

IEMS 304 Lecture 1: Introduction to Statistical Learning

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NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

Textbook: James G, Witten D, Hastie T, et al. *An introduction to statistical learning*.

CS 229 Lecture Note: https://cs229.stanford.edu/main_notes.pdf

Time and Location: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9.00 A.M.- 9.50 A.M.
Tech L251

Office Hour: Friday: 1 P.M. Tech M237

TA Office Hour:

Pre-requisite and Pre-test

This is a **mathematically intense** course. But that's why it's exciting and rewarding!

Pre-requisite: A previous course in statistics at the level of IEMS 303 plus a course in matrix analysis. Comfort with programming (we will be programming in R) is also necessary.

Pre-test: Passing the pretest is worth 3% of your final course grade. You must achieve a passing score of 70% or higher by

Monday, Apr 15th at 11:59 p.m. This deadline will be firmly enforced.

Honor Code

Do's

- ❑ form study groups (with arbitrary number of people); discuss and work on homework problems in groups
 - ❑ write down the solutions independently
 - ❑ write down the names of people with whom you've discussed the homework
 - use ChatGPT as a TA
-

Don'ts

- ❑ It is an honor code violation to copy, refer to, or look at written or code solutions from a previous year, including but not limited to: official solutions from a previous year, solutions posted online, solutions you or someone else may have written up in a previous year, and solutions for related problems.
- ❑ Directly copy the answer from ChatGPT/Claude/Any GenAI

Homework

Publish on course website, due Friday (except pretests/midterm weeks)

Submit on Gradescope

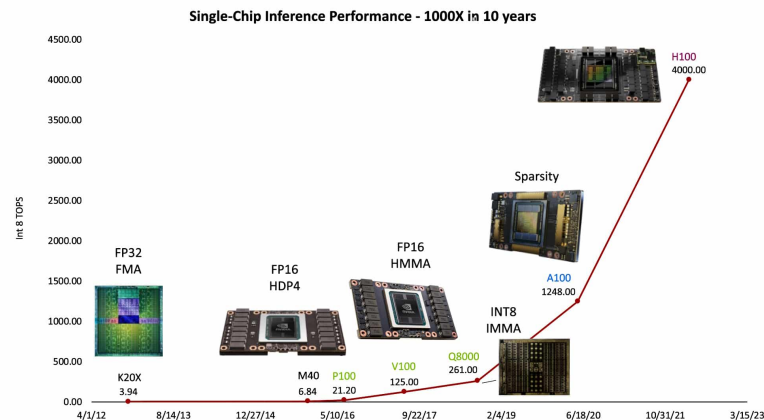
Let's Start

Massive Data

Massive complex data : Images, Acoustic signals, Text, ...

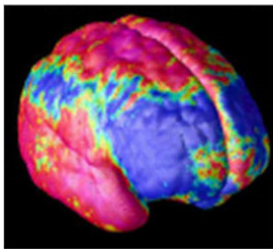
- ❑ Wikipedia pages: 13 millions (2014), 57 million (2022)
- ❑ Facebook users: 800 million (2014), 2.96 billion (2022)
- ❑ Flickr photos: 6 billion (2014), 10 billion (2022)
- ❑ Twitter tweets/day: 340 million (2014), 500 million (2022)
- ❑ Youtube video/min: 24 hours (2014), 500 hours (2022)
- ❑ Google pages: ≥ 1 trillion (2014), ≥ 130 trillions (2016)

Massive Computing : Huang's Law

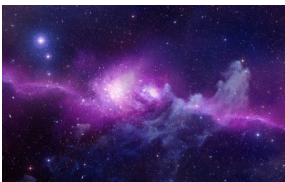


Broad Applications in Science and Engineering

Brain



Galaxy



Self-driving car



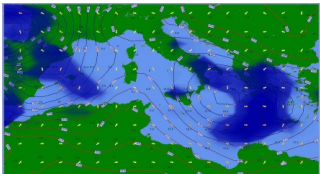
Robot



Genome



Weather



Finance



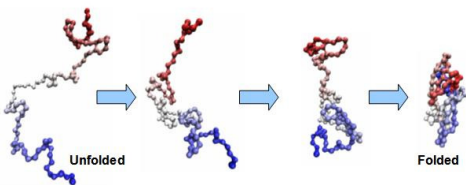
Music



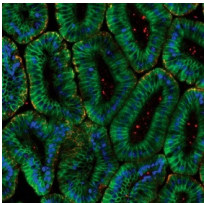
Sustainability



Protein



Cell



Design

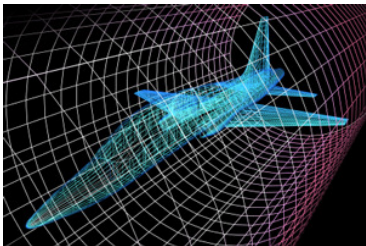
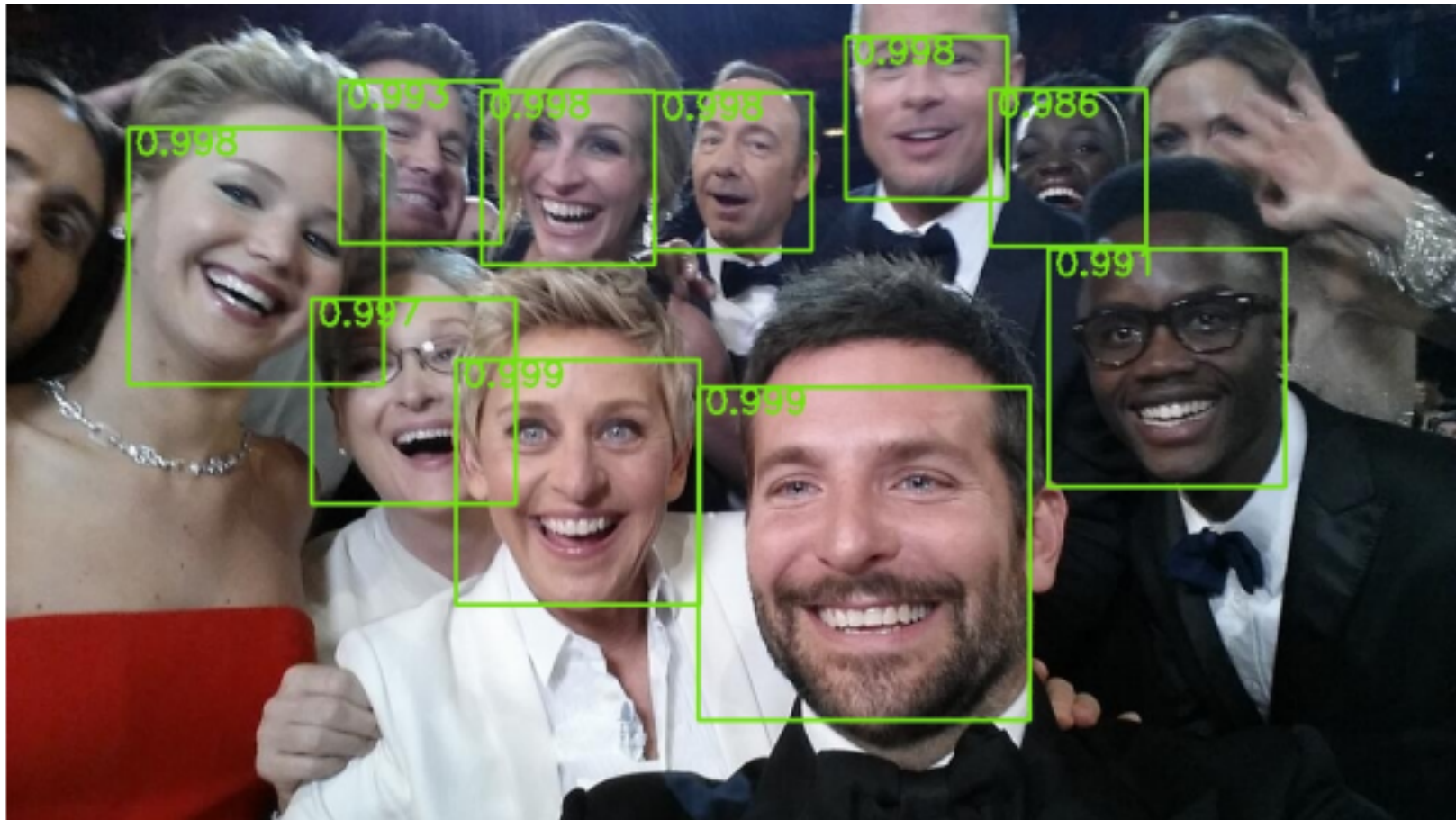


Image Classification

			
mite	container ship	motor scooter	leopard
mite black widow cockroach tick starfish	container ship lifeboat amphibian fireboat drilling platform	motor scooter go-kart moped bumper car golfcart	leopard jaguar cheetah snow leopard Egyptian cat
			
grille	mushroom	cherry	Madagascar cat
convertible grille pickup beach wagon fire engine	agaric mushroom jelly fungus gill fungus dead-man's-fingers	dalmatian grape elderberry ffordshire bullterrier currant	squirrel monkey spider monkey titi indri howler monkey

