

Computational Forensics

- Study and development of computational methods to
 - **Assist in basic and applied research**, e.g. to **establish or prove the scientific basis** of a particular investigative procedure,
 - **Support the forensic examiner** in their daily casework.
- Modern crime investigation shall profit from the hybrid-intelligence of humans and machines.



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Three Professorship in DF (since 2014)



- Mobile/embedded device forensics
-> **Internet Investigation & Internet of Things**
in cooperation for National Criminal Investigation Service (Kripo)

- Cybercrime investigation
-> **OS, Networks, Malware**
in cooperation with Police University College (Politihøgskolen)

- Forensic data science
-> **Machine learning, Data Mining & Big Data**
in cooperation with Norwegian National Authority for Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime (Økokrim)

▪ Detail position descriptions: WWW.CCIS.NO

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NTNU Digital Forensics Group @IIK

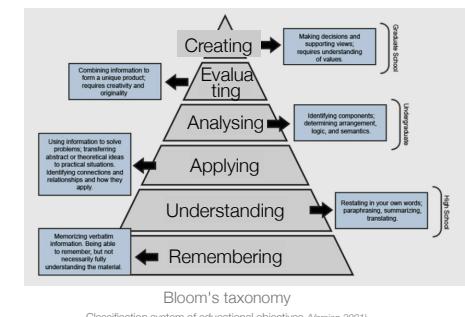
- 1+3 (Assoc.) Professors, 4+1 Postdoc, 15+3 PhD Students, 5 Adjunct Researchers, 1 Project Admin, ca. 20 Master Students per year, 3 Professors **financed by the Police directorate**
- **1 Focus - Technological aspects of digital & computational forensics**
Teaching on Bachelor, Master, and PhD Level; Conducting Basic & Applied Research, Cooperate with International Industry & Government Agencies on Cybercrime Investigation, Forensics Data Science, Mobile & Embedded Devices Forensics
- **4 Projects on-going**
ESSENTIAL - **H2020-MCSA-ITN**, Bridging Security, Forensics & the Rule of Law, 2017-2020
Ars Forensica - **NFR-IKTPLUSS**, Big Data Forensics: Methods, 2015-2019
HANSKEN - **Norwegian Police**, Big Data Forensics: Infrastructure, 2016-2018
ACT - **NFR-BIA**, Data-driven Threat Intelligence, mnemonic AS, 2016-2019
- **2 Study programs**
MSc Track: Information Security / Digital Forensics, since 2010
Experienced-based Master in Cooperation with Police University College, since 2014
Postgraduate Education and Training, since 2007
- **1 TESTIMON Family** == Organised "Criminal" Network of highly-specialised Individuals 😊

https://www.ntnu.edu/iik/digital_forensics 

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Education & Training

- Tasks require different **Knowledge, Skills, and General Competences**
- Education and Training shall address **different demands**, i.e. First Responder vs. Special Investigator
- **Continuous Learning** and Adoption of new knowledge and skills is required
- **Research-based Education** to follow / be at the forefront of technology development
- BSc, MSc, & PhD Level Education



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Research Agenda

- Computational Forensics
 - Reliable Algorithms
 - Forensic as a Service using secure Computing infrastructure
- Cloud Forensics & Cybercrime Investigation
 - Sergii Bian - DFRWS '18
 - Kyle Porter - DFRWS '18
- Economic Crime Investigation
- Mobile & Embedded Device Forensics (IoT, IoE)
 - Gunnar Alendahl - DFRWS-EU '18
 - Jens-Petter Sandvik - DFRWS-EU '18

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Perspectives on Digital Investigation

- **Legal** / Regulations / Policies / Rule of Law
- ★ **Technological** / Security / Archival
- **Organisational** / Information Management / Procedures / Governance
- **Knowledge** / Capacity Building / Training Public Awareness (pedagogical methods)

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Large-scale Digital Investigations

