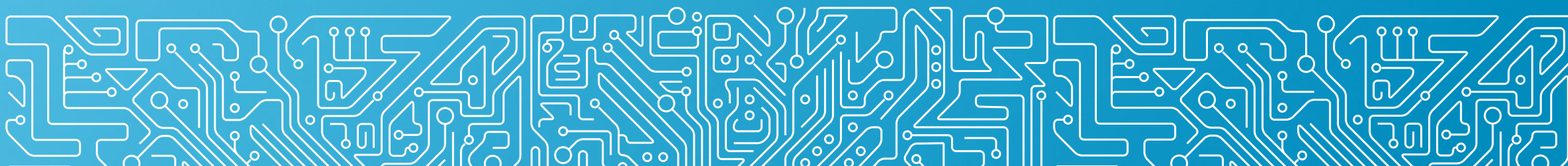


Learning How Machines Learn: An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Tertúlia | Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Católica Porto Business School

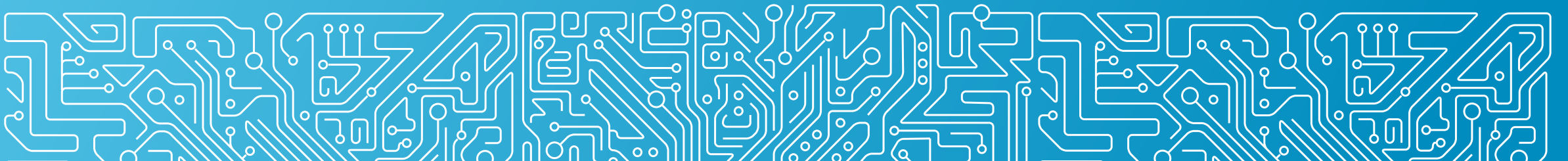
July 7, 2025 | Porto, Portugal

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Preface

History, context and motivation






What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)? What can we tell you about its history?

Luger and Stubblefield consider AI as “**the branch of computer science** that is concerned with the **automation** of **intelligent behaviour**”^[1]

Let us highlight some interesting dates in the history of AI:

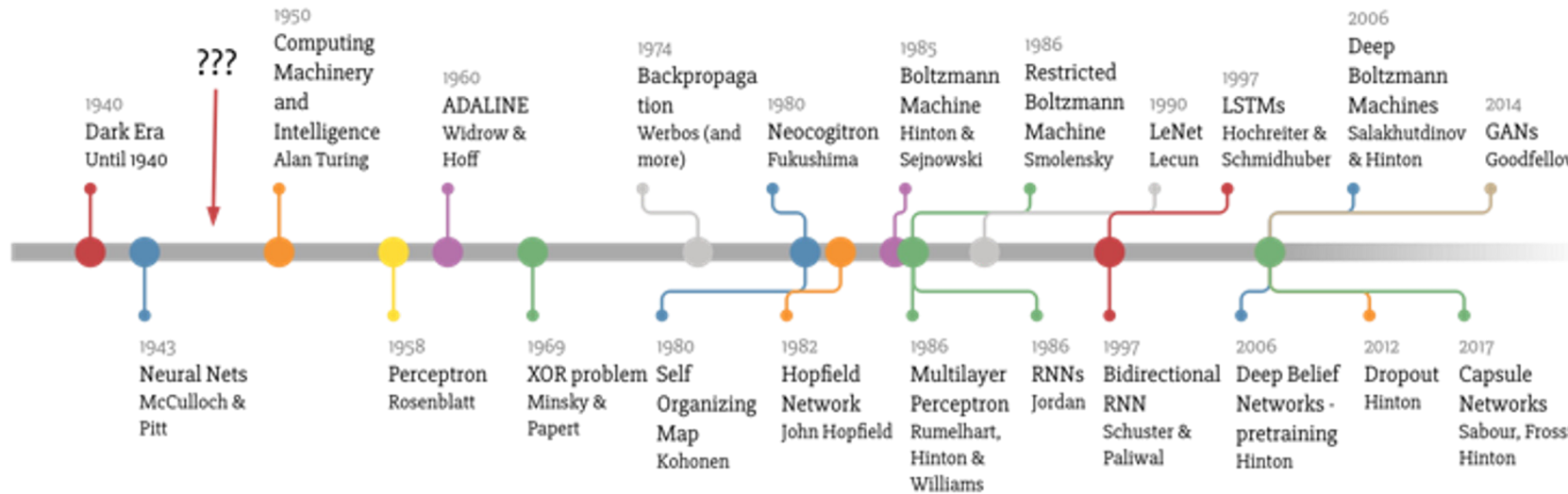
- 1950: Alan Turing published “Computer Machinery and Intelligence” which proposed The Turing Test^[2]
- 1955: John McCarthy held a workshop at Dartmouth on “artificial intelligence” which is the first use of the term^[3]
- 1997: IBM’s Deep Blue beat the Chess World Champion Garry Kasparov^[4]
- 2016: Google’s DeepMind AlphaGo beat the Go World Champion Lee Sedol^[5]
- 2020: Google’s DeepMind published a paper suggesting that “its model was able to spot cancer in de-identified screening mammograms with fewer false positives and false negatives than experts”^[6]

