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# EXPLAINABLE LEARNING WITH HIERARCHICAL ONLINE DETERMINISTIC ANNEALING

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University of Maryland

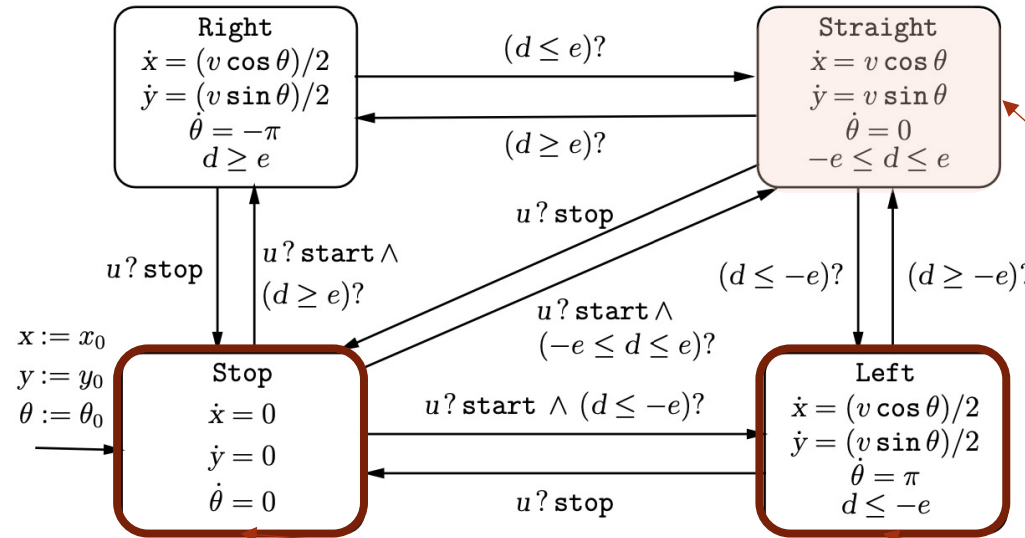
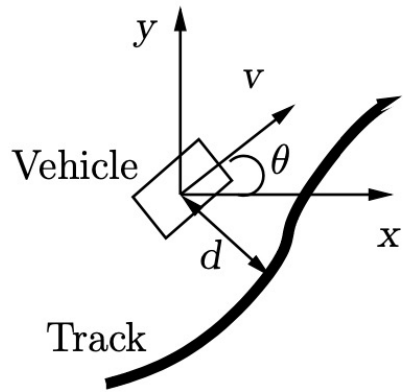


*ECML PKDD 2023*  
*Uncertainty meets Explainability*

The  
Institute for  
**Systems**  
Research

# Explainable Learning – The Control-Theoretic Perspective

## ➤ Autonomous Vehicle Control

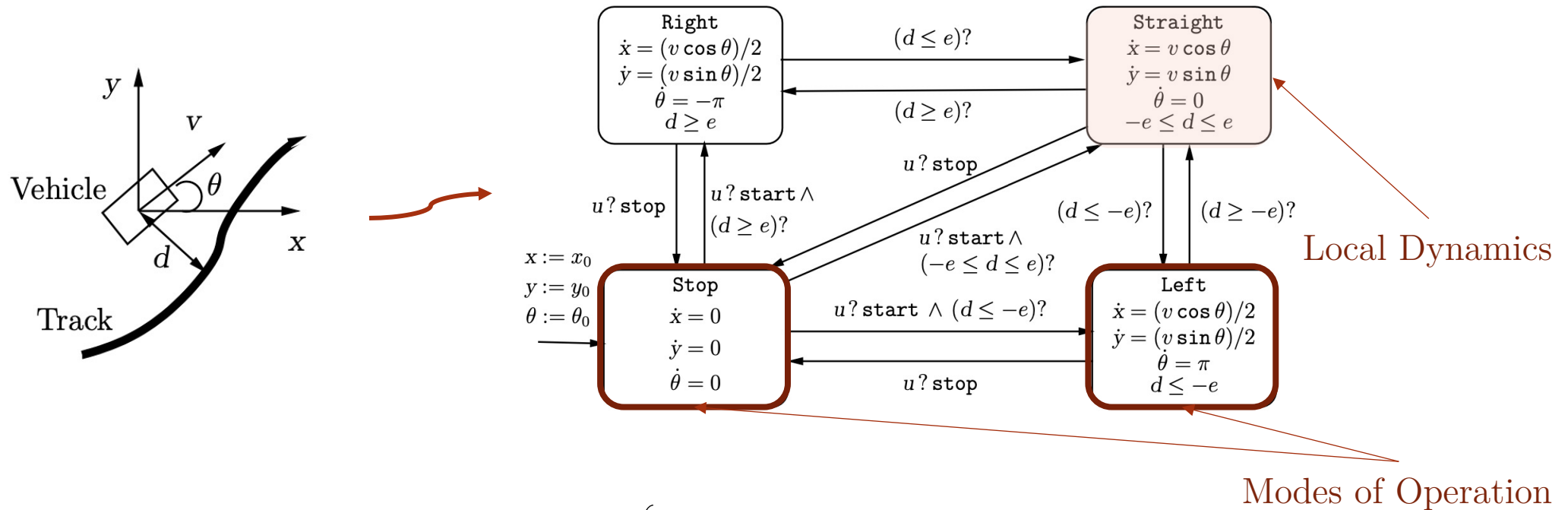


Local Dynamics

Modes of Operation

# Explainable Learning – The Control-Theoretic Perspective

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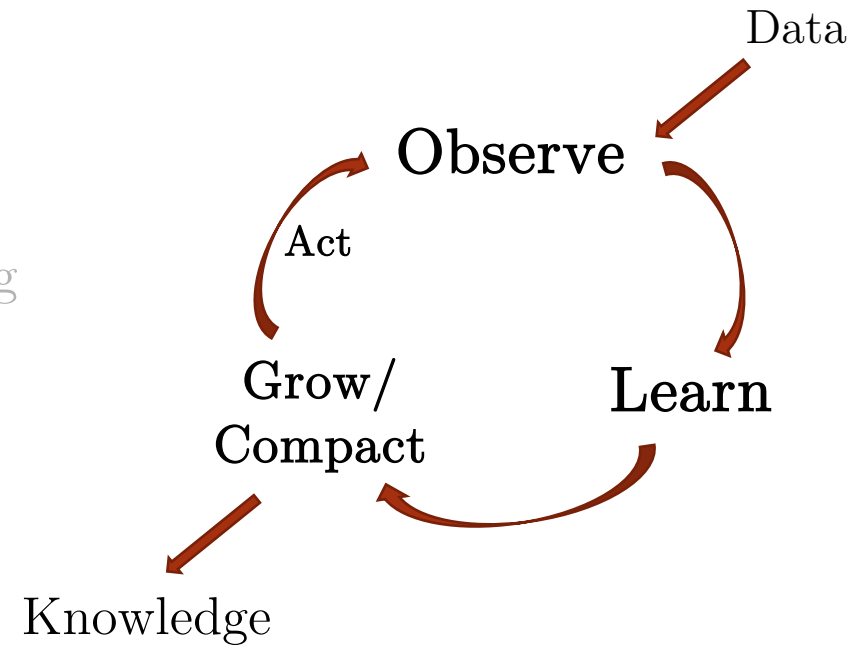


## ➤ Intelligent Autonomous Systems:

- How many modes?
- Local System Identification?
- Simultaneous, real-time learning?

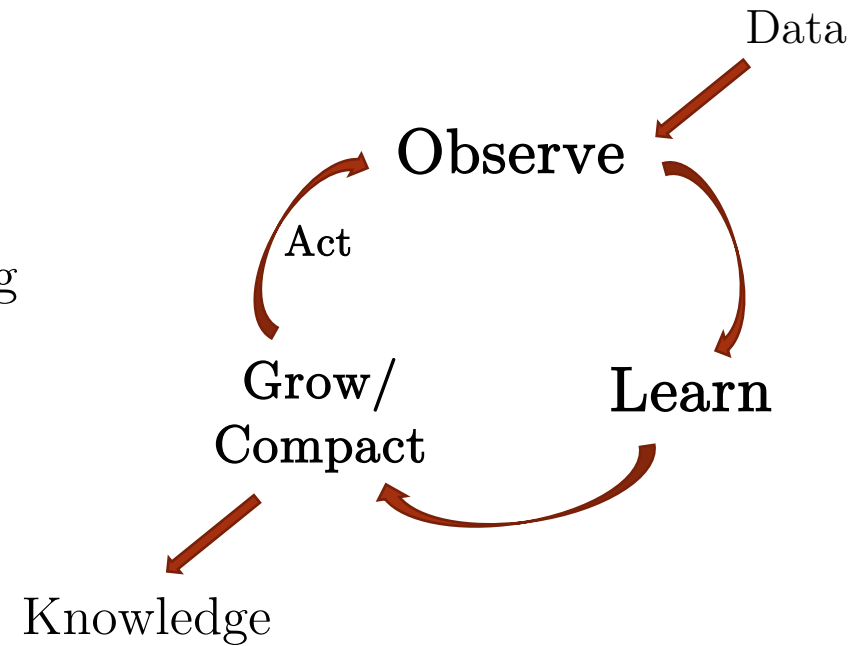
# Learning Properties in Cyber-Physical Systems

- **Continuous/Dynamic/Adaptive Process**
- Interpretation
  - Why and when doesn't it work?
  - Knowledge Representation and Reasoning
- Robustness
  - Model uncertainty, overfitting, etc.
  - Transfer to real system?
- **Time and Memory Efficiency**
  - Real-time?
  - Processing/Communication bandwidth
  - Hyperparameter-tuning
  - Performance-Complexity Trade-off
  - Hierarchical Learning?



