

# Production: Model Development

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$ echo "Data Sciences Institute"
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# Agenda: 5.1 Model Development and Offline Evaluation

- Model Development and Training
- Ensembles
- Experiment Tracking and Versioning
- Distributed Training
- AutoML
- Model Offline Evaluation

# Agenda: 5.2 Experiment Tracking

- Observability and telemetry
- Docker and Portability
- Experiment Tracking in Python
- Experiment Components

# About

- These notes are based on Chapter 6 of *Designing Machine Learning Systems*, by Chip Huyen.

# Our Reference Architecture

# The Flock Reference Architecture

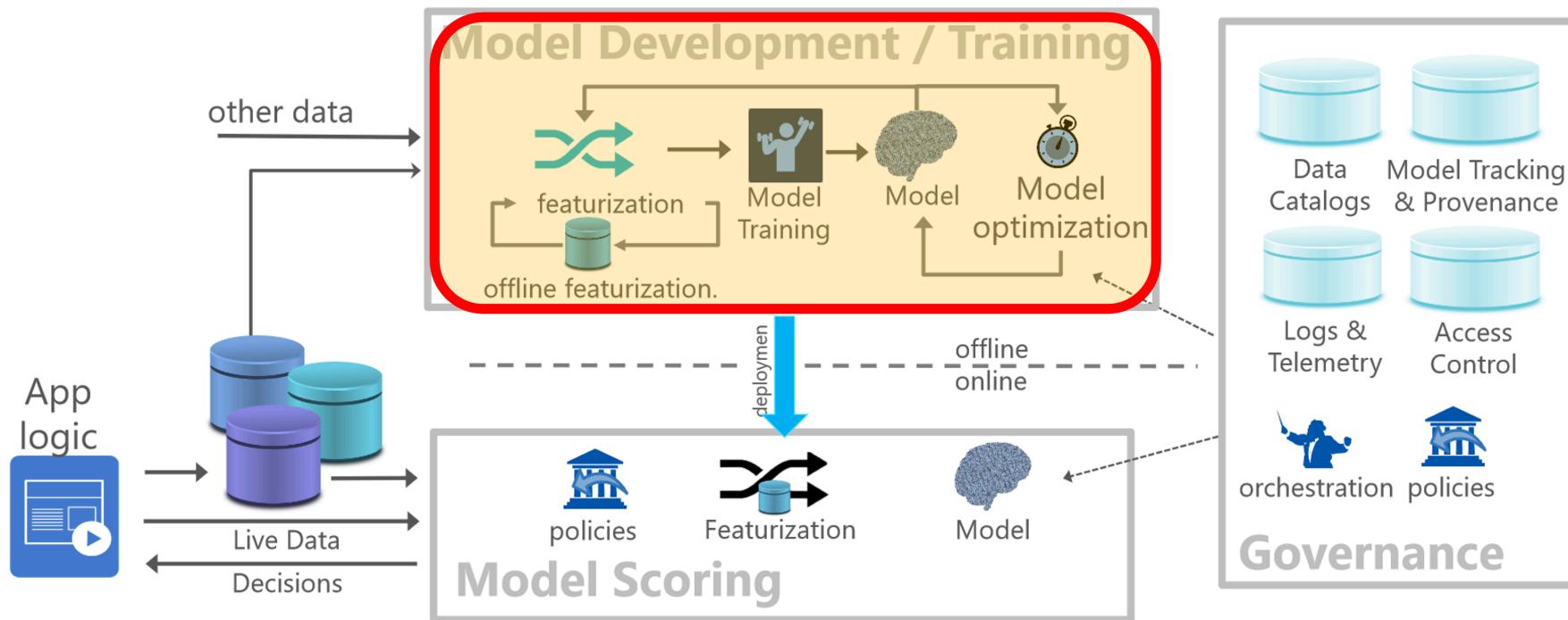
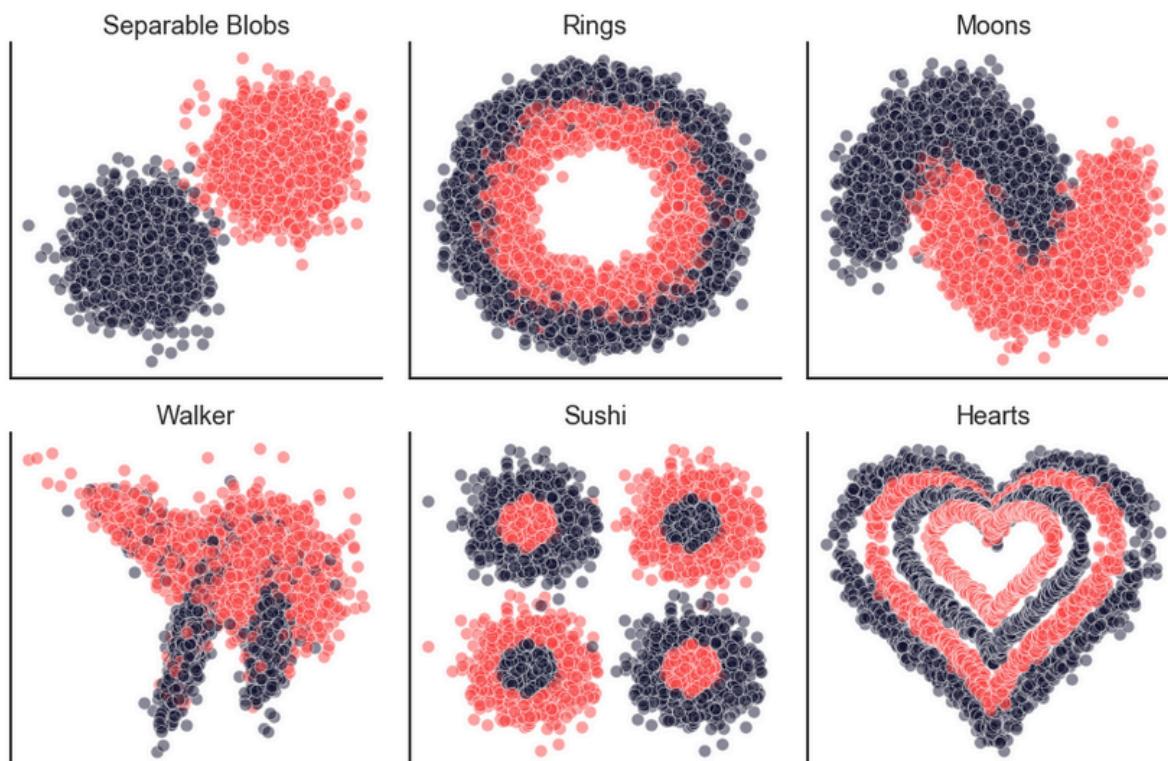


Figure 1: Flock reference architecture for a canonical data science lifecycle.

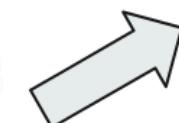
# Exploring the Hypothesis Space

"A classifier must be represented in some formal language that the computer can handle. Conversely, choosing a representation for a learner is tantamount to choosing the set of classifiers that it can possibly learn. This set is called the hypothesis space of the learner. If a classifier is not in the hypothesis space, it cannot be learned." (Domingos, 2012)

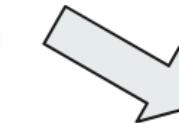
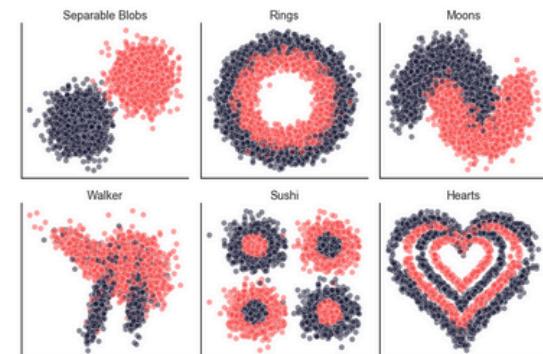
# Data Set Description



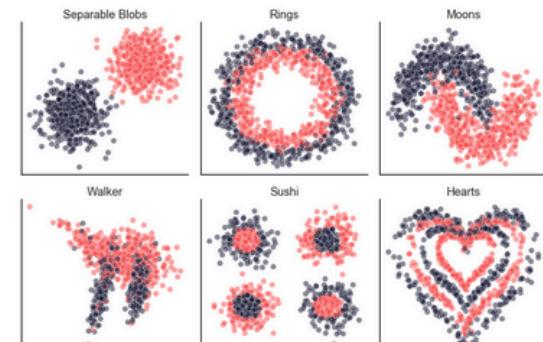
Data Set (5,000 observations)



Training  
Data Set  
(4,000 cases)



