

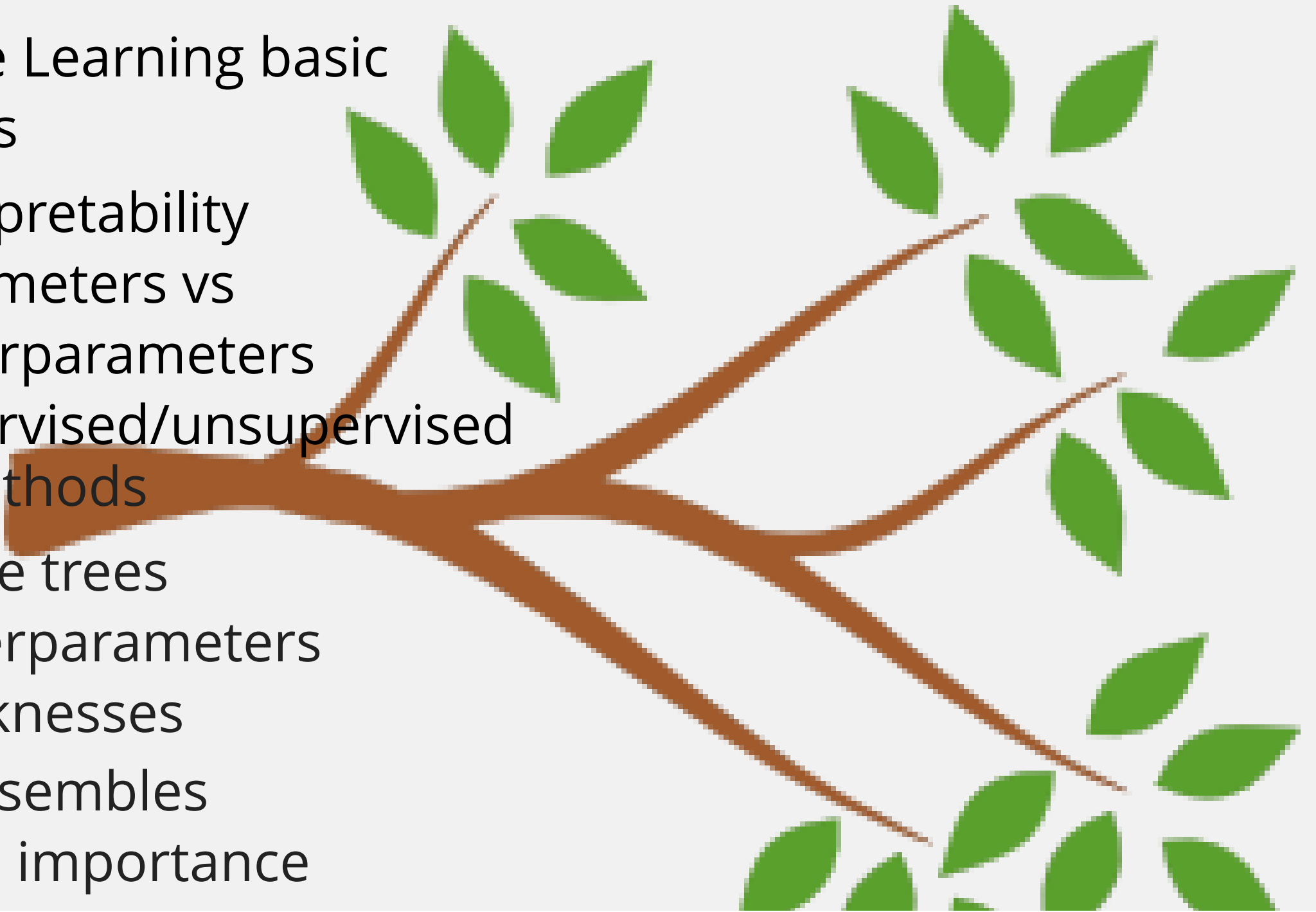
data science for (physical) scientists VIII

Tree methods

dr.federica bianco | fbb.space |  fedhere |  fedhere

this slide deck: <http://bit.ly/dspsVIII>

- Machine Learning basic concepts
 - interpretability
 - parameters vs hyperparameters
 - supervised/unsupervised
- Tree methods
 - single trees
 - hyperparameters
 - weaknesses
- Tree ensembles
- Feature importance



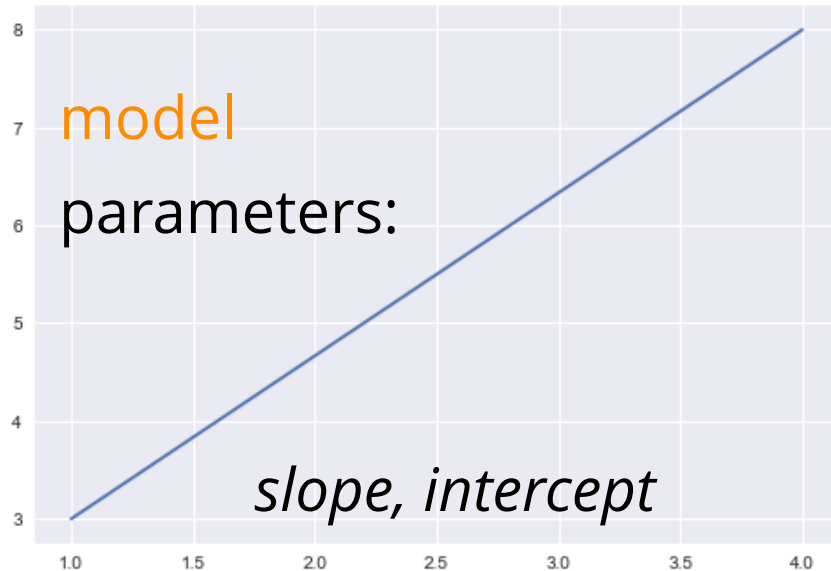


what is machine learning

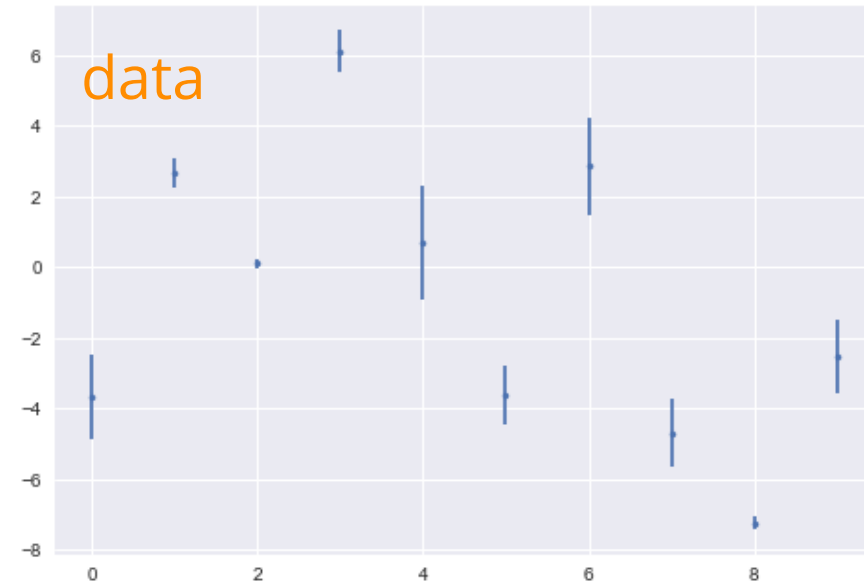
what is machine learning?

[Machine Learning is the] field of study that gives computers the ability to learn without being explicitly programmed.

Arthur Samuel, 1959



ML: any model
with parameters
learnt from the
data



what is machine learning?



supervised learning

classification
prediction
feature selection

unsupervised learning

understanding structure
organizing/compressing data
anomaly detection
dimensionality reduction

what is machine learning?



supervised learning

k-Nearest Neighbors

Regression

Support Vector Machines

Classification/Regression Trees

Neural networks

classification

prediction

feature selection

unsupervised learning

understanding structure

organizing/compressing data

anomaly detection

dimensionality reduction

clustering

PCA

Apriori

general ML parts

used to:

understand structure of feature space
classify based on examples,
regression (classification with infinitely
small classes)

general ML parts

should be interpretable: why?

ethical implication,
predictive policing,
selection of conference participants.

general ML parts

ML models have *parameters* and
hyperparameters

parameters: the model optimizes based on the data

hyperparameters: chosen by the model author,
could be based on domain knowledge, other data,
guessed (?!). e.g. the shape of the polynomial

general ML parts

should be interpretable: why?

ethical implication,
predictive policing,
selection of conference participants.

connect to causality
why the model made a choice?
which feature mattered

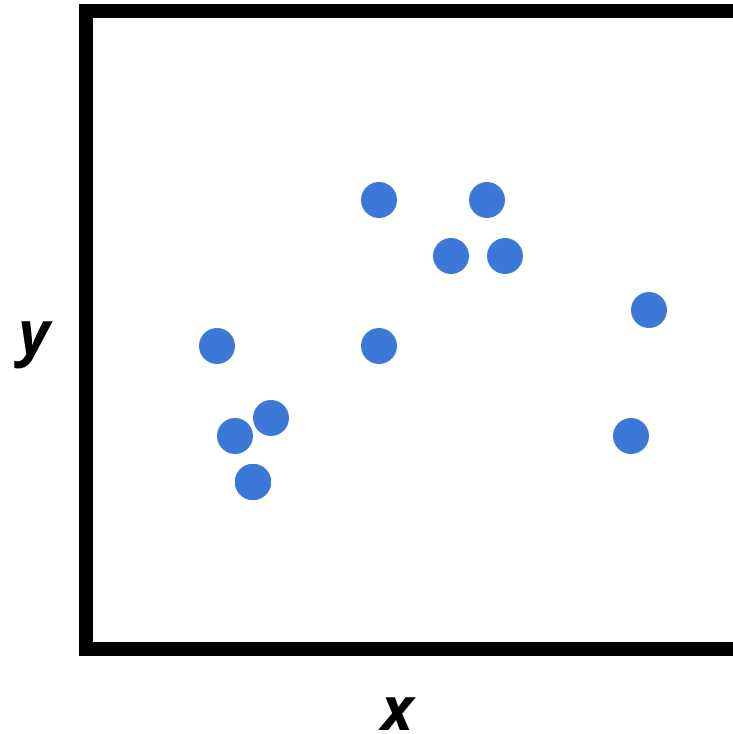
classification vs clustering

1

clustering vs classifying

unsupervised

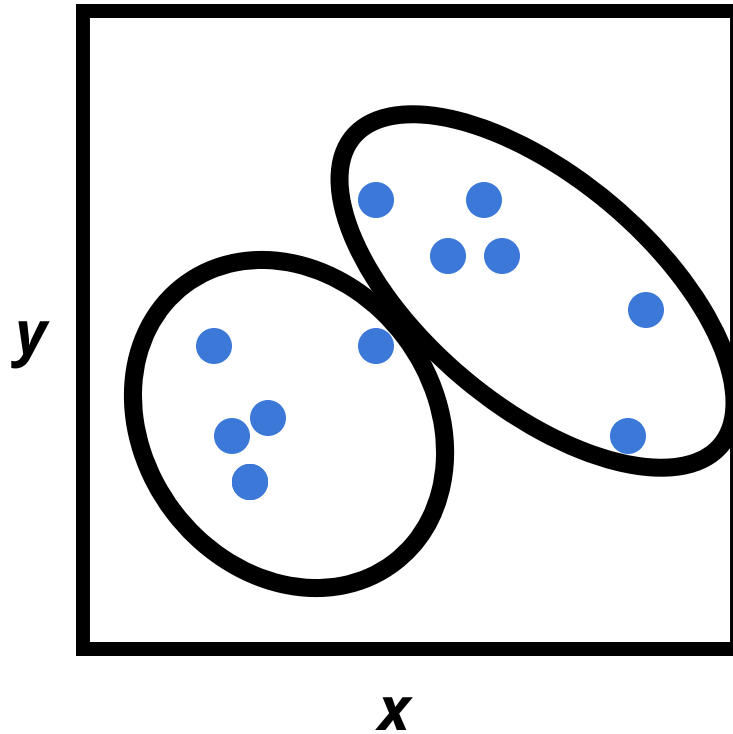
observed **features:**
 (\vec{x}, \vec{y})



clustering vs classifying

unsupervised

observed **features:**
 (\vec{x}, \vec{y})



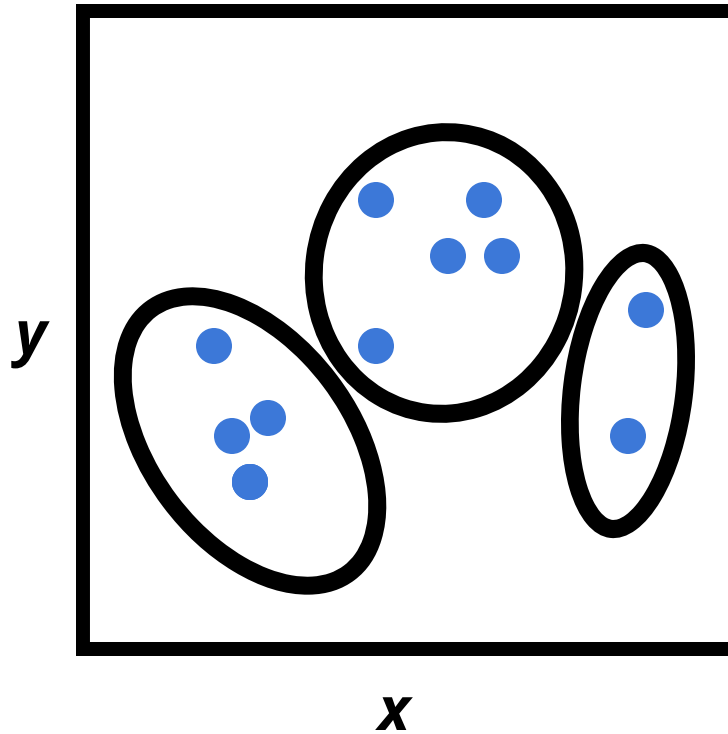
clustering vs classifying

unsupervised

goal is to partition the space so that the **observed** variables are separated into

