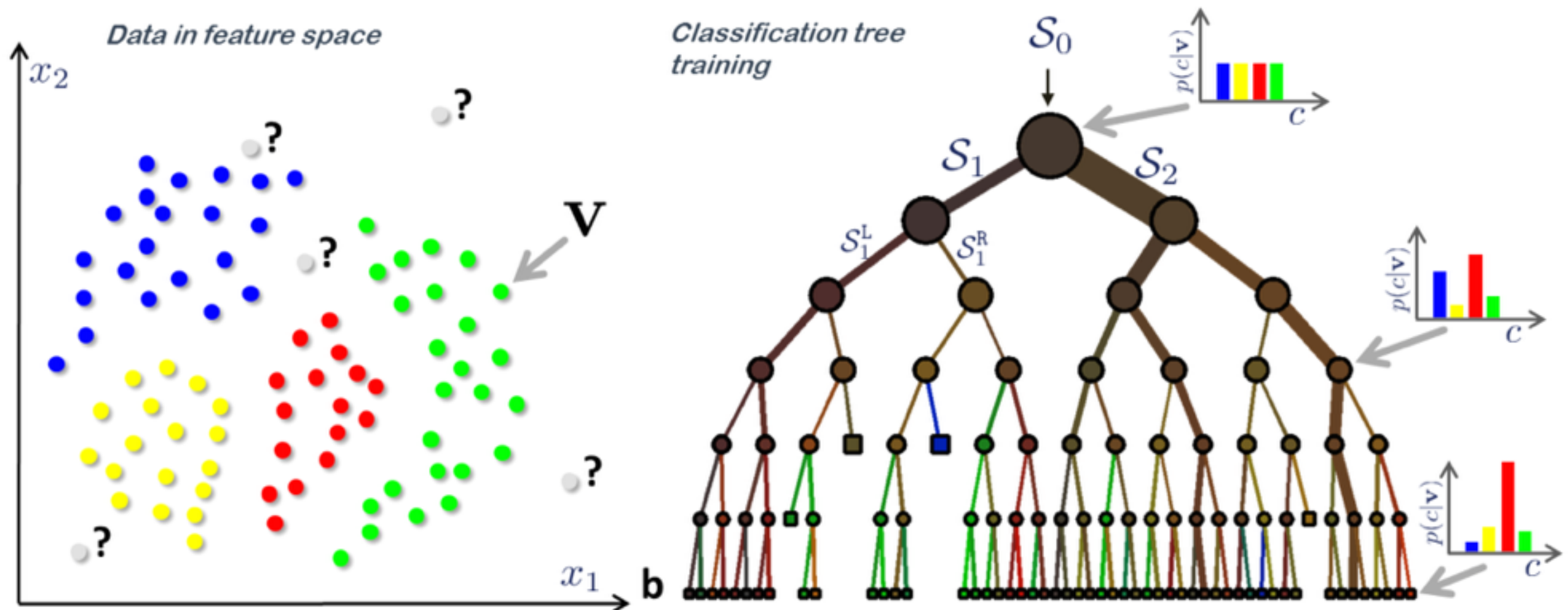


Random Forests

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CDS 2015 | PGDBA | 9 Oct 2015

Classification Tree



Information Gain

Information Gain = Parent Entropy — E(Child Entropy)

