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AI FOR BUSINESS  
BUSINESS FOR AI

# Applied Artificial Intelligence

## 05 - AI Lifecycle: Concept Drift

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# Repetition

## Training vs. deployment



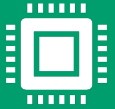
You learned that model training and testing come before operational deployment, involving iterative fine-tuning.

## AI autonomy levels



You discovered that AI applications can range from making predictions to offering recommendations and even taking direct actions.

## Challenges of ML deployment



You gained insights into dealing with multilingual support, harnessing the power of parallel GPUs, and managing unpredictable costs.

## Deployment decisions



You learned to choose between Monolithic and Microservices, and various deployment options, including On-Premise, IaaS, PaaS, FaaS, and SaaS.

## Platforms for ML deployment



You explored tools like Amazon SageMaker, Kubernetes, Cloud Foundry, and holistic MLaaS solutions.

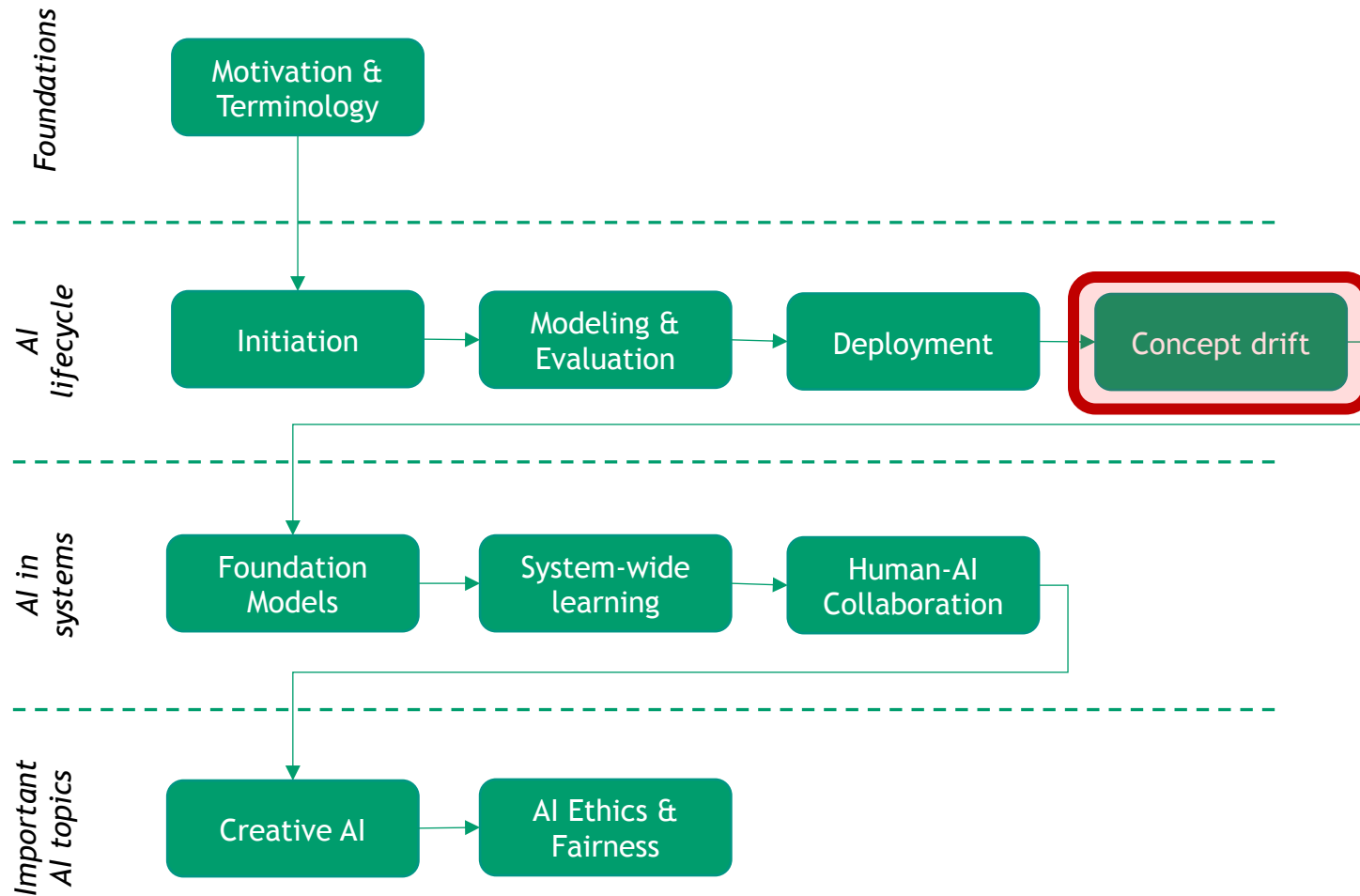
## Concept of MLOps



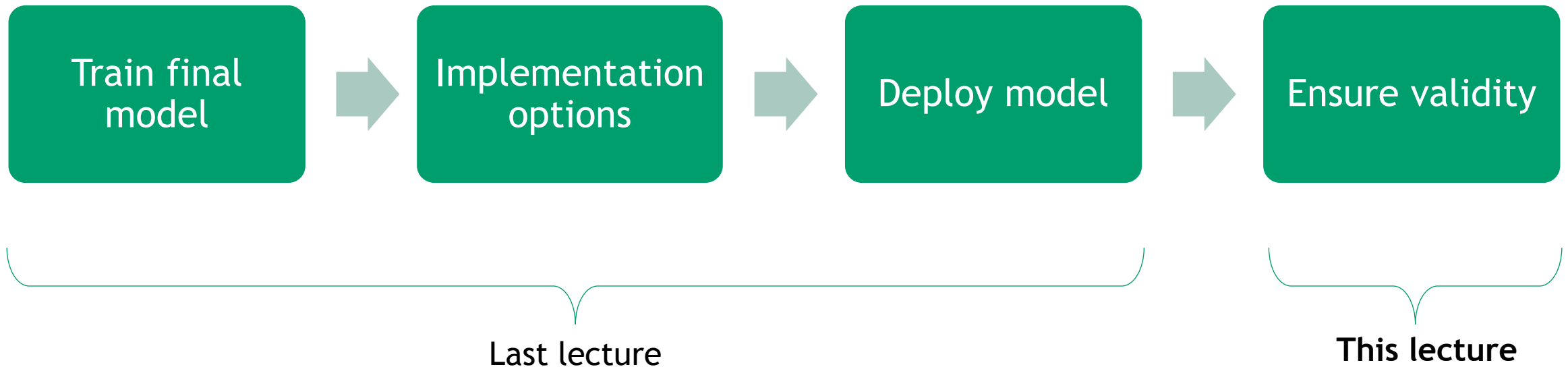
You understood that MLOps is a comprehensive paradigm that involves a collaborative team, all working together to streamline the AI deployment process.

# Organizational

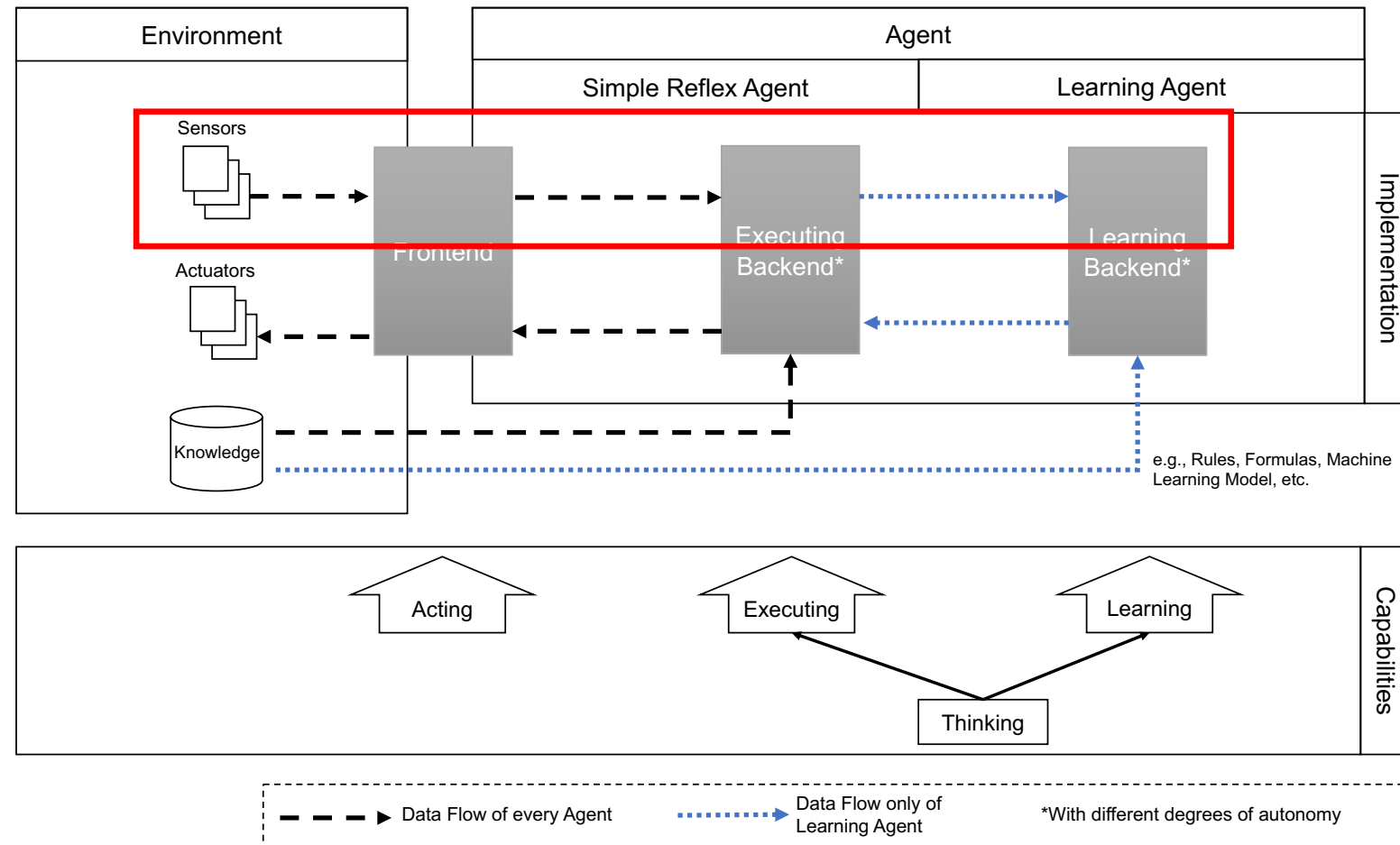
## The story of the lecture



# Process



# Positioning of the “concept drift” within an intelligent agent’s architecture



# Objectives

What are the learning goals of this lecture?

## EXPLORE

Learn about the  
term concept  
drift



## UNDERSTAND

Understand the  
importance of  
continuous  
monitoring of  
deployed AI  
solutions



## INTENSIFY

Familiarize  
with concept  
drift detection



## APPLY

Be able to  
adapt  
prediction  
models





1

## Introduction

2

Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

3

Two examples for concept drift detection algorithms

4

Real-world examples for concept drift handling

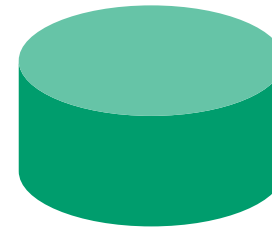


# Introduction

## How to keep machine learning (microservices) correct?



- changing context or data over time
- own action taken on machine learning services

