Decision Trees

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Function Approximation

Problem Setting

- Set of possible instances $\mathcal{X}$
- Set of possible labels $\mathcal{Y}$
- Unknown target function $f : \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}$
- Set of function hypotheses $H = \{h \mid h : \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}\}$

Input: Training examples of unknown target function f

$$\{\langle \boldsymbol{x}_i, y_i \rangle\}_{i=1}^{n} = \{\langle \boldsymbol{x}_1, y_1 \rangle, \ldots, \langle \boldsymbol{x}_n, y_n \rangle\}$$

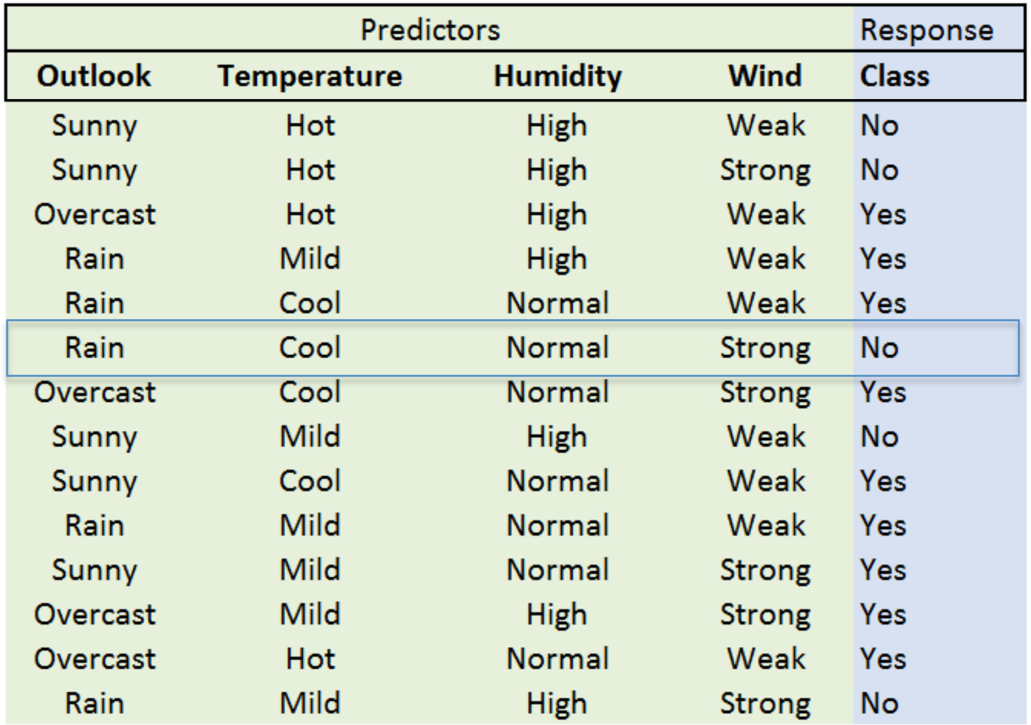
Output: Hypothesis $h \in H$ that best approximates f

Based on slide by Tom Mitchell

Sample Dataset

- Columns denote features X_i
- Rows denote labeled instances $\langle \boldsymbol{x}_i, y_i \rangle$
- Class label denotes whether a tennis game was played

