



University of Pittsburgh

# ECE 2195: Special Topics – Computers Machine Learning

## Classification Setting – Bayes Classifier and KNN

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# Classification Setting

- The response is **qualitative**
  - $y_i$  belongs to a finite set of possible classes:  $y_i \in C, C = \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ 
    - E.g. spam/not spam:
- Build **classifier** that assigns class label to a future unlabeled observation
- To assess the model accuracy, we typically evaluate the **error rate**
  - **Accuracy = 1 – error rate**
- $\hat{y}_o = \hat{f}(x_o)$  is the **predicted output class**
- **Test error rate** associated with **test** observations  $(x_o, y_o)$ :

$$\text{Average}(I(y_o \neq \hat{y}_o))$$

$I(y_o \neq \hat{y}_o)$  is indicator variable that is equal to 1 when  $y_o \neq \hat{y}_o$ , and zero when  $y_o = \hat{y}_o$

# Classification Setting

- The error rate is minimized by a simple classifier, called **Bayes classifier**
- Bayes classifier assigns each observation to the **most likely class given the feature values**.
  - Assign  $x_0$  to class  $j$  that has **largest**  $Pr(Y=j | X=x_0)$
  - $Pr(Y=j | X=x_0)$  is the *Posterior probability*
  - *Example, spam filter: class label is  $Y=1$  (spam),  $Y=2$  (not spam)*
    - $Pr(Y=1)$  is the probability that  $Y$  is spam email – *Prior probability*
    - $Pr(Y=1|X)$  is the conditional probability that  $Y$  is spam given features of an email, e.g. size of email

# Bayes Classifier – Decision Rule

- Assume two classes  $y=w1$  and  $y=w2$ 
  - **Decide state of nature =  $w1$  IF  $\Pr(w1|x) > \Pr(w2|x)$ ,**
    - **otherwise (o.w.) decide  $w2$**
- Bayes decision rule minimizes the probability of error
  - $\Pr(error|x) = \min[\Pr(w1|x), \Pr(w2|x)]$ 
    - Unconditional error  $\Pr(error)$  is obtained by integration over  $x$

# Bayes Classifier – Decision Rule (Complete Information is available)

- Assume two classes  $y=w_1$  and  $y=w_2$ 
  - **Decide state of nature =  $w_1$  IF  $\Pr(w_1|x) > \Pr(w_2|x)$ ,**
    - **otherwise (o.w.) decide  $w_2$**
- **Special cases**
  1. If priors are equal  $\Pr(w_1) = \Pr(w_2) \rightarrow$  Decide  $w_1$  if  $\Pr(x|w_1) > \Pr(x|w_2)$ ,  
o.w. choose  $w_2$ 
    - **Maximum likelihood**
  2. If  $\Pr(x|w_1) = \Pr(x|w_2)$ ; Decide  $w_1$  if  $\Pr(w_1) > \Pr(w_2)$ , o.w. decide  $w_2$

# Recall Gaussian Distribution

- 1-Dimensional Gaussian

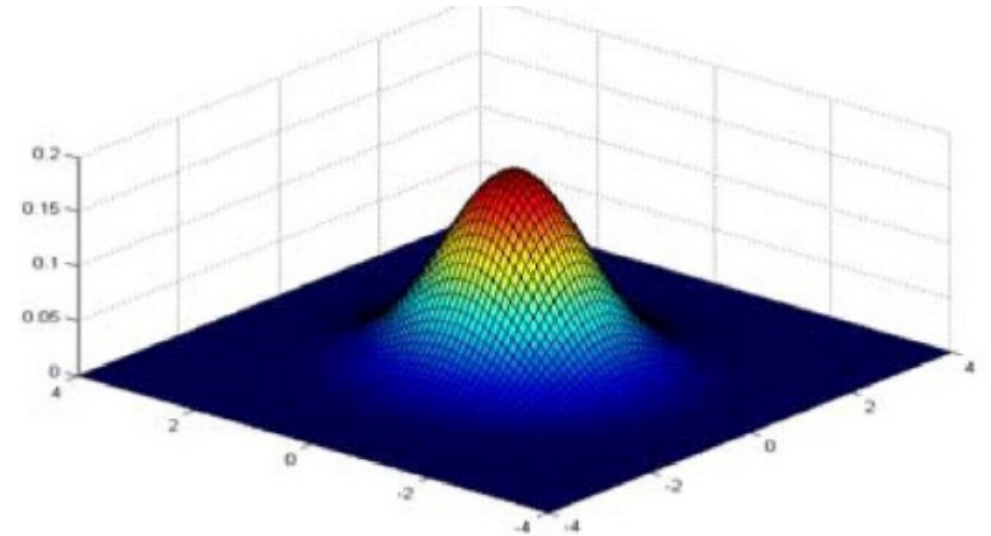
$$p(x|\mu, \sigma) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{1/2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x-\mu)^2}$$

- 2-Dimensional Gaussian

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\mu, \Sigma) = \frac{1}{2\pi|\Sigma|^{1/2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x}-\mu)^T \Sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{x}-\mu)}$$

- D-Dimensional Gaussian

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\mu, \Sigma) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{d/2}|\Sigma|^{1/2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x}-\mu)^T \Sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{x}-\mu)}$$



