

Course Overview

Yujiao Shi SIST, ShanghaiTech Spring, 2025



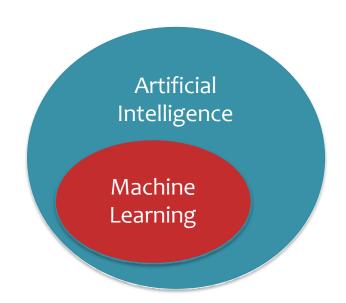
WHAT IS MACHINE LEARNING?





The basic goal of AI is to develop intelligent machines.

- Perception
- Reasoning
- Control / Motion / Manipulation
- Planning
- Communication
- Creativity
- Learning





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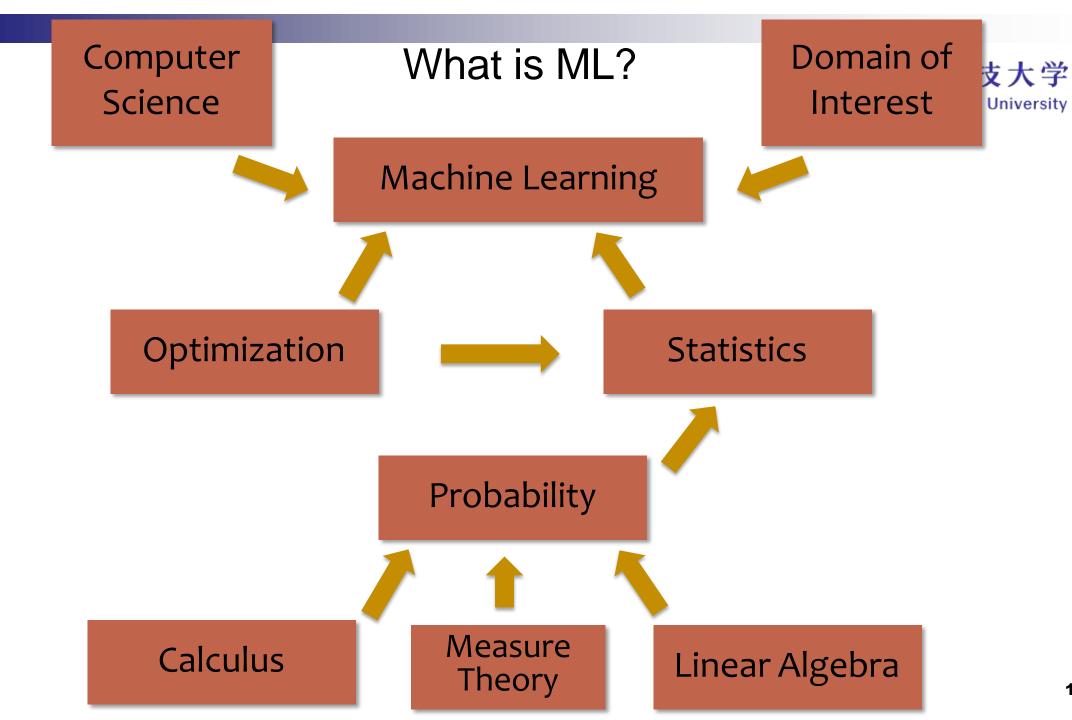
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What is Machine Learning?



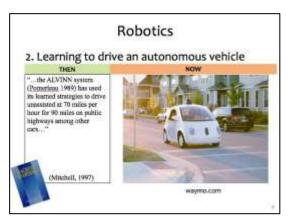


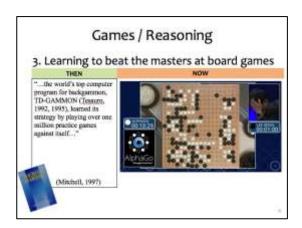


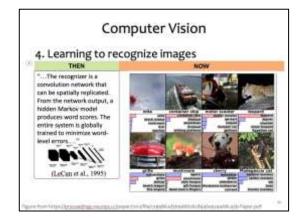
What is ML?

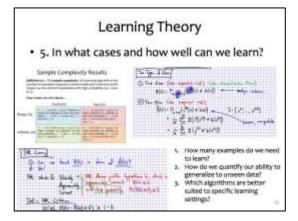












Speech Recognition



1. Learning to recognize spoken words

THEN NOW "...the SPHINX system (e.g. Lee 1989) learns speakerspecific strategies for recognizing the primitive sounds (phonemes) and words from the observed speech signal...neural network methods...hidden Markov models..." (Mitchell, 1997)

Robotics



2. Learning to drive an autonomous vehicle

THEN

"...the ALVINN system
(Pomerleau 1989) has used
its learned strategies to drive
unassisted at 70 miles per
hour for 90 miles on public
highways among other
cars..."