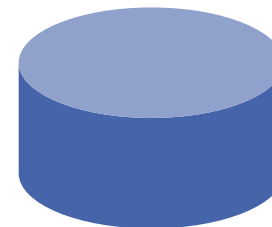


Training / test environment

Different data distribution

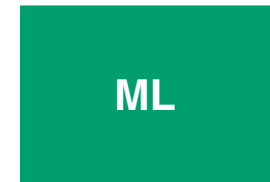


ML model is based on training environment



Productive environment

Continuous data stream



Deployed Machine Learning Model

Image source DALL-E



# Introduction

Data streams may change in various application domains


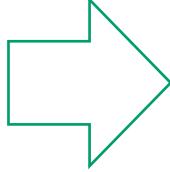


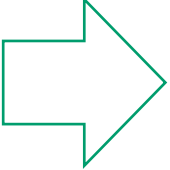


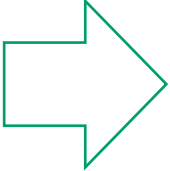

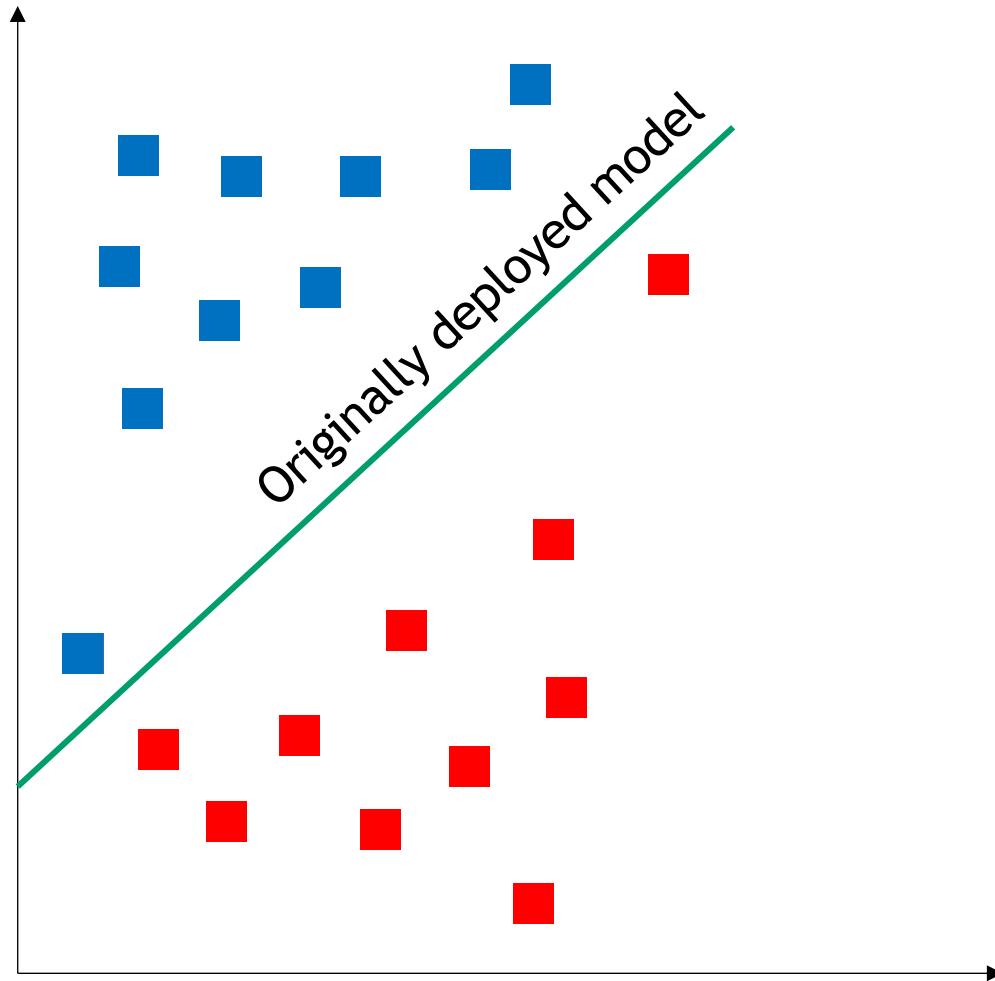
Changing context/concept of data	Machine learning	Result
 <p><b>Sentiment prediction:</b> Different communication pattern on Twitter (e.g. doubling of characters)</p>		
 <p><b>Prediction of prices:</b> Policy changes in electricity markets</p>		
 <p><b>Prediction of downtimes:</b> Change of machine parameters in industrial context</p>		

Image source <https://unsplash.com>, free licence

# Introduction

Ongoing validity of machine learning models can be ensured with model adaptations



## Constant monitoring

... of data stream with dedicated change detection module (e.g. based on statistical properties)

## Change detection

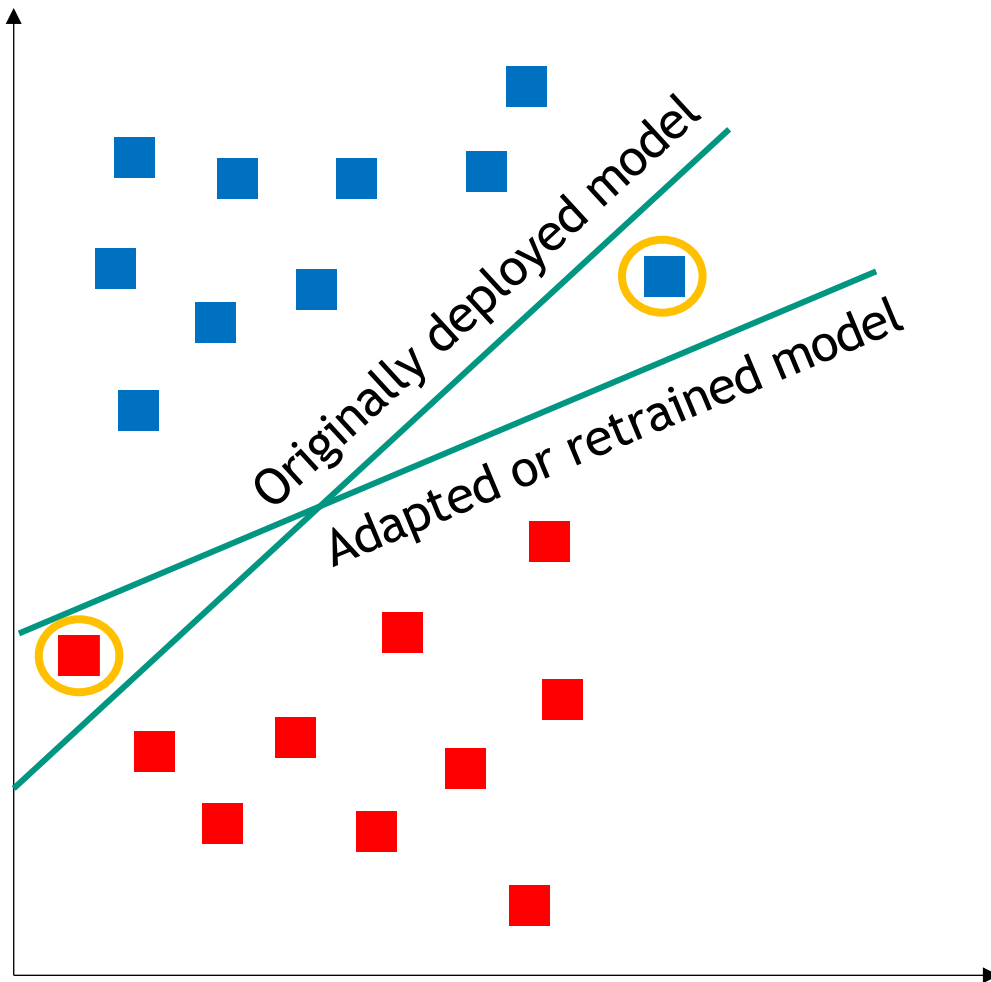
system decides whether model adaptation or retraining is necessary

**Adaptation:** Machine learning model is slightly adapted based on the new data

**Retraining:** Machine learning model is completely retrained from scratch

# Introduction

Ongoing validity of machine learning models can be ensured with model adaptations



## Constant monitoring

... of data stream with dedicated change detection module (e.g. based on statistical properties)

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system decides whether model adaptation or retraining is necessary

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1 Introduction

2 Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

3 Two examples for concept drift detection algorithms

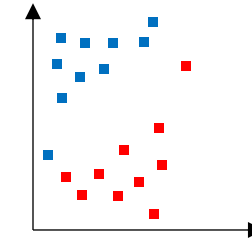
4 Real-world examples for concept drift handling

# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

Concept drift describes the phenomenon of changing data in computer science

Definition of concept:

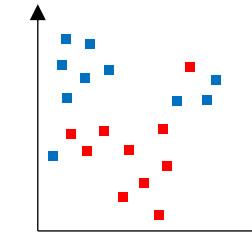
$$\text{Concept} = P(X, y)$$



**Problem:** In the real world, concepts are not stable but change with time

Definition of **concept drift** between two time points:

$$P_{t_0}(X, y) \neq P_{t_1}(X, y)$$

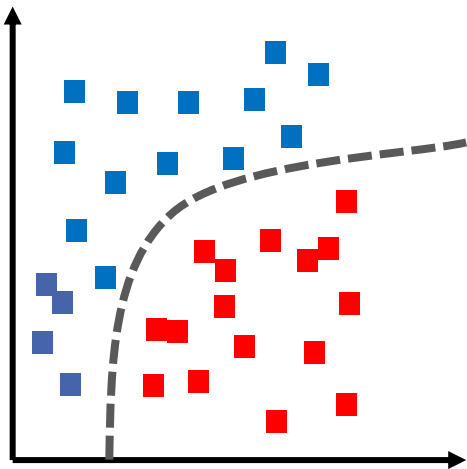


Closely related to **streaming data** with time stamps (e.g., social media data)

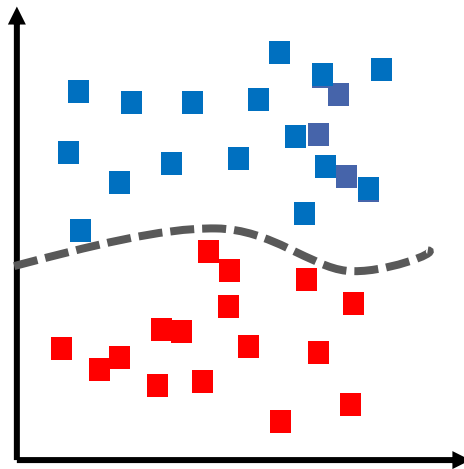
Learning algorithm has access to data with time stamps prior to  $t$ , but needs to be applied to data elements with subsequent time stamps

# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

## Different types of concept drift exists

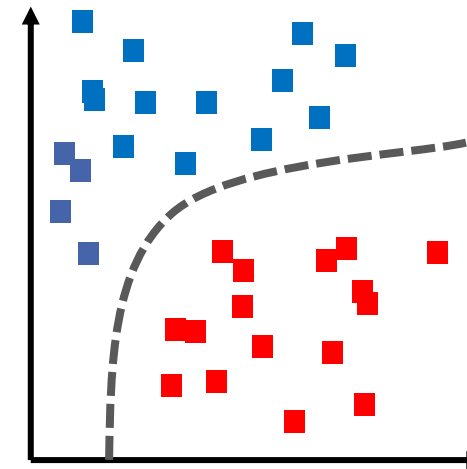


Original data



Real concept drift

changes in  $P(y|X)$ ,  $P(X)$  might stay constant or not



Virtual drift

$P(X)$  changes without affecting  $P(y|X)$

# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

## Example: News classification

### Task:

Classification of online news stream of articles on real estate as relevant or not relevant for a given user

**Scenario:** User is looking for a new apartment

### Virtual drift:

News on city apartments is relevant; news on holiday homes is not relevant

Editor of news portal changes  
→ writing style

City apartments remain relevant

$t$

time

### Real concept drift:

News on city apartments is relevant; news on holiday homes is not relevant

User buys a house  
→ starts looking for holiday home

City apartments become irrelevant, holiday homes are relevant

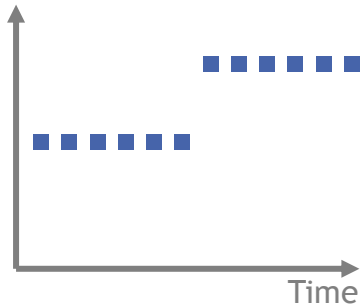
$t$

time



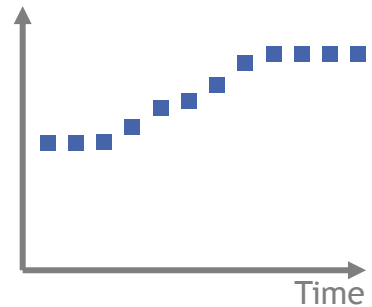
# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

## Data changes over time in various ways



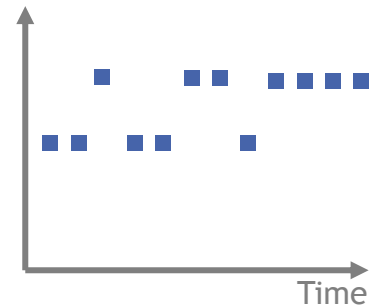
Sudden changes

Exchange of a sensor in IOT setting



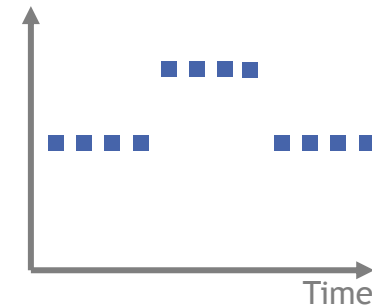
Slow changes

Sensor that is slowly degrading, becomes less accurate



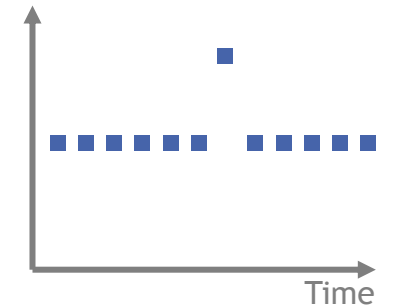
Gradual change

User behavior, user interested in finance, later in sports, but keeps looking back at finance



Reoccurring concepts

Seasonal pattern for sales forecasting



Outliers

Difficulties to not misclassify outliers as concept drift; Otherwise, danger of false adaptation

# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

## Challenges for deployed machine learning services in concept drift environments



### Detect

concept drift as soon as possible



### Adapt

the model quickly if needed



### Distinguish

drifts from noise; robustness to noise



### Recognize

recurring contexts (e.g. seasons)



