

# Label Aggregation: Belief Propagation and Others

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# Label Aggregation

- Goal:
  - Given a set of labels from a set of workers to tasks
  - Infer the true label of each task

| !amt_annotation_ids                      | !amt_worker_ids | orig_id | response | gold |
|--|-----------------|---------|----------|------|
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1ZB28YQ9GBT88Z2W1KDYTZ | A19IBSKBTABMR3  | 266     | 1        | 1    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1ZYAJC56Z6FBPGXJYVPXMO | AEX5NCH03LWSG   | 266     | 1        | 1    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1ZFWHATWX49Y3ZTPX4FYHO | A17RPF5ZMO75GW  | 266     | 1        | 1    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1ZV89Z3WRZ6R8ZM4ZZ070  | A15L6WGIK3VU7N  | 266     | 0        | 1    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1ZWZHYZCCYYVPDZNRAZ    | A3U7T47F498T1P  | 266     | 1        | 1    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1Z09PZYS137RPZT6SY4A20 | AXBQF8RALCIGV   | 266     | 1        | 1    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1ZQ30CJXY2EB96XJS543YZ | A1DCEOFAUIDY58  | 266     | 1        | 1    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1ZXZ3ZNY7VZKZSCY0B94Z  | A1Q4VUJBMY78YR  | 266     | 0        | 1    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1ZDZGGWVYY8XDZTKYC9XKZ | A18941IO2ZZWW6  | 266     | 1        | 1    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1Z3Z7WY9J4WFMX60VRVXZ  | A11GX90QFWDLMM  | 266     | 1        | 1    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1ZB28YQ9GBT88Z2W1KDYTZ | A19IBSKBTABMR3  | 934     | 0        | 0    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1ZYAJC56Z6FBPGXJYVPXMO | AEX5NCH03LWSG   | 934     | 0        | 0    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1ZFWHATWX49Y3ZTPX4FYHO | A17RPF5ZMO75GW  | 934     | 0        | 0    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1ZV89Z3WRZ6R8ZM4ZZ070  | A15L6WGIK3VU7N  | 934     | 0        | 0    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1ZWZHYZCCYYVPDZNRAZ    | A3U7T47F498T1P  | 934     | 0        | 0    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1Z09PZYS137RPZT6SY4A20 | AXBQF8RALCIGV   | 934     | 1        | 0    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1ZQ30CJXY2EB96XJS543YZ | A1DCEOFAUIDY58  | 934     | 0        | 0    |
| 89KZPYXSTGTJ0CZY2Y1ZXZ3ZNY7VZKZSCY0B94Z  | A1Q4VUJBMY78YR  | 934     | 0        | 0    |

# What We Learned So Far

- EM-based methods
  - Empirically performs well
  - Relatively computationally efficient
  - No theoretical guarantee
- Matrix-based methods
  - Comes with theoretical guarantee
  - Computationally expensive
  - Require some “potentially unreasonable” assumptions for the analysis

# This Lecture

- More label aggregation methods
  - Iterative message passing
  - Variational inference
  - Minimax entropy
- Discussion on common assumptions and limitations
- Examples on human-in-the-loop learning

# Iterative Learning for Reliable Crowdsourcing Systems

Karger, Oh, and Shah. NIPS 2011.

# Iterative Message Passing

- One of the more well-cited papers in label aggregation
  - One of the early non-EM-based papers
  - The algorithm is very simple and intuitive
  - Solid theoretical guarantees
  - One of the first to formally address the task assignment question

# Setting (Basically the same as the paper in our previous lecture)

- Basic components
  - $m$  tasks  $i = 1, \dots, m$
  - $n$  workers  $j = 1, \dots, n$
  - $A_{i,j} \in \{+1, -1\}$ : label provided by worker  $j$  to task  $i$
- Label generation process
  - Each task  $i$  has a true label  $s_i \in \{+1, -1\}$
  - Each worker  $j$  gives correct label with probability  $p_j$

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} s_i & \text{with probability } p_j , \\ -s_i & \text{with probability } 1 - p_j , \end{cases}$$

Essentially

- Homogeneous tasks
- Unknown worker skills

# Key Idea of the Proposed Algorithm

|          | Task 1 | Task 2 | Task 3 | Task 4 | ... |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|
| Worker 1 | 1      | -1     | 1      | 1      |     |
| Worker 2 | 1      | -1     | -1     | -1     |     |
| Worker 3 | -1     | 1      | -1     | 1      |     |
| Worker 4 | 1      | -1     | 1      | 1      |     |
| ...      |        |        |        |        |     |

Labels are in  $\{1, -1\}$

One-min short discussion:

What do you think is the most likely label for task 3? Why?  
(We can apply SVD, but can you come up with more intuitive methods?)

# Iterative Updates

|          | Task 1 | Task 2 | Task 3 | Task 4 | ... | skill estimates |      |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|-----------------|------|
| Worker 1 | 1      | -1     | 1      | 1      |     | 0.875           | 1    |
| Worker 2 | 1      | -1     | -1     | -1     |     | 0.625           | 0.5  |
| Worker 3 | -1     | 1      | -1     | 1      |     | 0.375           | 0.25 |
| Worker 4 | 1      | -1     | 1      | 1      |     | 0.875           | 1    |
| ...      |        |        |        |        |     |                 |      |

|                 |   |    |   |   |  |
|-----------------|---|----|---|---|--|
| label estimates | 1 | -1 | ? | 1 |  |
|                 | 1 | -1 | 1 | 1 |  |

Note:  
The algorithm in the paper shares  
similar ideas but is not exactly the same.

# Unlikely to Have a Complete Matrix

- In the previous lecture
  - Assume each rater  $i$  has a probability  $p_i$  to rate a contribution

$$u_{ti} = \begin{cases} q_t & \text{w.p. } p_i \psi_i \\ -q_t & \text{w.p. } p_i (1 - \psi_i) \\ 0 & \text{w.p. } 1 - p_i. \end{cases}$$

Not an ideal model.  
However, it makes the analysis tractable.

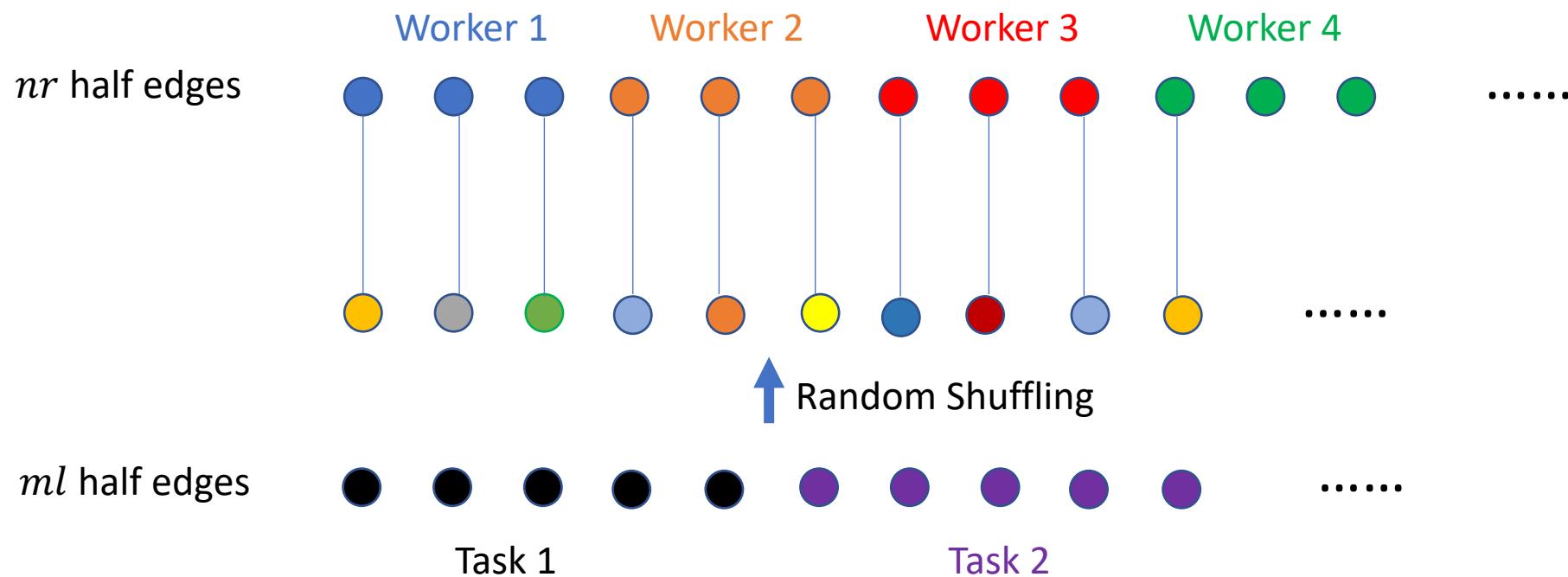
- In this work, assume the requester can **assign tasks** to workers
  - Want to achieve similar property above (in a more deterministic way)

