

## Lecture 13

# Dimensionality Reduction I: Feature Selection

STAT 451: Intro to Machine Learning, Fall 2021

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<https://sebastianraschka.com/teaching/stat451-fs2021/>

# Dimensionality Reduction

Why do we care?

# Dimensionality Reduction

## Why do we care?

Curse of dimensionality

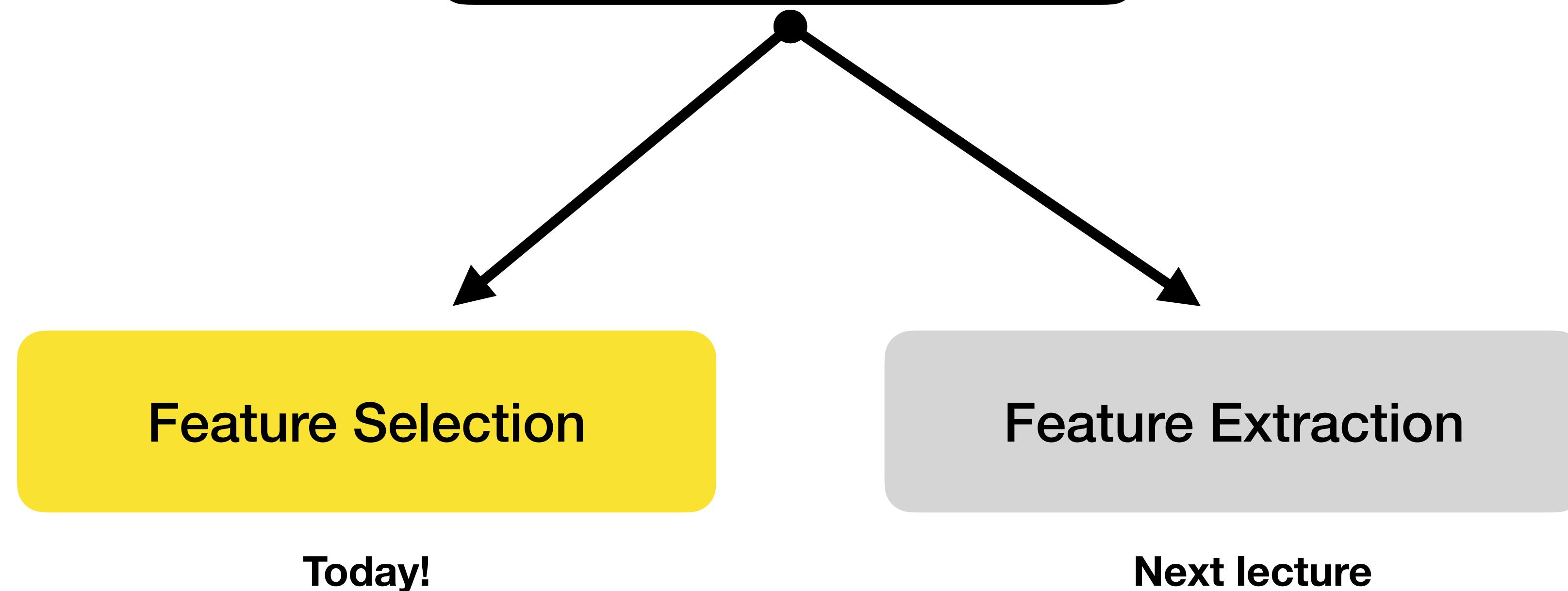
Computational efficiency

Easier data collection

Storage space

Interpretability

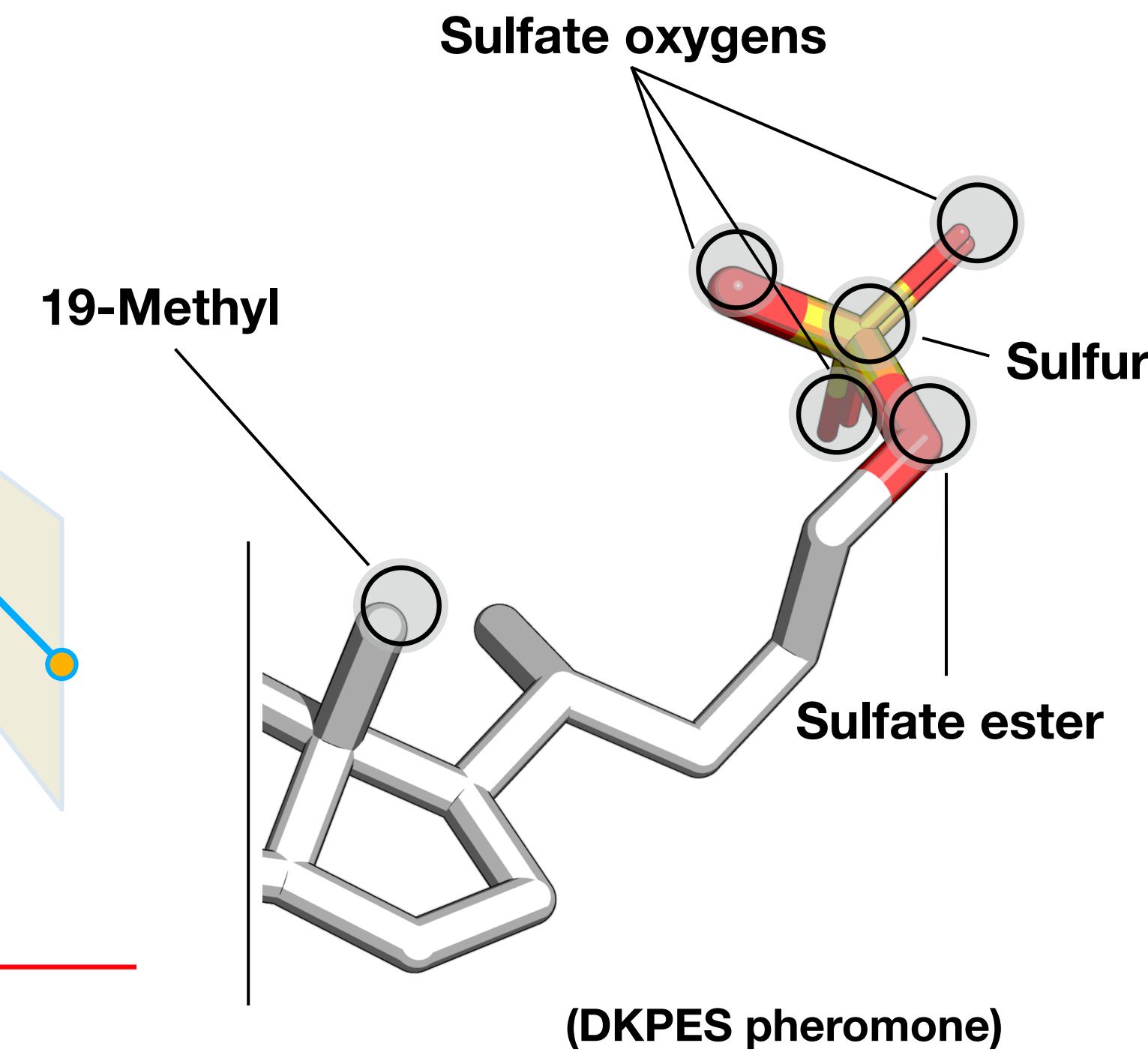
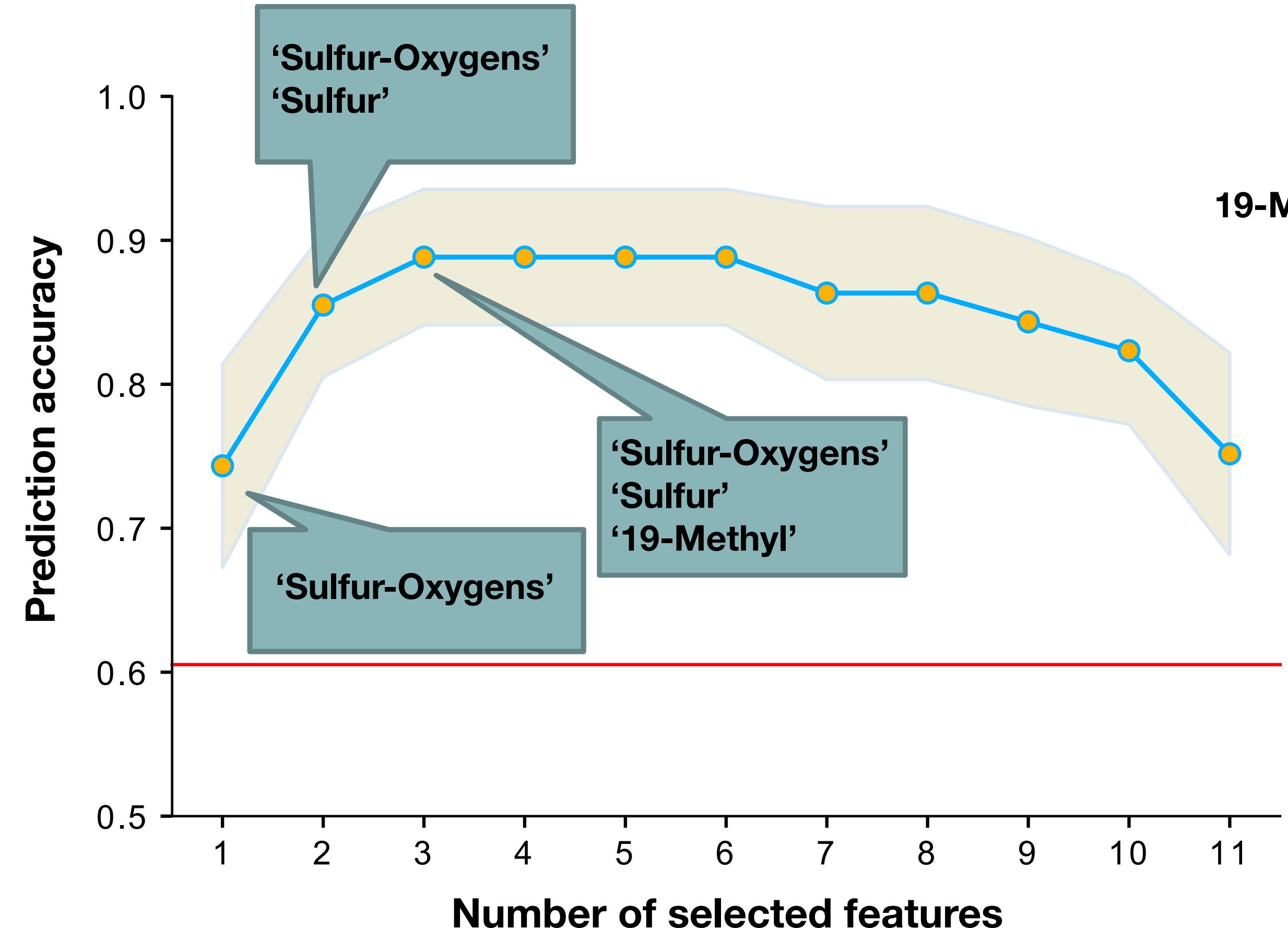
## Dimensionality Reduction





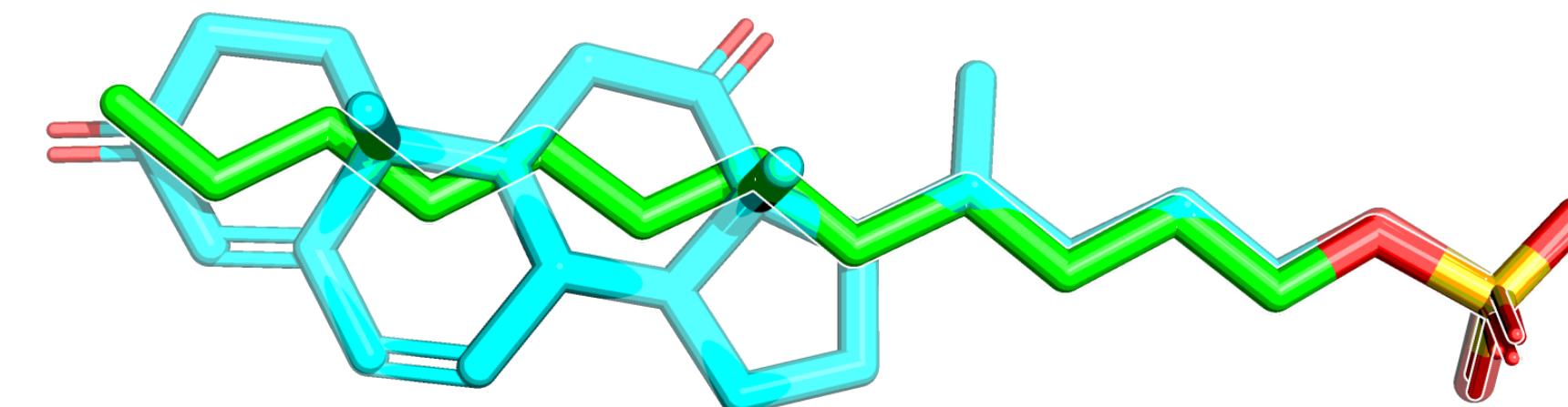
## Discovery of a pheromone receptor inhibitor for invasive species control (sea lamprey) in the Great Lakes

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea\\_lamprey#/media/File:Sea\\_lamprey\\_on\\_brown\\_trout\\_flipped.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_lamprey#/media/File:Sea_lamprey_on_brown_trout_flipped.jpg)

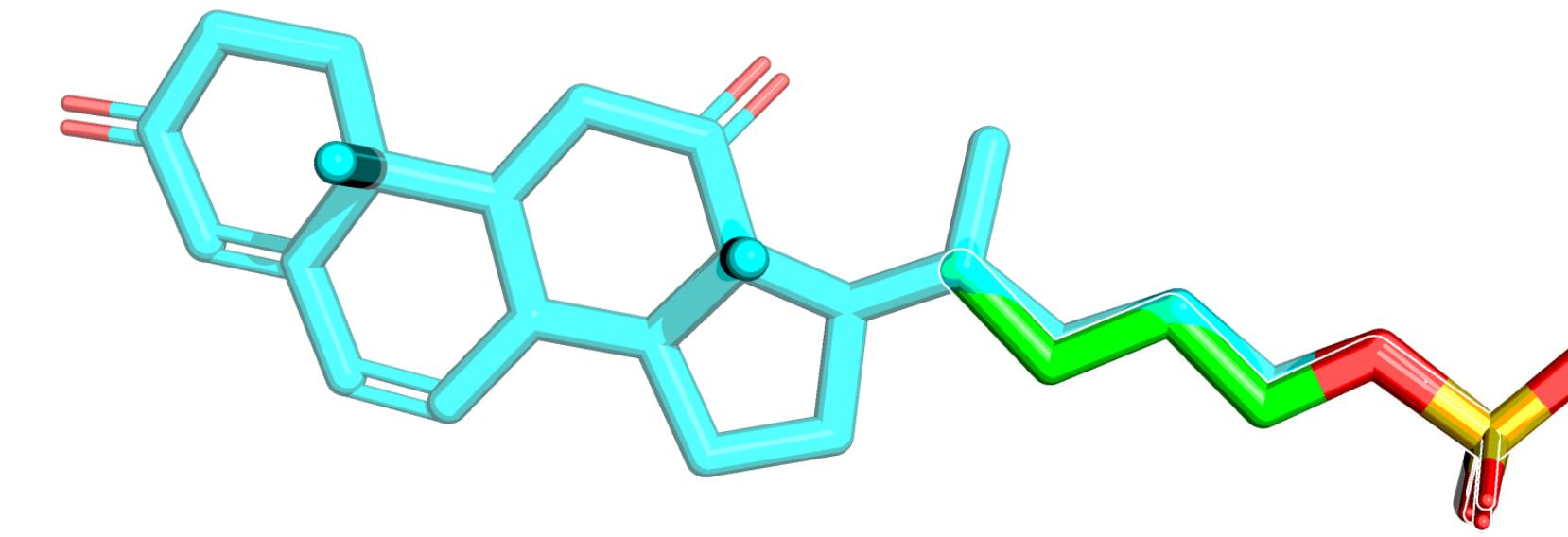


22

**"Sulfate-tail"  
sufficient  
for bioactivity**



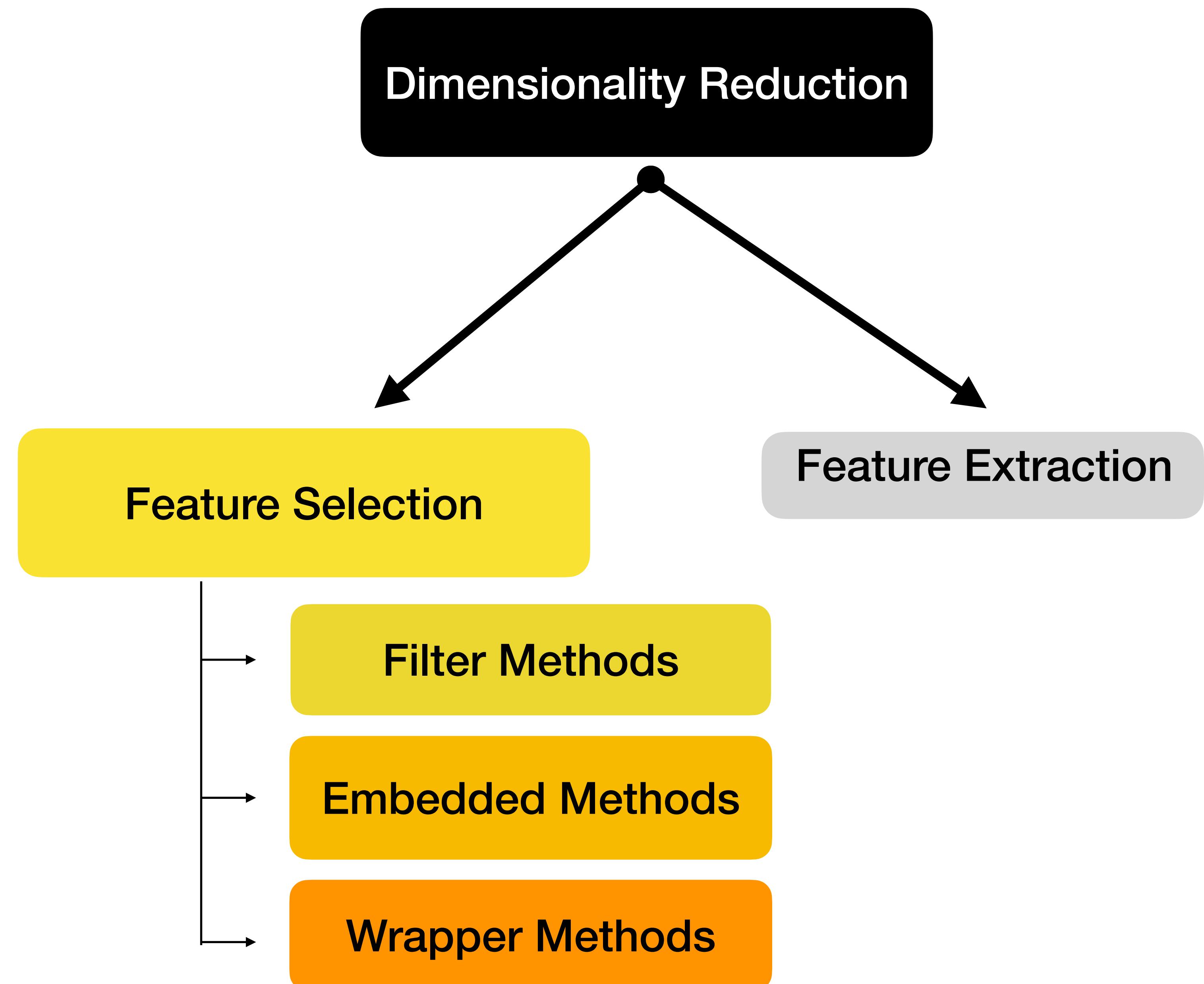
69% signal inhibition



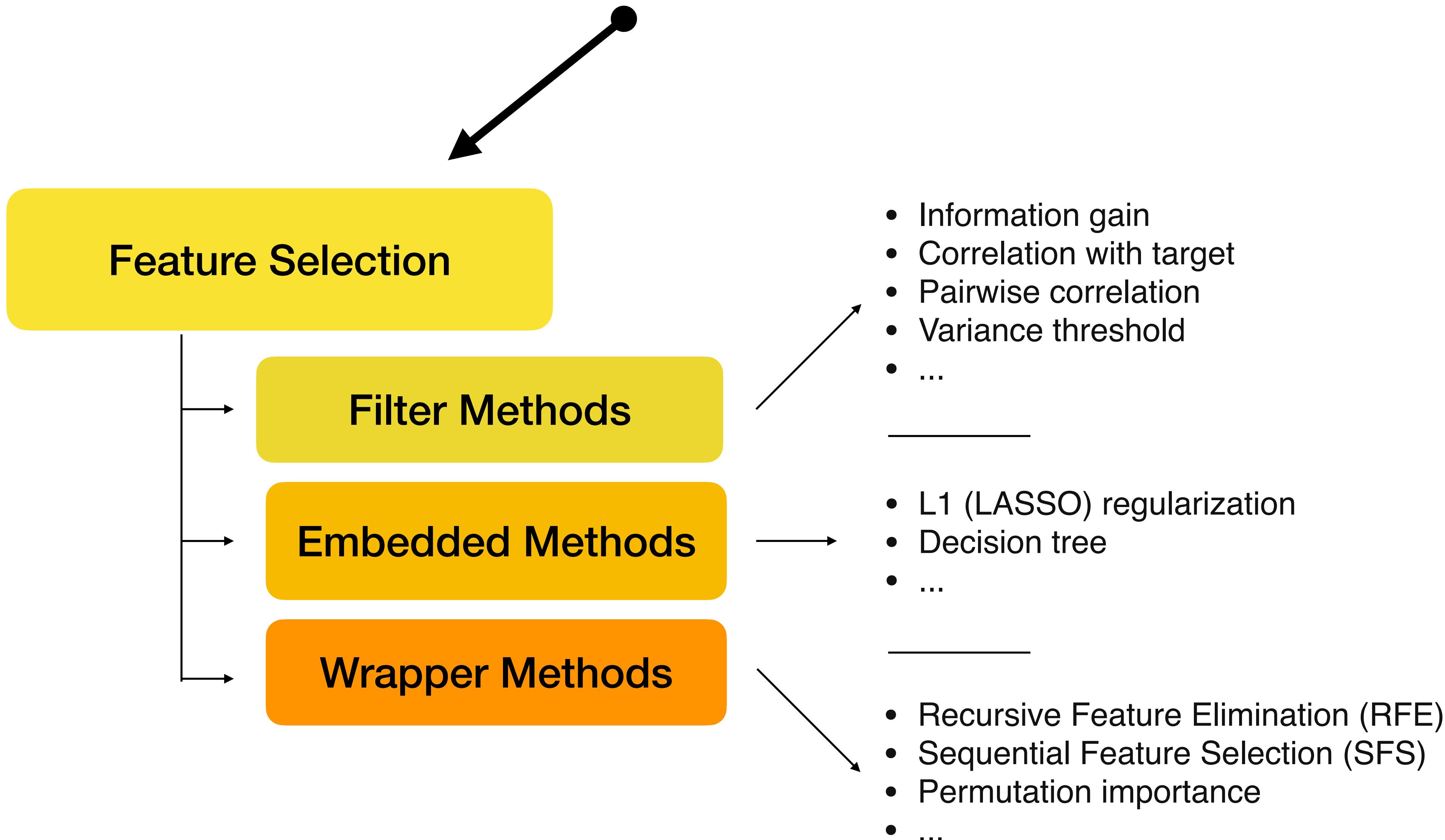
62% signal inhibition

1. Different categories of feature selection
2. Filter methods
3. Embedded methods
  - 3.1. L1-regularized logistic regression
  - 3.2. Random forest feature importance
4. Wrapper methods
  - 4.1. Recursive feature elimination
  - 4.2. Permutation importance
  - 4.3. Permutation importance code example
  - 4.4. Sequential feature selection
  - 4.5. Sequential feature selection code example

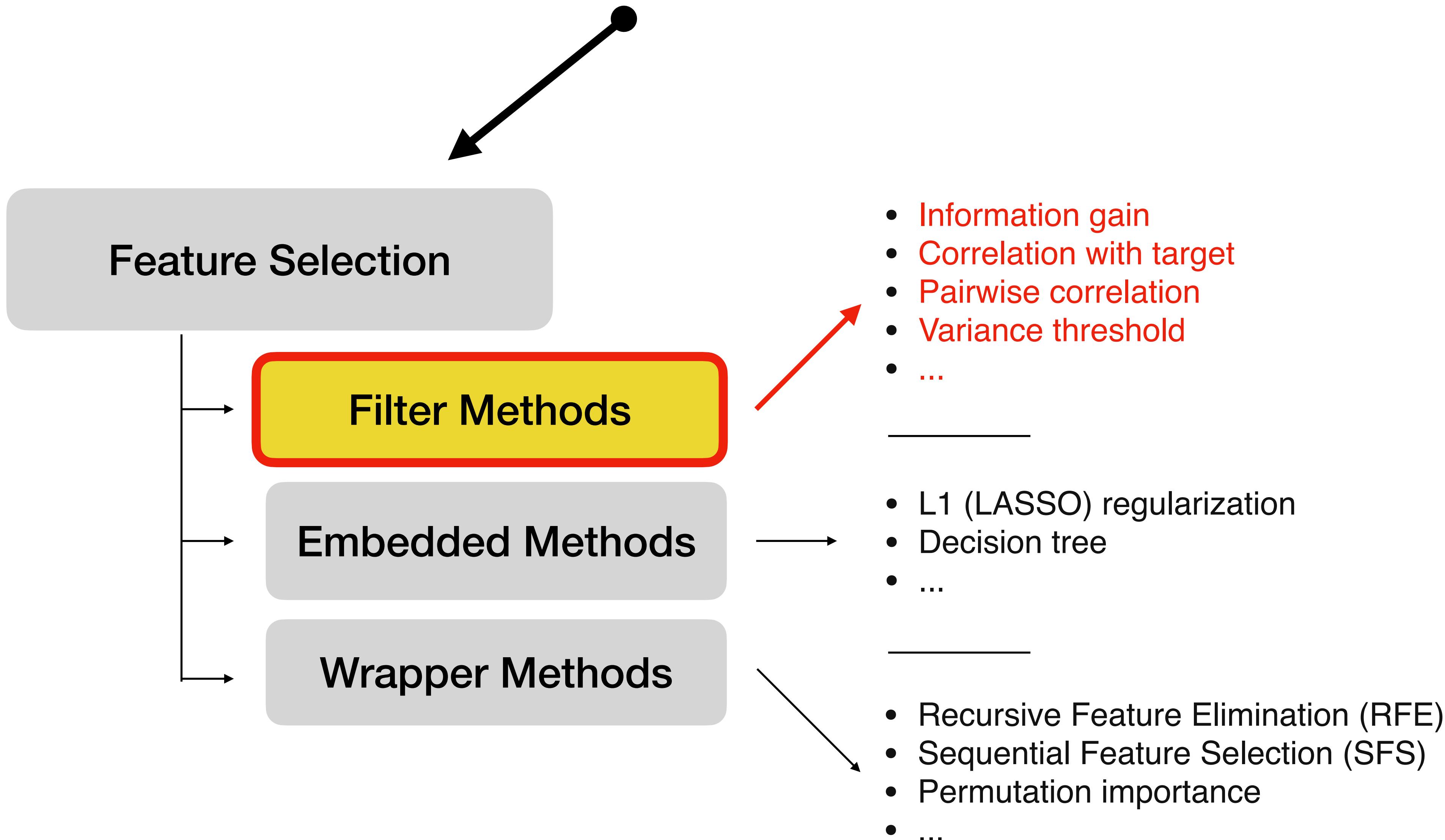
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# Dimensionality Reduction

