



# Lecture 18: Ensemble Learning Basics & Random Forests

# Recap

- Decision Tree
- Gini Impurity
- DT Pruning





# Wisdom of the Crowds



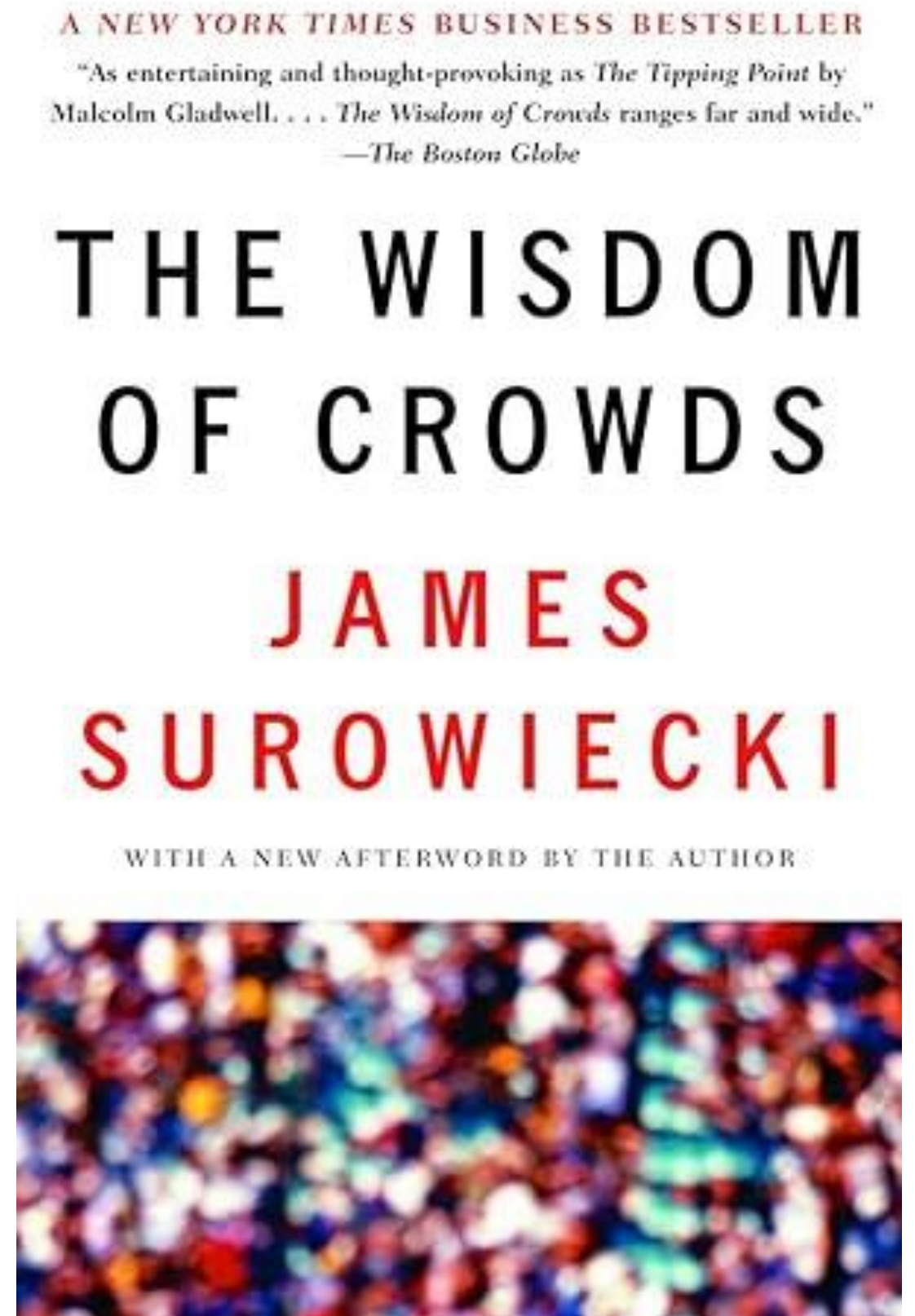
# A game of guessing?

- How many candies in the jar?
- How to get the most correct answer?
- No answer is correct, some answers are useful
- Especially if averaged over a group



# The wisdom of crowds

- “Under the right circumstances, groups are remarkably intelligent, and are often smarter than the smartest people in them”
- Using a Group for better decision
  - Diverse background
  - Independent decision by each individual
  - Good method for aggregation



