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# 6.390 Intro to Machine Learning

## Lecture 9: Non-parametric Models

Shen Shen

April 12, 2024

(many slides adapted from [Tamara Broderick](#))

# Outline

- Recap (transformers)
- Non-parametric models
  - interpretability
  - ease of use / simplicity
- Decision tree
  - Terminologies
  - Learn via the BuildTree algorithm
    - Regression
    - Classification
- Nearest neighbor

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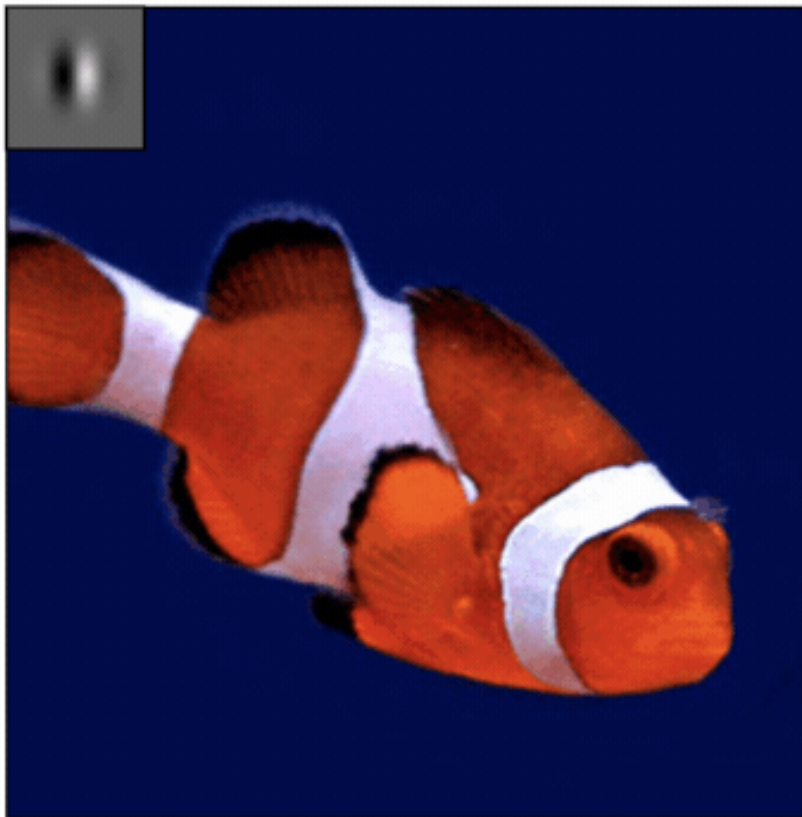
## Lessons from CNNs



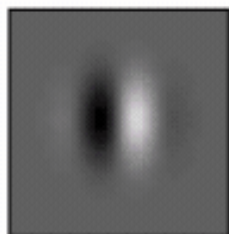
Enduring principles:

1. Chop up signal into patches (divide and conquer)
2. Process each patch **identically** (and in **parallel**)

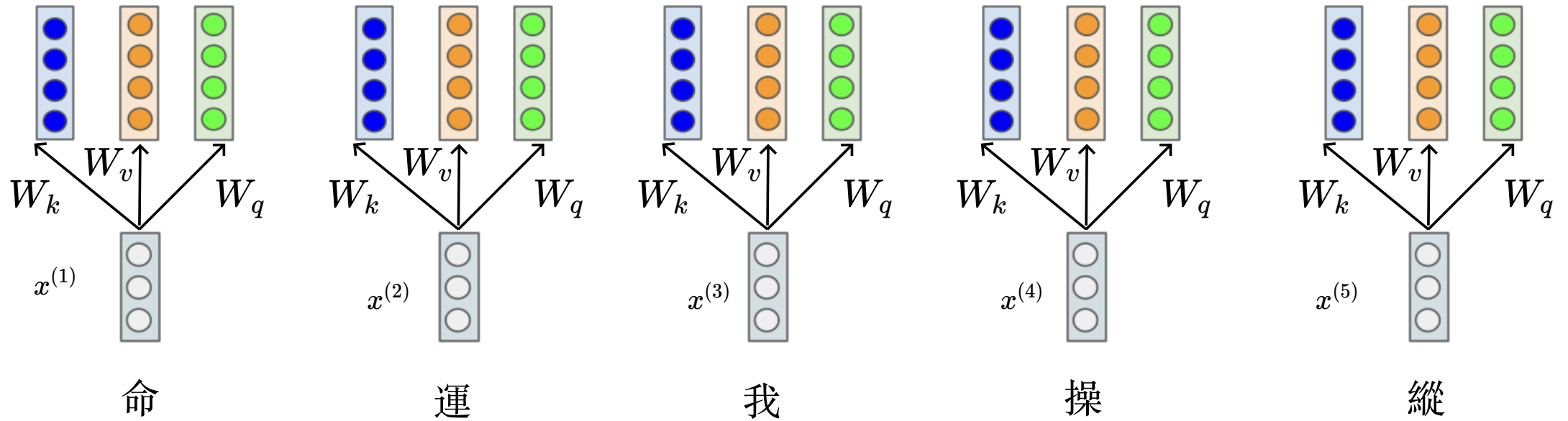
CNN



filter



# Transformers



- Importantly, all these learned projection weights  $W$  are shared along the token sequence.
- Same "operation" repeated.

# Interpretability

 **Giannis Daras** 🦋 NeurIPS 2023  
@giannis\_daras

...

DALLE-2 has a secret language.

"Apoploe vesrreaitais" means birds.

"Contarra cctnxniams luryca tanniounons" means bugs or pests.

The prompt: "Apoploe vesrreaitais eating Contarra cctnxniams luryca tanniounons" gives images of birds eating bugs.

A thread (1/n) 📖



Another example: "Two whales talking about food, with subtitles". We get an image with the text "Wa ch zod rea" written on it. Apparently, the whales are actually talking about their food in the DALLE-2 language. (4/n)



Figure 4: Left: Image generated with the prompt: "Two whales talking about food, with subtitles.". Right: Images generated with the prompt: "Wa ch zod ahaakes rea.". The gibberish language, "Wa ch zod ahaakes rea.", produces images that are related to the text-conditioning and the visual output of the first image.

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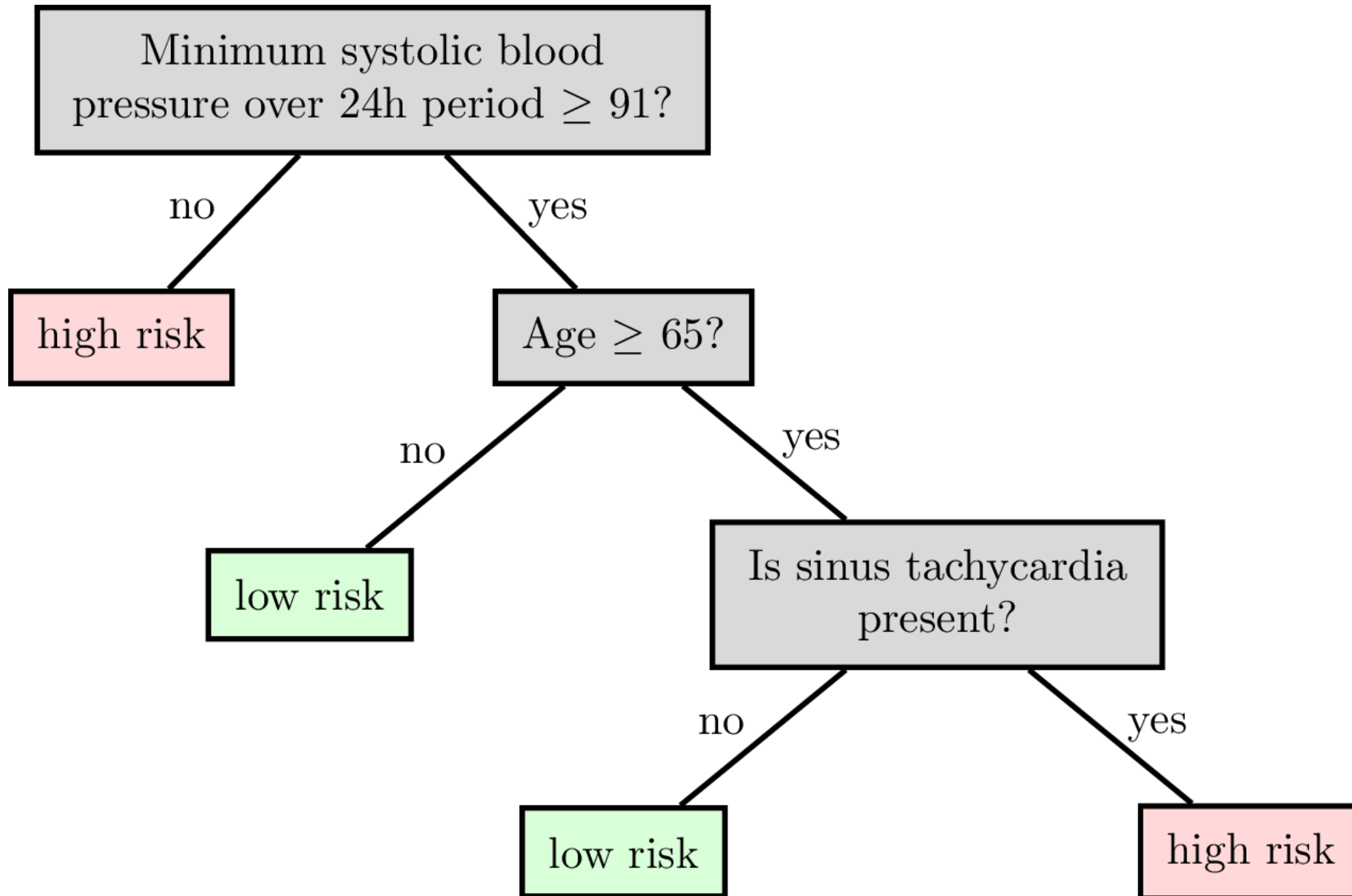


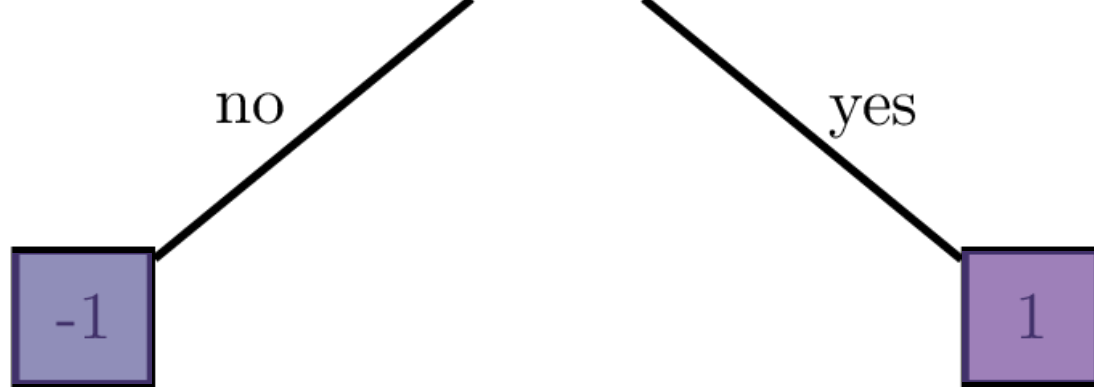
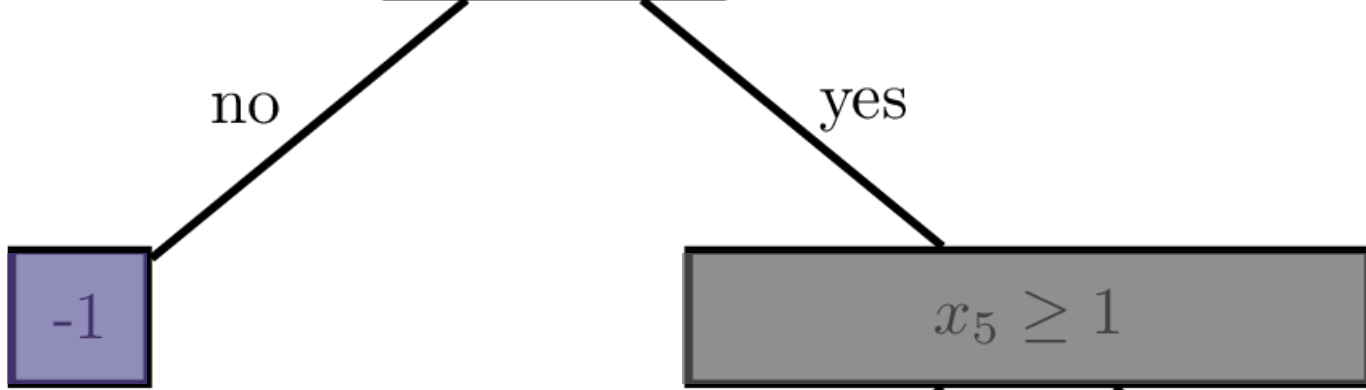
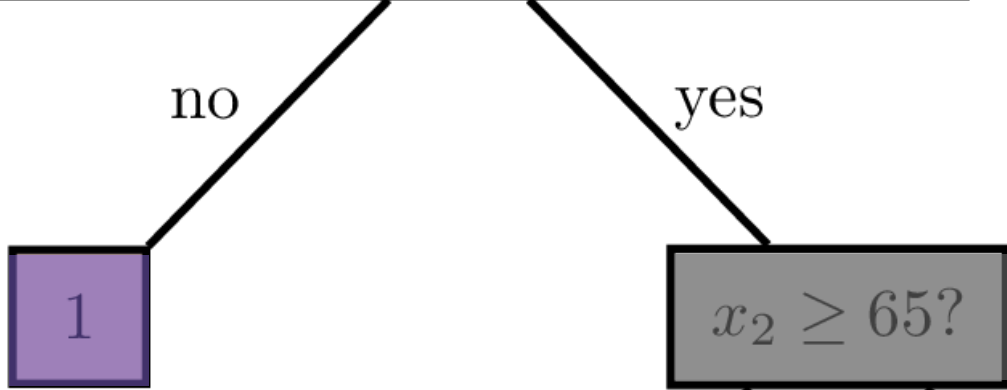
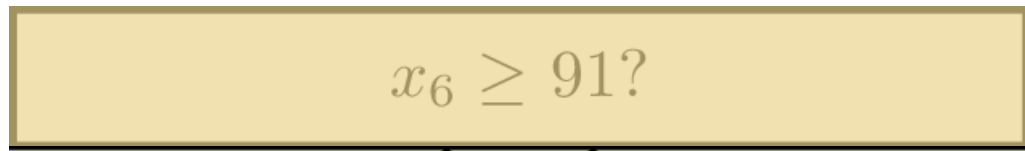
# Non-parametric models

- does not mean "no parameters"
  - there are still parameters to be learned to build a hypothesis / model.
  - just that, the model / hypothesis does not have a fixed parameterization.
  - (e.g. even the number of parameters can change.)
- 
- Decision trees and
  - Nearest neighbor
- are the classical examples of non-parametric models

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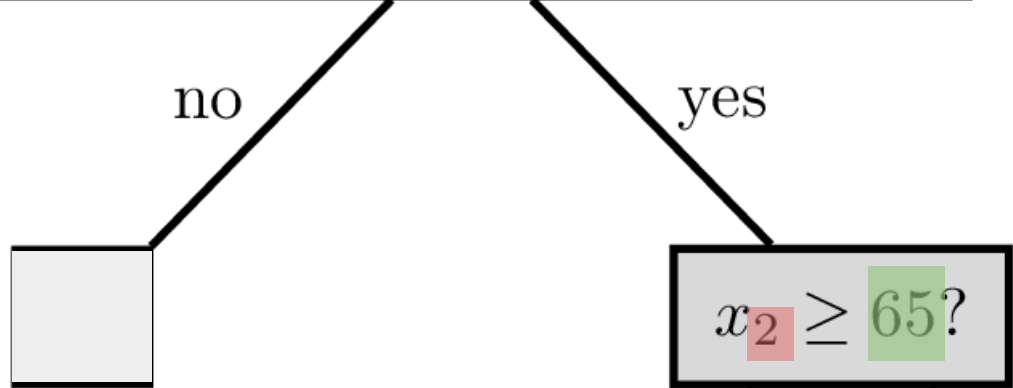
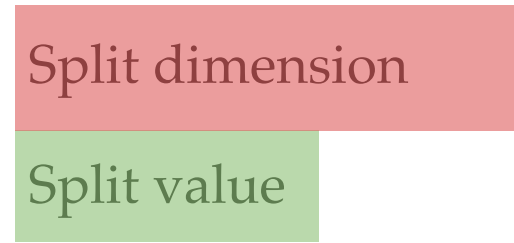
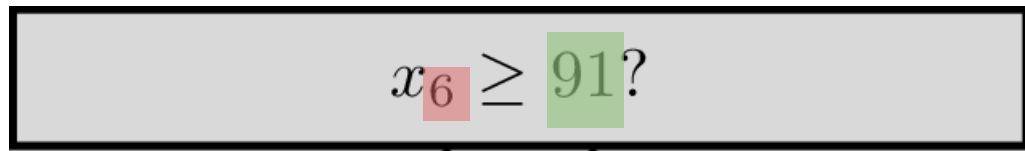




