

# From Rules to Machine Learning to Deep Learning

Laura E. Boucheron

College of Engineering

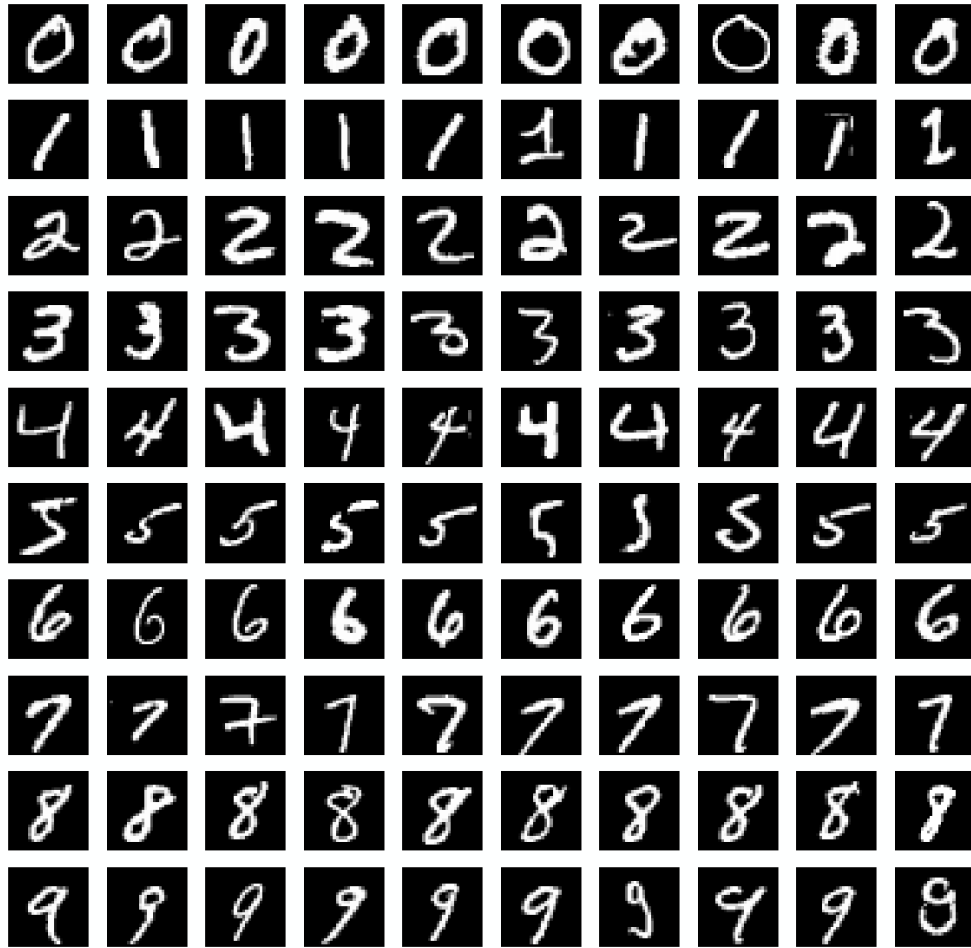
Klipsch School of Electrical &  
Computer Engineering

The logo for New Mexico State University, featuring the letters 'NM' in a large, serif font above the words 'STATE' and 'UNIVERSITY' in a smaller, sans-serif font, all contained within a white square with a dark border.

NM  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**BE BOLD.** Shape the Future.

# The MNIST Dataset



- 70,000 28x28 pixel digitized images of handwritten digits 0 through 9
- Considered a standard benchmark dataset
- Small enough to
  - Fit in memory
  - Run on a modest machine
- Large enough to
  - Span a reasonable range of appearances
  - Solve an interesting problem