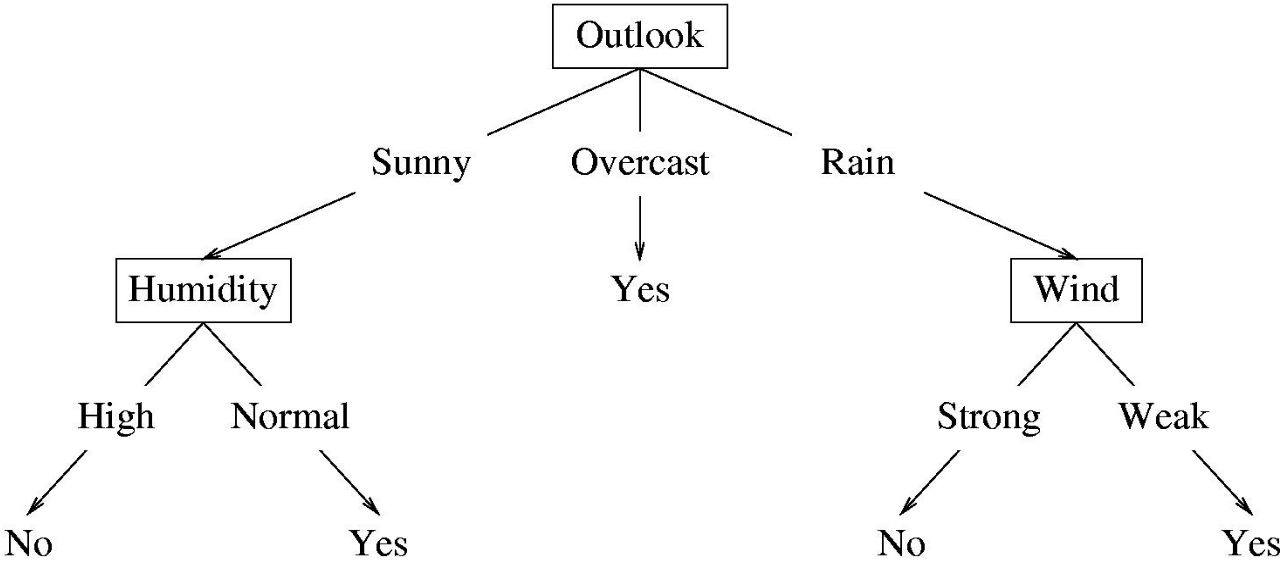
$\langle \boldsymbol{x}_i, y_i \rangle$



Predictors				Response
Outlook	**Temperature**	**Humidity**	**Wind**	**Class**
Sunny	Hot	High	Weak	No
Sunny	Hot	High	Strong	No
Overcast	Hot	High	Weak	Yes
Rain	Mild	High	Weak	Yes
Rain	Cool	Normal	Weak	Yes
Rain	Cool	Normal	Strong	No
Overcast	Cool	Normal	Strong	Yes
Sunny	Mild	High	Weak	No
Sunny	Cool	Normal	Weak	Yes
Rain	Mild	Normal	Weak	Yes
Sunny	Mild	Normal	Strong	Yes
Overcast	Mild	High	Strong	Yes
Overcast	Hot	Normal	Weak	Yes
Rain	Mild	High	Strong	No

Decision Tree

- A possible decision tree for the data:



- Each internal node: test one attribute X_i
- Each branch from a node: selects one value for X_i
- Each leaf node: predict Y (or $p(Y \mid \boldsymbol{x} \in \text{leaf})$)

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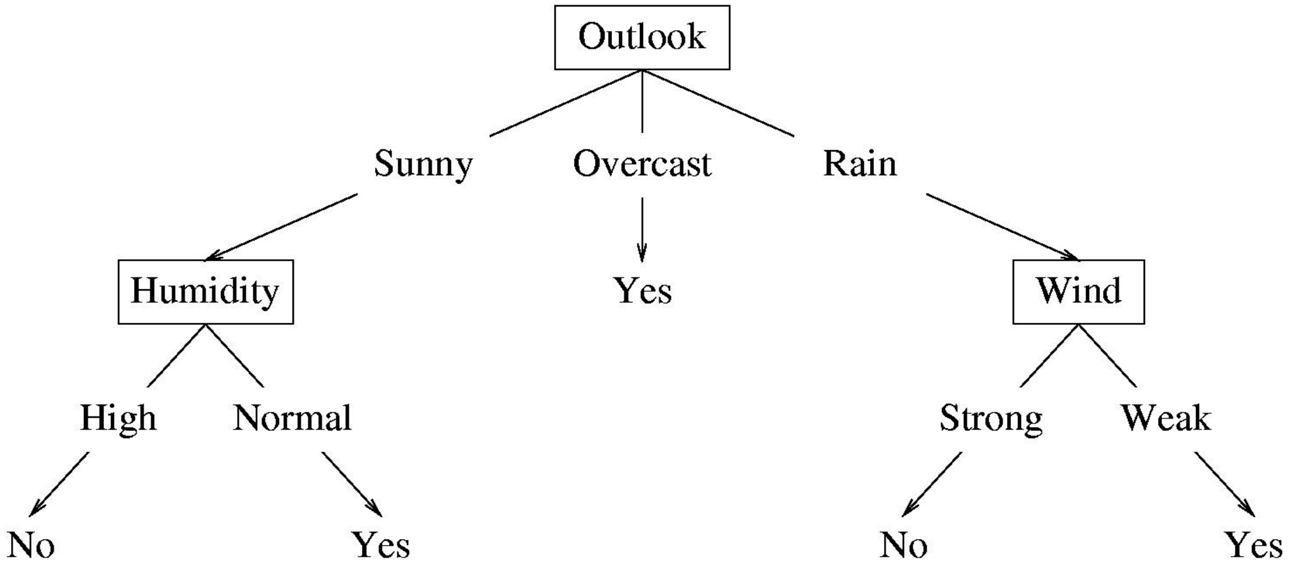
Decision Tree

- A possible decision tree for the data:



- What prediction would we make for
  <outlook=sunny, temperature=hot, humidity=high, wind=weak> ?

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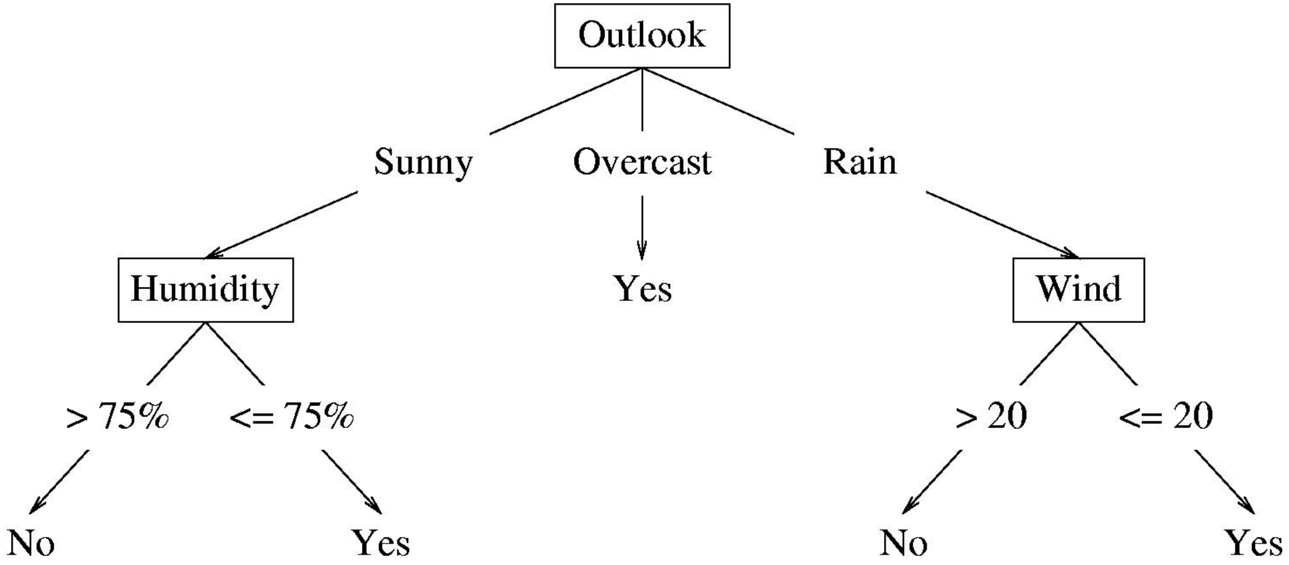
Decision Tree

