

First, a true story, from
Greenwich Connecticut, 2007

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Financial markets were at all-time highs
(this is before the Great Financial Crisis)

Mr V worked at a quant hedge fund as a
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Mr V was paid to build financial models,
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were good models, and then trade them
with the HFs' money

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Financial markets were at all-time highs
(this is before the Great Financial Crisis)

Mr V worked at a quant hedge fund as a
trader of credit derivatives.

Err..how?
Mr V was paid to build financial models,
convince the hedge fund's owner that they
were good models, and then trade them
with the HFs' money

Using Backtests of course!

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A backtest “runs” the model on recent market data, and tells how it performed.

Easy as Pie!!

Err..wasn't the model also built using recent market data?

Err..Yes..

Its really not an exaggeration
that Overfitting ML models
directly contributed to causing
the GFC.

OVERFITTING

IS THE BUGBEAR OF MACHINE LEARNING

SO WHAT IS OVERFITTING? AND WHY
IS IT SUCH A PROBLEM?

CROSS VALIDATION

REGULARIZATION

SOME OF THE WAYS TO
MITIGATE THIS PROBLEM

ENSEMBLE LEARNING

FRODO AND SAM ATE AT A RESTAURANT EVERY
DAY LAST WEEK AND RATED IT ON EACH DAY

MONDAY	GOOD
TUESDAY	BAD
WEDNESDAY	GOOD
THURSDAY	GOOD
FRIDAY	GOOD
SATURDAY	BAD
SUNDAY	GOOD

FRODO AND SAM ATE AT A RESTAURANT EVERY DAY LAST WEEK AND RATED IT ON EACH DAY

MONDAY	GOOD
TUESDAY	BAD
WEDNESDAY	GOOD
THURSDAY	GOOD
FRIDAY	GOOD
SATURDAY	BAD
SUNDAY	GOOD

AT THE END OF THE WEEK,

FRODO SAYS
THE FOOD IS GOOD AT THIS RESTAURANT

SAM SAYS
THE FOOD IS GOOD AT THIS RESTAURANT
ON ALL DAYS EXCEPT TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS

WHICH ONE OF THEM IS RIGHT?

WHICH ONE OF THEM IS RIGHT?

HOW DO WE MEASURE THIS?

WE COULD CHECK EACH OF
THEIR **STATEMENTS** **MODELS**

AGAINST THE **DATA WE ALREADY HAVE**
TRAINING SET

WHICH ONE OF THEM IS RIGHT?

	TRAINING SET	FRODO'S MODEL	SAM'S MODEL
MONDAY	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
TUESDAY	BAD	GOOD	BAD
WEDNESDAY	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
THURSDAY	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
FRIDAY	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
SATURDAY	BAD	GOOD	BAD
SUNDAY	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD

71%

100%

WE COULD CHECK EACH OF THEIR
STATEMENTS
AGAINST THE DATA WE ALREADY HAVE

ACCURACY

WHICH ONE OF THEM IS RIGHT?

FRODO'S MODEL SAM'S MODEL

MONDAY	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
TUESDAY	BAD	GOOD	BAD
WEDNESDAY	GOOD	71%	100%
THURSDAY	GOOD		
FRIDAY	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
SATURDAY	BAD	GOOD	BAD
SUNDAY	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD

71% 100%

ACCURACY

ON THE TRAINING SET,
FRODO'S MODEL HAS 71%
ACCURACY AND SAM'S
MODEL HAS 100%
ACCURACY

FROM THIS, IT SEEMS LIKE
SAM'S MODEL IS BETTER.

SAM AND FRODO GO BACK TO
THE RESTAURANT NEXT WEEK

WHICH ONE OF THEM IS RIGHT?

FRODO'S MODEL SAM'S MODEL

WEEK 1

MONDAY	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
TUESDAY	BAD	GOOD	BAD
WEDNESDAY	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
THURSDAY	GOOD	71%	100%
FRIDAY	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
SATURDAY	BAD	GOOD	BAD
SUNDAY	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD

WEEK 2

MONDAY	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
TUESDAY	GOOD	GOOD	BAD
WEDNESDAY	BAD	GOOD	GOOD
THURSDAY	GOOD	71%	42%
FRIDAY	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
SATURDAY	GOOD	GOOD	BAD
SUNDAY	BAD	GOOD	GOOD

ON THE TRAINING SET,
FRODO'S MODEL HAS 71%
ACCURACY AND SAM'S
MODEL HAS 100%
ACCURACY

SAM AND FRODO GO BACK TO THE
RESTAURANT NEXT WEEK

ON NEW DATA, FRODO'S
MODEL HAS 71%
ACCURACY AND SAM'S
MODEL HAS 42%
ACCURACY

WHICH ONE OF THEM IS RIGHT?

	FRODO'S MODEL	SAM'S MODEL
TRAINING SET	71%	100%
NEW/UNSEEN DATA	71%	42%

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

FRODO'S MODEL IS THE
BETTER MODEL

IT GENERALIZES
WELL

FRODO'S MODEL
PERFORMS WELL ON
BOTH TRAINING AND
NEW/UNSEEN DATA

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

	FRODO'S MODEL	SAM'S MODEL
TRAINING SET	71%	100%
NEW/UNSEEN DATA	71%	42%
	THE FOOD IS GOOD AT THIS RESTAURANT	THE FOOD IS GOOD AT THIS RESTAURANT ON ALL DAYS EXCEPT TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS

FRODO'S MODEL IS SIMPLER
("DUMBER", IN FACT), YET IT
PERFORMS BETTER

SAM'S MODEL IS
MORE COMPLEX,
AND MORE ACCURATE
ON THE TRAINING SET

YET, IT PERFORMS
BADLY ON NEW DATA

IE, SAM'S MODEL DOES
NOT GENERALIZE WELL

THE FOOD IS GOOD AT THIS RESTAURANT ON ALL
DAYS **EXCEPT TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS**

SAM'S MODEL PICKS UP ON A
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
WEEKDAY AND THE QUALITY OF FOOD

THIS RELATIONSHIP
HOWEVER, IS SPECIFIC TO THE
TRAINING SET, **AND NOT TRUE
IN GENERAL**

SAM'S MODEL IS A
PERFECT EXAMPLE OF
OVERFITTING

OVERFITTING OCCURS WHEN A MODEL PICKS UP ON RANDOM
PHENOMENA OR NOISE PRESENT IN THE TRAINING SET
INSTEAD OF THE UNDERLYING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INPUT AND
OUTPUT

OVERFITTING

BUT WHY IS OVERFITTING SUCH A
COMMON PROBLEM?

