IB031 Úvod do strojového učení

Tomáš Brázdil

Course Info

Resources:

- Lectures & tutorials (the **main** source)
- Many books, few perfect for introductory level
  One relatively good, especially the first part:
  A. Géron. Hands-On Machine Learning with Scikit-Learn, Keras, and TensorFlow: Concepts, Tools, and Techniques to Build Intelligent Systems. O'Reilly Media; 3rd edition, 2022
- (Almost) infinitely many online courses, tutorials, materials, etc.

Evaluation

The evaluation is composed of three parts:

- Mid-term exam: Written exam from the material of the first half of the semester.
- End-term exam: The "big" one containing everything from the semester (with possibly more stress in the second half).
- Projects: During tutorials, you will work on larger projects (in pairs).

Each part contributes the following number of points:

- Mid-term exam: 25
- End-term exam: 50
- Project: 25

To pass, you need to obtain at least 60 points.

Distinguishing Properties of the Course

- Introductory, prerequisites are held to a minimum
- Formal and precise: Be prepared for a complete and "mathematical" description of presented methods.

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I assume that you have basic knowledge of

- Elementary understanding of mathematical notation (operations on sets, logic, etc.)
- Linear algebra: Vectors in $\mathbb{R}^n$, operations on vectors (including the dot product). Geometric interpretation!
- Calculus: Functions of multiple real variables, partial derivatives, basic differential calculus.
- Probability: Notion of probability distribution, random variables/vectors, expectation.

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Machine learning is the field of study that allows computers to learn without being explicitly programmed.

And a more engineering-oriented one:

Tom Mitchell, 1997

A computer program is said to learn from experience E concerning some task T and some performance measure P if its performance on T, as measured by P, improves with experience E.

Example

In the context of spam filtering:

- The task T is to flag spam in new emails.
- The experience E is represented by a set of emails labeled either spam or ham by hand (the training data).
- The performance measure P could be the accuracy, which is the ratio of the number of correctly classified emails and all emails.

  There are many more performance measures; we will study the basic ones later.

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In the context of housing price prediction:

- The task T is to predict prices of new houses based on their basic parameters (size, number of bathrooms, etc.)
- The experience E is represented by information about existing houses.
- The performance measure P could be, e.g., an absolute difference between the predicted and real price.

Examples (cont.)

In the context of game playing:

- The task T is to play chess.
- The experience E is represented by a series of self-plays where the computer plays against itself.
- The performance measure P is winning/losing the game.

  Here, the trick is to spread the delayed and limited feedback about the result of the game throughout the individual decisions in the game.

Examples (cont.)

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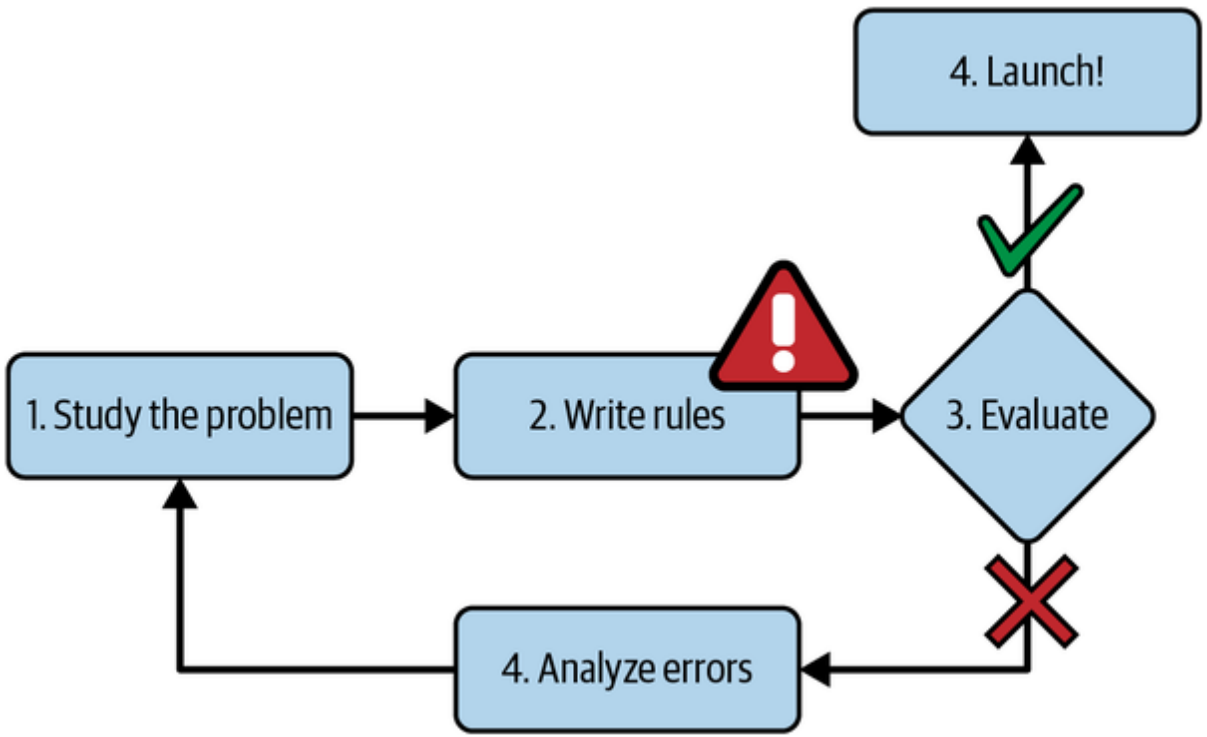
In the context of customer behavior:

- The task T is to group customers with similar shopping habits in an e-shop.
- The experience E consists of lists of items individual customers bought in the shop.
- The performance measure P?
  Measure how "nicely" the customers are grouped.
  (whether people with similar habits, as seen by humans, fall into the same group).

Comparison of Programming and Learning

How to code the spam filter?

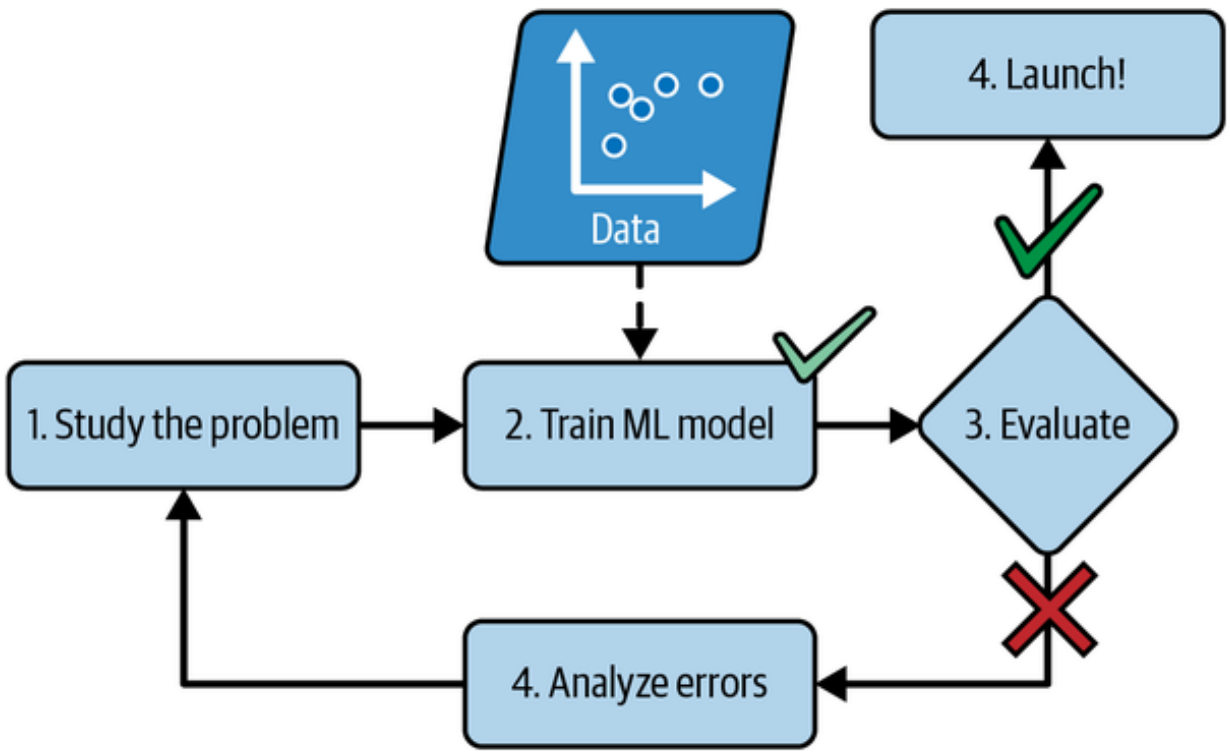
- Examine what spam mails typically contain: Specific words ("Viagra"), sender's address, etc.
- Write down a rule-based system that detects specific features.
- Test the program on new emails and (most probably) go back to look for more spam features.



Comparison of Programming and Learning

The machine learning way:

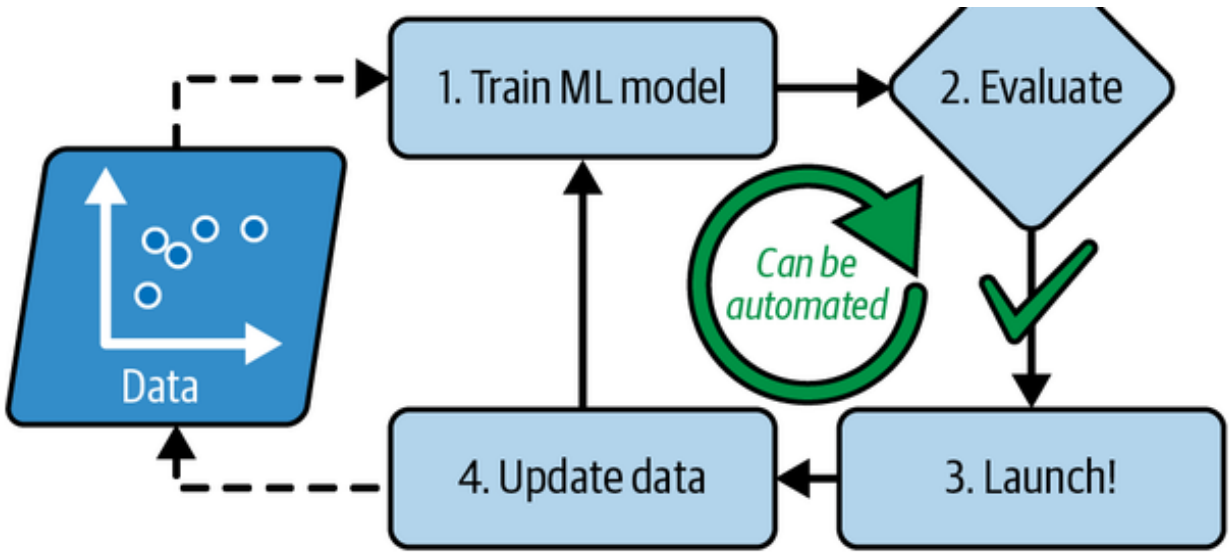
- Study the problem and collect lots of emails, labeling them spam or ham.
- Train a machine learning model that reads an email and decides whether it's spam or ham.
- Test the model and (most probably) go back to collect more data and adjust the model.



ML Solutions are Adaptive

Spam filter: Authors of spam might and will adapt to your spam filter (possibly change the wording to pass through).

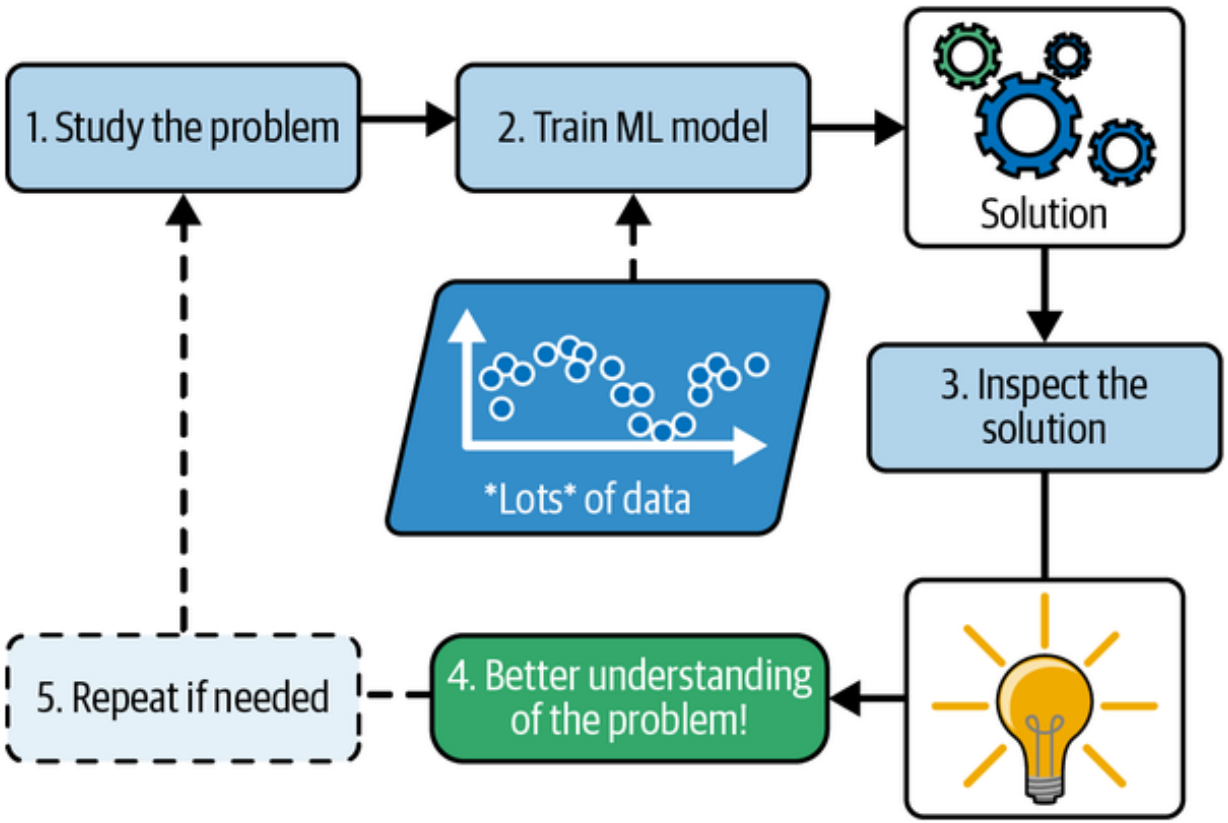
ML systems can be adjusted to new situations by retraining on new data (unless the data becomes ugly).



ML for Human Understanding

Spam filter: A trained system can be inspected for notorious spam features.

Some models allow direct inspection, such as decision trees or linear/logistic regression models.



Usage of Machine Learning

Machine learning suits various applications, especially where traditional methods fall short. Here are some areas where it excels:

- Solving complex problems where fine-tuning and rule-based solutions are inadequate.
- Tackling complex issues that resist traditional problem-solving approaches.
- Adapting to fluctuating environments through retraining on new data.
- Gaining insights from large and complex datasets.

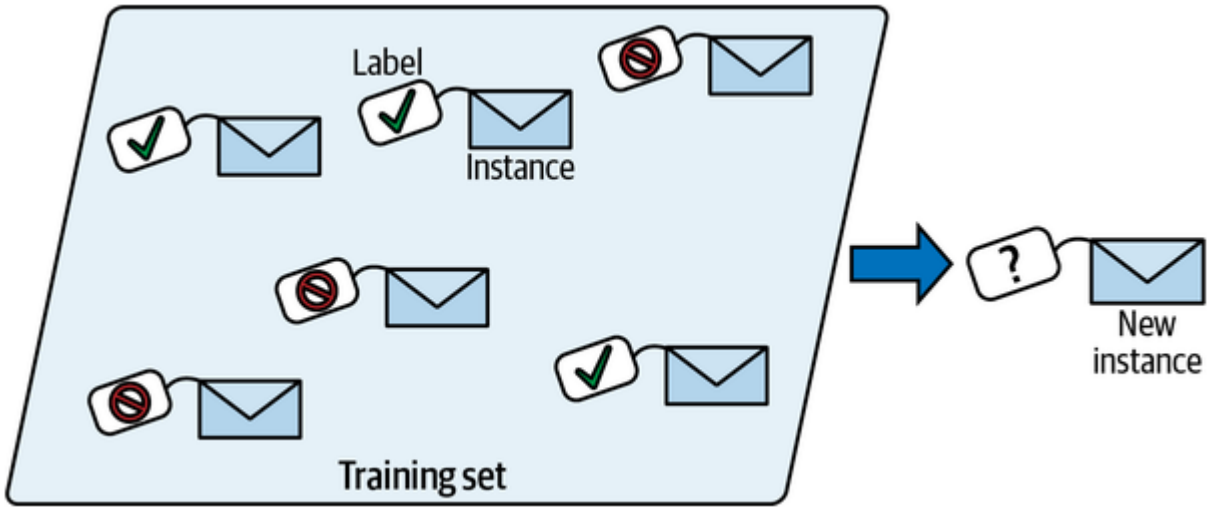
In summary, machine learning offers innovative solutions and adaptability for today's complex and ever-changing problems, (sometimes) providing insights beyond the reach of traditional approaches.

Types of Learning

There are main categories based on information available during the training:

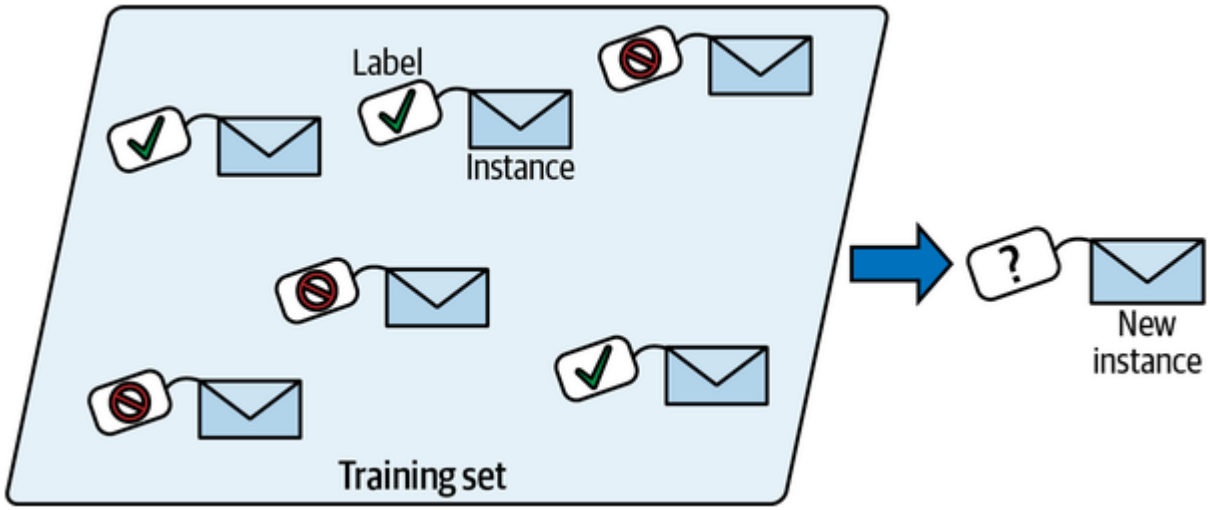
- Supervised learning
- Unsupervised learning
- Semi-supervised learning
- Self-supervised learning
- Reinforcement learning

Supervised Learning



Labels are available for all input data.