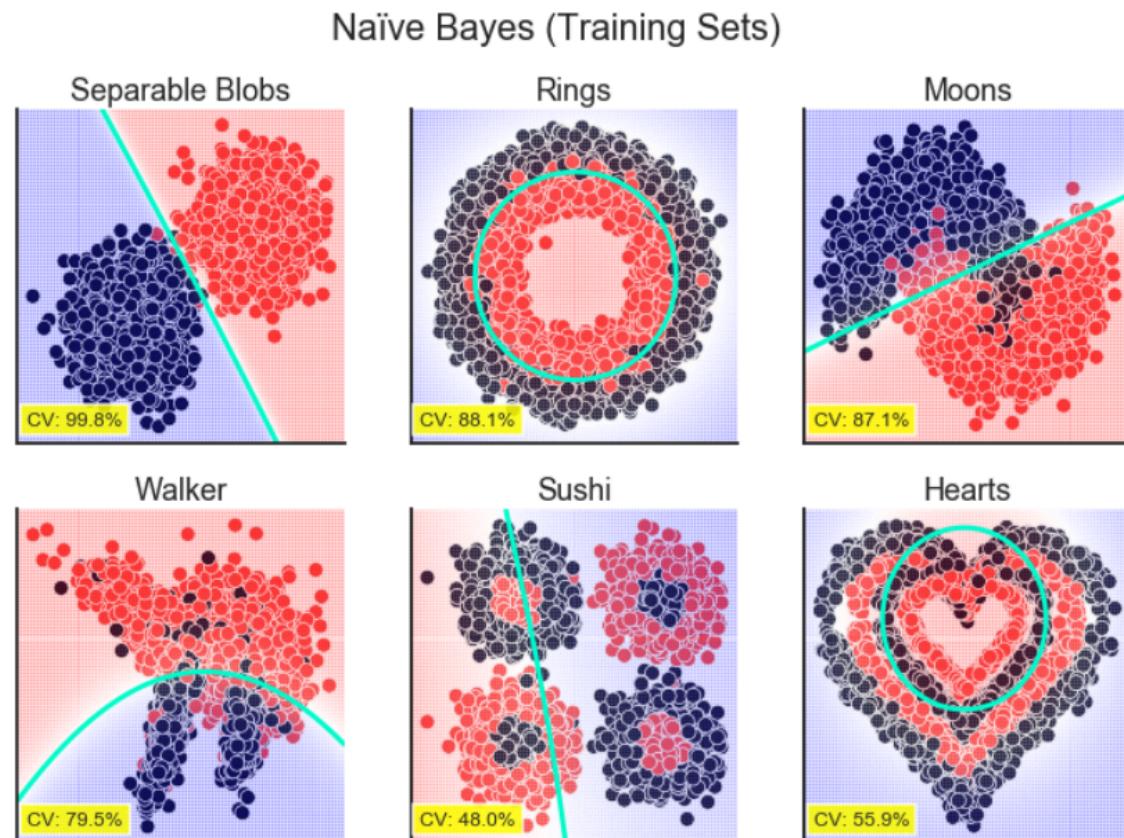
Test  
Data Set  
(1,000 cases)



# Naïve Bayes

- Conditional probability using Bayes' Theorem.
- Assume conditional independence

$$P(C|x_1, x_2) = \frac{P(x_1, x_2|C) \cdot P(C)}{P(x_1, x_2)}$$
$$\approx \frac{P(x_1|C) \cdot P(x_2|C) \cdot P(C)}{P(x_1, x_2)}$$



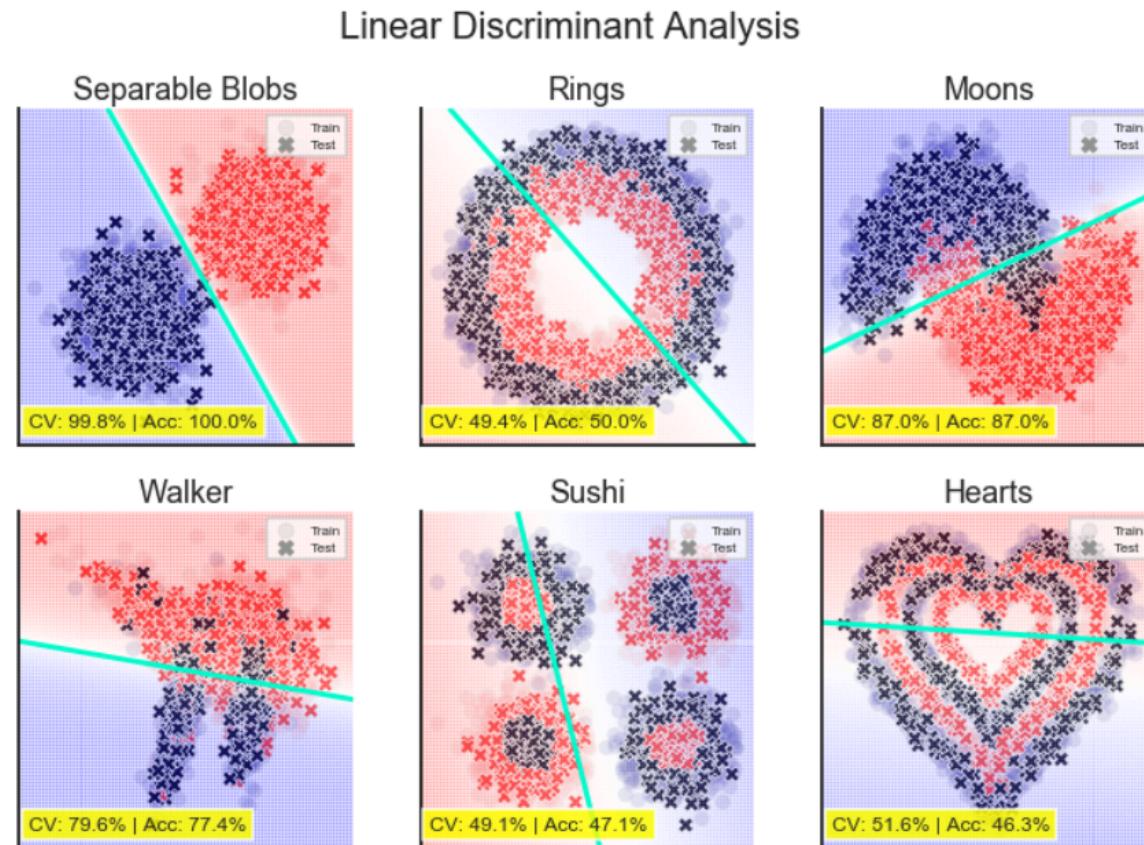
# Discriminant Analysis

Discriminant Analysis methods find regions in feature space that:

- Minimize the distance within groups.
- Maximizes the distance between groups.

Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA):

- Assumes attributes are normally distributed.
- Classes share covariance matrix.

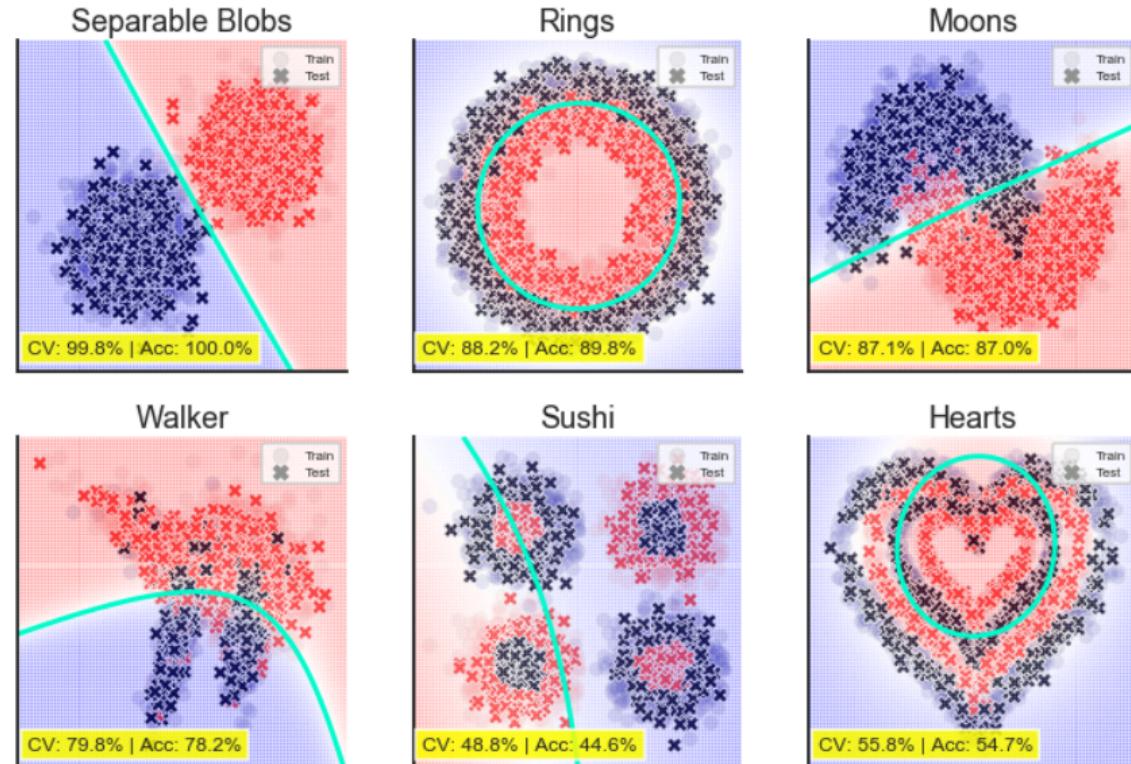


# Discriminant Analysis

Quadratic Discriminant Analysis (QDA):

- Classes do not share covariance matrix.

