



# Can't See the Forest for the Trees

...using **Groves** to Explain Random Forests

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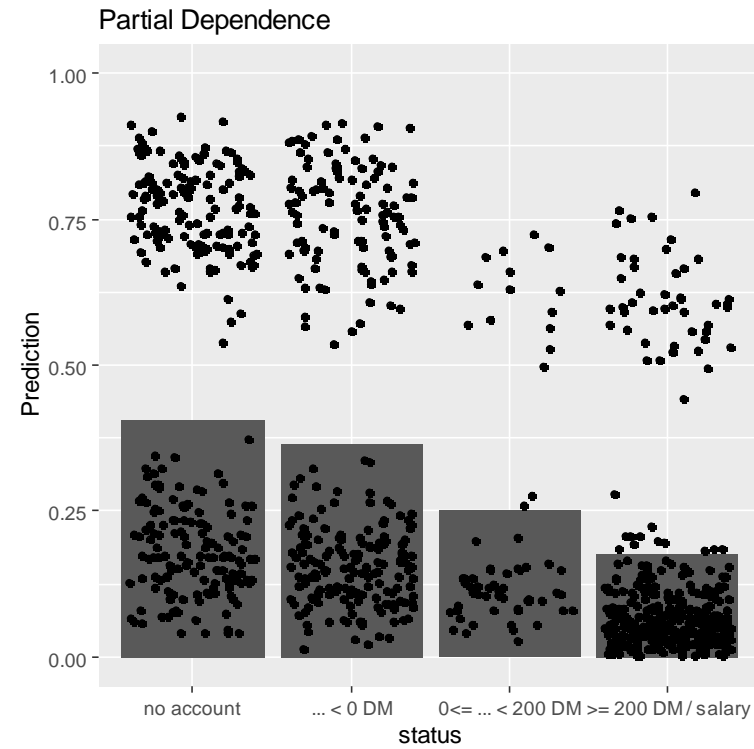
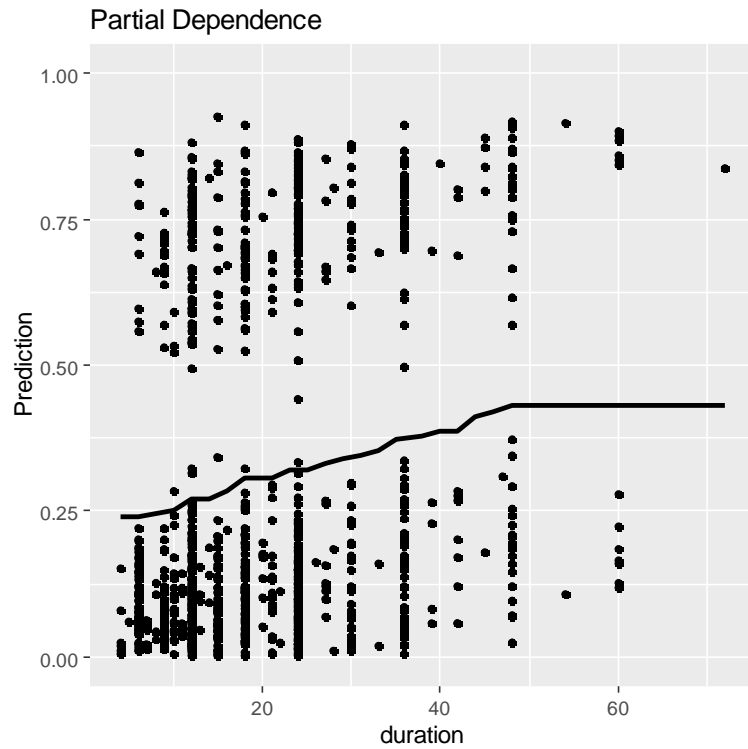
Institut für Medizinische Biometrie und Statistik, Lübeck, Germany

