Introduction: the Machine Learning Landscape

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Thanks to Vineet Bansal for the majority of the slides

What is ML?

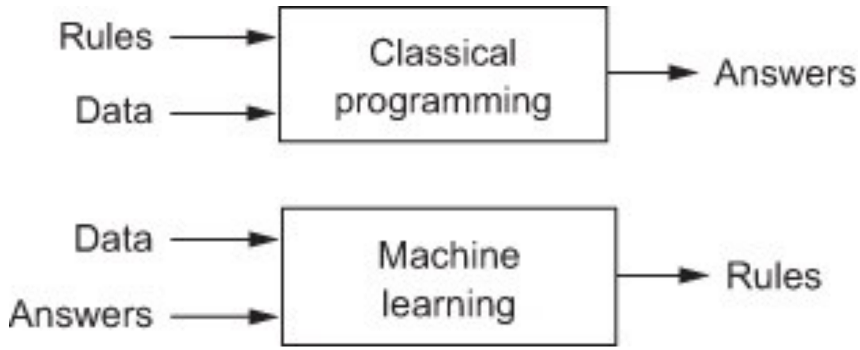
"A field of study that gives computers the ability to learn without being explicitly programmed." - Arthur Samuel, 1959

"A computer program is said to learn from experience **E** with respect to some task **T** and some performance measure **P**, if its performance on **T**, as measured by **P**, improves with experience **E**." – Tom Mitchell, 1997

ML is a prominent sub-field in AI, "the new electricity." - Andrew Ng
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21EiKfQYZXc)

What is ML?

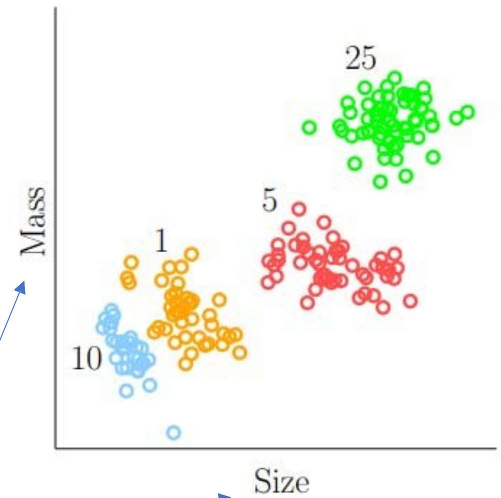
“A field of study that gives computers the ability to learn without being explicitly programmed.”



A machine-learning system is *trained* rather than explicitly programmed.

Types of ML Systems

Supervised Learning - Training Data contains desired solutions, or *labels*



Features

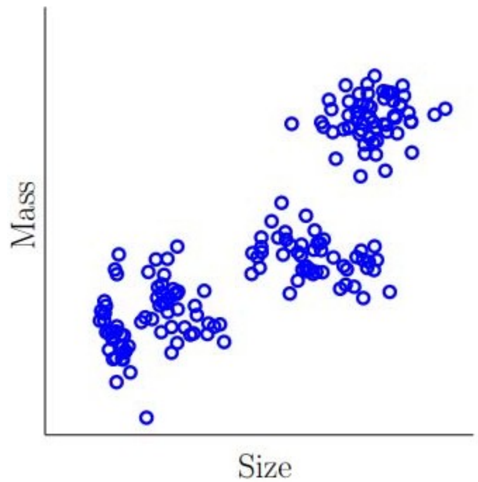
Types of ML Systems

Supervised Learning - Training Data contains desired solutions, or *labels*

1. K-Nearest Neighbors
2. Linear Regression
3. Logistic Regression
4. Support Vector Machines
5. Decision Trees and Random Forests
6. Neural Networks

Types of ML Systems

Unsupervised Learning - Training Data is *unlabeled*



Types of ML Systems

Unsupervised Learning - Training Data is *unlabeled*

1. K-Means (Clustering)
2. Principal Component Analysis (Dimensionality Reduction)
3. Deep Neural Networks

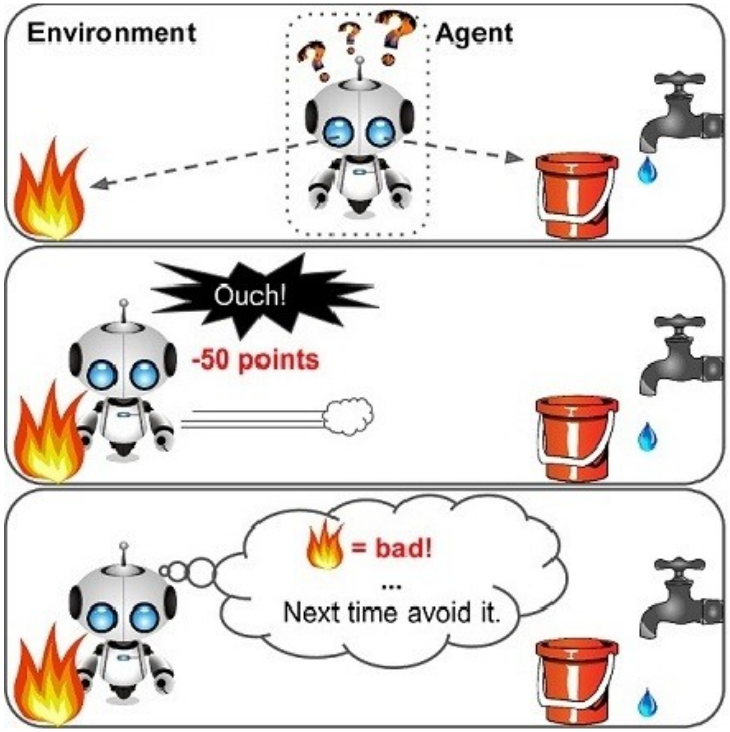
Types of ML Systems

Reinforcement Learning - Training Data does not contain target output, but instead contains some possible output together with a measure of how good that output is.

