

Decision Trees Classification (machine learning) Machine Learning

## In what real-world applications is the decision tree classifier used?

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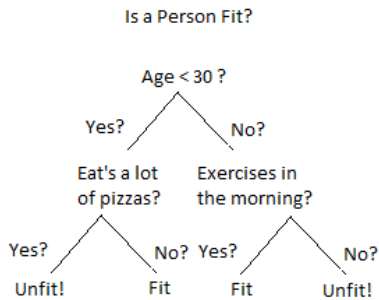
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### 4 Answers



Dimensionless, Machine Learning lovers

Answered Nov 2, 2018



### Introduction

Life is all about making decisions. We keep on making decisions in both voluntary and involuntary state. This phenomenon has influenced a wide area of machine learning, covering both classification and regression. In decision analysis, a decision tree can be used to visually and explicitly represent decisions and decision making. As the name goes, it uses a tree-like model of decisions.

### What is a Decision Tree

A decision tree is a tree-shaped diagram that people use to determine a course of action or show a statistical probability. An organization may deploy decision trees as a kind of decision support system. In a decision tree, each branch represents a possible decision, occurrence or reaction. The structured model allows the reader of the chart to see how and why one choice may lead to the next, with the use of the branches indicating mutually exclusive options.

### Applications in Real Life

#### 1. Selecting a flight to travel

Suppose you need to select a flight for your next travel. How do we go about it? We check first if the flight is available on that day or not. If it is

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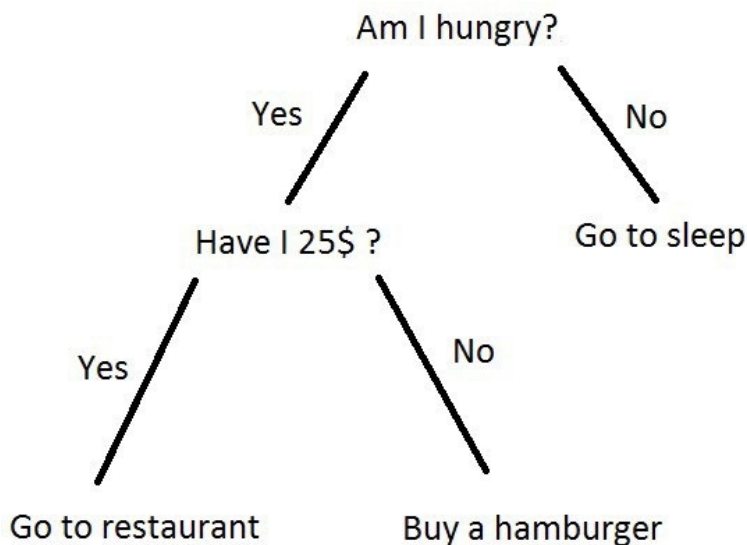
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## 2. Choosing a best friend

Well, this example can be very subjective but nevertheless, we will proceed with it. We all have many friends but a best friend is always one or two maybe but not all for sure. In this case, we may go about first whether the other person understands you or not? If another person is not pretty much understanding, we look for someone else. When we find people who have a good understanding level, we look for people who have similar habits or hobbies as we have and the selection criteria go on till we find people whom we can call "close friends"!

## 3. Handling late night cravings

I guess the following picture will explain it all to you.



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## Applications in Business

### 1. Alternatives

Decision trees help organisations to view alternatives to different events that can happen. For example, an organisation is planning to build a new product. A lot of resources and money will be invested in it. Decision trees will help the organisation to have a look at all other alternatives if they do not want to build the product from scratch. Alternatives may include not building the new product at all or bringing modifications to existing products to incorporate new features in them

### 2. Events

An event is an occurrence that happens outside your direct control and as a result of your actions. In the example of whether to change the technical stack of the platform, the possible results from the decision to proceed would be the development of a successful product or a product

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product, expecting it to generate total profits of \$100,000. The probability of developing a successful product might be 80 %. As a result, you have an 80 % chance of earning \$100,000, a 20 % chance of earning nothing if the product fails, and a 100 % chance of earning no additional profit if you don't develop the product.

#### 4. Decisions

You are trying to decide whether to approve a development budget for an improved product. You are urged to do so on the grounds that the development, if successful, will give you a competitive edge, but if you do not develop the product, your competitor may—and may seriously damage your market share. Decision trees help organisations in taking necessary decisions by visualising all the possible actions that can follow a particular decision and the final outcome for the chosen decision.

#### Other applications may include

1. Churn Analysis
2. Sentiment Analysers
3. Investment Solutions
4. High Customer Satisfaction

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Dmitriy Fradkin, PhD Computer Science (2006)

Answered May 30, 2018

They have been applied to pretty much every classification problem with a feature vector you can think of: credit scoring, crime risk, medical diagnosis, failure prediction, etc.

Here is a one review of papers from 1993-1995 and it is already not short: [2.8](#)

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Rishi Chandra, Researcher at Hitachi RnD (2012-present)

Answered Oct 25, 2018

1. They are mostly used as ensembles : bagging or boosting (mostly boosting).
2. Boosted trees are most useful when you have unbalanced class distribution, e.g. cancer vs non-cancerous cell classification where cancerous cells are rare say 1%.
3. Trees are less prone to skews in data. If the data is not normalized, skewed, then trees are more robust to such scenarios.

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Amogha Bandrikalli, Asst. Prof (2017-present)

Answered Oct 6, 2018

Random forest is one of the classifier method works on decision tree. The applications can be

If verifying the warmness of the link through voting from many people.

If data is random based on the voting method you get the output

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