



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

# Computational Modeling for Materials Engineering

## Deep Learning Application in Materials Engineering

### **INTRODUCTION and HANDS-ON SESSION 1**

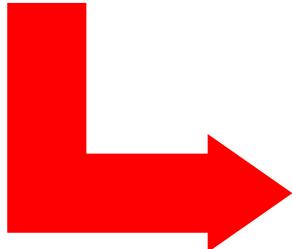
José Pablo Quesada Molina

[josepablo.quesada@polimi.it](mailto:josepablo.quesada@polimi.it)

# Agenda for today's class:

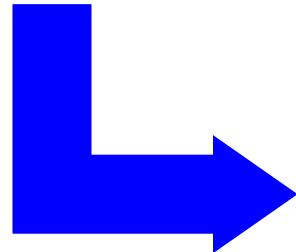
1

Brief overview of  
fundamental concepts  
(AI,ML,DL, ANN).



2

Application in the field of  
Materials Engineering:  
Master's Thesis Project.



3

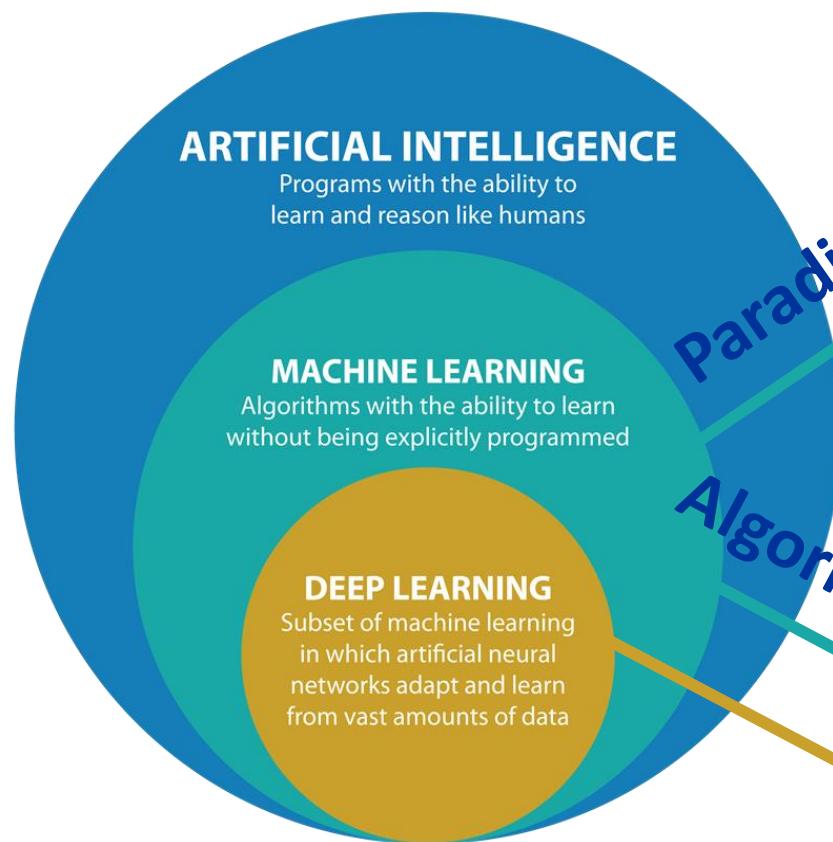
Implementation  
hands-on.

# **Brief overview of fundamental concepts: from the general to the specifics**

**1**

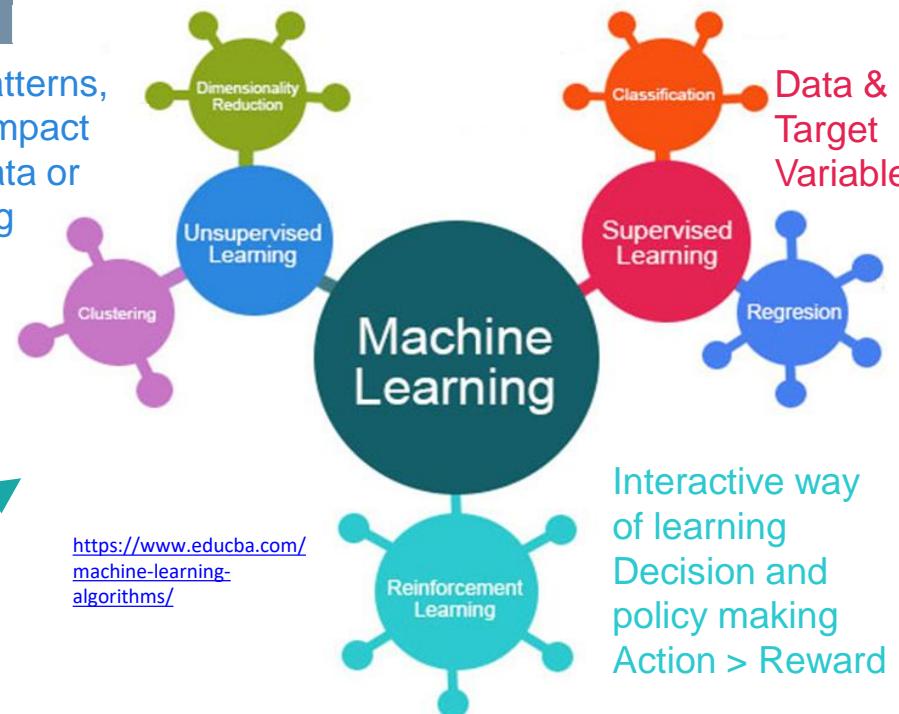
# Relationship between concepts AI, ML, DL, ANN

1



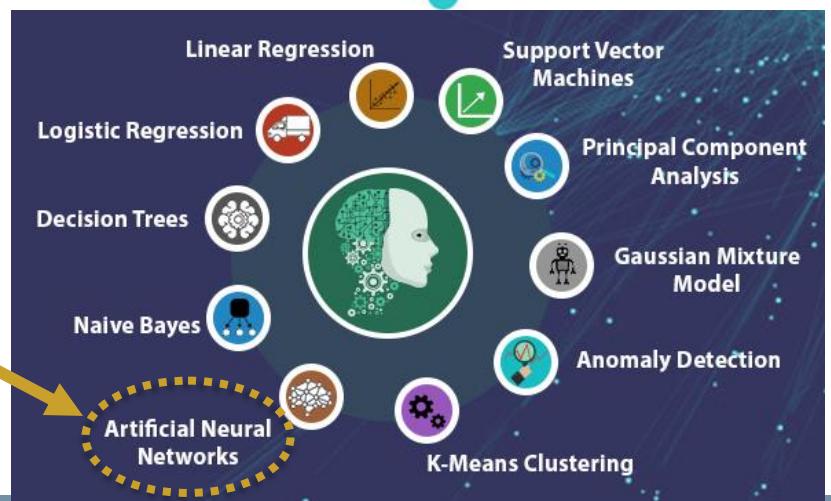
<https://www.qubole.com/blog/deep-learning-the-latest-trend-in-ai-and-ml/>

Finding structures and patterns, groups and clusters, compact representation of the data or generative modeling

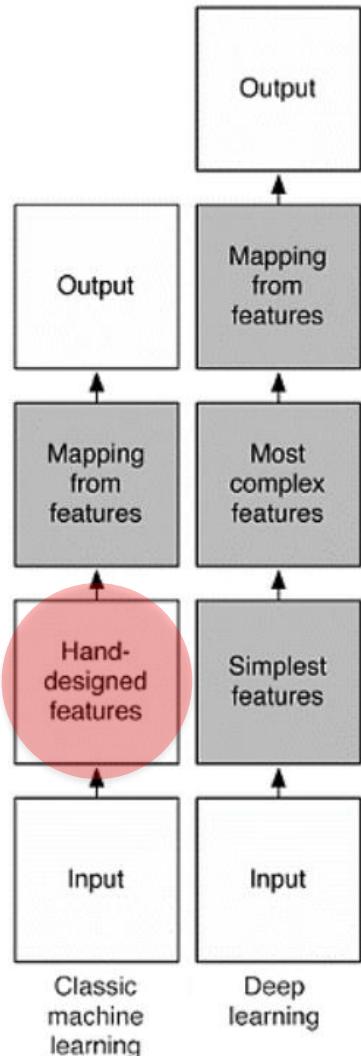


<https://www.educba.com/machine-learning-algorithms/>

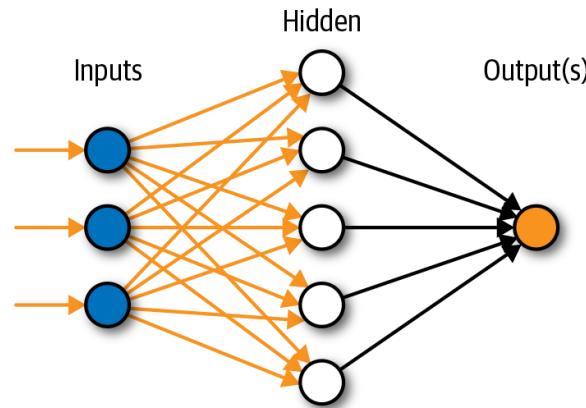
Interactive way of learning  
Decision and policy making  
Action > Reward



# Conceptual difference between Classic ML and Deep Learning



**DL is a specific class of ML algorithms which use complex Deep ANNs!**

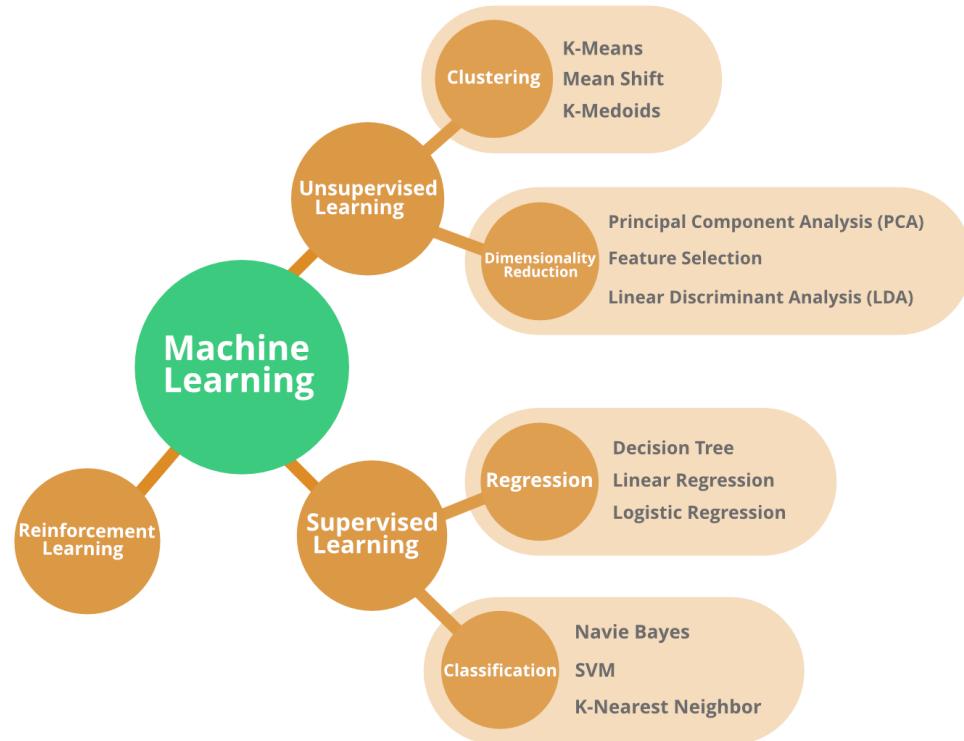


## Types of Artificial Neural Networks

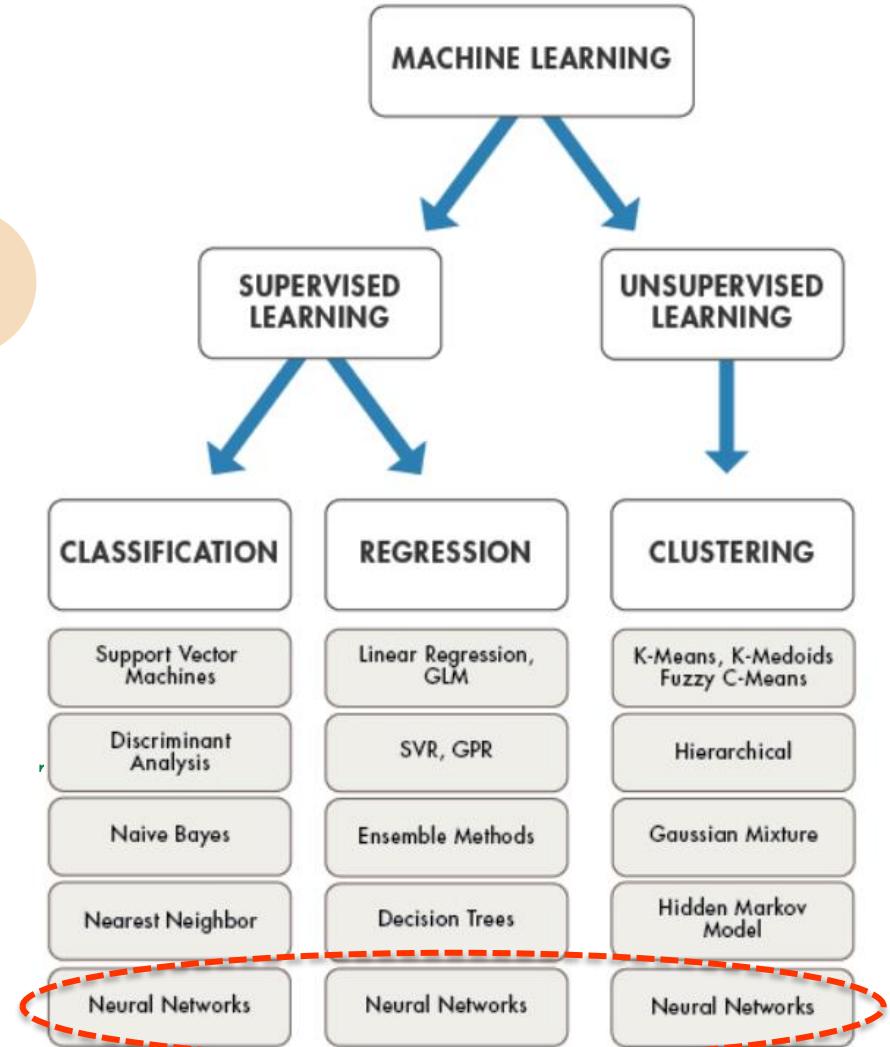
- Feedforward neural network (FNN)
- Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)
- Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)
- Generative Adversarial Neural Network (GAN)
- ...

