

Leveraging user-interaction and auxiliary data to learn from small data

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Context

- Supervised **machine learning** (ML) is about learning input-output models from data
- It has recently gained popularity through several successes with important media coverage
- Those were mostly possible thanks to:
 - **Plenty of data** (*big data*)
 - High computational power
- Those criteria are essential to get the best performance out of common ML methods

Problem

- In practice, those two criteria are not always met.
- Especially, data can be scarce. One can then talk about **small data** !

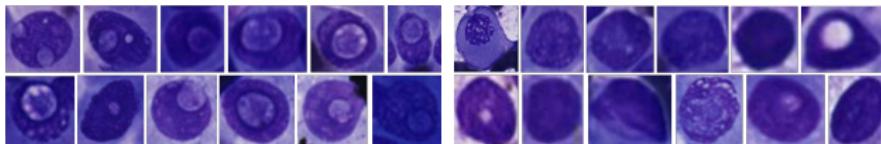
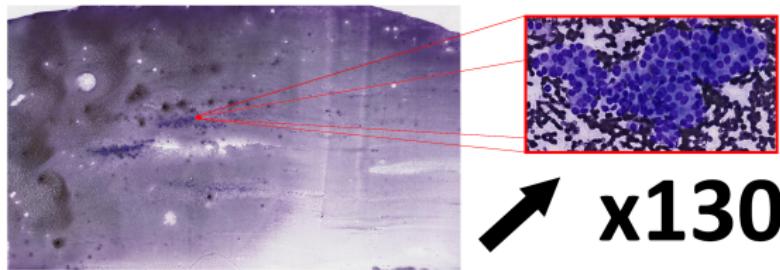
Small data: "the amount of data is not large enough with respect to the complexity of the task at hands"

N.B.: in *small data* settings, the amount of data is not necessarily small in absolute terms

Case study

Rare object detection and categorization in high-resolution tissue images.

Thyroid nodule malignancy diagnosis



(b) Malignant

(c) Healthy

Objectives

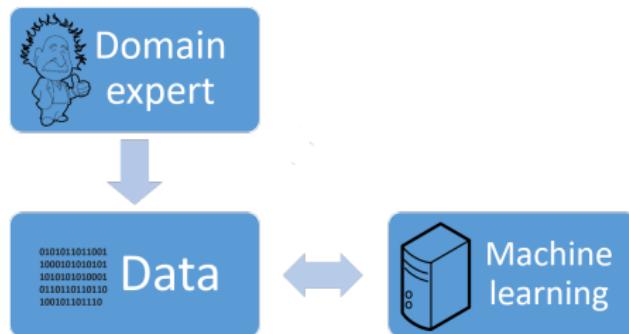
Explore and develop new methods adapted to *small data* problems.

Tracks and research questions:

1. *Interactive machine learning (iML)* : how to **integrate human operators to the learning process** in order to improve performances of ML methods?
2. *Transfer learning*: how to **leverage any available auxiliary data** for reaching the same goal ?

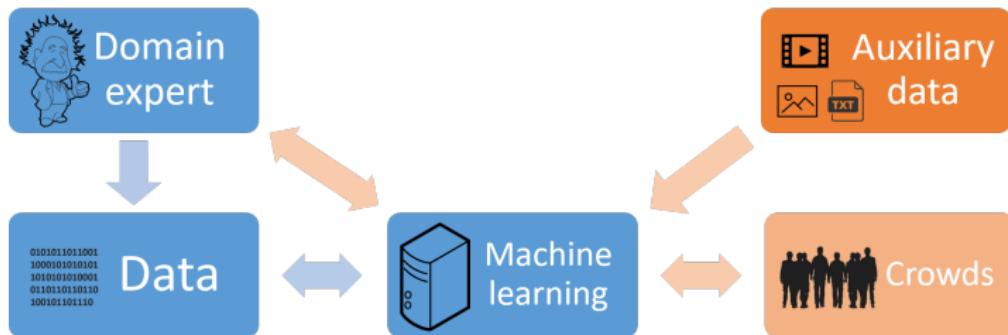
Typical machine learning

From ...



Integrating human(s) and auxiliary data

To ...