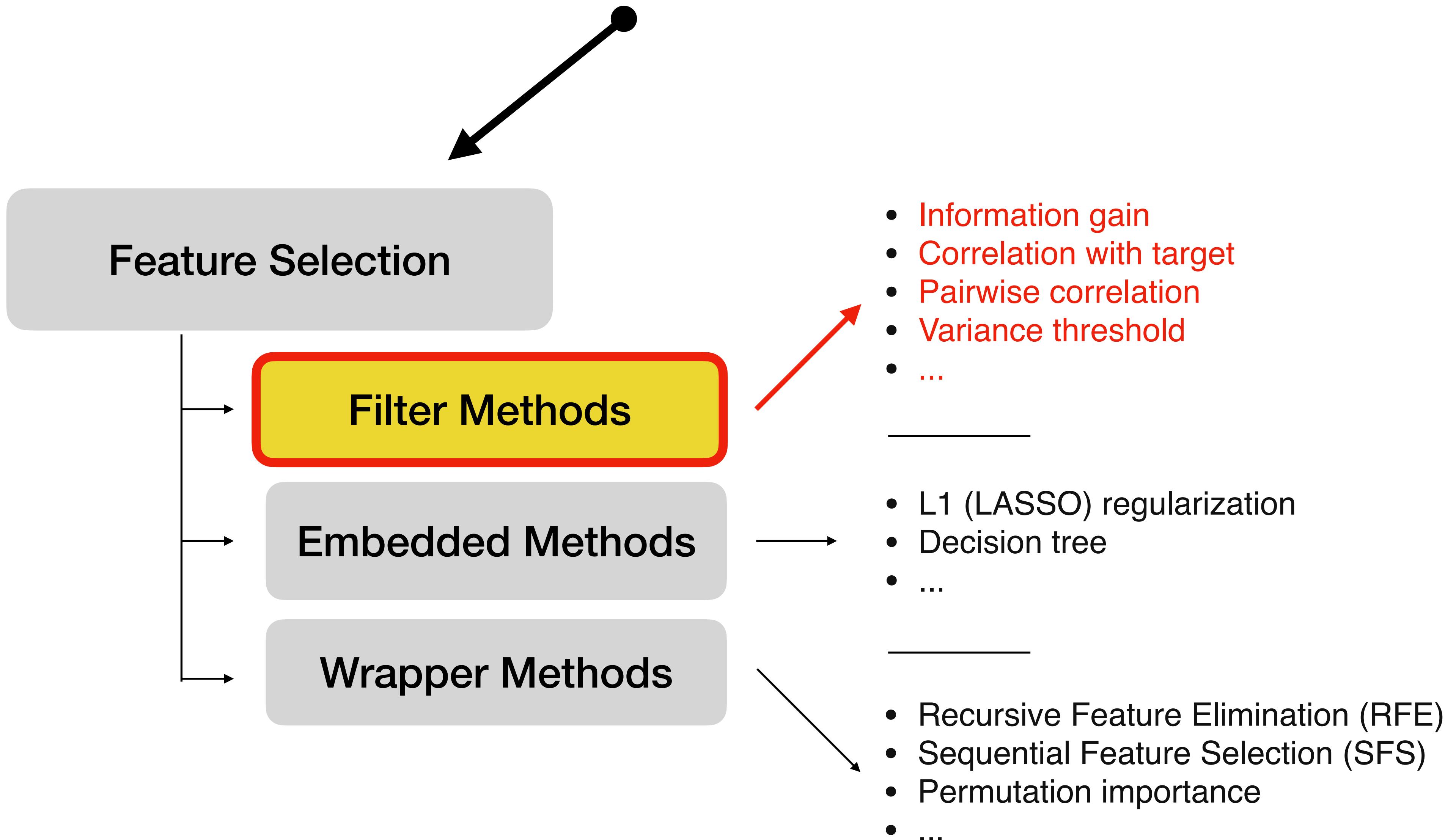


# Dimensionality Reduction



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# Dimensionality Reduction



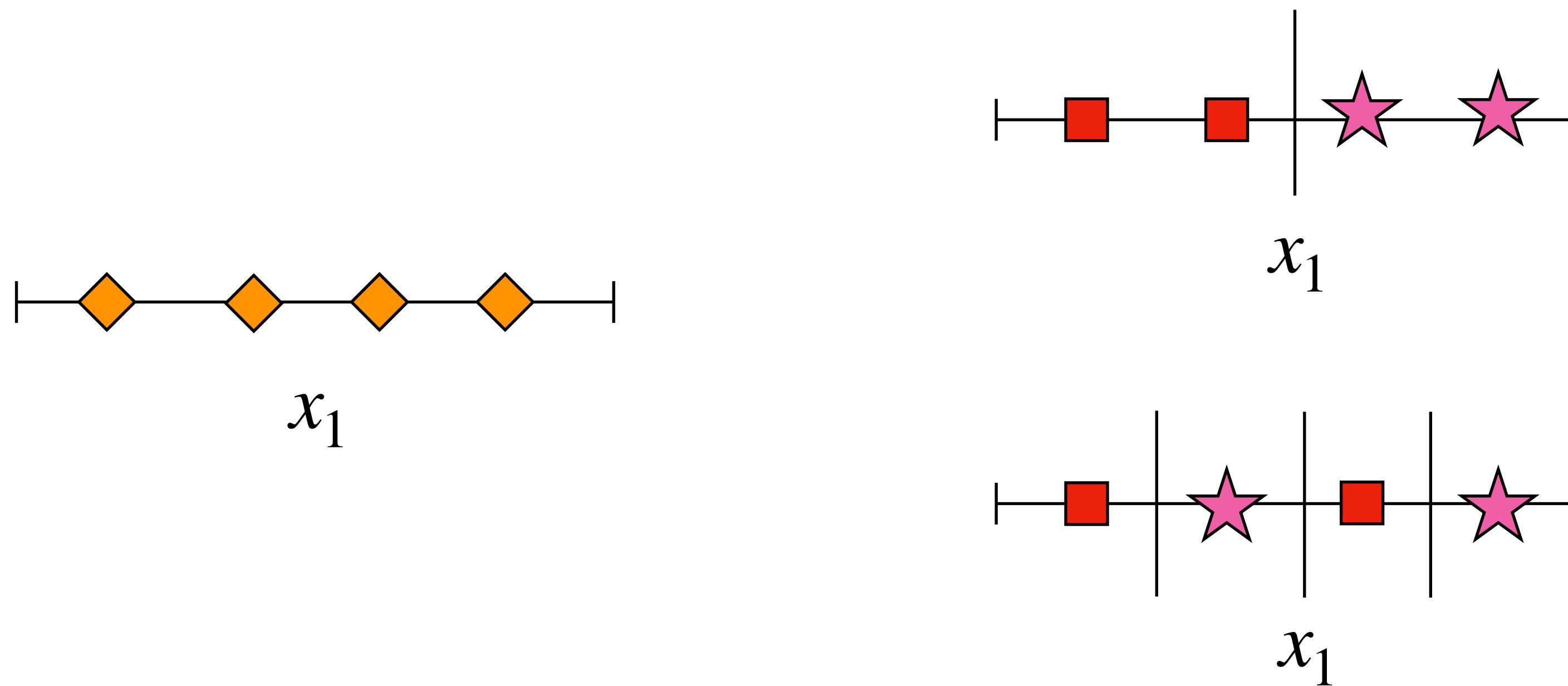
# Variance Threshold (Filter)

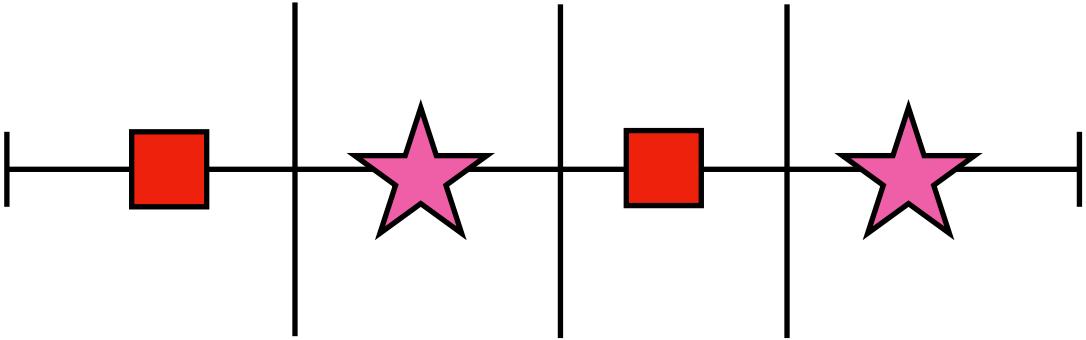
- Compute the variance of each feature
- Assume that features with a higher variance may contain more useful information



# Variance Threshold (Filter)

- Compute the variance of each feature
- Assume that features with a higher variance may contain more useful information




 $x_1$ 

```
import numpy as np
from sklearn.tree import DecisionTreeClassifier

X = np.array([[1.], [2.], [3.], [4.]])
y = np.array([0, 1, 0, 1])
```

```
tree = DecisionTreeClassifier(random_state=1)
tree.fit(X, y)
tree.score(X, y)
```

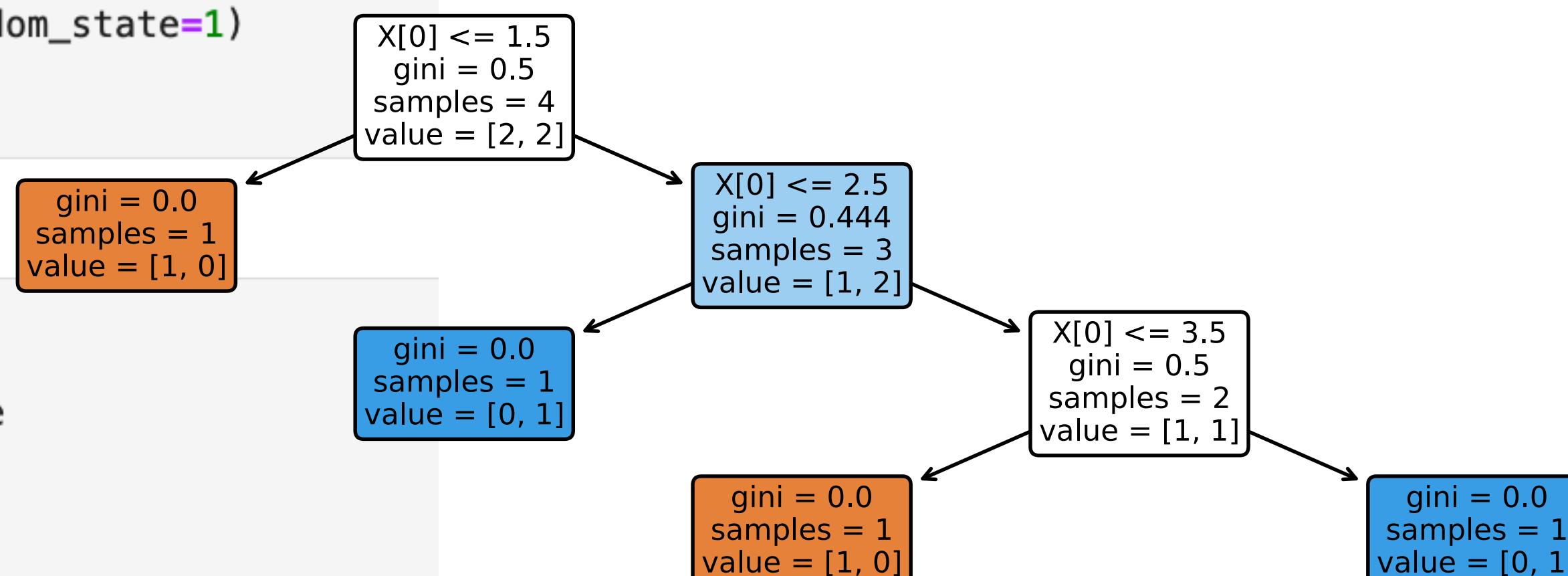
1.0

```
%matplotlib inline
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from sklearn.tree import plot_tree
```

```
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 3))
```

```
plot_tree(tree,
          filled=True,
          rounded=True)
```

```
plt.show()
```



# Variance

Variance of discrete random variable:

$$\text{Var}(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \cdot (x_i - \mu)^2$$

E.g., dataset with  $n$  datapoints (for sample variance,  $n-1$ )

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2$$

E.g., dataset with  $n$  datapoints (for sample variance,  $n-1$ )

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2$$

Variance of Bernoulli variable (Boolean feature, e.g., after one-hot encoding)

$$\text{Var}(X) = p(1 - p)$$

```
data_var = np.var(50*[0] + 50*[1]) # i.e., p = 0.5
data_var
```

0.25

```
0.5 * 0.5
```

0.25

# More Filter Methods

## sklearn.feature\_selection: Feature Selection

The `sklearn.feature_selection` module implements feature selection algorithms. It currently includes univariate filter selection methods and the recursive feature elimination algorithm.

**User guide:** See the [Feature selection](#) section for further details.

`feature_selection.GenericUnivariateSelect([...])` Univariate feature selector with configurable strategy.

`feature_selection.SelectPercentile([...])` Select features according to a percentile of the highest scores.

`feature_selection.VarianceThreshold([threshold])` Feature selector that removes all low-variance features.

`feature_selection.chi2(X, y)` Compute chi-squared stats between each non-negative feature and class.

`feature_selection.f_classif(X, y)` Compute the ANOVA F-value for the provided sample.

`feature_selection.f_regression(X, y, *[, center])` Univariate linear regression tests returning F-statistic and p-values.

`feature_selection.r_regression(X, y, *[, center])` Compute Pearson's r for each features and the target.

`feature_selection.mutual_info_classif(X, y, *)` Estimate mutual information for a discrete target variable.

`feature_selection.mutual_info_regression(X, y, *)` Estimate mutual information for a continuous target variable.

[https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/classes.html?highlight=feature%20selection#module-sklearn.feature\\_selection](https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/classes.html?highlight=feature%20selection#module-sklearn.feature_selection)

**VarianceThreshold**       $0.8 \times (1 - 0.8) = 0.16$

```
from sklearn.preprocessing import OneHotEncoder

X = [['blue'], ['green'], ['blue'], ['blue'], ['green'], ['red'], ['blue'], ['green']]
y = [0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0]

enc = OneHotEncoder(drop='first')
enc.fit(X)
X_ohe = enc.transform(X)
X_ohe.toarray()

array([[0., 0.],
       [1., 0.],
       [0., 0.],
       [0., 0.],
       [1., 0.],
       [0., 1.],
       [0., 0.],
       [1., 0.]])
```

```
from sklearn.feature_selection import VarianceThreshold

sel = VarianceThreshold(threshold=.8 * (1 - .8))

sel.fit(X_ohe)
sel.transform(X_ohe).toarray()

array([[0.],
       [1.],
       [0.],
       [0.],
       [1.],
       [0.],
       [0.],
       [1.]])
```

# Be aware of feature scaling!

E.g., dataset with  $n$  datapoints (for sample variance,  $n-1$ )

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2$$

```
np.random.seed(123)  
  
data = np.random.random_sample(100)  
np.var(data)
```

0.06021177568505576

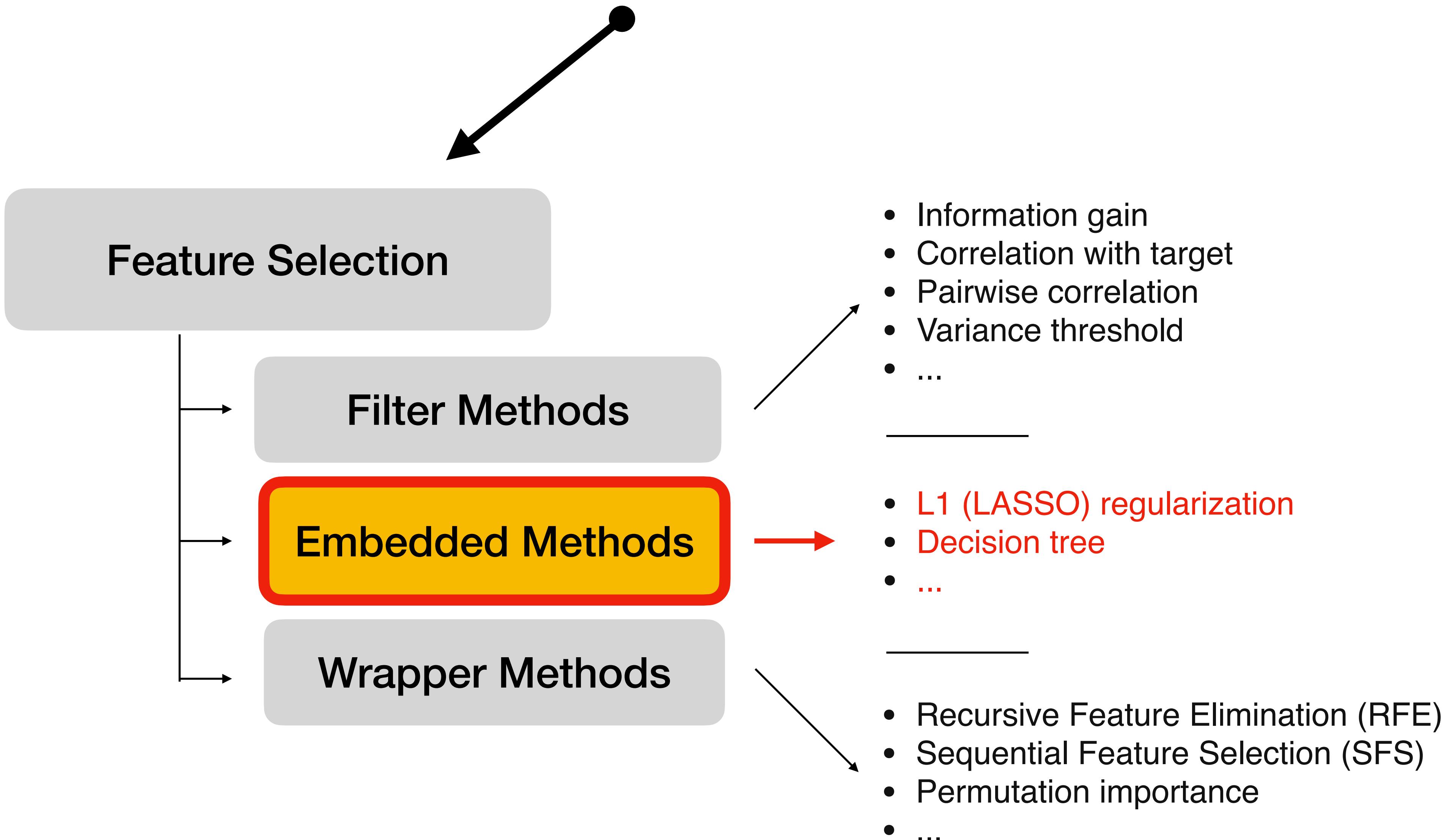
```
np.var(data*10)
```

6.021177568505576

# Variance Threshold (Filter)

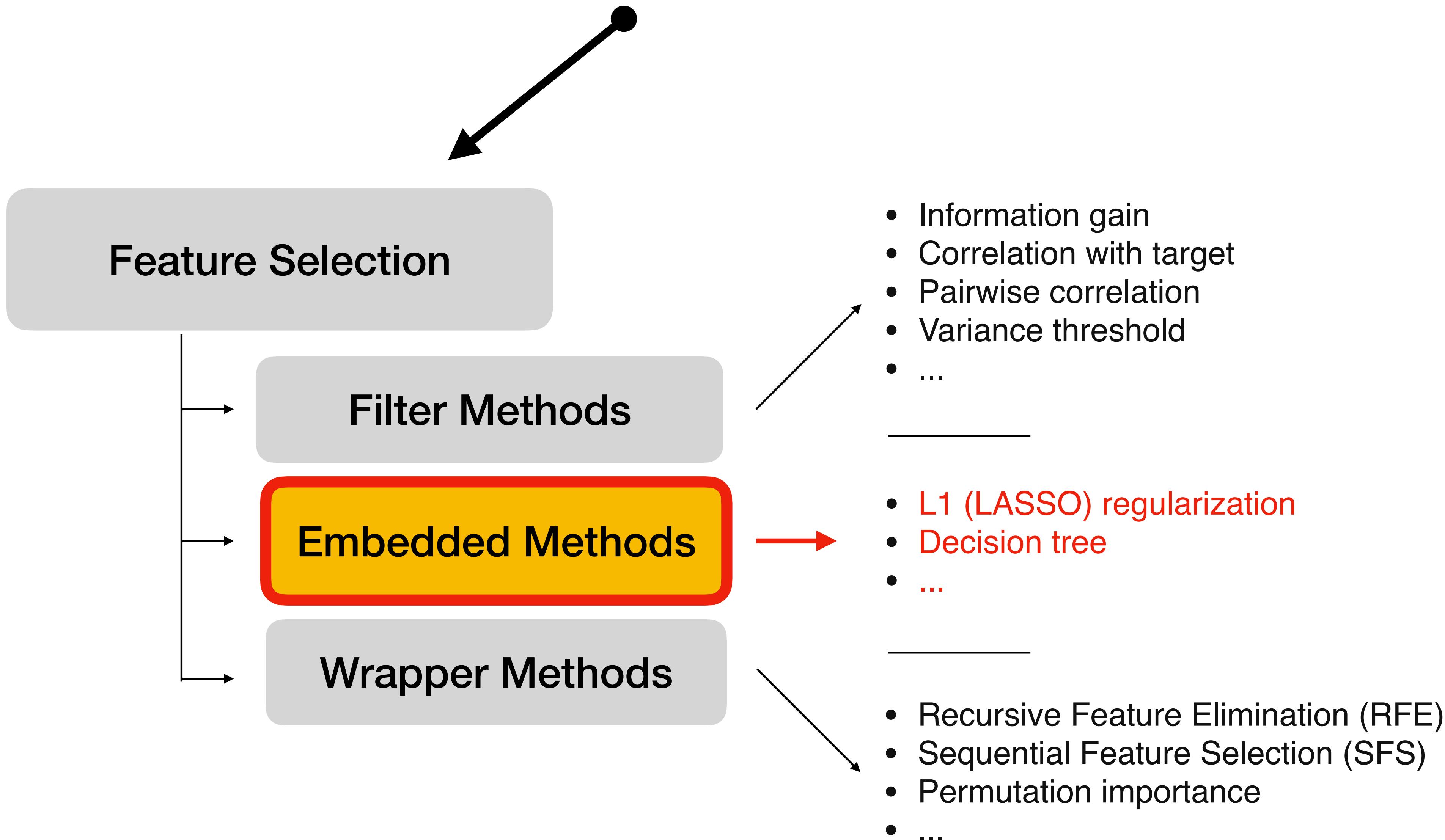
- Compute the variance of each feature
- Assume that features with a higher variance may contain more useful information
- Select the subset of features based on a user-specified threshold ("keep if greater or equal to  $x$ " or "keep the top  $k$  features with largest variance")
- **Good:** fast!
- **Bad:** does not take the relationship among features into account

# Dimensionality Reduction

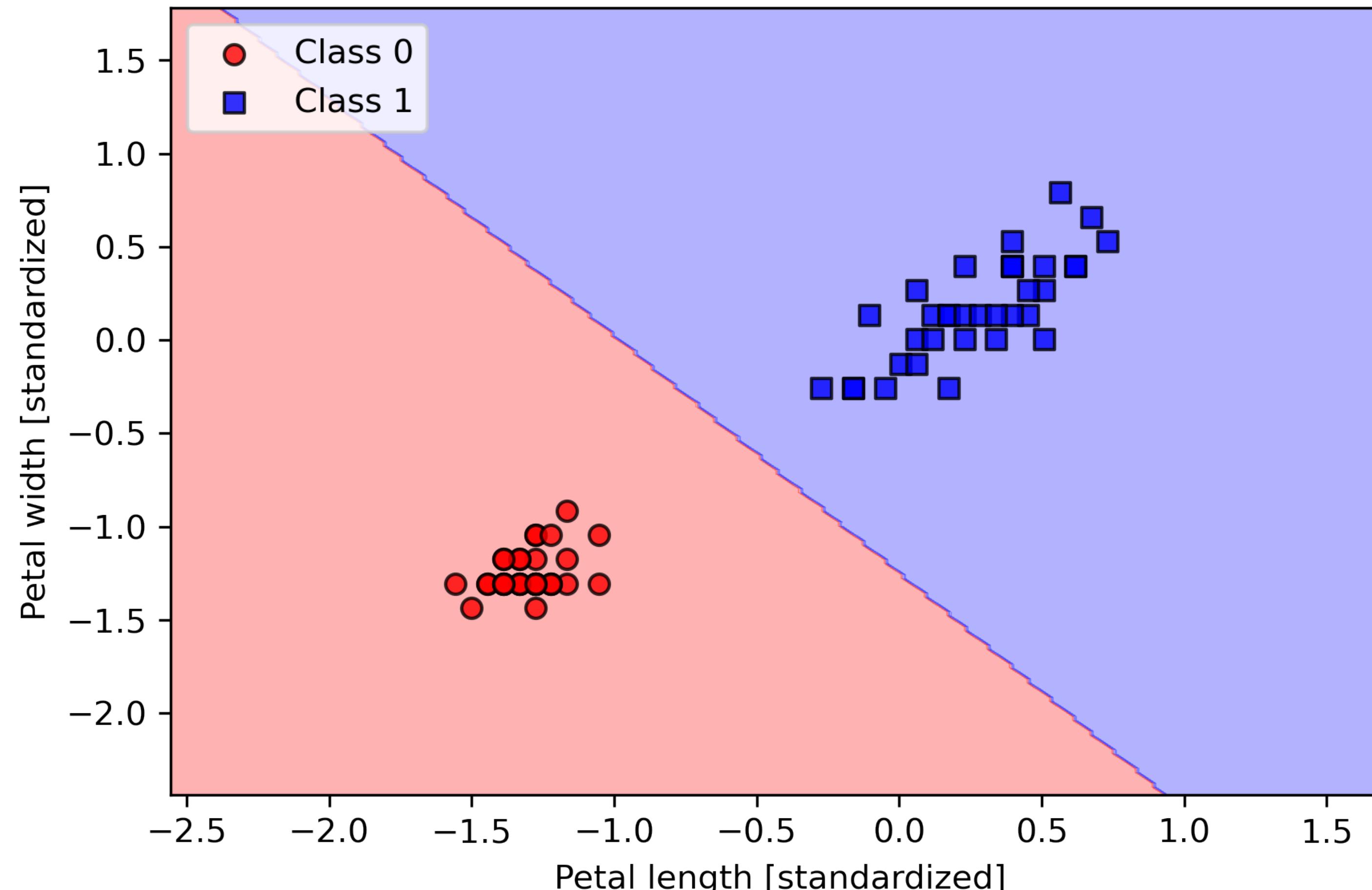


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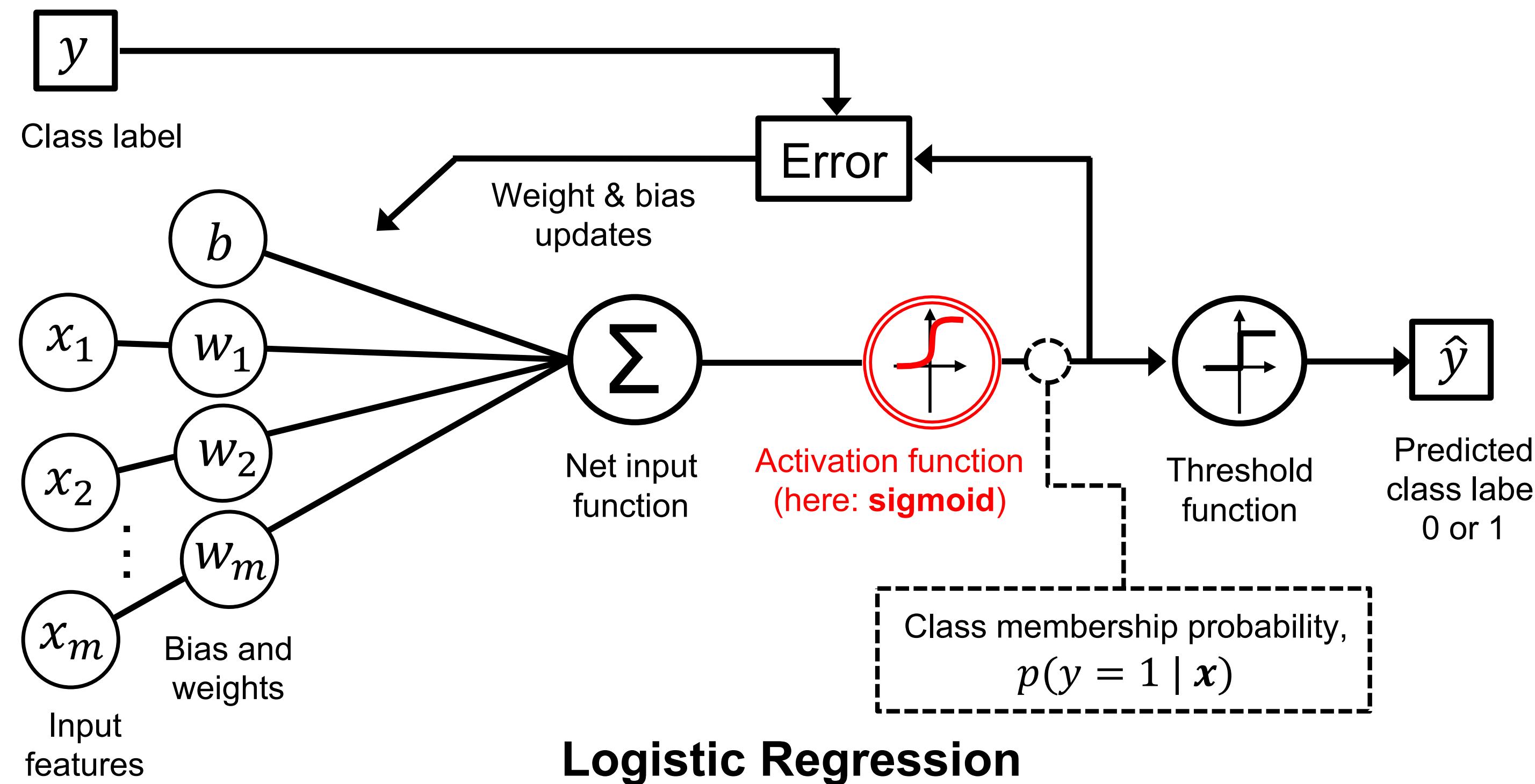
# Dimensionality Reduction



# Logistic Regression



# Logistic Regression



Source: Raschka, Liu, and Mirjalili. *Machine Learning with PyTorch and Scikit-Learn*, Ch 3

# Logistic Regression Hyperparameters

Regular loss function to minimize during training

$$L(\mathbf{w}, b \mid \mathbf{x}) = - \sum_{i=1} y^{(i)} \log \left( \sigma(z^{(i)}) \right) + (1 - y^{(i)}) \log \left( 1 - \sigma(z^{(i)}) \right)$$

L1 Norm /  
LASSO (Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator)

**L1 norm:**  $\lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_1 = \lambda \sum_{j=1}^m |w_j|$

# L1 Regularization / LASSO (Embedded)

Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator

L1 penalty against complexity

$$\lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_1 = \lambda \sum_{j=1}^m |w_j|$$

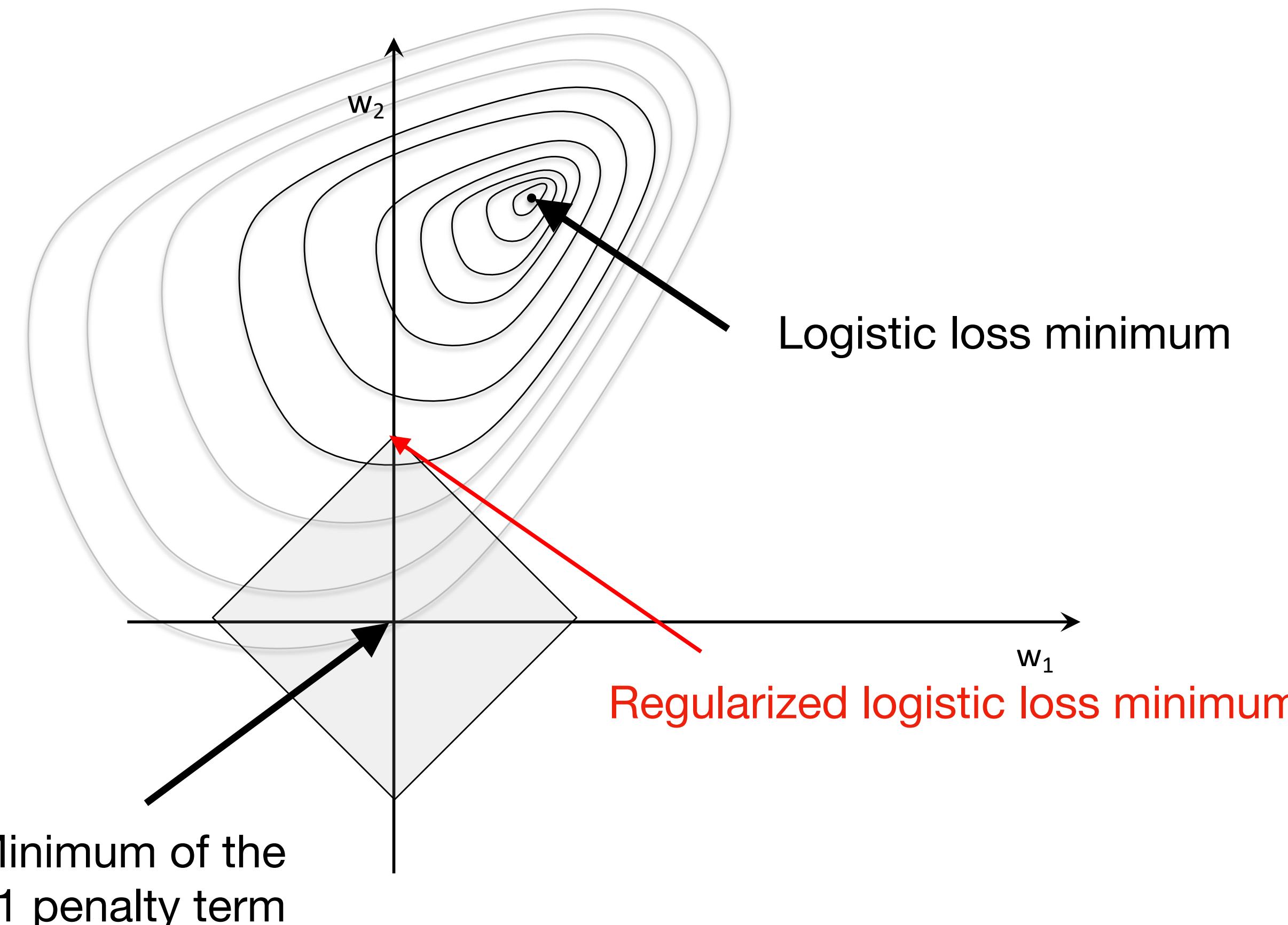
hyperparameter

L1-penalized loss

$$L_{L1}(\mathbf{w}, b \mid \mathbf{x}) = - \sum_{i=1} \left[ y^{(i)} \log \left( \sigma(z^{(i)}) \right) + (1 - y^{(i)}) \log \left( 1 - \sigma(z^{(i)}) \right) \right] + \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_1$$

# L1 Regularization / LASSO (Embedded)

## Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator



For more details, see Tibshirani, Ryan, and L. Wasserman. "A closer look at sparse regression." *Lecture notes* (2016).