# Algorithms for Supervised and Unsupervised Learning

<https://www.natureknowsproducts.com/the-10-algorithms-every-machine-learning-engineer-should-know/>

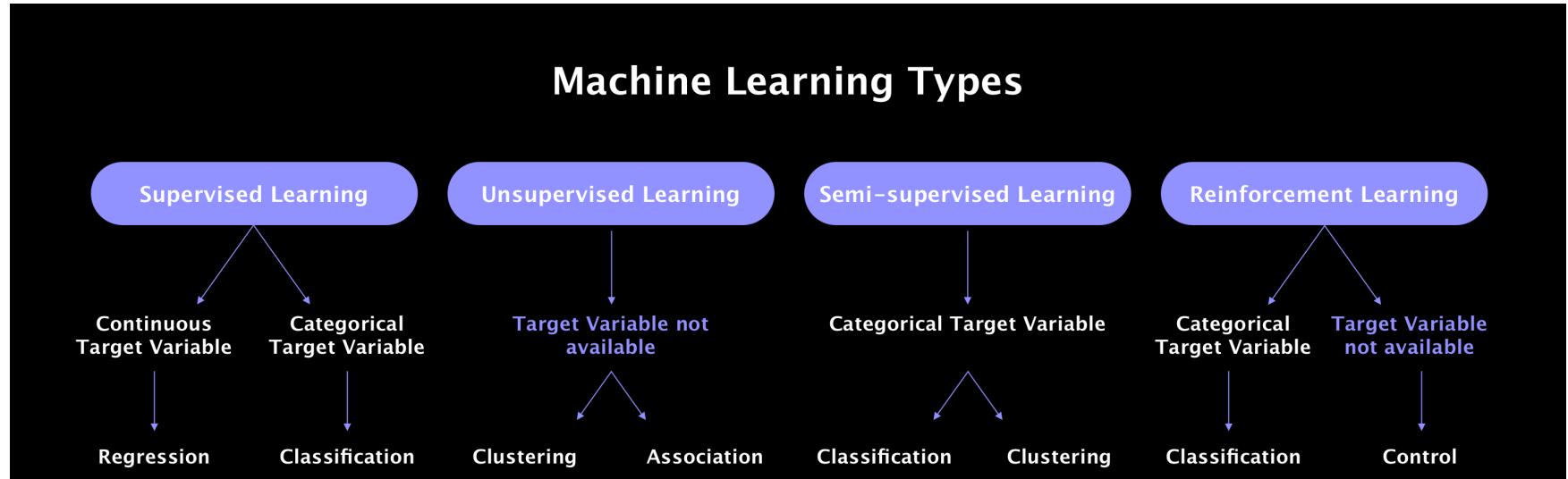


ANNs constitute the most popular class of ML algorithms, as a result of **the boost in high-performance computing** accompanied by **huge data availability**.

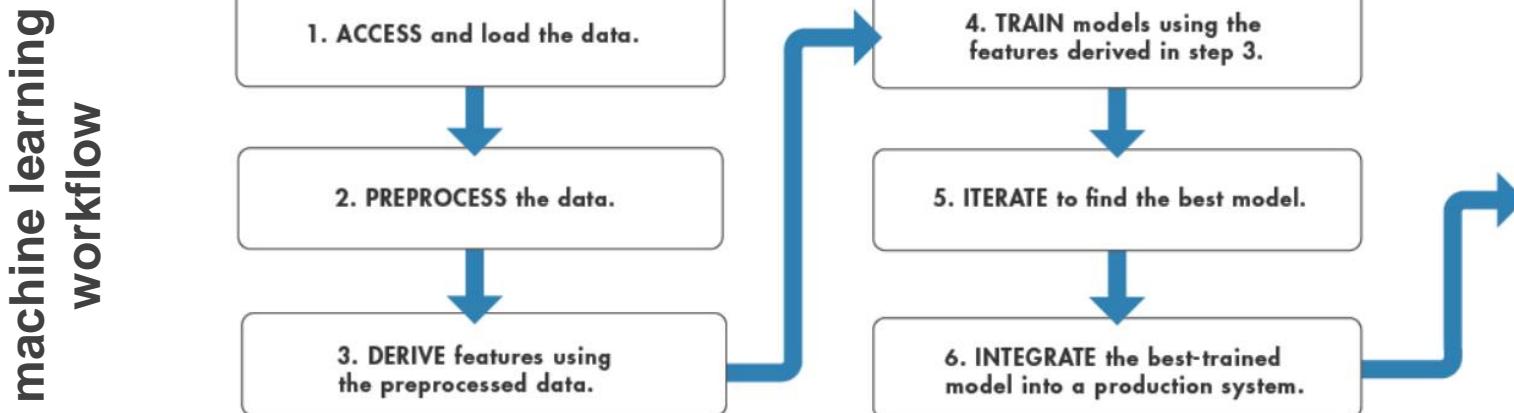


<https://se.mathworks.com/help/stats/machine-learning-in-matlab.html>

# Target variable data types and ML Workflow



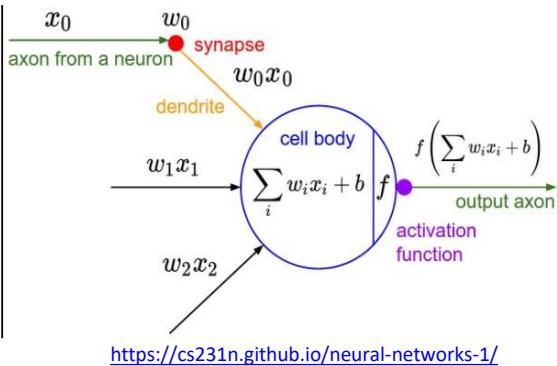
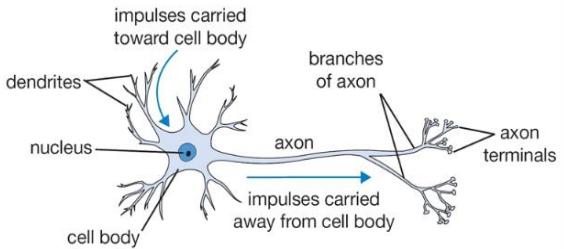
<https://litslink.com/blog/an-introduction-to-machine-learning-algorithms>



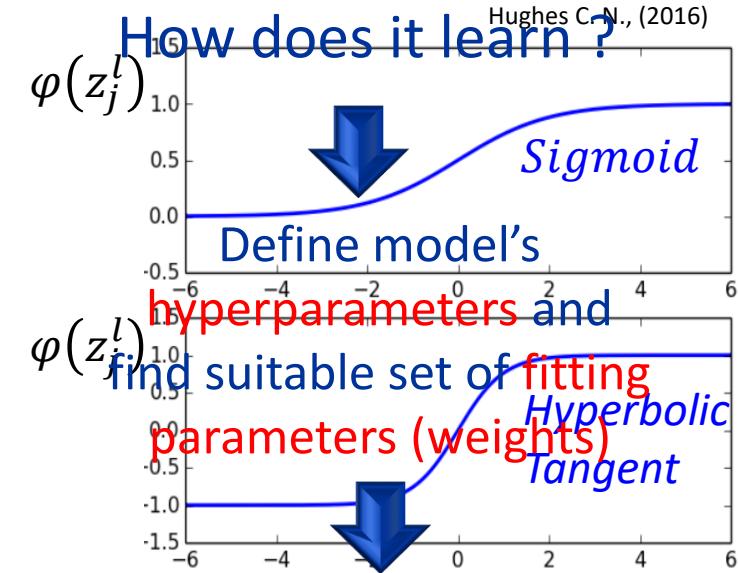
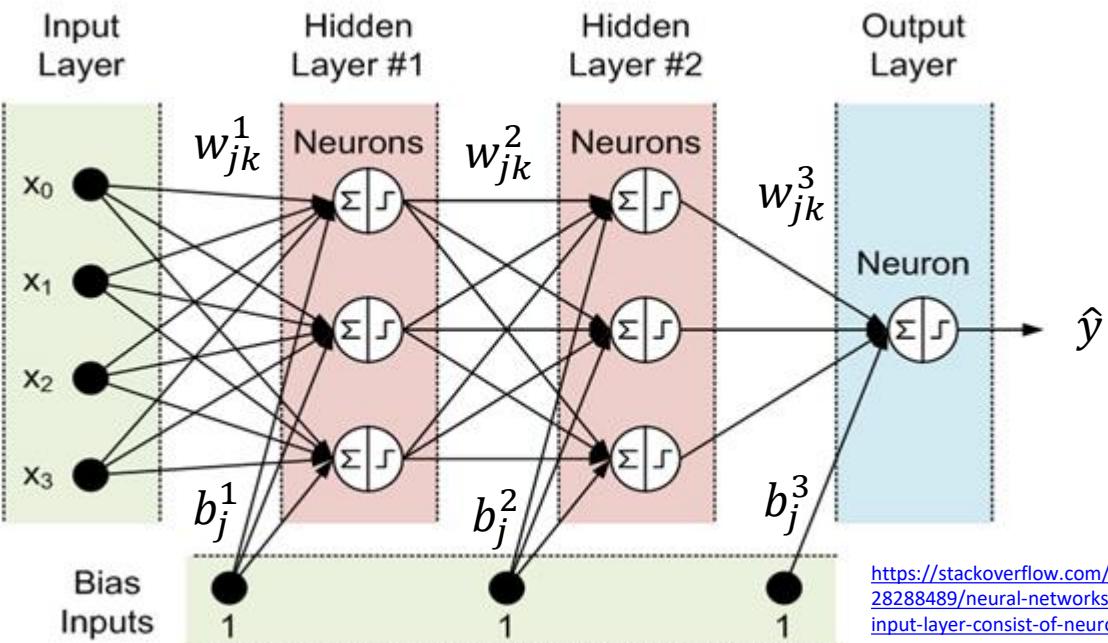
<https://se.mathworks.com/help/stats/machine-learning-in-matlab.html>

# Overview: Artificial Neural Networks Fundamentals

## Artificial Neuron: The Perceptron



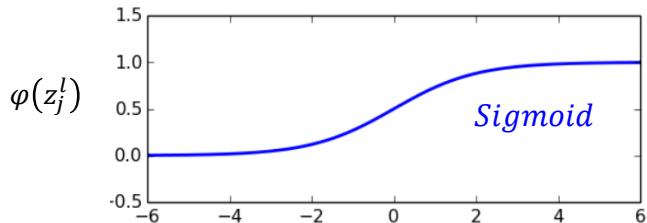
## The Multilayer Perceptron (MLP)



Gradient Descent optimization algorithm. Iterative procedure referred to as the training.

# Gradient Descent (GD) Optimization Algorithm

1. Initialize weights (internal parameters to be optimized).
2. From the input  $x$ , compute the activation vector  $\varphi^1$  for the input layer  $l=1$ .
3. Feedforward: For each  $l=2, 3, \dots, L$  compute  $\mathbf{z}^l \equiv \mathbf{w}^l \varphi^{l-1} + \mathbf{b}^l$  and  $\varphi^l = \varphi(\mathbf{z}^l)$
4. Output error  $\delta^L$ : Compute the vector  $\boldsymbol{\delta}^L = \nabla_{\varphi} J \odot \varphi'(\mathbf{z}^L)$  where:



$J \equiv$  loss function e.g.  $J_{MSE} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$

$\odot \equiv$  element wise (Hadamard) product

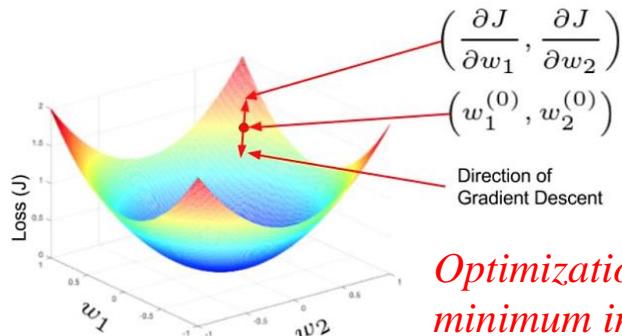
$\nabla_{\varphi} \equiv$  gradient operator with respect the activations ( $\varphi_i^L = \hat{y}_i$ )

5. Backpropagate the error: For each  $l=L-1, L-2, \dots, 1$  compute

$$\boldsymbol{\delta}^l = \left( (\mathbf{w}^{l+1})^T \boldsymbol{\delta}^{l+1} \right) \odot \varphi'(\mathbf{z}^l)$$

6. Compute the gradient of the cost function is given by  $\partial J / \partial w_{jk}^l = \varphi_k^{l-1} \delta_j^l$  and  $\partial J / \partial b_j^l = \delta_j^l$

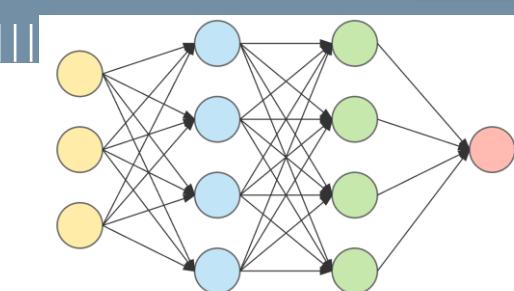
7. Update the weights and biases for next iteration using the learning rate,  $\alpha$ :



*Optimization = find the local minimum in the loss landscape*

$$(w_{jk}^l)^{\tau+1} = (w_{jk}^l)^{\tau} - \alpha \frac{\partial J}{\partial w_{jk}^l} ; \quad (b_j^l)^{\tau+1} = (b_j^l)^{\tau} - \alpha \partial J / \partial b_j^l$$

**Key!** : Different adaptations to the standard parameter update equation, aiming to improve the convergence properties (**optimizer selection**).



# Implementation of GD Optimization Algorithm

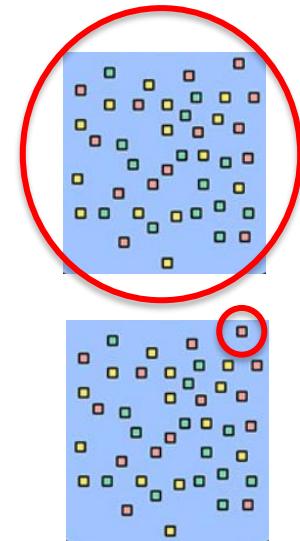
There are 3 main variations for the generic GD that arise due to practical **implementation aspects**:

**Batch-Gradient Descent:** computes the **exact gradient** using the whole dataset. A single **iteration** which is also an **epoch**!

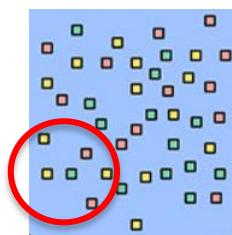
**Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD):** computes a **stochastic approximation of the gradient** using each single data point, every iteration. Each single sample produces a weight update.

**Mini-Batch Gradient Descent:** consists of a combination of the previous two methods. The training set is split into small batches or mini-batches. The weights are updated over each minibatch.

