

# AdaBoost

## Analysis & Optimization



FCUP

**Machine Learning I**

2º. Semester 2023/24

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## Lesson Plan

Course Machine Learning I

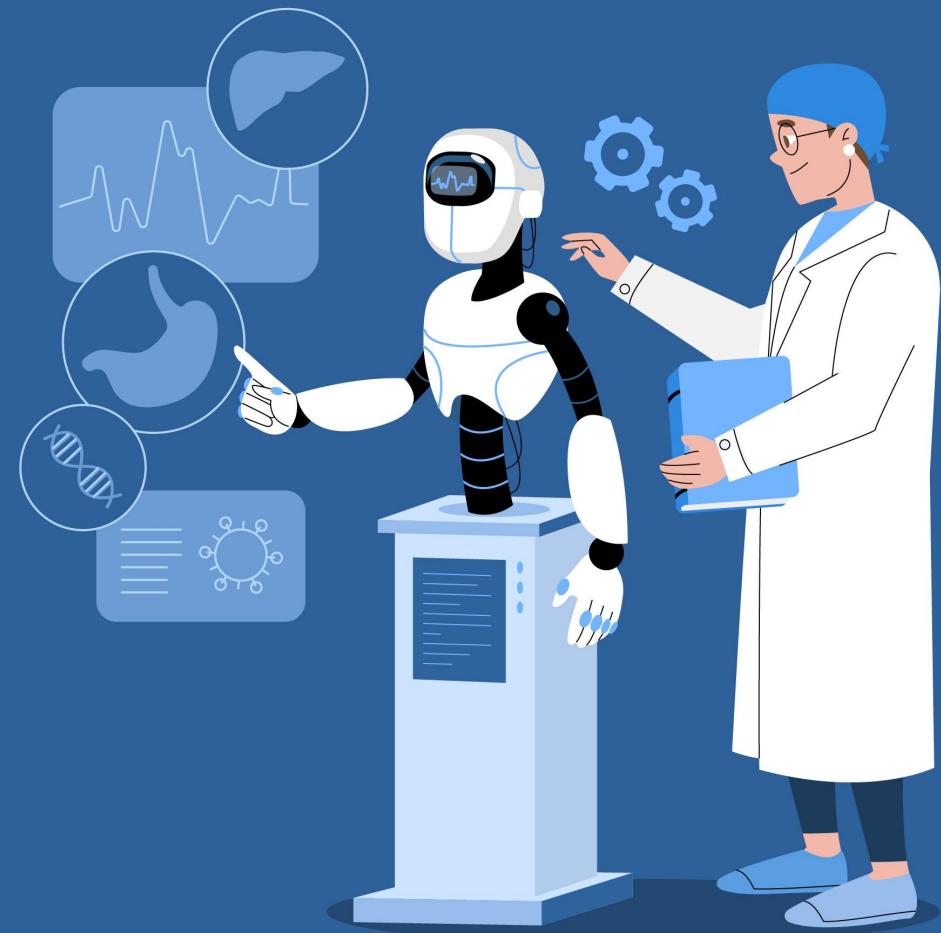
Topic AdaBoost: Analysis & Optimization

Destination Machine Learning Enthusiasts

Methodology PowerPoint Presentation

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**Estimated Time:** 10-15 minutes





# Introduction



In recent years, the rise of **Artificial Intelligence** and the widespread use of **Machine Learning** have revolutionized the way we tackle complex real-world challenges. However, due to the **diverse nature of data involved**, choosing the right algorithm is crucial to achieve **efficient and effective solutions**. Therefore, understanding the strengths and weaknesses behind different Machine Learning algorithms, and **knowing how to adapt them** to meet specific challenges, can become a fulcral skill to develop.





## Introduction | Project Overview

Furthermore, since the choice of algorithm greatly depends on the **specific task** and **data involved**, it's clear that **there is no "Master Algorithm"** (No algorithm can solve every problem). This **Project** focuses on the following topic:

**With no Master Algorithm, is it possible to improve a existing Machine Learning Algorithm in characteristics it struggles the most?**