Interactive machine learning

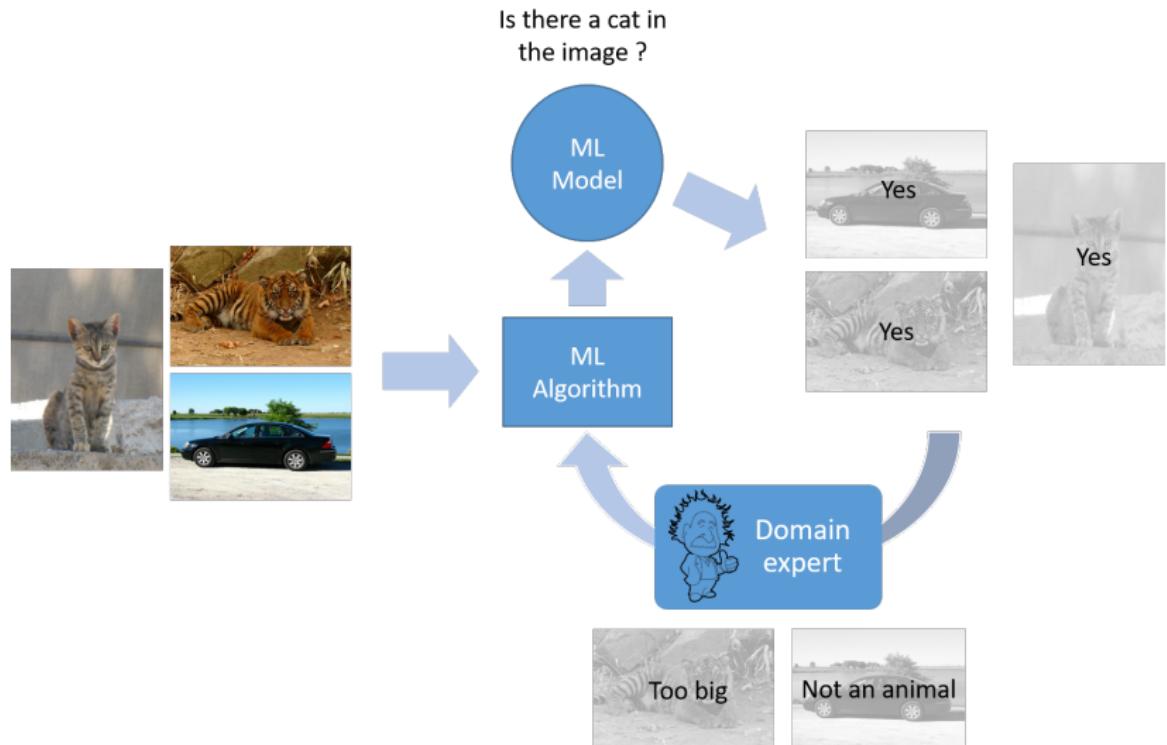
State of the art:

- Mostly **active learning** (i.e. smart example labelling)
