Scalable Machine Learning with Apache Spark™

Introductions

- Instructor Introduction
- Student Introductions
  - Name
  - Professional Responsibilities
  - Fun Personal Interest/Fact
  - Expectations for the Course

Course Objectives

1. Create data processing pipelines with Spark
2. Build and tune machine learning models with Spark ML
3. Track, version, and deploy machine learning models with MLflow
4. Perform distributed hyperparameter tuning with Hyperopt
5. Scale the inference of single-node models with Spark

Agenda

Day 1

1. *Spark Review**
2. *Delta Lake Review**
3. *ML Overview**
4. Break
5. **Data Cleansing**
6. **Data Exploration Lab**
7. Break
8. **Linear Regression, pt. 1**

Day 2

1. **Linear Regression, pt. 1 Lab**
2. **Linear Regression, pt. 2**
3. Break
4. **Linear Regression, pt. 2 Lab**
5. **MLflow Tracking**
6. Break
7. **MLflow Model Registry**
8. **MLflow Lab**

Day 3

1. **Decision Trees**
2. Break
3. **Random Forest and Hyperparameter Tuning**
4. Break
5. **Hyperparameter Tuning Lab**
6. **Hyperopt**

Day 4

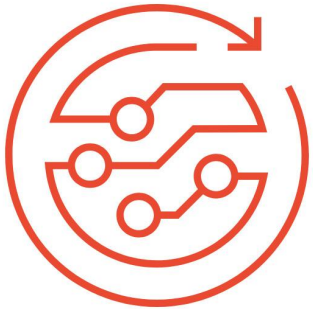
1. **Hyperopt Lab**
2. *MLlib Deployment Options**
3. *XGBoost**
4. Break
5. **Inference with Pandas UDFs**
6. **Training with Pandas UDFs**
7. **Pandas UDFs Lab**
8. **Koalas**
9. Break
10. *Capstone Project**

*Optional

Survey

Apache Spark

Machine Learning



Programming Language

LET'S GET STARTED

Apache Spark™ Overview

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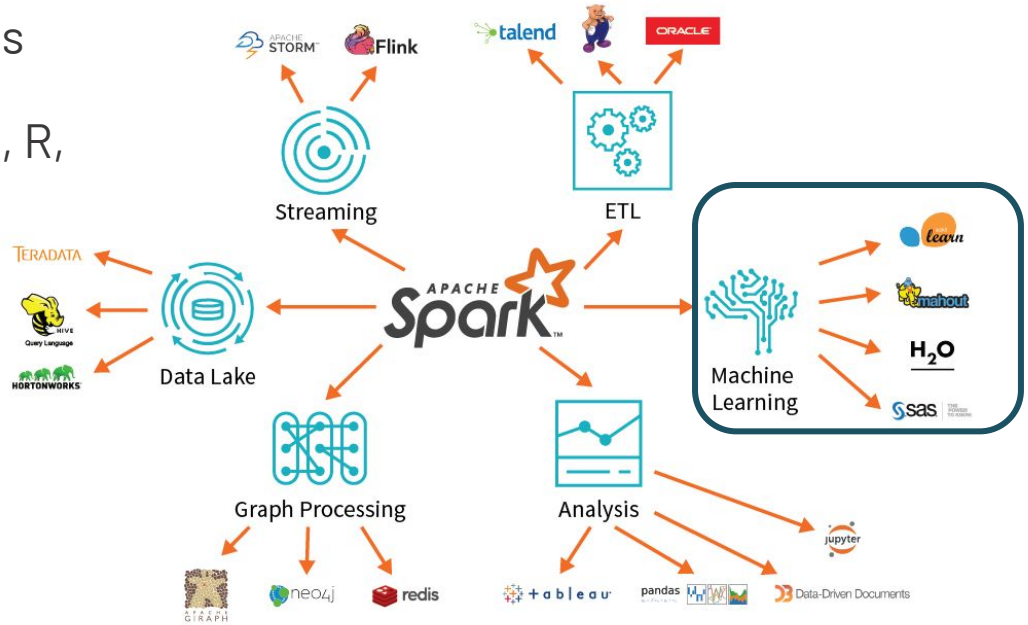
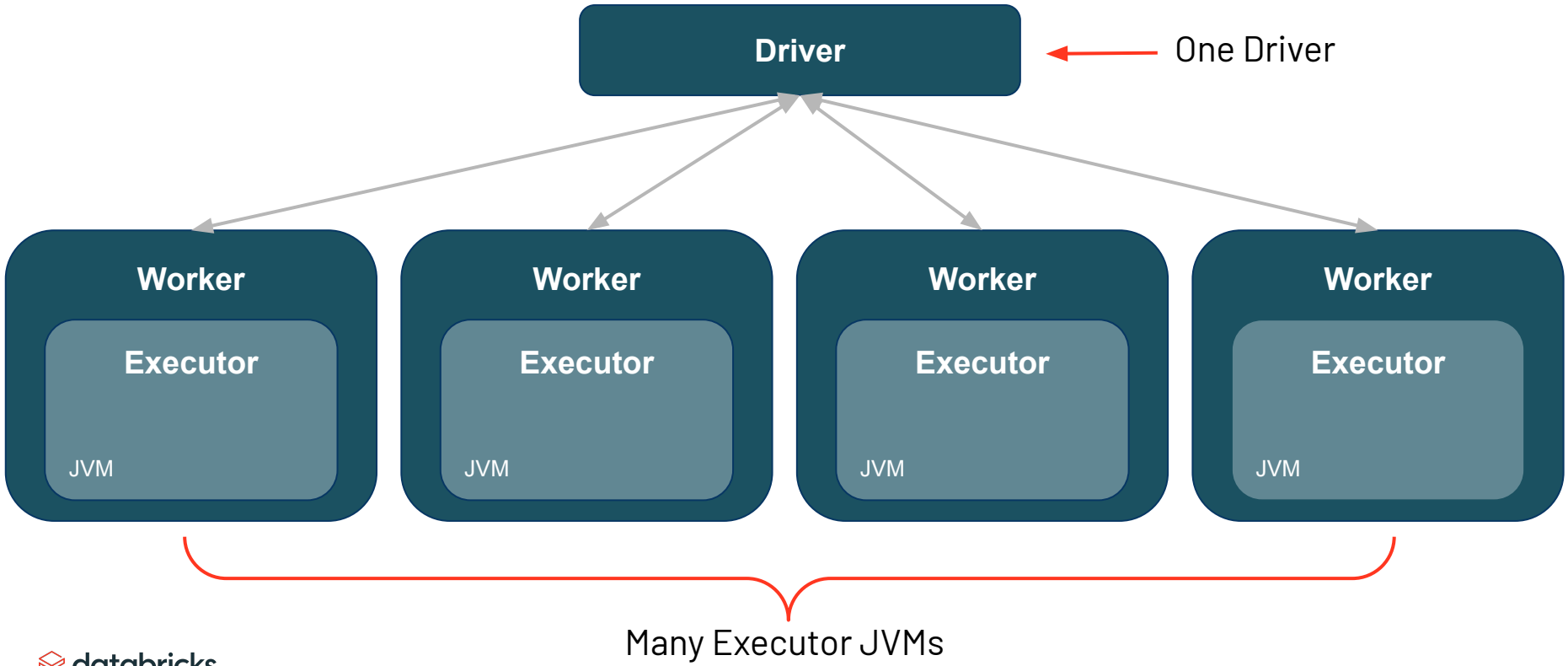
Apache Spark Background

- Founded as a research project at UC Berkeley in 2009
- Open-source unified data analytics engine for big data
- Built-in APIs in SQL, Python, Scala, R, and Java

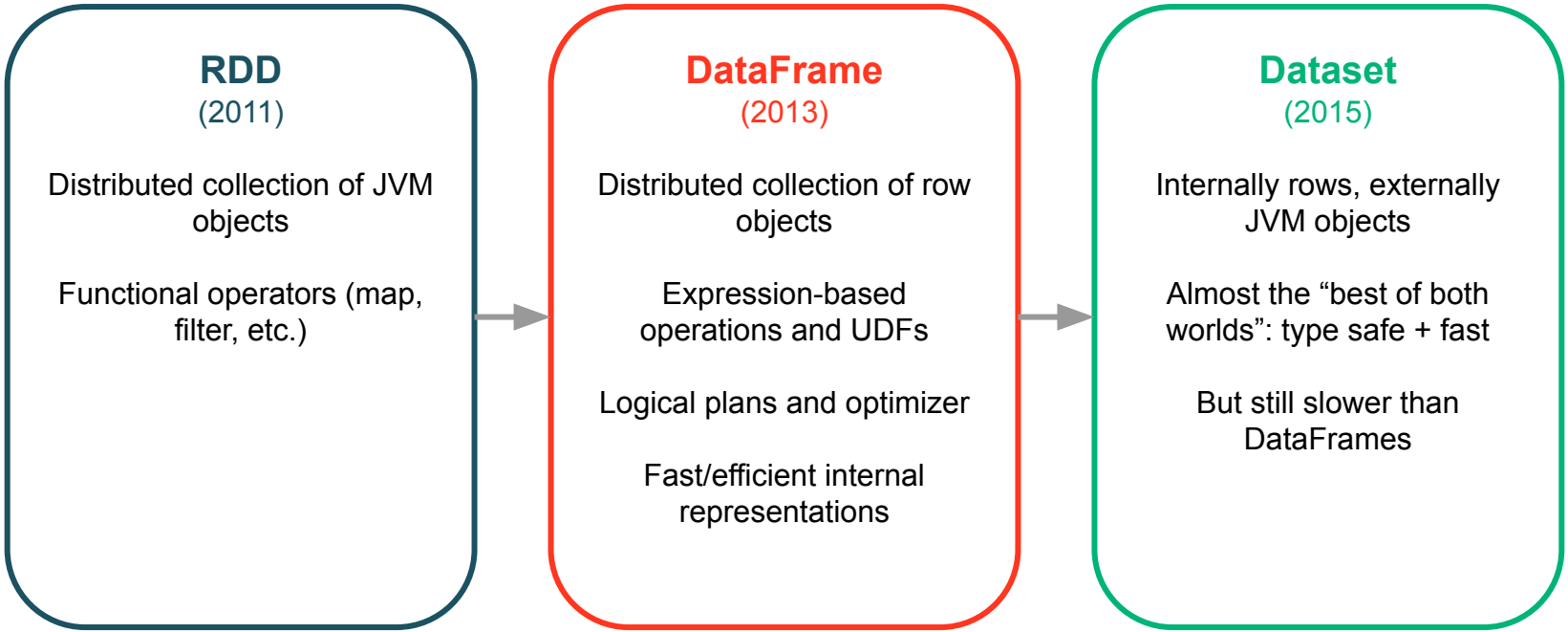



Have you ever counted the number of M&Ms in a jar?

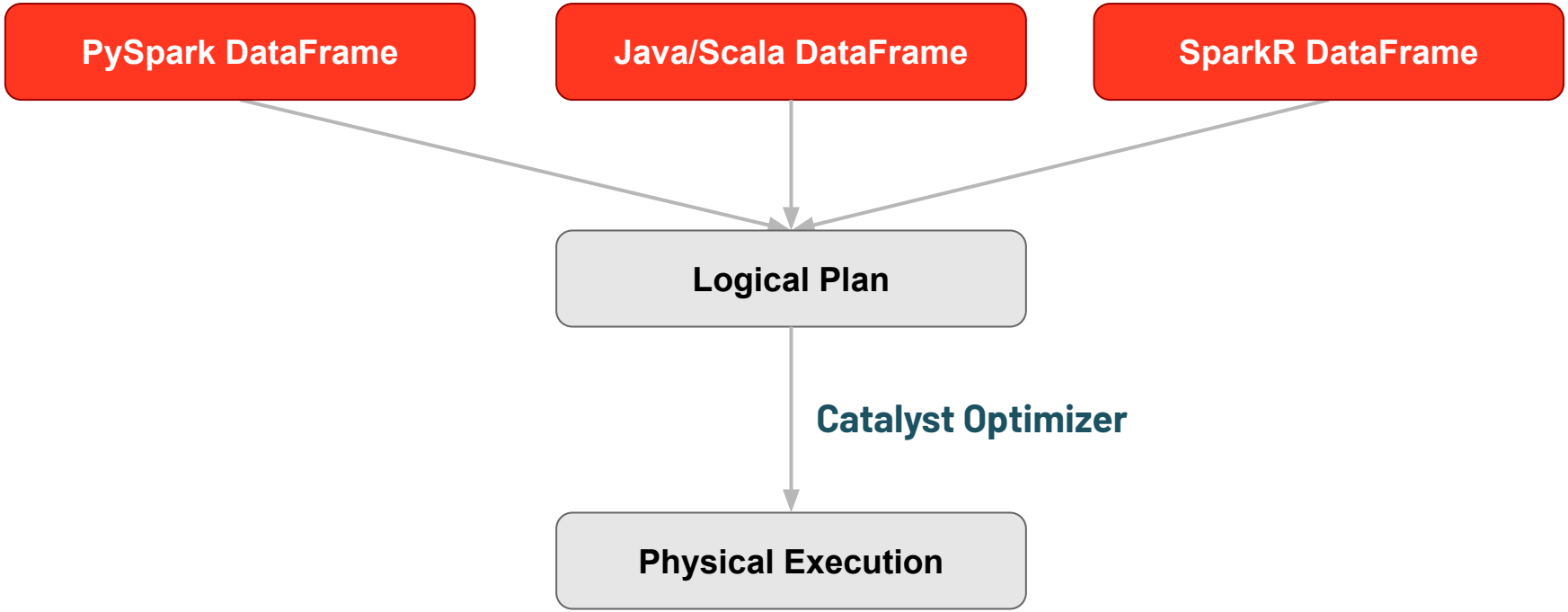
Spark Cluster



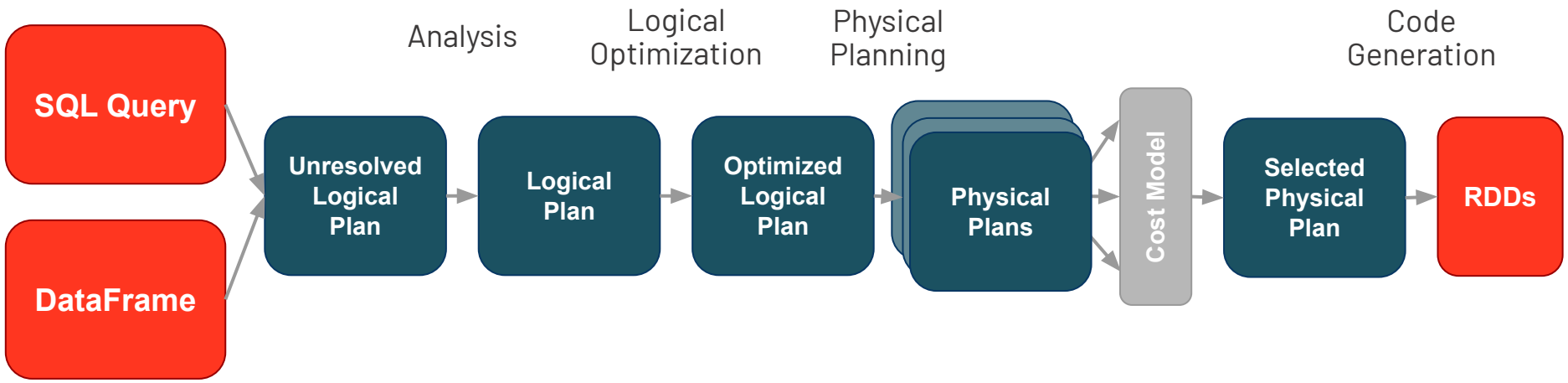
Spark's Structured Data APIs



Spark DataFrame Execution



Under the Catalyst Optimizer's Hood



When to Use Spark

Scaling Out

Data or model is too large to process on a single machine, commonly resulting in out-of-memory errors

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Speeding Up

Data or model is processing slowly and could benefit from shorter processing times and faster results

Delta Lake Overview

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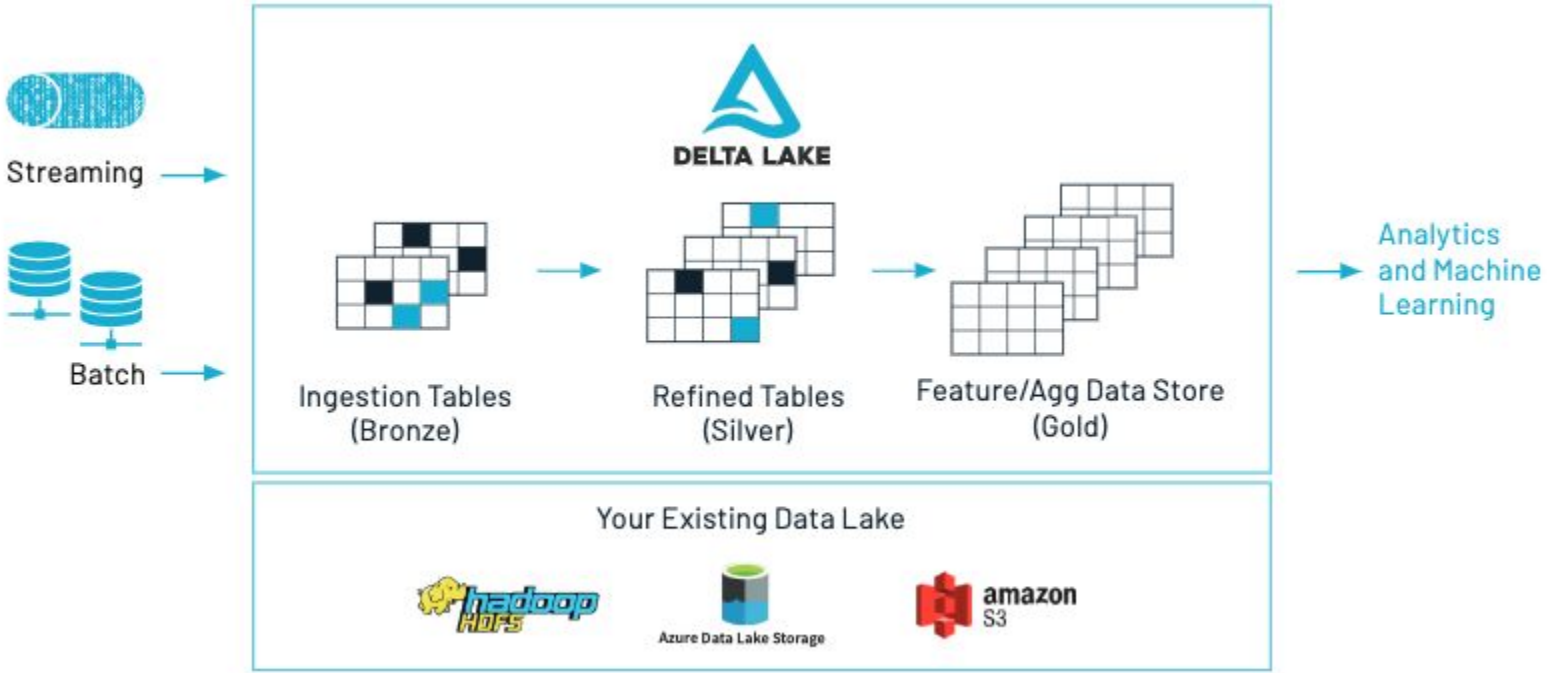
Open-source Storage Layer