**Rules:**  
**How might we as  
humans describe the  
difference between  
handwritten digits?**



# Discriminating b/w 1 and 7

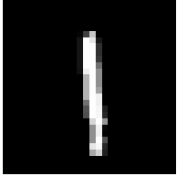
1

7

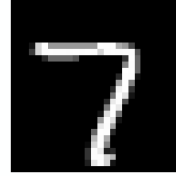


# Discriminating b/w 1 and 7

1

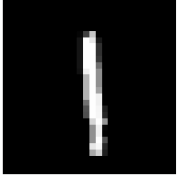


7



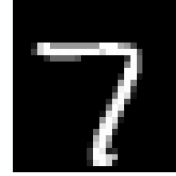
# Discriminating b/w 1 and 7

1



- One line segment

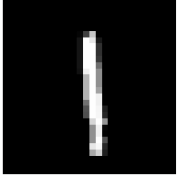
7



- Two line segments

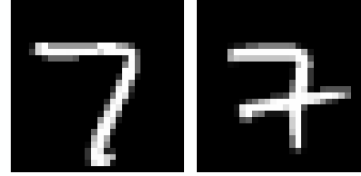
# Discriminating b/w 1 and 7

1



- One line segment

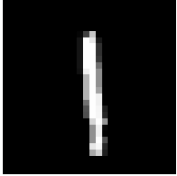
7



- Two line segments

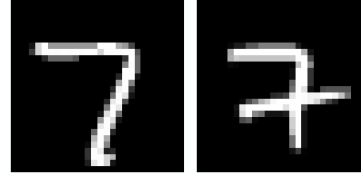
# Discriminating b/w 1 and 7

1



- One line segment

7

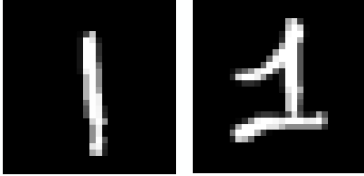


- Two line segments
  
- OR three line segments



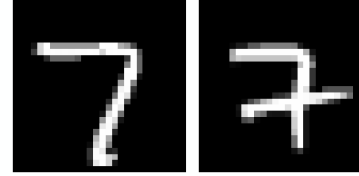
# Discriminating b/w 1 and 7

1



- One line segment

7



- Two line segments
- OR three line segments

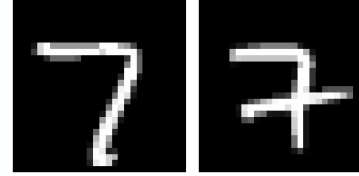
# Discriminating b/w 1 and 7

1



- One line segment
- OR three line segments where two are not perpendicular to the third

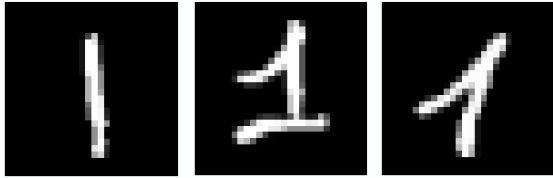
7



- Two line segments
- OR three line segments ...where two are perpendicular to the third

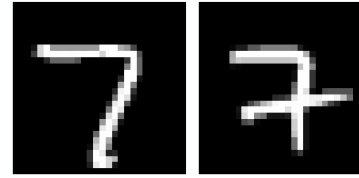
# Discriminating b/w 1 and 7

1



- One line segment
- OR three line segments where two are not perpendicular to the third

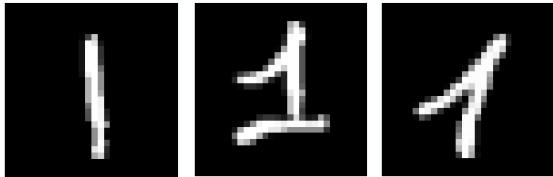
7



- Two line segments
- OR three line segments ...where two are perpendicular to the third

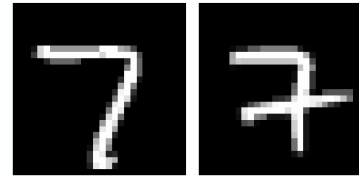
# Discriminating b/w 1 and 7

1



- One line segment
- OR three line segments where two are not perpendicular to the third
- OR two line segments with a small angle between them

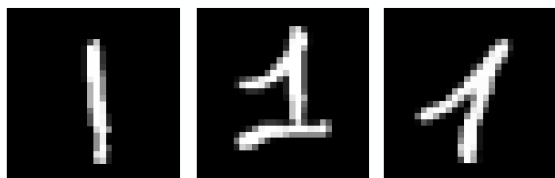
7



- Two line segments ...with a large angle between them
- OR three line segments ...where two are perpendicular to the third

# Discriminating b/w 1 and 7

1



- One line segment
- OR three line segments where two are not perpendicular to the third
- OR two line segments with a small angle between them