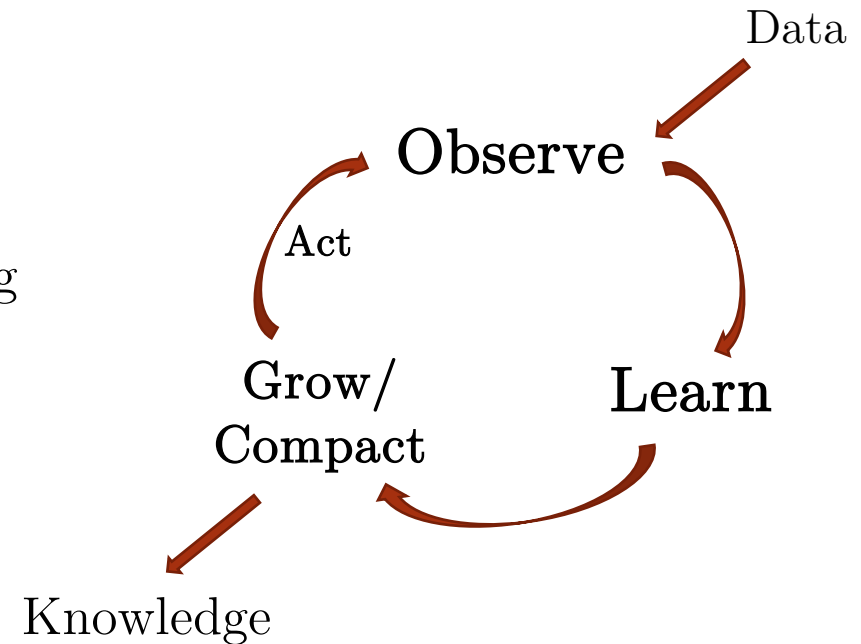
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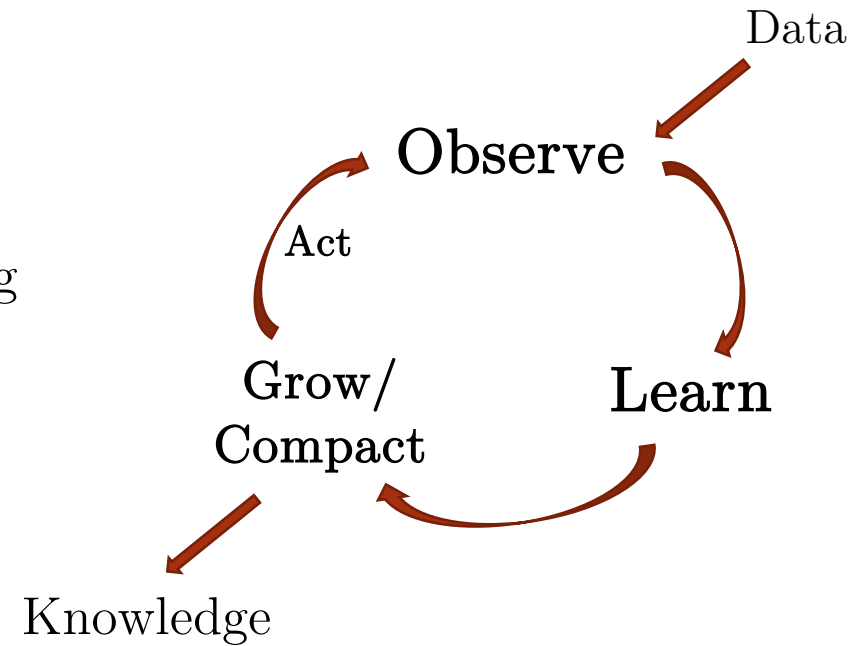
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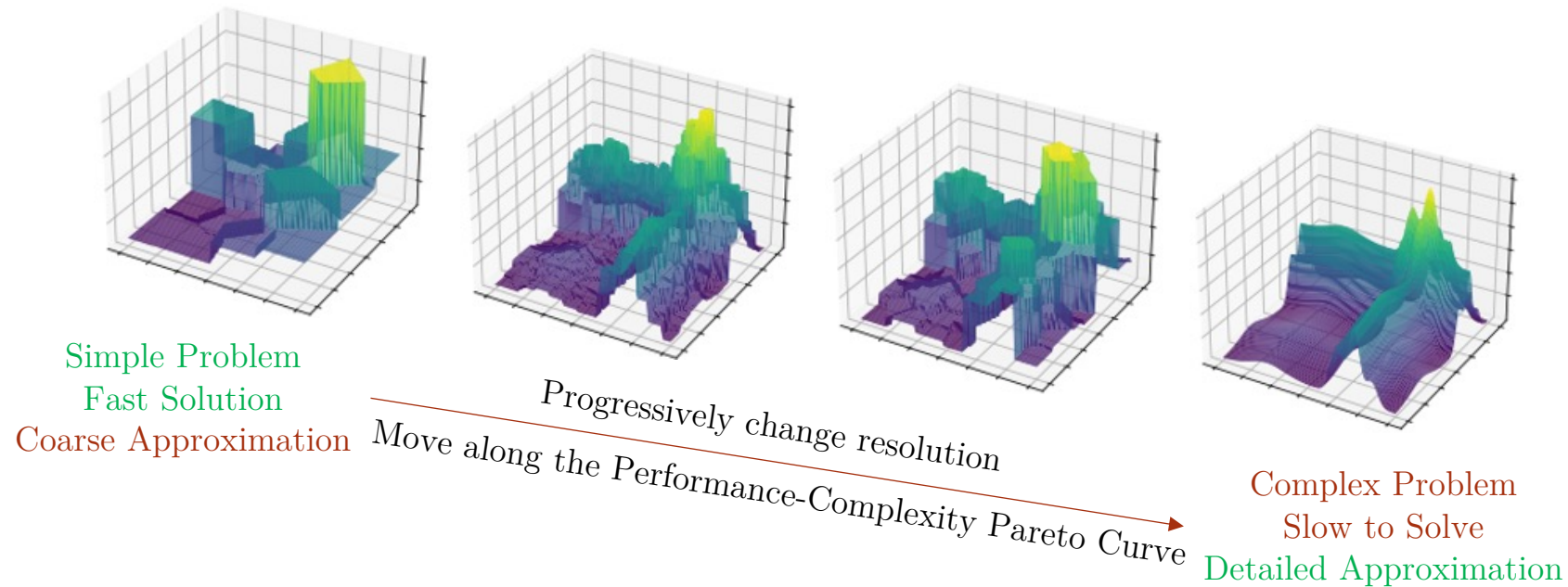
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# Towards Explainable Hierarchical Learning

- ▶ Goal: Hierarchically Approximate Optimal Solutions\*

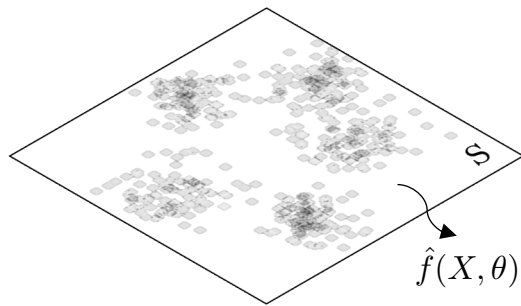


\* function approximation, reinforcement learning, game policies, system identification, clustering/classification



# Towards Explainable Hierarchical Learning (II)

- **Divide and Conquer:** Partition the space and use local models



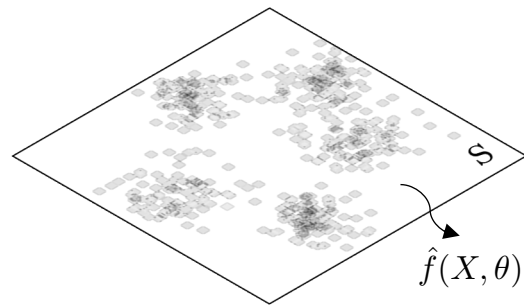
$$\min_{\theta} \mathbb{E} [d(f(X), \hat{f}(X, \theta))]$$

$$y = \hat{f}(x), x \in S$$

Highly Complex & Non-linear

# Towards Explainable Hierarchical Learning (II)

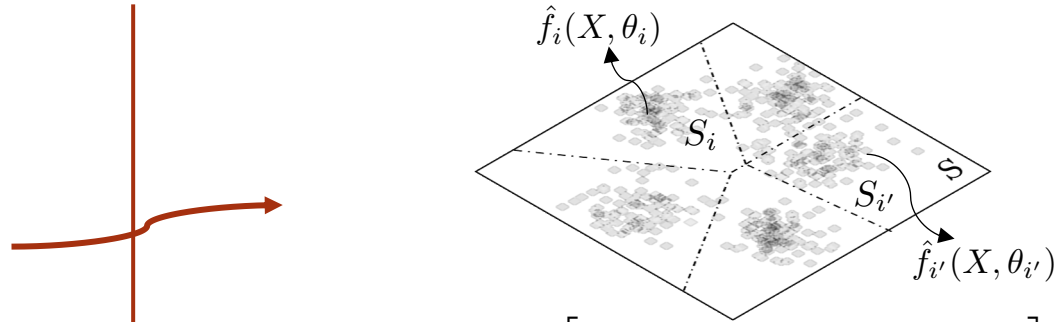
➤ **Divide and Conquer:** Partition the space and use local models



$$\min_{\theta} \mathbb{E} [d(f(X), \hat{f}(X, \theta))]$$

$$y = \hat{f}(x), x \in S$$

Highly Complex & Non-linear



$$\min_{\{S_i, \theta_i\}} \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_i \mathbf{1}_{[X \in S_i]} d(f(X), \hat{f}_i(X, \theta_i)) \right]$$

