

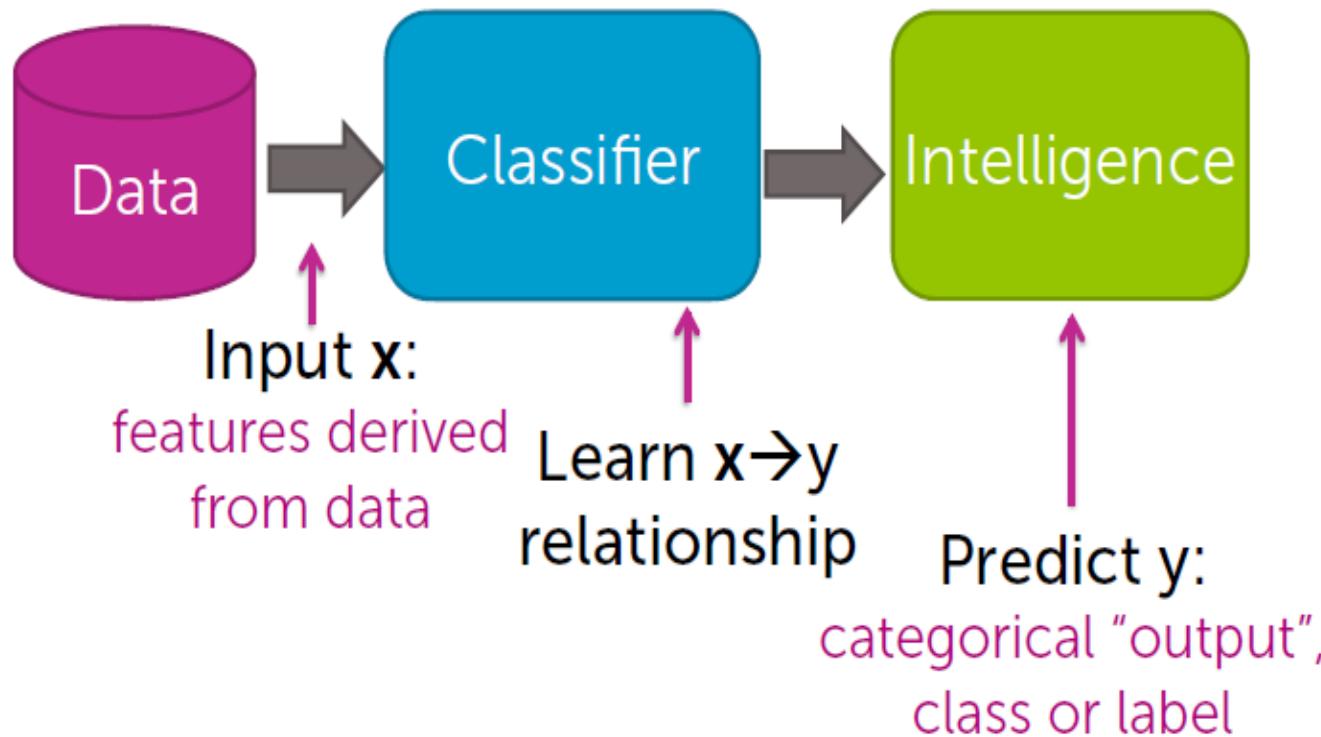
# INTRODUCTION TO DATA SCIENCE

This lecture is  
based on course by E. Fox and C. Guestrin, Univ of Washington

# What is a classification?

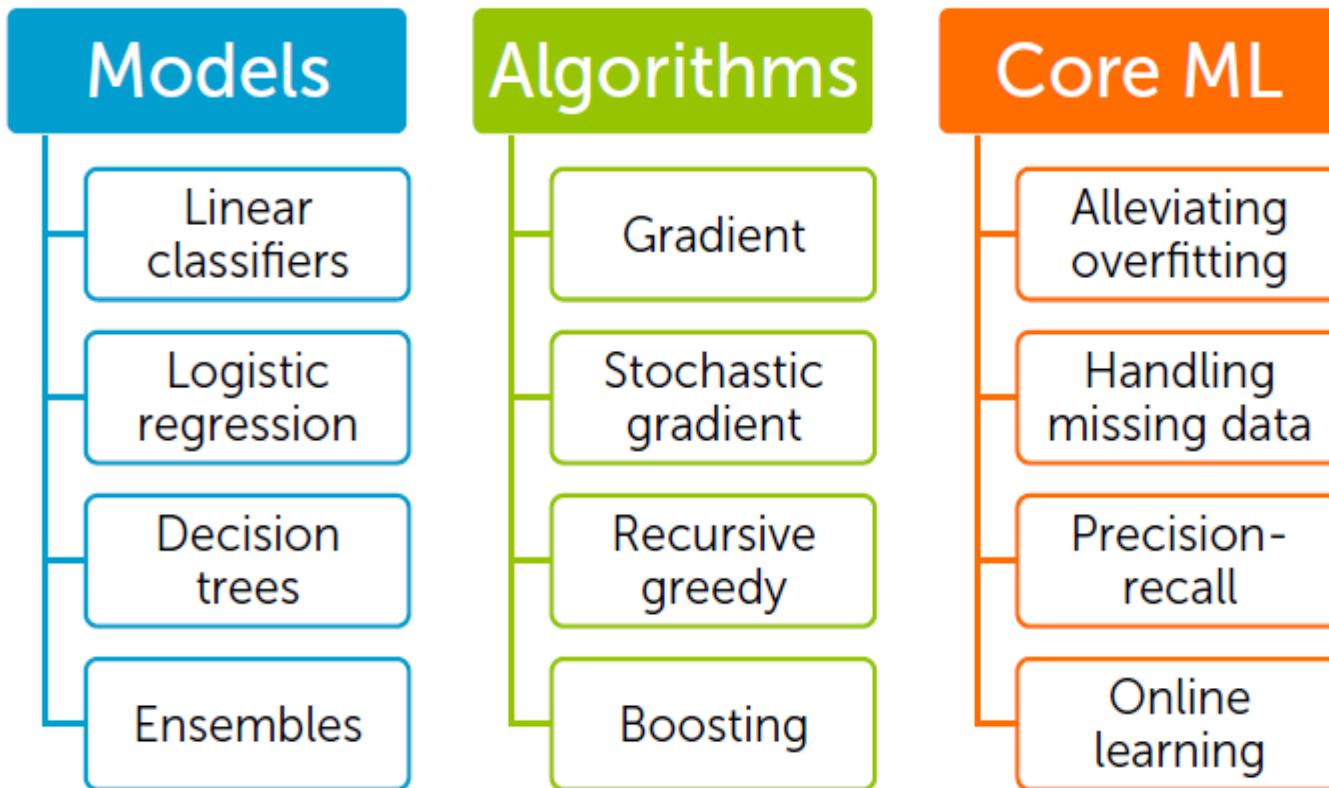
2

From features to predictions



# Overview of the content

3



# Linear classifier

# An intelligent restaurant review system

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It's a big day & I want to book a table at  
a nice Japanese restaurant

Seattle has many  
★★★★★  
sushi restaurants



What are people  
saying about  
the food?  
the ambiance?...



# Reviews

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## Positive reviews not positive about everything

Sample review:

Watching the chefs create incredible edible art made the experience very unique.



My wife tried their ramen and it was pretty forgettable.



All the sushi was delicious! Easily best sushi in Seattle.

# Classifying sentiment of review

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Easily best sushi in Seattle.

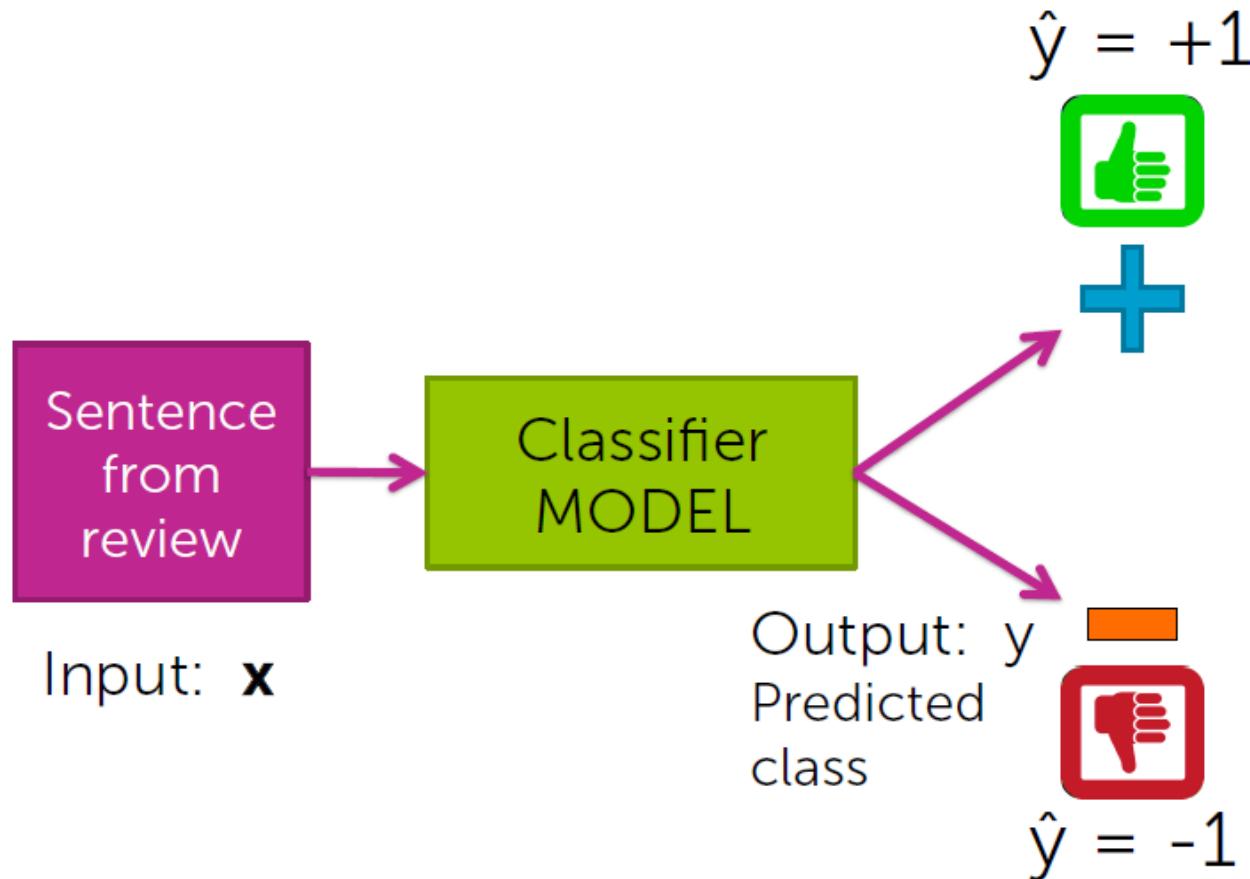


Sentence Sentiment  
Classifier



# Classifier

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Note: we'll start talking about 2 classes, and address multiclass later

# A (linear) classifier

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Will use training data to learn a weight for each word

Word	Weight
good	1.0
great	1.5
awesome	2.7
bad	-1.0
terrible	-2.1
awful	-3.3
restaurant, the, we, where, ...	0.0
...	...

# Scoring a sentence

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Word	Coefficient
good	1.0
great	1.2
awesome	1.7
bad	-1.0
terrible	-2.1
awful	-3.3
restaurant, the, we, where, ...	0.0
...	...

Input  $\mathbf{x}_i$ :

Sushi was great,  
the food was awesome,  
but the service was terrible.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Score}(x_i) &= 1.2 + 1.7 - 2.1 \\ &= 0.8 > 0 \\ \Rightarrow y &= +1 \\ &\text{positive review} \end{aligned}$$

Called a linear classifier, because output is weighted sum of input.

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# Simple linear classifier

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Word	Coefficient
...	...



## Simple linear classifier

$\text{Score}(\mathbf{x})$  = weighted count of words in sentence

If  $\text{Score}(\mathbf{x}) > 0$ :

$$\hat{y} = +1$$

Else:

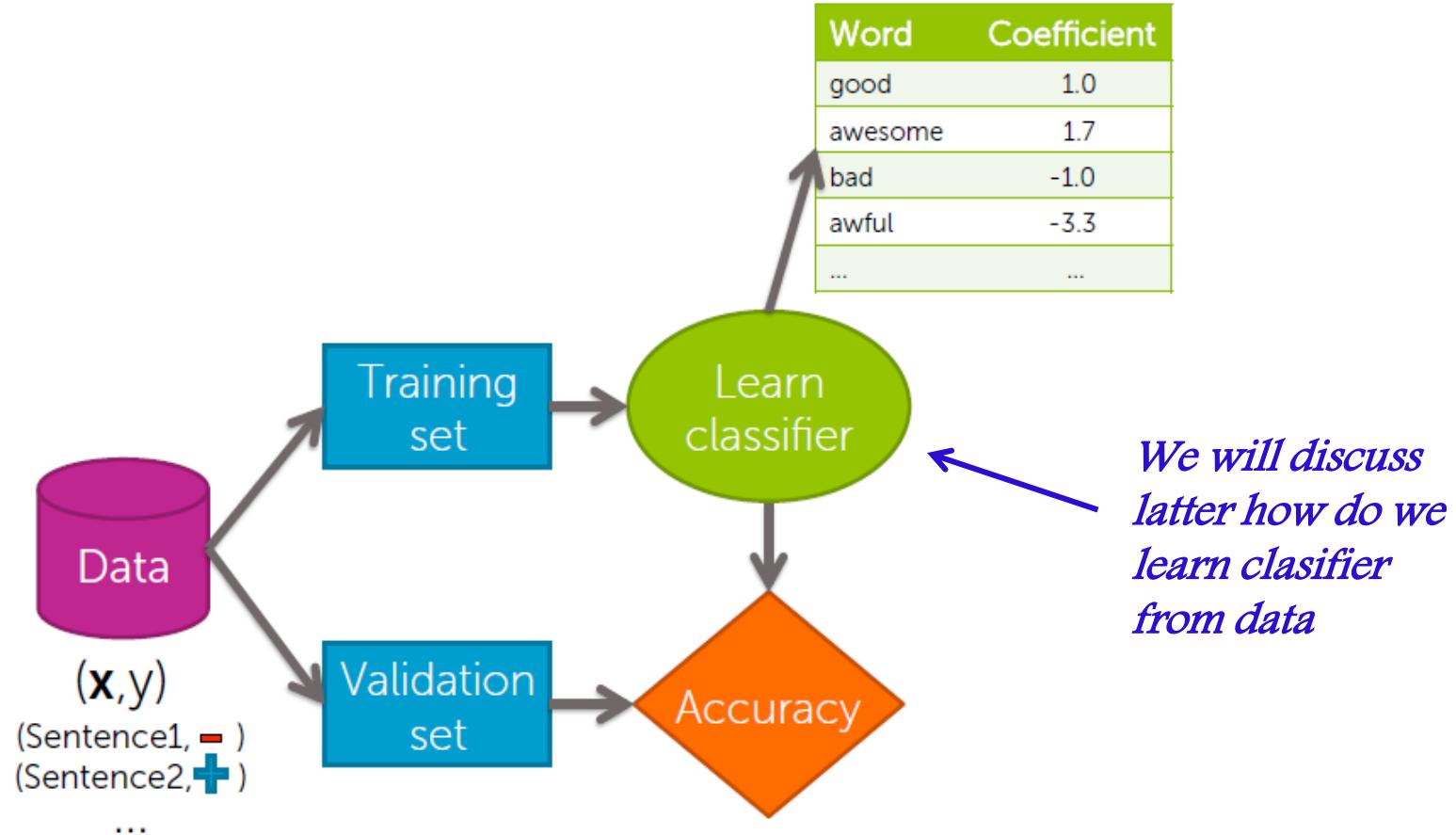
$$\hat{y} = -1$$

Sentence  
from  
review

Input:  $\mathbf{x}$

# Training a classifier = Learning the coefficients

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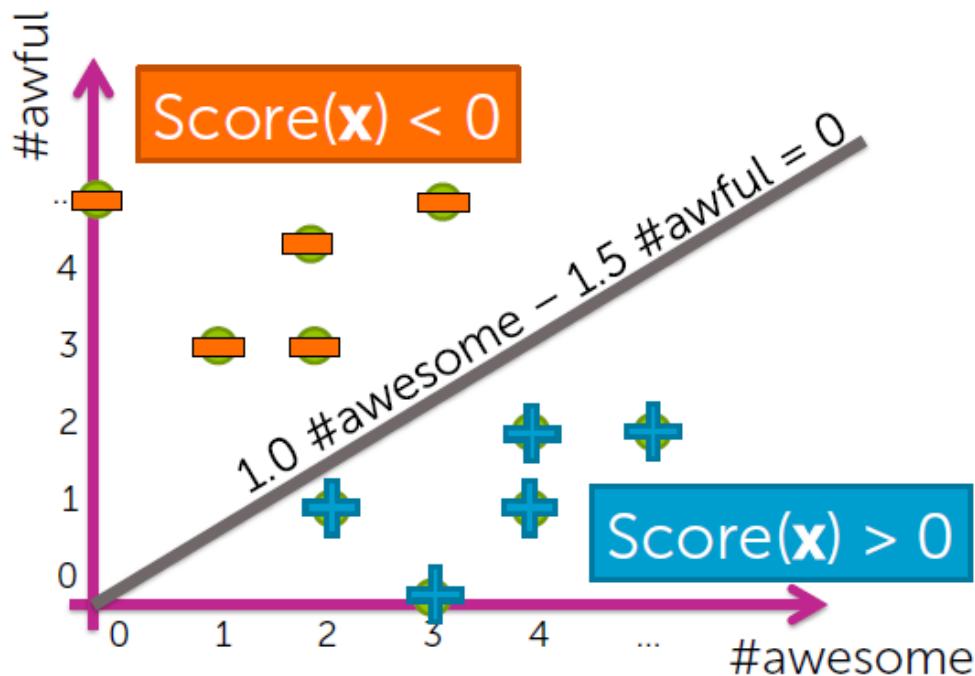
# Decision boundary example

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Word	Coefficient
#awesome	1.0
#awful	-1.5



$$\text{Score}(x) = 1.0 \text{ #awesome} - 1.5 \text{ #awful}$$

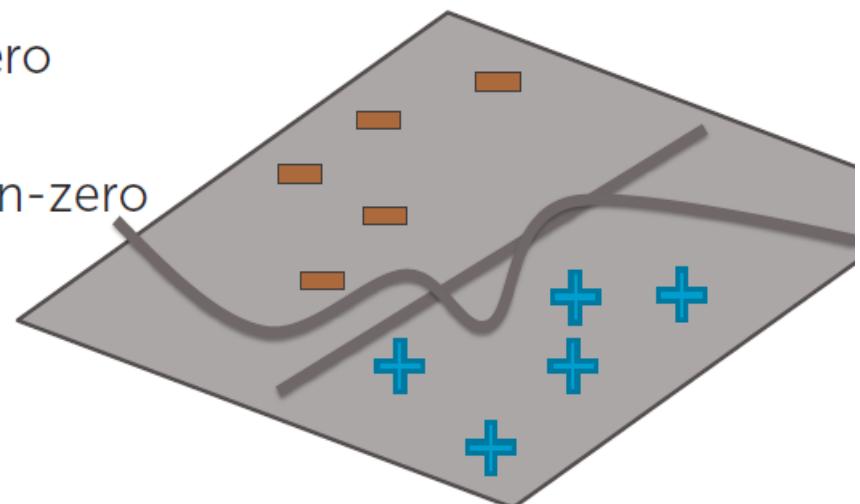


# Decision boundary

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Decision boundary separates positive & negative predictions

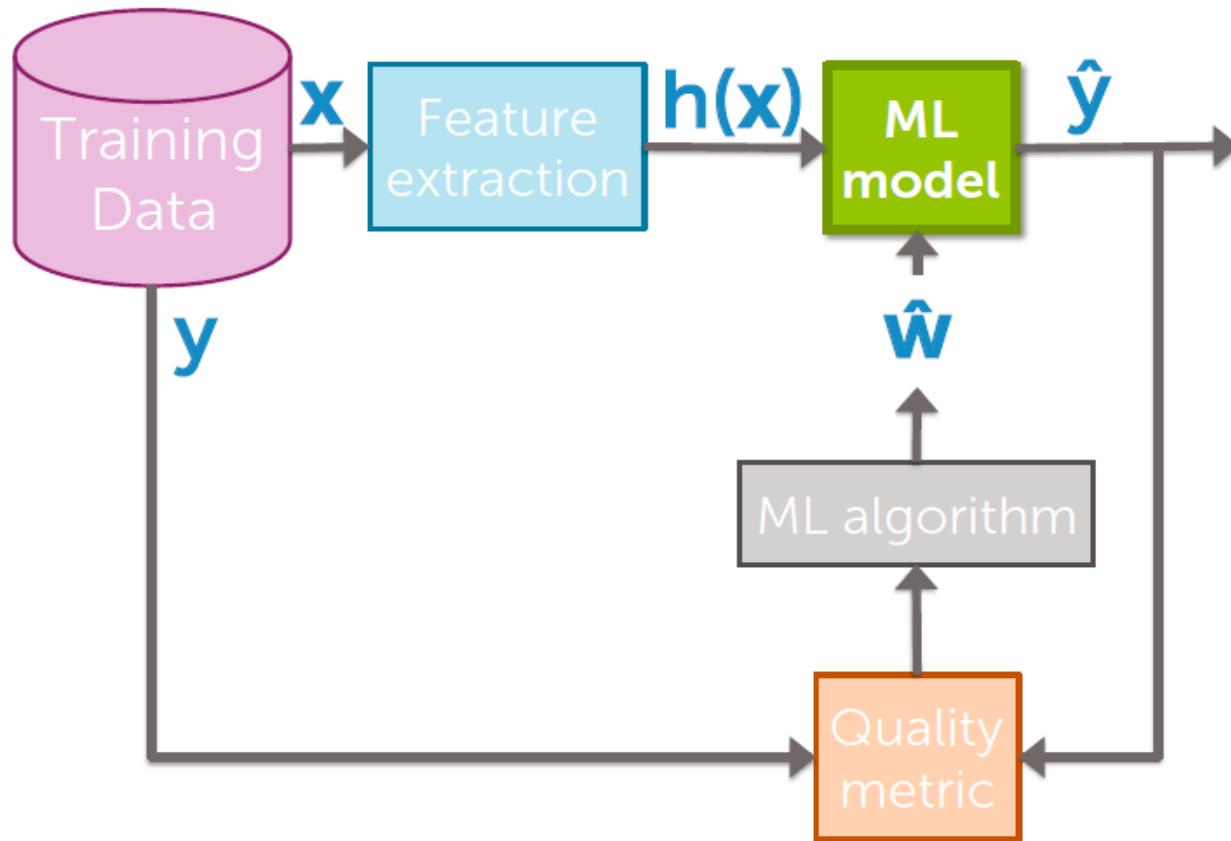
- For linear classifiers:
  - When 2 coefficients are non-zero  
→ line
  - When 3 coefficients are non-zero  
→ plane
  - When many coefficients are non-zero  
→ hyperplane
- For more general classifiers  
→ more complicated shapes



# Flow chart:

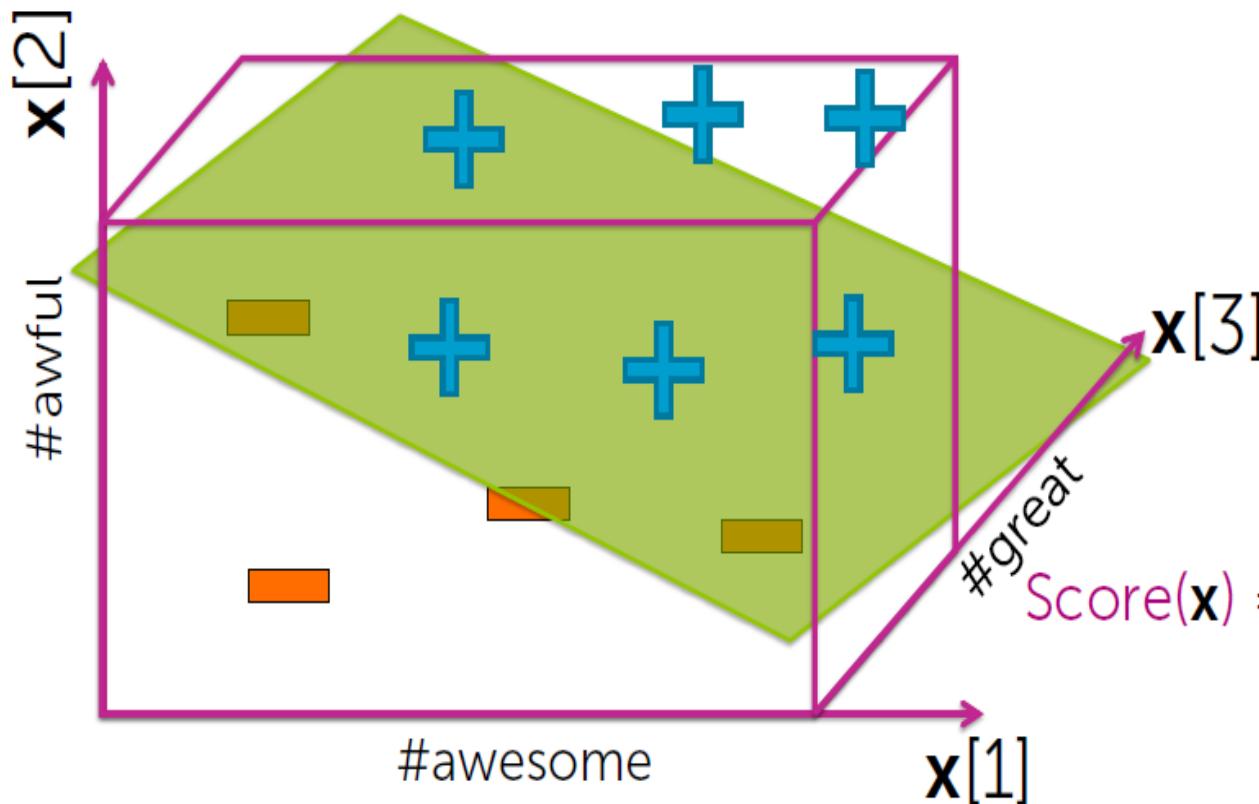
ML  
model

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# Coefficients of classifier

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# General notation

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Output:  $y \leftarrow \{-1, +1\}$

Inputs:  $\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{x}[1], \mathbf{x}[2], \dots, \mathbf{x}[d])$   
d-dim vector

Notational conventions:

$\mathbf{x}[j] = j^{\text{th}}$  input (scalar)

$h_j(\mathbf{x}) = j^{\text{th}}$  feature (scalar)

$\mathbf{x}_i =$  input of  $i^{\text{th}}$  data point (vector)

$\mathbf{x}_i[j] = j^{\text{th}}$  input of  $i^{\text{th}}$  data point (scalar)

# Simple hyperplane

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Model:  $\hat{y}_i = \text{sign}(\text{Score}(\mathbf{x}_i))$

$\text{Score}(\mathbf{x}_i) = w_0 + w_1 x_i[1] + \dots + w_d x_i[d] = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i$

feature 1 = 1

feature 2 =  $x_i[1]$  ... e.g., #awesome

feature 3 =  $x_i[2]$  ... e.g., #awful

...

feature  $d+1 = x_i[d]$  ... e.g., #ramen

# D-dimensional hyperplane

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More generic features...

Model:  $\hat{y}_i = \text{sign}(\text{Score}(\mathbf{x}_i))$

$\text{Score}(\mathbf{x}_i) = w_0 h_0(\mathbf{x}_i) + w_1 h_1(\mathbf{x}_i) + \dots + w_D h_D(\mathbf{x}_i)$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^D w_j h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) = \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_i)$$

feature 1 =  $h_0(\mathbf{x})$  ... e.g., 1

feature 2 =  $h_1(\mathbf{x})$  ... e.g.,  $\mathbf{x}[1] = \text{\#awesome}$

feature 3 =  $h_2(\mathbf{x})$  ... e.g.,  $\mathbf{x}[2] = \text{\#awful}$   
or,  $\log(\mathbf{x}[7]) \mathbf{x}[2] = \log(\#\text{bad}) \times \#\text{awful}$   
or, tf-idf("awful")

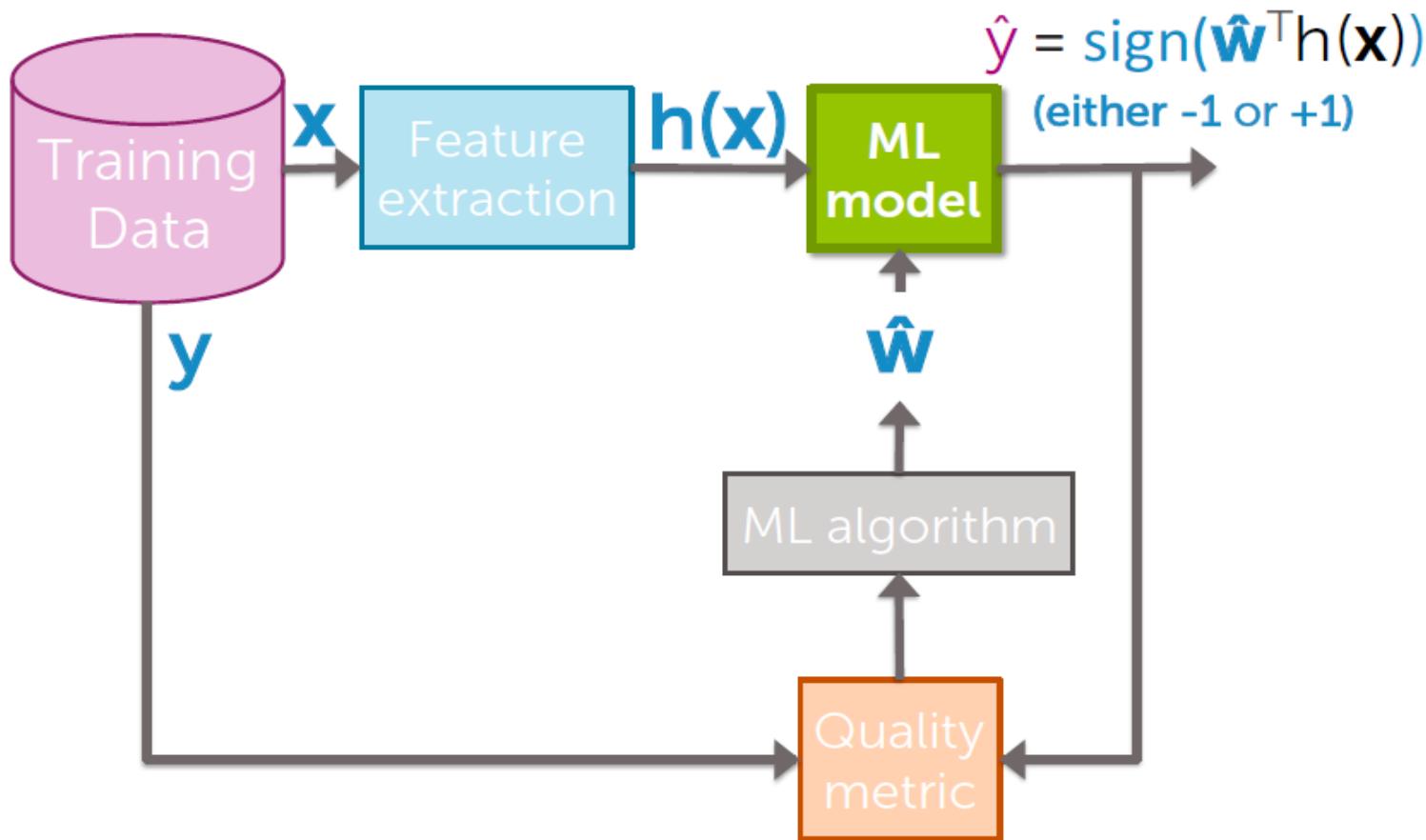
...

feature  $D+1 = h_D(\mathbf{x})$  ... some other function of  $\mathbf{x}[1], \dots, \mathbf{x}[d]$

# Flow chart:



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# Linear classifier

- Class probability

# How confident is your prediction?

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- Thus far, we've outputted a prediction **+1** or **-1**
- But, how sure are you about the prediction?

*"The sushi & everything else were awesome!"*

Definite **+1**

$\hat{y} = +1$  with high probability

*"The sushi was good, the service was OK"*

Not sure

$\hat{y} = +1$  with probability 0.5

# Basics of probabilities

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Probability a review is positive is 0.7

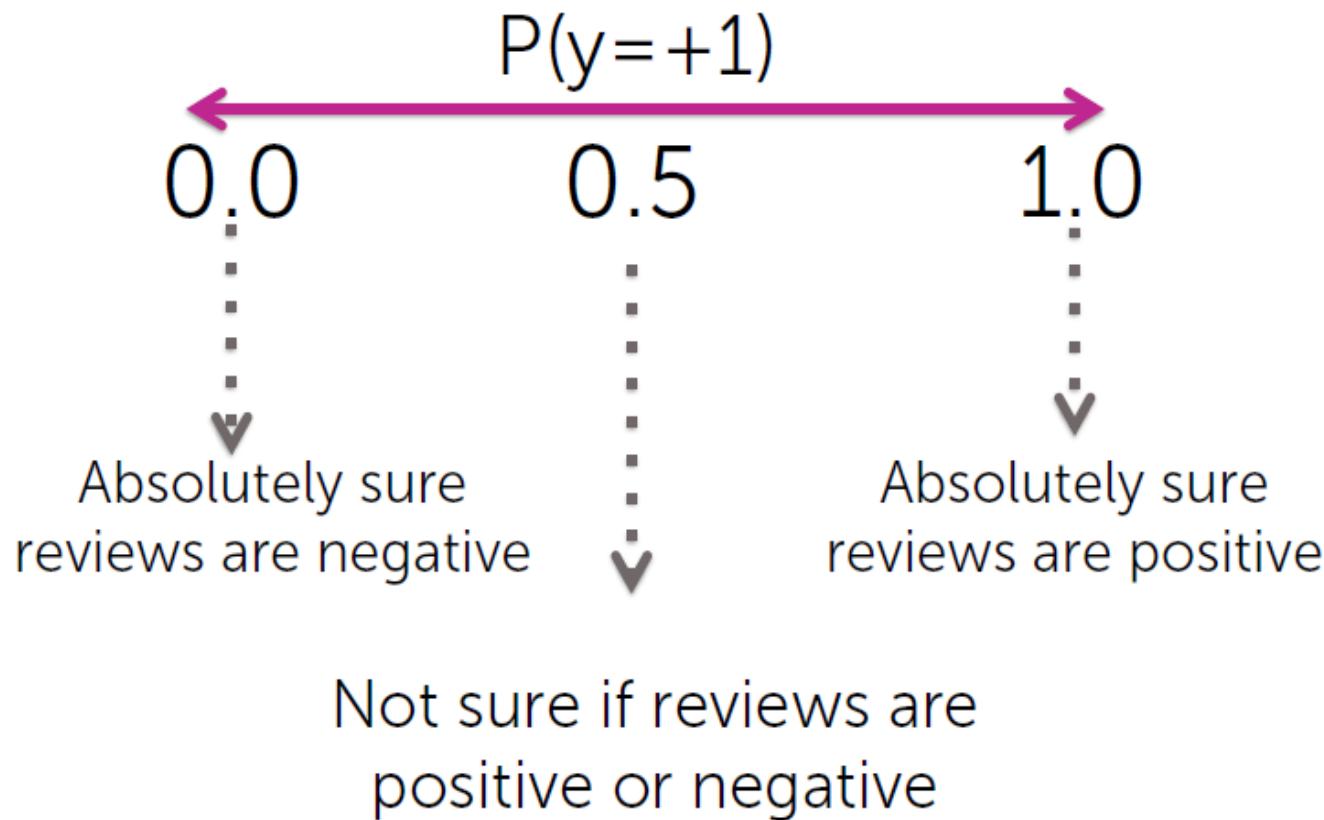


$x =$ review text	$y =$ sentiment
All the sushi was delicious! Easily best sushi in Seattle.	+1
The sushi & everything else were awesome!	+1
My wife tried their ramen, it was pretty forgettable.	-1
The sushi was good, the service was OK	+1
...	...

I expect 70% of rows  
to have  $y = +1$   
(Exact number will vary  
for each specific dataset)

# Interpreting probabilities as degrees of belief

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# Conditional probability

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Probability a review with

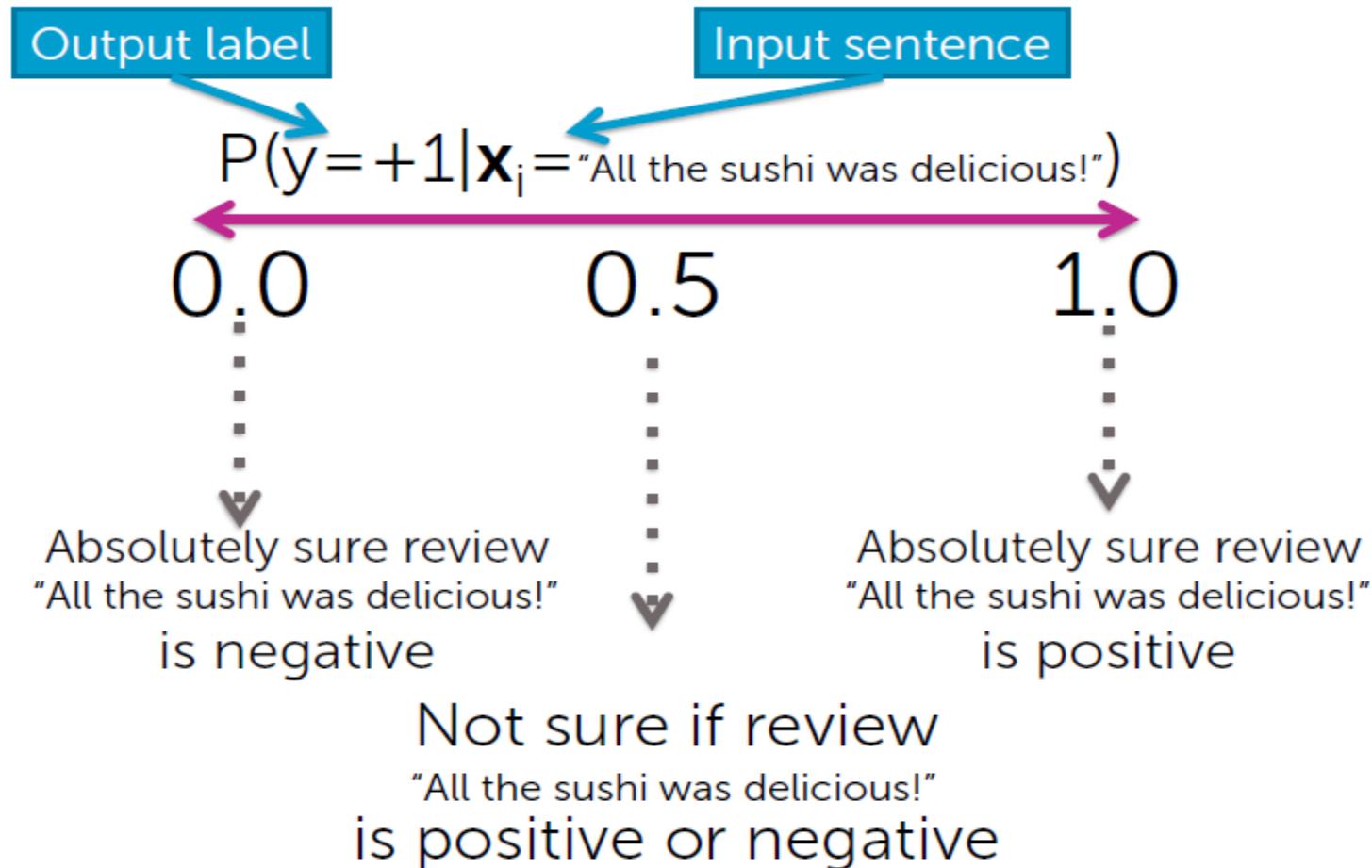
3 "awesome" and 1 "awful" is positive is 0.9

x = review text	y = sentiment
All the sushi was delicious! Easily best sushi in Seattle.	+1
Sushi was <b>awesome</b> & everything else was <b>awesome!</b> The service was <b>awful</b> , but overall <b>awesome</b> place!	+1
My wife tried their ramen, it was pretty forgettable.	-1
The sushi was good, the service was OK	+1
...	...
awesome ... awesome ... awful ... awesome	+1
...	...
awesome ... awesome ... awful ... awesome	-1
...	...
...	...
awesome ... awesome ... awful ... awesome	+1

I expect 90% of rows with reviews containing 3 "awesome" & 1 "awful" to have  $y = +1$   
(Exact number will vary for each specific dataset)

# Interpreting conditional probabilities

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# How confident is your prediction?

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*"The sushi & everything else were awesome!"*

Definite +1

$$P(y=+1|x=\text{"The sushi & everything else were awesome!"}) = 0.99$$

*"The sushi was good, the service was OK"*

Not sure

$$P(y=+1|x=\text{"The sushi was good, the service was OK"}) = 0.55$$

Many classifiers provide a degree of certainty:

Output label

Input sentence

$$P(y|x)$$

Extremely useful in practice

# Learn conditional probabilities from data

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Training data:  $N$  observations  $(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)$

$\mathbf{x}[1] = \#\text{awesome}$	$\mathbf{x}[2] = \#\text{awful}$	$y = \text{sentiment}$
2	1	+1
0	2	-1
3	3	-1
4	1	+1
...	...	...

Optimize **quality metric**  
on training data

Find best model  $\hat{P}$   
by finding best  $\hat{w}$

Useful for  
predicting  $\hat{y}$

# Predicting class probabilities

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Sentence  
from  
review

Predict most likely class

$\hat{P}(y|x)$  = estimate of class  
probabilities

If  $\hat{P}(y=+1|x) > 0.5$ :

$\hat{y} = +1$

Else:

$\hat{y} = -1$

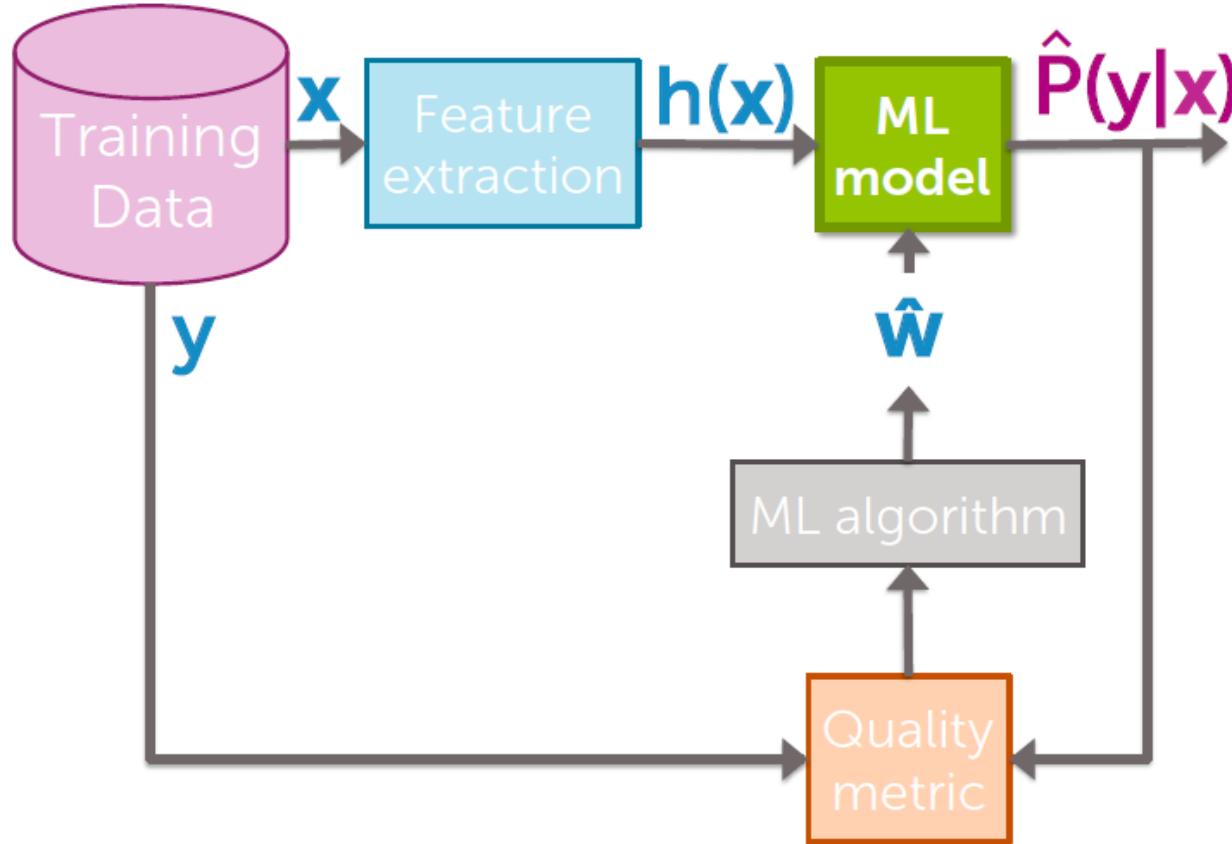
Input:  $x$

- Estimating  $\hat{P}(y|x)$  improves **interpretability**:
  - Predict  $\hat{y} = +1$  and tell me how sure you are

# Flow chart:

ML  
model

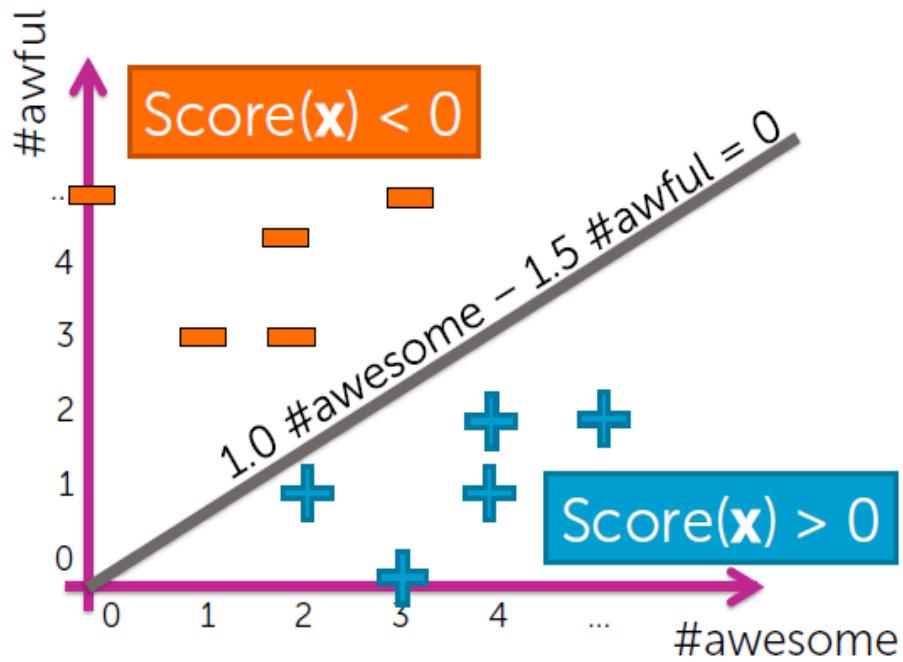
30



# Thus far we focused on decision boundaries

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$$\begin{aligned}\text{Score}(\mathbf{x}_i) &= w_0 h_0(\mathbf{x}_i) + w_1 h_1(\mathbf{x}_i) + \dots + w_D h_D(\mathbf{x}_i) \\ &= \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_i)\end{aligned}$$

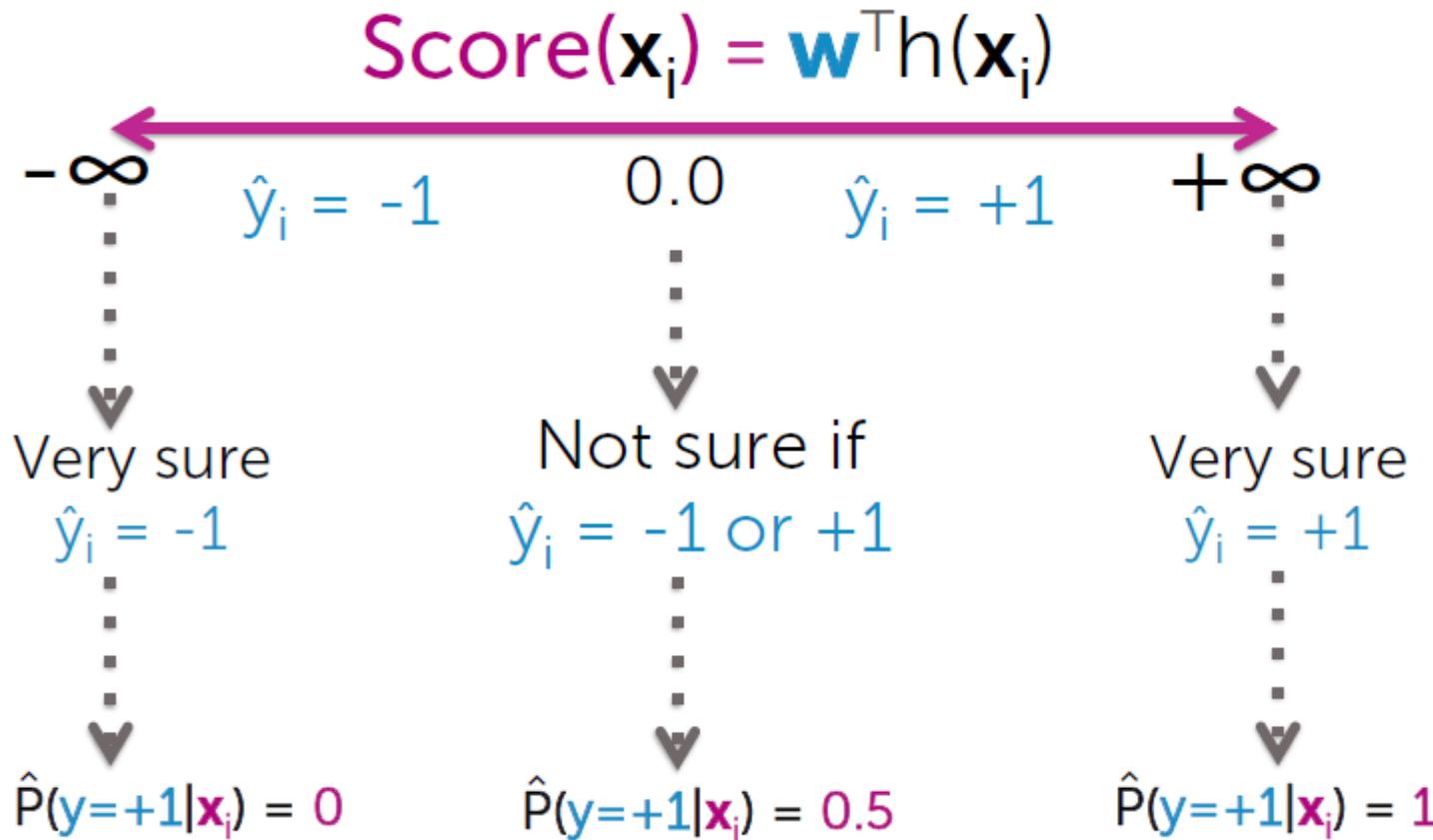


How to relate  
 $\text{Score}(\mathbf{x}_i)$  to  
 $\hat{P}(y=+1|\mathbf{x}, \hat{\mathbf{w}})$ ?

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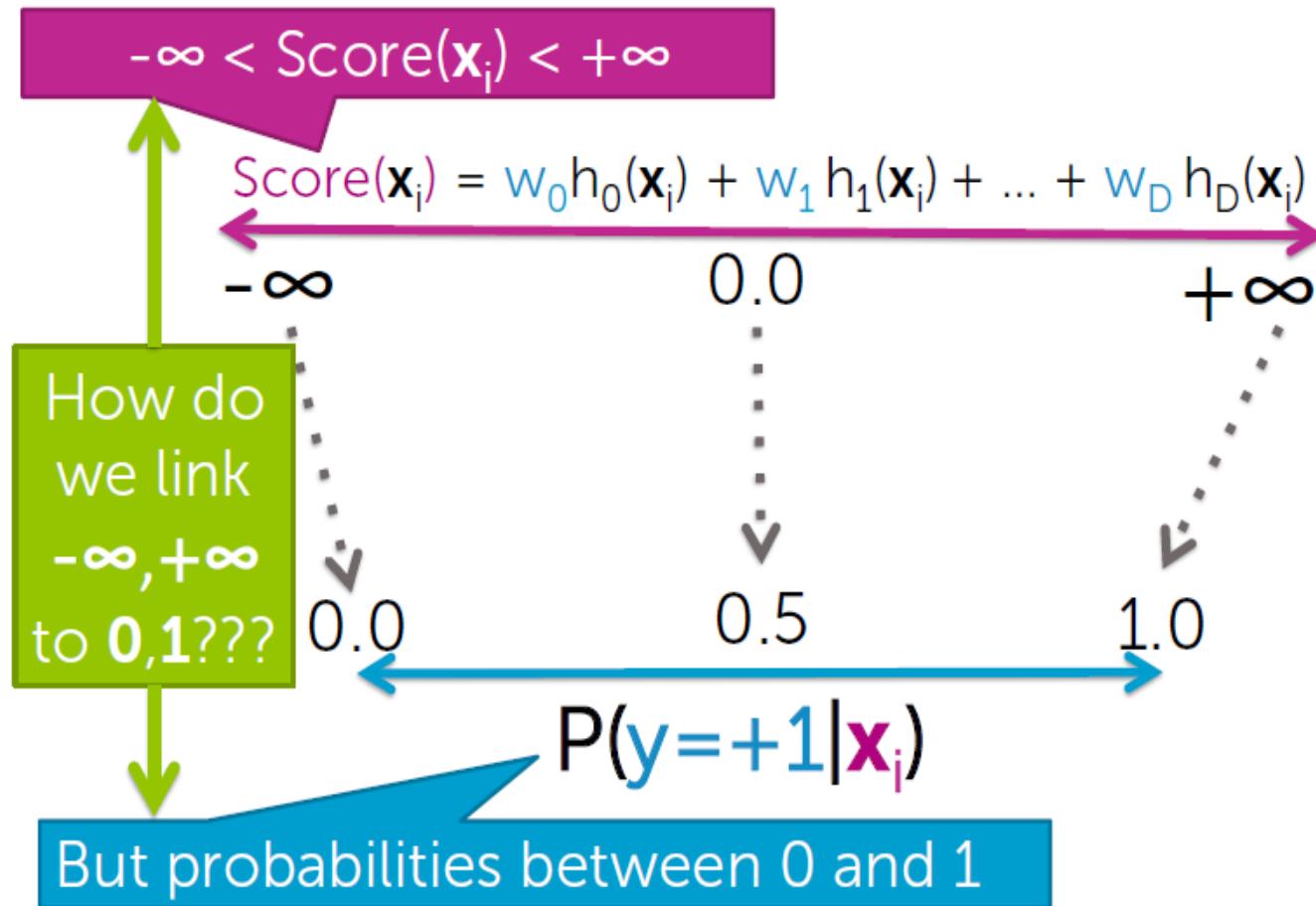
# Interpreting Score( $\mathbf{x}_i$ )

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# Why not just use regression to build classifier?

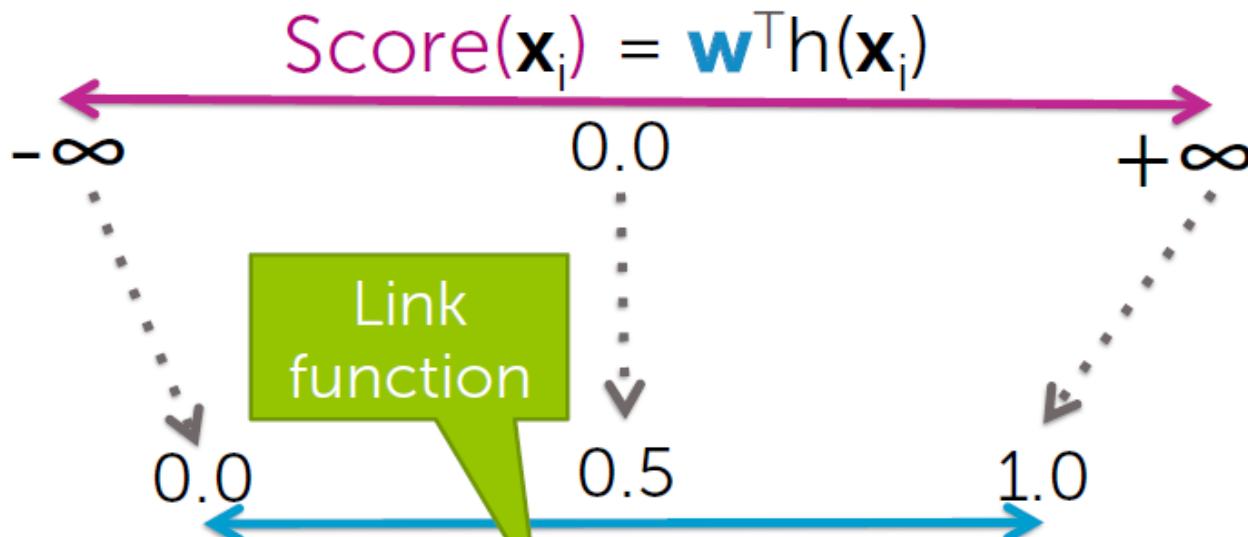
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# Link function

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*Link function: squeeze real line into [0,1]*



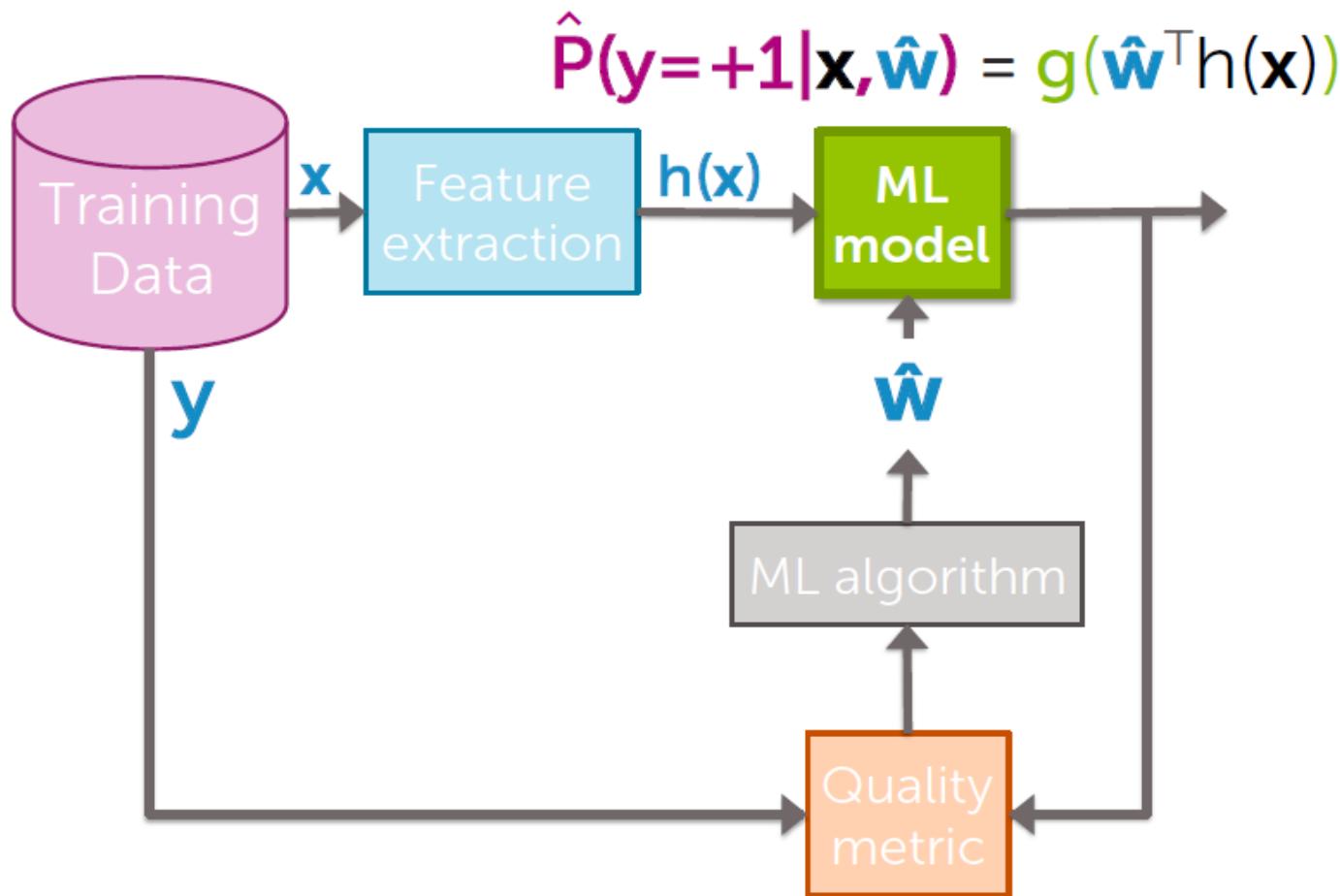
$$\hat{P}(y=+1|\mathbf{x}_i) = g(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_i))$$

Generalized linear model

# Flow chart:

ML  
model

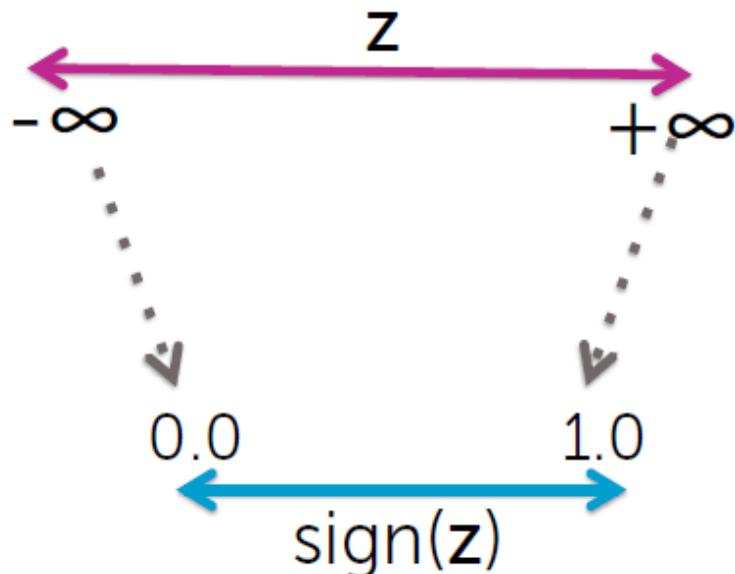
35



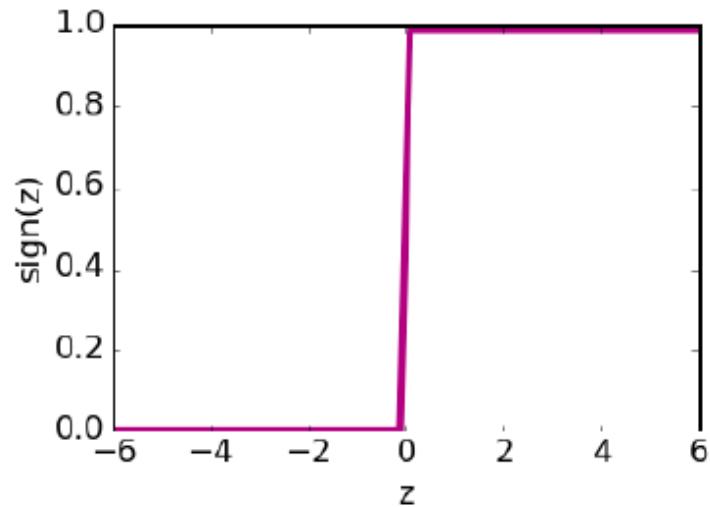
Logistic regression classifier:  
□ linear score with logistic link  
function

# Simplest link function: $\text{sign}(z)$

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$$\text{sign}(z) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } z \geq 0 \\ -1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



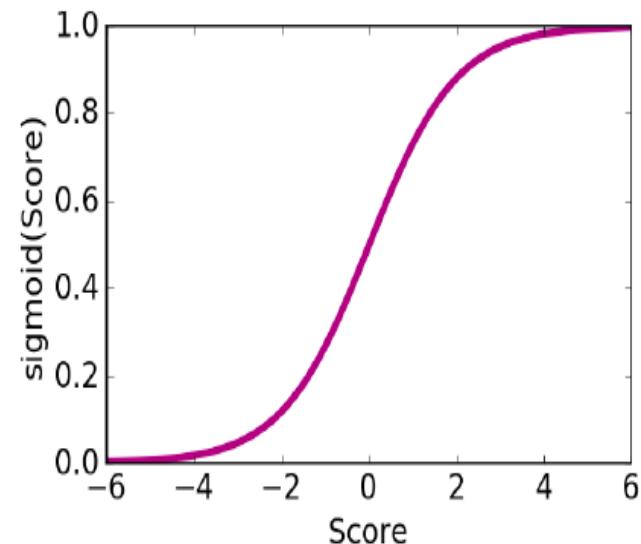
But,  $\text{sign}(z)$  only outputs -1 or +1,  
no probabilities in between