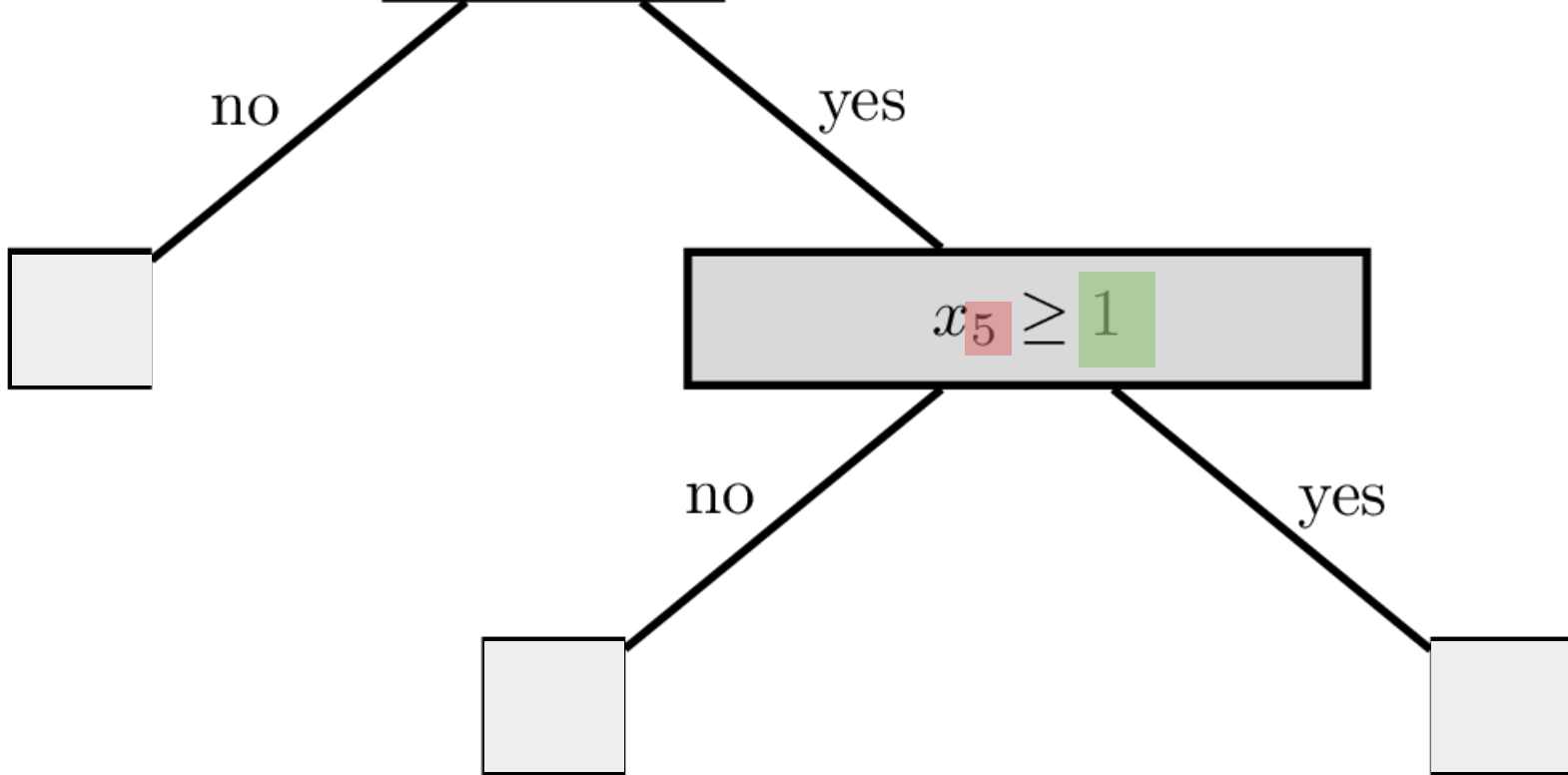
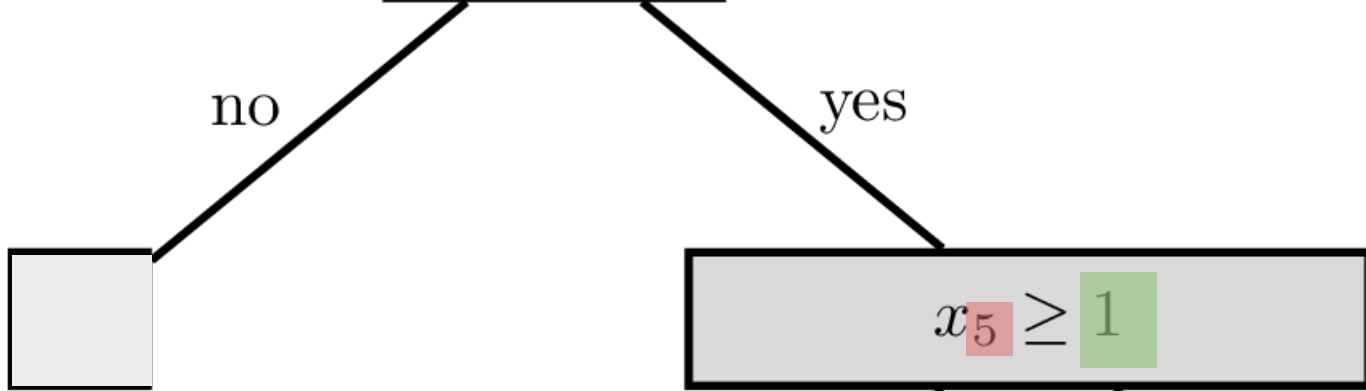
Root node

Internal (decision) node

Leaf (terminal) node



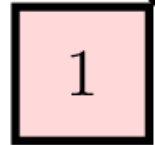
A node can be specified by  
Node(split dim, split value, left child, right child)





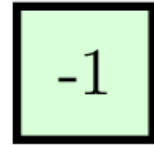
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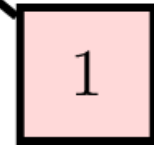
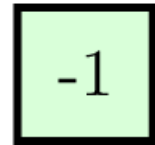
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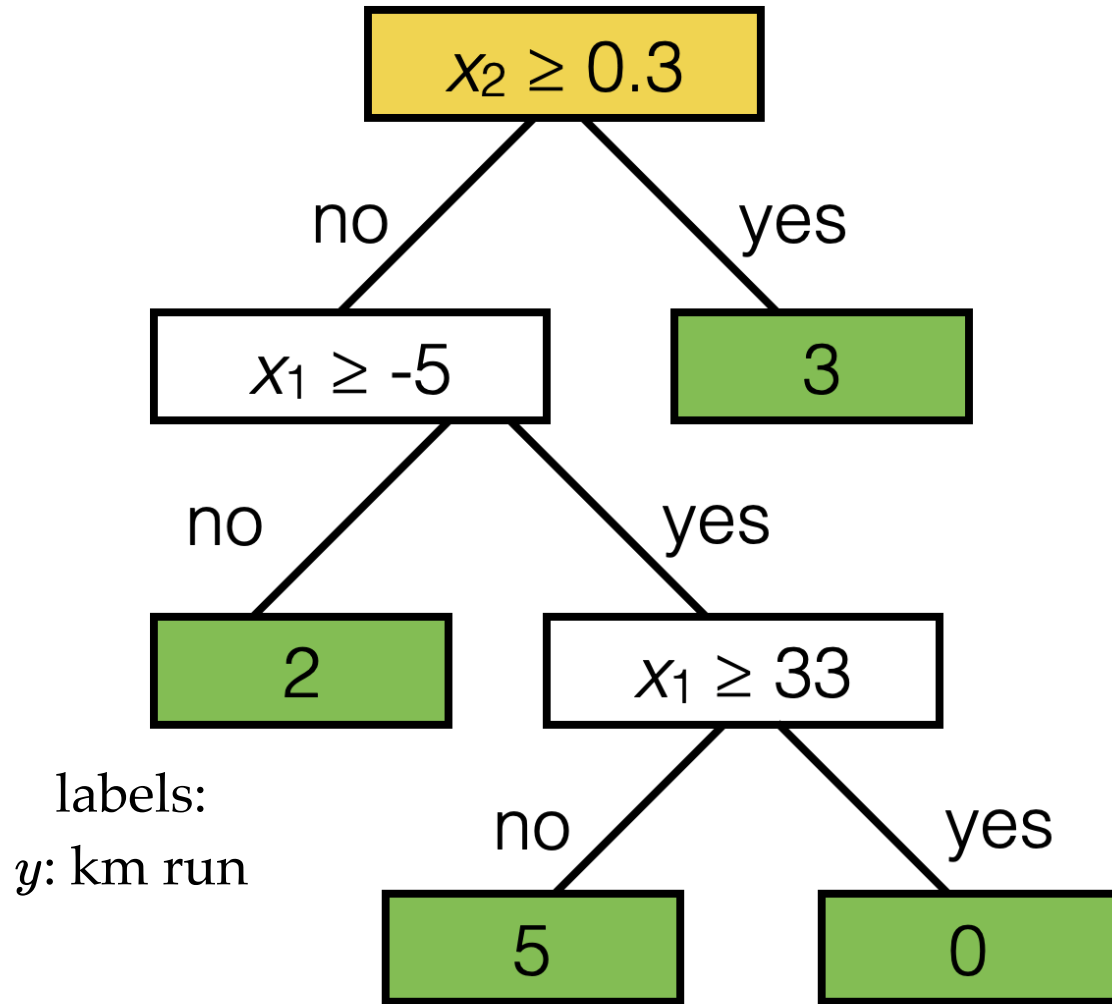
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yes



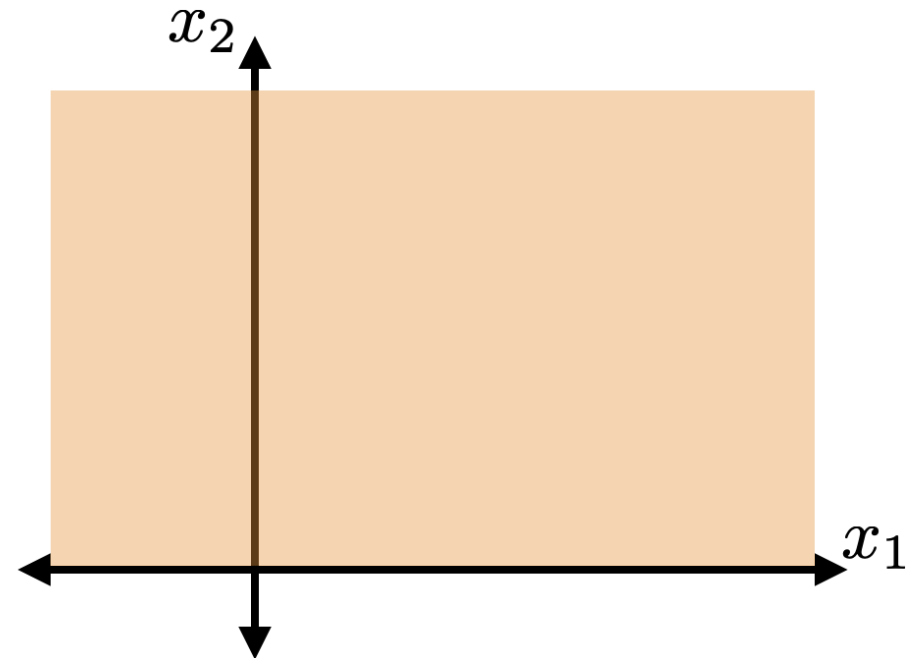
A leaf can be specified by  
Leaf(leaf value)

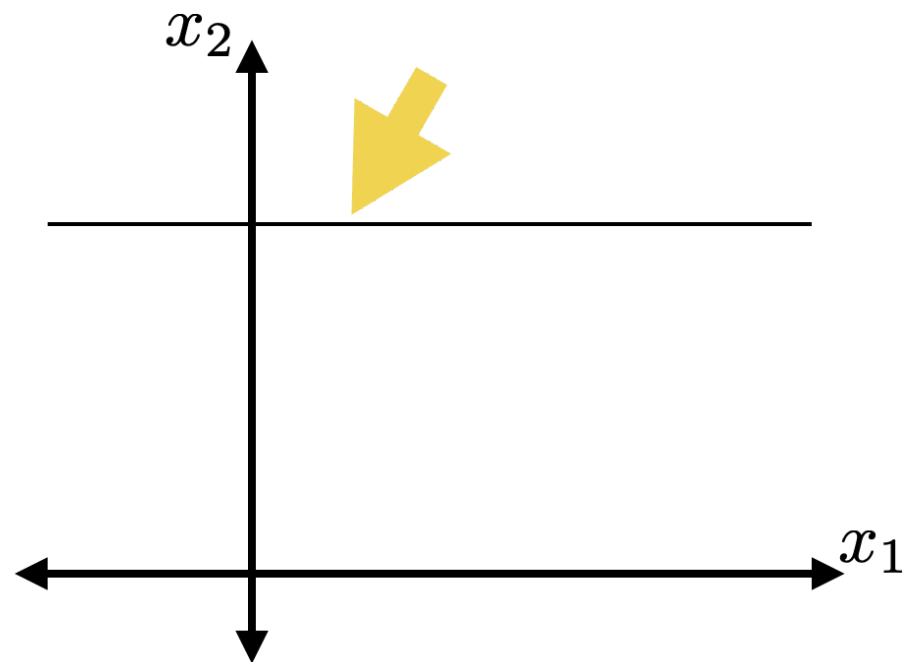
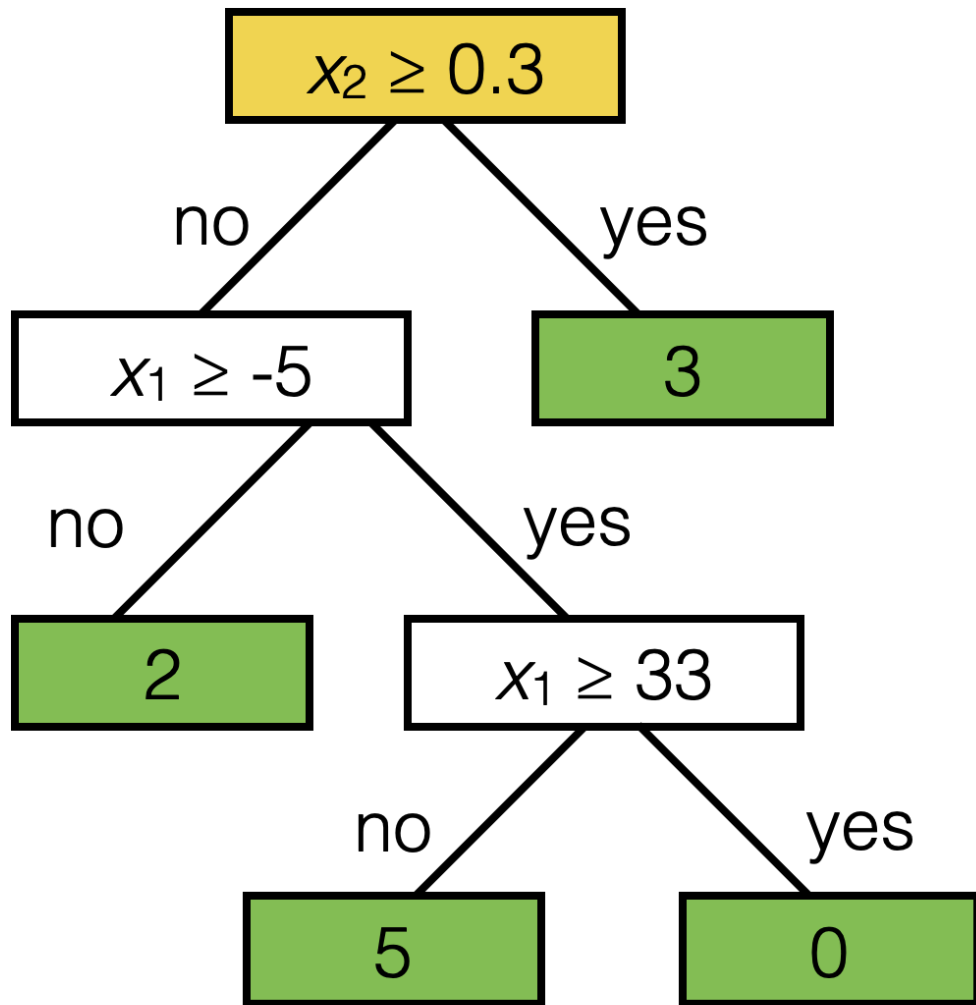
Tree defines an axis-aligned  
“partition” of the feature space:



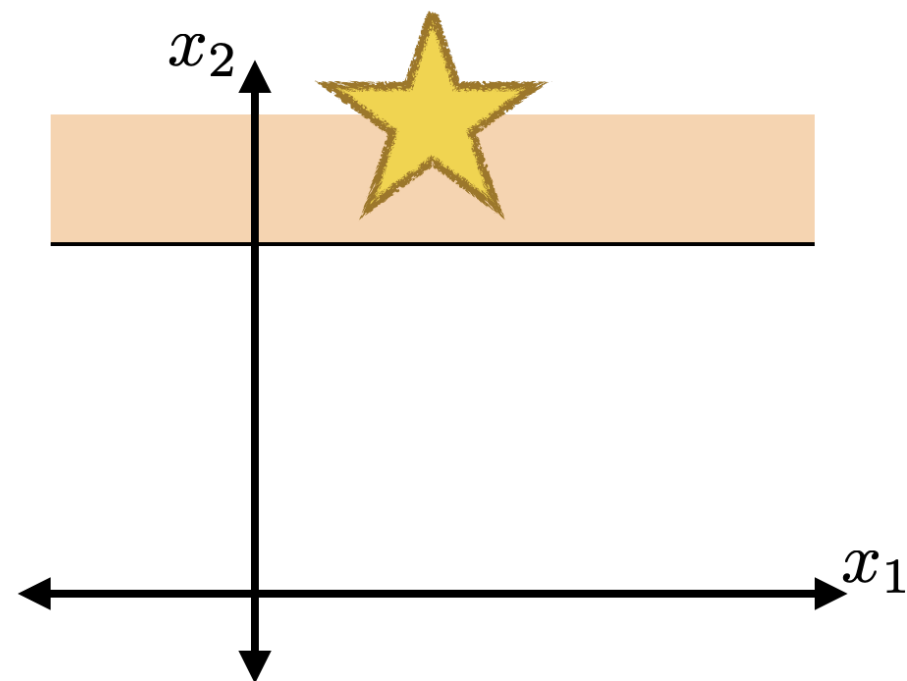
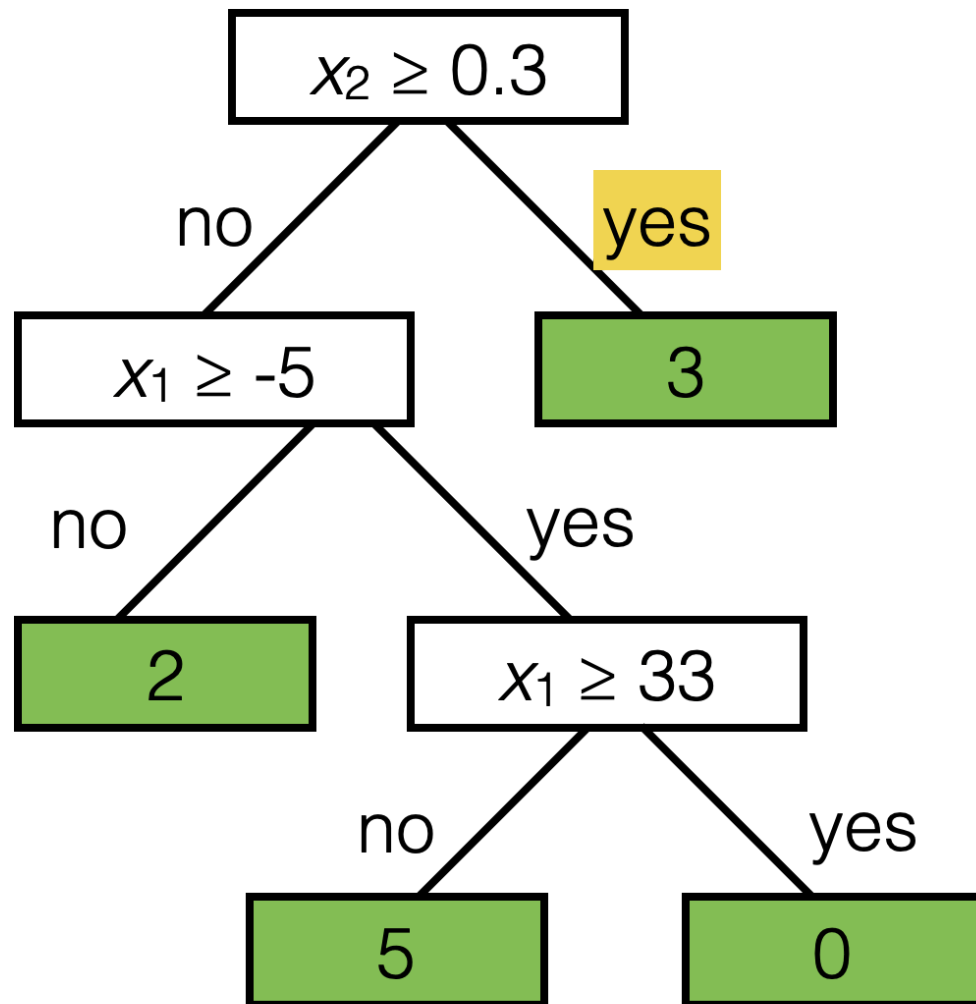
features:

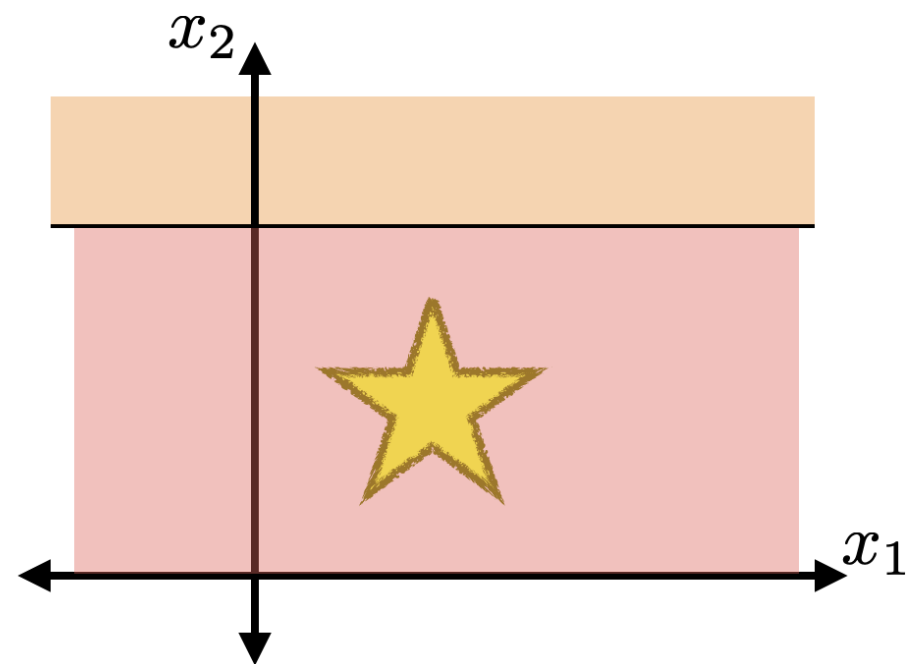
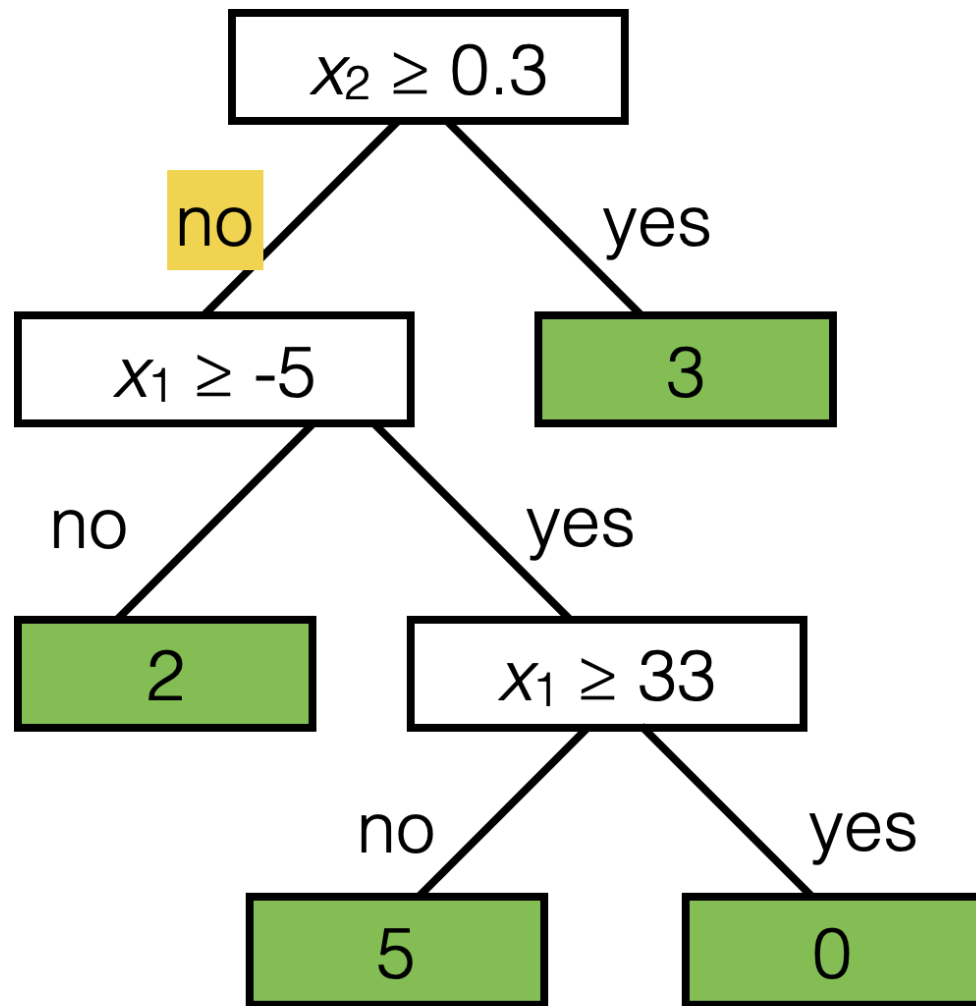
- $x_1$ : temperature (deg C)
- $x_2$ : precipitation (cm/hr)

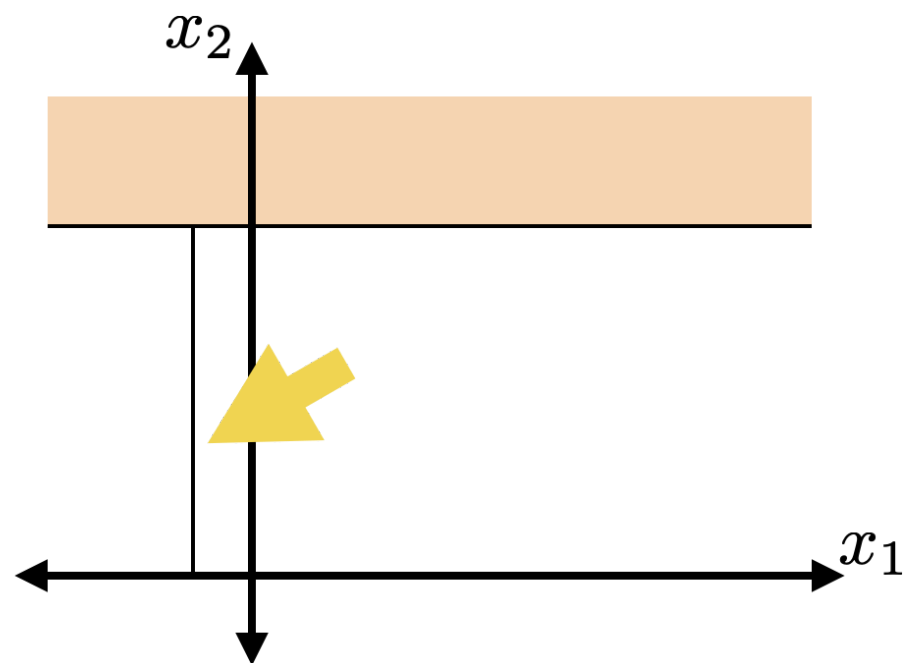
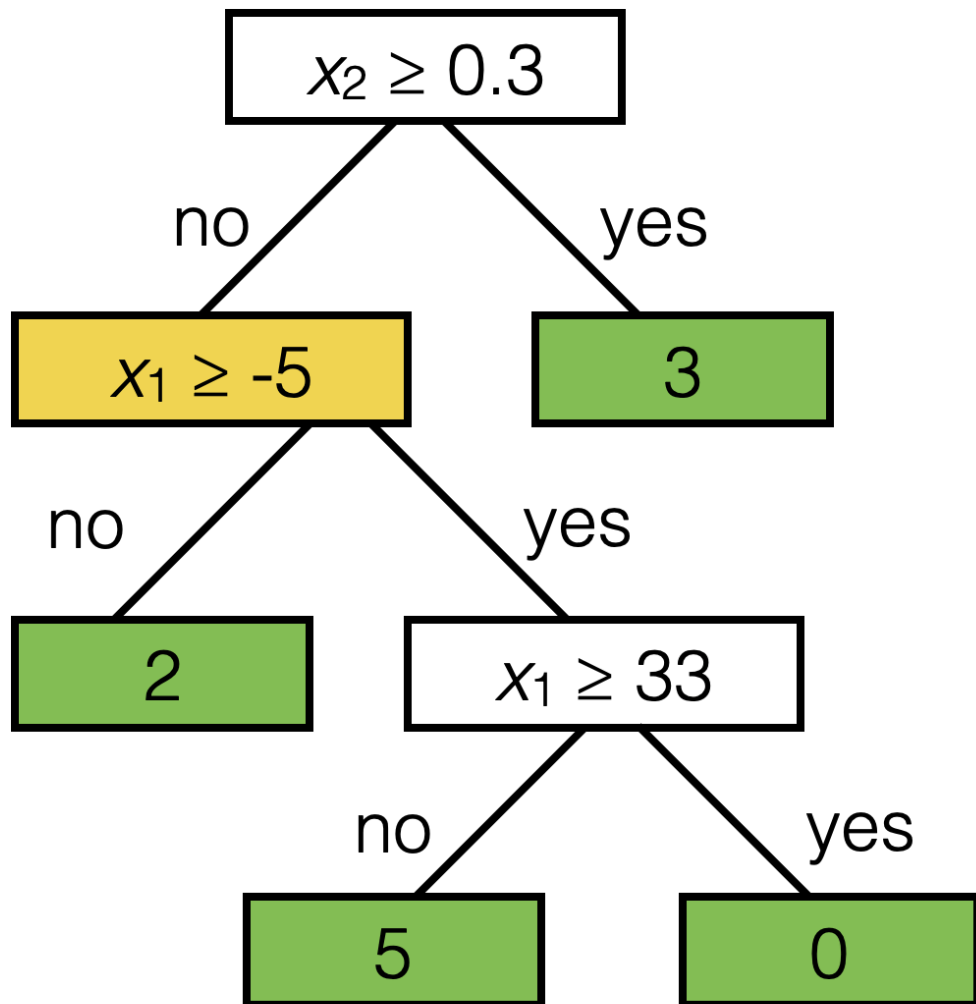


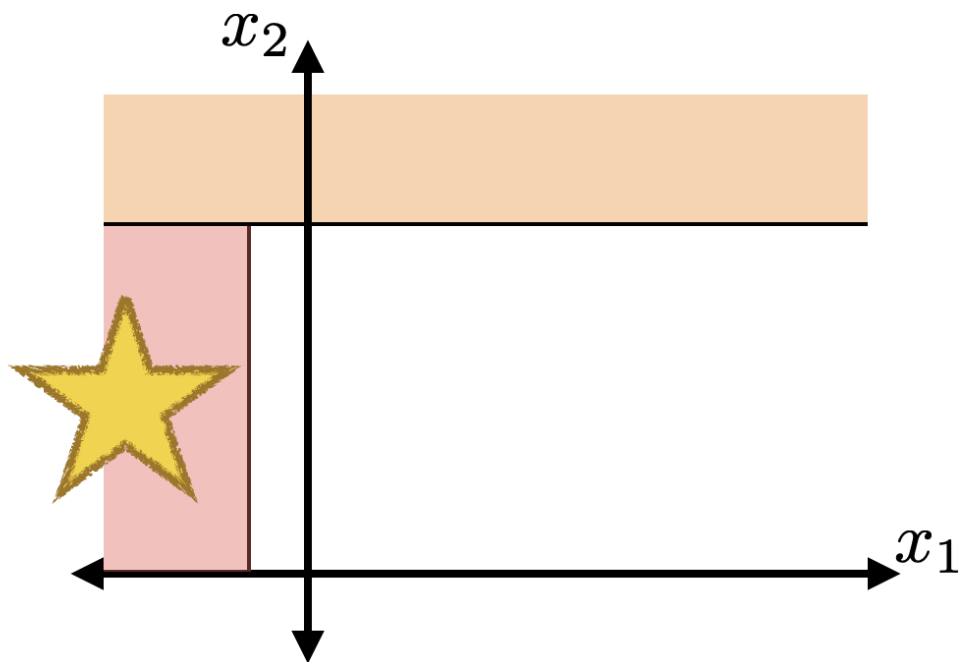
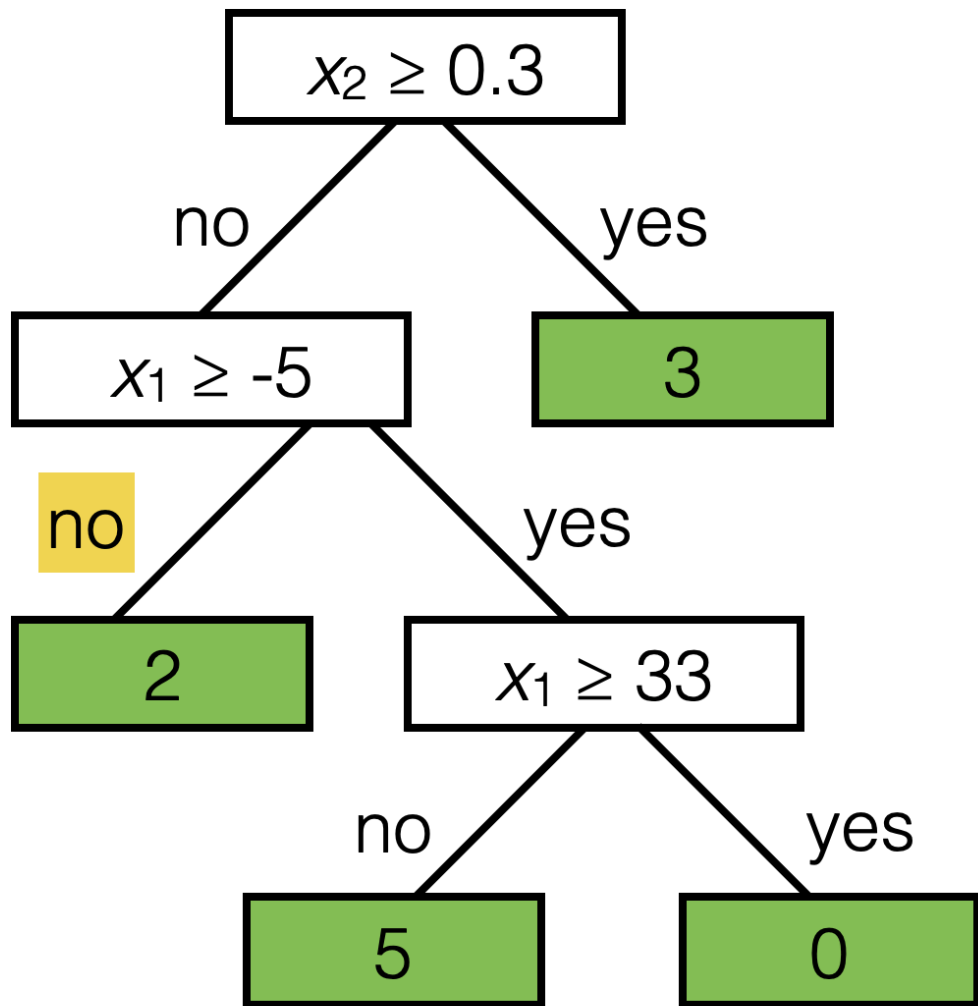


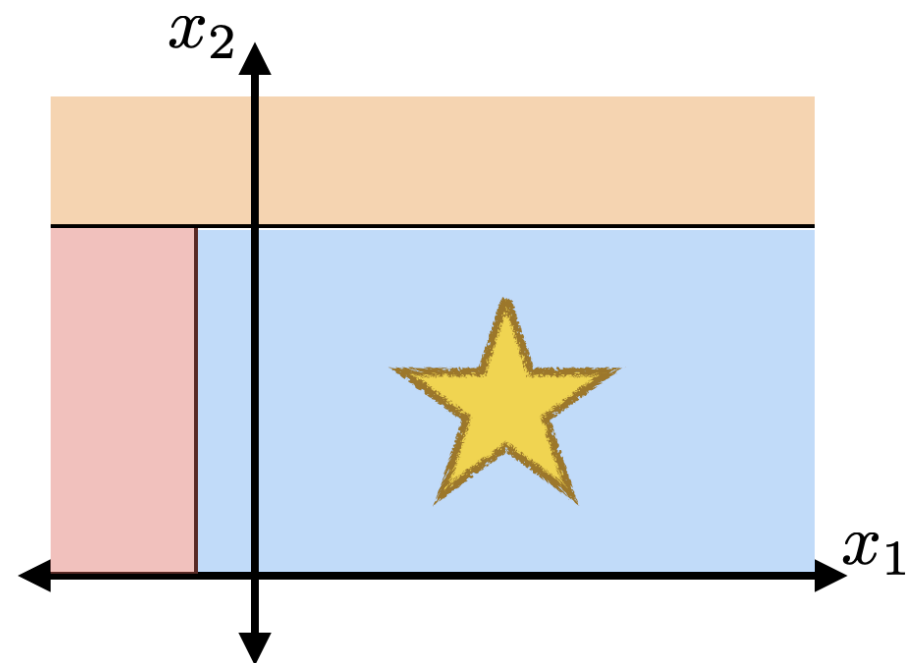
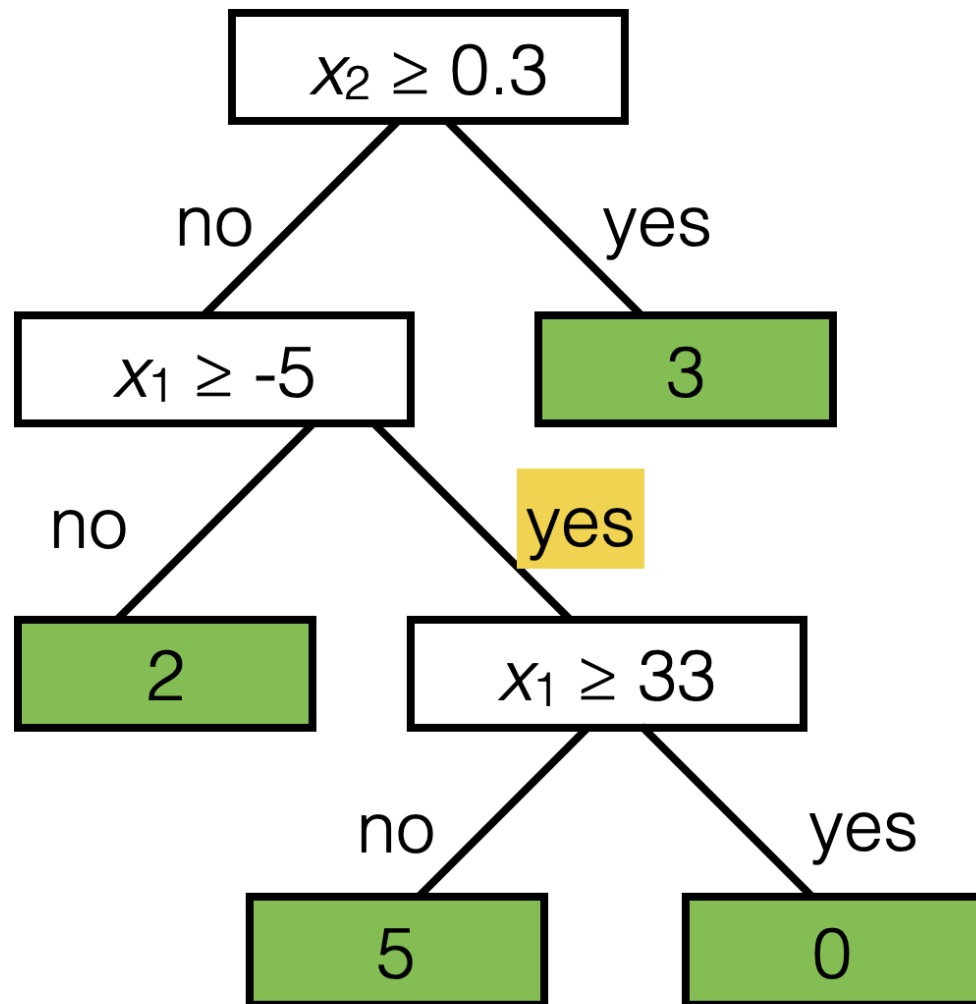


