



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF  
INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY

# Decision Tree Learning and Decision Theory

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Indian Institute of Information Technology,  
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Alan Turing  
Institute

# Decision Trees

- Convenient Representation
  - Developed with learning in mind
  - Deterministic
  - Comprehensible output
- Expressive
  - Equivalent to propositional Disjunctive Normal Form (DNF)
  - Handles discrete and continuous parameters
- Simple learning algorithm
  - Handles noise well
  - Classify
  - Constructive (build DT by adding nodes)

# Concept Learning

- E.g., Learn concept
  - Target Function has two values: T or F
- Represent concepts as decision trees
- Use *hill climbing search*  
space of *decision trees*
  - Start with simple concept
  - Refine it into a complex concept as needed

# Example: “Good day for tennis”

- Attributes of instances
  - Outlook = {rainy (r), overcast (o), sunny (s)}
  - Temperature = {cool (c), medium (m), hot (h)}
  - Humidity = {normal (n), high (h)}
  - Wind = {weak (w), strong (s)}
- Class value
  - Play Tennis? = {don't play (n), play (y)}
- Feature = attribute with one value
  - E.g., outlook = *sunny*
- Sample instance
  - outlook=*sunny*, temp=*hot*, humidity=*high*, wind=*weak*

# Experience: “Good day for tennis”

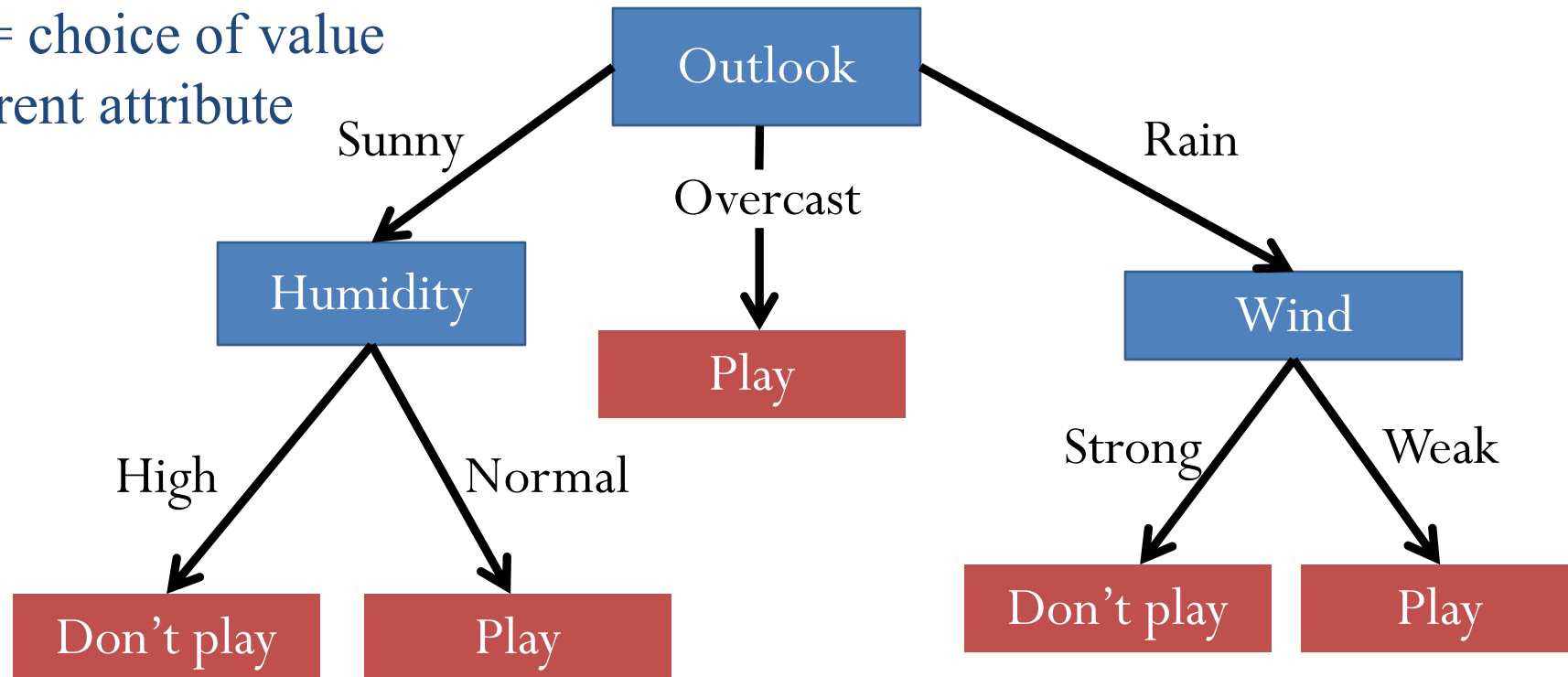
Day	Outlook	Temp	Humid	Wind	PlayTennis?
d1	s	h	h	w	n
d2	s	h	h	s	n
d3	o	h	h	w	y
d4	r	m	h	w	y
d5	r	c	n	w	y
d6	r	c	n	s	n
d7	o	c	n	s	y
d8	s	m	h	w	n
d9	s	c	n	w	y
d10	r	m	n	w	y
d11	s	m	n	s	y
d12	o	m	h	s	y
d13	o	h	n	w	y
d14	r	m	h	s	n

# Decision Tree Representation

Good day for tennis?

Leaves = classification

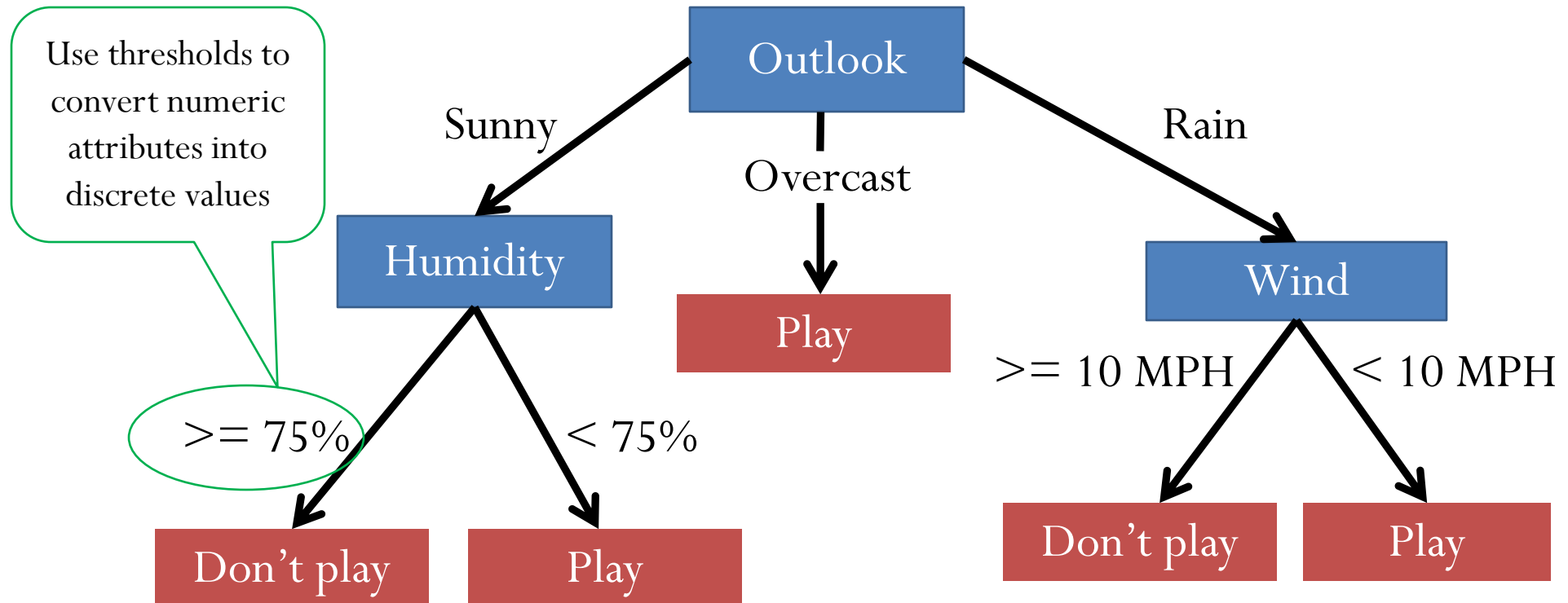
Arcs = choice of value  
for parent attribute



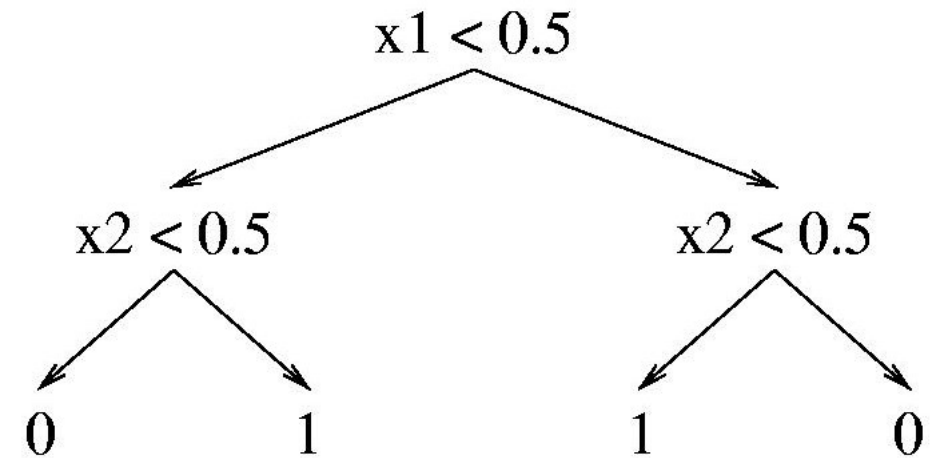
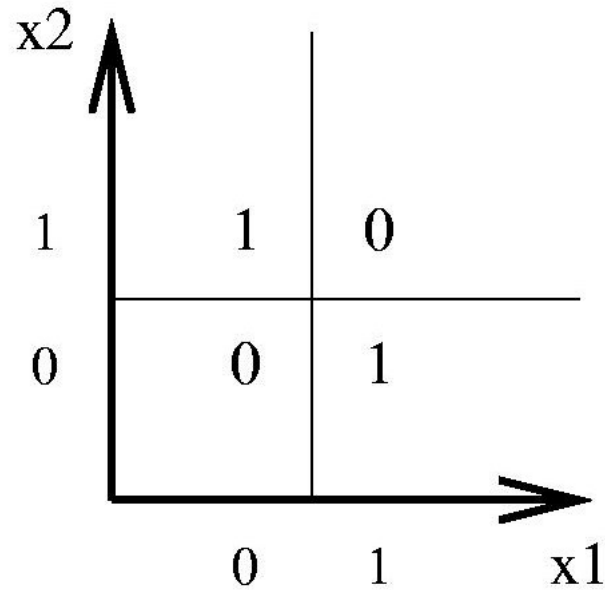
Decision tree is equivalent to logic in disjunctive normal form

$\text{Play} \Leftrightarrow (\text{Sunny} \wedge \text{Normal}) \vee \text{Overcast} \vee (\text{Rain} \wedge \text{Weak})$

