

Data Mining (Week 1)

dm25s1

Topic 06 : Data Modelling

Part 01 : Data Modelling - Introduction

Preparation

Data Handling

Exploring Data 1

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Exploring Data 2

Building Models

Prediction

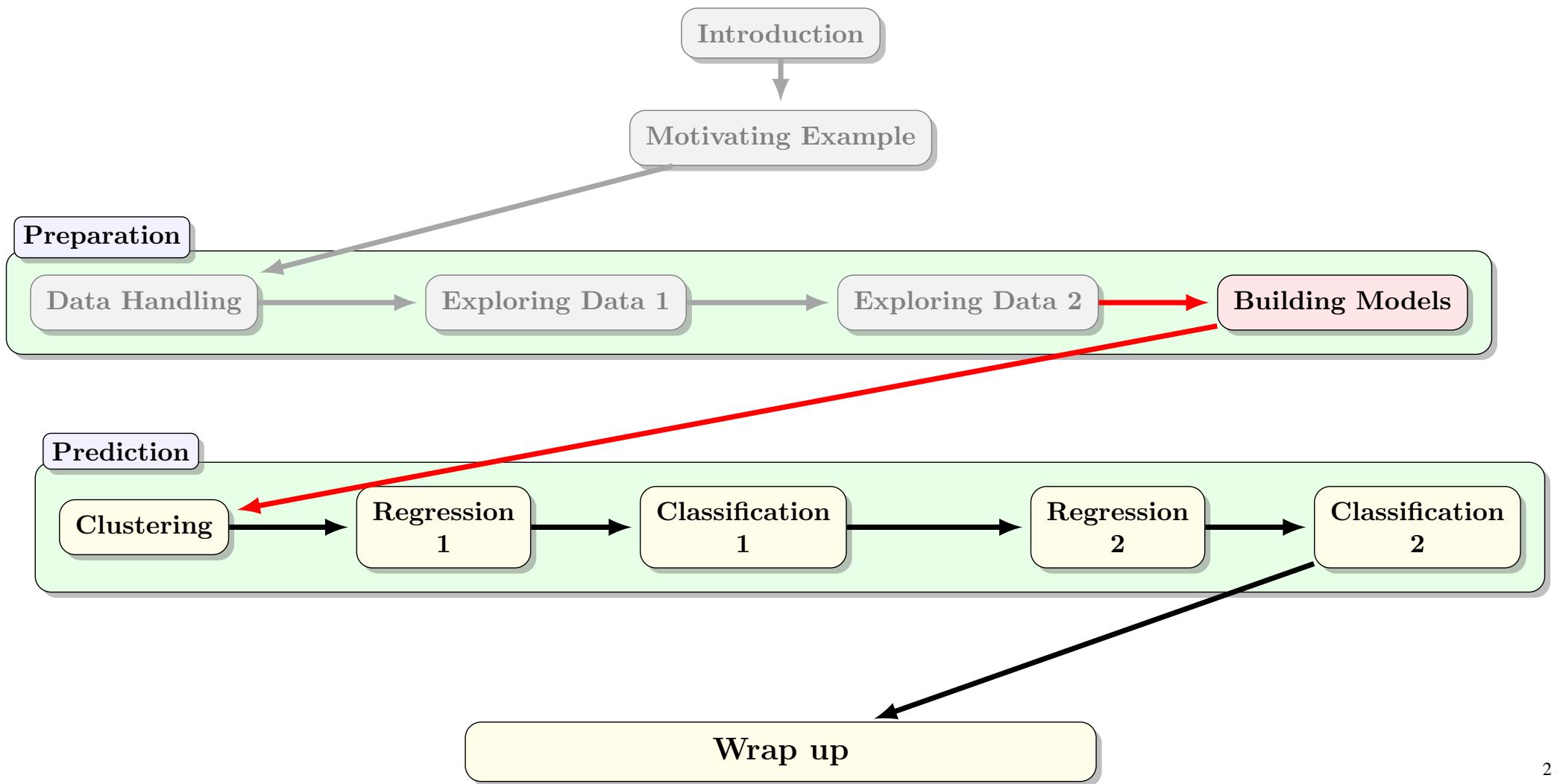
Autumn Semester, 2025

Outline

- Components of a machine learning problem
- Machine learning concepts and notation
- Bias vs variance

Wrap up

Data Mining (Week 6)