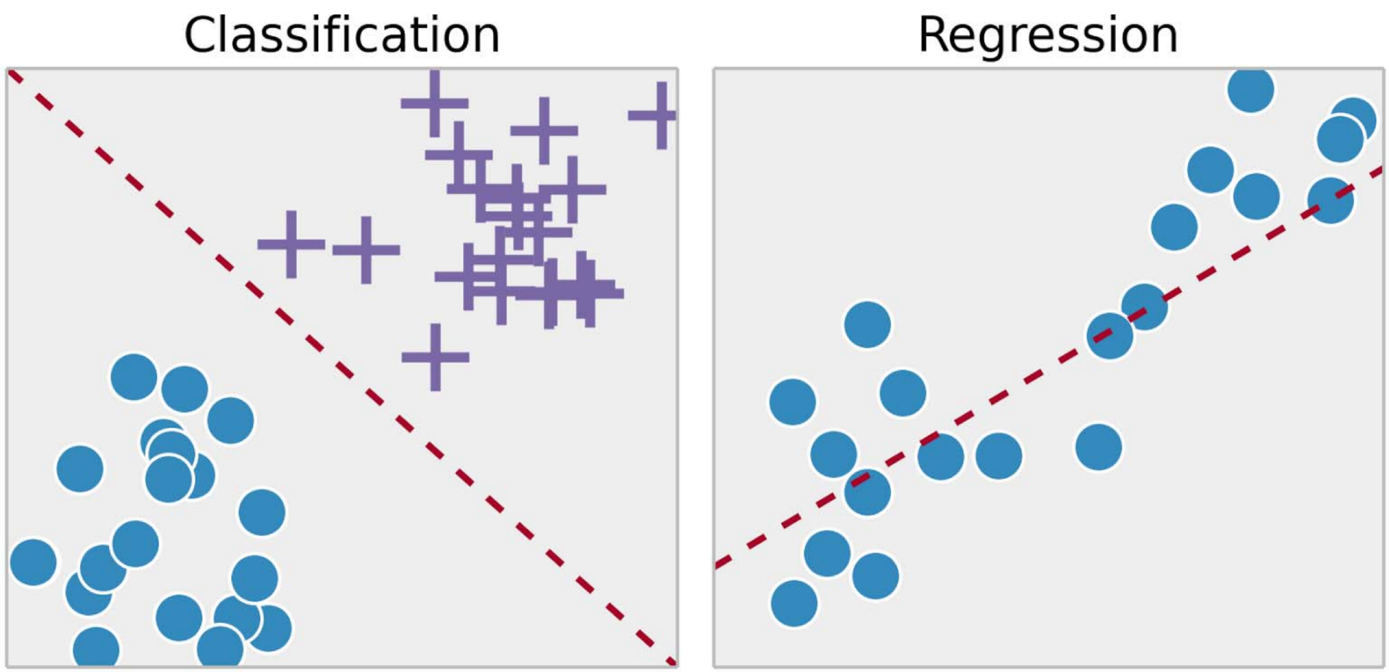
<input>, <correct output>

↓

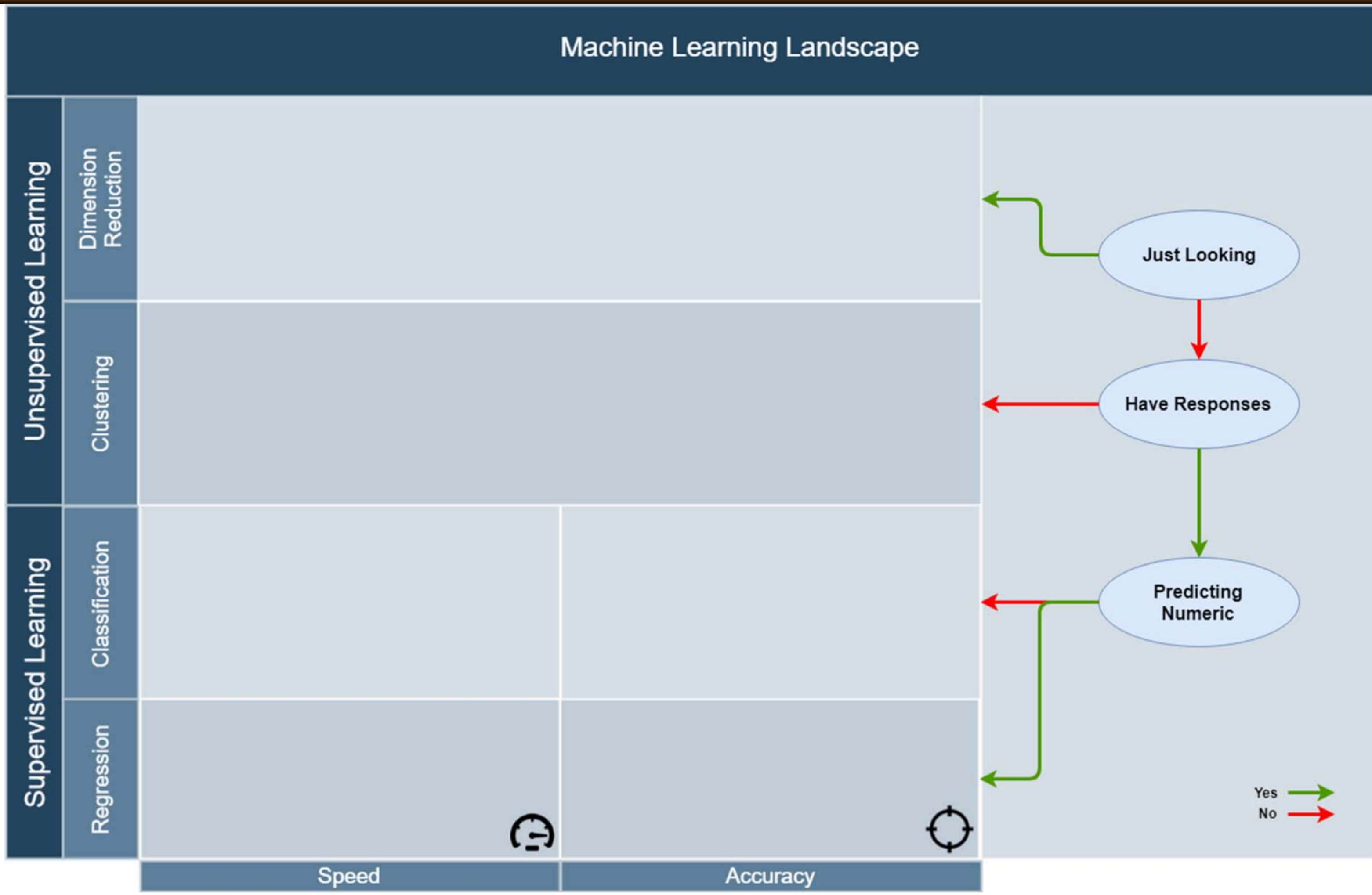
<input>, <some output>, <grade for this output>



Classification vs Regression



ML Landscape

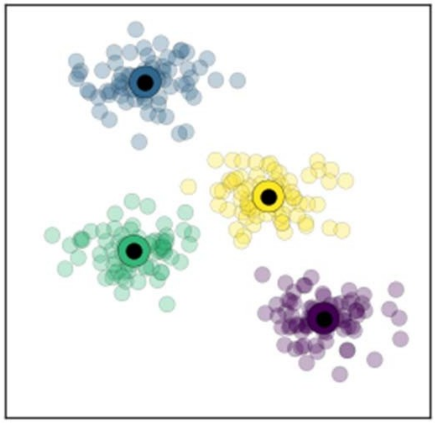


Unsupervised Learning - Clustering

Clustering

- Color "clusters" of points in a homogenous cloud of data.

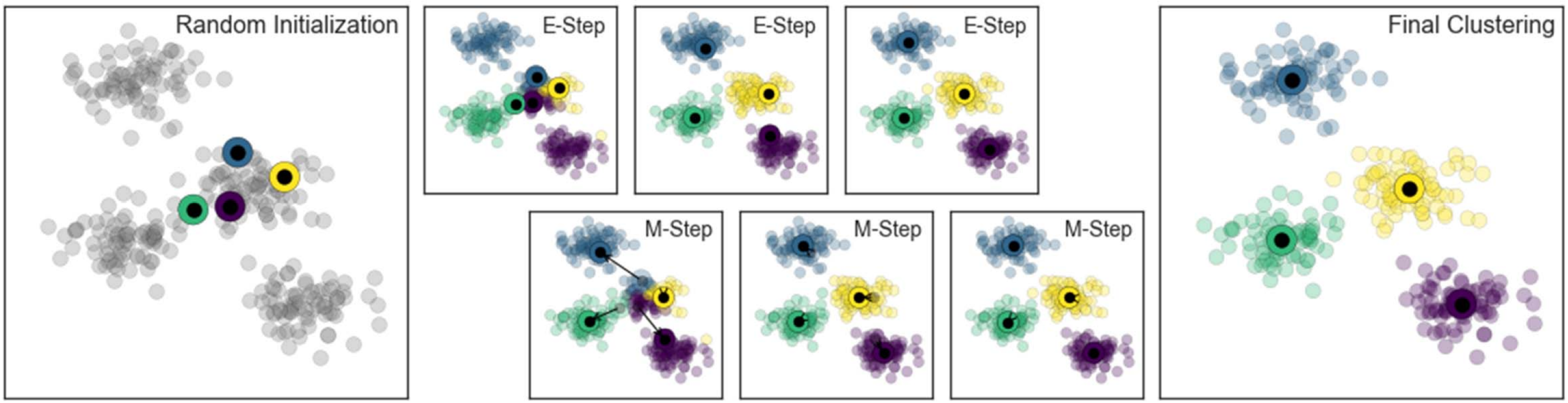
- **Use Cases**
  - Behavioral Segmentation in Marketing
  - Useful as a pre-processing step before applying other classification algorithms.
    - Cluster ID could be added as feature for each data point.



Unsupervised Learning - Clustering

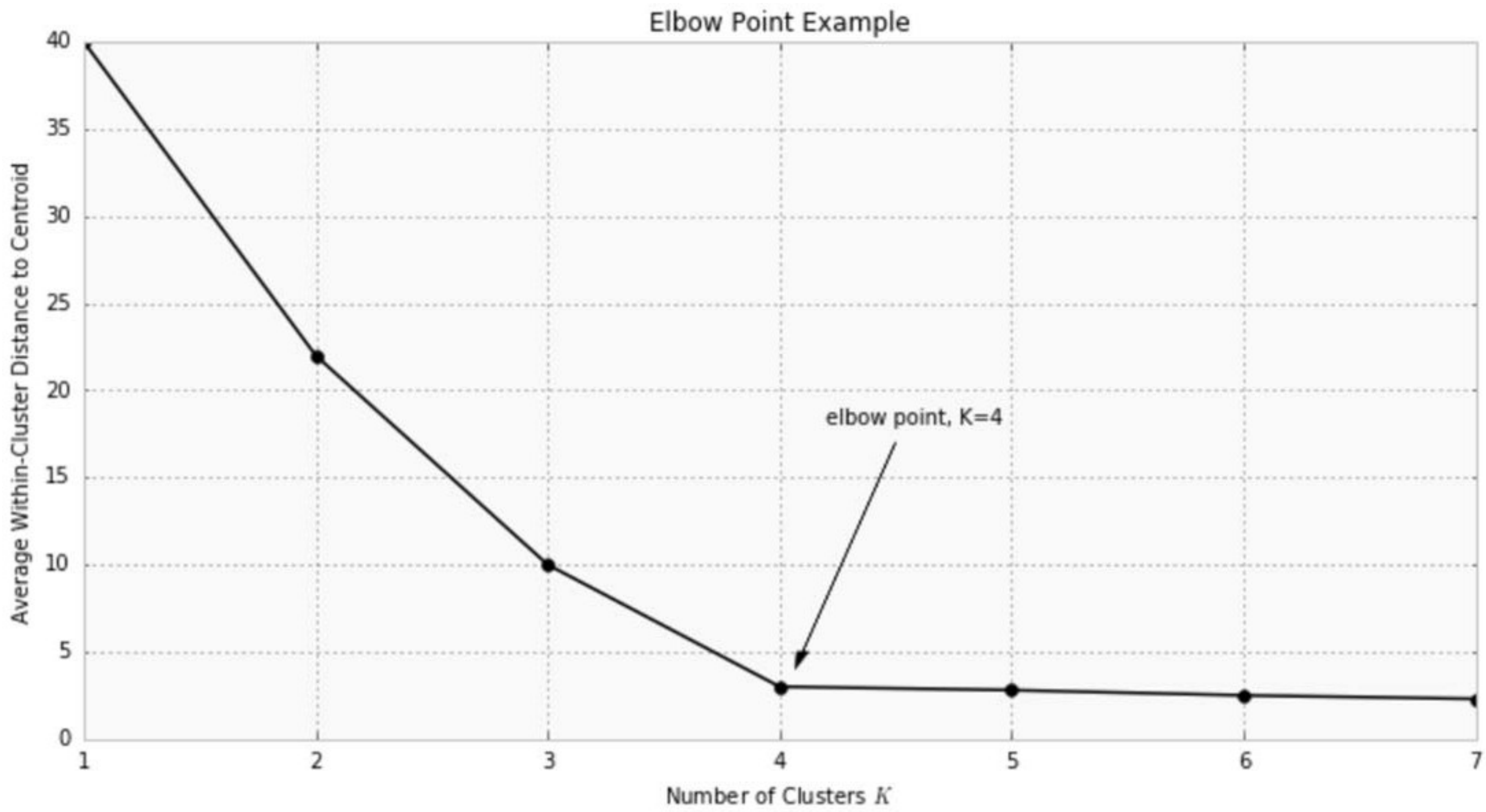
k-means Algorithm

- Guess some cluster centers
- Repeat until converged
  - *E-Step*: assign points to the nearest cluster center
  - *M-Step*: set the cluster centers to the mean



