

An abstract graphic on the left side of the slide, featuring a sphere-like shape composed of a dense grid of intersecting red, green, and blue lines. The lines are curved and follow the contour of the sphere, creating a complex, woven pattern. The sphere is set against a dark gray background.

10-315

Introduction to ML

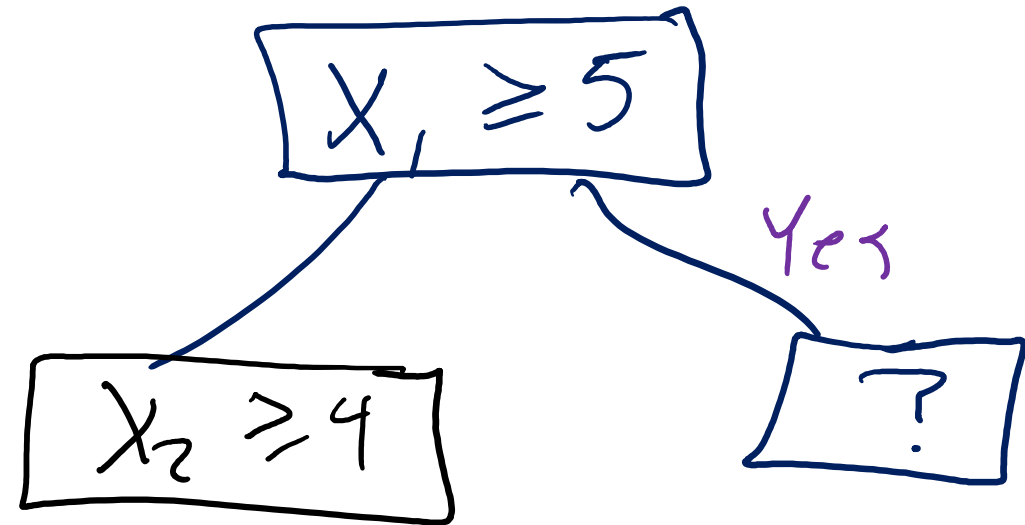
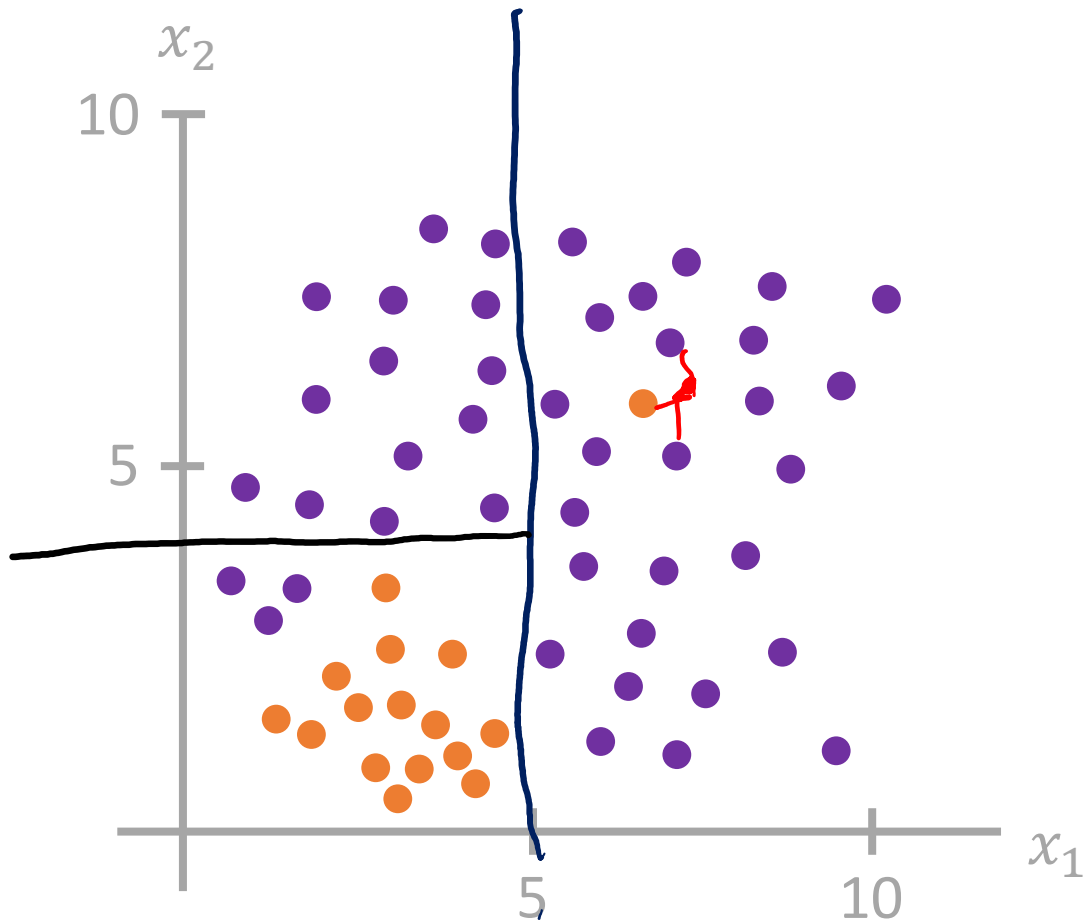
Nearest Neighbor  
and  
Model Selection

Instructor: Pat Virtue

# Decision Trees with Continuous Features

Consider input features  $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

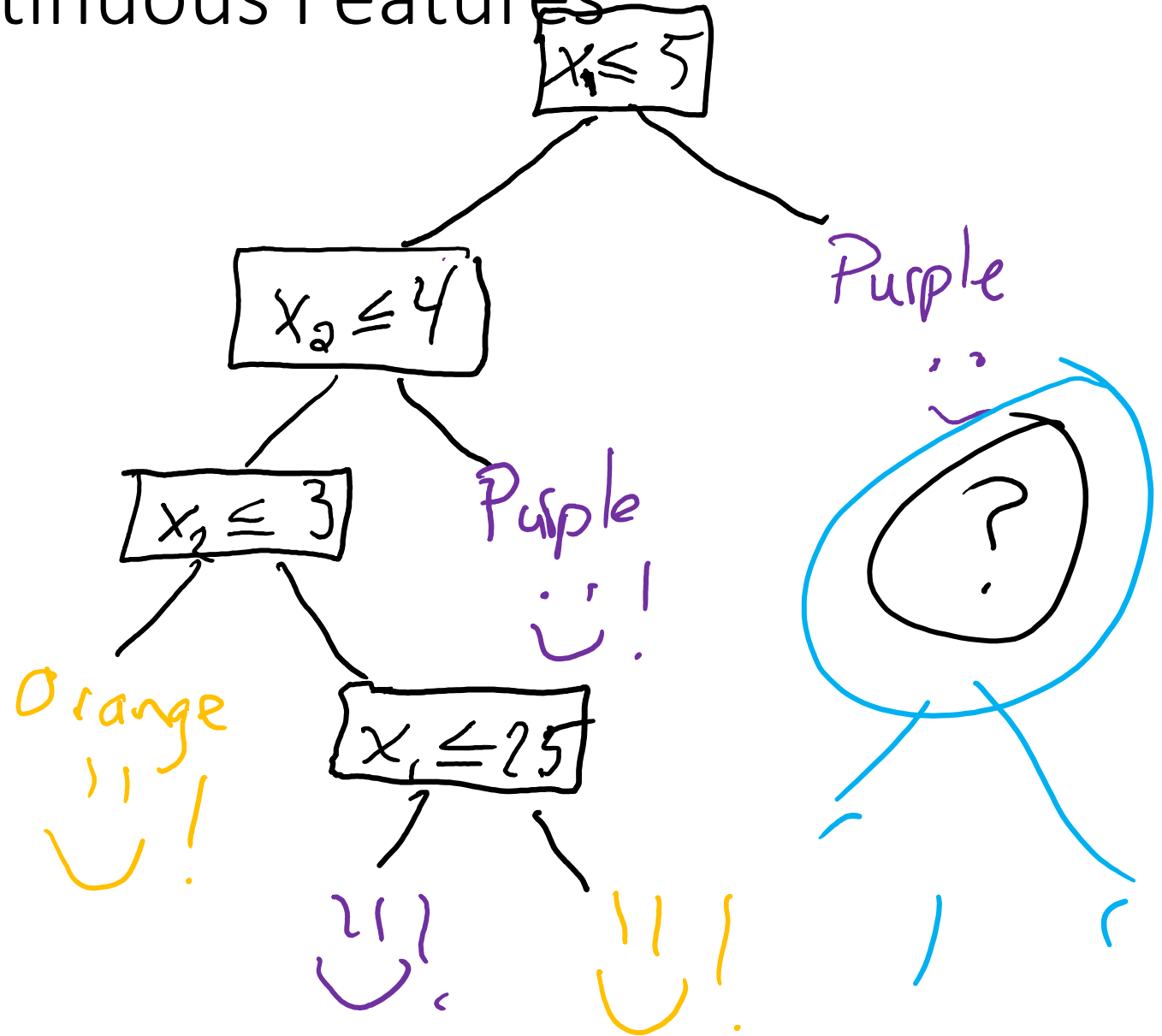
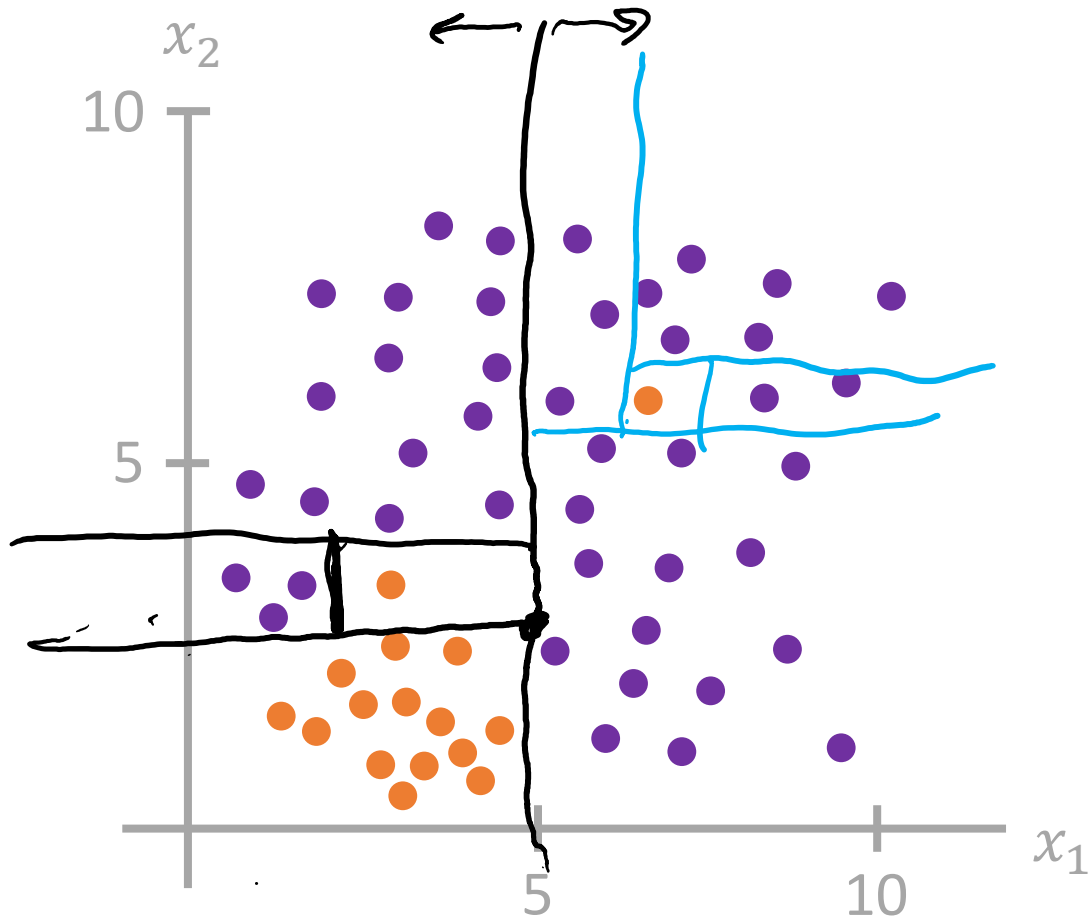
Draw a reasonable decision tree.



# Decision Trees with Continuous Features

Consider input features  $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

Draw a reasonable decision tree.



# Poll 1

## Decision tree generalization

Which of the following generalize best to unseen examples?

- A. Small tree with low training accuracy
- B. Large tree with low training accuracy
- C. Small tree with high training accuracy
- D. Large tree with high training accuracy

# Poll 1

## Decision tree generalization

Which of the following generalize best to unseen examples?

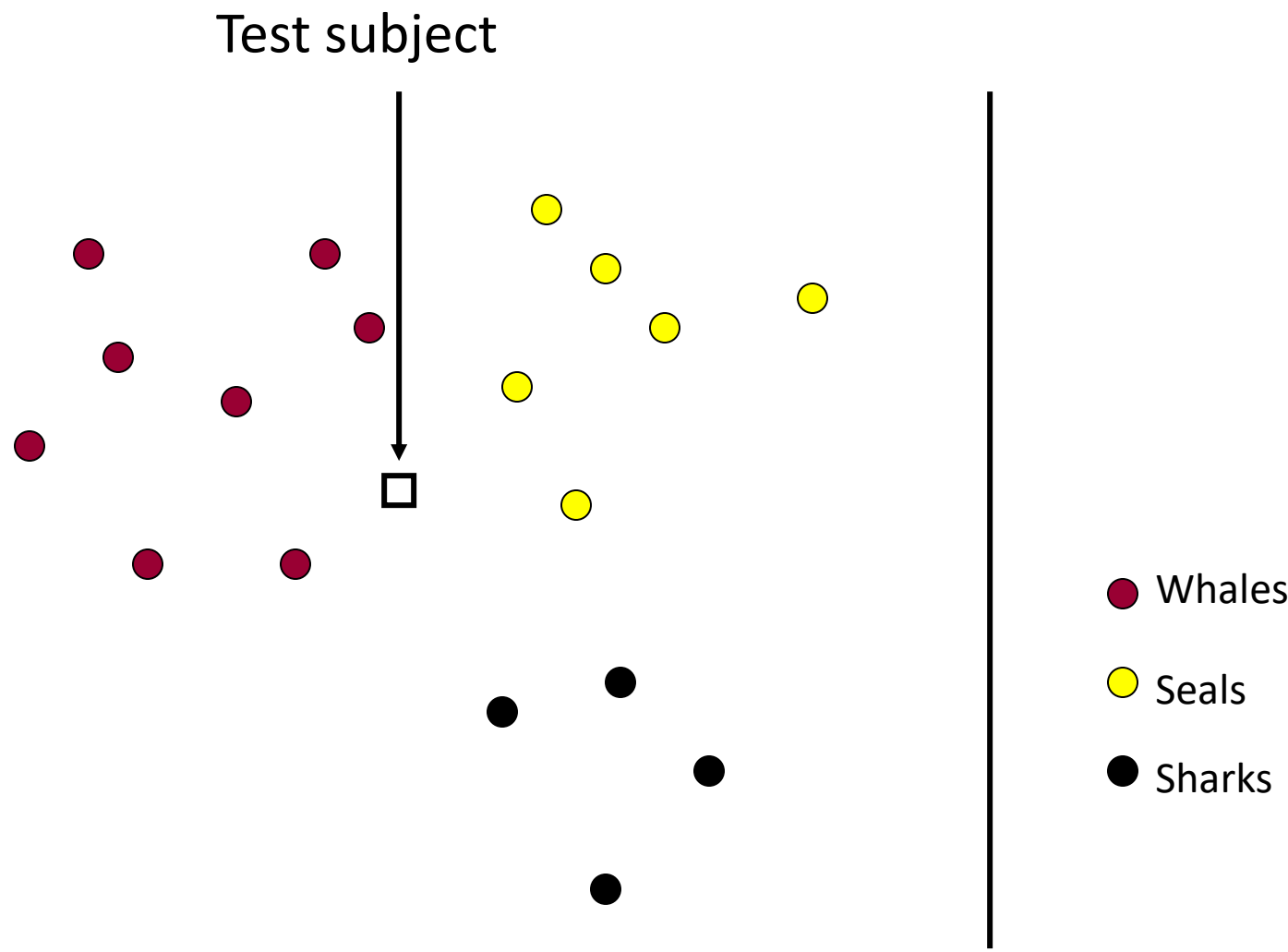
- A. Small tree with low training accuracy
- B. Large tree with low training accuracy
- C. Small tree with high training accuracy**
- D. Large tree with high training accuracy