# Logistic function (sigmoid, logit)

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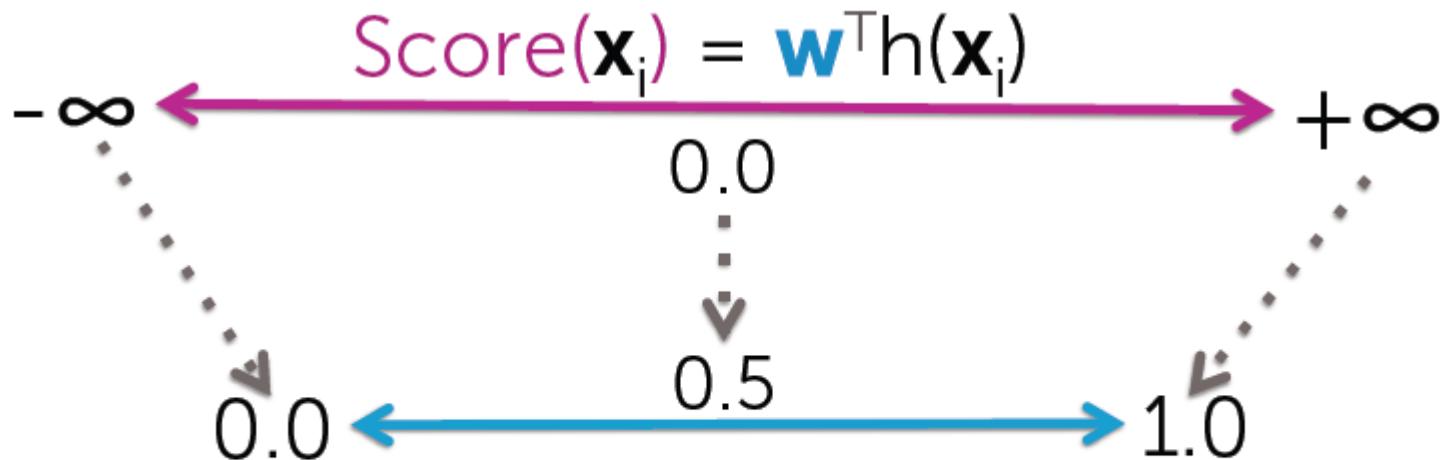
$$\text{sigmoid}(\text{Score}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\text{Score}}}$$

Score	$-\infty$	-2	0.0	+2	$+\infty$
$\text{sigmoid}(\text{Score})$	0.0	0.12	0.5	0.88	1.0



# Logistic regression model

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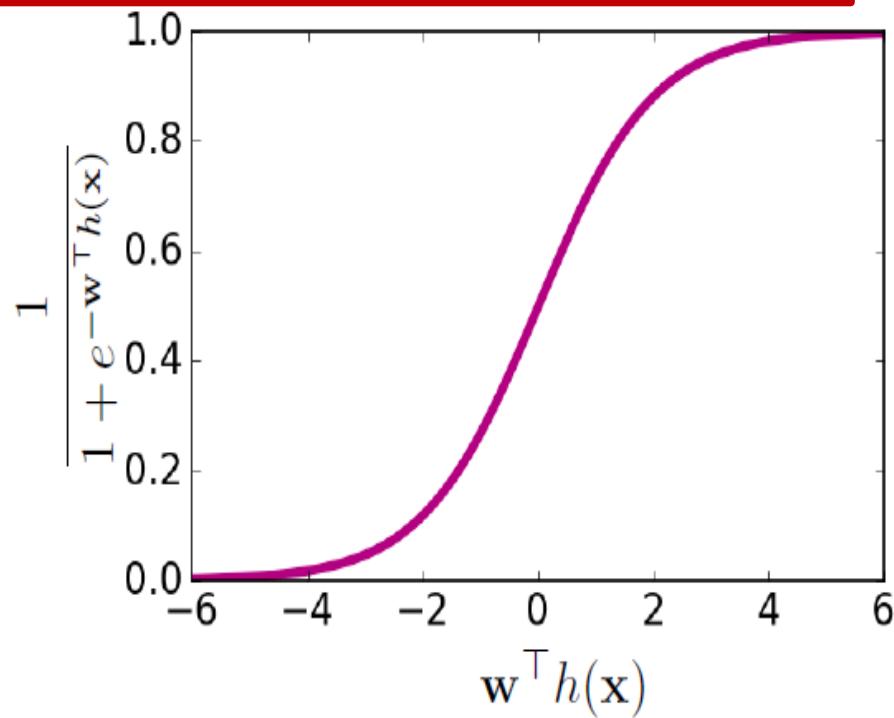


$$P(y=+1|\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) = \text{sigmoid}(\text{Score}(\mathbf{x}_i))$$

# Understanding the logistic regression model

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$$P(y = +1 | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x})}}$$

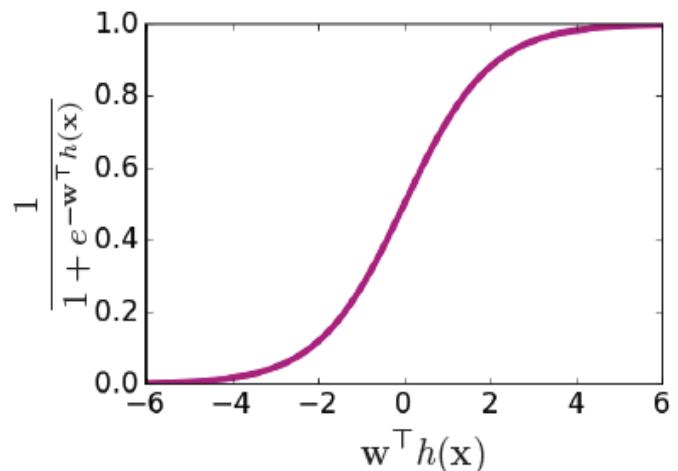
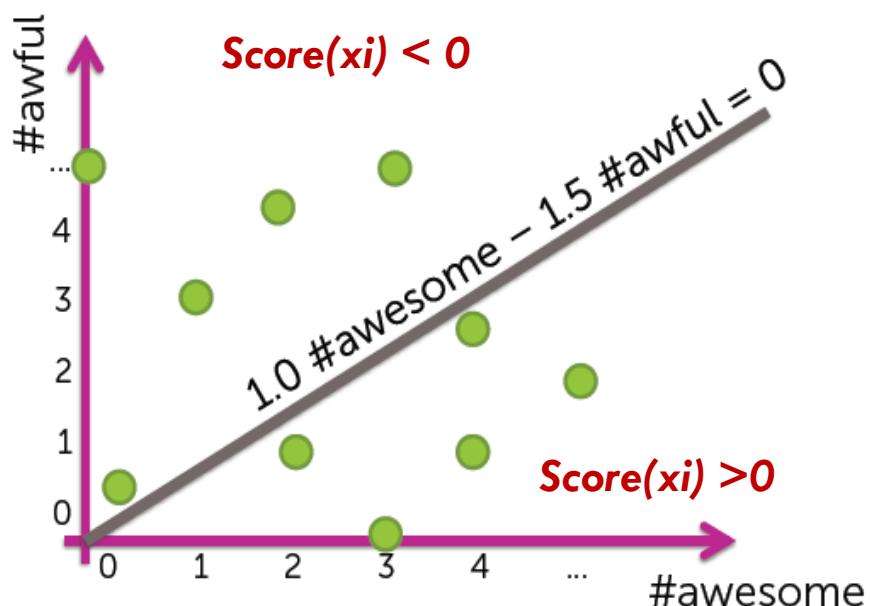


Score( $\mathbf{x}_i$ )	$P(y=+1 \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w})$
0	0.5
-2	0.12
2	0.88
4	0.98

# Logistic regression

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Logistic regression →  
Linear decision boundary

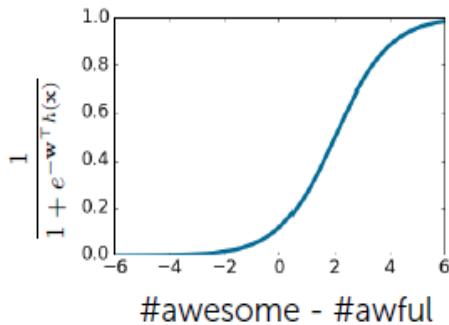


# Effect of coefficients

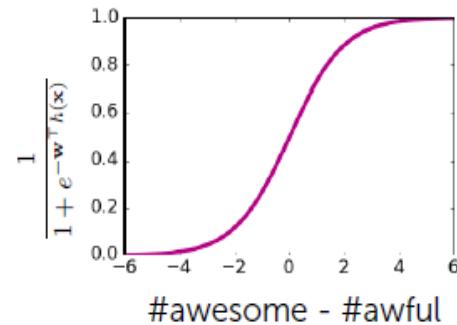
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## Effect of coefficients on logistic regression model

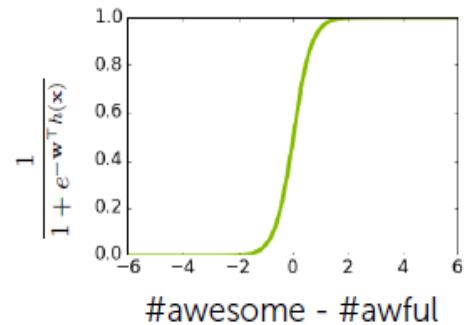
$w_0$	-2
$w_{\text{awesome}}$	+1
$w_{\text{awful}}$	-1



$w_0$	0
$w_{\text{awesome}}$	+1
$w_{\text{awful}}$	-1



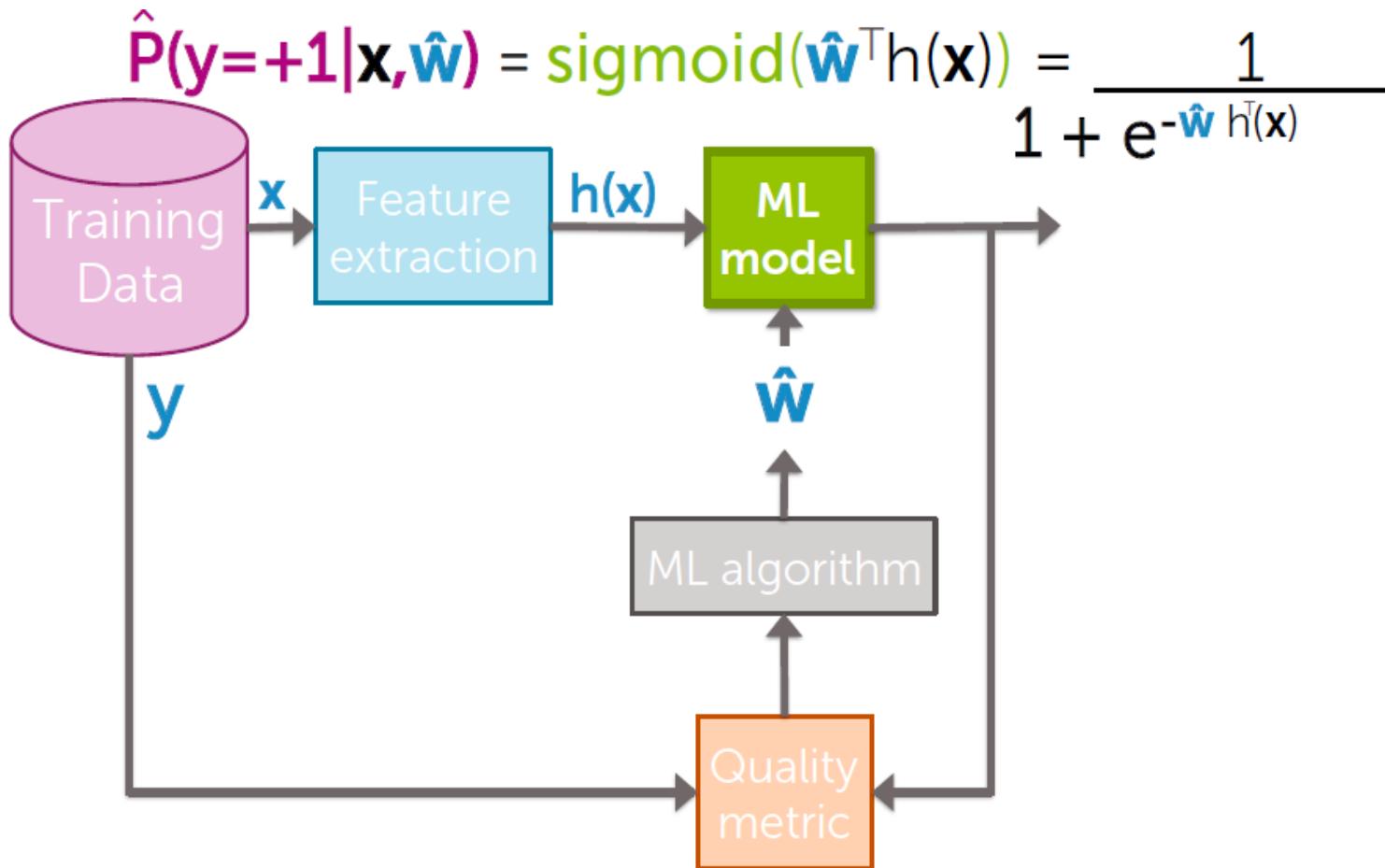
$w_0$	0
$w_{\text{awesome}}$	+3
$w_{\text{awful}}$	-3



# Flow chart:



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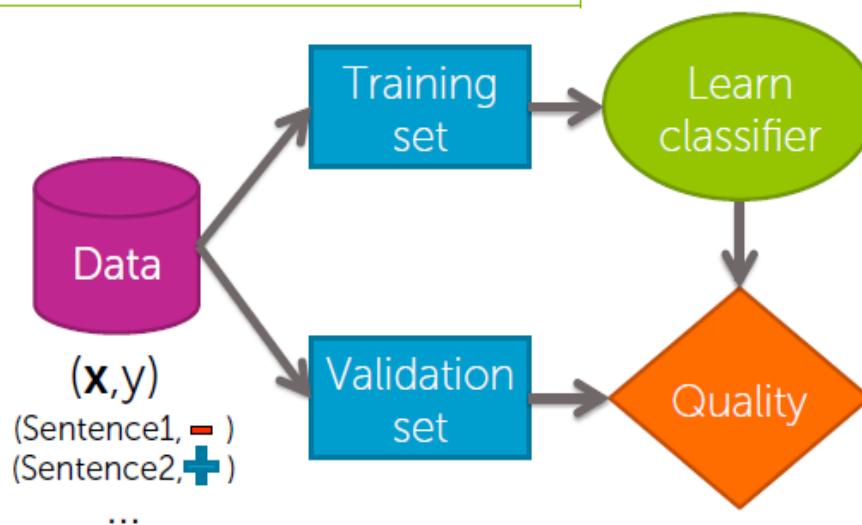
# Learning logistic regression model

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Training a classifier = Learning the coefficients

Word	Coefficient	Value
	$\hat{w}_0$	-2.0
good	$\hat{w}_1$	1.0
awesome	$\hat{w}_2$	1.7
bad	$\hat{w}_3$	-1.0
awful	$\hat{w}_4$	-3.3
...	...	...

$$\hat{P}(y=+1|x, \hat{w}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\hat{w}^T h(x)}}$$



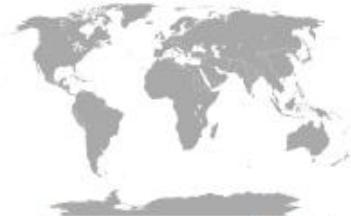
# Categorical inputs

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- Numeric inputs:
  - #awesome, age, salary,...
  - Intuitive when multiplied by coefficient
    - e.g., **1.5 #awesome**
- Categorical inputs:



Gender  
(Male, Female,...)



Country of birth  
(Argentina, Brazil, USA,...)

Numeric value, but should be interpreted as category  
(98195 not about 9x larger than 10005)



Zipcode  
(10005, 98195,...)

How do we multiply category by coefficient???  
Must convert categorical inputs into numeric features

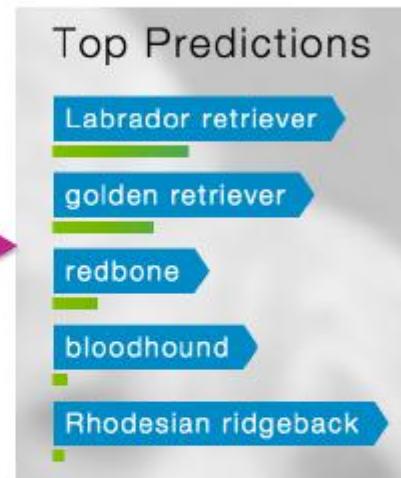
# Encoding categories as numeric features

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# Multiclass classification

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Input:  $x$   
Image pixels

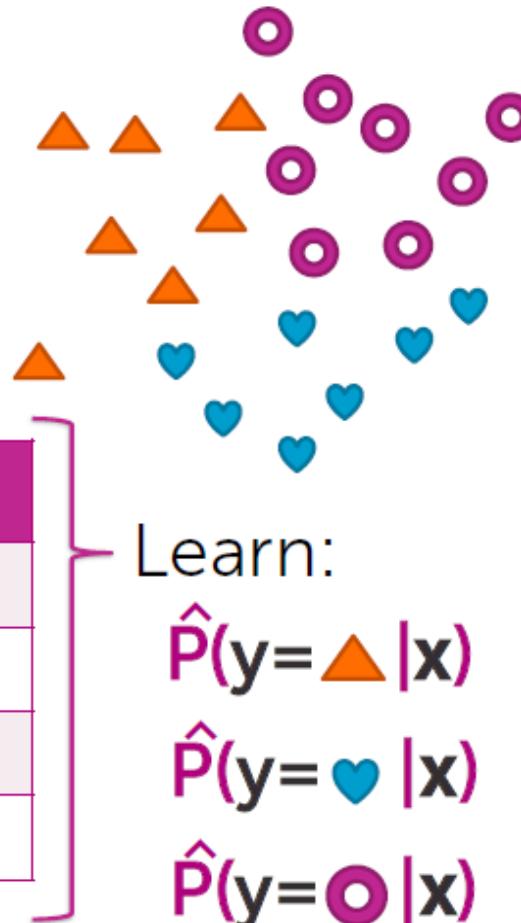
Output:  $y$   
Object in image

# Multiclass classification

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- C possible classes:
  - $y$  can be  $1, 2, \dots, C$
- N datapoints:

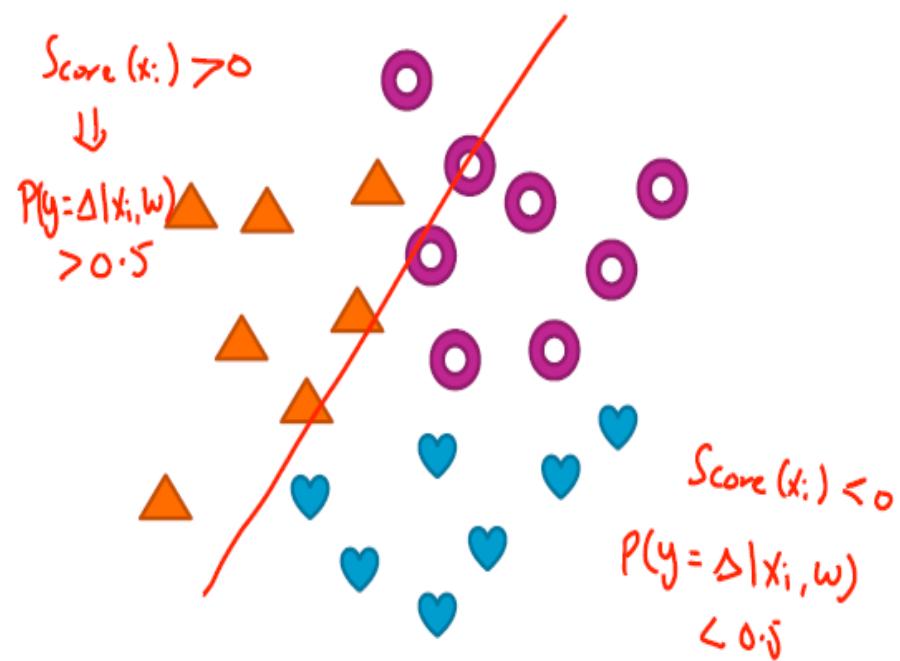
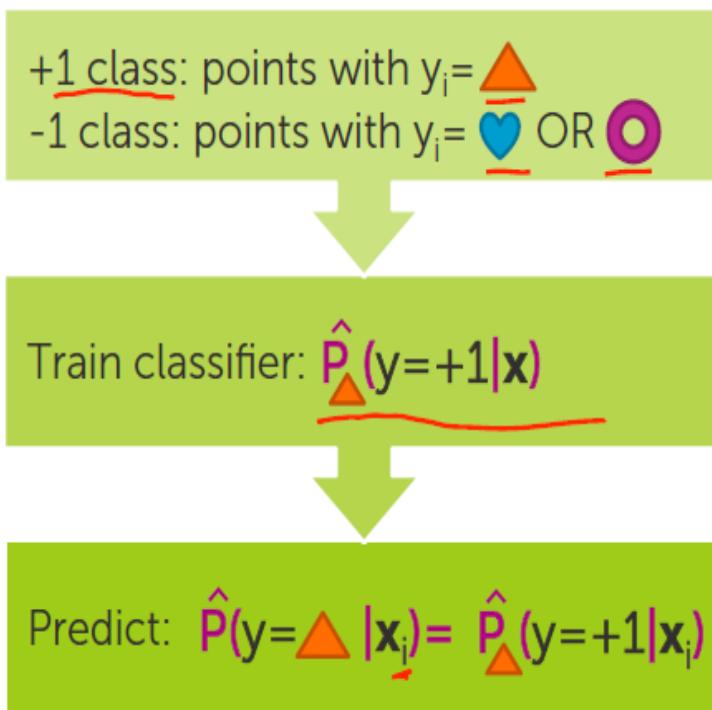
Data point	$x[1]$	$x[2]$	$y$
$x_1, y_1$	2	1	▲
$x_2, y_2$	0	2	♥
$x_3, y_3$	3	3	○
$x_4, y_4$	4	1	○



# 1 versus all

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Estimate  $\hat{P}(y=\Delta|x)$  using 2-class model

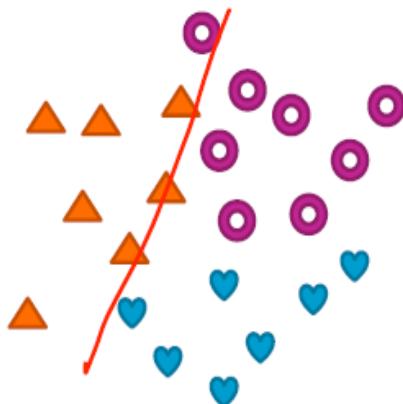


# 1 versus all

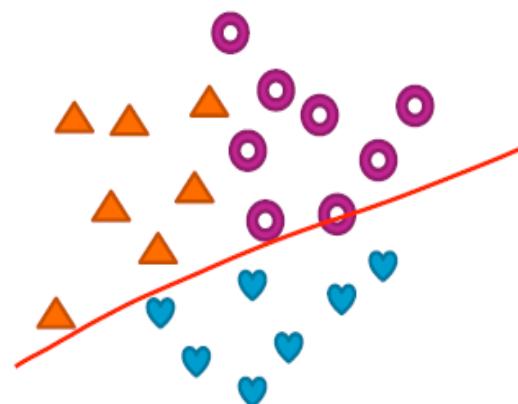
50

**1 versus all:** simple multiclass classification  
using C 2-class models

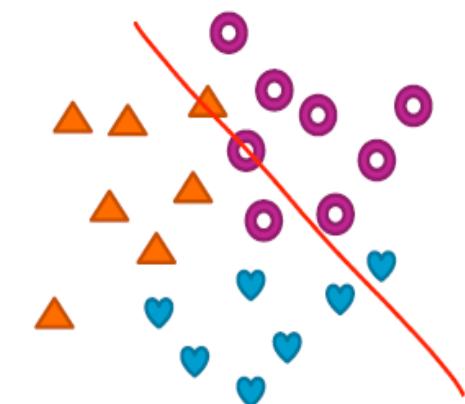
$$\hat{P}(y=\Delta | \mathbf{x}_i) = \hat{P}_{\Delta}(y=+1 | \mathbf{x}_i, w)$$



$$\hat{P}(y=\heartsuit | \mathbf{x}_i) = \hat{P}_{\heartsuit}(y=+1 | \mathbf{x}_i, w)$$



$$\hat{P}(y=\circlearrowleft | \mathbf{x}_i) = \hat{P}_{\circlearrowleft}(y=+1 | \mathbf{x}_i, w)$$



## Multiclass training

$\hat{P}_c(y=+1|\mathbf{x})$  = estimate of  
1 vs all model for each class



## Predict most likely class

`max_prob = 0;  $\hat{y} = 0$`

`For  $c = 1, \dots, C$ :`

`If  $\hat{P}_c(y=+1|\mathbf{x}_i) > max\_prob$ :`

`$\hat{y} = c$`

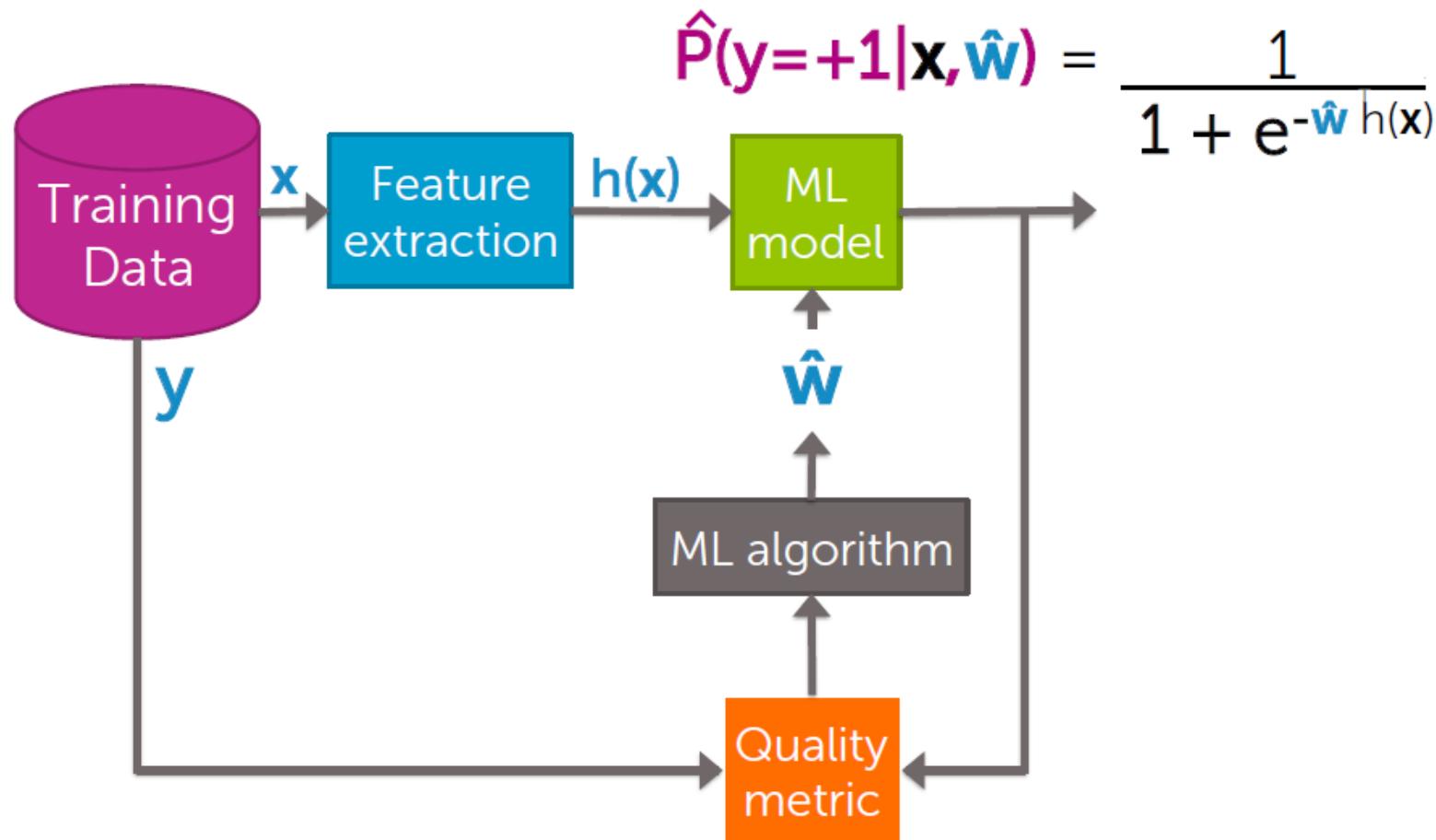
`max_prob =  $\hat{P}_c(y=+1|\mathbf{x}_i)$`

Input:  $\mathbf{x}_i$

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# Summary: Logistic regression classifier

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# What you can do now...

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- Describe decision boundaries and linear classifiers
- Use class probability to express degree of confidence in prediction
- Define a logistic regression model
- Interpret logistic regression outputs as class probabilities
- Describe impact of coefficient values on logistic regression output
- Use 1-hot encoding to represent categorical inputs
- Perform multiclass classification using the 1-versus-all approach

# Linear classifier

- Parameters learning

# Learn a probabilistic classification model

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*"The sushi & everything else were awesome!"*

Definite +1

$$P(y=+1|x=\text{"The sushi & everything else were awesome!"}) = 0.99$$

*"The sushi was good, the service was OK"*

Not sure

$$P(y=+1|x=\text{"The sushi was good, the service was OK"}) = 0.55$$

Many classifiers provide a degree of certainty:

Output label

Input sentence

$$P(y|x)$$

Extremely useful in practice

# A (linear) classifier

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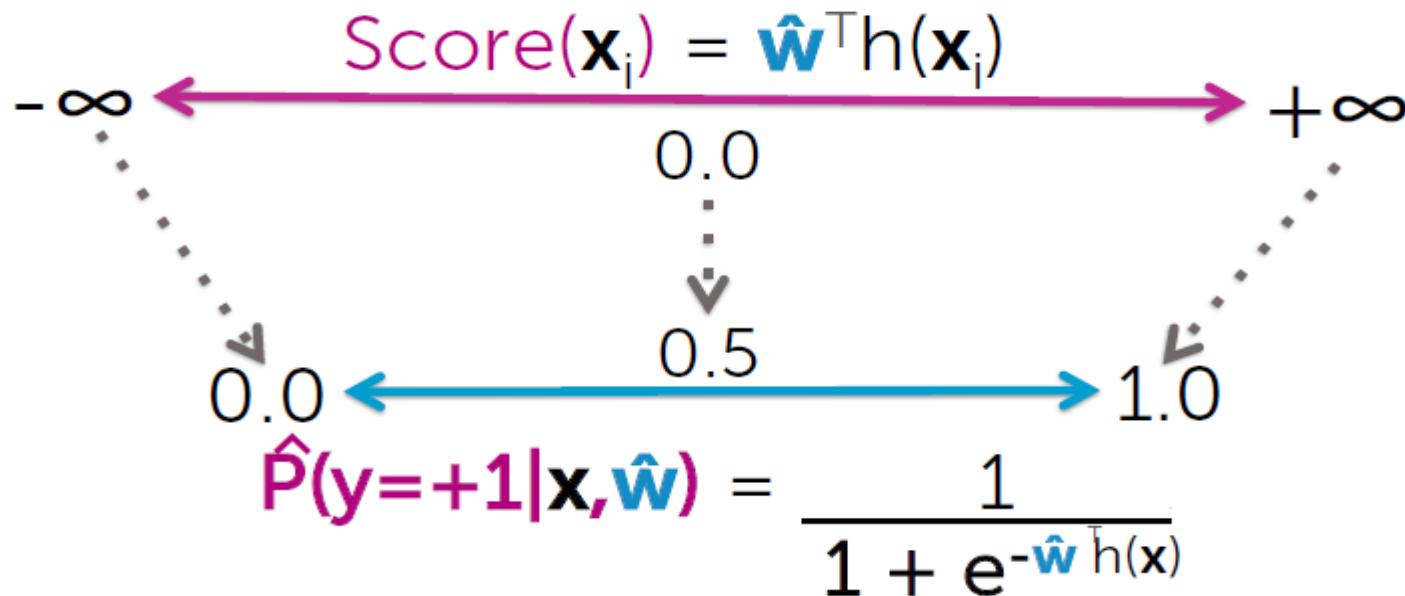
- Will use training data to learn a weight or coefficient for each word

Word	Coefficient	Value
	$\hat{w}_0$	-2.0
good	$\hat{w}_1$	1.0
great	$\hat{w}_2$	1.5
awesome	$\hat{w}_3$	2.7
bad	$\hat{w}_4$	-1.0
terrible	$\hat{w}_5$	-2.1
awful	$\hat{w}_6$	-3.3
restaurant, the, we, ...	$\hat{w}_7, \hat{w}_8, \hat{w}_9, \dots$	0.0
...		...

# Logistic regression

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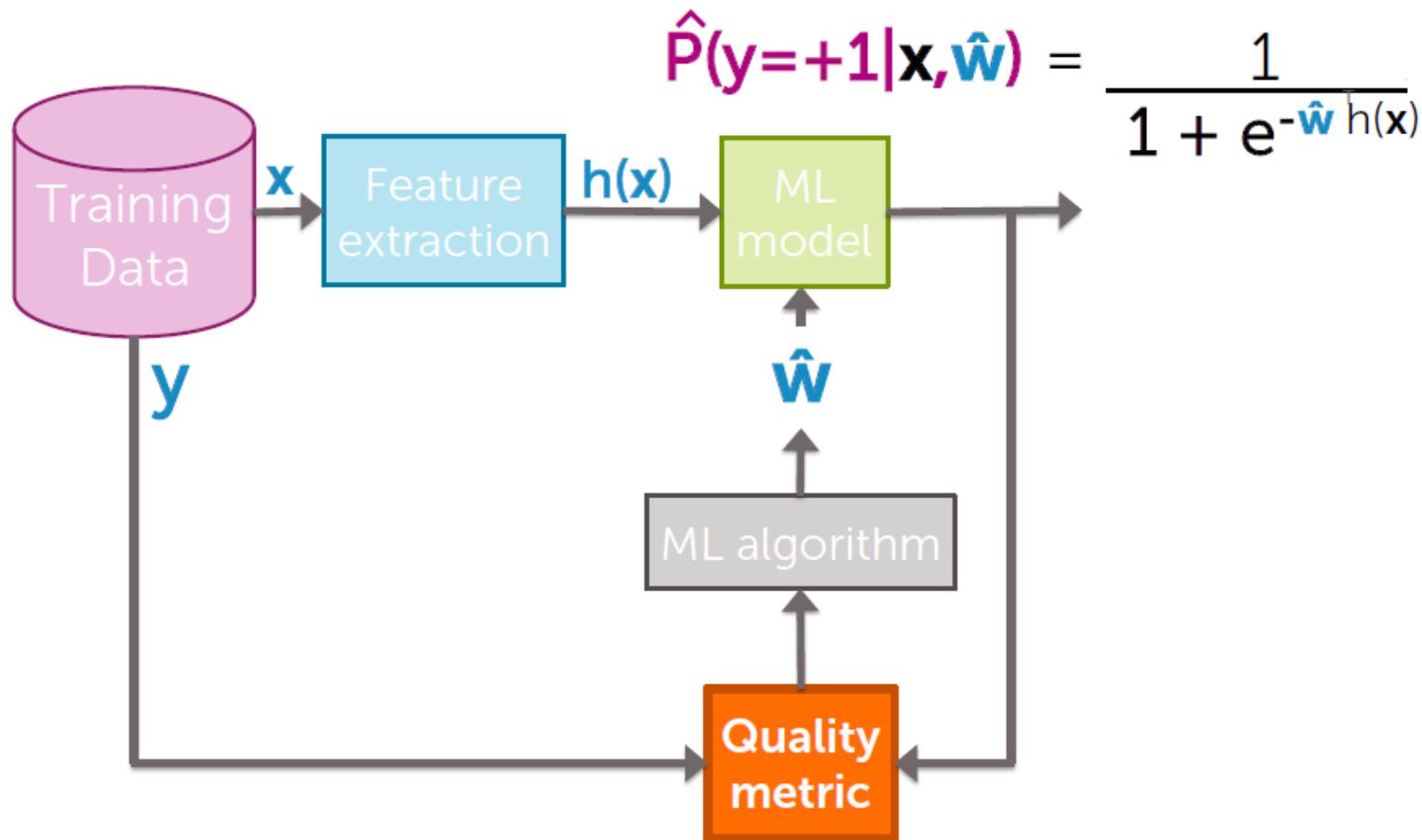
## Logistic regression model



Flow chart:



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# Learning problem

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Training data:  
N observations  $(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)$

$x[1] = \#awesome$	$x[2] = \#\text{awful}$	$y = \text{sentiment}$
2	1	+1
0	2	-1
3	3	-1
4	1	+1
1	1	+1
2	4	-1
0	3	-1
0	1	-1
2	1	+1



# Finding best coefficients

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$x[1] = \#\text{awesome}$	$x[2] = \#\text{awful}$	$y = \text{sentiment}$
0	2	-1
3	3	-1
2	4	-1
0	3	-1
0	1	-1

$x[1] = \#\text{awesome}$	$x[2] = \#\text{awful}$	$y = \text{sentiment}$
2	1	+1
4	1	+1
1	1	+1
2	1	+1

$$P(y=+1|x_i, w) = 0.0$$

$$P(y=+1|x_i, w) = 1.0$$

Pick  $\hat{w}$  that makes

# Quality metric: probability of data

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$x[1] = \#\text{awesome}$	$x[2] = \#\text{awful}$	$y = \text{sentiment}$
2	1	+1

$x_1$

$y_1:$

If model good, should predict:

$$\hat{y}_1 = +1$$

Pick  $w$  to maximize:

$$P(y=+1 | x_1, w) = P(y=+1 | x[1]=2, x[2]=1, w)$$

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$x[1] = \#\text{awesome}$	$x[2] = \#\text{awful}$	$y = \text{sentiment}$
0	2	-1

$x_2:$

$y_2:$

If model good, should predict:

$$\hat{y}_2 = -1$$

Pick  $w$  to maximize:

$$P(y=-1 | x_2, w)$$

# Maximizing likelihood (probability of data)

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Data point	x[1]	x[2]	y	Choose $w$ to maximize
$x_1, y_1$	2	1	+1	$P(y=+1 x_1, w) = P(y=+1 x_0=2, x_1=1, w)$
$x_2, y_2$	0	2	-1	$P(y=-1 x_2, w)$
$x_3, y_3$	3	3	<u>-1</u>	$P(y=-1 x_3, w)$
$x_4, y_4$	4	1	<u>+1</u>	$P(y=+1 x_4, w)$
$x_5, y_5$	1	1	+1	
$x_6, y_6$	2	4	-1	
$x_7, y_7$	0	3	-1	
$x_8, y_8$	0	1	-1	
$x_9, y_9$	2	1	+1	



Must combine into single measure of quality ?

Multiply probabilities

$P(y=+1|x_1, w) P(y=-1|x_2, w) P(y=-1|x_3, w) \dots$

# Maximum likelihood estimation (MLE)

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## Learn logistic regression model with MLE

Data point	$x[1]$	$x[2]$	$y$	Choose $w$ to maximize
$x_1, y_1$	2	1	$\cancel{y_1=+1}$	$P(y=+1 x[1]=2, x[2]=1, w)$
$x_2, y_2$	0	2	$\cancel{-1}$	$P(y=-1 x[1]=0, x[2]=2, w)$
$x_3, y_3$	3	3	$\cancel{-1}$	$P(y=-1 x[1]=3, x[2]=3, w)$
$x_4, y_4$	4	1	$+1$	$P(y=+1 x[1]=4, x[2]=1, w)$

$$\ell(w) = P(y_1|x_1, w) P(y_2|x_2, w) P(y_3|x_3, w) P(y_4|x_4, w)$$

*Num. of data points  $\rightarrow N$*

$$\ell(w) = \prod_{i=1}^N P(y_i | x_i, w)$$

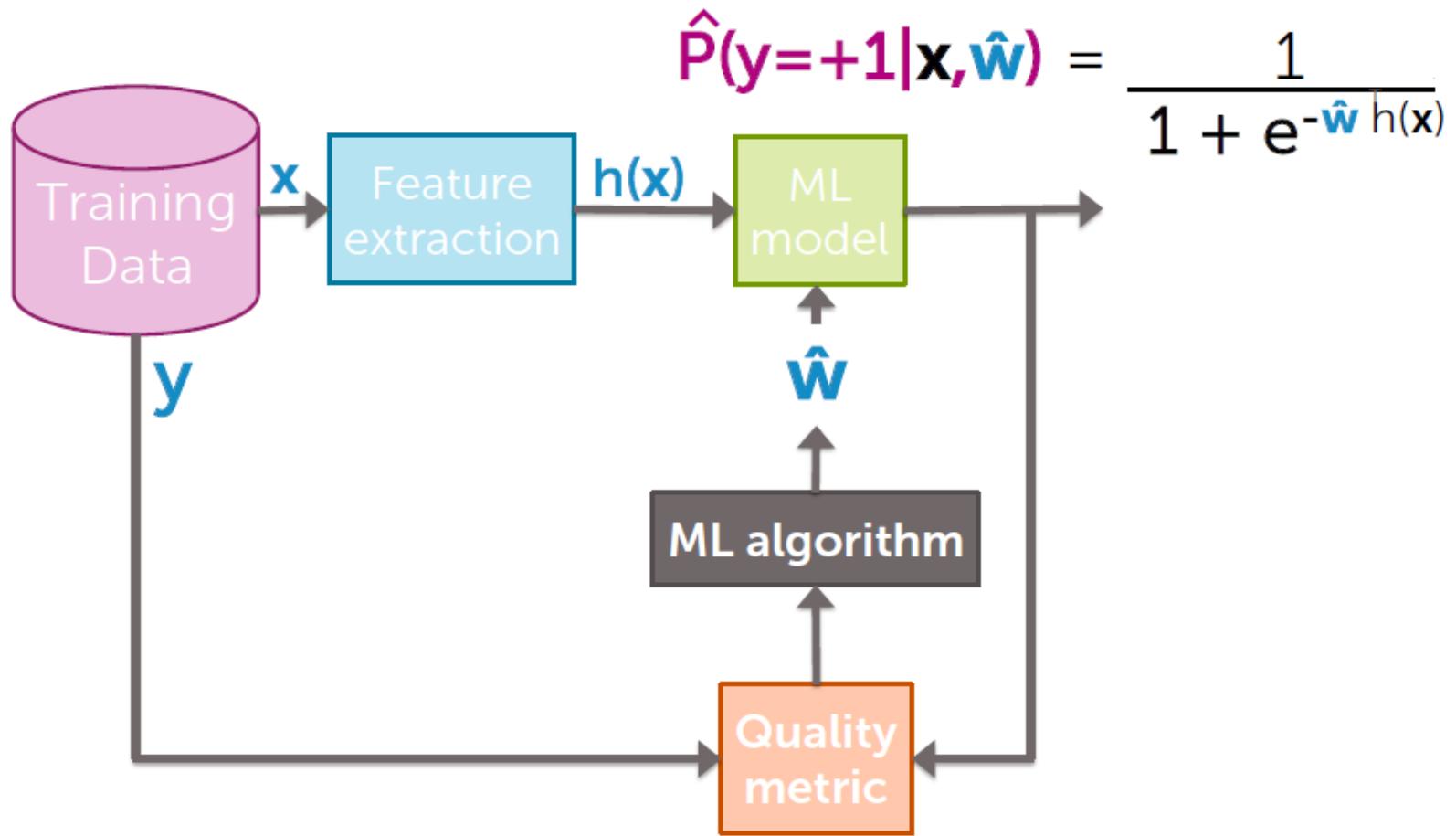
← pick  $w$  to make this fn. as large as possible

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# Flow chart:

ML algorithm

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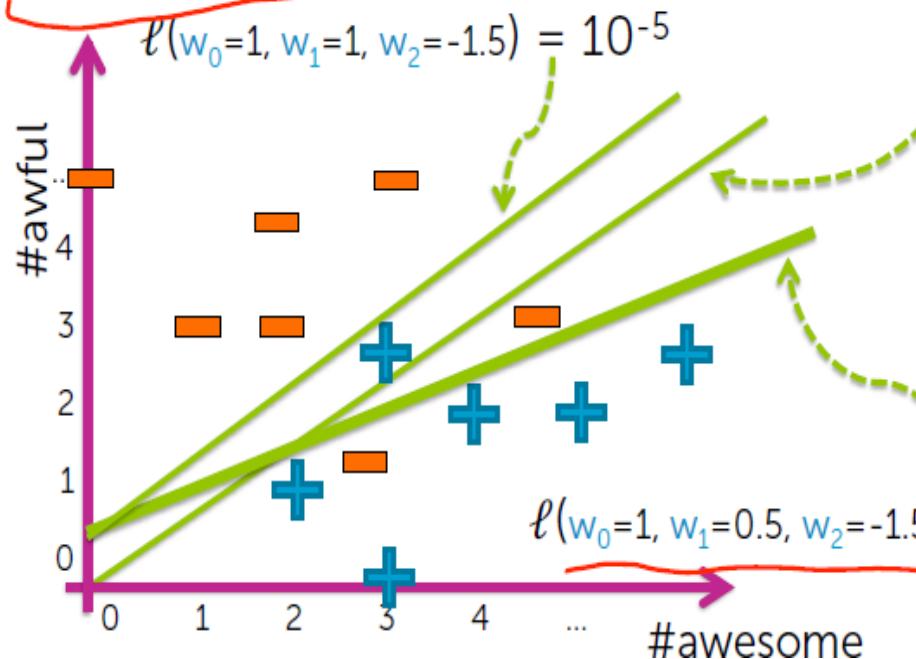
# Find „best” classifier

65

Maximize likelihood over all possible  $w_0, w_1, w_2$

$$\ell(\mathbf{w}) = \prod_{i=1}^N P(y_i | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w})$$

$$\ell(w_0=0, w_1=1, w_2=-1.5) = 10^{-6}$$



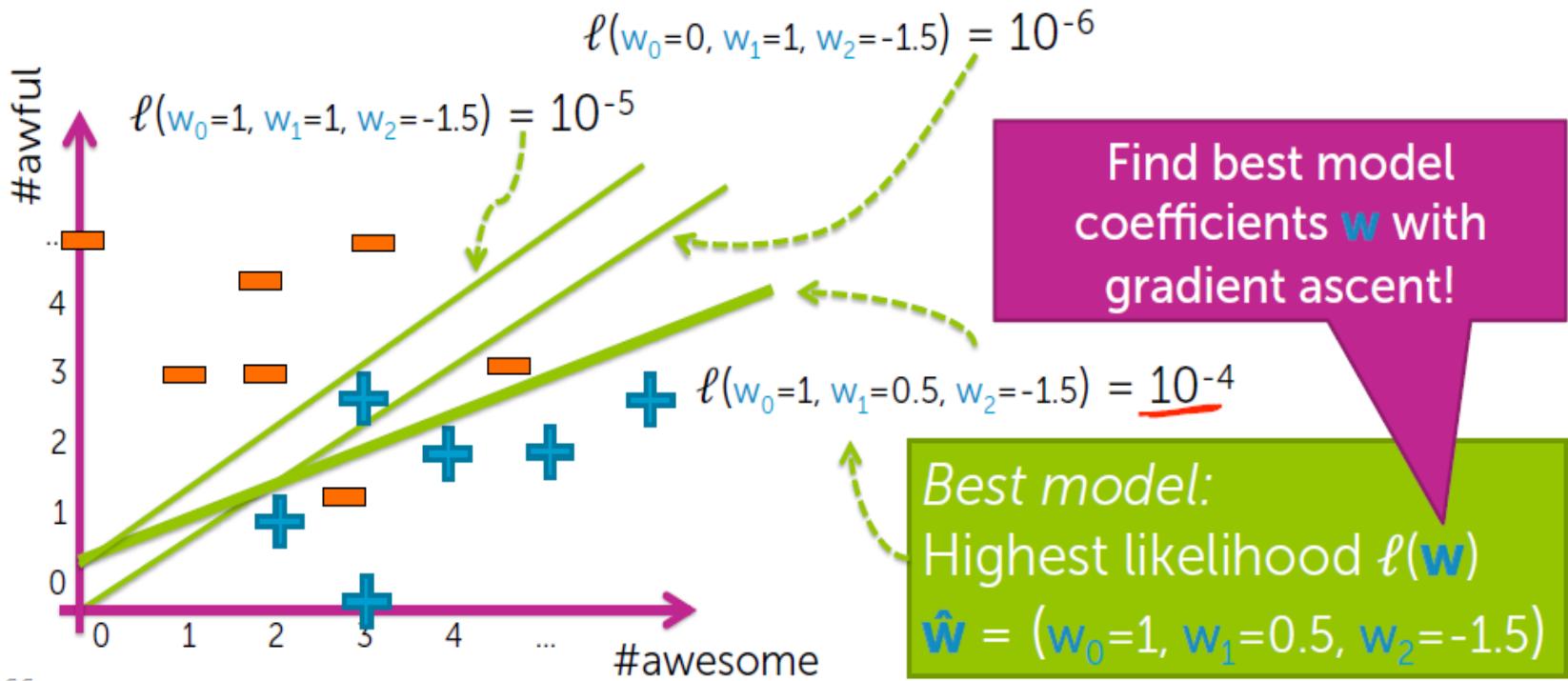
*Best model:*  
Highest likelihood  $\ell(\mathbf{w})$   
 $\hat{\mathbf{w}} = (w_0=1, w_1=0.5, w_2=-1.5)$

optimize with  
gradient ascent

# Find best classifier

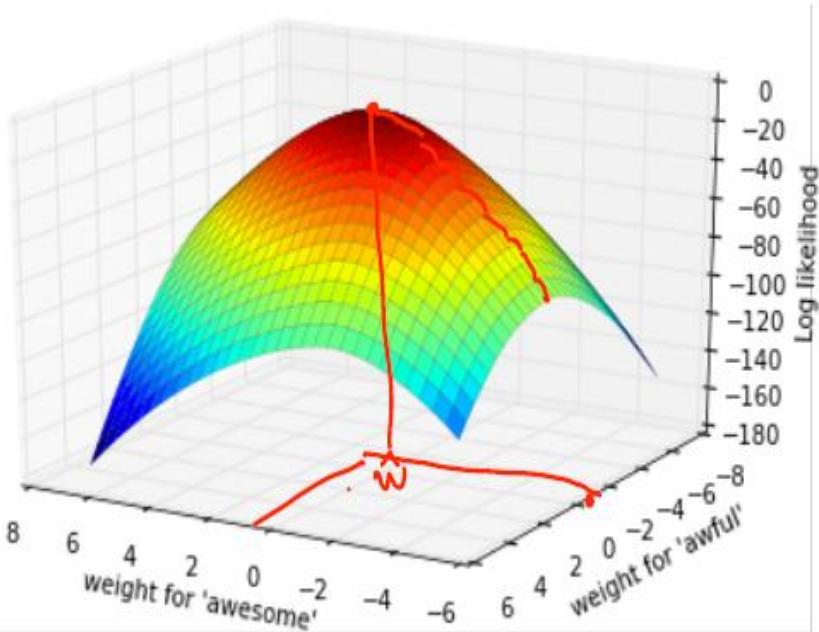
66

Maximize quality metric over all possible  $w_0, w_1, w_2$   
Likelihood  $\ell(\mathbf{w})$



# Maximizing likelihood

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No closed-form solution → use gradient ascent

Maximize function over all possible  $w_0, w_1, w_2$

$$\max_{w_0, w_1, w_2} \prod_{i=1}^N P(y_i | x_i, \mathbf{w})$$

$\ell(w_0, w_1, w_2)$  is a function of 3 variables

# Gradient ascent

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## Finding the max via hill climbing



Algorithm:

**while** not converged

$$w^{(t+1)} \leftarrow w^{(t)} + n \frac{d\ell}{dw} \Big|_{w^{(t)}}$$

step size

# Gradient ascent

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## Convergence criteria

For convex functions,  
optimum occurs when

$$\frac{d\ell}{dw} = 0$$

In practice, stop when

$$\left| \frac{d\ell}{dw} \right|_{w^{(t)}} < \epsilon$$

$\uparrow$   
tolerance



Algorithm:

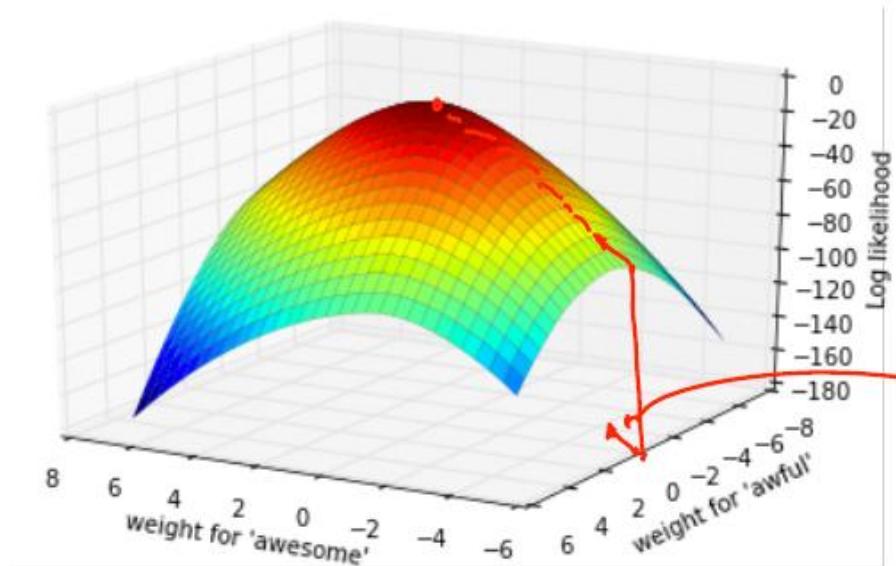
**while** not converged

$$w^{(t+1)} \leftarrow w^{(t)} + \eta \left. \frac{d\ell}{dw} \right|_{w^{(t)}}$$

# Gradient ascent

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Moving to multiple dimensions:  
Gradients



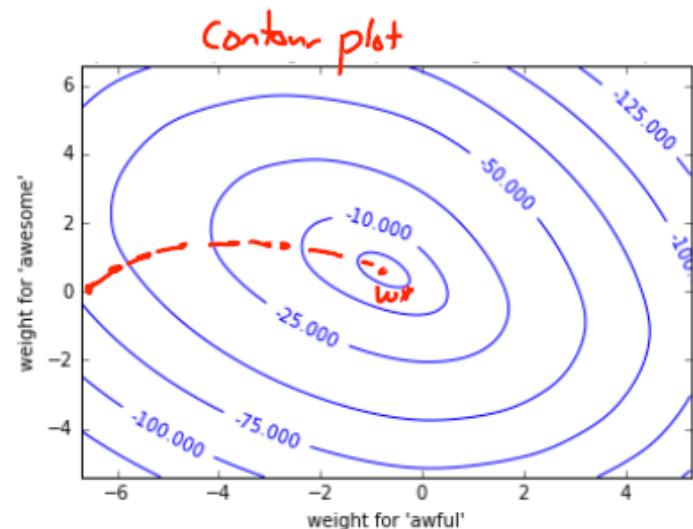
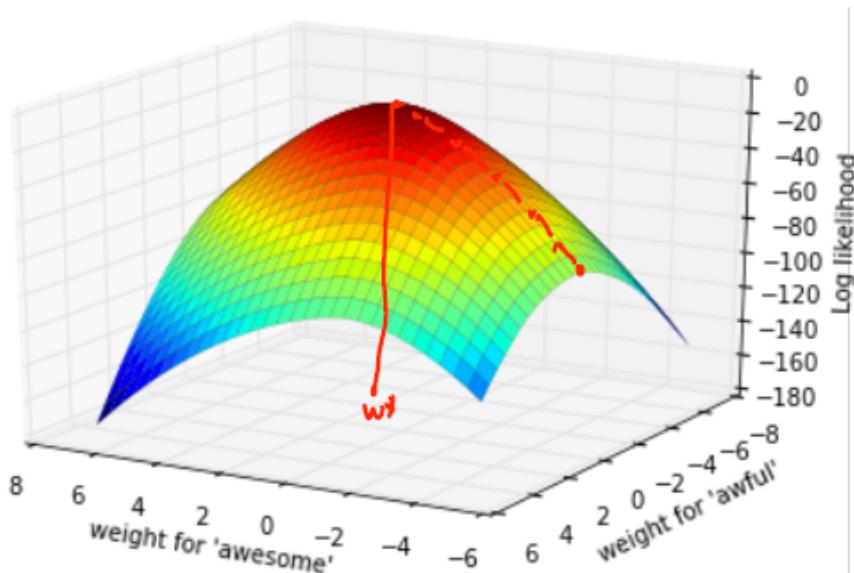
$$\nabla \ell(\mathbf{w}) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \ell}{\partial w_0} \\ \frac{\partial \ell}{\partial w_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial \ell}{\partial w_D} \end{bmatrix}$$

D+1 dim vector

# Gradient ascent

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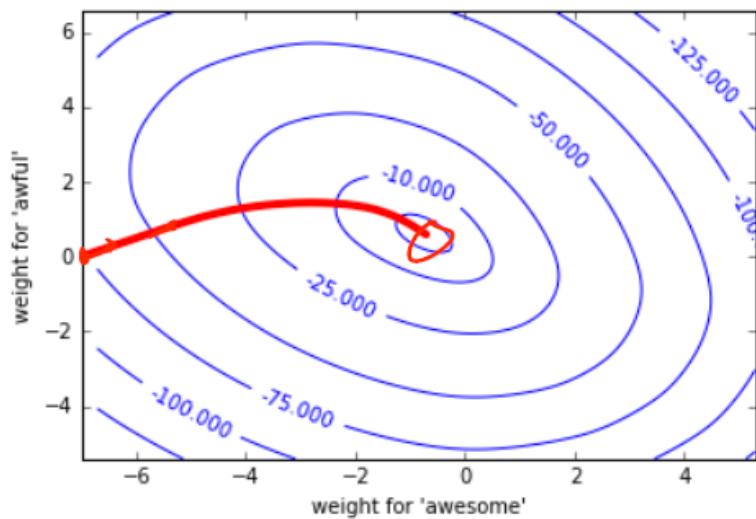
## Contour plots



# Gradient ascent

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## Gradient ascent



Algorithm:

$w^{(0)} = 0$ , random, or something smart.

**while** not converged

$$w^{(t+1)} \leftarrow w^{(t)} + \eta \nabla \ell(w^{(t)})$$



# The log trick, often used in ML...

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- Products become sums:  
 $\ln a \cdot b = \ln a + \ln b$  |  $\ln \frac{a}{b} = \ln a - \ln b$
- Doesn't change maximum!

- If  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}$  maximizes  $f(\mathbf{w})$ :

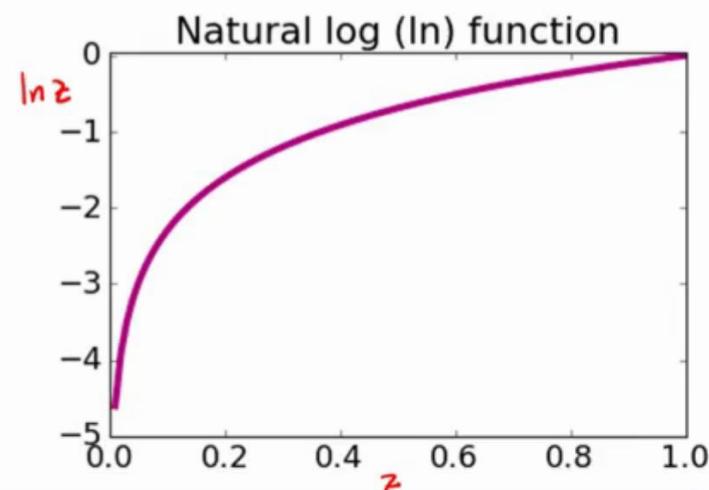
$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w})$$

the  $\mathbf{w}$  that makes  $f(\mathbf{w})$  largest

- Then  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}_{\ln}$  maximizes  $\ln(f(\mathbf{w}))$ :

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}}_{\ln} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{w}} \ln(f(\mathbf{w}))$$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{w}} = \hat{\mathbf{w}}_{\ln}.$$



# Derivative for logistic regression

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## Derivative of (log-)likelihood

$$\frac{\partial \ell(\mathbf{w})}{\partial w_j} = \sum_{i=1}^N h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) \left( \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1] - P(y = +1 | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) \right)$$

Sum over data points

Feature value

Difference between truth and prediction

*predict  $\mathbf{x}_i$  is positive*

See slides at the end of this lecture  
If you are interested how it is derived.

