

DECISION TREES

David Kauchak  
CS 158 – Spring 2022

1

### Admin

Assignment 1 due tomorrow (Friday)

Assignment 2 out soon: start ASAP! (due next Sunday)

- Can (and are encouraged to) work in pairs

Slack

Office hours M-Th, 2:30-3:30pm, starting today (zoom link in sakai)

2

### Admin

Lecture notes posted (webpage)

Lecture recordings uploaded (box – see sakai for link)

Keep up with the reading

Videos before class

Class ends at 2:30 ☺

3





### Representing examples

examples

What is an example?  
How is it represented?

4

### Features





examples	features
	$f_1, f_2, f_3, \dots, f_n$
	$f_1, f_2, f_3, \dots, f_n$
	$f_1, f_2, f_3, \dots, f_n$
	$f_1, f_2, f_3, \dots, f_n$

How our algorithms actually "view" the data

Features are the questions we can ask about the examples

5

### Features

examples	features
	red, round, leaf, 3oz, ...
	green, round, no leaf, 4oz, ...
	yellow, curved, no leaf, 8oz, ...
	green, curved, no leaf, 7oz, ...

How our algorithms actually "view" the data

Features are the questions we can ask about the examples

6

### Classification revisited

examples	label
red, round, leaf, 3oz, ...	apple
green, round, no leaf, 4oz, ...	apple
yellow, curved, no leaf, 8oz, ...	banana
green, curved, no leaf, 7oz, ...	banana

learn

model/classifier

During learning/training/induction, learn a model of what distinguishes apples and bananas *based on the features*

7

### Classification revisited

red, round, no leaf, 4oz, ...

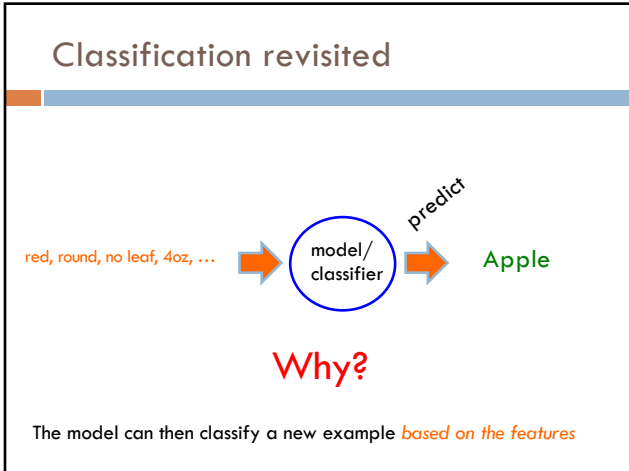
model/classifier

predict

Apple or banana?

The model can then classify a new example *based on the features*

8



9

### Classification revisited

Training data		Test set
examples	label	
red, round, leaf, 3oz, ...	apple	
green, round, no leaf, 4oz, ...	apple	red, round, no leaf, 4oz, ... ?
yellow, curved, no leaf, 4oz, ...	banana	
green, curved, no leaf, 5oz, ...	banana	

10

### Classification revisited

Training data		Test set
examples	label	
red, round, leaf, 3oz, ...	apple	
green, round, no leaf, 4oz, ...	apple	red, round, no leaf, 4oz, ... ?
yellow, curved, no leaf, 4oz, ...	banana	
green, curved, no leaf, 5oz, ...	banana	

Learning is about **generalizing** from the training data

What does this assume about the training and test set?

