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# Principles of Machine Learning

The Three Perspectives



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# Part I Perspectives

1 Introduction

2 On Perspectives

## 2 On Perspectives

## 2 On Perspectives

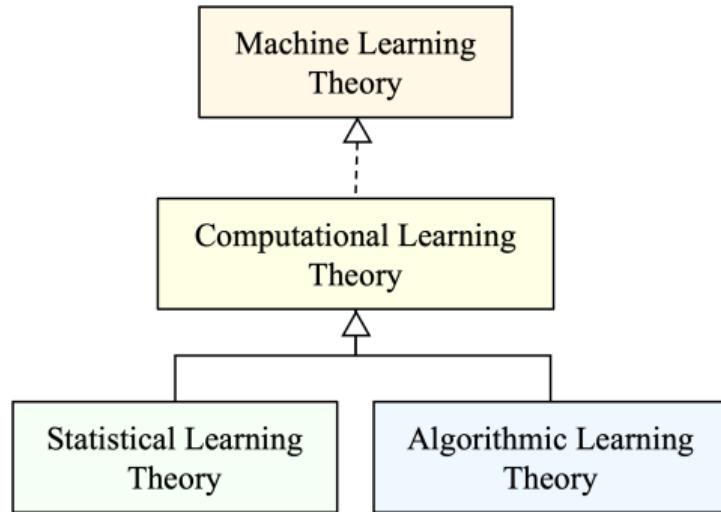
- 2.1 Learning and Perspectives
- 2.2 Foundations of Machine Learning
- 2.3 Difficulties in Studying Machine Learning
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- 2.5 Perspectives on Machine Learning
- 2.6 Relations Between the Perspectives

# Learning and Learning Theory

- Learning types:
  - Narrow learning: acquiring knowledge or skills through means such as textbooks;
  - Broad learning: gaining experience or skills in life.
- Learning styles:
  - A series of theories aimed at explaining individual learning differences.
- Learning machines:
  - Proposed by Alan Turing in 1950.
- Machine learning:
  - Proposed by Arthur Samuel in 1959.
- Learning Theory:
  - A topic studied in both education and machine learning.

# Machine Learning Theories

- Computational learning theory:  
a formalized learning theory  
based on probability theory.
- Statistical learning theory:  
a machine learning framework  
based on statistics.
- Algorithmic learning theory:  
a mathematical framework for  
analyzing machine learning  
problems and algorithms.



# About Perspectives

## What are perspectives

- Related to the angle and dimension of looking at a problem.
- One angle can only see one side, one dimension can only see one line.
- From multiple angles and dimensions can see full picture of things.

## Why multiple perspectives on machine learning

- Studying it from multiple perspectives can bring us closer to its essence.

## The three perspectives on machine learning

- 1) Theoretical perspective.
- 2) Methodological perspective.
- 3) Practical perspective.

## 2 On Perspectives

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# Major Foundations

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Mathematics        | Probability Theory  |
|                    | Statistics          |
|                    | Linear Algebra      |
|                    | Calculus            |
|                    | Geometry            |
|                    | Functional Analysis |
| Logic              |                     |
| Information Theory |                     |
| Decision Theory    |                     |
| Neuroscience       |                     |

# Mathematics: Probability Theory

## What is Probability Theory

- A mathematical theory on random phenomena and uncertain problems.
- Used to study the inherent laws in these phenomena and problems.
- Used to analyze the possibility of various outcomes using the theory.

## Two Schools in Probability Theory

- Frequentist Probability Theory
- Bayesian Probability Theory

## Theorems in Probability Theory

- Law of large numbers
- Central limit theorem
- Bayes' theorem.

# Mathematics: Early Representatives of Probability Theory



Girolamo Cardano (1501-1576)  
Italian Polymath  
*Book on Games of Chance*



Pierre de Fermat (1607–1665)  
French Mathematician  
*Problem of Points in gambling*



Blaise Pascal (1623–1662)  
French Mathematician  
*Problem of Points in gambling*



Christiaan Huygens (1629-1695)  
Dutch Mathematician  
*On Reasoning in Games of Chance*



Jacob Bernoulli (1654-1705)  
Swiss Mathematician  
*Law of large numbers (LLN)*



Thomas Bayes (1701-1761)  
British Mathematician  
*Bayes' theorem*



Pierre-Simon Laplace (1749-1827)  
French Polymath  
*Classical definition of probability*



Aleksandr Lyapunov (1857-1918)  
Russian Mathematician  
*Central limit theorem (CLT)*

# Mathematics: Statistics

## What is Statistics

- A discipline about the collection, organization, representation, analysis, interpretation, and prediction based on data.