We are entering a new Era of AI

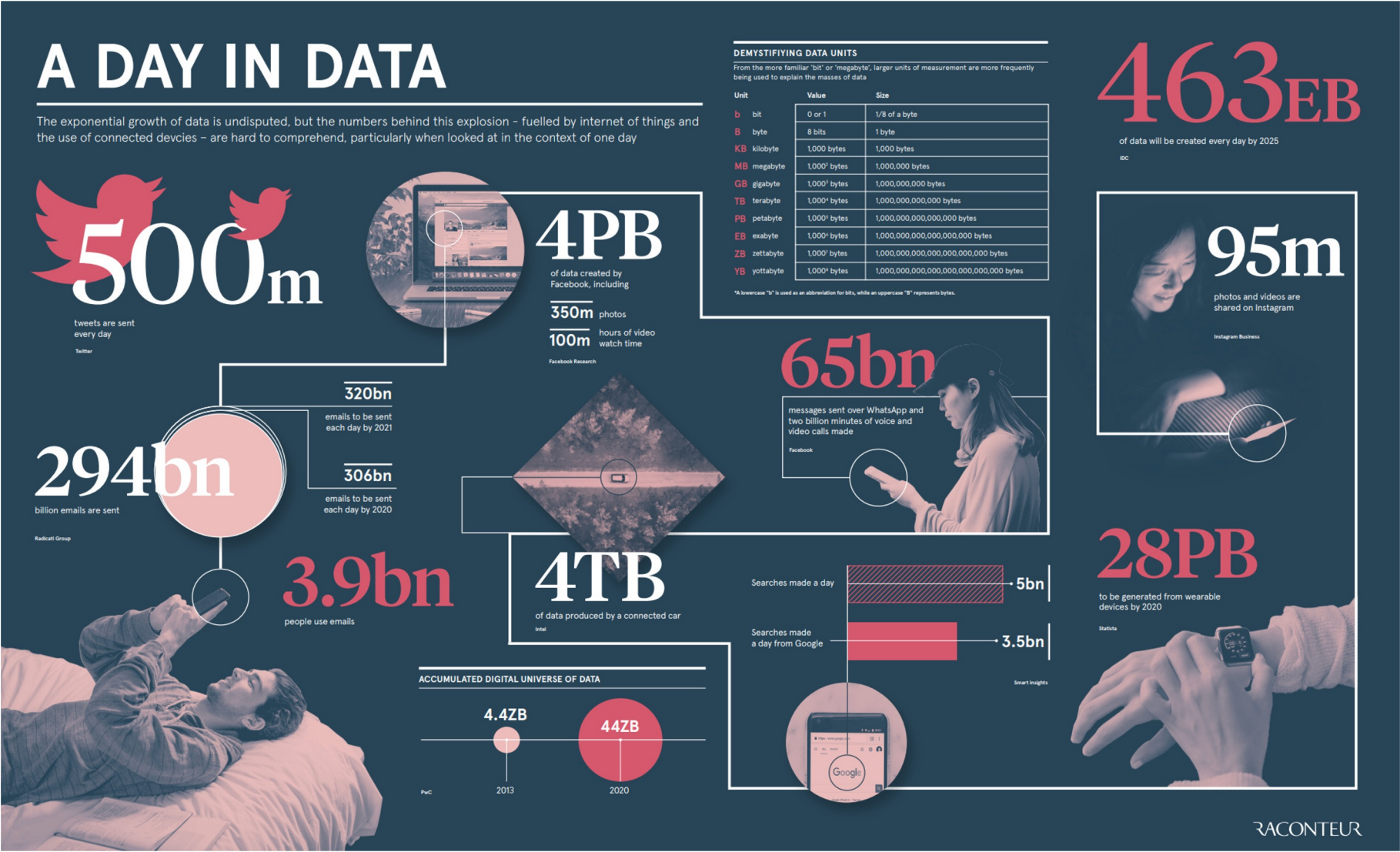
1950's	 Artificial intelligence (AI) <i>Human intelligence exhibited by machines</i>		
	1980's	 Machine learning <i>AI systems that learn from historical data</i>	
		2010's	 Deep learning <i>Machine learning models that mimic human brain function</i>
			2020's