# L1 Regularization / LASSO (Embedded)

## Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator

### Wine Dataset

<https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/machine-learning-databases/wine/wine.data>

'Class label' 'Alcohol' 'Malic acid' 'Ash' 'Alcalinity of ash' 'Magnesium' 'Total phenols' 'Flavanoids' 'Nonflavanoid phenols' 'Proanthocyanins' 'Color intensity' 'Hue' 'OD280/OD310' 'Proline' 'Red wine' 'White wine'

```
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split

X, y = df_wine.iloc[:, 1:].values, df_wine.iloc[:, 0].values

X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test =\
    train_test_split(X, y,
                      test_size=0.3,
                      random_state=0,
                      stratify=y)
```

```
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler

sc = StandardScaler()
X_train_std = sc.fit_transform(X_train)
X_test_std = sc.transform(X_test)
```

```
from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression

lr = LogisticRegression(penalty='l1', C=1.0, solver='liblinear', multi_class='ovr')
# Note that C=1.0 is the default. You can increase
# or decrease it to make the regularization effect
# stronger or weaker, respectively.
lr.fit(X_train_std, y_train)
print('Training accuracy:', lr.score(X_train_std, y_train))
print('Test accuracy:', lr.score(X_test_std, y_test))
```

```
Training accuracy: 1.0
Test accuracy: 1.0
```

```
lr.intercept_
```

```
array([-1.26363107, -1.21610924, -2.37035486])
```

```
np.set_printoptions(8)
```

```
lr.coef_[lr.coef_!=0].shape
```

```
(23,)
```

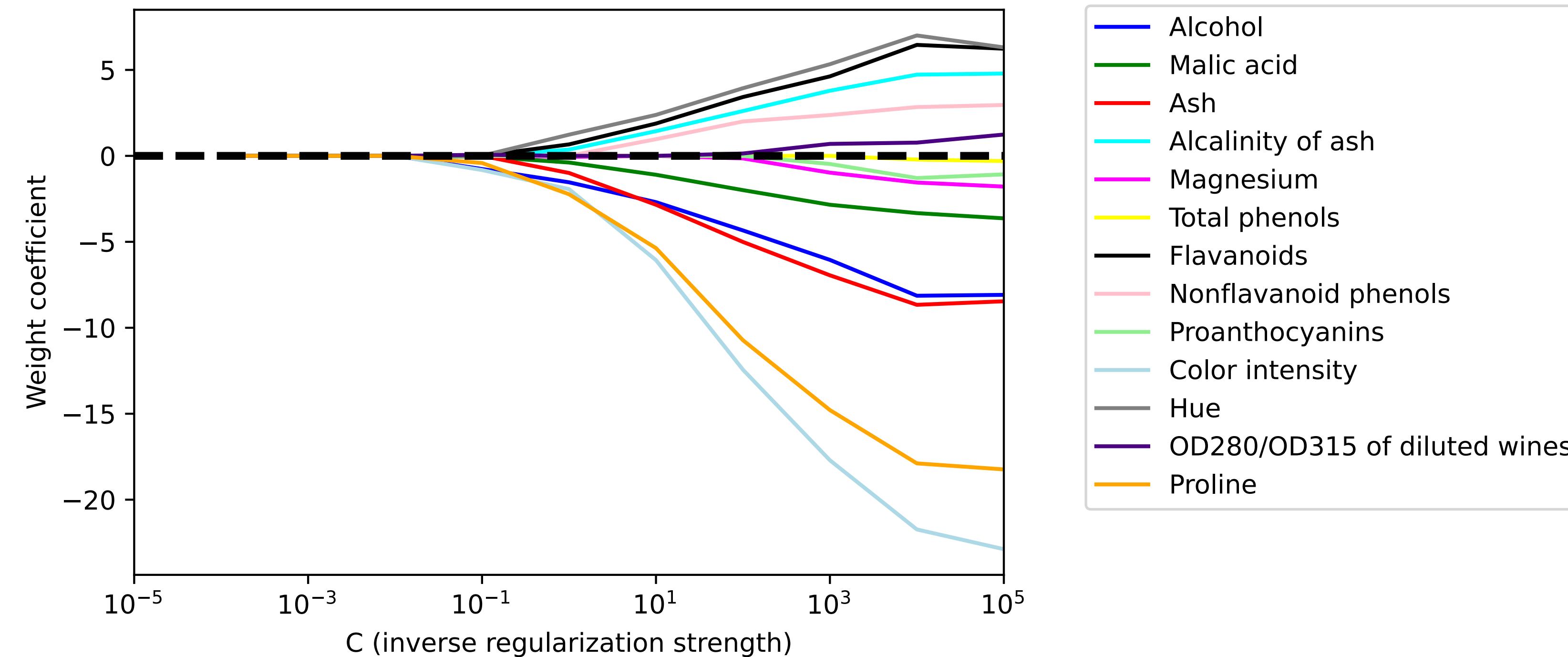
```
lr.coef_
```

```
array([[ 1.2455466 ,  0.18072432,  0.74213192, -1.15948629,  0.        ,
         0.        ,  1.17434899,  0.        ,  0.        ,  0.        ,
         0.        ,  0.54353185,  2.51127873],
       [-1.53786975, -0.38667962, -0.9954337 ,  0.36456123, -0.05923747,
        0.        ,  0.66763266,  0.        ,  0.        , -1.93321837,
        1.23529768,  0.        , -2.23229101],
       [ 0.13570425,  0.16821283,  0.35724291,  0.        ,  0.        ,
        0.        , -2.43809231,  0.        ,  0.        ,  1.56377541,
       -0.81940109, -0.49234846,  0.        ]])
```

# L1 Regularization / LASSO (Embedded)

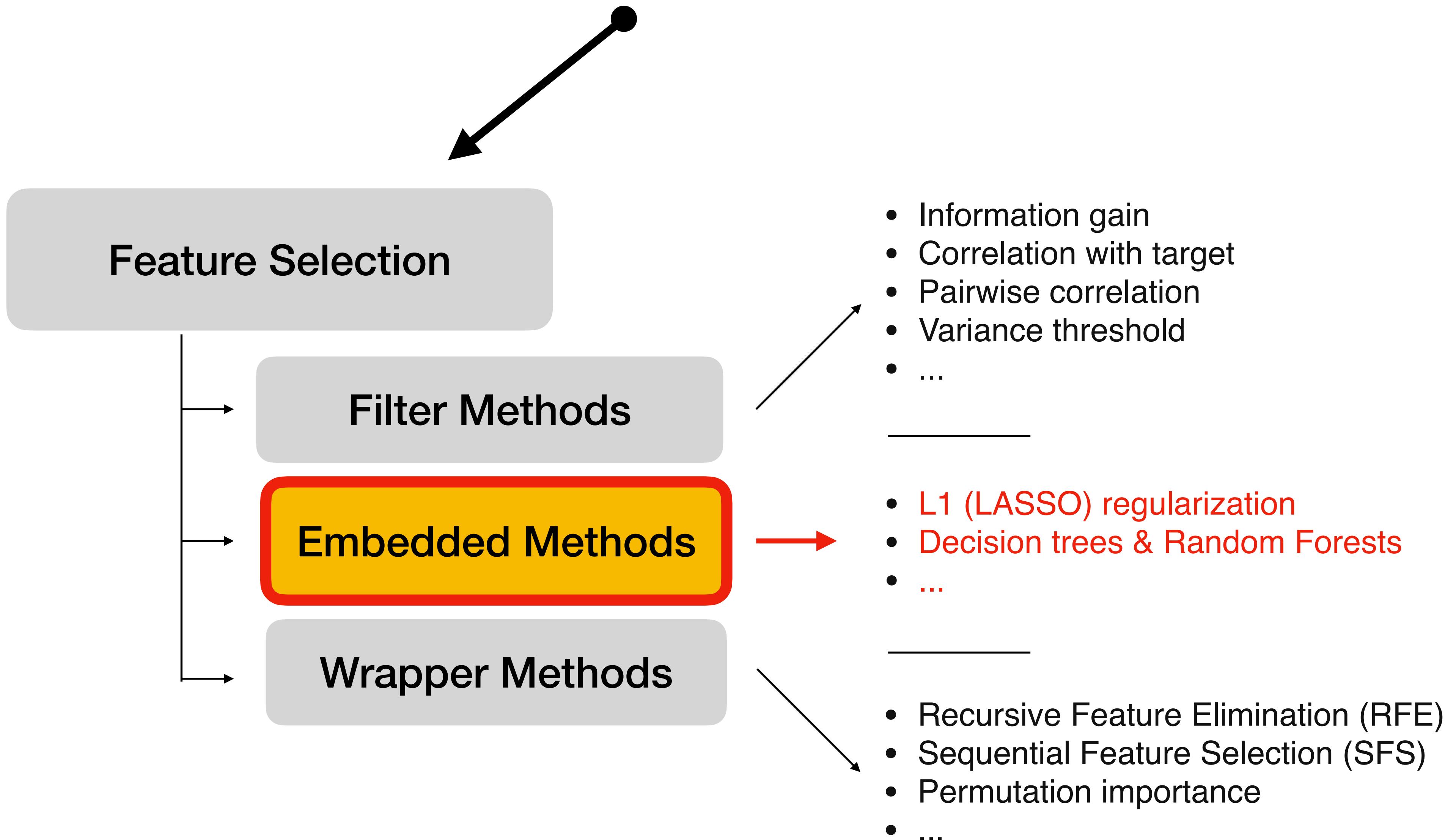
## Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator

### LASSO Path

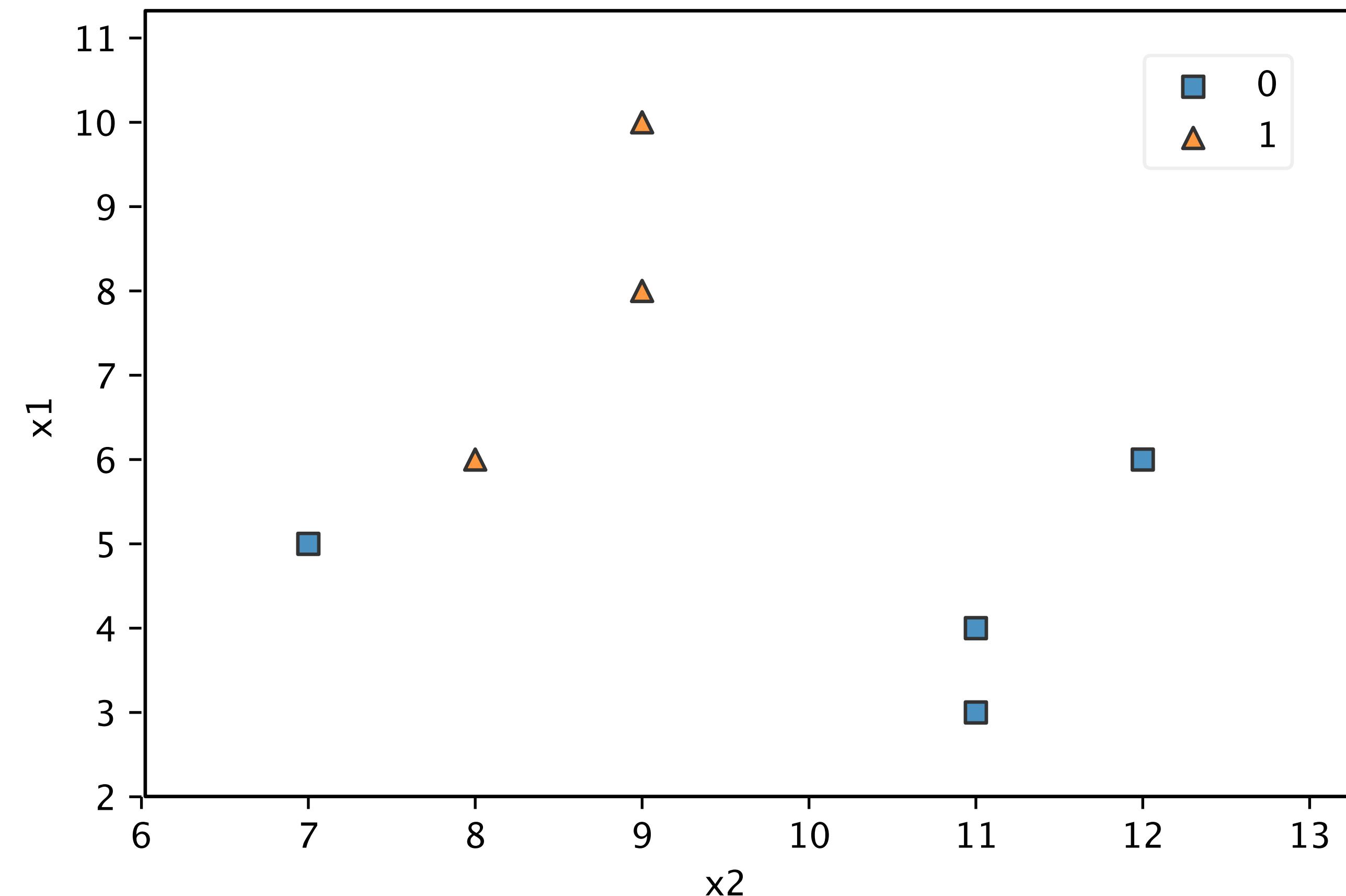


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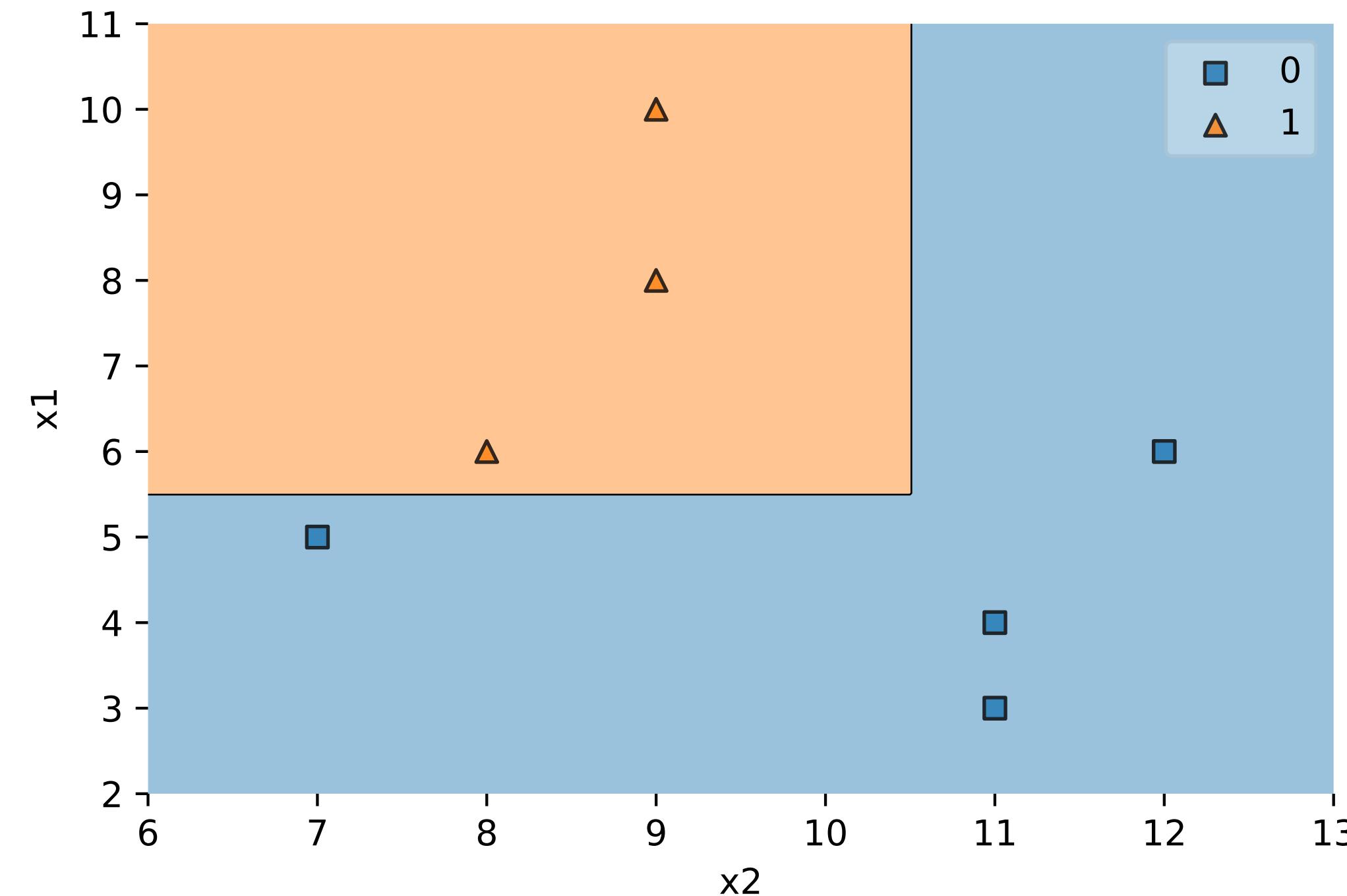
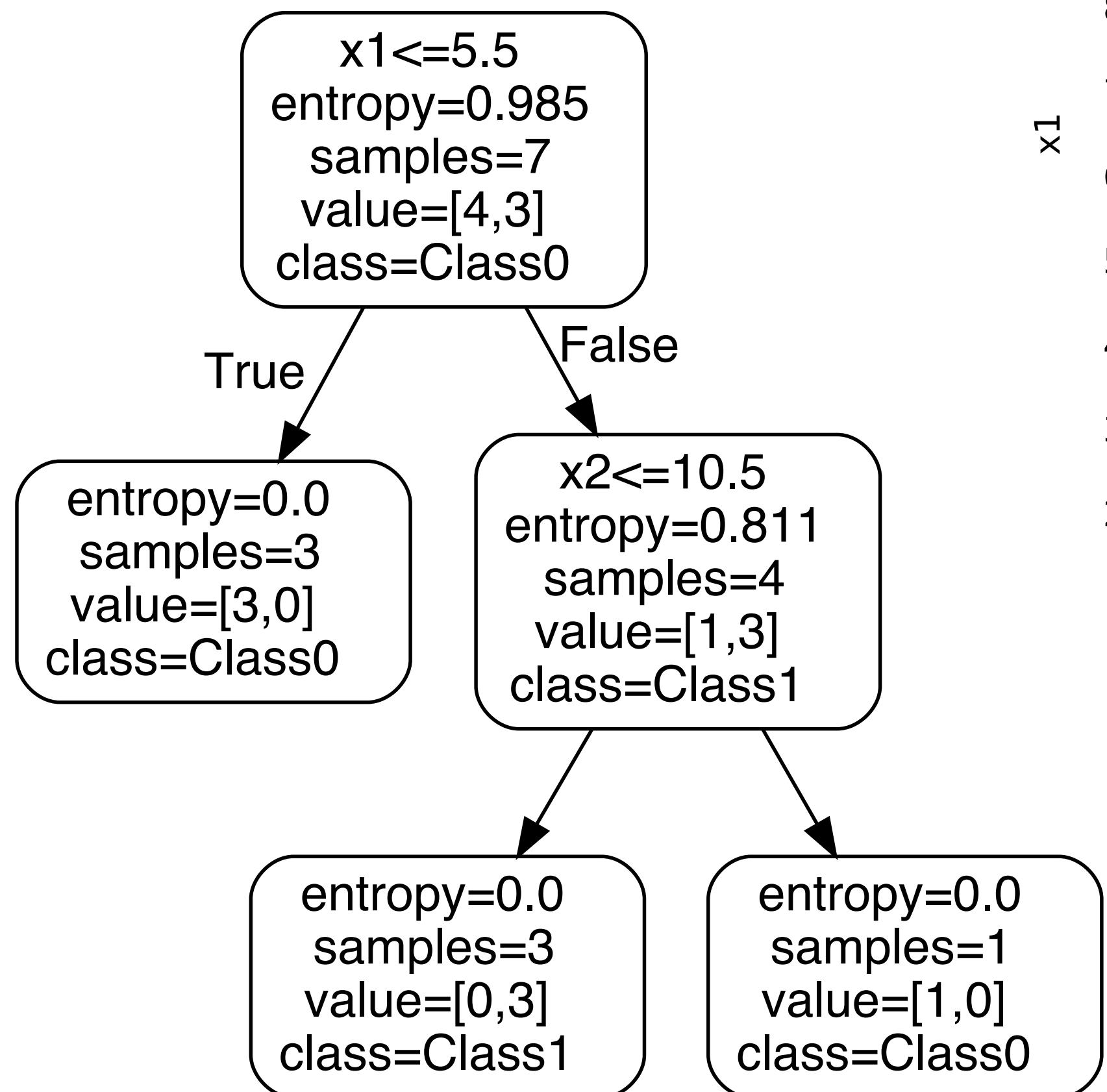
# Dimensionality Reduction



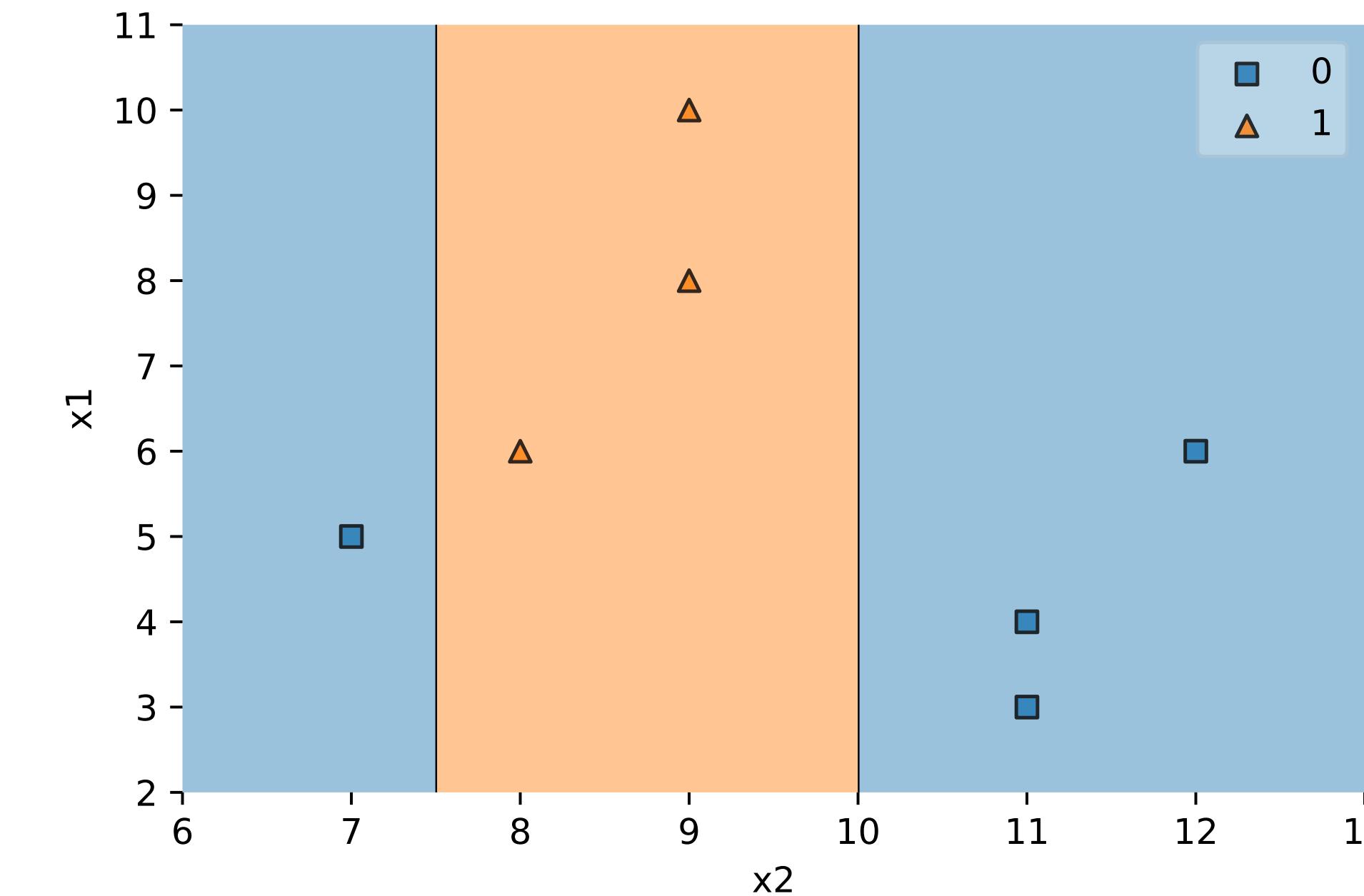
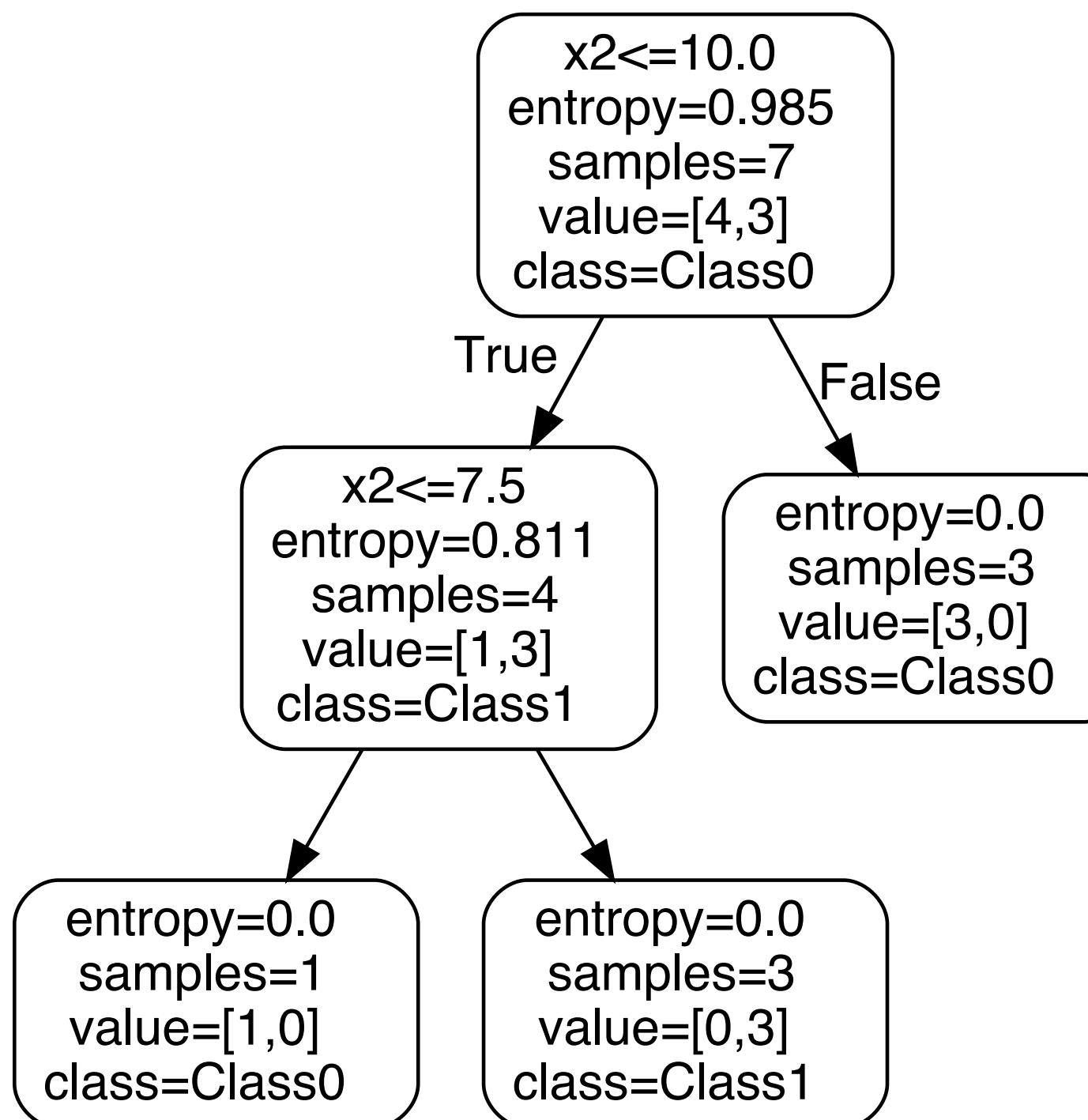
# Feature Selection in Decision Trees (1)