Terminology / Notation

m observations / instances / cases / rows

$n + 1$ columns / variables

X

n features / attributes / dimensions

y target

$\mathbf{x}^{(i)}$

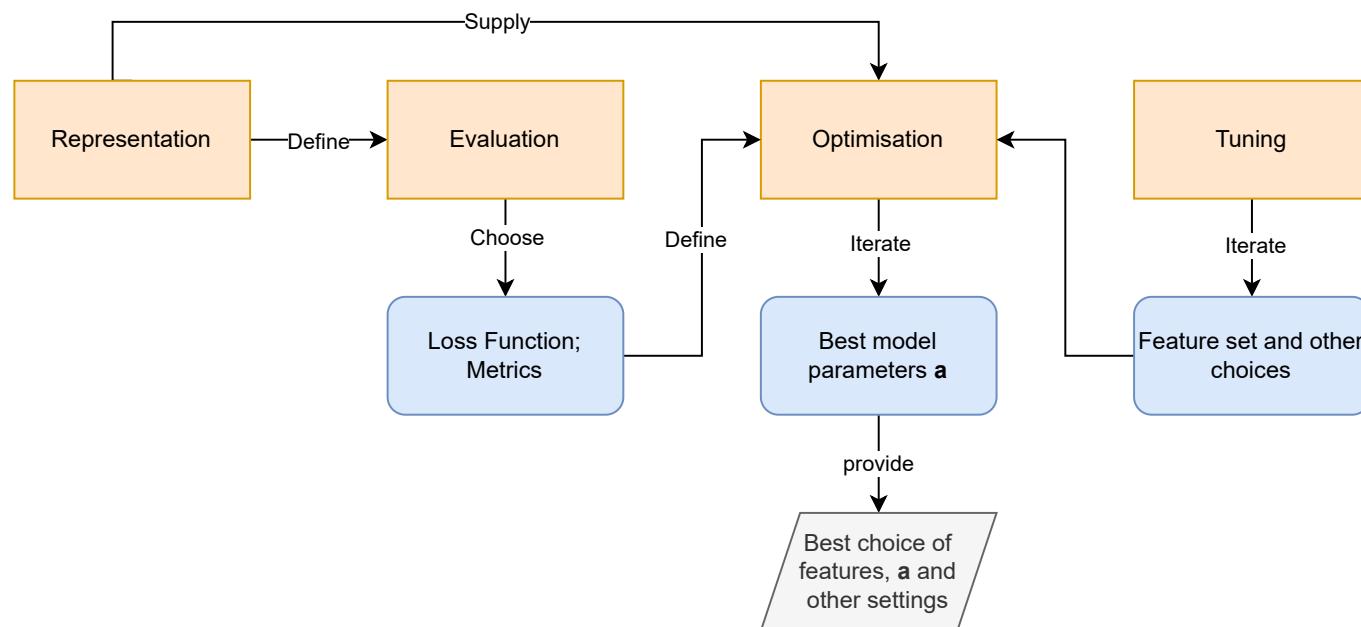
\mathbf{x}_j

PassengerId	Pclass	Name	Sex	Age	SibSp	Parch	Ticket	Fare	Cabin	Embarked	Survived
1	3	Braund, Mr. Owen Harris	male	22.0	1	0	A/5 21171	7.2500	Nan	S	0
2	1	Cumings, Mrs. John Bradley (Florence Briggs Th... ...	female	38.0	1	0	PC 17599	71.2833	C85	C	1
3	3	Heikkinen, Miss. Laina	female	26.0	0	0	STON/O2. 3101282	7.9250	Nan	S	1
4	1	Futrelle, Mrs. Jacques Heath (Lily May Peel)	female	35.0	1	0	113803	53.1000	C123	S	1
5	3	Allen, Mr. William Henry	male	35.0	0	0	373450	8.0500	Nan	S	0
6	3	Moran, Mr. James	male	Nan	0	0	330877	8.4583	Nan	Q	0
7	1	McCarthy, Mr. Timothy J	male	54.0	0	0	17463	51.8625	E46	S	0
8	3	Palsson, Master. Gosta Leonard	male	2.0	3	1	349909	21.0750	Nan	S	0
9	3	Johnson, Mrs. Oscar W (Elisabeth Vilhelmina Berg) ...	female	27.0	0	2	347742	11.1333	Nan	S	1
10	2	Nasser, Mrs. Nicholas (Adele Achem)	female	14.0	1	0	237736	30.0708	Nan	C	1
11	3	Sandstrom, Miss. Marguerite Rut	female	4.0	1	1	PP 9549	16.7000	G6	S	1

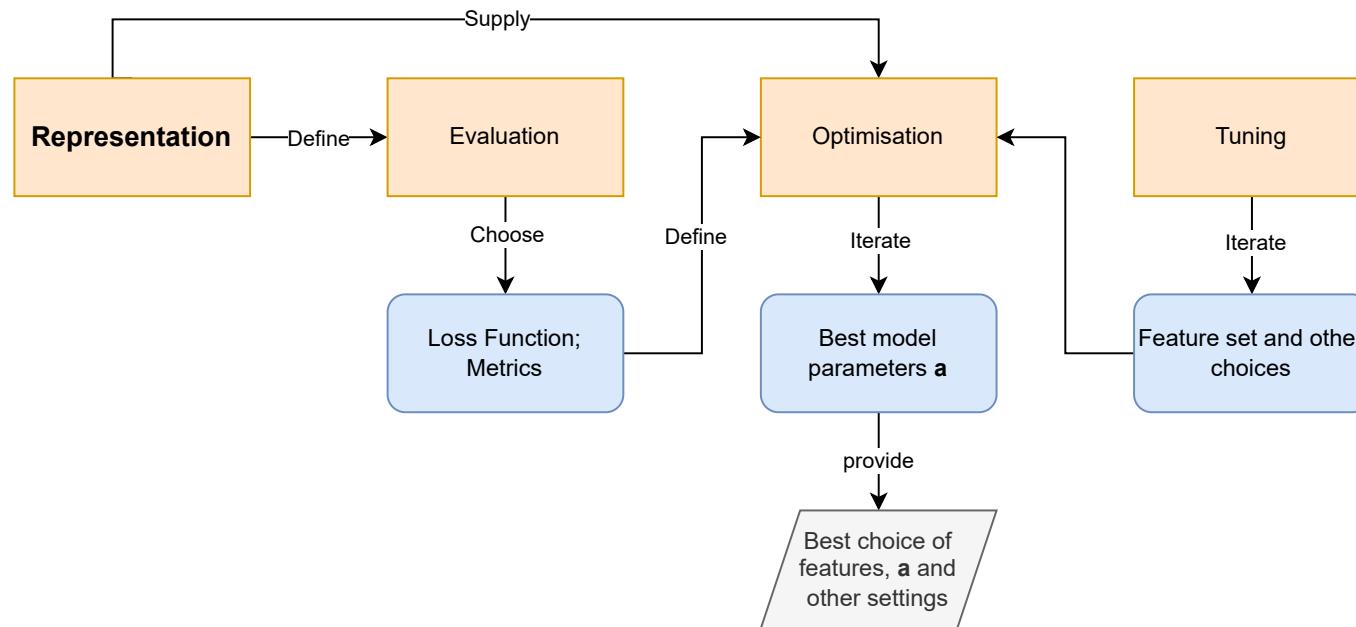
- A labeled dataset consists of m rows \times $(n + 1)$ columns / variables.
- Use bold to represent vectors and matrices.
- Use subscripts to indicate particular **feature / attribute / column** \mathbf{x}_j
- Use superscript in parenthesis to indicate particular **observation / instance/ case / row** $\mathbf{x}^{(i)}$
- So $x_j^{(i)}$ (or $x_{i,j}$) is the i -th observation in the j -th feature $x_j^{(i)}$

Components of a Machine Learning Problem

➤ Where do we start????

