Pigeon", Journal of Experimental Psychology#38, 1947

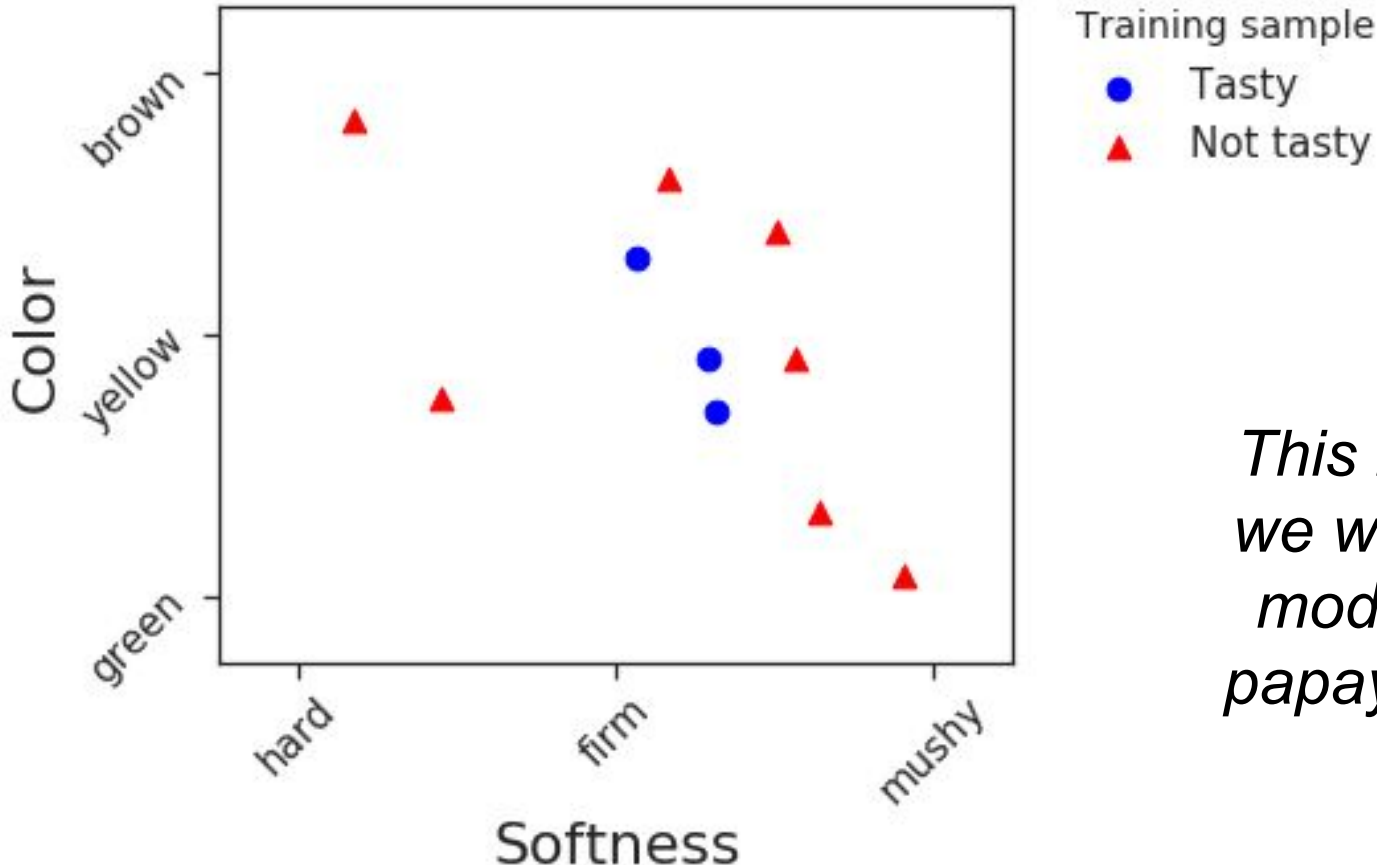
Take home message

Priors knowledge is crucial for effective learning

A controlled example:

Papaya tasting

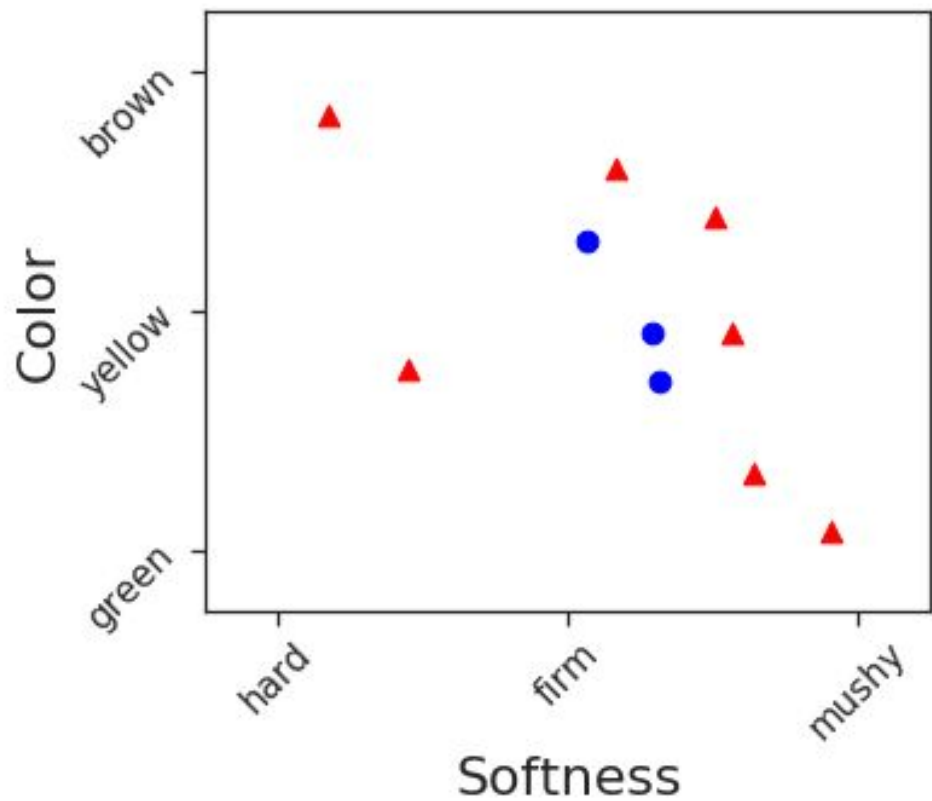
Binary classification



This is all the data we will input to the model about the papayas in the real world!

A controlled example:

Papaya tasting

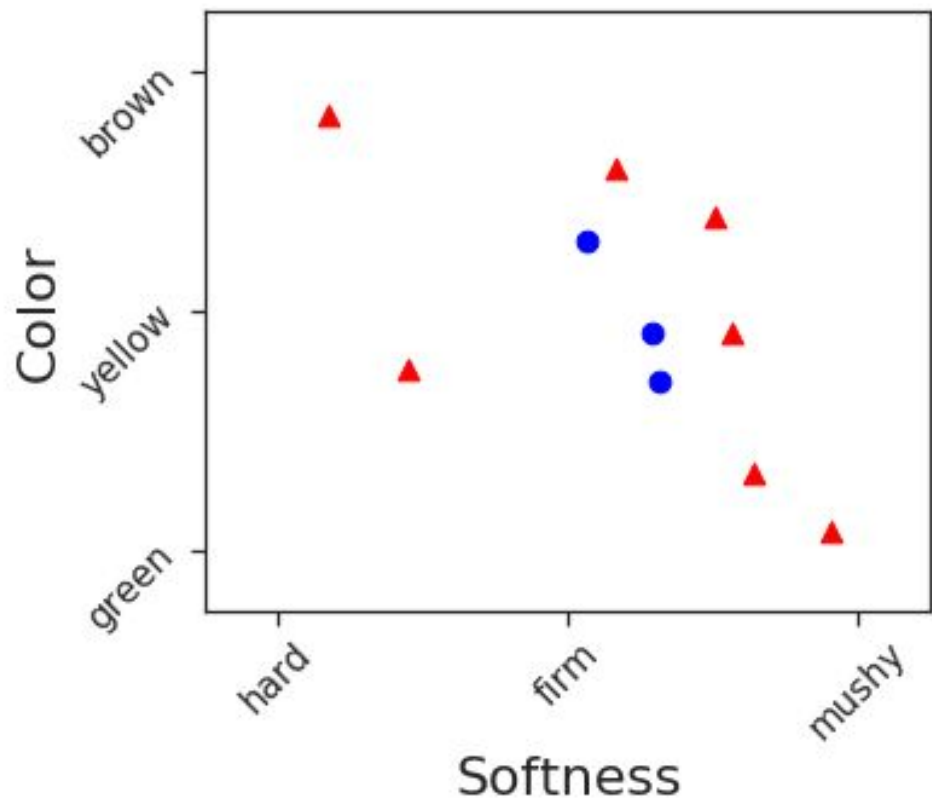


Training sample
● Tasty
▲ Not tasty

X : set of all features,
 $x = [softness, color]$
 Y : set of possible labels,
 $y = [tasty, not\ tasty]$
 D : data generation model,
 $D \Rightarrow P(X)$