We have more computational power than ever

The development of powerful computer processing units (**CPUs**) and the leveraging of the graphical processing units (**GPUs**) for computation allowed the **training of deep and complex algorithms** in “**human time**”^[1,2]

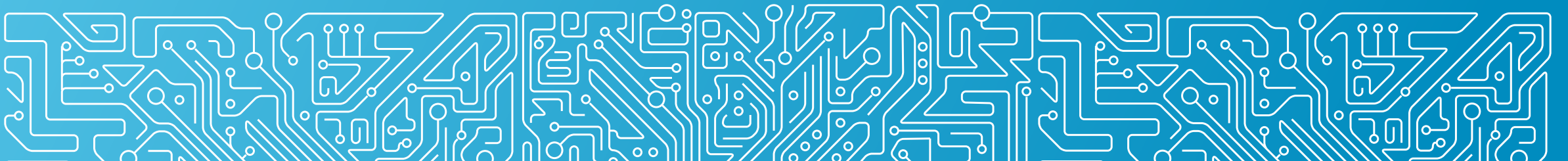


We generate large quantities of data every day



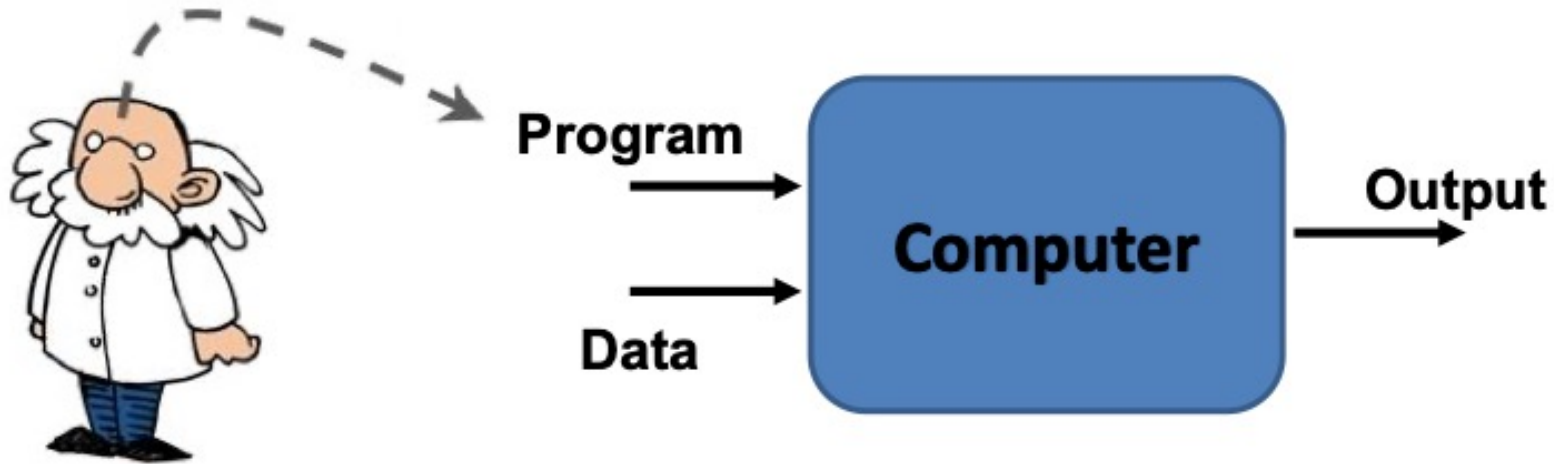
How do machines learn?