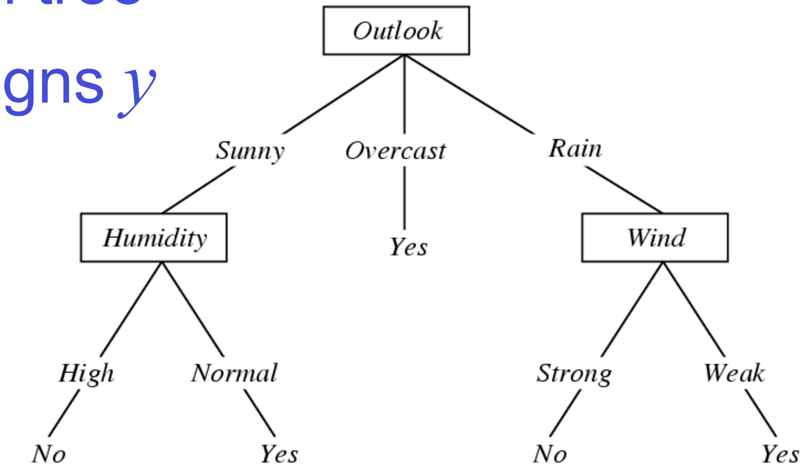
- If features are continuous, internal nodes can test the value of a feature against a threshold



Decision Tree Learning

Problem Setting:

- Set of possible instances X
  - each instance x in X is a feature vector
  - e.g., <*Humidity=low, Wind=weak, Outlook=rain, Temp=hot*>
- Unknown target function $f : X \rightarrow Y$
  - *Y* is discrete valued
- Set of function hypotheses $H=\{ h \mid h : X \rightarrow Y \}$
  - each hypothesis h is a decision tree
  - trees sorts x to leaf, which assigns y



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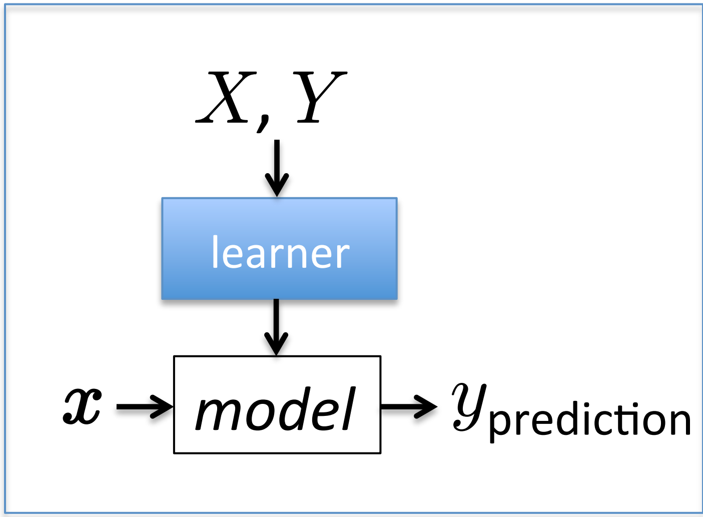
Stages of (Batch) Machine Learning

Given: labeled training data $X, Y = \{\langle \boldsymbol{x}_i, y_i \rangle\}_{i=1}^{n}$

- Assumes each $\boldsymbol{x}_i \sim \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{X})$ with $y_i = f_{target}(\boldsymbol{x}_i)$



Train the model:

model ← *classifier*.train(X, Y)

Apply the model to new data:

- Given: new unlabeled instance $\boldsymbol{x} \sim \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{X})$

$y_{\text{prediction}}$ ← *model*.predict($\boldsymbol{x}$)

Basic Algorithm for Top-Down Induction of Decision Trees

[ID3, C4.5 by Quinlan]

node = root of decision tree

Main loop:

1. *A* ← the "best" decision attribute for the next node.
2. Assign *A* as decision attribute for *node*.
3. For each value of *A*, create a new descendant of *node*.
4. Sort training examples to leaf nodes.
5. If training examples are perfectly classified, stop.
   Else, recurse over new leaf nodes.

How do we choose which attribute is best?