# Feature Selection in Decision Trees (2)



# Feature Selection in Decision Trees (3)



```

import pandas as pd
import numpy as np

df_wine = pd.read_csv('https://archive.ics.uci.edu/'
                      'ml/machine-learning-databases/wine/wine.data',
                      header=None)

df_wine.columns = ['Class label', 'Alcohol', 'Malic acid', 'Ash',
                   'Alcalinity of ash', 'Magnesium', 'Total phenols',
                   'Flavanoids', 'Nonflavanoid phenols', 'Proanthocyanins',
                   'Color intensity', 'Hue', 'OD280/OD315 of diluted wines',
                   'Proline']

print('Class labels', np.unique(df_wine['Class label']))
df_wine.head()

```

Class labels [1 2 3]

	Class label	Alcohol	Malic acid	Ash	Alcalinity of ash	Magnesium	Total phenols	Flavanoids	Nonflavanoid phenols	Proanthocyanins	Color intensity	Hue	OD280/OD315 of diluted wines	Proline
0	1	14.23	1.71	2.43	15.6	127	2.80	3.06	0.28	2.29	5.64	1.04	3.92	1065
1	1	13.20	1.78	2.14	11.2	100	2.65	2.76	0.26	1.28	4.38	1.05	3.40	1050
2	1	13.16	2.36	2.67	18.6	101	2.80	3.24	0.30	2.81	5.68	1.03	3.17	1185
3	1	14.37	1.95	2.50	16.8	113	3.85	3.49	0.24	2.18	7.80	0.86	3.45	1480
4	1	13.24	2.59	2.87	21.0	118	2.80	2.69	0.39	1.82	4.32	1.04	2.93	735

```

from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier

forest = RandomForestClassifier(n_estimators=500,
                                random_state=1)

forest.fit(X_train, y_train)
importances = forest.feature_importances_

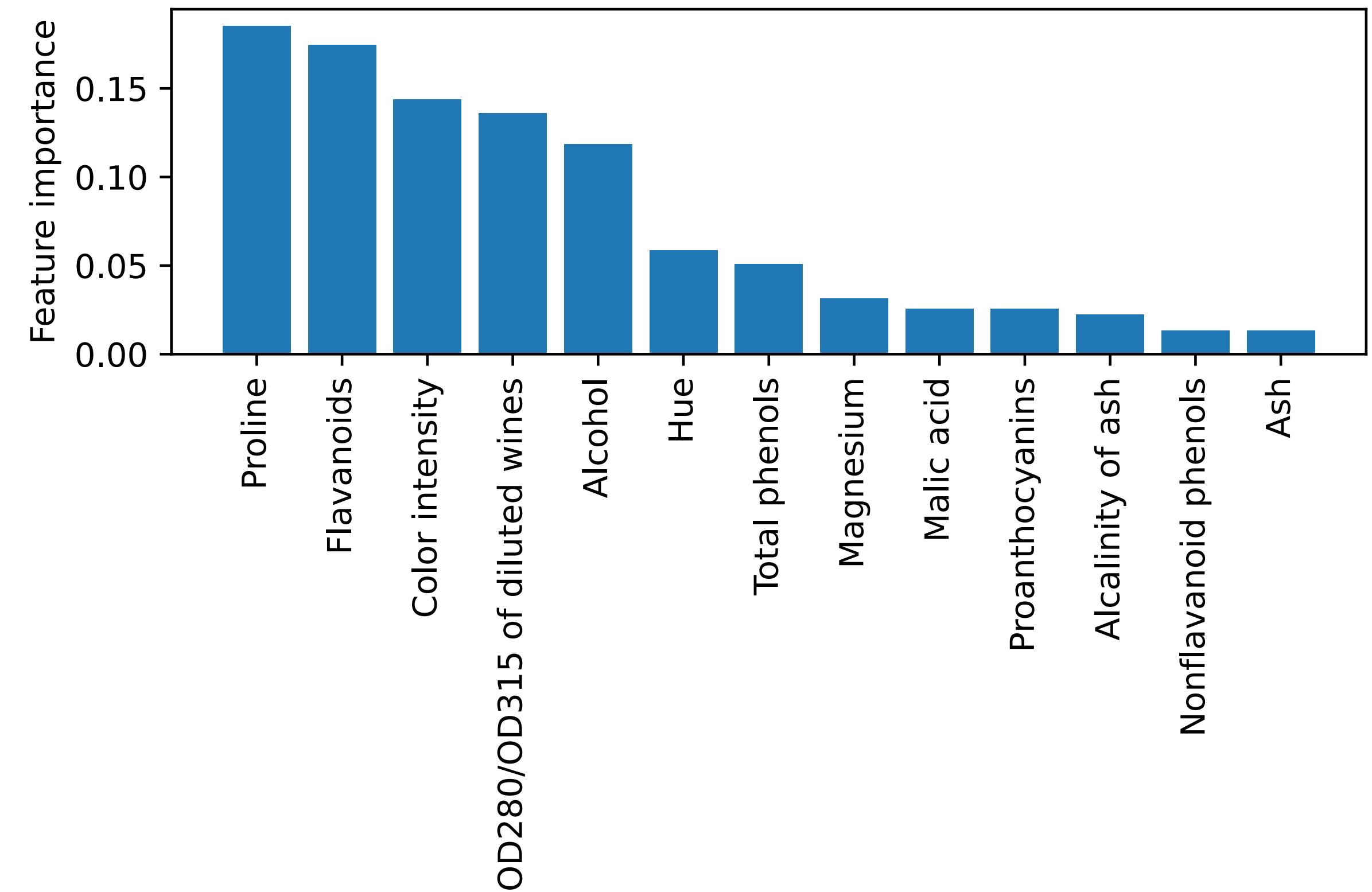
indices = np.argsort(importances)[::-1]

plt.ylabel('Feature importance')
plt.bar(range(X_train.shape[1]),
        importances[indices],
        align='center')

feat_labels = df_wine.columns[1:]
plt.xticks(range(X_train.shape[1]),
           feat_labels[indices], rotation=90)

plt.xlim([-1, X_train.shape[1]])

```



## `forest.estimators_`

```
[DecisionTreeClassifier(max_features='auto', random_state=1791095845),  
 DecisionTreeClassifier(max_features='auto', random_state=2135392491),  
 DecisionTreeClassifier(max_features='auto', random_state=946286476),  
 DecisionTreeClassifier(max_features='auto', random_state=1857819720),  
 DecisionTreeClassifier(max_features='auto', random_state=491263),  
 DecisionTreeClassifier(max_features='auto', random_state=550290313),  
 DecisionTreeClassifier(max_features='auto', random_state=1298508491),  
 DecisionTreeClassifier(max_features='auto', random_state=2143362693),  
 DecisionTreeClassifier(max_features='auto', random_state=630311759),  
 DecisionTreeClassifier(max_features='auto', random_state=1013994432),  
 DecisionTreeClassifier(max_features='auto', random_state=396591248),  
 DecisionTreeClassifier(max_features='auto', random_state=1703301249)]
```

### `max_features : {"auto", "sqrt", "log2"}, int or float, default="auto"`

The number of features to consider when looking for the best split:

- If int, then consider `max_features` features at each split.
- If float, then `max_features` is a fraction and `round(max_features * n_features)` features are considered at each split.
- If "auto", then `max_features=sqrt(n_features)`.
- If "sqrt", then `max_features=sqrt(n_features)` (same as "auto").
- If "log2", then `max_features=log2(n_features)`.
- If None, then `max_features=n_features`.

# Random Forest Feature Importance

## Method A: Impurity-based feature importance

(this is used in scikit-learn)

Usually measured as follows:

- for a given feature
  - for each tree
    - compute impurity decrease (Gini, Entropy)
    - weight by number of examples at that node
    - averaged over all trees
  - normalize importances so that sum of feature importances sum to 1

# Random Forest Feature Importance

## Caveats

- Impurity-based feature importance are inflated for categorical features with lots of unique values (we will cover permutation-based performance later, which addresses this)
- Correlated features share importance

# Bootstrap Sampling



# Random Forest Feature Importance

## Method B: Permutation Importance

### Out-of-bag accuracy:

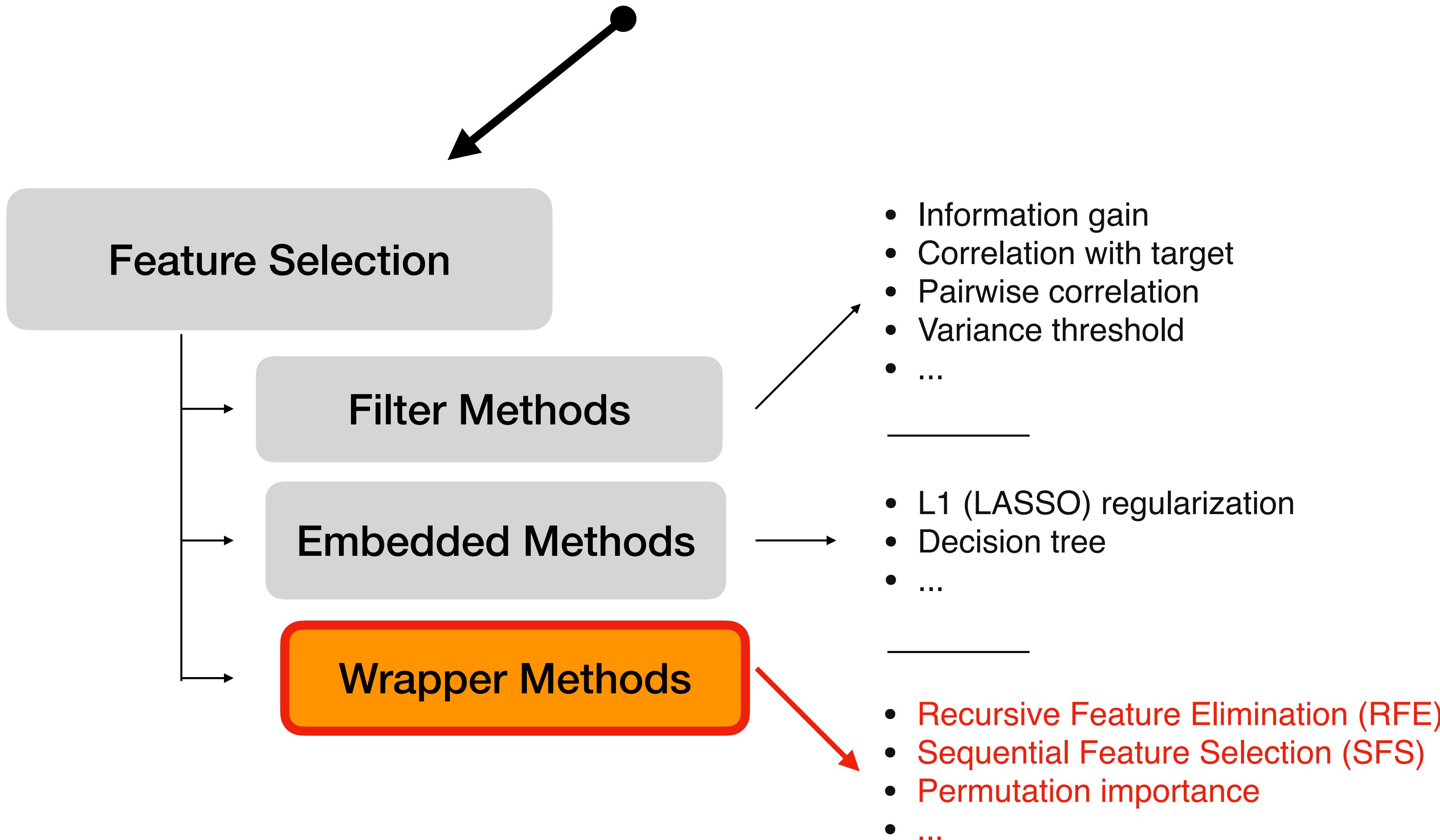
- During training, for each tree, make prediction for OOB sample (~1/3 of the training data)
- Based on those predictions where example  $i$  was OOB, compute label via majority vote among the trees that did not use example  $i$  during model fitting
- The proportion over all examples where the prediction (by majority vote) is correct is the OOB accuracy estimate

### Out-of-bag feature importance via permutation:

(we will also cover a generalized version with a hold out set later)

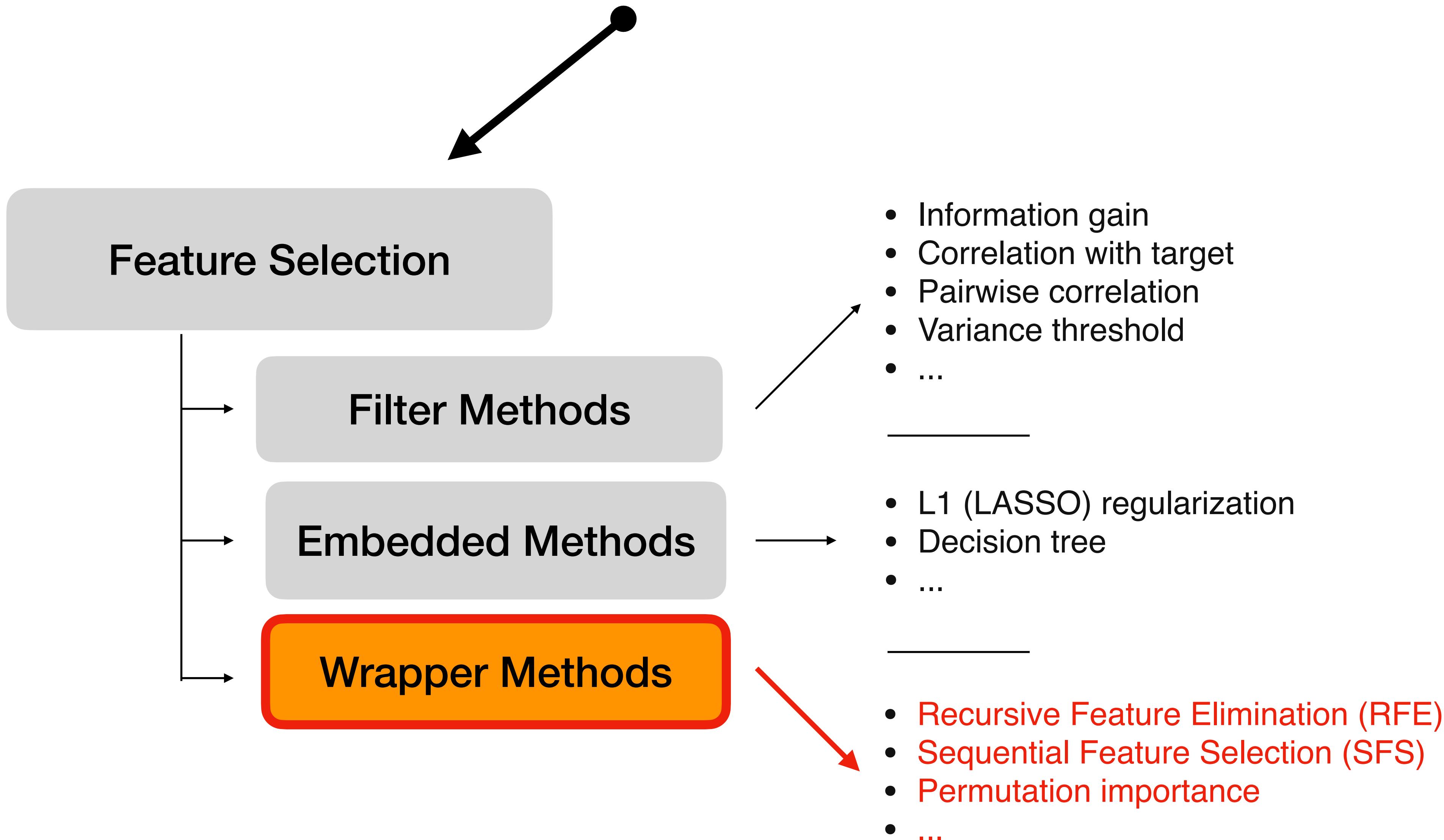
- Count votes for correct class
- Given feature  $i$ , permute this feature in OOB examples of a tree
- Compute the number of correct votes after permutation from the number of votes before permutation for given tree
- Repeat for all trees in the random forest and average the importance
- Repeat for other features

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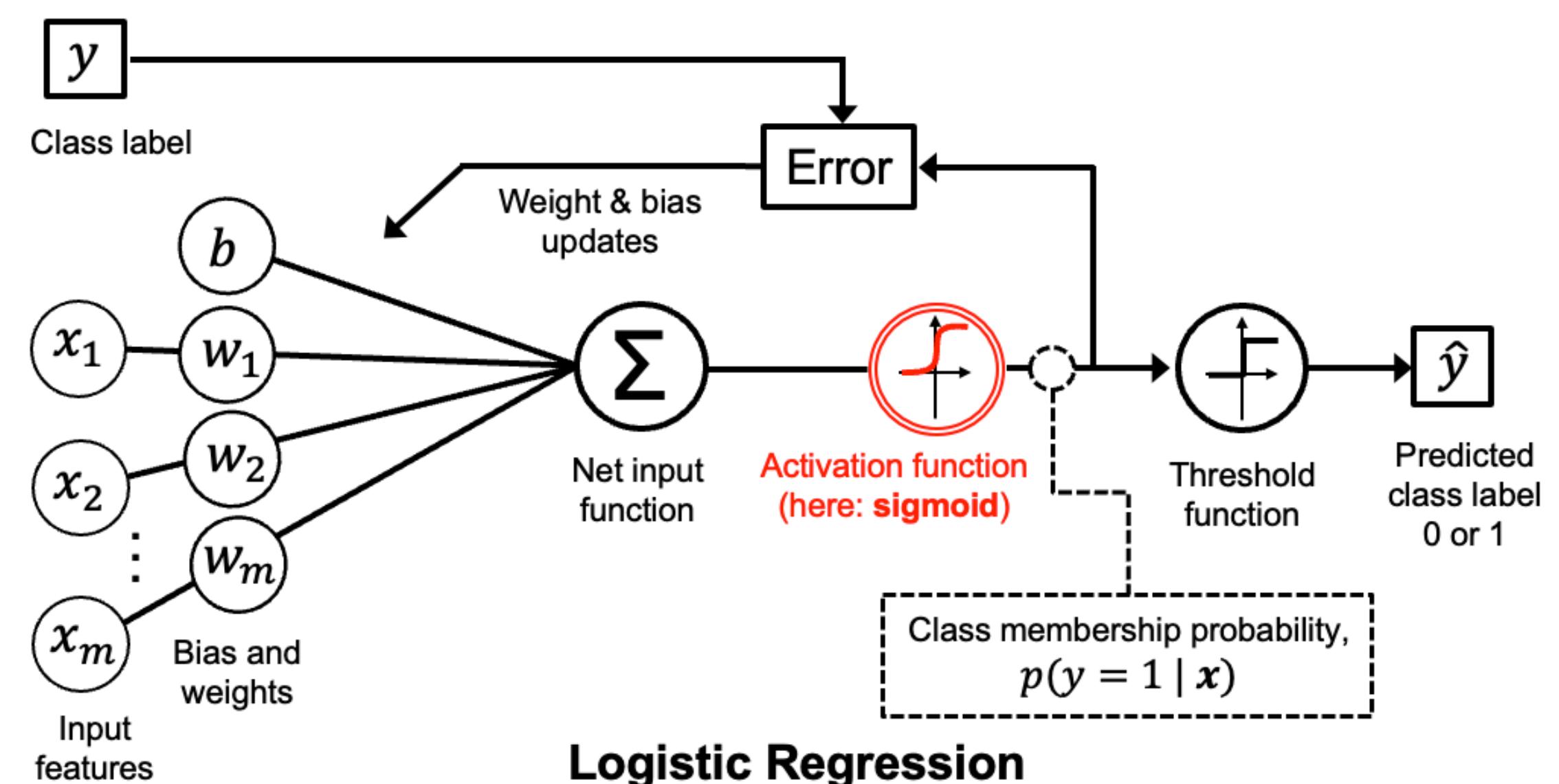
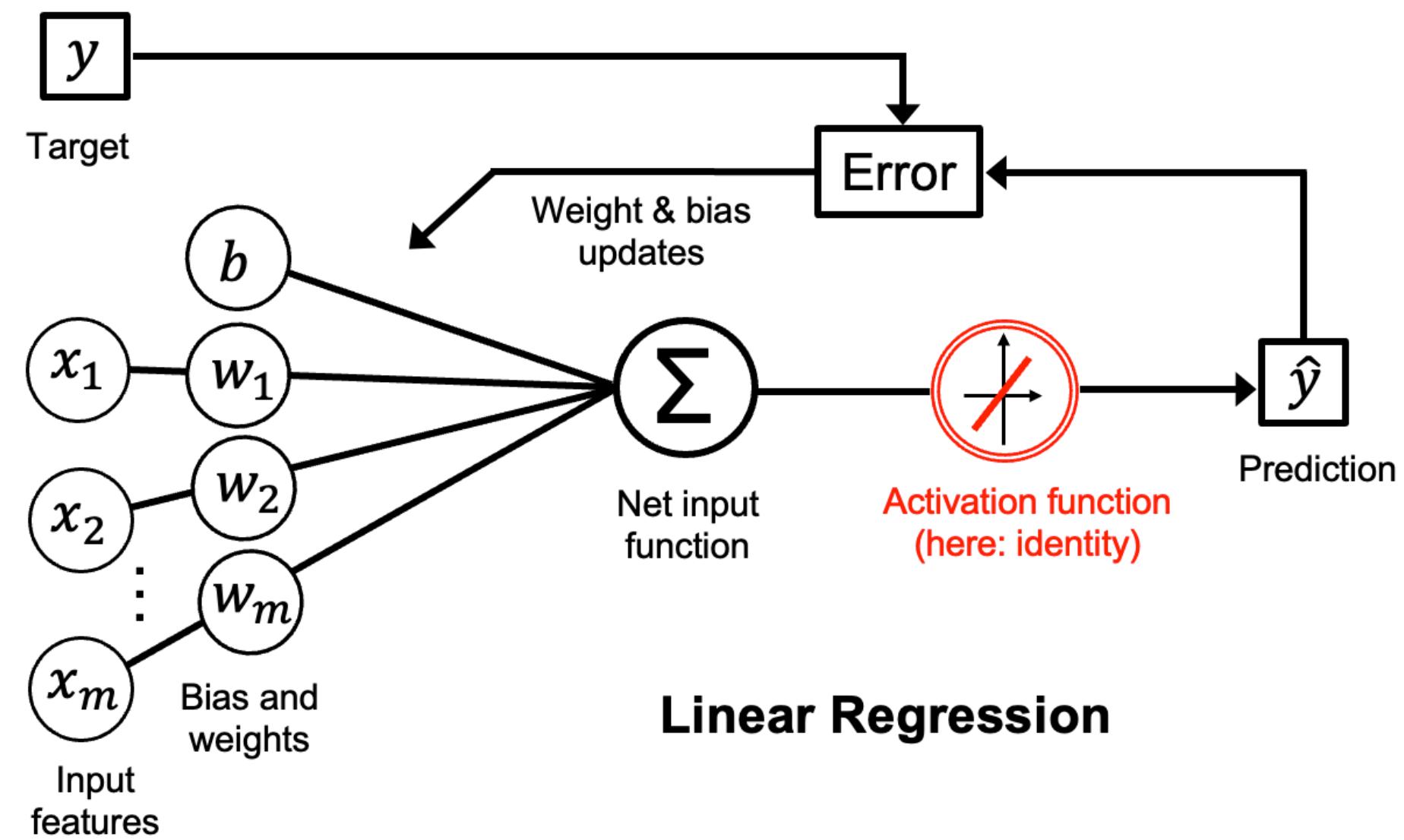


# Recursive Feature Elimination (Wrapper)

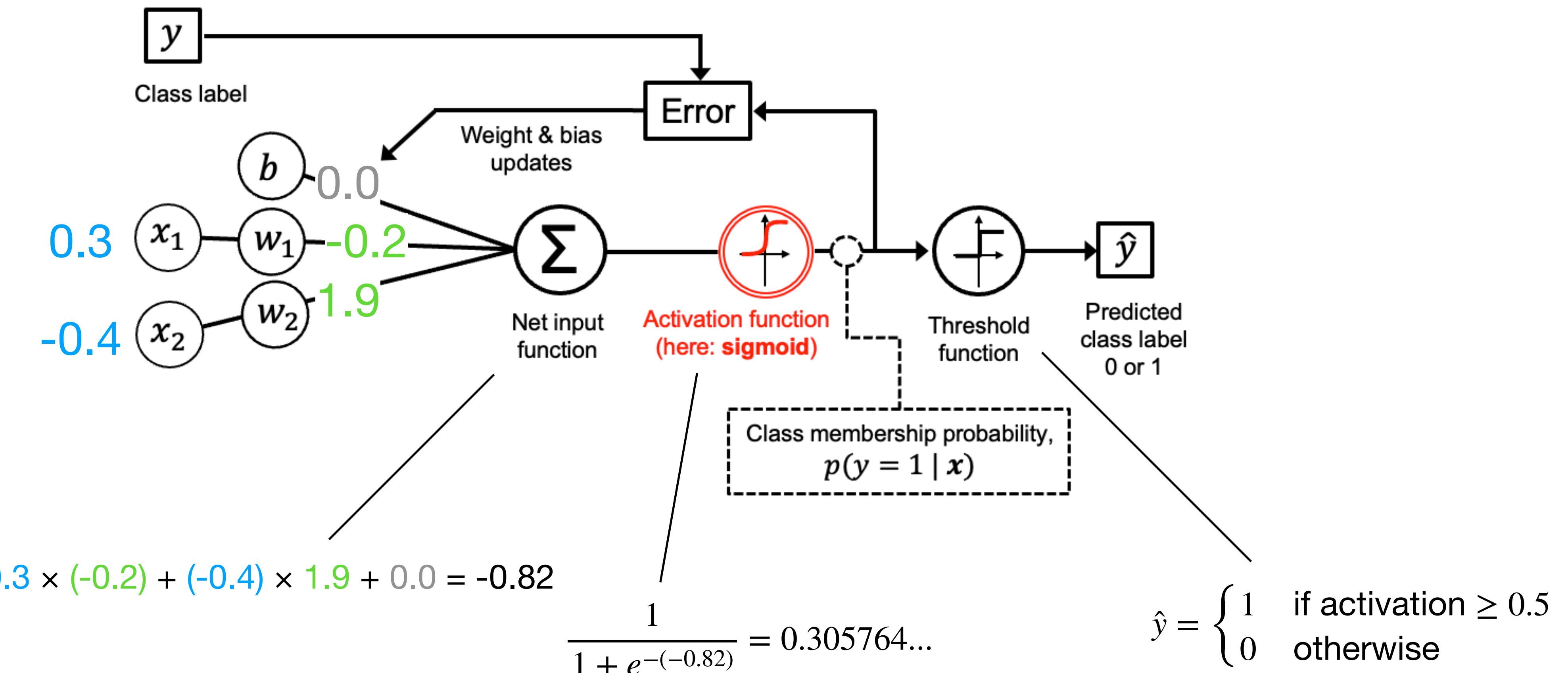
**Consider a (generalized) linear model (like linear or logistic regression):**

1. Fit model to dataset
2. Eliminate feature with the smallest coefficient ("most unimportant")
3. Repeat steps 1-2 until desired number of features is reached

\



# Logistic Regression



# RFE Code example (1)

## Dataset Preparation

```
[3]: import pandas as pd
import numpy as np

df_wine = pd.read_csv('https://archive.ics.uci.edu/'
                      'ml/machine-learning-databases/wine/wine.data',
                      header=None)

df_wine.columns = ['Class label', 'Alcohol', 'Malic acid', 'Ash',
                   'Alcalinity of ash', 'Magnesium', 'Total phenols',
                   'Flavanoids', 'Nonflavanoid phenols', 'Proanthocyanins',
                   'Color intensity', 'Hue', 'OD280/OD315 of diluted wines',
                   'Proline']

print('Class labels', np.unique(df_wine['Class label']))
df_wine.head()
```

Class labels [1 2 3]

	Class label	Alcohol	Malic acid	Ash	Alcalinity of ash	Magnesium	Total phenols	Flavanoids	Nonflavanoid phenols	Proanthocyanins	Color intensity	Hue	OD280/OD315 of diluted wines	Proline
0	1	14.23	1.71	2.43	15.6	127	2.80	3.06	0.28	2.29	5.64	1.04	3.92	1065
1	1	13.20	1.78	2.14	11.2	100	2.65	2.76	0.26	1.28	4.38	1.05	3.40	1050
2	1	13.16	2.36	2.67	18.6	101	2.80	3.24	0.30	2.81	5.68	1.03	3.17	1185
3	1	14.37	1.95	2.50	16.8	113	3.85	3.49	0.24	2.18	7.80	0.86	3.45	1480
4	1	13.24	2.59	2.87	21.0	118	2.80	2.69	0.39	1.82	4.32	1.04	2.93	735

# RFE Code example (2)

```
[4]: from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split  
  
X, y = df_wine.iloc[:, 1:].values, df_wine.iloc[:, 0].values  
  
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test =\  
    train_test_split(X, y,  
                      test_size=0.3,  
                      random_state=0,  
                      stratify=y)
```

```
[5]: from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler  
  
sc = StandardScaler()  
X_train_std = sc.fit_transform(X_train)  
X_test_std = sc.transform(X_test)
```

# RFE Code example (3)

## Recursive Feature Selection

```
[6]: from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
      from sklearn.feature_selection import RFE

      lr = LogisticRegression(solver='liblinear', random_state=123)

      rfe = RFE(estimator=lr, n_features_to_select=5, step=1)
      rfe.fit(X_train_std, y_train)

      X_train_sub = rfe.transform(X_train_std)
```

## Which features are selected?

```
[7]: rfe.support_
[7]: array([ True, False, False, False, False,  False,  True, False, False,
       True,  True, False,  True])
[8]: df_wine.columns[1:][rfe.support_]
[8]: Index(['Alcohol', 'Flavanoids', 'Color intensity', 'Hue', 'Proline'], dtype='object')
```

# RFE Code example (4)

- RFE as Part of a Pipeline

```
[9]: from sklearn.model_selection import GridSearchCV
from sklearn.neighbors import KNeighborsClassifier
from sklearn.pipeline import make_pipeline

pipe = make_pipeline(RFE(estimator=lr, step=1),
                     KNeighborsClassifier())

parameters = {'rfe_n_features_to_select': range(1, 13),
              'kneighborsclassifier_n_neighbors': range(1, 10) }

grid = GridSearchCV(pipe, param_grid=parameters, cv=10, n_jobs=-1)
grid.fit(X_train_std, y_train)

print('Best params:', grid.best_params_)
print('Best accuracy:', grid.best_score_)
```

```
Best params: {'kneighborsclassifier_n_neighbors': 3, 'rfe_n_features_to_select': 5}
Best accuracy: 0.9916666666666666
```

```
[10]: # Reduced feature set from grid search

grid.best_estimator_.score(X_test_std, y_test)
```

```
[10]: 1.0
```

```
[11]: # Full feature set for reference

knn = KNeighborsClassifier(n_neighbors=3)
knn.fit(X_train_std, y_train)
knn.score(X_test_std, y_test)
```

```
[11]: 0.9629629629629629
```

# RFE with other models

## sklearn.feature\_selection.RFE ¶

```
class sklearn.feature_selection.RFE(estimator, *, n_features_to_select=None, step=1, verbose=0,  
importance_getter='auto')
```

[source]

**Parameters:** **estimator** : *Estimator instance*

A supervised learning estimator with a `fit` method that provides information about feature importance (e.g. `coef_`, `feature_importances_`).