# Numeric Attributes



# Boolean function can represents Decision tree

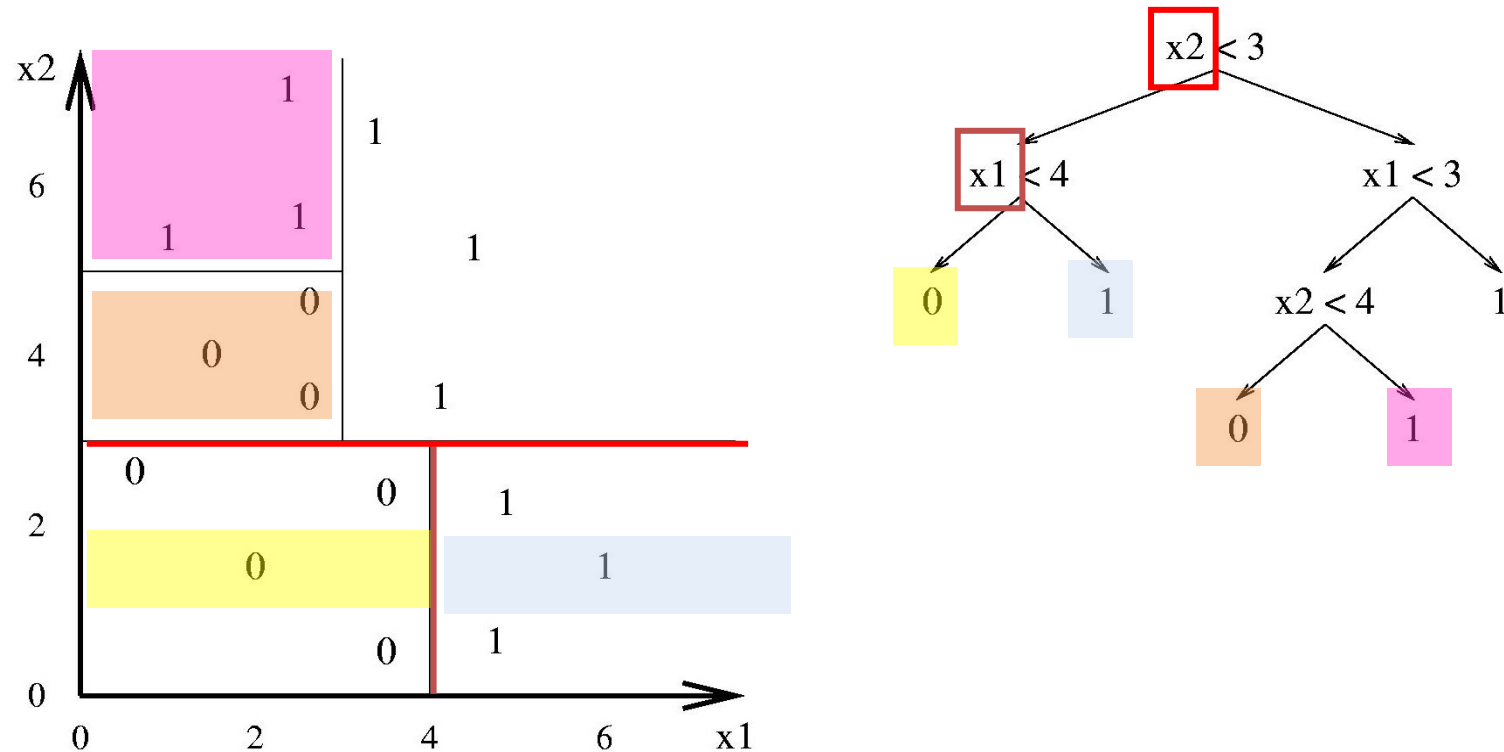


The tree will in the worst case require exponentially many nodes, however.



# Decision tree to make Decision Boundaries

- Decision trees divide the feature space into axis-parallel rectangles, and label each rectangle with one of the  $K$  classes.



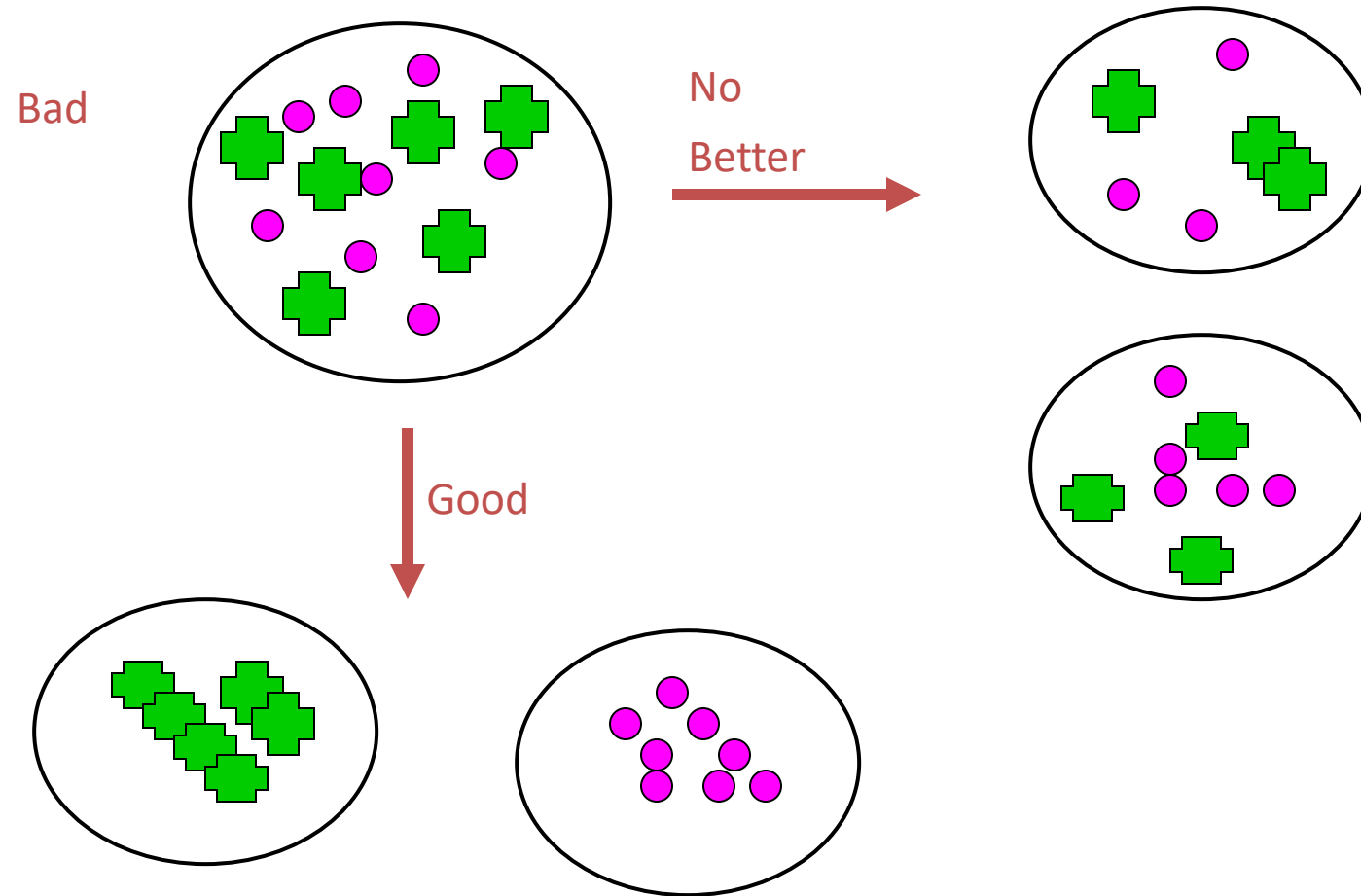
# Depth of Decision tree and Boolean functions

## Decision Trees Provide Variable-Size Hypothesis Space

As the number of nodes (or depth) of tree increases, the hypothesis space grows

- **depth 1** (“decision stump”) can represent any boolean function of one feature.
- **depth 2** Any boolean function of two features; some boolean functions involving three features (e.g.,  $(x_1 \wedge x_2) \vee (\neg x_1 \wedge \neg x_3)$ )
- **etc.**

# Disorder is bad Homogeneity is good



## Which attribute should we use to split?

# Decision Tree General Algorithm

**BuildTree**(TrainingData)

    Split(TrainingData)

**Split**(D)

    If (all points in D are of the same class)

        Then Return

    For each attribute A

        Evaluate splits on attribute A

    Use best split to partition D into D1, D2

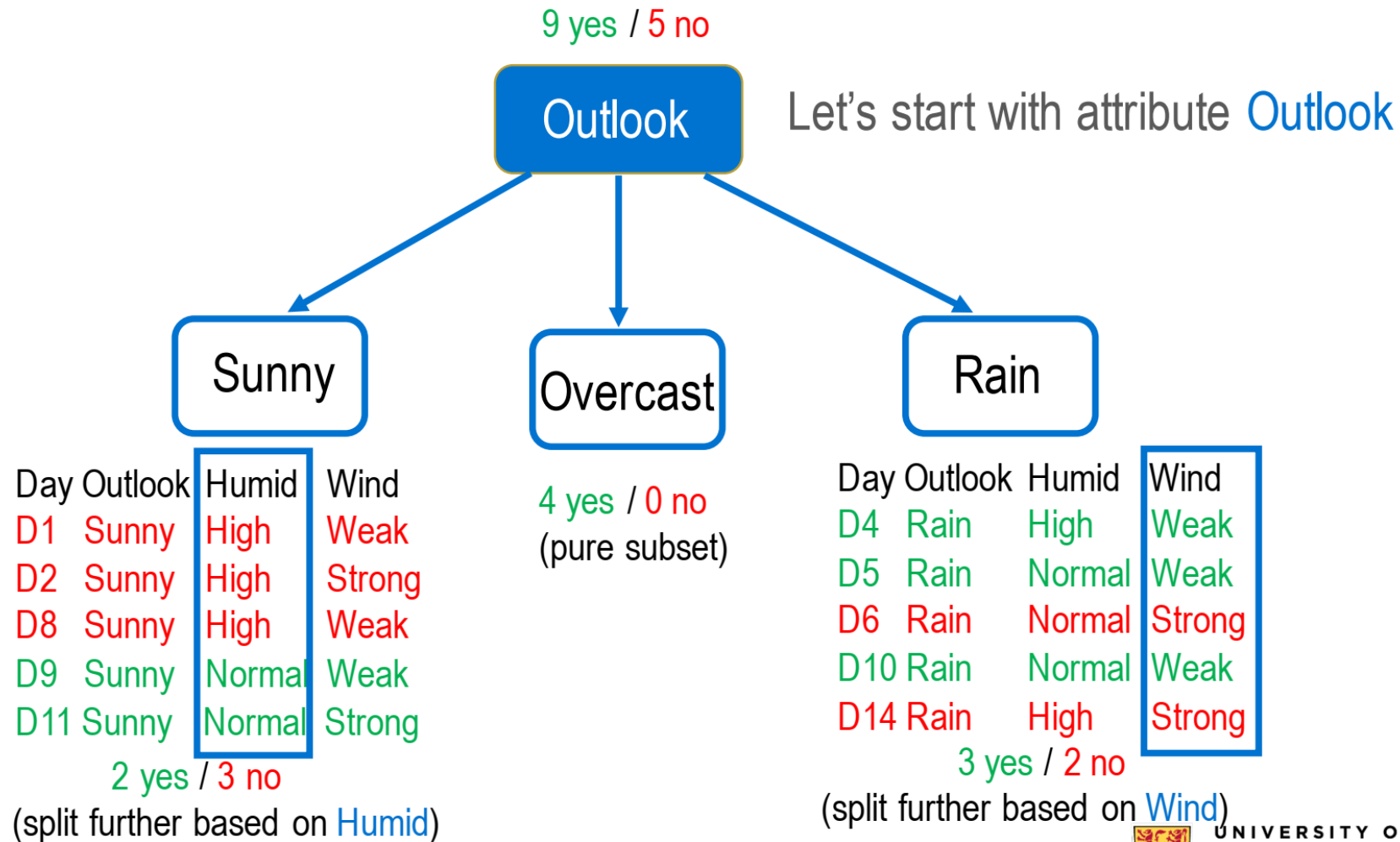
**Split** (D1)

