

# **Lecture 1: Introduction & Data**

**KI-Workshop  
(HFT Stuttgart, 8-9 Nov 2023)**

**Michael Mommert  
University of St. Gallen (soon-to-be HFT Stuttgart)**

# Today's lecture

What this course is about...

Who am I?

Course modalities

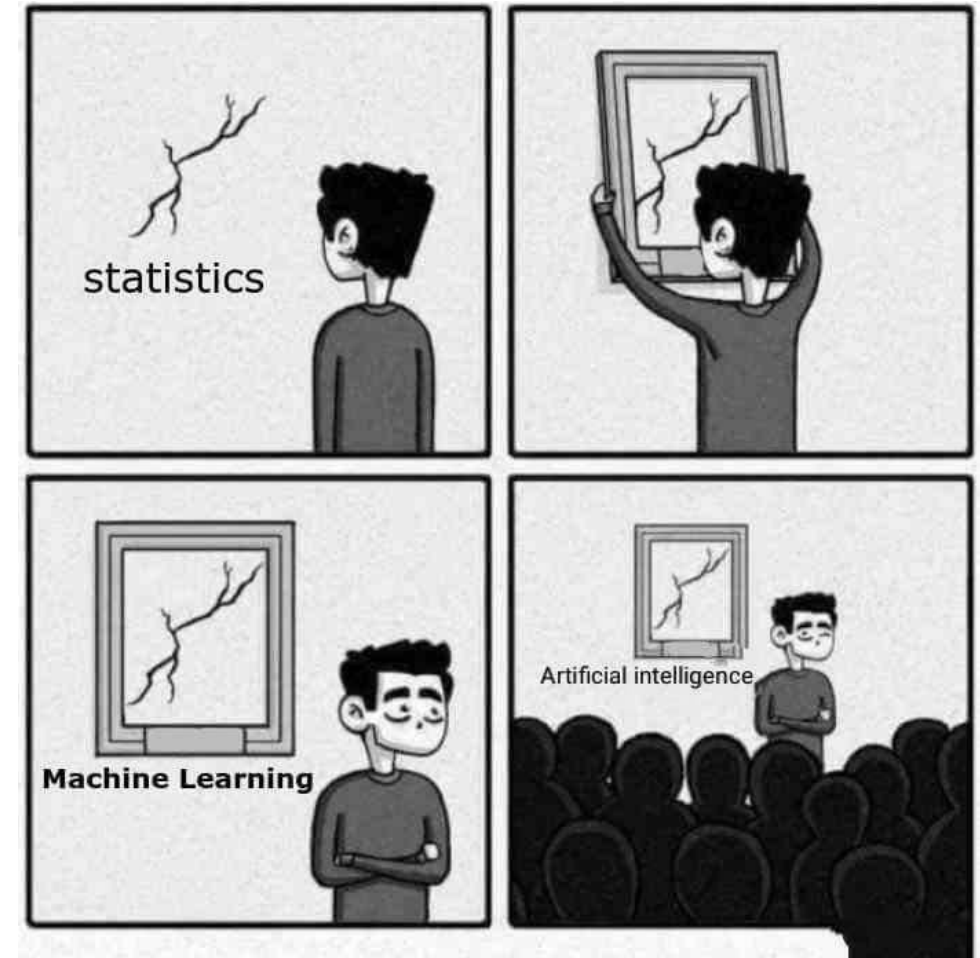
Course syllabus

Types of data

Features and feature engineering

Data scaling

# What this course is about...



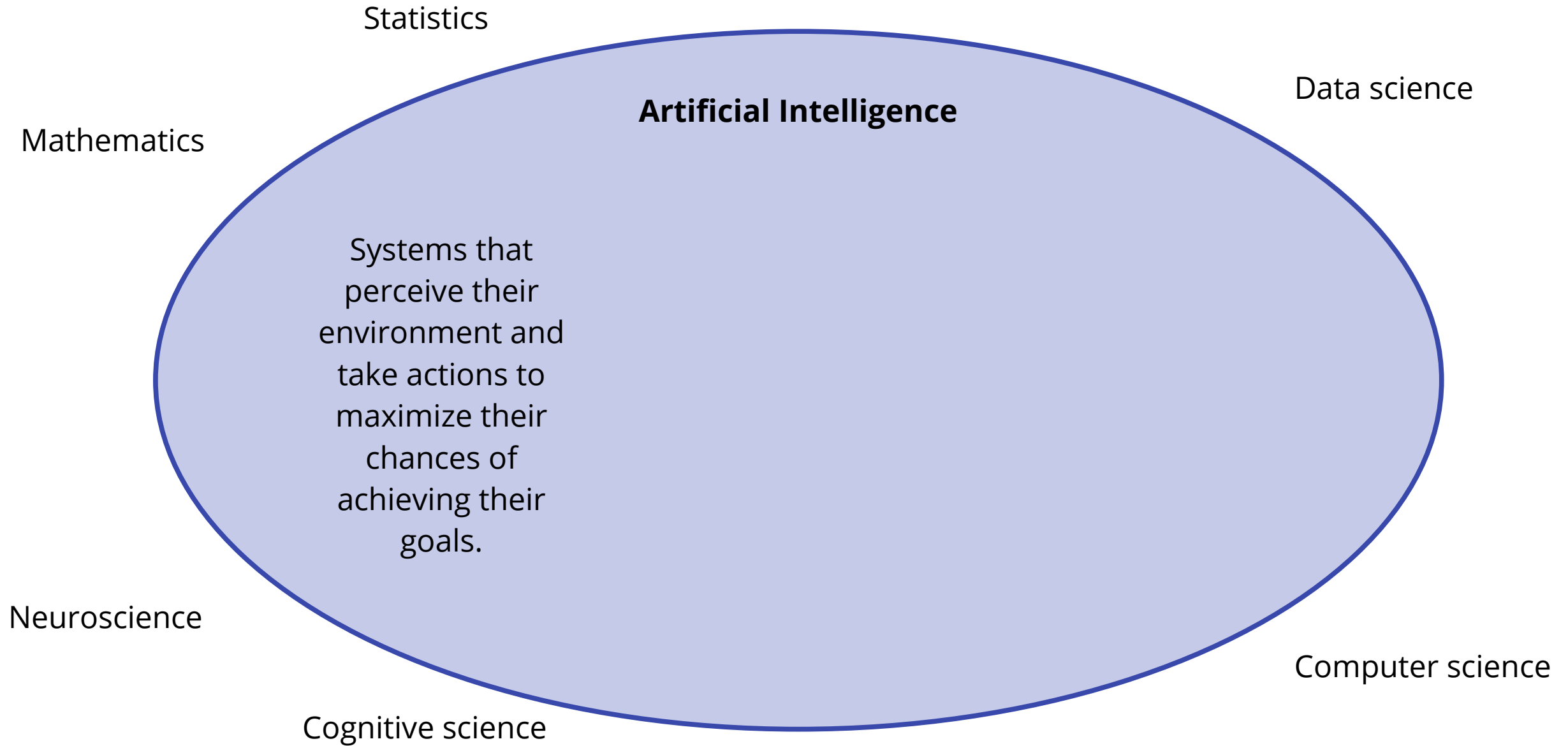
sandserif

# Mapping terminology

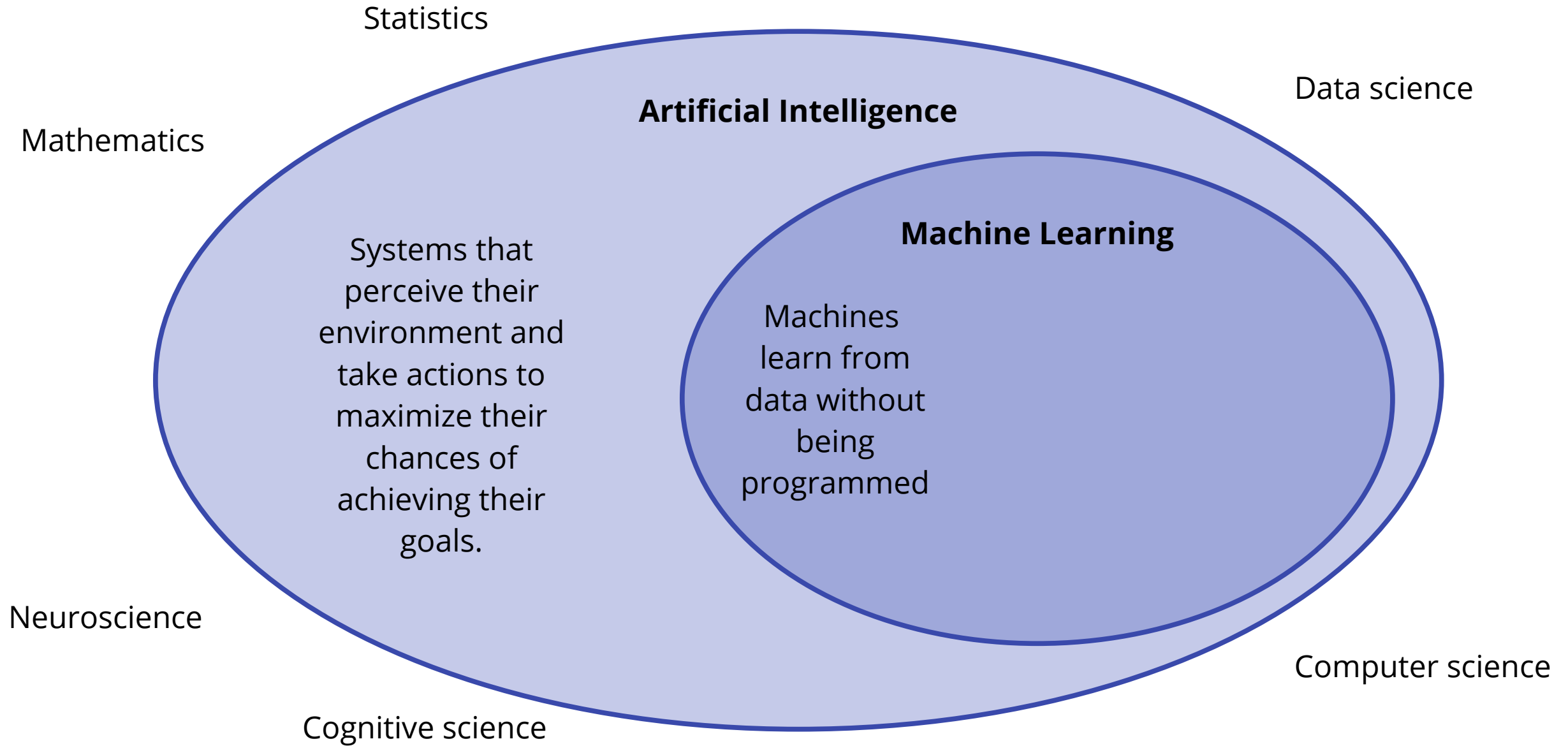
## Artificial Intelligence

Systems that perceive their environment and take actions to maximize their chances of achieving their goals.

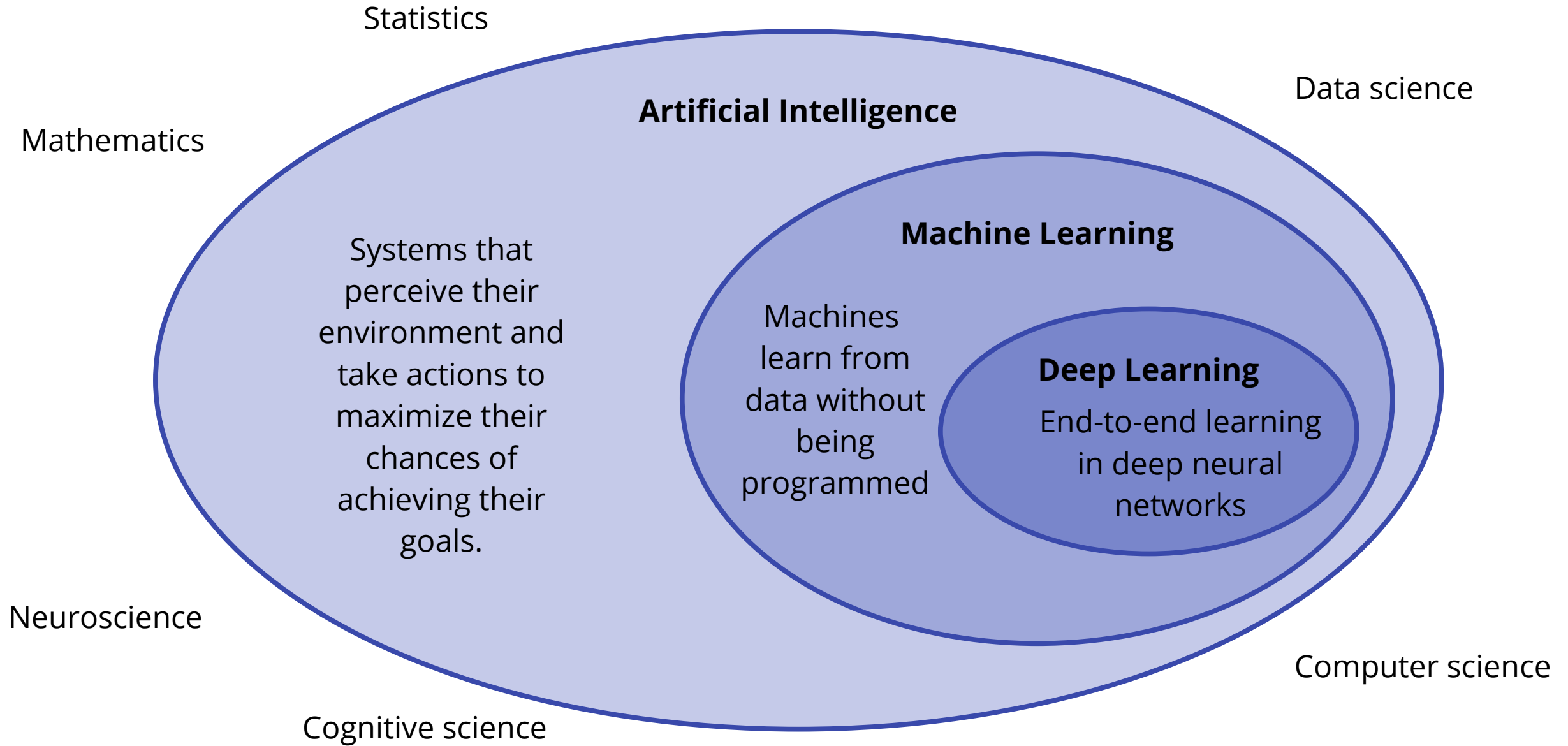
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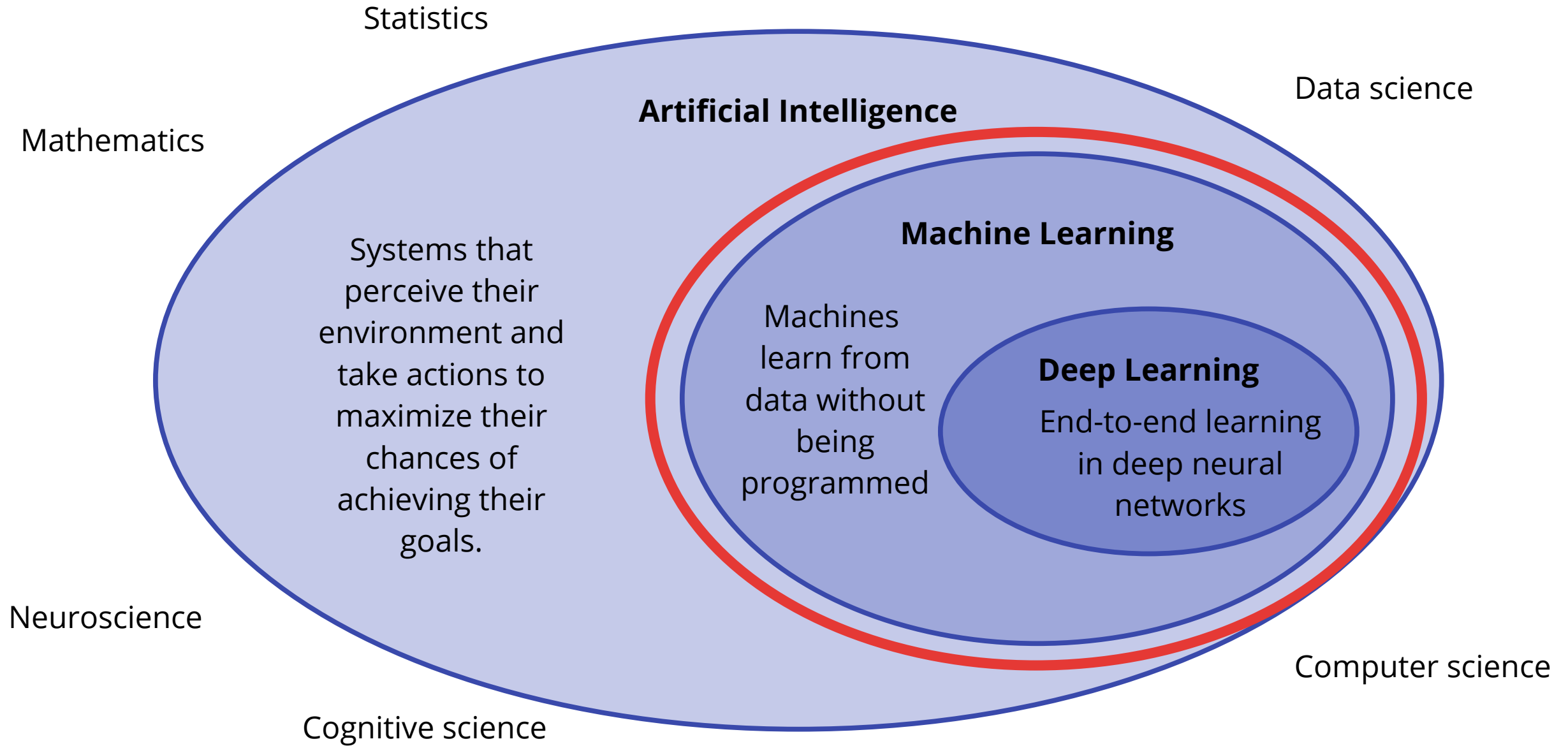


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# What is Machine Learning (ML)?