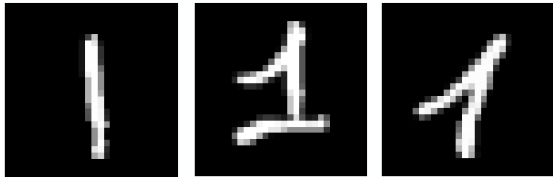
7



- Two line segments ...with a large angle between them
- OR three line segments ...where two are perpendicular to the third

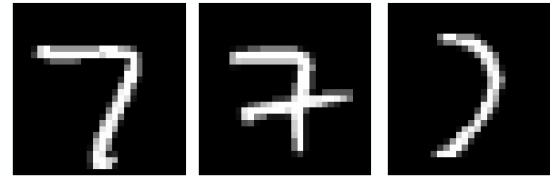
# Discriminating b/w 1 and 7

1



- One line segment  
...which has a small curvature to it
- OR three line segments where two are not perpendicular to the third
- OR two line segments with a small angle between them

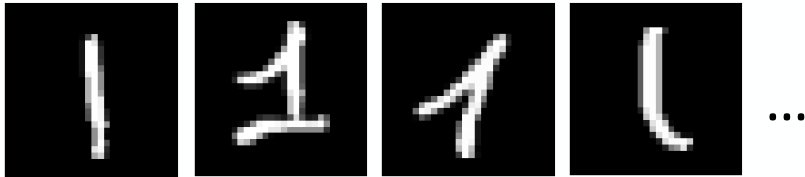
7



- Two line segments  
...with a large angle between them
- OR three line segments  
...where two are perpendicular to the third
- OR one line segment which has a large curvature to it

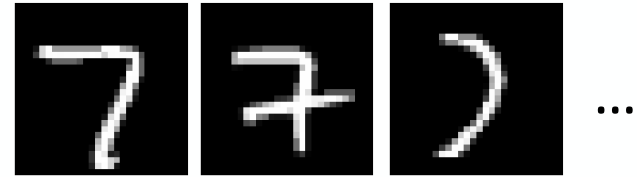
# Discriminating b/w 1 and 7

1



- One line segment  
...which has a small curvature to it
- OR three line segments where two are not perpendicular to the third
- OR two line segments with a small angle between them
- ...

7



- Two line segments  
...with a large angle between them
- OR three line segments  
...where two are perpendicular to the third
- OR one line segment which has a large curvature to it
- ...

# Rule-Based Learning

- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**



Example Images

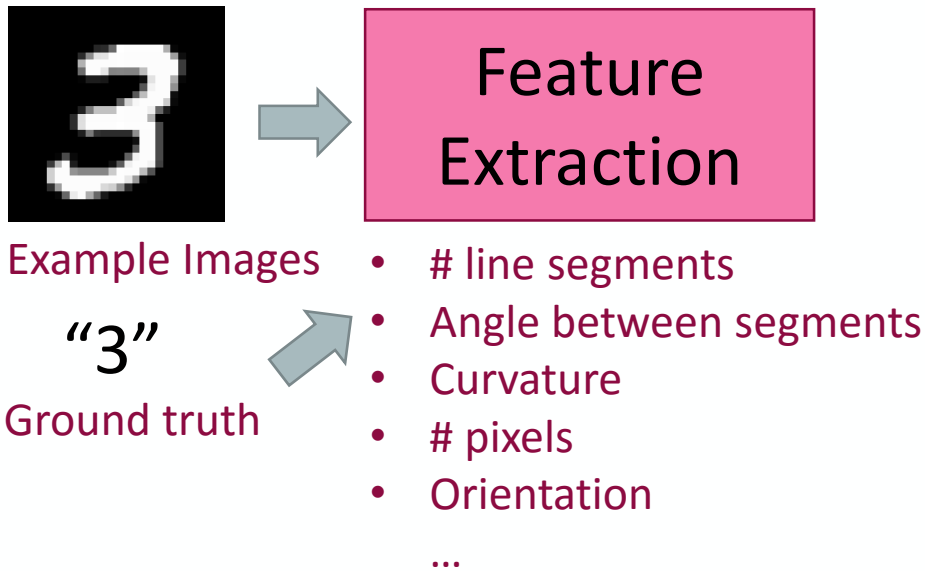
“3”

Ground truth



# Rule-Based Learning

- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**
- Leverage the **human** to work with specific examples to define a set of discriminatory features—Defines the **feature space**



# Rule-Based Learning

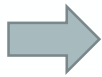
- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**
- Leverage the **human** to work with specific examples to define a set of discriminatory features—Defines the **feature space**
- Leverage the **human** to use those features to discriminate between digits—Defines the **decision boundary**