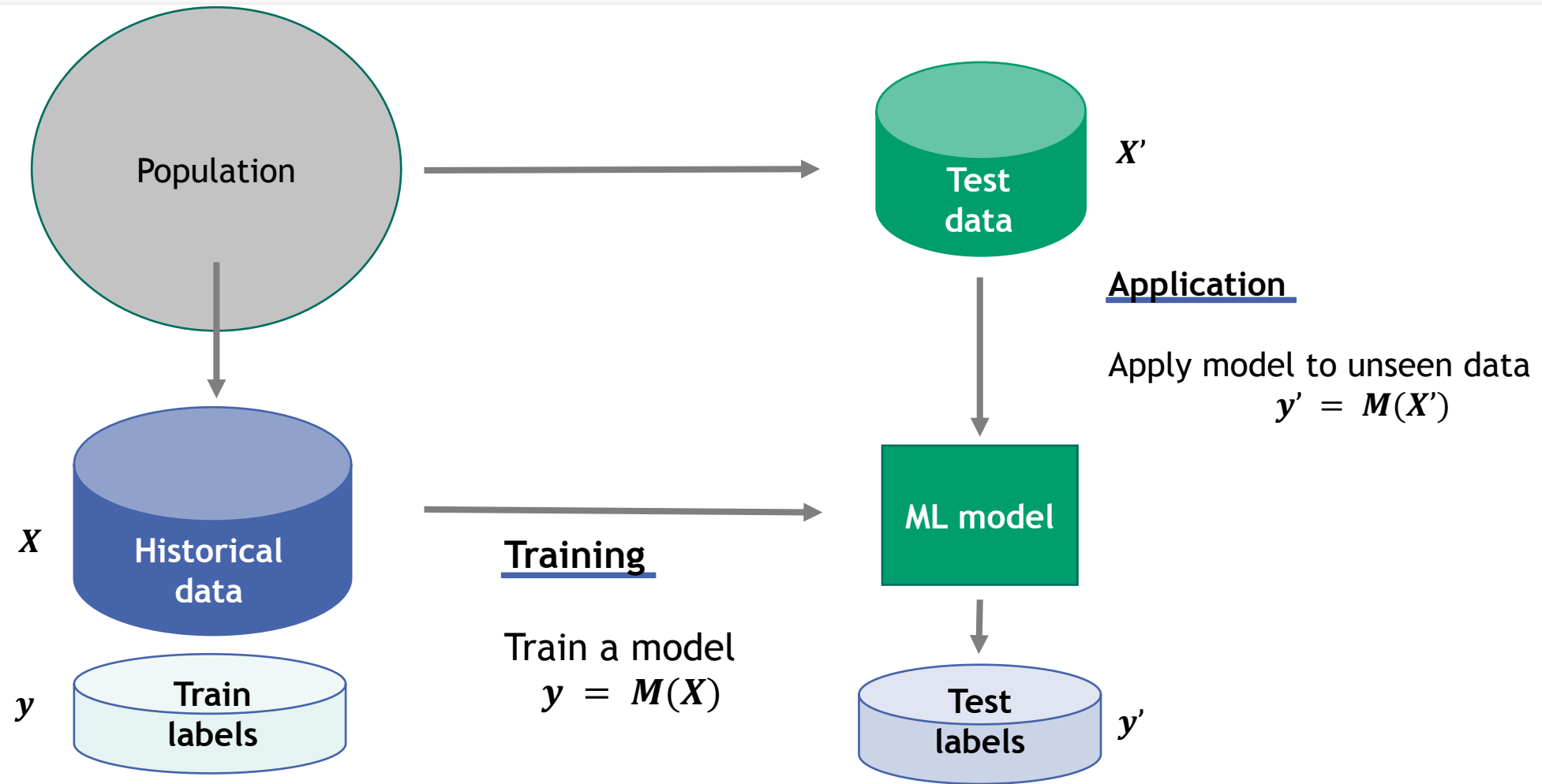
### Operate

in less than example arrival time and with limited storage available

Source: Gama et al. (2014), A survey on concept drift adaptation Tsymbol (2004), The problem of concept drift: definitions and related work

# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

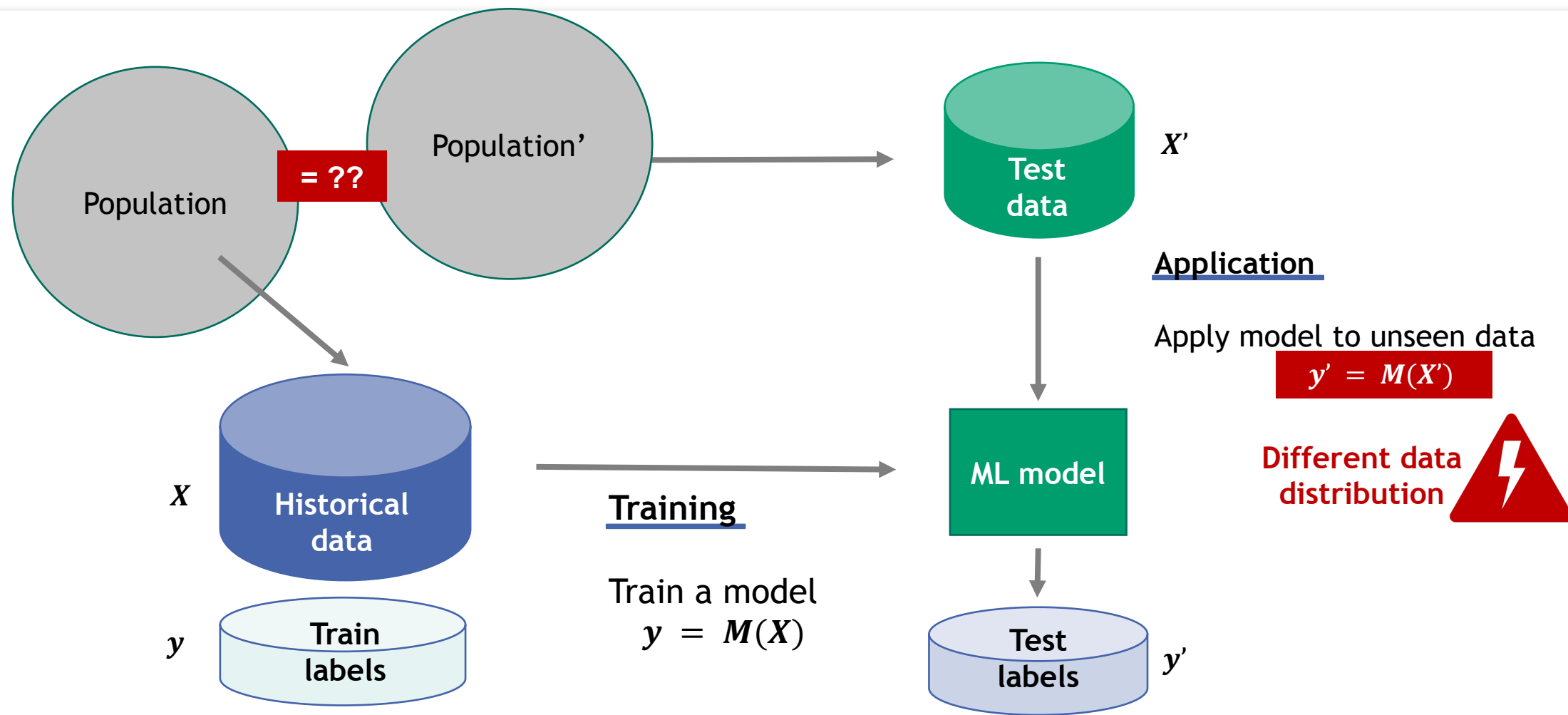
## Recap: Supervised learning



Source: Bifet et al. (2010), Handling Concept Drift

# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

## Recap: Supervised learning

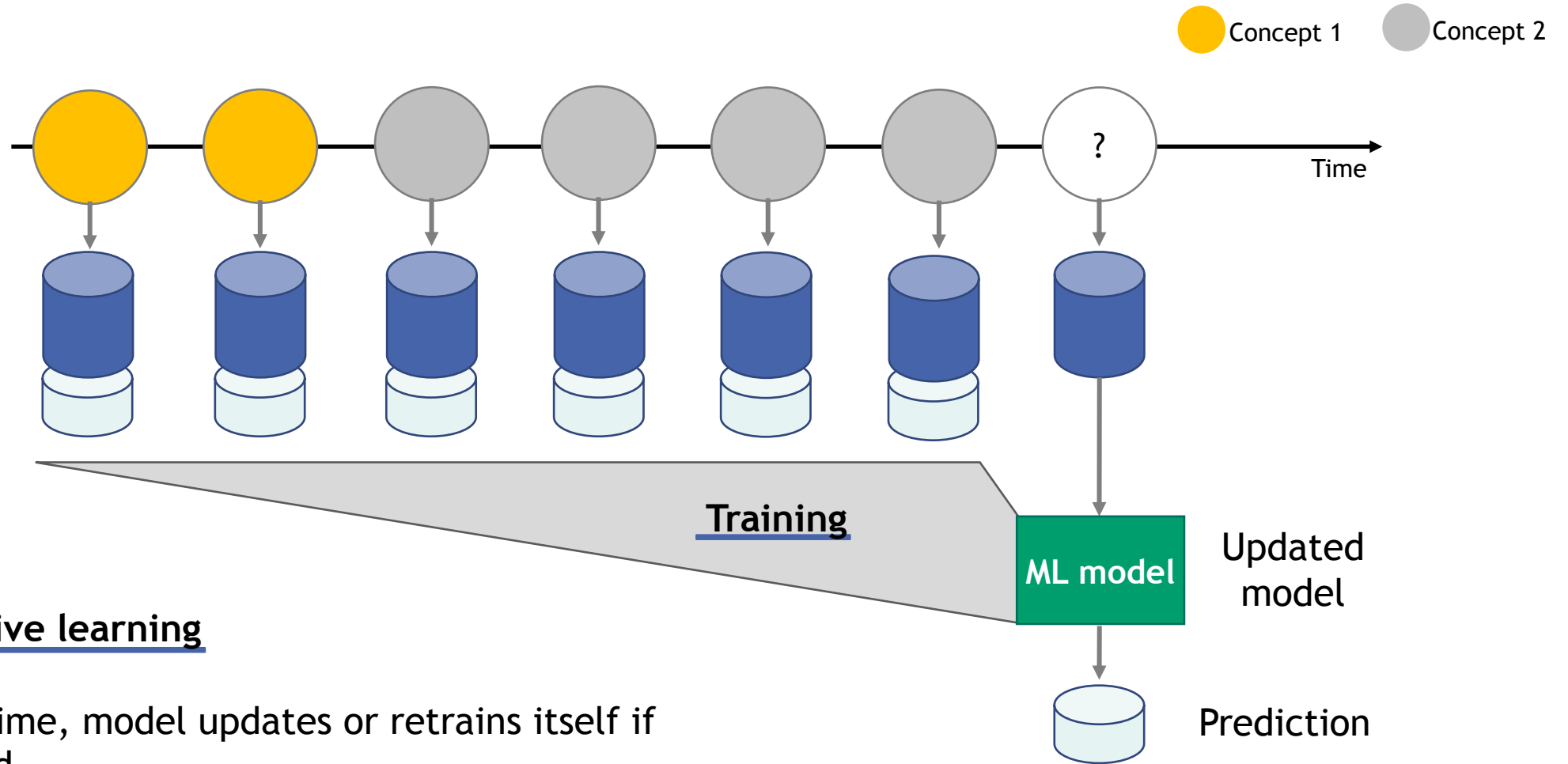


Source: Bifet et al. (2010), Handling Concept Drift

# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

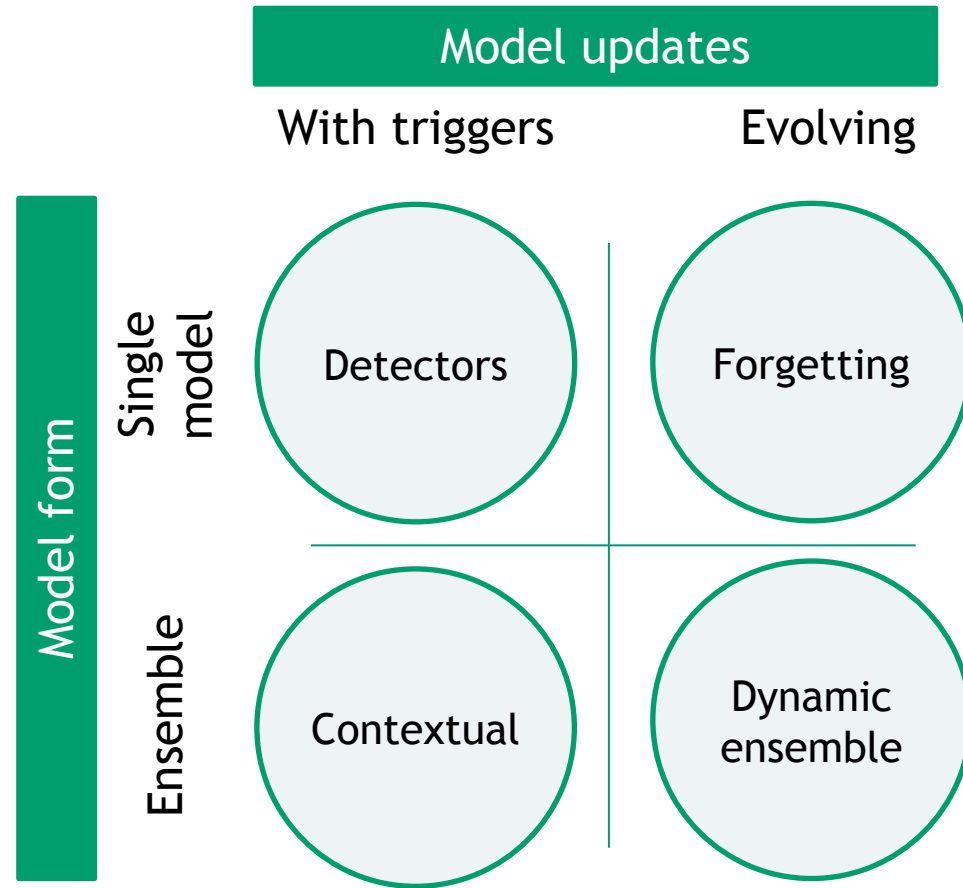
We have to consider the machine learning model in a data stream / online setting

