



# Distant Reading in

## Machine Learning

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# THE "TWO PARADIGMS" OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

## Top-down

Define a set of rules which model the human cognition  
Apply those rules to new subjects and situations

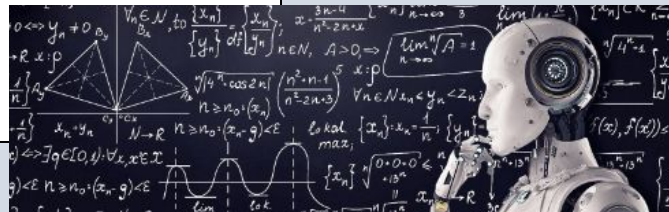
Dominating paradigm in the "first wave" of AI (2nd half XX century)

Main con  
- absence of flexibility

## Bottom-up

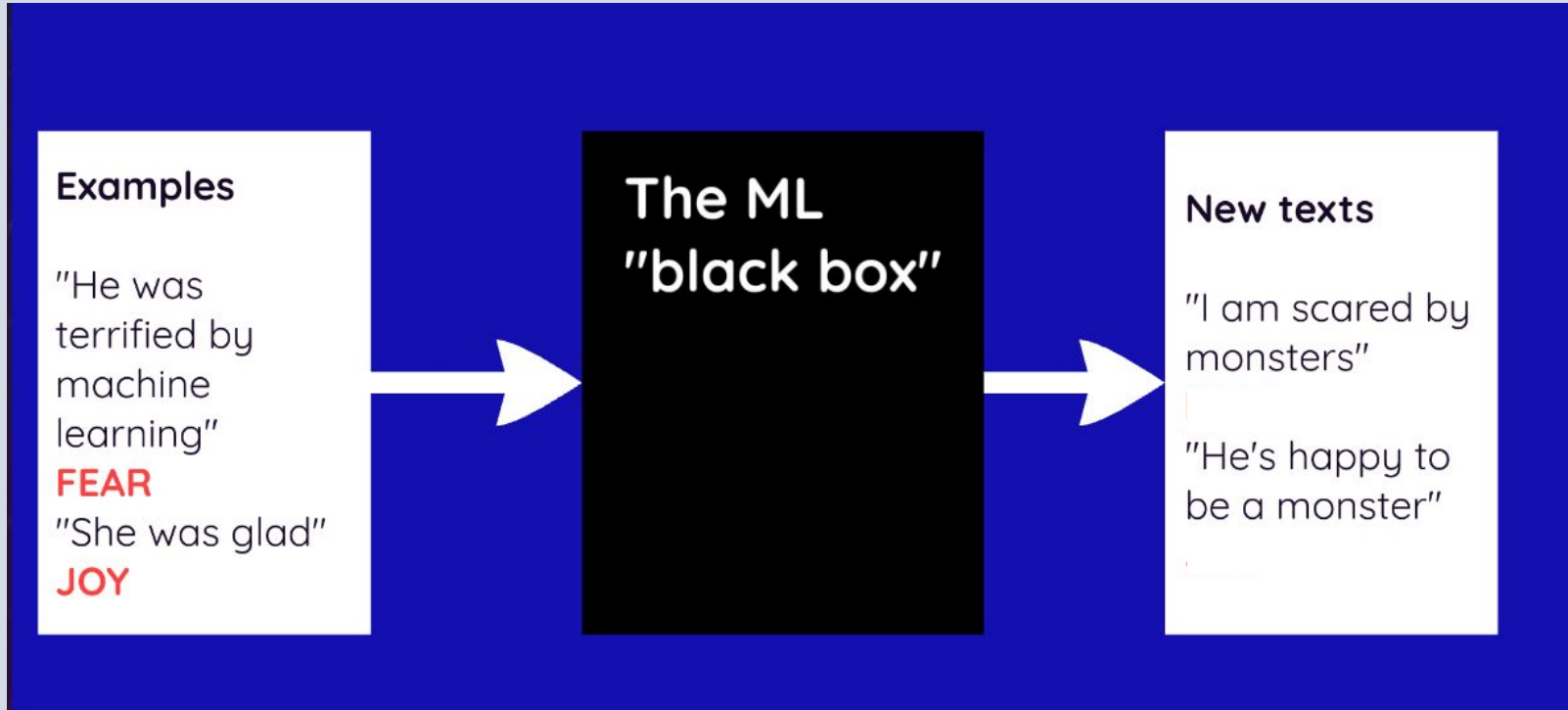
Define a system that is able to "learn" a task from a set of examples (i.e. imitate the human)  
Apply the system to new samples

This is the machine learning approach!