Indicator function:

$$\mathbb{1}[y_i = +1] = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } y_i = +1 \\ 0 & \text{if } y_i = -1 \end{cases}$$

# Derivative for logistic regression

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## Computing derivative

$$\frac{\partial \ell(\mathbf{w}^{(t)})}{\partial w_j} = \sum_{i=1}^N h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) \left( \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1] - P(y = +1 | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}^{(t)}) \right)$$

 $w^{(t)}$ :

$w_0^{(t)}$	0
$w_1^{(t)}$	1
$w_2^{(t)}$	-2

$$\frac{\partial \ell}{\partial w_1}$$

 $h_1(\mathbf{x}) = \text{blue answer}$ 

$x[1]$	$x[2]$	$y$	$P(y = +1   \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w})$	Contribution to derivative for $w_1$
2	1	+1	0.5	$2(1 - 0.5) = 1$
0	2	-1	0.02	$0(0 - 0.02) = 0$
3	3	-1	0.05	$3(0 - 0.05) = -0.15$
4	1	+1	0.88	$4(1 - 0.88) = 0.48$

Total derivative:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \ell(\mathbf{w}^{(t)})}{\partial w_1} &= 1 + 0 - 0.15 + 0.48 = 1.33 \\ w_1^{(t+1)} &= w_1^{(t)} + \eta \frac{\partial \ell(\mathbf{w}^{(t)})}{\partial w_1} \quad | \quad \eta = 0.1 \\ &= 1 + 0.1 \times 1.33 = \underline{1.133}\end{aligned}$$

# Derivative for logistic regression

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## Derivative of (log-)likelihood: Interpretation

$$\frac{\partial \ell(\mathbf{w})}{\partial w_j} = \sum_{i=1}^N h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) \left( \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1] - P(y = +1 | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) \right)$$

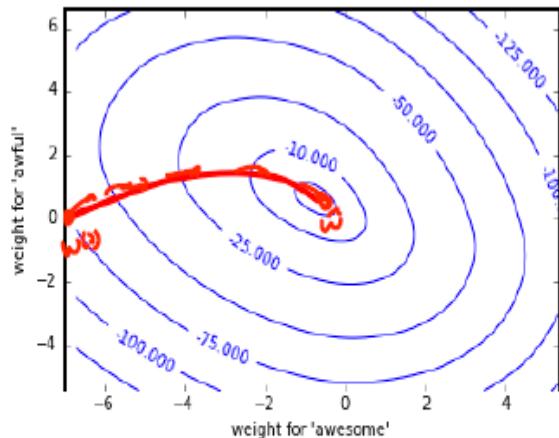
Sum over data points      Feature value      Difference between truth and prediction

$\Delta_i$

If $h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) = 1$ :	$P(y = +1   \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) \approx 1$	$P(y = +1   \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) \approx 0$
$y_i = +1$	$\Delta_i = (1 - 1) \approx 0$ ↳ don't change anything!	$\Delta_i \approx 1 \Rightarrow$ increase $w_j$ $\Rightarrow$ Score( $\mathbf{x}_i$ ) becomes larger $\Rightarrow P(y = +1   \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w})$ increases
$y_i = -1$	$\Delta_i = -1 \Rightarrow w_j$ to decrease $\Rightarrow$ Score( $\mathbf{x}_i$ ) decreases $\Rightarrow P(y = +1   \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w})$ decrease	$\Delta_i \approx 0$ ↳ don't change anything

# Gradient ascent for logistic regression

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init  $\mathbf{w}^{(1)} = 0$  (or randomly, or smartly),  $t=1$

**while**  $\|\nabla \ell(\mathbf{w}^{(t)})\| > \varepsilon$

**for**  $j=0, \dots, D$

$$\text{partial}[j] = \sum_{i=1}^N h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) \left( \mathbf{1}[y_i = +1] - P(y = +1 \mid \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}^{(t)}) \right)$$

$$\frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^{(t)} \cdot \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_i)}}$$

$$\mathbf{w}_j^{(t+1)} \leftarrow \mathbf{w}_j^{(t)} + \eta \text{partial}[j]$$

$$t \leftarrow t + 1$$

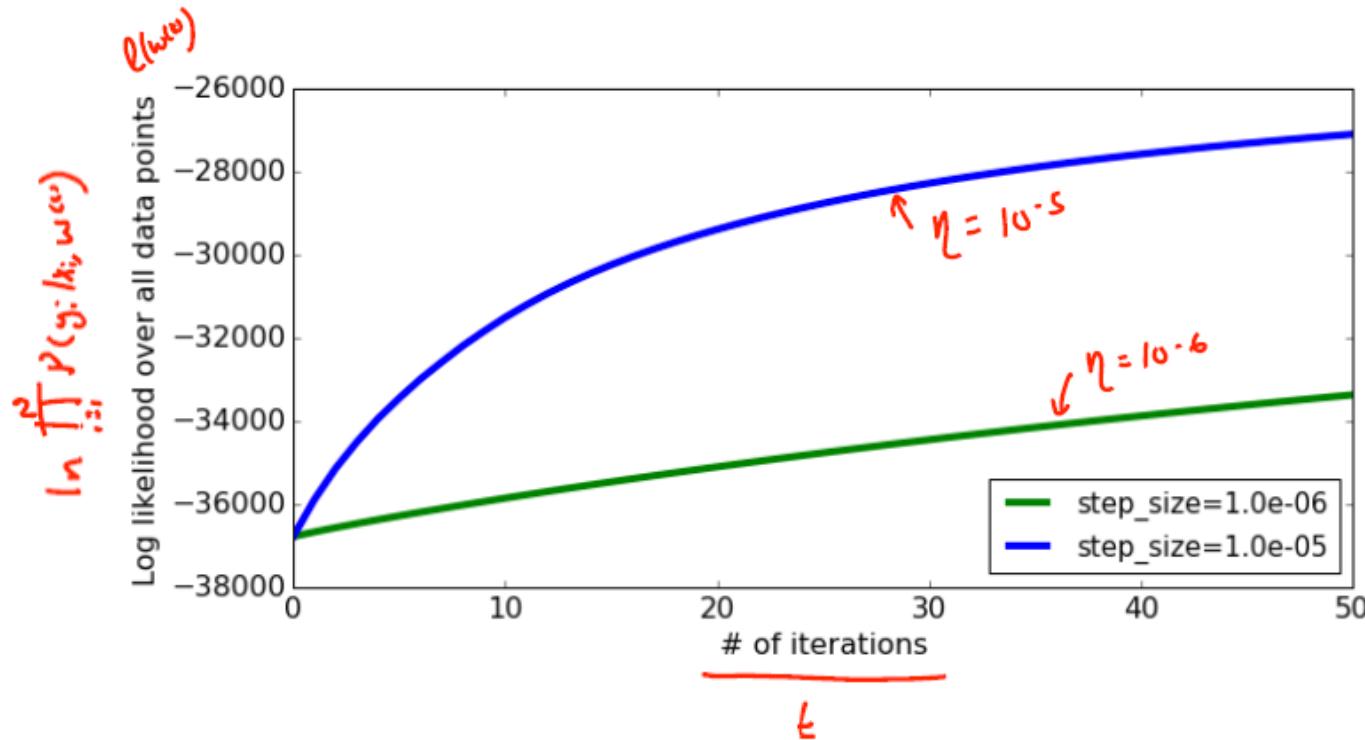
$$\frac{\partial \ell(\mathbf{w}^{(t)})}{\partial \mathbf{w}_j}$$

$\uparrow$   
 $\text{step size}$

# Choosing the step size

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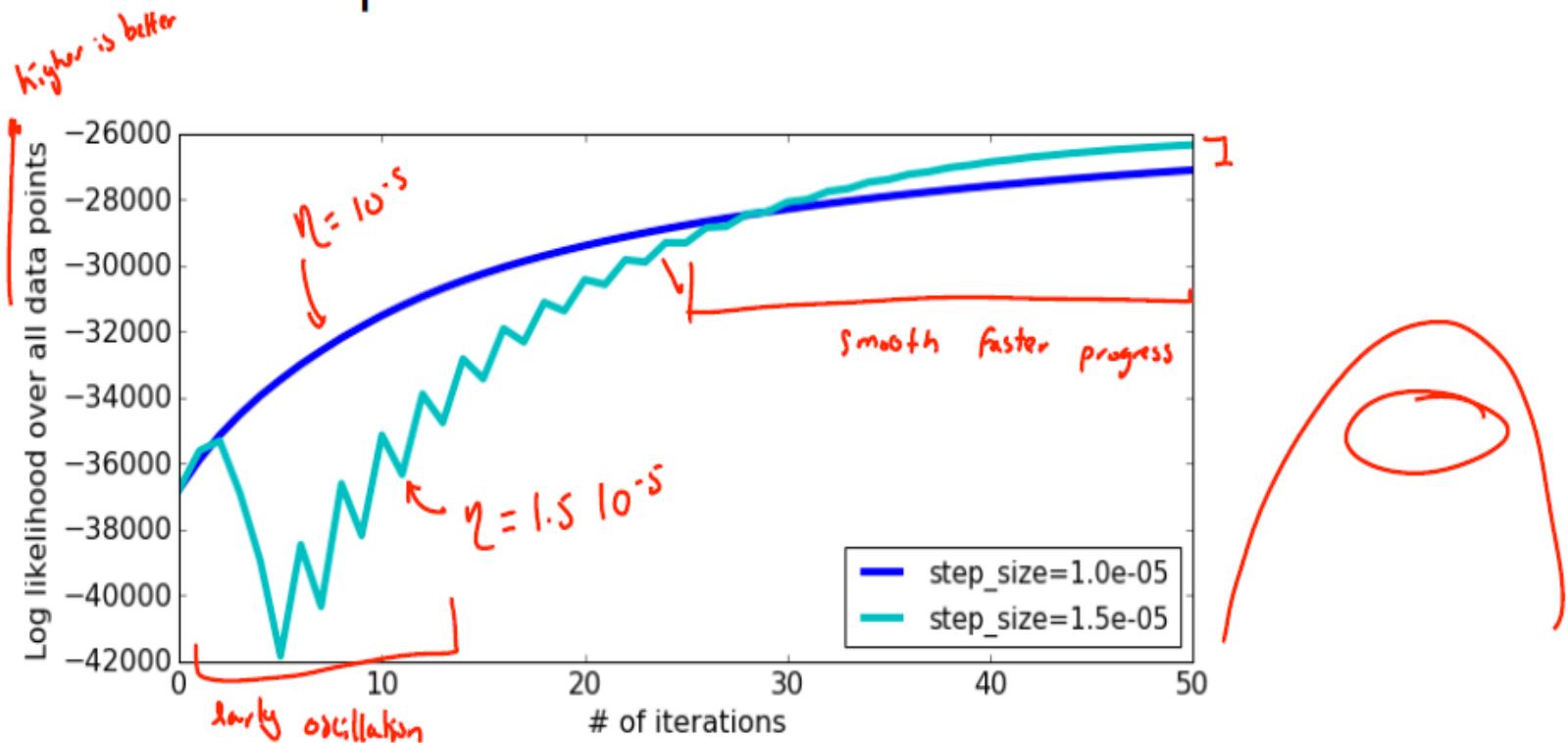
If step size is too small, can take a long time to converge



# Choosing the step size

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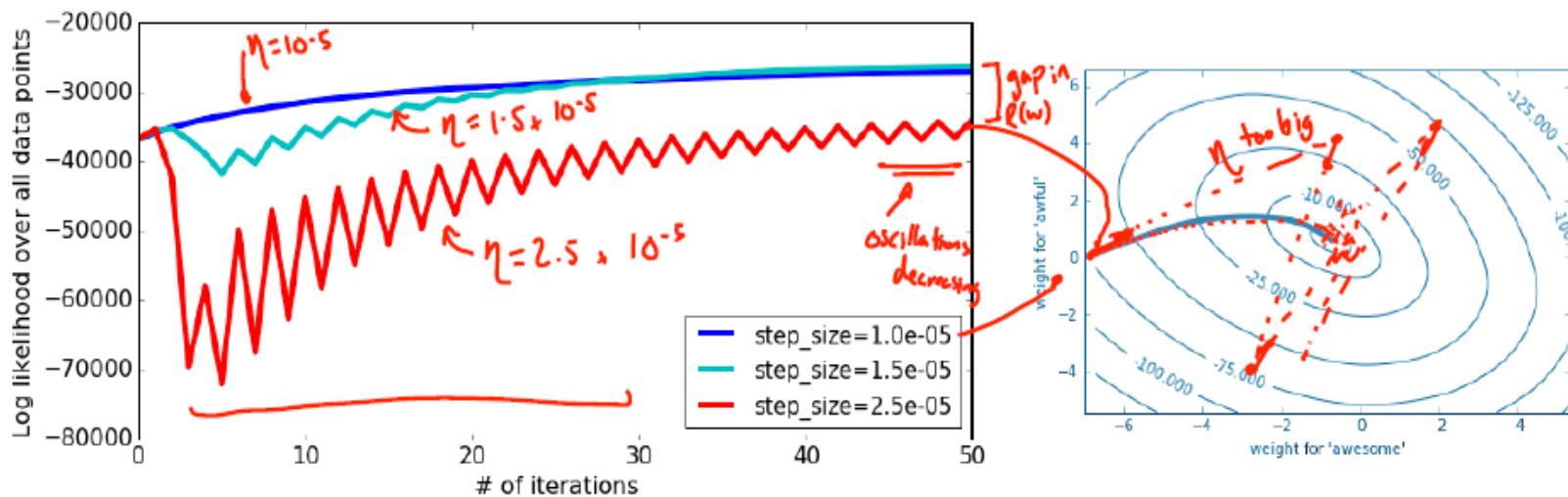
Compare converge with different step sizes



# Choosing the step size

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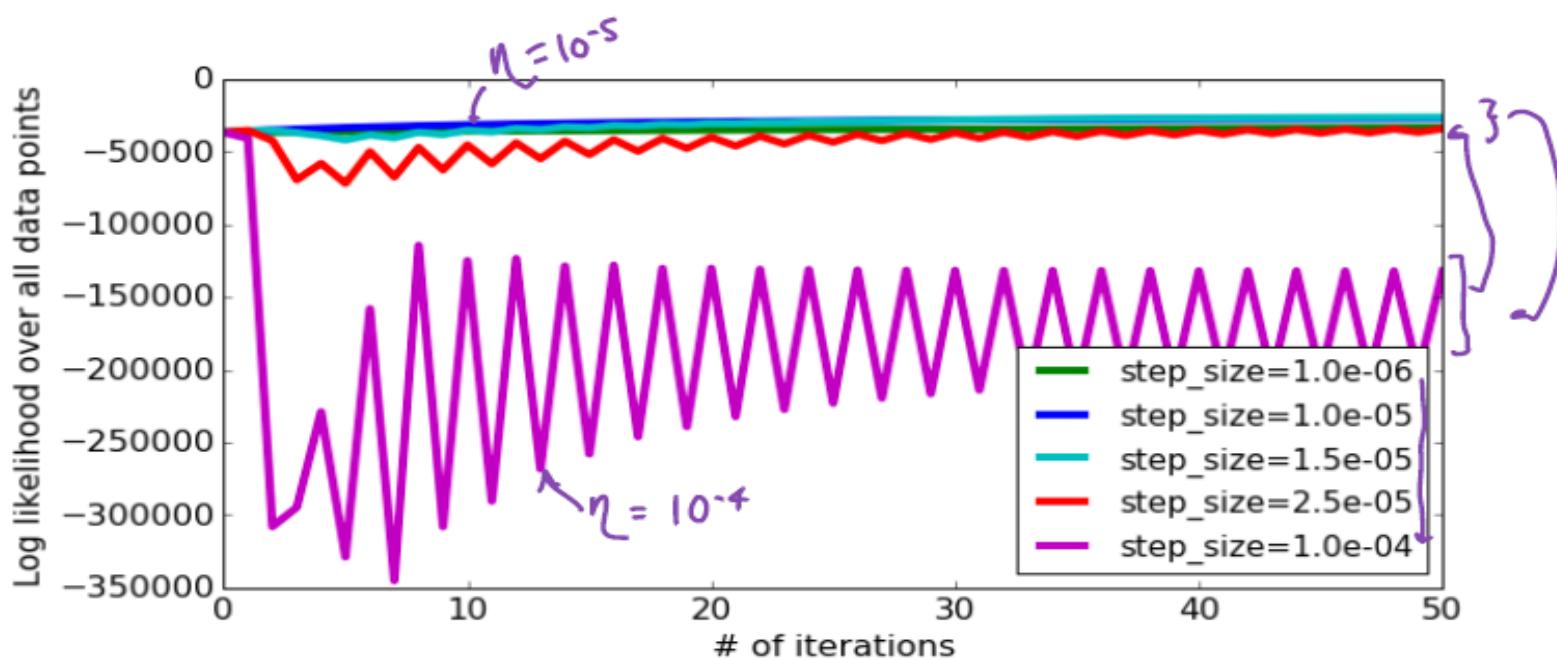
Careful with step sizes that are too large



# Choosing the step size

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Very large step sizes can even cause divergence or wild oscillations



# Choosing the step size

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## Simple rule of thumb for picking step size $\eta$

- Unfortunately, picking step size requires a lot of trial and error 😞
- Try several values, exponentially spaced
  - Goal: plot learning curves to
    - find one  $\eta$  that is too small (smooth but moving too slowly)
    - find one  $\eta$  that is too large (oscillation or divergence)
- Try values in between to find "best"  $\eta$   
*↳ exponentially space, pick one that leads best training data likelihood*
- Advanced tip: can also try step size that decreases with iterations, e.g.,

$$\eta_t = \frac{\eta_0}{t}$$

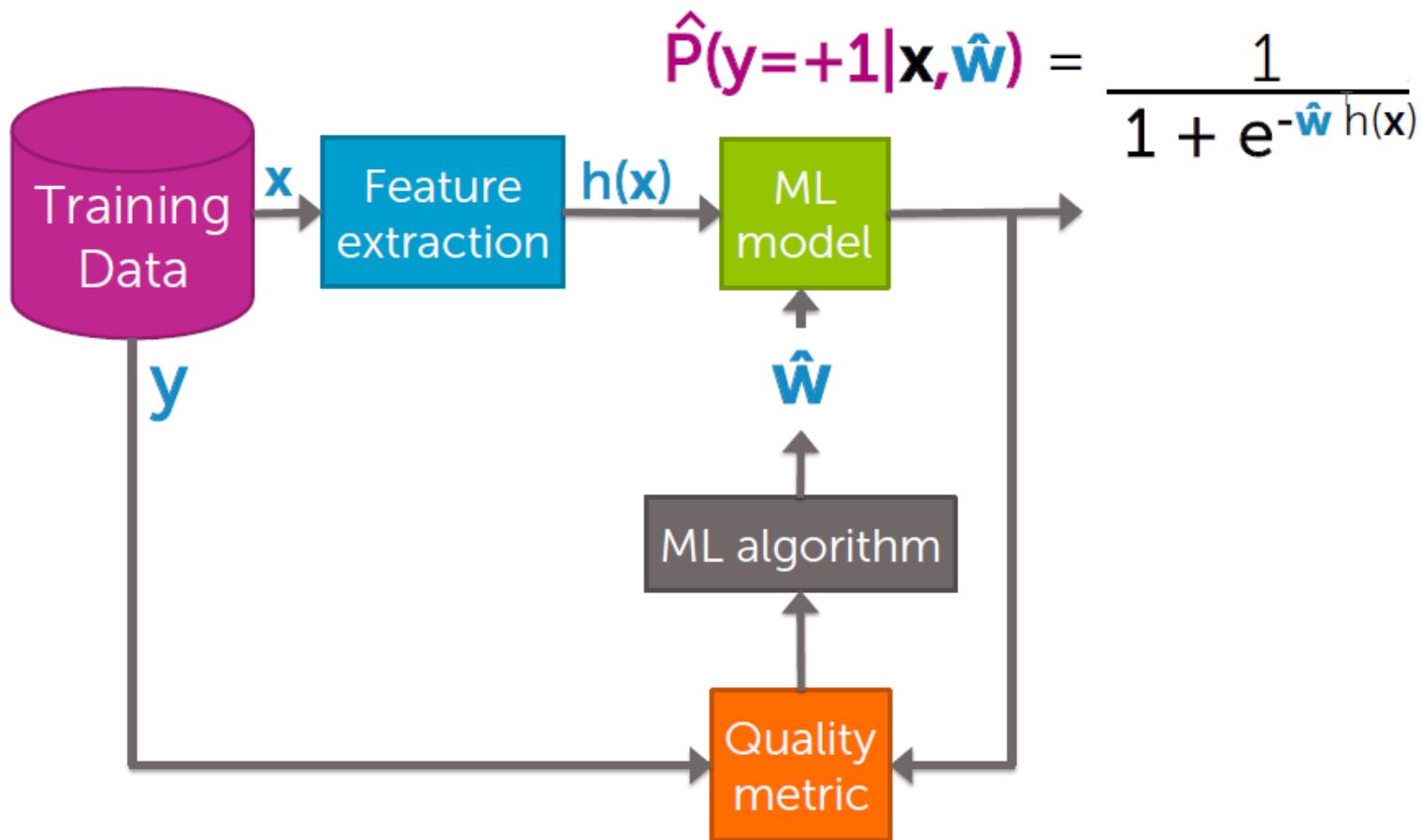


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# Flow chart: final look at it

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# What you can do now

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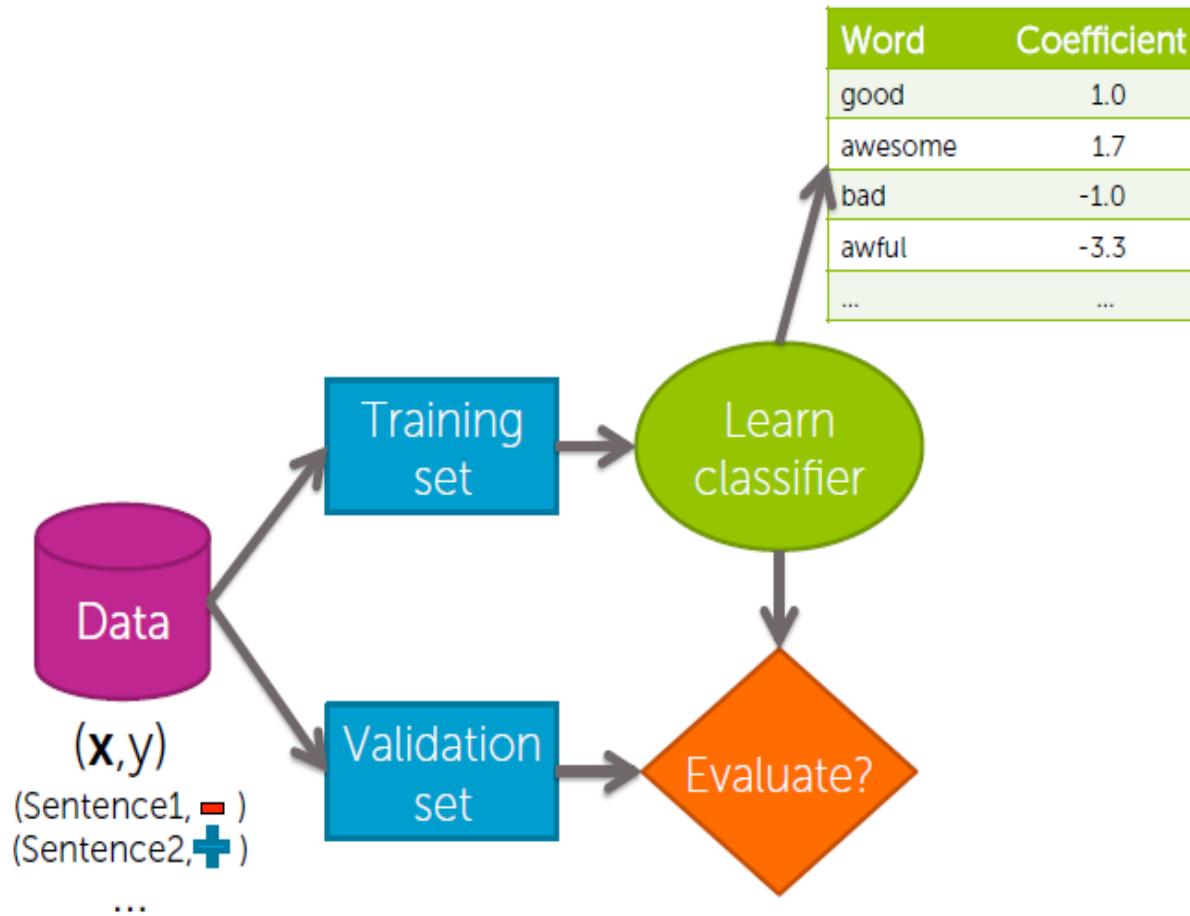
- Measure quality of a classifier using the likelihood function
- Interpret the likelihood function as the probability of the observed data
- Learn a logistic regression model with gradient descent
- (Optional) Derive the gradient descent update rule for logistic regression

# Linear classifier

- ▣ Overfitting & regularization

# Training a classifier = Learning the coefficients

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# Classification error & accuracy

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- Error measures fraction of mistakes

$$\text{error} = \frac{\# \text{ Mistakes}}{\text{Total number of datapoints}}$$

- Best possible value is 0.0
- Often, measure accuracy
  - Fraction of correct predictions

$$\text{accuracy} = \frac{\# \text{ Correct}}{\text{Total number of data points}}$$

- Best possible value is 1.0

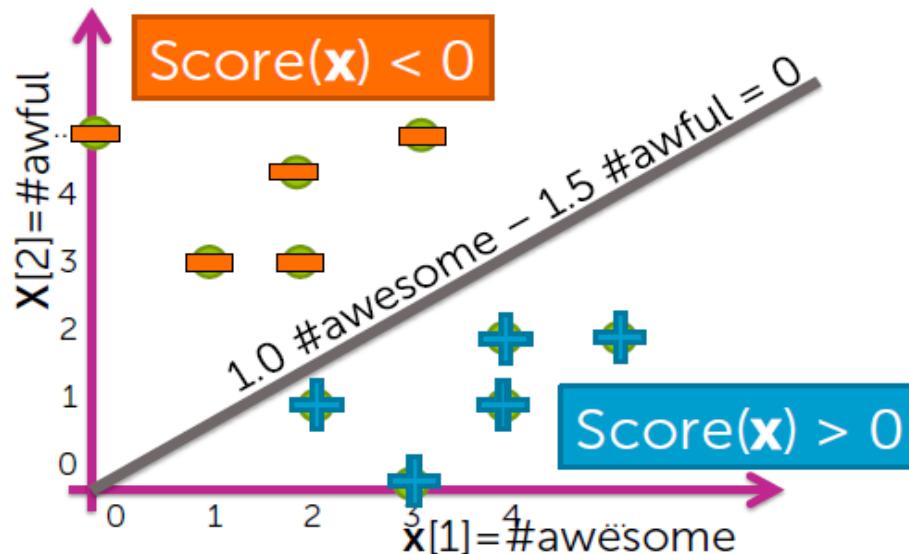
# Overfitting in classification

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## Decision boundary example

Word	Coefficient
#awesome	1.0
#awful	-1.5

$$\text{Score}(x) = 1.0 \text{ #awesome} - 1.5 \text{ #awful}$$

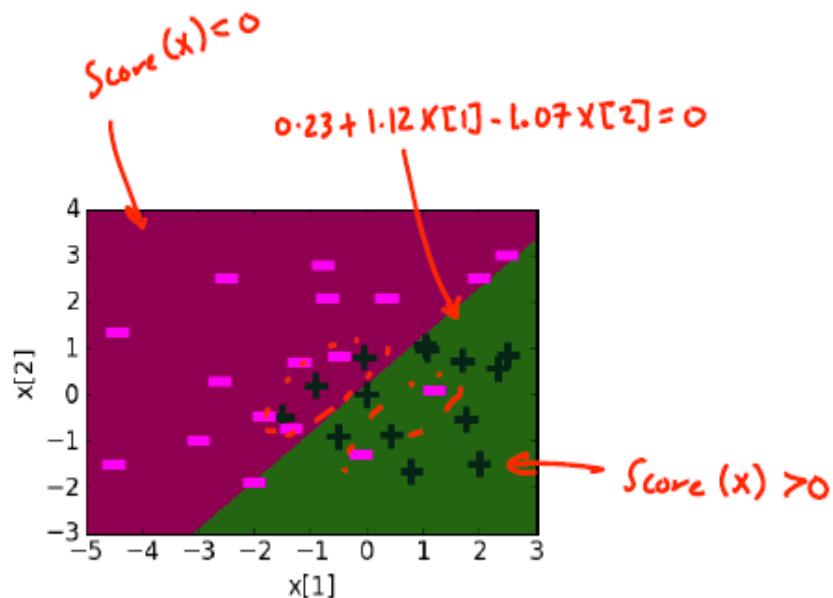
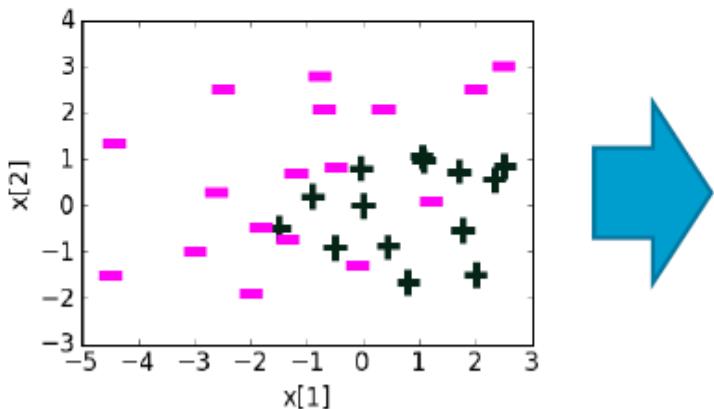


# Overfitting in classification

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## Learned decision boundary

Feature	Value	Coefficient learned
$h_0(x)$	$w_0 \quad 1$	0.23
$h_1(x)$	$w_1 \quad x[1]$	1.12
$h_2(x)$	$w_2 \quad x[2]$	-1.07

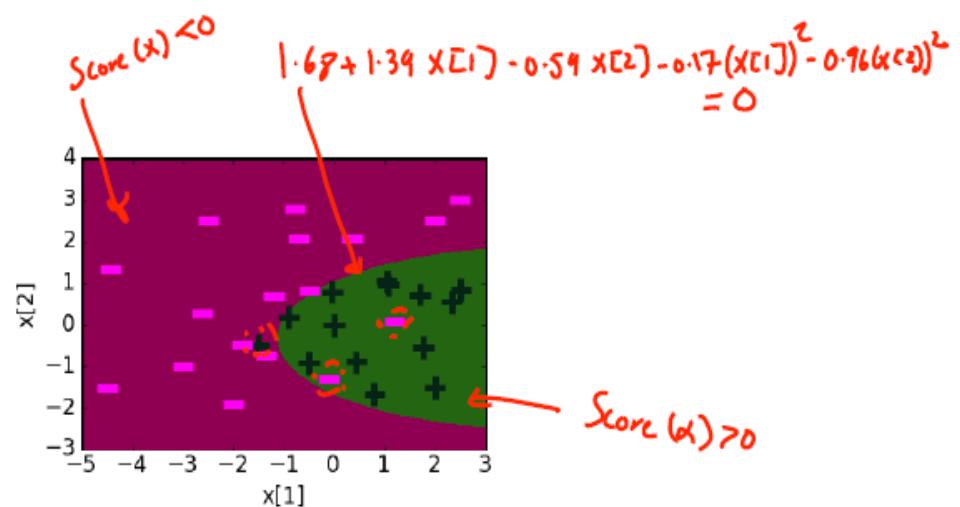
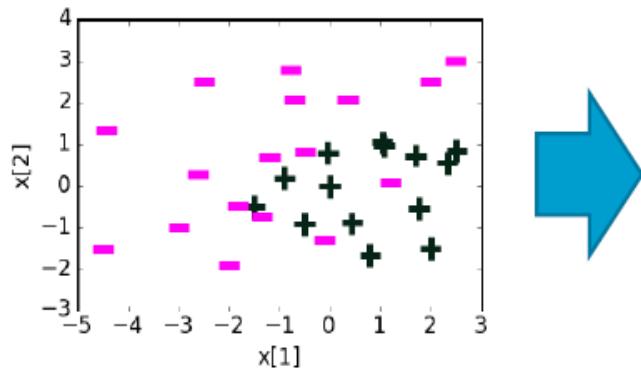


# Overfitting in classification

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## Quadratic features (in 2d)

Feature	Value	Coefficient learned
$h_0(x)$	1	1.68
$h_1(x)$	$x[1]$	1.39
$h_2(x)$	$x[2]$	-0.59
$h_3(x)$	$(x[1])^2$	-0.17
$h_4(x)$	$(x[2])^2$	-0.96



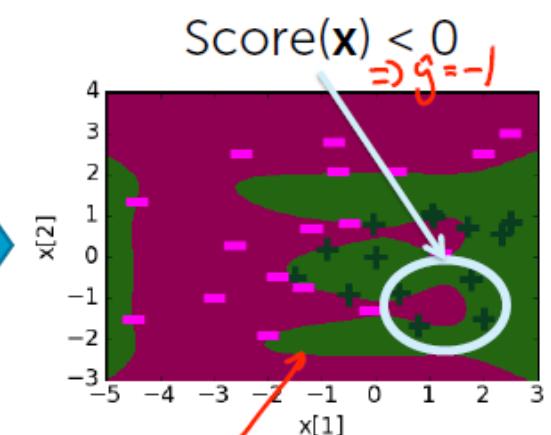
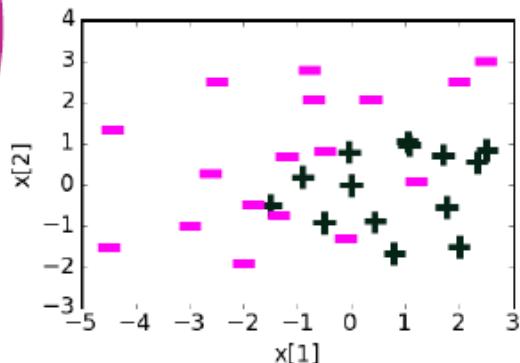
# Overfitting in classification

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## Degree 6 features (in 2d)

Feature	Value	Coefficient learned
$h_0(x)$	1	21.6
$h_1(x)$	$x[1]$	5.3
$h_2(x)$	$x[2]$	-42.7
$h_3(x)$	$(x[1])^2$	-15.9
$h_4(x)$	$(x[2])^2$	-48.6
$h_5(x)$	$(x[1])^3$	-11.0
$h_6(x)$	$(x[2])^3$	67.0
$h_7(x)$	$(x[1])^4$	1.5
$h_8(x)$	$(x[2])^4$	48.0
$h_9(x)$	$(x[1])^5$	4.4
$h_{10}(x)$	$(x[2])^5$	-14.2
$h_{11}(x)$	$(x[1])^6$	0.8
$h_{12}(x)$	$(x[2])^6$	-8.6

Coefficient values getting large



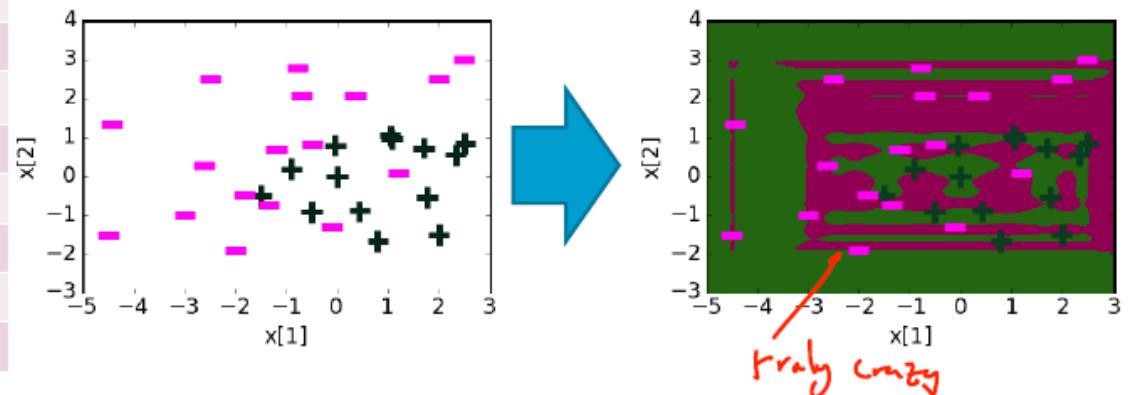
# Overfitting in classification

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## Degree 20 features (in 2d)

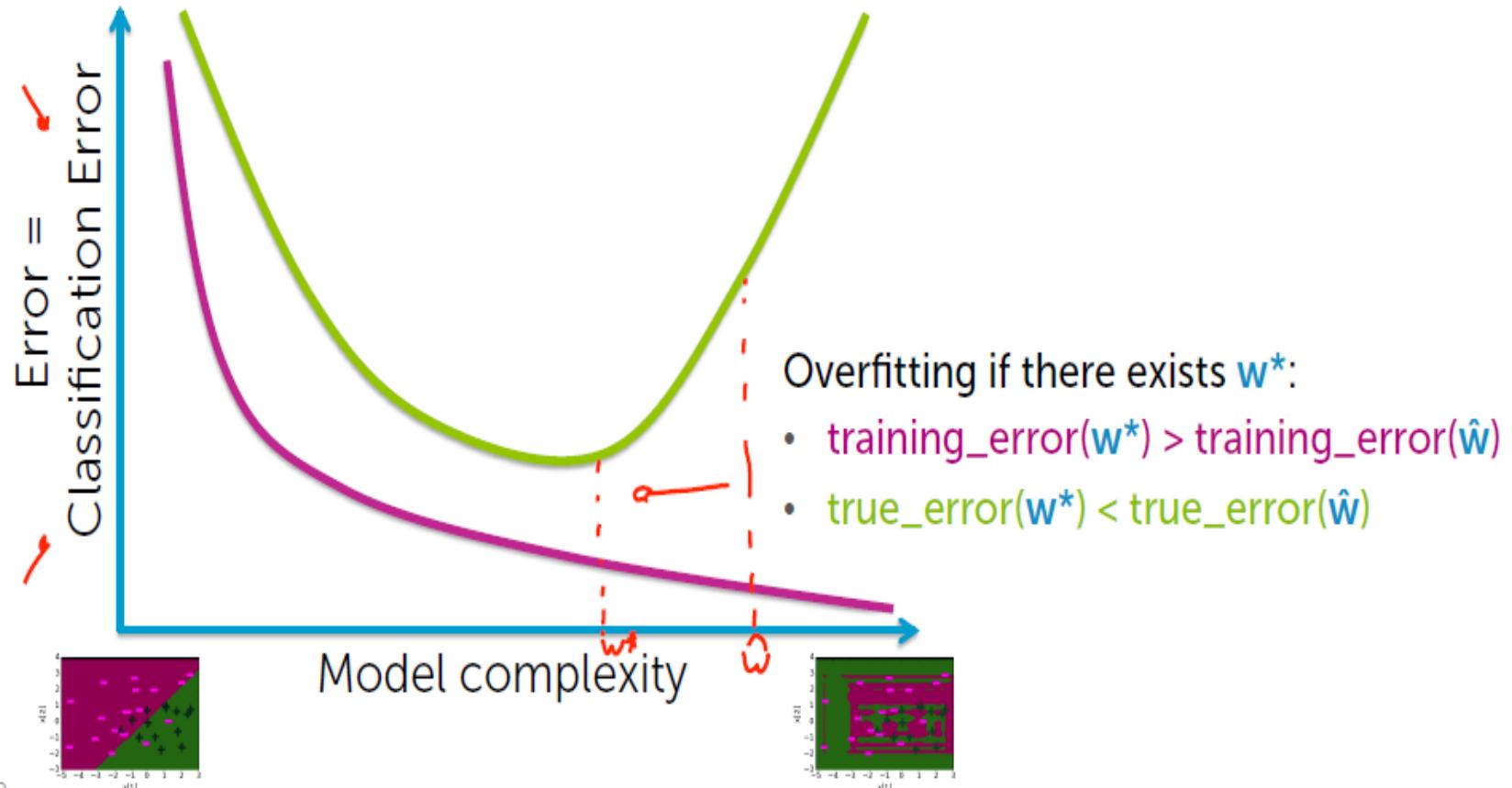
Feature	Value	Coefficient learned
$h_0(x)$	1	8.7
$h_1(x)$	$x[1]$	5.1
$h_2(x)$	$x[2]$	78.7
...	...	...
$h_{11}(x)$	$(x[1])^6$	-7.5
$h_{12}(x)$	$(x[2])^6$	<b>3803</b>
$h_{13}(x)$	$(x[1])^7$	<b>-21.1</b>
$h_{14}(x)$	$(x[2])^7$	<b>-2406</b>
...	...	...
$h_{37}(x)$	$(x[1])^{19}$	$-2 \cdot 10^{-6}$
$h_{38}(x)$	$(x[2])^{19}$	-0.15
$h_{39}(x)$	$(x[1])^{20}$	$-2 \cdot 10^{-8}$
$h_{40}(x)$	$(x[2])^{20}$	0.03

Often, overfitting associated with very large estimated coefficients  $\hat{w}$



# Overfitting in classification

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# Overfitting in logistic regression

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The subtle (negative) consequence of overfitting in logistic regression

Overfitting → Large coefficient values

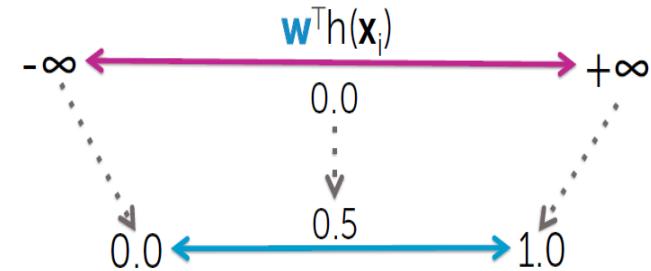


$\hat{\mathbf{w}}^T \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_i)$  is very positive (or very negative)  
→ sigmoid( $\hat{\mathbf{w}}^T \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_i)$ ) goes to 1 (or to 0)



Model becomes extremely overconfident of predictions

Logistic regression model



$$P(y=+1|\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) = \text{sigmoid}(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_i))$$

Remember about this probability interpretation

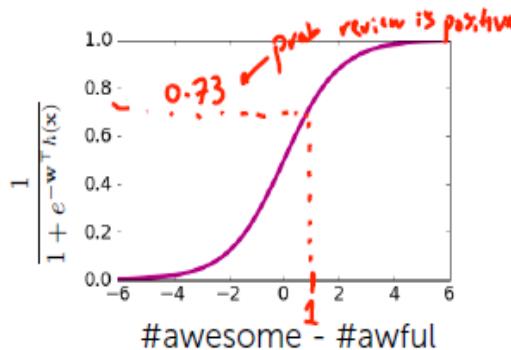
# Effect of coefficients on logistic regression model

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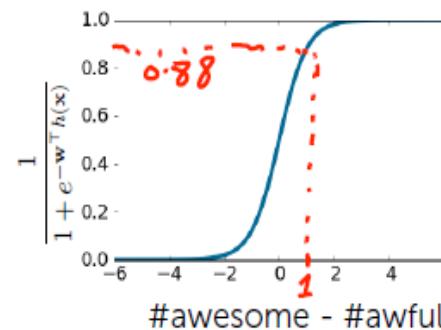
With increasing coefficients model becomes overconfident on predictions

Input  $\mathbf{x}$ : #awesome=2, #awful=1

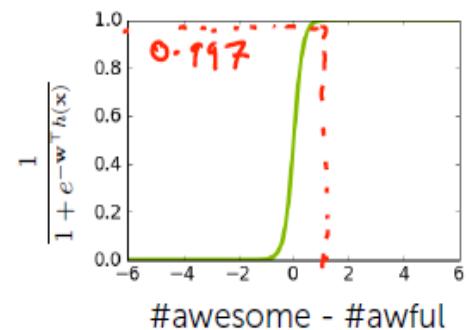
$w_0$	0
$w_{\text{awesome}}$	+1
$w_{\text{awful}}$	-1



$w_0$	0
$w_{\text{awesome}}$	+2
$w_{\text{awful}}$	-2



$w_0$	0
$w_{\text{awesome}}$	+6
$w_{\text{awful}}$	-6



# Learned probabilities

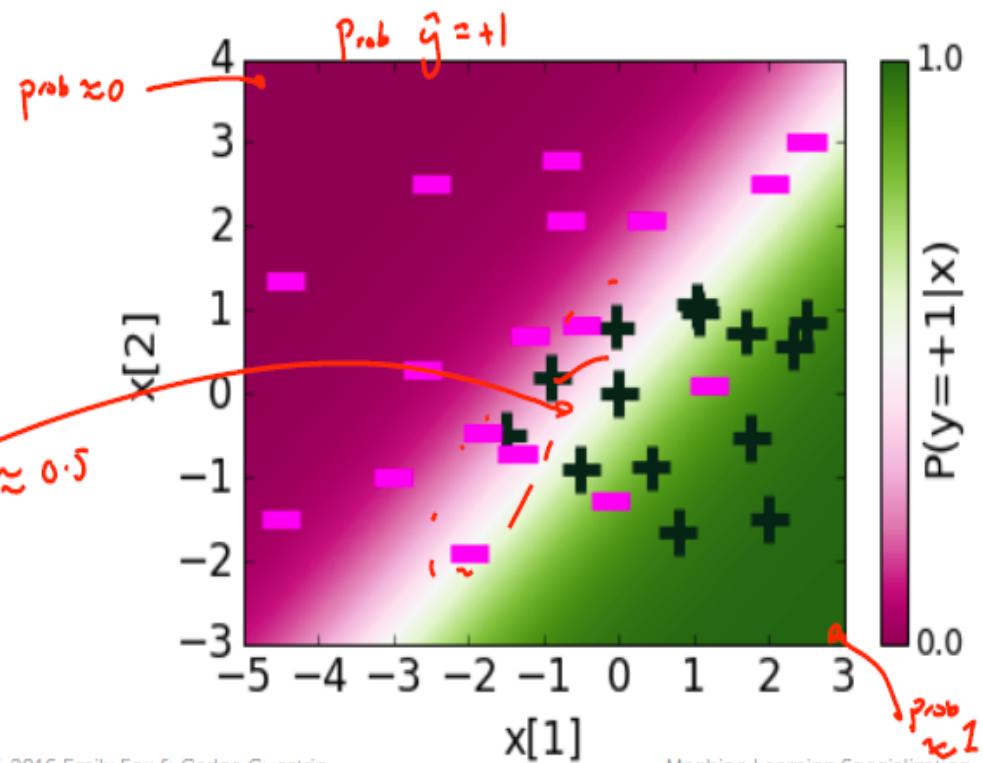
96

Feature	Value	Coefficient learned
$h_0(x)$	1	0.23
$h_1(x)$	$x[1]$	1.12
$h_2(x)$	$x[2]$	-1.07

$$P(y = +1 | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x})}}$$

Make sense

wide region  
of uncertainty



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# Quadratic features: learned probabilities

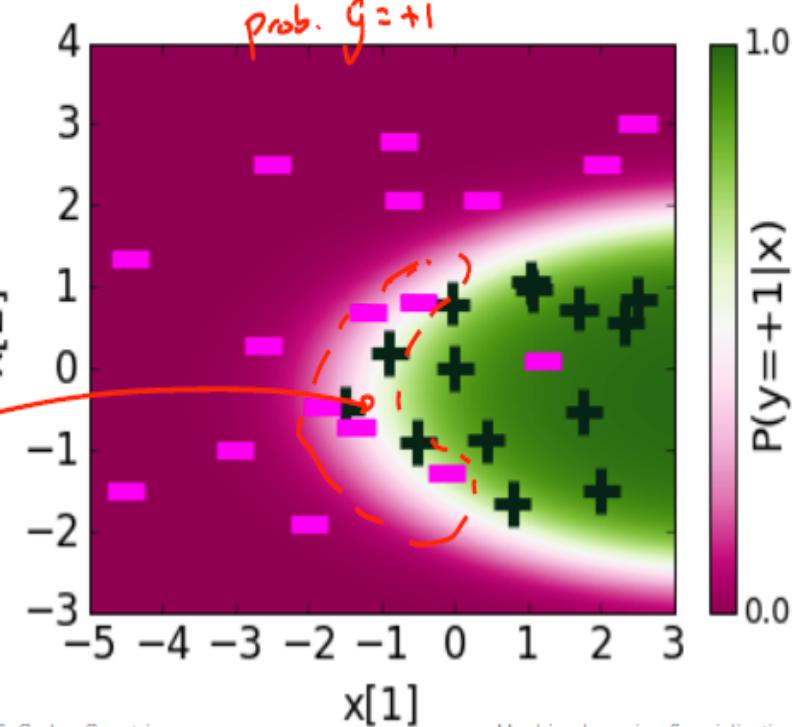
97

Feature	Value	Coefficient learned
$h_0(x)$	1	1.68
$h_1(x)$	$x[1]$	1.39
$h_2(x)$	$x[2]$	-0.58
$h_3(x)$	$(x[1])^2$	-0.17
$h_4(x)$	$(x[2])^2$	-0.96

$$P(y = +1 | x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-w^\top h(x)}}$$

uncertainty  
region  
narrower

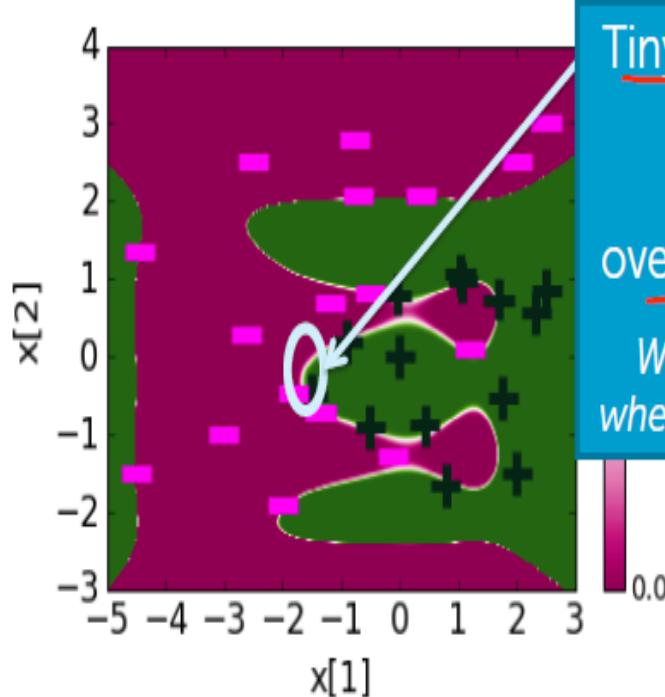
better  
fit to  
data



# Overfitting → overconfident predictions

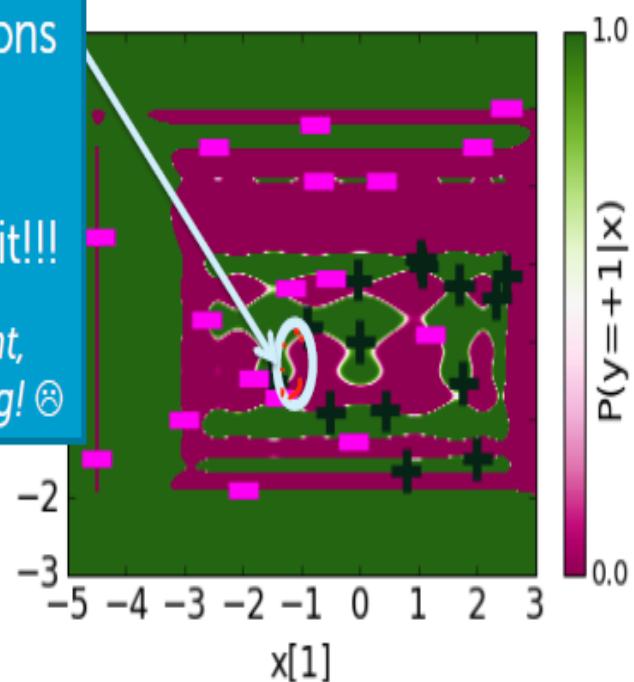
98

Degree 6: Learned probabilities



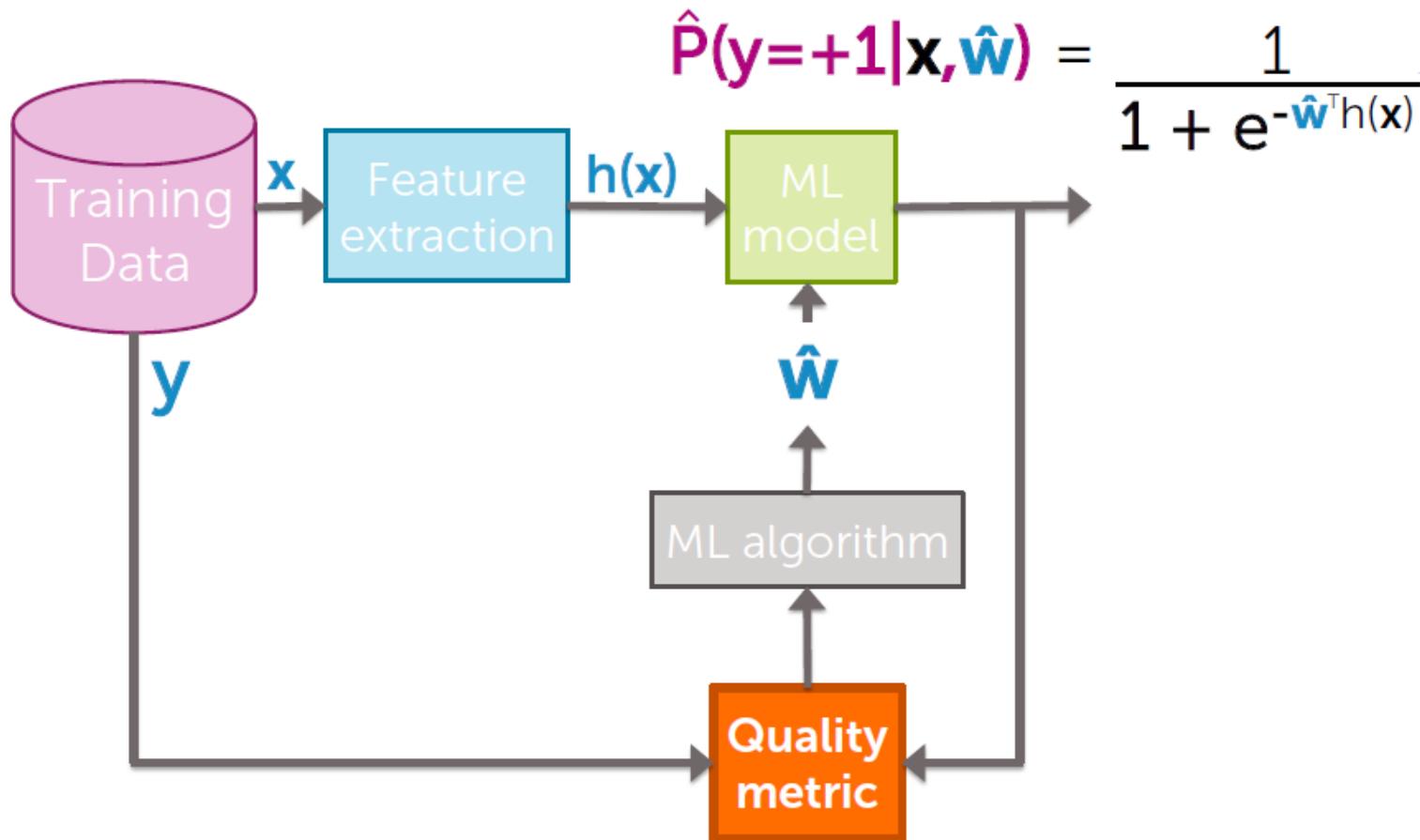
Tiny uncertainty regions  
→  
Overfitting &  
overconfident about it!!!  
*We are sure we are right,  
when we are surely wrong! ☺*

Degree 20: Learned probabilities



# Quality metric → penalizing large coefficients

99



# Desired total cost format

100

Want to balance:

- i. How well function fits data
- ii. Magnitude of coefficients

$$\text{Total quality} = \text{measure of fit} - \text{measure of magnitude of coefficients}$$

want to balance

↑  
(data likelihood)  
large # = good fit to training data

↑  
large # = overfit

The diagram illustrates the formula for Total quality. At the top, the text "want to balance" is written above two arrows pointing downwards towards the equation. The first arrow points from the word "measure of fit" to the first term in the equation. The second arrow points from the words "measure of magnitude of coefficients" to the second term in the equation. Below the equation, there are two pink arrows pointing upwards. The left arrow points from the text "(data likelihood)" to the word "measure of fit". The right arrow points from the text "large # = overfit" to the word "coefficients".

# Maximum likelihood estimation (MLE)

101

## □ Measure of fit = Data likelihood

- Choose coefficients  $\mathbf{w}$  that maximize likelihood:

$$\prod_{i=1}^N P(y_i \mid \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w})$$

- Typically, we use the log of likelihood function  
(simplifies math and has better convergence properties)  !!!

$$\ell(\mathbf{w}) = \ln \prod_{i=1}^N P(y_i \mid \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w})$$

# Measure of magnitude of logistic regression coefficients

102

What summary # is indicative of size of logistic regression coefficients?

- Sum of squares ( $L_2$  norm)

$$\|w\|_2^2 = w_0^2 + w_1^2 + w_2^2 + \dots + w_D^2 \rightarrow \text{Penalize large Coefficients}$$

- Sum of absolute value ( $L_1$  norm)

$$\|w\|_1 = |w_0| + |w_1| + |w_2| + \dots + |w_D| \rightarrow \text{Sparse solution}$$

# Consider specific total cost

103

$\max_w$

Total quality =

measure of fit - measure of magnitude  
of coefficients

$$\ell(\mathbf{w}) - \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2$$

labeled components:

- $\ell(\mathbf{w})$ : log data likelihood
- $\|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2$ : L<sub>2</sub> penalty

# Consider resulting objectives

104

What if  $\hat{w}$  selected to minimize

$$\ell(w) - \lambda \|w\|_2^2$$

tuning parameter = balance of fit and magnitude

If  $\lambda=0$ :

Reduces  $\max_w \ell(w) \rightarrow$  standard (unpenalized) MLE solution

If  $\lambda=\infty$ :

$\max_w \ell(w) - \infty \|w\|_2^2 \rightarrow$  only care about penalizing  $w$ , large coefficients  $\rightarrow w=0$

If  $\lambda$  in between:

Balance data fit against the magnitude of the coefficients

# Consider resulting objectives

105

What if  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}$  selected to minimize

$$\ell(\mathbf{w}) - \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2$$

↑ tuning parameter = balance of fit and magnitude

$L_2$  regularized  
logistic regression

Pick  $\lambda$  using:

- Validation set (for large datasets)
- Cross-validation (for smaller datasets)

# Bias-variance tradeoff

106

Large  $\lambda$ :

high bias, low variance

(e.g.,  $\hat{w} = 0$  for  $\lambda = \infty$ )

In essence,  $\lambda$   
controls model  
complexity

Small  $\lambda$ :

low bias, high variance

(e.g., maximum likelihood (MLE) fit of  
high-order polynomial for  $\lambda = 0$ )

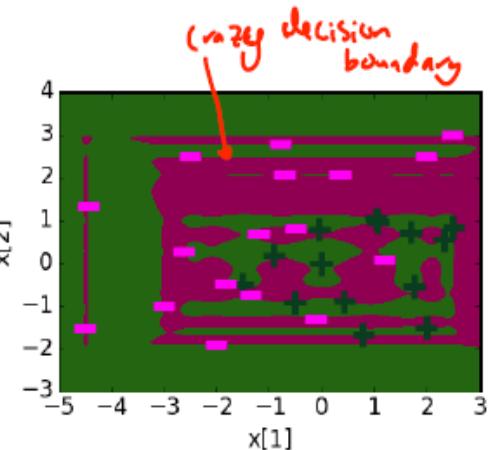
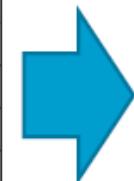
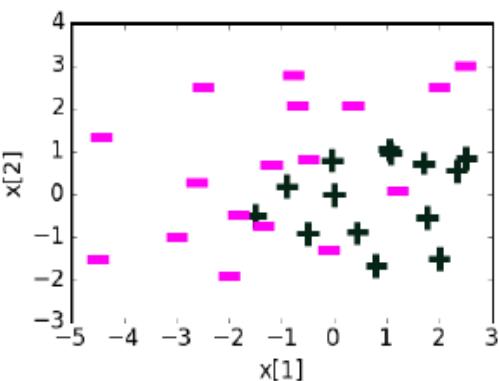
# Visualizing effect of regularisation

107

Degree 20 features,  $\lambda=0$

Feature	Value	Coefficient learned
$h_0(x)$	1	8.7
$h_1(x)$	$x[1]$	5.1
$h_2(x)$	$x[2]$	78.7
...	...	...
$h_{11}(x)$	$(x[1])^6$	-7.5
$h_{12}(x)$	$(x[2])^6$	<u>3803</u>
$h_{13}(x)$	$(x[1])^7$	21.1
$h_{14}(x)$	$(x[2])^7$	<u>-2406</u>
...	...	...
$h_{37}(x)$	$(x[1])^{19}$	$-2 \cdot 10^{-6}$
$h_{38}(x)$	$(x[2])^{19}$	-0.15
$h_{39}(x)$	$(x[1])^{20}$	$-2 \cdot 10^{-8}$
$h_{40}(x)$	$(x[2])^{20}$	0.03

Coefficients range from -3170 to 3803



# Visualizing effect of regularisation

108

Degree 20 features,  
effect of regularization penalty  $\lambda$

Regularization	$\lambda = 0$	$\lambda = 0.00001$	$\lambda = 0.001$	$\lambda = 1$	$\lambda = 10$
Range of coefficients	-3170 to 3803	-8.04 to 12.14	-0.70 to 1.25	-0.13 to 0.57	-0.05 to 0.22
Decision boundary					

*Very large* (red annotation pointing to the first column)

*smaller coefficients* (red annotation pointing to the last column)

*wavy decision boundary* (red annotation pointing to the first plot)

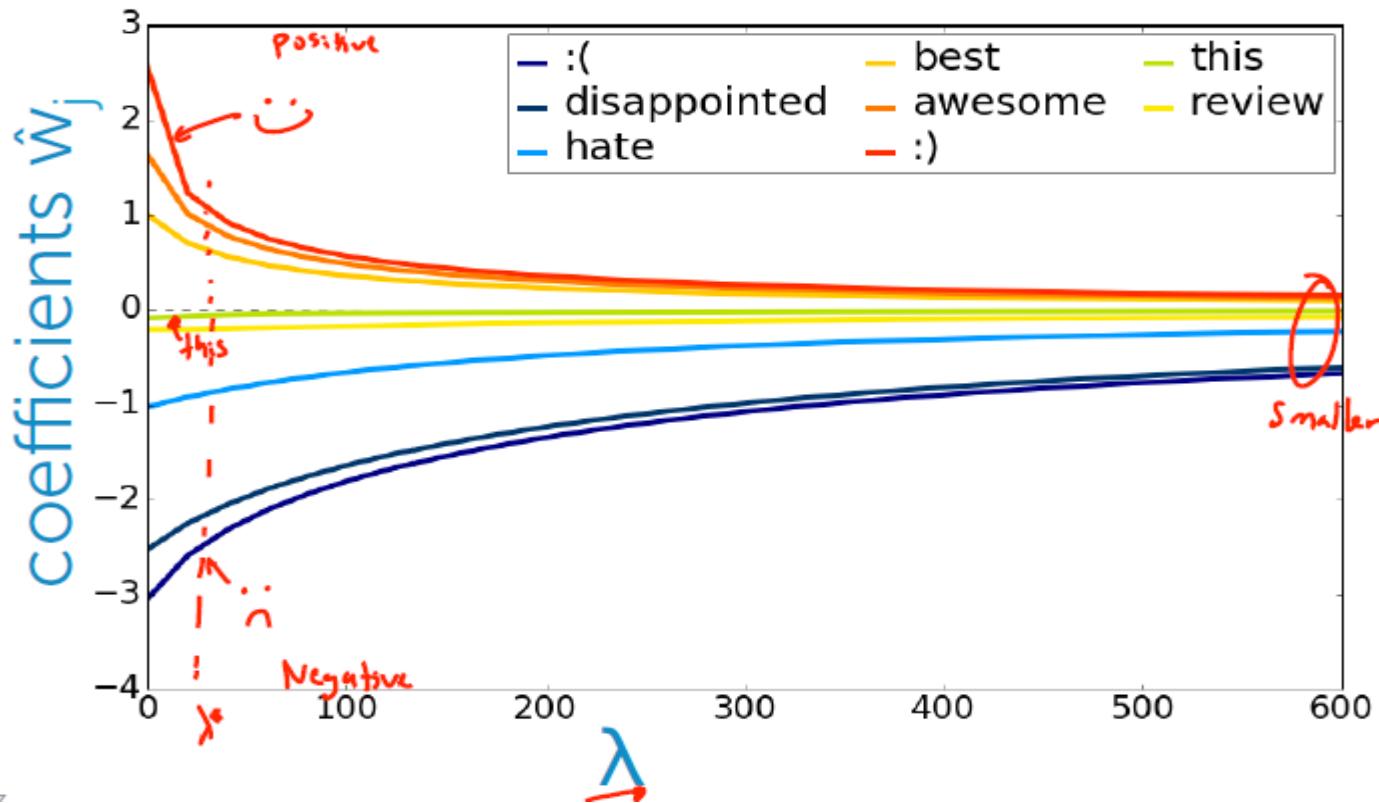
*nicer smoother* (red annotation pointing to the last plot)

50

# Effect of regularisation

109

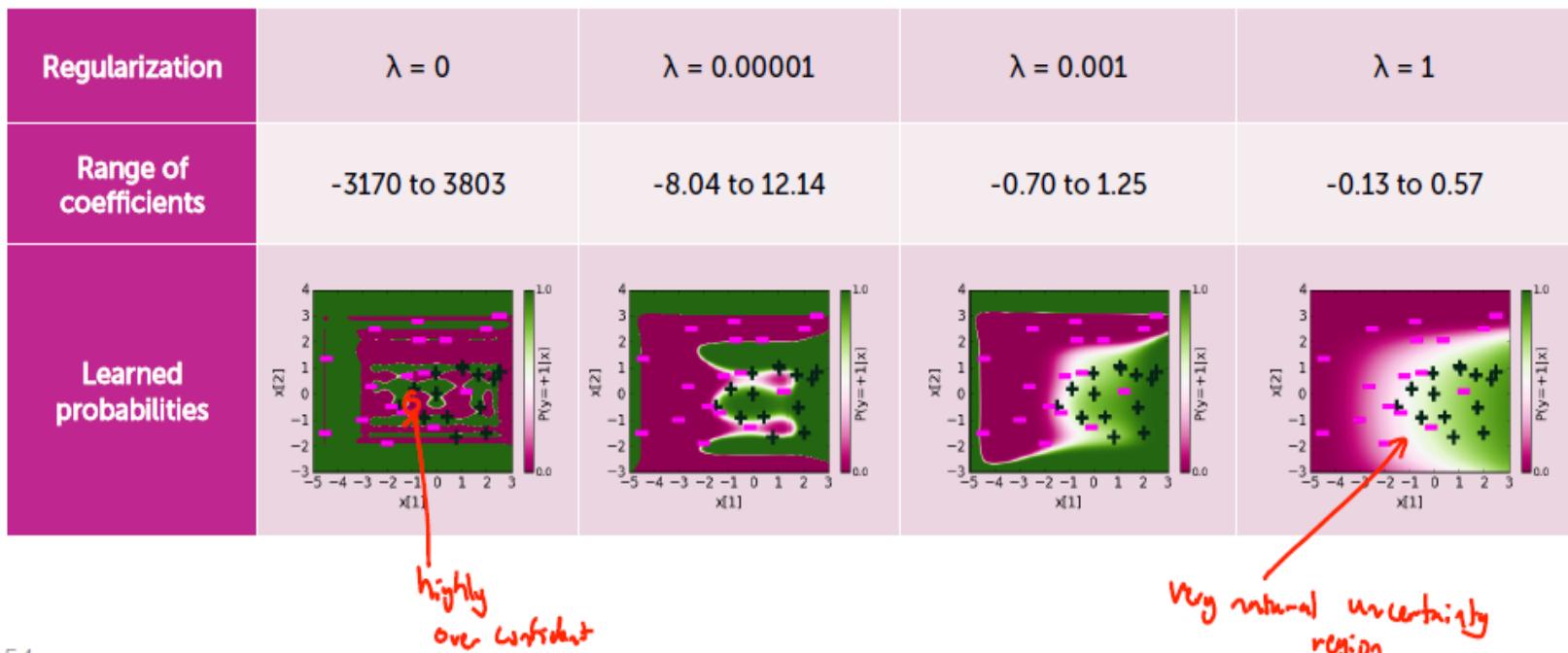
## Coefficient path



# Visualizing effect of regularisation

110

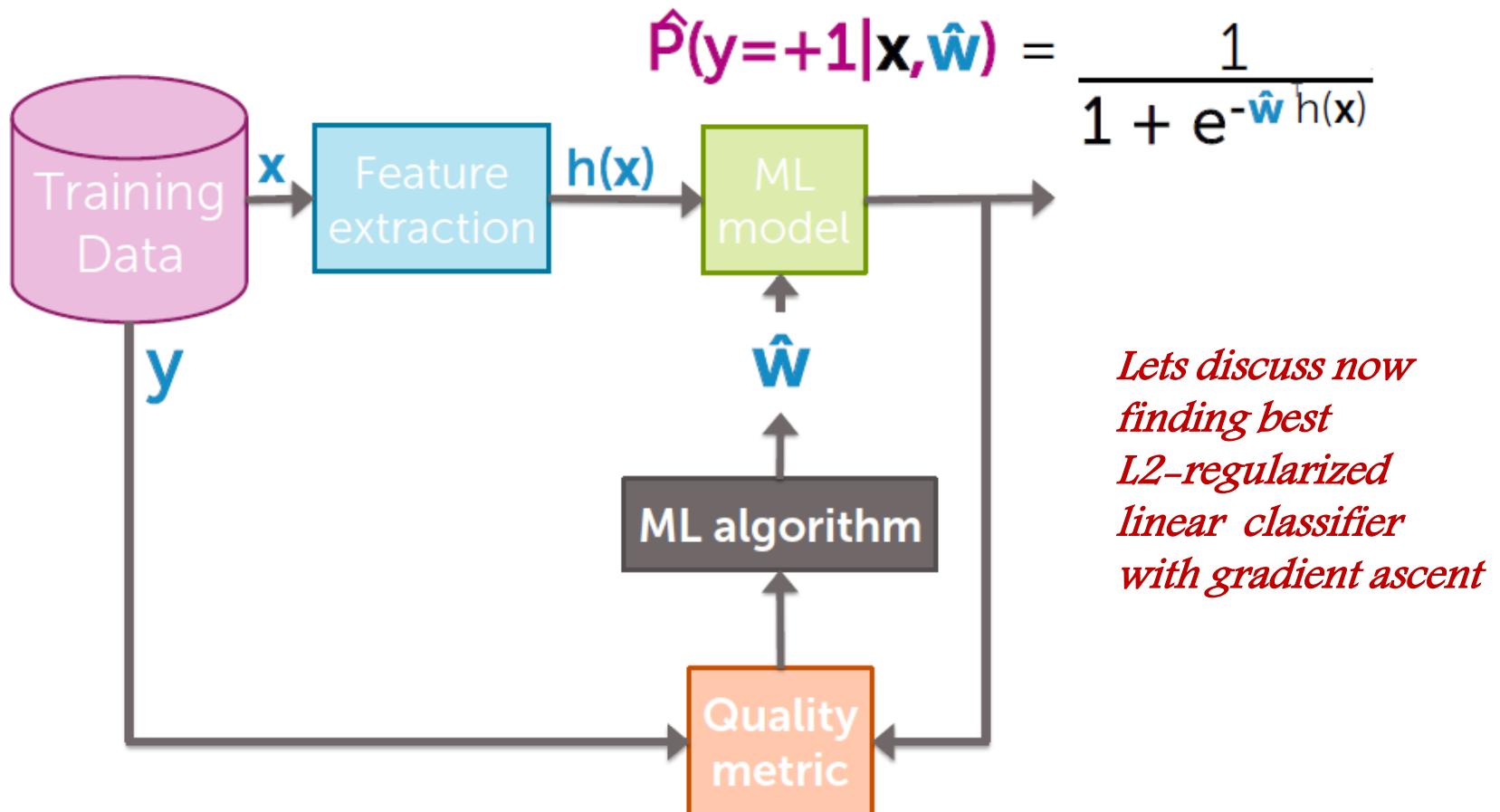
Degree 20 features:  
regularization reduces "overconfidence"



# Flow chart:

ML algorithm

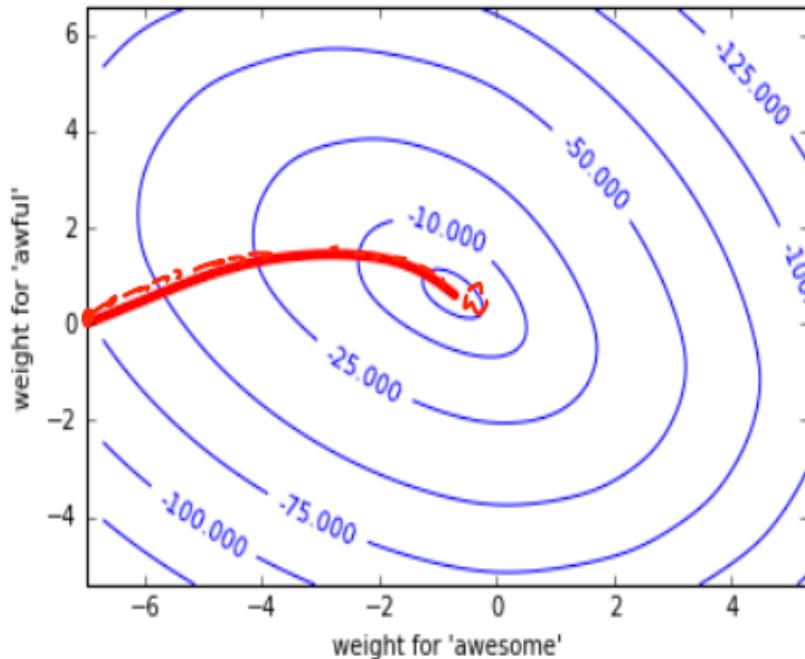
111



*Lets discuss now  
finding best  
L2-regularized  
linear classifier  
with gradient ascent*

# Gradient ascent

112



Algorithm:

**while** not converged

$$\underline{\mathbf{w}}^{(t+1)} \leftarrow \underline{\mathbf{w}}^{(t)} + \eta \nabla \ell(\underline{\mathbf{w}}^{(t)})$$

need the gradient of  
regularized log likelihood

# Gradient of L2 regularized log-likelihood

113

Total quality =

measure of fit - measure of magnitude  
of coefficients

The diagram illustrates the components of total quality and their derivatives. At the top, 'Total quality =' is followed by a minus sign. To the left of the minus sign is a blue bracket under the term 'measure of fit' which points to the term  $\ell(\mathbf{w})$ . To the right of the minus sign is another blue bracket under the term 'measure of magnitude of coefficients' which points to the term  $\lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2$ . Below the minus sign, two arrows point downwards from these terms to the corresponding terms in the equation below. The first arrow points from  $\ell(\mathbf{w})$  to  $\frac{\partial \ell(\mathbf{w})}{\partial \mathbf{w}_j}$ . The second arrow points from  $\lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2$  to  $\lambda \frac{\partial \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2}{\partial \mathbf{w}_j}$ .

$$\text{Total derivative} = \frac{\partial \ell(\mathbf{w})}{\partial \mathbf{w}_j} - \lambda \frac{\partial \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2}{\partial \mathbf{w}_j}$$

# Gradient of L2 regularized log-likelihood

114

## Derivative of (log-)likelihood

$$\frac{\partial \ell(\mathbf{w})}{\partial w_j} = \sum_{i=1}^N h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) \left( \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1] - P(y = +1 | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) \right)$$

Sum over data points

Feature value

Difference between truth and prediction

## Derivative of L<sub>2</sub> penalty

$$\frac{\partial ||\mathbf{w}||_2^2}{\partial w_j} = \frac{\partial}{\partial w_j} [w_0^2 + w_1^2 + w_2^2 + \dots + w_j^2 + \dots + w_d^2] = 2w_j$$

# Gradient of L2 regularized log-likelihood

115

## Understanding contribution of L<sub>2</sub> regularization

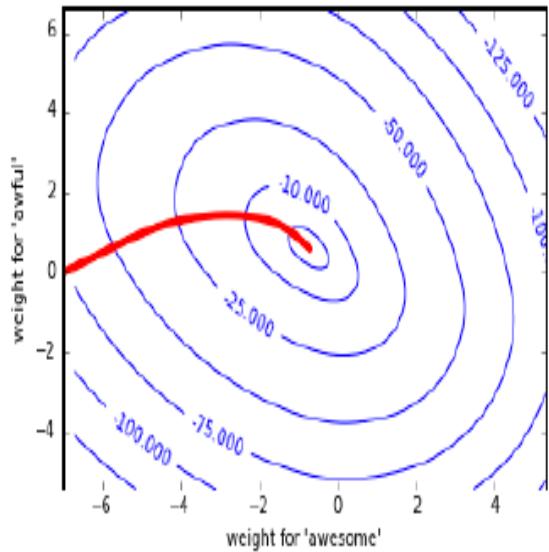
$$\frac{\partial \ell(\mathbf{w})}{\partial w_j} - 2\lambda w_j$$

Term from L<sub>2</sub> penalty

	- 2 λ w <sub>j</sub>	Impact on w <sub>j</sub>
w <sub>j</sub> > 0	< 0	decreases w <sub>j</sub> => w <sub>j</sub> becomes closer to 0
w <sub>j</sub> < 0	> 0	increases w <sub>j</sub> => w <sub>j</sub> becomes closer to 0

# Gradient ascent with L2 regularization

116



init  $\mathbf{w}^{(1)} = 0$  (or randomly, or smartly),  $t=1$

**while** not converged:

**for**  $j=0, \dots, D$

$$\text{partial}[j] = \sum_{i=1}^N h_j(x_i) \left( \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1] - P(y = +1 | x_i, \mathbf{w}^{(t)}) \right)$$

$$\mathbf{w}_j^{(t+1)} \leftarrow \mathbf{w}_j^{(t)} + \eta (\text{partial}[j] - 2\lambda \mathbf{w}_j^{(t)})$$

$$t \leftarrow t + 1$$

step  
size

$$\frac{\partial \ell(\mathbf{w})}{\partial w_j}$$

only change !!