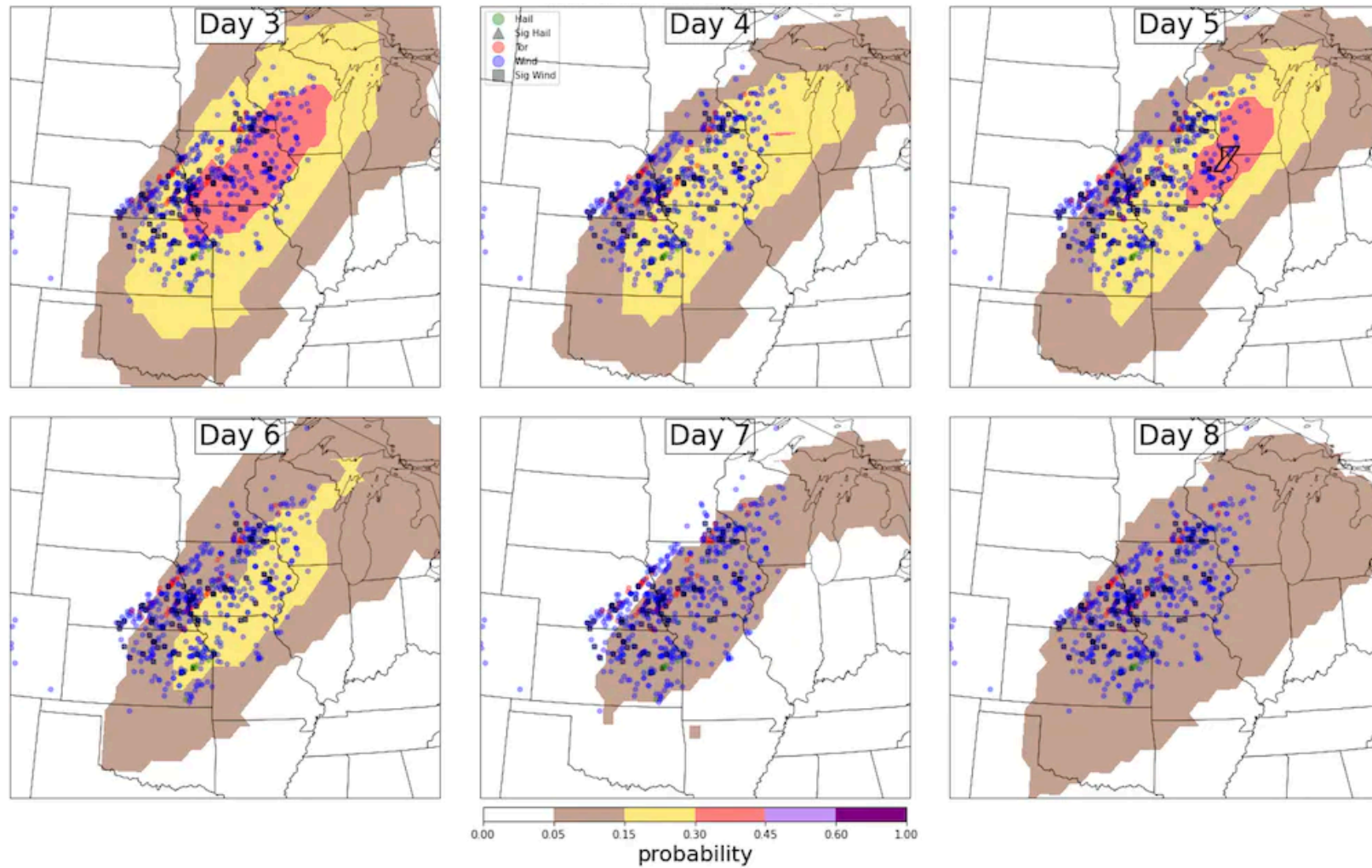
Face Detection



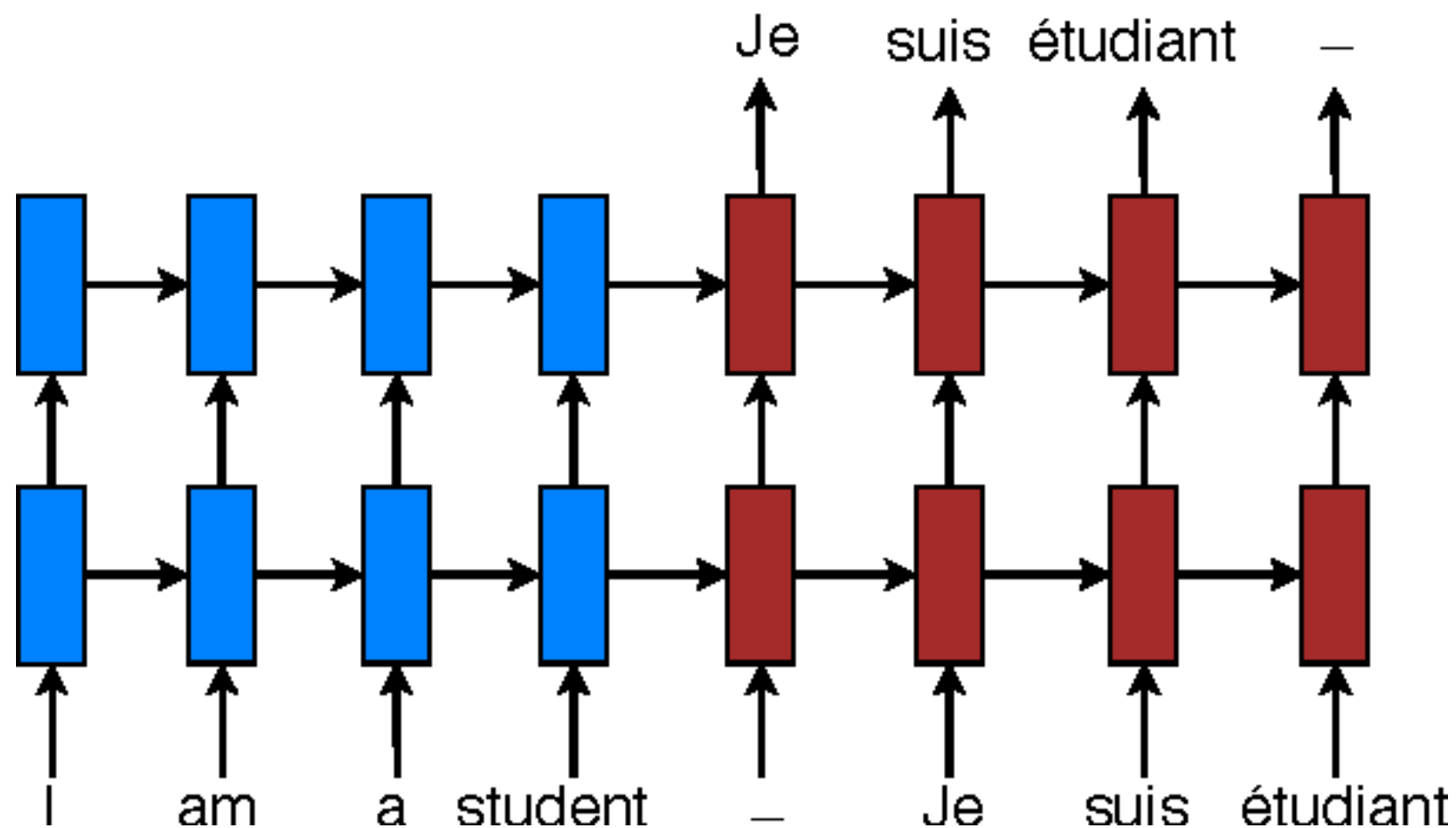
Spam Detection

	Subject		Correspondents		Date
	URGENT RFQ		← AL WALEED EQUIPMENTS 		03/13/2017 06:55
			← starsescorts@gmail.com 		03/15/2017 01:27
	New Order Attached **KINDLY SEND INVOICE		← Amr Hassan 		03/15/2017 19:30
	We're sad to let you know that our delivery was unsuccessful....		← FedEx Expedited Express 		03/16/2017 02:53
	47929 username2		← pkeith@gejlaw.com 		03/16/2017 05:29
	Delivery Status Notification		← webmaster@stroy-exp... 		03/16/2017 05:47
			← vowsbyjudy@shaw.ca 		03/16/2017 14:38
	Formal Inquiry		← "Anaïs VANACKER"<Va... 		03/16/2017 21:16
	We have delivery problems with your parcel #7104543		← webmaster@whfarm2.... 		03/17/2017 00:57
	INQUIRY		← Saigon Offshore 		03/17/2017 03:47
			← dava@ac-lyon.fr 		03/17/2017 14:25
	54343 username		← juanro5554@hotmail.c... 		03/17/2017 14:48
	Item Delivery Notification		← alifeof8@server.alifeofj... 		00:34
	UPS courier can not deliver parcel #004287245 to you		← webmaster@stroy-exp... 		06:23
	Parcel Delivery Notification		← abidjanbateau@vps286... 		06:52
	Visa Card Award		← info@visa.com 		07:21
	Problems with item delivery, n.4930349		← Apache 		09:54
	Package Delivery Notification		← Apache 		10:06
	Delivery Status Notification		← contrav8@box980.blue... 		17:05