# Task Allocation via Regular Graph

- Requirements:
  - $m$  tasks;  $n$  workers
  - Each worker is assigned  $r$  tasks
  - Each task is assigned to  $l$  workers
  - $ml = nr$
- Assume  $m \gg r$  and  $n \gg l$
- Goal: Try to make the allocation as “uniform” as possible

# $(l, r)$ -Regular Bipartite Graph

- An informal description
  - Each worker is assigned  $r = 3$  tasks
  - Each task is assigned to  $l = 5$  workers



# Inference via Iterative Message Passing

- Notations

- Task message at round  $k$ :  $x_{i \rightarrow j}^{(k)}$
- Worker message at round  $k$ :  $y_{j \rightarrow i}^{(k)}$

Task messages:  
How likely the true label is +1

- Algorithm:

- Randomly initialize worker message from a normal distribution
- For  $k = 1$  to  $k_{max}$

$$\begin{aligned} x_{i \rightarrow j}^{(k)} &= \sum_{j' \in \partial i \setminus j} A_{ij'} y_{j' \rightarrow i}^{(k-1)}, \\ y_{j \rightarrow i}^{(k)} &= \sum_{i' \in \partial j \setminus i} A_{i'j} x_{i' \rightarrow j}^{(k)}, \end{aligned}$$

$\partial_j$ : the set of tasks assigned to worker  $j$   
 $\partial_i$  : the set of workers who are assigned task  $i$

- Prediction according to  $\text{sign}(\sum_{j \in \partial_i} A_{ij} y_{j \rightarrow i}^{(k_{max})})$

# Key Intuitions in the Analysis

- Using approximated tree structure
  - $(l, r)$ -regular bipartite graph gives a local tree structure in message passing
  - Each leaf is drawn from Gaussian distribution
  - The root is a *weighted sum of Gaussian variables*
- Key techniques used
  - Estimate the mean and variance of the weighted sum of Gaussian variables
  - Using the estimated mean and variance to prove the tail bounds

# Main Results (1)

**Corollary 2.2.** *Under the hypotheses of Theorem 2.1, there exists  $m_0 = 3\ell r e^{\ell q/4\sigma_\infty^2} (\hat{\ell}\hat{r})^{2(k-1)}$  and  $k_0 = 1 + (\log(q/\mu^2)/\log(\hat{\ell}\hat{r}q^2))$  such that*

$$\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{P}(t_i \neq \hat{t}_i^{(k)}) \leq 2e^{-\ell q/(4\sigma_\infty^2)}, \quad (4)$$

for all  $m \geq m_0$  and  $k \geq k_0$ .

- Expected error =  $O(e^{-lq})$ 
  - $l$ : number of workers per task
  - $q = E[(2p_j - 1)^2]$  is the expected “quality” of the workers

# Main Results (2)

**Theorem 2.7.** When  $q \leq C$  for any constant  $C < 1$ , there exists a positive constant  $C'$  such that

$$\min_{\tau \in \tilde{\mathcal{T}}_\ell, \hat{t}} \max_{t \in \{\pm 1\}^m, \mathcal{F} \in \mathcal{F}_q} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i \in [m]} \mathbb{P}(t_i \neq \hat{t}_i) \geq \frac{1}{2} e^{-C' \ell q}, \quad (5)$$

for all  $m$  where the task assignment scheme  $\tau$  ranges over all adaptive schemes that use at most  $m\ell$  queries and  $\hat{t}$  ranges over all estimators that are measurable functions over the responses.

- In this setting, no matter what task assignment algorithm you use (even adaptive ones), the expected error is at least  $\Omega(e^{-\ell q})$

A very strong claim, but what is the claim really saying?

Ben and Ricky will discuss more on task assignment on Thursday.

# Learning from the Wisdom of Crowd by Minimax Entropy

Zhou et al. NIPS 2012.

# Entropy (Information Entropy)

- Consider a random variable  $X$  with  $n$  possible values
- The probability for each value  $i$  happening is  $P_i$
- Information entropy (Shannon entropy)

$$H(X) = - \sum_{i=1}^n P_i \ln P_i$$

What are the interpretations of entropy?

Higher entropy => More uncertainty => Higher unpredictability

# Principle of Maximum Entropy

“the probability distribution which best represents the current state of knowledge is the one with largest entropy”

- Consider a dice with 6 faces
  - Without any knowledge, what's your best bet on the probability of 1~6 happening
  - Assume you are told the probability of 3 happening is  $\frac{1}{2}$ , what's your best bet on the probability of the rest numbers happening?

# Setting

Goal: Infer  $\vec{\pi}$  and  $\vec{y}$  from  $\vec{z}$

## Observations

|            | Task 1          | Task 2          | Task 3          | ... | Task $n$        |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|-----------------|
| Worker 1   | $\vec{z}_{1,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{1,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{1,3}$ | ... | $\vec{z}_{1,n}$ |
| Worker 2   | $\vec{z}_{2,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{2,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{2,3}$ | ... | $\vec{z}_{2,n}$ |
| Worker 3   | $\vec{z}_{3,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{3,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{3,3}$ | ... | $\vec{z}_{3,n}$ |
| ...        | ...             | ...             | ...             | ... | ...             |
| Worker $m$ | $\vec{z}_{m,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{m,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{m,3}$ | ... | $\vec{z}_{m,n}$ |

## Underlying distribution

|            | Task 1            | Task 2            | Task 3            | ... | Task $n$          |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Worker 1   | $\vec{\pi}_{1,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{1,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{1,3}$ | ... | $\vec{\pi}_{1,n}$ |
| Worker 2   | $\vec{\pi}_{2,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{2,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{2,3}$ | ... | $\vec{\pi}_{2,n}$ |
| Worker 3   | $\vec{\pi}_{3,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{3,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{3,3}$ | ... | $\vec{\pi}_{3,n}$ |
| ...        | ...               | ...               | ...               | ... | ...               |
| Worker $m$ | $\vec{\pi}_{m,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{m,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{m,3}$ | ... | $\vec{\pi}_{m,n}$ |

- Components
  - Workers  $i = 1, \dots, m$
  - Tasks  $j = 1, \dots, n$
  - Labels  $k = 1, \dots, c$
- $\vec{y}_j = (y_{j,1}, \dots, y_{j,c})$ 
  - $y_{j,l} = 1$  if task  $j$ 's label is  $l$
  - $y_{j,l} = 0$  otherwise
- $\vec{z}_{i,j} = (z_{i,j,1}, \dots, z_{i,j,c})$ 
  - $z_{i,j,k} = 1$  if worker  $i$  label task  $j$  as class  $k$
  - $z_{i,j,k} = 0$  otherwise
- $\vec{\pi}_{i,j} = (\pi_{i,j,1}, \dots, \pi_{i,j,c})$ 
  - $\pi_{i,j,k}$ : probability for worker  $i$  label task  $j$  as class  $k$

# Apply the Maximum Entropy Principle

- Assume true labels  $\vec{y}_j$  are given, how to infer  $\vec{\pi}$  ?
- Choose  $\vec{\pi}$  that maximizes entropy subject to the observations of  $\vec{z}$

- Choose  $\vec{\pi}$  that maximizes entropy subject to the observations of  $\vec{z}$

$$\max_{\pi} - \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^c \pi_{ijk} \ln \pi_{ijk}$$

Entropy

s.t.

$$\sum_{k=1}^c \pi_{ijk} = 1, \forall i, j, \pi_{ijk} \geq 0, \forall i, j, k.$$

Probability constraints

|          | Task 1          | Task 2          | Task 3          | ... | Task n          |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|-----------------|
| Worker 1 | $\vec{z}_{1,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{1,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{1,3}$ | ... | $\vec{z}_{1,n}$ |
| Worker 2 | $\vec{z}_{2,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{2,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{2,3}$ | ... | $\vec{z}_{2,n}$ |
| Worker 3 | $\vec{z}_{3,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{3,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{3,3}$ | ... | $\vec{z}_{3,n}$ |
| ...      | ...             | ...             | ...             | ... | ...             |
| Worker m | $\vec{z}_{m,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{m,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{m,3}$ | ... | $\vec{z}_{m,n}$ |

|          | Task 1            | Task 2            | Task 3            | ... | Task n            |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Worker 1 | $\vec{\pi}_{1,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{1,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{1,3}$ | ... | $\vec{\pi}_{1,n}$ |
| Worker 2 | $\vec{\pi}_{2,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{2,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{2,3}$ | ... | $\vec{\pi}_{2,n}$ |
| Worker 3 | $\vec{\pi}_{3,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{3,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{3,3}$ | ... | $\vec{\pi}_{3,n}$ |
| ...      | ...               | ...               | ...               | ... | ...               |
| Worker m | $\vec{\pi}_{m,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{m,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{m,3}$ | ... | $\vec{\pi}_{m,n}$ |

- Choose  $\vec{\pi}$  that maximizes entropy subject to the observations of  $\vec{z}$

$$\max_{\pi} - \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^c \pi_{ijk} \ln \pi_{ijk}$$

s.t.