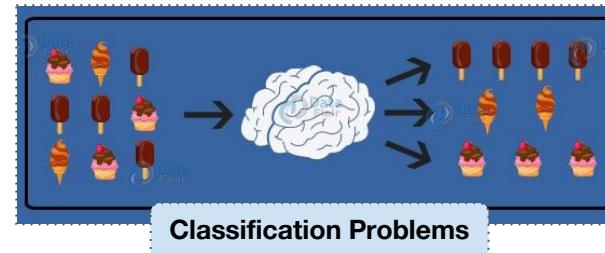


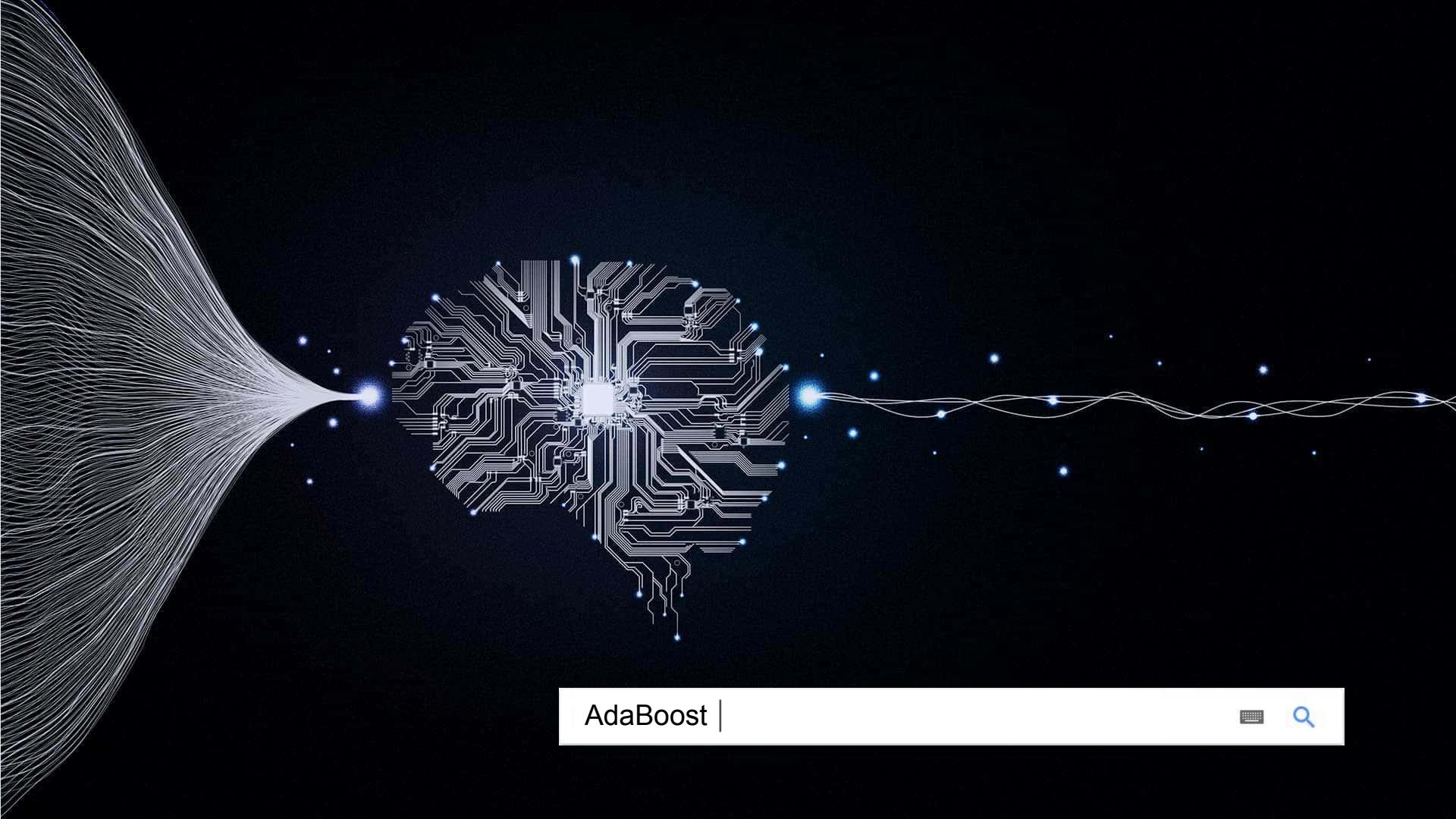


## Introduction | Project Overview



Therefore, after choosing a **Machine Learning algorithm** and gaining a thorough understanding of its theoretical and empirical aspects, we aim to **refine it**, specifically targeting its weaknesses in solving **classification problems**.



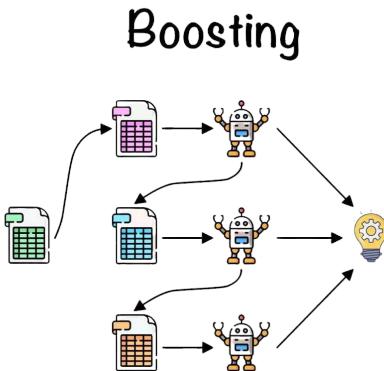


AdaBoost |





## AdaBoost | Description



**AdaBoost** (Adaptive Boosting) is a type of ensemble learning technique. It consists on:

- Train a **series of weak classifiers** on the dataset - **increases the focus** on data points that were previously **predicted incorrectly**.
- Weights all the individual weak classifiers **based on their performance** (classifiers with **higher predictive accuracy contribute more to the final decision**).