Delta Lake's Key Features

- ACID transactions
- Time travel (data versioning)
- Schema enforcement and evolution
- Audit history
- Parquet format
- Compatible with Apache Spark API

Machine Learning Overview

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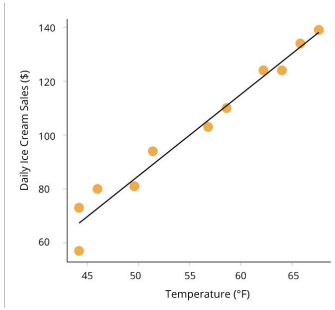
What is Machine Learning

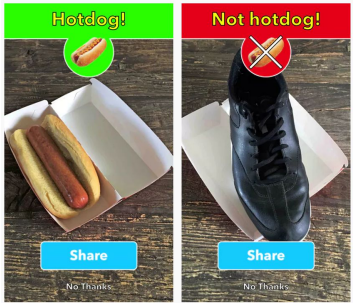
- Learn **patterns** and **relationships** in your data without explicitly programming them
- Derive an approximation function to map **features** to an **output** or relate them to each other

Types of Machine Learning

Supervised Learning

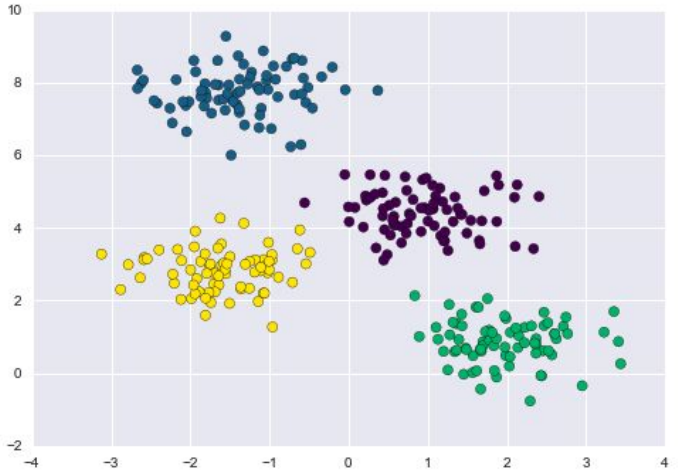
- Labeled data (known function output)
- Regression (a continuous/ordinal-discrete output)
- Classification (a categorical output)





Unsupervised Learning

- Unlabeled data (no known function output)
- Clustering (categorize records based on features)
- Dimensionality reduction (reduce feature space)



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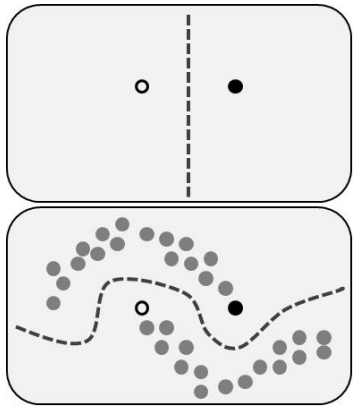
Types of Machine Learning

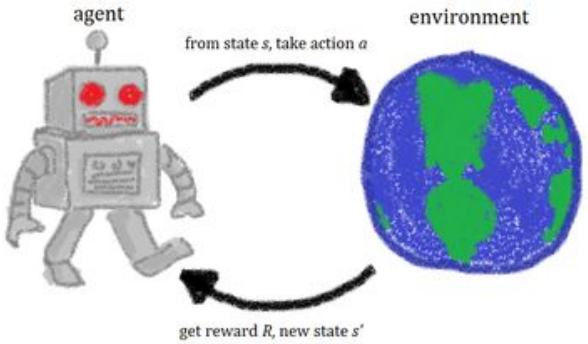
Semi-supervised Learning

- Labeled and unlabeled data, mostly unlabeled
- Combines supervised learning and unsupervised learning
- Commonly trying to label the unlabeled data to be used in another round of training

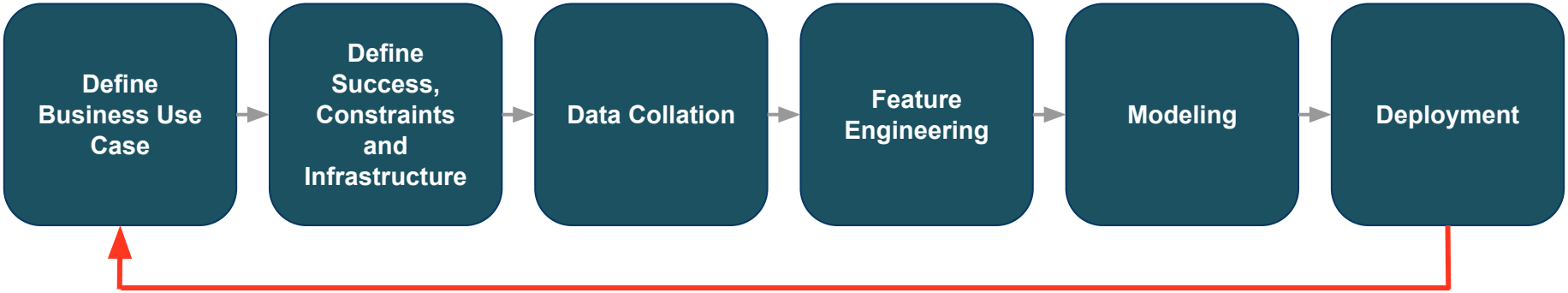


Reinforcement Learning

- States, actions, and rewards
- Useful for exploring spaces and exploiting information to maximize expected cumulative rewards
- Frequently utilizes neural networks and deep learning



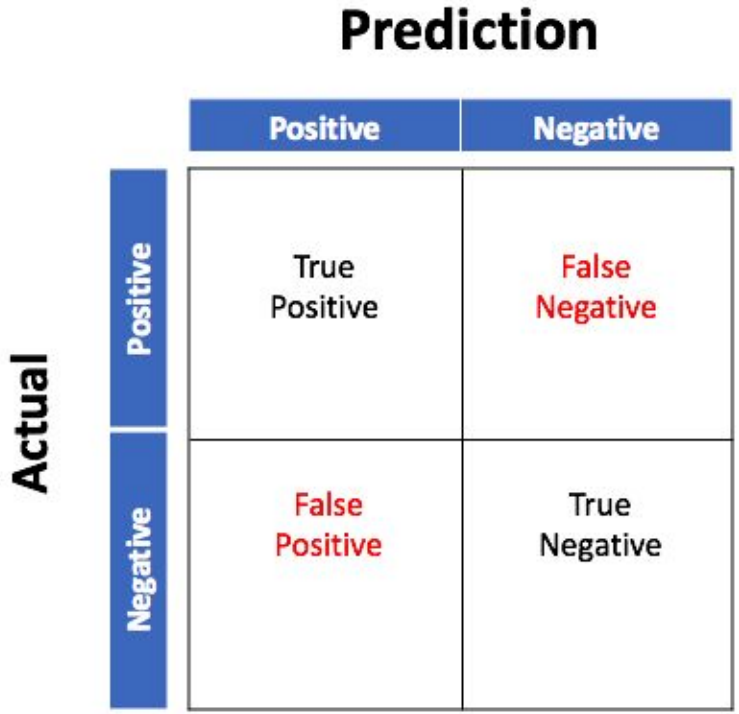
Machine Learning Workflow



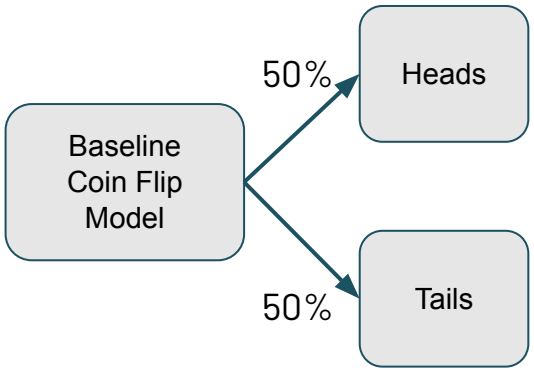
Business Use Cases

What business use cases do you have?

Defining and Measuring Success



Baseline Models



- Simple, dummy model
- Examples include:
  - Most common case (not hot dog)
  - Target variable mean
- Point-of-reference

Algorithm Selection

How do we decide which machine learning algorithms to use?

- Data distribution
- Feature interactions
- Missing values
- Target variable type
- Deployment considerations
- Speed of training
- Need for accuracy
- Need for interpretability

Note: Be aware of any interpretability requirements due to data regulations like the General Data Protection Regulation.

How do we get this information?

- Exploratory data analysis
  - Data visualization
  - Data cleaning
  - Data summaries
  - Data relationships

DATA CLEANSING DEMO

Importance of Data Visualization

Dataset #0		Dataset #1		Dataset #2		Dataset #3	
x	y	x	y	x	y	x	y
10	8.04	10	9.14	10	7.46	8	6.58
8	6.95	8	8.14	8	6.77	8	5.76
13	7.58	13	8.74	13	12.74	8	7.71
9	8.81	9	8.77	9	7.11	8	8.84
11	8.33	11	9.26	11	7.81	8	8.47
14	9.96	14	8.1	14	8.84	8	7.04
6	7.24	6	6.13	6	6.08	8	5.25
4	4.26	4	3.1	4	5.39	19	12.5
12	10.84	12	9.13	12	8.15	8	5.56
7	4.82	7	7.26	7	6.42	8	7.91
5	5.68	5	4.74	5	5.73	8	6.89

Mean	9	7.5	9	7.5	9	7.5	9	7.5
Variance	11	4.1	11	4.1	11	4.1	11	4.1
Correlation	0.86		0.86		0.86		0.86	
Regression line	y = 3 + 0.5x		y = 3 + 0.5x		y = 3 + 0.5x		y = 3 + 0.5x	

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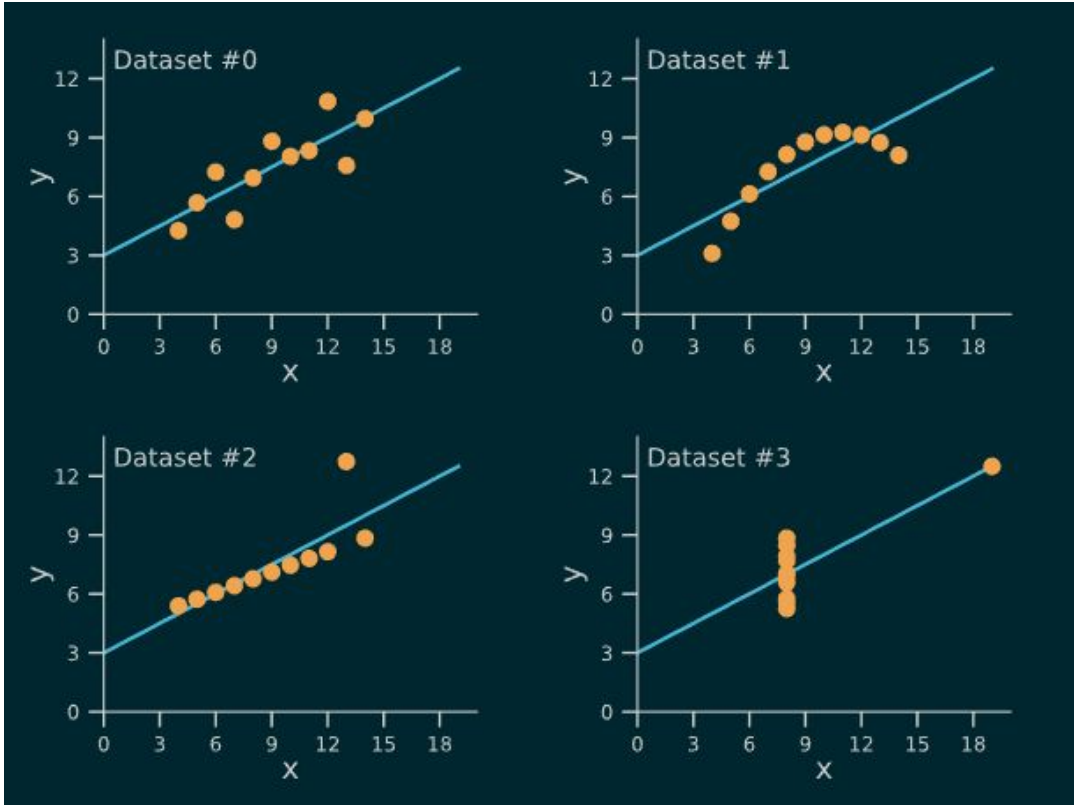
Importance of Data Visualization



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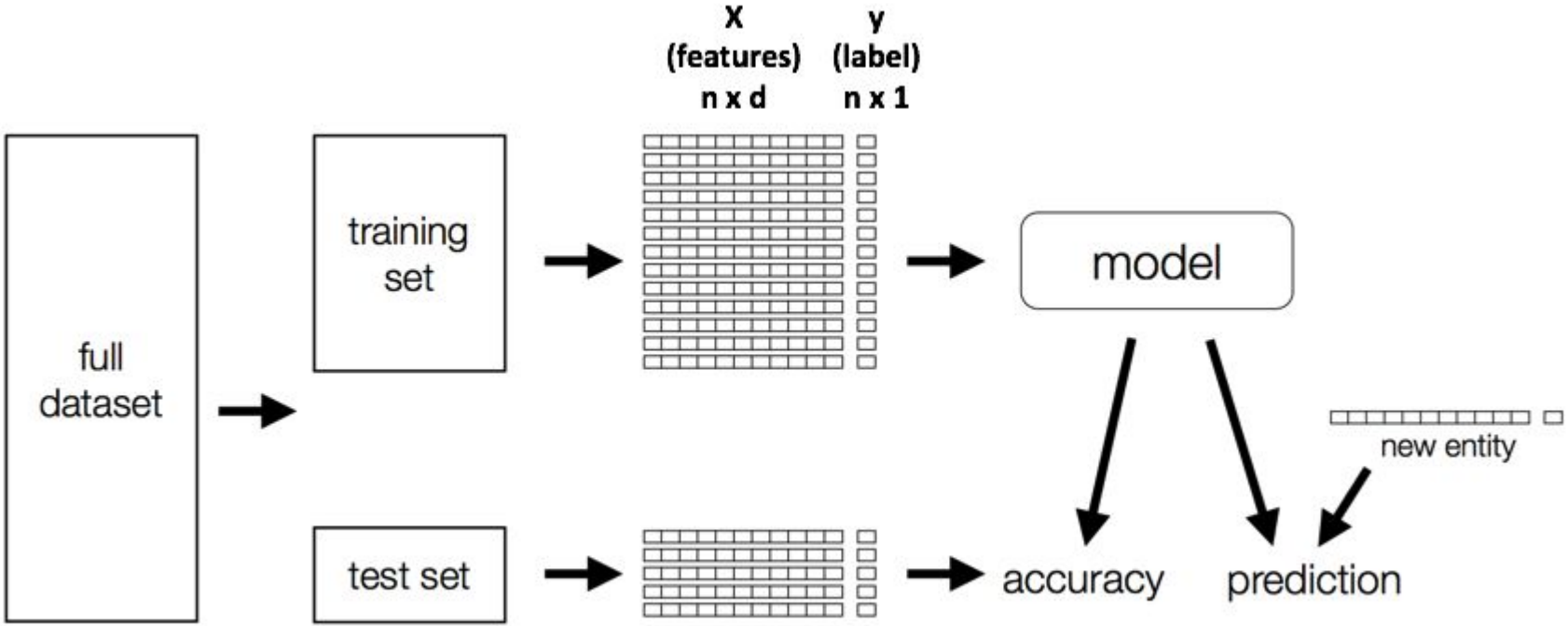
How do we build and evaluate models?



