



# Introduction

5 questions

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1.

A computer program is said to learn from experience  $E$  with respect to some task  $T$  and some performance measure  $P$  if its performance on  $T$ , as measured by  $P$ , improves with experience  $E$ . Suppose we feed a learning algorithm a lot of historical weather data, and have it learn to predict weather. In this setting, what is  $T$ ?

- ☐ The probability of it correctly predicting a future date's weather.
- ☐ None of these.
- ☐ The process of the algorithm examining a large amount of historical weather data.
- ☐ The weather prediction task.

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2.

Suppose you are working on weather prediction, and your weather station makes one of three predictions for each day's weather: Sunny, Cloudy or Rainy. You'd like to use a learning algorithm to predict tomorrow's weather.

Would you treat this as a classification or a regression problem?

- ☐ Classification
- ☐ Regression
- 

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3.

Suppose you are working on stock market prediction. You would like to predict whether or not a certain company will declare bankruptcy within the next 7 days (by training on data of similar companies that had previously been at risk of bankruptcy). Would you treat this as a classification or a regression problem?

- ☐ Classification
- ☐ Regression
-

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4.

Some of the problems below are best addressed using a supervised

learning algorithm, and the others with an unsupervised

learning algorithm. Which of the following would you apply

supervised learning to? (Select all that apply.) In each case, assume some appropriate

dataset is available for your algorithm to learn from.

- ☐ Given historical data of children's ages and heights, predict children's height as a function of their age.
  - ☐ Examine a large collection of emails that are known to be spam email, to discover if there are sub-types of spam mail.
  - ☐ Given 50 articles written by male authors, and 50 articles written by female authors, learn to predict the gender of a new manuscript's author (when the identity of this author is unknown).
  - ☐ Take a collection of 1000 essays written on the US Economy, and find a way to automatically group these essays into a small number of groups of essays that are somehow "similar" or "related".
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5.

Which of these is a reasonable definition of machine learning?

- ☐ Machine learning learns from labeled data.
- ☐ Machine learning is the science of programming computers.
- ☐ Machine learning is the field of study that gives computers the ability to learn without being explicitly programmed.
- ☐ Machine learning is the field of allowing robots to act intelligently.

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