**Split** (D2)

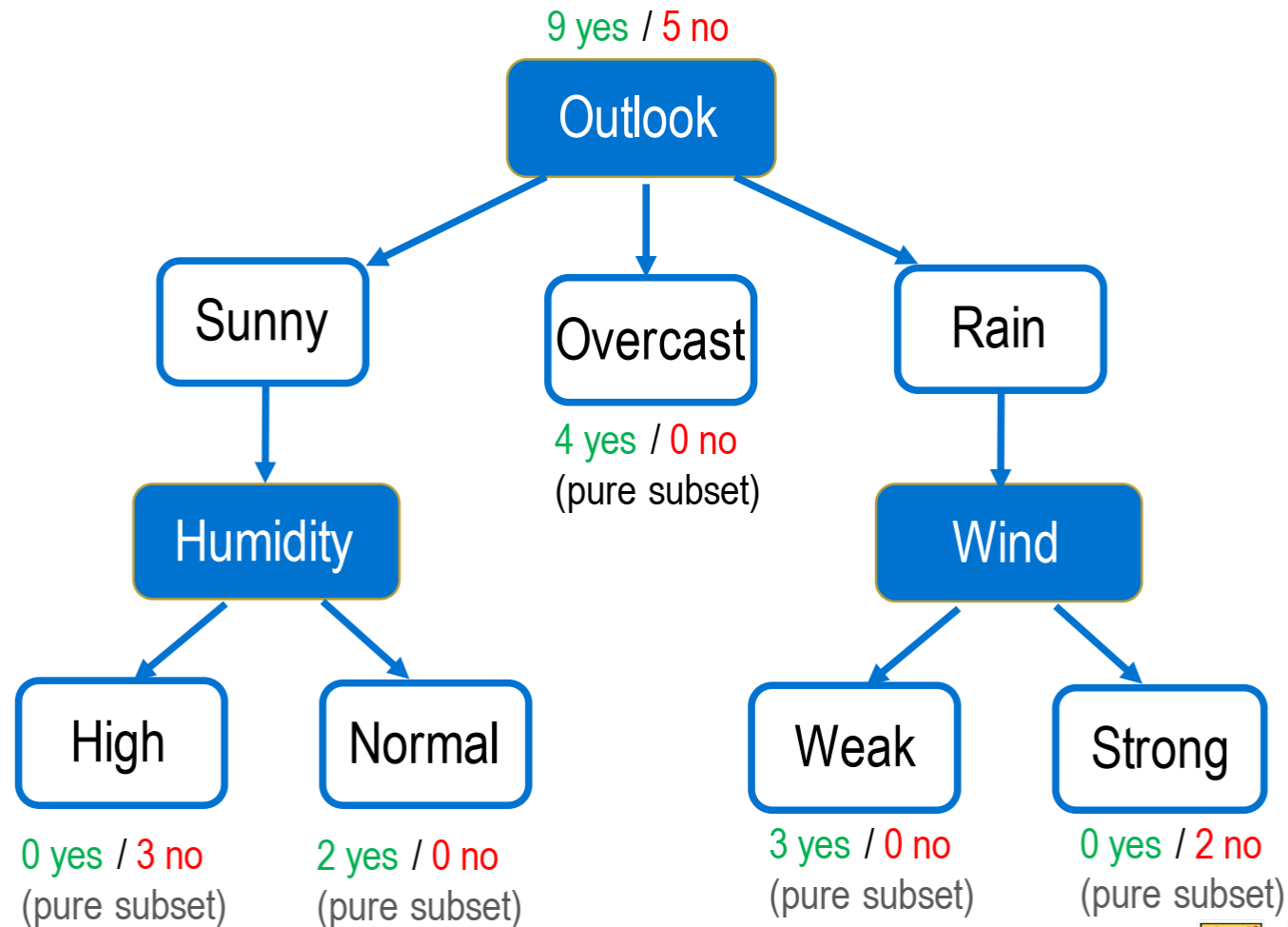
# How to learn decision trees

- Constructing optimal binary decision trees is an NP Complete problem
  - Optimal tree is one which minimizes the expected number of tests required to identify the unknown object
  - NP-complete: belongs to both NP and NP-hard; easy to verify a solution to NP-complete, but hard to find a solution
- Often resort to heuristic algorithms
  - Build an empty decision tree → split → recurse (choosing a good attribute for splitting is important)
  - Some examples: ID3, C4.5, CART

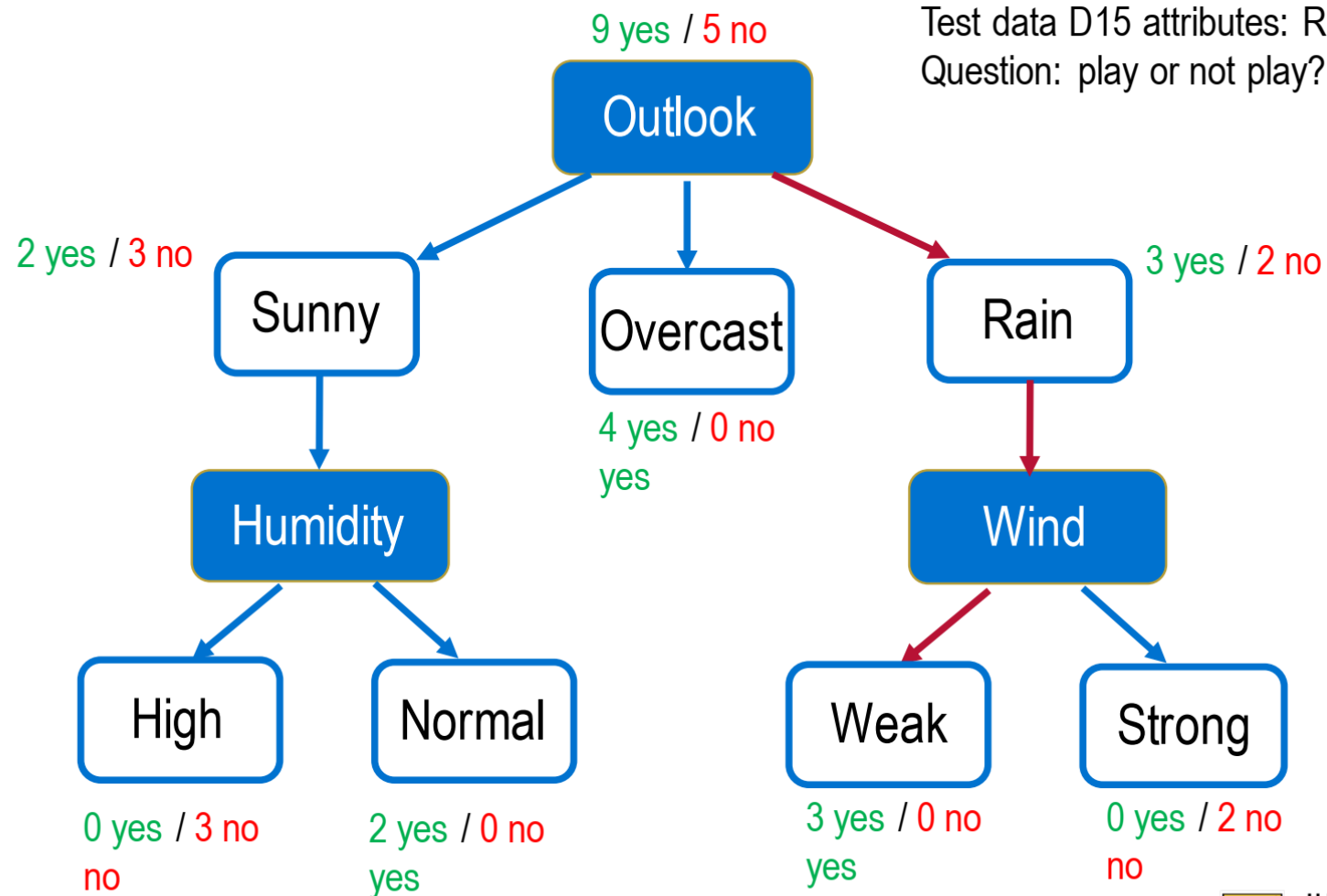
# Split training data



# Split training data



# Split training data



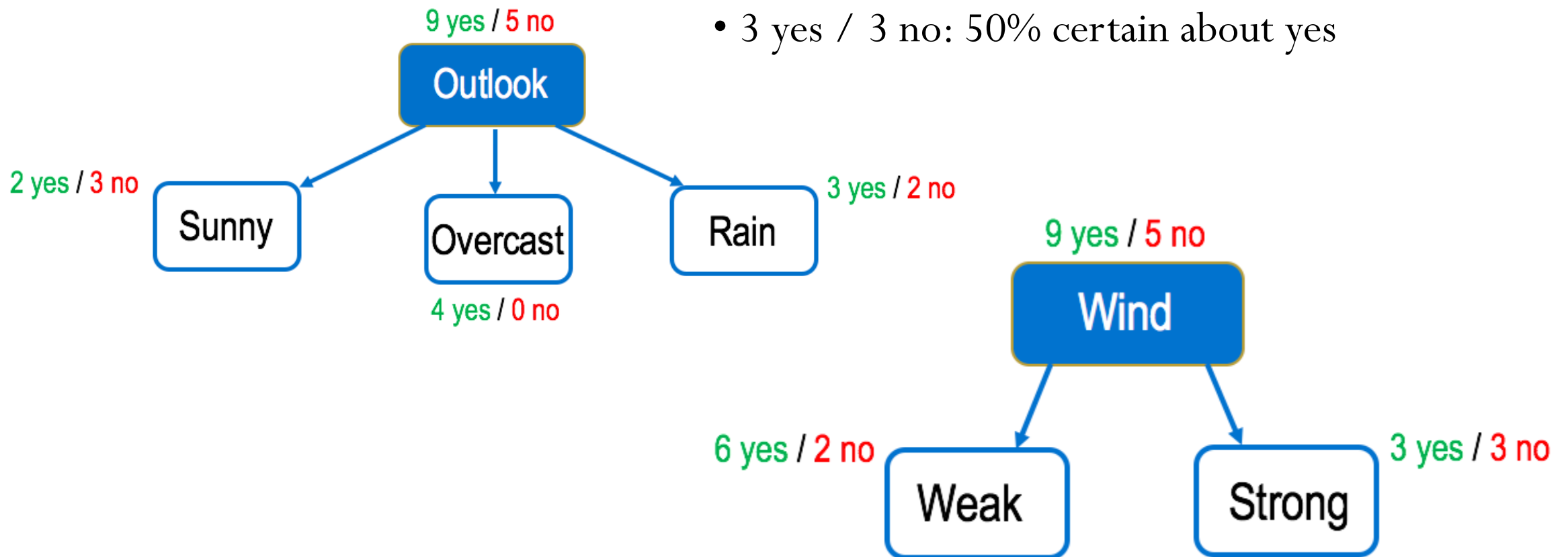
Test data D15 attributes: Rain High Weak  
Question: play or not play? yes



