



**TÉCNICO+**  
FORMAÇÃO AVANÇADA

# Introduction to Machine Learning

**Descriptive *versus* predictive modeling**

**DASH: Data Science e Análise Não Supervisionada**

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# Outline

- Intelligence and learning
- Descriptive vs predictive learning
- Machine Learning, Data Science and AI
- Supervised vs unsupervised learning
- Terminology
- Machine learning tasks

# Intelligence

- **Rationality**
  - ability to act in a way that maximizes some utility function
- **Curiosity**
  - ability to engage creative imaginative or inquisitive reasoning
- **Adaptability**  $\Leftarrow$ 
  - ability learn from experience
    - make abstractions (patterning)
    - deal with novelty and change

# Artificial Intelligence

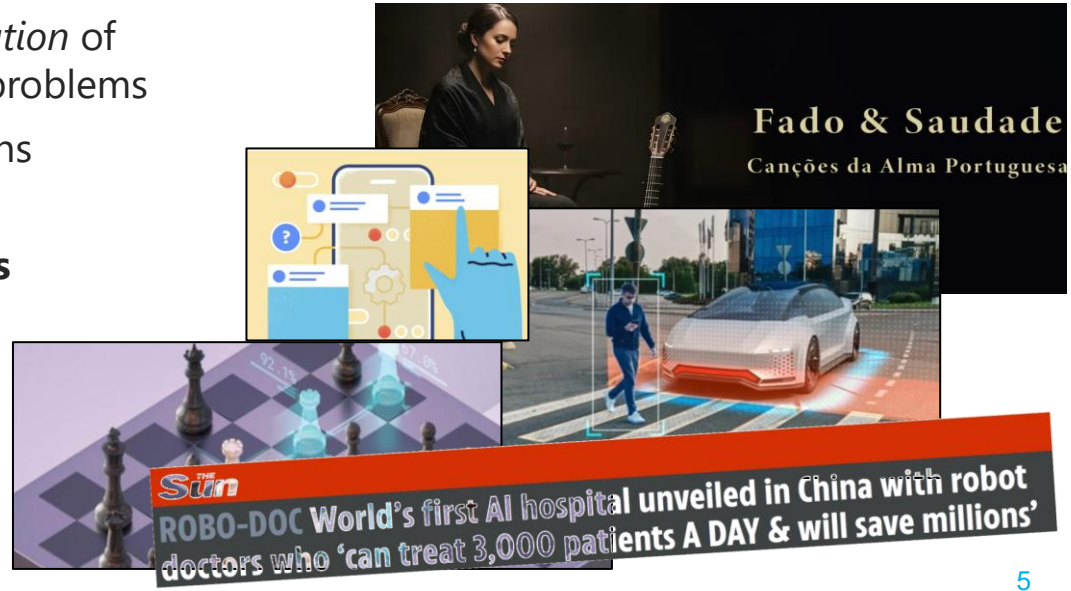
## Qualities of intelligence?

- AI with a focus on learning from experience => **machine/deep learning, reinforcement learning** ...
- AI with a focus on rationality => **planning, reasoning, optimization** ...
- AI with a focus on curiosity => autonomous agents, **affective computing**, ...
- AI with a focus on social intelligence => human-agent interaction, social robots, **multi-agent systems**...



# AI and Data Science

- **(machine) learning** is a fundamental quality of **(artificial) intelligence**
  - experience – **data** records – needed to learn intelligent agents!
- **data science** is the *principled application* of machine learning to solve data-rich problems
  - at the core of many breakthroughs
    - **chatbots, smart assistants**
    - personalized **recommenders**
    - **self-driving vehicles**
    - **intelligent care**
    - **cybersecurity**
    - ...



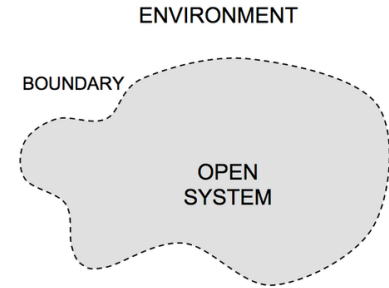
# Systemic world view

- **system**

- set of elements organized with a shared purpose
- (open) surrounded and influenced by its environment
- described by its structure, purpose and functioning

- *open systems* evolve

- Universe → galaxy → solar system  
→ Earth → societies → individuals  
→ organs → cells → atoms



# Systemic world view

- Everything is systemic:
  - **biological** systems
  - **ecological** systems
  - **societal** systems
  - **mechanical** systems
  - **digital** systems
  - **quantum** systems
  - **hybrid** systems
  - **astrophysical** systems

*“we contain, are, interact and move within systems”*

*Psychoanalyst: Know the influence of the surrounding systems in our life and be free!*

- The **behavior** of all these systems can be **monitored** (e.g. sensorization, observation)

# Data everywhere!

Sensorization examples:

- **biological** systems
  - physiological signals from biosensors, molecular signals using multi-omic high-throughput profiling
  - health records (diagnostics, prescriptions, undertaken surgeries), exposomics, demographics
- **ecological** systems
  - biodiversity, plant health, crop and livestock conditions, food nutrition, forestry and fishery surveillance monitored using remote vision (satellite, drones), physical sensors, acoustic sensors, citizen notifications
- **societal** systems
  - social interactions via social networks, telecom and messaging apps
  - commerce and finance via transaction records
- **urban** systems
  - mobility from mobile phones, smart card validations, loop counters, privacy-preserving cameras
  - water and energy supply via telemetry (flowrate, pressure, smart sensors)
- ... [homework: *complete the list*]

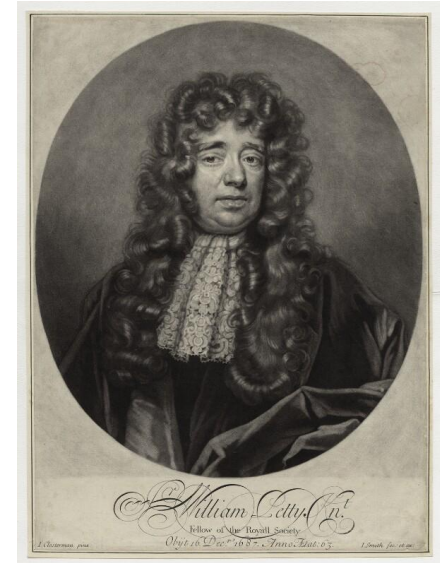


# From experience to learning

- Recall: **learning** as a fundamental quality of **intelligence**
  - *"learning is any process by which a system improves performance from experience"* (Herbert Simon)
- Experience recorded as data observations acquired from:
  - **multiple systems** of the same type
    - e.g. multiple individuals (cohorts), vehicles, computers, regions, organizations
  - single system instance under **different conditions**
    - e.g. brain under different stimuli, crop under different weather, e-commerce along time
- Learn from the experience (records): multiple data observations... **statistics!**
  - discover relevant associations (patterning)

# Statistical grounds

- Machine learning as...
  - the rediscovery of multivariate **statistics** from observable data (samples)
    - beyond descriptive and inferential statistics
  - the rediscovery of **maths** (linear algebra, calculus...)
- Exercise: associate naïve Bayes, kNN and deep learning (DL) with the aforementioned fields
  - *solution*: NB: statistics, kNN: algebra, DL: calculus



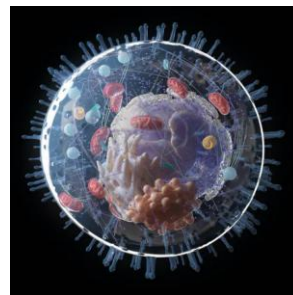
Sir William Petty, a 17th-century economist who used early statistical methods to analyse demographic data

# Descriptive vs predictive learning

- **Major ends** of pattern recognition (learning from experience):
  - understanding system behavior (**descriptive learning**)
    - data  $\Rightarrow$  information  $\Rightarrow$  knowledge
    - *unsupervised learning*: learning in the absence of outcomes of interest
    - *supervised learning*: outcomes of interest can be used to guide description
  - supporting decisions (**predictive learning**)
    - data and outcomes  $\Rightarrow$  decision support system
    - *supervised or semi-supervised learning*
      - semi-supervised when outcomes are only known for a subset of all observations

# When?

- *Descriptive learning* (e.g., finding associations, categories, anomalies, summaries, informative features, representations) when:
  - human expertise does not exist (e.g. navigating on Mars, new cyberattacks)
  - humans cannot explain their expertise (e.g. speech recognition)
  - models must be customized (e.g. personalized medicine, user preferences)
  - massive amounts of data (e.g. genomics, commerce, social media, web usage)



by Eric Eaton

# Learning stances

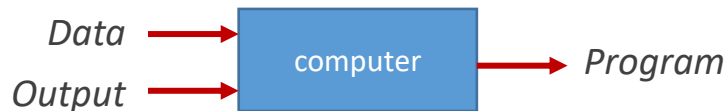
- **classic AI**

- e.g. heuristics to play chess, drive a car, recommend products, diagnose



- **supervised learning**

- e.g. experience from good chess players, drivers, liked recommendations, clinical histories for decision support



- **unsupervised learning**

- e.g. understand decisions, detect anomalies and behavioral patterns, summarize actions



*“Machine Learning: field of study that gives computers the ability to learn without being explicitly programmed” Arthur Samuel (1959)*