- Evidence sources **increasingly data intensive** and **widely distributed**
- Common practice to **seize all data carriers**; amounts to **many terabytes of data**
- **Enrich with data** available on the Internet, Social networks, etc.
- Huge amount of data, **tide operational times**, and data linkage pose challenges
- Implement **Legal Framework** and Standards
- **Add Efficiency and Intelligence** to Investigations
- Computational Forensics, aka applying **Computational Intelligence in Forensic Sciences**

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Scenarios of Large-Scale Investigations in LEA

- **Many conventional cases** (murder, robbery, etc), e.g. Regional Police District (Oslo)
 - Many small data seizures can add up to
 - Several TB of data stored as evidence
 - Analysis for each case is not complex
 - Prefer analysis interface directly with front line investigators
- **Few unconventional cases**, e.g. Economic-crime Unit (OKOKRIM)
 - A single case can result in large data seizures equal to many TB
 - Millions of documents, Hard drives, mobile devices
 - Analysis for each case can take years
- **Both Scenarios => Many TBs of Data => Computational Analysis**

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Case Scenarios: Economic-crime Unit

- **Enron e-mail corpus** from 2002, 160 GB with **1.7 million messages**
 - **Panama Papers** from Law Firm Mossack Fonseca,
Documents from 40 years of business, **11.5 million documents (2.6TB)**
Head office in Panama City with 35 branch offices all around the world,
 - 376 journalist from 100 media partners in 80 countries
 - speaking 25 different languages spent
 - 1 year identifying 214.000 offshore companies in 21 offshore jurisdictions

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International Case Statistics

- **Normal** for cases under 100,000 documents;
 - **Large** for cases with 100,000 to 1 million documents;
 - **Very Large** for cases between 1 million and 100 million documents; and
 - **Ridiculous**, reserved for cases with greater than 100 million documents.



Across the "Relativity universe", separate percentages are tracked for each grouping. Assessing the percentages over the past five years reveals that approximately

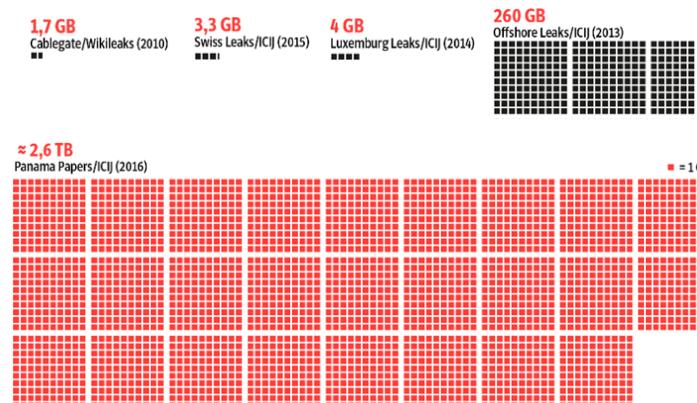
- two thirds of cases fall in the **Normal** group,
 - approximately a quarter of cases in the **Large** group, and
 - around 8% in the **Very Large** group.

These percentages have held fairly constant over the past five years with the exception of the **Ridiculous** cases, which first appeared in 2013, and now, while increasing, account for less than 1% of the overall case size make up

Source: © kCura - Manufacturer of Relativity One of the Leading E-Discovery Tools

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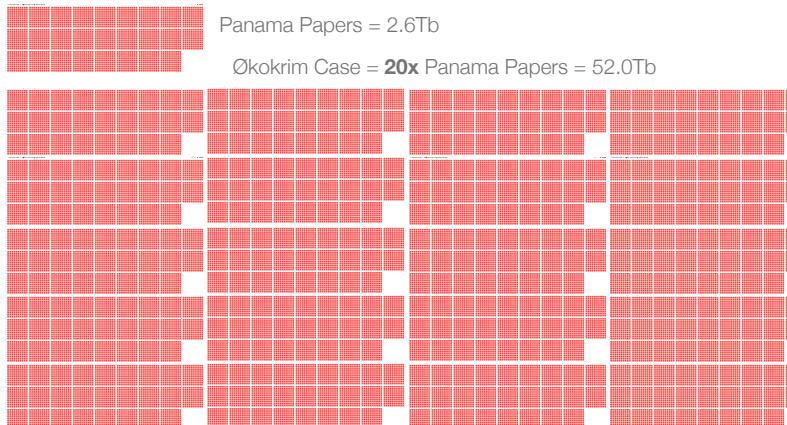
Panama Papers in Size Perspective