- maximally homogeneous
- maximally distinguishable groups

observed **features:**
 (\vec{x}, \vec{y})



models typically return a cluster label by object

clustering vs classifying

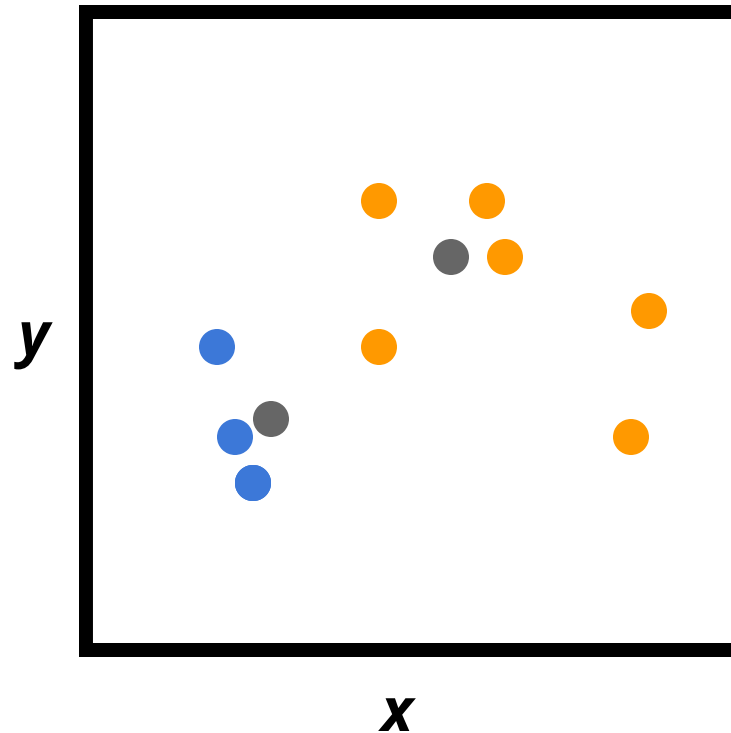
unsupervised *supervised*

goal is to partition the space so that the **unobserved** variables are

separated in groups

1 consistently with
an observed subset

observed **features:**
 (\vec{x}, \vec{y})



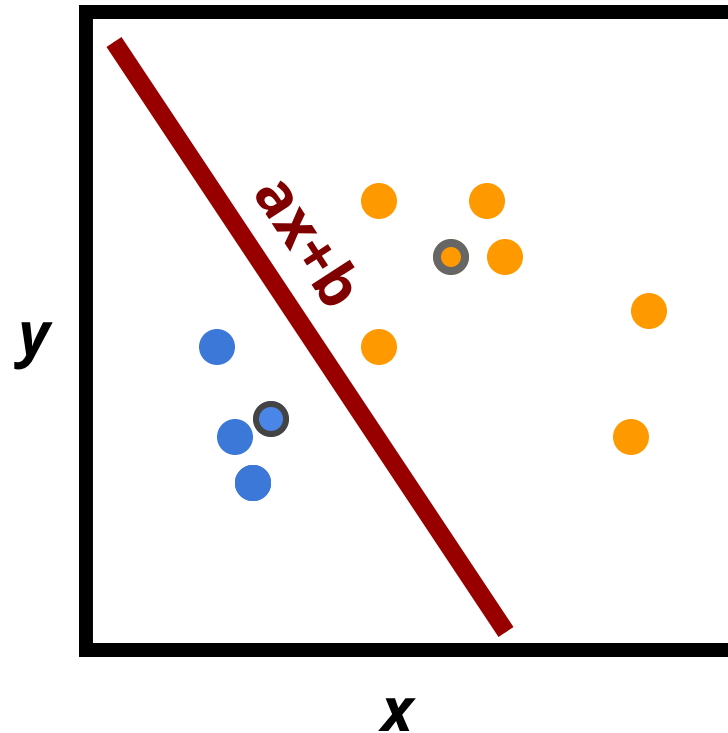
target **features:**
 (\overrightarrow{color})

models typically return a partition of the space

clustering vs classifying

unsupervised *supervised*

observed **features:**
 (\vec{x}, \vec{y})



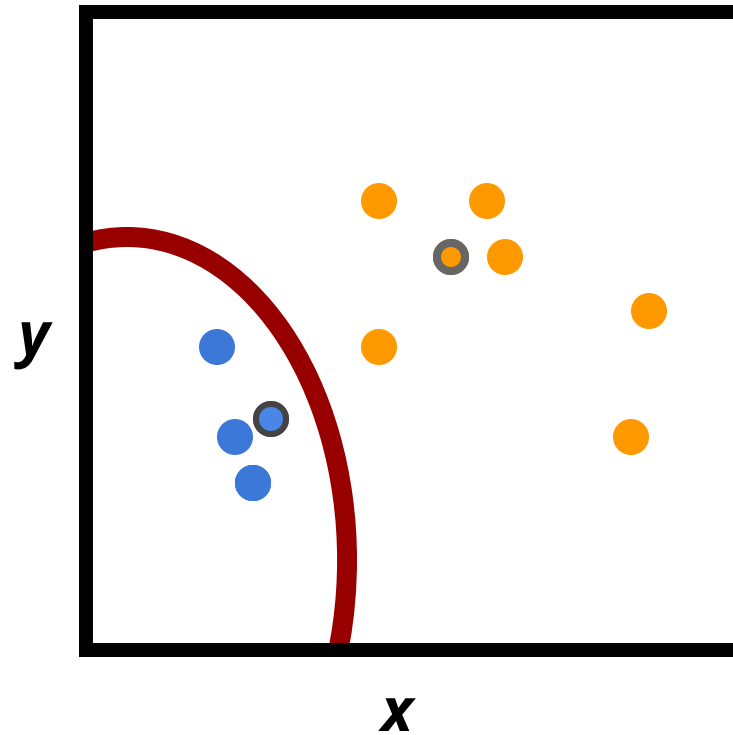
target **features:**
 $\overrightarrow{(color)}$

```
if y >= a*x + b :  
    return blue  
else:  
    return orange
```

clustering vs classifying

unsupervised *supervised*

observed **features:**
 (\vec{x}, \vec{y})



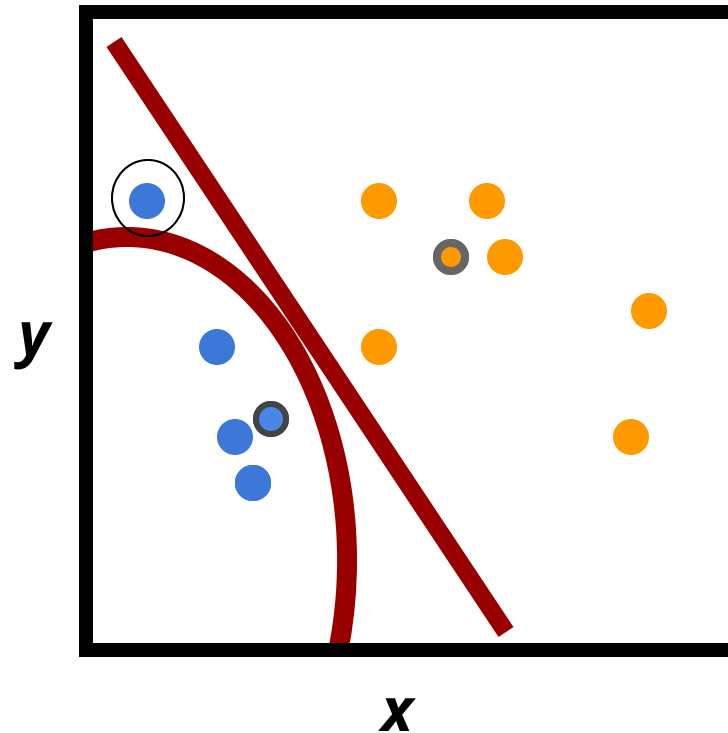
target **features:**
(color)

```
if x**2 + y**2 >= (x-a)**2 + (y-b)**2 :  
    return blue  
else:  
    return orange
```

clustering vs classifying

unsupervised *supervised*

observed **features:**
 (\vec{x}, \vec{y})



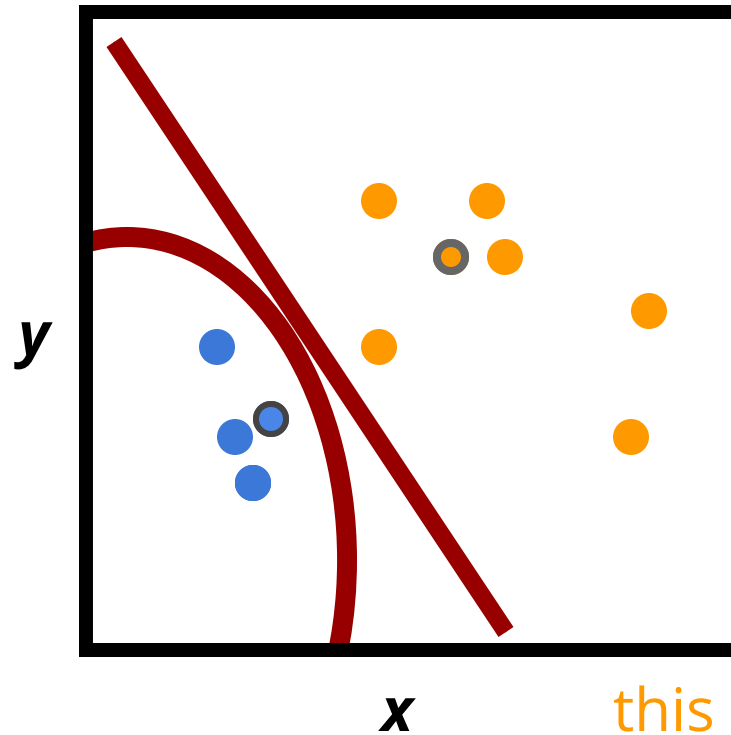
target **features:**
 $\overrightarrow{(color)}$

```
if x**2 + y**2 >= (x-a)**2 + (y-b)**2 :  
    return blue  
else:  
    return orange
```

clustering vs classifying

unsupervised *supervised*

observed **features:**
 (\vec{x}, \vec{y})



target **features:**
 (\overrightarrow{color})

this is a solution SVM would provide:
Support Vector Machine

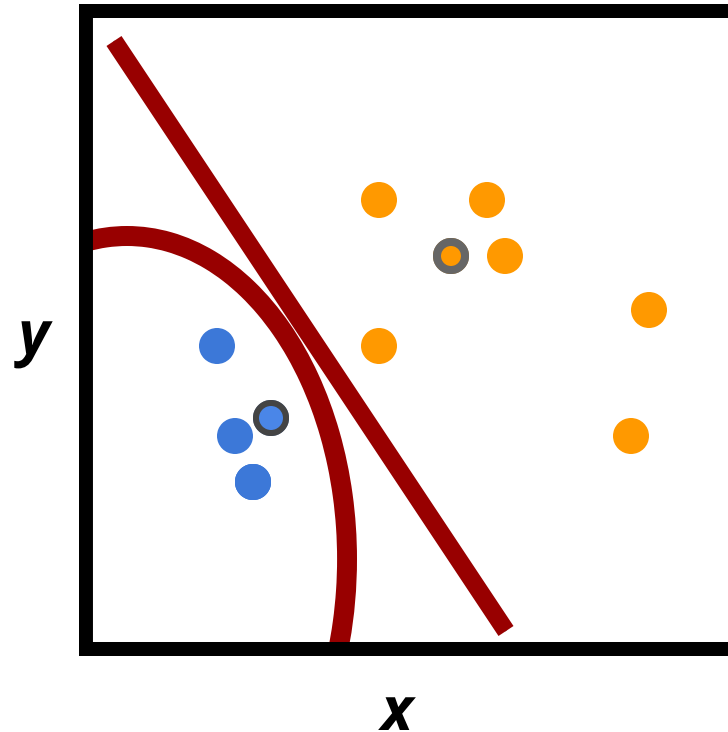
supervised ML: classification

A subset of variables has class labels.
Guess the label for the other variables

Support Vector Machine:

finds a hyperplane that partitions the space

observed **features:**
 (\vec{x}, \vec{y})



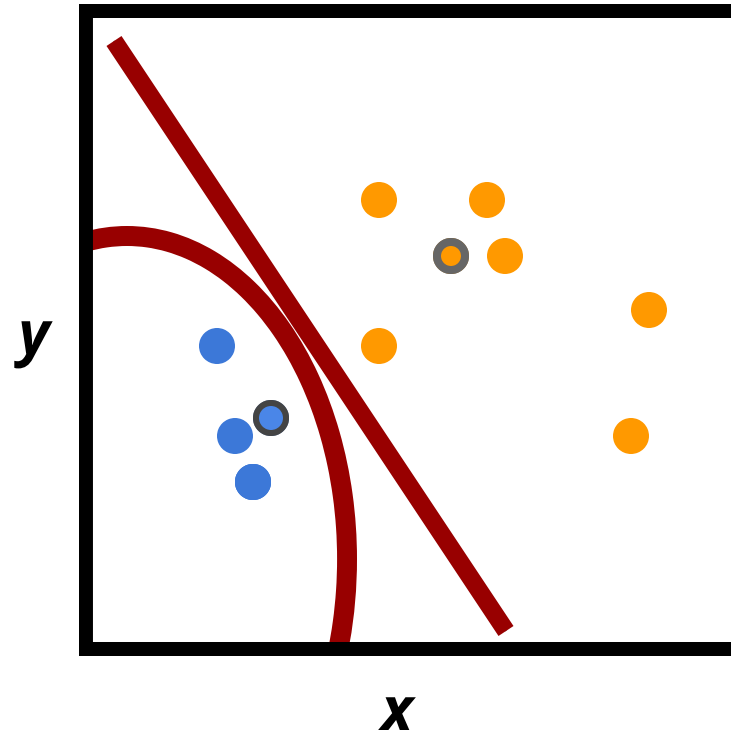
target **features:**
 $\overrightarrow{(color)}$

supervised ML: classification

A subset of variables has class labels.
Guess the label for the other variables

Support Vector Machine:

finds a hyperplane that partitions the space



2d hyperplane: line (curve)

3d hyperplane: surface

4d hyperplane: volume

... target **features:**
 $\overrightarrow{(color)}$

observed **features:**
 $\overrightarrow{(x, y)}$

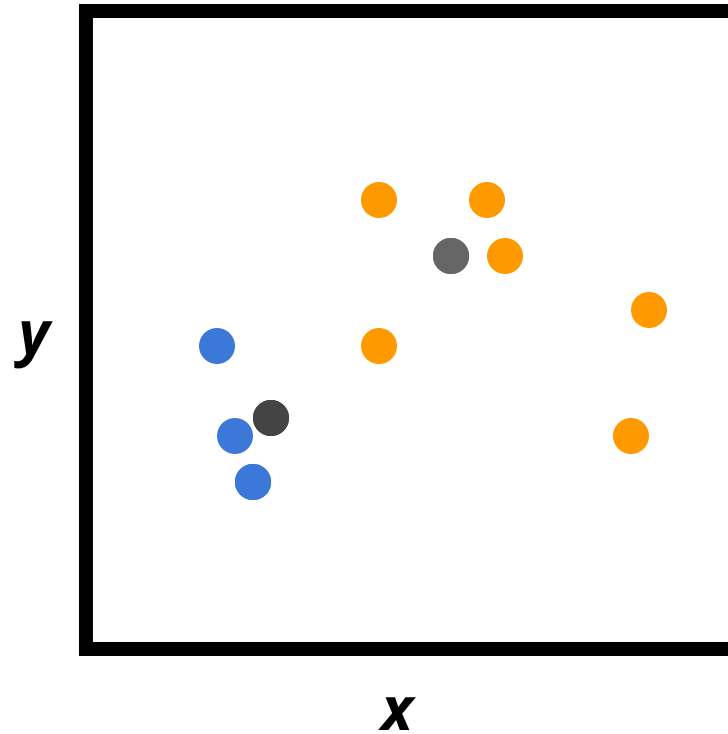
supervised ML: classification

A subset of variables has class labels.
Guess the label for the other variables

Tree Methods

split spaces along each axis separately

observed **features:**
 (\vec{x}, \vec{y})



target **features:**
 (\overrightarrow{color})

