

# What is Machine Learning?

“Learning is any process by which a system improves performance from experience.”

- Herbert Simon

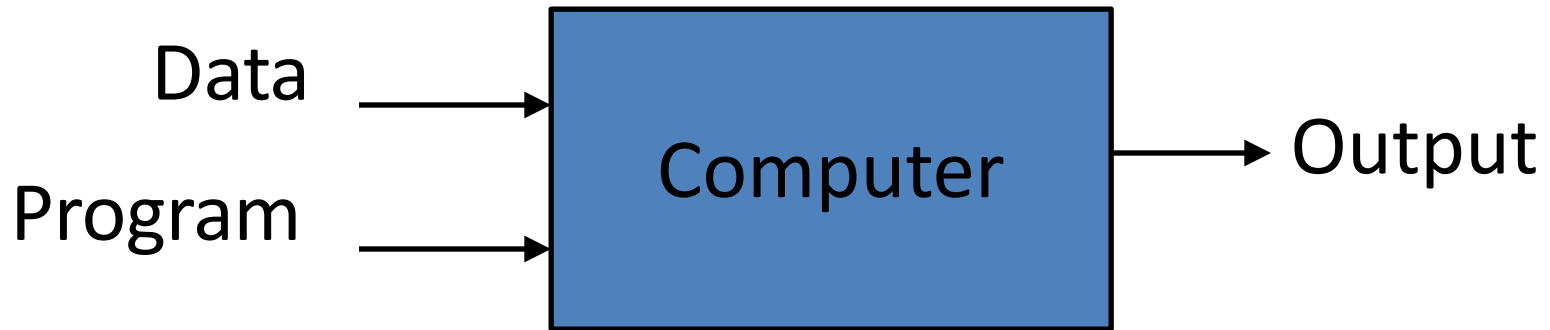
Definition by Tom Mitchell (1998):

Machine Learning is the study of algorithms that

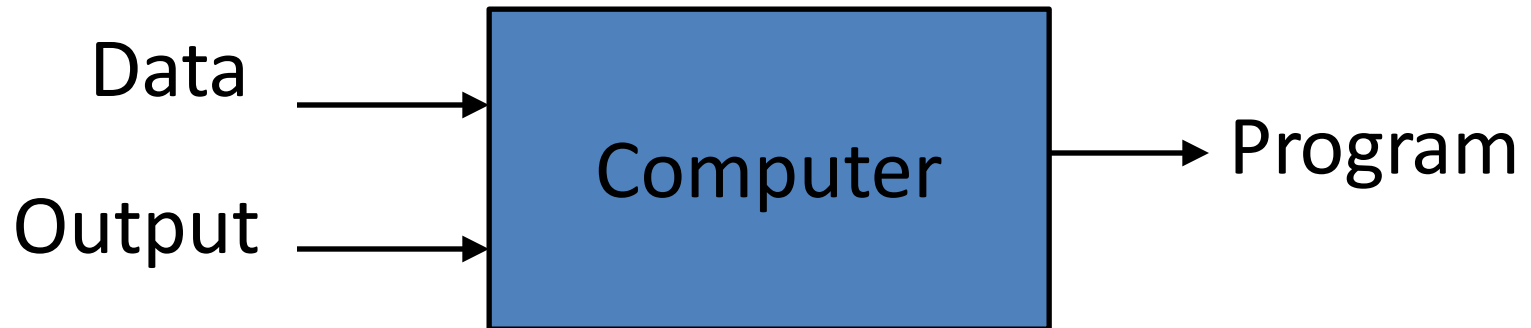
- improve their performance  $P$
- at some task  $T$
- with experience  $E$ .

A well-defined learning task is given by  $\langle P, T, E \rangle$ .

## Traditional Programming



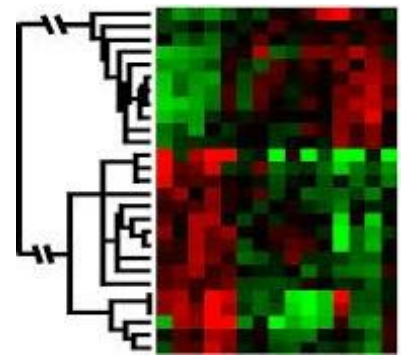
## Machine Learning



# When Do We Use Machine Learning?

ML is used when:

- Human expertise does not exist (navigating on Mars)
- Humans can't explain their expertise (speech recognition)
- Models must be customized (personalized medicine)
- Models are based on huge amounts of data (genomics)



Learning isn't always useful:

- There is no need to “learn” to calculate payroll

A classic example of a task that requires machine learning:  
It is very hard to say what makes a 2

0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 2

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3

3 4 4 4 4 4 5 5 5 5

6 6 7 7 7 7 7 8 8 8

9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9

# Some more examples of tasks that are best solved by using a learning algorithm

- Recognizing patterns:
  - Facial identities or facial expressions
  - Handwritten or spoken words
  - Medical images
- Generating patterns:
  - Generating images or motion sequences
- Recognizing anomalies:
  - Unusual credit card transactions
  - Unusual patterns of sensor readings in a nuclear power plant
- Prediction:
  - Future stock prices or currency exchange rates