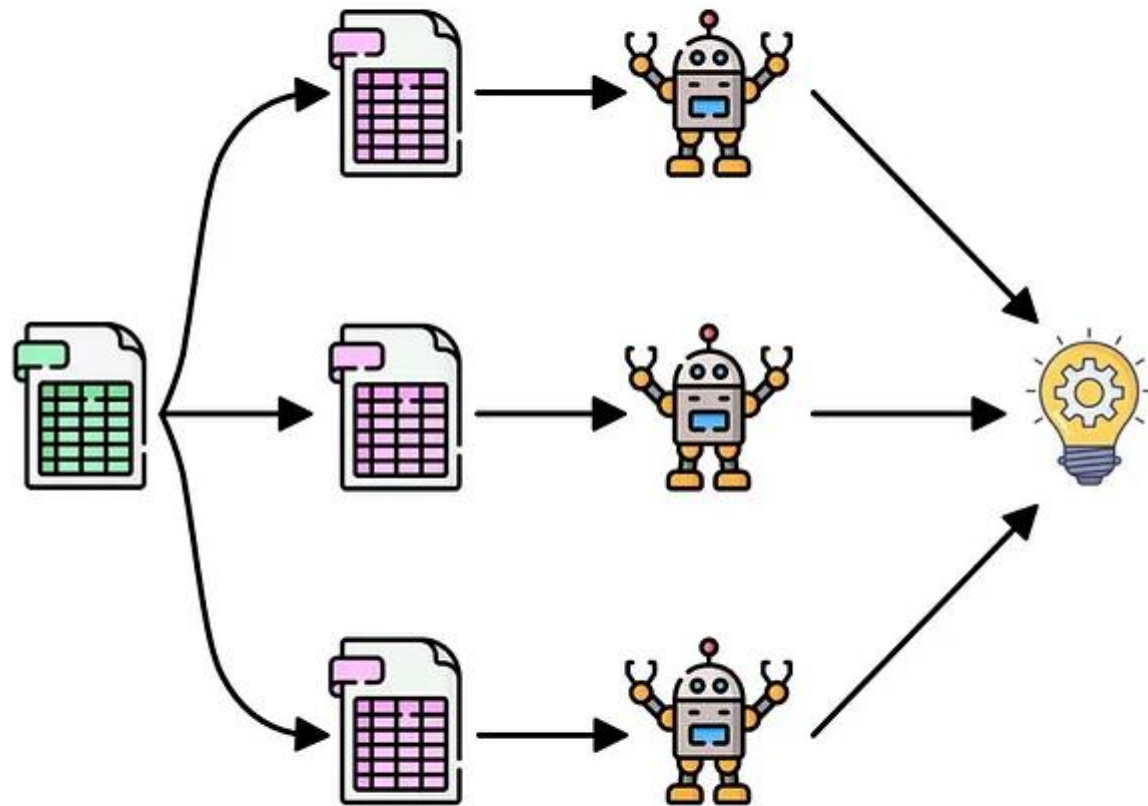




# Ensemble Learning

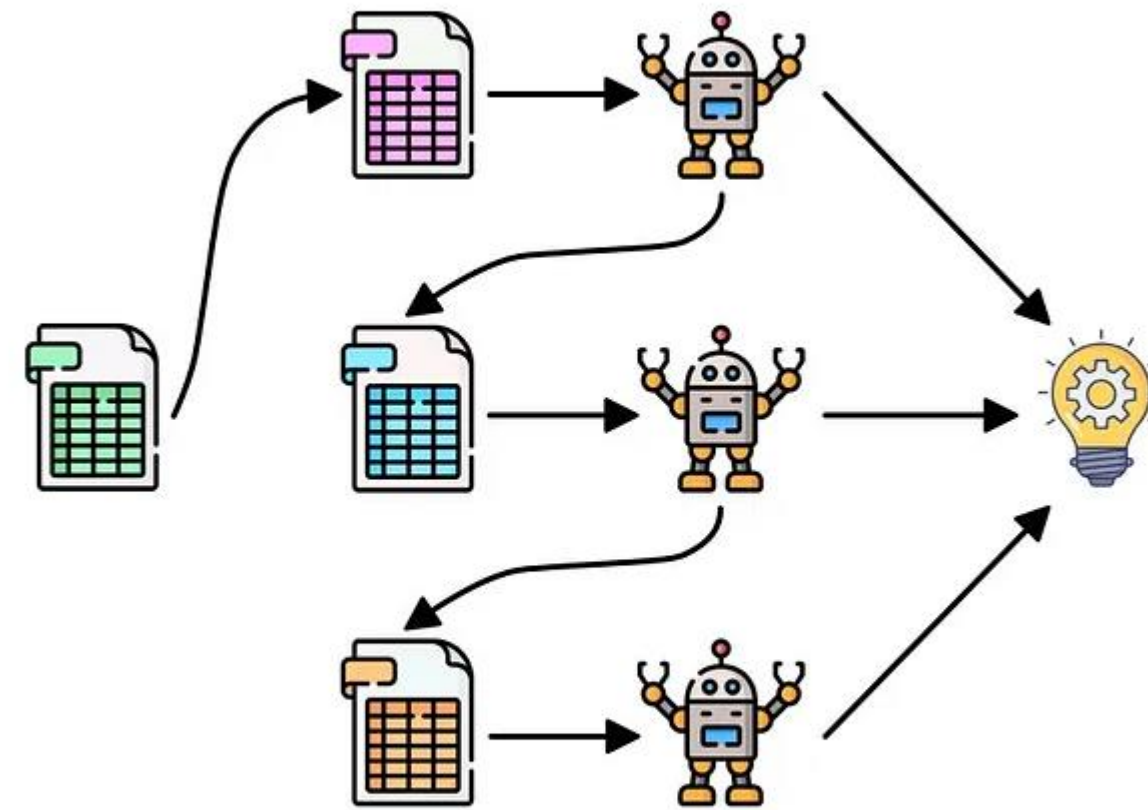
- Multiple ML model used together for prediction

## Bagging



Parallel

## Boosting

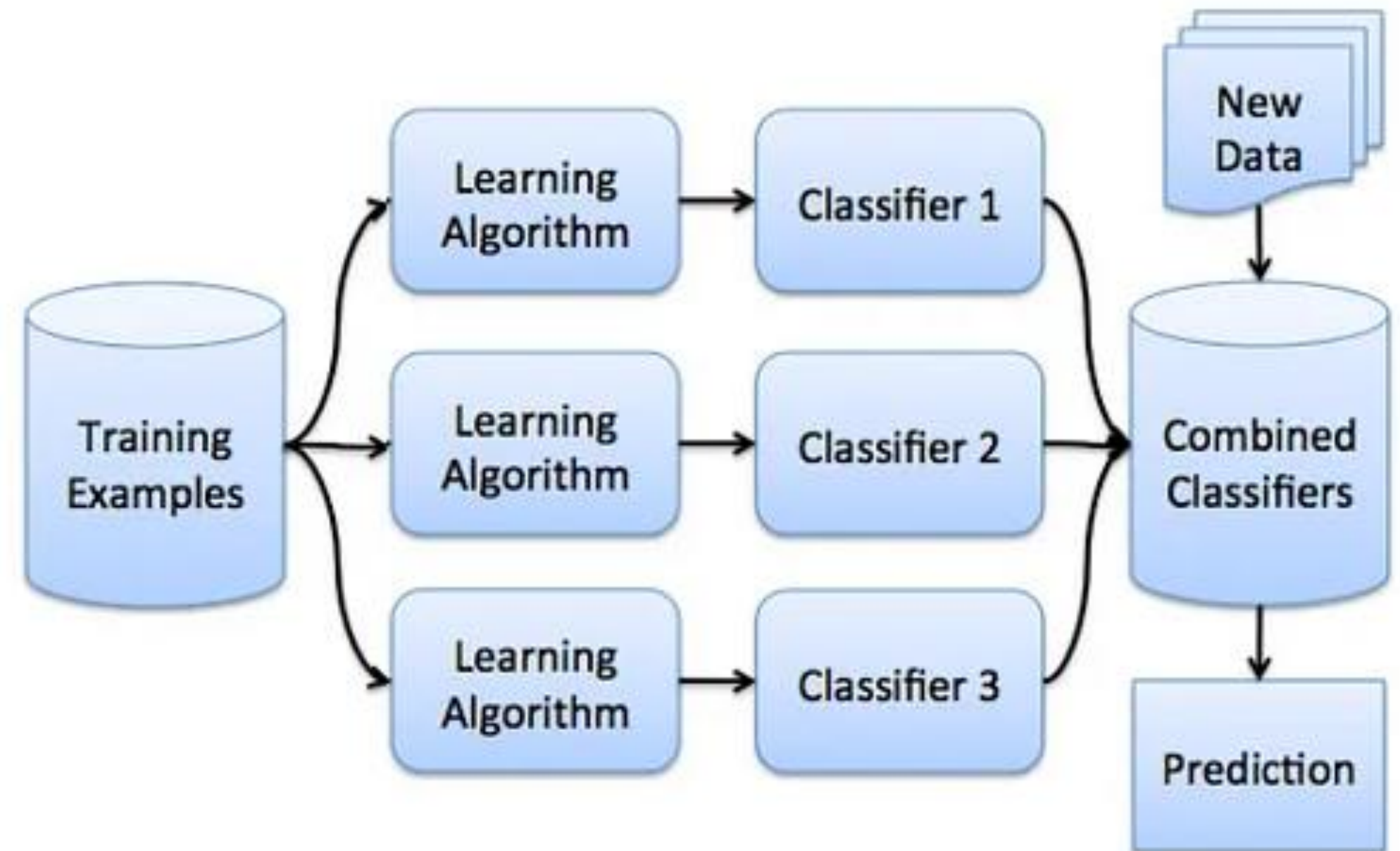
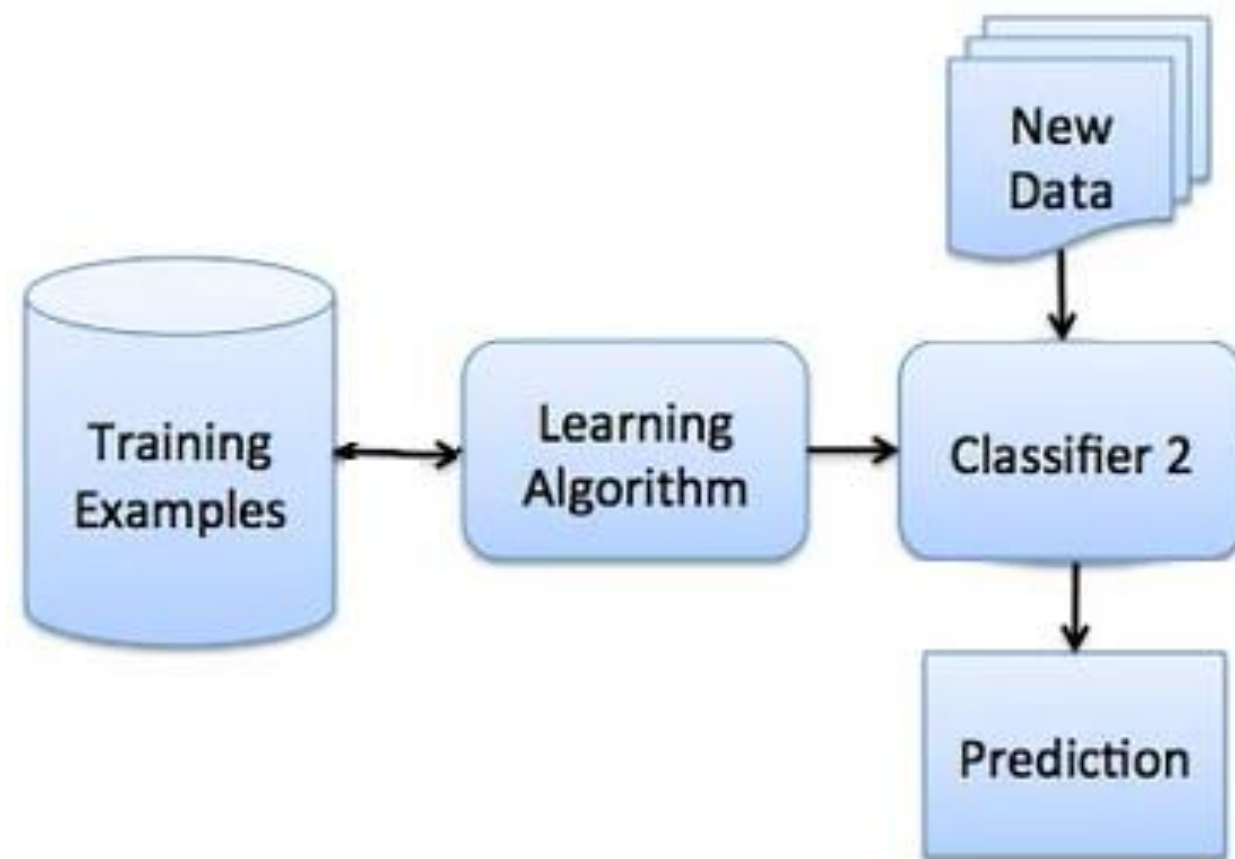