## Poll 2

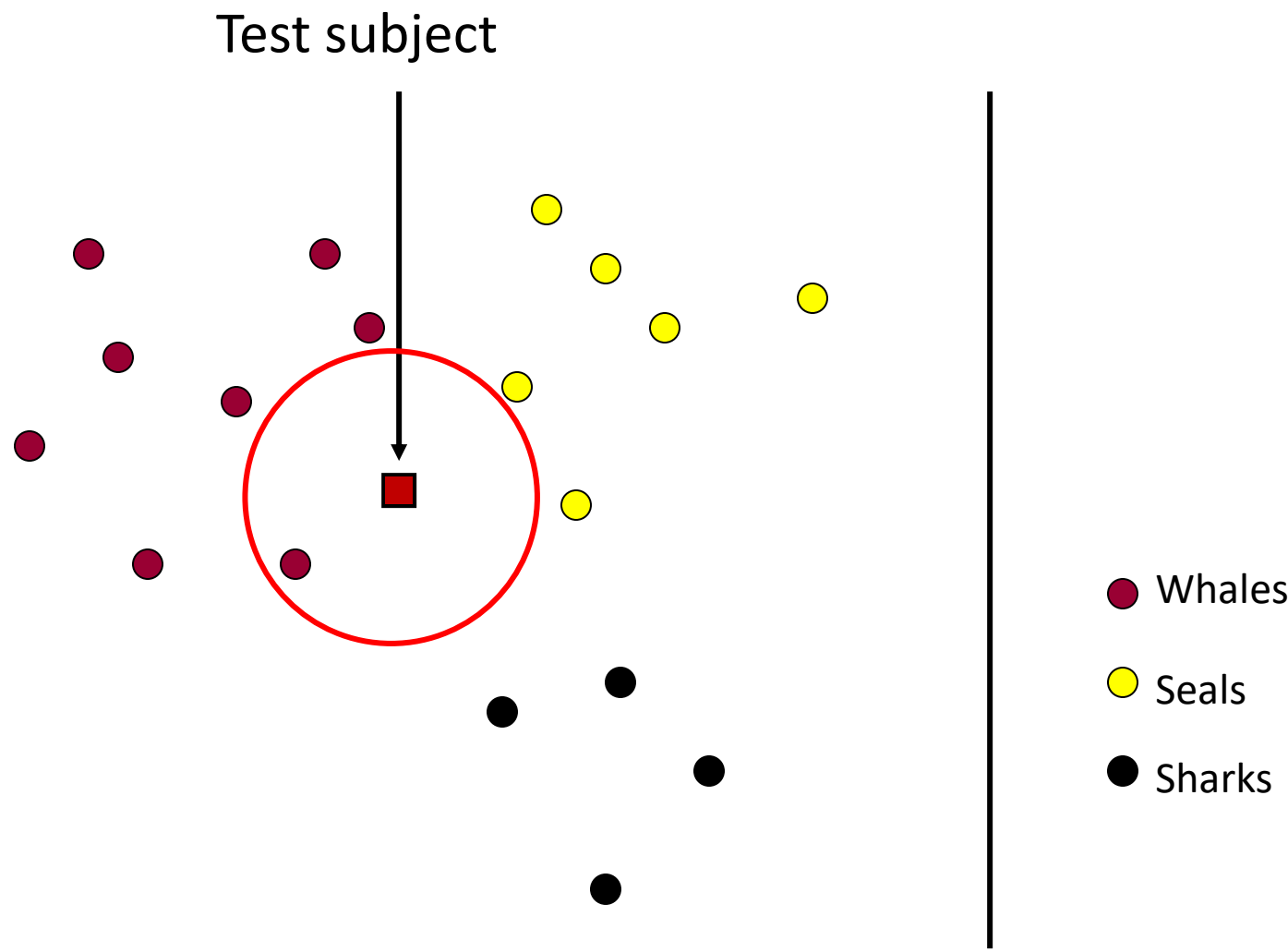
True or False:

For any dataset, you can find a decision tree that can perfectly classify the training data?

# Nearest Neighbor Classifier



# Nearest Neighbor Classifier





# Nearest Neighbor Classification

Given a training dataset  $\mathcal{D} = \{y^{(n)}, \mathbf{x}^{(n)}\}_{n=1}^N$ ,  $y \in \{1, \dots, C\}$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^M$

and a test input  $\mathbf{x}_{test}$ , predict the class label,  $\hat{y}_{test}$ :

1) Find the closest point in the training data to  $\mathbf{x}_{test}$

$$n = \underset{n}{\operatorname{argmin}} d(\mathbf{x}_{test}, \mathbf{x}^{(n)})$$

2) Return the class label of that closest point

$$\hat{y}_{test} = y^{(n)}$$

Need distance function! What should  $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$  be?

$$d(\vec{x}, \vec{z}) = \|\vec{x} - \vec{z}\|_2$$

# Fisher Iris Dataset

Fisher (1936) used 150 measurements of flowers from 3 different species: Iris setosa (0), Iris virginica (1), Iris versicolor (2) collected by Anderson (1936)

| Species | Sepal Length | Sepal Width | Petal Length | Petal Width |
|---------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 0       | 4.3          | 3.0         | 1.1          | 0.1         |
| 0       | 4.9          | 3.6         | 1.4          | 0.1         |
| 0       | 5.3          | 3.7         | 1.5          | 0.2         |
| 1       | 4.9          | 2.4         | 3.3          | 1.0         |
| 1       | 5.7          | 2.8         | 4.1          | 1.3         |
| 1       | 6.3          | 3.3         | 4.7          | 1.6         |
| 1       | 6.7          | 3.0         | 5.0          | 1.7         |

Full dataset: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris\\_flower\\_data\\_set](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris_flower_data_set)

# Fisher Iris Dataset

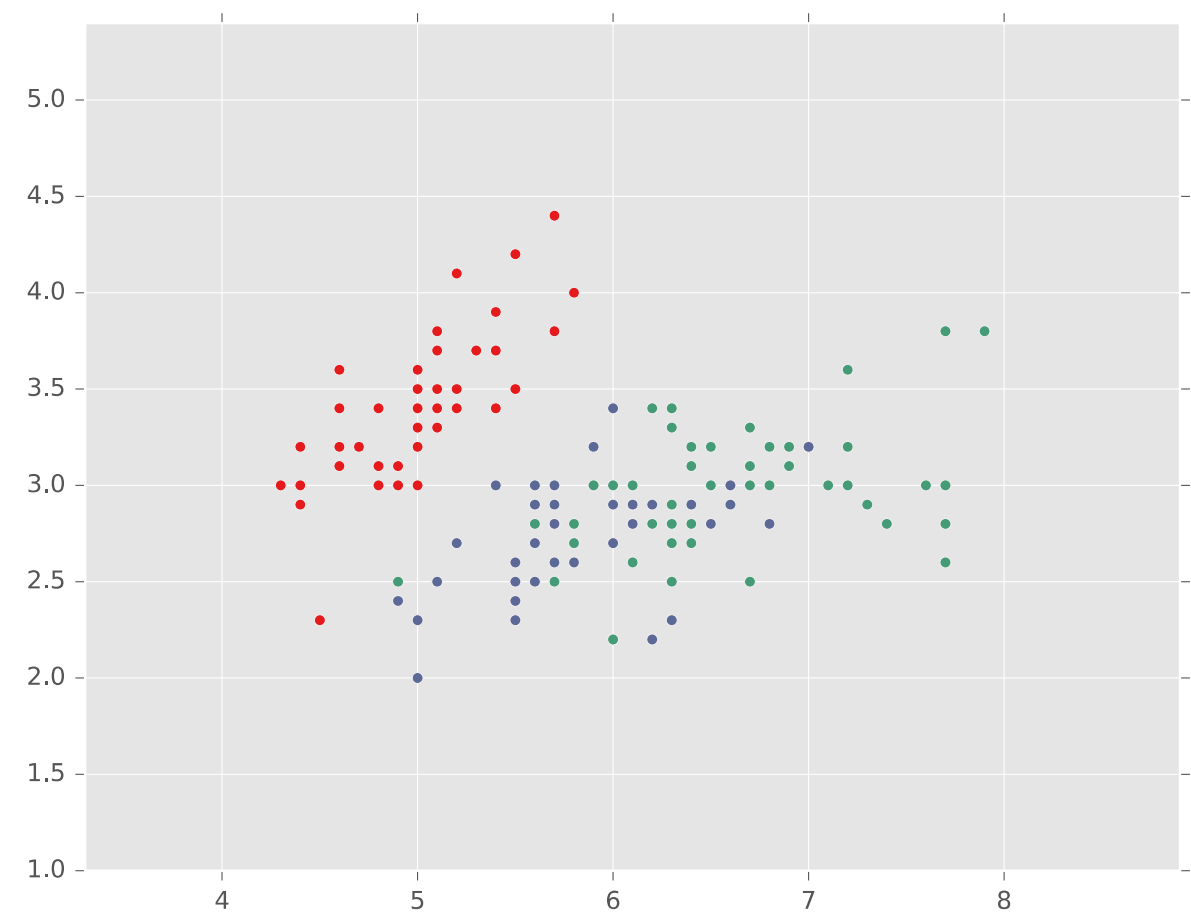
Fisher (1936) used 150 measurements of flowers from 3 different species: Iris setosa (0), Iris virginica (1), Iris versicolor (2) collected by Anderson (1936)

| Species | Sepal Length | Sepal Width |
|---------|--------------|-------------|
| 0       | 4.3          | 3.0         |
| 0       | 4.9          | 3.6         |
| 0       | 5.3          | 3.7         |
| 1       | 4.9          | 2.4         |
| 1       | 5.7          | 2.8         |
| 1       | 6.3          | 3.3         |
| 1       | 6.7          | 3.0         |

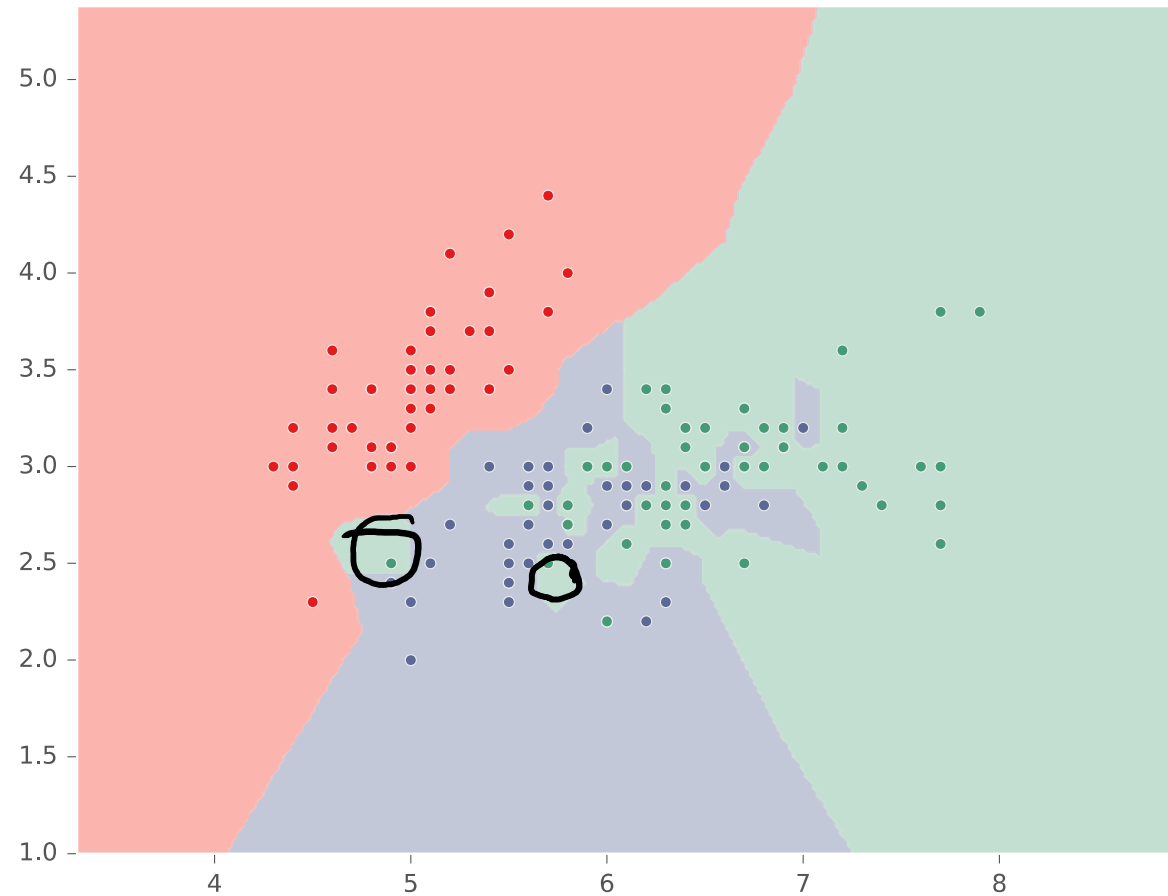
Deleted two of the four features, so that input space is 2D



# Nearest Neighbor on Fisher Iris Data



# Nearest Neighbor on Fisher Iris Data

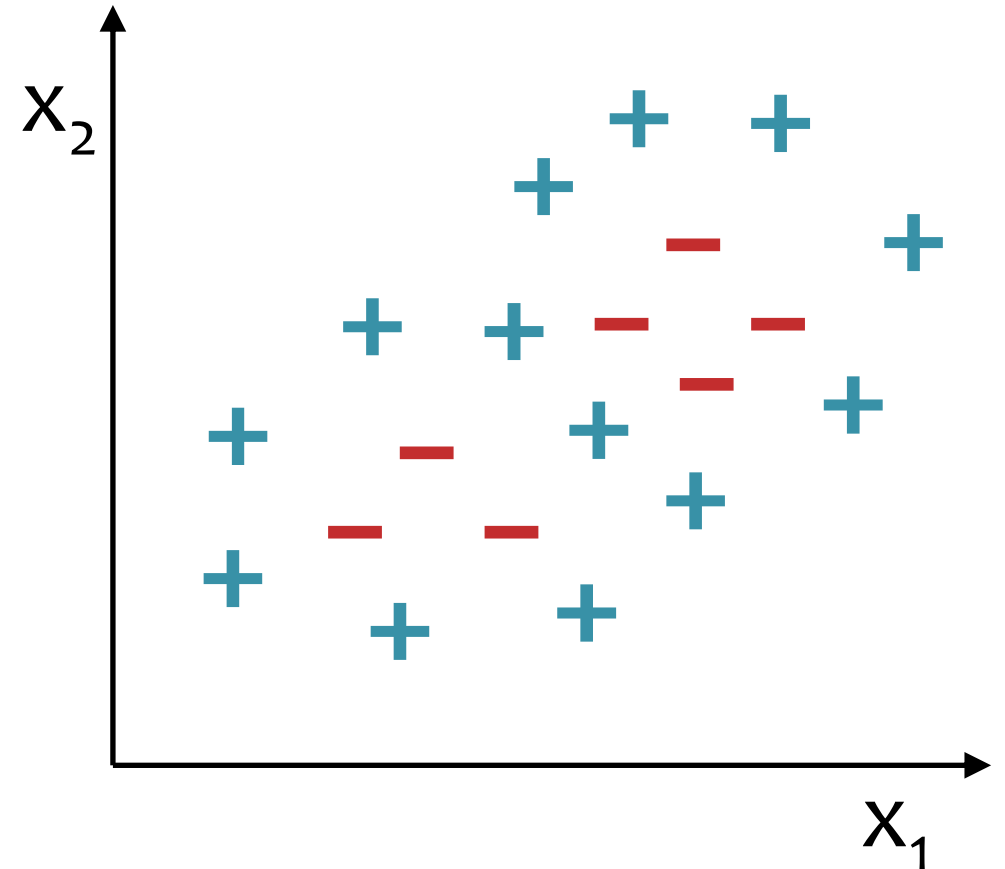


## Poll 3

Which methods can achieve zero training error on this dataset?