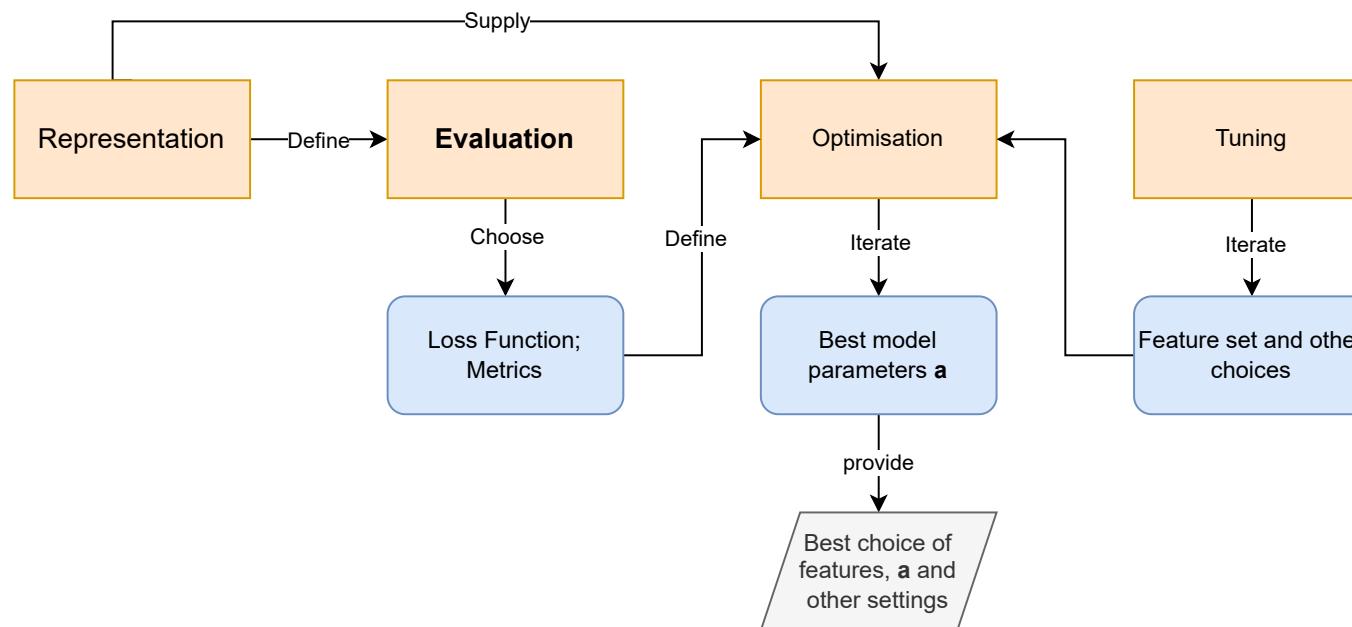


Component 1: Representation



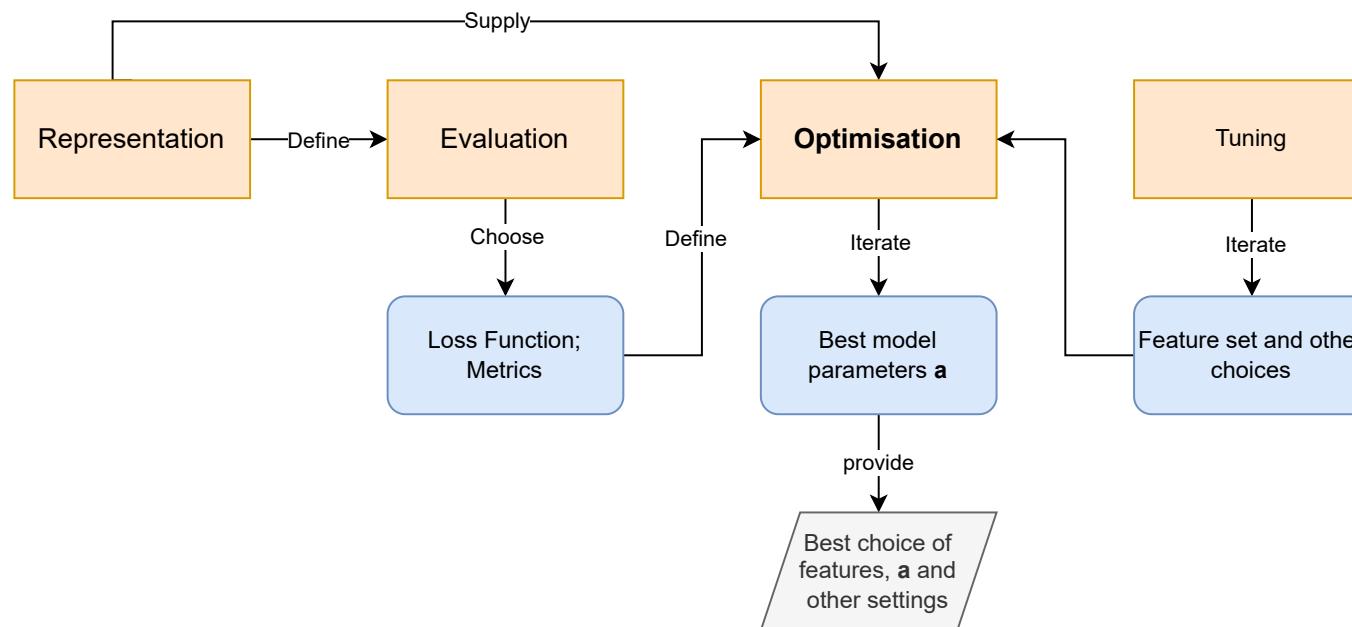
- Given the business objective and the data, choose what type of ML problem to solve: regression, classification, clustering, etc.
- Choose an algorithm for that problem. For example, if the ML problem is classification, we can choose KNN (other techniques will be seen later)
- What is the target and what features are available?
- These choices are made once - they are foundational for what follows.

Component 2: Evaluation



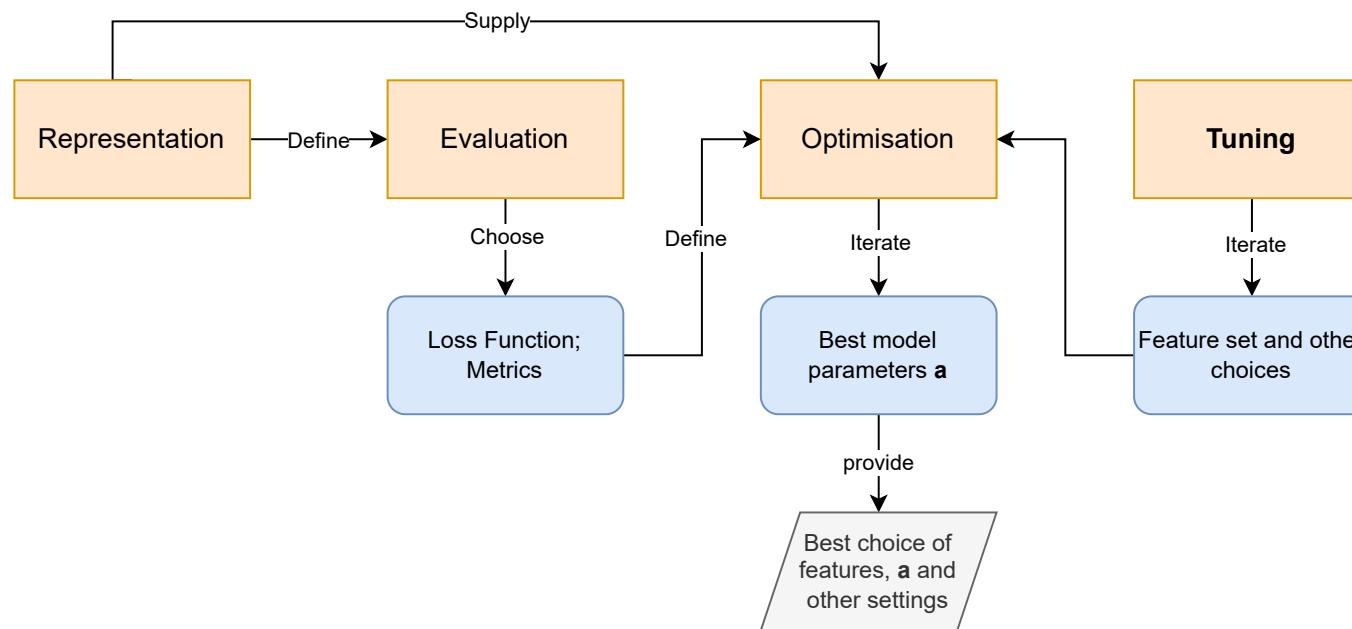
- Need an **Objective Function** that we can use to measure how well the model represents the data.
- For classification: how often does the model predict the right class, so that the predicted target and the actual target match each other?
- For regression: how close are the predicted target values to the actual target values?
- Generally the objective function takes actual and predicted target values and returns a single nonnegative number.

Component 3: Optimisation



- Most ML algorithms are *iterative*: start with a guess at the model parameters α , and improve them until the process terminates.
- The nature of α and how the code searches for better α depends on the **Representation**, refined by the **Tuning** choices - we will see examples later
- The choice of when to terminate the optimisation procedure depends on the **Evaluation** choice.
- Most of the computational resources are needed for the **Optimisation** component.