# How to select an attribute?

We hope that uncertainty can be reduced after the split

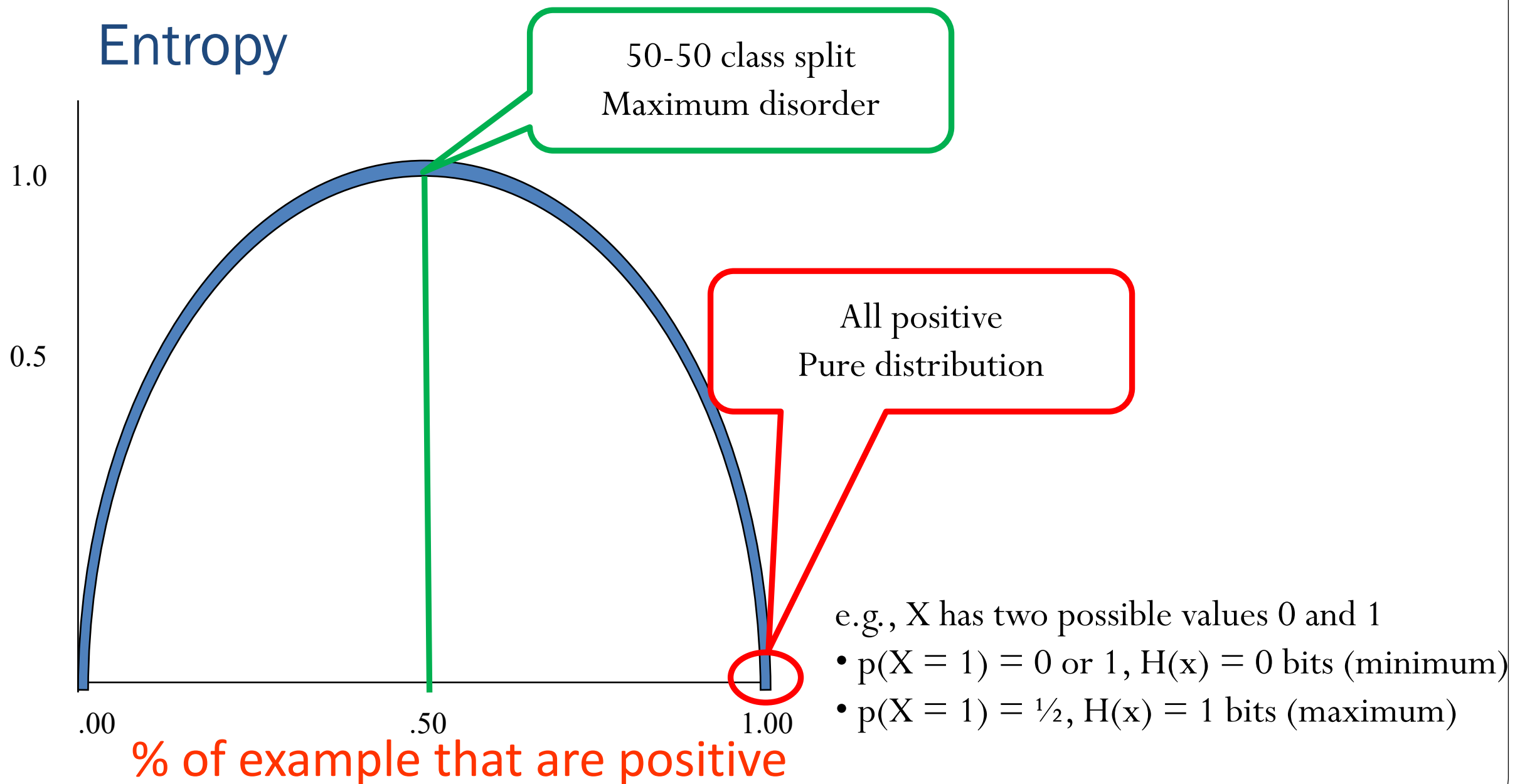
- 4 yes / 0 no: 100 % certain about yes
- 3 yes / 3 no: 50% certain about yes



# ID3 (Iterative Dichotomiser 3) algorithm

- ID3 (node, {training data}) # Generate a DT
  1. Pick an attribute (A) with the maximum information gain for the considered training data
  2. For each value of A, create new child node
  3. Split training data to child nodes
  4. Check subset for each child node
    - If subset is pure: stop
    - Else: ID3 (child node, {subset data})

# Entropy



# Entropy (disorder) is bad

## Homogeneity is good

- Let  $S$  be a set of examples
- $\text{Entropy}(S) = -P \log_2(P) - N \log_2(N)$ 
  - $P$  is proportion of pos example
  - $N$  is proportion of neg examples
  - $0 \log 0 == 0$
- Example:  $S$  has 9 pos and 5 neg  
 $\text{Entropy}([9+, 5-]) = -(9/14) \log_2(9/14) - (5/14) \log_2(5/14)$   
 $= 0.940$

# Information gain

Expected drop in entropy after split

$$\text{Gain}(S, A) = \underbrace{H(S)}_{\text{uncertainty before split}} - \underbrace{\sum_{V \in \text{Values}(A)} \frac{|S_V|}{|S|} H(S_V)}_{\text{uncertainty after split}}$$

- A: attribute
- S: set of training examples
- V: possible values of attribute A
- $S_V$ : set of training examples with the value of attribute  $A = V$
- Subsets with more examples have a larger effect

Maximizing  $\text{Gain}(S, A)$  is equivalent to minimizing uncertainty after split

# Gain of Splitting on Wind

Values(wind)=weak, strong

$S = [9+, 5-]$

$S_{\text{weak}} = [6+, 2-]$

$S_s = [3+, 3-]$

Gain(S, wind)

$$= \text{Entropy}(S) - \sum_{v \in \{\text{weak}, s\}} (|S_v| / |S|) \text{Entropy}(S_v)$$

$v \in \{\text{weak}, s\}$

$$= \text{Entropy}(S) - 8/14 \text{Entropy}(S_{\text{weak}})$$

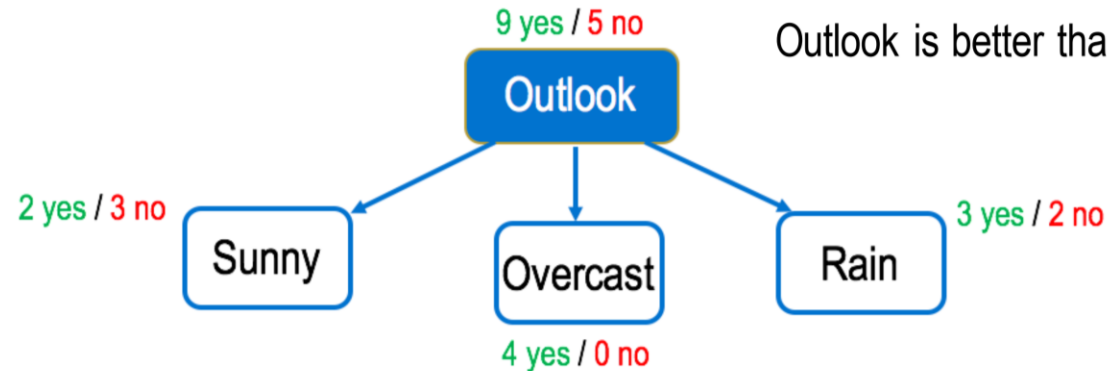
$$- 6/14 \text{Entropy}(S_s)$$

$$= 0.940 - (8/14) 0.811 - (6/14) 1.00$$

$$= .048$$

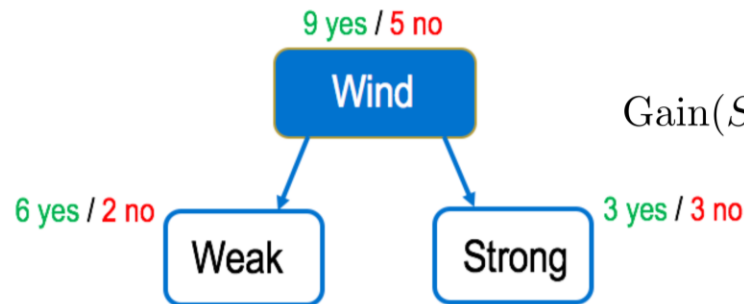
Day	Wind	Tennis?
d1	weak	n
d2	s	n
d3	weak	yes
d4	weak	yes
d5	weak	yes
d6	s	n
d7	s	yes
d8	weak	n
d9	weak	yes
d10	weak	yes
d11	s	yes
d12	s	yes
d13	weak	yes
d14	s	n

# Information gain



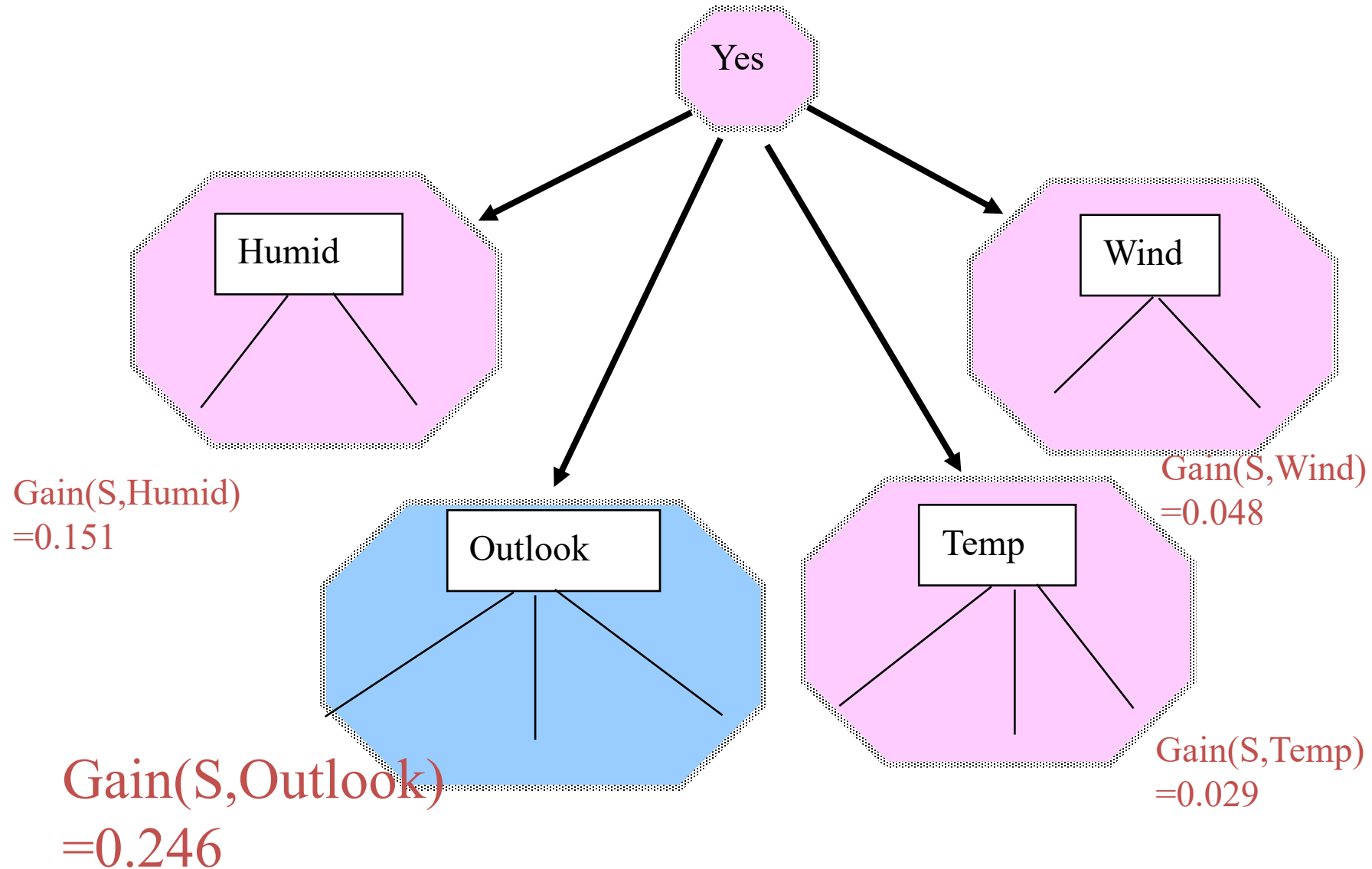
Outlook is better than Wind based on information gain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Gain}(S, \text{Outlook}) &= H(S) - \frac{5}{14}H(S_{\text{sunny}}) - \frac{4}{14}H(S_{\text{overcast}}) - \frac{5}{14}H(S_{\text{rain}}) \\
 &= 0.94 - \frac{5}{14} * 0.97 - \frac{4}{14} * 0 - \frac{5}{14} * 0.97 = 0.25
 \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Gain}(S, \text{Wind}) &= H(S) - \frac{8}{14}H(S_{\text{weak}}) - \frac{6}{14}H(S_{\text{strong}}) \\
 &= 0.94 - \frac{8}{14} * 0.81 - \frac{6}{14} * 1 = 0.049
 \end{aligned}$$