# Logistic regression with L1 regularization

117

Recall **sparsity** (many  $\hat{w}_j=0$ )  
gives efficiency and interpretability

Efficiency:

- If size( $w$ ) = 100B, each prediction is expensive
- If  $\hat{w}$  sparse, computation only depends on # of non-zeros

$\hat{y}_i = sign \left( \sum_{\hat{w}_j \neq 0} \hat{w}_j h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) \right)$

Interpretability:

- Which features are relevant for prediction?

# Sparse logistic regression

118

Total quality =

measure of fit - measure of magnitude  
of coefficients

$$\ell(\mathbf{w}) - \|\mathbf{w}\|_1 = |w_0| + \dots + |w_D|$$

$L_1$  regularized  
logistic regression

Leads to  
sparse  
solutions!

# L1 regularised logistic regression

119

Just like L2 regularization, solution is governed by a continuous parameter  $\lambda$

$$\ell(\mathbf{w}) - \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_1$$

tuning parameter =

balance of fit and sparsity

If  $\lambda=0$ :

→ No regularization → standard MLE solution

If  $\lambda=\infty$ :

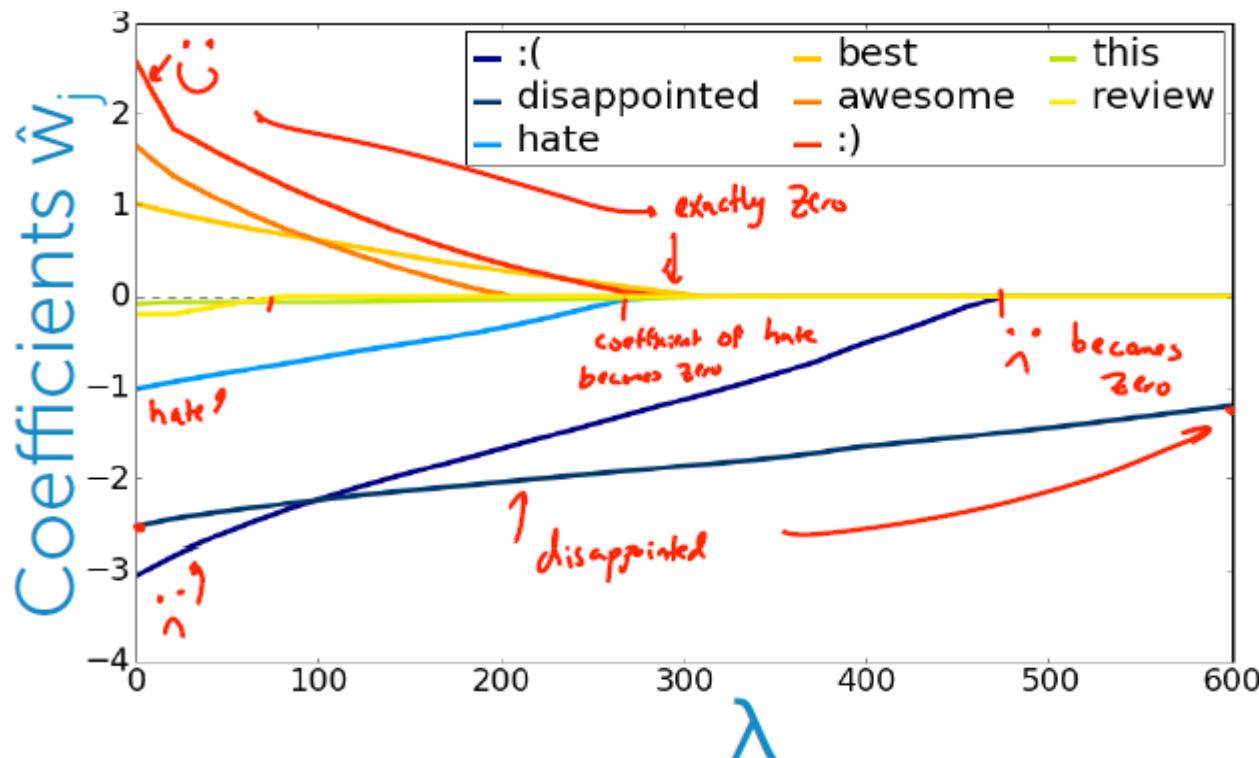
→ all weight is on regularization →  $\hat{\mathbf{w}} = 0$

If  $\lambda$  in between:

→ Sparse solutions: Some  $\hat{w}_j \neq 0$ , many other  $\hat{w}_j = 0$

# L1 regularised logistic regression

120



# What you can do now...

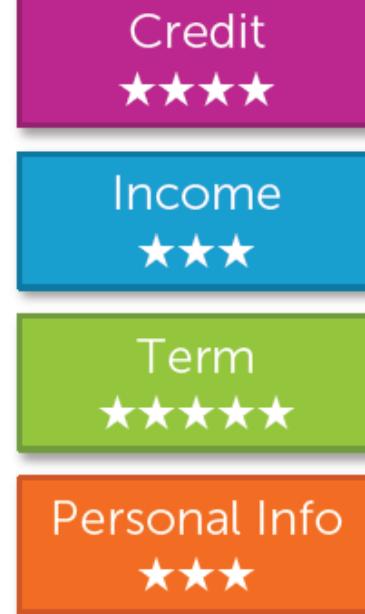
121

- Identify when overfitting is happening
- Relate large learned coefficients to overfitting
- Describe the impact of overfitting on decision boundaries and predicted probabilities of linear classifiers
- Motivate the form of  $L_2$  regularized logistic regression quality metric
- Describe what happens to estimated coefficients as tuning parameter  $\lambda$  is varied
- Interpret coefficient path plot
- Estimate  $L_2$  regularized logistic regression coefficients using gradient ascent
- Describe the use of  $L_1$  regularization to obtain sparse logistic regression solutions

# Decision trees

# What makes a loan risky?

123



# Credit history explained

124

Did I pay previous loans on time?



Credit History  
★★★

**Example:** excellent, good, or fair

Income  
★★★

Term  
★★★★★

Personal Info  
★★★

# Income

125

What's my income?

Example:

\$80K per year



Credit History



Income



Term



Personal Info

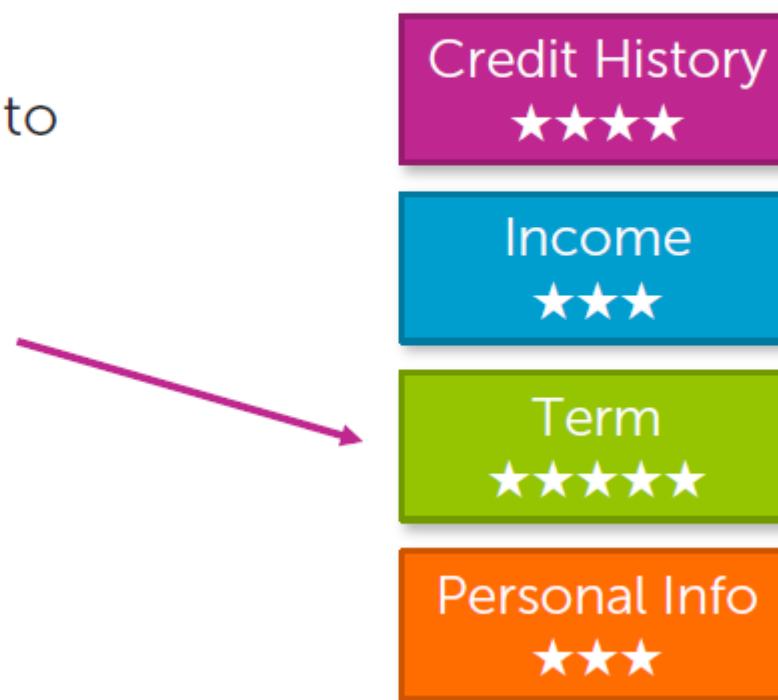


# Loan terms

126

How soon do I need to pay the loan?

**Example:** 3 years,  
5 years,...



# Personal information

127

Age, reason for the  
loan, marital status,...

**Example:** Home loan  
for a married couple



Credit History  
★★★★

Income  
★★★

Term  
★★★★★

Personal Info  
★★★

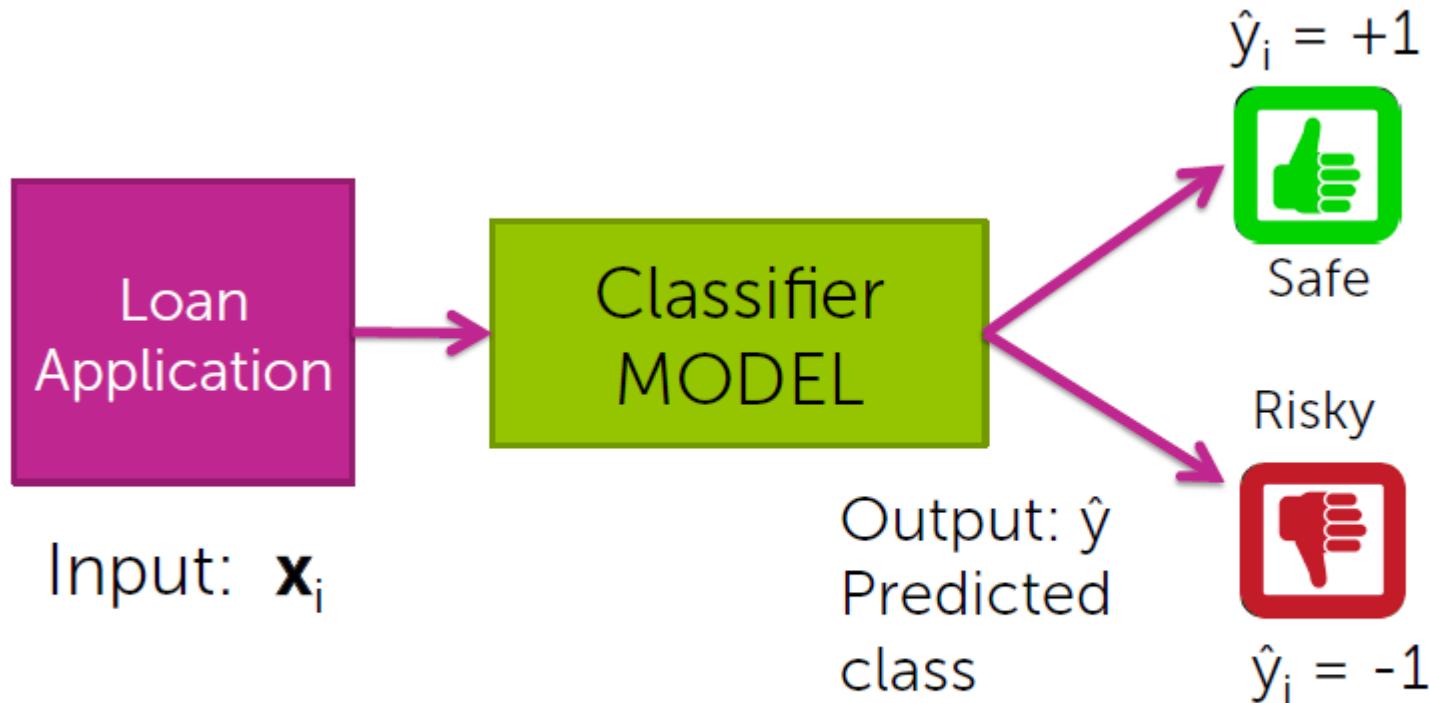
# Intelligent application

128



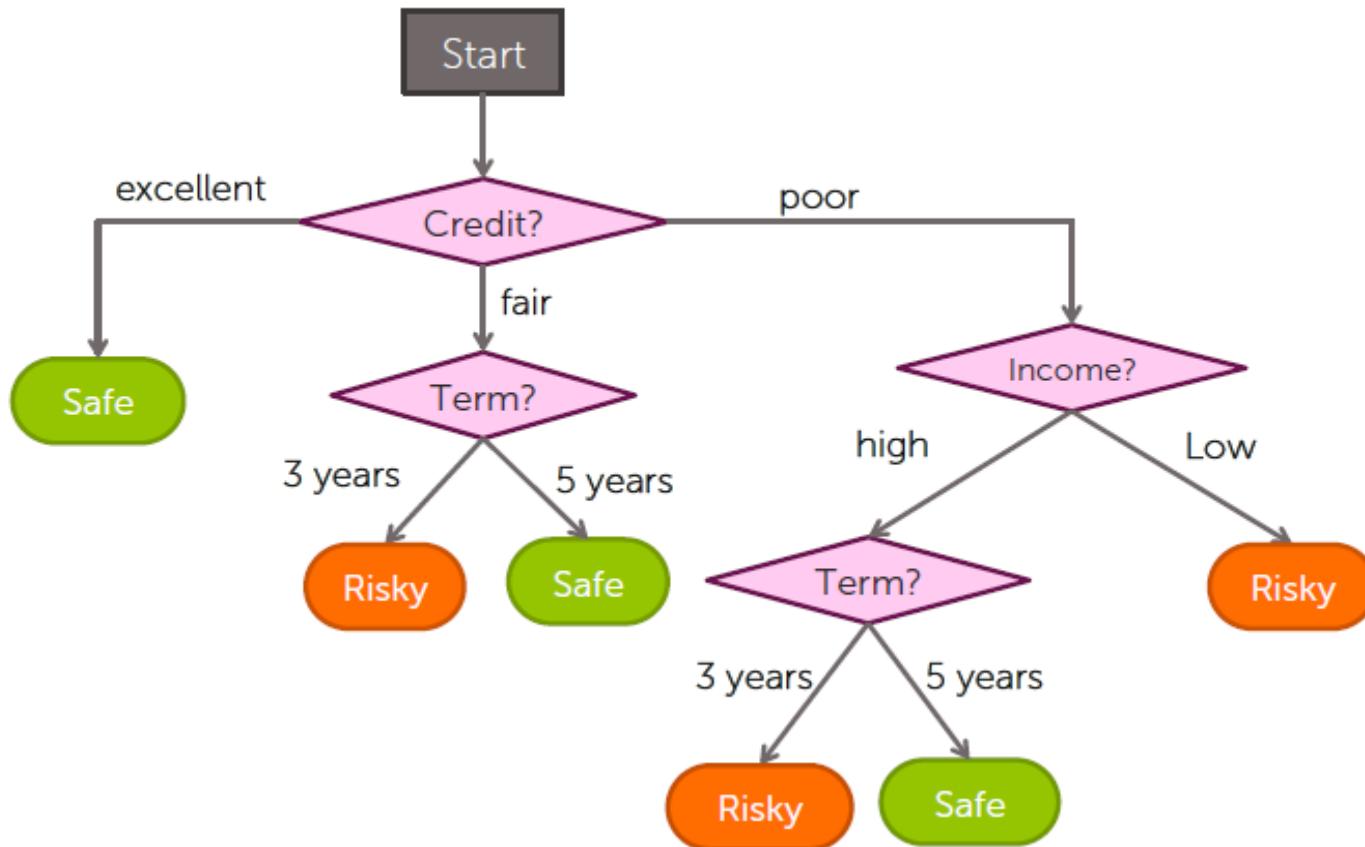
# Classifier: review type

129



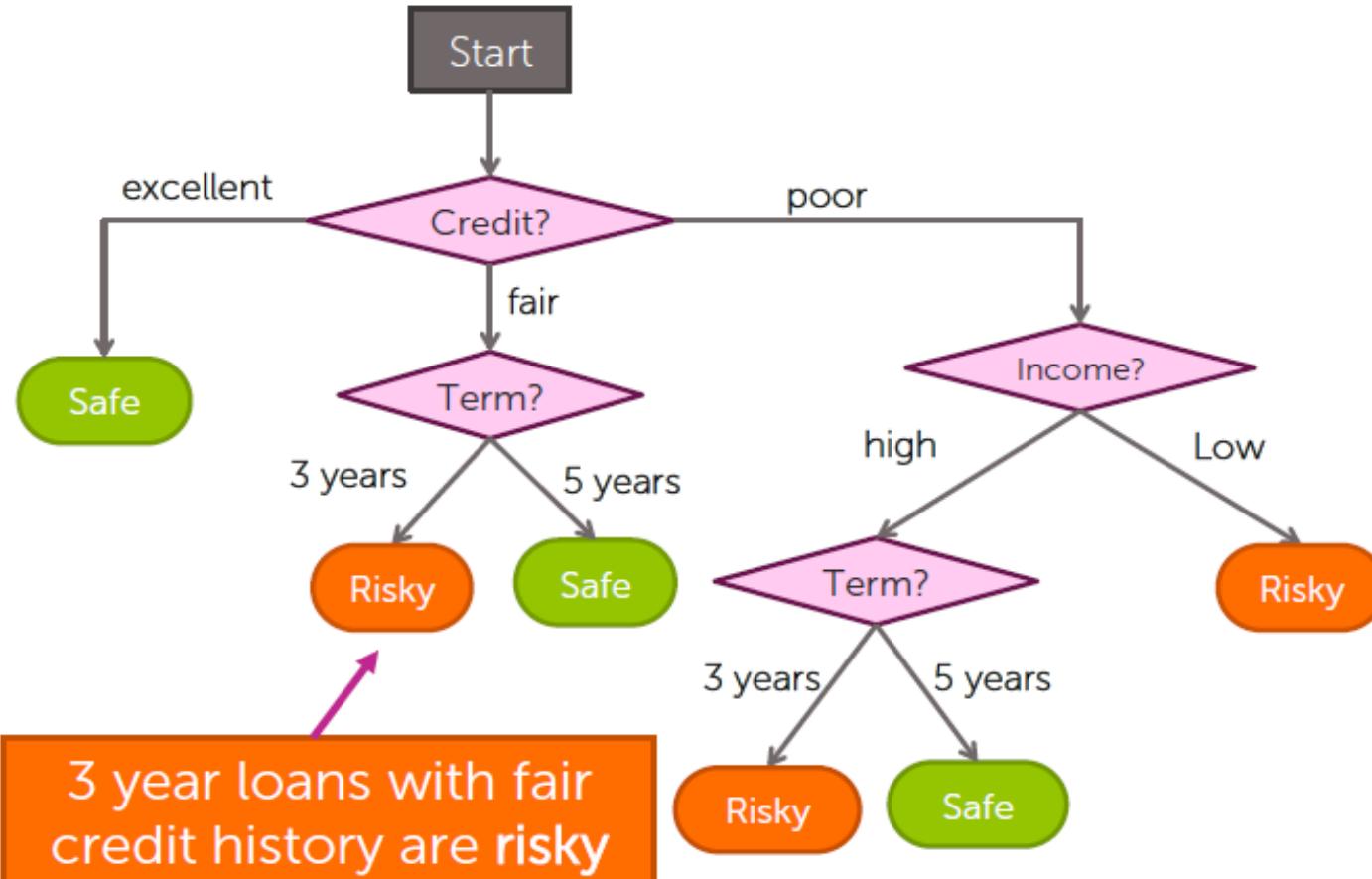
# Classifier: decision trees

130



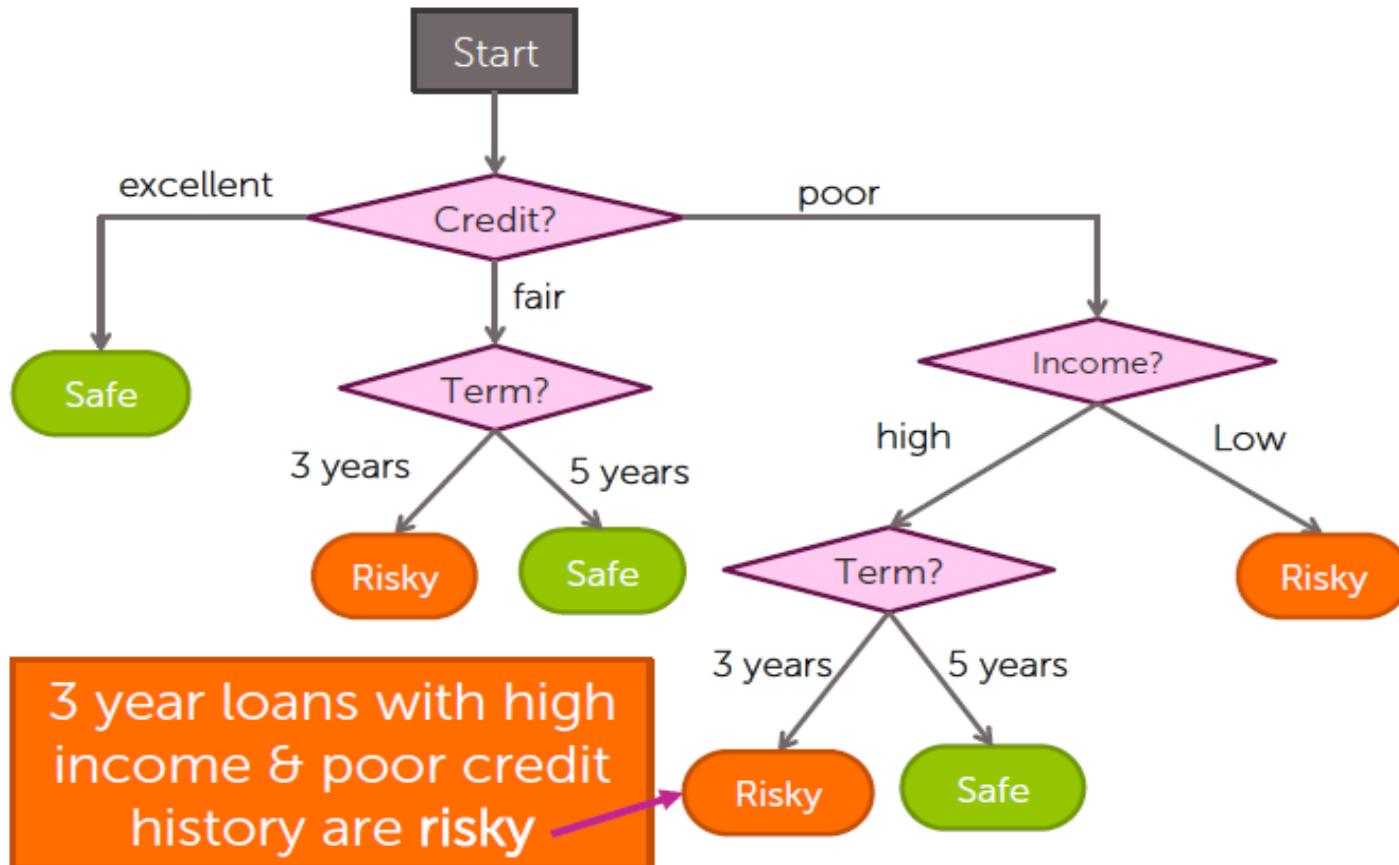
# Scoring a loan application

131



# Scoring a loan application

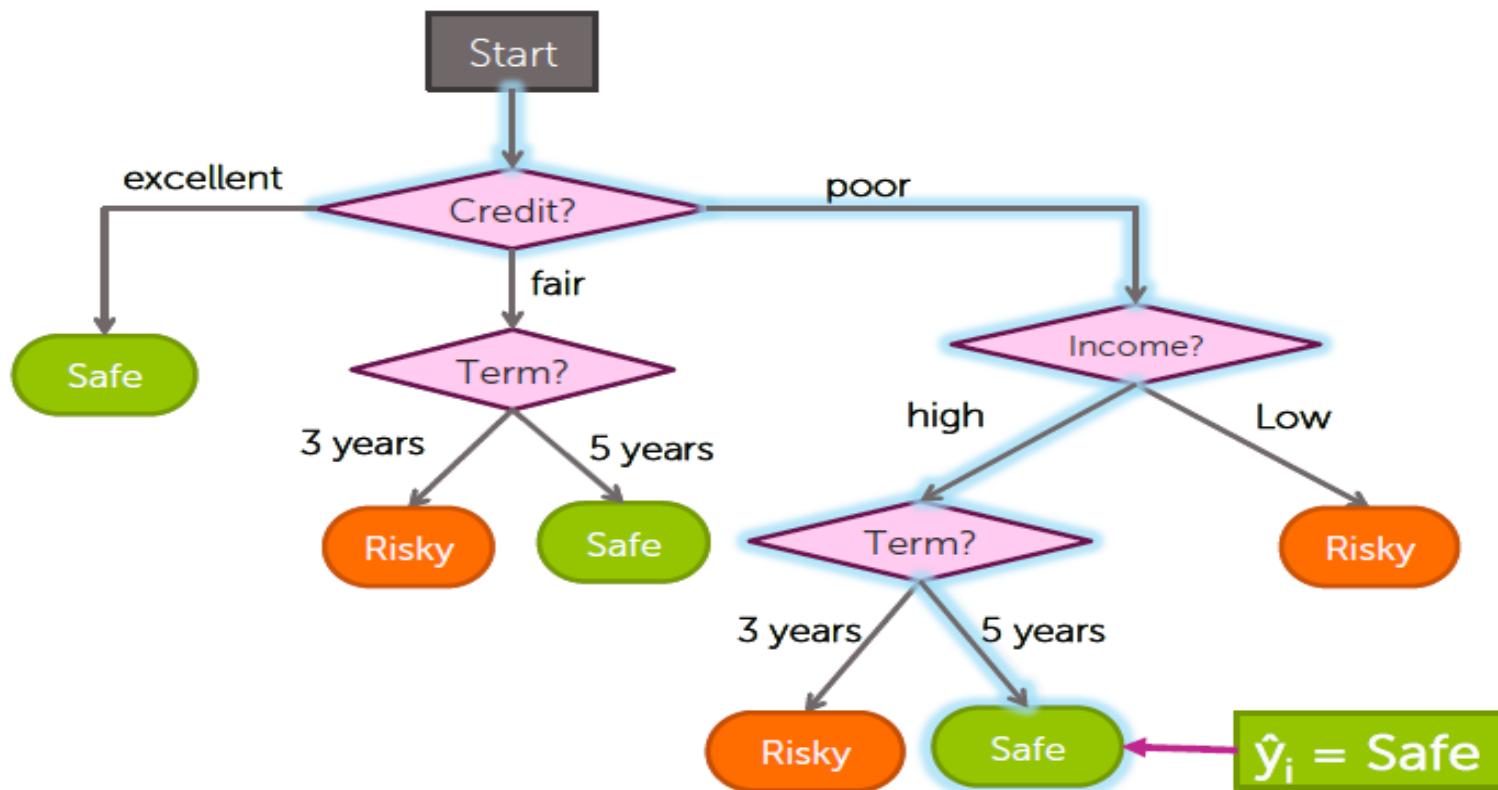
132



# Scoring a loan application

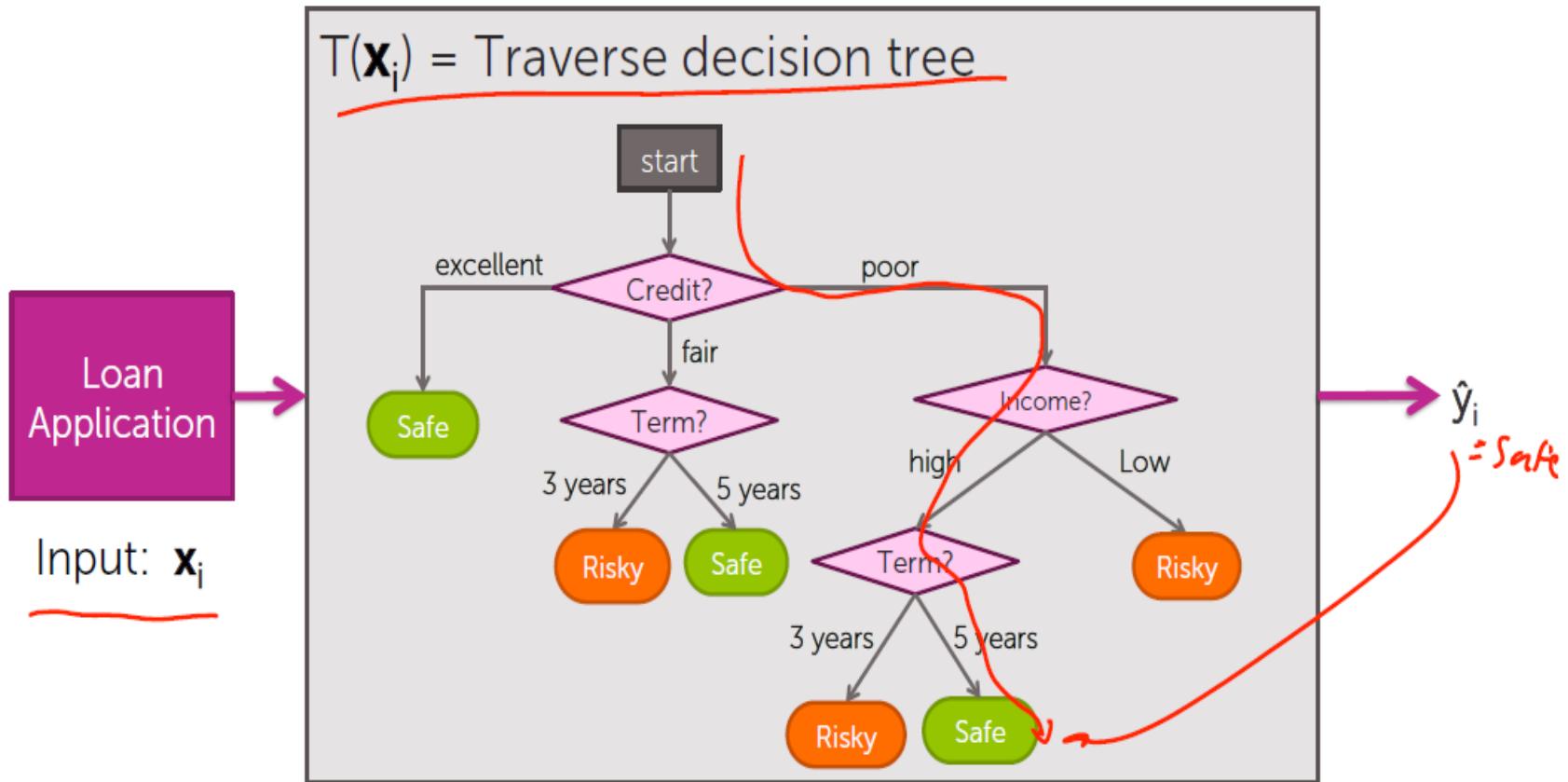
133

$x_i = (\text{Credit} = \text{poor}, \text{Income} = \text{high}, \text{Term} = 5 \text{ years})$



# Decision tree model

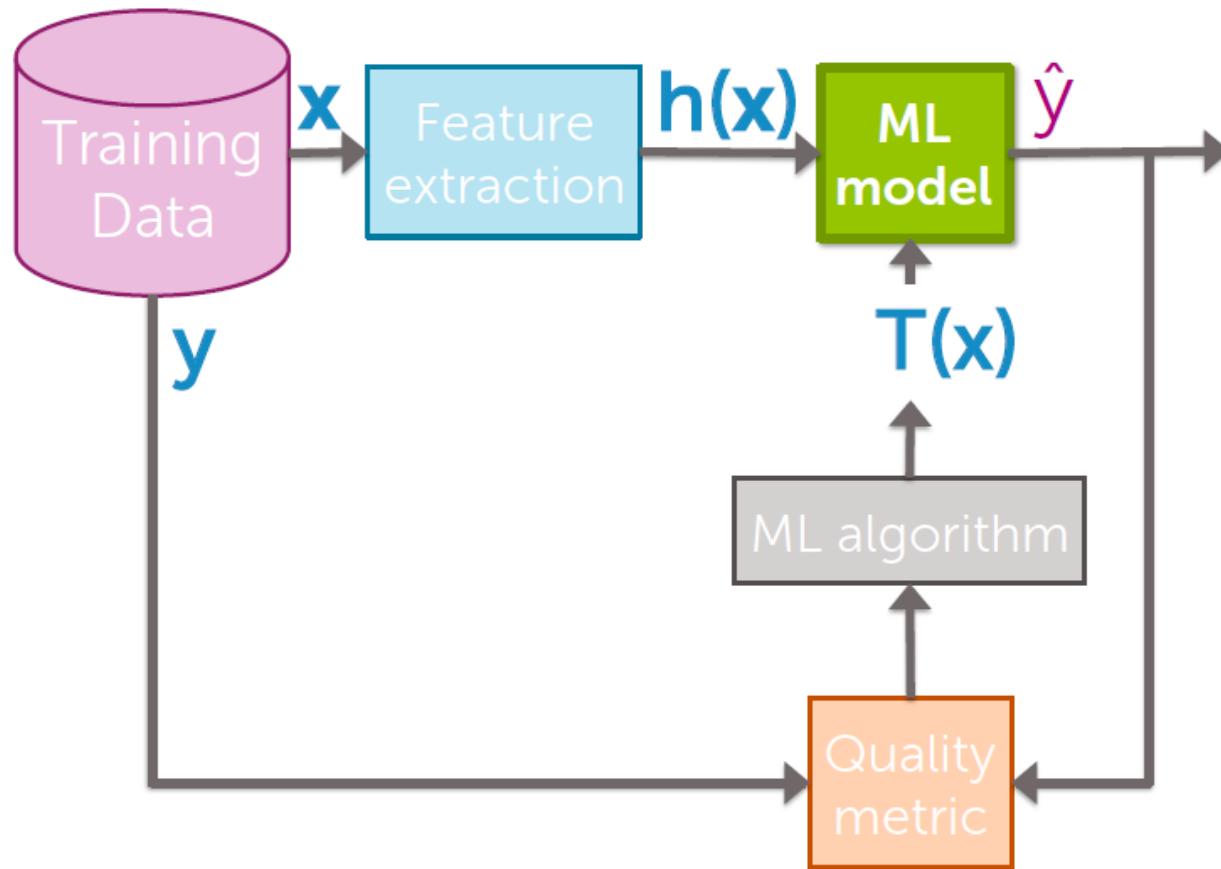
134



# Flow chart:



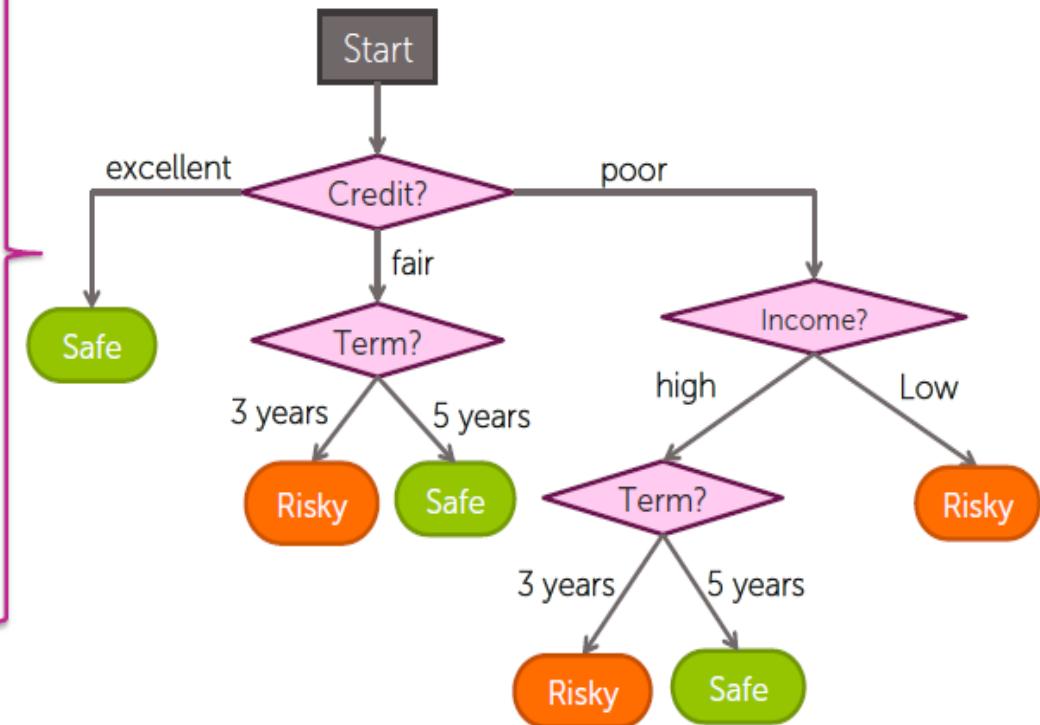
135



# Learn decision tree from data

136

	$h_1(x)$	$h_2(x)$	$h_3(x)$	Loan status
Credit	Term	Income	y	
excellent	3 yrs	high	safe	
fair	5 yrs	low	risky	
fair	3 yrs	high	safe	
poor	5 yrs	high	risky	
excellent	3 yrs	low	risky	
fair	5 yrs	low	safe	
poor	3 yrs	high	risky	
poor	5 yrs	low	safe	
fair	3 yrs	high	safe	

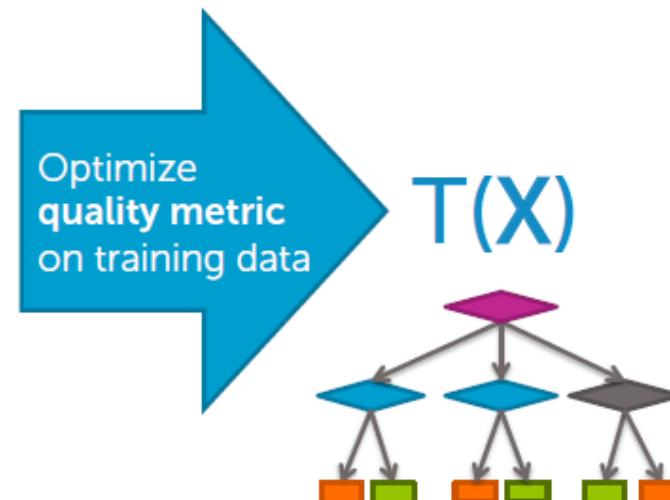


# Learn decision tree from data

137

Training data:  $N$  observations  $(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)$

Credit	Term	Income	y
excellent	3 yrs	high	safe
fair	5 yrs	low	risky
fair	3 yrs	high	safe
poor	5 yrs	high	risky
excellent	3 yrs	low	risky
fair	5 yrs	low	safe
poor	3 yrs	high	risky
poor	5 yrs	low	safe
fair	3 yrs	high	safe



# Quality metric: Classification error

138

- Error measures fraction of mistakes

$$\text{Error} = \frac{\# \text{ incorrect predictions}}{\# \text{ examples}}$$

- Best possible value : 0.0
- Worst possible value: 1.0

# Find the tree with lowest classification error

139

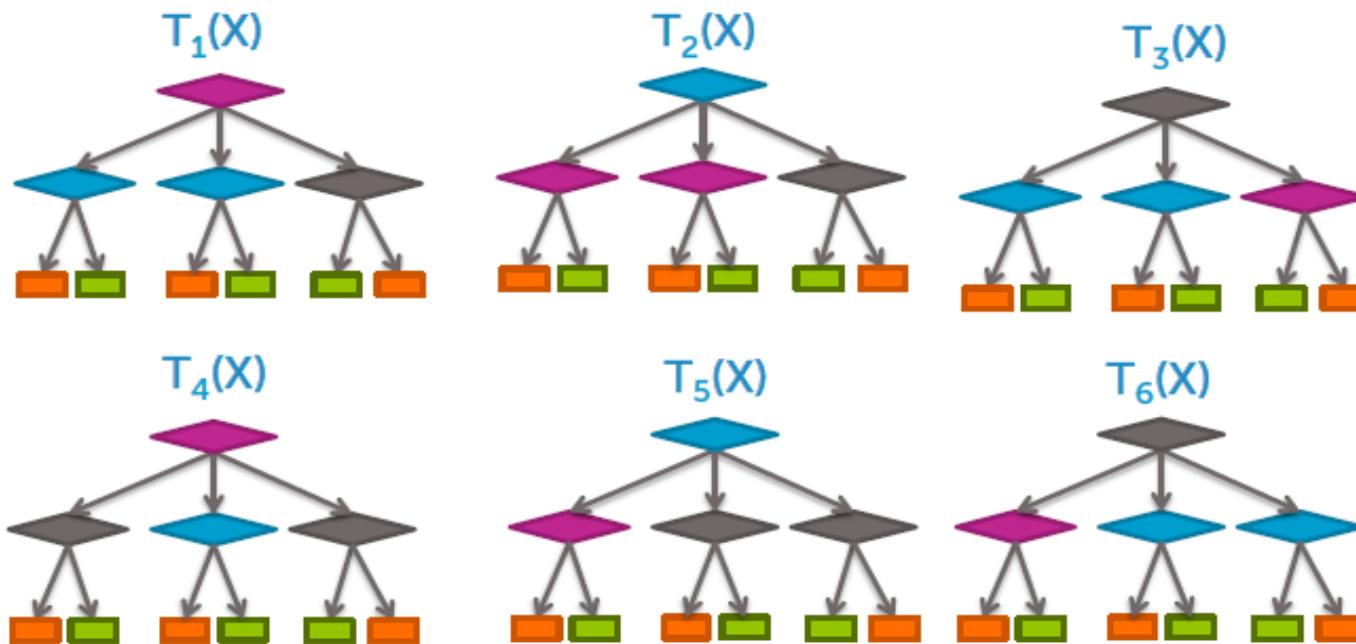
Credit	Term	Income	y
excellent	3 yrs	high	safe
fair	5 yrs	low	risky
fair	3 yrs	high	safe
poor	5 yrs	high	risky
excellent	3 yrs	low	risky
fair	5 yrs	low	safe
poor	3 yrs	high	risky
poor	5 yrs	low	safe
fair	3 yrs	high	safe



# How do we find the best tree?

140

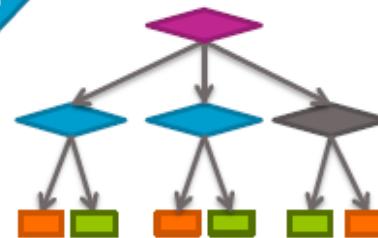
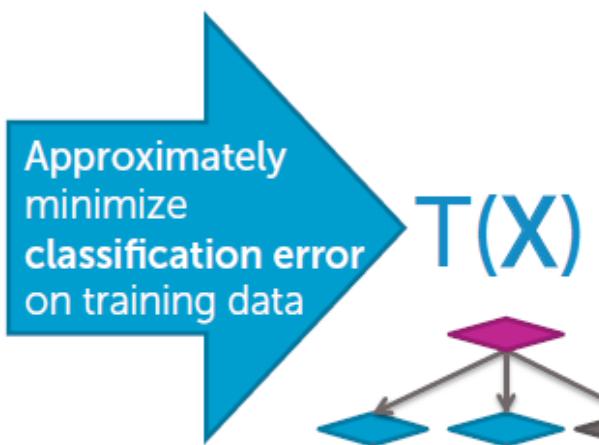
Exponentially large number of possible trees makes decision tree learning hard!  
(NP-hard problem)



# Simple (greedy) algorithm finds good tree

141

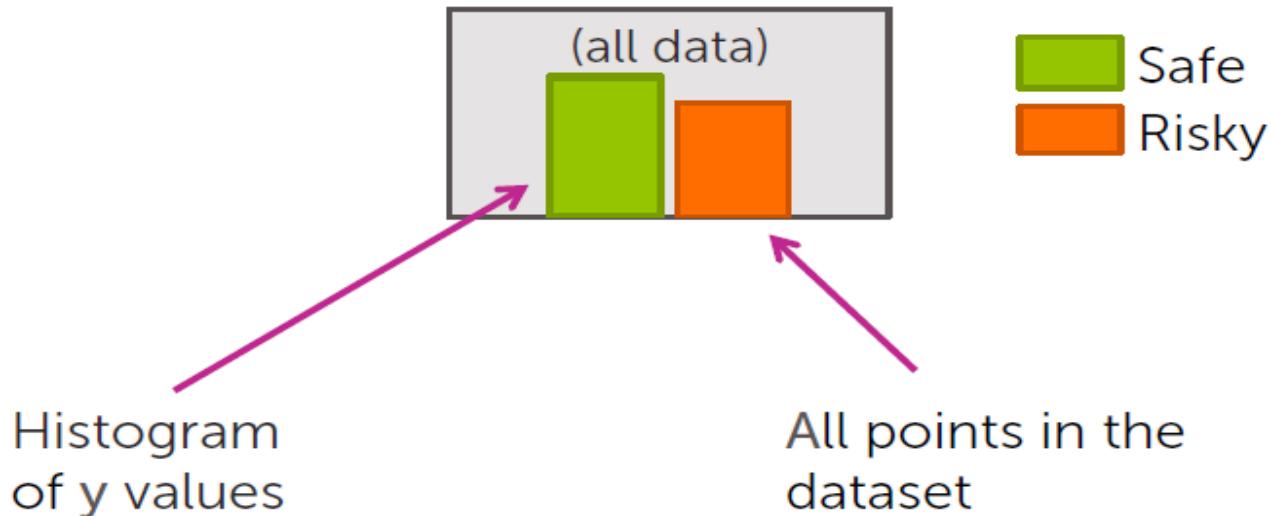
Credit	Term	Income	y
excellent	3 yrs	high	safe
fair	5 yrs	low	risky
fair	3 yrs	high	safe
poor	5 yrs	high	risky
excellent	3 yrs	low	risky
fair	5 yrs	low	safe
poor	3 yrs	high	risky
poor	5 yrs	low	safe
fair	3 yrs	high	safe



# Greedy algorithm

142

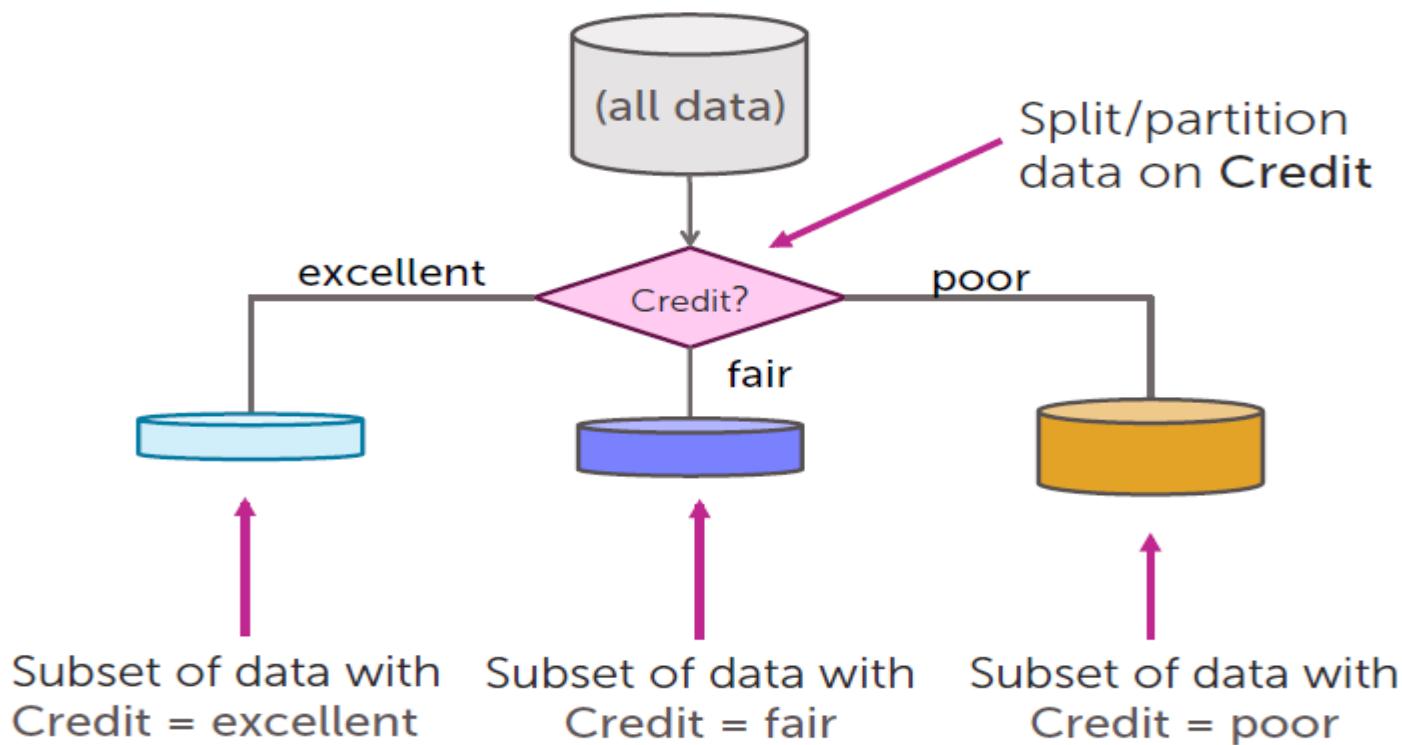
Step 1: Start with an empty tree



# Greedy algorithm

143

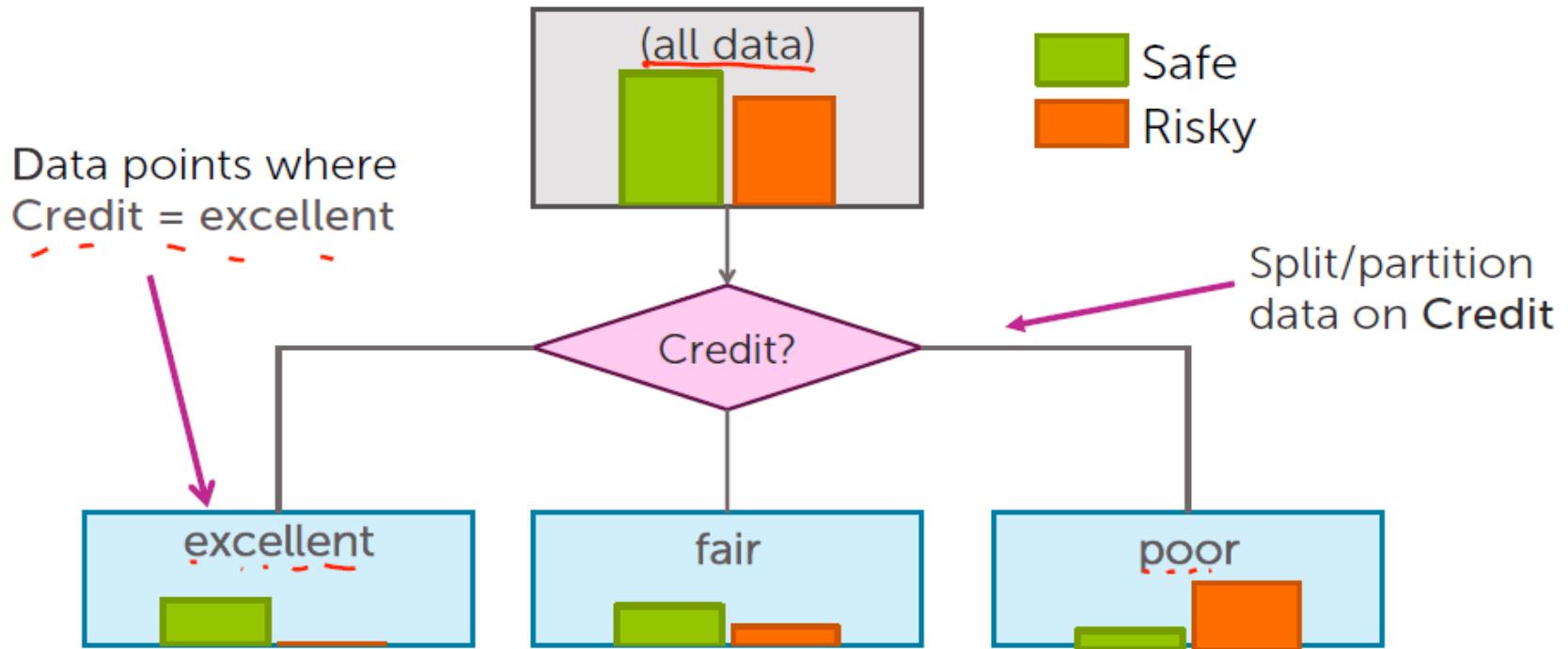
## Step 2: Split on a feature



# Greedy algorithm

144

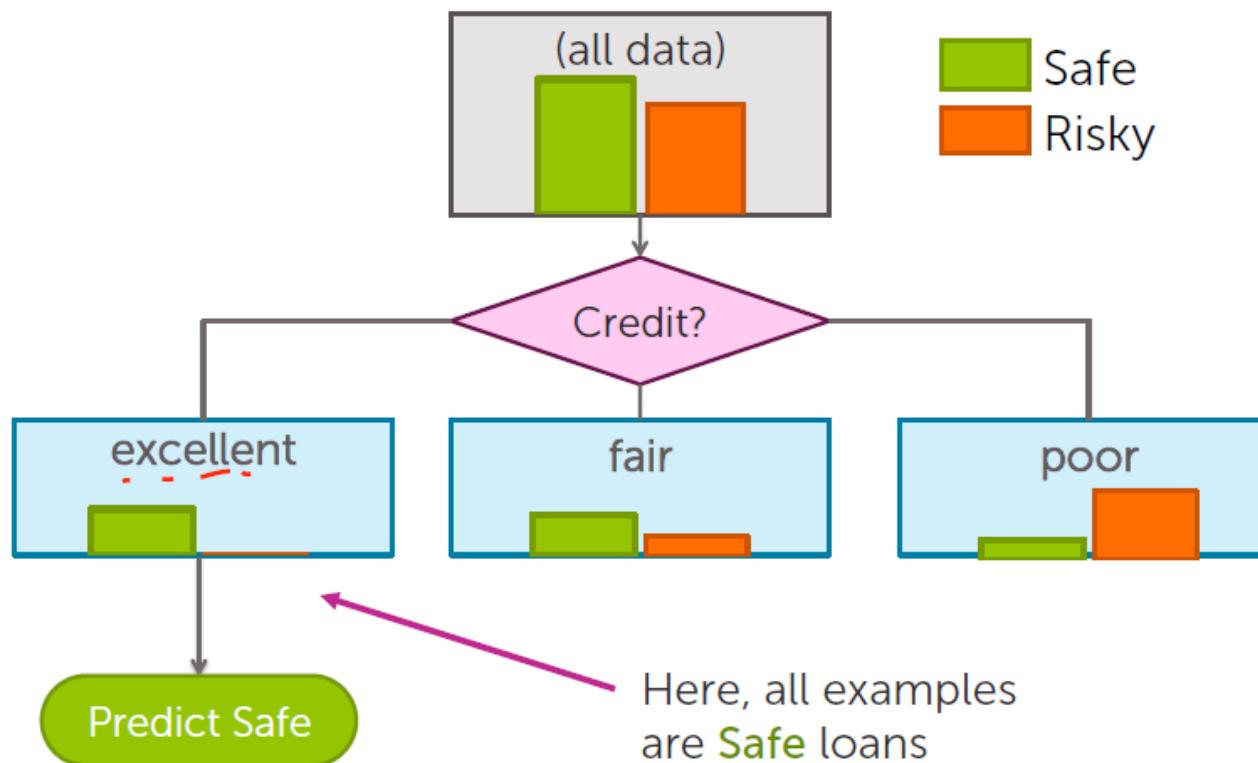
## Feature split explained



# Greedy algorithm

145

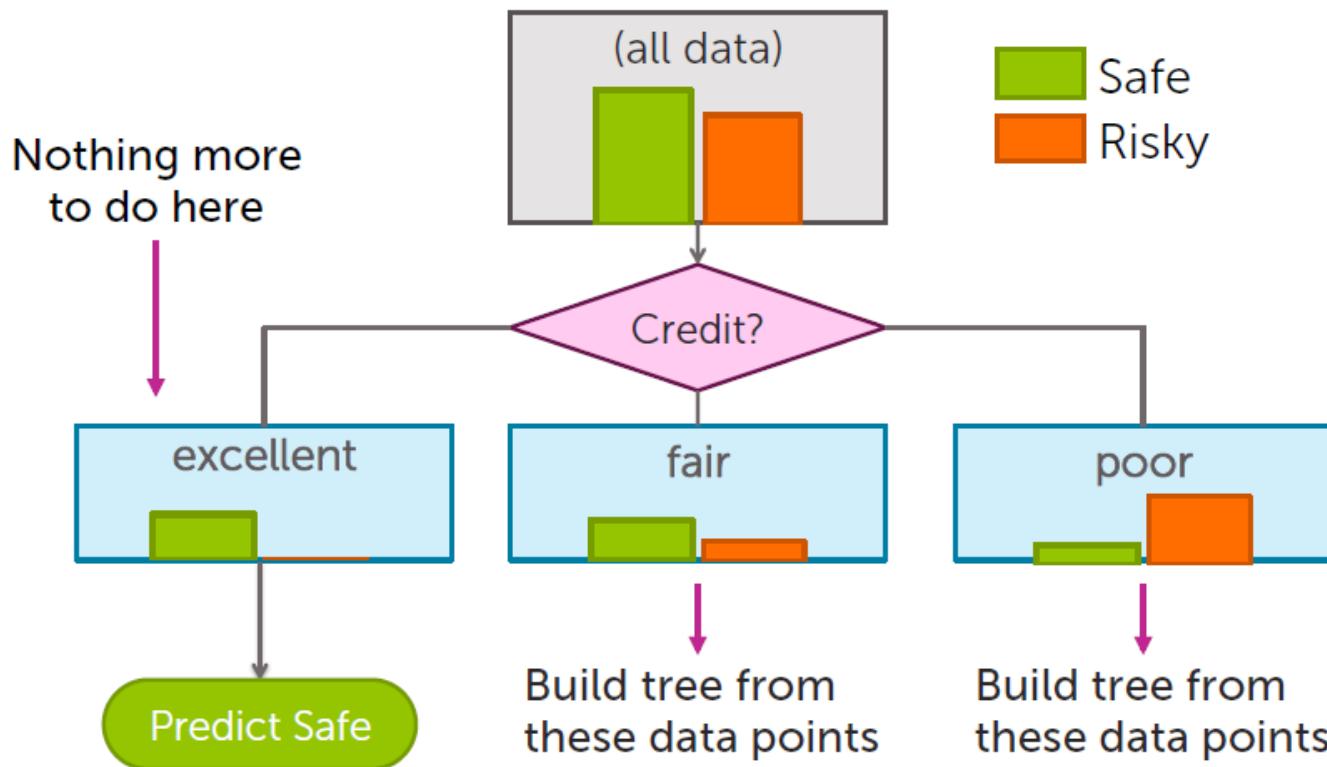
## Step 3: Making predictions



# Greedy algorithm

146

## Step 4: Recursion



# Greedy decision tree learning

147

- Step 1: Start with an empty tree

- Step 2: Select a feature to split data

- For each split of the tree:

- Step 3: If nothing more to, make predictions

- Step 4: Otherwise, go to Step 2 & continue (recurse) on this split

Problem 1: Feature split selection

Problem 2: Stopping condition

Recursion

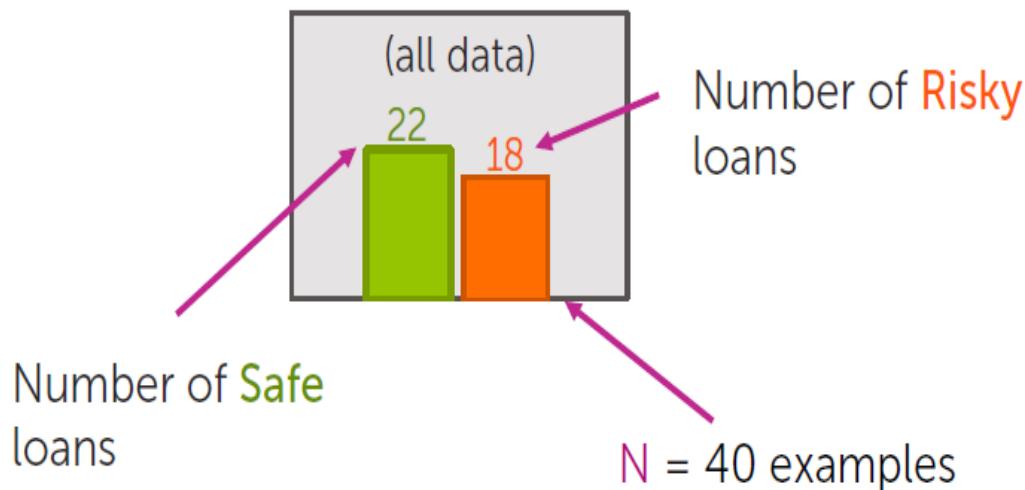
# Feature split learning

148

Start with all the data

Assume  $N = 40$ , 3 features

Loan status: **Safe** **Risky**



Credit	Term	Income	y
excellent	3 yrs	high	safe
fair	5 yrs	low	risky
fair	3 yrs	high	safe
poor	5 yrs	high	risky
excellent	3 yrs	low	risky
fair	5 yrs	low	safe
poor	3 yrs	high	risky
poor	5 yrs	low	safe
fair	3 yrs	high	safe

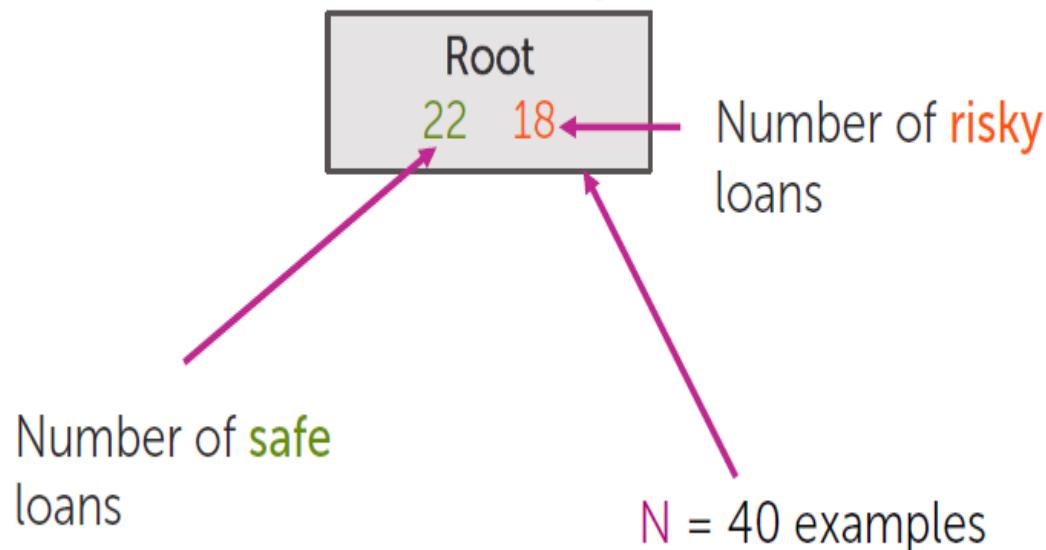
# Feature split learning

149

## Start with all the data

Assume  $N = 40$ , 3 features

Loan status: **Safe** **Risky**

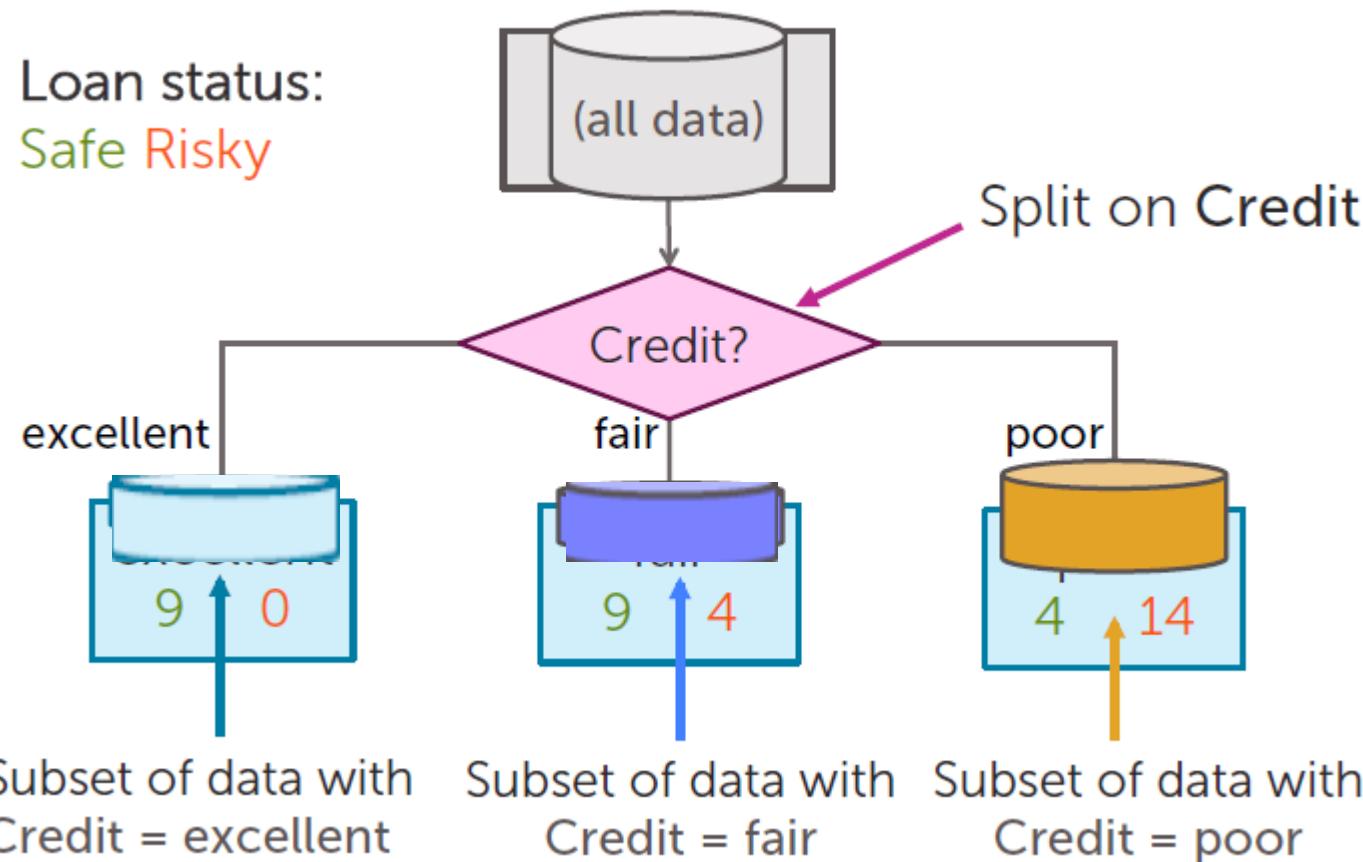


Credit	Term	Income	y
excellent	3 yrs	high	safe
fair	5 yrs	low	risky
fair	3 yrs	high	safe
poor	5 yrs	high	risky
excellent	3 yrs	low	risky
fair	5 yrs	low	safe
poor	3 yrs	high	risky
poor	5 yrs	low	safe
fair	3 yrs	high	safe

Compact notation

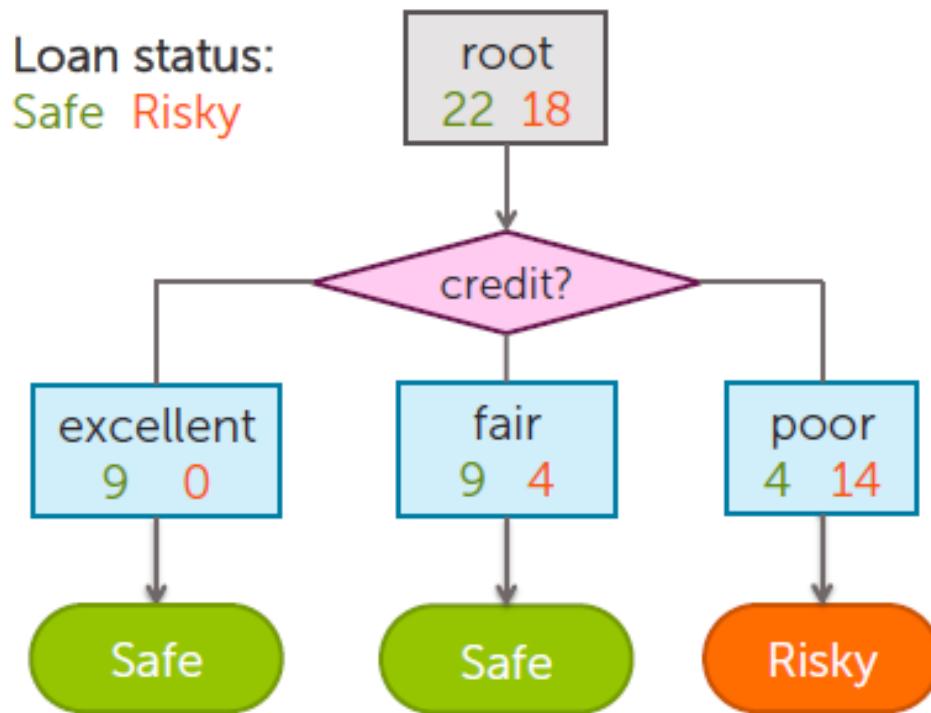
# Decision stump: single level tree

150



# Making predictions with a decision stump

151

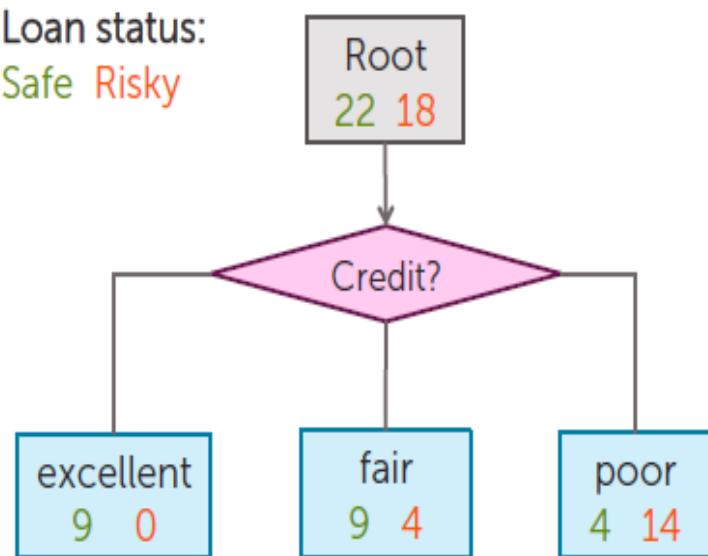


For each intermediate node,  
set  $\hat{y} = \text{majority value}$

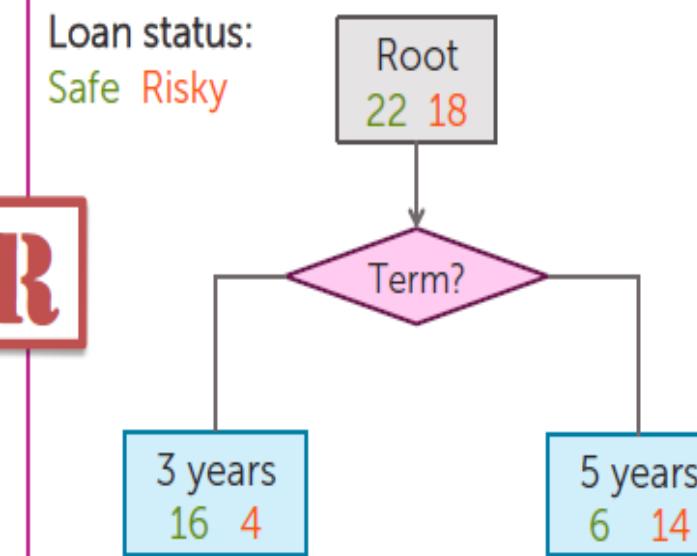
# How do we select the best feature to split on?

152

Choice 1: Split on Credit



Choice 2: Split on Term

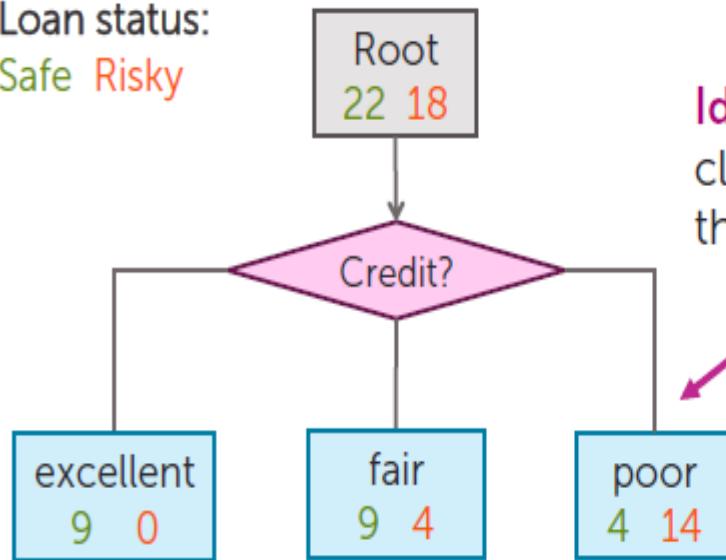


Better?

# How do we measure effectiveness of a split?

153

Loan status:  
Safe Risky



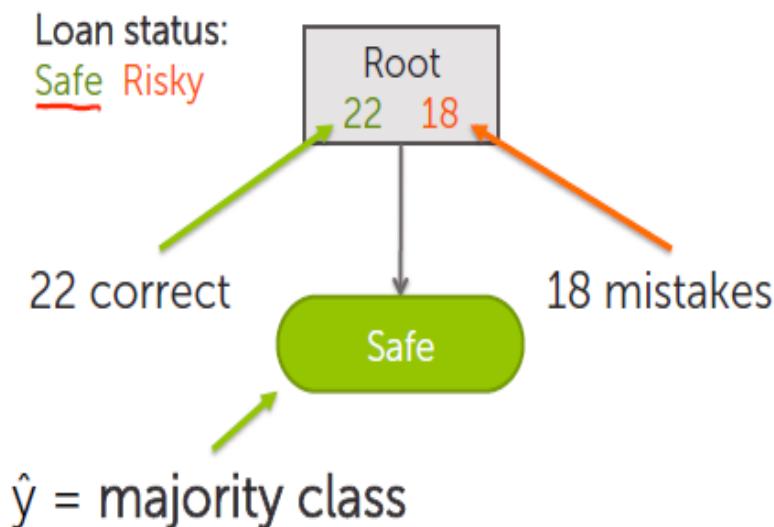
Idea: Calculate classification error of this decision stump

$$\text{Error} = \frac{\# \text{ mistakes}}{\# \text{ data points}}$$

# Calculating classification error

154

- Step 1:  $\hat{y}$  = class of majority of data in node
- Step 2: Calculate classification error of predicting  $\hat{y}$  for this data



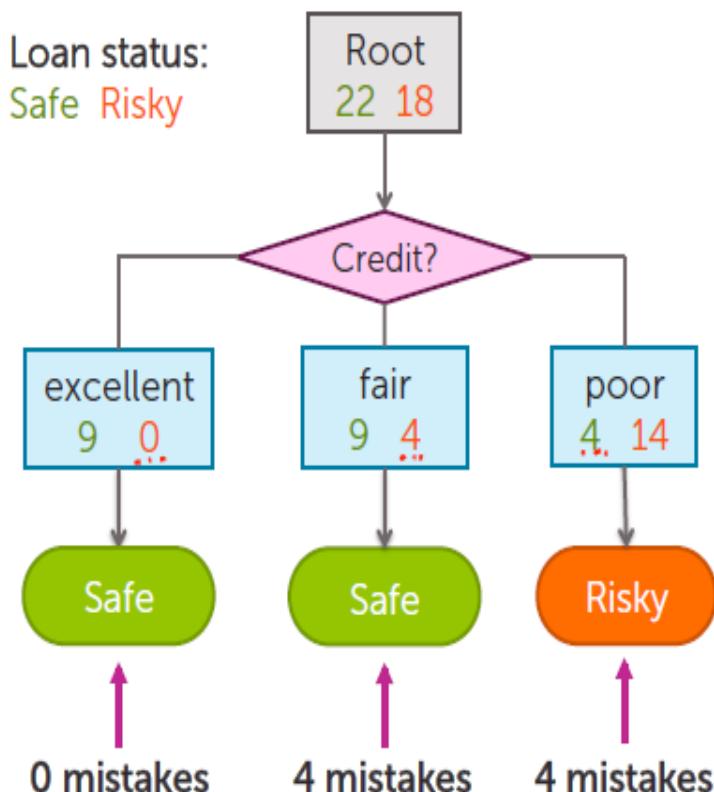
$$\text{Error} = \frac{18}{22+18} = 0.45$$

Tree	Classification error
(root)	0.45

# Classification error

155

Choice 1: Split on Credit



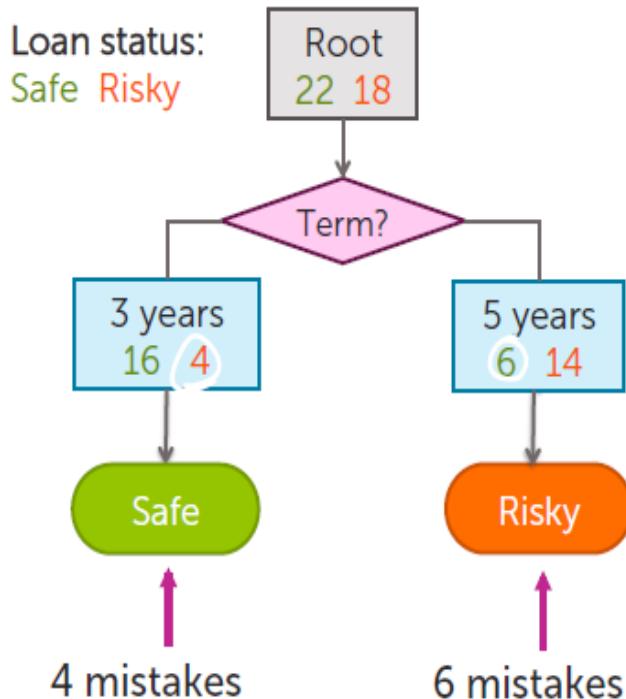
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Error} &= \frac{4+4}{40} \\ &= 0.20 \end{aligned}$$

Tree	Classification error
(root)	0.45
Split on credit	0.2

# Classification error

156

Choice 2: Split on Term



$$\text{Error} = \frac{4+6}{40}$$

$$= 0.25$$

Tree	Classification error
(root)	0.45
Split on credit	0.2
Split on term	0.25

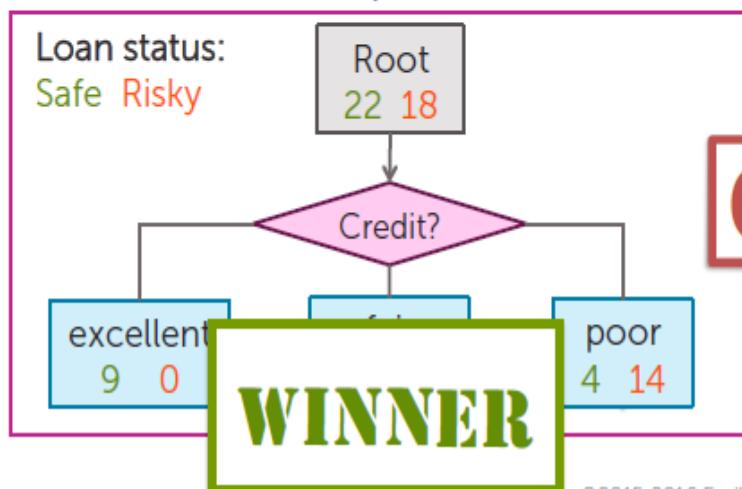
# Choice 1 vs Choice 2

157

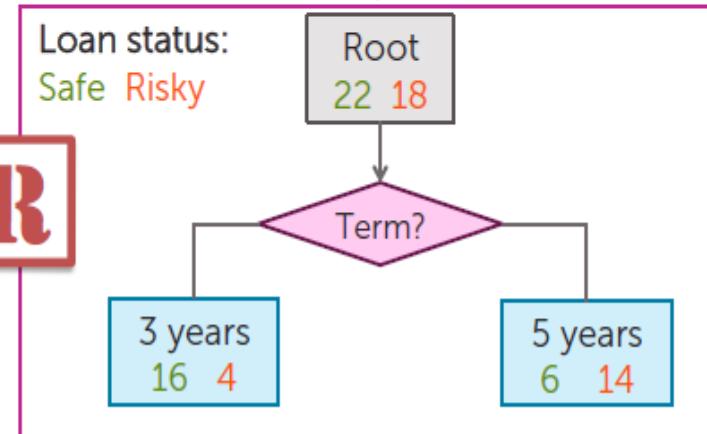
Tree	Classification error
(root)	0.45
split on <u>credit</u>	0.2
split on loan term	0.25

← First split!

Choice 1: Split on Credit



Choice 2: Split on Term



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Machine Learning Specialization

30/10, 6/11 2024

# Feature split selection algorithm

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- Given a subset of data M (a node in a tree)
- For each feature  $h_i(x)$ :  $\leftarrow$  *credit, term, income*
  1. Split data of M according to feature  $h_i(x)$
  2. Compute classification error split
- Choose feature  $h^*(x)$  with lowest classification error  $\nwarrow$   
*credit*

# Greedy decision tree learning algorithm

159

- Step 1: Start with an empty tree
- Step 2: Select a feature to split data
- For each split of the tree:
  - Step 3: If nothing more to, make predictions
  - Step 4: Otherwise, go to Step 2 & continue (recurse) on this split

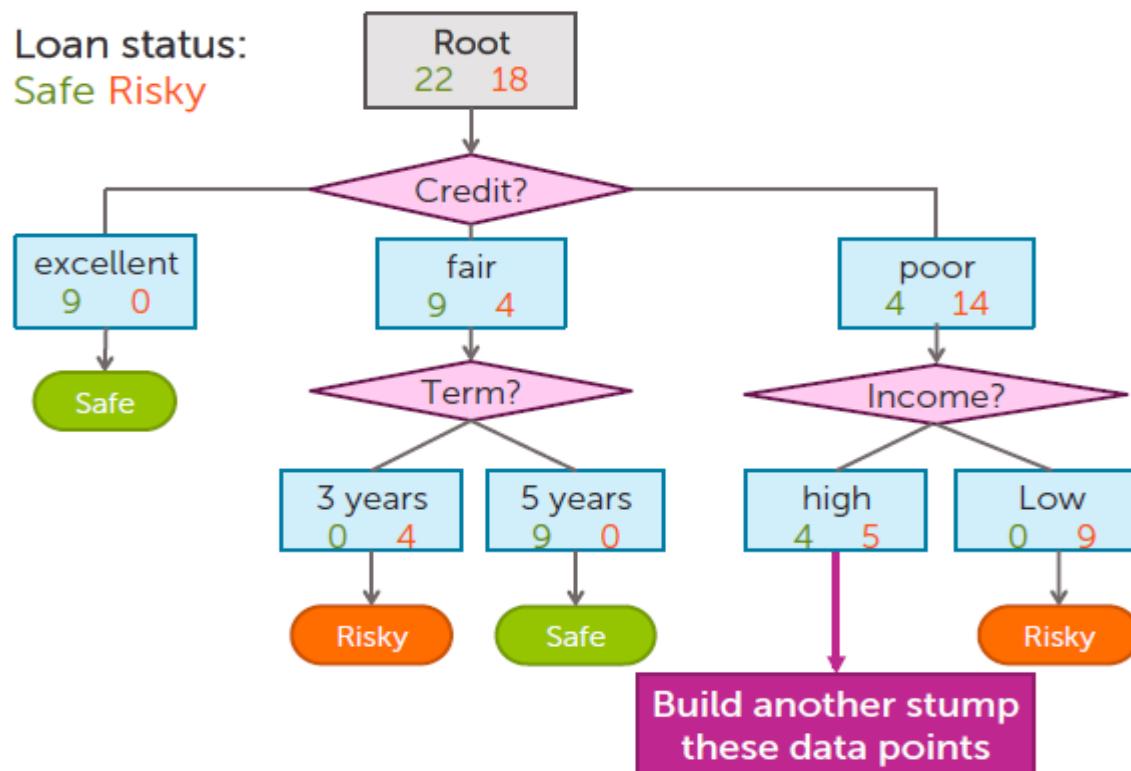
Pick feature split leading to lowest classification error



# Recursive stump learning

160

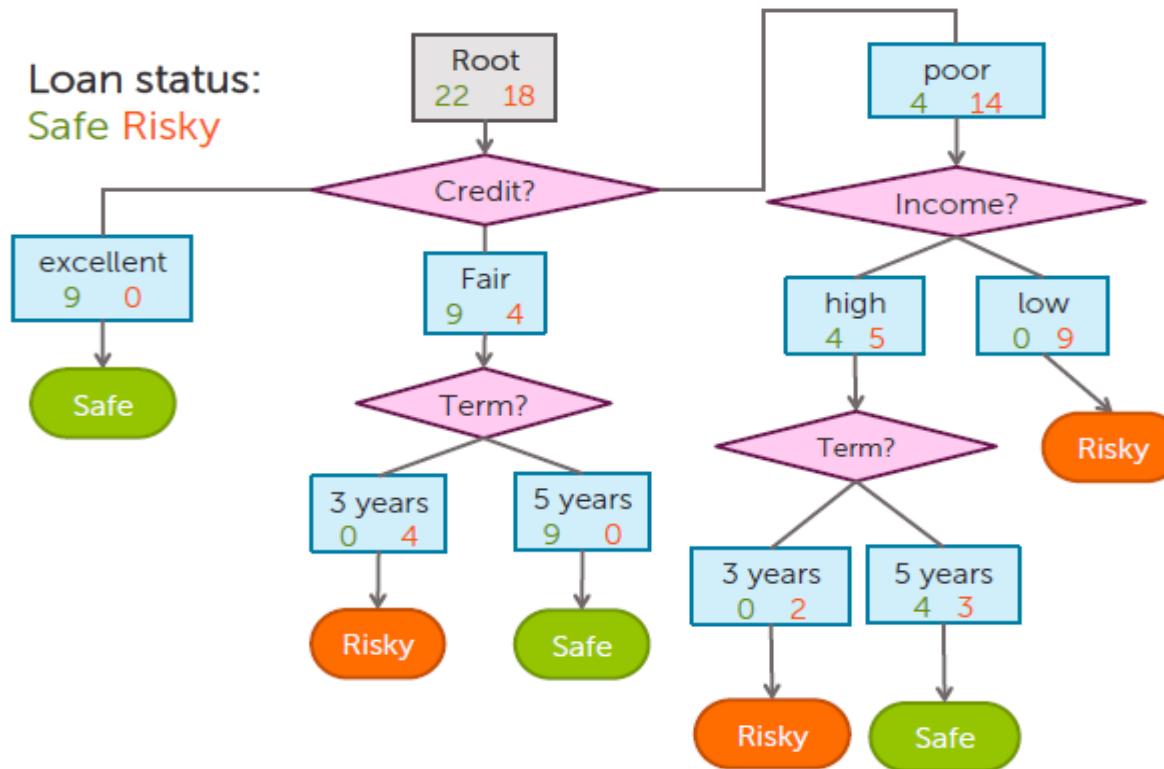
## Second level



# Recursive stump learning

161

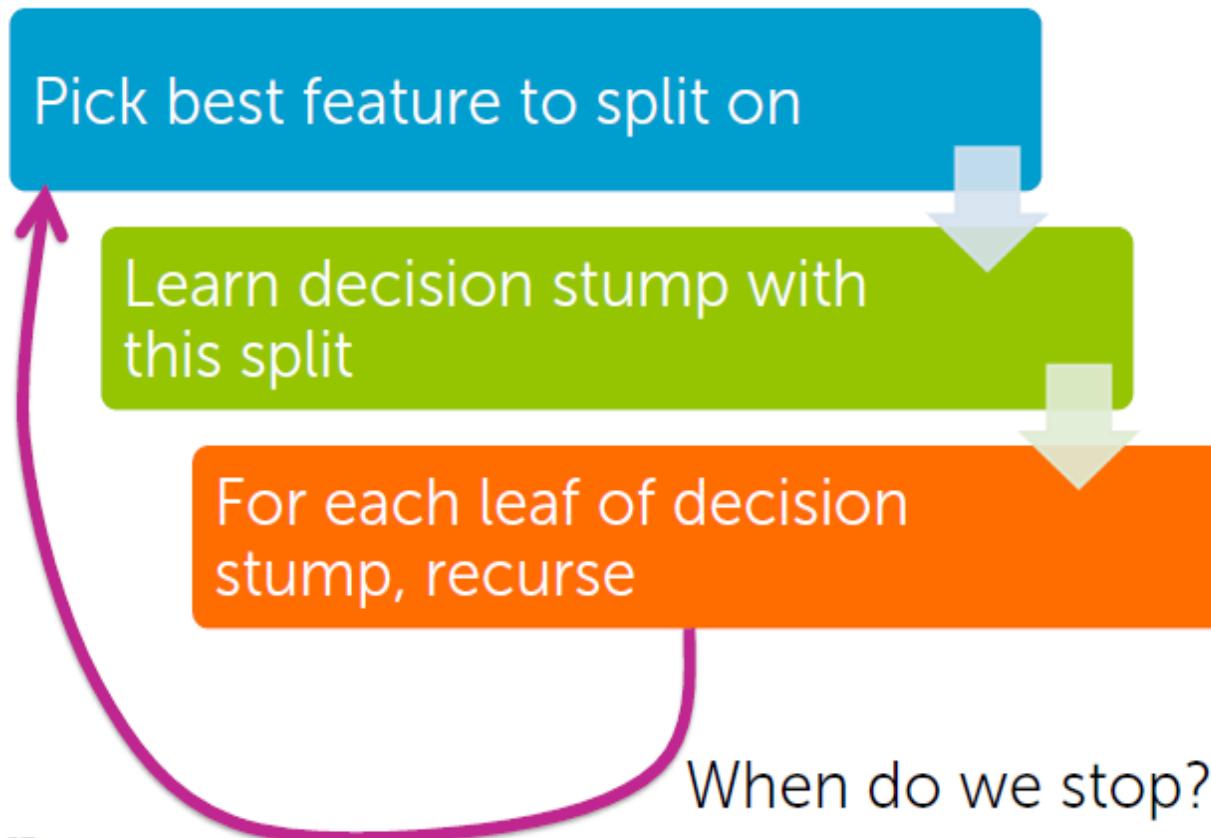
## Final decision tree



# Simple greedy decision tree learning

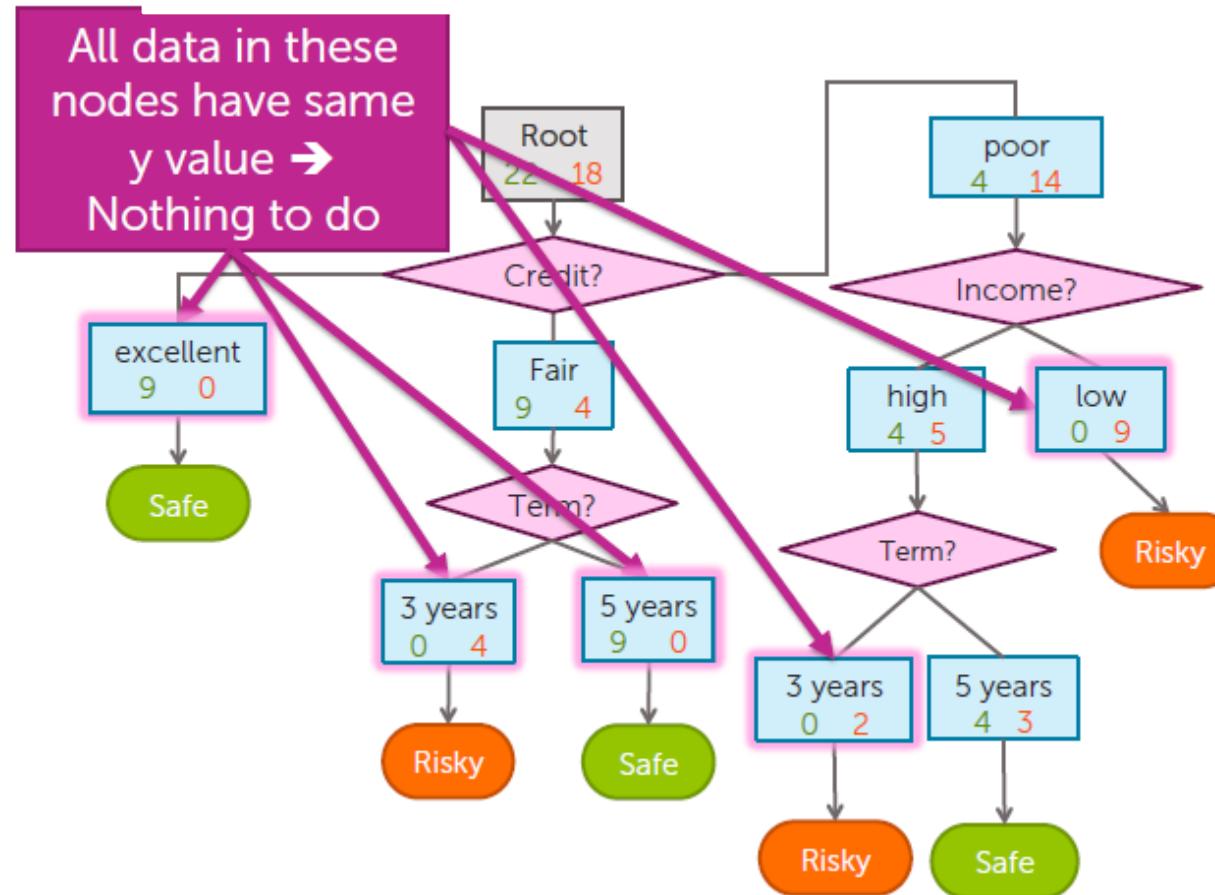
162

## Recursive algorithm



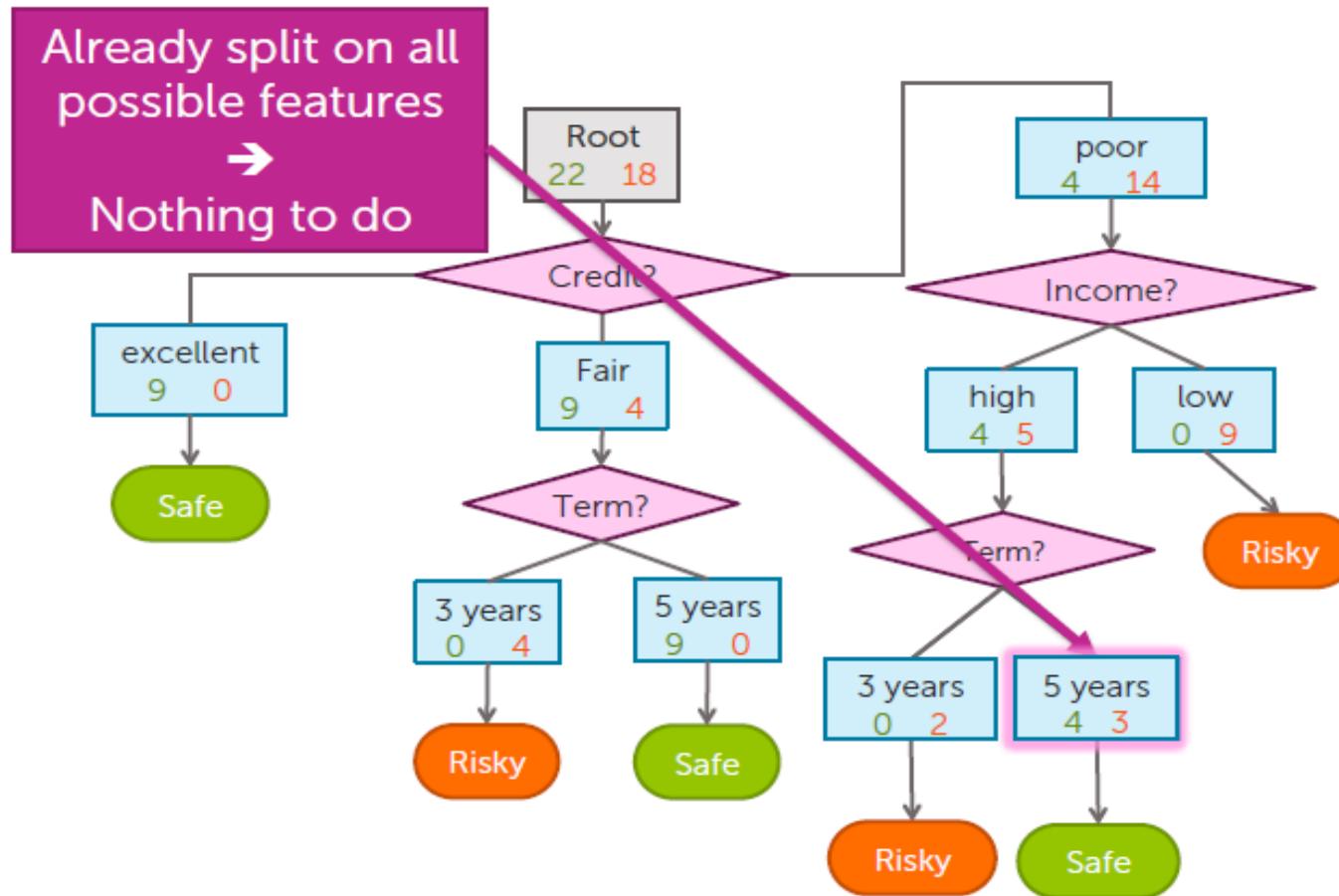
# Stopping condition 1

163



# Stopping condition 2

164



# Greedy decision tree algorithm

165

- Step 1: Start with an empty tree

- Step 2: Select a feature to split data

- For each split of the tree:

- Step 3: If nothing more to, make predictions

- Step 4: Otherwise, go to Step 2 & continue (recurse) on this split

Pick feature split leading to lowest classification error

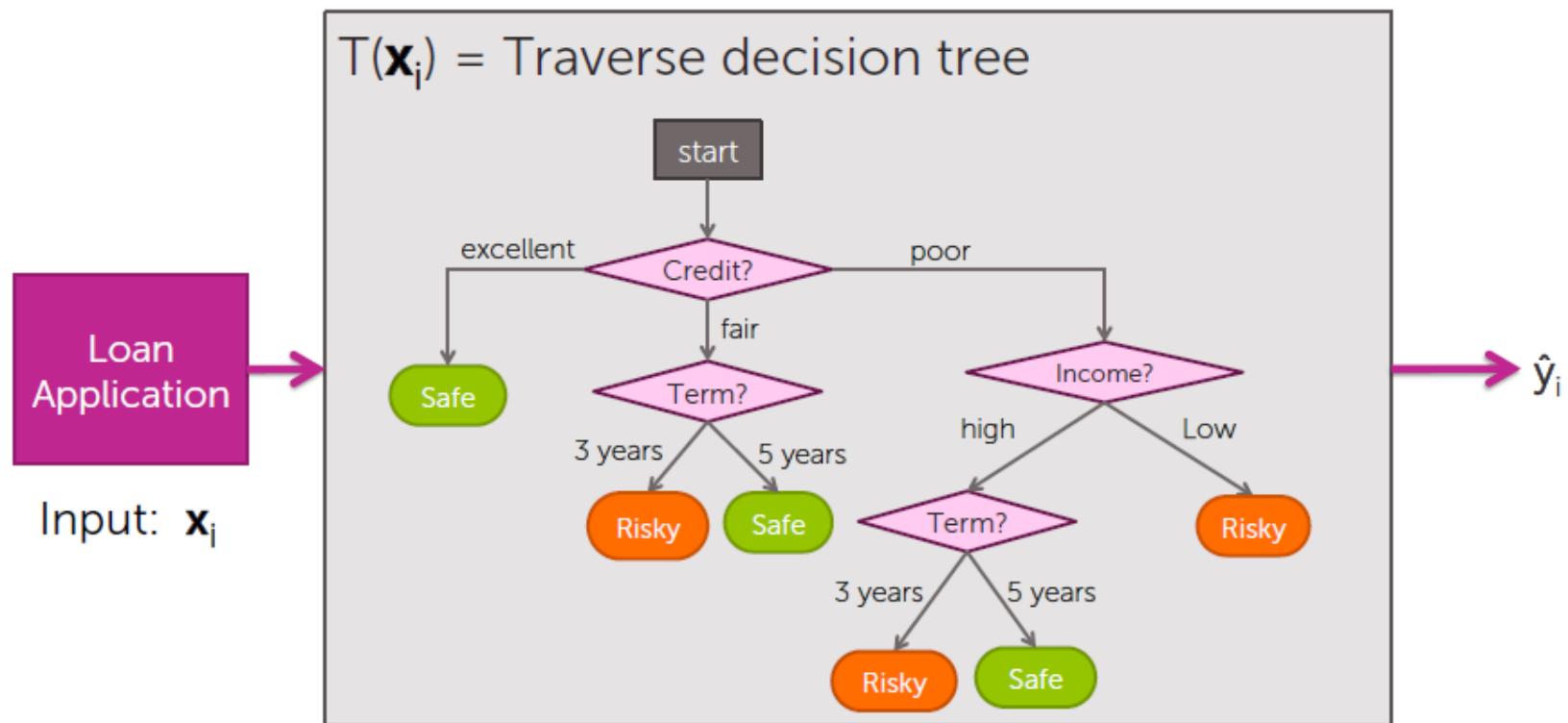
Stopping conditions 1 & 2

Recursion

# Predictions with decision trees

166

## Decision tree model

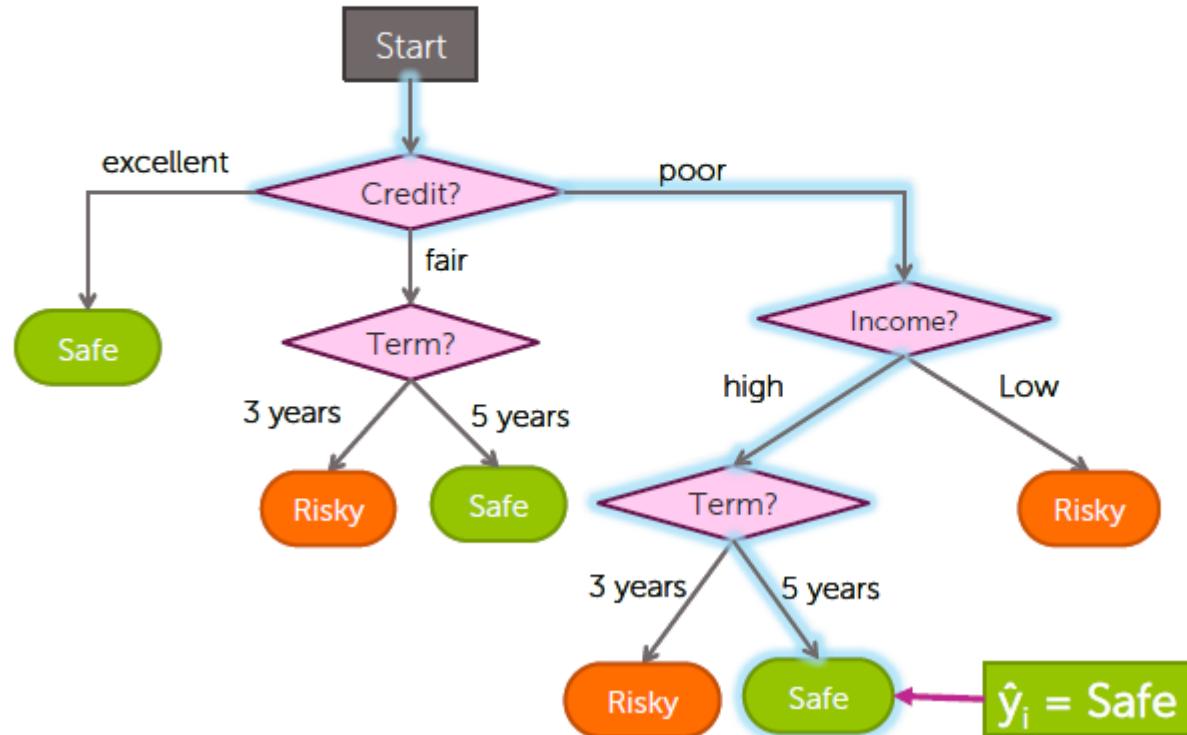


# Predictions with decision trees

167

## Traversing a decision tree

$x_i = (\text{Credit} = \text{poor}, \text{Income} = \text{high}, \text{Term} = 5 \text{ years})$



# Predictions with decision tree

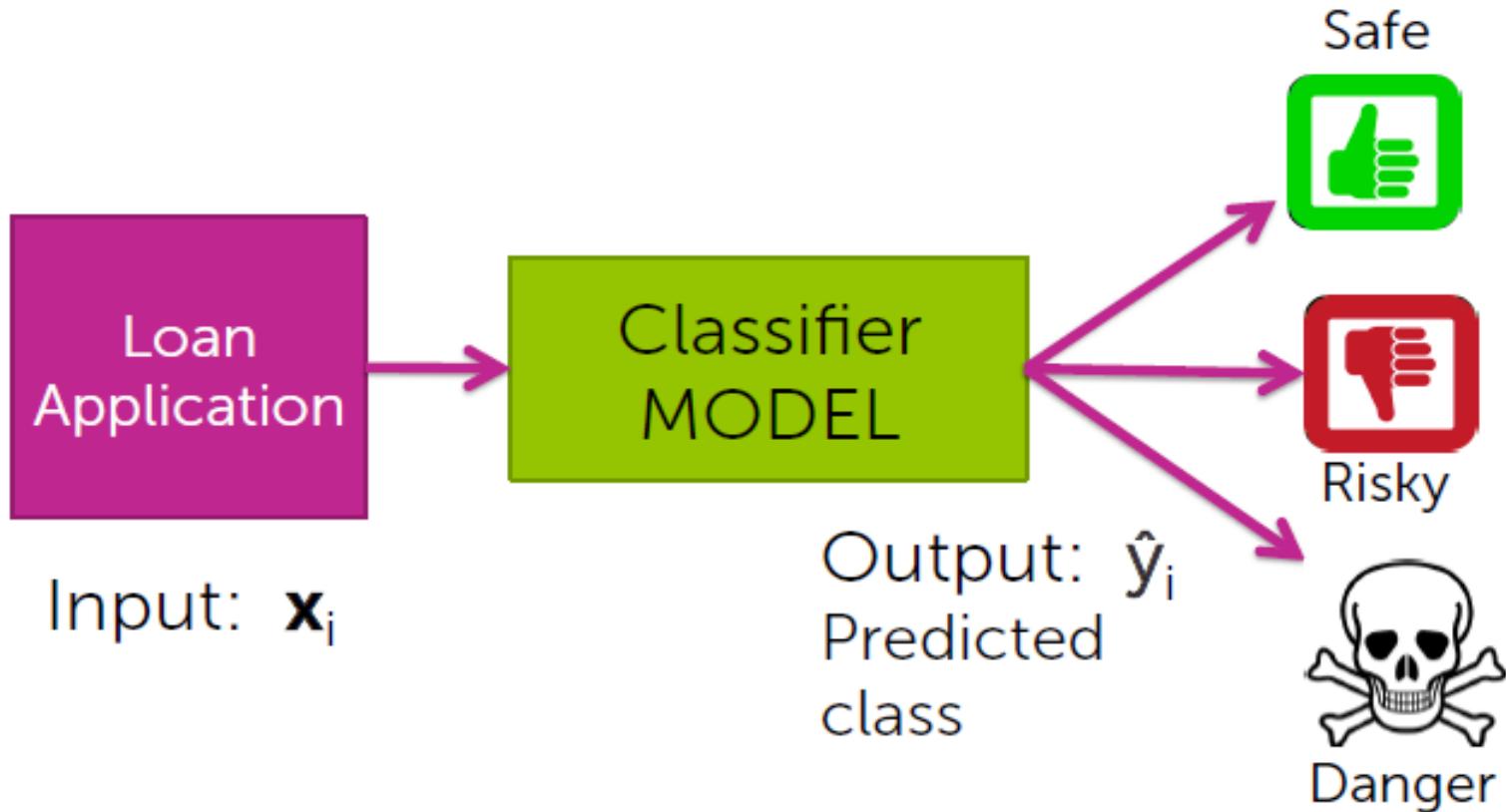
168

`predict(tree_node, input)`

- If current `tree_node` is a leaf:
  - `return` majority class of data points in leaf
- else:
  - `next_note` = child node of `tree_node` whose feature value agrees with `input`
  - `return predict(next_note, input)`

# Multiclass prediction

169



# Multiclass decision stump

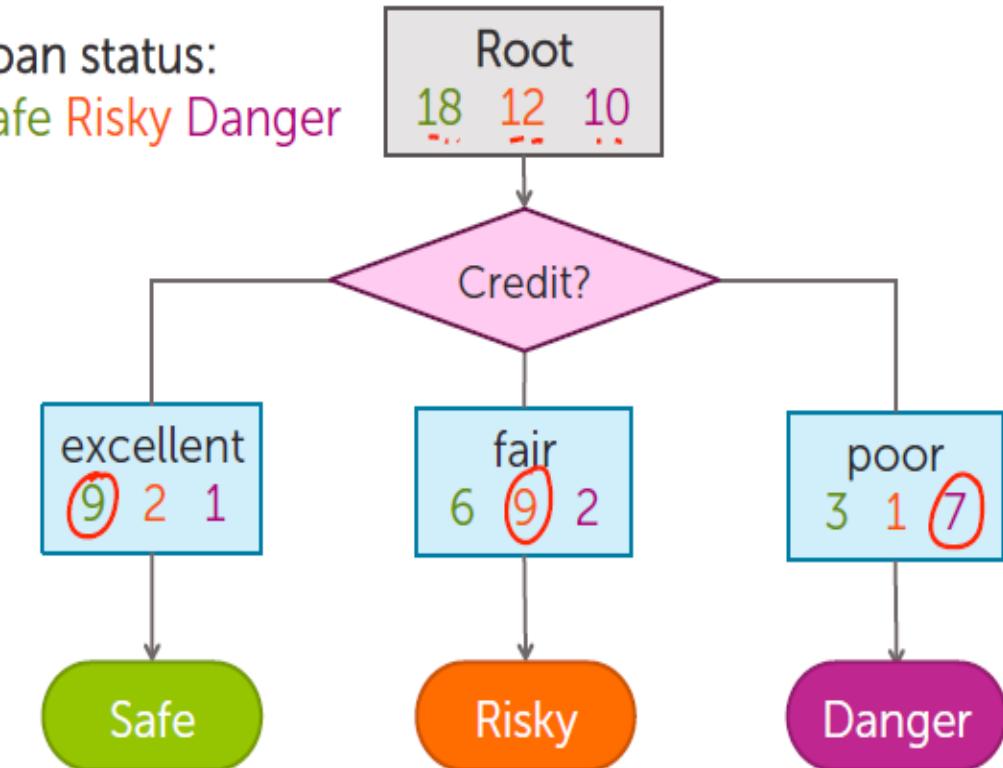
170

$N = 40$ ,  
1 feature,  
3 classes

Credit	y
excellent	safe
fair	risky
fair	safe
poor	danger
excellent	risky
fair	safe
poor	danger
poor	safe
fair	safe
...	...



Loan status:  
Safe Risky Danger

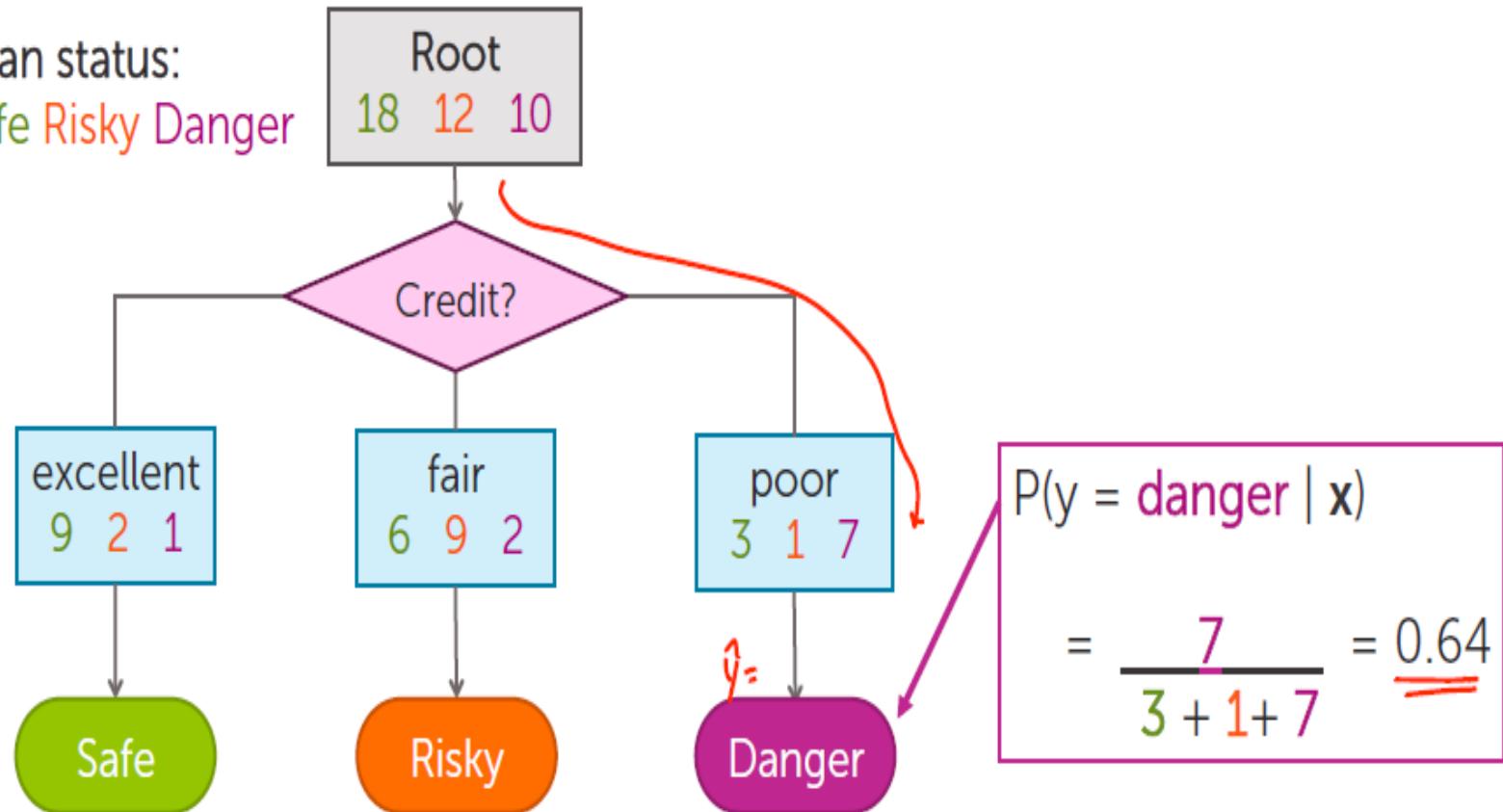


# Predicting probabilities with decision trees

171

Loan status:

Safe Risky Danger

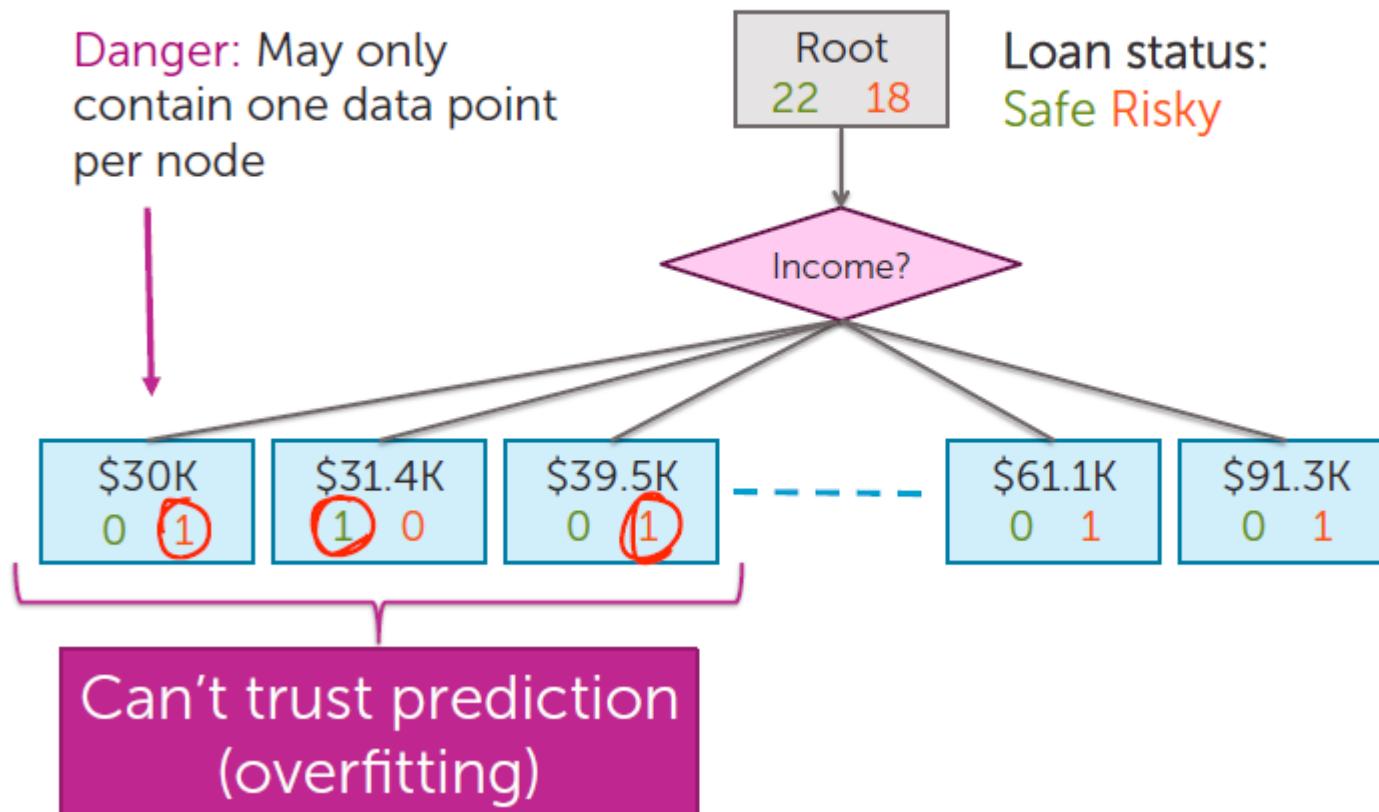


# How to use real values inputs

172

## Split on each numeric value?

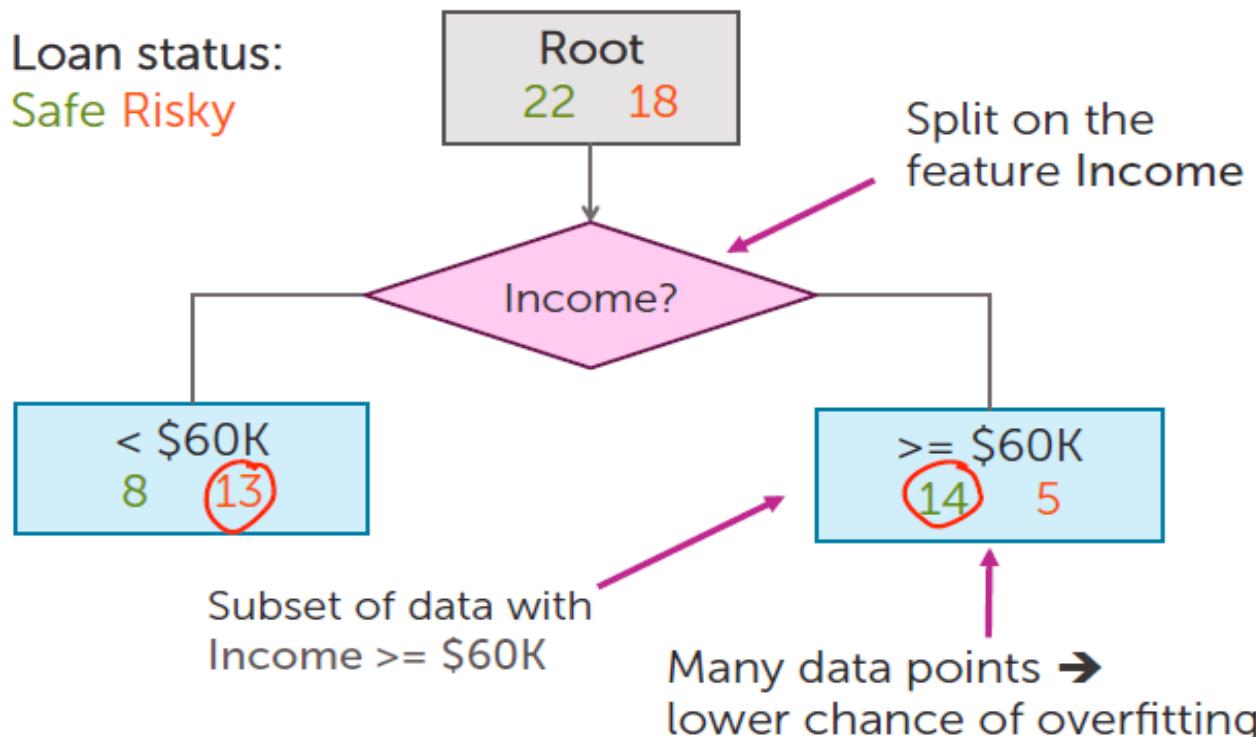
Danger: May only contain one data point per node