- A. Decision trees
- B. 1-Nearest Neighbor
- C. Both
- D. Neither

If zero error, draw the decision boundary.  
Otherwise, why not?

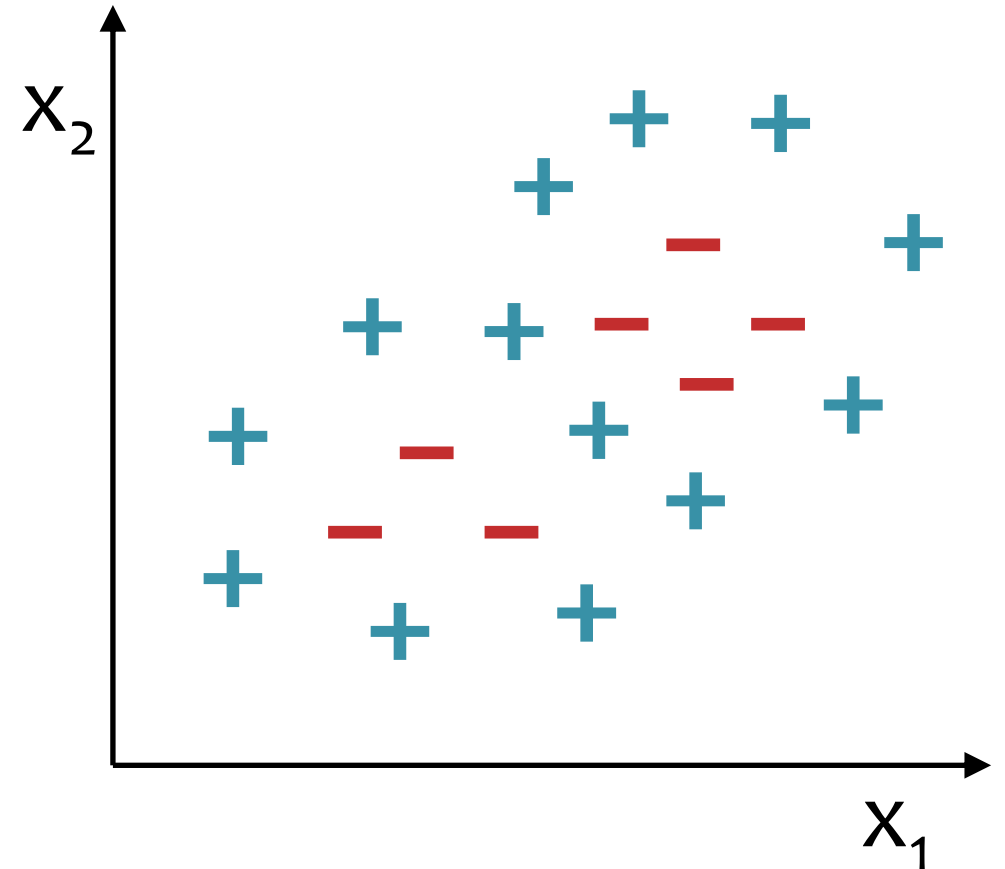


## Poll 3

Which methods can achieve zero training error on this dataset?

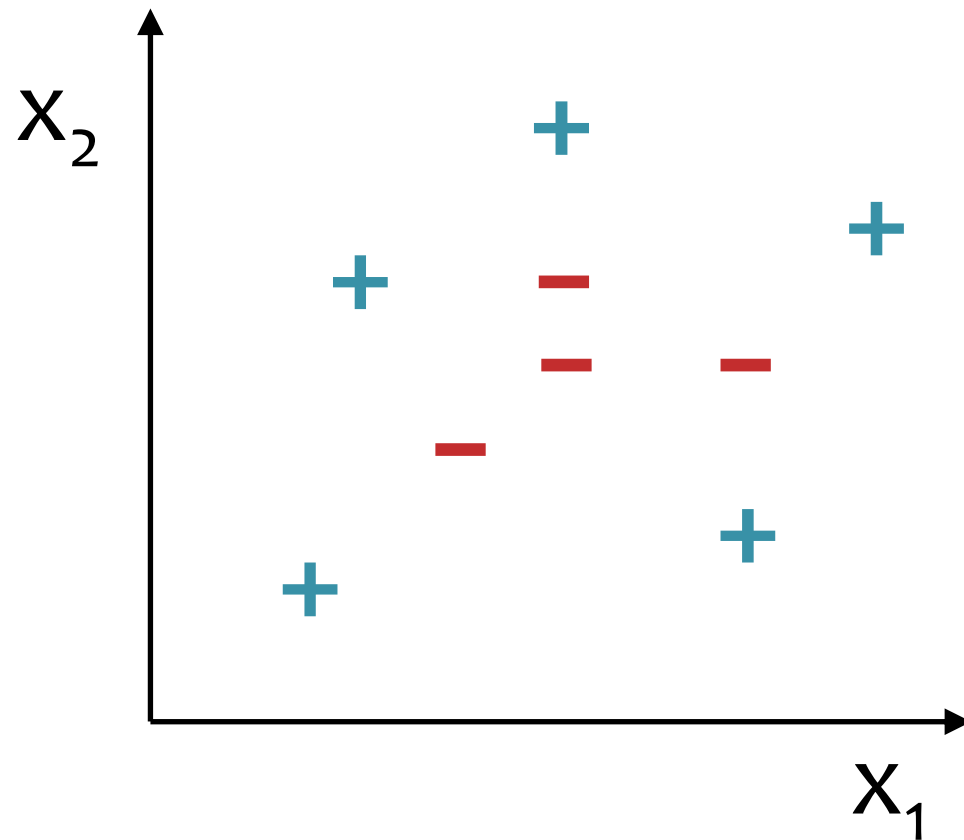
- A. Decision trees
- B. 1-Nearest Neighbor
- C. Both
- D. Neither

If zero error, draw the decision boundary.  
Otherwise, why not?