NOW



waymo.com

Games / Reasoning



3. Learning to beat the masters at board games

THEN

"...the world's top computer program for backgammon, TD-GAMMON (Tesauro, 1992, 1995), learned its strategy by playing over one million practice games against itself..."

NOW





(Mitchell, 1997)

Computer Vision



4. Learning to recognize images

THEN NOW

"...The recognizer is a convolution network that can be spatially replicated. From the network output, a hidden Markov model produces word scores. The entire system is globally trained to minimize word-level errors...."



Figure from https://proceedings.neurips.cc/paper/2012/file/c399862d3b9d6b76c8436e924a68c45b-Paper.pdf

Learning Theory



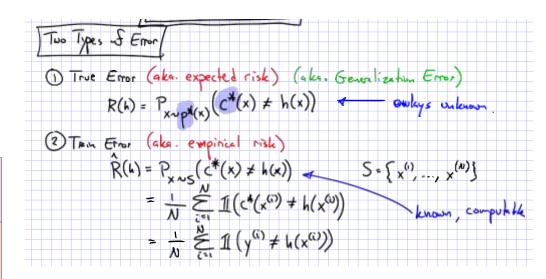
5. In what cases and how well can we learn?

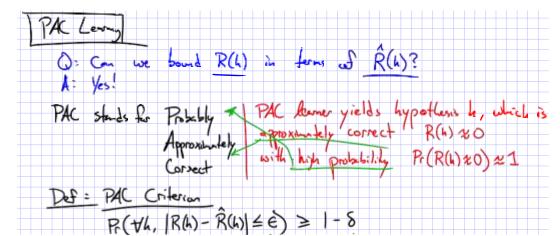
Sample Complexity Results

Definition 0.1. The **sample complexity** of a learning algorithm is the number of examples required to achieve arbitrarily small error (with respect to the optimal hypothesis) with high probability (i.e. close to 1).

Four Cases we care about...

	Realizable	Agnostic
Finite $ \mathcal{H} $	$\begin{array}{ll} N \geq \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left[\log(\mathcal{H}) + \log(\frac{1}{\delta}) \right] \text{ labeled examples are sufficient so that with probability } (1-\delta) \text{ all } h \in \mathcal{H} \text{ with } R(h) \geq \epsilon \\ \text{have } \hat{R}(h) > 0. \end{array}$	$N \geq \frac{1}{2\epsilon^2} \left[\log(\mathcal{H}) + \log(\frac{2}{\delta}) \right]$ labeled examples are sufficient so that with probability $(1-\delta)$ for all $h \in \mathcal{H}$ we have that $ R(h) - \hat{R}(h) < \epsilon$.
Infinite $ \mathcal{H} $	$\begin{array}{ll} N &=& O(\frac{1}{\epsilon} \left[\mathrm{VC}(\mathcal{H}) \log(\frac{1}{\epsilon}) + \log(\frac{1}{\delta}) \right]) \text{ labeled examples are sufficient so that} \\ \text{with probability } (1-\delta) \text{ all } h &\in \mathcal{H} \text{ with } \\ R(h) &\geq \epsilon \text{ have } \hat{R}(h) > 0. \end{array}$	$N = O(\frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \left[VC(\mathcal{H}) + \log(\frac{1}{\delta}) \right])$ labeled examples are sufficient so that with probability $(1 - \delta)$ for all $h \in \mathcal{H}$ we have that $ R(h) - \hat{R}(h) \le \epsilon$.





- How many examples do we need to learn?
- 2. How do we quantify our ability to generalize to unseen data?
- 3. Which algorithms are better suited to specific learning settings?

What is Machine Learning?





Societal Impacts of ML

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What ethical responsibilities do we have as machine learning experts anghaiTech University

Question: What are the possible societal impacts of machine learning for each case below?

Answer:

1) Search results for news are optimized for ad revenue.



ILLD://arstechnica.com/

2) An autonomous vehicle is permitted to drive unassisted on the road.

