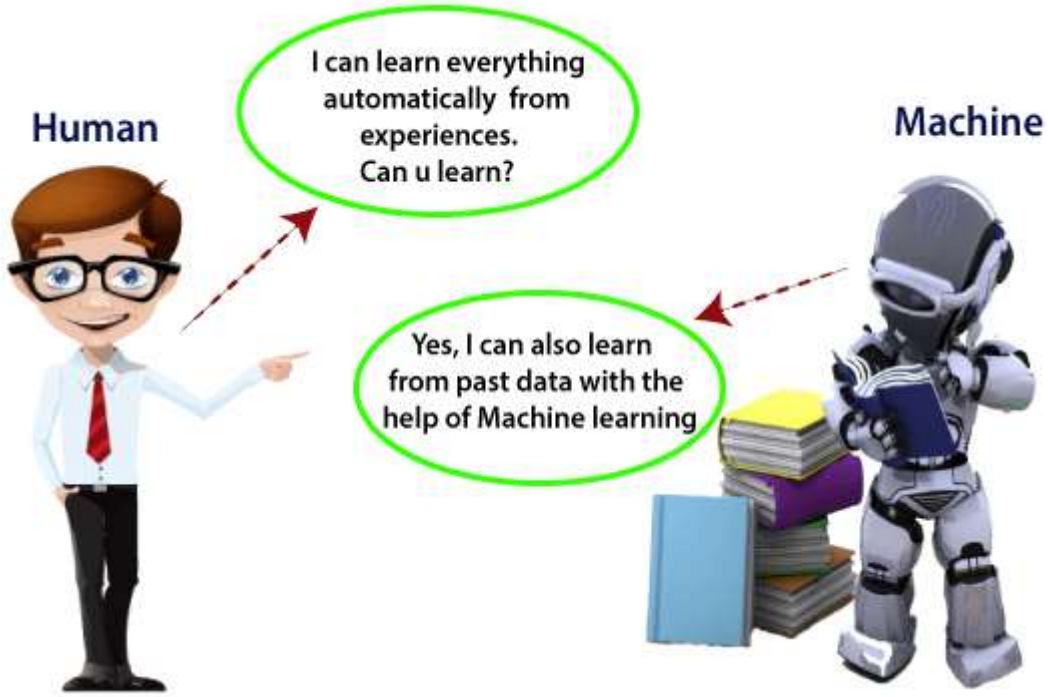
Module 1: Introduction to Machine Learning

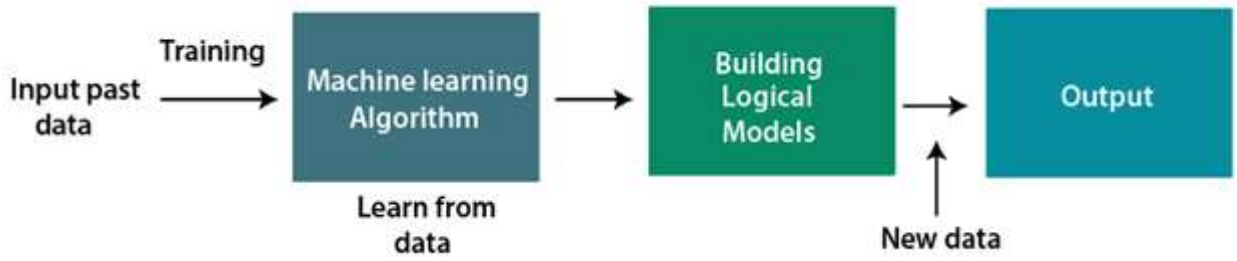
Arthur Samuel, an early American leader in the field of computer gaming and artificial intelligence, coined the term "Machine Learning " in 1959 while at IBM. He defined machine learning as "the field of study that gives computers the ability to learn without being explicitly programmed ". However, there is no universally accepted definition for machine learning. Different authors define the term differently. We give below two more definitions.

- Machine learning is programming computers to optimize a performance criterion using example data or past experience. We have a model defined up to some parameters, and learning is the execution of a computer program to optimize the parameters of the model using the training data or past experience. The model may be predictive to make predictions in the future, or descriptive to gain knowledge from data.
- The field of study known as machine learning is concerned with the question of how to construct computer programs that automatically improve with experience.



Machine learning is a subfield of artificial intelligence that involves the development of algorithms and statistical models that enable computers to improve their performance in tasks through experience. These algorithms and models are designed to learn from data and make predictions or decisions without explicit instructions. There are several types of machine learning, including supervised learning, unsupervised learning, and reinforcement learning. Supervised learning involves training a model on labeled data, while unsupervised learning involves training a model on unlabeled data. Reinforcement learning involves training a model through trial and error. Machine learning is used in a wide variety of applications, including image and speech recognition, natural language processing, and recommender systems.

Let's say we have a complex problem in which we need to make predictions. Instead of writing code, we just need to feed the data to generic algorithms, which build the logic based on the data and predict the output. Our perspective on the issue has changed as a result of machine learning. The Machine Learning algorithm's operation is depicted in the following block diagram:



Definition of learning:

A computer program is said to *learn* from experience E with respect to some class of tasks T and performance measure P, if its performance at tasks T, as measured by P, improves with experience E.

Examples

- Handwriting recognition learning problem
  - Task T : Recognizing and classifying handwritten words within images

- Performance P : Percent of words correctly classified
- Training experience E : A dataset of handwritten words with given classifications

- A robot driving learning problem
  - Task T : Driving on highways using vision sensors
  - Performance P : Average distance traveled before an error
  - Training experience E : A sequence of images and steering commands recorded while observing a human driver

Definition: A computer program which learns from experience is called a machine learning program or simply a learning program .