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \pi_{ijk} = \sum_{i=1}^m z_{ijk}, \quad \forall j, k,$$

“expected # labels in each class = empirical # labels  
(We can relax them to “approximately equal”)

$$\sum_{k=1}^c \pi_{ijk} = 1, \quad \forall i, j, \quad \pi_{ijk} \geq 0, \quad \forall i, j, k.$$

|                 | <b>Task 1</b>   | <b>Task 2</b>   | <b>Task 3</b>   | ... | <b>Task <i>n</i></b> |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|----------------------|
| Worker 1        | $\vec{z}_{1,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{1,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{1,3}$ | ... | $\vec{z}_{1,n}$      |
| Worker 2        | $\vec{z}_{2,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{2,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{2,3}$ | ... | $\vec{z}_{2,n}$      |
| Worker 3        | $\vec{z}_{3,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{3,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{3,3}$ | ... | $\vec{z}_{3,n}$      |
| ...             | ...             | ...             | ...             | ... | ...                  |
| Worker <i>m</i> | $\vec{z}_{m,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{m,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{m,3}$ | ... | $\vec{z}_{m,n}$      |

|                 | <b>Task 1</b>     | <b>Task 2</b>     | <b>Task 3</b>     | ... | <b>Task <i>n</i></b> |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----|----------------------|
| Worker 1        | $\vec{\pi}_{1,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{1,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{1,3}$ | ... | $\vec{\pi}_{1,n}$    |
| Worker 2        | $\vec{\pi}_{2,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{2,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{2,3}$ | ... | $\vec{\pi}_{2,n}$    |
| Worker 3        | $\vec{\pi}_{3,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{3,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{3,3}$ | ... | $\vec{\pi}_{3,n}$    |
| ...             | ...               | ...               | ...               | ... | ...                  |
| Worker <i>m</i> | $\vec{\pi}_{m,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{m,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{m,3}$ | ... | $\vec{\pi}_{m,n}$    |

- Choose  $\vec{\pi}$  that maximizes entropy subject to the observations of  $\vec{z}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max_{\pi} \quad & - \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^c \pi_{ijk} \ln \pi_{ijk} \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m \pi_{ijk} = \sum_{i=1}^m z_{ijk}, \quad \forall j, k, \quad \boxed{\sum_{j=1}^n y_{jl} \pi_{ijk} = \sum_{j=1}^n y_{jl} z_{ijk}, \quad \forall i, k, l,} \\
 & \sum_{k=1}^c \pi_{ijk} = 1, \quad \forall i, j, \quad \pi_{ijk} \geq 0, \quad \forall i, j, k.
 \end{aligned}$$

|                 | <b>Task 1</b>   | <b>Task 2</b>   | <b>Task 3</b>   | <b>...</b> | <b>Task <i>n</i></b> |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|
| Worker 1        | $\vec{z}_{1,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{1,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{1,3}$ | $\dots$    | $\vec{z}_{1,n}$      |
| Worker 2        | $\vec{z}_{2,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{2,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{2,3}$ | $\dots$    | $\vec{z}_{2,n}$      |
| Worker 3        | $\vec{z}_{3,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{3,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{3,3}$ | $\dots$    | $\vec{z}_{3,n}$      |
| $\dots$         | $\dots$         | $\dots$         | $\dots$         | $\dots$    | $\dots$              |
| Worker <i>m</i> | $\vec{z}_{m,1}$ | $\vec{z}_{m,2}$ | $\vec{z}_{m,3}$ | $\dots$    | $\vec{z}_{m,n}$      |

|                 | <b>Task 1</b>     | <b>Task 2</b>     | <b>Task 3</b>     | <b>...</b> | <b>Task <i>n</i></b> |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Worker 1        | $\vec{\pi}_{1,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{1,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{1,3}$ | $\dots$    | $\vec{\pi}_{1,n}$    |
| Worker 2        | $\vec{\pi}_{2,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{2,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{2,3}$ | $\dots$    | $\vec{\pi}_{2,n}$    |
| Worker 3        | $\vec{\pi}_{3,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{3,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{3,3}$ | $\dots$    | $\vec{\pi}_{3,n}$    |
| $\dots$         | $\dots$           | $\dots$           | $\dots$           | $\dots$    | $\dots$              |
| Worker <i>m</i> | $\vec{\pi}_{m,1}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{m,2}$ | $\vec{\pi}_{m,3}$ | $\dots$    | $\vec{\pi}_{m,n}$    |

# Solving the Optimization

- Given true labels  $y$ , we use maximum entropy to find  $\pi$   
=> For every set of true labels  $y$ , we obtain  $\pi$  and the corresponding entropy
- How to decide the true labels  $y$ ?
  - Higher entropy => higher uncertainty
  - Choosing labels that minimize uncertainty/entropy
- Minimax entropy

$$\begin{aligned} \min_y \max_{\pi} \quad & - \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^c \pi_{ijk} \ln \pi_{ijk} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m \pi_{ijk} = \sum_{i=1}^m z_{ijk}, \forall j, k, \sum_{j=1}^n y_{jl} \pi_{ijk} = \sum_{j=1}^n y_{jl} z_{ijk}, \forall i, k, l, \\ & \sum_{k=1}^c \pi_{ijk} = 1, \forall i, j, \pi_{ijk} \geq 0, \forall i, j, k, \sum_{l=1}^c y_{jl} = 1, \forall j, y_{jl} \geq 0, \forall j, l. \end{aligned}$$

# An interesting way of looking at label aggregation

- Finding the labels/distribution with minimax entropy
- Can we incorporate models of label generation?
  - e.g., Tasks are homogeneous
  - e.g., Tasks have different difficulty levels
- Express them as additional constraints

# Additional Details on the Technical Insights

- The dual formulation gives nice insights
  - One set of dual variables represent worker skills
  - Another set of dual variable represent task difficulties
- Perform reasonably well in practice

| Method          | Dogs  | Web   |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| Minimax Entropy | 84.63 | 88.05 |
| Dawid & Skene   | 84.14 | 83.98 |
| Majority Voting | 82.09 | 73.07 |
| Average Worker  | 70.60 | 37.05 |

# A Recap on Label Aggregation

# The Approaches We Covered

- EM-Based methods (The mainstream approach)
  - Develop models of label generation
  - Write down the likelihood function
  - Using EM algorithms to optimize likelihood
- Matrix-based method
  - Perform SVD, using the top left singular vector as the prediction
- Others
  - Iterative message passing
    - Be careful about message normalization if you want to use this for assignment 3
  - Minimax entropy

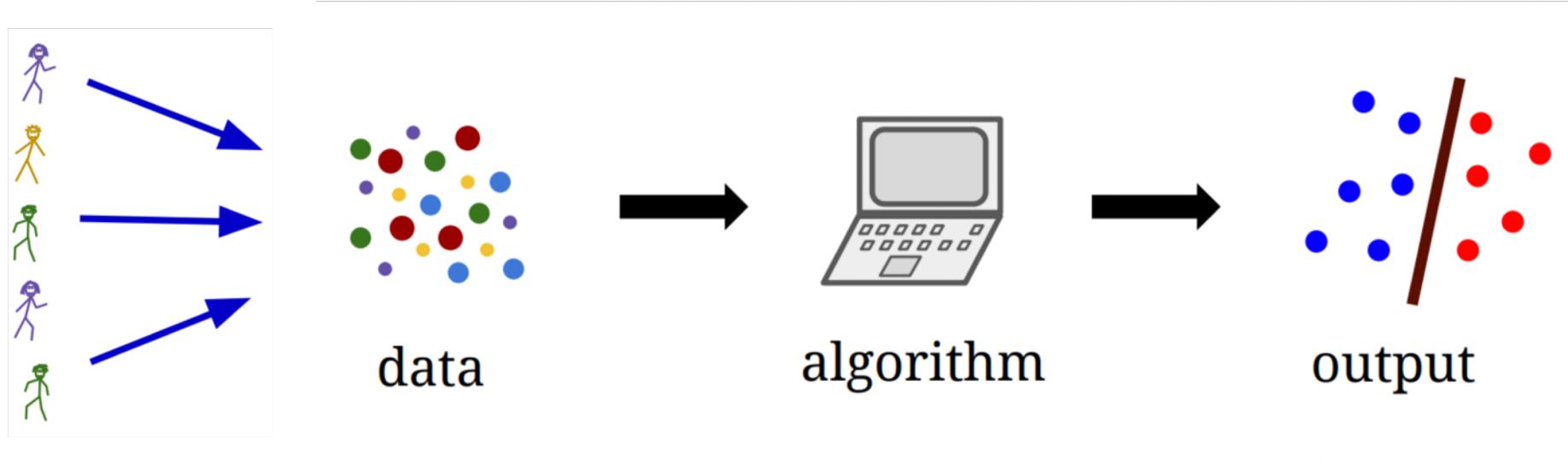
Which one would you like to implement for Assignment 3?

