

Data Drift (ML concept)

- Data drift happens when the data your model sees in real world changes compared to the data it was trained on (the world changed, but your model didn't)
- your model's assumptions about what is normal is no longer true leading to worse predictions or accuracy dropping over time

- EX (housing price model)

• you trained a model in 2020 on housing data where:

- interest rates were 1-2%
- avg house price was 900\$ per sq ft

• Now its 2025:

- interest rate is 6%
- construction cost doubled
- new neighbours

⇒ The relationship between "sq ft" and "price" changed
that's data drift - your model's world changed

* Types of drift	Description	Example
covariate drift	input features (x) changes but relationship $x \rightarrow y$ might stay same	Different age distribution of patients, but same disease pattern
Label drift (prior drift)	target label (y) changes frequency	more fraudulent transactions than before
Concept Drift	relationship between x and y changes	Bigger houses used to mean higher prices, mostly not true now

- how its detected

- monitor feature distribution over time using statistical test (kolmogorov-test)
- compare model performance metrics week-to-week
- monitor input features mean/variance
- use population stability index (PSI) or KL-divergence to see how distribution changes

- How to fix

- 1) Detect early (monitor input data/predictions)
- 2) retrain model periodically w new data
- 3) Revalidate features - some may no longer be predictive
- 4) use adaptive or online learning models that update incrementally

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