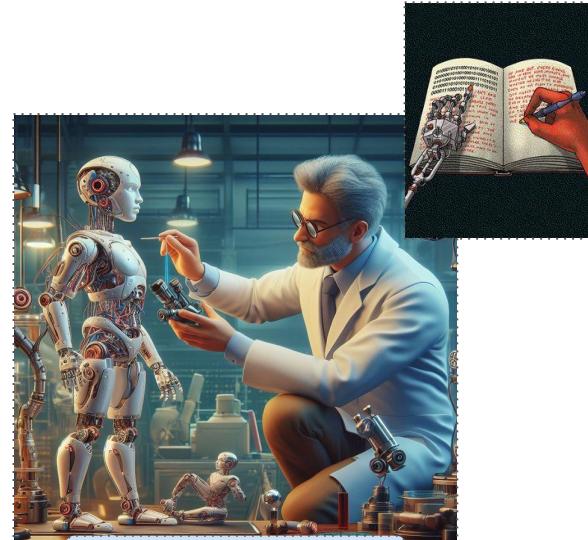
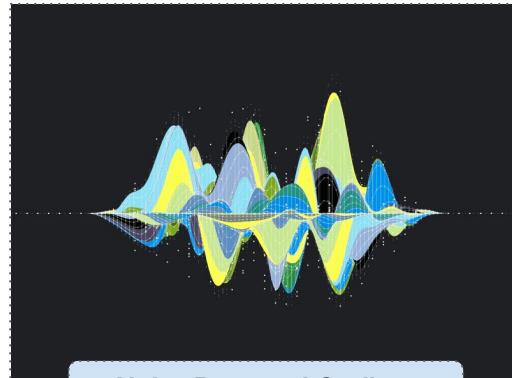




## AdaBoost | Limitations

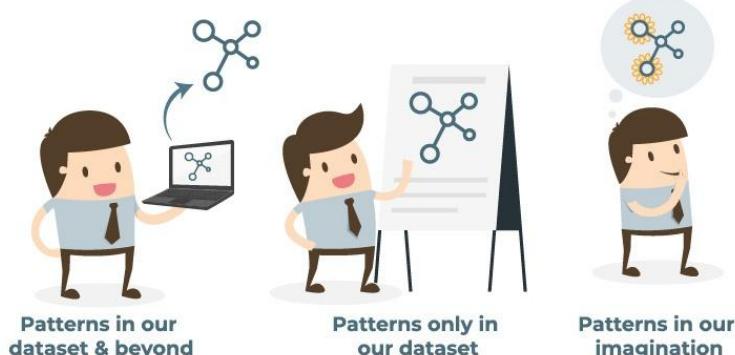
Despite the Algorithm's powerful techniques, it yet remains limited by a few factors:

- **Noisy Data and Outliers**
- **Choice of Weak Learner**





## AdaBoost | Limitations | Noisy Data and Outliers



### Noisy Data

→ it may focus too much on **correcting previous misclassifications**, leading to overfitting.

### Outliers

→ Impact performance, as AdaBoost tries to fit each example perfectly, potentially **overlooking actual patterns** in the data.





## AdaBoost | Limitations | Choice of Weak Learner

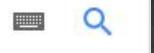
Furthermore, AdaBoost can be quite **sensitive** to the Weak Learners used. The best weak models are often described as **simple**, **fast** and with **low variance** and **high bias**.

Therefore, they do not memorize the training data but rather **learn to generalize** different aspects within the data.



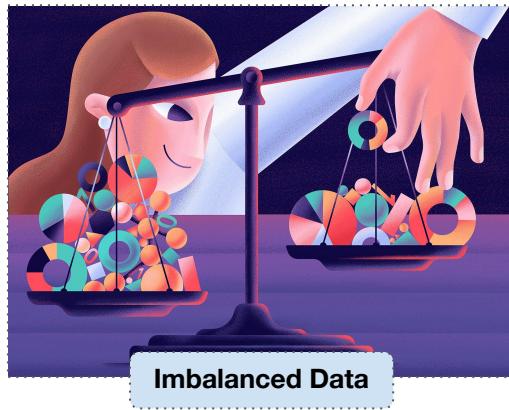


Proposal |





# AdaBoost | Proposal



We addressed AdaBoost's performance issues with **imbalanced data**. Due to its iterative nature, AdaBoost can overlook the **minority class**, including noise and outliers, leading to overfitting. We investigated the **impact of weak learners** on its effectiveness in **binary classification**, aiming to find modifications that improve handling class imbalance and enhance overall **accuracy and robustness**.

