

COSC 325: Introduction to Machine Learning

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

Lecture 05 - Learning Theory and Gradient Descent



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Class Announcements

Homework:

We will release the key by the end of the week.

Course Project:

Team assignments by the end of the week. Check Canvas->People.

Exams:

Exam #1: (1) Online, (2) Time-bounded 1 hr, (3) From 11 am to 1 pm.

Lectures:

The October 10th lecture will be online.

What: UTK Machine Learning Club

Where: MK 525

When: Tuesday at 5:00
(including today)

Who: Any experience level

Everyone is welcome to the first meeting of ML club today. Whether you are a beginner looking to learn from our intro to ML lesson series, experienced practitioner who wants to learn from and discuss with other enthusiasts in our reading groups, or you just want to hear from our industry guest speakers and seminars, utkML can help you scratch your machine learning itch!



Today's Topics

Learning Theory



Gradient Descent



Last Lecture

- Pandas
 - Excellent tool for data preprocessing
- Scikit-learn
 - Playground for everything ML



Pop Quiz

1 | MULTIPLE CHOICE

How long did it take you to complete homework #1?

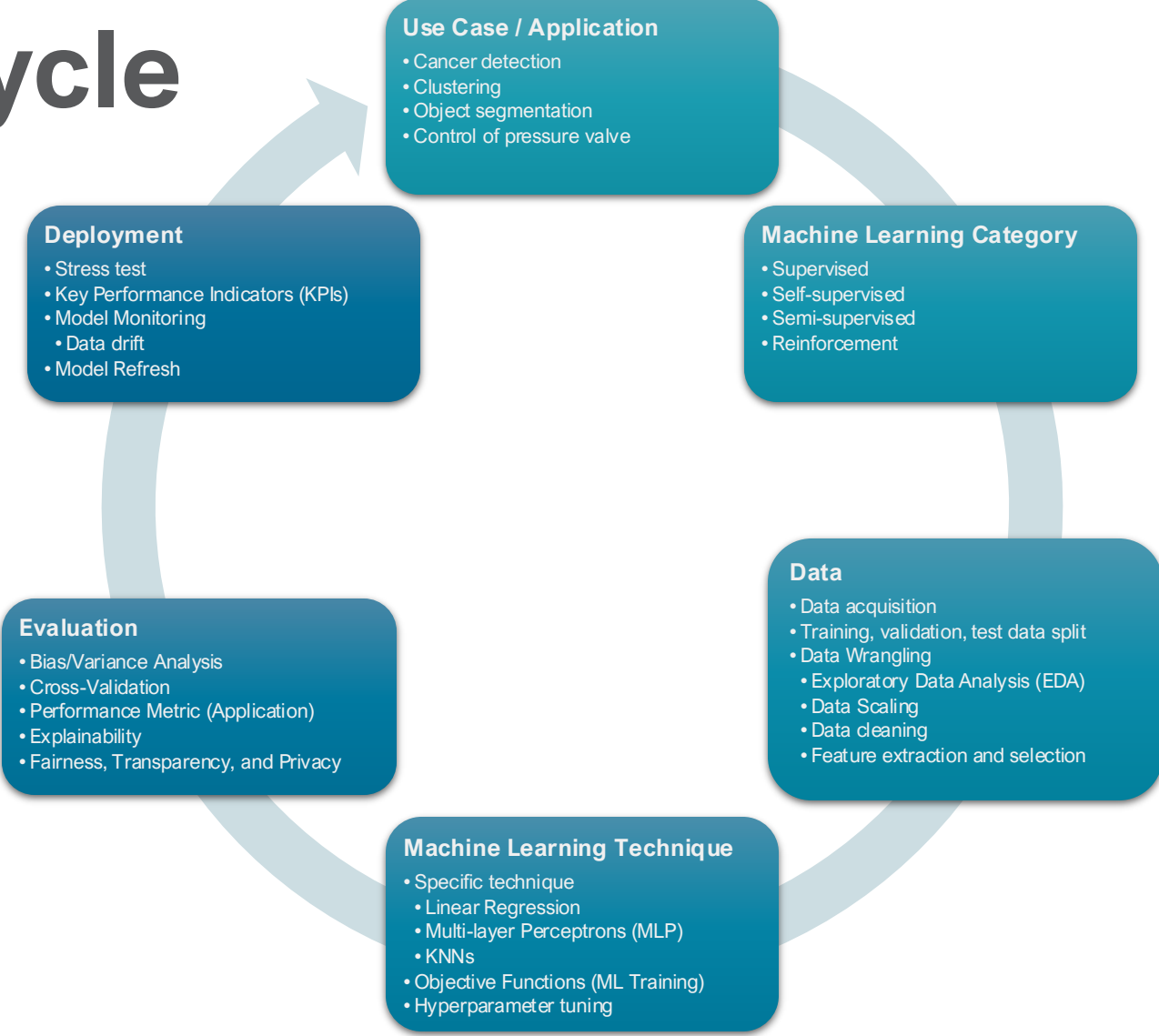
A. Less than one hour.

