

# Learning Agents

Chapter 18

*Supervised Learning and Decision Trees*

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# Example of Decision Tree Learning

# Example

Learn decision tree from dataset D:

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

How does the resulting tree classify:

8	1	1	1	0	1	???
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Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

$$\begin{aligned}
 H(P(y \mid D_0)) &= B(\frac{4}{4+3}) \\
 &= 0.985
 \end{aligned}$$

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

H(Goal)=0.985

Split on  $A_1$ :

$$H(y \mid A_1) = \frac{4}{7} B(\frac{3}{3+1})$$

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

H(Goal)=0.985

Split on  $A_1$ :

$$H(y \mid A_1) = \frac{4}{7} B(\frac{3}{3+1}) + \frac{3}{7} B(\frac{1}{1+2})$$

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

$H(\text{Goal})=0.985$   
 $H(y|A_1) =0.857$

Split on  $A_1$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 H(y \mid A_1) &= \frac{4}{7} B(\frac{3}{3+1}) + \frac{3}{7} B(\frac{1}{1+2}) \\
 &= \frac{4}{7} (0.811) + \frac{3}{7} (0.918) \\
 &= 0.857
 \end{aligned}$$

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

$H(\text{Goal})=0.985$   
 $H(y|A_1) =0.857$

Split on  $A_2$ :

$$H(y \mid A_2) = \frac{4}{7} B(\frac{1}{1+3})$$



Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

$H(\text{Goal})=0.985$   
 $H(y|A_1) =0.857$

Split on  $A_2$ :

$$H(y \mid A_2) = \frac{4}{7} B(\frac{1}{1+3}) + \frac{3}{7} B(\frac{3}{3+0})$$

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

$H(\text{Goal})=0.985$   
 $H(y|A_1) =0.857$   
 $H(y|A_2)=0.463$

Split on  $A_2$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 H(y \mid A_2) &= \frac{4}{7} B(\frac{1}{1+3}) + \frac{3}{7} B(\frac{3}{3+0}) \\
 &= \frac{4}{7} (0.811) + \frac{3}{7} (0) \\
 &= 0.463
 \end{aligned}$$

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

$H(\text{Goal})=0.985$   
 $H(y|A_1) =0.857$   
 $H(y|A_2)=0.463$

Split on  $A_3$ :

$$\text{Remainder}(A_3) = \frac{3}{7} B(\frac{2}{2+1})$$

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

$H(\text{Goal})=0.985$   
 $H(y|A_1) =0.857$   
 $H(y|A_2)=0.463$   
 $H(y|A_3)=0.965$

Split on  $A_3$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Remainder}(A_3) &= \frac{3}{7} B(\frac{2}{2+1}) + \frac{4}{7} B(\frac{2}{2+2}) \\
 &= 0.965
 \end{aligned}$$

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

$H(\text{Goal})=0.985$   
 $H(y|A_1) =0.857$   
 $H(y|A_2)=0.463$   
 $H(y|A_3)=0.965$

Split on  $A_4$ :

$$\text{Remainder}(A_4) = \frac{4}{7} B(\frac{2}{2+2})$$

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

$H(\text{Goal})=0.985$   
 $H(y|A_1) =0.857$   
 $H(y|A_2)=0.463$   
 $H(y|A_3)=0.965$   
 $H(y|A_4)=0.965$

Split on  $A_4$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Remainder}(A_4) &= \frac{4}{7} B(\frac{2}{2+2}) + \frac{3}{7} B(\frac{2}{2+1}) \\
 &= 0.965
 \end{aligned}$$

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

$H(\text{Goal})=0.985$   
 $H(y|A_1) =0.857$   
 $H(y|A_2)=0.463$   
 $H(y|A_3)=0.965$   
 $H(y|A_4)=0.965$

Split on  $A_5$ :

$$H(y \mid A_5) = \frac{3}{7} B(\frac{1}{1+2})$$

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

$H(\text{Goal})=0.985$   
 $H(y|A_1) =0.857$   
 $H(y|A_2)=0.463$   
 $H(y|A_3)=0.965$   
 $H(y|A_4)=0.965$   
 $H(y|A_5)=0.857$

Split on  $A_5$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 H(y \mid A_5) &= \frac{3}{7} B(\frac{1}{1+2}) + \frac{4}{7} B(\frac{3}{3+1}) \\
 &= 0.857
 \end{aligned}$$



Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

$$H(\text{Goal})=0.985$$

$$H(y|A_1) = 0.857$$

$$H(y|A_2)=0.463$$

$$H(y|A_3)=0.965$$

$$H(y|A_4)=0.965$$

$$H(y|A_5)=0.857$$

Now identify the best attribute:

$$\text{Gain}(A_1) = 0.985 - 0.857 = 0.128$$

$$\text{Gain}(A_2) = 0.985 - 0.463 = 0.522$$

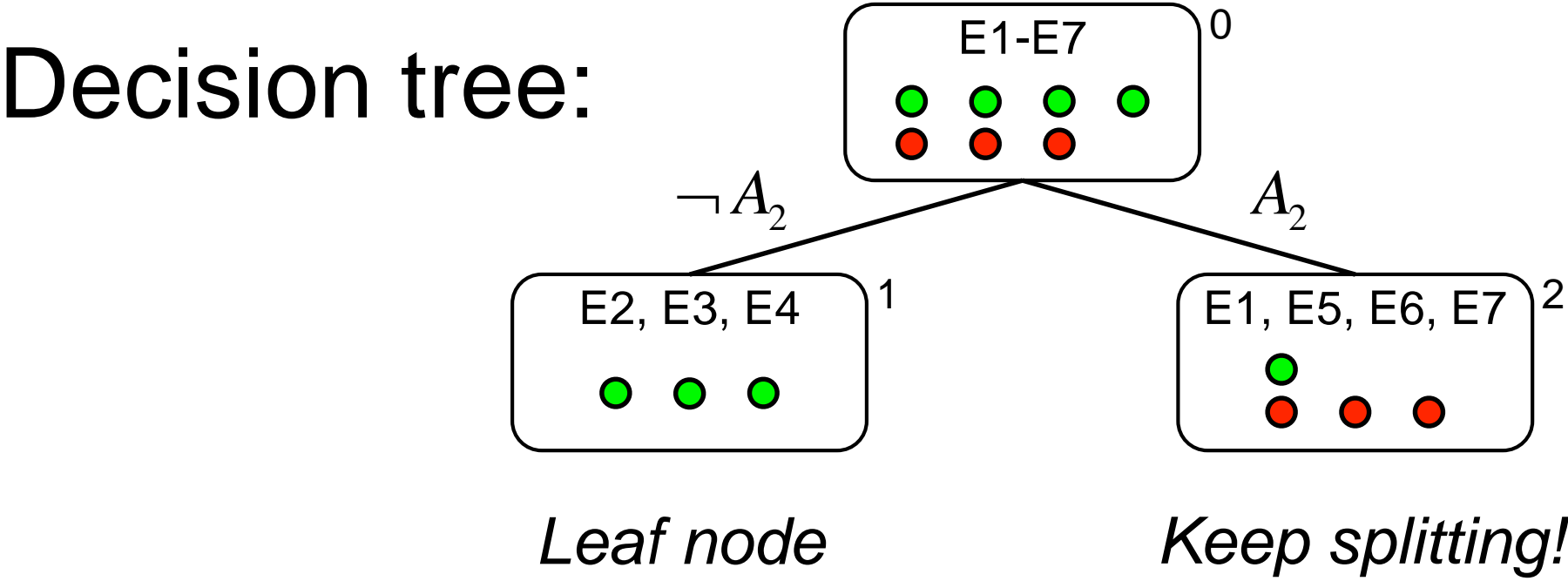
$$\text{Gain}(A_3) = 0.985 - 0.965 = 0.020$$