DATA EXPLORATION LAB

Linear Regression

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Linear Regression

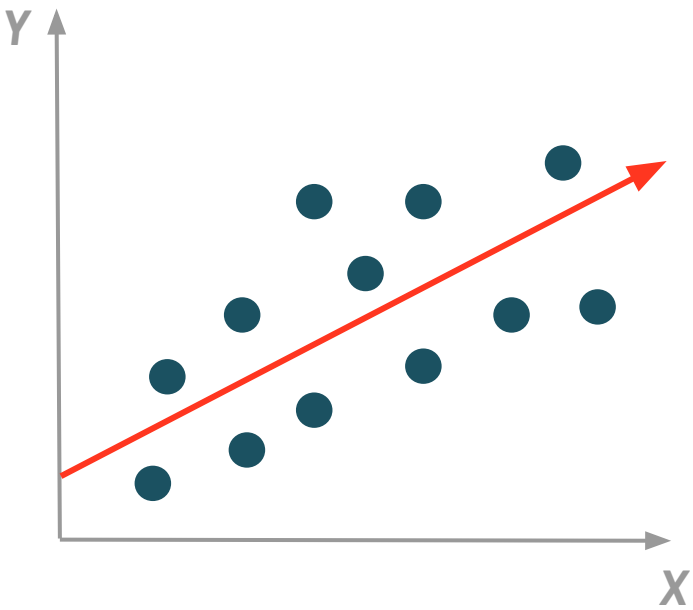
Goal: Find the *line of best fit*.

$$\hat{y} = w_0 + w_1 x$$

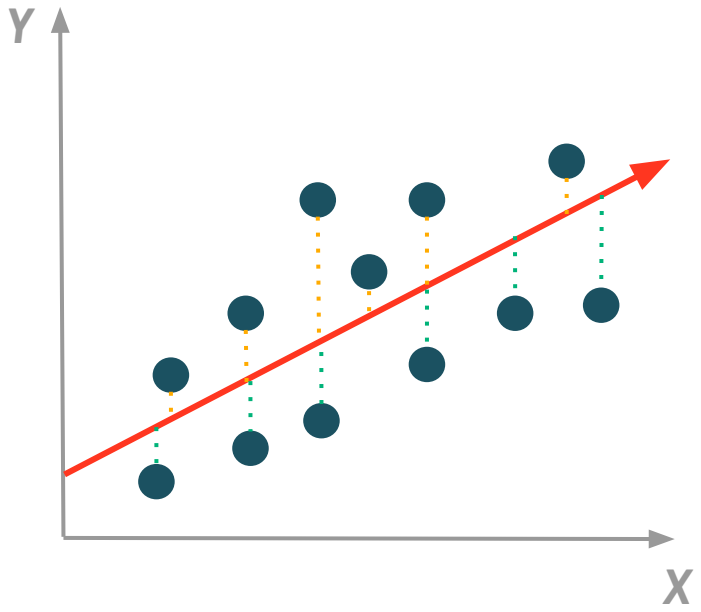
$$y \approx \hat{y} + \epsilon$$

where...

x: feature
y: label
w_0: y-intercept
w_1: slope of the line of best fit



Minimizing the Residuals

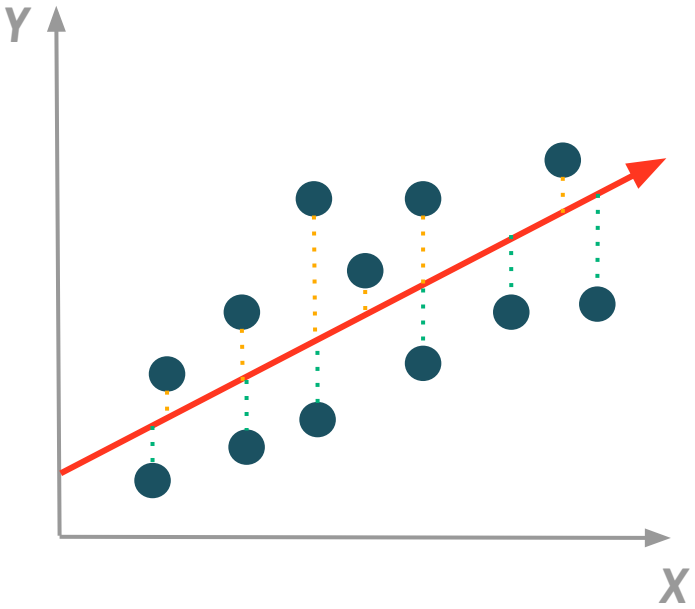


- **Blue point**: True value
- **Green-dotted line**: Positive residual
- **Orange-dotted line**: Negative residual
- **Red line**: Line of best fit

The goal is to draw a line that minimizes the sum of the squared residuals.

Regression Evaluators

Measure the "closeness" between the **actual value** and the **predicted value**.



Evaluation Metrics

- **Loss:** $(y - \hat{y})$
- **Absolute loss:** $|y - \hat{y}|$
- **Squared loss:** $(y - \hat{y})^2$

Evaluation Metric: Root mean-squared-error (RMSE)

$$Error = (y_i - \hat{y}_i)$$

$$SE = (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$

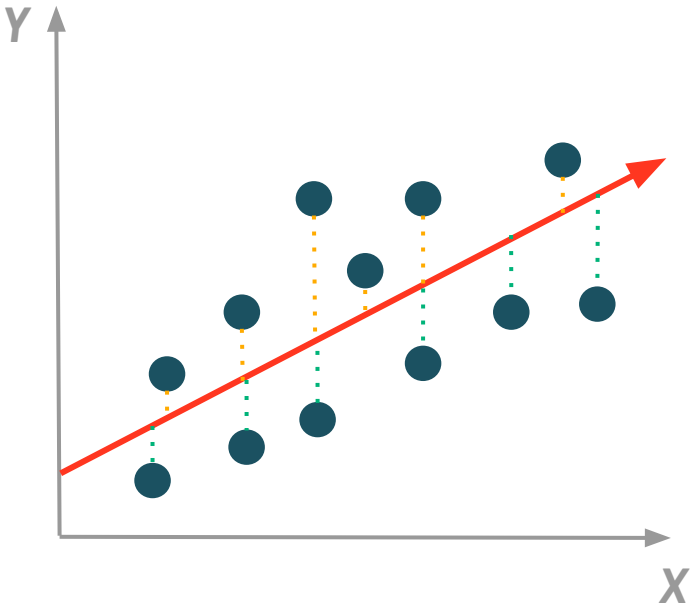
$$SSE = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$

$$MSE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}$$

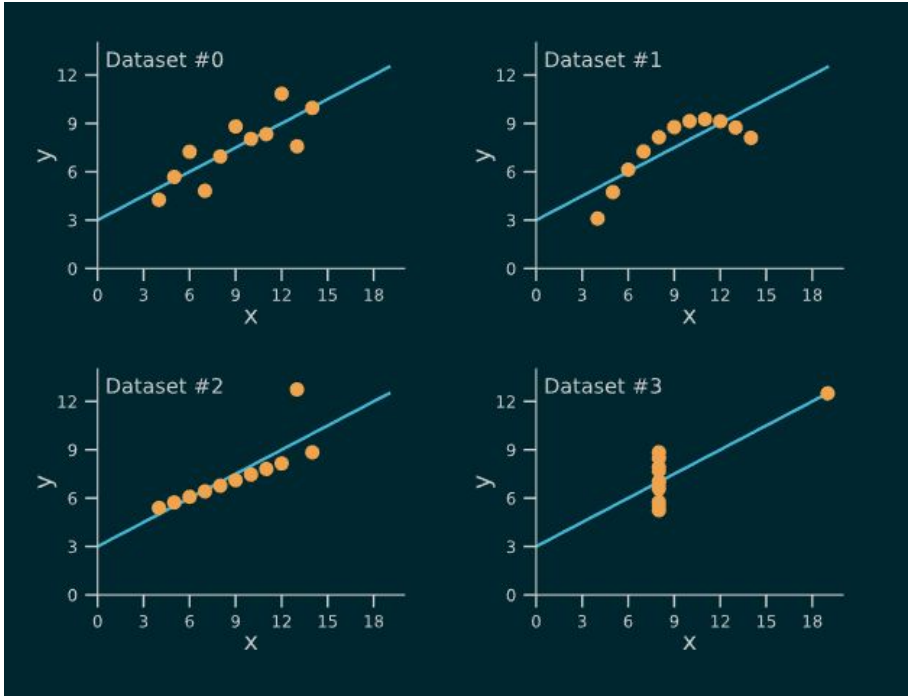
Linear Regression Assumptions

- Linear relationship between each feature and y
- Observations are independent from one another
- Features are independent from one another
- The value of residuals is not dependent on the feature values

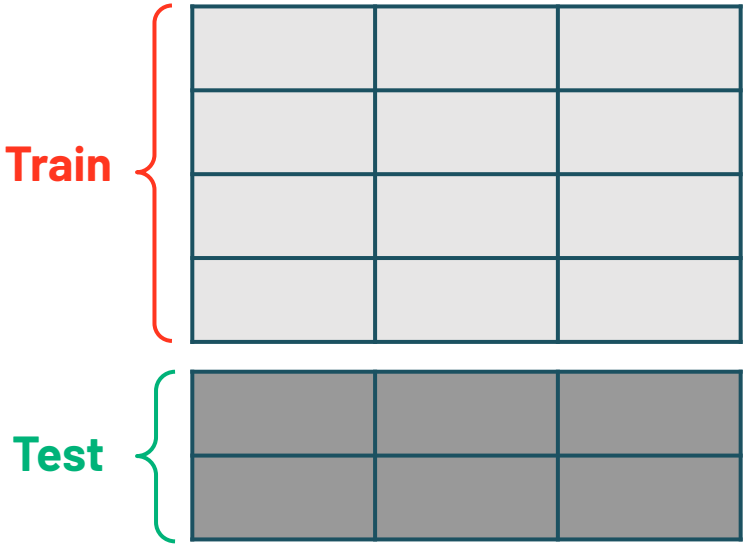


Linear Regression Assumptions

So, which datasets are suited for linear regression?



Train vs. Test RMSE



Which is more important? Why?

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}(y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}$$

Evaluation Metric: R^2

$$SS_{tot} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \bar{y})^2$$

$$SS_{res} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$

$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{SS_{res}}{SS_{tot}}$$

What is the range of R^2?

Do we want it to be higher or lower?

Machine Learning Libraries

Scikit-learn is a popular single-node machine learning library.

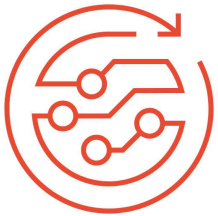
But what if our data or model get too big?

Machine Learning in Spark

Scale Out and **Speed Up**

Machine learning in Spark allows us to work with **bigger data** and train models **faster** by **distributing the data and computations** across **multiple workers.**

Spark Machine Learning Libraries



MLlib

Original ML API for Spark

Based on RDDs

Maintenance Mode

Spark ML

Newer ML API for Spark

Based on DataFrames

Supported API

LINEAR REGRESSION DEMO I

LINEAR REGRESSION LAB I

Non-numeric Features

Two primary types of non-numeric features

Categorical Features

A series of categories of a single feature

No intrinsic ordering

e.g. Dog, Cat, Fish

Ordinal Features

A series of categories of a single feature

Relative ordering, but not necessarily consistent spacing

e.g. Infant, Toddler, Adolescent, Teen, Young Adult, etc.

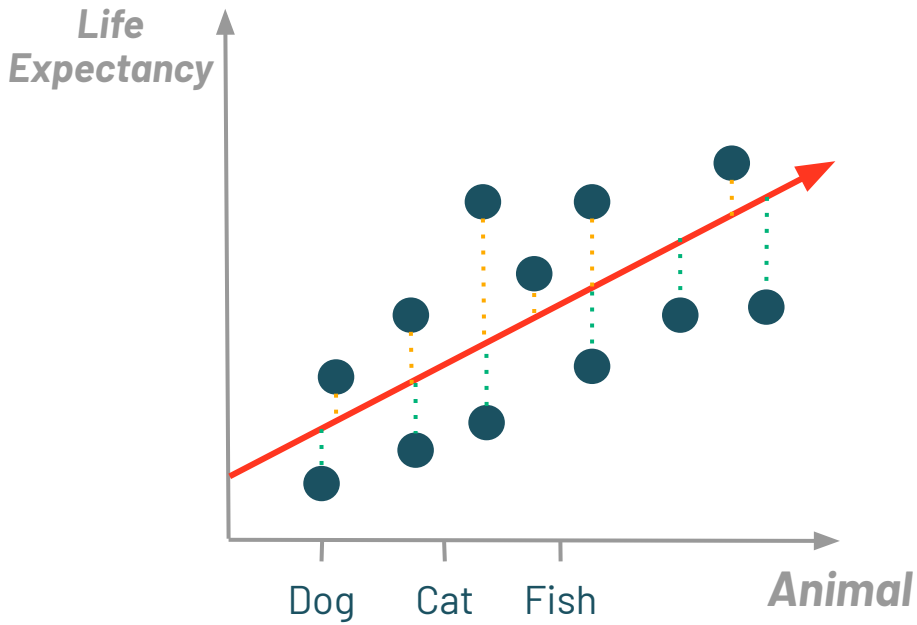
Non-numeric Features in Linear Regression

How do we handle non-numeric features for linear regression?

- X-axis is numeric, so features need to be numeric
- Convert our non-numeric features to numeric features?

Could we assign numeric values to each of the categories

- "Dog" = 1, "Cat" = 2, "Fish" = 3, etc.
- Does this make sense?

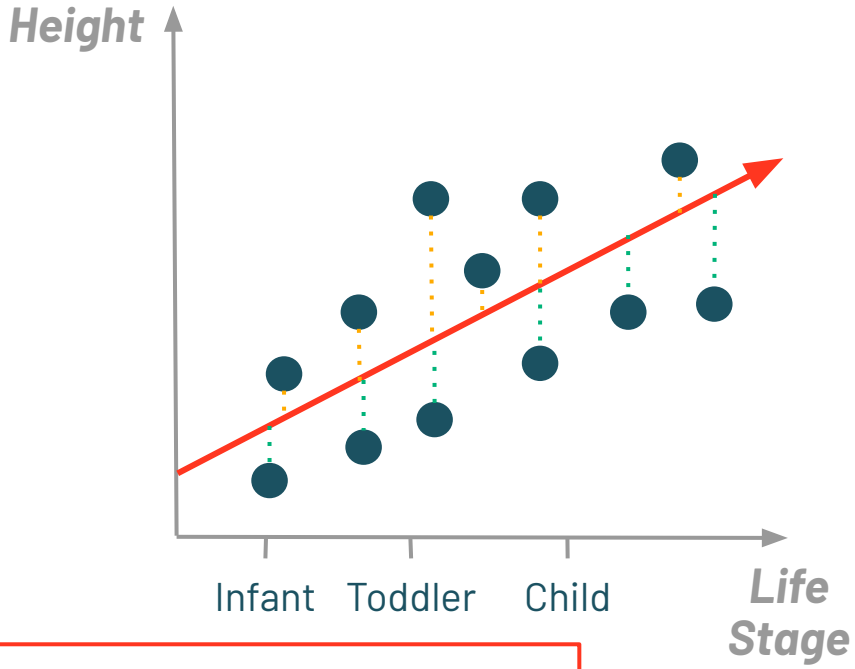


This implies 1 Cat is equal to 2 Dogs!

Non-numeric Features in Linear Regression

What about with ordinal variables?

- Since ordinal variables have an order just like numbers, could this work?
- "Infant" = 1, "Toddler" = 2, "Child" = 3, etc.
- Does this make sense?



Remember that the ordinal categories aren't necessarily evenly spaced, so it's still not perfect and not particularly scalable.

Non-numeric Features in Linear Regression

Instead, we commonly use a practice known as one-hot encoding (OHE).

- Creates a binary "dummy" feature for each category

Animal
Dog
Cat
Fish

OHE →

Dog	Cat	Fish
1	0	0
0	1	0
0	0	1

- Doesn't force a uniformly-spaced, ordered numeric representation

One-hot Encoding at Scale

You might be thinking...

- Okay, I see what's happening here ... this works for a handful of animals.
- But what if we have an entire zoo of animals? That would result in really wide data!

Spark uses sparse vectors for this...

```
DenseVector(0, 0, 0, 7, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0)
SparseVector(10, [3, 5], [7, 2])
```

- Sparse vectors take the form:

(Number of elements, [indices of non-zero elements], [values of non-zero elements])

LINEAR REGRESSION DEMO II

LINEAR REGRESSION LAB II

MLflow Tracking

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MLflow

- Open-source platform for machine learning lifecycle
- Operationalizing machine learning
- Developed by Databricks
- Pre-installed on the Databricks Runtime for ML

Core Machine Learning Issues

- Keeping track of experiments or model development
- Reproducing code
- Comparing models
- Standardization of packaging and deploying models

MLflow addresses these issues.