**Memory limitations!**



**Noisy convergence! Jerk the model out of local minima!**



**Balance**

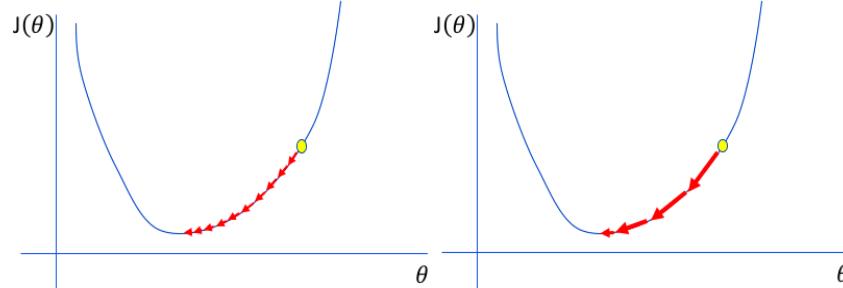
# Challenges During Optimization using GD algorithm

**Second order optimization methods incorporate curvature information to scale the gradient dynamically during the training!**



$$(w_{jk}^l)^{\tau+1} = (w_{jk}^l)^\tau - \alpha \partial J / \partial w_{jk}^l$$

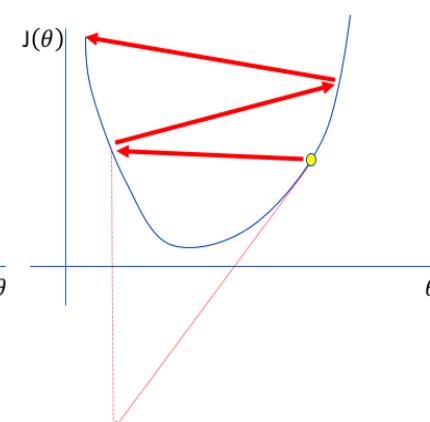
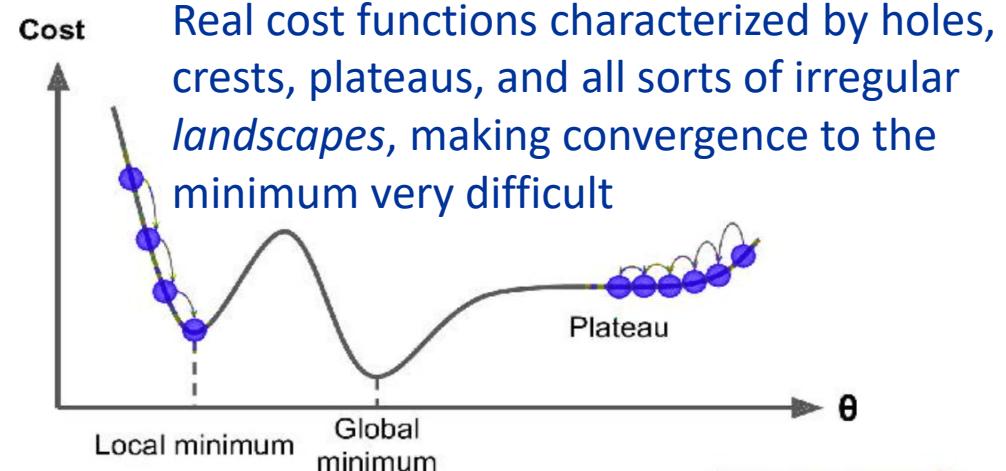
$$(b_j^l)^{\tau+1} = (b_j^l)^\tau - \alpha \partial J / \partial b_j^l$$



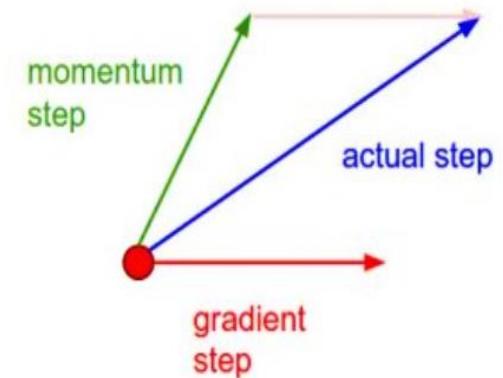
A *small* learning rate requires many updates and computing time

**Adaptative learning rate** optimizers  
(Adagrad, Adadelta, RMSprop)

## Degree of convexity of the loss surface

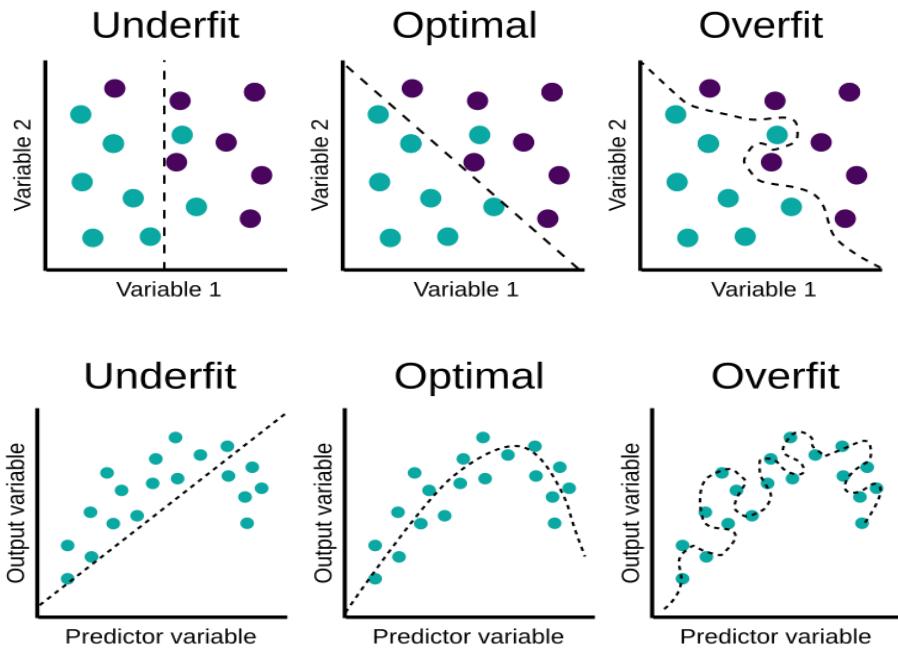


*Too large* values cause drastic update



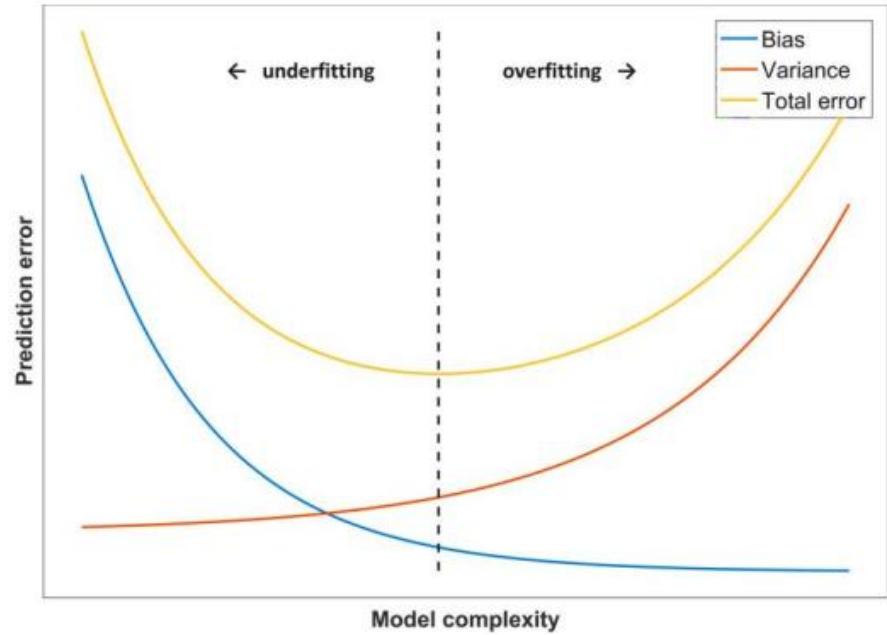
**Momentum update**  
Average gradient instead of the immediate gradient

# Challenges of the Learning process



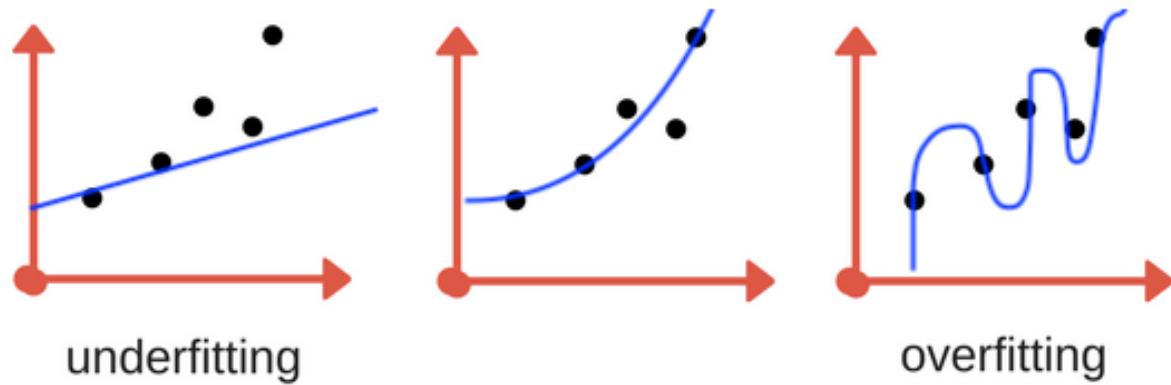
**Too simple**  
to learn the  
underlying  
structure of  
the data!

Model performs  
well on the  
training data,  
**but it does not**  
generalize well!



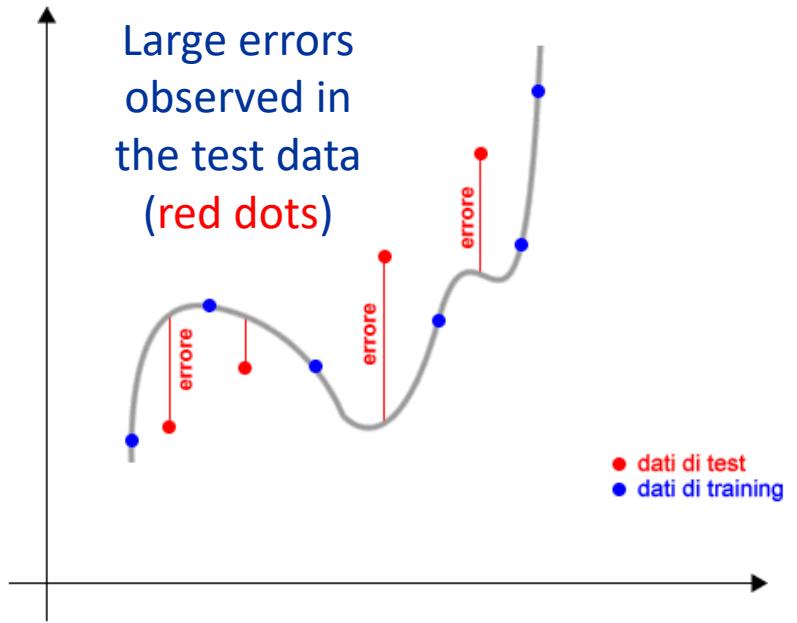
Complexity of the model is  
**proportional to the number of fitting**  
**or trainable parameters.**

# Challenges of the Learning process

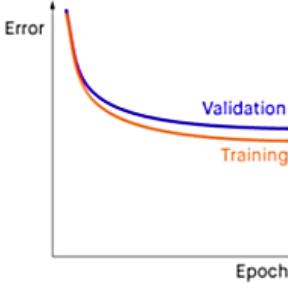
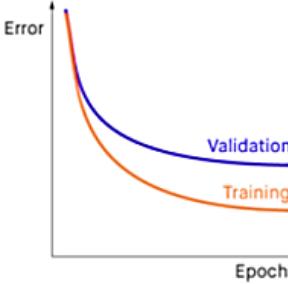


The **overfitted** model (gray line) exactly fits the training data (blue dots)

With increased model complexity the model can more accurately match the underlying relation at the risk of increasing the variance (**Overfitting**)



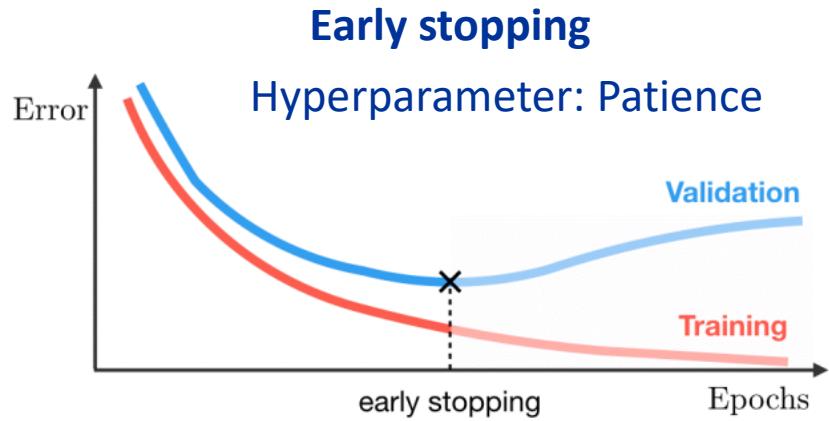
# Assessing Underfitting and Overfitting: loss curve evolution

	Underfitting	Just right	Overfitting
Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ High train error</li> <li>→ Training error close to test error</li> <li>→ High bias</li> </ul>	Training error slightly lower than test error	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Very low training error</li> <li>→ Training error much lower than test error</li> <li>→ High variance</li> </ul>
Loss curve	 <p>Error</p> <p>Validation</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Epochs</p>	 <p>Error</p> <p>Validation</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Epochs</p>	 <p>Error</p> <p>Validation</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Epochs</p>
Possible remedies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Create a more complex model</li> <li>→ Add more features</li> <li>→ Train longer</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Perform regularization</li> <li>→ Get more data</li> </ul>

## Typical regularization techniques:

- Early stopping
- L1 and L2 regularization
  - Dropout
- Data augmentation (idea: artificially generated data)

# (Some) Regularization techniques

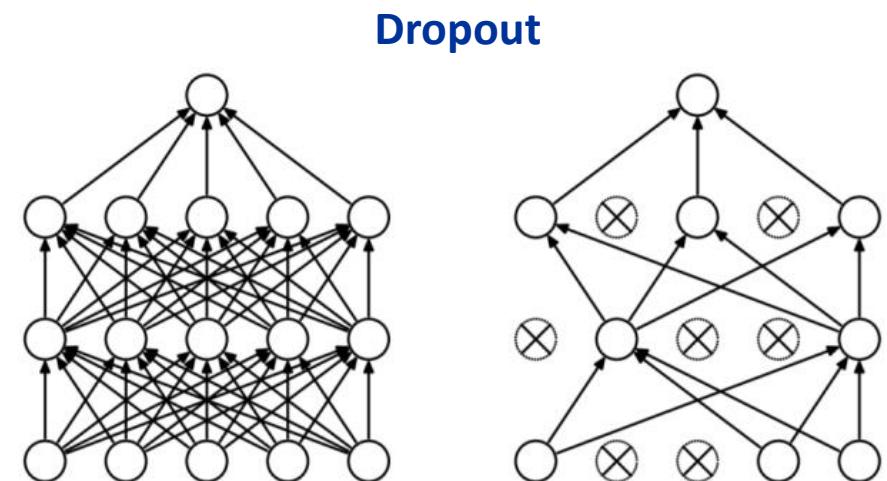


## L1 and L2 regularization

Hyperparameter:  $\lambda$

$$J_{L1 \text{ regularization}}(\theta) = J(\theta) + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^n |\theta_i|$$

$$J_{L2 \text{ regularization}}(\theta) = J(\theta) + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i^2$$