Sequential



# Majority Voting/Averaging models

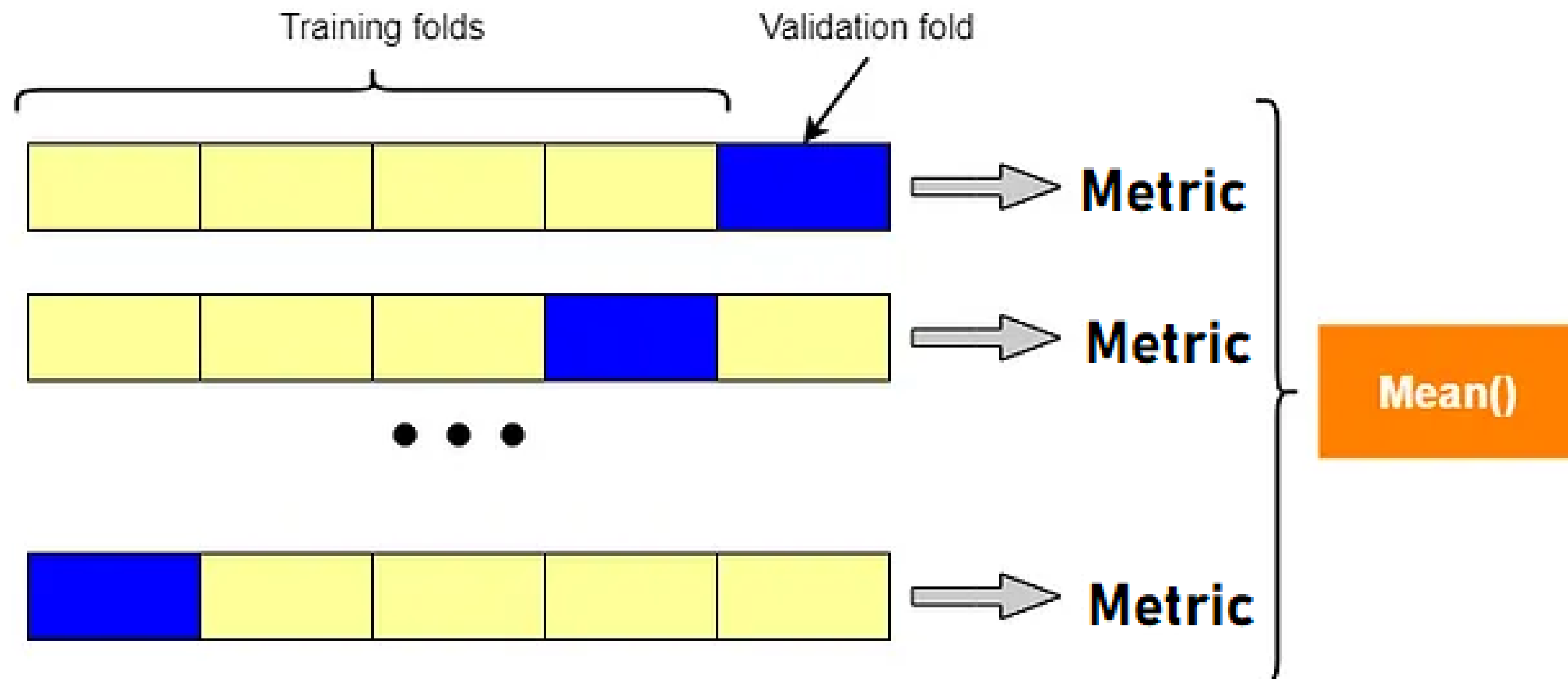
- High variance from single model
- How about using multiple models?
  - Will it reduce variance?
  - Not if data is correlated