B. 1 - 2 hrs

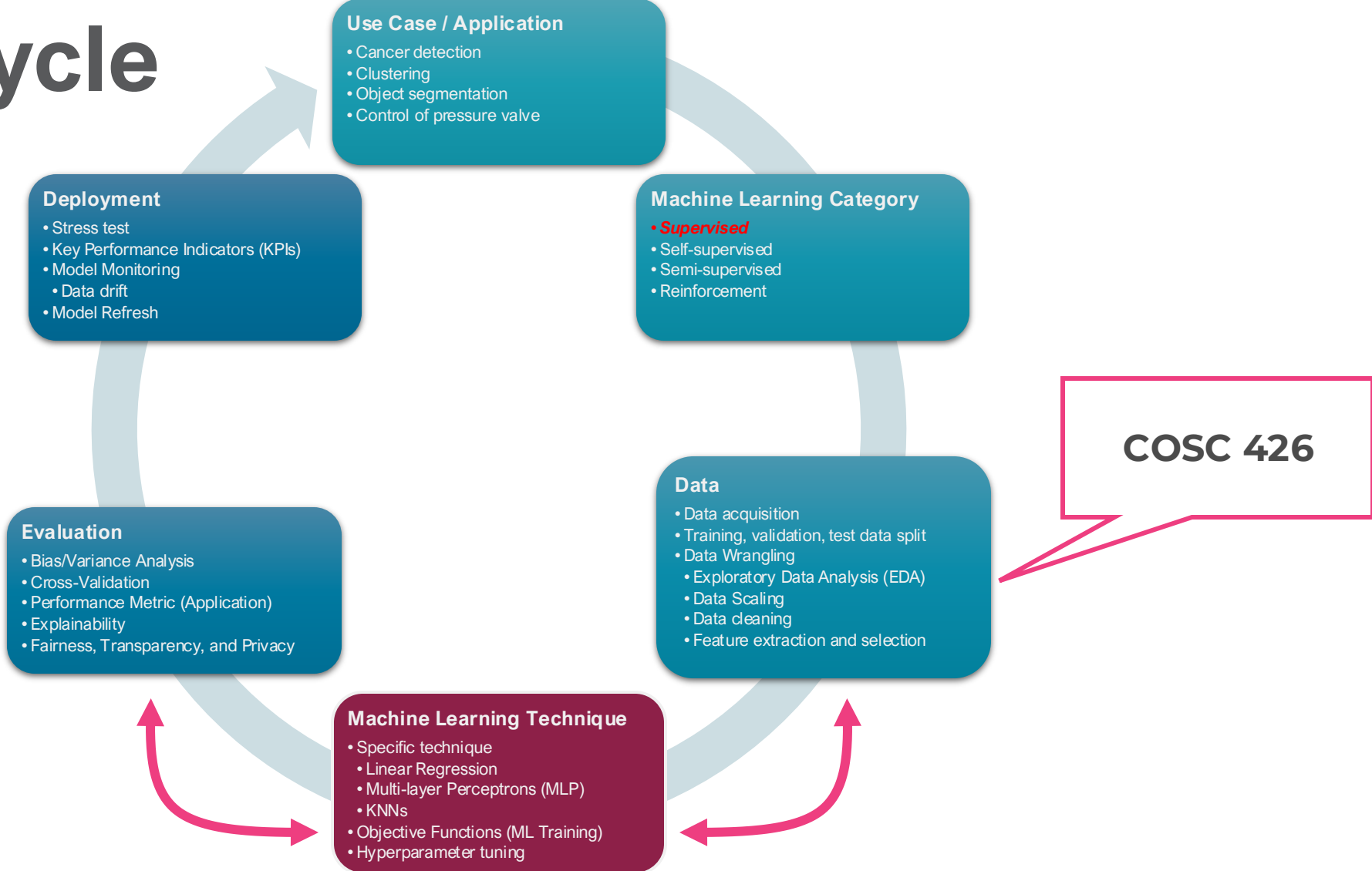
C. 2 - 3 hrs

D. More than 3 hours

ML Life Cycle



ML Life Cycle



Examples of ML Techniques

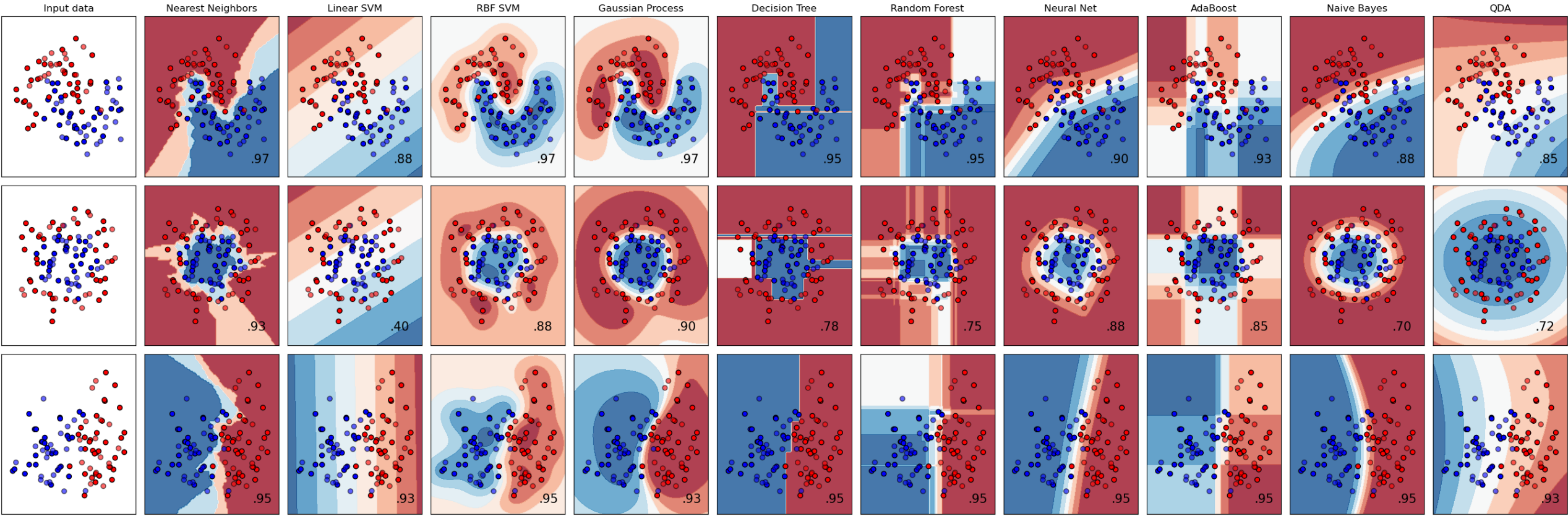
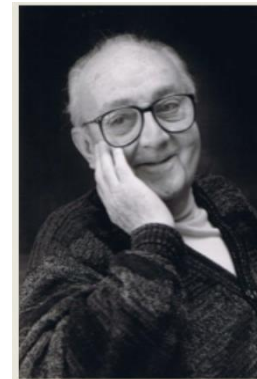