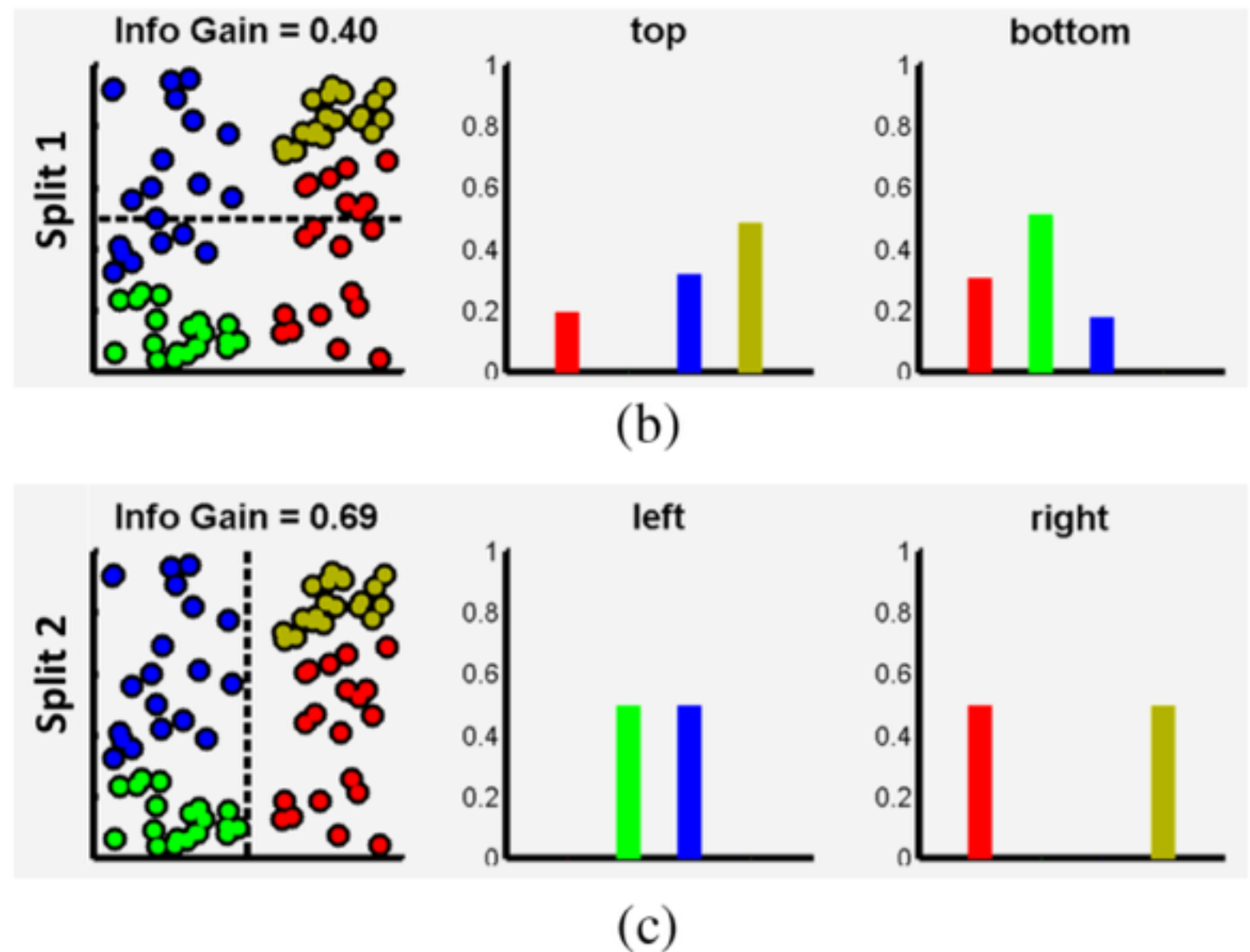
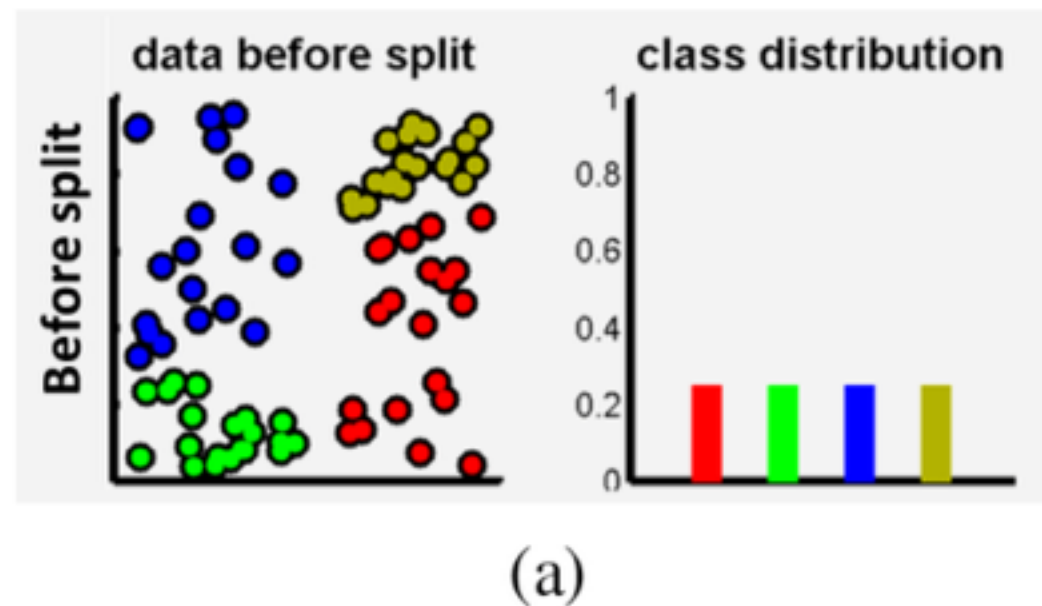
$$I = H(\mathcal{S}) - \sum_{i \in \{L, R\}} \frac{|\mathcal{S}^i|}{|\mathcal{S}|} H(\mathcal{S}^i)$$

One notion of entropy is that of Shannon Entropy

$$H(\mathcal{S}) = - \sum_{c \in \mathcal{C}} p(c) \log(p(c))$$

Choosing Split

$$\theta_j^* = \arg \max_{\theta_j \in \mathcal{T}_j} I_j$$



Random Tree

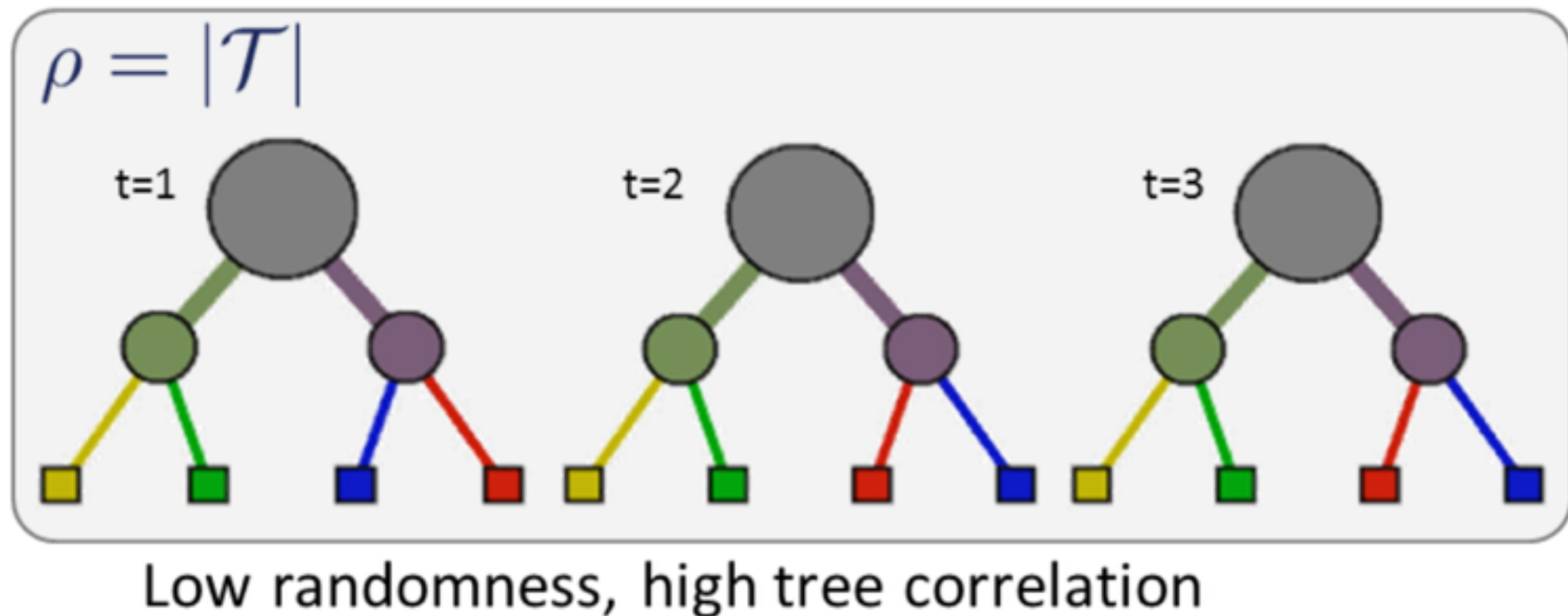
First Source of Randomness : Training Features