## A second look at K-Fold CV

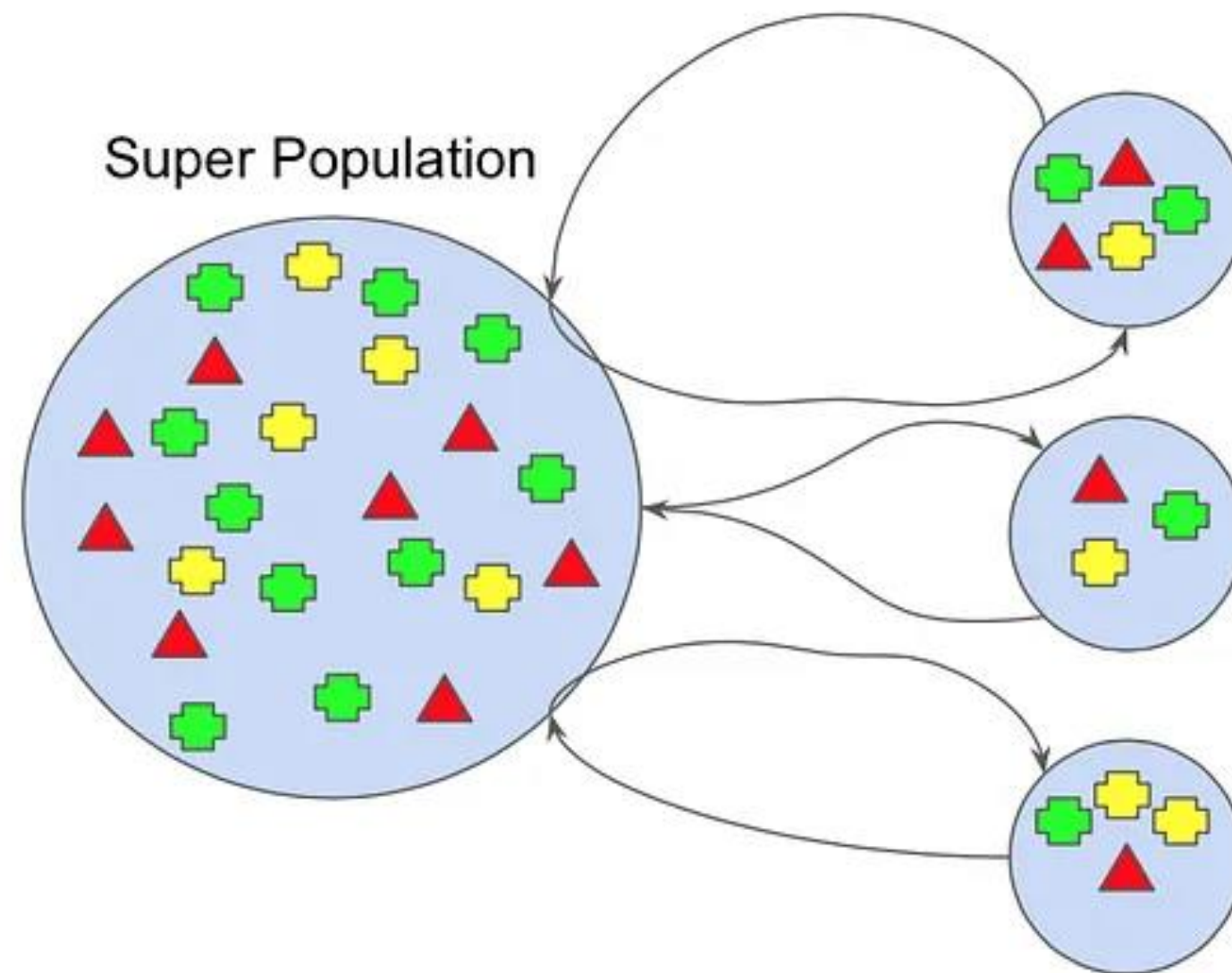
- Most data is repeated across folds
- IID from one record to next.
- Highly correlated from one fold to another



# Solution: Bagging

- Bagging = Bootstrapping + Aggregation
- Bootstrapping: Sampling with Replacement