Choosing the Best Attribute

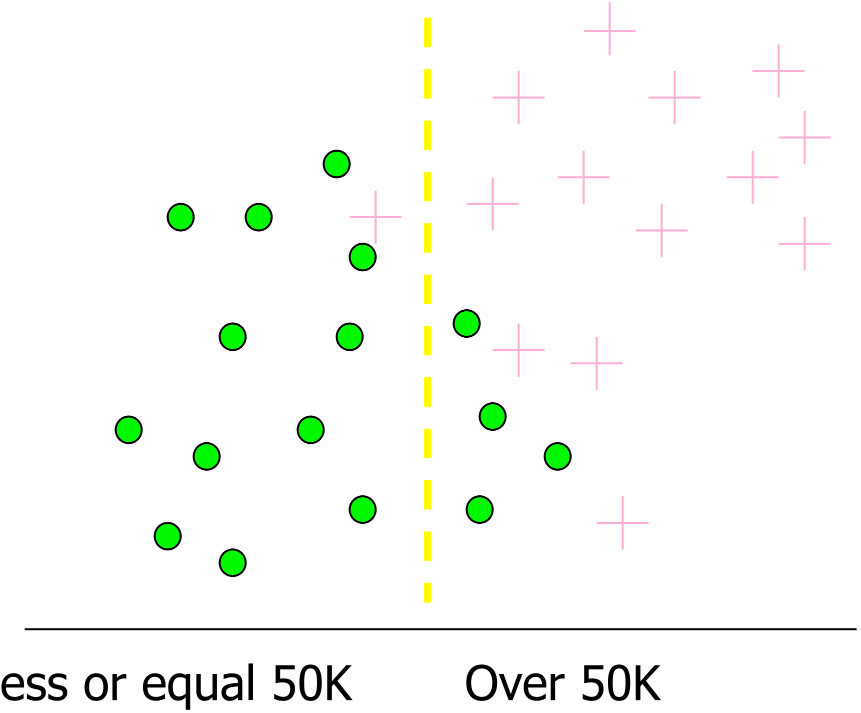
Key problem: choosing which attribute to split a given set of examples

- Some possibilities are:
  - **Random:** Select any attribute at random
  - **Least-Values:** Choose the attribute with the smallest number of possible values
  - **Most-Values:** Choose the attribute with the largest number of possible values
  - **Max-Gain:** Choose the attribute that has the largest expected *information gain*
    - i.e., attribute that results in smallest expected size of subtrees rooted at its children
- The ID3 algorithm uses the Max-Gain method of selecting the best attribute

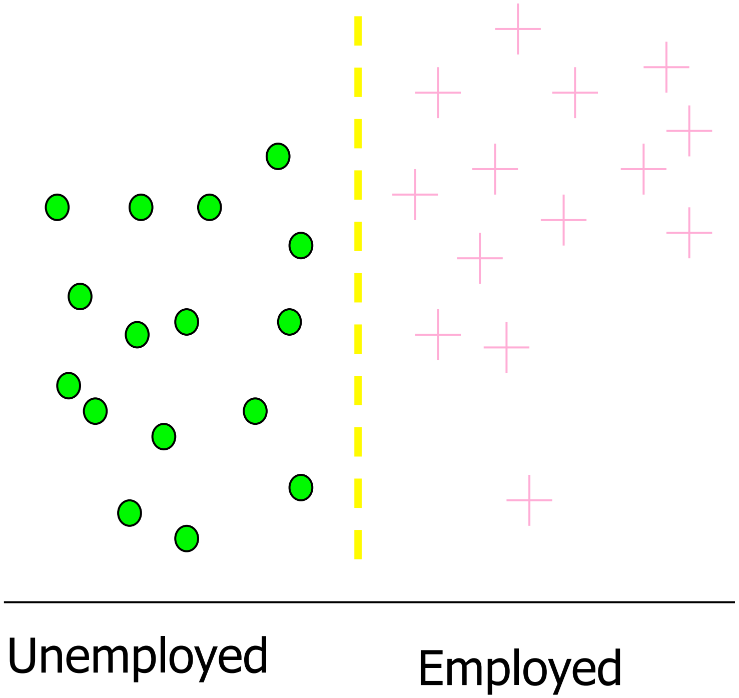
Information Gain

Which test is more informative?

Split over whether Balance exceeds 50K



Split over whether applicant is employed



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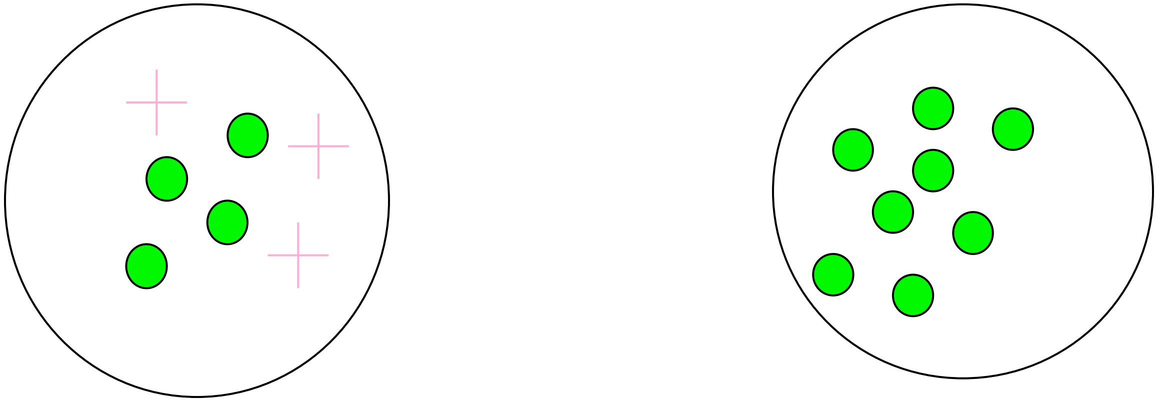
Information Gain