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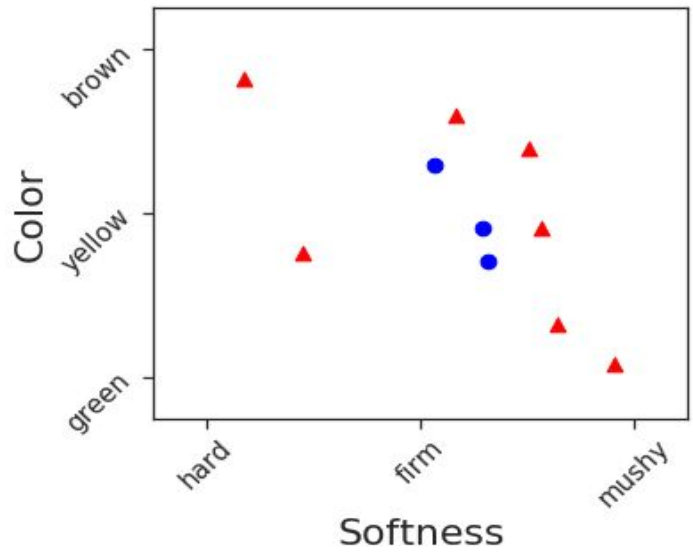
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True Labelling function: $y = f(x)$

A controlled example:

Papaya tasting

Proposed learner:

$$h_S(x) = \begin{cases} y_i & \text{if } x = x_i \mid \{x_i \in S\} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



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True Labelling function: $y = f(x)$

S : training sample: $[x_i, y_i], i \in training$
 m : number of objects for training

h_S learner: $y_{est;i} = h_S(x_i)$
 L metric: $L(y_{true;i} - y_{est;i}), i \in training$

$$L_D(h_S) = \frac{|\{x \in \mathcal{D} : h_S(x) \neq f(x)\}|}{m}$$

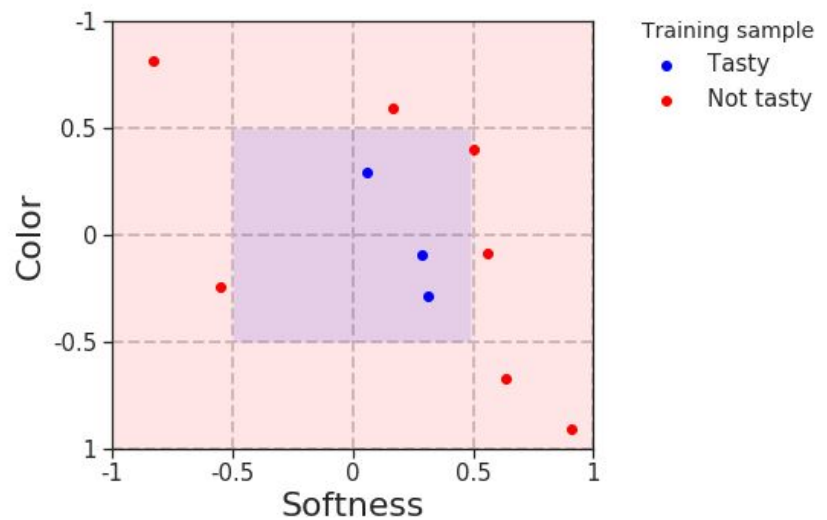
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Toy model ...



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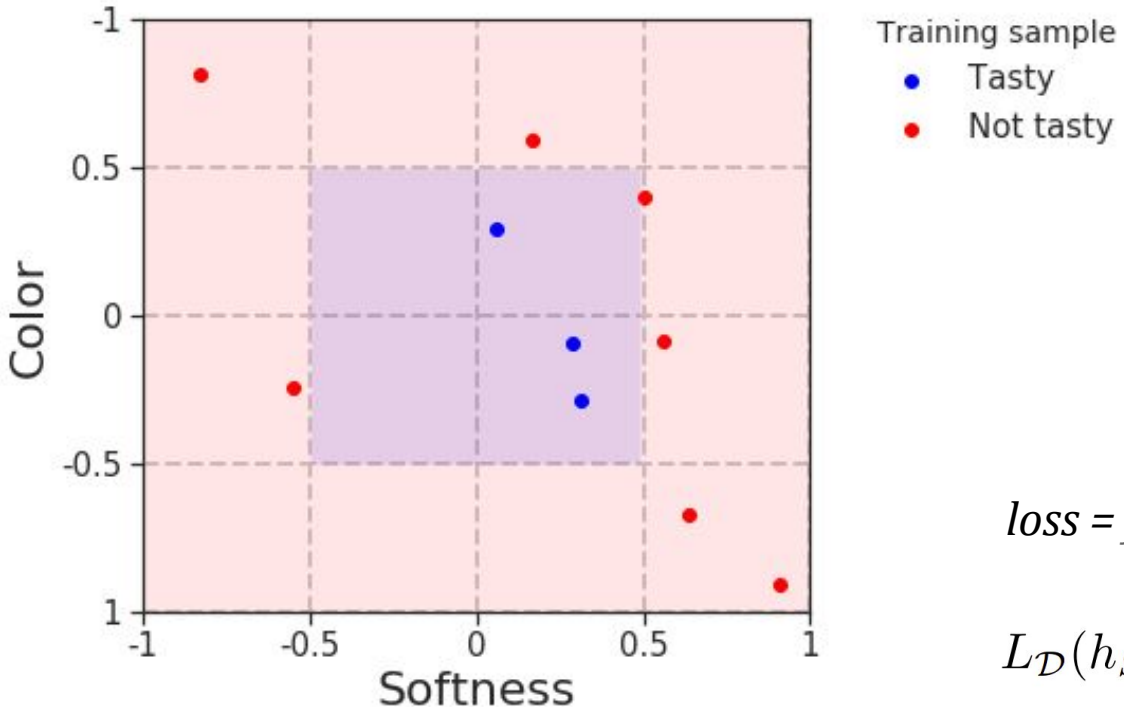
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[tasty, not tasty] = [1, 0]



What is the expected loss when this model is applied to an arbitrary test sample?

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loss = fraction of incorrect predictions

$$L_{\mathcal{D}}(h_S) = \frac{|\{x \in \mathcal{D} : h_S(x) \neq f(x)\}|}{m}$$

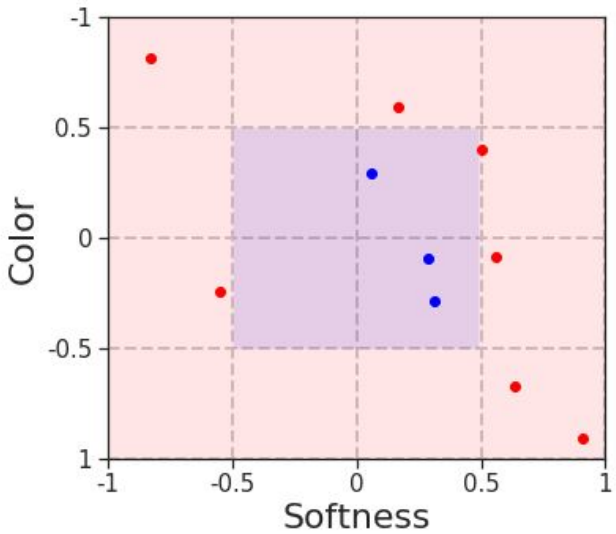
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Answer:



Training sample
 • Tasty
 • Not tasty

Answer:

$$L_S(h_S) = 0.0$$

$$L_D(h_S) = 0.25$$

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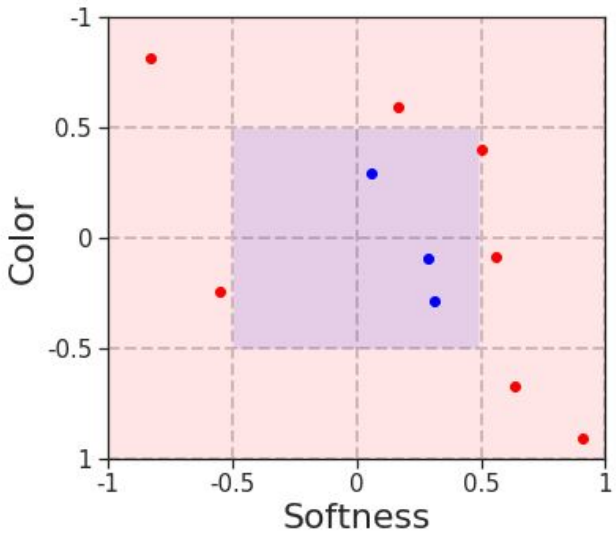
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Overfitting!



Question:

- How can we avoid overfitting?

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by adding prior knowledge ...

