

# Decision trees and Random Forests

AI for ecologists

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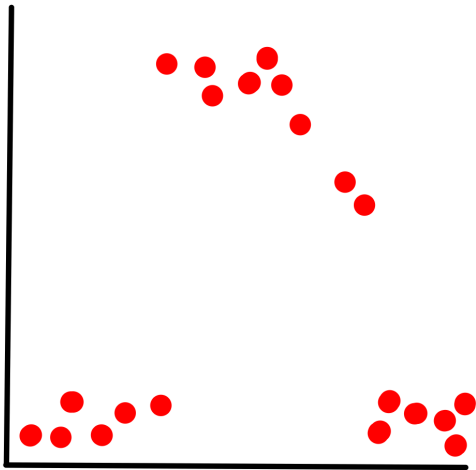
Paul Tresson

20/05/25

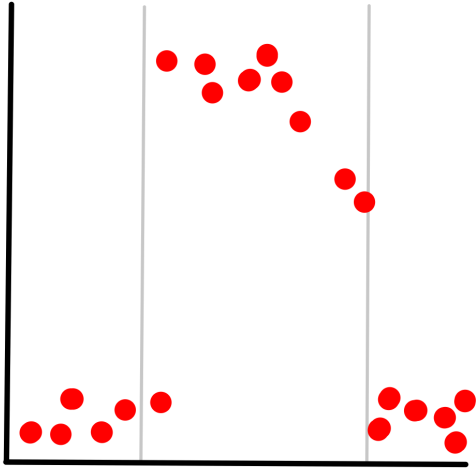
# Introduction

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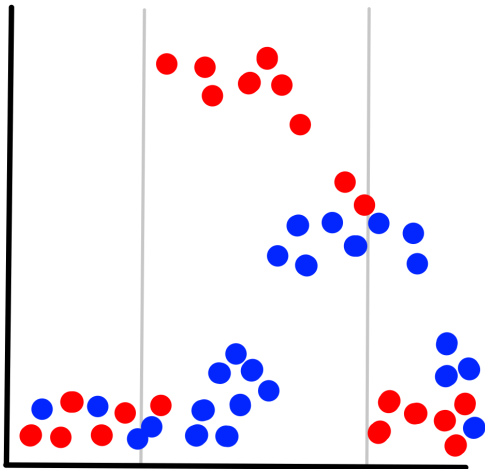
# Motivation



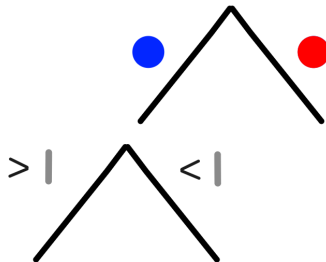
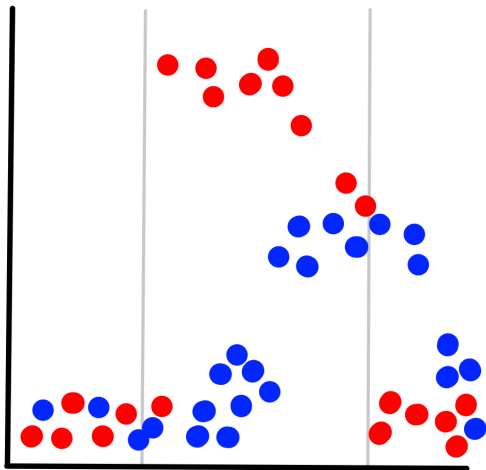
# Motivation



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# Motivation



# Decision Trees

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## Simple example

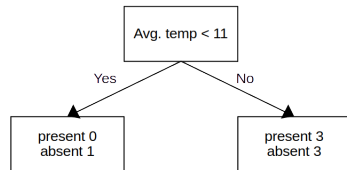
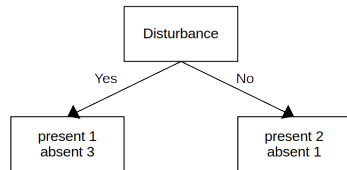
Disturbance	Habitat	Avg. temp.	Presence
Yes	Shrubs	10	0
Yes	Forests	12	0
No	Shrubs	18	1
No	Shrubs	25	1
Yes	Shrubs	28	1
Yes	Forests	30	0
No	Forests	33	0