## Example: One feature

- $P(X|w_1) \sim N(\mu_1, \sigma_1), \quad P(X|w_2) \sim N(\mu_2, \sigma_2)$







# Example: Bayesian decision rule

$$P(X|w_1) \sim N\left(\begin{bmatrix} \mu_{11} \\ \mu_{12} \end{bmatrix}, \Sigma_1\right), P(X|w_2) \sim N\left(\begin{bmatrix} \mu_{21} \\ \mu_{22} \end{bmatrix}, \Sigma_2\right), \text{ and equal priors}$$

# Example: Bayesian Decision Boundary

$$P(X|w_1) \sim N\left(\begin{bmatrix} \mu_{11} \\ \mu_{12} \end{bmatrix}, \Sigma_1\right), P(X|w_2) \sim N\left(\begin{bmatrix} \mu_{21} \\ \mu_{22} \end{bmatrix}, \Sigma_2\right)$$

$$g_1(x) = -\ln(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \ln |\Sigma_1| - \frac{1}{2} (\bar{x} - \bar{\mu}_1)' \Sigma_1^{-1} (\bar{x} - \bar{\mu}_1) = -\ln(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \ln |\Sigma_1| - \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - \mu_{11} & x_2 - \mu_{12} \end{bmatrix} \Sigma_1^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - \mu_{11} \\ x_2 - \mu_{12} \end{bmatrix}$$

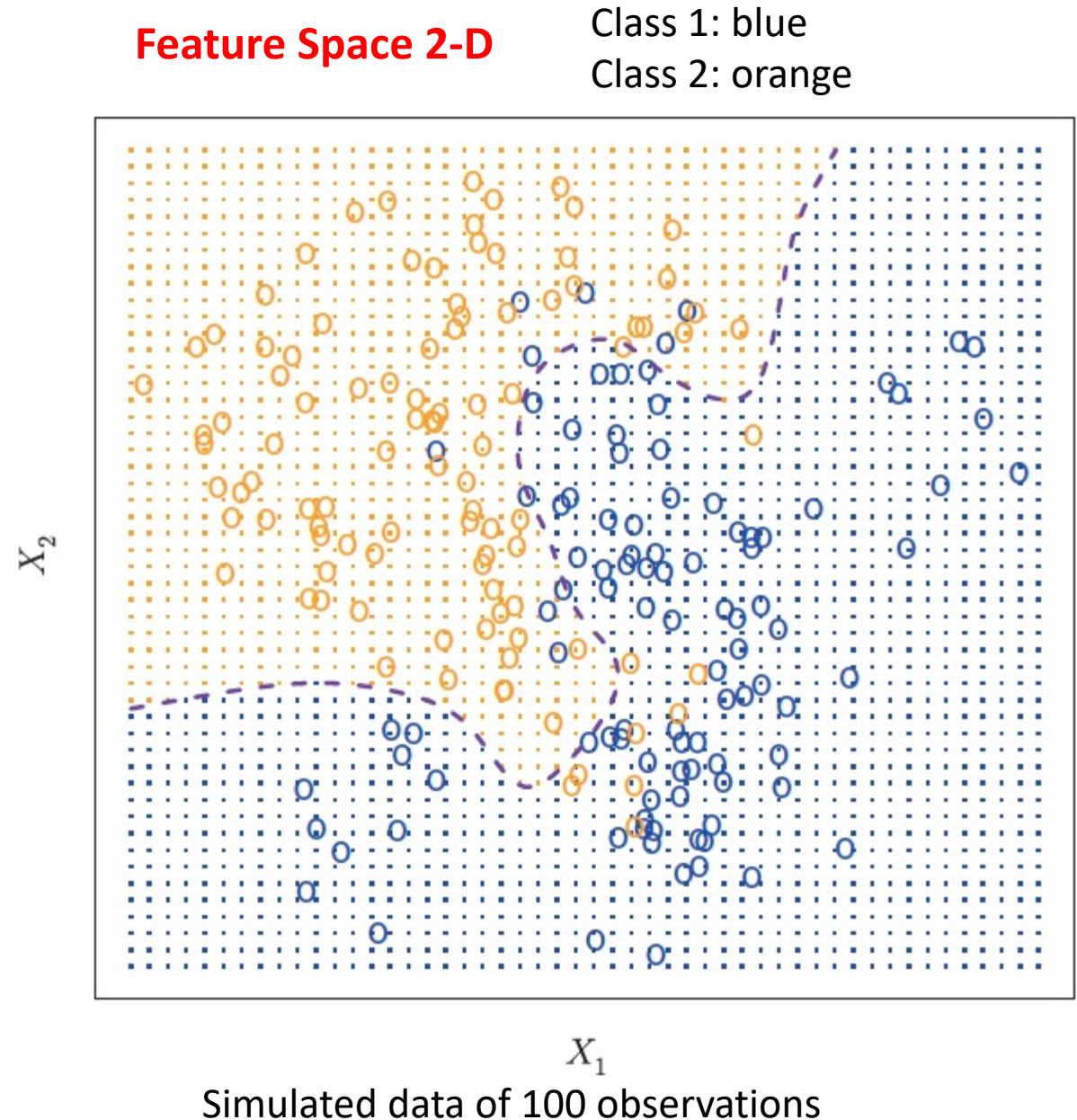
$$g_2(x) = -\ln(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \ln |\Sigma_2| - \frac{1}{2} (\bar{x} - \bar{\mu}_2)' \Sigma_2^{-1} (\bar{x} - \bar{\mu}_2) = -\ln(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \ln |\Sigma_2| - \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - \mu_{21} & x_2 - \mu_{22} \end{bmatrix} \Sigma_2^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - \mu_{21} \\ x_2 - \mu_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