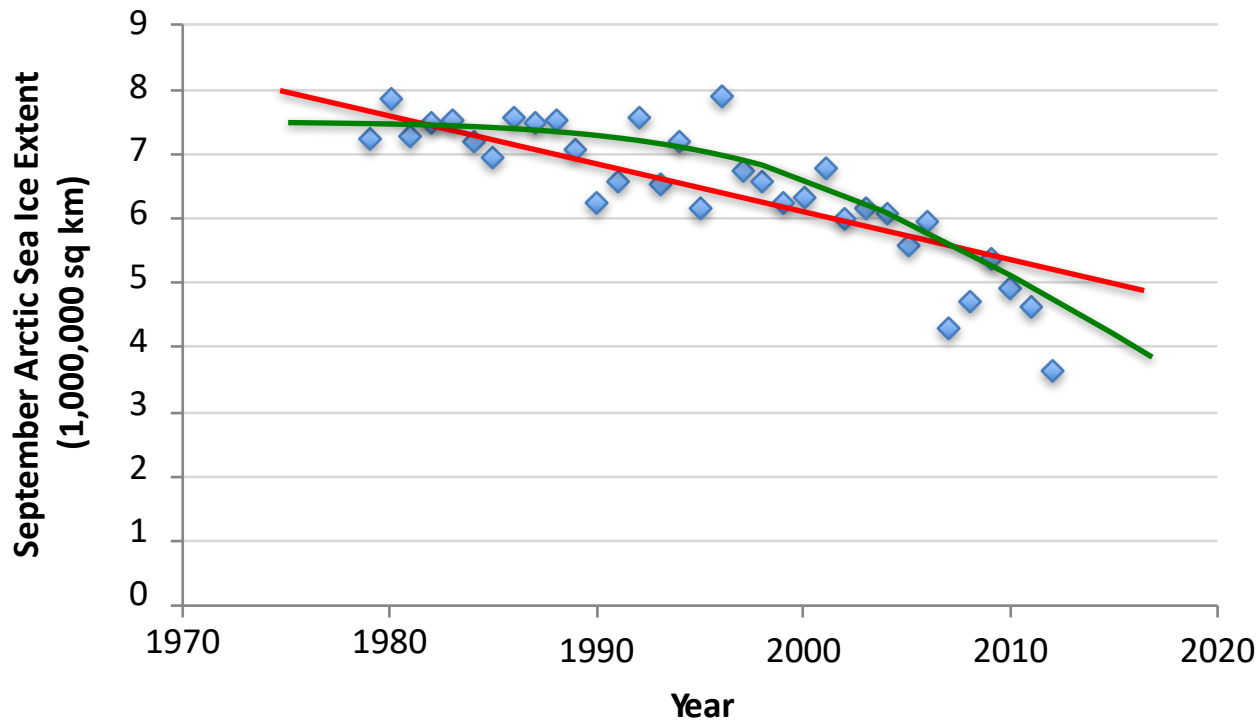
# Types of Learning

# Types of Learning

- **Supervised (inductive) learning**
  - Given: training data + desired outputs (labels)
- **Unsupervised learning**
  - Given: training data (without desired outputs)
- **Semi-supervised learning**
  - Given: training data + a few desired outputs
- **Reinforcement learning**
  - Rewards from sequence of actions

# Supervised Learning: Regression

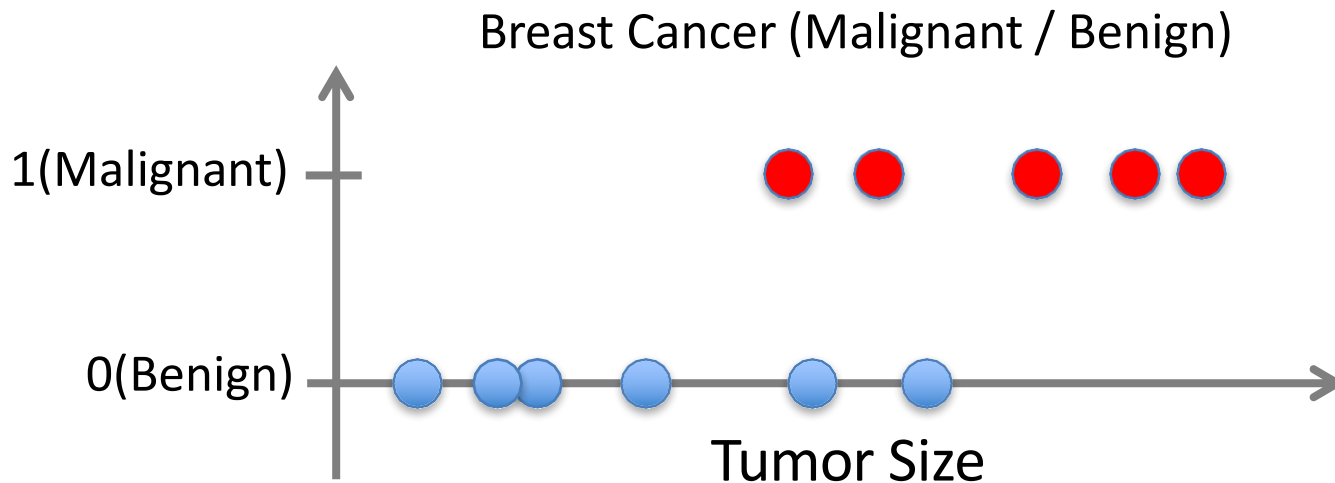
- Given  $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$
- Learn a function  $f(x)$  to predict  $y$  given  $x$ 
  - $y$  is real-valued == regression