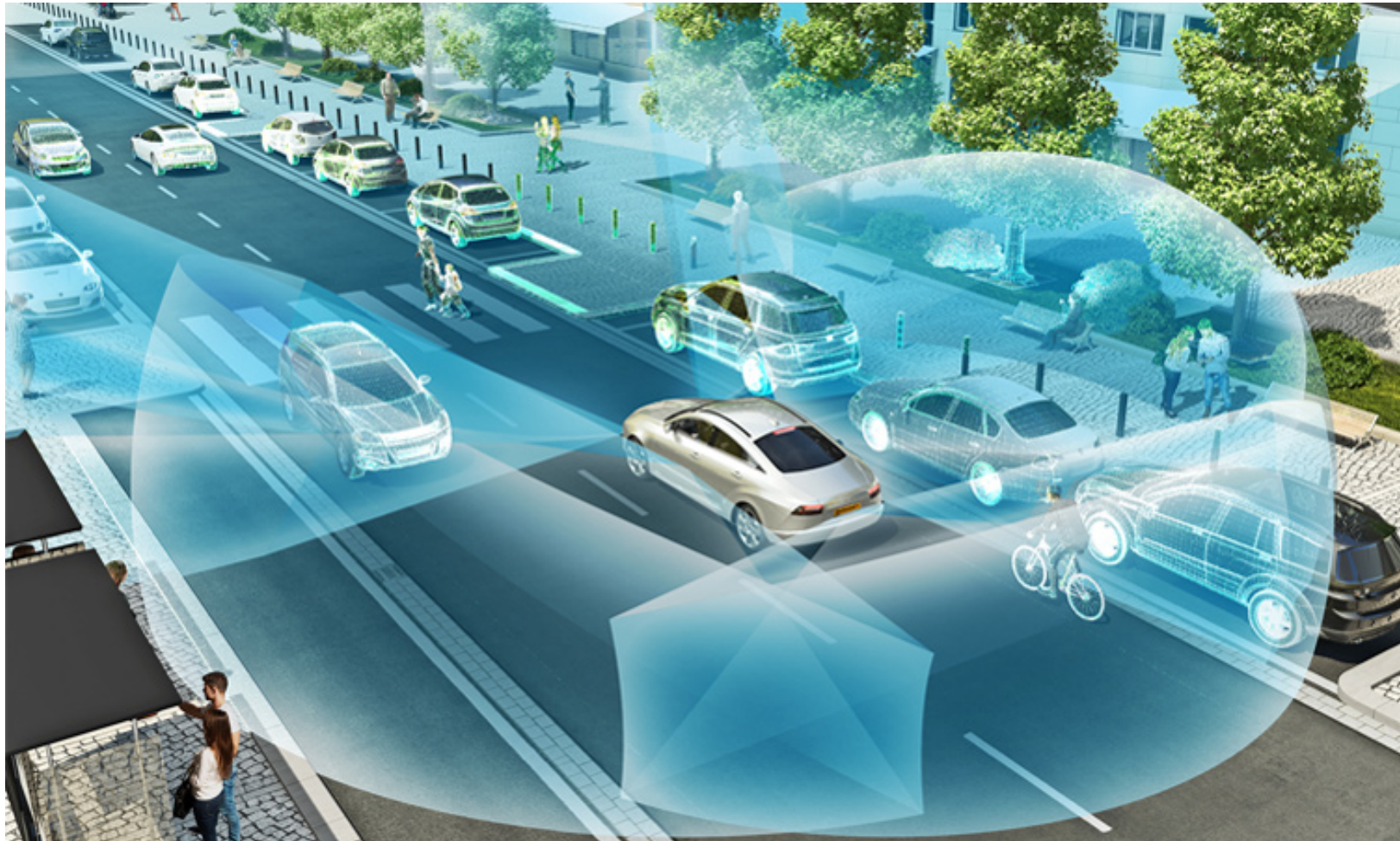
Weather Forecasting



Machine Translation

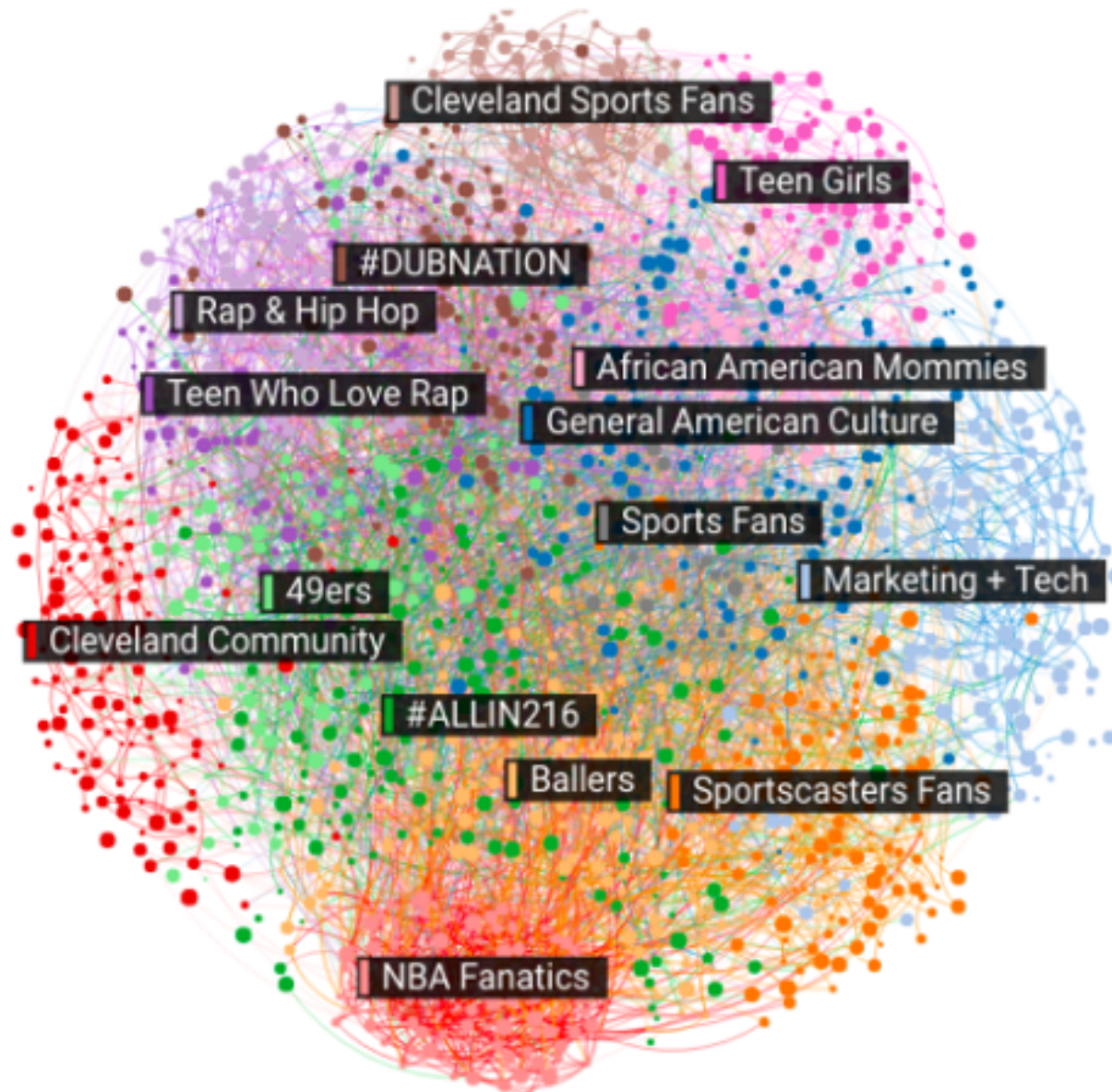


Autonomous Driving



**Do We Always have the input
output pair**

Community Detection



Anomaly Detection

Glass furnace



Product line



After 24 hours



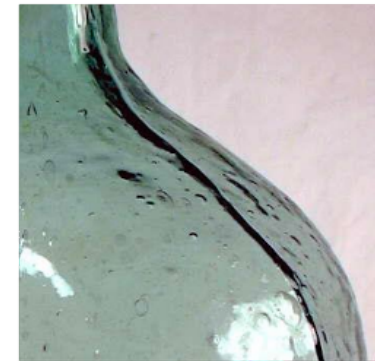
Something goes wrong



Anomaly propagates

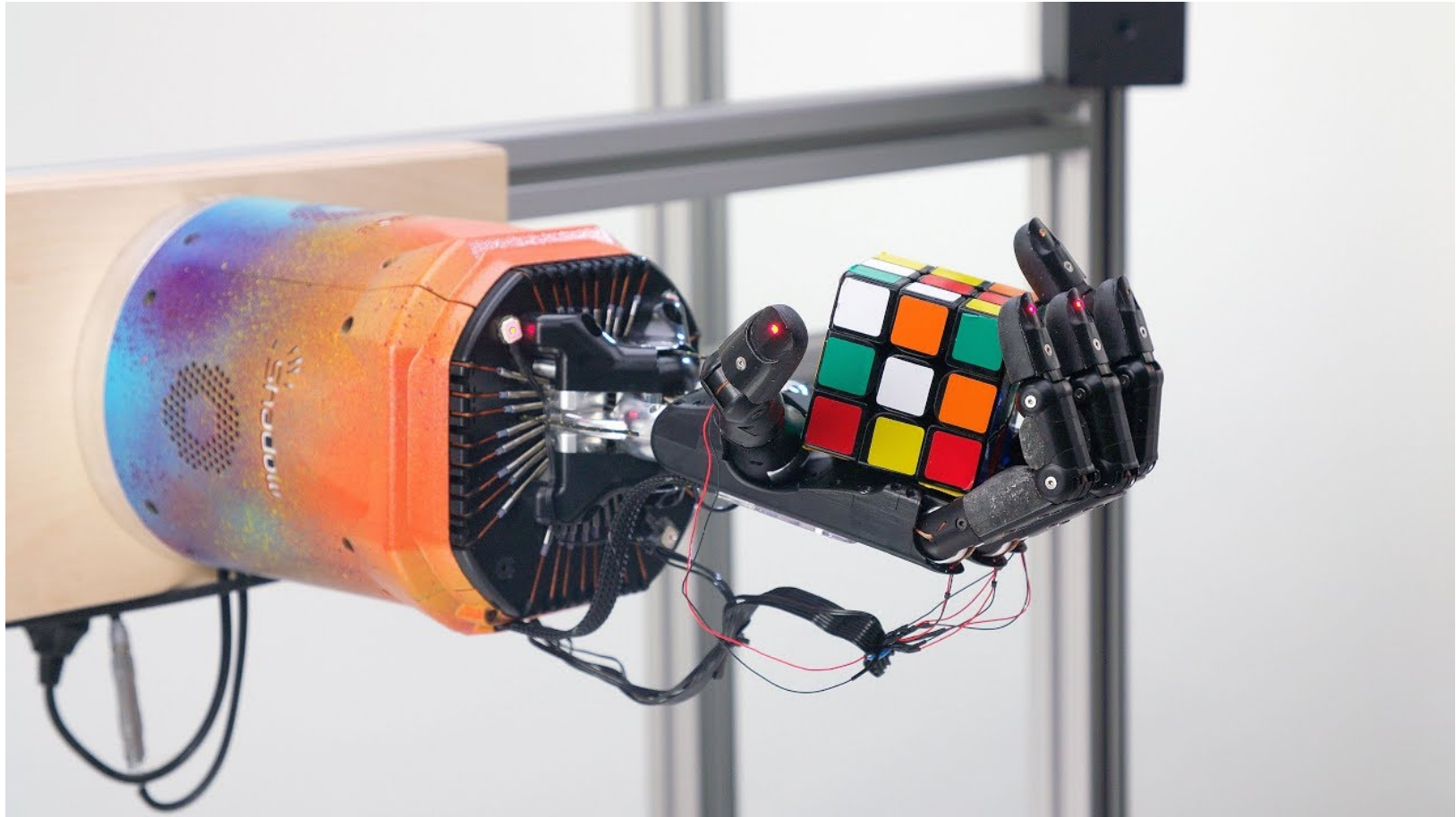


Blisters in glass



Movie Recommendation

							...
	★★★★★	?	★★★★☆	?	?	?	...
	?	★★★☆☆	?	?	★★★★☆	?	...
	?	?	?	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	?	...
	?	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	?	?	★★★★★	...
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮ ⋮ ⋮





MIDJOURNEY_{AI}



Introduction: Machine Learning

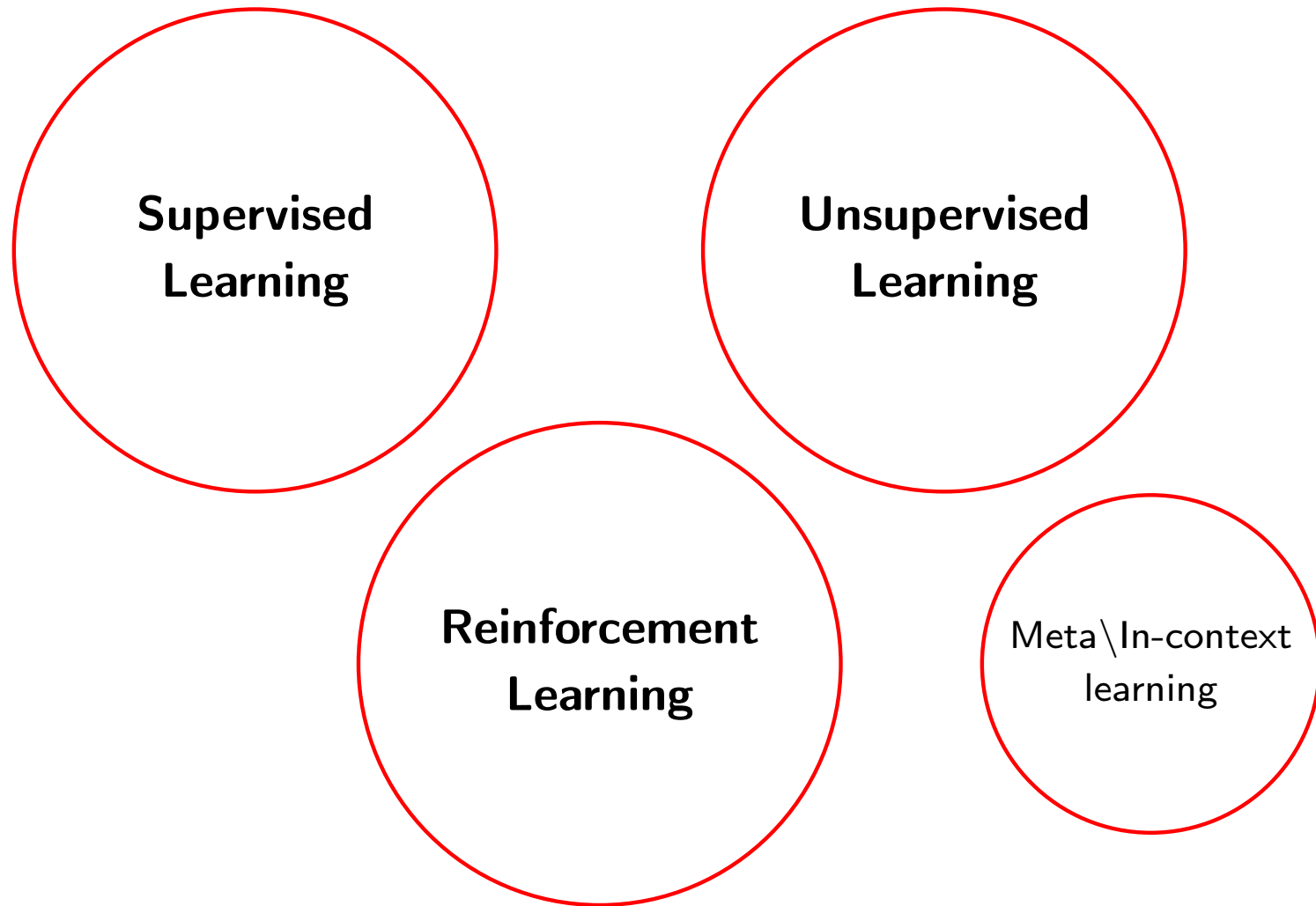
Tom Mitchell (1998): a computer program is said to learn from experience E with respect to some class of tasks T and performance measure P , if its performance at tasks in T , as measured by P , improves with experience E .

- ❑ Experience (data): games played by the program (with itself)
- ❑ Performance measure: winning rate

-
- ☹ We want to provide clear, interpretable models. These models allow you to understand the direct influence of each predictor on the outcome, which is essential in fields where insight into relationships (rather than just prediction) is needed.
 - ☹ No confidence interval estimation
 - ☹ In cases where data is scarce, simpler parametric models used in statistical learning can perform better. (Why?)

Regression: Predict the Unknown

Taxonomy of Machine Learning



Supervised Learning (Regression)

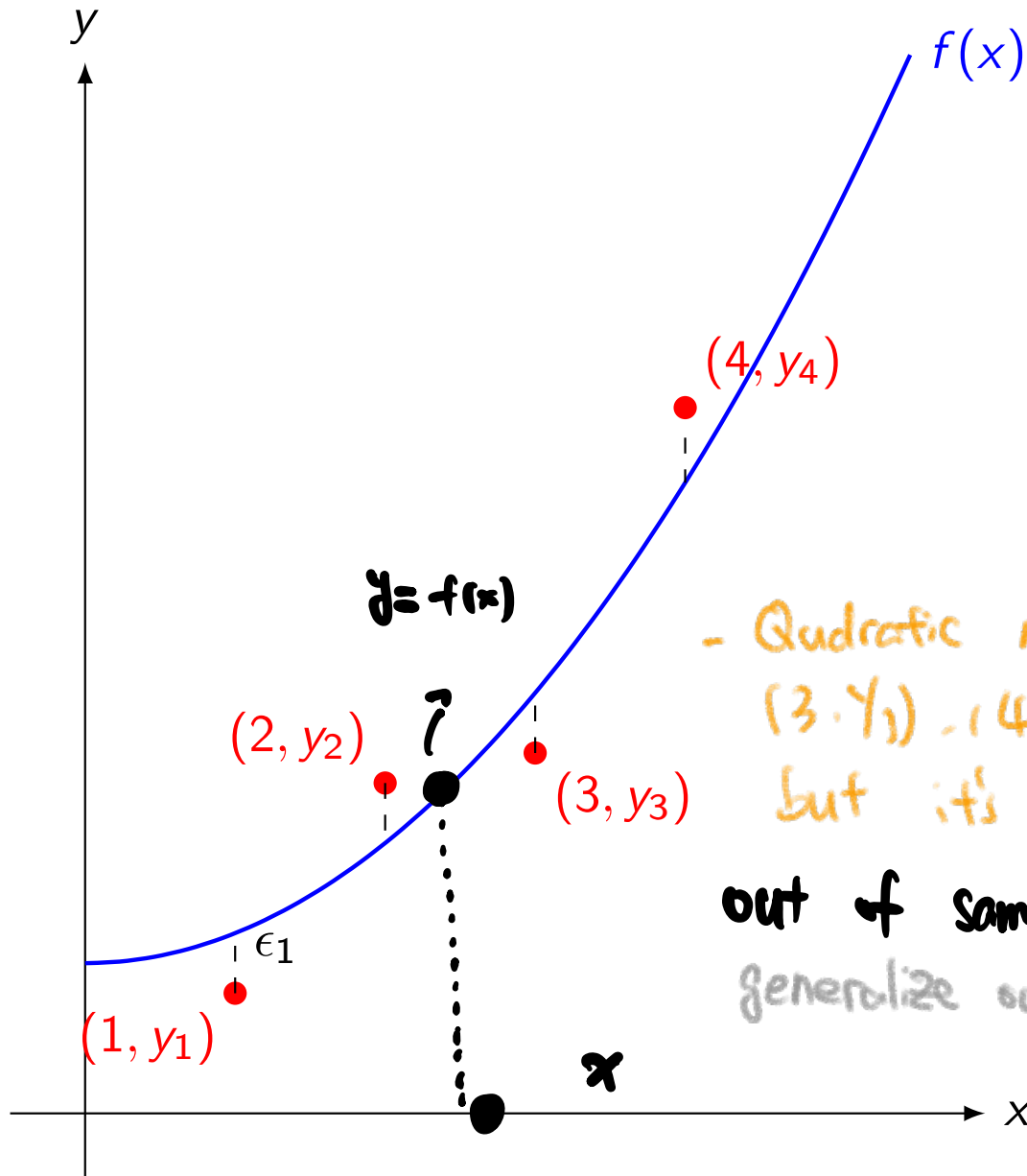
Supervised Learning: a set of observed data points $\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$, where x_i represents the predictor (or vector of predictors) and y_i represents the response variable. Regression is the process of modeling the relationship between x and y by assuming:

$$y_i = f(x_i) + \epsilon_i,$$

where:

- $f(x_i)$ is an unknown function that describes the systematic component of the relationship
- ϵ_i is a random error term.

