

# **DATA SCIENCE**

## **11 WEEK PART TIME COURSE**

**Week 7 – Decision Trees**  
**Monday 2nd January 2016**

1. ..
2. What are decision trees?
3. How decision trees work
4. Visual example on Titanic dataset
5. Lab
6. Talks
7. Discussion

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# **DECISION TREES**



- A supervised learning technique that can be used for classification or regression.

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- Visually engaging and easy to interpret.
- Foundation for getting into very powerful techniques.
- Great for explaining to people!



- Prone to overfitting.

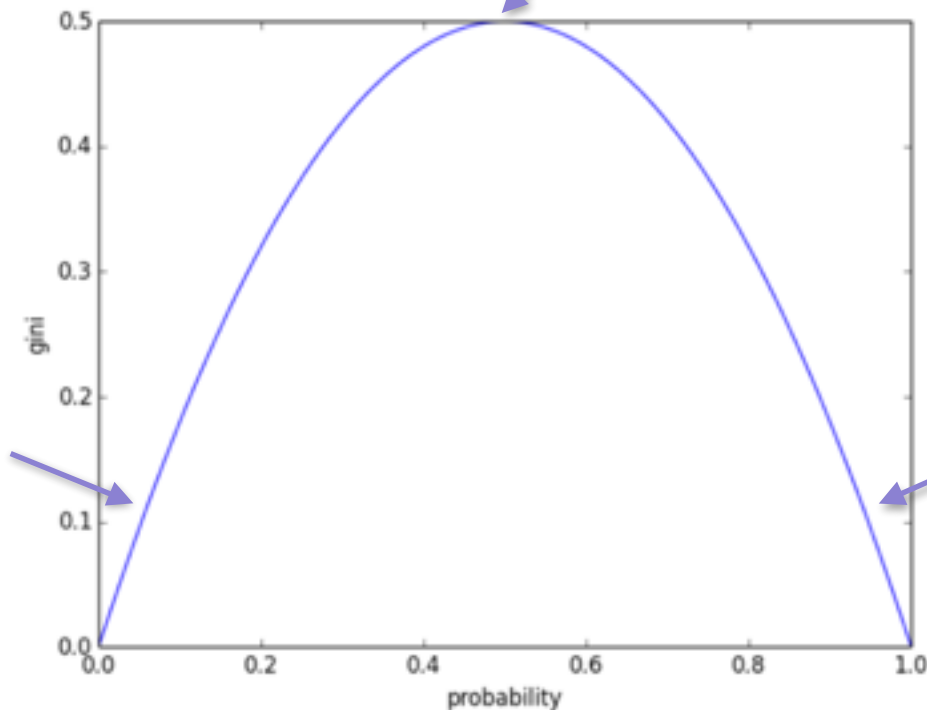
- Prone to overfitting.
- Predictive power is lower in comparison to many other modern techniques.

- › Scans for a feature to split on that results in the greatest separation between classes in the resulting nodes.