## What is Mathematical Statistics

- The application of probability theory in statistics, as opposed to techniques for collecting statistical data.

# Mathematics: Early Representatives of Statistics



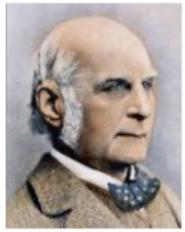
Girolamo Ghilini (1589-1668)  
Italian Scholar  
Proposed the term statistics



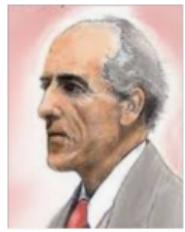
John Graunt (1620-1674)  
British demographer



William Petty (1623-1687)  
British demographer  
Census and statistical methods



Francis Galton (1822-1911)  
British polymath  
1st stage: Turned statistics into mathematics



Karl Pearson (1857-1936)  
British mathematician



William Gosset (1876-1937)  
British Statistician  
2nd stage: Foundation of modern statistics



Ronald Fisher (1890-1962)  
British Polymath  
2nd stage: Foundation of modern statistics



Egon Pearson (1895-1980)  
British Statistician  
3rd stage: Development of modern statistics



Jerzy Neyman (1894-1981)  
Polish Mathematician

# Mathematics: Linear Algebra, and Calculus

## What is Linear Algebra

- It studies systems of linear equations and their linear mappings.
- It involves the operations of scalars, vectors, matrices, and even tensors.
- A kind of continuous mathematics but not discrete mathematics.

## Two Major Branches of Calculus

- Differential calculus:  
it concerns the rates of change, and slopes of curves.
- Integral calculus:  
it can describe displacement, area, volume.

# Mathematics: Geometry, and Functional Analysis

## What is Geometry

- It studies shapes, sizes, relative positions of figures, and spatial properties.
- Its basic concepts include points, lines, surfaces, angles, distances, and manifolds.
- Geometric deep learning for structured data with geometric structure: graphs, point clouds, grids, geodesics, and manifolds, in Euclidean and non-Euclidean geometry.

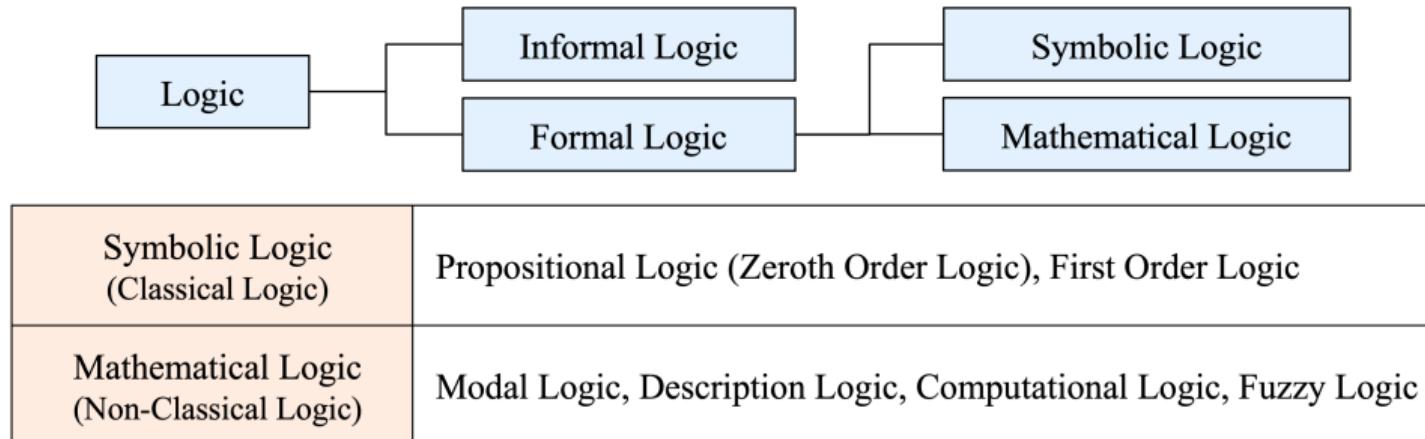
## What is Functional Analysis

- It studies transformation of functions and their algebraic and topological properties.

