

Inductive Learning:

Antoine Cornuéjols

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EKINOCS research group

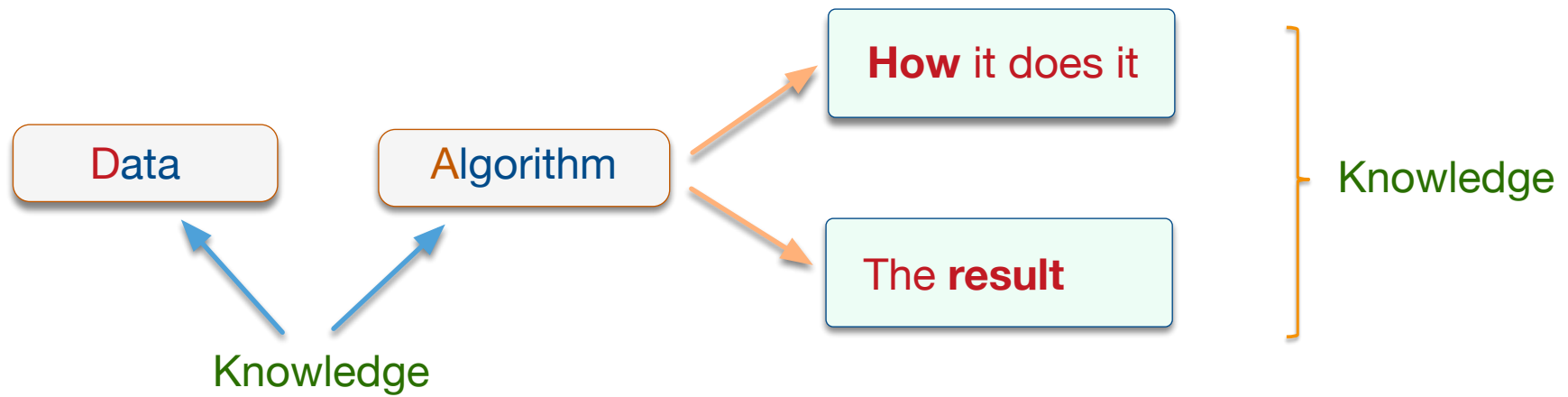
Inductive Learning: a Risky Business

Antoine Cornuéjols

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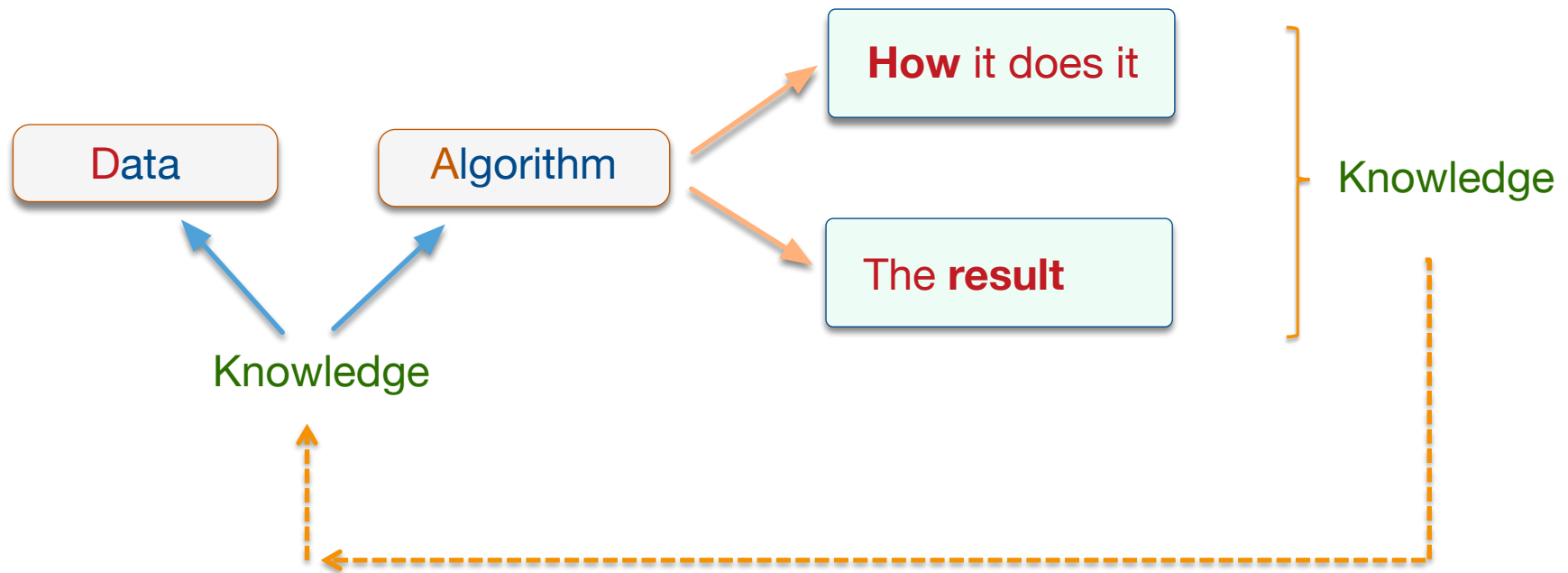
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Inductive learning: what it does