At the boundary  $g_1(x) = g_2(x) \Rightarrow$  function of features

# Bayes Classifier

Figure shows two features of **100** simulated observations of two classes

- For each value of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  there is a probability of each classes
  - Here **conditional distribution is known**
- The dashed line is called **decision boundary**, where the probability is exactly 50%
- Decisions are based on this boundary
  - Each side of the decision boundary belongs to a different class



# K-Nearest Neighbors

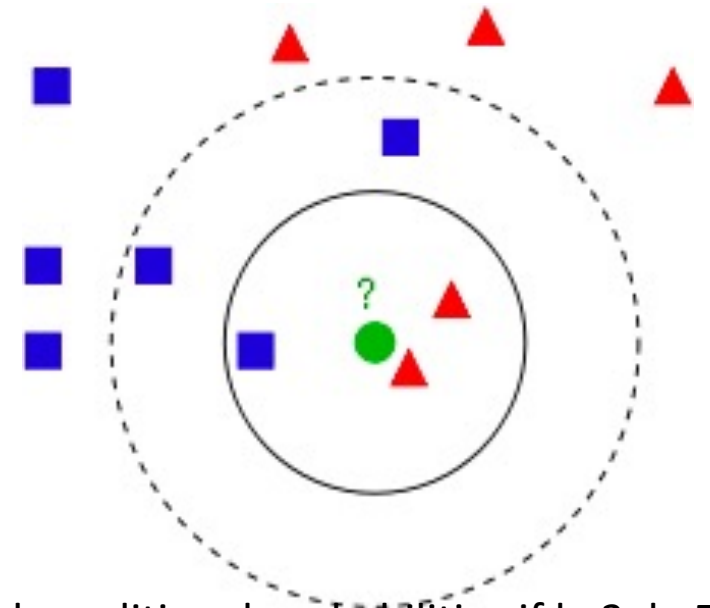
- Bayes classifiers assumes complete information about distribution
- Typically, we do not have the distribution and it is hard to get conditional probabilities
  - We have few points, if any, at each  $X$
- Many methods tries to **estimate the conditional distribution**

# K-Nearest Neighbors

- K-nearest neighbor (KNN):
  - Define a positive integer K
  - For each **test observation  $x_0$** , identify **K points in the training data that are closest to  $x_0$**  referred to as  $\mathcal{N}_0$
  - **Estimate the conditional probability** for class  $j$  as **fraction of points in  $\mathcal{N}_0$  whose label values equal to  $j$**

$$\Pr(Y = j|X = x_0) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_0} I(y_i = j)$$

- Then assign to the class with largest conditional probability
- Decision depends on the choice of K



What is the estimated conditional probabilities if  $k=3$ ,  $k=5$ ?

# K-Nearest Neighbors - Simplified

- For any given test data point, we find the **K closest neighbors** to this point in the **training data**, and examine their corresponding class (y).