# Evaluating Attributes



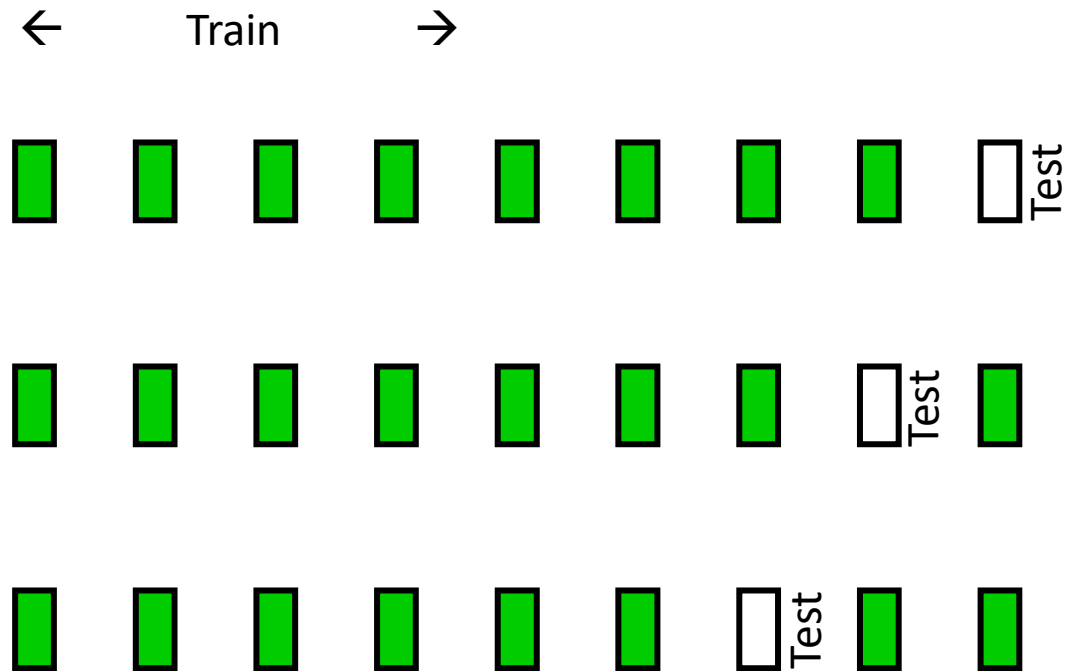


# Issues

- Missing data
- Real-valued attributes
- Many-valued features
- Evaluation
- Overfitting

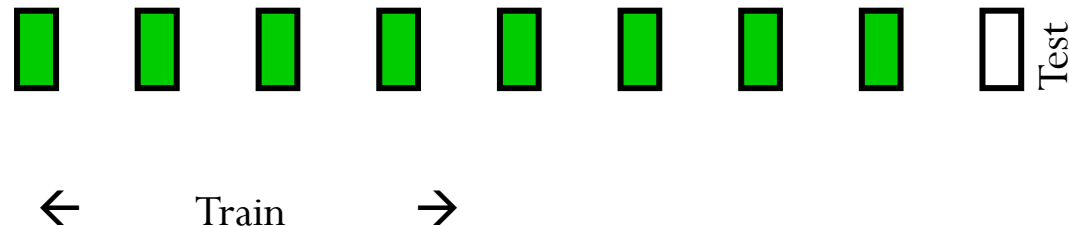
# Evaluation: Cross Validation

- Partition examples into  $k$  disjoint sets
- Now create  $k$  training sets
  - Each set is union of all equiv classes *except one*
  - So each set has  $(k-1)/k$  of the original training data



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# Cross Validation

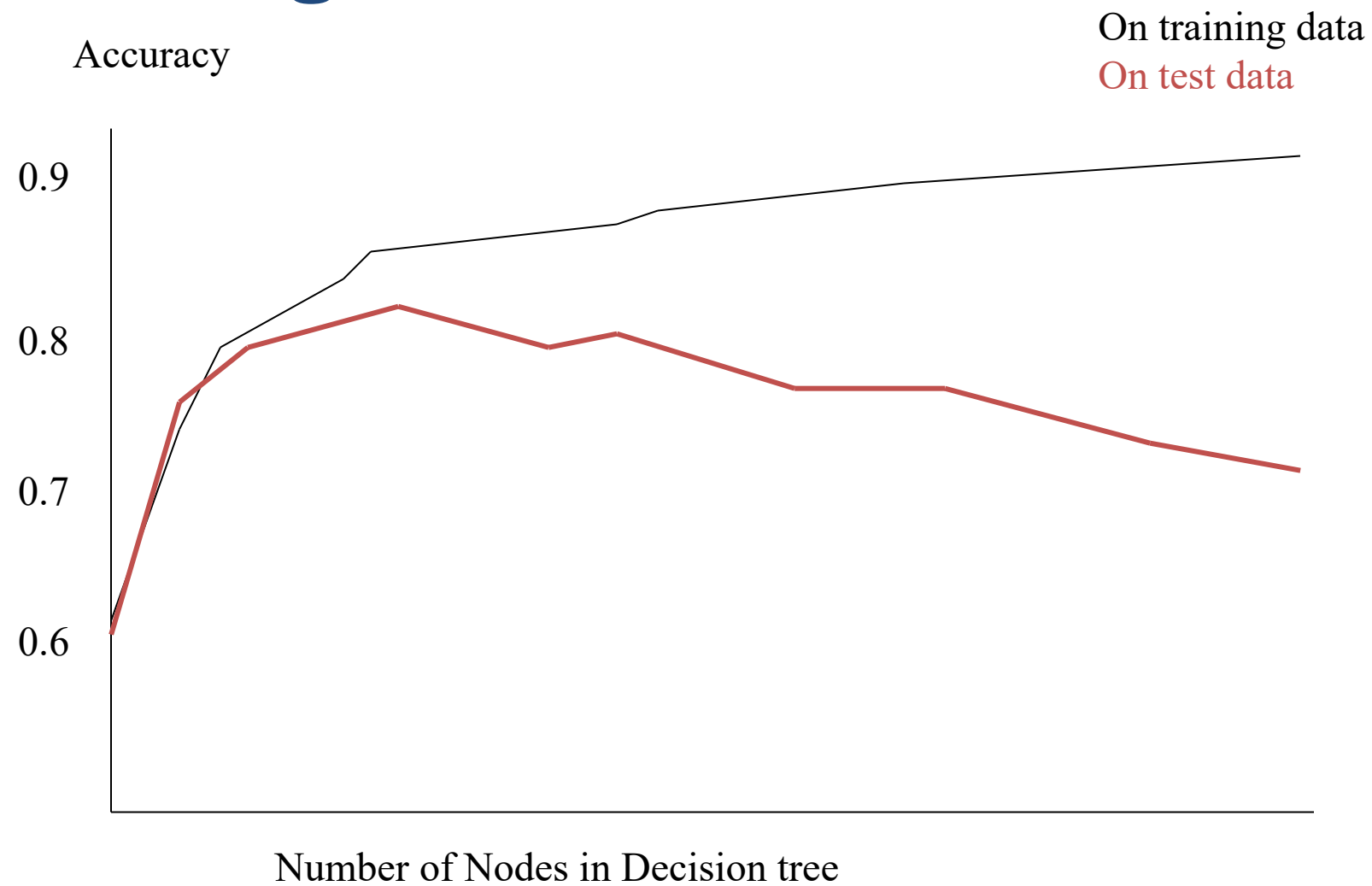
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  - Each set is union of all equiv classes *except one*
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# Cross-Validation (2)

- Training and validation sets
  - training set is used to build the tree
  - a separate validation set is used to evaluate the accuracy over subsequent data, and to evaluate the impact of pruning
  - justification: validation set is unlikely to exhibit the same noise and spurious correlation
  - rule of thumb: 2 / 3 to the training set, 1 / 3 to the validation set
- Leave-one-out
  - Use if  $< 100$  examples (rough estimate)
  - Hold out one example, train on remaining examples
- M of N fold
  - Repeat M times
  - Divide data into N folds, do N fold cross-validation

# Overfitting



# Overfitting Definition

- DT is *overfit* when exists another DT' and
  - DT has *smaller* error on training examples, but
  - DT has *bigger* error on test examples
- Causes of overfitting
  - Noisy data, or
  - Training set is too small
- Solutions
  - Reduced error pruning
  - Early stopping
  - Rule post pruning



# Avoid Overfitting

- How to avoid overfitting?
  - Stop growing the tree
    - before it perfectly classifies the training data
    - when data split is not statistically significant
  - Allow overfitting, but post-prune the tree
  - Grow full tree, then post-prune
  - Acquire more training data
  - Remove irrelevant attributes (manual process – not always possible)
- How to select “best” tree:
  - Measure performance over training data
  - Measure performance over separate validation data set
  - Add complexity penalty to performance measure (heuristic: simpler is better)

# Reduced Error Pruning

- Split data into train and validation set



- Repeat until pruning is harmful
  - Remove each subtree and replace it with majority class and evaluate on validation set
  - Remove subtree that leads to largest gain in accuracy