Impurity/Entropy (informal)

– Measures the level of **impurity** in a group of examples



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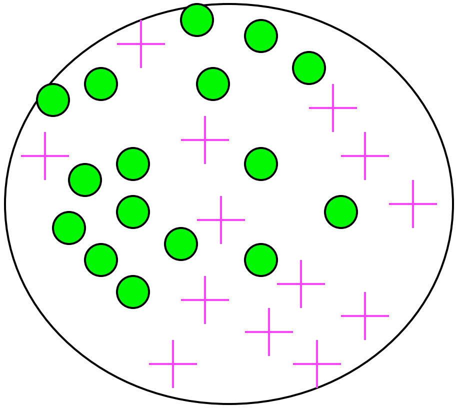
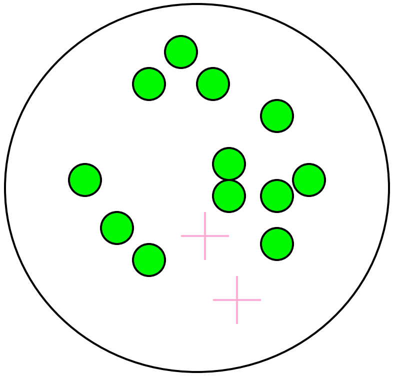
Impurity

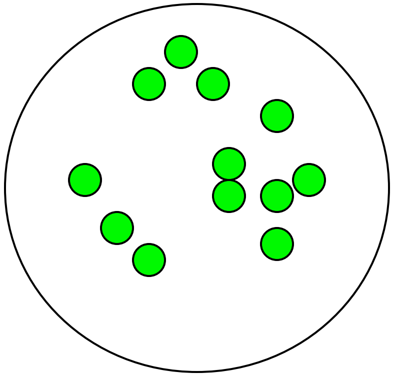
Very impure group



Less impure



Minimum impurity



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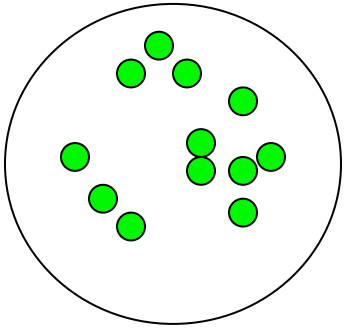
2-Class Cases:

Entropy $$H(x) = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} P(x=i)\log_2 P(x=i)$$

- What is the entropy of a group in which all examples belong to the same class?
  - entropy = - 1 $\log_2 1$ = 0

not a good training set for learning

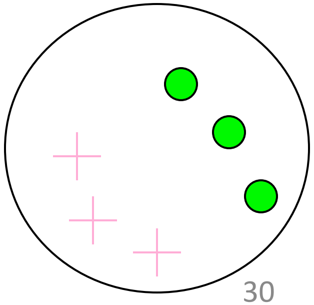
Minimum impurity



- What is the entropy of a group with 50% in either class?
  - entropy = -0.5 $\log_2 0.5$ – 0.5 $\log_2 0.5$ =1

good training set for learning

Maximum impurity



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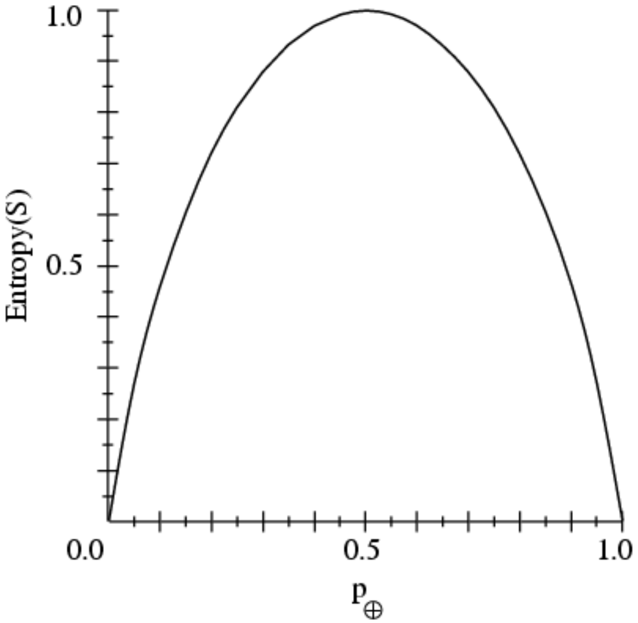
Sample Entropy



- S is a sample of training examples
- $p_{\oplus}$ is the proportion of positive examples in S
- $p_{\ominus}$ is the proportion of negative examples in S
- Entropy measures the impurity of S

$$H(S) \equiv -p_{\oplus} \log_2 p_{\oplus} - p_{\ominus} \log_2 p_{\ominus}$$

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Information Gain

- We want to determine which attribute in a given set of training feature vectors is most useful for discriminating between the classes to be learned.

- Information gain tells us how important a given attribute of the feature vectors is.