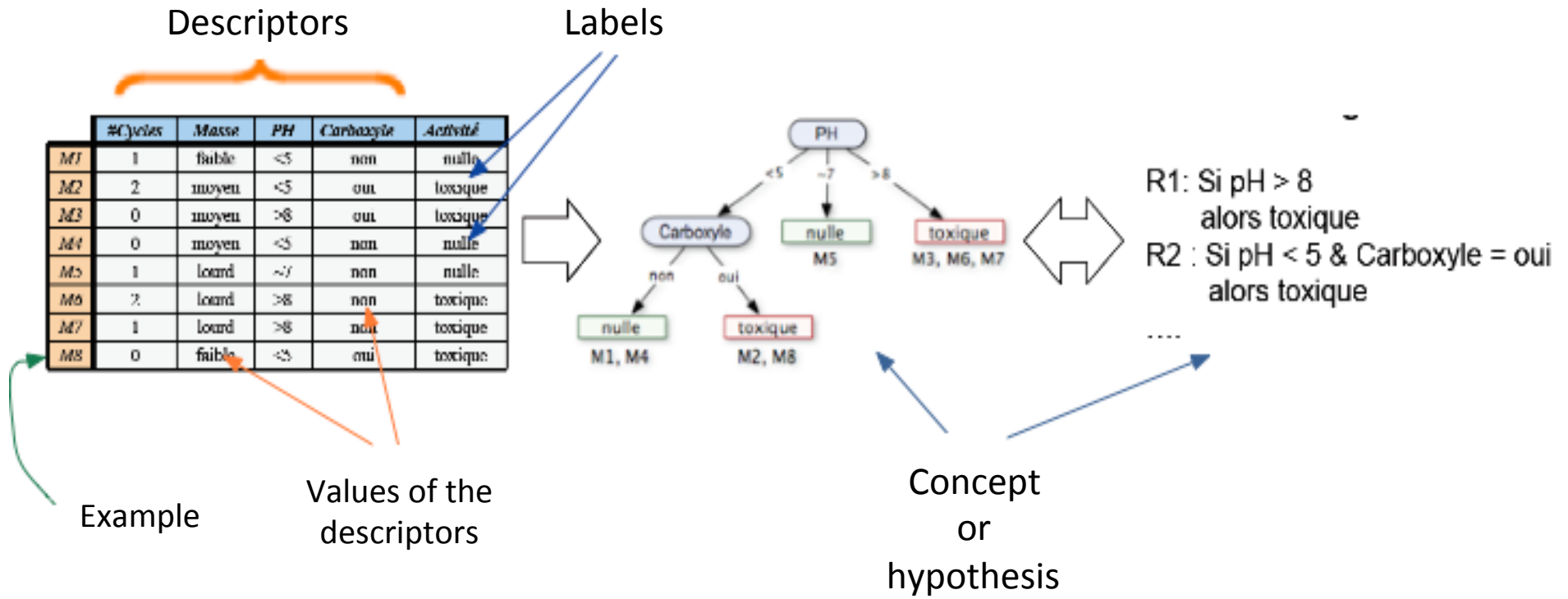
...

Inductive learning: what it does



...

Supervised Induction



What do you expect?

- Better **understand** your data

What do you expect?

- Better understand your data
- Be able to make **prediction**

What do you expect?

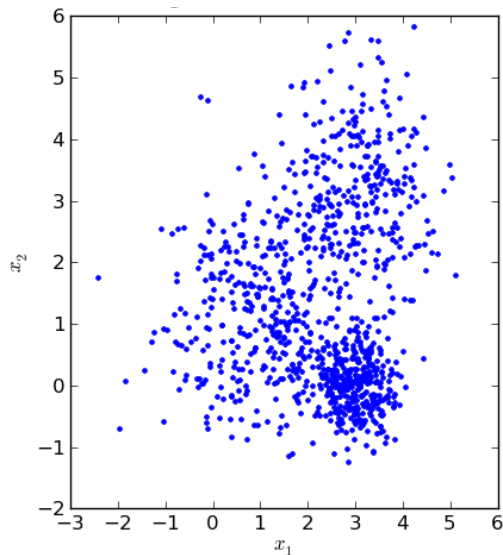
- Better understand your data
- Be able to make prediction
- Be able to make **prescription**

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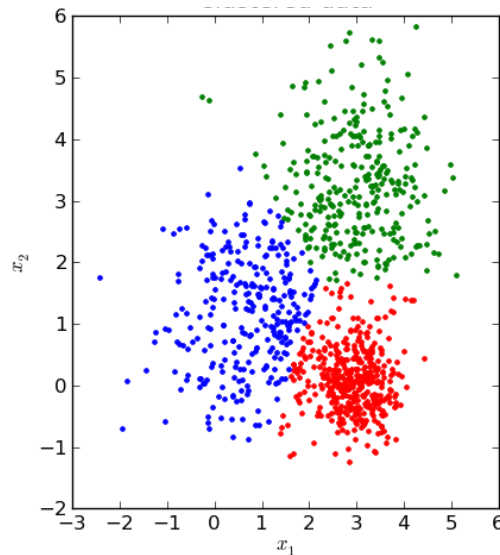
- Better **understand** your data
- Be able to make **prediction**
- Be able to make **prescription**

(1) Understand your data

- **Re-express it**
 - In a **concise** way
 - To be **interpretable** by an expert of the domain



Original data



Clustered data

**Three groups of
customers with such
and such
characteristics ...**

(2) Make predictions

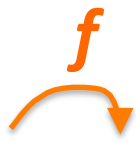
- **Extrapolate** your data to find **predictive correlations**

- From a **training set** $S = \{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_j, y_j), \dots, (x_m, y_m)\}$