Simpler local models

$$y = \begin{cases} \hat{f}_1(x), & x \in R_1 \\ \hat{f}_2(x), & x \in R_2 \\ \vdots \\ \hat{f}_n(x), & x \in R_n \end{cases}$$

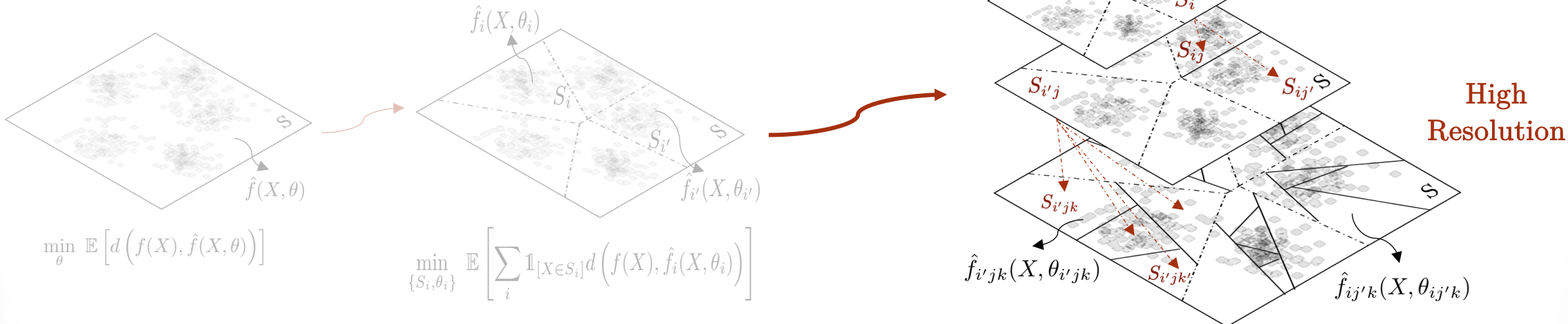
Structure = Explainability



# Towards Explainable Hierarchical Learning (II)

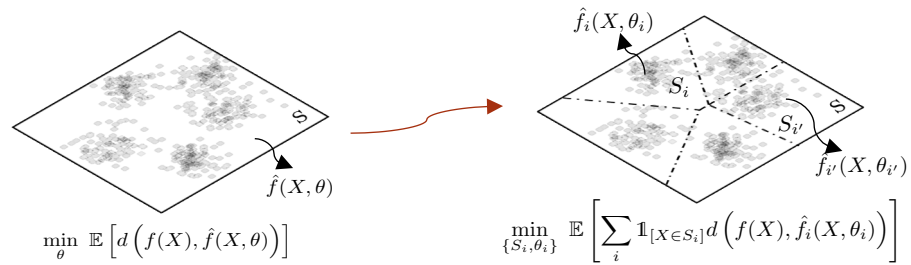
➤ Divide and Conquer

- Hierarchically Partition the space and use local models



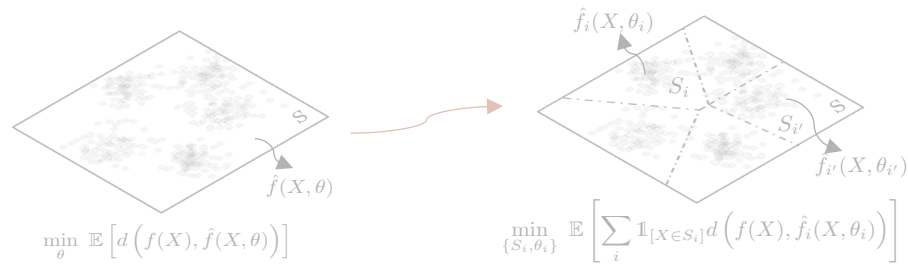
# Towards Explainable Hierarchical Learning (III)

## ➤ Problems with Simultaneous Partitioning and Local Learning?



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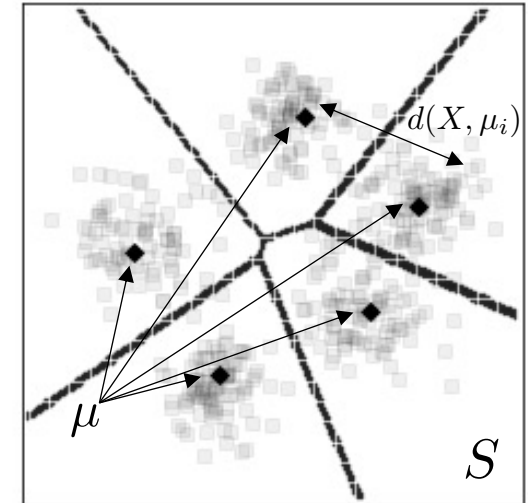
### ➤ Problems:

- How many regions?
  - Start with few and add as needed?
- Optimal parameters?
  - Local minima? Gradients?
  - Robustness?
- Simultaneously learn local models?

➔ Online Deterministic Annealing

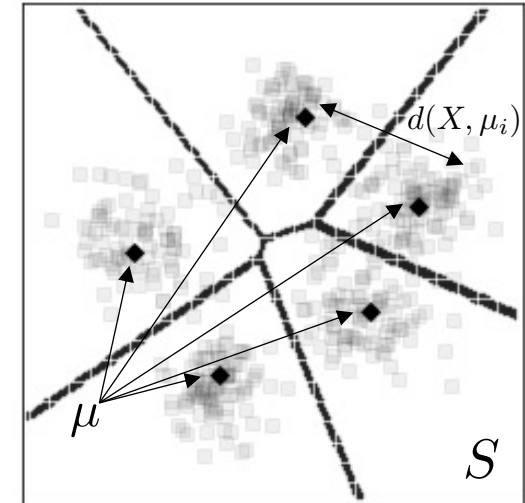
# Online Deterministic Annealing

- *Observations:*  $X^N := \{x_i\}_{i=1}^N$ ,  $x_i \in S$  realizations of a r.v.  $X \in S$
- *Codevectors:*  $\mu = \{\mu_i\}_{i=1}^M$ ,  $\mu_i \in S$  domain of a r.v.  $Q \in S$   
defined by:  $p(\mu_i|x) = \mathbb{P}[Q = \mu_i|X = x]$
- *Dissimilarity:*  $d : S \times S \rightarrow [0, \infty)$



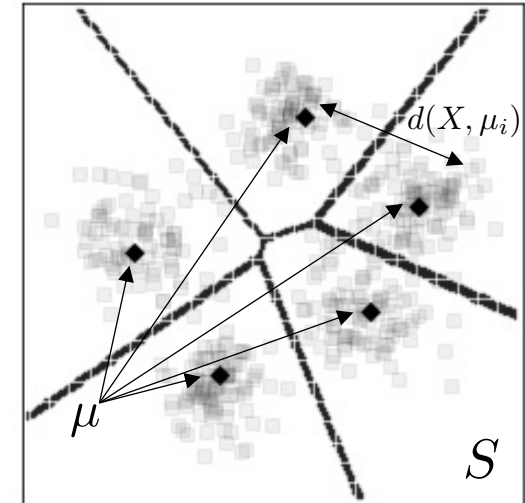
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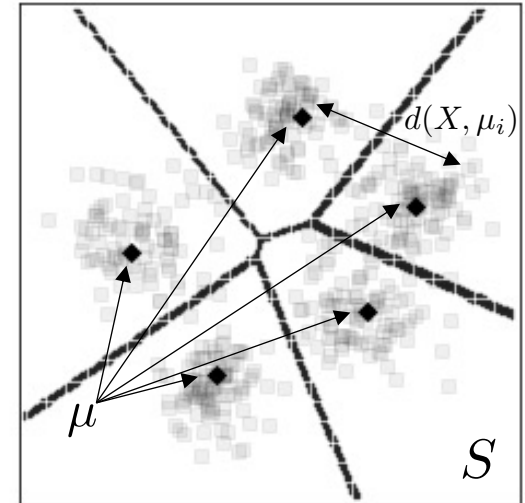


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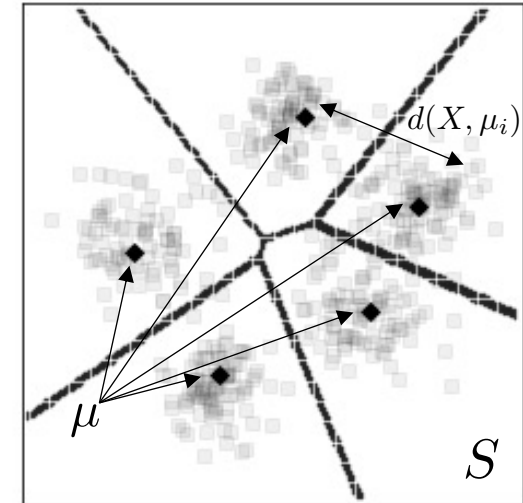
Clustering?

