

# Introduction – What? Why? How?

(CIV6540 - Probabilistic Machine Learning for Civil Engineers)

Professor: James-A. Goulet

Département des génies civil, géologique et des mines  
Polytechnique Montréal



Goulet (2020)  
*Probabilistic Machine Learning for Civil Engineers*  
MIT Press

# Machine learning, why?

**Probabilistic  
Reasoning**



**Data**

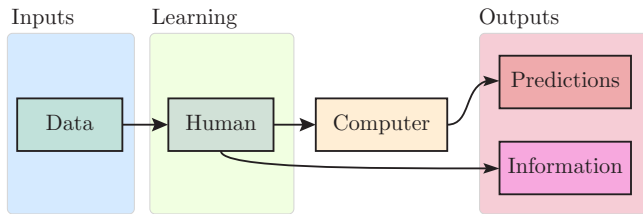


**Information**

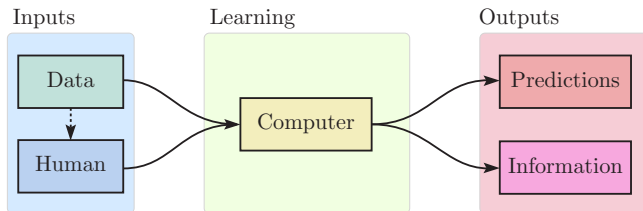


# What is machine learning?

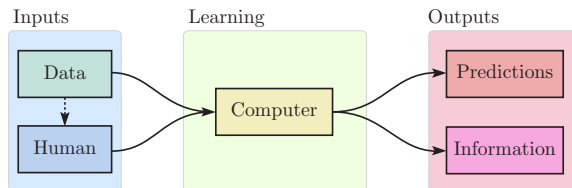
**Business  
as usual**



**Machine  
learning**



# What is “Learning” in “Machine Learning”?

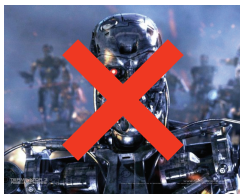


fonction(**parameters/variables**) = Predictions

**Learning** → Infer what **parameters/variables** explain the data

# Artificial intelligence – AI

**AI** : reproduction of an intelligent behavior by a machine.  
→ perception and dynamic interaction with its environment  
through the process of **taking actions** for achieving goals.



## Level 1 - Limited AI

Beyond human capacity in a specific tasks

## Behind limited AI:

Machine learning

## Behind machine learning:

Probability theory / Decision Theory  
/ Linear Algebra / Optimization/...

[Google images]

## Section Outline

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### Syllabus

- 2.1 Where to find it?
  - 2.2 Objectives
  - 2.3 Evaluations
  - 2.4 Homeworks
  - 2.5 Documentation & Algorithms
  - 2.6 Schedule
  - 2.7 Varia
-

# Syllabus – available on



## SYLLABUS

CIV6540E – Prob. Machine Learning for Civil Eng.  
Winter 2024 | CGM Department – Polytechnique Montréal

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Credits	3cr (3 - 0 - 6)
Professor	James-A. Goulet (Office B-431.4.6)
Office hours	To be announced on Moodle

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### 1 Language

This class will be taught in English. Nevertheless, you can use either French or English when asking questions as well as when answering homeworks and exams.

### 2 Objectives

Learn how to

- Estimate epistemic uncertainties in models from a set of empirical observations
- Build probabilistic regression and classification models from empirical observations
- Build probabilistic models for time series of empirical data
- Estimate model parameters using sampling and optimization methods
- Propagate uncertainties through deterministic models
- Make rational decisions in uncertain contexts
- Use machine learning algorithms and apply them to civil engineering problems (structures, mining, transport and environment)

### 3 Classes

Classes will take place in person but you can also access the videos on [YouTube](#). Note that you can avoid having advertisements by installing a plug-in such as [Adblock](#) or [Adblock Plus](#). I encourage you to read the references indicated in section 4 before each class.