Explanation groves:  
Tool to analyze complexity vs. explainability



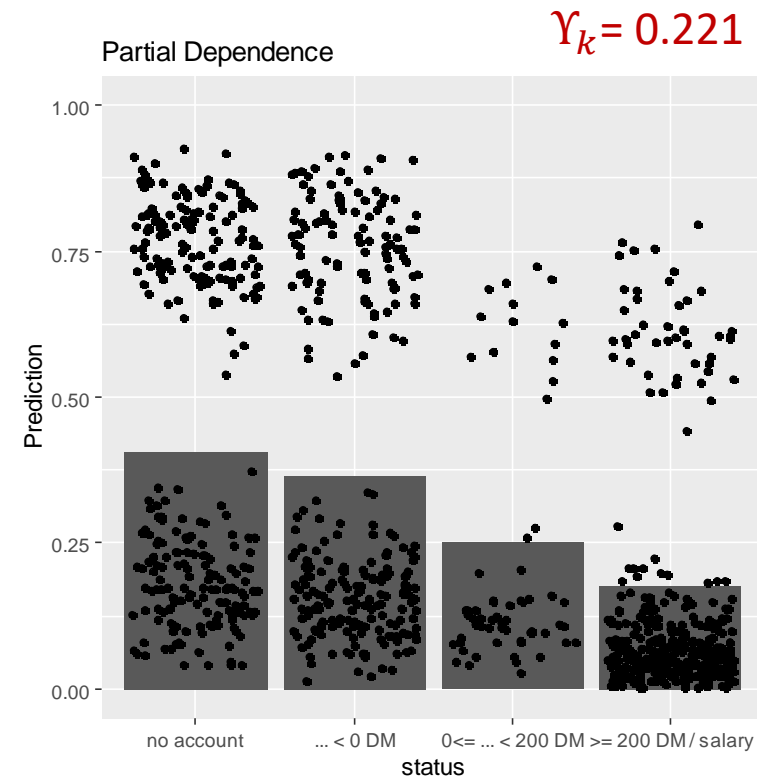
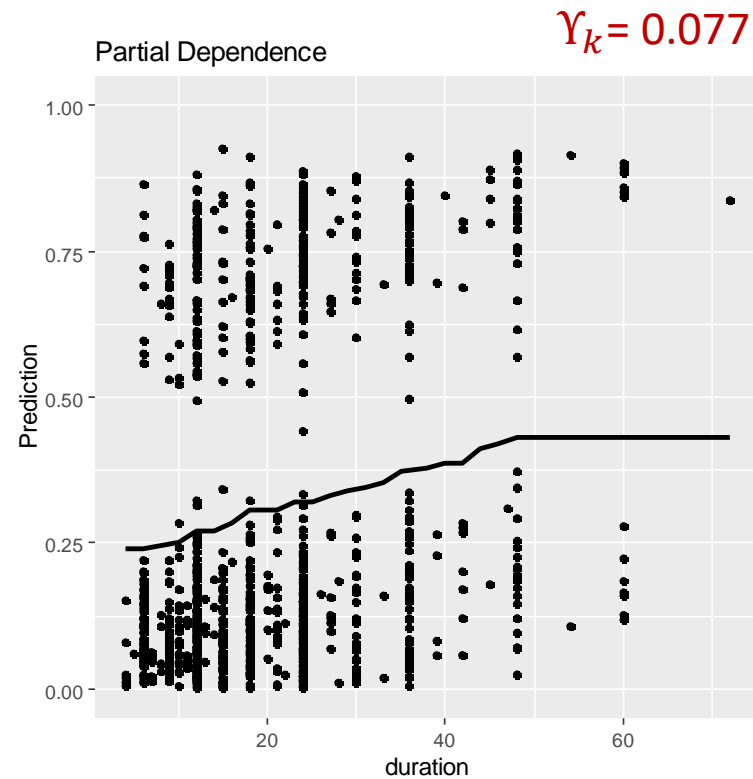


Variable
status.account
duration
credit.history
credit.amount
purpose
savings
age
employment.since
property
other.installments
rate.to.income
personal.status
job
residence.since
housing
other.debtors
num.credits
telephone
numb.people.liable
foreign.worker



Model agnostic partial dependence plots

Friedman (2001)

