

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** ⇌
 - ability learn from experience
 - make abstractions (patterning)
 - deal with novelty and change

Artificial Intelligence

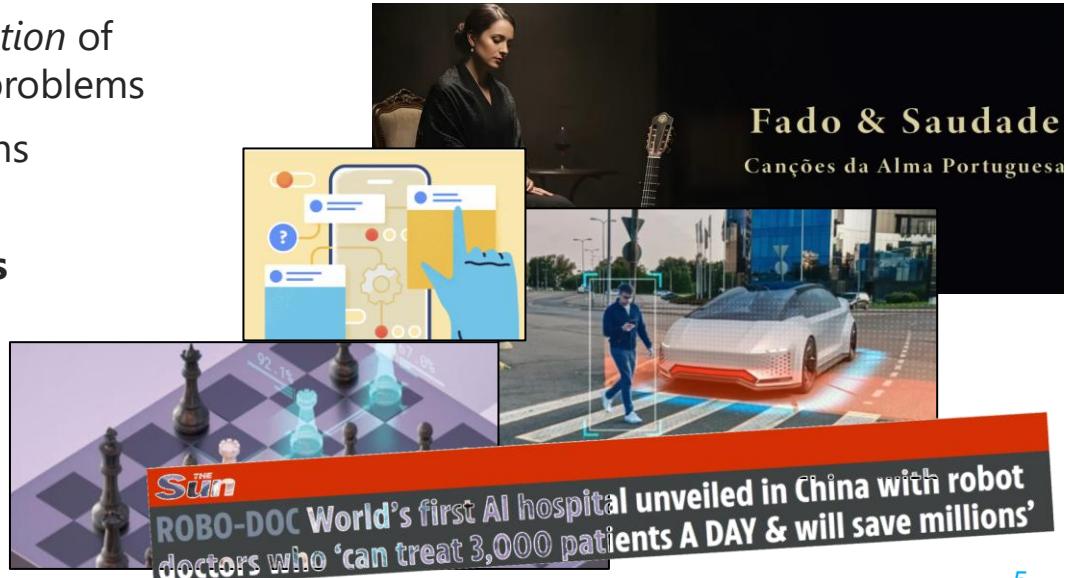
Qualities of intelligence?

- 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...**



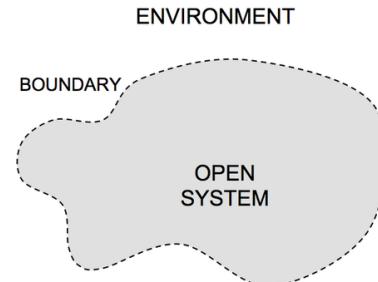
AI and Data Science

- **(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
 - The **behavior** of all these systems can be **monitored** (e.g. sensorization, observation)
- "we contain, are, interact and move within systems"*
- Psychoanalyst: Know the influence of the surrounding systems in our life and be free!*

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



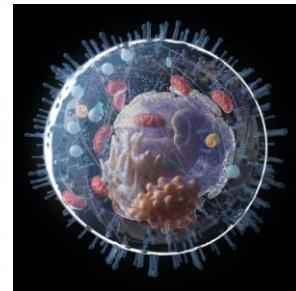
Sir William Petty, a 17th-century economist who used early statistical methods to analyse demographic data

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**

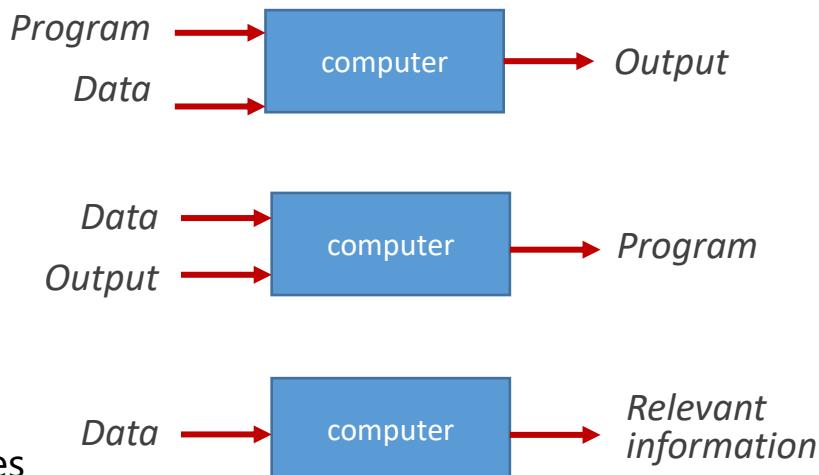
- e.g. heuristics to play chess, drive a car, recommend products, diagnose