Unsupervised Learning - Clustering

Choosing k



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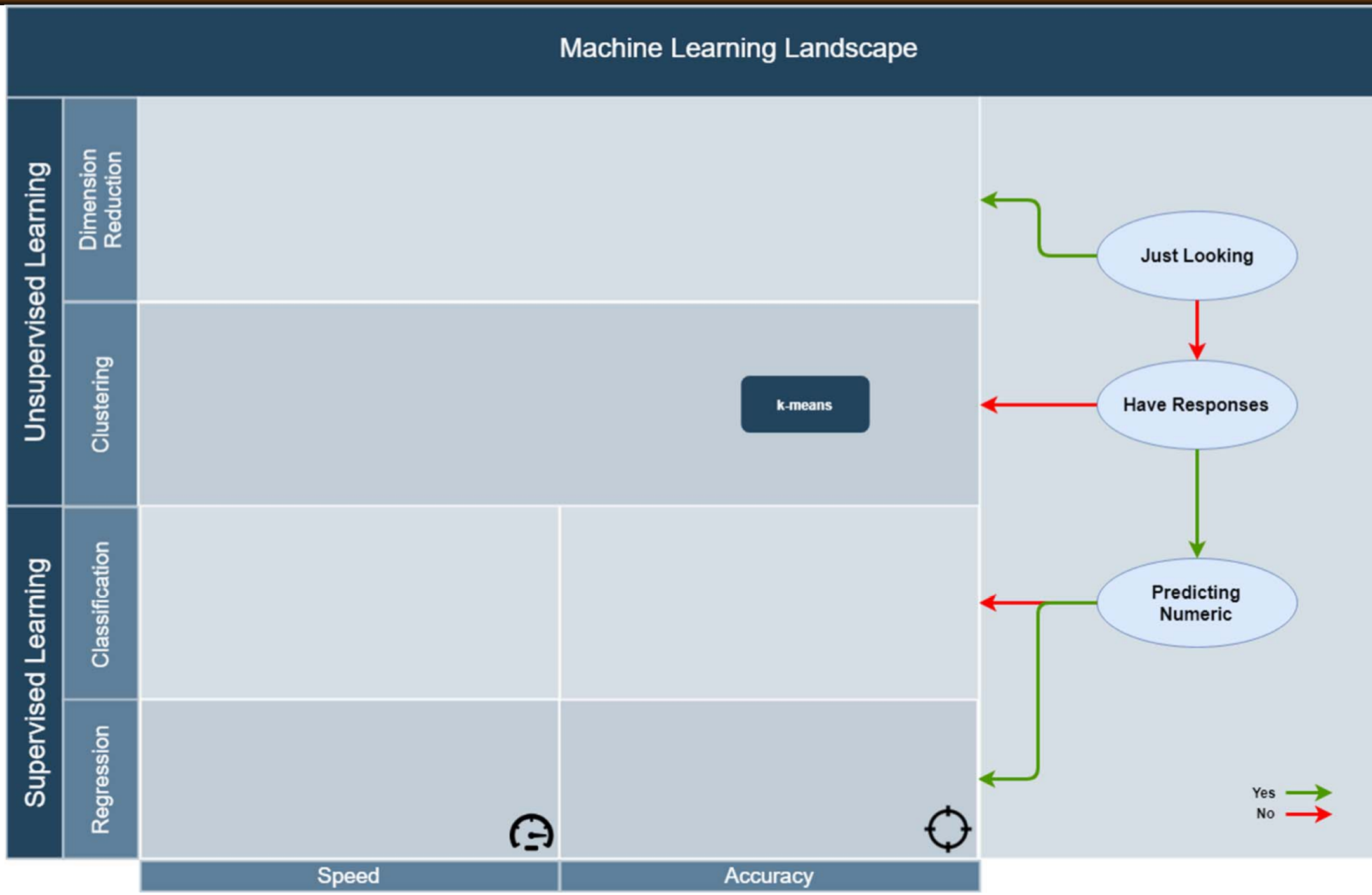
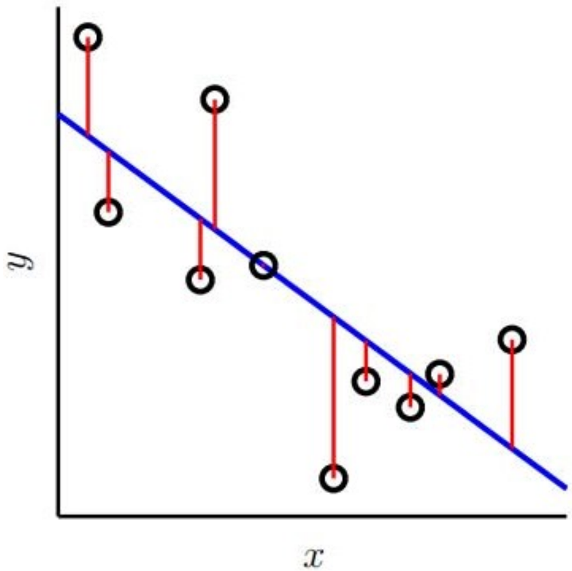
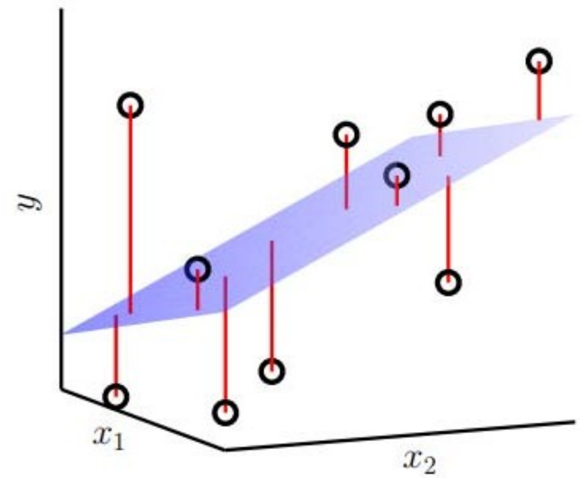


Linear Regression





Linear Regression

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1^{\ 1} & x_2^1 & \dots & x_n^{\ 1} \\ 1 & x_1^{\ 2} & x_2^2 & \dots & x_n^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \dots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_1^m & x_2^m & \dots & x_n^m \end{bmatrix}$$

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} y^1 \\ y^2 \\ \dots \\ y^m \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Theta = \begin{bmatrix} \Theta_0 \\ \Theta_1 \\ \Theta_2 \\ \vdots \\ \Theta_n \end{bmatrix} \qquad \hat{y} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y}^1 \\ \hat{y}^2 \\ \dots \\ \hat{y}^m \end{bmatrix}$$

Define a **Hypothesis**

$$h_\Theta(X) = \hat{y} = X\,\Theta$$

Define a **Cost Function** (a measure of how bad we're doing)

$$\mathrm{MSE}(X, h_\Theta) = \frac{1}{?}\sum_{i=1}^{n}[\hat{y}^i - y^i]^2$$

Repeat until convergence:

- Calculate Cost Function on chosen Θ
- Calculate slope of Cost Function
- Tweak Θ so as to move downhill (reduce Cost Function value)

Θ is now optimized for our training data.

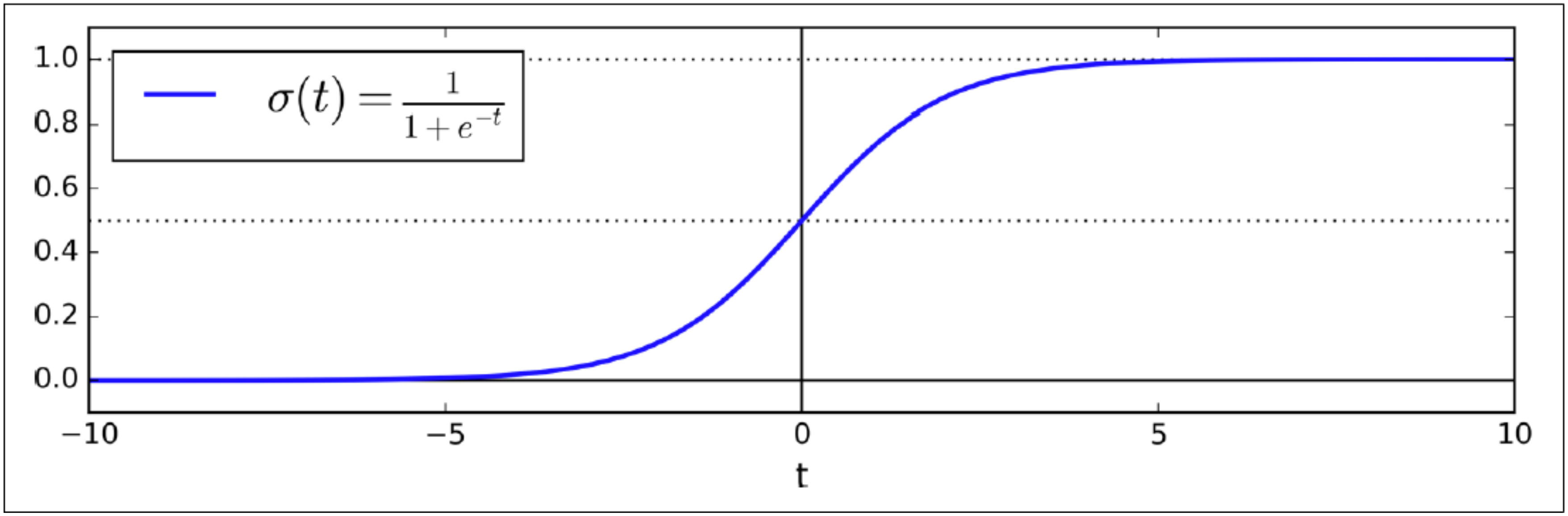
Logistic Regression

Used to estimate the probability that an instance belongs to a particular class.

