

CS109 – Data Science

Verena Kaynig-Fittkau

vkaynig@seas.harvard.edu

staff@cs109.org

Announcements

- Register your teams until Thursday!
- Next coming up: Survey for actual project proposal
- Will be due 11/17

What would you like to see in class?

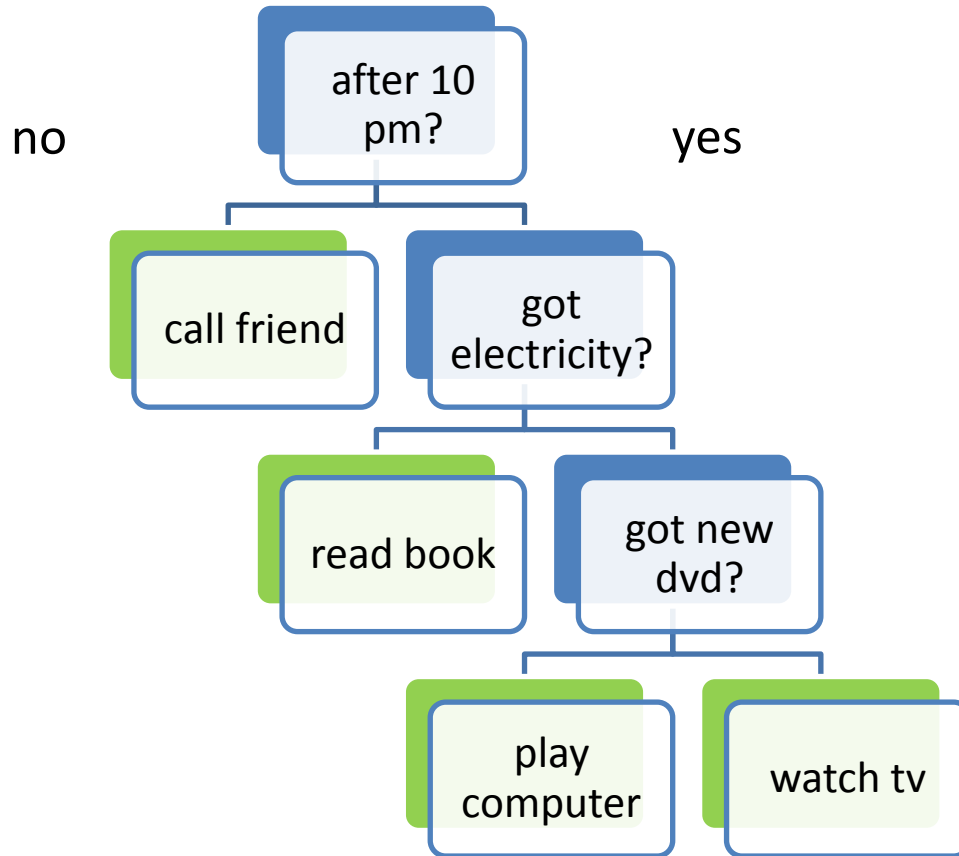
Books

- “Elements of Statistical Learning”
- <http://statweb.stanford.edu/~tibs/ElemStatLearn/>
- “Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning”
- <http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/cmbishop/PRML/>

Next Topics

- Classification and regression trees (CART)
- Bagging
- Random Forest
- Boosting
- Cascade