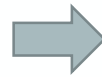
Example Images

“3”

Ground truth



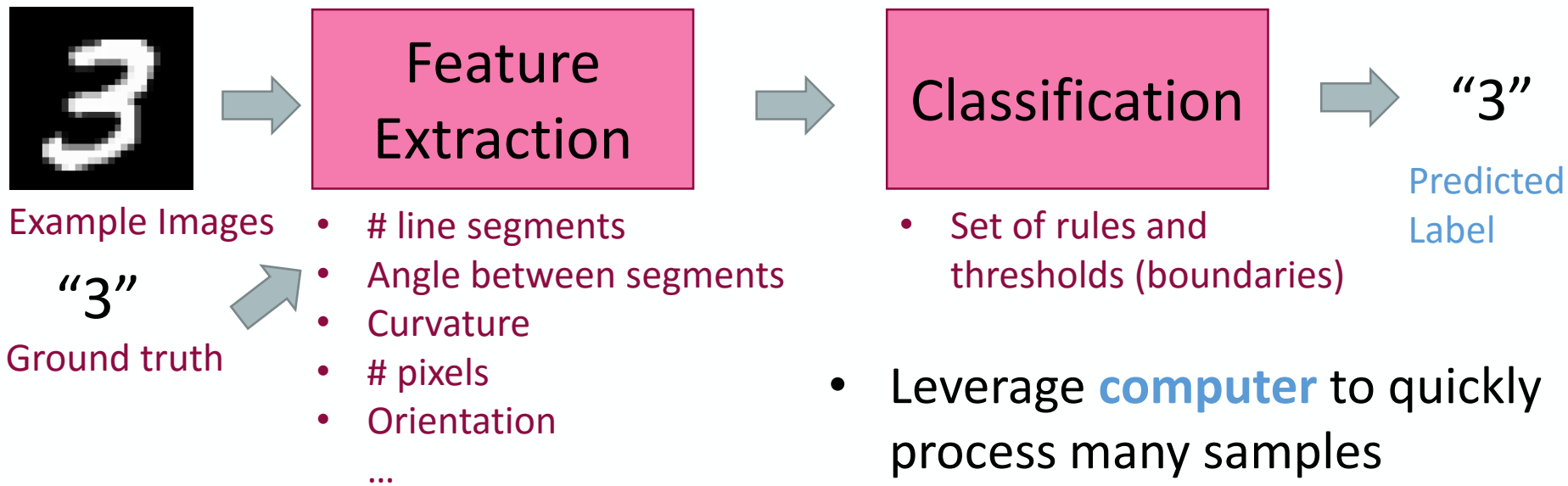
- # line segments
- Angle between segments
- Curvature
- # pixels
- Orientation
- ...



- Set of rules and thresholds (boundaries)

# Rule-Based Learning

- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**
- Leverage the **human** to work with specific examples to define a set of discriminatory features—Defines the **feature space**
- Leverage the **human** to use those features to discriminate between digits—Defines the **decision boundary**

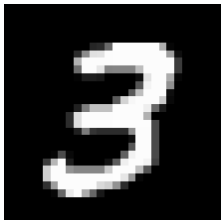


**Machine Learning:  
How can we leverage  
computers to sift  
through the features  
and learn to  
discriminate between  
handwritten digits?**



# Classical Machine Learning: Feature Extraction->Classification

- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**



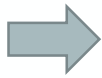
Example Images

“3”

Ground truth

# Classical Machine Learning: Feature Extraction->Classification

- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**
- Leverage the **human** to define a set of features that are expected to be discriminatory—Defines the **feature space**