# Data Science and Machine Learning

- Machine Learning *versus* **Data Science**
  - ML as the foundations, principles and algorithms to learn from available data
    - grounded on statistical, algebraic, mathematical and algorithmic foundations
  - Data science is the principled application of ML to solve specific data-rich problems
    - in other words, ML is a *means* to data science
    - data science has been termed as the art of discovering what we don't know from data
- Machine Learning *versus* **Artificial Intelligence**
  - ML is a topic within the larger AI field
    - AI topics: optimization, search/planning, knowledge systems, autonomous agents

# Coming to terms with terms

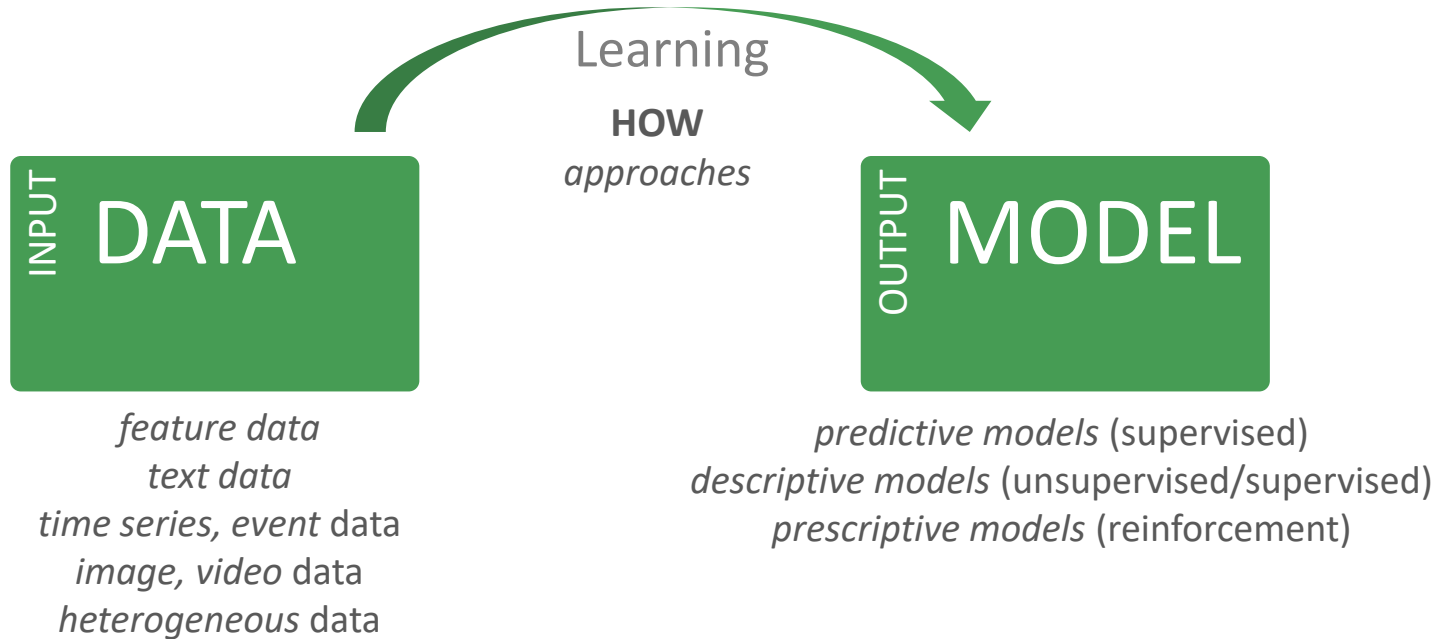
What about...

- Data-centric AI, Agentic AI
- Data Mining, Multivariate Data Analysis
- Business Intelligence

... and **terminology** choices...

- AI vs intelligent systems vs intelligent agents
- variable vs attribute vs feature
- observation vs instance vs object vs record vs data point

# Structured view on ML





# Learning input-output functions

- **Supervised** learning
  - with a teacher (that tells you the ground truth)
  - learning from training data: pairs of inputs and outputs (labels, quantities, structures)
- **Unsupervised** learning
  - without a teacher
  - learning from training data without outputs (e.g. find associations, clusters/categories, anomalies)
- **Reinforcement** learning
  - with a teacher (that highlights both good and bad outputs)
  - learning rewards and penalties observed from sequence of decisions within a given environment

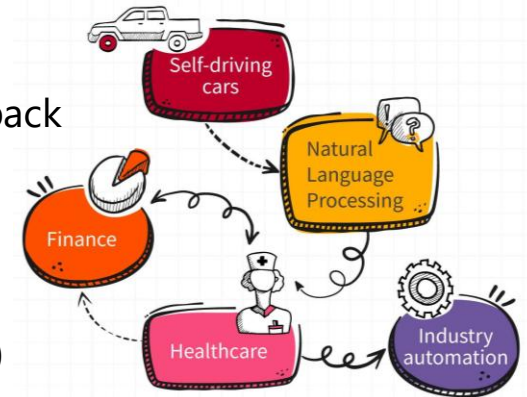
# Reinforcement learning?