Image source: https://scikit-learn.org/stable/auto_examples/classification/plot_classifier_comparison.html

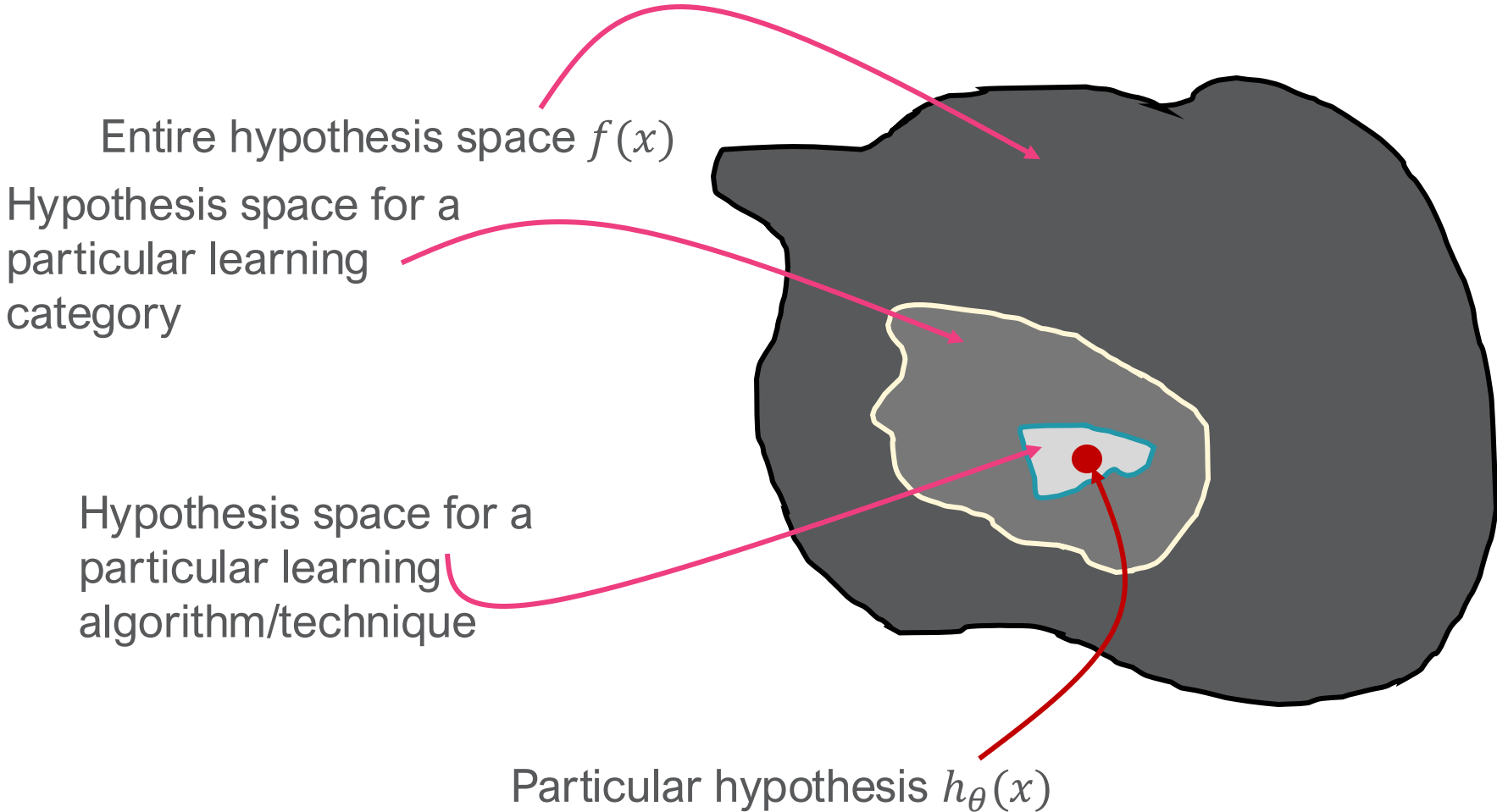
RBF – Radial Basis Function
QDA – Quadratic Discriminant Analysis

Hypothesis Space

A model cannot make a better hypothesis than one provided by the sample distribution and within the limits of the learning category and technique.



“All models are wrong, but some are useful.”
– Prof. George Box




What does $f(x, y)$ tell us?

- $f(x, y)$ is the true hypothesis probability distribution for data in f
- If features/target pair (x, y)
 - Belongs to f , then, f will return a high probability ~ 1 .
 - Does not belong to f , then, f will return a low probability ~ 0 .
- Example: Assume f is the probability distribution of images of an object x and the corresponding label y .



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y	“Cat”
x	
$f(x, y)$	0.98




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y	“Cat”	“Car”
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- Example: Assume f is the probability distribution of images of an object x and the corresponding label y .

y	“Cat”	“Car”	“Mountain Lion”
x			
$f(x, y)$	0.98	0.95	0.32



Pop Quiz

1 | MULTIPLE CHOICE

POINTS: 1 |  Edit 

Although classical machine learning techniques cannot accurately model the true data distribution f , advanced deep learning techniques can.

A. True

B. False

Pop Quiz

1 | MULTIPLE CHOICE

POINTS: 1 |  Edit 

Although classical machine learning techniques cannot accurately model the true data distribution f , advanced deep learning techniques can.

A. True

B. False

A model cannot make a better hypothesis than one provided by the sample distribution and within the limits of the learning category and technique.

This applies to DL also.

Important Note

- We make **NO** assumptions about what the distribution f looks like or what it is
 - If we did know, it would make our learning problem easier!
- We can only get a random sample from f
 - This is our training data!