MLflow Components

MLflow Tracking	MLflow Projects	MLflow Models	Model Registry
Record and query experiments: code, data, config, and results	Package data science code in a format to reproduce runs on any platform	Deploy machine learning models in diverse serving environments	Store, annotate, discover, and manage models in a central repository
Read more	Read more	Read more	Read more

- APIs: CLI, Python, R, Java, REST

MLflow Tracking

- Logging API
- Specific to machine learning
- Library and environment agnostic

Runs

Executions of data science code

E.g. a model build, an optimization run

Experiments

Aggregations of runs

Typically correspond to a data science project

What Gets Tracked

- Parameters
  - Key-value pairs of parameters (e.g. hyperparameters)
- Metrics
  - Evaluation metrics (e.g. RMSE)
- Artifacts
  - Arbitrary output files (e.g. images, pickled models, data files)
- Source
  - The source code from the run

Examining Past Runs

- Querying Past Runs via the API
  - MLflowClient Object
  - List experiments
  - Search runs
  - Return run metrics
- MLflow UI
  - Built in to Databricks platform

MLFLOW TRACKING DEMO

MLflow Model Registry

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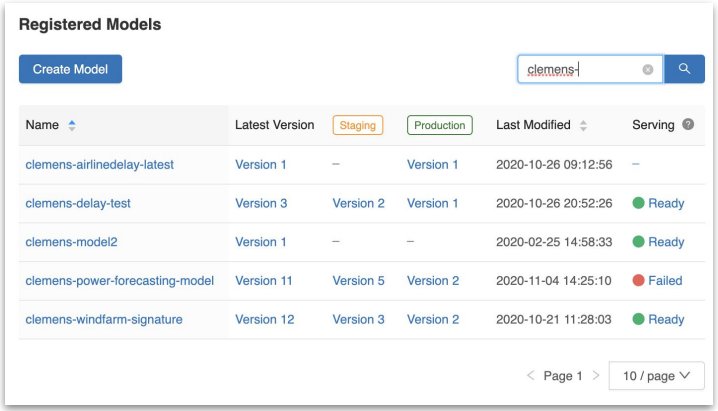
MLflow Model Registry

- Collaborative, centralized model hub
- Facilitate experimentation, testing, and production
- Integrate with approval and governance workflows
- Monitor ML deployments and their performance

Databricks MLflow Blog Post

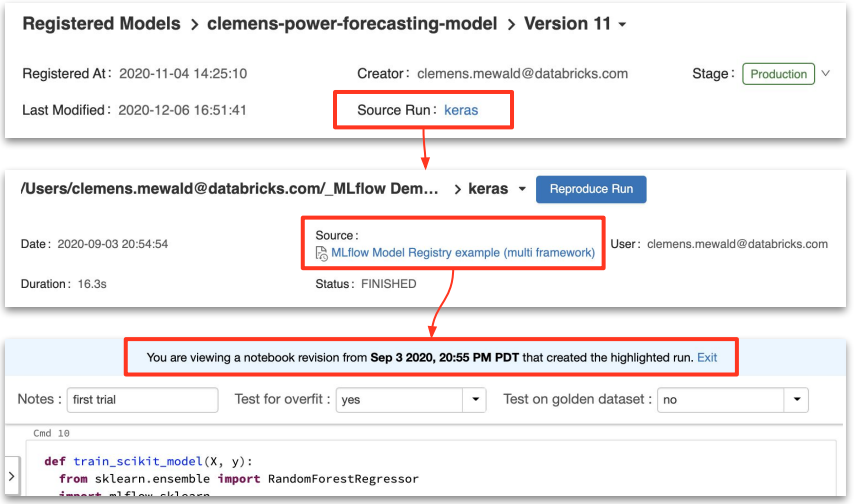
One Collaborative Hub for Model Management

Centralized Model Management and Discovery



- Overview of all registered models, their versions at Staging and Production
- Search by name, tags, etc.
- Model-based ACLs

Full lineage from deployed models to training code / data



- Full lineage from Model Version to
  - Run that produced the model
  - Notebook that produced the run
  - Exact revision history of the notebook that produced the run

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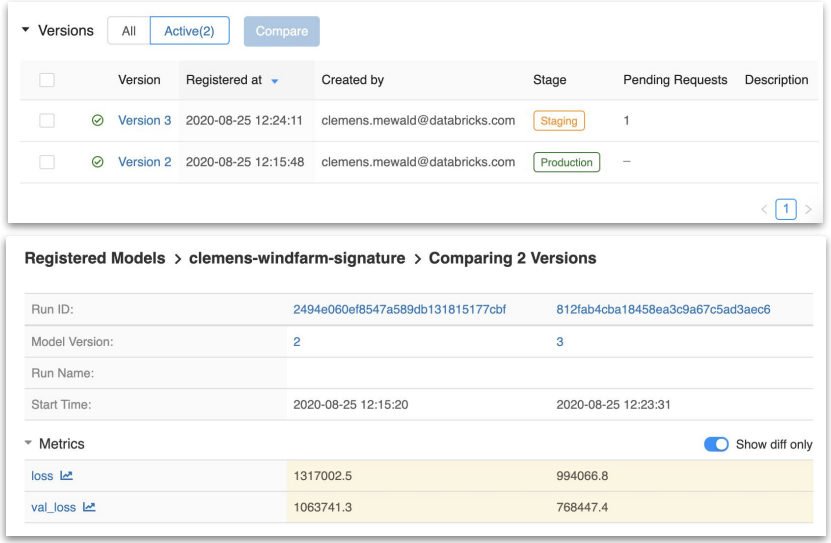
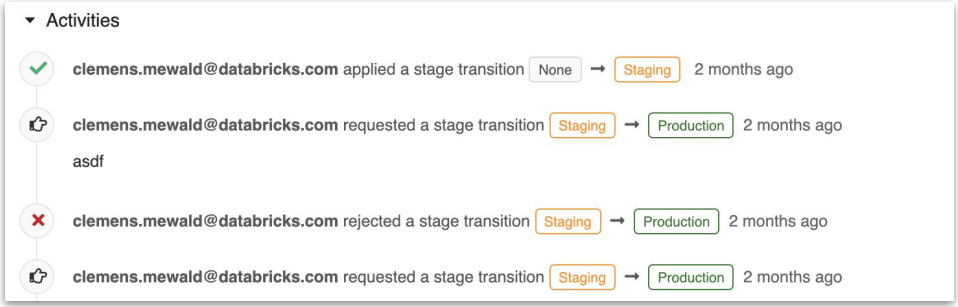
Version Control and Visibility into Deployment Process

Versioning of ML artifacts



- Overview of active model versions and their deployment stage
- Comparison of versions and their logged metrics, parameters, etc.

Visibility and auditability of the deployment process

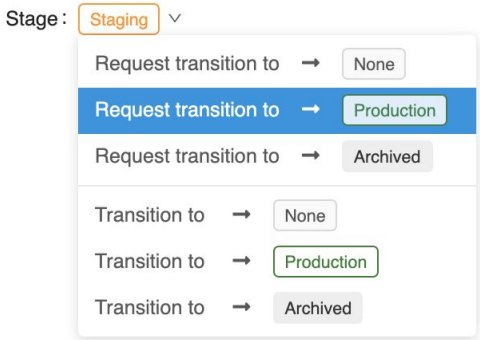


- Audit log of stage transitions and requests per model

databricks

Review Processes and CI/CD Integration

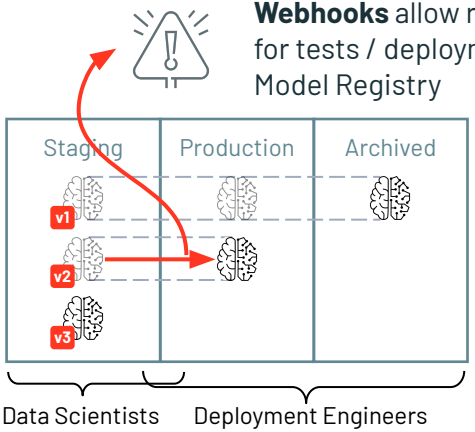
Manual review process



- Stage-based Access Controls
- Request and approval workflow for stage transitions

Automation through CI/CD integration

Webhooks allow registering of callbacks (e.g. for tests / deployment) on events in the Model Registry



- Webhooks for events like model creation, version creation, transition request, etc.
- Mechanisms to store results / metadata through Tags and Comments

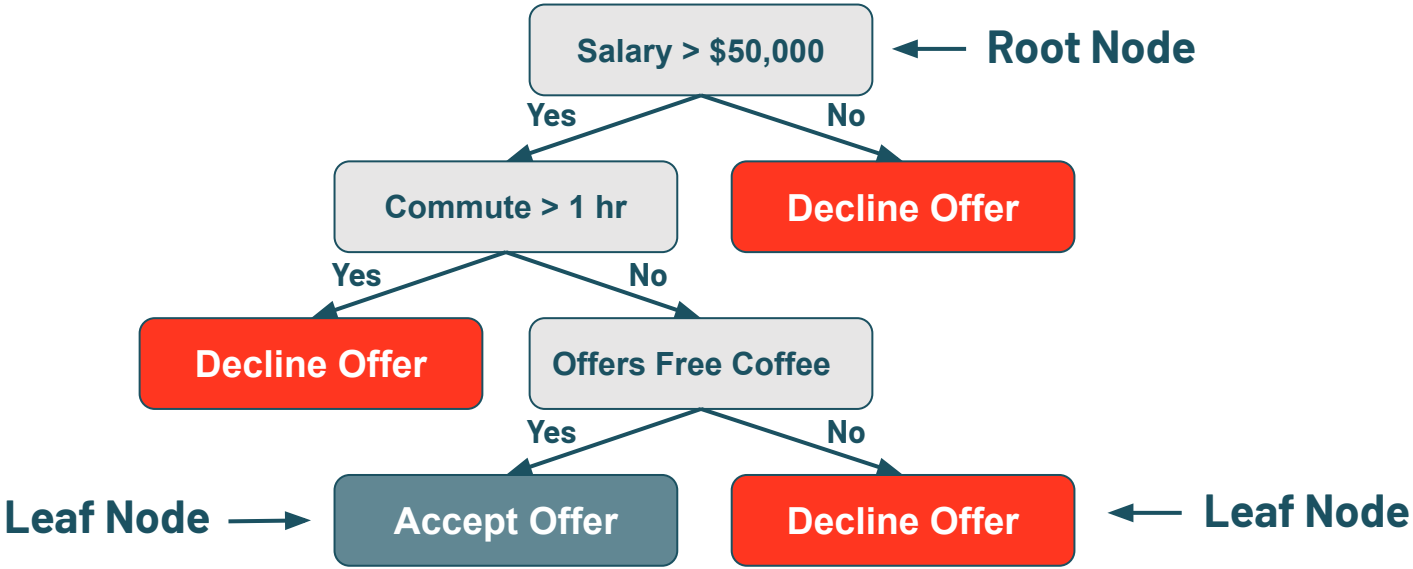
MLFLOW MODEL REGISTRY DEMO

MLFLOW LAB

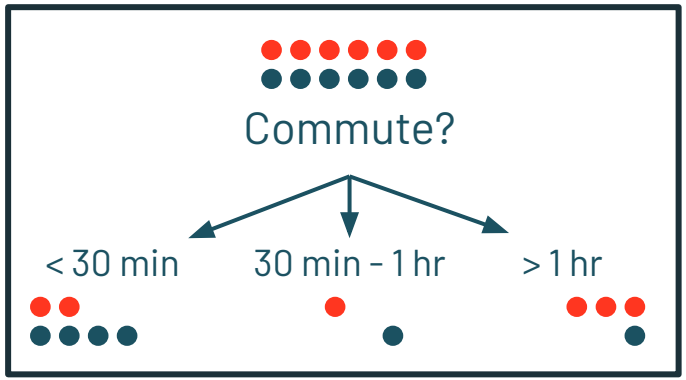
Decision Trees

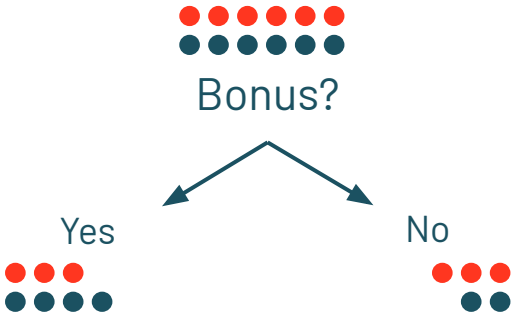
databricks

Decision Making



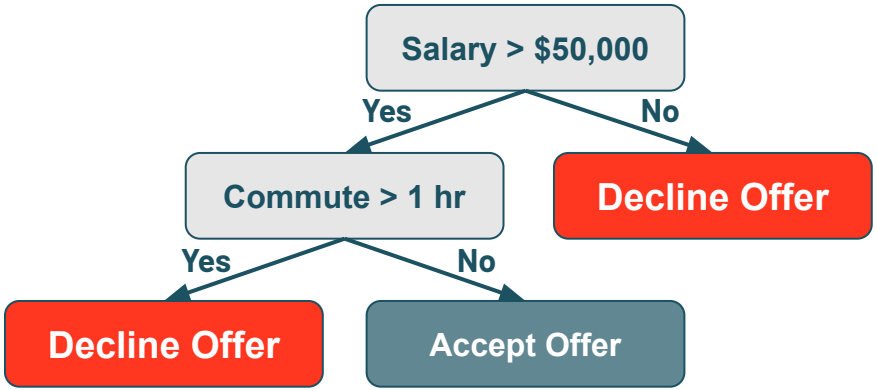
Determining Splits

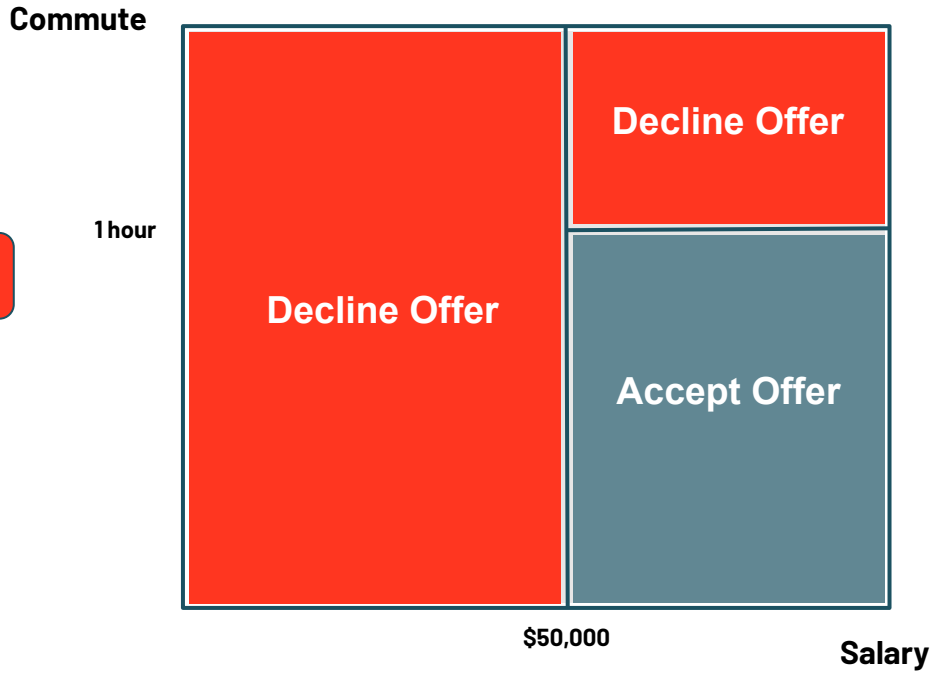




Commute is a better choice because it provides information about the classification.