$$\text{Gain}(A_4) = 0.985 - 0.965 = 0.020$$

$$\text{Gain}(A_5) = 0.985 - 0.857 = 0.128$$

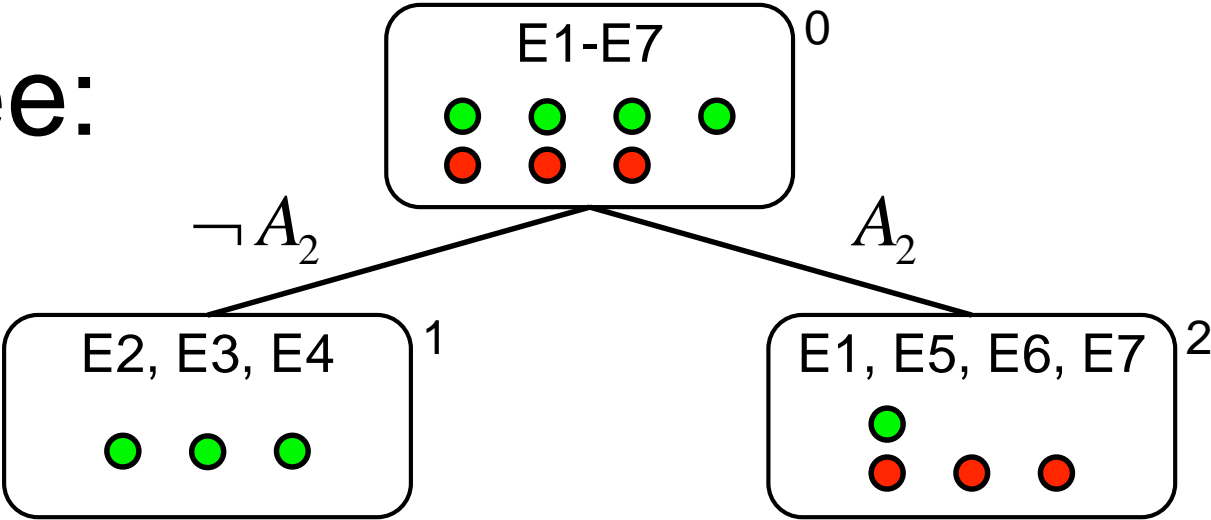
***Attribute 2  
is the best!***

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0



Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

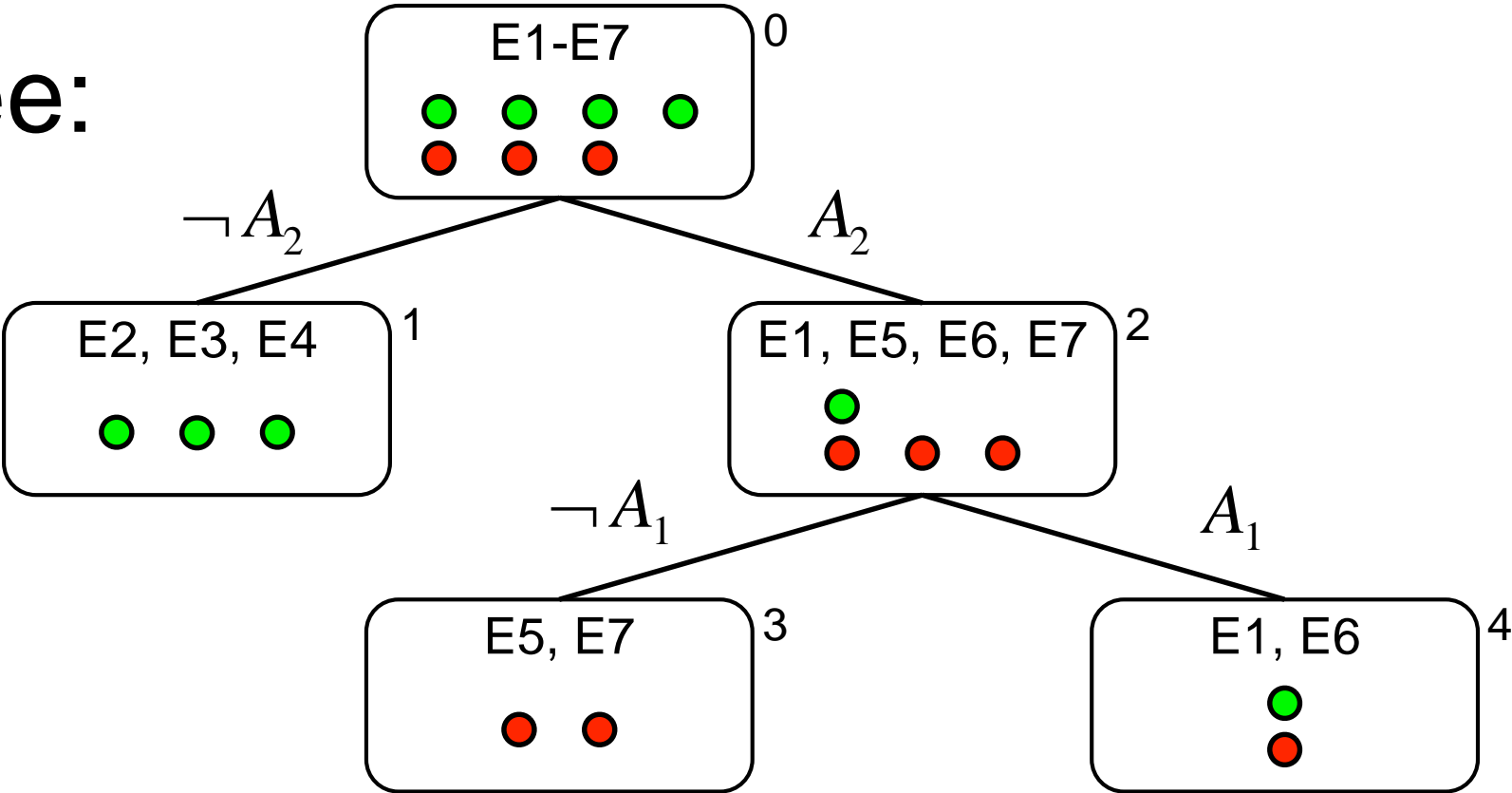
Decision tree:



Attributes  $A_1$ ,  $A_4$ ,  $A_5$  equally good.  
Produce homogeneous set of 2 0's.  
Choose by attribute no. to break tie.