Algorithms and how they work



In the beginning, we had rules based on expert knowledge

We used “**if-then-else**” logic to build programs that **simulated** the decision-making process of a **human expert**

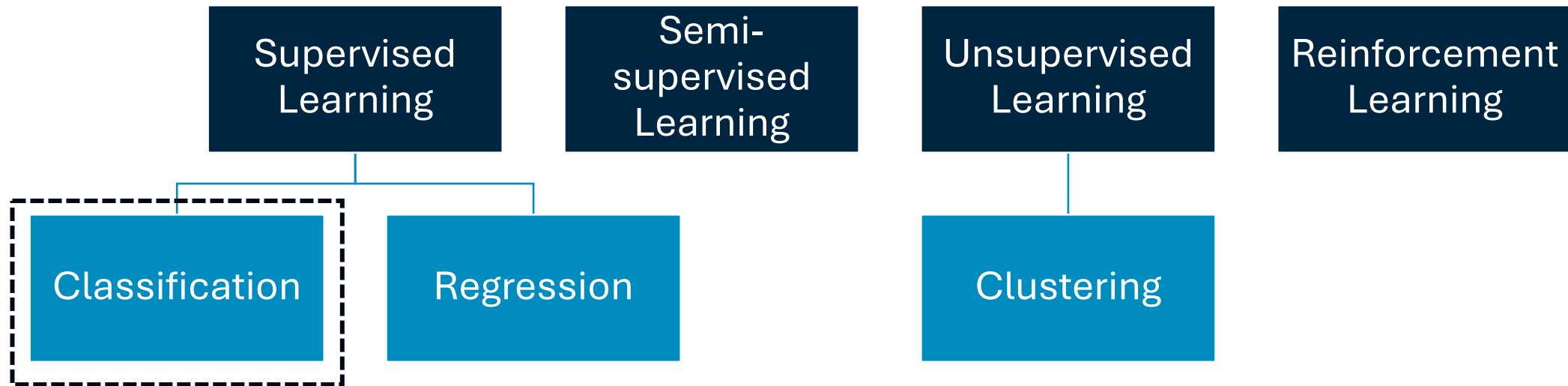


Now, we learn the rules directly from the data

We employ a **data-driven design**: the system produces a program that implements a **function** that assigns the **prediction** to any **observation**

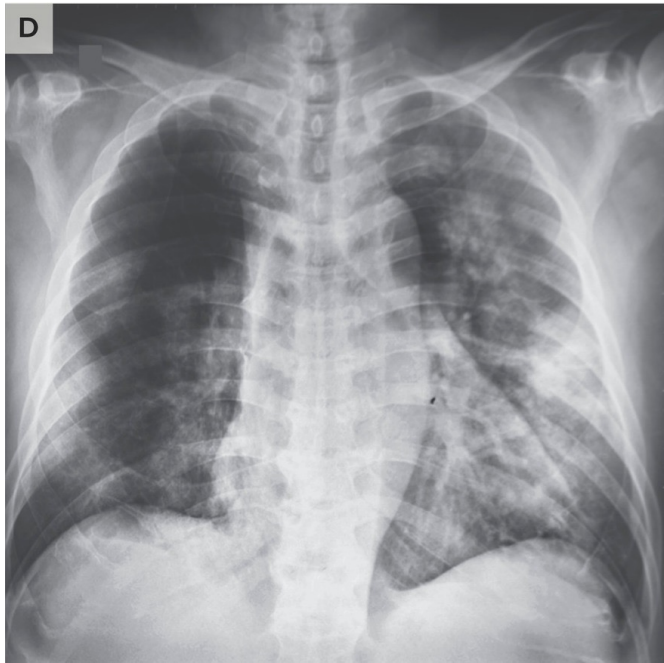


The taxonomy of machine learning is diverse: goals and available data dictate the type of learning problem