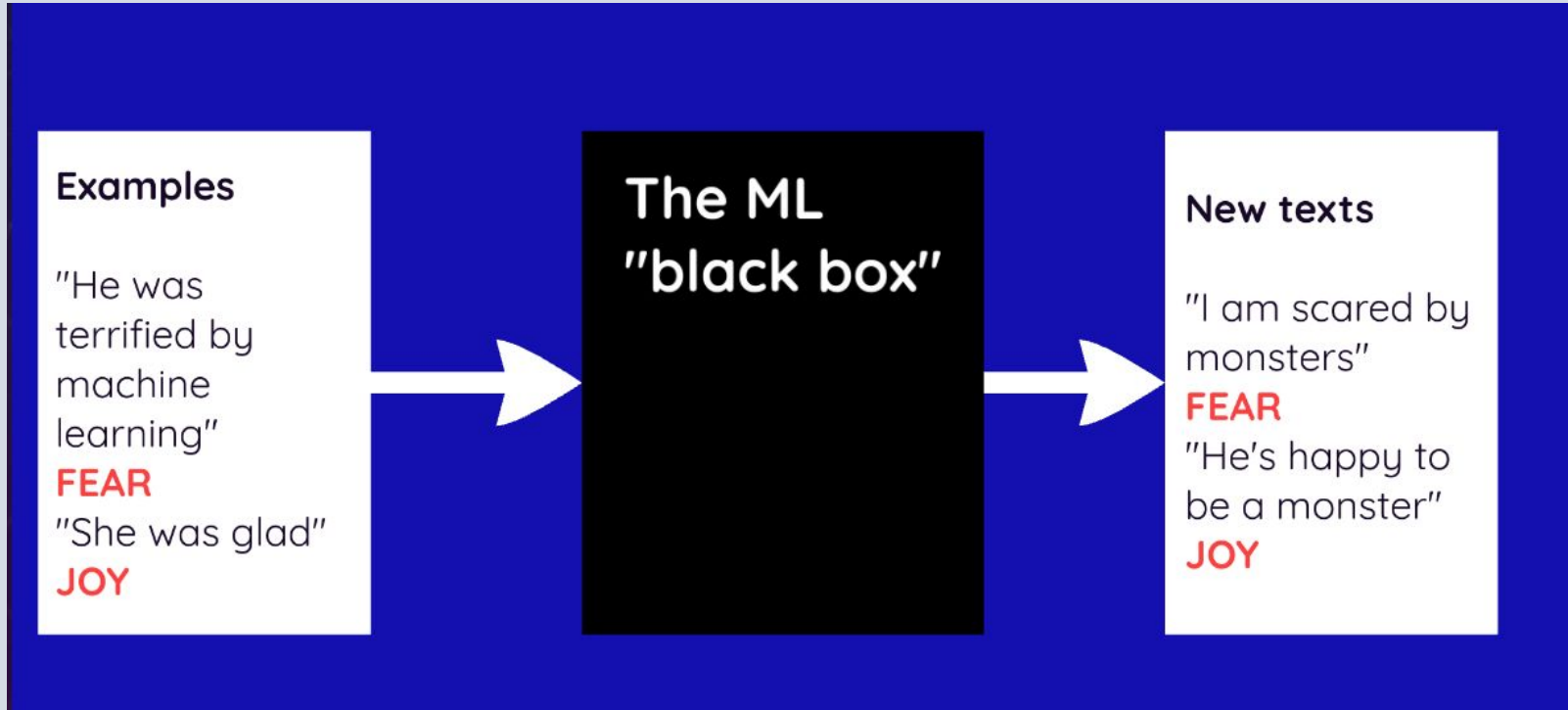
# ML - THE WORKING LOGIC



\*example: sentiment analysis



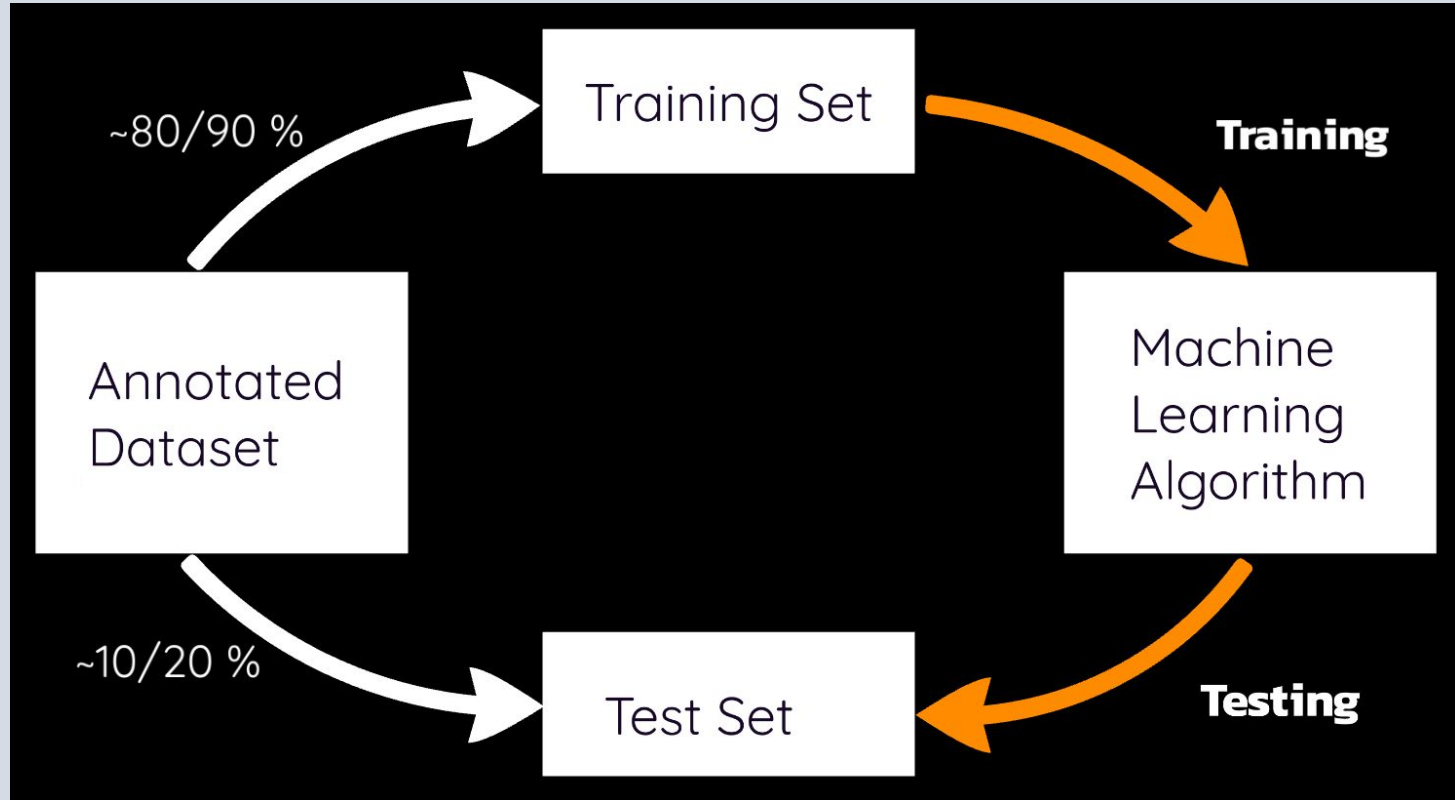
# ML - THE WORKING LOGIC



\*example: sentiment analysis