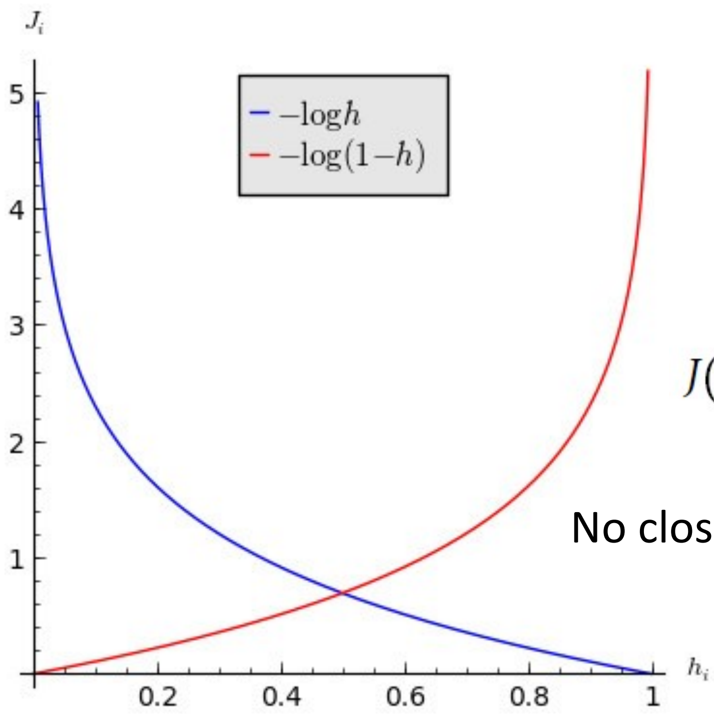
$$\hat{p} = h_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) = \sigma\left(\theta^{T} \cdot \mathbf{x}\right)$$

Logistic Regression

$$\sigma(t) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-t)}$$



Logistic Regression

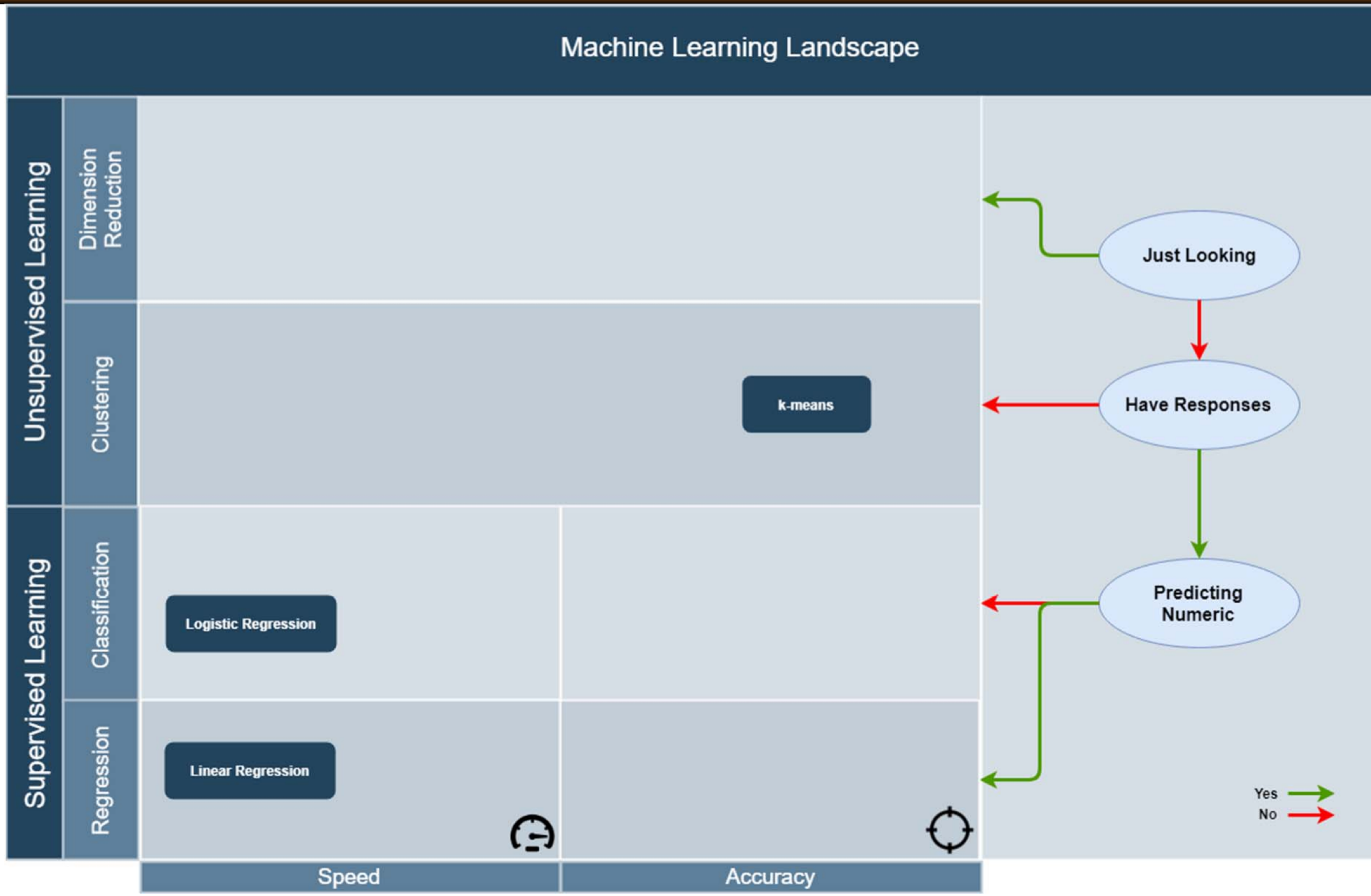


$$c(\theta) = \begin{cases} -\log\left(\hat{p}\right) & \text{if } y = 1, \\ -\log\left(1-\hat{p}\right) & \text{if } y = 0\,. \end{cases}$$

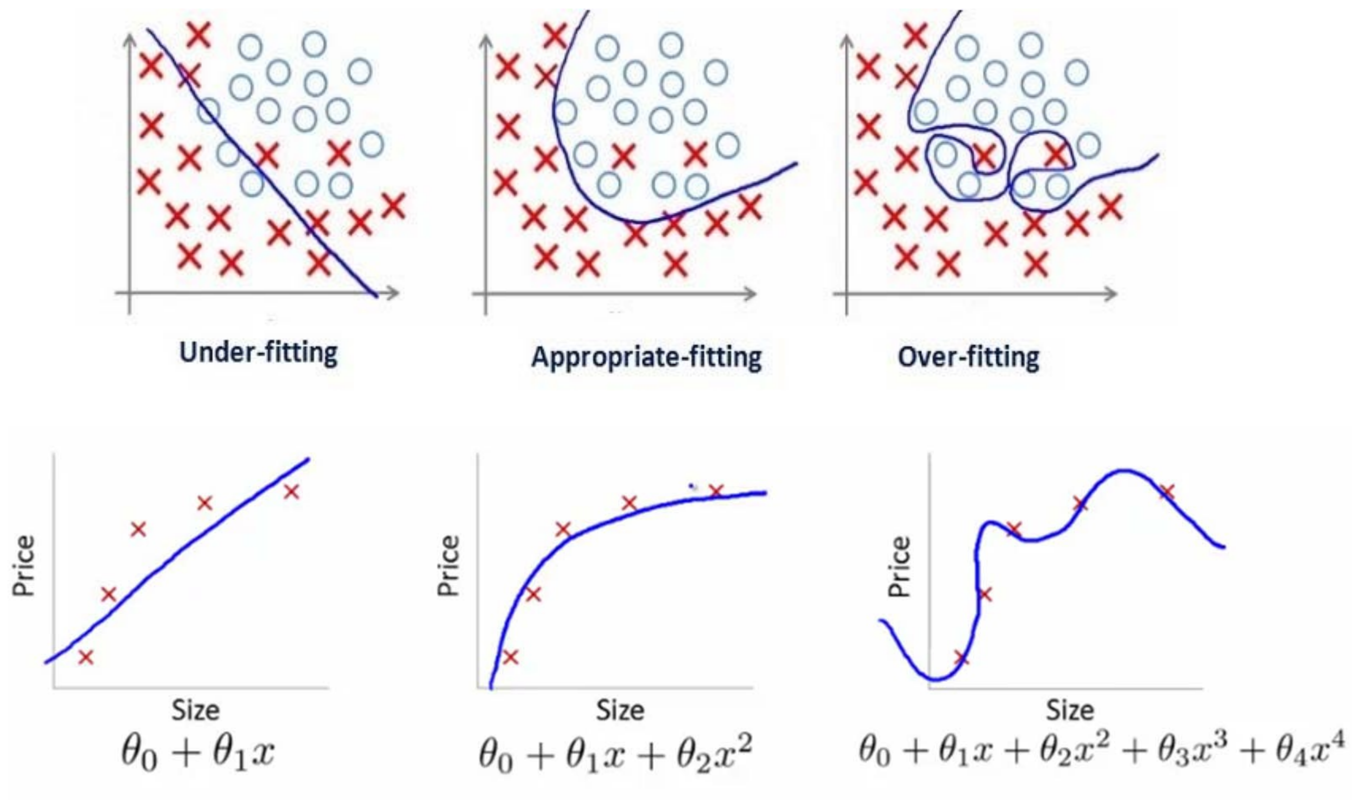
$$J(\theta) = -\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\left[y^{(i)}log\left(\hat{p}^{(i)}\right) + \left(1-y^{(i)}\right)log\left(1-\hat{p}^{(i)}\right)\right]$$

No closed-form solution, but we can use Gradient Descent!