# How to use real values inputs

173

## Alternative: Threshold split



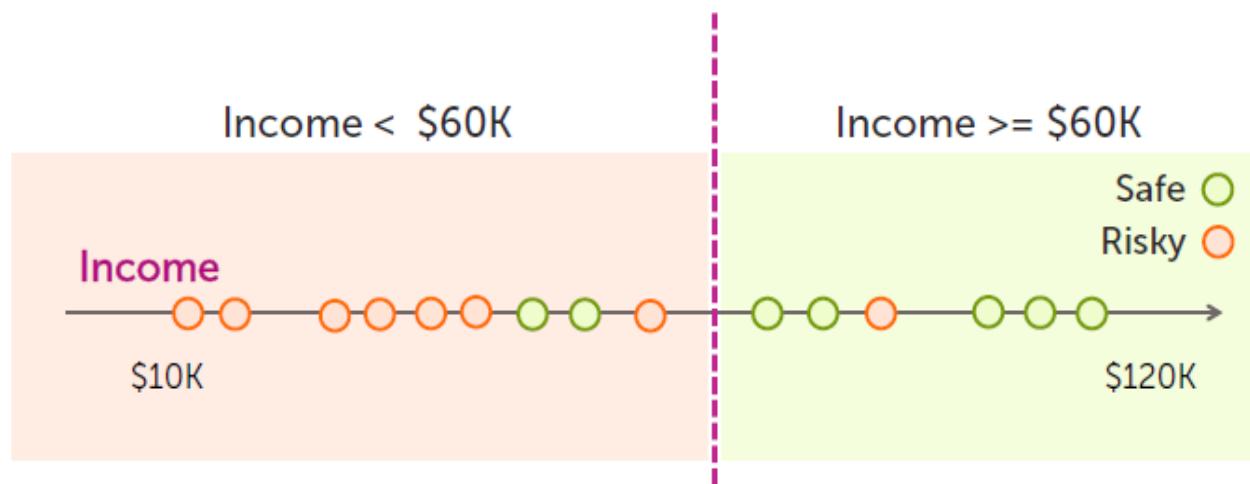
# Visualizing the threshold split

174

## Threshold splits in 1-D

Threshold split is the line

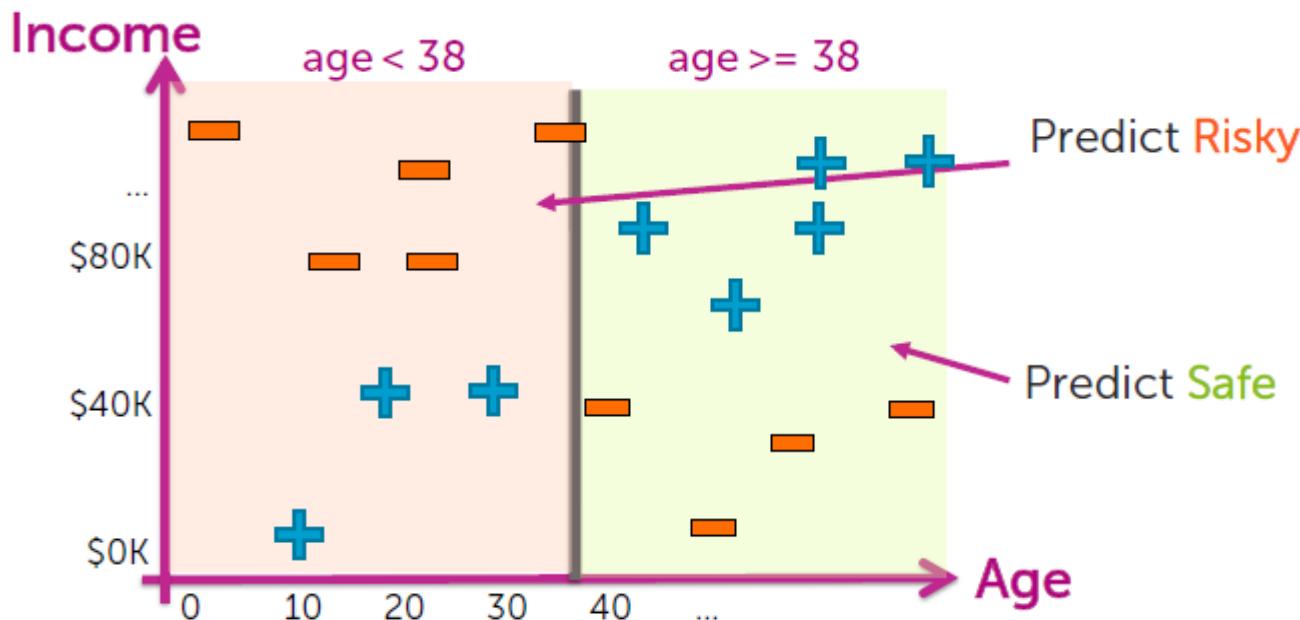
Income = \$60K



# Visualizing the threshold split

175

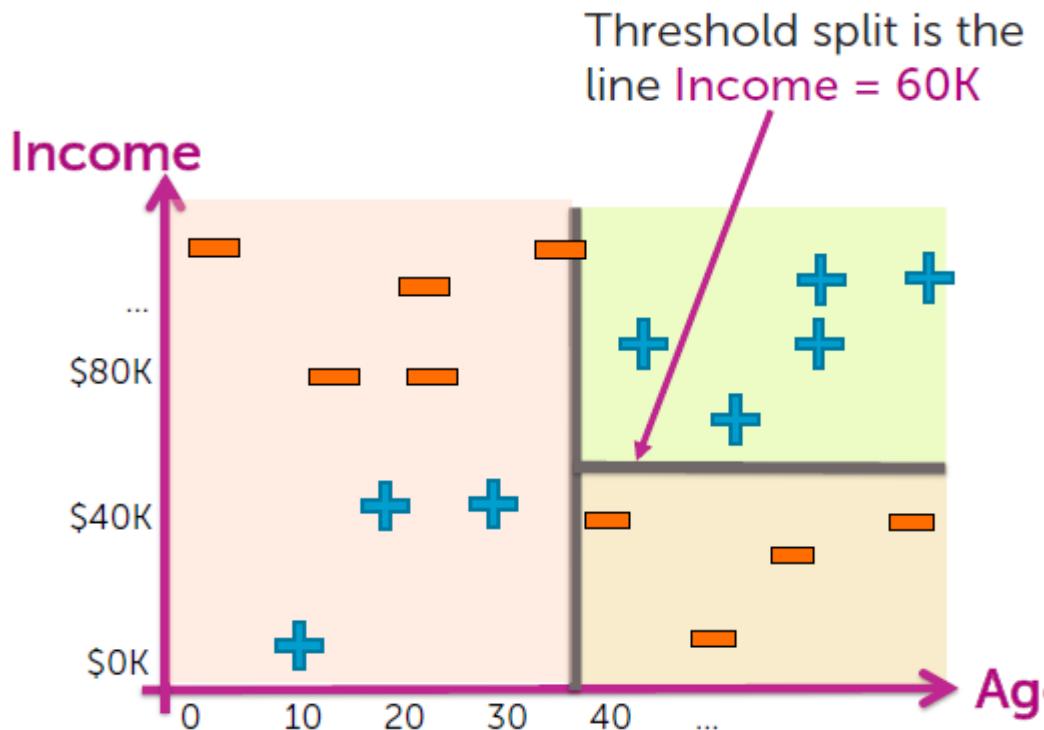
Split on Age  $\geq 38$



# Visualizing the threshold split

176

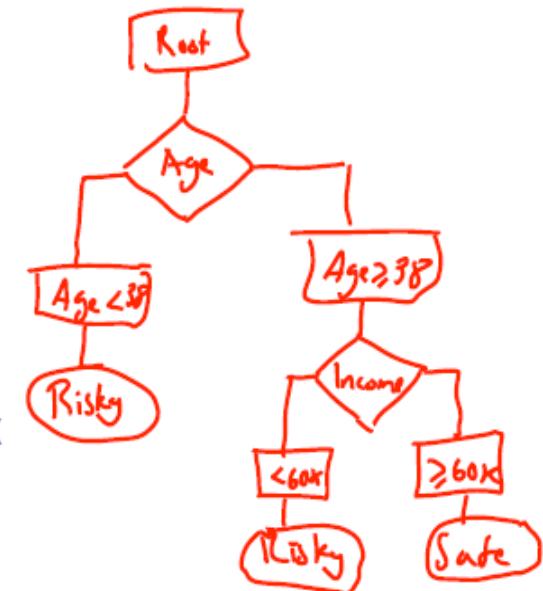
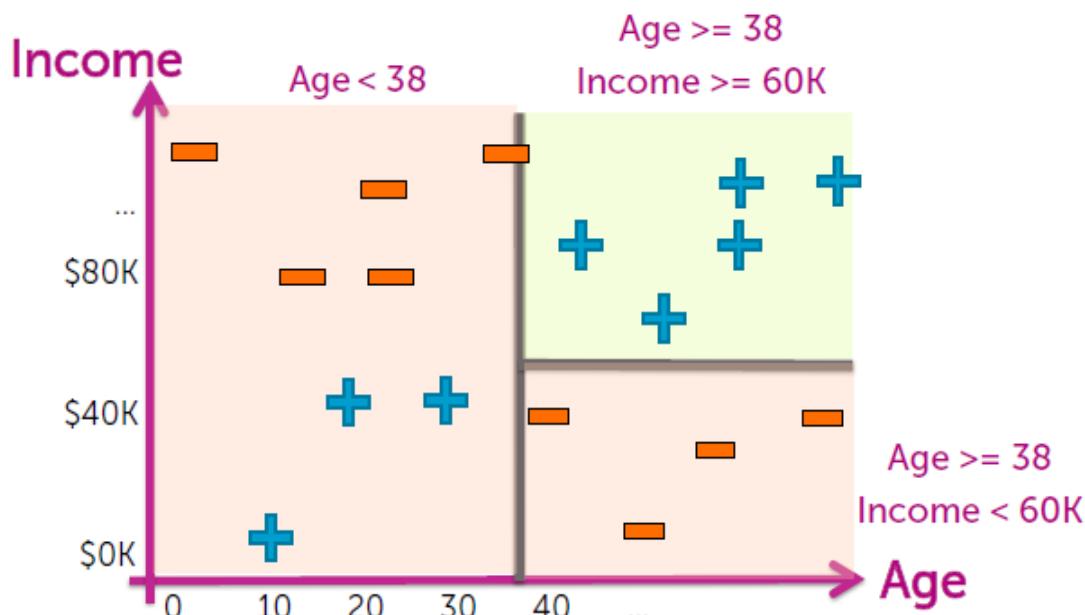
Depth 2: Split on Income  $\geq \$60K$



# Visualizing the threshold split

177

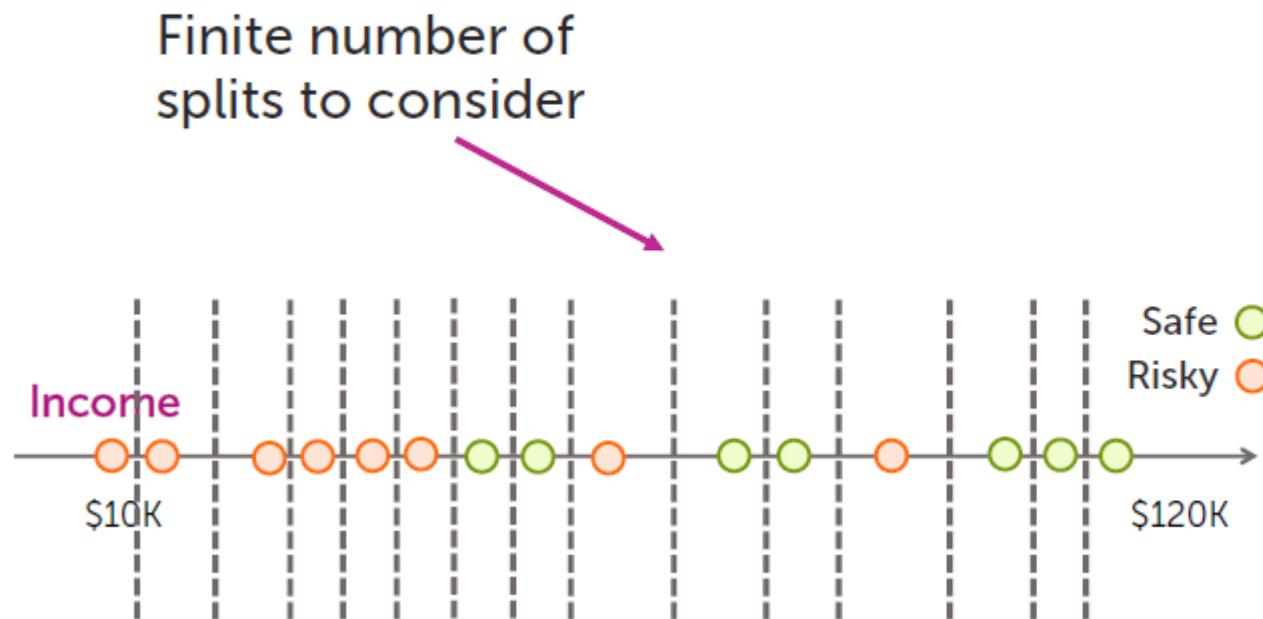
Each split partitions the 2-D space



# Finding the best threshold split

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Only need to consider mid-points



# Finding the best threshold split

179

## Threshold split selection algorithm

- Step 1: Sort the values of a feature  $h_j(\mathbf{x})$  :  
Let  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots, v_N\}$  denote sorted values
- Step 2:
  - For  $i = 1 \dots N-1$ 
    - Consider split  $t_i = (v_i + v_{i+1}) / 2$
    - Compute classification error for threshold split  $h_j(\mathbf{x}) \geq t_i$
  - Choose the  $t^*$  with the lowest classification error

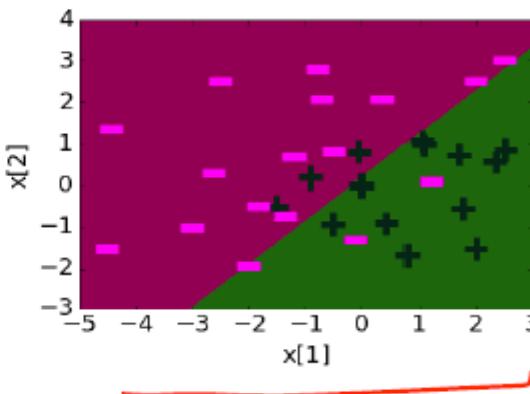
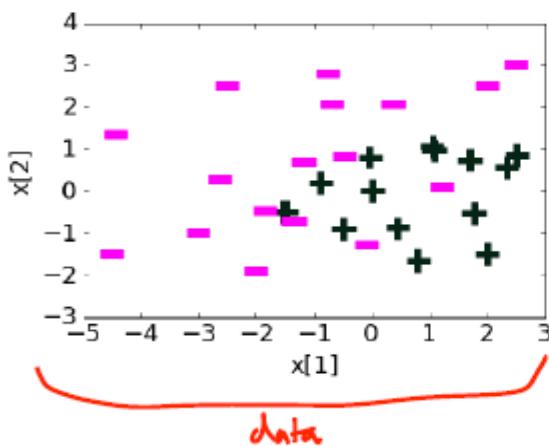
*biconcave*

# Decision trees vs logistic regression

180

## Logistic regression

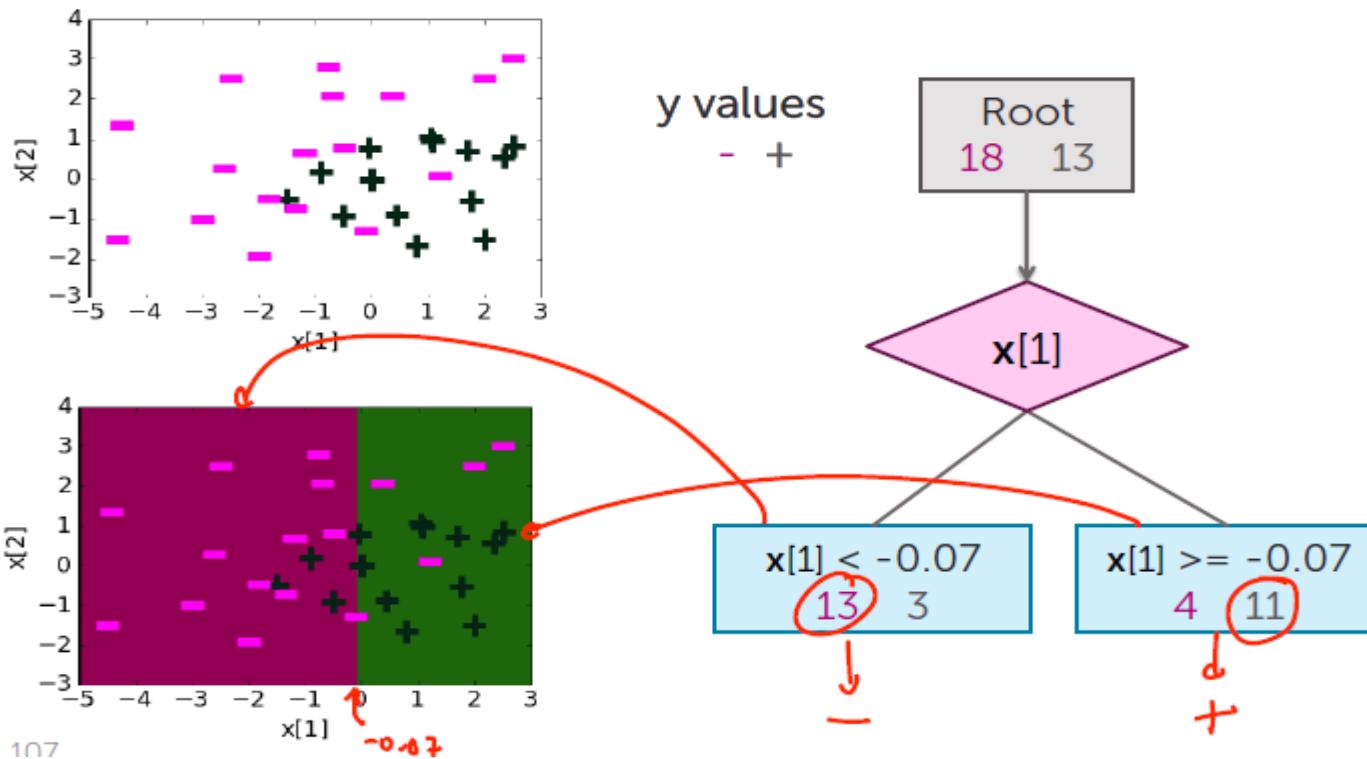
Feature	Value	Weight Learned
$h_0(x)$	1	0.22
$h_1(x)$	$x[1]$	1.12
$h_2(x)$	$x[2]$	-1.07



# Decision trees vs logistic regression

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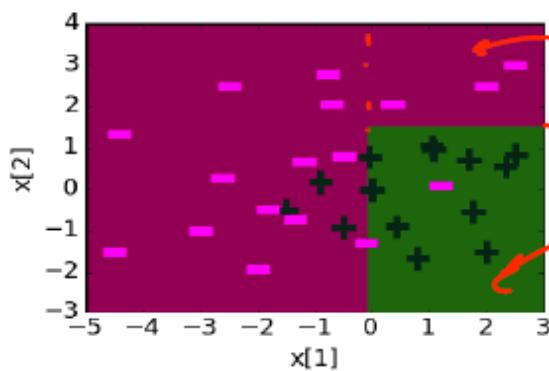
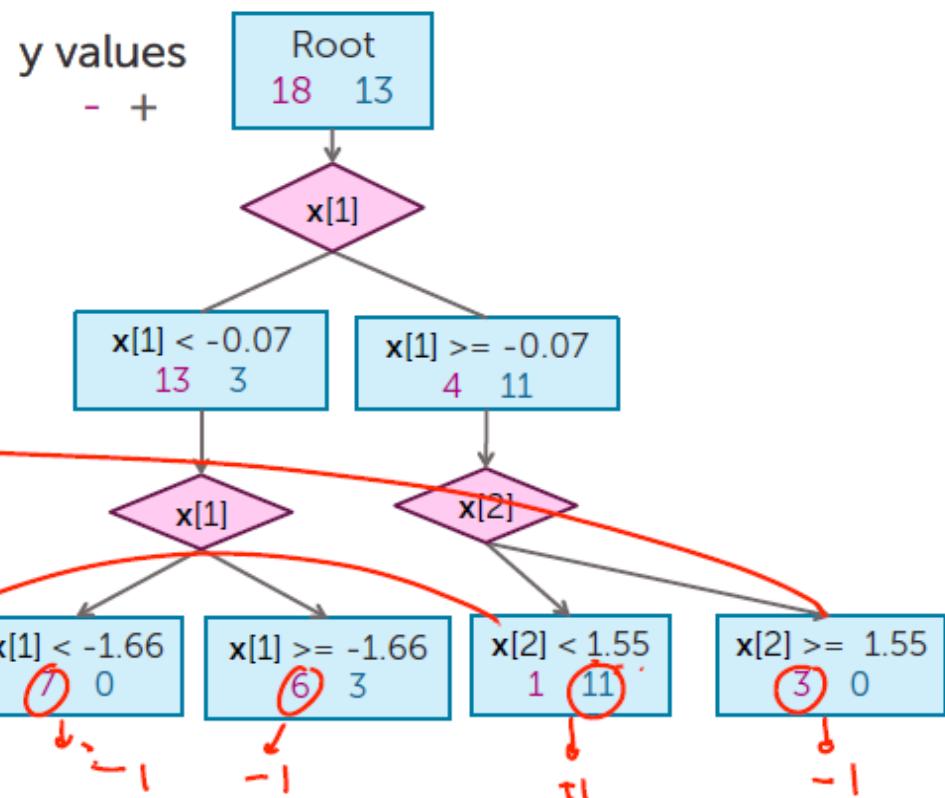
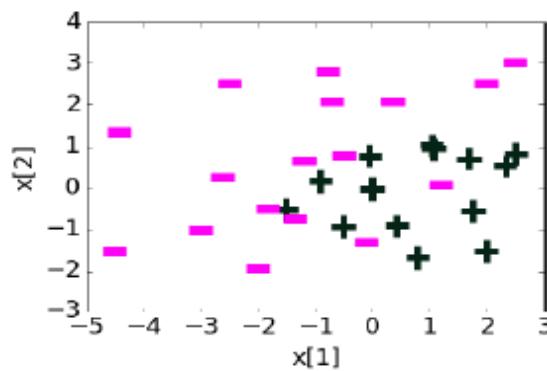
## Depth 1: Split on $x[1]$



# Decision trees vs logistic regression

182

## Depth 2

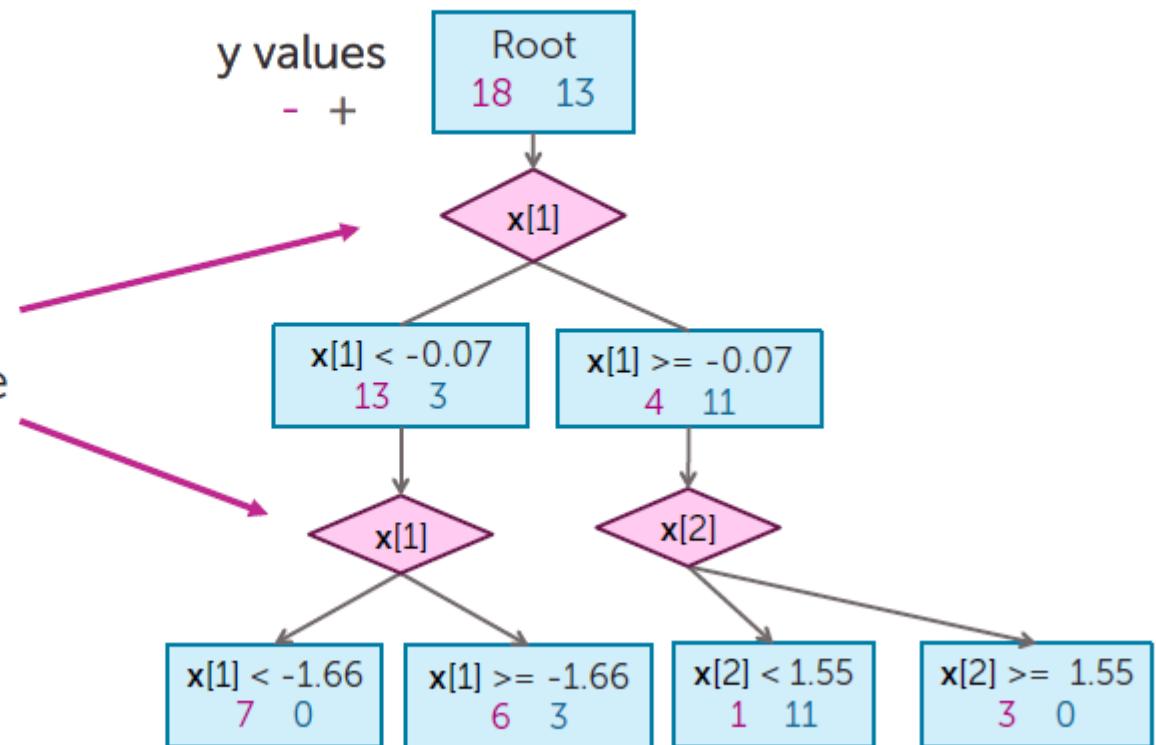


# Decision tree vs logistic regression

183

## Threshold split caveat

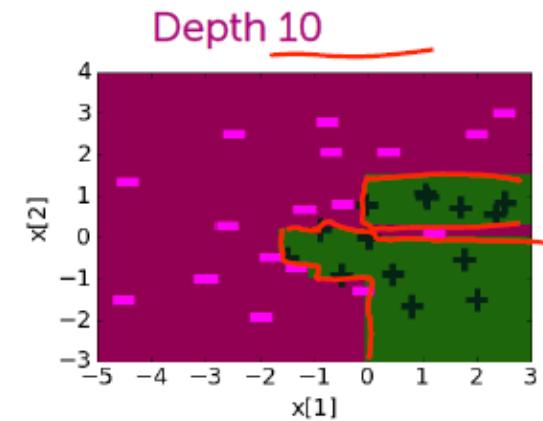
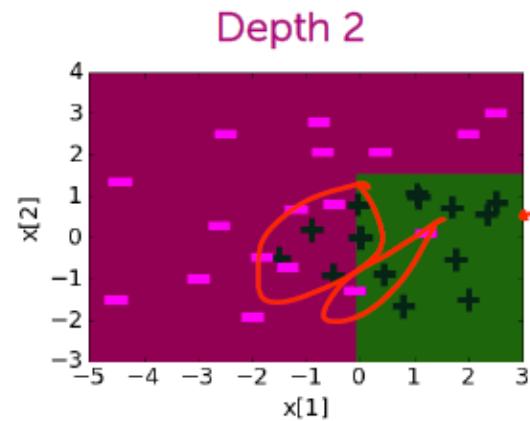
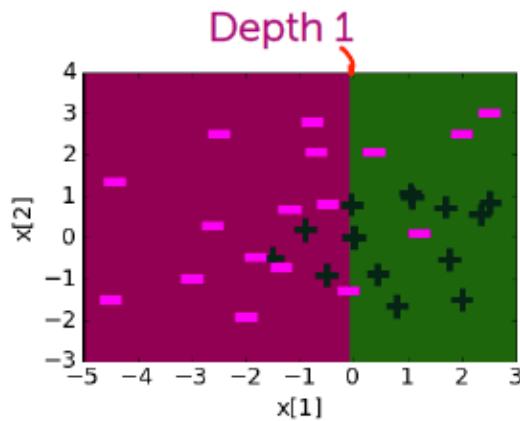
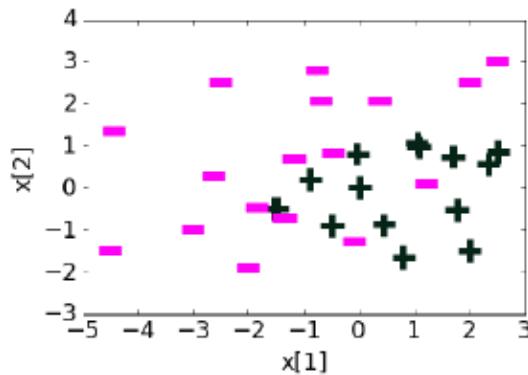
For threshold splits,  
same feature can be  
used multiple times



# Decision tree vs logistic regression

184

## Decision boundaries

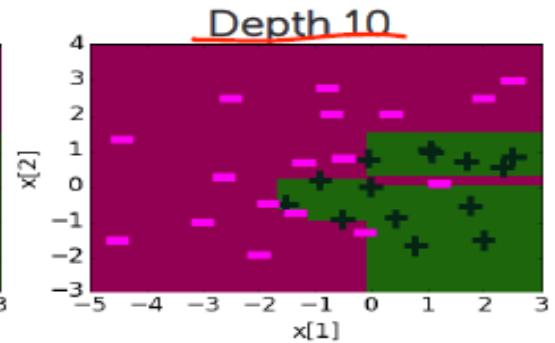
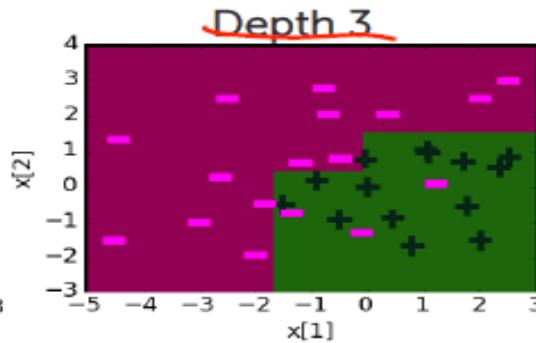
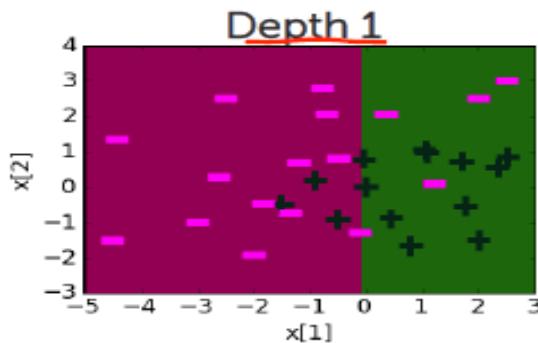


# Decision tree vs logistic regression

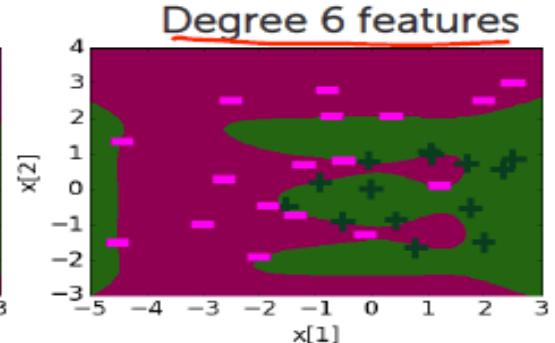
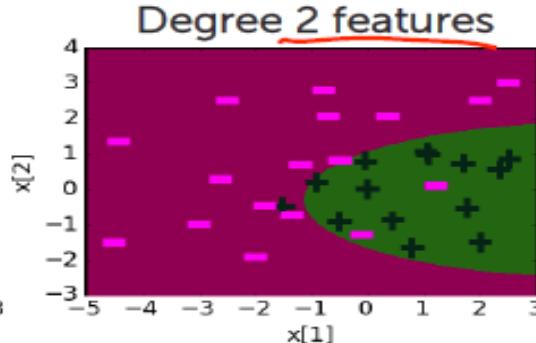
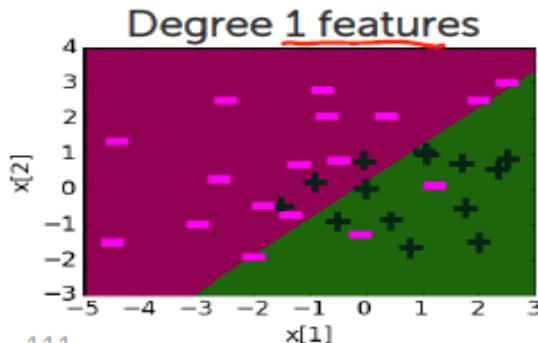
185

## Comparing decision boundaries

Decision Tree



Logistic Regression



111

# What you can do now

186

- Define a decision tree classifier
- Interpret the output of a decision trees
- Learn a decision tree classifier using greedy algorithm
- Traverse a decision tree to make predictions
  - Majority class predictions
  - Probability predictions
  - Multiclass classification

# Overfitting in decision trees

# Overfitting in decision tree

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What happens when we increase depth?

Training error reduces with depth

Big warning!! ↴

Tree depth	depth = 1	depth = 2	depth = 3	depth = 5	depth = 10
Training error	0.22	0.13	0.10	0.03	0.00
Decision boundary					

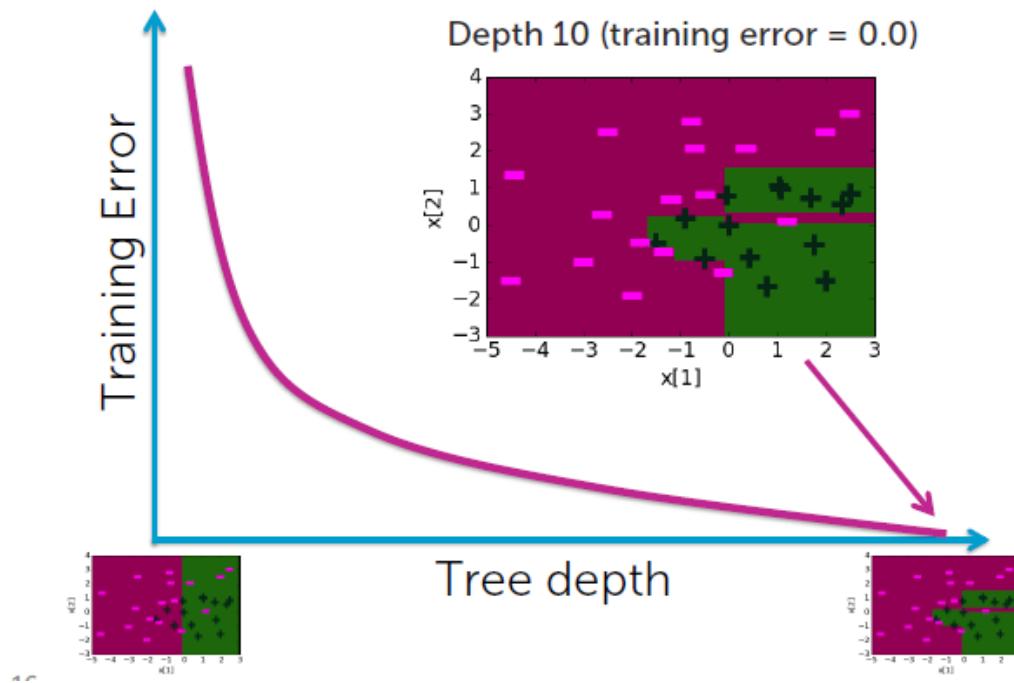
complexity of decision boundary ↴

1.4

# Overfitting in decision tree

189

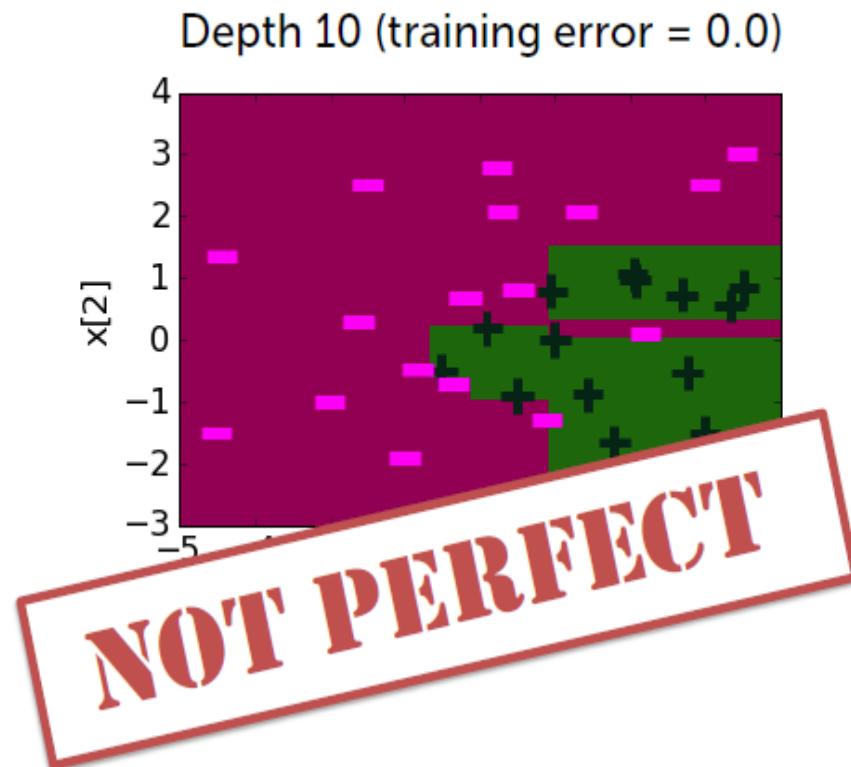
Deeper trees → lower training error



# Overfitting in decision tree

190

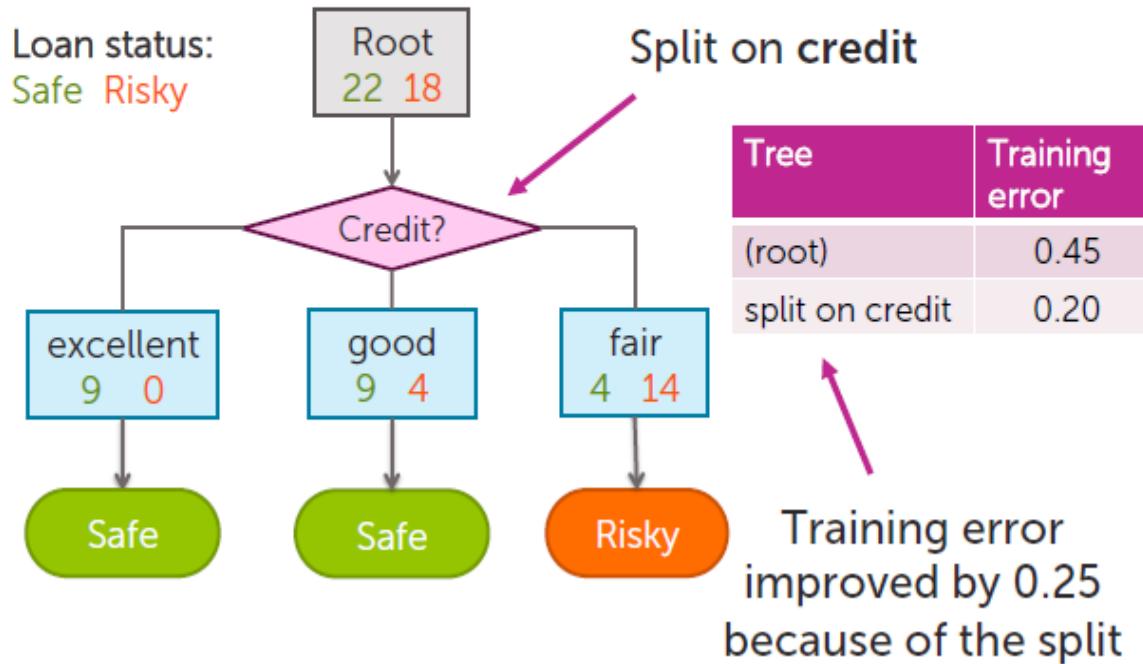
Training error = 0: Is this model perfect?



# Overfitting in decision tree

191

## Why training error reduces with depth?



# Overfitting in decision tree

192

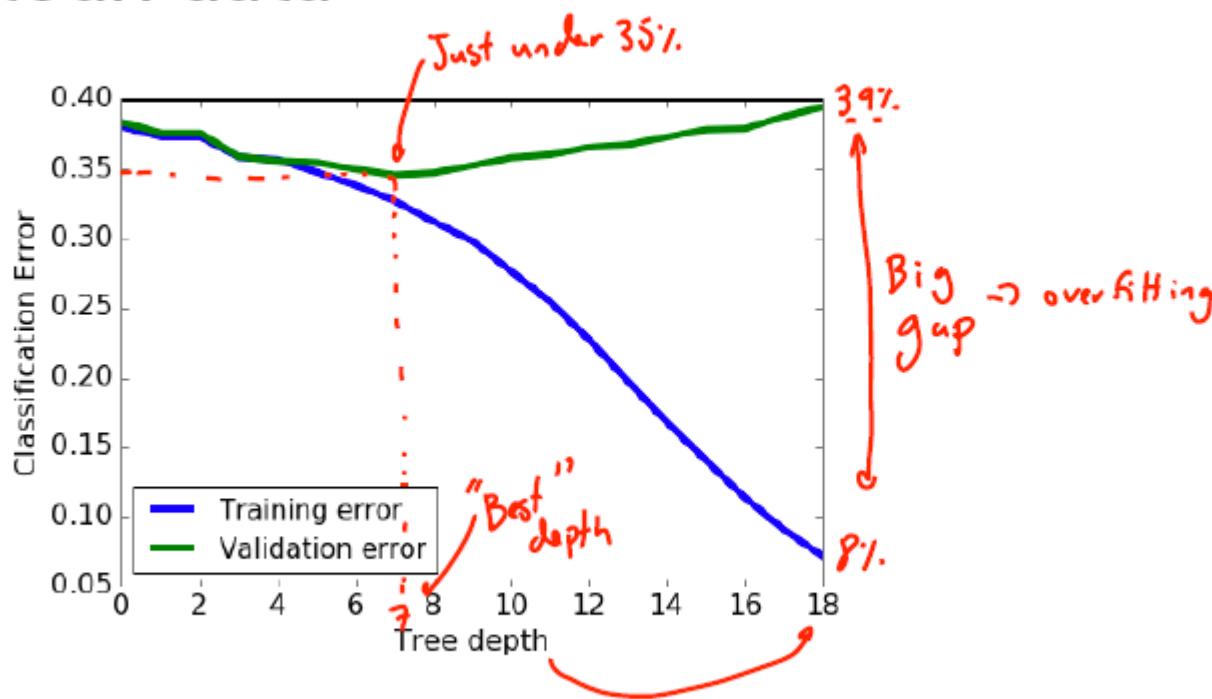
## Feature split selection algorithm

- Given a subset of data  $M$  (a node in a tree)
  - For each feature  $h_i(x)$ :
    1. Split data of  $M$  according to feature  $h_i(x)$
    2. Compute classification error split
  - Choose feature  $h^*(x)$  with lowest classification error
-  By design, each split reduces training error

# Overfitting in decision tree

193

## Decision trees overfitting on loan data



# Simplest tree is better

194

## Principle of Occam's Razor



"Among competing hypotheses, the one with fewest assumptions should be selected",  
William of Occam, 13<sup>th</sup> Century

Symptoms:  $S_1$  and  $S_2$

Diagnosis 1: 2 diseases

Two diseases  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  where  
 $D_1$  explains  $S_1$ ,  $D_2$  explains  $S_2$

OR

**SIMPLER**

Diagnosis 2: 1 disease

Disease  $D_3$  explains both  
symptoms  $S_1$  and  $S_2$

# Simplest tree is better

195

## Occam's Razor for decision trees

*When two trees have similar classification error on the validation set, pick the simpler one*

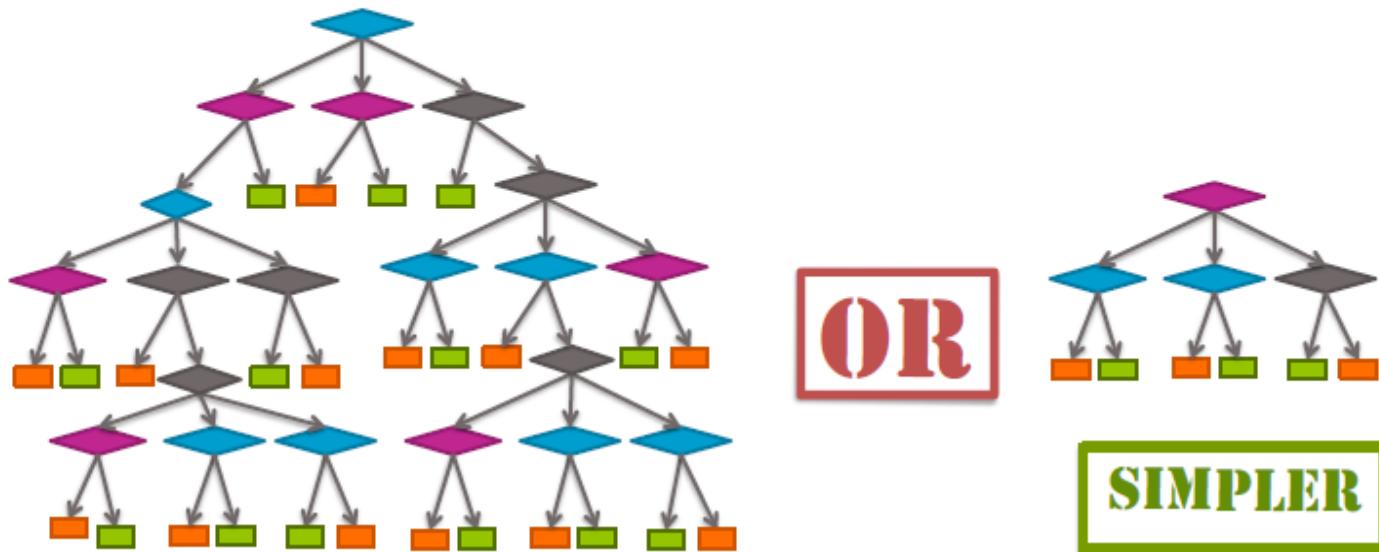
Complexity	Train error	Validation error
Simple	0.23	0.24
Moderate	0.12	0.15
Complex	0.07	0.15
Super complex	0	0.18

Same validation error  
← Pick  
bad!  
→ Overfit

# Simplest tree is better

196

Which tree is simpler?



# Simplest tree is better

197

## How do we pick simpler trees?

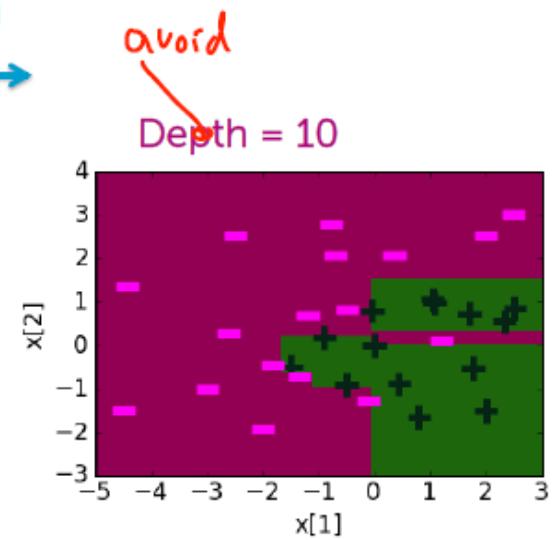
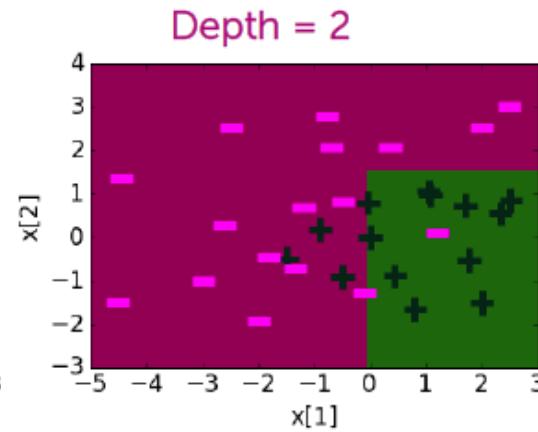
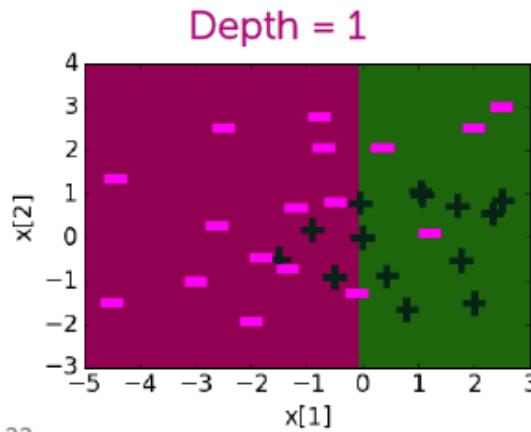
1. **Early Stopping:** Stop learning algorithm **before** tree become too complex
2. **Pruning:** Simplify tree **after** learning algorithm terminates

# Early stopping for learning decision trees

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Deeper trees →  
Increasing complexity

Model complexity increases with depth

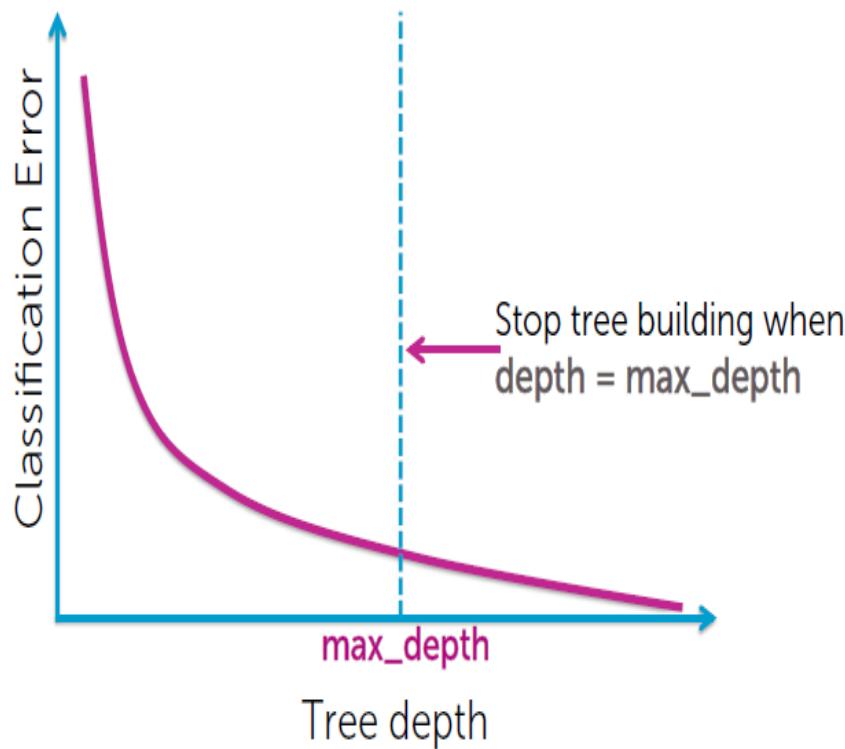


22

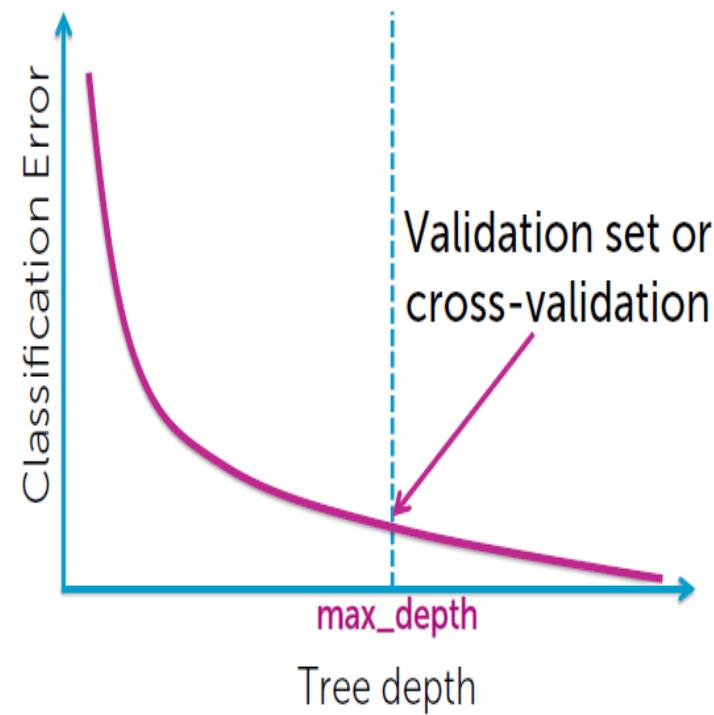
# Early stopping condition 1

199

Limit depth of tree



Picking value for `max_depth`???

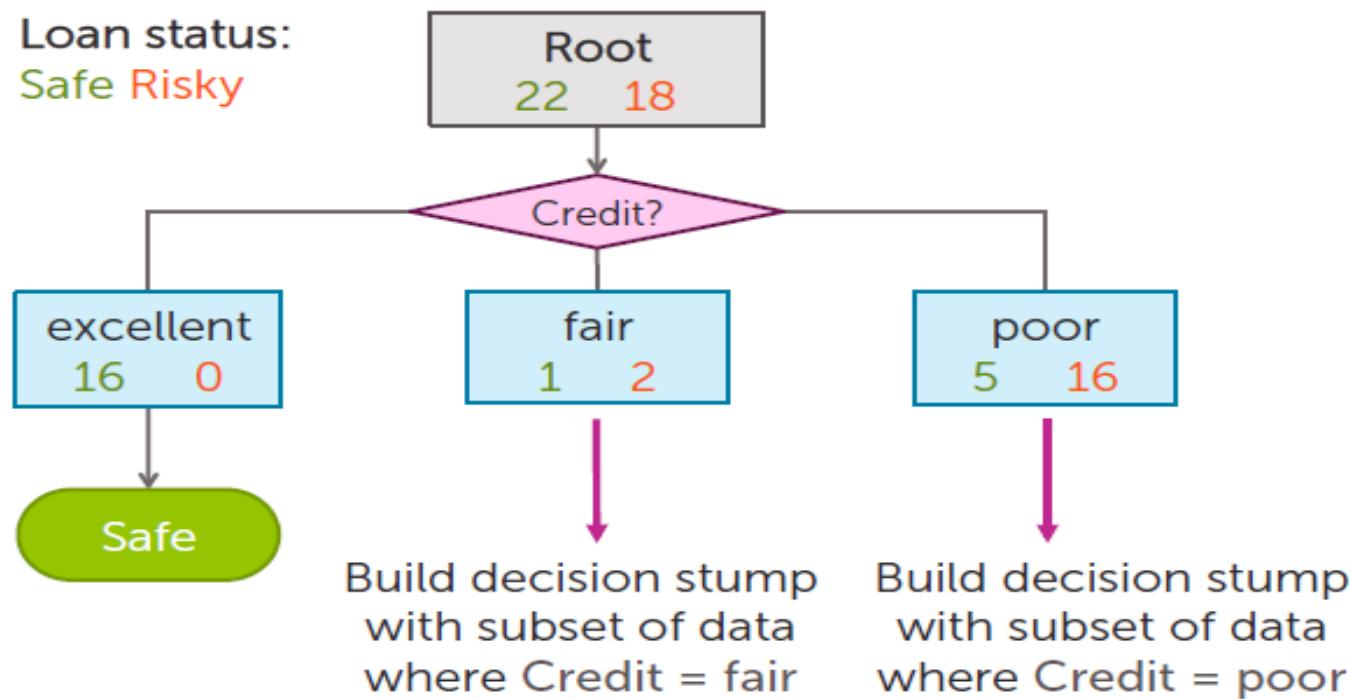


# Early stopping condition 2

200

## Decision tree recursion review

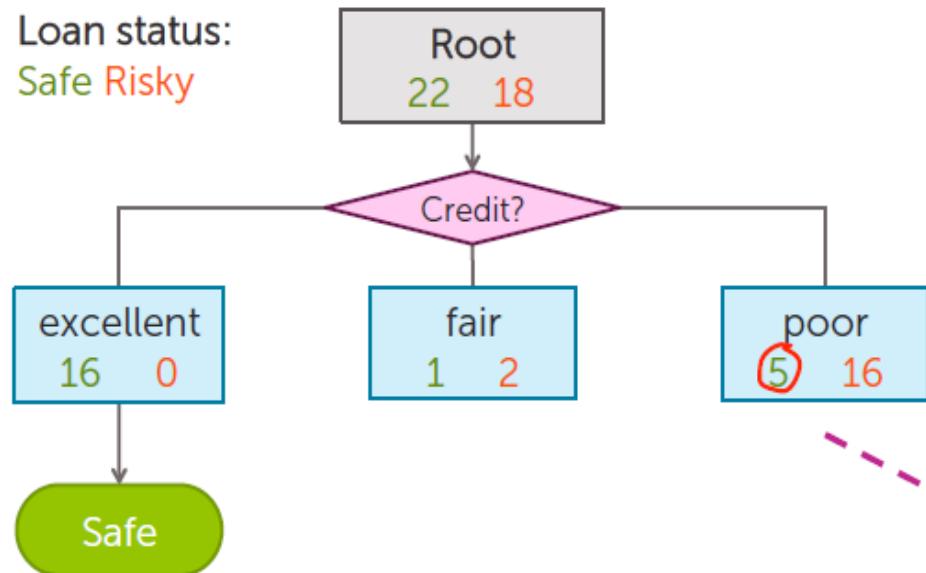
Loan status:  
Safe Risky



# Early stopping condition 2

201

## Split selection for credit=poor



No split improves  
classification error  
→ Stop!

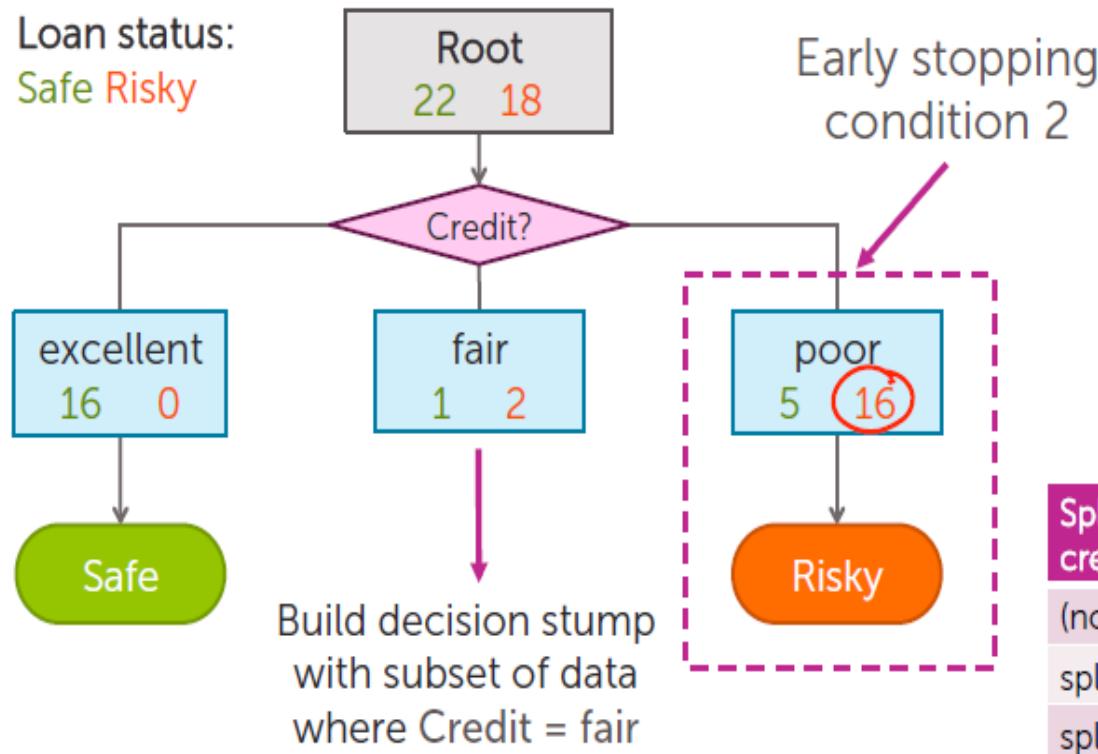
Splits for credit=poor	Classification error
(no split)	0.24
split on term	0.24
split on income	0.24

# Early stopping condition 2

202

## No split improves classification error

Loan status:  
Safe Risky



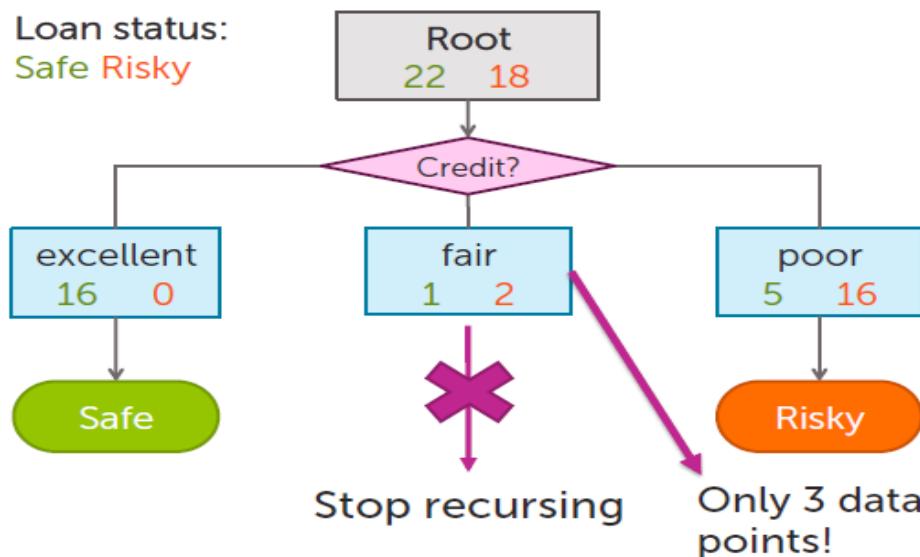
Splits for credit=poor	Classification error
(no split)	0.24
split on term	0.24
split on income	0.24

# Early stopping condition 3

203

**Stop if number of data points contained in a node is too small**

Can we trust nodes with very few points?