## The Gini Index

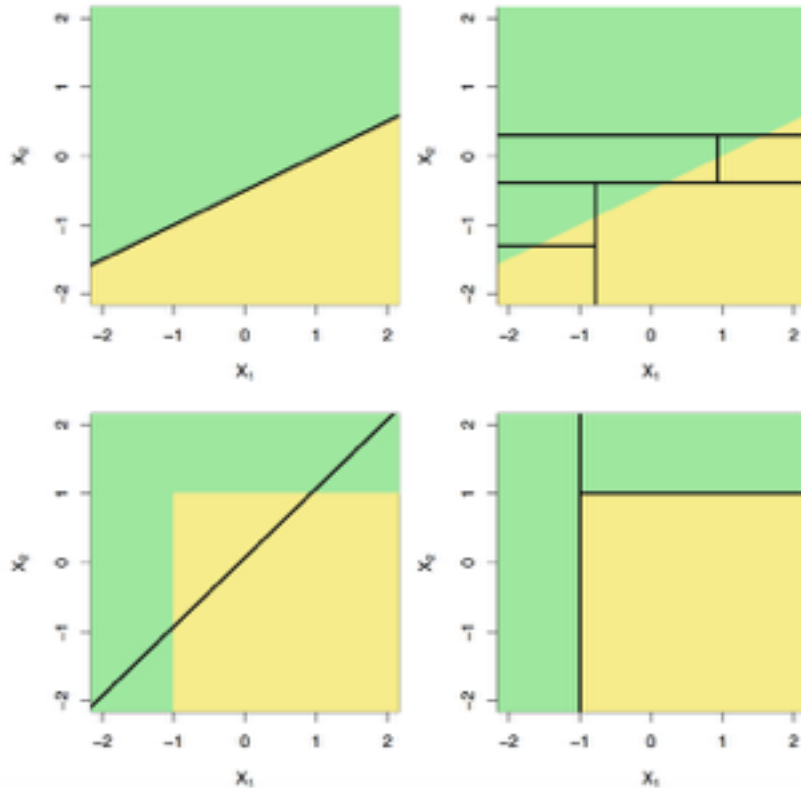
Equal ratio of  
target classes  
50:50

High purity  
of class 0



High purity  
of class 1

- Scans for a feature to split on that results in the greatest separation between classes in the resulting nodes.
- Non-linear.



← Linear  
decision  
boundary

← Non-linear  
decision  
boundary

- › Scans for a feature to split on that results in the greatest separation between classes in the resulting nodes.
- › Non-linear
- › Greedy process
- › Splits within splits



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- For a classification tree, we predict that each observation belongs to the most commonly occurring class of training observations in the region to which it belongs.



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- Non-linear
- Greedy process
- Splits within splits
- For a classification tree, we predict that each observation belongs to the most commonly occurring class of training observations in the region to which it belongs.
- We naturally get combinations of features used for our prediction.

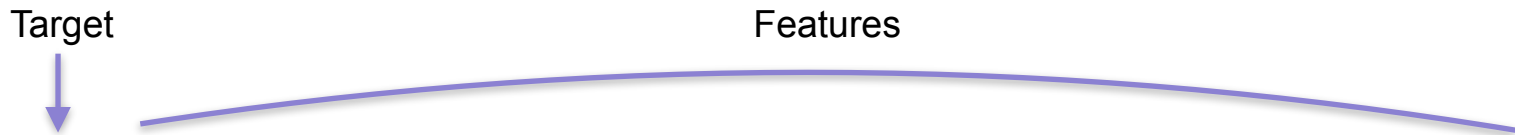
<http://www.r2d3.us/visual-intro-to-machine-learning-part-1/>

# TITANIC DATA

19

Target

Features



PassengerId	Survived	Pclass	Name	Sex	Age	SibSp	Parch	Ticket	Fare
1	0	3	Braund, Mr. Owen Harris	male	22	1	0	A/5 21171	7
2	1	1	Cumings, Mrs. John Bradley (Florence Briggs)	female	38	1	0	PC 17599	71
3	1	3	Heikkinen, Miss. Laina	female	26	0	0	STON/O2. 3101282	8
4	1	1	Futrelle, Mrs. Jacques Heath (Lily May Peel)	female	35	1	0	113803	53
5	0	3	Allen, Mr. William Henry	male	35	0	0	373450	8
6	0	3	Moran, Mr. James	male		0	0	330877	8
7	0	1	McCarthy, Mr. Timothy J	male	54	0	0	17463	52
8	0	3	Palsson, Master. Gosta Leonard	male	2	3	1	349909	21
9	1	3	Johnson, Mrs. Oscar W (Elisabeth Vilhelmina)	female	27	0	2	347742	11
10	1	2	Nasser, Mrs. Nicholas (Adele Achem)	female	14	1	0	237736	30

In pairs, pick the two features from the titanic dataset that you believe will be the most predictive of survival.