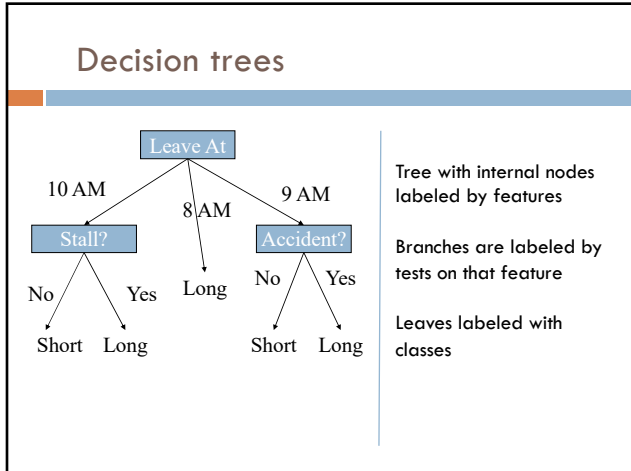
11

### A sample data set

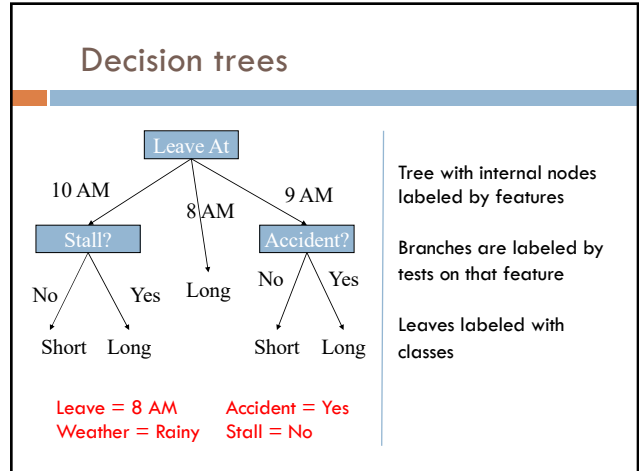
Features				Label
Hour	Weather	Accident	Stall	Commute
8 AM	Sunny	No	No	Long
8 AM	Cloudy	No	Yes	Long
10 AM	Sunny	No	No	Short
9 AM	Rainy	Yes	No	Long
9 AM	Sunny	Yes	Yes	Long
10 AM	Sunny	No	No	Short
10 AM	Cloudy	No	No	Short
9 AM	Sunny	Yes	No	Long
10 AM	Cloudy	Yes	Yes	Long
10 AM	Rainy	No	No	Short
8 AM	Cloudy	Yes	No	Long
9 AM	Rainy	No	No	Short

8 AM, Rainy, Yes, No?      Can you describe a "model" that could be used to make decisions in general?  
 10 AM, Rainy, No, No?

