

Mushroom Edibility Classification



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Project Overview

→ Purpose

- ◆ Make mushroom foraging beginner friendly & safe

→ Desired Outcome

- ◆ Machine learning model to predict mushroom edibility
 - Achieve 100% accuracy on test set

→ Project Deliverables

- ◆ Milestone Report 1 (Exploration & Visualizations)
- ◆ Milestone Report 2 (Machine Learning Model)
- ◆ Final Report
- ◆ Presentation Slides
- ◆ Project Code (with trained classifier)



Mushroom Dataset & Preprocessing

Mushroom Dataset Summary

→ Dataset Overview

◆ Mushroom Classes:

- Edible or Poisonous
- 8,124 Mushrooms Observed

◆ Features:

- Number: 22
- Type: Nominal
- Examples: Odor, Cap Color, Habitat, etc.

→ Source: [UCI Machine Learning Repository](#)



Data Preprocessing

	class	cap-shape	cap-surface	cap-color	bruises	odor
0	p	x	s	n	t	p
1	e	x	s	y	t	a
2	e	b	s	w	t	l
3	p	x	y	w	t	p
4	e	x	s	g	f	n



	edible	cap_shape	cap_surface	cap_color	bruises	odor
0	False	convex	smooth	brown	True	pungent
1	True	convex	smooth	yellow	True	almond
2	True	bell	smooth	white	True	anise
3	False	convex	scaly	white	True	pungent
4	True	convex	smooth	gray	False	none

1. Target Column
 - a. Rename from “class” to “edible”
 - b. Replace categorical “e” and “p” values with booleans
 - i. True for Edible
2. Rename Feature Columns
 - a. Replace hyphens (“-”) with underscores (“_”)
3. Map single-letter feature values to their full name

Exploration & Visualization

Class Counts & Edibility Correlations

→ Class Counts

- ◆ Fairly Balanced
 - Classes \approx 50%

→ Edibility vs. Feature Correlations

- ◆ Pearson Correlation Coefficient
- ◆ Strongest Correlations
 - Positive (Most Likely Edible)
 - No Odor
 - Negative (Most Likely Poisonous)
 - Foul Odor
- ◆ No Correlation
 - Veil Type “Partial”
 - All mushrooms observed had a “partial” veil.

Total # of Observed Mushrooms: 8,124

Edible: 4,208 (52)%
Poisonous Mushrooms: 3,916 (48)%

Mushroom Edibility Correlations:

odor_none	0.785557
ring_type_pendant	0.540469
gill_size_broad	0.540024
bruises_True	0.501530
stalk_surface_above_ring_smooth	0.491314
...	
gill_size_narrow	-0.540024
stalk_surface_below_ring_silky	-0.573524
stalk_surface_above_ring_silky	-0.587658
odor_foul	-0.623842
veil_type_partial	NaN

Odor

→ Total No. of Mushrooms: 8,124

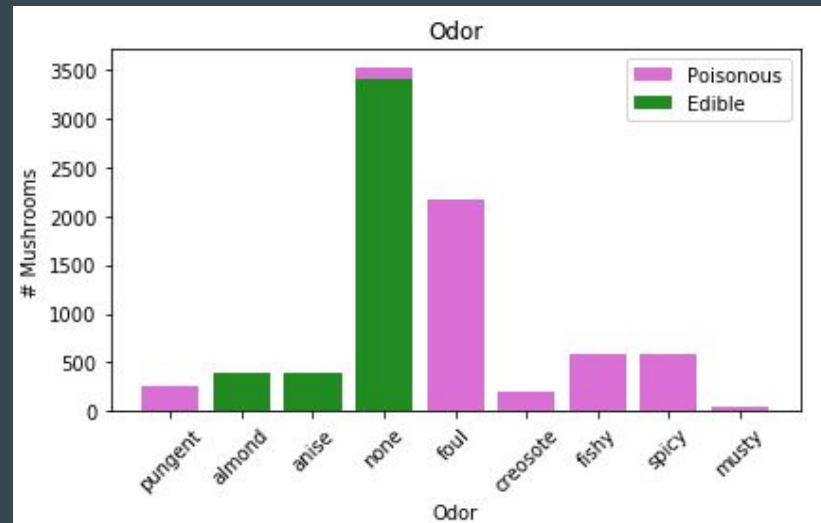
- ◆ Edible: 4,208
- ◆ Poisonous: 3,916

→ Why Odor?