Variable	Description
survival	Survival (0 = No; 1 = Yes)
pclass	Passenger Class (1 = 1st; 2 = 2nd; 3 = 3rd)
name	Name
sex	Sex
age	Age
sibsp	Number of Siblings/Spouses Aboard
parch	Number of Parents/Children Aboard
ticket	Ticket Number
fare	Passenger Fare
cabin	Cabin

Before Split	All
Survived	10
Died	15

$$1 - \sum \left( \frac{class_i}{total} \right)^2$$

Before Split	All
Survived	10
Died	15

$$1 - \sum \left( \frac{class_i}{total} \right)^2$$

$$1 - \left( \frac{survived}{total} \right)^2 - \left( \frac{died}{total} \right)^2$$

Before Split	All
Survived	10
Died	15

$$1 - \left( \frac{\text{survived}}{\text{total}} \right)^2 - \left( \frac{\text{died}}{\text{total}} \right)^2$$
$$1 - \left( \frac{10}{25} \right)^2 - \left( \frac{15}{25} \right)^2 = 0.48$$



$Gini_o$

$= 0.48$

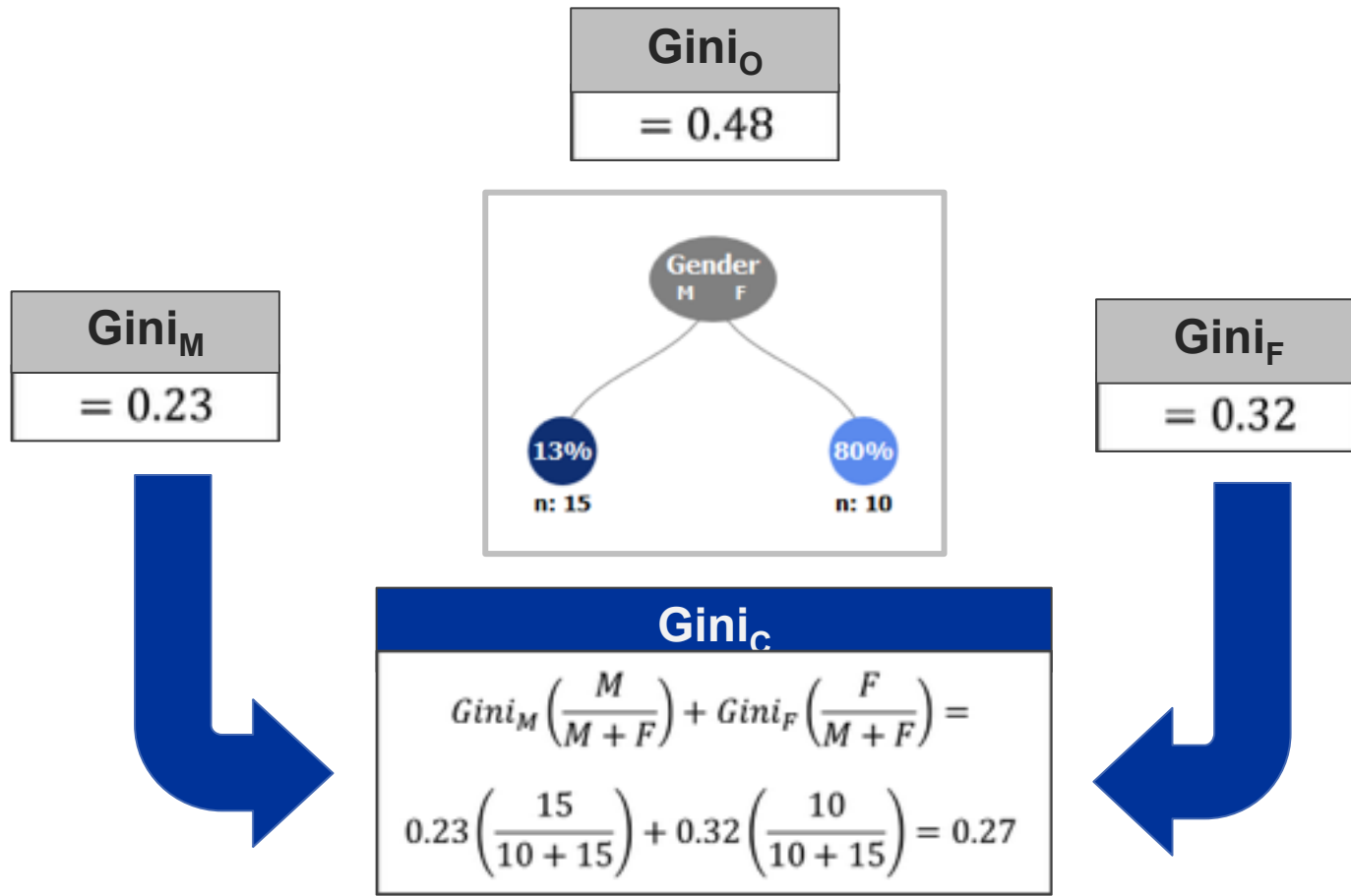
Gender  
M F

13%  
n: 15

80%  
n: 10

