

DSC 140A

Probabilistic Modeling & Machine Learning

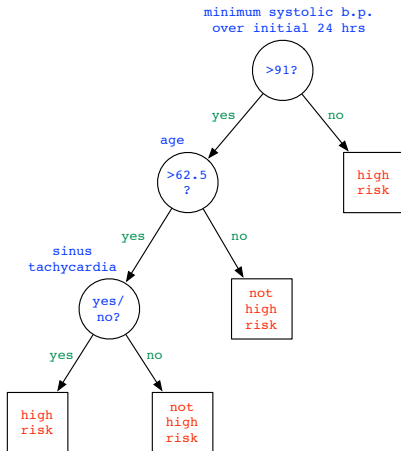
Lecture 16 | Part 1

Decision Trees

The Problem

- ▶ UCSD Medical Center (1970s): identify patients at risk of dying within 30 days after heart attack.

A Decision Tree



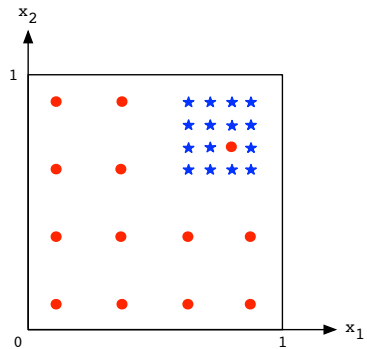
Decision Trees

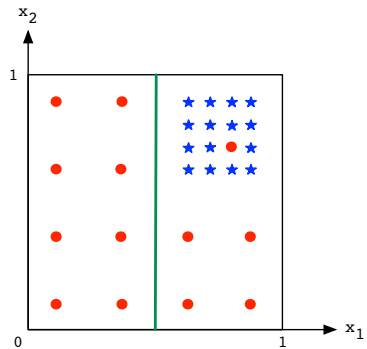
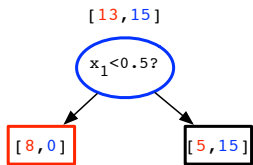
- ▶ A **decision tree** is a rooted tree.
- ▶ Internal nodes ask yes/no questions.
 - ▶ **Categorical**: Is patient a male?
 - ▶ **Numerical**: Is patient's age > 62.5 years?
- ▶ Leaf nodes are decisions (class labels).
- ▶ Path from root is a sequence of “and”s:
 - ▶ Is patient over 62.5 **and** male **and** BP > 100?
Then high risk.

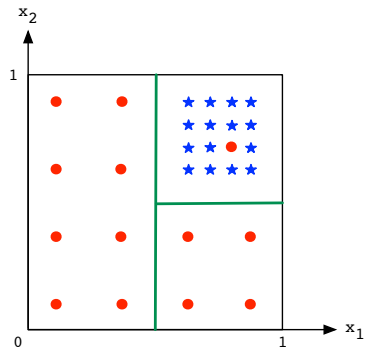
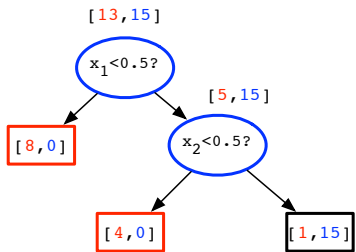
Learning Decision Trees

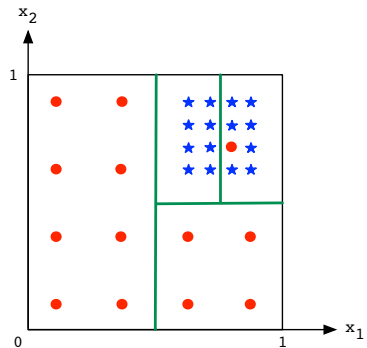
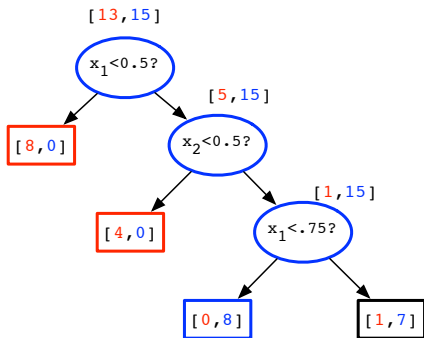
- ▶ How do we **learn** a tree from data?
 - ▶ Find right sequence of questions so that each training point is correctly classified.