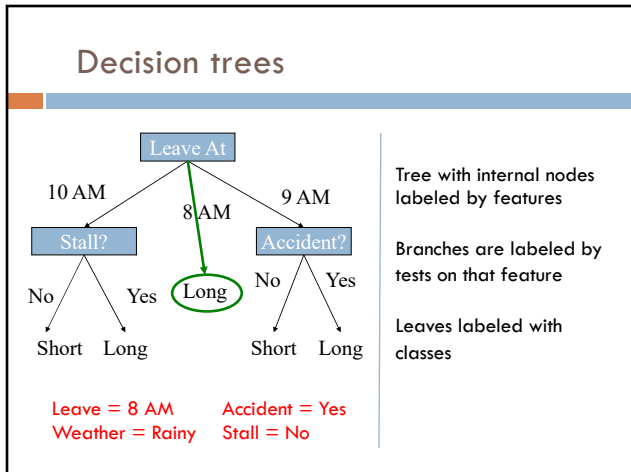
12



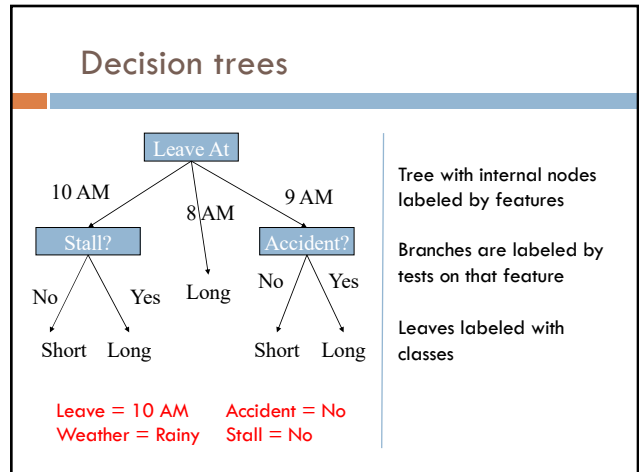
13



14



15



16

### Decision trees

Tree with internal nodes labeled by features

Branches are labeled by tests on that feature

Leaves labeled with classes

Leave = 10 AM  
Weather = Rainy  
Accident = No  
Stall = No

17

### To ride or not to ride, that is the question...

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

Build a decision tree

18

### Recursive approach

Base case: If all data belong to the same class, create a leaf node with that label

Otherwise:

- calculate the "score" for each feature if we used it to split the data
- pick the feature with the highest score, partition the data based on that data value and call recursively

19

### Partitioning the data

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

20

### Partitioning the data

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

21

### Partitioning the data

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

22

### Partitioning the data

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

23

### Partitioning the data

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

24

### Partitioning the data

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

25

### Partitioning the data

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

26

### Partitioning the data

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

27

### Partitioning the data

calculate the "score" for each feature  
if we used it to split the data

What score should we use?  
If we just stopped here, which tree would be best?  
How could we make these into decision trees?

28

### Decision trees

**Terrain**

Road Trail

YES: 4  
NO: 1

YES: 2  
NO: 3

**Unicycle**

Mountain Normal

YES: 4  
NO: 0

YES: 2  
NO: 4

**Weather**

Rainy Snowy Sunny

YES: 2  
NO: 1

YES: 2  
NO: 2

YES: 2  
NO: 1

How could we make these into decision trees?

29

### Decision trees

**Terrain**

Road Trail

YES: 4  
NO: 1

YES: 2  
NO: 3

**Unicycle**

Mountain Normal

YES: 4  
NO: 0

YES: 2  
NO: 4

**Weather**

Rainy Snowy Sunny

YES: 2  
NO: 1

YES: 2  
NO: 2

YES: 2  
NO: 1

30

### Decision trees

**Terrain**

Road Trail

YES: 4  
NO: 1

YES: 2  
NO: 3

**Unicycle**

Mountain Normal

YES: 4  
NO: 0

YES: 2  
NO: 4

**Weather**

Rainy Snowy Sunny

YES: 2  
NO: 1

YES: 2  
NO: 2

YES: 2  
NO: 1

Training error: the average error over the training set

For classification, the most common "error" is the number of mistakes

Training error for each of these?

31

### Decision trees

**Terrain**

Road Trail

YES: 4  
NO: 1

YES: 2  
NO: 3

3/10

**Unicycle**

Mountain Normal

YES: 4  
NO: 0

YES: 2  
NO: 4

2/10

**Weather**

Rainy Snowy Sunny

YES: 2  
NO: 1

YES: 2  
NO: 2

YES: 2  
NO: 1

4/10

Training error: the average error over the training set

32



### Training error vs. accuracy

**Terrain**

Road      Trail

YES: 4      YES: 2  
NO: 1      NO: 3

Training error: 3/10  
Training accuracy: 7/10

**Unicycle**

Mountain      Normal

YES: 4      YES: 2  
NO: 0      NO: 4

Training error: 2/10  
Training accuracy: 8/10

**Weather**

Rainy      Snowy      Sunny

YES: 2      YES: 2      YES: 2  
NO: 1      NO: 2      NO: 1

Training error: 4/10  
Training accuracy: 6/10

training error = 1-accuracy (and vice versa)

Training error: the average error over the training set  
Training accuracy: the average proportion correct over the training set

33

### Recurse

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

**Unicycle**

Mountain      Normal

YES: 4      YES: 2  
NO: 0      NO: 4

34

### Recurse

**Unicycle**

Mountain      Normal

YES: 4      YES: 2  
NO: 0      NO: 4

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO

35

### Recurse

**Unicycle**

Mountain      Normal

YES: 4      YES: 2  
NO: 0      NO: 4

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

What should we do?