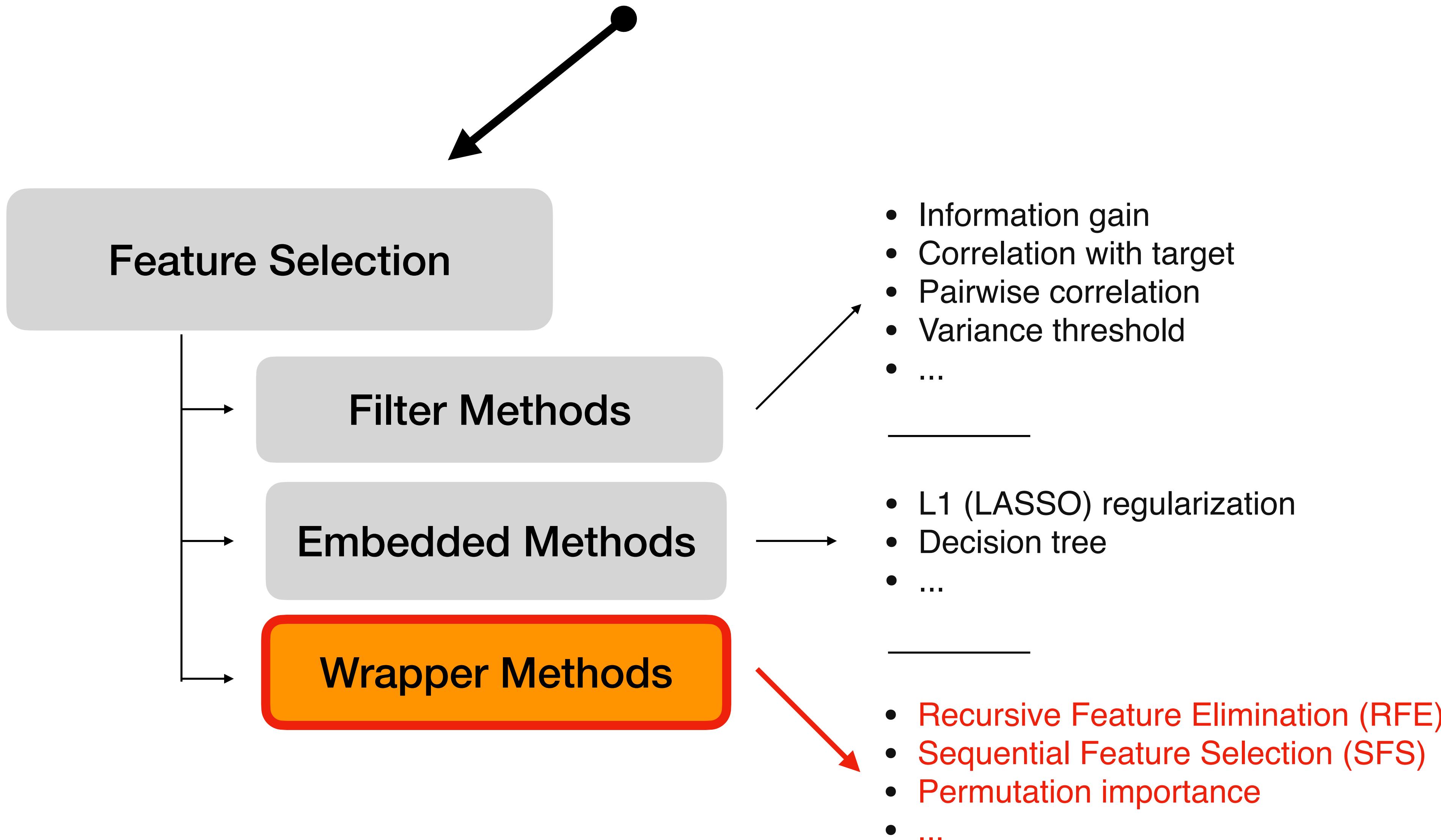
[https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.feature\\_selection.RFE.html](https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.feature_selection.RFE.html)

# Recursive Feature Elimination Pros and Cons

- (+) Can explicitly select number of features
- (+) Not super expensive (if linear model is used)
- (+) Takes feature interaction into account
  
- (-) Assumes linear separability (if linear model is used)
- (-) Does not optimize performance metric directly
- (-) Needs search method to find good number of features

1. Different categories of feature selection
2. Filter methods
3. Embedded methods
  - 3.1. L1-regularized logistic regression
  - 3.2. Random forest feature importance
4. Wrapper methods
  - 4.1. Recursive feature elimination
  - 4.2. Permutation importance**
  - 4.3. Permutation importance code example
  - 4.4. Sequential feature selection
  - 4.5. Sequential feature selection code example

# Dimensionality Reduction



# Permutation Importance

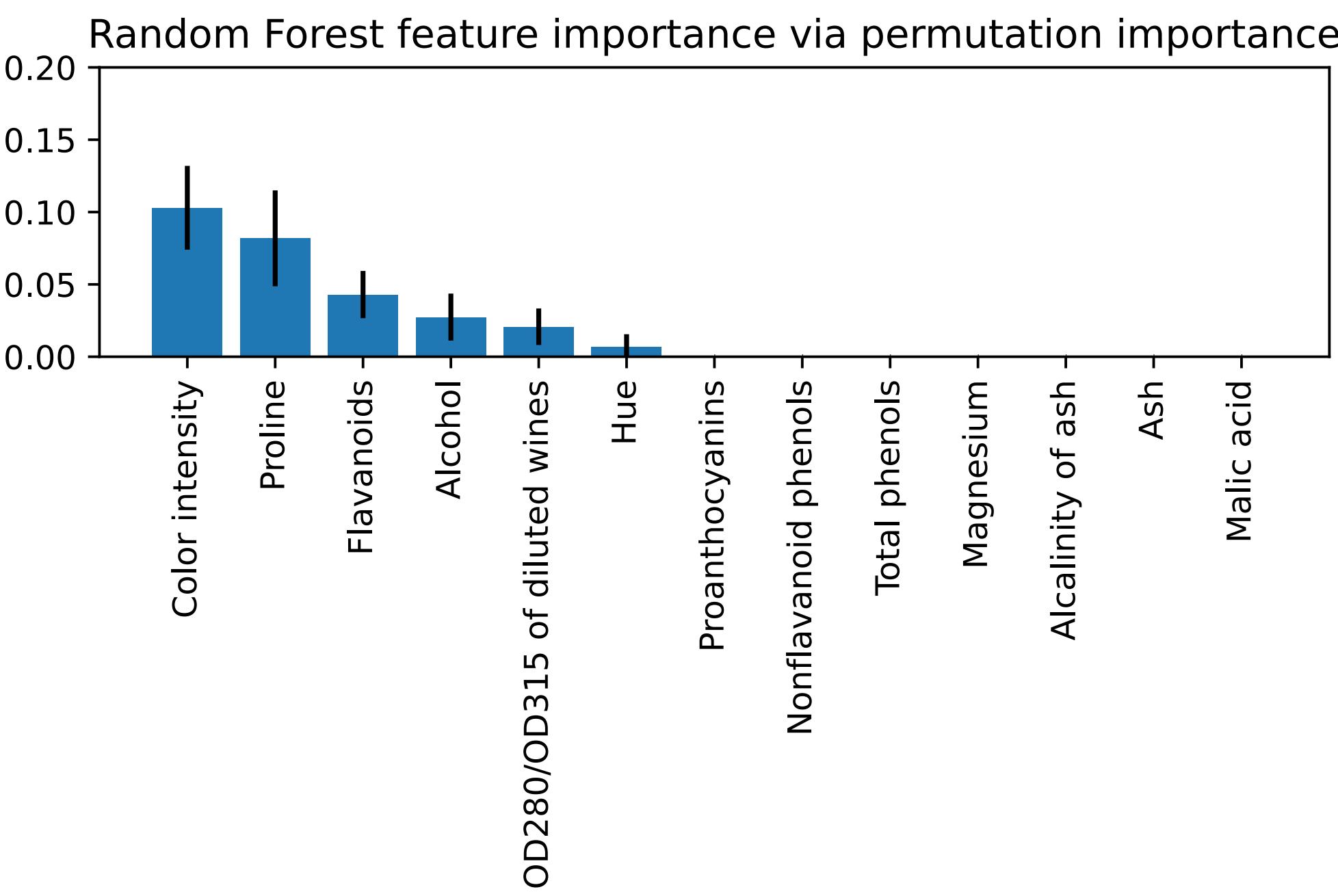
For each feature column:

1. shuffle feature column
2. observe performance and compare to original

# Permutation Importance

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# Permutation Importance

Permutation importance often gives similar results as random forest impurity-based importance but it is model agnostic

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Also, permutation importance is not strictly feature selection, but it tells us which features a model relies on the most

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Also, permutation importance is not strictly feature selection, but it tells us which features a model relies on the most

You can think of permutation importance as a Generalization of Method B in the random forest video but hold out set instead of OOB samples

# Permutation Importance

**intuitive & model-agnostic**

1. Take a model that was fit to the training set

```
>>> randomforest.fit(X_train, y_train)
```

# Permutation Importance

**intuitive & model-agnostic**

1. Take a model that was fit to the training set

2. Estimate the predictive performance of the model on an independent dataset (e.g., validation dataset) and record it as the baseline performance

```
>>> randomforest.fit(X_train, y_train)
```

```
>>> acc = randomforest.score(X_val, y_val)  
>>> print(acc)  
0.99
```

# Permutation Importance

intuitive & model-agnostic

1. Take a model that was fit to the training set

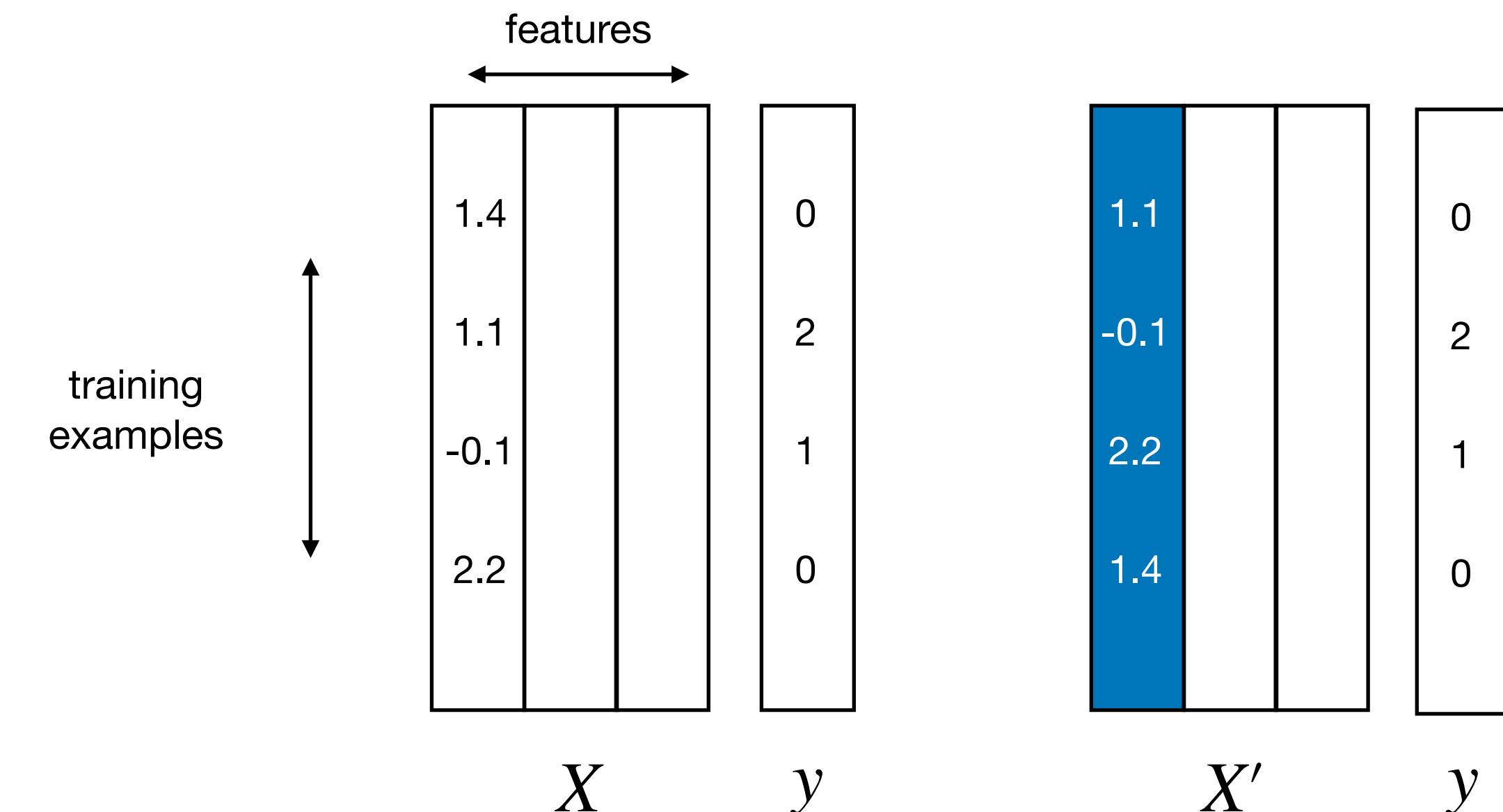
2. Estimate the predictive performance of the model on an independent dataset (e.g., validation dataset) and record it as the baseline performance

3. For each feature  $j$

a. randomly permute feature column  $j$  in the original dataset

```
>>> randomforest.fit(X_train, y_train)
```

```
>>> acc = randomforest.score(X_val, y_val)  
>>> print(acc)  
0.99
```



# Permutation Importance

intuitive & model-agnostic

1. Take a model that was fit to the training set

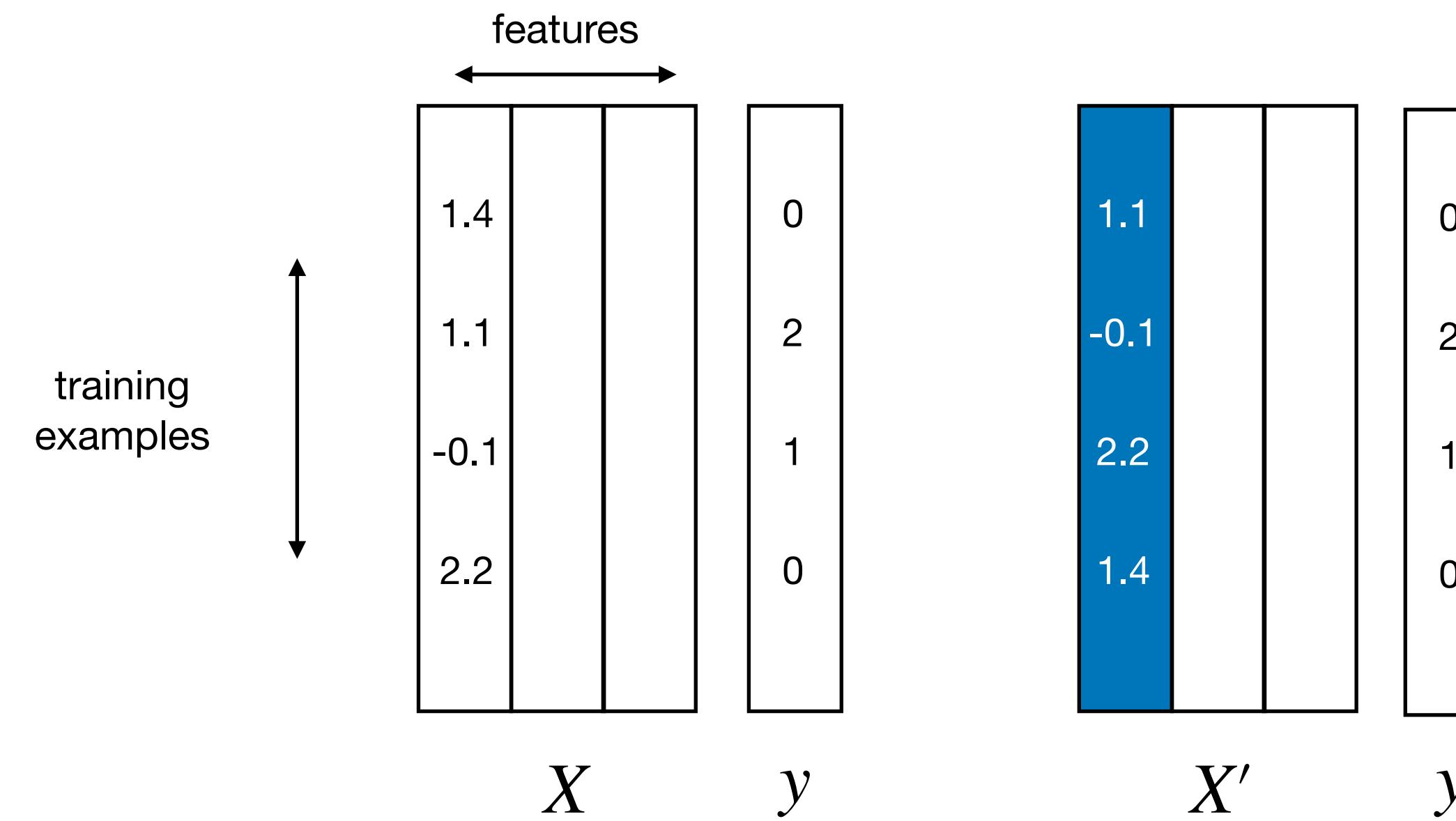
2. Estimate the predictive performance of the model on an independent dataset (e.g., validation dataset) and record it as the baseline performance

3. For each feature  $j$

- randomly permute feature column  $j$  in the original dataset
- record the predictive performance of the model on the dataset with the permuted column

```
>>> randomforest.fit(X_train, y_train)
```

```
>>> acc = randomforest.score(X_val, y_val)  
>>> print(acc)  
0.99
```



```
>>> acc = randomforest.score(...  
... X_val_perm, y_val_perm)  
>>> print(acc)  
0.85
```

# Permutation Importance

intuitive & model-agnostic

1. Take a model that was fit to the training set

2. Estimate the predictive performance of the model on an independent dataset (e.g., validation dataset) and record it as the baseline performance

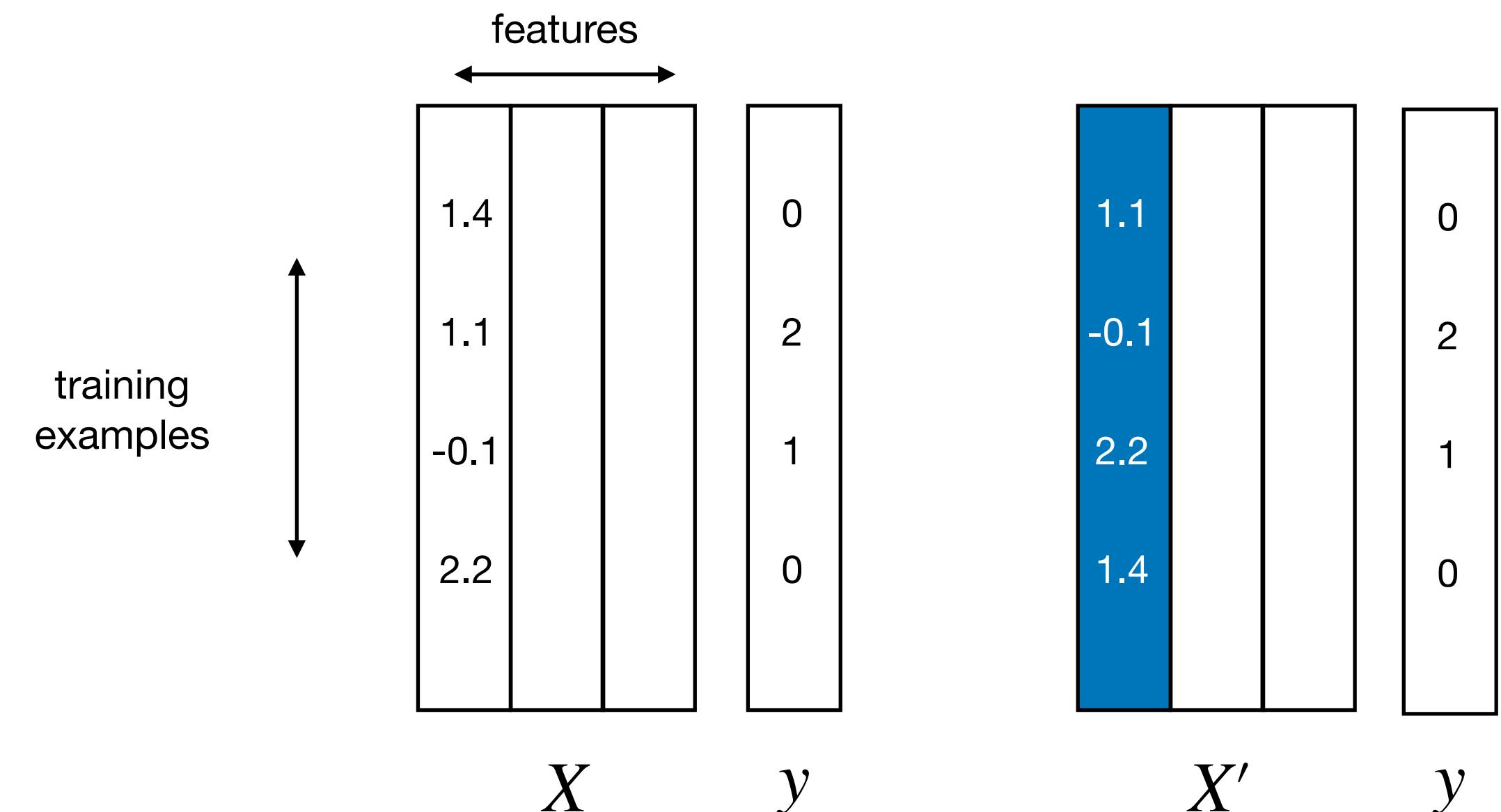
3. For each feature  $j$

- randomly permute feature column  $j$  in the original dataset
- record the predictive performance of the model on the dataset with the permuted column
- compute the feature importance as the difference between the baseline performance (step 2) and the performance on the permuted dataset

Repeat a-c exhaustively (all combinations) or a large number of times and compute the feature importance as the average difference

```
>>> randomforest.fit(X_train, y_train)
```

```
>>> acc = randomforest.score(X_val, y_val)  
>>> print(acc)  
0.99
```



```
>>> acc = randomforest.score(...  
... X_val_perm, y_val_perm)  
>>> print(acc)  
0.85
```

## Column-Drop variant:

For each feature column  $j$ :

1. temporarily remove column
2. fit model to reduced dataset
3. compute validation set performance and compare to before

More accurate but more expensive (and not for 1 particular model)

(will adopt something similar for SFS)

# Permutation Importance Pros and Cons

- (+) Model agnostic
- (+) Based on metric of choice
- (+) Easy to understand
- (+/-) Feature importance is for that particular model (feature might be more/less important to another model)
- (+) Unlike impurity-based random forest importance, it does not suffer from "overfitting" since an independent dataset is used
- (-) Like in impurity-based random forest importance, the importance is undervalued if two features are highly correlated

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  - 4.3. Permutation importance code example**
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  - 4.5. Sequential feature selection code example

# Permutation Importance -- Dataset Preparation (1)

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np

df_wine = pd.read_csv('https://archive.ics.uci.edu/
                      'ml/machine-learning-databases/wine/wine.data',
                      header=None)

df_wine.columns = ['Class label', 'Alcohol', 'Malic acid', 'Ash',
                   'Alcalinity of ash', 'Magnesium', 'Total phenols',
                   'Flavanoids', 'Nonflavanoid phenols', 'Proanthocyanins',
                   'Color intensity', 'Hue', 'OD280/OD315 of diluted wines',
                   'Proline']

print('Class labels', np.unique(df_wine['Class label']))
df_wine.head()
```

Class labels [1 2 3]

	Class label	Alcohol	Malic acid	Ash	Alcalinity of ash	Magnesium	Total phenols	Flavanoids	Nonflavanoid phenols	Proanthocyanins	Color intensity
0	1	14.23	1.71	2.43	15.6	127	2.80	3.06	0.28	2.29	5.64
1	1	13.20	1.78	2.14	11.2	100	2.65	2.76	0.26	1.28	4.38
2	1	13.16	2.36	2.67	18.6	101	2.80	3.24	0.30	2.81	5.68
3	1	14.37	1.95	2.50	16.8	113	3.85	3.49	0.24	2.18	7.80
4	1	13.24	2.59	2.87	21.0	118	2.80	2.69	0.39	1.82	4.32

# Dataset Preparation (2)

```
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split  
  
X, y = df_wine.iloc[:, 1:].values, df_wine.iloc[:, 0].values  
  
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test =\n    train_test_split(X, y,  
                      test_size=0.3,  
                      random_state=0,  
                      stratify=y)
```

# Random Forest Model (1)