(2) Make predictions

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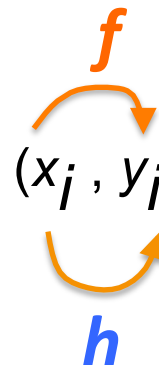
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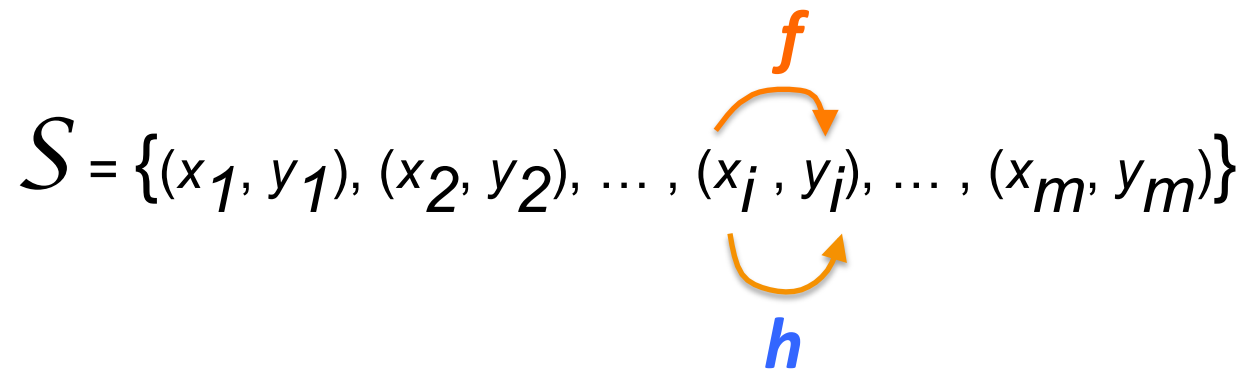
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New $x \rightarrow y ?$

(2) Make predictions

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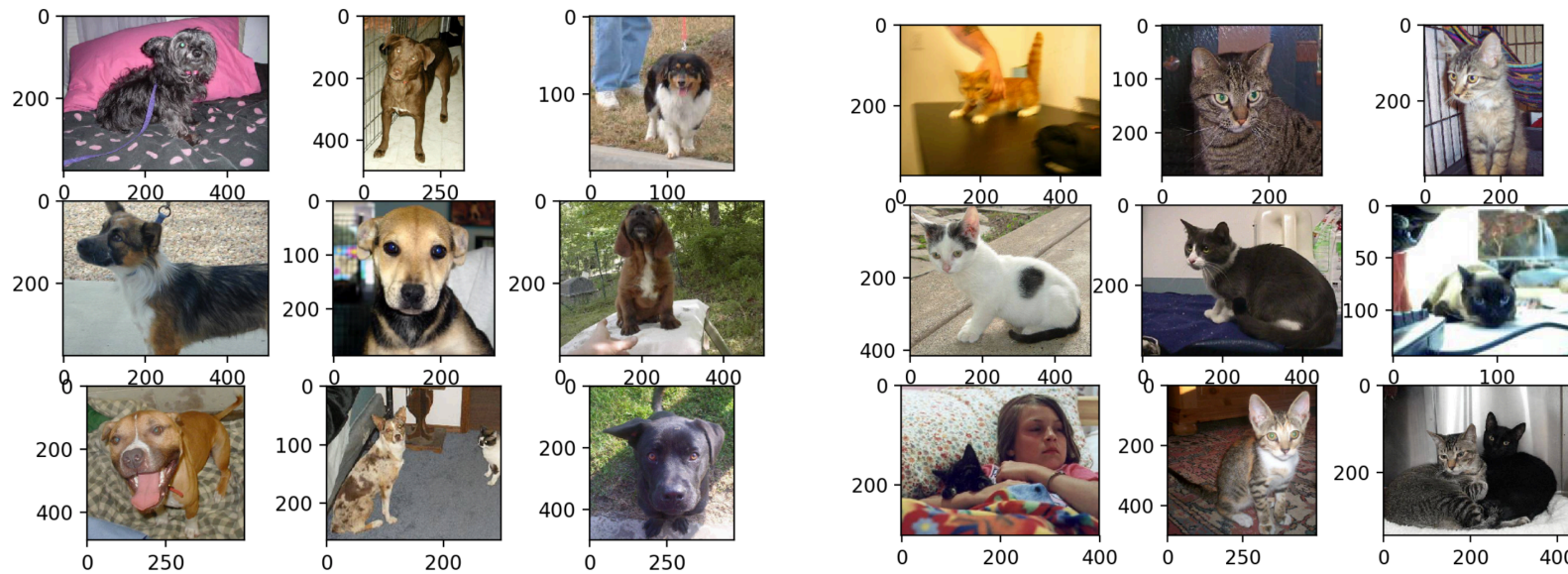
The diagram illustrates the relationship between the input variable x and the output variable y in a training set. An orange arrow labeled f points from x to y , representing the function that maps input to output. A blue arrow labeled h points from y to x , representing the hypothesis function that maps output back to input.

$$x - h \rightarrow y$$

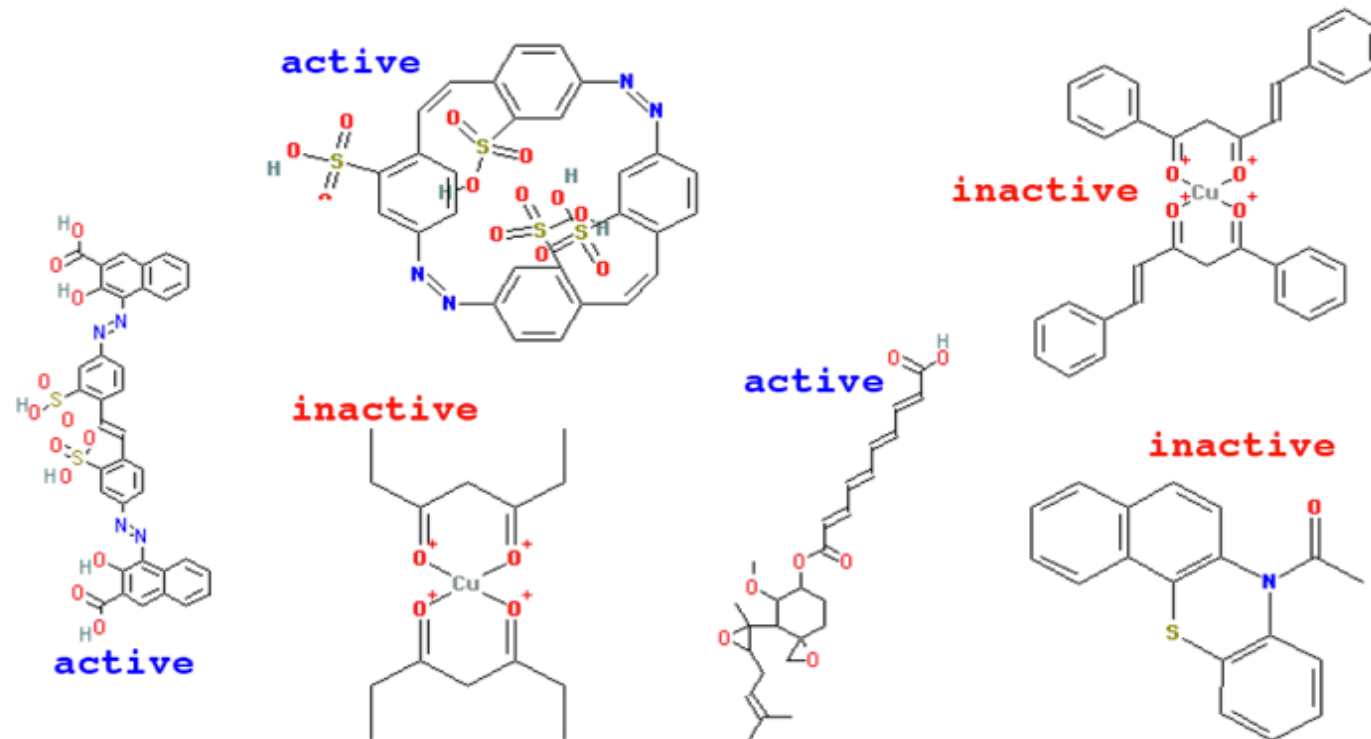
(2) Machine Learning as ...