- **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

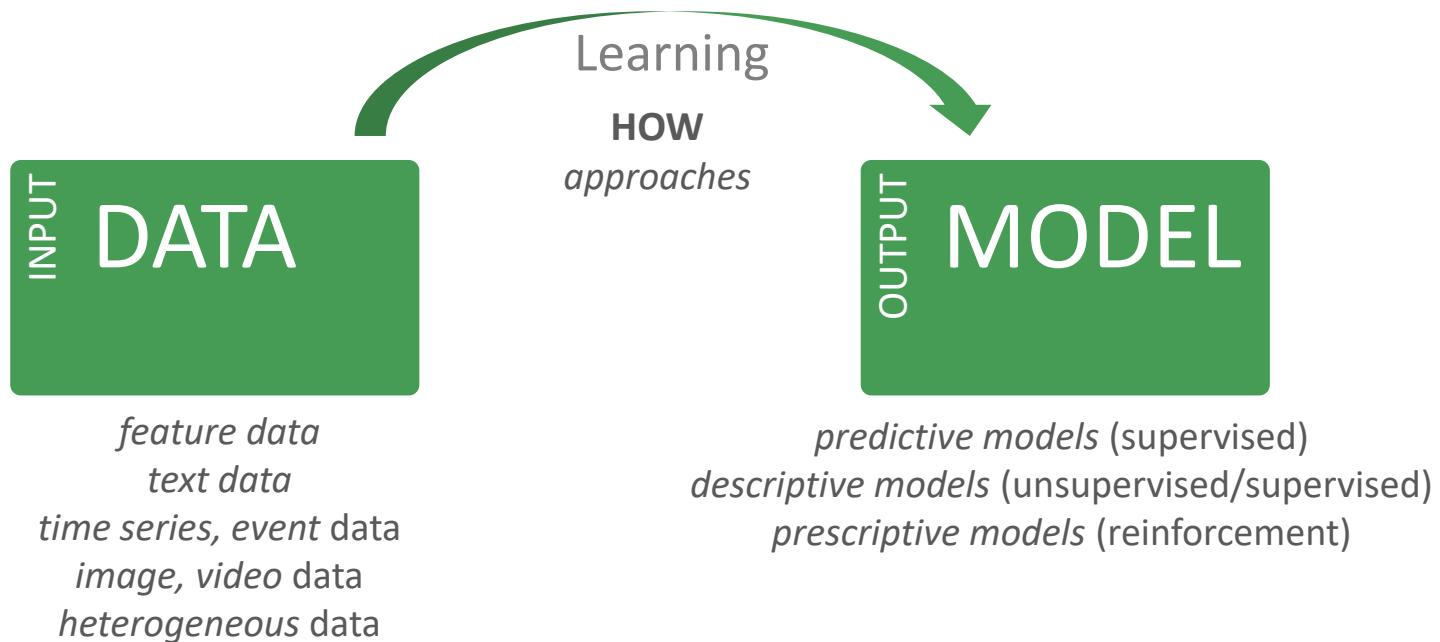
What about...