Creating Decision Boundaries

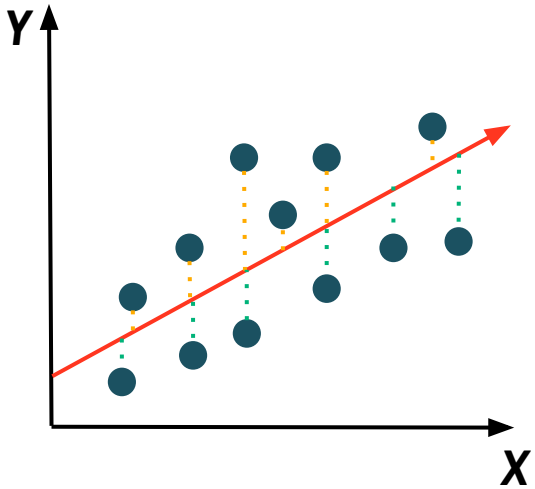




Lines vs. Boundaries

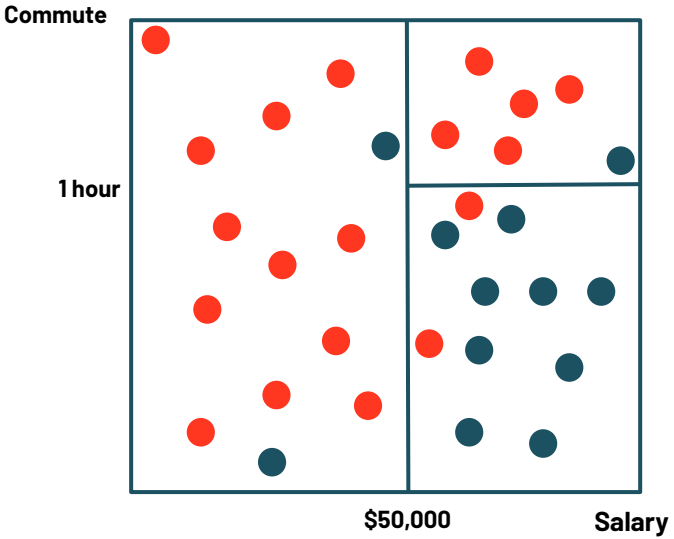
Linear Regression

- Lines through data
- Assumed linear relationship

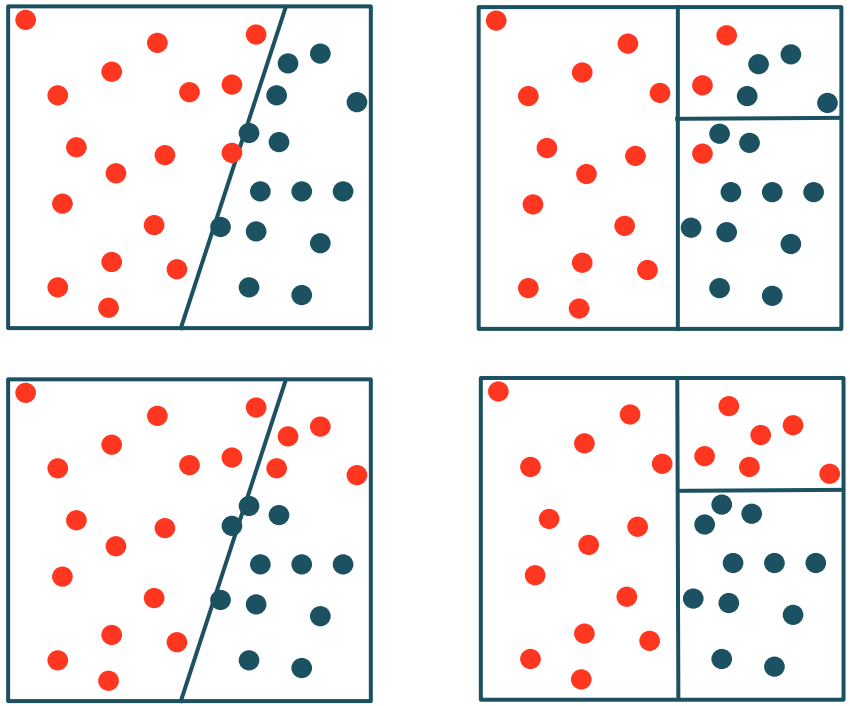


Decision Trees

- Boundaries instead of lines
- Learn complex relationships



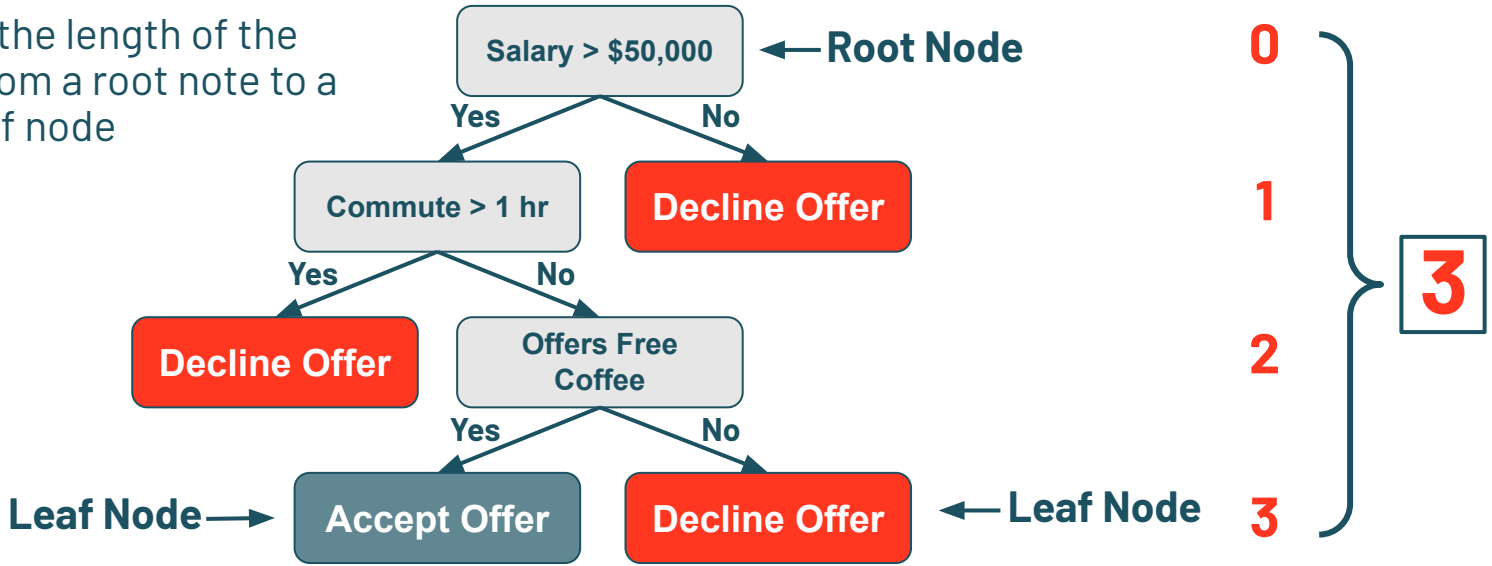
Linear Regression or Decision Tree?



It depends on the data...

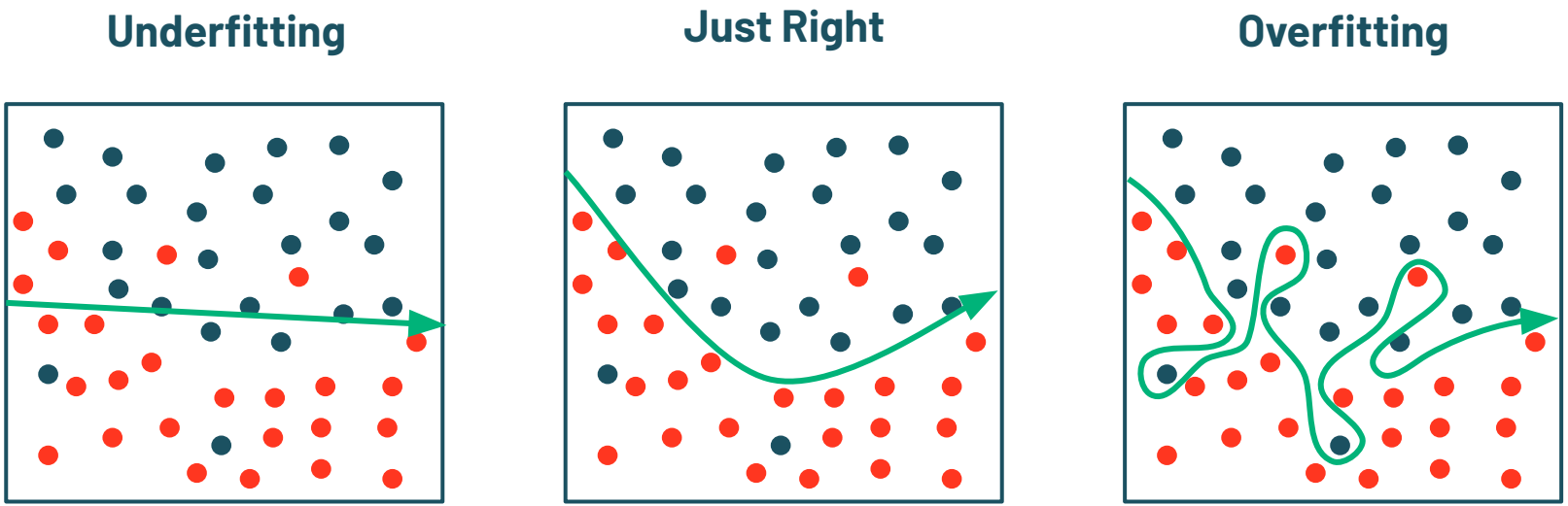
Tree Depth

Tree Depth: the length of the longest path from a root note to a leaf node



Note: shallow trees tend to **underfit**, and deep trees tend to **overfit**

Underfitting vs. Overfitting



Additional Resource

R2D3 has an excellent visualization of how decision trees work.

DECISION TREE DEMO

Random Forests

databricks

Decision Trees

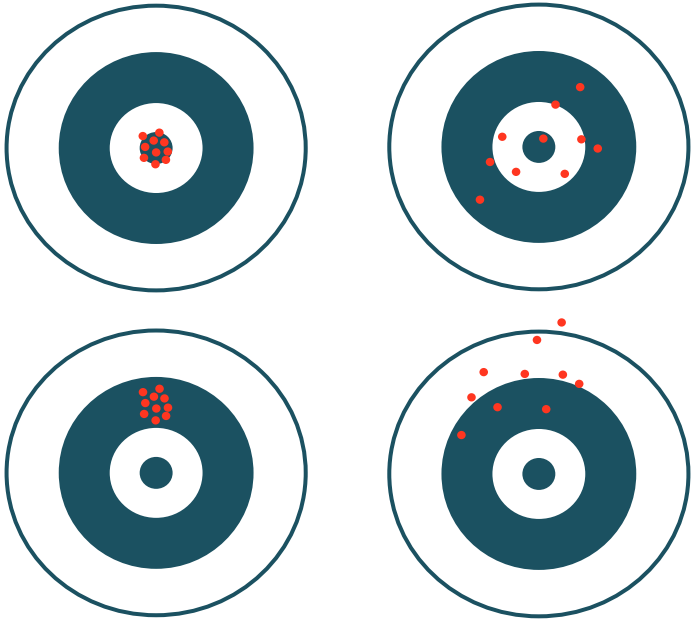
Pros

- Interpretable
- Simple
- Classification
- Regression
- Nonlinear relationships

Cons

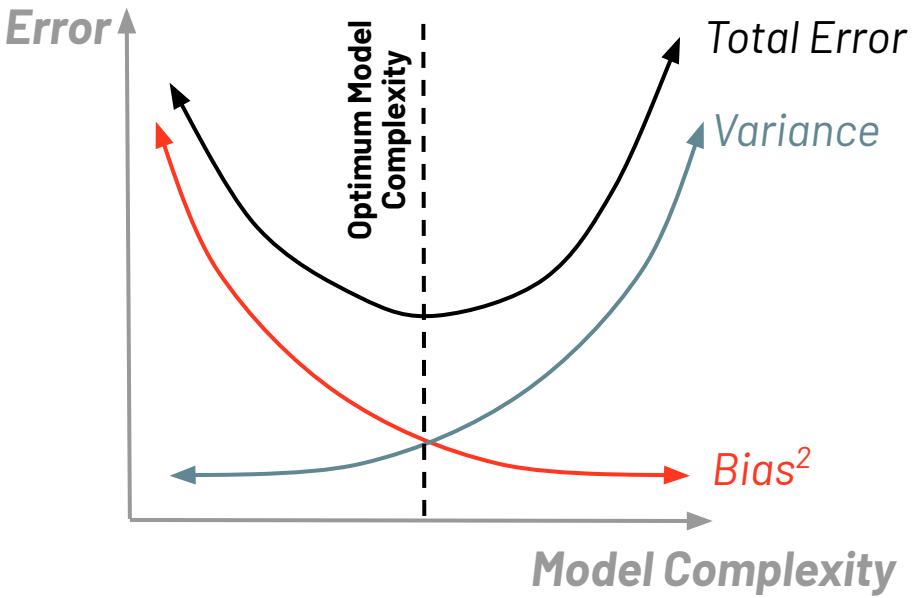
- Poor accuracy
- High variance

Bias vs. Variance

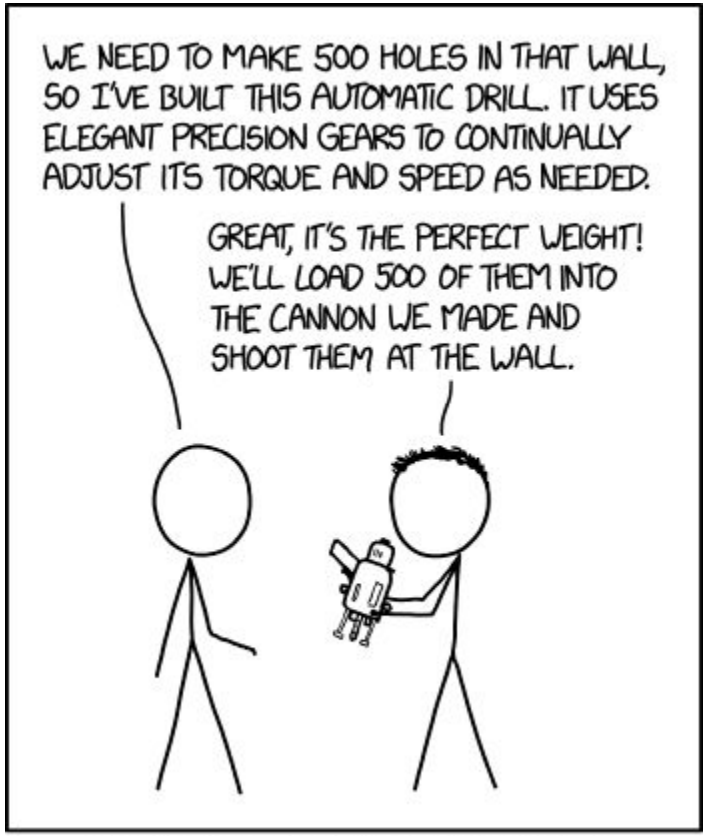


Bias-Variance Tradeoff

$$Error = Variance + Bias^2 + noise$$



- Reduce Bias
  - Build more complex models
- Reduce Variance
  - Use a lot of data
  - Build simple models
- What about the noise?



HOW SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT WORKS

https://www.explainxkcd.com/wiki/index.php/2021:_Software_Development

Building Five Hundred Decision Trees

- Using more data reduces variance for one model
- Averaging more predictions reduces prediction variance
- But that would require more decision trees
- And we only have one training set … or do we?

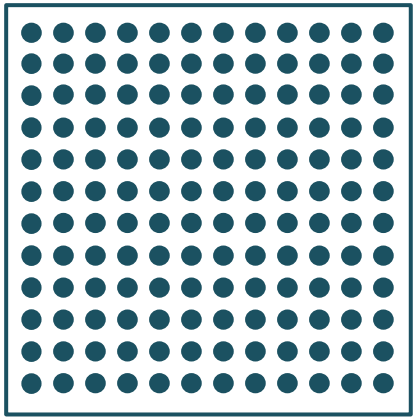
Bootstrap Sampling

A method for simulating *N* new datasets:

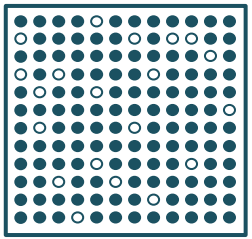
1. Take sample *with replacement* from original training set
2. Repeat *N* times

Bootstrap Visualization

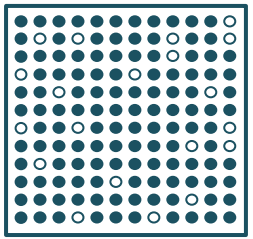
Training Set (N = 100)



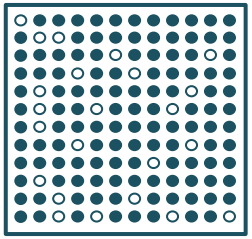
Bootstrap 1 (N = 100)



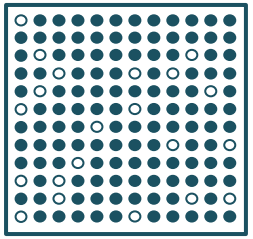
Bootstrap 2 (N = 100)



Bootstrap 3 (N = 100)



Bootstrap 4 (N = 100)



Why are some points in the bootstrapped samples not selected?

Training Set Coverage

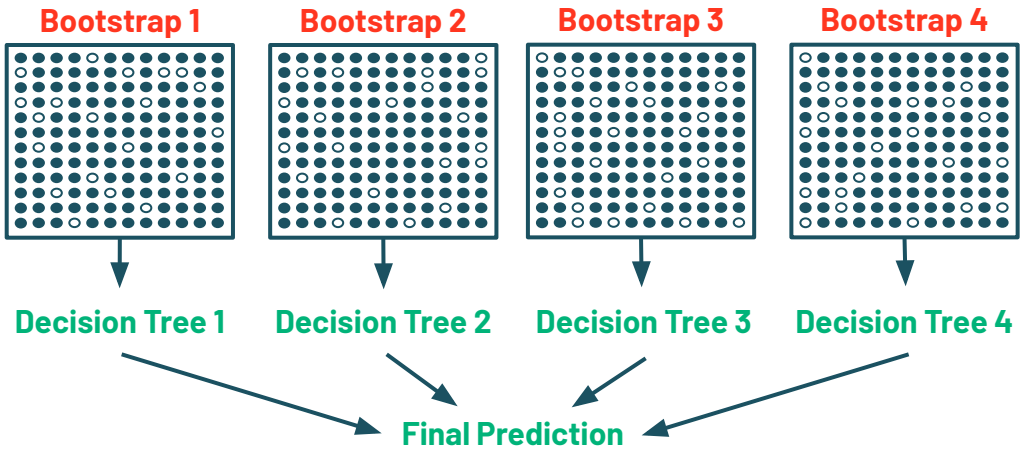
Assume we are bootstrapping *N* draws from a training set with *N* observations ...

- Probability of an element getting picked in *each draw* $\frac{1}{N}$
- Probability of an element *not* getting picked in *each draw*: $1 - \frac{1}{N}$
- Probability of an element *not* getting drawn in the entire *sample*: $(1 - \frac{1}{N})^N$

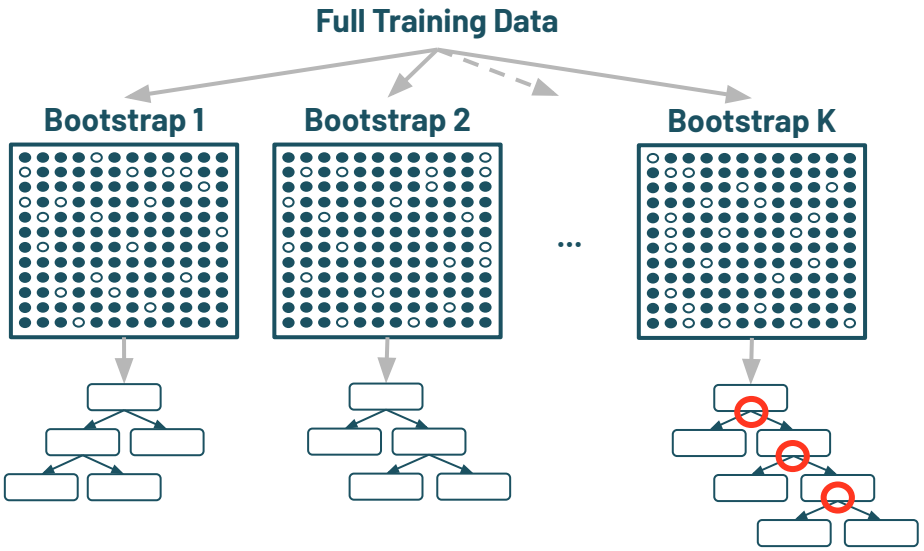
As $N \rightarrow \infty$, the probability for each element of not getting picked in a sample approaches **0.368.**

Bootstrap Aggregating

- Train a tree on each of sample, and average the predictions
- This is bootstrap aggregating, commonly referred to as bagging

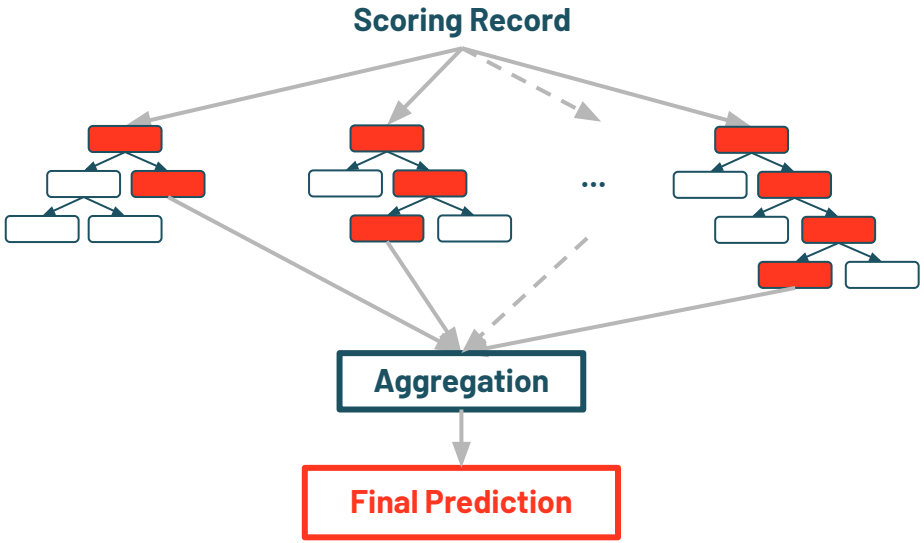


Random Forest Algorithm



At each split, a **subset of features** is considered to ensure each tree is different.

