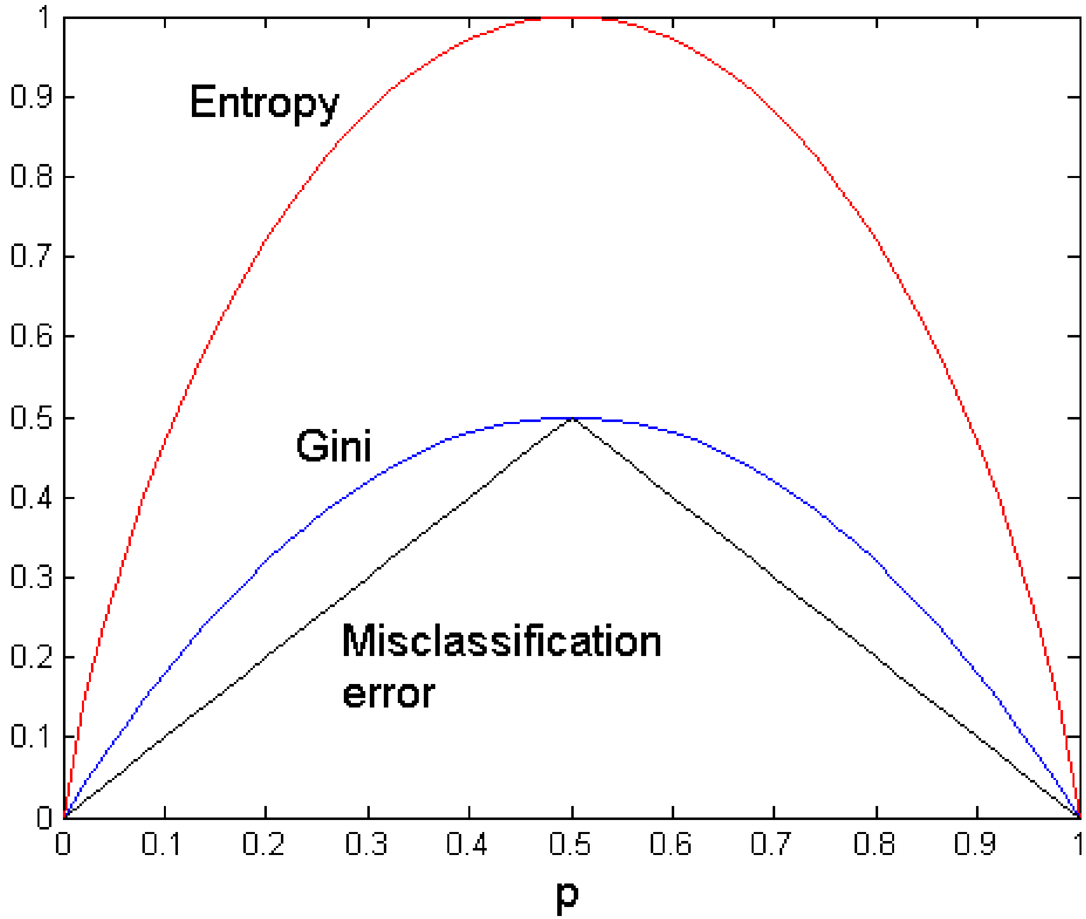
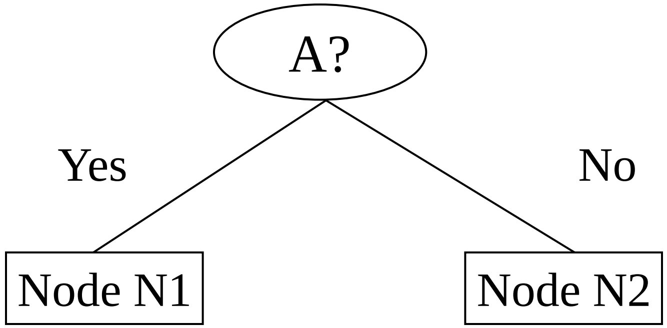
Comparison among Impurity Measures

For a 2-class problem:



Misclassification Error vs Gini Index



	Parent
C1	**7**
C2	**3**
Gini = 0.42	

Gini(N1)
$= 1 – (3/3)^2 – (0/3)^2$
$= 0$

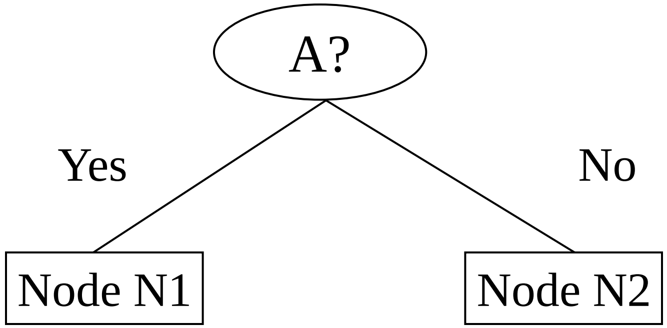
Gini(N2)
$= 1 – (4/7)^2 – (3/7)^2$
$= 0.489$

	N1	N2
C1	**3**	**4**
C2	**0**	**3**
Gini=0.342		

Gini(Children)
$= 3/10 * 0$
$+ 7/10 * 0.489$
$= 0.342$

Gini improves but error remains the same!!