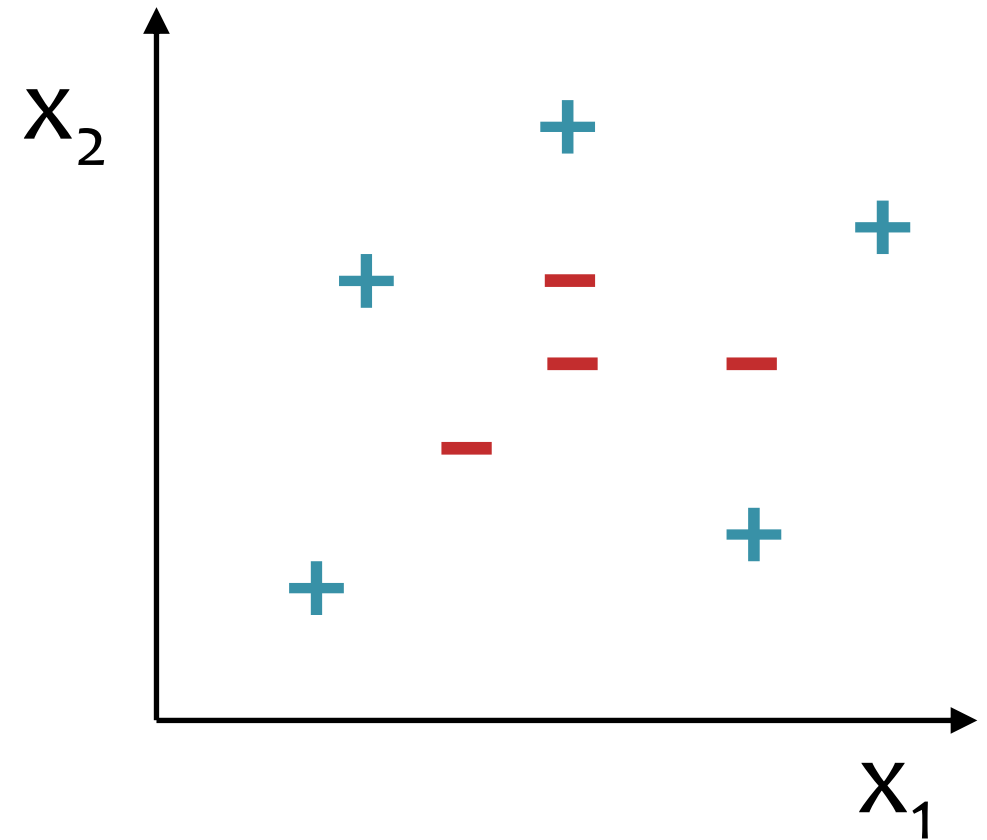


# Decision Boundaries

Decision tree



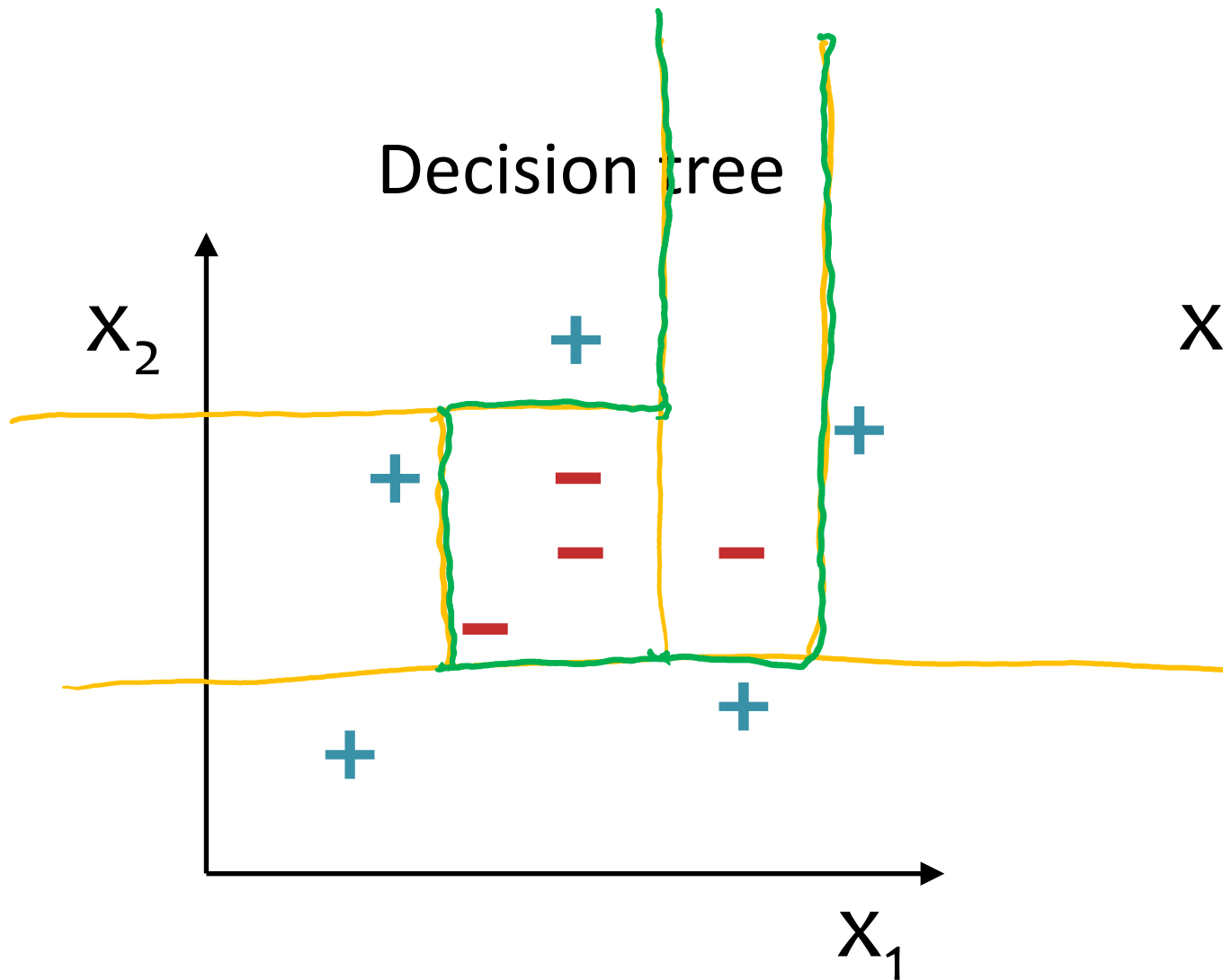
Nearest neighbor



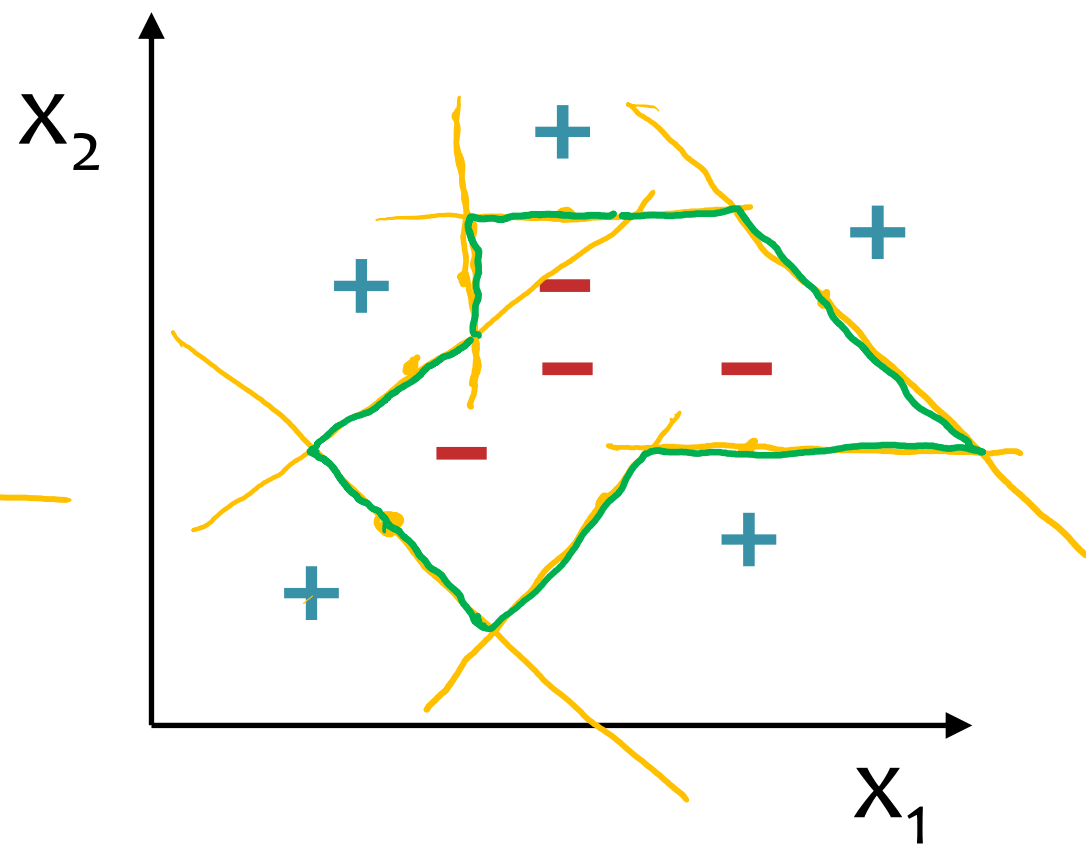


# Decision Boundaries

Decision tree

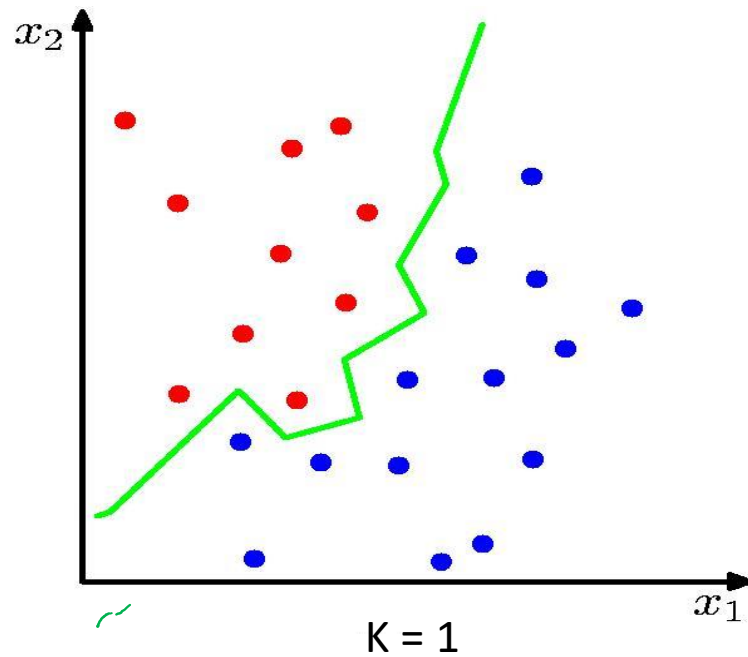


Nearest neighbor

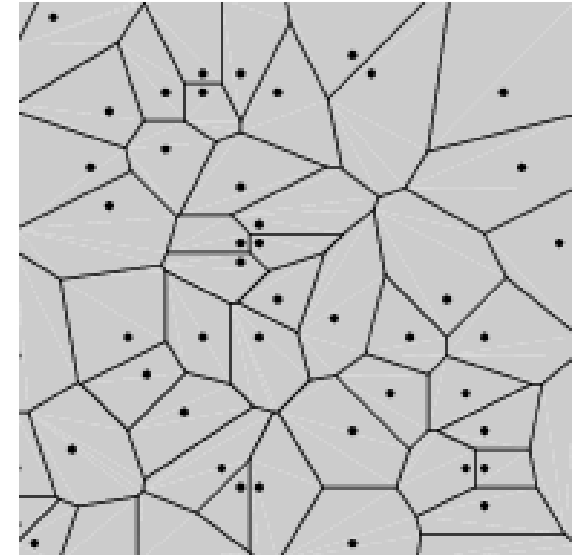


# Nearest Neighbor Decision Boundary

1-nearest neighbor classifier decision boundary



Voronoi Diagram



## Poll 4

1-nearest neighbor will likely:

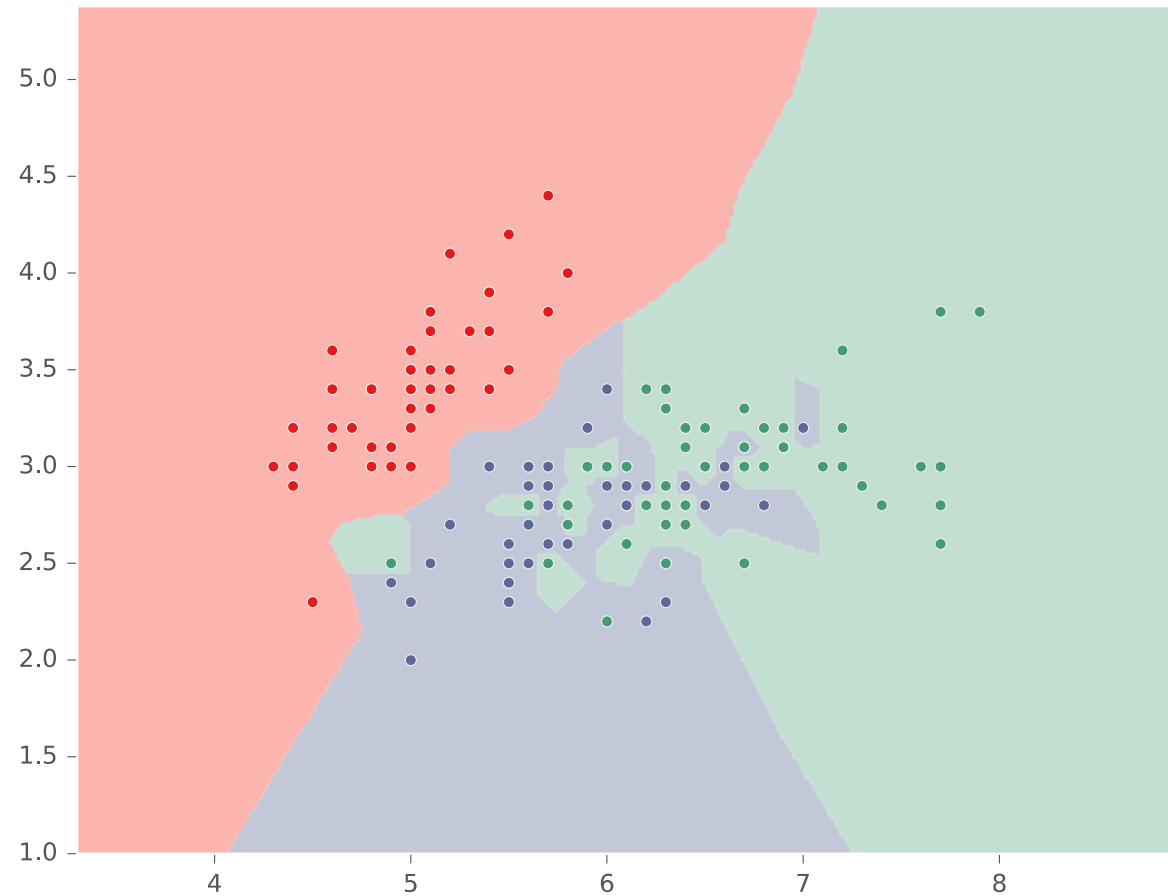
- A. Overfit
- B. Underfit
- C. Neither (it's a great learner!)

## Poll 4

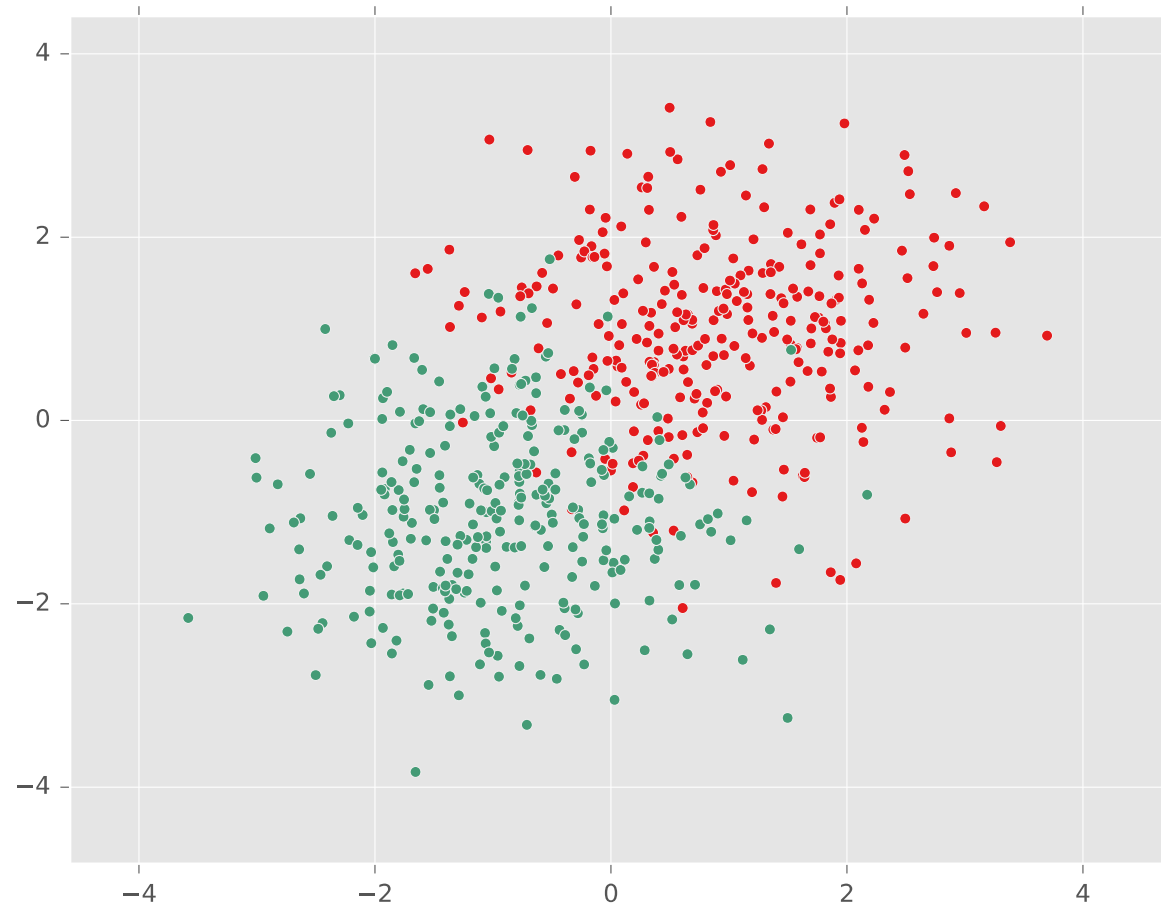
1-Nearest neighbor will likely:

- A. Overfit
- B. Underfit
- C. Neither (it's a great learner!)