- How can we have agents making decisions with **little** or **no prior knowledge**?
  - **trial-and-error** (*reinforcement learning*) + learning from available observations
- In practice...
  - conversational AI, e-mail bots, recommendations...
    - adjusting predictors from ongoing pos or negative(!) feedback
  - self-driving car in simulated environments
    - rewards and penalties according to (un)desired risks
  - optimization in industry (e.g., automation) and healthcare (e.g., therapeutics) based on ongoing pairs (protocol, outcome)

*supervised learning*



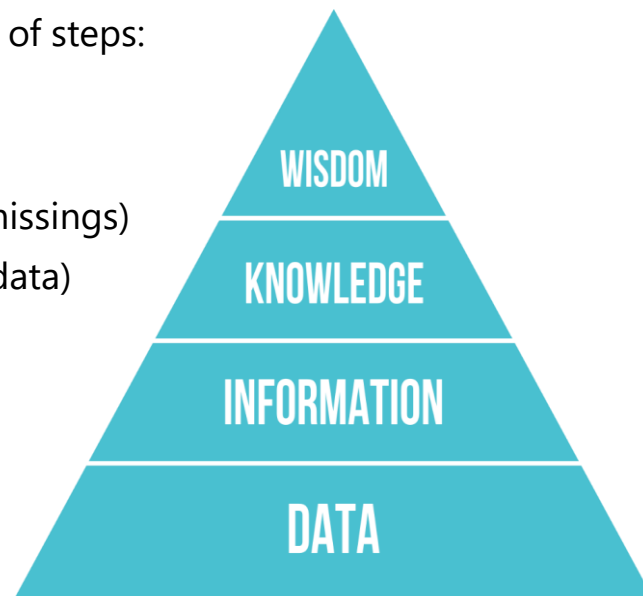
*reinforcement learning*



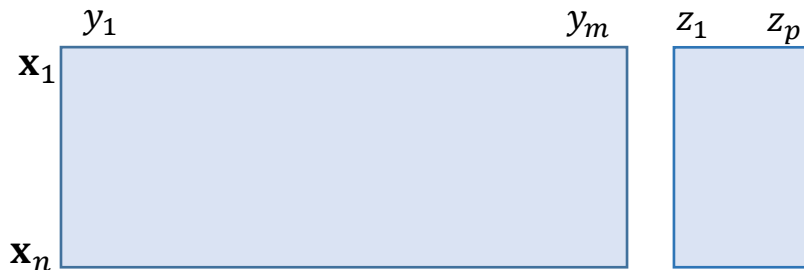
# Learning in practice

*Recall:* knowledge discovery from data (**KDD**) is a composition of steps:

- **data acquisition** and integration
- **data preprocessing**
  - *data cleaning* (e.g. handling noise, duplicates, outliers, missings)
  - *data representation* (e.g. extract features from complex data)
  - *data transformation* (e.g. feature engineering, sampling, normalization, dimensionality reduction)
- **data mining** using *machine learning*
- **postprocessing**, explainability and **knowledge acquisition** from descriptive models or predictive models
- **validate**, consolidate and **deploy** discovered knowledge



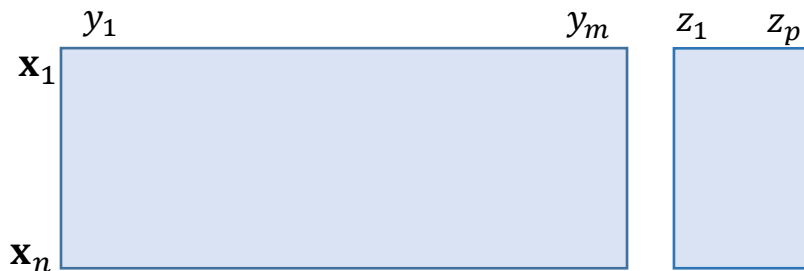
# Terminology



## Multivariate data:

- set of observations,  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n\}$  (population)
- with values/features along a set of variables,  $Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_m\}$ 
  - input variables (explanatory) and optional output variables (targets),  $Z = \{y_1, \dots, z_p\}$
- data size = number of observations,  $|X| = n$
- data dimensionality = number of input variables,  $|Y| = m$

# Learning from data



Learning from data: retrieving relevant patterns

- relations/patterns/abstractions  $\equiv$  associations of interest on specific observations and variables
  - *unexpectedly informative*
  - *unexpectedly discriminative* (of one or more targets)
- use these relations to learn descriptors, classifiers, regressors, multi-output predictors, forecasters...