Supervised Learning



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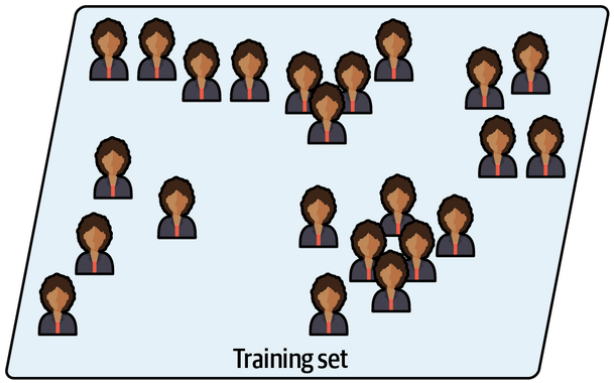
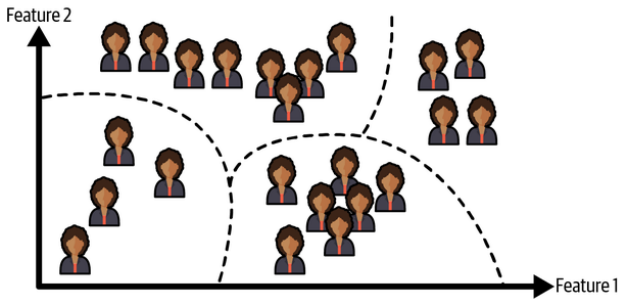
Typical supervised learning tasks are

- *Classification* where the aim is to classify inputs into (typically few) classes
  (e.g., the spam filter where the classes are spam/ham)
- *Regression* where a numerical value is output for a given input
  (e.g., housing prices)

Unsupervised Learning





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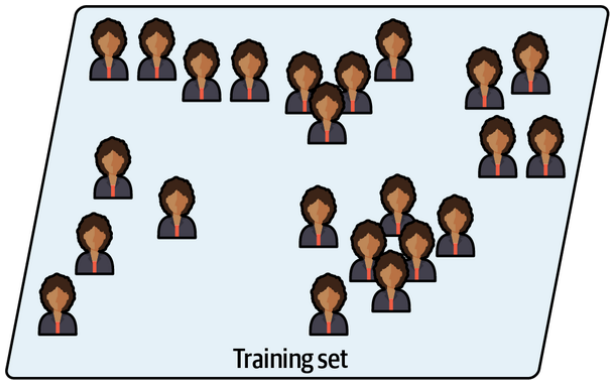

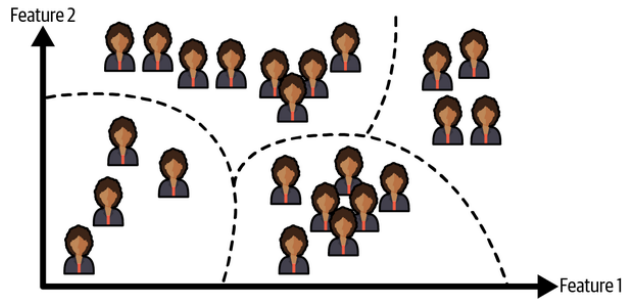

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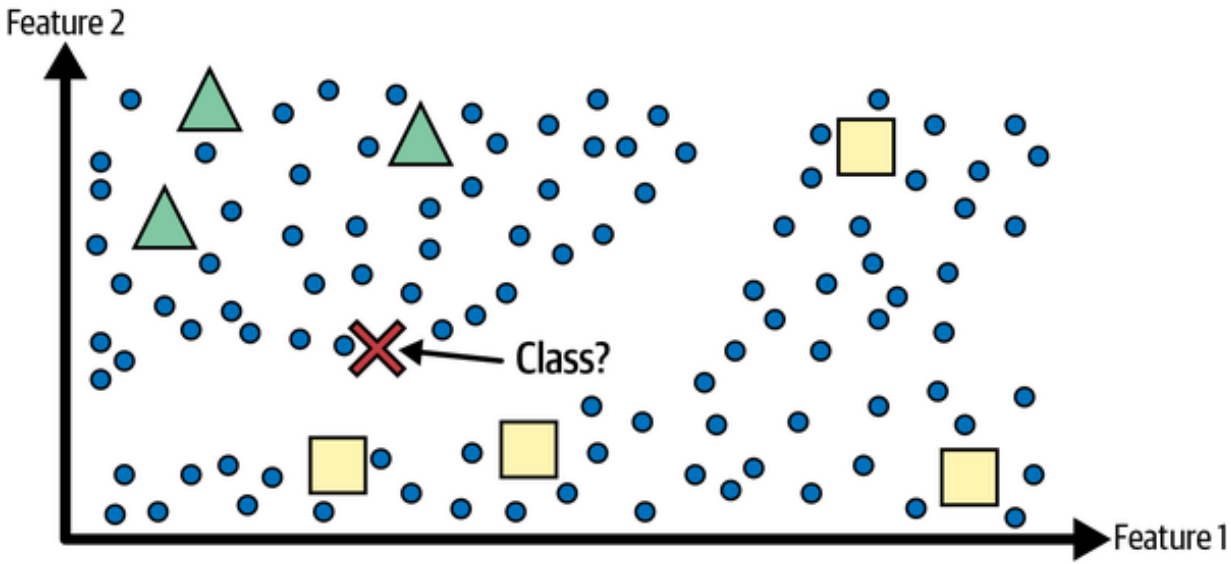
Typical unsupervised learning tasks are

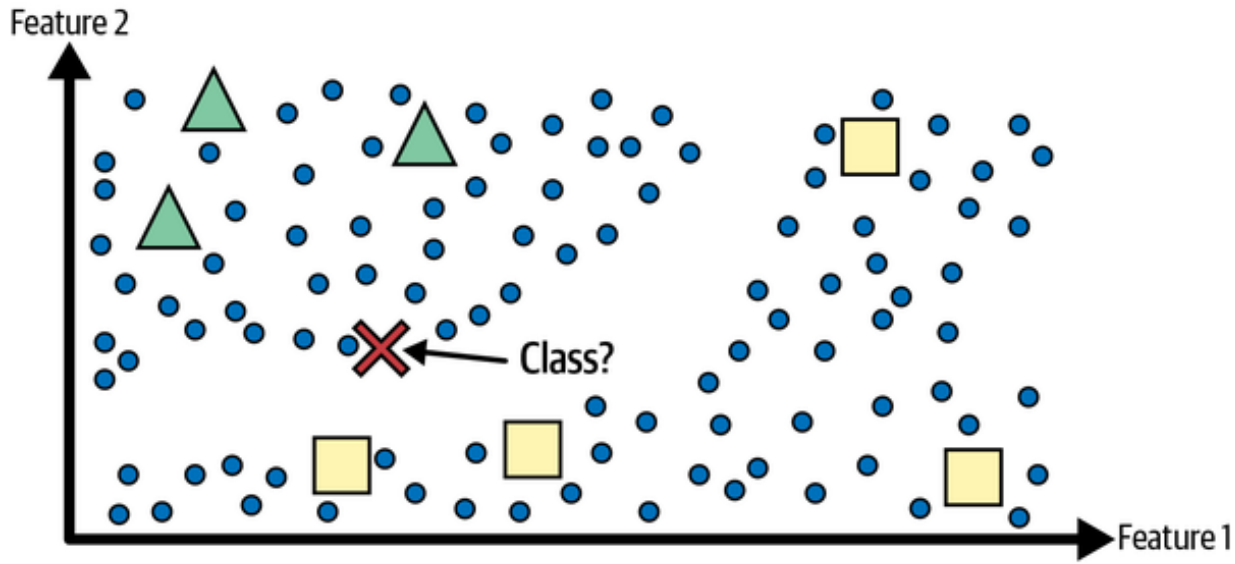
- *Clustering* where inputs are grouped according to their features
  (e.g., clients of a bank grouped according to their age, wealth, etc.)
- *Association* where interesting relations and rules are discovered among the features of inputs
  (e.g., market basket mining where associations between various types of goods are being learned from the behavior of customers)
- *Dimensionality reduction* reduce high-dimensional data to few dimensions (e.g., images to few image features)

Semi-Supervised Learning



Labels for some data.

Semi-Supervised Learning

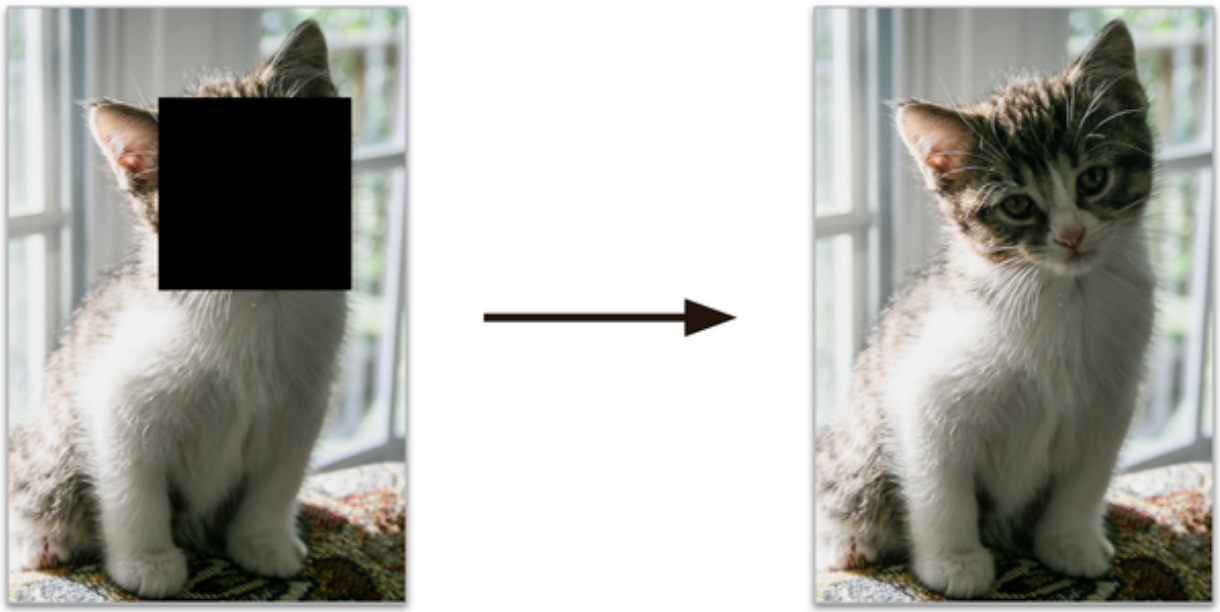


Labels for some data.

For example, Medical data, where elaborate diagnosis is available only for some patients.

Combines supervised and unsupervised learning: e.g., clusters all data and labels the unlabeled inputs with the most common labels in their clusters.

Self-Supervised Learning

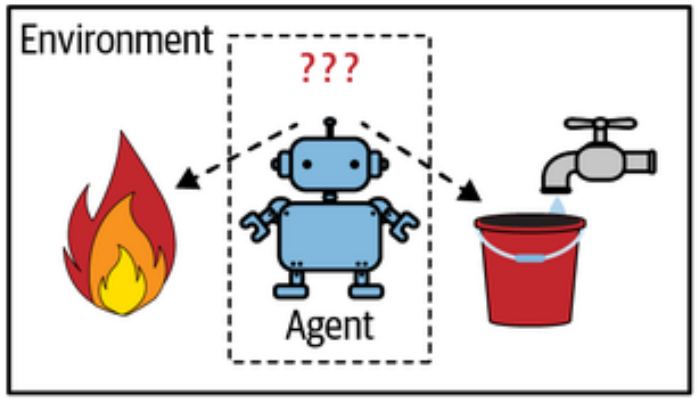


Generate labels from (unlabeled) inputs.

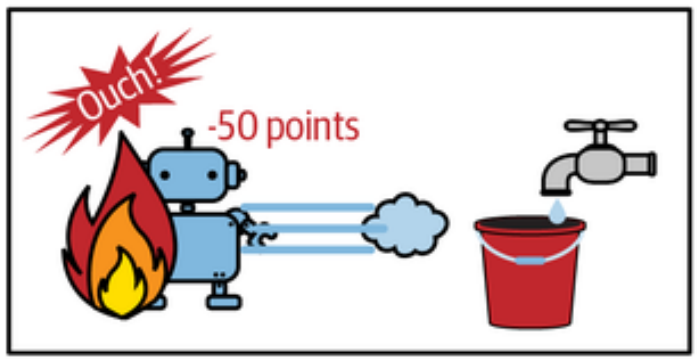
The goal is to learn typical features of the data.

It can be later modified to generate images, classify, etc.

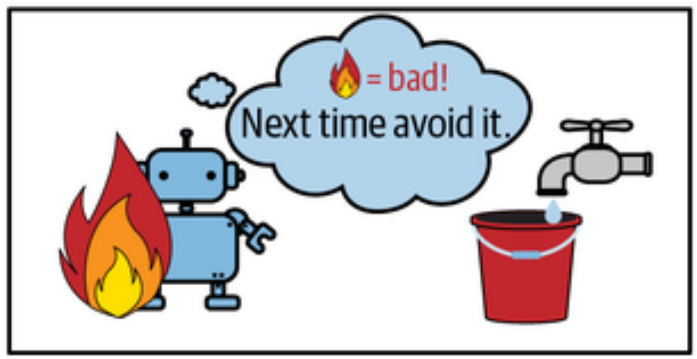
Reinforcement Learning



1. Observe
2. Select action using policy



3. Action!
4. Get reward or penalty



5. Update policy (learning step)
6. Iterate until an optimal policy is found

Learn from performing *actions* and getting feedback from *environment*.

ML Applications Highlights

- ChatGPT (and similar generative models)
  - The basis forms a generative language model, i.e., a text-generating model trained on texts in a self-supervised way
  - Currently extended to multimodal versions (text, image, sound)

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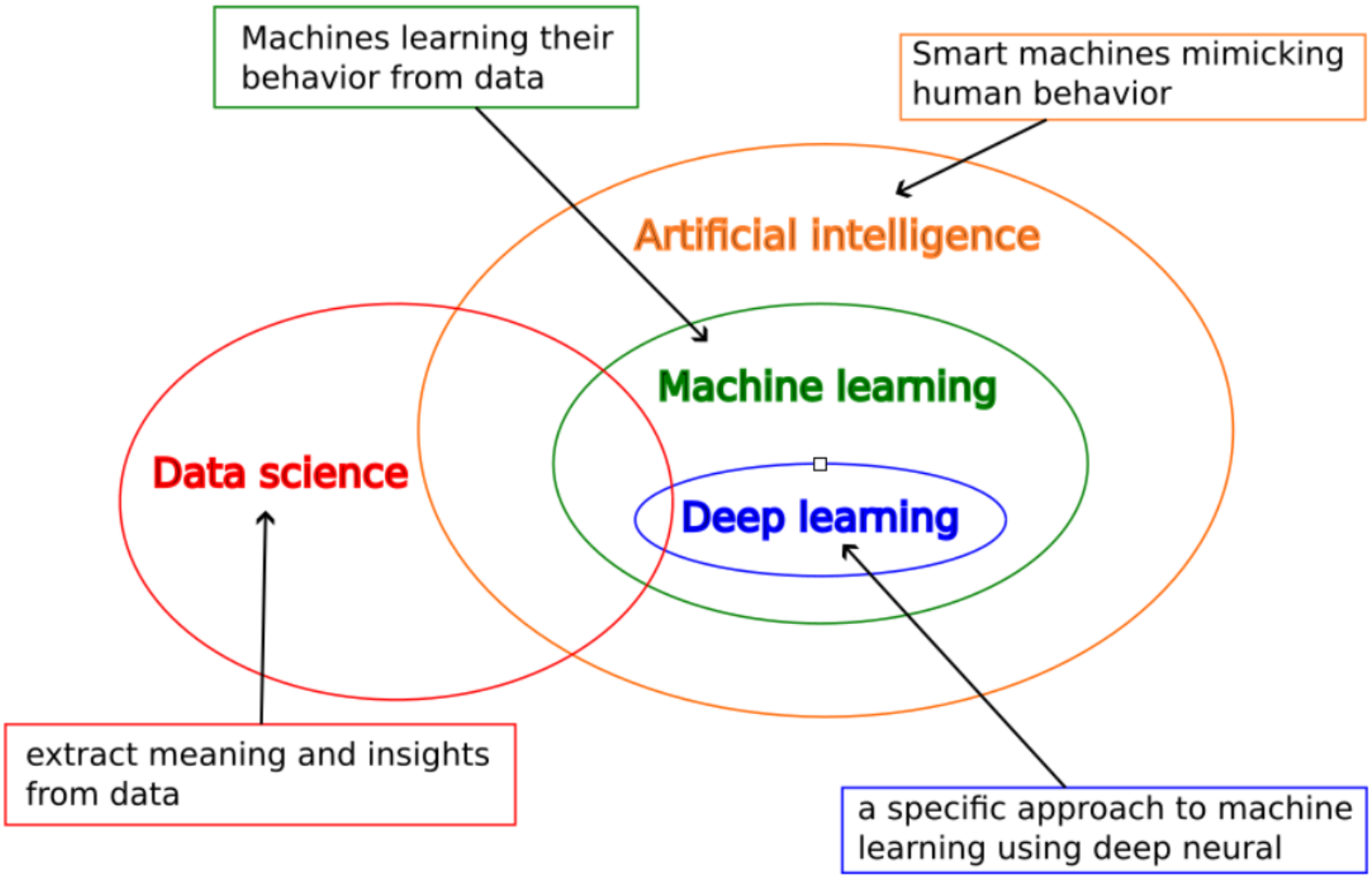
- Game playing: More fancy than useful, learning models beating humans in several difficult games.

ML in Context



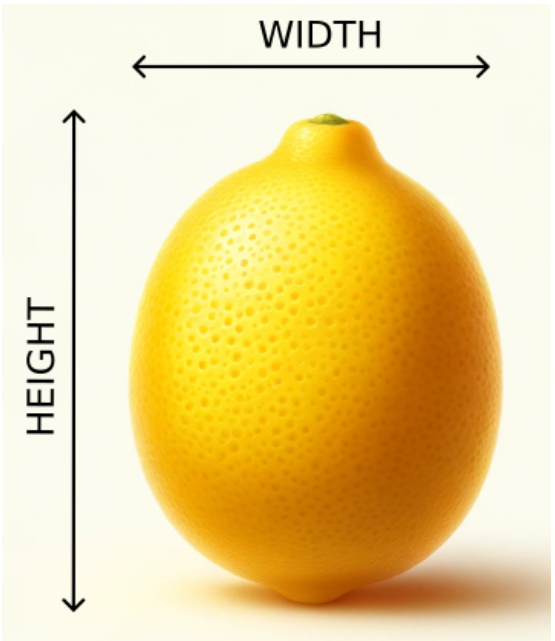
Supervised Learning

Example - Fruit Recognition

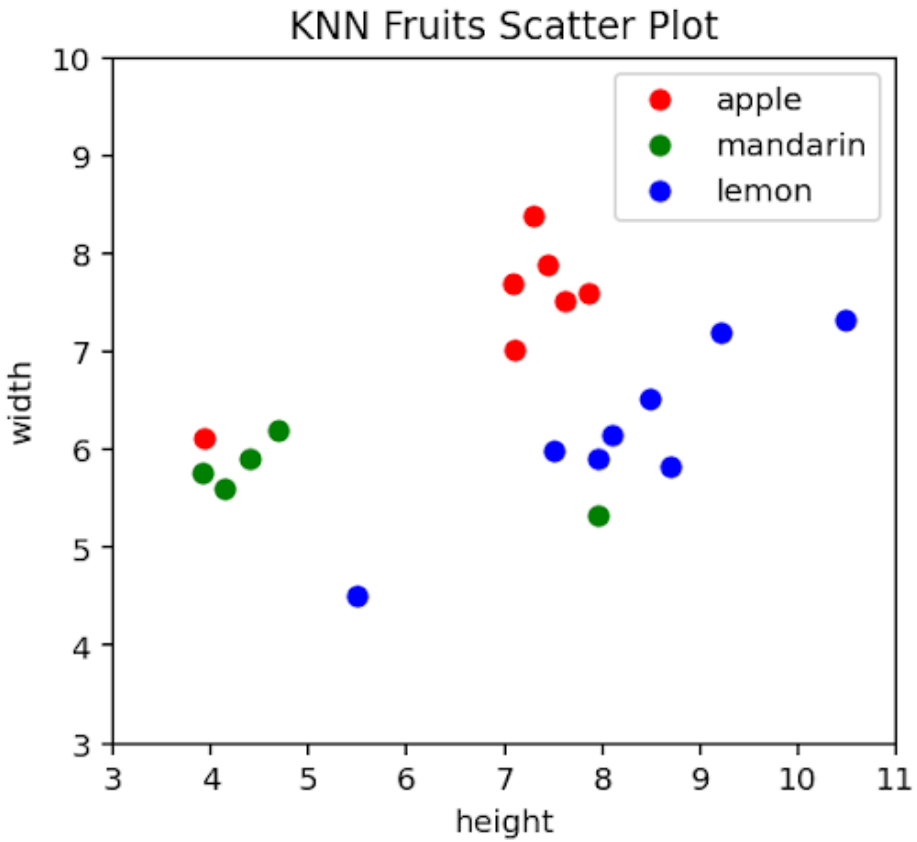
The goal: Create an automatic system for fruit recognition, concretely apple, lemon, and mandarin.

Inputs: Measures of *height* and *width* of each fruit.

Suppose we have a dataset of dimensions of several fruits labeled with the correct class.