Decision Tree

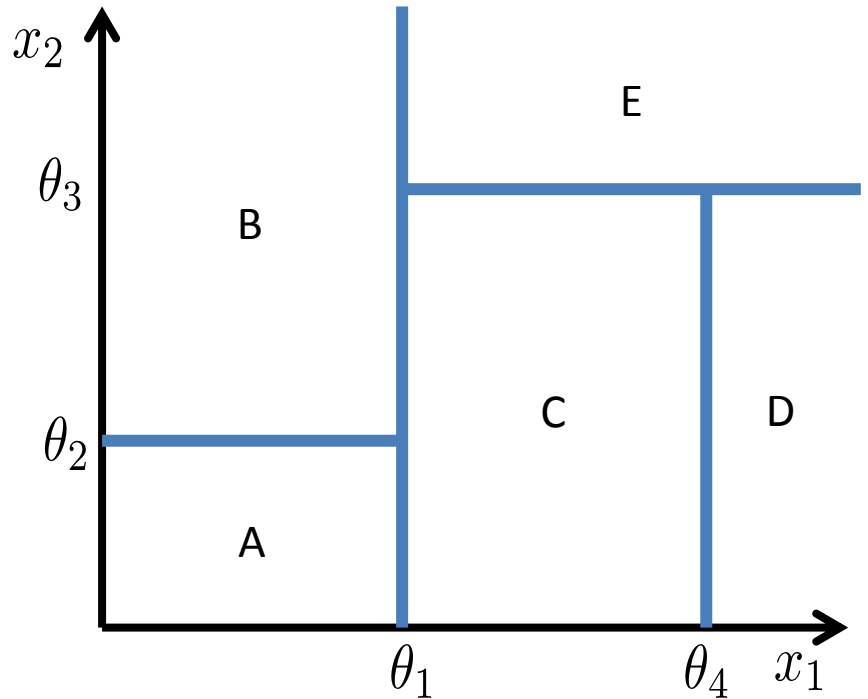
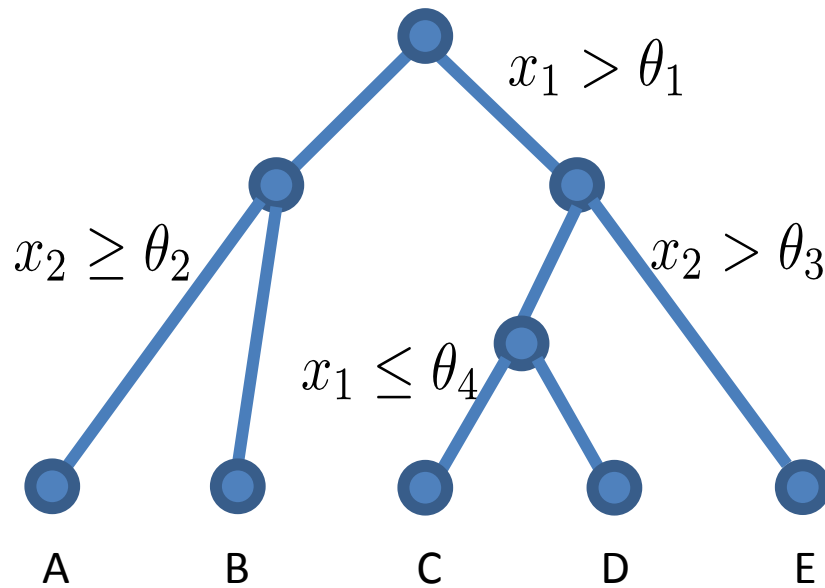