Random Forest Aggregation



- Majority-voting for classification
- Mean for regression

RANDOM FOREST DEMO

Hyperparameter Tuning

databricks

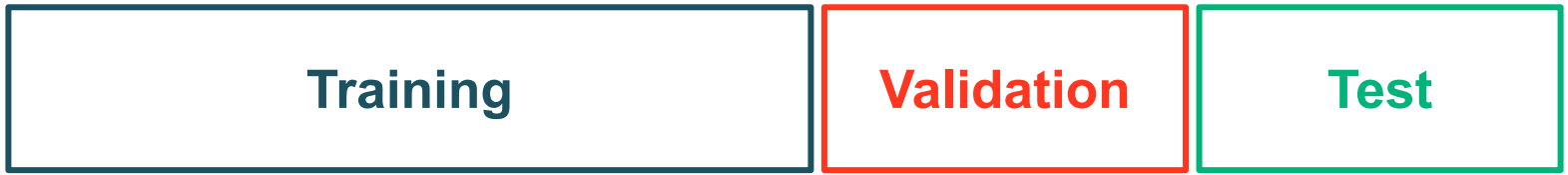
What is a Hyperparameter?

- Examples for Random Forest:
  - Tree depth
  - Number of trees
  - Number of features to consider

A parameter whose value is used to control the training process.

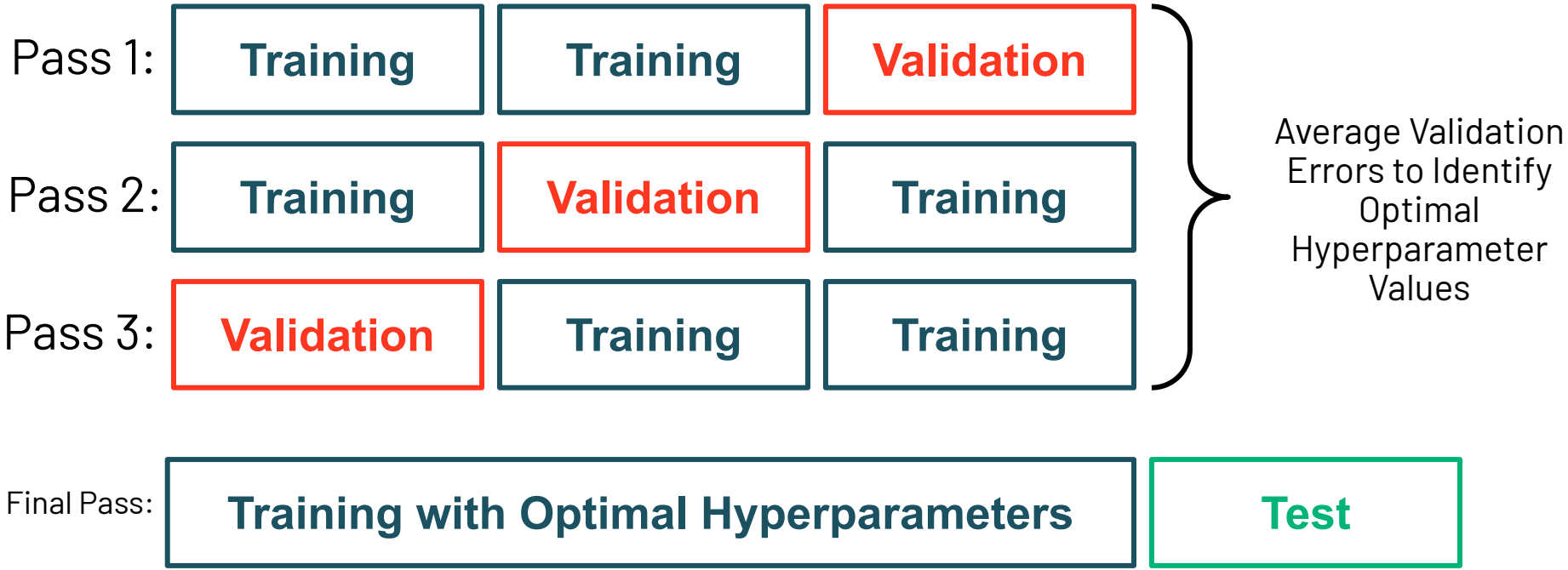
Selecting Hyperparameter Values

- Build a model for each hyperparameter value
- Evaluate each model to identify the optimal hyperparameter value
- What dataset should we use to train and evaluate?



What if there isn't enough data to split into three separate sets?

K-Fold Cross Validation



Optimizing Hyperparameter Values

Grid Search

- Train and validate every unique combination of hyperparameters

Tree Depth	Number of Trees
5	2
8	4

Tree Depth	Number of Trees
5	2
5	4
8	2
8	4

Question: With 3-fold cross validation, how many models will this build?

HYPERPARAMETER TUNING DEMO

HYPERPARAMETER TUNING LAB

Hyperparameter Tuning with Hyperopt

databricks

Problems with Grid Search

- Exhaustive enumeration is expensive
- Manually determined search space
- Past information on good hyperparameters isn't used
- So what do you do if...
  - You have a training budget
  - You have a non-parametric search space
  - You want to pick your hyperparameters based on past results

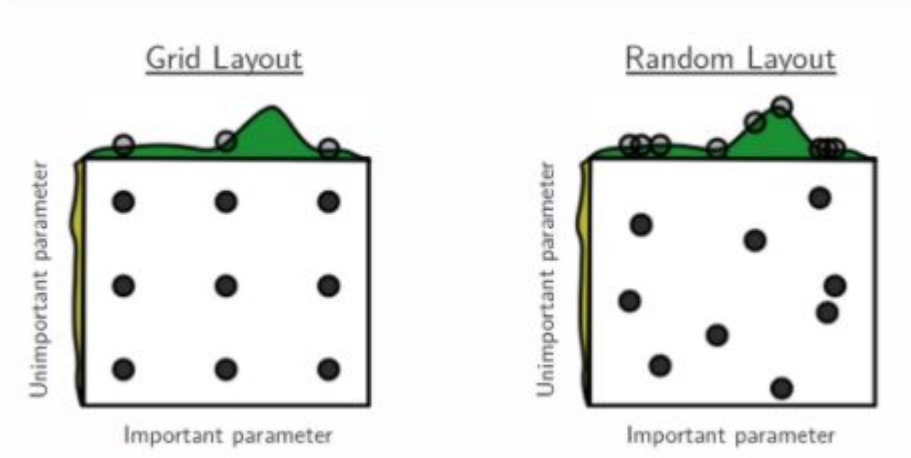
Hyperopt

- Open-source Python library
- Optimization over *awkward search spaces*
- Serial
- Parallel
- Spark integration
- Three core algorithms for optimization:
  - Random Search
  - Tree of Parzen Estimators (TPE)
  - Adaptive TPE

Paper

Optimizing Hyperparameter Values

Random Search



- Generally outperforms grid search
- Can struggle on some datasets (e.g. convex spaces)

Optimizing Hyperparameter Values

Tree of Parzen Estimators

- Meta-learner, Bayesian process
- Non-parametric densities
- Returns candidate hyperparameters based on best expected improvement
- Provide a range and distribution for continuous and discrete values
- Adaptive TPE better tunes the search space
  - Freezes hyperparameters
  - Tunes number of random trials before TPE

HYPEROPT DEMO

HYPEROPT LAB

MLlib Deployment Options

databricks

Data Science vs. Data Engineering

- Data Science != Data Engineering
- Data Science
  - Scientific
  - Art
  - Business problems
  - Model mathematically
  - Optimize performance
- Data Engineering
  - Reliability
  - Scalability
  - Maintainability
  - SLAs

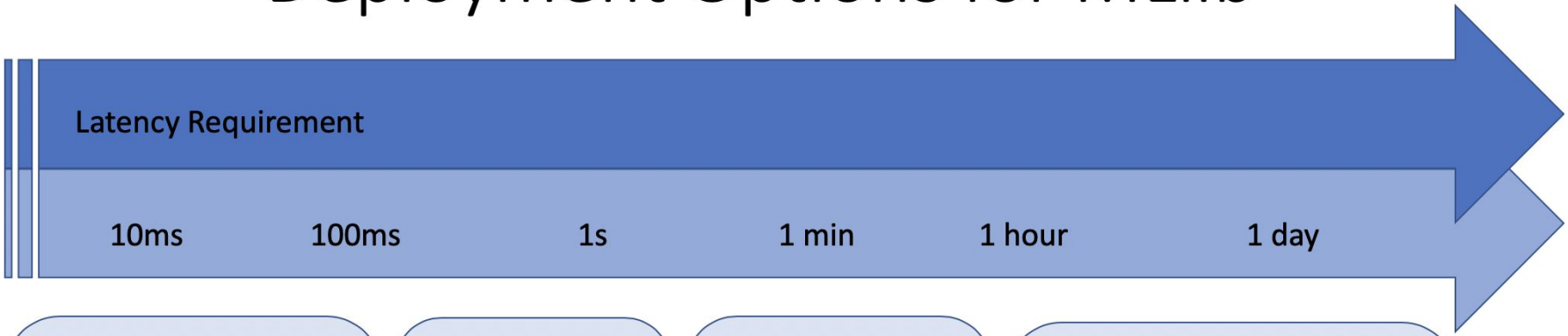
Model Operations (ModelOps)

- DevOps
  - Software development and IT operations
  - Manages deployments
  - CI/CD of features, patches, updates, and rollbacks
  - Agile vs. waterfall
- ModelOps
  - Data modeling and deployment operations
  - Java environments
  - Containers
  - Model performance monitoring

The Four ML Deployment Options

- Batch
  - 80-90 percent of deployments
  - Leverages databases and object storage
  - Fast retrieval of stored predictions
- Continuous/Streaming
  - 10-15 percent of deployments
  - Moderately fast scoring on new data
- Real-time
  - 5-10 percent of deployments
  - Usually using REST (Azure ML, SageMaker, containers)
- On-device

Deployment Options for MLlib



Real-time

Spark-less highly available prediction server

Near Real-time

Prediction Server with Spark

Streaming

Structured Streaming

Batch

Spark Batch Processing

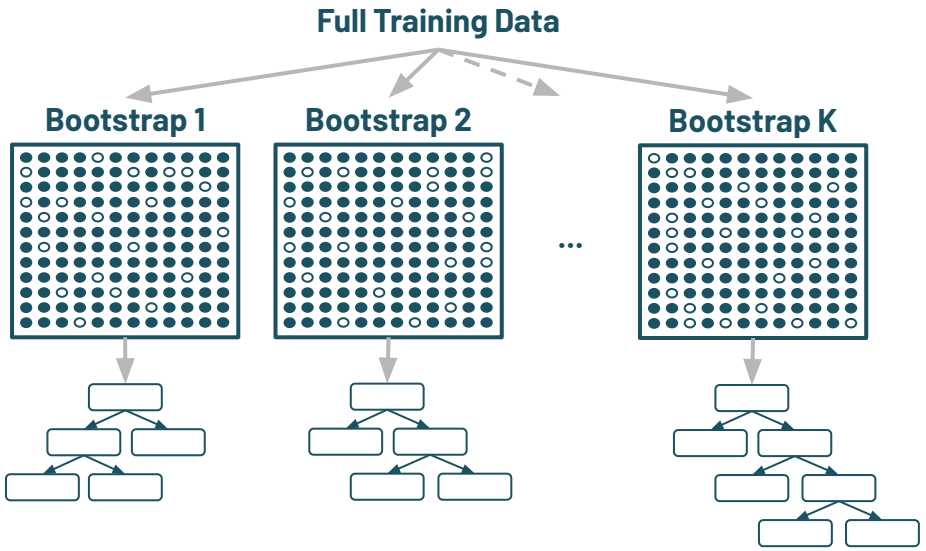
ML DEPLOYMENT DEMO

Gradient Boosted Decision Trees

databricks

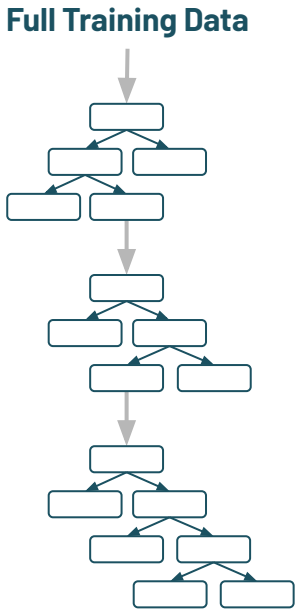
Decision Tree Ensembles

- Combine many decision trees
- Random Forest
  - Bagging
  - Independent trees
  - Results aggregated to a final prediction
- There are other methods of *ensembling* decision trees



Boosting

- Sequential (one tree at a time)
- Each tree learns from the last
- Sequence of trees is the final model



Gradient Boosted Decision Trees

- Common boosted trees algorithm
- Fits each tree to the residuals of the previous tree
- On the first iteration, residuals are the actual label values

Model 1

Y	Prediction	Residual
40	35	5
60	67	-7
30	28	2
33	32	1

Model 2

Y	Prediction	Residual
5	3	2
-7	-4	-3
2	3	-1
1	0	1

Final Prediction

Y	Prediction
40	38
60	63
30	31
33	32

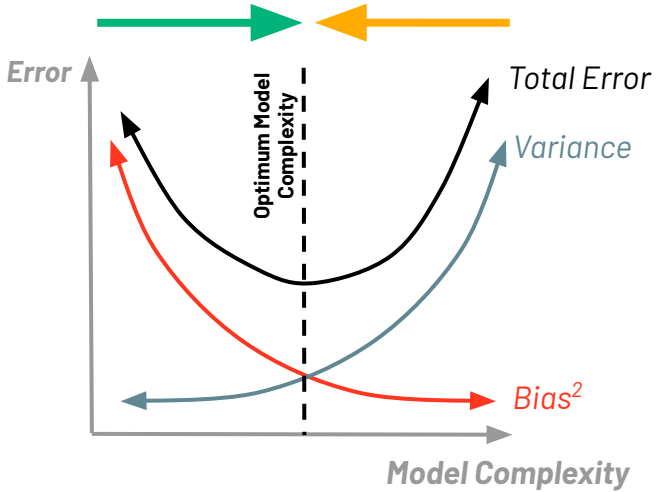
Boosting vs. Bagging

GBDT

- Starts with high bias, low variance
- Works right

RF

- Starts with high variance, low bias
- Works left



Gradient Boosted Decision Trees Implementations

- Spark ML
  - Built into Spark
  - Utilizes Spark's existing decision tree implementation
- XGBoost
  - Designed and built specifically for gradient boosted trees
  - Regularized to prevent overfitting
  - Highly parallel
  - Works nicely with Spark in Scala

XGBOOST DEMO

Appendix

databricks

Electives

The following electives are also available:

- Machine Learning Algorithms and Applications
  - **K-Means**
  - **Logistic Regression Lab**
  - **Time Series Forecasting**
  - **Isolation Forests for Outlier and Fraud Detection**
  - **Collaborative Filtering for Recommendation Systems Lab**
- Tools
  - **Joblib**
- Other
  - **Databricks Best Practices**