*"The field of study that gives computers the ability to learn without being explicitly programmed."*

- Arthur Samuel (1959)

Different approaches:



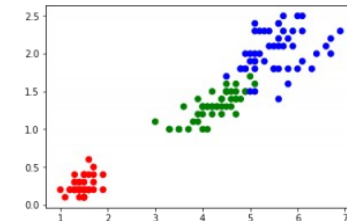
Iris Versicolor

- **Supervised learning**

Find a function that relates input data to output data by learning a specific task.

- **Unsupervised learning**

Find structure within a data set.



- **Reinforcement learning**

Learn a task in a dynamic and responsive environment.



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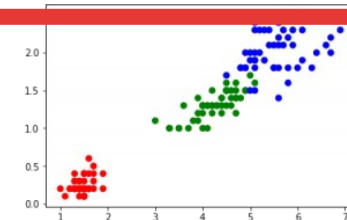
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# Supervised ML

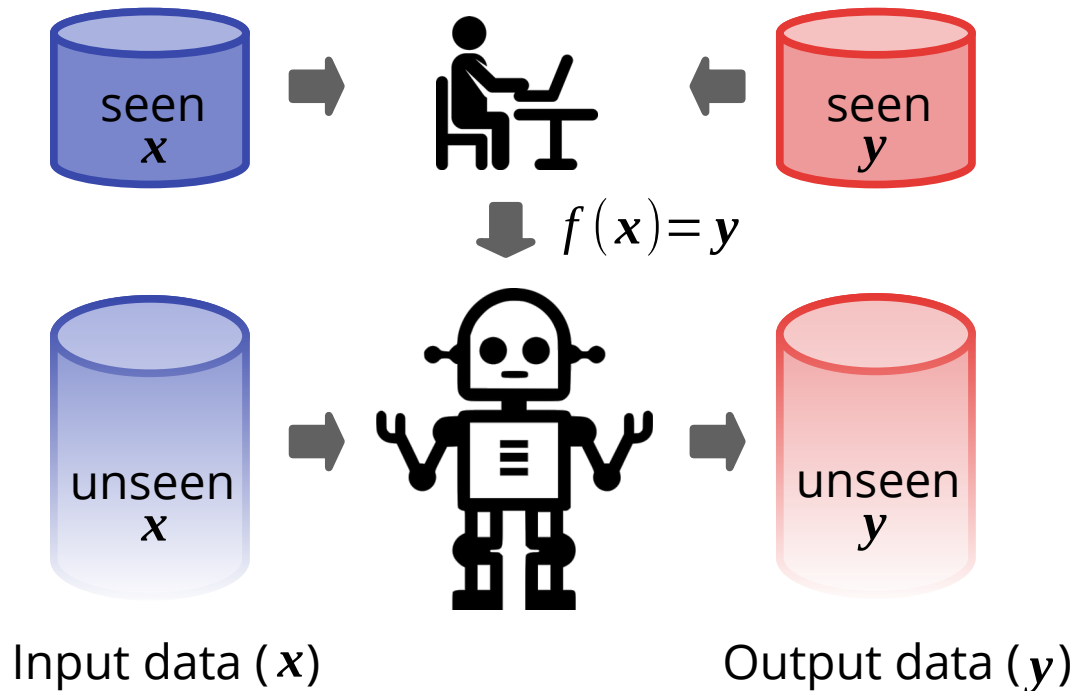
## General goal for supervised problems:

Find a function (“task”) that relates input data ( $\mathbf{x}$ ) to output data ( $\mathbf{y}$ ) such that:  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{y}$

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## Traditional (Rule-based) Approach:

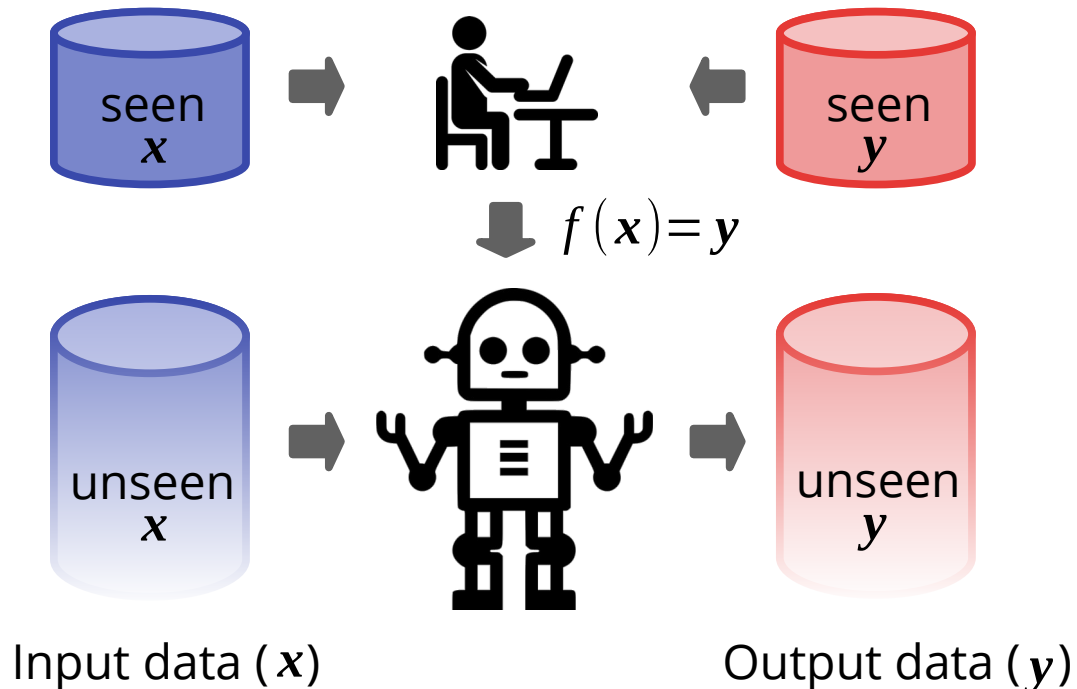


# Supervised ML

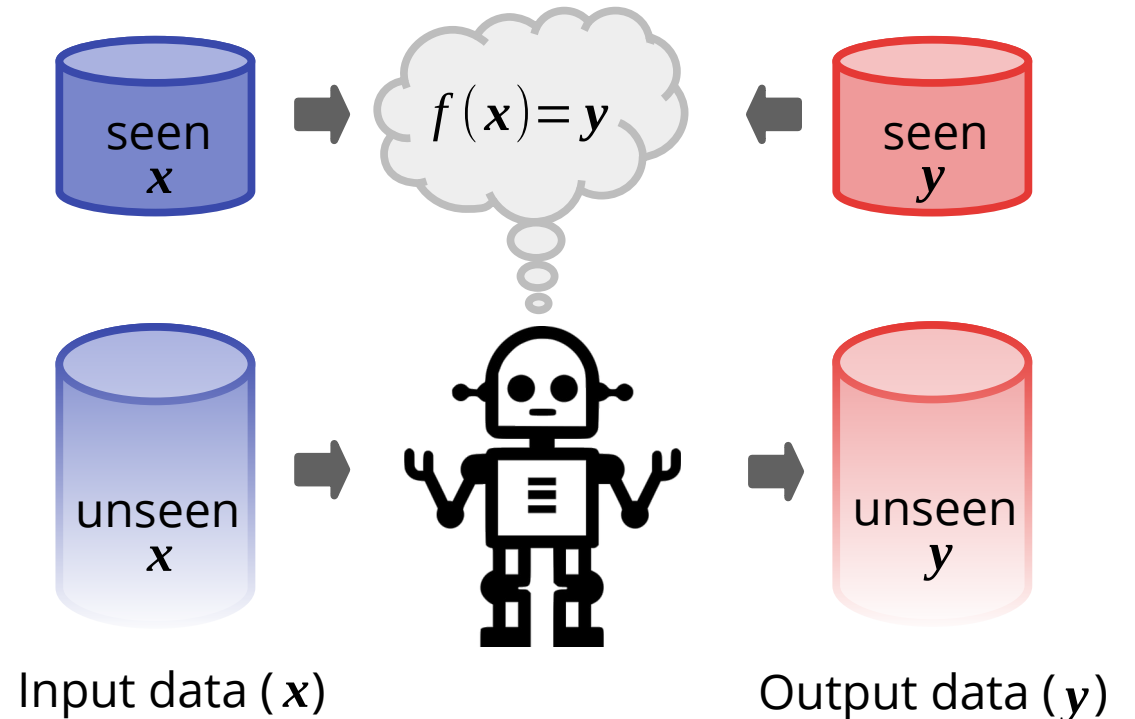
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### Traditional (Rule-based) Approach:



### Machine-Learning Approach:



**Who am I?**





# About myself



# About myself



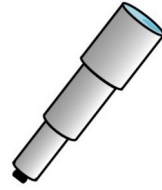
Physics

2009

# About myself



# About myself



ISAS/JAXA



Gerald Rhemann



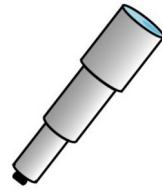
Physics

Dr. rer. nat.  
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# About myself



ISAS/JAXA



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Deutsches Zentrum  
für Luft- und Raumfahrt  
German Aerospace Center

Freie Universität



Berlin



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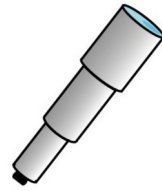
Postdoc  
@HSG-AIML

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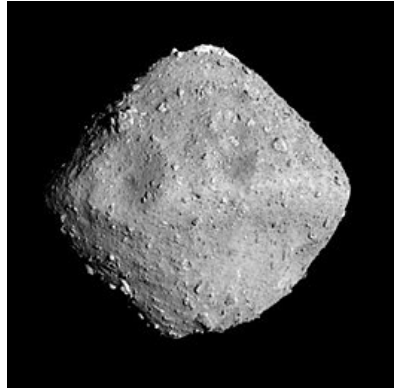
2013

2020

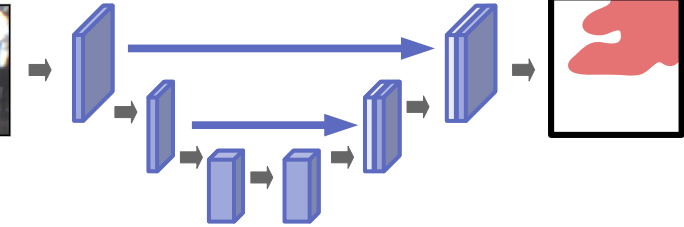
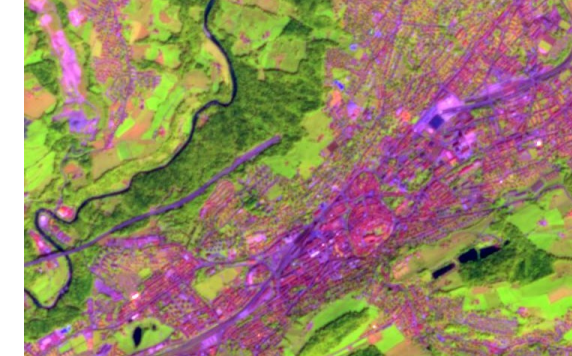
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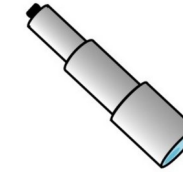
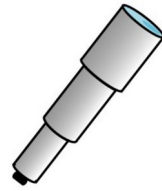
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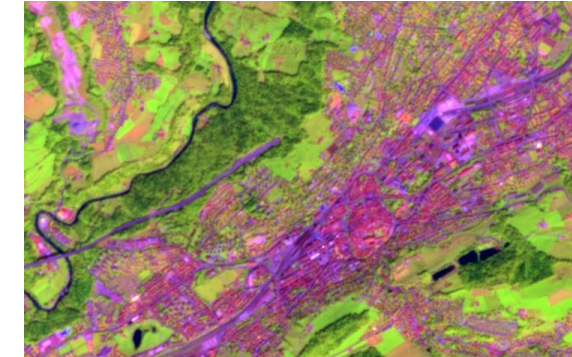
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ISAS/JAXA



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UNIVERSITÄT  
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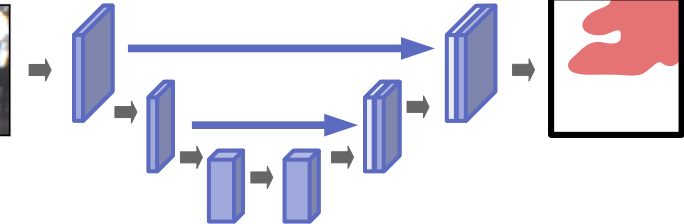
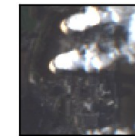
Freie Universität



Berlin

NAU  
NORTHERN  
ARIZONA  
UNIVERSITY

LOWELL  
OBSERVATORY  
125 YEARS | 1894 - 2019



Universität St. Gallen

Physics

Dr. rer. nat.  
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Asst. Prof.  
Computer Vision

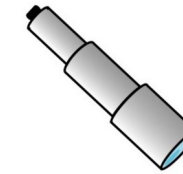
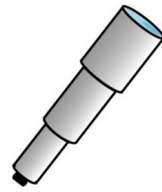
2009

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2022

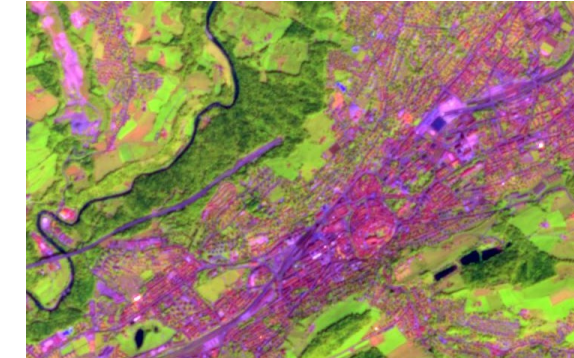
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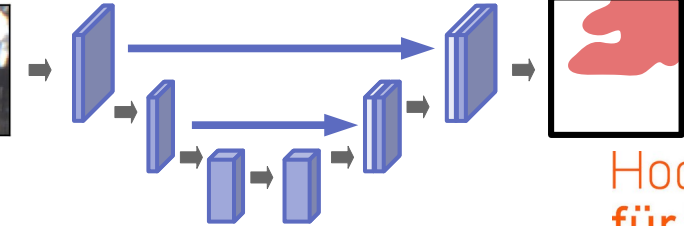
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Computer Vision