Option 1 : Choose all features for splitting every node

Random Tree

First Source of Randomness : Training Features

Option 1 : Choose all features for splitting every node



Random Tree

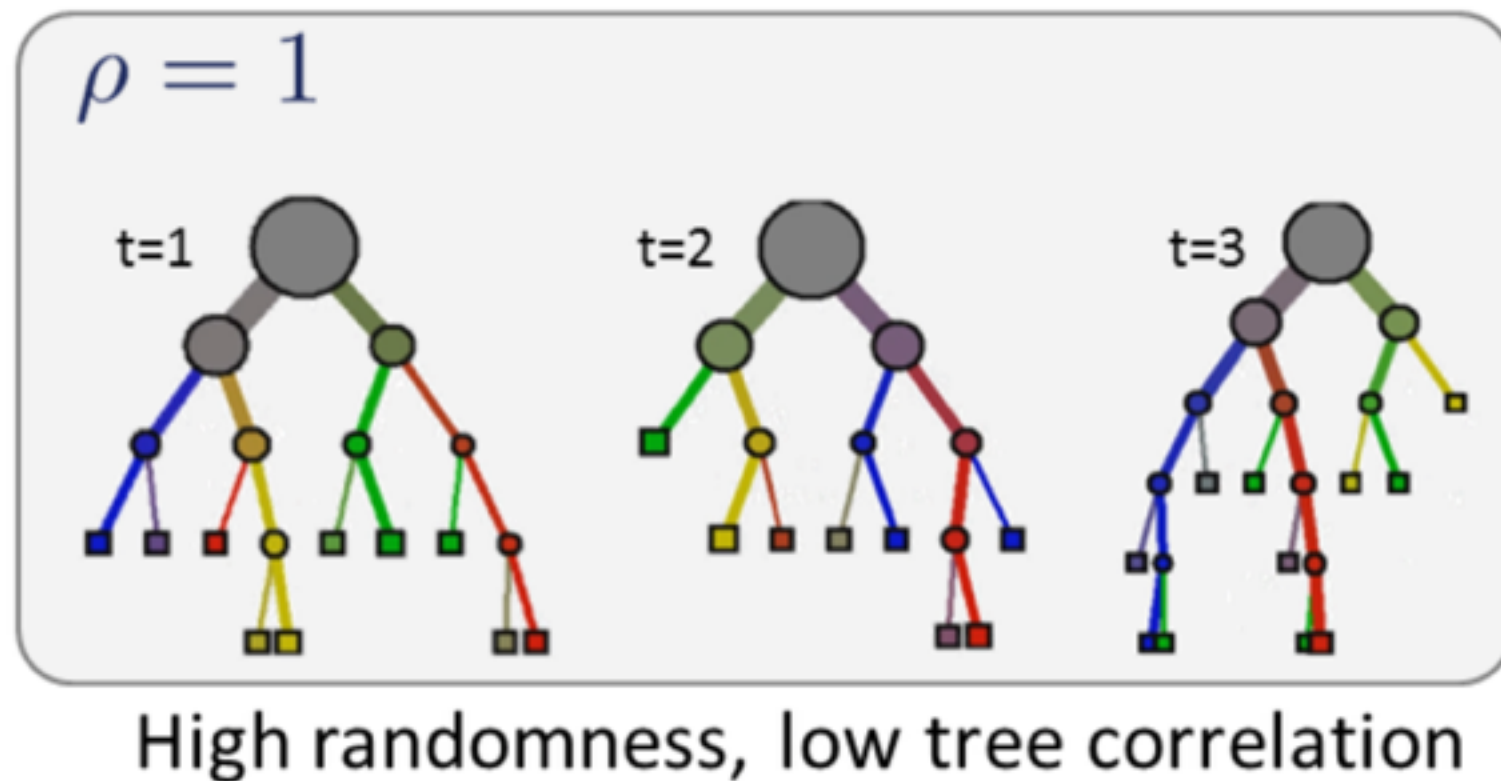
First Source of Randomness : Training Features

Option 2 : Choose one feature for splitting every node

Random Tree

First Source of Randomness : Training Features

Option 2 : Choose one feature for splitting every node



Random Tree

Second Source of Randomness : Training Data

Option 1 : Choose all observations to train each tree

Option 2 : Choose “some” observations for training

Independent subsets ensure independent training
Bootstrapping — Drawing random subsets of data

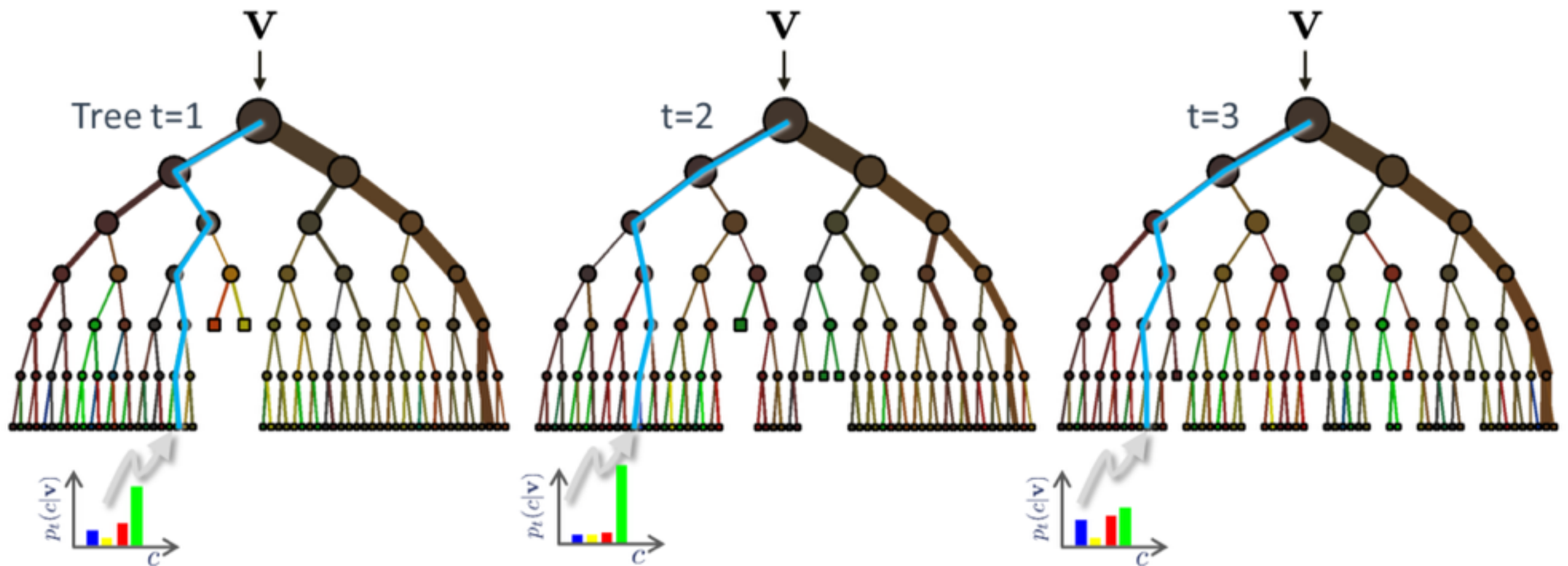
Central Idea: **Bootstrap aggregating** (Bagging)