THE TRAINING SET IS ONLY PART OF A
MUCH LARGER SET

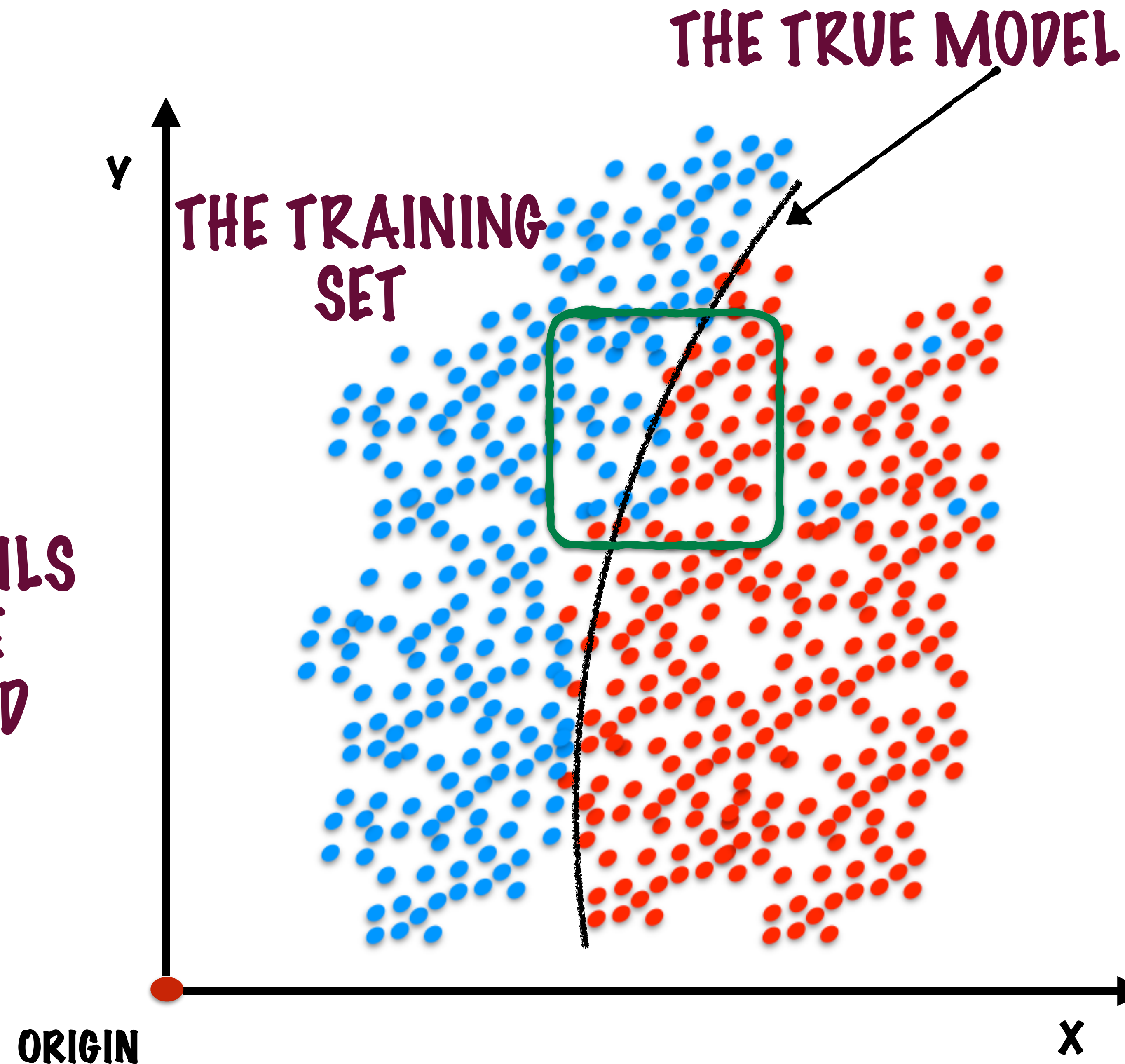
WE ARE TRYING TO FIND A MODEL, THAT
DESCRIBES THIS MUCH LARGER SET

IT'S LIKE TRYING TO DESCRIBE PHOTOGRAPH,
BUT YOU ARE ONLY SHOWN A SMALL,
ZOOMED IN PORTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

OVERFITTING

YOU WANT TO CLASSIFY
EMAILS AS SPAM OR HAM

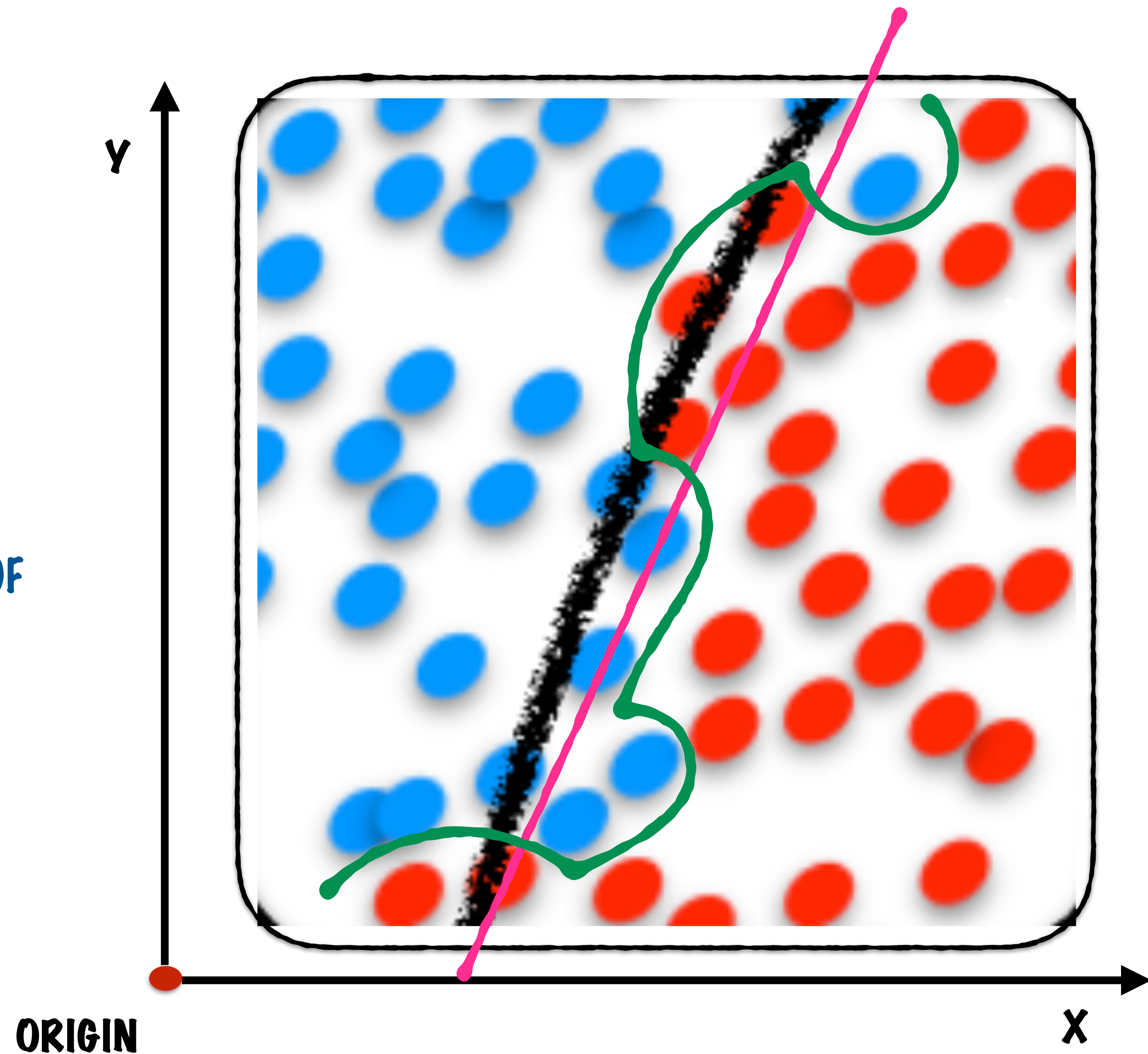
THESE ARE ALL THE EMAILS
IN ALL INBOXES IN THE
WORLD (BOTH PAST AND
FUTURE)