$$\min_{\mu} D(X, Q) := \mathbb{E}[d(X, Q)] = \int p(x) \sum_i p(\mu_i|x) d(x, \mu_i) dx$$



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Online Deterministic Annealing

$$\min_{\mu} F_T := D - TH \quad \text{for decreasing values of } T.$$

where  $\underbrace{H(X, Q)}_{\text{Entropy}} := \mathbb{E}[-\log P(X, Q)] = H(X) - \int p(x) \sum_i p(\mu_i|x) \log p(\mu_i|x) dx$

Adaptive  
Robust  
Progressive

# Why Maximum Entropy?

## ➤ Jayne's Maximum Entropy Principle

- Most “Unbiased” estimator: each sub-problem induces “good” initial conditions for the next
- Duality (Legendre-type) and Regularization\*:

$$\frac{1}{\beta} \log \mathbb{E}_{P_\mu} [e^{\beta Z}] = \inf_{P_\nu \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)} \left\{ \mathbb{E}_{P_\nu} [Z] - \frac{1}{\beta} D_{KL}(P_\nu, P_\mu) \right\}, \beta < 0$$

$$\min F_T \simeq \min \frac{1}{\beta} \log \mathbb{E} [e^{\beta D}], \beta = -\frac{1}{T}$$

Risk-Sensitivity

$$\frac{1}{\beta} \log \mathbb{E} [e^{\beta J}] = \mathbb{E} [J] + \frac{\beta}{2} \text{Var} [J] + O(\beta^2)$$

- **Robustness** w.r.t. initial conditions, input perturbations.
- **Bifurcation:** Progressively grow set of models

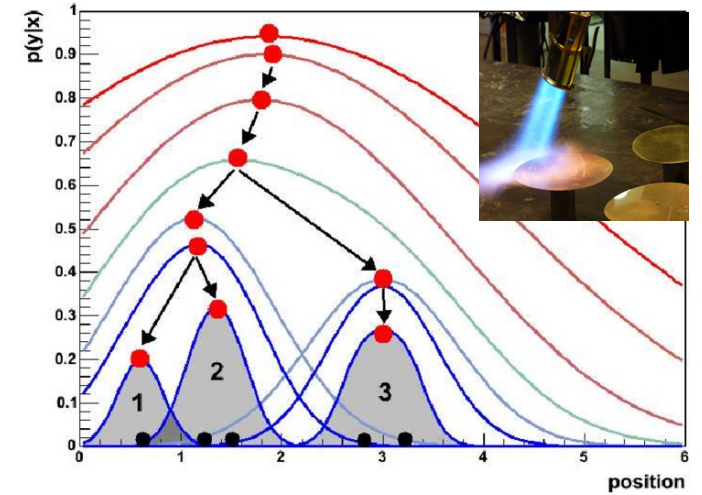
\*Mavridis et al., Risk Sensitivity and Entropy Regularization in Prototype-based Learning, IEEE MED 2022.

# Online Deterministic Annealing

## Online Deterministic Annealing

Solve:  $\min_{\mu} F_T := D - TH$  for decreasing values of T.

$\begin{cases} D(X, Q) : \text{Distortion} \\ H(X, Q) : \text{Entropy} \end{cases}$

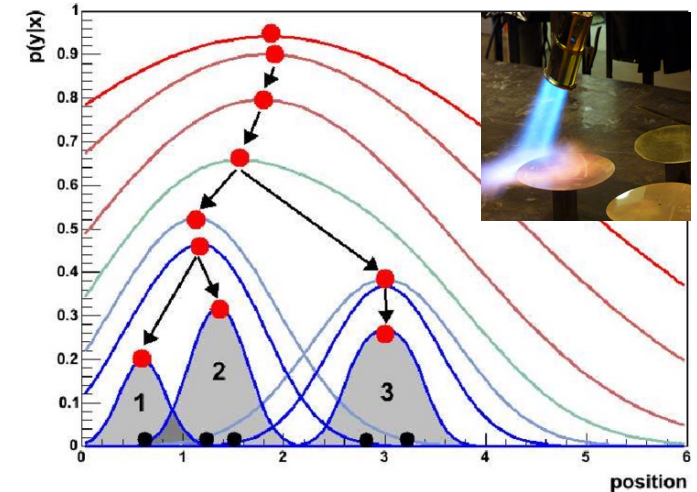


# Online Deterministic Annealing

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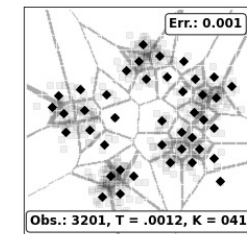
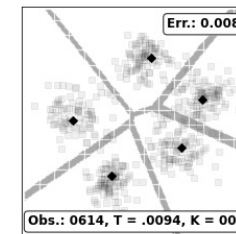
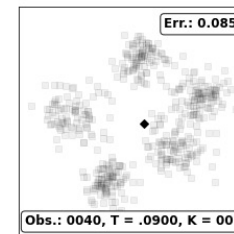
Solve:  $\min_{\mu} F_T := D - TH$  for decreasing values of  $T$ .

$\begin{cases} D(X, Q) : \text{Distortion} \\ H(X, Q) : \text{Entropy} \end{cases}$



### ▪ Lagrange (Temperature) Coefficient $T$

- Controls Performance/Complexity Tradeoff
- Simulates Annealing Optimization (Temperature)
- Stochastic Approximation
  - Simultaneous local system identification
- Triggers Bifurcation
  - Progressively adjust number of regions/codevectors



# Online Deterministic Annealing (II)

Solving the Optimization Problem  $\min F_T := D - TH$

- ▶ **Lemma.** The solution to  $F^*(\mu) := \min_{\{p(\mu_i|x)\}} F(\mu)$   
s.t.  $\sum_i p(\mu_i|x) = 1$ , is given by the Gibbs distributions  
$$p^*(\mu_i|x) = \frac{e^{-\frac{d(x,\mu_i)}{T}}}{\sum_j e^{-\frac{d(x,\mu_j)}{T}}}, \quad \forall x \in S.$$

- ▶ **Theorem.** The solution to  $\min_{\mu} F^*(\mu)$  is given by

$$\mu_i^* = \mathbb{E}[X|\mu_i] = \frac{\int xp(x)p^*(\mu_i|x) dx}{p^*(\mu_i)}$$

centroid form

if  $d := d_\phi$  is a Bregman divergence. (sufficient condition)

e.g., squared Euclidean distance, KL divergence, ...



# Online Deterministic Annealing (III)

Solving the Optimization Problem  $\min F_T := D - TH$

► **Theorem.** *The dynamic stochastic process created by the recursive updates*

$$\mu_i(n+1) = \frac{\beta(n)}{\rho_i(n)} \left[ \frac{\sigma_i(n+1)}{\rho_i(n+1)} (\rho_i(n) - \hat{p}(\mu_i|x_n)) + (x_n \hat{p}(\mu_i|x_n) - \sigma_i(n)) \right]$$

where the quantities  $\rho_i(n)$ ,  $\sigma_i(n)$ , and  $\hat{p}(\mu_i|x_n)$  are recursively updated by:

$$\begin{cases} \rho_i(n+1) &= \rho_i(n) + \alpha(n) [\hat{p}(\mu_i|x_n) - \rho_i(n)] \\ \sigma_i(n+1) &= \sigma_i(n) + \alpha(n) [x_n \hat{p}(\mu_i|x_n) - \sigma_i(n)] \end{cases}$$

$$\hat{p}(\mu_i|x_n) = \frac{\rho_i(n) e^{-\frac{d(x_n, \mu_i(n))}{T}}}{\sum_i \rho_i(n) e^{-\frac{d(x_n, \mu_i(n))}{T}}}$$

converges almost surely to a possibly sample path dependent solution of the optimization  $\min_{\mu} F^*(\mu)$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

$$\mu_i(n) = \frac{\sigma_i(n) \rightarrow \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}_{[\mu]} X]}{\rho_i(n) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}[\mu]}$$

**Stochastic Approximation: Gradient-Free !**

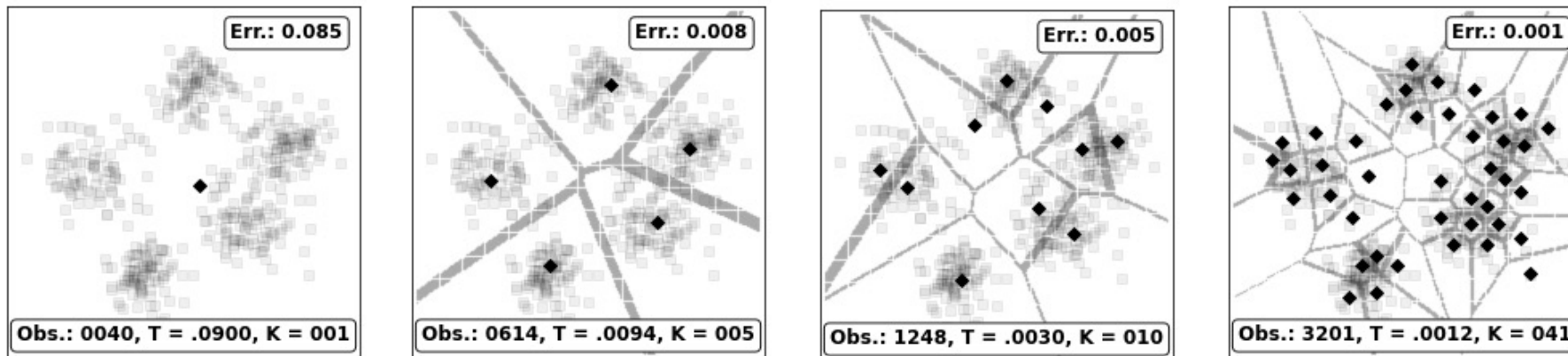


# Online Deterministic Annealing (IV)

## Bifurcation and the number of codevectors



- ▶ Sequentially solve:  $\min F_{T_\infty} := D - T_\infty H$   
...  
 $\min F_{T_0} := D - T_0 H$  ,  $T_i < T_{i+1}$  : Decreasing Temperature
- ▶ Remark. As  $T \rightarrow \infty$ , we get  $\mu_i = \mathbb{E}[f(X)]$ ,  $\forall i$ , i.e., one unique pseudo-input.
- ▶ Remark. As  $T$  is lowered below a critical value, a bifurcation phenomenon occurs, and the number of pseudo-inputs increases.