Prof. AI in  
Remote Sensing

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2024



# What I work on...

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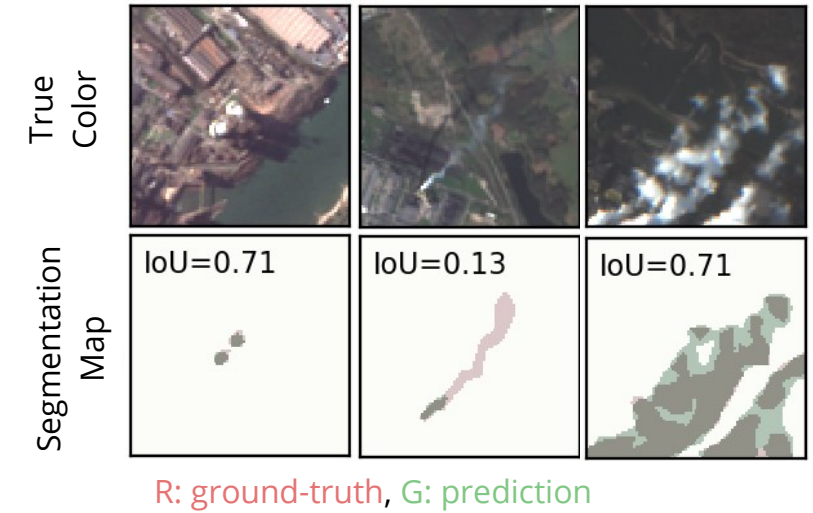
Commercial Vehicle Traffic Monitoring  
(*Blattner et al. 2021*)

# What I work on...



Commercial Vehicle Traffic Monitoring  
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Characterization of Plumes and Estimation of  
Power Generation from Remote Sensing Data  
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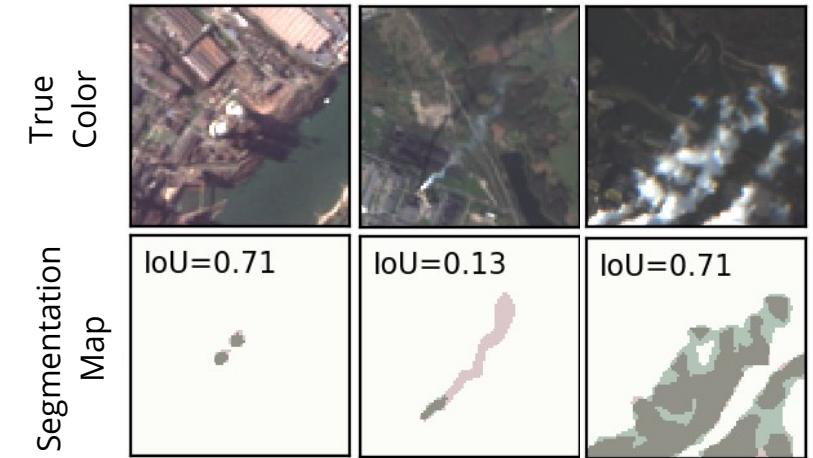


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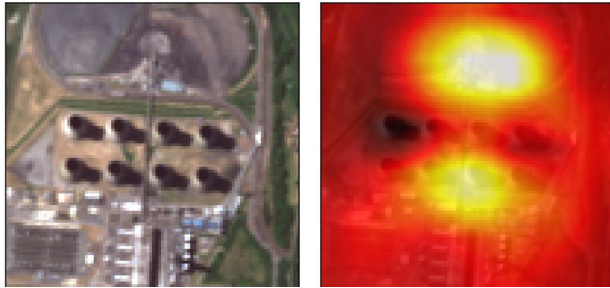
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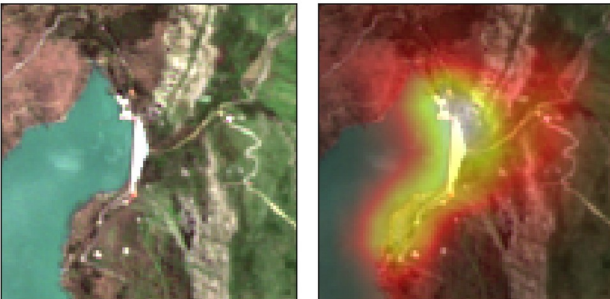


R: ground-truth, G: prediction

Fossil Hard Coal



Hydro Water Reservoir



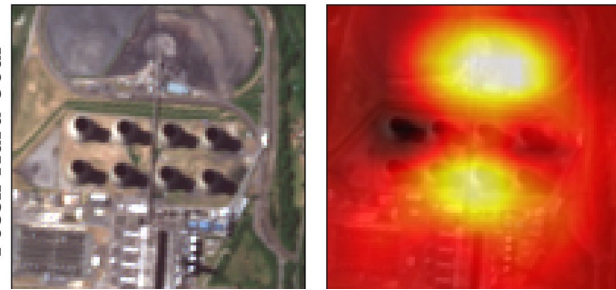
Power Plant  
Classification from  
Remote Imaging with  
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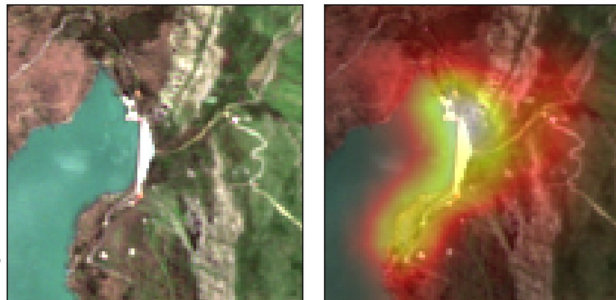


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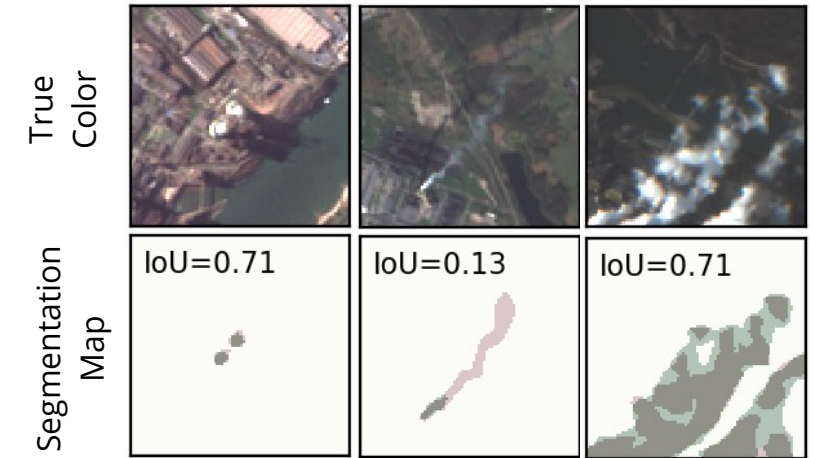
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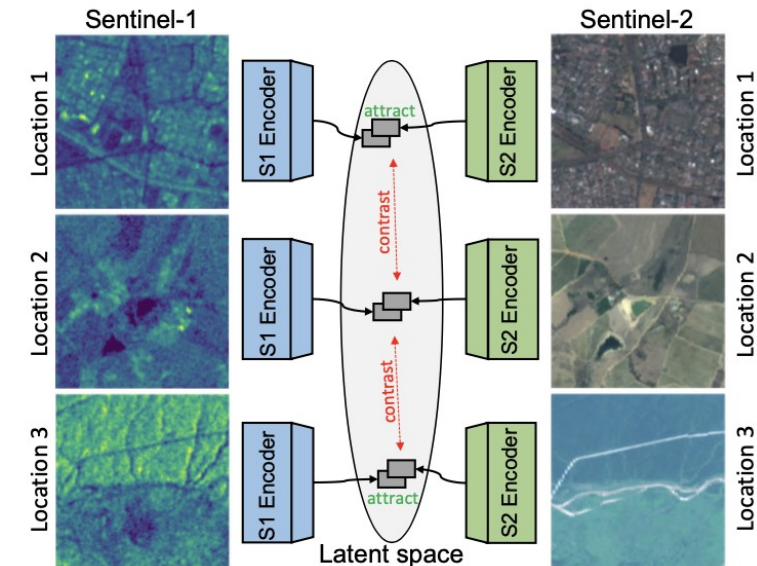
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Contrastive Self-  
supervised data  
fusion for Satellite  
Imagery  
(Scheibenreif et al.  
2022)

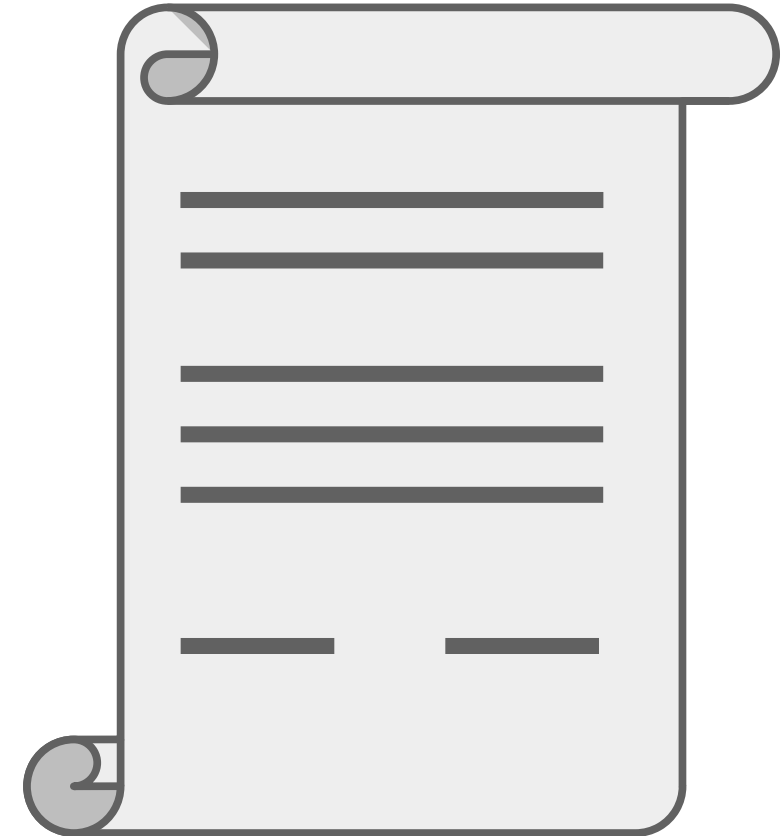


R: ground-truth, G: prediction





# Course modalities



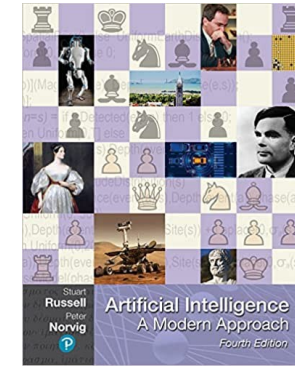
- **Goal** of this course:  
*To understand and be able to implement and utilize supervised traditional Machine Learning and Deep Learning models.*
- **Setup:** Combination of lectures and voluntary hands-on lab courses
- **Lecture mode:** This course is supposed to be bi-directional: let me know if anything is unclear, ask questions anytime!
- We will use **Google Colab** for running our Lab Notebooks (they offer free GPUs!). If you don't have a Google account, please let me know as soon as possible!



# Literature resources

- Stuart Russell, Peter Norvig: **Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach** (2020 and earlier versions, MIT Press)

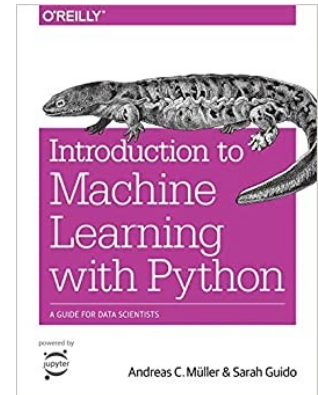
*Part V ("Learning") is especially relevant to this course and provides good introductions*



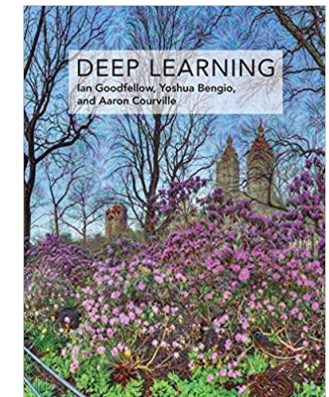
[ebook@HSG](#)

- Andreas Müller & Sarah Guido: **Introduction to Machine Learning with Python** (2017, O'Reilly)

*Easy-to-understand introduction to Python for ML, uses scikit-learn*



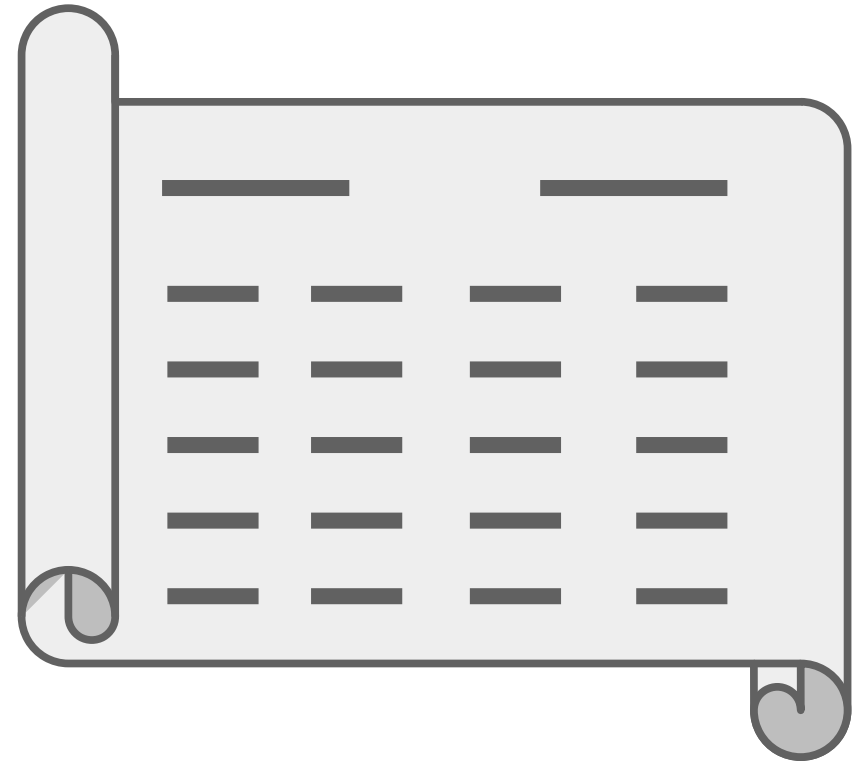
- Ian Goodfellow, Yoshua Bengio, Aaron Courville: **Deep Learning** (2016, MIT Press)
- All you need to know about Deep Learning*



[free online](#)



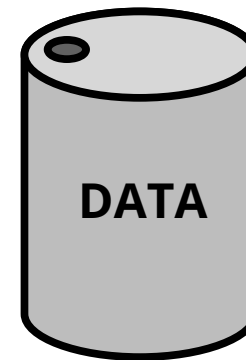
# Course syllabus



# Content

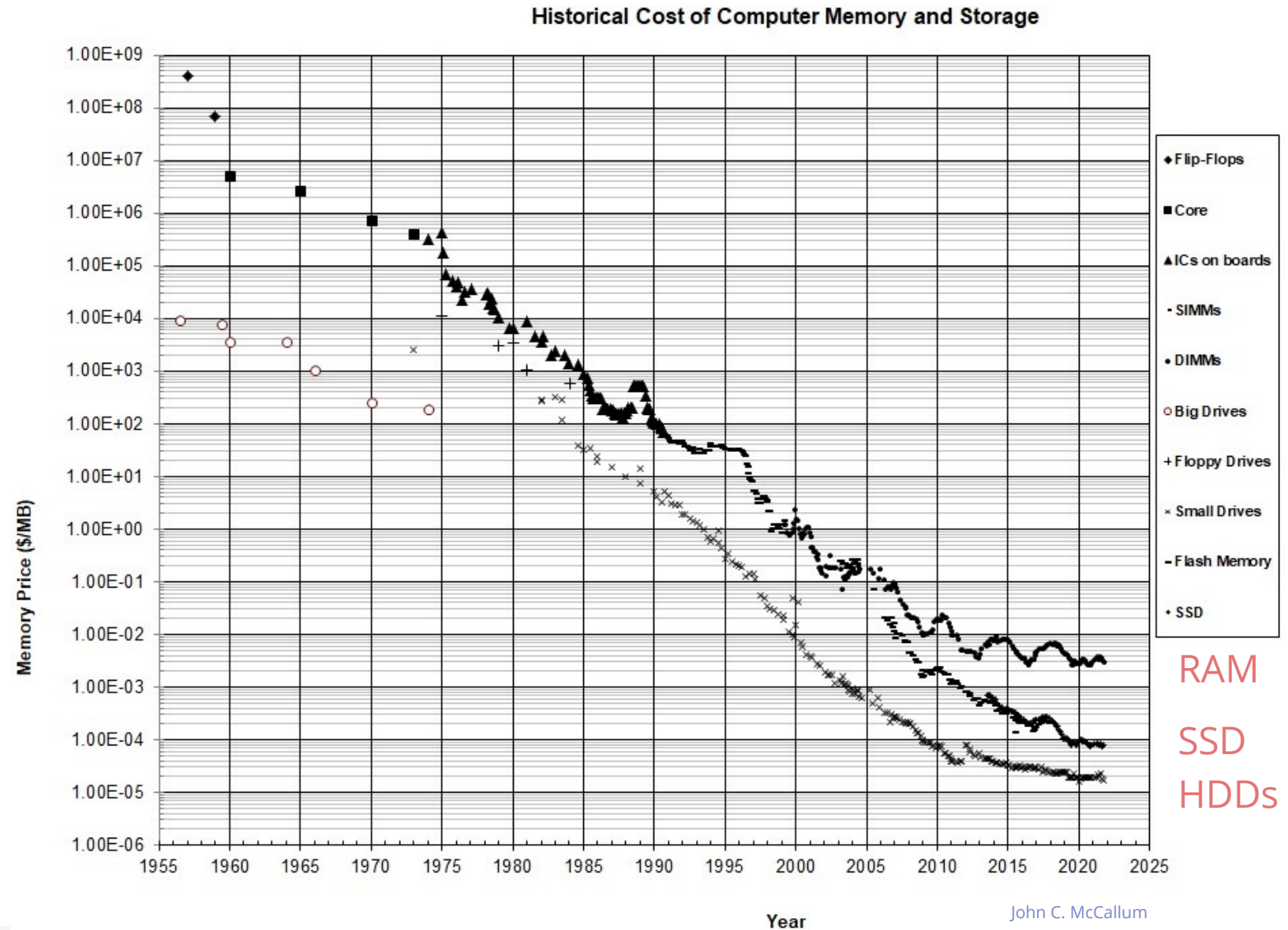
Slot	Wednesday	Thursday
09:00 - 10:30	Intro & Data	Neural Networks
10:30 – 10:45	Break	Break
10:45 – 12:15	Supervised ML: Concepts	Convolutional Neural Networks & Computer Vision
12:15 – 13:45	Lunch break	Lunch break
13:45 – 15:15	Supervised ML: Methods	Lab: Neural Networks
15:15 – 15:30	Break	Break
15:30 – 17:00	Lab: Supervised ML	Advanced Deep Learning

**Data**



# Data storage

- Data storage used to be a bottleneck – not anymore!