Decision Trees



- Fast training
- Fast prediciton
- Easy to understand
- Easy to interpret

<http://en.akinator.com/personnages/jeu>

Decision Tree - Idea



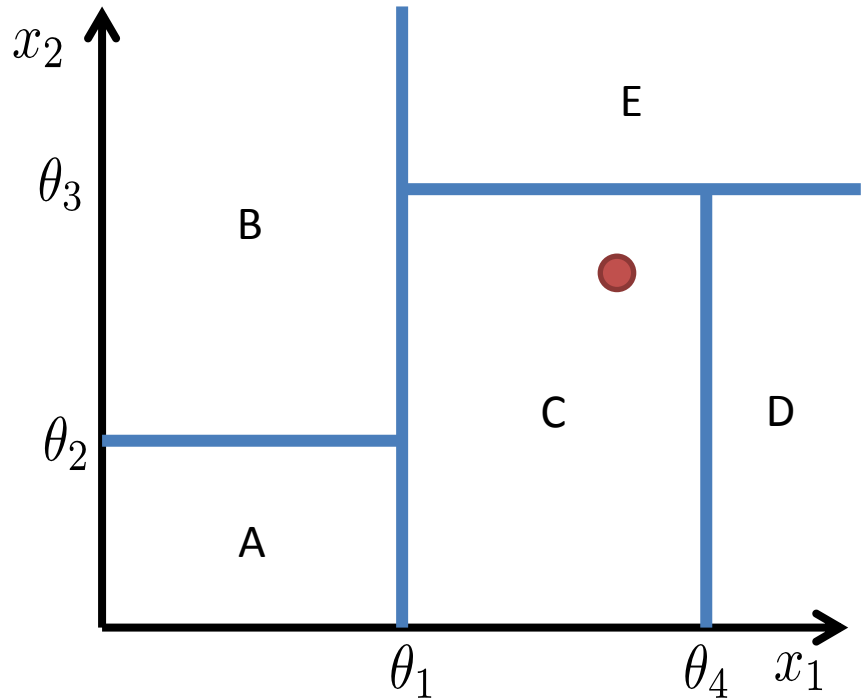
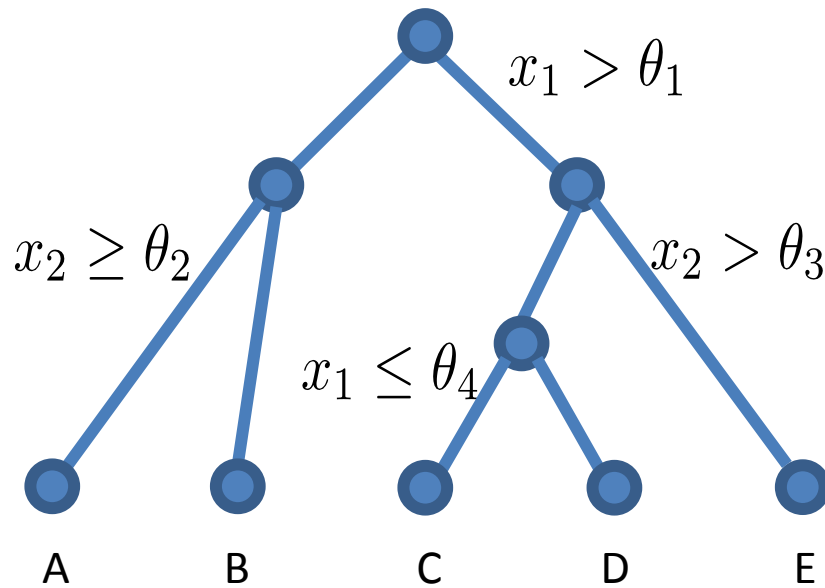
Decision Tree - Idea

- What is the benefit on using only one feature at a time? 
- What is the drawback? 

Decision Tree - Idea

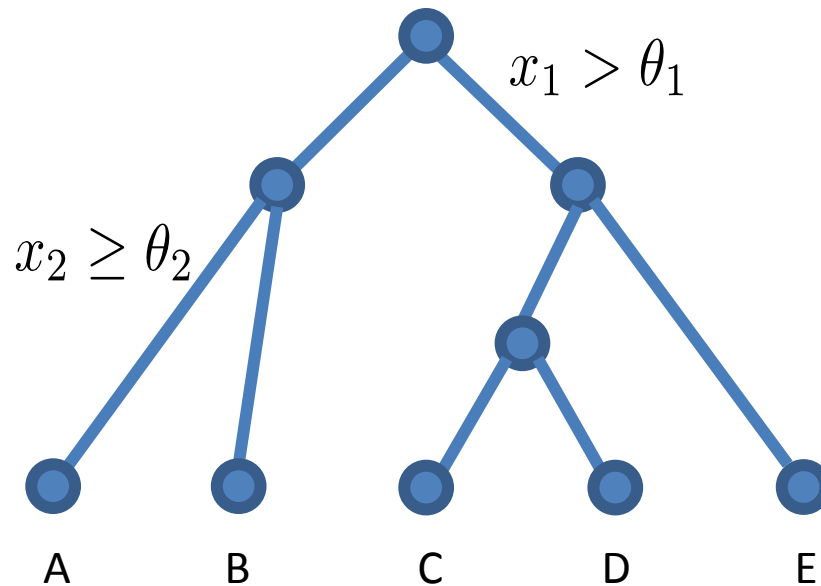
- Benefits:
 - Fast in training and prediction
 - Invariant to feature scaling
 - Can handle categorical data
- Drawback:
 - lots of splits for diagonal decision boundary