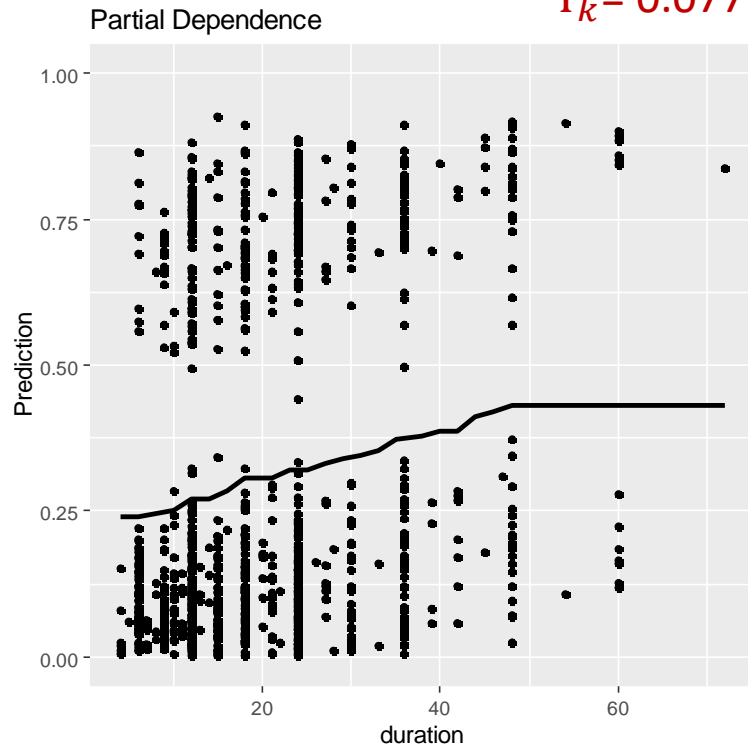


$$ESD(T) = \int (RF(X) - T(X))^2 dP(X)$$

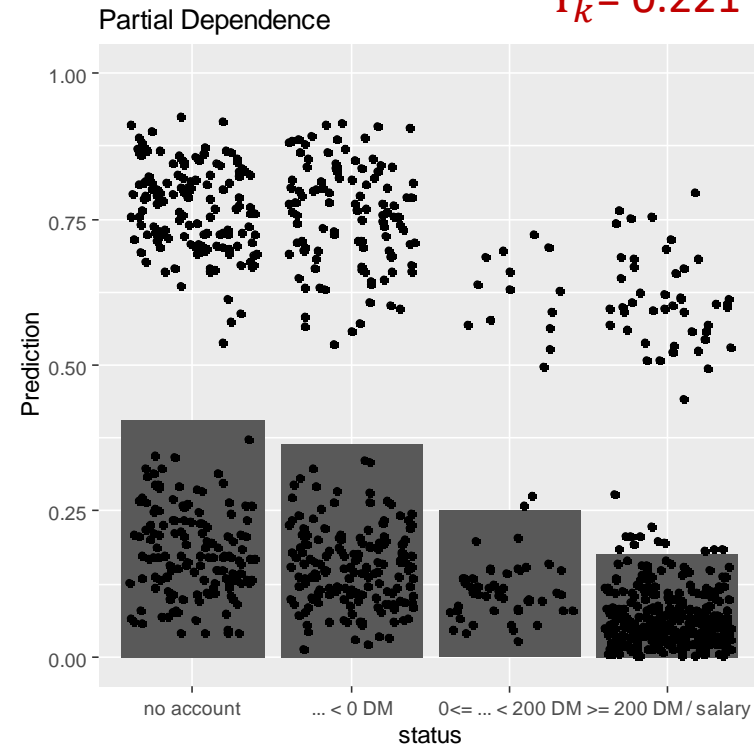
$$\Upsilon(T) = 1 - \frac{ESD(T)}{ESD(\emptyset)}.$$

...it is:  $\Upsilon \leq 1$

$\Upsilon_k = 0.077$



$\Upsilon_k = 0.221$

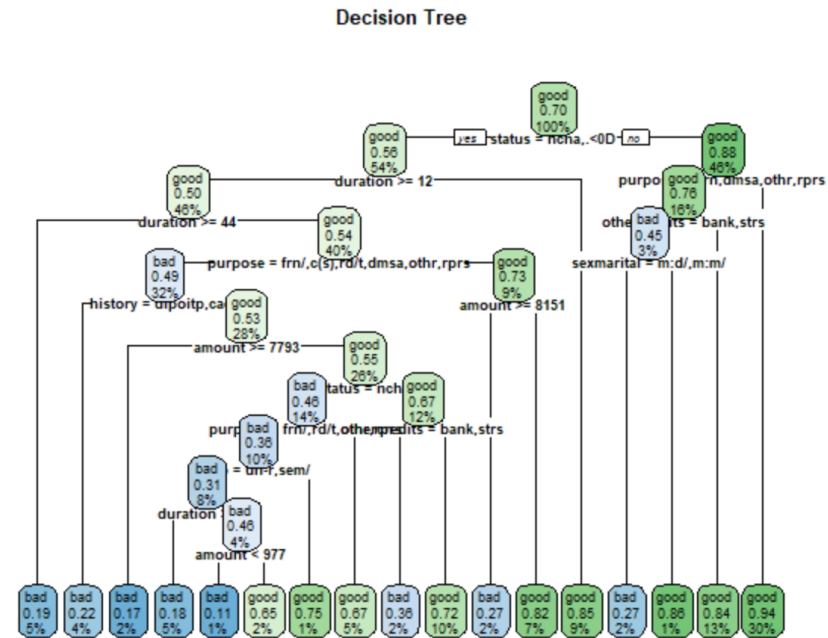


Variable	Step		
status.account	1	0,2210	0,2210
duration	2	0,0770	0,3040
credit.history	3	0,0740	0,3660
credit.amount	4	0,0540	0,4340
purpose	5	0,0390	0,5210
savings	6	0,0440	0,5950
age	7	0,0230	0,6710
employment.since	8	0,0180	0,7420
property	9	0,0170	0,8050
other.installments	10	0,0170	0,8430
rate.to.income	11	0,0040	0,8780
personal.status	12	0,0010	0,9100
job	13	0,0000	0,9370
residence.since	14	0,0000	0,9600
housing	15	0,0130	0,9770
other.debtors	16	0,0040	0,9890
num.credits	17	-0,0010	0,9950
telephone	18	0,0010	0,9980
numb.people.liable	19	0,0000	1,0000
foreign.worker	20	0,0010	1,0000