# What are the class objectives?

- 1- Understand the potential of machine learning for civil engineering applications
- 2- Create models for different problem structures: regression, classification, time-series, decision problems, etc.
- 3- Train models using empirical data





**Understand the theory behind existing methods & algorithms**

# Evaluations

1. Homeworks:  $5 \times 6\% = 30\%$
2. Mid-term exam: 35%  
(last week before spring break)
3. Final exam: 35%

**Revision questions** →  **moodle**

# Homeworks

- ▶ 5 homeworks  (HW1 already on  **moodle**)
- ▶ Teams of **1 or 2 people**.
- ▶ Collaboration between teams is encouraged  
→ **One homework/code per team** ()
- ▶ You must provide a complete solution for each problem
- ▶ Autocorrection procedure →  **moodle**

Online submission via dropbox

("TP<#TP>\_<Name1>\_<Name2>\_CIV6540\_H20XX.pdf")

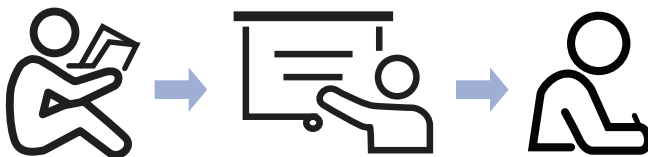
**at the latest on the day before the class 20h00**

Re-submission of corrected copies at the latest

**on the following week by the end of the class**

# Readings [ ]

The “easy” way



# Documentation & Algorithms

**Weekly readings:** referenced in the syllabus → 



Goulet, J.-A.. (2020).

Probabilistic Machine Learning for Civil Engineers. MIT Press



Murphy, K. (2012).

Machine learning: A probabilistic perspective. MIT Press.



Russell, S. and Norvig, P. (1995).


*Artificial Intelligence, A modern approach*. Prentice-Hall.

**Handouts** : On my website on before each class

**Revision questions** : Online on 

# Course schedule

SYLLABUS



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PROFESSOR: JEAN-A. GOULET – POLYTECHNIQUE MONTRÉAL
1/3

The schedule will be adapted depending on the progression...

# Questions

?











moodle Forum

# Breaks

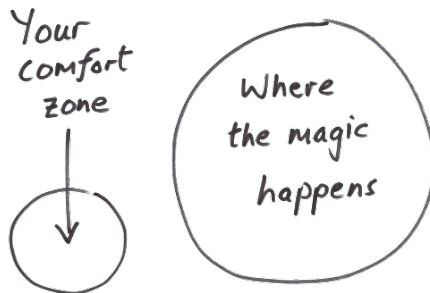


**(10 min) h+20**

# Subject organization

<i>Background</i>	{	1	Revision probability & linear algebra	
	}	2	Probability distributions	
<i>Machine Learning Basics</i>	{	0	Introduction	
	}	3	Bayesian Estimation	$p(A B) = \frac{p(B A)p(A)}{p(B)}$
	}	4	MCMC sampling & Newton	
<i>Supervised learning</i>	{	5	Regression	
	}	6	Classification	
	}	7	LSTM networks for time series	
<i>Unsupervised learning</i>	{	7	State-space model for time-series	
<i>Decision Making &amp; RL</i>	{	8	Decision Theory	
	}	9	AI & Sequential decision problems	

# Subject organization



# Module 1 – Revision

## M1a – Linear Algebra [≡]

Diagram illustrating matrix multiplication  $C = AB$ .

Matrix  $A$  (rows) and Matrix  $B$  (columns) are shown. The resulting matrix  $C$  is calculated by taking the dot product of rows of  $A$  with columns of  $B$ .

Specific elements are highlighted with red and blue boxes and arrows:

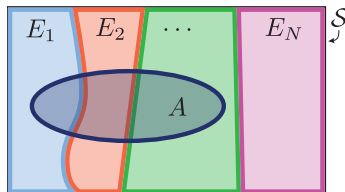
- Red box:  $a_{11}$  and  $a_{12}$  from  $A$  and  $b_{12}$  and  $b_{22}$  from  $B$  combine to form  $c_{12}$  in  $C$ .
- Blue box:  $a_{41}$  and  $a_{42}$  from  $A$  and  $b_{13}$  and  $b_{23}$  from  $B$  combine to form  $c_{43}$  in  $C$ .