Choosing the learner

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Hypothesis class (\mathcal{H}):

$$h : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Y}; \quad h \in \mathcal{H}$$

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Machine Learning:

(a personal favorite)

Supervised definition

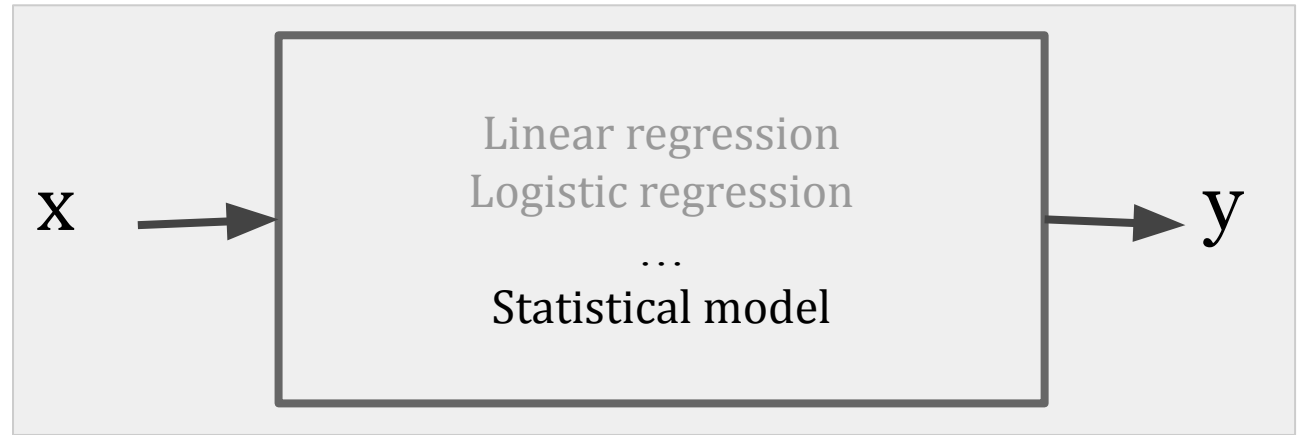
Hypothesis:



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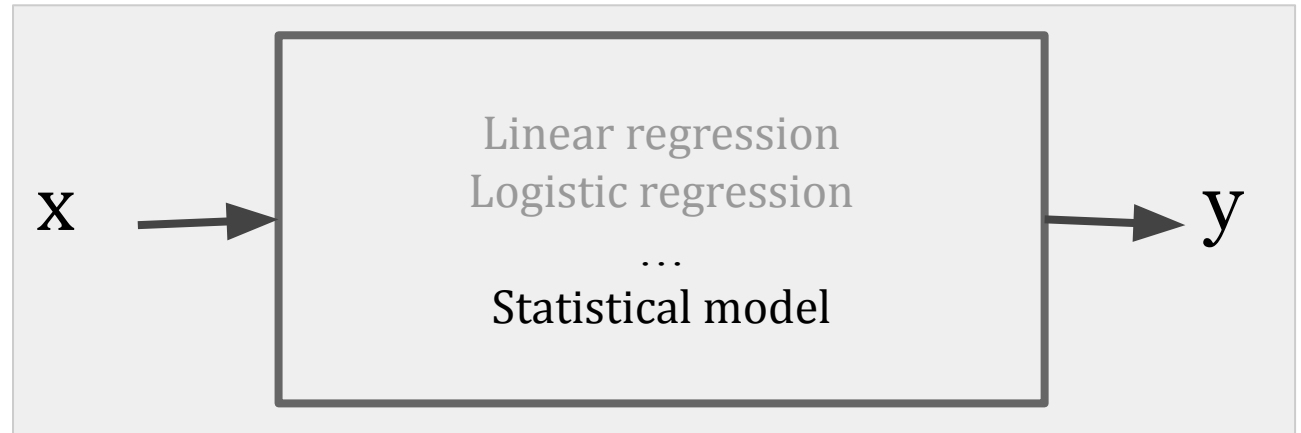
Physical modeling:



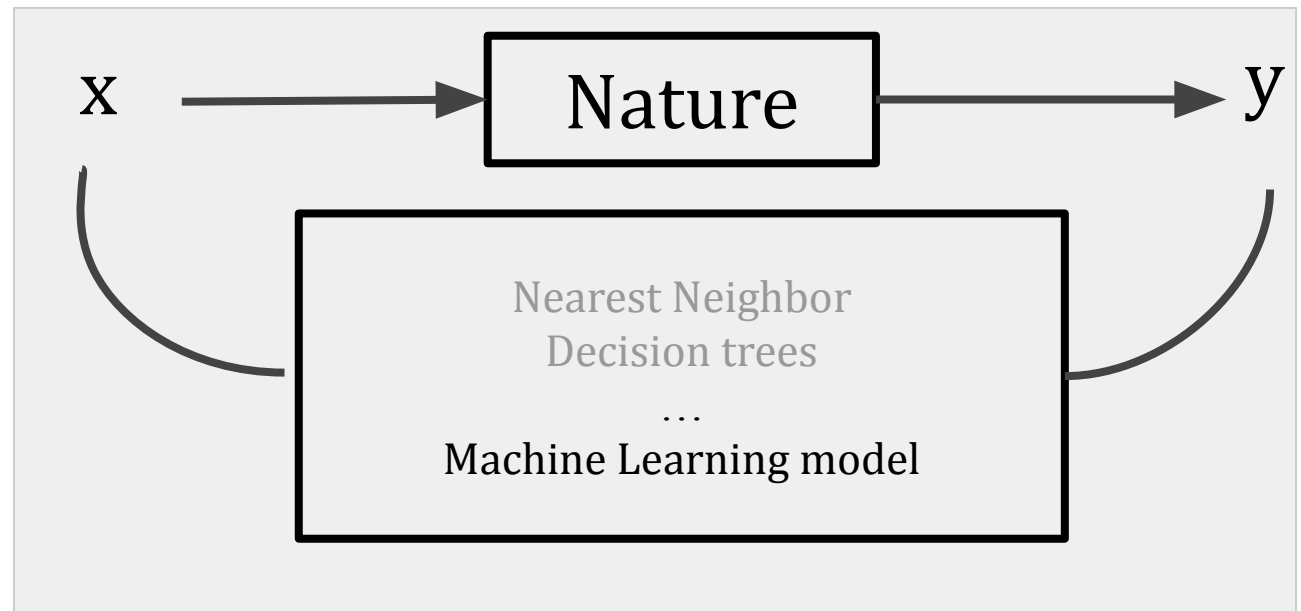
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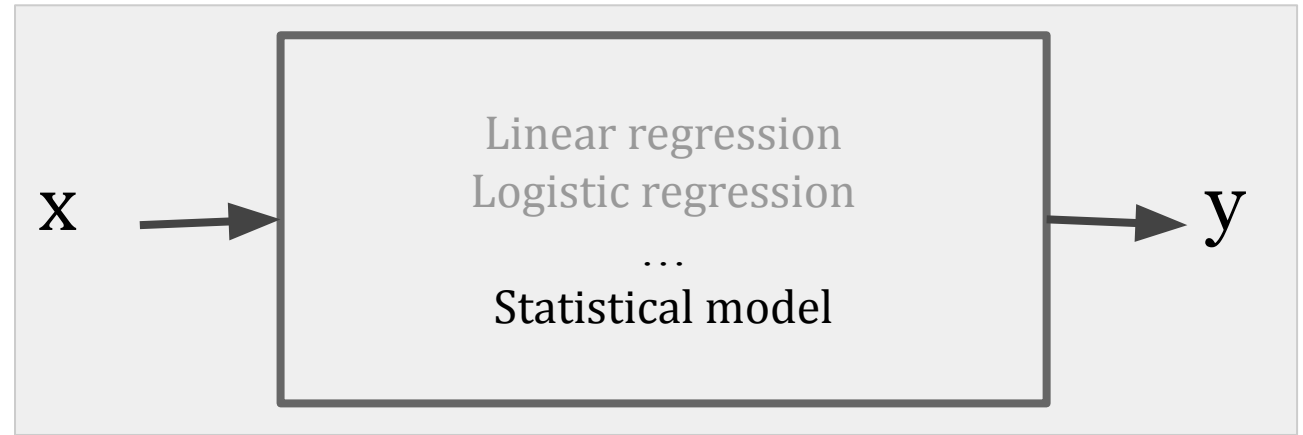
Algorithmic modeling:



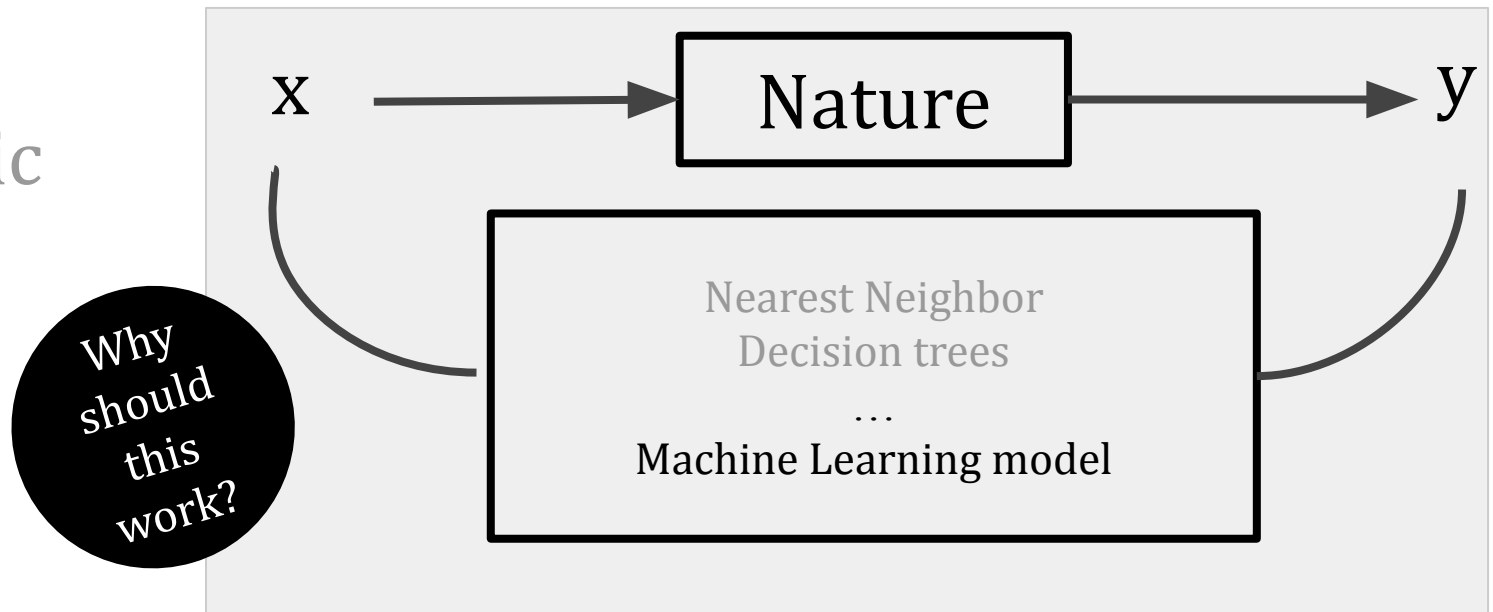
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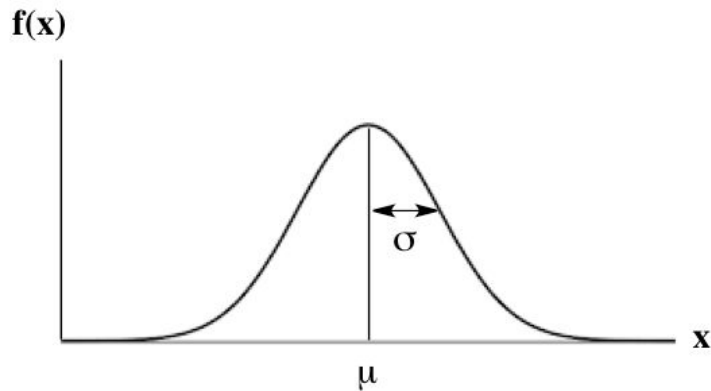


Algorithmic modeling:



Representativeness

Probability distribution, P



$$(\mu_P, \sigma_P)$$

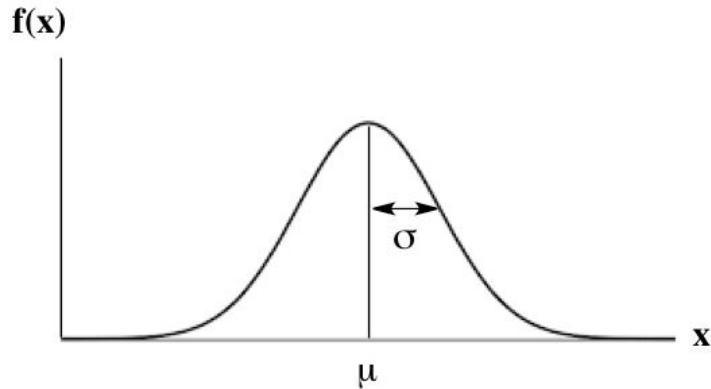
Sample, S_1



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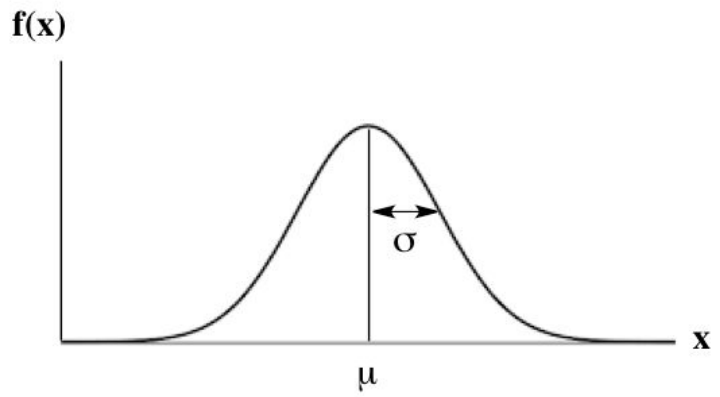
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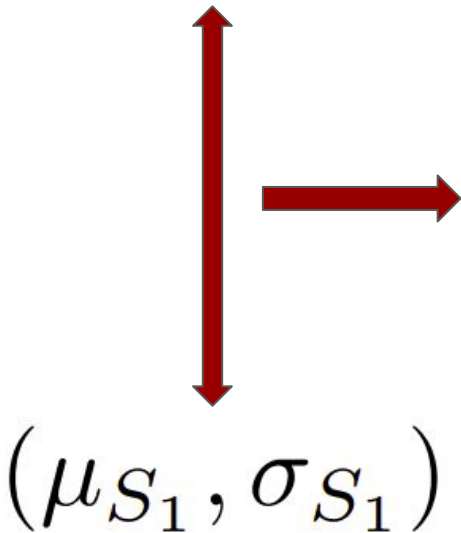
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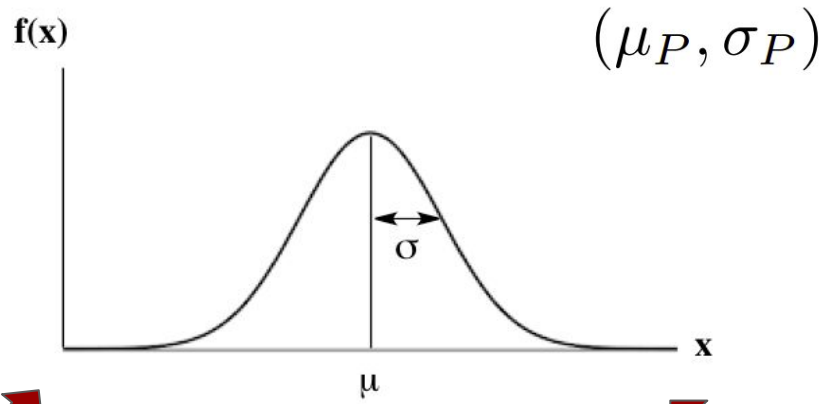
Sample, S_1



S_1 is
representative
of P

Representativeness

Probability distribution, P



Sample, S_1



$(\mu_{S_1}, \sigma_{S_1})$

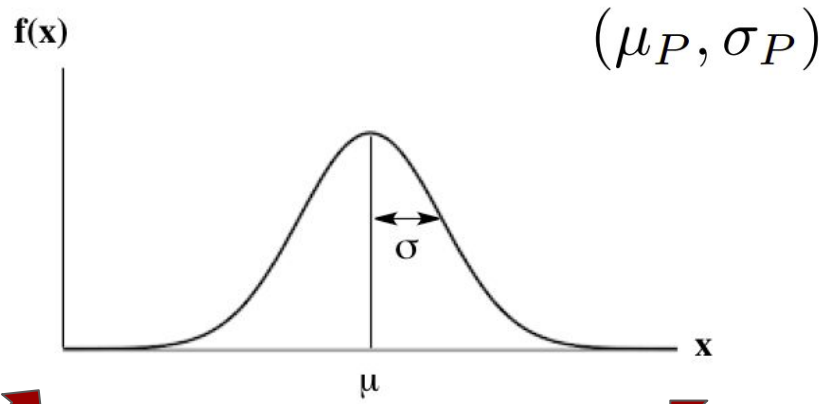
Sample, S_2



$(\mu_{S_2}, \sigma_{S_2})$

Representativeness

Probability distribution, P



Sample, S_1



Sample, S_2

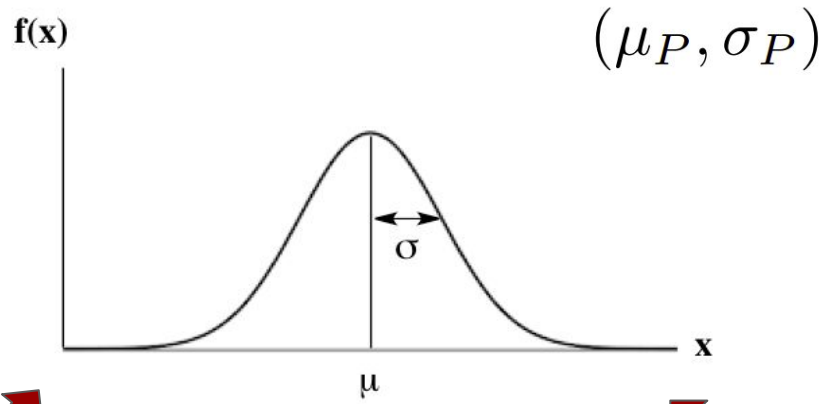


$(\mu_{S_1}, \sigma_{S_1})$

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Representativeness

Probability distribution, P



This is why it works!