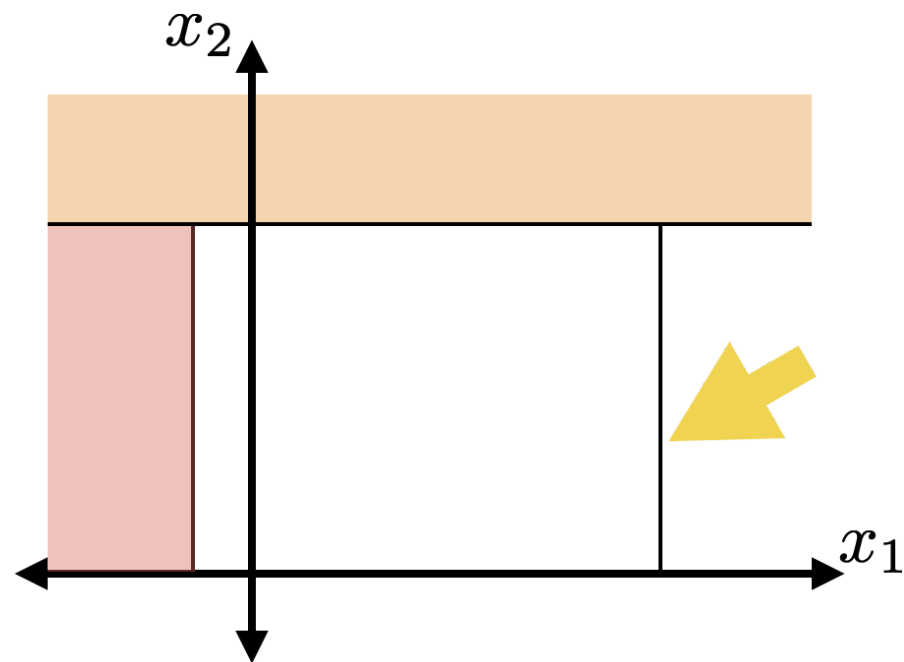
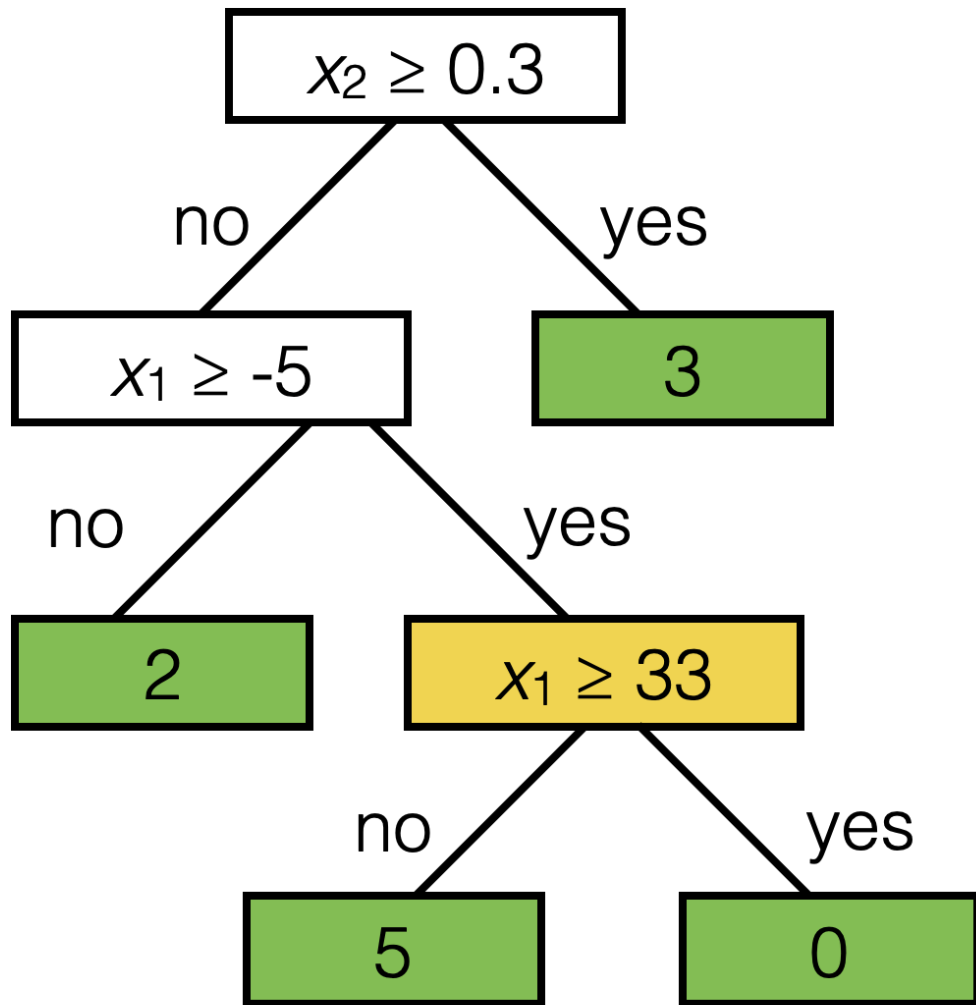


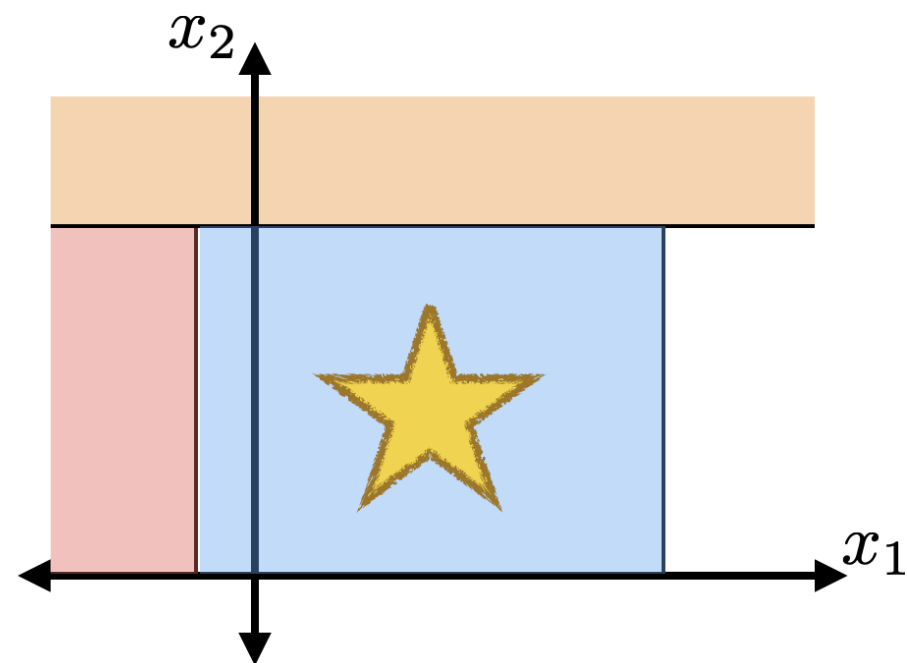
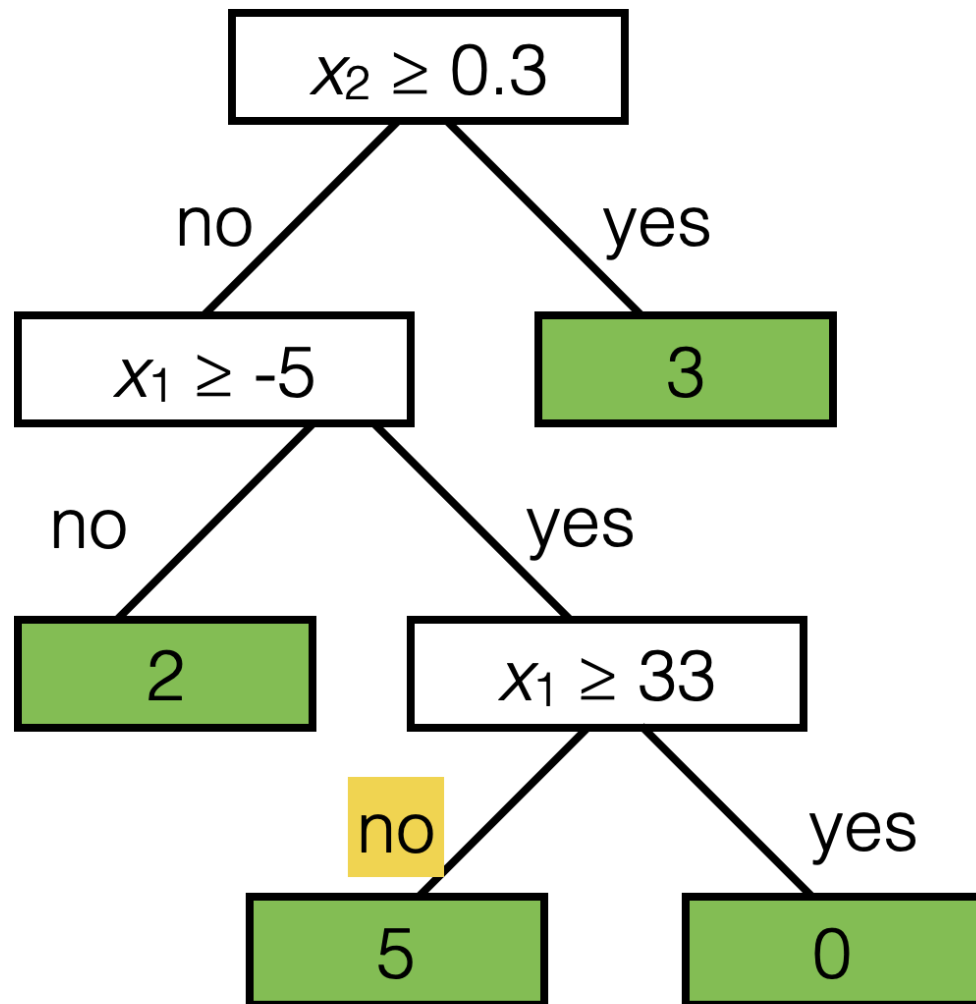


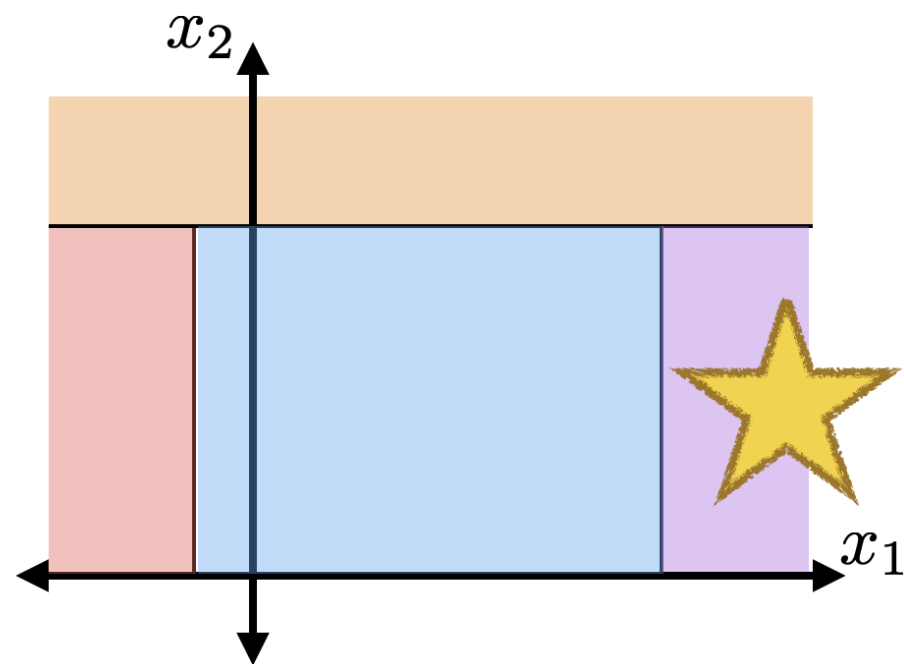
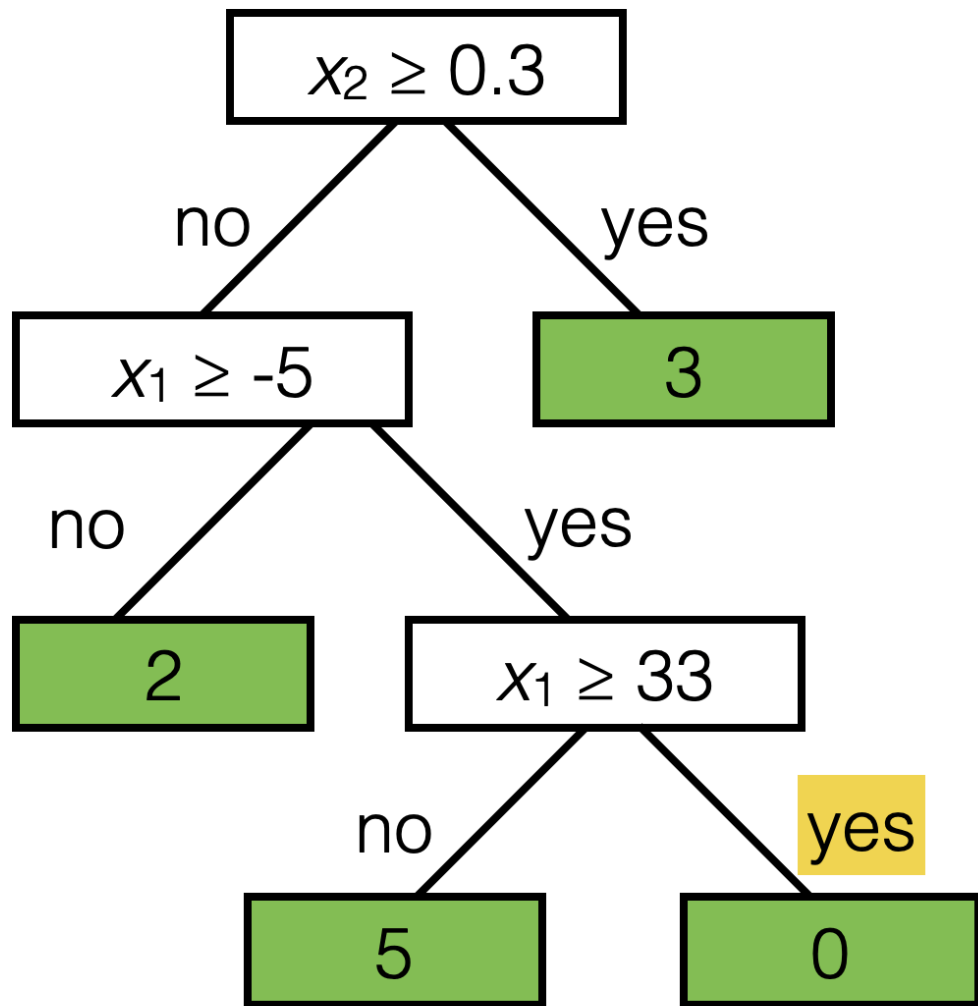