OVERFITTING

1. A SIMPLE LINEAR MODEL

2. AN OVERFITTED MODEL
(USUALLY A POLYNOMIAL OF
EXTREMELY HIGH ORDER)



BECAUSE THE TRAINING DATA IS
ONLY A PART OF THE PICTURE

WE CAN'T TELL FOR SURE WHAT IS
RELEVANT AND WHAT'S NOT

OVERFITTING

IS A PRETTY DIFFICULT
PROBLEM TO SOLVE

BY AVOIDING
OVERFITTING, WE CAN
END UP WITH THE
OPPOSITE ERROR OF
UNDERFITTING

THIS IS THE FAMOUS
BIAS-VARIANCE
TRADEOFF

OVERFITTING

IS THE BUGBEAR OF MACHINE LEARNING

SO WHAT IS OVERFITTING? AND WHY
IS IT SUCH A PROBLEM?

CROSS VALIDATION

REGULARIZATION

SOME OF THE WAYS TO
MITIGATE THIS PROBLEM

ENSEMBLE LEARNING

OVERFITTING

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CROSS VALIDATION

IS A TECHNIQUE FOR
MODEL SELECTION

PERFORMING WELL ON TRAINING DATA IS
NO GUARANTEE FOR A GOOD MODEL

IN ORDER TO TEST THE PERFORMANCE OF A
MODEL, IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE CAN

A GOOD MODEL IS ONE THAT PERFORMS
WELL ON DATA IT HAS NOT SEEN BEFORE



GET SOME DATA THAT WE MIGHT SEE IN THE
FUTURE (SOME NEW DATA)

A GOOD MODEL DOES NOT OVERFIT



GET MULTIPLE TRAINING DATA SETS

WE CAN THEN FIND A MODEL THAT
PERFORMS WELL ACROSS TRAINING DATA
SETS, AND NOT JUST ON ONE TRAINING SET

CROSS VALIDATION IS A COMBINATION OF THESE TWO IDEAS

IN ORDER TO TEST THE PERFORMANCE OF A
MODEL, IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE CAN

GET SOME DATA THAT WE MIGHT SEE IN THE
FUTURE (SOME NEW DATA)

KEEP SOME DATA ASIDE FOR
PERFORMANCE TESTING

GET MULTIPLE TRAINING DATA SETS

WE CAN THEN FIND A MODEL THAT
PERFORMS WELL ACROSS TRAINING DATA
SETS, AND NOT JUST ON ONE TRAINING SET

CREATE MULTIPLE TRAINING SETS -
EACH ONE A SUBSET OF THE
ORIGINAL TRAINING SET

THE BELOW TABLE REPRESENTS
THE ENTIRE TRAINING DATA SET

1. DIVIDE THE TRAINING SET RANDOMLY
INTO TWO EQUAL PARTS - D_0 AND D_1

2. USE D_0 TO TRAIN THE MODEL AND D_1 TO
TEST THE PERFORMANCE

3. THEN, USE D_1 TO
TRAIN THE MODEL
AND D_0 TO TEST THE
PERFORMANCE

D_0								D_1							
X_1	X_2	X_3	X_4	X_5	X_6	X_7	X_8	X_9	X_{10}	X_{11}	X_{12}	X_{13}	X_{14}	X_{15}	X_{16}
TRAINING								TEST							
X_1	X_2	X_3	X_4	X_5	X_6	X_7	X_8	X_9	X_{10}	X_{11}	X_{12}	X_{13}	X_{14}	X_{15}	X_{16}