Component 4: Tuning



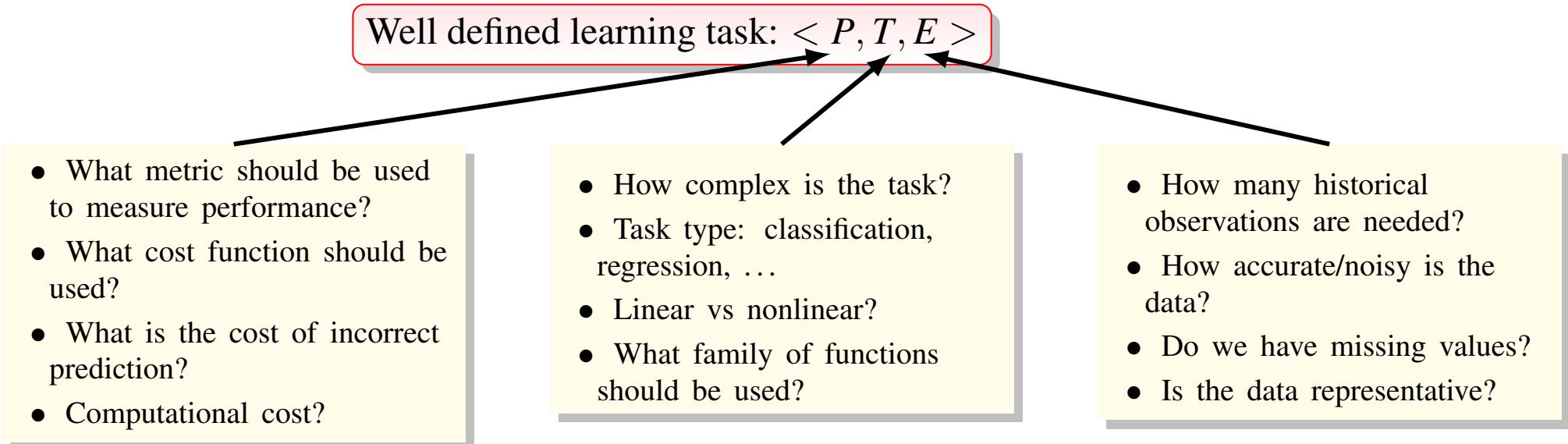
- Tuning is also iterative and is applied on top of Optimisation
- Tuning parameters (also known as *hyperparameters*) are kept constant during **Optimisation**
- Tuning parameters depend on **Representation**. For example, we have seen one hyperparameter already: k in the KNN classifier.
- For **Tuning**, GridSearch (exhaustive over a range) and RandomSearch (pick representative values) are popular ways to search for the best hyperparameter values.

Data Modelling (aka Machine Learning)

As alternative to the four component (Representation / Evaluation / Optimisation/ Tuning) viewpoint we can think of a machine learning problem as

Definition 1 (Machine Learning)

Study of algorithms that improve their performance P at some task T with experience E .



Taxonomy of Machine Learning Models ...

... by Intuition/Motivation

- **Geometric models** use intuitions from geometry such as separating (hyper-)planes, linear transformations and distance metrics.
- **Probabilistic models** view learning as a process of reducing uncertainty, modelled by means of probability distributions.
- **Logical models** are defined in terms of easily interpretable logical expressions.

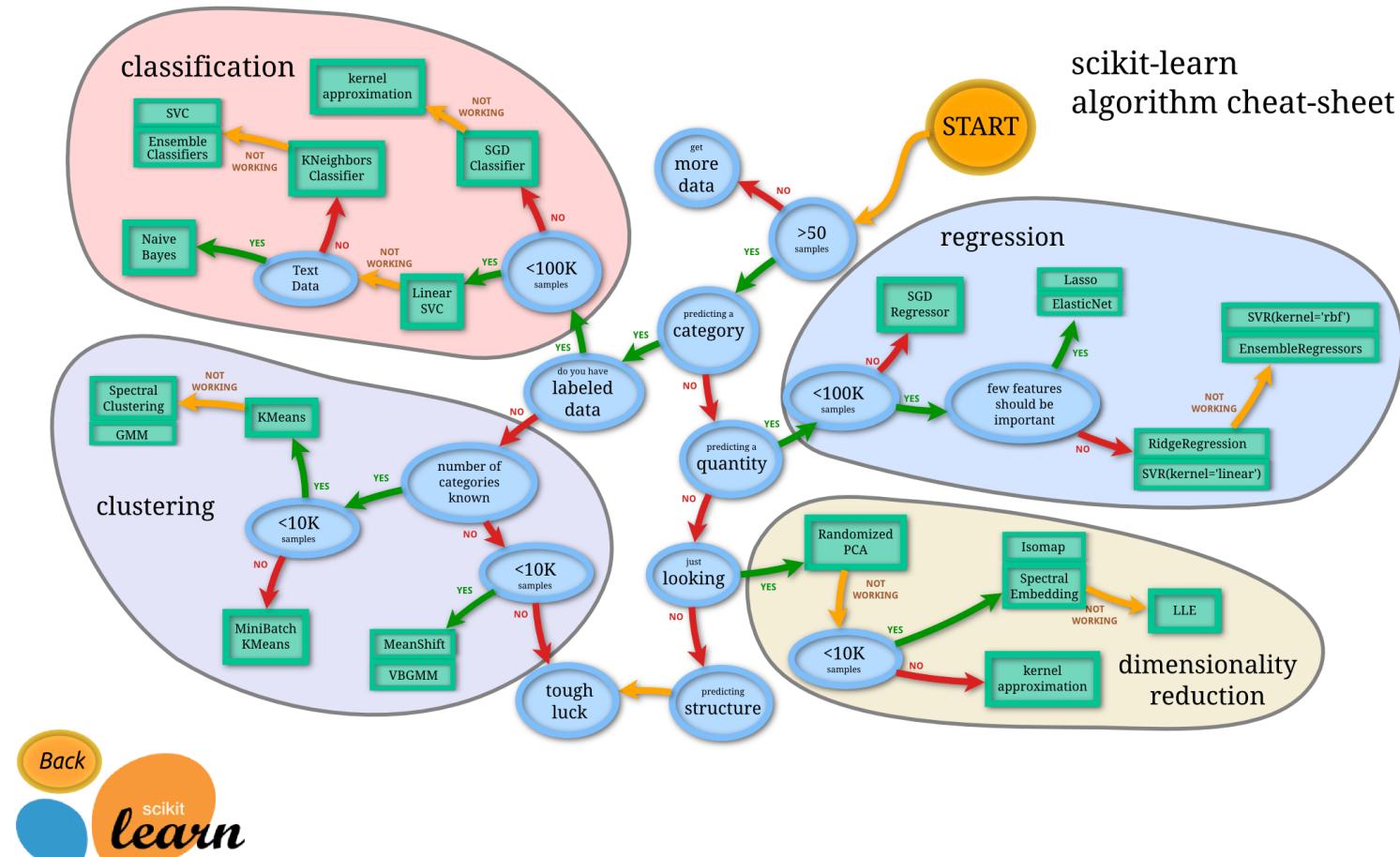
... by Algorithmic Properties

- **Regression models** predict a numeric output.
- **Classification models** predict a discrete class value.
- **Neural networks** learn based on a biological analogy
- **Local models** predict in the local region of a query instance.
- **Tree-based models** (recursively) partition the data to make predictions.
- **Ensembles** learn multiple models and combine their predictions.