Regression



$$f(x) = a_2 x^2 + a_1 x + a_0$$

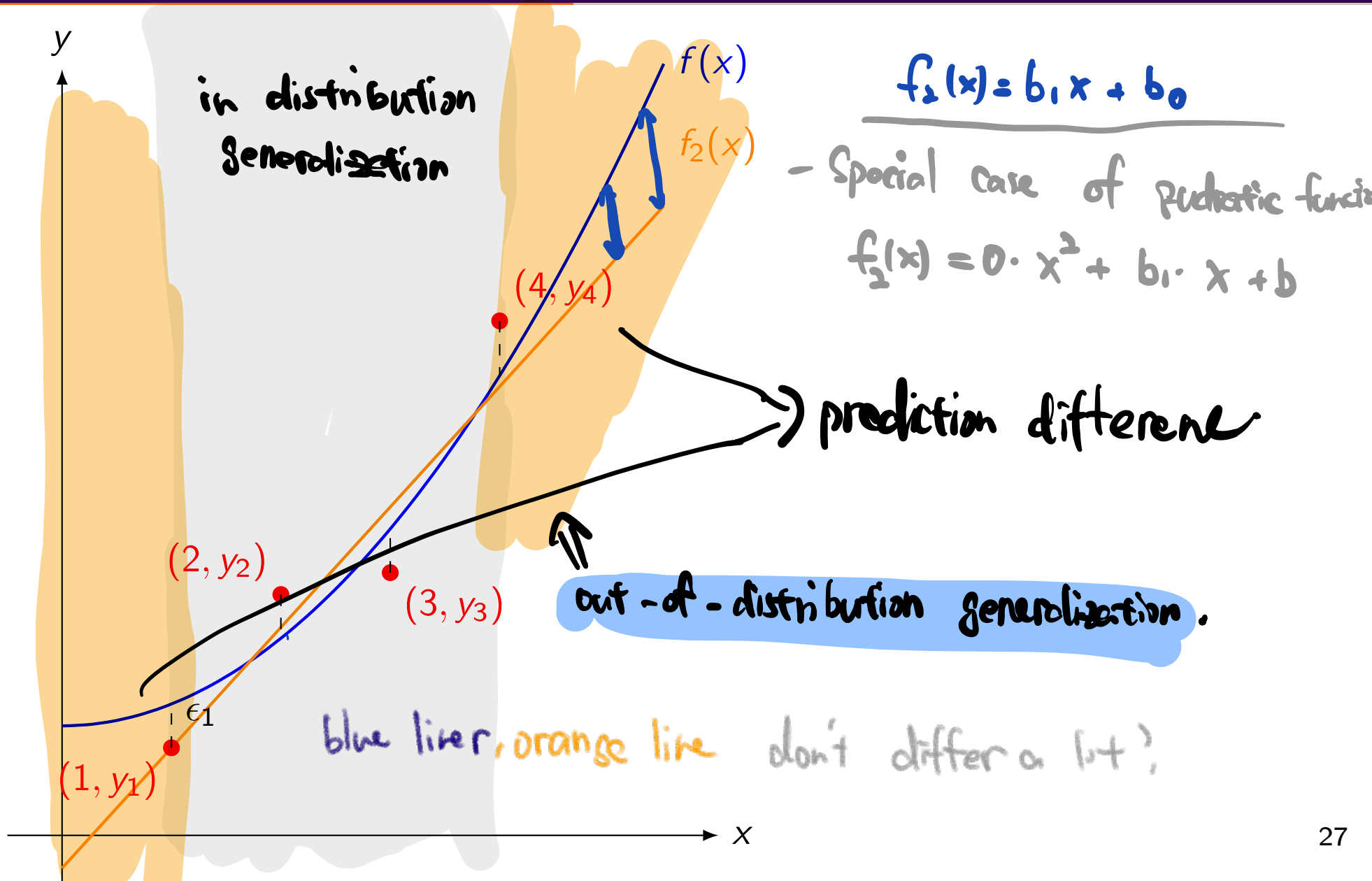
- Quadratic model is better on $(1, y_1)$, $(2, y_2)$, $(3, y_3)$, $(4, y_4)$

but it's always true for out-of-sample prediction

out of sample prediction:

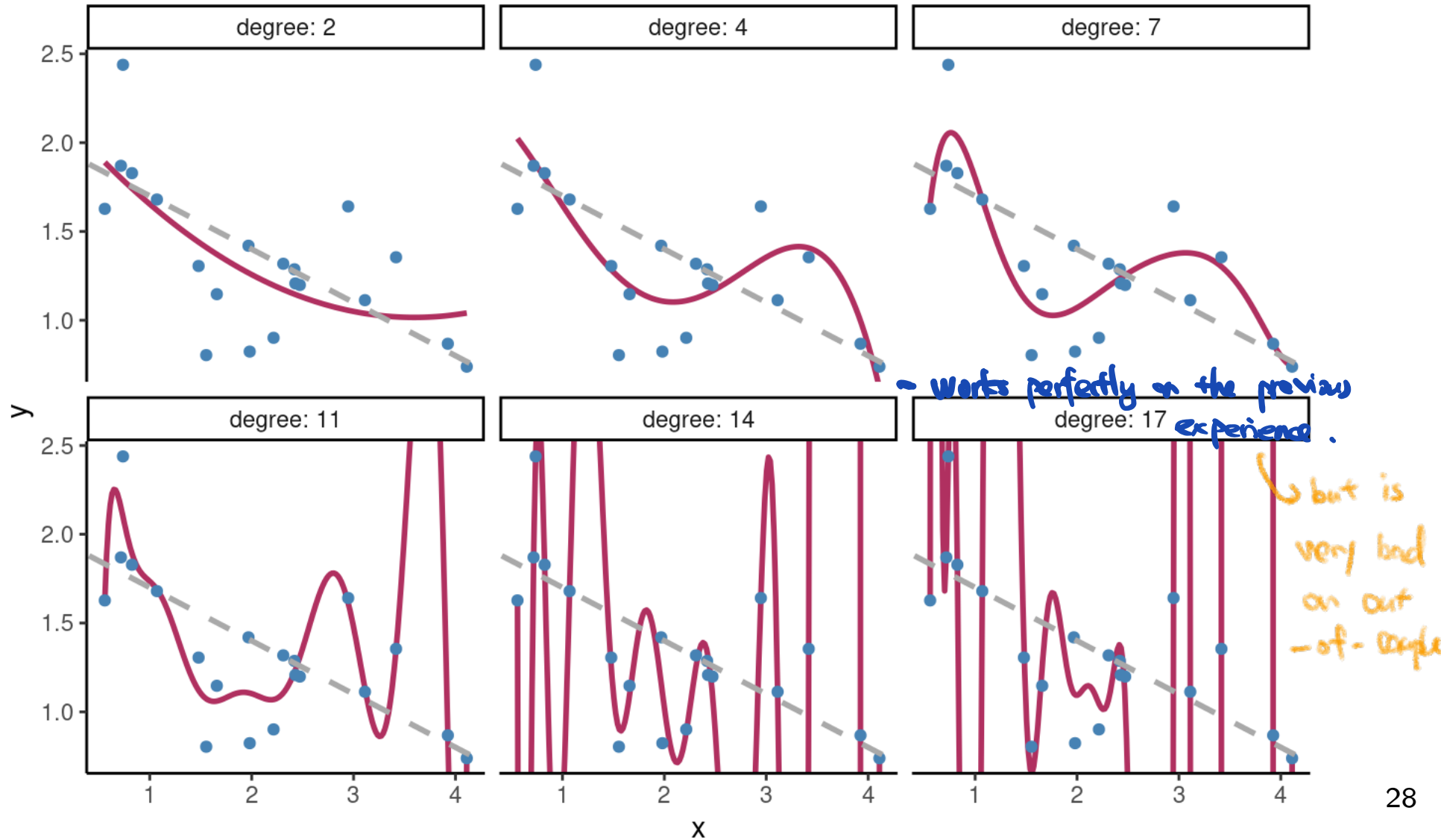
generalize our model to unseen case!

Regression



Runge Phenomenon

High degree polynomial models fit data better



Bias and Variance Trade-off

$$y = f(x) + \epsilon$$

$$\mathbb{E}[(y - \hat{f}(x))^2] = \underbrace{\left(f(x) - \mathbb{E}[\hat{f}(x)]\right)^2}_{\text{Bias}^2 \text{ of data collection}} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}\left[\left(\hat{f}(x) - \mathbb{E}[\hat{f}(x)]\right)^2\right]}_{\text{Variance}} + \underbrace{\sigma^2}_{\text{Irreducible}}$$

mean compute over the empirical data

over the randomness

is the function you learned

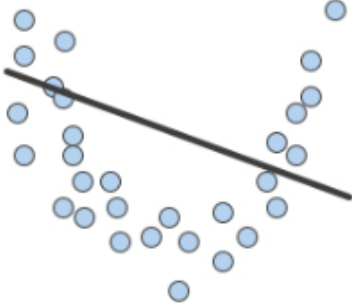
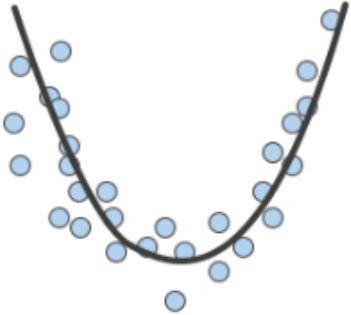
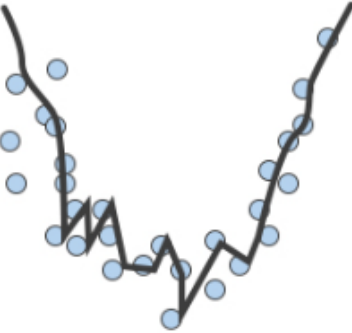
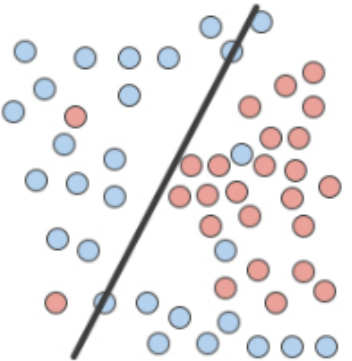
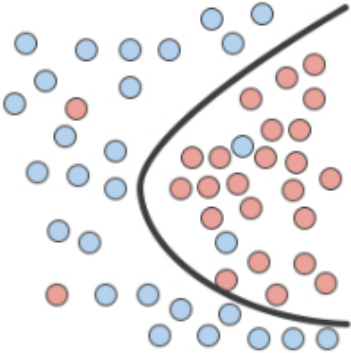
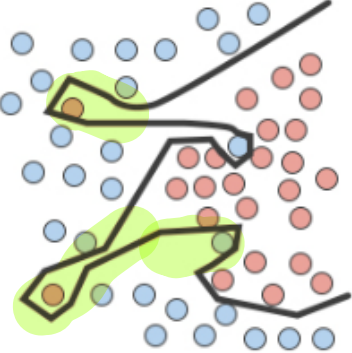
with data $\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ empirical data. (We assume data is randomly collected)

☹ An unbiased estimator could still make systematic mistakes – for example, if it overestimates 99% of the time, and underestimates 1% of the time *by a lot*, in expectation it could be unbiased.

☹ An unbiased estimator is ****not** necessarily better than a biased estimator**, because the total error depends on both the bias and variance of the estimator.

Variance will become large for Unbiased Estimator

Bias and Variance Trade-off

	Underfitting	Just right	Overfitting
Symptoms	• High training error • Training error close to test error • High bias	• Training error slightly lower than test error	• Very low training error • Training error much lower than test error • High variance
Regression illustration			
Classification illustration			

Model have
more parameter
bias ↓
Variance ↑

Prediction Accuracy and Model Interpretability

Why would we ever choose to use a more restrictive method instead of a very flexible approach?

- Model have more parameters,

Interpretability ↓

bias ↓

Variance. ↑

data is small
↓

Variance is larger
↓

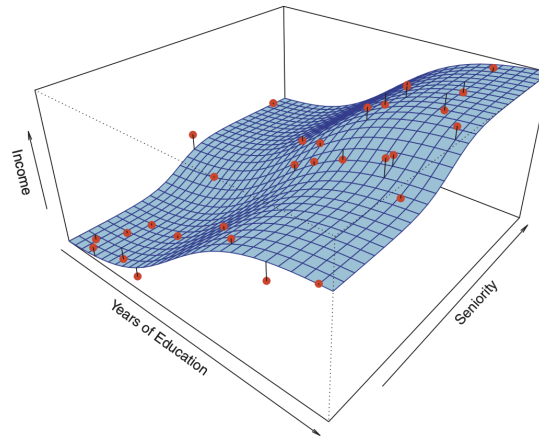
Var is the dominating factor
↓

parameter smaller
to make the model better.

High Dimensional Features

$$\square \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & \text{— living size} \\ x_2 & \text{— lot size} \\ x_3 & \text{— \# floors} \\ \vdots & \text{— condition} \\ x_d & \text{— zip code} \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{green arrow}} y \text{ — price}$$



Data as a Matrix

Linear Algebra Review this friday!