Data



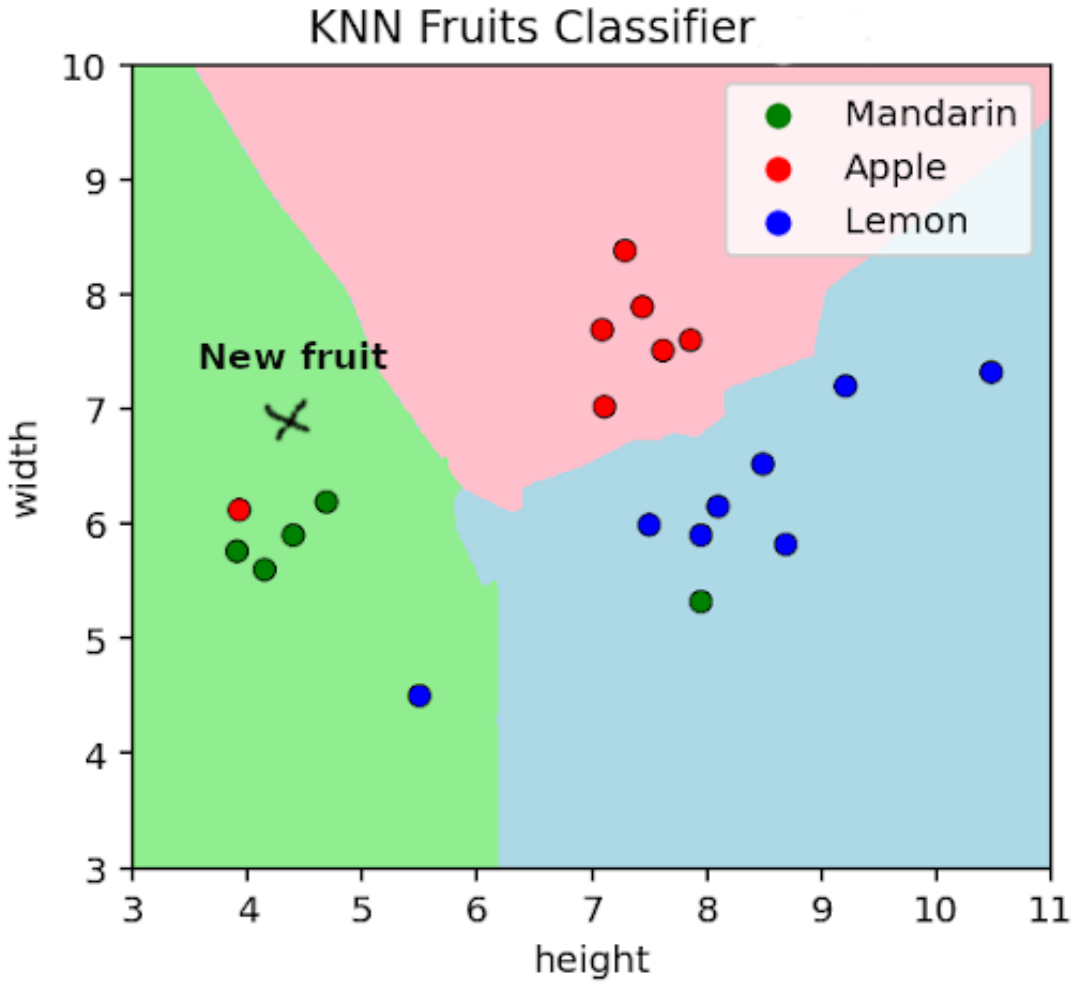
	height	width	fruit
0	3.91	5.76	Mandarin
1	7.09	7.69	Apple
2	10.48	7.32	Lemon
3	9.21	7.20	Lemon
4	7.95	5.90	Lemon
5	7.62	7.51	Apple
6	7.95	5.32	Mandarin
7	4.69	6.19	Mandarin
8	7.50	5.99	Lemon
9	7.11	7.02	Apple
10	4.15	5.60	Mandarin
11	7.29	8.38	Apple
12	8.49	6.52	Lemon
13	7.44	7.89	Apple
14	7.86	7.60	Apple
15	3.93	6.12	Apple
16	4.40	5.90	Mandarin
17	5.50	4.50	Lemon
18	8.10	6.15	Lemon
19	8.69	5.82	Lemon

Use similarity to solve the problem.

KNN Classification

Given a new fruit.
What is it?

Find five closest examples



Where is the machine learning?

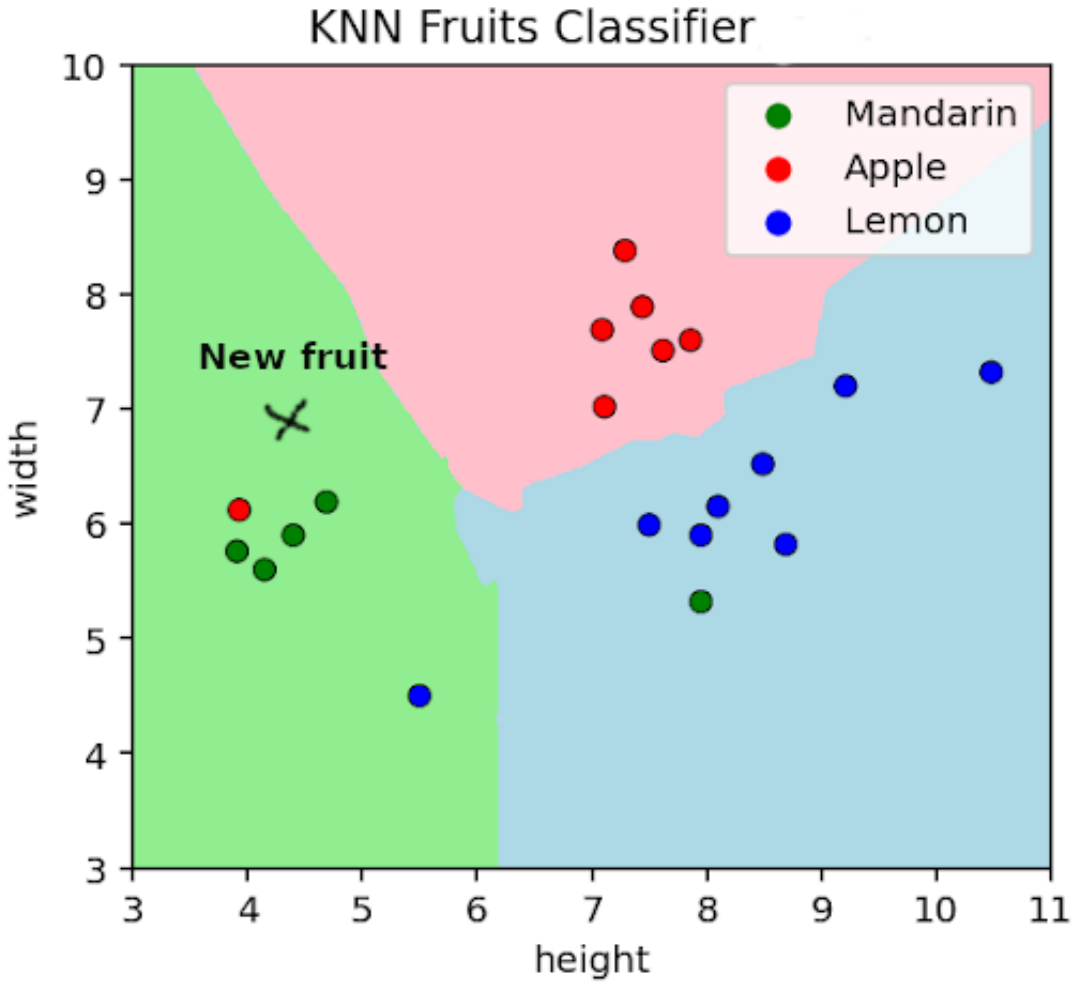
KNN Classification

Given a new fruit.
What is it?

Find five closest examples

Among the five closest:

- $M = 4$ mandarins
- $A = 1$ apples
- $L = 0$ lemons



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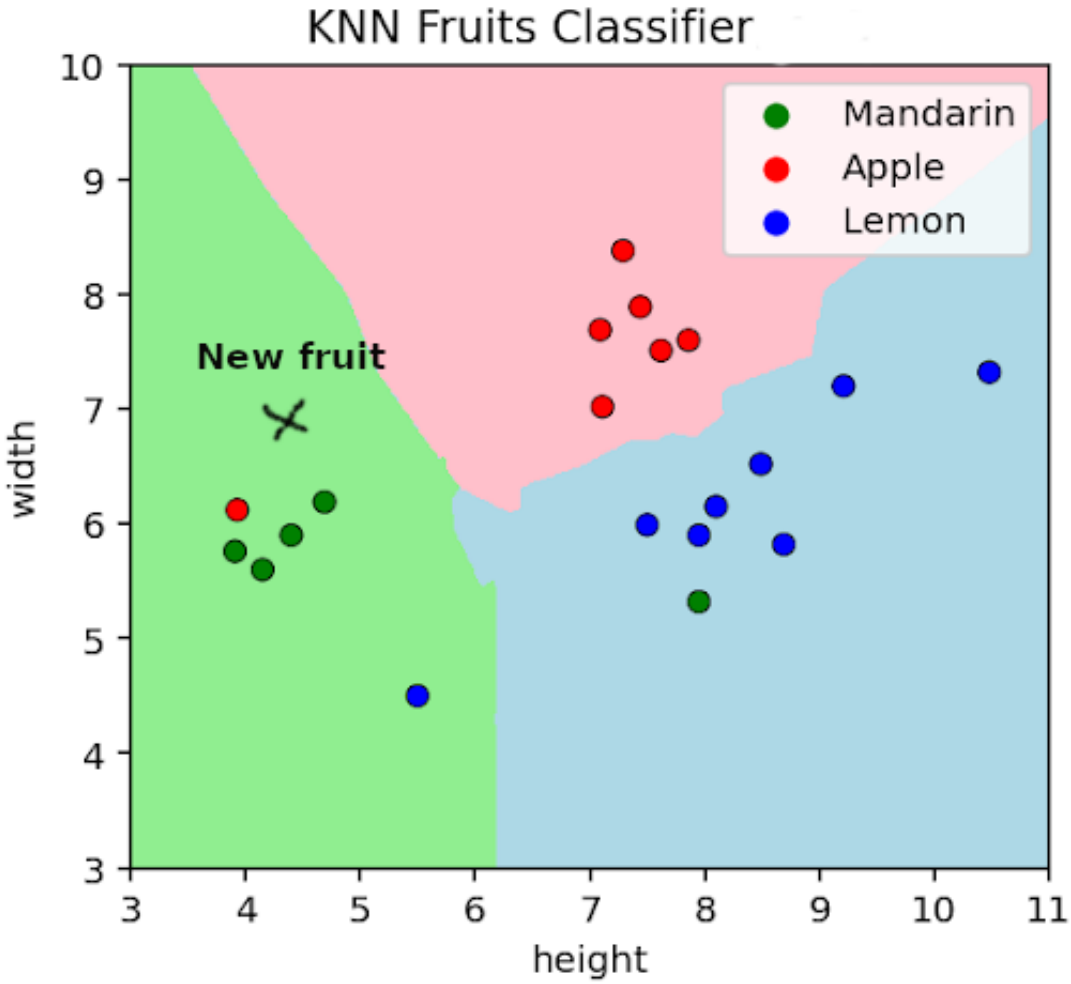
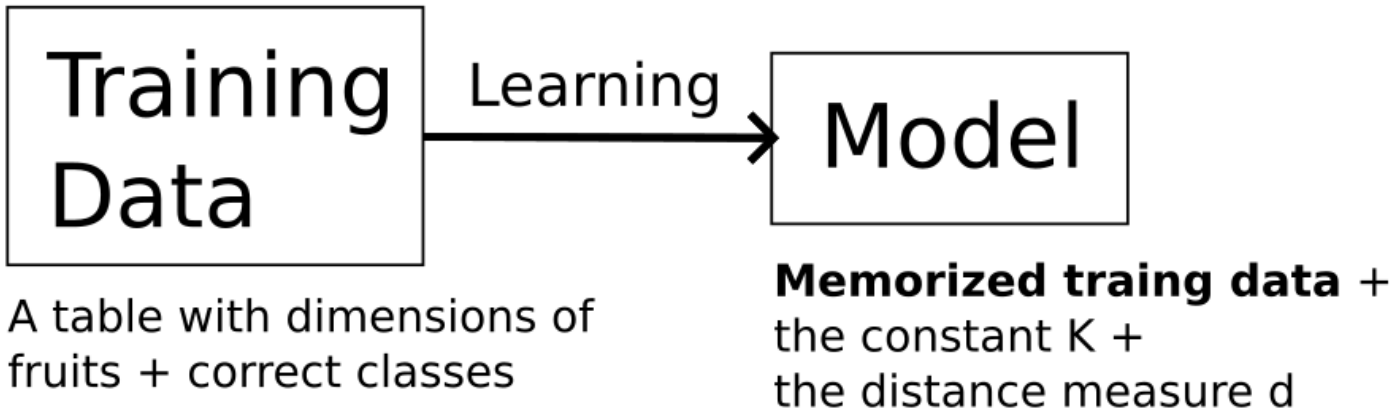
It is a **mandarin**!



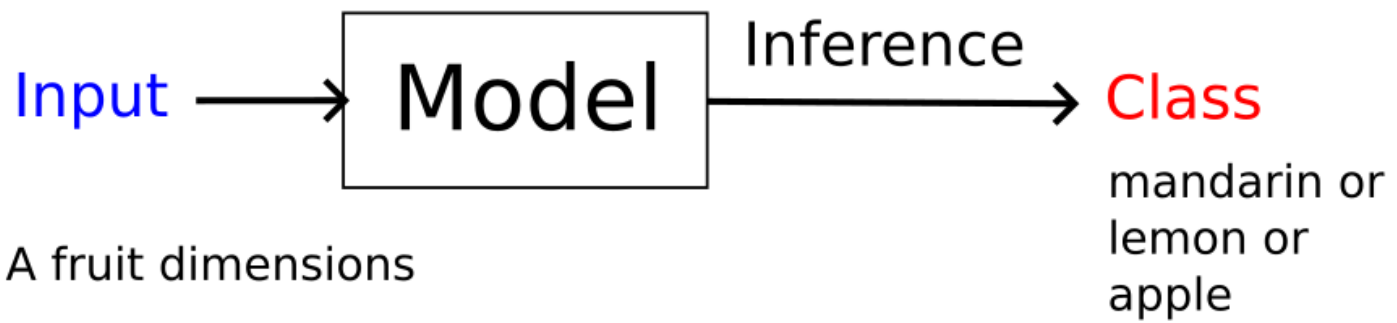
Where is the machine learning?

Learning in Fruit Classification with KNN

Learning:



Inference:



Fruit Classification Algorithm

Input: A fruit F with dimensions *height*, *width*
Output: *mandarin*, *lemon*, *apple*

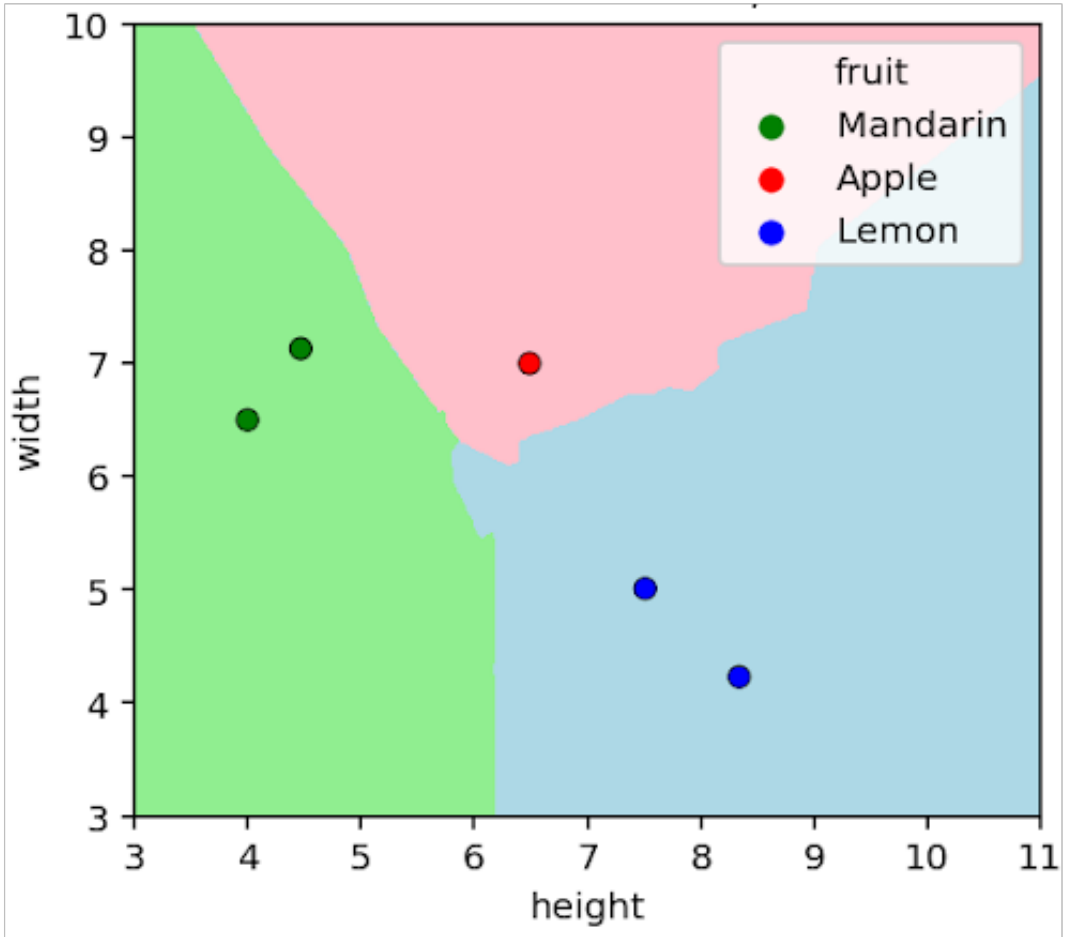
1: Find K examples $\{E_1, \ldots, E_K\}$ in the dataset whose dimensions are closest to the dimensions of the fruit F
2: Count the number of examples of each class in $\{E_1, \ldots, E_K\}$
    M mandarins in $\{E_1, \ldots, E_K\}$
    L lemons in $\{E_1, \ldots, E_K\}$
    A apples in $\{E_1, \ldots, E_K\}$
3: **if** $M \geq L$ and $M \geq A$ **then return** *mandarin*
4: **else if** $L \geq A$ **then return** *lemon*
5: **else return** *apple*
6: **end if**

Does it work?

Testing the Model for Fruit Classification

Consider a test set of new instances ($K = 5$, d is Euclidean):

height	width	fruit
4.0	6.5	Mandarin
4.47	7.13	Mandarin
6.49	7.0	Apple
7.51	5.01	Lemon
8.34	4.23	Lemon



Perfect classification of new data! Just deploy and sell!!

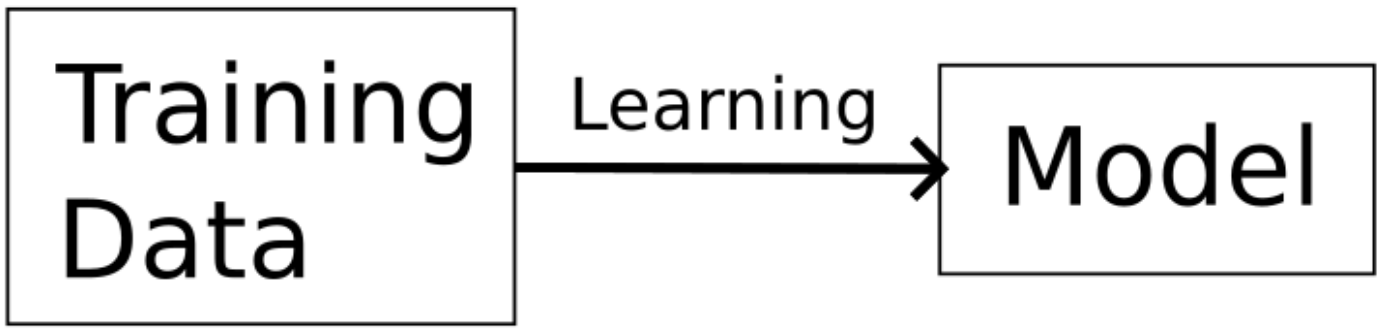
K Nearest Neighbors

. . . on ideal data

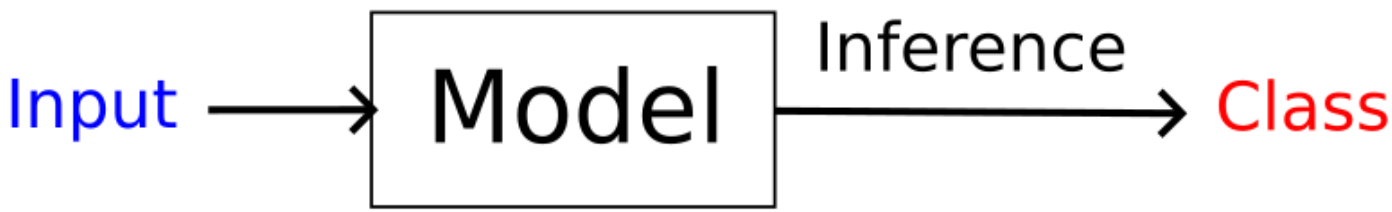
Learning and Inference

Two crucial components of machine learning are the following:

Learning:
Creating model



Inference:
Using model



Training Data

Assume table training data, i.e., of the form

$$\begin{array}{cccc|c} x_{11} & x_{12} & \cdots & x_{1n} & c_1 \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & \cdots & x_{2n} & c_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x_{p1} & x_{p2} & \cdots & x_{pn} & c_p \end{array}$$

height	width	fruit
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Formally, we define **training dataset**

$$\mathcal{T} = \{(\vec{x}_k, c_k) \mid k = 1, \ldots, p\}$$

Here each $\vec{x}_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is an input vector and $c_k \in C$ is the correct class.

$$\mathcal{T} = \{(4.0, 6.5), M), (4.47, 7.13), M), (6.49, 7.0), A), \ldots\}$$

KNN: Learning

Consider the training set:

$$\mathcal{T} = \{(\vec{x}_k, c_k) \mid k = 1, \ldots, p\}$$

and *memorize it* exactly as it is.

Store in a table.

Possibly use a clever representation allowing fast computation of nearest neighbors such as KDTrees (out of the scope of this lecture).

Also,

- determine the number of neighbors $K \in \mathbb{N}$,
- and the distance measure d.

Inference in KNN

Assume a KNN "trained" by memorizing $\mathcal{T} = \{(\vec{x}_k, c_k) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times C \mid k = 1, \ldots, p\}$, a constant $K \in \mathbb{N}$ and a distance measure d.

For d, consider Euclidean distance, but different norms may also be used to define different distance measures.