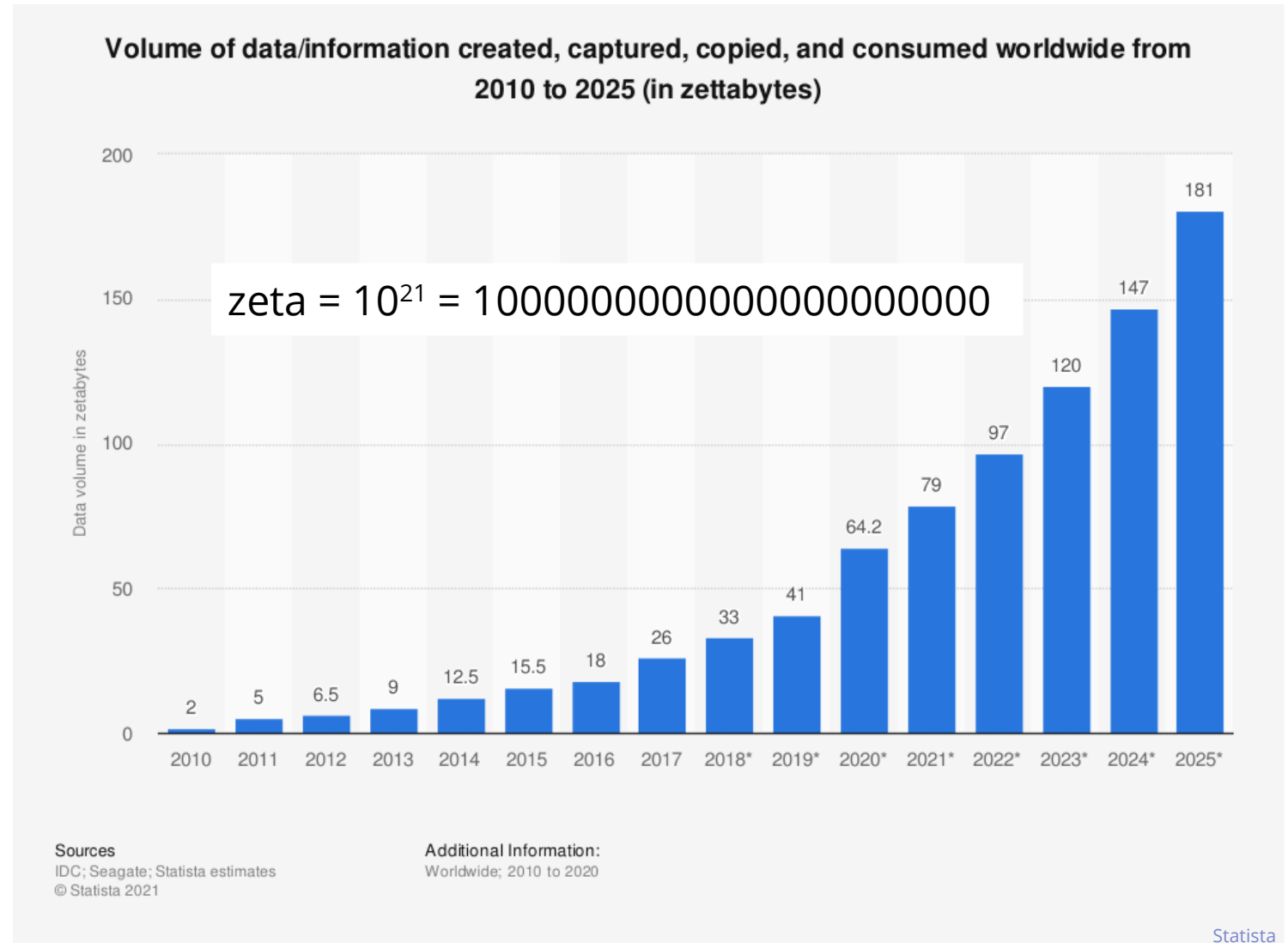


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- Vast amounts of data can now be stored easily

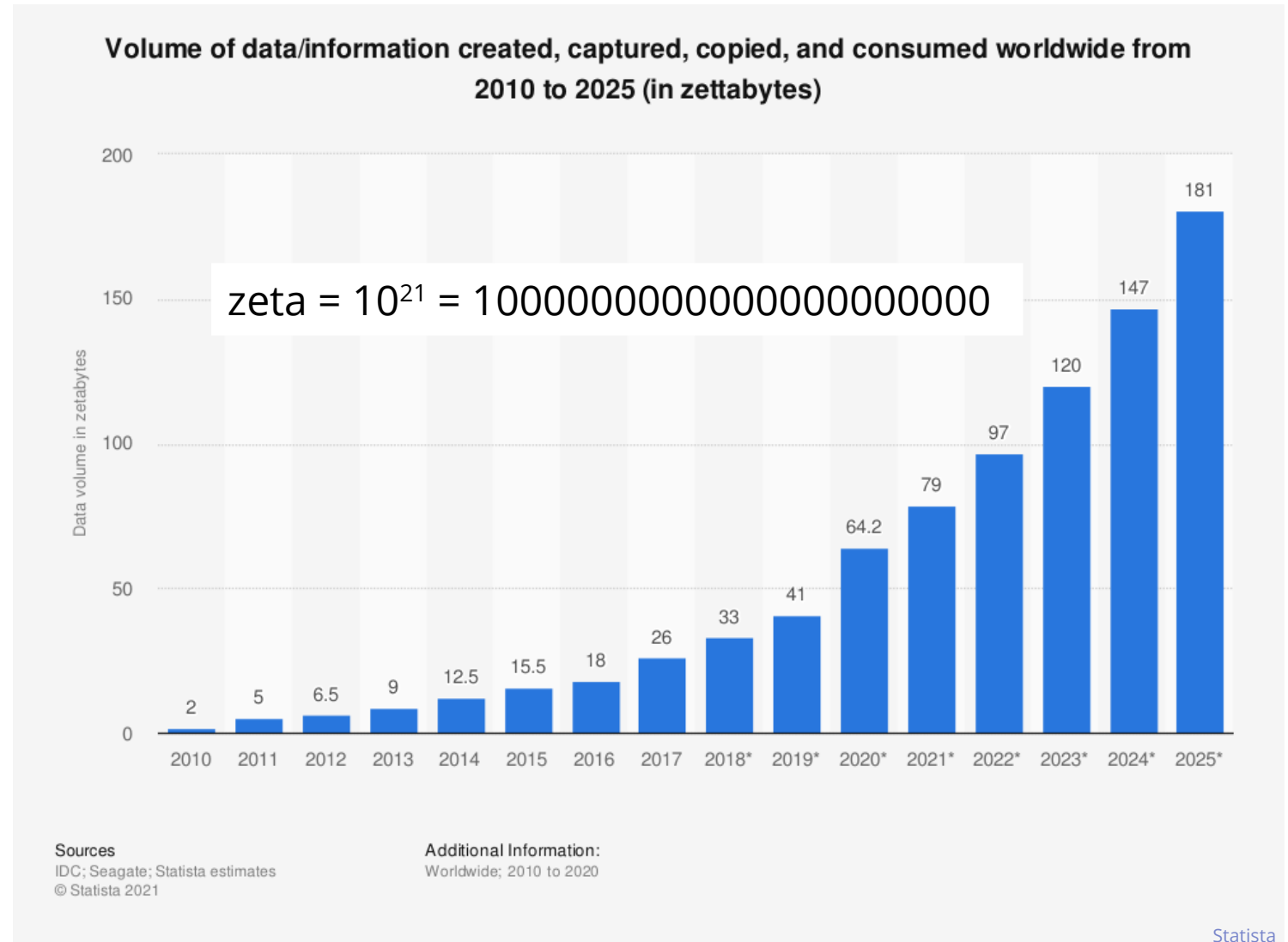
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# Data storage

- Data storage used to be a bottleneck – not anymore!
- Vast amounts of data can now be stored easily
- Is all this data technically accessible for analysis?  
(of course not, since most of it is privately owned, but...)





# Structured vs unstructured data

# Structured vs unstructured data

## Structured data

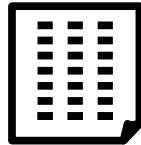
Preprocessed and formatted data that is easily queryable.

# Structured vs unstructured data

## Structured data

Preprocessed and formatted data that is easily queryable.

Quantitative data

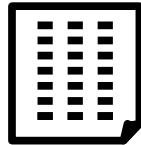


# Structured vs unstructured data

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Quantitative data



## Unstructured data

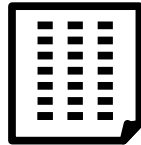
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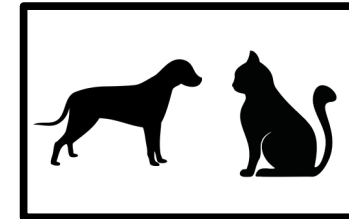
## Unstructured data

Unprocessed and unformatted data is not easily queryable.

Qualitative data



Image data



Video data



Textual data



Data stream

.....

Audio data

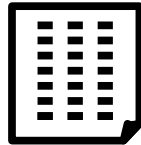


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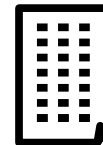
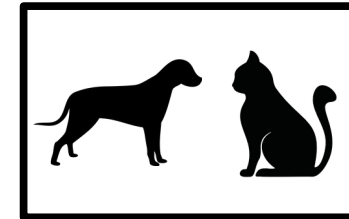


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Data complexity



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Most data analysis techniques require data to be available in a structured form for easier processing.

Structured data can always be represented in a database **schema** (e.g., a table in 2 dimensions).

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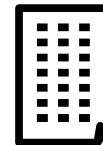
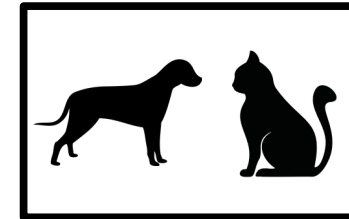


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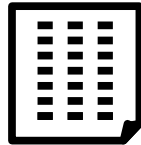


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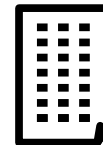
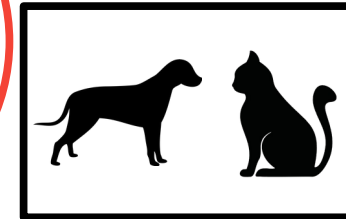
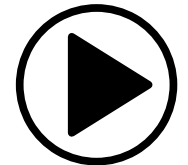


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Data complexity

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# Quantitative and qualitative data

## **Quantitative data**

(can be measured; distances can be defined)

## **Qualitative (categorical) data**

(cannot be measured; distances not defined)

# Quantitative and qualitative data

## Quantitative data

(can be measured; distances can be defined)

### Continuous data

Real-valued numbers;  
potentially within a  
given range

*Examples:*

- Temperatures
- A person's height
- Prices



## Qualitative (categorical) data

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### Discrete data

Discrete numbers;  
whole numbers or real  
numbers, potentially  
within a given range

*Examples:*

- Number of people in a room
- Inventory counts



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## Qualitative (categorical) data

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### Nominal data

Labels for different  
categories without  
ordering

*Examples:*

- Color of hair
- Names of persons
- Types of fruit



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(cannot be measured; distances not defined)

### Nominal data

Labels for different categories without ordering

*Examples:*

- Color of hair
- Names of persons
- Types of fruit



### Ordinal data

Labels for different categories following an inherent ranking scheme.

*Examples:*

- Rank in a competition
- Grades
- Day of the week



# Turning unstructured data into structured data

## Structured data

Preprocessed and formatted data that is easily queryable.

Quantitative



## Unstructured data

Unprocessed and unformatted data is not easily queryable.

Qualitative data

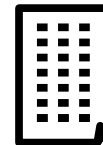
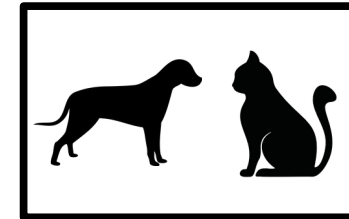


Image data



Video data



Textual data



Data stream

.....

Audio data

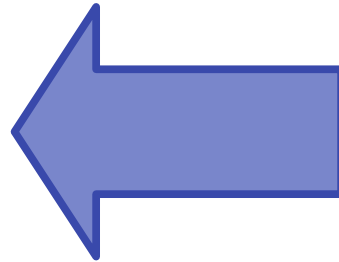


# Turning unstructured data into structured data

## Structured data

Preprocessed and formatted data that is easily queryable.

Quantitative



## Unstructured data

Unprocessed and unformatted data is not easily queryable.

Qualitative data

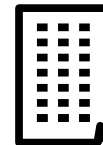
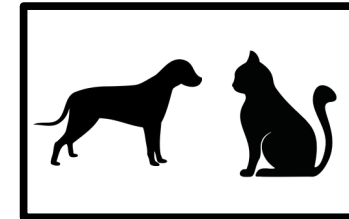


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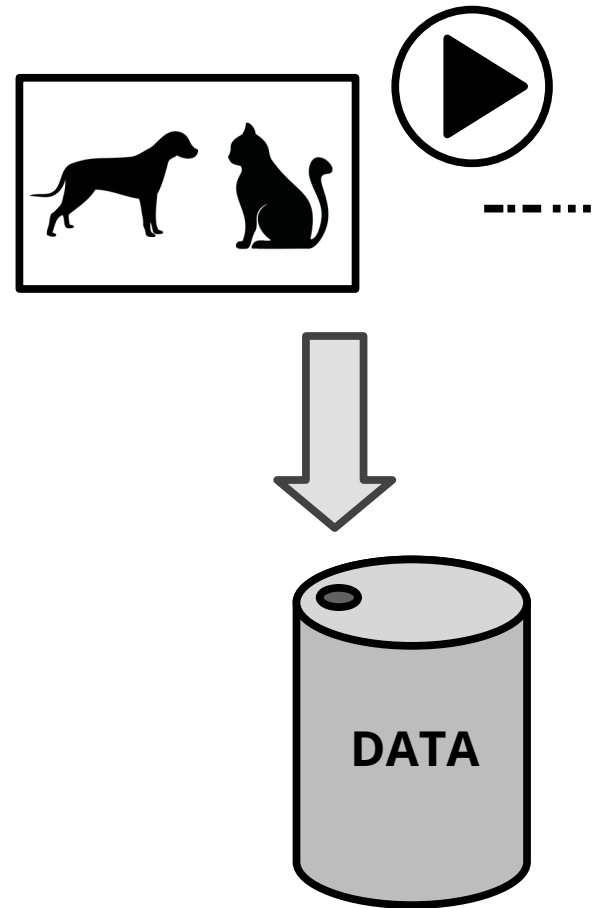
Audio data



Before ML methods can be applied to unstructured data, we have to process those and extract useful features from them.