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Økokrim Largest Ongoing Investigation

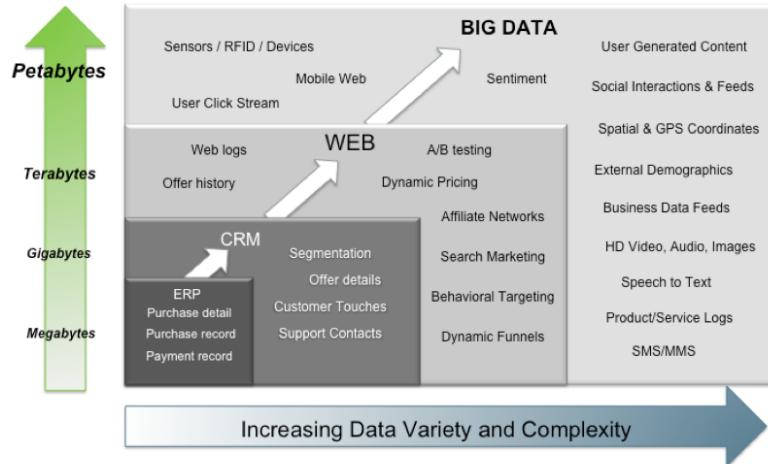


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Big Data = Transactions + Interactions + Observations



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Computational Forensics

Scientific Computing in Forensics

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Definitions

Forensic Science

- an applied natural science
- work to serve and provide the investigatory methods, i.e. scientific methods, in order to solve the specific crimes / accidents
- provide evidences, which are used in criminology
- based in the vast and deep studies of research, e.g. biology, chemistry, finance, computing, etc
- does not develop theories and thesis regarding any crime

Criminology

- specialised social science, which evolves from sociology
- a scientific study of nature, extent, causes, control, and prevention of the criminal behaviour of both the individual and society
- provide the criminal profile by studying the crimes and nature of the criminals
- based on the three theories: *Classical*, *Positive*, and *Chicago*
- do develop theories and thesis from their research and experience

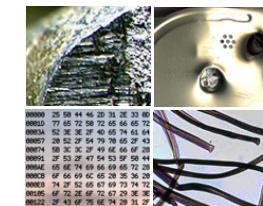
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Challenges & Demands in Forensic Investigations

Challenges

- Tiny Pieces of Evidence** are hidden in a mostly **Chaotic Environment**,
- Trace Study to reveal **Specific Properties**,
- Traces found will be **Never Identical**,
- Reasoning and Deduction have to be performed on the basis of
 - Partial Knowledge**,
 - Approximations**,
 - Uncertainties** and
 - Conjectures**.



Demands

- Objective Measurement** and **Classification**,
- Robustness** and **Reproducibility**,
- Secure against Falsifications**.

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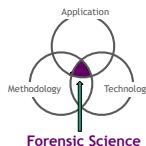
Computational Forensics - Definition

It is understood as the hypothesis-driven investigation of a specific forensic problem using computers, with the primary goal of discovery and advancement of forensic knowledge.

CF works towards:

1. **In-depth Understanding** of a forensic discipline,
2. **Evaluation** of a particular scientific method basis and
3. **Systematic Approach** to forensic sciences by applying techniques of computer science, applied mathematics and statistics.

It involves **Modelling** and computer **Simulation (Synthesis)** and/or computer-based **Analysis** and **Recognition**



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Computational Methods

- **Signal / Image Processing** : one-dimensional signals and two-dimensional images are transformed for better human or machine processing,
- **Computer Vision** : images are automatically recognised to identify objects,
- **Computer Graphics / Data Visualisation** : two-dimensional images or three-dimensional scenes are synthesised from multi-dimensional data for better human understanding,
- **Statistical Pattern Recognition** : abstract measurements are classified as belonging to one or more classes, e.g., whether a sample belongs to a known class and with what probability,
- **Machine Learning** : a mathematical model is learnt from examples.
- **Data Mining** : large volumes of data are processed to discover nuggets of information, e.g., presence of associations, number of clusters, outliers, etc.
- **Robotics** : human movements are replicated by a machine.