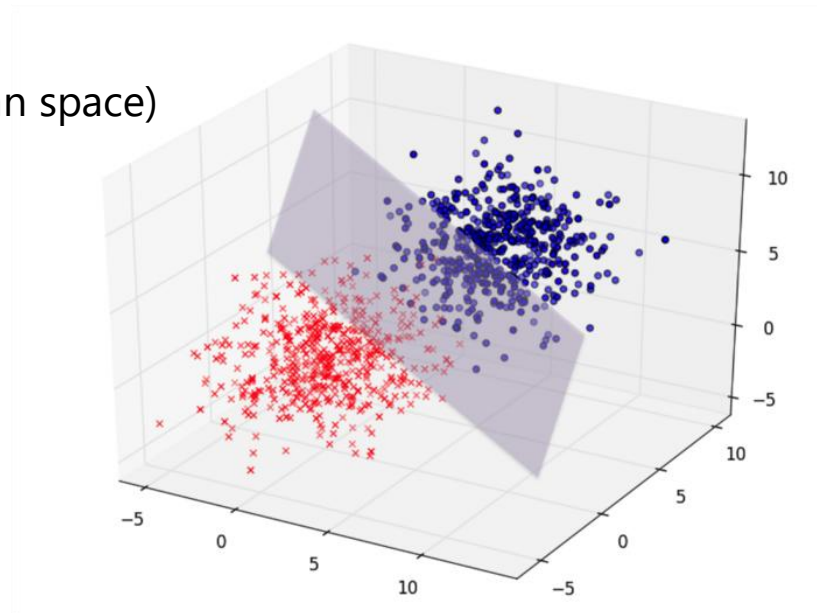
# Feature space

A set of variables (dimensions) define a space

- multivariate observations are positioned in this space
- when variables are numeric:
  - feature space  $\equiv$  vector space (e.g. Euclidean space)
  - observation  $\equiv$  data point

$$\mathbf{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_m\} \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

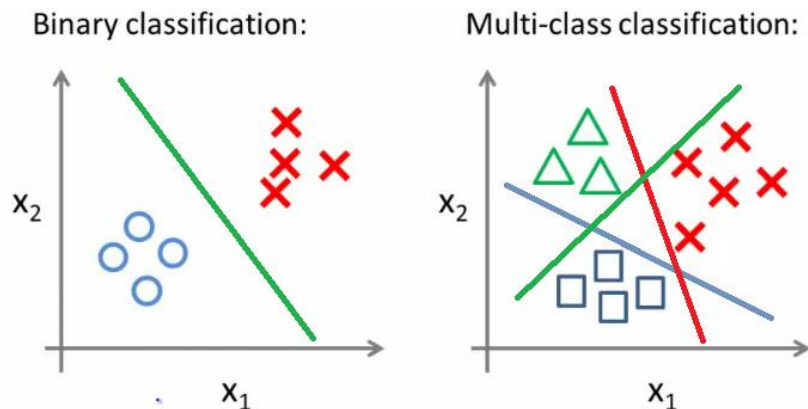
$$\|\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}\| = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m (a_i - b_i)^2}$$



# Classification

*Recall:* given a set of labeled observations,  $\{(\mathbf{x}_1, z_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_n, z_n)\}$  where  $z_n \in \Sigma$ , a **classifier**  $M$  is a mapping function between domain variables and a categoric variable,  $M : X \rightarrow Z$

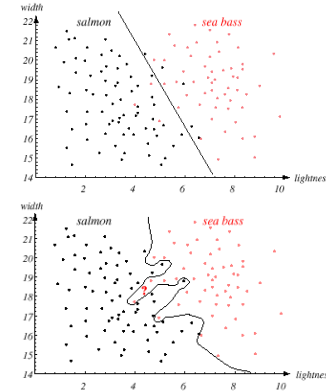
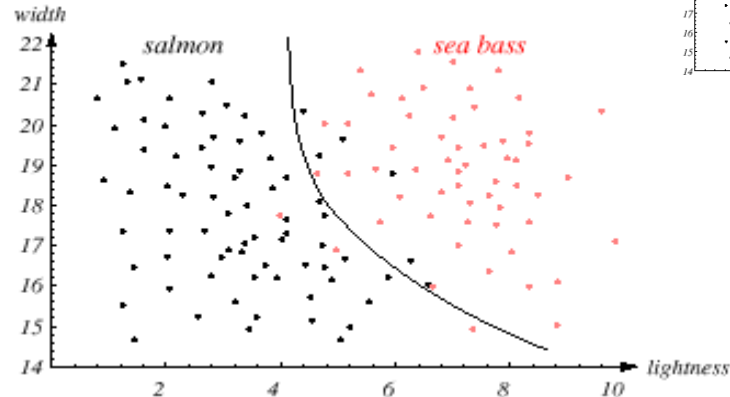
- prediction: given a new unlabeled observation  $\mathbf{x}_{new}$ , use  $M$  to classify:  $\hat{z}_{new} = M(\mathbf{x}_{new})$
- description: inspect  $M$  to acquire new knowledge