This process is called **feature engineering**.

# Features and Feature Engineering



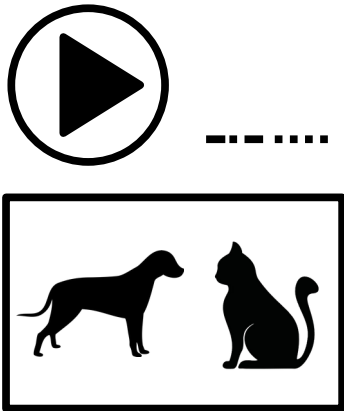


# What are features?

Features are quantitative and independent variables based on which our ML models learn.

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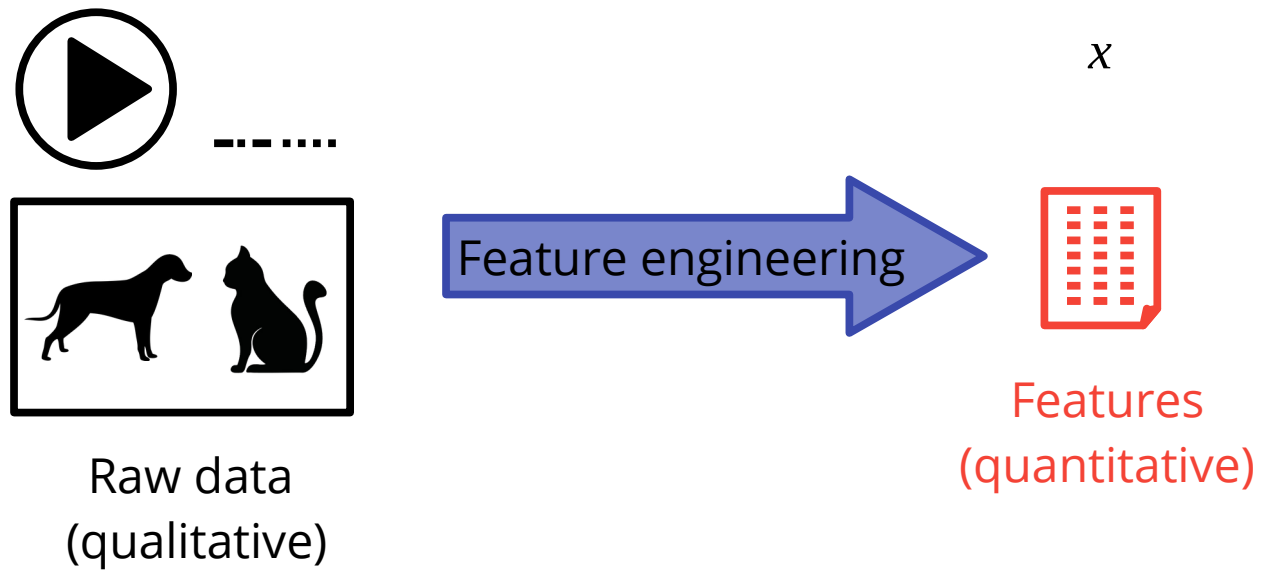
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Raw data  
(qualitative)

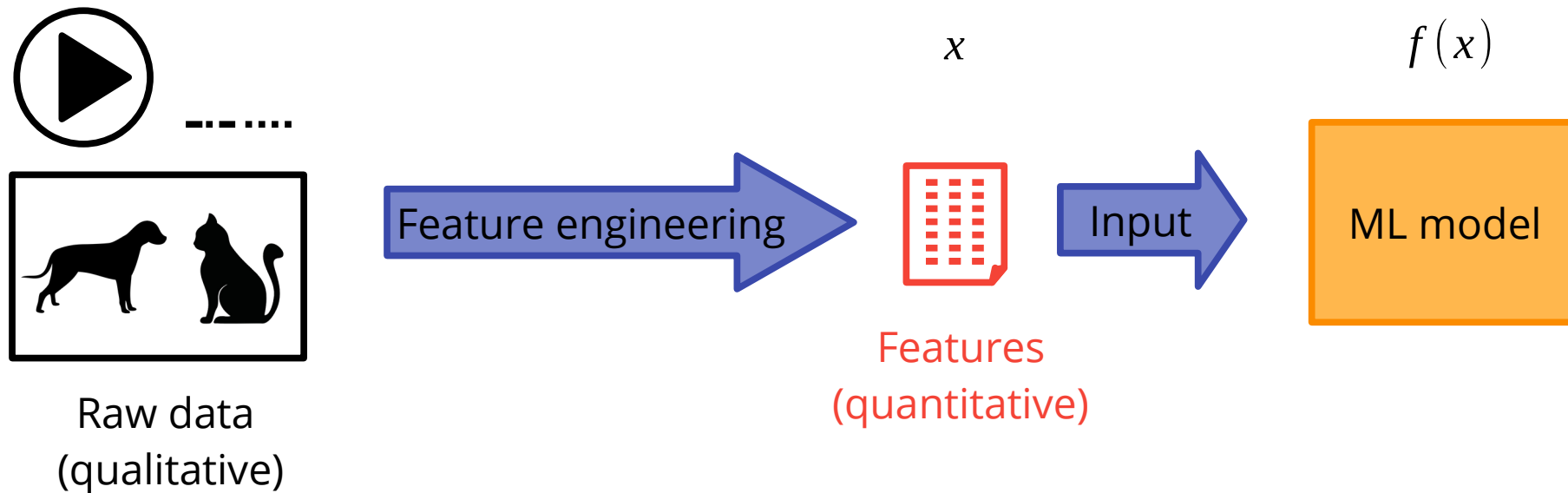
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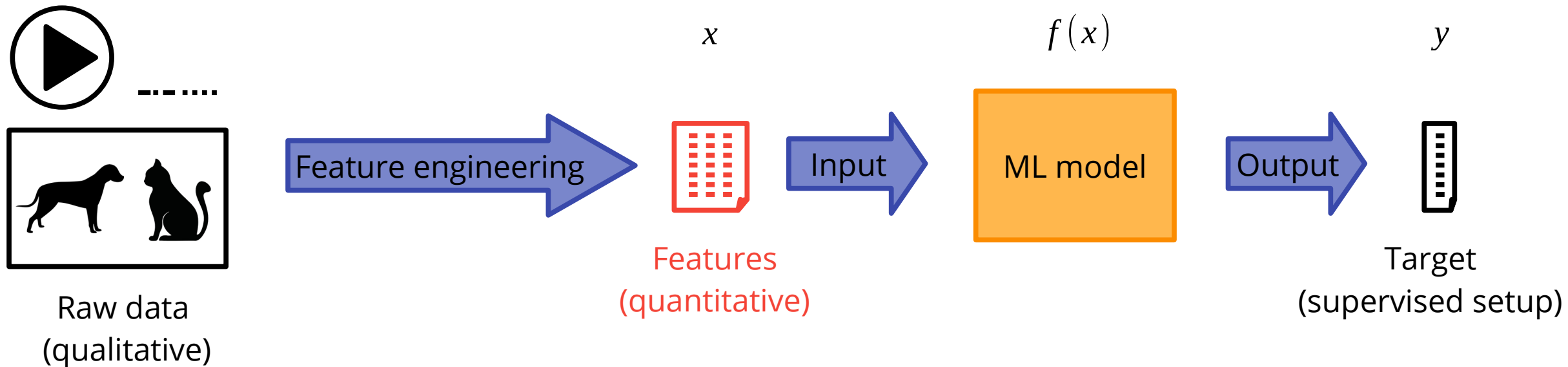
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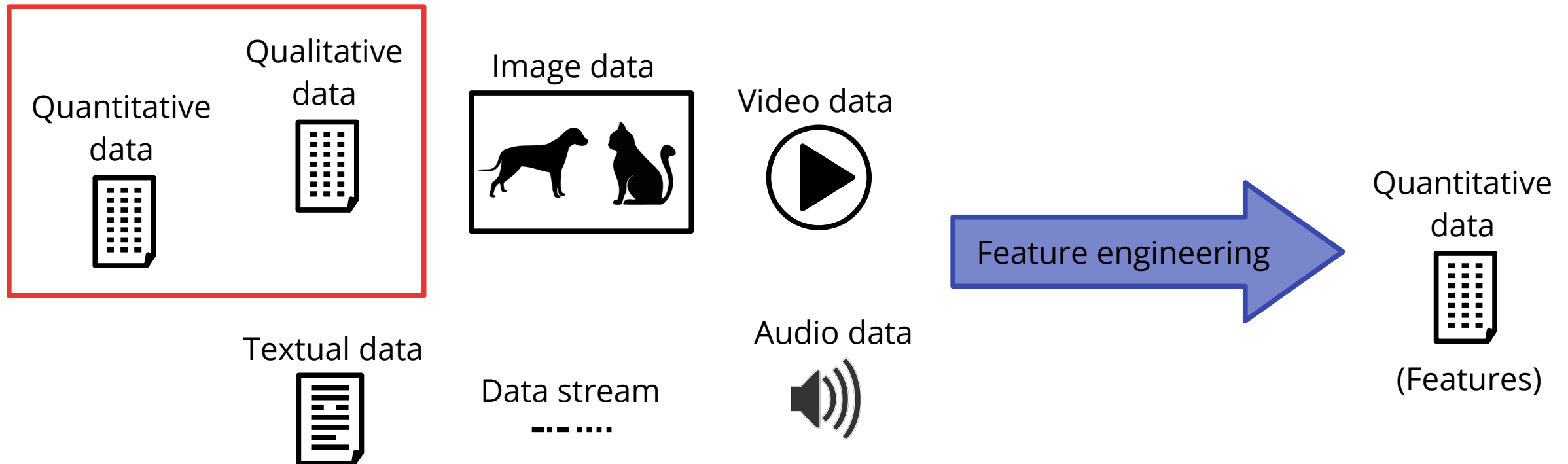
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Extract or create features that may provide a ML model with rich information on its task based on **domain knowledge**. Feature engineering can be applied to raw data, resulting in quantitative data that can be directly fed into the ML model (features).



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# Feature engineering – quantitative data

Create meaningful features through mathematical transformations.

*Examples:*



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*Situation:* You have two variables,  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , but you are more interested in their difference,  $\delta$ .

*Transformation:*

$$\delta = x_1 - x_2$$

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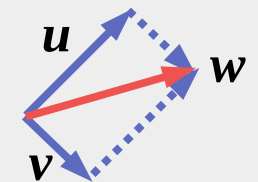
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## Geometric Transformations

*Situation:* To identify common wind speed patterns, you have measurements of two orthogonal wind speed components,  $u$  and  $v$ . Since only the magnitude of the resulting wind vector,  $w$ , matters, you can utilize its magnitude,  $|w|$ .

*Transformation:*

$$|w| = \sqrt{u^2 + v^2}$$



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The intuition is that the ranking/order of the classes is conserved in a discrete numerical schema and a “distance” can be defined.

*Examples:*

- Competition ranks: [1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>] → [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
- Cloudiness scale: [clear, mostly clear, partly cloudy, mostly cloudy] → [0, 1, 2, 3]
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(Caveat: Label encoding can also be used if a large number of classes is present)

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- **One-hot encoding:** *nominal (unranked) data → binary coding of labels*

For each possible class in a feature, a binary feature is introduced; for each sample, all one-hot features are zero, only those that match have a value of one.

Examples:

- House properties: [balcony, cellar, fireplace, jacuzzi] →  
samples: house 1: "balcony" →  
house 2: "fireplace" →  
house 3: "balcony and jacuzzi" →  
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→

→

balcony	cellar	fireplace	jacuzzi
1	0	0	0
0	0	1	0
1	0	0	1
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(Caveat: if too many classes present, use label encoding instead; see *curse of dimensionality*)

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Feature engineering results in a compilation of features that we can use to train our ML models.

*Example:*

Weight	Height	Wings	Legs	Cuteness
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...	...	...	...	...

Pet	Type
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...	...

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**classes of**  
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Data  
Types:

continuous

continuous

binary

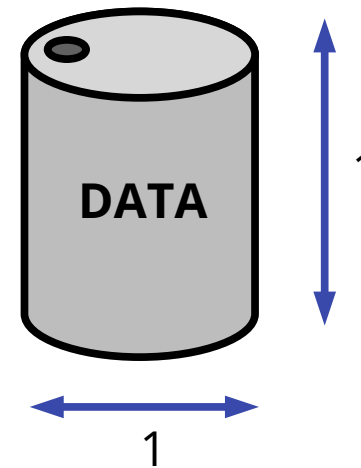
discrete

ordinal

binary

categorical  
(multi-class)

## Data scaling



Data scaling means to linearly transform your data in order to normalize them.

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**Why scale data?**

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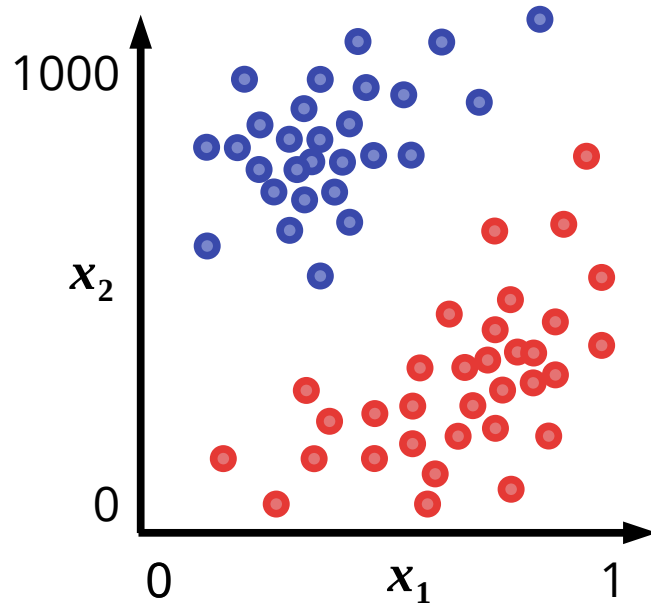
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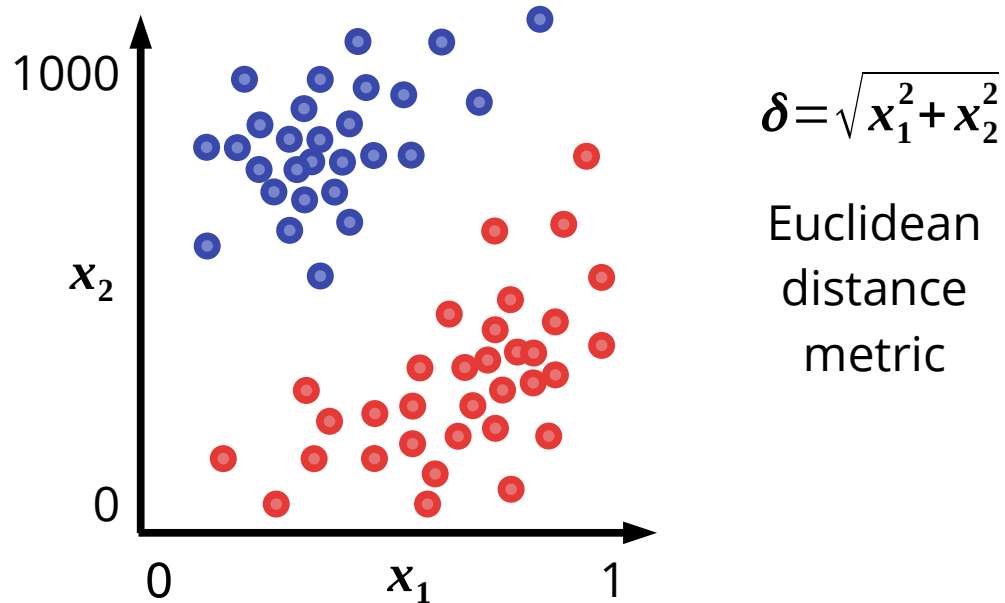