# Logic

## What is Logic

- Systematic study the form of reasoning used to draw correct conclusions.
- Broadly, logic is the analysis and evaluation of arguments.



# Information Theory

## What is Information Theory

- A research field for the quantification, storage, and communication of digital information.

## Measures in Information Theory

- Entropy: the amount of uncertainty involved in the value of a random variable or the outcome of a random process.
- Joint entropy
- Conditional entropy
- Mutual information
- Kullback–Leibler divergence (KL divergence)

# Decision Theory

## What is Decision Theory

- A theory of studying the agent's choice.
- A framework for choosing the optimal behavior in uncertain environment.

## Foundational Disciplines in Decision Theory

- Probability theory, and utility theory.

## Multi-Stage Decisions in Machine Learning

- Decision tree, random decision forest, etc.

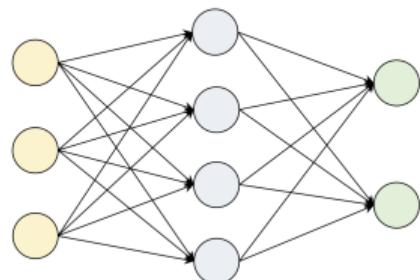
## Sequential Decision in Machine Learning

- Reinforcement learning.

# Neuroscience

## What is Neuroscience

- The science of studying nervous system and its functions.
- Neuron is the basic unit of the brain's nervous system.
- Neuroscience focuses on study how the brain processes information.
- Brain science is one of the main research contents of neuroscience.
- Connectionism establishes its computational model by simulating the function of biological neural networks.
- Artificial neural networks can be seen as an artificial manifestation of the brain.



## 2 On Perspectives

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## What the Difficulties We Faced

- There are too many machine learning algorithms that is too hard to count.
- And, numerous machine learning algorithms are also emerging every day.
- Studied several machine learning algorithms, we may find that we still haven't gotten out of the maze of machine learning.
- Because we are still unclear about the internal relationship of these algorithms, unable to grasp the overall picture of machine learning.

Different Problems, Different Methods, and Different Theories

## Different Problems

- Machine learning is to learn from data or the environment.
- As for data:  
there are different modalities, such as text, image, audio, or video.
- As for environment:  
it is necessary to know the current state and rewards.
- Different modalities of data or feedback of environments, present a diversity of problems.
- So, we need to collate and systematize these problems to understand, i.e.,

What to do.

## Different Methods

- The different methods refer to different machine learning algorithms.
- Some algorithms use a large amount of labeled data to train the machine learning model to make predictions on the actual unknown data.
- Some algorithms do not have labeled data but only need to focus on discovering similarities in the data.
- Some algorithms decide the next action based on the current state and reward from the environment.
- So, it is necessary to analyze what type those algorithms belong to, i.e.,

What type.

# Different Theories

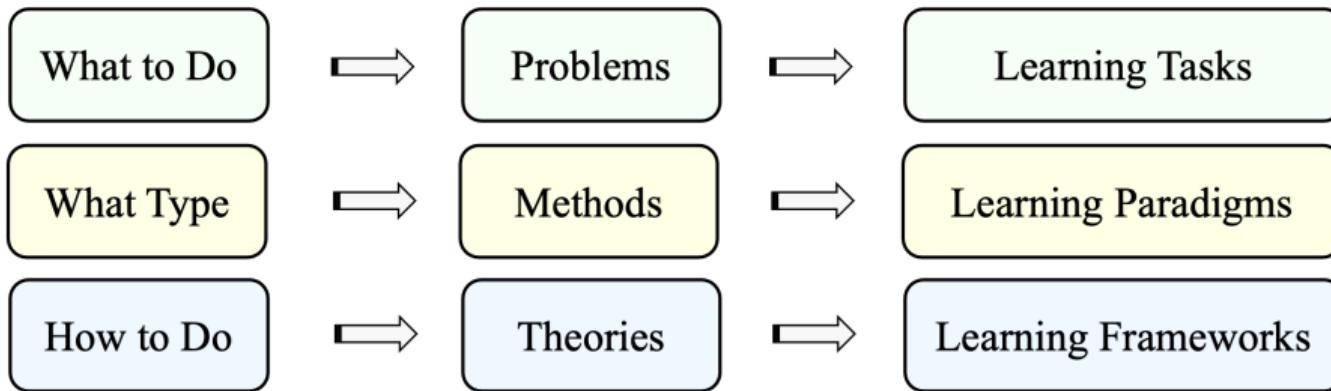
- Even for the same problem and the same method, there are many machine learning algorithms to consider or choose from.
- Foundational disciplines have been introduced, which include mathematics, logic, information theory, decision theory, and neuroscience.
- With these foundational disciplines as the framework, many algorithms and models have been formed. They should be collated and systematized.
- So, it should analyze the fundamental frameworks of these algorithms, i.e.,

How to do.

