**8.1 Briefly outline the major steps of decision tree classification.**

A decision tree can be used to partition class-labeled data. The decision tree algorithm is typically run on training data, then the generalizability is tested on new data. A decision tree consists of internal nodes (attributes tests), branches (outcome of the attribute test), and leaves or terminal nodes (holds the class label for the entire branch). The goal of decision tree classification is to create branches that are as pure as possible (samples that are homogenous on the class label). The decision tree process begins with the full training data set. If all tuples are of the same class, the process stops there. If not, an attribute selection method is chosen to determine which attribute to split on first.

The book covers three attribute selection methods: information gain, gain ratio, and the Gini index. Information gain is based on the decrease in entropy (a measure of purity/homogeneity, 0 = completely homogenous) due to sorting the training data on that node/attribute compared to not being sorted on any attribute at all. Conditional entropy (entropy after sorting on a given attribute) is subtracted from entropy of the sample. The attribute with the highest information gain (greatest difference between conditional entropy and entropy of the whole sample) becomes the first node. The process is repeated within each branch.

The information gain attribute selection method is biased toward attributes with many values. The more values there are on an attribute, the more likely each branch is to be homogenous/pure. Gain ratio is used to address this bias. The gain ratio is calculated by dividing the information gain of a given attribute by splitinfo, a measure of variation in attribute value distribution. Gain ratio improves on information gain by considering the number of branches created if the data are split on that attribute and favoring attributes that results in fewer branches (less likely to overfit). Once an attribute has been selected

The gini index performs only binary splits. It is a measure of impurity, indicating the variation within each node on the class label. The attribute with the lowest gini score is selected. Once an attribute has been selected, the process is repeated within each branch.

Partitioning stops when all tuples belong to the same class, when the data have been split on all attributes, or when there are no tuples for a given branch.

Once the tree is complete on the training data, it may still need to be “pruned.” Pruning is necessary when the decision tree has been overfit to the training data, which could mean the tree is either too large (too many branches) and/or does not perform well on new data. To prune the tree, one may compare a goodness of fit measure (e.g. the attribute selection measures described above) with and without a given branch. If the measure improves, the branch is removed. Pruning generally begins at the bottom of the tree and moves up.

**8.6 Why is naive Bayesian classification called “naive”? Briefly outline the major ideas of**

**naive Bayesian classification.**

**8.12 The data tuples of Figure 8.25 are sorted by decreasing probability value, as returned by**

**a classifier. For each tuple, compute the values for the number of true positives .*TP*/,**

**false positives .*FP*/, true negatives .*TN*/, and false negatives .*FN*/. Compute the true**

**positive rate .*TPR*/ and false positive rate .*FPR*/. Plot the ROC curve for the data.**

**8.14 Suppose that we want to *select between two prediction models*, *M*1 and *M*2. We have**

**performed 10 rounds of 10-fold cross-validation on each model, where the same data**

**partitioning in round *i* is used for both *M*1 and *M*2. The error rates obtained for*M*1 are**

**30.5, 32.2, 20.7, 20.6, 31.0, 41.0, 27.7, 26.0, 21.5, 26.0. The error rates for *M*2 are 22.4,**

**14.5, 22.4, 19.6, 20.7, 20.4, 22.1, 19.4, 16.2, 35.0. Comment on whether one model is**

**significantly better than the other considering a significance level of 1%.**