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Assume a KNN "trained" by memorizing $\mathcal{T} = \{(\vec{x}_k, c_k) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times C \mid k = 1, \ldots, p\}$, a constant $K \in \mathbb{N}$ and a distance measure d.

For d, consider Euclidean distance, but different norms may also be used to define different distance measures.

Input: A vector $\vec{z} = (z_1, \ldots, z_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$

Output: A class from C

1: Find K indices of examples $X = \{i_1, \ldots, i_K\} \subseteq \{1, \ldots, p\}$ with minimum distance to $\vec{z}$, i.e., satisfying

$$\max\Big\{d(\vec{z}, \vec{x}_\ell) \mid \ell \in X\Big\} \leq \min\Big\{d(\vec{z}, \vec{x}_\ell) \mid \ell \in \{1, \ldots, p\} \setminus X\Big\}$$

2: For every $c \in C$ count the number $\#c$ of elements ℓ in X such that $c_\ell = c$

3: Return some

$$c_{max} \in \arg\max_{c \in C} \#c$$

A class $c_{max} \in C$ which maximizes $\#c$.

The resulting model

What exactly constitutes the model? The *model* consists of

- The *trained parameters*: In this case the memorized training data.
- The *hyperparameters* set "from the outside": In this case, the number of neighbors K and the distance measure d.

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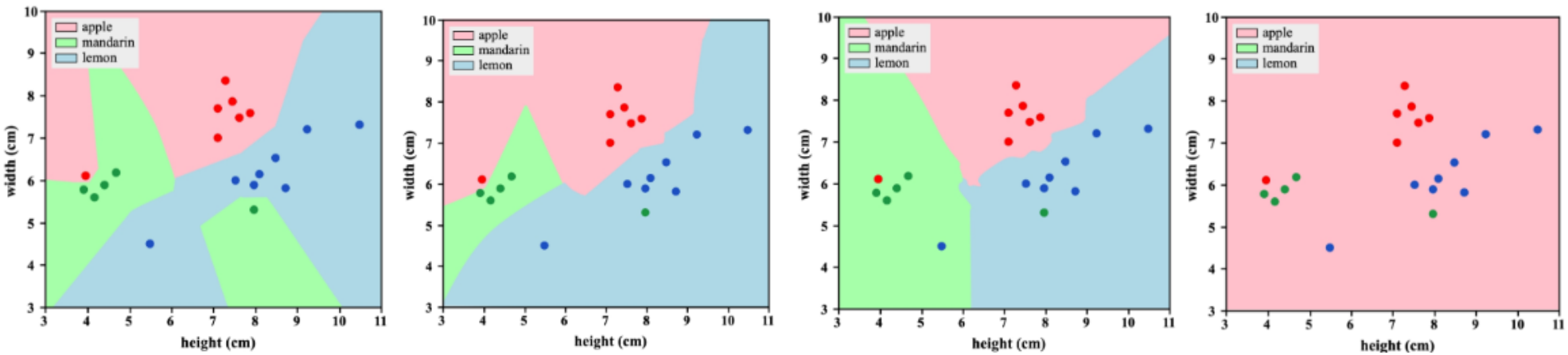
Note that different settings of K lead to different classifiers (for the same d):



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- Deal with the wrong model by testing and validation in as realistic conditions as possible.
- Deal with deployment - real-world application issues involving, e.g., implementation in embedded devices with limited resources.

Models Considered in This Course

Throughout this course, we will meet the following models:

- KNN (already did)
- Decision trees
- (Naive) Bayes classifier
- Clustering: K-means and hierarchical
- Linear and logistic regression
- Support Vector Machines (SVM)
- Kernel linear models
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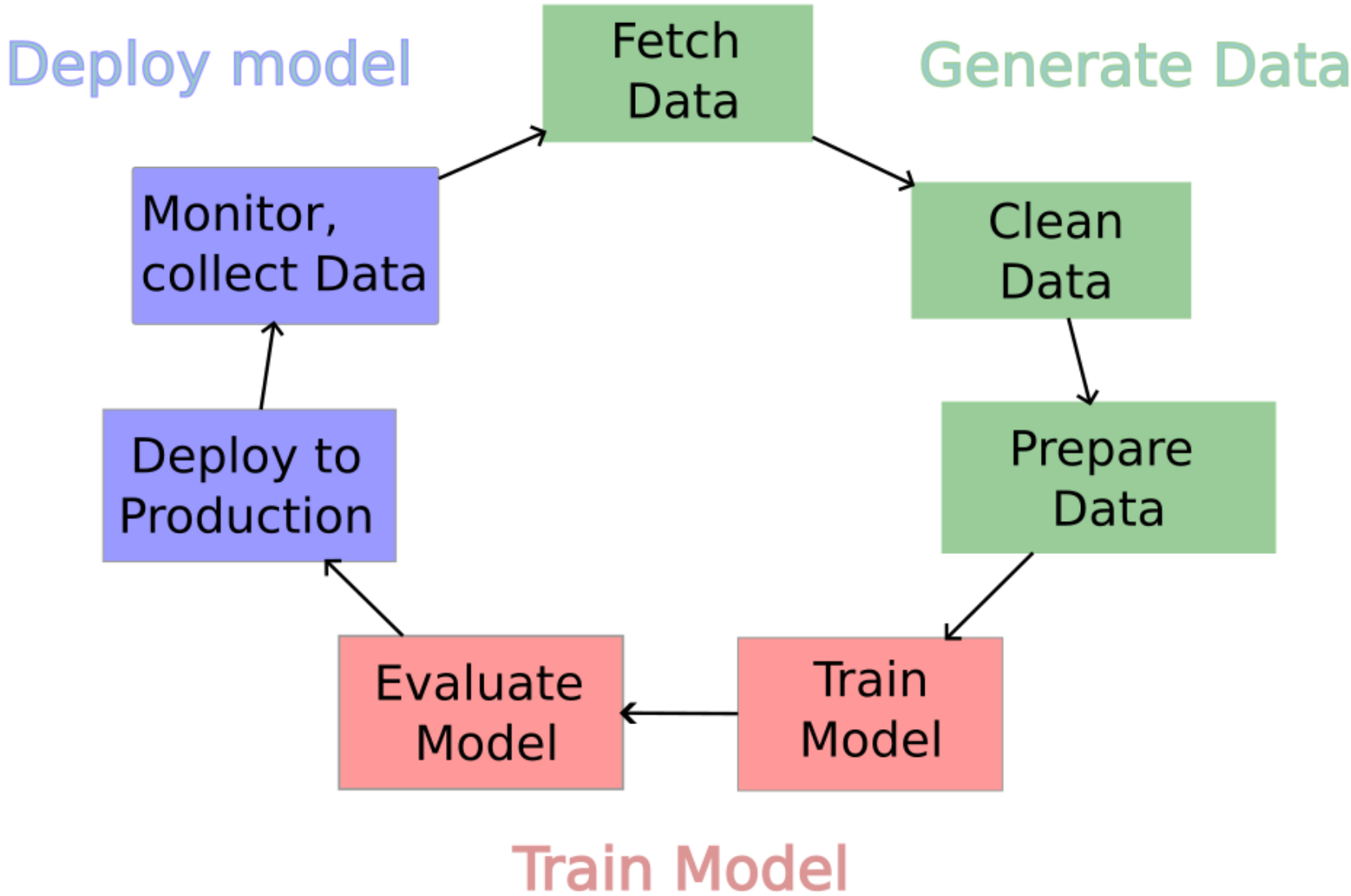
. . . but first, let us see the whole machine learning pipeline.

Machine Learning Pipeline



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- Integrate data from various sources.

  A serious diagnostic system must be trained/tested on data from many hospitals. You must blend the data from various sources (different formats, etc.).

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The test data are supposed to simulate the actual conditions, i.e., they should be "unseen".

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Data Exploration

Compute basic statistics to identify missing values, outliers, etc.

Clean Data

The cleaning usually comprises the following steps:

- Fix or remove incorrect or corrupted values.
- Identify outliers and decide what to do with them.

  Outliers may harm some training methods and are not "representative". However, sometimes, they naturally belong to the dataset, and expert insight is needed.
- Fix formatting.

  For example, the Date may be expressed in many ways, and a simple Yes/No answer.
- Resolve missing values (by either removing the whole examples or imputing)

  Many methods have been developed for missing values imputation. It is a susceptible issue because new values may strongly bias the model.
- Remove duplicates.

The above steps often affect the training and need expertise in the application domain.

Later in this course, we will discuss techniques for data cleaning.

ID	Age	Income	Gender	Customer_Satisfaction
1	38	46641.356413713	nan	Unsatisfied
2	42	49129.0615585107	female	Neutral
3	18	119965.049731014	Male	nan
4	18	66828.0762224329	nan	very unsatisfied
5	58	57422.2721106762	female	very unsatisfied
6	28	59502.8174855665	Other	Satisfied
7	18	42659.6675768587	Other	Neutral
8	18	54019.1173206374	Other	Satisfied
9	40	25429.1604541137	female	Unsatisfied
10	21	15595.5862129548	Other	Satisfied
11	18	58094.2328460069	Other	very unsatisfied
12	18	39097.3278583155	female	Very Satisfied
13	30		Other	Satisfied
14	50	30617.3914472273	Female	Very Satisfied
15	18		nan	Neutral
16	34	39902.4430953214	male	nan
17	49	68381.6997683133	Female	Very Satisfied
18	33	44796.0962271524	Other	Very Satisfied
19	47	39218.9560738814	Female	very unsatisfied
20		14544.9226784447	Other	Satisfied

Prepare Data

Unlike cleaning, which is application-dependent, data preparation/transformation is model-dependent. This usually subsumes:

- **Scaling**: Settings values of inputs to a similar range.

  Some models, especially those utilizing distance, are sensitive to large differences between input sizes.

- **Encoding**: Encode non-numeric data using real-valued vectors.

  Many models, especially those based on geometry, work only with numeric data. Non-numeric data such as Yes/No, Short/Medium/Long must be encoded appropriately.

- **Binning or Discretization** Convert continuous features into discrete bins to capture patterns in ranges.

Comment: Sometimes **Normalization**, that is changing the distribution of inputs to resemble the normal distribution, is mentioned. However, this step is typically not essential for machine learning itself. However, it is important to use statistical inference to test the significance of learned parameters.

Prepare Data

- **Feature selection** Throw out input features that are too "similar" to other features.

  For example, if the temperature is measured both in Celsius and in Kelvin, keep one of them. The relationship can, of course, be a more complex (non-linear) correlation.

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- **Dimensionality reduction** Transforming data from $\mathbb{R}^n$ to $\mathbb{R}^m$ where $m << n$.

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- **Feature aggregation** Introducing new features using operations on the original ones.

  We will see kernel transformations later in this course, allowing simple models to solve complex problems.

Train Model

Now the dataset has been cleaned; we may train a model.

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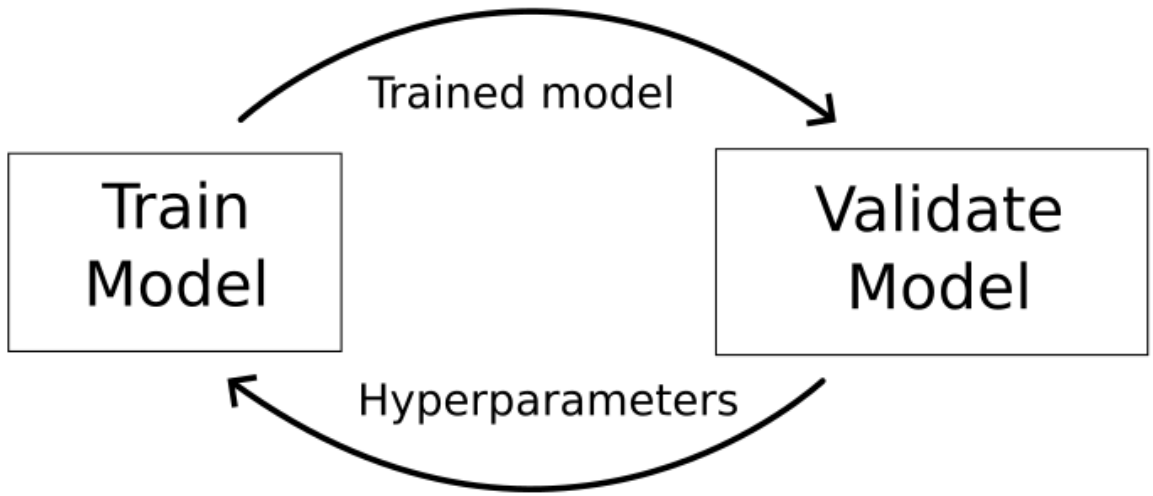
Before training, we should split the dataset into

- *training* dataset on which the model will learn
- *validation* dataset on which we fine-tune hyperparameters



The resulting model is obtained after several iterations of the above process.

Evaluate Model

Here, we use the test set that we separated during data fetching.

In some cases, a brand new test set can be generated.

patients are examined regularly, creating new records continuously.

In some cases, it is tough to obtain new data.

For example, new expensive and difficult measurements are needed to obtain new data.

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patients are examined regularly, creating new records continuously.

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For example, new expensive and difficult measurements are needed to obtain new data.

Critical issue: Make sure that you are truly testing

exactly the whole inference process.

Often, just a model is tested, and the testing and production inference engines are separated. This leads to truly nasty errors in the production!

We will discuss various generic metrics helpful in measuring the quality of the resulting model.

Deploy to Production

Deployment of machine learning models is a complex question, application dependent.

The recently emerging area of MLOps is concerned with the engineering side of the model deployment.

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From the technical point of view, the typical issues solved by ML Ops teams are

- how to extract/process data in real-time
- how much storage is required
- how to store/collect model (and data) artifacts/predictions
- how to set up APIs, tools, and software environments
- What the period of predictions (instantaneous or batch predictions) should be
- how to set up hardware requirements (or cloud requirements for on-cloud environments) by the computational resources required
- how to set up a pipeline for continuous training and parameter tuning

Deploy to Production

From the user's point of view:

- How to get a sensible and valuable user output?
  - AI researchers will be satisfied with tons of running text in terminals.
  - "Normal" people need a graphical interface with understandable output.
  - Experts working in other domains typically demand speed and clarity at the extreme.

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  - "Normal" people need a graphical interface with understandable output.
  - Experts working in other domains typically demand speed and clarity at the extreme.
- How do you persuade users that the AI is working for them?
  - Especially if safety is at stake, you need to have outstanding arguments and explanations ready for end-users
  - In many areas, the devices need to be certified (medicine, automotive) for ML-based systems.

This complex subject will be only touched on in this course.

Monitor, collect Data

Deployed machine learning models must be constantly monitored.

Because of the influx of new data, ML models work in highly dynamic environments.

For example, an image-processing medical diagnostic model suddenly misdiagnosed a patient because a nurse marked the sample with a marker pen.

Every customer has a different infrastructure and may produce data slightly differently.

Data for retraining and improvement should be stored.

Also, many areas allow the *active learning* where users provide feedback for (continuous) retraining of the models.

Decision Trees

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- Basis for random forests (a powerful model).

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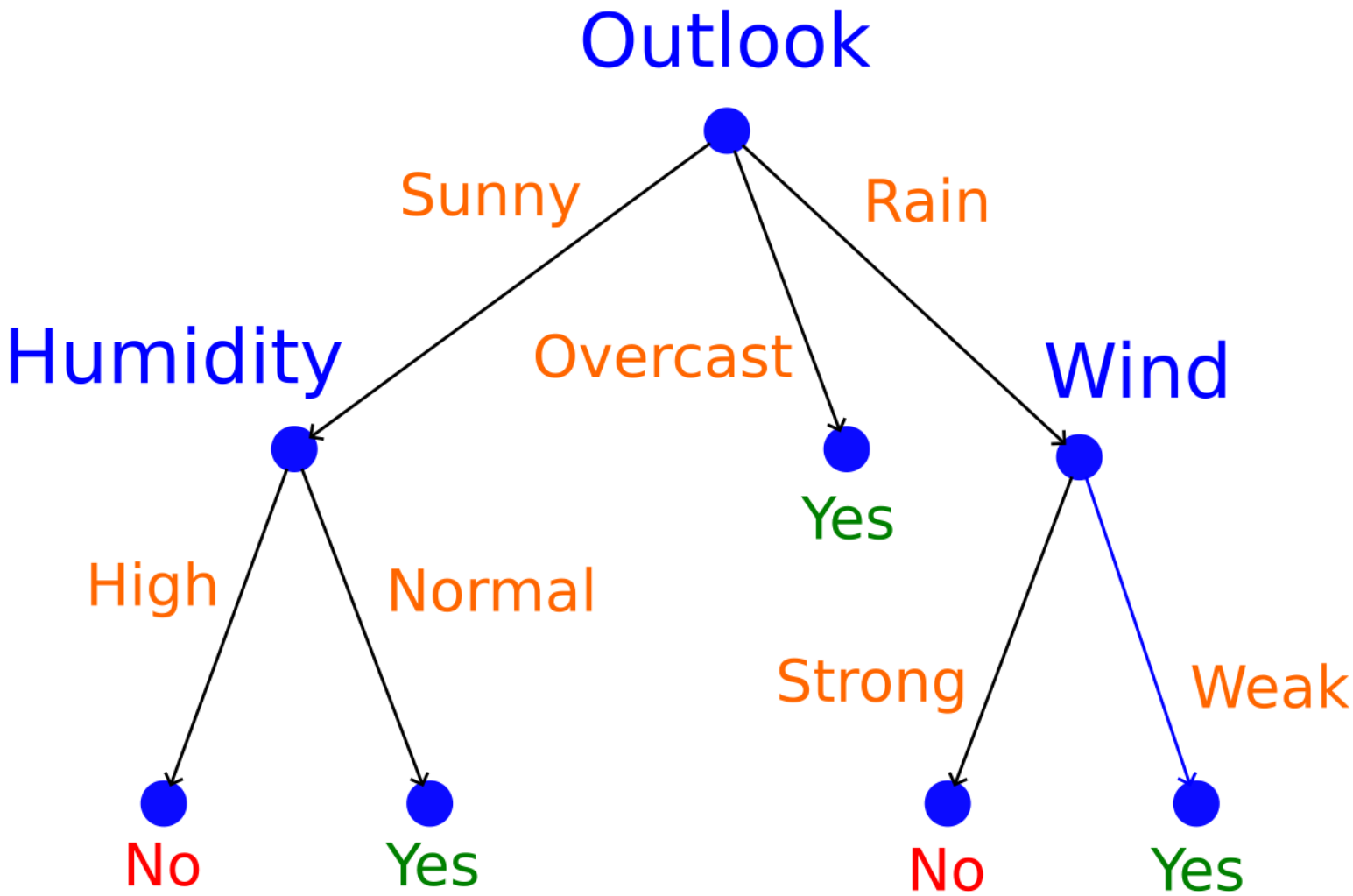
- We will consider the ID3 algorithm.
  Quinlan, 1979
- Various adjustments that appear in C4.5, CART, etc.

Consider the weather forecast for tennis playing. How would you decide whether to play today?



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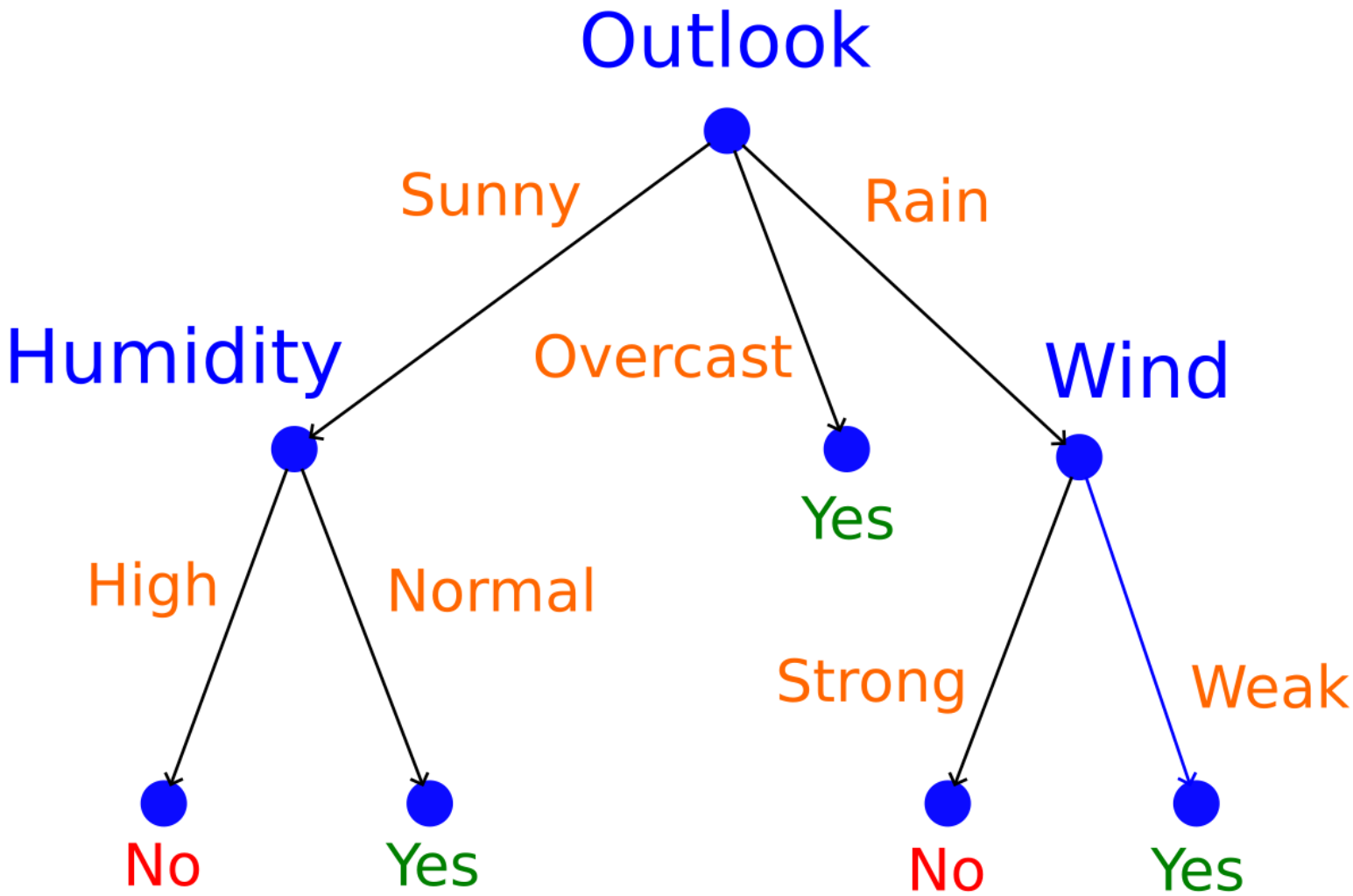

Now, how do we obtain such a tree based on experience/data?