Quadratic Discriminant Analysis



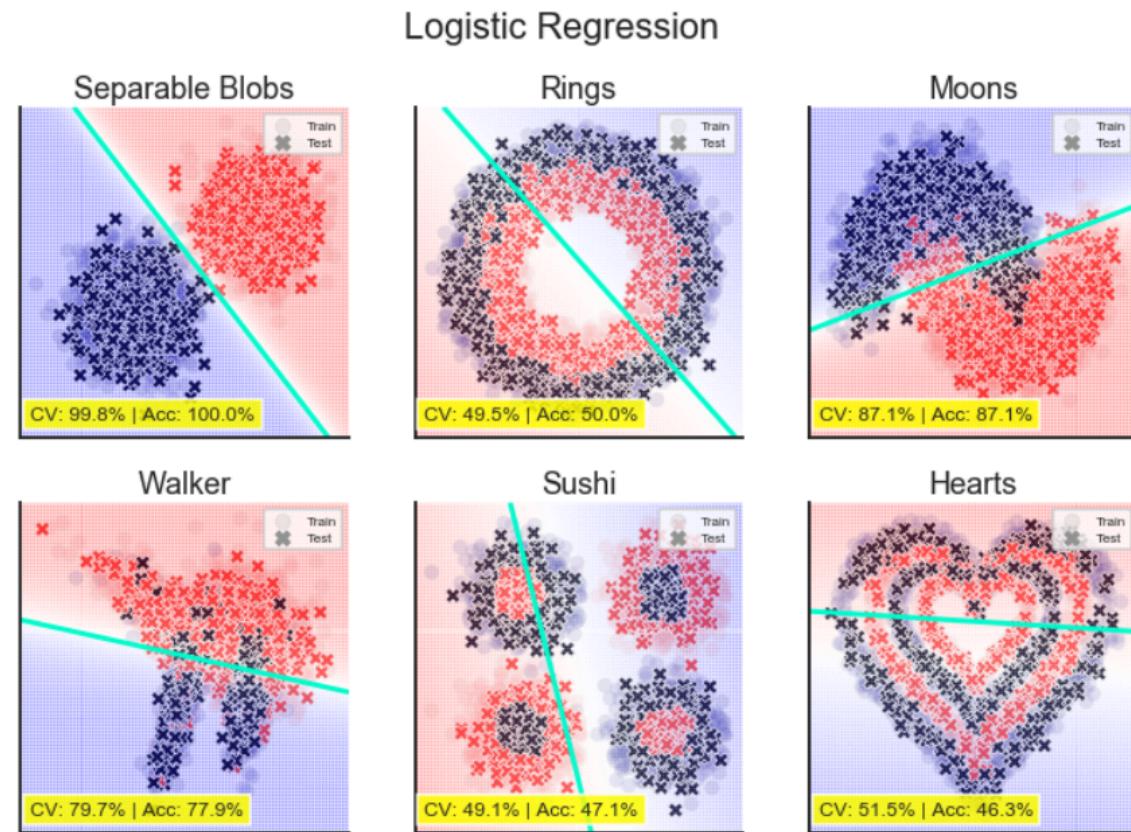
# Logistic Regression

- Builds a linear model based on

$$\log \left( \frac{P(C|x_1, x_2)}{1 - P(C|x_1, x_2)} \right)$$

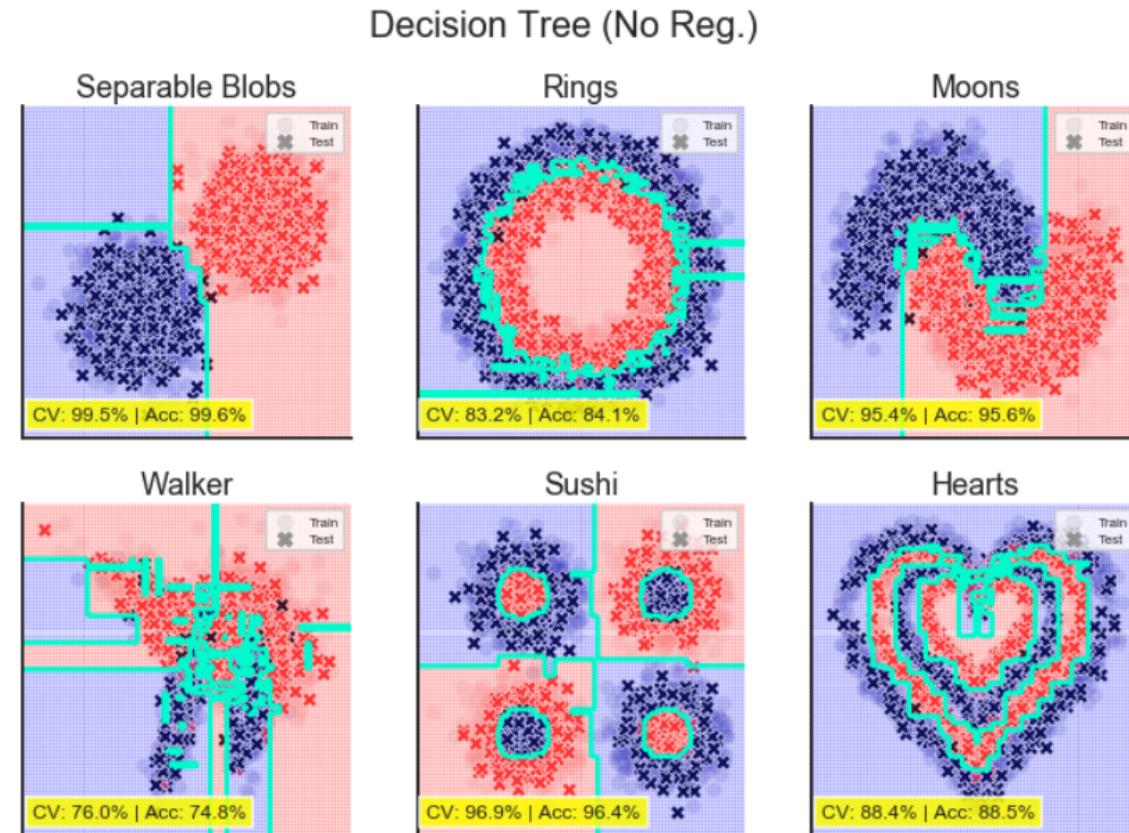
- The resulting model has the form:

$$P(C|x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-w_0 - w_1x_1 - w_2x_2)}$$