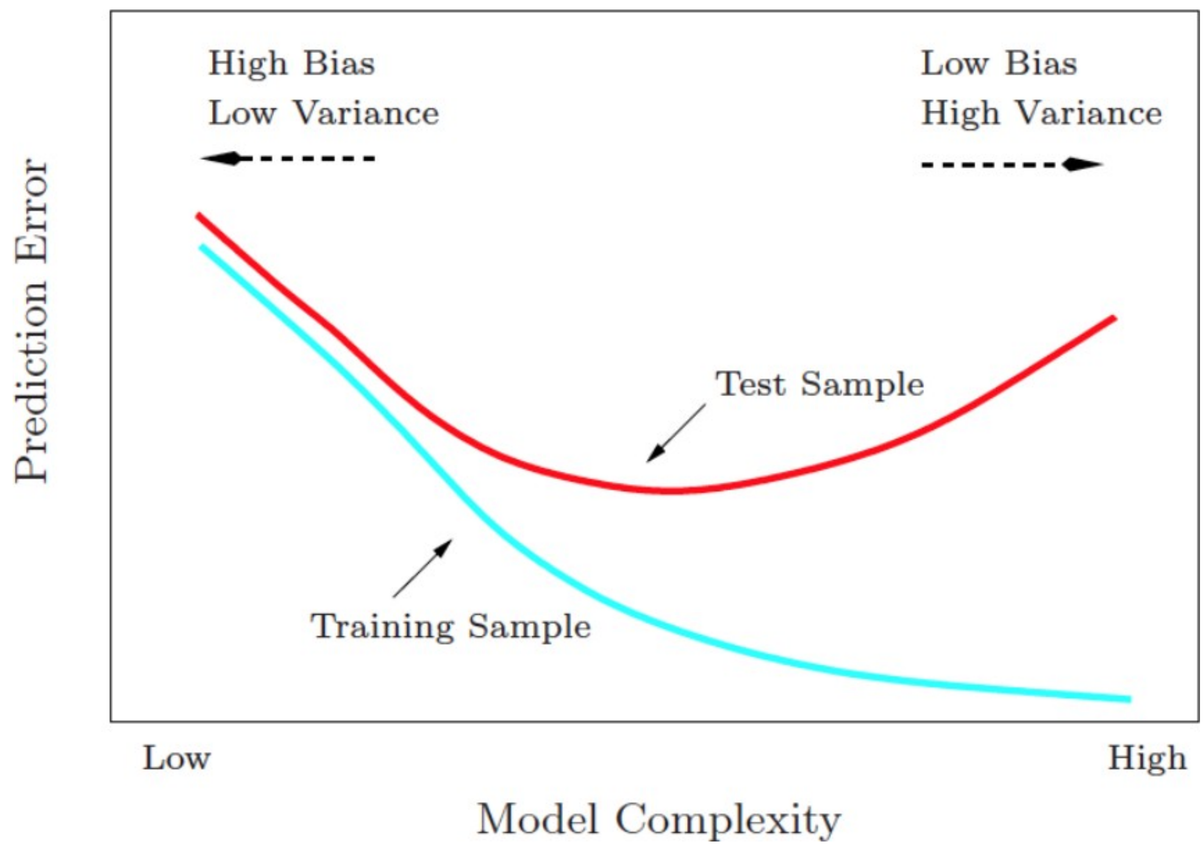
ML Landscape



Overfitting and Underfitting



Bias-Variance Tradeoff



Regularization

How to ensure that we're not *overfitting* to our training data?

Impose a small penalty on model complexity.

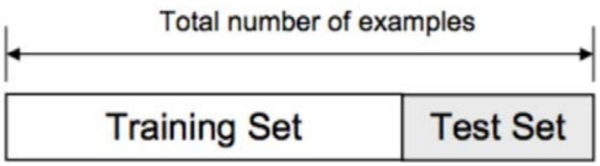
l1 penalty (Lasso Regression)

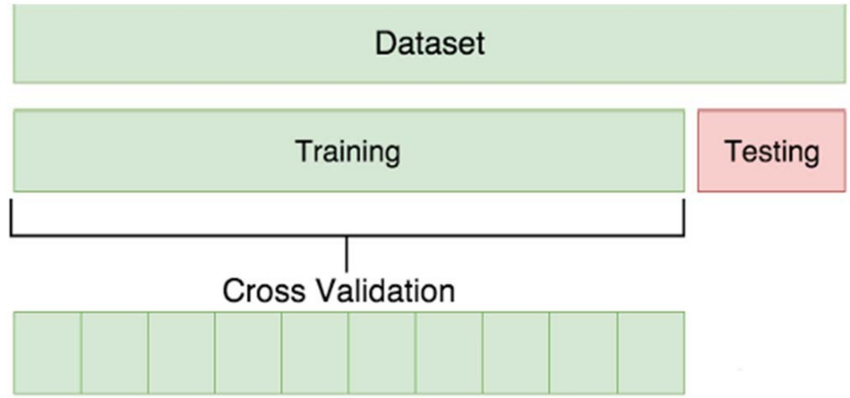
$$J(\theta) = \text{MSE}(\theta) + \alpha \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left|\theta_i\right|$$

l2 penalty (Ridge Regression)

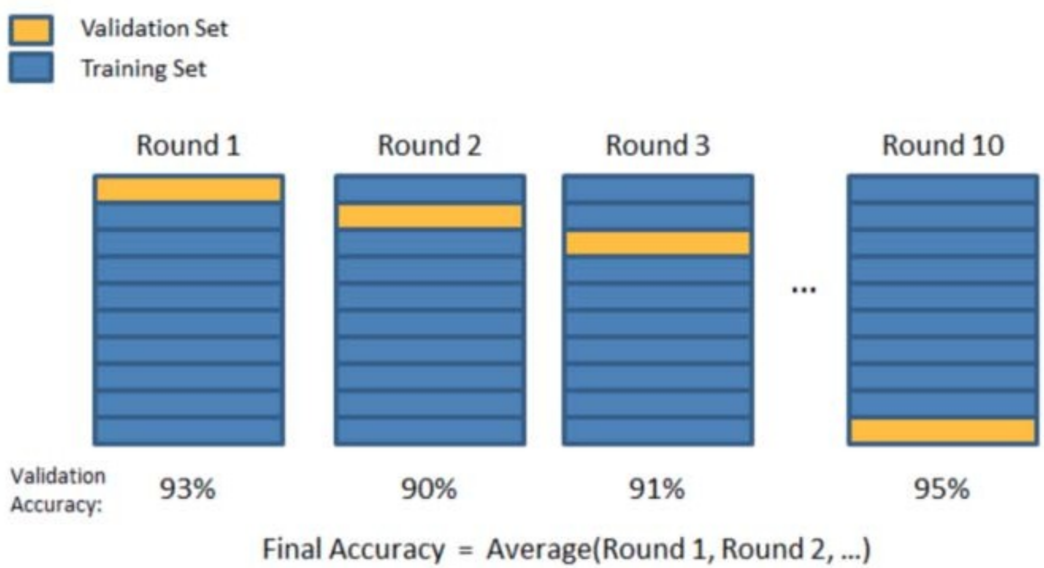
$$J(\theta) = \text{MSE}(\theta) + \alpha \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \theta_i^2$$

Testing and Validation





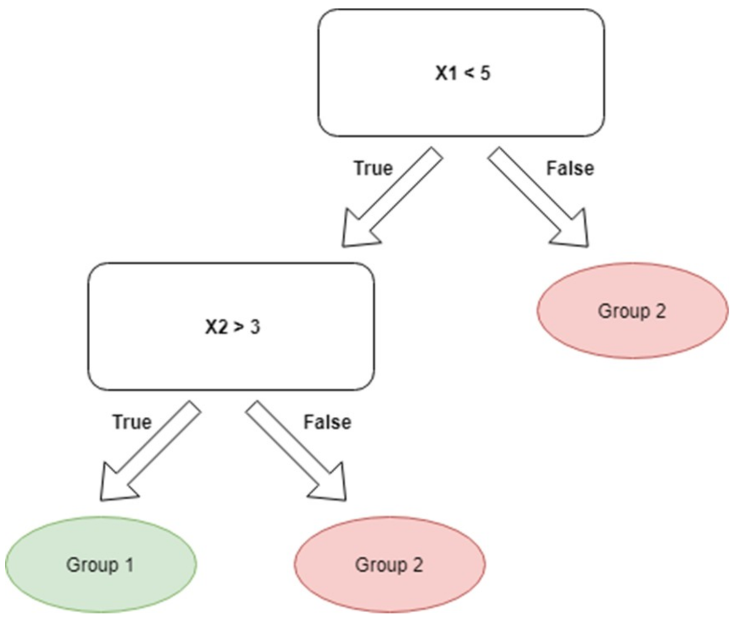
K-fold Cross Validation



Decision Tree

Basic Idea

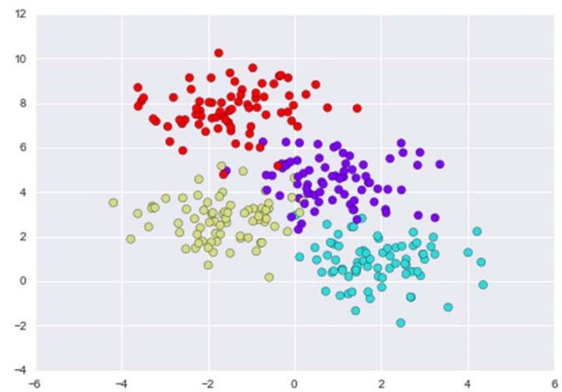
- Construct a tree to ask a series of questions from your data.

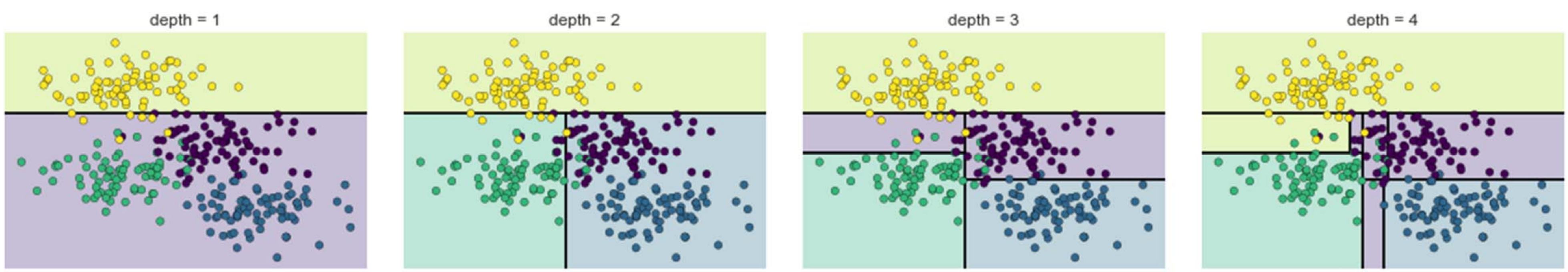


Decision Tree

Let's see how it works on a *real* dataset.