Random Forest

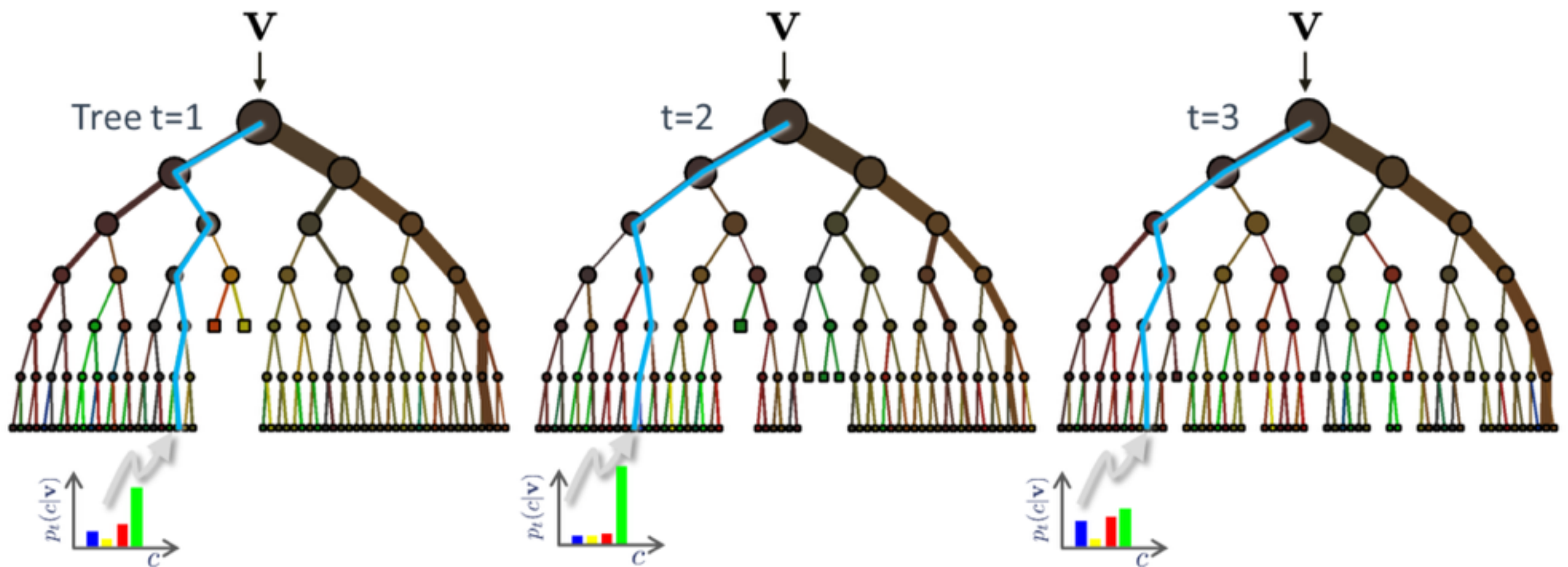
Sources of Randomness : Training Data and Features

1. For $b = 1$ to B :
 - (a) Draw a bootstrap sample \mathbf{Z}^* of size N from the training data.
 - (b) Grow a random-forest tree T_b to the bootstrapped data, by recursively repeating the following steps for each terminal node of the tree, until the minimum node size n_{min} is reached.
 - i. Select m variables at random from the p variables.
 - ii. Pick the best variable/split-point among the m .
 - iii. Split the node into two daughter nodes.
2. Output the ensemble of trees $\{T_b\}_1^B$.

Random Forest



Random Forest



Aggregate the outputs of individual decision trees:

$$p(c|\mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T p_t(c|\mathbf{v})$$