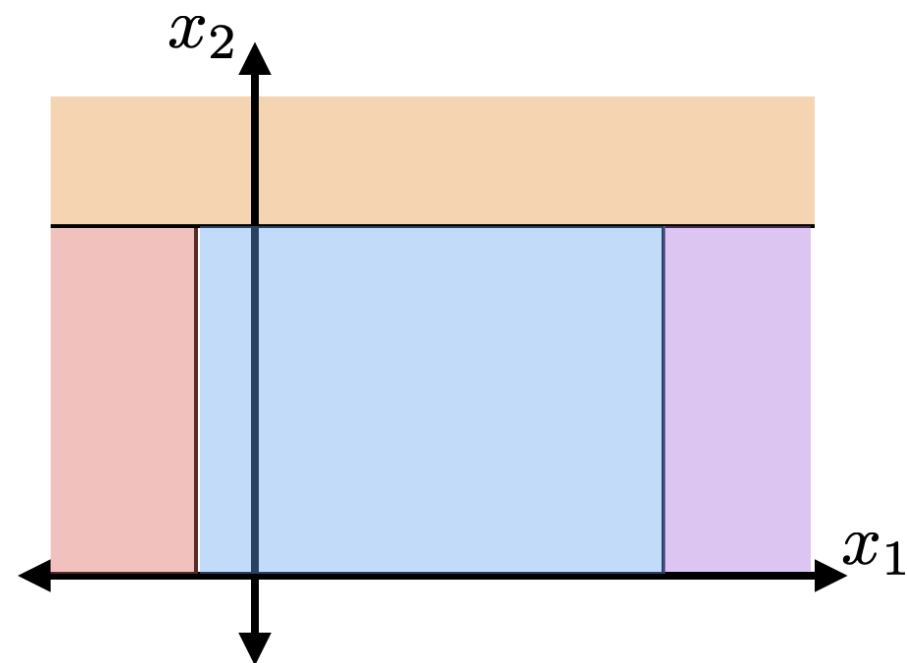
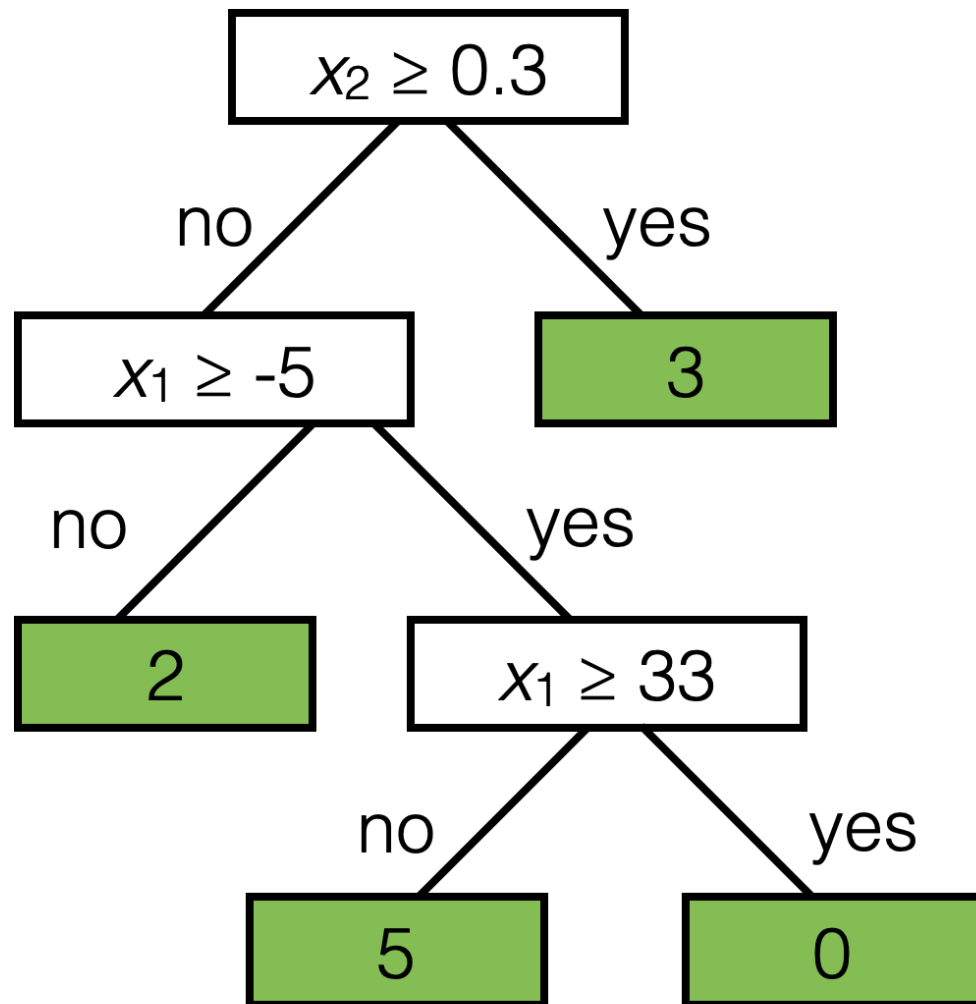


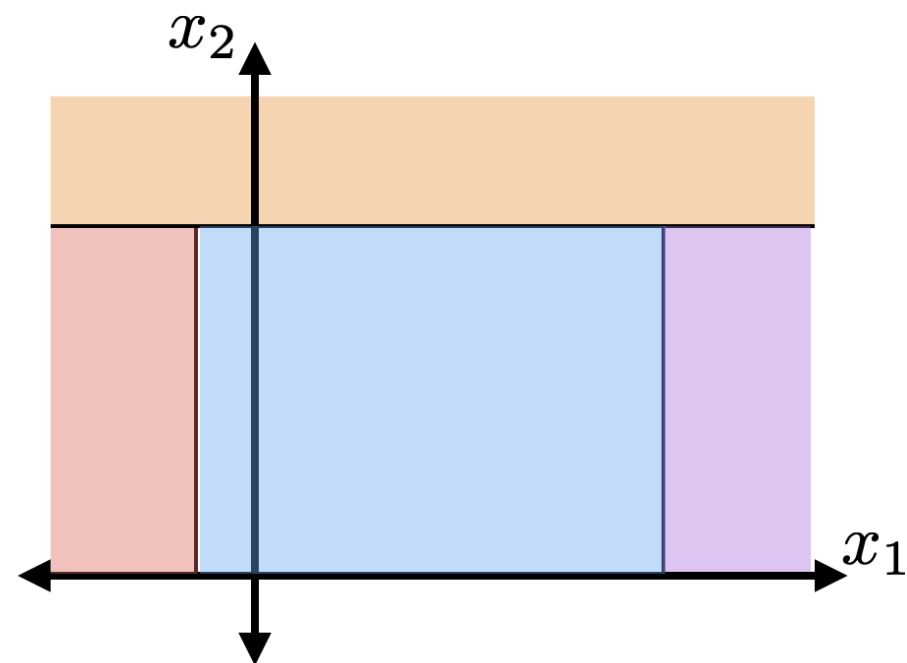
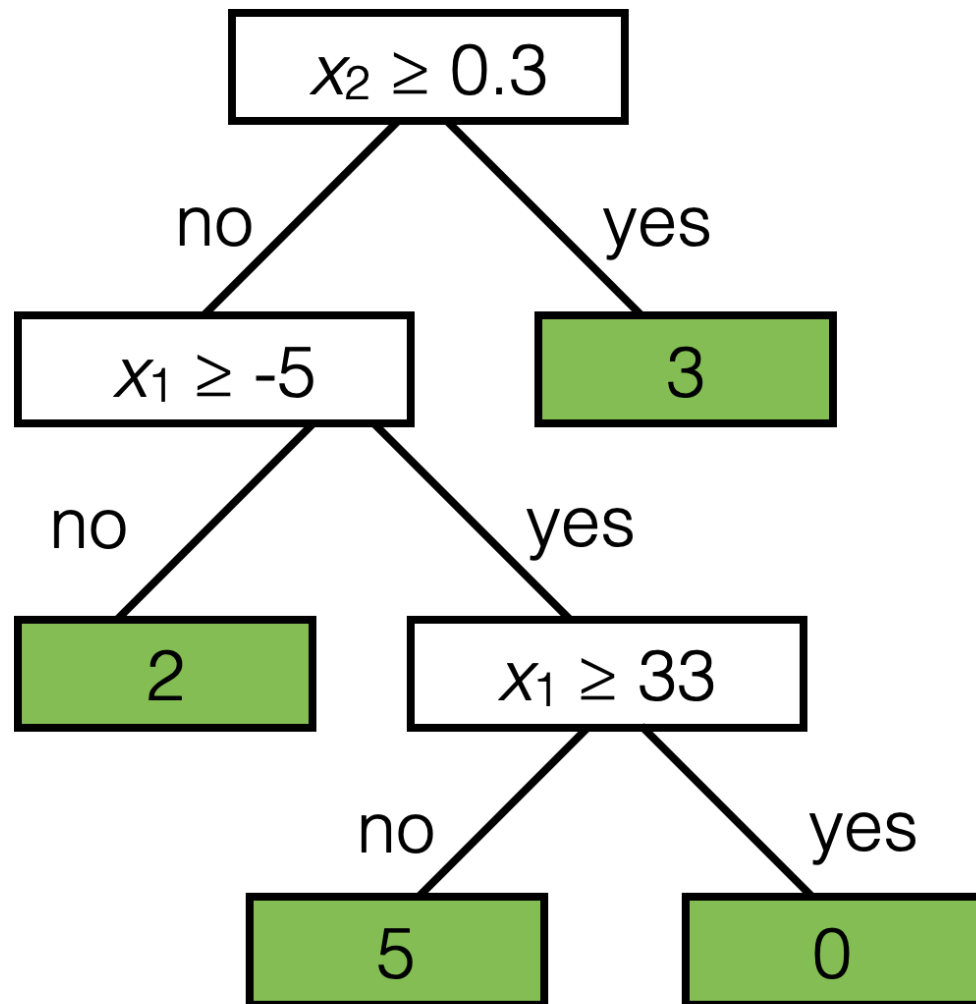








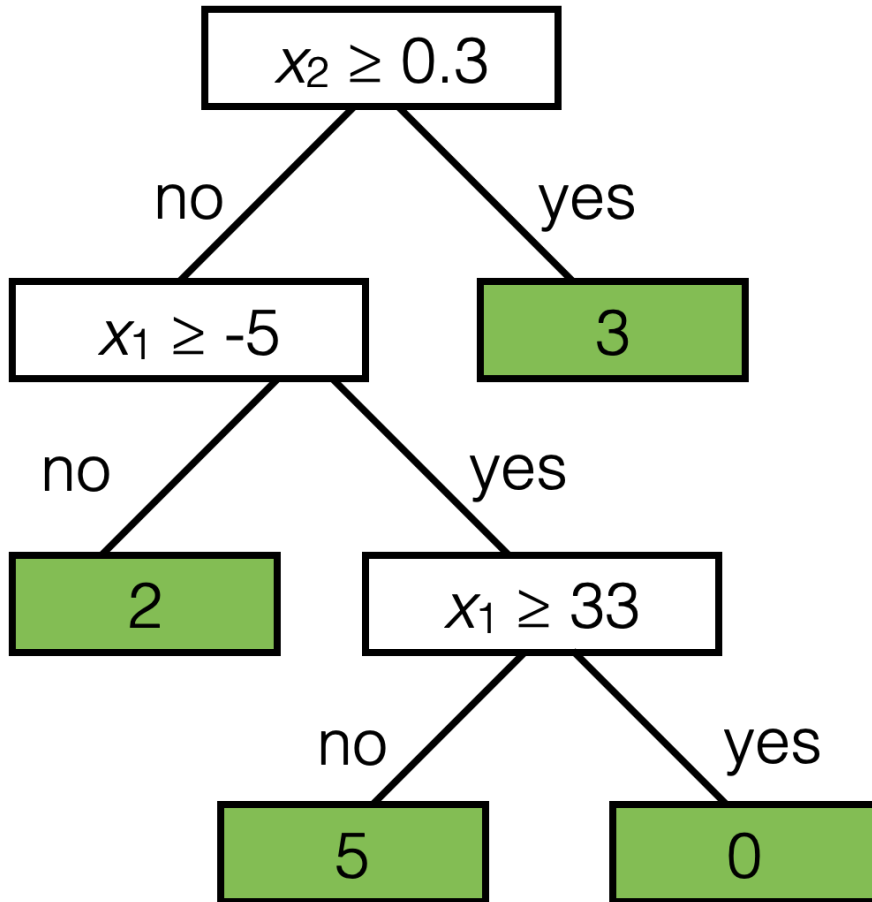




## How to learn a tree?

Recall: familiar "recipe"

1. Choose how to predict label (given features & parameters)
2. Choose a loss (between guess & actual label)
3. Choose parameters by trying to minimize the training loss



Here, we need:

- For each internal node:
  - split dimension
  - split value
  - child nodes
- For each leaf node:
  - label

## BuildTree( $I; k$ )

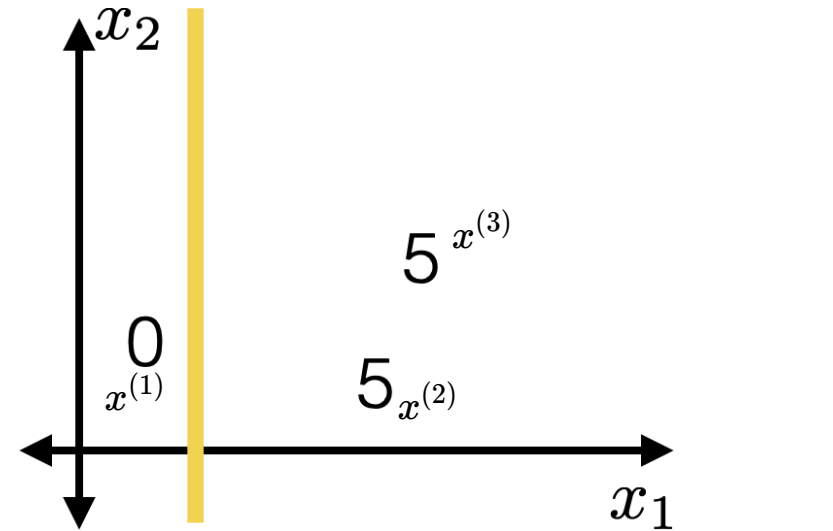
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2.     **for** each split dim  $j$  and split value  $s$
3.         Set  $I_{j,s}^+ = \left\{ i \in I \mid x_j^{(i)} \geq s \right\}$
4.         Set  $I_{j,s}^- = \left\{ i \in I \mid x_j^{(i)} < s \right\}$
5.         Set  $\hat{y}_{j,s}^+ = \text{average}_{i \in I_{j,s}^+} y^{(i)}$
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8.     Set  $(j^*, s^*) = \arg \min_{j,s} E_{j,s}$
9. **else**
10.     Set  $\hat{y} = \text{average}_{i \in I} y^{(i)}$
11.     **return** LEAF(leave\_value= $\hat{y}$ )
12. **return** Node  $(j^*, s^*, \text{BuildTree}(I_{j^*,s^*}^-, k), \text{BuildTree}(I_{j^*,s^*}^+, k))$

- input  $I$ : set of indices
- $k$ : hyper-parameter, maximum leaf "size", i.e. how many training data ended in that leaf node.
- $\hat{y}$ : (intermediate) prediction

- $j$ : split dimension
- $s$ : split value

## BuildTree( $I; k$ )

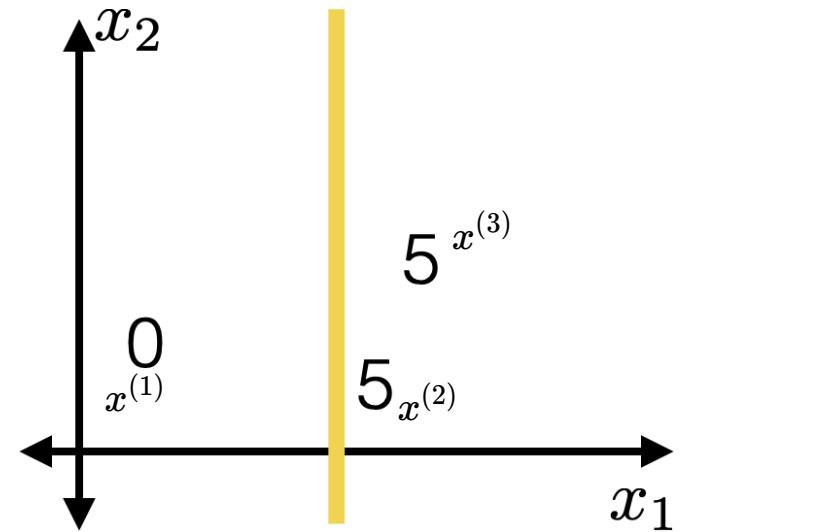
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- Choose  $k = 2$
- BuildTree( $\{1, 2, 3\}; 2$ )
- Line 1 true
- Consider a fixed  $(j, s)$ 
  - $I_{j,s}^+ = \{2, 3\}$
  - $I_{j,s}^- = \{1\}$
  - $\hat{y}_{j,s}^+ = 5$
  - $\hat{y}_{j,s}^- = 0$
  - $E_{j,s} = 0$

BuildTree( $I; k$ )

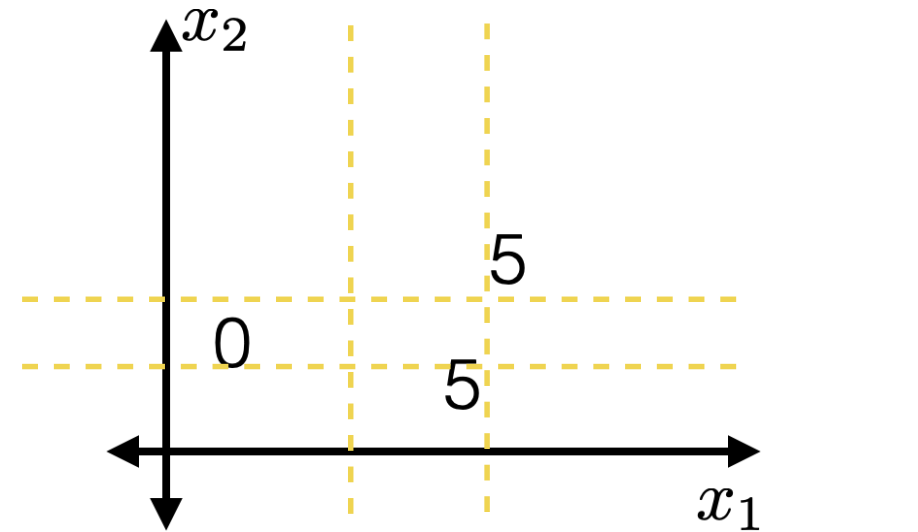
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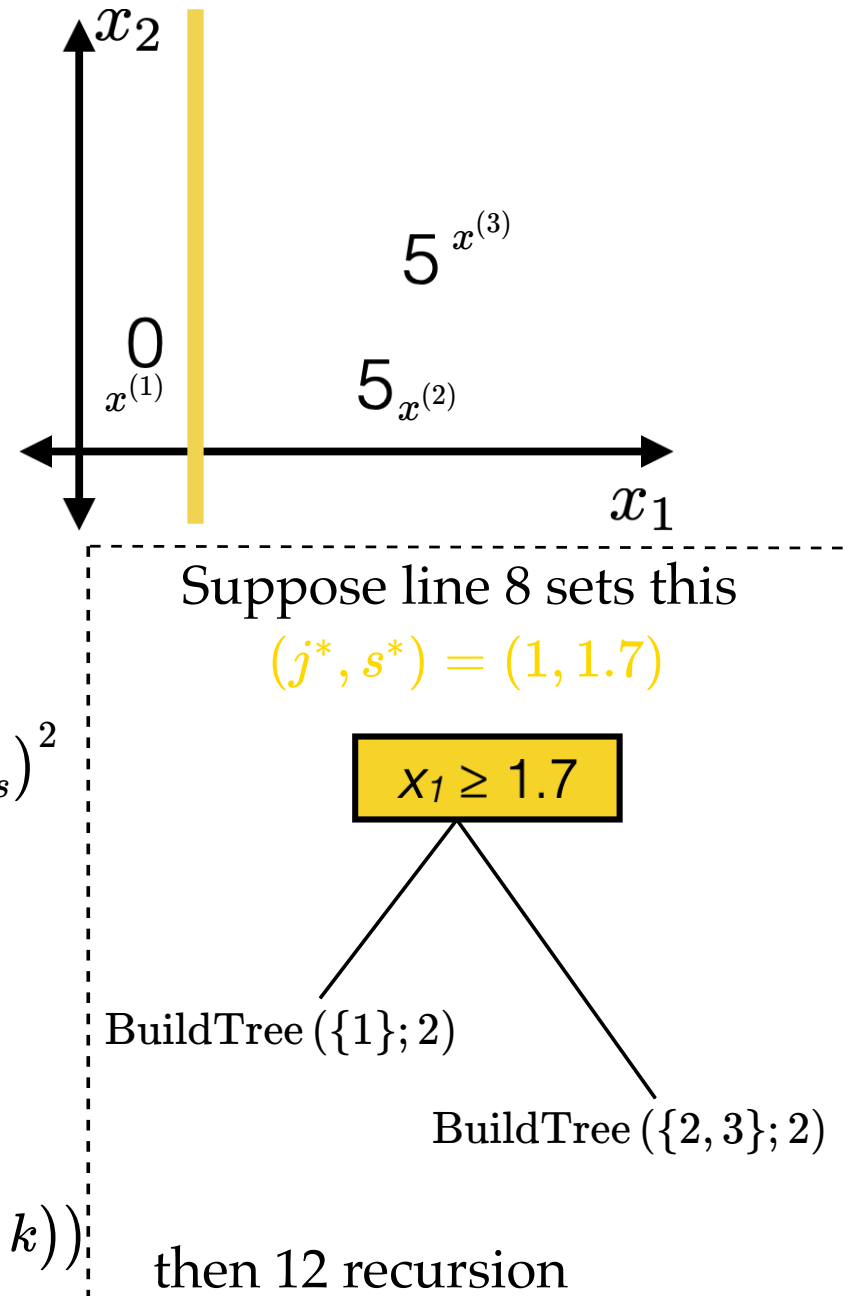
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- So for line 2: a finite number of  $(j, s)$  combo suffices (those splits in-between data points)
- Line 8 picks the "best" among these finite combos. (random tie-breaking)