3) A doctor is prompted by an intelligent system with a plausible diagnosis for her patient.

https://flic.kr/p/HNJUzV



Societal Impacts of ML



The Washington Post



A 72-year-old congressman goes back to school, pursuing a degree in AI



December 28, 2022 at 6:00 a.m. EST



Rep. Don Beyer (D-Va.) is pursuing a master's degree in machine learning at George Mason University with hopes of one day applying his Al knowledge to his legislative work. (Craig Hudson for The Washington Post)

Normally Don Beyer doesn't bring his multivariable calculus textbook to work, but his final exam was coming up that weekend.

"And I'm running out of time," he said, plopping the textbook and a scribbled notebook filled with esoteric-looking calculations on a coffee table in his office, "because I have all these—"

His phone was ringing. "I'll be there," Beyer told a colleague wondering when he would be returning to the House floor for votes.

It seemed study time would have to wait.

That's been the story of the year for Beyer (D-Va.), who has been moonlighting as a student at George Mason University in pursuit of a master's degree in machine learning while balancing his duties as a congressman. Beyer — a science wonk, economist and former car salesman — has been taking one class per semester in a slow but steady march toward the degree, with hopes of one day applying his artificial-intelligence knowledge to his legislative work as the technology evolves further.

ML Big Picture

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Learning Paradigms:

What data is available and when? What form of prediction?

- supervised learning
- unsupervised learning
- semi-supervised learning
- reinforcement learning
- active learning
- imitation learning
- domain adaptation
- online learning
- density estimation
- recommender systems
- feature learning
- manifold learning
- dimensionality reduction
- ensemble learning
- distant supervision
- hyperparameter optimization

Theoretical Foundations:

What principles guide learning?

- probabilistic
- information theoretic
- evolutionary search
- ML as optimization

Problem Formulation:

What is the structure of our output prediction?

Binary Classification boolean

Multiclass Classification categorical

ordinal **Ordinal Classification**

real Regression ordering Ranking

multiple discrete **Structured Prediction**

multiple continuous (e.g. dynamical systems)

(e.g. mixed graphical models) both discrete &

cont.

Medicine, ', Speech, Com on, Robotics, I Key challenges?

Facets of Building ML Systems:

How to build systems that are robust, efficient, adaptive, effective?

- Data prep
- Model selection
- Training (optimization / search)
- Hyperparameter tuning on validation data
- (Blind) Assessment on test data

Big Ideas in ML:

Which are the ideas driving development of the field?

- inductive bias
- generalization / overfitting
- bias-variance decomposition
- generative vs. discriminative
- deep nets, graphical models
- PAC learning
- distant rewards





- Foundations
 - Probability
 - Optimization
- Classification
 - KNN
 - Logistic Regression
 - Perceptron
- Regression
 - Linear Regression
- Important Concepts
 - Kernels
 - Regularization and Overfitting
 - Experimental Design
- Unsupervised Learning
 - K-means
 - PCA
- Neural Networks
 - Feedforward Neural Nets
 - Basic architectures
 - Backpropagation

- Deep Learning
 - CNNs
 - RNNs
 - Transformers
- Reinforcement Learning
 - Value Iteration / Policy Iteration
 - Q-Learning
 - Deep Q-Learning
- Learning Theory
 - PAC Learning
- Societal Impacts of ML
- Other Learning Paradigms
 - Matrix Factorization
 - Ensemble Methods



DEFINING LEARNING PROBLEMS



Well-Posed Learning Problems 上海科技大学



Three components < T,P,E>:

- 1. Task, *T*
- 2. Performance measure, P
- 3. Experience, E

Definition of learning:

A computer program **learns** if its performance at task *T*, as measured by *P*, improves with experience *E*.



Example Learning Problems



Learning to beat the masters at **chess**

1. Task, *T*:

2. Performance measure, P:

3. Experience, E:





Learning to respond to voice commands (Siri)

1. Task, *T*:

2. Performance measure, P:

3. Experience, E:



Example Learning Problems



Learning to respond to voice commands (Siri)

1. Task, T:



Given a transcribed sentence x predict the command y

Example:

x = "Give me directions to Starbucks"

y = DIRECTIONS (here, nearest (Starbucks))



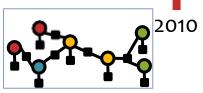
1980

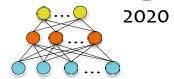


1990



2000





Solution #1: Expert **Systems**

- Over 20 years ago, we had rule-based systems:
 - Put a bunch of linguists in a room
 - Have them think about the structure of their native language and write down the rules they devise