... Learning a function from an **input** space X to an **output** space Y

Cats vs. dogs



Supervised learning



NCI AIDS screen results (from <http://cactus.nci.nih.gov>).

(3) Make prescriptions

- Learning **causal** relationships
 - The barometer **allows the prediction** of tomorrow's weather
 - But tampering with its needle **will not** change the weather

Correlation is not causality

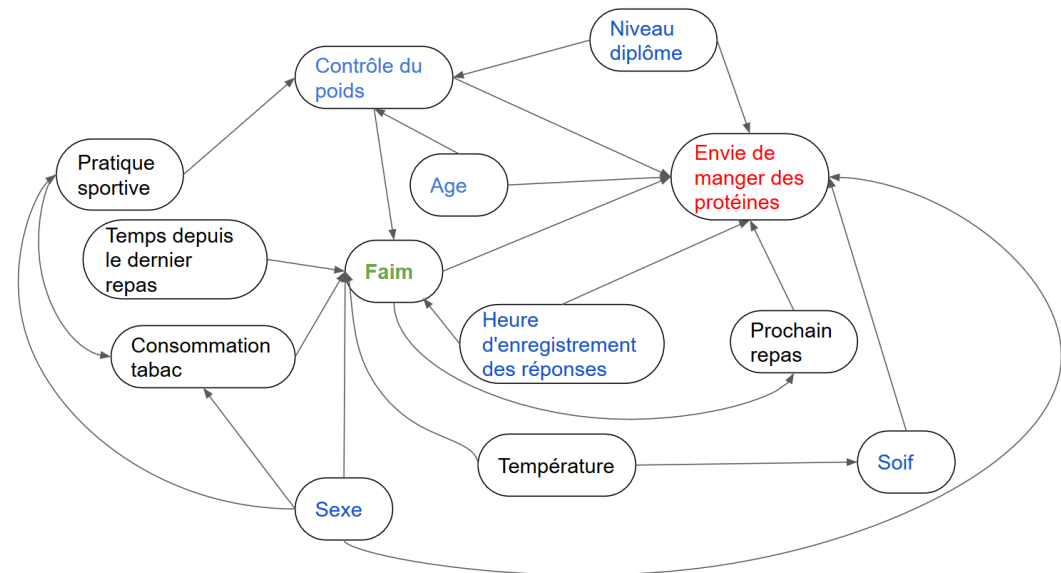
Discovering causal relationships

(generally) requires knowing **more than the data**

Looking for causal relationships

- What causes appetite for protein dishes?

- Hunger ?
- The hour in the day?
- Gender?
- The visual aspect?
- The olfactory aspect?
- The high protein content of previous meals?
- ...



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 - **Blind** to interesting but out of the blue patterns

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Descriptive learning usually takes place in an **exploratory phase**

→ **Be very careful**

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 - **Interpretability** of the **model**
 - Explanation/**justification** of the **prediction**
 - **Fruitfulness** wrt. the **domain theory**

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Often, we are **not** interested in prediction alone,
but in **understanding** the **prediction** and/or the **predictive model**

How do you **evaluate** the results?

- **Predictive learning**

- **Predictive** performance (on a test set)

- E.g. error rate

- But, this is not all there is to it. We want also

- **Interpretability** of the **results**
- **Interpretability** of the **model** and the **process**
- Gaining a **better understanding of the world**

when including the learned decision function in an existing theory

Often, we are **not** interested in prediction alone,
but in **understanding** the **prediction** and/or the **predictive model**

A basic principle

- Machine Learning “just” **reformulates** what has been given as **input**
- A **conservation** theorem:
 - **No information is “added**
 - **Data + prior knowledge**