Training

Test



$(\mu_{S_1}, \sigma_{S_1})$

$(\mu_{S_2}, \sigma_{S_2})$

Representativeness

- A sample S_1 is said to be representative of a probability distribution P if one can draw accurate conclusions about P from S_1
- If two samples S_1 and S_2 are representative of P , S_1 and S_2 are representative in relation to each other

Representativeness

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Question:

If a sample S_1 identically independently distributed (i.i.d.) from a distribution P , is this enough to guarantee that S_1 is representative of P ?

Model assumptions

\mathcal{X} : set of all features,

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h_S learner: $y_{est;i} = h_S(x_i)$

$$h_S(x) = \begin{cases} y_i & \text{if } \exists i \in [m] \text{ s.t. } x_i = x \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

L : loss: $L(y_{true;i} - y_{est;i})$, $i \in \text{training}$

$$L_{\mathcal{D}}(h_S) = \frac{|\{x \in \mathcal{D} : h_S(x) \neq f(x)\}|}{m}$$

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Not enough!

Things can still go wrong ...

Bad samples and hypothesis

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δ \rightarrow probability of non-representative (bad) samples

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$1 - \delta$ \rightarrow confidence parameter

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Bad hypothesis and samples

δ \rightarrow probability of non-representative (bad) samples

$1 - \delta$ \rightarrow confidence parameter

ϵ \rightarrow contamination. A failure will occur when $L_D(h_S) \geq \epsilon$

Good
hypothesis:

$$\mathcal{H}_G := [h \in \mathcal{H} : L_S(h_S) = 0 \quad \& \quad L_D(h_S) < \epsilon]$$

Bad
hypothesis:

$$\mathcal{H}_B := [h \in \mathcal{H} : L_S(h_S) = 0 \quad \& \quad L_D(h_S) \geq \epsilon]$$

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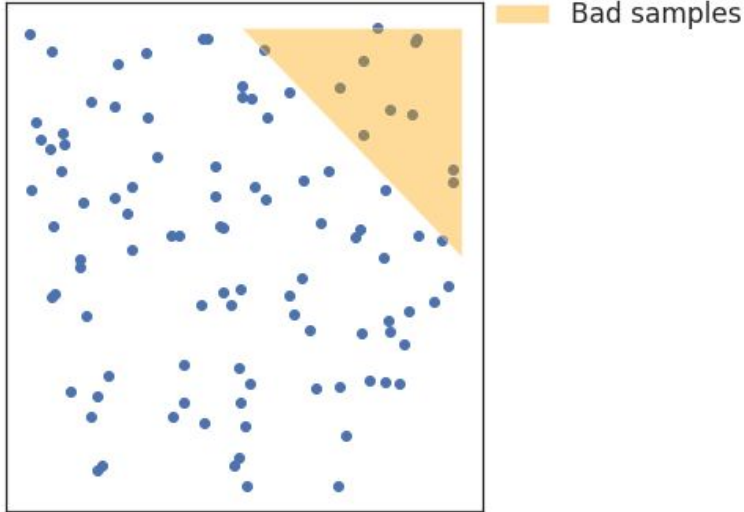
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Realizability assumption, $f \in \mathcal{H}$

Things can still go wrong ...

Constructing misleading samples

The world



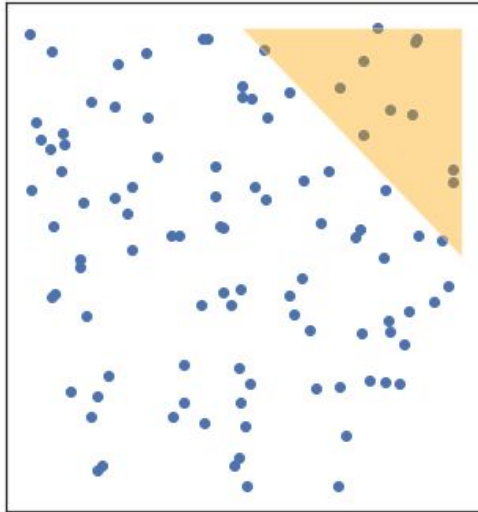
For 1 element in the training sample

$$x_i \mid h(x_i) = y_i$$

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Bad samples

For 1 element in the training sample

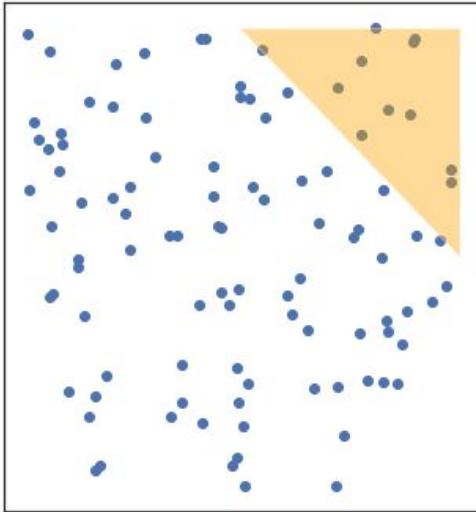
$$x_i \mid h(x_i) = y_i$$

$$P(x_i \in \mathcal{D} : h(x_i) = y_i) = 1 - L_{\mathcal{D},f}(h)$$

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For 1 element in the training sample

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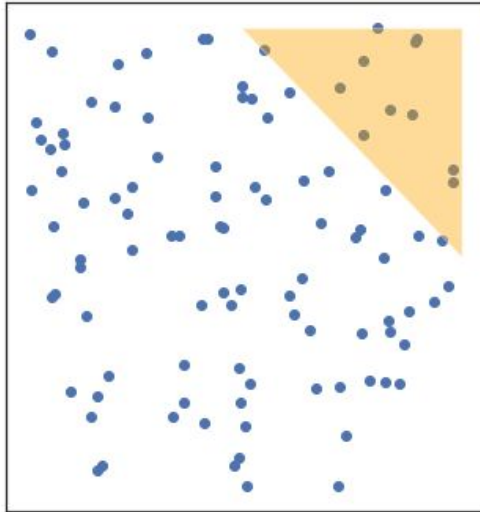
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The world



Bad samples

For 1 element in the training sample

$$x_i \quad | \quad h(x_i) = y_i$$

$$P(x_i \in \mathcal{D} : h(x_i) = y_i) = 1 - L_{\mathcal{D},f}(h)$$

$$P(x_i \in \mathcal{D} : h(x_i) = y_i) \leq 1 - \epsilon$$

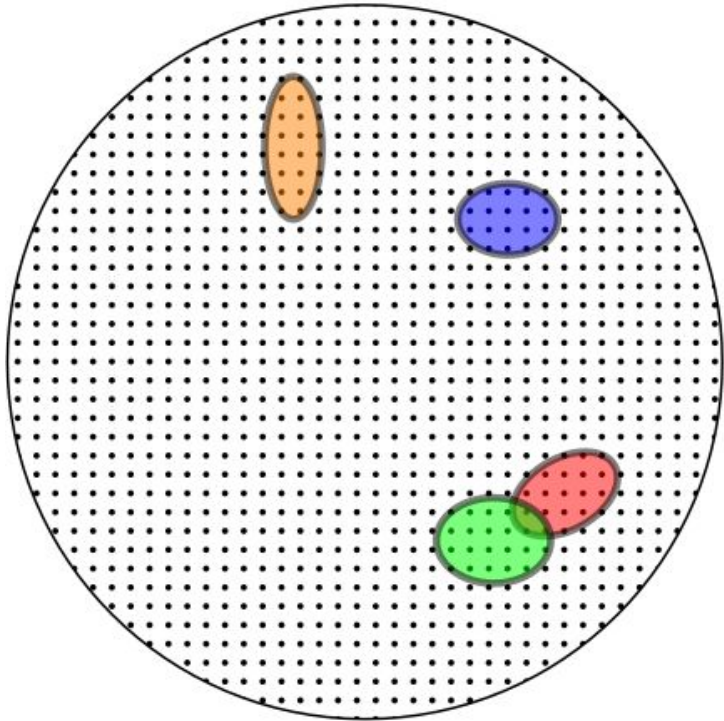
For m elements in the training sample

Since all elements in training are i.i.d.,

$$P(S_m : L_S(h) = 0) \leq \prod_{i=1}^m (1 - \epsilon) = (1 - \epsilon)^m$$

Things can still go wrong ...

