

The Data Delusion

Neil D. Lawrence

University of Sheffield

@lawrennd inverseprobability.com

What is Machine Learning?

- ▶ A set of techniques for extracting information from data.
- ▶ Principal technology underlying recent advances in *artificial intelligence*.
- ▶ A major technology underlying *data science*.

Example: Image Classification

Perceptron

Example: AlphaGo

- ▶ An achievement in Artificial Intelligence

Example: Driverless Cars

- ▶ Engineered system with many components.
- ▶ Many vital components are based on machine learning.
- ▶ Pedestrian recognition (an image classification problem)

Example: Facebook

- ▶ Most aspects of the interface controlled using machine learning.
- ▶ Ranking of posts in newsfeed.
- ▶ Ranking of adverts.

Machine Learning

data + model = algorithm

- ▶ Your actions (likes, friends, clicks) are turned into a vector.

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 2.3 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

You Will Need

- ▶ Training data
- ▶ A model of how they interact
- ▶ Some computer time

The Professions

- ▶ What aspects cannot/can be replaced by a machine?
 - ▶ What makes professions special.
 - ▶ Encroachment of automation on 'middle class' roles.
- ▶ Not just your role, but the wider societal role.
- ▶ How will the professions evolve?

Thanks!

- ▶ twitter: @lawrennd
- ▶ blog: <http://inverseprobability.com>