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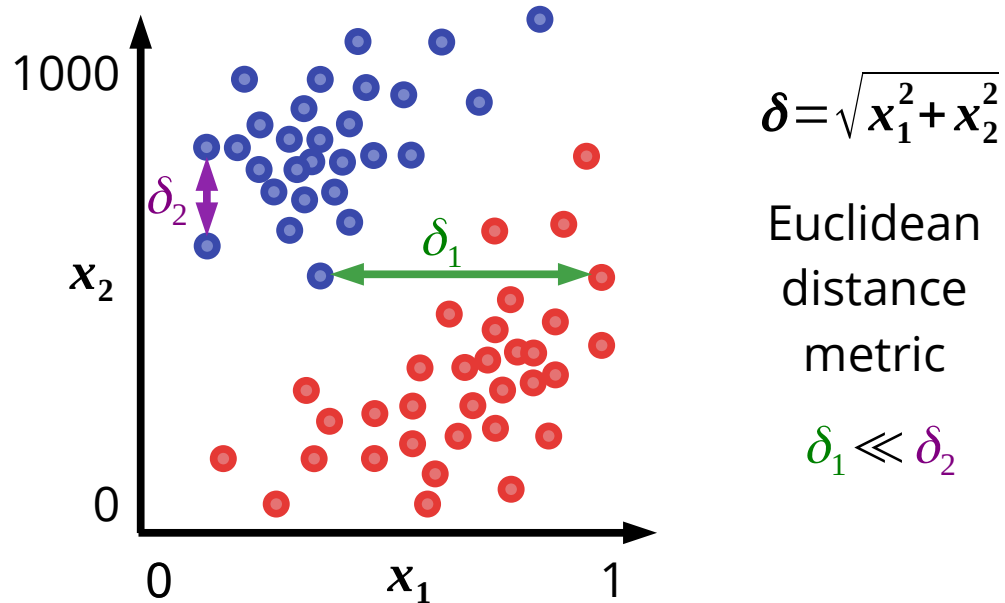
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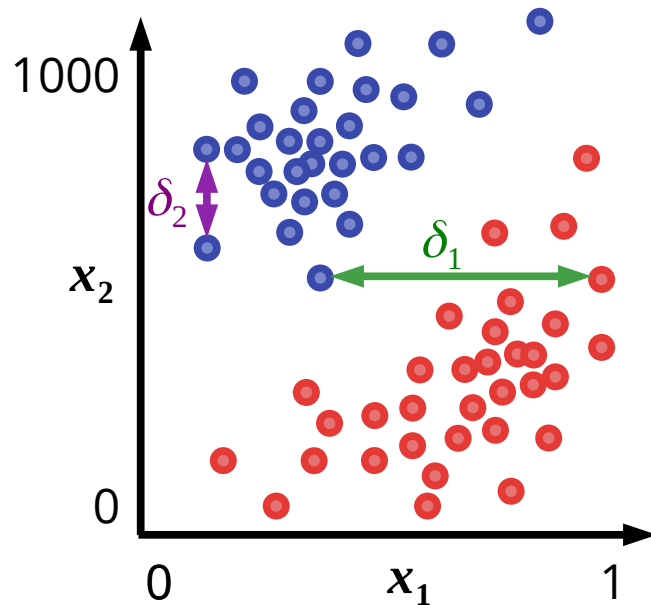
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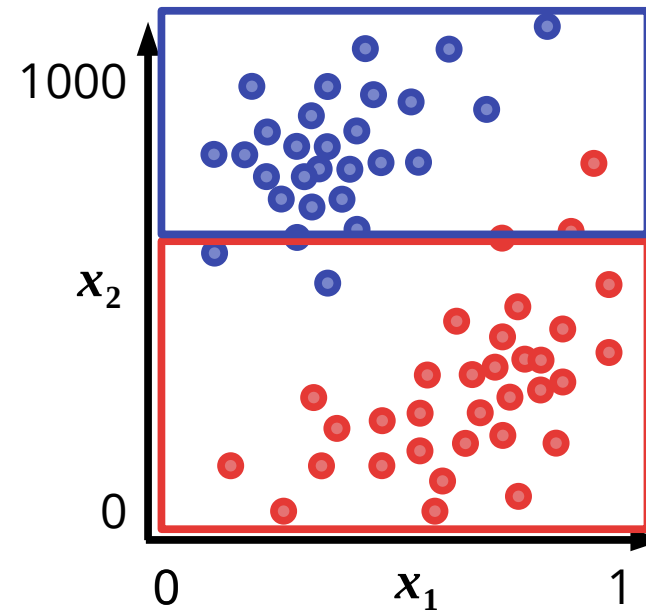
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$$\delta = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}$$

Euclidean  
distance  
metric

$$\delta_1 \ll \delta_2$$



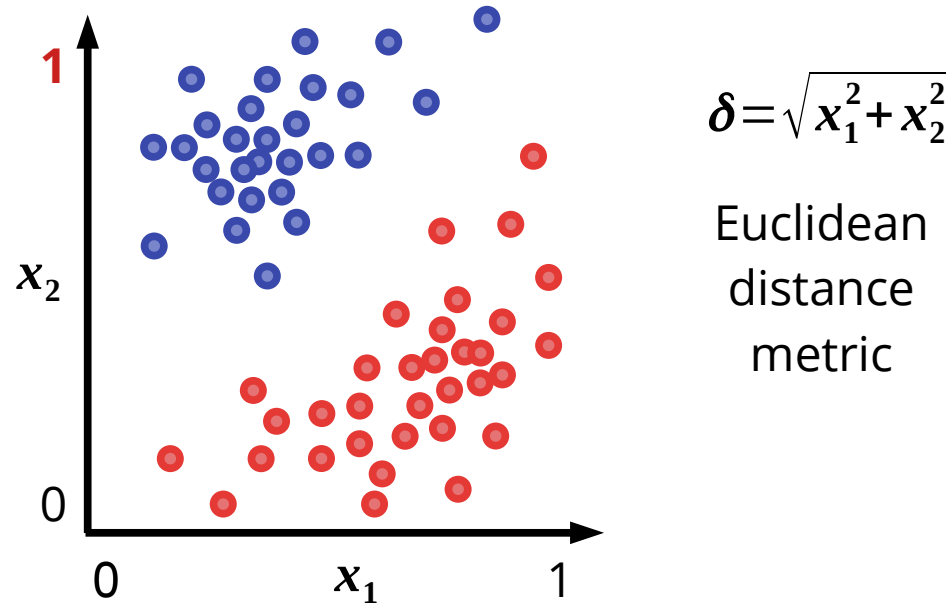
Decision regions of  
a hypothetical  
distance-based  
classifier.

Results are ok-ish,  
but could be much  
better...

Data scaling means to linearly transform your data in order to standardize them.

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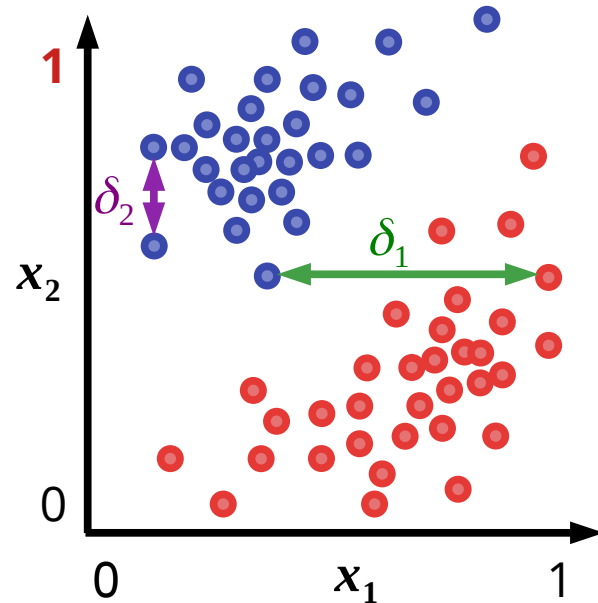
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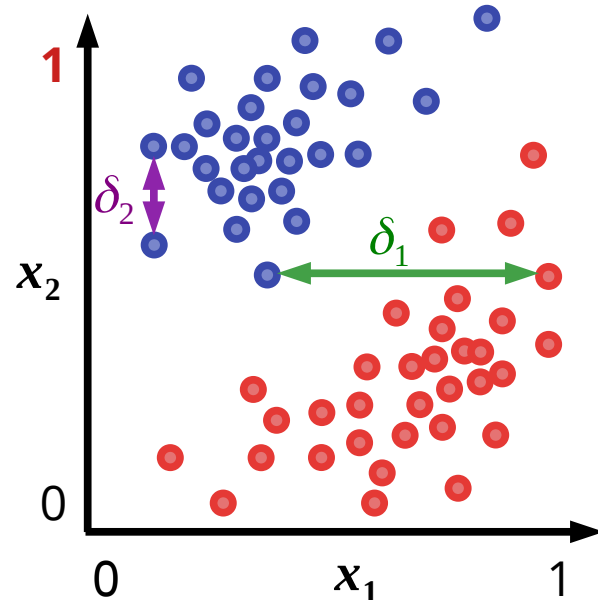
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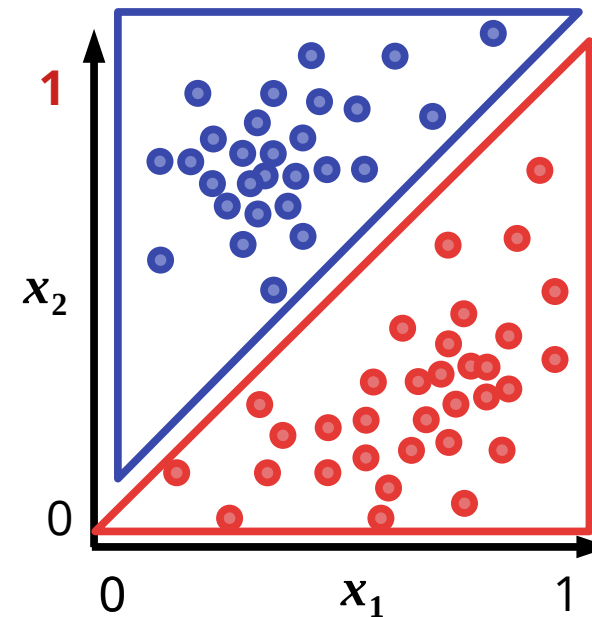
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Decision regions of  
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This is much better!

Data should be  
scaled!

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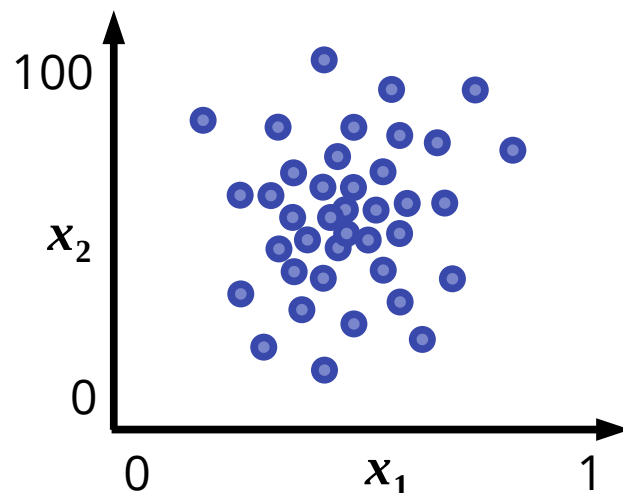
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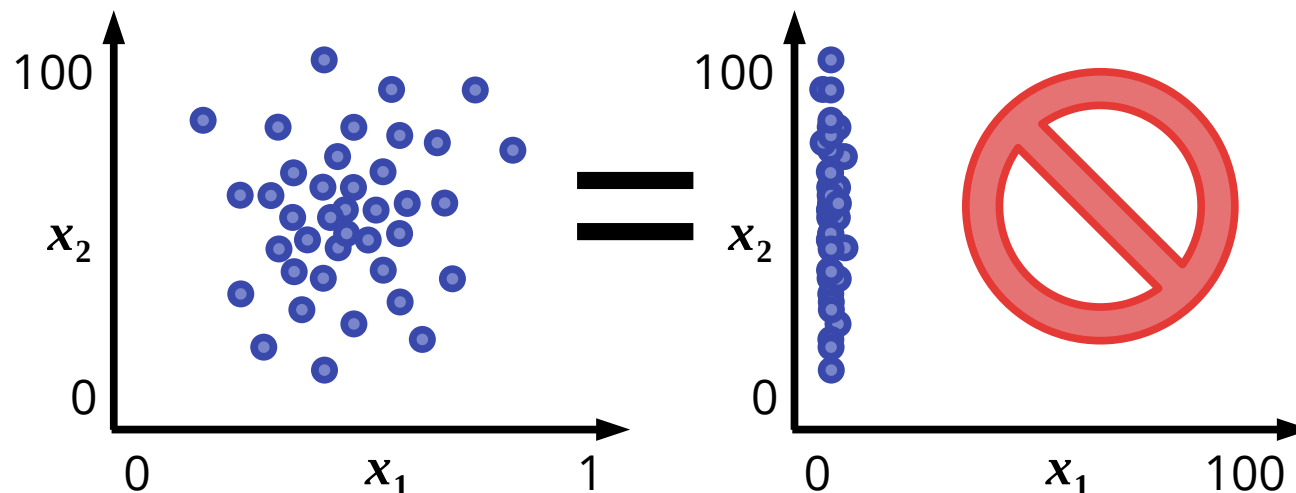




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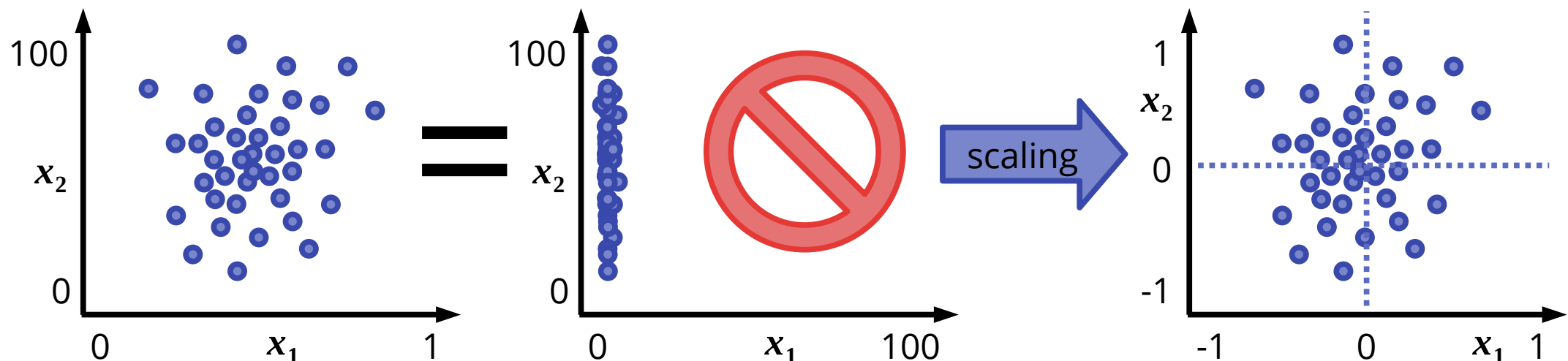
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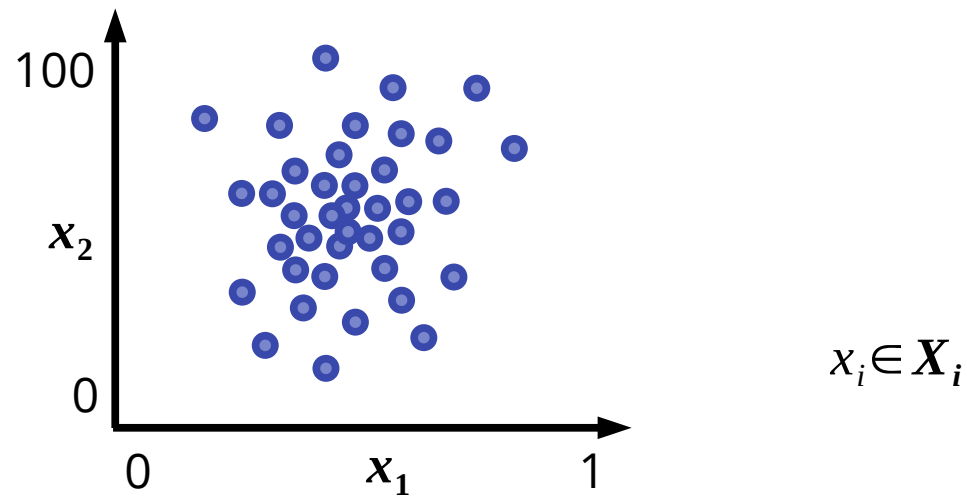
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## How to scale data?