## Random Forest

**VS.**





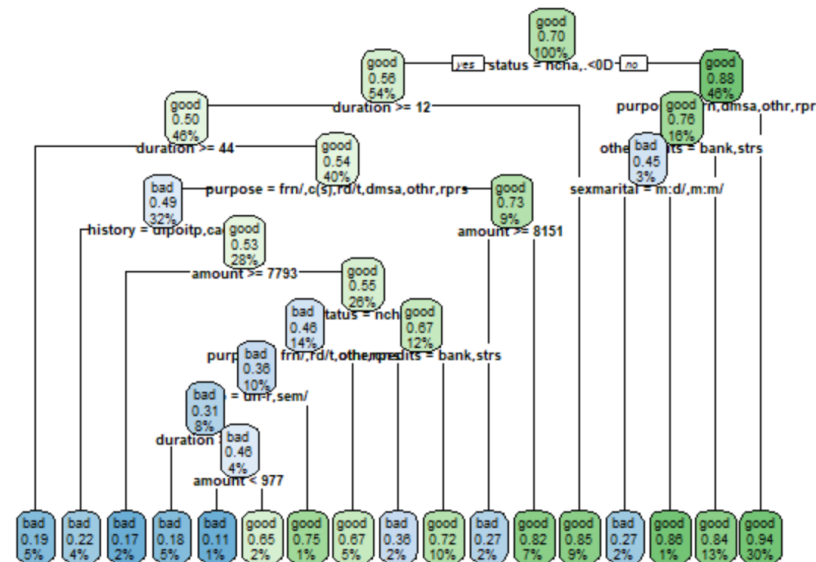
Random Forest



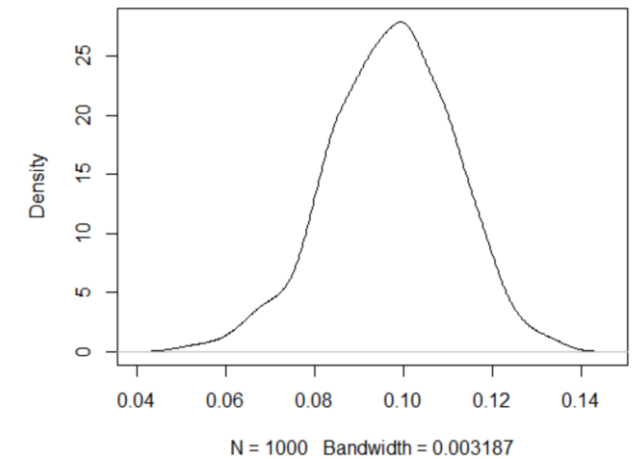
Decision Tree

	Tree	Forest
AUC	0.679	0.776
CI(AUC)		[0.716, 0.827]
# rules	16	40272

VS.



AUC(RF) - AUC(Tree)



Miller, G. (1956),  
Cowan, N. (2010),  
DeLong, E., DeLong D. and Clarke-Pearson, D. (1988).





Random Forest



- (I) Most Representative Trees
- (II) Surrogate Trees
- (III) Explanation Groves

Bannerjee, M., Ding, Y., Noone, A.-M. (2012),  
Molnar (2018).

1. Compute similarity  $d_j$  between any two trees of the forest.
2. Select most representative tree with minimum average similarity to all other trees.

$$d_1(Tree_1, Tree_2) = \frac{\# \text{ of covariates in only one of both trees}}{\# \text{ of covariates in data}}$$

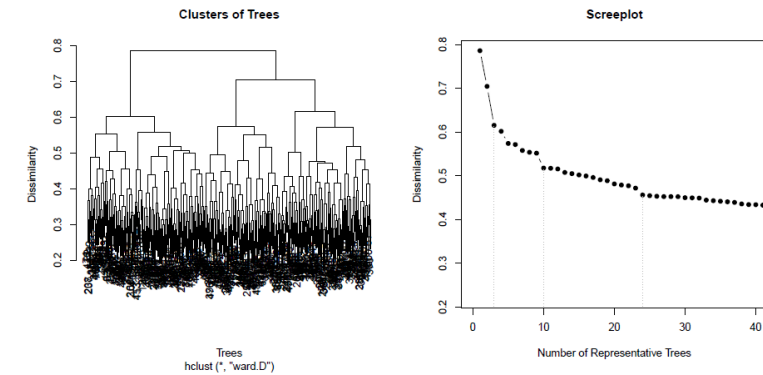
$$d_2(Tree_1, Tree_2) = \frac{\# \text{ pairs of obs. that are (not) in the same terminal node in both trees}}{\# \text{ pairs of obs. in data, i. e. } \binom{n}{2}}$$

$$d_3(Tree_1, Tree_2) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_{i, Tree_1} - \hat{y}_{i, Tree_2})^2$$

$$d_4(Tree_1, Tree_2) = \sum_j (U_{Tree_1}(X_j) - U_{Tree_2}(X_j))^2$$

$$U_{Tree_k}(X_j) = \sum_n \frac{I_{\{X_j \text{ is used in split @ node } n \text{ at depth } d \text{ of tree } k\}}}{2^{d-1}} / \max(d)$$

Bannerjee, M., Ding, Y., Noone, A.-M. (2012),  
von Holt, B. (2020).