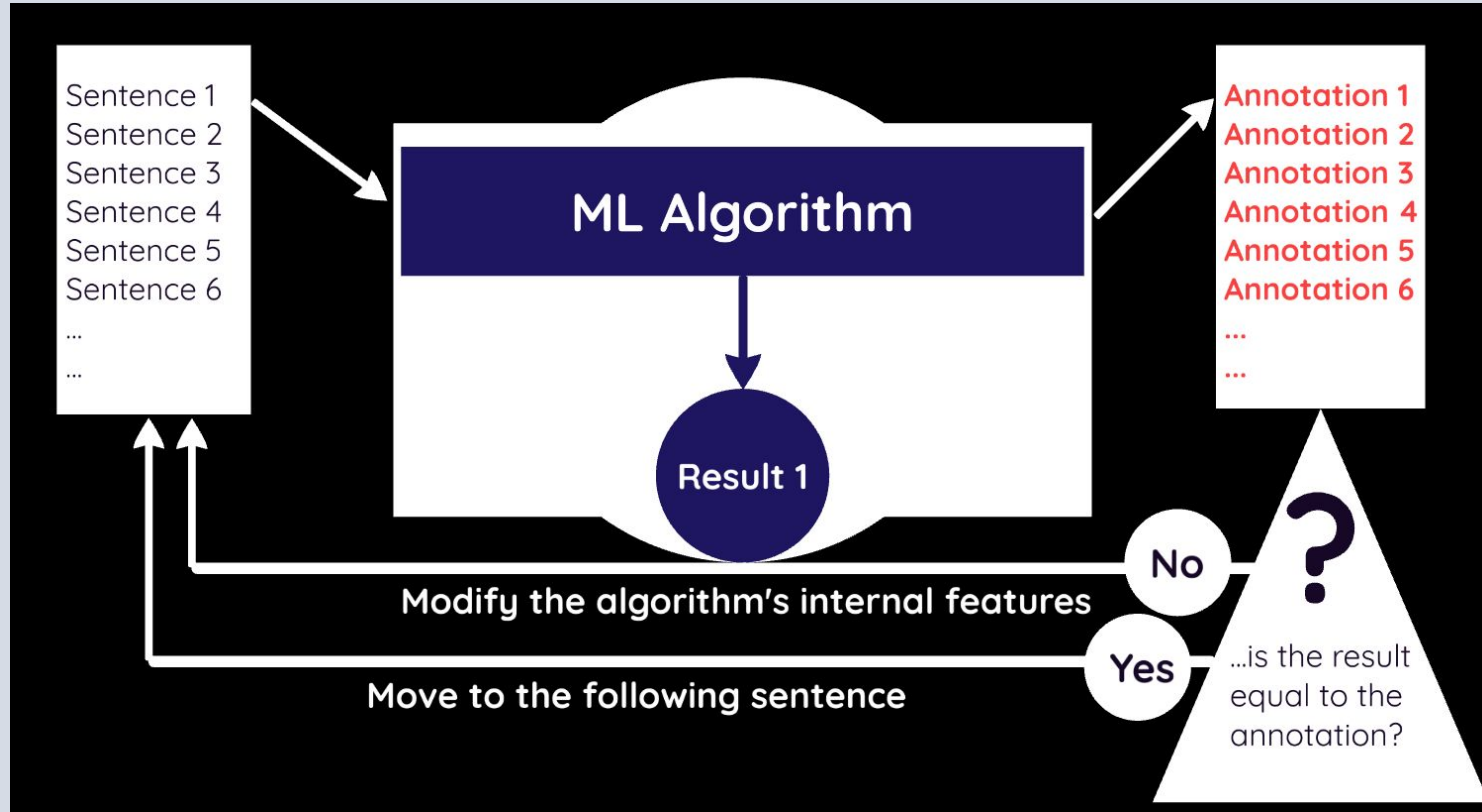


# INSIDE THE ML “BLACK BOX”



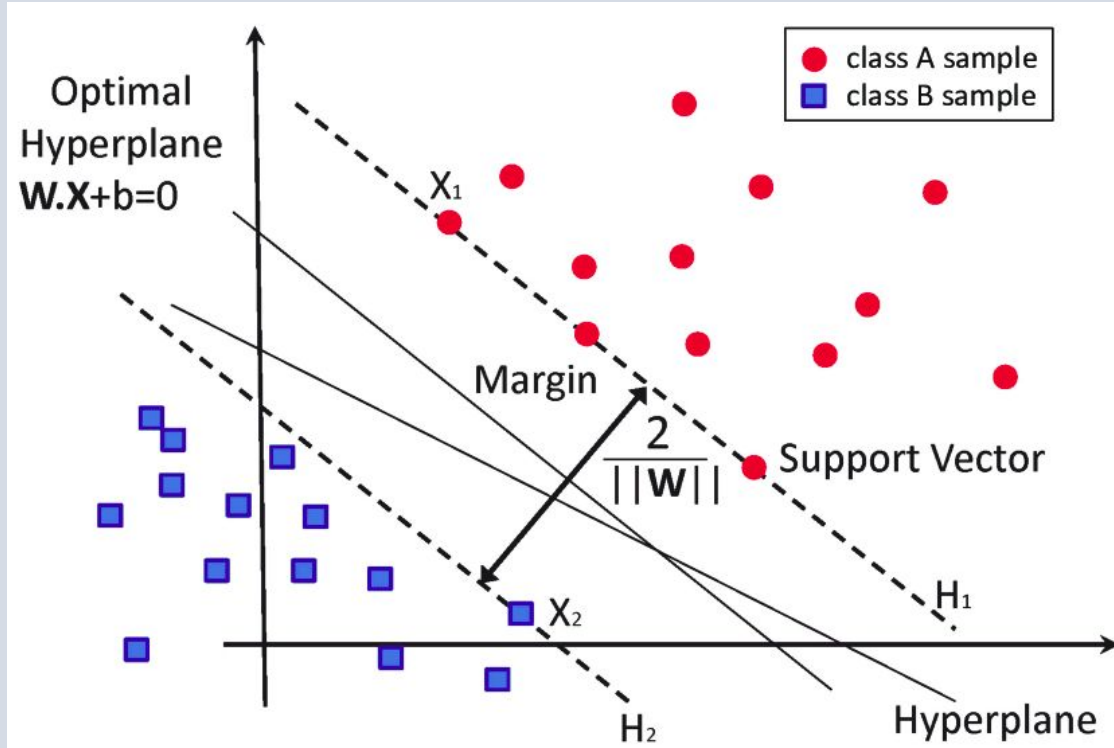


# TRAINING





# ML ALGORITHMS



Support  
Vector  
Machines  
(SVM)