Performance-Complexity Trade-off



# Online Deterministic Annealing (V)

## Training Local Models: Two-Timescale Stochastic Approximation

---

**Algorithm 1** Online Deterministic Annealing

---

Initialize

**while** Termination Criterion **do**

Perturb  $\mu^i \leftarrow \{\mu^i + \delta, \mu^i - \delta\}, \forall i$

**repeat**

Observe  $(x, c)$

**for**  $i = 1, \dots, K$  **do**

$s^i = \mathbb{1}_{[c_{\mu^i} = c]}$

Update:

$$p(\mu^i|x) \leftarrow \frac{p(\mu^i)e^{-\frac{d_\phi(x, \mu^i)}{T}}}{\sum_i p(\mu^i)e^{-\frac{d_\phi(x, \mu^i)}{T}}}$$

$$p(\mu^i) \leftarrow p(\mu^i) + \beta_t [s^i p(\mu^i|x) - p(\mu^i)]$$

$$\sigma(\mu^i) \leftarrow \sigma(\mu^i) + \beta_t [s^i x p(\mu^i|x) - \sigma(\mu^i)]$$

$$\mu^i \leftarrow \frac{\sigma(\mu^i)}{p(\mu^i)}$$

**end for**

**until** Convergence

Keep effective codevectors

Remove idle codevectors

Lower temperature  $T \leftarrow \gamma T$

**end while**

---

$$\mu_{t+1} = \mu_t + \beta(t) [g(\theta_t, \mu_t) + M_{t+1}^{(\mu)}]$$

Slow SA

Partition

# Online Deterministic Annealing (VI)

## Training Local Models: Two-Timescale Stochastic Approximation

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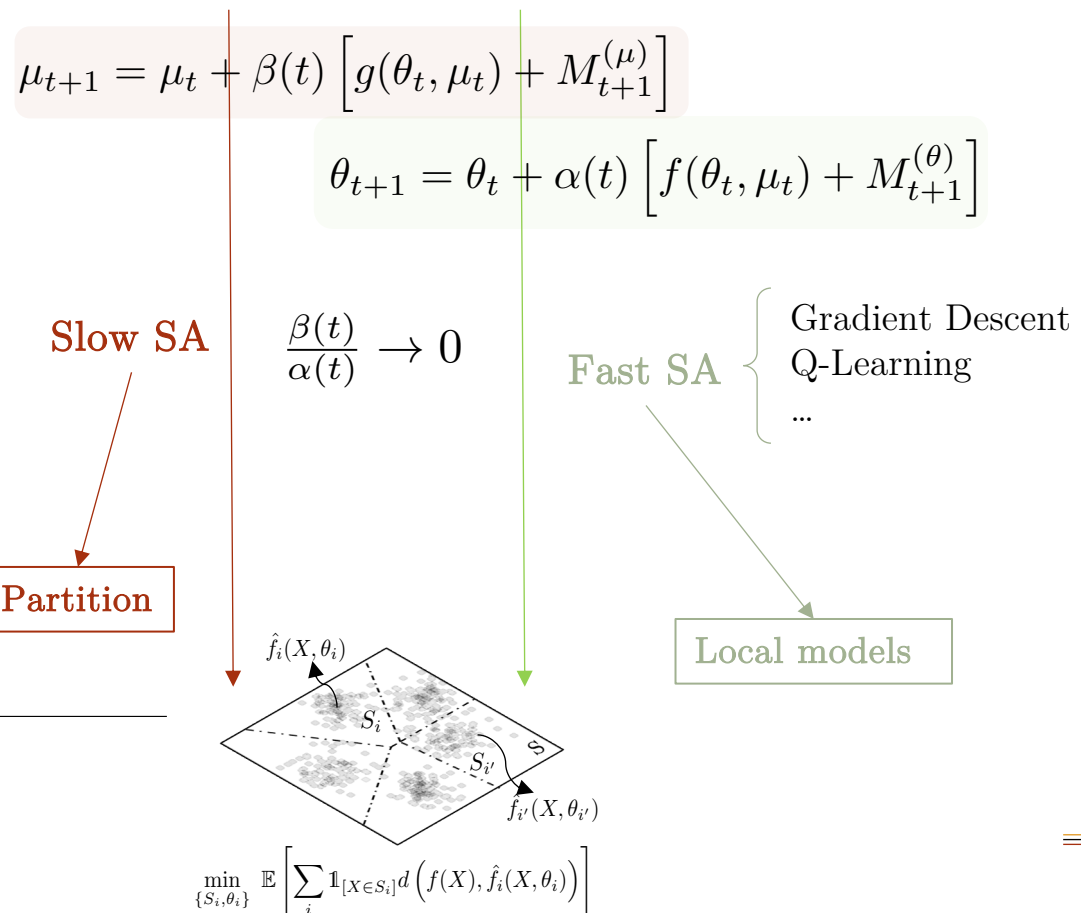
  Keep effective codevectors

  Remove idle codevectors

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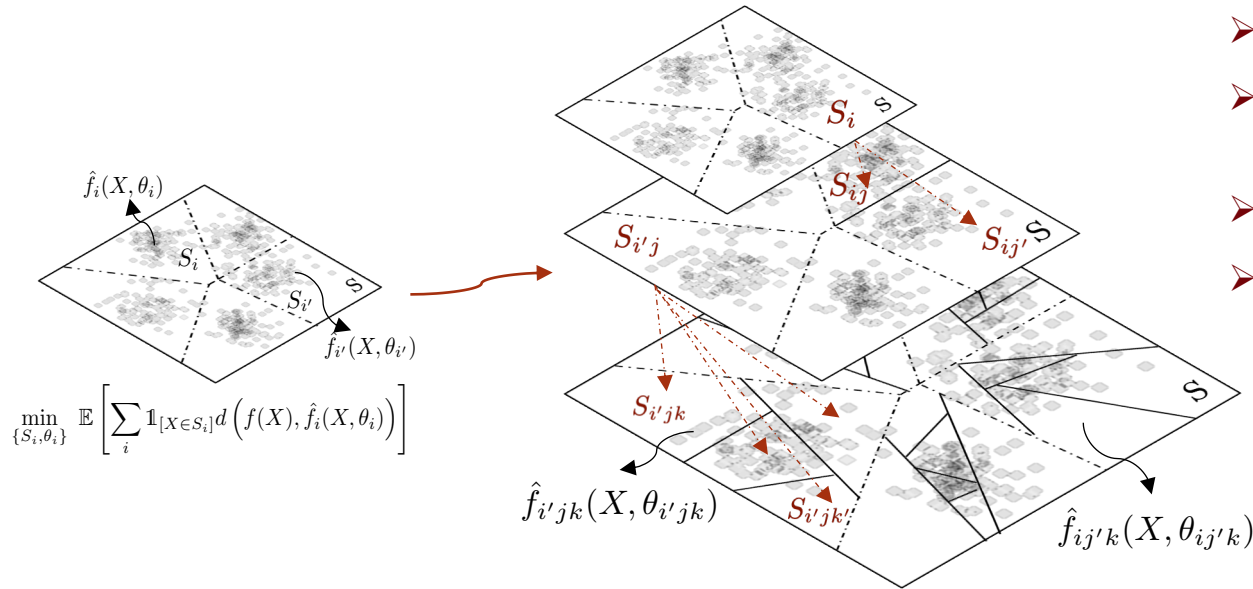
**end while**

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# Hierarchical Online Deterministic Annealing

## Tree-Structured Hierarchical Learning



- Constructive (Structured Representation)
- Provably Consistent
- Localization
  - Emphasis on regions with high error
- Asynchronous/Parallel Computation
- Reduced Complexity

