

Sequential Search

Hyperparameter response surface

Find the hyperparameters that minimize (or maximize) a performance metric.

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda^{(*)} &\approx \operatorname{argmin}_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \operatorname{mean}_{x \in \mathcal{X}^{(\text{valid})}} \mathcal{L}\left(x; \mathcal{A}_{\lambda}(\mathcal{X}^{(\text{train})})\right). \\ &\equiv \operatorname{argmin}_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \Psi(\lambda) \\ &\approx \operatorname{argmin}_{\lambda \in \{\lambda^{(1)} \dots \lambda^{(S)}\}} \Psi(\lambda) \equiv \hat{\lambda}\end{aligned}$$

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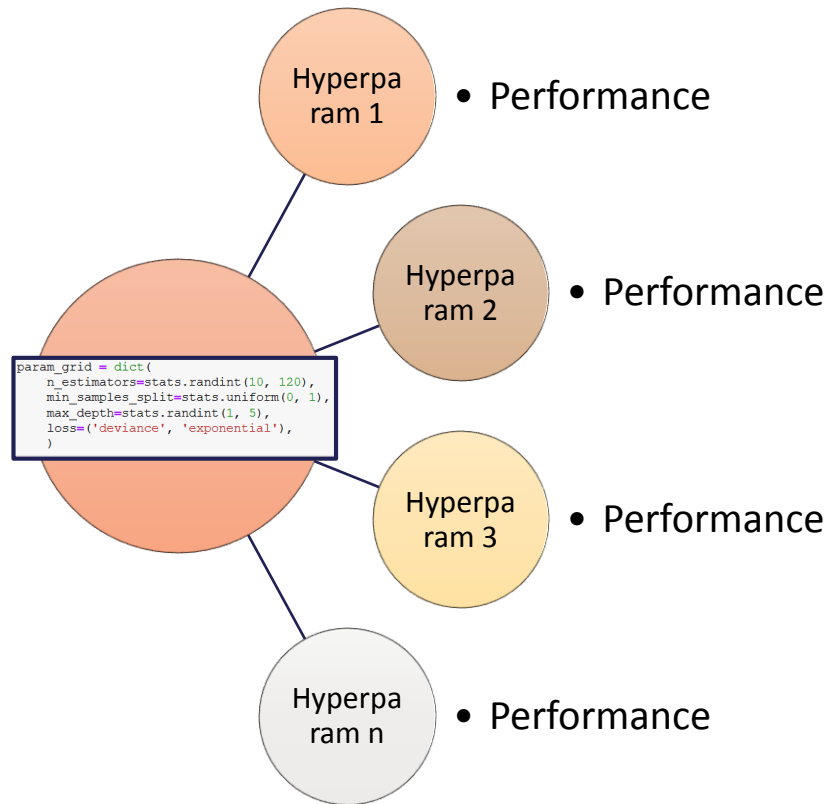
Response surface

- **A**: Algorithm
 - A_{λ} : Hyperparameters
- **X**: Dataset
- **L**: Function to optimise
 - Performance metric