Data stream



# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

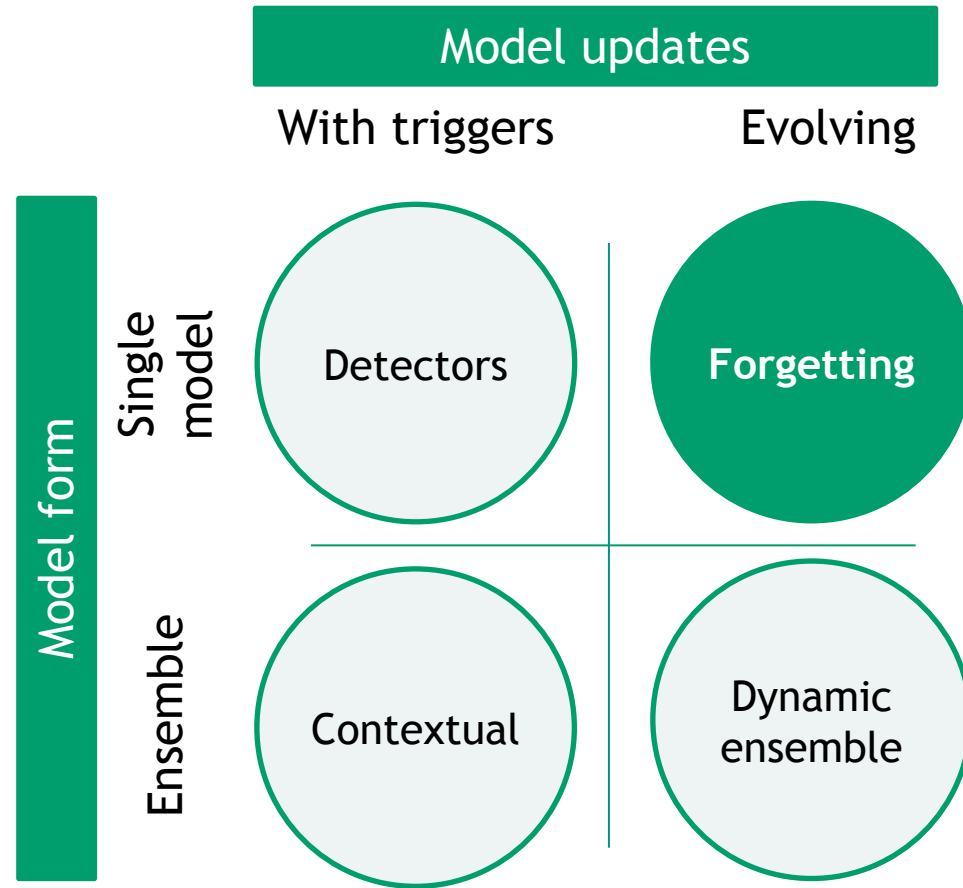
Different adaptive learning strategies are available



Source: Zliobaite (2010), Learning under Concept Drift

# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

Different adaptive learning strategies are available

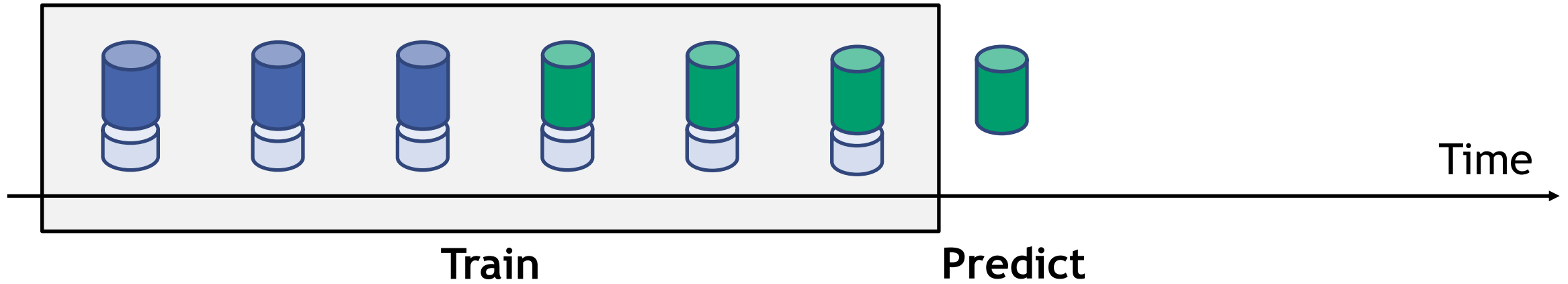


Source: Zliobaite (2010), Learning under Concept Drift



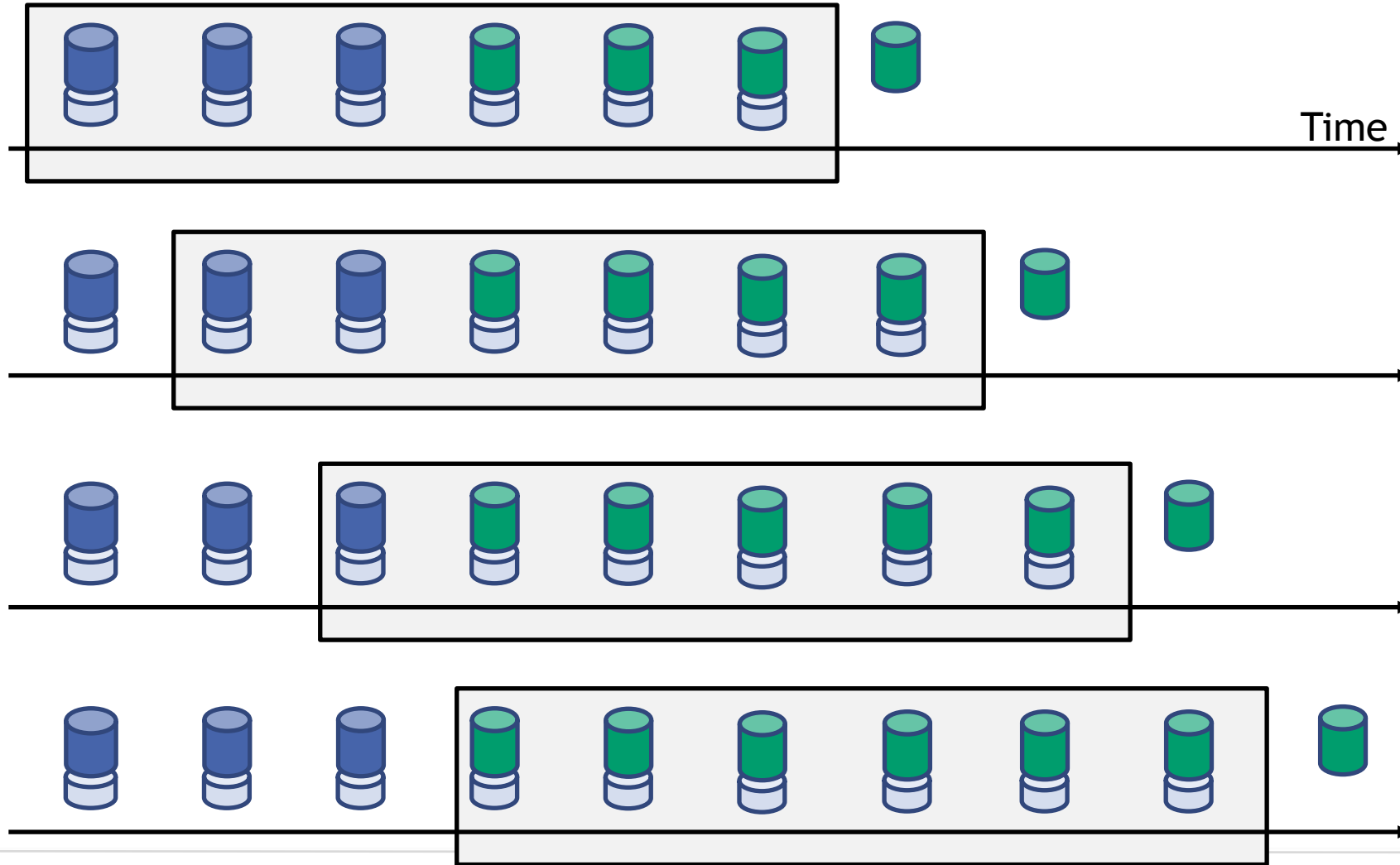
# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

A fixed training window ensures forgetting



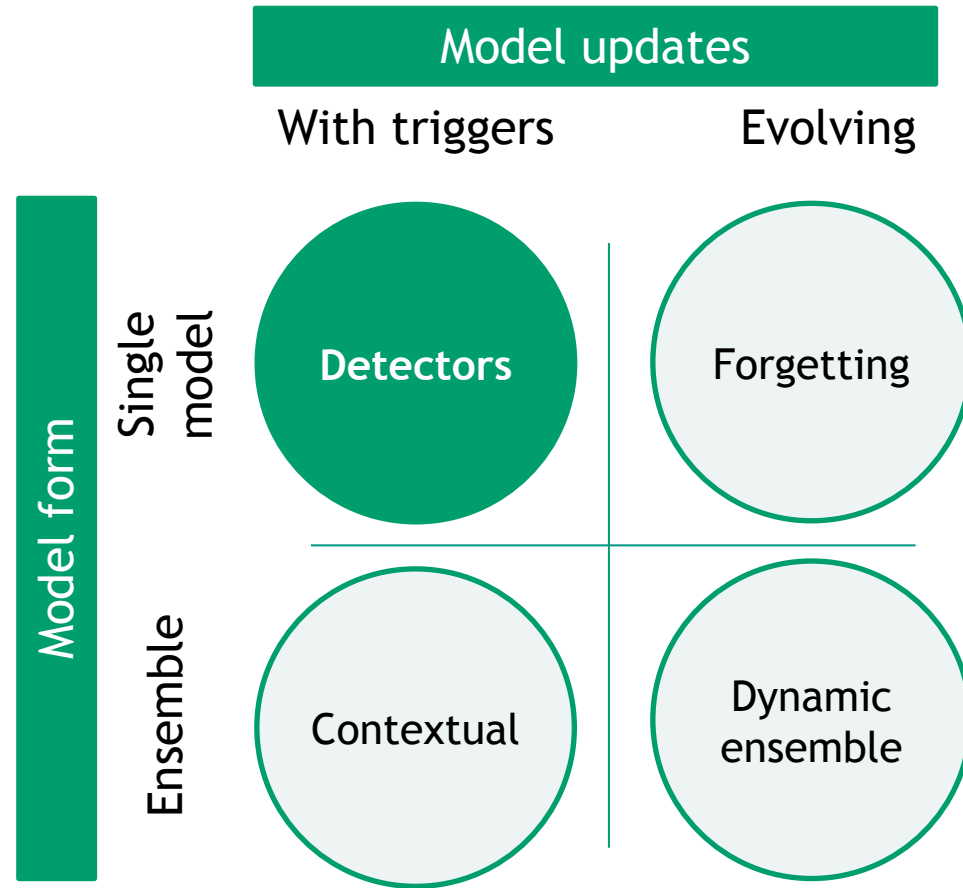
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# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