... by Fixed/Variable Number of Parameters

- **Parametric models** have a fixed number of parameters.
- In **non-parametric models** the number of parameters grows with the amount of training data.

Aside: Scikit-learn Flowchart of Models (Shallow Learners)



A neural network with more than one hidden layer is called a **deep learner**, all other learners are **shallow learners**.

Statistical Models vs Machine Learning Models

Data

Statistical Models

- Usually small (< 1000 observations)
- Low dimension (< 10 variables)
- Can have detailed understanding of data
- Data is clean — human has looked at each data point

Models

ML Models

- Can be huge (million+ observations)
- Large dimension (1000+, more for vision)
- Too large for human to parse / understand
- Data not clean — humans can't afford to understand/fix each point

Validation

Statistical Models

- Simple models — complexity limited by theory
- Detailed/complex statistical assumptions re data
- Model known, and data is carefully examined to verify assumptions.
- Evaluation based on theoretical estimates under stated statistical assumptions
- Analysis of errors using theoretical distributions

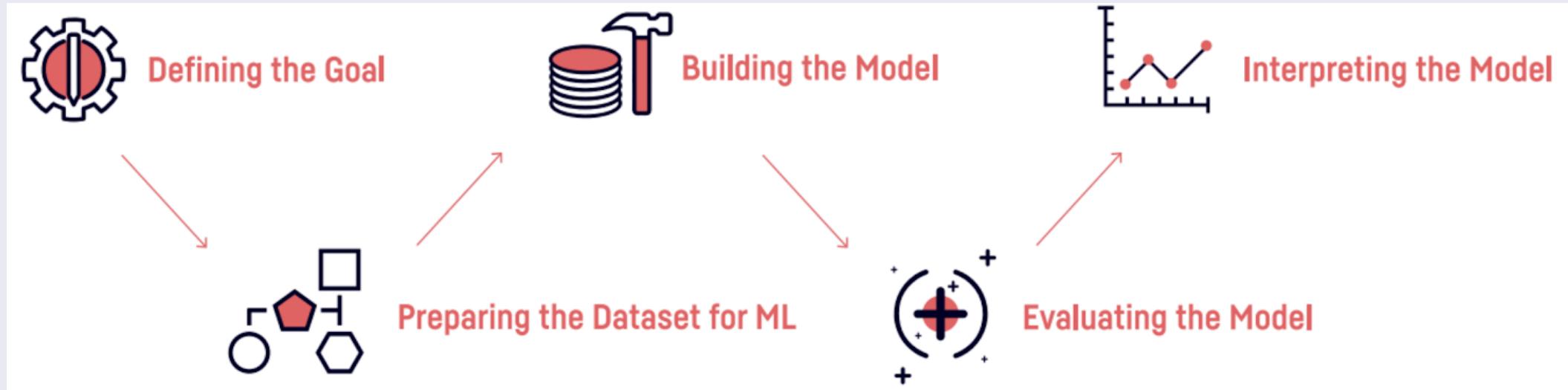
Statistics would be very different if it had been born after the computer instead of 100 years before

- “No” upper limit on model complexity
- Fewer statistical assumptions re data
- Don’t know right model? No problem! have multiple models and vote/weight results
- Empirical evaluation methods instead of theory — how well does it work on **unseen** data?
- Don’t calculate expected error, measure it from **unseen** data.

Splitting data into train+test(+validation) is vital

The Pipeline Metaphor

Model Building Pipeline



Source: Dataiku

Comments

- We saw the first two stages in previous weeks
- This week we look at the remaining stages
- Of course this pipeline is a simplification. In reality it is iterative.

What does a (supervised learning) model look like?

Definition 2 (Linear Model)

General form of linear model used in this module looks like

$$y_i \sim f_i^{(1)} + f_i^{(2)} + \dots + f_i^{(n)}$$

where y_i is the value of the response variable (target) for row (observation) i , and $f_i^{(j)}; j = 1, \dots, n$ is the value of the j^{th} feature for that observation.

The model is linear in the sense that it can be turned into the following linear *equation*:

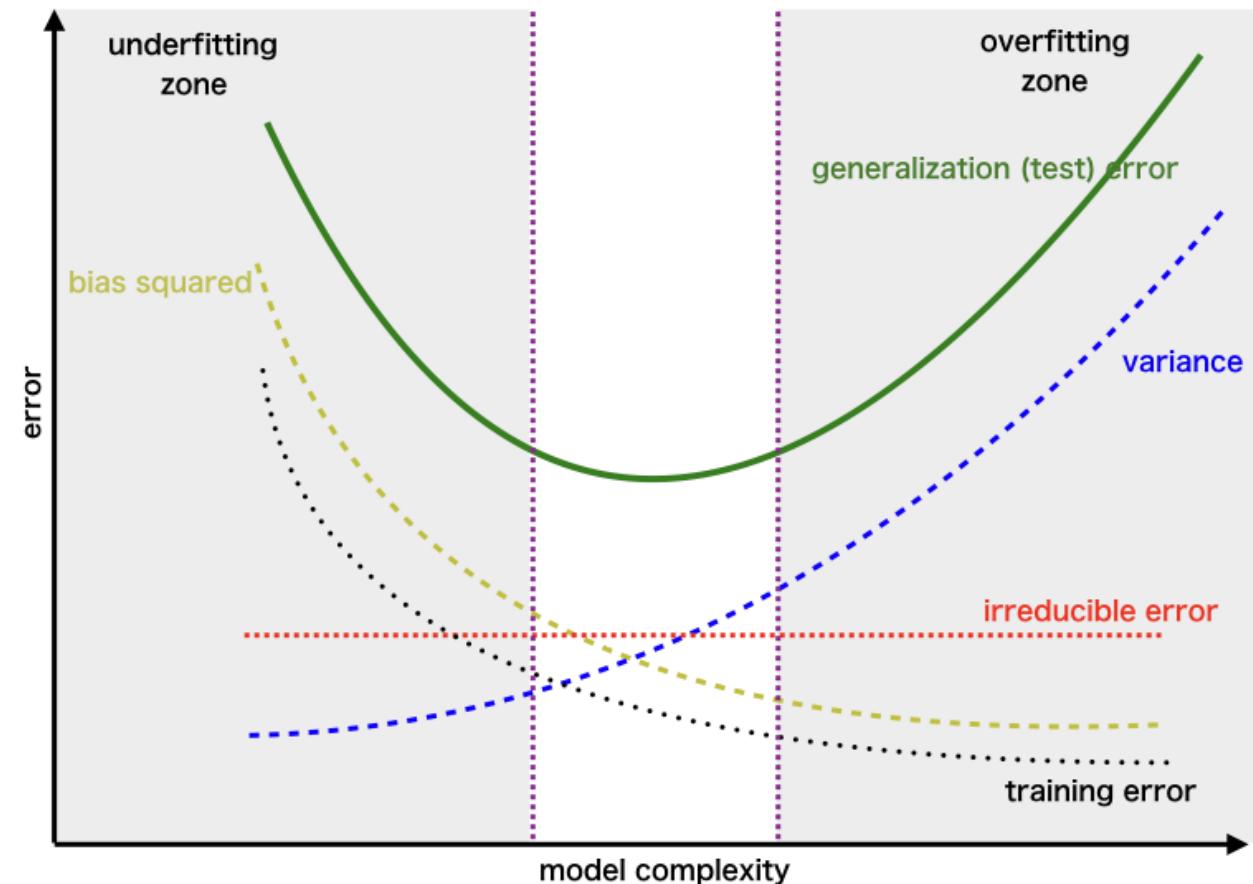
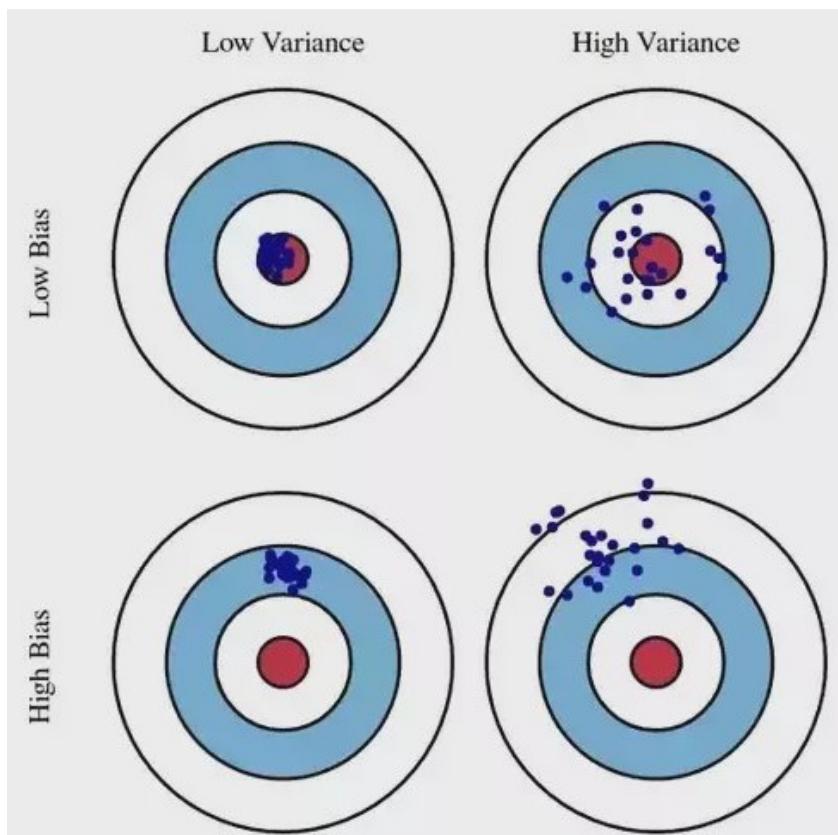
$$y_i = a_0 + a_1 f_i^{(1)} + a_2 f_i^{(2)} + \dots + a_n f_i^{(n)} + \varepsilon_i$$