1. Compute similarity  $d_j$  between any two trees of the forest.
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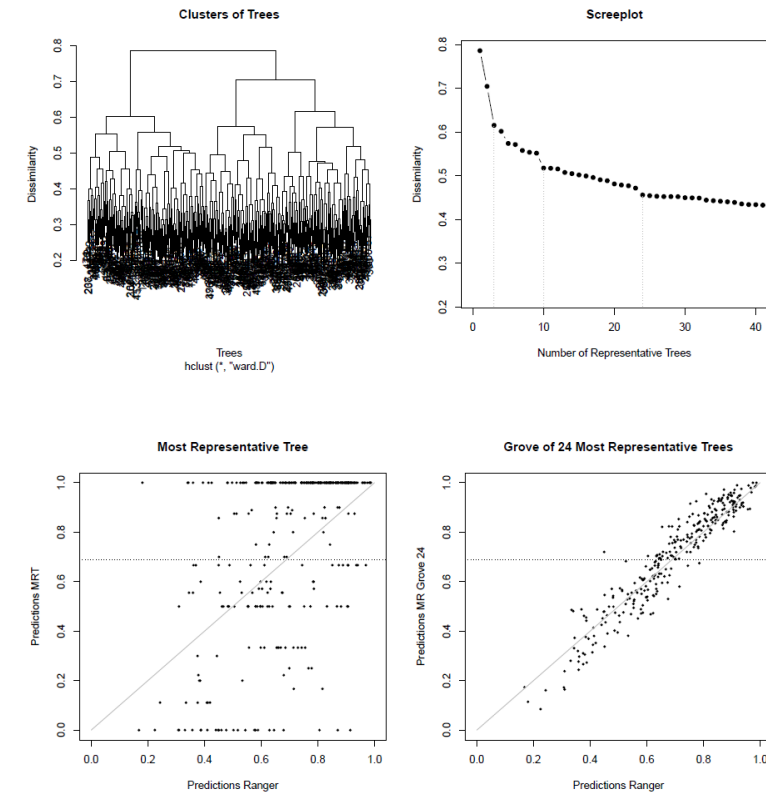
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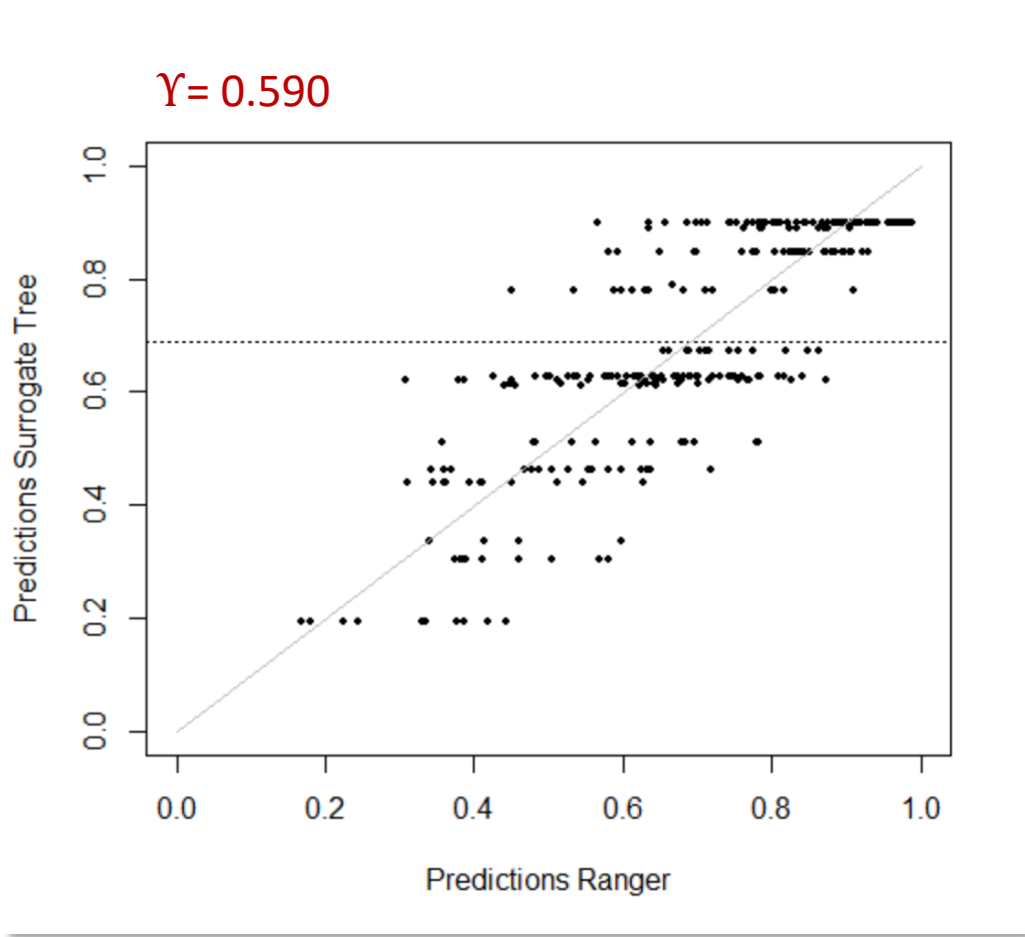