Feature  
Extraction

Example Images

- # line segments
- Angle between segments
- Curvature
- # pixels
- Orientation

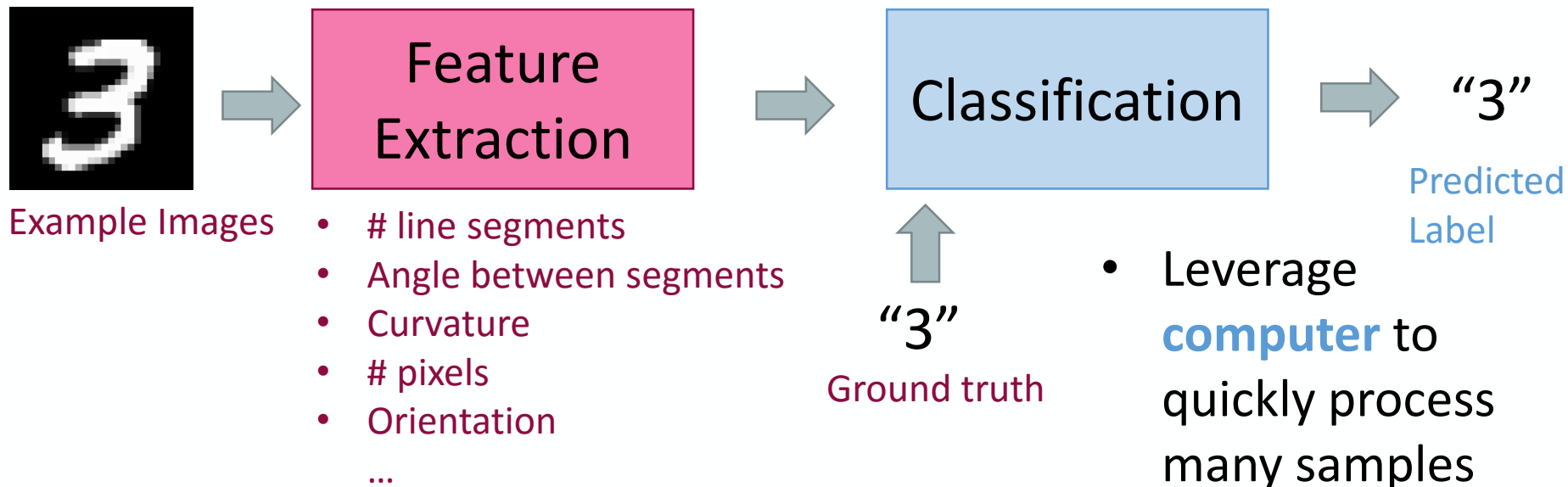
...

“3”

Ground truth

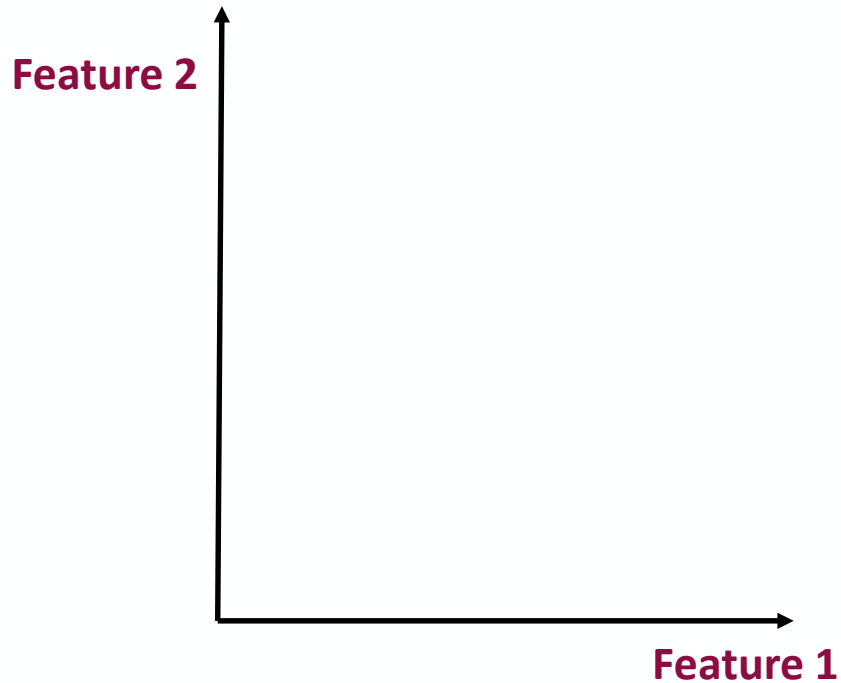
# Classical Machine Learning: Feature Extraction->Classification

- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**
- Leverage the **human** to define a set of features that are expected to be discriminatory—Defines the **feature space**
- Leverage the **computer** to learn how to use those features to discriminate between digits—Defines the **decision boundary**