Important Parameters

The size of the forest, i.e., number of trees

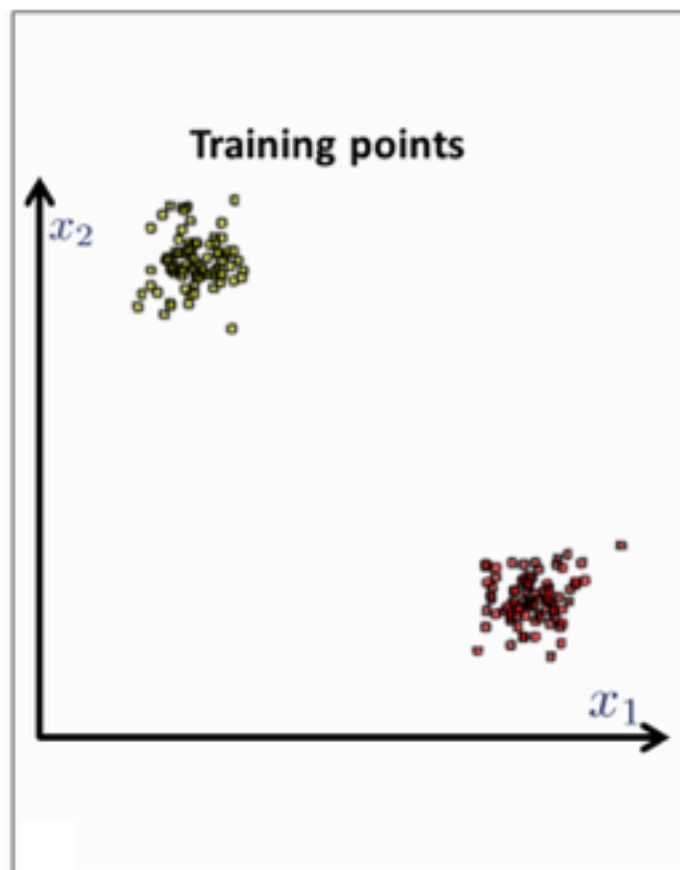
The maximum allowed depth for each tree

The amount of randomness between trees

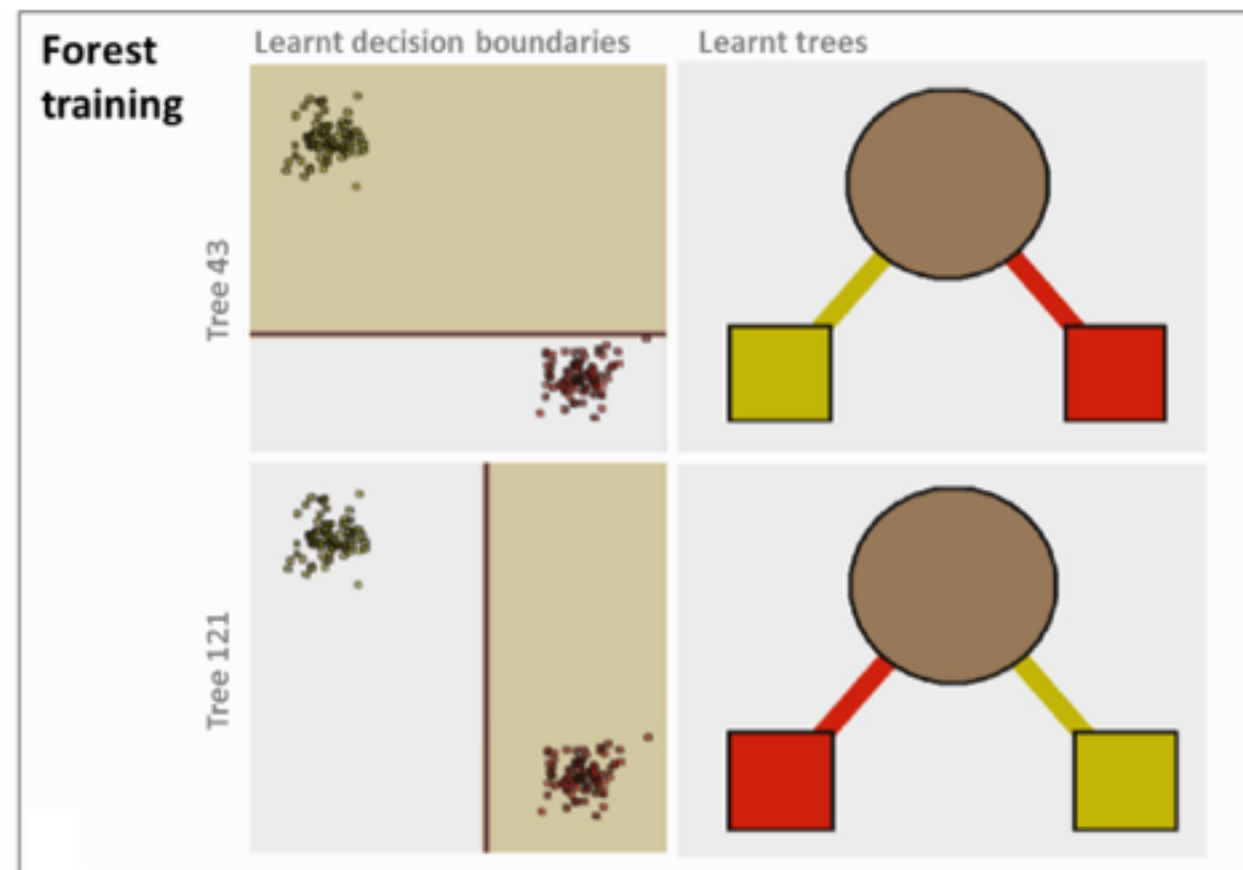
The weak learner model used for each tree