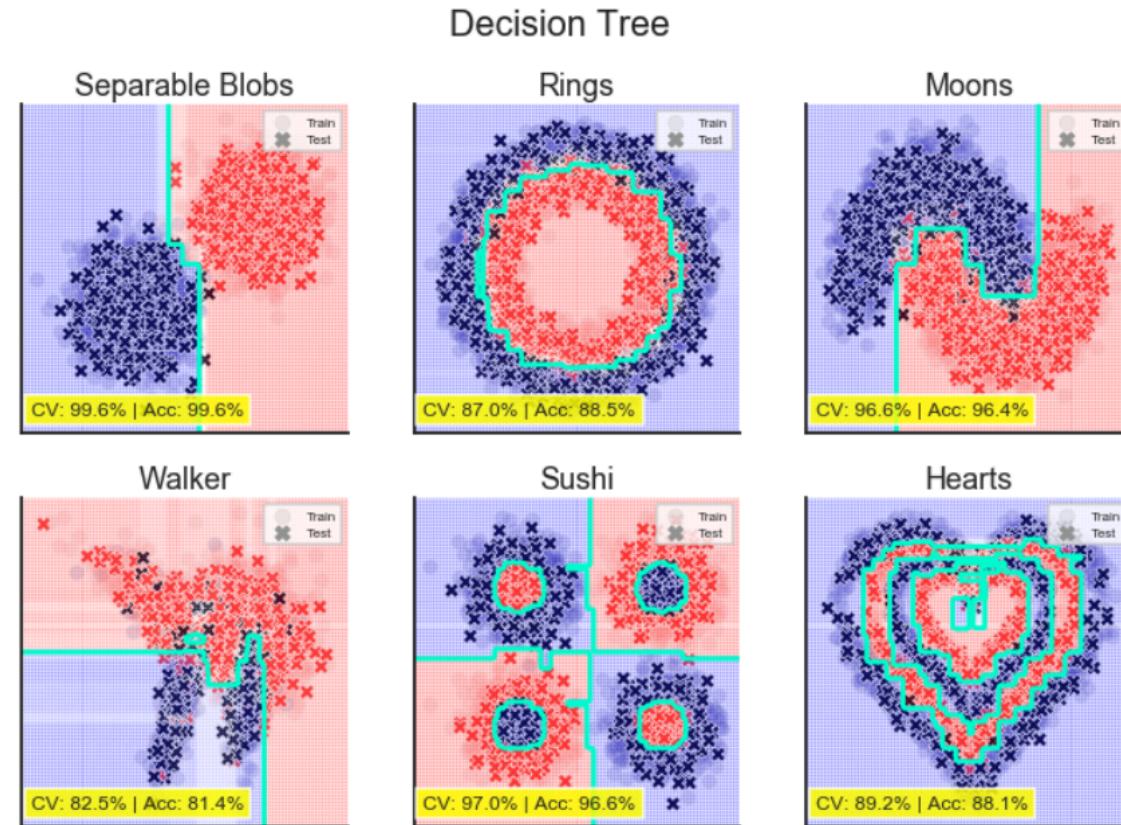
# Unregularized Decision Trees

- Divide-and-conquer strategy: segment data based on an attribute such that information gain is maximized.
- Information can be measured with Gini coefficient or entropy.
- Fully expanded decision trees often contain unnecessary structure.



# Regularized Decision Trees

- Pre-pruning: during training, decide which branches to stop developing.
- Post-pruning: subtree replacement involves training a full tree, then decide if a branch can be substituted by a leaf node.
- Constrain tree depth or number of examples in leaf nodes (hyperparameters).



# Ensemble Methods: Bagging

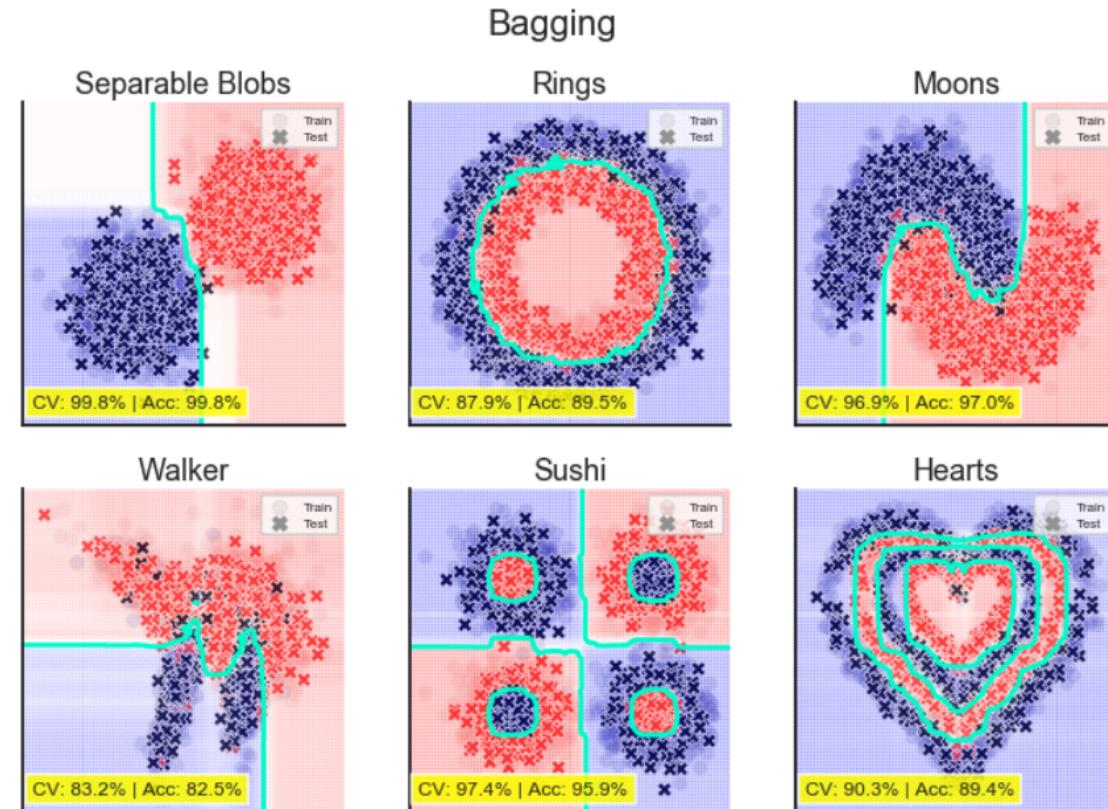
- Bagging = Bootstrap + Aggregation

## Bootstrap

- Create subsets of data by sampling with replacement; train decision trees on each subset.

## Aggregation

- Average predictions (regression) or add votes (classification).



# Ensemble Methods: Random Forest

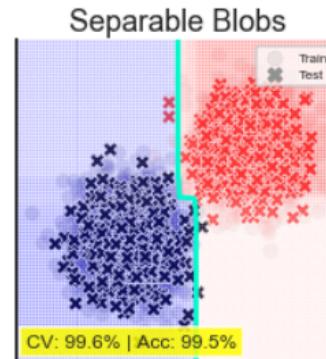
## Bootstrap

- Create subsets of data by sampling with replacement.
- Create subsets of features.
- Train Decision Tree Model (weak learner) on each subset.

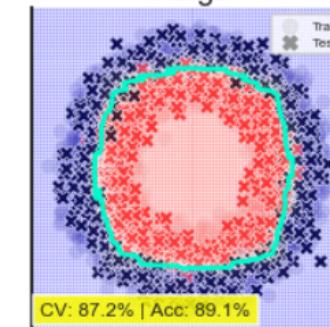
## Aggregation

- Average predictions or vote.