Misclassification Error vs Gini Index



	Parent
C1	**7**
C2	**3**
Gini = 0.42	

	N1	N2
C1	**3**	**4**
C2	**0**	**3**
Gini=0.342		

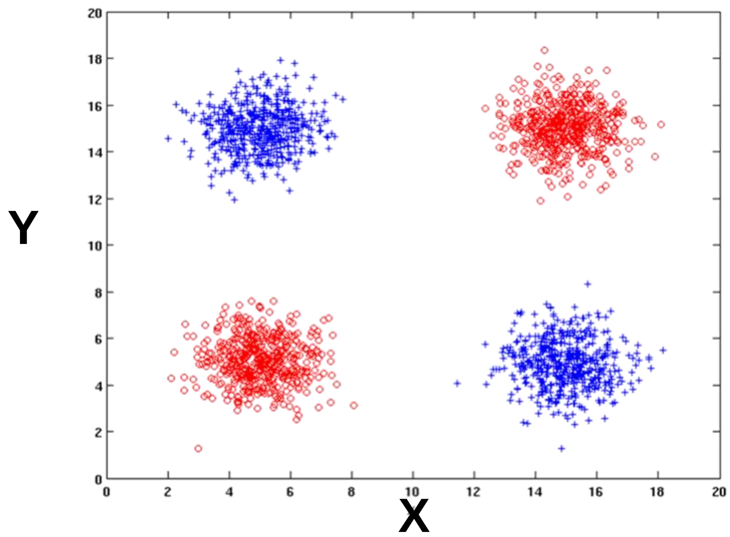
	N1	N2
C1	**3**	**4**
C2	**1**	**2**
Gini=0.416		

Misclassification error for all three cases = 0.3 !

Decision Tree Based Classification

- Advantages:
  - Inexpensive to construct
  - Extremely fast at classifying unknown records
  - Easy to interpret for small-sized trees
  - Robust to noise (especially when methods to avoid overfitting are employed)
  - Can easily handle redundant or irrelevant attributes (unless the attributes are interacting)
- Disadvantages:
  - Space of possible decision trees is exponentially large. Greedy approaches are often unable to find the best tree.
  - Does not take into account interactions between attributes
  - Each decision boundary involves only a single attribute