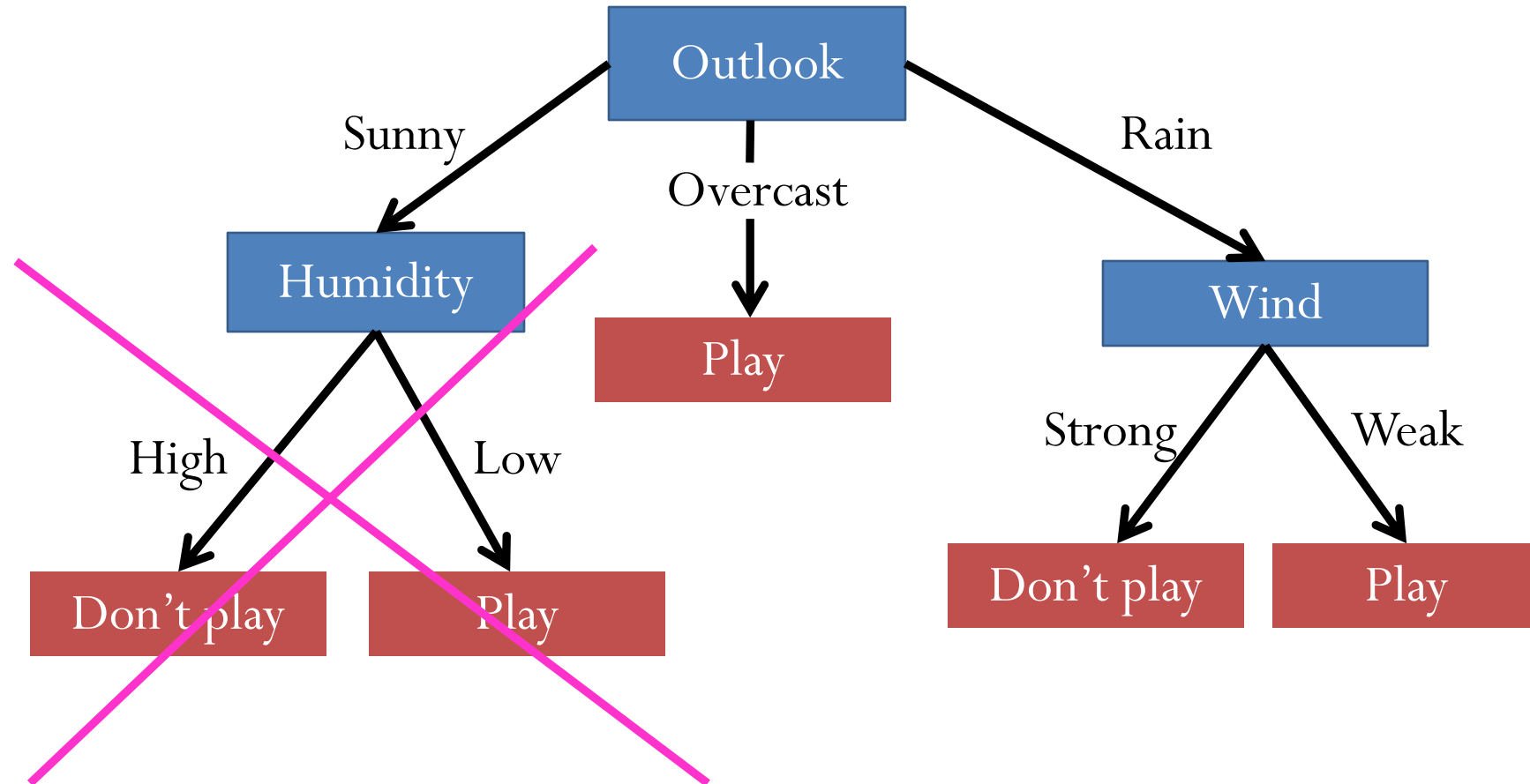
# Reduced-Error Pruning

Split data into *training* and *validation* set

Do until further pruning is harmful:

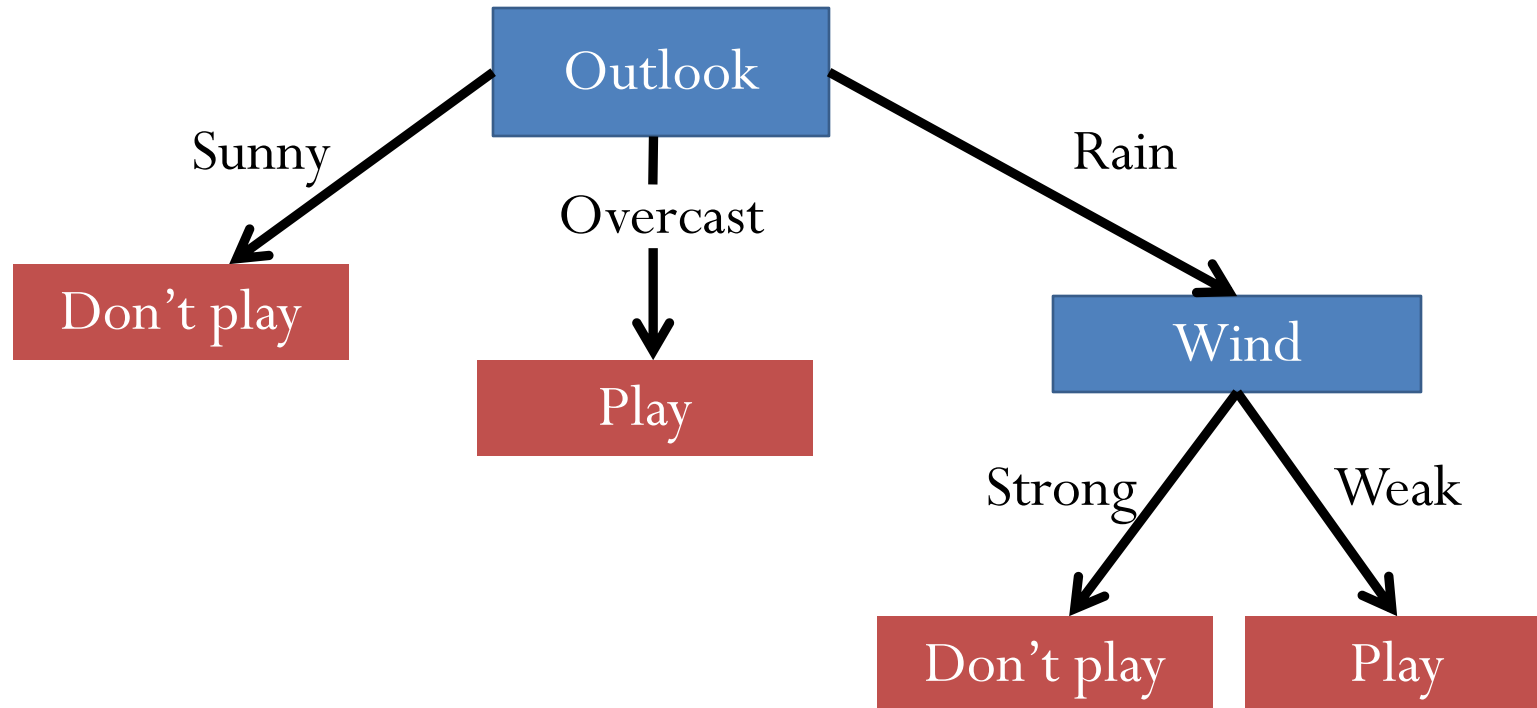
1. Evaluate impact on *validation* set of pruning each possible node (plus those below it)
2. Greedily remove the one that most improves *validation* set accuracy