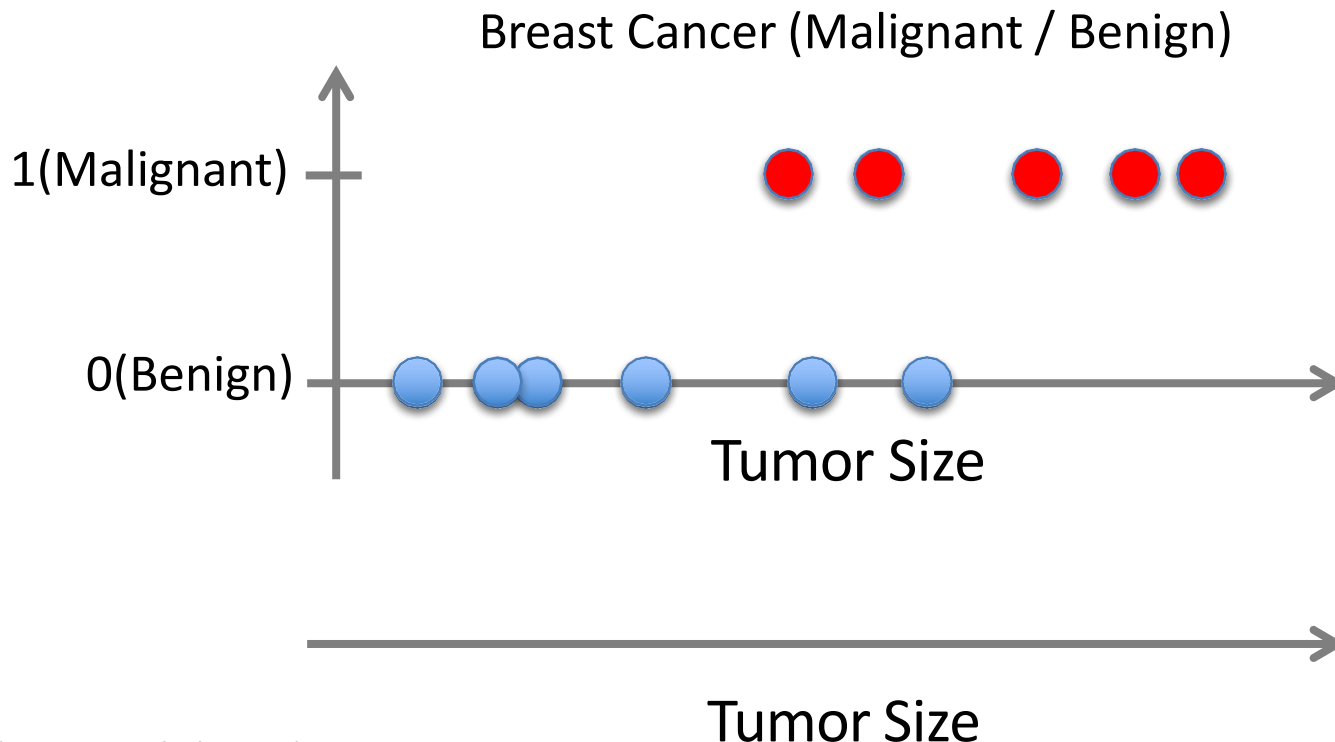
# Supervised Learning: Classification

- Given  $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$
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