# General Discussion on Label Aggregation

- Common assumption: each label is i.i.d. drawn from some distribution
- This assumption enables tons of papers applying statistics/learning techniques in crowdsourcing (low-hanging fruit)
- Discussion
  - What other assumptions have been made in the papers you read?
  - Under what scenarios do you think this (and/or other assumptions) is reasonable?
  - Is there any assumption you think we should try to relax in this line of research.

# Beyond Label Aggregation

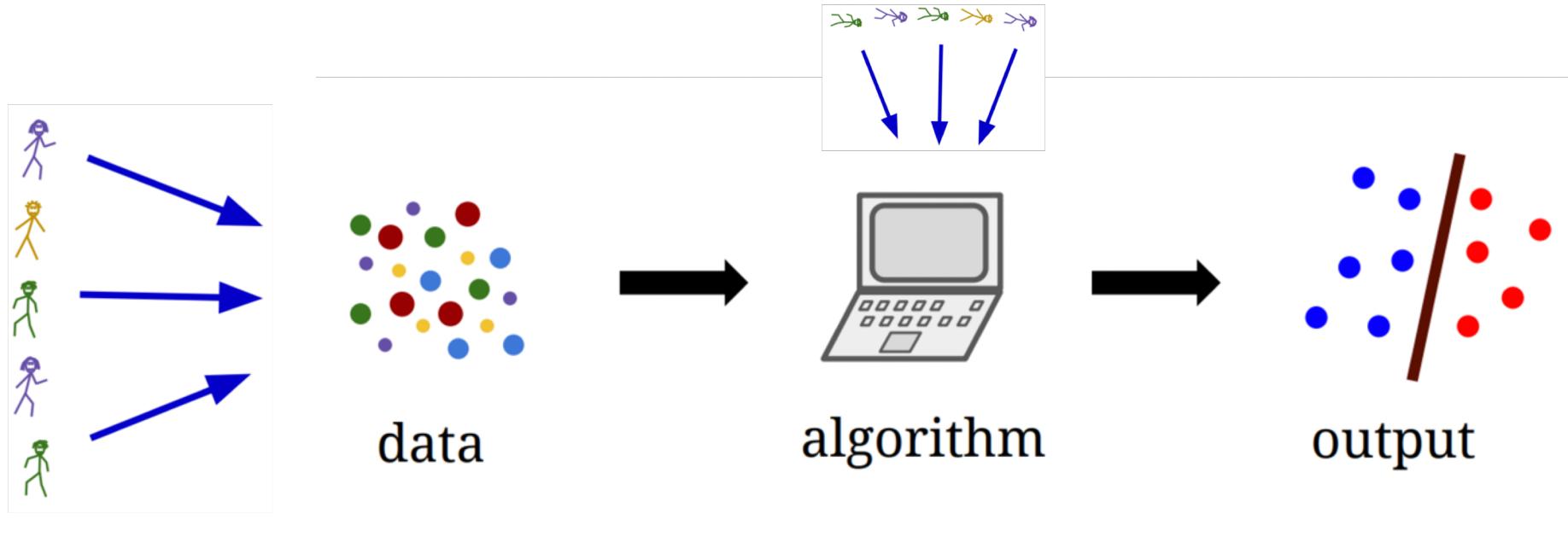
# Learning with Humans in the Loop



We have focused on the aspect of “data generated by humans”  
Make strong i.i.d. assumptions on the data generation process

1. What if data is not i.i.d.?

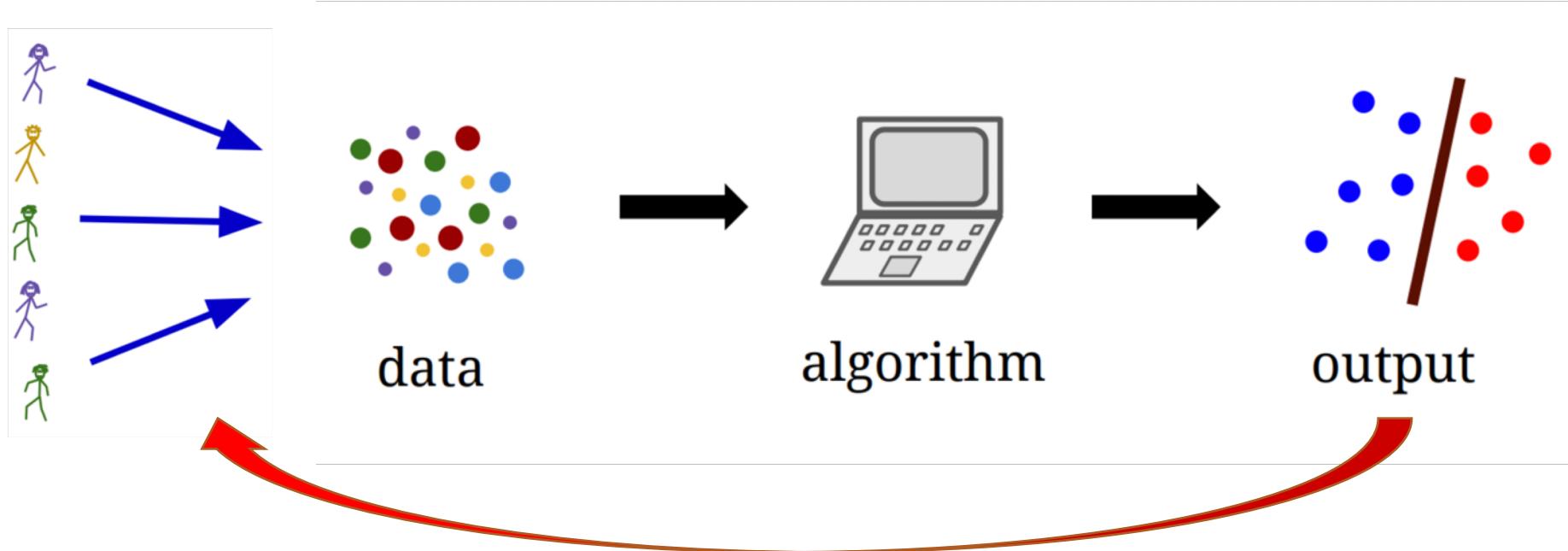
# Learning with Humans in the Loop



We have focused on the aspect of “data generated by humans”  
Make strong i.i.d. assumptions on the data generation process

2. Can humans be involved in the algorithm as well?

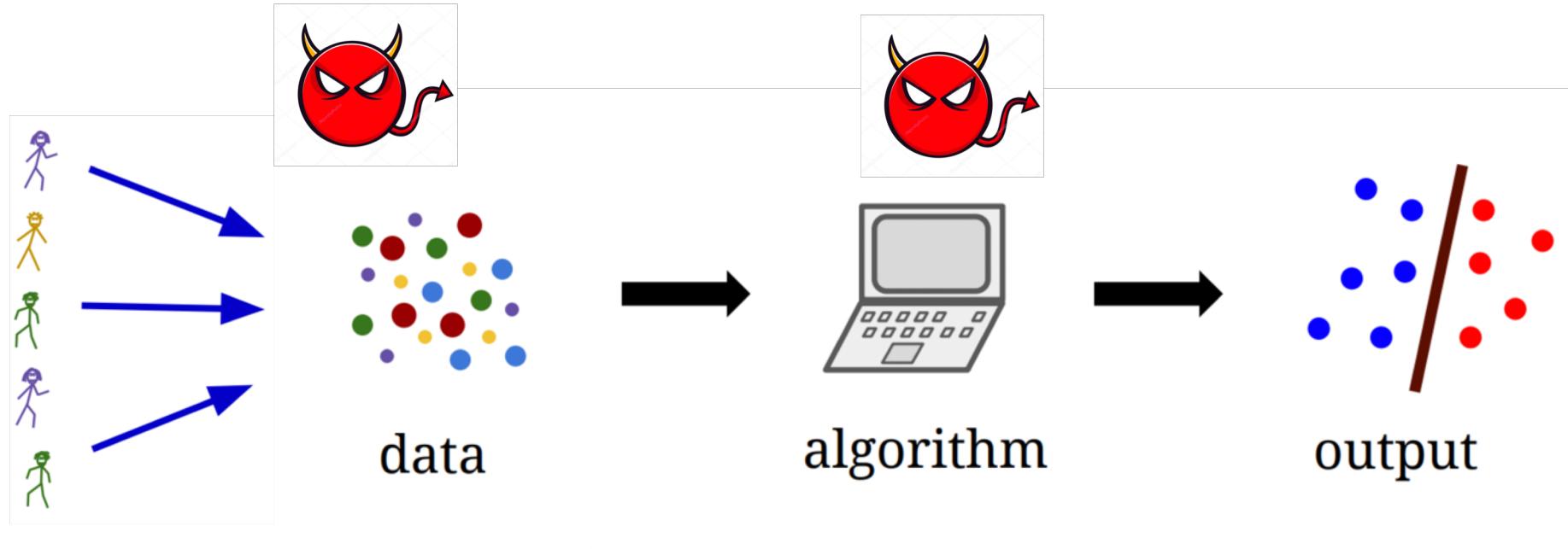
# Learning with Humans in the Loop



We have focused on the aspect of “data generated by humans”  
Make strong i.i.d. assumptions on the data generation process