# ML ALGORITHMS

## Deep Neural Network

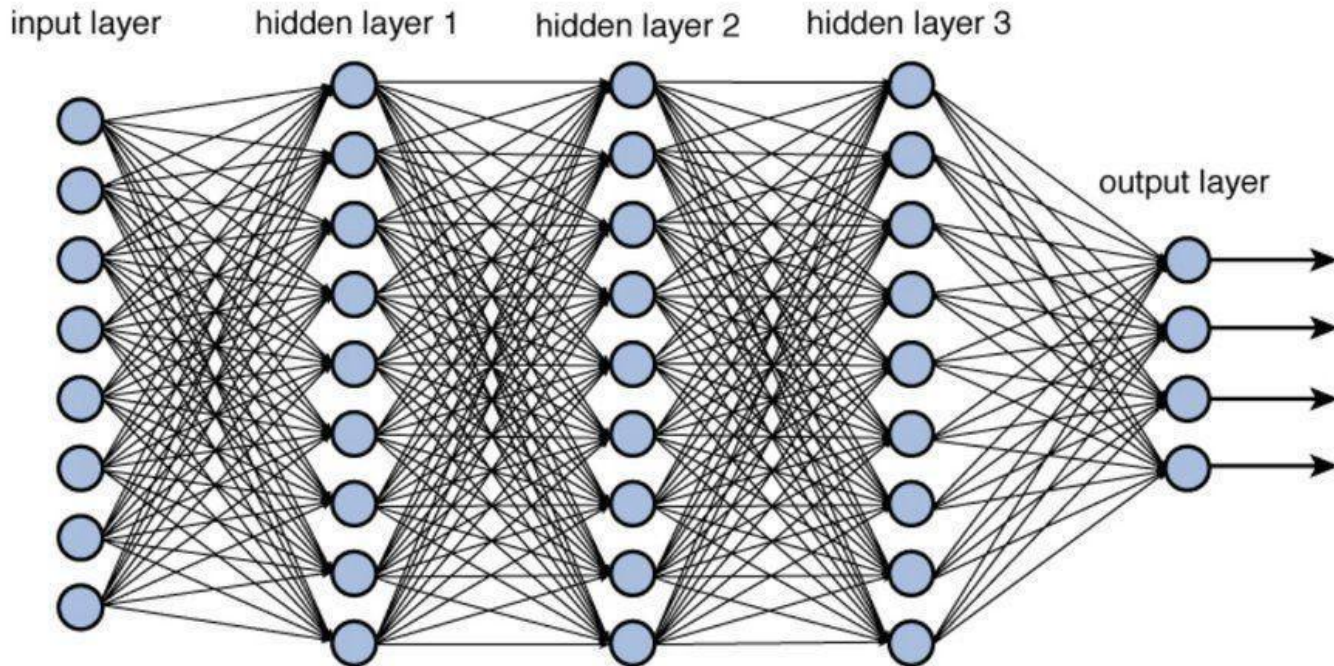
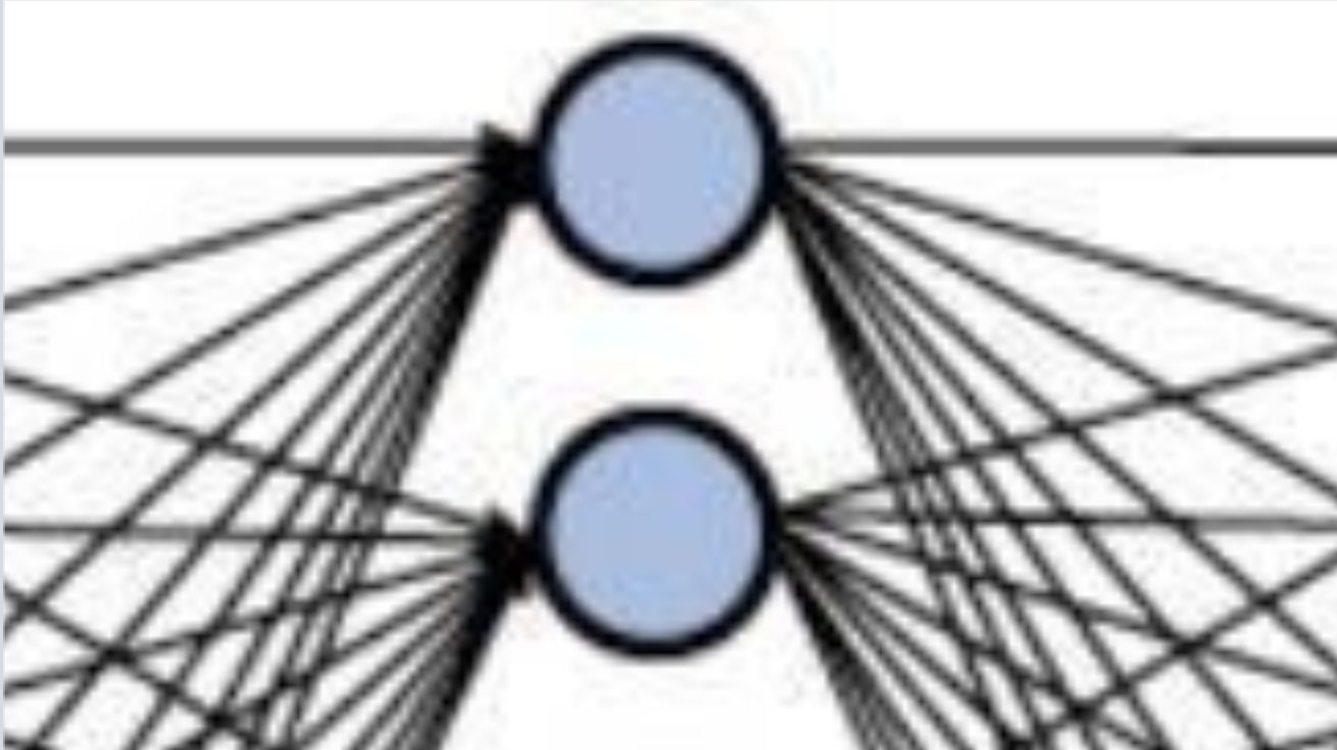


Figure 12.2 Deep network architecture with multiple layers.