BuildTree( $I; k$ )

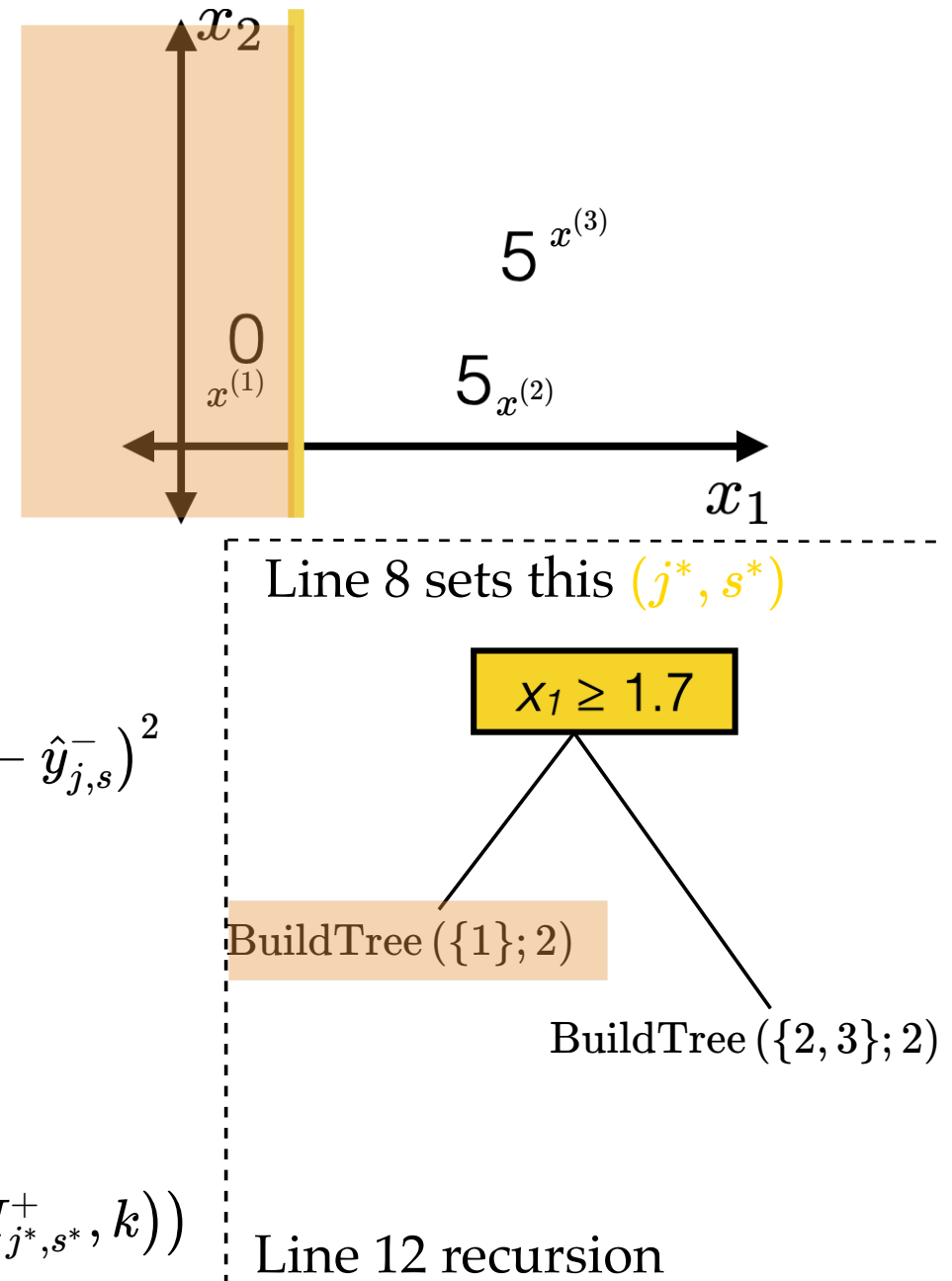
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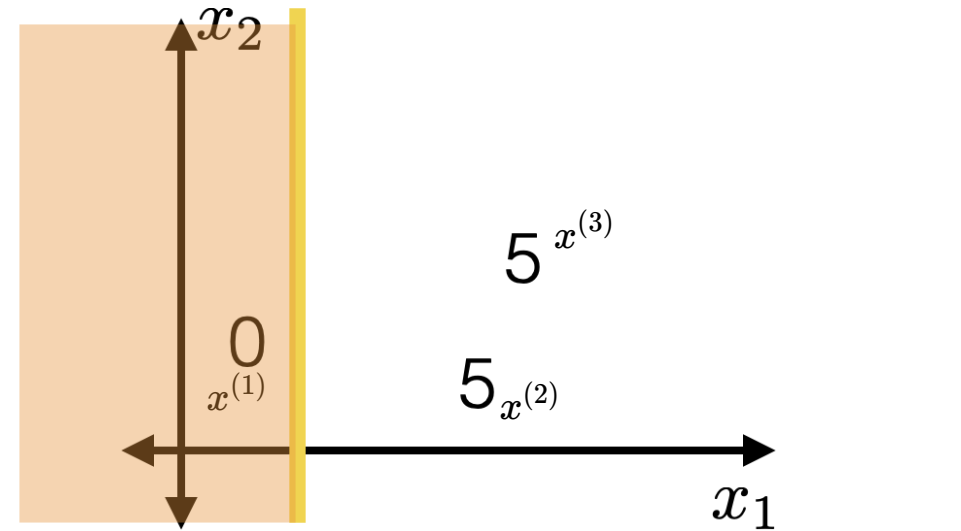
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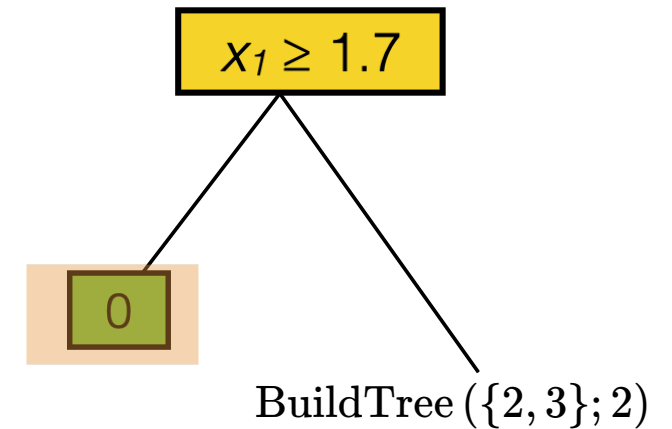


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3.     Set  $I_{j,s}^+ = \{i \in I \mid x_j^{(i)} \geq s\}$
4.     Set  $I_{j,s}^- = \{i \in I \mid x_j^{(i)} < s\}$
5.     Set  $\hat{y}_{j,s}^+ = \text{average}_{i \in I_{j,s}^+} y^{(i)}$
6.     Set  $\hat{y}_{j,s}^- = \text{average}_{i \in I_{j,s}^-} y^{(i)}$
7.     Set  $E_{j,s} = \sum_{i \in I_{j,s}^+} (y^{(i)} - \hat{y}_{j,s}^+)^2 + \sum_{i \in I_{j,s}^-} (y^{(i)} - \hat{y}_{j,s}^-)^2$
8.     Set  $(j^*, s^*) = \arg \min_{j,s} E_{j,s}$
9. **else**
10.   Set  $\hat{y} = \text{average}_{i \in I} y^{(i)}$
11.   **return** LEAF(leave\_value= $\hat{y}$ )
12. **return** Node( $j^*, s^*, \text{BuildTree}(I_{j^*,s^*}^-, k), \text{BuildTree}(I_{j^*,s^*}^+, k)$ )



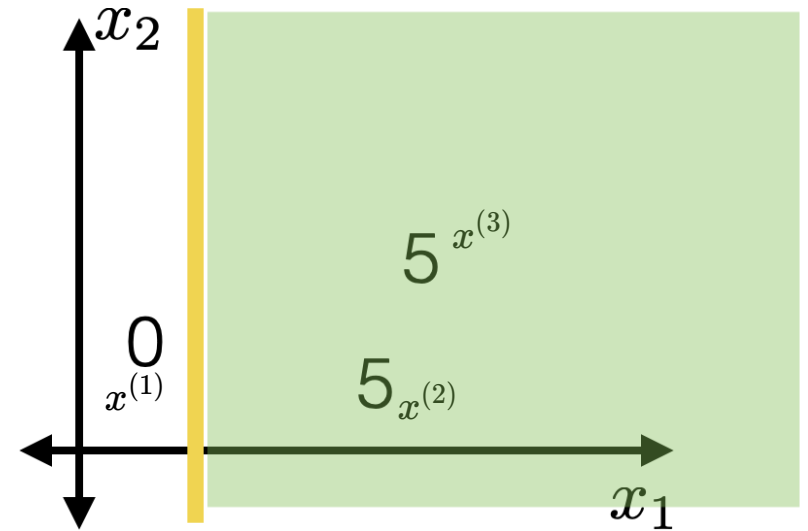
Line 8 sets this  $(j^*, s^*)$



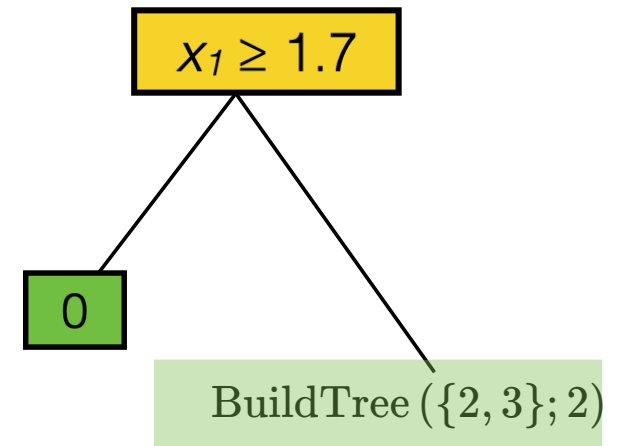
Line 12 recursion

## BuildTree( $I; k$ )

1. **if**  $|I| > k$
2.   **for** each split dim  $j$  and split value  $s$
3.     Set  $I_{j,s}^+ = \left\{ i \in I \mid x_j^{(i)} \geq s \right\}$
4.     Set  $I_{j,s}^- = \left\{ i \in I \mid x_j^{(i)} < s \right\}$
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12. **return** Node( $j^*, s^*, \text{BuildTree}(I_{j^*,s^*}^-, k), \text{BuildTree}(I_{j^*,s^*}^+, k)$ )



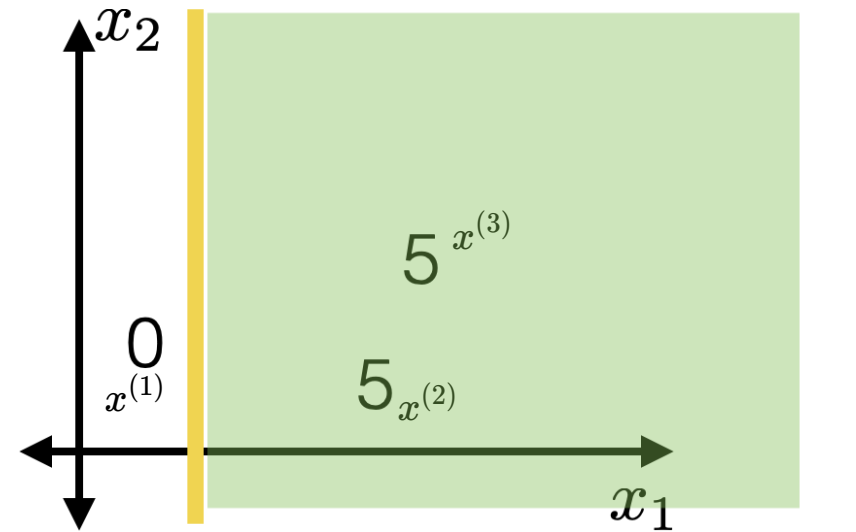
Line 8 sets this  $(j^*, s^*)$



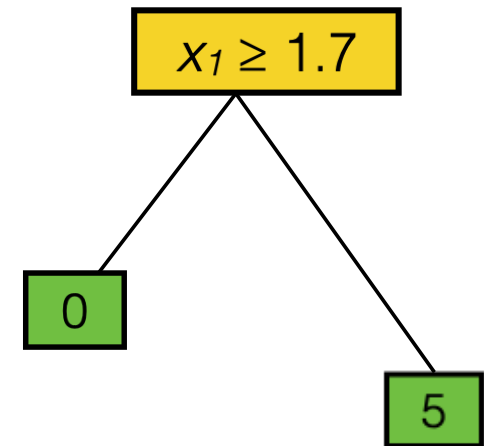
Line 12 recursion

## BuildTree( $I; k$ )

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2.   **for** each split dim  $j$  and split value  $s$
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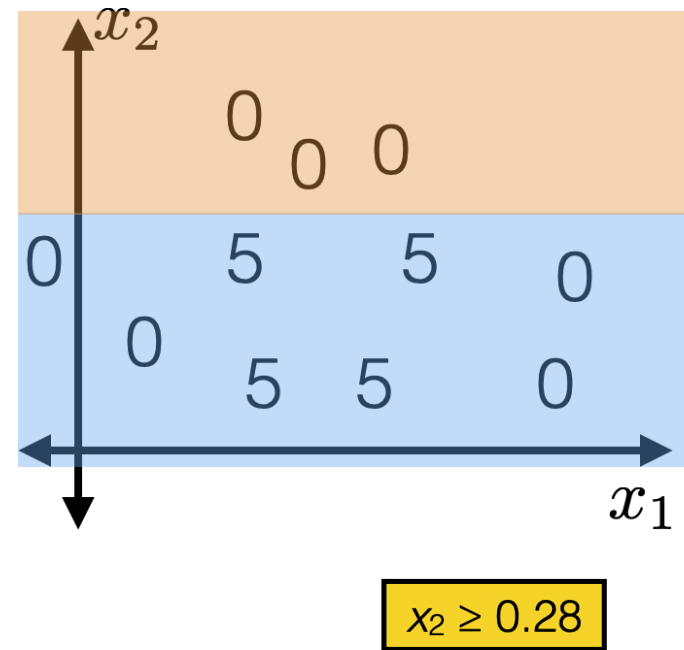
Line 8 sets this  $(j^*, s^*)$



Line 12 recursion

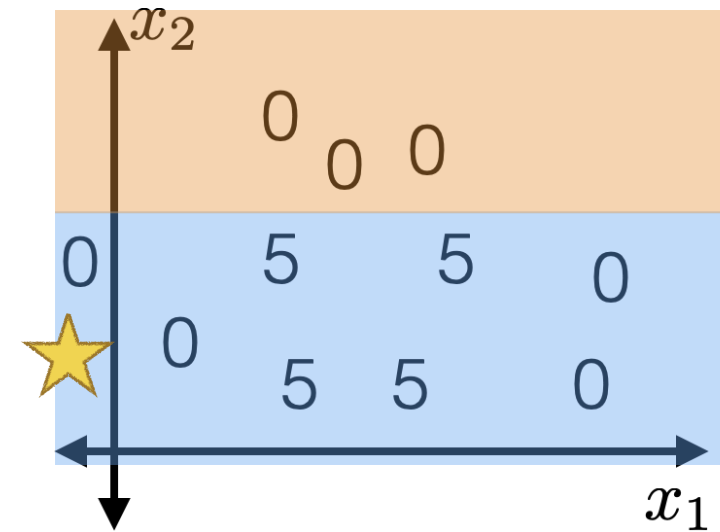
## BuildTree( $I; k$ )

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11.        **return** LEAF(leave\_value= $\hat{y}$ )
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## BuildTree( $I; k$ )

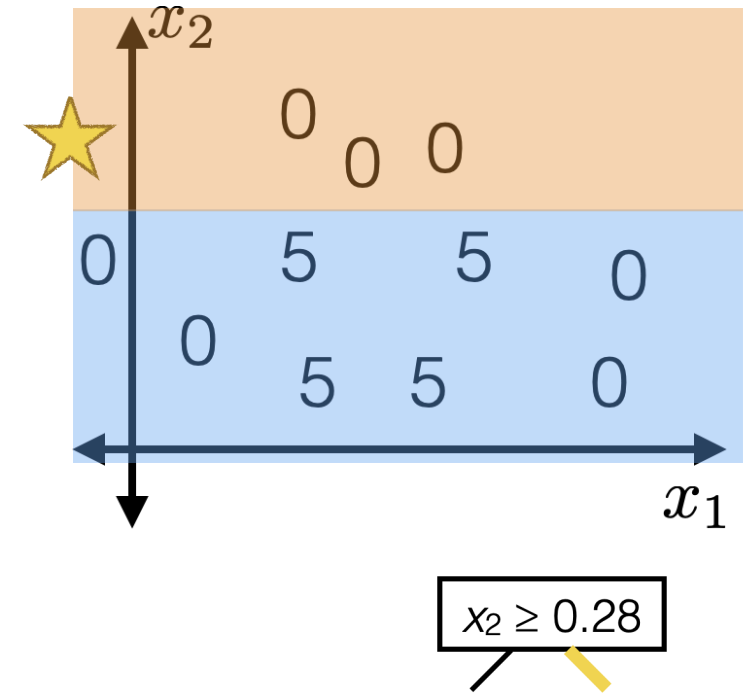
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$x_2 \geq 0.28$