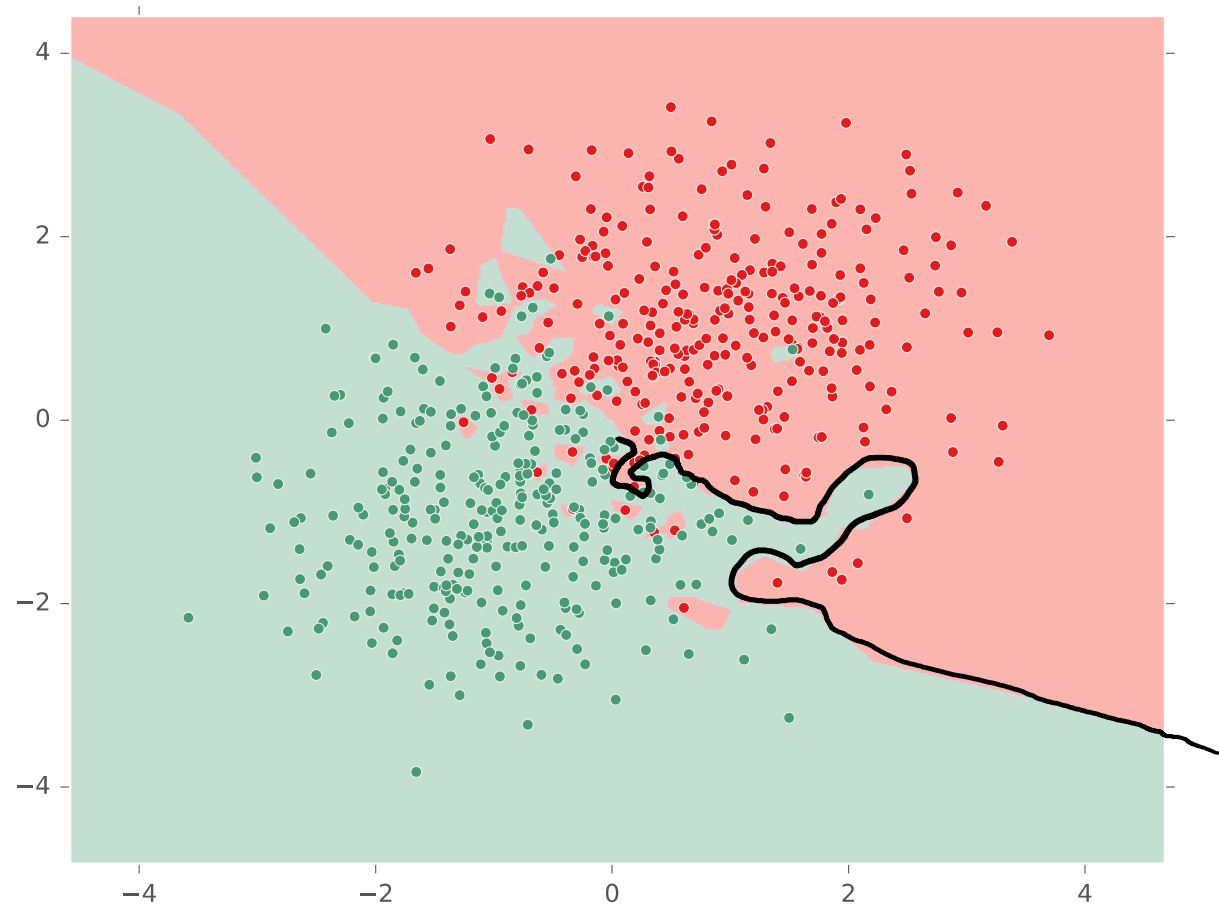
# Nearest Neighbor on Fisher Iris Data



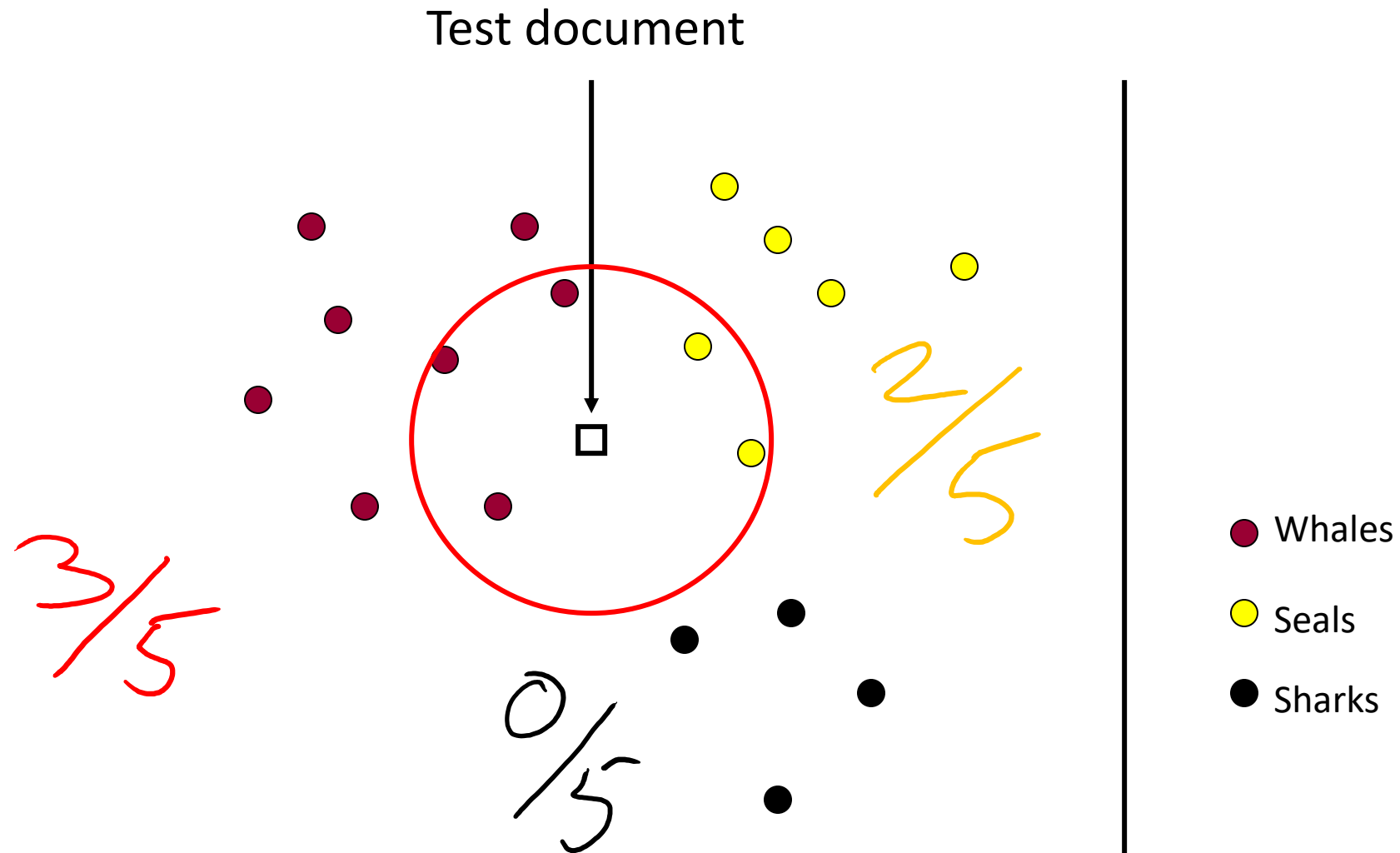
# Nearest Neighbor on Gaussian Data



# Nearest Neighbor on Gaussian Data



# kNN classifier (k=5)





# Nearest Neighbor Classification

Given a training dataset  $\mathcal{D} = \{y^{(n)}, \mathbf{x}^{(n)}\}_{n=1}^N$ ,  $y \in \{1, \dots, C\}$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^M$   
and a test input  $\mathbf{x}_{test}$ , predict the class label,  $\hat{y}_{test}$ :

- 1) Find the closest point in the training data to  $\mathbf{x}_{test}$

$$n = \underset{n}{\operatorname{argmin}} d(\mathbf{x}_{test}, \mathbf{x}^{(n)})$$


- 2) Return the class label of that closest point

$$\hat{y}_{test} = y^{(n)}$$

# k-Nearest Neighbor Classification

Given a training dataset  $\mathcal{D} = \{y^{(n)}, \mathbf{x}^{(n)}\}_{n=1}^N$ ,  $y \in \{1, \dots, C\}$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^M$   
and a test input  $\mathbf{x}_{test}$ , predict the class label,  $\hat{y}_{test}$ :

- 1) Find the closest  $k$  points in the training data to  $\mathbf{x}_{test}$

$$\mathcal{N}_k(\mathbf{x}_{test}, \mathcal{D})$$

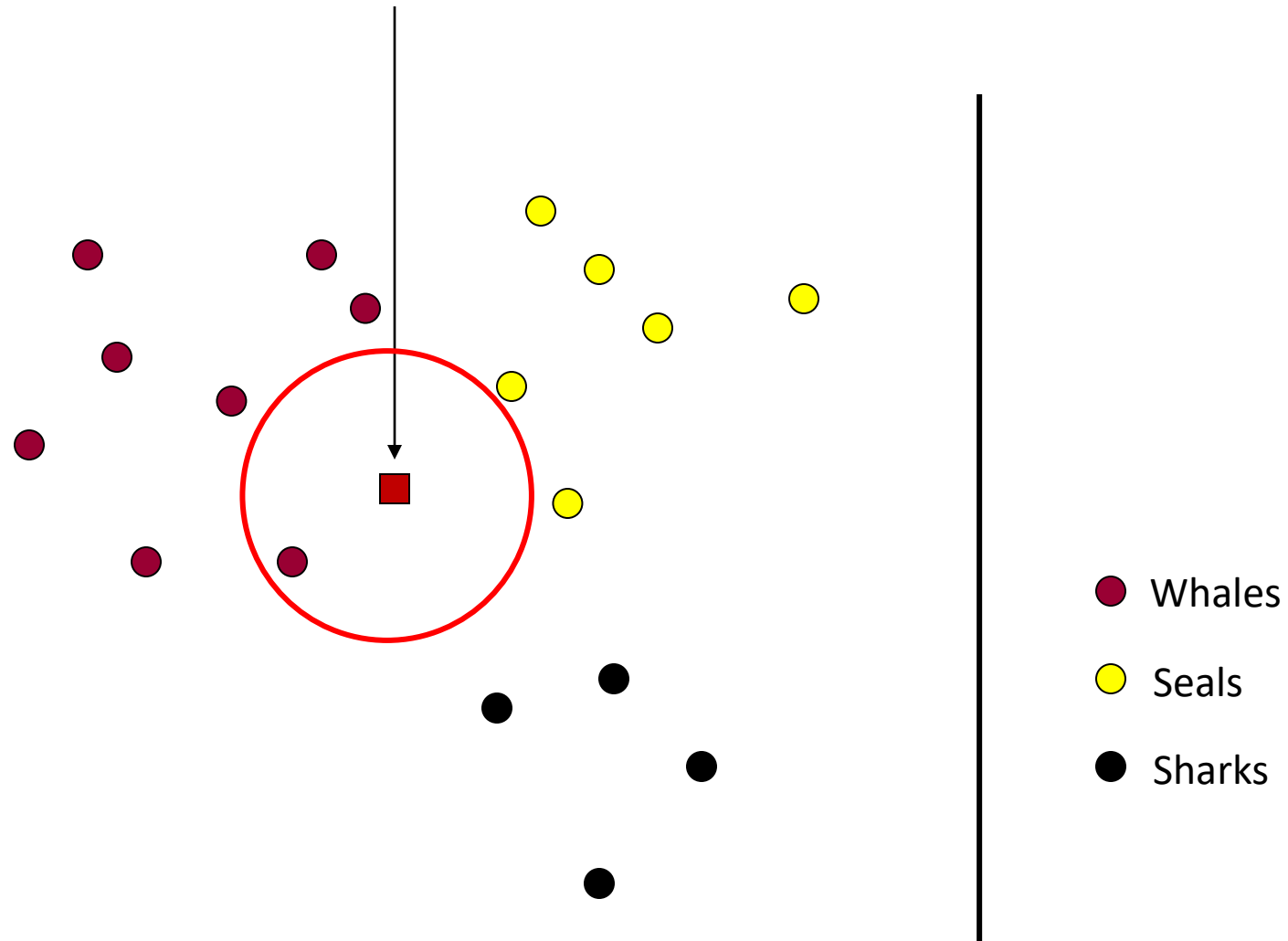
- 2) Return the class label of that closest point

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{y}_{test} &= \underset{c}{\operatorname{argmax}} \underbrace{p(Y = c \mid \mathbf{x}_{test}, \mathcal{D}, k)} \\ &= \underset{c}{\operatorname{argmax}} \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_k(\mathbf{x}_{test}, \mathcal{D})} \mathbb{I}(y^{(i)} = c)\end{aligned}$$

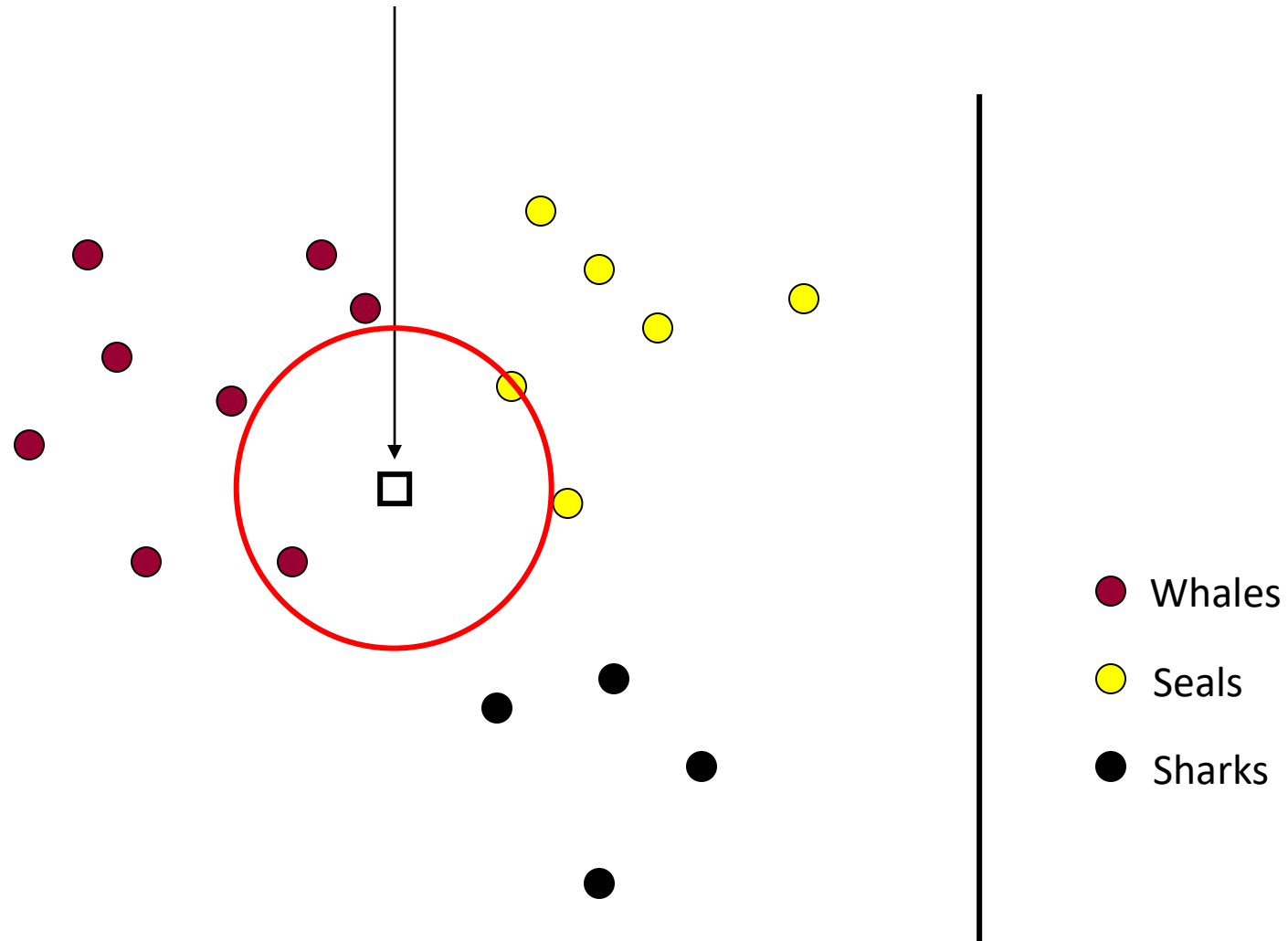
$$= \underset{c}{\operatorname{argmax}} \frac{k_c}{k}$$