Equations for the highlighted elements:

$$c_{12} = a_{11}b_{12} + a_{12}b_{22}$$

$$c_{43} = a_{41}b_{13} + a_{42}b_{23}$$

## M1b – Probability theory [≡]

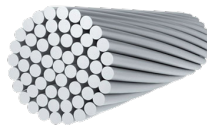
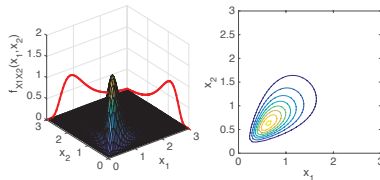


# Module 2 – Probability distributions [≡]

A **probability distribution** describes the **probability density function (PDF)** of a physical phenomenon

**Example:** Given a cable made of 50 steel wires (ductile failure) each having a resistance  $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(x_i; 10, 3^2)$  kN.

**What is**  $X_{\text{cable}} = \sum_{i=1}^{50} X_i$ ?



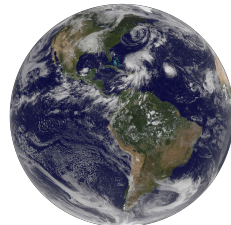
[steelwirerope.com, Der Kiureghian (2005)]

## Module 3 – Bayes [≡]

Given a deadly disease so rare that **only one human on Earth has it**.

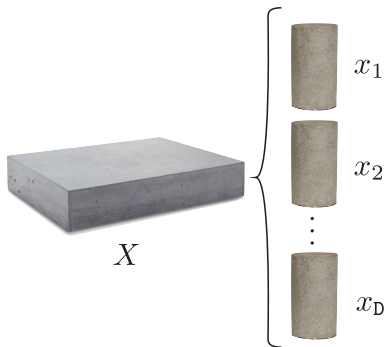
We have a screening test so that

$$\text{test}+ \rightarrow \begin{cases} \Pr(\text{test}+ | \text{disease}) = 0.999 \\ \Pr(\text{test}+ | \neg \text{disease}) = 0.001 \end{cases}$$



**If you test positive, should you be worried?**

# Module 3 – Bayes [≡]

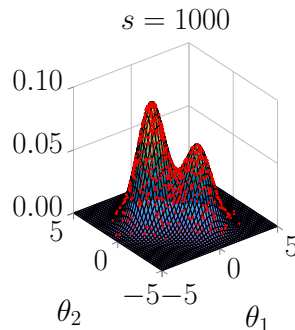
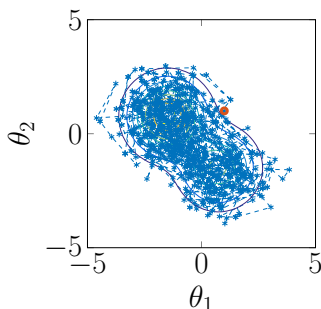


# Module 3 – Bayes [≡]



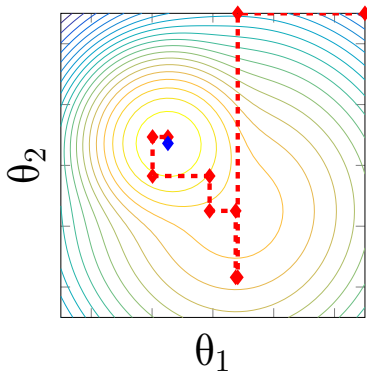
# Module 4 – MCMC sampling & Newton [≡]

## How do we sample form a PDF?

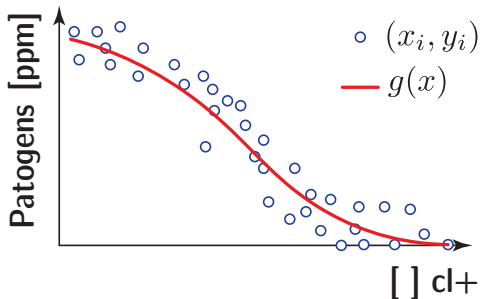


## Module 4 – MCMC sampling & Newton [ ]

**How do we find the maximum of a PDF?**



# Module 5 – Regression [≡]



## Data

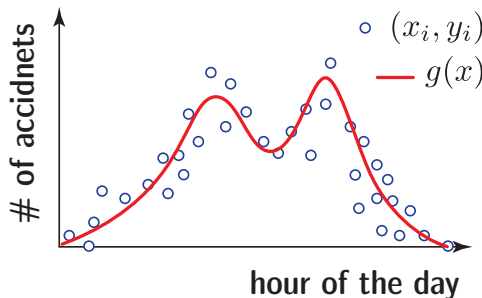
$$\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i), \forall i = 1 : D\}$$