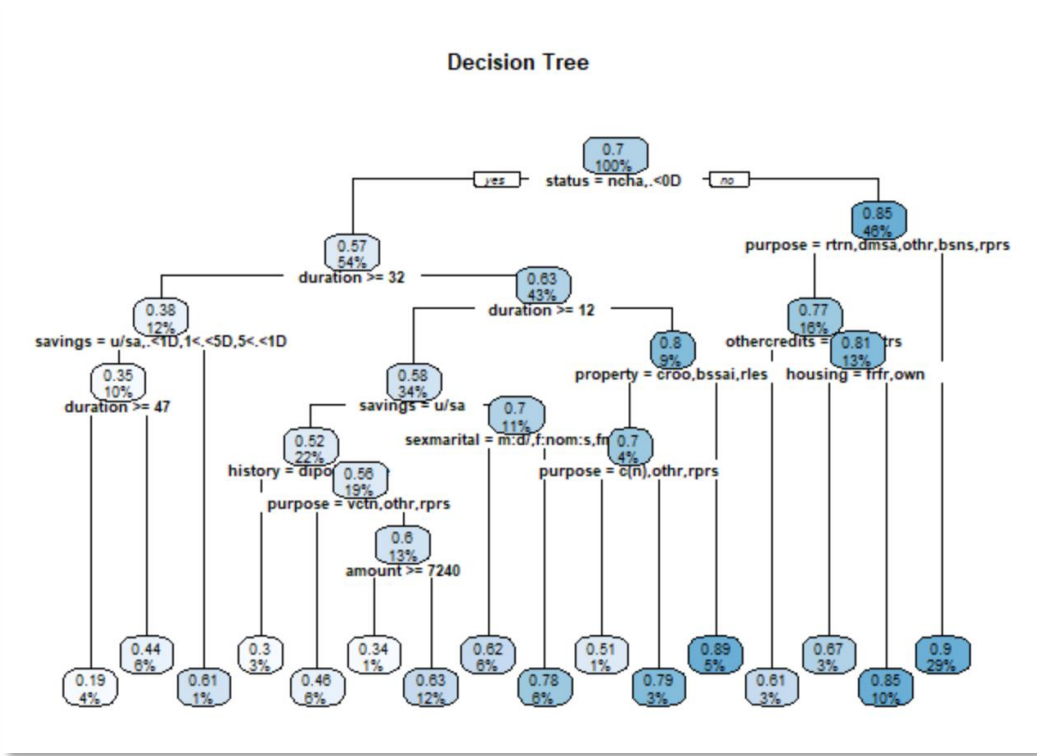
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	MRT			Groves		
	$d_1$	$d_3$	$d_4$	3	10	24
Rules	80.54	80	78	252	822	1944
$\gamma$	-2.605	-1.719	-1.859	0.095	0.687	0.871