where  $k_c$  is the number of the  $k$ -neighbors with class label  $c$

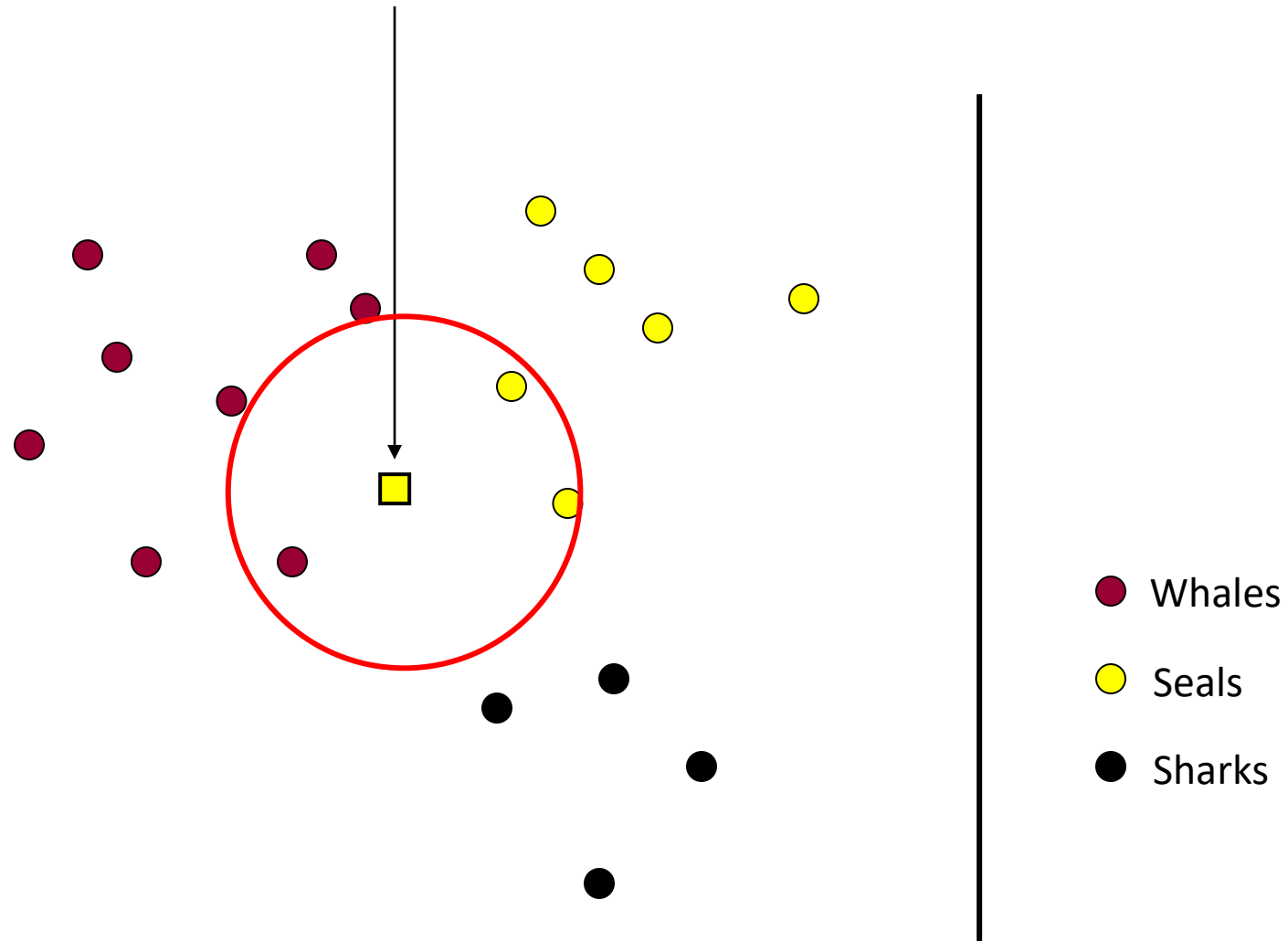
# 1-Nearest Neighbor (kNN) classifier



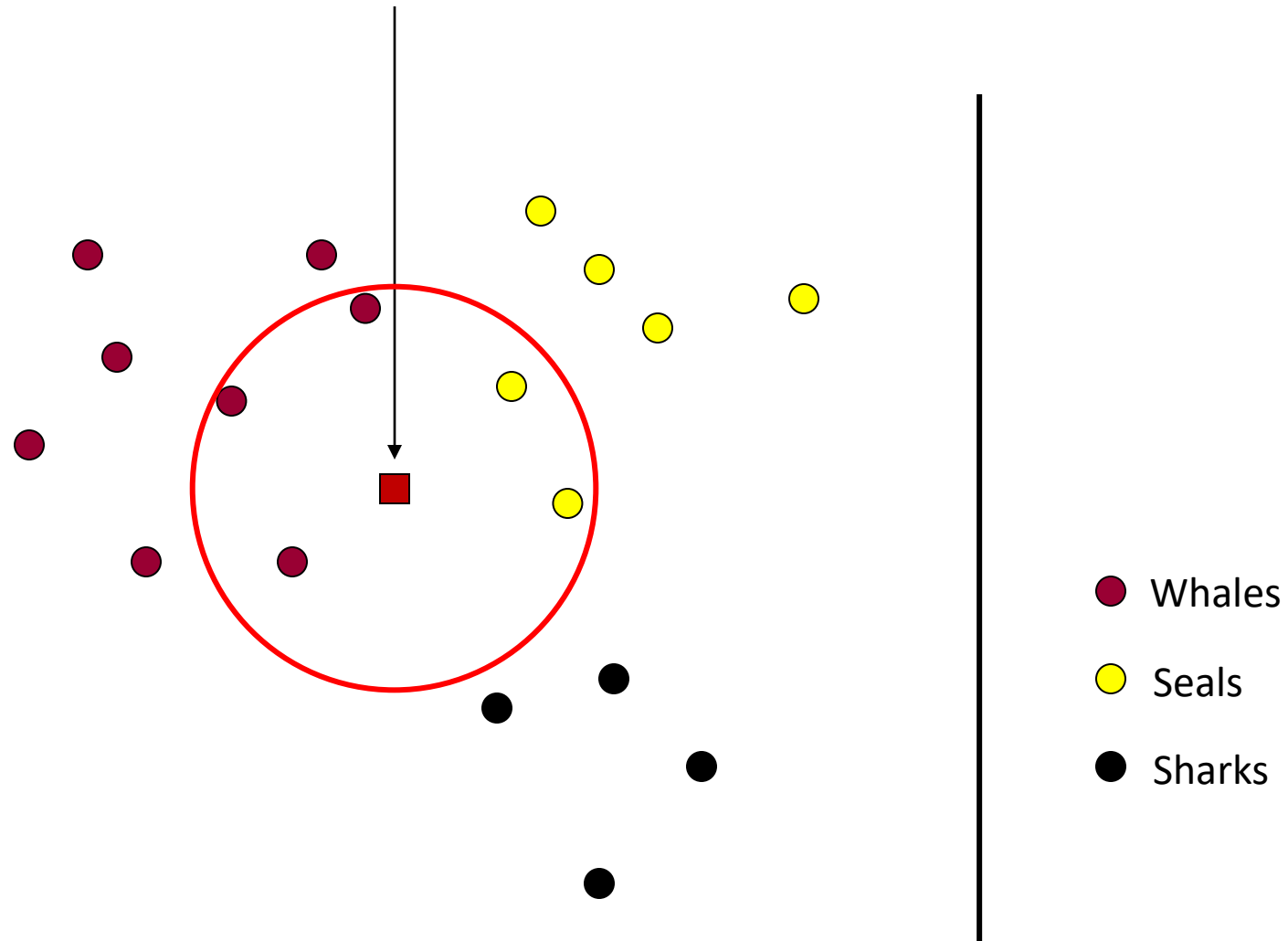
# 2-Nearest Neighbor (kNN) classifier



# 3-Nearest Neighbor (kNN) classifier




# 5-Nearest Neighbor (kNN) classifier



# What is the best $k$ ?

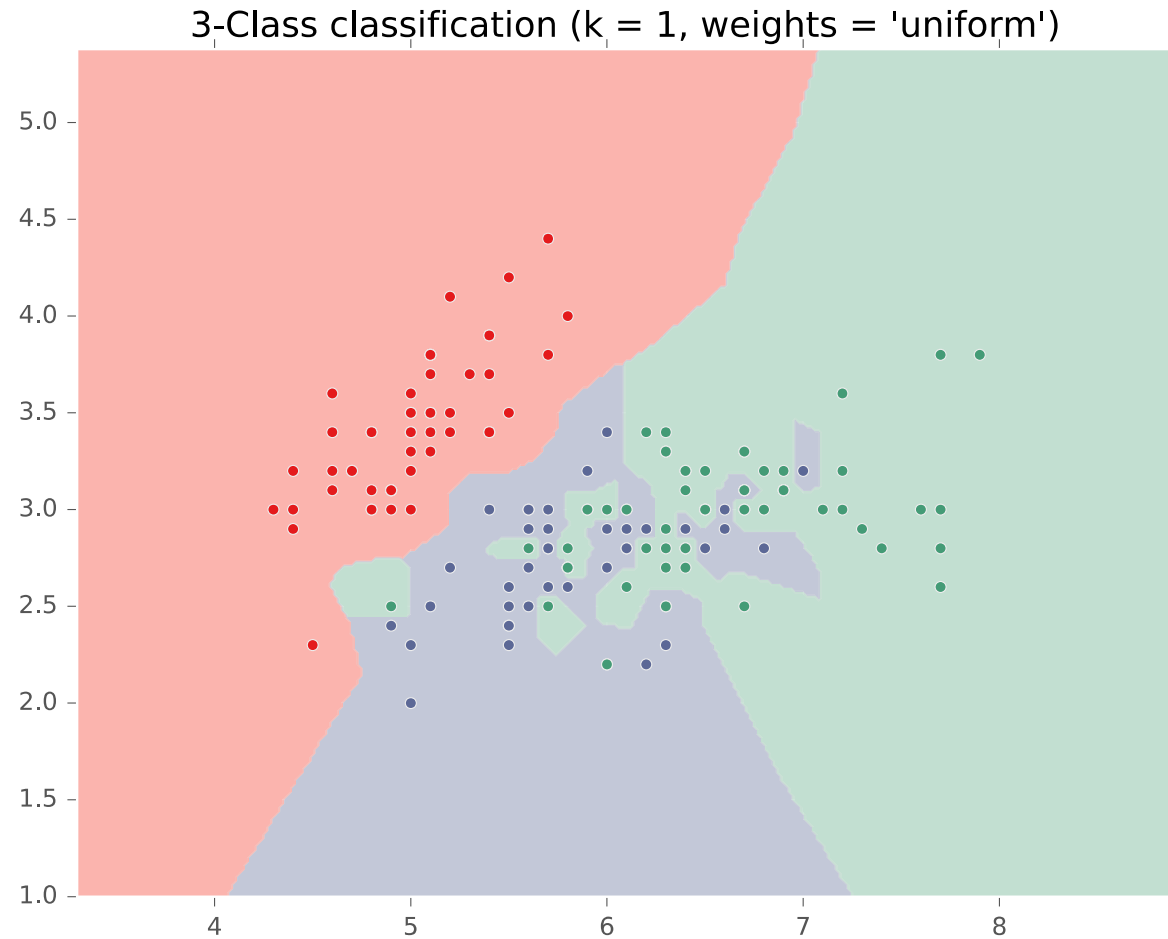
How do we choose a learner that is accurate and also generalizes to unseen data?

- Larger  $k \rightarrow$  predicted label is more stable
-  Smaller  $k \rightarrow$  predicted label is more affected by individual training points

But how to choose  $k$ ?

