

Computer Science 145, Homework 2

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Problem 1

There are 10 democrats and 10 republicans. This has an entropy of 1. If we first split the data set by the vote for handicapped infants, the no category will have 4 democrats and 8 republicans. The yes category will have 6 democrats and 2 republicans. The entropy is given by the following expression.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{3}{5} \left(-\frac{1}{3} \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{3} \right) - \frac{2}{3} \log_2 \left(\frac{2}{3} \right) \right) \\ + \frac{2}{5} \left(-\frac{1}{4} \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{4} \right) - \frac{3}{4} \log_2 \left(\frac{3}{4} \right) \right) \approx 0.87549 \end{aligned}$$

If we first split the data set by the vote for water project cost sharing, the no category will have 6 democrats and 4 republicans. The yes category will have 4 democrats and 6 republicans. Since the entropy is the same for both the yes and the no categories, it is given by the following expression.

$$-\frac{3}{5} \log_2 \left(\frac{3}{5} \right) - \frac{2}{5} \log_2 \left(\frac{2}{5} \right) \approx 0.97095$$

If we first split the data set by the vote for budget resolution adoption, the no category will have 1 democrat and 8 republicans. The yes category will have 9 democrats and 2 republicans. The entropy is given by the following

expression.

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{9}{20} \left(-\frac{1}{9} \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{9} \right) - \frac{8}{9} \log_2 \left(\frac{8}{9} \right) \right) \\ & + \frac{11}{20} \left(-\frac{2}{11} \log_2 \left(\frac{2}{11} \right) - \frac{9}{11} \log_2 \left(\frac{9}{11} \right) \right) \approx 0.60269 \end{aligned}$$

Clearly we should first split the data by the vote for budget resolution adoption, since it has an information gain of $1 - 0.60269 = 0.39731$ which is higher than any of the other options.

Let's look at the no branch. It starts with an entropy of

$$-\frac{1}{9} \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{9} \right) - \frac{8}{9} \log_2 \left(\frac{8}{9} \right) = 0.50326$$

and if we split by the vote for handicapped infants the no branch will have 1 democrat and 7 republicans. The yes branch will have 1 republican. The yes branch has 0 entropy, so the entropy after the split is the following.

$$\frac{8}{9} \left(-\frac{1}{8} \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{8} \right) - \frac{7}{8} \log_2 \left(\frac{7}{8} \right) \right) \approx 0.48317$$

If we split the no branch by the vote for water project cost sharing, the no branch will have 3 republicans and the yes branch will have 1 democrat and 5 republicans. Then the entropy is the following.

$$\frac{2}{3} \left(-\frac{1}{6} \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{6} \right) - \frac{5}{6} \log_2 \left(\frac{5}{6} \right) \right) \approx 0.43335$$

Then we should split by the vote for water project cost sharing since it has the higher information gain of $0.50326 - 0.43335 = 0.06991$. This only leaves one feature to split by, resulting in a prediction of republican for every option on the no branch of the first node.

On the yes branch of the first node, we start with an entropy of

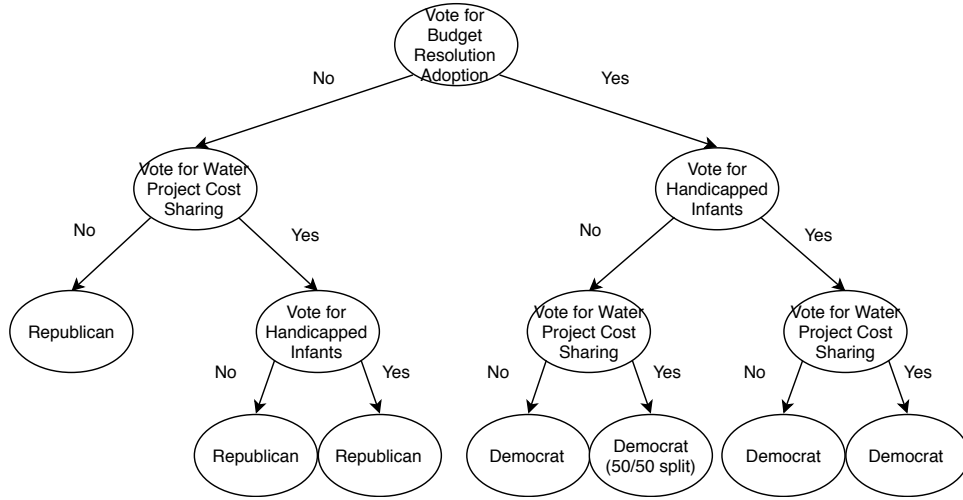
$$-\frac{2}{11} \log_2 \left(\frac{2}{11} \right) - \frac{9}{11} \log_2 \left(\frac{9}{11} \right) \approx 0.68404$$

and if we split by the vote for handicapped infants the no branch will have 3 democrats and 1 republican. The yes branch will have 6 democrats and 1

republican. If we split by the vote for water project cost sharing, then the no branch will have 6 democrats and 1 republican, while the yes branch will have 3 democrats and 1 republican. So either selection will lead to the same split and result in the same entropy. This is given by the following.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{4}{11} \left(-\frac{1}{4} \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{4} \right) - \frac{3}{4} \log_2 \left(\frac{3}{4} \right) \right) \\ + \frac{7}{11} \left(-\frac{1}{7} \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{7} \right) - \frac{6}{7} \log_2 \left(\frac{6}{7} \right) \right) \approx 0.67153 \end{aligned}$$

The information gain is $0.68404 - 0.67153 = 0.01251$. In this case I will choose to split by the vote for handicapped infants. Then the next split will be the vote for water project cost sharing. There is one path that leads to a 50/50 split if there is a no vote for handicapped infants, a yes vote for water project cost sharing, and a yes vote for budget resolution adoption. The remainder of the options on the yes side of the first node should be democrat. Then the tree will look like the following.



Because the left and right sides of the first node all have the same end result, this decision tree could be simplified to the following.