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Computational vs. Computer (Digital) Forensics

- **Computational Forensics** uses computational sciences to study **any type of evidence**:

- Computer forensics
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Forensic palaeography
- Forensic anthropology
- Forensic chemistry

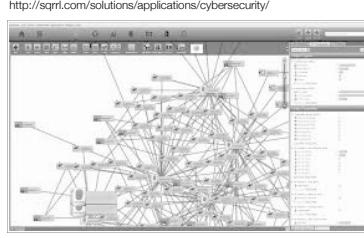
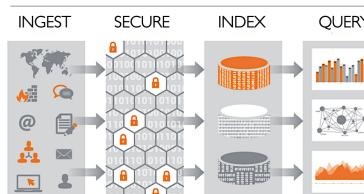


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- **Computer Forensics** studies **digital evidence**:

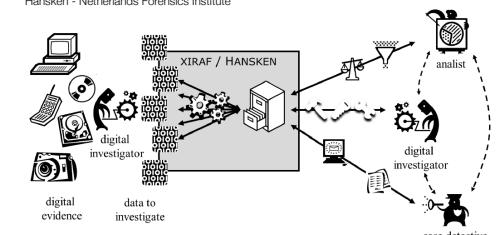
- File-system forensics
- Live-system forensics
- Mobile-device forensics etc.

Forensically-sound Computing Infrastructure



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mlQmL2Lapw>

Hansken - Netherlands Forensics Institute



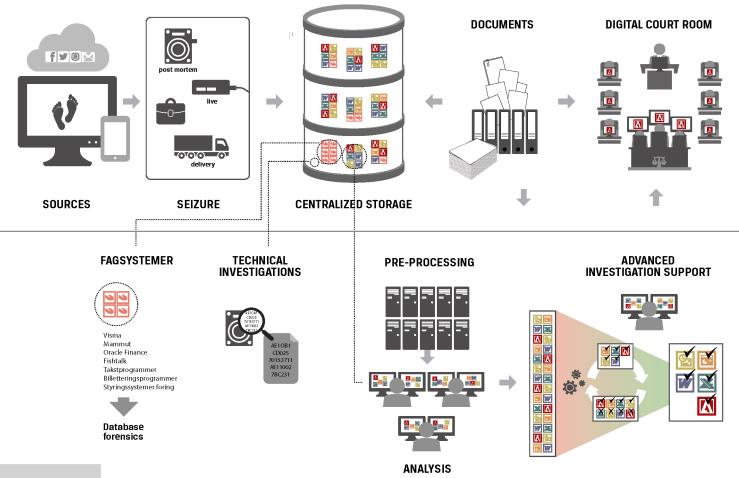
Out of scope!
for this presentation

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Project Example - Ars Forensica



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Code-breaking Enigma, December 1942



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Computing Machines & Intelligence (1950) by

Alan Turing

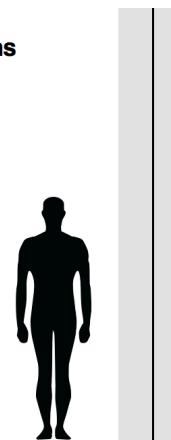


<https://wsimag.com/science-and-technology/36961-no-turing-test-for-consciousness>

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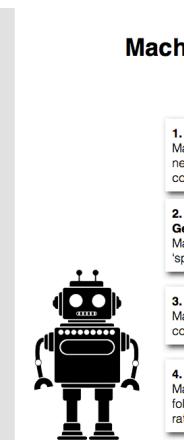
Hybrid-intelligence ?!

Humans



- 1. Computational Ability**
Humans are slow and likely to make mistakes
- 2. Random Number Generation**
Humans tend to 'spread out' number sequences.
- 3. Common Sense**
Humans have access to collective folk wisdom.
- 4. Rationality**
Humans rely on biases and heuristics that deviate from the expectations of rational choice theory.