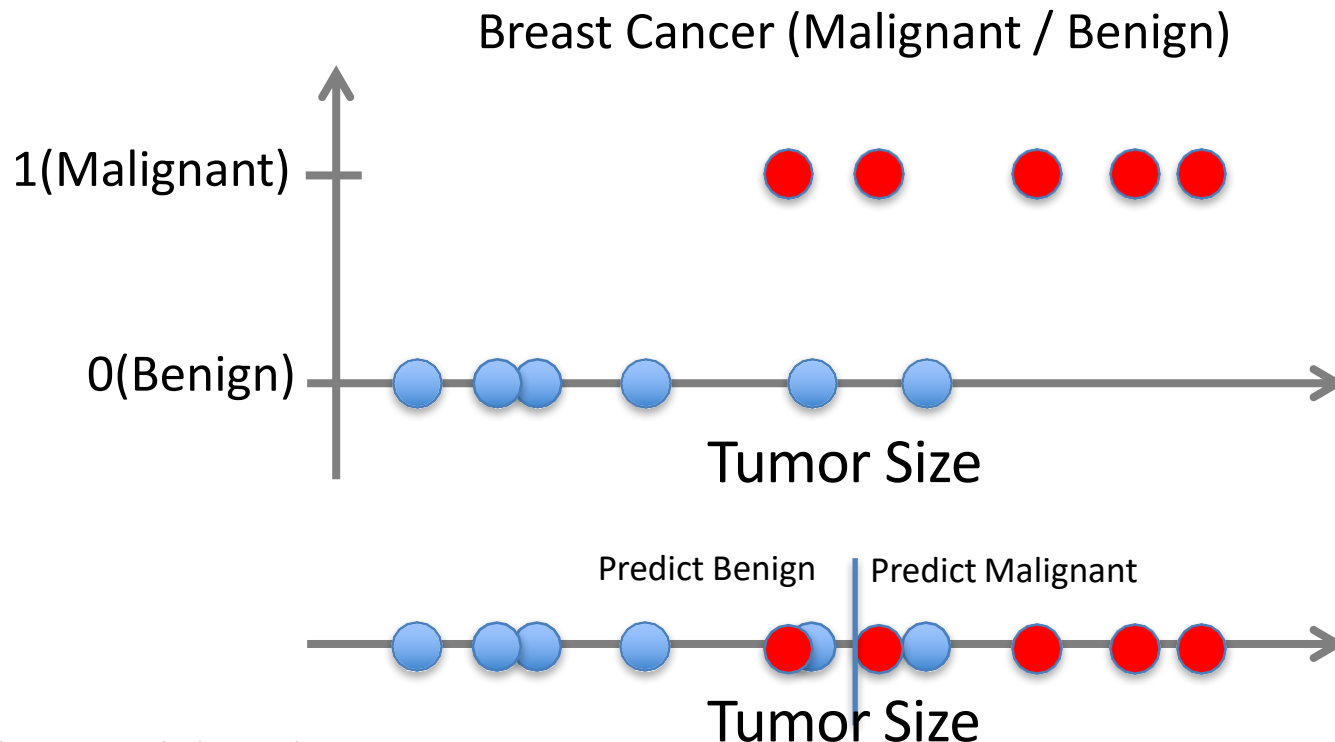
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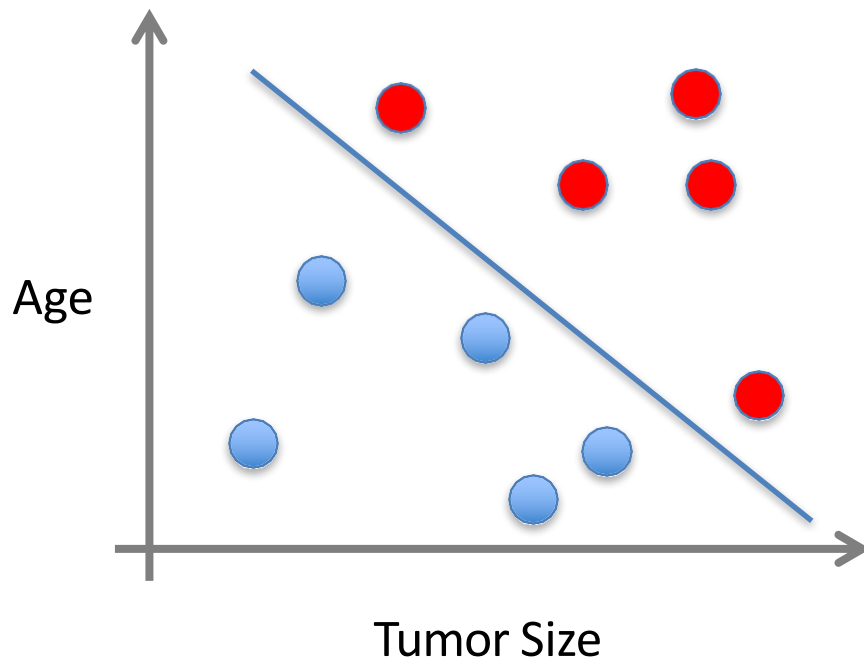
# Supervised Learning: Classification