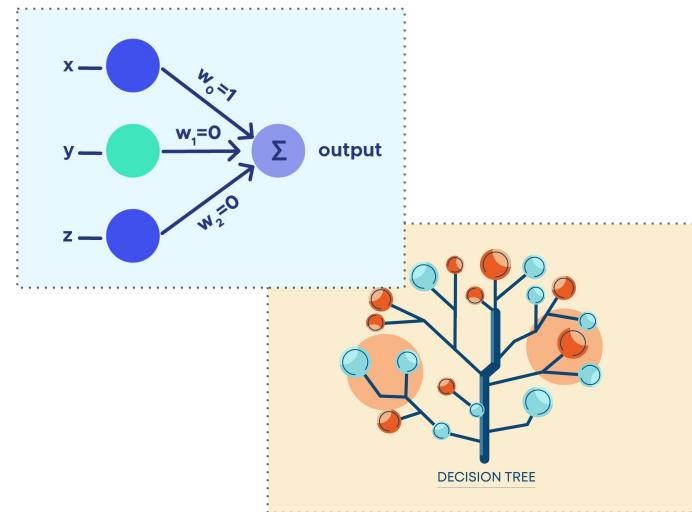




## AdaBoost | Proposal | Choice of Weak Learners

**Weak learners** should not only be capable of achieving performance levels that are **slightly better than random guessing** but also remain simple enough so that they **do not require high computational costs**. Therefore, we propose using:

- **Decision Trees with Increased Depth**
- **Perceptrons**





## AdaBoost | Proposal | Choice of Weak Learners

### Decision Trees with Increased Depth

→ In AdaBoost, **decision stumps** are commonly used since they are less prone to overfit. However, **slightly deeper trees** (Max Depth of 3) might be more beneficial to **capture more complex patterns** without causing significant overfitting.

### Perceptrons

→ Perceptrons are **simple linear classifiers**, thereby for datasets with **linearly separable data**, they lead to **faster training times** compared to decision trees.

→ Its simplicity can be **advantageous in imbalanced datasets** where complex models might **overfit by learning too much from the minority class** examples (**Noise and Outliers**).



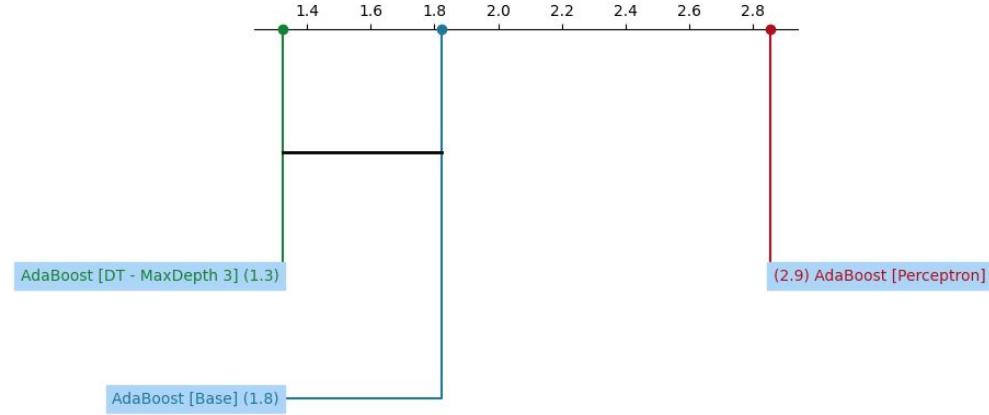


## AdaBoost | Proposal | Choice of Weak Learners

Did it Improve?