- We will use it to decide the ordering of attributes in the nodes of a decision tree.

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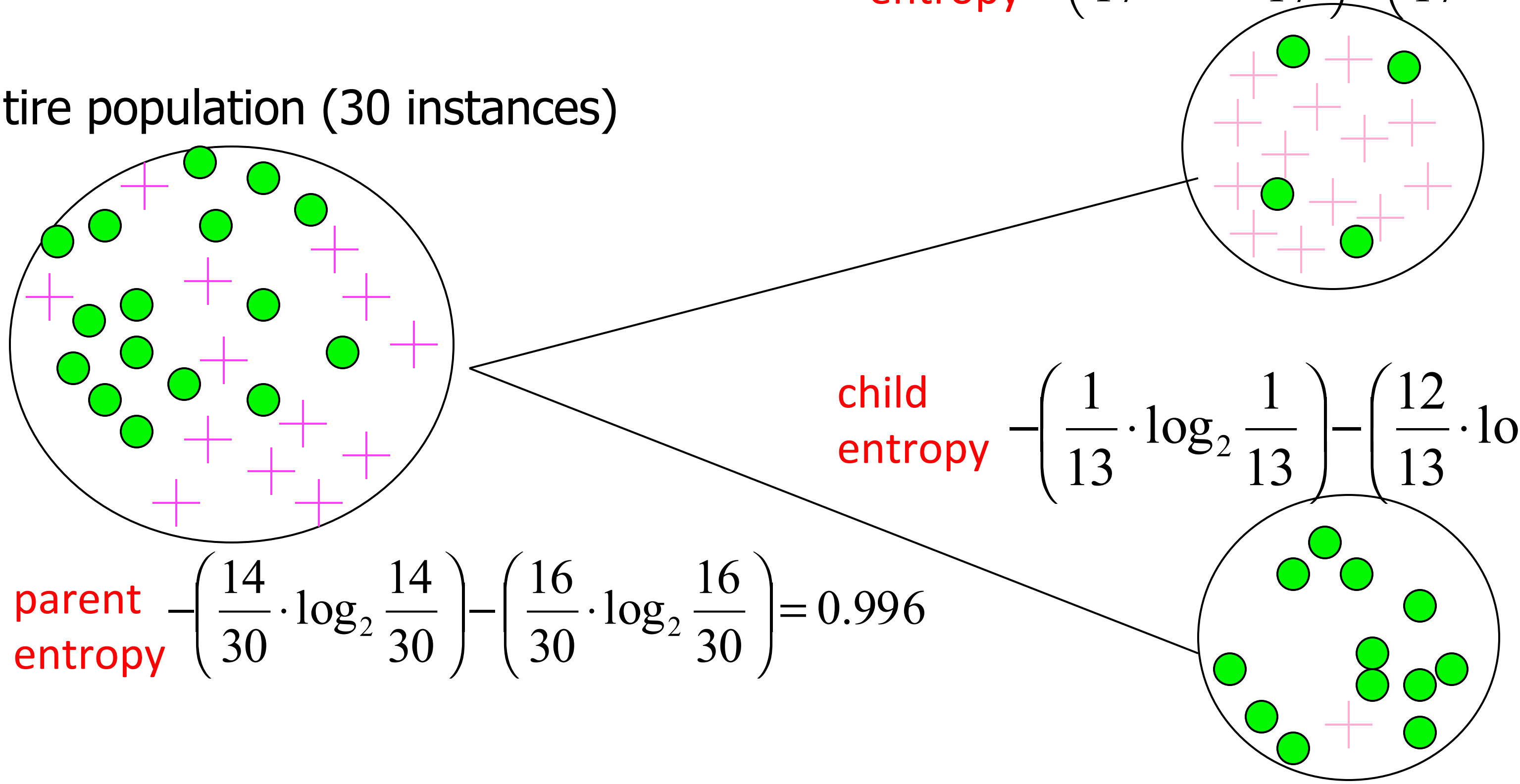
Calculating Information Gain

Information Gain = entropy(parent) – [average entropy(children)]

child entropy $$-\left(\frac{13}{17}\cdot\log_2\frac{13}{17}\right)-\left(\frac{4}{17}\cdot\log_2\frac{4}{17}\right)=0.787$$

Entire population (30 instances)



child entropy $$-\left(\frac{1}{13}\cdot\log_2\frac{1}{13}\right)-\left(\frac{12}{13}\cdot\log_2\frac{12}{13}\right)=0.391$$

parent entropy $$-\left(\frac{14}{30}\cdot\log_2\frac{14}{30}\right)-\left(\frac{16}{30}\cdot\log_2\frac{16}{30}\right)=0.996$$

(Weighted) Average Entropy of Children = $$\left(\frac{17}{30}\cdot 0.787\right)+\left(\frac{13}{30}\cdot 0.391\right)=0.615$$