Introspection...

x ="Give me directions to Starbucks"

x ="Send Jill a txt asking for directions"

x = "Play the best hitmusic by TXT"

x = "How do I get toPitt's Department of Music"

Rules...

if "directions" in x:

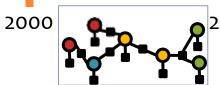
if "txt" in x: type = TXTMSG() elif "directions" in x: type = DIRECTIONS()

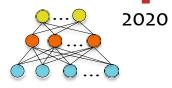
if "music" in x: type = MUSIC() olif "txt" in x: elif "directions" in x: type = DIRECTIONS()



1980







Solution #1: Expert **Systems**

- Over 20 years ago, we had rule-based systems:
 - Put a bunch of linguists in a room
 - Have them think about the structure of their native language and write down the rules they devise

Introspection...

x ="Give me directions to Starbucks"

x = "How do I get toStarbucks?"

x = "Where is the nearest Starbucks?"

x = "I need directions"to Starbucks"

x = "Is there aStarbucks nearby?

x ="Starbucks now!"

Rules...

if x matches "give me directions to Z": cmd = DIRECTIONS(here, nearest(Z))

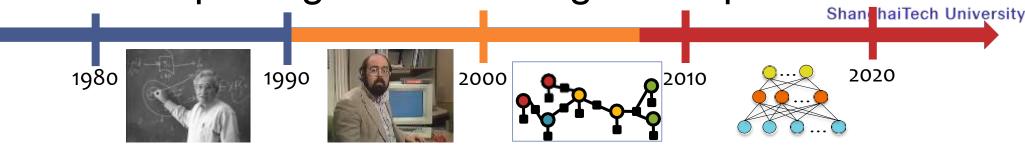
if x matches "how do i get to Z": cmd = DIRECTIONS(here, nearest(Z))

if x matches "where is the nearest 7": cmd = DIRECTIONS(here, nearest(Z))

if x matches "I need directions to Z": cmd = DIRECTIONS(here, nearest(Z))

if x matches "Is there a Z nearby": cmd = DIRECTIONS(here, nearest(Z))

if x matches "7 now!": cmd = DIRECTIONS(here, nearest(Z)31



Solution #2: Annotate Data and Learn

- Experts:
 - Very good at answering questions about specific cases
 - Not very good at telling HOW they do it
- 1990s: So why not just have them tell you what they do on SPECIFIC CASES and then let MACHINE LEARNING tell you how to come to the same decisions that they did

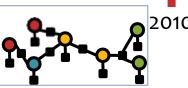


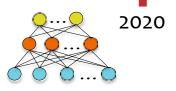












Solution #2: Annotate Data and Learn

- 1. Collect raw sentences $\{x^{(1)}, ..., x^{(n)}\}$
- 2. Experts annotate their meaning $\{y^{(1)}, ..., y^{(n)}\}$

 $X^{(1)}$: How do I get to Starbucks?

 $y^{(1)}$: DIRECTIONS (here, nearest (Starbucks))

 $X^{(3)}$: Send a text to John that I'll be late

 $y^{(3)}$: TXTNSG(John, I'll be late)

 $\mathbf{x}^{(2)}$: Show me the closest Starbucks

 $y^{(2)}$: MAP (nearest (Starbucks))

 $X^{(4)}$: Set an alarm for seven in the morning

 $\mathbf{v}^{(4)}$: SETALARM (7:00AM)



Example Learning Problems



Learning to respond to voice commands (Siri)

- Task, T: predicting action from speech
- Performance measure, P:
 percent of correct actions taken in user pilot study
- 3. Experience, E:examples of (speech, action) pairs



Problem Formulation



Often, the same task can be formulated in more than one way.

Example: Loan applications

- creditworthiness/score (regression)
- probability of default (density estimation)
- loan decision(classification)

Problem Formulation:

What is the structure of our output prediction?

boolean Binary Classification

categorical Multiclass Classification

ordinal Ordinal Classification

real Regression

ordering Ranking

multiple discrete Structured Prediction

multiple continuous (e.g. dynamical systems)

both discrete & cont. (e.g. mixed graphical models)





In-Class Exercise

- 1. Select a task, T
- Identify performance measure, P
- 3. Identify experience, E
- 4. Report ideas back to rest of class