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# Supervised Learning

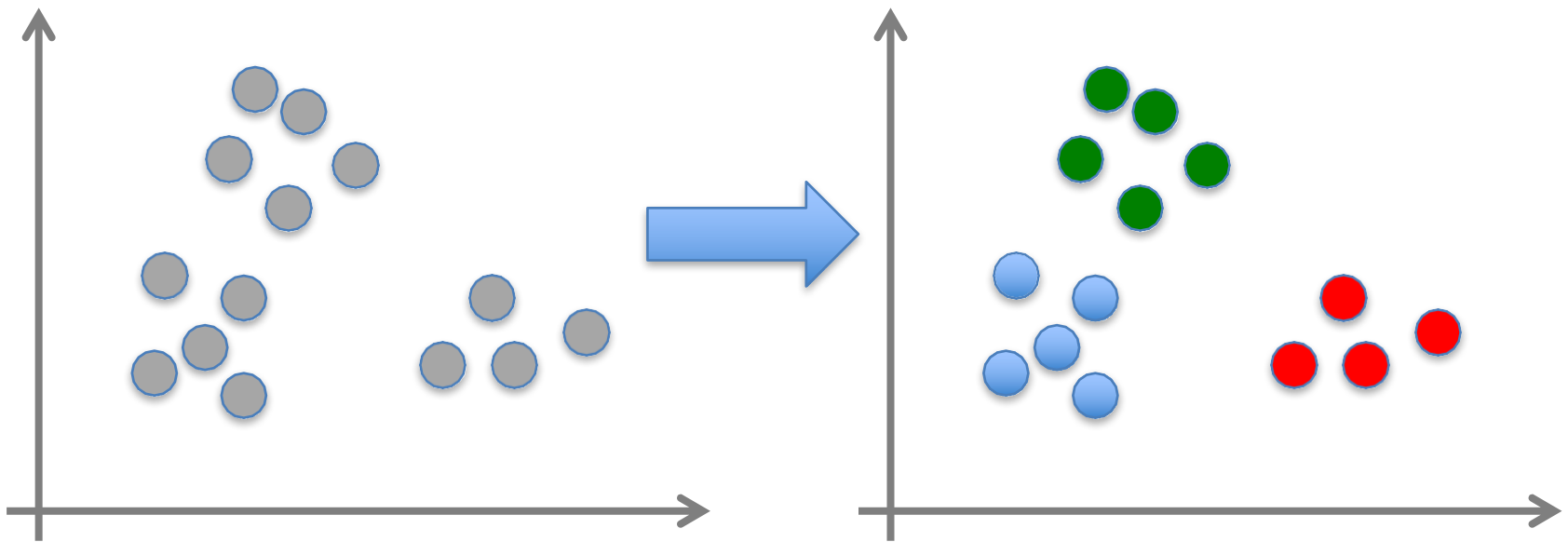
- $x$  can be multi-dimensional
  - Each dimension corresponds to an attribute



- Clump Thickness
- Uniformity of Cell Size
- Uniformity of Cell Shape
- ...