THE BEST MODEL IS THE ONE WITH BEST
AVERAGE PERFORMANCE

THIS TECHNIQUE IS CALLED
2-FOLD CROSS VALIDATION

2-FOLD CROSS VALIDATION

1. DIVIDE THE TRAINING SET RANDOMLY INTO TWO EQUAL PARTS - D_0 AND D_1

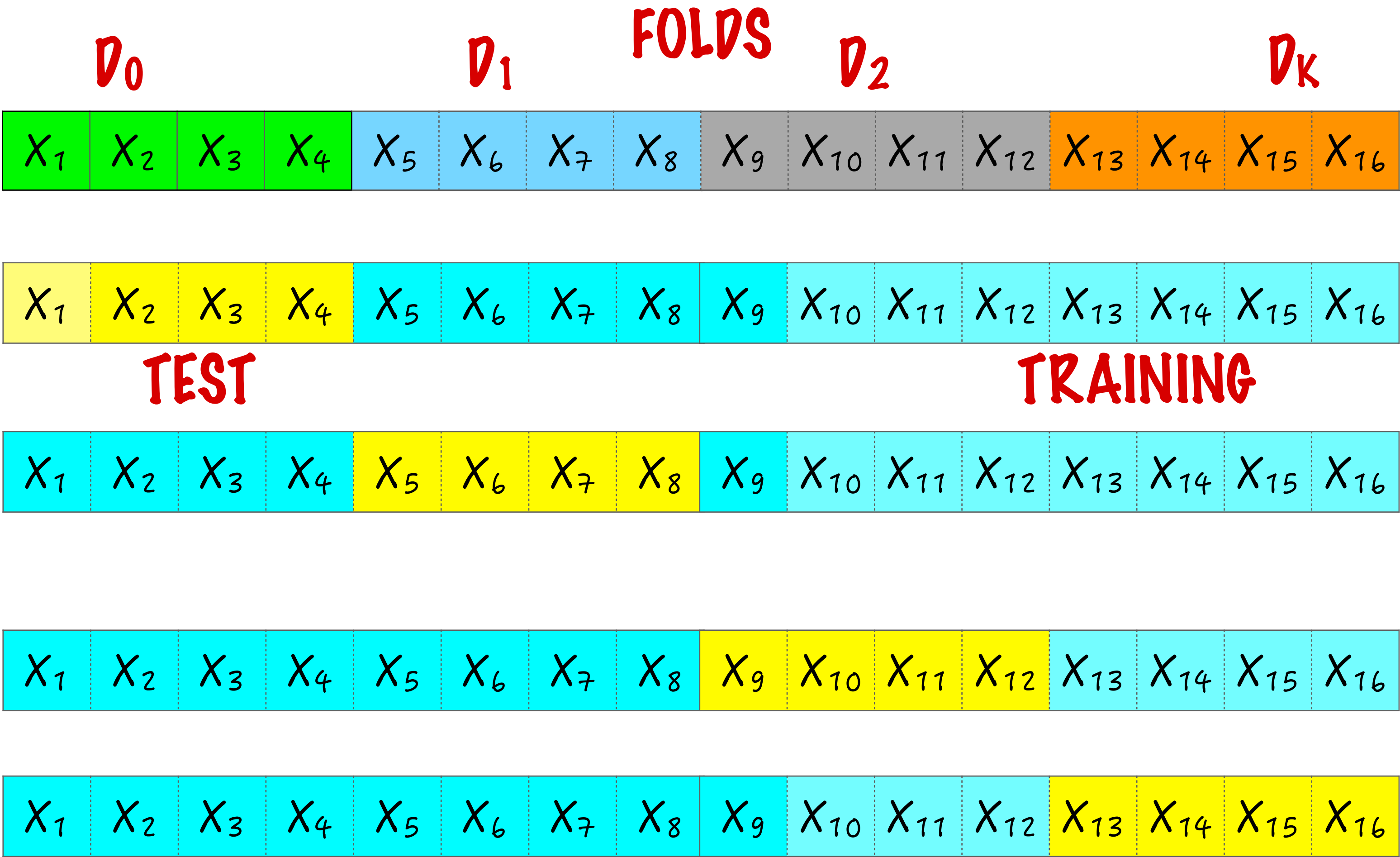
K-FOLD CROSS VALIDATION

1. DIVIDE THE TRAINING SET RANDOMLY INTO K EQUAL PARTS - $D_0, D_1, D_2, D_3, \dots, D_K$

2. USE D_0 TO TEST THE MODEL PERFORMANCE AND THE REST TO TRAIN THE DATA

3. USE D_1 TO TEST THE MODEL PERFORMANCE AND THE REST TO TRAIN THE DATA

4. CONTINUE UNTIL EACH OF THE PARTS HAS BEEN USED FOR TESTING EXACTLY ONCE



K-FOLD CROSS VALIDATION

A FEW NOTES

A COMMON CHOICE FOR K IS $K=10$

THE CHOICE OF K DEPENDS ON THE
NUMBER OF SAMPLES (DATA POINTS)
YOU HAVE IN THE TRAINING SET

CHOOSE K SUCH THAT THE
NUMBER OF SAMPLES IN EACH
FOLD IS NOT TOO SMALL

A FEW OTHER VARIANTS
OF CROSS VALIDATION

LEAVE 1 OUT

LEAVE P OUT

MONTE CARLO

WHEN DO YOU USE CROSS VALIDATION?

1. TO CHOOSE BETWEEN DIFFERENT ALGORITHMS

SUPPORT VECTOR MACHINES VS K-NEAREST NEIGHBOURS

2. TO TUNE THE PARAMETERS OF THE ALGORITHM

THE VALUE OF K IN K-NEAREST NEIGHBOURS,
THE MAX DEPTH OF A DECISION TREE

3. TO IDENTIFY THE FEATURES THAT ARE RELEVANT

IF YOU HAVE 20 FEATURES, SHOULD YOU USE ALL
OF THEM? OR A SUBSET?

OVERFITTING

IS THE BUGBEAR OF MACHINE LEARNING

SO WHAT IS OVERFITTING? AND WHY
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PENALIZES MODELS WHICH ARE
TOO COMPLEX

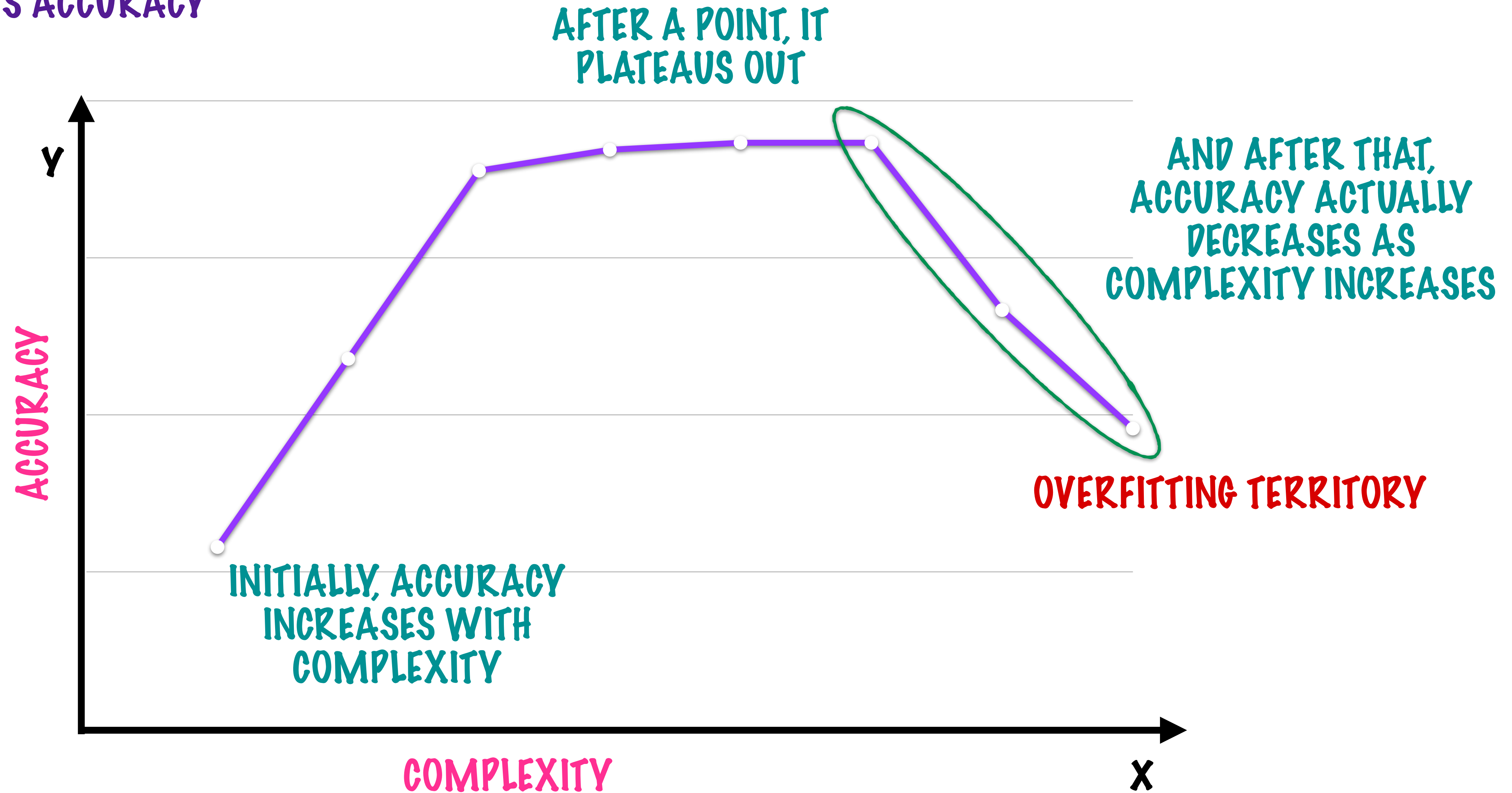
OVERFITTING OCCURS BECAUSE THE MODEL HAS
BECOME NEEDLESSLY COMPLEX

EXAMPLES OF COMPLEXITY MEASURES

(THE NUMBER OF BRANCHES IN A DECISION TREE (OR) THE
ORDER OF THE POLYNOMIAL USED TO REPRESENT A CURVE)