Decision Tree - Prediction

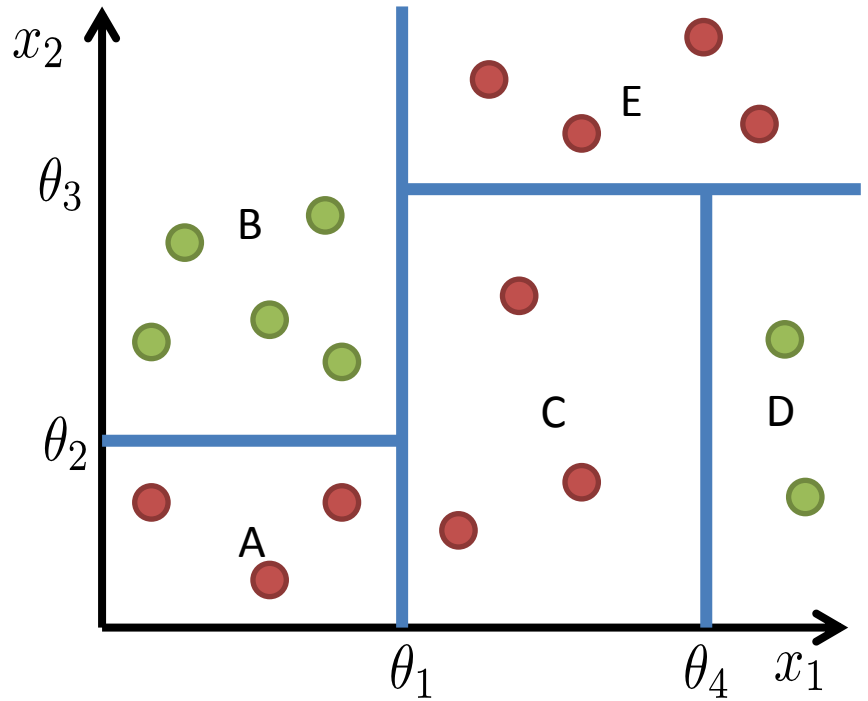
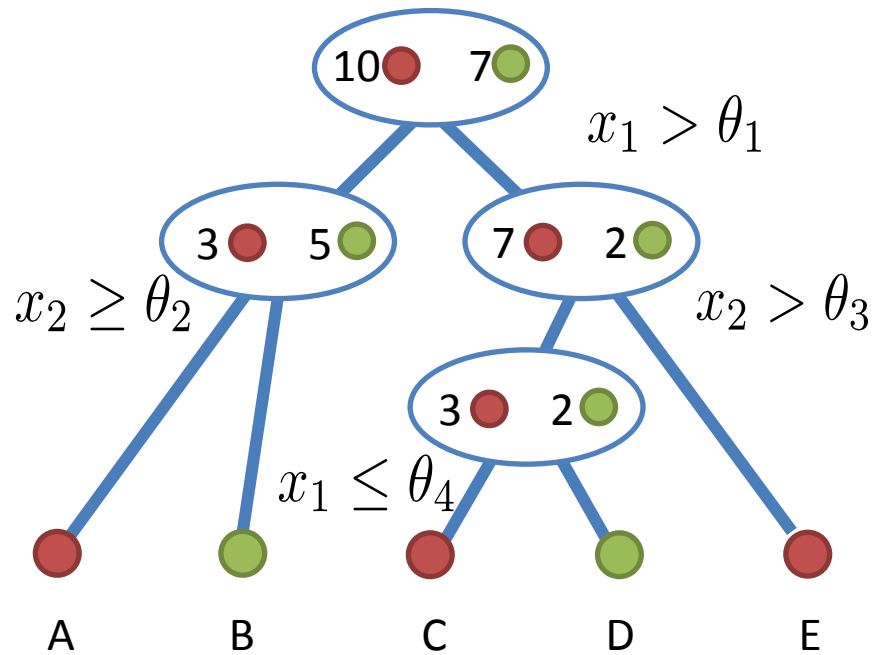


Decision Tree -Training

- Learn the tree structure:
 - which feature to query
 - which threshold to choose



Node Purity



Gini Impurity

- Expected error
- if you randomly choose a sample
- and predict the class of the entire node based on it.