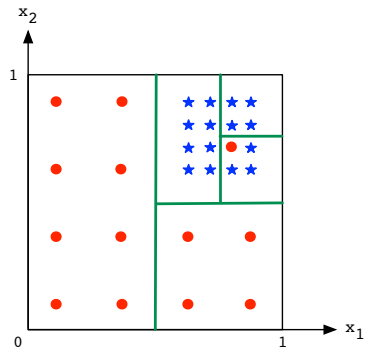
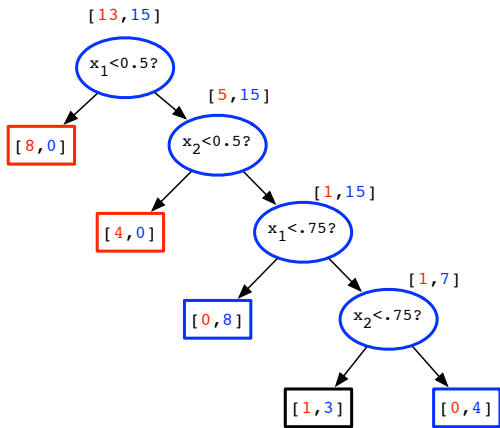
[13, 15]

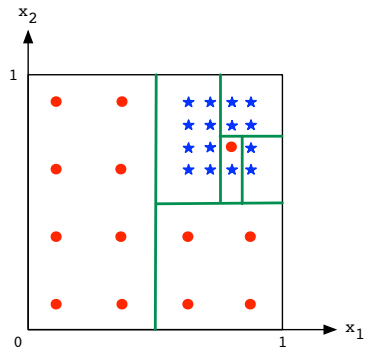
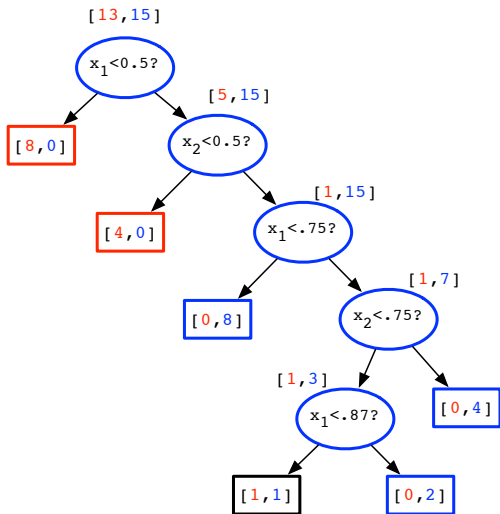


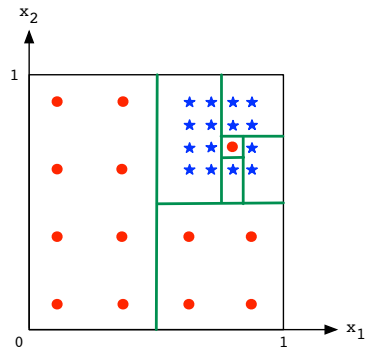
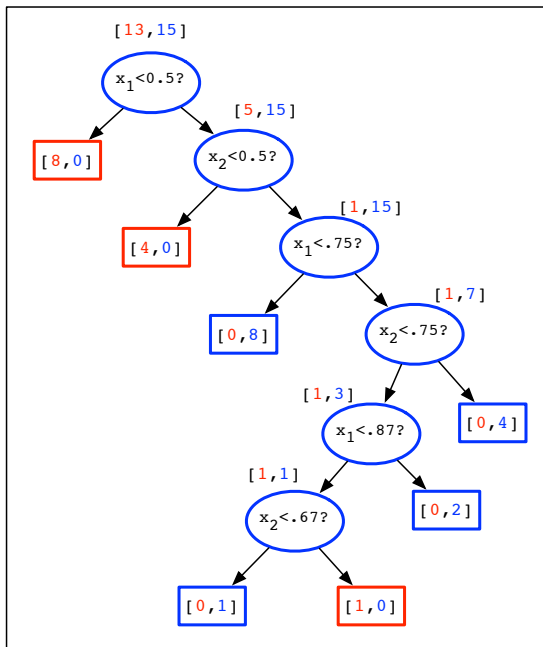












Learning Decision Trees

- ▶ Start with single node containing all data points
- ▶ Repeat greedy procedure:
 - ▶ Look at all possible questions (splits)
 - ▶ Pick the one that most reduces **uncertainty**.
- ▶ Stop when each leaf node is **pure**.