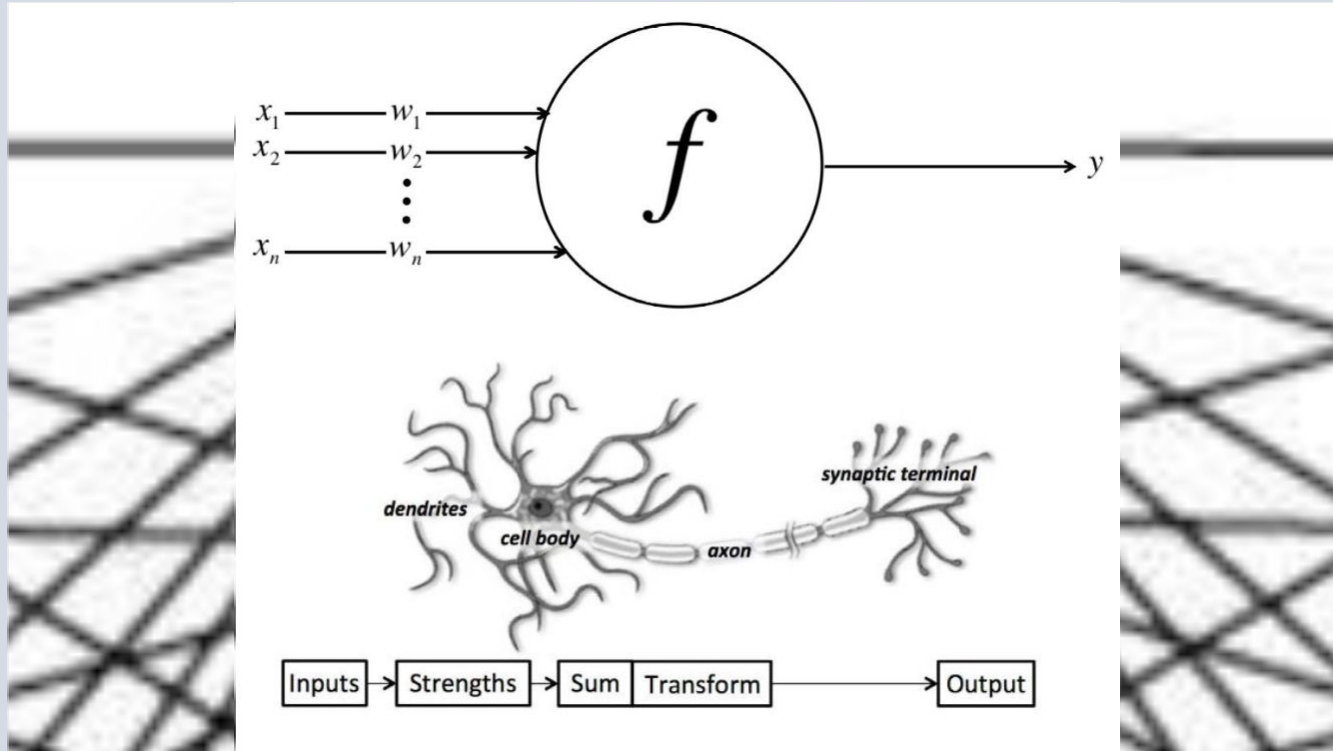


# ML ALGORITHMS



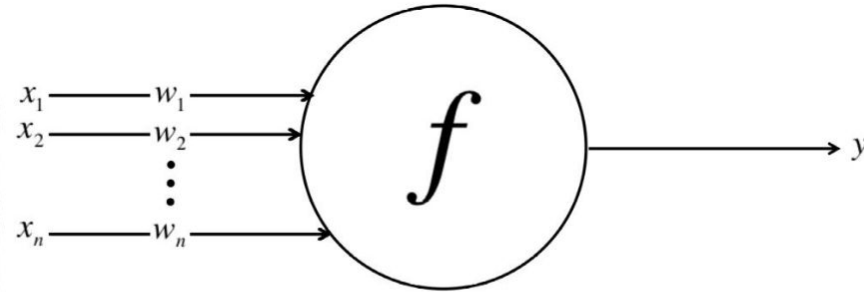


# ML ALGORITHMS





# ML ALGORITHMS

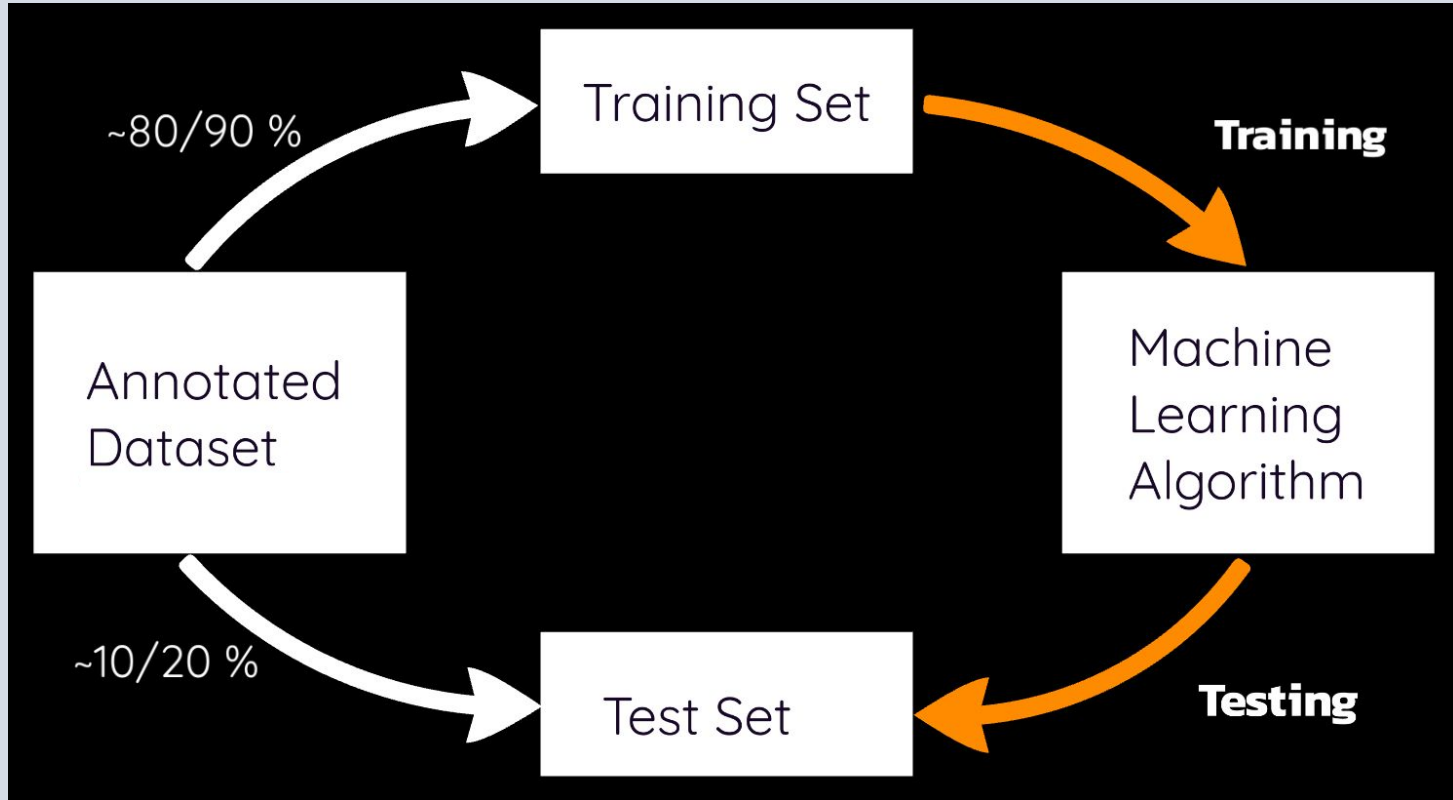


```
import numpy as np
#####
# Assume inputs and weights are 1-dimensional numpy #
# arrays and bias is a number #
#####
class Neuron:
    def __init__(self, weights, bias, function):
        self.weights = weights
        self.bias = bias
        self.function = function

    def forward(self, inputs):
        logit = np.dot(inputs, self.weights) + self.bias
        output = self.function(logit)
        return output
```