# Reduced Error Pruning Example



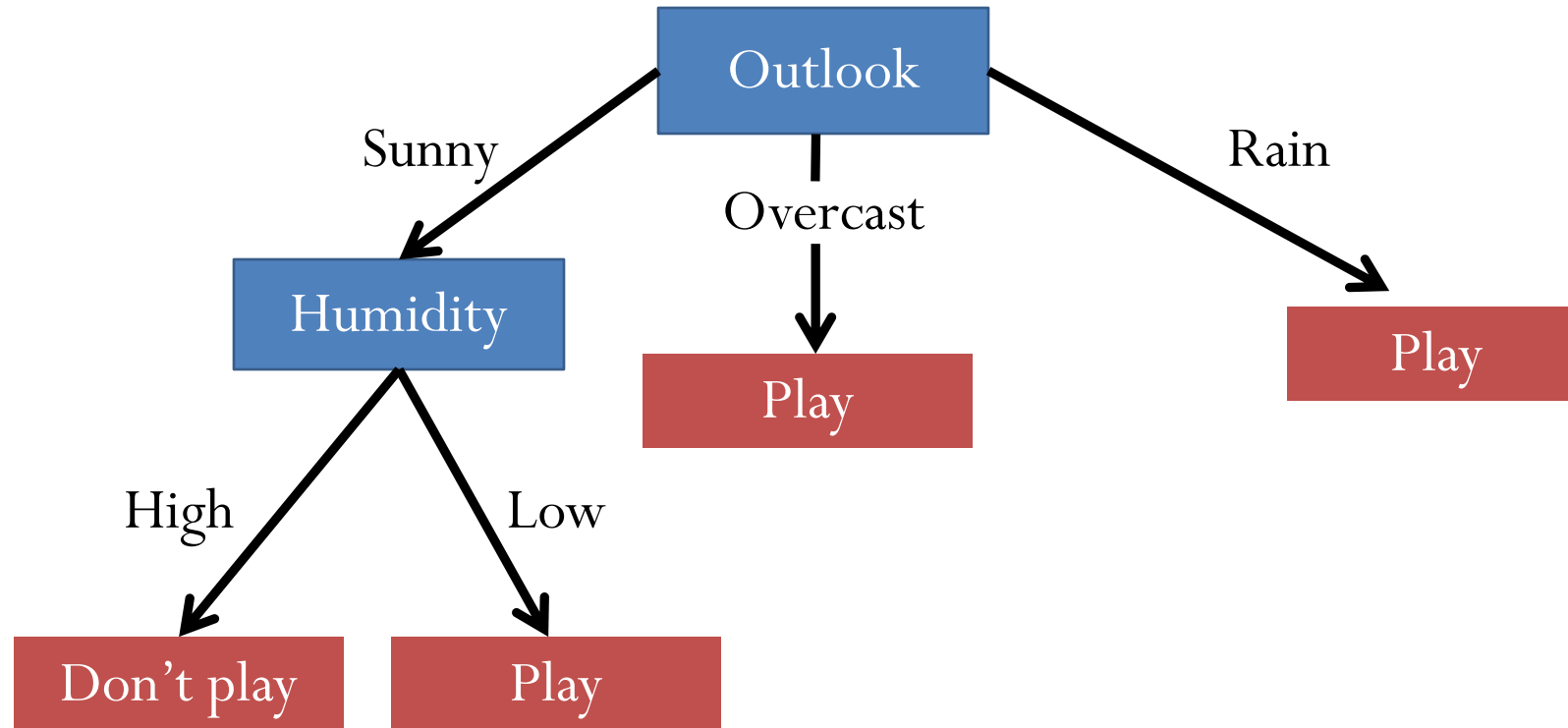
Validation set accuracy = 0.75

# Reduced Error Pruning Example



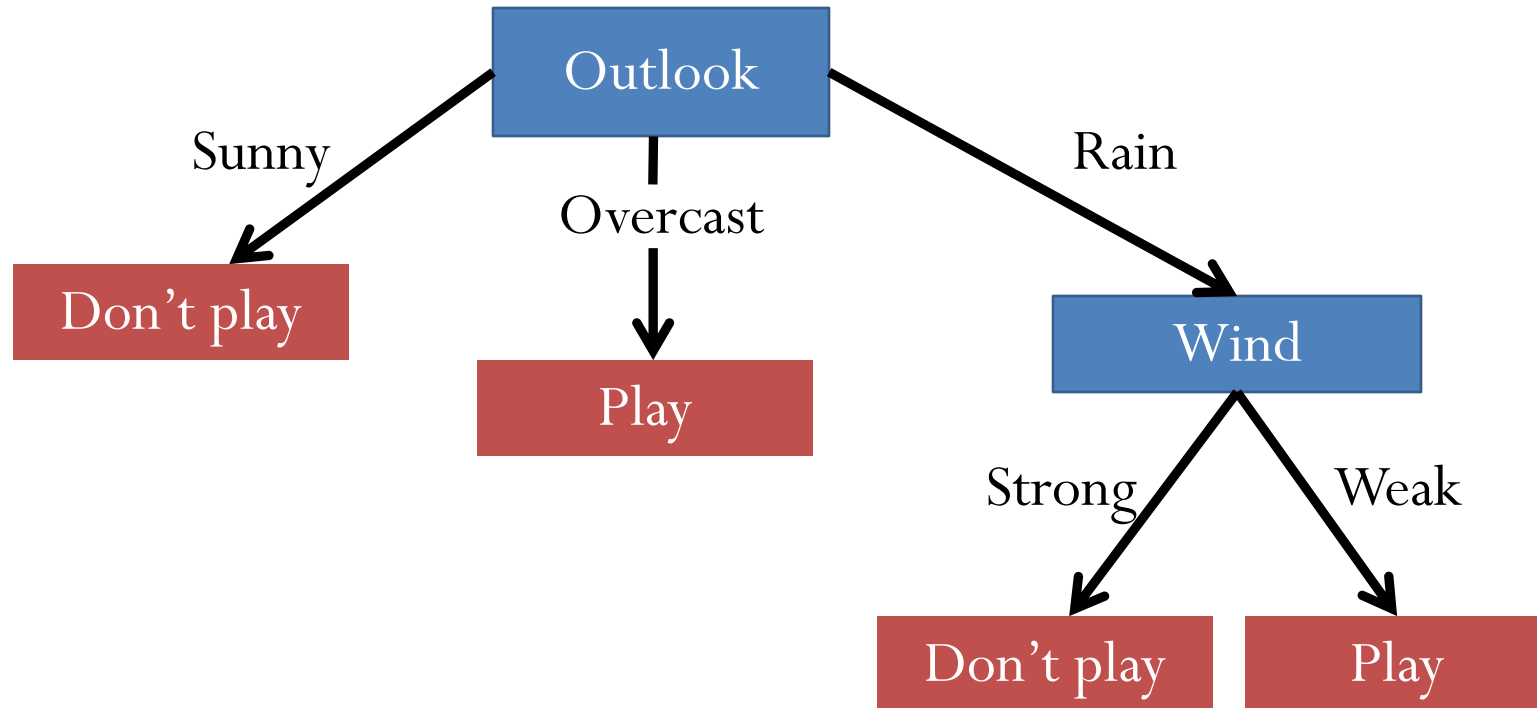
Validation set accuracy = 0.80

# Reduced Error Pruning Example



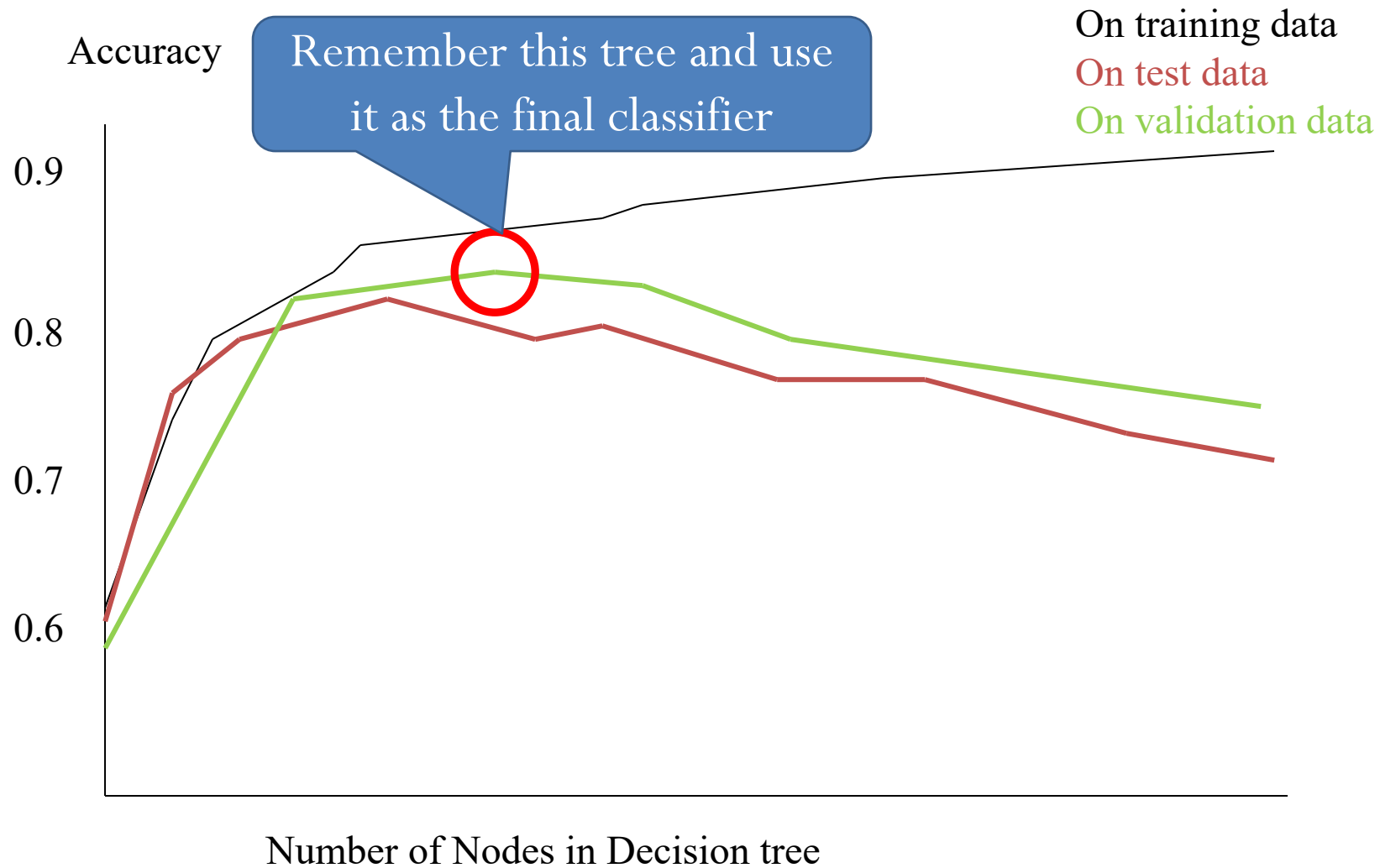
Validation set accuracy = 0.70

# Reduced Error Pruning Example



Use this as final tree

# Early Stopping

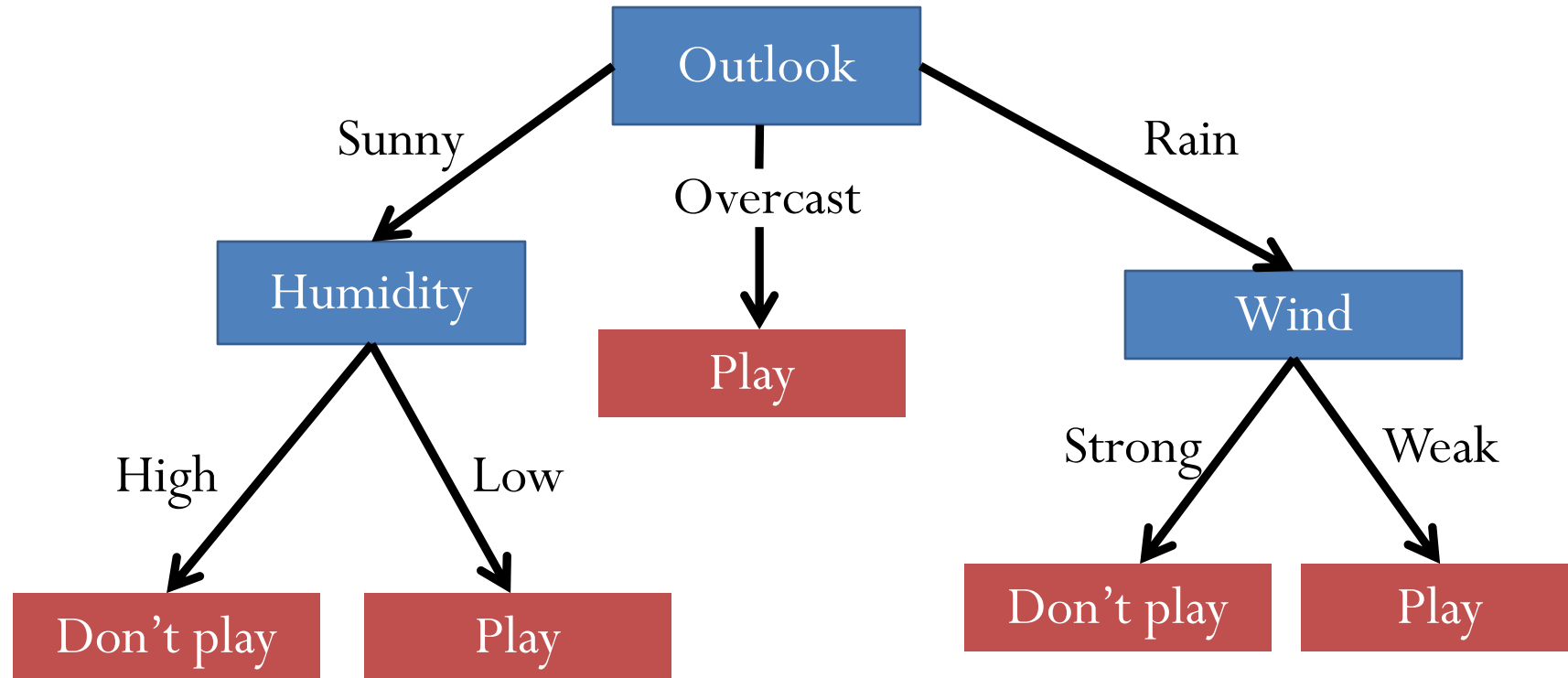




# Post Rule Pruning

- Split data into train and validation set
- Prune each rule independently
  - Remove each pre-condition and evaluate accuracy
  - Pick pre-condition that leads to largest improvement in accuracy
- Note: ways to do this using training data and statistical tests
  1. Convert tree to equivalent set of rules
  2. Prune each rule independently of others
  3. Sort final rules into desired sequence for use

# Conversion to Rule



Outlook = Sunny  $\wedge$  Humidity = High  $\Rightarrow$  Don't play

Outlook = Sunny  $\wedge$  Humidity = Low  $\Rightarrow$  Play

Outlook = Overcast  $\Rightarrow$  Play

...

IF            (*Outlook = Sunny*) *AND* (*Humidity = High*)

THEN    *PlayTennis = No*

IF            (*Outlook = Sunny*) *AND* (*Humidity = Normal*)

THEN    *PlayTennis = Yes*

...