Example Tasks

- Identify objects in an image
- Translate from one human language to another
- Recognize speech
- Assess risk (e.g. in loan application)
- Make decisions (e.g. in loan application)
- Assess potential (e.g. in admission decisions)
- Categorize a complex situation (e.g. medical diagnosis)
- Predict outcome (e.g. medical prognosis, stock prices, inflation, temperature)
- Predict events (default on loans, quitting school, war)
- Plan ahead under perfect knowledge (chess)
- Plan ahead under partial knowledge (poker, bridge)

In-Class Exercise

- Select a task, T
- Identify performance measure, P
- Identify **experience**, E
- Report ideas back to rest of class

Well-posed Learning Problems 上海科技大学 ShanghaiTech University



task, T	performance measure, P	experience, E
		27

In-Class Exercise

- Select a task, T
- Identify performance measure, P
- Identify **experience**, E
- Report ideas back to rest of class

Well-posed Learning Problems 上海科技大学 Shanghai Tech University



task, T	performance measure, P	experience, E	
		•	
		20	



(without any math!)

SUPERVISED LEARNING

Building a Trash Classifier 上海科技大学



- Suppose the properties of the RIVERFRONT ask ShanghaiTech to build a robot for collecting trash along Pittsburgh's rivers
- You are tasked with building a classifier that detects whether an object is a piece of trash (+) or not a piece of trash (-)
- The robot can detect an object's color, sound, and weight
- You manually annotate the following dataset based on objects you find

trash?	trash? color		weight
+	green	crinkly	high
-	brown	crinkly	low
-	grey	none	high
+	clear	none	low
-	green	none	low





WARNING!

Like many fields, Machine Learning is riddled with copious amounts of technical jargon!

For many terms we'll define in this class, you'll find four or five different terms in the literature that refer to the same thing.

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 Def: an example contains a label (aka. class) and features (aka. point or attributes)

- Def: a labeled dataset consists of rows, where each row is an example
- Def: an unlabeled dataset only has features

One ex	One example:				
label					
trash?	color	sound	weight		
-	brown	none	high		

Labeled Dataset:					
label features					
index	trash?	color	sound	weight	
1	-	brown	none	high	
2	+	clear	crinkly	low	
3	-	brown	none	low	

Unlabeled Dataset:				
features				
index	color	sound	weight	
1	brown	none	high	
2	clear	crinkly	low	
3	brown	none	low	

】日海科技大学 ShanghaiTech University

- Def: an example contains a label (aka. class) and features (aka. point or attributes)
- Def: a labeled dataset consists of rows, where each row is an example
- Def: an unlabeled deliberation by has features
 Classifier
 features → label

•	Def: a classifier is a function
	that takes in features and
	predicts a label

- Def: a training dataset is a labeled dataset used to learn a classifier
- Def: a test dataset is a labeled dataset used to evaluate a classifier

Training Dataset:					
label			features		
index	trash?	color	sound	weight	
1	+	green	crinkly	high	
2	-	brown	crinkly	low	
3	-	grey	none	high	
4	+	clear	none	low	
5	-	green	none	low	

Test Dataset:					
label features					
index	trash?	color	sound	weight	
1	-	brown	none	high	
2	+	clear	crinkly	low	
3	-	brown	none	low	

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- *Def:* **predictions** are the output of a trained classifier
- Def: error rate is the proportion of examples on which we predicted the wrong label

- Def: a classifier is a function that takes in features and predicts a label
- Def: a training dataset is a labeled dataset used to learn a classifier
- Def: a **test dataset** is a labeled Classifier set used to **evaluate** a features \rightarrow label sifier

Test Predictions:			
predictions			
trash?			
+			
+			
-			

	(Unlabeled) Test Dataset:				
features					
color	sound	weight			
brown	none	high			
clear	crinkly	low			
brown	none	low			
	brown clear	color sound brown none clear crinkly			



ShanghaiTech University

- *Def:* **predictions** are the output of a trained classifier
- Def: error rate is the proportion of examples on which we predicted the wrong label