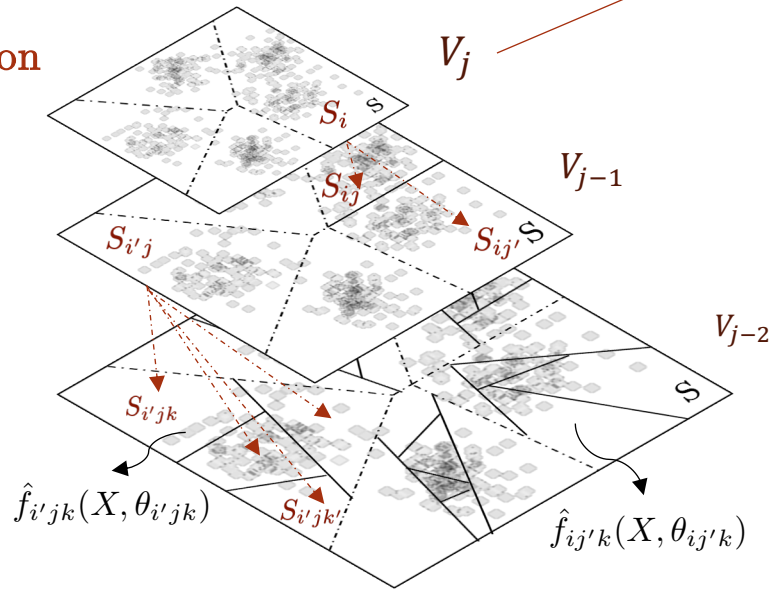
$$O\left(\frac{k^{\bar{l}} - 1}{k(k-1)} N_c (2\bar{k})^2 d\right)$$

$$\bar{k} = \sum_{n=0}^{1/\bar{l} \log_2 K_{max}} 2^n$$

# Hierarchical Online Deterministic Annealing

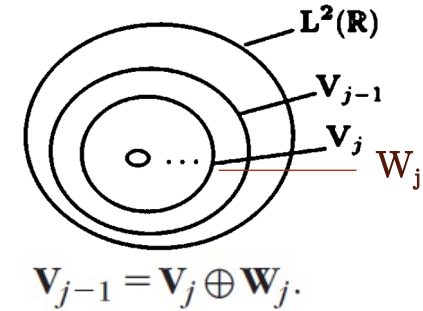
## Multi-Resolution Hierarchical Learning

Low Resolution



High Resolution

Example: Group-convolutional Wavelets



- Constructive (Structured Representation)
- Provably Consistent
- Localization
  - Emphasis on regions with high error
- Asynchronous/Parallel Computation
- Reduced Complexity

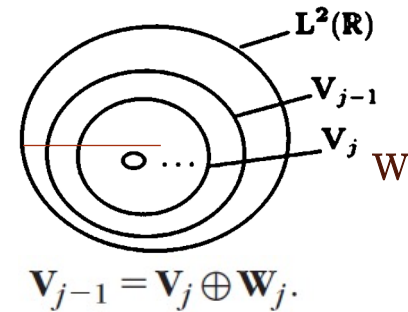
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$$\bar{k} = \sum_{n=0}^{1/\bar{l} \log_2 K_{max}} 2^n$$

# Group-Convolutional Wavelets

- **Wavelet Transform**

- Multi-Resolution Analysis
- Sparse, Stable, Translation Covariant

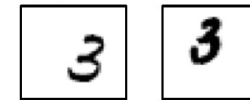


- **Convolution on Groups**

$$(f * g)(x) = \int_G f(y)g(y^{-1}x)d\lambda(y)$$

where for a Lie Group  $G$ :  $g \in G \rightarrow g.f(x) := f(g^{-1}x)$

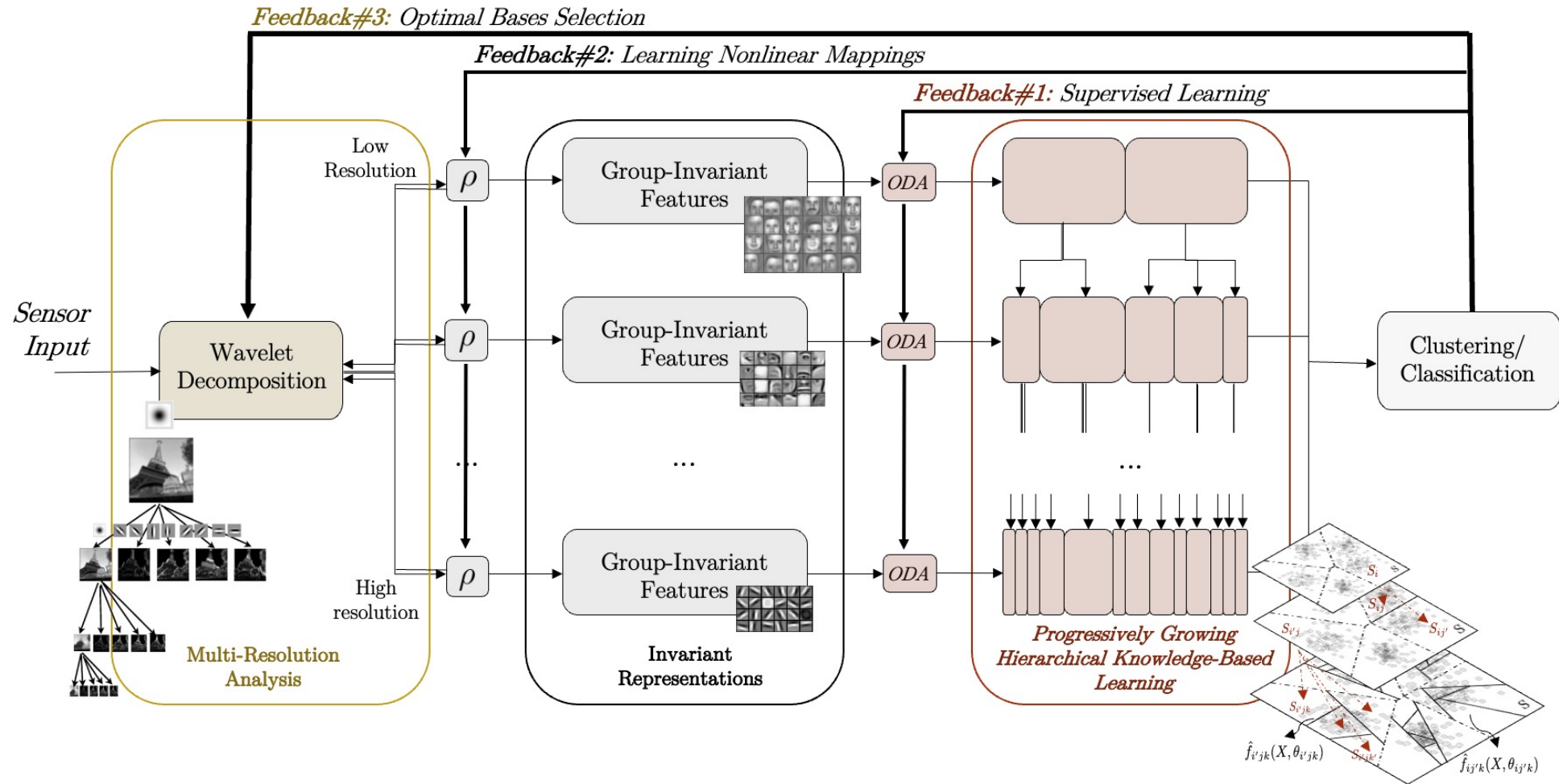
- **Locally Group-Invariant Representations**



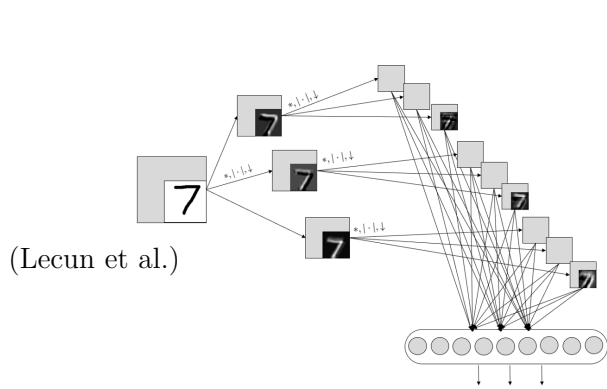
Repeat

- Build group-covariant representations (**wavelets**)
- Make them locally invariant (**non-linearity + averaging**)

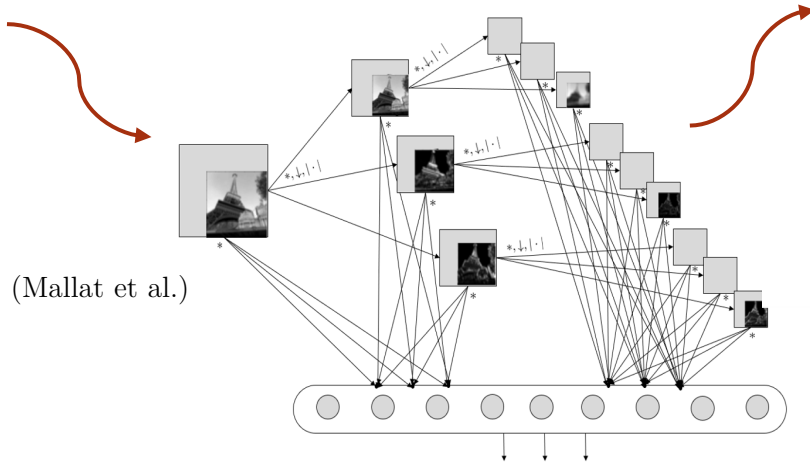
# Closed-Loop Hierarchical Learning Architecture