- Normalize feature variances (to give similar weights to the different features)
- Normalize feature mean values (assumed by a number of ML models)

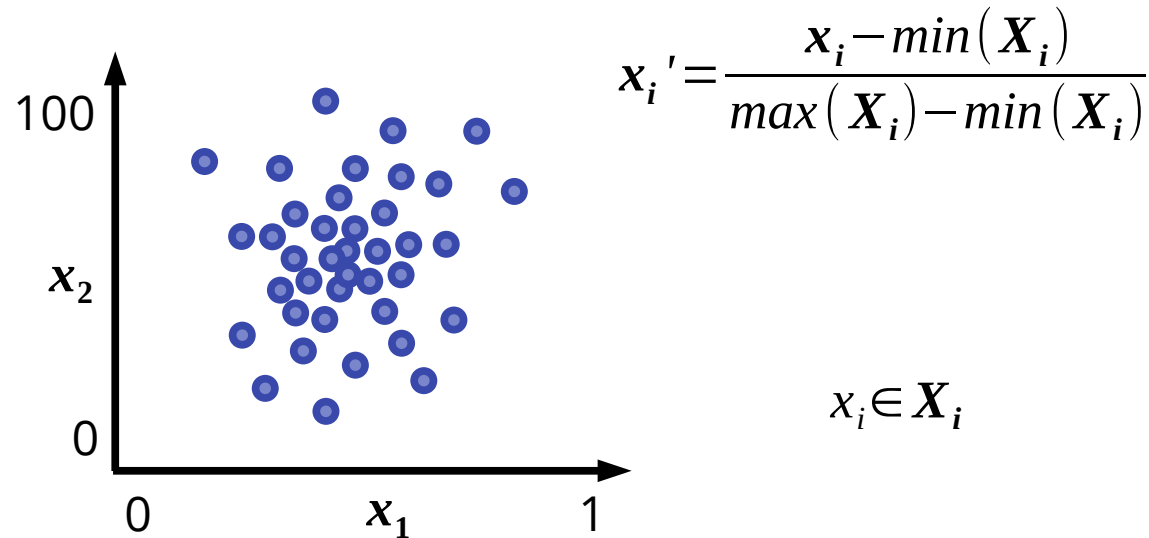
# Data scaling - MinMax scaler

Scale every feature onto a range from 0 to 1 based on the minimum and maximum of the underlying distribution.



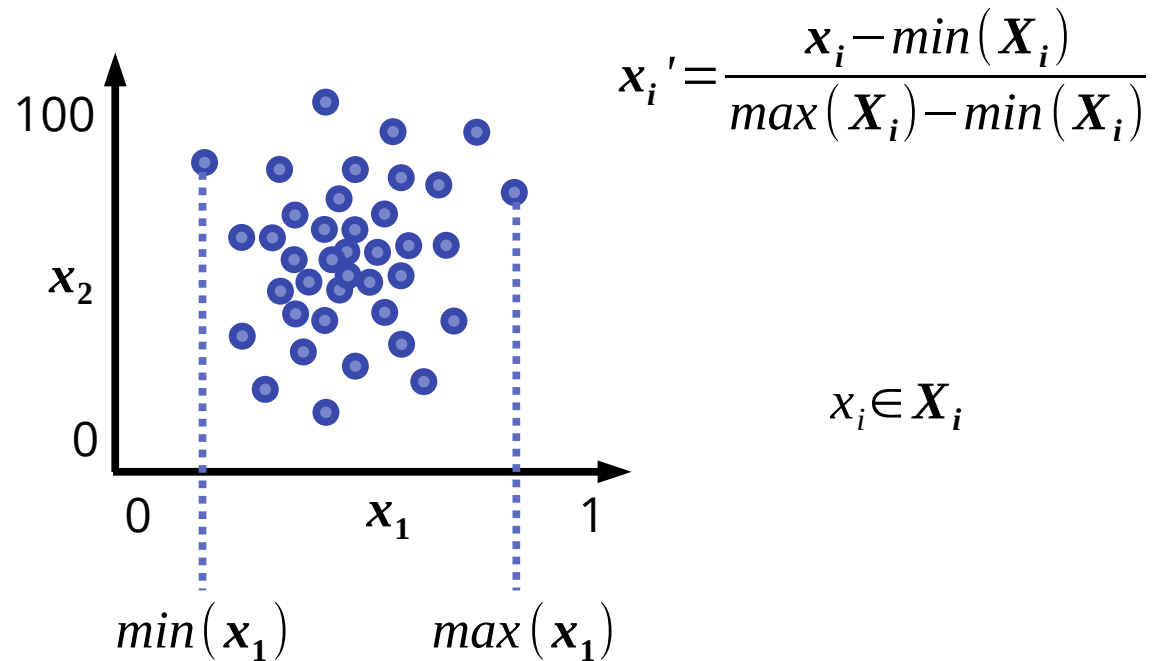
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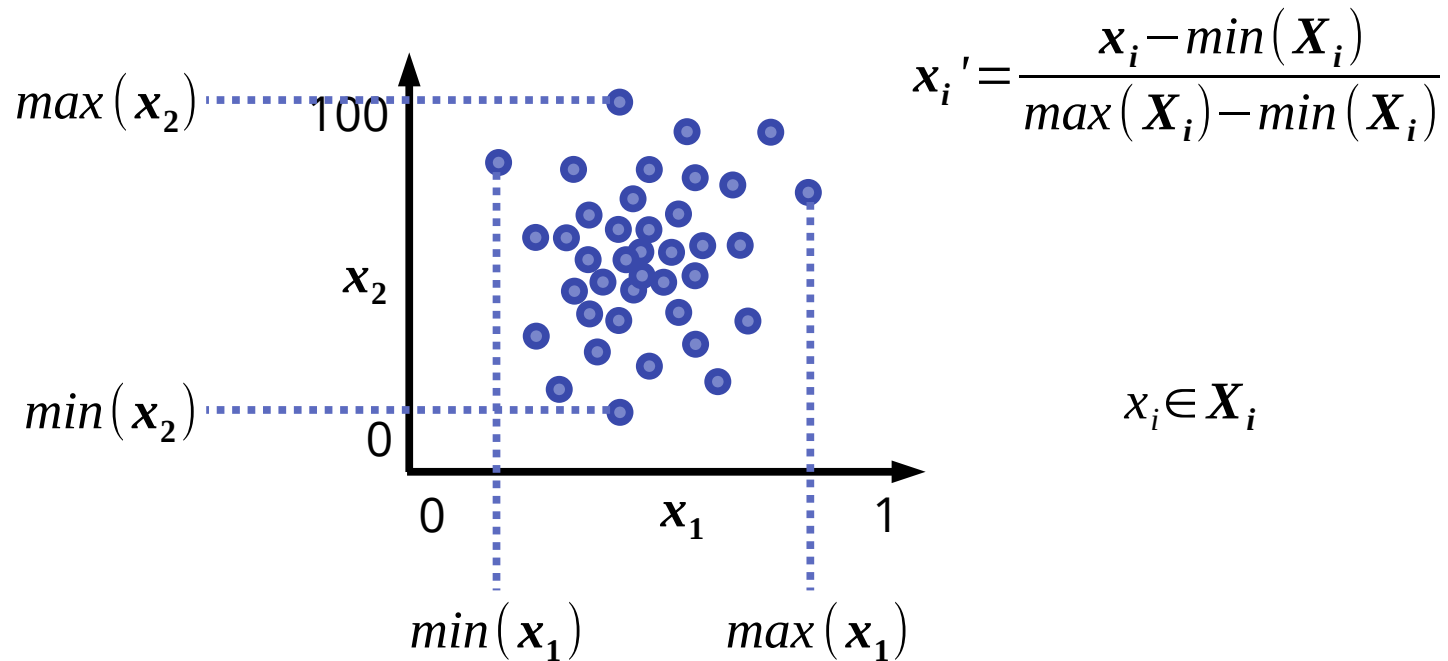
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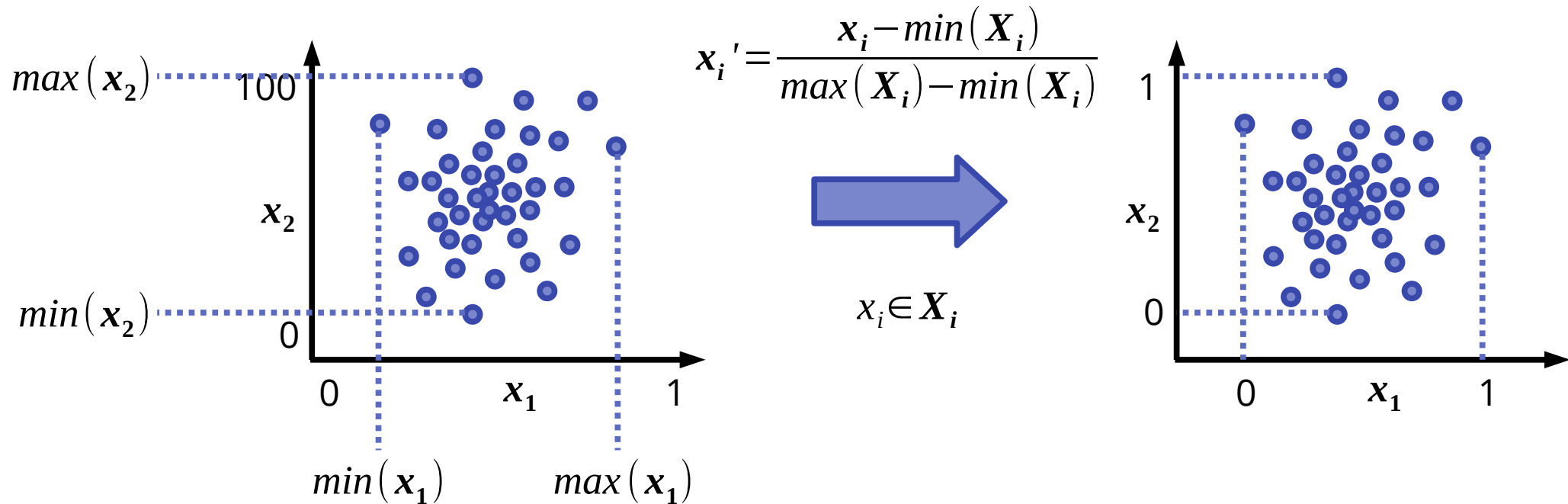
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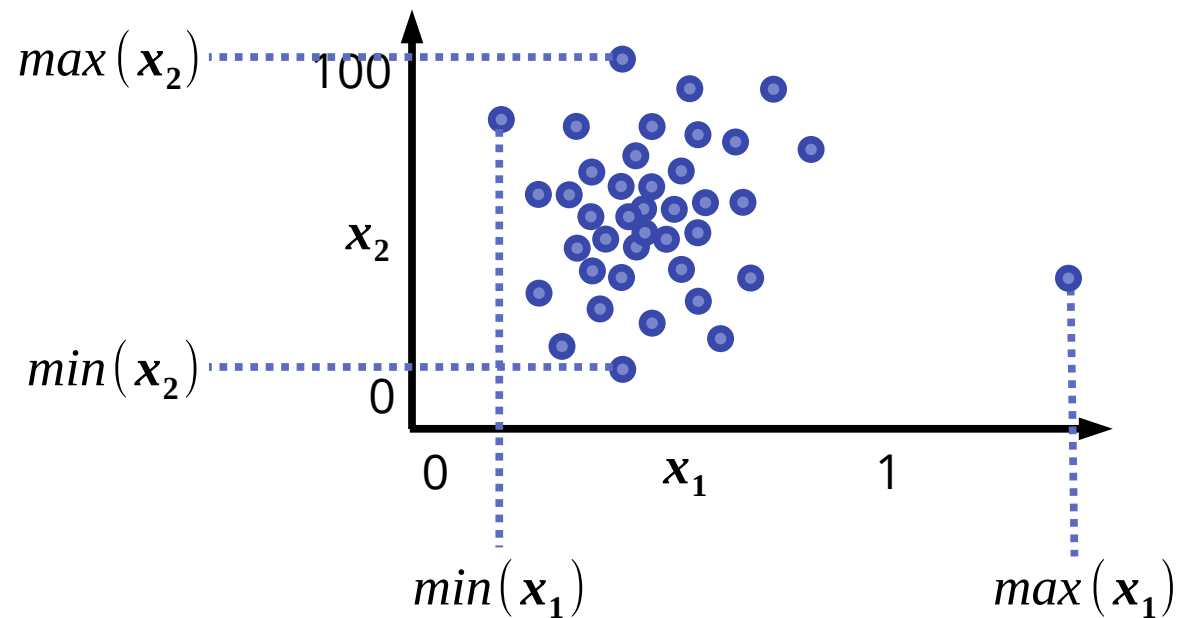




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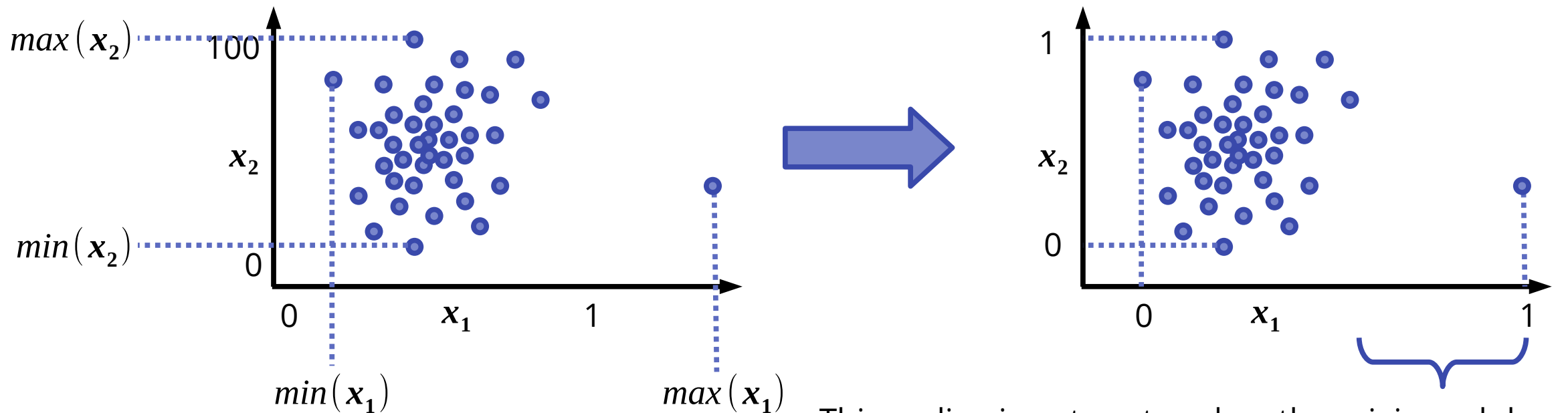
*Disadvantage:* the MinMax scaler is prone to outliers and does not center the distribution in the origin.



# Data scaling - MinMax scaler

Scale every feature onto a range from 0 to 1 based on the minimum and maximum of the underlying distribution.

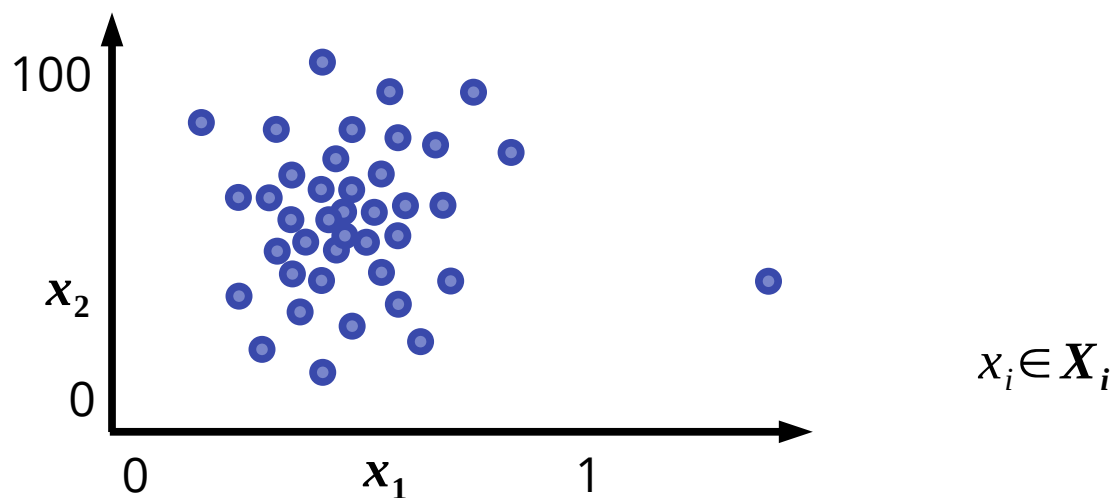
*Disadvantage:* the MinMax scaler is prone to outliers and does not center the distribution in the origin.



This scaling is not centered on the origin and does not describe the data distribution well.