3. What if the output has impacts to humans?

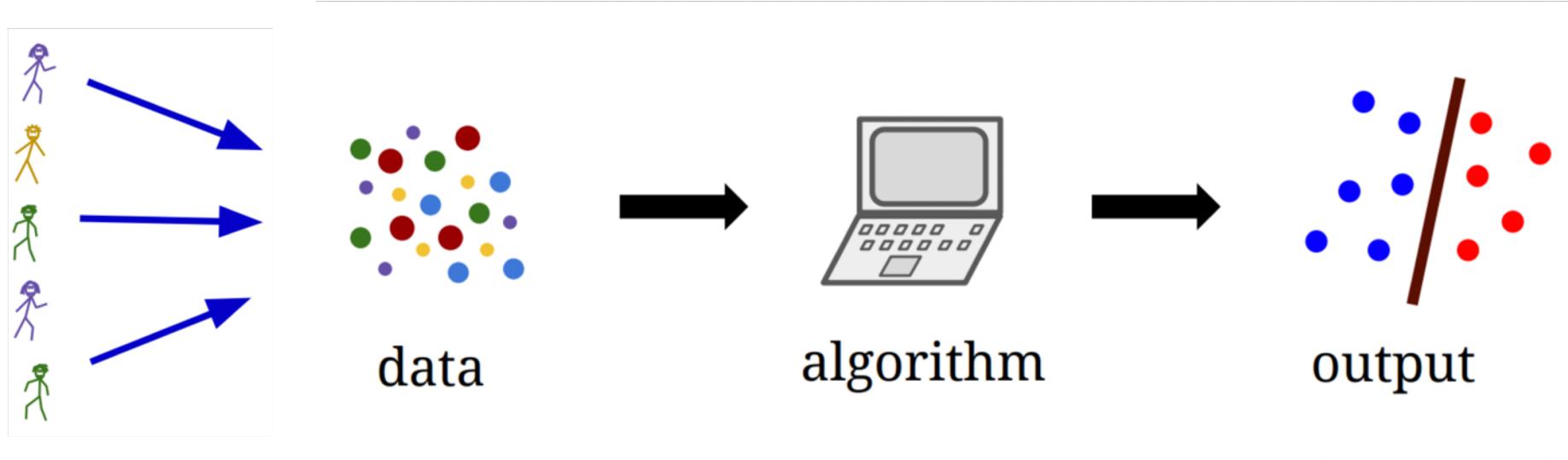
# Learning with Humans in the Loop



We have focused on the aspect of “data generated by humans”  
Make strong i.i.d. assumptions on the data generation process

4. What if some users try to sabotage the system.

# Learning with Humans in the Loop



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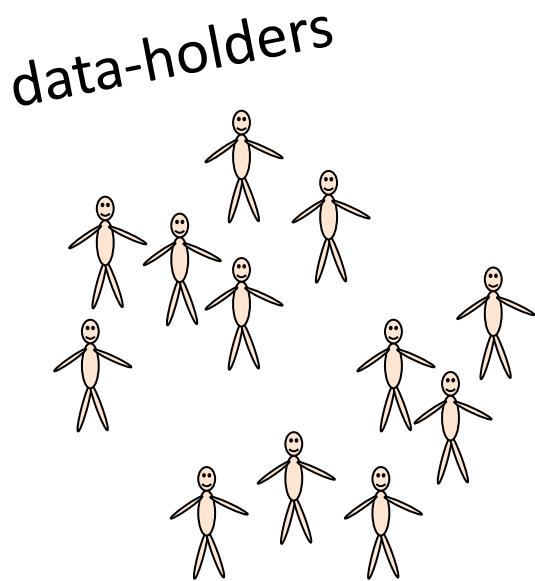
1. What if data is not i.i.d.?

# Active Buying Data for Machine Learning

Joint work with  
Jake Abernethy, Yiling Chen, and Bo Waggoner

ACM Economics and Computation 2015

# Learning via Buying Data from Humans

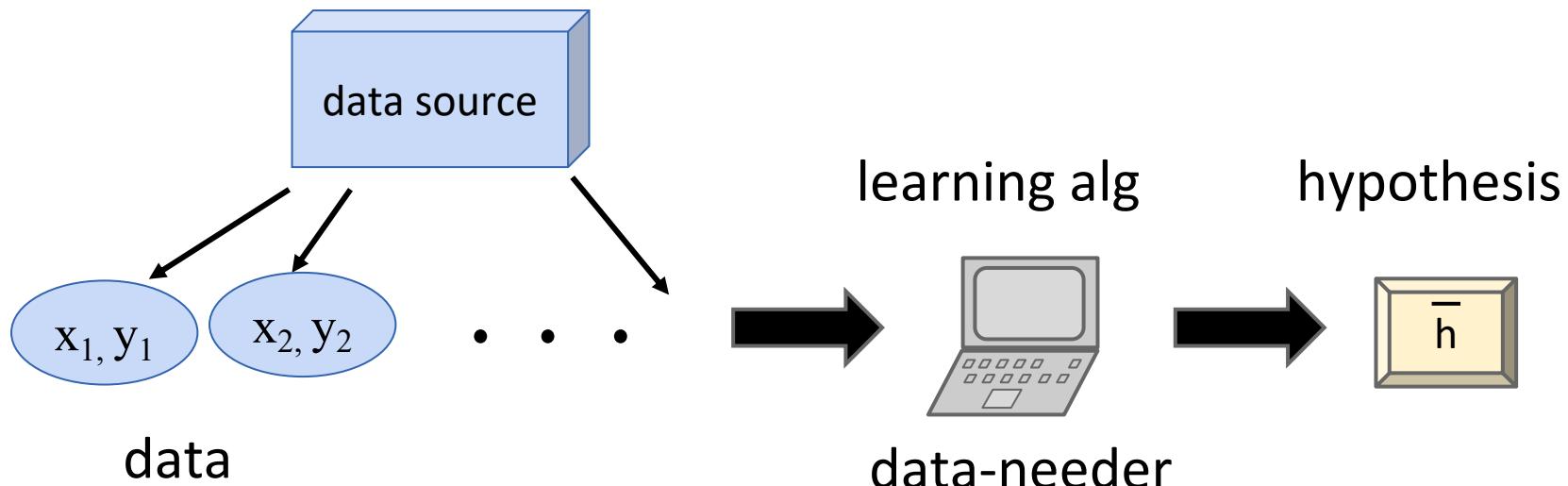


ex: medical data



ex: pharmaceutical co.

# (Traditional) Learning Problems



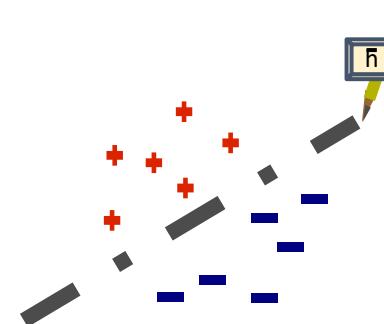
Goal:

Learn a **good** hypothesis  $h$  with **few** data points

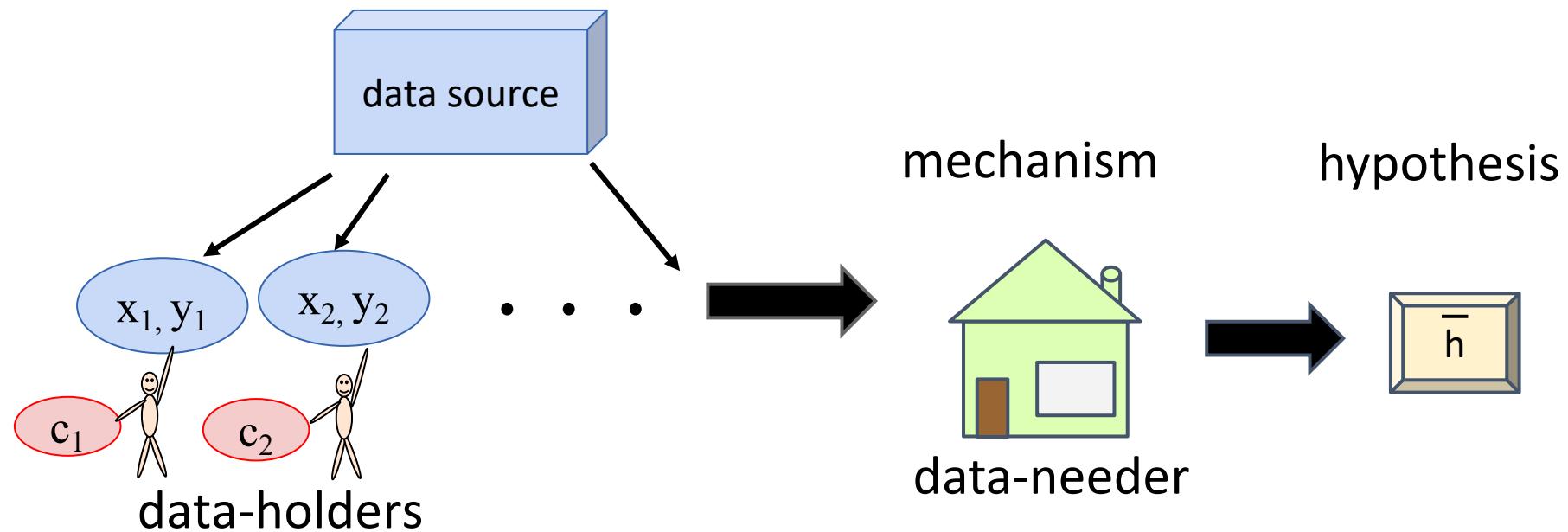
Example: Classification

Data: (point, label) where label is **+** or **-**

Hypothesis: hyperplane separating the two types



# Our Setting: Data are Held by Humans



Goal:

Learn a **good** hypothesis  $h$  with **small** budgets

Assumptions:

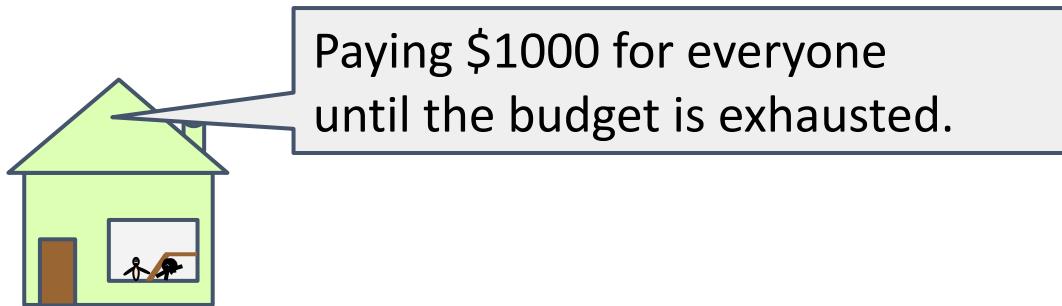
data cannot be fabricated

costs are **unknown** to the data-needler and **bounded**

costs can be arbitrarily **correlated** with data

# What can we do?

Want to learn a classifier for HIV  
(the maximum cost is \$1000)

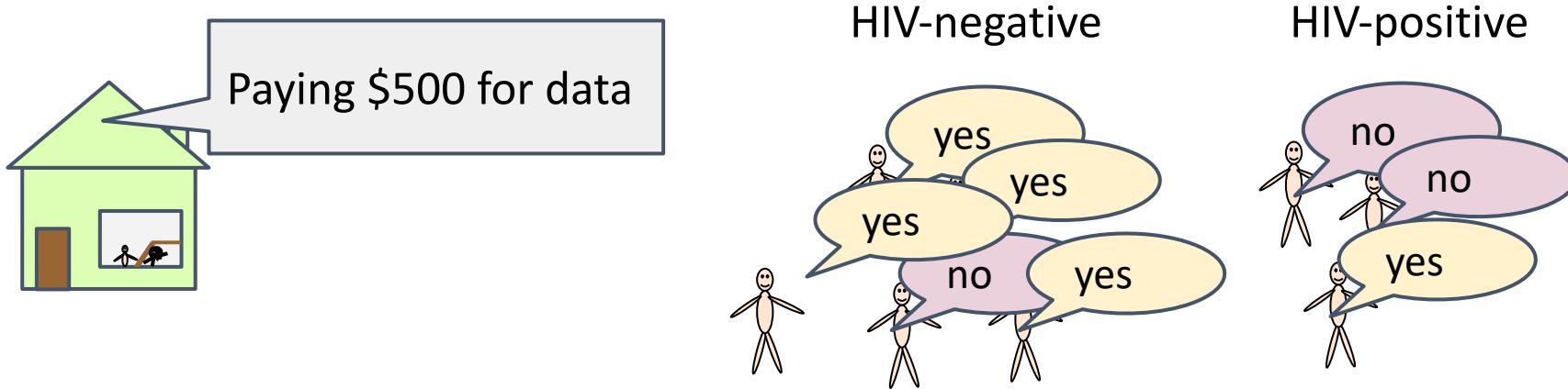


Pro: We can apply standard learning algorithms

Con: Waste a lot of money

# What can we do?

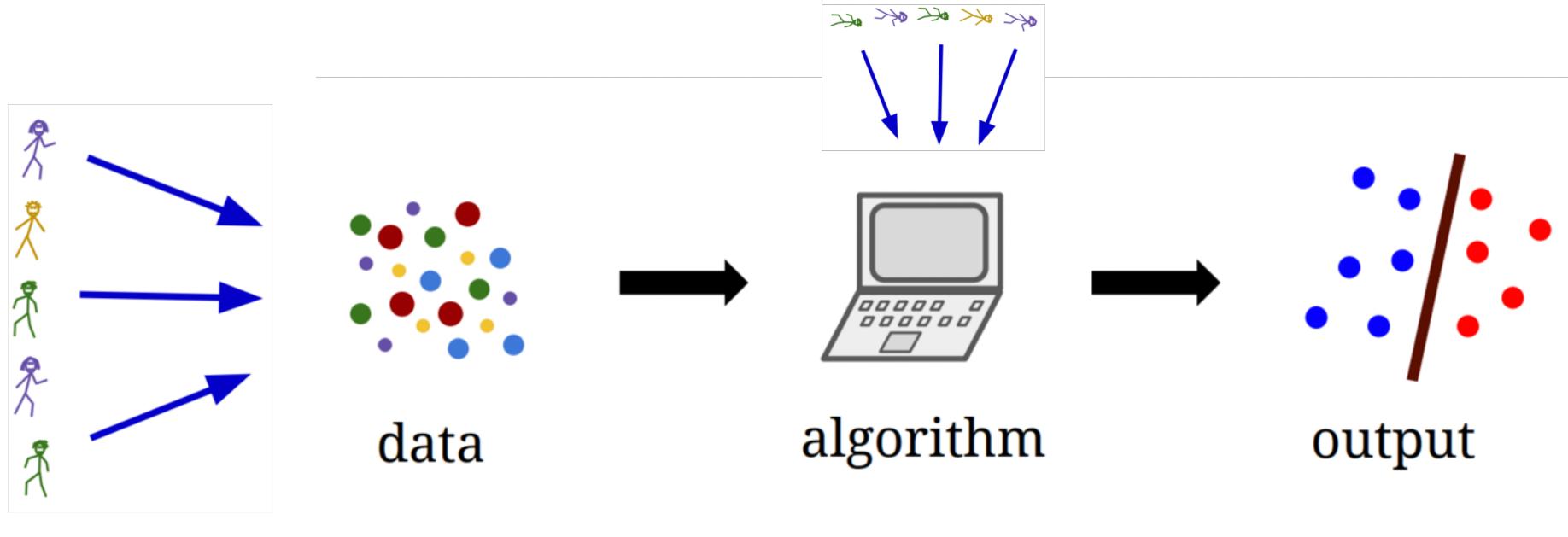
Want to learn a classifier for HIV  
(the maximum cost is \$1000)



Challenge 1: How to deal with **biases**?

Challenge 2: Which data is more **useful**?

# Learning with Humans in the Loop



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2. Can humans be involved in the algorithm as well?

# Human Debugging

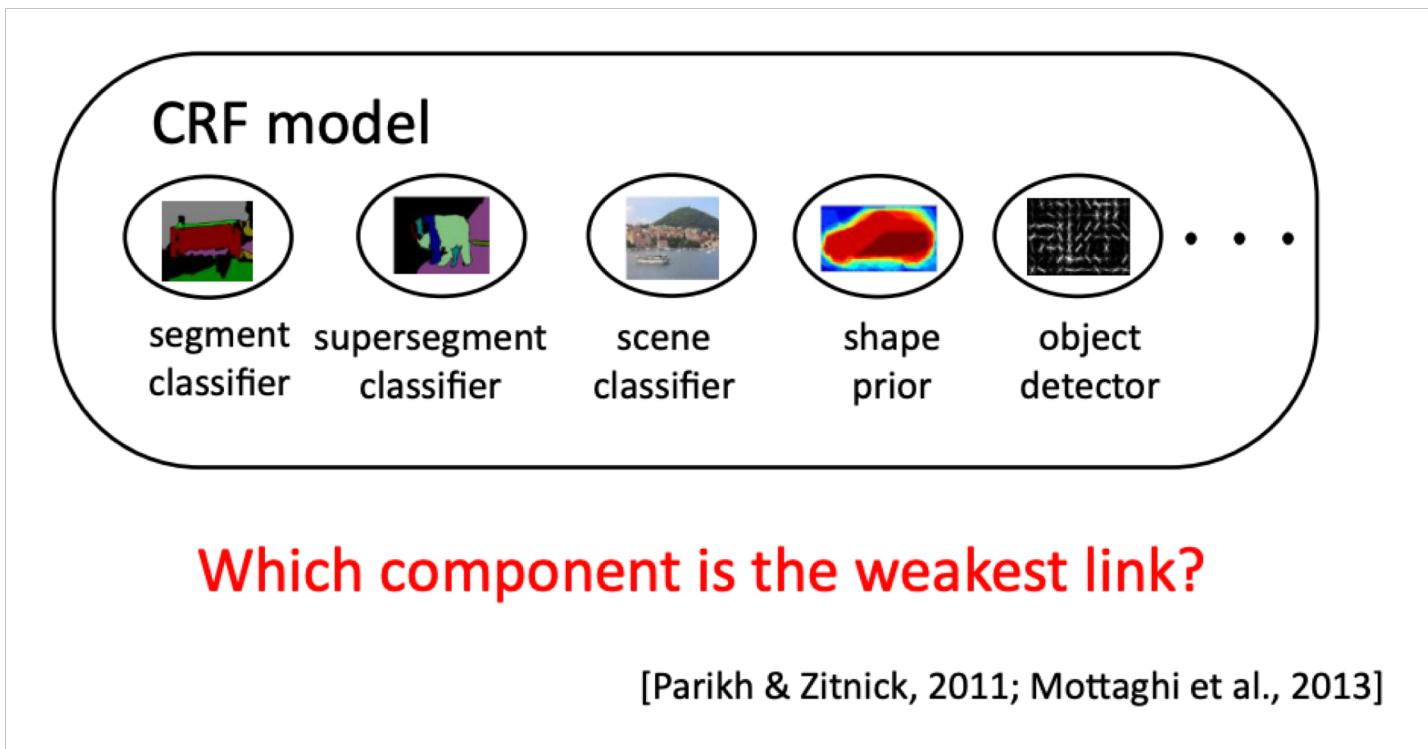
- Semantic segmentation: partition an image into semantically meaningful parts, and label each part.