Gini Impurity

Example:

4 **red**, 3 **green**, 3 **blue** data points

- Class probabilities:
 - **red**: $4/10$ **green**: $3/10$ **blue**: $3/10$
- misclassification:
 - **red**: $4/10 * (3/10 + 3/10)$

Picking
red

Making an
error

Gini Impurity

- misclassification:

— red:

$$4/10 * (3/10 + 3/10) = 0.24$$

— green and blue:

$$3/10 * (4/10 + 3/10) = 0.21$$

- gini impurity: **0.24** + **0.21** + **0.21** = 0.66

Gini Impurity

- Number of classes: C
- Number of data points: N
- Number of data points of class i : N_i

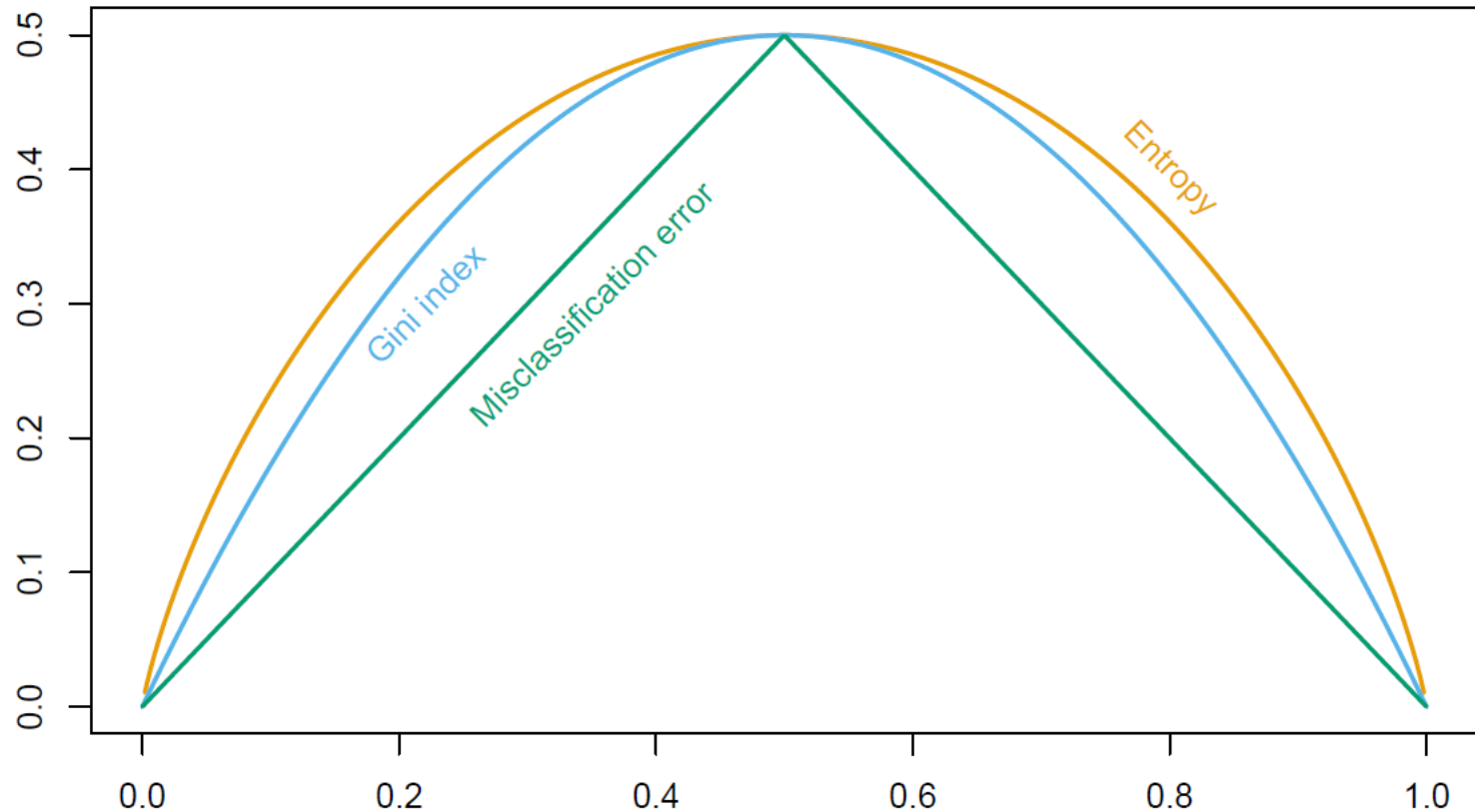
$$I_G = \sum_{i=1}^C \frac{N_i}{N} \left(1 - \frac{N_i}{N} \right)$$