Learning Decision Trees

Consider data represented as follows:

- A finite set of *attributes* $\mathcal{A} = \{A_1, \ldots, A_n\}$.
- Each attribute $A \in \mathcal{A}$ has its *set of values* $V(A)$.

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Objects to be classified are described by vectors of values of all attributes:

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Given $\vec{x}$ and an attribute A_k we denote by $A_k(\vec{x})$ the value x_k of the attribute A_k in $\vec{x}$.

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Consider a set C of *classes*.

We consider a multiclass classification in general, i.e., C is an arbitrary finite set.

Example

The tennis problem:

- The attributes are:

$$A_1 = \textit{Outlook}, A_2 = \textit{Temperature}, A_3 = \textit{Humidity}, A_4 = \textit{Wind}$$

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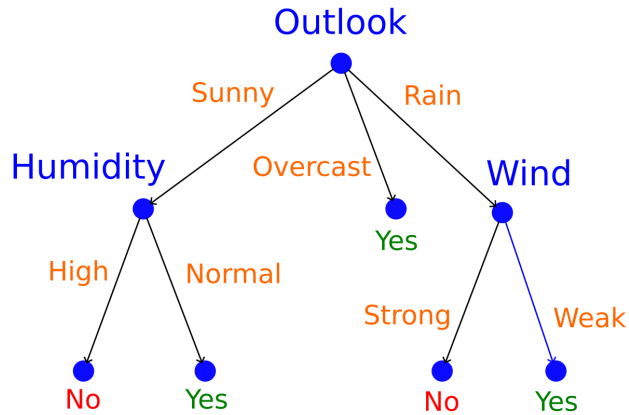
Inference: Given an input $\vec{x}$, we traverse the tree from the root to a leaf, always choosing edges labeled with values of attributes from $\vec{x}$. The output is the class labeling the leaf.

Example

$T = \{O, H, W, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4, z_5\}$

$T_{leaf} = \{z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4, z_5\}$, $T_{int} = \{O, H, W\}$

$E = \{(O, H), (O, W), (H, z_1), (H, z_2), (O, z_3), (W, z_4), (W, z_5)\}$



$C(z_1) = C(z_3) = \mathit{No}$, $C(z_2) = C(z_4) = \mathit{Yes}$

$A(O) = \mathit{Outlook}$, $A(H) = \mathit{Humidity}$, $A(W) = \mathit{Wind}$

$D(O, H) = \mathit{Sunny}$, $D(O, z_3) = \mathit{Overcast}$, $D(O, W) = \mathit{Rain}$
$D(H, z_1) = \mathit{High}$, $D(H, z_2) = \mathit{Normal}$
$D(W, z_4) = \mathit{Strong}$, $D(W, z_5) = \mathit{Weak}$

Inference: For $(\mathit{Rain}, \mathit{Hot}, \mathit{High}, \mathit{Strong})$ we reach z_4, yielding No.

Training Dataset

Consider a *training dataset*

$$\mathcal{D} = \{(\vec{x}_k, c_k) \mid k = 1, \ldots, p\}$$

Here $\vec{x}_k \in V(A_1) \times \cdots \times V(A_k)$ and $c_k \in C$ for every k.

Technically $\mathcal{D}$ can be a multiset containing several occurrences of the same vector.

Index	Outlook	Temperature	Humidity	Wind	PlayTennis
1	Sunny	Hot	High	Weak	No
2	Sunny	Hot	High	Strong	No
3	Overcast	Hot	High	Weak	Yes
4	Rain	Mild	High	Weak	Yes
5	Rain	Cool	Normal	Weak	Yes
6	Rain	Cool	Normal	Strong	No
7	Overcast	Cool	Normal	Strong	Yes
8	Sunny	Mild	High	Weak	No
9	Sunny	Cool	Normal	Weak	Yes
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12	Overcast	Mild	High	Strong	Yes
13	Overcast	Hot	Normal	Weak	Yes
14	Rain	Mild	High	Strong	No

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{D} =&\{((Sunny, Hot, High, Weak), No),\\ &((Sunny, Hot, High, Strong), No)\\ &\ldots\\ &((Rain, Mild, High, Strong), No)\}\end{aligned}$$

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  - for every $v \in V(A)$ introduce an edge (τ, τ_v) assigned v.

1: **function** ID3(dataset $\mathcal{D}$, attribute set $\mathcal{A}$)
2: Create a root node τ for the tree
3: **if** $\mathcal{D} = \emptyset$ **then**
4: Return the single node τ assigned with a default class.
5: **else if** all examples in $\mathcal{D}$ are of the same class c **then**
6: Return the single-node tree, where τ is assigned c
7: **else if** set of attributes $\mathcal{A}$ is empty **then**
8: Return the single-node tree where τ is assigned
the most common class in $\mathcal{D}$
9: **else**
10: Choose attribute $A \in \mathcal{A}$ *best classifying* examples in $\mathcal{D}$.
11: Set the decision attribute for τ to A
12: **for** each value $v \in D(A)$ **do**
13: Compute a decision tree ID3($\mathcal{D}_v, \mathcal{A} \setminus \{A\}$) with root τ_v,
14: add a new edge (τ, τ_v) assigned v.
15: **end for**
16: **end if**
17: **return** τ
18: **end function**

Best Classifying Attribute

How to choose an attribute that best classifies examples in $\mathcal{D}$?

There are several measures used in practice.

The most common are

- *information gain*
- *Gini impurity decrease*

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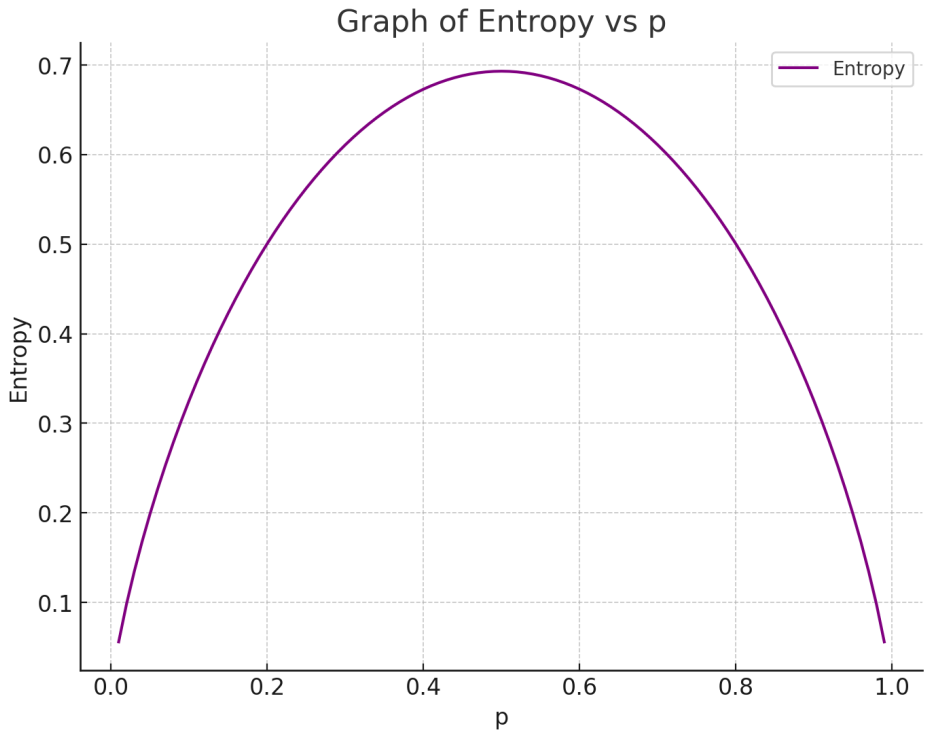
- The *information gain* of an attribute A is then defined by

$$Gain(\mathcal{D}, A) = Entropy(\mathcal{D}) - \sum_{v \in V(A)} \frac{|\mathcal{D}_v|}{|\mathcal{D}|} Entropy(\mathcal{D}_v)$$

Bleh?!?

Information Gain

- Consider $C = \{0, 1\}$ and p the proportion of examples of class 1. p measures the "uncertainty" of the class:



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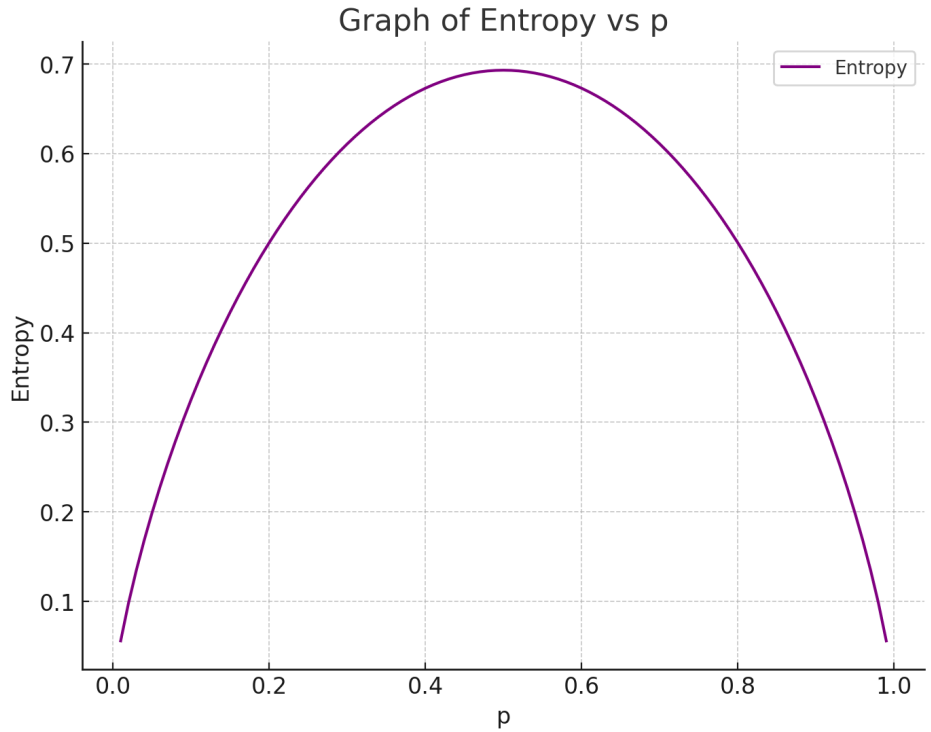

- $\sum_{v \in V(A)} \frac{|\mathcal{D}_v|}{|\mathcal{D}|} \mathit{Entropy}(\mathcal{D}_v)$ is weighted uncertainty of classes in each $\mathcal{D}_v$ (weighted by the relative size of $\mathcal{D}_v$).

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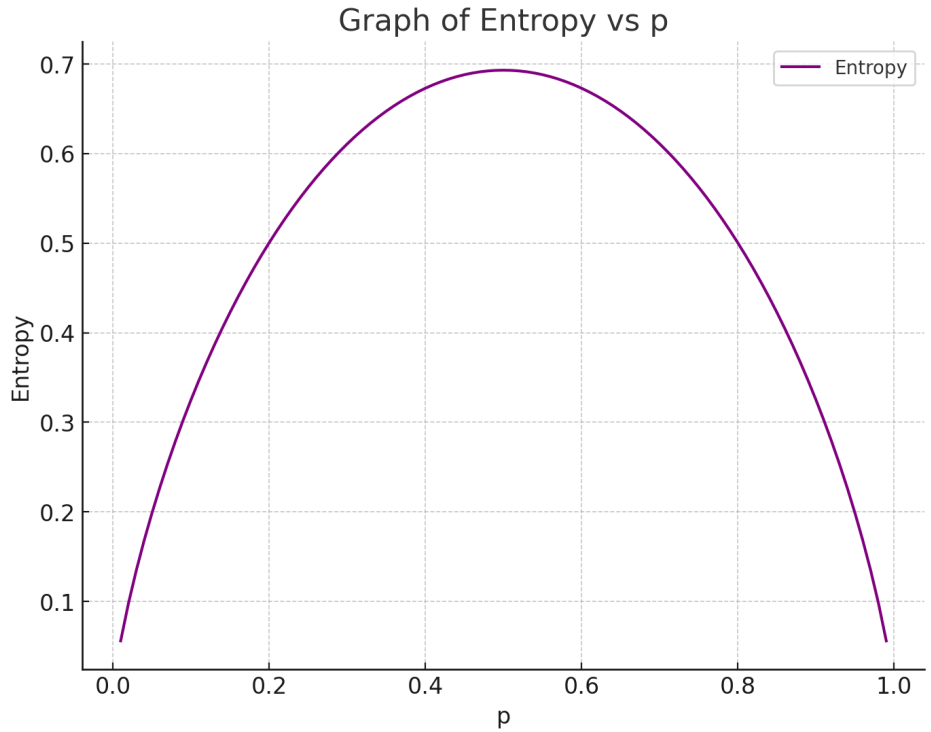

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- $\mathit{Gain}(\mathcal{D}, A)$ measures reduction in uncertainty of classes by splitting $\mathcal{D}$ according to A.

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Assume we randomly independently choose objects from $\mathcal{D}$.

$1 - \sum_{c \in C} p_c^2$ is the probability of choosing two objects of different classes in two consecutive independent trials.

Indeed, p_c is the probability of choosing an object of class c, p_c^2 the probability of choosing objects of the class c twice, and $\sum_{c \in C} p_c^2$ the probability of choosing two objects of the same class.

Example

Consider our tennis example (see the table).

- Consider the whole dataset $\mathcal{D}$.
  - $p_{Yes} = 9/14$
  - $p_{No} = 5/14$
  - $Gini(\mathcal{D}) = 1 - (9/14)^2 - (5/14)^2 = 0.45918$

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- For $A = Outlook$ we get
  - $Gini(\mathcal{D}_{Sunny}) = 1 - (2/5)^2 - (3/5)^2 = 0.48$
  - $Gini(\mathcal{D}_{Overcast}) = 1 - 1^2 - 0^2 = 0$
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  Thus

$$ImpDec(\mathcal{D}, Outlook) = 0.459 - (5/14) \cdot 0.48 - (4/14) \cdot 0 - (5/14) \cdot 0.48 = 0.117$$

- $ImpDec(\mathcal{D}, Temperature) = 0.018$
- $ImpDec(\mathcal{D}, Humidity) = 0.091$
- $ImpDec(\mathcal{D}, Wind) = 0.030$

So the largest information gain is given by the *Outlook*.

Example

Going further on, consider $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}_{Sunny}$. We get

- $ImpDec(\mathcal{D}, Temperature) = 0.279$
- $ImpDec(\mathcal{D}, Humidity) = 0.48$
- $ImpDec(\mathcal{D}, Wind) = 0.013$

The best choice attribude after *Sunny* in *Outlook* is *Humidity*.

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Now consider $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}_{Rain}$.

- $ImpDec(\mathcal{D}, Temperature) = 0.013$
- $ImpDec(\mathcal{D}, Humidity) = 0.013$
- $ImpDec(\mathcal{D}, Wind) = 0.48$

The best choice attribude after *Rain* in *Outlook* is *Wind*.

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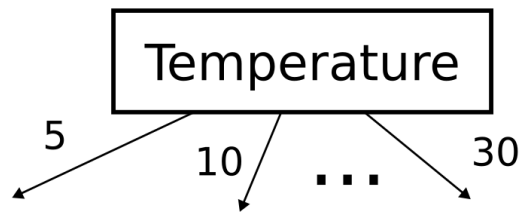
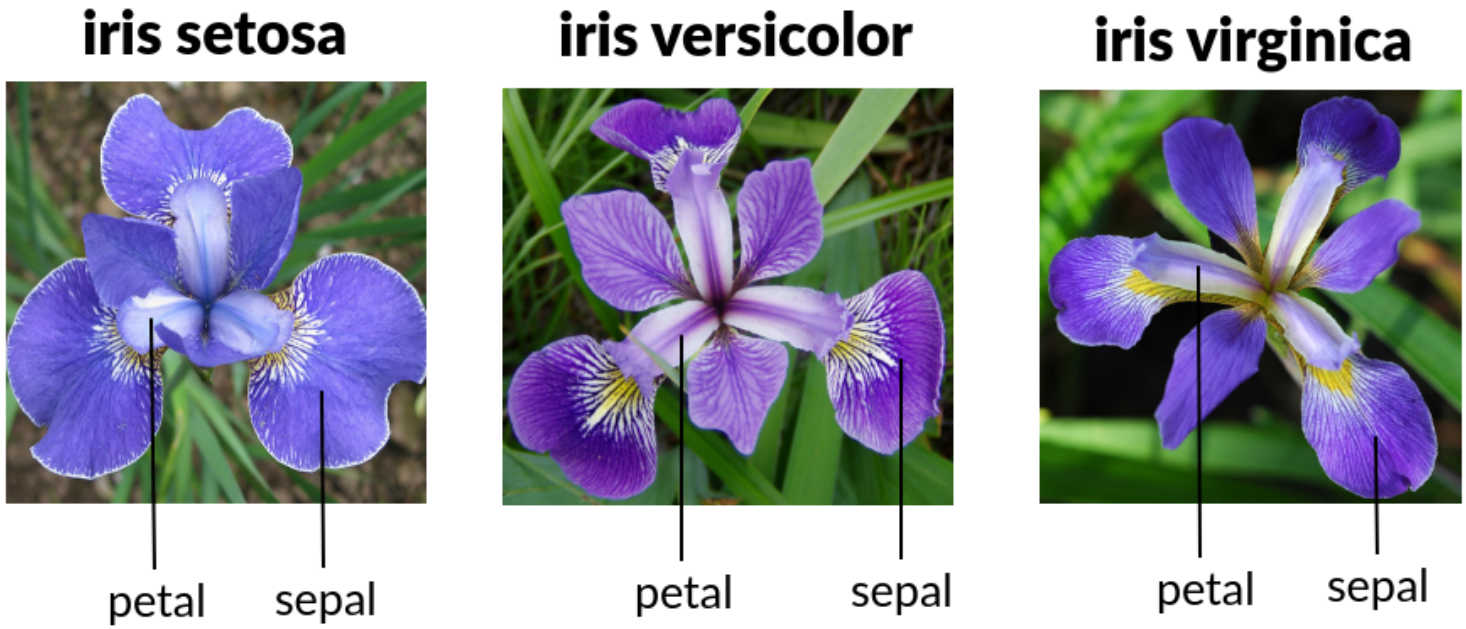
When considering an example $\vec{x}$ in the node τ, we follow the edge

- e_1 if $A(\vec{x}) \leq v_1$
- e_2 if $v_1 < A(\vec{x}) \leq v_2$
- $\ldots$
- e_i if $v_i < A(\vec{x})$



- $\leq 5 \Rightarrow$ leftmost edge
- > 5 & $\leq 10 \Rightarrow$ second left
- $\ldots$

Iris Example



Attributes

Sepal.Length, Sepal.Width, Petal.Length, Petal.Width

Classes (Variety)

Setosa, Versicolor, Virginica

Iris Example

The dataset (150 examples):