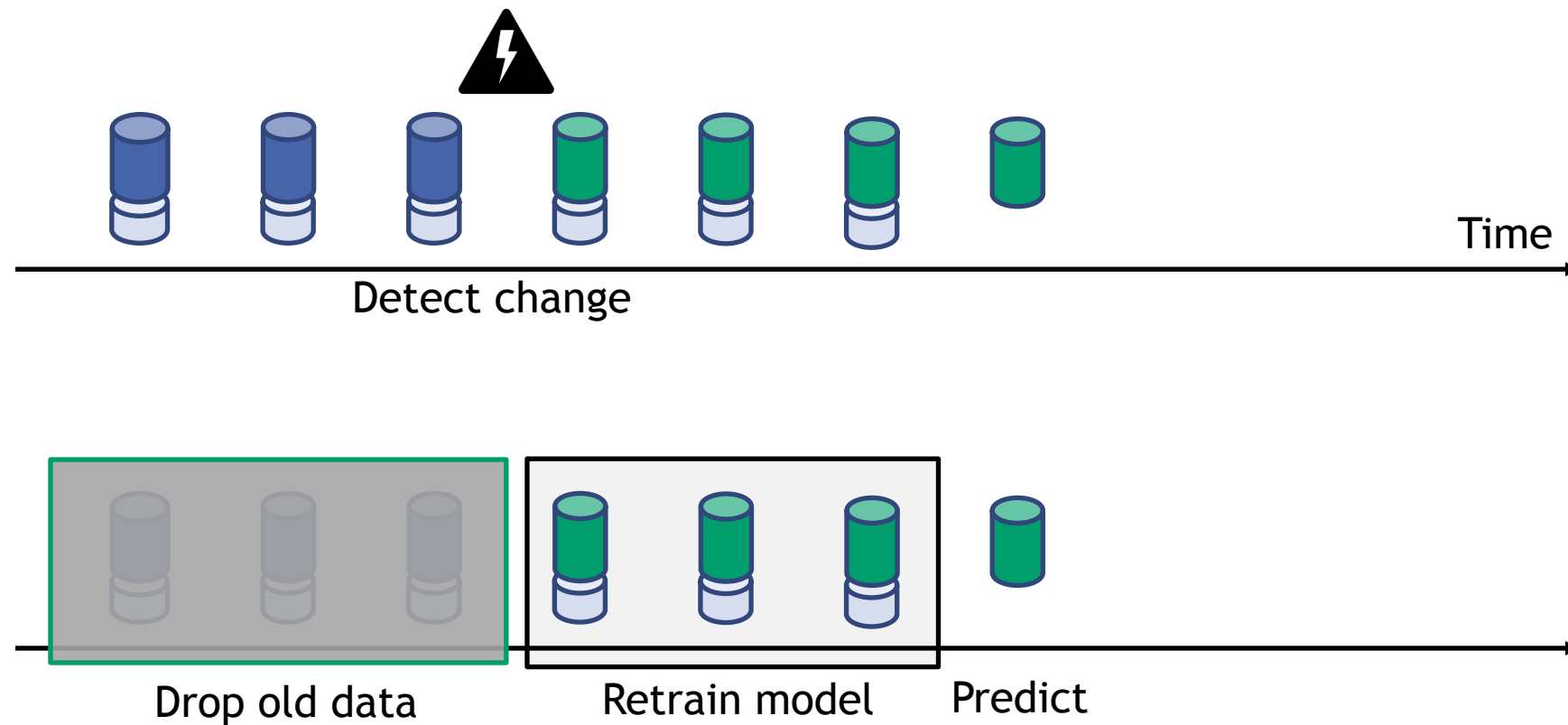
Different adaptive learning strategies are available



Source: Zliobaite (2010), Learning under Concept Drift

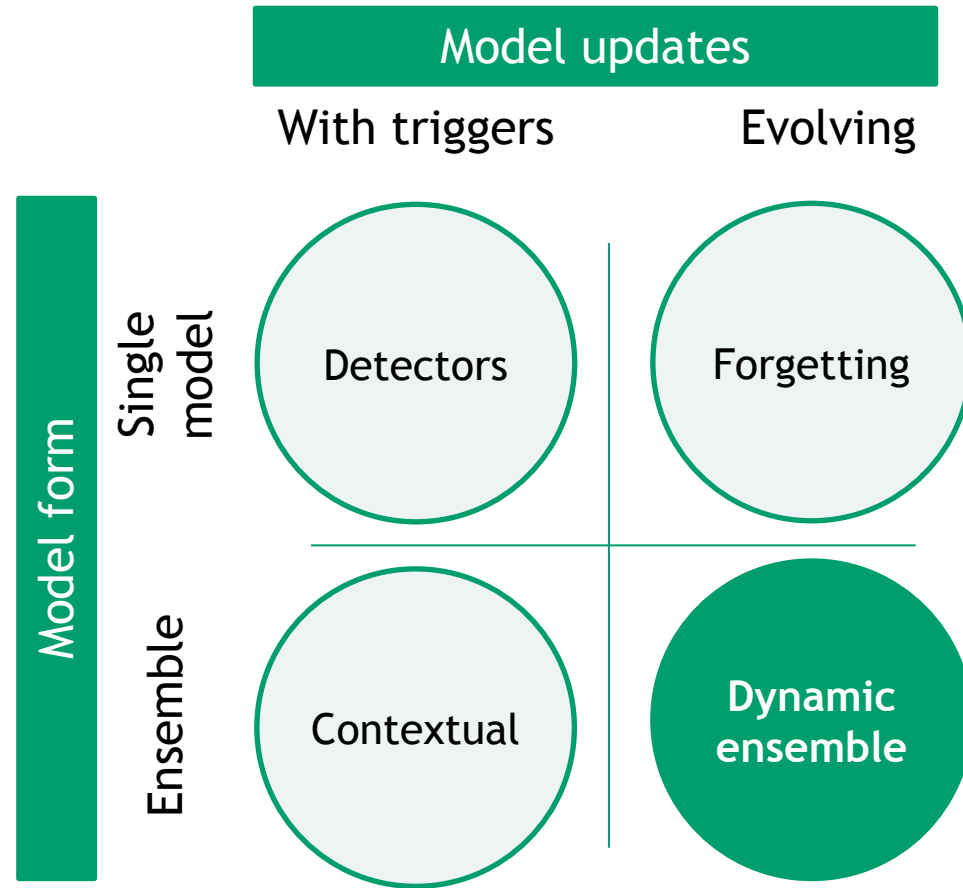
# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

Detection of change leads to deletion of old data



# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

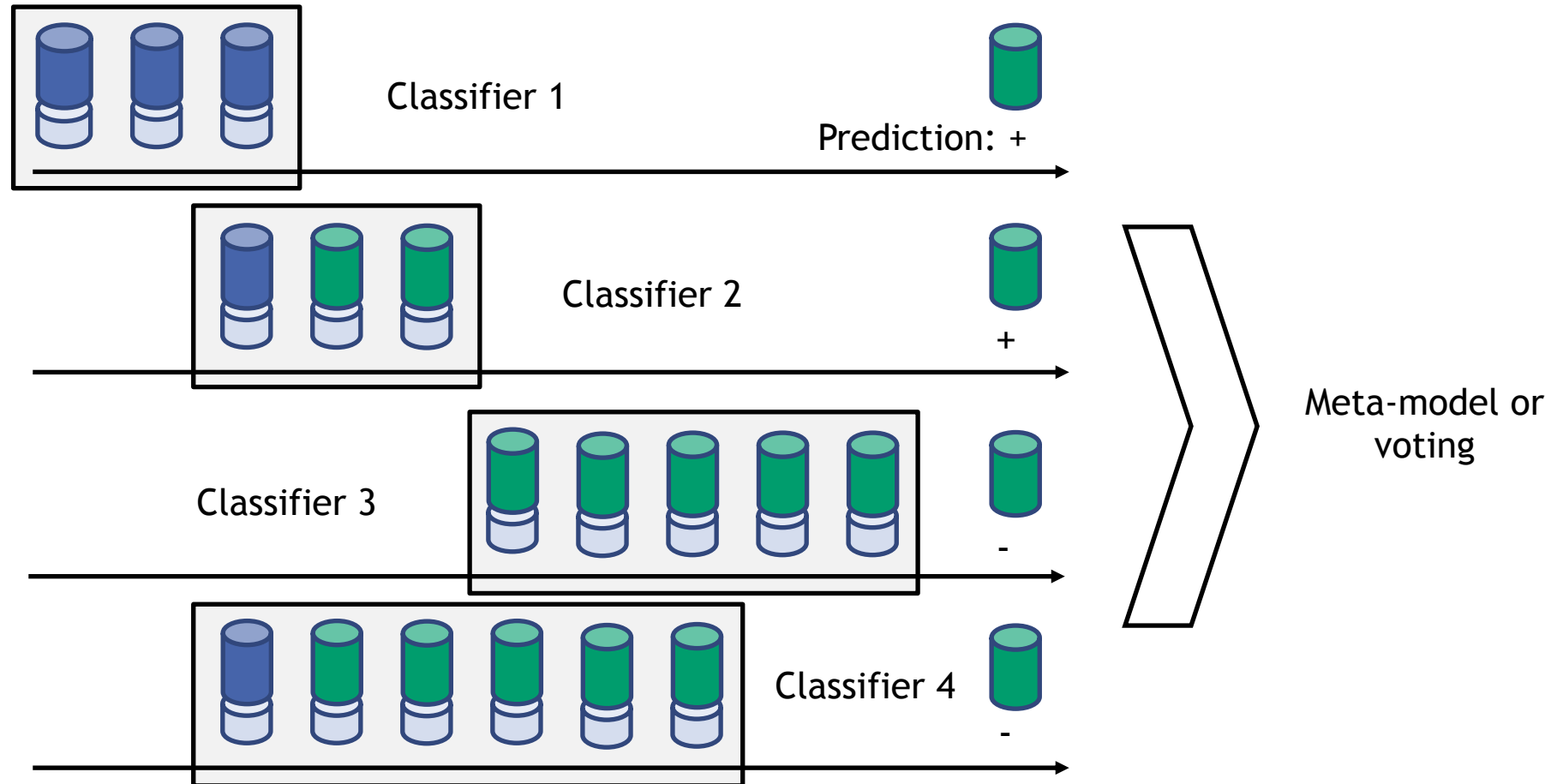
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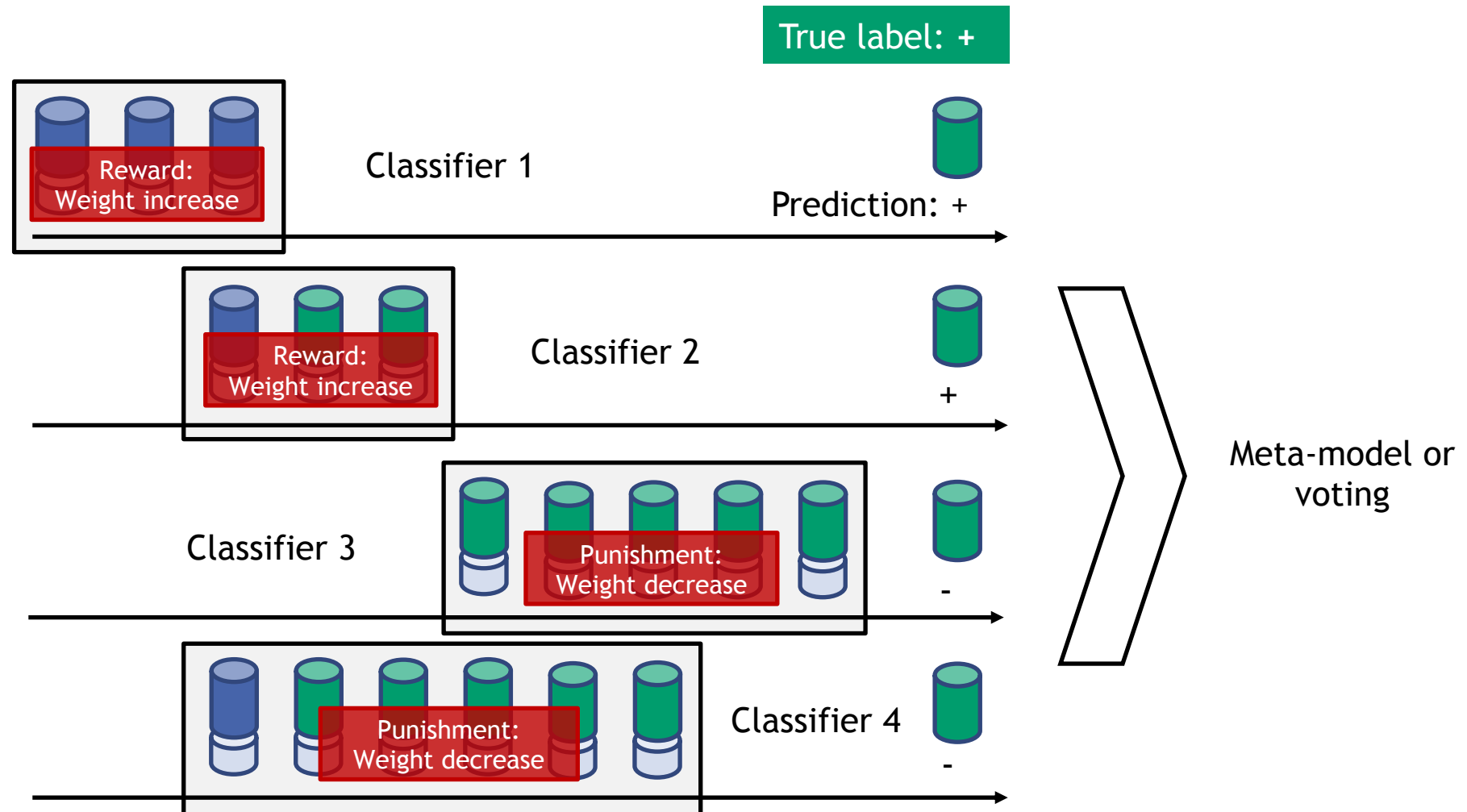
# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