A basic principle

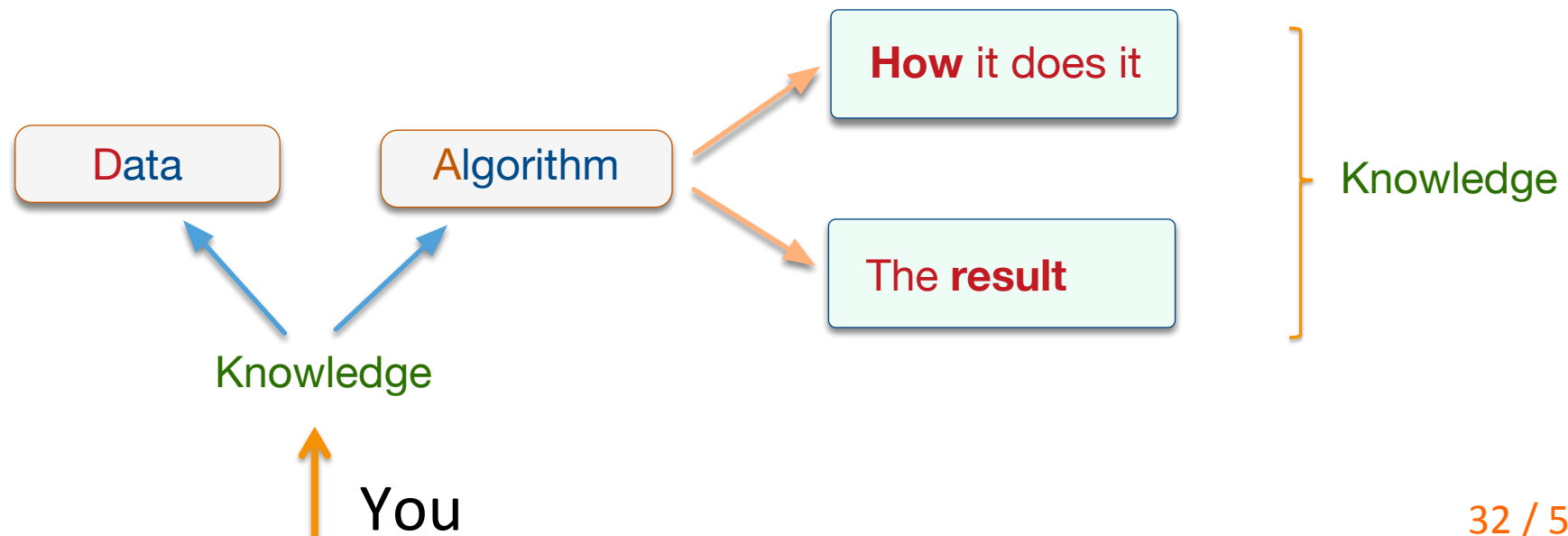
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Little data + lots of prior knowledge
Big data + less prior knowledge

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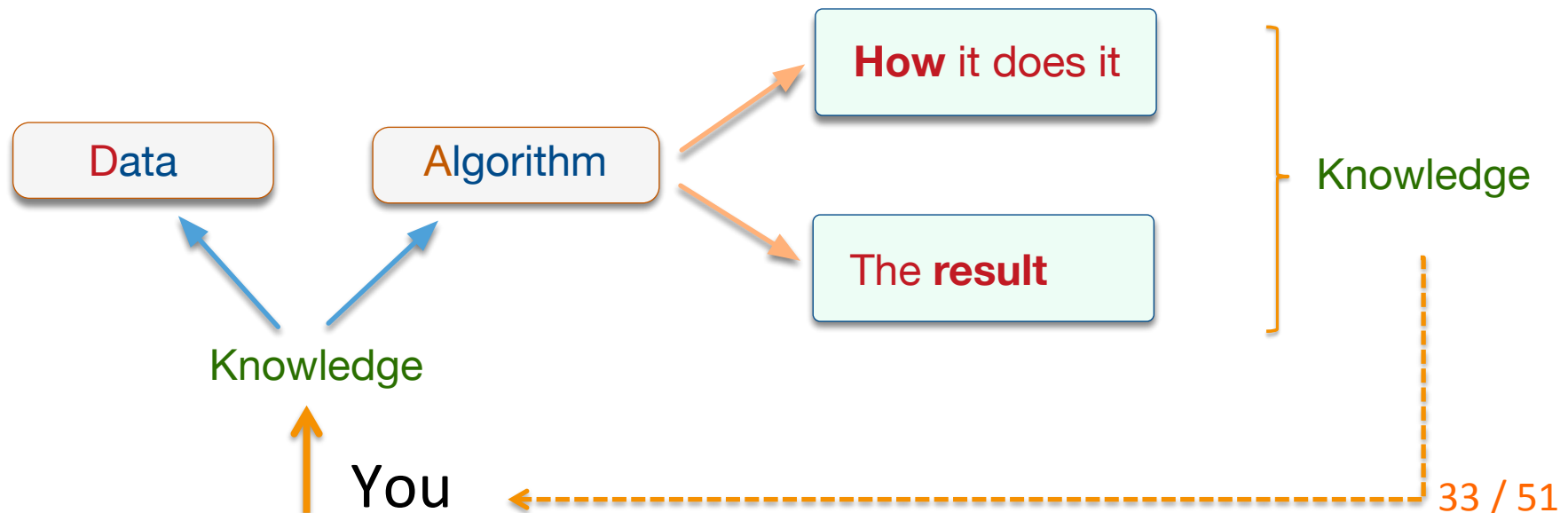
Little data + **lots** of prior knowledge
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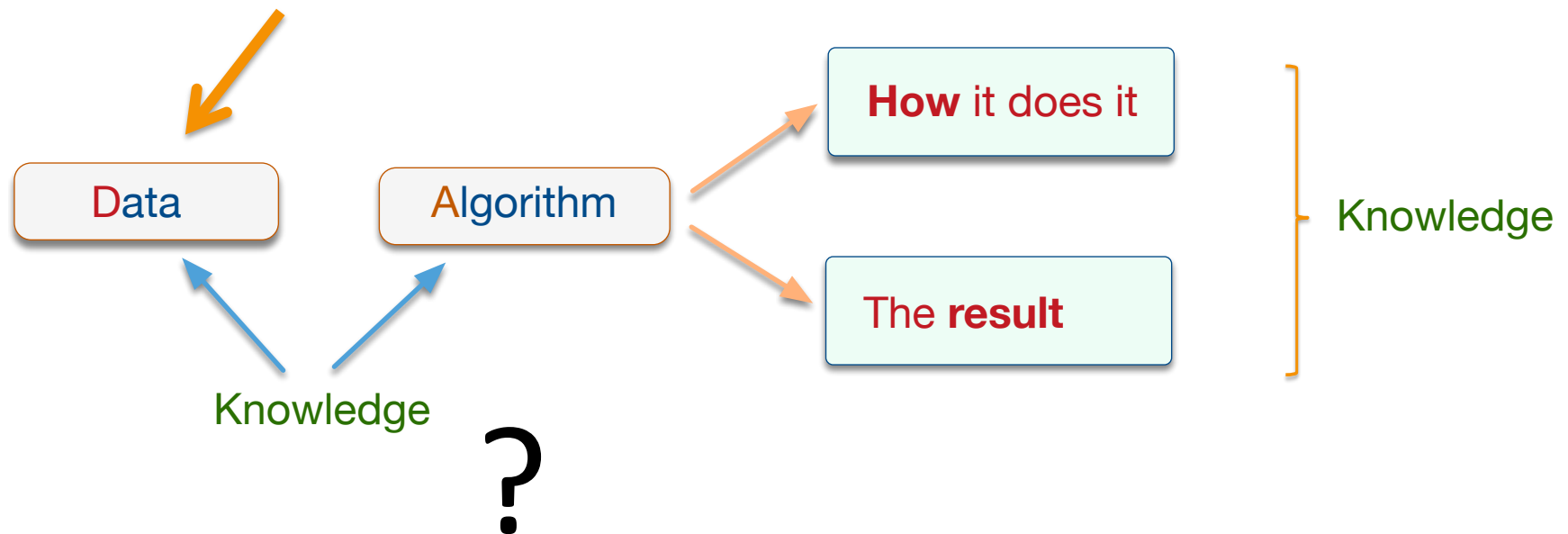
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Prior knowledge