true
class

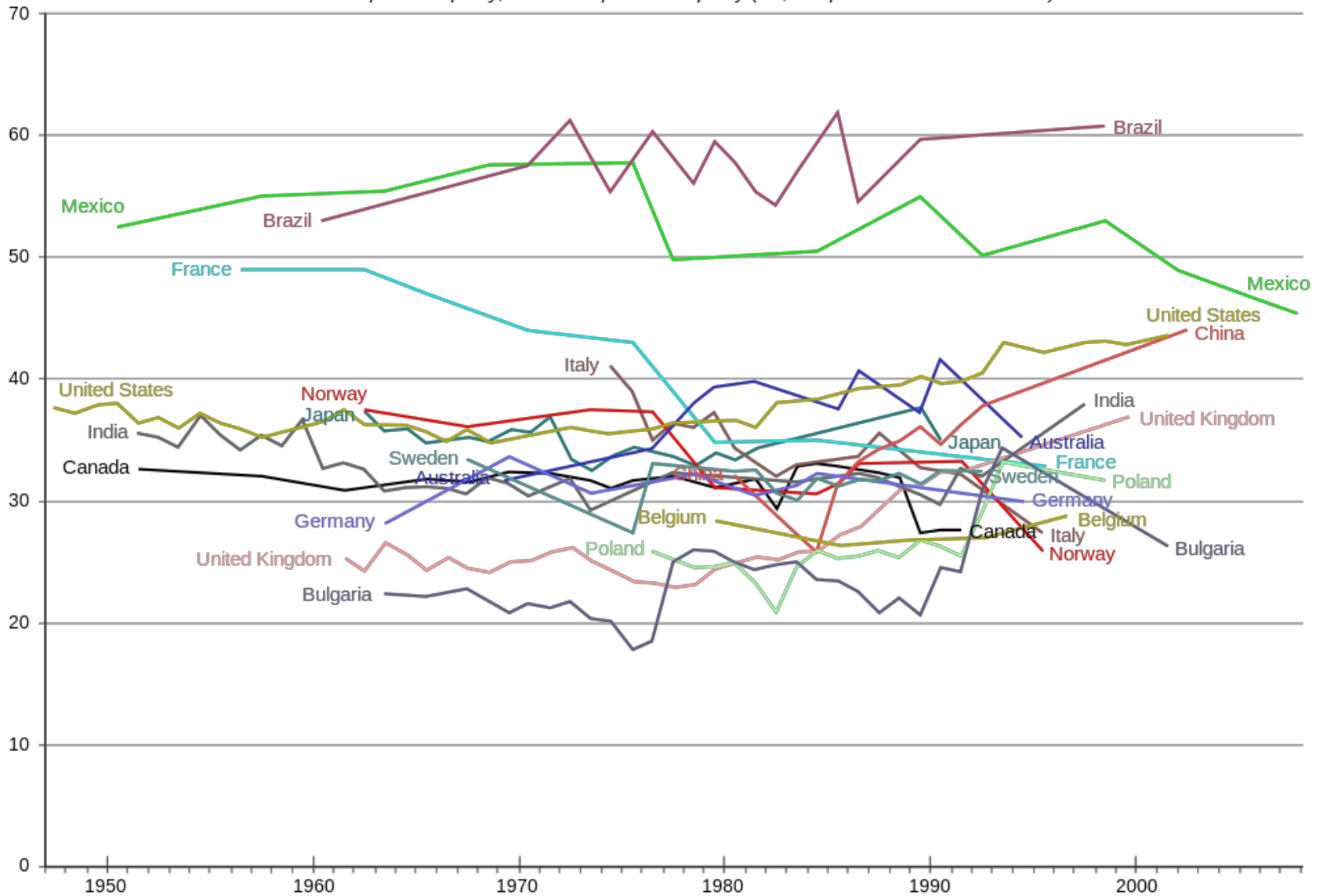
wrong
prediction

Gini Impurity



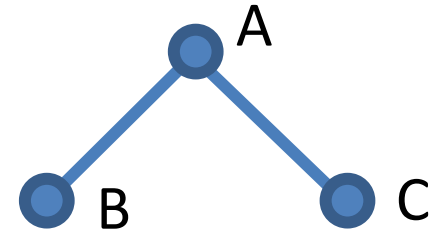
Gini Index - Income Disparity since World War II

where 0 is perfect equality, and 100 is perfect inequality (i.e., one person has all the income)



Node Purity Gain

- Compare:
 - Gini impurity of parent node
 - Gini impurity of child nodes



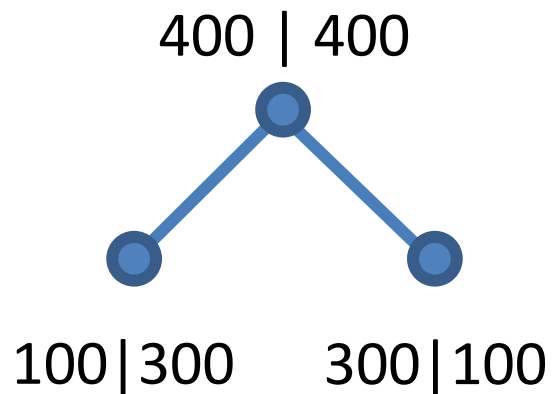
$$\Delta I_G = I_G(A) - \frac{N(B)}{N(A)} I_G(B) - \frac{N(C)}{N(A)} I_G(C)$$

Misclassification

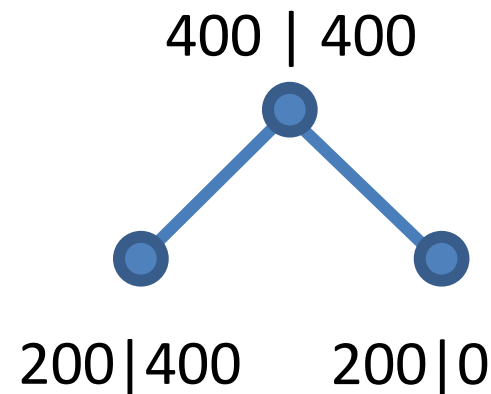
- $\frac{1}{N} \sum_i^N \mathbf{1}(\hat{y}_i \neq y_i)$
- not differentiable