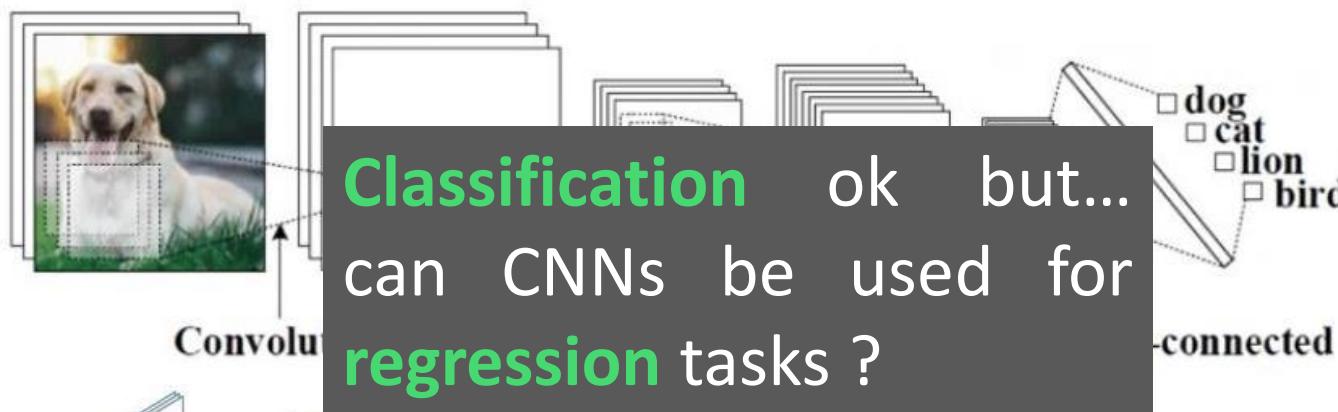
Hyperparameter: Dropout rate  $p$

## Data augmentation

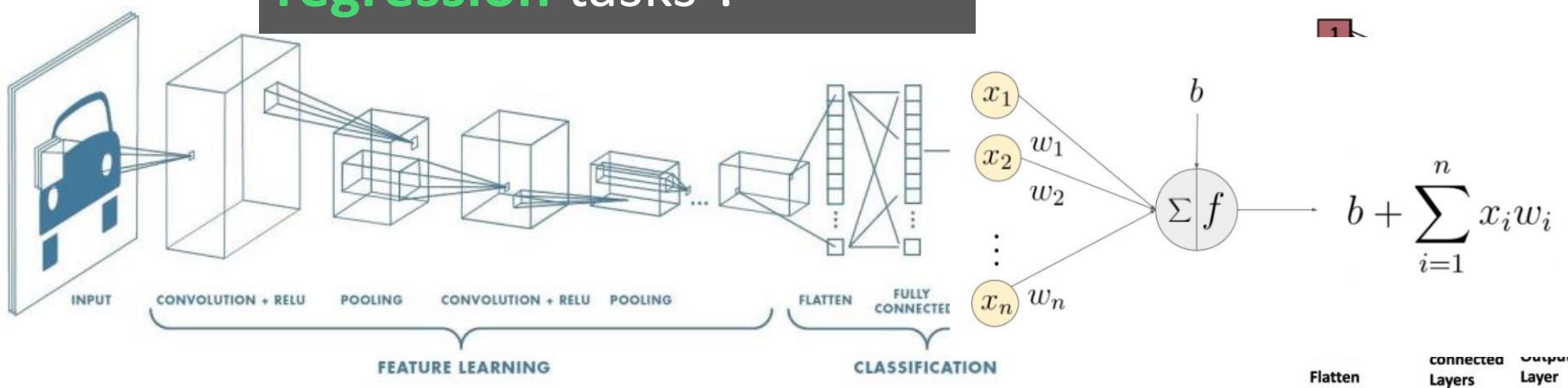


# Spatially Correlated Data: Convolutional Neural Networks

- CNNs have emerged from the study of the brain's visual cortex
- Able to learn **position and scale invariant structures in the data** allow CNNs to be used more generally on other types of data that preserves a spatial relationship ( speech recognition, time series analysis etc.)



Requires fewer fitting parameters due to the introduction of “special” type of layers



# Main operations in CNNs

- Convolution Operation

Input Feature Map

3x1	5x0	2x0	8	1
9x1	7x1	5x0	4	3
2x0	0x0	6x1	1	6
6	3	7	9	2
1	4	9	5	1

Convolutional Filter

1	0	0
1	1	0
0	0	1

Output Feature Map

25	18	17
18	22	14
20	15	23

$$3+0+0+9+7+0+0+0+6$$

Input Feature Map


Output Feature Map


- Pooling Operation

Input

7	3	5	2
8	7	1	6
4	9	3	9
0	8	4	5

Output

8	6
9	9

maxpool

<https://developers.google.com/machine-learning/practica/image-classification/convolutional-neural-networks?hl=id>

# **Application in the field of materials engineering: Master's Thesis Project**

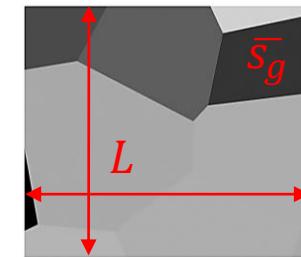
**2**

# Application: Study of the effective mechanical properties in Poly-Si thin films typically found in MEMS devices

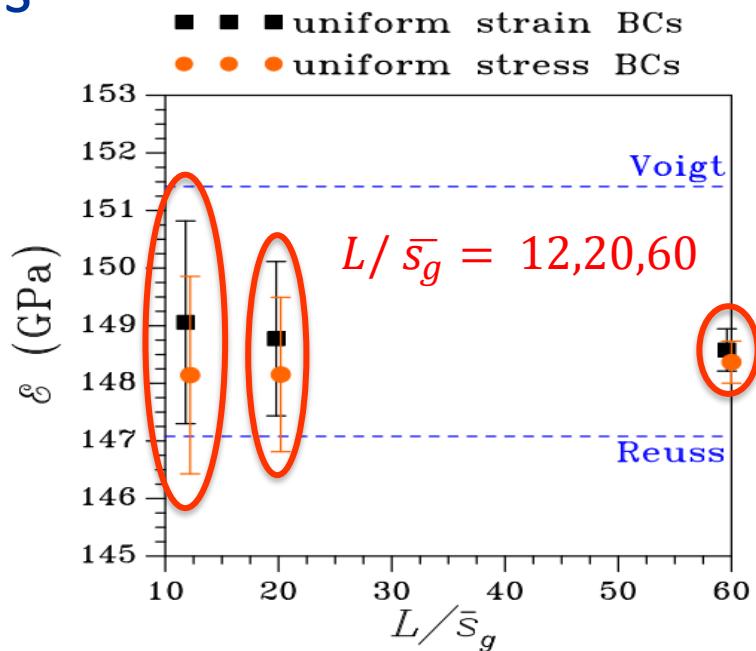
- At the length scale considered  $L/\bar{s}_g \neq \infty$   
Homogenized properties yield different values from one realization to another (SVE). Ability to characterize the dispersion of these values is key to predict MEMS performance and define reliability indices.
- Scattering in the overall properties

Scale dependent solution also known as size effect

**Goal:** Tool for a fast multiscale statistical characterization of the scattering on effective (apparent) properties induced by the material's microstructural features (**topology of the grain boundary network and the lattice orientation of each grain**).



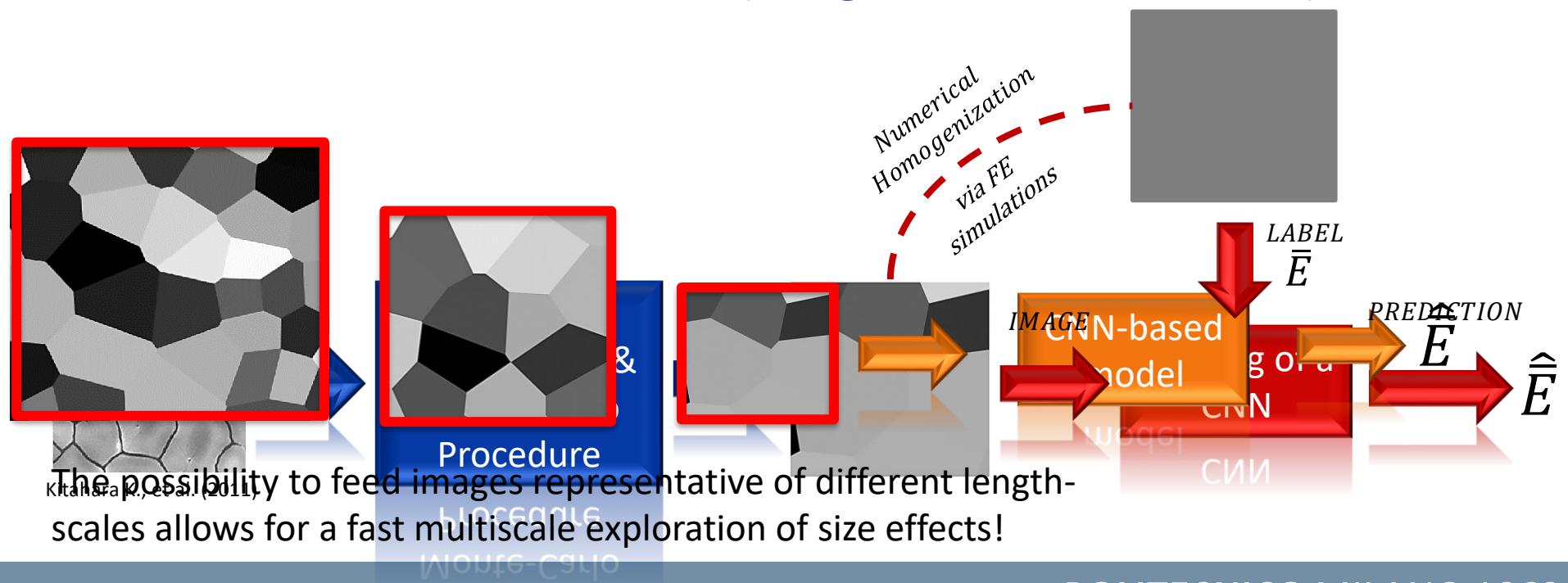
SVE:  
Stochastic  
Volume  
Element



Mariani S, et al. (2011)

# Application: Effective Properties in Poly-Si thin films typically used in MEMS (Master's Thesis)

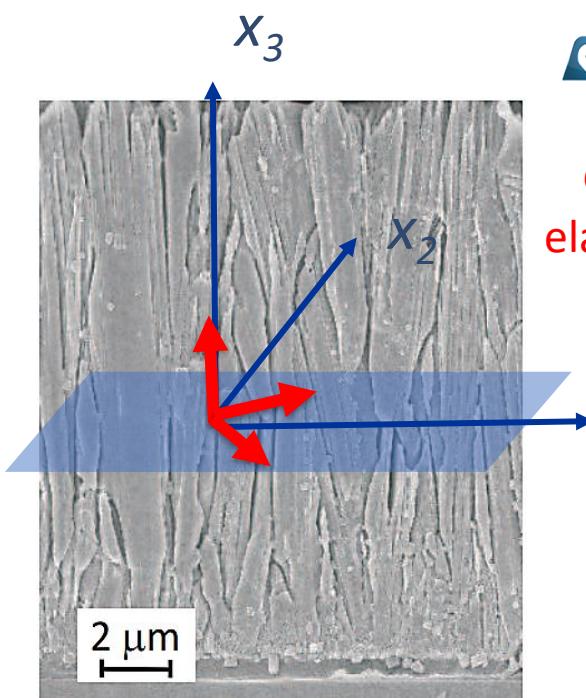
- ✓ The proposed approach represents an alternative to standard homogenization techniques.
- ✓ Limited to the characterization of 2D stochastically representative realizations of Poly-Si thin films typical of MEMS devices.
- ✓ A DL algorithm is proposed. Based on the implementation of a Convolutional Neural Network (**Image & Label: Prediction**)



# Input Data Generation : Polysilicon Films

17

Polysilicon Epitaxial Growth  
(lateral view)

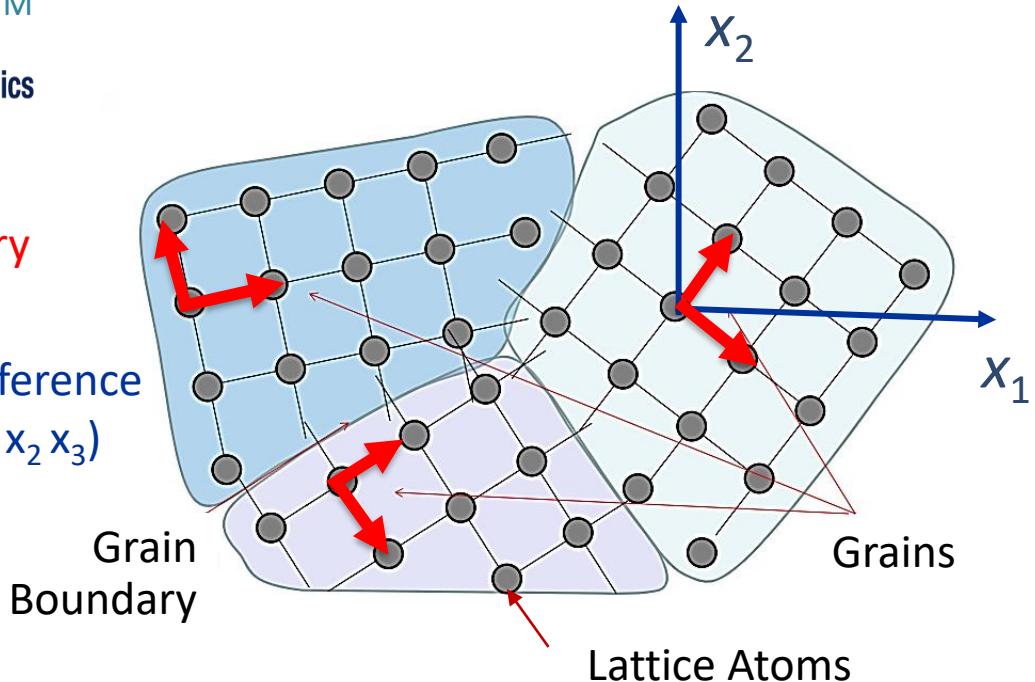


ThELMA™  
STMicroelectronics

Grain axes of  
elastic symmetry  
 $<1\ 0\ 0>$

Global reference  
frame ( $x_1\ x_2\ x_3$ )

Taking a slice  
(thin film under plane stress cond.)