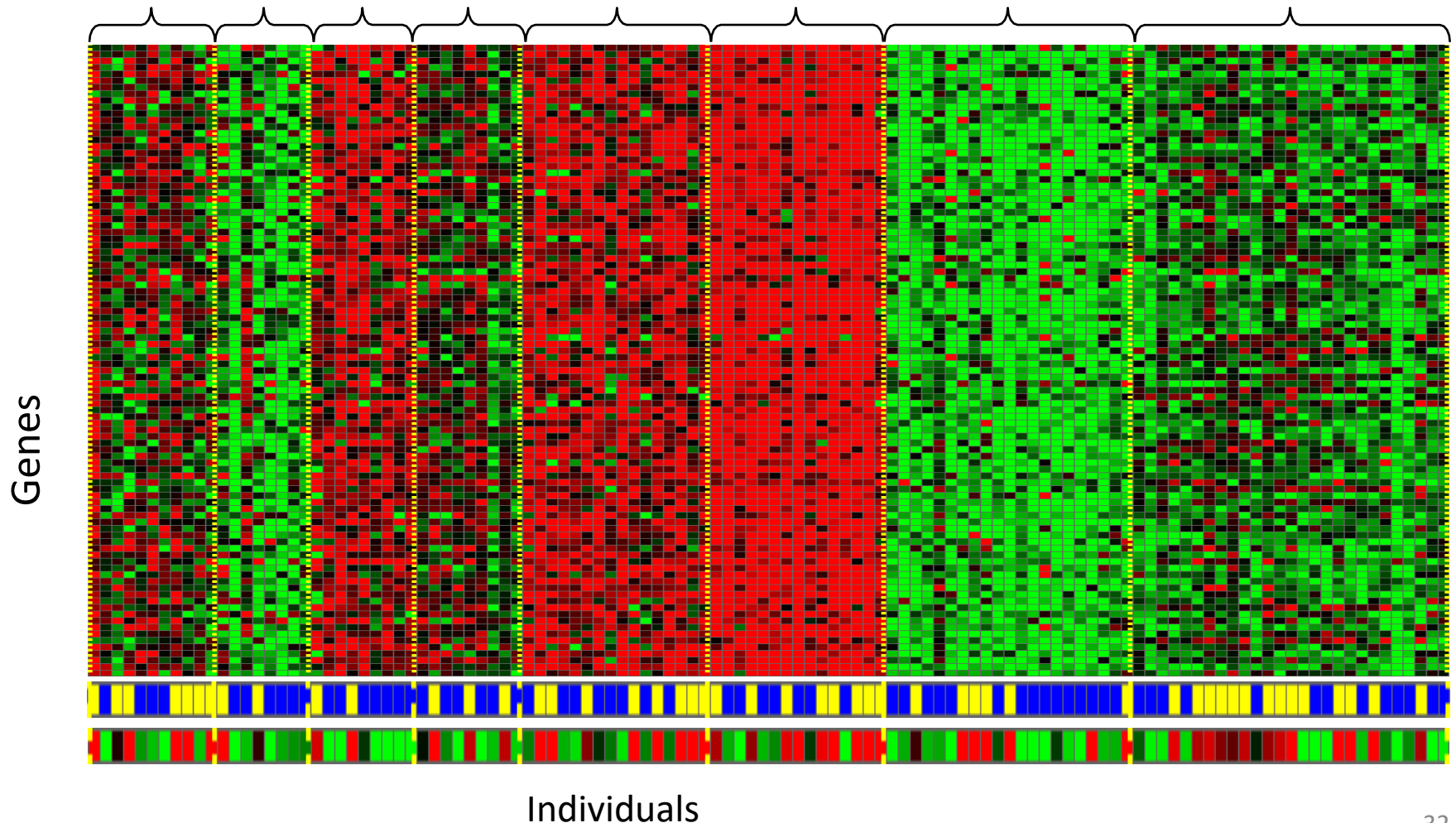
# Unsupervised Learning

- Given  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  (without labels)
- Output hidden structure behind the  $x$ 's
  - E.g., clustering



# Unsupervised Learning

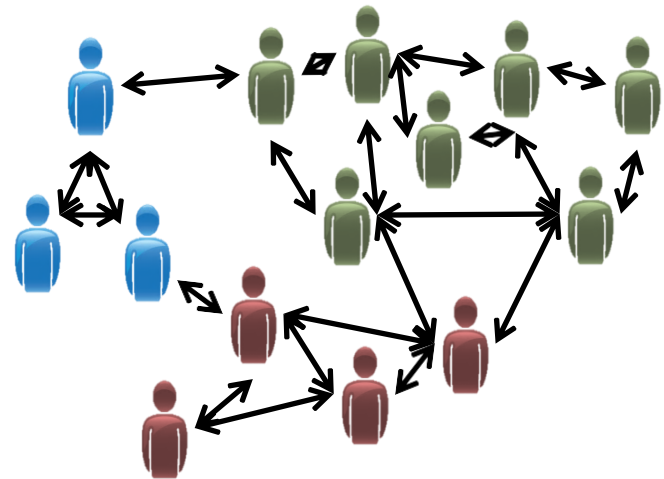
Genomics application: group individuals by genetic similarity