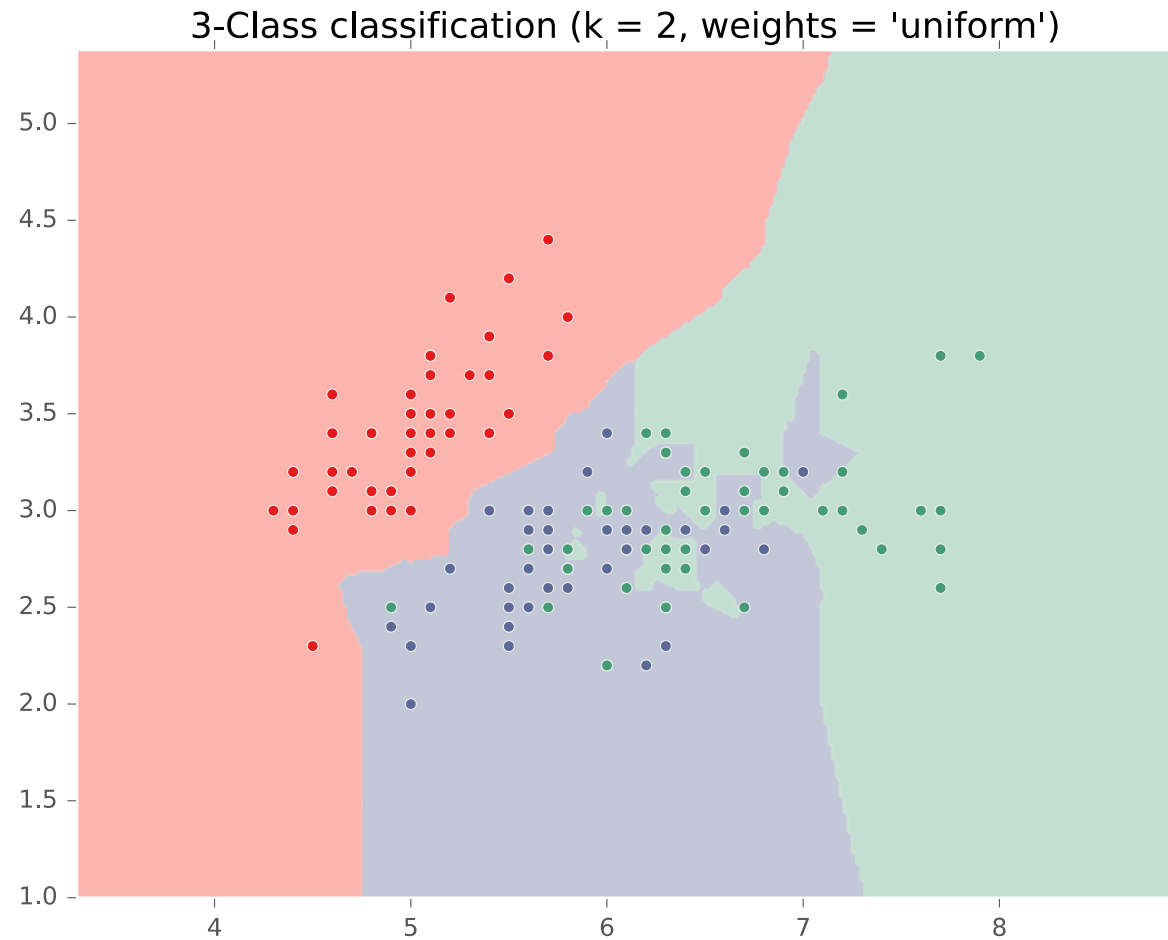
# k-NN on Fisher Iris Data

## Special Case: Nearest Neighbor

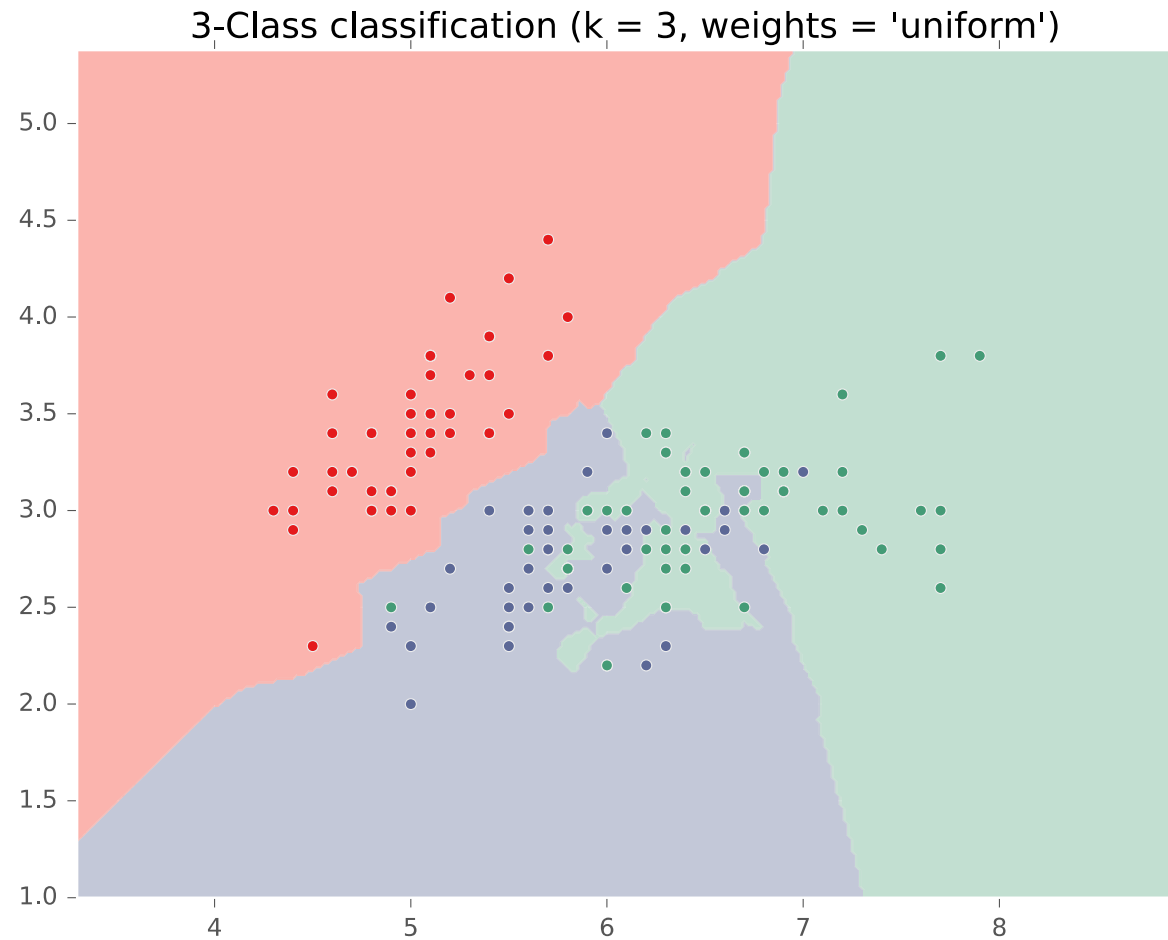




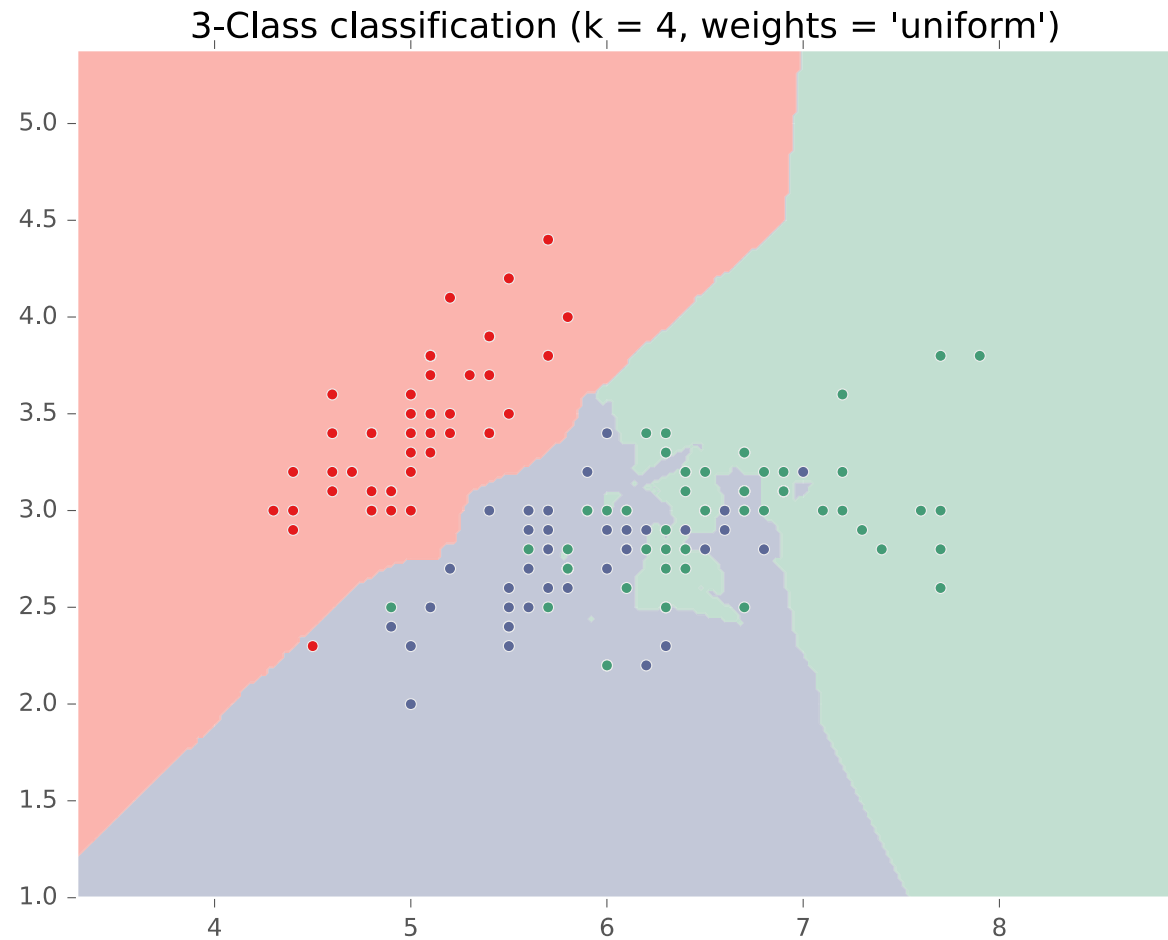
# k-NN on Fisher Iris Data



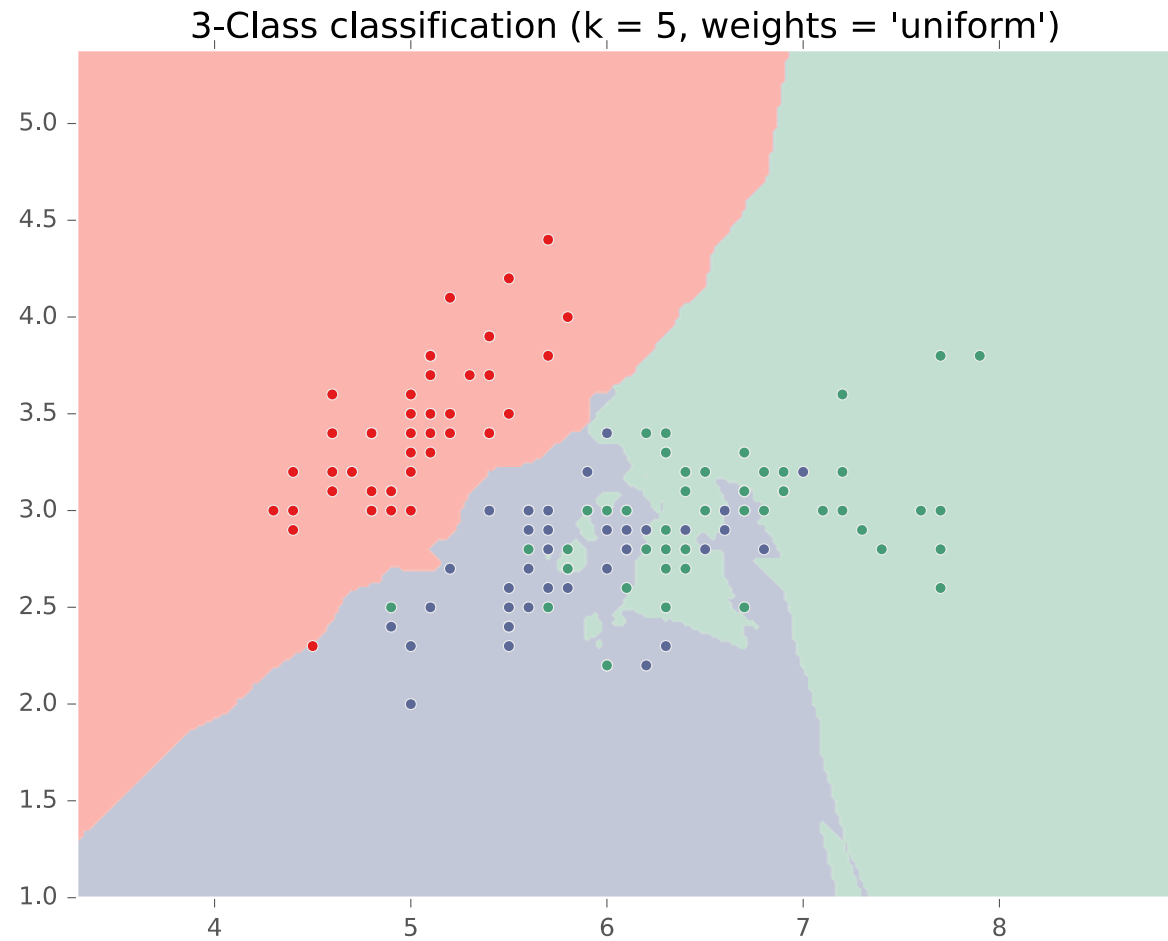
# k-NN on Fisher Iris Data



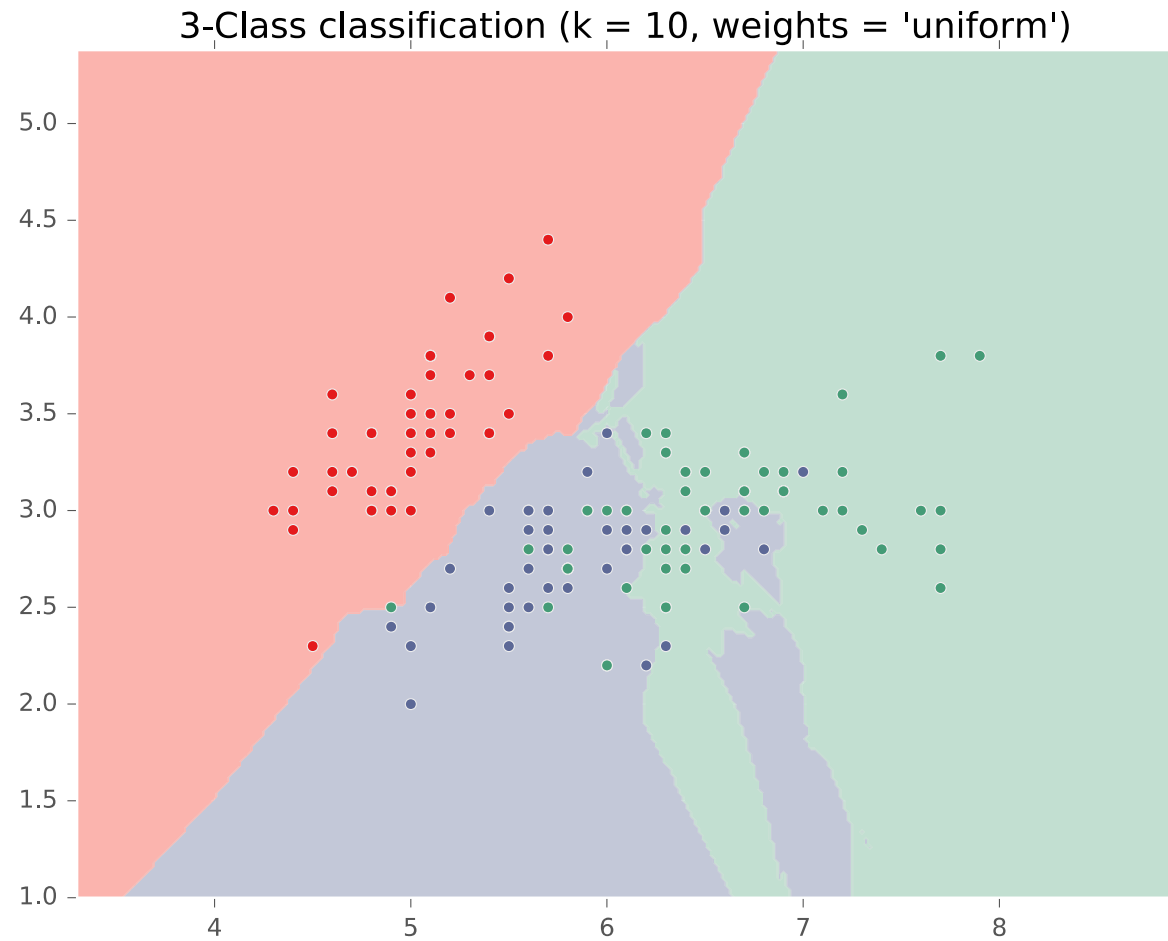
# k-NN on Fisher Iris Data



# k-NN on Fisher Iris Data



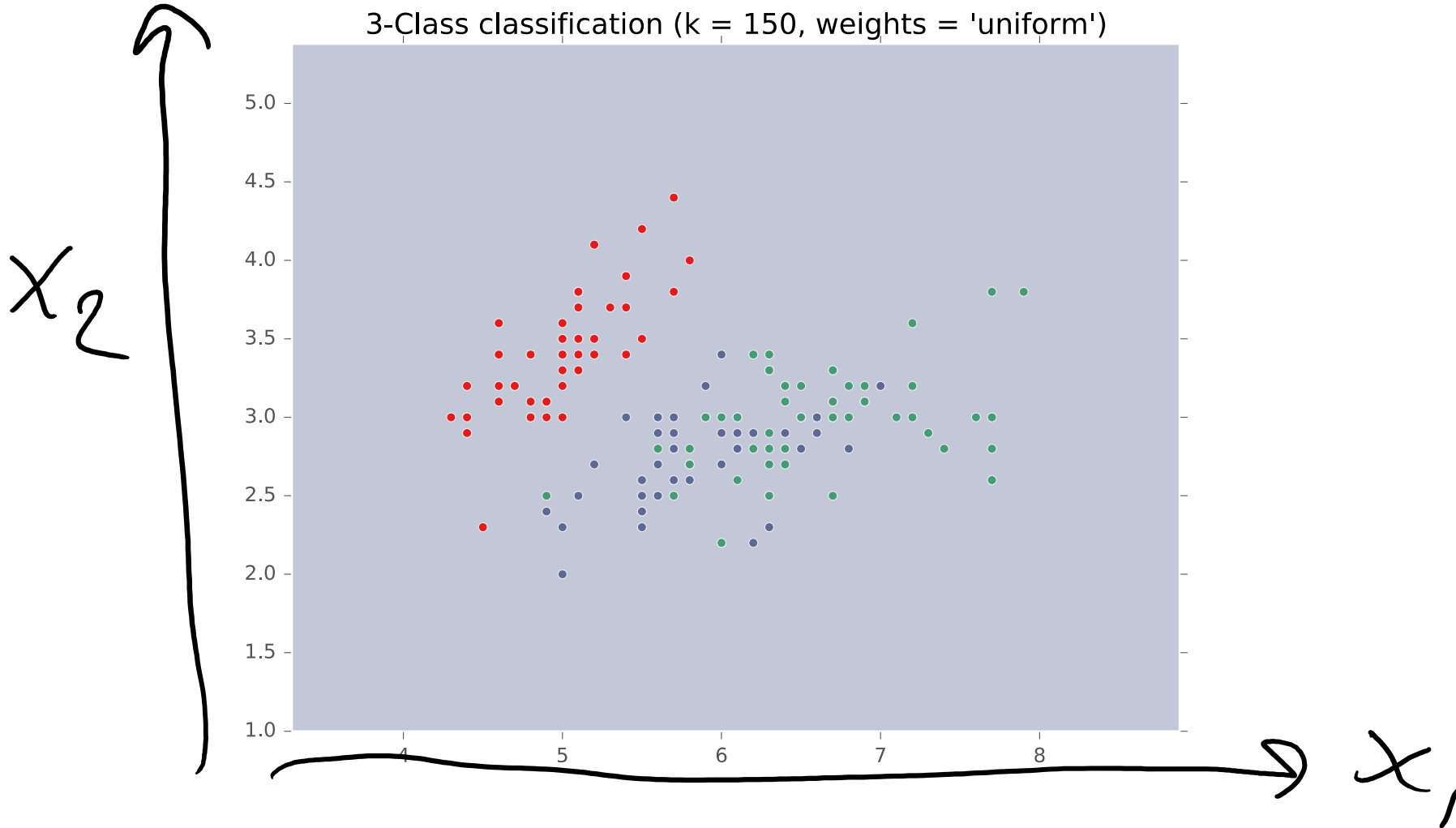
# k-NN on Fisher Iris Data



# k-NN on Fisher Iris Data

$k = 150$

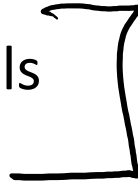
Special Case: Majority Vote



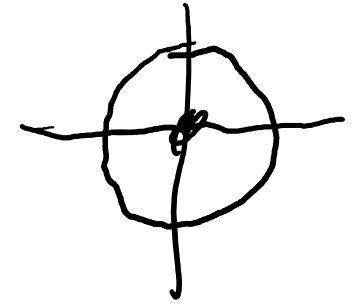
# k-NN: Remarks

## Inductive Bias:

1. Close points should have similar labels
2. All dimensions are created equally!



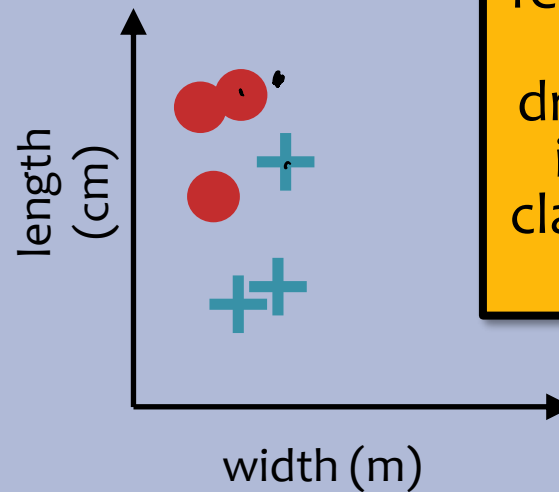
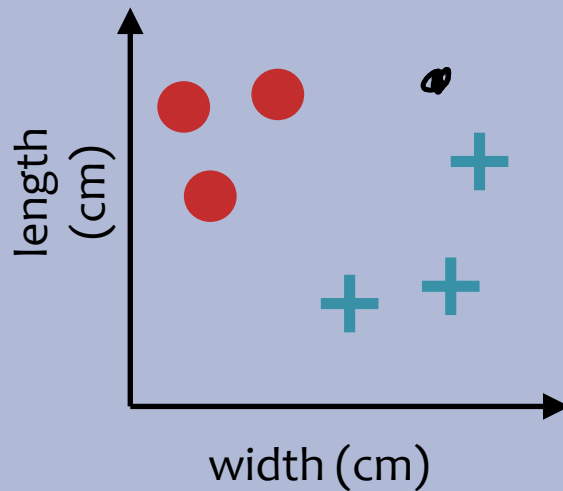
# k-NN: Remarks