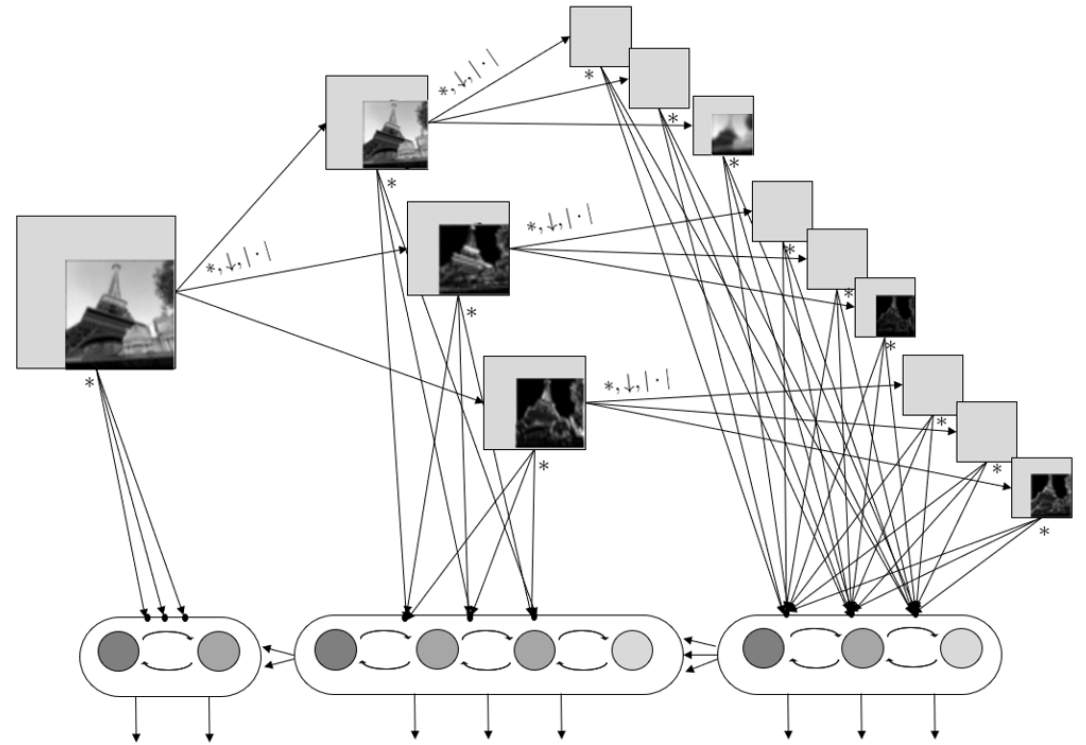
# A Deep Learning Architecture



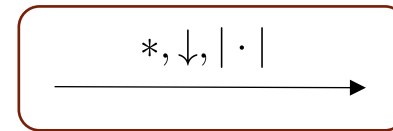
Deep Convolutional Network



Scattering Convolutional Network



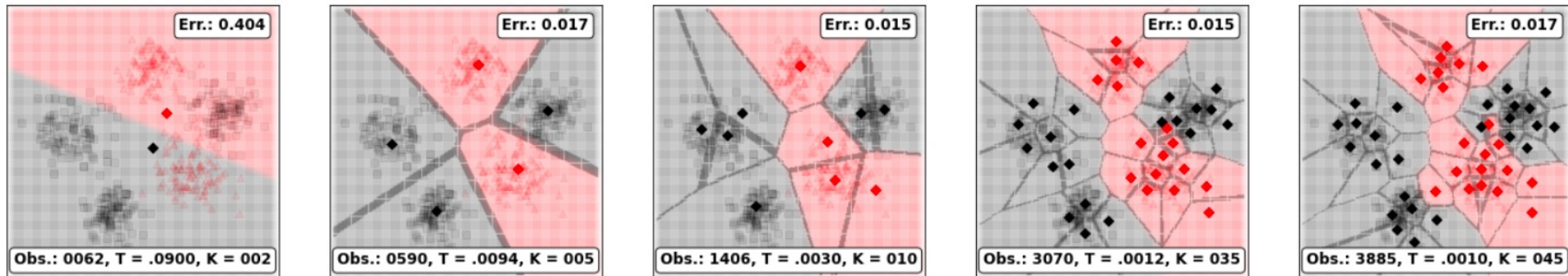
Our Approach



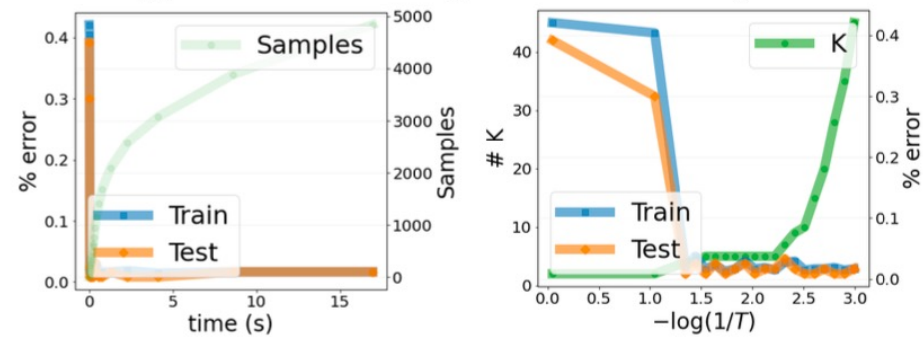
# Simulation Results

➤ **Single Resolution.** Binary Classification on Mixture of Gaussians.

Performance-Complexity Trade-off



(a) Evolution of the algorithm in the data space.



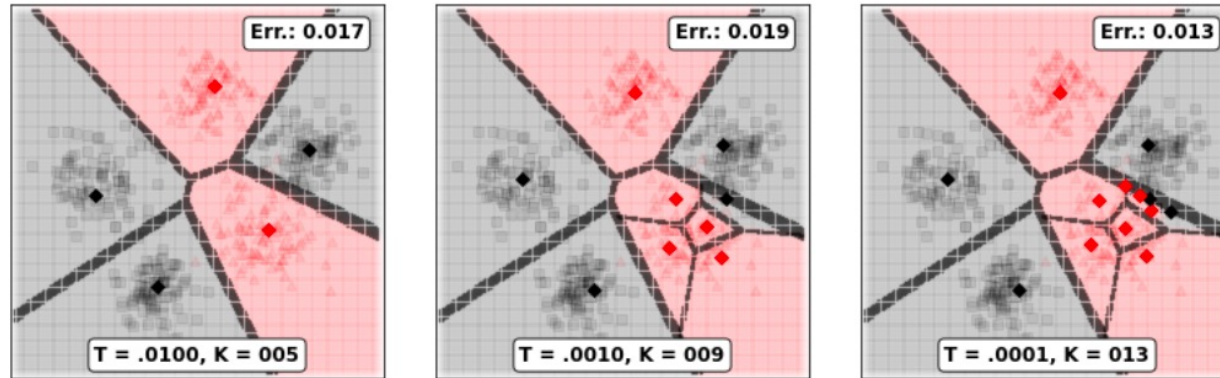
(b) Performance curves.



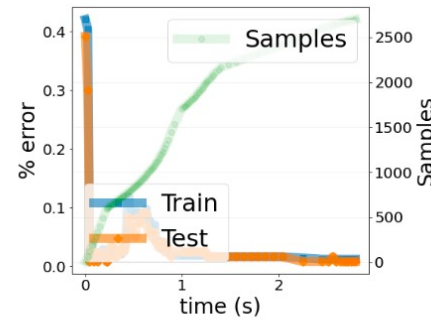


# Simulation Results (II)

➤ **Single Resolution – Tree-Structured.** Binary Classification on Mixture of Gaussians.



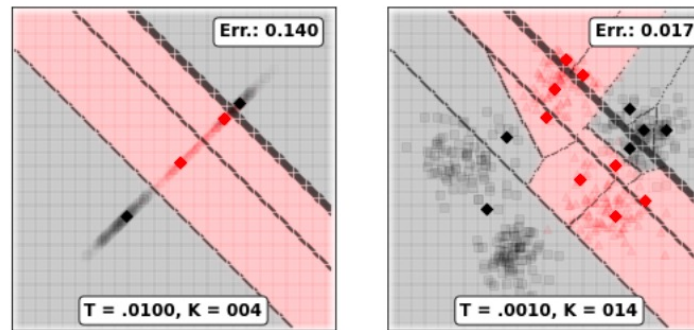
(a) Evolution of the algorithm in the data space.



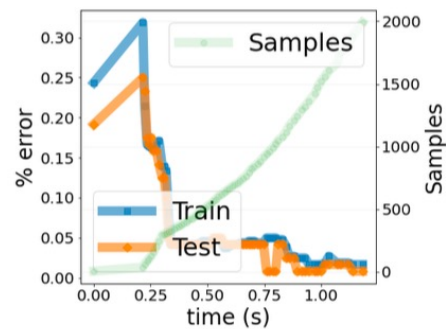
(b) Performance curves.

# Simulation Results (III)

➤ **Multiple Resolutions w/ PCA.** Binary Classification on Mixture of Gaussians.