Bannerjee, M., Ding, Y., Noone, A.-M. (2012),  
von Holt, B. (2020).

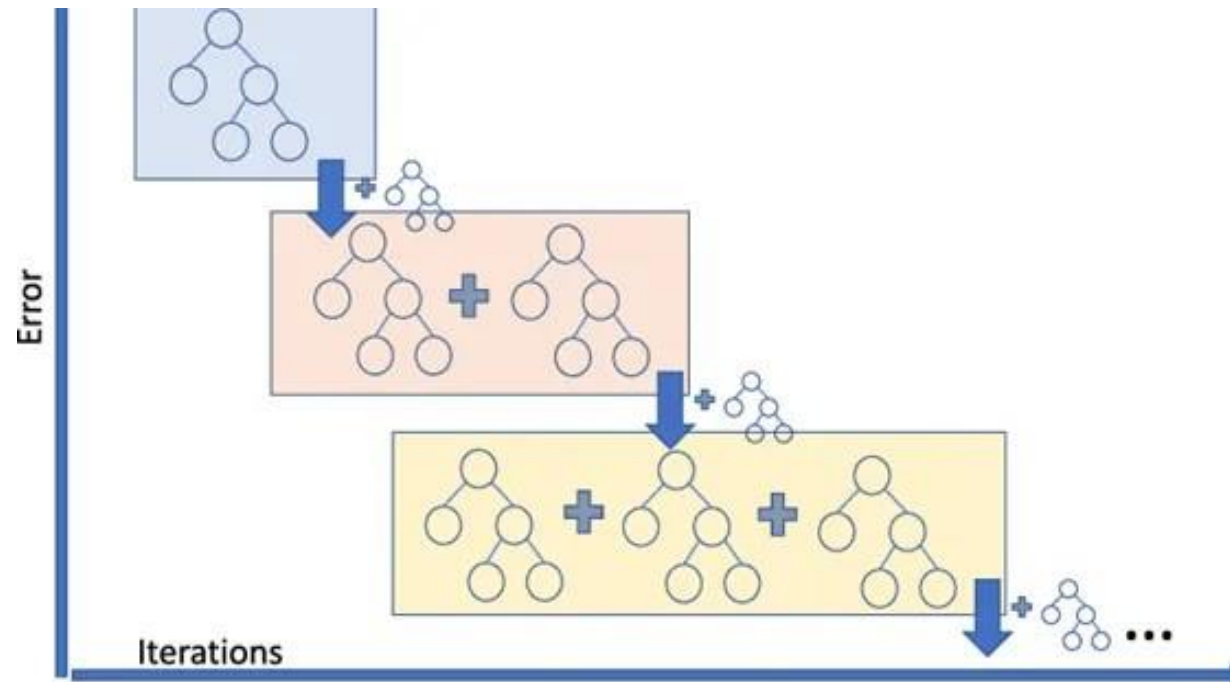




**Molnar, C. (2019),  
Therneau, T. and Atkinson, A. (1997).**



Sequence of flat regression trees (= explainable rules) with predicted posterior probabilities of the forest as target variable via gradient boosting.



Friedman, J. (2001).

Sequence of flat regression trees (= explainable rules) with predicted posterior probabilities of the forest as target variable via gradient boosting.

`interaction.depth` Integer specifying the maximum depth of each tree (i.e., the highest level of variable interactions allowed). A value of 1 implies an additive model, a value of 2 implies a model with up to 2-way interactions, etc. **Default is 1.**



➡ Each tree corresponds to a single rule.

Sequence of flat regression trees (= explainable rules) with predicted posterior probabilities of the forest as target variable via gradient boosting.

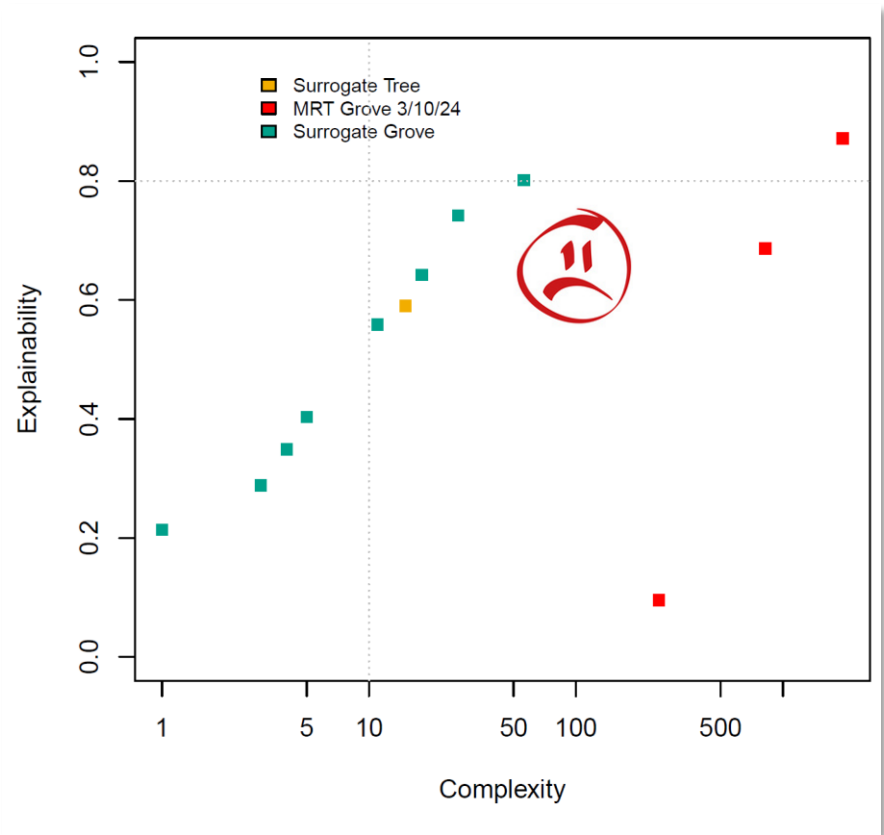
`interaction.depth` Integer specifying the maximum depth of each tree (i.e., the highest level of variable interactions allowed). A value of 1 implies an additive model, a value of 2 implies a model with up to 2-way interactions, etc. **Default is 1.**