- ◆ Strongest Initial Correlation
- ◆ Almost Perfect Separation
- ◆ Misunderstood Poisonous Mushrooms:
 - Reduced from 3,916 to 120

→ Remaining Mixed Categories

- ◆ No Odor



1. Mushroom Data
 - 1.1. All Odors

Spore Print Color

→ Total No. of Mushrooms: 3,528

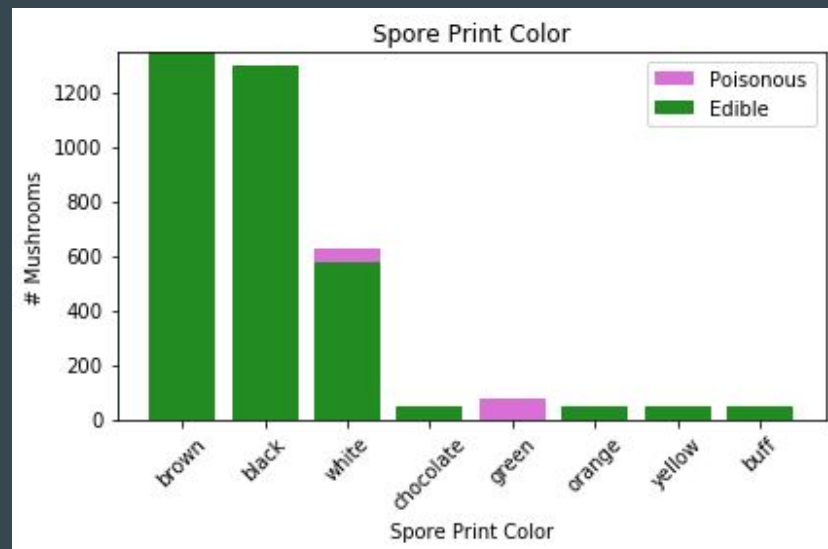
- ◆ Edible: 3,408
- ◆ Poisonous: 120

→ Why Spore Print Color?

- ◆ After Filtering Dataset
 - Strongest Edibility Correlation
- ◆ No Odor & Green Spore Prints
 - All Poisonous (72)