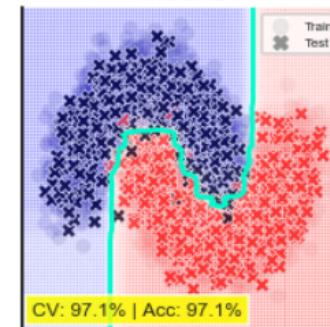
Random Forest



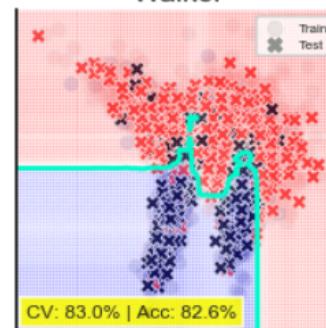
Rings



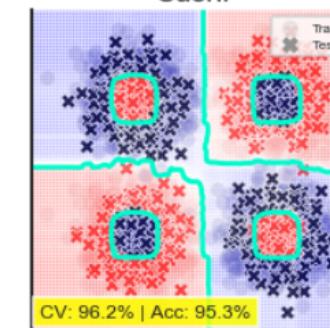
Moons



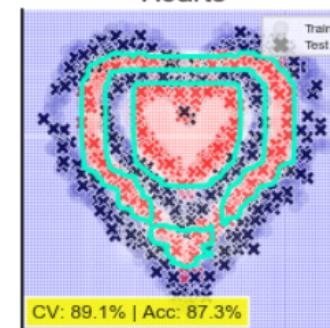
Walker



Sushi

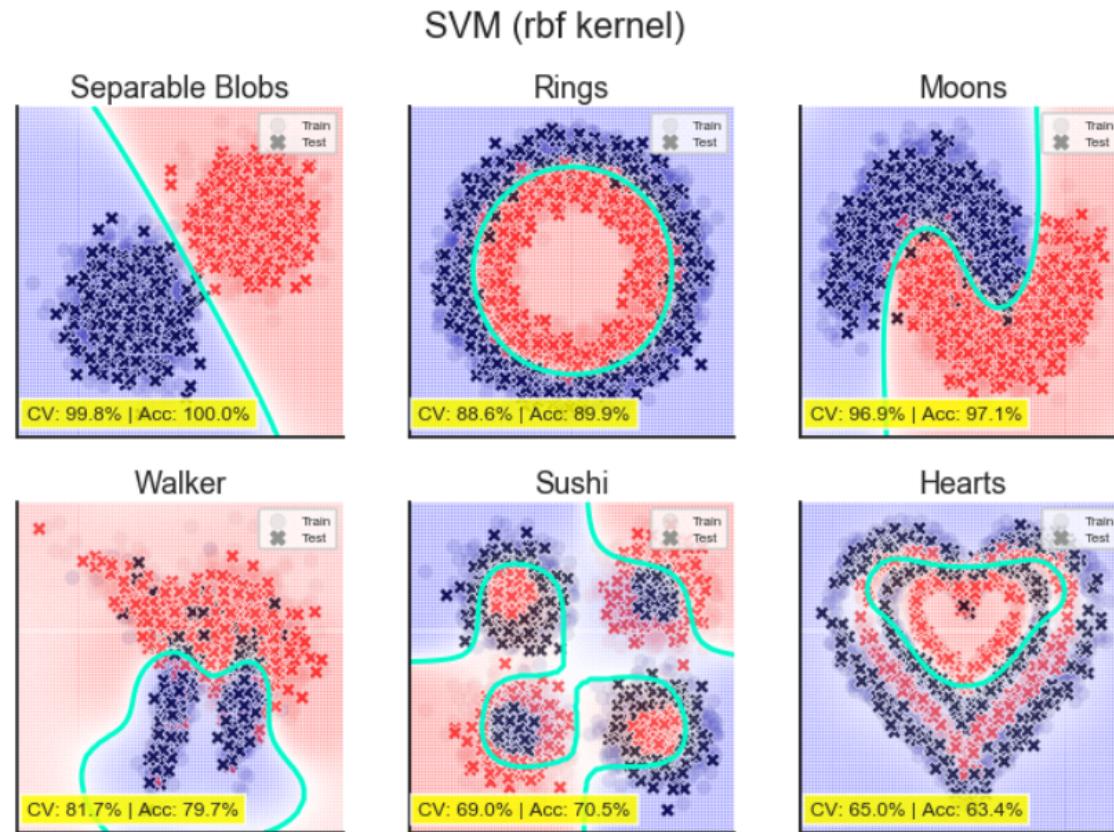


Hearts



# Support Vector Machines (1/2)

- Support vectors: The model selects a small number of critical boundary instances from each class.
- Builds a linear discriminant function that separates classes with a margin that is as wide as possible, the maximum margin hyperplane.

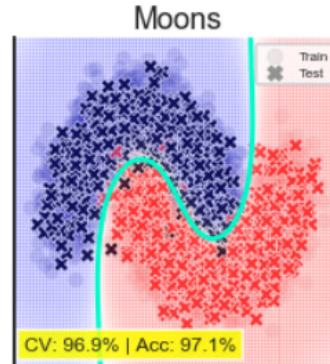
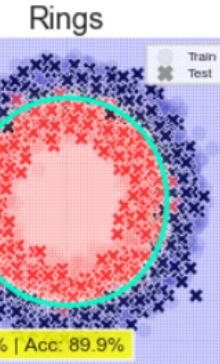
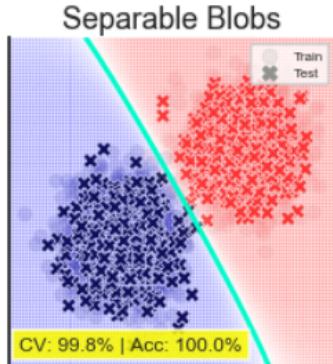


## Support Vector Machines (2/2)

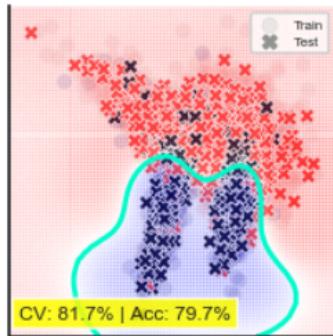
SVM use linear models to implement non-linear boundaries by performing a non-linear mapping of inputs:

- Polynomial
- Radial Basis Function
- Sigmoid

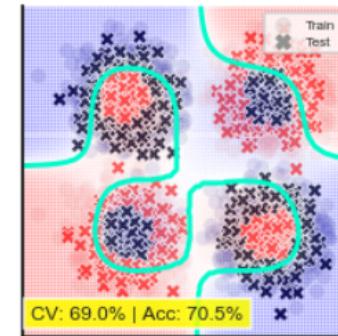
SVM (rbf kernel)



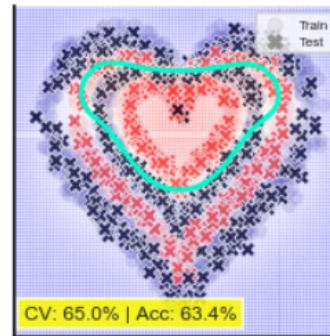
Walker



Sushi

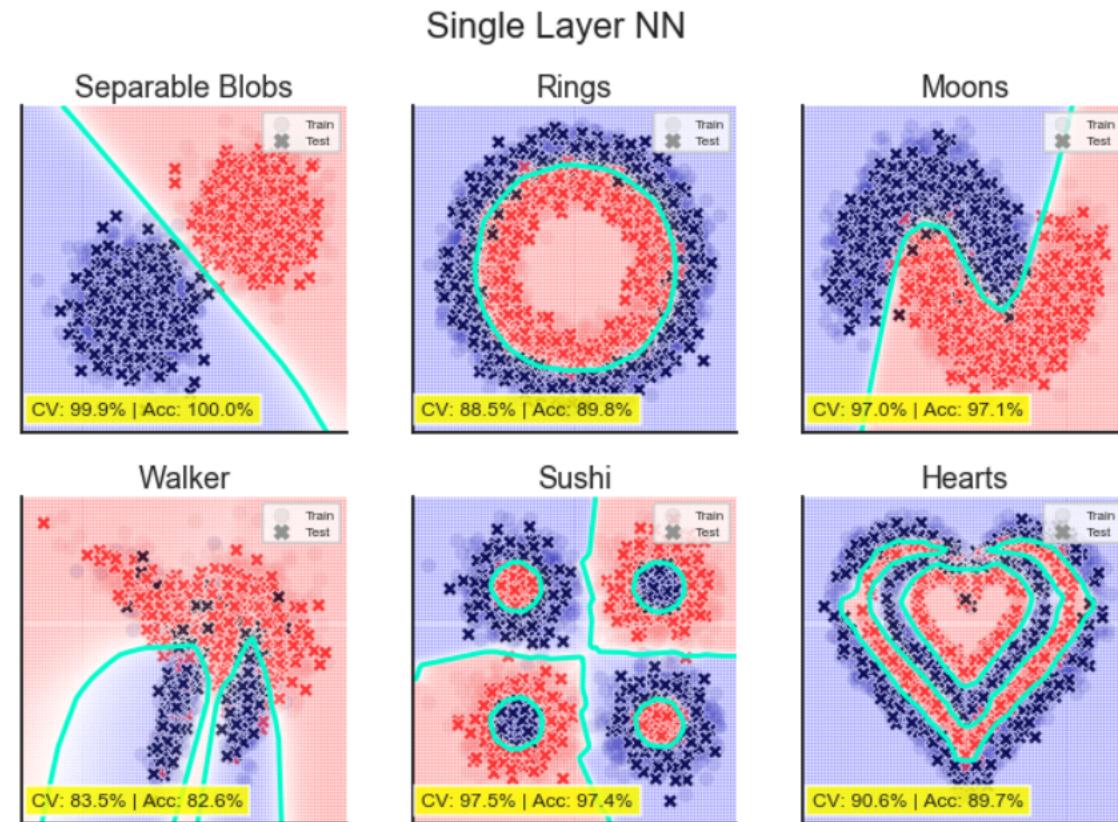


Hearts



# Neural Net

- Combine simple perceptron-like models in a hierarchical structure.
- Use (mostly) differentiable activation functions such as sigmoid or ReLU, such that gradient-based optimization can be applied.



# Model Development and Training

# Evaluating ML Models

- Evaluating ML models in production is a multidimensional problem.
- Model performance (of course) is important, but so are how long it takes to train, latency at inference, (cost of) compute requirements, and explainability.
- Different types of algorithms require different numbers of labels as well as different amounts of computing power.
- Some take longer to train than others, whereas some take longer to make predictions.