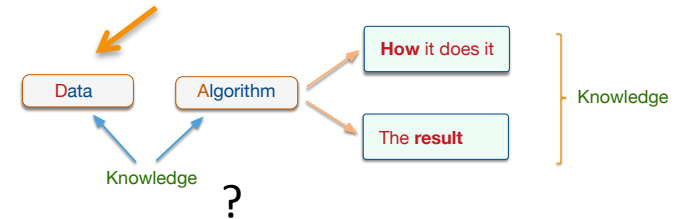


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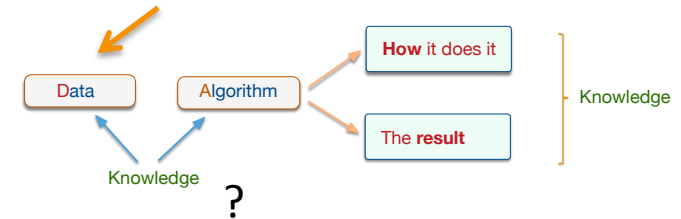
Knowledge as **input** to ML

- Knowledge **in the data**

- The **experimental apparatus**
- Choice of **the descriptors** (the features)
- **Enrichment** using ontologies
- **Normalization** of the values
- **Missing** values
- Possibly **added data point**
 - With invariances in mind
- ...



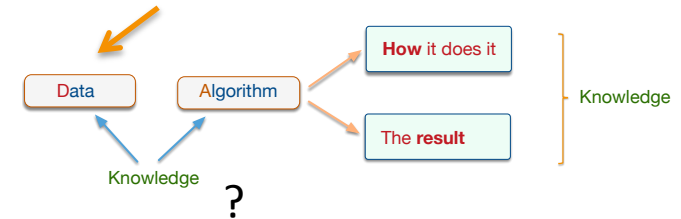
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- The **experimental apparatus** → With its own imperfection and biases
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Knowledge as **input** to ML



- Knowledge **in the data**

- The **experimental apparatus**

- Choice of **the descriptors** (the features) **→** Necessarily biased

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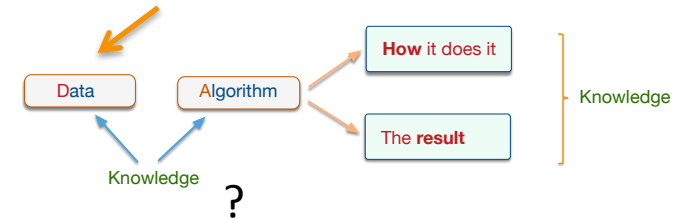
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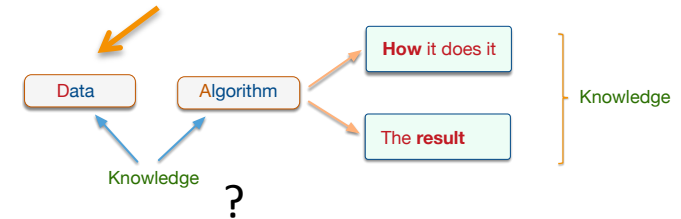
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Prior (and biased) knowledge



Knowledge as **input** to ML



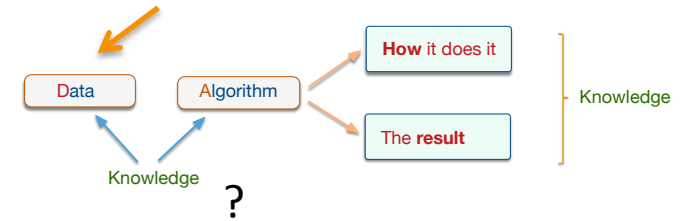
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No perfect normalization

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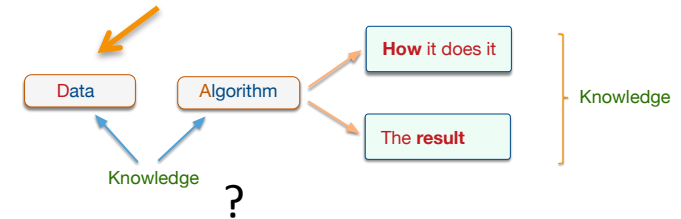
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What choice of imputation method?