The training objective function for each tree

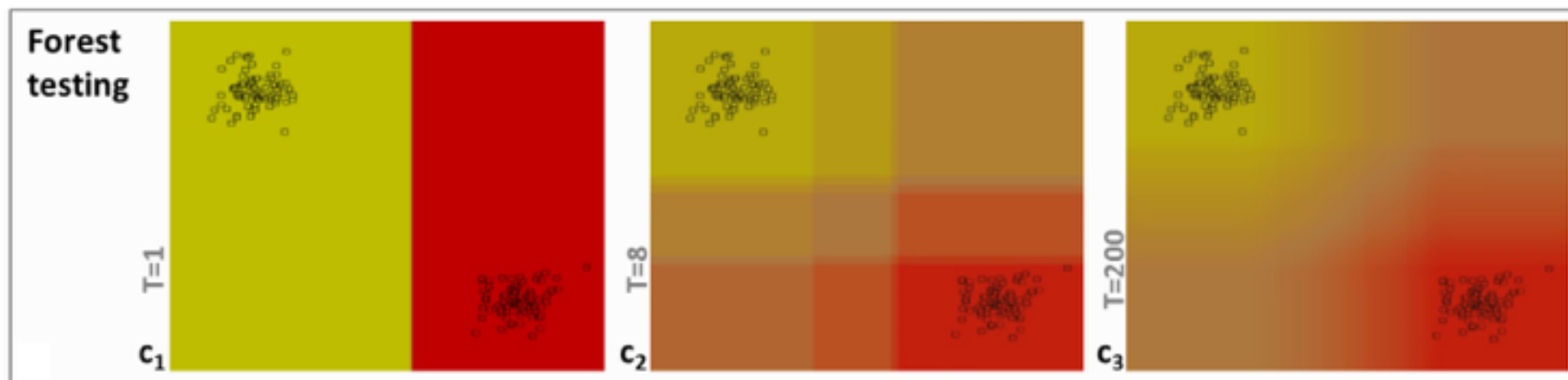
Effect of Forest Size



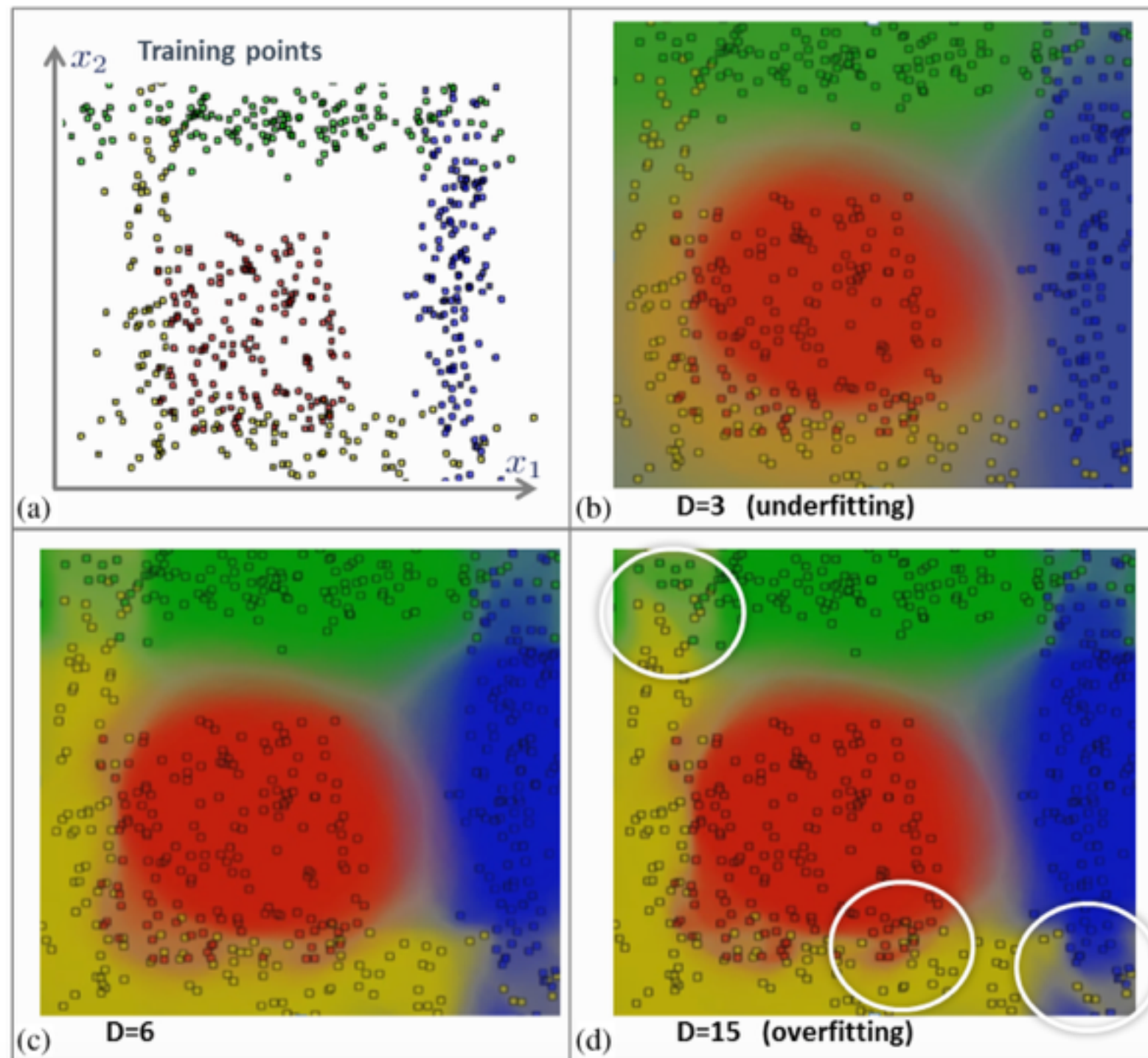
(a)



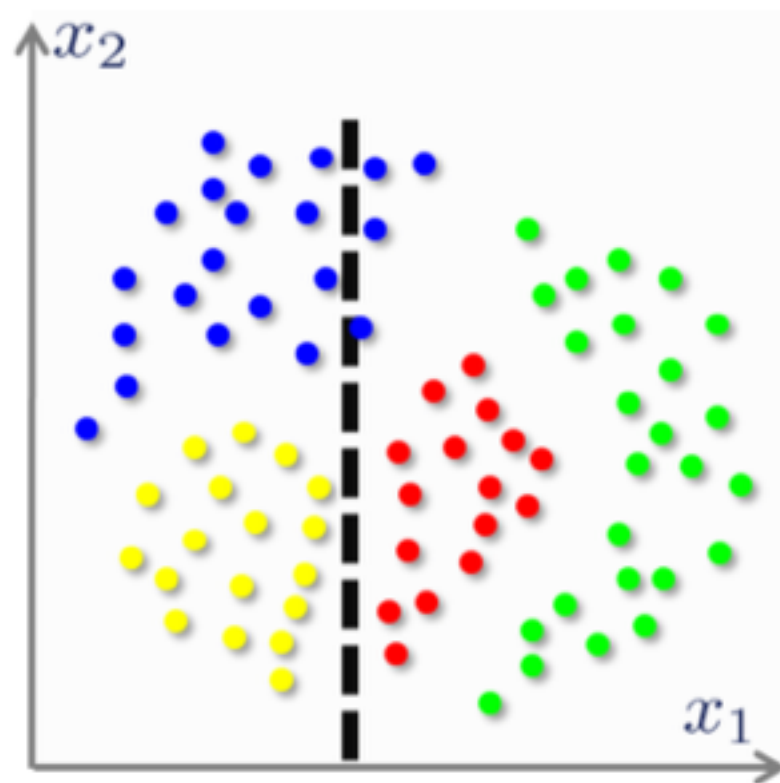
(b)