# INSIDE THE ML “BLACK BOX”



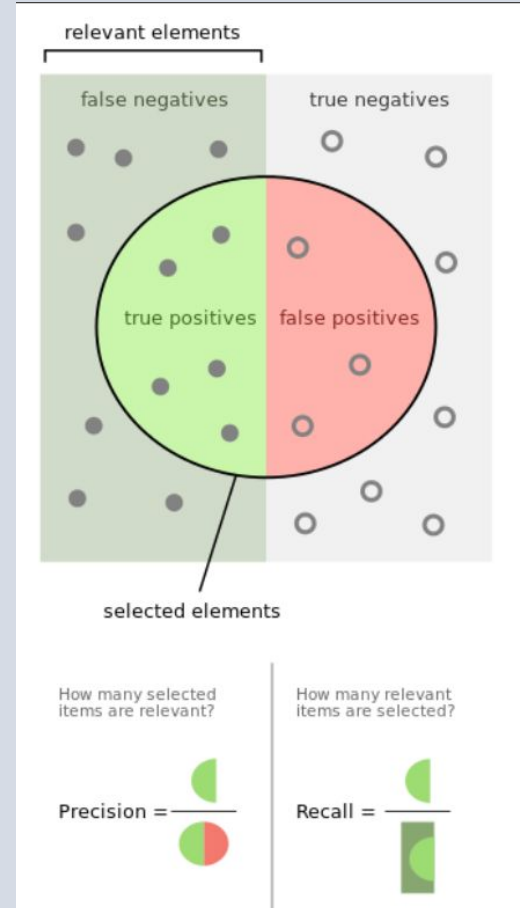


# TESTING

Once the training is complete, the trained algorithm is "tested" on never-seen documents

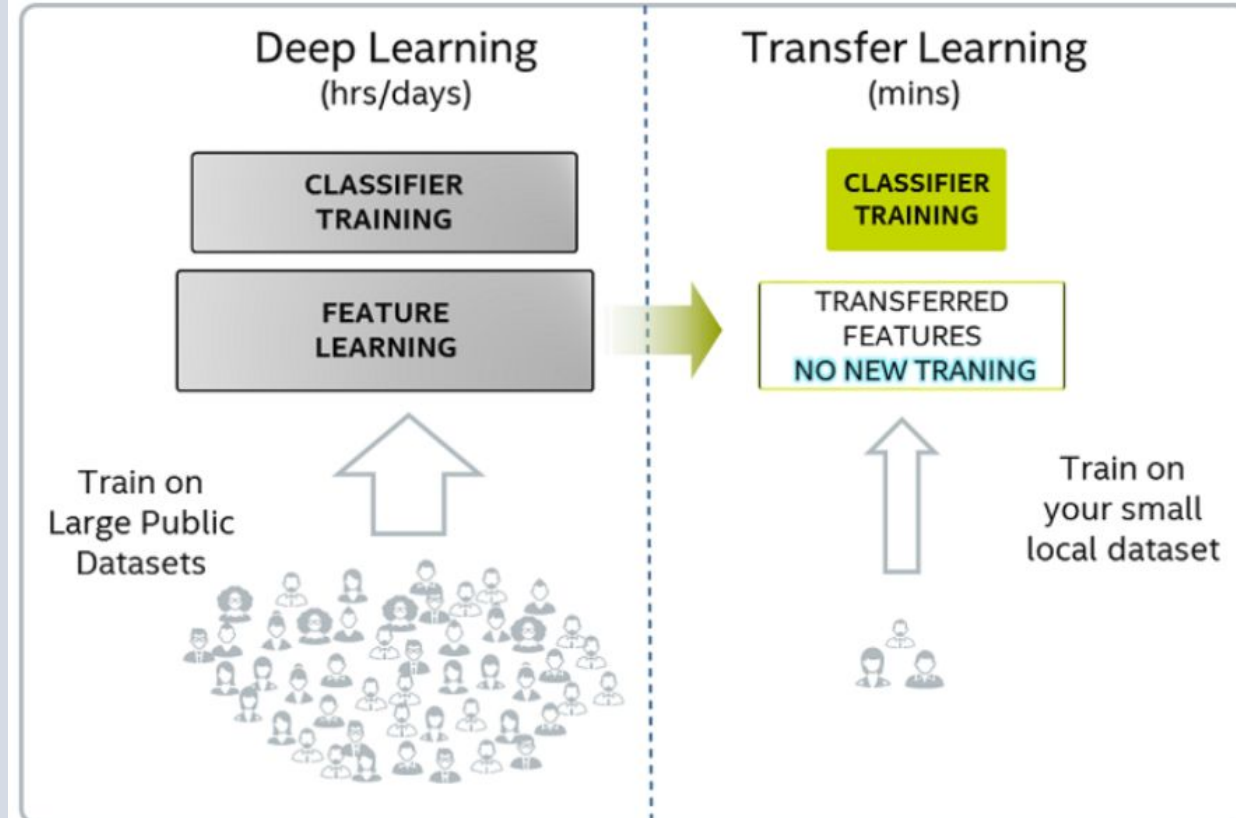
Main reason: the algorithm might have learned how to work just on the training data, but not on the task in general (overfitting)

When the task is that of assigning a label (e.g. an emotion), precision/recall are generally used