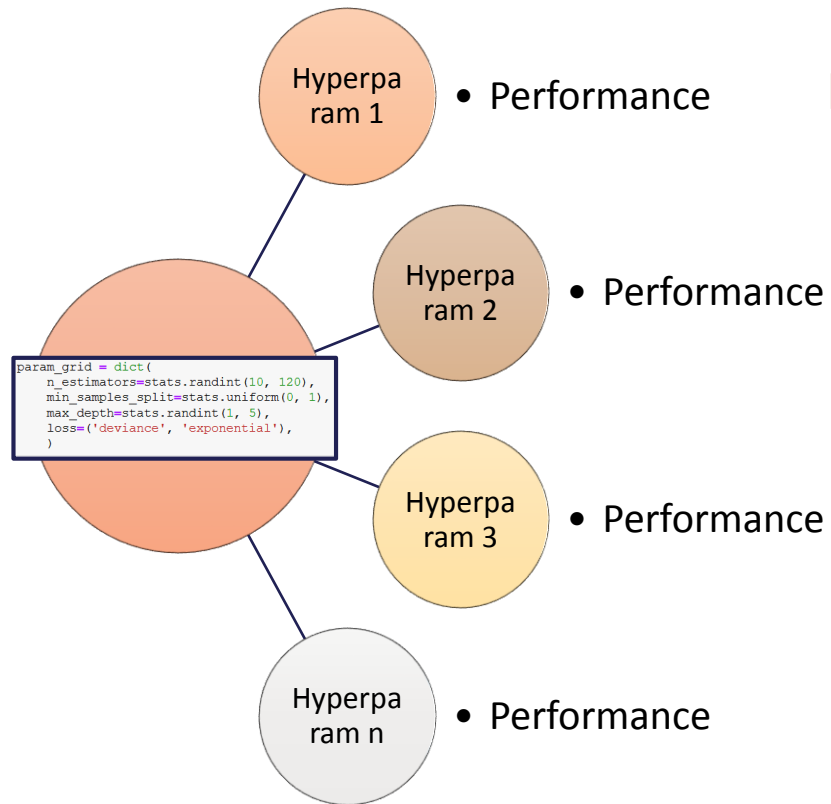
Hyperparameter Tuning: Challenges

- We can't define a formula to find the hyperparameters → **black box** function
- The response surface is not differentiable → it does not have a gradient
- Try different combinations of hyperparameter and evaluate model performance

Hyperparameter Search



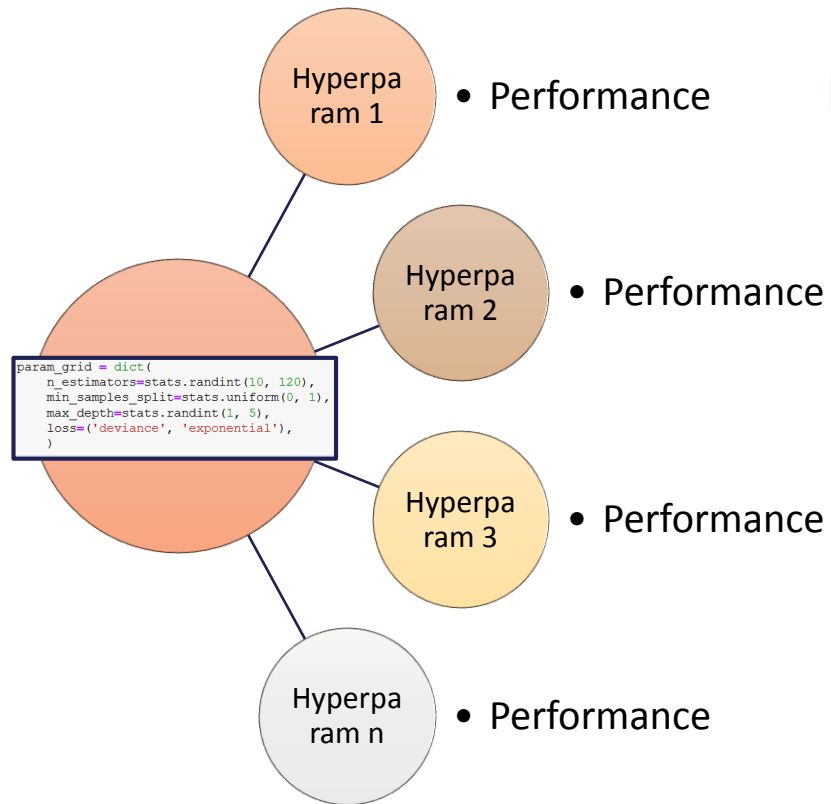
Hyperparameter Search



Fold 1	Fold 2	Fold 3	Fold 4	Fold 5
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- Train K models
- Estimate K metrics

Hyperparameter Search



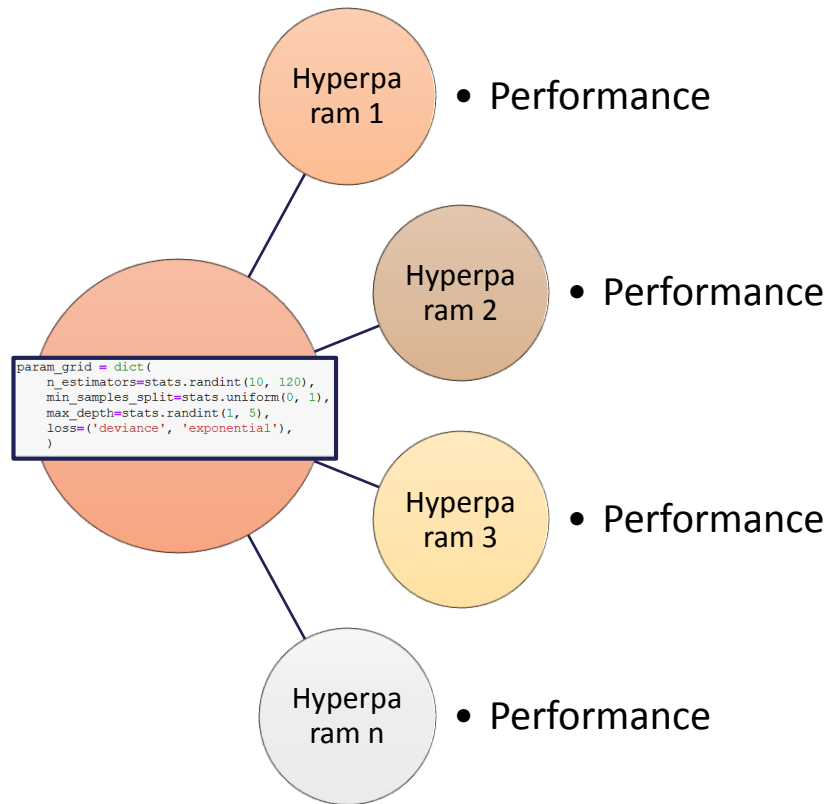
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- Train K models
- Estimate K metrics