Handling interactions

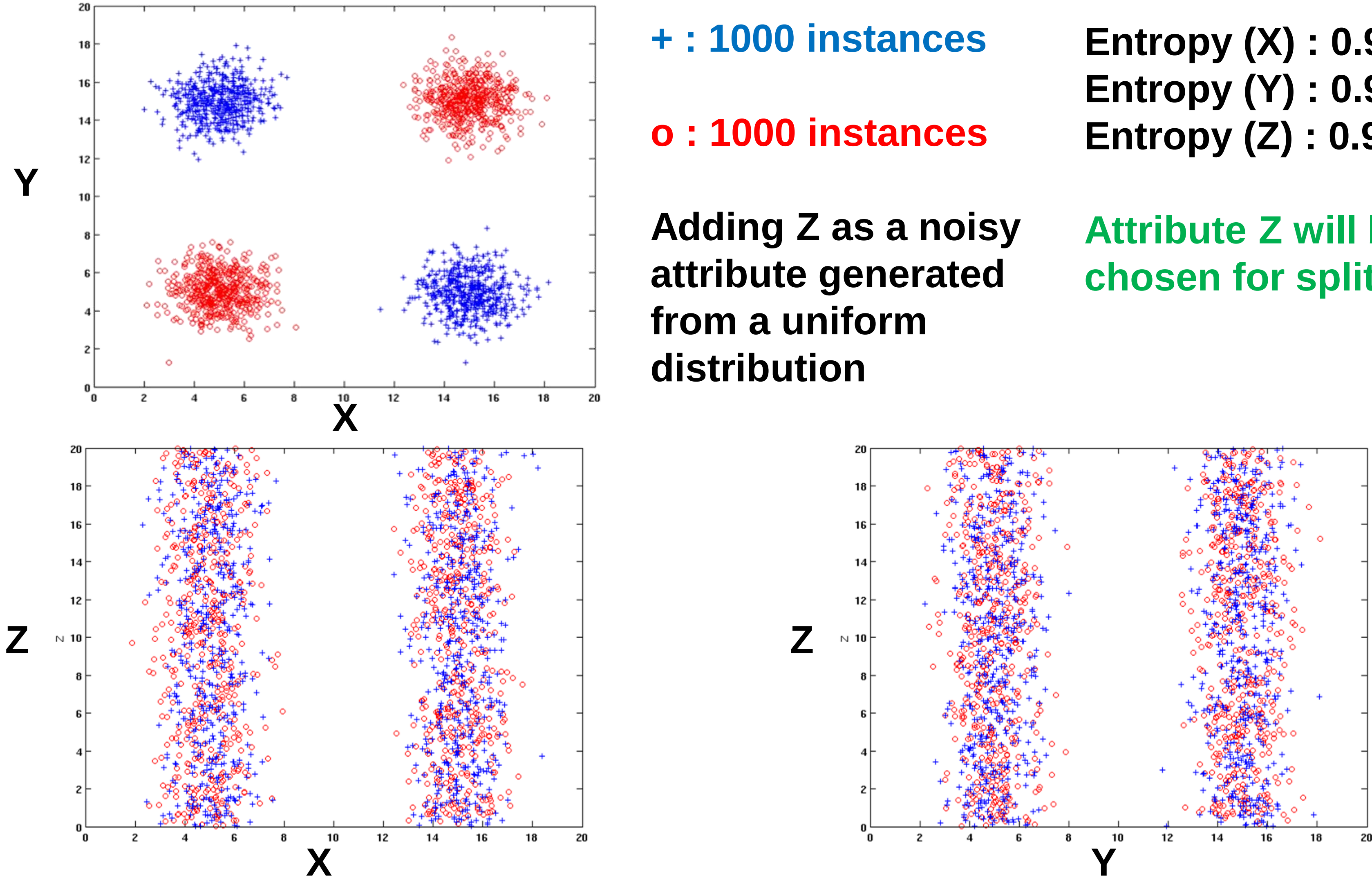


+ : 1000 instances

o : 1000 instances

Entropy (X) : 0.99
Entropy (Y) : 0.99

Handling interactions



+ : 1000 instances

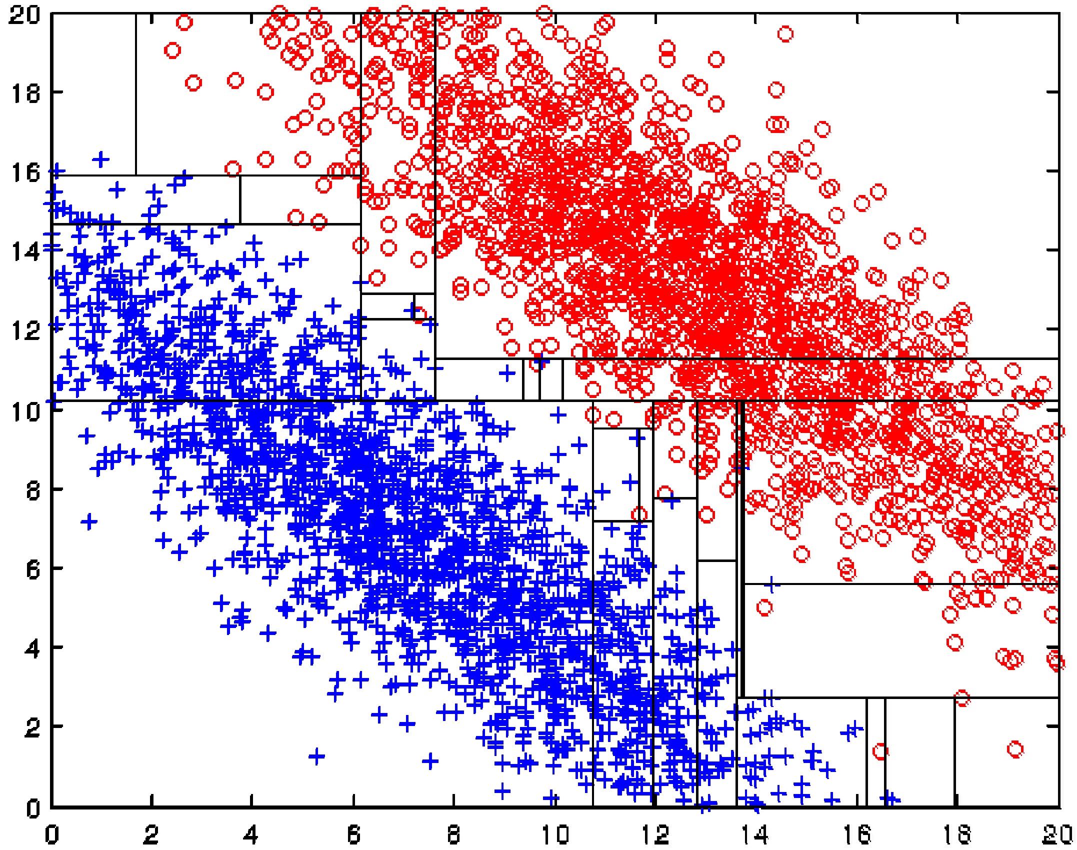
o : 1000 instances

Entropy (X) : 0.99
Entropy (Y) : 0.99
Entropy (Z) : 0.98

Adding Z as a noisy attribute generated from a uniform distribution

Attribute Z will be chosen for splitting!

Limitations of single attribute-based decision boundaries



Both positive (+) and negative (o) classes generated from skewed Gaussians with centers at (8,8) and (12,12) respectively.