- Boundaries always are **axis-parallel**

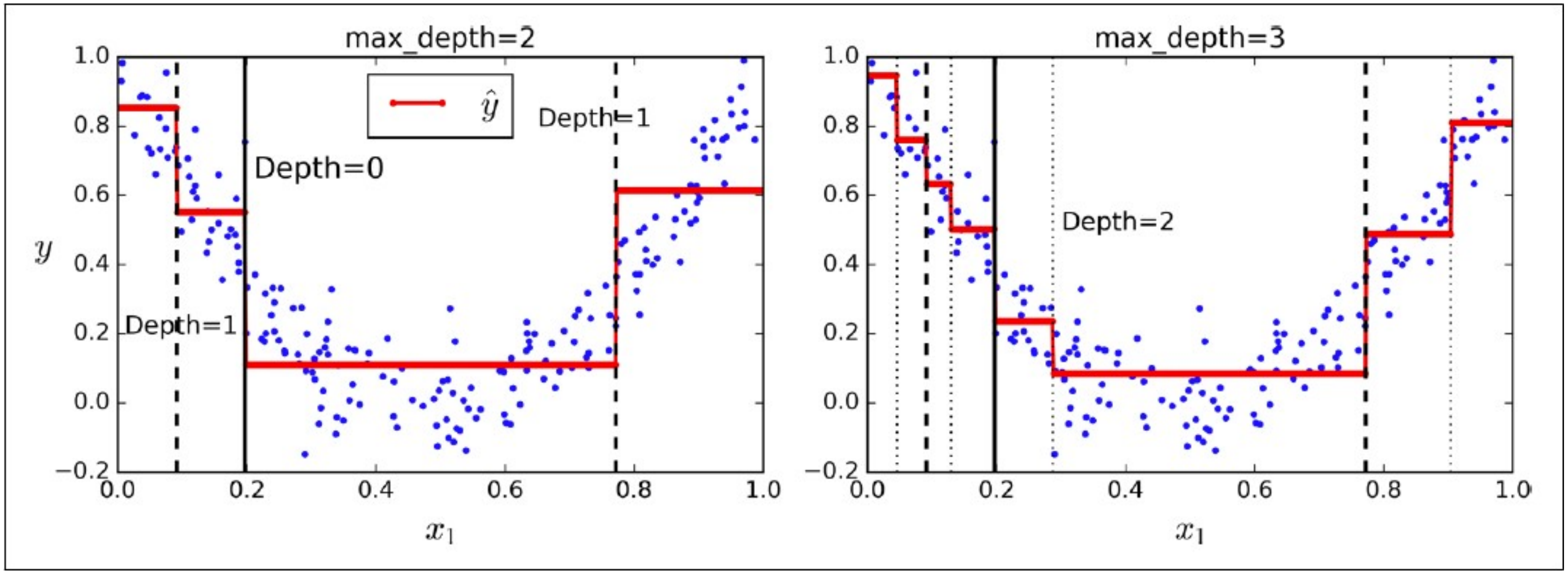




Decision Tree

Decision Trees can be used for regression!

- Minimize MSE instead of impurity.



Decision Tree

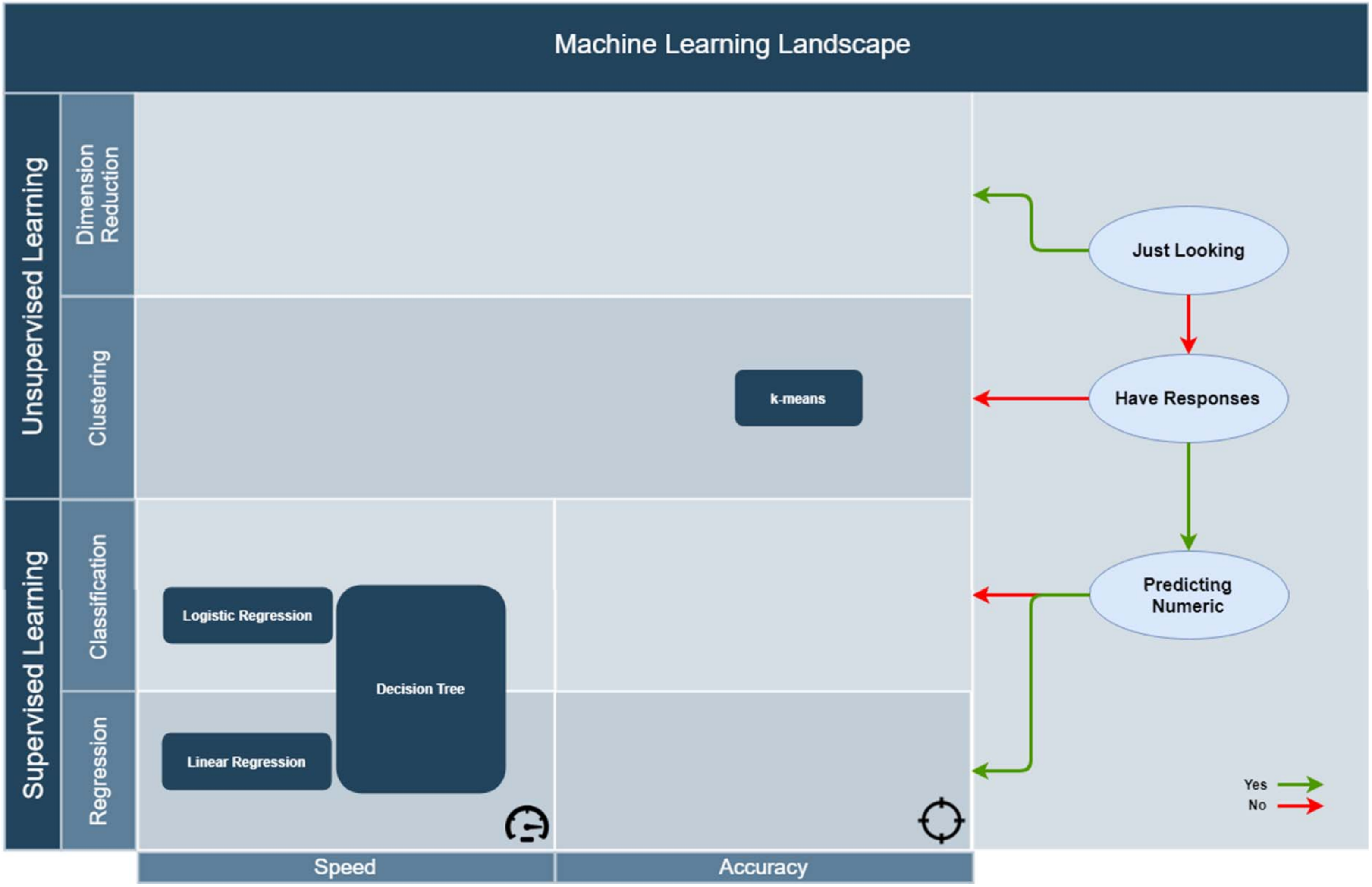
Advantages

- *White Box* – easily interpretable

Disadvantages

- Prone to overfitting
  - Regularize by setting maximum depth
- Comes up only with orthogonal boundaries
  - Sensitive to training set rotation – Use PCA!

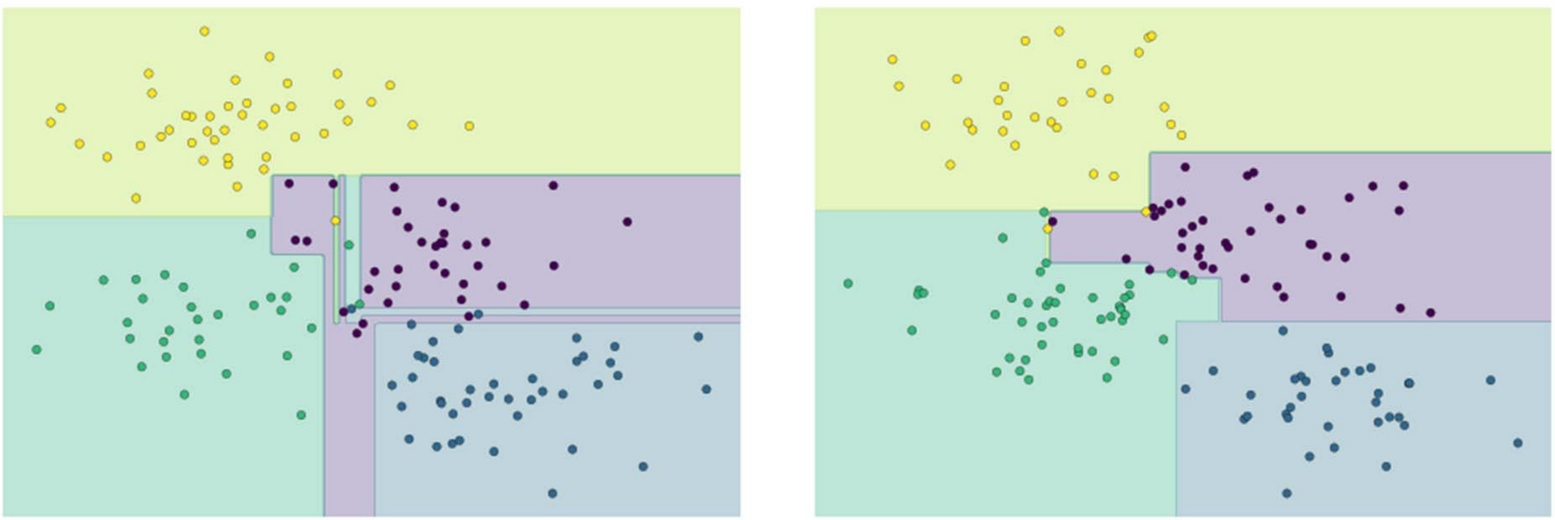
ML Landscape



Ensemble Methods

Basic Idea

- Two Decision Trees by themselves may overfit. But combining their predictions may be a good idea!