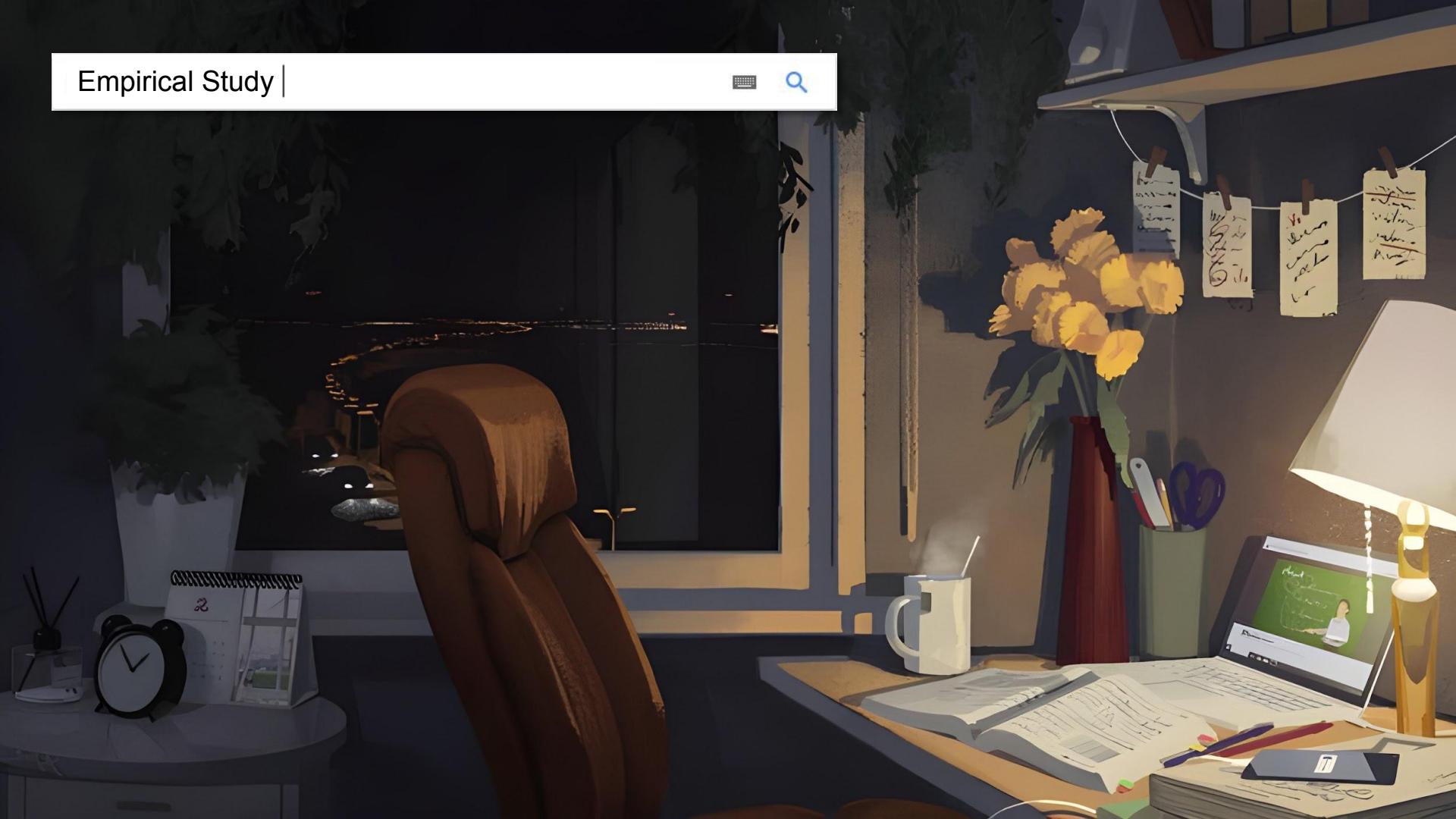
NO !



As we can see from the Diagram, the choice of weak learners **did not improve the performance** of the AdaBoost Algorithm upon Imbalanced Data.



# Empirical Study |

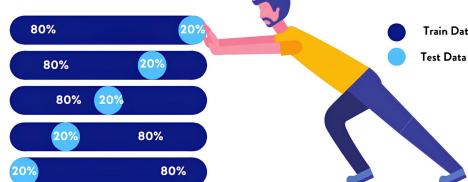




## AdaBoost | Empirical Study | Experimental Setup



### Cross Validation



We selected the datasets inside the [OpenML-CC18](#)

**Curated Classification** that focus on **Binary Classification Problems.**

The Algorithms are mainly affected by **2 Hyperparameters:**

- **Number of Boosting Rounds (M)**
- **Weak Learners Used** and the respective **hyperparameters**

To Evaluate the models, we performed:

- **K-Fold Cross Validation** (5 Folds).

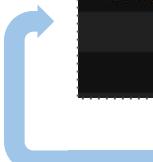




## AdaBoost | Empirical Study | Results

Results show that using **deeper Decision Trees** in AdaBoost performs slightly better than the original version, but **not significantly** so. However, using **Perceptrons** as weak learners results in slightly **worse performance** compared to the standard AdaBoost.

Dataset	Positive Class (%)	Negative Class (%)	Majority Class (%)	AdaBoost [Base] (%)	AdaBoost [DT - MaxDepth 3] (%)	AdaBoost [Perceptron] (%)
kr-vs-kp	47.78	52.22	52.22	94.09	98.72	96.62
breast-w	34.99	65.01	65.01	96.34	96.78	96.34
credit-approval	54.67	45.33	54.67	87.29	87.59	68.60
credit-g	30.00	70.00	70.00	75.80	76.90	70.00
diabetes	34.90	65.10	65.10	76.96	75.91	66.41