Bayes Optimal Classifier

When we know f .

Data Generating Distributions

- The underlying assumption is that learning problems are characterized by some unknown probability distribution f over input/output pairs (x, y)
- Suppose we know what f is
 - If we have a density function that takes x and y and produces a probability of that pair in f
- If we have that, classification becomes easy (Bayesian Optimal Classifier):

$$\hat{y} = h^{BO}(x) = \arg \max_{y \in \mathcal{C}} f(x, y)$$

\mathcal{C} is the set of possible targets.

Theorem #1: Bayes Optimal Classifier

- Bayesian optimal classifier:

$$h^{BO}(x) = \arg \max_{y \in \mathcal{C}} f(x, y)$$

- Theorem 1: The Bayes Optimal Classifier $h^{(BO)}$ achieves minimal zero/one error of any deterministic classifier.
 - Note: This assumes comparison against deterministic classifiers ($\hat{y}^{(i)} = h(x^{(i)})$)

$$0-1 \text{ loss} = \text{Zero/One Error} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}(\hat{y}^{(i)} \neq y^{(i)})$$

Proof of Theorem #1

- Suppose you have a classifier g that claims to be better than $h^{(BO)}$
- There must be x on which $g(x) \neq h^{(BO)}(x)$.
- Probability that $h^{(BO)}$ makes an error on this particular x is:

$$1 - f(x, h^{(BO)}(x))$$

- Similarly, the probability that g makes an error on this particular x is:

$$1 - f(x, g(x))$$

Proof of Theorem #1 (Continued)

- However, $h^{(BO)}$ was chosen so that it maximizes $f(x, h^{(BO)}(x))$, thus:

$$f(x, h^{(BO)}(x)) > f(x, g(x)) \Rightarrow 1 - f(x, h^{(BO)}(x)) < 1 - f(x, g(x))$$

- So, the probability that $h^{(BO)}$ is wrong on this x is smaller than that of g on this x .
 - This applies to any x for which $g(x) \neq h^{(BO)}$
- Thus, $h^{(BO)}$ achieves smaller zero/one error than any g .
- QED (Quod Erat Demonstrandum)

Notebook Time

Pop Quiz

1 | MULTIPLE CHOICE

POINTS: 1

What technique offers the optimal error rate when the data distribution f is unknown?

- A. Bayes Optimal Classification
- B. Deep Learning
- C. K-Nearest Neighbors
- D. Logistic Classification
- E. All of the above
- F. None of the above

Pop Quiz

1 | MULTIPLE CHOICE

POINTS: 1

What technique offers the optimal error rate when the data distribution f is unknown?

A. Bayes Optimal Classification

B. Deep Learning

C. K-Nearest Neighbors

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E. All of the above

F. None of the above

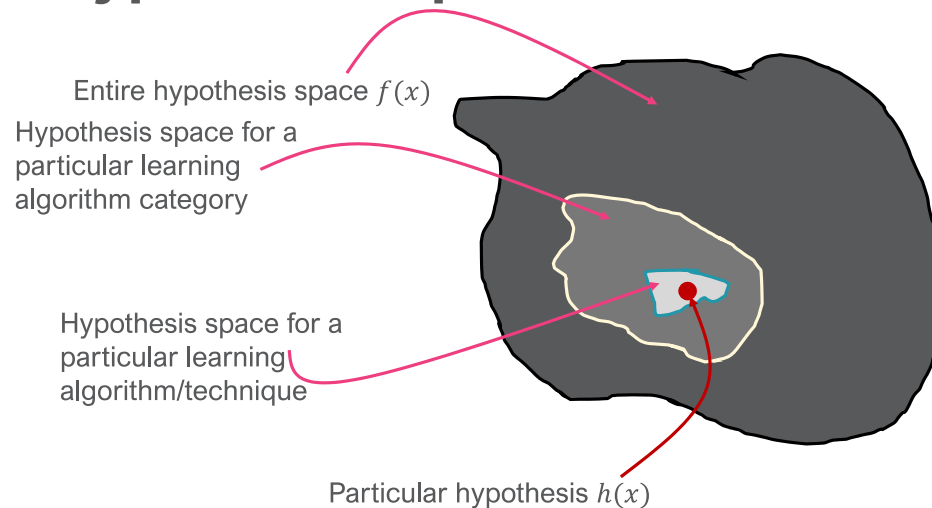
Bayes Optimal Error Rate

- The best error rate you can ever hope to achieve on a particular classification problem.
- Building the optimal classifier would be trivial if someone gave you the data distribution f .
- We don't have that, so we must figure out how to build a classifier h with a training set sampled from f .

Important Reminder

We can **NEVER** expect a machine learning algorithm to generalize beyond the data distribution, the learning category, and the learning technique.

Hypothesis Space



Review

- Hypothesis f :
- Model h_{θ} :
- θ :
- Learning algorithm:
- Objective function J_{θ} :

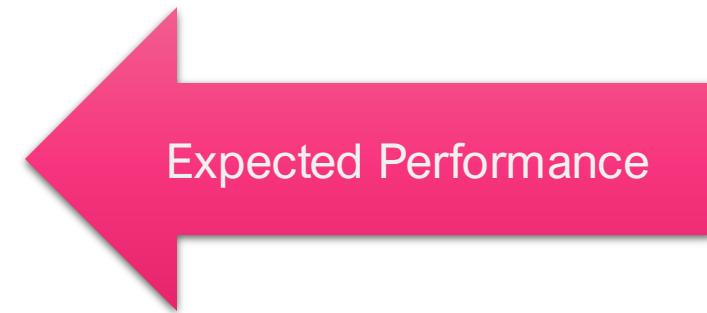
Review

- **Hypothesis f :** A hypothesis is a certain function that we believe (or hope) is similar to the true function, the target function we want to model.
- **Model h_θ :** In the machine learning field, the terms hypothesis and model are often used interchangeably. In other sciences, they can have different meanings.
- **θ :** The learned parameters for model h_θ .
- **Learning algorithm:** Again, our goal is to find or approximate the target function, and the learning algorithm is a set of instructions that tries to model the target function using our training dataset. A learning algorithm comes with a hypothesis space, the set of possible hypotheses it explores to model the unknown target function by formulating the final hypothesis. It is also called learning technique.
- **Objective function J_θ :** Often synonymously with loss \mathcal{L}_θ or cost function; sometimes called error function, empirical risk, or training error. In some contexts, the loss is for a single data point, whereas the objective function refers to the expected error/loss over the entire dataset.