Machines



- 1. Computational Ability**
Machines are fast and near-flawless at computations
- 2. Random Number Generation**
Machines less likely to 'spread out' numbers
- 3. Common Sense**
Machines lack access to collective folk wisdom
- 4. Rationality**
Machines more likely to follow the expectations of rational choice theory.

<http://philosophicaldisquisitions.blogspot.com/2016/07/reverse-turing-tests-are-humans.html>

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FISH - Fighting Terrorism, Germany since 1975

EAFS 2003-09-23

Computer-based Forensic handwriting examination



Systems operating in forensic labs:

- SCRIPT (NIFO/TNO, Netherlands) and
- FISH (Bundeskriminalamt, Germany)

Forensic Information System Handwriting

Since 1988 FISH is operating in forensic labs, handwriting is:

- Classified by shape characteristics,
- Compared with database,
- Presented according recognized similarities,
- Digitally stored, and
- Managed.

FISH Database*:
77.000 Investigation cases,
17.500 Handwritten products,
32.000 Persons,
78.000 Identifications of persons,
86.000 Documents.

Slide 4 * (31st December 1997)

 Fraunhofer
IPK

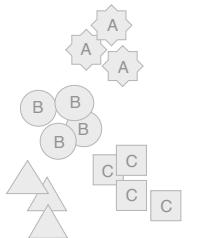
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Machine Learning & Pattern Recognition

Fundamentals

Machine Learning & Pattern Recognition



Pattern

- "as opposite of a chaos;
it is an entity, vaguely defined, that
could be given a name" Watanabe 1985

Goals

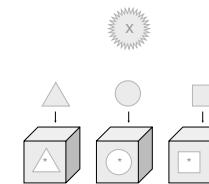
- Supervised / Unsupervised Classification of Patterns by means of Computational Methods
- Small Intra-class & Large Inter-class Variation

Same Facet - Different Origin

- Machine Learning - Computer Science
- Pattern Recognition / Data Mining - Engineering
- Predictive Analytics - Business / Marketing

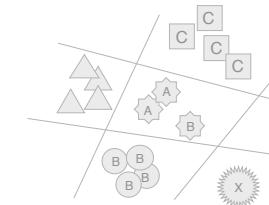
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Pattern Classification



Supervised Classification
pre-defined by the
system designer

Machine Learning



Unsupervised Classification
learning based on the
similarity of pattern

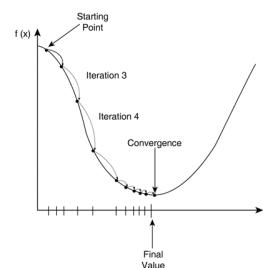
Data Mining

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Machine Learning (ML)

- Construct **computer programs** that **automatically improve with experience**.
- Well-Posed Learning Problem :
 - A computer program is said to learn from **experience E**
 - with respect to **class of tasks T** and **performance measure P**,
 - if its performance at tasks T, as measured by P, improves with experience E (minimises errors).

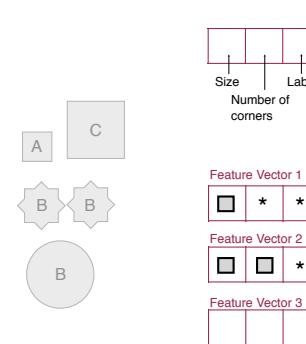


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Representation of Pattern Characteristics

Goal

- Machine-readable Attribute / **Feature Vector**



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Pattern Representation & Classification

	A	C			B	
Feature Vector 1 * * 1 ** 2 ** 1 ** 1 ** 2 ** 2 (2)						
Feature Vector 2 * 1 4 * 2 4 * 1 6 * 1 6 * 2 0 * 4 (6)						
Feature Vector 3 1 4 A 2 4 C 1 6 A 1 6 B 2 0 B 5 (18)						

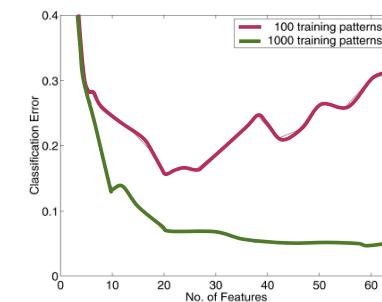
Size Label
Number of corners

Classes

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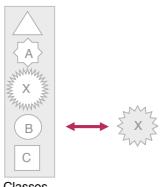
Classifier Training, ... How do Computers learn?