In words: each target value y_i in the data is modelled as a linear combination of the model parameters a and the features, plus some error.

➤ Note that the features f can be nonlinear (such as $\sin x$) but the model parameters a must appear linearly.

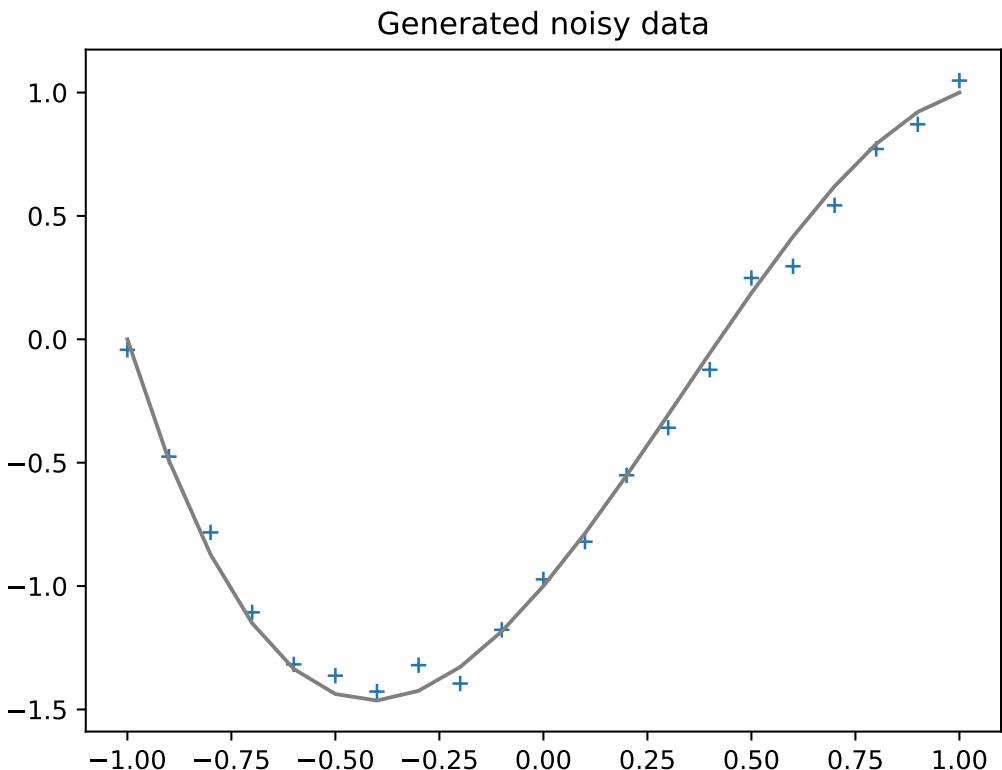
➤ The goal of modelling is to find a so that the *prediction error* (loss function $\sim \|\varepsilon\|$) is a minimum.

Bias-Variance and Total Error



Look for parameters a that minimise the generalization error (estimated using the test set that was not used during training)