# Example

Outlook = Sunny  $\wedge$  Humidity = High  $\Rightarrow$  Don't play

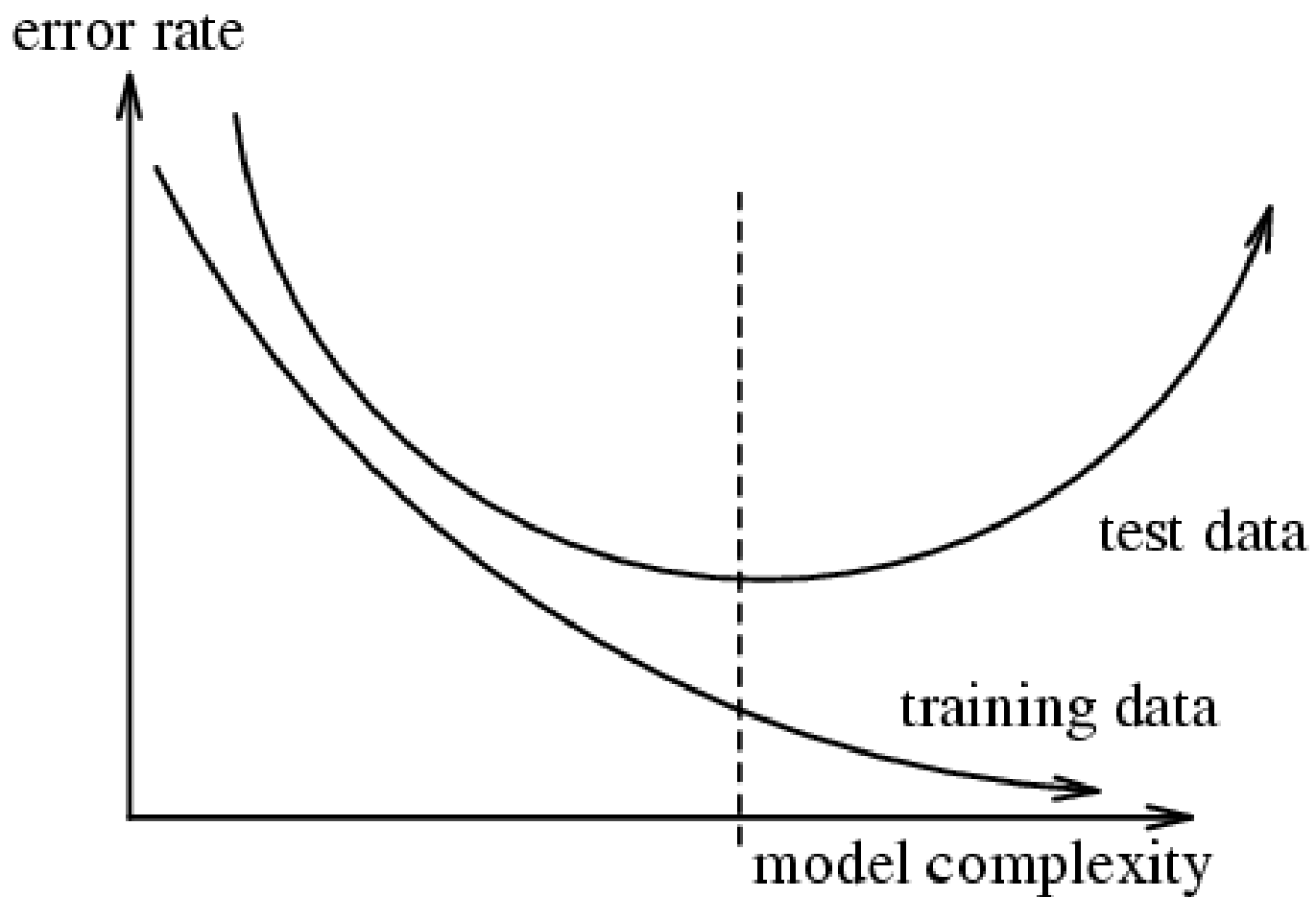
Validation set accuracy = 0.68

→ Outlook = Sunny  $\Rightarrow$  Don't play Validation set accuracy = 0.65

→ Humidity = High  $\Rightarrow$  Don't play Validation set accuracy = 0.75

Keep this rule

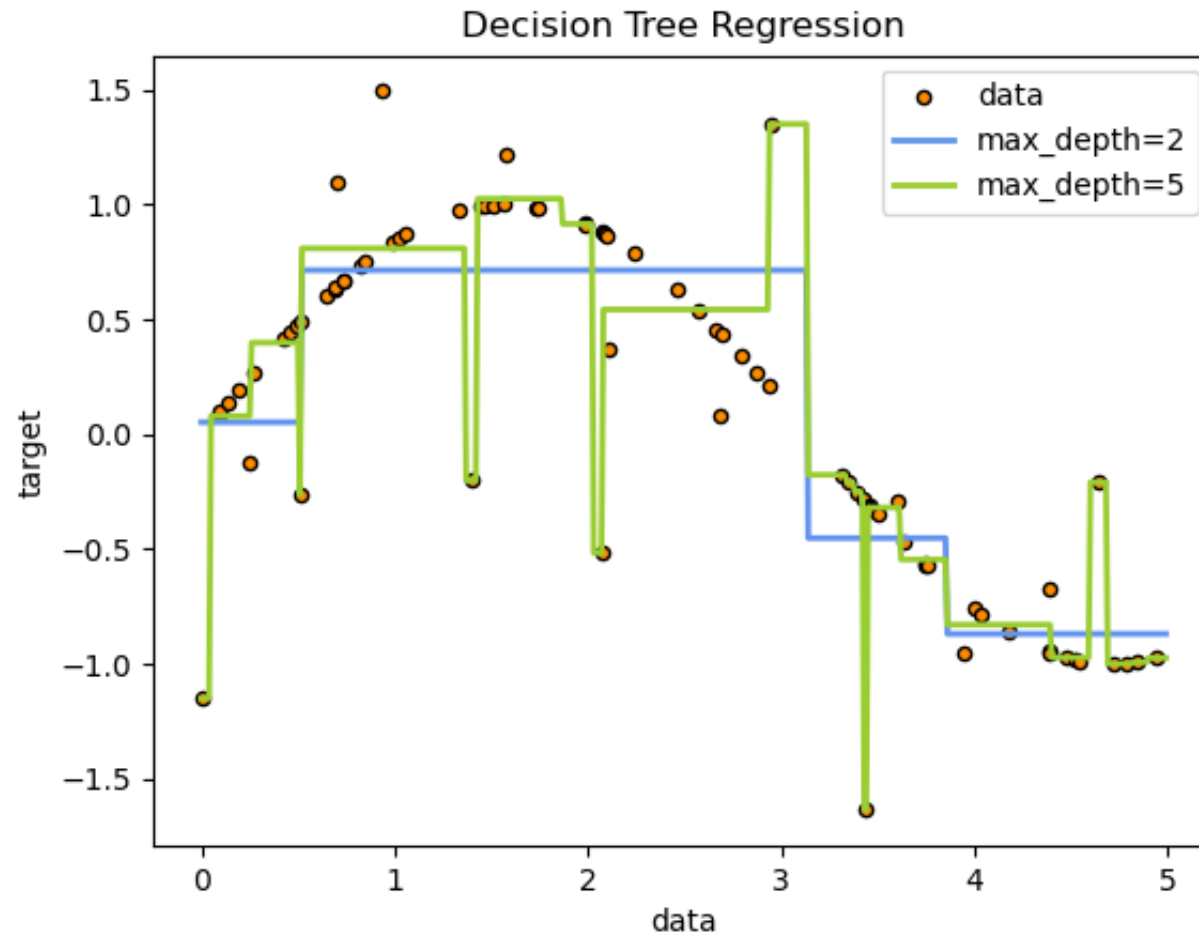
# Overfitting 2



*Figure from w.w.cohen*

# Scikit Learn on Decision Trees

- Regression



# Scikit Learn on Decision Trees

Given training vectors  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $i=1, \dots, l$  and a label vector  $y \in \mathbb{R}^l$ , a decision tree recursively partitions the feature space such that the samples with the same labels or similar target values are grouped together.

Let the data at node  $m$  be represented by  $Q_m$  with  $n_m$  samples. For each candidate split  $\theta = (j, t_m)$  consisting of a feature  $j$  and threshold  $t_m$ , partition the data into  $Q_m^{left}(\theta)$  and  $Q_m^{right}(\theta)$  subsets

$$Q_m^{left}(\theta) = \{(x, y) | x_j \leq t_m\}$$
$$Q_m^{right}(\theta) = Q_m \setminus Q_m^{left}(\theta)$$

The quality of a candidate split of node  $m$  is then computed using an impurity function or loss function  $H()$ , the choice of which depends on the task being solved (classification or regression)

$$G(Q_m, \theta) = \frac{n_m^{left}}{n_m} H(Q_m^{left}(\theta)) + \frac{n_m^{right}}{n_m} H(Q_m^{right}(\theta))$$

Select the parameters that minimises the impurity

$$\theta^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\theta} G(Q_m, \theta)$$

Recurse for subsets  $Q_m^{left}(\theta^*)$  and  $Q_m^{right}(\theta^*)$  until the maximum allowable depth is reached,  $n_m < \text{min}_{samples}$  or  $n_m = 1$ .

<https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/tree.html>

# Scikit Learn on Decision Trees

- Gini and Log Loss or Entropy:

If a target is a classification outcome taking on values  $0, 1, \dots, K-1$ , for node  $m$ , let

$$p_{mk} = \frac{1}{n_m} \sum_{y \in Q_m} I(y = k)$$

be the proportion of class  $k$  observations in node  $m$ . If  $m$  is a terminal node, `predict_proba` for this region is set to  $p_{mk}$ . Common measures of impurity are the following.

Gini:

$$H(Q_m) = \sum_k p_{mk}(1 - p_{mk})$$

Log Loss or Entropy:

$$H(Q_m) = - \sum_k p_{mk} \log(p_{mk})$$



# References

# References

- Dietterich, T. G., (1998). Approximate Statistical Tests for Comparing Supervised Classification Learning Algorithms. *Neural Computation*, 10 (7) 1895-1924
- Densar, J., (2006). Demsar, Statistical Comparisons of Classifiers over Multiple Data Sets. The Journal of Machine Learning Research, pages 1-30.
- Machine Learning, Jesse Davis, jdavis@cs.washington.edu  
<https://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse573/08au/slides/>
- Daniel S. Weld <https://www.cs.washington.edu/people/faculty/weld>
- CS489/698: Intro to ML, Lecture 19: Decision Tree, Instructor: Sun Sun (17/18/18)
- “Introductory Applied Machine Learning” by Victor Lavrenko and Nigel Goddard University of Edinburgh.
- <https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/tree.html>

ขอบคุณ

Thai

Grazie  
Italian

תודה רבה  
Hebrew

धन्यवादः  
Sanskrit

ಧನ್ಯವಾದಗಳು  
Kannada

Ευχαριστώ  
Greek

Thank You  
English

Gracias  
Spanish

Спасибо  
Russian

Obrigado  
Portuguese

شكراً  
Arabic

<https://sites.google.com/site/animeshchaturvedi07>

Merci  
French

多謝  
Traditional  
Chinese

धन्यवाद  
Hindi

Danke  
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多谢  
Simplified  
Chinese

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ありがとうございました  
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