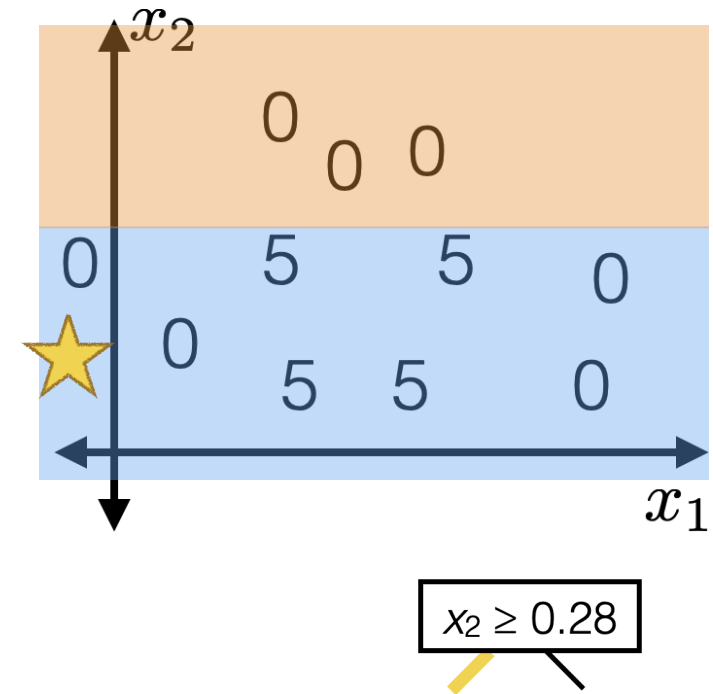
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## BuildTree( $I; k$ )

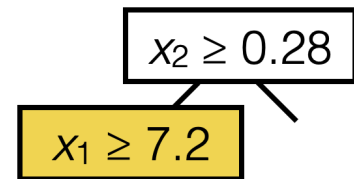
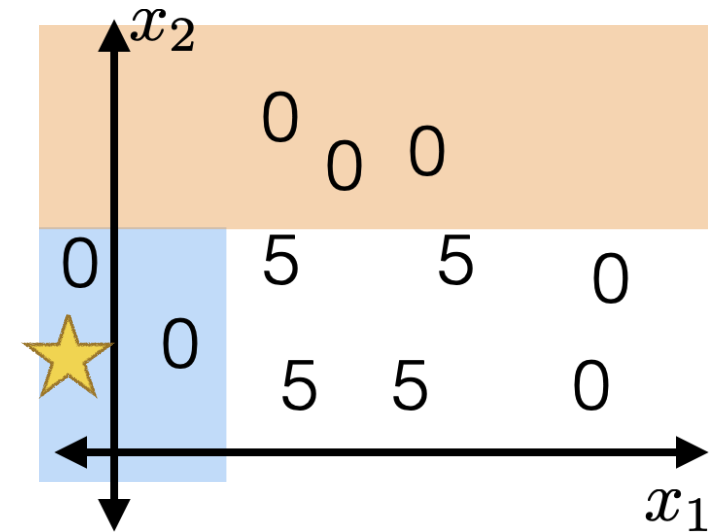
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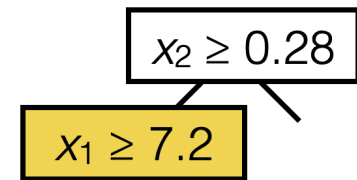
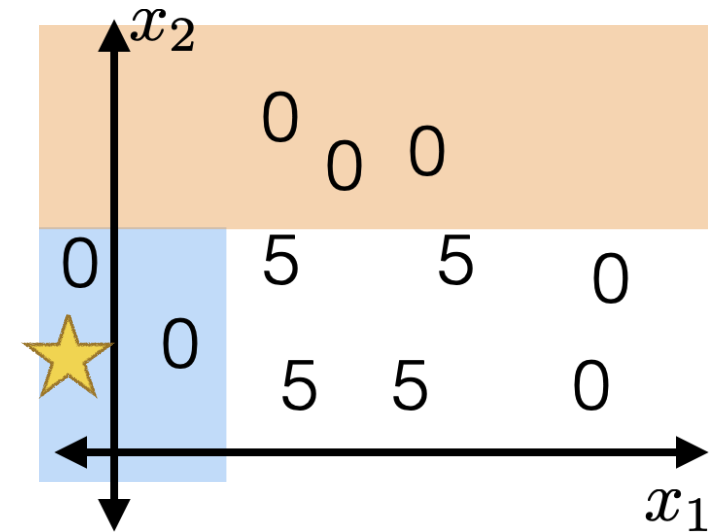
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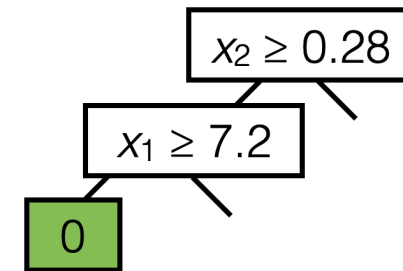
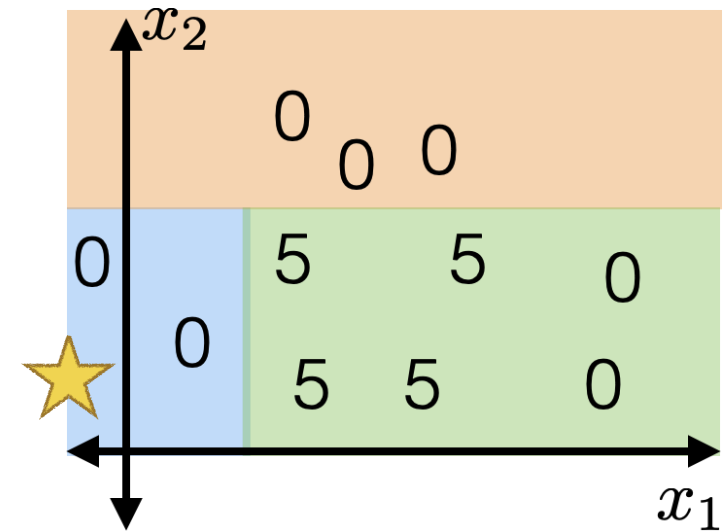
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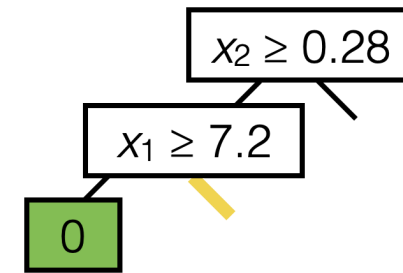
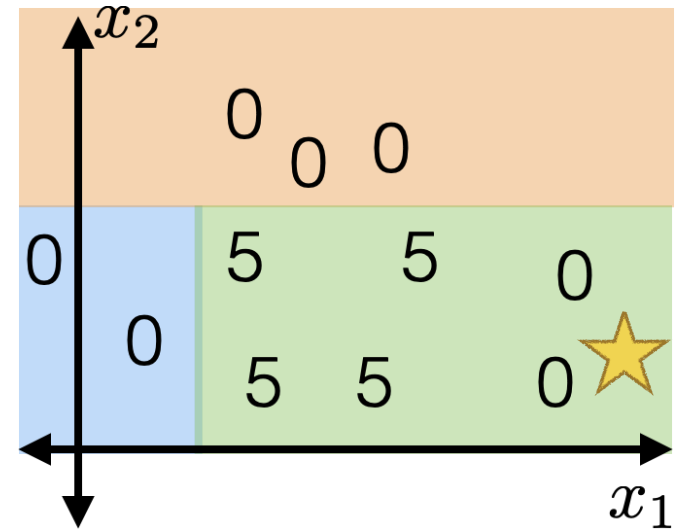
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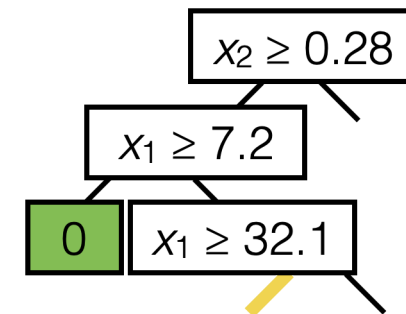
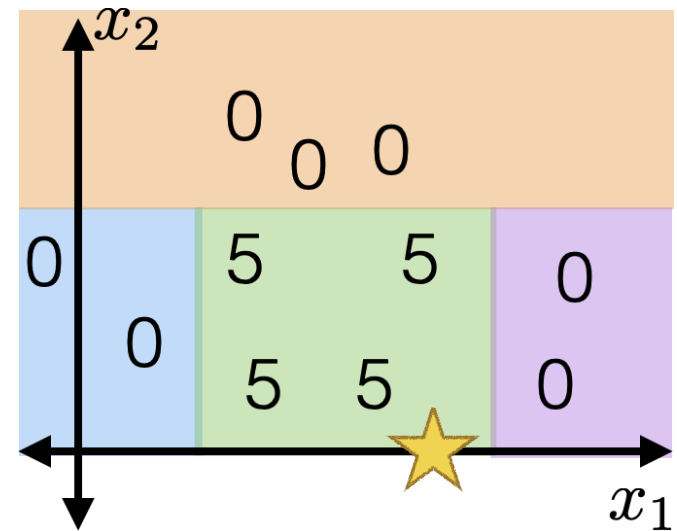
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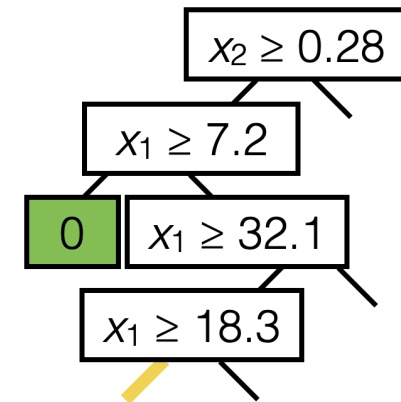
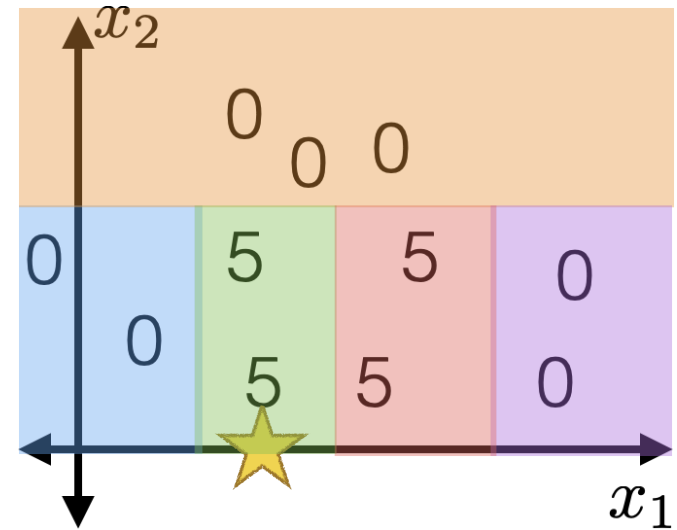
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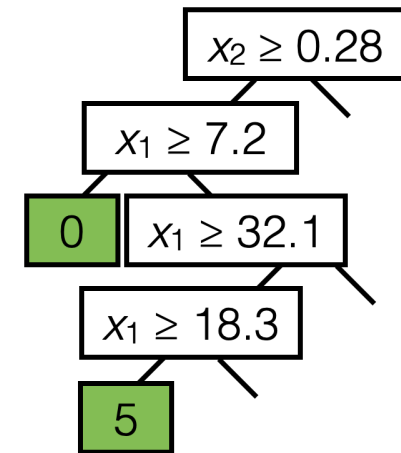
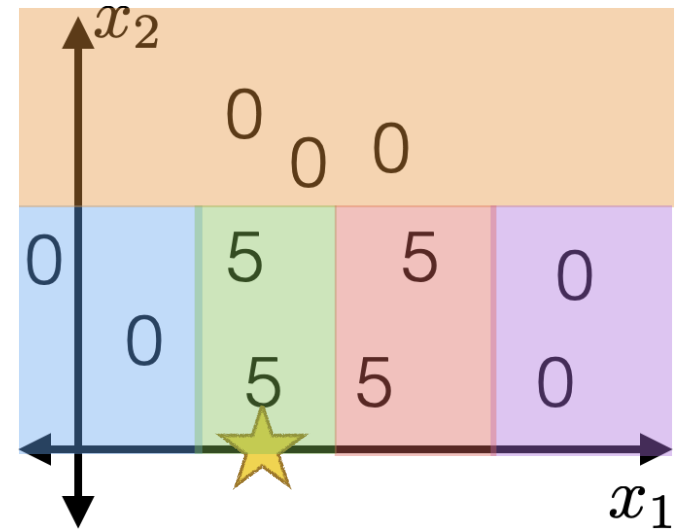
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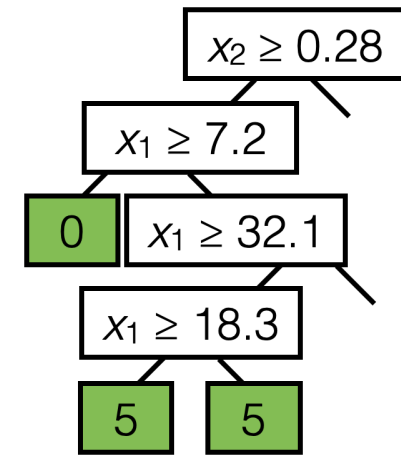
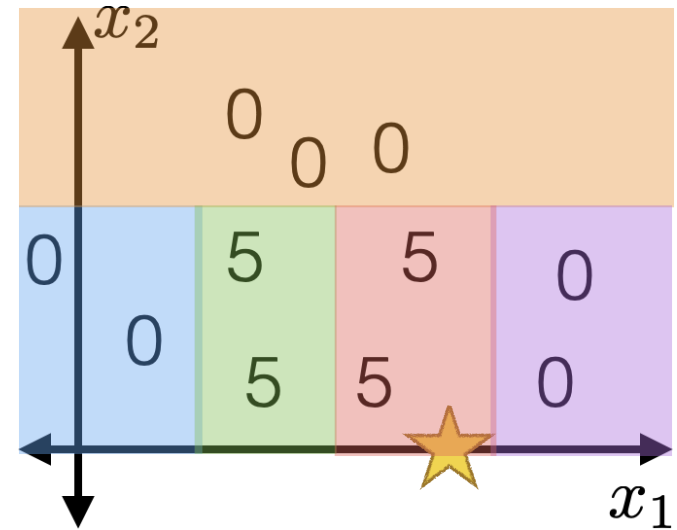
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## BuildTree( $I; k$ )

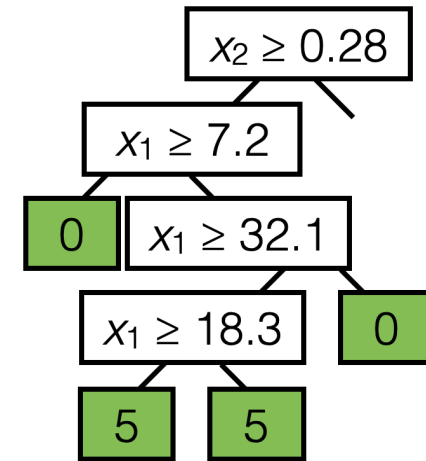
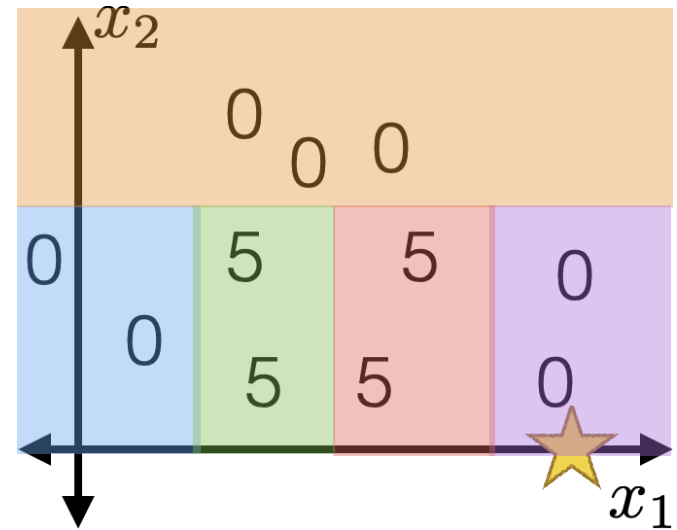
1. **if**  $|I| > k$
2.     **for** each split dim  $j$  and split value  $s$
3.         Set  $I_{j,s}^+ = \left\{ i \in I \mid x_j^{(i)} \geq s \right\}$
4.         Set  $I_{j,s}^- = \left\{ i \in I \mid x_j^{(i)} < s \right\}$
5.         Set.  $\hat{y}_{j,s}^+ = \text{average}_{i \in I_{j,s}^+} y^{(i)}$
6.         Set  $\hat{y}_{j,s}^- = \text{average}_{i \in I_{j,s}^-} y^{(i)}$
7.         Set  $E_{j,s} = \sum_{i \in I_{j,s}^+} (y^{(i)} - \hat{y}_{j,s}^+)^2 + \sum_{i \in I_{j,s}^-} (y^{(i)} - \hat{y}_{j,s}^-)^2$
8.         Set  $(j^*, s^*) = \arg \min_{j,s} E_{j,s}$
9.     **else**
10.         Set  $\hat{y} = \text{average}_{i \in I} y^{(i)}$
11.         **return** LEAF(leave\_value= $\hat{y}$ )
12. **return** Node ( $j^*, s^*, \text{BuildTree}(I_{j^*,s^*}^-, k), \text{BuildTree}(I_{j^*,s^*}^+, k)$ )