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# Chain of Thought of the Viewpoints



Viewpoints of the three perspectives.

## What to Do

We should know what we need to do:

- what "problems" to solve with machine learning,
- what kind of processing to do on the input data,
- what the output form is,
- what action needs to be taken on the current state and reward.

From those points, the tasks that machine learning needs to complete are derived, referred to as:

Learning tasks.

## What Type

It is related to the “methods” taken by machine learning algorithms:

- which machine learning model to use,
- how to improve the ability of prediction,
- how to improve the accuracy of analysis,
- how to interact with the environment.

From this point, the paradigms that machine learning needs to adopt are derived, referred to as:

Learning paradigms.

## How to Do

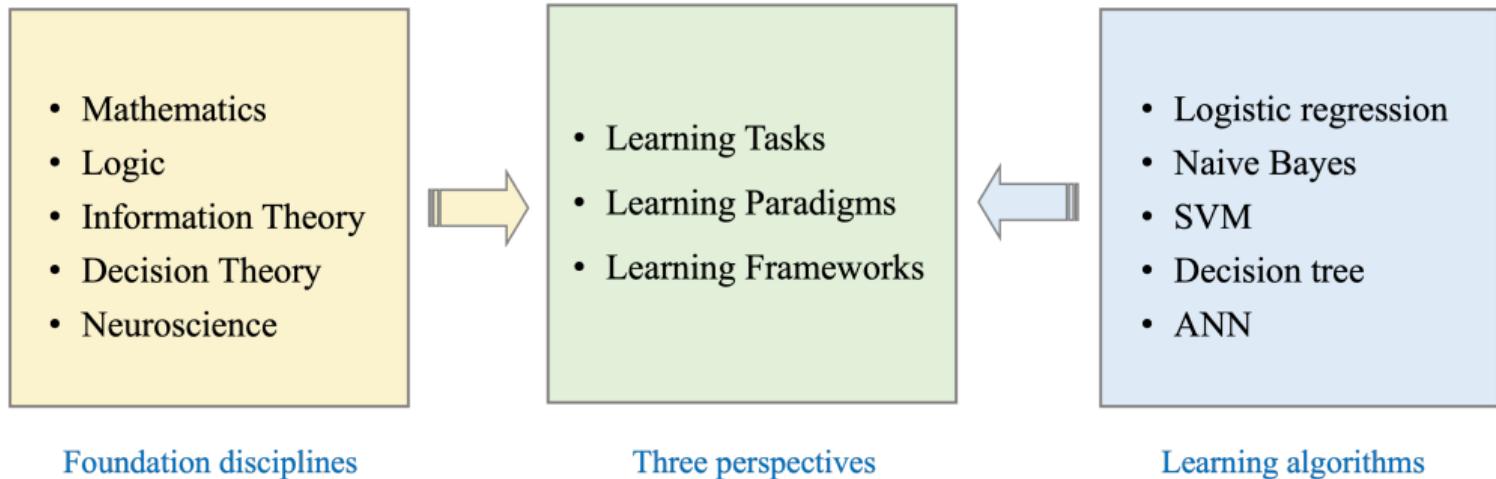
We also needs to consider:

- how to use suitable theories to design machine learning algorithms,
- from which the theoretical framework that machine learning algorithms depend on.

From this point, the frameworks that machine learning needs to based on are derived, referred to as:

**Learning frameworks.**

# Foundations, Algorithms, and Perspectives

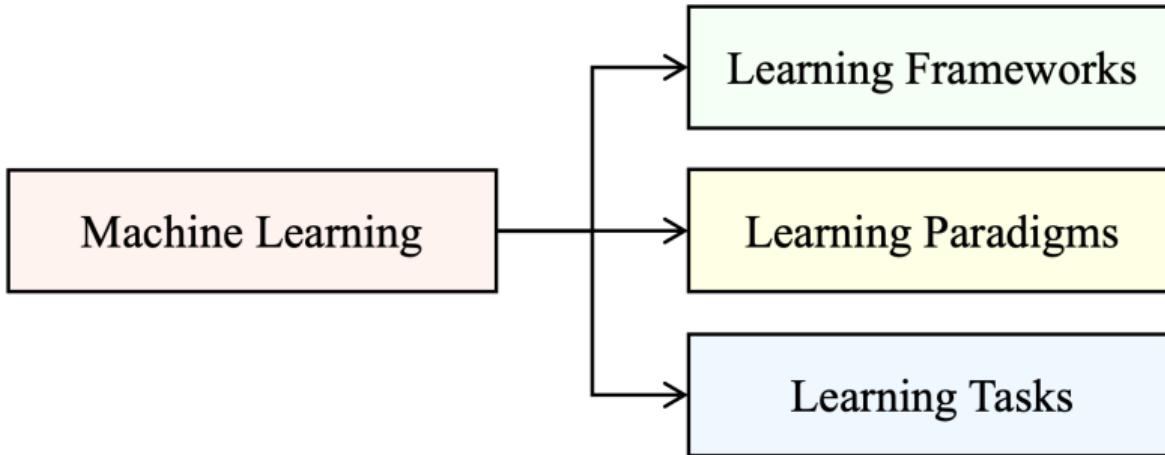


The perspectives come from foundations and algorithms of machine learning.

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# The Three Perspectives



# The Three Perspectives

| Types               | Description  |
|---------------------|--|
| Learning Frameworks | Denoting the different theories that can handle to fulfil some learning tasks. |
| Learning Paradigms  | Denoting the different approaches that are happened in machine learning.       |
| Learning Tasks      | Denoting the different problems that can be solved by machine learning.        |

# Learning Frameworks

## What are Learning Frameworks

A learning framework refers to a theoretical framework for the design of machine learning algorithms. It belongs to the theory level of machine learning rather than the data level or task level, and it is also different from the software framework used to build machine learning algorithms.

# Learning Frameworks

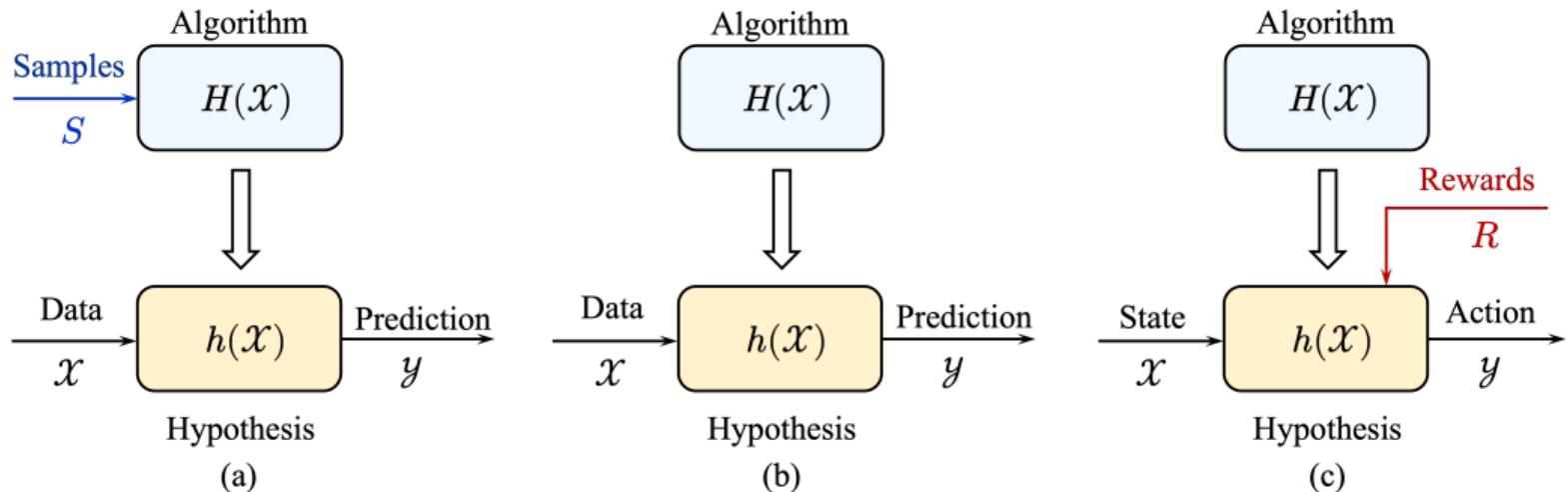
| Framework     | Brief Statements  | Sub-frameworks   |
|---------------|---|------------------|
| Probabilistic | Using probability to represent the conditional correlation of random variables. | Generative       |
|               |   | Discriminative   |
| Statistical   | Using statistics for constructing machine learning algorithms.                  | Parametric       |
|               |   | Non-parametric   |
| Geometric     | Using Euclidean or non-Euclidean geometry for data or algorithms.               | Hyperplane       |
|               |   | Manifold         |
|               |   | Point Cloud      |
| Connectionist | Based on the connectionist model of artificial neural networks.                 | Shallow/Deep     |
|               |   | Forward/Backward |
| Symbolic      | Based on the physical symbolic system.  | Logic-based      |
|               |   | Rule-based       |
|               |   | Causality-based  |
| Behavioral    | Based on the behavioral decision theory.  | Multi-step       |
|               |   | Sequential       |