$$x_i \in \mathbb{R} : \begin{cases} \text{Covariate} \\ \text{Attribute} \\ \text{Regressor} \end{cases}$$

$$y_i \in \mathbb{R} : \text{Observation}$$

**Regression methods: mathematical models for  $g(x)$**

# Module 5 – Regression [≡]



## Data

$$\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i), \forall i = 1 : D\}$$

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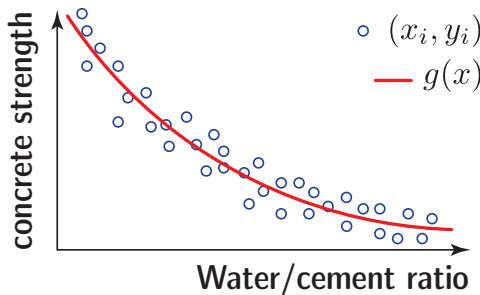
$$y_i \in \mathbb{R} : \text{Observation}$$

## Model

$$g(x) \equiv \text{fct}(x)$$

**Regression methods: mathematical models for  $g(x)$**

# Module 5 – Regression [≡]



## Data

$$\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i), \forall i = 1 : D\}$$

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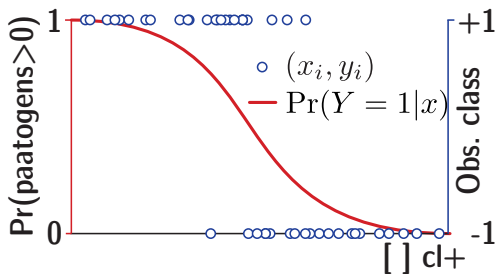
$$y_i \in \mathbb{R} : \text{Observation}$$

## Model

$$g(x) \equiv \text{fct}(x)$$

**Regression methods: mathematical models for  $g(x)$**

# Module 6 – Classification [≡]



## Data

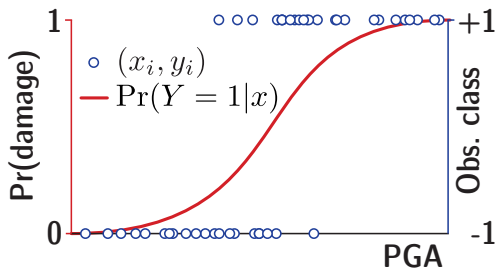
$$\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i), \forall i = 1 : D\}$$

$$x_i \in \mathbb{R} : \begin{cases} \text{Covariate} \\ \text{Attribute} \\ \text{Regressor} \end{cases}$$

$$y_i \in \{-1, 1\} : \text{Observation}$$

**Classification methods: mathematical models for  $\Pr(Y|x)$**

# Module 6 – Classification [≡]



## Data

$$\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i), \forall i = 1 : D\}$$

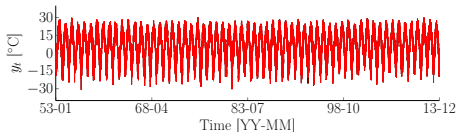
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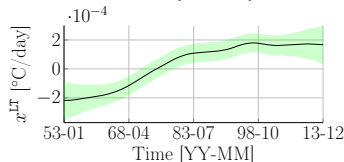
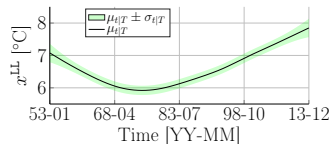
**Classification methods: mathematical models for  $\Pr(Y|x)$**

# Module 7 – Time-series [ ]

How do we interpret data when it is **time-dependent**?