- 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

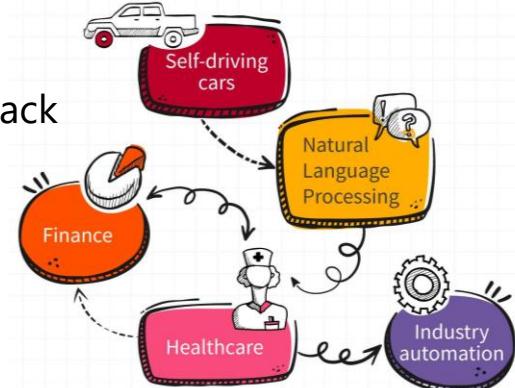
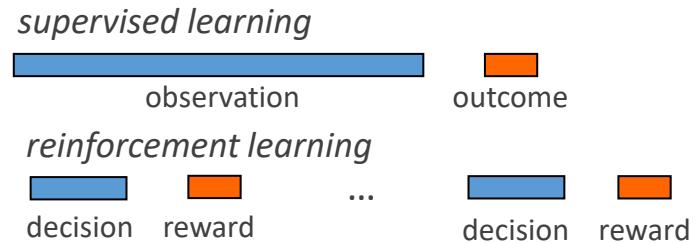


Learning input-output functions

- **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)



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...

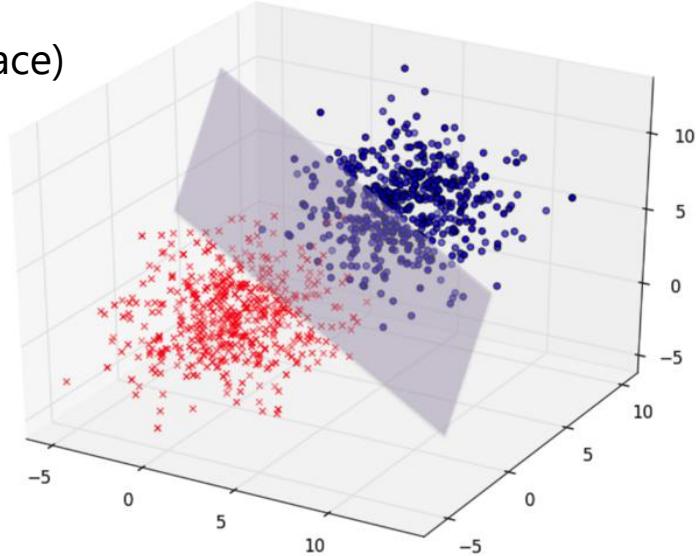
Feature space

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

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

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

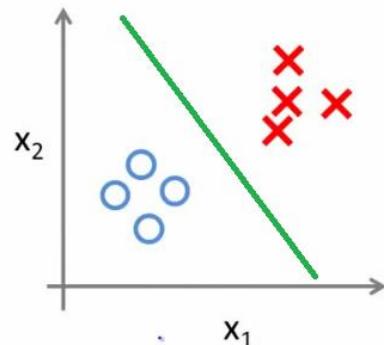


Classification

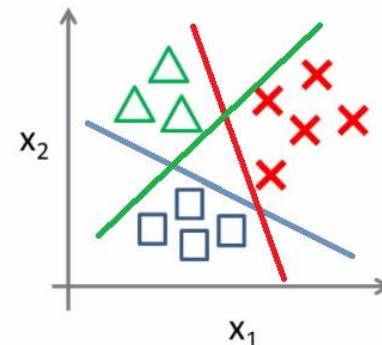
Recall: given a set of labeled observations, $\{(\mathbf{x}_1, z_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_n, z_n)\}$ where $z_n \in \Sigma$, a **classifier** M is a mapping function between domain variables and a categoric variable, $M : X \rightarrow Z$

- *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

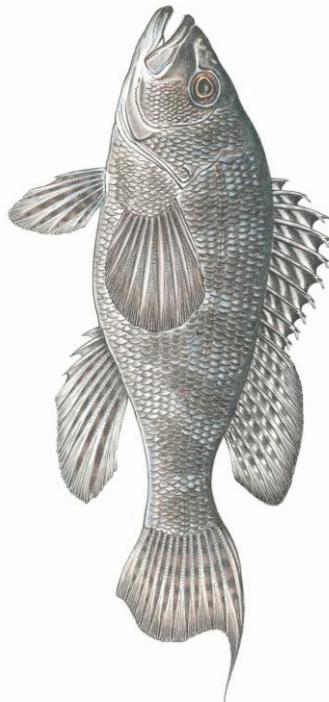
Binary classification:



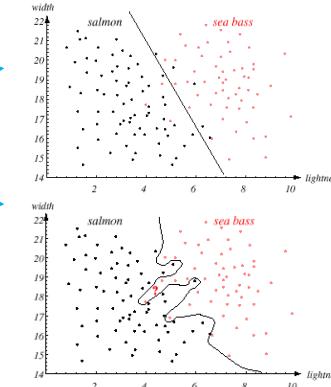
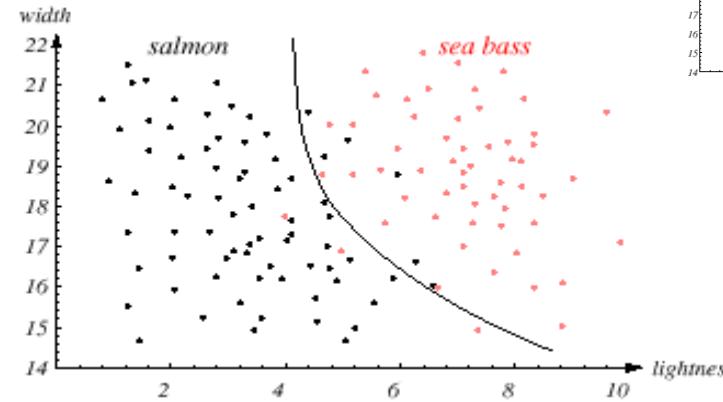
Multi-class classification:



Classification: salmon?

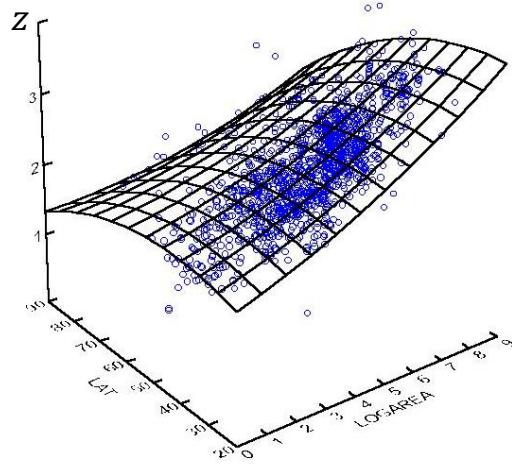


- *width* and *lightness* are discriminative variables
- generalization ability linked with:
 - underfitting risks
 - overfitting risks
- aim: find a balanced model capacity



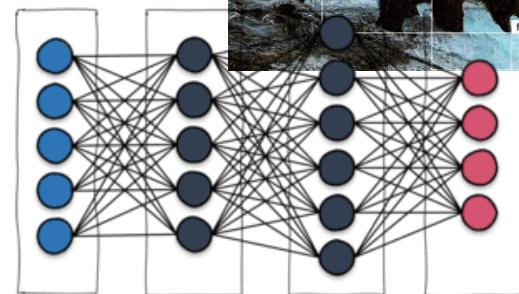
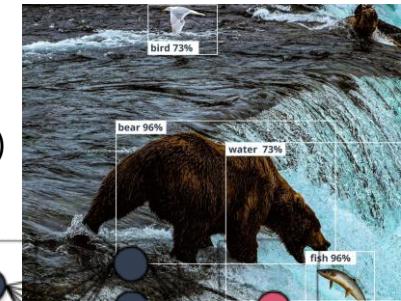
Regression

- 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 $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^p$