Dynamic ensembles consider several ML models in parallel



# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

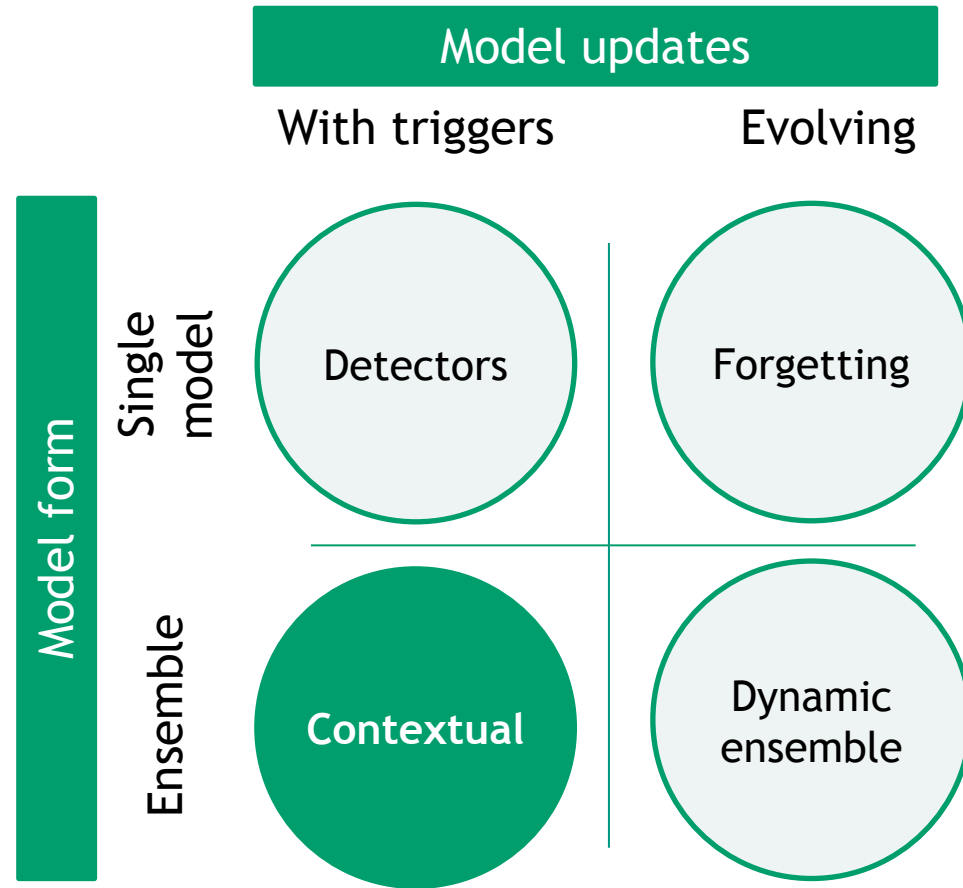
Dynamic ensembles consider several ML models in parallel





# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

Different adaptive learning strategies are available

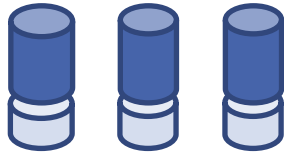


Source: Zliobaite (2010), Learning under Concept Drift

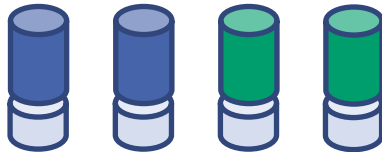
# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

Contextual approaches start by identifying the group affiliation of a new data instance

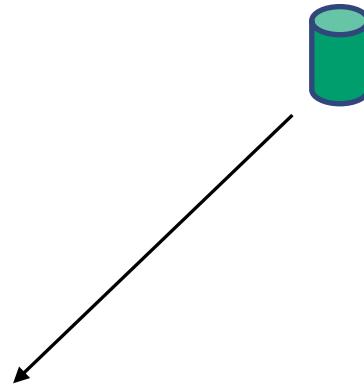
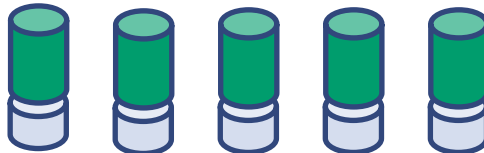
## Group 1: Classifier 1



## Group 2: Classifier 2



## Group 3: Classifier 3



## Train

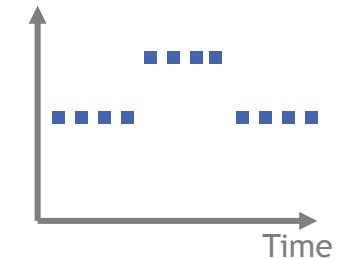
Partition the training data into several groups and build separate models for each group

## Predict

New instance is assigned to one group and corresponding model is applied

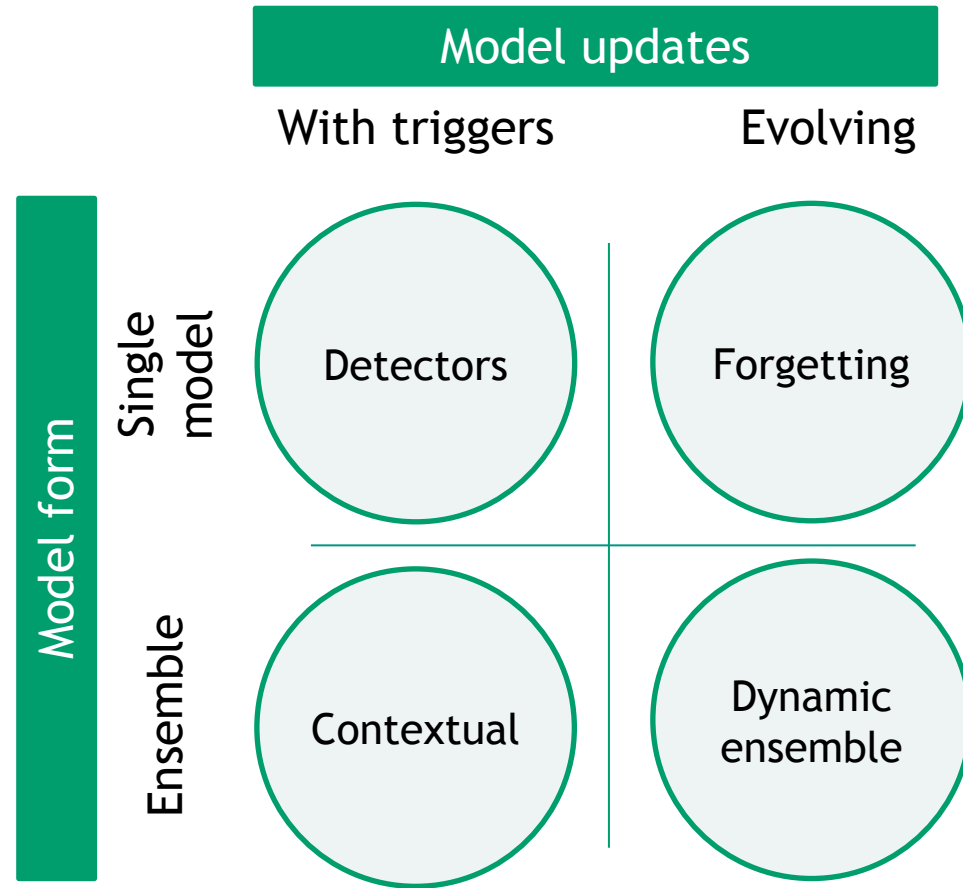
## Use case

Especially suited for reoccurring concepts (e.g. seasonal pattern in sales forecasts)



# Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism

Different adaptive learning strategies are available



Source: Zliobaite (2010), Learning under Concept Drift



- 1 Introduction
- 2 Theoretical foundations of concept drift & adaption mechanism
- 3 Two examples for concept drift detection algorithms
- 4 Real-world examples for concept drift handling

# Two examples for concept drift detection algorithms

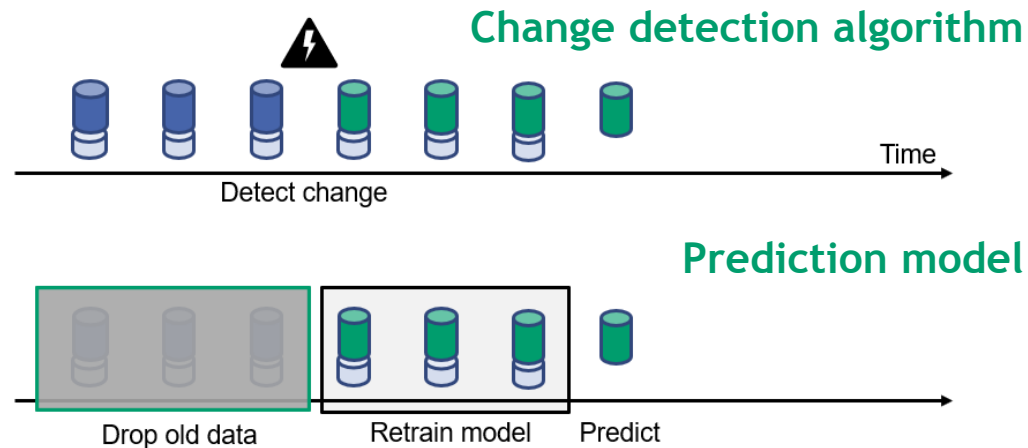
Wide variety of change detection / adaptation approaches available

## Informed methods



(Detector-based methods)

Explicit change detection



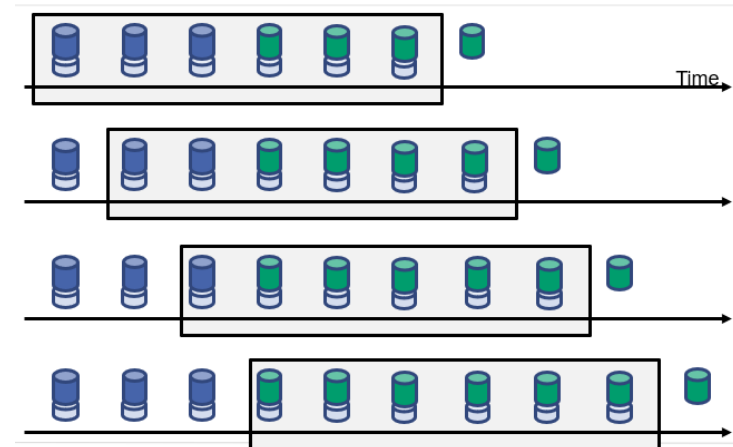
Change detection usually works on prediction error:

- Sequential Analysis: *Page-Hinkley*
- Monitoring two distributions: *ADWIN*

## Blind methods

(Forgetting-based methods)

Model which adapt incrementally or are frequently retrained



- Incremental weight decrease for older observations
- *CVFDT (Concept-adapting very fast decision trees)*

# Two examples for concept drift detection algorithms

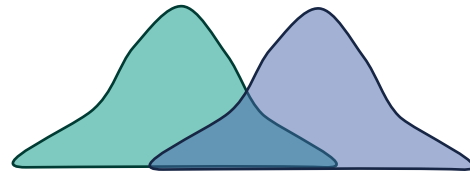
Informed methods can be distribution- or error rate-based methods

## Data distribution-based drift detection

### Goal

Quantify **dissimilarity between distribution** of old data and new data with distance function


### Concept



### Example Algorithms

Possible distances: Kullback-Leibler divergence or Kolmogorow-Smirnow

### In practice

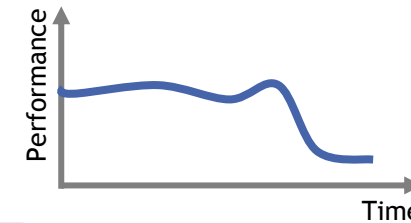
Consistency checks for input data (mean, variance) 

### Disadvantage

Computationally intensive

## Error rate-based drift detection

Detect changes by considering the error rate of the **underlying machine learning model**



 ADWIN, Page-Hinkley-Test

Often manual supervision of prediction quality and impact on KPIs

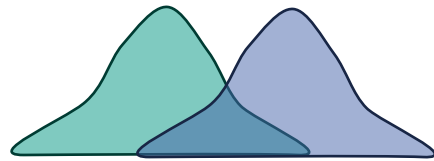
Requires true labels for drift detection

# Two examples for concept drift detection algorithms

## Cost functions evaluate jumps in distribution characteristics

### Data distribution-based drift detection

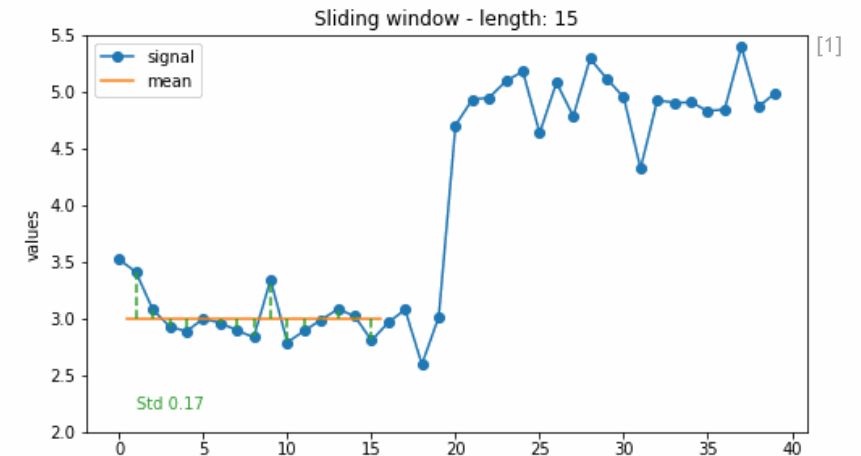
Concept



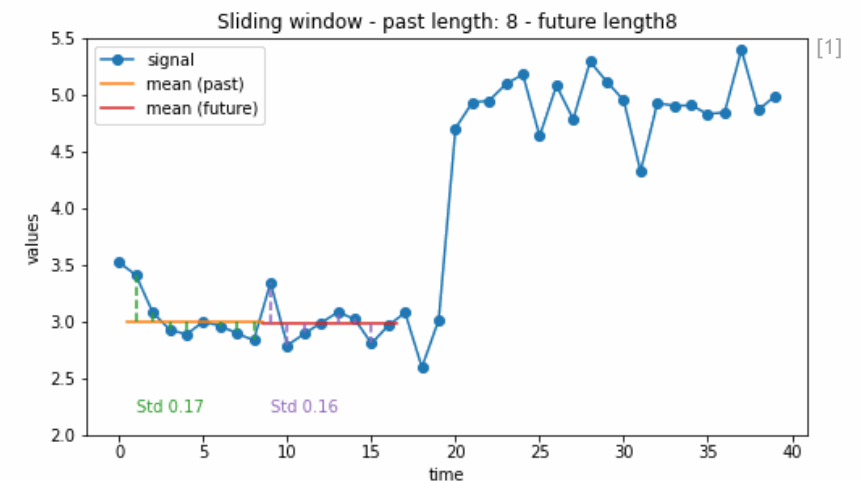
### Cost functions - a simple example

- Change point detection uses a **sliding window** with a cost function to identify changes in the signal
- Standard deviation can **detect changes in mean**, rising when the **signal jumps**.
- Change points are detected via (a) comparison to a fixed threshold or (b) comparing a second sliding windows