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

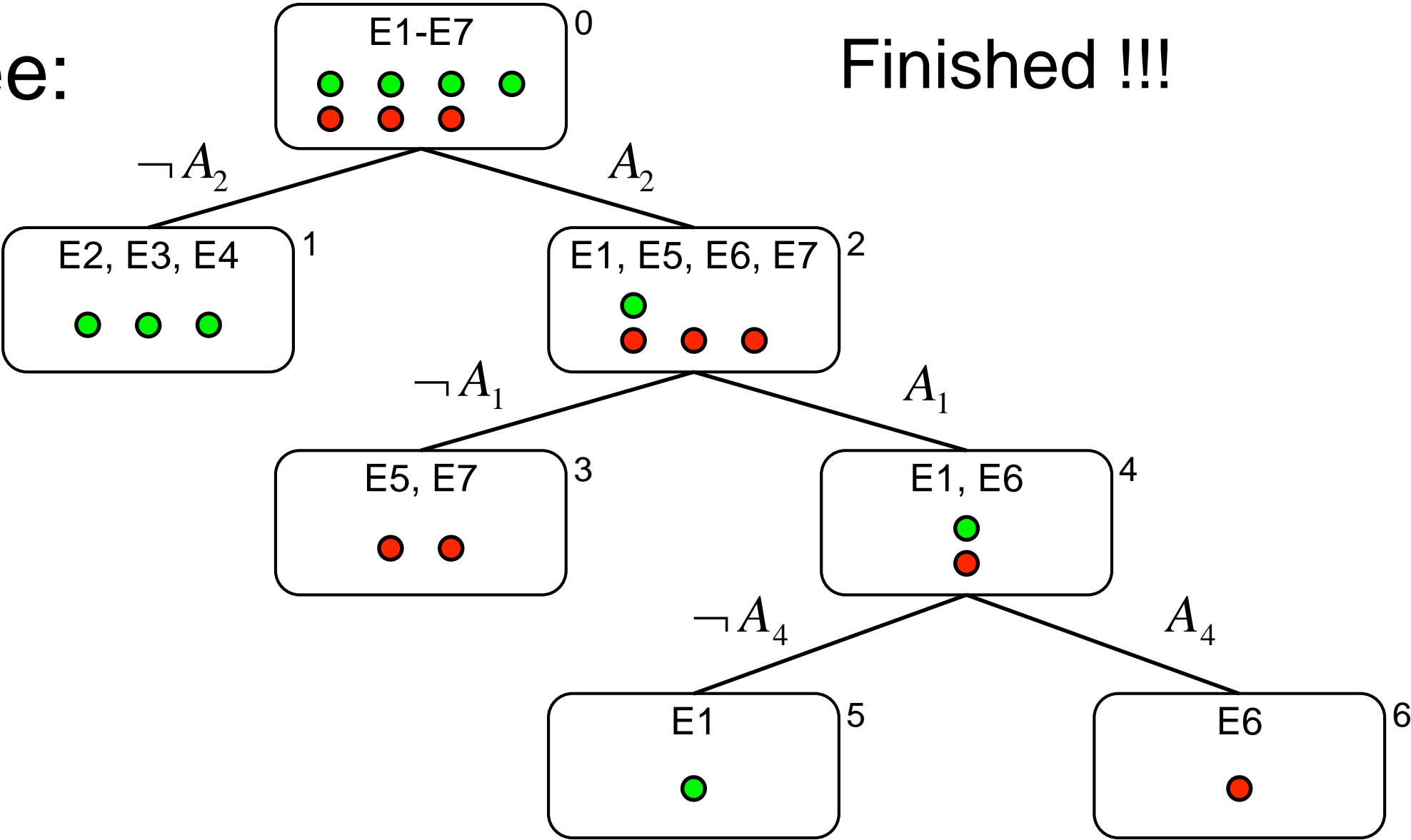
Decision tree:



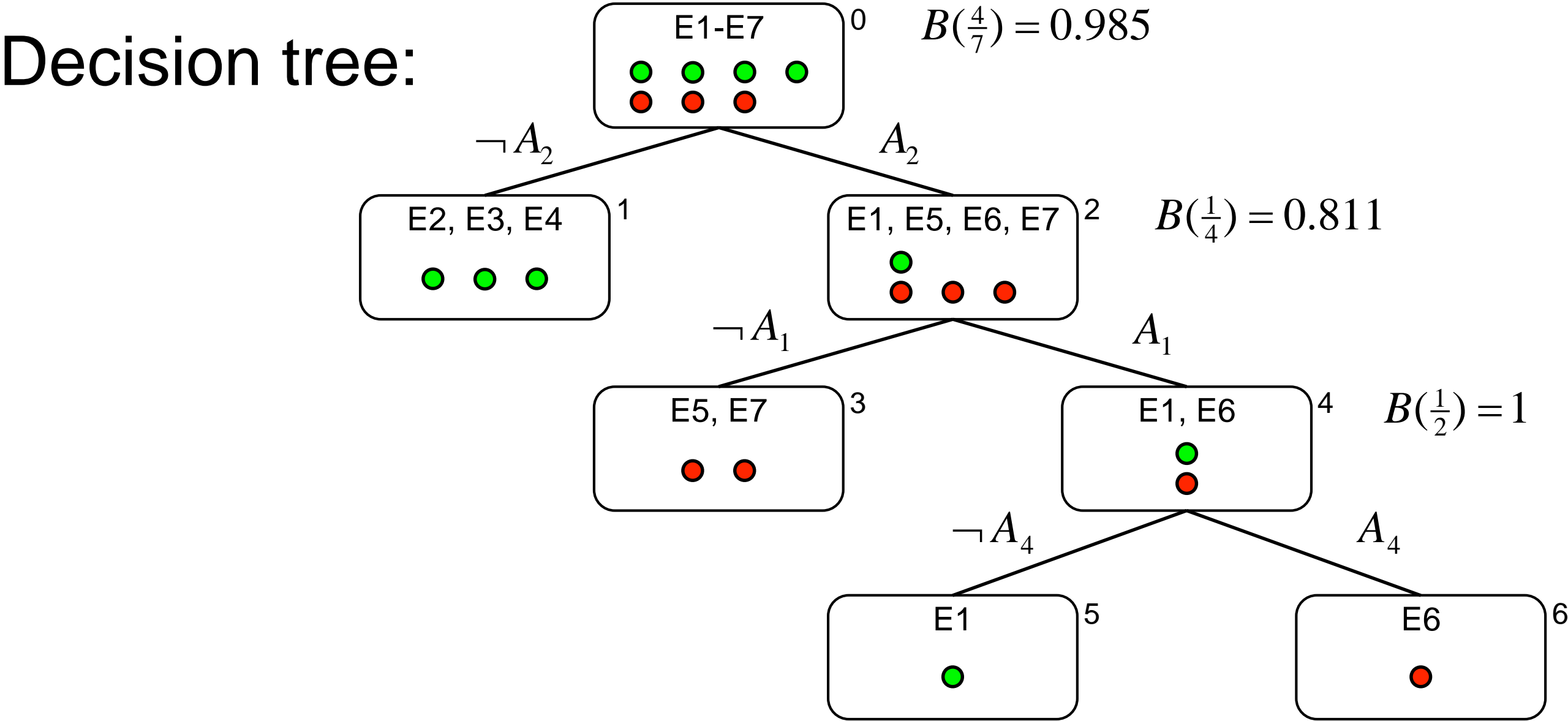
$A_4$  and  $A_5$  are equally good

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0

Decision tree:

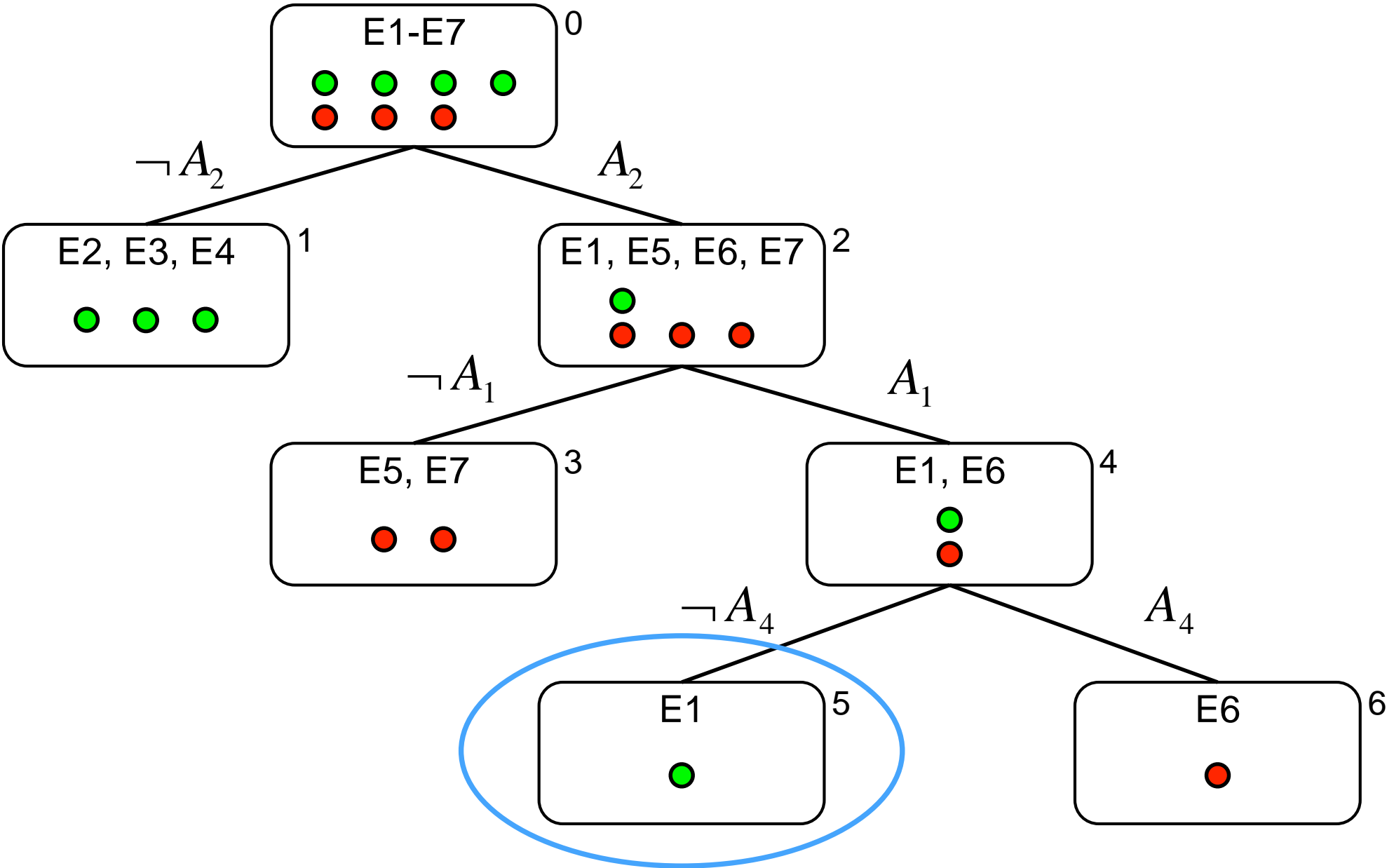


Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	1	0	1
4	1	0	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	0



How does the resulting tree classify:

Example	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	Output
8	1	1	1	0	1	???



$$h(\{1,1,1,0,1\}) = 1$$

# Decision Trees: Overfitting and Pruning



# Decision Tree Overfitting

*A “fully trained” Decision Tree with homogeneous leaves is unlikely to generalize well*

This is because the last few tests before the leaves are based on a very small number of examples (e.g. 2-3)

These tests are fitting the noise in the training dataset, not real patterns in  $f(x)$

