#### Al in Culture and Arts – Tech Crash Course

### Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Dr. Benedikt Zönnchen 5th of November 2025





2. When is Learning Possible?

3. How Do Machines Learn?

4. How Do Humans Train Machines?

5. How to Interact with Leaning Machines?

2. When is Learning Possible?

Do Machines Learn?

4. How Do Humans Train Machines?

5. How to Interact with Leaning Machines?

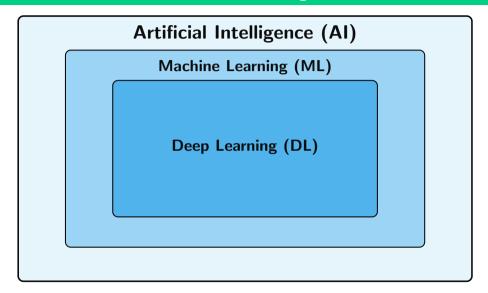
"The ability of an agent to achieve goals in a wide range of environments."

- (Russell, 2019)

Let E be the space of all computable reward summable environmental measures with respect to the reference machine  $\mathcal{U}$ , and let K be the Kolmogorov complexity function. The expected performance of agent  $\pi$  with respect to the universal distribution  $2^{-K(\mu)}$  over the space of all environments E is given by,

$$\Psi(\pi) := \sum_{\mu \in E} 2^{-K(\mu)} V_\mu^\pi.$$

We call this the **universal intelligence** of agent  $\pi$  (Legg & Hutter, 2007).



Most of the hype is based on **Deep Learning**.

### **Symbolism**

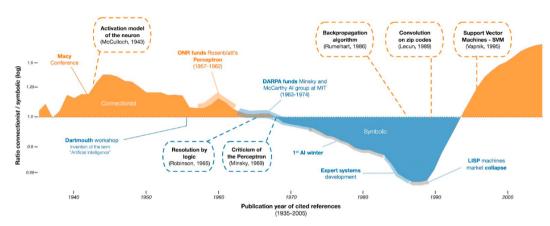
Exploits explicit, rule-based symbolic manipulation, logic, and structured reasoning to represent knowledge and solve problems.

- **Assumption:** Intelligence uses high-level, human-readable symbols to represent problems and logic to solve them.
- Motivation: Model the mind!

#### Connectionism

Exploits artificial neural networks & statistics, emphasizing learning from patterns, distributed representations, and emergent behaviors.

- **Assumption:** Intelligence emerges from the interaction of simple and low-level units, i. e. biological neurons.
- Motivation: Model the brain!



Source: (Cardon et al., 2018)

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"The organism feeds on negative entropy." - (Schrödinger, 1944)

# 010101010101010101010101010101

# 110011010101110100011100101111

Let's say we have the following two 30-bit information:

$$x_1 = 010101010101010101010101010101$$
  
 $x_2 = 1100110101011110100011100101111$ 

Question: Which carries "more" information?

**Answer:** We say the **entropy** (Shannon, 1948) of  $x_2$  is higher than the entropy of  $x_1$ . If we read the bits from left to right we are more "often" **suprised** when reading  $x_2$ .

**Information entropy** measures uncertainty / surprise. It is the **expected value of surprise**.

- High entropy: highly unpredictable, many possible outcomes, each similarly likely
- Low entropy: predictable, only a few likely outcomes

Lerning requires

entropy + structure  $\approx$  complexity.

We have to be surprised but also be able to exploit a structure to compress observations.

A physical formula like

$$F = m \cdot a$$

can be thought of a **highly compressed representation** of some aspects of physical reality!

In other words,  $F = m \cdot a$  reveals the structure of motion, thus the informational entropy cannot be too high.

Some neuroscientists (K. Friston, Kilner, & Harrison, 2006; K. J. Friston, 2011) think that organisms try to **minimize surprise** by

- 1. adjusting expectations (perception, learning)
- 2. realize expectations (acting)

According to this school of neuroscience,

#### organisms are their own existence proof.

By acting to keep themselves alive, they continuously generate sensory inputs that confirm their continued existence.

2. When is Learning Possible?

3. How Do Machines Learn?

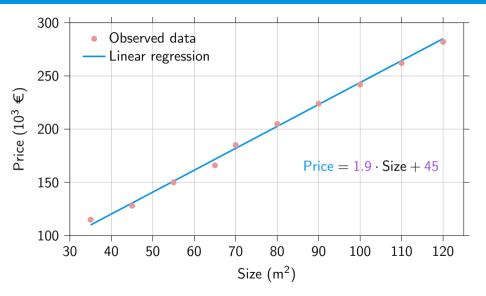
4. How Do Humans Train Machines?