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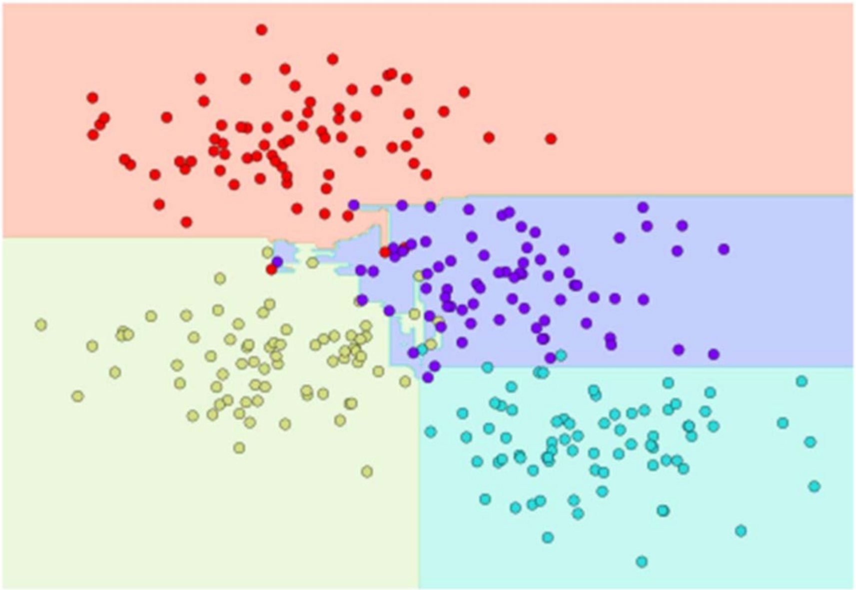
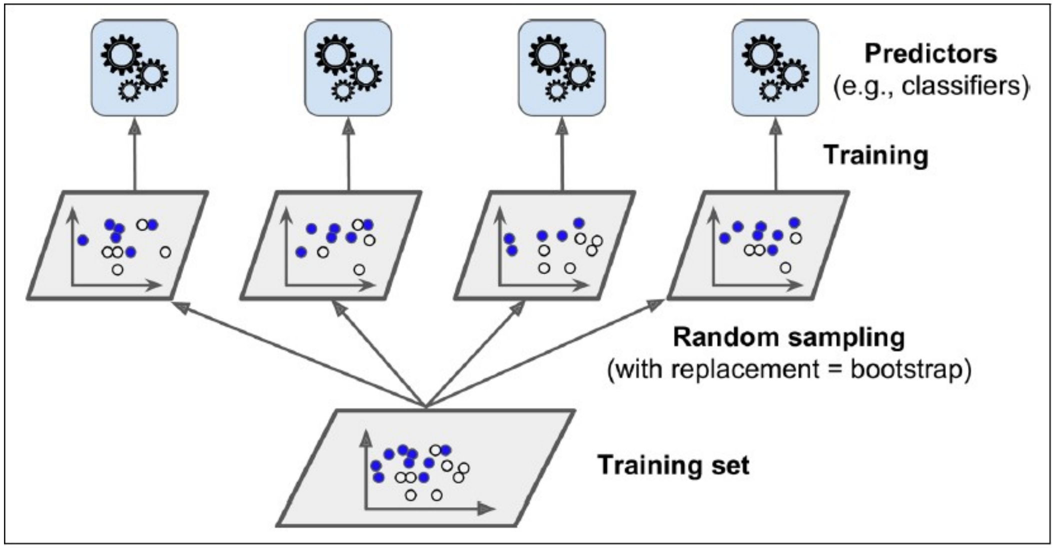


Bagging

Bagging = Bootstrap Aggregation

- Use the same training algorithm for every predictor, but train them on different random subsets of the training set.

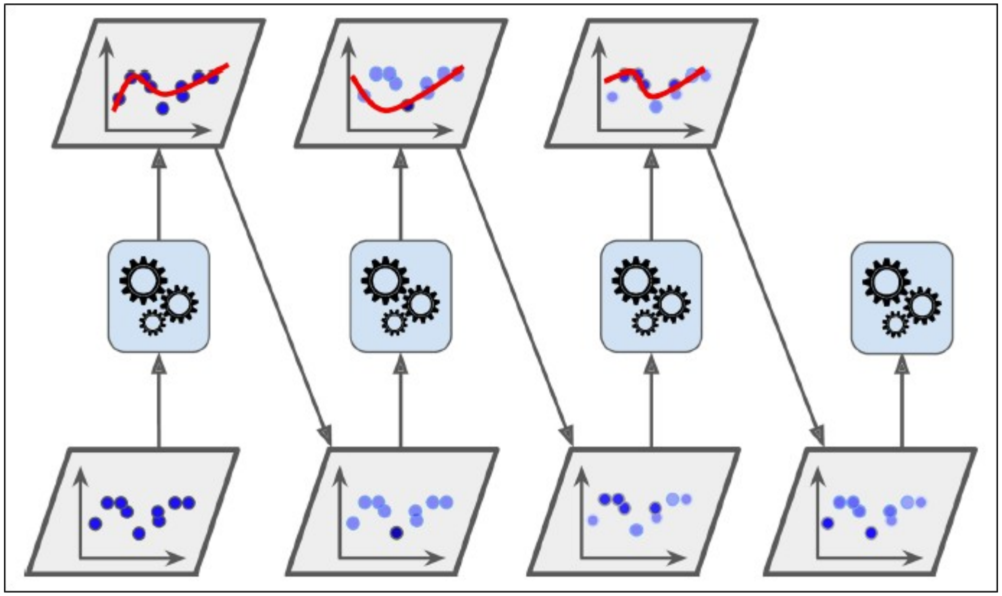


Random Forest is an *Ensemble* of Decision Trees, generally trained via the *bagging* method.

Boosting

Basic Idea

- Train several weak learners *sequentially*, each trying to correct the errors made by its predecessor.



Adaptive Boosting (ADABoost)

- Give more relative weight to the misclassified instances.

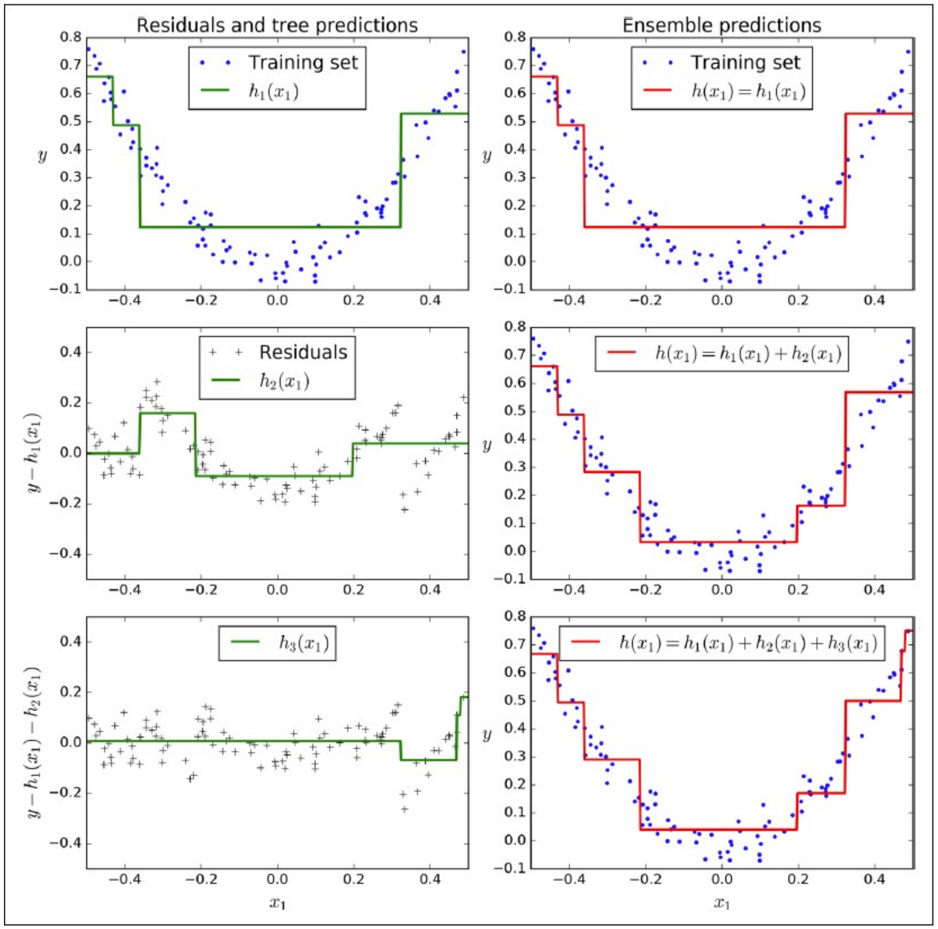
Boosting

Gradient Boosting

- Try to fit a new predictor to the *residual errors* made by the previous predictor.

Best Performance

- Random Forests and Gradient Boosting Methods (implemented in the *xgBoost* library) have been winning most competitions on Kaggle recently on structured data.
- Deep Learning (especially Convolutional Networks) is the clear winner for unstructured data problems (perception/speech/vision etc.)