# Supervised Classification

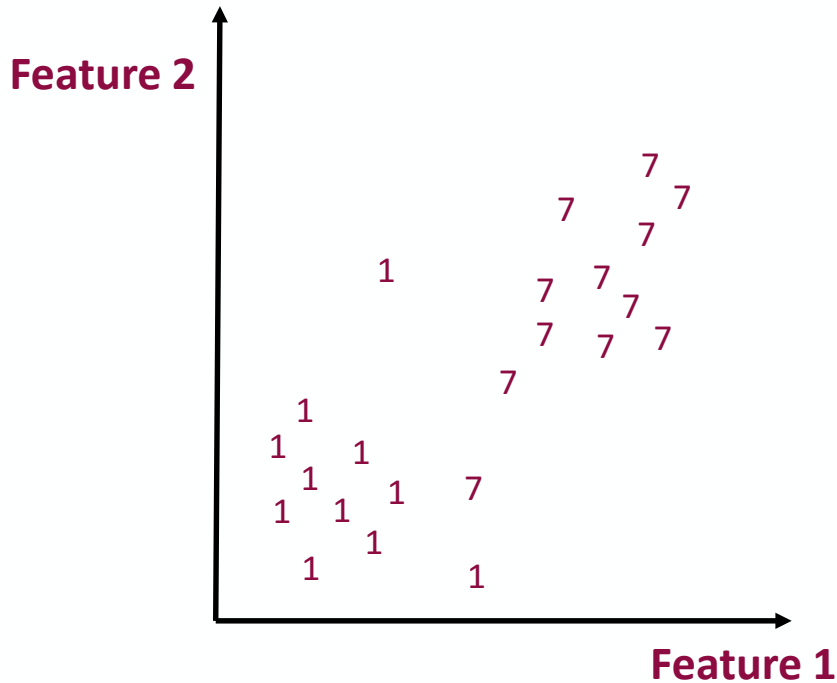
- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**





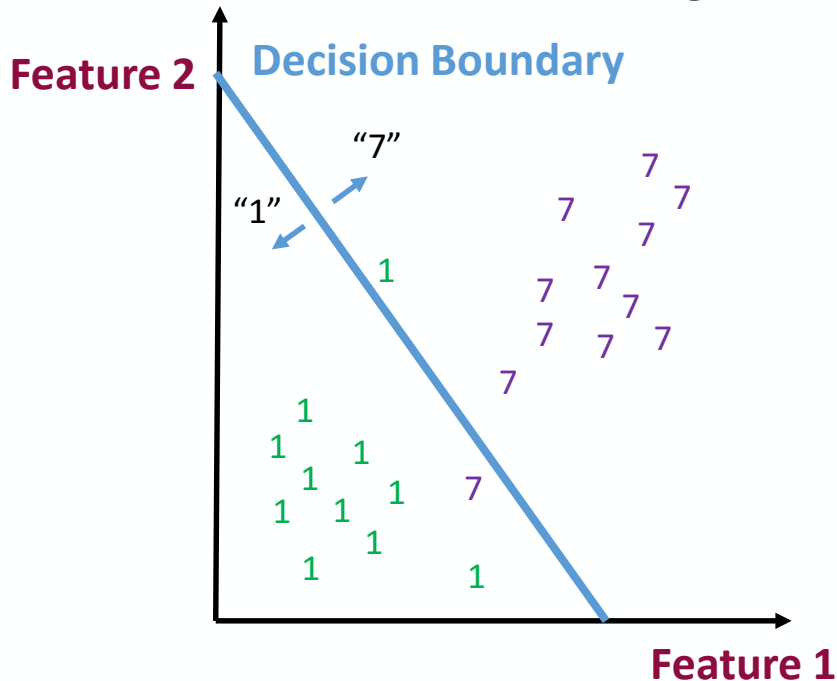
# Supervised Classification

- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**
- Leverage the **human** to define a set of features that are expected to be discriminatory—Defines the **feature space**