LET'S SAY YOU PLOTTED COMPLEXITY OF
A MODEL VS ACCURACY

LET'S SAY YOU PLOTTED COMPLEXITY OF A
MODEL VS ACCURACY



REGULARIZATION

PENALIZES MODELS WHICH ARE
TOO COMPLEX

FINDING A MODEL USUALLY INVOLVES
MINIMIZING AN ERROR FUNCTION

FOR EXAMPLE, THE ERROR FUNCTION COULD BE THE SUM
OF SQUARES OF DISTANCES BETWEEN THE PREDICTED
POINTS AND THE ACTUAL POINTS IN THE TRAINING SET

LET THE ERROR FUNCTION BE $E(f)$ FOR A MODEL f

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A REGULARIZATION TERM IS
ADDED TO THIS FUNCTION

$$E'(f) = E(f) + \lambda R(f)$$

NEW ERROR FUNCTION THAT
NEEDS TO BE MINIMIZED



A PARAMETER THAT CONTROLS
THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
REGULARIZATION TERM

REGULARIZATION
TERM THAT
INCREASES WITH
COMPLEXITY

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NEW ERROR FUNCTION THAT
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A PARAMETER THAT CONTROLS
THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
REGULARIZATION TERM

REGULARIZATION TERM THAT
INCREASES WITH COMPLEXITY

WE GET A MODEL THAT GIVES LOW ERROR ON
THE TRAINING SET, WHILE KEEPING THE
COMPLEXITY LOW AS WELL

ONE WELL-KNOWN EXAMPLE OF
REGULARIZATION IS

ADJUSTED R-SQUARED

IN LINEAR REGRESSION

R-SQUARED MEASURES HOW CLOSE THE
DATA IN THE TRAINING SET IS TO THE LINE
THAT'S FITTED

ADJUSTED R-SQUARED HAS BEEN ADJUSTED FOR
THE NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT VARIABLES THAT
HAVE BEEN USED IN THE MODEL

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ENSEMBLE LEARNING

ENSEMBLE LEARNING INVOLVES THE USE OF MULTIPLE LEARNERS
AND COMBINING THEIR RESULTS

IN 2006, NETFLIX HELD AN OPEN COMPETITION FOR
A MACHINE LEARNING ALGORITHM TO PREDICT A
USER'S RATING OF A MOVIE

THE GRAND PRIZE WAS A COOL MILLION !

THE COMPETITION WENT ON FOR 3
YEARS, BEFORE A GRAND PRIZE
WINNER WAS DECLARED

AN INTERESTING THING
HAPPENED DURING THIS TIME...

THE CONTESTANTS FOUND THAT, INSTEAD OF USING 1 SINGLE MODEL,
COMBINING MULTIPLE MODELS WORKED BETTER

TEAMS STARTED MERGING INTO LARGER TEAMS, THEY
WOULD COMBINE THEIR MODELS TO DO BETTER

IN THE END, THE GRAND PRIZE WINNER (AND A VERY CLOSE RUNNER
UP) WERE BOTH ENSEMBLES OF MORE THAN A 100 LEARNERS EACH..

AND COMBINING THEM IMPROVED THE RESULTS EVEN FURTHER!

THE IDEA OF ENSEMBLE LEARNING IS SIMPLE..

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MODELS TEND TO OVERFIT

IF YOU TRAIN MULTIPLE MODELS

THE OVERFITTING COMPONENTS OF EACH OF THE
MODELS WOULD BE DIFFERENT

WHEN YOU COMBINE THESE MODELS

THE OVERFITTING COMPONENTS OF THE MODELS
WOULD CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT

AND YOU ARE LEFT WITH THE COMPONENTS
THAT REALLY DESCRIBE YOUR DATA

LET'S TAKE AN EXAMPLE

CLASSIFY A TWEET AS POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE SENTIMENT
(THIS IS A CLASSIFICATION PROBLEM)