```
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier

forest = RandomForestClassifier(n_estimators=100,
                                random_state=0)

forest.fit(X_train, y_train)

print('Training accuracy:', np.mean(forest.predict(X_train) == y_train)*100)
print('Test accuracy:', np.mean(forest.predict(X_test) == y_test)*100)
```

Training accuracy: 100.0

Test accuracy: 100.0

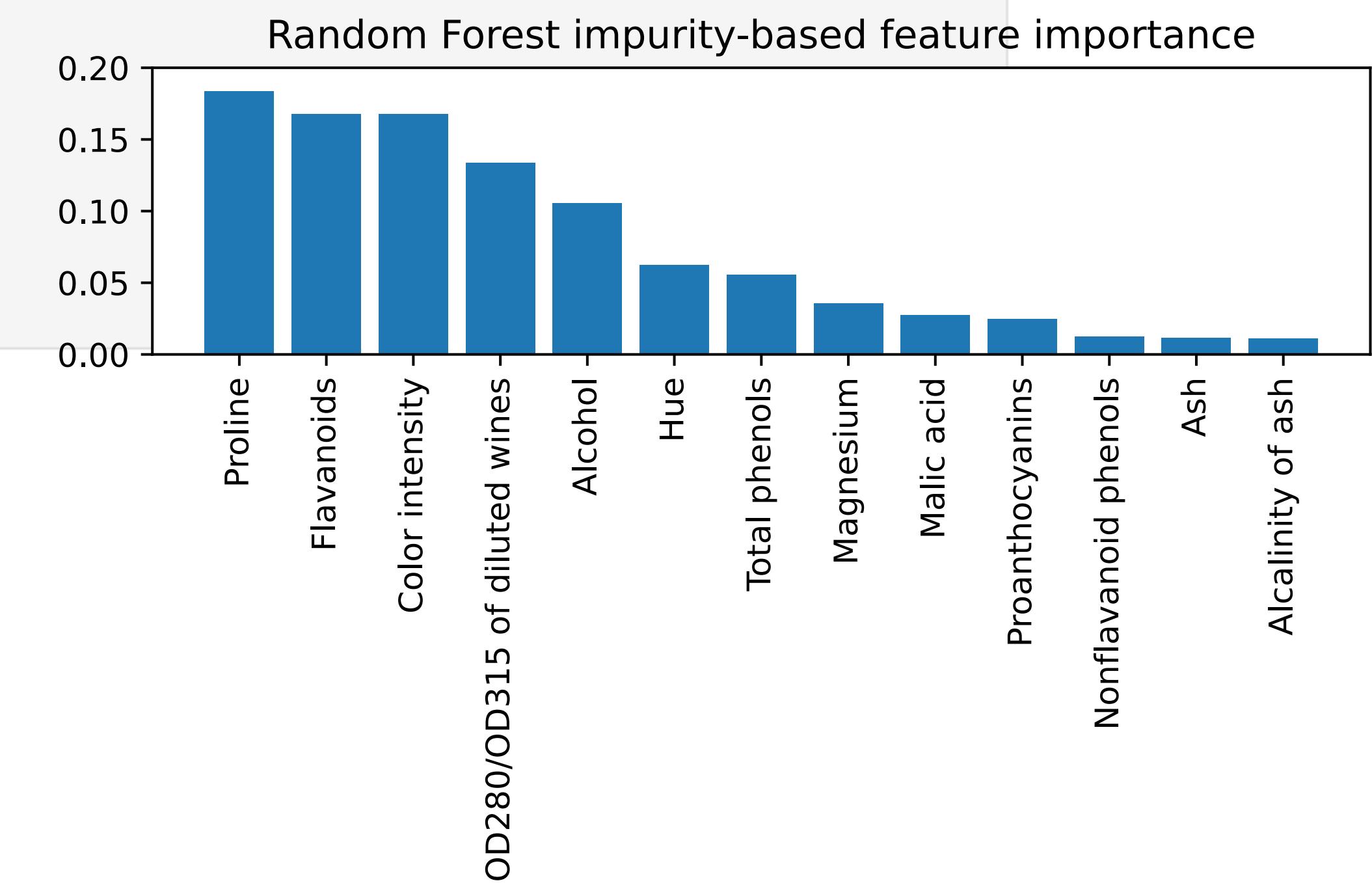
# Random Forest Model (2)

```
importance_vals = forest.feature_importances_
indices = np.argsort(importance_vals)[::-1]

# Plot the feature importances of the forest
plt.figure()
plt.title("Random Forest impurity-based feature importance")
plt.bar(range(X_train.shape[1]), importance_vals[indices])

plt.xticks(range(X_train.shape[1]), df_wine.columns[1:][indices], rotation=90)
plt.xlim([-1, X_train.shape[1]])
plt.ylim([0, 0.2])

plt.tight_layout()
plt.savefig('1.pdf')
plt.show()
```



# Random Forest Model (3)

```
from mlxtend.evaluate import feature_importance_permutation

imp_vals, imp_all = feature_importance_permutation(
    predict_method=forest.predict,
    X=X_test,
    y=y_test,
    metric='accuracy',
    num_rounds=50,
    seed=0)
```

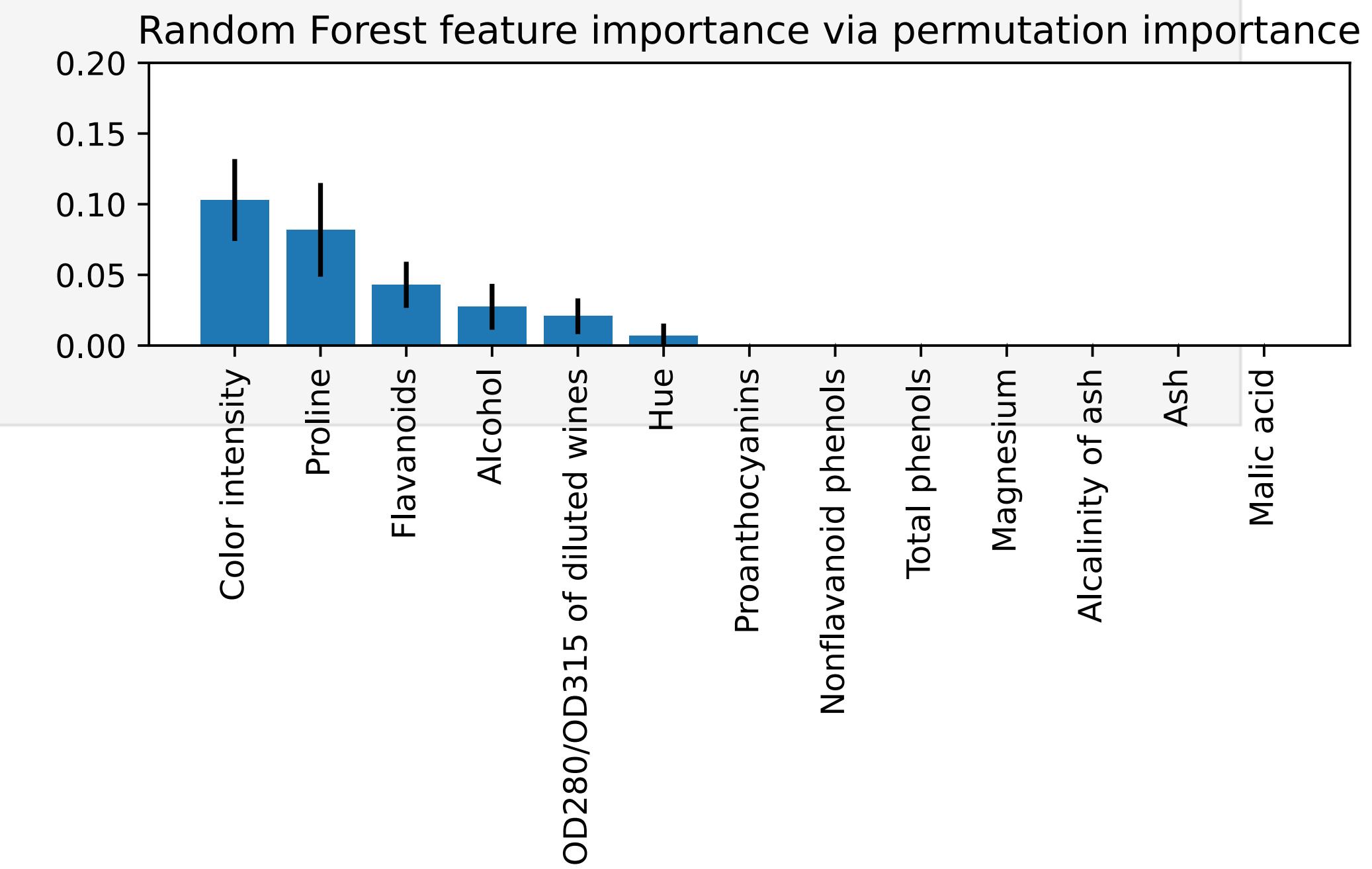
# Random Forest Model (4)

```
std = np.std(imp_all, axis=1)
indices = np.argsort(imp_vals)[::-1]

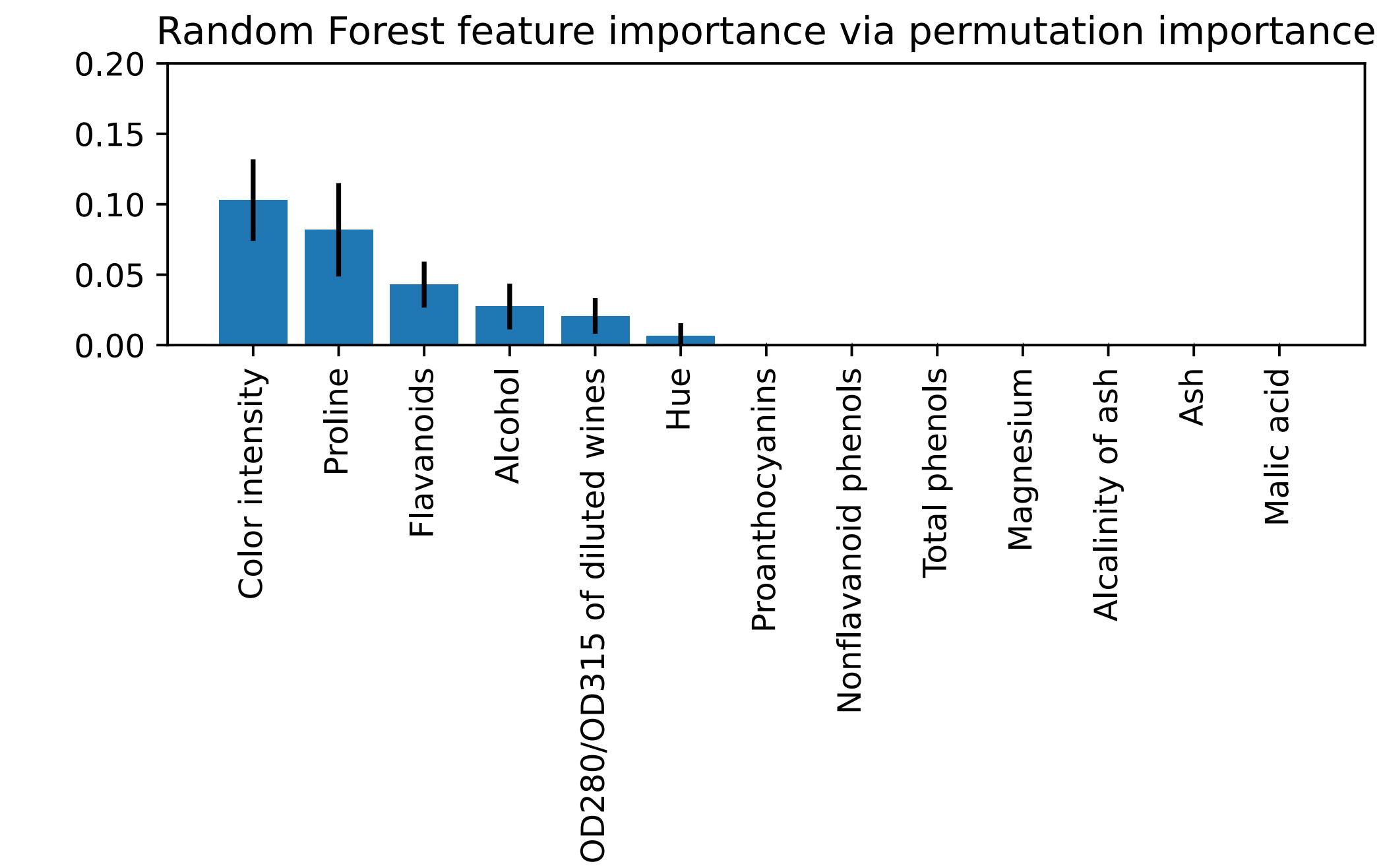
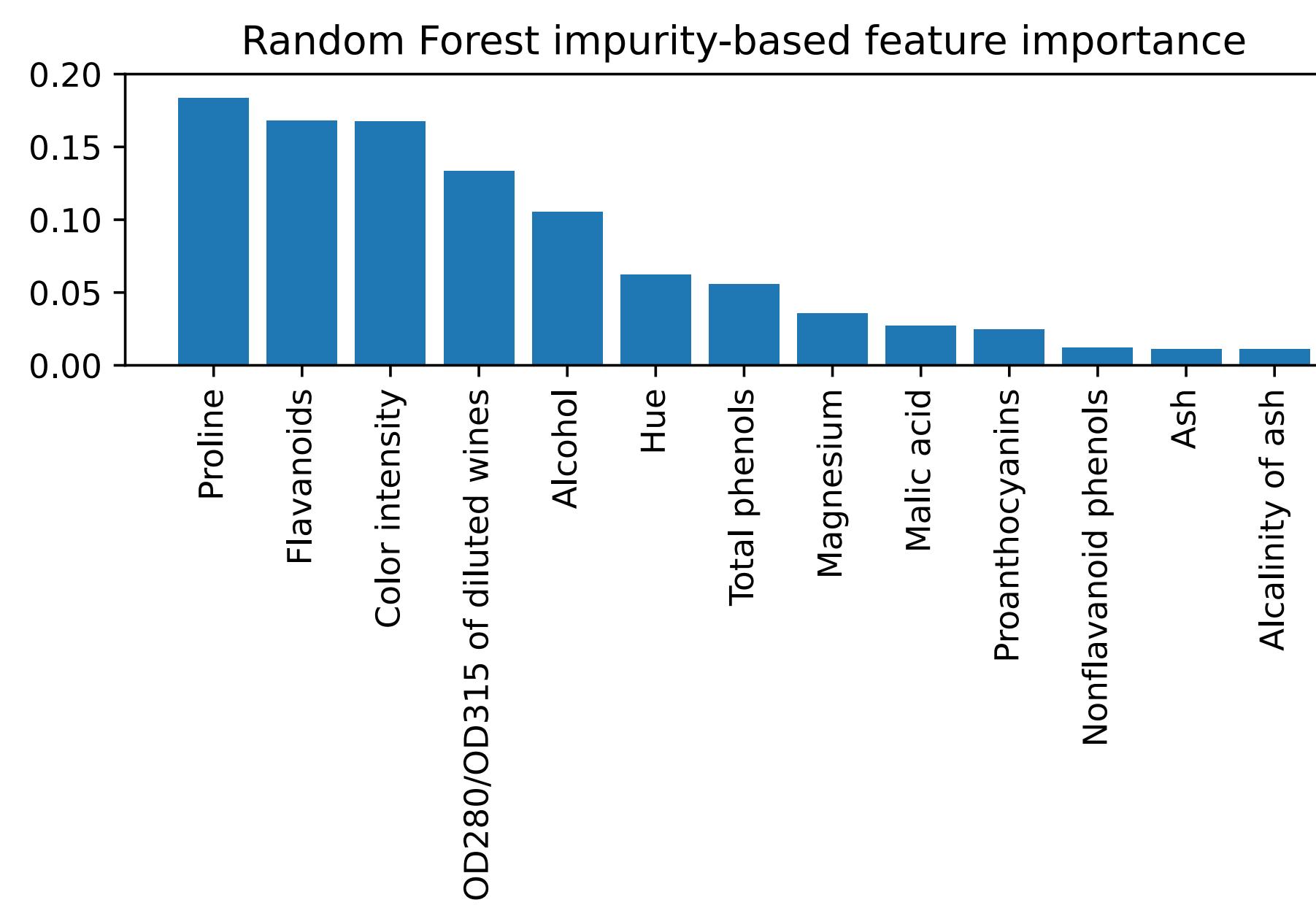
plt.figure()
plt.title("Random Forest feature importance via permutation importance")
plt.bar(range(X_train.shape[1]), imp_vals[indices], yerr=std[indices])

plt.xticks(range(X_train.shape[1]), df_wine.columns[1:][indices], rotation=90)
plt.xlim([-1, X_train.shape[1]])
plt.ylim([0, 0.2])

plt.tight_layout()
plt.savefig('2.pdf')
plt.show()
```



# Random Forest Model (4)



More useful not to scale the feature importance as we can read the accuracy drop from it

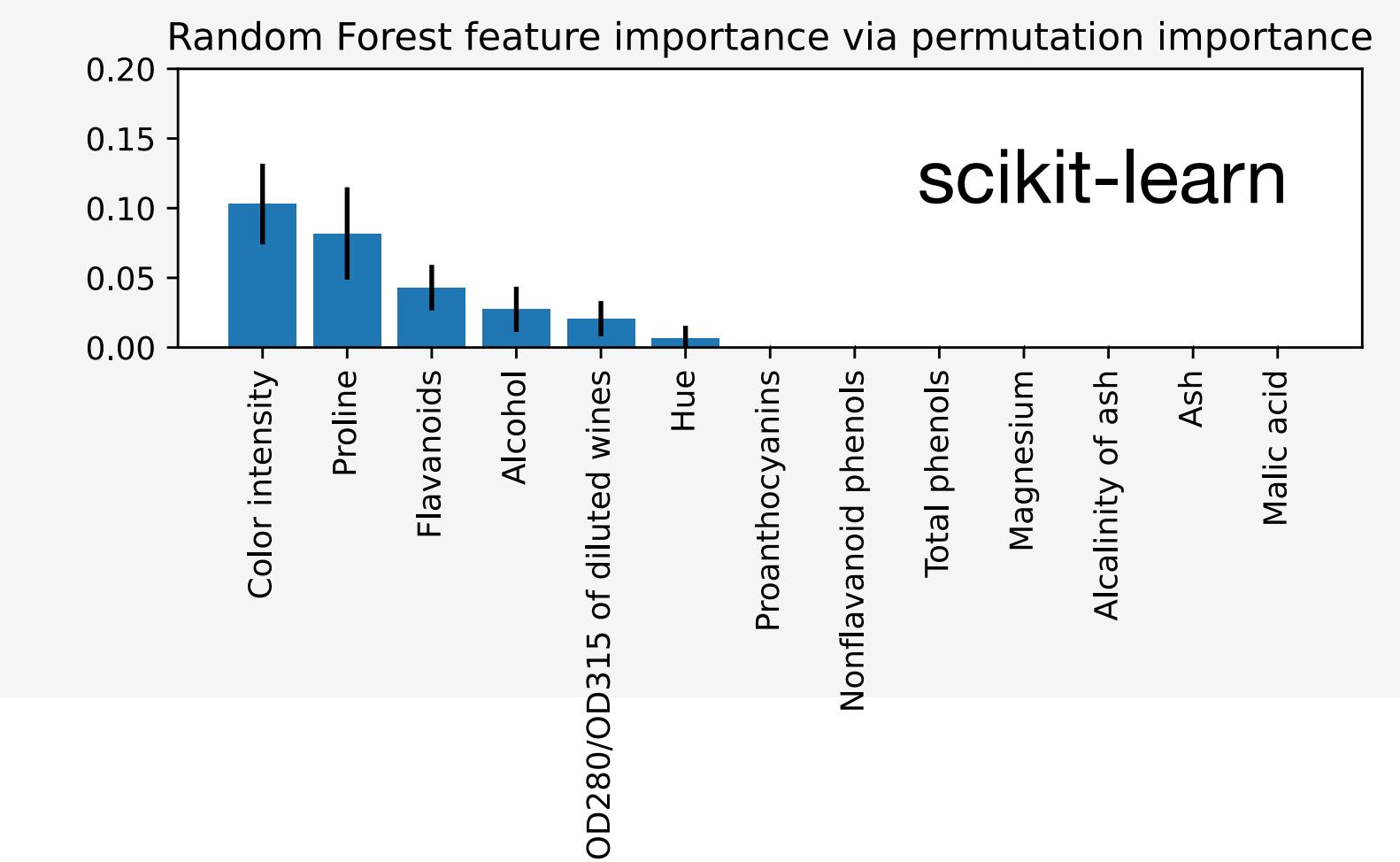
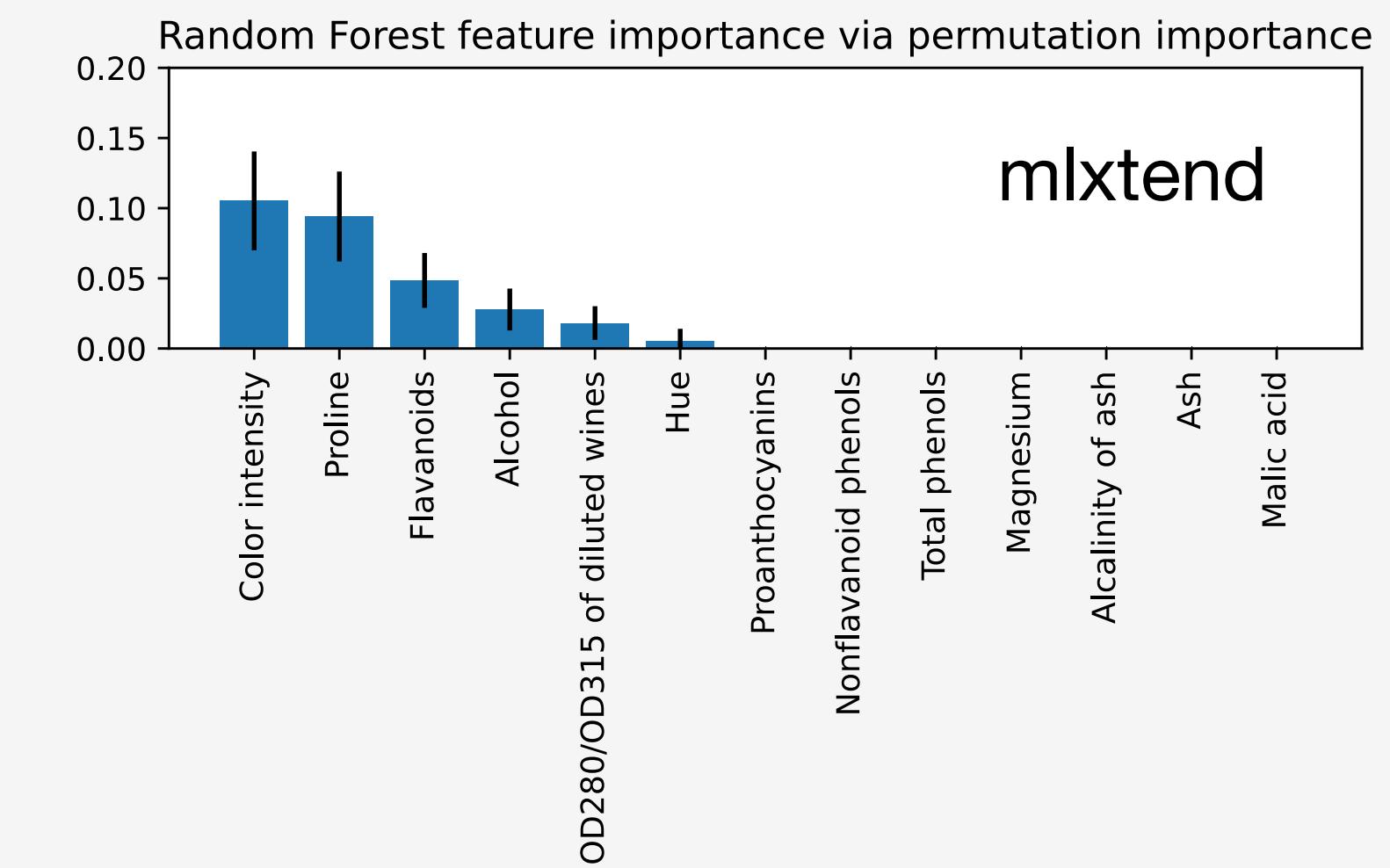
# mlxtend vs scikit-learn

```
from sklearn.inspection import permutation_importance

forest = RandomForestClassifier(n_estimators=100,
                                random_state=0)

forest.fit(X_train, y_train)

result = permutation_importance(
    estimator=forest,
    X=X_test,
    y=y_test,
    scoring='accuracy',
    n_repeats=50,
    random_state=0
)
```



# Random Feature as Control (1)

```
import numpy as np

np.random.seed(123)
x1 = np.random.randn(X_train.shape[0]).reshape(-1, 1)
x2 = np.random.randn(X_test.shape[0]).reshape(-1, 1)
```

```
X_train_r = np.hstack((X_train, x1))
X_test_r = np.hstack((X_test, x2))
X_test_r.shape
```

(54, 14)

```

from sklearn.inspection import permutation_importance
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier

forest = RandomForestClassifier(n_estimators=100,
                                random_state=0)

forest.fit(X_train_r, y_train)

result = permutation_importance(
    estimator=forest,
    X=X_test_r,
    y=y_test,
    scoring='accuracy',
    n_repeats=50,
    random_state=0
)

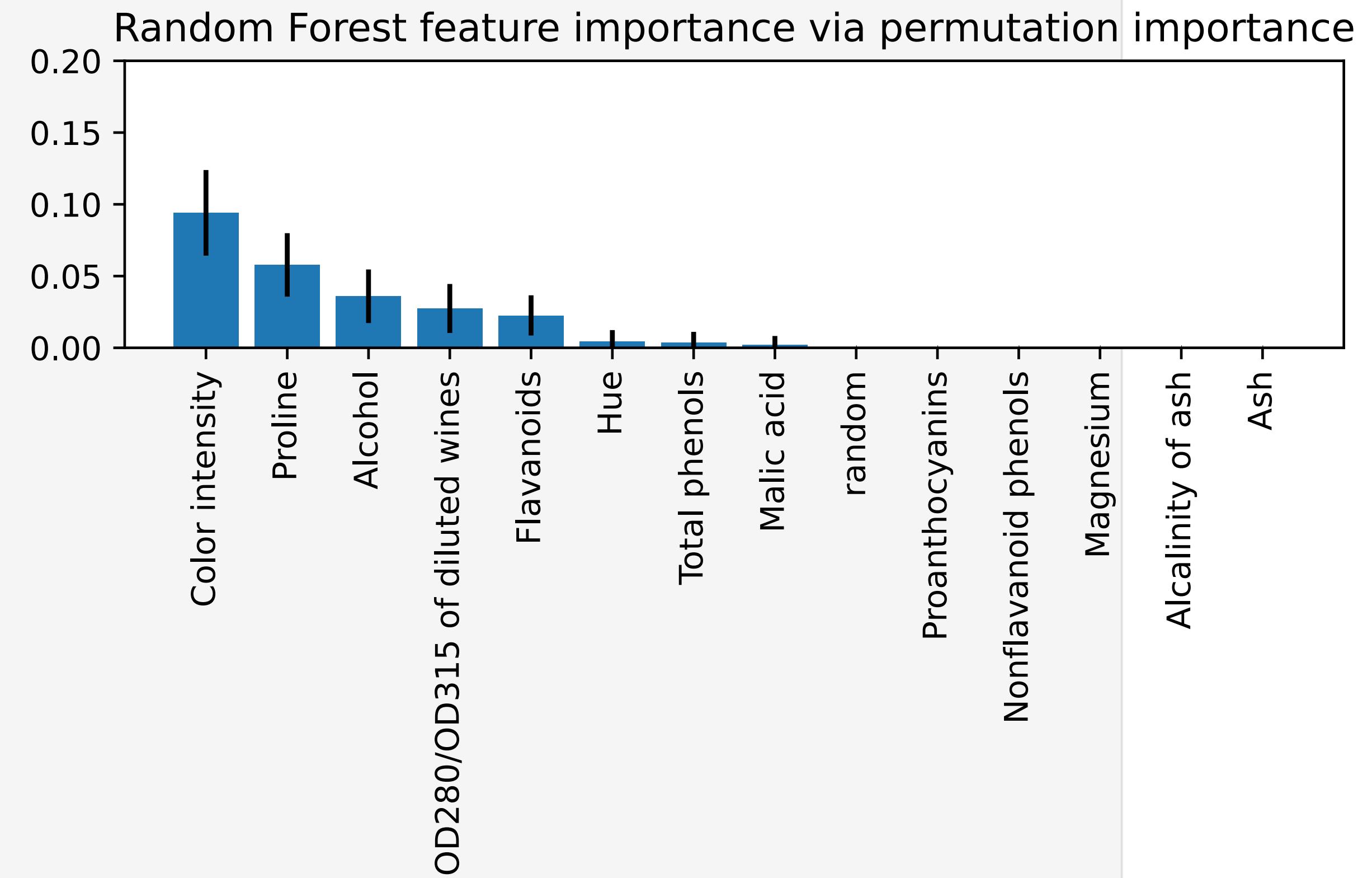
indices = np.argsort(result['importances_mean'])[::-1]

plt.figure()
plt.title("Random Forest feature importance via permutation importance")
plt.bar(
    range(X_train_r.shape[1]),
    result['importances_mean'][indices],
    yerr=result['importances_std'][indices]
)

feature_names = np.array(list(df_wine.columns[1:])+['random'])
plt.xticks(range(X_train_r.shape[1]), feature_names[indices], rotation=90)

```

## Random Feature as Control (2)



# Correlated Features (1)

```
np.random.seed(123)

y = np.zeros(1000)
y[:500] = 1

x1 = np.random.randn(1000)

x2 = np.empty(1000)
x2[:500] = np.random.randn(500)
x2[500:] = np.random.randn(500)+4

x3 = x2

X = np.vstack((x3, x2, x1)).swapaxes(1, 0)
X.shape
```

(1000, 3)

# Correlated Features (2)

```
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split

X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test =\
    train_test_split(X, y,
                     test_size=0.3,
                     random_state=123,
                     stratify=y)
```

```
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier

forest = RandomForestClassifier(n_estimators=10,
                                random_state=123,
                                max_features=2)

forest.fit(X_train, y_train)