- **Euclidean distance** can be used to find close neighbors

- Assume Point 1: with feature vector  $P_1 = \{x_{11}, x_{12}, \dots, x_{1p}\}$

- Point 2, with feature vector  $P_2 = \{x_{21}, x_{22}, \dots, x_{2p}\}$

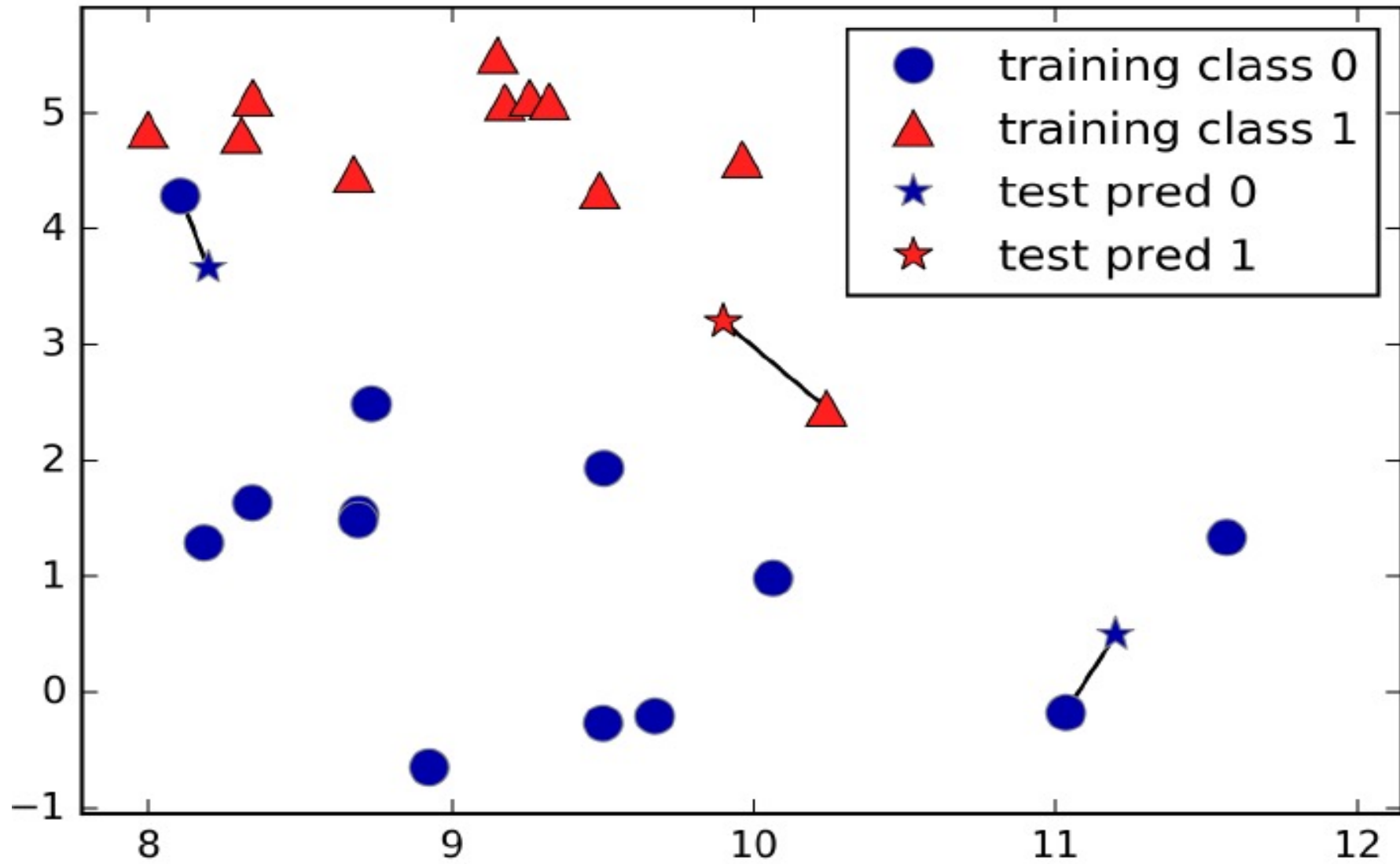
- Then the Euclidean distance between the two samples is:

$$d(P_1, P_2) = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^p (x_{1j} - x_{2j})^2}$$

$x_{ij}$ : the  $j$ th feature of  $i$ th data point

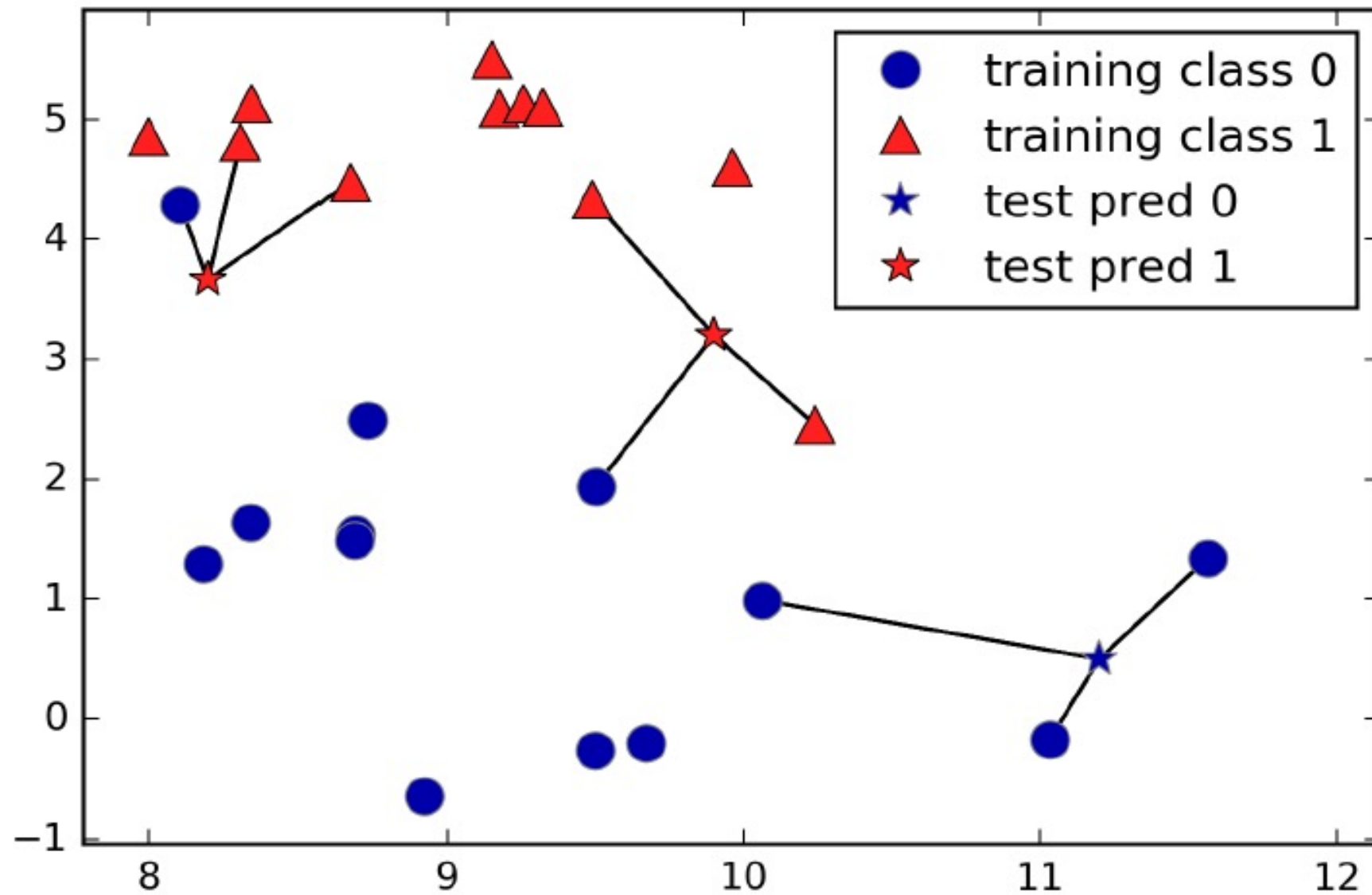
- Assign the data point to class from which **majority of neighbors** belong