# Early stopping: Summary

204

1. **Limit tree depth:** Stop splitting after a certain depth
2. **Classification error:** Do not consider any split that does not cause a sufficient decrease in classification error
3. **Minimum node “size”:** Do not split an intermediate node which contains too few data points

# Greedy decision tree learning

205

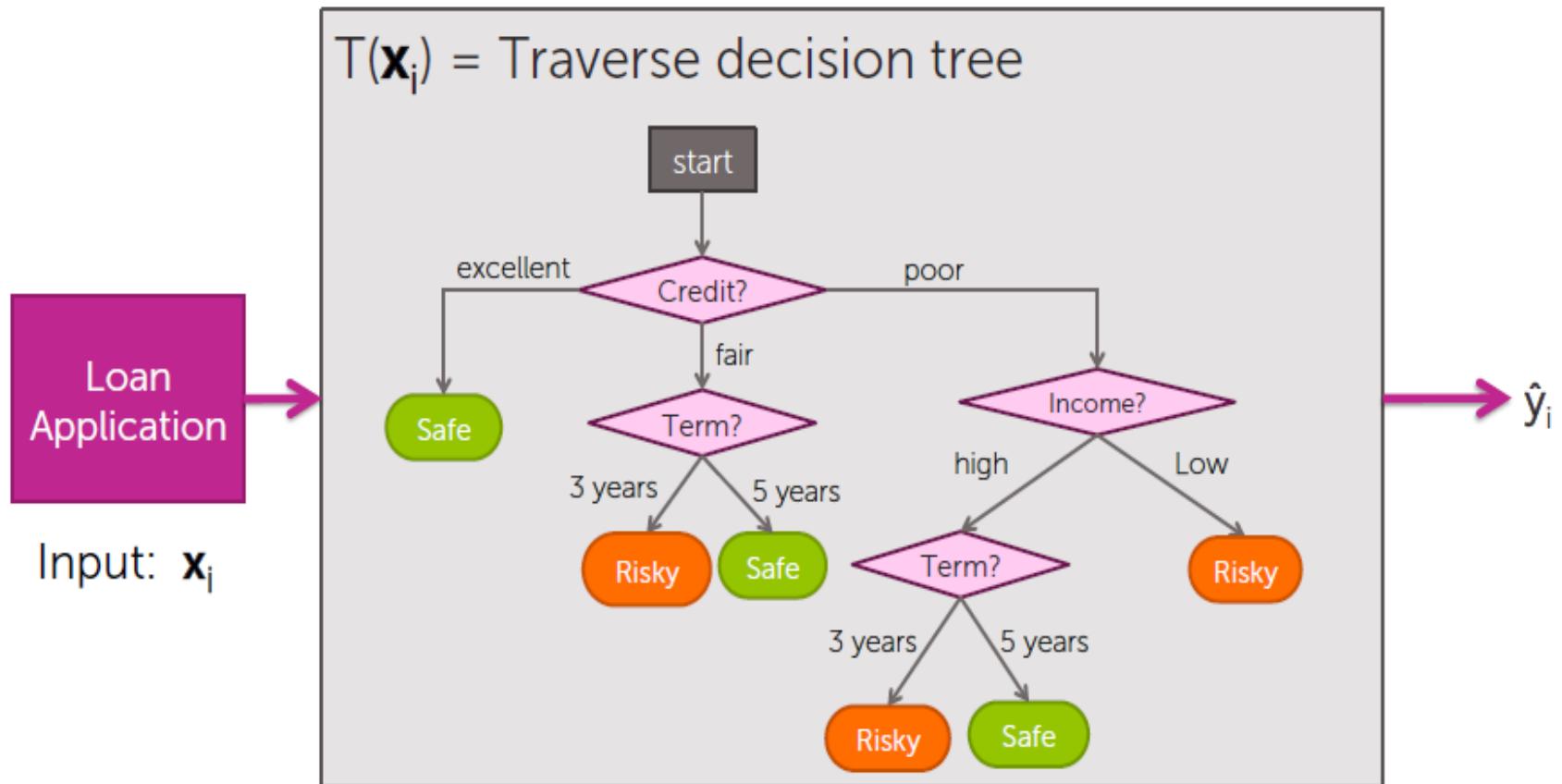
- Step 1: Start with an empty tree
- Step 2: Select a feature to split data
- For each split of the tree:
  - Step 3: If nothing more to, make predictions ← Majority
  - Step 4: Otherwise, go to Step 2 & continue (recurse) on this split

Stopping conditions 1 & 2  
or  
Early stopping conditions 1, 2 & 3  
Recursion

# Strategies for handling missing data

# Decision tree review

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# Missing data

208

Credit	Term	Income	y
excellent	3 yrs	high	safe
fair	?	low	risky
fair	3 yrs	high	safe
poor	5 yrs	high	risky
excellent	3 yrs	low	risky
fair	5 yrs	high	safe
poor	?	high	risky
poor	5 yrs	low	safe
fair	?	high	safe

1. **Training data:** Contains "unknown" values
2. **Predictions:** Input at prediction time contains "unknown" values

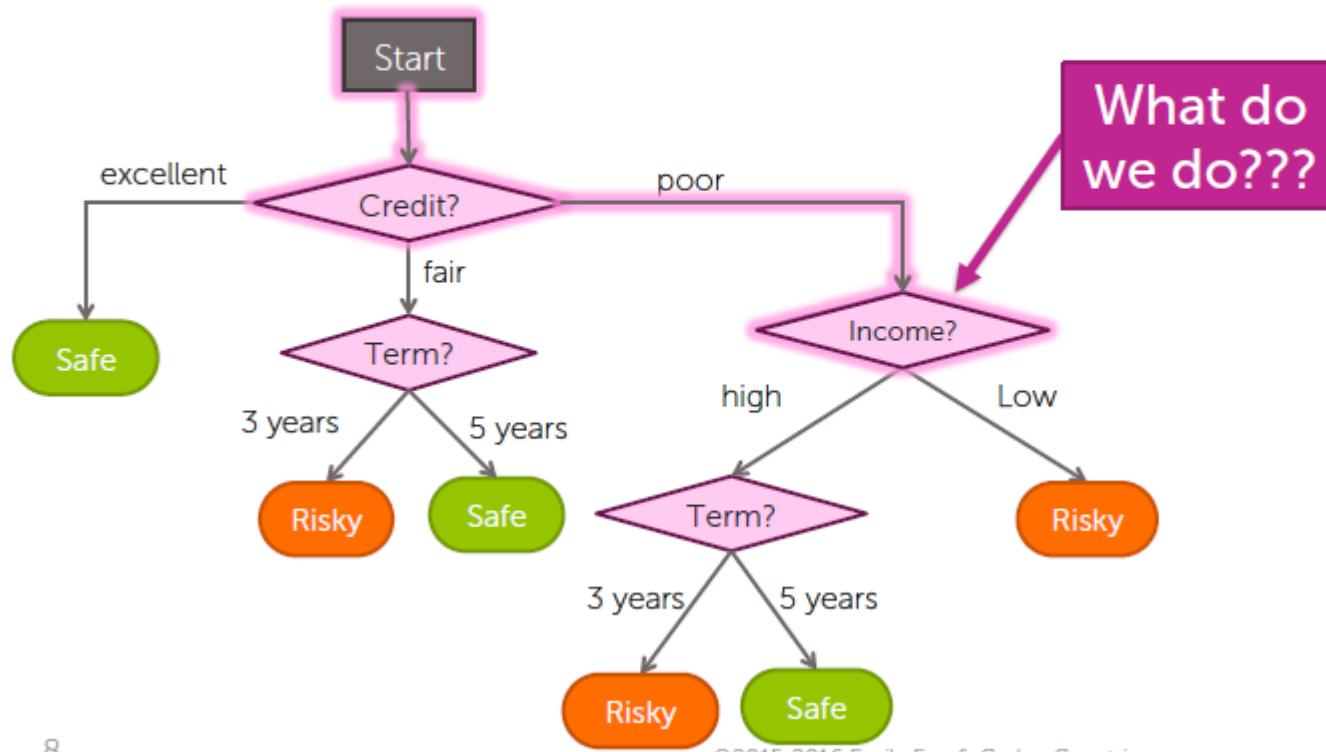
Loan application  
may be  
3 or 5 years



# Missing values during predictions

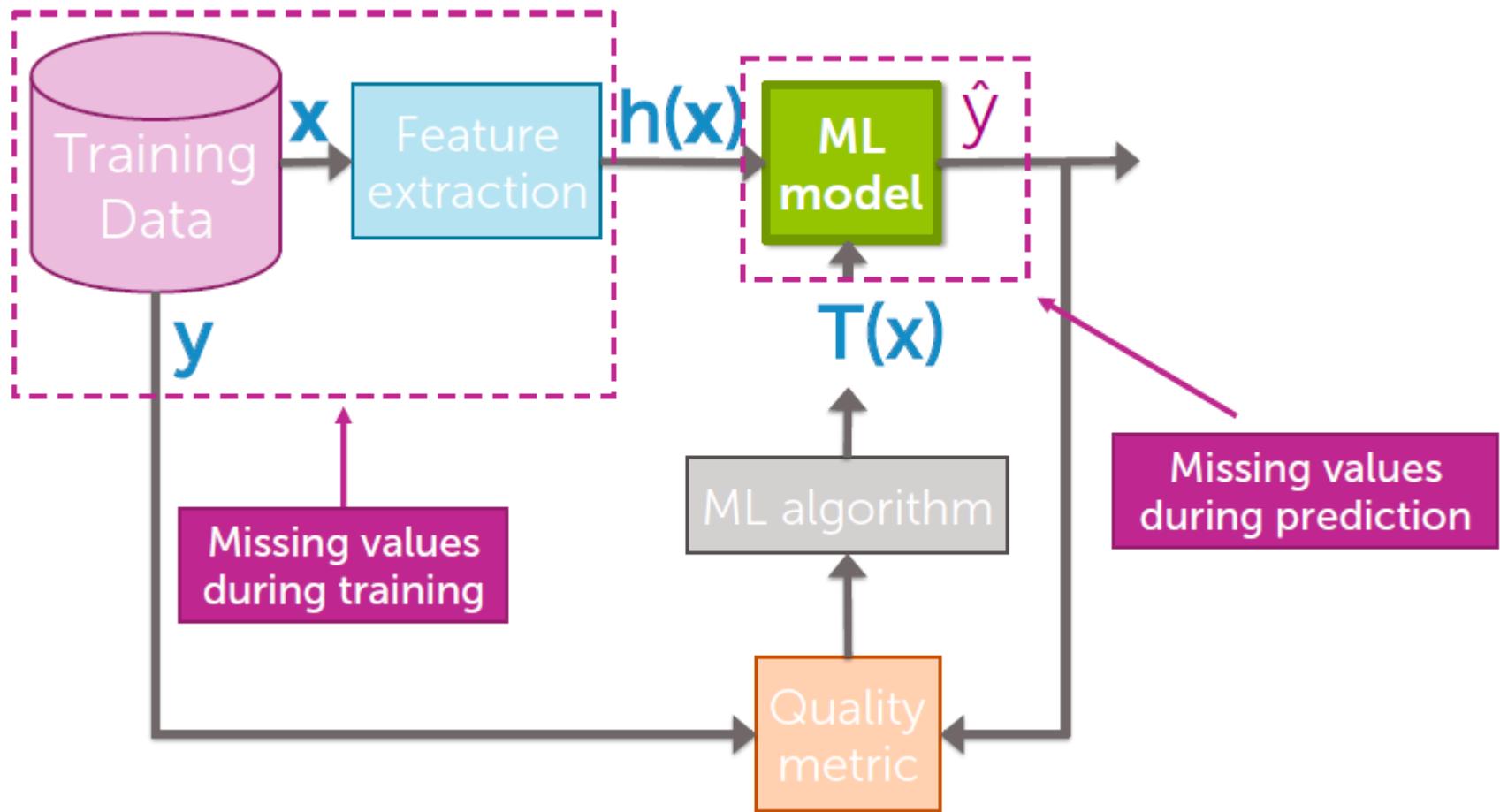
209

$x_i = (\text{Credit} = \text{poor}, \text{Income} = ?, \text{Term} = 5 \text{ years})$



# Missing values

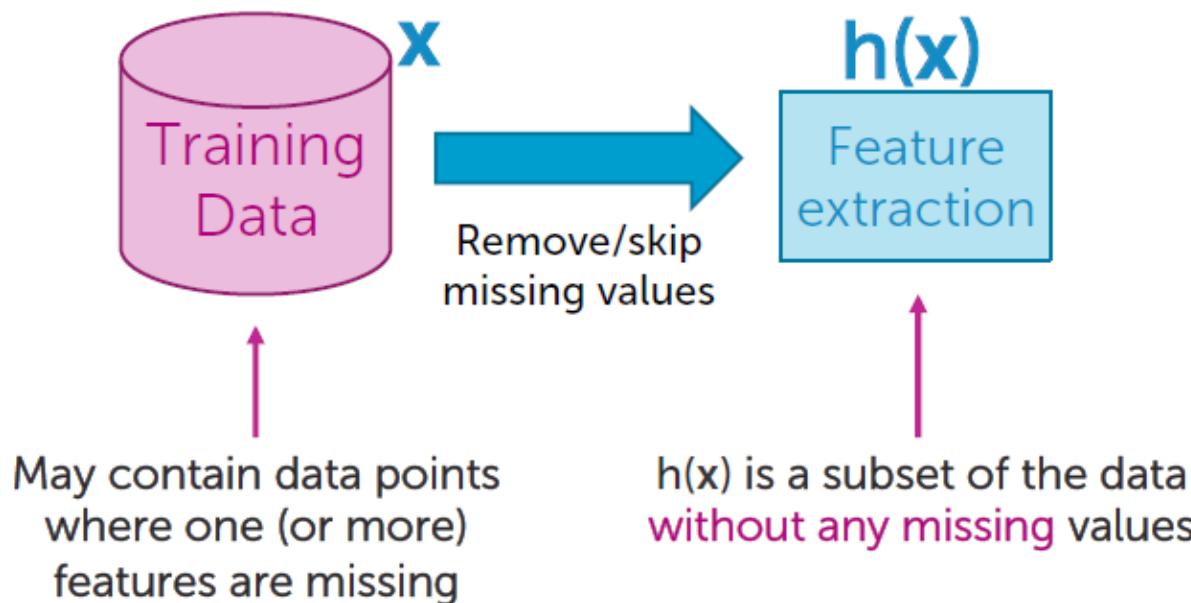
210



# Handling missing data

211

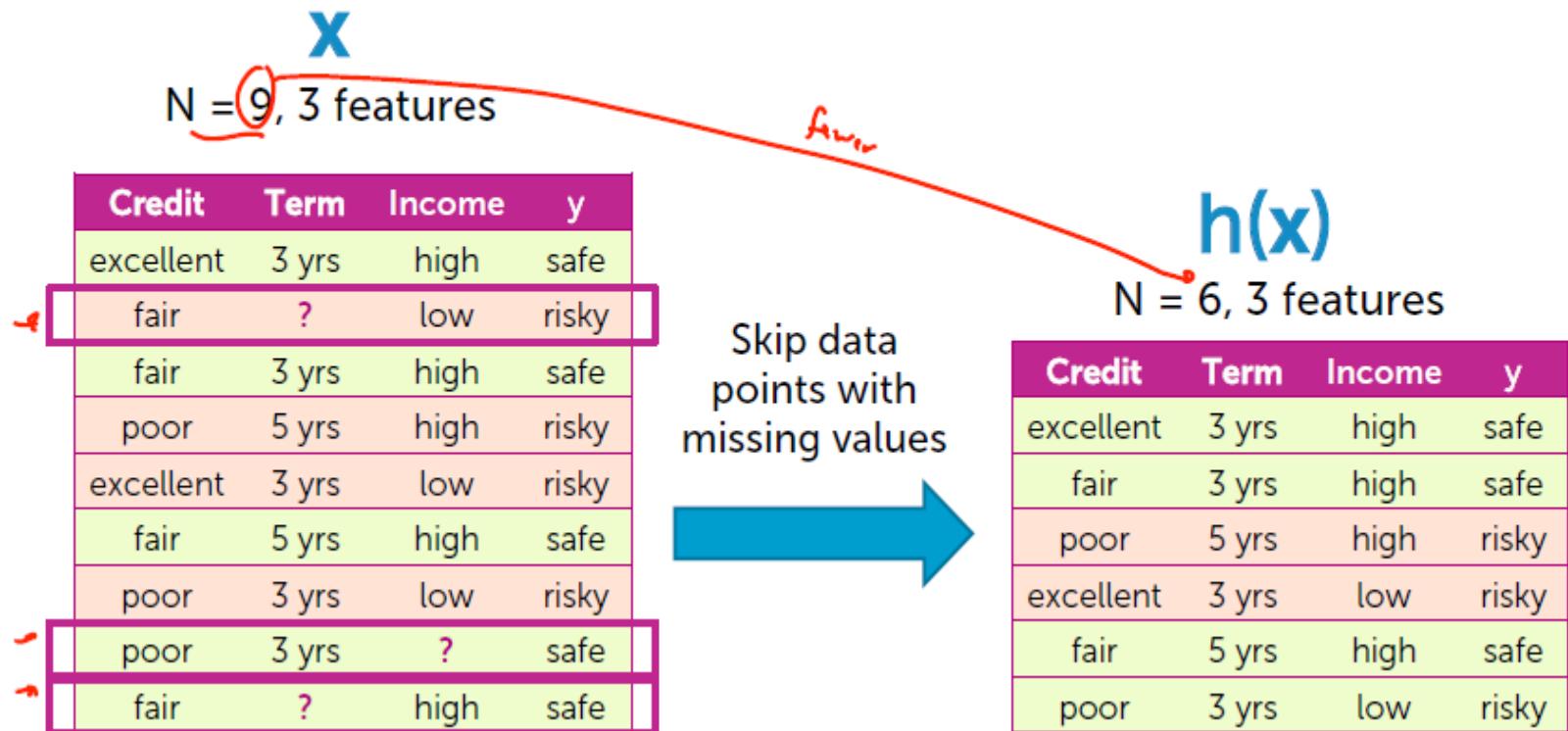
## Idea 1: Purification by skipping/removing



# Handling missing data

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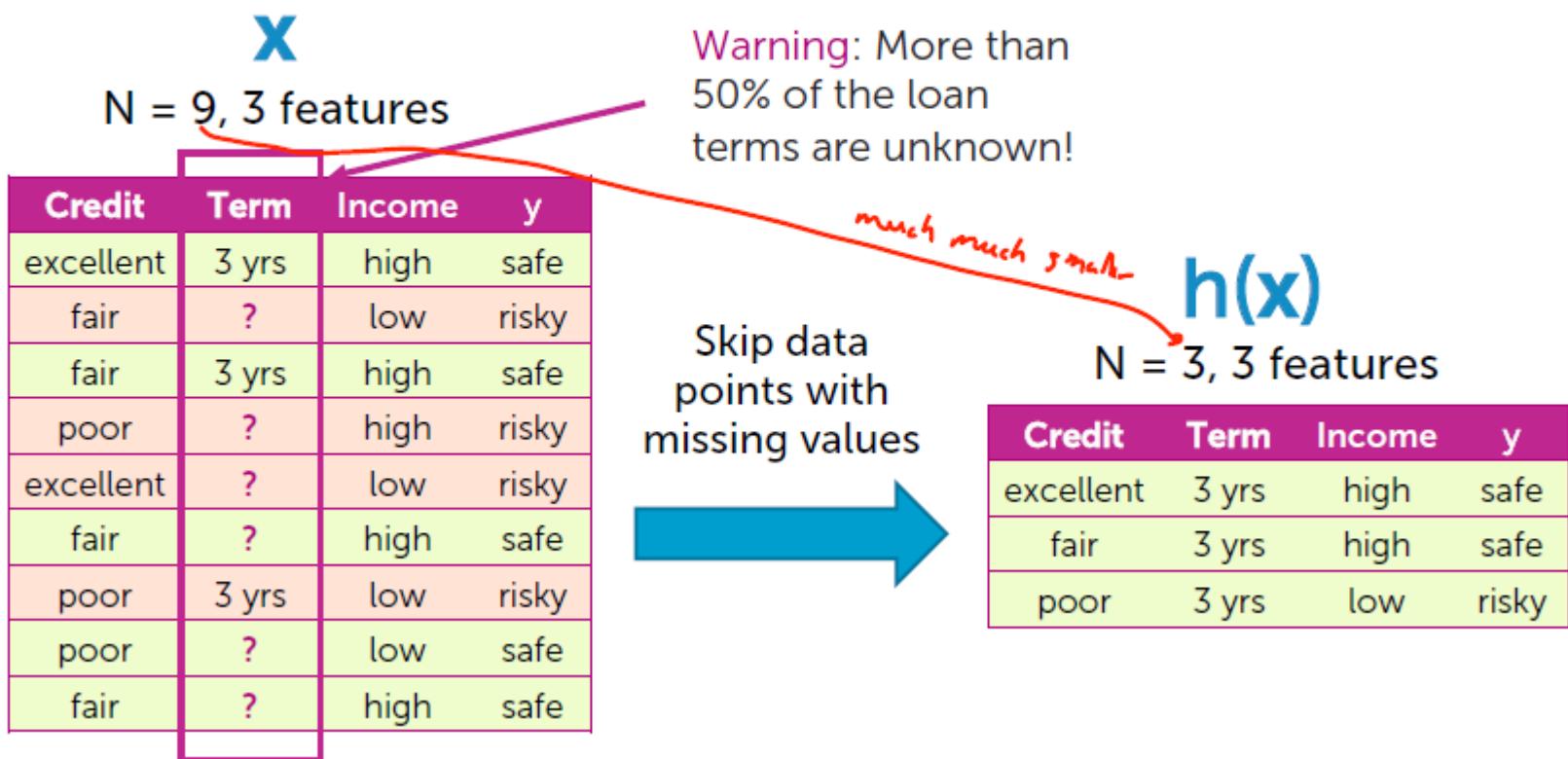
Idea 1: Skip data points  
with missing values



# Handling missing data

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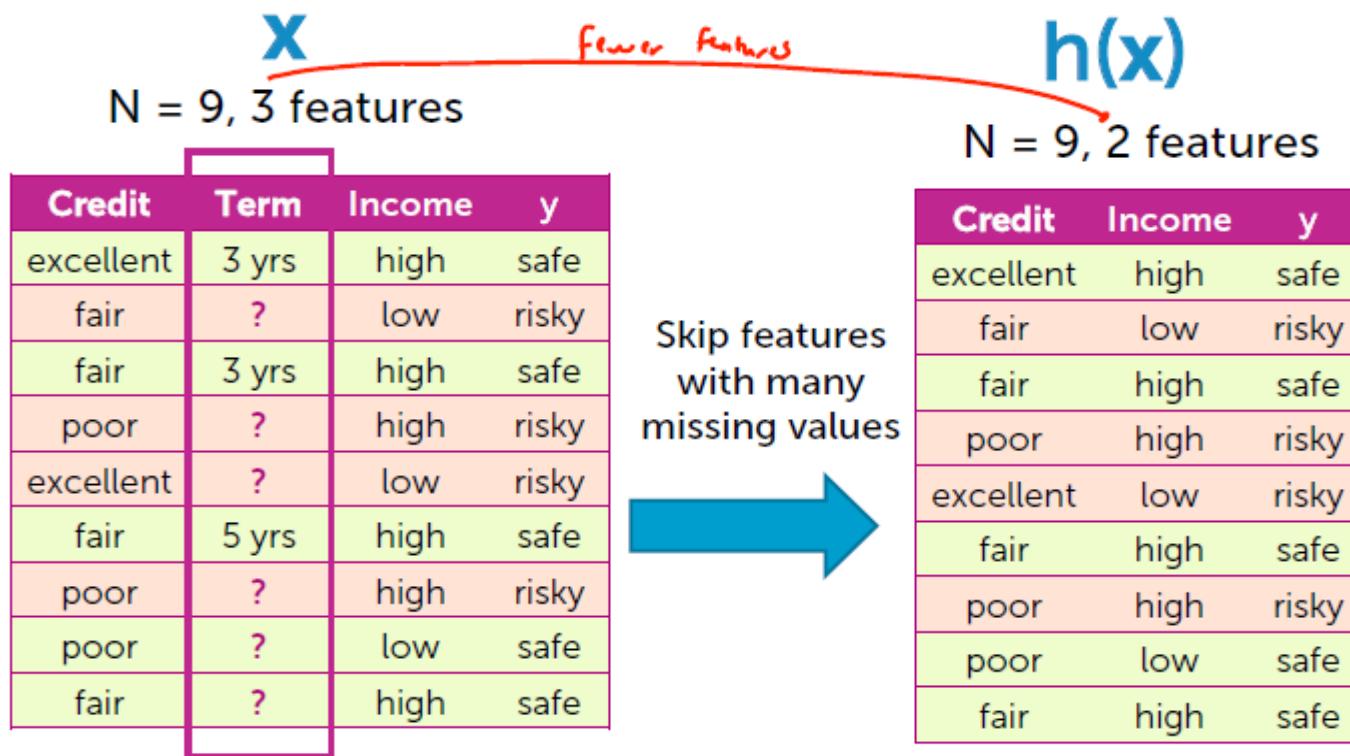
## The challenge with Idea 1



# Missing data

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## Idea 2: Skip features with missing values



# Handling missing data

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## Missing value skipping: Ideas 1 & 2

**Idea 1:** Skip data points where any feature contains a missing value

- Make sure only a few data points are skipped

**Idea 2:** Skip an entire feature if it's missing for many data points

- Make sure only a few features are skipped

# Handling missing data

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## Missing value skipping: Pros and Cons

### Pros

- Easy to understand and implement
- Can be applied to any model  
(decision trees, logistic regression, linear regression,...)

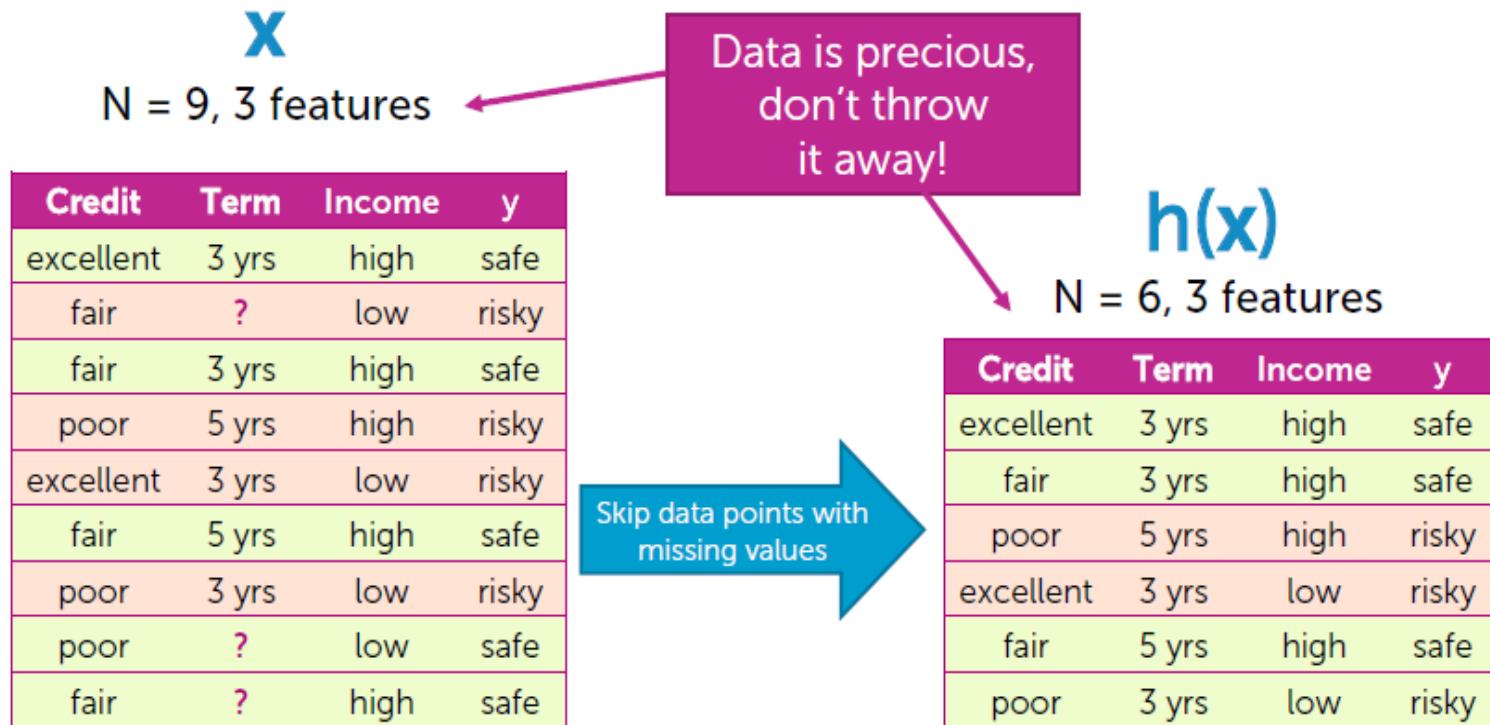
### Cons

- Removing data points and features may remove important information from data
- Unclear when it's better to remove data points versus features
- Doesn't help if data is missing at prediction time

# Data is precious

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## Main drawback of skipping strategy



# Data is precious

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## Can we keep all the data?

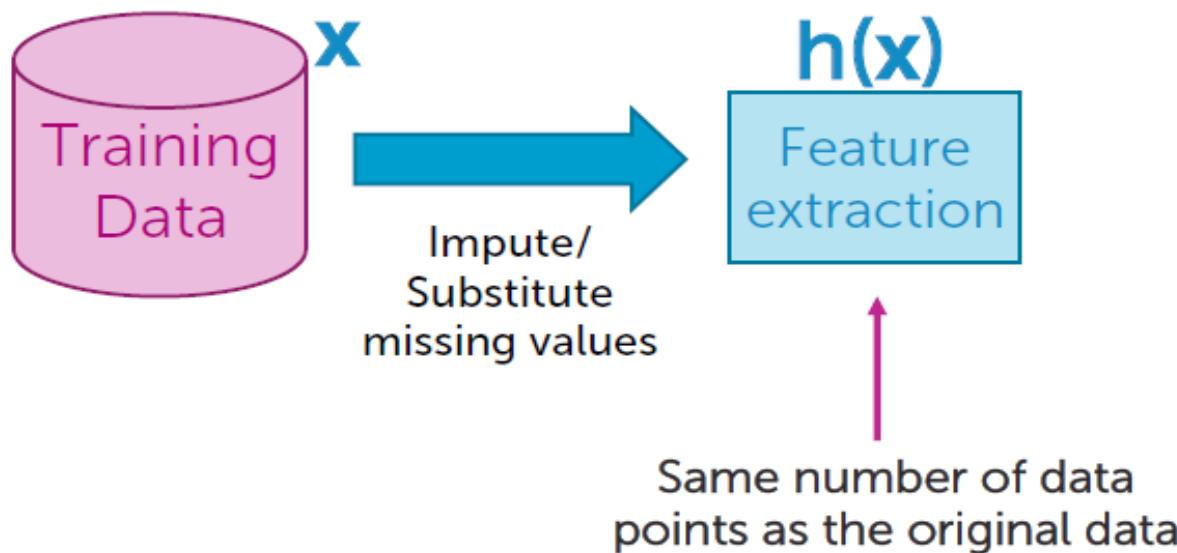
credit	term	income	y
excellent	3 yrs	high	safe
fair	?	low	risky
fair	3 yrs	high	safe
poor	5 yrs	high	risky
excellent	3 yrs	low	risky
fair	5 yrs	high	safe
poor	3 yrs	high	risky
poor	?	low	safe
fair	?	high	safe

Use other data points  
in x to "guess" the "?"

# Handling missing data

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## Idea 2: Purification by imputing



# Handling missing data

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## Idea 2: Imputation/Substitution

N = 9, 3 features

Credit	Term	Income	y
excellent	3 yrs	high	safe
fair	?	low	risky
fair	3 yrs	high	safe
poor	5 yrs	high	risky
excellent	3 yrs	low	risky
fair	5 yrs	high	safe
poor	3 yrs	high	risky
poor	?	low	safe
fair	?	high	safe

Fill in each missing value with a calculated guess



N = 9, 3 features

Credit	Term	Income	y
excellent	3 yrs	high	safe
fair	3 yrs	low	risky
fair	3 yrs	high	safe
poor	5 yrs	high	risky
excellent	3 yrs	low	risky
fair	5 yrs	high	safe
poor	3 yrs	high	risky
poor	3 yrs	low	safe
fair	3 yrs	high	safe

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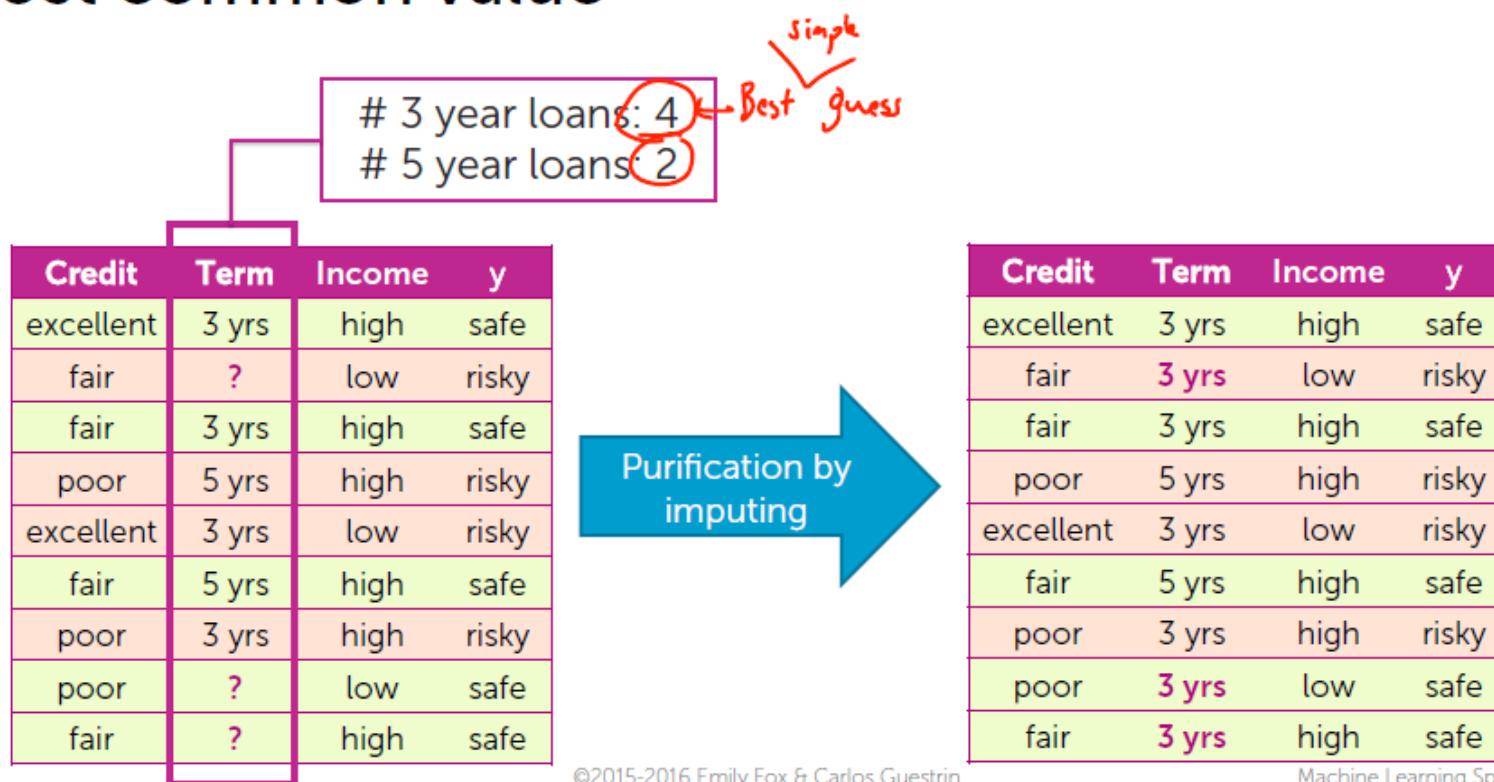
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Machine Learning Fundamentals

# Example

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Example: Replace ? with most common value



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# Handling missing data

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## Common (simple) rules for purification by imputation

Credit	Term	Income	y
excellent	3 yrs	high	safe
fair	?	low	risky
fair	3 yrs	high	safe
poor	5 yrs	high	risky
excellent	3 yrs	low	risky
fair	5 yrs	high	safe
poor	3 yrs	high	risky
poor	?	low	safe
fair	?	high	safe

Impute each feature with missing values:

1. Categorical features use mode: Most popular value (mode) of non-missing  $x_i$
2. Numerical features use average or median: Average or median value of non-missing  $x_i$

Many advanced methods exist,  
e.g., expectation-maximization (EM) algorithm

# Handling missing data

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## Missing value imputation: Pros and Cons

### Pros

- Easy to understand and implement
- Can be applied to any model  
(decision trees, logistic regression, linear regression,...)
- Can be used at prediction time: use same  
imputation rules

### Cons

- May result in systematic errors

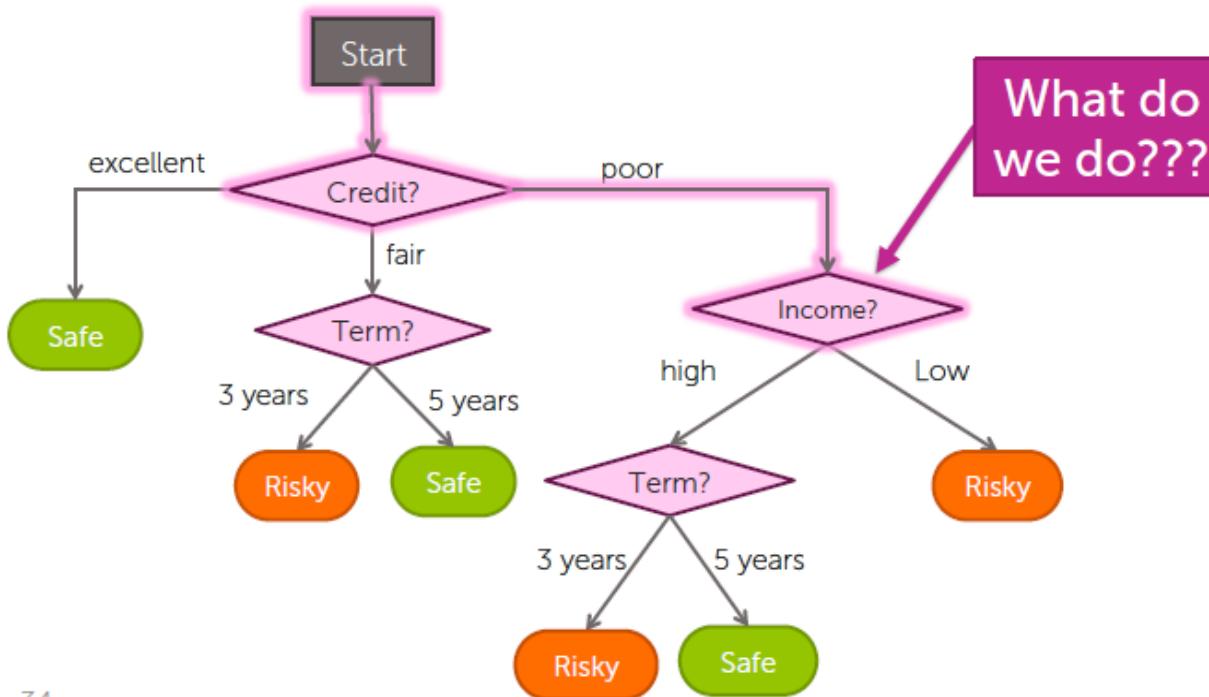
**Example:** Feature “age” missing in all banks in Washington by state law

# Strategy 3: addapt algorithm

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## Missing values during prediction: *revisited*

$x_i = (\text{Credit} = \text{poor}, \text{Income} = ?, \text{Term} = 5 \text{ years})$



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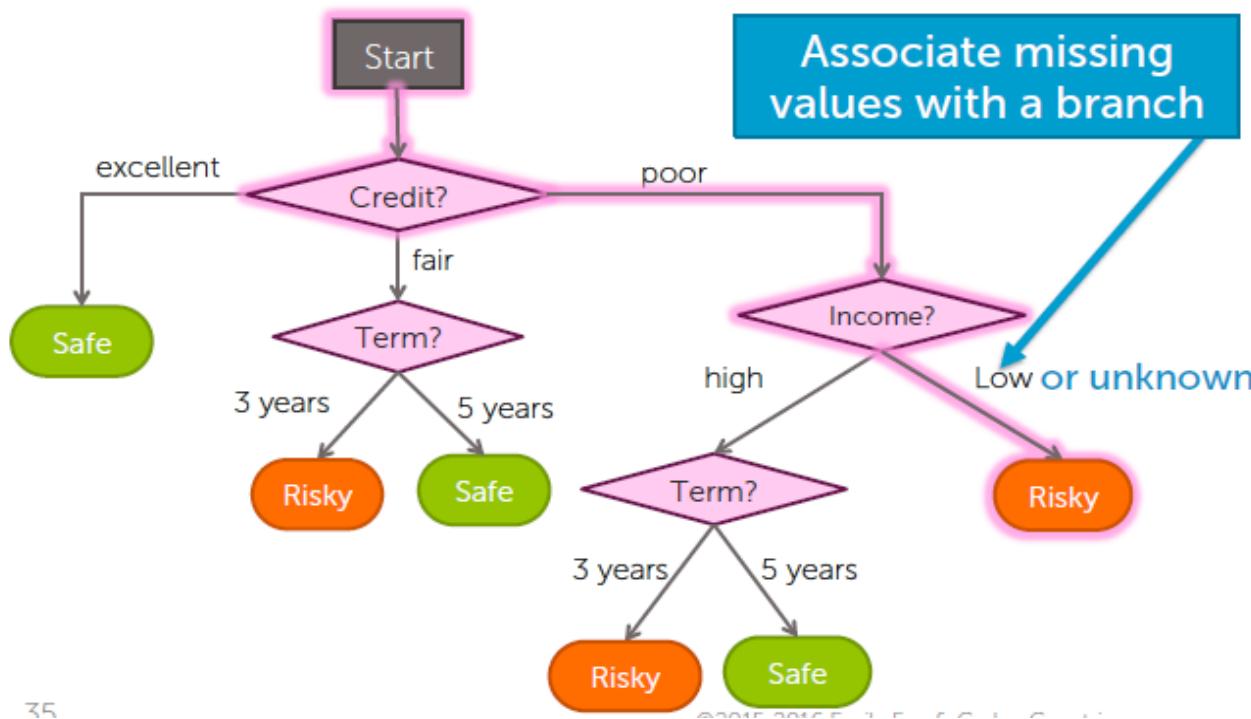
Machine Learning Crash

# Strategy 3: addapt algorithm

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Add missing values to the tree definition

$x_i = (\text{Credit} = \text{poor}, \text{Income} = ?, \text{Term} = 5 \text{ years})$



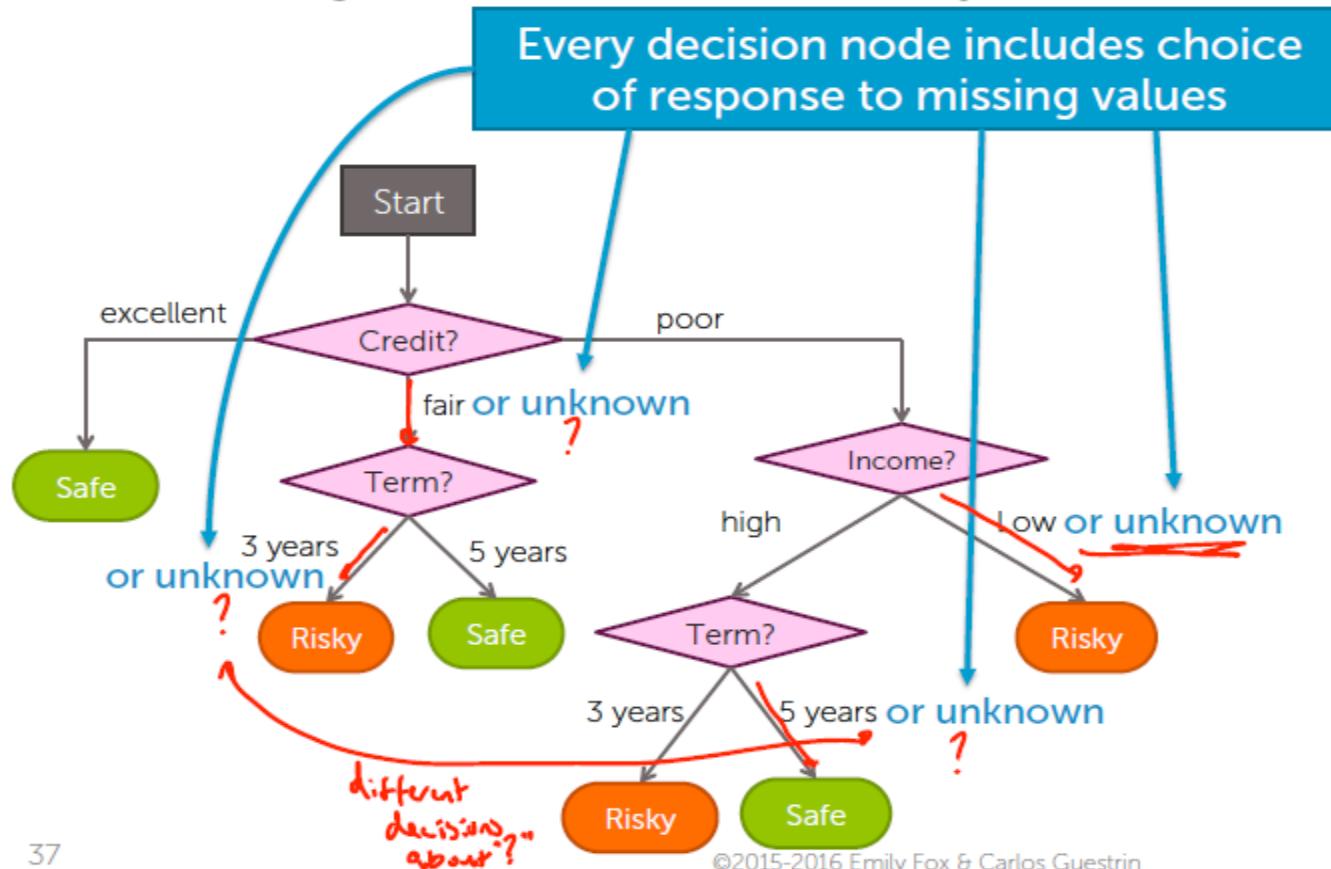
35

DATA SCIENCE FOR BUSINESS

# Strategy 3: addapt algorithm

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Add missing value choice to every decision node

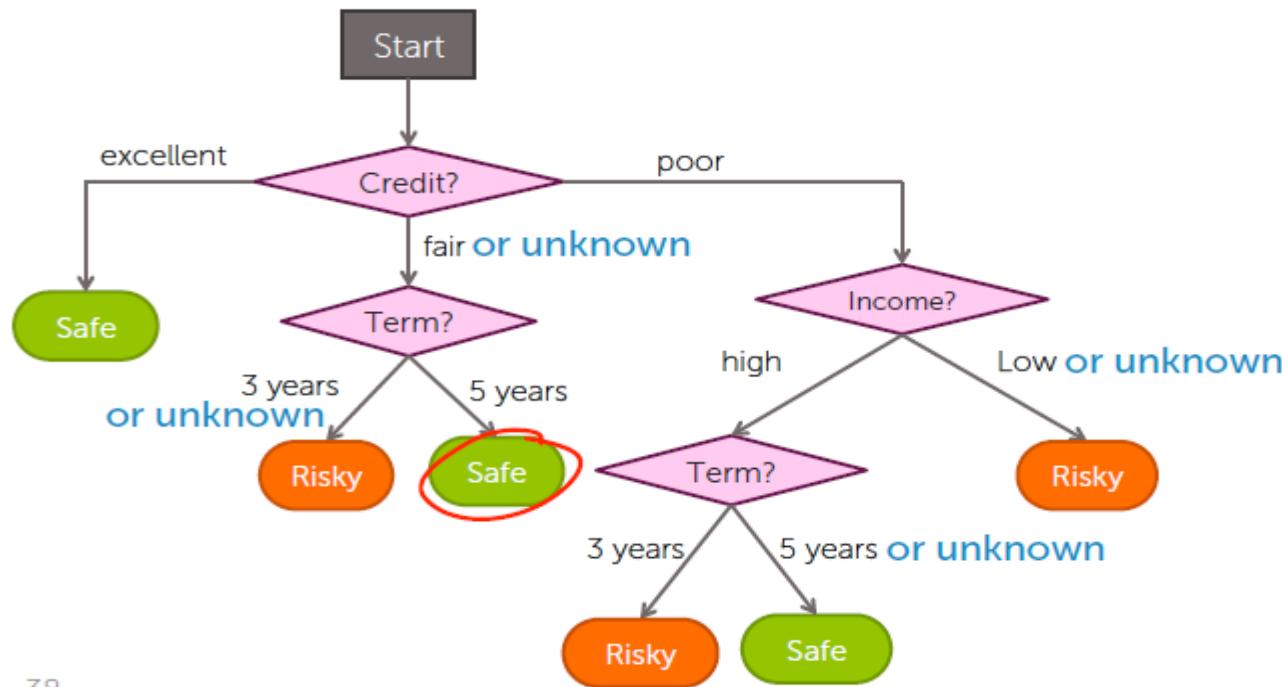


# Strategy 3: addapt algorithm

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Prediction with missing values becomes simple

$$\mathbf{x}_i = (\text{Credit} = ?, \text{Income} = \text{high}, \text{Term} = 5 \text{ years})$$

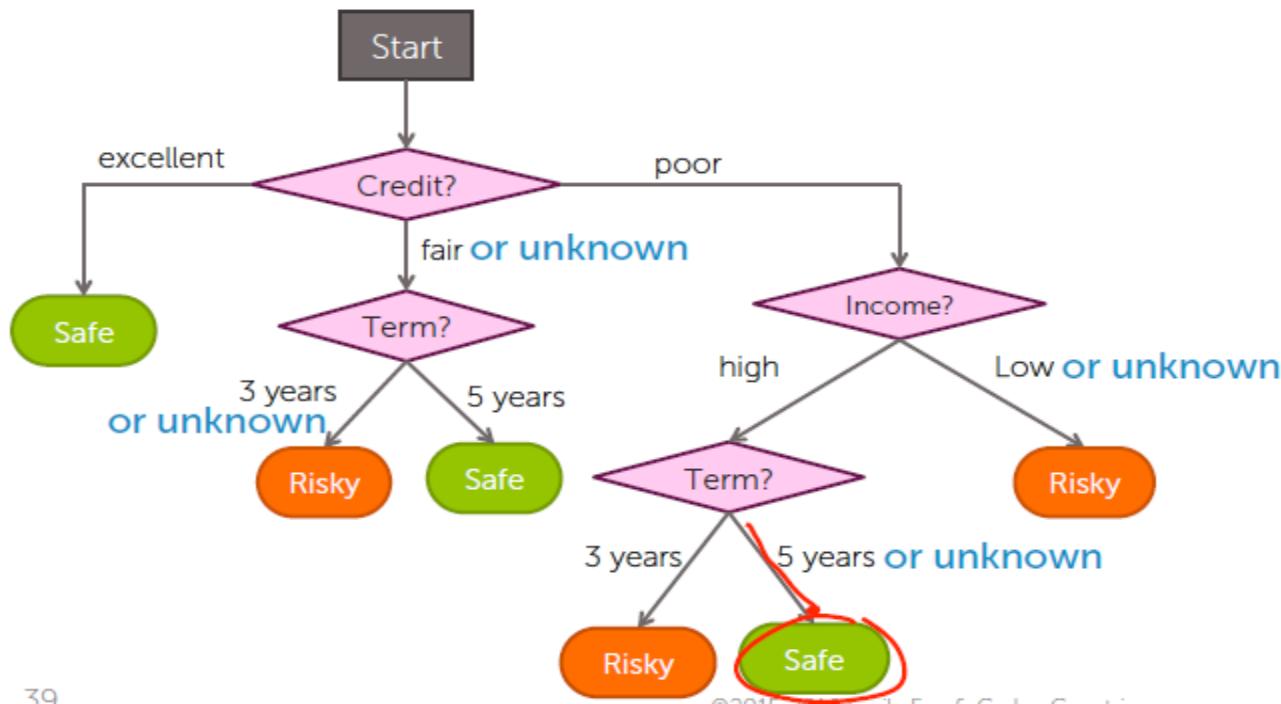


# Strategy 3: addapt algorithm

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Prediction with missing values becomes simple

$$\mathbf{x}_i = (\text{Credit} = \text{poor}, \text{Income} = \text{high}, \text{Term} = ?)$$



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Navigation icons

# Strategy 3: addapt algorithm

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## Explicitly handling missing data by learning algorithm: Pros and Cons

### Pros

- Addresses training and prediction time
- More accurate predictions

### Cons

- Requires modification of learning algorithm
  - Very simple for decision trees

# Feature split selection with missing data

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## Greedy decision tree learning

- Step 1: Start with an empty tree
- Step 2: Select a feature to split data
- For each split of the tree:
  - Step 3: If nothing more to, make predictions
  - Step 4: Otherwise, go to Step 2 & continue (recurse) on this split

Pick feature split leading to lowest classification error

Must select feature & branch for missing values!

# Feature split selection with missing data

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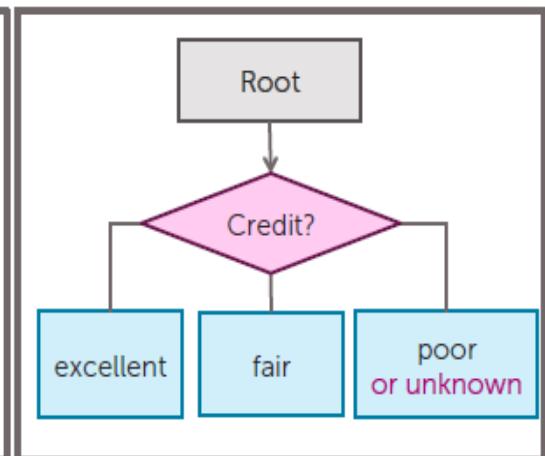
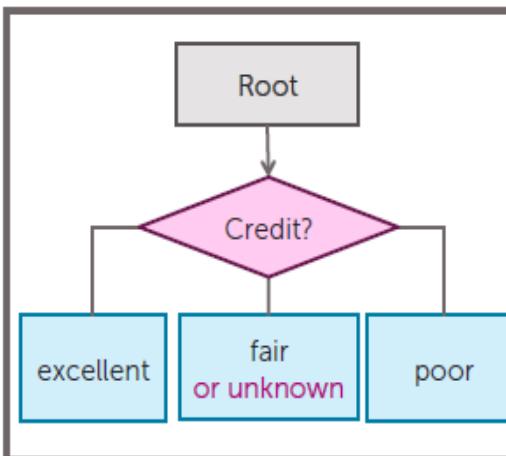
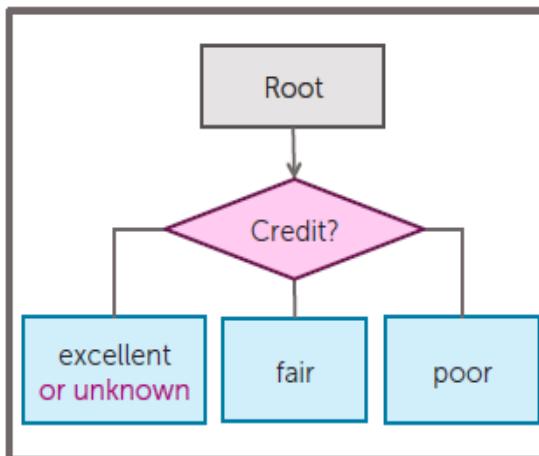
Should **missing** go left, right, or middle?

Choose branch that leads to  
lowest classification error!

**Choice 1:** Missing values go  
with Credit=excellent

**Choice 2:** Missing values  
go with Credit=fair

**Choice 3:** Missing values  
go with Credit=poor



# Feature split selection with missing data

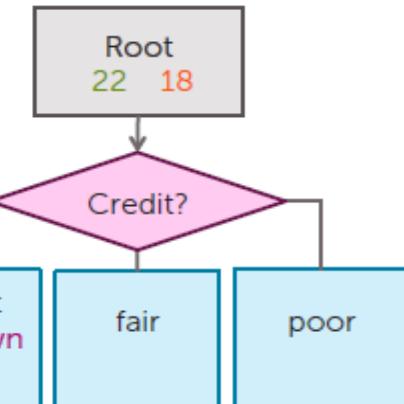
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## Computing classification error of decision stump with missing data

$N = 40, 3$  features

Credit	Term	Income	y
excellent	3 yrs	high	safe
?	5 yrs	low	risky
fair	3 yrs	high	safe
poor	5 yrs	high	risky
?	3 yrs	low	risky
?	5 yrs	low	safe
poor	3 yrs	high	risky
poor	5 yrs	low	safe
fair	3 yrs	high	safe
...	...	...	...

$$\text{Error} = \frac{2+4+1}{40} = 0.25$$



Observed values    10 2    8 4    4 12

# Feature split selection with missing data

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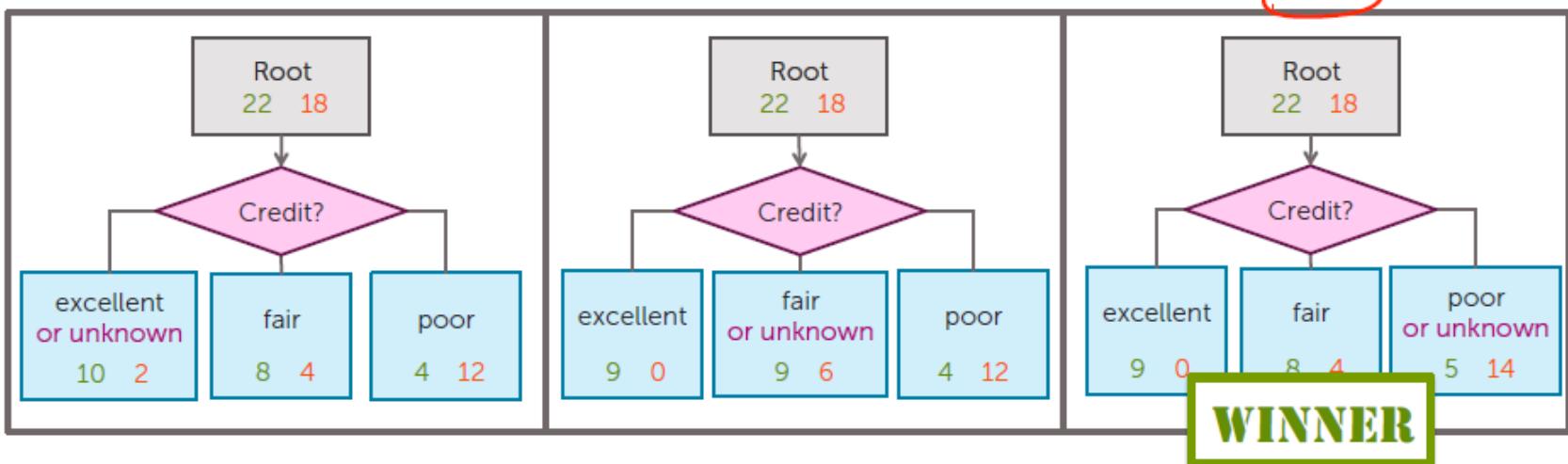
Use classification error to decide

Best choice  $\rightarrow$  assign "unknown" to Credit = poor

Choice 1: error = 0.25

Choice 2: error = 0.25

Choice 3: error = 0.225



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# Feature split selection with missing data

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- Given a subset of data  $M$  (a node in a tree)
- For each feature  $h_i(x)$ :
  1. Split data points of  $M$  where  $h_i(x)$  is not “unknown” according to feature  $h_i(x)$
  2. Consider assigning data points with “unknown” value for  $h_i(x)$  to each branch
    - A. Compute classification error split & branch assignment of “unknown” values
- Choose feature  $h^*(x)$  & branch assignment of “unknown” with lowest classification error

# What can you do now

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Describe common ways to handling missing data:

1. Skip all rows with any missing values
2. Skip features with many missing values
3. Impute missing values using other data points

Modify learning algorithm (**decision trees**) to handle missing data:

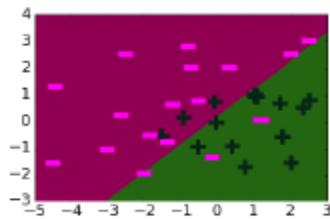
1. Missing values get added to one branch of split
2. Use classification error to determine where missing values go

# Ensemble classifiers and boosting

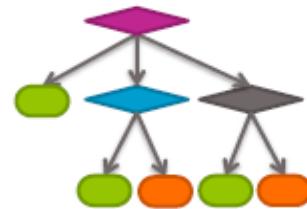
# Simple classifiers

237

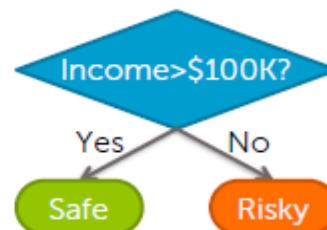
Simple (weak) classifiers are good!



Logistic  
regression  
w. simple  
features



Shallow  
decision trees



Decision  
stumps

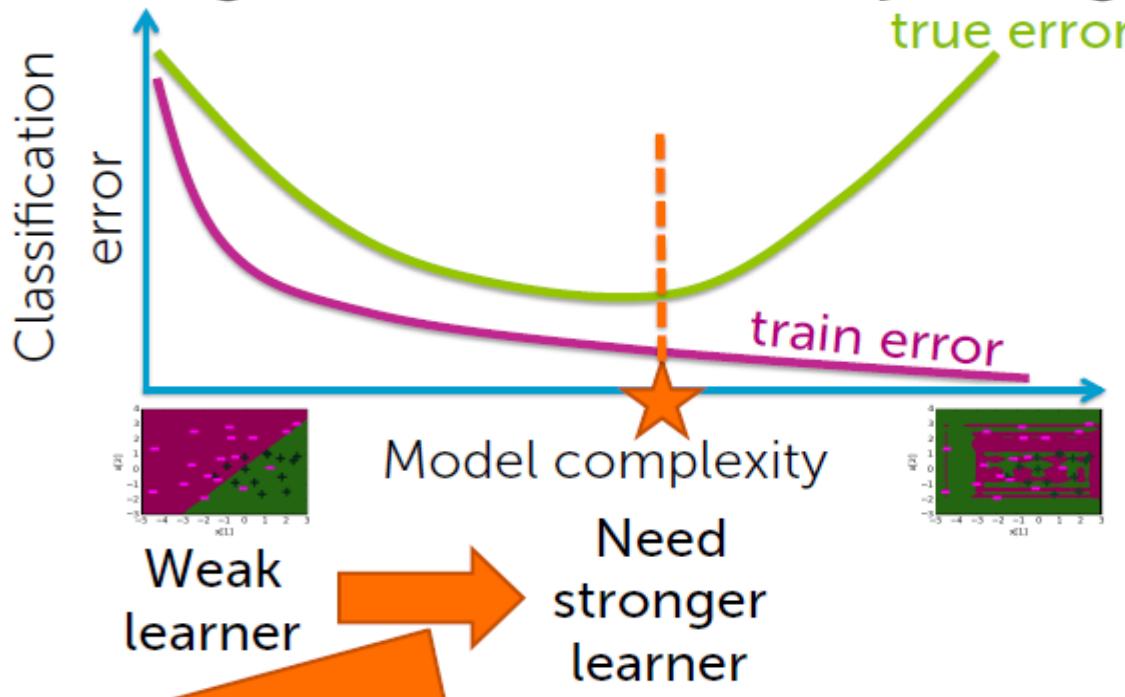
Low variance. Learning is fast!

But high bias...

# Simple classifiers

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## Finding a classifier that's just right



Option 1: add more features or depth  
Option 2: ?????