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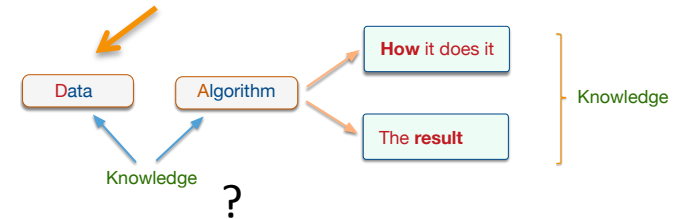
How do you add points?

Choice of invariance (prior assumptions)

Knowledge as **input** to ML

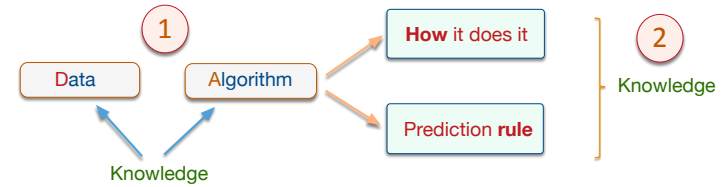
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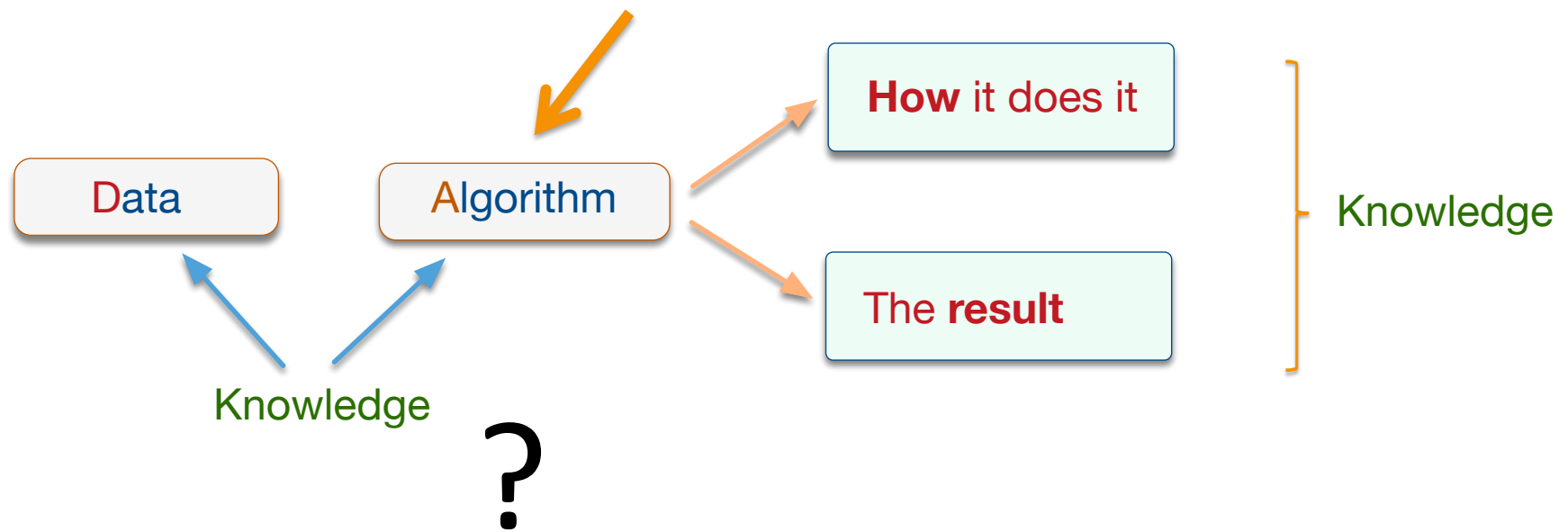
Prior assumptions
everywhere

Knowledge as **input** to ML



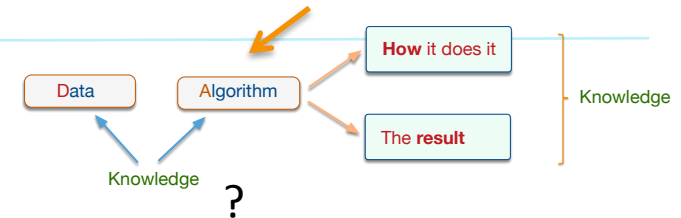
- Knowledge **in the data**

And sometime, there is not even that much
available data!



...

Knowledge as **input** to ML



- Knowledge **in the learning algorithm**

- Constraints on the hypothesis space: **representation bias**

$$h^* = \underset{h \in \mathcal{H}}{\text{ArgMin}} \left[R_{\text{Emp}}(h) + \lambda \text{reg}(h) \right]$$