Data becomes uncorrelated



Sample Population 1

**Std(a)**

Sample Population 2

**Std(b)**

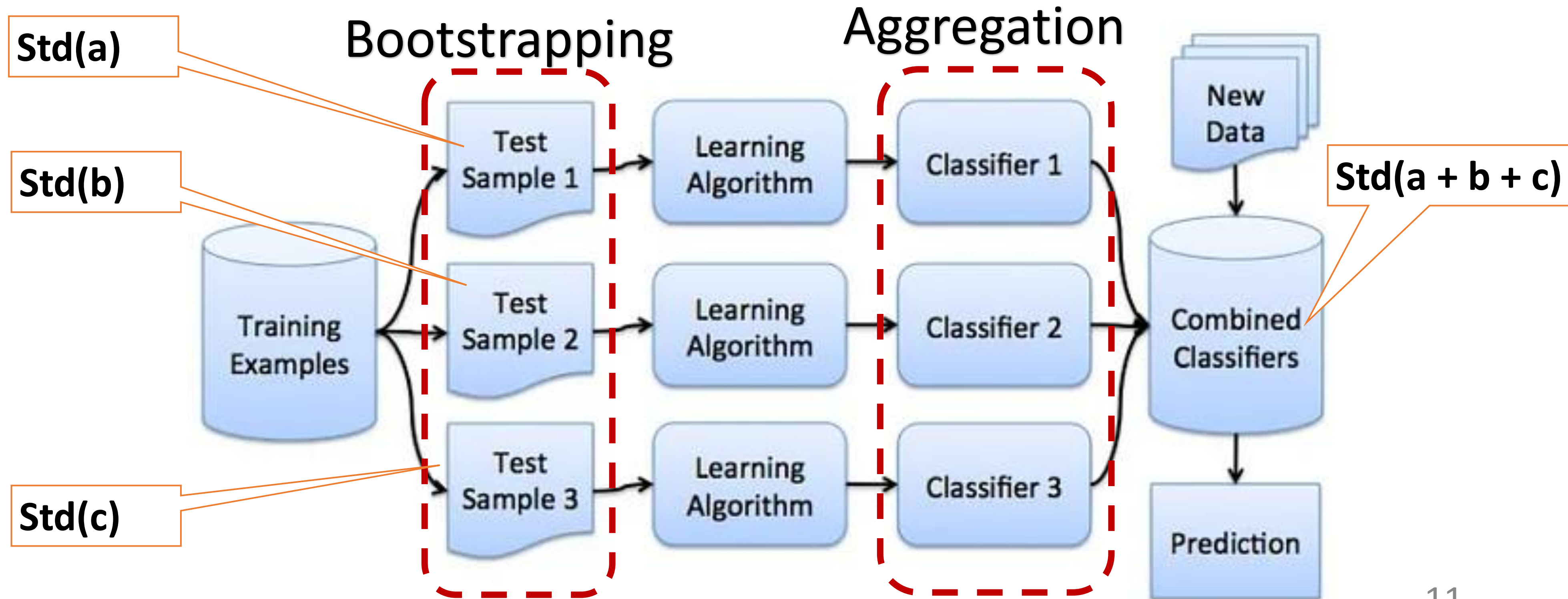
Sample Population 3

**Std(c)**

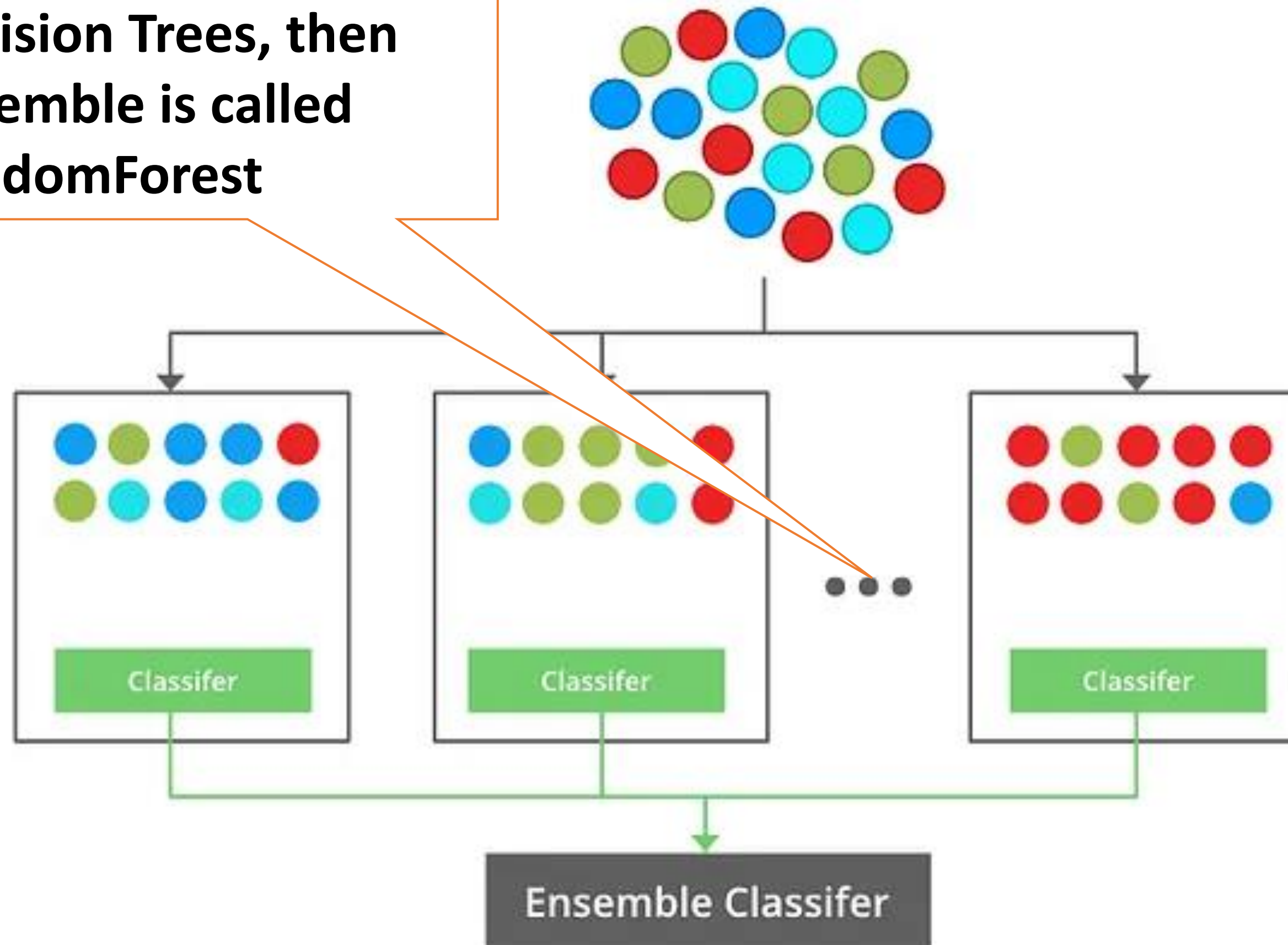


# Solution: Bagging (Contd.)

- Aggregation = Combining classifiers



When all classifiers are  
Decision Trees, then  
ensemble is called  
RandomForest