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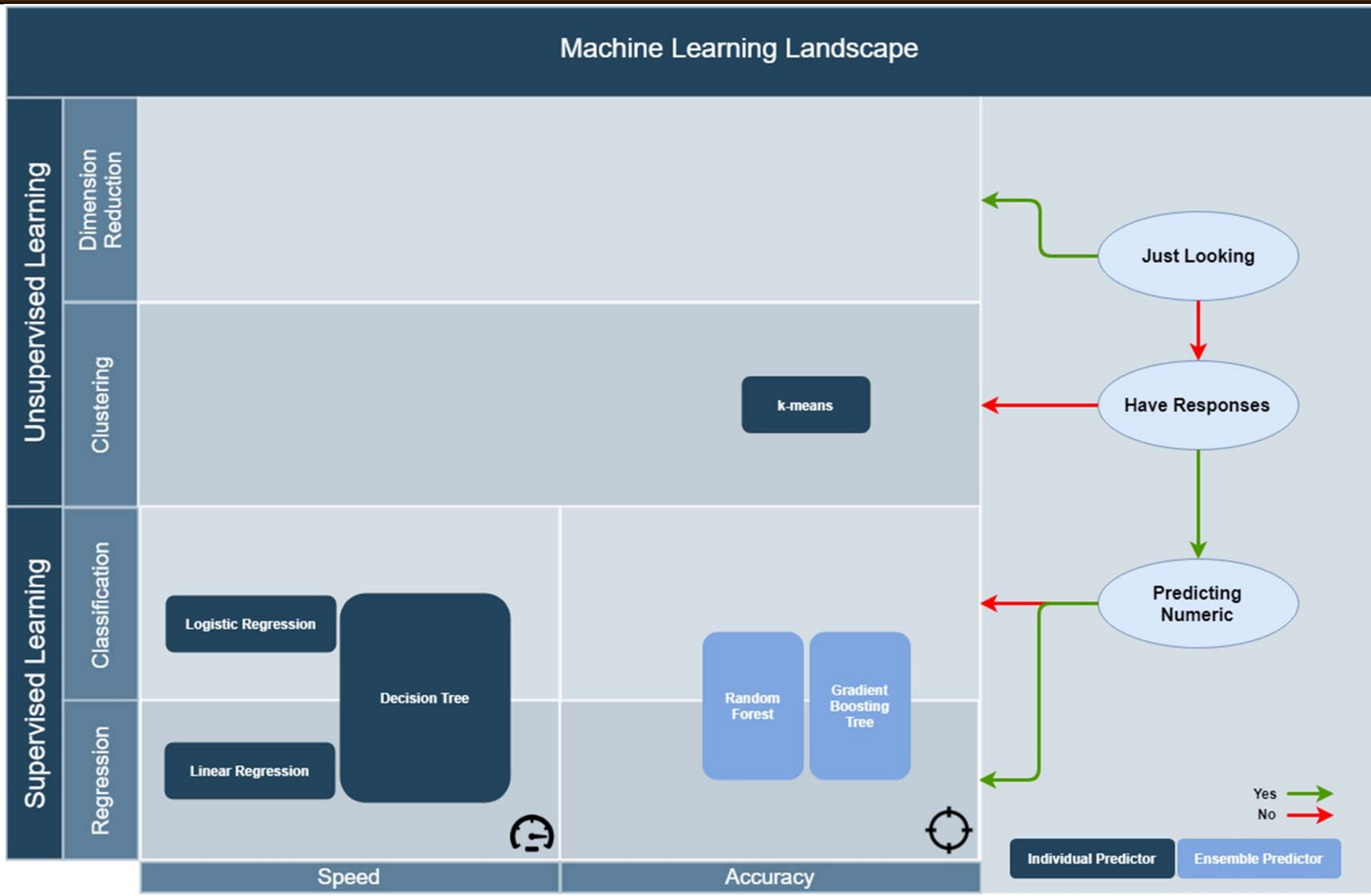
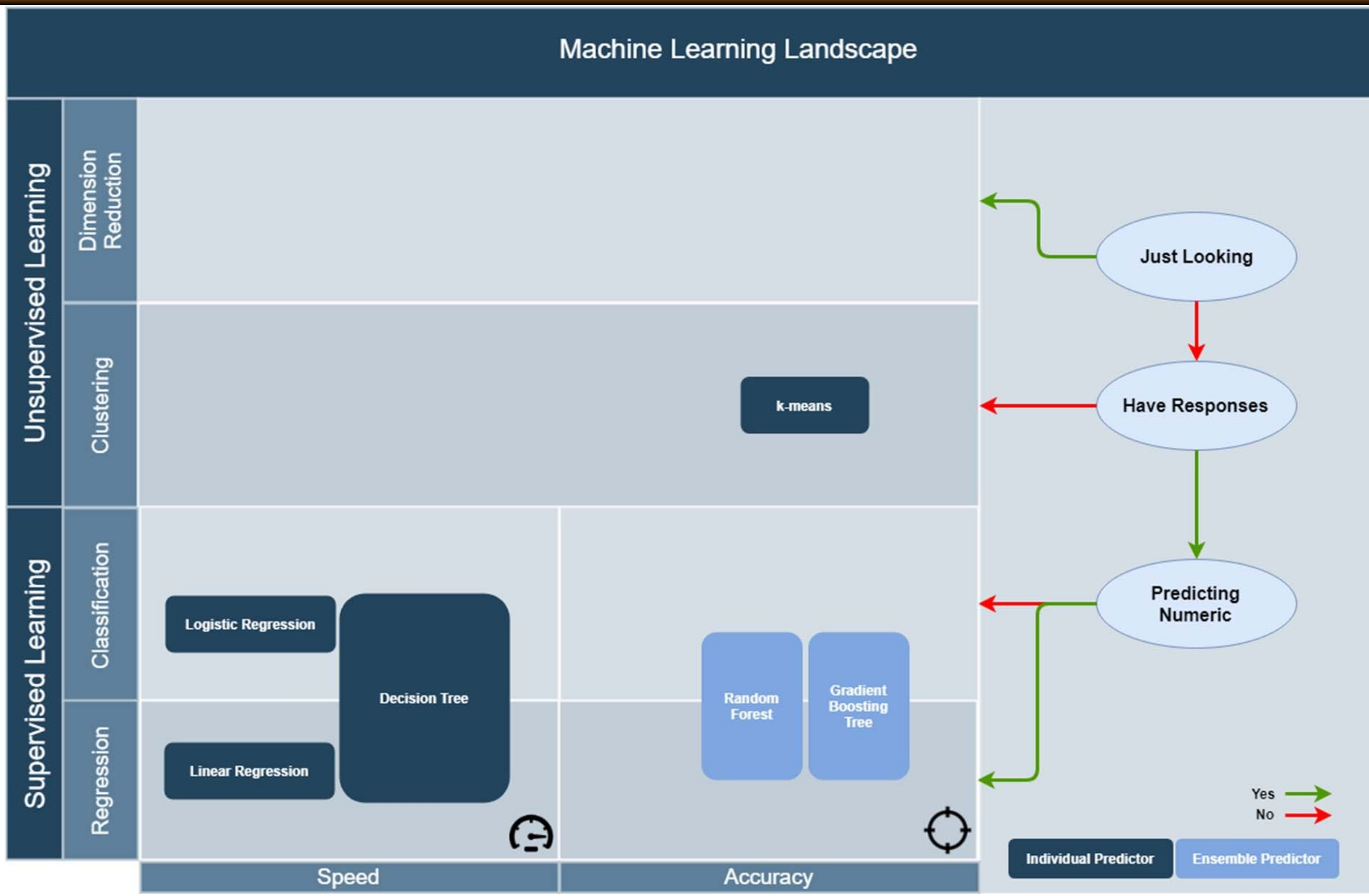


ML Landscape



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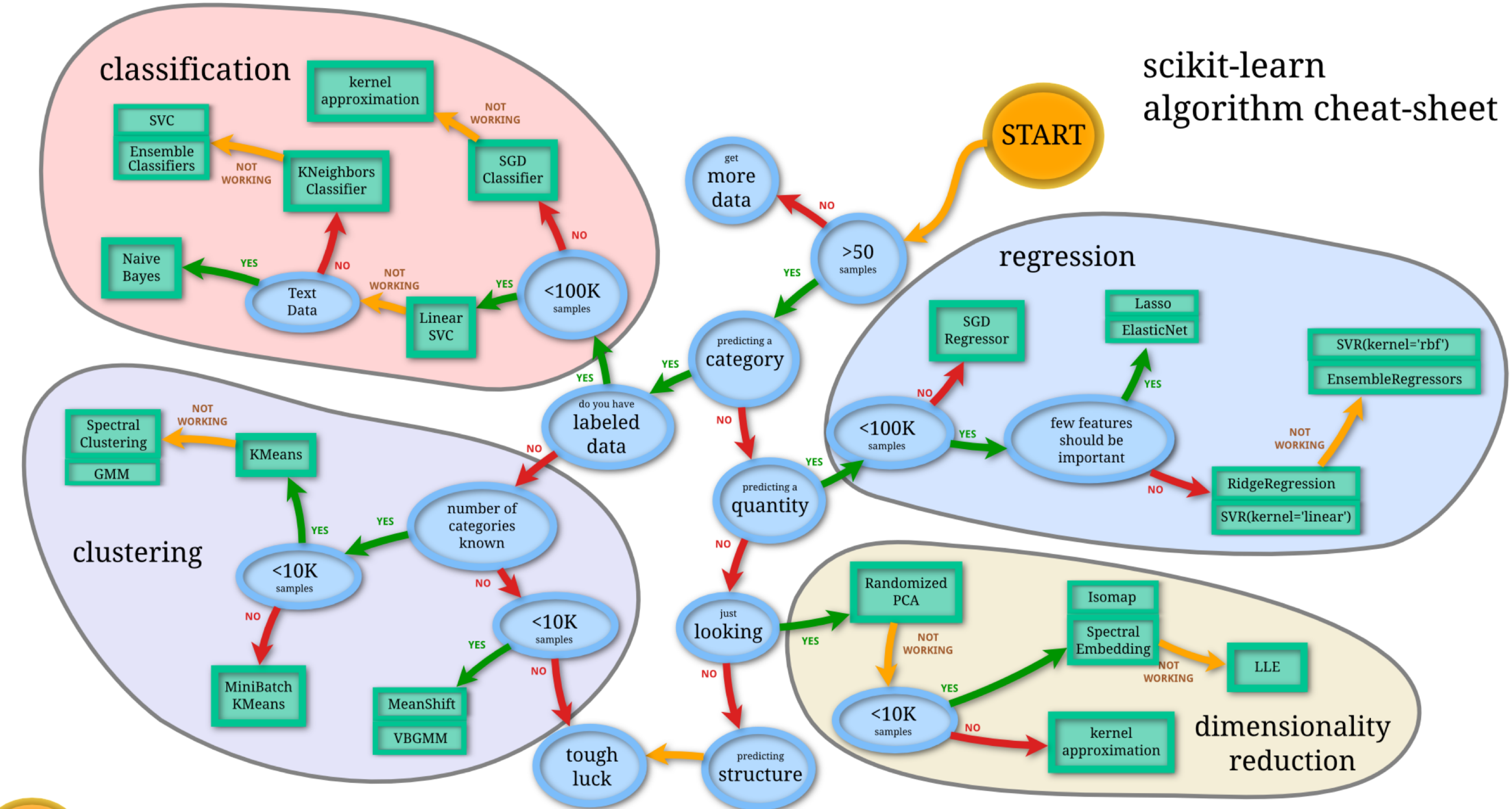

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