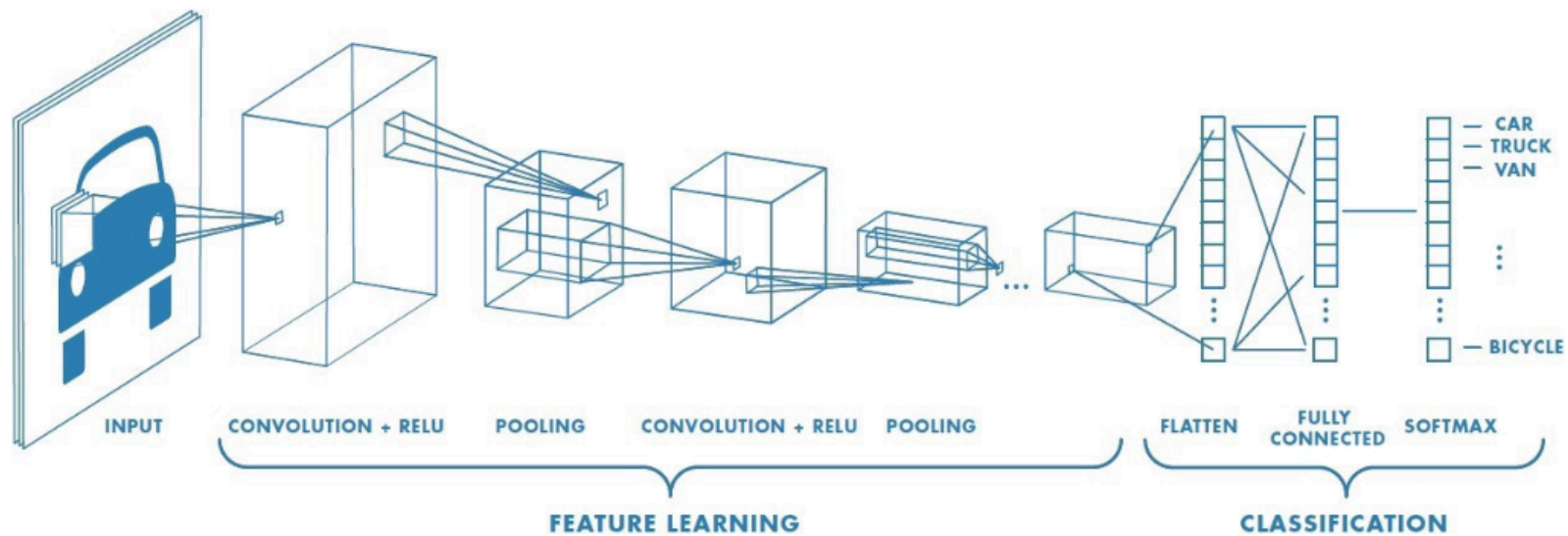
Looking for **sparse linear hypotheses**

$$h^* = \underset{h \in \mathcal{H}}{\text{ArgMin}} \left[\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \ell(h(\mathbf{x}_i), y_i) + \lambda \|h\|_1 \right]$$

Favors hypotheses with few non null coefficients

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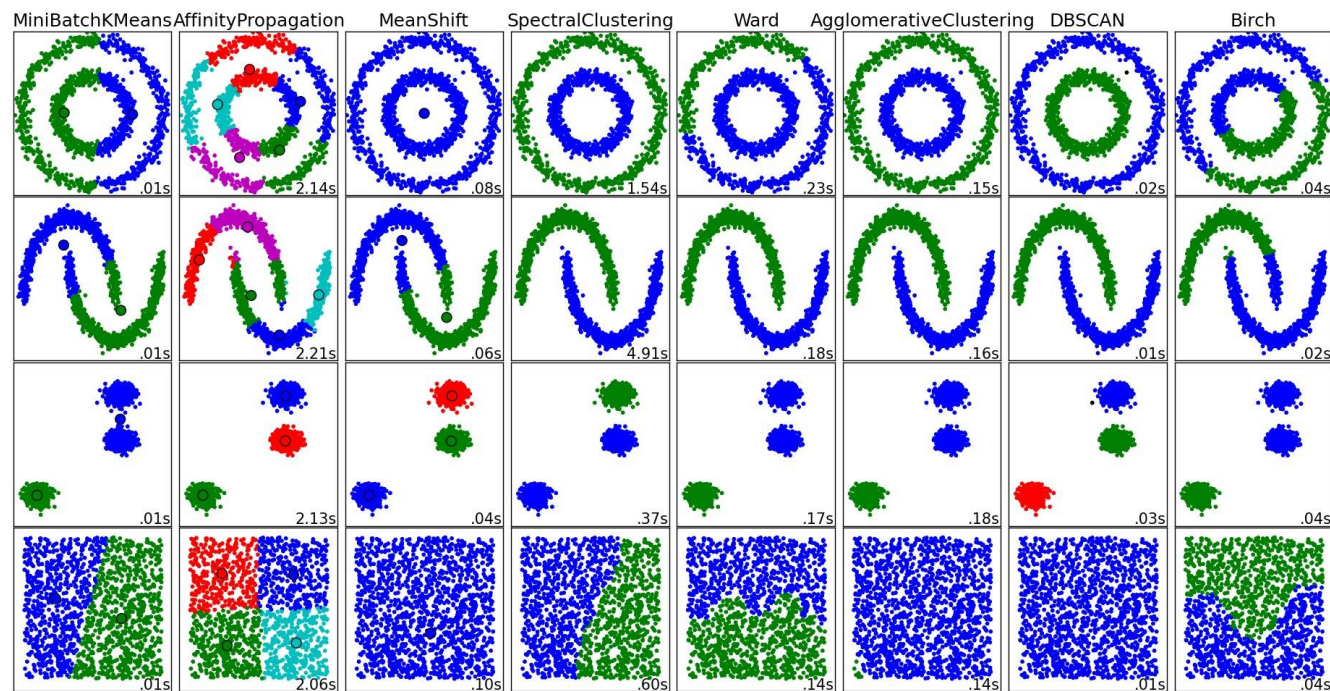
- Convolutional **N**eural **N**etworks
 - Knowledge embedded in the **architecture** of the network



What current Inductive Learning is good at

1. Identifying patterns in data (DESCRIPTIVE learning)

- But no guarantees about the value of their value



What current Inductive Learning is good at

2. Discover **prediction rules** based on statistical correlations (PREDICTIVE learning)
 - Geared towards **minimizing prediction errors**
 - In **stationary** environments
 - **Statistical** correlations: needs lots of data and ...



Is this less of a car
because the context is wrong?

Some current challenges

- Non stationary environments
- Heterogeneous multiple sources
- Interpretability of the results
- Integration in larger reasoning systems (including people)

Induction is a **risky business**

1. You have to **invest a lot**
2. And **be very careful** about the yield

Machine Learning **DOES NOT** produce absolute truths

Do not give up your **critical sense** at every step!

Induction is a **risky** business

1. You have to **invest a lot**
2. And **be very careful** about the yield

But do not abandon **hope**

Machine Learning is a **useful tool** ... in good hands