- Learning by Example !
- Requirements
 - Representative Sample Data
 - Appropriate Feature Encoding
- Challenge
 - Class Discrimination
 - Avoid Over Learning



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Classification & Matching



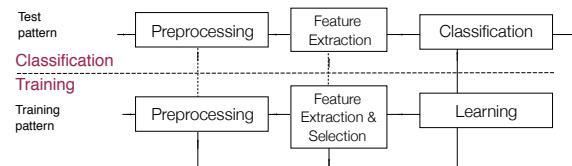
- Identification 1:N comparison
 - To which class is the pattern assigned ?
 - Verification 1:1 comparison
 - Are the reference and the pattern similar ?

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- Verification 1:1 comparison
 - Are the reference and the pattern similar ?

Model for Pattern Classification

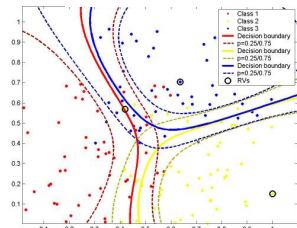
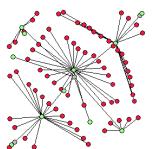


Statistical Pattern Recognition: A Review, A.K. Jain, R.P.W. Duin and J. Mao, 2000, PAM
Note that biological-inspired methods come in addition

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Commonly known Pattern-Recognition Approaches

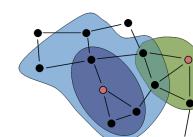
- Template Matching
 - Syntactical or Structural PR
 - Statistical PR
 - Neural Networks



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Statistical PR in Numbers

- 9 Feature Extraction and Projection Methods
 - 7 Feature Selection Methods
 - 7 Learning Algorithms
 - 14 Classification Methods
 - 18 Classifier Combination Schemes



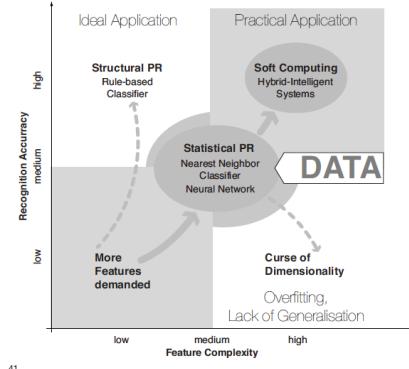
Statistical Pattern Recognition: A Review, A.K. Jain, R.P.W. Duin and J. Mao, 2000, PAM
Note that biological-inspired methods come in addition

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Towards Data-driven Approaches



BIG DATA Analytics

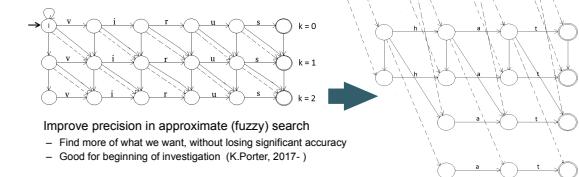
Inter-relation of feature complexity and expected recognition accuracy.
Reference: Franke (2005)

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Regular Expressions vs. Approximate String Matching

character set [...] (match one out of several)
special characters
\b [\w\%+] + @ [\w.-] + \. [a-zA-Z] {2,6} \b
any alpha-numeric char - match previous [...] pattern at least one time
At symbol
alpha-num, -, dot, or dash char
dot
upper or lower alpha character
word boundary
the <x,y> modifier means that the previous pattern must have 2-6 characters

Parse: username@domain.TLD (top level domain)