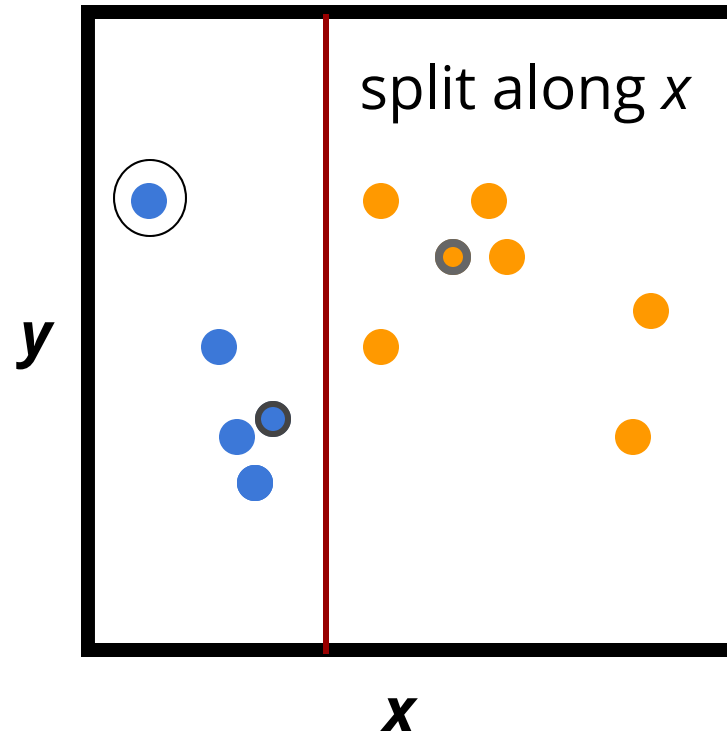
supervised ML: classification

A subset of variables has class labels.
Guess the label for the other variables

Tree Methods

split spaces along each axis separately

observed **features:**
 (\vec{x}, \vec{y})



target **features:**
 (\overrightarrow{color})

```
if x <= a :  
    return blue  
else:  
    return orange
```

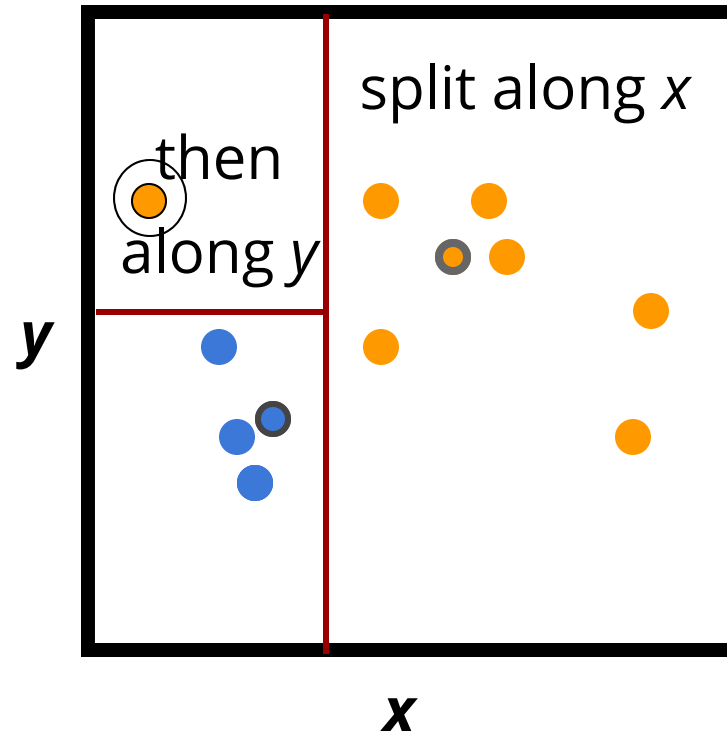

supervised ML: classification

A subset of variables has class labels.
Guess the label for the other variables

Tree Methods

split spaces along each axis separately

observed **features:**
 (\vec{x}, \vec{y})



target **features:**
(color)

```
if x <= a :  
    if y <= b:  
        return blue  
return orange
```

Tree Methods

supervised learning method

partitions feature space along each feature separately

The good

- Non-Parametric
- White-box: can be easily interpreted
- Works with any feature type and mixed feature types
- Works with missing data
- Robust to outliers

The bad

- High variability (-> use ensemble methods)
- Tendency to overfit
- (not really easily interpretable after all...)

single tree

1

Application:
a robot to predict surviving the
Titanic

(Kaggle)

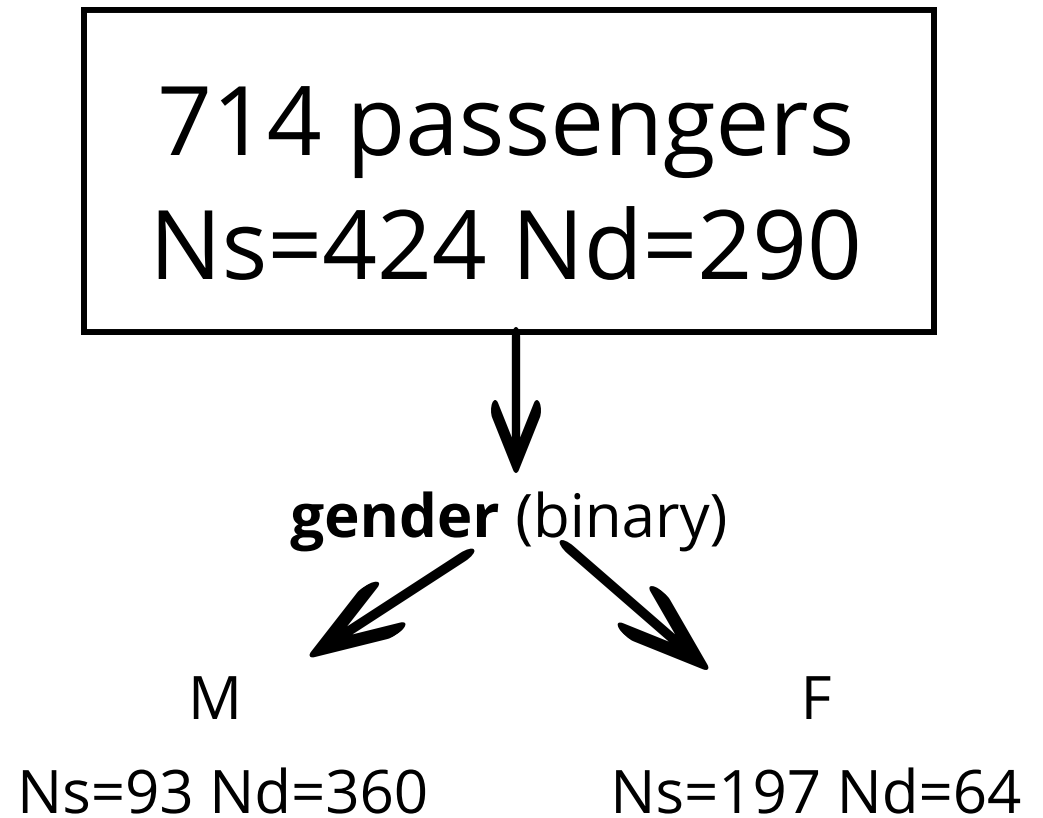
<https://www.kaggle.com/c/titanic>

features:

- gender
- ticket class
- age

target variable:

-> survival (y/n)



Application:
a robot to predict surviving the
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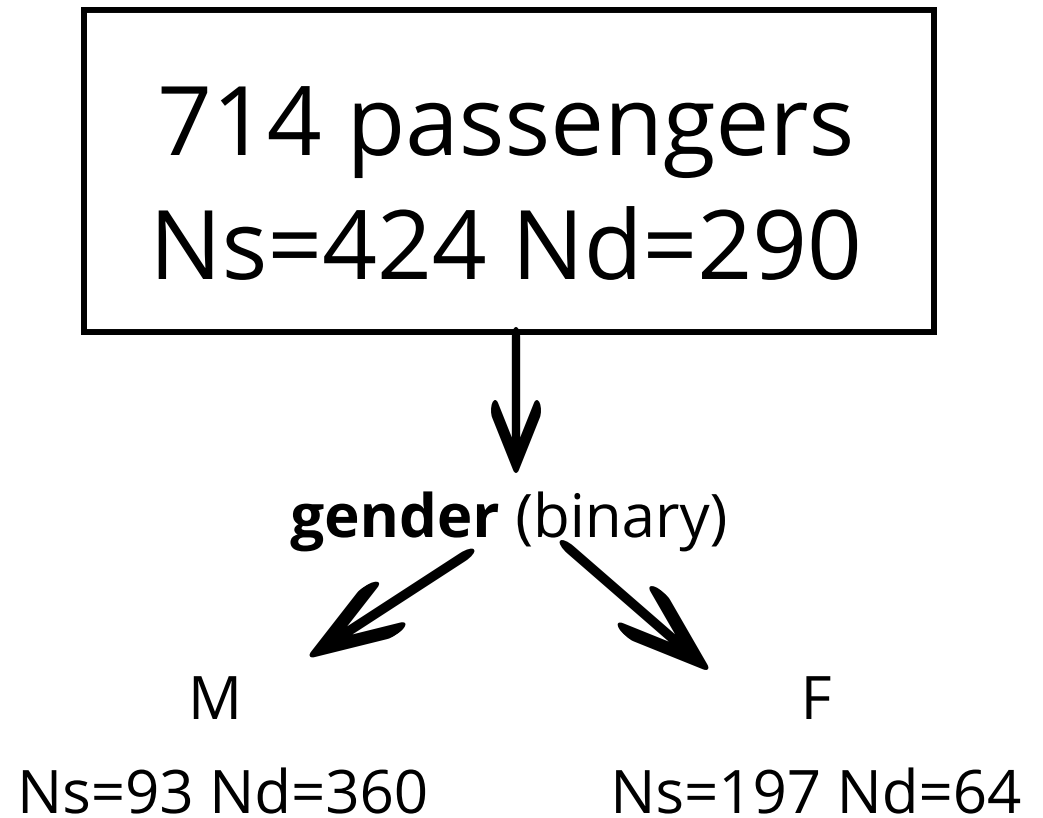
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optimize over purity:

$$p = \frac{N_{largest\ class}}{N_{total}}$$

Application:
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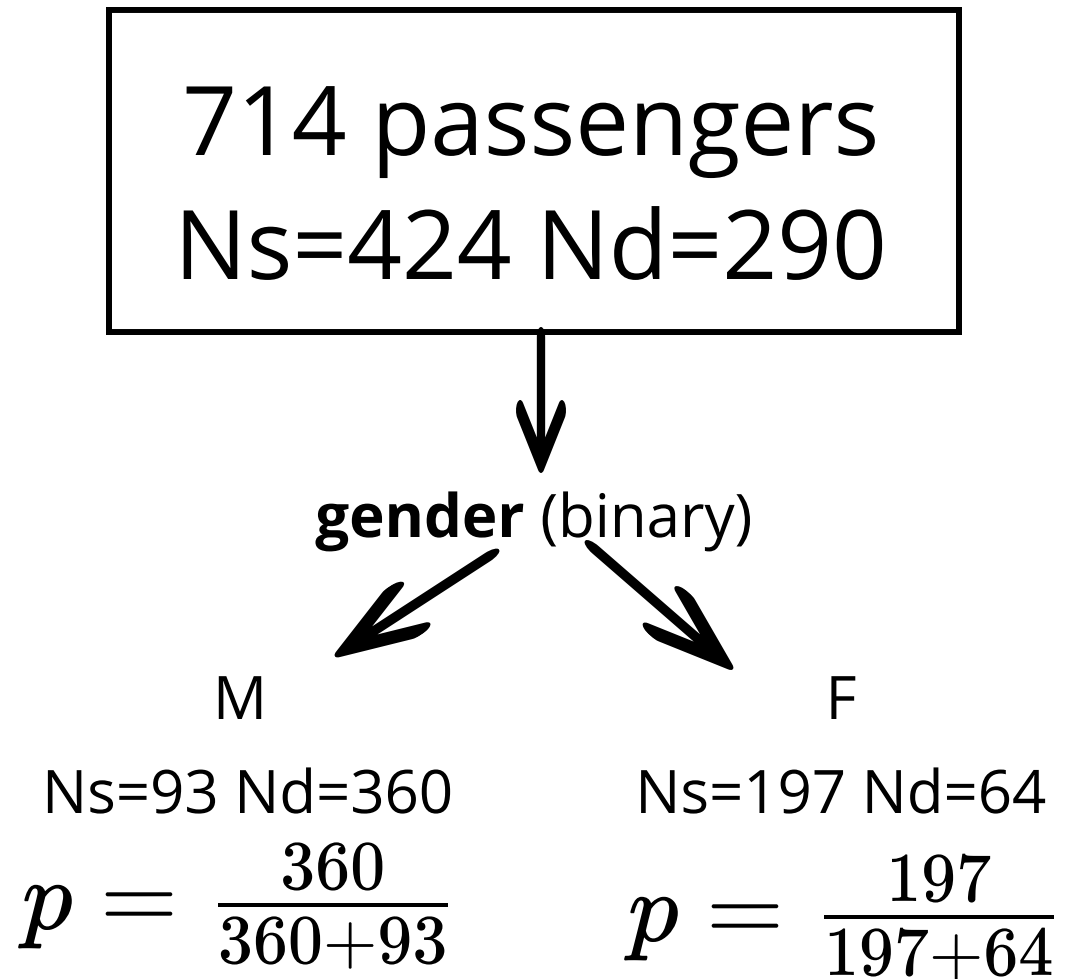
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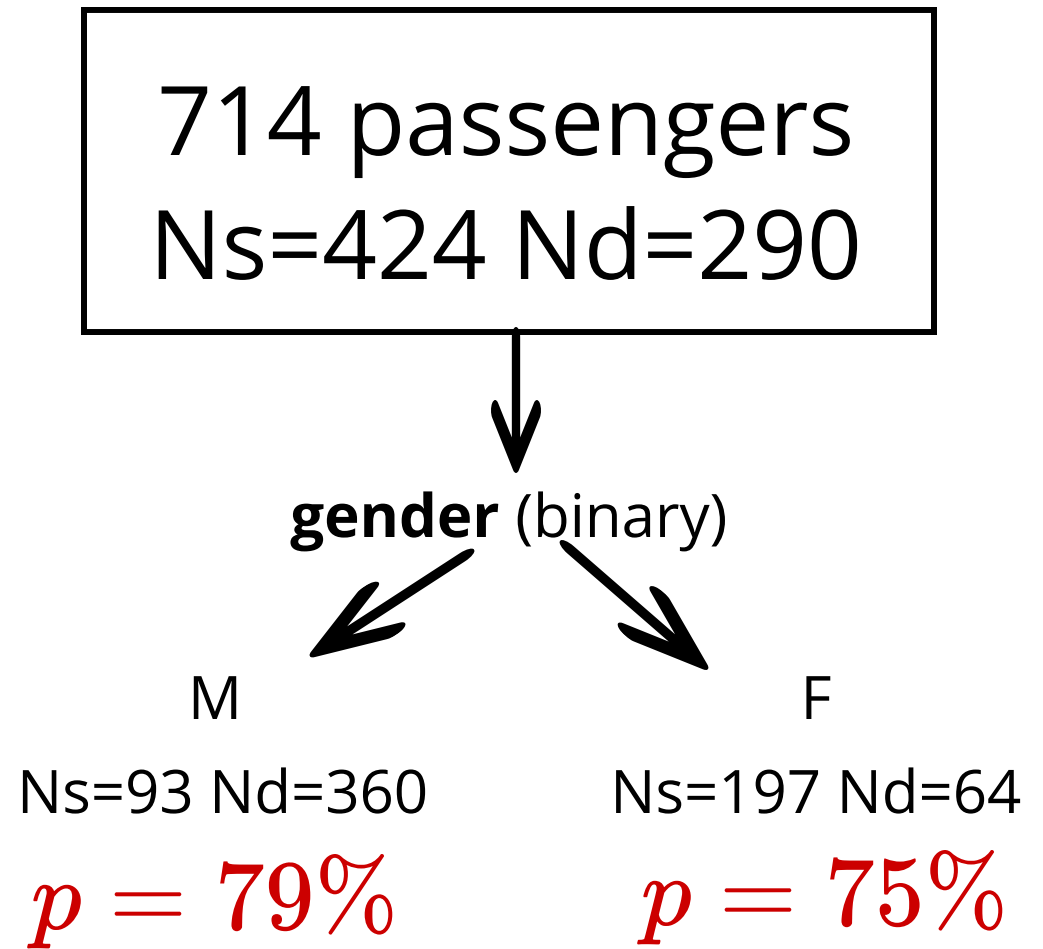
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features:

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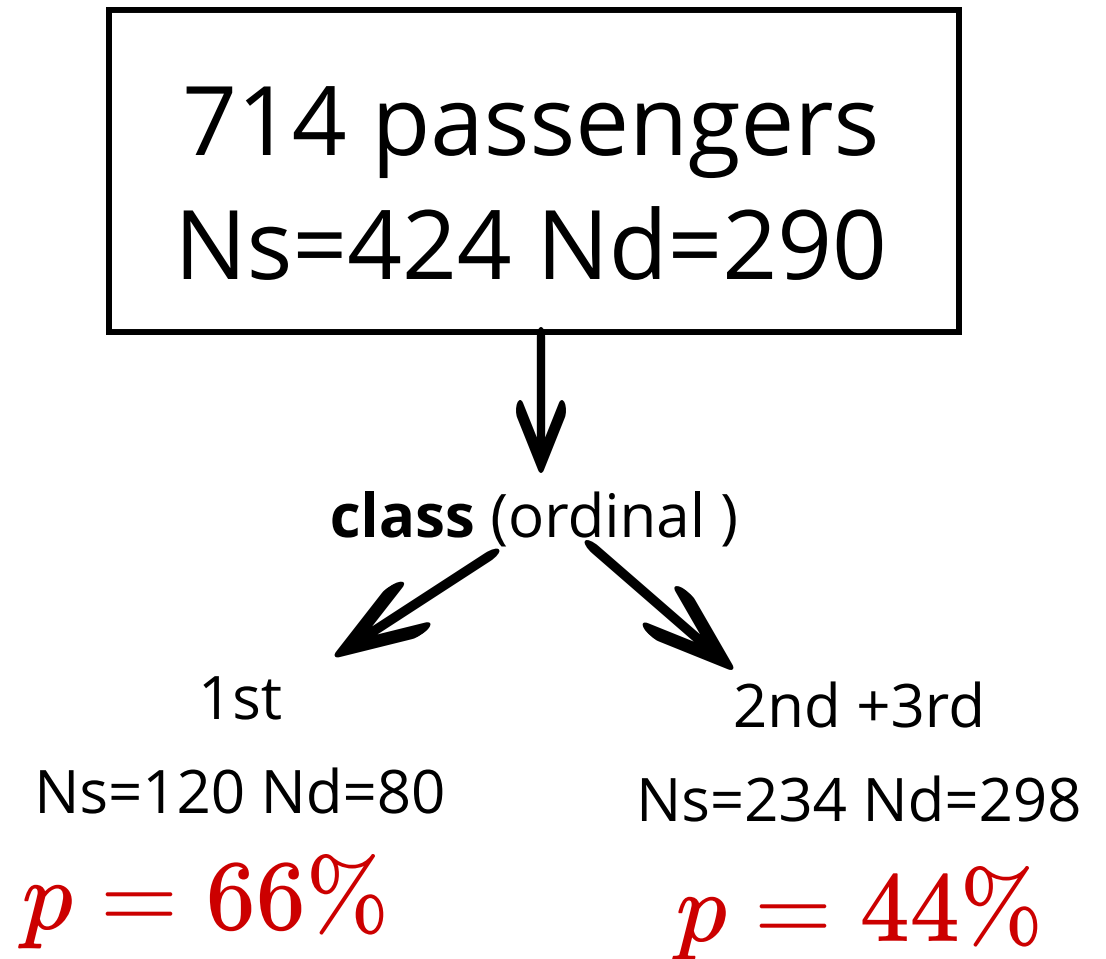
<https://www.kaggle.com/c/titanic>

features:

- gender 79% | 75%
- ticket class 66 | 54%
- age

target variable:

-> survival (y/n)



Application:
a robot to predict surviving the Titanic

(Kaggle)

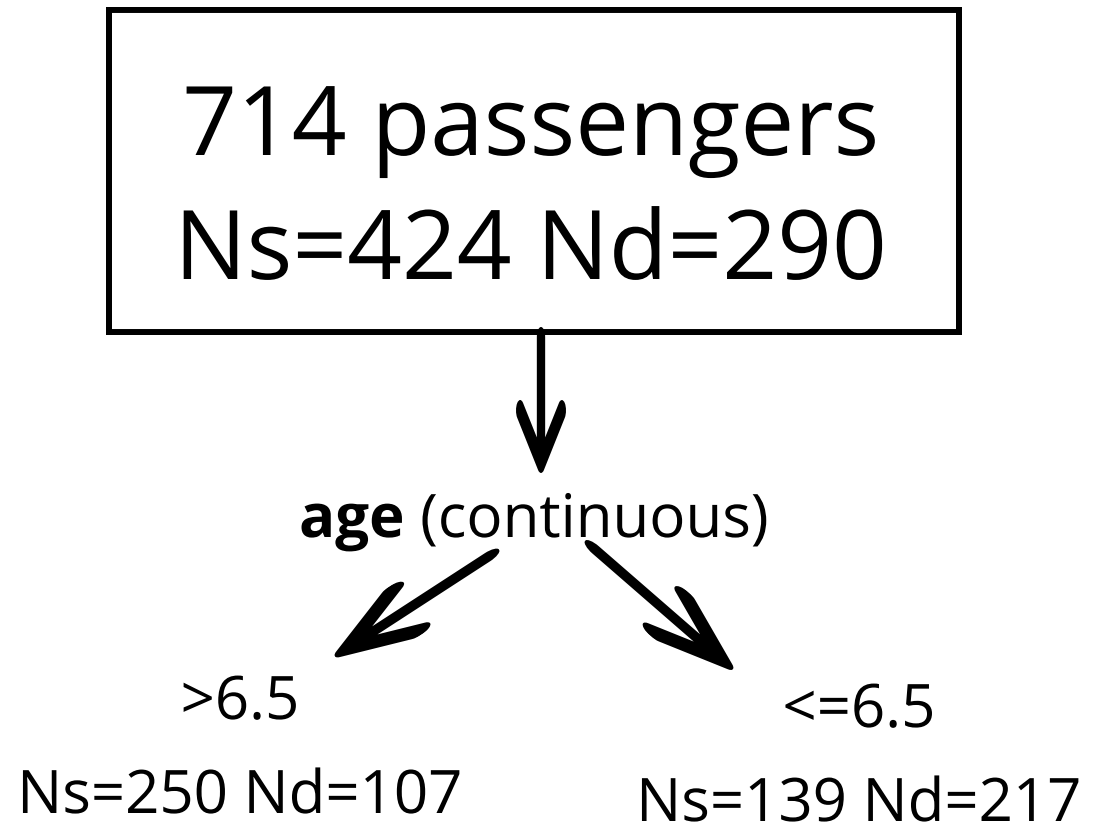
<https://www.kaggle.com/c/titanic>

features:

- gender 79% | 75%
- ticket class 66% | 44%
- age 66% | 61%

target variable:

-> survival (y/n)



Application:
a robot to predict surviving the Titanic

(Kaggle)

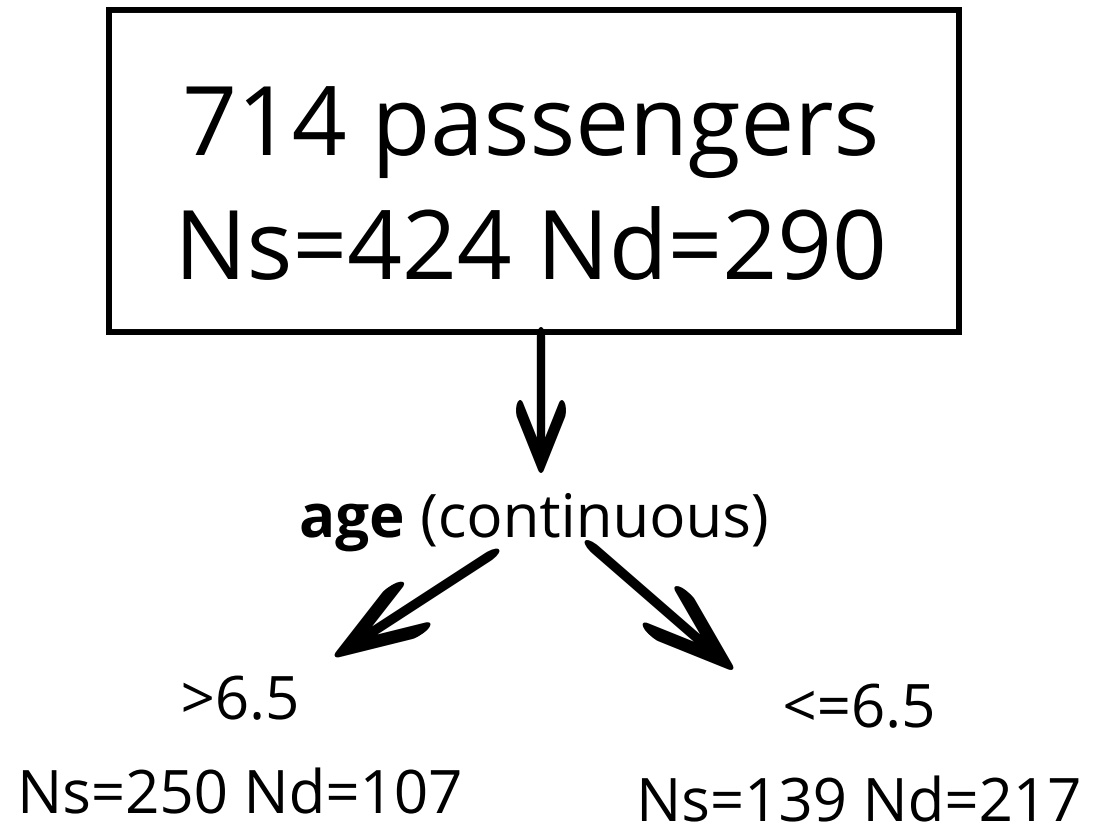
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features:

- gender 79% | 75%
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- age 66% | 61%

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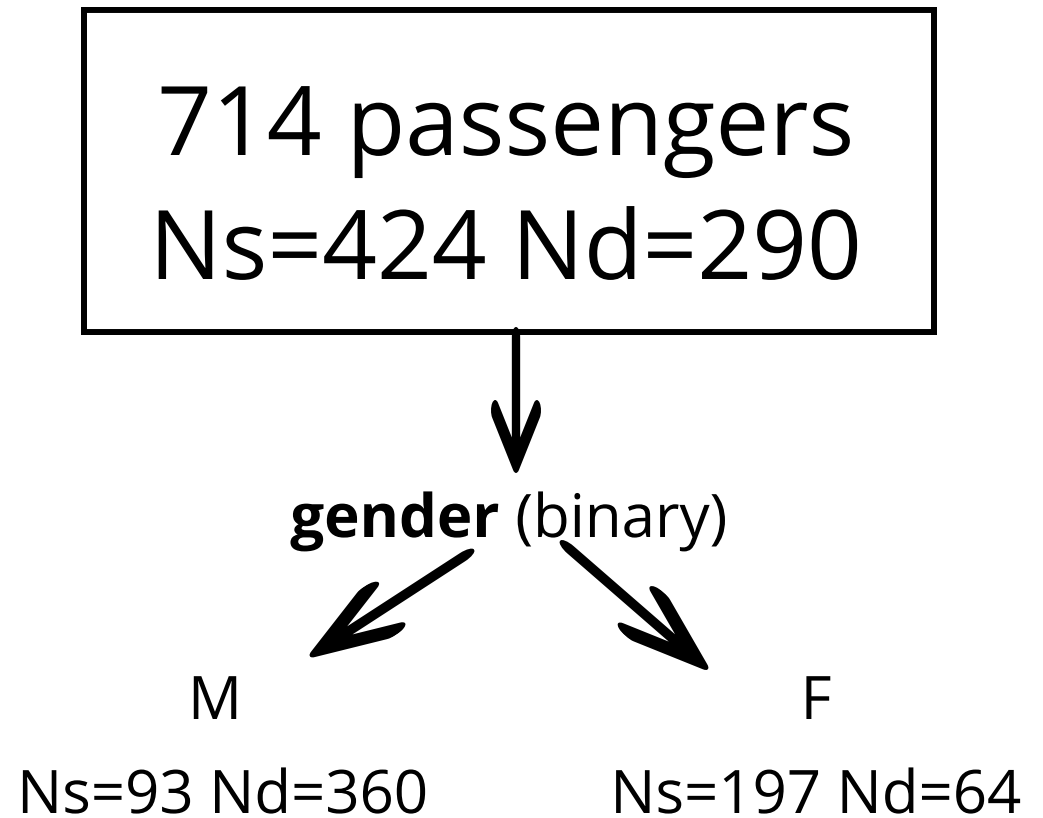
<https://www.kaggle.com/c/titanic>

features:

- gender 79 | 75%
- ticket class *M* 60 | 85% *F* 96 | 65%
- age *M* 74 | 67% *F* 66 | 60%

target variable:

-> survival (y/n)



Application:
a robot to predict surviving the
Titanic

(Kaggle)

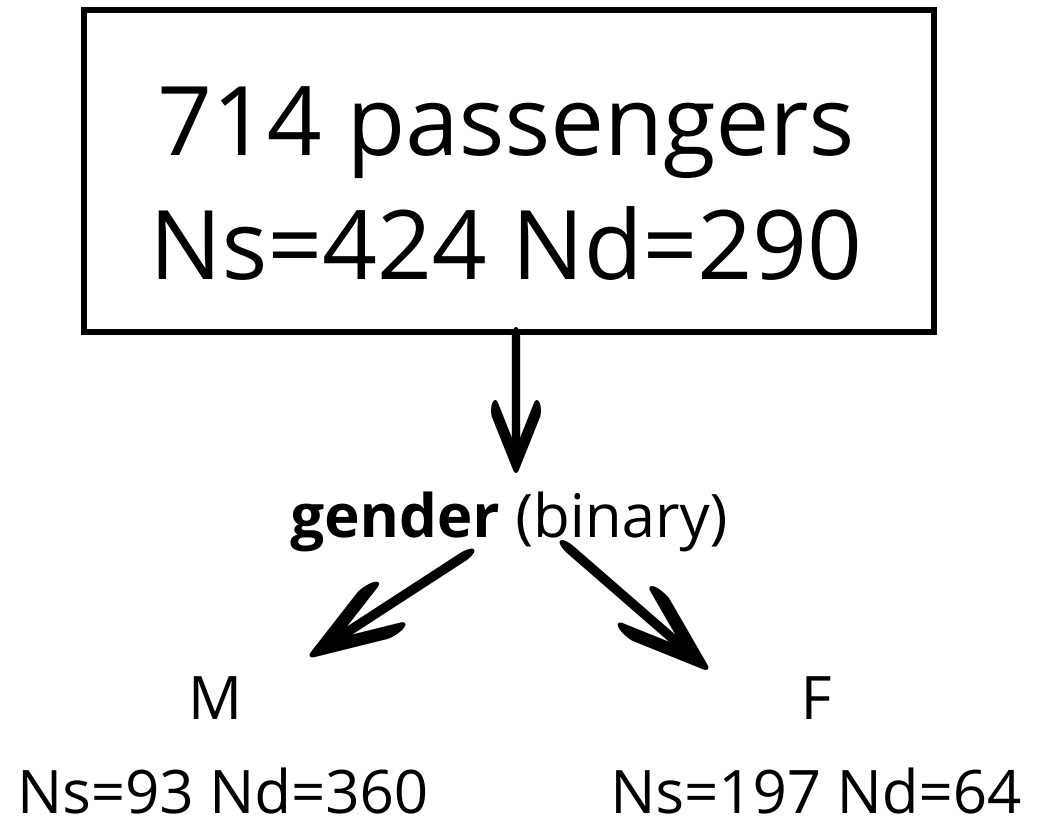
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features:

- gender 79 | 75%
- ticket class *M* 60 | 85% ***F* 96 | 65%**
- age ***M* 74 | 67%** *F* 66 | 60%

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Application:
a robot to predict surviving the
Titanic

(Kaggle)

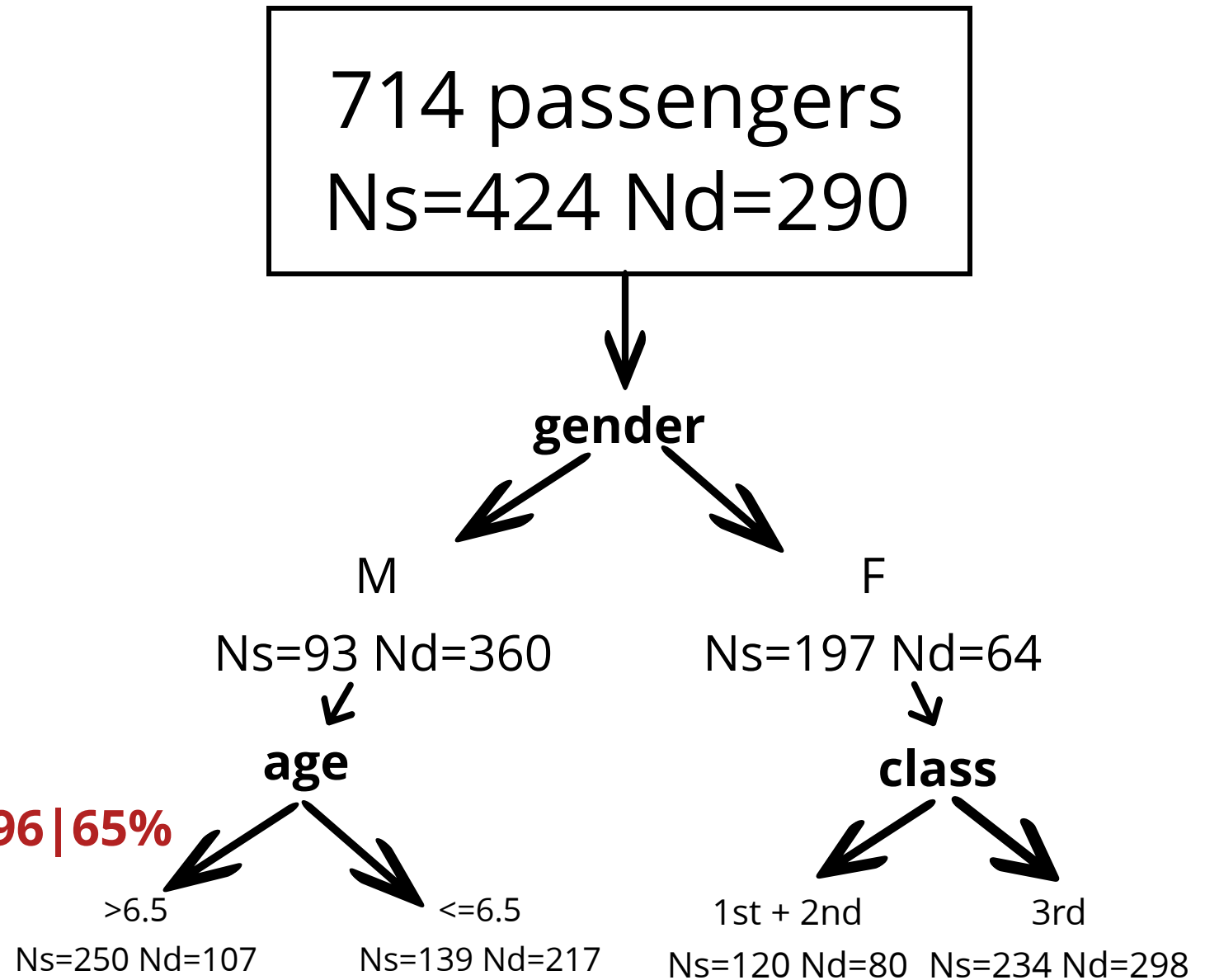
<https://www.kaggle.com/c/titanic>

features:

- gender 79 | 75%
- ticket class *M* 60 | 85% *F* 96 | 65%
- age *M* 74 | 67% *F* 66 | 60%

target variable:

-> survival (y/n)

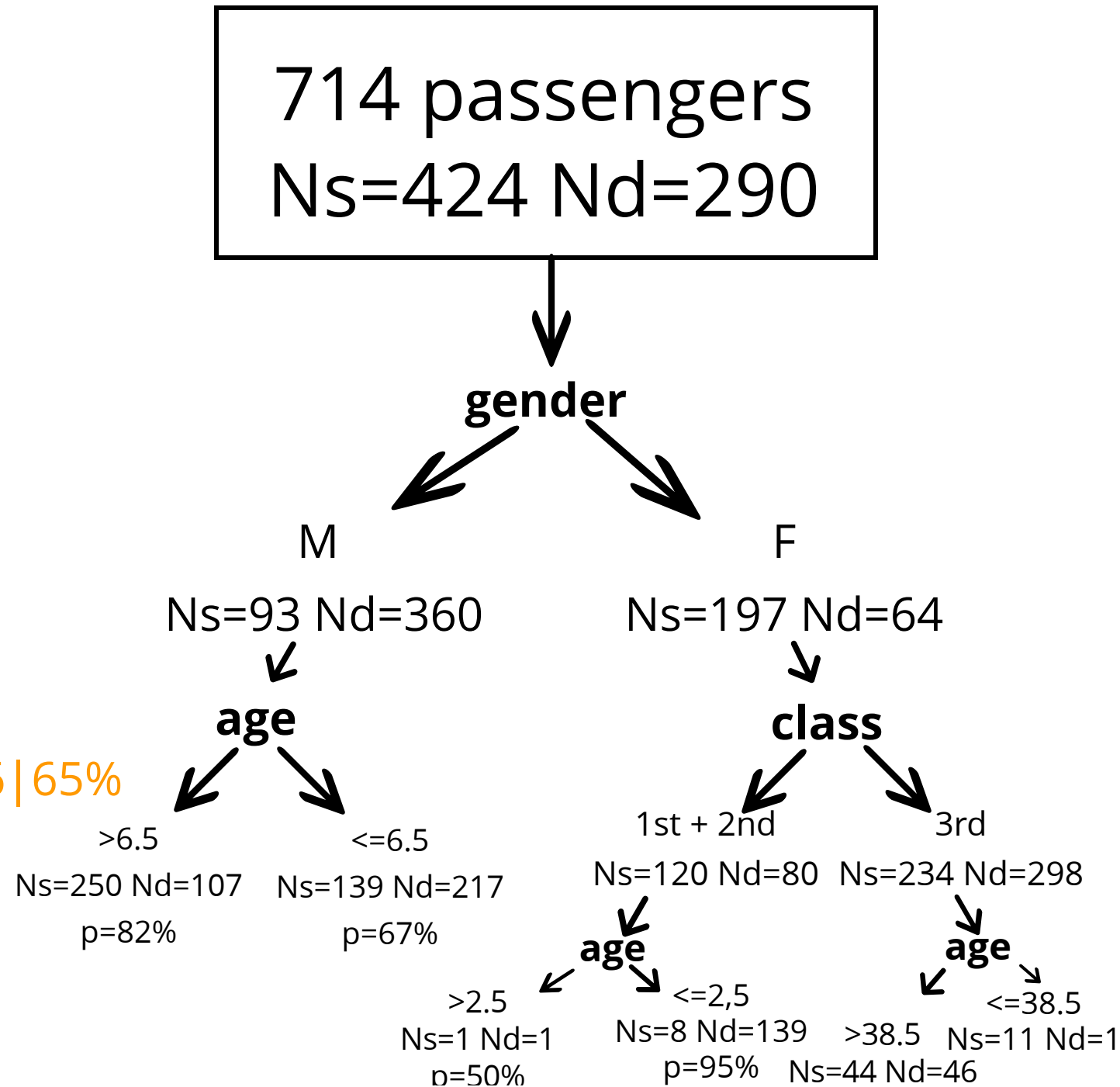


(Kaggle)

features:

- ## target variable:

-> survival (y/n)



Application:
a robot to predict surviving the
Titanic

(Kaggle)

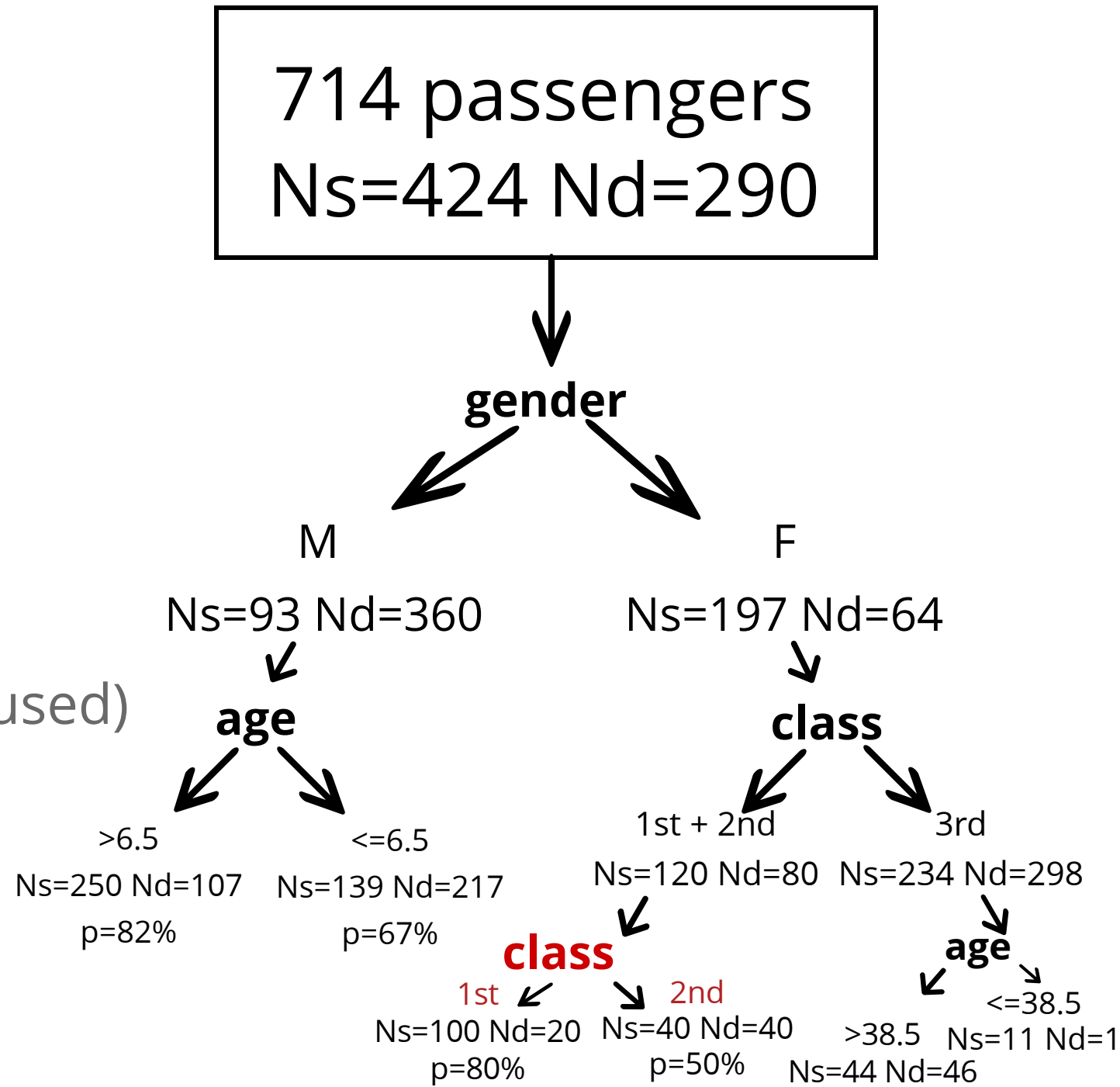
<https://www.kaggle.com/c/titanic>

features:

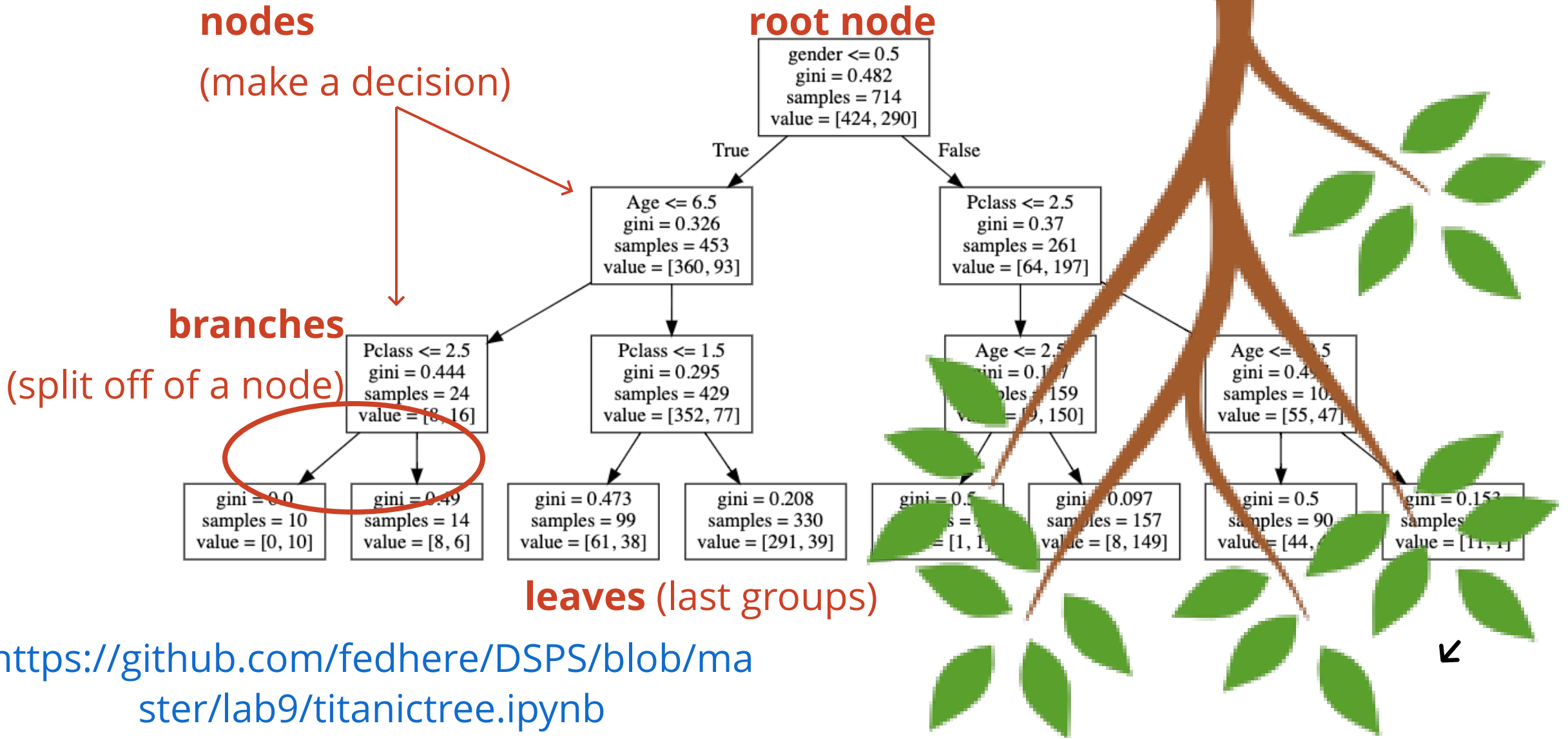
- gender (binary already used)
- ticket class (*ordinal*)
- age (contunuous)

target variable:

-> survival (y/n)

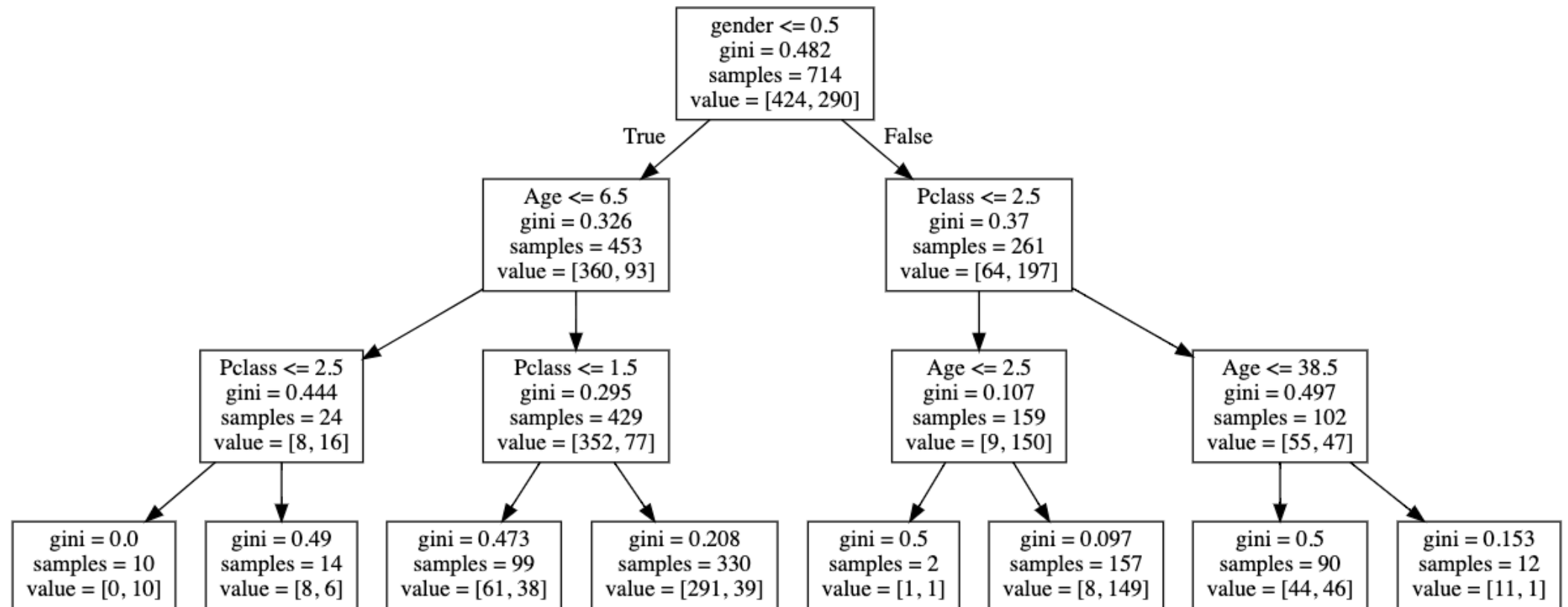


A single tree



A single tree

this visualization is called a "dendrogram"



tree hyperparameters 2

tree hyperparameters

`sklearn.tree`.**DecisionTreeClassifier** ¶

```
class sklearn.tree. DecisionTreeClassifier (criterion='gini', splitter='best',  
max_depth=None, min_samples_split=2, min_samples_leaf=1, min_weight_fraction_leaf=0.0,  
max_features=None, random_state=None, max_leaf_nodes=None,  
min_impurity_decrease=0.0, min_impurity_split=None, class_weight=None, presort=False)
```

[\[source\]](#)

A single tree: hyperparameters

criterion : *string, optional (default="gini")*

The function to measure the quality of a split. Supported criteria are “gini” for the Gini impurity and “entropy” for the information gain.

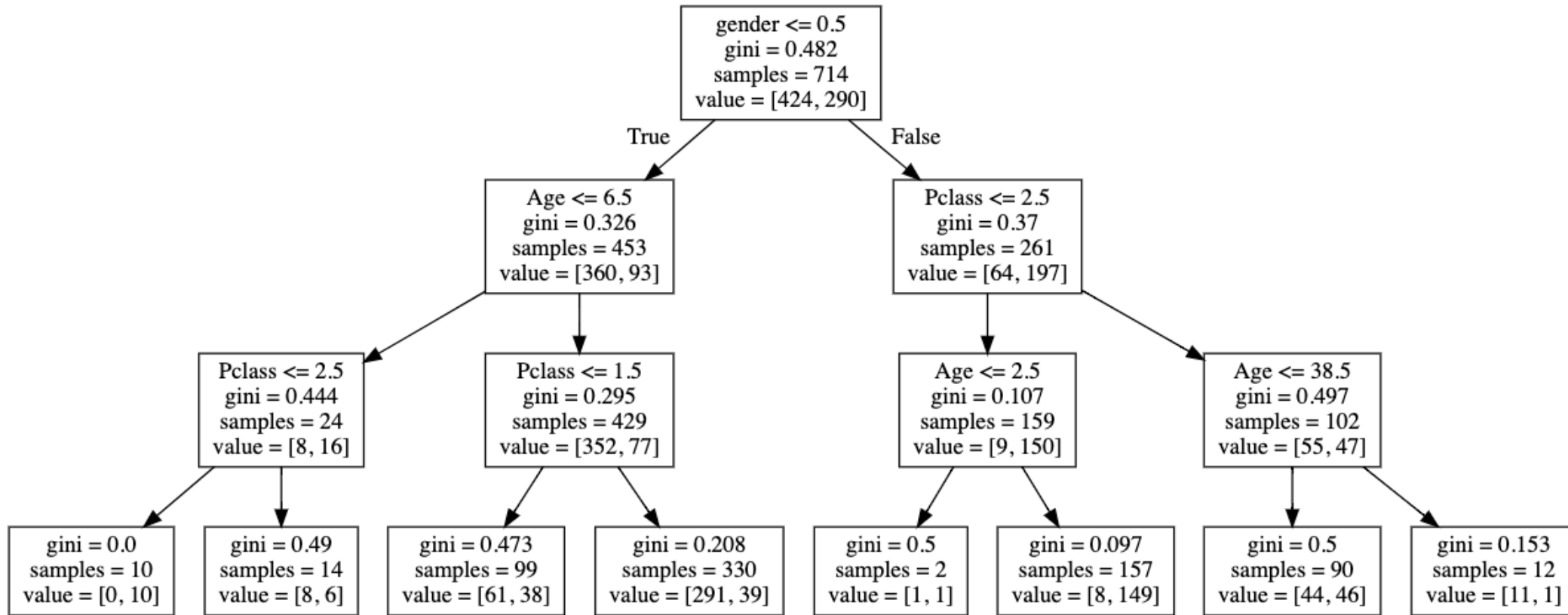
gini impurity

$$I_G(p) = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^J p_i^2$$

information gain (entropy)

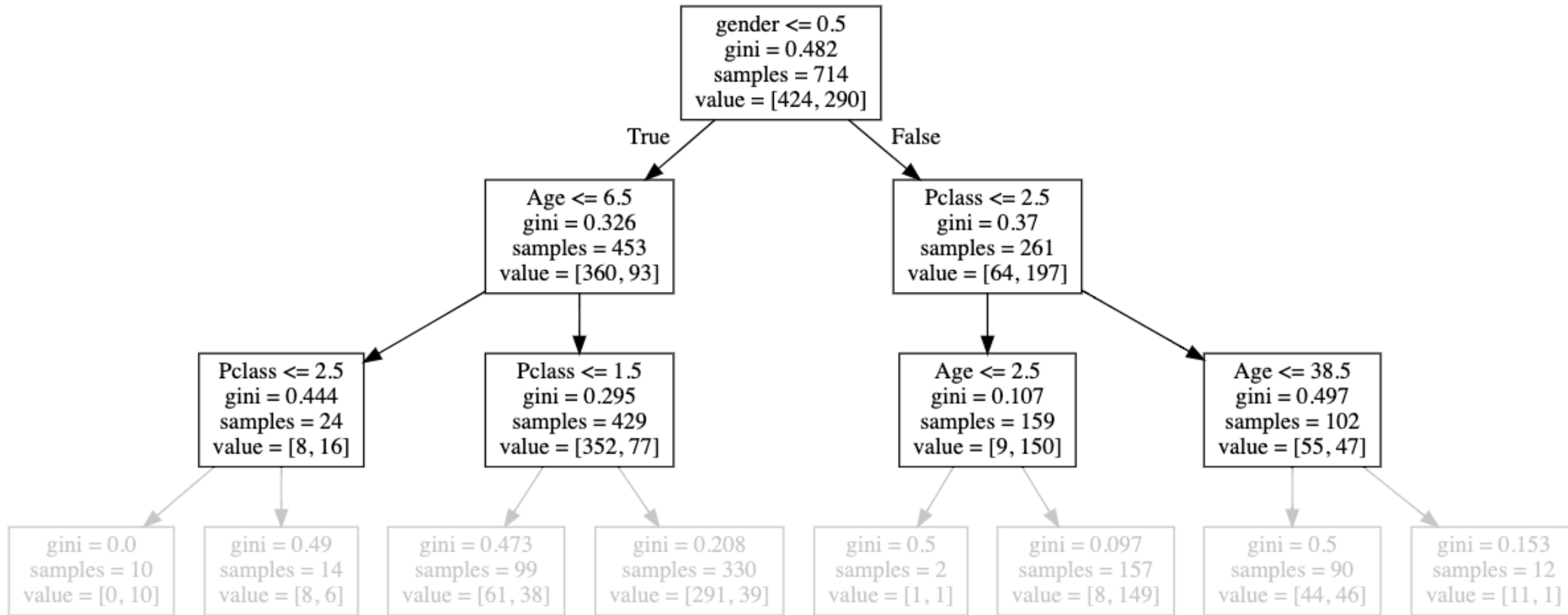
$$H(T) = - \sum_{i=1}^J p_i \log_2 p_i$$