Adapted from StatQuest



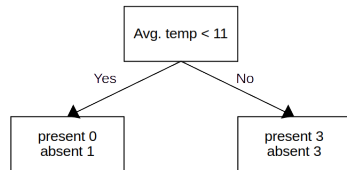
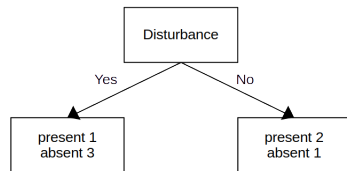
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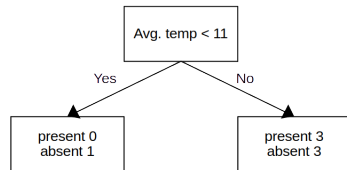
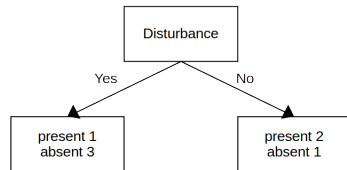
# Gini impurity

$$\sum_{i=1}^J \left( p_i \sum_{k \neq i} p_k \right) = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^J p_i^2$$



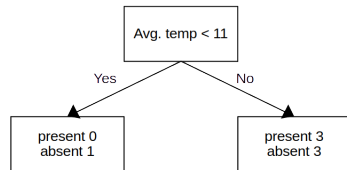
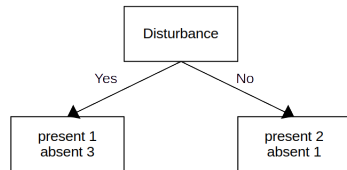
# Gini impurity

$$1 - \left(\frac{1}{1+3}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{3}{1+3}\right)^2 = 0.375$$



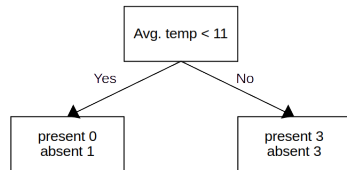
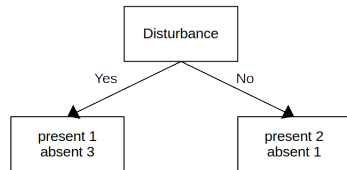
# Gini impurity

$$\text{Leaf Gini} = \left(\frac{4}{4+3}\right)0.375$$



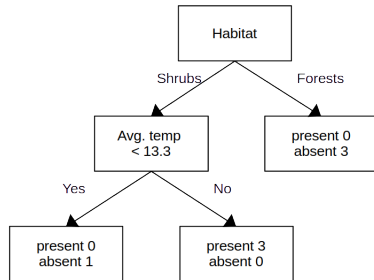
# Gini impurity

$$1 - \left(\frac{0}{0+1}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{1}{0+1}\right)^2 = 0$$

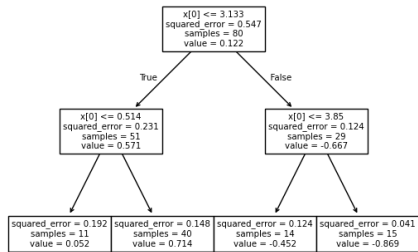
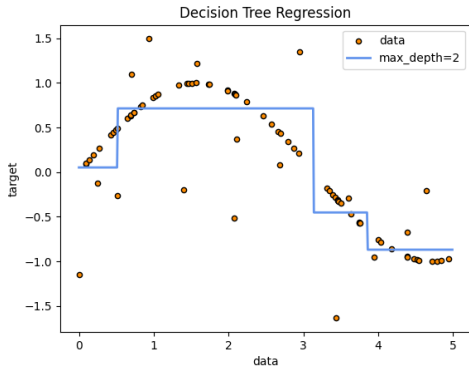


# Building the tree

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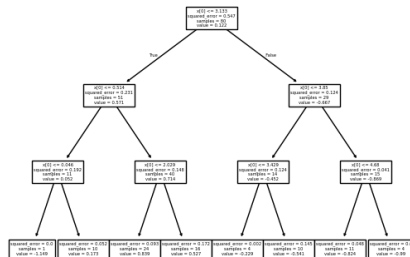
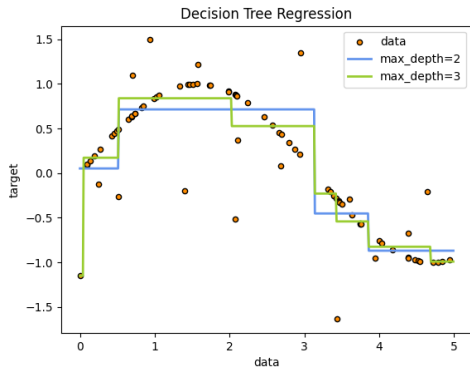


# Regression trees



Adapted from sklearn documentation

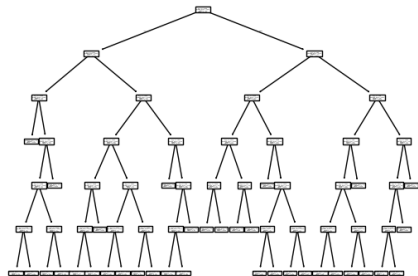
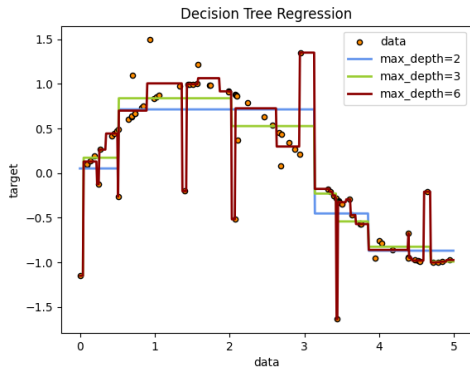
# Regression trees



Adapted from sklearn documentation



# Regression trees



Adapted from sklearn documentation

# Regression trees

Non-linear data, multiple outputs !