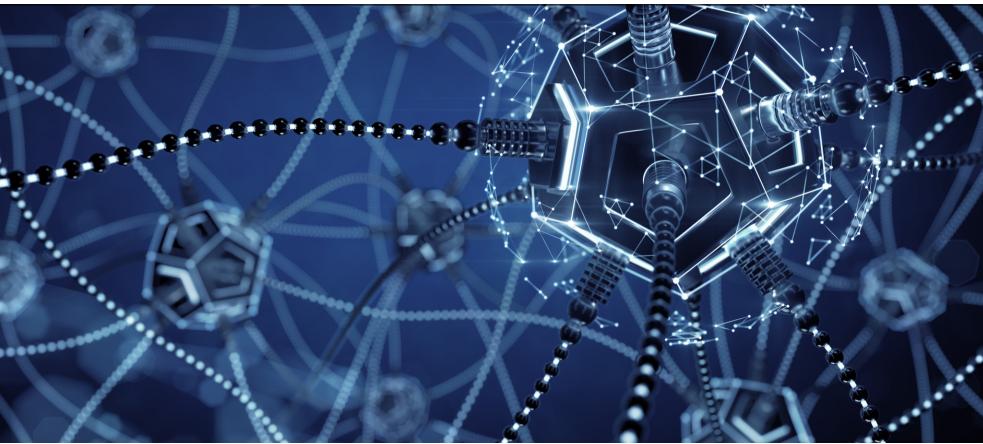


Theoretical Foundations

- Algorithm Independent Means (*selection*)
- Ugly-Duckling Theorem**, S. Watanabe, 1969
 - Lack of any one feature or pattern representation that yields better classification performance without prior assumption
 - All differences are equal, unless one has some prior knowledge
- No-Free Lunch Theorem**, D.H. Wolpert and W.G. Macready, 1997
 - Lack of inherent superiority of any classifier
 - Q.: Which algorithm is suitable for which problem?
 - A.: Given an algorithm with an intended operating range R, it will be possible to find a problem in R which can not be solved.



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Data Science

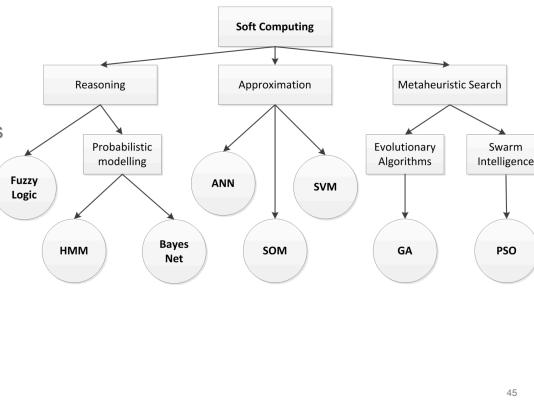
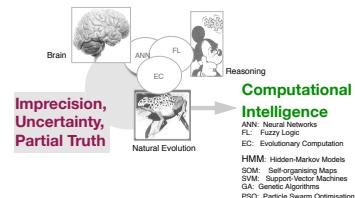
Machine Learning & Computational Intelligence

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Requirements on Computational Methods

Large scale Forensic Investigations

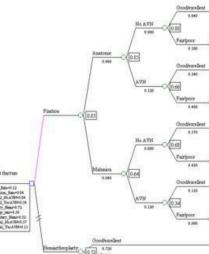
- Situation-aware methods
- Quantified, measurable indicators
- Adaptive, self-organising models
- Distributed, cooperative, autonomous



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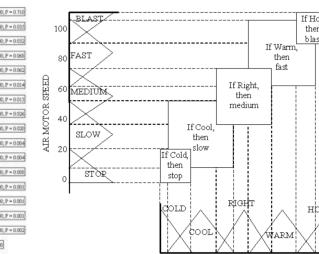
Hard Computing vs. Soft Computing

Decision Tree



www.data-machine.com

Fuzzy Rules



orthojournal.wordpress.com

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Specific Challenges in Computational Forensics