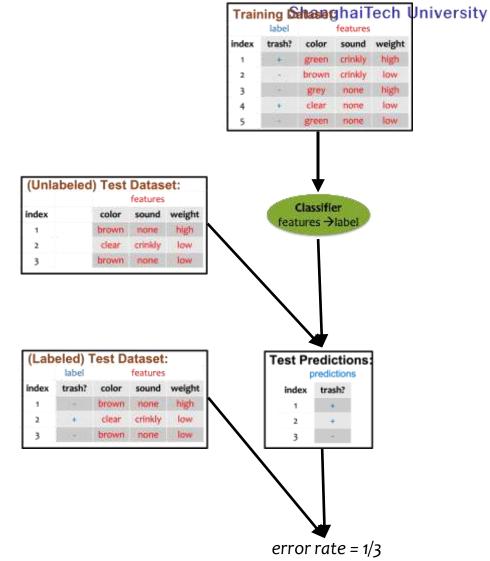
- Def: a classifier is a function that takes in features and predicts a label
- Def: a training dataset is a labeled dataset used to learn a classifier
- Def: a test dataset is a labeled dataset used to evaluate a classifier

Test Predictions:			
predictions			
index	trash?		
1	+		
2	+		
3	-		

(Labeled) Test Dataset:					
	label	features			
index	trash?	color	sound	weight	
1	-	brown	none	high	
2	+	clear	crinkly	low	
3	-	brown	none	low	

error rate = 1/3

- Step 1: training
 - Given: labeled training dataset
 - Goal: learn a classifier from the training dataset
- Step 2: prediction
 - Given: unlabeled test dataset: learned classifier
 - Goal: predict a label for each instance
- Step 3: evaluation
 - Given: predictions from Step II: labeled test dataset
 - Goal: compute the test error rate (i.e. error rate on the test dataset)



Step 1: training

Given: labeled training dataset

Goal: learn a classifier from the training dataset

Step 2: prediction

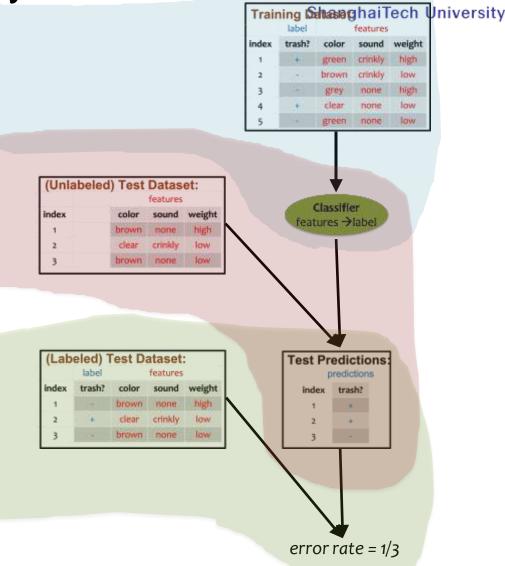
Given: unlabeled test dataset: learned classifier

Goal: predict a label for each instance

Step 3: evaluation

Given: predictions from Step II: labeled test dataset

 Goal: compute the test error rate (i.e. error rate on the test dataset)



Step 1: training

Given: labeled training dataset

Goal: learn a classifier from the training dataset

Step 2: prediction

Given: unlabeled test dataset

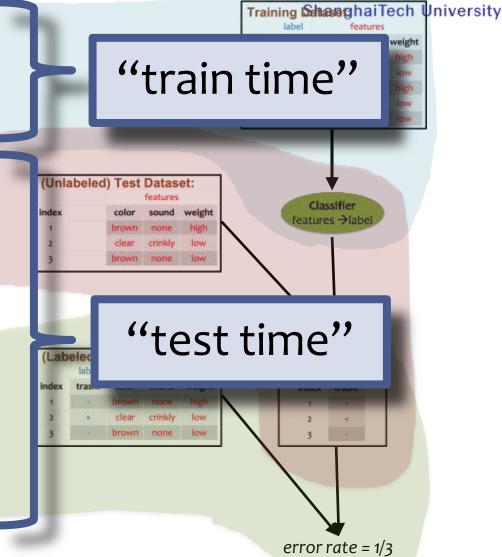
: learned classifier

Goal: predict a label for each instance

Step 3: evaluation

Given: predictions from Phase II: labeled test dataset

 Goal: compute the test error rate (i.e. error rate on the test dataset)



Step 1: training

Given: labeled training dataset

Goal: learn a classifier from the training dataset

Step 2: prediction

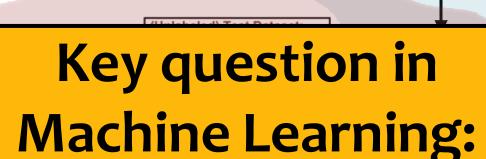
Given: unlabeled test dat: learned classifier

Goal: predict a label for e instance

Step 3: evaluation

Given: predictions from : labeled test datas

Goal: compute the test e rate (i.e. error rate on th dataset)



How do we learn the classifier from data?