(a) Change points are marked if costs **exceed a threshold in std.**



(b) change point can be detected by **comparing the costs of these two windows**



Source: Gama et al. (2014), A Survey on Concept Drift Adaptation  
[1] <https://www.iese.fraunhofer.de/blog/change-point-detection/>



# Two examples for concept drift detection algorithms

## Adaptive Sliding Window (ADWIN) compares sliding windows

### Adaptive Sliding Window (ADWIN) Algorithm

ADWIN: ADAPTIVE WINDOWING ALGORITHM

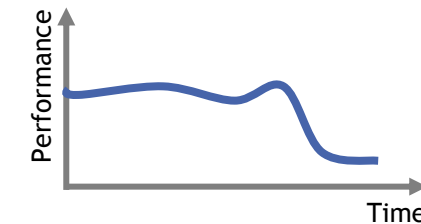
```
1 Initialize Window  $W$ 
2 for each  $t > 0$ 
3   do  $W \leftarrow W \cup \{x_t\}$  (i.e., add  $x_t$  to the head of  $W$ )
4   repeat Drop elements from the tail of  $W$ 
5     until  $|\hat{\mu}_{W_0} - \hat{\mu}_{W_1}| \geq \epsilon_{cut}$  holds
6     for every split of  $W$  into  $W = W_0 \cdot W_1$ 
7   output  $\hat{\mu}_W$ 
```



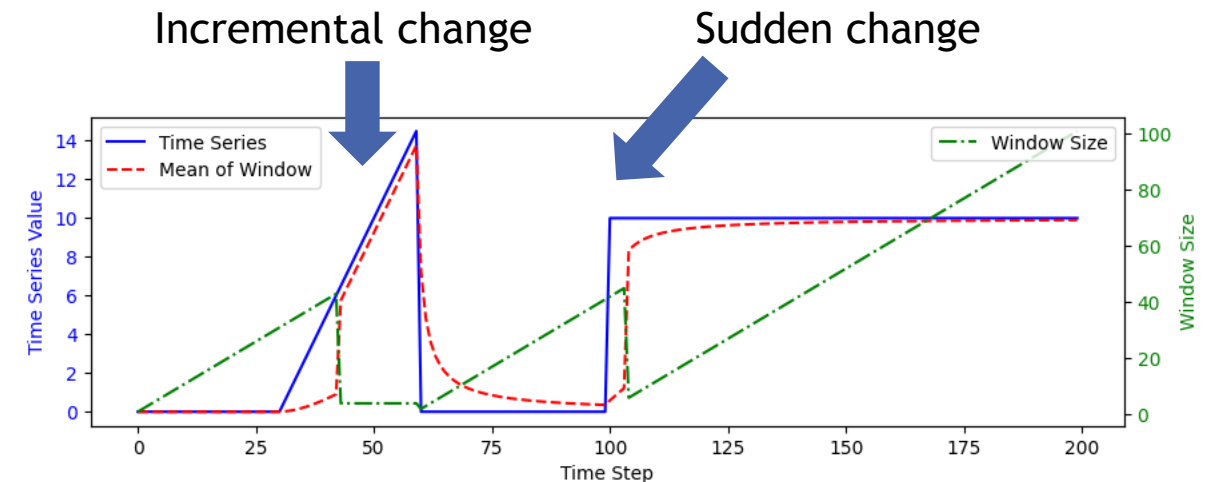
Figure 1: Algorithm ADWIN.

- Uses a detection window  $W$  which iteratively adapts
- Whenever two large (sub)windows of  $W$  exhibit distinct enough means, algorithm drops older elements
- Threshold  $\epsilon_{cut}$  defined by Hoeffding bound

### Error rate-based drift detection



Concept

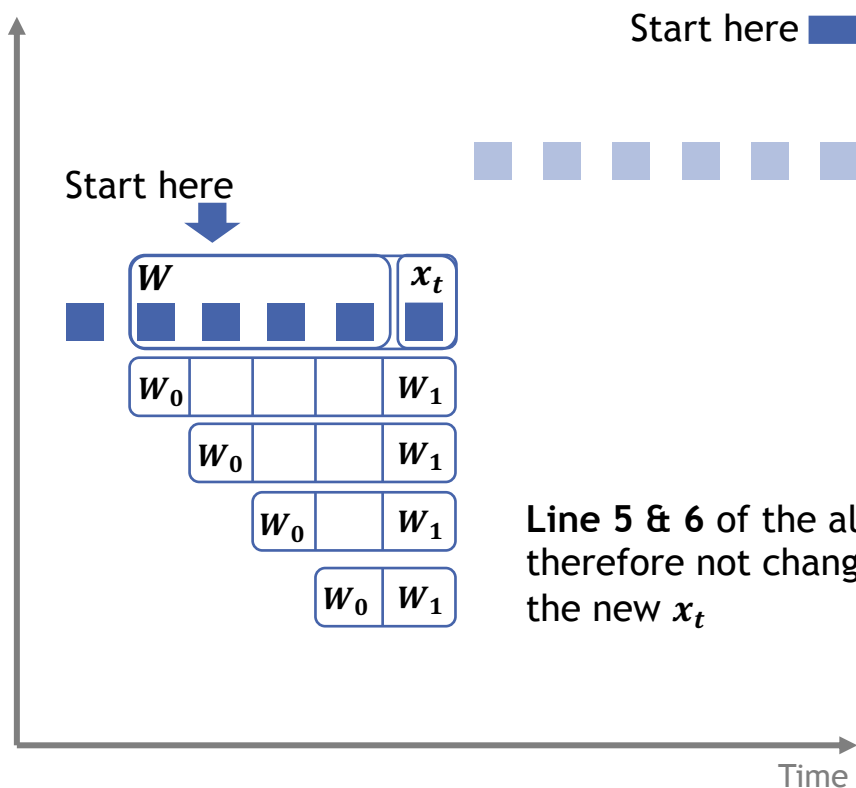


Bifet, Albert, and Ricard Gavalda. "Learning from time-changing data with adaptive windowing." SIAM 2007.

# Two examples for concept drift detection algorithms

## Adaptive Sliding Window (ADWIN) compares sliding windows

### Sudden changes



Line 5 & 6 of the algorithm never applied,  
therefore not change is detected and  $W$  grows by  
the new  $x_t$

#### ADWIN: ADAPTIVE WINDOWING ALGORITHM

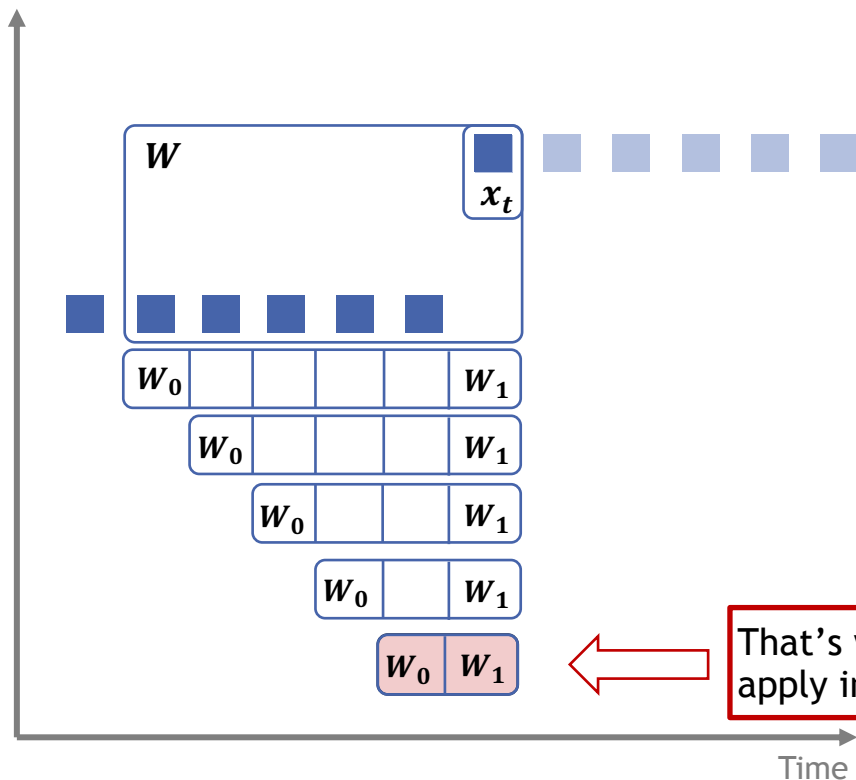
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Figure 1: Algorithm ADWIN.