Sepal.Length	Sepal.Width	Petal.Length	Petal.Width	Variety
5.5	3.5	1.3	0.2	Setosa
6.8	2.8	4.8	1.4	Versicolor
6.7	3.1	4.7	1.5	Versicolor
6.9	3.1	5.1	2.3	Virginica
7.3	2.9	6.3	1.8	Virginica
5.4	3.7	1.5	0.2	Setosa
4.6	3.4	1.4	0.3	Setosa
6.2	2.8	4.8	1.8	Virginica
5.4	3.0	4.5	1.5	Versicolor
4.7	3.2	1.6	0.2	Setosa
6.7	3.3	5.7	2.1	Virginica
5.0	3.4	1.5	0.2	Setosa
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6.0	3.4	4.5	1.6	Versicolor
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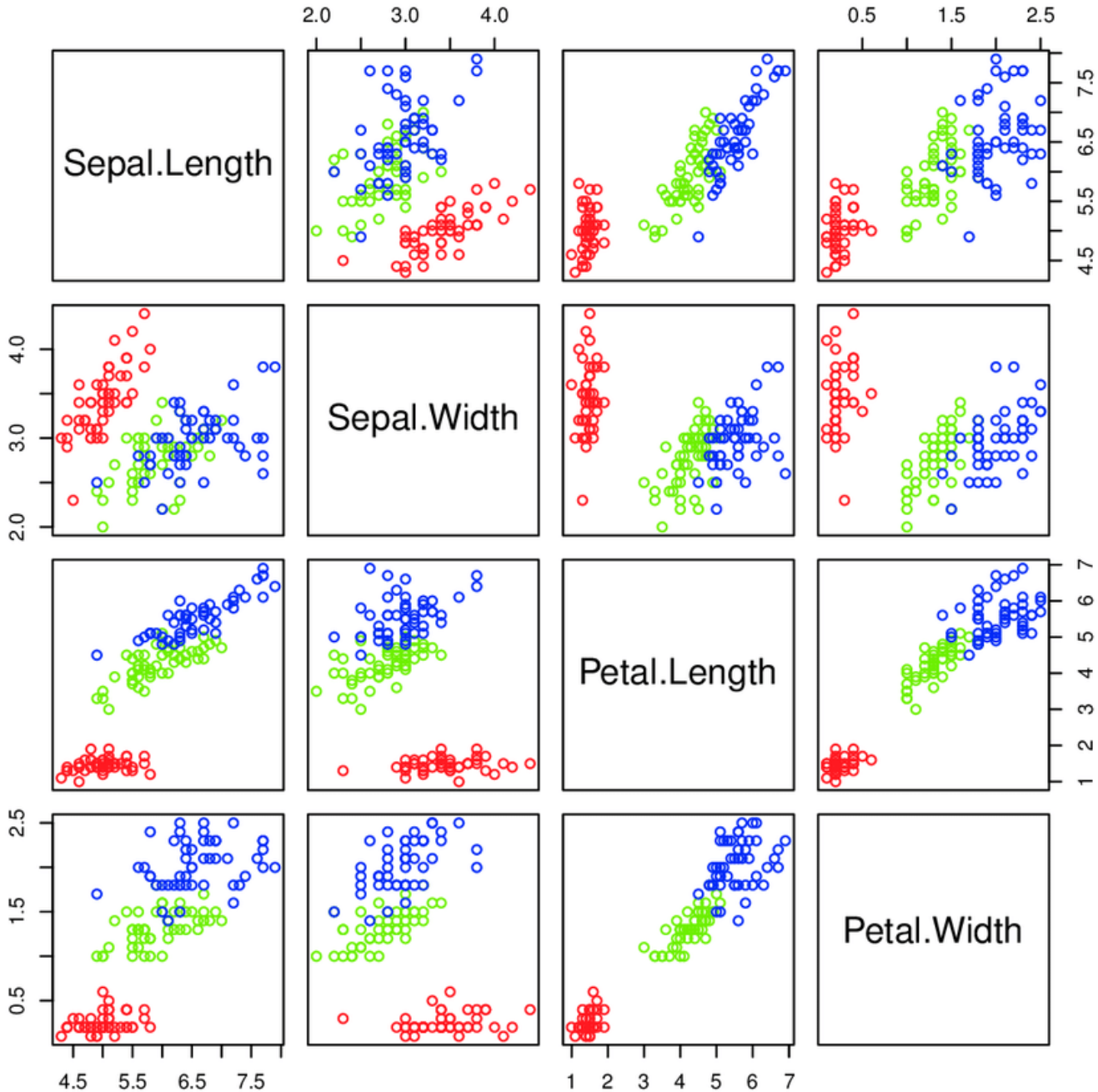
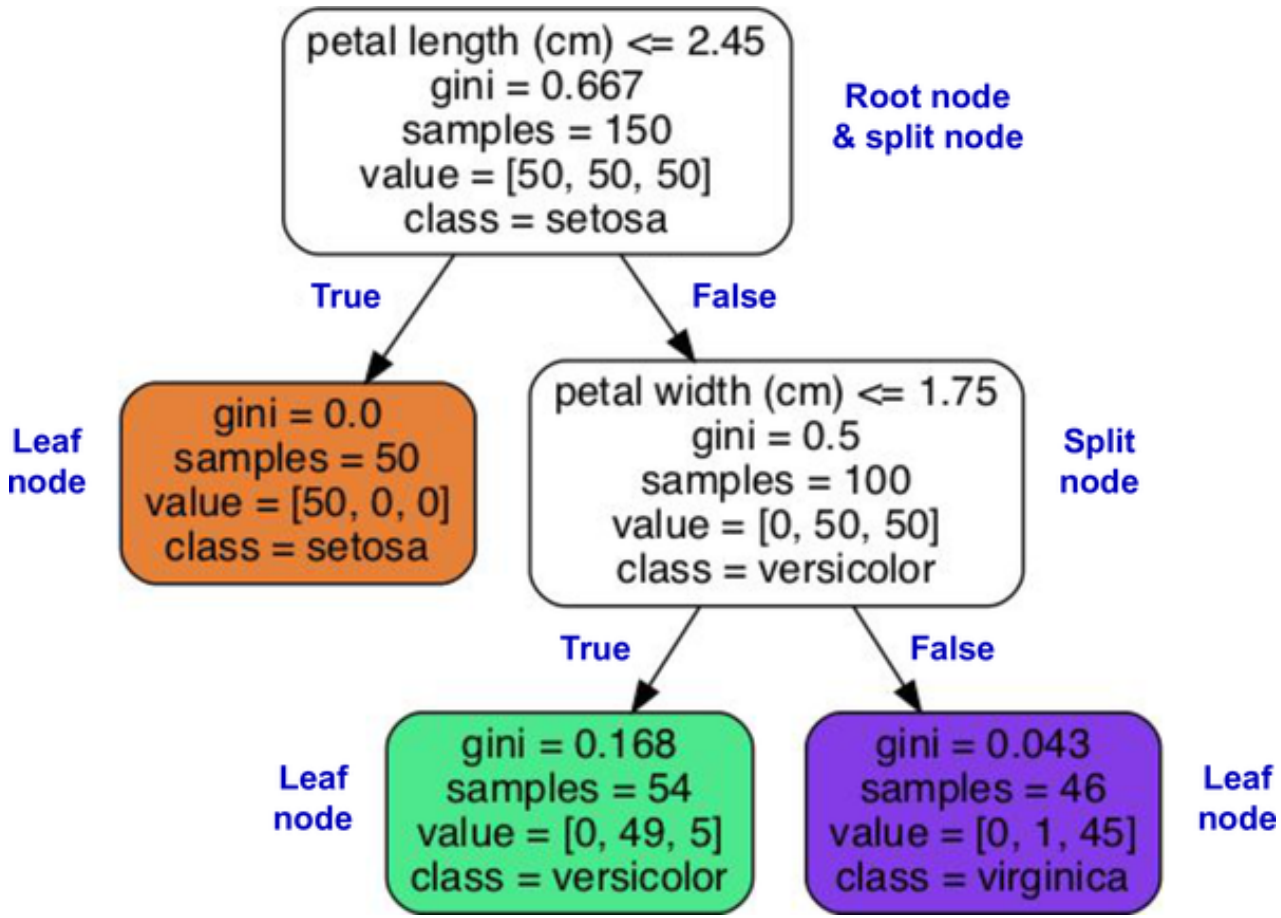
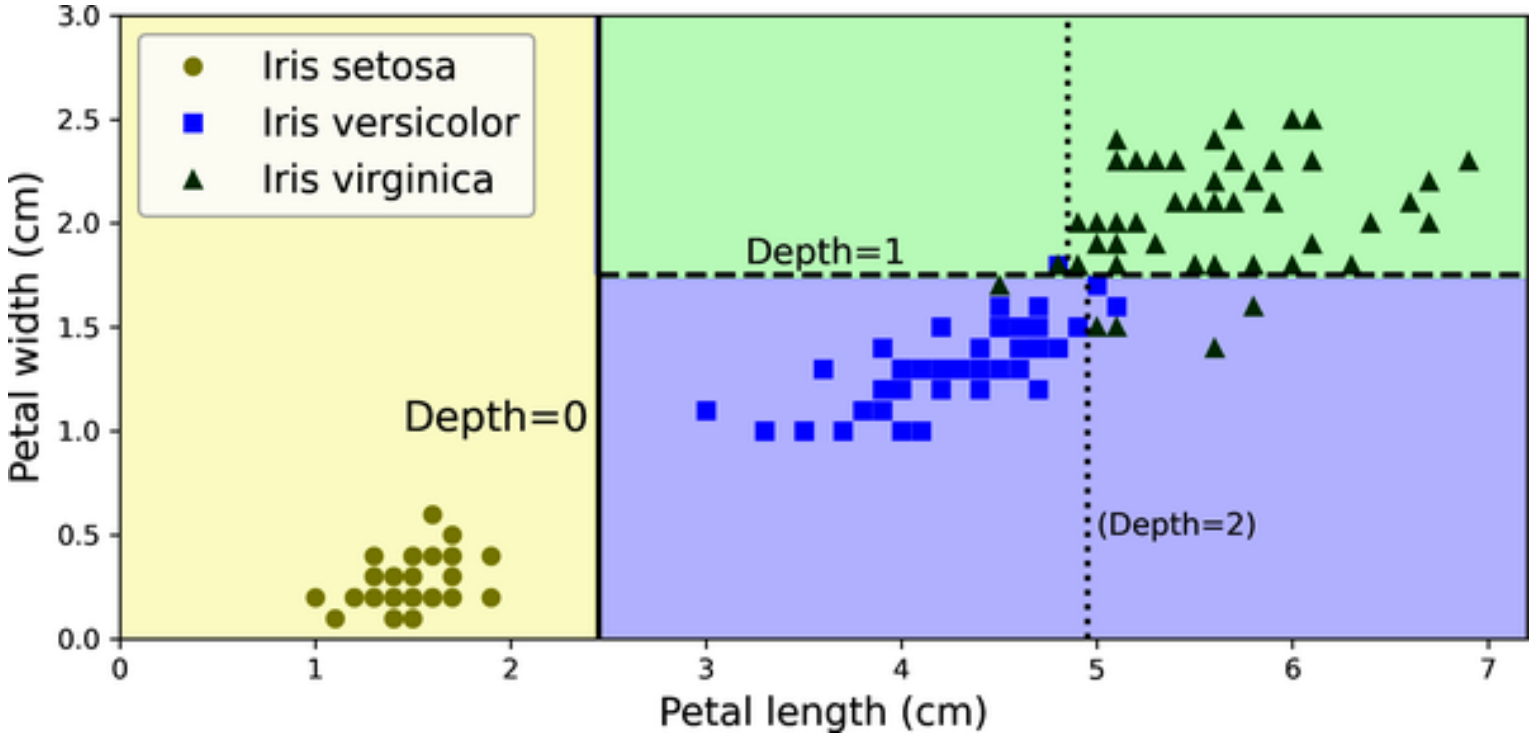


Iris Example - Decision Tree



Iris Example - Decision Tree Boudaries



If the leaves are split further, the Depth $= 2$ boundary would be added.

Attribute Importance Computation

How important are attributes for the trained tree $\mathcal{T}$? Depends on

- how close they are to the root of $\mathcal{T}$,
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There are several formulae for computing the importance.

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Then define the importance as the average decrease in Gini impurity (i.e., average *ImpDec*) in the nodes of $T[A]$:

$$GiniImportance(A) = \sum_{\tau \in T[A]} \frac{|\mathcal{D}[\tau]|}{|\mathcal{D}|} ImpDec(\mathcal{D}[\tau], A)$$

Decision Trees

Practical Issues

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- Data preprocessing
- Model tunning (overfitting and underfitting)
- Sensitivity to changes in data/hyperparameters
- Learning representation problems (the XOR)

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Imbalanced classes might cause problems because of small information gain/impurity decrease in splitting.

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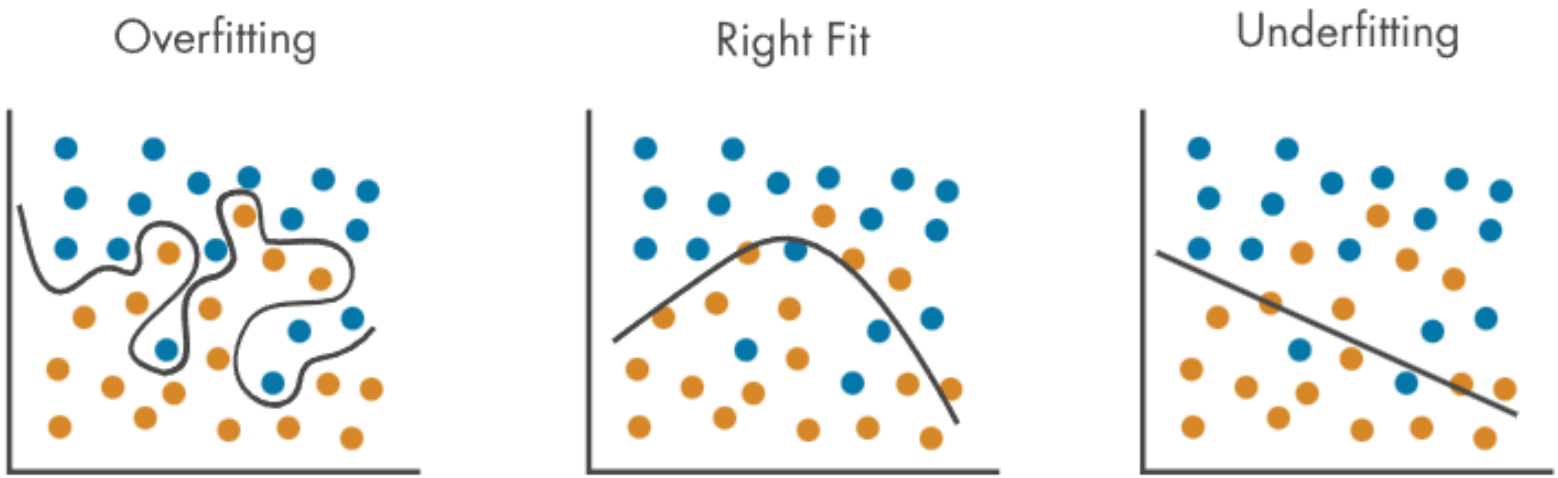
For small $|\mathcal{D}_a|$ (say ≤ 1000) we have small $|\mathcal{D}_a|/|\mathcal{D}|$

For not so small $\mathcal{D}_a$ we have $Gini(\mathcal{D}_a) \approx 0$.

In both cases, the impurity decrease is very small.

Model Tuning - Over/Under Fitting

The behavior of the model on the training set:



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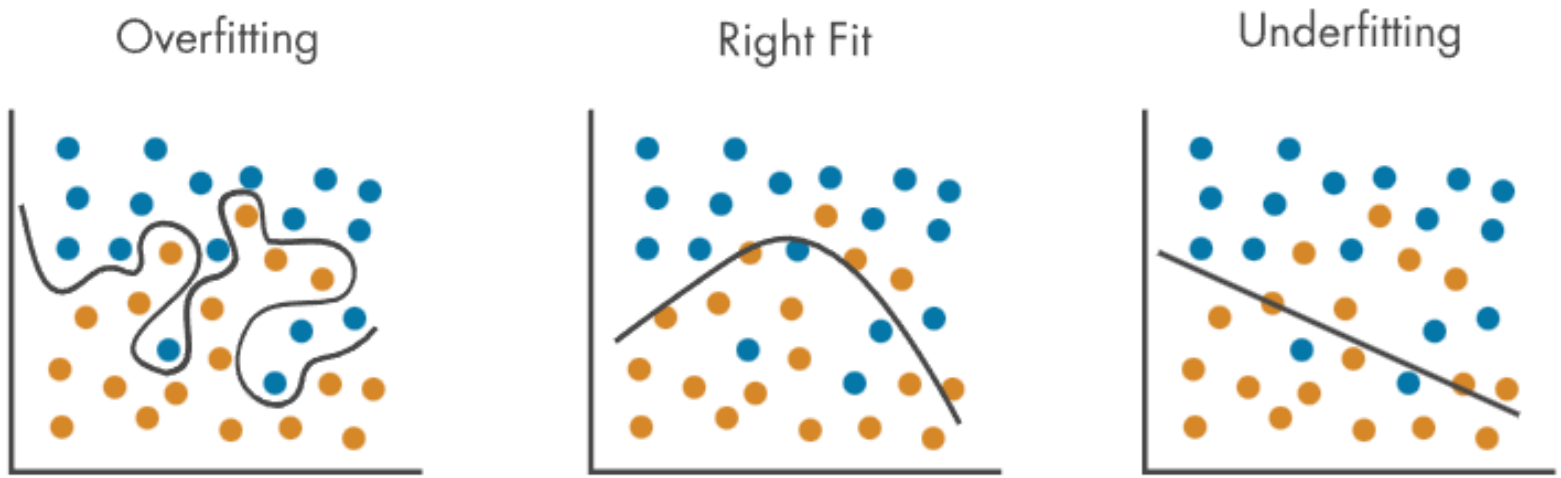

- The left one is strongly overfitting. It would possibly not work well on new data.

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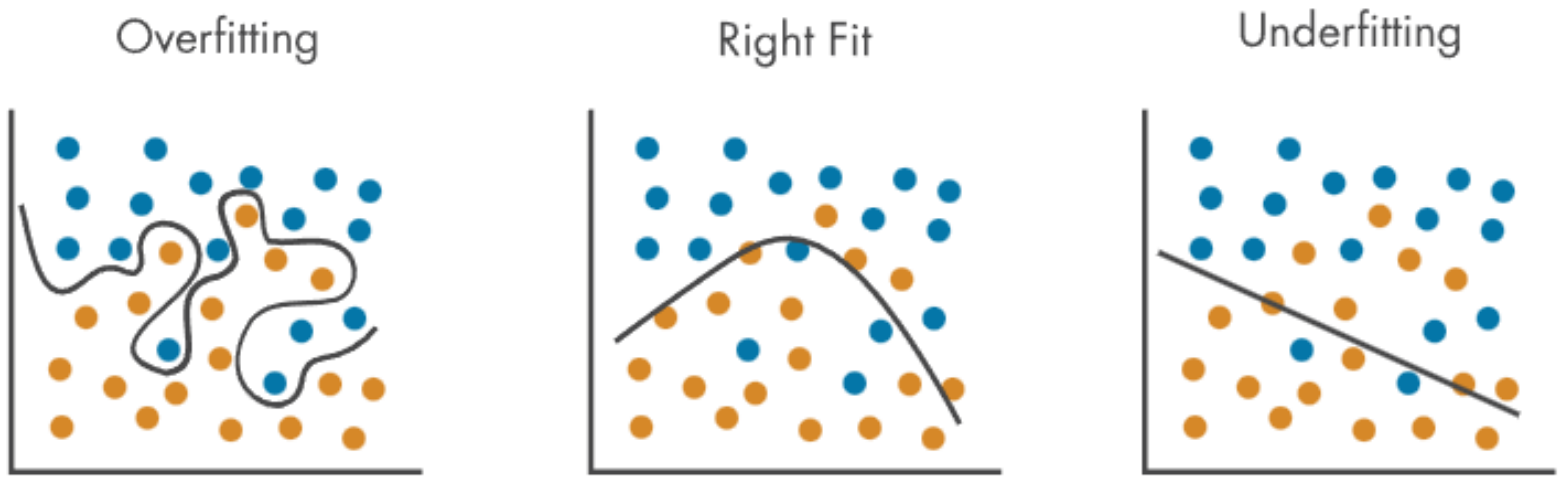

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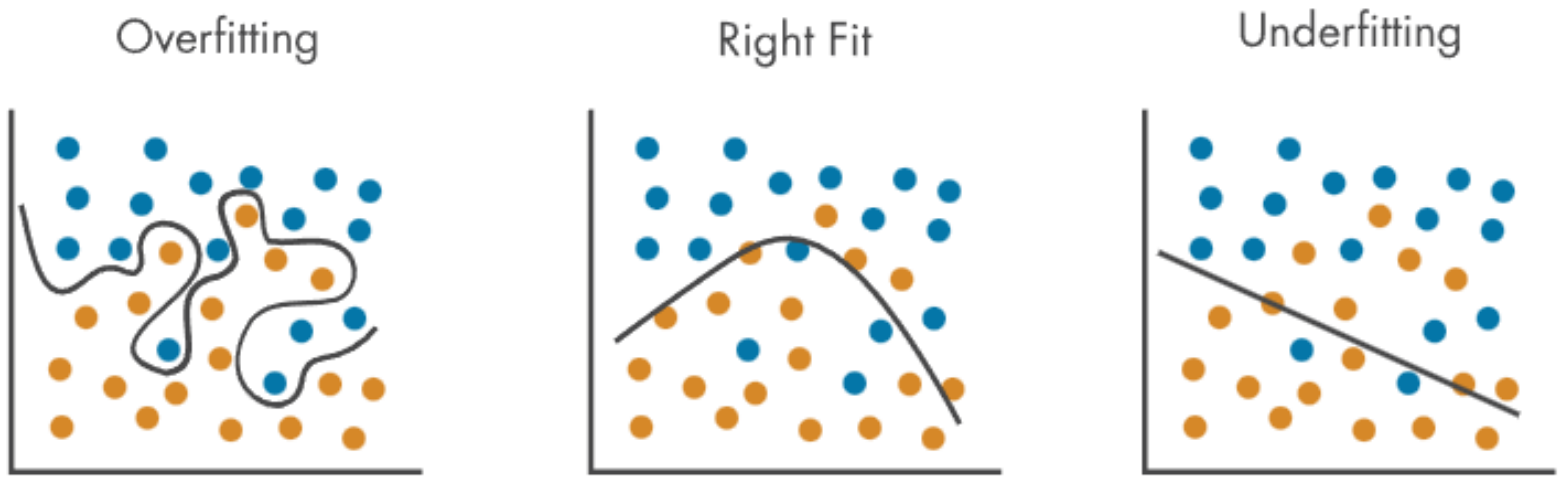