Example: Noisy data

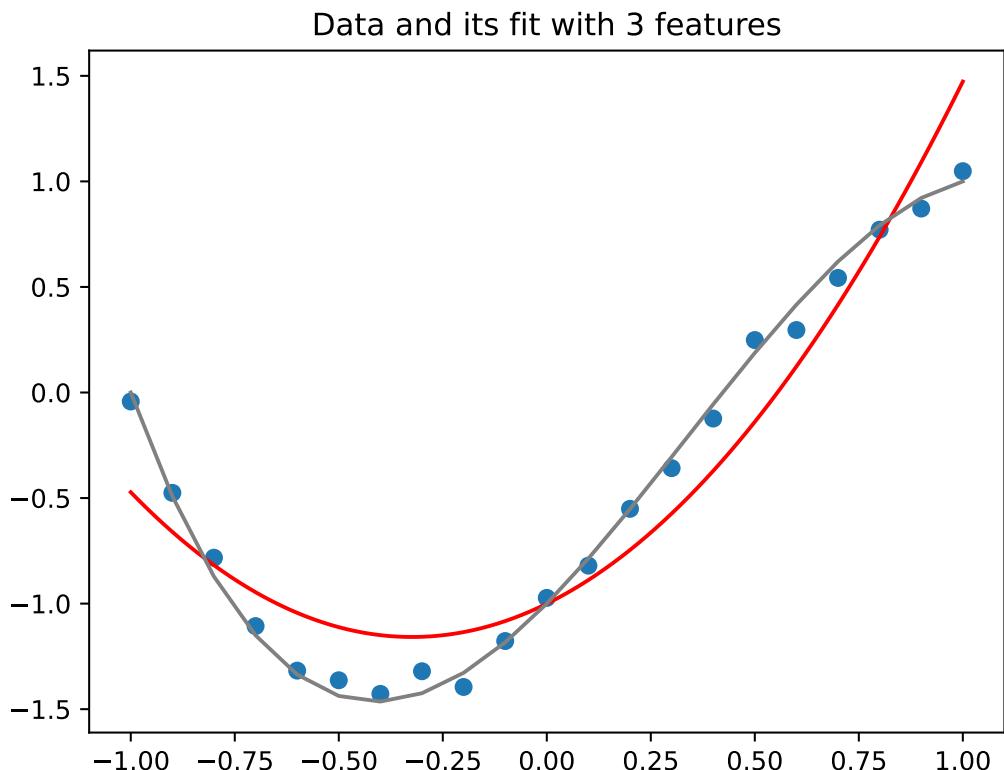
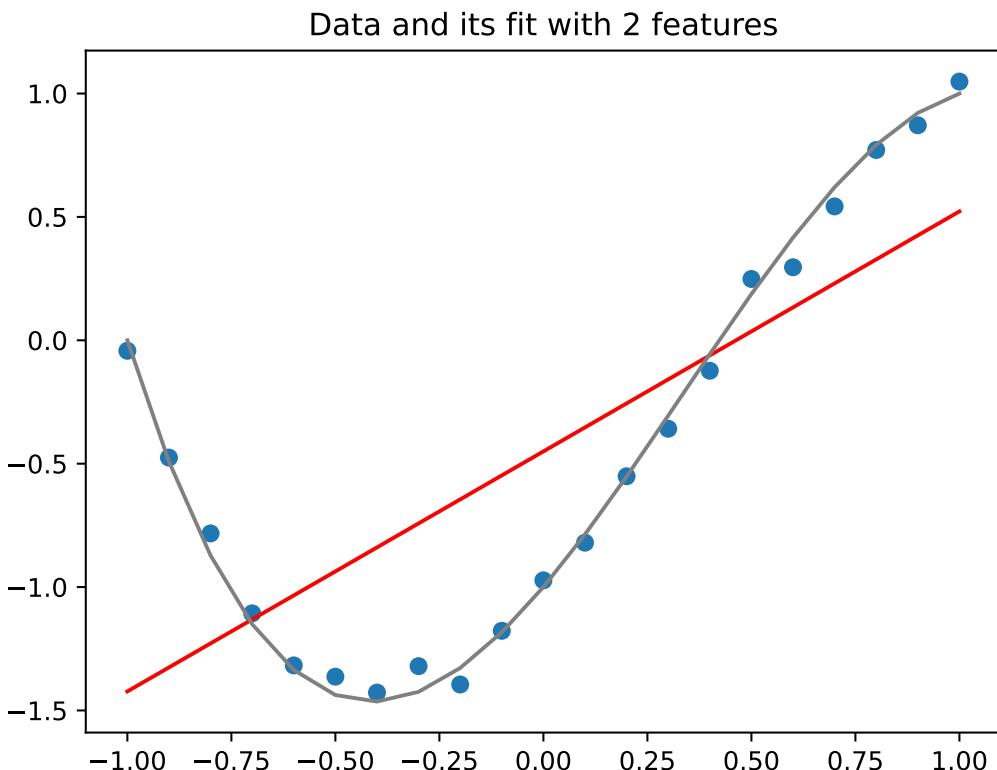


Comments

- Given data with some error (noise)
- Expected underlying model is indicated by the grey curve
- In the next slides we will compare different models, indicated by red curves
- The models have different numbers of *features*
- The values predicted by each model lie on the red curve
- The **loss function** is an estimate of how much the grey and red curves differ

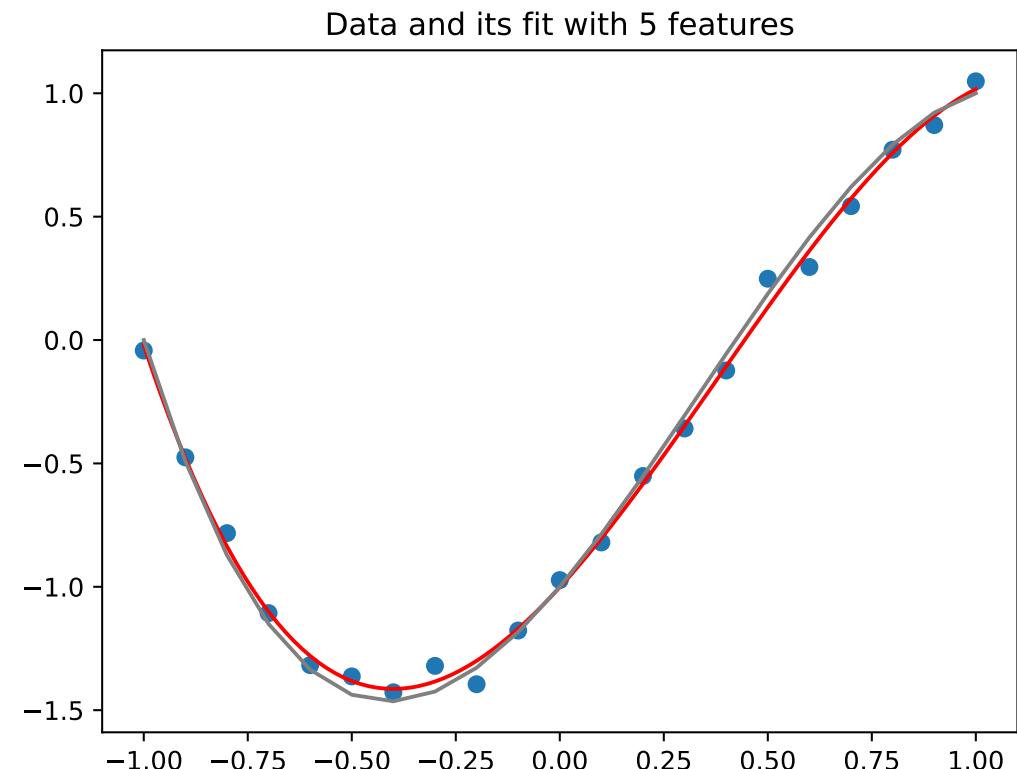
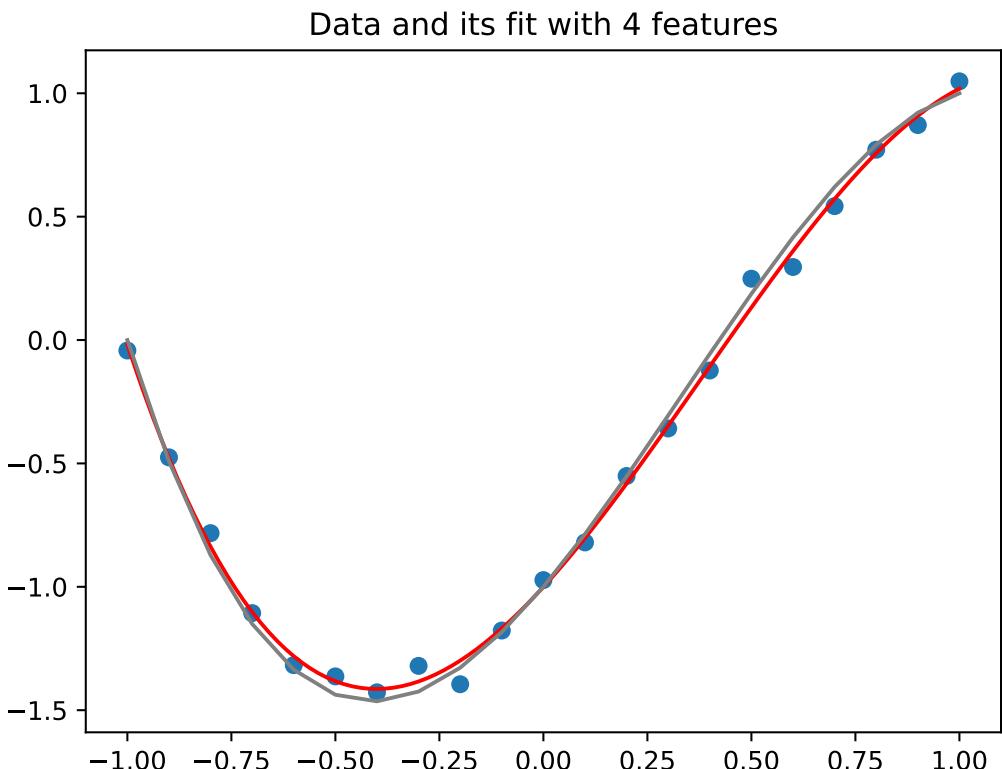
Look for the number of features that minimise the loss function