# Can they be combined?

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## Boosting question

"Can a set of weak learners be combined to create a stronger learner?" *Kearns and Valiant (1988)*



Yes! *Schapire (1990)*



Boosting

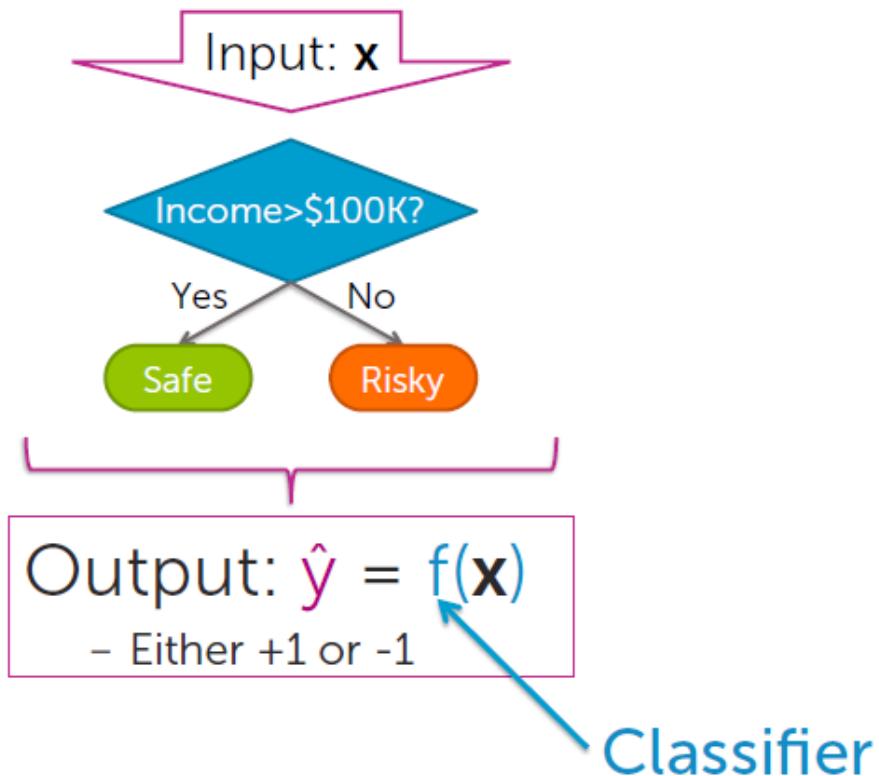


Amazing impact:

- simple approach
- widely used in industry
- wins most Kaggle competitions

# A single classifier

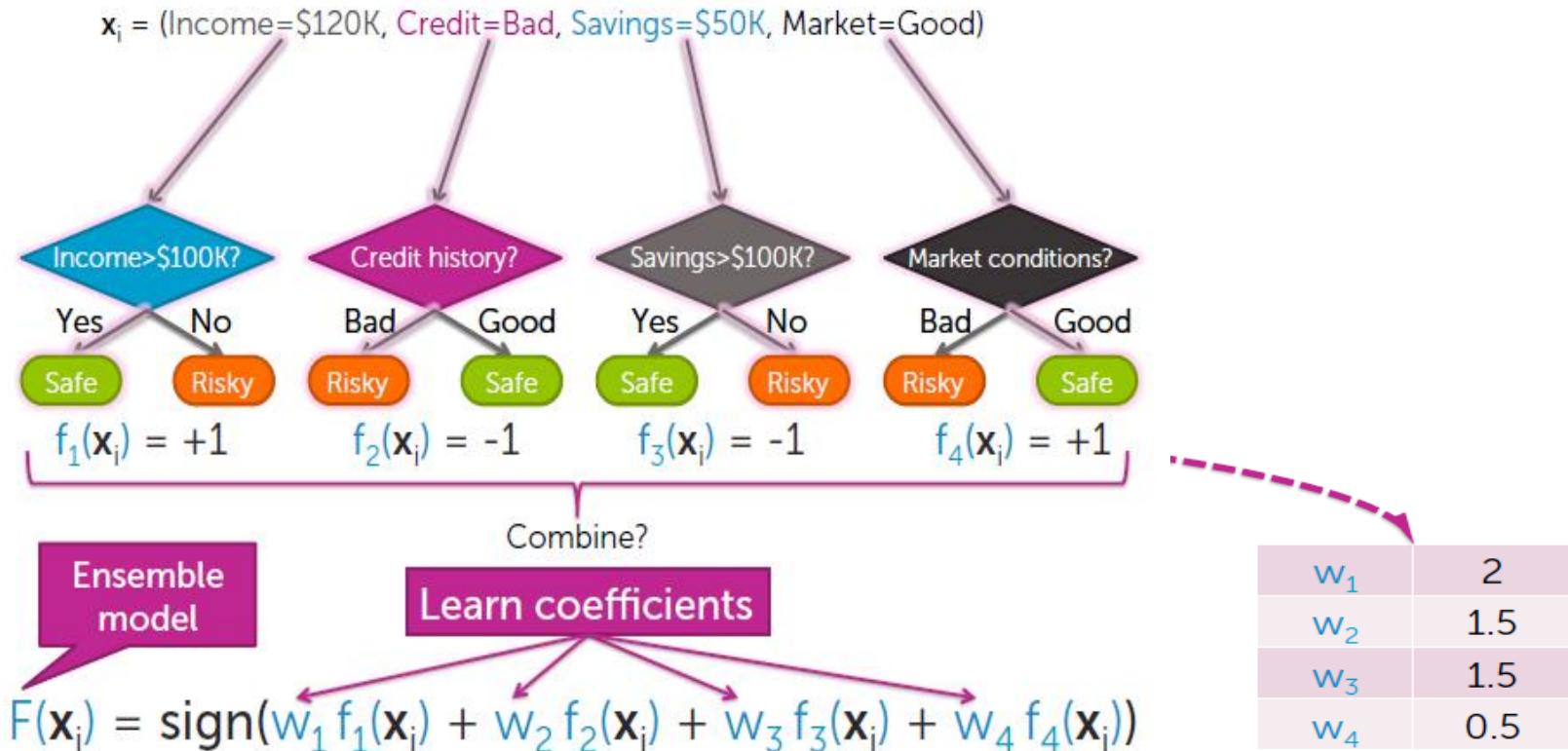
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# Ensemble methods

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Each classifier "votes" on prediction



# Ensemble classifier

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- Goal:
  - Predict output  $y$ 
    - Either +1 or -1
  - From input  $\mathbf{x}$
- Learn ensemble model:
  - Classifiers:  $f_1(\mathbf{x}), f_2(\mathbf{x}), \dots, f_T(\mathbf{x})$
  - Coefficients:  $\hat{w}_1, \hat{w}_2, \dots, \hat{w}_T$
- Prediction:

$$\hat{y} = sign \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{w}_t f_t(\mathbf{x}) \right)$$

# Boosting

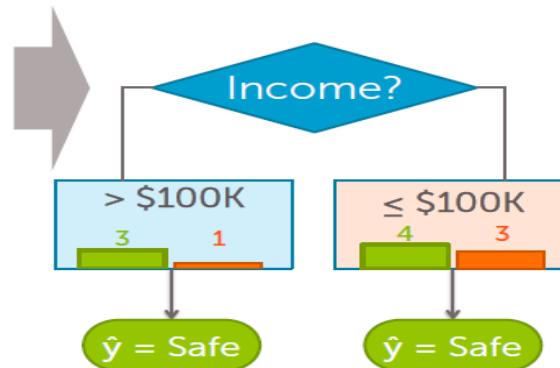
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## Training a classifier



## Learning decision stump

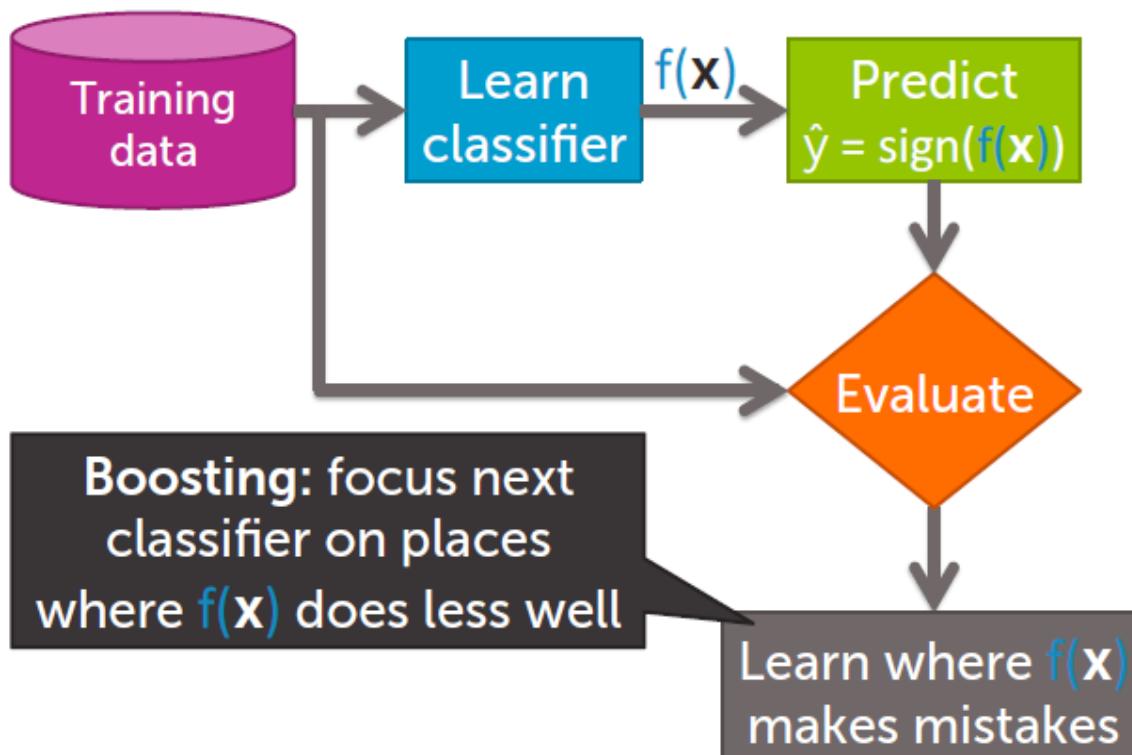
Credit	Income	y
A	\$130K	Safe
B	\$80K	Risky
C	\$110K	Risky
A	\$110K	Safe
A	\$90K	Safe
B	\$120K	Safe
C	\$30K	Risky
C	\$60K	Risky
B	\$95K	Safe
A	\$60K	Safe
A	\$98K	Safe



# Boosting

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Boosting = Focus learning on “hard” points



# Weighted data

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## Learning on weighted data:

*More weight on “hard” or more important points*

- Weighted dataset:
  - Each  $x_i, y_i$  weighted by  $\alpha_i$ 
    - More important point = higher weight  $\alpha_i$
- Learning:
  - Data point  $j$  counts as  $\alpha_j$  data points
    - E.g.,  $\alpha_j = 2 \rightarrow$  count point twice

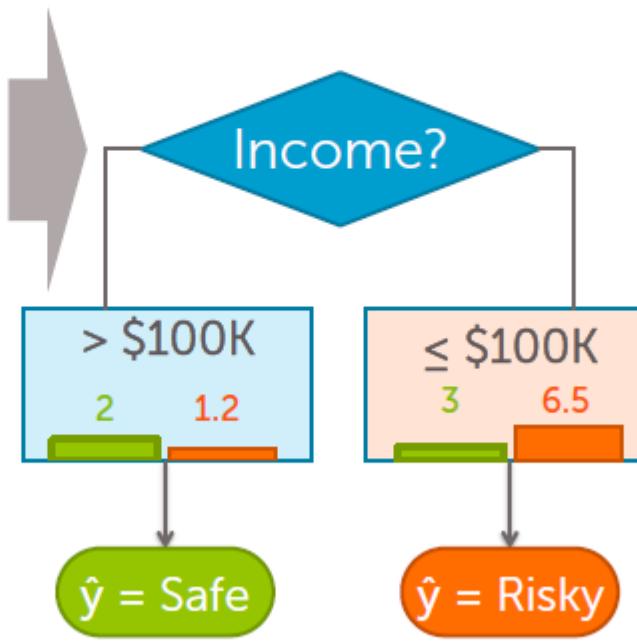
# Weighted data

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## Learning a decision stump on weighted data

Increase weight  $\alpha$  of harder/  
misclassified points

Credit	Income	y	Weight $\alpha$
A	\$130K	Safe	0.5
B	\$80K	Risky	1.5
C	\$110K	Risky	1.2
A	\$110K	Safe	0.8
A	\$90K	Safe	0.6
B	\$120K	Safe	0.7
C	\$30K	Risky	3
C	\$60K	Risky	2
B	\$95K	Safe	0.8
A	\$60K	Safe	0.7
A	\$98K	Safe	0.9



**Use sum over  
weights of the  
data points**

# Weighted data

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## Learning from weighted data in general

- Usually, learning from weighted data
  - Data point  $i$  counts as  $\alpha_i$  data points
- E.g., gradient ascent for logistic regression:

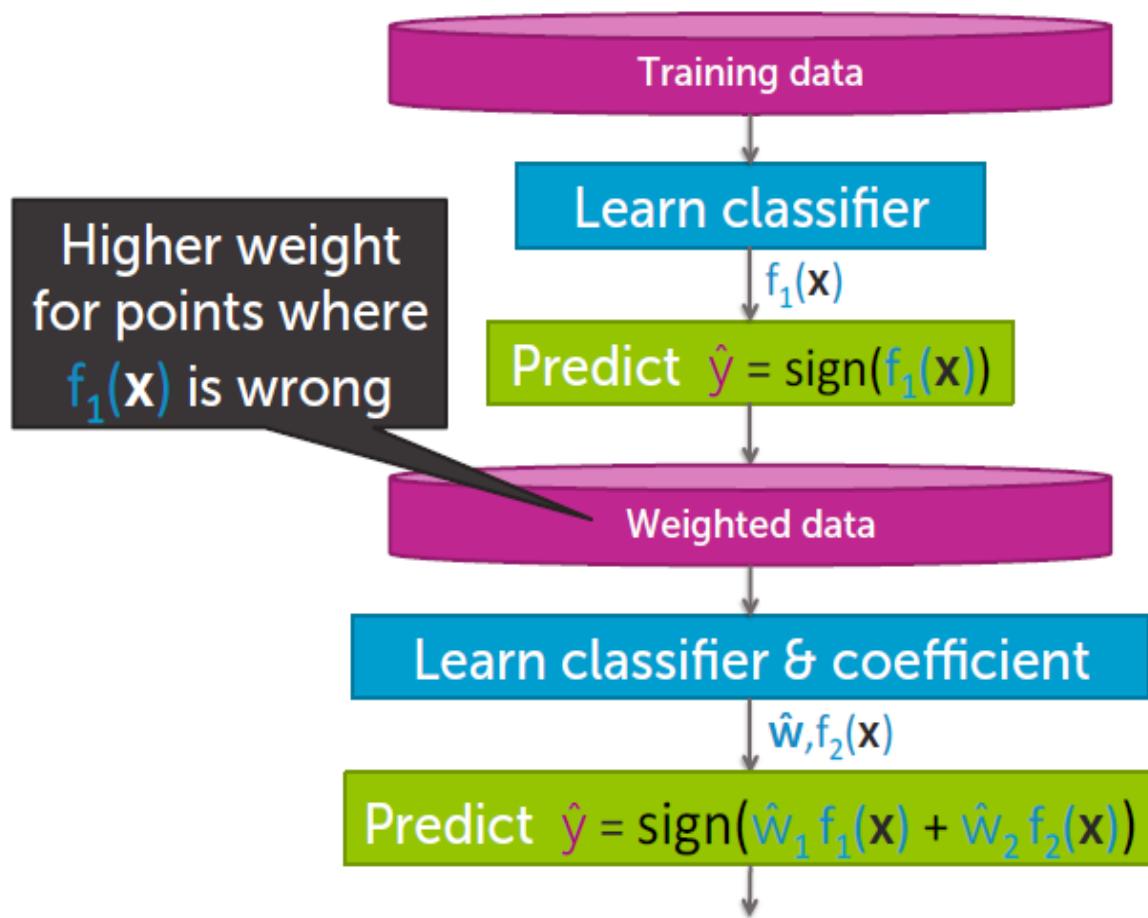
$$\mathbf{w}_j^{(t+1)} \leftarrow \mathbf{w}_j^{(t)} + \eta \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i(\mathbf{x}_i) \left( \mathbf{1}[y_i = +1] - P(y = +1 | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}^{(t)}) \right)$$

Sum over data points

Weigh each point by  $\alpha_i$

# Boosting = greedy learning ensembles from data

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# AdaBoost: learning ensemble

[Freund & Schapire 1999]

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- Start same weight for all points:  $\underline{\alpha_i = 1/N}$

- For  $t = 1, \dots, T$

- Learn  $f_t(\mathbf{x})$  with data weights  $\underline{\alpha_i}$

- Compute coefficient  $\hat{w}_t$

Problem 1: How much do I trust  $f_t$ ?

- Recompute weights  $\underline{\alpha_i}$

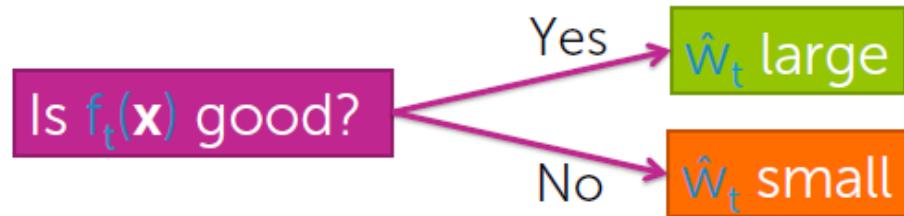
Problem 2: weigh mistakes more?

- Final model predicts by:

$$\hat{y} = sign \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{w}_t f_t(\mathbf{x}) \right)$$

# AdaBoost: Computing coefficients $w_t$

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- $f_t(\mathbf{x})$  is good  $\rightarrow f_t$  has low training error
- Measuring error in weighted data?
  - Just weighted # of misclassified points

# Weighted classification error

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- Total weight of mistakes:

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \underbrace{\mathbb{1}(g_i \neq y_i)}_{\text{Mistake?}}$$

- Total weight of all points:

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i$$

- Weighted error measures fraction of weight of mistakes:

$$\text{weighted\_error} = \frac{\text{Total weight of mistakes}}{\text{Total weight of all data points}}$$

- Best possible value is 0.0 → Worst 1.0 → Random classifier = 0.5

# AdaBoost formula

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AdaBoost: Formula for computing coefficient  $\hat{w}_t$  of classifier  $f_t(x)$

$$\hat{w}_t = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{1 - \text{weighted\_error}(f_t)}{\text{weighted\_error}(f_t)} \right)$$

Is  $f_t(x)$  good?

Yes →

No →

weighted_error( $f_t$ ) on training data	$\frac{1 - \text{weighted\_error}(f_t)}{\text{weighted\_error}(f_t)}$	$\hat{w}_t$
0.01	$\frac{1 - 0.01}{0.01} = 99$	$\frac{1}{2} \ln 99 = 2.3$
0.5	$\frac{1 - 0.5}{0.5} = 1$	0
0.99	$\frac{1 - 0.99}{0.99} = 0.01$	-2.3

Turbble classifier, but  $1 - f_t$  is awesome !!

# AdaBoost: learning ensemble

253

- Start same weight for all points:  $\alpha_i = 1/N$

- For  $t = 1, \dots, T$

- Learn  $f_t(\mathbf{x})$  with data weights  $\alpha_i$

- Compute coefficient  $\hat{w}_t$

$$\hat{w}_t = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{1 - \text{weighted\_error}(f_t)}{\text{weighted\_error}(f_t)} \right)$$

- Recompute weights  $\alpha_i$

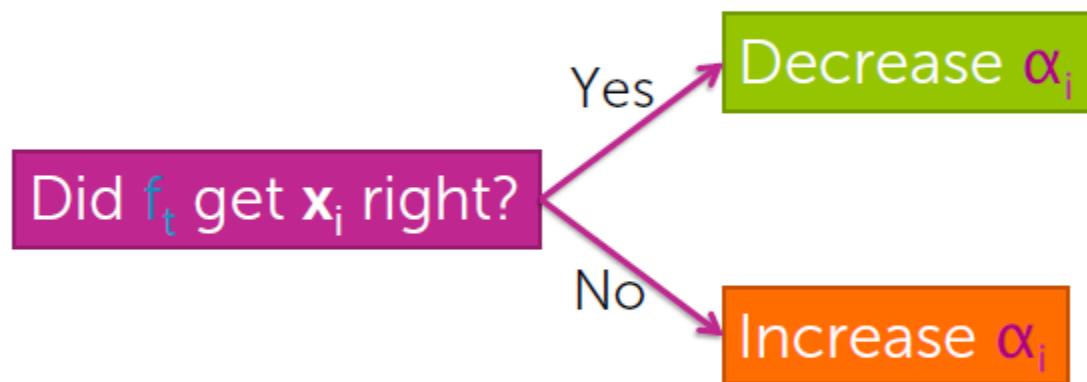
- Final model predicts by:

$$\hat{y} = \text{sign} \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{w}_t f_t(\mathbf{x}) \right)$$

# AdaBoost: updating weights $\alpha_i$

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Updating weights  $\alpha_i$  based on where classifier  $f_t(x)$  makes mistakes



# AdaBoost: updating weights $\alpha_i$

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AdaBoost: Formula for updating weights  $\alpha_i$

$$\alpha_i \leftarrow \begin{cases} \alpha_i e^{-\hat{W}_t}, & \text{if } f_t(x_i) = y_i \leftarrow \text{correct} \\ \alpha_i e^{\hat{W}_t}, & \text{if } f_t(x_i) \neq y_i \leftarrow \text{mistake} \end{cases}$$

$f_t(x_i) = y_i ?$	$\hat{W}_t$	Multiply $\alpha_i$ by	Implication
Correct	2.3	$e^{-2.3} = 0.1$	Decrease importance at $x_i, y_i$
Correct	0	$e^0 = 1$	Keep importance the same
Mistake	2.3	$e^{2.3} = 9.98$	Increasing importance at $x_i, y_i$
Mistake	0	$e^0 = 1$	Keep importance the same

Did  $f_t$  get  $x_i$  right?

Yes  
No

# AdaBoost: learning ensemble

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- Start same weight for all points:  $\alpha_i = 1/N$

- For  $t = 1, \dots, T$

- Learn  $f_t(\mathbf{x})$  with data weights  $\alpha_i$

- Compute coefficient  $\hat{w}_t$

$$\hat{w}_t = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{1 - \text{weighted\_error}(f_t)}{\text{weighted\_error}(f_t)} \right)$$

- Recompute weights  $\alpha_i$

- Final model predicts by:

$$\hat{y} = \text{sign} \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{w}_t f_t(\mathbf{x}) \right)$$

$$\alpha_i \leftarrow \begin{cases} \alpha_i e^{-\hat{w}_t}, & \text{if } f_t(\mathbf{x}_i) = y_i \\ \alpha_i e^{\hat{w}_t}, & \text{if } f_t(\mathbf{x}_i) \neq y_i \end{cases}$$

# AdaBoost: normalizing weights $\alpha_i$

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$x_i$

If  $x_i$  often mistake,  
weight  $\alpha_i$  gets very  
**large**

If  $x_i$  often correct,  
weight  $\alpha_i$  gets very  
**small**

Can cause numerical instability  
after many iterations

Normalize weights to  
add up to 1 after every iteration

$$\alpha_i \leftarrow \frac{\alpha_i}{\sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j}$$

# AdaBoost: learning ensemble

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- Start same weight for all points:  $\alpha_i = 1/N$

$$\hat{w}_t = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{1 - \text{weighted\_error}(f_t)}{\text{weighted\_error}(f_t)} \right)$$

- For  $t = 1, \dots, T$

- Learn  $f_t(\mathbf{x})$  with data weights  $\alpha_i$

- Compute coefficient  $\hat{w}_t$

- Recompute weights  $\alpha_i$

- Normalize weights  $\alpha_i$

$$\alpha_i \leftarrow \begin{cases} \alpha_i e^{-\hat{w}_t}, & \text{if } f_t(\mathbf{x}_i) = y_i \\ \alpha_i e^{\hat{w}_t}, & \text{if } f_t(\mathbf{x}_i) \neq y_i \end{cases}$$

- Final model predicts by:

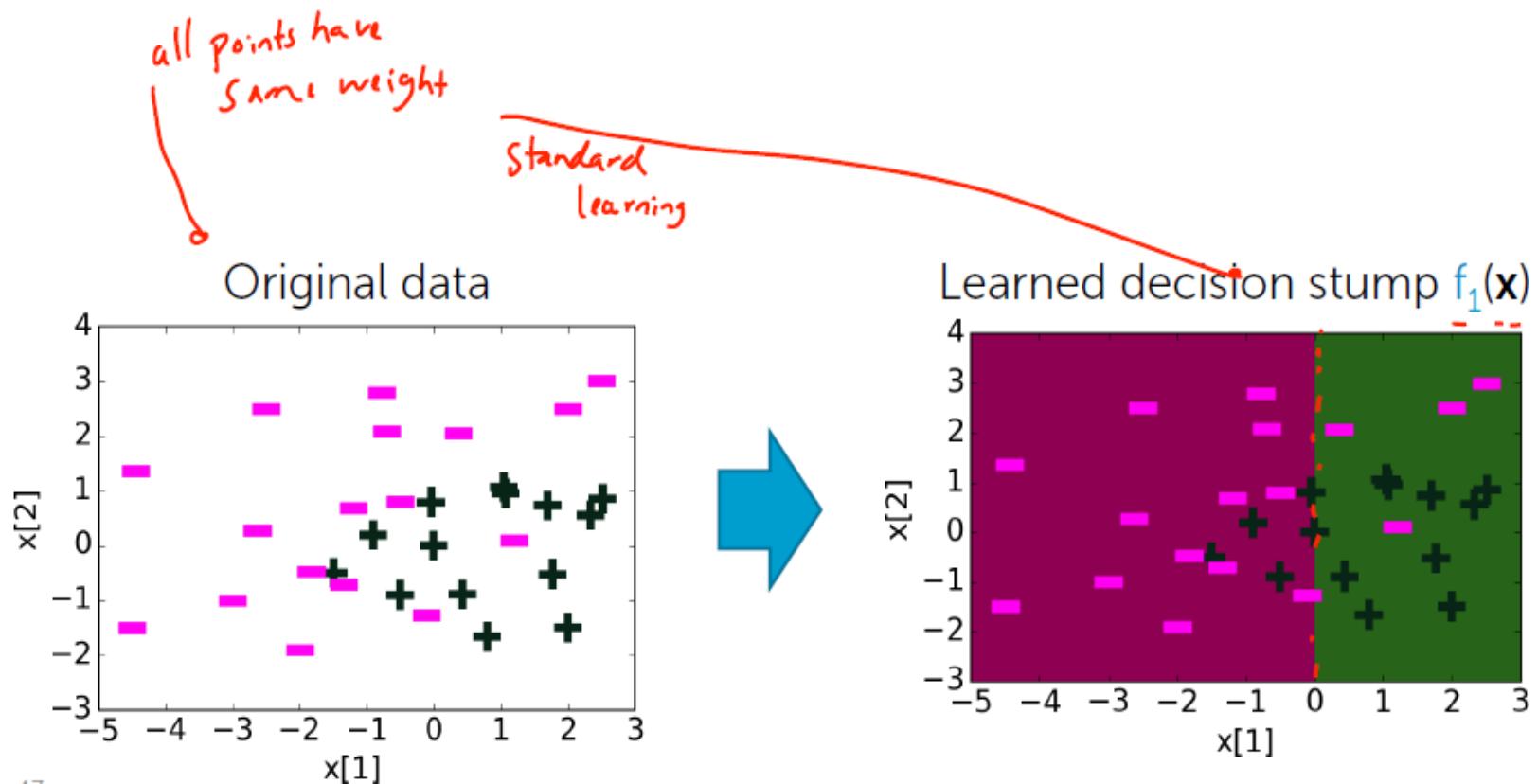
$$\hat{y} = \text{sign} \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{w}_t f_t(\mathbf{x}) \right)$$

$$\alpha_i \leftarrow \frac{\alpha_i}{\sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j}$$

# AdaBoost: example

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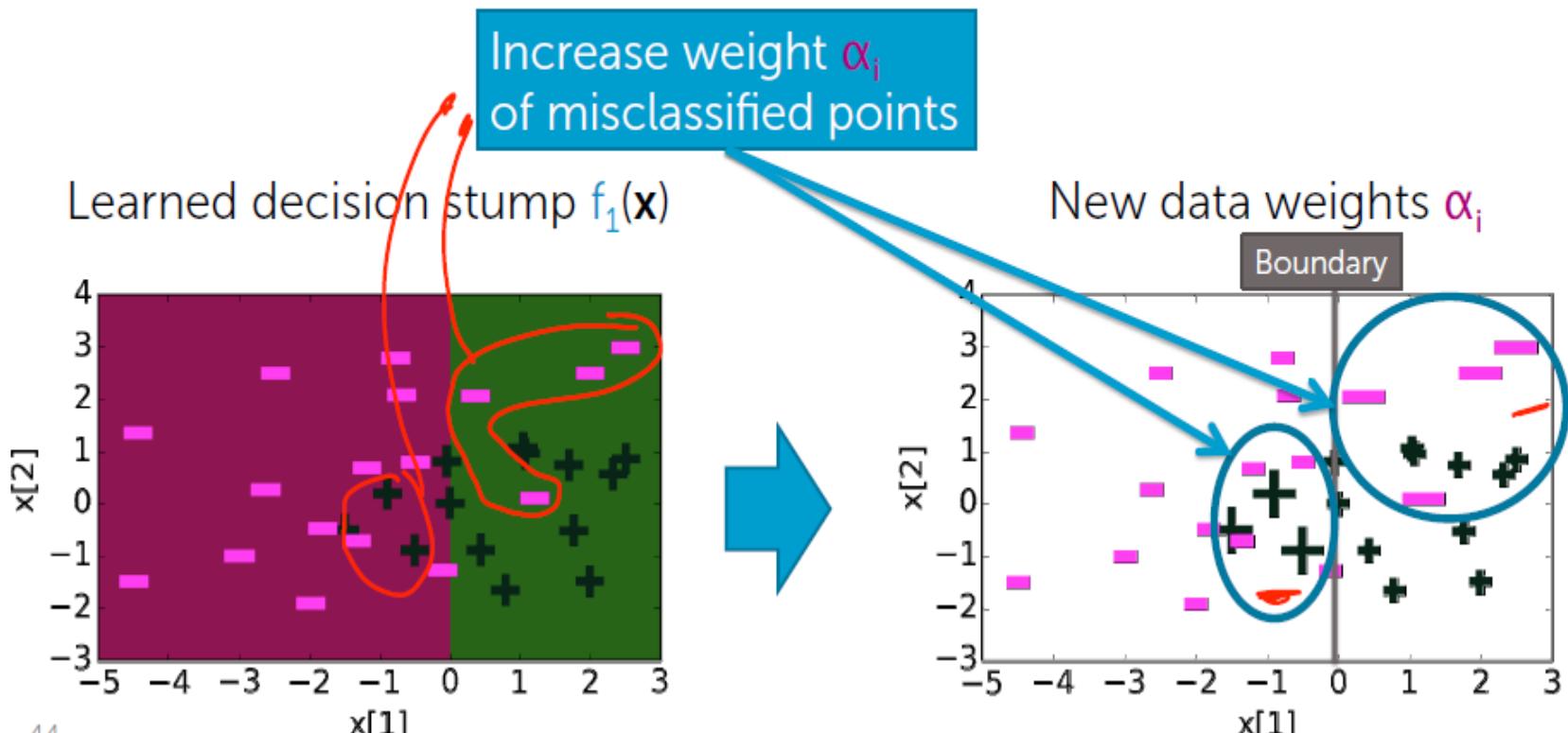
$t=1$ : Just learn a classifier on original data



# AdaBoost: example

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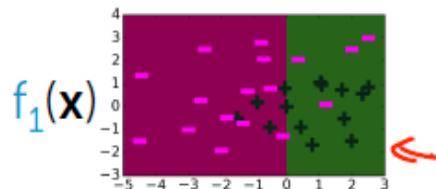
## Updating weights $\alpha_i$



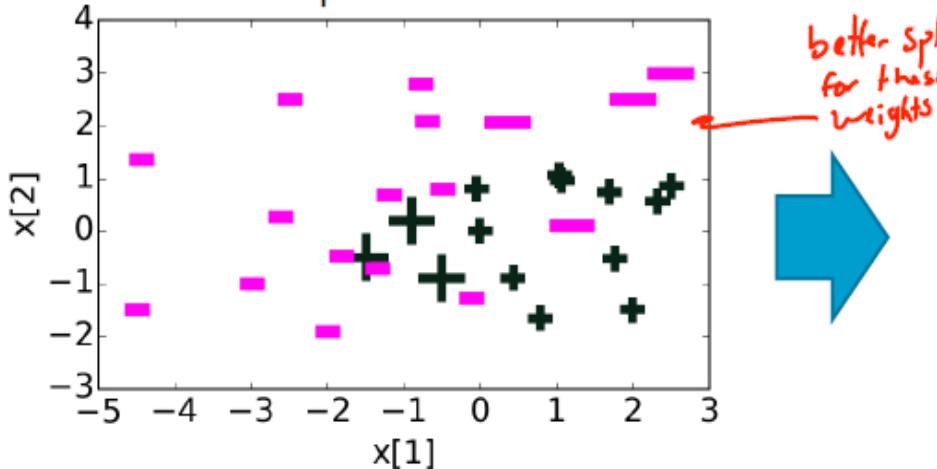
# AdaBoost: example

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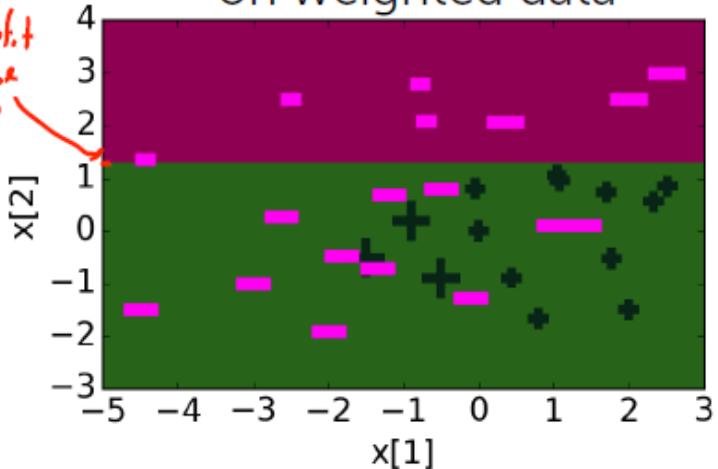
$t=2$ : Learn classifier on weighted data



Weighted data: using  $\alpha_i$   
chosen in previous iteration



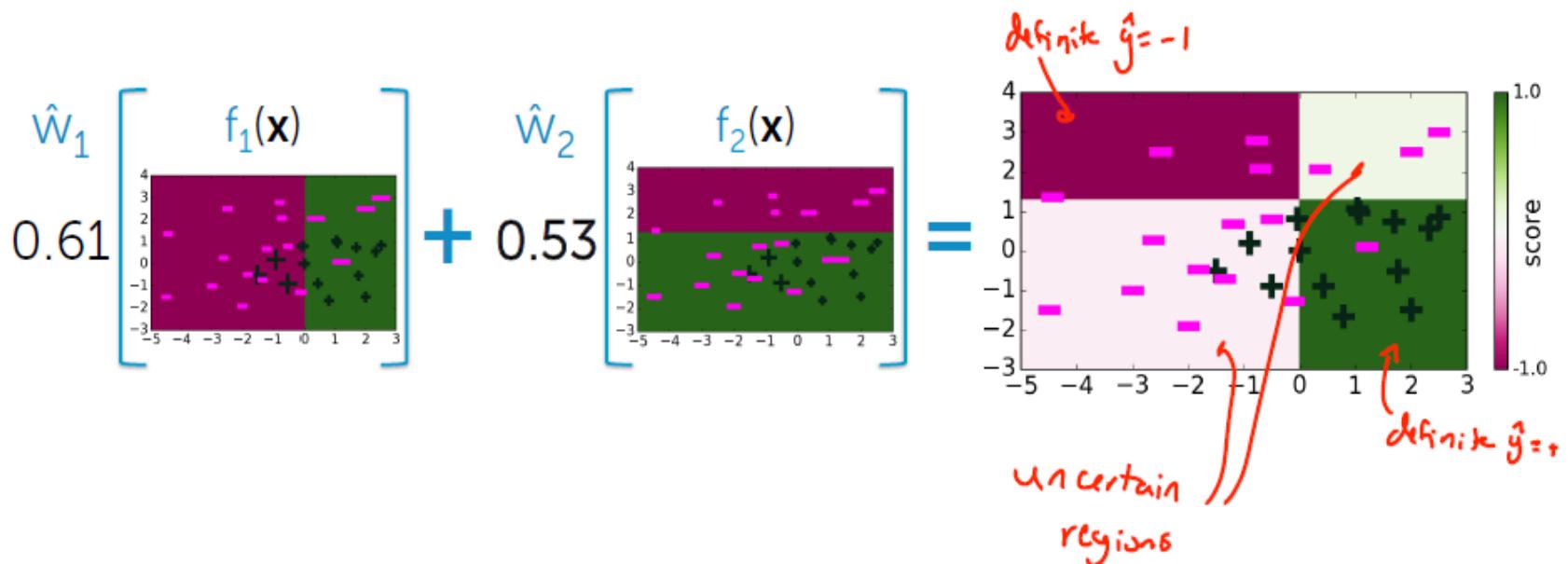
Learned decision stump  $f_2(x)$   
on weighted data



# AdaBoost: example

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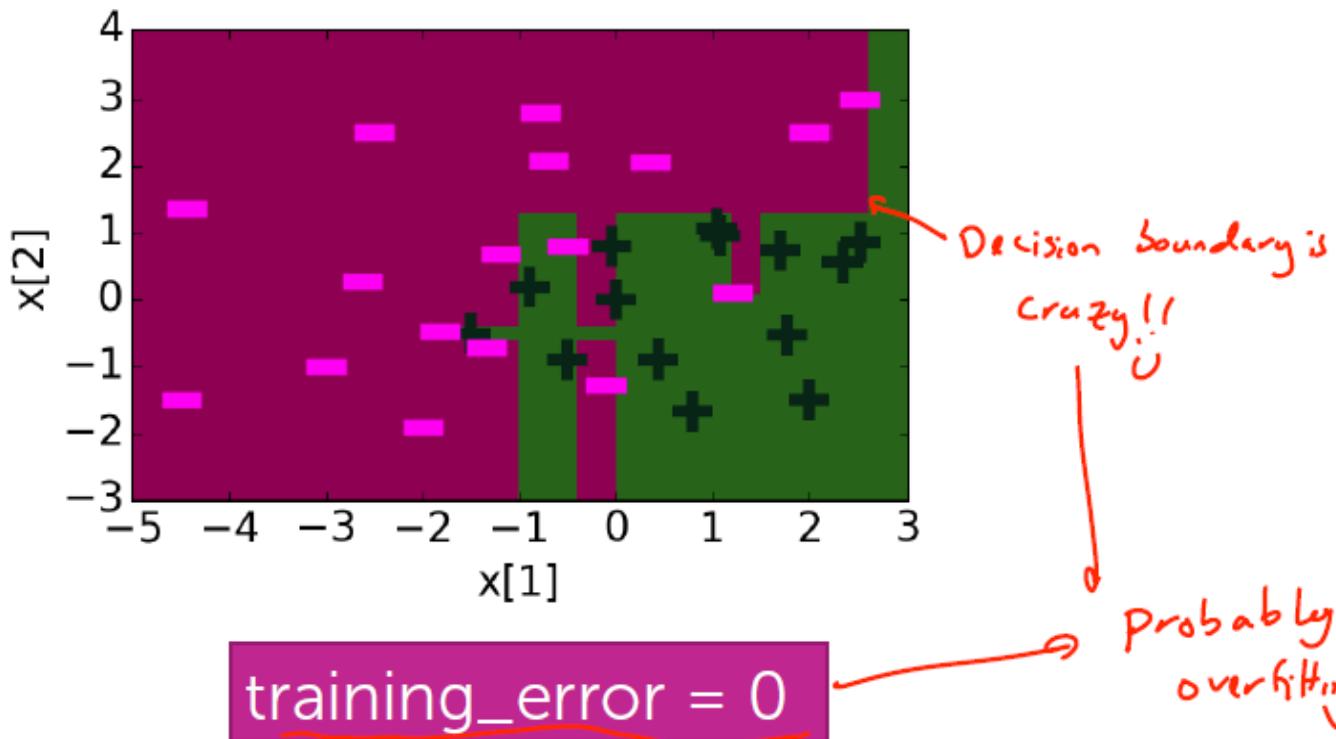
Ensemble becomes weighted sum of learned classifiers



# AdaBoost: example

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Decision boundary of ensemble classifier  
after 30 iterations



# AdaBoost: learning ensemble

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- Start same weight for all points:  $\alpha_i = 1/N$

$$\hat{w}_t = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{1 - \text{weighted\_error}(f_t)}{\text{weighted\_error}(f_t)} \right)$$

- For  $t = 1, \dots, T$

- Learn  $f_t(x)$  with data weights  $\alpha_i$

- Compute coefficient  $\hat{w}_t$

- Recompute weights  $\alpha_i$

- Normalize weights  $\alpha_i$

- Final model predicts by:

$$\hat{y} = \text{sign} \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{w}_t f_t(\mathbf{x}) \right)$$

$$\alpha_i \leftarrow \begin{cases} \alpha_i e^{-\hat{w}_t}, & \text{if } f_t(\mathbf{x}_i) = y_i \\ \alpha_i e^{\hat{w}_t}, & \text{if } f_t(\mathbf{x}_i) \neq y_i \end{cases}$$

$$\alpha_i \leftarrow \frac{\alpha_i}{\sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j}$$

# Boosted decision stumps

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- Start same weight for all points:  $\alpha_i = 1/N$
- For  $t = 1, \dots, T$ 
  - Learn  $f_t(\mathbf{x})$ : pick decision stump with lowest weighted training error according to  $\alpha_i$
  - Compute coefficient  $\hat{w}_t$
  - Recompute weights  $\alpha_i$
  - Normalize weights  $\alpha_i$
- Final model predicts by:

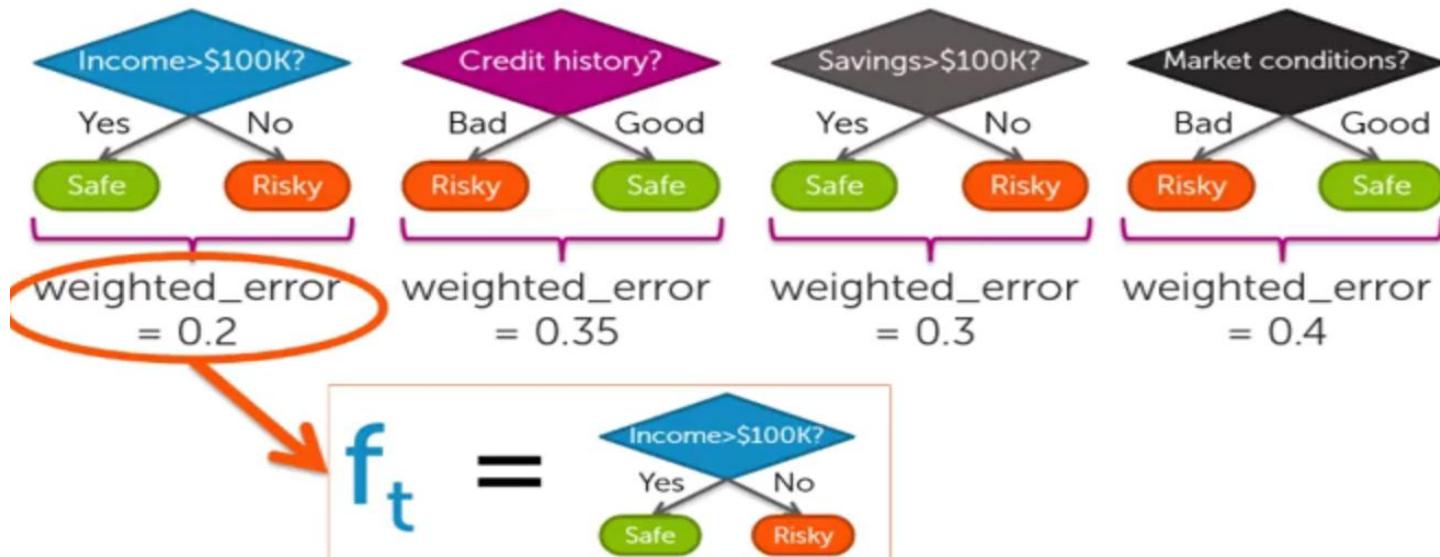
$$\hat{y} = sign \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{w}_t f_t(\mathbf{x}) \right)$$

# Boosted decision stumps

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## Finding best next decision stump $f_t(x)$

Consider splitting on each feature:



$$\hat{W}_t = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{1 - \text{weighted\_error}(f_t)}{\text{weighted\_error}(f_t)} \right) = 0.69$$

# Boosted decision stumps

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- Start same weight for all points:  $\alpha_i = 1/N$
- For  $t = 1, \dots, T$ 
  - Learn  $f_t(\mathbf{x})$ : pick decision stump with lowest weighted training error according to  $\alpha_i$
  - Compute coefficient  $\hat{w}_t$
  - Recompute weights  $\alpha_i$
  - Normalize weights  $\alpha_i$
- Final model predicts by:

$$\hat{y} = sign \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{w}_t f_t(\mathbf{x}) \right)$$

# Boosted decision stumps

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Updating weights  $\alpha_i$



$$\alpha_i \leftarrow \begin{cases} \alpha_i e^{-\hat{v}_t} = \alpha_i e^{-0.69} &= \alpha_i / 2, \text{ if } f_t(x_i) = y_i \\ \alpha_i e^{\hat{w}_t} = \alpha_i e^{0.69} &= 2 \alpha_i, \text{ if } f_t(x_i) \neq y_i \end{cases}$$

Credit	Income	y	$\hat{y}$	Previous weight $\alpha$	New weight $\alpha$
A	\$130K	Safe	Safe	0.5	0.5/2 = 0.25
B	\$80K	Risky	Risky	1.5	0.75
C	\$110K	Risky	Safe	1.5	2 * 1.5 = 3
A	\$110K	Safe	Safe	2	1
A	\$90K	Safe	Risky	1	2
B	\$120K	Safe	Safe	2.5	1.25
C	\$30K	Risky	Risky	3	1.5
C	\$60K	Risky	Risky	2	1
B	\$95K	Safe	Risky	0.5	1
A	\$60K	Safe	Risky	1	2
A	\$98K	Safe	Risky	0.5	1

# Boosting convergence & overfitting

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## Boosting question revisited

"Can a set of weak learners be combined to create a stronger learner?" *Kearns and Valiant (1988)*



Yes! *Schapire (1990)*

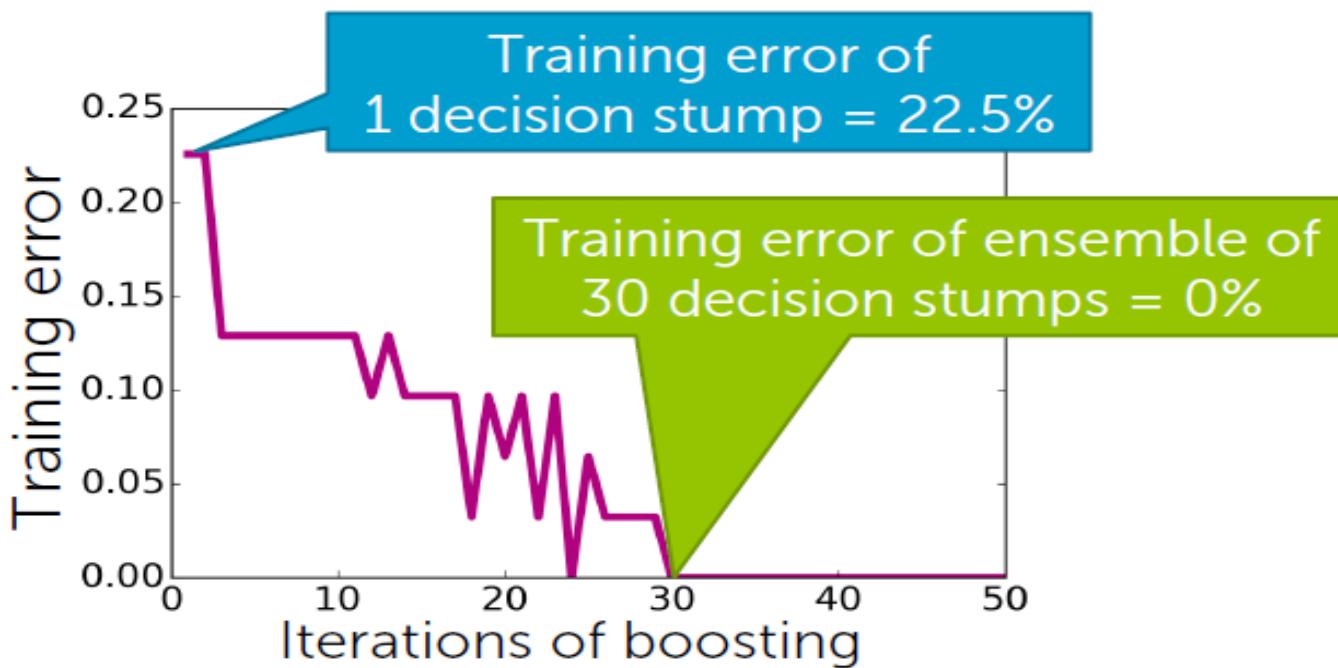


Boosting

# Boosting convergence & overfitting

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After some iterations,  
training error of boosting goes to zero!!!



Boosted decision stumps on toy dataset

# Boosting convergence & overfitting

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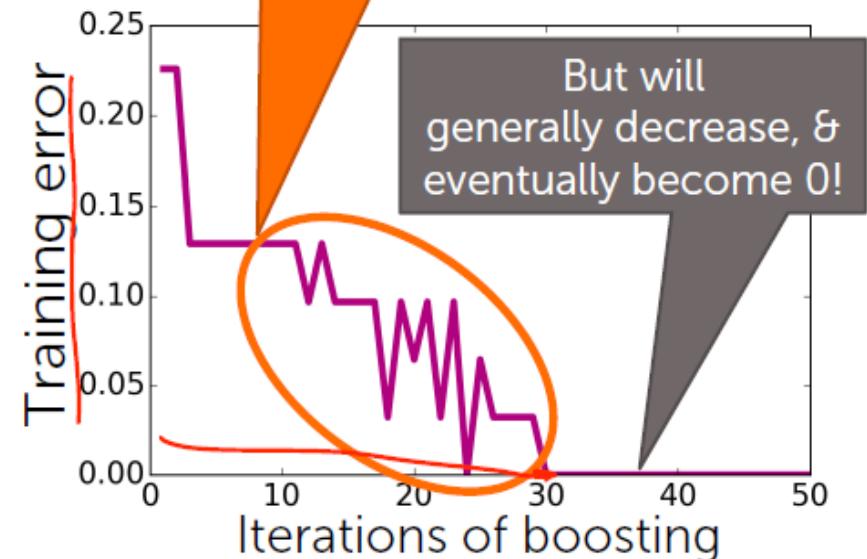
## AdaBoost Theorem

Under some technical conditions...



Training error of  
boosted classifier  $\rightarrow 0$   
as  $T \rightarrow \infty$

May oscillate a bit



# Boosting convergence & overfitting

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## Condition of AdaBoost Theorem

Under some technical conditions...



Training error of  
boosted classifier  $\rightarrow 0$   
as  $T \rightarrow \infty$

Condition = At every  $t$ ,  
can find a weak learner with  
weighted\_error( $f_t$ ) < 0.5

Not always  
possible

Extreme example:  
No classifier can  
separate a +1  
on top of -1

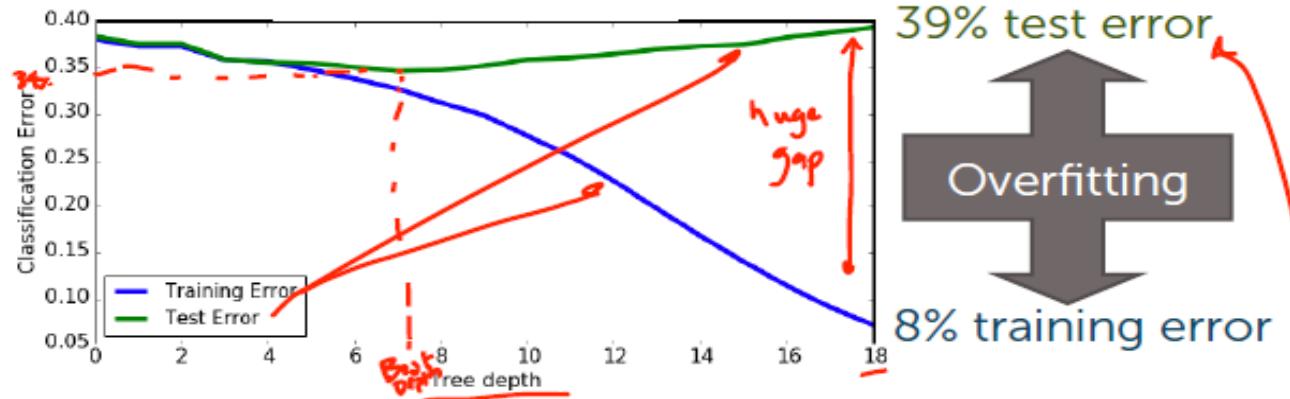


Nonetheless, boosting often  
yields great training error

# Example

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## Decision trees on loan data



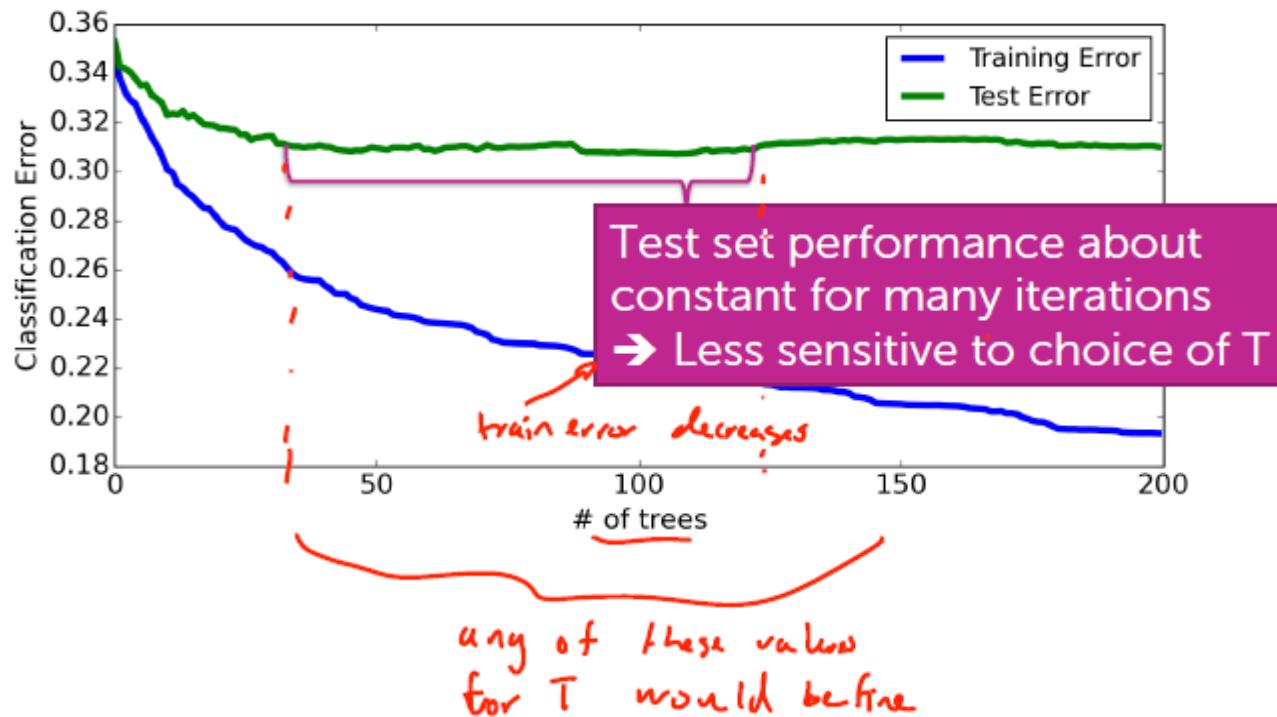
## Boosted decision stumps on loan data



# Example

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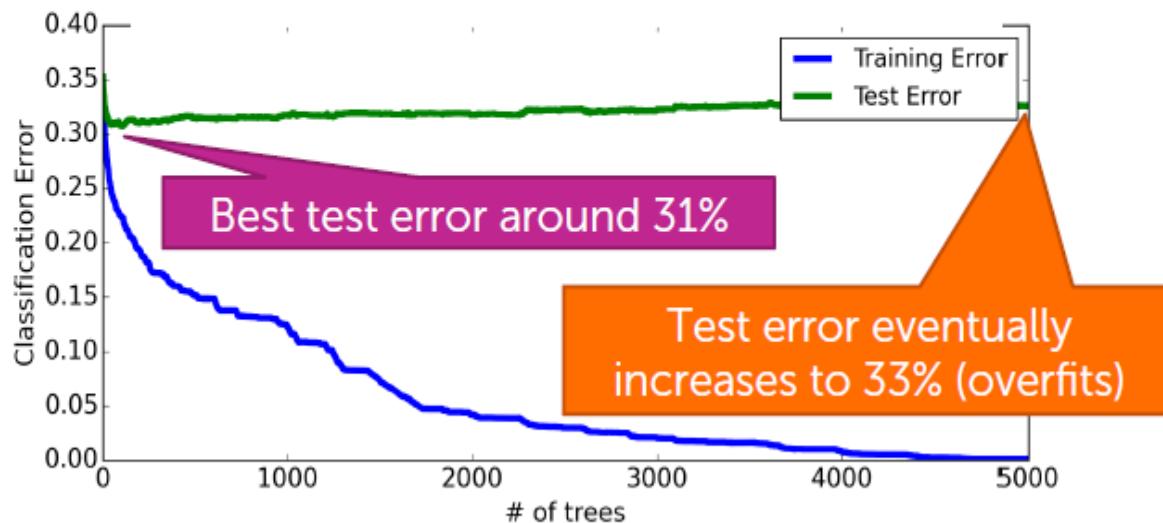
Boosting tends to be robust to overfitting



# Example

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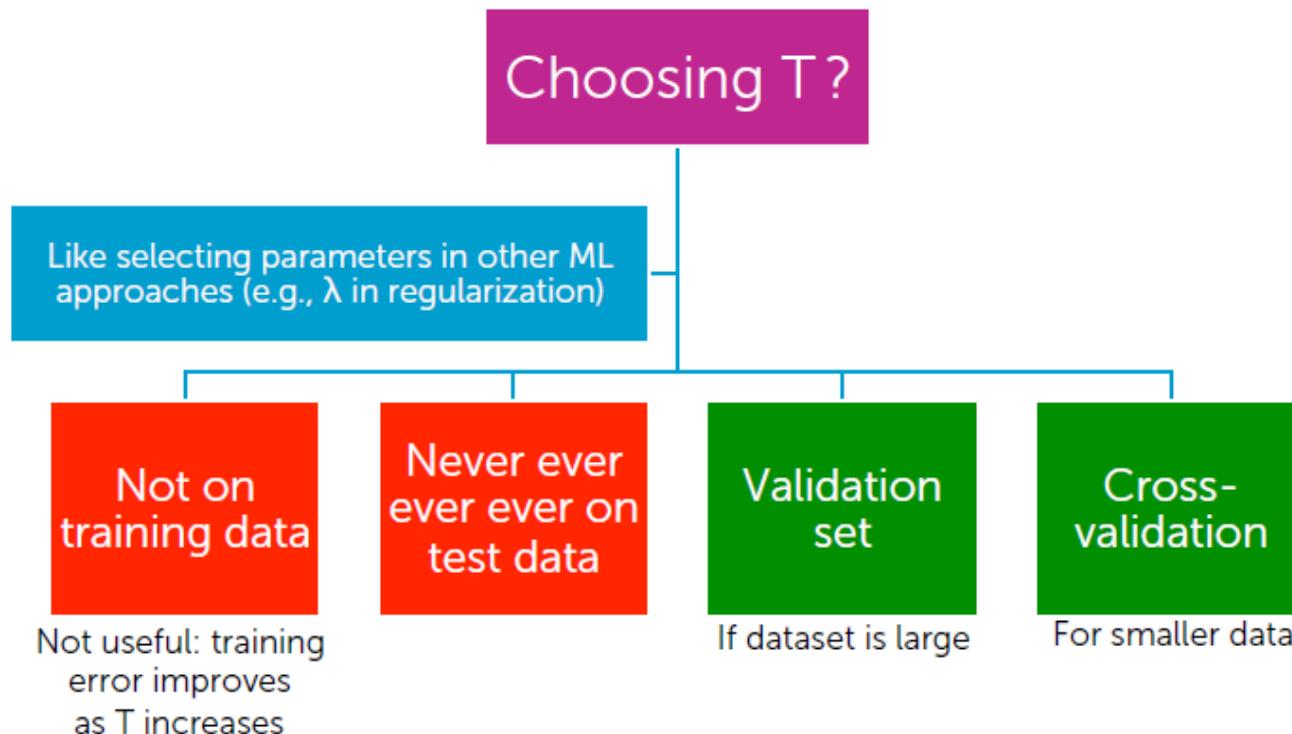
But boosting will eventually overfit,  
so must choose max number of components T



# Example

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## How do we decide when to stop boosting?



# Boosting: summary

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## Variants of boosting and related algorithms

There are hundreds of variants of boosting, most important:

Gradient  
boosting

- Like AdaBoost, but useful beyond basic classification

Many other approaches to learn ensembles, most important:

Random  
forests

- Bagging: Pick random subsets of the data
  - Learn a tree in each subset
  - Average predictions
- Simpler than boosting & easier to parallelize
- Typically higher error than boosting for same number of trees (# iterations T)

# Boosting: summary

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## Impact of boosting *(spoiler alert... HUGE IMPACT)*

Amongst most useful  
ML methods ever created

Extremely useful in  
computer vision

- Standard approach for face detection, for example

Used by **most winners** of  
ML competitions  
(Kaggle, KDD Cup,...)

- Malware classification, credit fraud detection, ads click through rate estimation, sales forecasting, ranking webpages for search, Higgs boson detection,...

Most deployed ML systems  
use model ensembles

- Coefficients chosen manually, with boosting, with bagging, or others

# What you can do now

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- Identify notion ensemble classifiers
- Formalize ensembles as the weighted combination of simpler classifiers
- Outline the boosting framework – sequentially learn classifiers on weighted data
- Describe the AdaBoost algorithm
  - Learn each classifier on weighted data
  - Compute coefficient of classifier
  - Recompute data weights
  - Normalize weights
- Implement AdaBoost to create an ensemble of decision stumps
- Discuss convergence properties of AdaBoost & how to pick the maximum number of iterations T

# Details

- Derivative of likelihood  
for logistic regression

# The log trick, often used in ML...

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- Products become sums:  
 $\ln a \cdot b = \ln a + \ln b$  |  $\ln \frac{a}{b} = \ln a - \ln b$
- Doesn't change maximum!

- If  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}$  maximizes  $f(\mathbf{w})$ :

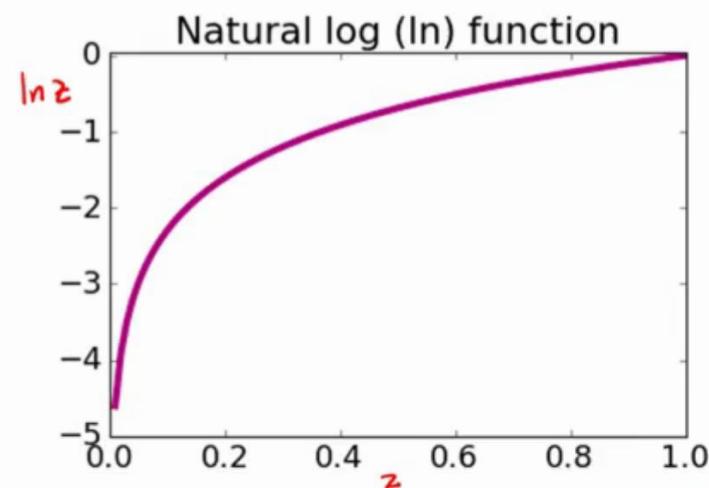
$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w})$$

the  $\mathbf{w}$  that makes  $f(\mathbf{w})$  largest

- Then  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}_{\ln}$  maximizes  $\ln(f(\mathbf{w}))$ :

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}}_{\ln} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{w}} \ln(f(\mathbf{w}))$$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{w}} = \hat{\mathbf{w}}_{\ln}.$$



# Log-likelihood function

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- Goal: choose coefficients w maximizing likelihood:

$$\ell(\mathbf{w}) = \prod_{i=1}^N P(y_i | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w})$$

- Math simplified by using log-likelihood – taking (natural) log:

$$\underline{\ell\ell(\mathbf{w})} = \ln \prod_{i=1}^N P(y_i | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w})$$

natural  
log

# Log-likelihood function

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Using log to turn products into sums

$$\ln \prod_{i=1}^N f_i = \sum_{i=1}^N \ln f_i$$

- The log of the product of likelihoods becomes the sum of the logs:

$$\begin{aligned}\ell(\mathbf{w}) &= \ln \prod_{i=1}^N P(y_i | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \ln P(y_i | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w})\end{aligned}$$

# Rewriting log-likelihood

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- For simpler math, we'll rewrite likelihood with indicators:

$$\begin{aligned}\ell(\mathbf{w}) &= \sum_{i=1}^N \ln P(y_i | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N [\mathbb{1}[y_i = +1] \ln P(y = +1 | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) + \mathbb{1}[y_i = -1] \ln P(y = -1 | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w})]\end{aligned}$$

Indicator function

$\mathbb{1}[y_i = +1]$

✓

$\mathbb{1}[y_i = -1]$

○

○

✓

# Logistic regression

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Logistic regression model:  $P(y=-1|x, w)$

- Probability model predicts  $y=+1$ :

$$P(y=+1|x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-w^T h(x)}}$$

- Probability model predicts  $y=-1$ :

$$\begin{aligned} P(y=-1|x, w) &= 1 - P(y=+1|x, w) = 1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-w^T h(x)}} \\ &\quad \text{---} \\ &= \frac{1 + e^{-w^T h(x)} - 1}{1 + e^{-w^T h(x)}} = \frac{e^{-w^T h(x)}}{1 + e^{-w^T h(x)}} \end{aligned}$$

# Logistic regression

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Plugging in logistic function for 1 data point

$$P(y = +1 | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x})}} \quad P(y = -1 | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) = \frac{e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x})}}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x})}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\ell(\mathbf{w}) &= \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1] \ln P(y = +1 | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) + \mathbb{1}[y_i = -1] \ln P(y = -1 | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) \\ &= \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1] \ln \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)}} + (1 - \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1]) \ln \frac{e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)}}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)}} \\ &= \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1] \ln(1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)}) + (1 - \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1]) [-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i) - \ln(1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)})]\end{aligned}$$

$$= -(\mathbb{1}[y_i = +1]) \mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i) - \ln(1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)})$$

Simpler form

$$\begin{aligned}\ln e^a &= a \\ \mathbb{1}[y_i = -1] &= 1 - \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1] \\ \ln \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)}} &= -\ln(1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)}) \\ \ln \frac{e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)}}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)}} &= -\ln(1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)}) \\ \ln e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)} &- \ln(1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)}) \\ -\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i) &\end{aligned}$$

# Logistic regression

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## Gradient for 1 data point

$$\ell\ell(\mathbf{w}) = -(1 - \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1])\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i) - \ln \left( 1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \ell\ell}{\partial w_j} &= - (1 - \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1]) \frac{\partial}{\partial w_j} w^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i) - \frac{\partial}{\partial w_j} \ln \left( 1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)} \right) \\ &= - (1 - \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1]) h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) + h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) P(y=-1 | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) \\ &= h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) \left[ \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1] - P(y=+1 | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) \right]\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial}{\partial w_j} w^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i) &= h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial w_j} \ln \left( 1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)} \right) &= - h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) \frac{e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)}}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top h(\mathbf{x}_i)}} \\ &= - h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) P(y=-1 | \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w})\end{aligned}$$

# Logistic regression

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Finally, gradient for all data points

- Gradient for one data point:

$$h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) \left( \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1] - P(y = +1 \mid \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) \right)$$

- Adding over data points:

$$\frac{\partial \ell}{\partial w_j} = \sum_{i=1}^N h_j(\mathbf{x}_i) \left( \mathbb{1}[y_i = +1] - P(y = +1 \mid \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w}) \right) \quad \text{Ü}$$