# KNN with $K=1$



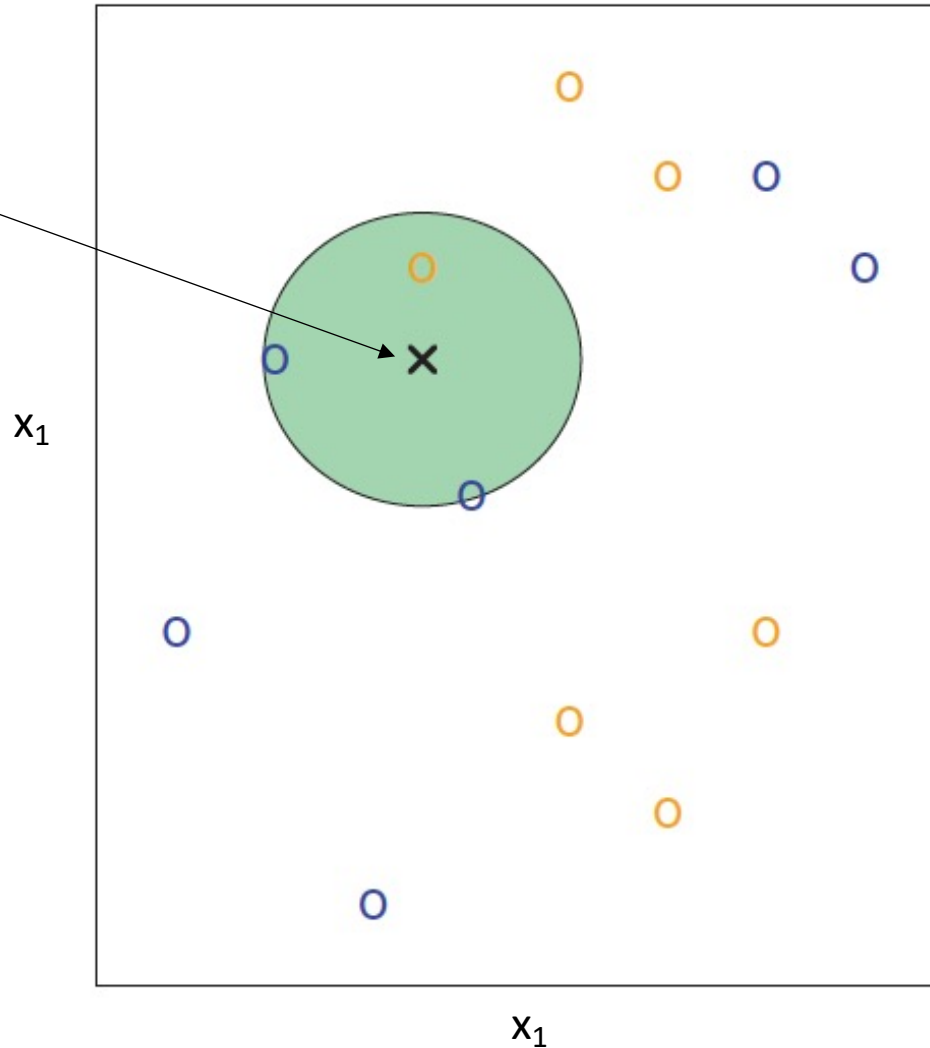


# KNN with $K=3$

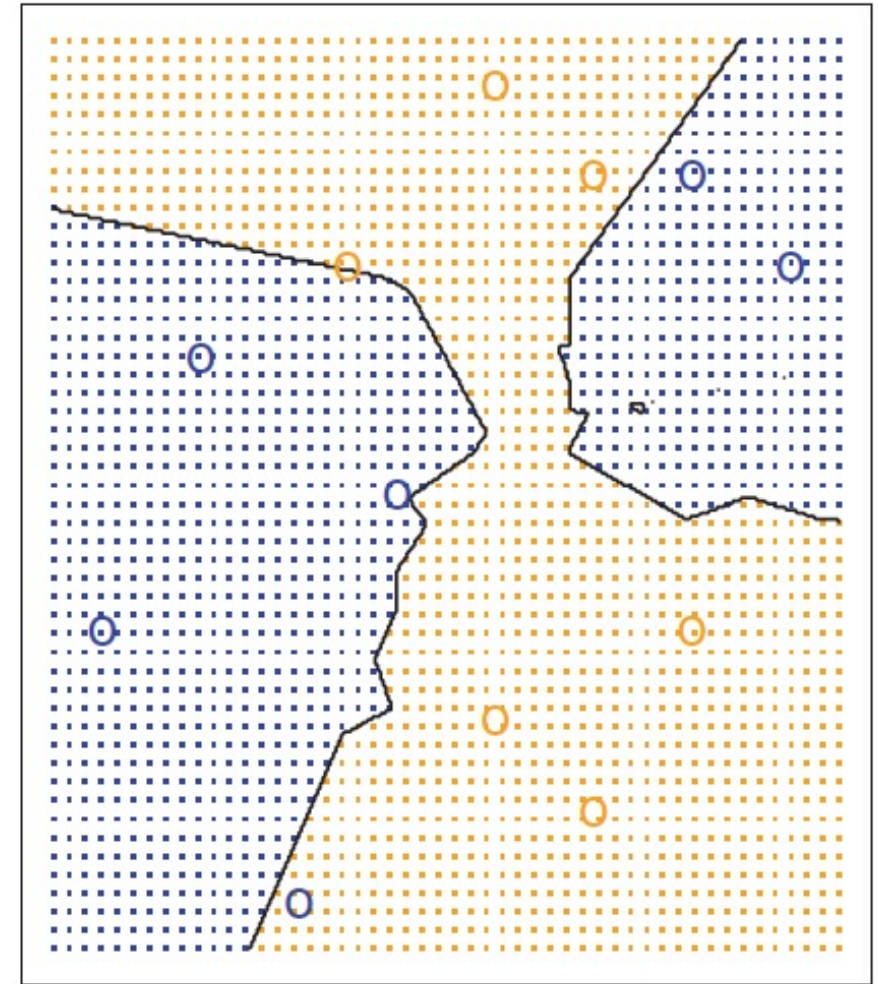


# K= 3, 2-D Feature Space Example

Within the 3 nearest neighbors, two of them belong to the blue class (majority). Thus, we classify  $x$  as blue