Considering bad hypothesis

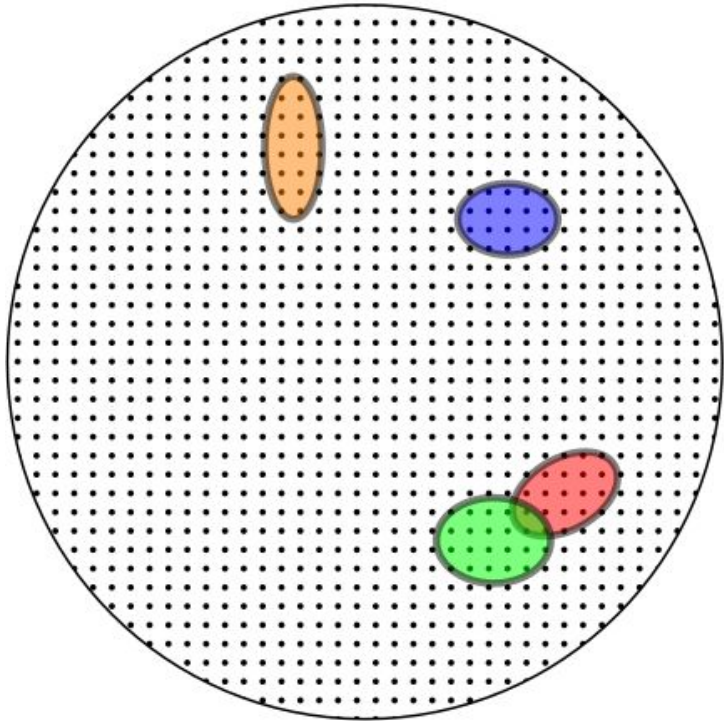


For 1 hypothesis

$$P(S_m : L_S(h) = 0) \leq (1 - \epsilon)^m$$

Things can still go wrong ...

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For 1 hypothesis

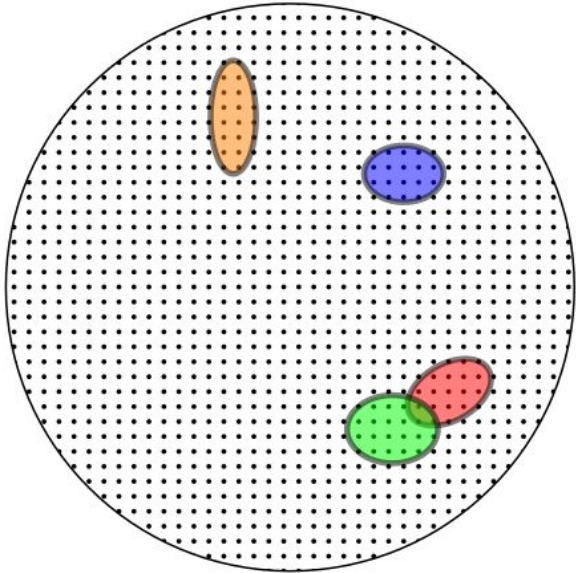
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The sum rule

$$P(A \cup B) \leq P(A) + P(B)$$

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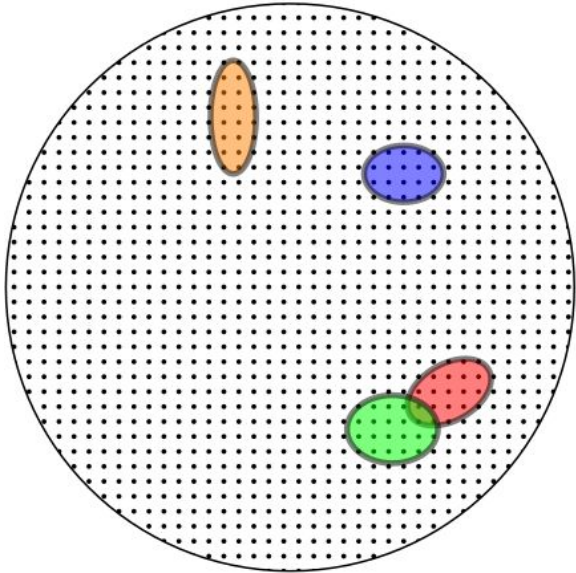
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For all bad hypothesis

$$\delta = P(L_S(h) = 0, \forall h \in \mathcal{H}_B) \leq \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}_B} (1 - \epsilon)^m$$

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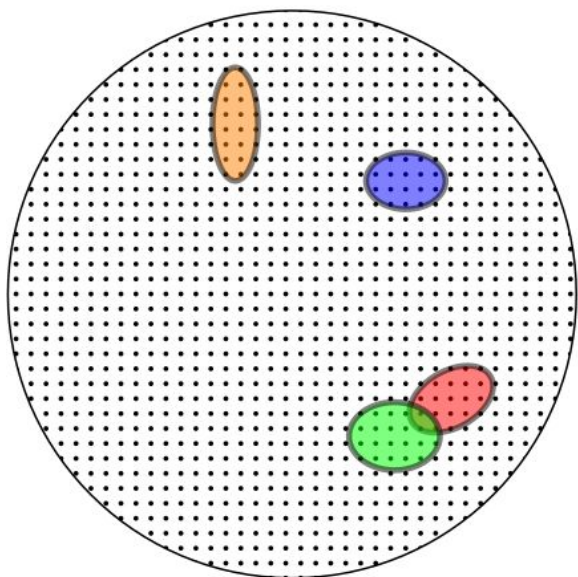
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using...

$$(1 - x)^y \leq \exp(-xy)$$

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In summary ...

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If,

$$m_{\mathcal{H}}(\epsilon, \delta) \geq \frac{\ln(N_{\mathcal{H}}/\delta)}{\epsilon} \longrightarrow \text{every } h \text{ from ERM, } L_{(\mathcal{D}, f)}(h_S) \leq \epsilon.$$

In summary ...

PAC learning model

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PAC learning model

$$\delta \leq N_{\mathcal{H}} \exp(-\epsilon m)$$

Probably → with confidence $1 - \delta$ over m samples
Approximately → within a contamination level $\leq \epsilon$
Correct

If, every h from ERM,

$$m_{\mathcal{H}}(\epsilon, \delta) \geq \frac{\ln(N_{\mathcal{H}}/\delta)}{\epsilon} \longrightarrow L_{(\mathcal{D}, f)}(h_S) \leq \epsilon.$$

Remember what is behind this!!

PAC Assumptions

\mathcal{X} : set of all features,

$x = [\text{softness}, \text{color}]$

\mathcal{Y} : set of possible labels,

$y = [\text{tasty}, \text{not tasty}]$

D : data generation model,

$D \Rightarrow P(\mathcal{X})$

True Labelling function: $y = f(x)$

S : training sample: $[x_i, y_i]$, $i \in \text{training}$

m : number of objects for training

h_S learner: $y_{\text{est};i} = h_S(x_i)$

$$h_S(x) = \begin{cases} y_i & \text{if } \exists i \in [m] \text{ s.t. } x_i = x \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

L : loss: $L(y_{\text{true};i} - y_{\text{est};i})$, $i \in \text{training}$

$$L_{\mathcal{D}}(h_S) = \frac{|\{x \in \mathcal{D} : h_S(x) \neq f(x)\}|}{m}$$

Hypothesis class (\mathcal{H}):

$$h : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Y}; \quad h \in \mathcal{H}$$

$$\text{ERM}_{\mathcal{H}}(S) \in \underset{h \in \mathcal{H}}{\text{argmin}} L_S(h),$$

- \mathcal{H} is finite, $N_{\mathcal{H}}$ = number of hypothesis
- The true labelling function is part of \mathcal{H} :

$$f \in \mathcal{H}$$

- S is identically independently distributed (*i.i.d.*) from D
- Representativeness

Return to a controlled example ...

Papaya tasting



χ : set of $x \in [\text{softness}, \text{color}]$

Y : set $y = [\text{tasty}, \text{not tasty}]$

D : data generation model: $D \Rightarrow P(\chi)$

Return to a controlled example ...

Papaya tasting



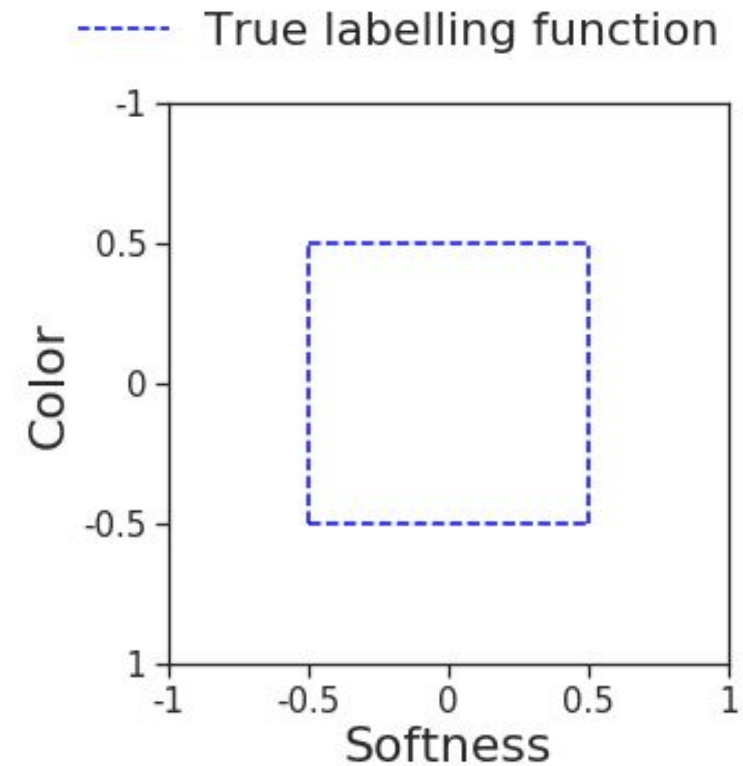
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$y = \text{tasty}$ if $\text{softness} \in [-0.5, 0.5]$ and
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Papaya tasting