36

### Recurse

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-Far-Ride?
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

No need to examine other features since all examples have the same label.

37

### Recurse

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-Far-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO

38

### Recurse

Still two features left we can split on

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-Far-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO

39

### Recurse

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-Far-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO

40

### Recurse

**Unicycle**

Mountain      Normal

YES: 4      YES: 2  
NO: 0      NO: 4

**Terrain**

Road      Trail

YES: 2      YES: 0  
NO: 1      NO: 3

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-Far-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO

41

### Recurse

**Unicycle**

Mountain      Normal

YES: 4      YES: 2  
NO: 0      NO: 4

**Terrain**

Road      Trail

YES: 2      YES: 0  
NO: 1      NO: 3

**Weather**

Rainy      Snowy      Sunny

YES: 1      YES: 0      YES: 1  
NO: 1      NO: 2      NO: 1

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-Far-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO

42

### Recurse

**Unicycle**

Mountain      Normal

YES: 4      YES: 2  
NO: 0      NO: 4

**Terrain**

Road      Trail

YES: 2      YES: 0  
NO: 1      NO: 3

**Weather**

Rainy      Snowy      Sunny

YES: 1      YES: 0      YES: 1  
NO: 1      NO: 2      NO: 1

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-Far-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO

Which should we pick?

43

### Recurse

**Unicycle**

Mountain      Normal

YES: 4      YES: 2  
NO: 0      NO: 4

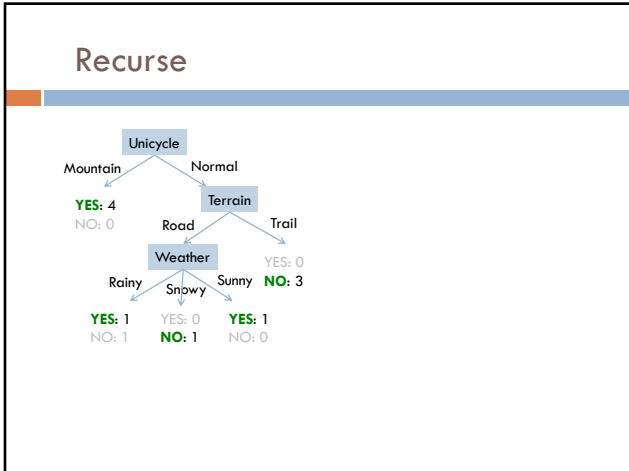
**Terrain**

Road      Trail

YES: 2      YES: 0  
NO: 1      NO: 3

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-Far-Ride?
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO

44



45

### Recurse

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

Training error?                      Are we always guaranteed to get a training error of 0?

46

### Problematic data

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	NO
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

When can this happen?

47

### Recursive approach

Base case: If all data belong to the same class, create a leaf node with that label **OR** all the data has the same feature values

Do we always want to go all the way to the bottom?

48

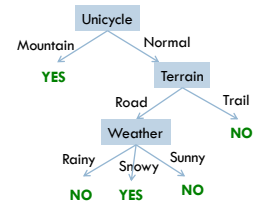
### What would the tree look like for...

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Road	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	YES
Road	Normal	Sunny	NO
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO

49

### What would the tree look like for...

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Road	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	YES
Road	Normal	Sunny	NO
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO

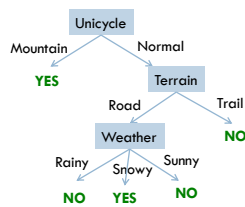


Is that what you would do?

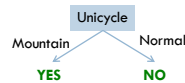
50

### What would the tree look like for...

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Road	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	YES
Road	Normal	Sunny	NO
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO



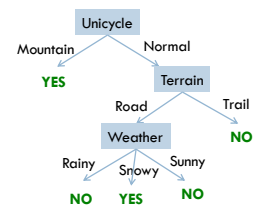
Maybe...