→ Remaining Mixed Categories

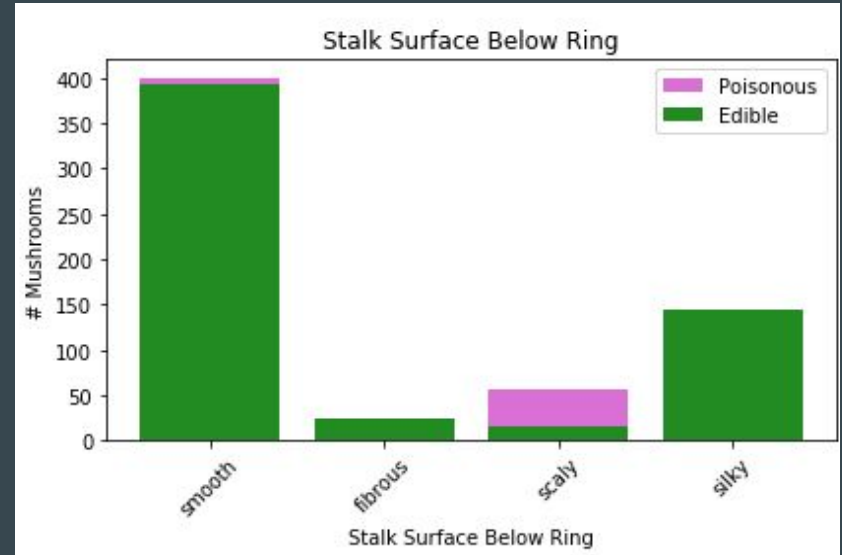
- ◆ White Spore Print



1. Mushroom Data
 - 1.1. No Odor

Stalk Surface Below Ring

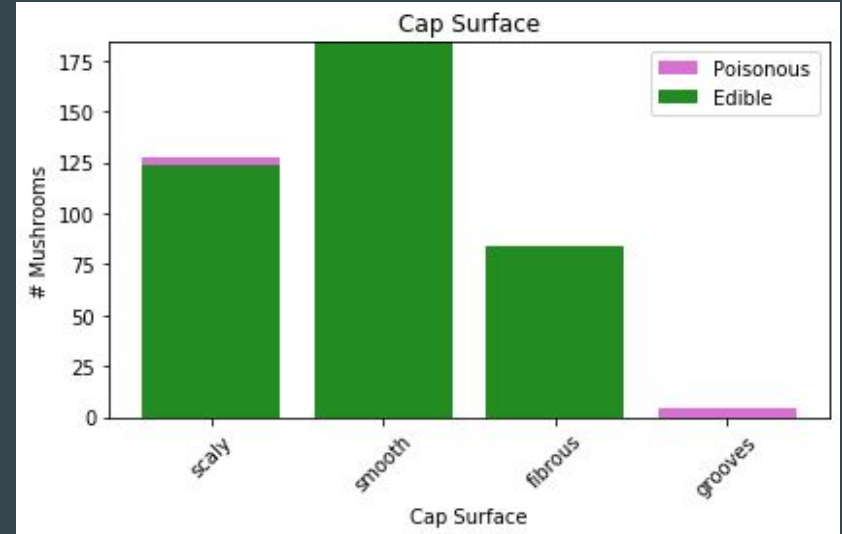
- Total No. of Mushrooms: 624
 - ◆ Edible: 576
 - ◆ Poisonous: 48
- Remaining Mixed Mushrooms
 - ◆ Smooth Stalk Below Ring
 - ◆ Scaly Stalk Below Ring



1. Mushroom Data
 - 1.1. No Odor
 - 1.2. White Spore Print

Cap Surface (Smooth Stalk Below Ring)

- Total No. of Mushrooms: 400
 - ◆ Edible: 392
 - ◆ Poisonous: 8
- Groovy Caps = Poisonous
 - ◆ 4 Mushrooms
- Remaining Mixed Mushrooms
 - ◆ Scaly Cap



1. Mushroom Data
 - 1.1. No Odor
 - 1.2. White Spore Print
 - 1.3. Smooth Stalk Below Ring

Cap Color (Smooth Stalk Below Ring)

→ Total No. of Mushrooms: 128

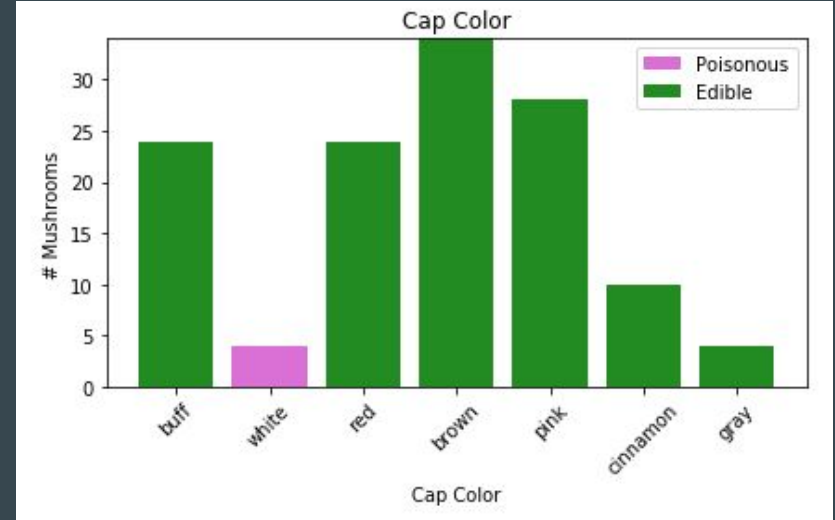
- ◆ Edible: 124
- ◆ Poisonous: 4

→ White Caps = Poisonous

- ◆ Final 4 Poisonous Mushrooms

→ Most Important Features

- ◆ Odor
- ◆ Spore Print Color
- ◆ Stalk Surface Below Ring
- ◆ Cap Surface
- ◆ Cap Color



1. Mushroom Data
 - 1.1. No Odor
 - 1.2. White Spore Print
 - 1.3. Smooth Stalk Below Ring
 - 1.4. Scaly Cap

Gill Size (Scaly Stalk Below Ring)