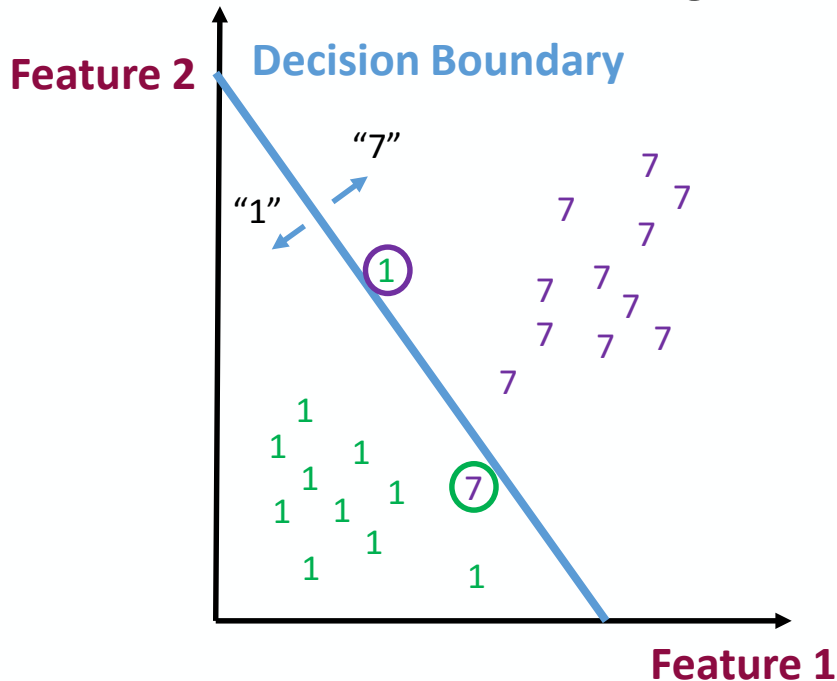
# Supervised Classification

- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**
- Leverage the **human** to define a set of features that are expected to be discriminatory—Defines the **feature space**
- Leverage the **computer** to learn how to use those features to discriminate between digits—Defines the **decision boundary**



# Supervised Classification

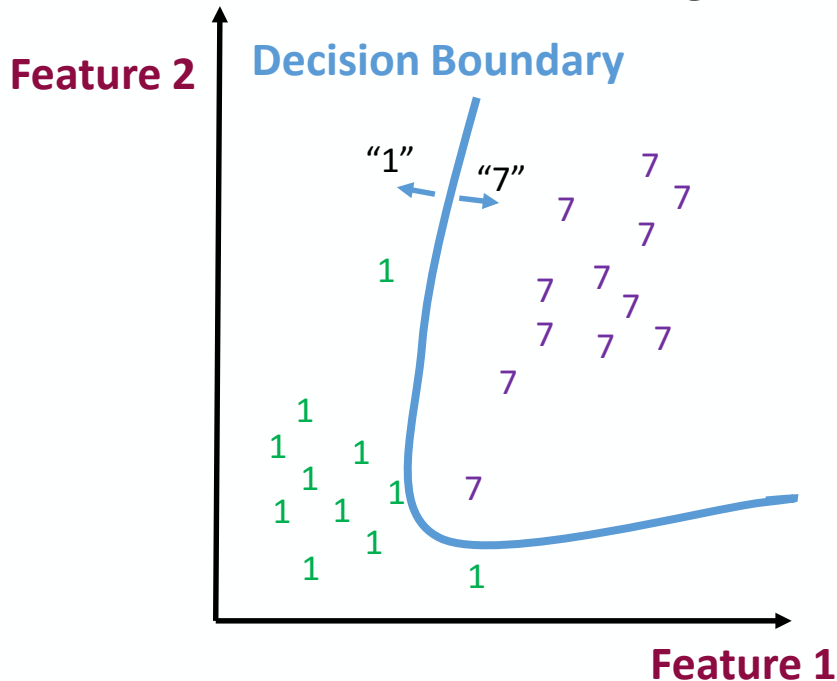
- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**
- Leverage the **human** to define a set of features that are expected to be discriminatory—Defines the **feature space**
- Leverage the **computer** to learn how to use those features to discriminate between digits—Defines the **decision boundary**



- Misclassifications: ○ ○
  - Are they due to a **feature space** which is not descriptive enough?
  - Are they due to a **decision boundary** that is not appropriate for the space?
  - Are they due to not enough **training data**?
  - Are they just difficult samples to classify?

# Supervised Classification

- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**
- Leverage the **human** to define a set of features that are expected to be discriminatory—Defines the **feature space**
- Leverage the **computer** to learn how to use those features to discriminate between digits—Defines the **decision boundary**



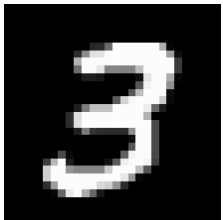
- Misclassifications: ○ ○
  - Are they due to a **feature space** which is not descriptive enough?
  - Are they due to a **decision boundary** that is not appropriate for the space?
  - Are they due to not enough **training data**?
  - Are they just difficult samples to classify?