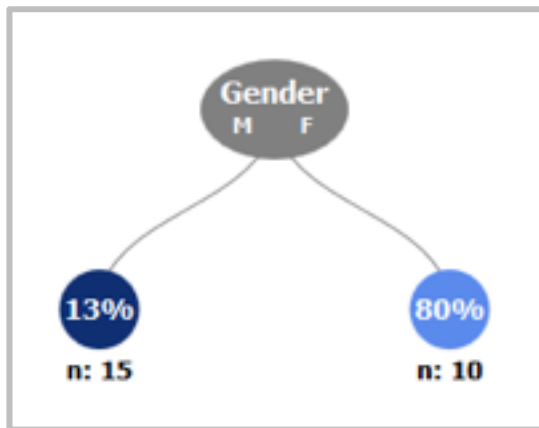
Gender	M
Survived	2
Died	13

Gender	F
Survived	8
Died	2

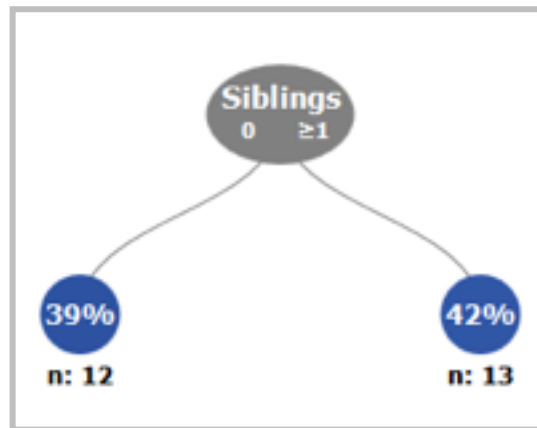


## SPLITTING - USING GINI INDEX

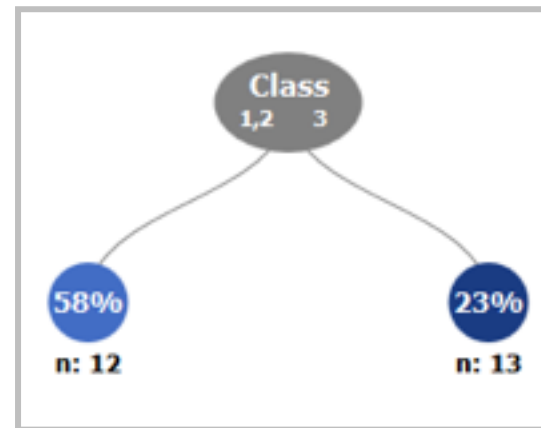
27



Gender	M	F
Survived	2	8
Died	13	2
Gini	0.27	



Siblings	0	≥1
Survived	5	5
Died	7	8
Gini	0.48	



Class	1,2	3
Survived	7	3
Died	5	10
Gini	0.42	

Using BigML to demonstrate a decision tree model on the Titanic dataset.

<https://bigml.com/dashboard/datasets>

BigML is a cloud based machine learning tool, designed to make machine learning more approachable.



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**LAB**

```
git remote -v
```

```
git remote add upstream https://github.com/ihansel/SYD_DAT_3.git
```

```
git remote -v
```

```
git fetch upstream
```

```
git checkout master
```

```
git merge upstream/master
```

```
OR git reset --hard upstream/master
```