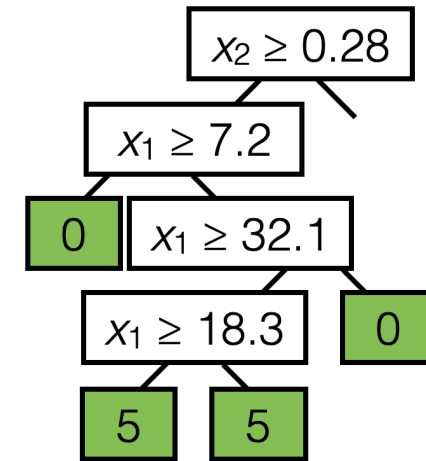
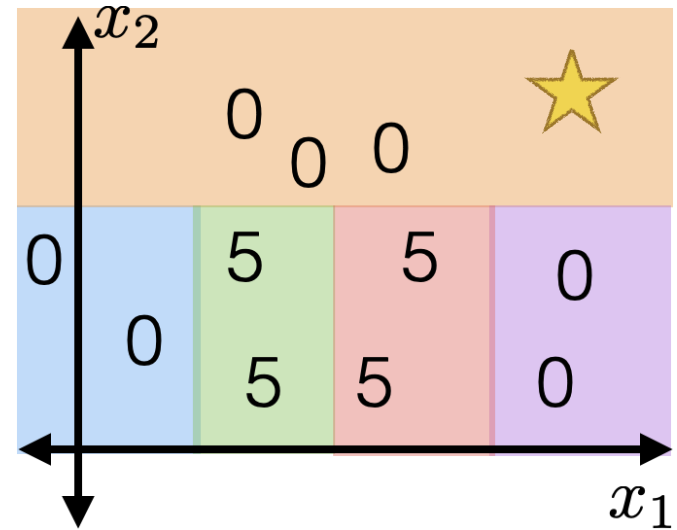
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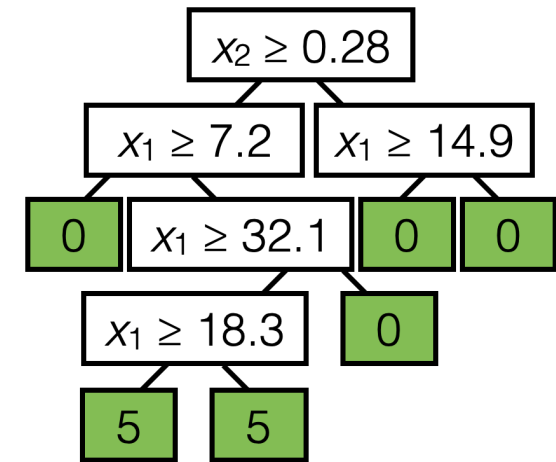
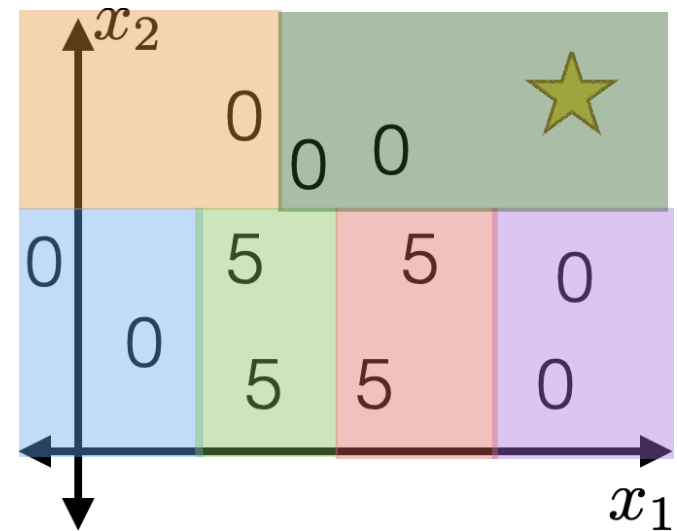
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5.         Set  $\hat{y}_{j,s}^+ = \text{majority}_{i \in I_{j,s}^+} y^{(i)}$
6.         Set  $\hat{y}_{j,s}^- = \text{majority}_{i \in I_{j,s}^-} y^{(i)}$
7.         Set  $E_{j,s} = \frac{|I_{j,s}^-|}{|I|} \cdot H(I_{j,s}^-) + \frac{|I_{j,s}^+|}{|I|} \cdot H(I_{j,s}^+)$
8.         Set  $(j^*, s^*) = \arg \min_{j,s} E_{j,s}$
9.     **else**
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11.         **return** LEAF(leave\_value= $\hat{y}$ )
12. **return** Node( $j^*, s^*, \text{BuildTree}(I_{j^*,s^*}^-; k), \text{BuildTree}(I_{j^*,s^*}^+; k)$ )

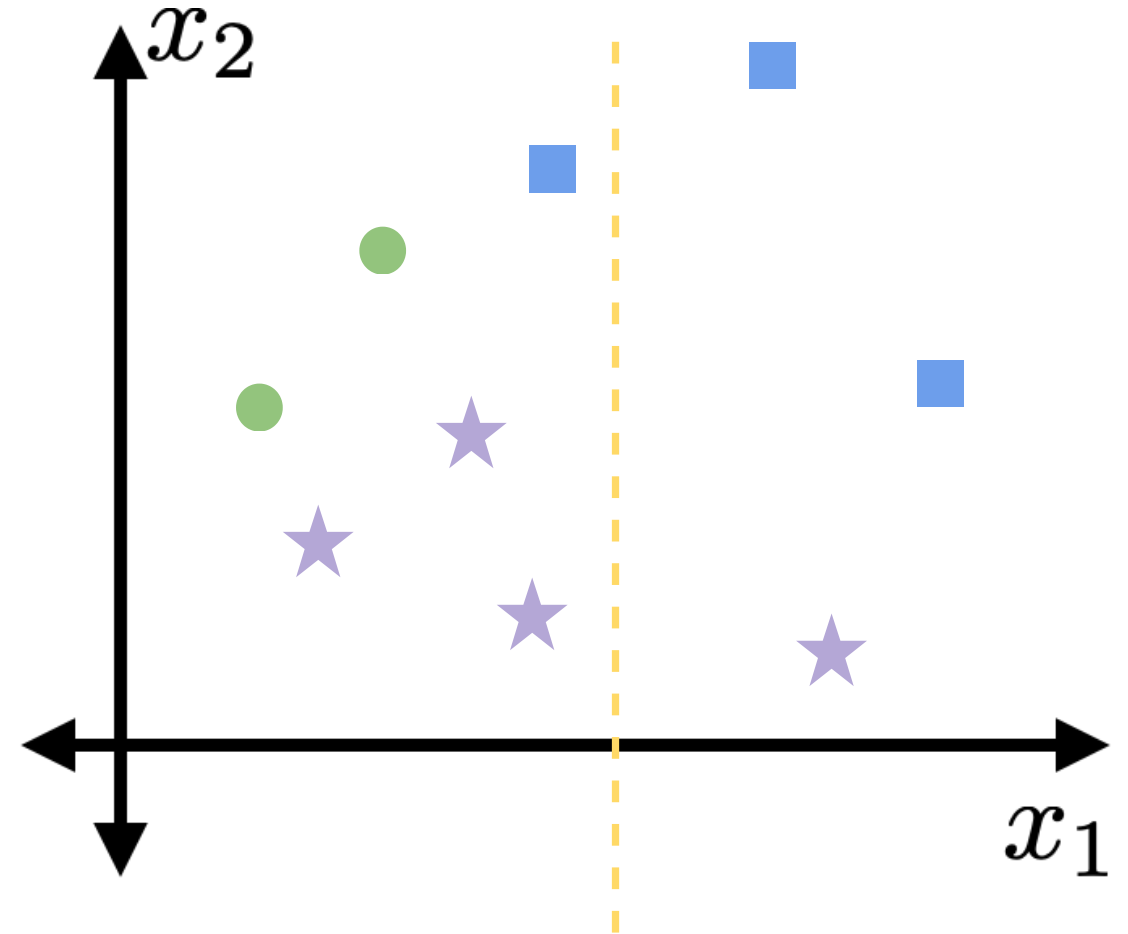
The only change from regression to classification:

- Line 5, 6, 10, average becomes majority vote
- Line 7 error more involved

$$E_{j,s} = \frac{|I_{j,s}^-|}{|I|} \cdot H(I_{j,s}^-) + \frac{|I_{j,s}^+|}{|I|} \cdot H(I_{j,s}^+)$$

- $I = 9, |I_{j,s}^-| = 6, |I_{j,s}^+| = 3$
- So,  $E_{j,s} = \frac{6}{9}H(I_{j,s}^-) + \frac{3}{9}H(I_{j,s}^+)$

$$H = -\sum_{\text{class } c} \hat{P}_c (\log_2 \hat{P}_c)$$



$$H(I_{j,s}^-) = -\left[\frac{3}{6} \log_2 \left(\frac{3}{6}\right) + \frac{2}{6} \log_2 \left(\frac{2}{6}\right) + \frac{1}{6} \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)\right]$$

$$H(I_{j,s}^+) = -\left[\frac{1}{3} \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{3}\right) + \frac{0}{3} \log_2 \left(\frac{0}{3}\right) + \frac{2}{3} \log_2 \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)\right]$$

ELIOT VAN BUSKIRK BUSINESS 09.22.2009 11:19 AM

# How the Netflix Prize Was Won

Like BellKor's Pragmatic Chaos, the winner of the Netflix Prize, second-place **The Ensemble** was an amalgam of teams which had been competing individually for the prize. But it wasn't until leaders joined forces that real progress was made in the the Netflix movie recommendation [...]



International Journal of Forecasting

ELSEVIER Volume 36, Issue 1, January–March 2020, Pages 5

## The M4 Competition: 100,000 time series and 61 forecasting methods

Spyros Makridakis <sup>a</sup>, Evangelos Spiliotis <sup>b</sup>, Vassilios Assimakopoulos <sup>b</sup>

CASES, DATA & SURVEILLANCE

# Forecasts of COVID-19 Deaths

Updated Nov. 12, 2020

Observed and forecasted new and total reported COVID-19 deaths as of November 9, 2020.

## Interpretation of Forecasts of New and Total Deaths

- This week CDC received forecasts of COVID-19 deaths over the next 4 weeks from 36 modeling groups that were included in the **ensemble forecast**. Of the 36 groups, 33 provided forecasts for both new and total deaths, two groups forecasted total deaths only, and one forecasted new death only.

## Bagging

- One of multiple ways to make and use an ensemble
- Bagging = **B**ootstrap **a**ggregating
  - Training data  $\mathcal{D}_n$

- Sampling with replacement

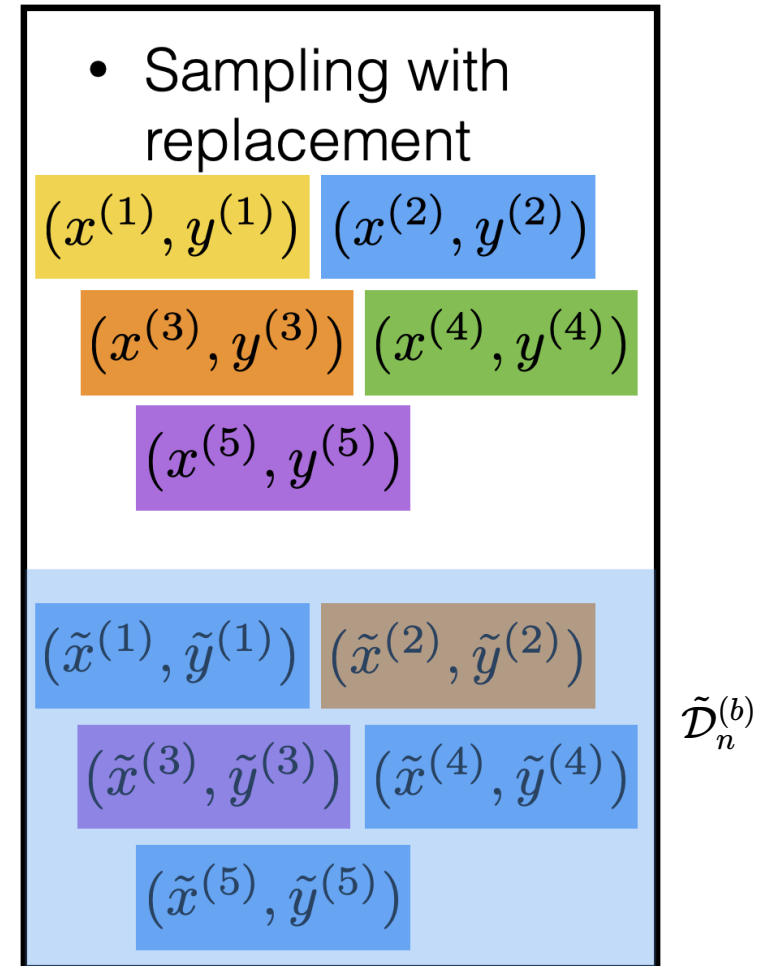
$(x^{(1)}, y^{(1)})$   $(x^{(2)}, y^{(2)})$

$(x^{(3)}, y^{(3)})$   $(x^{(4)}, y^{(4)})$

$(x^{(5)}, y^{(5)})$

# Bagging

- One of multiple ways to make and use an ensemble
- Bagging = **B**ootstrap **a**ggregating
  - Training data  $\mathcal{D}_n$
  - For  $b = 1, \dots, B$ 
    - Draw a new "data set"  $\tilde{\mathcal{D}}_n^{(b)}$  of size  $n$  by sampling with replacement from  $\mathcal{D}_n$
    - Train a predictor  $\hat{f}^{(b)}$  on  $\tilde{\mathcal{D}}_n^{(b)}$
  - Return
    - For regression:  $\hat{f}_{\text{bag}}(x) = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \hat{f}^{(b)}(x)$
    - For classification: predictor at a point is class with highest vote count at that point





# Outline

- Recap (transformers)
- Non-parametric models
  - interpretability
  - ease of use / simplicity
- Decision tree
  - Terminologies
  - Learn via the BuildTree algorithm
    - Regression
    - Classification
- Nearest neighbor

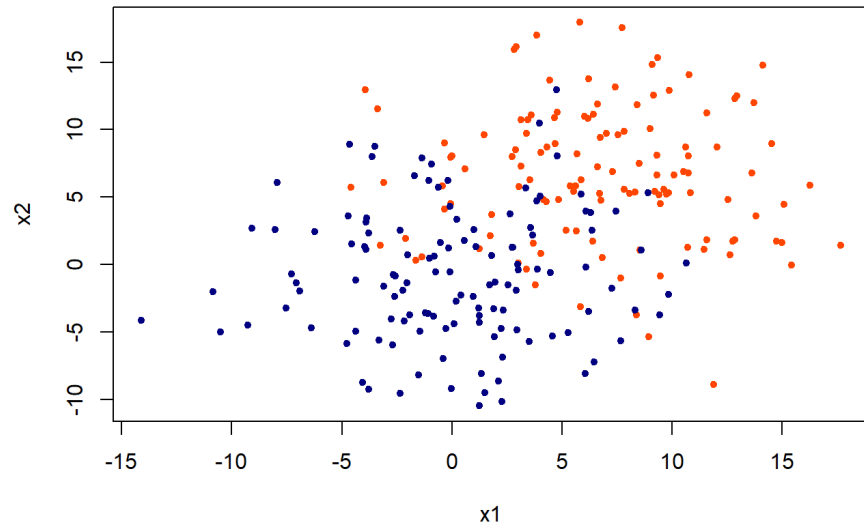
# Nearest neighbor classifier

- Hyperparameter:  $k$
- Also need
  - Distance metric (typically Euclidean or Manhattan distance)
  - A tie-breaking scheme (typically at random)

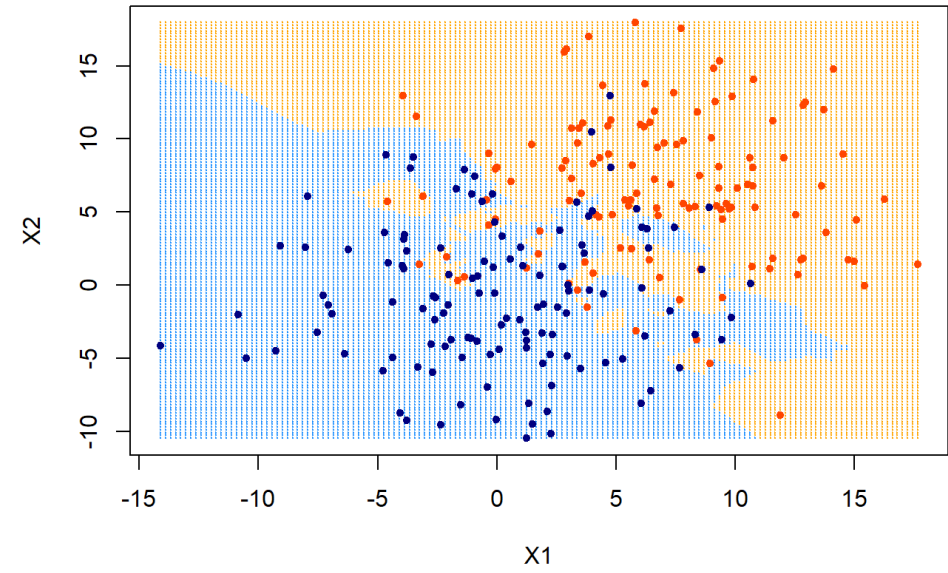
Training: None (or rather: memorize the entire training data)

Predicting / testing:

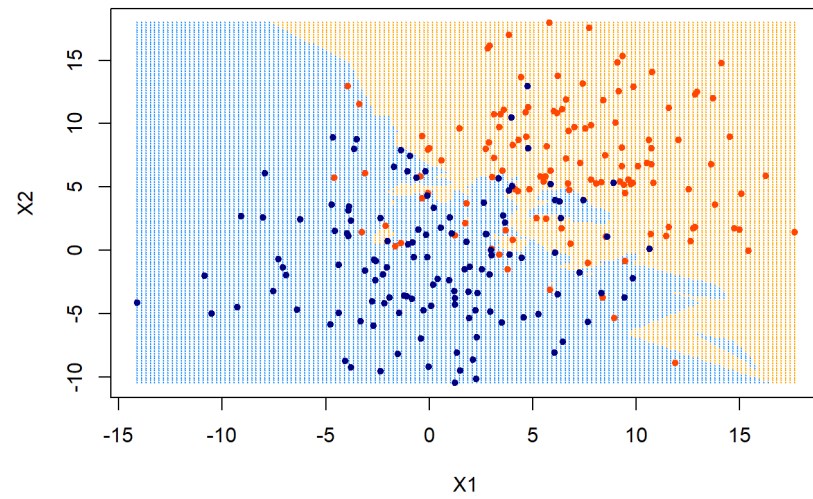
- for a new data point  $x_{new}$  do:
  - find the  $k$  points in training data nearest to  $x_{new}$ 
    - For classification: predict label  $y_{new}^{\hat{}}$  for  $x_{new}$  by taking a majority vote of the  $k$  neighbors' labels  $y$
    - For regression: predict label  $y_{new}^{\hat{}}$  for  $x_{new}$  by taking an average over the  $k$  neighbors' labels  $y$



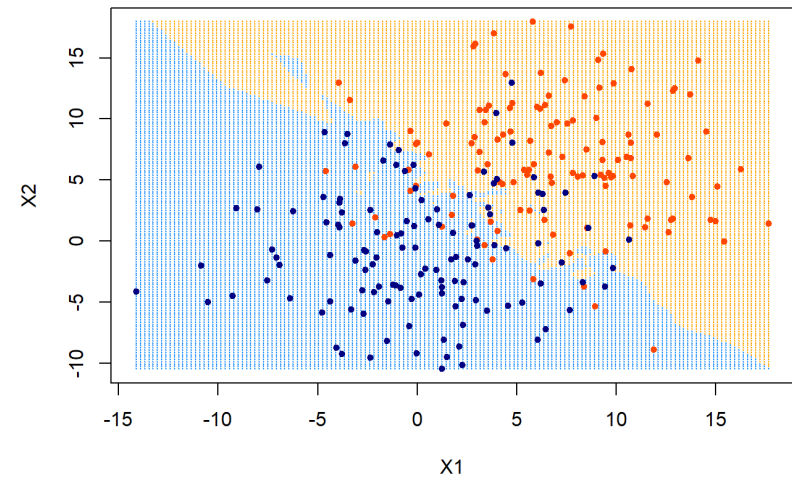
**KNN = 3**



**KNN = 5**



**KNN = 10**



We'd love it for you to share some lecture [feedback](#).

Thanks!