- Deterministic vs. **Heuristic Methods**
 - **Optimal** outcome of the algorithm is **NOT ensured**, just a nearby solution
- Mainly focus on Abnormalities / **Outliers vs.** general Characteristics / **Normal**
- Highly **Imbalanced** Data sets, hardly available at computational method design
- Algorithmic solution hardly / **not understood** by human



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Computational Forensics

Scientific Computing in Forensics

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Admission of Computational Forensics

- **Increase Efficiency and Effectiveness**
- **Perform Method / Tool Testing** regarding their Strengths/Weaknesses and their Likelihood Ratio (Error Rate)
- **Gather**, manage and extrapolate data, and to synthesize new **Data Sets** on demand.
- **Establish** and implement **Standards** for data, work procedures and journal processes

- **Education and training**, Revealing the state-of-the art in "each" domain
- **Sources of information** on events, activities and financing opportunities
- **International forum to peer-review and exchange**, e.g., IWCf workshops
- **Performance evaluation, benchmarking, proof and standardization** of algorithms
- Resources in forms of **data sets, software tools, and specifications** e.g. data formats
- **New Insights** on problem description and procedures

- Questions on methods for **dimensionality reduction** - loss of relevant information
- Questions on **extracted numerical parameters** - loss of information due to inappropriate features
- Questions on the reliability of **applied computational method / tool**
- Questions on the final conclusion due to "wrong" **computational results**

- Computational forensics holds the potential to greatly benefit all of the forensic sciences.
- For the computer scientist it poses a new frontier where new problems and challenges are to be faced.
- The potential benefits to society, meaningful inter-disciplinary research, and challenging problems should attract high quality students and researchers to the field.

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"Theory without practice is empty;
Practice without theory is blind"

- John Dewel

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Stay in touch!

Center for Cyber and Information Security | www.ccis.no
Norwegian University of Science and Technology | www.ntnu.no

Teknologivegen 22, P.O.Box 191, N2802 Gjovik, Norway
Phone: +47 611 35 254 | Mobile: +47 902 15 425
Email: katrin.franke@ntnu.no | kyfranke@ieee.org
Skype: kyfranke | www.kyfranke.com



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Katrin Franke

- (Full) Professor of Computer Science, 2010,
PhD in Artificial Intelligence, 2005, MSc in Electrical Engineering, 1994
- Industrial Research & Development (20+ years); Financial Services & Law Enforcement Agencies
- Courses, Tutorials and post-graduate Training: Police, BSc, MSc, PhD
- Funding Chair IAPR/TC6 – Computational Forensics
- IAPR Young Investigator Award, 2009, International Association of Pattern Recognition
- Academic Advisor to EUROPOL, European Cybercrime Center (EC3), 2014-present
- Academic Advisor to INTERPOL, Global Cybercrime Expert Group (IGCEG), 2015-present

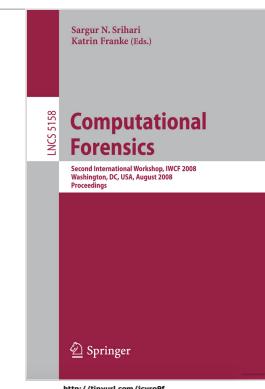
- **Topic I'm looking forward to discuss**
 - Forensics as a Service, Large-scale (Big-data) Investigations of digital Evidence
 - Internet Forensics, Mobile & Embedded device forensics

- **Digital Evidence topic I'm currently working on**

- Computational Forensics for proactive and reactive investigations, e.g.
Behavioural malware analysis, Intrusion detection, Deep package mining & content analysis
- Adaptive, context-aware, and reliability evidence analysis
- Forensics-by-design, Forensic tool testing
- Forensic Data Science / Multimedia Forensics

- **Main competence outside Digital Evidence**

- Working with LEA since 1996, e.g. Bundeskriminalamt (DE), Netherlands Forensics Institute, ENFSI (EU), Økokrim, Kripo, National Research Institute of Police Science (JP), FBI, USSS, NIST
- Biometrics, Secure Documents & Forensic Document Examination
- Computational Intelligence / Computer Vision



<http://tinyurl.com/jcyro9f>

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