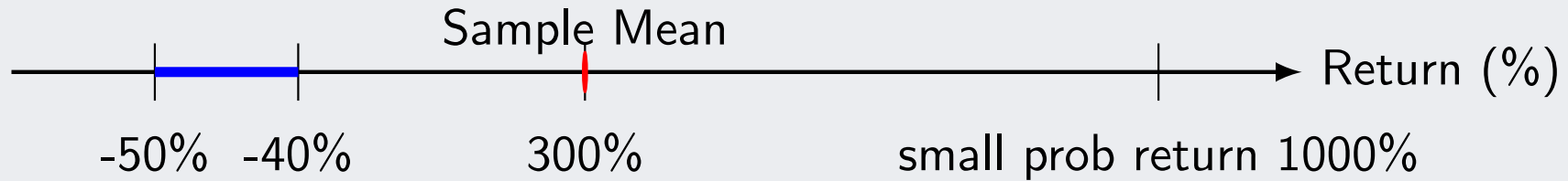
live site
next

Andrew

Spade

different data

Confidence Interval in Finance: Impact of Outliers



Why is this Important?

In this example, the confidence interval for the expected return is between -50% and -40%, indicating that most outcomes are negative. However, a very rare event pushes the sample mean to 300%, which could give the false impression of high returns. This discrepancy shows that while the sample mean may appear attractive, the confidence interval reveals the underlying risk and variability in the data, emphasizing the need to consider the full range of possible outcomes when making financial decisions.

Why Sample Mean?

Consider a dataset $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$. We consider L2 loss (or squared error loss) function with respect to a constant c as the performance measure P :

$$L(c) = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - c)^2.$$

To find the minimizer, differentiate $L(c)$ with respect to c :

$\frac{dL}{dc} = \sum_{i=1}^n 2(x_i - c)(-1) = -2 \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - c)$. Setting the derivative equal to zero gives:

$$-2 \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - c) = 0 \quad \implies \quad \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - c) = 0.$$

Expanding the sum:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n x_i - nc = 0 \quad \implies \quad c = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i.$$

Thus, the minimizing value of c is the sample mean: $\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$.

Different Prediction

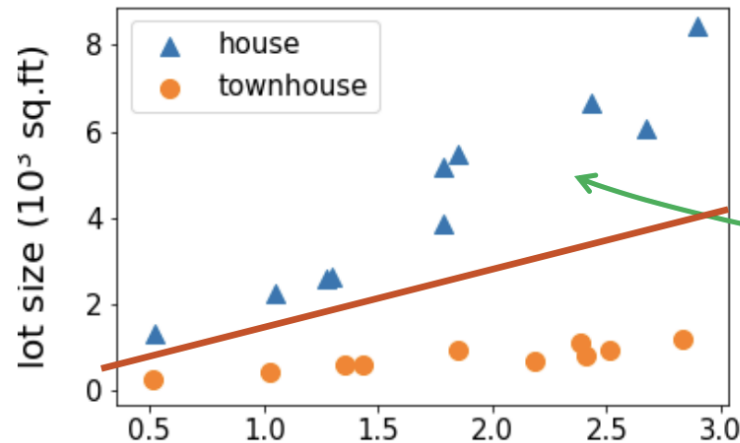
- ❑ Point Prediction : return $\hat{f}(x)$ since it returns a number.
- ❑ Interval Prediction , e.g., Y will be within an interval $[l, u]$ with probability $1 - \alpha$
- ❑ distributional prediction , e.g. Y will follow an $N(m, v)$ distribution.

Classification

Classification

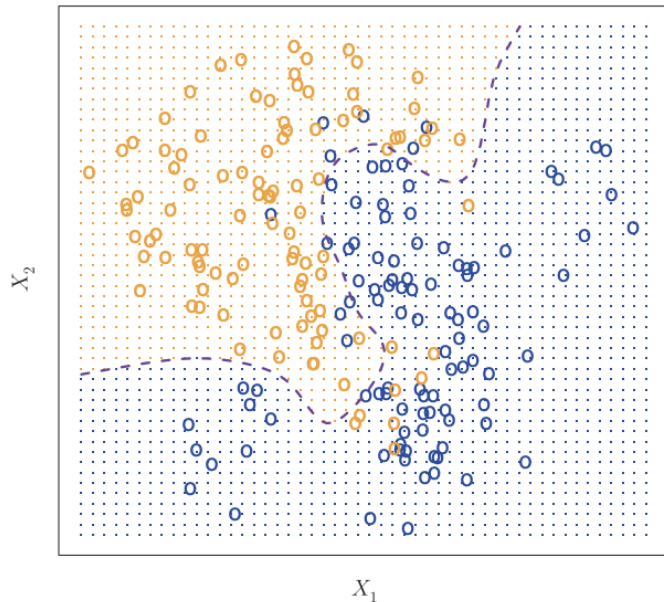
- ❑ Regression : if $y \in \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous variable
- ❑ classification : the label is a discrete variable

(size, lot size) $\rightarrow$ house or townhouse ?



$y = \text{house or townhouse?}$

Classification as Regression: Bayes Classifier



training error rate: $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n I(y_i \neq \hat{y}_i)$

Here the function $I(y_i \neq \hat{y}_i)$ is an indicator variable that equals 1, if $y_i \neq \hat{y}_i$ and 0 otherwise. If $y_i \neq \hat{y}_i$, then the i -th observation was classified incorrectly; otherwise it was not misclassified.

Consider random label: $\mathbb{P}(Y = j \mid X = x_0)$.

The Bayes classifier returns

$$1 - \max_j \mathbb{P}(Y = j \mid X = x_0)$$

return
 $j = \arg \max \mathbb{P}(Y=j \mid x=x_0)$

The irreducible error

produces the lowest possible test error rate, called the *Bayes error rate* is given by

$$\underbrace{1 - \mathbb{E} \left[\max_j \mathbb{P}(Y = j \mid X) \right]}_{\text{Irreducible}}$$