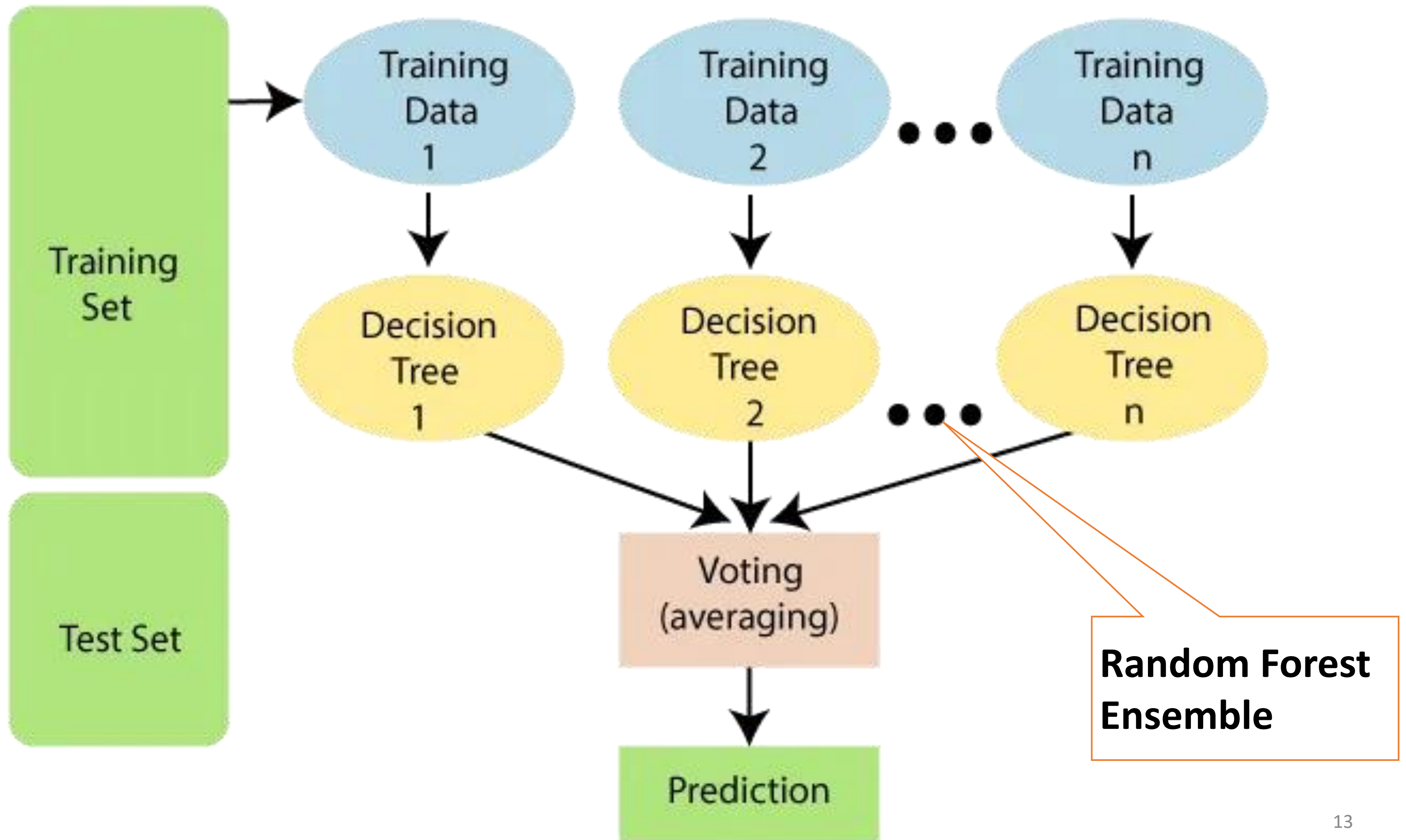
Original Data

Bootstrapping

Aggregating

Bagging

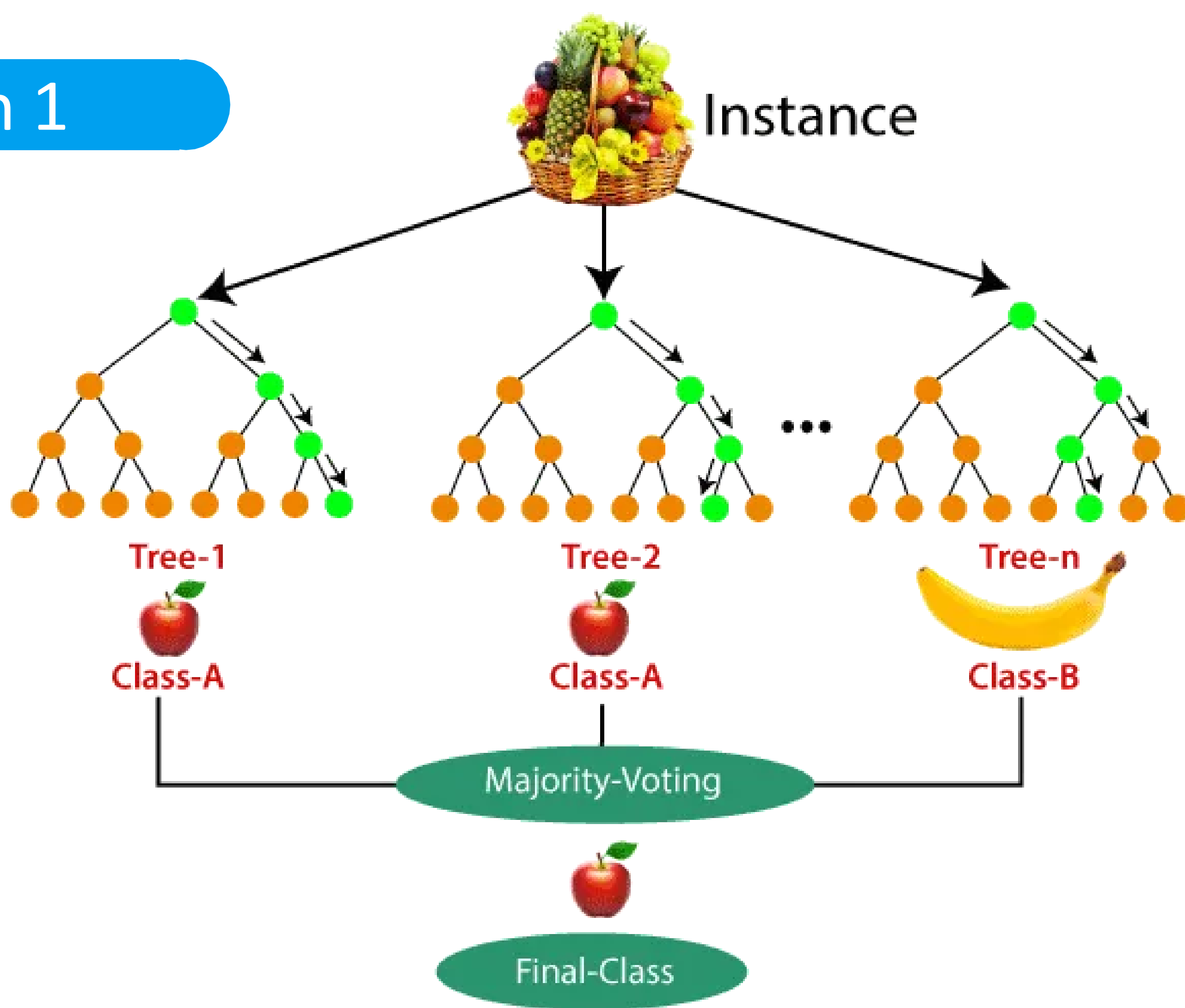




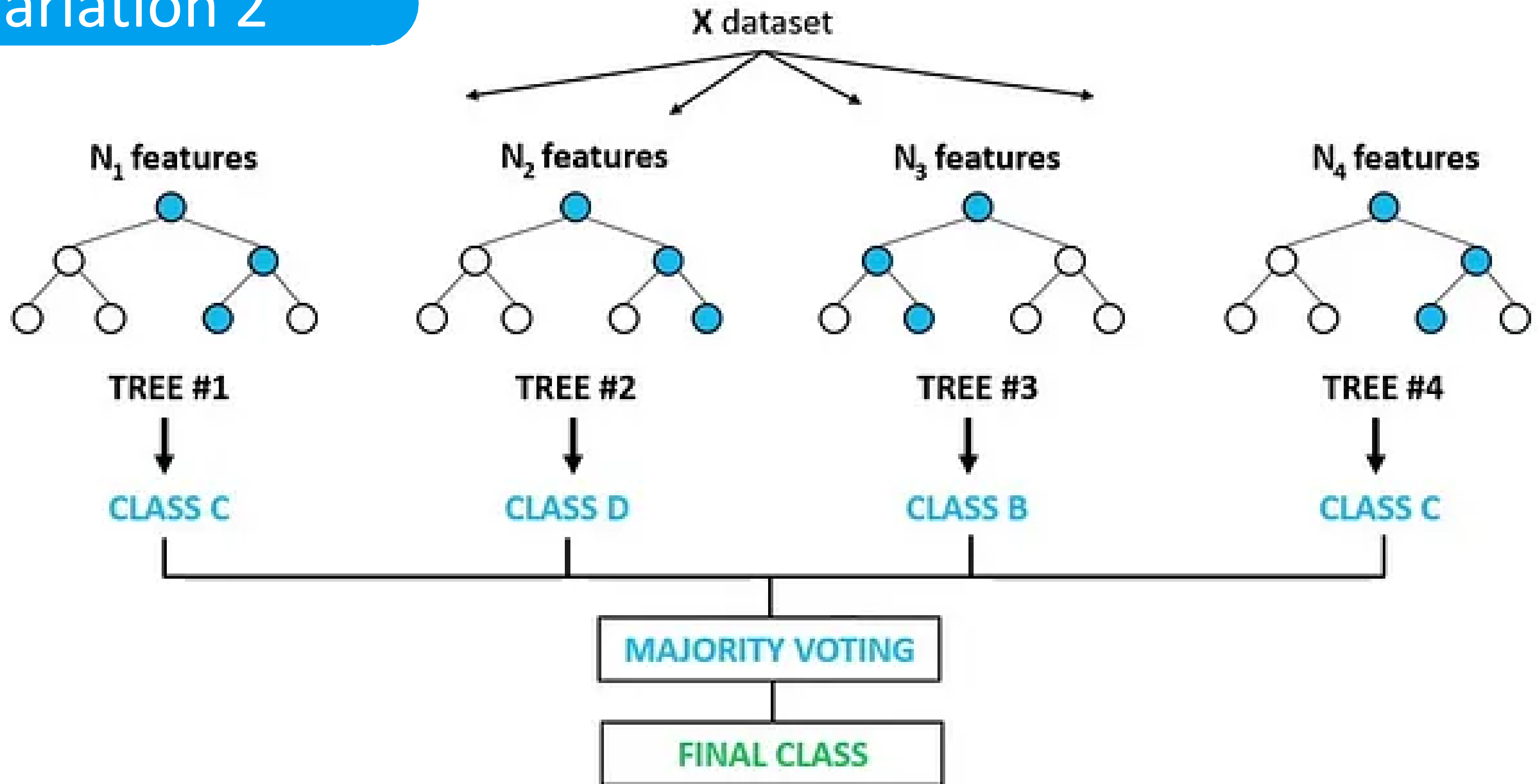




# Variation 1



## Variation 2





# Random Forest hyperparameters

- Decision Tree hyper params
  - Criteria = gini/entropy
  - Max tree depth, Max leaf nodes
  - Min samples in split, Min samples in leaf
- Bagging hyperparams: Bootstrap Y/N
- Random Forest hyper params
  - Number of trees (n\_estimators)
  - Max samples per tree
  - Max features per tree

# Random Forest advantages

- Feature correlation does not matter
- Feature distribution does not matter
- No need to scale data
- Works well even when data is missing
- Overcomes the problem of overfitting
- Not very expensive
- Flexible and high accuracy