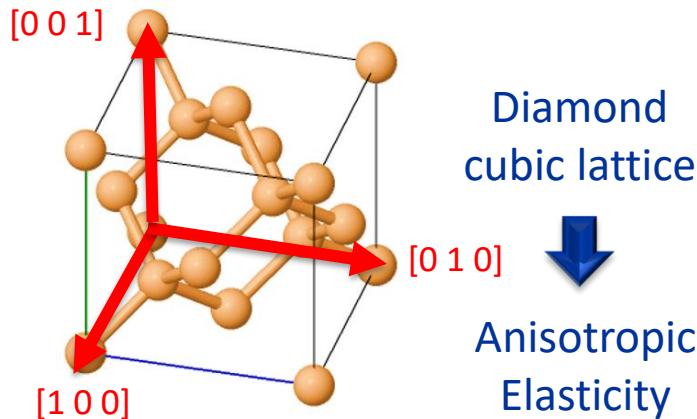
$< h k \ell >$  denotes the set of all directions that are equivalent to  $[h k \ell]$  by symmetry

- One axis of elastic symmetry aligned with epitaxial growth direction i.e.  $x_3$

- Random orientation of other two elastic symmetry directions in the  $x_1$ - $x_2$  plane.

# Silicon Anisotropic Elasticity

## Crystal Structure of Si



<http://lampx.tugraz.at/~hadley/memm/materials/silicon/silicon.php>

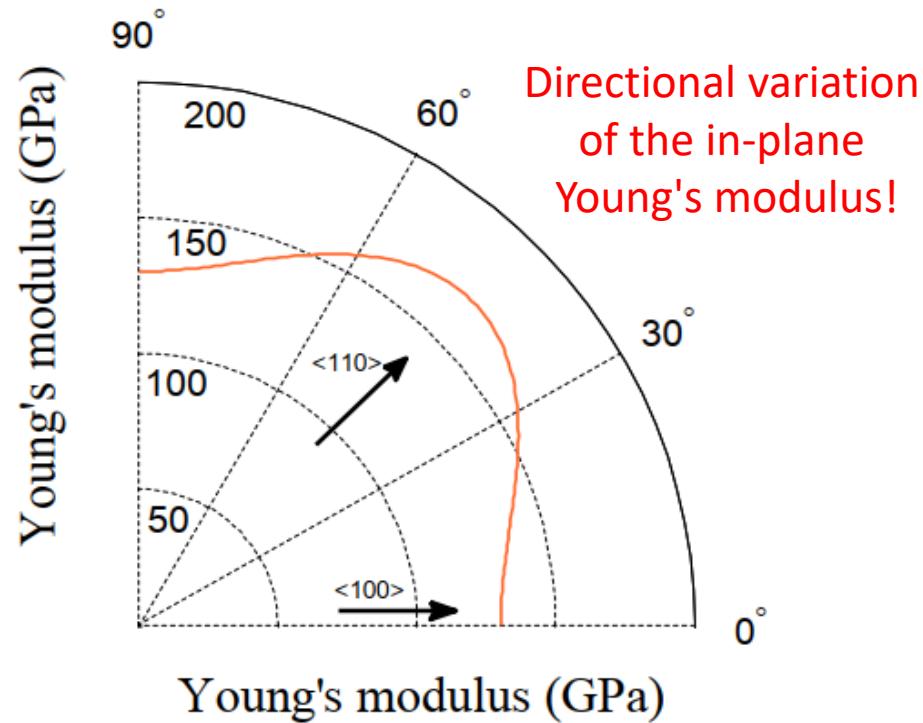
## Stiffness Matrix of Silicon

$$\begin{pmatrix} 165.64 & 63.94 & 63.94 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 63.94 & 165.64 & 63.94 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 63.94 & 63.94 & 165.64 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 79.51 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 79.51 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 79.51 \end{pmatrix}$$

\* $<1\ 0\ 0>$  aligned with  $(x_1\ x_2\ x_3)$

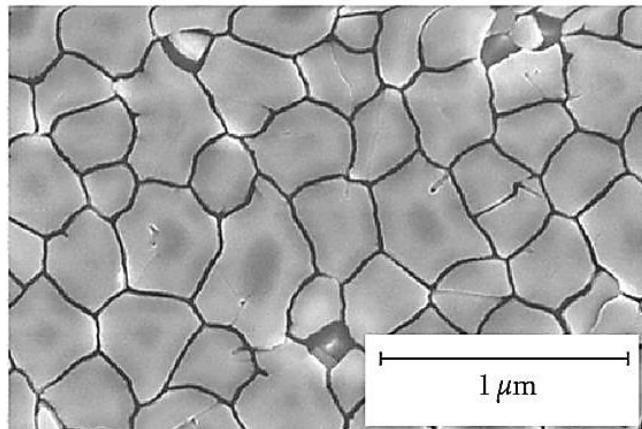
\* Reported in [GPa]

Epitaxially grown thin-films: One axis of elastic symmetry e.g.  $[0\ 0\ 1]$  aligned with epitaxial growth direction e.g.  $x_3$



Mirzazadeh R, (2017)

## Real Microstructure (Poly-Si Thin-Film)



Kitahara K., et al. (2011)

A predefined average  
Monte Carlo procedure  
exploited to account for the  
distance between  
generator points defines  $\bar{s}_g$   
stochastic effects of

- ✓ Topology of grain boundaries

(deployment sites)

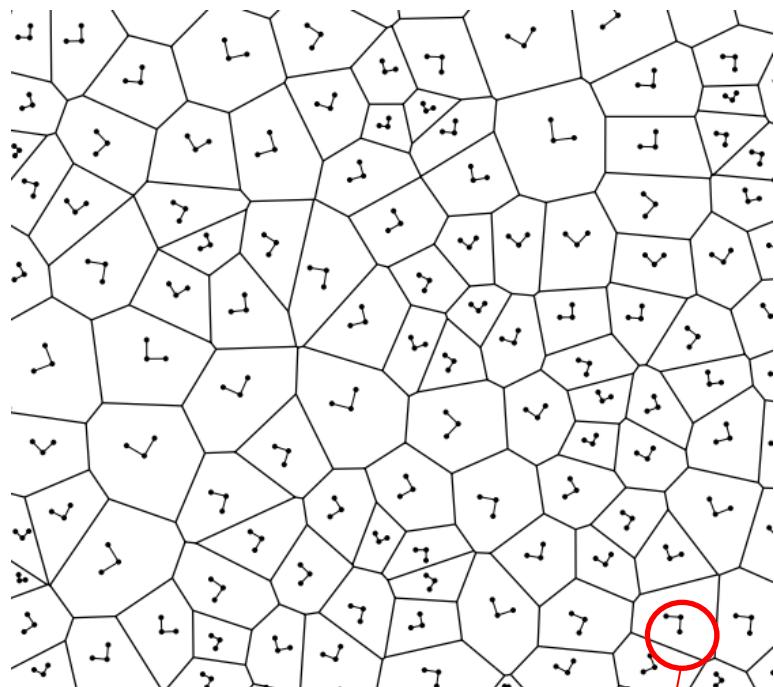
Fluctuations define actual  
✓ Lattice orientations ( $\theta$ )  
topology

↖ Lattice orientations ( $\theta$ )

(deployment sites)

## Digital Microstructure

(Voronoi Tessellation: Partition of the plane into  $n$  convex regions that represent the grain topology)



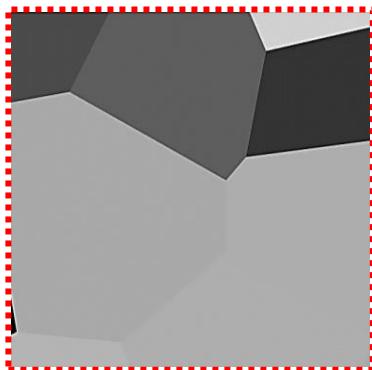
Mariani S., et al. (2011)

<https://community.wolfram.com/groups/-/m/t/1202074>

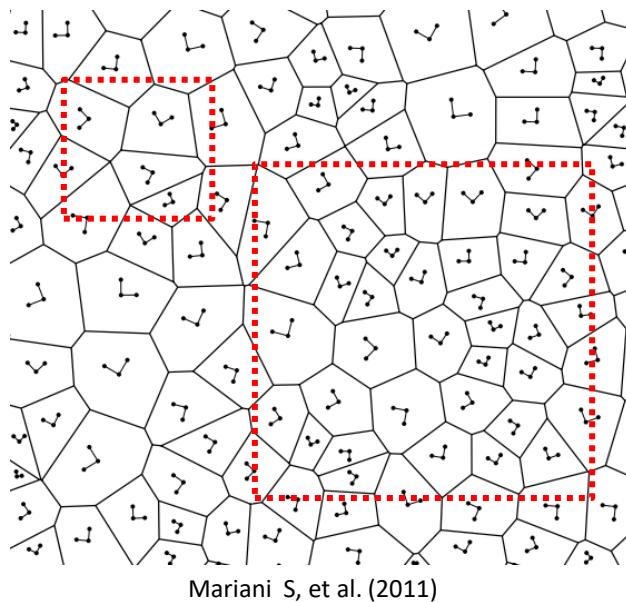
In-plane lattice  
orientation,  $\theta$

# Input Data Generation: Datasets & Labels

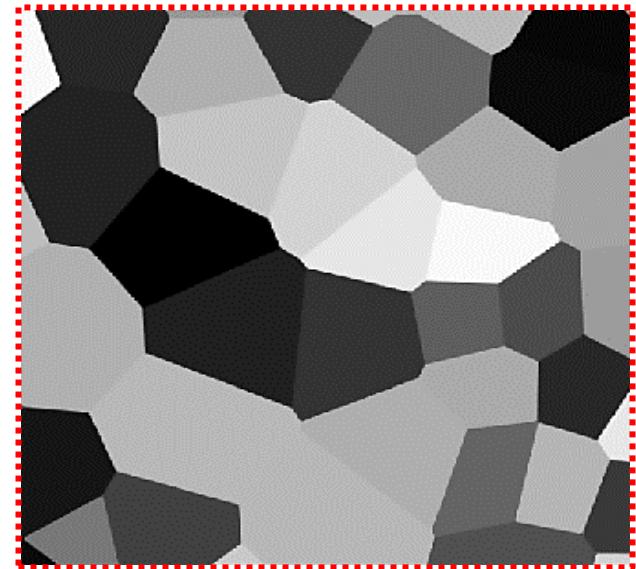
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} L = 2 \mu\text{m} \\ \bar{s}_g = 0.5 \mu\text{m} \end{array} \right\} \frac{L}{\bar{s}_g} = 4$$



- ✓ Training Set
- ✓ Validation Set



$$\left. \begin{array}{l} L = 5 \mu\text{m} \\ \bar{s}_g = 0.5 \mu\text{m} \end{array} \right\} \frac{L}{\bar{s}_g} = 10, 6$$



- ✓ Test Sets

Assessment of the generalization of the model

Ground-truth  
data  $\bar{E}$ ?

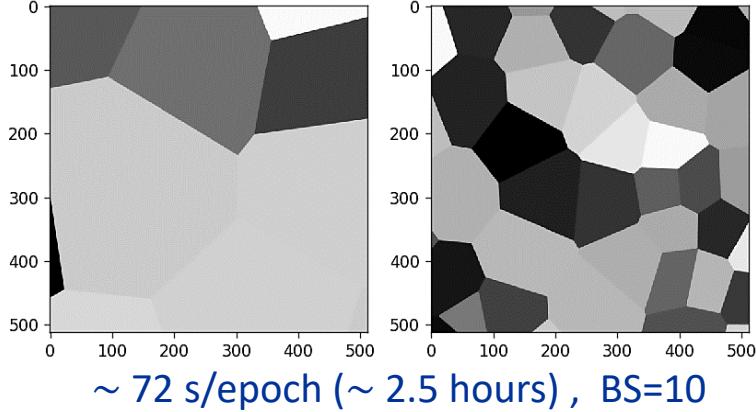


FE Simulations

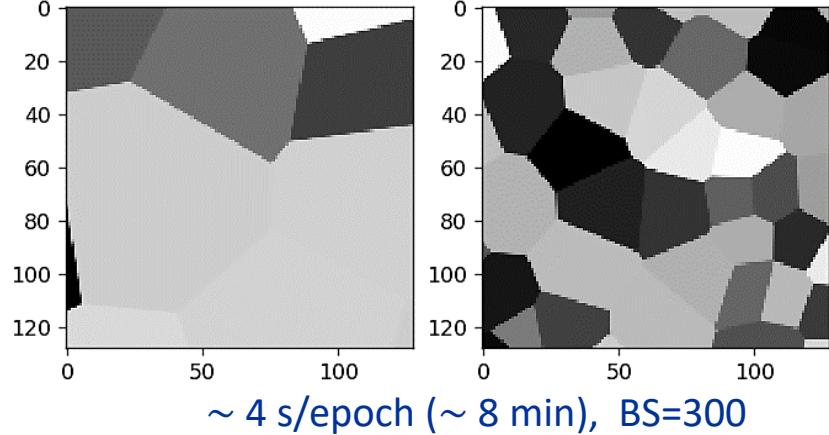
# Input Data Pre-Processing: Resolution and Digital Filtering

## 1- Resolution Adjustment

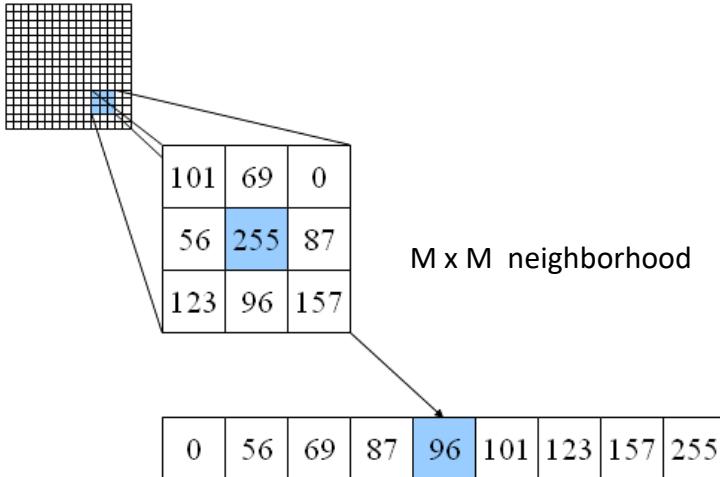
512 x 512 pixels



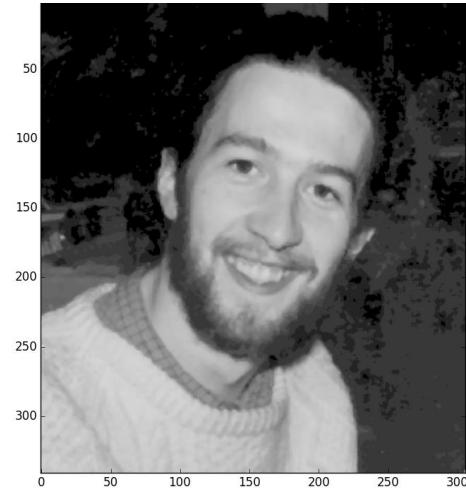
128 x 128 pixels



## 2- Median Filter

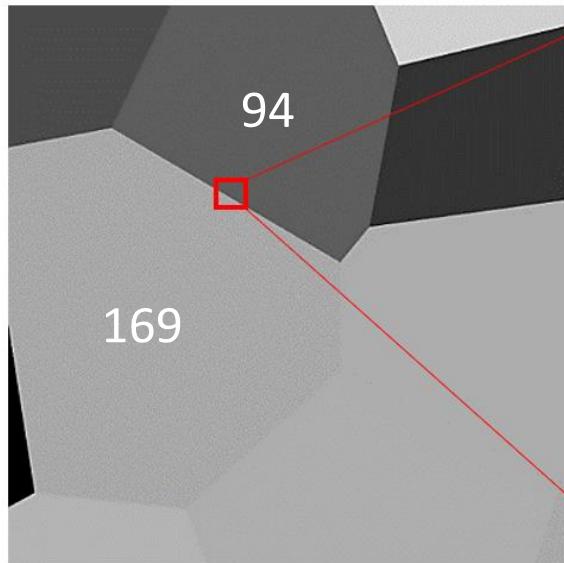


[https://www.southampton.ac.uk/~msn/book/new\\_demo/median/](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/~msn/book/new_demo/median/).