x and y in Computer Vision

Task. Image Classification

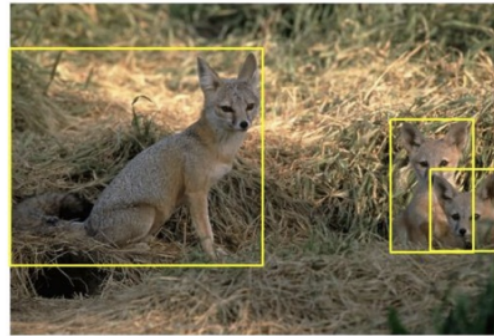
$x = ?$, $y = ?$



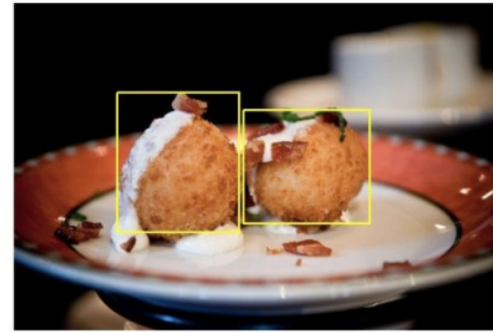
x and y in Computer Vision

Task. Object localization and detection

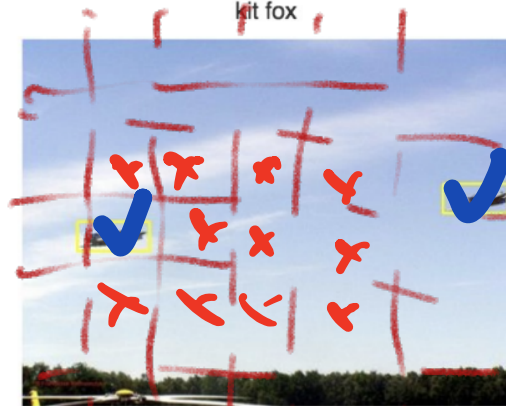
$x = ?$, $y = ?$



kit fox



croquette



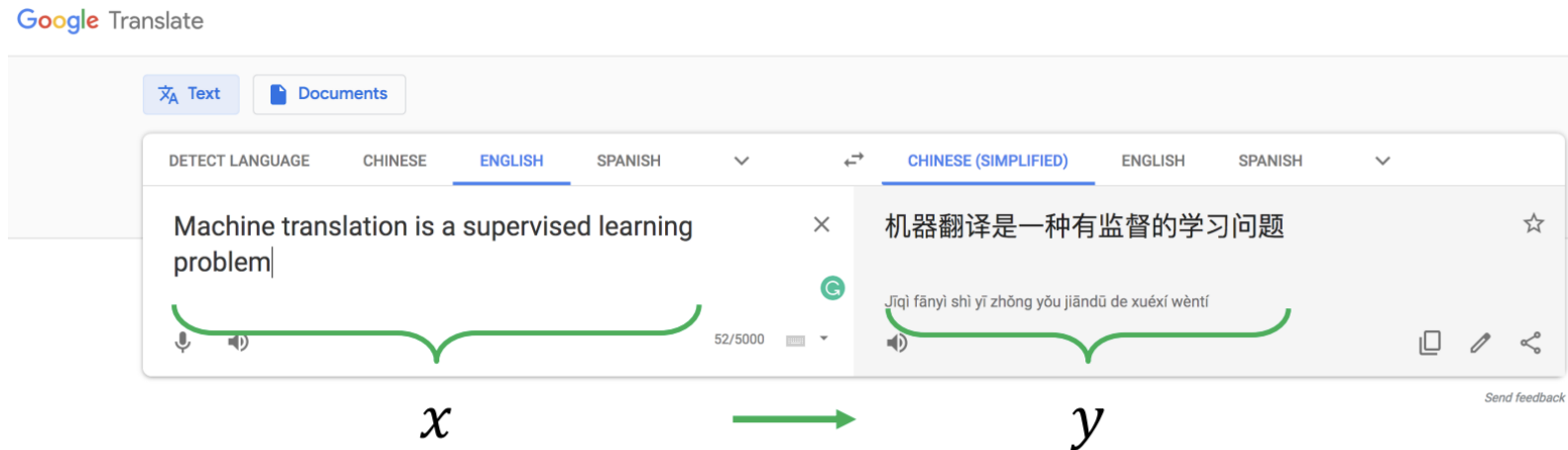
airplane



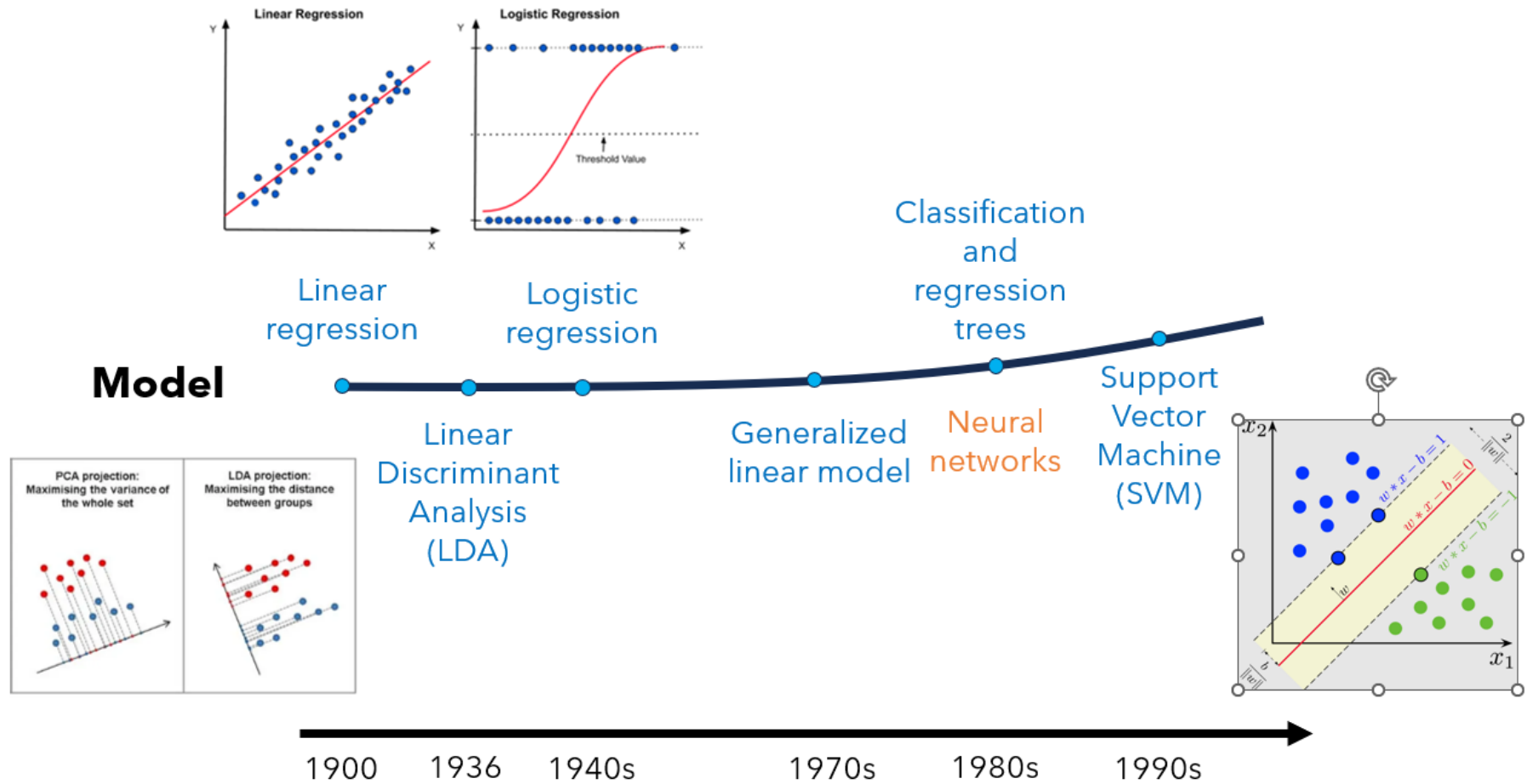
frog

x and y in Natural Language

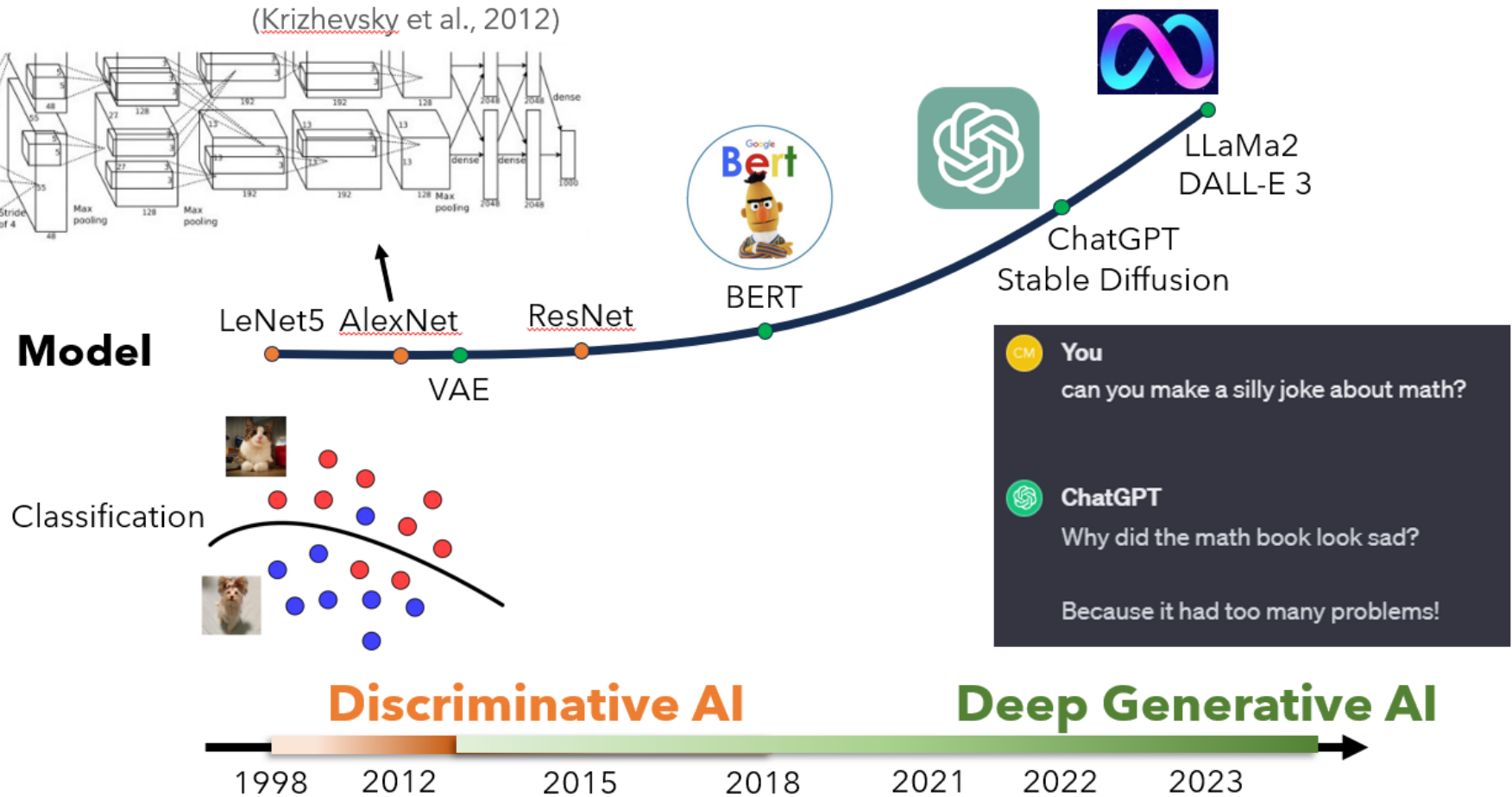
Task. Machine Translation d $x = ?$, $y = ?$



Early History



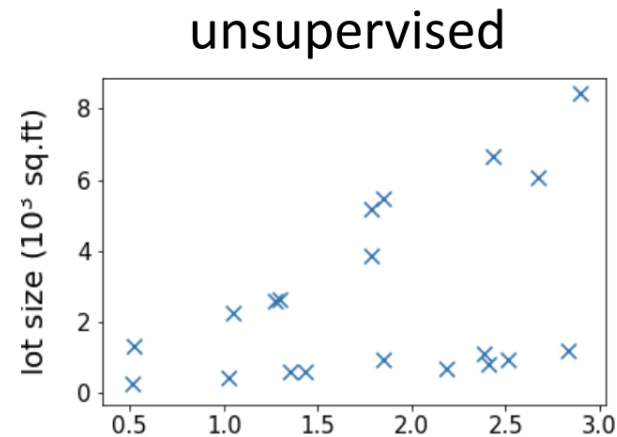
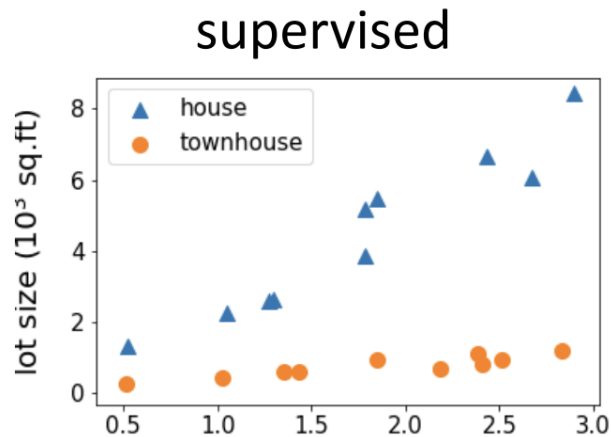
Contemporary Developments



Unsupervised Learning

Unsupervised Learning (Clustering)

- ❑ Dataset contains **no** labels: $x^{(1)}, x^{(2)}, \dots, x^{(n)}$
- ❑ Goal (**vaguely-posed**): to find interesting structures in the data

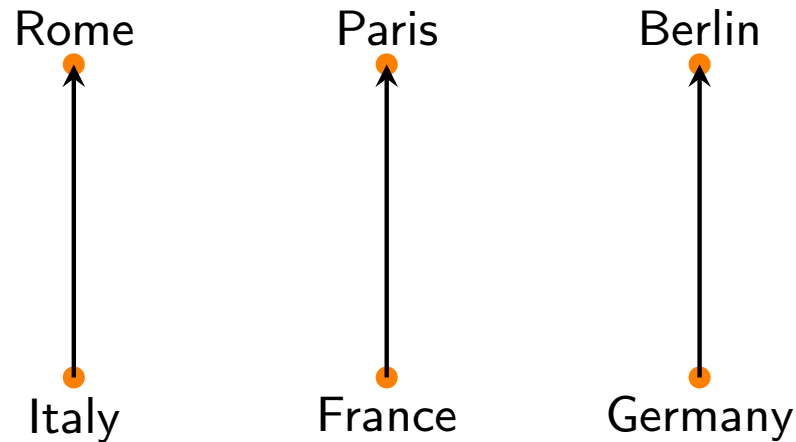


Unsupervised Learning (Feature Extraction)

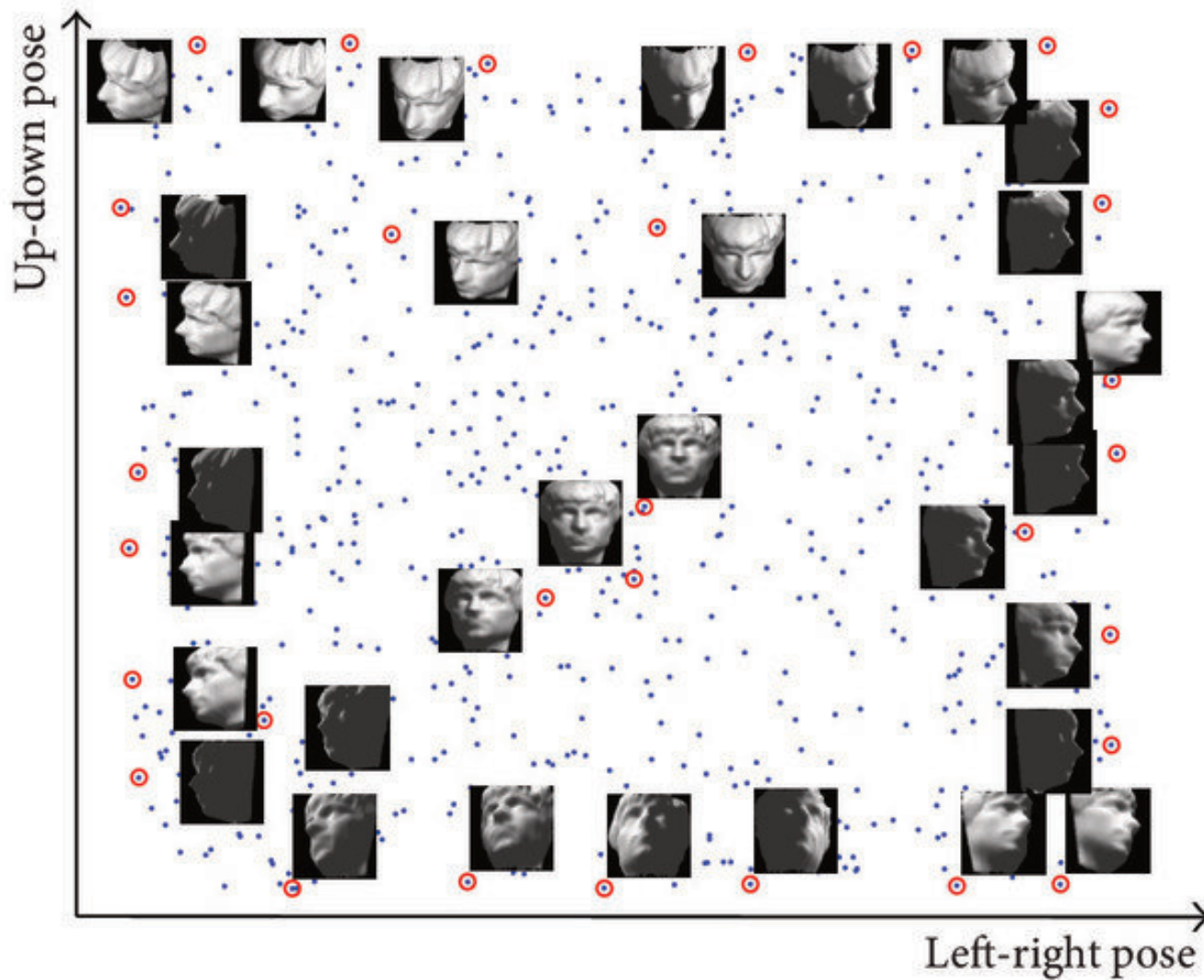
- ❑ Word : Encode as vectors
- ❑ Relationship : represent as direction

▷ word $\longrightarrow$ encode $\longrightarrow$ vector

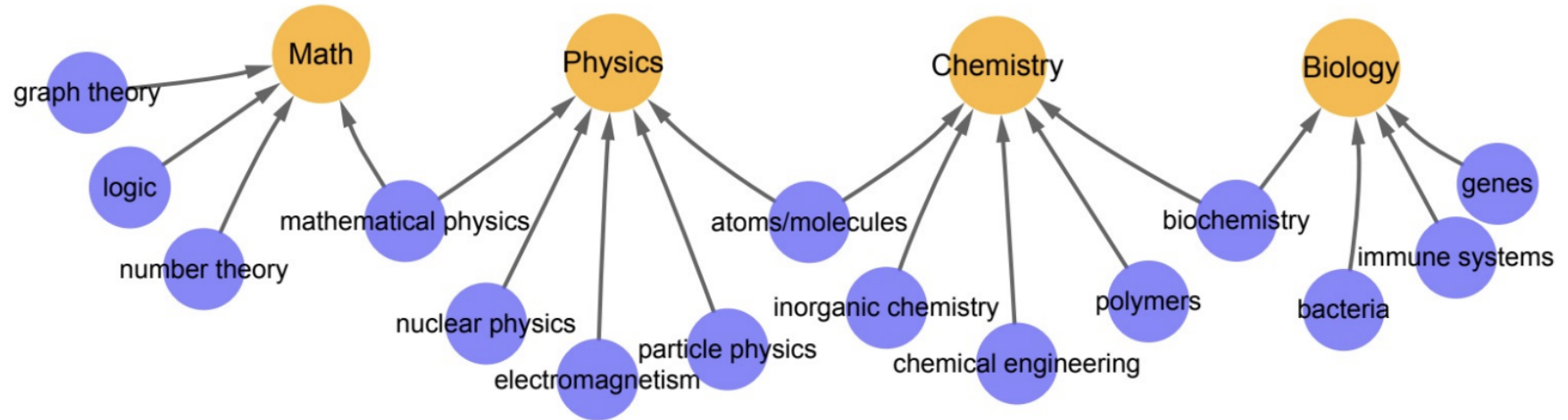
▷ relation $\longrightarrow$ encode $\longrightarrow$ direction