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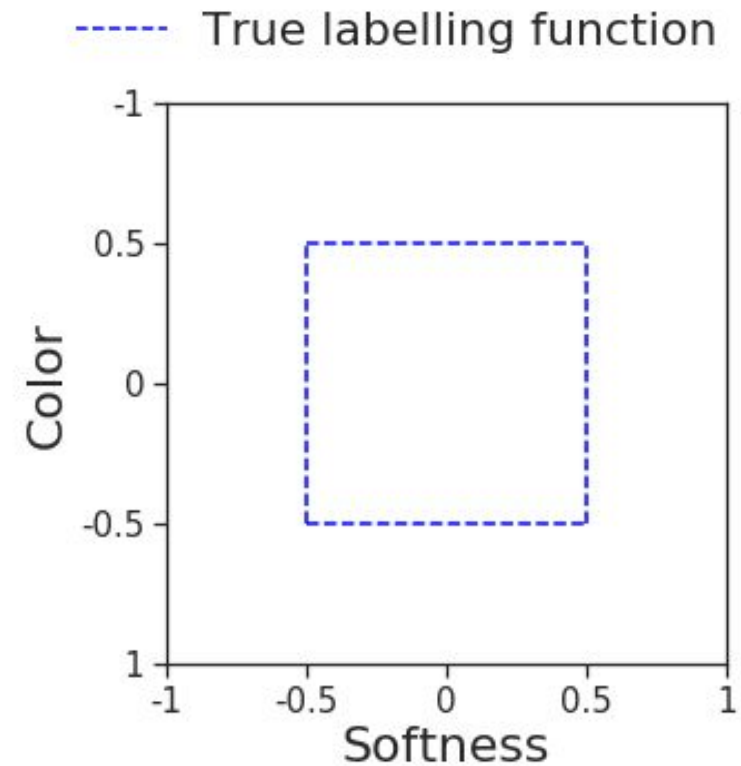
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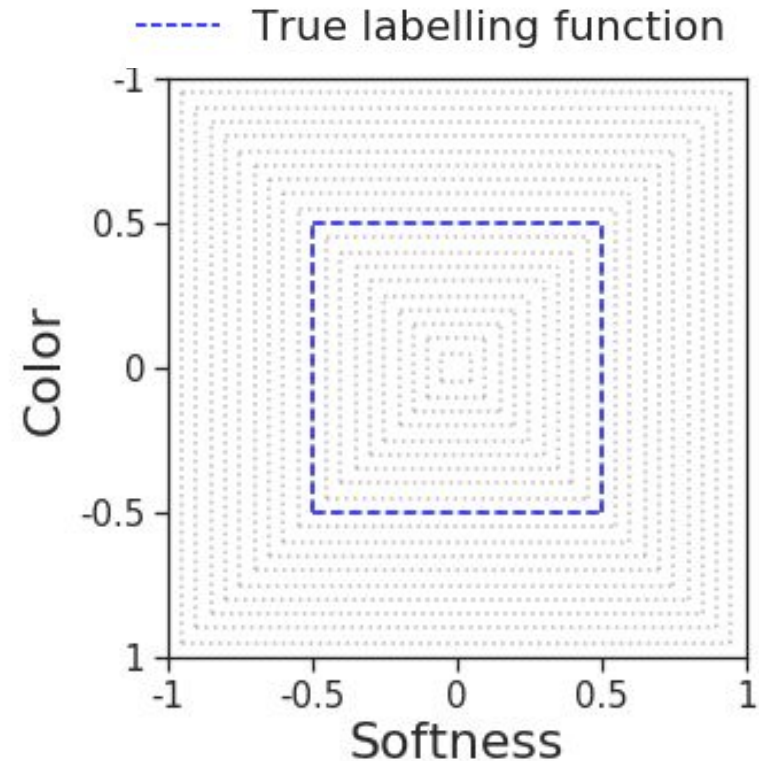
S : training sample: $[x_i, y_i], i \in \text{training}$

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\mathcal{H} : hypothesis class:

axis aligned squares in steps of 0.05

$N_H = 20$



Return to a controlled example ...

Papaya tasting



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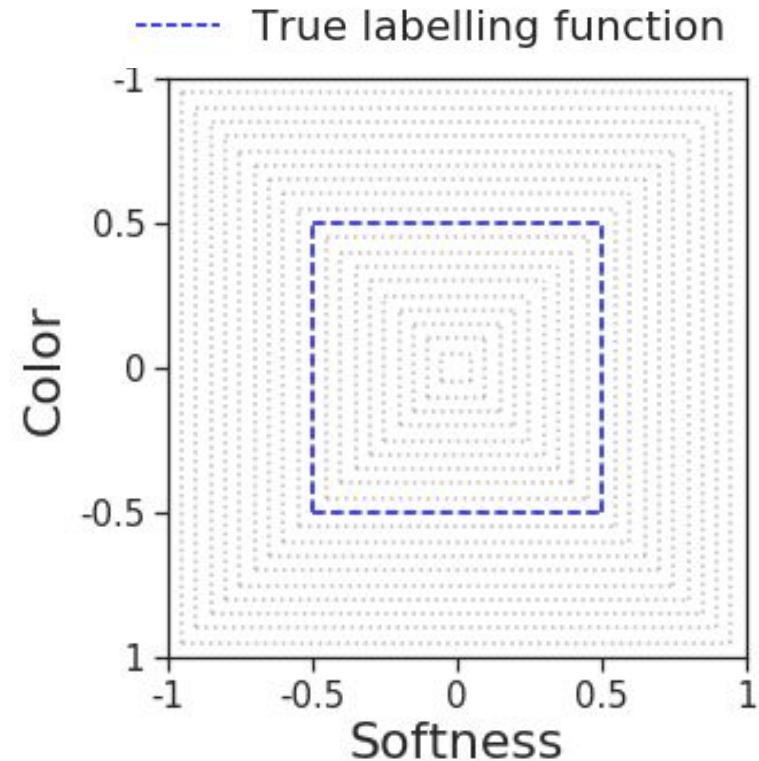
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Return to a controlled example ...

Question:



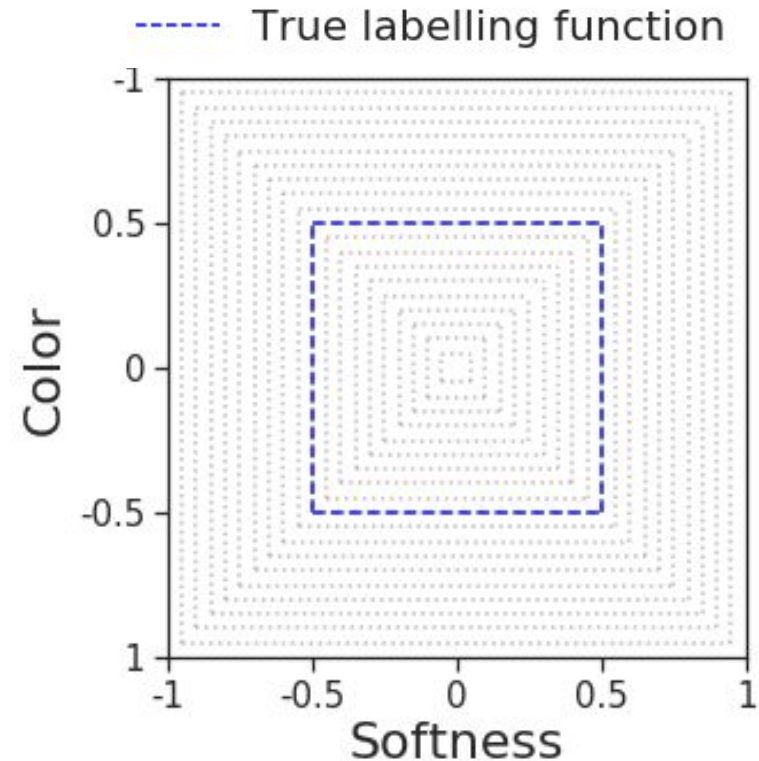
Data model: uniform distribution
[-1,1] in both axis

$1 - \delta = 0.95$ ← confidence

$\epsilon = 0.05$ ← contamination

$N_H = 20$ ← number of possible
squares

m = ??



Join at [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) with code: 7907 6385

What would you guess is the number of examples necessary for training?

Return to a controlled example ...