Aside: Generating Possible Questions

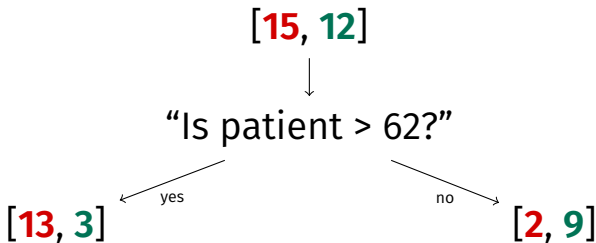
- ▶ **Categorical:** One question per value seen.
- ▶ E.g., county of residence.
 - ▶ Patient is from San Diego County?
 - ▶ Patient is from Riverside County?
 - ▶ Patient is from Orange County?

Aside: Generating Possible Questions

- ▶ **Numerical:** one question between each pair of consecutive values.
- ▶ E.g., ages in data = {42, 43, 55, 57, 61, 75}
 - ▶ Patient is < 42.5?
 - ▶ Patient is < 49?
 - ▶ ...
 - ▶ Patient is < 68?

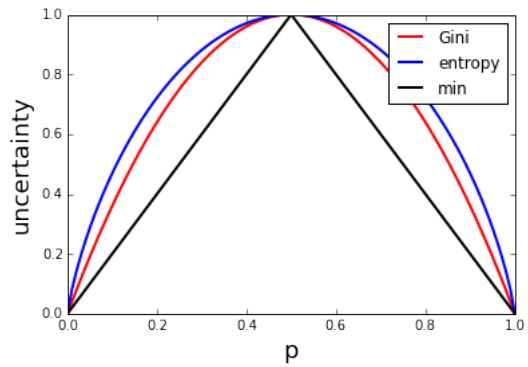
Measuring Uncertainty

- ▶ A good question splits the data by class.



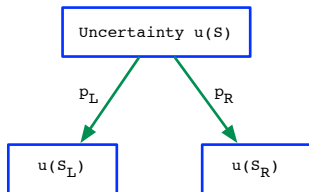
Measuring Uncertainty

- ▶ Suppose our node contains proportions:
 - ▶ p from class +
 - ▶ $(1 - p)$ from class -
- ▶ Common **uncertainty scores**:
 - ▶ **Misclassification rate**: $\min\{p, 1 - p\}$
 - ▶ **Gini index**: $2p(1 - p)$
 - ▶ **Entropy**: $p \log \frac{1}{p} + (1 - p) \log \frac{1}{1-p}$

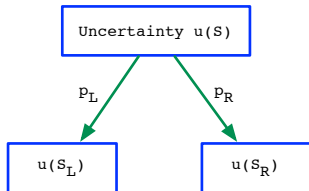


Benefit of a Question

- ▶ Let $u(S)$ be the uncertainty score for a set of labeled points, S .
- ▶ Consider a particular question (split):



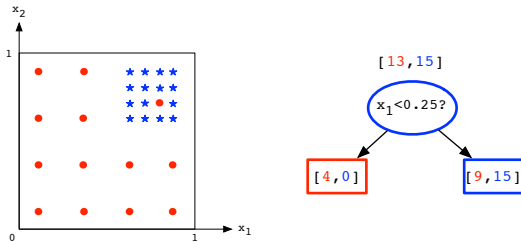
Benefit of a Question



- Resulting uncertainty:

$$p_L u(S_L) + p_R u(S_R)$$

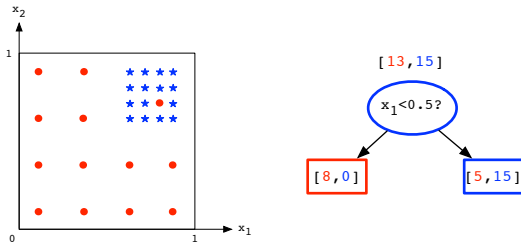
Example



► Initial Gini uncertainty: $2 \times \frac{13}{28} \times \frac{15}{28}$.