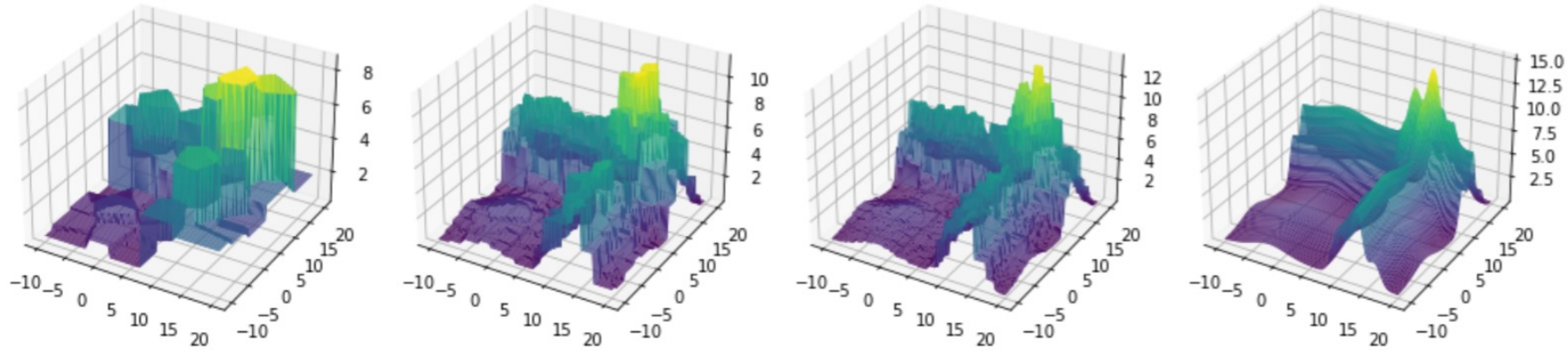
(a) Convergence of first layer with low-resolution features.  
(b) Convergence of second layer with high-resolution features.



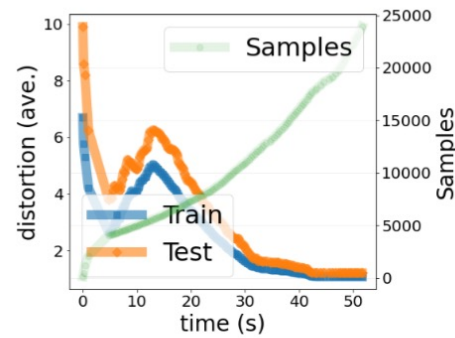
(c) Performance curve.

# Simulation Results (IV)

➤ **Single Resolution.** 2D Regression with Constant Local Models.



(a) Evolution of the algorithm in the data space (original function on the right).

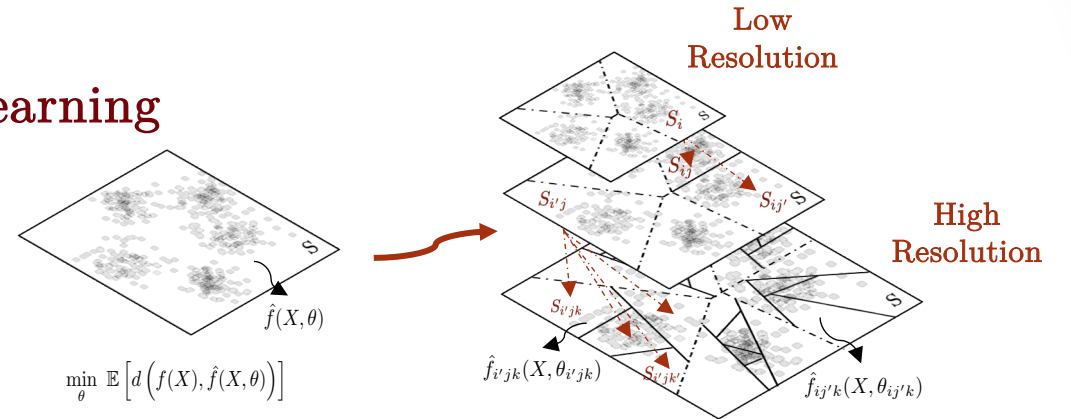


(b) Performance curves.

# Thank you!

## ➤ Simultaneous Partitioning and Local Learning

- Explainability
- Robustness w.r.t. Init. & Noise



## ➤ Hierarchical Online Deterministic Annealing

- Multi-Resolution Partitioning
- Online, Adaptive, Gradient-Free
- Simultaneous local model training



Questions?

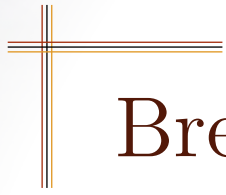
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<https://mavridischristos.github.io/>



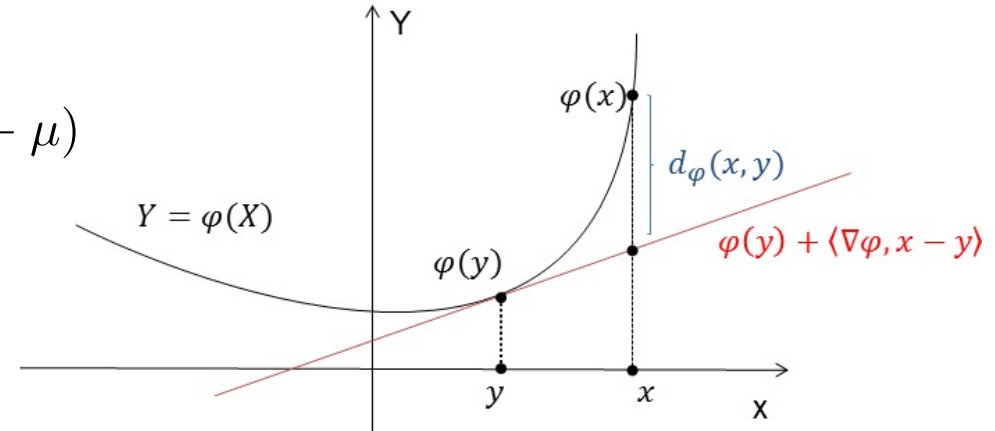


# Bregman Divergences



► 
$$d_\phi(x, \mu) = \phi(x) - \phi(\mu) - \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \mu}(\mu)(x - \mu)$$

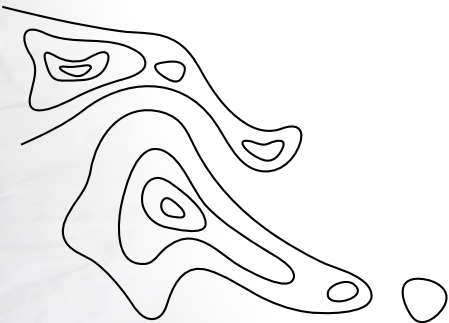
- Euclidean distance, KL divergence, ...

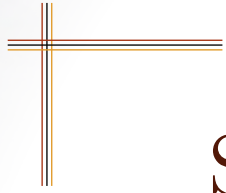


► **Theorem.** Let  $X : \Omega \rightarrow S$  be a random variable defined in the probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$  such that  $\mathbb{E}[X] \in \text{ri}(S)$ , and let a distortion measure  $d : S \times \text{ri}(S) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ , where  $\text{ri}(S)$  denotes the relative interior of  $S$ . Then

$$\mu := \mathbb{E}[X] \in \arg \min_{s \in \text{ri}(S)} \mathbb{E}[d(X, s)]$$

*is the unique minimizer of  $\mathbb{E}[d(X, s)]$  in  $\text{ri}(S)$ , if and only if  $d$  is a Bregman divergence for any function  $\phi$  that satisfies the definition.*





# Stochastic Approximation



**Theorem.** *Almost surely, the sequence:*

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + \alpha(n) [h(x_n) + M_{n+1}], \quad n \geq 0 \quad (1)$$

*converges to a (possibly sample path dependent) compact, connected, internally chain transitive, invariant set of the o.d.e:*

$$\dot{x}(t) = h(x(t)), \quad t \geq 0, \quad (2)$$

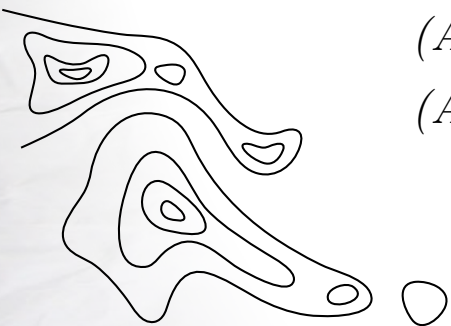
*provided that:*

- (A1)  $h : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  is Lipschitz.
- (A2)  $\sum_n \alpha(n) = \infty$ , and  $\sum_n \alpha^2(n) < \infty$
- (A3)  $\{M_n\}$  is a martingale difference sequence
- (A4)  $\{x_n\}$  remain bounded a.s.

**Examples:**

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} -\nabla J(x), & \text{SGD} \\ F(x) - x, & \text{Fixed-Point Iter.} \end{cases}$$

\*Borkar, Stochastic approximation: a dynamical systems viewpoint, Springer, 2009



# Bifurcation and the number of Codevectors



► **Theorem.** *Bifurcation occurs under the following condition*

$$\exists y_n \text{ s.t. } p(y_n) > 0 \text{ and } \det \left[ I - T \frac{\partial^2 \phi(y_n)}{\partial y_n^2} C_{x|y_n} \right] = 0$$

where  $C_{x|y_n} := \mathbb{E} [(x - y_n)(x - y_n)^T | y_n]$ .

*Proof.* From variational calculus and the second order condition:

$$\frac{d^2}{d\epsilon^2} F^*(\{\mu + \epsilon\psi\})|_{\epsilon=0} \geq 0$$

- $T_c$  depends on:
- The Bregman divergence
  - The data space

□