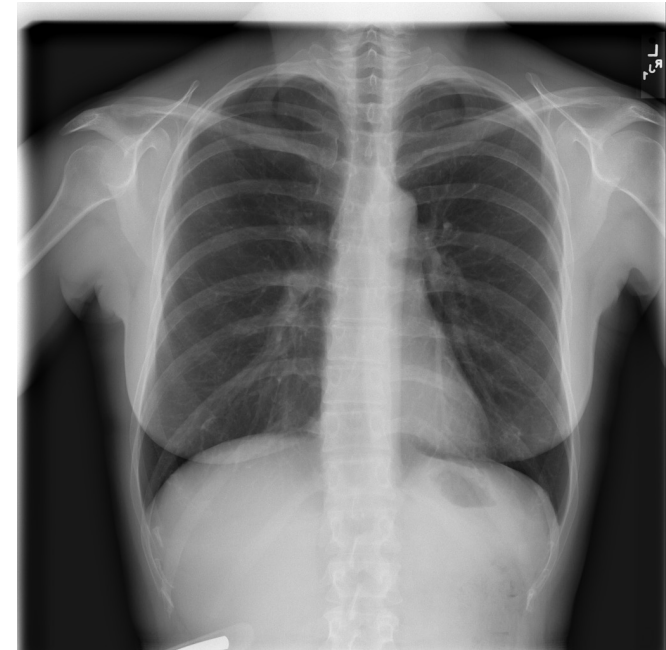


What if we had to build a computer-aided diagnosis system to detect COVID-19?

We would start by **understanding** the **data**^[1]:



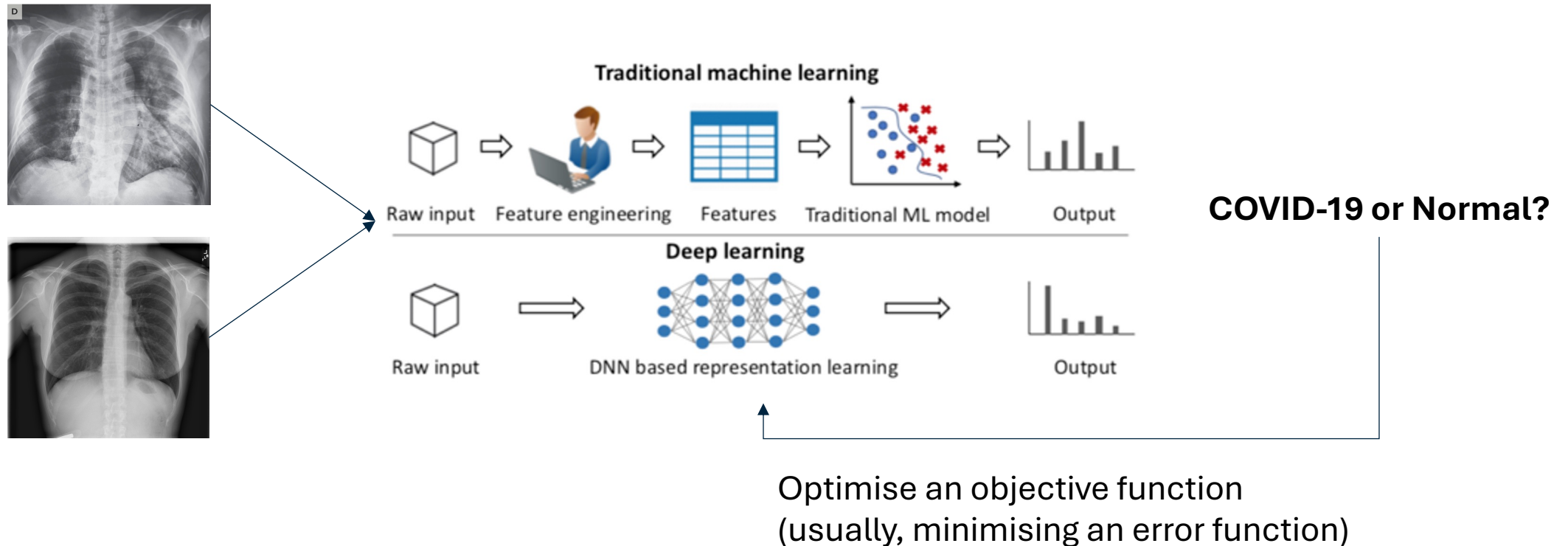
COVID-19



Normal

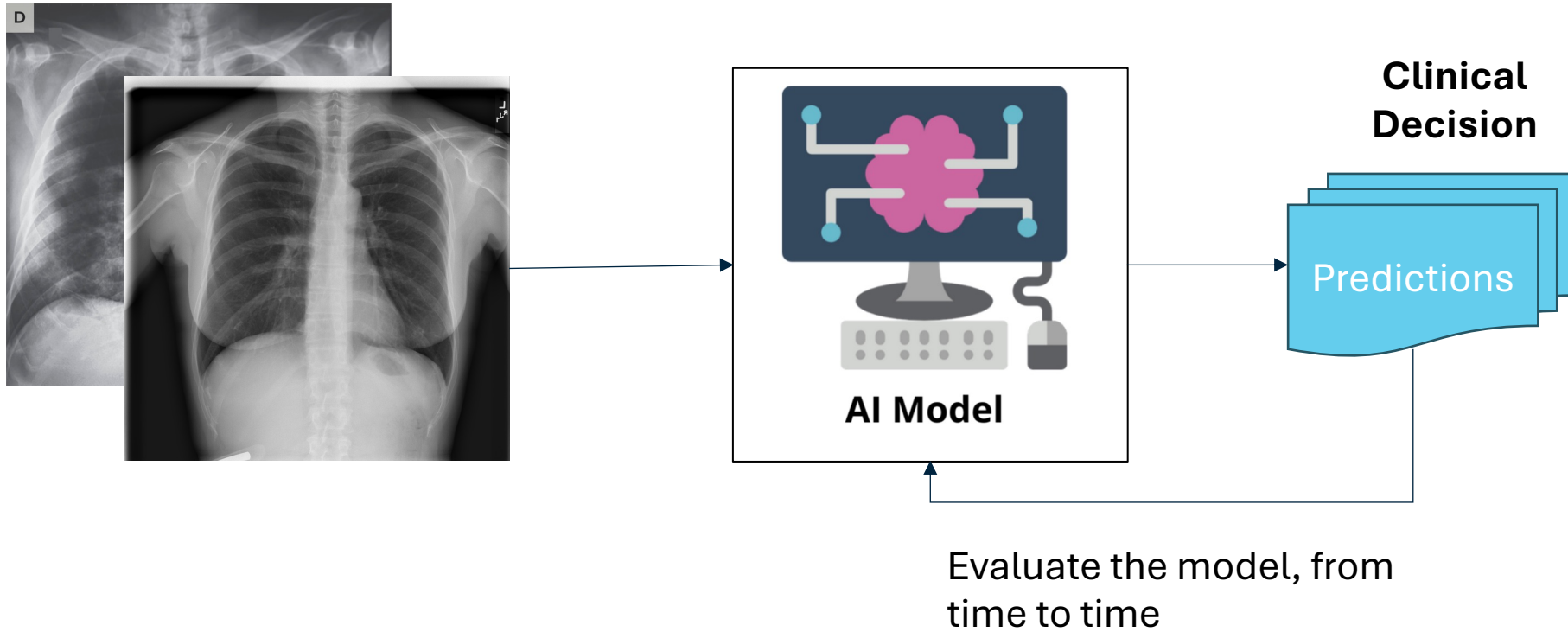
What if we had to build a computer-aided diagnosis system to detect COVID-19?

Afterwards, we would **train** an **algorithm**:



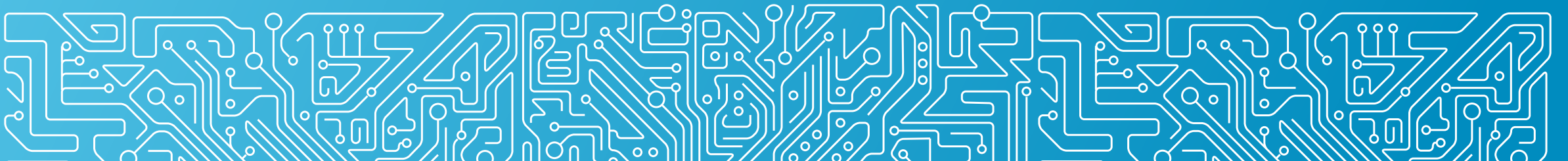
What if we had to build a computer-aided diagnosis system to detect COVID-19?