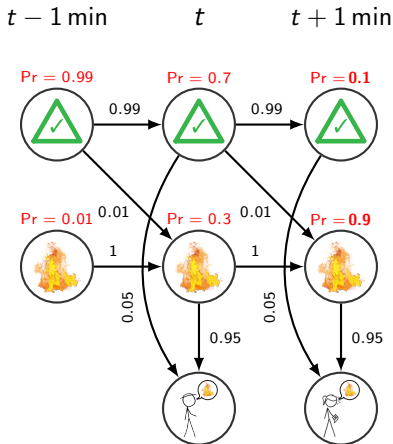
**What is the annual rate of change for the average temperature?**



**$\Delta$  in average temperature in Montreal:  $+0.06^\circ\text{C}/\text{year}$**



# Module 8 – Decision Theory [≡]



# Module 9 – AI & Sequential Decision Making [≡]



$$\mathcal{S} = \left\{ \text{Game Screen} \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \left\{ \text{Game Controller} \right\}$$

$$s_t = \left\{ \text{Current Game Frame} \right\}$$

$$R(s_t) = \{ \text{fct}(\text{Game Frame}) \}$$

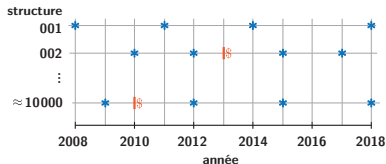
$$p(s_{t+1} | s_t, a) = \text{unknown... learnt by playing}$$

**Reinforcement learning**  $\rightarrow$   $Q(s, a)$ : **Long term** utility of taking an **action**  $a$  if we are in a **state**  $s$

[<https://youtu.be/QVyu9oVyh9Q>, Google images]

# What are we going to do with this in engineering?

# Asset management



$$\mathcal{S} = \{\text{Infrastructure network}\}$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \{\text{wait, repair, replace}\}$$

$$s_t = \{\%A, \%B, \%C, \%D\}$$

$$R(s_t) = \{\text{fct}(s_t)\}$$

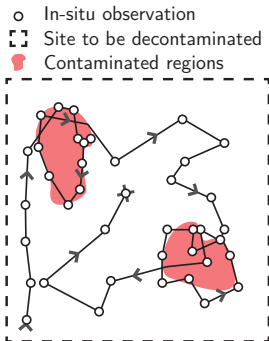
$$p(s_{t+1} | s_t, a) = \text{unknown...}$$

learnt from data

**Reinforcement learning** →

$Q(s, a)$ : **Long term** utility of taking an **action**  $a$  if we are in a **state**  $s$

## Soil contamination characterization



$$\mathcal{S} = \{\text{Contaminated site}\}$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \{\text{Sampling } (\Delta x, \Delta y), \text{ stop}\}$$

$$s_t = \{[\text{Hg}]_S\}$$

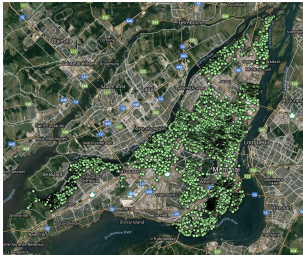
$$R(s_t) = \{\text{fct}(s_t)\}$$

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learnt from data

**Reinforcement learning**  $\rightarrow$   $Q(s, a)$ : Long term utility of taking an **action**  $a$  if we are in a **state**  $s$

# Emerald ash borer



$$\mathcal{S} = \{\text{Ash population}\}$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \{\text{cut, wait}\}$$

$$s_t = \{[\text{insects}]_S\}$$

$$R(s_t) = \{\text{fct}(s_t)\}$$

$$p(s_{t+1}|s_t, a) = \text{unknown...}$$

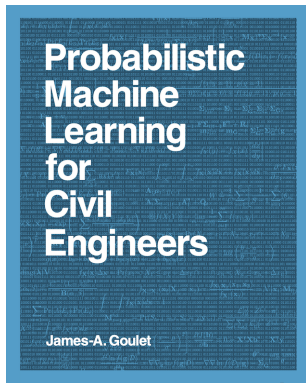
learnt from data

**Reinforcement learning** →

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[Google images]

# Book Organization



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