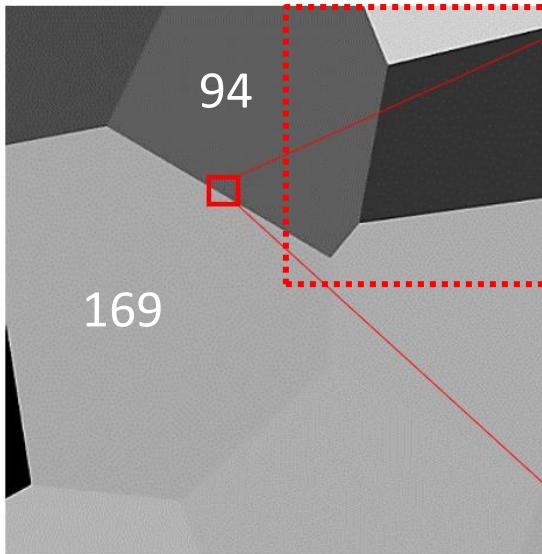
<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/31308202/what-is-the-noise-remaining-after-median-filtering>

# Input Data Pre-Processing: Median Filter Application



94	94	94	94	94	93
94	94	94	94	94	93
92	93	94	95	95	94
91	91	93	95	96	96
96	95	92	91	93	95
91	96	96	91	91	94
126	95	90	99	101	95
161	155	125	98	92	95
166	162	158	143	116	97
176	172	166	167	155	131
168	169	170	168	165	165
169	170	169	169	170	167
168	168	169	169	168	167
170	170	170	169	169	169
170	169	169	168	169	170
169	169	168	168	168	168
169	169	170	169	169	168
169	169	170	171	170	169

Increasing the size of the kernel was not possible due to shape distortions!



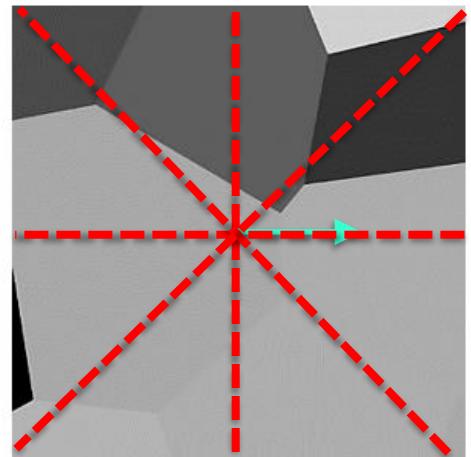
94	94	94	94	94	94	94
94	94	94	94	94	94	94
94	94	94	94	94	94	94
94	94	94	94	94	94	94
94	93	94	94	94	95	94
96	98	96	91	92	94	
122	97	93	97	97	94	
164	155	123	99	94	95	
168	160	157	144	119	99	
169	170	167	164	152	131	
171	169	168	166	165	166	
168	170	169	170	170	167	
169	169	169	169	169	169	169
169	169	169	169	169	169	169
169	169	169	169	169	169	169
169	169	169	169	169	169	169

Median Filter  
Kernel size of [3,3]  
Five consecutive times

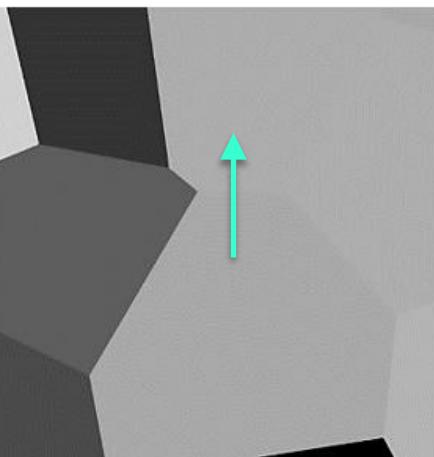
FIVE CONSECUTIVE TIMES  
KERNEL SIZE OF [3,3]

# Input Data Pre-Processing: Data Augmentation

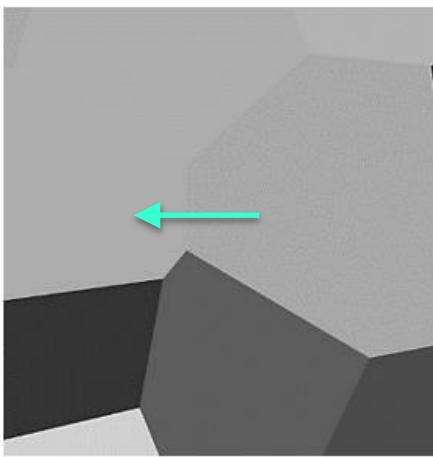
23



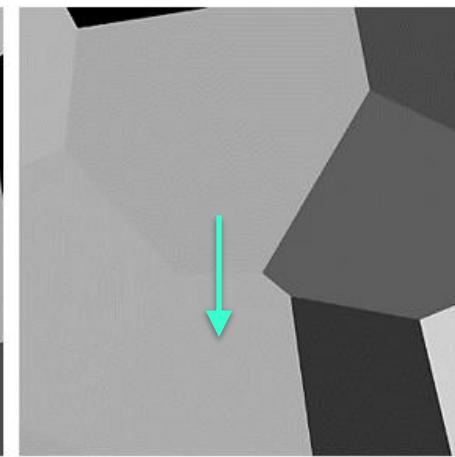
a) Original image



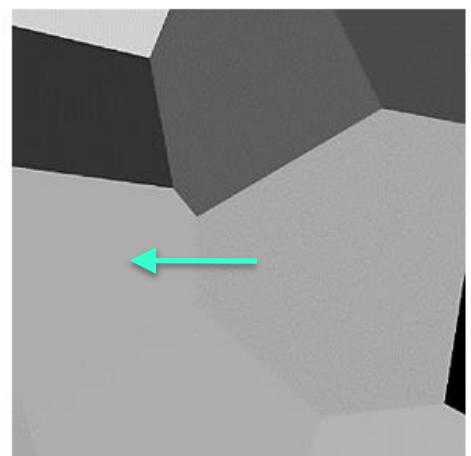
b)  $90^\circ$  Rotation



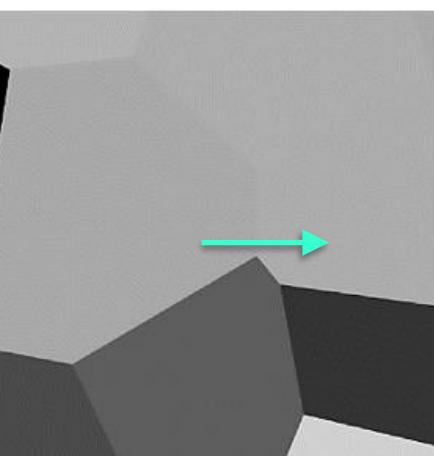
c)  $180^\circ$  Rotation



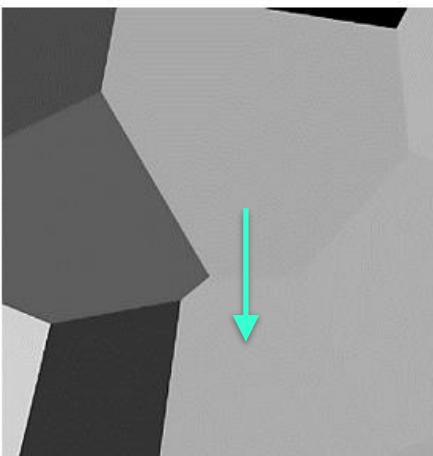
d)  $270^\circ$  Rotation



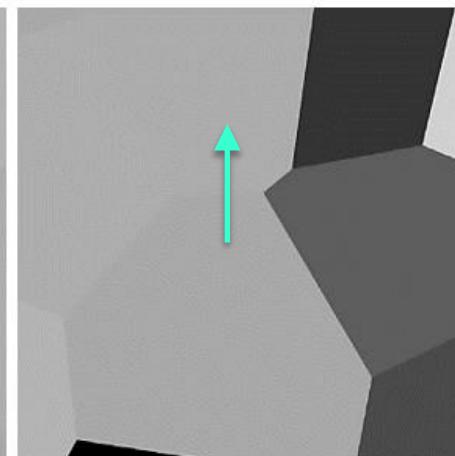
e) Vertical Flip



f) Horizontal Flip

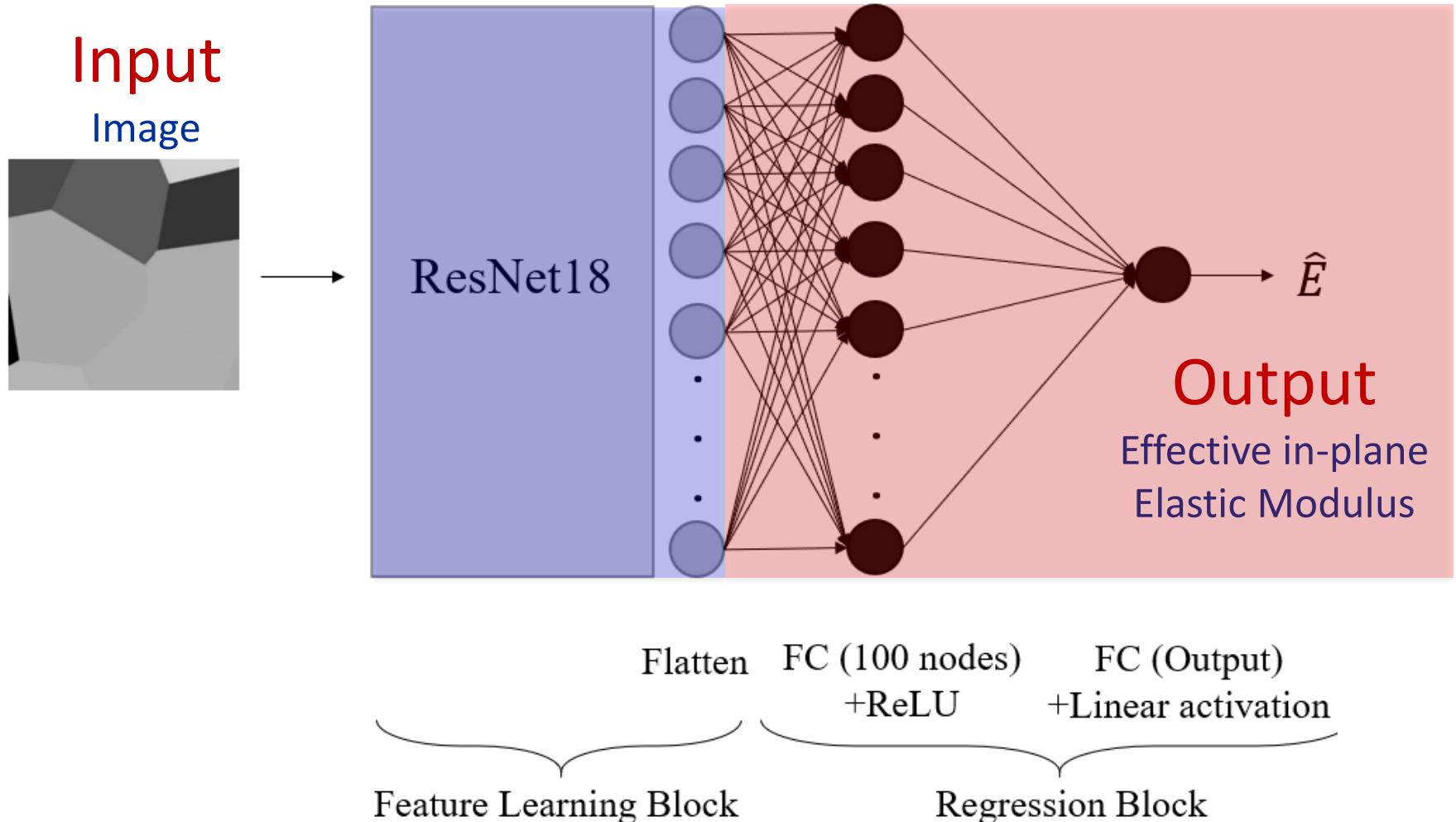


g) First Diagonal Flip



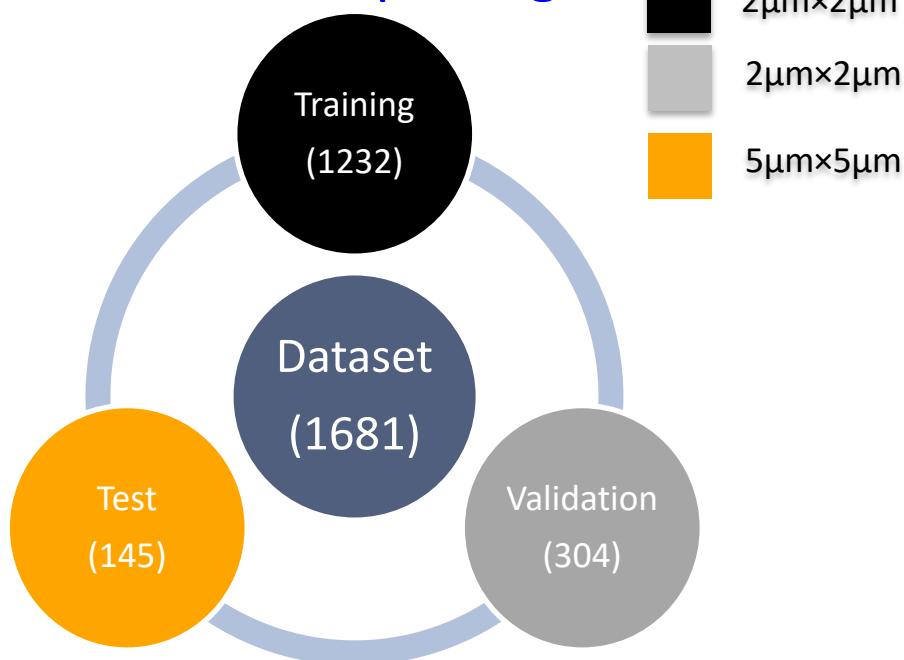
h) Second Diagonal Flip

# Model: Proposed CNN-based Architecture

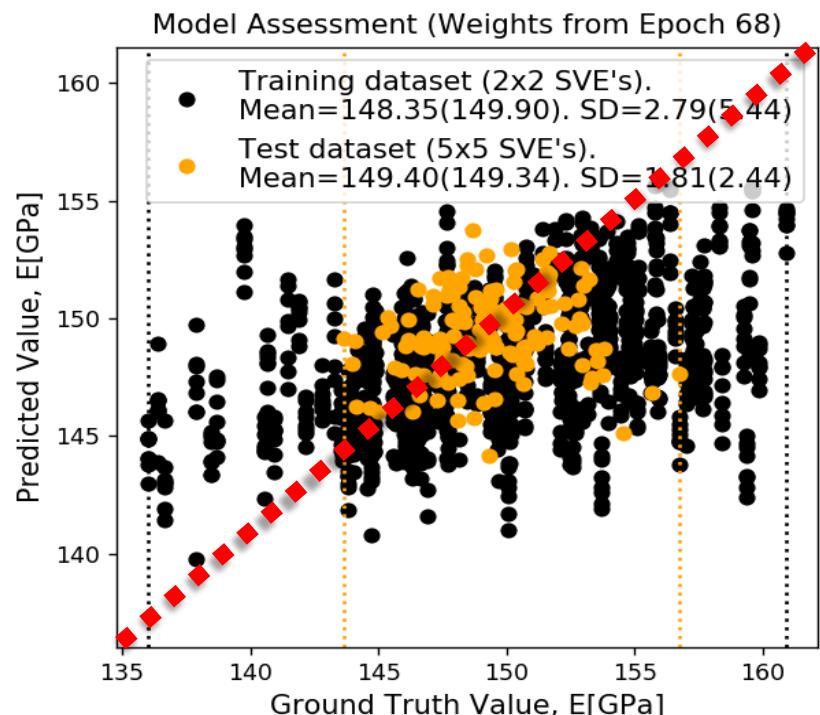


# Results: Data Augmentation

## i. Data Splitting



## ii. Parity Plot



## iii. Scattering around the mean

Standard Deviation Absolute Percentage Error:

48.7% for the training dataset ( $L/\bar{s}_g = 4$ )

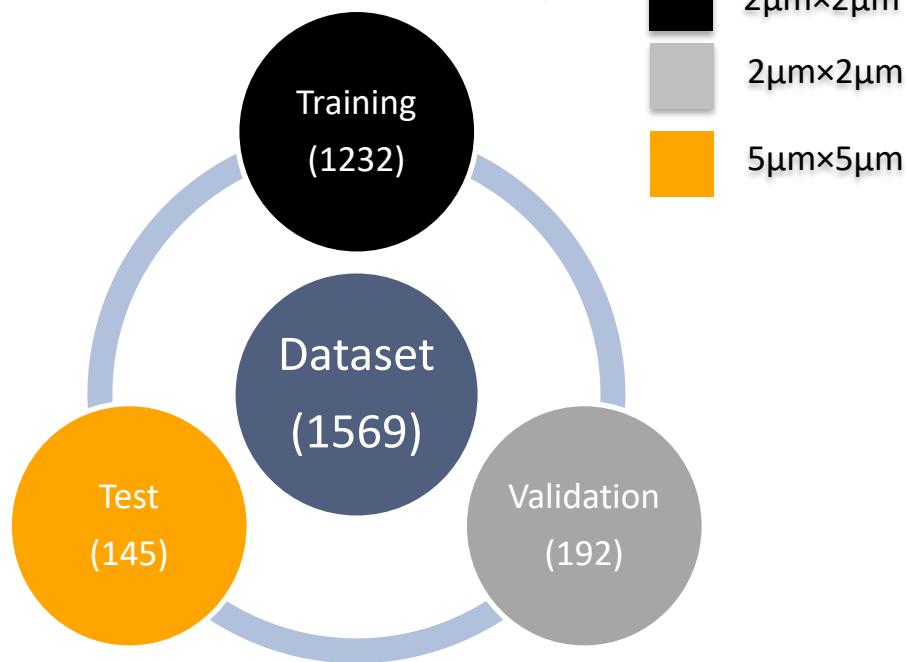
25.8% for the test dataset ( $L/\bar{s}_g = 10$ )

Limited number of original images

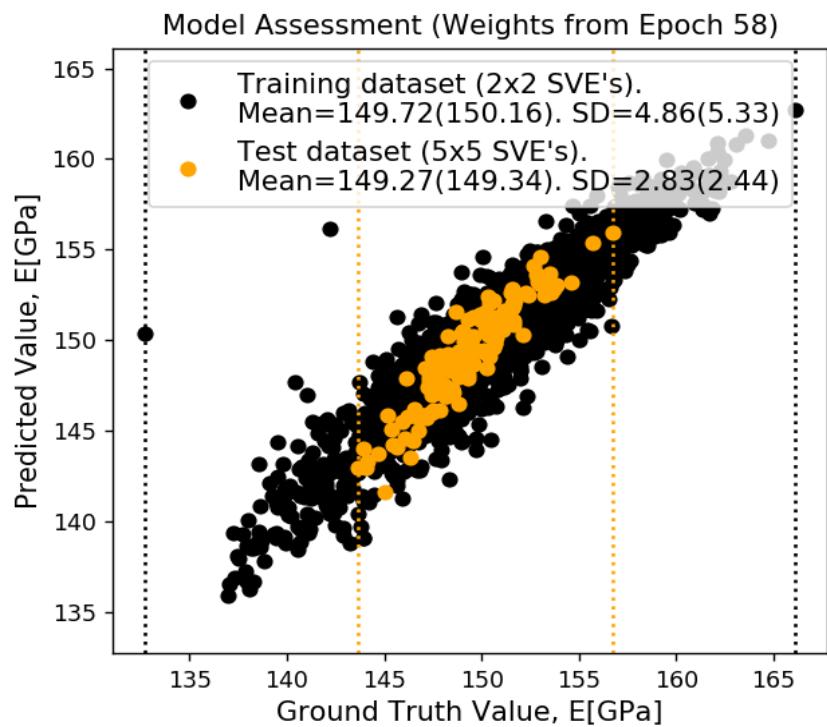
Hypothesis: Artificially augmented images have limitations

# Results: Only Original Data

## i. Data Splitting



## ii. Parity Plot



## iii. Scattering around the mean

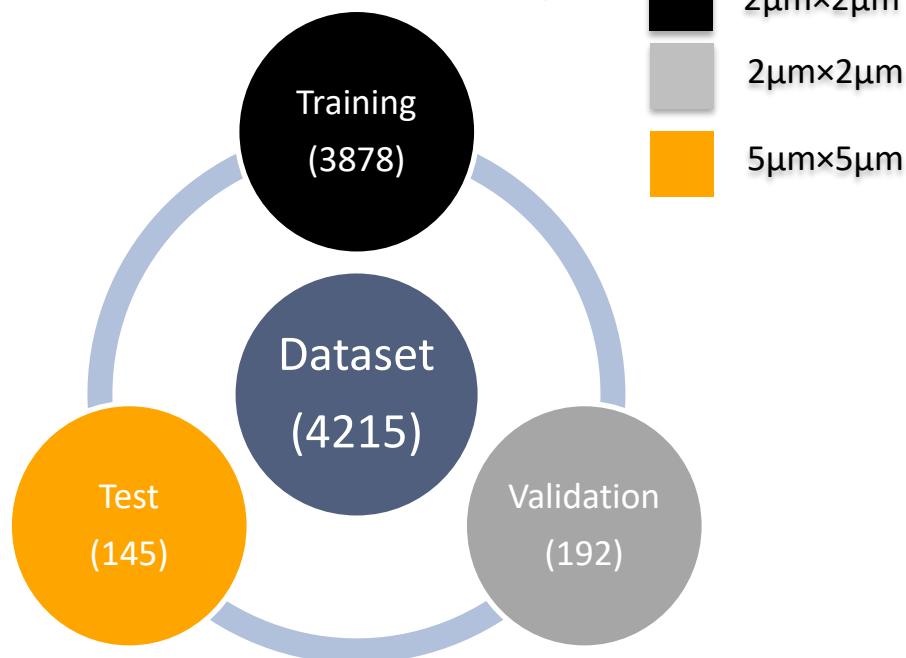
Standard Deviation Absolute Percentage Error:  
 8.8% for the training dataset ( $L/\bar{s}_g = 4$ )  
 16 % for the test dataset ( $L/\bar{s}_g = 10$ )

Significant improvement by adopting original images only

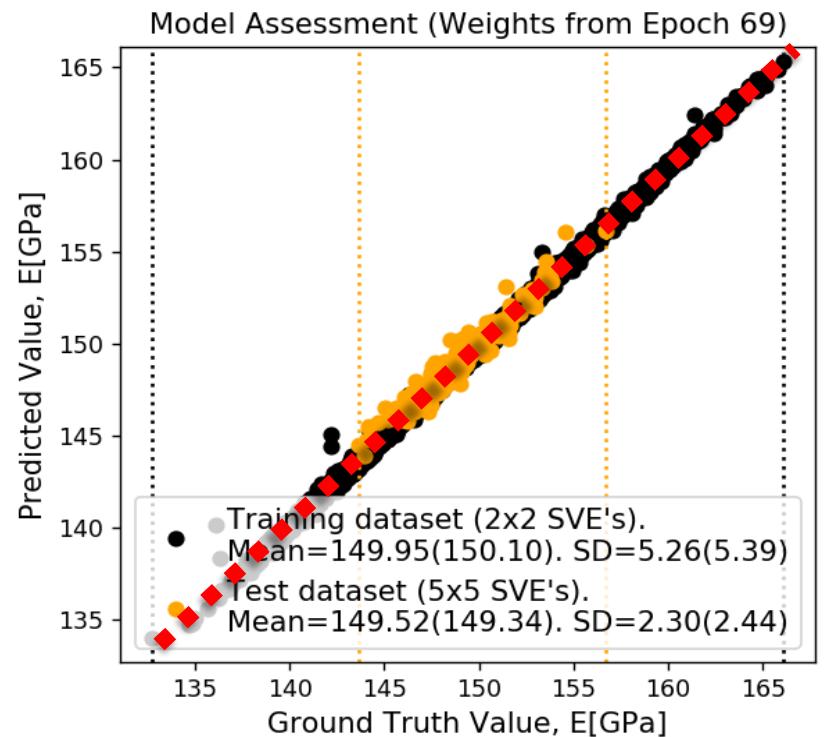
Greater variability of input information  
 (Artificially augmented images feature same value  $\bar{E}$  as that of the original image)

# Results: Increasing Original Data

## i. Data Splitting



## ii. Parity Plot



## iii. Scattering around the mean

Standard Deviation Absolute Percentage Error:  
 2.4% for the training dataset ( $L/\bar{s}_g = 4$ )  
 5.7 % for the test dataset ( $L/\bar{s}_g = 10$ )

Achieved remarkable generalization capabilities: map the one-to-one correspondence between microstructure-effective property

# Hyperparameters of the model

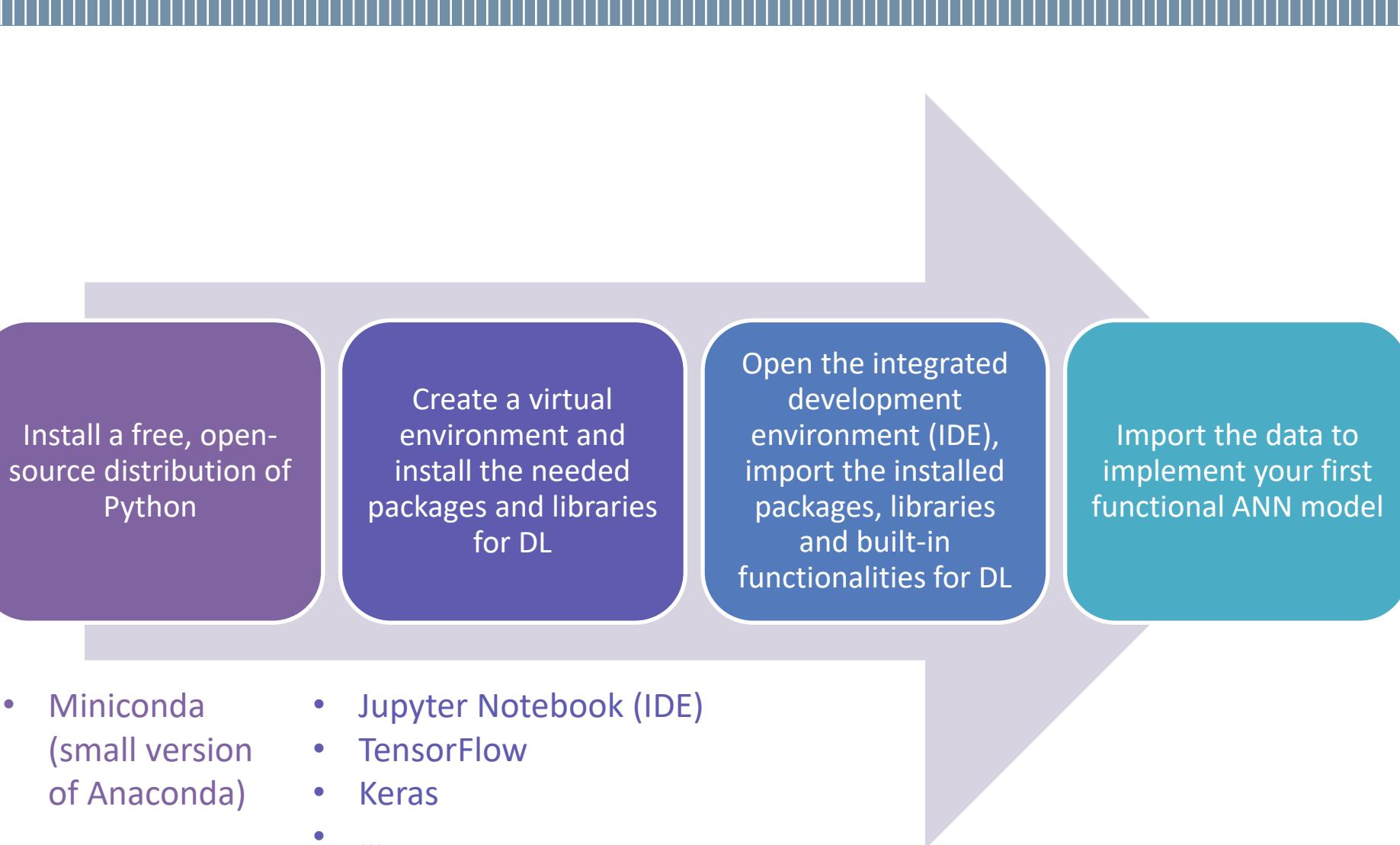
- ✓ Architecture type (MLP, CNN, ...)
- ✓ Optimizer selection and related hyperparameters (Learning rate, learning rate decay, ...)
- ✓ Use of regularization techniques and associated hyperparameters (patience, dropout rate)
- ✓ Number of nodes in FC layers
- ✓ Number of layers in the regression block
- ✓ Size of input datasets
- ✓ Input data preprocessing (resolution)
- ✓ Batch size
- ✓ ...

It is not only finding the best performing **fitting parameters** during the training but also the right combination of **hyperparameters** !