A single tree: hyperparameters



depth

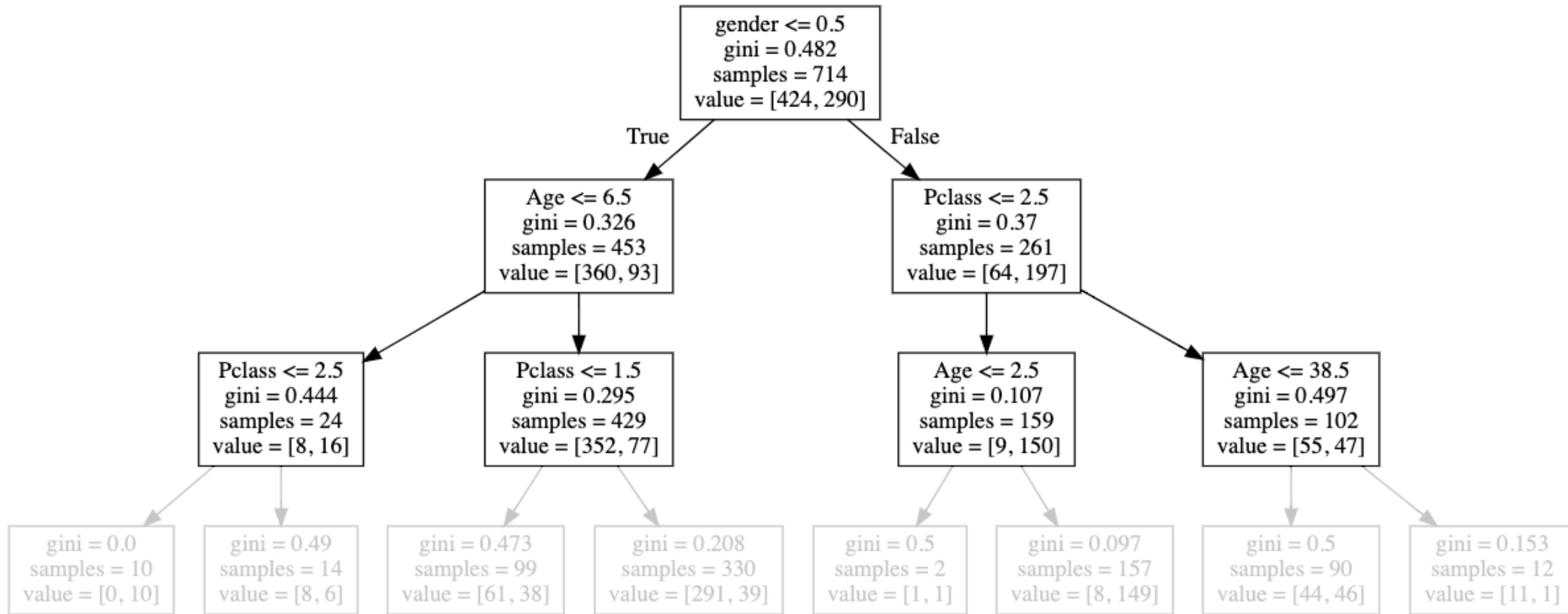
A single tree: hyperparameters



max depth = 2



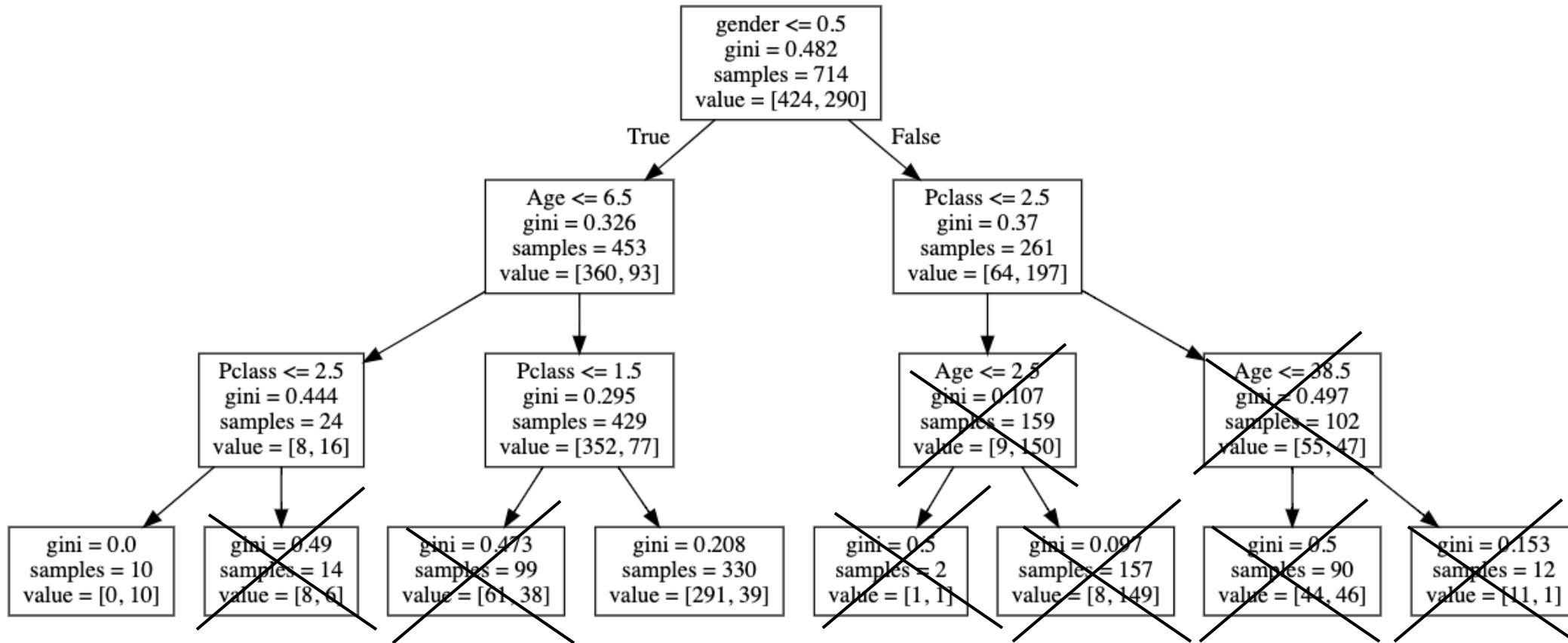
A single tree: hyperparameters



max depth = 2

**PREVENTS
OVERFITTING**

A single tree: hyperparameters

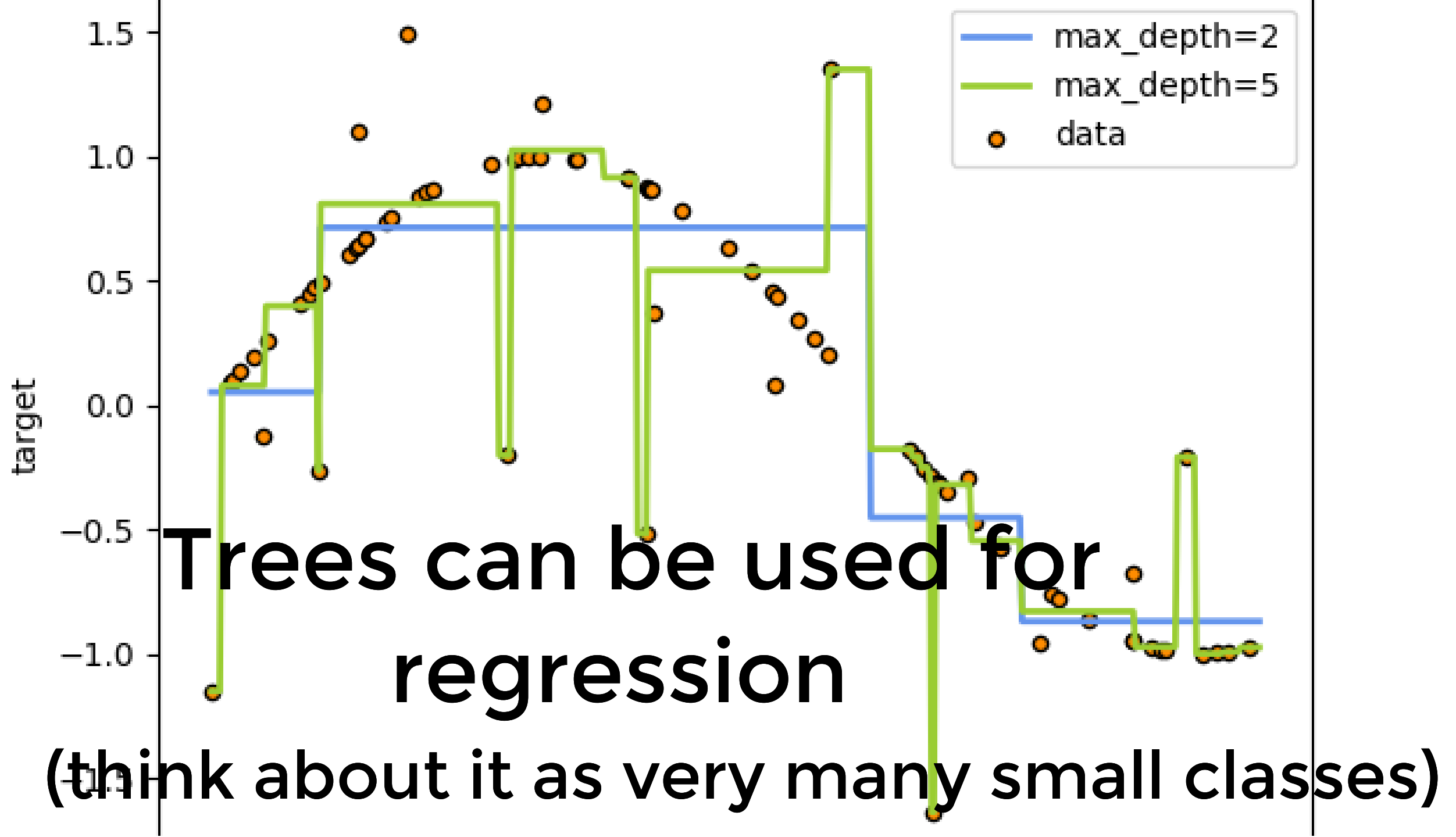


alternative: tree pruning

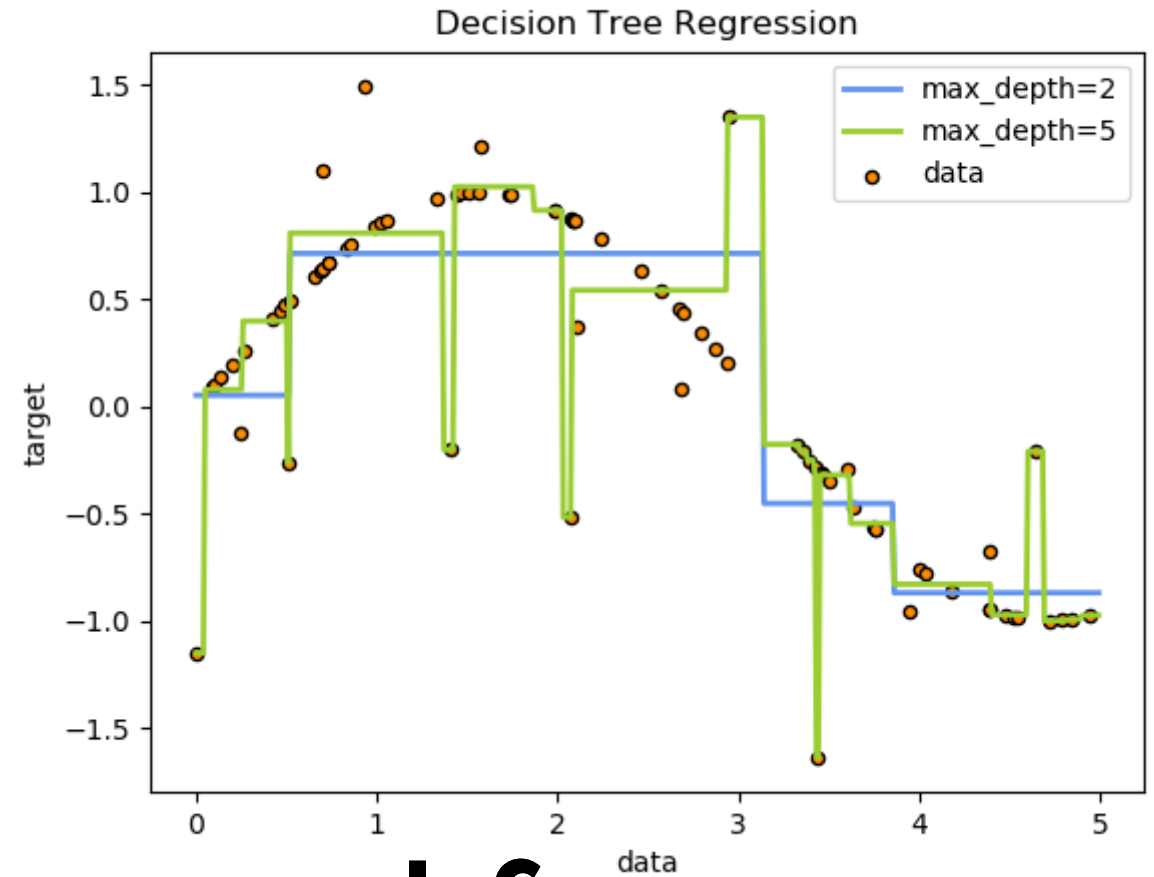
regression with trees

3

CART: Classification and Regression Trees



https://scikit-learn.org/stable/auto_examples/tree/plot_tree_regression.html



Trees can be used for regression

(think about it as very many small classes)

`sklearn.tree`.DecisionTreeRegressor

```
class sklearn.tree. DecisionTreeRegressor (criterion='mse', splitter='best',  
max_depth=None, min_samples_split=2, min_samples_leaf=1, min_weight_fraction_leaf=0.0,  
max_features=None, random_state=None, max_leaf_nodes=None,  
min_impurity_decrease=0.0, min_impurity_split=None, presort=False) ¶
```

[\[source\]](#)

A single tree: hyperparameters

criterion : *string, optional (default="mse")*

The function to measure the quality of a split. Supported criteria are “mse” for the mean squared error, which is equal to variance reduction as feature selection criterion and minimizes the L2 loss using the mean of each terminal node, “friedman_mse”, which uses mean squared error with Friedman’s improvement score for potential splits, and “mae” for the mean absolute error, which minimizes the L1 loss using the median of each terminal node.

mean square error

$$L_2 = (y_{true} - y_{predicted})^2$$

mean absolute error

$$L_1 = |y_{true} - y_{predicted}|$$

issues with trees

4

issues with trees

variance:

different trees lead to different results

issues with trees

variance:

different trees lead to different results

why?

**because calculating the criterion for every split and every
node is an untractable problem!**

e.g. 2 continuous variables would be a problem of order ∞^2

issues with trees

variance:

different trees lead to different results

solution

run many trees and take an "ensemble" decision!