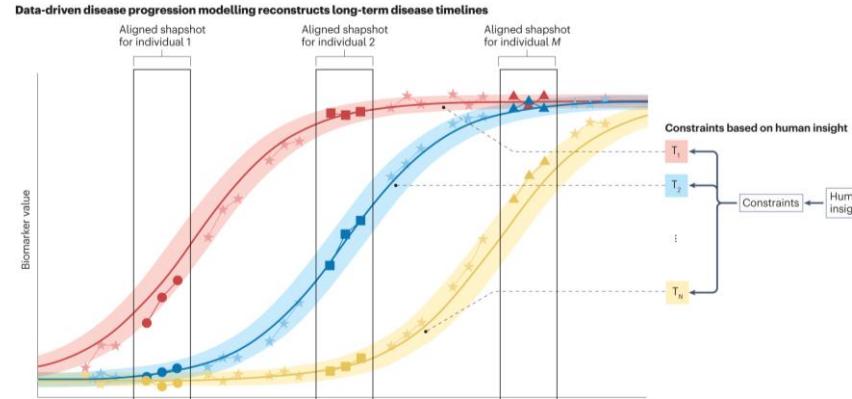
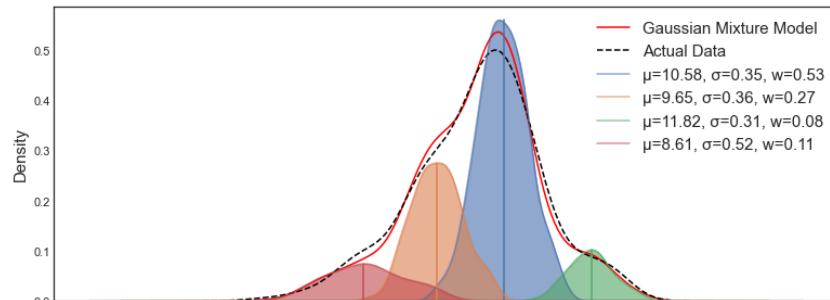
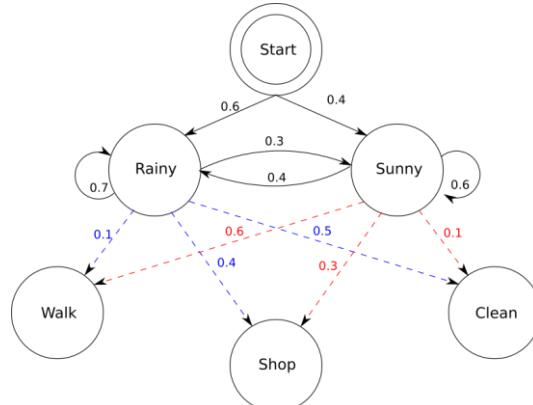


Statistical modeling

Associative analysis

Description of system dynamics

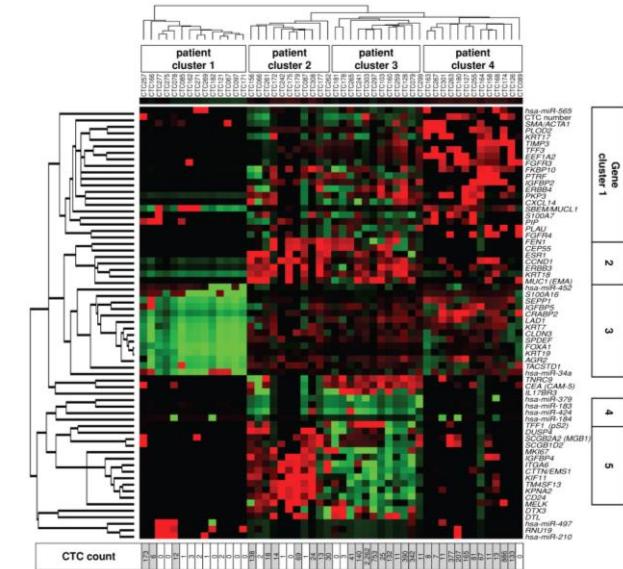
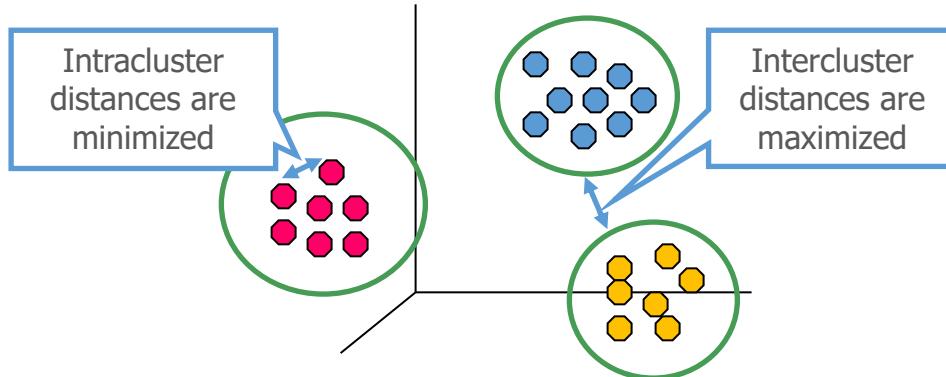
- mixture models
- generative models (such as HMMs)