METHOD 1. CHOOSE 1 TECHNIQUE

NAIVE BAYES (OR) SUPPORT VECTOR MACHINES (OR) NEURAL NETWORKS

METHOD 2. USE AN ENSEMBLE

NAIVE BAYES (AND) SUPPORT VECTOR MACHINES (AND) NEURAL NETWORKS

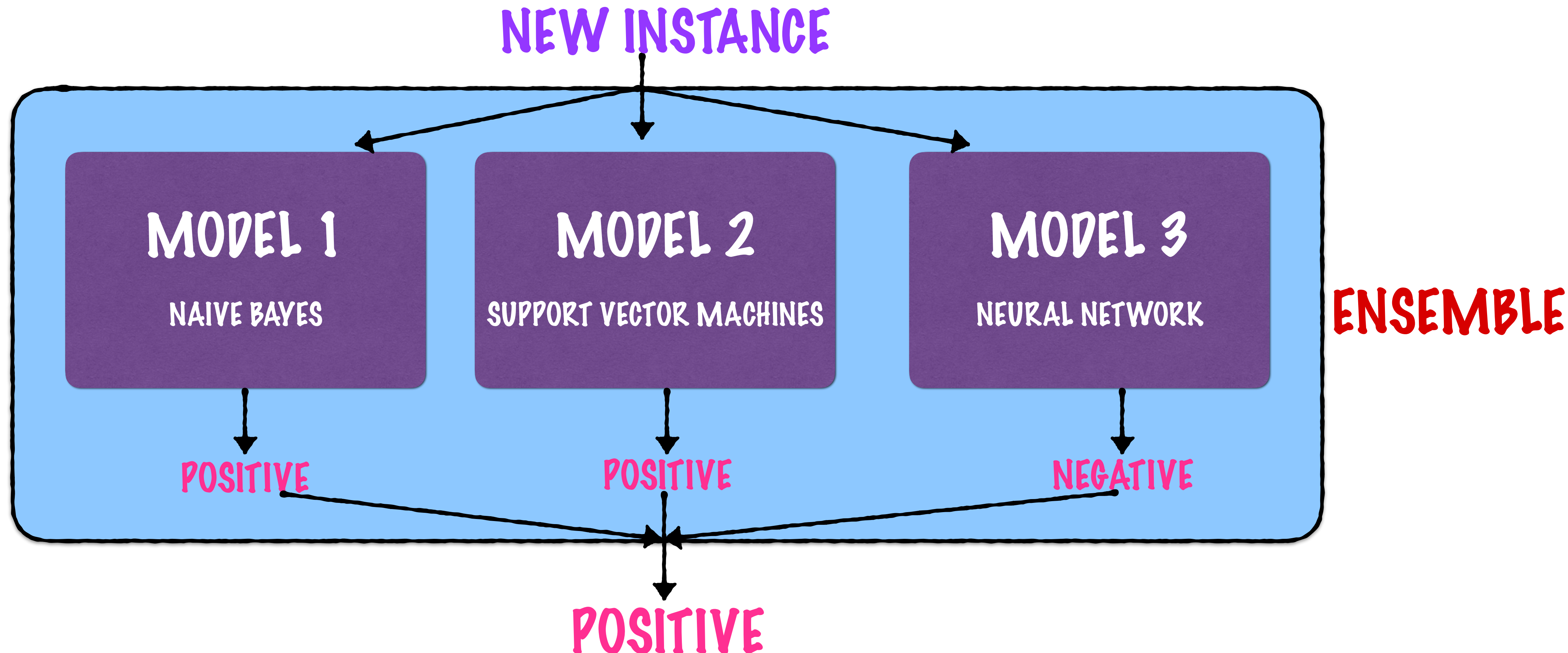
METHOD 2. USE AN ENSEMBLE

NAIVE BAYES (AND) SUPPORT VECTOR
MACHINES (AND) NEURAL NETWORKS

1. TAKE THE TRAINING SET AND
TRAIN EACH OF THE ABOVE
CLASSIFIERS ON IT

2. WHEN A NEW INSTANCE (TWEET)
COMES IN, GET THE PREDICTIONS FROM
EACH OF THE MODELS

3. TAKE THE MAJORITY VOTE OF
THE MODELS AND THAT WILL BE
THE FINAL PREDICTION



A MACHINE LEARNING ENSEMBLE IS A COLLECTION OF MODELS

THE MODELS IN THE ENSEMBLE CAN BE

BASED ON DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES

A COLLECTION WITH 1 SVM, 1 DECISION TREE, 1 NAIVE BAYES, 1 KNN

TRAINED ON DIFFERENT TRAINING SETS

A COLLECTION OF SVMs, EACH TRAINED ON A DIFFERENT TRAINING SET

USING DIFFERENT FEATURES

A COLLECTION OF DECISION TREES, EACH GIVEN A DIFFERENT SET OF FEATURES

USING DIFFERENT VALUES OF PARAMETERS

A COLLECTION OF K-NEAREST NEIGHBOURS, EACH WITH A DIFFERENT VALUE OF K

**A MACHINE LEARNING ENSEMBLE IS A
COLLECTION OF MODELS**

**THE MODELS IN THE ENSEMBLE CAN BE
BASED ON DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES
TRAINED ON DIFFERENT TRAINING SETS
USING DIFFERENT FEATURES
USING DIFFERENT VALUES OF PARAMETERS**

**AN ENSEMBLE LEARNER
COMBINES THE RESULTS FROM
INDIVIDUAL MODELS**

**THE FINAL RESULT CAN BE
A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE INDIVIDUAL MODELS**

**AVERAGE OF THE RESULT FROM
INDIVIDUAL MODELS**

**A WEIGHTED FUNCTION OF THE
RESULT FROM INDIVIDUAL MODELS**

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USING DIFFERENT VALUES OF PARAMETERS

BAGGING

ARE SPECIAL ENSEMBLE
LEARNING TECHNIQUES

BOOSTING

THEY INVOLVE CREATING MULTIPLE
TRAINING SETS FROM THE MAIN
TRAINING SET

AN ENSEMBLE LEARNER COMBINES THE RESULTS
FROM INDIVIDUAL MODELS

THE FINAL RESULT CAN BE

A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE INDIVIDUAL MODELS

AVERAGE OF THE RESULT FROM INDIVIDUAL MODELS

A WEIGHTED FUNCTION OF THE RESULT FROM
INDIVIDUAL MODELS

ONE OPTION IS TO
WEIGHT EACH MODEL
WITH IT'S ACCURACY

THIS MIGHT WORK, BUT IT
ALSO RISKS OVERFITTING

THIS WEIGHTED FUNCTION CAN ALSO BE
"LEARNED"

STACKING

INVOLVES TRAINING A LEARNER TO COMBINE
THE RESULT FROM INDIVIDUAL MODELS

BAGGING

(BOOTSTRAP-AGGREGATING)

IS AN ENSEMBLE LEARNING TECHNIQUE
THAT WAS DEVELOPED FOR CLASSIFICATION
PROBLEMS

EACH MODEL IN THE ENSEMBLE IS TRAINED
ON A DIFFERENT TRAINING SET

THESE TRAINING SETS ARE RANDOMLY
GENERATED FROM THE ORIGINAL TRAINING SET

FOR THE FINAL RESULT, EACH MODEL IS GIVEN AN
EQUAL WEIGHT AND A MAJORITY VOTE IS TAKEN

BAGGING

(BOOTSTRAP-AGGREGATING)

THESE TRAINING SETS ARE RANDOMLY
GENERATED FROM THE ORIGINAL TRAINING SET

THE TRAINING SETS ARE GENERATED
USING A STATISTICAL TECHNIQUE
KNOWN AS

BOOTSTRAP SAMPLING

SAMPLING IS THE PROCESS OF SELECTING
INDIVIDUAL SAMPLES FROM A DATASET THAT
ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POPULATION

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ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POPULATION

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS
ABOUT THE POPULATION
FROM OBSERVATION OF THE
SAMPLES IS CALLED

GENERALIZATION

YOU DO THIS BY

1. **CATCHING SOME FISH**
2. **STUDYING THE CAUGHT FISH**
3. **DRAWING CONCLUSIONS ABOUT
ALL OF THE FISH**

POPULATION

SAMPLING IS A LITTLE BIT LIKE FISHING

YOU ARE A MARINE BIOLOGIST
YOU LEARN ABOUT FISH



SAMPLING IS THE PROCESS OF SELECTING
INDIVIDUAL SAMPLES FROM A DATASET THAT
ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POPULATION

SAMPLING IS A LITTLE BIT LIKE FISHING

IF THE PROBABILITY OF CATCHING A
PARTICULAR FISH, IS EXACTLY THE
SAME AS ANY OTHER FISH

YOU ARE DOING

UNIFORM SAMPLING

IF YOU THROW THE FISH BACK IN AFTER
YOU ARE DONE WITH IT

YOU ARE SAMPLING

WITH REPLACEMENT



SAMPLING IS THE PROCESS OF SELECTING INDIVIDUAL
SAMPLES FROM A DATASET THAT ARE
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POPULATION

UNIFORM SAMPLING WITH REPLACEMENT

IS KNOWN AS **BOOTSTRAP SAMPLING**

BAGGING
(BOOTSTRAP-AGGREGATING)

IS AN ENSEMBLE LEARNING TECHNIQUE
THAT USES BOOTSTRAP SAMPLING TO
CREATE MULTIPLE TRAINING SETS

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THE MODELS IN THE ENSEMBLE CAN BE

BASED ON DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES

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USING DIFFERENT FEATURES

USING DIFFERENT VALUES OF PARAMETERS

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AVERAGE OF THE RESULT FROM INDIVIDUAL MODELS

A WEIGHTED FUNCTION OF THE RESULT FROM
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THIS WEIGHTED FUNCTION CAN ALSO BE
"LEARNED"

STACKING

INVOLVES TRAINING A LEARNER TO COMBINE
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**INVOLVES TRAINING A LEARNER TO COMBINE
THE RESULT FROM INDIVIDUAL MODELS**