Effect of Tree Depth

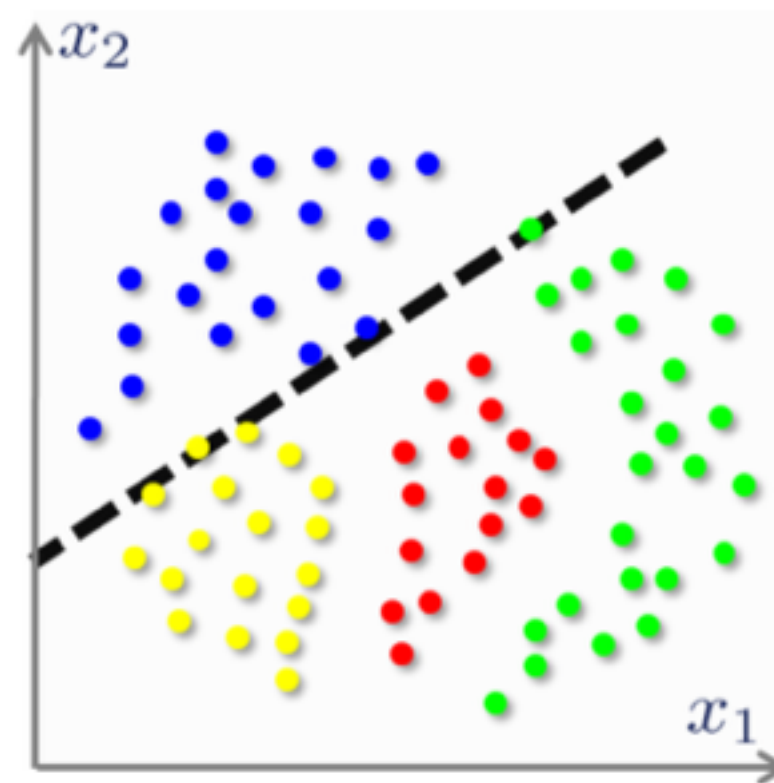


Weak Learner Model



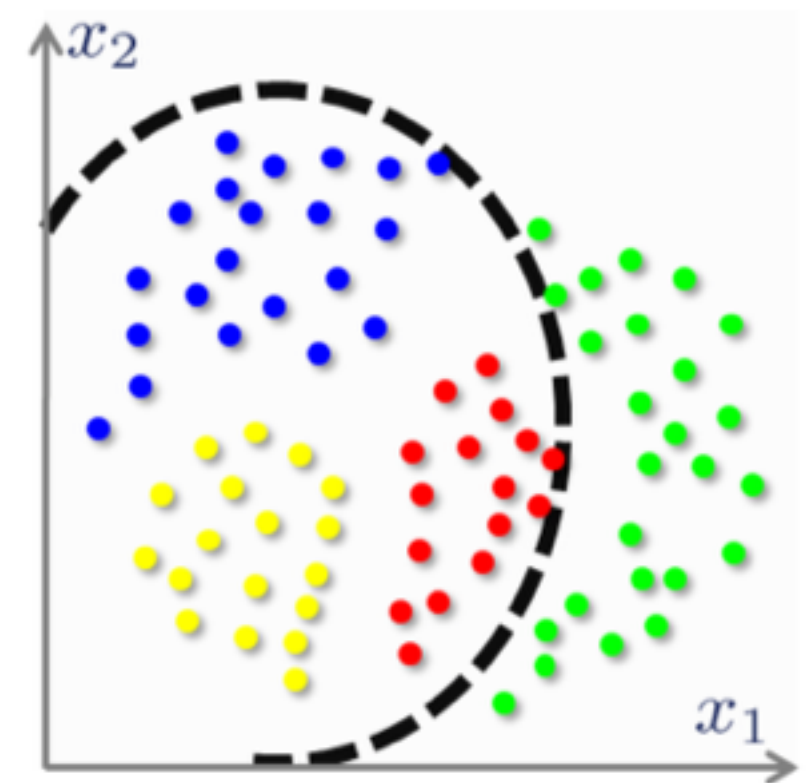
(a)

Axis-aligned Hyperplane



(b)