The relationship between the expected value and the cost $J(\theta)$

Loss and Cost Functions

- Loss $\mathcal{L}_\theta \left(y^{(i)}, \hat{y}^{(i)} \right)$ is the error between the ground truth (i.e., expected response) $y^{(i)}$ and the model prediction $\hat{y}^{(i)}$.
- Cost $J(\theta)$ is a measure of overall model error for parameters θ .



Expected Value

- Expectation means “average”
- If you draw a bunch of (x, y) pairs independently at random from f , what would your average loss be?

$$E_{x,y \sim f} [f(x, y) \mathcal{L}(y, h(x))]$$

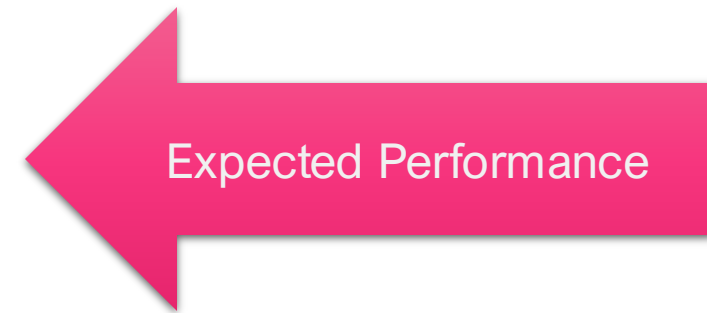
Expected Value

- Weighted average loss over all (x, y) pairs in f , weighted by their probability $f(x, y)$. If $f(x, y)$ is a finite discrete distribution, e.g., defined by a finite data set $\{ (x^{(1)}, y^{(1)}) , \dots , (x^{(n)}, y^{(n)}) \}$ that puts equal weight on each example

$$\begin{aligned} E_{x,y \sim f} [f(x, y) \mathcal{L}(y, h(x))] &= \sum_{(x,y) \in f} [f(x, y) \mathcal{L}(y, h(x))] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n [f(x^{(i)}, y^{(i)}) \mathcal{L}(y^{(i)}, h(x^{(i)}))] = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[\frac{1}{n} \mathcal{L}(y^{(i)}, h(x^{(i)})) \right] = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{L}(y^{(i)}, h(x^{(i)})) \end{aligned}$$

Loss and Cost Functions

- Loss $\mathcal{L}_\theta \left(y^{(i)}, \hat{y}^{(i)} \right)$ is the error between the ground truth (i.e., expected response) $y^{(i)}$ and the model prediction $\hat{y}^{(i)}$.
- Cost $J(\theta)$ is a measure of overall model error for parameters θ .



The average loss $J(\theta) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{L} \left(\hat{y}^{(i)}, y^{(i)} \right)$.

Connecting the data (x, y) to the loss \mathcal{L}_θ .

How do computers learn?

Learning Problem Definition

- Learning problem defined by:
 - The loss $\mathcal{L}_\theta(y, h_\theta(x))$ function, which captures our notion of what is important to learn
 - The data generating distribution f , which defines the data we expect to see
- Based on the training data, we **induce** a function $h_\theta(x)$ that maps new inputs x to predictions \hat{y}
- h should do well (based on the loss function) on future examples that are ALSO drawn from f
- We care about f , but we don't know f .

ML Induction

- Formal definition of *induction machine learning*:

Given (i) a loss function \mathcal{L}_θ and (ii) a sample from some unknown distribution f , you must compute a function h that has low expected error over f w.r.t. \mathcal{L}_θ .

Regression Objective Function Candidates

- Sum of Squared Residuals (Very similar to MSE)

$$SSR = \sum_{i=1}^n (y^{(i)} - \hat{y}^{(i)})^2$$

Makes small residuals even smaller

Makes large residuals explode in magnitude.

Convex objective function (i.e., a local minimum is a global minimum)

It is by far the most popular objective function for regression problems.

Regression Objective Function Candidates

- Sum of Squared Residuals (Very similar to MSE)

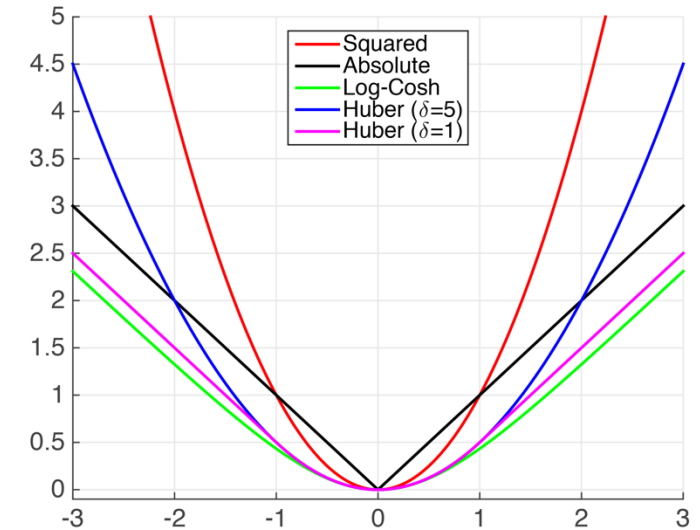
$$SSR = \sum_{i=1}^n (y^{(i)} - \hat{y}^{(i)})^2$$