Variable	Split	Left	$\Delta_{left}$	$\Delta_{right}$
$\hat{p}_0 = 0.7099$				
status	4152	no checking account   ... < 0 DM	-0.012	0.013
status		no checking account   ... < 0 DM	-0.011	0.012
status		no checking account   ... < 0 DM	-0.012	0.013
status		no checking account   ... < 200 DM	-0.008	0.012
amount			0.006	-0.016
status		no checking account	-0.014	0.007
status		no checking account   ... < 0 DM	-0.007	0.009
status		no checking account   ... < 0 DM	-0.008	0.010
duration	34.5		0.003	-0.018

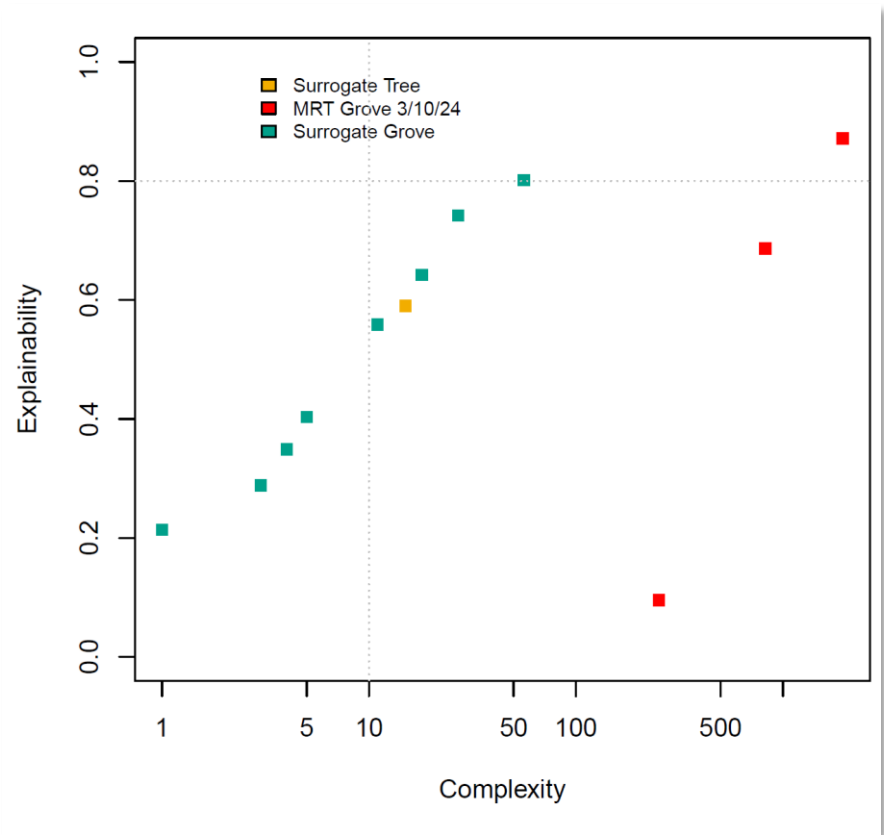


Five effective rules!









	Bank Marketing				Titanic			
	# rules	$\gamma$	STAB	AUC	# rules	$\gamma$	STAB	AUC
ranger	89857			0.917	38184			0.821
rpart	9			0.816	7			0.764
surrogate tree	11	0.784	0.495	0.859	6	0.882	0.025	0.774
surrogate_grove5	5	0.249	0.770	0.802	1	0.435	0.000	0.692
surrogate_grove10	8	0.400	0.649	0.810	3	0.592	0.000	0.754
surrogate_grove20	16	0.563	0.598	0.860	3	0.726	0.000	0.754
surrogate_grove50	36	0.758	0.493	0.894	16	0.806	0.001	0.783
surrogate_grove100	69	0.823	0.436	0.901	36	0.842	0.005	0.790
surrogate_grove500	284	0.858	0.416	0.910	125	0.865	0.012	0.800



- ✓ **Most representative trees** suffer from depth of single trees in forests.
- ✓ **Explanation groves (EGs)** extract set of explainable additive surrogate rules...
- ✓ **It's questionable whether there exists an understandable explanation for a complex model.**
- ✓ ...EGs can be used to **increase complexity** of an explanation and **relate it to the resulting explainability.**



<https://github.com/g-rho/xgrove>

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# Thank you!