BOOSTING

IS AN ALGORITHM FOR ITERATIVELY
ADDING LEARNERS TO THE ENSEMBLE

IN EACH ITERATION, THE TRAINING SET IS
CHOSEN BY GIVING MORE WEIGHT TO THE
MISCLASSIFIED SAMPLES

EACH LEARNER IN THE ENSEMBLE WILL
PERFORM VERY POORLY BY ITSELF

WEAK LEARNERS

THE THEORY OF BOOSTING IS THAT AN ENSEMBLE
OF WEAK LEARNERS CAN TOGETHER BE VERY
STRONG

ADABOOST

IS THE MOST WELL KNOWN VARIANT OF A
BOOSTING ALGORITHM

WHEN PREDICTING FOR A NEW INSTANCE,
ADABOOST USES AN OPTIMALLY WEIGHTED VOTE
OF THE ENSEMBLE LEARNERS

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LEARNING TECHNIQUES**

BOOSTING

**THEY INVOLVE CREATING MULTIPLE
TRAINING SETS FROM THE MAIN
TRAINING SET**

STACKING

**INVOLVES TRAINING A LEARNER TO COMBINE
THE RESULT FROM INDIVIDUAL MODELS**

**A MACHINE LEARNING ENSEMBLE IS A
COLLECTION OF MODELS**

THE MODELS IN THE ENSEMBLE CAN BE

BASED ON DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES

TRAINED ON DIFFERENT TRAINING SETS

USING DIFFERENT FEATURES

USING DIFFERENT VALUES OF PARAMETERS

BAGGING

BOOSTING

**ARE SPECIAL ENSEMBLE
LEARNING TECHNIQUES**

**THEY INVOLVE CREATING MULTIPLE
TRAINING SETS FROM THE MAIN
TRAINING SET**

**AN ENSEMBLE LEARNER COMBINES THE RESULTS
FROM INDIVIDUAL MODELS**

THE FINAL RESULT CAN BE

A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE INDIVIDUAL MODELS

AVERAGE OF THE RESULT FROM INDIVIDUAL MODELS

**A WEIGHTED FUNCTION OF THE RESULT FROM
INDIVIDUAL MODELS**

**THIS WEIGHTED FUNCTION CAN ALSO BE
“LEARNED”**

STACKING

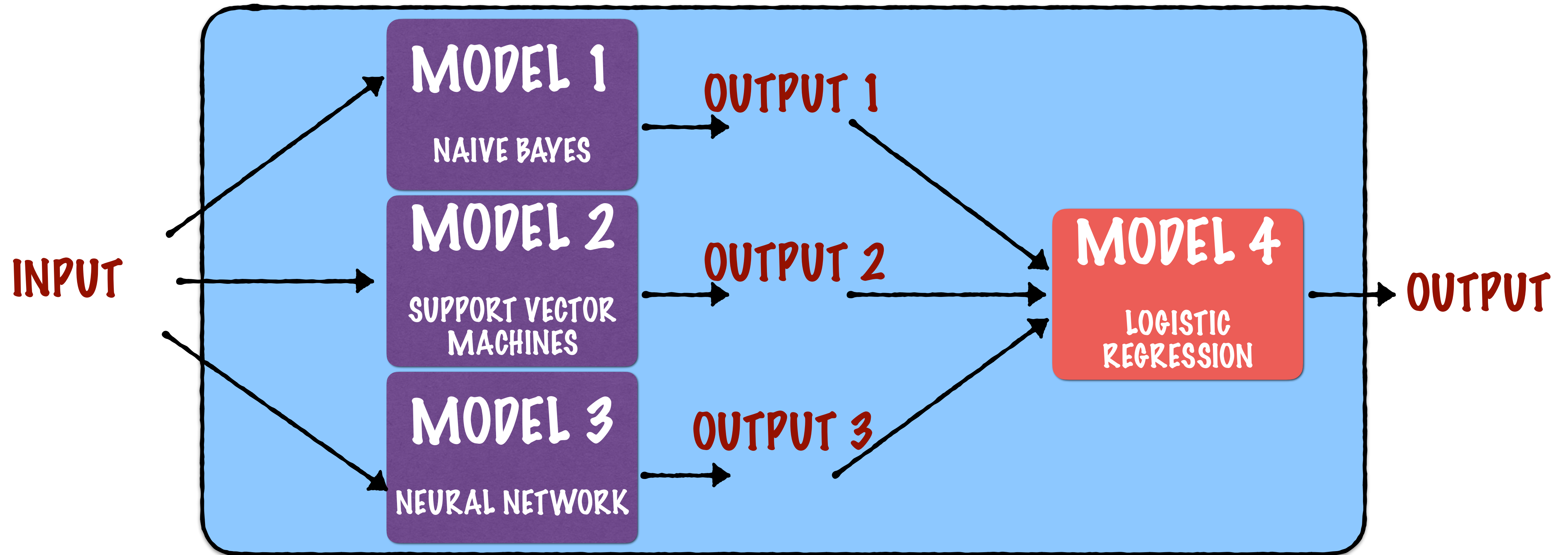
**INVOLVES TRAINING A LEARNER TO COMBINE
THE RESULT FROM INDIVIDUAL MODELS**

STACKING

(AKA BLENDING AKA STACKED
GENERALIZATION)

INVOLVES USING A MACHINE LEARNING
APPROACH TO COMBINE THE RESULTS OF
THE ENSEMBLE MEMBERS

STACKED ENSEMBLE MODEL



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OVERFITTING

IS THE BUGBEAR OF MACHINE LEARNING

SO WHAT IS OVERFITTING? AND WHY
IS IT SUCH A PROBLEM?