►
$$p_L u(S_L) + p_R u(S_R) = \frac{4}{28} \cdot 0 + \frac{24}{28} \cdot 2 \cdot \frac{9}{24} \cdot \frac{15}{24} = \frac{45}{112}$$

Example



► Initial Gini uncertainty: $2 \times \frac{13}{28} \times \frac{15}{28}$.

►
$$p_L u(S_L) + p_R u(S_R) = \frac{8}{28} \cdot 0 + \frac{20}{28} \cdot 2 \cdot \frac{5}{20} \cdot \frac{15}{20} = \frac{30}{112}$$

Summary

To learn a decision tree:

- ▶ Pick a measure of uncertainty (Gini, Entropy, etc.)
- ▶ Recursively ask question minimizing uncertainty.

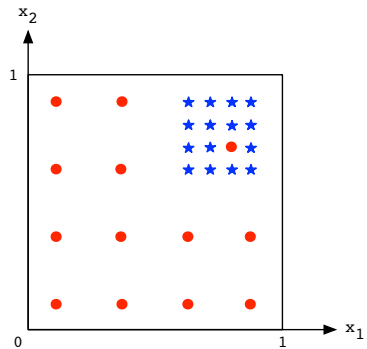
DSC 140A

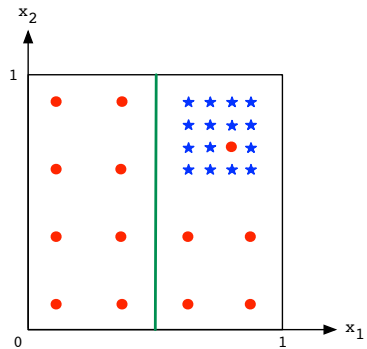
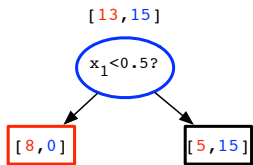
Probabilistic Modeling & Machine Learning

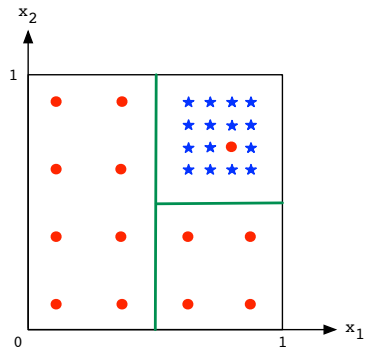
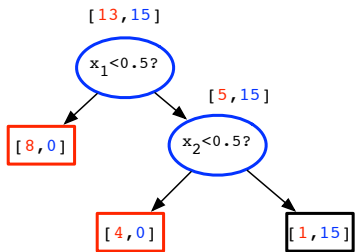
Lecture 16 | Part 2

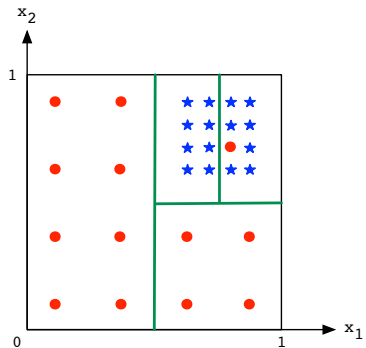
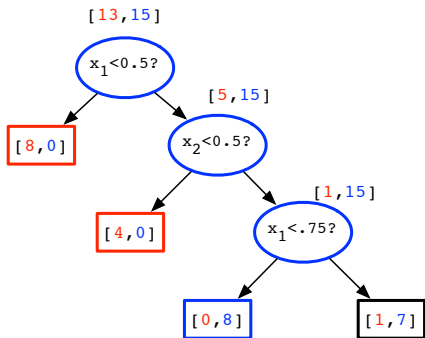
Overfitting