# Combating Overfitting

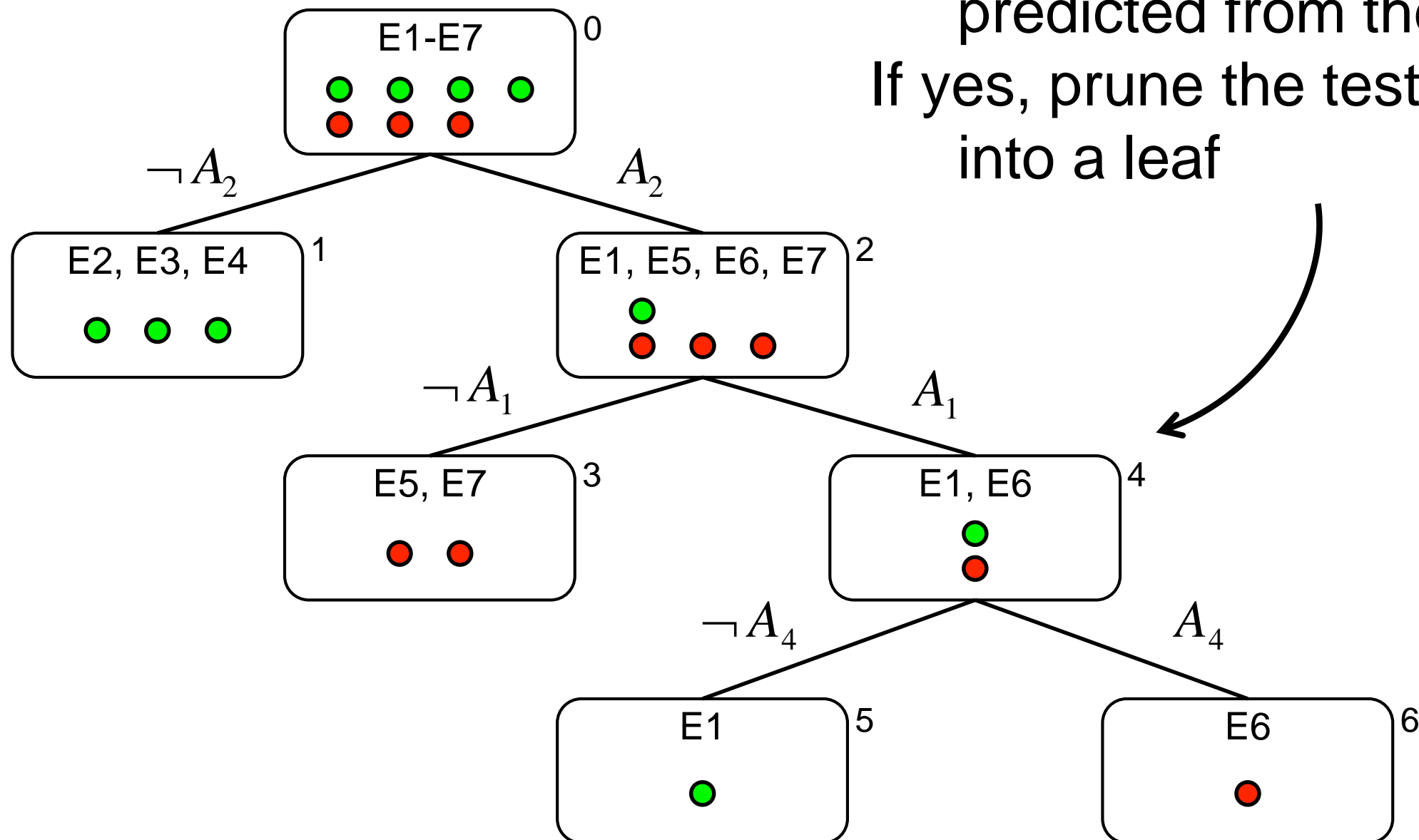
There are two standard solutions:

- *Early Stopping*: Stop splitting before you reach the point of splitting on noise
- *Tree Pruning*: Once the tree is fully-trained, go back and remove nodes which are not relevant (i.e. due to noise)