# TRANSFER LEARNING



...see  
BERT







# EMBEDDINGS

## Deep Neural Network

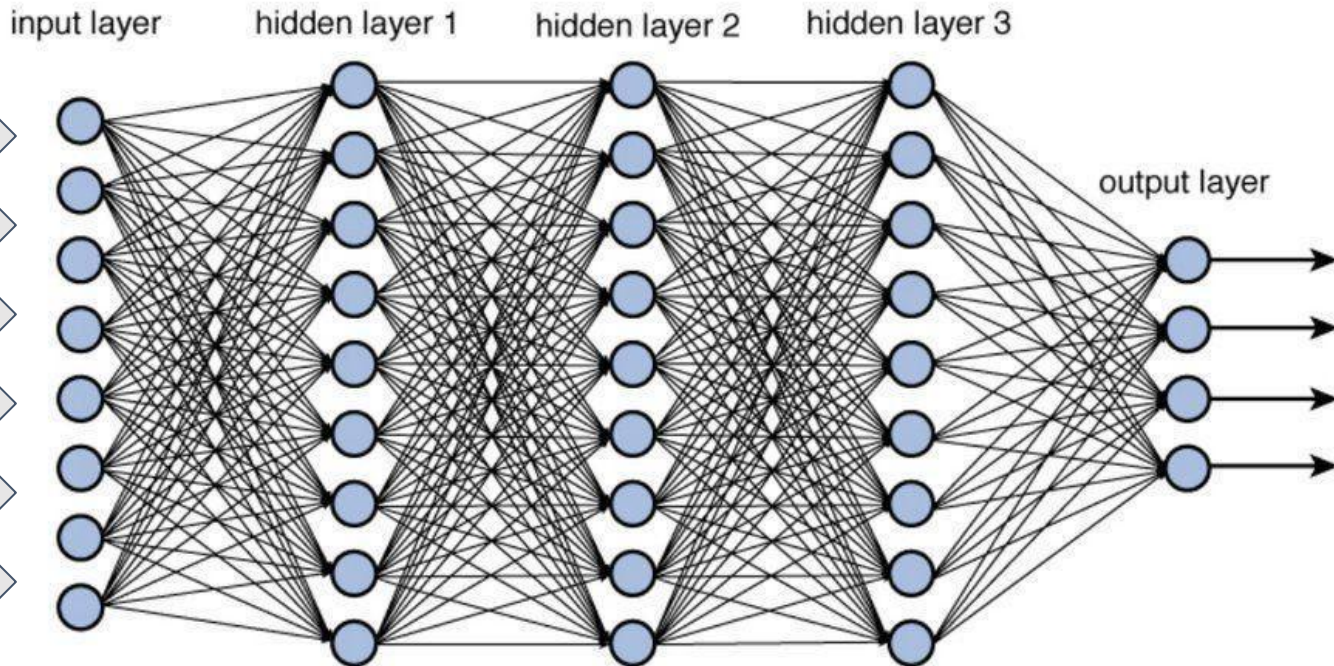


Figure 12.2 Deep network architecture with multiple layers.



# EMBEDDINGS

0.123

1.743

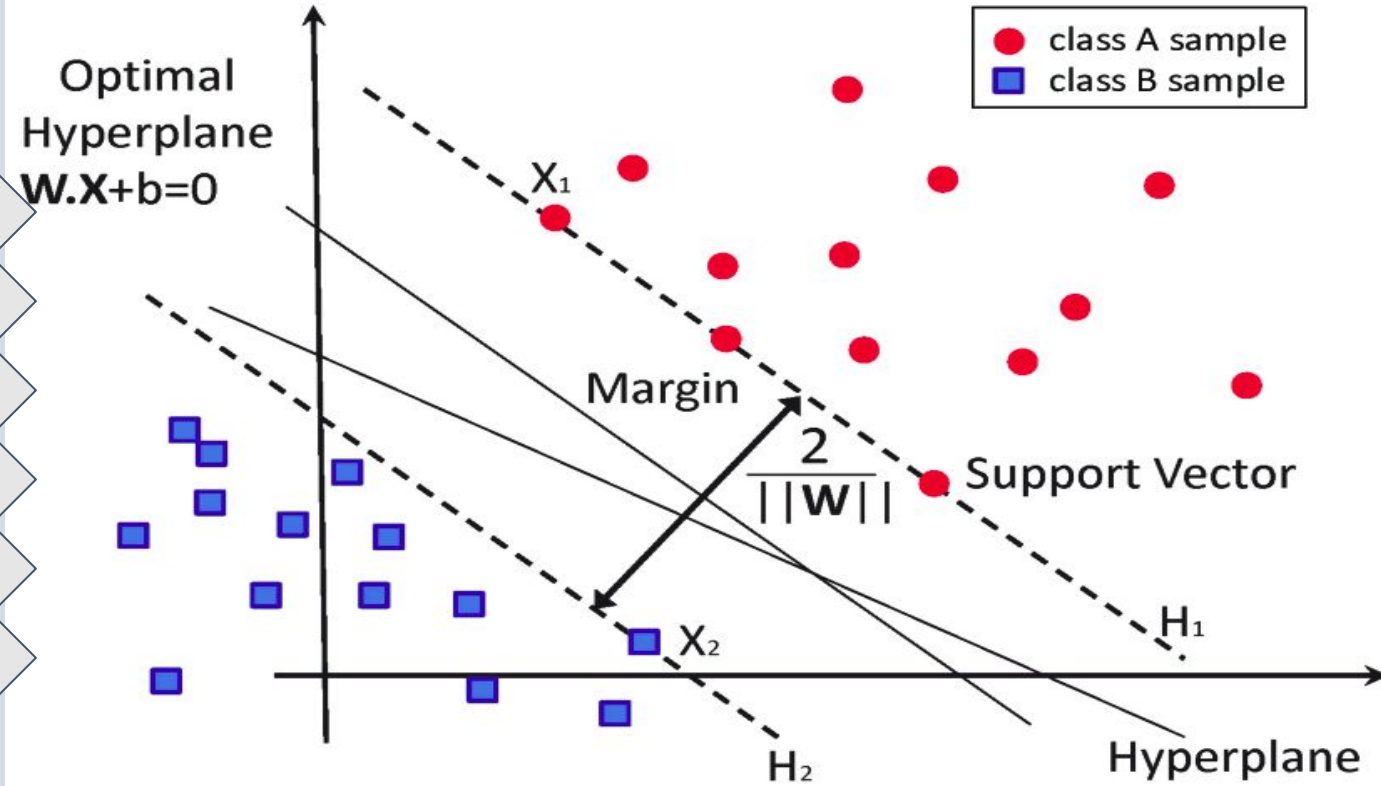
0.325

1.143

0.463

1.153

Optimal  
Hyperplane  
 $\mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{X} + b = 0$