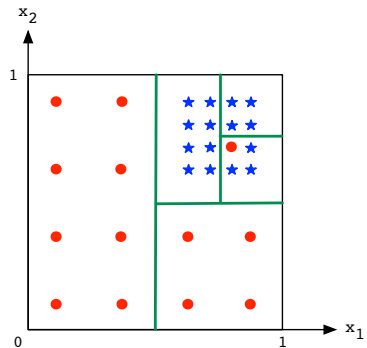
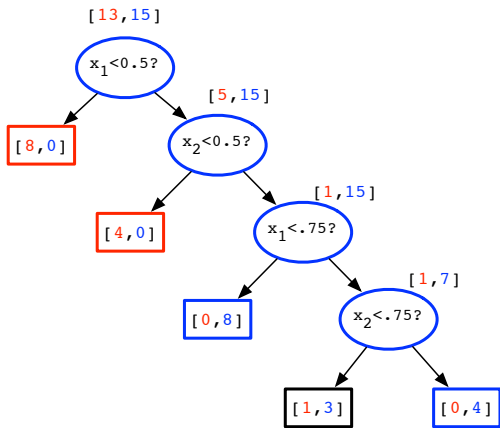
[13, 15]

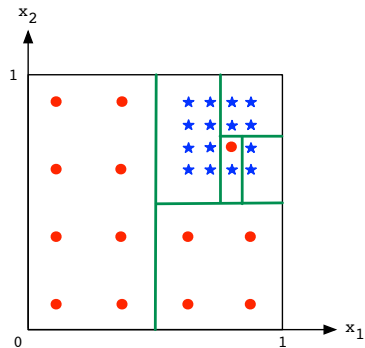
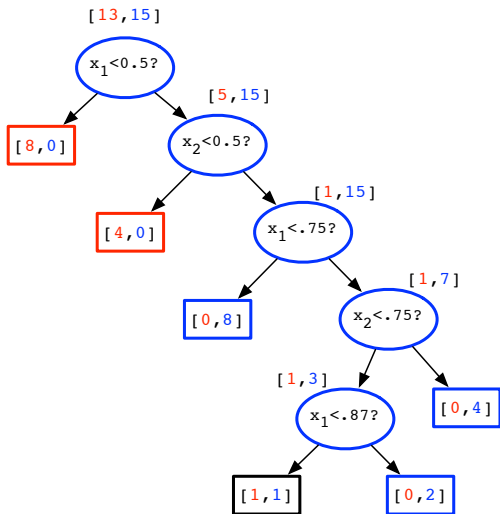


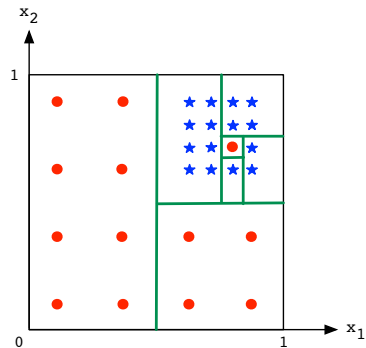
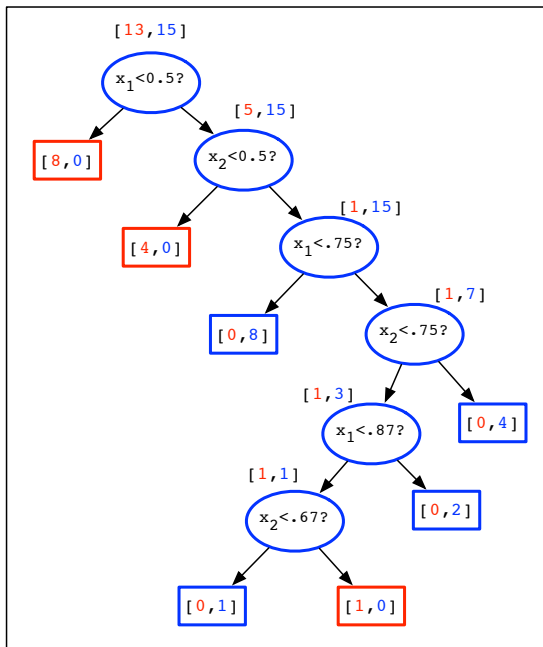