High Bias, Low variance



➤ Need more features: add more - but which ones?...

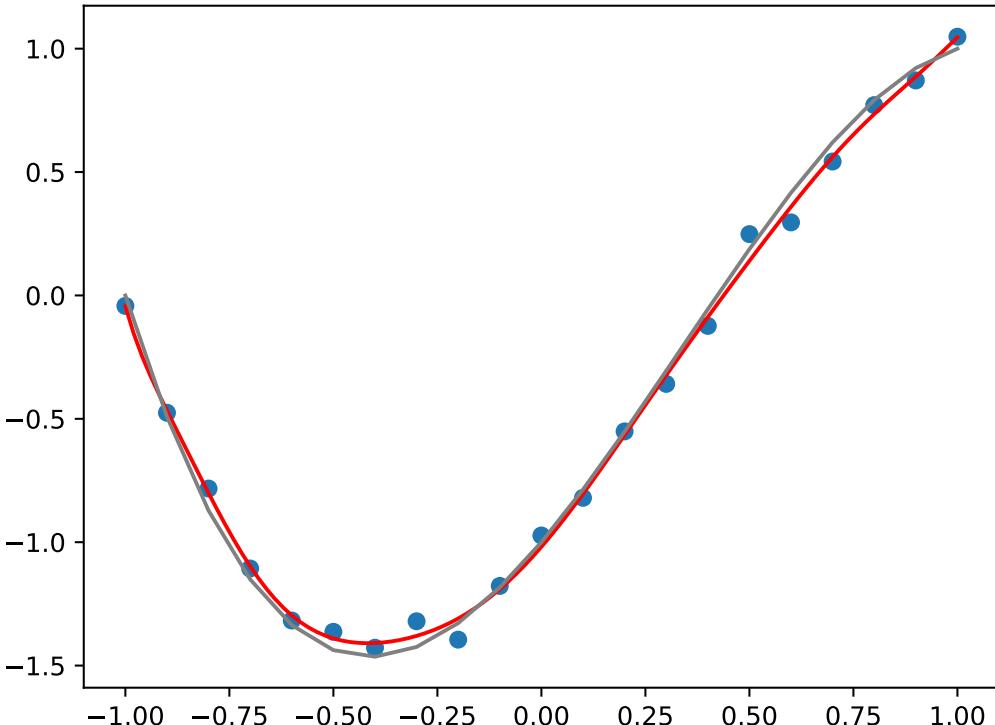
Low Bias, Low variance



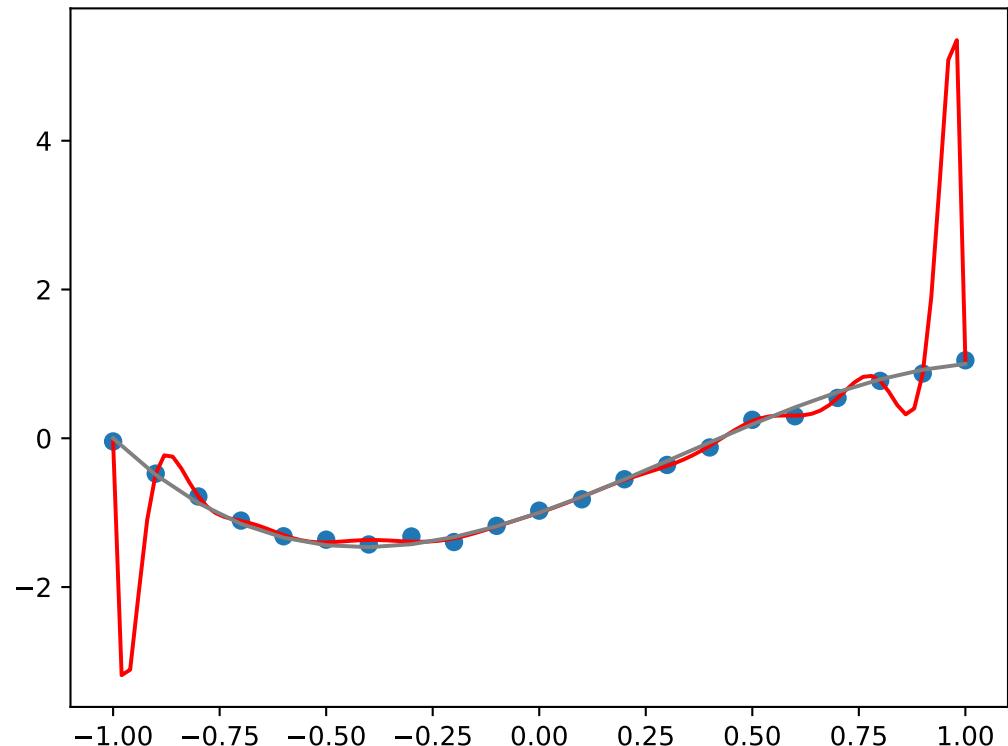
➤ About the right number of features...

Low Bias, High variance

Data and its fit with 12 features



Data and its fit with 18 features



➤ Too many features: remove some, but which ones?...

Example Model Types

Model	Applications	Concerns
Logistic Regression	X-ray classification	Regression with transformed variable
Fully connected networks	Classification	Classical ANN: choose encoding and size
Convolutional Neural Networks	Image processing	deep learning - choose segmentation
Recurrent Neural Networks	Voice recognition	ANN with feedback - how much?
Random Forest	Fraud Detection	Ensemble method - how many?
Reinforcement Learning	Learning by trial and error	Choose goal and penalties
Generative Models	Text, Image creation	Choose parameters
K-means	Segmentation	Choose distance function and k
k-Nearest Neighbors	Recommendation systems	Choose distance function and k
Bayesian Classifiers	Spam and noise filtering	Deal with imbalances