Finally, we would **deploy** the **model**:



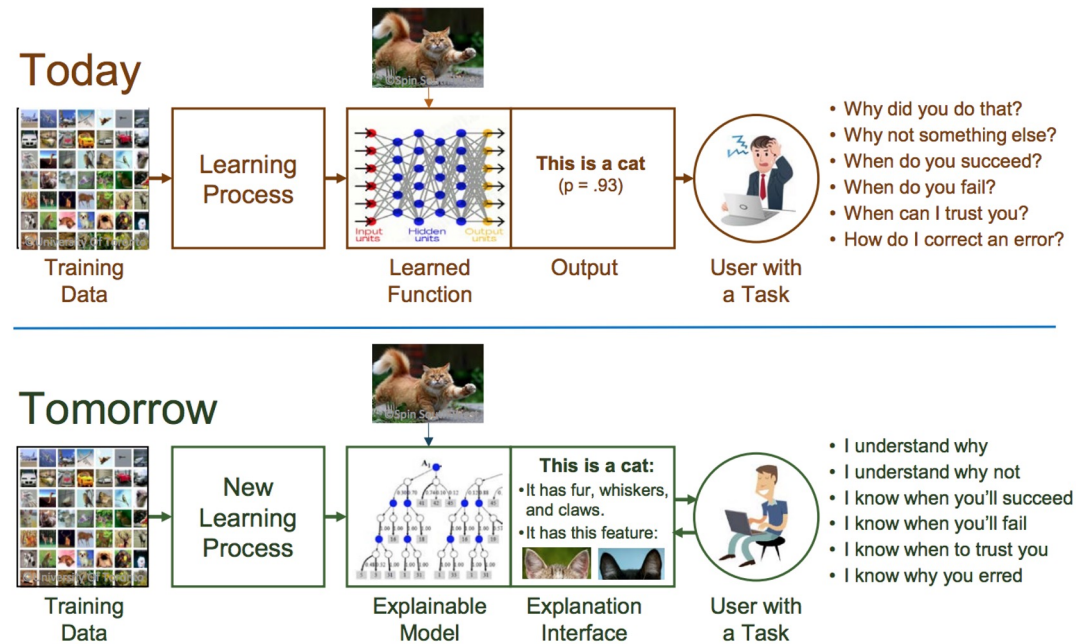
Epilogue

Future trends and open questions



Can we really understand what models are learning?

- It is not trivial to assure that models are **learning features** that are **relevant** for that **domain** (i.e., **black box behaviour**)
- Remember: **machine learning** models are **good** at extracting **correlations**!



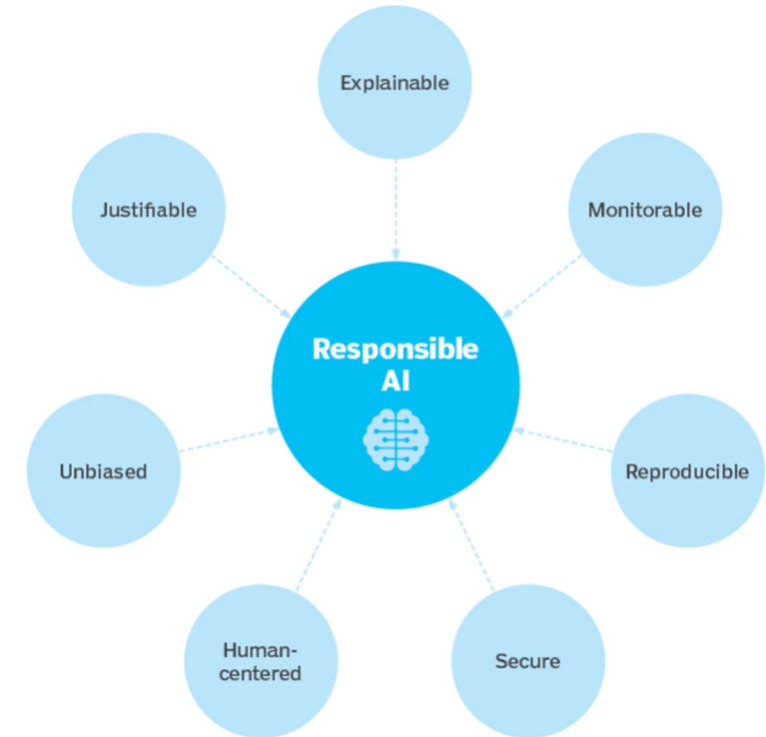
The Responsible AI framework is trying to bring more understandability to algorithms

Responsible AI is a framework that guides how we should address the challenges around AI from both an **ethical**, **technical** and **legal** point of view^[1]

We must **resolve ambiguity** for where **responsibility** lies if something goes **wrong**!

This framework relies on **fundamental principles**^[2]:

- Accountability
- Interpretability
- Fairness
- Safety
- Privacy



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