We will focus on Decision Tree Pruning

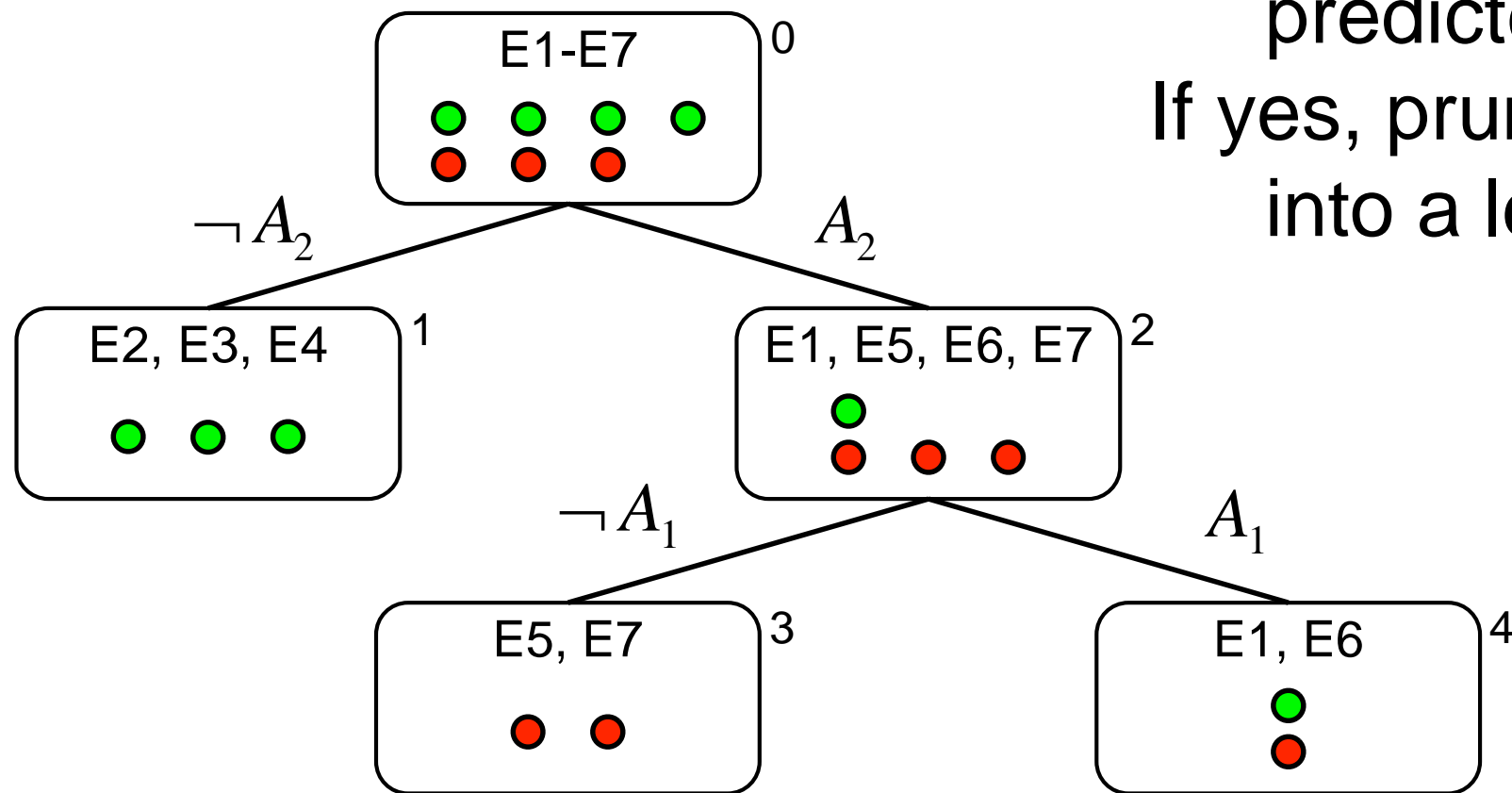
# Pruning

Pick a split whose children are leaves  
Test whether the attribute is irrelevant:  
Can the leaf distributions be  
predicted from the parent?  
If yes, prune the test and make it  
into a leaf



# Pruning

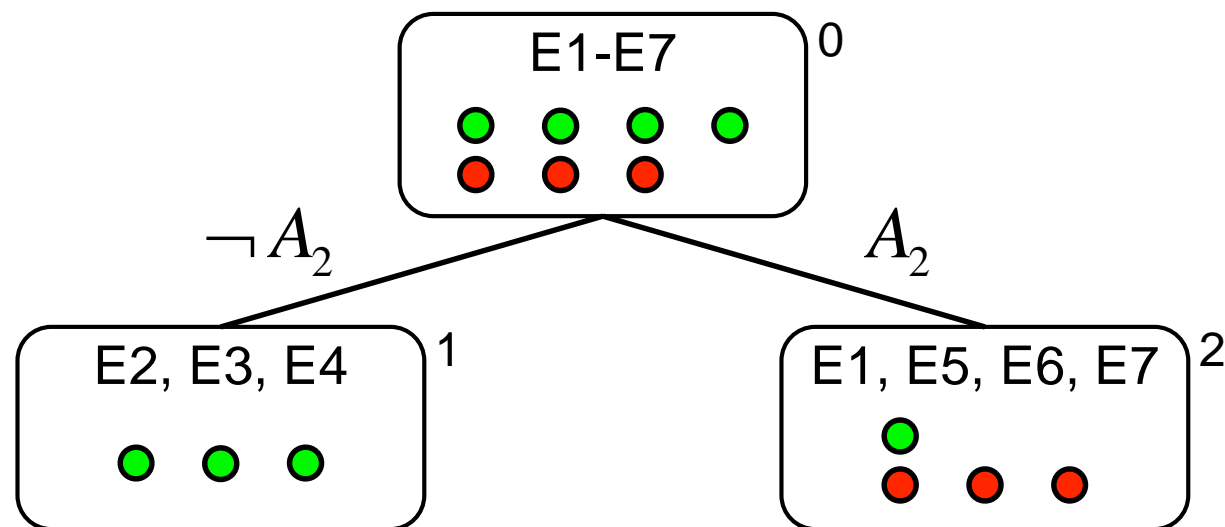
Pick a split whose children are leaves  
Test whether the attribute is irrelevant:  
Can the leaf distributions be  
predicted from the parent?  
If yes, prune the test and make it  
into a leaf



After pruning, the leaves are gone and the  
base node becomes the new leaf.