# Learning Paradigms

## What are Learning Paradigms

A learning paradigm in machine learning refers to the pattern or style taken by learning algorithms. It is a division of the paradigm of machine learning, independent of specific applications. The main basis to distinguish a learning paradigm is how to learn from data, or how to interact with the environment.

# Learning Paradigms



# Learning Paradigms

| Paradigm      | Brief Statements  |
|---------------|---|
| Supervised    | The algorithm $H$ is trained with manually labeled samples $S$ , and the obtained hypothesis $h$ is then used to predict all unknown data.              |
| Unsupervised  | The algorithm $H$ is trained only with unlabeled data, and the obtained $h$ is then used to process all unknown data.                                   |
| Reinforcement | The algorithm $H$ is optimized to obtain $h$ , and then the next action is determined based on the current state and the reward $R$ of the environment. |

# Learning Tasks

## What are Learning Tasks

A learning task refers to a basic problem that can be solved by machine learning. It is a common problem abstracted from domain problems, and the algorithms of machine learning with the same mechanism can be used to complete this task.

# Learning Tasks

| Paradigm                 | Brief Statements                                    | Typical algorithm |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Classification           | Dividing input data into known categories.          | SVM               |
| Regression               | Outputting continuous rather than discrete value.   | Ridge regression  |
| Clustering               | Dividing input into groups unknown in advance.      | $k$ -Means        |
| Ranking                  | Transforming order of input data to their rankings. | PageRank          |
| Dimensionality reduction | Mapping high-dimensional data to low-dimensional.   | PCA               |
| Association              | Discovering meaningful relationships between data.  | Association rule  |
| Decision                 | Including multistep and sequential decisions.       | $Q$ -Learning     |

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## Logical and Hierarchical Relationships