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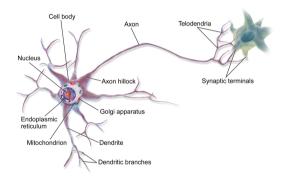
### **How Do Machines Learn?**

"We do not learn from experience [...] we learn from reflecting on experience." – John Dewey

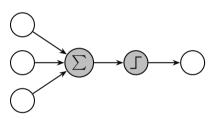
### Learning a model of "the world"

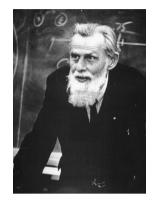


#### Neuron



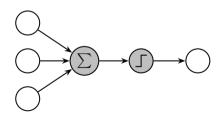
#### **Artificial** neuron





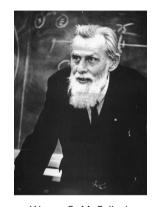
Warren S. McCulloch

"Because of the 'all-or-none' character of nervous activity, neural events and the relations among them can be treated by means of propositional logic."





Walter H. Pitts Jr



Warren S. McCulloch

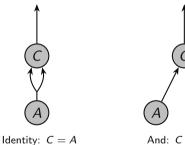
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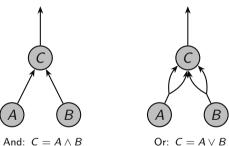
$$f(x_1,\ldots,x_n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \sum_{k=1}^n x_k > 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

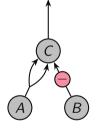


Walter H. Pitts Jr

Complex logical operations can be performed using networks of binary neurons.





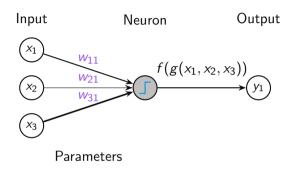


Input Hidden layer Hidden layer Output layer (Dog) (Cat)

$$h_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{y},$$
 where  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots x_n)$  and  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_k)$ 

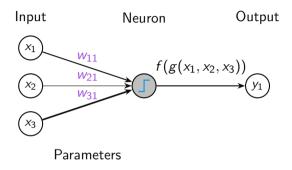
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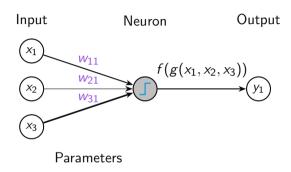
Parameters determine how strong neurons are wired together:

$$g(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1 \cdot w_{11} + x_2 \cdot w_{21} + x_3 \cdot w_{31}$$



"Neurons that fire together, wire together."

$$w_{ij} = w_{ij} - \eta \cdot x_i \cdot y_j$$

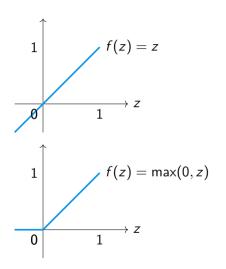


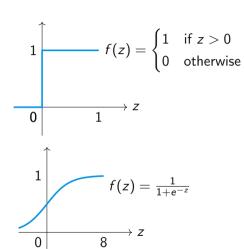
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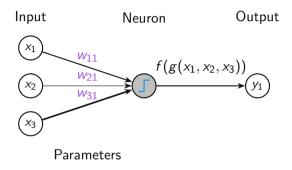
$$\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \eta \cdot \nabla J(\theta_t)$$

In this case  $\theta_t = (w_{11}, w_{21}, w_{31})$ .

### **Activation Functions**

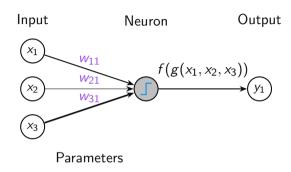






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$$w_{ij} = w_{ij} - \eta \cdot x_i \cdot y_j$$



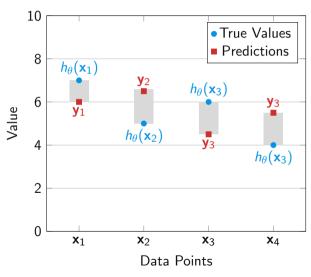
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# **Cost Function (Regression)**

### Mean Squared Error (MSE):



### **Cost Function (Regression)**

### Mean Squared Error (MSE):

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\mathbf{y}_i - h_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_i))^2$$

where  $\mathbf{y}_i$  is the correct label of a data point  $\mathbf{x}_i = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  in our training data.

### **Cost Function (Regression)**

**Example:** Let us suppose  $h_{\theta}(x_1, x_2) = w_{11} \cdot x_1 + w_{21} \cdot x_2$  and let us assume  $w_{11} = 2$ ,  $w_{21} = 0.5$  and we have two data points  $\mathbf{x}_1 = (1, 1)$ ,  $y_1 = 1$  and  $\mathbf{x}_2 = (-1, -2)$ ,  $y_2 = -3$ . Then our mean squared error is:

$$J(w_{11}, w_{21}) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ (1 - (w_{11} \cdot 1 + w_{21} \cdot 1))^2 + (-3 - (w_{11} \cdot (-1) + w_{21} \cdot (-2)))^2 \right]$$
  
=  $\frac{1}{2} \left[ (1 - (2 \cdot 1 + 0.5 \cdot 1))^2 + (-3 - (2 \cdot (-1) + 0.5 \cdot (-2)))^2 \right]$ 

The gradient would be:

$$\nabla J(w_{11}, w_{21}) = \begin{bmatrix} -4 + 2w_{11} + 3w_{21} \\ -7 + 3w_{11} + 5w_{21} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Cost Function (Classification)

#### **Categorical Cross Entropy Cost:**

$$J(\theta) = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[ \mathbf{y}_i \cdot \log \left( h_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_i) \right) \right]$$

where  $\mathbf{y}_i$  is interpreted as the probability distribution of categories for  $\mathbf{x}_i = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , i.e. a data point.