51

### What would the tree look like for...

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Road	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	YES
Road	Normal	Sunny	NO
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO



An aside: how did we decide to pick the label for normal→road→rainy?

52

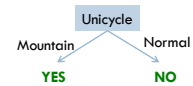
### What would the tree look like for...

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Jacket	ML grade	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Mountain	Rainy	Heavy	D	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	Light	C-	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	Light	B	YES
Road	Mountain	Sunny	Heavy	A	YES
...	Mountain	...	...	...	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	Light	D+	NO
Trail	Normal	Rainy	Heavy	B-	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	Heavy	C+	YES
Road	Normal	Sunny	Light	A-	NO
Trail	Normal	Sunny	Heavy	B+	NO
Trail	Normal	Snowy	Light	F	NO
...	Normal	...	...	...	NO
Trail	Normal	Rainy	Light	C	YES

53

### Overfitting

Terrain	Unicycle-type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
Trail	Mountain	Rainy	YES
Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
Road	Mountain	Sunny	YES
Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
Road	Normal	Snowy	YES
Road	Normal	Sunny	NO
Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO

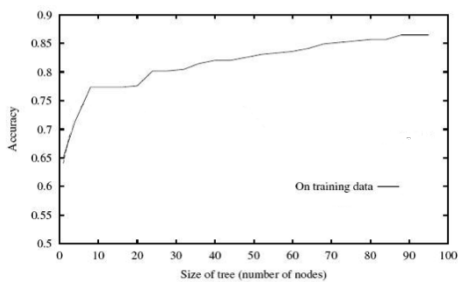


Overfitting occurs when we bias our model too much towards the training data

Our goal is to learn a **general** model that will work on the training data as well as other data (i.e., test data)

54

### Overfitting



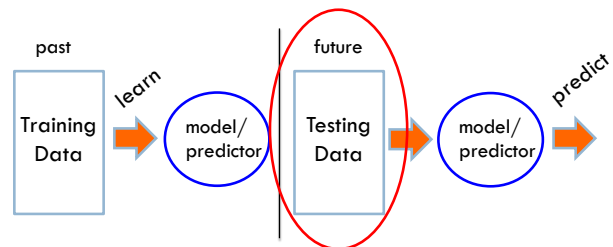
Our decision tree learning procedure always decreases training error

Is that what we want?