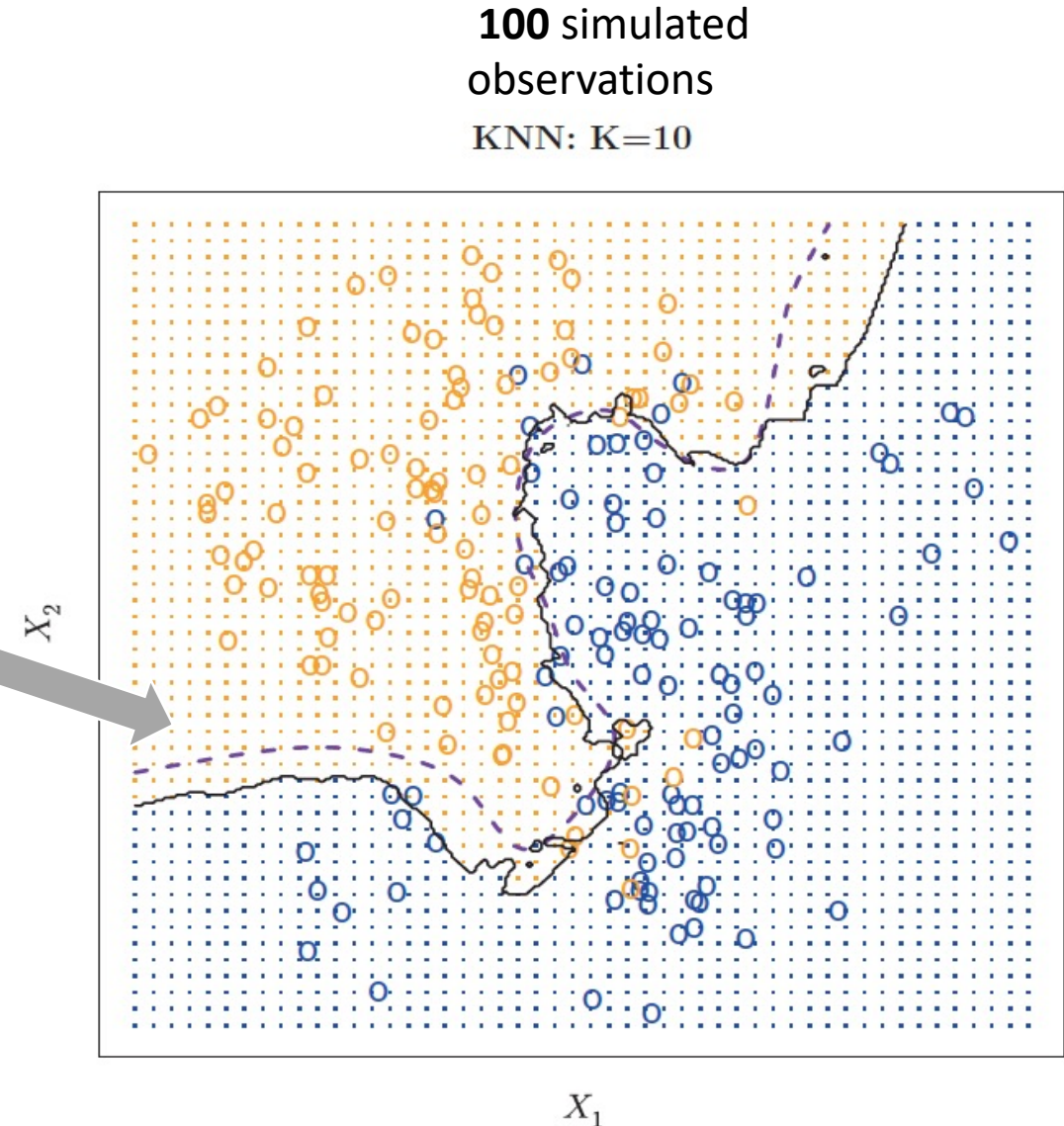
2 classes: blue and orange circle



- KNN is simple, sometimes it is close to the optimal Bayes classifier

- Fig. shows an example of using  $K=10$

Dashed line: Bayes decision boundary  
Solid line: KNN decision boundary