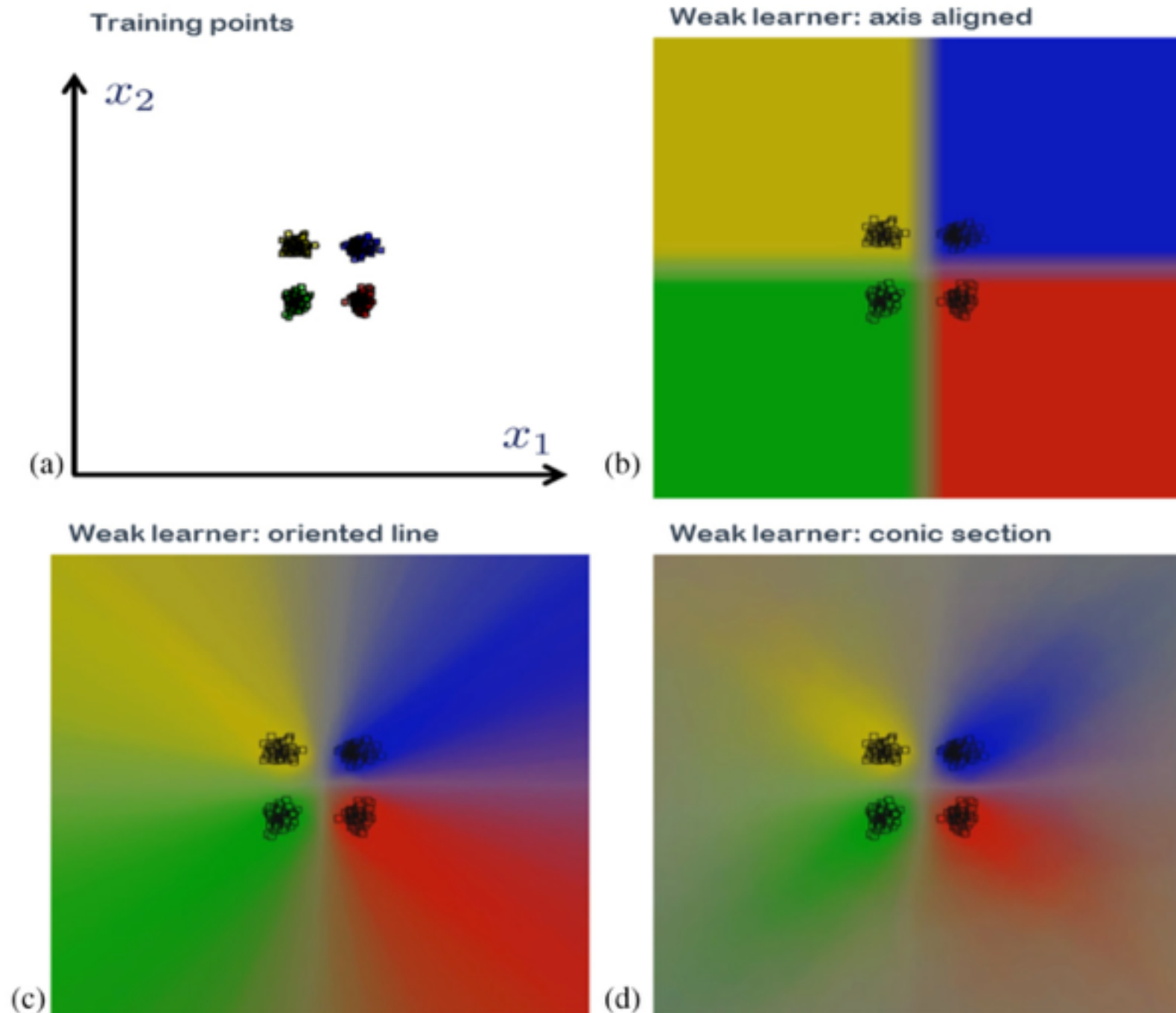
General oriented Hyperplane



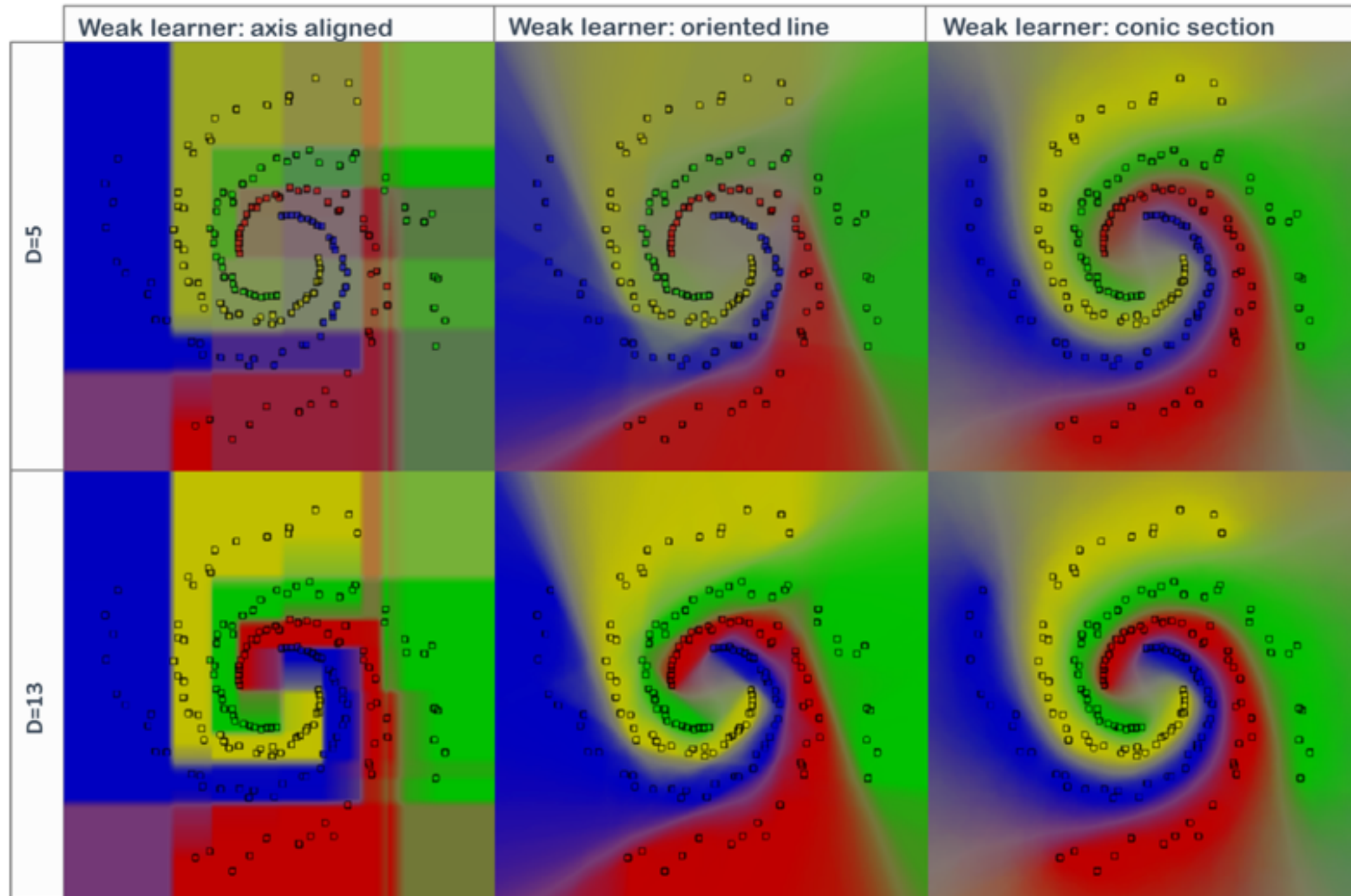
(c)

Quadratic/Conic in 2D

Effect of Weak Learner



Effect of Weak Learner



Important Parameters

The size of the forest, i.e., number of trees

The maximum allowed depth for each tree

The amount of randomness between trees

The weak learner model used for each tree

The training objective function for each tree

Typical choices for randomness:

Bootstrapping for random sampling of observations

Choosing $m = \lceil \sqrt{p} \rceil$ number of random features

Minimum allowed node size is one for classification