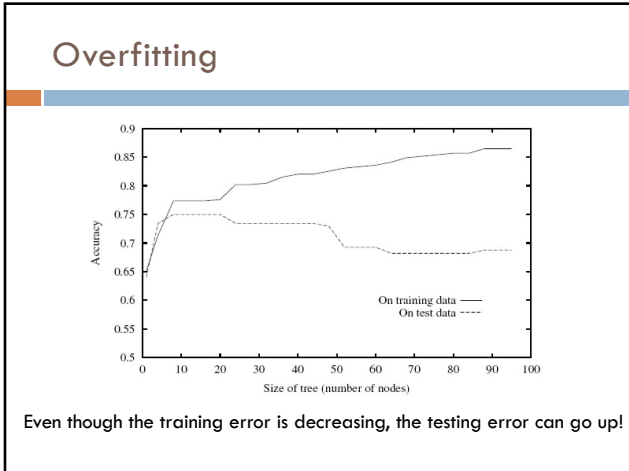
55

### Test set error!

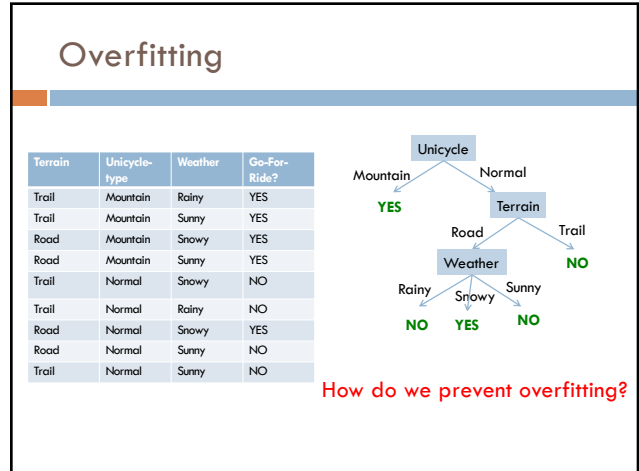
Machine learning is about predicting the future based on the past.  
-- Hal Daume III



56



57



58

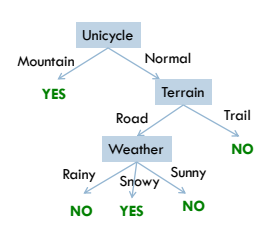
- ### Preventing overfitting
- Base case:
- If all data belong to the same class, create a leaf node with that label
  - **OR** all the data has the same feature values
  - **OR** We've reached a particular depth in the tree
  - ?
- One idea: stop building the tree early

59

- ### Preventing overfitting
- Base case:
- If all data belong to the same class, create a leaf node with that label
  - **OR** all the data has the same feature values
  - **OR** We've reached a particular depth in the tree
  - We only have a certain number/fraction of examples remaining
  - We've reached a particular training error
  - Use development data (more on this later)
  - ...

60

### Preventing overfitting: pruning

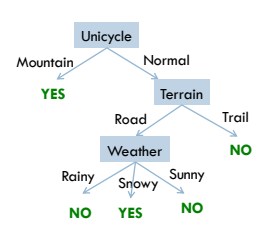


Pruning: after the tree is built, go back and "prune" the tree, i.e. remove some lower parts of the tree

Similar to stopping early, but done after the entire tree is built

61

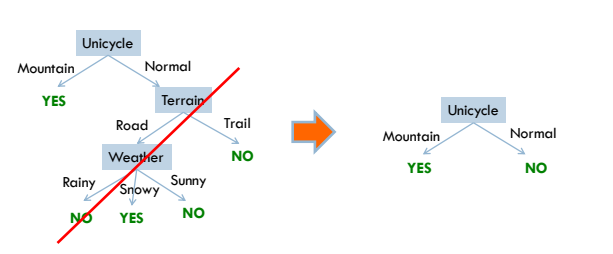
### Preventing overfitting: pruning



Build the full tree

62

### Preventing overfitting: pruning

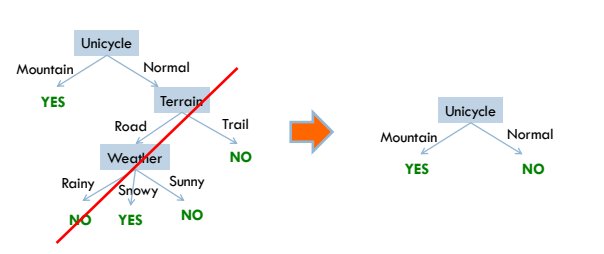


Build the full tree

Prune back leaves that are too specific

63

### Preventing overfitting: pruning



Pruning criterion?