Sample of the Results

Average Results

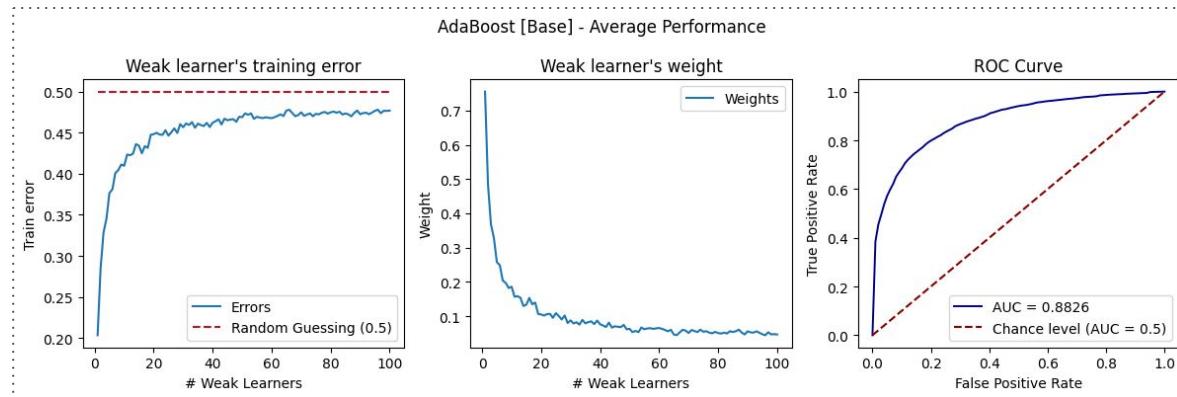
AdaBoost [Base] (%)	AdaBoost [DT - MaxDepth 3] (%)	AdaBoost [Perceptron] (%)
83.978529	85.828529	80.553235





## AdaBoost | Empirical Study | Results

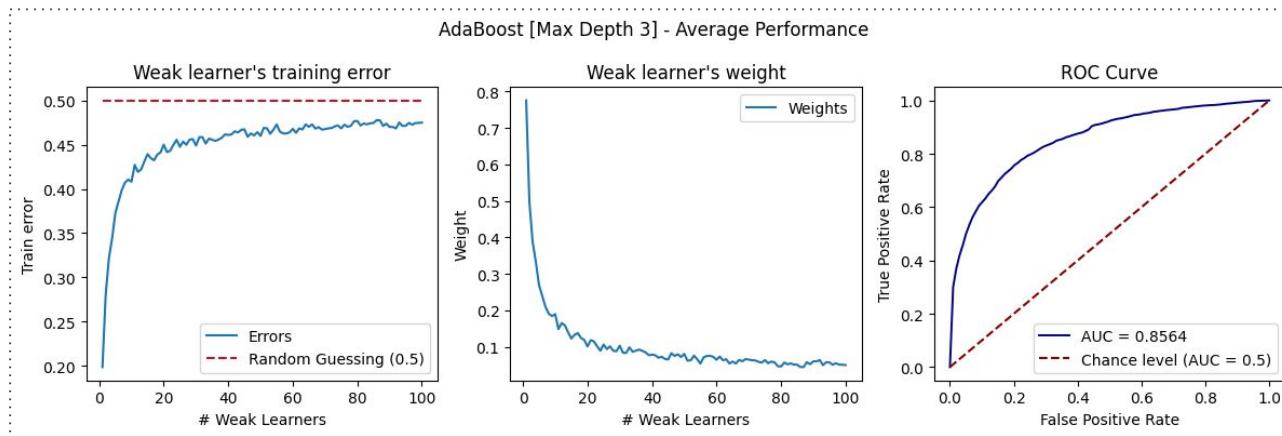
As we train **new weak learners** with new subsets of data in each **boosting round**, we observe their **influence** in the final decision **decrease** while their **training error increases**. This trend occurs because the initial weak learners process more "**new**" **data** and are therefore better positioned to **identify effective classification boundaries**, thus having a **greater impact on the final prediction**.





## AdaBoost | Empirical Study | Results

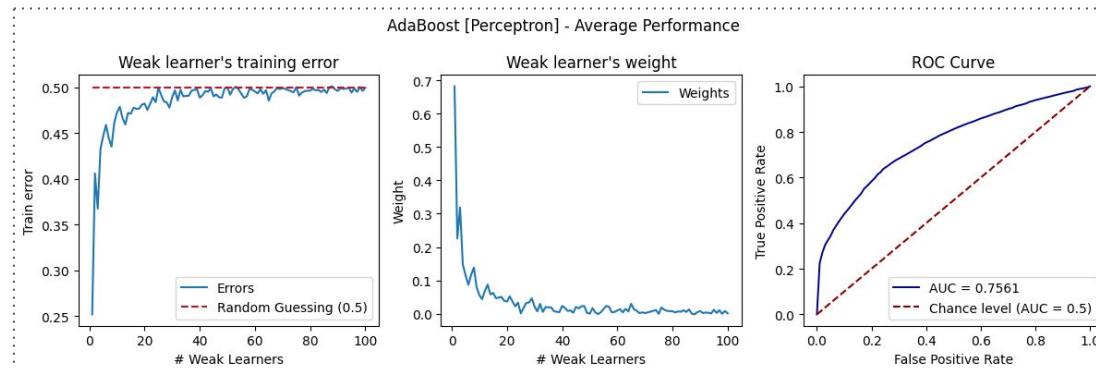
Similarly to the results obtained with the **base algorithm**, the AdaBoost with **increased depth** on the weak learners seems to correctly classify most cases which corroborates with the **good performance** shown in the ROC Curve diagram. In addition, the algorithm **evolves similarly** to the original version throughout each **boosting round** which makes it converge to a good solution.