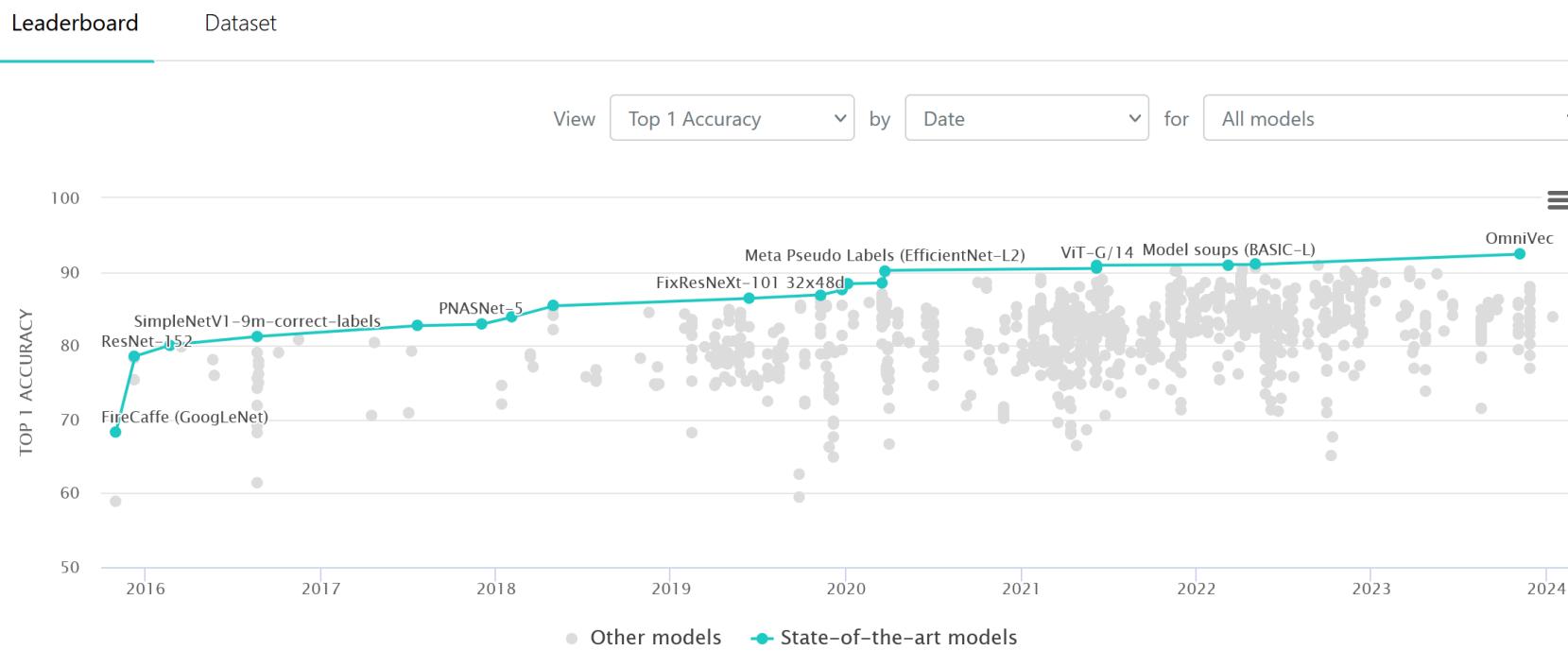
# Guidance for Model Selection (1/3)

## Avoid the state-of-the-art trap

- Researchers evaluate models in academic settings: if a model is state-of-the-art, it performs better than existing models on some static dataset.
- It is essential to remain up to date but solve the problem first.
- Start with the simplest models
- Simple is better than complex: easier to deploy, easier to understand, and serve as a baseline.
- Easier to deploy: speeds up the experimentation cycle.
- Easier to understand: adds complexity as needed.
- Baseline: simple models serve as a starting comparison point for model development.

# Guidance for Model Selection (1/3)

## Image Classification on ImageNet

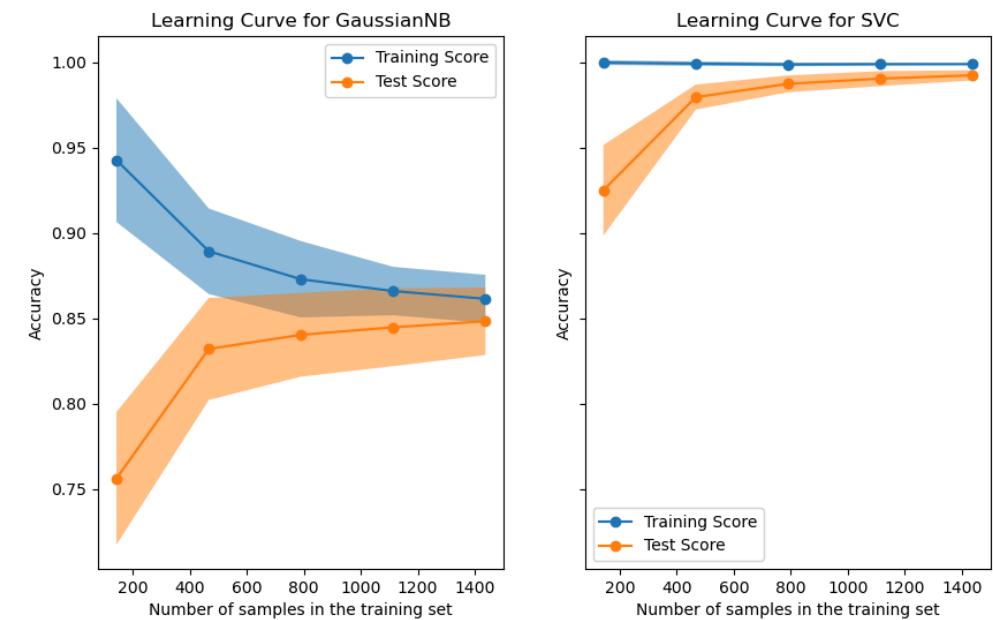


State of the Art Model Performance on ImageNet c.2023 ([paperswithcode.com](https://paperswithcode.com))

# Guidance for Model Selection (2/3)

## Avoid human biases in selecting models

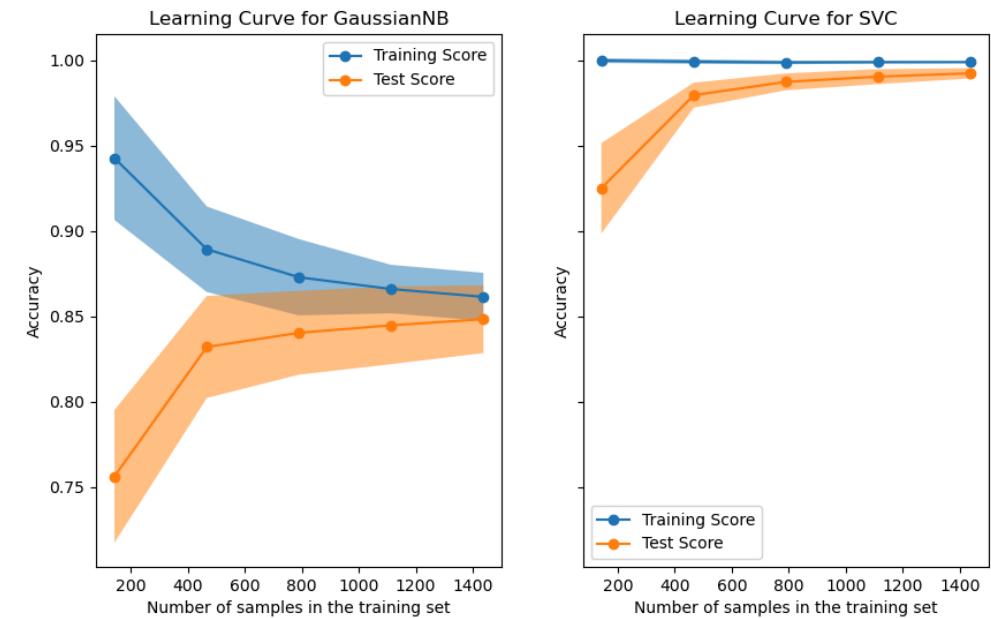
- Human biases can be introduced throughout the model development process.
- Experiment methodically and store results.
- Any model has three components: algorithmic logic, code, and data.



# Guidance for Model Selection (2/3)

Evaluate good performance now  
versus good performance later

- Using learning curves is a simple way to estimate how your model's performance might change with more data.
- While evaluating models, consider their potential for improvement and how easy/difficult it is to achieve.



## Guidance for Model Selection (3/3)

### Evaluate trade-offs

- False positives vs false negatives: reducing false positives may increase false negatives and vice versa.
- Compute requirement and model performance: a more complex model may deliver better performance, but at what cost?

## Guidance for Model Selection (3/3)

Understand your model's assumptions:

- Every model comes with its assumptions.
- Prediction assumption: every model that aims to predict an output  $Y$  from an input  $X$  assumes that it is possible to predict  $Y$  based on  $X$ .
- Independent and Identically Distributed: neural nets assume that examples are independent and identically distributed.

## Guidance for Model Selection (3/3)

- Smoothness: supervised learning models assume that a set of functions can transform inputs into outputs such that similar inputs are transformed into similar outputs. If an input  $X$  produces  $Y$ , then an input close to  $X$  would produce an output proportionally close to  $Y$ .
- Linear boundaries, conditional independence, normally distributed, and so on.

# Ensembles

## The Wisdom of the Crowds

“Aggregating the judgment of many consistently beats the accuracy of the average member of the group, and is often as startlingly accurate [...] In fact, in any group there are likely to be individuals who beat the group. But those bull’s-eye guesses typically say more about the power of luck [...] than about the skill of the guesser. That becomes clear when the exercise is repeated many times.”  
(Tetlock and Gardner, 2015)

# Ensembles

- Ensemble methods are less favoured in production because ensembles are more complex to deploy and harder to maintain.
- Common in tasks where small performance boosts can lead to substantial financial gains, such as predicting the click-through rate for ads.
- Ensembles perform better when underlying classifiers are uncorrelated.