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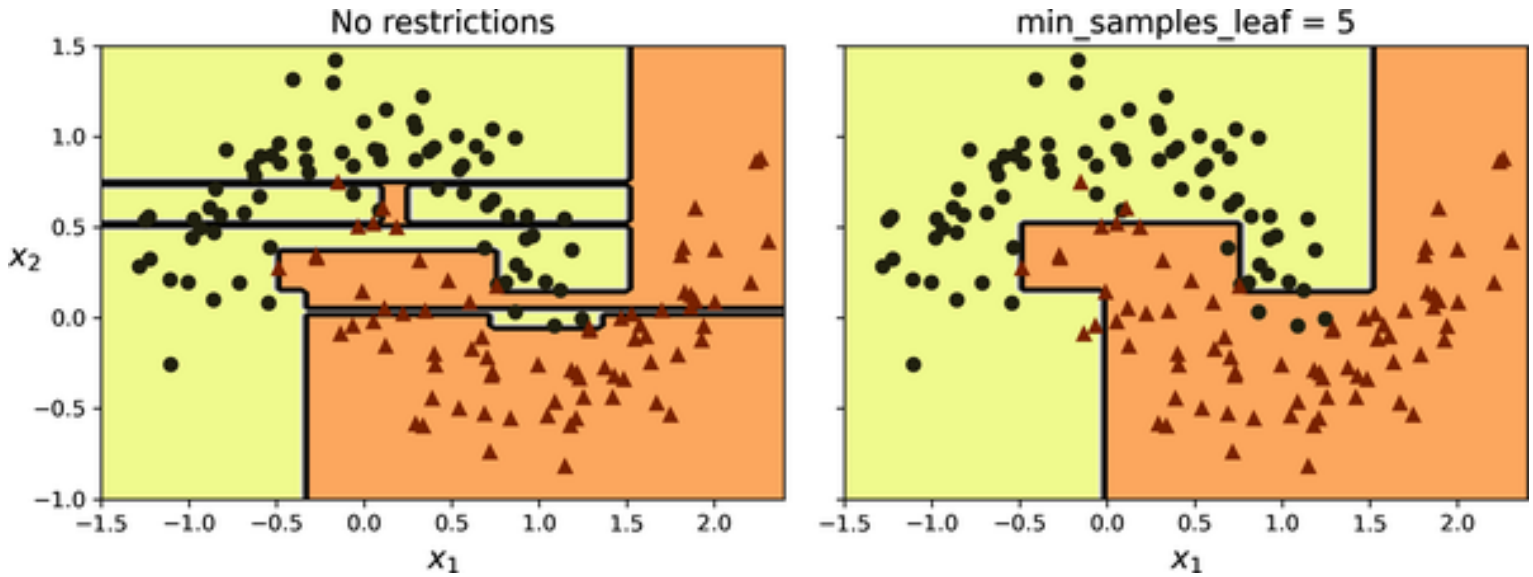
- The right one is strongly underfitting. It would probably give poor classification results.
- The middle one seems to be good (but still needs to be tested on fresh data).

Model Tuning - Oerfittning in Decision Trees

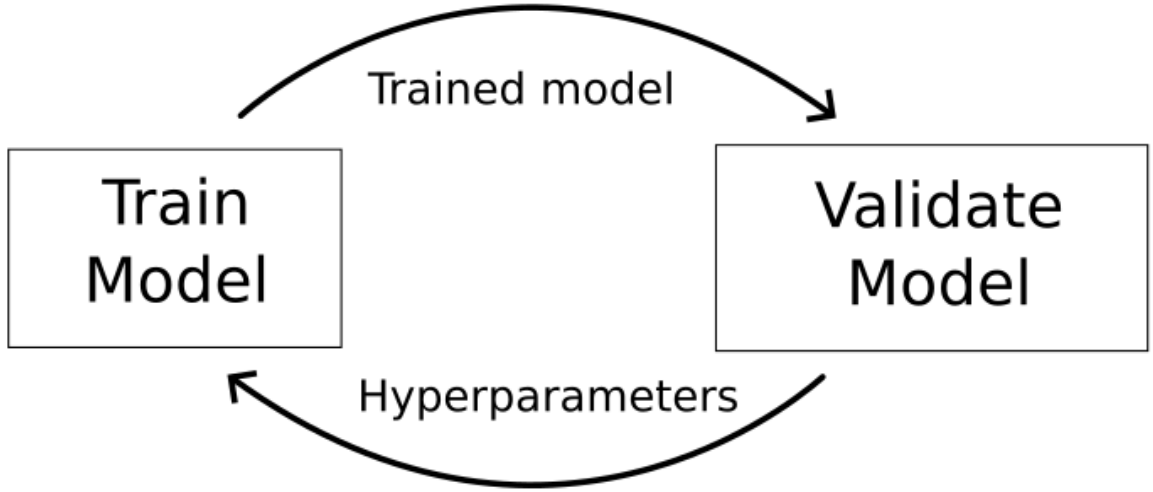


See the overfitting on the left and the "nice" model on the right.

Both overfitting and underfitting are best avoided. But how do we find out?

Model Tuning (In General)

Recall from the first lecture:



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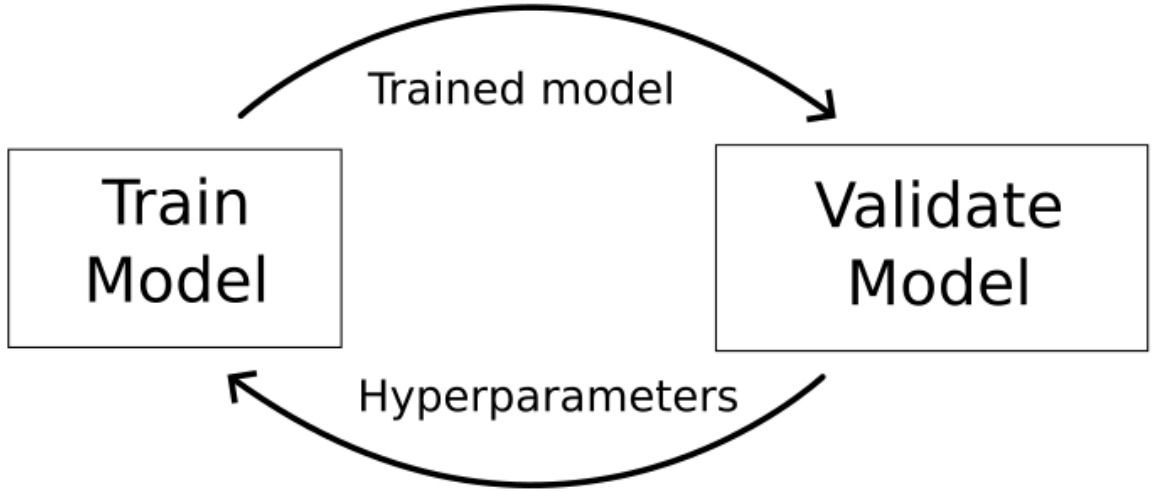

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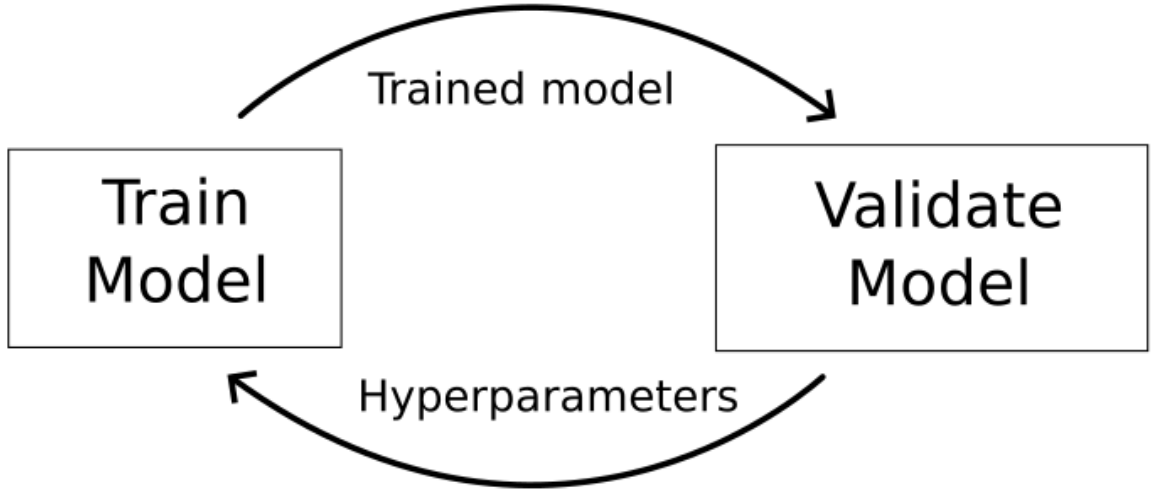

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What to observe? In the case of decision trees, one should observe the difference between performance measures (e.g., classification accuracy) on the training and validation sets.

The too-large difference implies an improperly fitting model.

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There are several approaches available for decision trees.

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The post-pruning approach has been more successful in practice than the pre-pruning because it is usually hard to say when to stop growing the tree.

We shall meet this controversy also in deep learning where recent history shows a similar phenomenon.

The ensemble methods will be covered later when we discuss random forests.

Pre-Prunning - Hyperparamaters

Hyperparameters controlling the size of the tree:

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- Minimum information gain/impurity decrease

  A small impurity decrease means that the split does not contribute too much to the classification (their proportions after a split are similar to proportions before a split). However, keep in mind that it is *weighted average impurity* after the split.

Post-Pruning - Reduced Error Pruning

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1: Train $\mathcal{T}$ to maximum fit on the *training dataset.*
2: **while** true **do**
3: $\quad Err[\mathcal{T}] \leftarrow$ the error of $\mathcal{T}$ on the validation set.
4: $\quad$ **for** $\tau \in \mathcal{T}_{int}$ **do**
5: $\quad\quad Err[\mathcal{T}_{-\tau}] \leftarrow$ the error of $\mathcal{T}_{-\tau}$ on the validation set.
6: $\quad$ **end for**
7: $\quad$ **if** $Err[\mathcal{T}] \leq \min\{Err[\mathcal{T}_{-\tau}] \mid \tau \in \mathcal{T}_{int}\}$ **then return** $\mathcal{T}$
8: $\quad$ **else**
9: $\quad\quad \mathcal{T} \leftarrow argmin\{Err[\mathcal{T}_{-\tau}] \mid \tau \in \mathcal{T}_{int}\}$
10: $\quad$ **end if**
11: **end while**

The error $Err[\mathcal{T}]$ can be any measure of the "badness" of the decision tree $\mathcal{T}$. For example, $1 - Accuracy$.

Other Pruning Methods

There are more pruning methods.

- Rule Post-Pruning:
  - Transform the tree into a set of rules.
    Rules correspond to paths in the tree, they have a form of implication: Specific values of attributes imply a class.
  - Remove the attribute conditions from the premises of the implications.

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  Typically introduce regularization into the error functions: Given a decision tree $\mathcal{T}$

  $$Err_\alpha(\mathcal{T}) = Err(\mathcal{T}) + \alpha|\mathcal{T}|$$

  The original paper by Breiman et al (1984) defined $Err(\mathcal{T})$ to be the misclassification rate on the training dataset and $|\mathcal{T}|$ is the number of nodes of the tree $\mathcal{T}$.

Sensitivity to Small Changes and Randomness

- Decision trees are sensitive to small changes in data and hyperparameters.

  Several attributes may provide (almost) identical information gain but divide the training dataset very differently.
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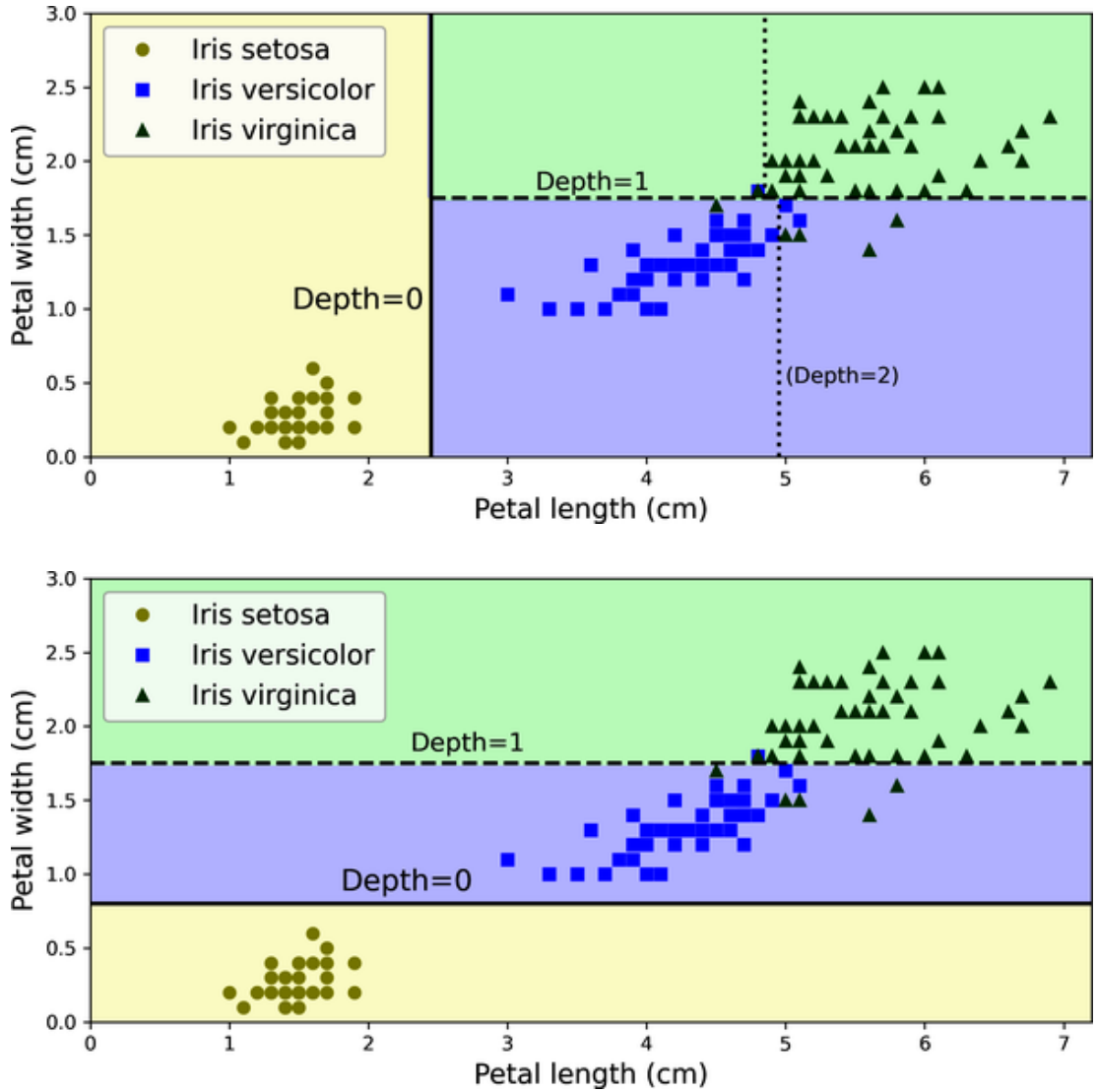
A solution is to train an ensemble of many decision trees and then use majority voting for classification.

This is the fundamental idea behind random forests (see later lectures).

Iris - Illustration

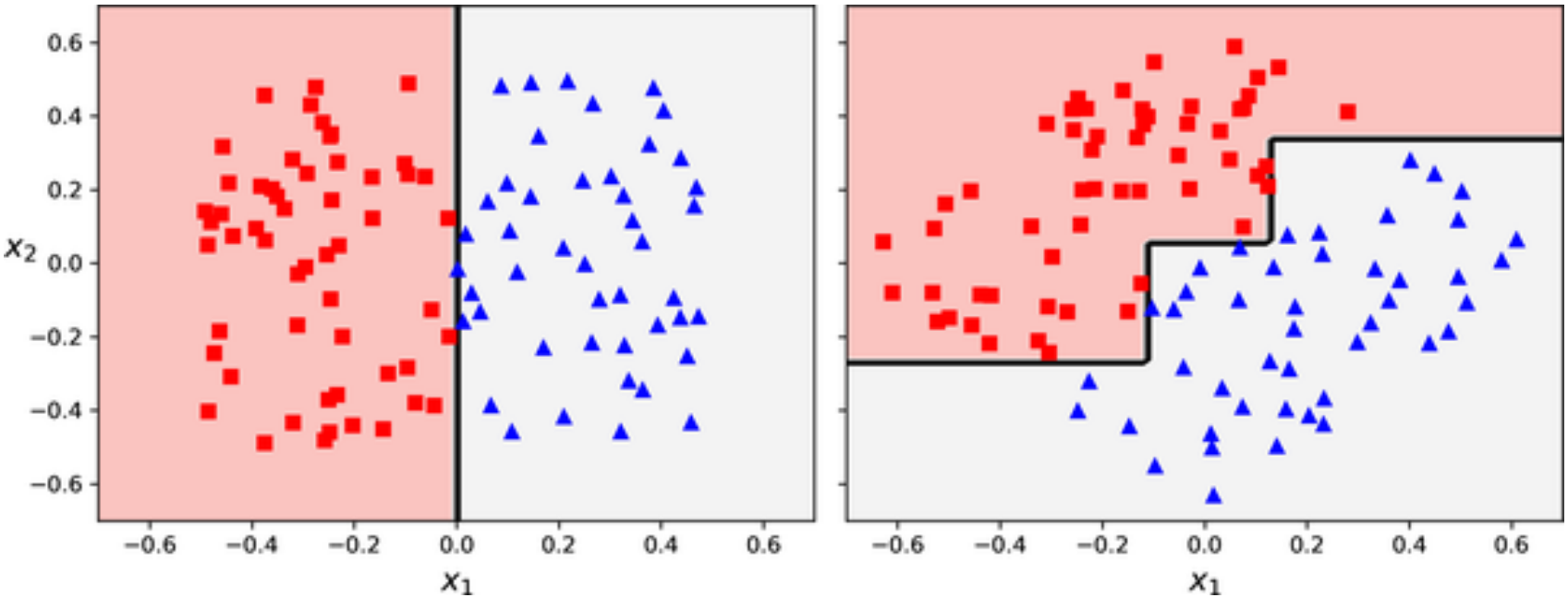


Decision trees trained on the Iris dataset.

Iris setosa is perfectly separated by many choices for the first split.

Axis Sensitivity

The decision makes divisions along particular axes:

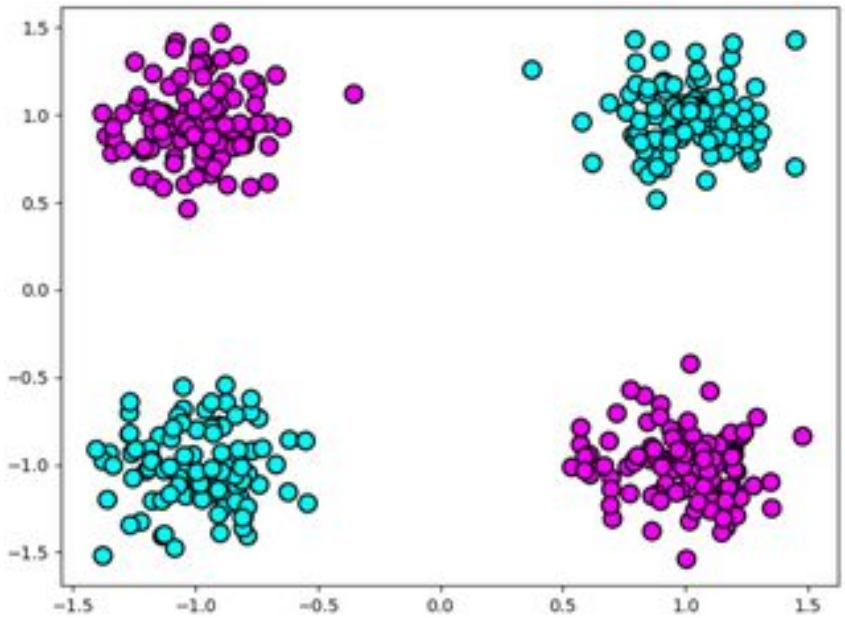


That is, rotated data may result in a completely different model.

That is why decision trees are often preceded by the *principal component analysis (PCA)* transformation, which aligns data along the axes of maximum data variance.