If models are simple (i.e., linear models, tree based algorithms):

- Grid Search
- Random Search

Hyperparameter Search



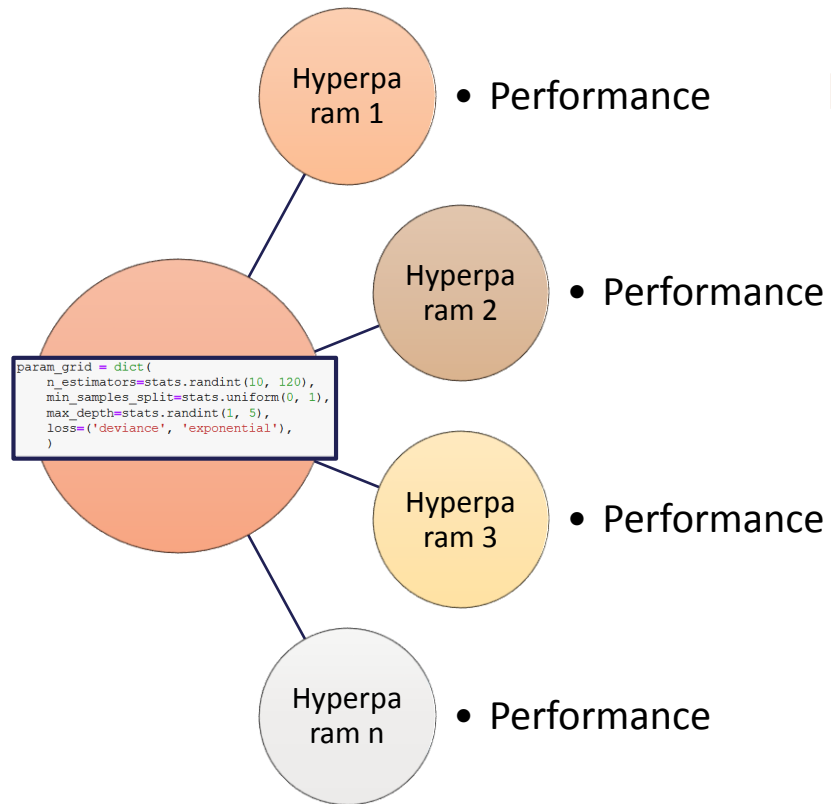
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- Train K models
- Estimate K metrics

If models are complex (i.e., Neural Networks):

- Training the model is very costly (time and money).
- Trying all possible combinations is **not an option**

Hyperparameter Search



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- Train K models
- Estimate K metrics

If models are complex (i.e., Neural Networks):

- Select smartly which hyperparameters we are going to evaluate.

Sequential Search

- Grid Search and Random Search generate all the candidate points up front and evaluate them in parallel.
- **Sequential search** techniques pick a few hyperparameter settings, evaluate their quality, then decide where to sample next.
 - ✓ Iterative and sequential process
 - ✓ Not parallelizable
 - ✓ Goal: make fewer evaluations, only of those most promising candidate hyperparameters

Sequential Search Trade-off

- Sequential search techniques pick a few hyperparameter settings, evaluate their quality, then **decide where to sample next**.
- Trade-off:
 - Less ML model training time × time to estimate where to sample next
- Sequential search makes sense when the **evaluation procedure** (training the model – performance) takes much longer than the process of **evaluating where to sample next**.

Bayesian Optimization

- **Bayesian optimization** is a sequential strategy for global optimization of black-box functions, which does not assume any functional forms.
- **Bayesian optimization** is usually employed to optimize expensive-to-evaluate functions.

THANK YOU

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