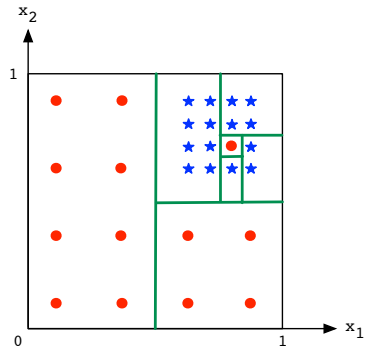
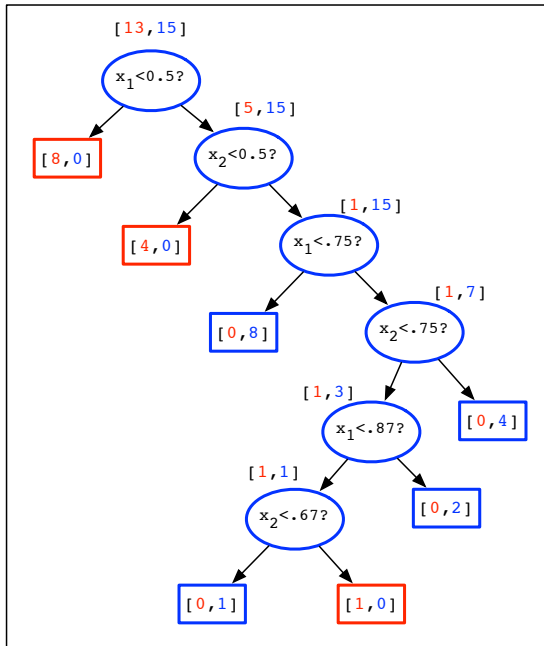


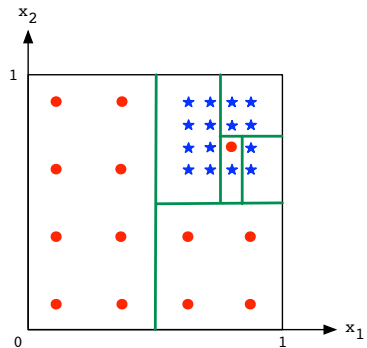
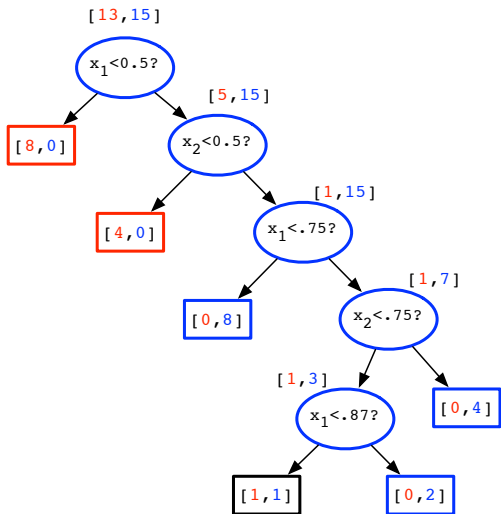


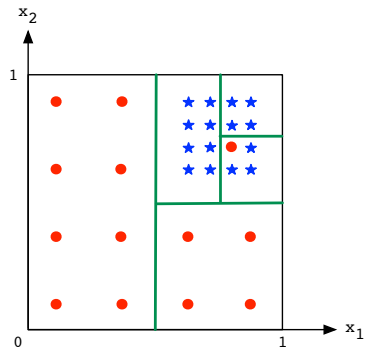
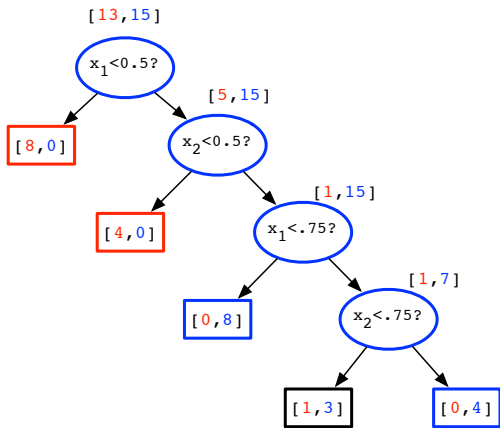


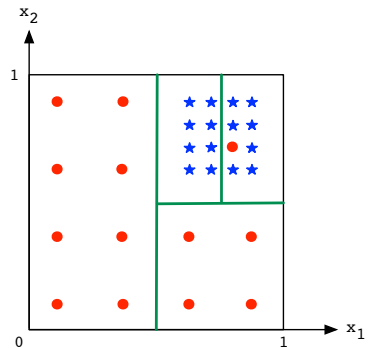
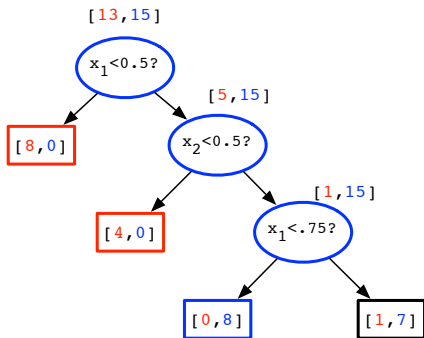
Overfitting