# Classification: *salmon*?



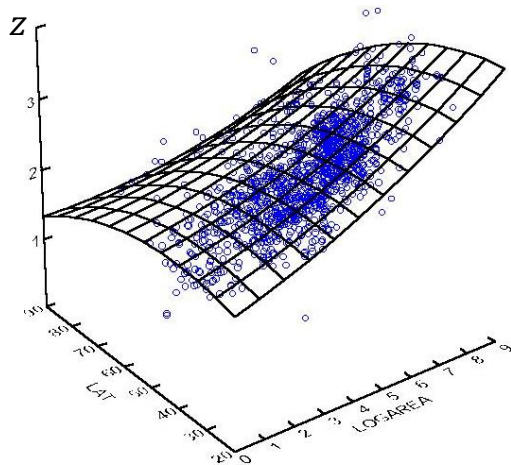
- *width* and *lightness* are discriminative variables
- generalization ability linked with:
  - underfitting risks
  - overfitting risks
- *aim*: find a balanced model capacity





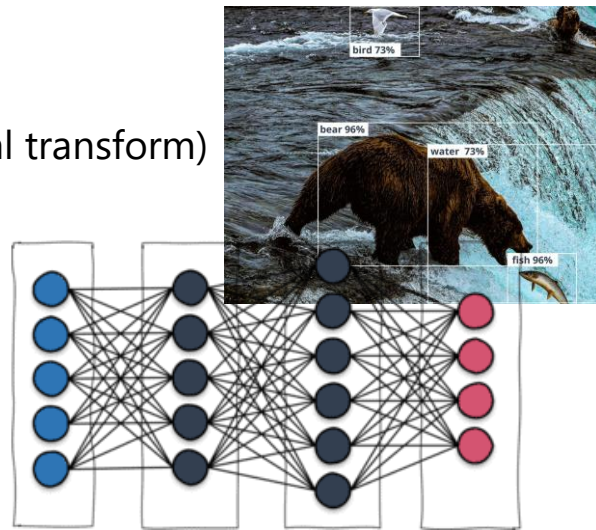
# Regression

- descriptive setting: given a set of observations,  $\{(\mathbf{x}_1, z_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_n, z_n)\}$  where  $z_i \in \mathbb{R}$ , describe the relation between a set of (explanatory) variables and a target numeric variable
- predictive setting: given a set of observations,  $\{(\mathbf{x}_1, z_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_n, z_n)\}$  where  $z_i \in \mathbb{R}$ , learn a mapping,  $M : X \rightarrow Z$ , to estimate the outcome (quantity) of a new observation



# Multi-output prediction

- Most outputs are not described by a single feature
  - generative AI (e.g. question-answer, image drawing, signal transform)
  - many others (e.g. self-driving vehicles, tagging content)
- Multi-output predictors,  $M : X \rightarrow Z$ 
  - *predictive* setting (learn predictor  $M$ )
  - *descriptive* setting (explain predictor  $M$ )
- Special cases: multi-label classification when  $\mathbf{z} \in \Sigma^p$  and multi-output regression when  $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^p$

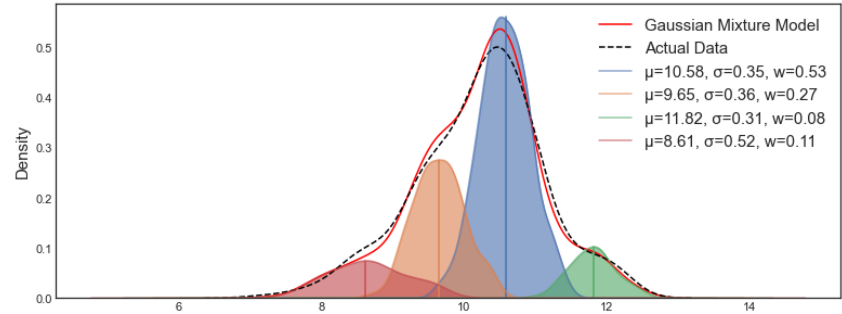
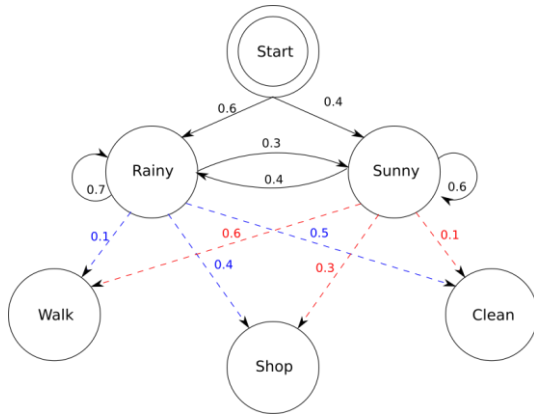