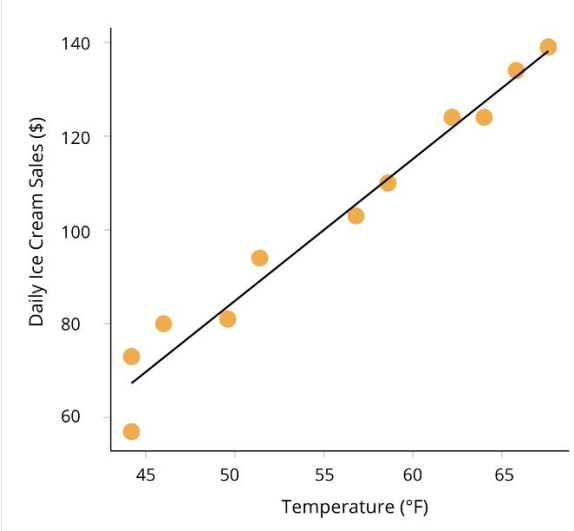
Logistic Regression

databricks

Types of Supervised Learning

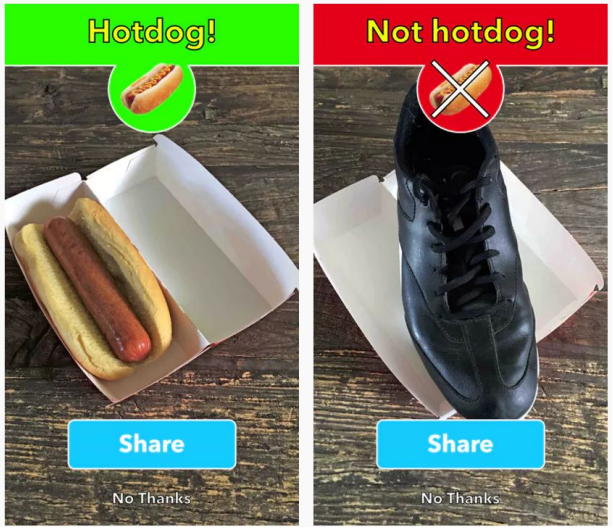
Regression

- Predicting a continuous output



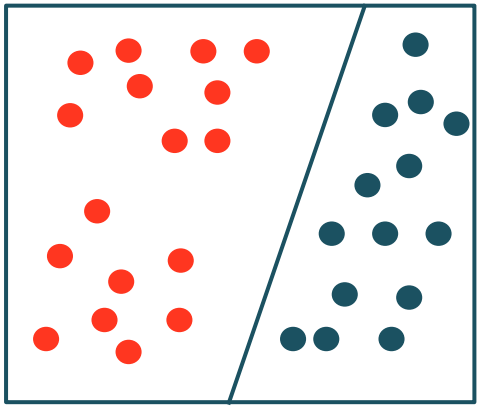
Classification

- Predicting a categorical/discrete output

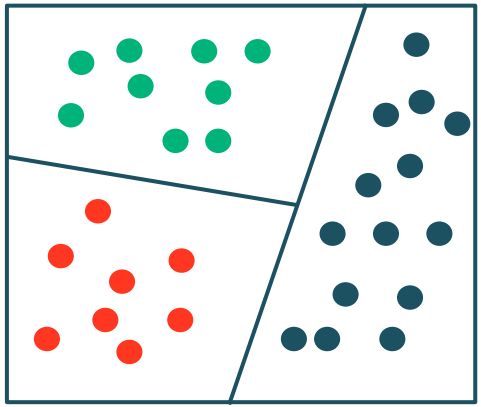


Types of Classification

Binary Classification
Two label classes



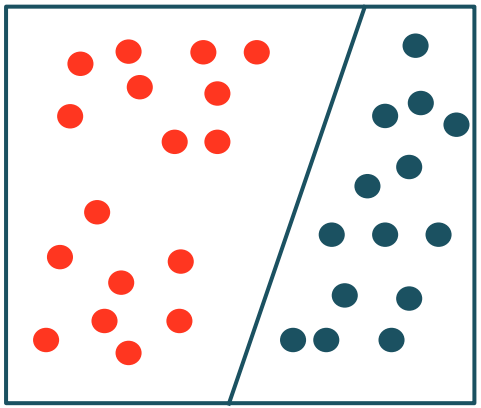
Multiclass Classification
Three or more label classes



Model output is commonly the **probability** of a record belonging to **each of the classes**.

Binary Classification

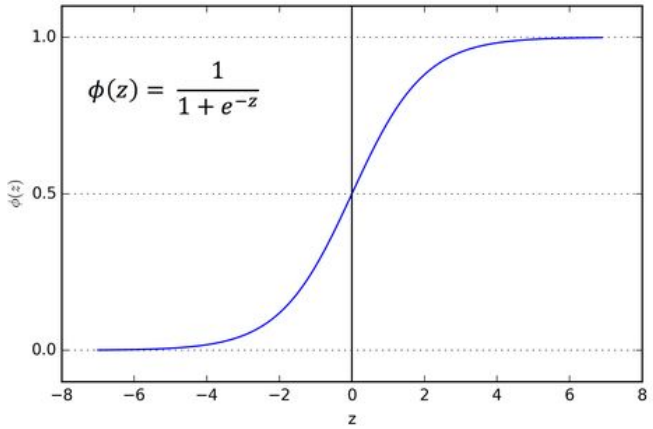
Binary Classification
Two label classes



- Outputs:
  - Probability that the record is **Red** given a set of features
  - Probability that the record is **Blue** given a set of features
- Reminders:
  - Probabilities are bounded between 0 and 1
  - And linear regression returns any real number

Bounding Binary Classification Probabilities

How can we keep model outputs between 0 and 1?



- Logistic Function:
  - Large positive inputs ⟶ 1
  - Large negative inputs ⟶ 0

Converting Probabilities to Classes

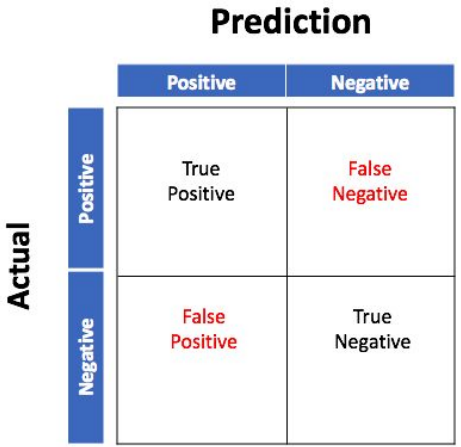
- In binary classification, the class probabilities are directly complementary
- So let's set our **Red** class equal to 1, and our **Blue** class equal to 0
- The model output is $\mathbf{P}[y = 1 \mid x]$ where x represents the features

> But we need **class** predictions, not **probability** predictions

- Set a threshold on the probability predictions
  - $\mathbf{P}[y = 1 \mid x] < 0.5 \rightarrow y = 0$
  - $\mathbf{P}[y = 1 \mid x] \geq 0.5 \rightarrow y = 1$

Evaluating Binary Classification Models

- How can the model be wrong?
  - Type I Error: False Positive
  - Type II Error: False Negative
- Representing these errors with a **confusion matrix**.



Binary Classification Metrics

Accuracy

$$\frac{TP + TN}{TP + FP + TN + FN}$$

Precision

$$\frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

Recall

$$\frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

F1

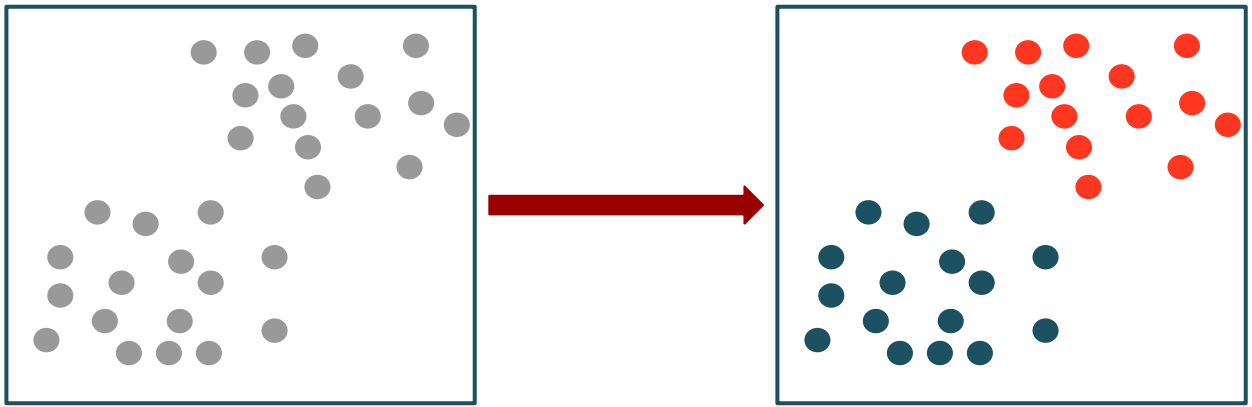
$$\frac{2 \times Precision \times Recall}{Precision + Recall}$$

K-Means

databricks

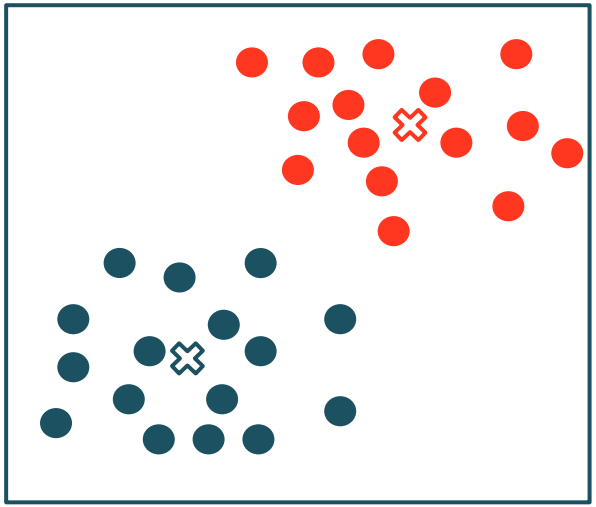
Clustering

- Unsupervised learning
- Unlabeled data (no known function output)
- Categorize records based on features



K-Means Clustering

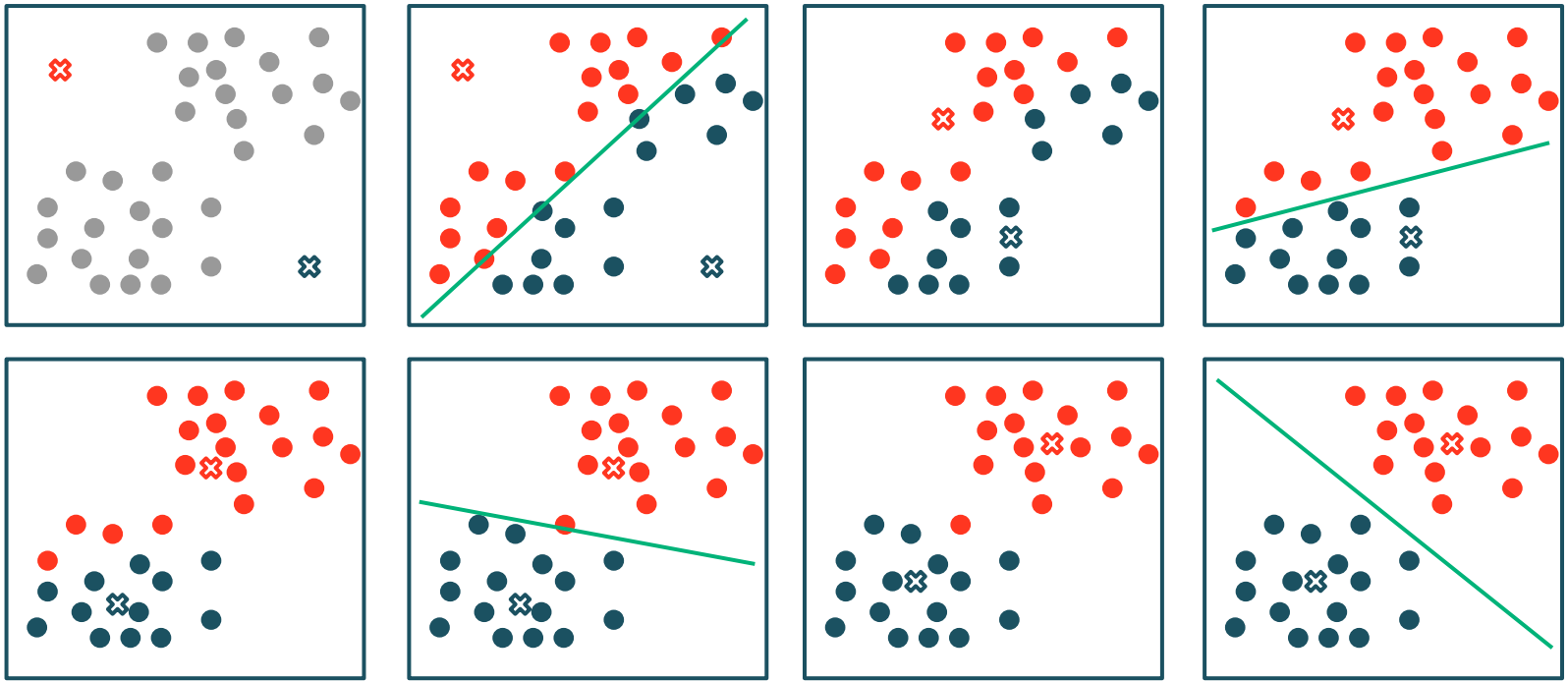
- Most common clustering algorithm
- Number of clusters, *K*, is manually chosen
- Each cluster has a centroid
- Objective of minimizing the total distance between all of the points and their assigned centroid



K-Means Algorithm

- **Step 1:** Randomly create centroids for *k* clusters
- Repeat until convergence/stopping criteria:
  - **Step 2:** Assign each data point to the cluster with the closest centroid
  - **Step 3:** Move the cluster centroids to the average location of their assigned data points

Visualizing K-Means



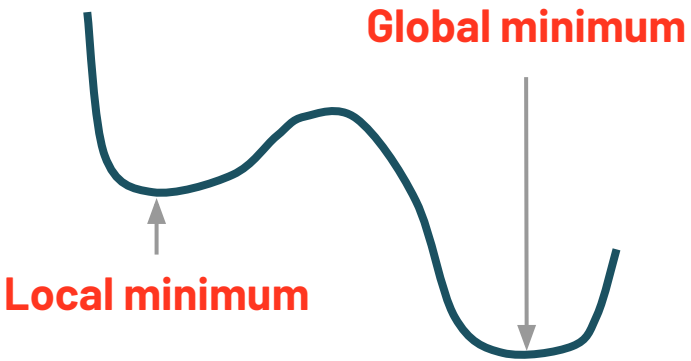
Choosing the Number of Clusters

- *K* is a hyperparameter
- Methods of identifying the optimal *K*
  - Prior knowledge
  - Visualizing data
  - Elbow method for within-cluster distance

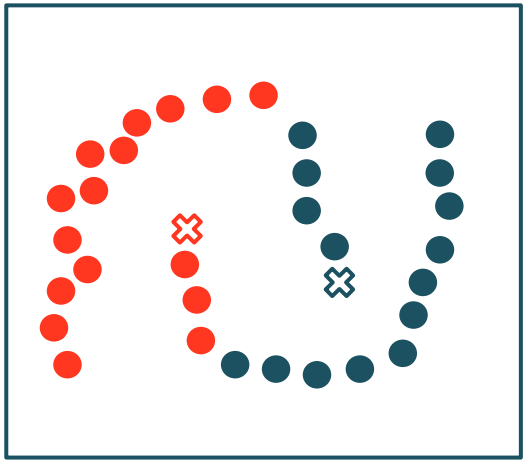
Note: Error will always decrease as *K* increases, unless a penalty is imposed.