→ Total No. of Mushrooms: 56

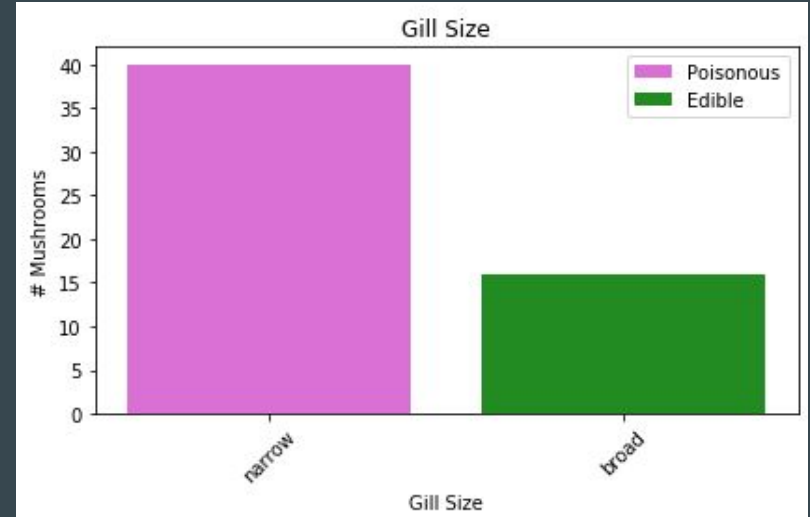
- ◆ Edible: 16
- ◆ Poisonous: 40

→ Narrow Gills = Poisonous

- ◆ Last Needed Feature
- ◆ 40 Poisonous Mushrooms

→ Most Important Features

- ◆ Odor
- ◆ Spore Print Color
- ◆ Stalk Surface Below Ring
- ◆ Gill Size



1. Mushroom Data
 - 1.1. No Odor
 - 1.2. White Spore Print
 - 1.3. Scaly Stalk Below Ring

Machine Learning

One-Hot Encoding

	odor
0	pungent
1	almond
2	anise
3	pungent
4	none



	odor_anise	odor_creosote	odor_fishy	odor_foul	odor_musty	odor_none	odor_pungent	odor_spicy
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

→ One-Hot Encoding

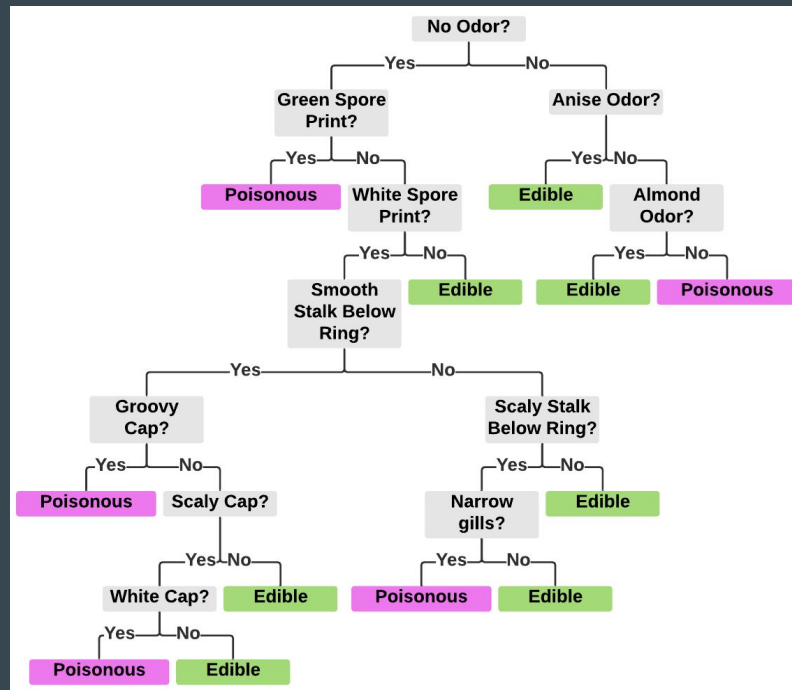
- ◆ Models accept integers & floats
 - Not strings
- ◆ Every Category = 1 Column
 - Ex: Odor Feature = 5 Columns
 - Drop one redundant column
 - 6 Features = 32 Columns

→ Encoded Features

- ◆ Odor
- ◆ Spore Print Color
- ◆ Stalk Surface Below Ring
- ◆ Cap Surface
- ◆ Cap Color
- ◆ Gill Size

Optimal Decision Tree

- Nominal Data
 - ◆ Decision Trees Handle Very Well
- Optimal Decision Tree
 - ◆ Uses Exploration Insights
- What Classifier to Use?
 - ◆ Random Forest Classifier
 - Decision Tree Ensemble



Random Forest Classifier

→ Important Parameters

- ◆ Number of Estimators (Decision Trees)
 - ↑ Estimators : ↑ Better Score : ↓ Efficiency
 - Set to 10
- ◆ Maximum Features
 - ↓ Max : ↓ Variance : ↑ Bias : ↓ Overfitting
 - Set to 5 (Square Root # of Columns)

→ Performance

- ◆ 100% Testing Accuracy
- ◆ Never-Before Seen Test Set
 - 2,301 Mushrooms
- ◆ Simple Model
 - Exploration Phase Greatly Helped