**Deep Learning:  
How can we leverage  
computers to learn  
the features AND  
how to use those  
features to  
discriminate between  
handwritten digits?**



# Deep Learning: Feature Extraction & Classification

- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**



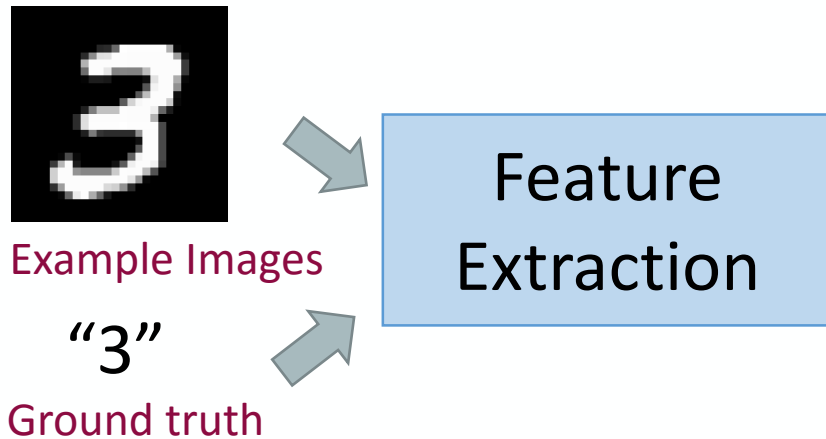
Example Images

“3”

Ground truth

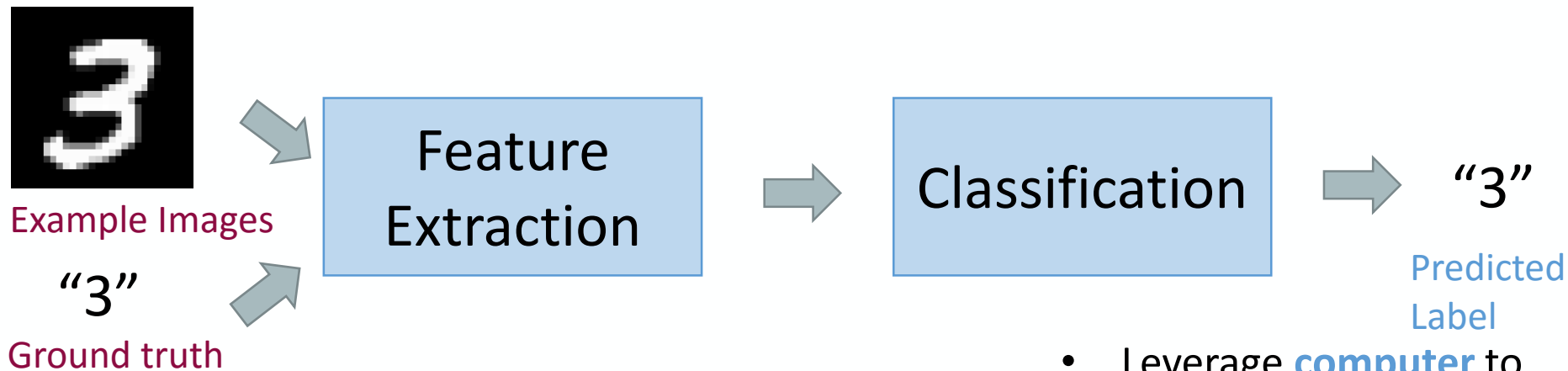
# Deep Learning: Feature Extraction & Classification

- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**
- Leverage the **computer** to learn a set of features that are discriminatory—Defines the **feature space**



# Deep Learning: Feature Extraction & Classification

- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**
- Leverage the **computer** to learn a set of features that are discriminatory—Defines the **feature space**
- Leverage the **computer** to learn how to use those features to discriminate between digits—Defines the **decision boundary**



- Leverage **computer** to quickly process many samples



# Deep Learning: Feature Extraction & Classification

- Leverage the **human** to provide **labeled training data** (example images matched to labels)—Defines the **ground truth**
- Leverage the **computer** to learn a set of features that are discriminatory—Defines the **feature space**
- Leverage the **computer** to learn how to use those features to discriminate between digits—Defines the **decision boundary**