Non-differentiable at zero (i.e., $y^{(i)} == \hat{y}^{(i)}$)

- Mean Absolute Error

$$MAE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |y^{(i)} - \hat{y}^{(i)}|$$

Less sensitive to outliers



Regression Objective Function Candidates

- Sum of Squared Residuals (Very similar to MSE)

$$SSR = \sum_{i=1}^n (y^{(i)} - \hat{y}^{(i)})^2$$

- Mean Absolute Error

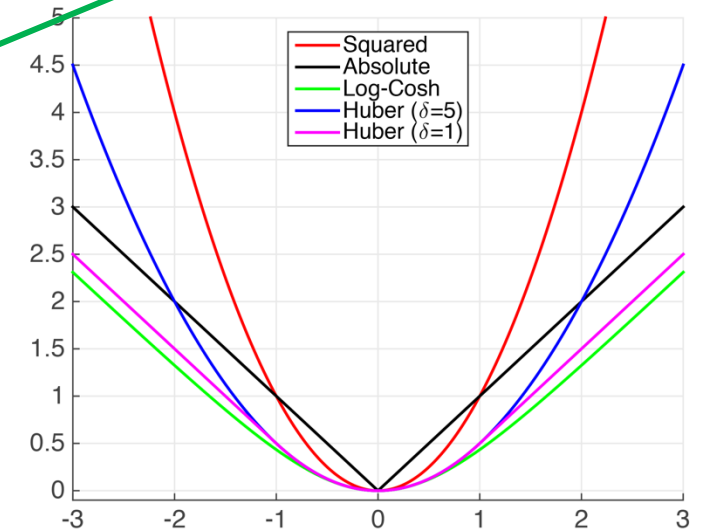
$$MAE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |y^{(i)} - \hat{y}^{(i)}|$$

- Huber Loss

$$\text{Huber Loss} = \sum_{i=1}^n L_{\delta}(y^{(i)} - \hat{y}^{(i)})$$

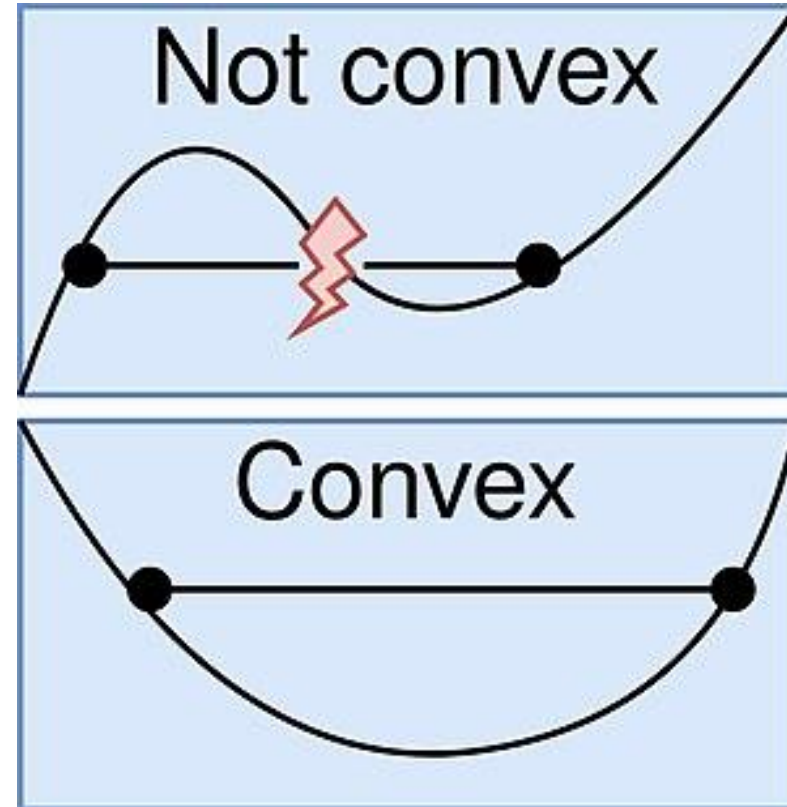
$$\text{where } L_{\delta}(r) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}r^2 & \text{if } |r| \leq \delta \\ \delta(|r| - \frac{1}{2}\delta) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Combines the strengths of SSR and MAE (i.e., quadratic for small errors and linear for large errors)