Random Forests

a bunch of parallel trees

Gradient Boosted Trees

a series of trees

ensemble
methods

5

ensemble methods

run multiple versions of the same model with some small (stochastic or progressive) variation and learn from the ensemble of methods

tree ensemble methods

Random forest:

trees run in parallel
(independently of each other)

each tree uses a random subset
of observations/features
(bootstrap - bagging)

class predicted by majority vote:
what class do most trees¹ think a
point belong to

Gradient boosted trees:

trees run in series (one after
the other)

each tree uses different
weights for the features
learning the weights from the
previous tree

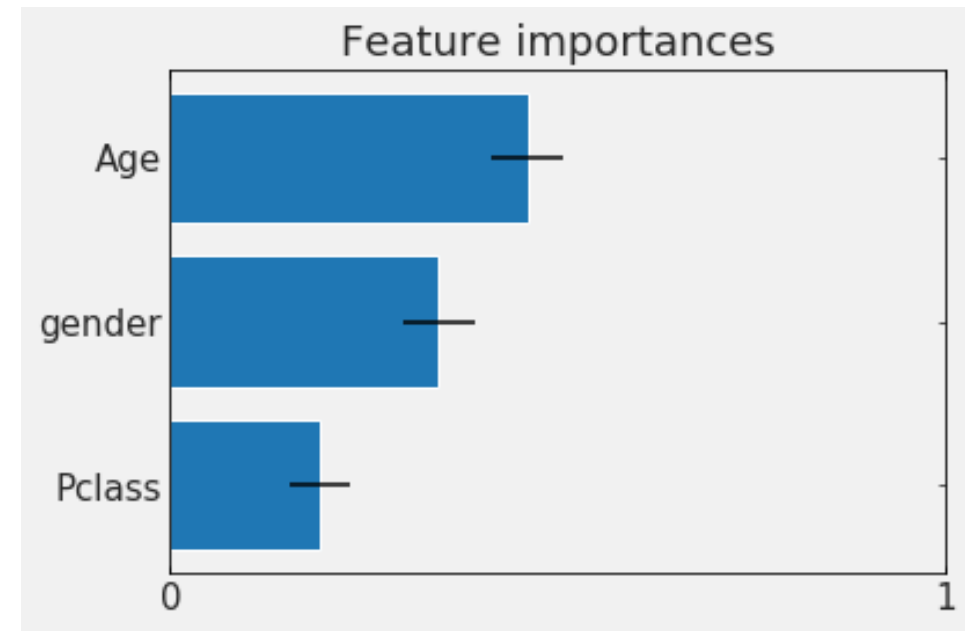
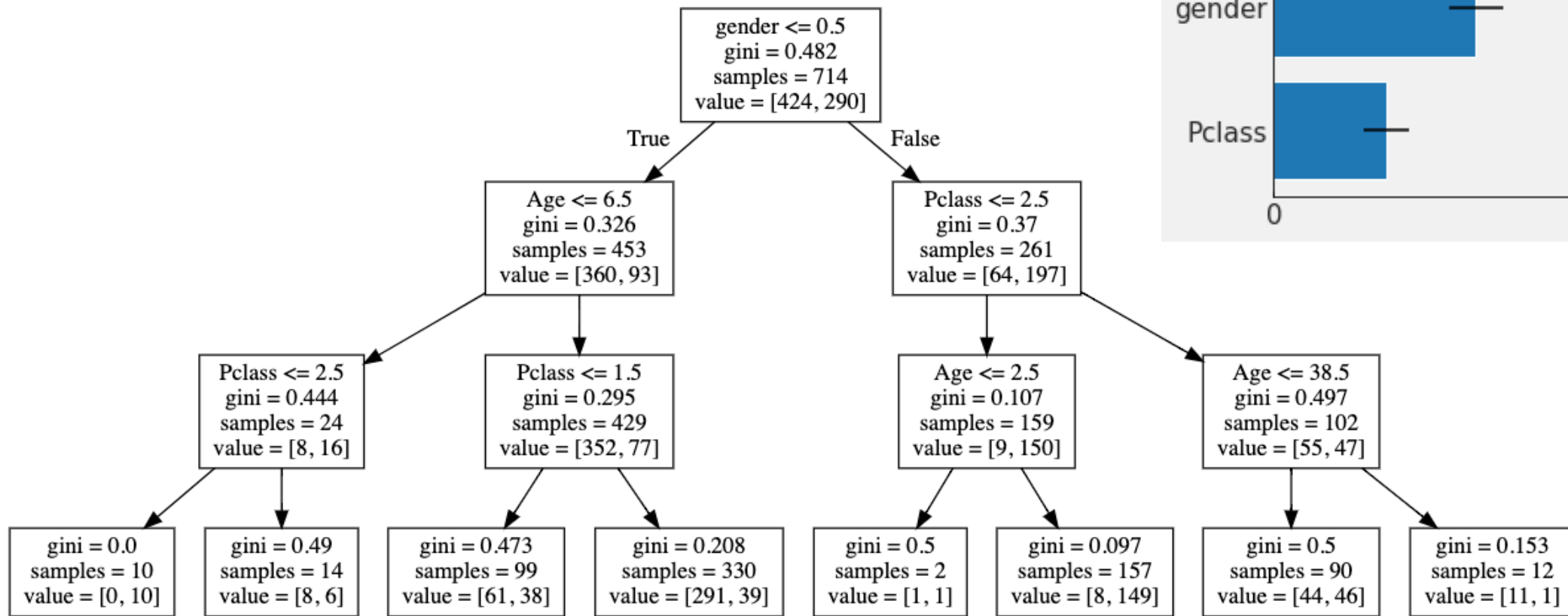
the last tree has the prediction

feature
importance

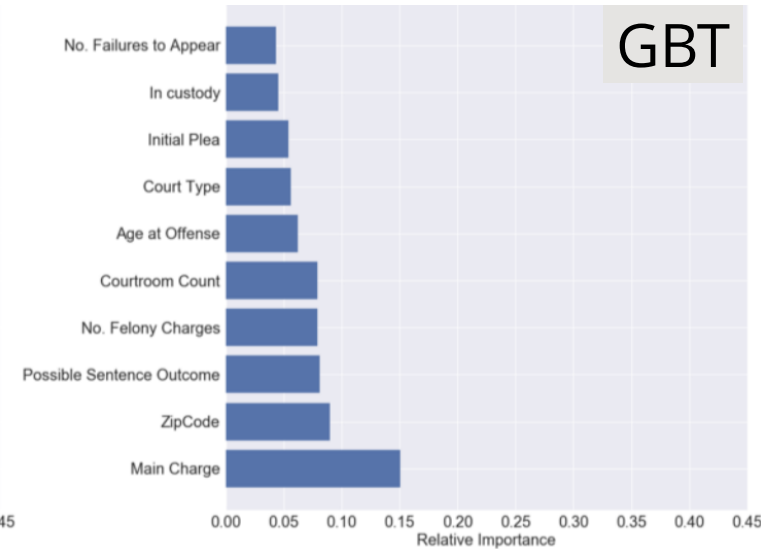
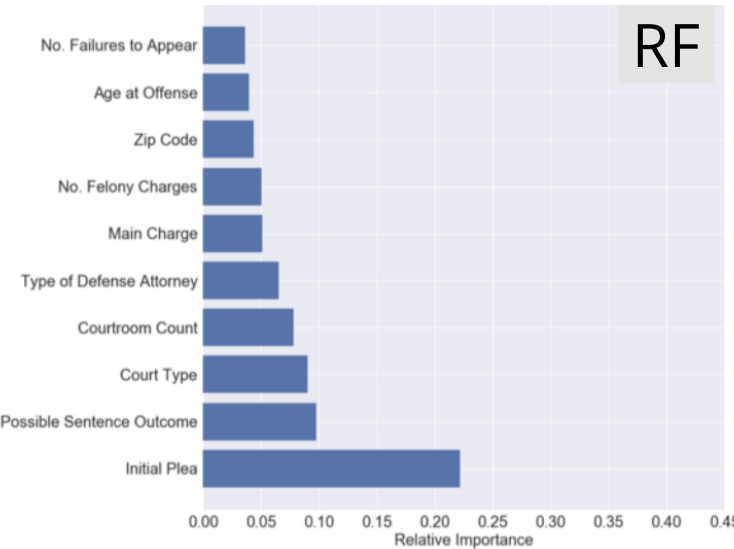
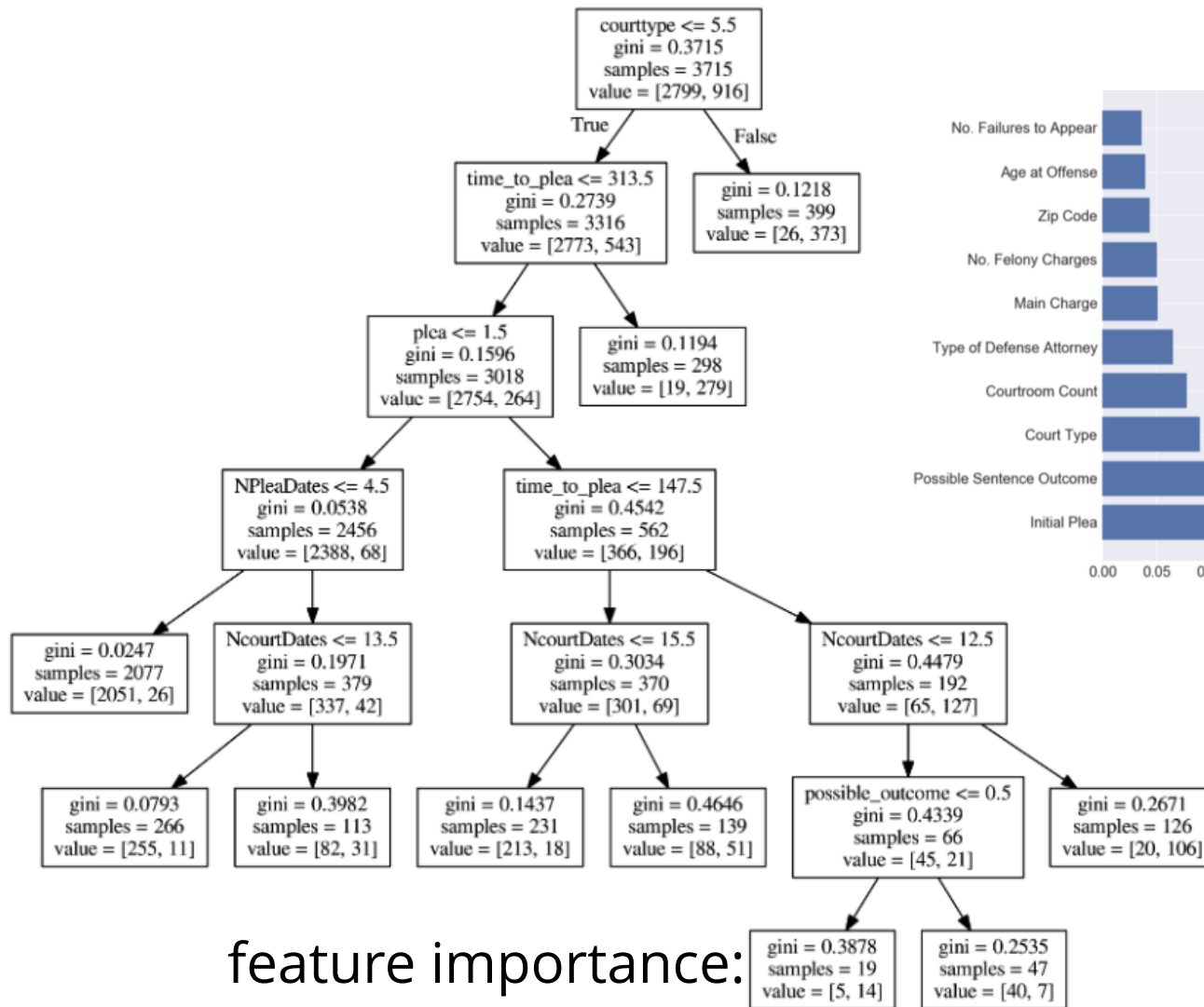
6

feature importance

In principle CART methods are interpretable
you can measure the influence that each
feature has on the decision : feature importance



<https://github.com/fedhere/DSPS/blob/master/lab9/titanictree.ipynb>



A Data-Driven Evaluation of Delays in Criminal Prosecution

<https://doi.org/10.22541/au.155535549.97131926>

feature importance:

how soon was a feature chosen,

how many times was it used...

<https://explained.ai/rf-importance/>

feature importance

In principle CART methods are interpretable
you can measure the influence that each
feature has on the decision : feature importance

**In practice the interpretation is complicated
by covariance of features**

Machine Learning includes models that learn parameters from data

ML models have parameters learned from the data and **hyperparameters** assigned by the user.

Unsupervised learning:

- all variables observed for all data points
- learns the structure of the features space from the data
- predicts a label (group of belonging) based on similarity of all features

Supervised learning:

- a target feature is observed only for a subset of the data
- learns target feature for data where it is not observed based on similarity of the other features
- predicts a class/value for each datum without observed label

Tree methods:

- partition the space one feature at a time with binary choices
- prone to overfitting
- can be used for regression

single trees have high variance as the optimization has to be local

ensemble methods solve variance issue by running multiple trees and making an ensemble decision

random forest: trees run in parallel with a random subset of features and the decision scheme is "majority" decision

gradient boosted trees: trees run in series with feature weighted learning the weights from the outcome of the previous tree. The last tree has the division

feature importance: the importance of each feature can be extracted. In presence of covariance the feature importance may be hard to interpret

Keynotes

<http://what-when-how.com/artificial-intelligence/decision-tree-applications-for-data-modelling-artificial-intelligence/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4466856/>

resources

actually a video: watching
not reading (~1 hour)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=Trar7GZOPl8&feature=youtu.be&utm_medium=email&utm_source=intercom&utm
_campaign=modular-code-event](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Trar7GZOPl8&feature=youtu.be&utm_medium=email&utm_source=intercom&utm_campaign=modular-code-event)

reading

Create a plot, of whatever data (and models if you want) you choose from open data (if you have doubt about whether your dataset is relevant for this homework please email me.)

You can make the plot in any coding language you want (e.g. python, javascript, R...), as long as you upload the code that generates the plot onto your repo (which means no tableau, or any other non reproducible).

Create a directory HW8_<firstLast> in your DSPS repo. **The plot needs to be uploaded onto the HW8 folder in your github DSPS repo and be embedded in the README.md.** That means: when I click on the HW8 link the plot must be rendered in the front page of the repo. Your readme must contain the plot, and a brief caption. If it is an interactive graphic, upload a static image of it in the README and provide a link to the interactive version.

Please make an effort to make it a good, compelling graphic. Put ⁴though into the esthetic of the plot, how clearly the content is communicated, avoid clutter, avoid misleading elements, mind your choice of colors accordingly to what was discussed in class.

Each of you needs to upload their own plot, no group submissions.

If your plot shows up as I described above in the repo and the code is also uploaded you will get 100% of the HW points. (Next week you will be tasked to review 3 plots of your classmates and you will be graded on the quality of the review.)

Homework 1

Follow skeleton notebook to create an H-R diagram visualization with datapoints and contours

EC: make your visualization interactive so that rolling on any datapoint provides information about the data

homework 2