Unsupervised Learning (Feature Extraction)

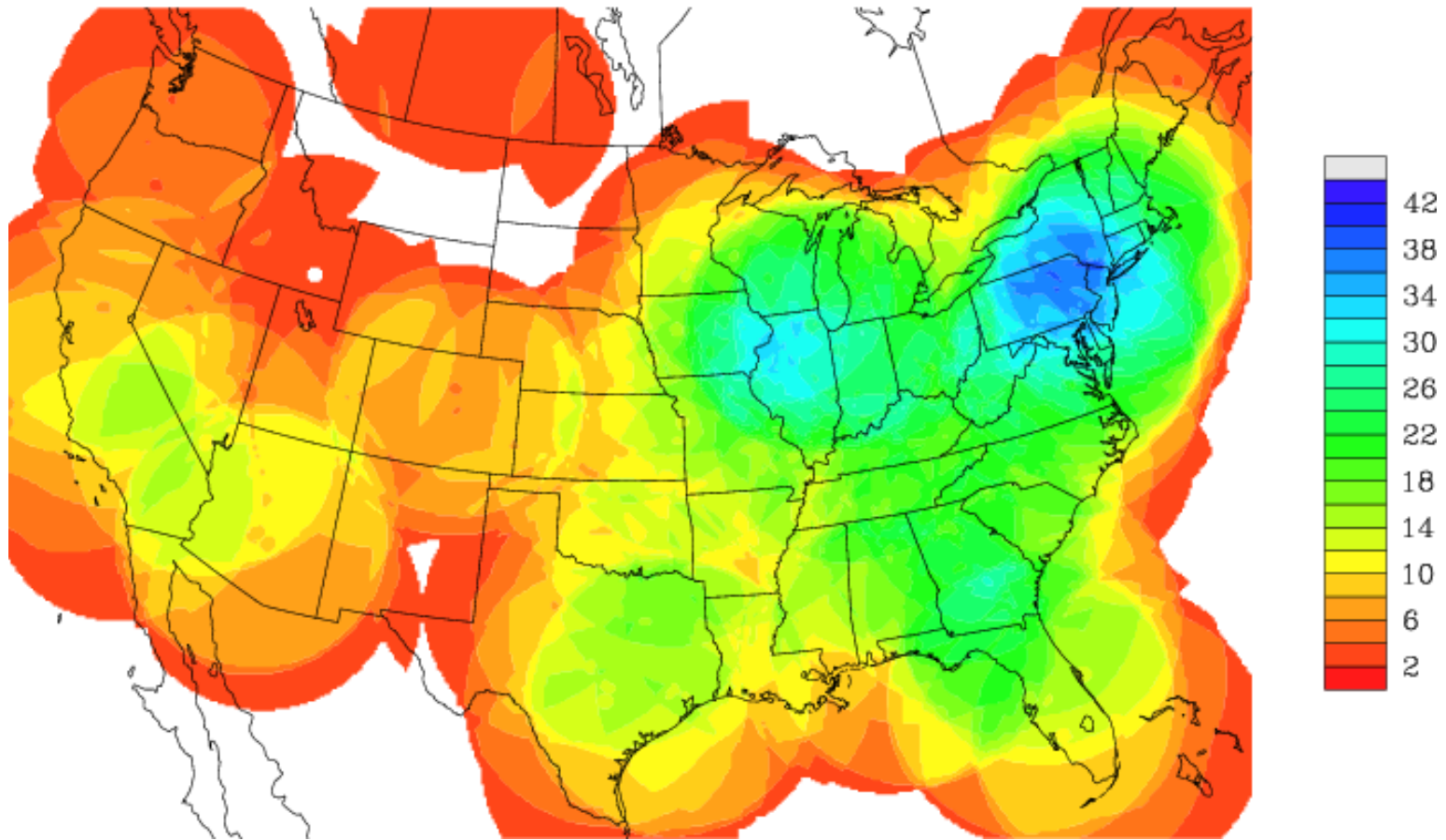


Unsupervised Learning

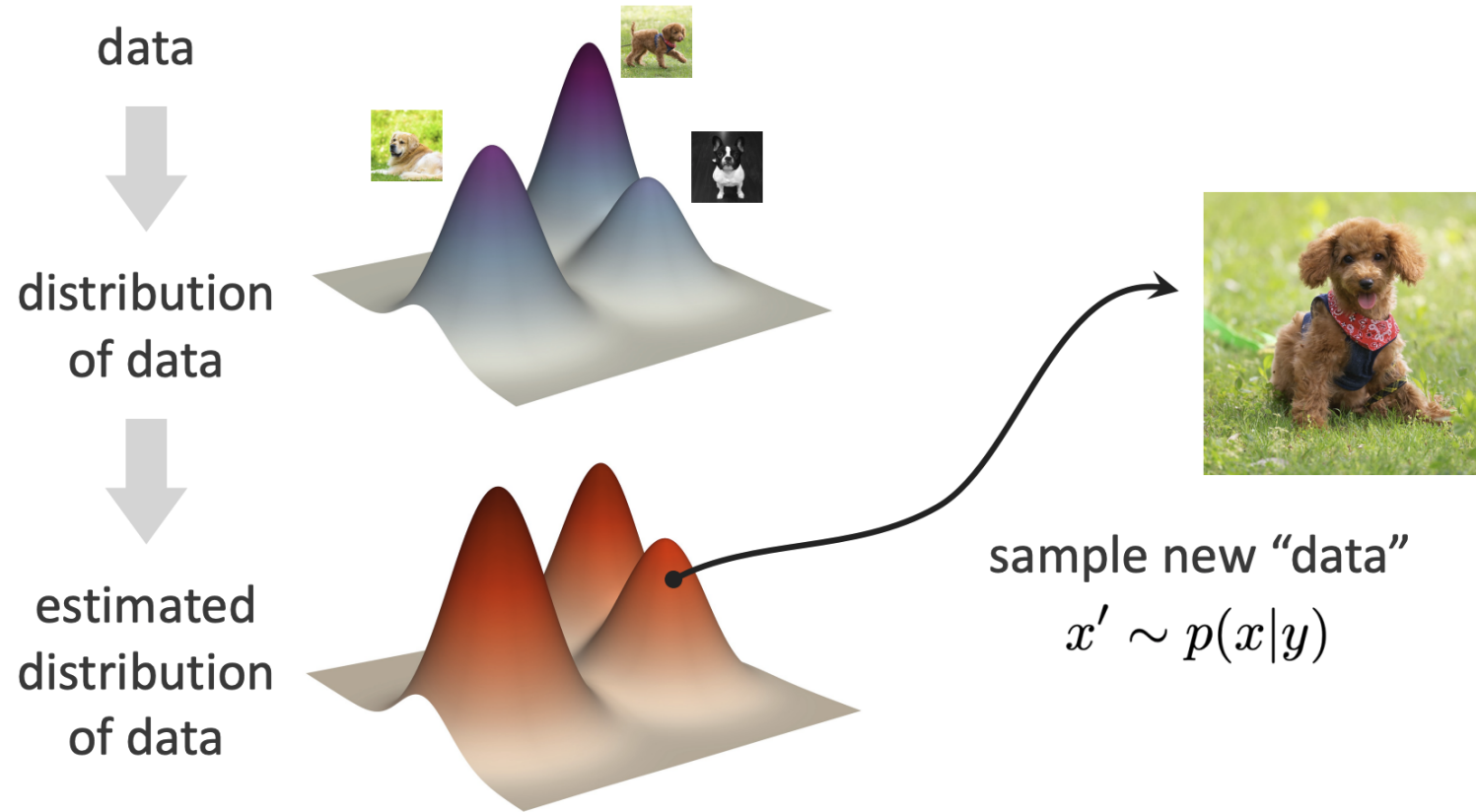


	logic deductive propositional semantics	graph subgraph bipartite vertex	boson massless particle higgs	polyester polypropylene resins epoxy	acids amino biosynthesis peptide
tag	<i>logic</i>	<i>graph theory</i>	<i>particle physics</i>	<i>polymer</i>	<i>biochemistry</i>

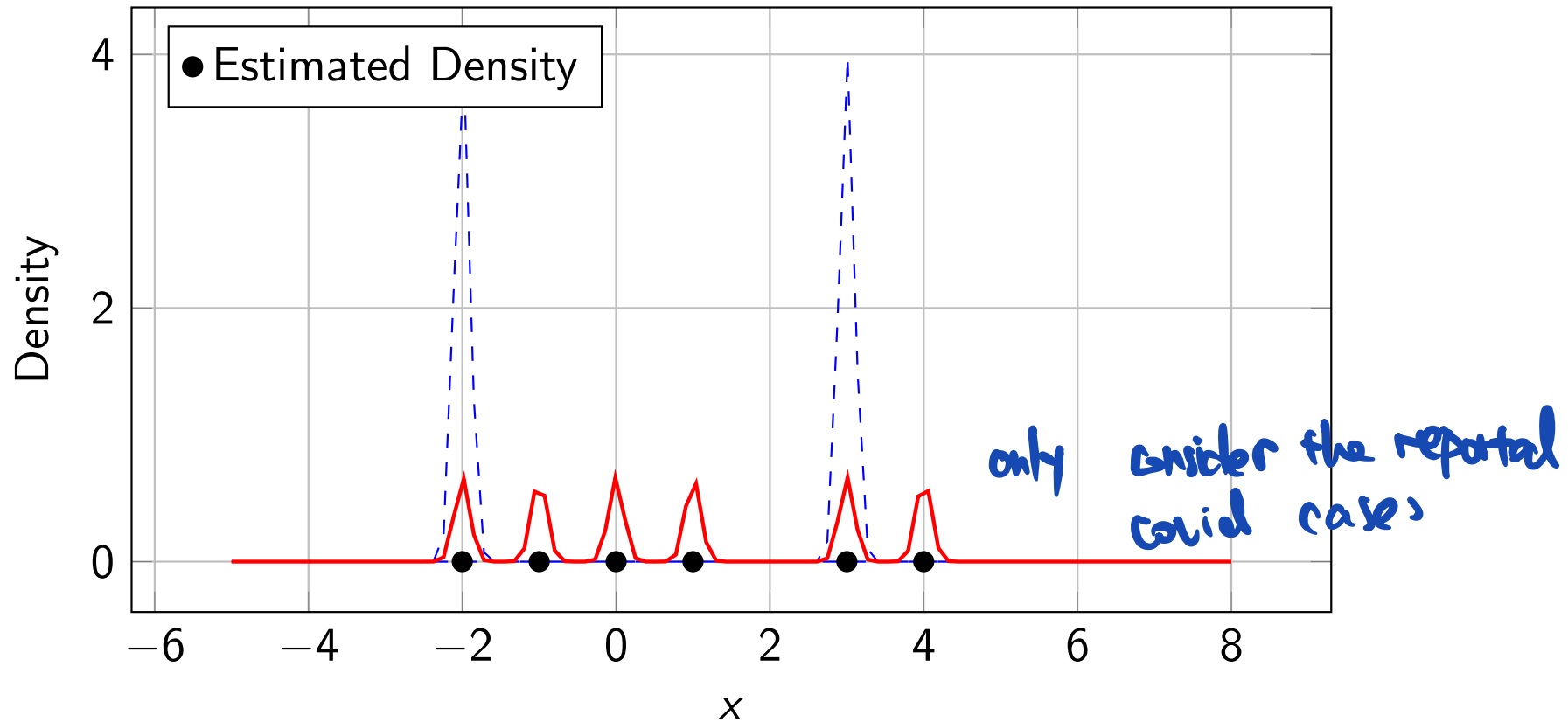
Unsupervised Learning (Density Estimation)