## AdaBoost | Empirical Study | Results

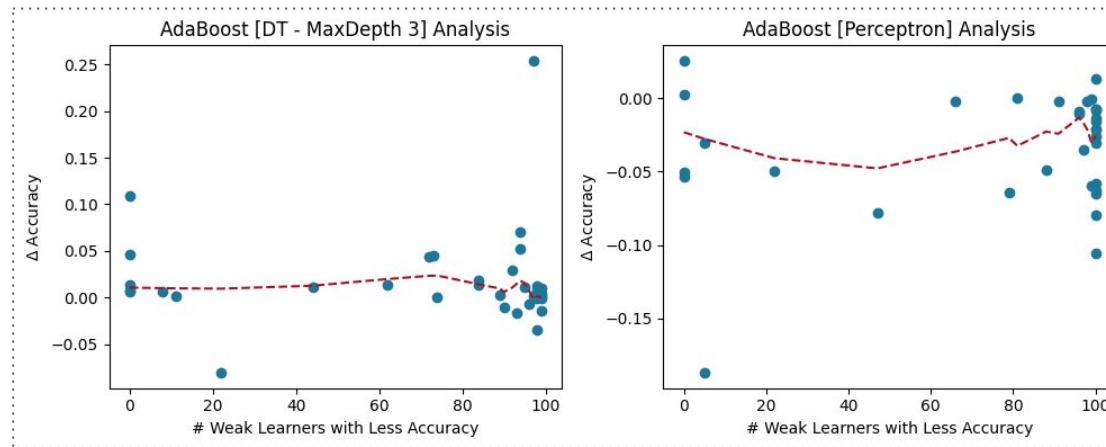
The AdaBoost model using **Perceptrons** shows promising results, but with some performance aspects resemble **random guessing**. Error rates stabilize near the random guessing threshold over 100 rounds, indicating **minimal learning progress**. This suggests Perceptrons may not fully utilize AdaBoost's strategy of refining decision boundaries through targeted training. Additionally, their influence on the ensemble's decisions quickly **decreases**, indicating early learners may not provide a **solid foundation** for subsequent ones.





AdaBoost | Empirical Study | Results

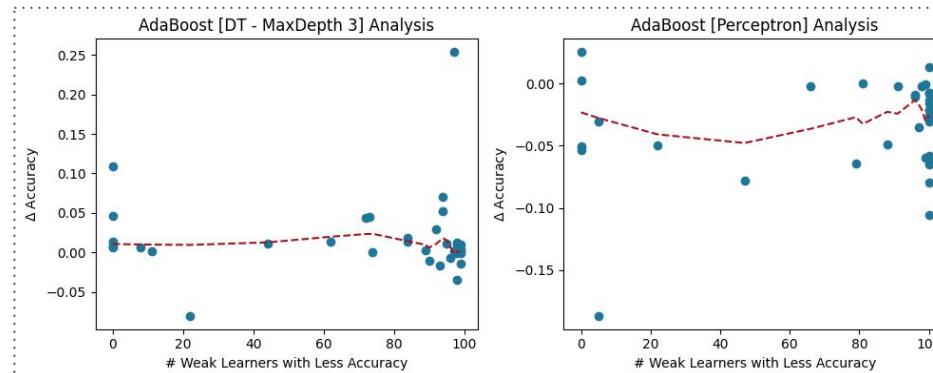
Our following analysis will aim to determine **how many weak learners perform at or below random guessing** level and assess how it **affects the model's overall accuracy**.





## AdaBoost | Empirical Study | Results

The  **$\Delta$  Accuracy** for AdaBoost with **decision trees of Max Depth 3** fluctuates around zero with occasional improvements, indicating it **performs similarly** to the base model. Increasing tree depth doesn't offer a clear advantage over simpler stumps. In contrast, AdaBoost with **Perceptrons** shows consistently **negative  $\Delta$  Accuracy**, failing to handle non-linear data effectively, highlighting Perceptrons' **limitations** in capturing complex relationships.