# Imbalanced data

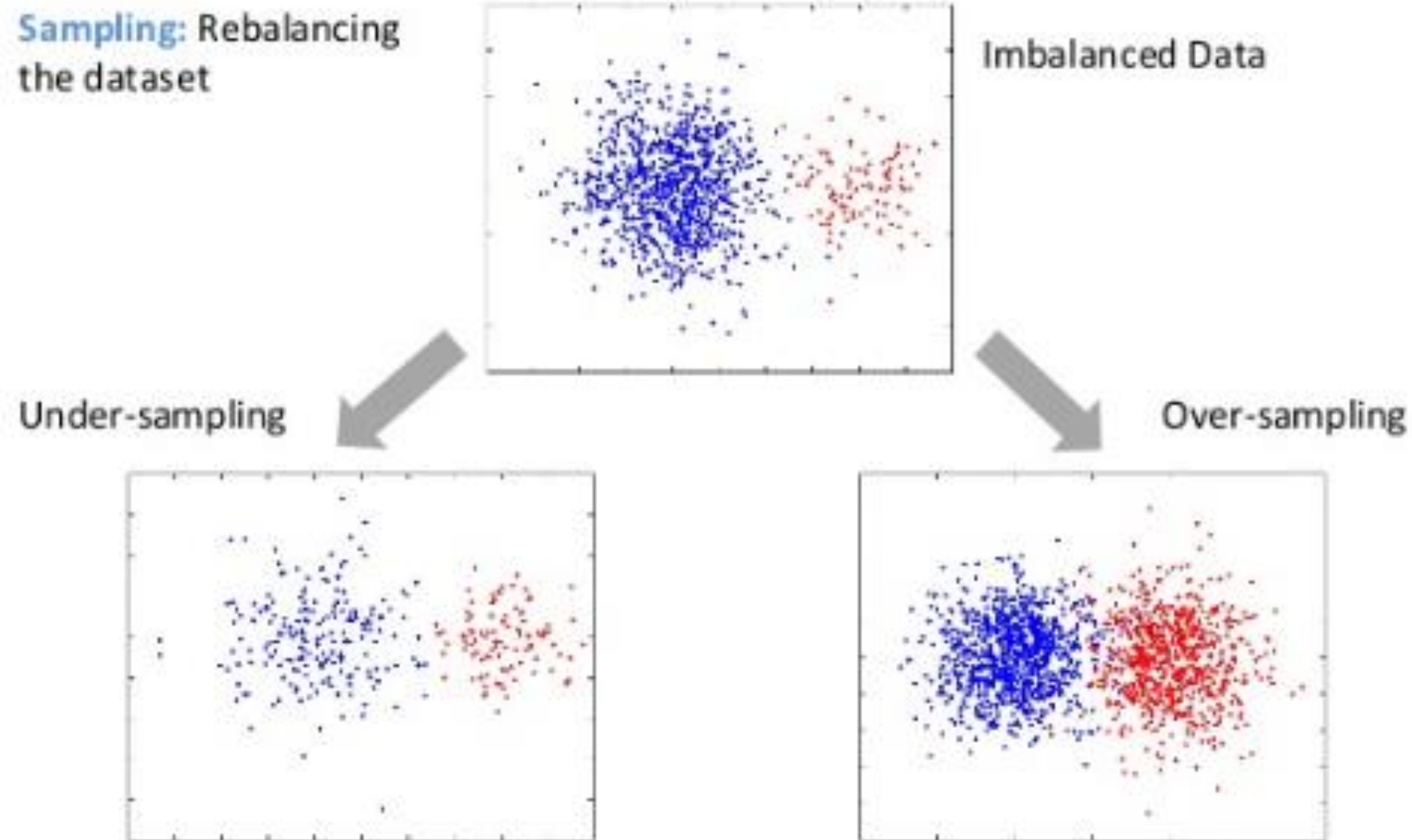
# Accuracy metric and Imbalanced dataset

- A dataset has 98% majority class and 2% minority class
- A model was developed and it gave accuracy of 0.9499
- Is it a good model?