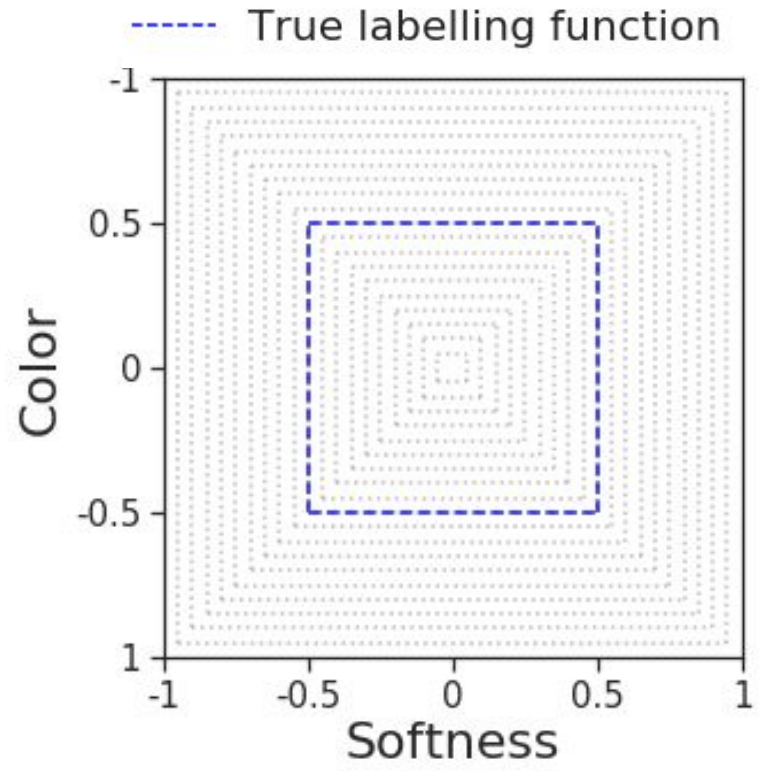
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Data model: uniform distribution
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- $1 - \delta = 0.95$ ← confidence
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m ~ 120



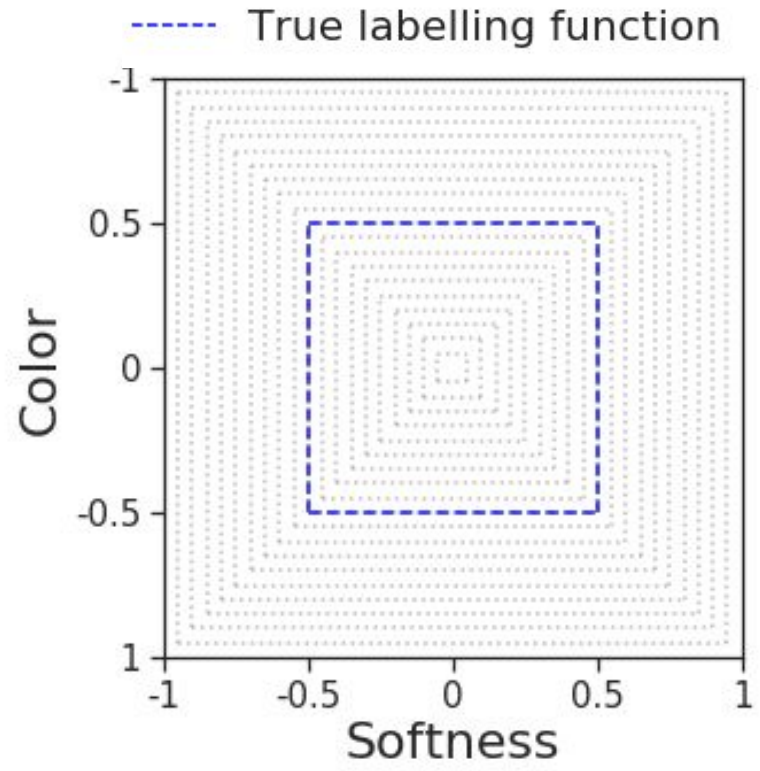
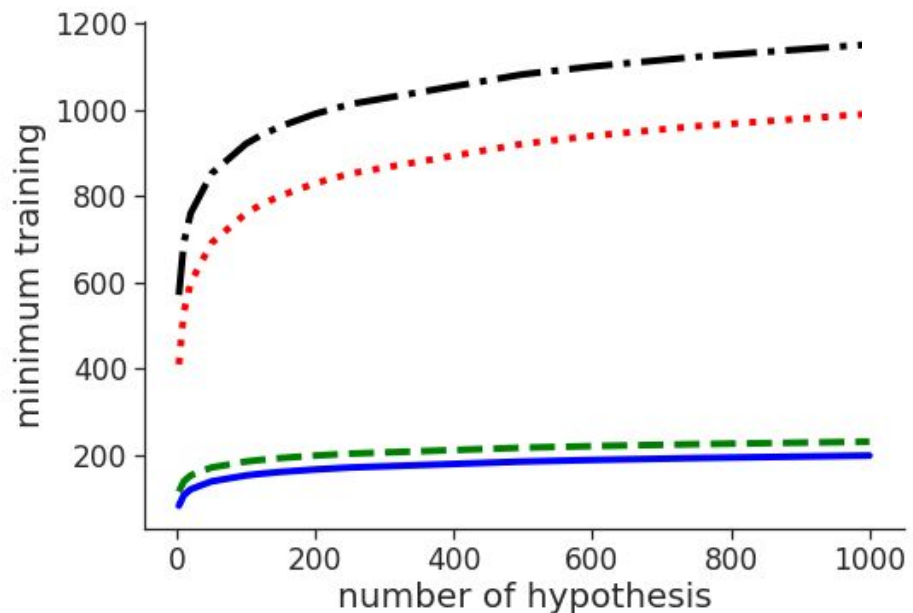
Return to a controlled example ...



Question:

Data model: uniform distribution
[-1,1] in both axis

$1 - \delta = 0.95$ ← confidence
 $\epsilon = 0.05$ ← contamination
 $N_H = 20$ ← number of possible squares



- · — $\delta = 0.01, \epsilon = 0.01$
- · · $\delta = 0.05, \epsilon = 0.01$
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Agnostic PAC learning

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$$D \Rightarrow P(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})$$

True Labelling function: $y = f([x, y])$

S : training sample: $[x_i, y_i], i \in \text{training}$

m : number of objects for training

h_S learner: $y_{est;i} = h_S(x_i, y_i)$

L : loss

$$L_{\mathcal{D}}(h) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim \mathcal{D}} (h(x) - y)^2$$

Hypothesis class:

$$h : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Y}; \quad h \in \mathcal{H}$$

$$\text{ERM}_{\mathcal{H}}(S) \in \underset{h \in \mathcal{H}}{\text{argmin}} L_S(h),$$

- $m \rightarrow$ number of objects in training
- \mathcal{H} is finite, $N_{\mathcal{H}}$ = number of hypothesis
- The true labelling function **may not be** part of \mathcal{H} :

$$f \notin \mathcal{H}$$

$$L_{\mathcal{D}}(h) \leq \min_{h' \in \mathcal{H}} L_{\mathcal{D}}(h') + \epsilon,$$

Important remark!

Representativeness

in machine learning

Important remark!

Representativeness

in machine learning

or

Uniform Convergence

$$\forall h \in \mathcal{H}, \quad |L_S(h) - L_{\mathcal{D}}(h)| \leq \epsilon$$

Important remark!

Representativeness

in machine learning

or

Uniform Convergence

$$\forall h \in \mathcal{H}, \quad |L_S(h) - L_D(h)| \leq \epsilon$$

It can be shown that, if \mathcal{H} has uniform convergence, $\text{ERM}_{\mathcal{H}}$ is a successful agnostic PAC learner of \mathcal{H} .

Important question ...

**Can machine learning solve my
problem?**

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- If your data satisfy all the necessary conditions;

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*Then.. probably $(1-\delta)$, approximately (ϵ) :
yes*

Many of these requirements are difficult to fulfill, e.g.

What about practical situations?

*If you are using a classical learner whose class under your training sample and loss function are representative (has uniform convergence), you are probably getting reasonable results... **but not all the time!***

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So why does it seem to work in everything around us?

Best guess: *we do not know how to model real data...*

In summary ...

There is plenty room for
improvement!

*Progress will only be possible through
interdisciplinary collaboration!*

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Machine learning is a wonderful
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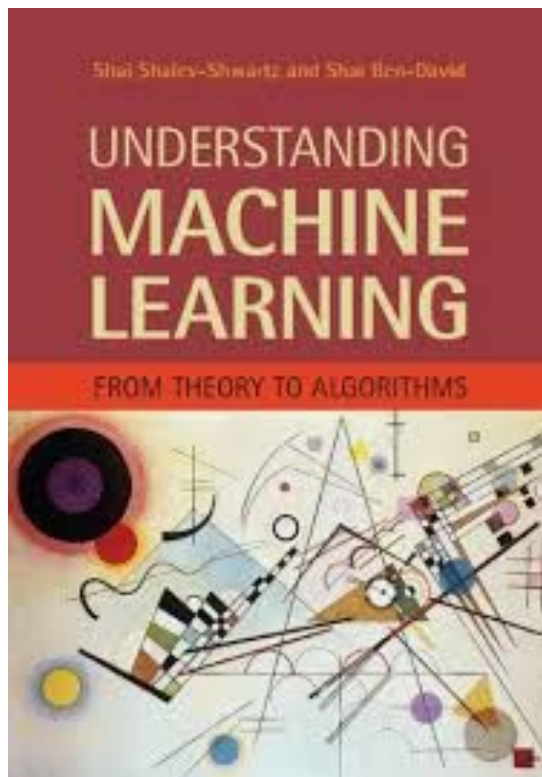
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This talk is a rough summary of chapters 1-4:



Free download - with agreement from the editor:

<https://www.cse.huji.ac.il/~shais/UnderstandingMachineLearning/index.html>

23 lectures of 1.5 hours each on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPW2keNyw-usgvmR7FTQ3ZRjfLs5jT4BO>

Enjoy!

**THANK
YOU**