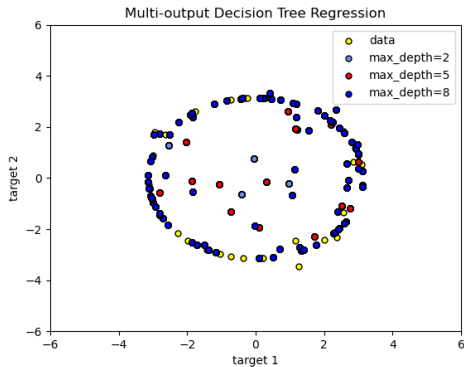


Figure from sklearn documentation

# Random Forests

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# Main idea

Why not several trees ?

# Boostraping

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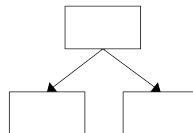


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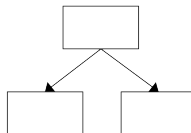
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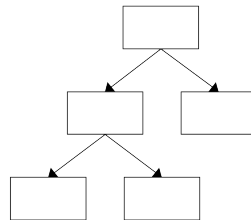
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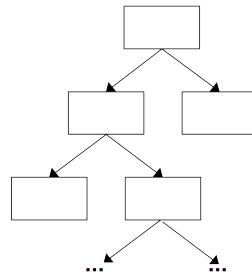
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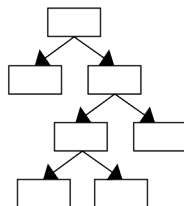
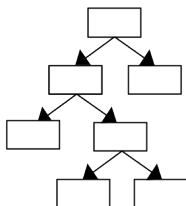
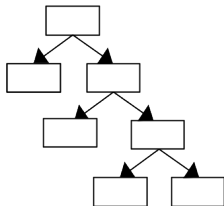
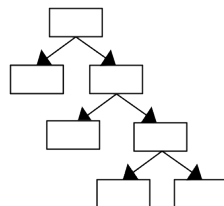
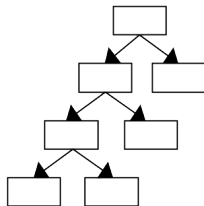
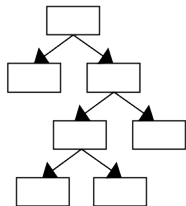


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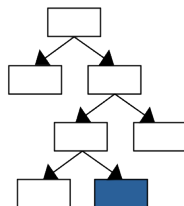
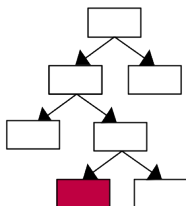
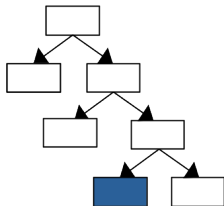
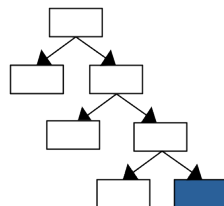
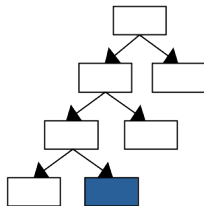
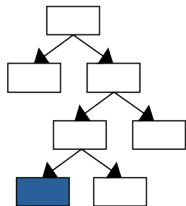
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# Building a Forest



## Using the Forest



## RF advantages

- different inputs



## RF advantages

- different inputs
- different outputs

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- different inputs
- different outputs
- $\approx$  explainable

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- different inputs
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- pretty easy to fit

## RF advantages

- different inputs
  - different outputs
  - $\approx$  explainable
  - pretty easy to fit
- **seasoned and reliable**

## RF drawbacks

- need to test hyper-parameters

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- **need to test hyper-parameters**

How many trees ? how many subsets ? what depth ?

## RF drawbacks

- **need to test hyper-parameters**

How many trees ? how many subsets ? what depth ?

- **need for rich descriptors**

## Decendants and variants

- Adaboost
- Gradient Boosting
- XGBoost
- ...



## Usefull ressources

- `scikit-learn` docs !
- StatQuest

**Thanks for you attention !**