# Unsupervised Learning



Organize computing clusters



Social network analysis



Market segmentation

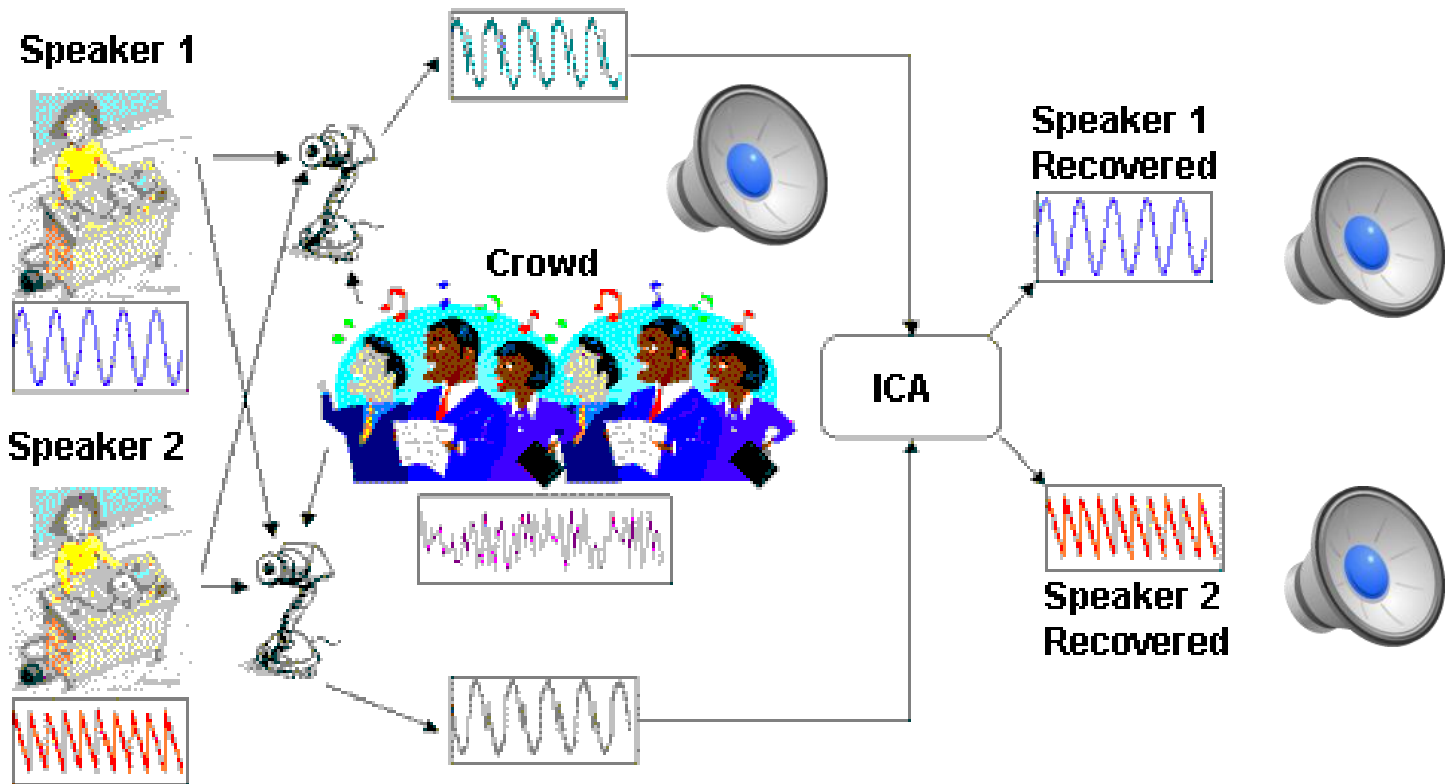


Image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/E. Churchwell (Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison)

Astronomical data analysis

# Unsupervised Learning

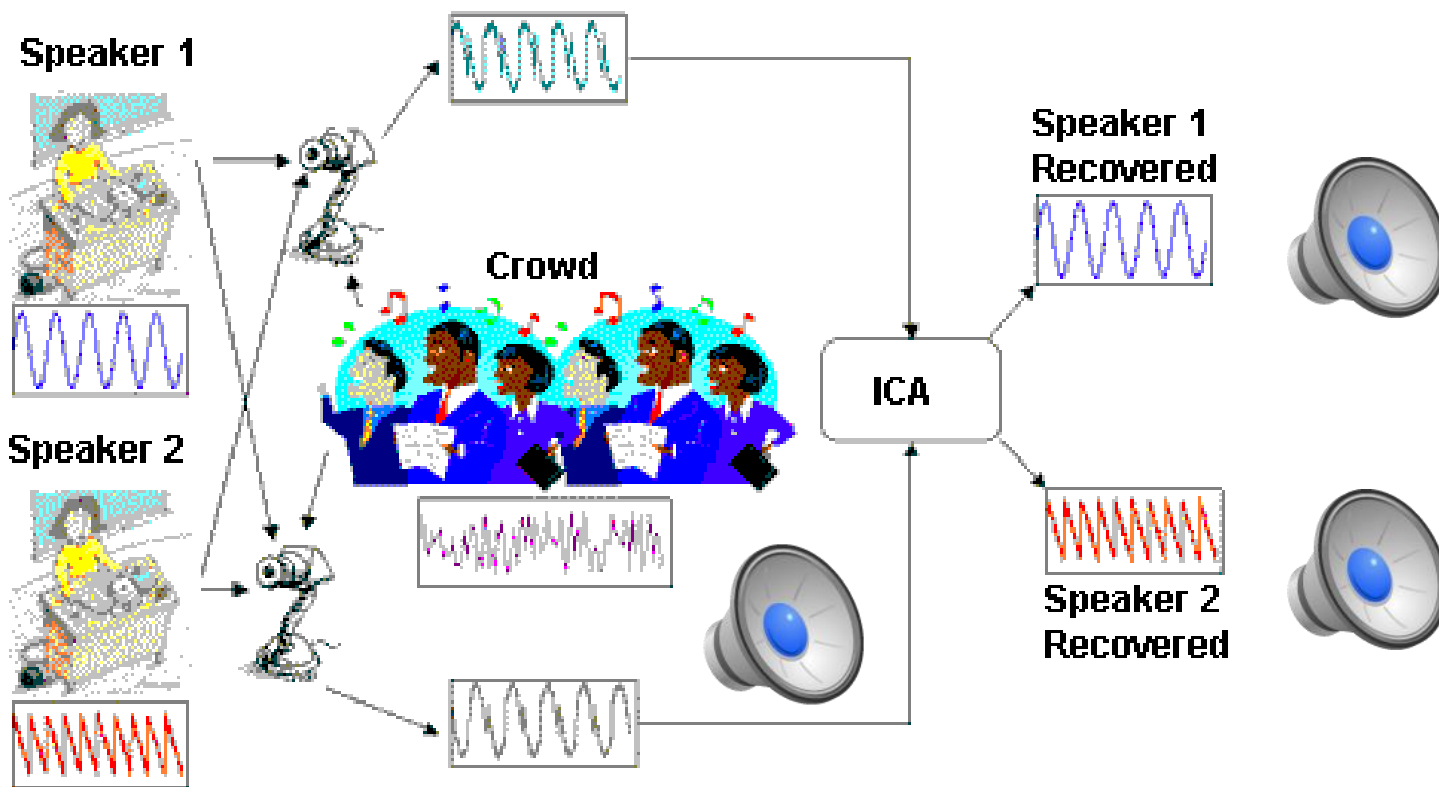
- Independent component analysis – separate a combined signal into its original sources