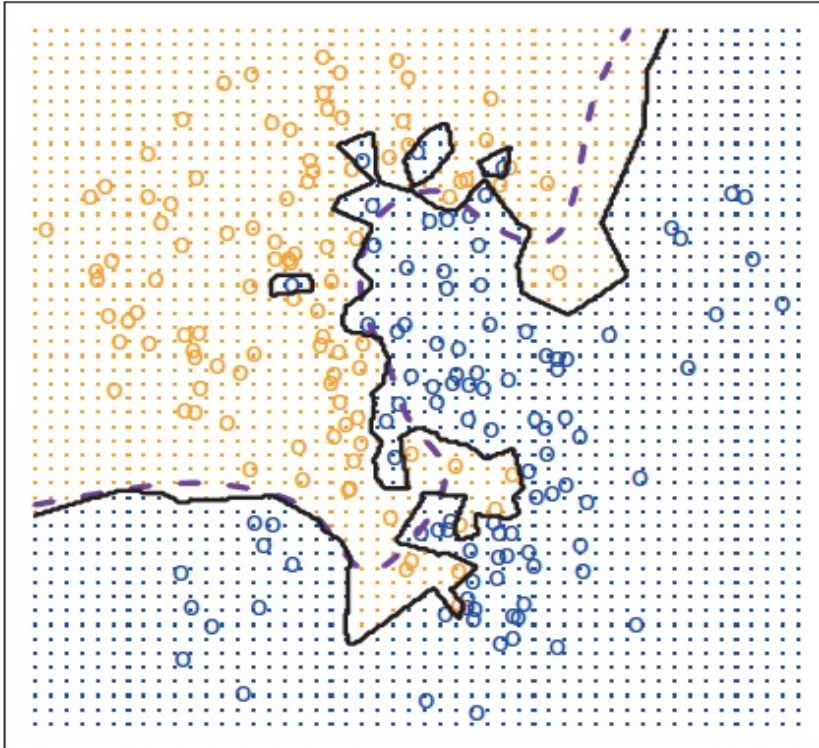


# K-Nearest Neighbors

- Choice of  $K$  has huge impact on the performance
  - Bias-variance trade-off applies

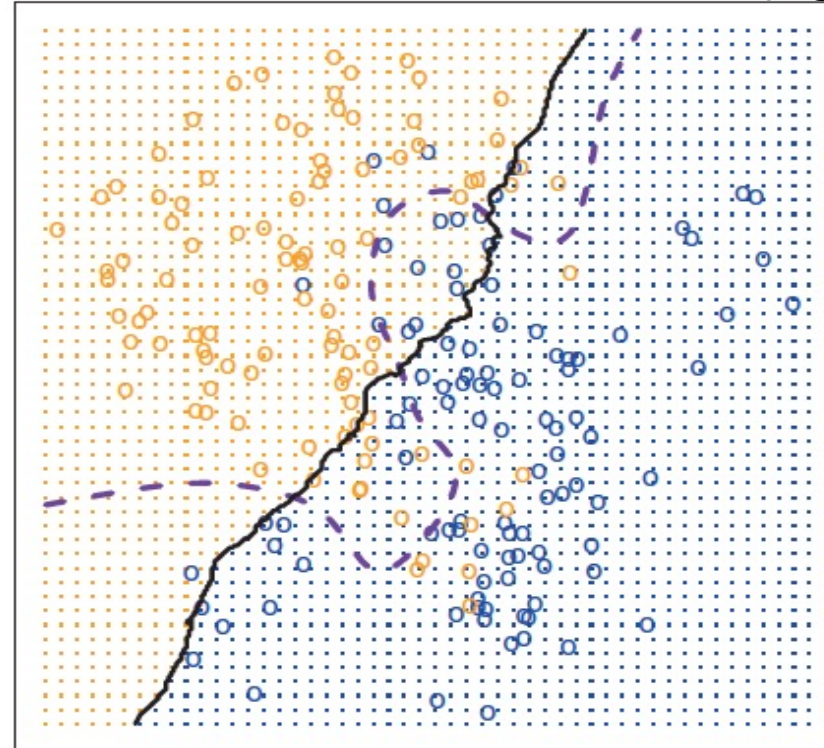
**$K=1 \Rightarrow$  overfitting  
(high variance)**