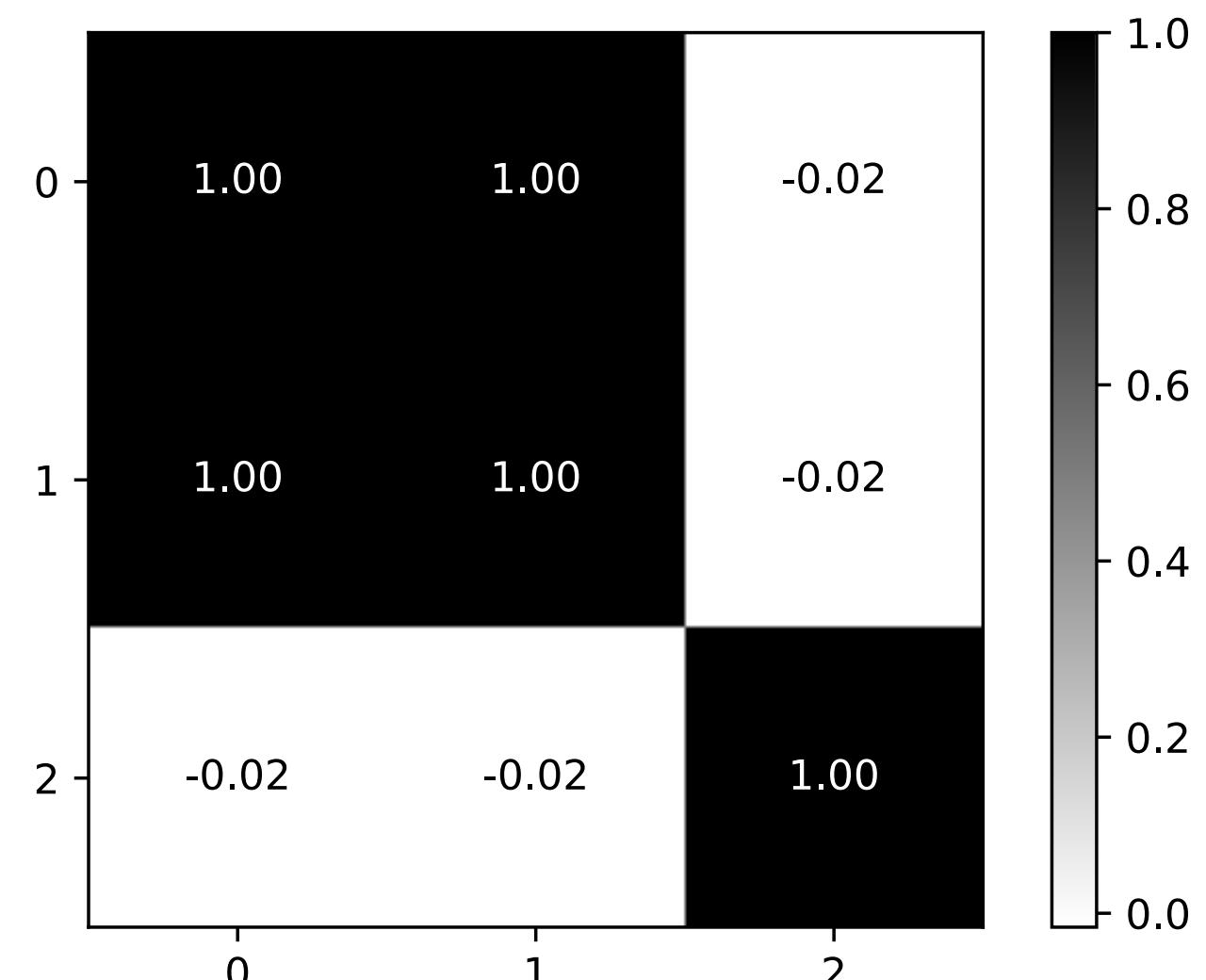
print('Training accuracy:', np.mean(forest.predict(X_train) == y_train)*100)
print('Test accuracy:', np.mean(forest.predict(X_test) == y_test)*100)
```

Training accuracy: 99.71428571428571

Test accuracy: 97.66666666666667

# Correlated Features (3)

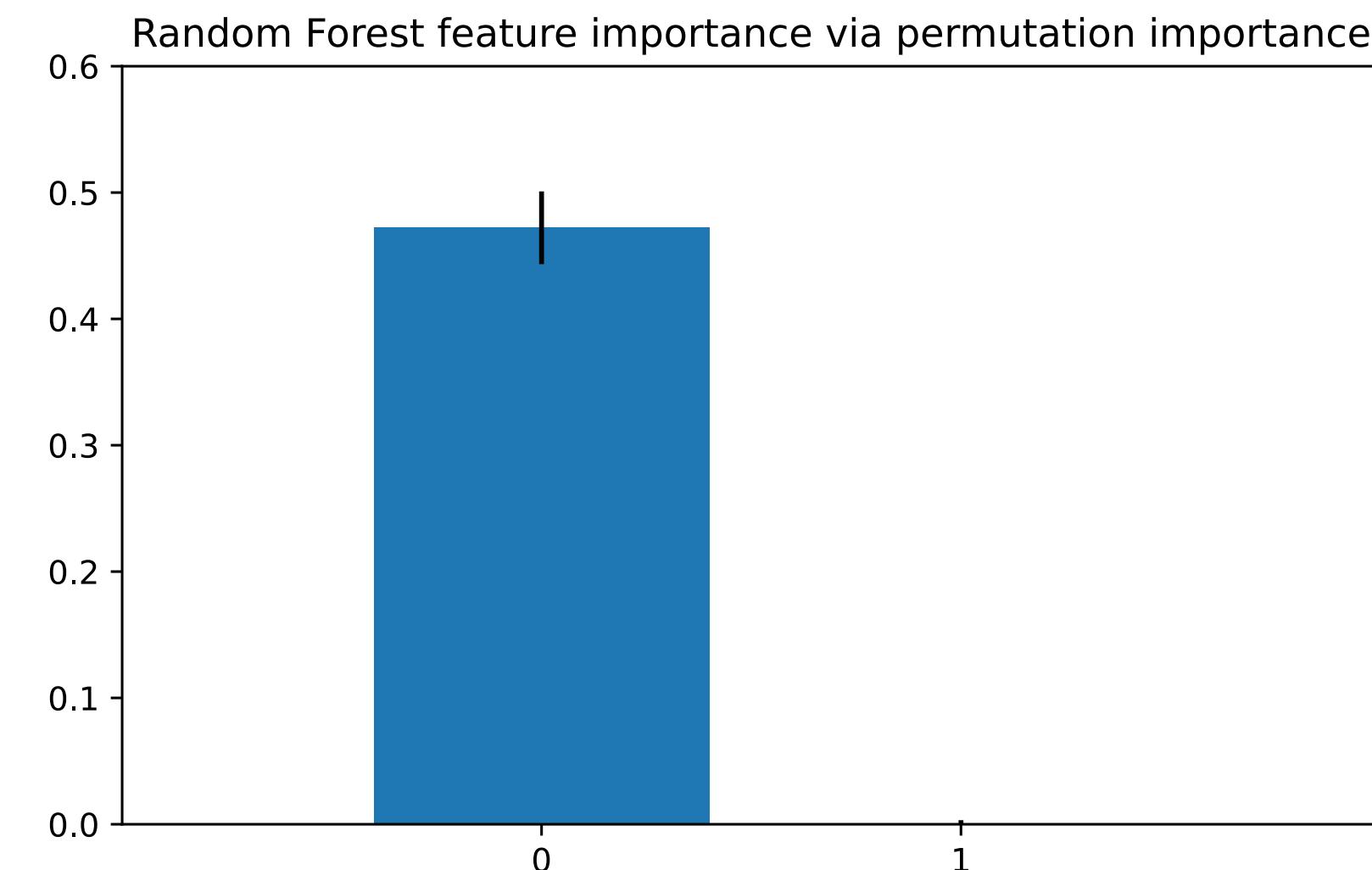
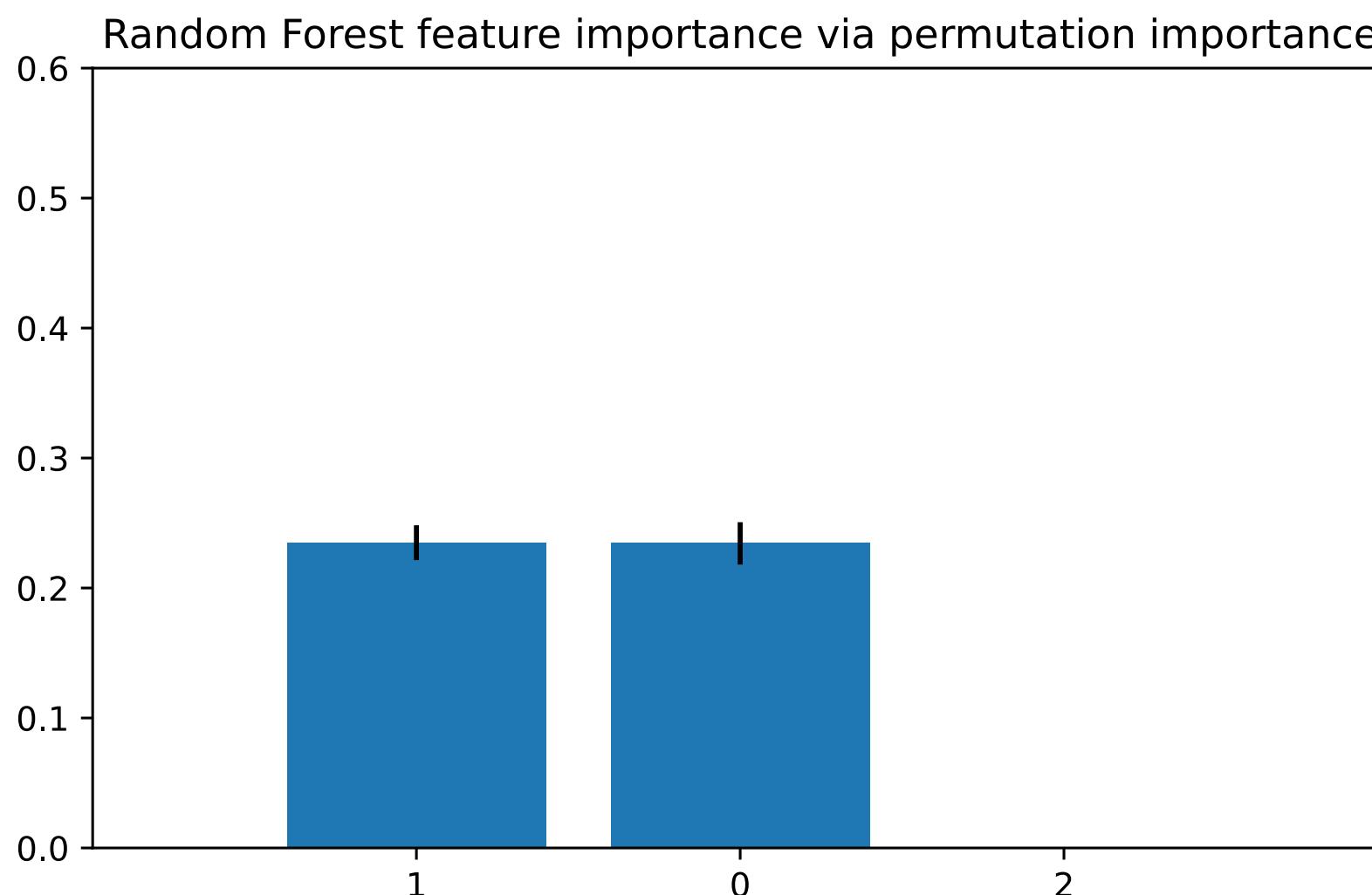
```
from mlxtend.plotting import heatmap  
  
heatmap(corr, cmap='binary')  
plt.savefig('5.pdf')  
plt.show()
```



# Correlated Features (4)

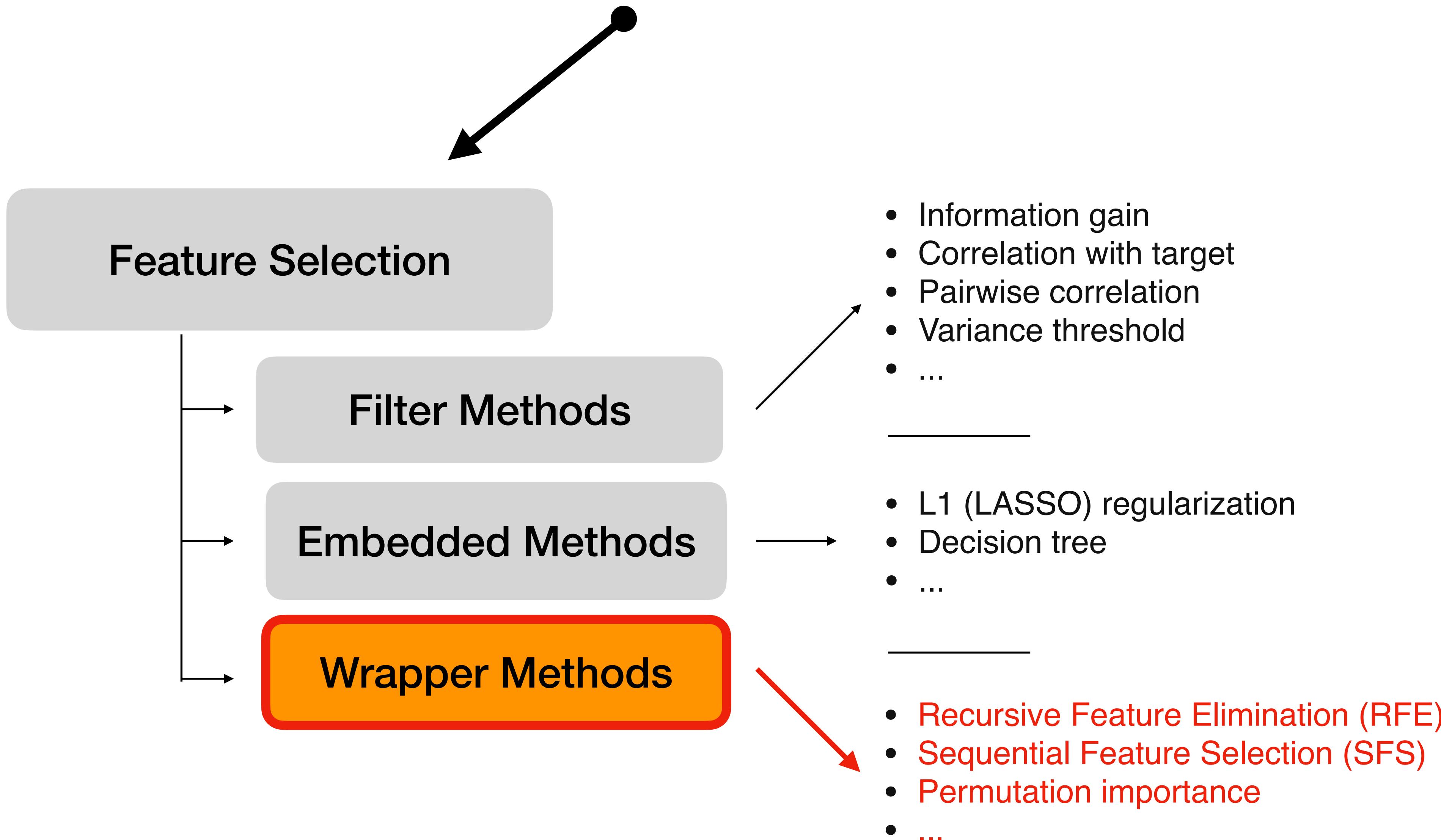
```
from mlxtend.evaluate import feature_importance_permutation