CROSS VALIDATION

REGULARIZATION

SOME OF THE WAYS TO
MITIGATE THIS PROBLEM

ENSEMBLE LEARNING

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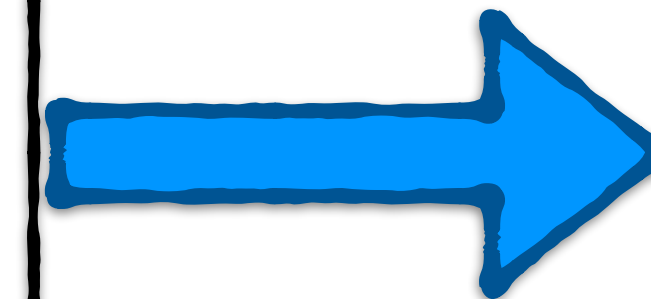
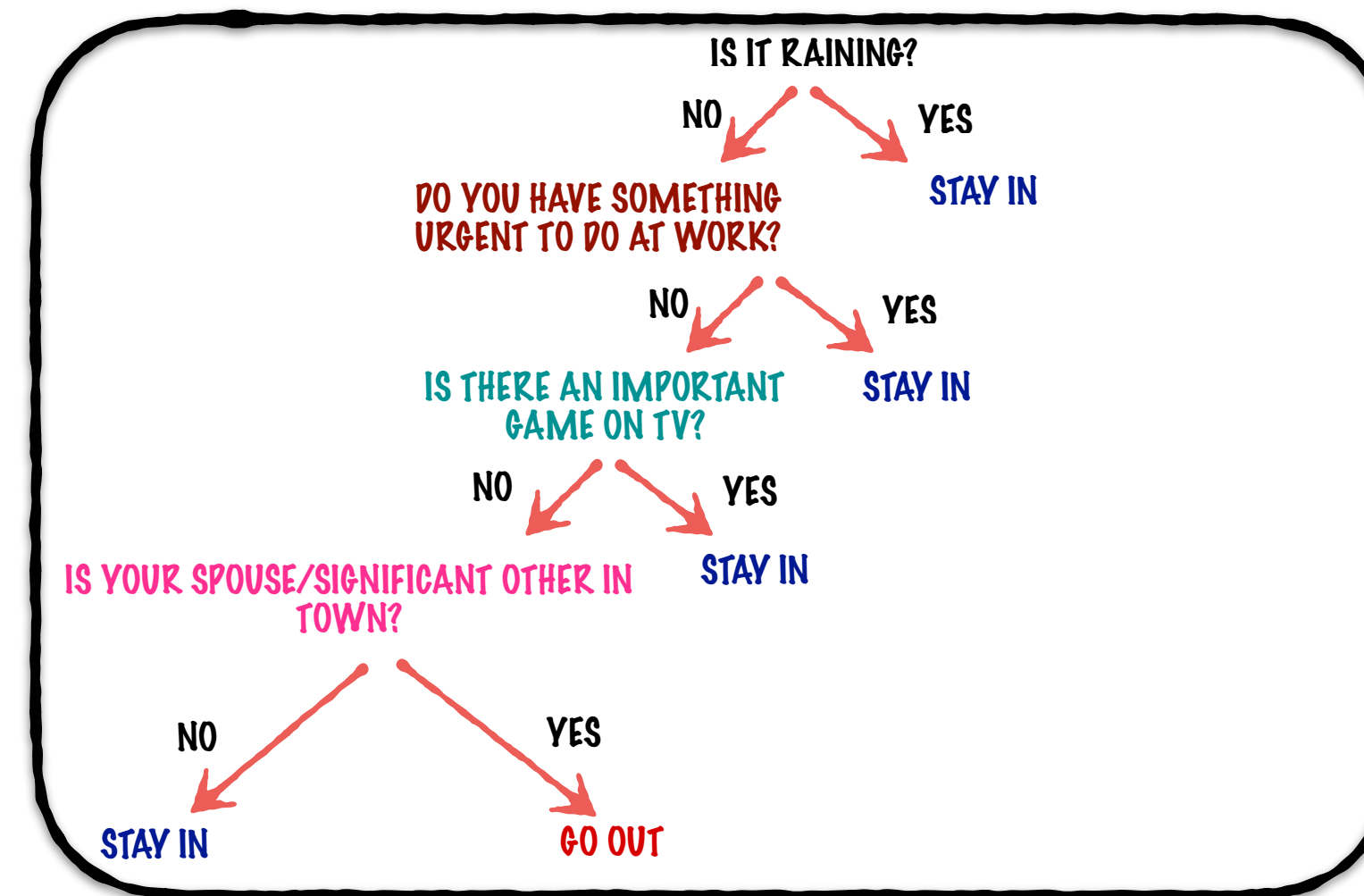
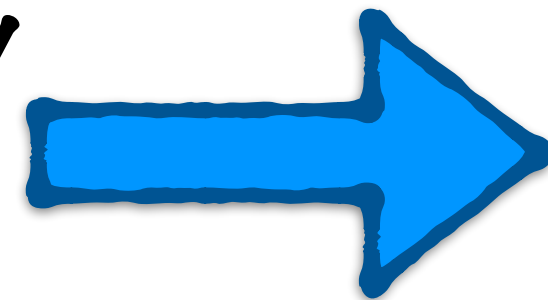
SOME OF THE WAYS TO
MITIGATE THIS PROBLEM

ENSEMBLE LEARNING

**A DECISION TREE CAN BE USED TO SOLVE
MACHINE LEARNING PROBLEMS**

**A DECISION TREE
PREDICTS THE
OUTCOME GIVEN THE
VALUES OF INPUT
VARIABLES**

**INPUT VARIABLES/
PREDICTORS**



**OUTCOME/OUTPUT
VARIABLES**

**DECISION TREES ARE VERY PRONE
TO THE RISK OF OVERFITTING**

**ENSEMBLE LEARNING CAN MITIGATE
THE RISK OF OVERFITTING**

RECAP

ENSEMBLE LEARNING

RECAP

ENSEMBLE LEARNING INVOLVES THE USE OF MULTIPLE LEARNERS
AND COMBINING THEIR RESULTS

THE IDEA OF ENSEMBLE LEARNING IS SIMPLE..

MODELS TEND TO OVERFIT

IF YOU TRAIN MULTIPLE MODELS

THE OVERFITTING COMPONENTS OF EACH OF
THE MODELS WOULD BE DIFFERENT

WHEN YOU COMBINE THESE MODELS
THE OVERFITTING COMPONENTS OF THE
MODELS WOULD CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT

AND YOU ARE LEFT WITH THE COMPONENTS
THAT REALLY DESCRIBE YOUR DATA

RECAP

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**A RANDOM FOREST IS AN
ENSEMBLE OF DECISION TREES**

EACH DECISION TREE IN THE ENSEMBLE IS

**(BAGGING)
TRAINED ON DIFFERENT TRAINING SETS**

**USING DIFFERENT FEATURES
(A RANDOMLY SELECTED SUBSET OF FEATURES)**

RECAP

BAGGING

(BOOTSTRAP-AGGREGATING)

RECAP

BAGGING

(BOOTSTRAP-AGGREGATING)

IS AN ENSEMBLE LEARNING TECHNIQUE
THAT WAS DEVELOPED FOR CLASSIFICATION
PROBLEMS

EACH MODEL IN THE ENSEMBLE IS TRAINED
ON A DIFFERENT TRAINING SET

BOOTSTRAP SAMPLING

THESE TRAINING SETS ARE RANDOMLY
GENERATED FROM THE ORIGINAL TRAINING SET

FOR THE FINAL RESULT, EACH MODEL IS GIVEN AN
EQUAL WEIGHT AND A MAJORITY VOTE IS TAKEN

RECAP

BOOTSTRAP SAMPLING

INVOLVES

SAMPLING IS THE PROCESS OF SELECTING INDIVIDUAL SAMPLES FROM A DATASET THAT ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POPULATION

UNIFORM SAMPLING WITH REPLACEMENT

EACH SAMPLE HAS EQUAL PROBABILITY OF BEING CHOSEN IN THE TRAINING SET

ONCE A SAMPLE IS CHOSEN, IT IS ADDED BACK TO THE ORIGINAL SET, SO IT CAN BE CHOSEN AGAIN

RANDOM FORESTS

USE BOOTSTRAP SAMPLING TO CREATE MULTIPLE TRAINING SETS

EACH DECISION TREE IN THE ENSEMBLE IS TRAINED WITH A DIFFERENT ONE OF THESE TRAINING SETS

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SAY YOU HAVE 7 POSSIBLE FEATURES TO
USE TO PREDICT SURVIVAL ON THE TITANIC

GENDER
AGE
PORT OF EMBARKATION
SIBLINGS
PARENTS
PASSENGER CLASS
FARE

RANDOM SUBSPACE METHOD

EACH DECISION TREE IN THE RANDOM FOREST
IS GIVEN A DIFFERENT SUBSET OF THESE
7 FEATURES TO LEARN FROM

THIS SUBSET IS RANDOMLY CHOSEN

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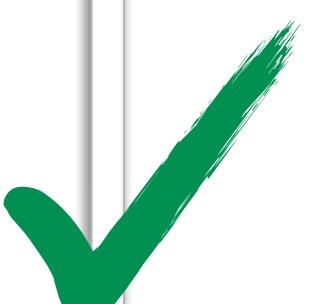
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RANDOM FOREST

TRAINING SET 1,
FEATURE SUBSET 1

TRAINING SET 2,
FEATURE SUBSET 2

TRAINING SET 3,
FEATURE SUBSET 3

DECISION
TREE 1

OUTPUT 1

DECISION
TREE 2

OUTPUT 2

DECISION
TREE 3

OUTPUT 3

OUTPUT
(MAJORITY VOTE)