# Implementation hands-on

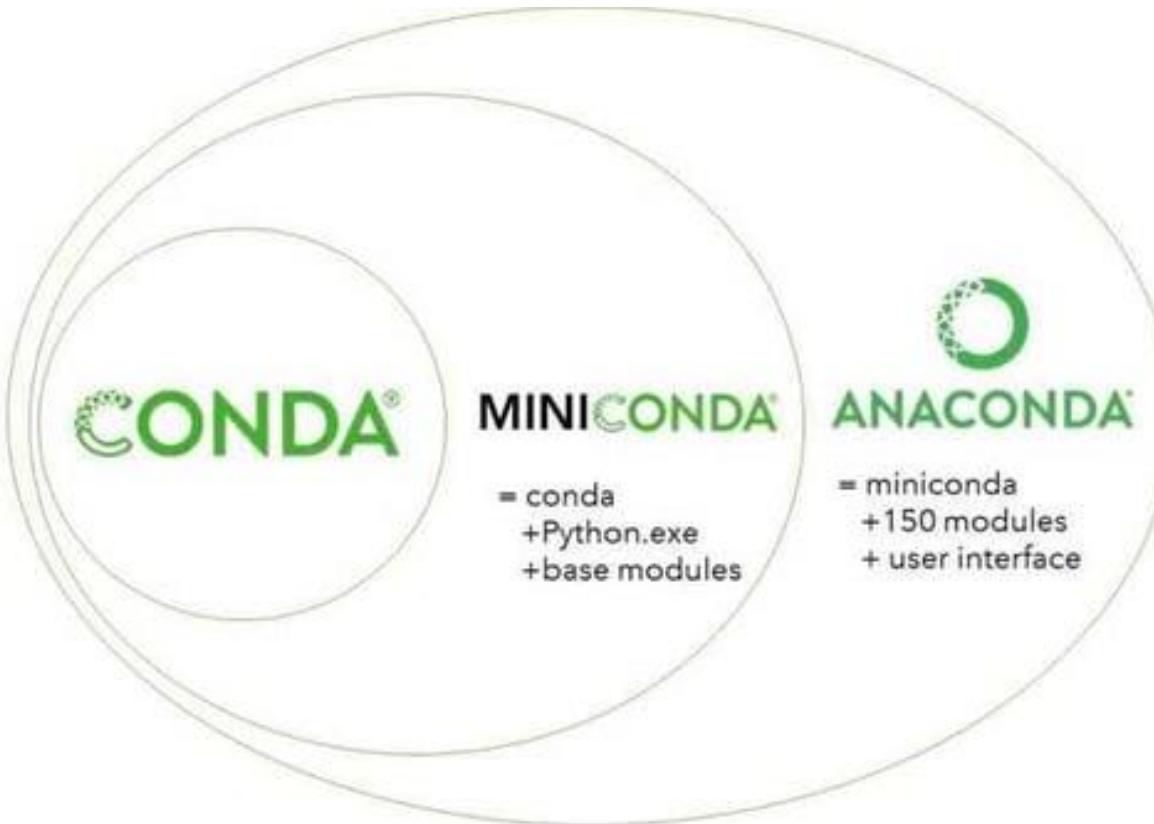
3

# Implementation: 4 Steps



# Instructions

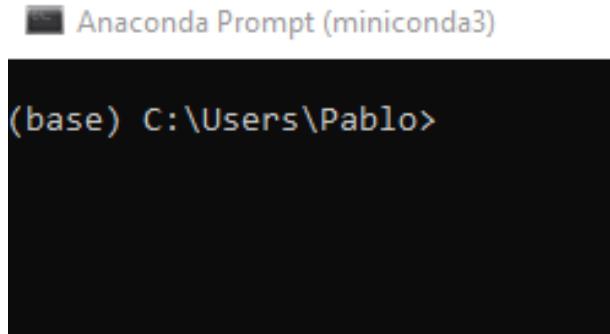
1. Install Miniconda <https://docs.conda.io/en/latest/miniconda.html>



Anaconda (~3 GB) <https://www.anaconda.com/products/distribution>

# Instructions

## 2. Open Anaconda Prompt



## 3. Create a virtual environment called “MyEnv” with latest Python version running the following command:

```
conda create --name MyEnv
```

## 4. Activate the created virtual environment running the following command:

```
conda activate MyEnv
```

# Instructions

5. Install Jupyter Notebook, open-source web application IDE that allows to develop code dynamically into cells

```
conda install jupyter notebook
```



6. Install TensorFlow latest version running computations on CPU.  
Run:

```
conda install tensorflow
```



\*CPU usage during running can be checked  
in Task Manager>Performance



# Instructions

## 7. Install additional useful libraries

```
pip install matplotlib  
pip install -U scikit-learn  
pip install pandas  
pip install opencv-python
```



- Additional libraries might need to be installed similarly in the virtual environment depending on the specific code application!

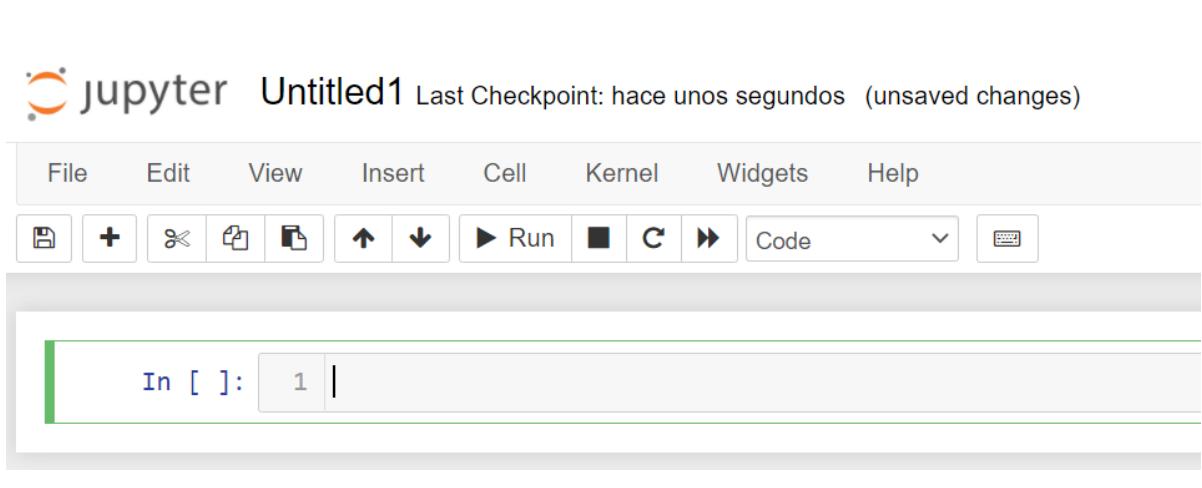
# Instructions

8. To check the installation process open Jupyter Notebook typing :

jupyter notebook

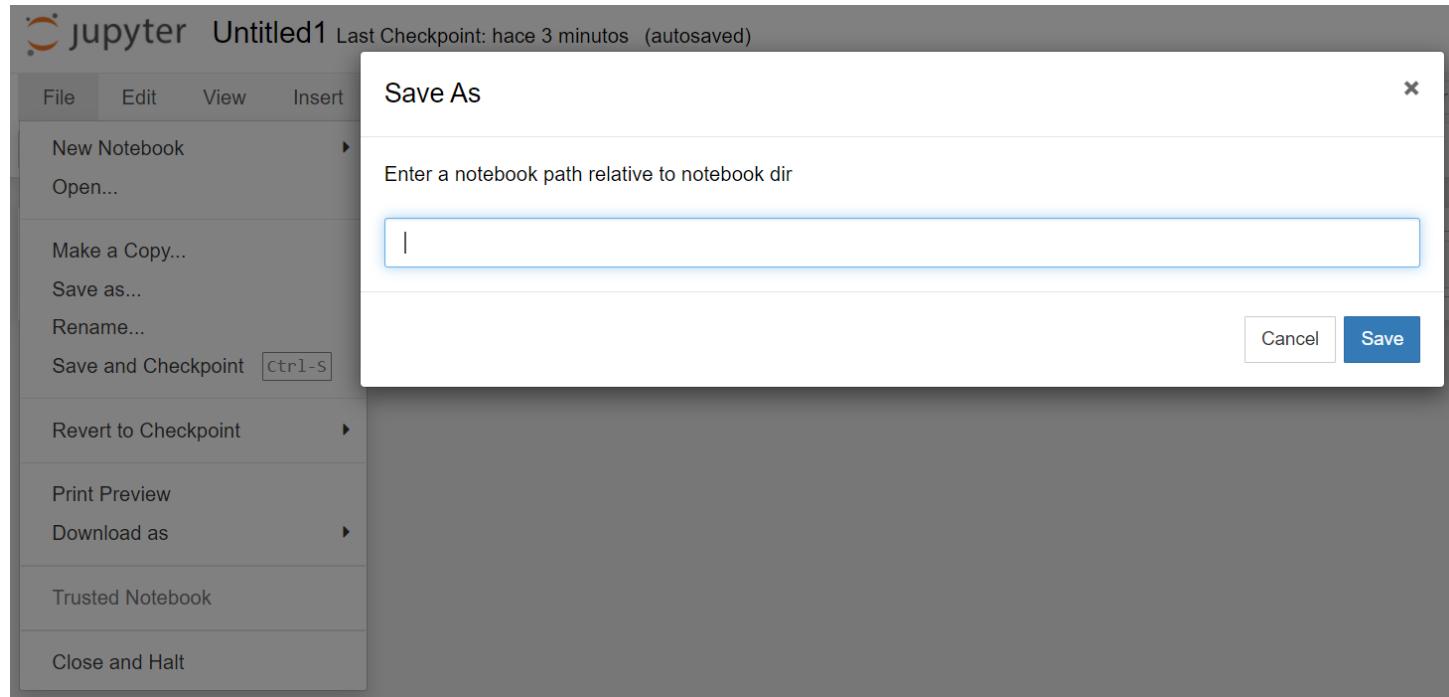
```
(MyEnv) C:\Users\Pablo>jupyter notebook
```

9. Create a new Jupyter Notebook clicking on **New> Python 3** :



# Instructions

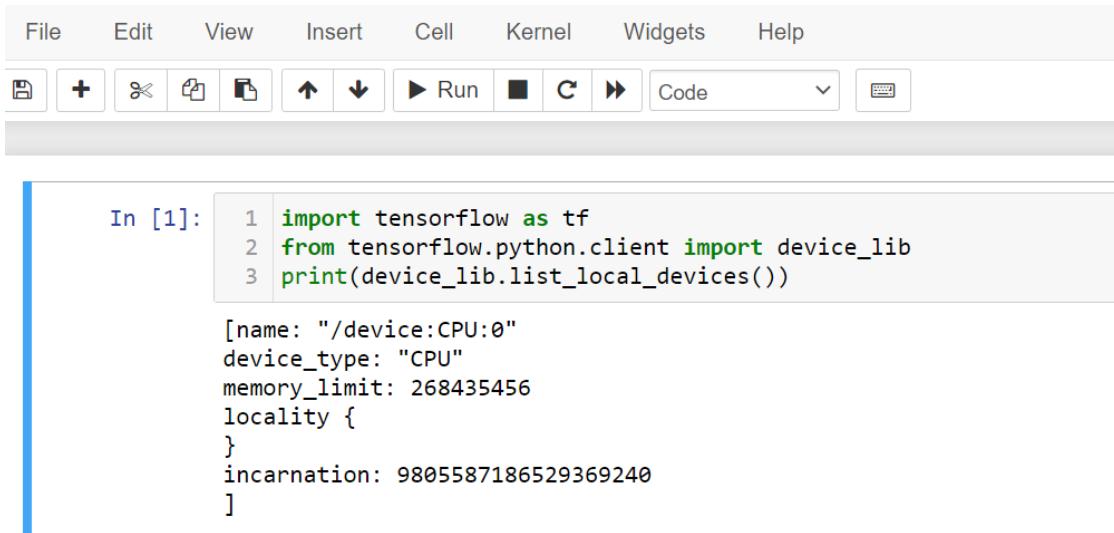
11. Save the notebook by going to **File>Save as**. The default working directory of Jupyter is **C:\Users\<username>**



# Instructions

12. Copy and paste the next lines of code in the first cell and run it by clicking on the cell and then pressing **Ctrl+Enter**

```
import tensorflow as tf
from tensorflow.python.client import device_lib
print(device_lib.list_local_devices())
```



The screenshot shows a Jupyter Notebook interface. At the top is a menu bar with File, Edit, View, Insert, Cell, Kernel, Widgets, and Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with icons for file operations like Open, Save, and Delete, and for cell execution like Run, Cell, and Kernel. A dropdown menu labeled "Code" is also present. The main area is divided into two sections: "In [1]" and "Out [1]". The "In [1]" section contains three lines of Python code: "import tensorflow as tf", "from tensorflow.python.client import device\_lib", and "print(device\_lib.list\_local\_devices())". The "Out [1]" section displays the output of the code, which is a list of local devices:

```
[{"name": "/device:CPU:0", "device_type": "CPU", "memory_limit": 268435456, "locality": {}, "incarnation": 9805587186529369240}]
```

We will implement the next code example available at:

[https://keras.io/examples/vision/mnist\\_convnet/](https://keras.io/examples/vision/mnist_convnet/)

**Description:** A simple convnet that achieves ~99% test accuracy on MNIST dataset, a database of handwritten digits with a training set of 60000 examples, and a test set of 10000 examples.



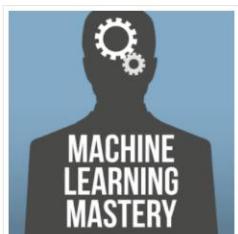
# Additional Online Resources



<https://keras.io/api/>

You can use Google Colab (<https://colab.research.google.com>), a Jupyter Notebook stored in Google Drive which gives access to GPUs without any required set up in your own machine.

Watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inN8seMm7UI>



Website by Jason Brownlee PhD <https://machinelearningmastery.com/>



NYU Deep Learning lectures by Yann LeCun (founding father of convolutional nets)

<https://www.youtube.com/c/AlfredoCanziani/featured>

REVIEW article  
Front. Mater., 15 May 2019  
Sec. Computational Materials Science  
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fmats.2019.00110>

This article is part of the Research Topic  
Machine Learning and Data Mining in Materials Science  
[View all 16 Articles >](#)

A Review of the Application of Machine Learning and Data Mining Approaches in Continuum Materials Mechanics

Frederic E. Bock<sup>1</sup>, Roland C. Aydin<sup>1</sup>, Christian J. Cyron<sup>1,2</sup>, Norbert Huber<sup>1,3</sup>, Surya R. Kalidindi<sup>4</sup> and Benjamin Klüsmann<sup>1,5</sup>

Review article of several ML applications in the field of Materials Science  
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmats.2019.00110/full>

# "Godfathers of AI" and "Godfathers of Deep Learning"

***2018 Turing Award Won by 3 Pioneers in Artificial Intelligence***



**Yoshua Bengio**



**Geoffrey Hinton**



**Yann LeCun**

## REVIEW

doi:10.1038/nature14539

### Deep learning

Yann LeCun<sup>1,2</sup>, Yoshua Bengio<sup>3</sup> & Geoffrey Hinton<sup>4,5</sup>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/nature14539>