# Pruning

Pick a split whose children are leaves  
Test whether the attribute is irrelevant:  
Can the leaf distributions be  
predicted from the parent?  
If yes, prune the test and make it  
into a leaf



Pruning can be continued iteratively, as new  
leaves are created

$$h_2(x) = \arg \max \left\{ \frac{3}{3+1}, \frac{1}{1+3} \right\} = 0$$

# Test for Irrelevant Attributes

Test whether the data distribution in the leaves can be predicted from the parent

Use Chi-Squared test

- Predict the distribution at leaf  $k$

$$\hat{p}_k = p_0 \frac{p_k + n_k}{p_0 + n_0} \quad \hat{n}_k = n_0 \frac{p_k + n_k}{p_0 + n_0}$$

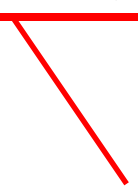
# Test for Irrelevant Attributes

Test whether the data distribution in the leaves can be predicted from the parent

Use Chi-Squared test

– Predict the distribution at leaf  $k$

$$\hat{p}_k = p_0 \frac{p_k + n_k}{p_0 + n_0} \quad \hat{n}_k = n_0 \frac{p_k + n_k}{p_0 + n_0}$$



Proportion of examples in parent node  
which follow branch  $k$

# Test for Irrelevant Attributes

Test whether the data distribution in the leaves can be predicted from the parent

Use Chi-Squared test

- Predict the distribution at leaf  $k$

$$\hat{p}_k = p_0 \frac{p_k + n_k}{p_0 + n_0} \quad \hat{n}_k = n_0 \frac{p_k + n_k}{p_0 + n_0}$$

Proportion of examples in parent node  
which follow branch  $k$

Number of positive examples  
in parent node

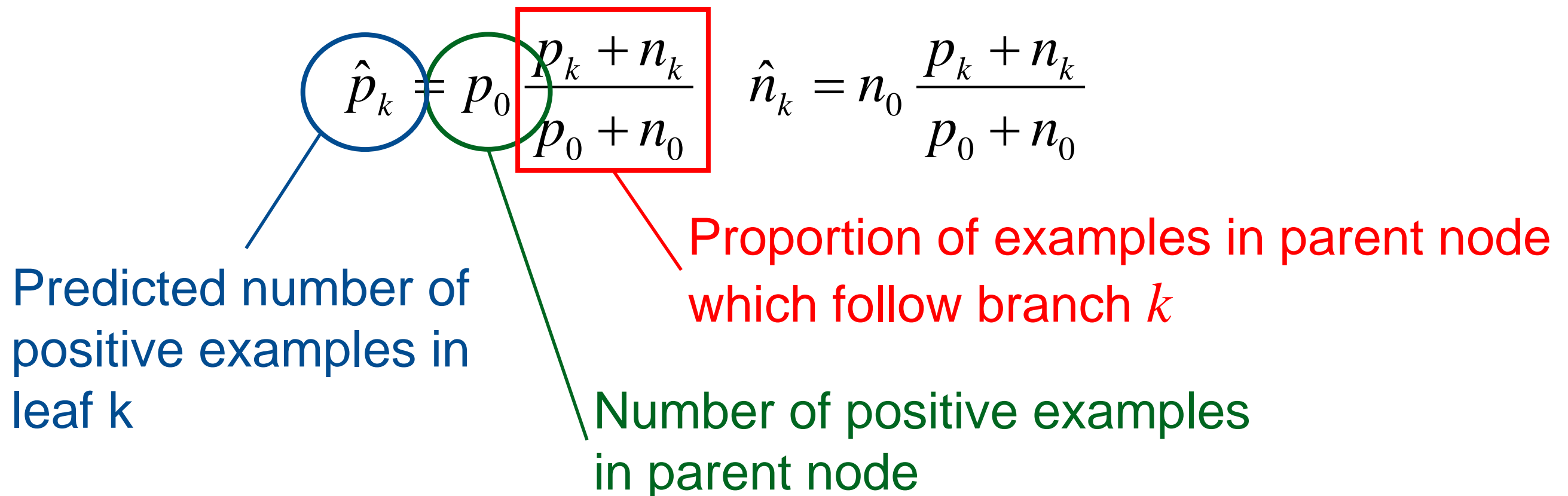


# Test for Irrelevant Attributes

Test whether the data distribution in the leaves can be predicted from the parent

Use Chi-Squared test

– Predict the distribution at leaf  $k$



# Test for Irrelevant Attributes

Test whether the data distribution in the leaves can be predicted from the parent

Use Chi-Squared test

- Predict the distribution at leaf  $k$

$$\hat{p}_k = p_0 \frac{p_k + n_k}{p_0 + n_0} \quad \hat{n}_k = n_0 \frac{p_k + n_k}{p_0 + n_0}$$

- Calculate error statistic

$$\Delta = \sum_{k=1}^{d_i} \frac{(p_k - \hat{p}_k)^2}{\hat{p}_k} + \frac{(n_k - \hat{n}_k)^2}{\hat{n}_k}$$

- Accept or reject the null hypothesis at a desired significance level (e.g. 5%)

# Chi-Squared Test

Use a Chi-Square distribution with  $d_i - 1$  degrees of freedom (one less than # of attribute values)

Based on desired significance level (e.g. 5%)  
look-up threshold  $T$  on the statistic

Test for pruning:

If  $\Delta \leq T$ , accept null hypothesis and prune the test