

The Supervised Learning Problem

Starting point:

- Outcome measurement Y (also called dependent variable, response, target).
- Vector of p predictor measurements X (also called inputs, regressors, covariates, features, independent variables).
- In the *regression problem*, Y is quantitative (e.g price, blood pressure).
- In the *classification problem*, Y takes values in a finite, unordered set (survived/died, digit 0-9, cancer class of tissue sample).
- We have training data $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_N, y_N)$. These are observations (examples, instances) of these measurements.

Unsupervised learning

- No outcome variable, just a set of predictors (features) measured on a set of samples.
- objective is more fuzzy — find groups of samples that behave similarly, find features that behave similarly, find linear combinations of features with the most variation.
- difficult to know how well your are doing.
- different from supervised learning, but can be useful as a pre-processing step for supervised learning.