- Few developments around richer forms of feedback

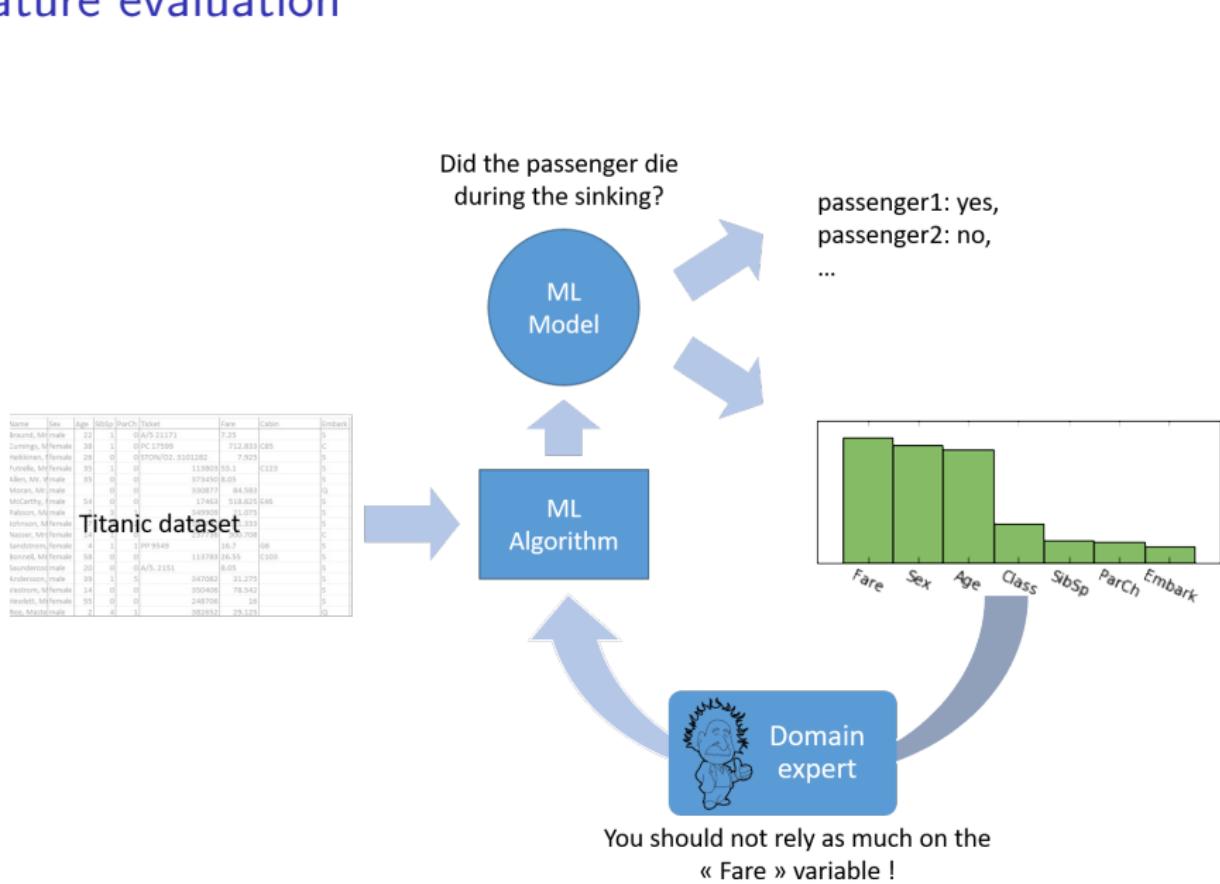
Methodological challenges:

- How to **minimize the number of interactions** ? (the method/system must *ask the right questions*)
- How to **minimize time between each interaction** ? (the method/system must *be fast and reactive*)
- How to **integrate the feedbacks** to the learning process ?

Error labelling

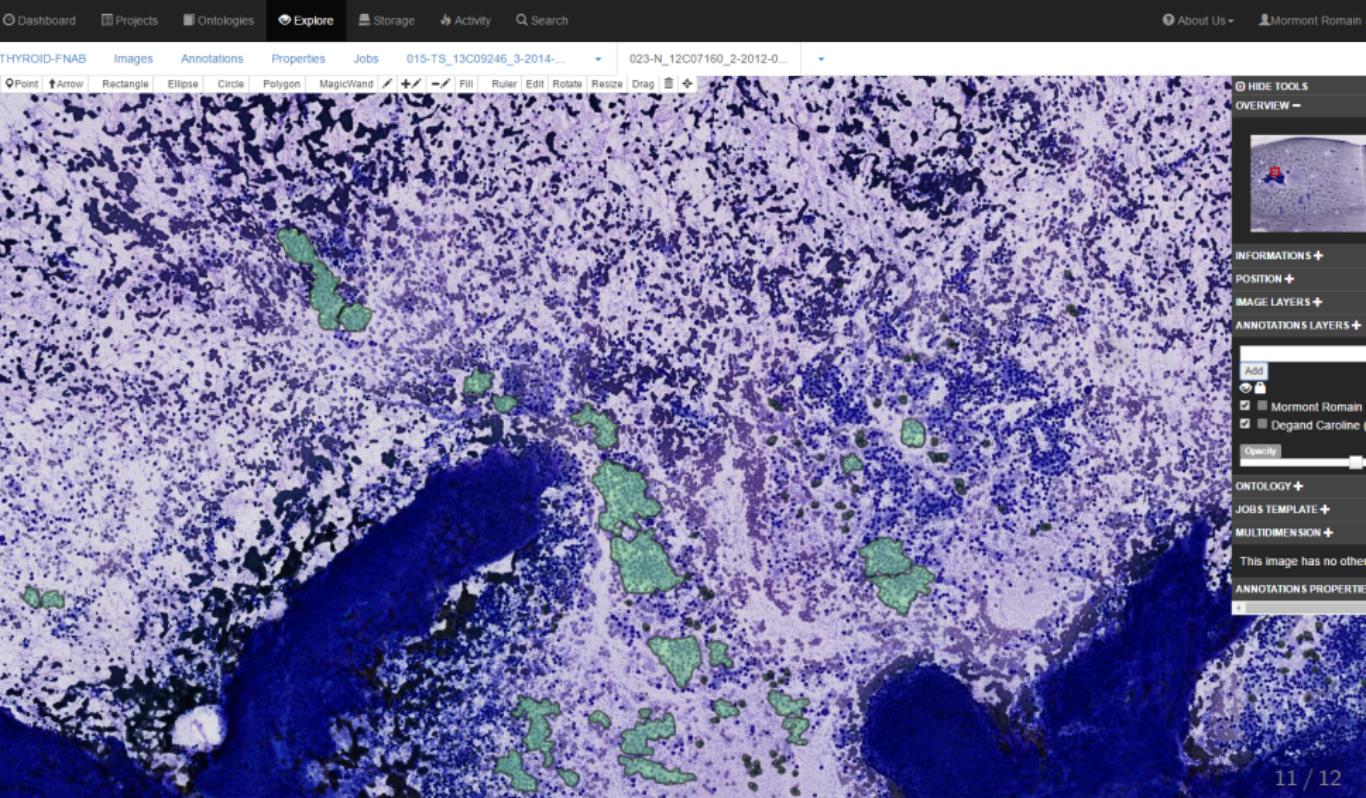


Feature evaluation

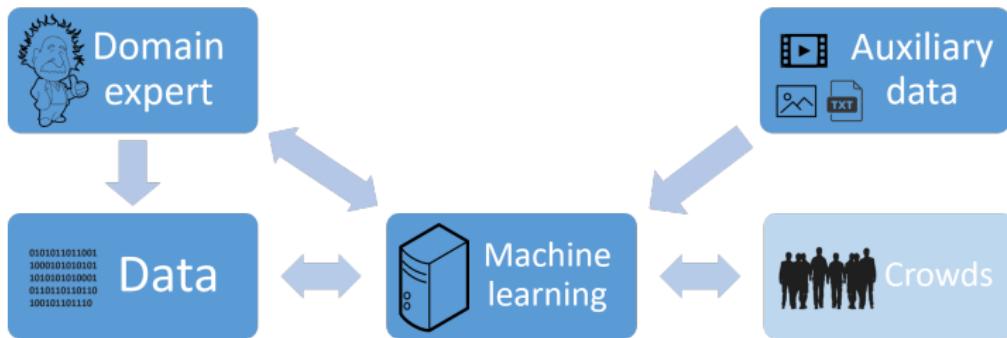


A platform ready for user-interaction

cytominer open-source web platform will be used for collecting feedback from experts and from the crowds.



Thank you for your attention!
Any question ?

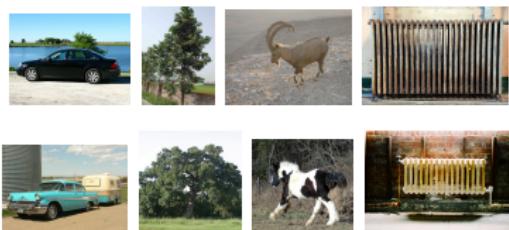


Small data: illustration

Big data ImageNet¹

Dataset:

- 14M labelled images
- Enough data to learn inter- and intra-class variabilities

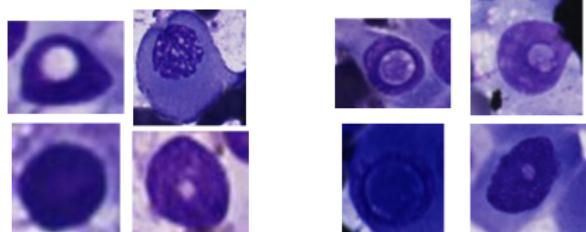


Typical images from ImageNet

Small data Thyroid nodule malignancy

Dataset:

- 6K labelled images
- Most important objects (i.e. malignant) are rare

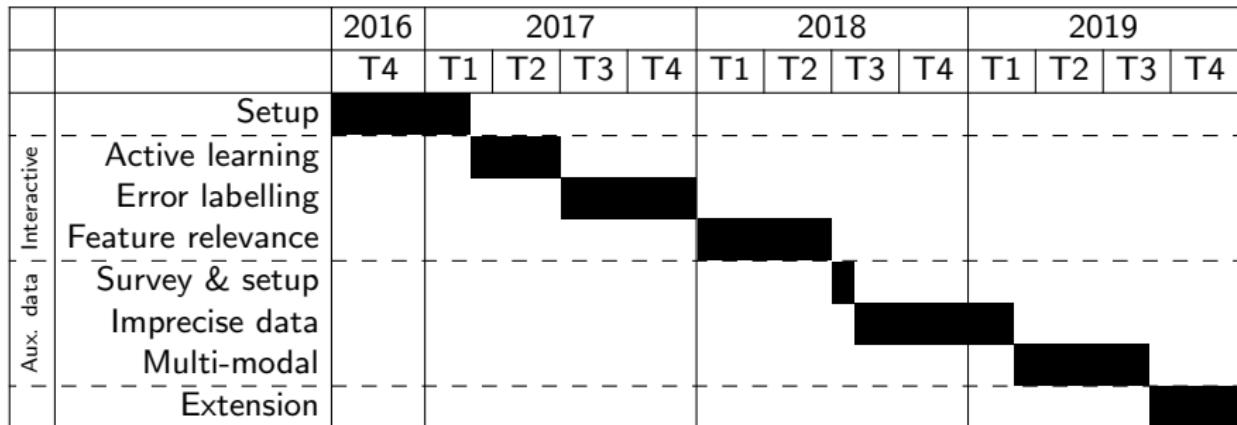


(a) Healthy

(b) Malignant

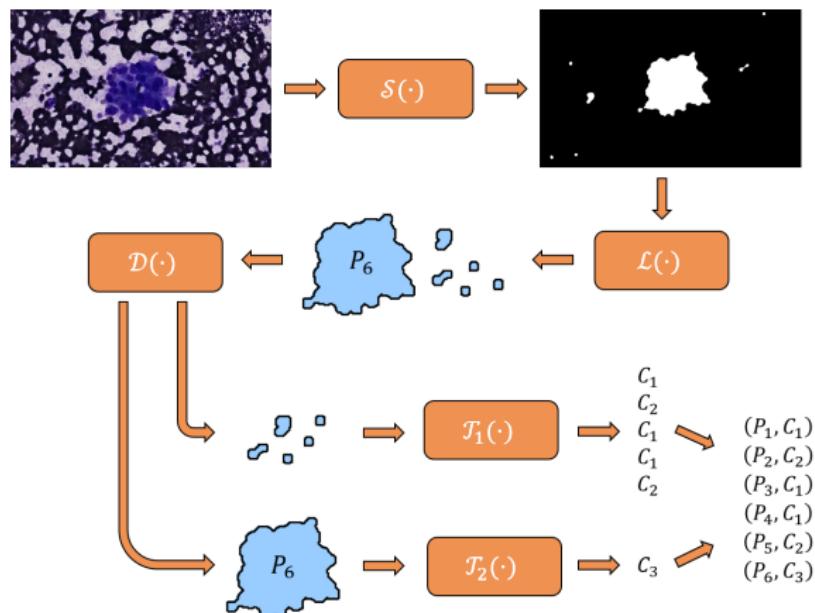
¹Deng & al. *ImageNet: A Large-Scale Hierarchical Image Database*. In CVPR09, 2009.

Work calendar

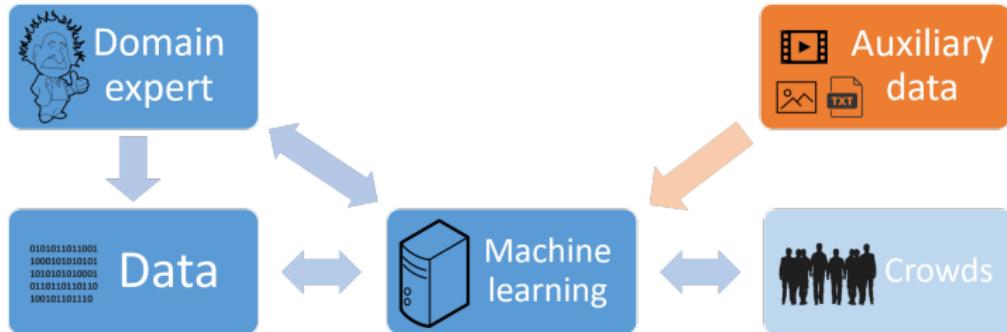


| | | 2020 | | | |
|--|-----------|------|----|----|----|
| | | T1 | T2 | T3 | T4 |
| | Extension | █ | | | |
| | Writing | | █ | █ | |

A workflow for large-scale computer-aided cytology and its applications.



Question 2: transfer learning ?



Methodological challenges:

- **What information should be transferred** to improve performances and avoid negative transfer?
- **How to integrate this information** into the methods ?

Question 2: transfer learning ?

Focus on two settings:

- Imprecise measurements
- Multi-modal images