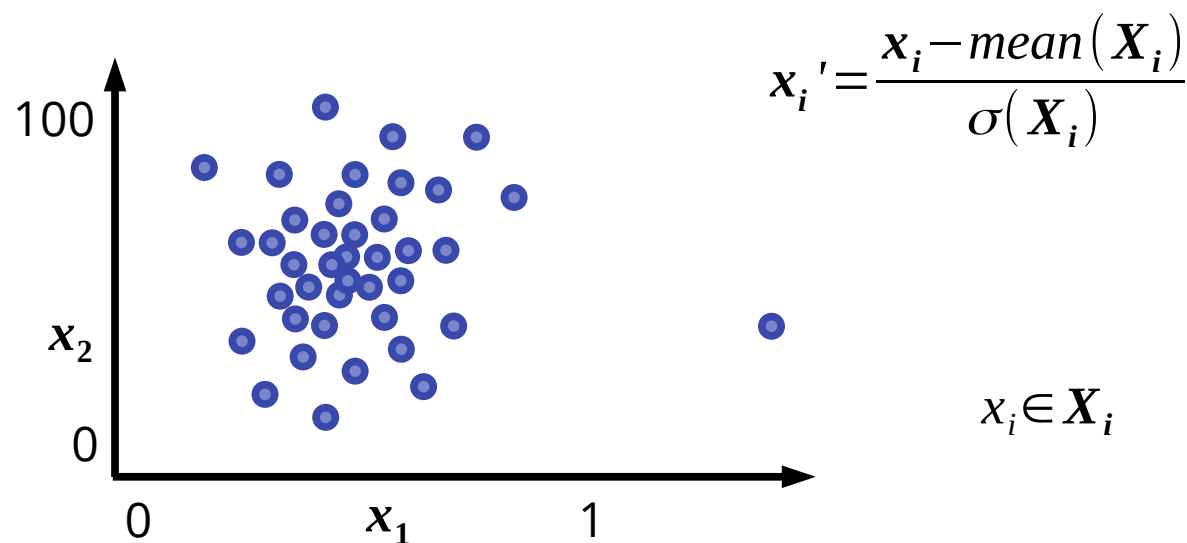
# Data scaling – Standard scaler

Scale every feature onto a range from -1 to 1 based on the mean and standard deviation of the underlying distribution.



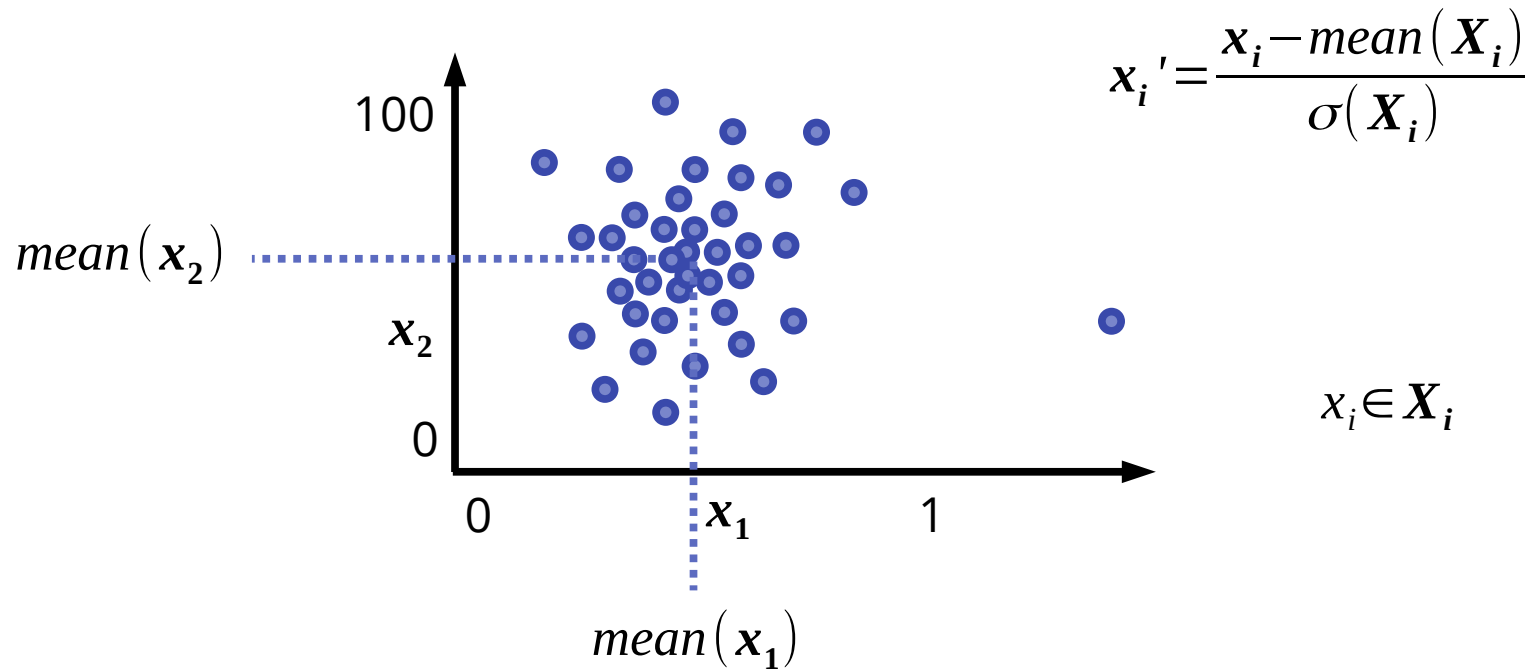
# Data scaling – Standard scaler

Scale every feature onto a range from -1 to 1 based on the mean and standard deviation of the underlying distribution.



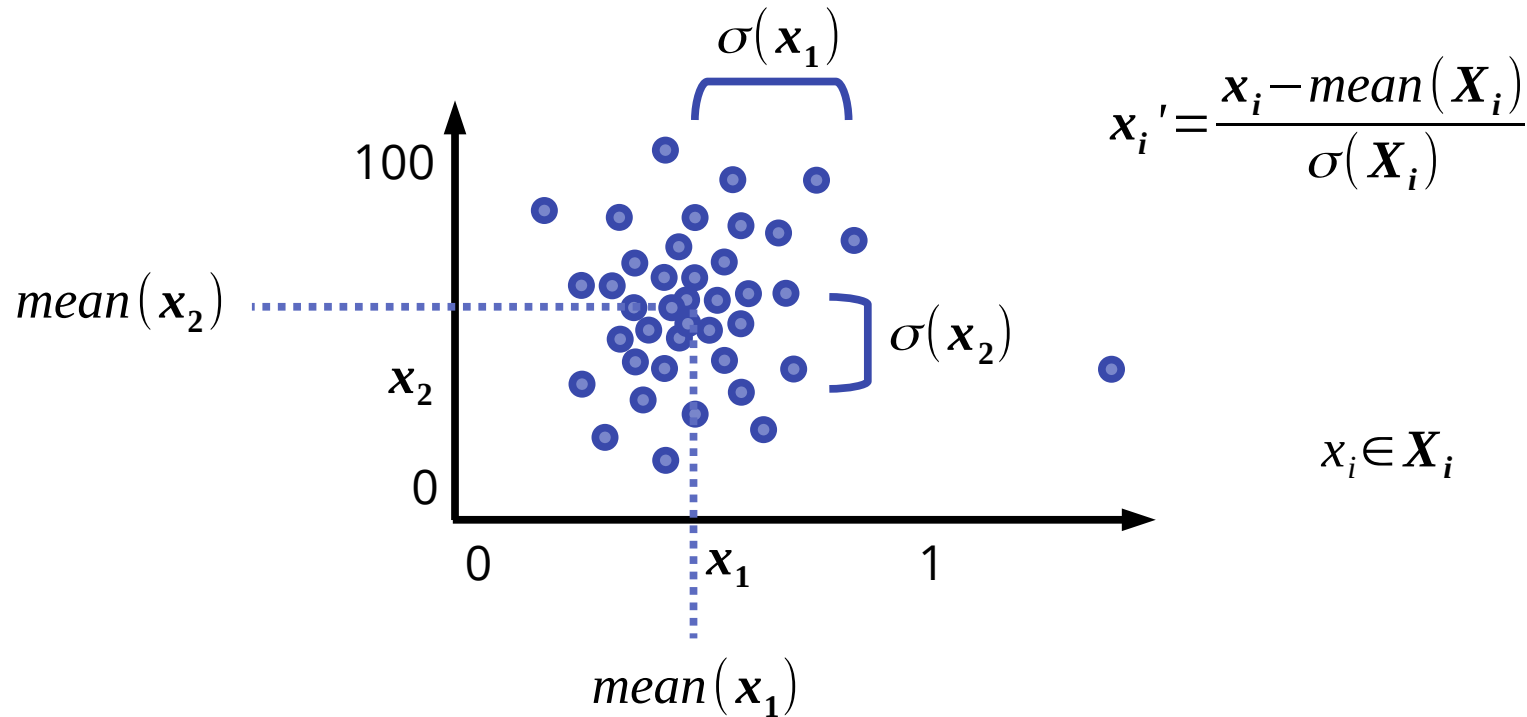
# Data scaling – Standard scaler

Scale every feature onto a range from -1 to 1 based on the mean and standard deviation of the underlying distribution.



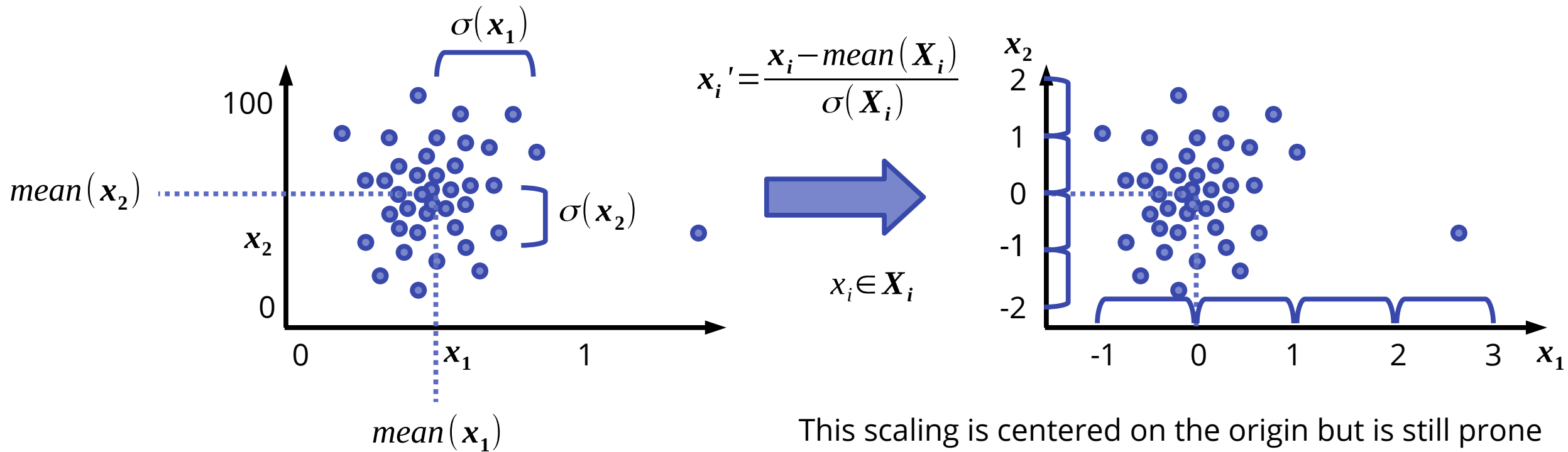
# Data scaling – Standard scaler

Scale every feature onto a range from -1 to 1 based on the mean and standard deviation of the underlying distribution.



# Data scaling - Standard scaler

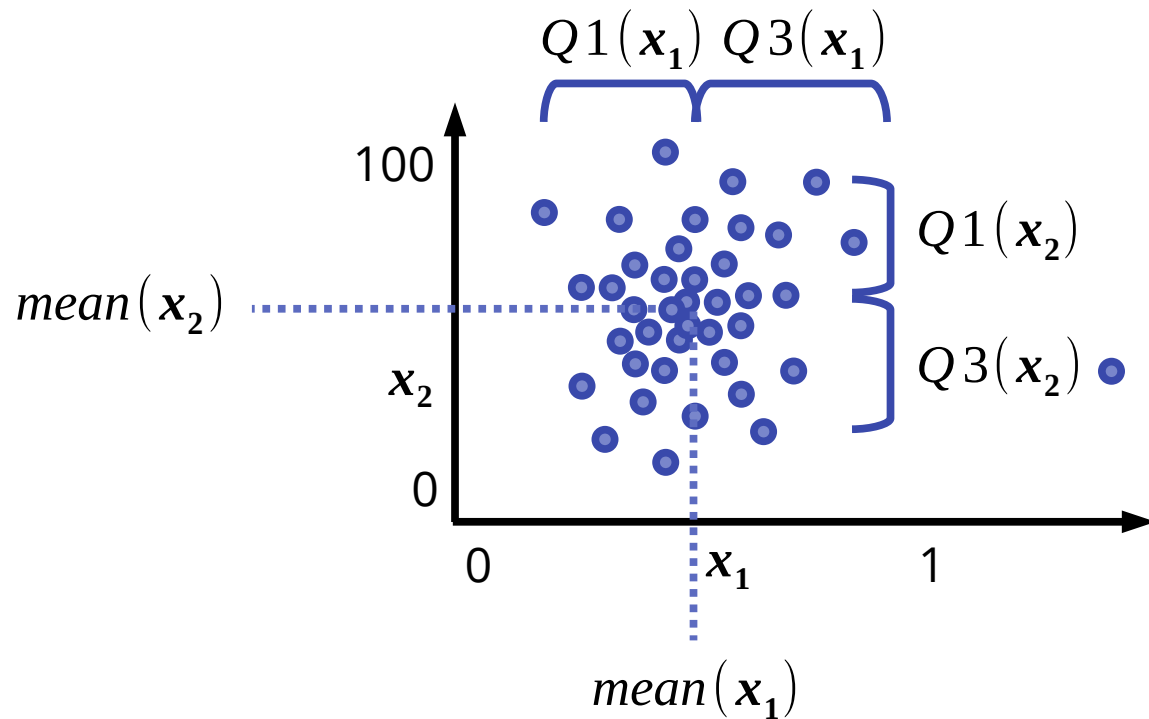
Scale every feature onto a range from -1 to 1 based on the mean and standard deviation of the underlying distribution.



This scaling is centered on the origin but is still prone to outliers to some extent.

# Data scaling – Robust scaler

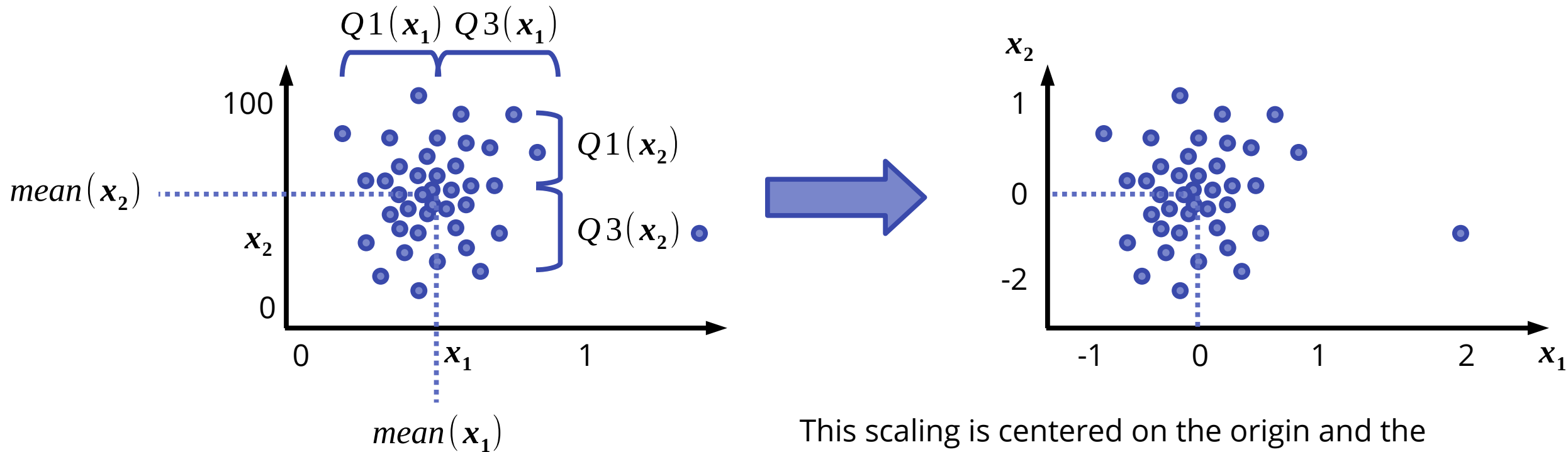
Scale every feature onto a range from -1 to 1 based on the mean and the quantiles of the underlying distribution.





# Data scaling – Robust scaler

Scale every feature onto a range from -1 to 1 based on the mean and the quantiles of the underlying distribution.



This scaling is centered on the origin and the resulting distribution is less affected by outliers

**That's all folks!**