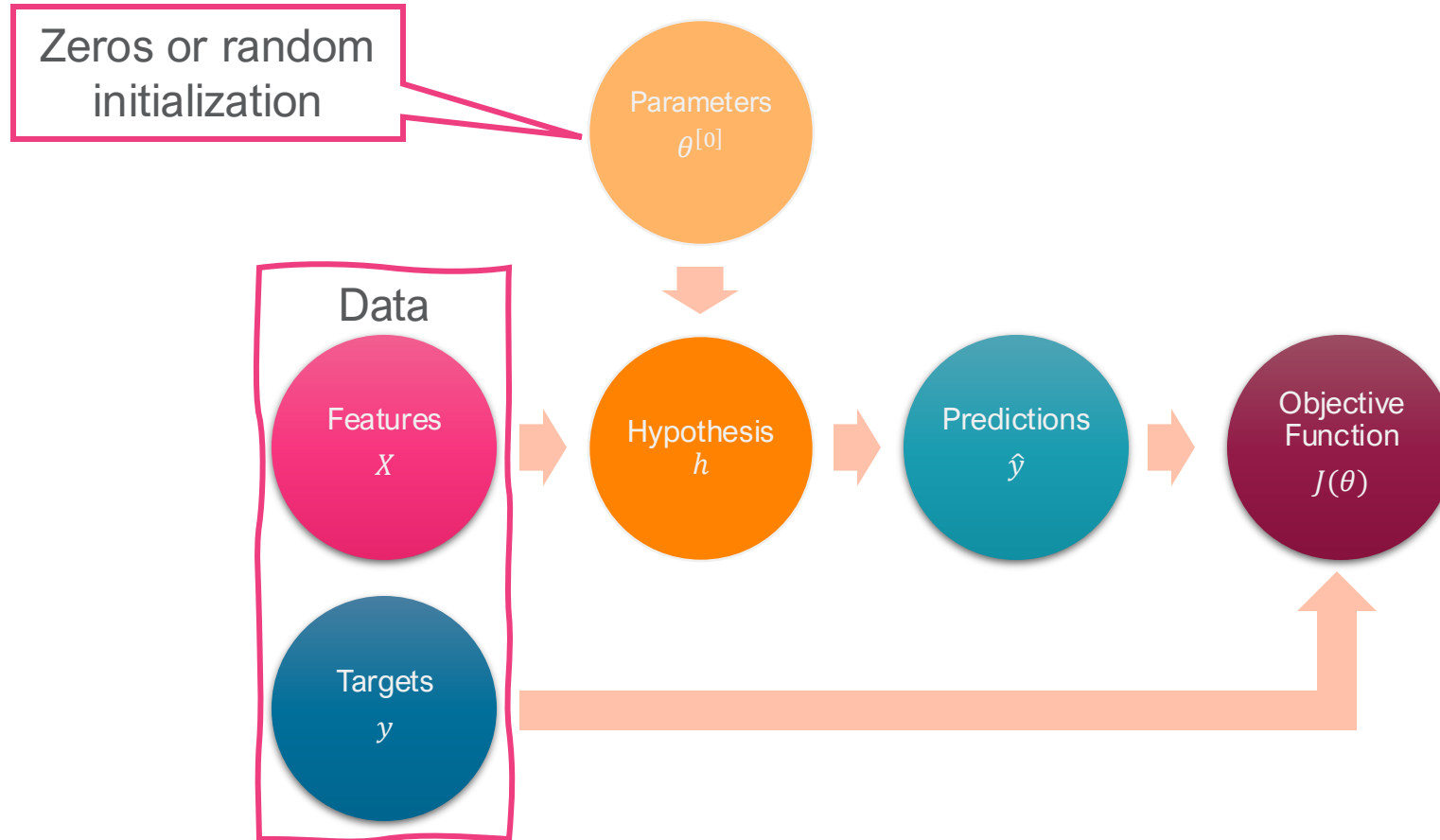


Preferred Objective Functions Characteristics

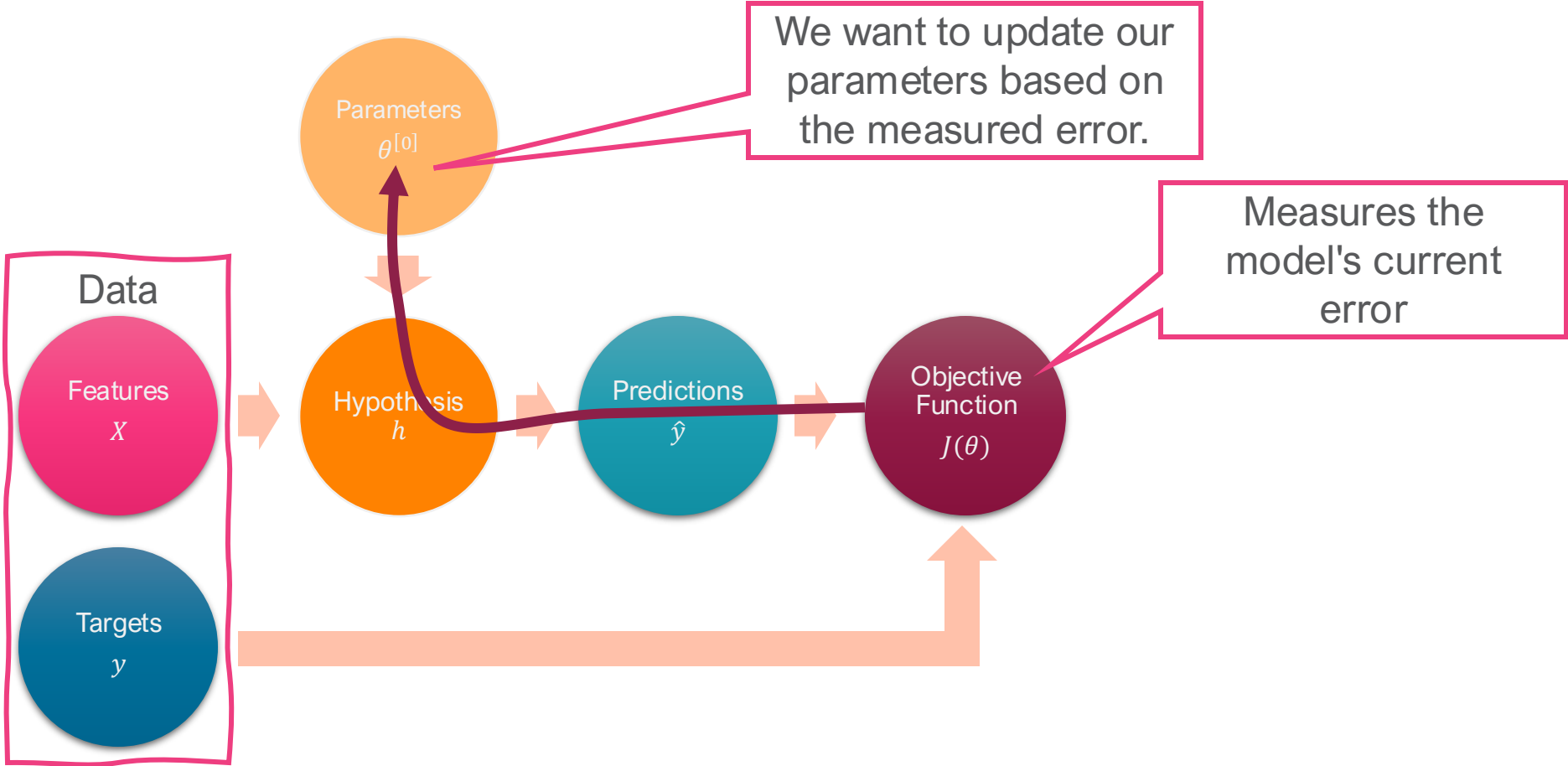
- Adequate sensitivity to outliers
- Computationally efficient
- Differentiable everywhere
- Interpretable
- Convex
- Aligned with the use case