XOR Training Problem

Consider the following training dataset:



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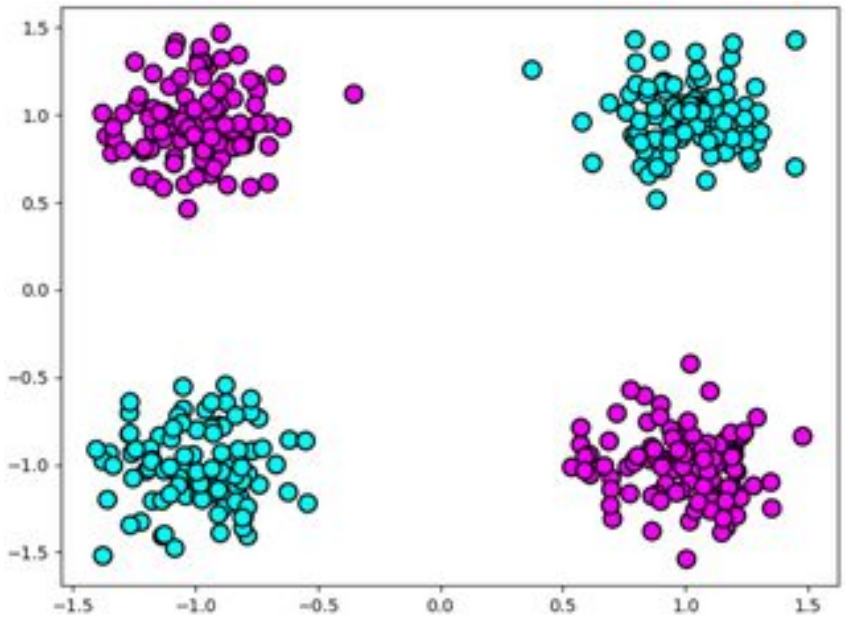
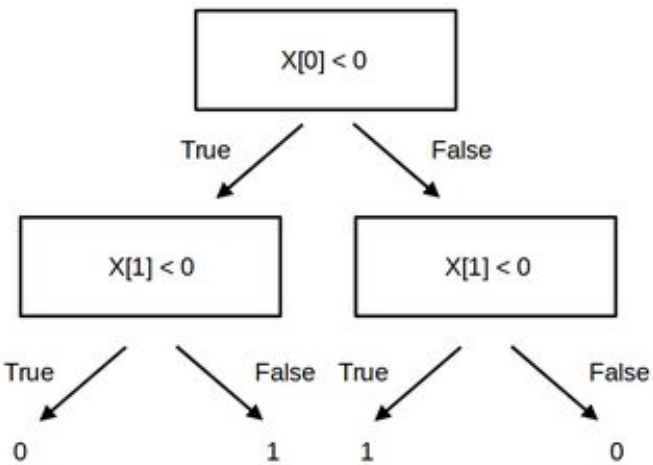
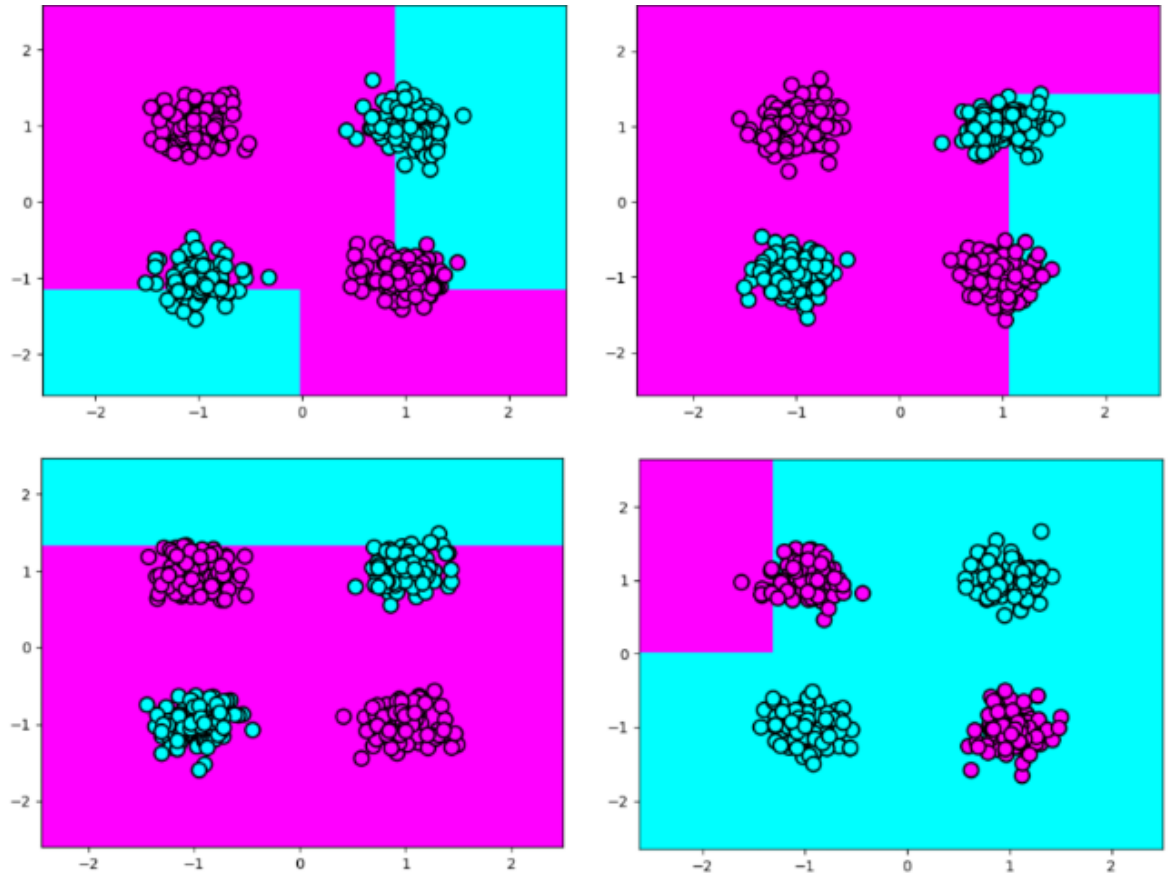


An ideal decision tree would look like this:



Attempts at Training on XOR

Max depth $= 2$:



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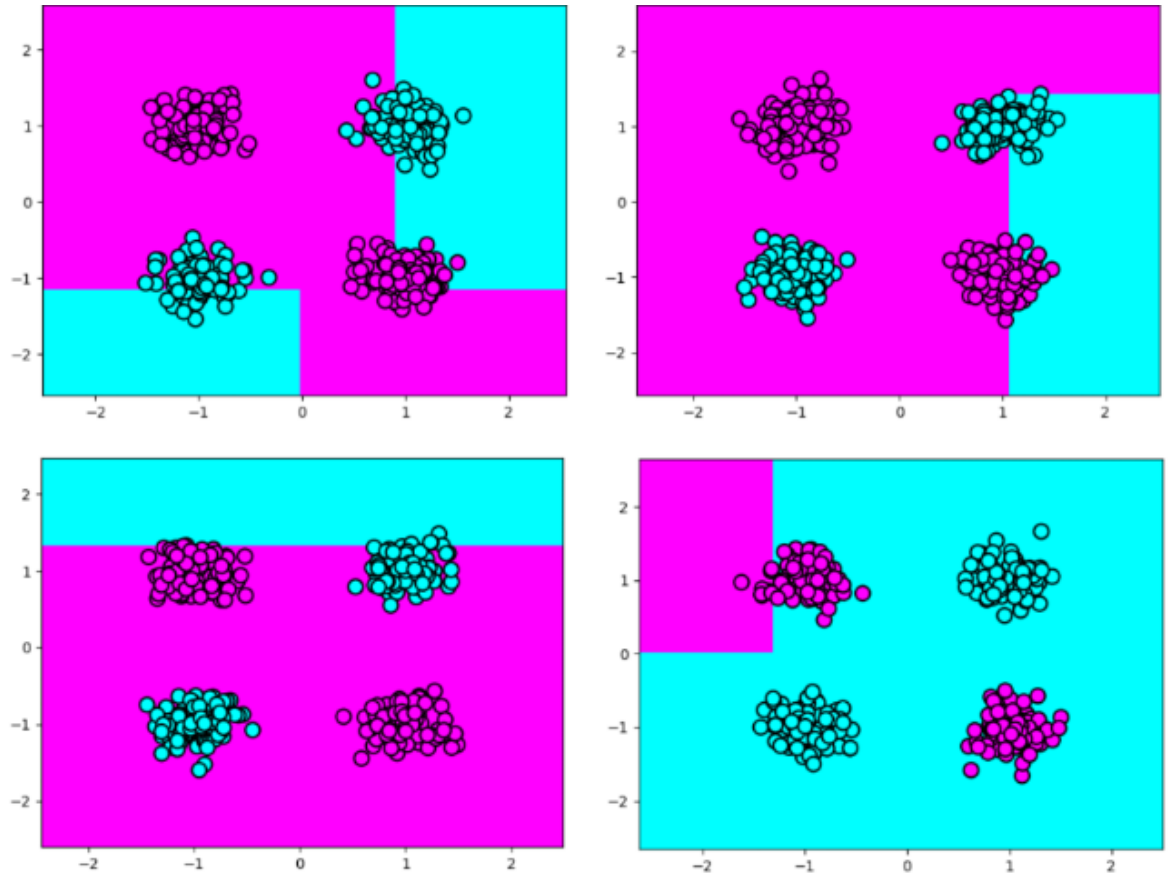
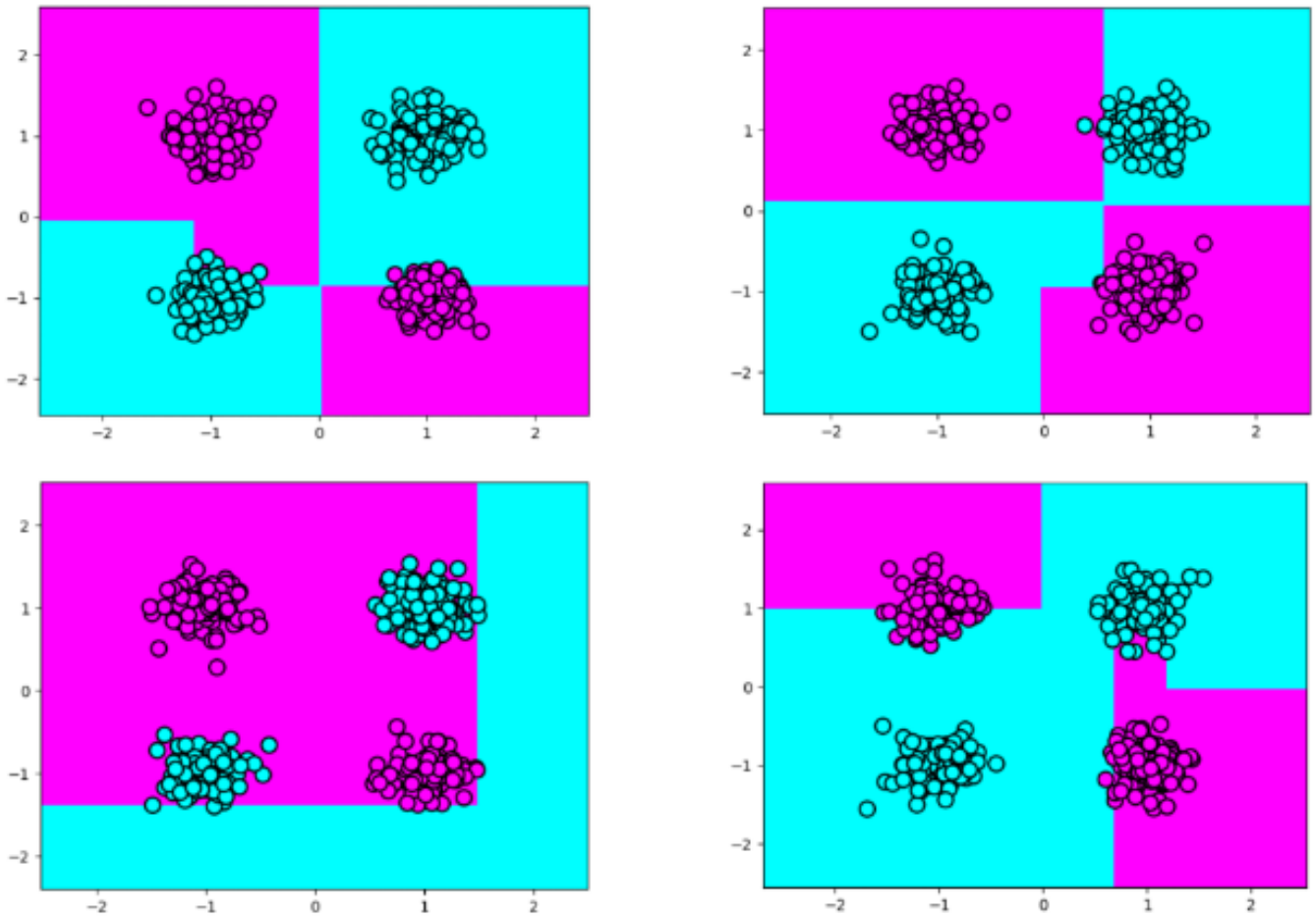


The problem: Both information gain and decrease in impurity consider only the relationship of a *single* attribute and the class.

However, there is no relationship between a single attribute and the class, both attributes need to be considered together!

More Attempts at Training on XOR

Max depth = 3:



Better but still fails occasionally.

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- Simple to understand and interpret; trees can be visualized.
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- The cost of using a well-balanced tree is logarithmic in the number of data points used to train it.

Disadvantages of Decision Trees

- Overfitting: Trees can be over-complex and not generalize well, needing pruning or limits on tree depth.
- Instability: Small data variations can result in very different trees. This is mitigated in ensemble methods.
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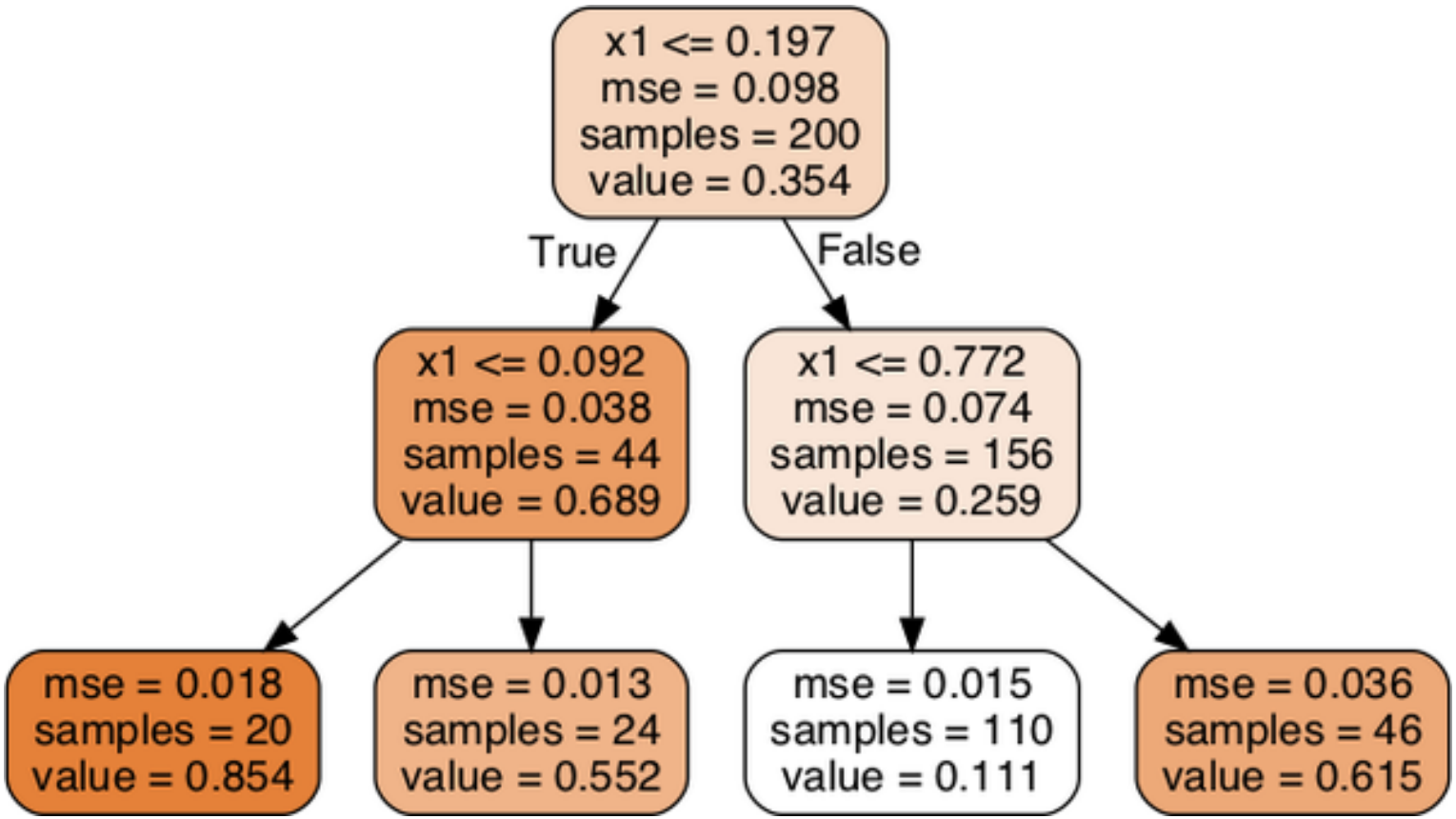
- Learning optimal trees is NP-complete: Heuristic algorithms like greedy algorithms are used, which do not guarantee globally optimal trees. Ensemble methods can help.

History of Decision Trees

- Hunt and colleagues use exhaustive search decision-tree methods (CLS) to model human concept learning in the 1960's.
- In the late 70's, Quinlan developed ID3 with the information gain heuristic to learn expert systems from examples.
- Simultaneously, Breiman, Friedman, and colleagues develop CART (Classification and Regression Trees), similar to ID3.
- In the 1980's a variety of improvements were introduced to handle noise, continuous features, missing features, and improved splitting criteria. Various expert-system development tools results.
- Quinlan's updated decision-tree package (C4.5) released in 1993.

Comment on Regression Trees

Decision trees can also be used to approximate functions. Assign a function value to the leaves instead of classes.



Here "mse" is the mean-squared-error. We get to this notion later in connection with linear models and neural networks.

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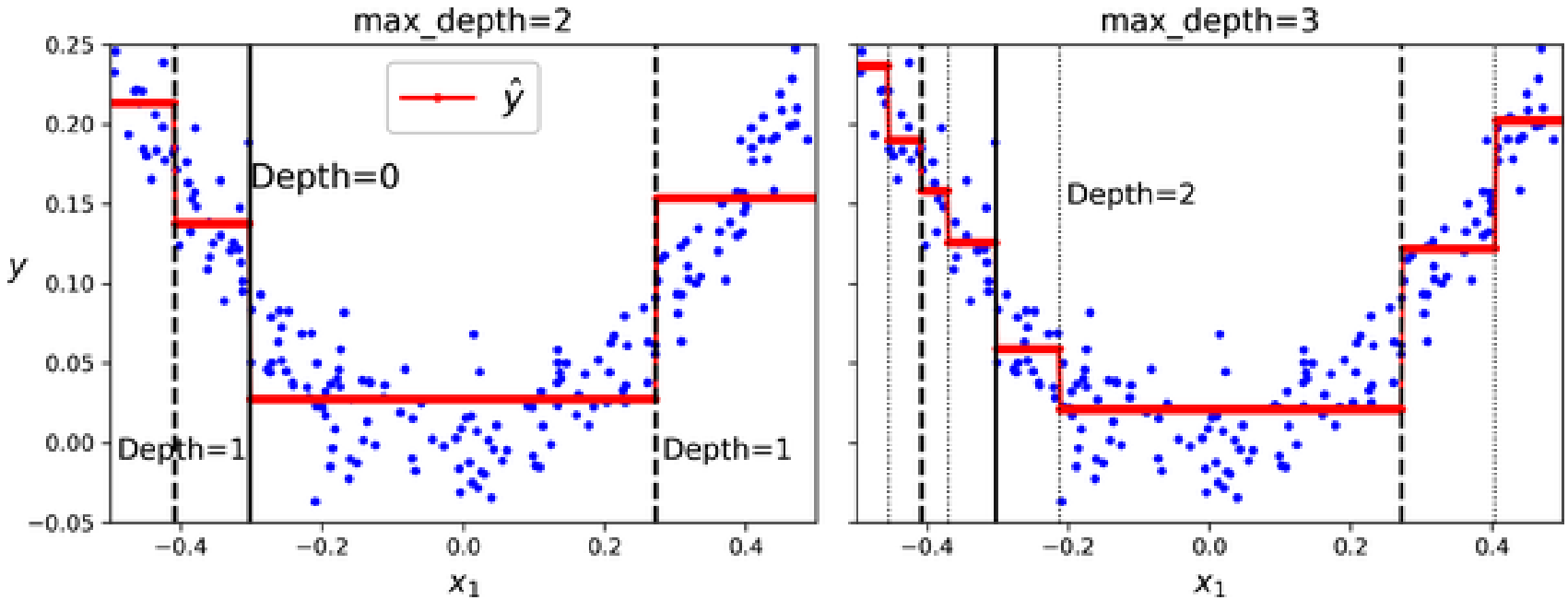

Intuitively, for every subinterval of x_1 the value (the red line) is at the average y over the subinterval.

How are the subintervals being set? We will answer this question later once we master the mean-squared error.