64



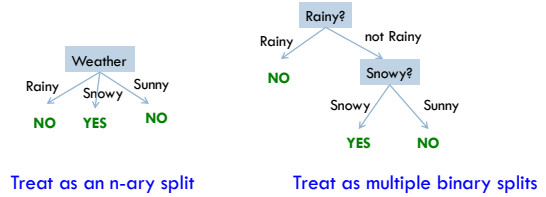
## Handling non-binary attributes

PassengerId	Pclass	Sex	Age	SibSp	Parch	Ticket	Fare	Embarked	Survived
804	3	0	0.42	0	1	2625	8.5167	0	1
756	2	0	0.67	1	1	250649	14.5	2	1
470	3	1	0.75	2	1	2666	19.2583	0	1
645	3	1	0.75	2	1	2666	19.2583	0	1
79	2	0	0.83	0	2	248738	29	2	1
832	2	0	0.83	1	1	29106	18.75	2	1
306	1	0	0.92	1	2	113781	151.55	2	1
165	3	0	1	4	1	3101295	39.6875	2	0
173	3	1	1	1	1	347742	11.1333	2	1
184	2	0	1	2	1	230136	39	2	1
382	3	1	1	0	2	2653	15.7417	0	1
387	3	0	1	5	2	2144	46.9	2	0
789	3	0	1	1	2	2315	20.575	2	1
828	2	0	1	0	2	2079	37.0042	0	1
8	3	0	2	3	1	349909	21.075	2	0
17	3	0	2	4	1	382652	29.125	1	0
120	3	1	2	4	2	347082	31.275	2	0
206	3	1	2	0	1	347054	10.4625	2	0
298	1	1	2	1	2	113781	151.55	2	0
341	2	0	2	1	1	230080	26	2	1
480	3	1	2	0	1	3101298	12.2875	2	1

What do we do with features that have multiple values? Real-values?

65

## Features with multiple values



66

## Real-valued features

Use any comparison test ( $>$ ,  $<$ ,  $\leq$ ,  $\geq$ ) to split the data into two parts

Select a range filter, i.e.  $\min < \text{value} < \max$



67

## Other splitting criterion

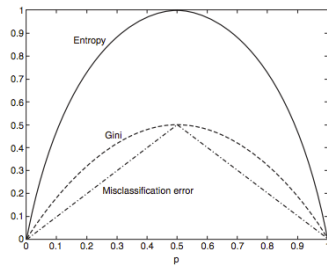
Otherwise:

- calculate the "score" for each feature if we used it to split the data
- pick the feature with the highest score, partition the data based on that data value and call recursively

We used training error for the score. Any other ideas?

68

## Other splitting criterion



- Entropy: how much uncertainty there is in the distribution over labels after the split
- Gini: sum of the square of the label proportions after split
- Training error = misclassification error

69

## Decision trees

Good? Bad?



70

## Decision trees: the good

**Very intuitive and easy to interpret**

Fast to run and fairly easy to implement (Assignment 2 😊)

Historically, perform fairly well (especially with a few more tricks we'll see later on)

No prior assumptions about the data

71

## Decision trees: the bad

Be careful with features with lots of values if you're not doing binary splits

ID	Terrain	Unicycle -type	Weather	Go-For-Ride?
1	Trail	Normal	Rainy	NO
2	Road	Normal	Sunny	YES
3	Trail	Mountain	Sunny	YES
4	Road	Mountain	Rainy	YES
5	Trail	Normal	Snowy	NO
6	Road	Normal	Rainy	YES
7	Road	Mountain	Snowy	YES
8	Trail	Normal	Sunny	NO
9	Road	Normal	Snowy	NO
10	Trail	Mountain	Snowy	YES

Which feature would be at the top here?

72

## Decision trees: the bad

Can be problematic (slow, bad performance) with large numbers of features

Can't learn some very simple data sets (e.g. some types of linearly separable data)

Pruning/tuning can be tricky to get right

73

## Final DT algorithm

DT\_train(data):

Base cases:

1. If all data belong to the same class, pick that label
2. If all the data have the same feature values, pick majority label
3. If we're out of features to examine, pick majority label
4. If the we don't have any data left, pick majority label of *parent*
5. *If some other stopping criteria* exists to avoid overfitting, pick majority label

Otherwise (i.e. if none of the base cases apply):

- calculate the "score" for each feature if we used it to split the data
- pick the feature with the highest score, partition the data based on that data, e.g. data\_left and data\_right
- Recurse, i.e. DT\_train(data\_left) and DT\_train(data\_right)
- Make tree with feature as the splitting criterion with the decision trees returned from the recursive calls as the children

74