Issues with K-Means

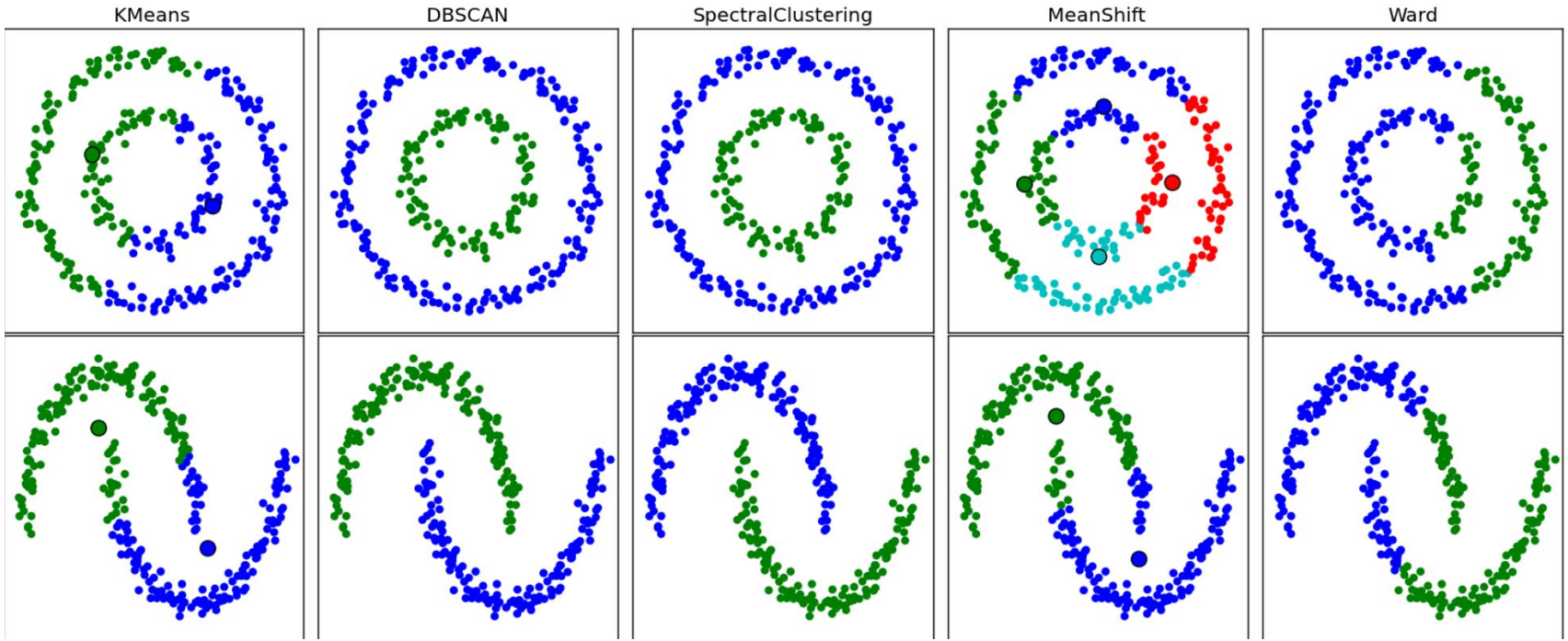
Local optima vs. global optima



Straight-line distance



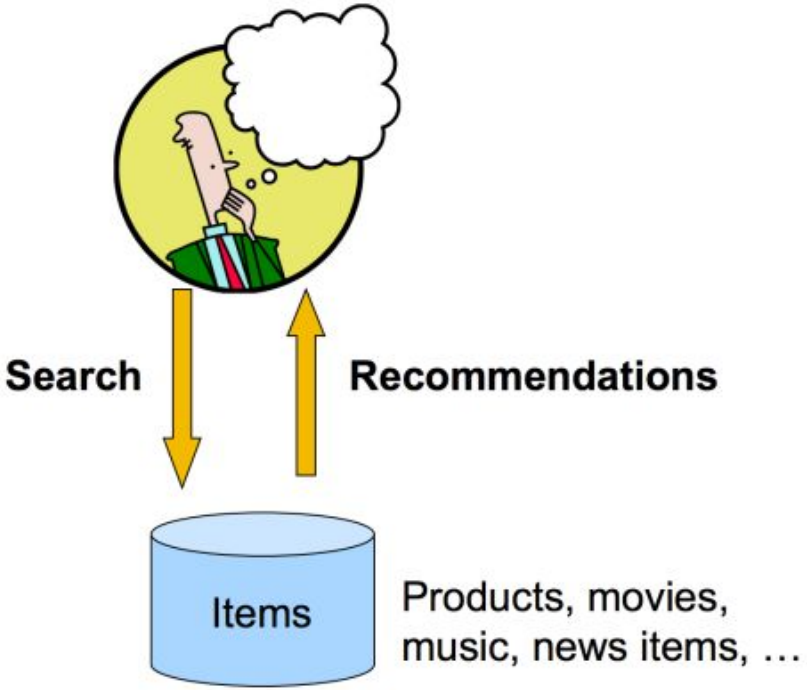
Other Clustering Techniques



Collaborative Filtering

databricks

Recommendation Systems



amazon.com. PANDORA

StumbleUpon

del.icio.us

NETFLIX

movielens
helping you find the *right* movies

last·fm
the social music revolution

Google News

YouTube

XBOX LIVE

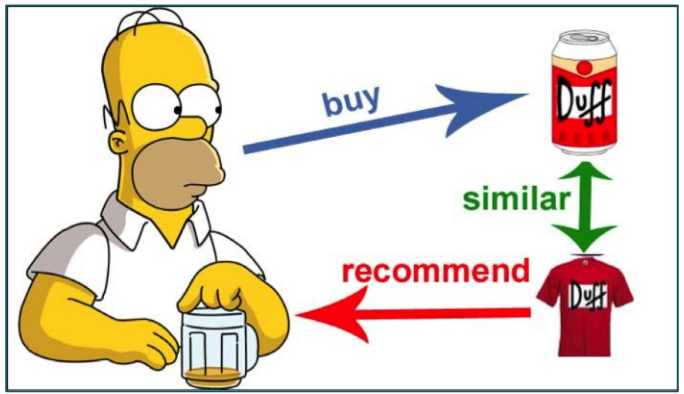
Naive Approaches to Recommendation

- Hand-curated
- Aggregates

Question: What are problems with these approaches?

Content-based Recommendation

- Idea: Recommend items to a customer that are *similar* to other items the customer liked
- Creates a profile for each user or product
  - User: demographic info, ratings, etc.
  - Item: genre, flavor, brand, actor list, etc.



Content-based Recommendation

- Advantages
  - No need for data from other users
  - New item recommendations
- Disadvantages
  - Cold-start problem
  - Determining appropriate features
  - Implicit information

Collaborative Filtering

- Idea: Make recommendations for one customer (filtering) by collecting and analyzing the interests of many users (collaboration)
- Advantages over content-based recommendation
  - Relies only on past user behavior (no profile creation)
  - Domain independent
  - Generally more accurate
- Disadvantages
  - Extremely susceptible to cold-start problem (user and item)

Types of Collaborative Filtering

- **Neighborhood Methods:** Compute relationships between items or users
  - Computationally expensive
  - Not empirically as good
- **Latent Factor Models:** Explain the ratings by characterizing items and users by small number of inferred factors
  - Matrix factorization
  - Characterizes both items and users by vectors of factors from item-rating pattern
  - Explicit feedback: sparse matrix
  - Scalable

Latent Factor Approach

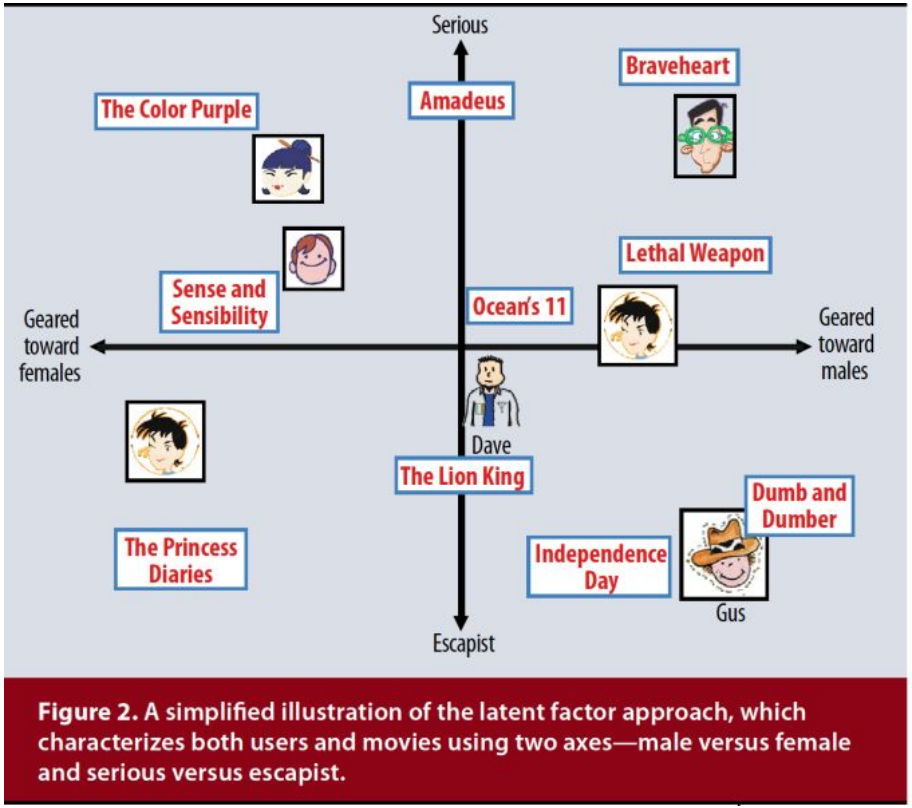
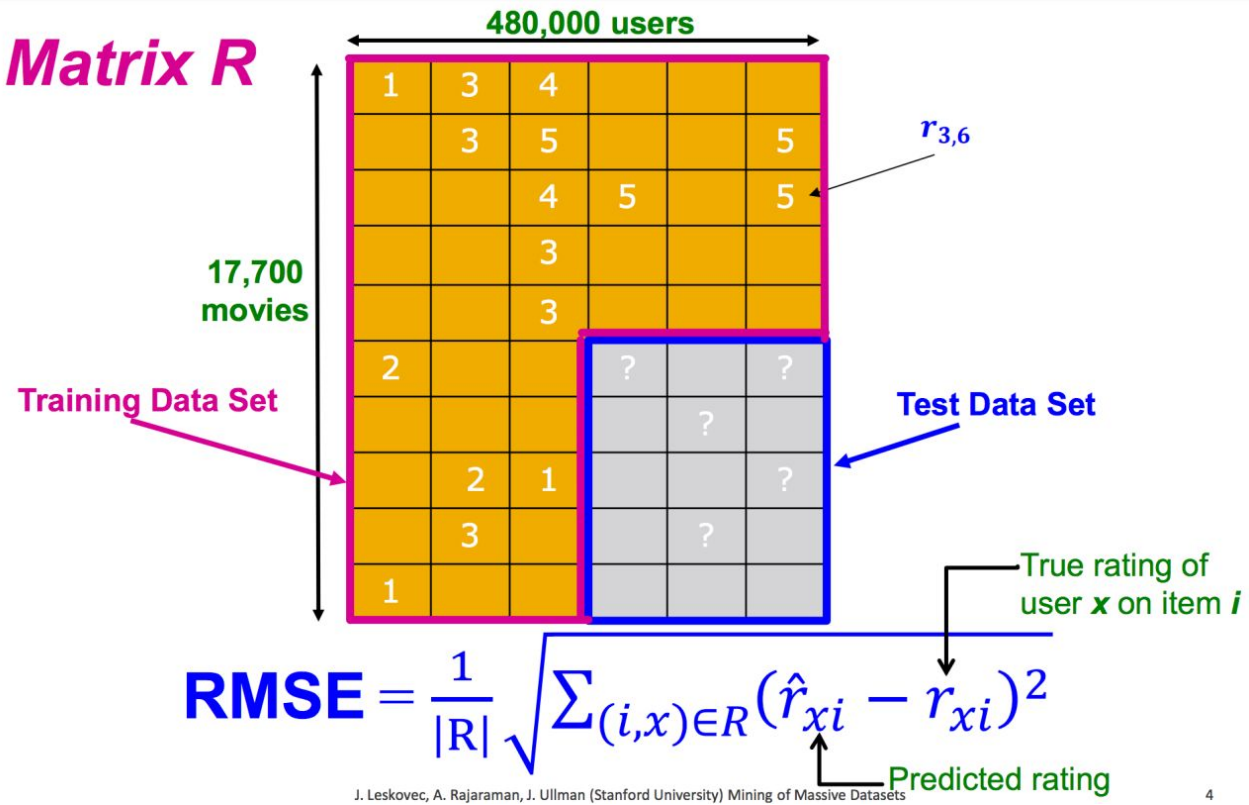
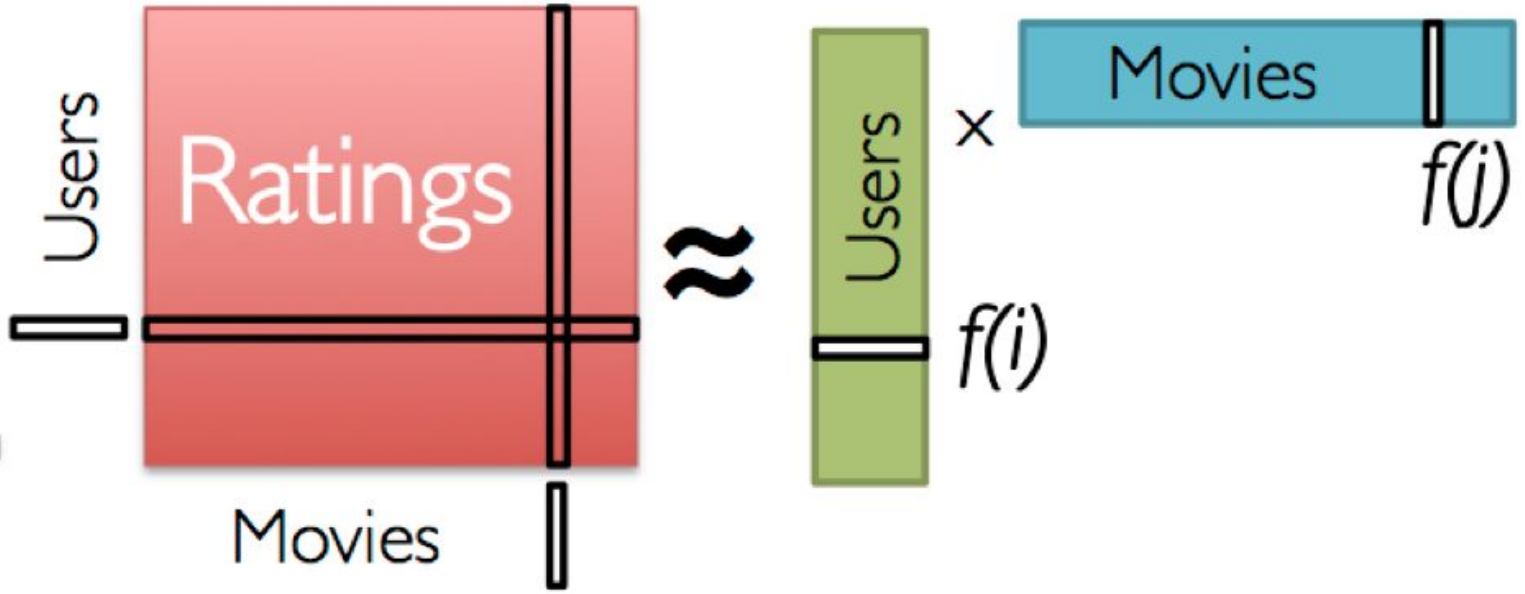


Figure 2. A simplified illustration of the latent factor approach, which characterizes both users and movies using two axes—male versus female and serious versus escapist.

Ratings Matrix



Matrix Factorization



Alternating Least Squares

- **Step 1:** Randomly initialize user and movie factors
- **Step 2:** Repeat the following
  1. Fix the movie factors, and optimize user factors
  2. Fix the user factors, and optimize movie factors

$$\min_{q*,p*} \sum_{(u,i)\in R} (r_{ui} - q_i^T p_u)^2 + \lambda(||q_i||^2 + ||p_u||^2)$$

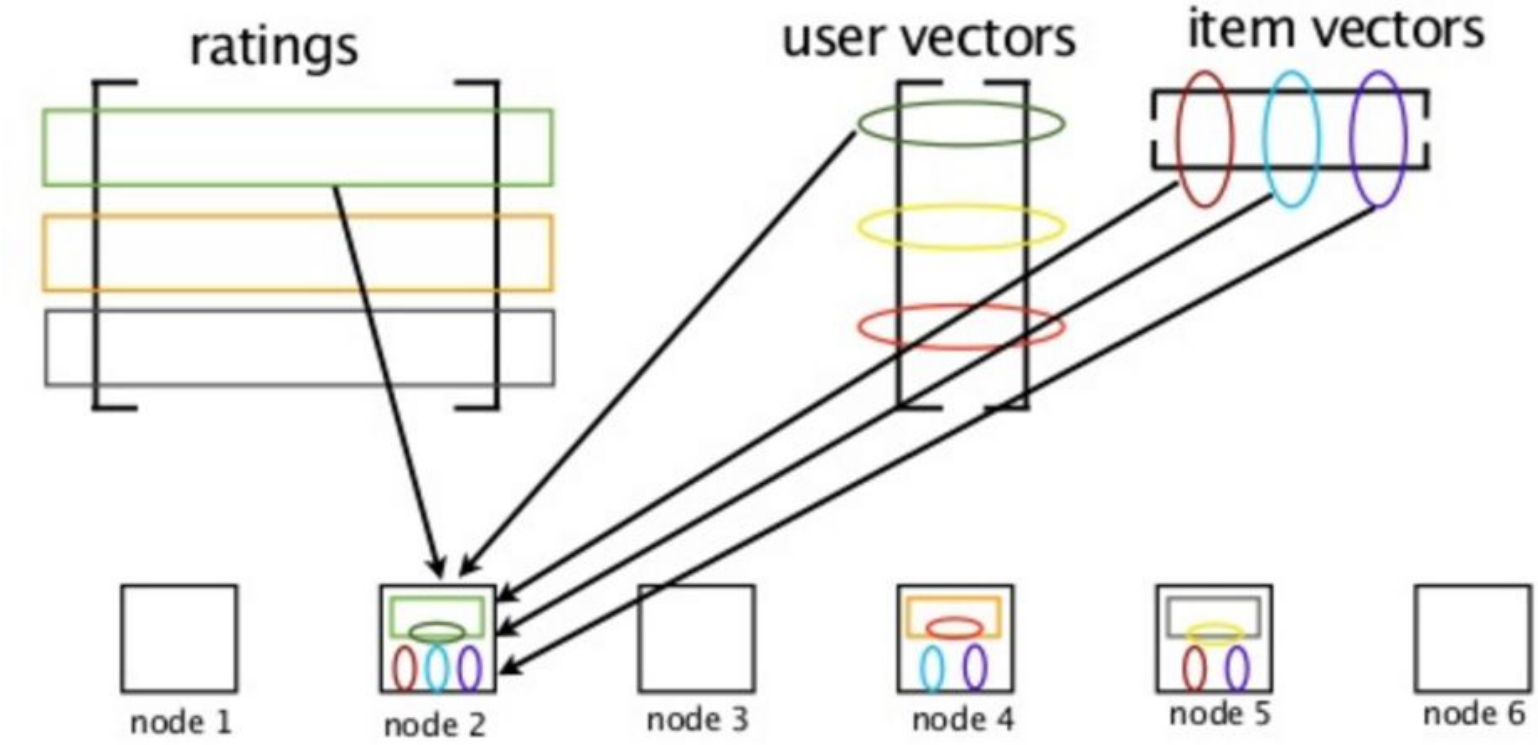
Why not SVD?

- The matrix is too sparse
- Imputation can be inaccurate
- Imputation can be expensive

Distributed ALS Implementation

- Naive approach
  - Broadcast R, U, and V
  - Problems?
  - R is large, and it's duplicating copies for each worker
- Better approach
  - Distribute R and broadcast U and V
  - Problems?
  - U and V might be large, too, and we're still duplicating copies
- Best approach
  - Join ALS

Join ALS


ratings
user vectors
item vectors
node 1
node 2
node 3
node 4
node 5
node 6

Blocked Join ALS

- Spark implements a smarter version of Join ALS
- Limits data shuffling
- ALS is a distributed model (i.e. stored across executors)