# Statistical Inference |





## AdaBoost | Statistical Inference | Friedman Test



To assess whether there are **significant differences** in the results, we chose to conduct a **Friedman Test** since it is especially effective for comparing the performance of different models across **multiple datasets**. Therefore, it focuses in determining whether any model outperforms the others or if the **differences in their performances are statistically significant**.





## AdaBoost | Statistical Inference | Hypothesis Formulation



→ **Null Hypothesis (H0)** : All the Models have the same performance and therefore there are **no significant differences between them**.

$$\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu_3$$

→ **Alternative Hypothesis (H1)** : At least one of the models performs differently compared to **at least one** of the other ones.

$$\forall j \exists i, i, j \in \{1, 2, 3\} \wedge (i \neq j) : \mu_j \neq \mu_i$$





## AdaBoost | Statistical Inference | Decision Making

→ If **P-Value >  $\alpha$** , **H0 is not rejected**

→ If **P-Value  $\leq \alpha$** , **H0 is rejected**

For a **significance level of 0.05** ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ):

→ **P-Value**  $\approx 1.048 \times 10^{-9}$

Therefore we **reject the Null Hypothesis (H0)**  
and consequently conclude that **there are significant differences** between the studied models.





## AdaBoost | Statistical Inference | Post-Hoc Test



However, since the FriedMan Test does not explicitly convey **what specific models** are significantly different from each other, we need to conduct a **Post-Hoc Test** :  
→ **Nemenyi Test (Compares all pairs of groups)**

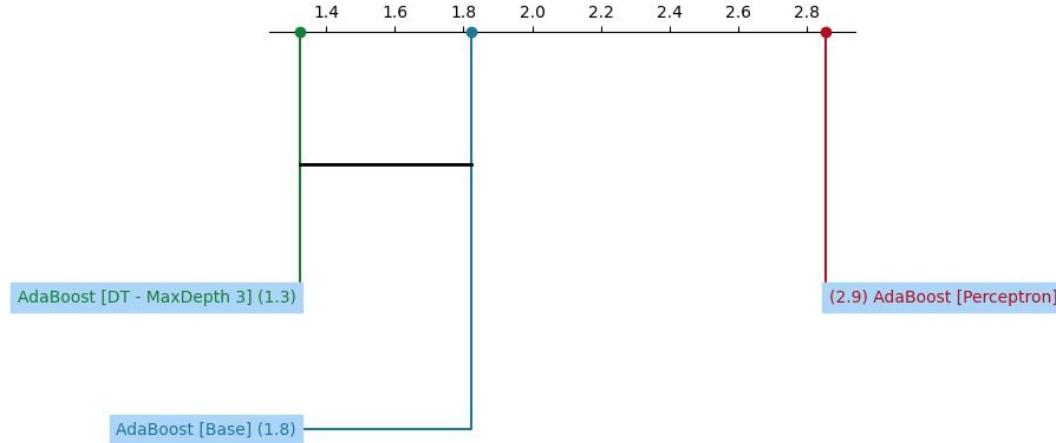
Consequently, we aim to **plot the results** within a

**Critical Difference Diagram**





## AdaBoost | Statistical Inference | Critical Difference Diagram



The AdaBoost with a **Decision Tree of Max Depth 3** and the **Standard Version** of AdaBoost model **perform similarly** and significantly **better** than the one that uses Perceptrons as weak learners.





Conclusions |





## AdaBoost | Conclusions



Despite our efforts, we **couldn't improve** AdaBoost for imbalanced data. However, our investigation provided valuable insights into AdaBoost's dynamics and the **impact of weak learners**. We found that **Decision Trees are more effective than Perceptrons** as weak learners, emphasizing the importance of **selecting appropriate weak learners** based on the dataset's characteristics.





Future Work |





## AdaBoost | Future Work

In the future, we considered using **other weak learners**, such as **Multi-Layered Perceptrons** (1 Hidden Layer), Logistic Regression or even **Support Vector Machines**. Analyse their performances and compare them with our previous work.

On another note, we could also tackle the algorithm's tendency towards overfitting. We intend to enhance the **error computation methods**, optimize the **update mechanisms for the weights** and **adjust the weighting strategy** for training data. These modifications aim to regulate the algorithm's focus on misclassified examples and **reducing the influence of noise and outliers**.



# Bibliographic References |





## Bibliographic References | APA 6.<sup>th</sup> Ed.

→ Cano. Alvaro (Towards Data Science, 2021). *AdaBoost from Scratch*. Available **here**.

→ Geeks For Geeks (2023). *Boosting in Machine Learning | Boosting and AdaBoost*. Available **here**.

→ Geeks For Geeks (2024). *Implementing the AdaBoost Algorithm from Scratch*. Available **here**.





THANKS FOR THE ATTENTION!