# Unsupervised Learning

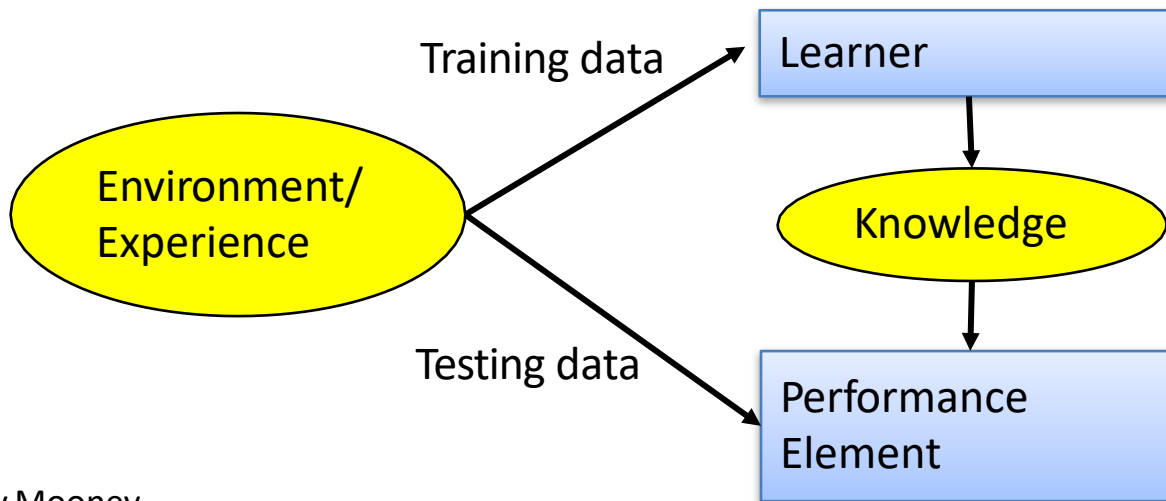
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# Framing a Learning Problem

# Designing a Learning System

- Choose the training experience
- Choose exactly what is to be learned
  - i.e. the **target function**
- Choose how to represent the target function
- Choose a learning algorithm to infer the target function from the experience



# ML in a Nutshell

- Tens of thousands of machine learning algorithms
  - Hundreds new every year
- Every ML algorithm has three components:
  - **Representation**
  - **Optimization**
  - **Evaluation**

# Various Function Representations

- Numerical functions
  - Linear regression
  - Neural networks
  - Support vector machines
- Symbolic functions
  - Decision trees
  - Rules in propositional logic
  - Rules in first-order predicate logic
- Instance-based functions
  - Nearest-neighbor
  - Case-based
- Probabilistic Graphical Models
  - Naïve Bayes
  - Bayesian networks
  - Hidden-Markov Models (HMMs)
  - Probabilistic Context Free Grammars (PCFGs)
  - Markov networks

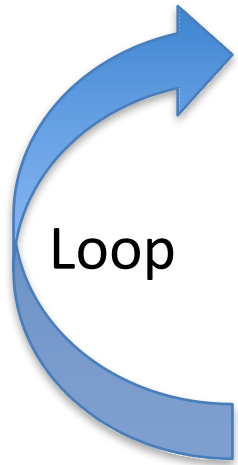
# Various Search/Optimization Algorithms

- Gradient descent
  - Perceptron
  - Backpropagation
- Dynamic Programming
  - HMM Learning
  - PCFG Learning
- Divide and Conquer
  - Decision tree induction
  - Rule learning
- Evolutionary Computation
  - Genetic Algorithms (GAs)
  - Genetic Programming (GP)
  - Neuro-evolution

# Evaluation

- Accuracy
- Precision and recall
- Squared error
- Likelihood
- Posterior probability
- Cost / Utility
- Margin
- Entropy
- K-L divergence
- etc.

# ML in Practice



Loop

- Understand domain, prior knowledge, and goals
- Data integration, selection, cleaning, pre-processing, etc.
- Learn models
- Interpret results
- Consolidate and deploy discovered knowledge