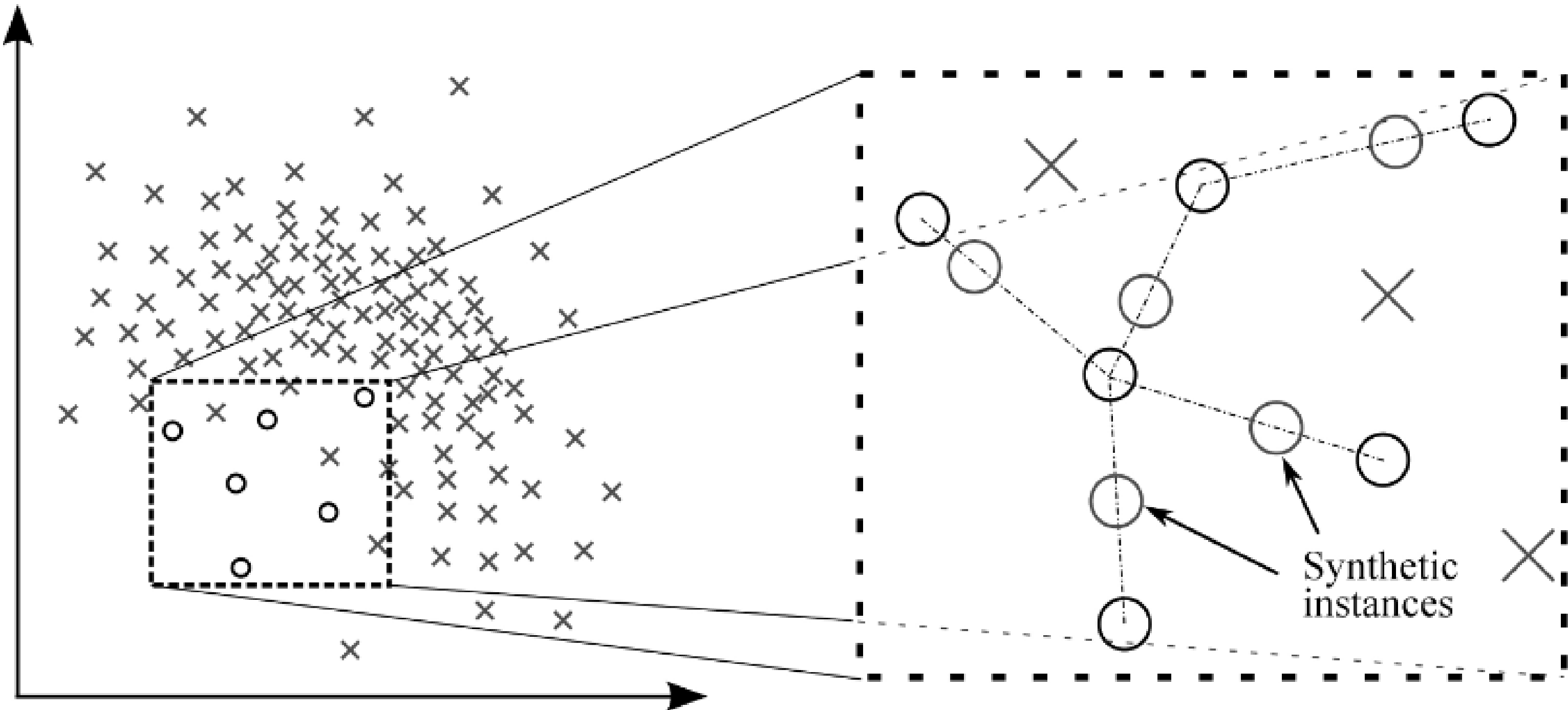
# Oversampling minority class

- Synthetic Minority Oversampling Technique: SMOTE



# SMOTE (Continued)

- Uses KNN on minority class



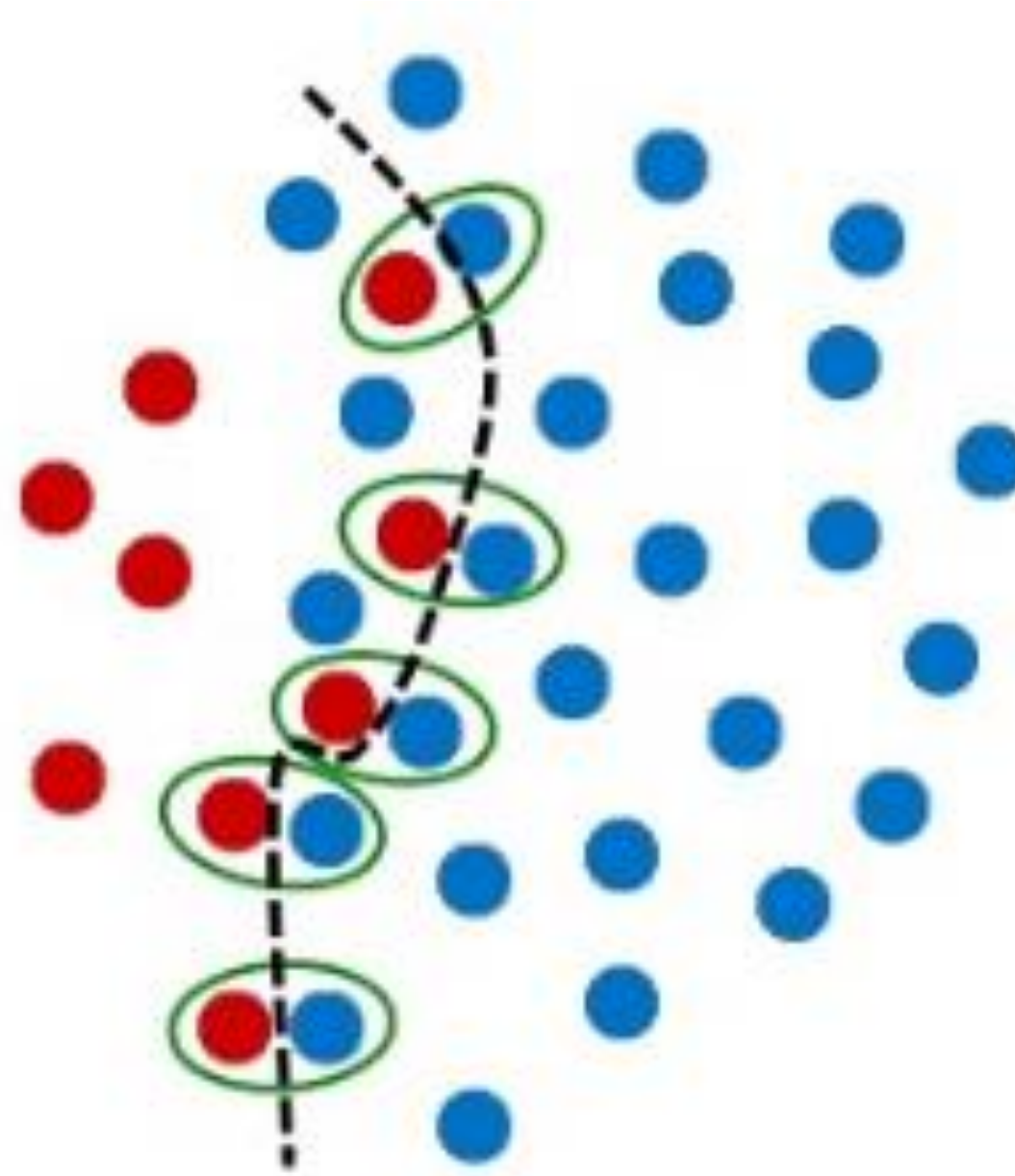


## SMOTE (Continued)

- kNN SMOTE
- DBSMOTE: Uses DBSCAN clustering algorithm for SMOTE

# Undersampling majority class

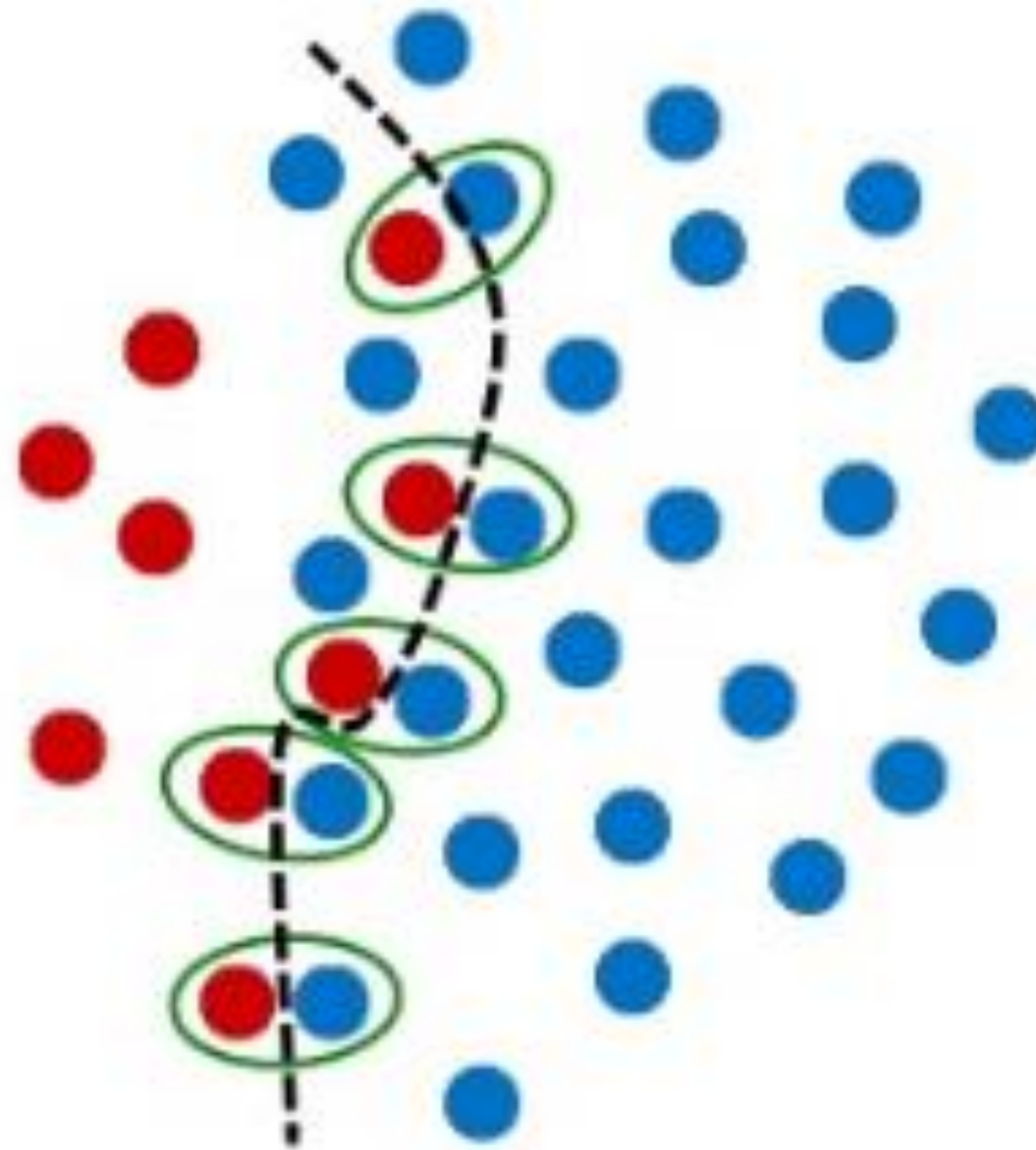
- Random Undersampling
- Tomek Links





# Combined oversampling and undersampling

- SMOTE Tomek



# Handling Imbalanced dataset in Random Forest

- Class weight
  - Reciprocal of proportion of records per class
  - Balanced – default value
  - Balanced sub sample – each tree gets sub samples based on class weight
- Let us look at all of this in lab





QUESTIONS