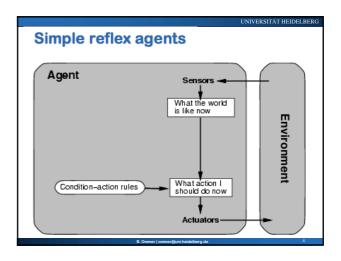
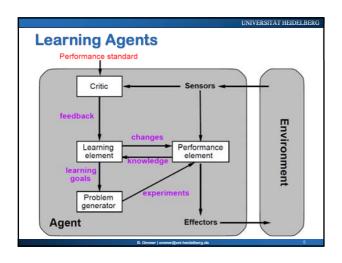


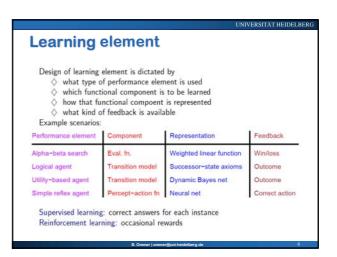
Learning

- Machine Learning:
 - Principles, methods, and algorithms for learning and prediction on the basis of past evidence
- Goal: Machines that learn to perform a task from experience
- Learning is essential for unknown environments, i.e., when designer lacks omniscience
- Learning is useful as a system construction method, i.e., expose the agent to reality rather than trying to write it down
- Learning modifies the agent's decision mechanisms to improve performance

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Inductive learning (a.k.a. science)

Simplest form: learn a function from examples (tabula rasa) f is the target function

An example is a pair x, f(x), e.g., $\frac{O \mid O \mid X}{X \mid}$, +1

Problem: find a(n) hypothesis h such that $h \approx f$ given a training set of examples

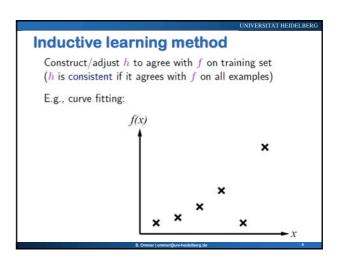
(This is a highly simplified model of real learning:

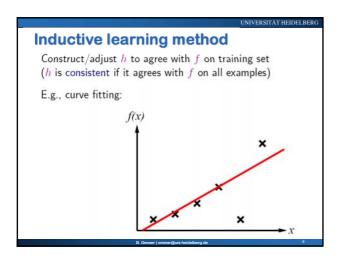
— Ignores prior knowledge

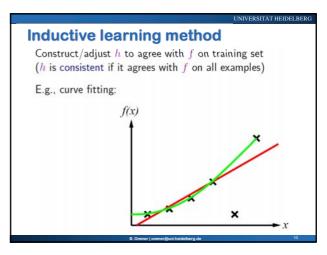
— Assumes a deterministic, observable "environment"

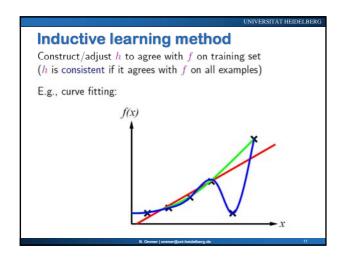
— Assumes examples are given

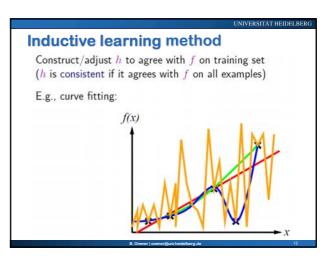
— Assumes that the agent wants to learn f—why?)

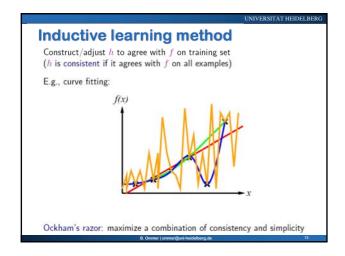












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Core Questions

- Learning to perform a task from experience
- Task
 - > Can often be expressed through a mathematical function

$$y = f(x; w)$$

- x: Input
- y: Output
- w: Parameter (this is what is "learned")
- · Classification vs. Regression
 - Regression: continuous y
 - Classification: discrete y
 - E.g. class membership, sometimes also posterior probability

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