imp_vals, imp_all = feature_importance_permutation(
    predict_method=forest.predict,
    X=X_test,
    y=y_test,
    metric='accuracy',
    num_rounds=50,
    seed=123)
```



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- 4.5. Sequential feature selection code example

# Dimensionality Reduction



**Which feature selection would  
guarantee optimal model  
performance?**

# Which feature selection would guarantee optimal model performance?

Trying all possible feature combinations --> **exhaustive** feature selection



- (1) Sepal length
- (2) Sepal width
- (3) Petal length
- (4) Petal width



- |           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| 1. {0}    | 8.{1, 2}         |
| 2. {1}    | 9.{1, 3}         |
| 3. {2}    | 10. {2, 3}       |
| 4. {3}    | 11. {0, 1, 2}    |
| 5. {0, 1} | 12. {0, 1, 3}    |
| 6. {0, 2} | 13. {0, 2, 3}    |
| 7. {0, 3} | 14. {1, 2, 3}    |
|           | 15. {0, 1, 2, 3} |

# Which feature selection would guarantee optimal model performance?

Trying all possible feature combinations --> **exhaustive** feature selection



- (1) Sepal length
- (2) Sepal width
- (3) Petal length
- (4) Petal width



$$\sum_{i=1}^m \binom{m}{i} \text{ Combinations!}$$

$$\binom{4}{1} + \binom{4}{2} + \binom{4}{3} + \binom{4}{4} = 15$$

# Which feature selection would guarantee optimal model performance?

Trying all possible feature combinations --> **exhaustive** feature selection



- (1) Alcohol
- (2) Malic acid
- ...
- (13) Color intensity



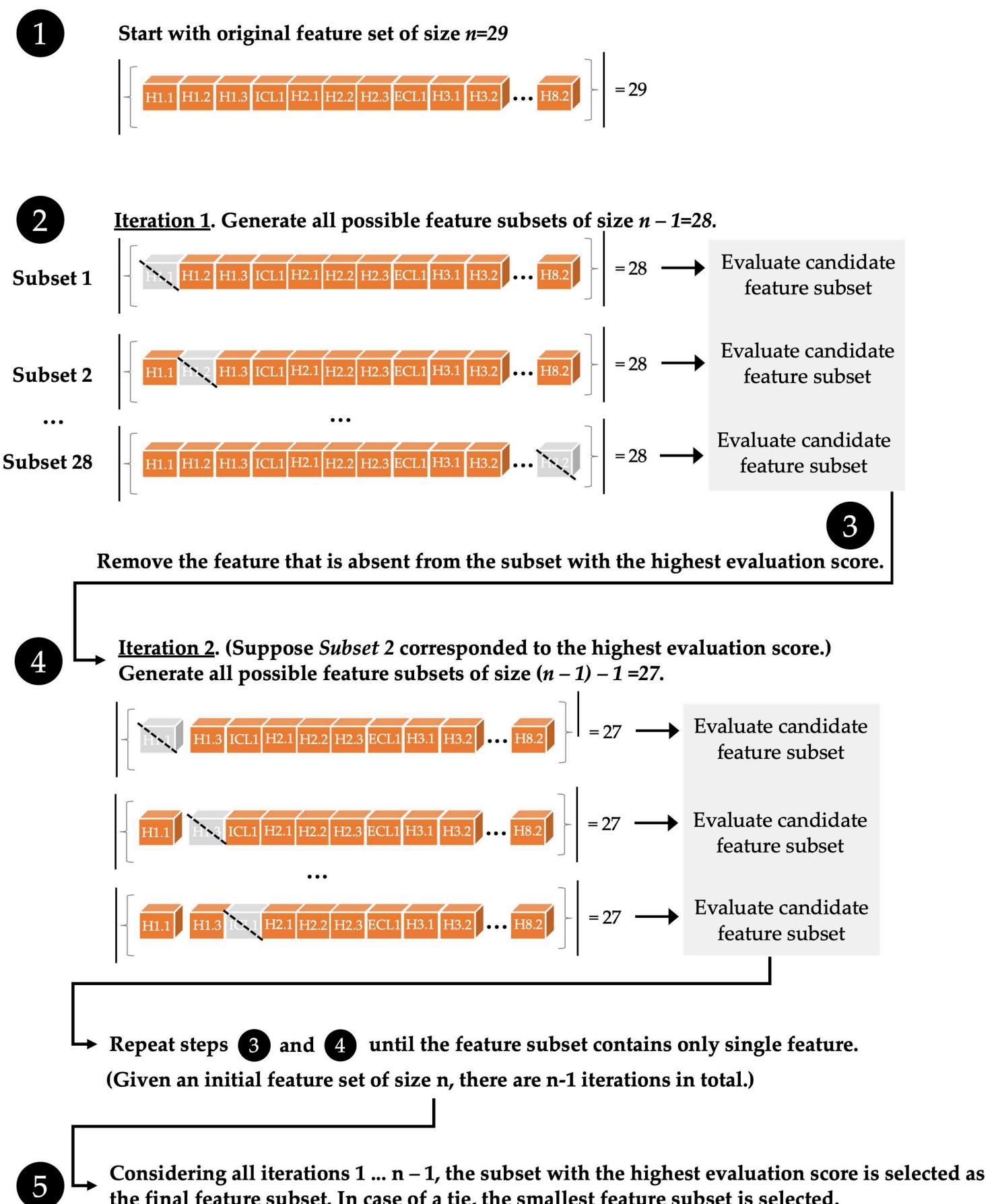
$$\sum_{i=1}^m \binom{m}{i} \text{ Combinations!}$$

$$\binom{13}{1} + \binom{13}{2} + \dots + \binom{13}{13} = 8191$$

# Which feature selection would guarantee optimal model performance?

Trying all possible feature combinations --> **exhaustive** feature selection

- Very expensive!
- We will look at an approximation called *Sequential Feature Selection*



**Figure 4.** Illustration of backward sequential feature selection for identifying feature subsets that maximize the performance of a predictive model. In this study, the candidate feature subsets were evaluated by using leave-one-out cross-validation and the out-of-bag bootstrap method with a three-nearest neighbor classifier. The classifier accuracy in predicting active/inactive cases in the GPCR held-out test data was used to evaluate each feature subset, as detailed in Table 2.

Joe Bemister-Buffington, Alex J. Wolf, Sebastian Raschka, and Leslie A. Kuhn (2020)  
Machine Learning to Identify Flexibility Signatures of Class A GPCR Inhibition  
Biomolecules 2020, 10, 454. (<https://www.mdpi.com/2218-273X/10/3/454#>)

# Sequential Backward Selection (1)

1

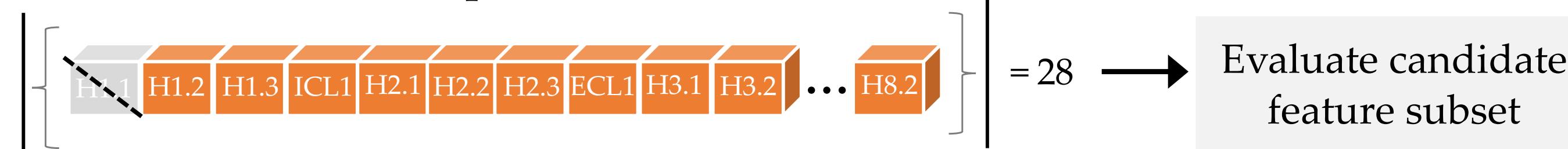
Start with original feature set of size  $n=29$



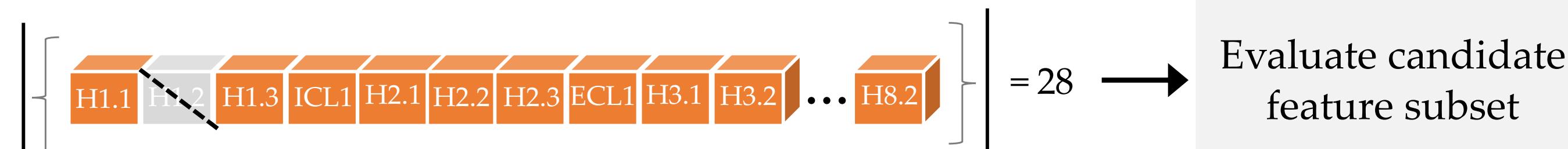
2

Iteration 1. Generate all possible feature subsets of size  $n - 1=28$ .

Subset 1

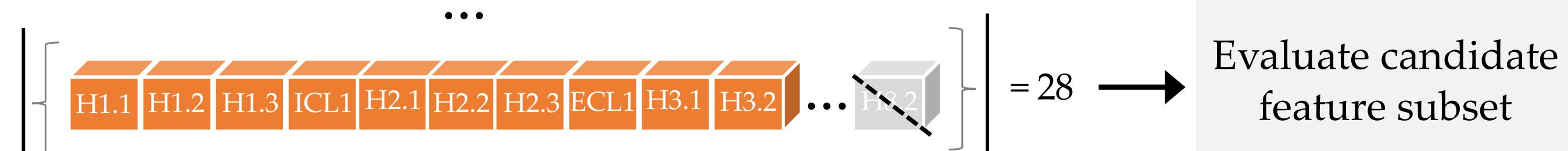


Subset 2



...

Subset 28



# Sequential Backward Selection (2)

1

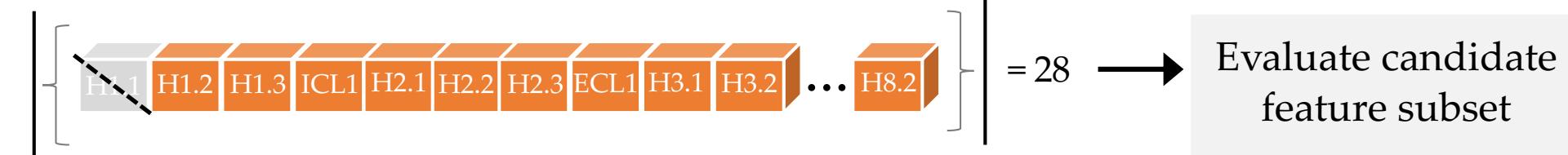
Start with original feature set of size  $n=29$



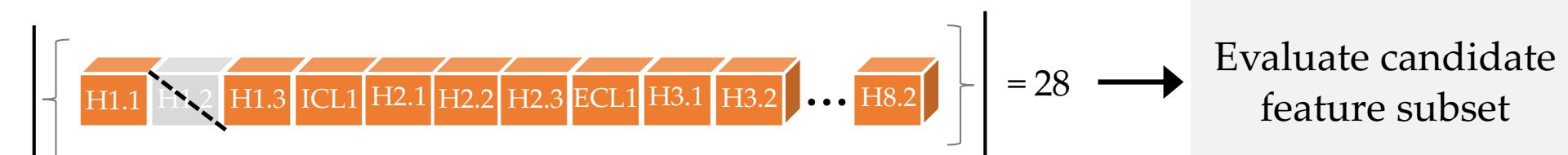
2

Iteration 1. Generate all possible feature subsets of size  $n - 1=28$ .

Subset 1

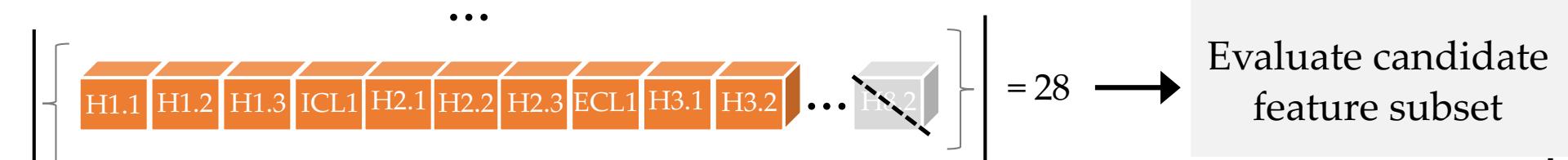


Subset 2



...

Subset 28



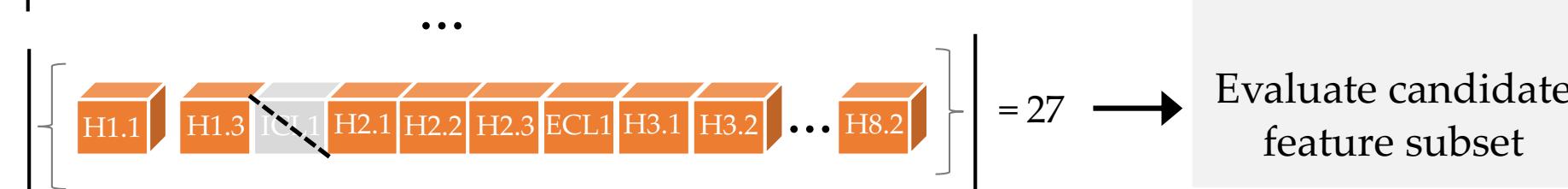
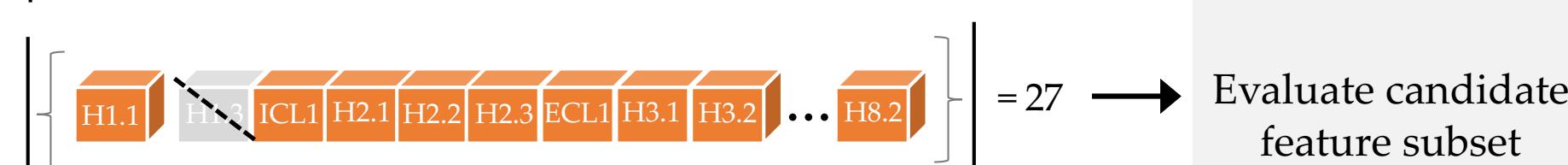
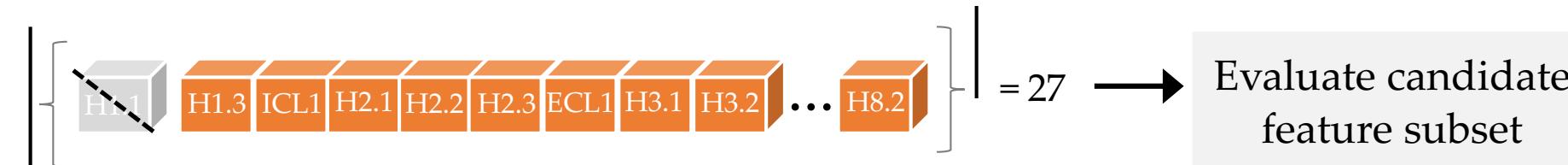
3

Remove the feature that is absent from the subset with the highest evaluation score.

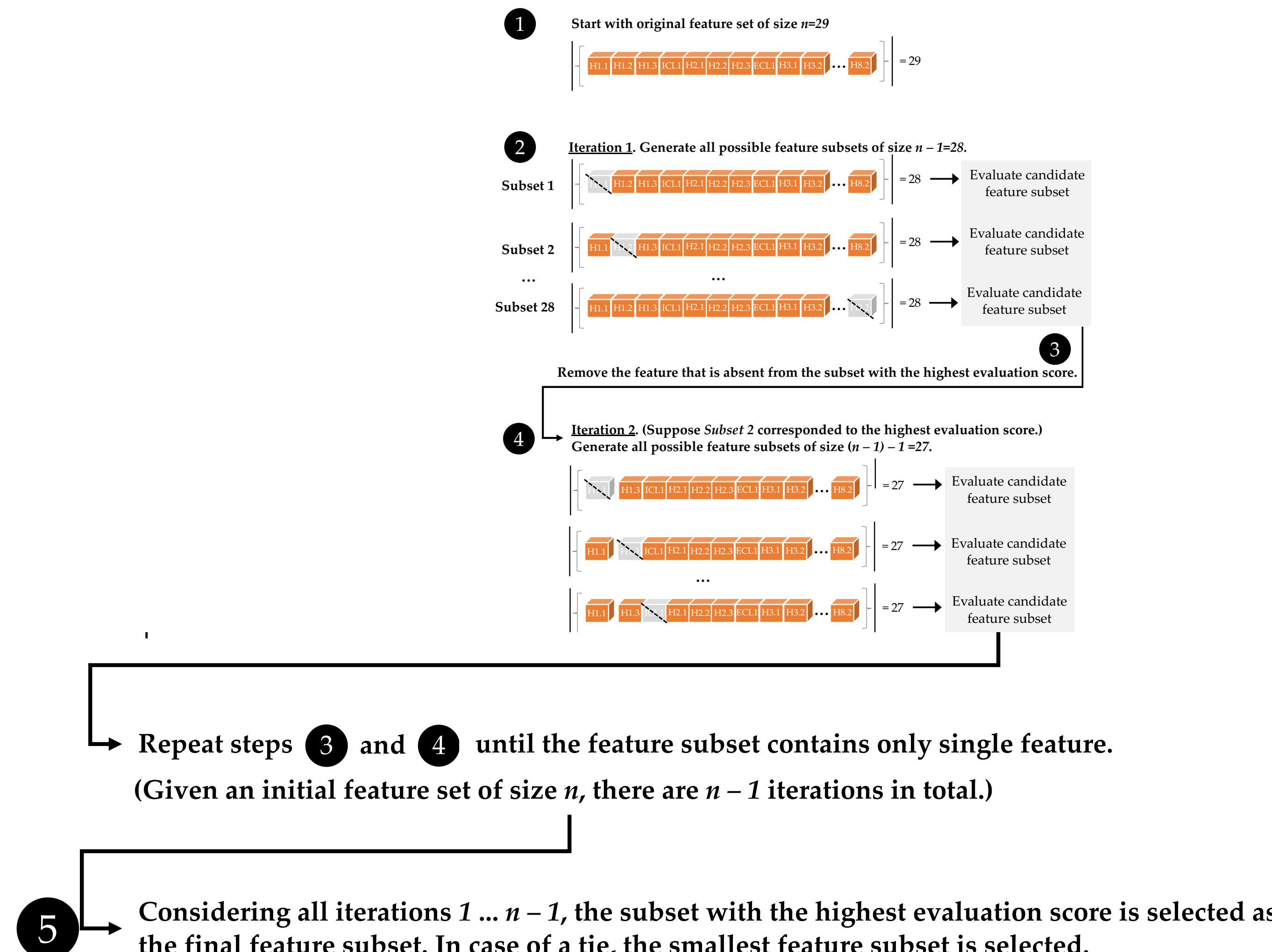
4

Iteration 2. (Suppose *Subset 2* corresponded to the highest evaluation score.)

Generate all possible feature subsets of size  $(n - 1) - 1=27$ .



# Sequential Backward Selection (2)



# Different Flavors of Sequential Feature Selection

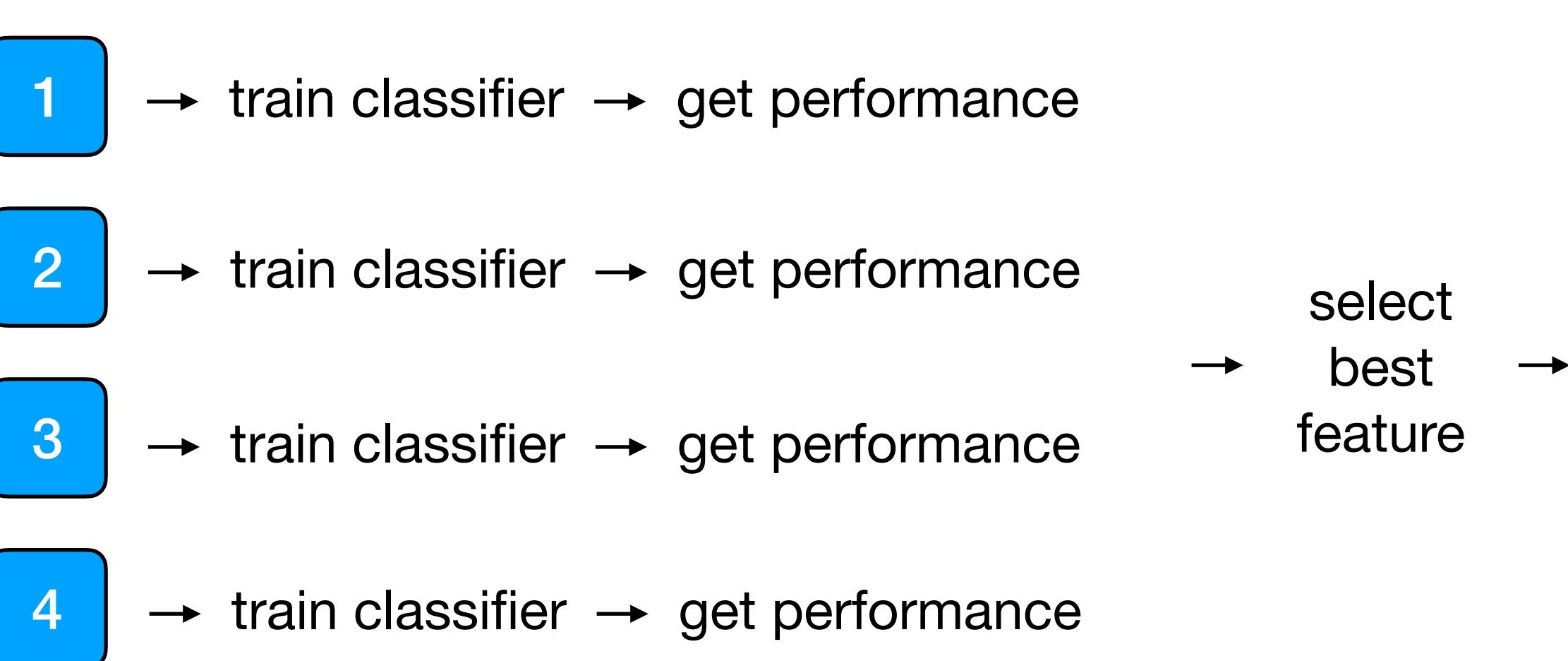
- Sequential Backward Selection
- Sequential Forward Selection
- Sequential Floating Forward Selection
- Sequential Floating Backward Selection

# Sequential Forward Selection

Original feature set



Round 1



# Sequential Forward Selection

Original feature set



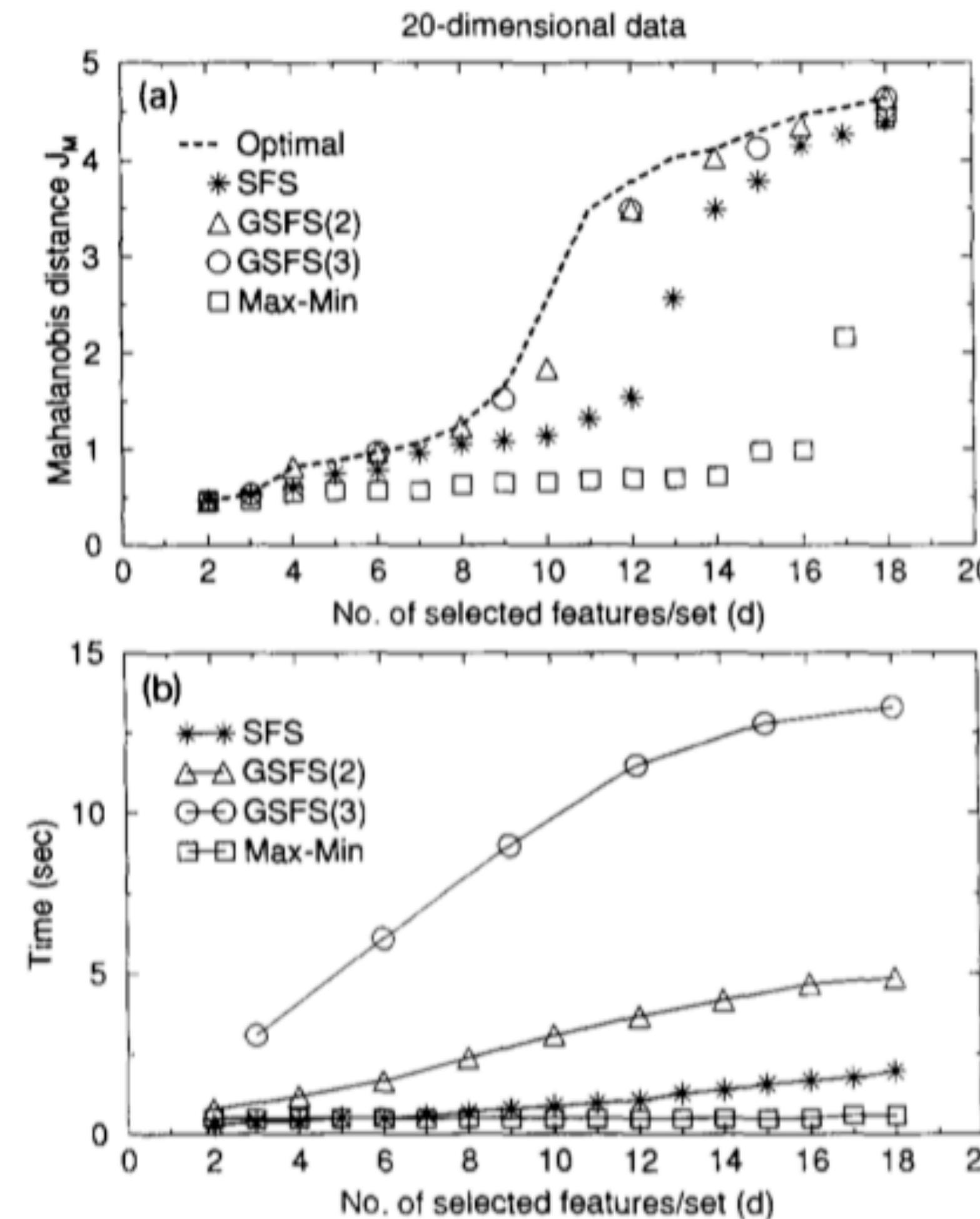
Round 1

- 1 → train classifier → get performance
- 2 → train classifier → get performance
- 3 → train classifier → get performance
- 4 → train classifier → get performance

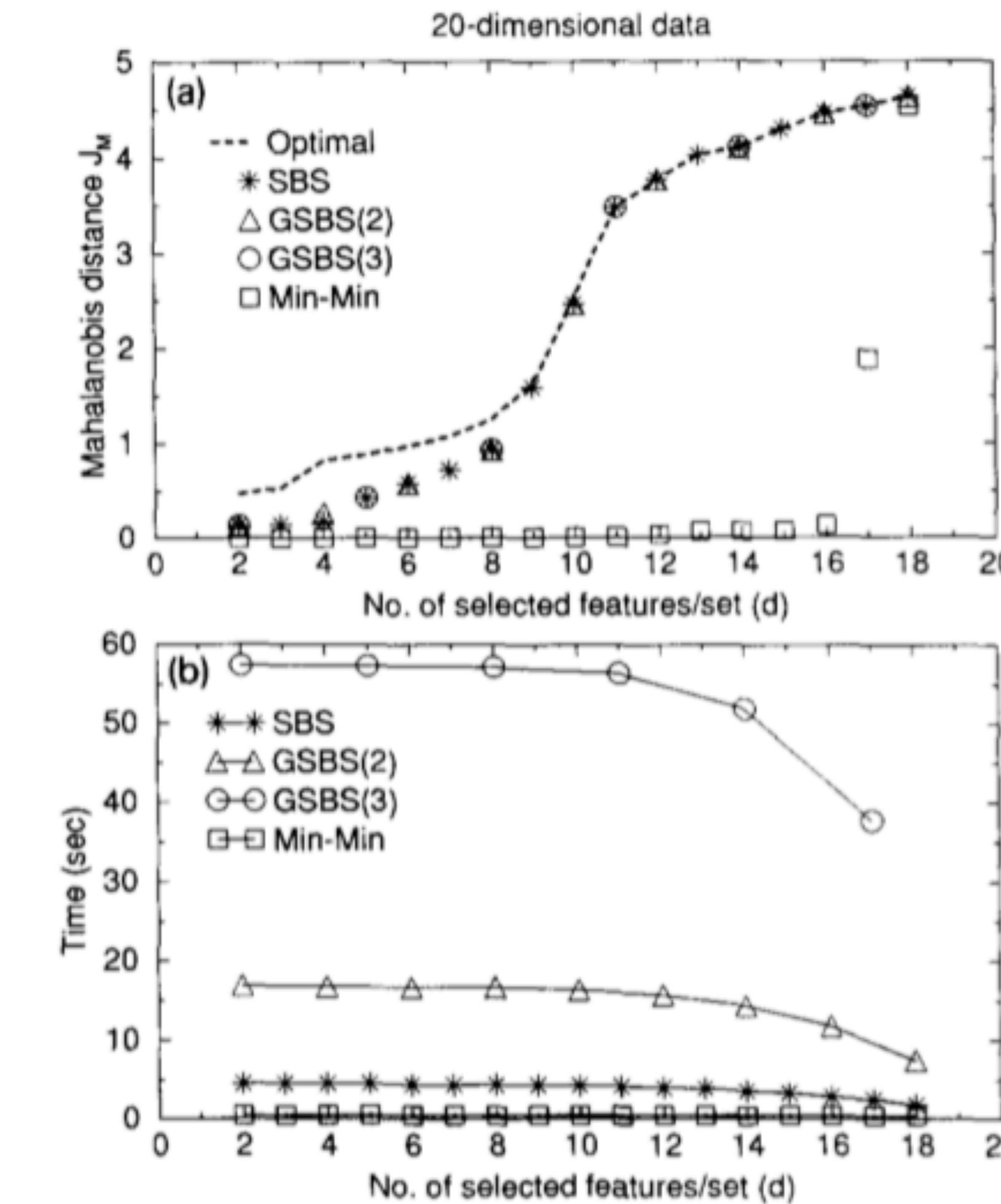
Round 2

- select best feature →
  - 2 → train classifier → get performance
  - 2 → train classifier → get performance
  - 2 → train classifier → get performance
  - select best feature → ...
- 
- The diagram illustrates the sequential forward selection process. It starts with four features (1, 2, 3, 4) in Round 1. Feature 1 is selected as the best in Round 1. In Round 2, features 2 and 1 are combined to form a subset (2, 1). Feature 1 is highlighted with a dashed border. This subset is then used to train a classifier and get performance. The next step shows feature 2 being selected as the best feature in Round 2. Subsequent steps show the process continuing with feature 3 and then feature 4, with each selected feature highlighted by a dashed border.

## Sequential Forward Search Methods



## Sequential Backward Search Methods



Pudil, P., Novovičová, J., & Kittler, J. (1994). "Floating search methods in feature selection." Pattern recognition letters 15.11 (1994): 1119-1125.

# When To Use Forward/Backward Selection

# Different Flavors of Sequential Feature Selection

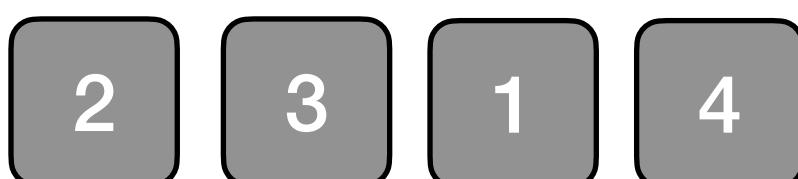
- Sequential Backward Selection
- Sequential Forward Selection
- Sequential Floating Forward Selection
- Sequential Floating Backward Selection

# Sequential Floating Forward Selection (1)

Original feature set

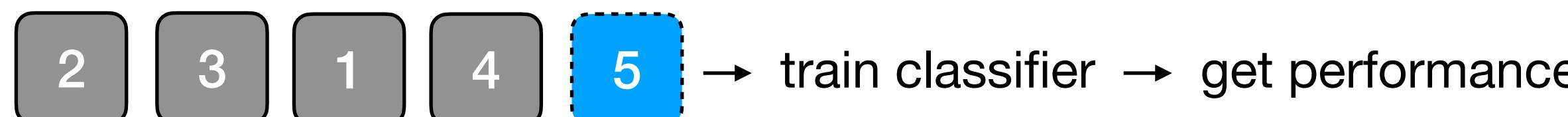


After Round 4

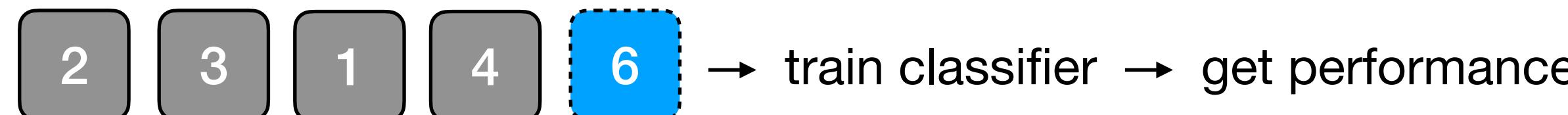


For reference; no floating selection here

Regular Round 5



→ train classifier → get performance



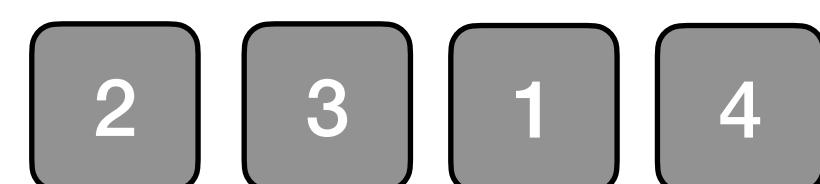
→ train classifier → get performance

# Sequential Floating Forward Selection (1)

Original feature set



After Round 4



Remove feature if  
it improves  
performance

Floating Round 5



→ train classifier → get performance



→ train classifier → get performance

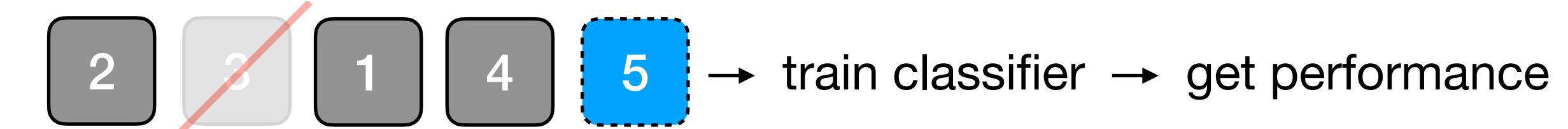


→ train classifier → get performance

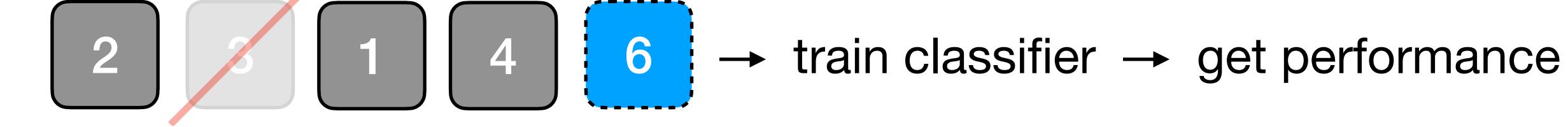


→ train classifier → get performance

Regular Round 5



→ train classifier → get performance



→ train classifier → get performance

# Different Flavors of Sequential Feature Selection

- Sequential Backward Selection
- Sequential Forward Selection
- Sequential Floating Forward Selection
- Sequential Floating Backward Selection

both approaches obtained similar results. Note, that the GA led to the optimal solution in comparable time (about 1500 subset evaluations) even taking into account the need to run it a number of times to achieve good performance. In this experiment, the GA was run 10 times for each value of  $t$  and, in more than half of the cases the GA obtained better or the same results than the SFFS ones (the figure can be misleading in this sense because each plotted symbol may represent more than one result).

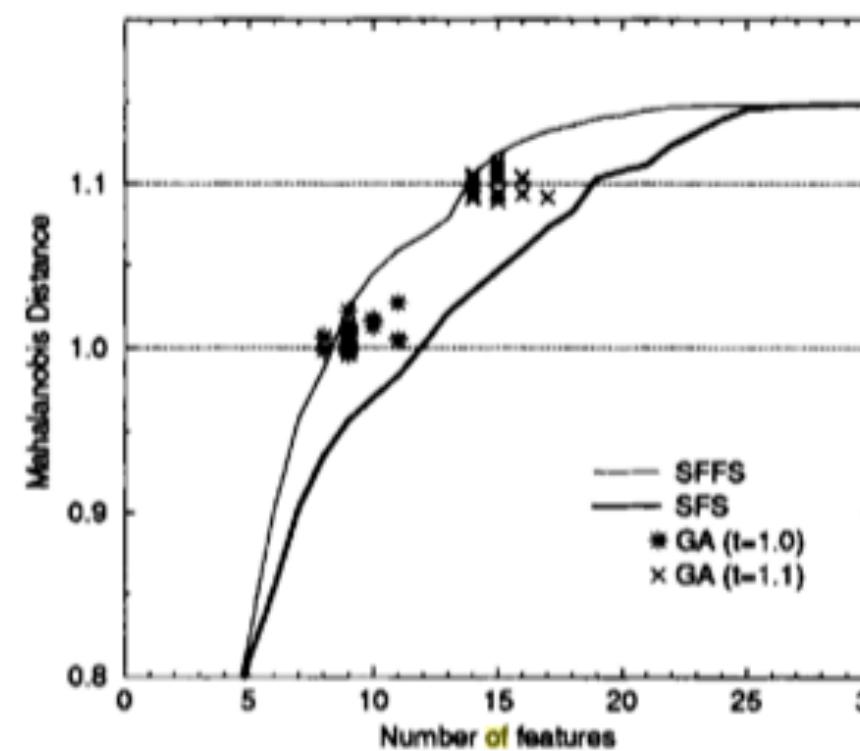


Figure 5. Results of Feature Selection obtained by SFS and SFFS methods for the  $D = 30$  experiment. Crosses and asterisks show the results corresponding to different runs of the GA with two different values of the threshold parameter.

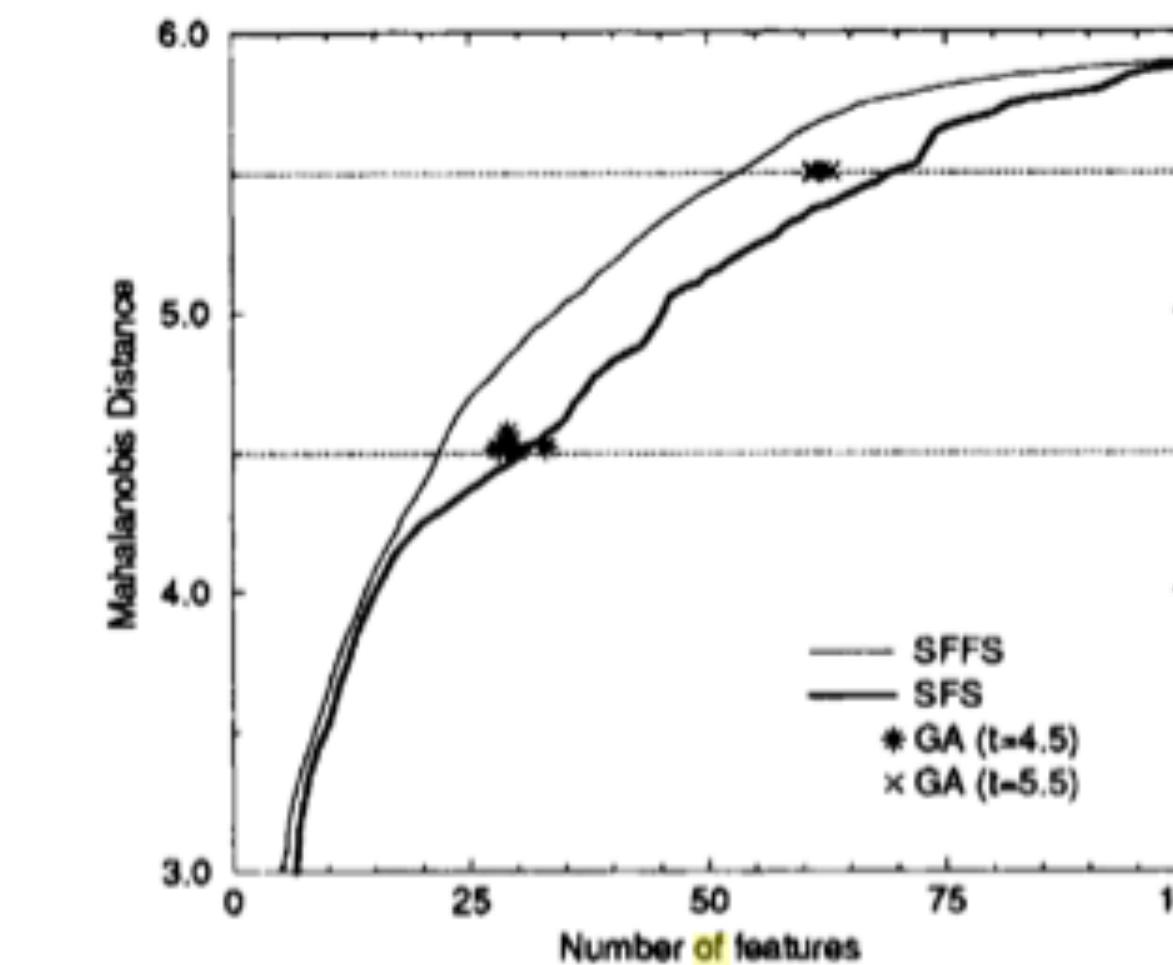


Figure 7. Results of Feature Selection obtained by SFS and SFFS methods for the  $D = 120$  experiment. Crosses and asterisks show the results corresponding to different runs of the GA with two different values of the threshold parameter.

Ferri, F. J., Pudil P., Hatef, M., Kittler, J. (1994). "Comparative study of techniques for large-scale feature selection." Pattern Recognition in Practice IV : 403-413.

## Sequential Feature Selector

### Overview

[Example 1 - A simple Sequential Forward Selection example](#)

[Example 2 - Toggling between SFS, SBS, SFFS, and SBFS](#)

[Example 3 - Visualizing the results in DataFrames](#)

[Example 4 - Plotting the results](#)

[Example 5 - Sequential Feature Selection for Regression](#)

[Example 6 -- Feature Selection with Fixed Train/Validation Splits](#)

[Example 7 -- Using the Selected Feature Subset For Making New Predictions](#)

[Example 8 -- Sequential Feature Selection and GridSearch](#)

[Example 9 -- Selecting the "best" feature combination in a k-range](#)

[Example 10 -- Using other cross-validation schemes](#)

[Example 11 - Working with pandas DataFrames](#)

[Example 12 - Using Pandas DataFrames](#)

[Example 13 - Specifying Fixed Feature Sets](#)

### API

[Methods](#)

[Properties](#)

## Sequential Forward Selection (SFS)

**Input:**  $Y = \{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_d\}$

- The **SFS** algorithm takes the whole  $d$ -dimensional feature set as input.

**Output:**  $X_k = \{x_j \mid j = 1, 2, \dots, k; x_j \in Y\}$ , where  $k = (0, 1, 2, \dots, d)$

- SFS returns a subset of features; the number of selected features  $k$ , where  $k < d$ , has to be specified *a priori*.

**Initialization:**  $X_0 = \emptyset, k = 0$

- We initialize the algorithm with an empty set  $\emptyset$  ("null set") so that  $k = 0$  (where  $k$  is the size of the subset).

**Step 1 (Inclusion):**

$$x^+ = \arg \max J(X_k + x), \text{ where } x \in Y - X_k$$

$$X_{k+1} = X_k + x^+$$

$$k = k + 1$$

*Go to Step 1*

- in this step, we add an additional feature,  $x^+$ , to our feature subset  $X_k$ .
- $x^+$  is the feature that maximizes our criterion function, that is, the feature that is associated with the best classifier performance if it is added to  $X_k$ .
- We repeat this procedure until the termination criterion is satisfied.

**Termination:**  $k = p$

- We add features from the feature subset  $X_k$  until the feature subset of size  $k$  contains the number of desired features  $p$  that we specified *a priori*.

[http://rasbt.github.io/mlxtend/user\\_guide/feature\\_selection/SequentialFeatureSelector/](http://rasbt.github.io/mlxtend/user_guide/feature_selection/SequentialFeatureSelector/)

1. Different categories of feature selection
  2. Filter methods
  3. Embedded methods
    - 3.1. L1-regularized logistic regression
    - 3.2. Random forest feature importance
  4. Wrapper methods
    - 4.1. Recursive feature elimination
    - 4.2. Permutation importance
    - 4.3. Permutation importance code example
    - 4.4. Sequential feature selection
- 4.5. Sequential feature selection code example**