KNN:  $K=1$



Dashed line: Bayes  
decision boundary

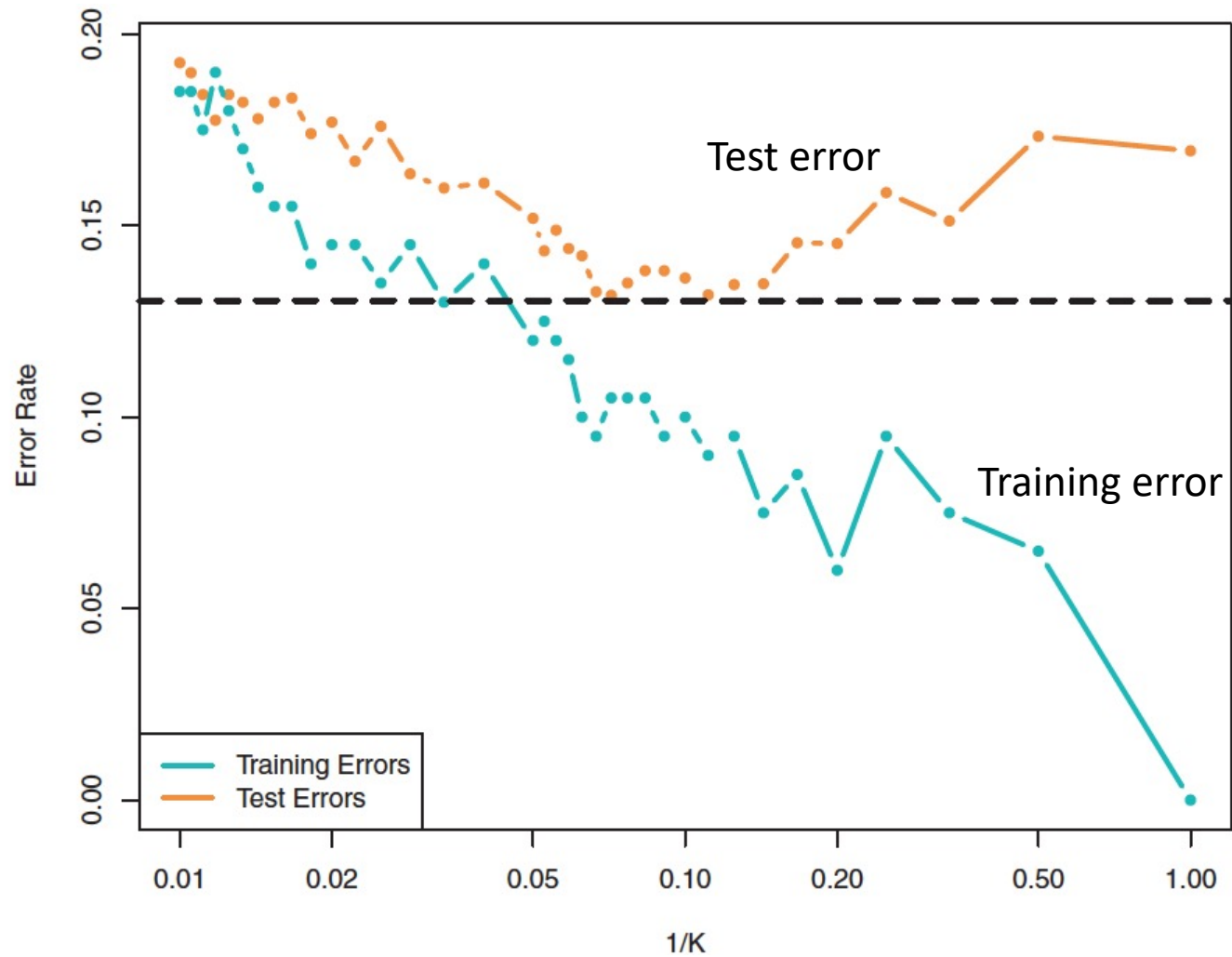
KNN:  $K=100$



**Large  $K \Rightarrow$  underfitting  
(high bias)**

Different  $K$  different decision boundaries

- Same principles apply to classification problems



# Trade-offs

- Prediction accuracy versus model complexity (flexibility)
  - Bias-variance trade-off
- Good fit versus over-fit or under-fit

Keep this picture in mind when choosing a learning method.

More flexible/complicated model is not always better!