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



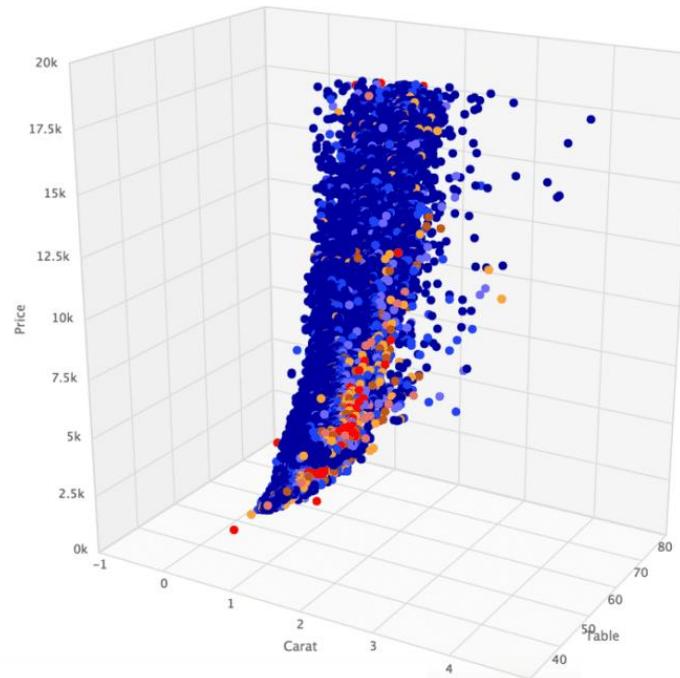
$\{\text{symptomA, testB+}\} \Rightarrow \text{condition1} [\text{support}=10\%, \text{confidence}=80\%, \text{lift}=1.4, p\text{-value}=1E-4]$

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

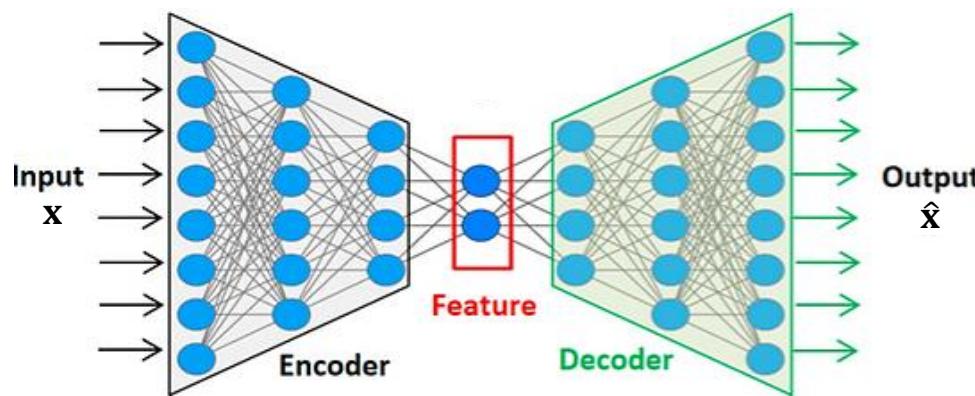
- Understand peculiar behaviors and isolate anomalous observations
 - fraud, cyberattacks, personalized health risks, adverse events, deviant social behavior, vehicle failures...



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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