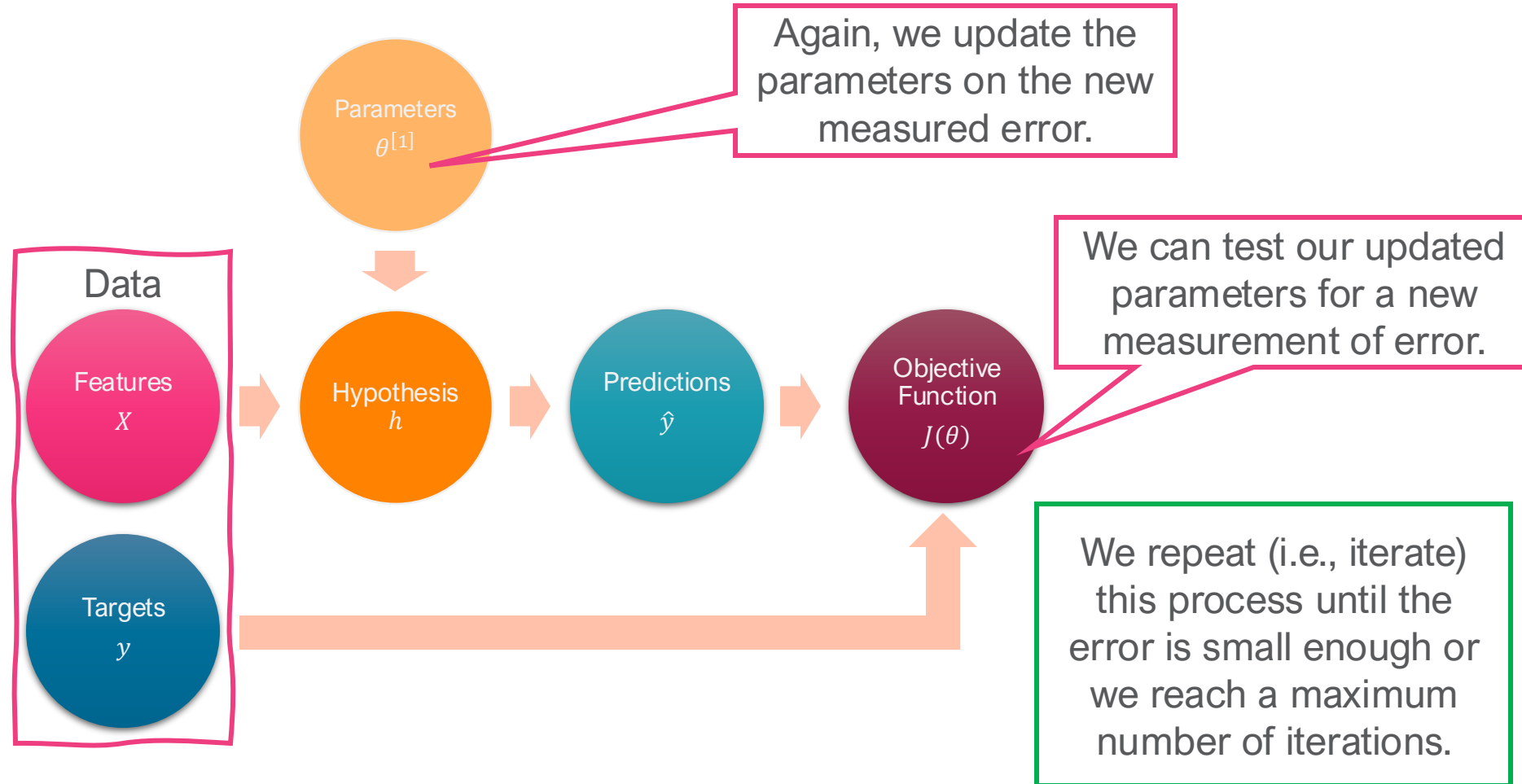
How do computers learn?



How do computers learn?



How do computers learn?



How does this magic happen?

How can we learn θ ?

Gradient Descent



Gradient Descent

- First-order optimization (find minimum or maximum) technique
 - Only the first derivative is needed.
- Moves in the direction of steepest descent/ascent
- It is the most popular method to minimize the error in the cost $J(\theta)$
- Types of GD
 - Batch: all samples are used for each update (i.e., iteration)
 - Stochastic (SGD): one sample per parameter update
 - Mini-Batch: a subset of the batch is used per iteration
 - Typical values: **32, 64, 128, 256**

Gradient Descent Algorithm

$X :=$ data features

$y :=$ data targets

$\theta = \theta_0$

Repeat:

$$\hat{y} = h_{\theta}(X)$$

$$\text{cost} = J_{\theta}(y, \hat{y})$$

$$d\theta = \frac{\partial J_{\theta}(y, \hat{y})}{\partial \theta}$$

$$\theta := \theta - \alpha(d\theta)$$

Until a fixed number of iterations or $d\theta$ very small.

Review

- A model cannot make a better hypothesis than one provided by the sample distribution and within the limits of the learning category and technique.
- Bayes Optimal Classifier is the best solution when the data distribution f is known.
- Gradient descent
 - An iterative process to minimize model error
 - Simplicity is King
 - Needs the first derivative of the cost w.r.t the parameters
 - A derivative tells us the influence of a parameter on the cost

Next Lecture

- We will apply these concepts to
 - Linear regression
 - Polynomial regression
 - Logistic regression and classification

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