Generative Modeling



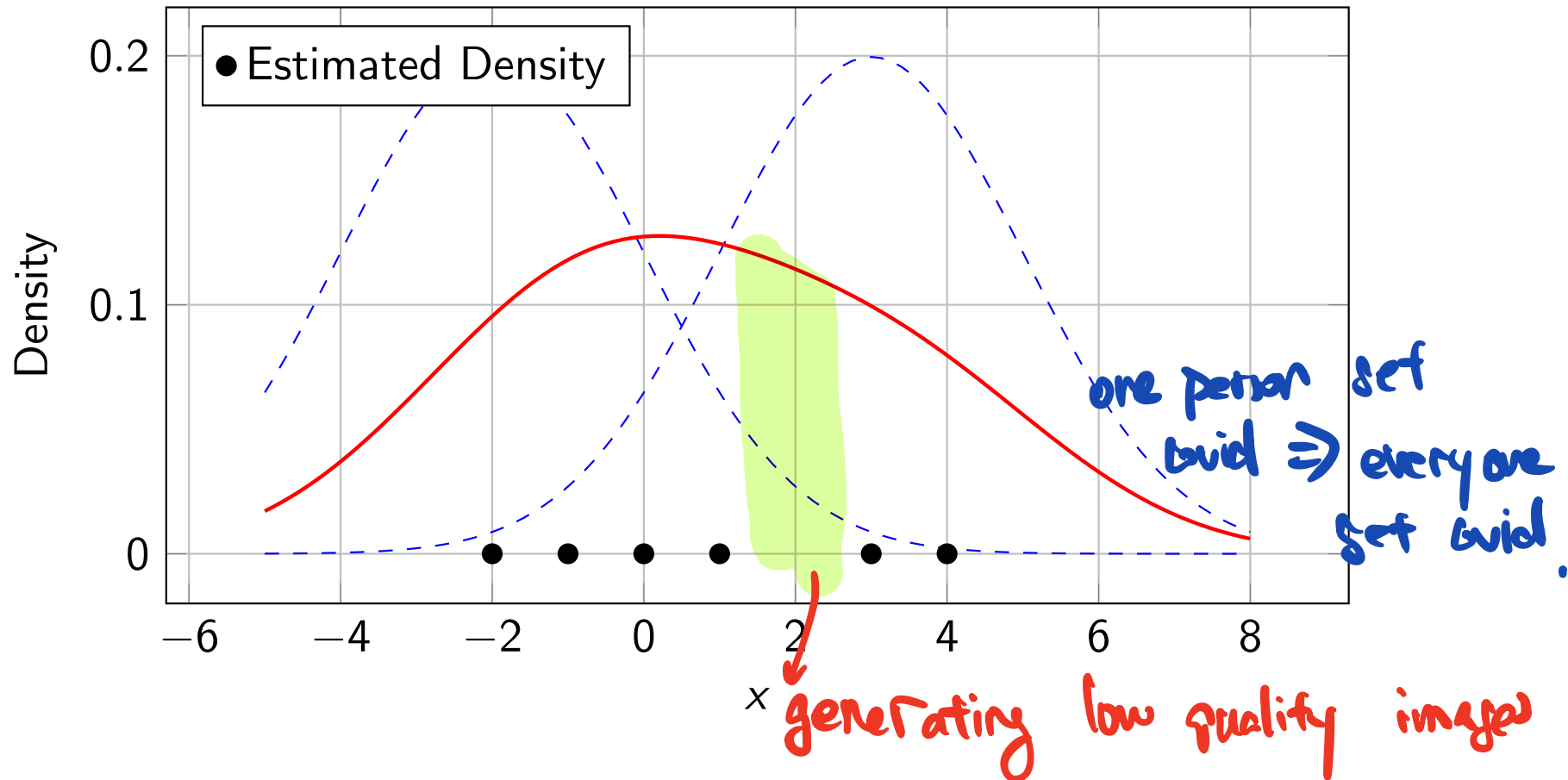
Density Estimation: Bias and Variance Trade-off



What does this mean in generating images?

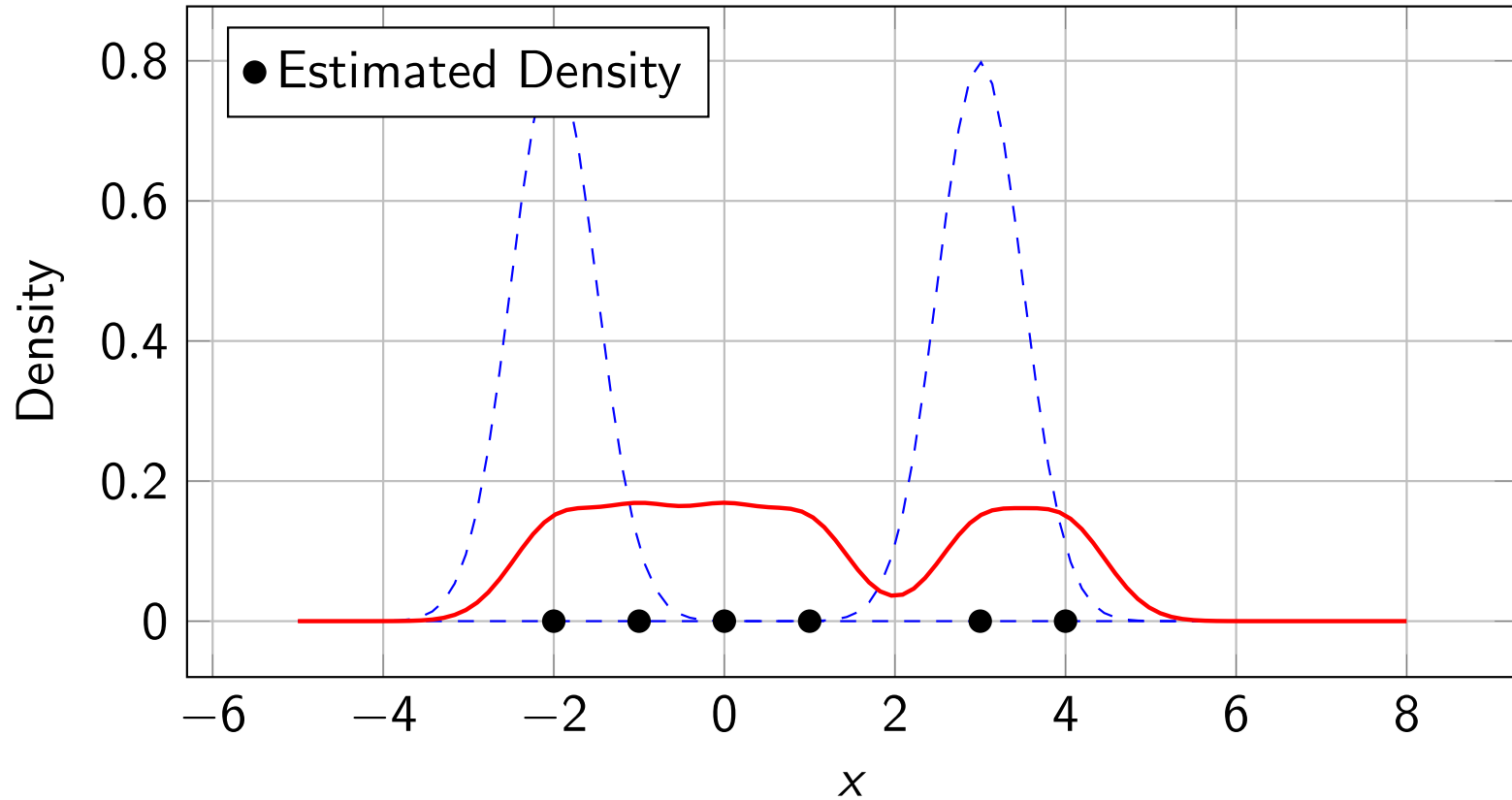
only repeat the images
in the data set.

Density Estimation: Bias and Variance Trade-off

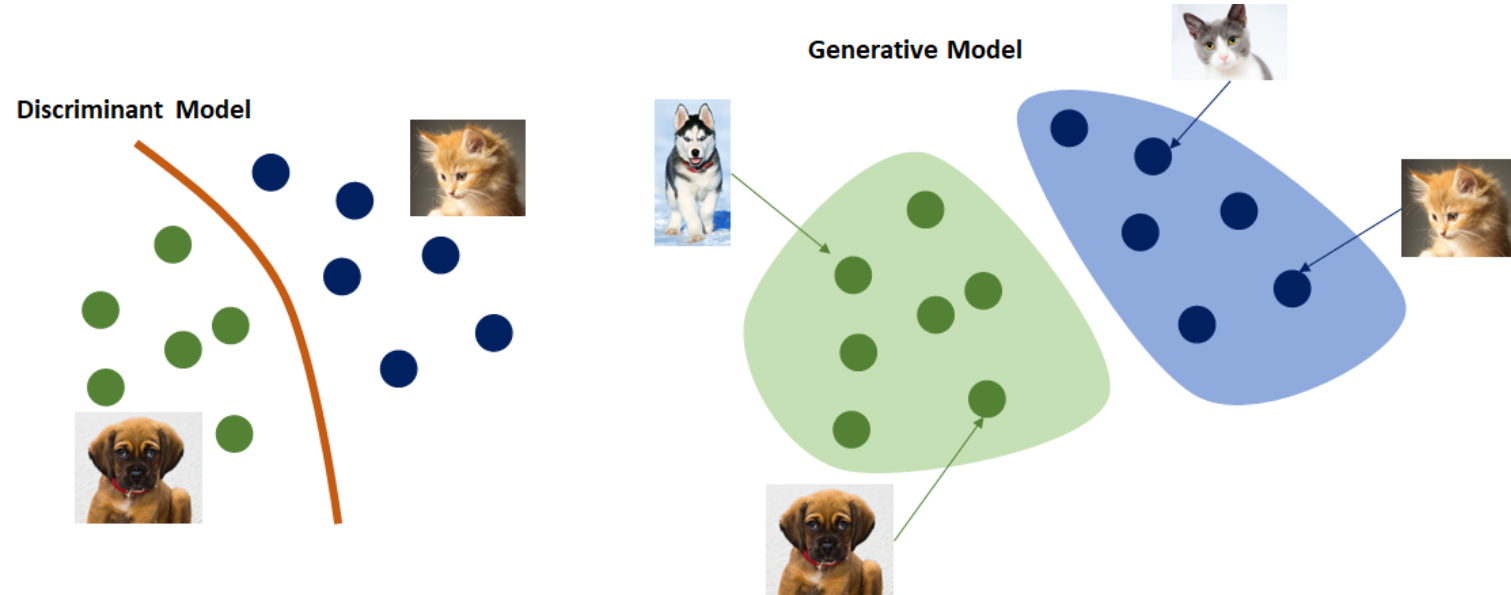


What does this mean in generating images?

Density Estimation: Bias and Variance Trade-off



Generative AI



$$p(y|x) = \frac{p(x,y)}{p(x)} = \frac{p(x|y)p(y)}{p(x)} = p(x|y) \frac{p(y)}{p(x)}$$

Generative AI Case Study: Formulate as $p(x|y)$

- **Text-to-image/video generation**

*Prompt: teddy bear teaching a course, with
"generative models" written on blackboard*



y : text prompt

x : generated visual content

Image generated by Stable Diffusion 3 Medium

Generative AI Case Study: Formulate as $p(x|y)$

- **Text-to-3D structure generation**

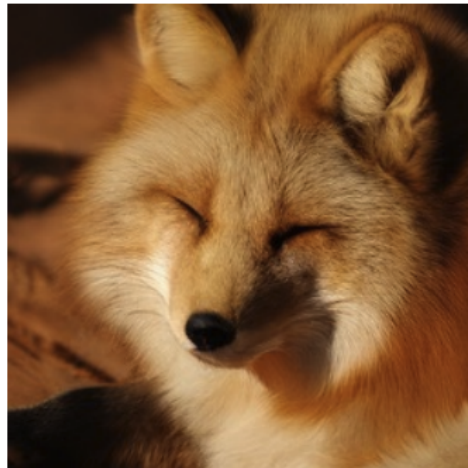


Figure credit: Tang, et al. LGM: Large Multi-View Gaussian Model for High-Resolution 3D Content Creation. ECCV 2024

Generative AI Case Study: Formulate as $p(x|y)$

- **Class-conditional image generation**

"red fox"



← y : class label

← x : generated image

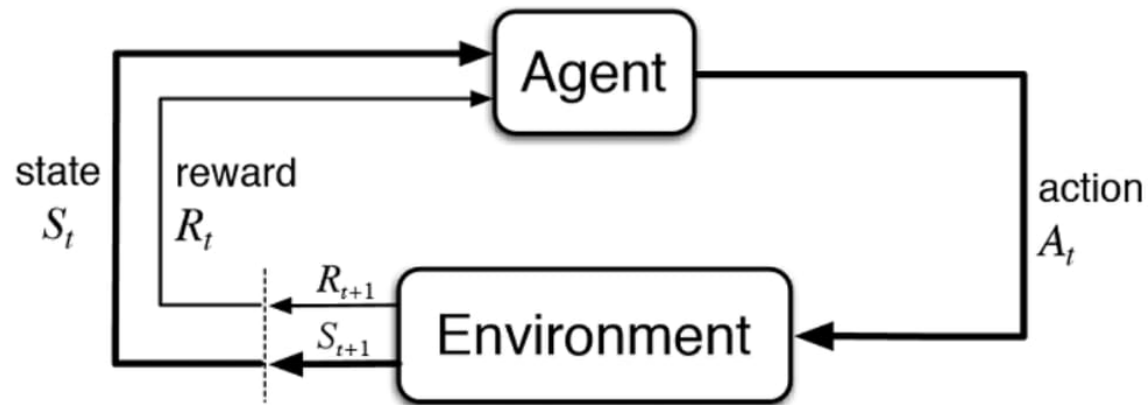
Image generated by: Li, et al. Autoregressive Image Generation without Vector Quantization, 2024

More Examples:

<https://mit-6s978.github.io/schedule.html>

Reinforcement Learning

Learning to make sequential decisions



mathematical framework called: *markov decision process*

Not included in IEMS 304

Application of RL: Decision Making

What is the agent? What is the action? What is the state? What is the reward?

- AlphaGo agent: player. action: play go state: Go pieces position.
- Robotics