# Two examples for concept drift detection algorithms

## Adaptive Sliding Window (ADWIN) compares sliding windows

### Sudden changes

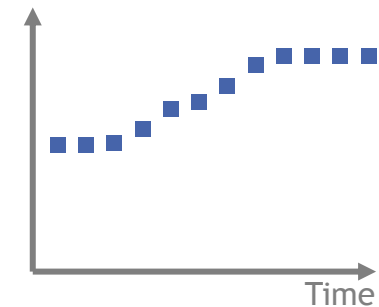


### ADWIN: ADAPTIVE WINDOWING ALGORITHM

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6     for every split of  $W$  into  $W = W_0 \cdot W_1$ 
7   output  $\hat{\mu}_W$ 
```

Figure 1: Algorithm ADWIN.

### Slow changes



How does ADWIN behave in the case of slow change?

That's where line 5 & 6 of the algorithm apply in the case of sudden change



- 1 Introduction
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- 3 Two examples for concept drift detection algorithms
- 4 Real-world examples for concept drift handling

# Real-world examples for concept drift handling

Various threats exists for validity of machine learning microservices

Trigger	Development vs Deployment	Environment of the service	Application of the service
Explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• During development, models are often trained with well-defined and curated data sets</li><li>• In deployment, data input shows great variance</li><li>• <b>Example:</b> Outliers in input data during deployment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Change in the environment of the service with corresponding data changes</li><li>• Influence on prediction quality</li><li>• <b>Example:</b> Sensor of a production machine wears out</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Application of service affects prediction quality</li><li>• <b>Examples:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continuous predictive policing service</li><li>• Changing user behavior due to machine learning services (different click stream)</li></ul></li></ul>

# Real-world examples for concept drift handling

Studies on concept drift have been performed in various domains

	Monitoring & control	Information management	Analytics & diagnostics
Drift type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Real time monitoring</li><li>• Typically fast concept drift</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Time-stamped data</li><li>• Sudden or gradual concept drift</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Time-stamped data</li><li>• Slower concept drift (e.g. population drift)</li></ul>
Use cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Monitoring for Management:</b> Monitoring output quality in chemical production</li><li>• <b>Automated control:</b> Soccer playing robots</li><li>• <b>Anomaly detection:</b> Network intrusion detection</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Personal assistance:</b> News categorization, spam filtering</li><li>• <b>Marketing:</b> customer segmentation for cars, recommender systems</li><li>• <b>Management:</b> Archiving of documents</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Forecasting:</b> Macroeconomic forecasts</li><li>• <b>Medicine:</b> Antibiotic resistance</li><li>• <b>Security:</b> Biometric authentication</li></ul>

Source: Zliobaite et al. (2016), An Overview of Concept Drift Applications

# Real-world examples for concept drift handling

## Exemplary drifts in NYC taxi demand

Time series examples with sudden drift:



Temperature



Stock prices

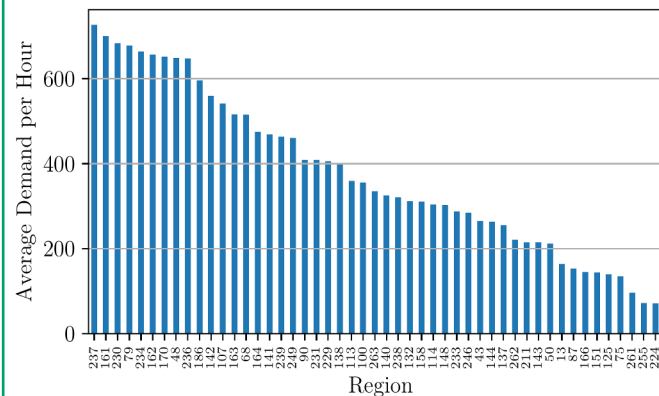
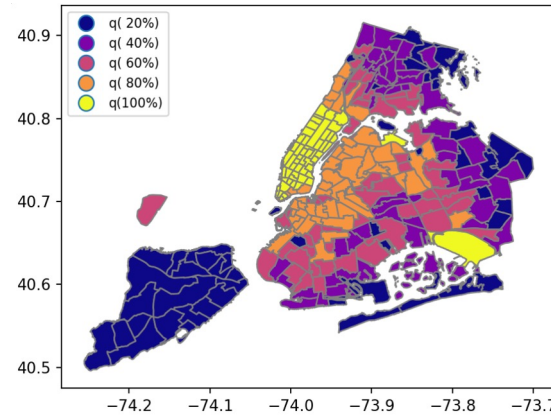


Taxi demand



Demand for groceries

### New York City Taxi data set



~1.4 billion rides (yellow cabs)



01/2009 - 06/2018

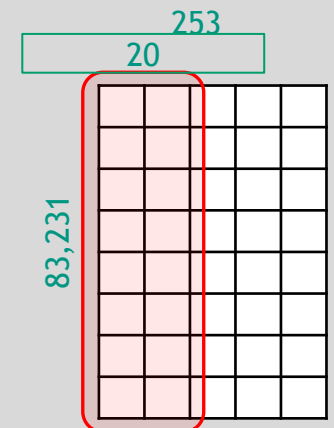


Features: information regarding pickup and drop-off, fare and tip



Various preprocessing steps

Objective: Predict hourly taxi demand per taxi zone



~ 21 million observations

Source: Baier, Hofmann, Köhl, Mohr, Satzger (2020), Handling Concept Drifts in Regression Problems - the Error Intersection Approach

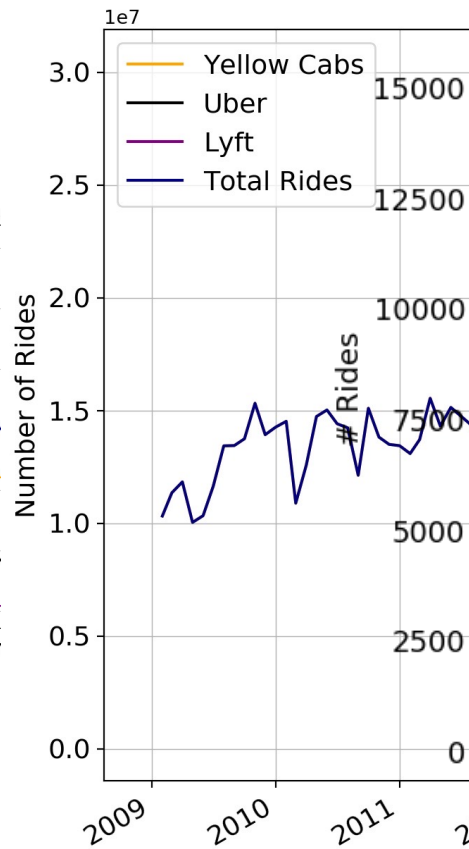
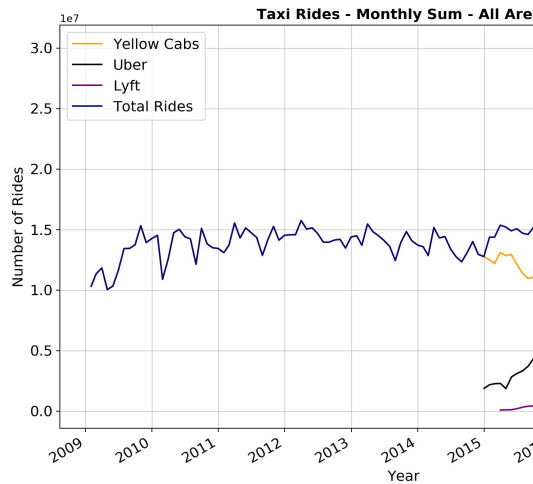


# Real-world examples for concept drift handling

## Exemplary drifts in NYC taxi demand

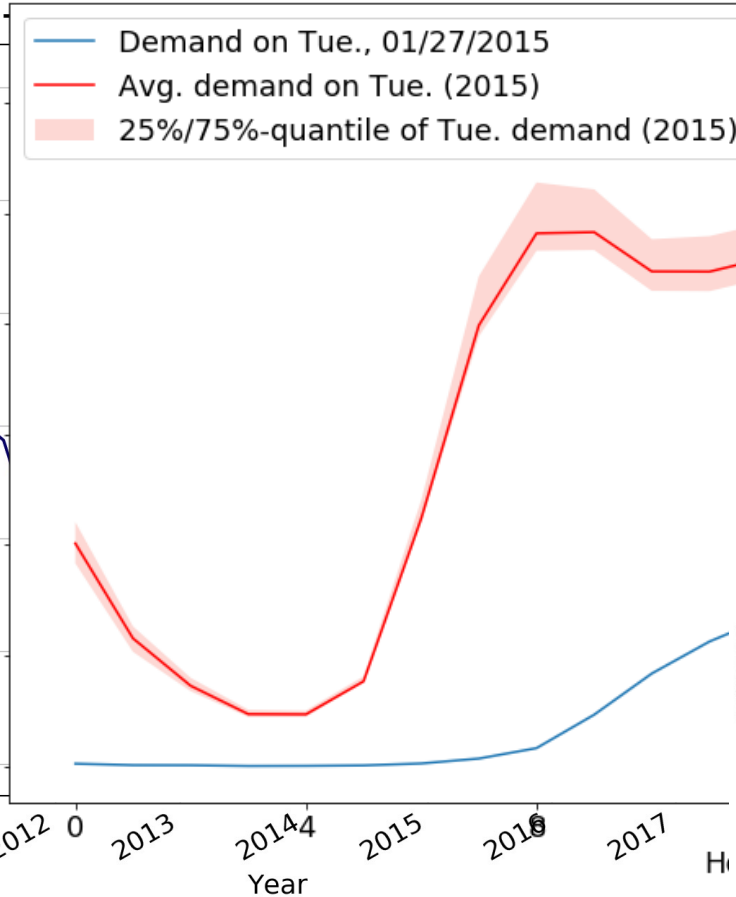
### Incremental drift

- Decreasing demand for yellow cabs over time
- New competitors

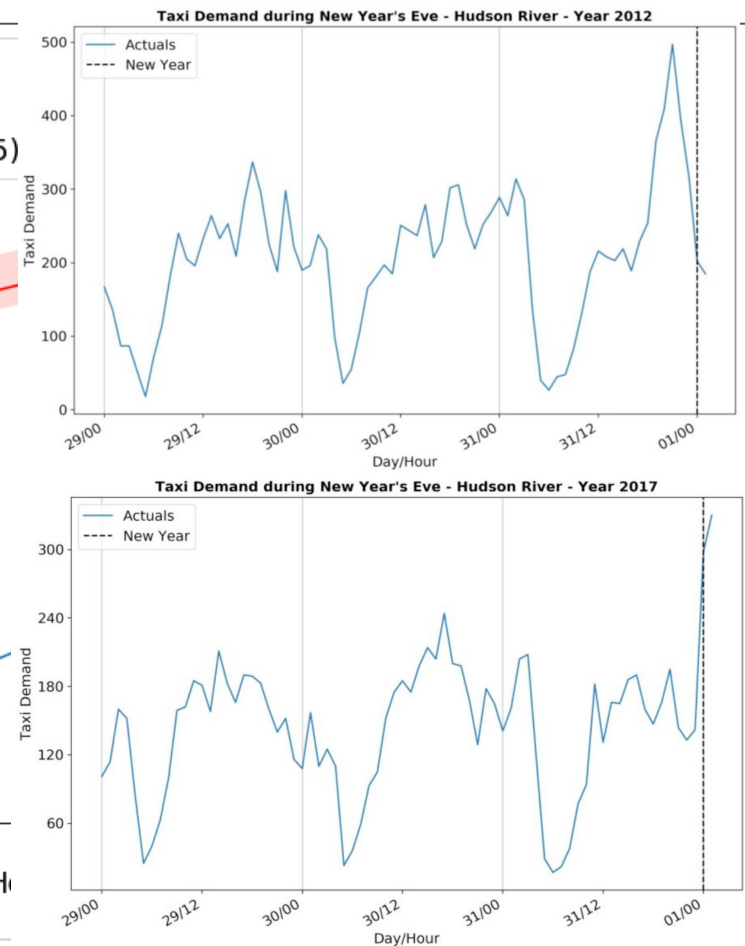


### Sudden drift

- Unusual demand pattern during



### Seasonal drift

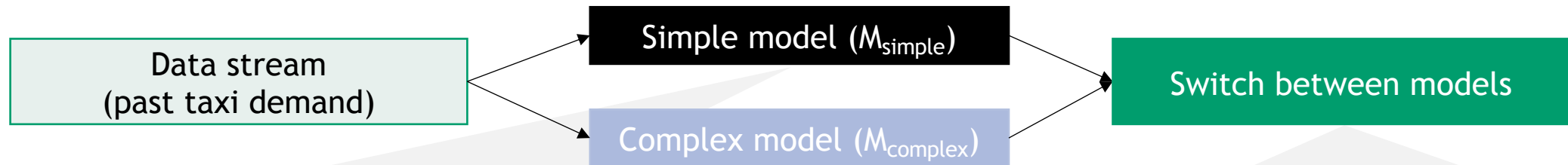




# Real-world examples for concept drift handling

## Switch between models to handling concept drift

Error Intersection Approach: Switch to simple model in case of sudden drift and use complex model for ordinary days



### Simple model ( $M_{\text{simple}}$ )

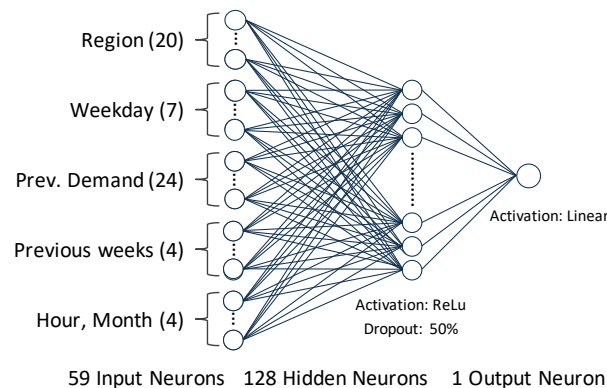
Simple model needs to quickly adapt to changing circumstances

*Random walk model:*

$$\hat{y}_{s,t,r} = y_{t-1,r}$$

*s: simple, r: region*

### Complex model ( $M_{\text{complex}}$ )



### Switching mechanism

$$Err_{M,t,r} = |\hat{y}_{M,t,r} - y_{t,r}|$$

$$EWMA_{M,t,r} = \begin{cases} Err_{M,1,r}, & t = 1 \\ \alpha * Err_{M,t,r} + (1 - \alpha) * EWMA_{M,t-1,r}, & t > 1 \end{cases}$$

$$\alpha = \frac{2}{N+1}, \quad N = 6$$

$$E_{M,t} = \frac{1}{R} \sum_{r=1}^R EWMA_{M,t,r}$$

$$M \in \{s(\text{imple}), c(\text{omplex})\}$$

$$\text{choose } \underset{s,c}{\operatorname{argmin}}(E_{s,t-1}, E_{c,t-1})$$

*r: region, N: parameter*

Source: Baier, Hofmann, Kühn, Mohr, Satzger (2020), Handling Concept Drifts in Regression Problems - the Error Intersection Approach

# Real-world examples for concept drift handling

## EIA performs well with unusual demand patterns

Date	Abs. RMSE improvement	Rel. RMSE improvement	# Predictions by $M_{\text{simple}}$	Probable Drift Cause
2012-07-04	5.07	3.96%	14/24	4 <sup>th</sup> of July
2012-10-29	24.41	31.02%	22/24	Hurricane Sandy
<b>2012-12-25</b>	<b>9.22</b>	<b>12.61%</b>	<b>17/24</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
2013-08-01	9.35	8.61%	10/24	? (unknown)
...	...	...	...	...
<b>2016-01-23</b>	<b>66.61</b>	<b>61.14%</b>	<b>16/24</b>	<b>Blizzard</b>
2017-06-25	5.48	10.12%	10/24	? (unknown)
2018-03-21	15.21	17.43%	14/24	Cyclone (Nor'easter)

Table: Excerpt of days with frequent use of  $M_{\text{simple}}$

- We also find evidence for days where we cannot explain the drift cause
- Influencing factors are easy to identify from hindsight and might not be obvious in real time

# Summary



## Constant Monitoring

A **constant monitoring of deployed machine learning** solutions is crucial for ensuring their proper functionality / validity over time



## Application domain

Concept drift is a phenomenon which can be observed in **nearly all application domains**



## Implementation

The **change detection and adaptation options** are manifold and different choices must be made during the implementation



## Use-case specific

Real-world solutions for machine learning services usually need to be **tailored to the specific use case**