Information Gain= 0.996 - 0.615 = 0.38

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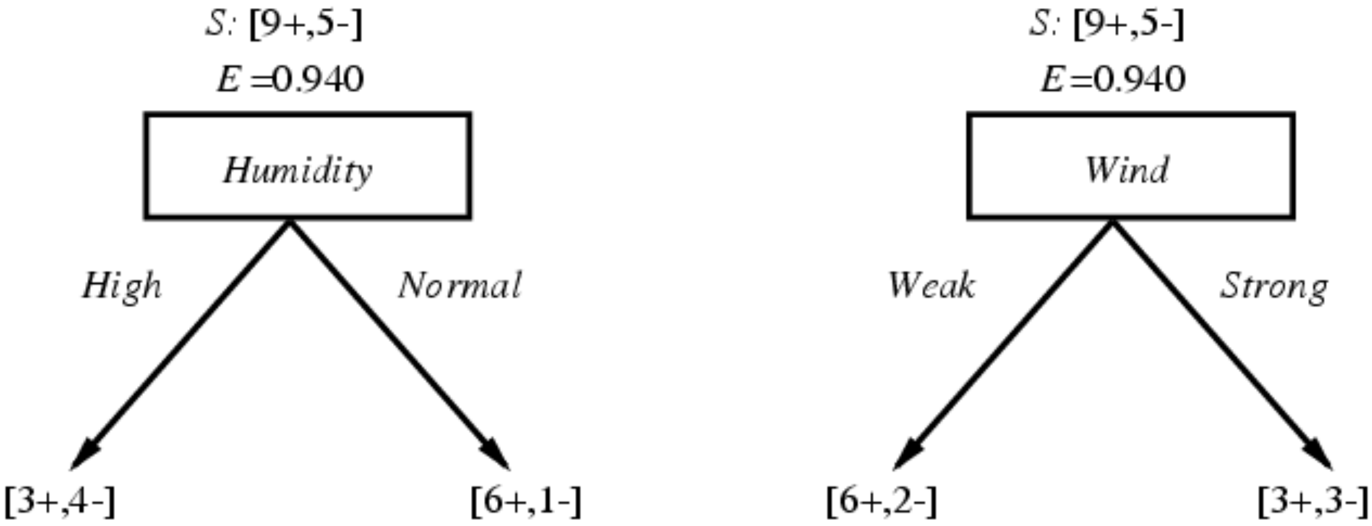
Training Examples

Day	Outlook	Temperature	Humidity	Wind	PlayTenn
D1	Sunny	Hot	High	Weak	No
D2	Sunny	Hot	High	Strong	No
D3	Overcast	Hot	High	Weak	Yes
D4	Rain	Mild	High	Weak	Yes
D5	Rain	Cool	Normal	Weak	Yes
D6	Rain	Cool	Normal	Strong	No
D7	Overcast	Cool	Normal	Strong	Yes
D8	Sunny	Mild	High	Weak	No
D9	Sunny	Cool	Normal	Weak	Yes
D10	Rain	Mild	Normal	Weak	Yes
D11	Sunny	Mild	Normal	Strong	Yes
D12	Overcast	Mild	High	Strong	Yes
D13	Overcast	Hot	Normal	Weak	Yes
D14	Rain	Mild	High	Strong	No

Selecting the Next Attribute

Which attribute is the best classifier?



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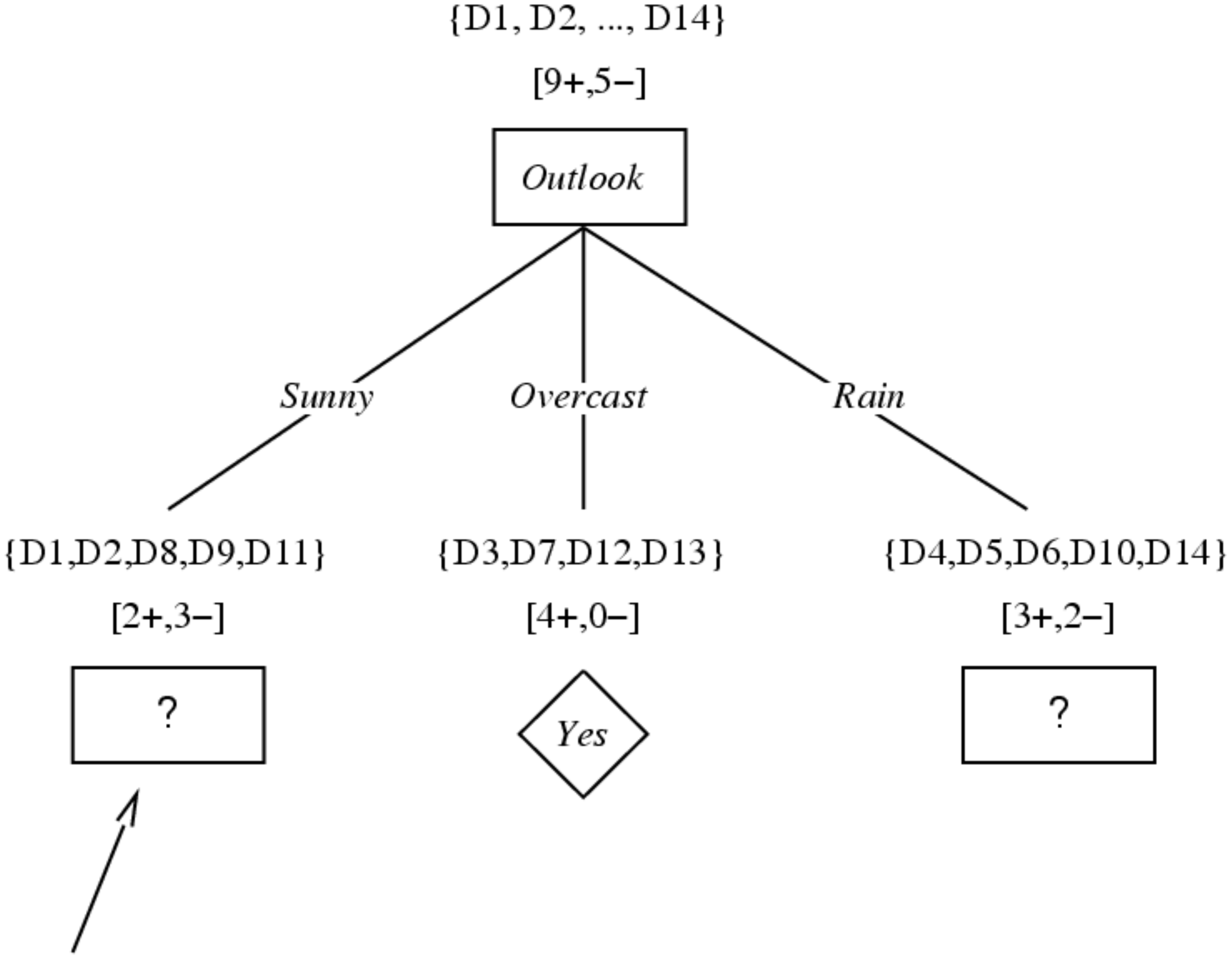