Random Classifier

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The random classifier takes in the features and always predicts a random label.

... this is a terrible idea. It completely **ignores the training data!**

Classifier
features → random!

Training Dataset:				
label			features	
index	trash?	color	sound	weight
1	+	green	crinkly	high
2	-	brown	crinkly	low
3	-	grey	none	high
4	+	clear	none	low
5	-	green	none	low

Test Predictions:			
p	pr edictions		
index	trash?		
1	-		
2	-		
3	+		

Test Dataset:				
	label	features		
index	trash?	color	sound	weight
1	-	brown	none	high
2	+	clear	crinkly	low
3	-	brown	none	low

error rate = 2/3

Random Classifier

上海科技大学

ShanghaiTech University

The random classifier takes in the features and always predicts a random label.

... this is a terrible idea. It completely **ignores the training data!**

Classifier
features → random!

Training Dataset:				
	label		features	
index	trash?	color	sound	weight
1	+	green	crinkly	high
2	-	brown	crinkly	low
3	-	grey	none	high
4	+	clear	none	low
5	-	green	none	low

error rate = 1/3	

Test Predictions:		
pr edictions		
index	trash?	
1	+	
2	+	
3	-	

Test Dataset:				
	label features			
index	trash?	color	sound	weight
1	-	brown	none	high
2	+	clear	crinkly	low
3	-	brown	none	low

Random Classifier

上海科技大学

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The random classifier takes in the features and always predicts a random label.

... this is a terrible idea. It completely **ignores the training data!**

Classifier
features → random!

Training Dataset:				
	label		features	
index	trash?	color	sound	weight
1	+	green	crinkly	high
2	-	brown	crinkly	low
3	-	grey	none	high
4	+	clear	none	low
5	-	green	none	low

lest Pred	ictions:
pr	edictions
index	trash?
1	+
2	-
3	+

Took Dundietiens

Test Dataset:				
	label	label features		
index	trash?	color	sound	weight
1	-	brown	none	high
2	+	clear	crinkly	low
3	-	brown	none	low

error rate = 3/3

Majority Vote Classifier

上海科技大学

ShanghaiTech University

The majority vote classifier takes in the features and always predicts the most common label in the training dataset.

... this is still a pretty bad idea. It completely **ignores the features!**

Classifier
features → always predict "-"

Training Dataset:				
	label		features	
index	trash?	color	sound	weight
1	+	green	crinkly	high
2	-	brown	crinkly	low
3	-	grey	none	high
4	+	clear	none	low
5	-	green	none	low

Test Pred	ictions:	
pr edictions		
index	trash?	
1	-	
2	-	
3	-	

Test Dataset:							
label	features						
trash?	color	sound	weight				
-	brown	none	high				
+	clear	crinkly	low				
-	brown	none	low				
	label trash?	label trash? color - brown + clear	label features trash? color sound - brown none + clear crinkly				

error rate = 1/3

Majority Vote Classifier 上海科技大学



The majority vote classifier takes in the features and always predicts the most common label in the training dataset.

Classifier

features → always predict "-"

... this is still a pretty bad idea. It completely **ignores the features!**

The majority vote classifier even ignores the features if it's making predictions on the training dataset!

Train	Predictions:
-------	---------------------

pr	edictions	
index	trash?	
1	-	
2	-	
3	-	
4	-	
5	-	

Training Dataset:

	label	features		
index	trash?	color	sound	weight
1	+	green	crinkly	high
2	-	brown	crinkly	low
3	-	grey	none	high
4	+	clear	none	low
5	-	green	none	low

error rate = 2/5

Majority Vote Classifier

Step 1: training

Given: labeled training dataset

Goal: learn a classifier from the training dataset

Step 2: prediction

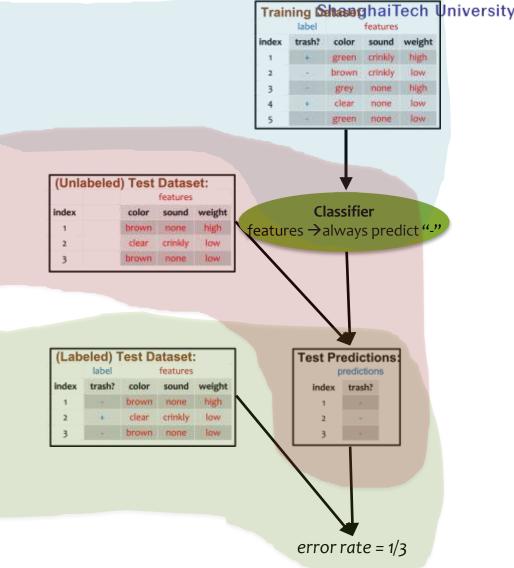
Given: unlabeled test dataset: learned classifier