## Leaderboard

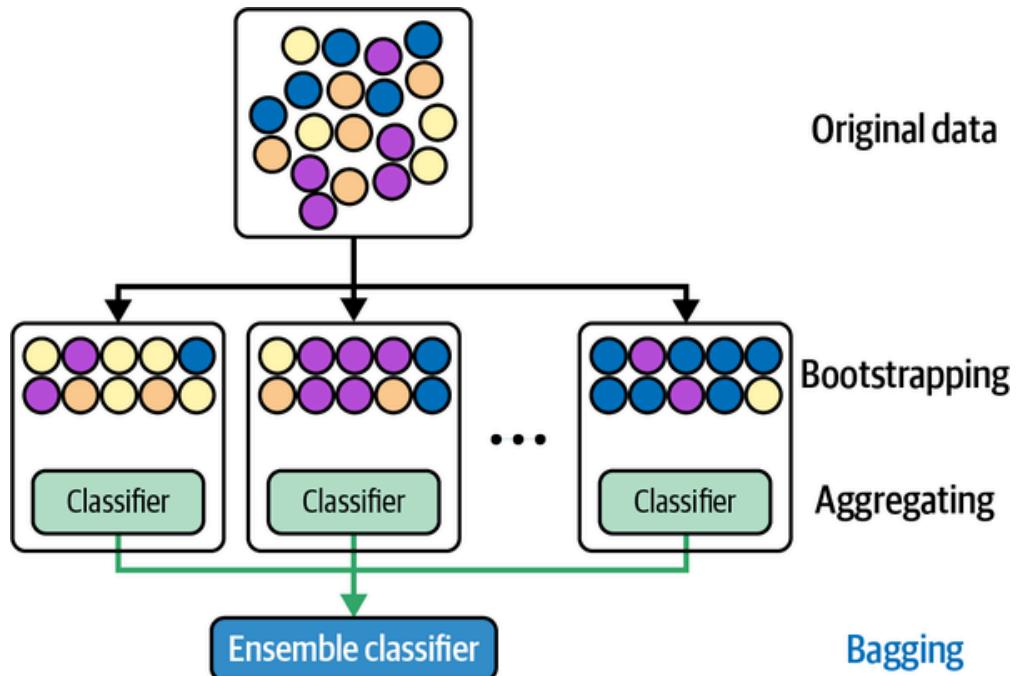
SQuAD2.0 tests the ability of a system to not only answer reading comprehension questions, but also abstain when presented with a question that cannot be answered based on the provided paragraph.

Rank	Model	EM	F1
	Human Performance <i>Stanford University</i> (Rajpurkar & Jia et al. '18)	86.831	89.452
1 Jun 04, 2021	IE-Net (ensemble) <i>RICOH_SRCB_DML</i>	<b>90.939</b>	<b>93.214</b>
2 Feb 21, 2021	FPNet (ensemble) <i>Ant Service Intelligence Team</i>	90.871	93.183
3 May 16, 2021	IE-NetV2 (ensemble) <i>RICOH_SRCB_DML</i>	90.860	93.100
4 Apr 06, 2020	SA-Net on Albert (ensemble) <i>QIANXIN</i>	90.724	93.011
5 May 05, 2020	SA-Net-V2 (ensemble) <i>QIANXIN</i>	90.679	92.948
5 Apr 05, 2020	Retro-Reader (ensemble) <i>Shanghai Jiao Tong University</i> <a href="http://arxiv.org/abs/2001.09694">http://arxiv.org/abs/2001.09694</a>	90.578	92.978
5 Feb 05, 2021	FPNet (ensemble) <i>YuYang</i>	90.600	92.899

## Possible Outcomes

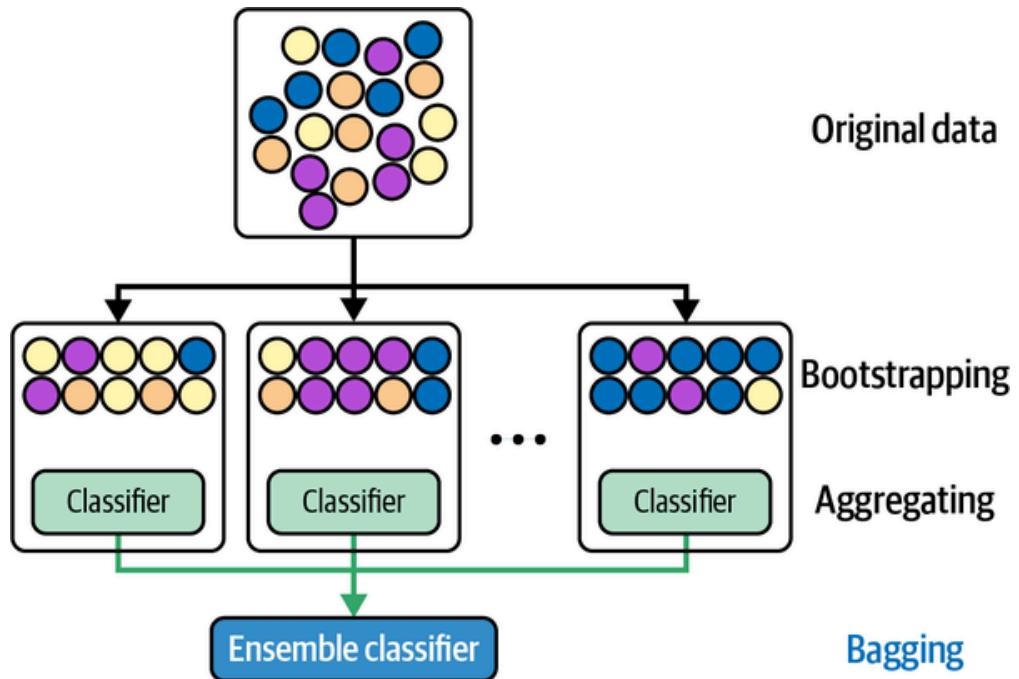
Outputs of three models	Probability	Ensemble's output
All three are correct	$0.7 * 0.7 * 0.7 = 0.343$	Correct
Only two are correct	$(0.7 * 0.7 * 0.3) * 3 = 0.441$	Correct
Only one is correct	$(0.3 * 0.3 * 0.7) * 3 = 0.189$	Wrong
None are correct	$0.3 * 0.3 * 0.3 = 0.027$	Wrong

## Bagging (1/2)

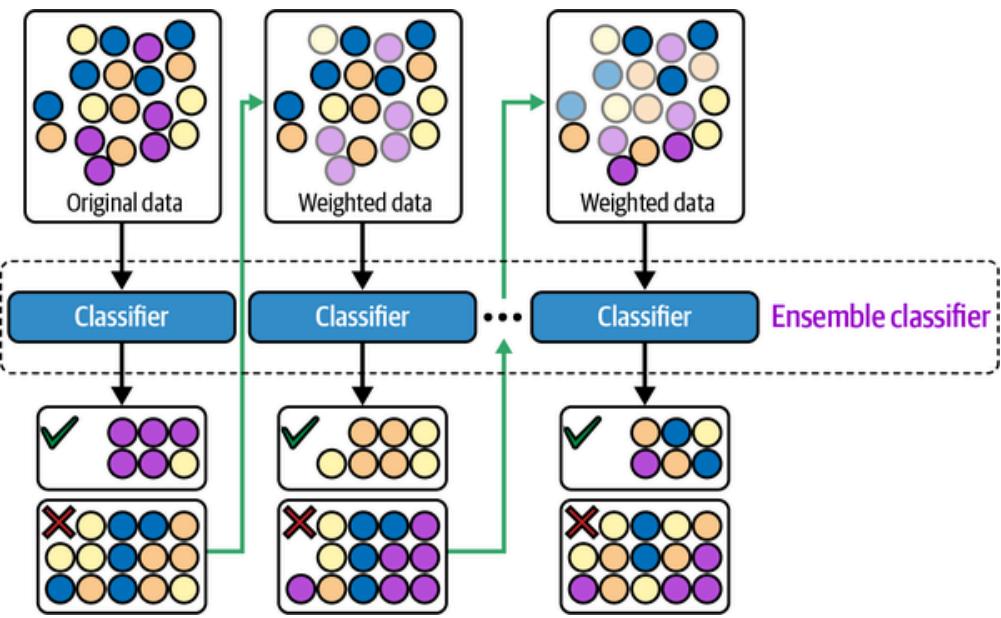


- Bagging (bootstrap aggregating) is designed to improve ML algorithms' training stability and accuracy.
- Reduces variance and helps avoid overfitting; it improves unstable methods (e.g., tree-based methods)
- Sampling with replacement ensures that each bootstrap is created independently from its peers.