# Statistical modeling

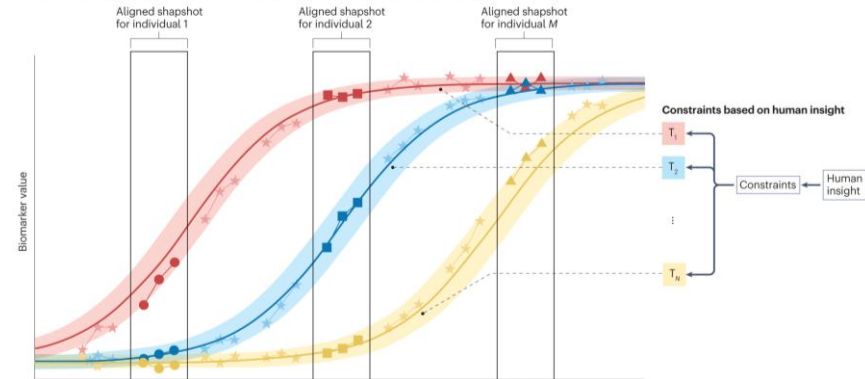
Associative analysis

Description of system dynamics

- mixture models
- generative models (such as HMMs)



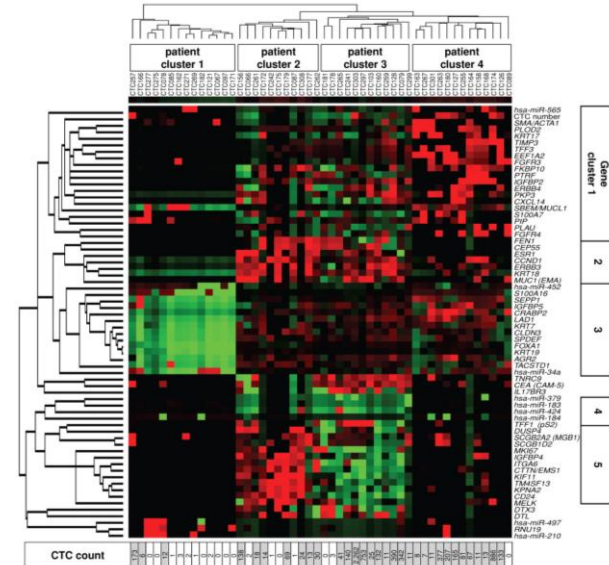
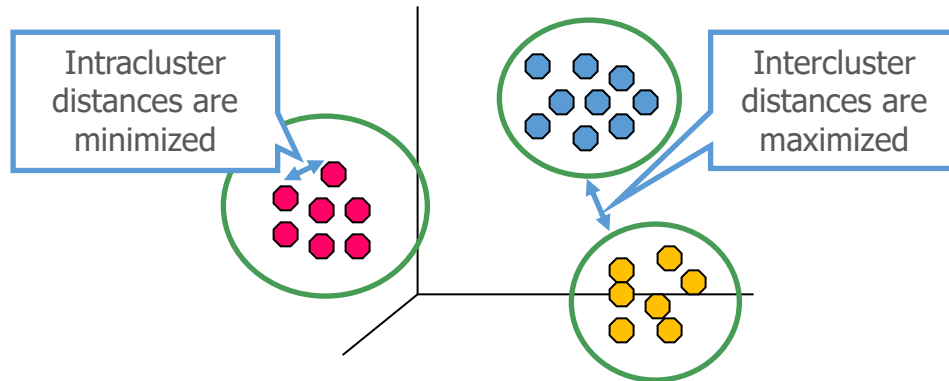
Data-driven disease progression modelling reconstructs long-term disease timelines



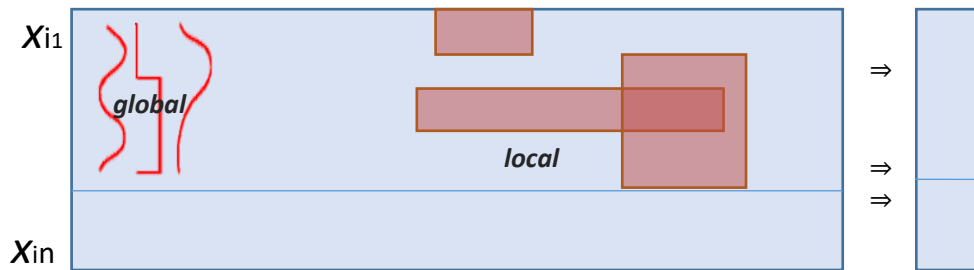
# Clustering

Given a set of data observations,  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n\}$ , cluster analysis aims at grouping observations into clusters,  $C_i \subseteq X$  with  $i = 1..k$ , according to their (dis)similarity:

- observations in the same cluster are more similar than those in different clusters