Goal: predict a label for each instance

Step 3: evaluation

Given: predictions from Step II: labeled test dataset

 Goal: compute the test error rate (i.e. error rate on the test dataset)



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SYLLABUS HIGHLIGHTS

Introduction to Machine Learning CS182



General information

- Course Time: Tue. & Thu., 13:00-14:40
- Online: Piazza & Gradescope
- 16 weeks (64 credit hours)
- HW Recitation Time:

Plz vote via https://tp.wjx.top/vm/wFcJ3Jz.aspx#



All class communication via Piazza

- https://piazza.com/shanghaitech.edu.cn/spring2025/cs182
 Access Code: x7i6kvzq4ym
- Announcements and discussion
- Read it regularly
- Post all questions/comments there
- Direct email is not a good idea

Introduction to Machine Learning CS182



Grading

• Homework: 30%

• Course project: 30%

• Final exam: 40%

Highlights

- Please write your HW, project, and exam in English
- Submitted to GradeScope: www.gradescope.com Entry Code: NYKBDZ
- For HW:
 - 6 grace days for homework assignments;
 - Late submissions: 75% day 1, 50% day 2, 25% day 3;
 - No submissions accepted after 3 days w/o extension.
- Once any plagiarism or cheating is confirmed, relevant assignments or exams will receive 0 points



Instructor and TAs



- Instructor: Prof Yujiao Shi
 - □ shiyj2@shanghaitech.edu.cn
 - □ Office hours: 10:00 am − 11:00 am Wed
 - □ Location: SIST 1C-303C

■ TAs:

- ☐ Shouchen Zhou zhoushch@shanghaitech.edu.cn
- Chuyang Xiao <u>xiaochy@shanghaitech.edu.cn</u>
- ☐ Hui Ren <u>renhui@shanghaitech.edu.cn</u>
- ☐ Yichao Zhu <u>zhuych12022@shanghaitech.edu.cn</u>
- □ Office hours: same as HW Recitation time



Lectures



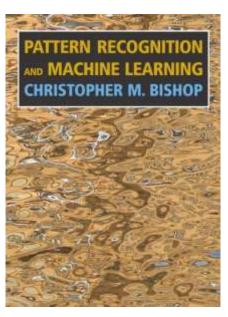
- You should ask lots of questions
 - Interrupting (by raising a hand) to ask your question is strongly encouraged
 - Asking questions later (or in real time) on Piazza is also great
- When I ask a question...
 - I want you to answer
 - Even if you don't answer, think it through as though I'm about to call on you
- Interaction improves learning (both in-class and at my office hours)

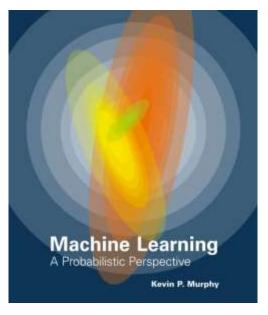
Textbooks

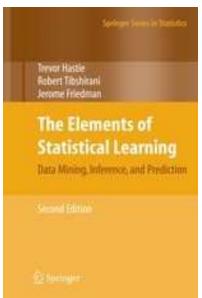


You are not required to read a textbook, but it will help immensely!









In-Class Polls



Q: How do these In-Class Polls work?

A: Don't worry about it for today. We won't use them until the second week of class, i.e. the third lecture.



PREREQUISITES



Prerequisites



What they are:

- Significant programming experience
 - Written programs of 100s of lines of code
 - Comfortable learning a new language
- Probability and statistics
- Mathematical maturity: discrete mathematics, linear algebra, and calculus



Learning Objectives



You should be able to...

- Formulate a well-posed learning problem for a real-world task by identifying the task, performance measure, and training experience
- Describe common learning paradigms in terms of the type of data available, when it's available, the form of prediction, and the structure of the output prediction
- Implement Decision Tree training and prediction (w/simple scoring function)
- Explain the difference between memorization and generalization [CIML]
- 5. Identify examples of the ethical responsibilities of an ML expert