## AI: Strategy + Marketing (MGT 853) ML Essentials (Session 2)

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Yale School of Management Spring 2025

#### **Definitions: Al and ML**

#### **Artificial Intelligence**

"...Intelligence can in principle be so precisely described that a machine can be made to simulate it." (John McCarthy)

#### **Machine Learning**

 "The field of study that gives computers the ability to learn without explicitly being programmed" (Arthur Samuel)

#### What's the difference?

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#### **Machine Learning**

- "The field of study that gives computers the ability to learn without explicitly being programmed" (Arthur Samuel)
- "Improve over Task T with resect to some performance measure P based on experience E" (Tom Mitchell)

#### What's the difference?



ML primarily is "learning from data"



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Rest of the course will focus on ML (use interchangeably with AI)

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- Integrating Prediction with decision making can be challenging (Module B)



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Most commonly used form of ML in practice



Logistic Regression
Polynomial Regression
Support Vector
Machines
Decision Trees
Deep Neural Nets

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Can use for exploratory analysis and segmentation even when question is unclear



Cluster Analysis K-means K-Nearest Neighbor Association Rule Mining Principal Components Analysis

Impact of AI

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#### **Practicum**

- Intro to Google Colab
- Building an ML model in Colab
- Before the model (Pre-processing)

## Agenda for Today's Session

- Impact of AI
- Elements of ML model
  - Supervised Models
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- In the model (In-processing)
- After the Model (Post-processing)

# **ML** Pipeline

### Data

Training, Validation and Test

### Why do we need to split data?

Peeking is a consequence of using test-set performance to both choose a hypothesis and evaluate it. The way to avoid this is to really hold the test set out — lock it away until you are completely done with learning and simply wish to obtain an independent evaluation of the final hypothesis. (And then, if you don't like the results . . . you have to obtain, and lock away, a completely new test set if you want to go back and find a better hypothesis.)

Russell and Norvig (Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach)

### Data

Training, Validation and Test

### Why do we need to split data?

If the test set is locked away, but you still want to measure performance on unseen data as a way of selecting a *good hypothesis*, then divide the available data (without the test set) into a training set and a validation set.

Russell and Norvig (Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach)

Why?

### What is Data Pre-processing?

Transforming the Raw Data to a format that is suitable for use in an ML algorithm. Two types of pre-processing: Lossy and Lossless

• Identify anomalies in the data (missing values, duplicates, outliers, inconsistent or implausible values etc.)

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- Consistent format of possibly acquired from multiple sources
- Reduce algorithmic bias (How?)

#### What is Feature Engineering?

The process of identifying specific features, transforming them, or creating new features from data is called feature engineering.

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- Lots of possibilities with unstructured data



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- For Random Forest hyperparameters, see:

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https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.
```

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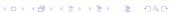
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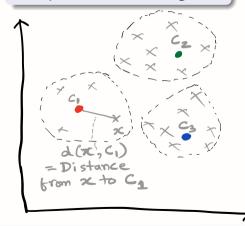
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- More complex models could have:
  - more parameters
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  - more flexible functions (quadratic versus linear)
- Complex models can often explain training data very well (technical video)
- But the question is do they "generalize" such performance when



### K-means

### What is K-means?

Group similar data together



- Group data so that points are close to the center of their clusters, but far away from other clusters
- Let's say the center of cluster i is C<sub>i</sub>
- Any point x in the cluster has a distance of  $d(x, C_i) = (x - C_i)$  from the center
- How do you decide which cluster a point "belongs to"? See which center is the closest to the point.
- There are many such points x in the cluster so we sum over all of them

### K-means

- Details at: https://towardsdatascience.com/ the-math-and-code-behind-k-means-clustering-795582423666
- Probably the most common unstructured ML method used
- Typically used for customer segmentation (finding "similar" groups of customers)
- K is a **hyperparameter** chosen based on the business application
  - Typically K = 2,3,4 in applications
- Can devise different interventions for each group
- Other Applications:

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https://dzone.com/articles/
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10-interesting-use-cases-for-the-k-means-algorithm

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- ML methods have many challenges including underfitting / overfitting
- Need to carefully choose appropriate methods for your problem