{D1, D2, ..., D14}

[9+,5−]

Outlook

Sunny

Overcast

Rain

{D1,D2,D8,D9,D11}

[2+,3−]

?

{D3,D7,D12,D13}

[4+,0−]

Yes

{D4,D5,D6,D10,D14}

[3+,2−]

?

Which attribute should be tested here?

S_{sunny} = {D1,D2,D8,D9,D11}

$Gain\ (S_{sunny}\ , Humidity) = .970 - (3/5)\ 0.0 - (2/5)\ 0.0 = .970$

$Gain\ (S_{sunny}\ , Temperature) = .970 - (2/5)\ 0.0 - (2/5)\ 1.0 - (1/5)\ 0.0 = .570$

$Gain\ (S_{sunny}, Wind) = .970 - (2/5)\ 1.0 - (3/5)\ .918 = .019$

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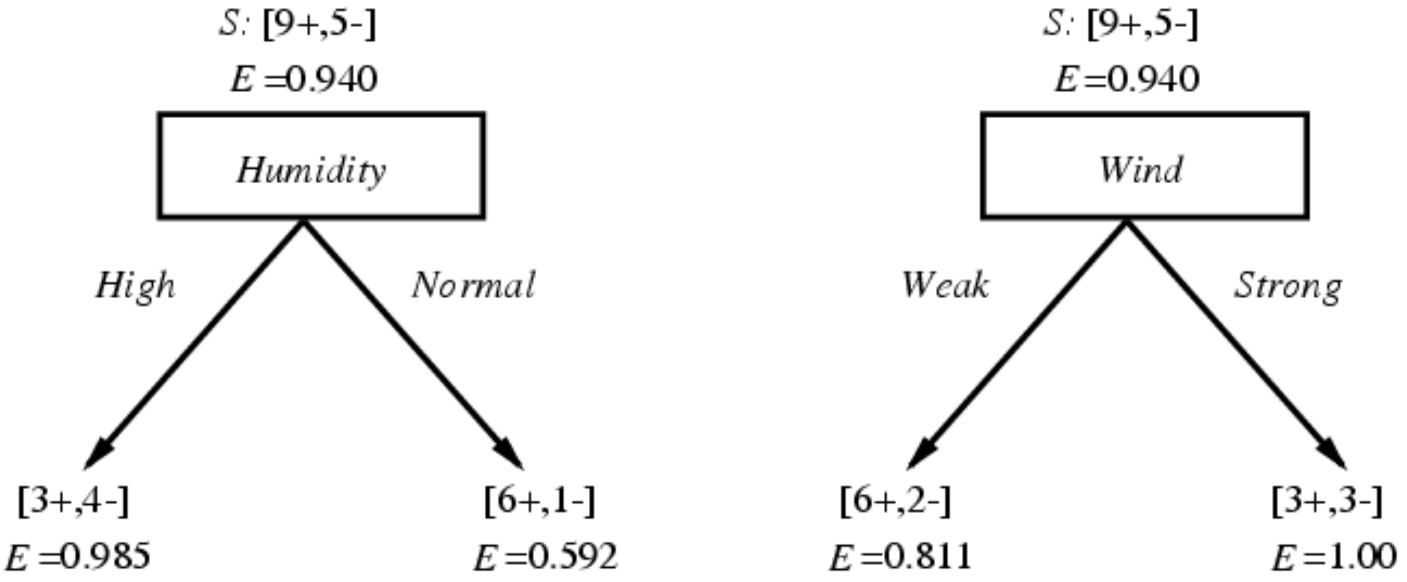
Selecting the Next Attribute

Which attribute is the best classifier?



S: [9+,5-]
E =0.940

Humidity

High *Normal*

[3+,4-]
E =0.985

[6+,1-]
E =0.592

S: [9+,5-]
E =0.940

Wind

Weak *Strong*

[6+,2-]
E =0.811

[3+,3-]
E =1.00

Gain (S, Humidity)

= .940 - (7/14).985 - (7/14).592
= .151

Gain (S, Wind)

= .940 - (8/14).811 - (6/14)1.0
= .048

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