## Bagging (2/2)



- Given a data set, create n data sets by sampling with replacement (bootstrap).
- Train a classification or regression model on each bootstrap.
- If classification, decide by majority vote; if regression, use the mean result.

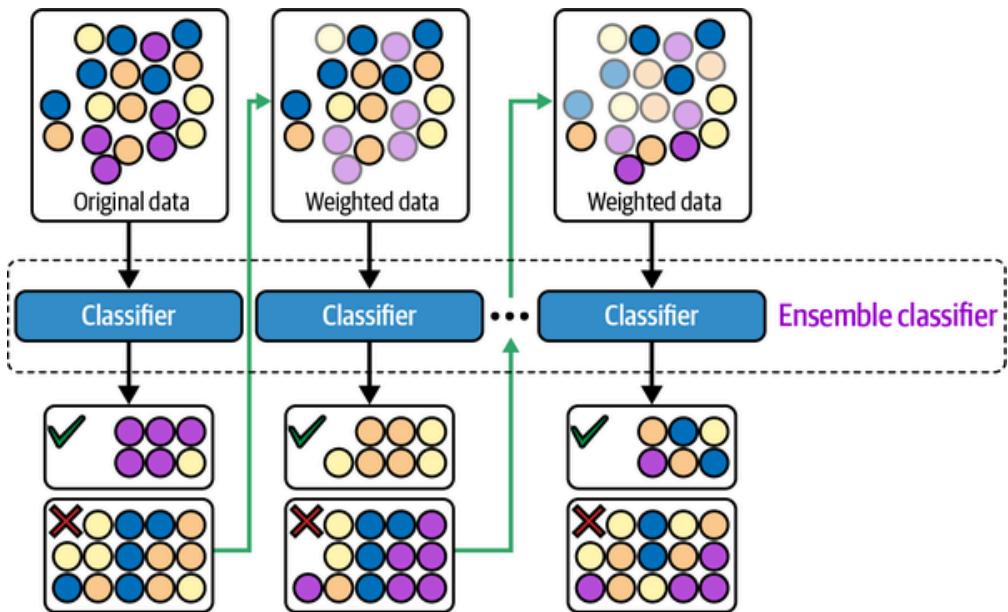


## Boosting (1/2)

- Family of iterative ensemble algorithms that convert weak learners to strong ones.
- Examples: Gradient Boosting Machine (GBM), XGBoost, and LightGBM.

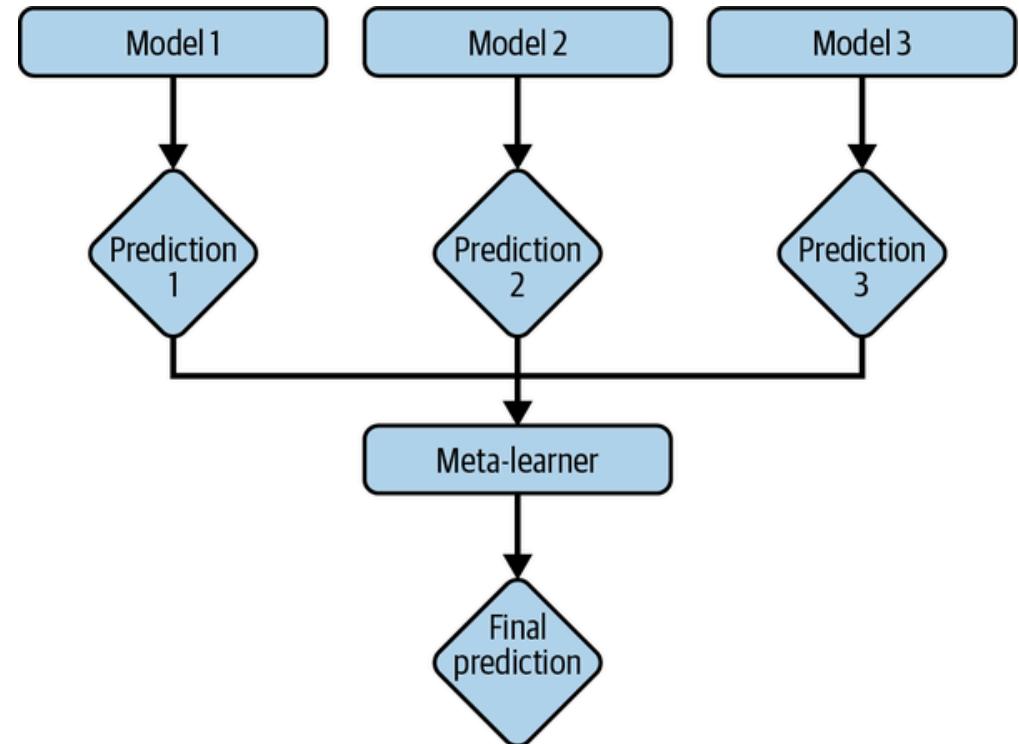
## Boosting (2/2)

- Each learner is trained on the same set of samples, but the samples are weighted differently in each iteration.
- Future weak learners focus more on the examples that previous weak learners misclassified.



# Stacking

- Create base learners from the training data.
- Create a meta-learner that combines the outputs of the base learners to output predictions.



# Experiment Tracking and Versioning

# Experiment Tracking

- The process of tracking the progress and results of an experiment is called experiment tracking.
- ML Flow and Weights & Balances are experiment tracking tools.
- At a minimum, track performance (loss) and time (speed).
- Values over time of any parameter and hyperparameter whose changes can affect model performance.

# Experiment Tracking

- Model performance metrics: on all nontest splits, like accuracy, F1, and perplexity.
- Loss curve: train split and each of the eval splits.
- Log of corresponding sample, prediction, and ground truth labels.
- Speed of the model: number of steps per second or tokens processed per second.
- System performance metrics: memory, CPU, GPU.

# Versioning

- The process of logging an experiment's details to recreate it later or compare it with other experiments is called versioning.
- ML models in production are part code and part data.
- Code versioning has more or less become a standard in the industry.
- Data versioning is not standard.

# Versioning

- Code versioning tools allow you to switch between versions of the codebase by keeping copies of all the old files. Data may be too large for duplication to be feasible.
- Code versioning tools allow several people to work on the same code simultaneously by replicating locally. Data may be too large, as well.
- What is a diff when versioning data? DVC, for example, only checks for changes in the checksum.
- Compliance with GDPR may also be problematic if the full history of data is kept.

# Making Progress

## Debugging: Why ML Models Fail

- Theoretical constraints: model assumptions are not met. For example, use a linear model when decision boundaries are not linear.
- Poor implementation: The model may be a good fit, but implementation has errors.
- Poor choice of hyperparameters: with the same model, one set of hyperparameters can give better results than others.

# Debugging: Why ML Models Fail

- Data problems: noise and dirty data are everywhere. Additionally, poor implementation of data flows can lead to data problems.
- Poor choice of features: Too many features may cause overfitting or data leakage. Too few features might lack predictive power to allow for making good predictions.
- Some debugging approaches:
  - Start simple and gradually add more components.
  - Overfit a single batch.
  - Set a random seed.

# AutoML

- AutoML is the automatic process of finding ML algorithms to solve real-world problems.
- The most popular form of AutoML is hyperparameter tuning.
- Searching the Hyperparameter space can be time-consuming and resource-intensive.

# Model Offline Evaluation

- Measure model performance before and after deployment.
- Evaluation methods should be the same for models during development and production.
- Techniques for model offline evaluation:
  - Use baselines.
  - Tests: perturbation tests, invariance tests, directional expectation tests, model calibration, confidence measurement, slice-based evaluation.

## Model Offline Evaluation: Baselines

- Random baseline: if the model predicts at random, how would it perform?
- Simple heuristic: how does the model perform vs a simple (non-ML) rule of thumb?
- Zero rule baseline: trivial prediction, always predicts the same thing.
- Human baseline: human-level performance may be the required baseline.
- Existing solutions.

## Evaluation Methods in Production

- Perturbation tests: make changes to test splits, such as adding noise to input data.  
If a model is not robust to noise, it will be challenging to maintain.
- Invariance tests: specific input changes should not lead to output changes—for example, protected classes.
- Directional expectation tests.

# Evaluation Methods in Production

## Model calibration or conformal prediction methods

- Idea: If the forecast has a 70% chance of rain, then 70% of the time this forecast was made, it actually rained.
- Prediction scores are often normalized to values between 0 and 1. It is tempting to think of them as probabilities, but they are not necessarily so.
- Use conformal prediction methods to calibrate prediction scores.
- Confidence measurement: show only predictions where the model is confident.
- Slice-based evaluation: model performance is different in subsets of data.

# References

## References

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- Domingos, Pedro. "A few useful things to know about machine learning." Communications of the ACM 55, no. 10 (2012): 78-87.
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- Tetlock and Gardner. Superforecasting: The art and science of prediction. Random House, 2016.