#### **Gradient Decent**

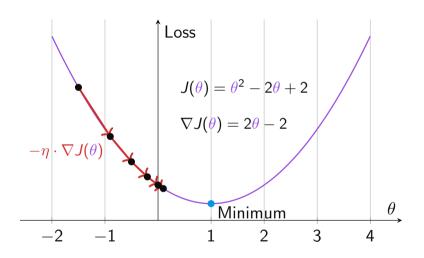
To improve the model's prediction, we try to minimize the cost function. One way to do this is **gradient decent**:

$$\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \eta \cdot \nabla J(\theta_t)$$

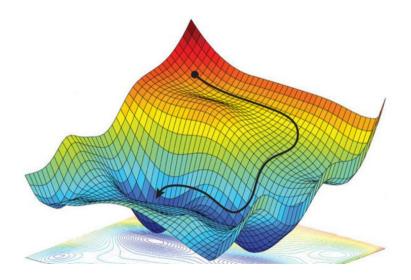
**Condition:**  $\nabla J(\theta_t)$  exits!

**Interactive Tutorial** 

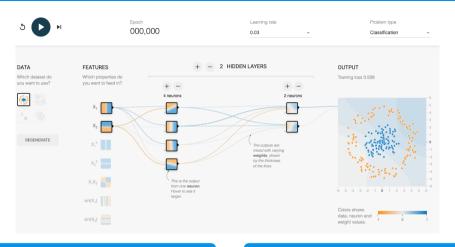
#### **Gradient Decent**



# **Gradient Decent**



# **Design and Try Your Perceptron**

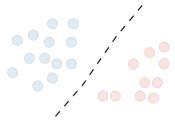


**Simplified Tensorflow Playground** 

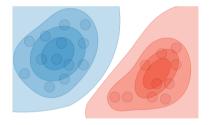
**Extended Tensorflow Playground** 

# Modeltypes

- Discriminative models: Learn the boundaries of decisions.
- **Generative models:** Learn the whole distribution of the data.



Discriminative modelling



Generative modelling

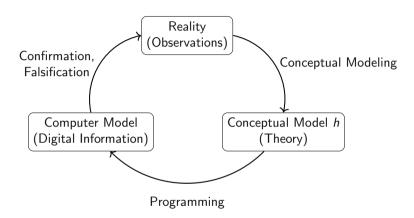
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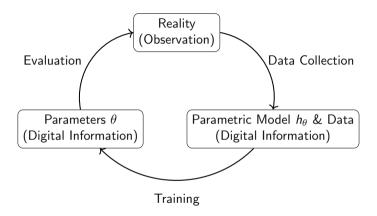
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## **Theory-driven Modeling**



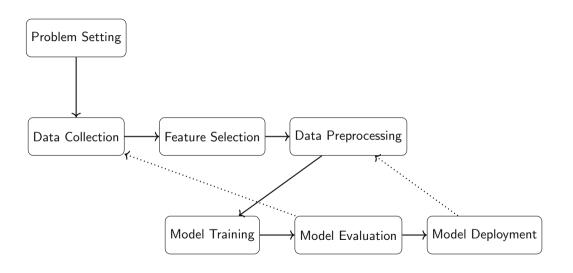
Minds contructs a (falsifiable) theory or hypothesis about reality to test against.

# Data-driven Modeling



**Algorithms** (directly) fit a parametric model to the data. **Minds** are usually unable to conceptualize the trained model.

# **Development Cycle**



## **Programming Libraries**

```
class fast glinear(torch.autograd.Function):
101
          def forward(ctx, a, b, scales, zeros):
102
103
              m, k = a.shape
104
              _{n} n = b.shape
105
106
              quant groupsize = 128
107
              block_size_m = 16
108
              block size n = 32 # [N = 4096 // 32] = 128 blocks
109
              block_size_k = 256
110
              group size m = 8
111
              num warps = 4
112
              num_stages = 8
113
              total blocks m = triton.cdiv(m, block size m)
114
              total blocks n = triton.cdiv(n, block size n)
```

Python and ML libraries (PyTorch, tensorflow, JAX etc.)

Train a Model with Python

 ${f 1.}\,$  How to Model Intelligence?

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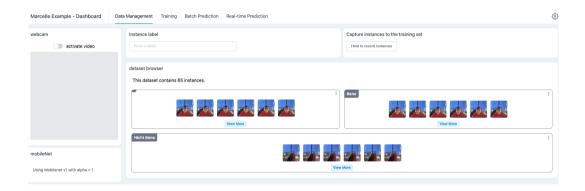
5. How to Interact with Leaning Machines?

## The Marcelle Toolkit

**Marcelle:** composing interactive machine learning workflows and interfaces (Françoise, Caramiaux, & Sanchez, 2021).

https://marcelle.dev/

### The Marcelle Toolkit



# Any questions?

#### References I

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