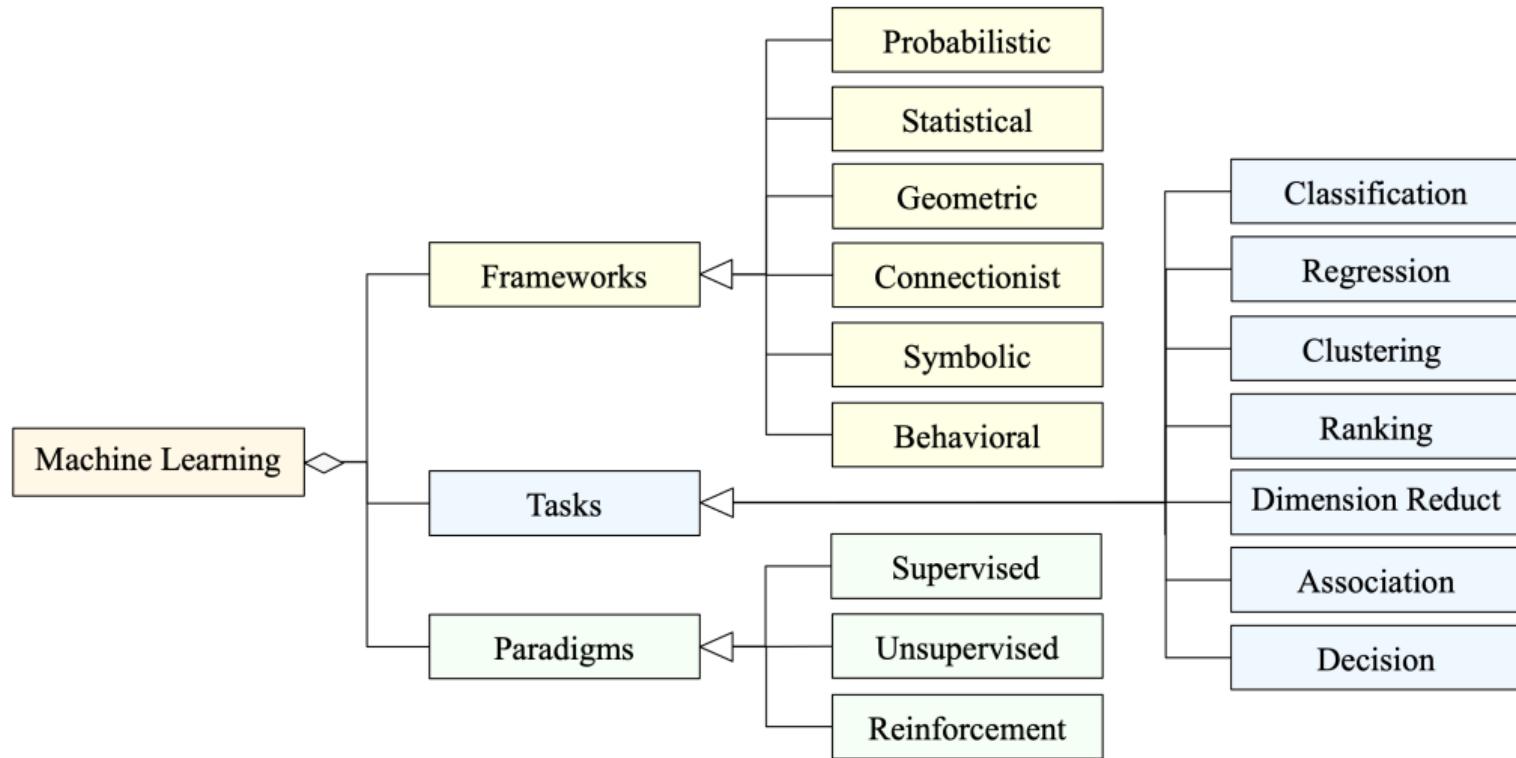
Through in-depth analysis of the three perspectives and their related frameworks, paradigms, and tasks, we can find that they contain:

- logical relationships,
- hierarchical relationship.

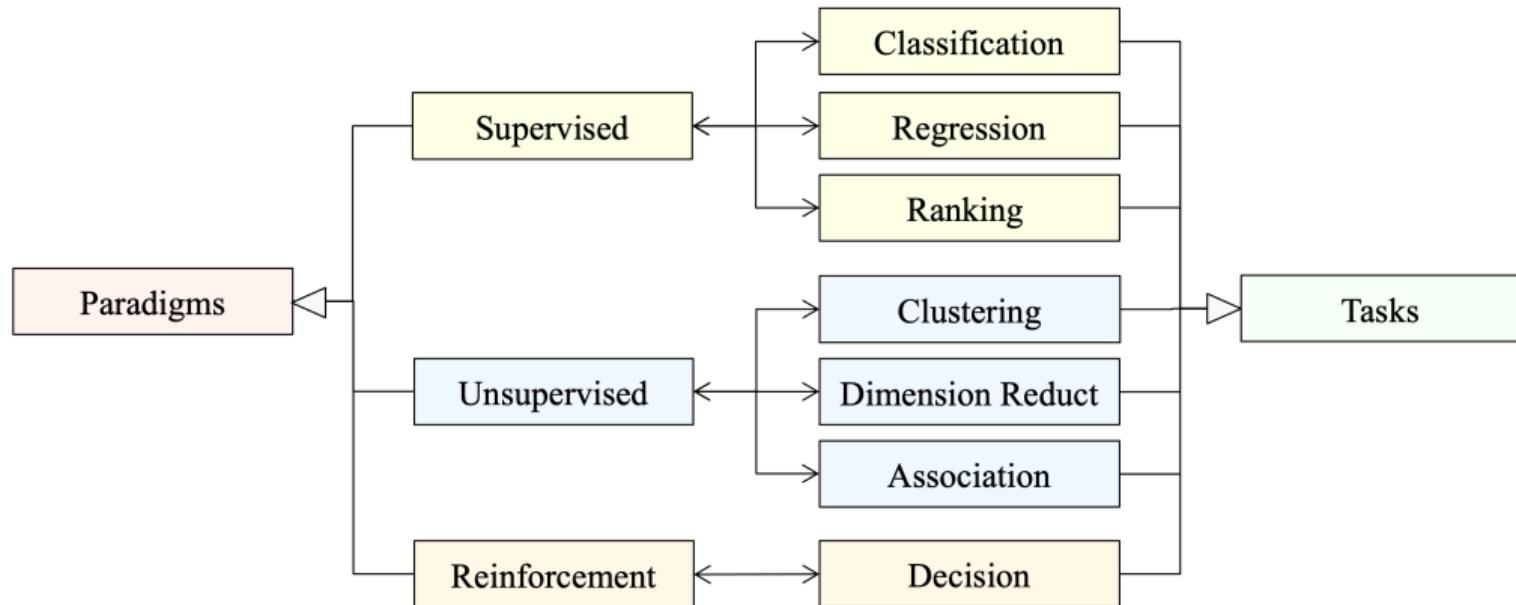
The logical relationships can be further divided into:

- logical relationship of the three perspectives,
- logical relationship between paradigms and tasks.

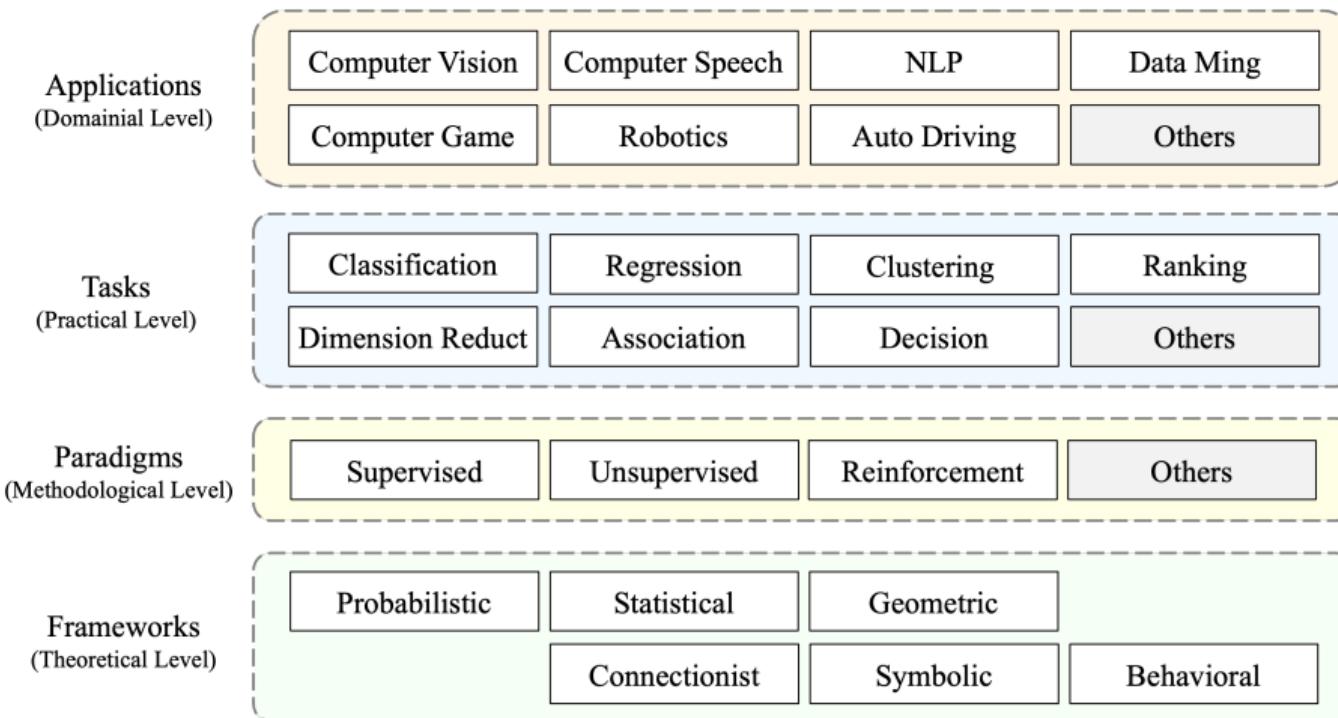
# Logical Relationship of the Three Perspectives



# Logical Relationship between Paradigms and Tasks



# Hierarchical Relationship



# Thank You