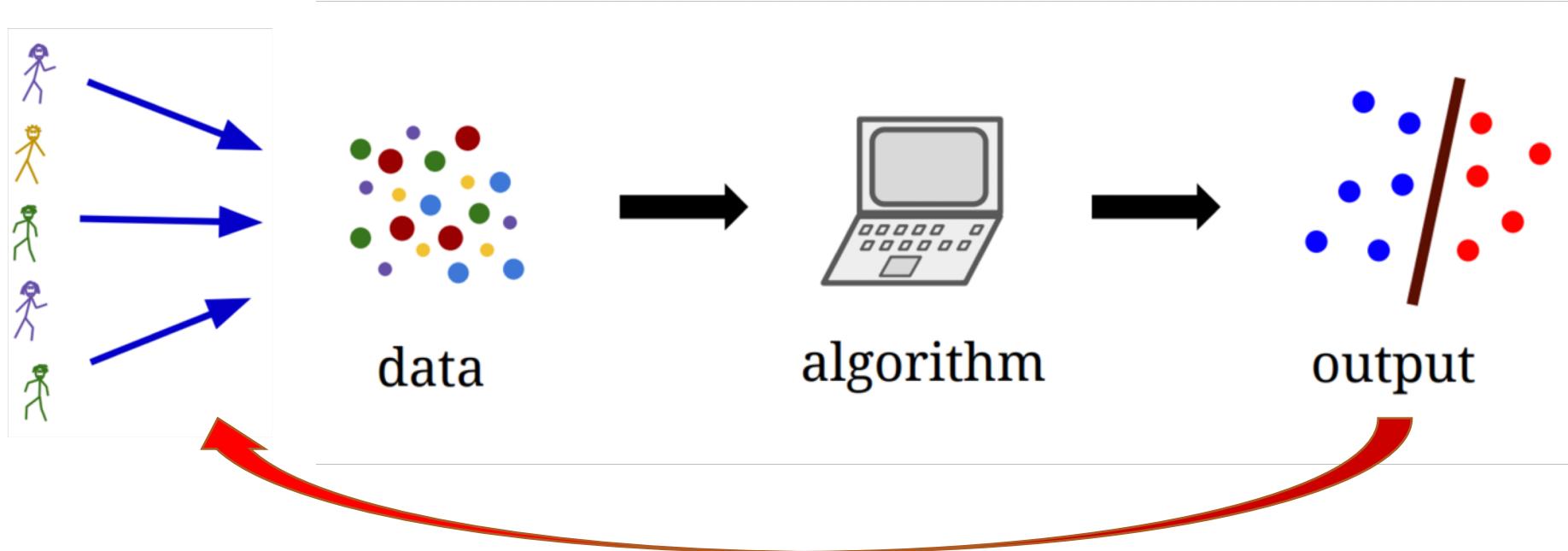
“cat”

# Human Debugging

- Semantic segmentation: partition an image into semantically meaningful parts, and label each part.



# Learning with Humans in the Loop



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3. What if the output has impacts to humans?

# Counterfactual Machine Learning

- Consider you are a search engine
  - You use the click data to estimate how relevant a website is to a search
  - Determine how to rank them based on the estimation
- What's wrong here?
  - The data you collected depends on how you rank
    - Websites ranked higher gets more clicks
  - Need to infer “what if” we use a different policy
- Standard approaches: A/B-Testing => Too many possibilities
- Counterfactual ML => Develop user models to answer the “what if” question

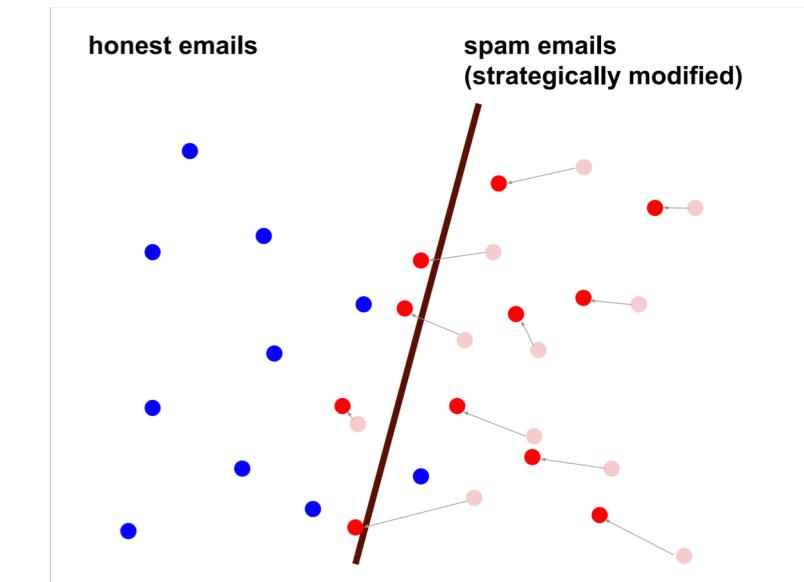
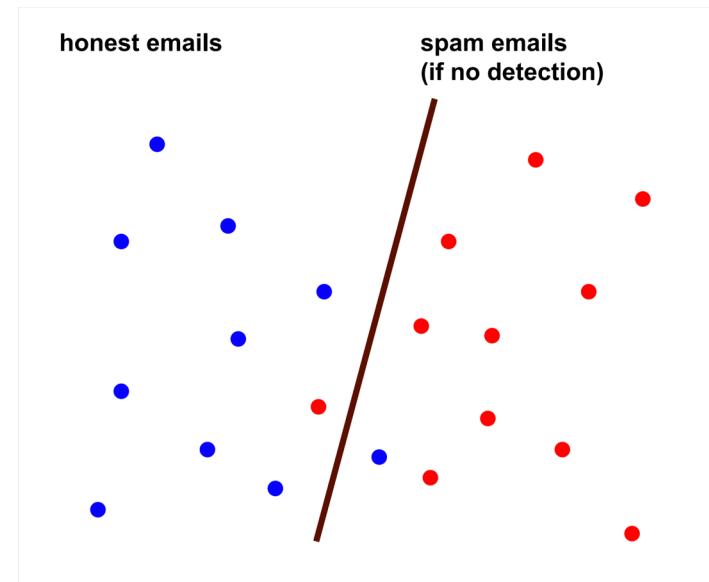
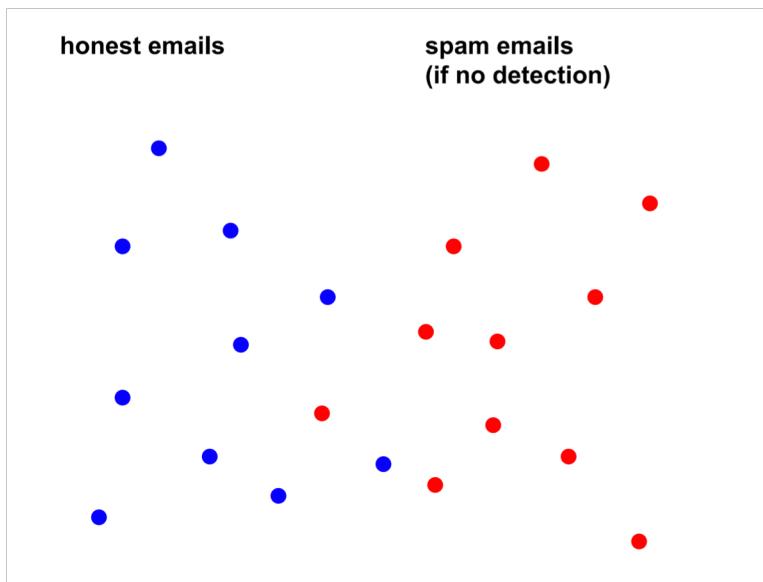
# Strategic Machine Learning

Goodhart's law:

“If a measure becomes the public’s goal,  
it is no longer a good measure.”