# Pattern mining



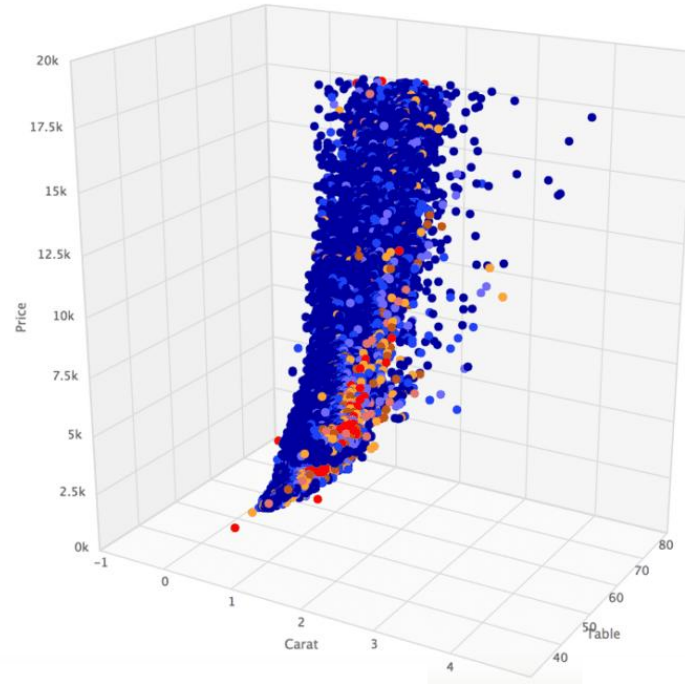
$\{\text{symptomA, testB+}\} \Rightarrow \text{condition1}$  [support=10%,confidence=80%, lift=1.4,  $p\text{-value}=1\text{E-4}$ ]

Given a dataset, find local associations (*aka* patterns) satisfying:

- statistical significance criteria (min #observations to be unexpectedly frequent)
- discriminative power (qualitative targets) or correlation (numeric targets) criteria

# Outlier analysis

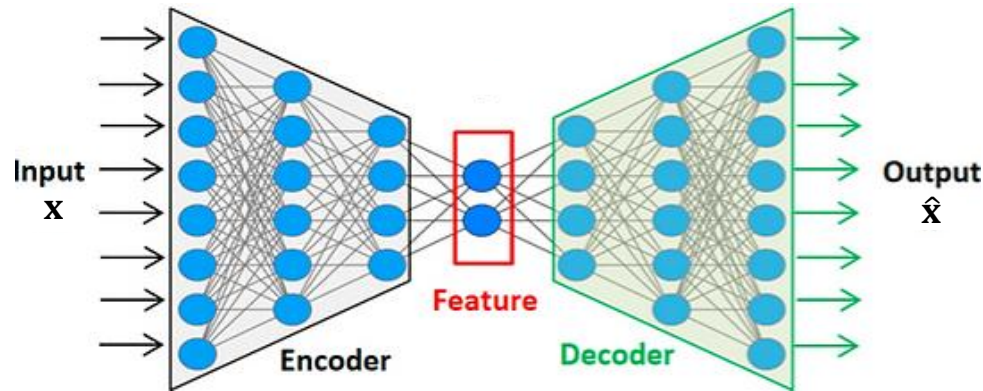
- Understand peculiar behaviors and isolate anomalous observations
  - fraud, cyberattacks, personalized health risks, adverse events, deviant social behavior, vehicle failures...



# Representation learning

Describe data using a compact set of informative (unsupervised) and/or predictive (supervised) features

- dimensionality reduction: subset of features from multivariate observations with minimal info loss
- latent feature representations of complex signals (series, image, text data) using neural networks



# Example: biomedicine

- clinical trials (cohort studies), e.g. case-control populations
- **observations** generally correspond to:
  - individuals
    - **input variables**: health-related features (clinical records, multi-omics, exposomics)
    - **output variable**: outcome annotations
      - qualitative conditions (diagnostics, prognostics, prescriptions, traits)
      - quantifiable phenotypes (impairments, molecular markers, risk, survivability, drug dosage)
  - hospitals, tissue samples, undertaken procedures, healthcare professionals, drugs...
- ability to **generalize** from a population to new observations
  - prevent overfitting (including non-relevant relations in the learned models)
  - prevent underfitting (excluding relevant relations from the learned models)



# Example: biomedicine

- **Statistical modeling:** assess risk determinants, model health trajectories, test clinical hypotheses
- **Clustering:** group patients in accordance with biophysiological profile (e.g. stratified therapeutics)
- **Pattern mining:** discover meaningful associations to understand disease/therapeutic responses
- **Outlier analysis:** personalized care to particular needs (e.g. multimorbidity, rare diseases)
- **Representation learning:** encoders and saliency maps of medical signals/images/notes
- **Generative modeling:** comprehensive models of disease/treatment (e.g. health progression)
- **Classification:** how monitored inputs affect diagnostics/prognostics, therapeutic choices
- **Regression:** estimate risk, drug dosage or efficacy, quantifiable phenotypes

# Thank you!

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