Comparison Gini vs Misclassification

- Binary problem: 400 samples per class





Misclassification: 0.25
Gini gain: 0.125





Misclassification: 0.25
Gini gain: 0.166

Pseudocode

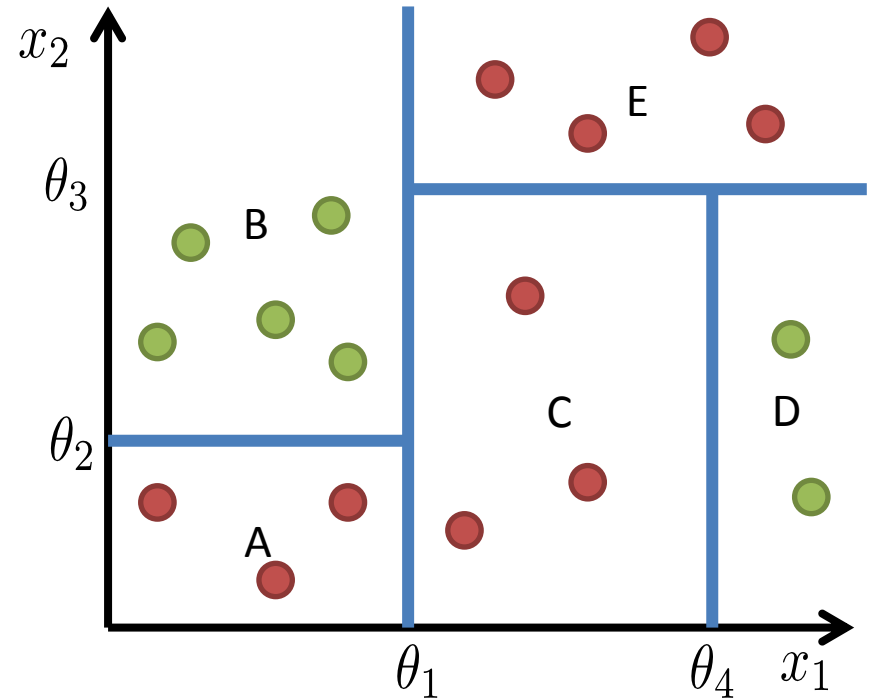
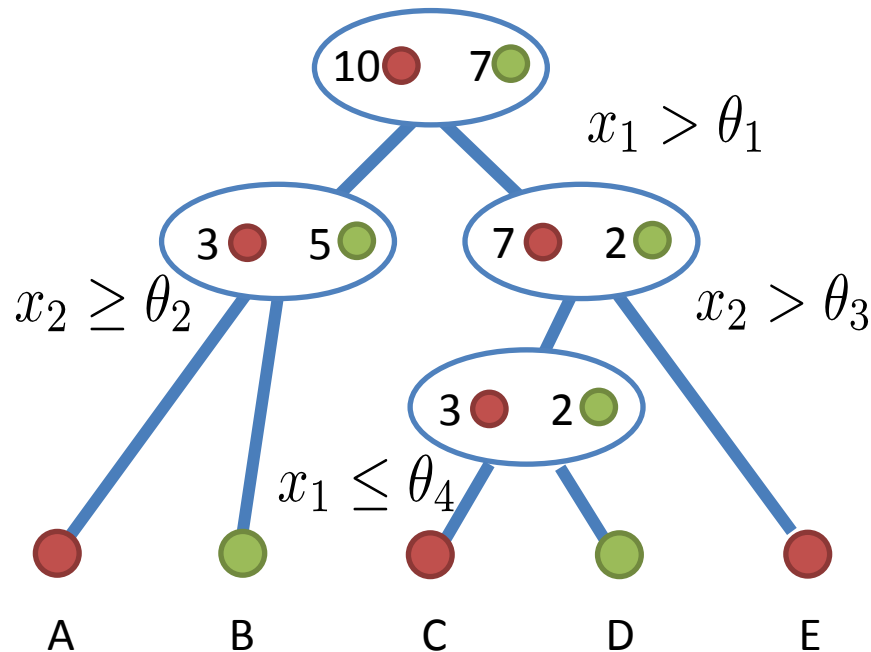
- Check if already finished 
- For each attribute a
 - Calculate the gain from splitting on a
- Let a_best be the attribute with highest gain
- Create a decision *node* that splits on a_best
- Repeat on the sub-nodes

- Does this produce an optimal tree? 
- What would an optimal tree be here?

When to Stop

- node contains only one class 
- node contains less than x data points
- max depth is reached 
- node purity is sufficient
- you start to overfit => cross-validation

Tree Pruning



How do you make a prediction for the merged cell?
What is the relation between pruning and k in knn?

Decision Trees - Disadvantages

- Sensitive to small changes in the data
- Overfitting
- Only axis aligned splits

Decision Trees vs SVM

Characteristic	SVM	Trees
Natural handling of data of “mixed” type	▼	▲
Handling of missing values	▼	▲
Robustness to outliers in input space	▼	▲
Insensitive to monotone transformations of inputs	▼	▲
Computational scalability (large N)	▼	▲
Ability to deal with irrelevant inputs	▼	▲
Ability to extract linear combinations of features	▲	▼
Interpretability	▼	◆
Predictive power	▲	▼

Real Data

DecisionTree in sklearn

- <http://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.tree.DecisionTreeClassifier.html>

Wisdom of Crowds

The collective knowledge of a **diverse and independent** body of people typically exceeds the knowledge of any single individual, and can be harnessed by voting.

James Surowiecki





Netflix Prize

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ImpV70uLxyw>