

The ID3 (Iterative Dichotomiser 3) algorithm builds a decision tree top-down by selecting attributes that maximize information gain, using entropy as the impurity measure. Entropy quantifies uncertainty:

$$Entropy(S) = - \sum p_i * \log_2(p_i)$$

where p_i is the proportion of each class in set S.

Information gain is Entropy(parent) - weighted average Entropy(children). The process is recursive until subsets are pure (entropy=0) or no attributes remain.

Here are the steps applied to the dataset:

1. Calculate initial entropy: for 10 instances (6 Yes, 4 No)

$$\text{Entropy} = - \left(\frac{6}{10} \right) \log_2 \left(\frac{6}{10} \right) - \left(\frac{4}{10} \right) \log_2 \left(\frac{4}{10} \right) \approx 0.971 \text{ bits}$$

2. Compute information gain for each attribute

$$\text{Outlook} \approx 0.322$$

$$\text{Temperature} \approx 0.095$$

$$\text{Humidity} \approx 0.125$$

$$\text{Wind} \approx 0.091$$

3. Select root node: Outlook (max gain, 0.322).

Split dataset into subsets:

Sunny – 4 instances, entropy 0.811

Overcast – 2 instances, entropy 0

Rain – 4 instances, entropy 0.811

4. Handle pure subsets: Overcast is pure (all Yes), leaf node: Yes

5. Recurse on impure subsets

For Sunny: Gains – Temperature ≈ 0.811 , Humidity ≈ 0.811 , Wind ≈ 0.123 . Select Humidity (ties broken by simplicity/fewer branches).

- Subsets: High (3 No, entropy=0 → No), Normal (1 Yes, entropy=0 → Yes).

For Rain: Gains - Temperature ≈ 0.311 , Humidity ≈ 0.123 , Wind ≈ 0.811 (highest). Select Wind.

- Subsets: Weak (3 Yes, entropy=0 → Yes), Strong (1 No, entropy=0 → No).

6. Stop recursion: All leaves are pure. No need of pruning anymore.

Decision Tree

The tree predicts ‘play cricket’ based on weather.