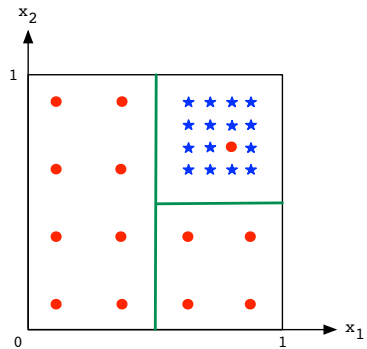
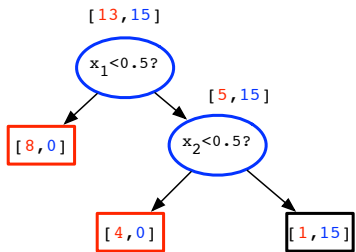
- ▶ The training error is **zero**.
 - ▶ We might be **overfitting**.
- ▶ (One) **solution**: rewind a few steps.



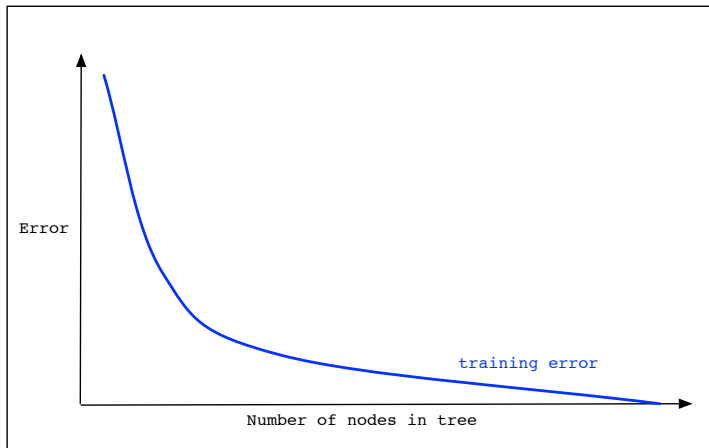




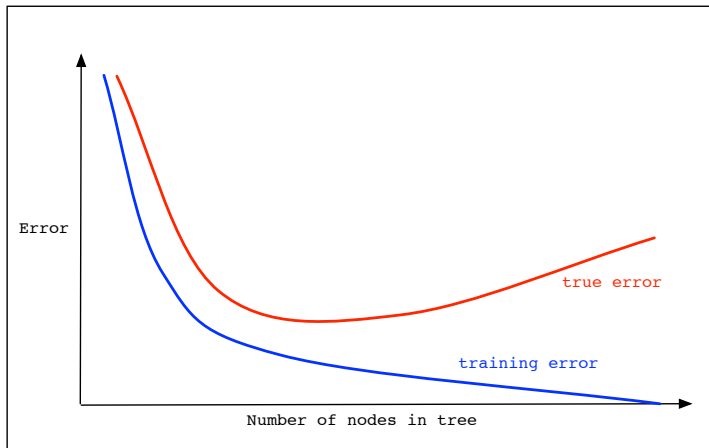




Overfitting



Overfitting



Two Strategies

- ▶ **Pruning**: simplify already-constructed tree.
- ▶ **Early-stopping**: stop early.

Pruning

- ▶ Given a full decision tree.
- ▶ Starting with predecessors of leaf nodes, replace node by most common class.
- ▶ If the change reduces validation error, keep it. Otherwise reverse it.

Early-Stopping

- ▶ Stop recursion when:
 - ▶ node is “pure enough” (uncertainty is low).
 - ▶ tree is too deep.

Decision Tree Properties

Very expressive:

- ▶ Can accommodate any type of data
 - ▶ numerical, Boolean, etc.
- ▶ Can accommodate any number of classes
- ▶ Can perfectly fit any data set
 - ▶ If data has no duplicates from different classes.
 - ▶ **Danger!** Overfitting!