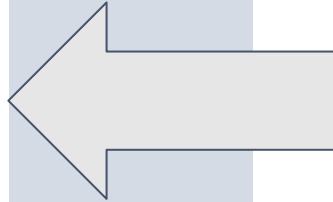




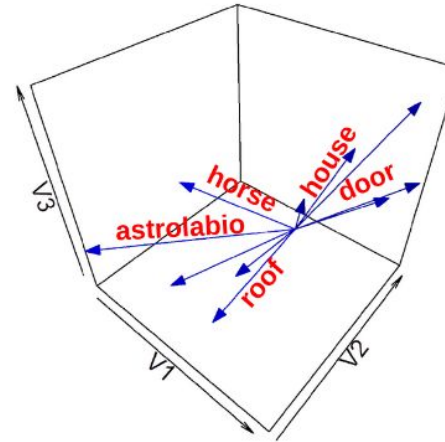


# EMBEDDINGS

To	→	0.123
be	→	1.743
or	→	0.325
not	→	1.143
to	→	0.463
be	→	1.153



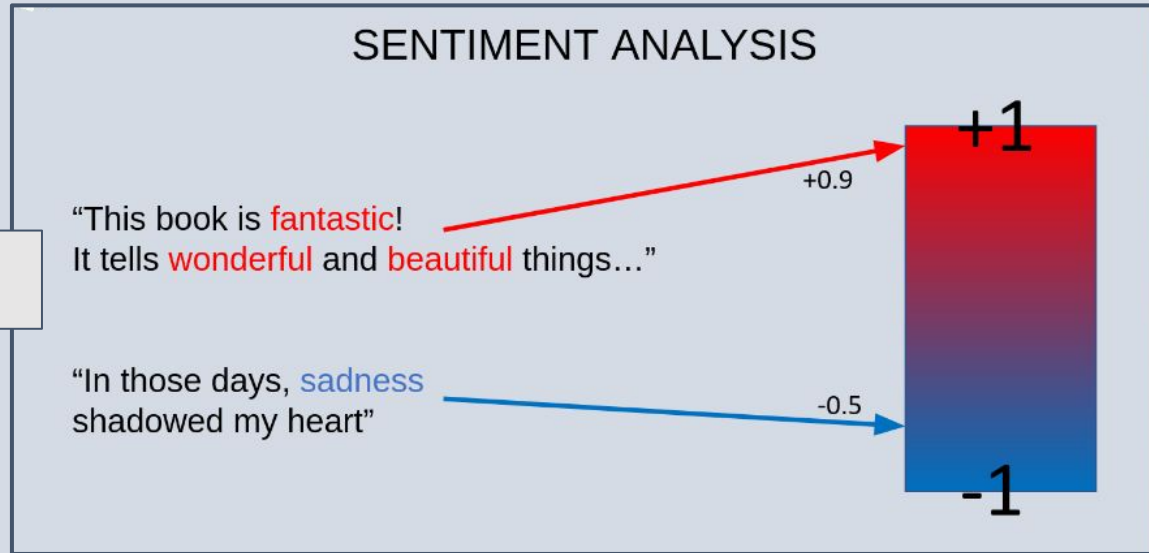
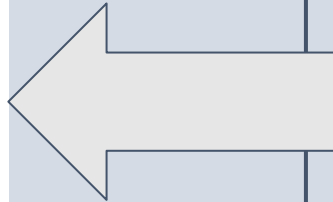
word embeddings





# EMBEDDINGS

To	→	0.123
be	→	1.743
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to	→	0.463
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# COMPUTATIONAL MODELING

“1. A model is a model *of something*. A model is always a kind of mapping. **It represents something**, an object, a concept, and so on, by representing it **using something else** like clay, words, images, and so forth.

2. A model is *not the original* and it is not a *copy of the original*. Unlike a copy, a model **doesn't capture all features of the entity it represents**, only some of them. The choice of features selected to be present in the model is usually based on assumptions by the creator of the model concerning **which features are relevant** for the intended use of the model.”

(Jannidis and Flanders, 2019)



# COMPUTATIONAL MODELINGS

## **Embedding is modeling**

...because it reduces a text to a series of numbers, which represent specific features of that text

## **Stylometry models style**

...as similarities in patterns of use of most frequent words

## **Topic models model topics**

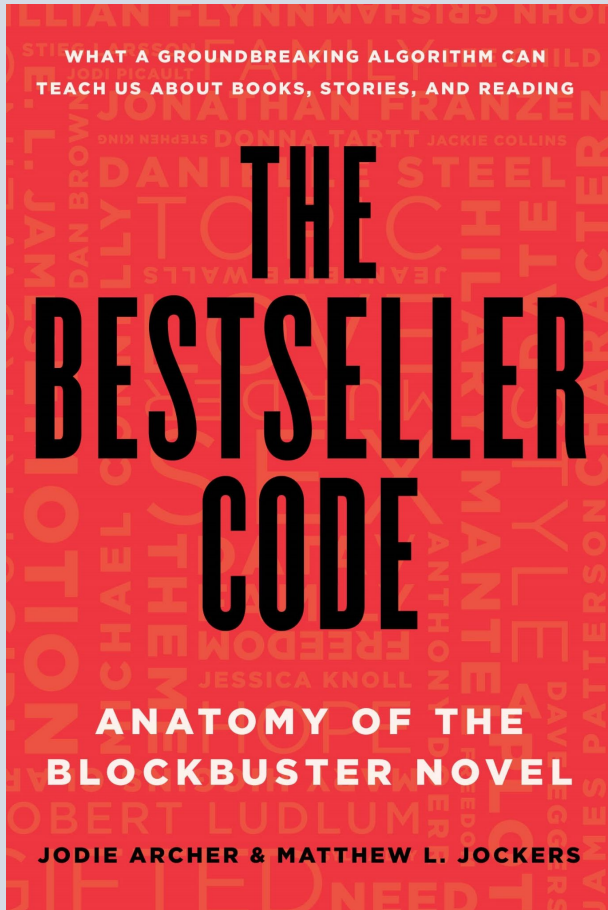
...as word probabilities based on word co-occurrences

**etc. etc.**



# APPLICATIONS

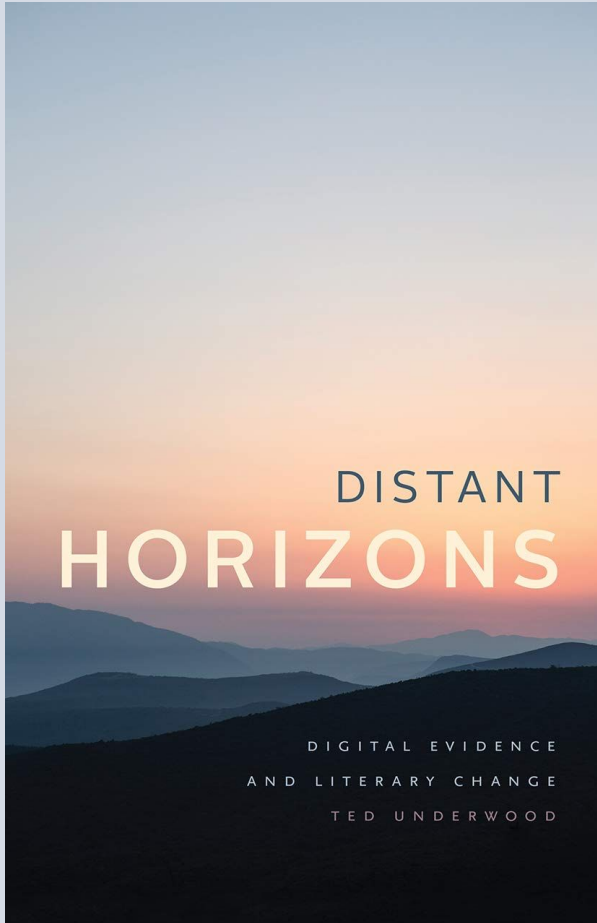
- using a combination of sentiment analysis, topic modeling, et al. (i.e. creating embeddings)
- to train a ML classifier that predicts the commercial success of novels





# APPLICATIONS

- using a simple ML classifier (logistic regression) to predict various phenomena (like genre, literariness, etc.)
- and then looking at the features that made the classifier successful (e.g. the presence of certain words, etc.)





# CRITICAL ASPECTS

**Opaqueness of the most advanced ML algorithms**

...so you just get the results, but cannot interpret them

**In ML, intelligence is intended as a form of imitation**

...so can it really make predictions?

...so how can it be “creative”?

**ML (and in particular transfer learning) depends heavily on the quality of the training materials**

...ML models built on wide (and uncontrolled) datasets can embed strong biases