# Strategic Machine Learning

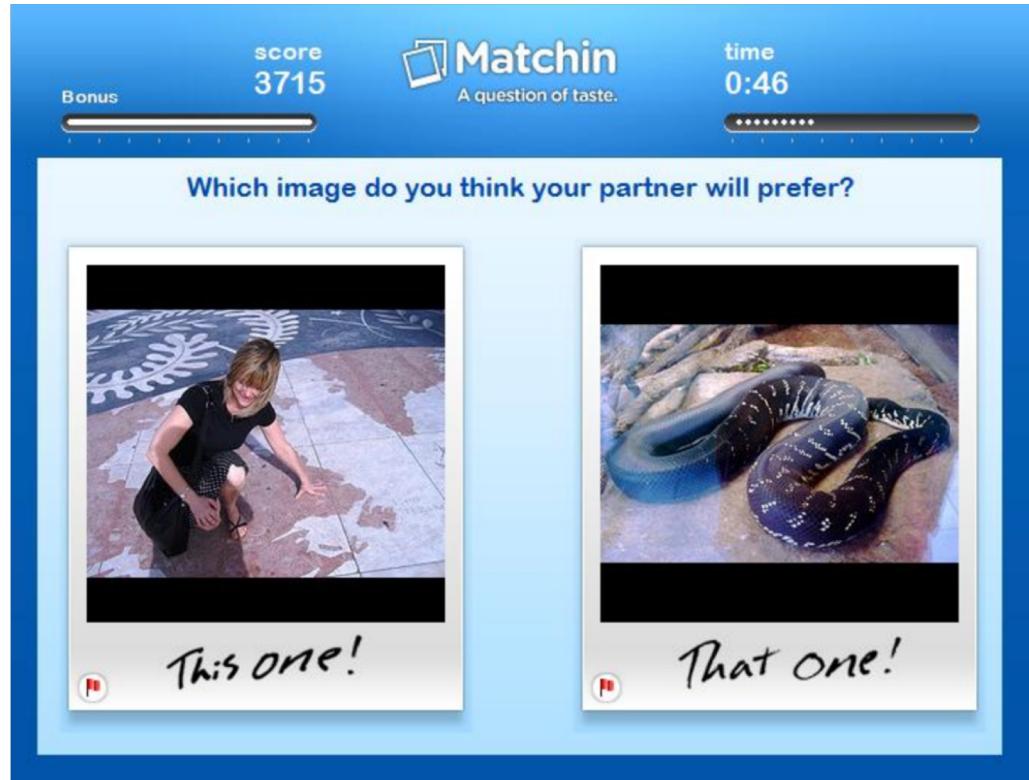
- Spam classification example as in last lecture



- More examples: School admission, Job offer determination, etc

# Ethical Issues

- A Game for Collecting User Preferences on Images



Matchin: Eliciting User Preferences with an Online Game. Hacker and von Ahn. CHI 2009.

# Ethical Issues

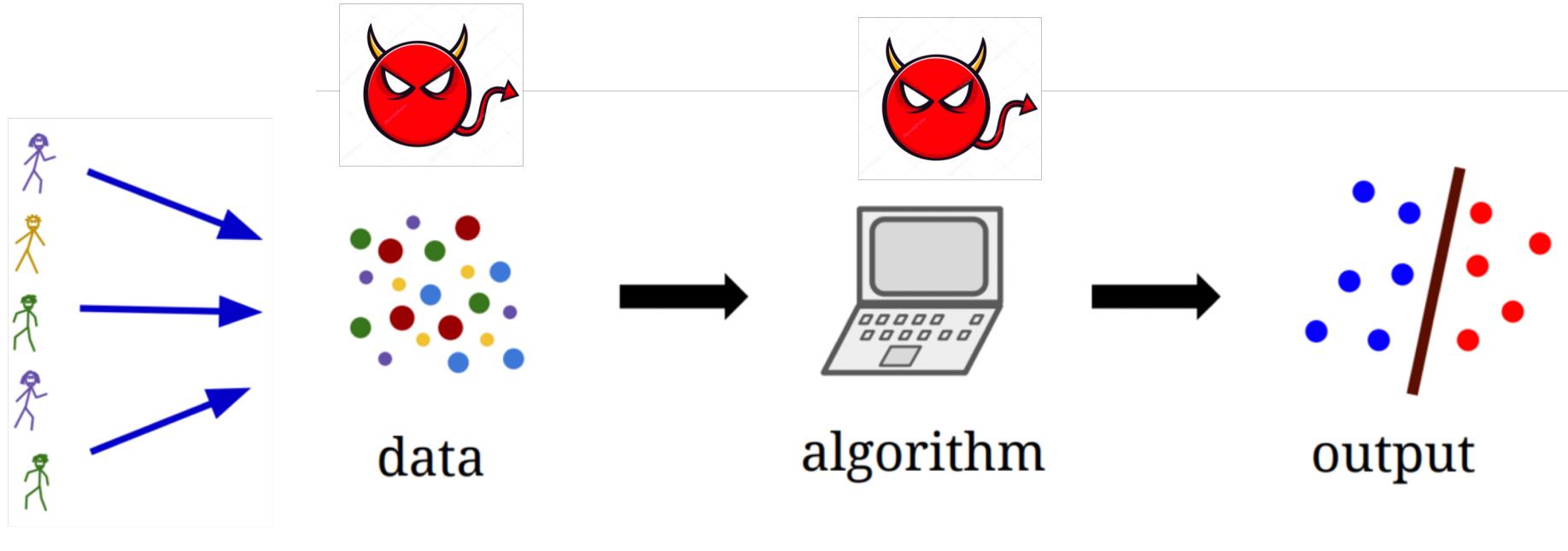
- Which one do you like



# Ethical Issues

- Building Gender Models using Images
- Ask MTurk workers to compare 10 pairs of pre-selected images.
  - Accuracy for guessing the gender correctly: 78.3%
- Workers are not contributing data. They might be sacrificing some privacy as well.

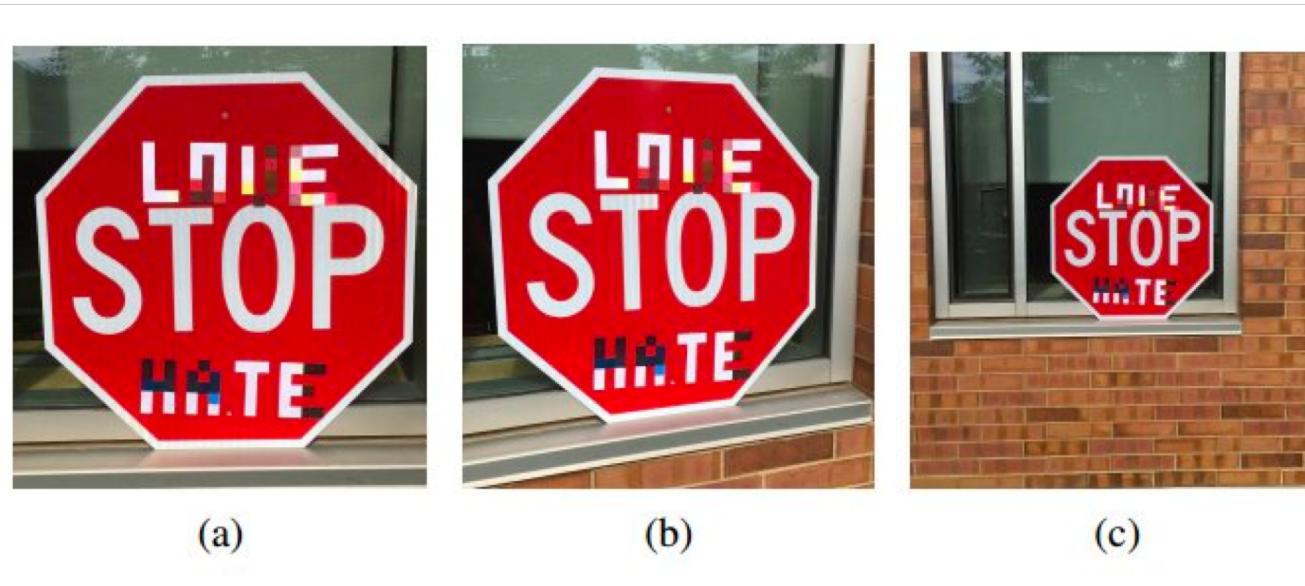
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4. What if some users try to sabotage the system.

# Adversarial Machine Learning (CSE544T)



Can an adversary “inject” a small amount of data to break ML algorithms?