## Inductive Bias:

1. Close points should have similar labels
2. All dimensions are created equally!

### Example: two features for k-NN



**big problem:**  
feature scale  
could  
dramatically  
influence  
classification  
results



# k-NN: Remarks

## **Computational Efficiency:**

Suppose we have  $N$  training examples, and each one has  $M$  features

Computational complexity for the special case where  $k=1$ :

## Poll 5 (train) and Poll 6 (predict)

Suppose we have  $N$  training examples, and each one has  $M$  features  
Computational complexity for the special case where  $k=1$ :

- A.  $O(1)$
- B.  $O(\log N)$
- C.  $O(\log M)$
- D.  $O(\log NM)$
- E.  $O(N)$
- F.  $O(M)$
- G.  $O(NM)$  ←
- H.  $O(N^2)$
- I.  $O(N^2M)$

mean  $\xrightarrow{N}$   $\text{def train}(\emptyset)$

mean  $\text{def pred}(x_{\text{new}}):$

## Poll 5 (train) and Poll 6 (predict)

Suppose we have  $N$  training examples, and each one has  $M$  features  
Computational complexity for the special case where  $k=1$ :

- A.  $O(1)$
- B.  $O(\log N)$
- C.  $O(\log M)$
- D.  $O(\log NM)$
- E.  $O(N)$
- F.  $O(M)$
- G.  $O(NM)$
- H.  $O(N^2)$
- I.  $O(N^2M)$

# k-NN: Remarks

## Computational Efficiency:

Suppose we have  $N$  training examples, and each one has  $M$  features  
Computational complexity for the special case where  $k=1$ :

| Task                          | Naive   | k-d Tree                        |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| Train                         | $O(1)$  | $\sim O(M N \log N)$            |
| Predict<br>(one test example) | $O(MN)$ | $\sim O(2^M \log N)$ on average |



**Problem:** Very fast for small  $M$ , but very slow for large  $M$

**In practice:** use stochastic approximations (very fast, and empirically often as good)

# k-NN: Remarks

## Computational Efficiency:

Suppose we have  $N$  training examples, and each one has  $M$  features  
Computational complexity for the special case where  $k=1$ :

| Task                          | Naive   | k-d Tree                        |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| Train                         | $O(1)$  | $\sim O(M N \log N)$            |
| Predict<br>(one test example) | $O(MN)$ | $\sim O(2^M \log N)$ on average |



**Problem:** Very fast for small  $M$ , but very slow for large  $M$

**In practice:** use stochastic approximations (very fast, and empirically often as good)

# **MODEL SELECTION**

# Model Selection

## **WARNING:**

- In some sense, our discussion of model selection is premature.
- The models we have considered thus far are fairly simple.
- The models and the many decisions available to the data scientist wielding them will grow to be much more complex than what we've seen so far.

# Model Selection

## Statistics

- *Def:* a **model** defines the data generation process (i.e. a set or family of parametric probability distributions)
- *Def:* **model parameters** are the values that give rise to a particular probability distribution in the model family <
- *Def:* **learning** (aka. estimation) is the process of finding the parameters that best fit the data
- *Def:* **hyperparameters** are the parameters of a prior distribution over parameters

## Machine Learning

- *Def:* (loosely) a **model** defines the hypothesis space over which learning performs its search
- *Def:* **model parameters** are the numeric values or structure selected by the learning algorithm that give rise to a hypothesis
- *Def:* the **learning algorithm** defines the data-driven search over the hypothesis space (i.e. search for good parameters)
- *Def:* **hyperparameters** are the tunable aspects of the model, that the learning algorithm does not select



# Model Selection

## Example: Decision Tree

- model = set of all possible trees, possibly restricted by some hyperparameters (e.g. max depth)
- parameters = structure of a specific decision tree
- learning algorithm = ID3, CART, etc.
- hyperparameters = max-depth, threshold for splitting criterion, etc.

## Machine Learning

- *Def:* (loosely) a **model** defines the hypothesis space over which learning performs its search
- *Def:* **model parameters** are the numeric values or structure selected by the learning algorithm that give rise to a hypothesis
- *Def:* the **learning algorithm** defines the data-driven search over the hypothesis space (i.e. search for good parameters)
- *Def:* **hyperparameters** are the tunable aspects of the model, that the learning algorithm does *not* select

# Model Selection

## Example: k-Nearest Neighbors

- model = set of all possible nearest neighbors classifiers
- parameters = none  
(KNN is an instance-based or non-parametric method)
- learning algorithm = for naïve setting, just storing the data
- hyperparameters =  $k$ , the number of neighbors to consider

## Machine Learning

- *Def:* (loosely) a **model** defines the hypothesis space over which learning performs its search
- *Def:* **model parameters** are the numeric values or structure selected by the learning algorithm that give rise to a hypothesis
- *Def:* the **learning algorithm** defines the data-driven search over the hypothesis space (i.e. search for good parameters)
- *Def:* **hyperparameters** are the tunable aspects of the model, that the learning algorithm does *not* select

# Model Selection

## Statistics

- Def: a **model** defines the data generation process (i.e. a set or family of probability distributions)
- Def: **model parameters** are the parameters that give rise to a particular probability distribution in the model family
- Def: **learning** (aka. estimation) is the process of finding the parameters that best fit the data
- Def: **hyperparameters** are the parameters of a prior distribution over parameters

## Machine Learning


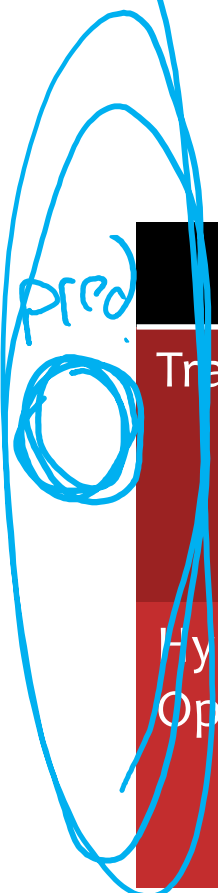
- Def: (loosely) a **model** defines the hypothesis space in which learning performs its search
- **model parameters** are the numeric values that define the model structure selected by the learning algorithm that give rise to a hypothesis
- Def: the **learning algorithm** defines the data-driven search over the hypothesis space (i.e. search for good parameters)
- Def: **hyperparameters** are the tunable aspects of the model, that the learning algorithm does not select

If “learning” is all about picking the best **parameters** how do we pick the best **hyperparameters**?

# Model Selection

- Two very similar definitions:
  - Def: **model selection** is the process by which we choose the “best” model from among a set of candidates
  - Def: **hyperparameter optimization** is the process by which we choose the “best” hyperparameters from among a set of candidates (**could be called a special case of model selection**)
- **Both** assume access to a function capable of measuring the quality of a model
- **Both** are typically done “outside” the main training algorithm --- typically training is treated as a black box

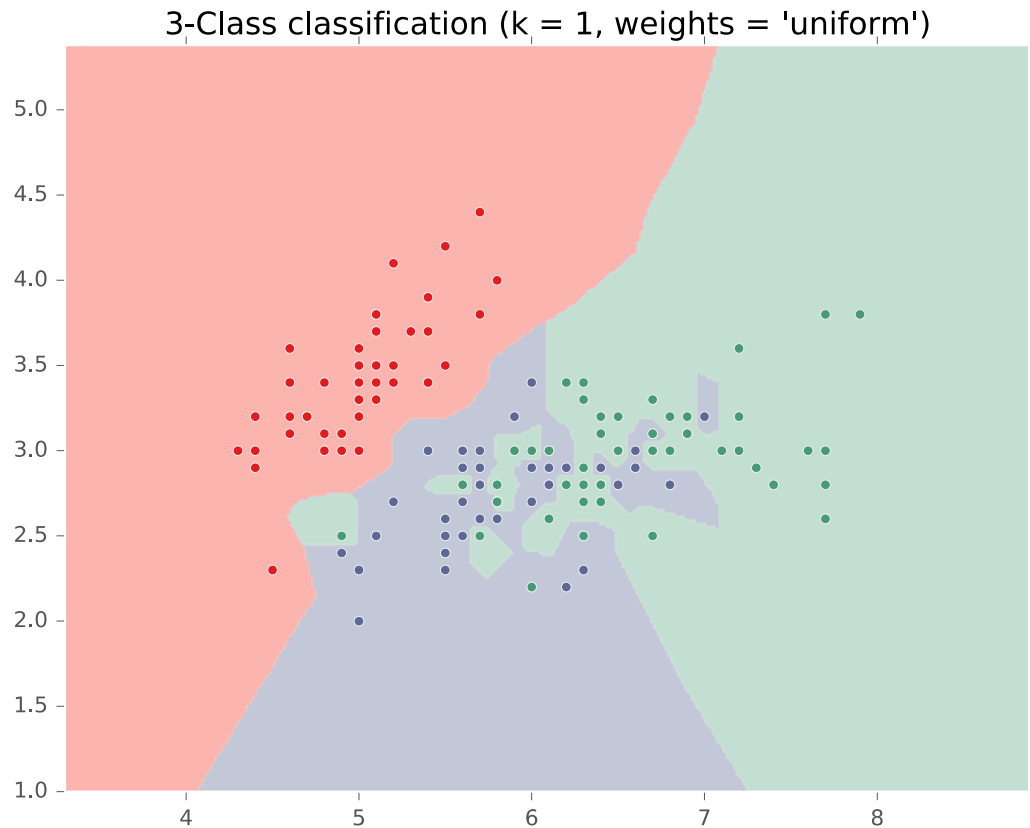
# Experimental Design



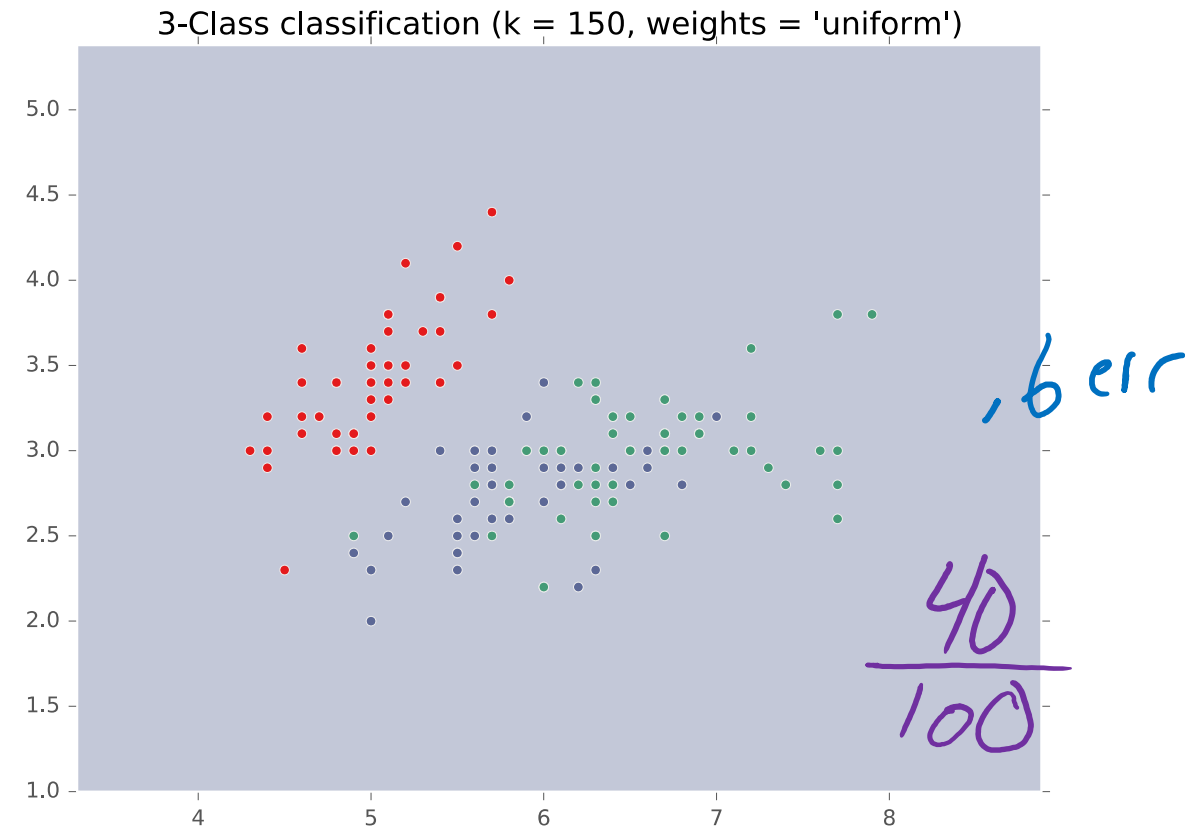
|                             | Input   | Output  | Notes  |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Training                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• training dataset</li><li>• hyperparameters</li></ul>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• best model parameters</li></ul> | We pick the best model parameters by learning on the training dataset for a fixed set of hyperparameters                     |
| Hyperparameter Optimization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• training dataset</li><li>• validation dataset</li></ul>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• best hyperparameters</li></ul>  | We pick the best hyperparameters by learning on the training data and evaluating error on the validation error               |
| Testing                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• test dataset</li><li>• hypothesis (i.e. fixed model parameters)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• test error</li></ul>            | We evaluate a hypothesis corresponding to a decision rule with fixed model parameters on a test dataset to obtain test error |

# Special Cases of k-NN

## k=1: Nearest Neighbor



## k=N: Majority Vote



25  
100

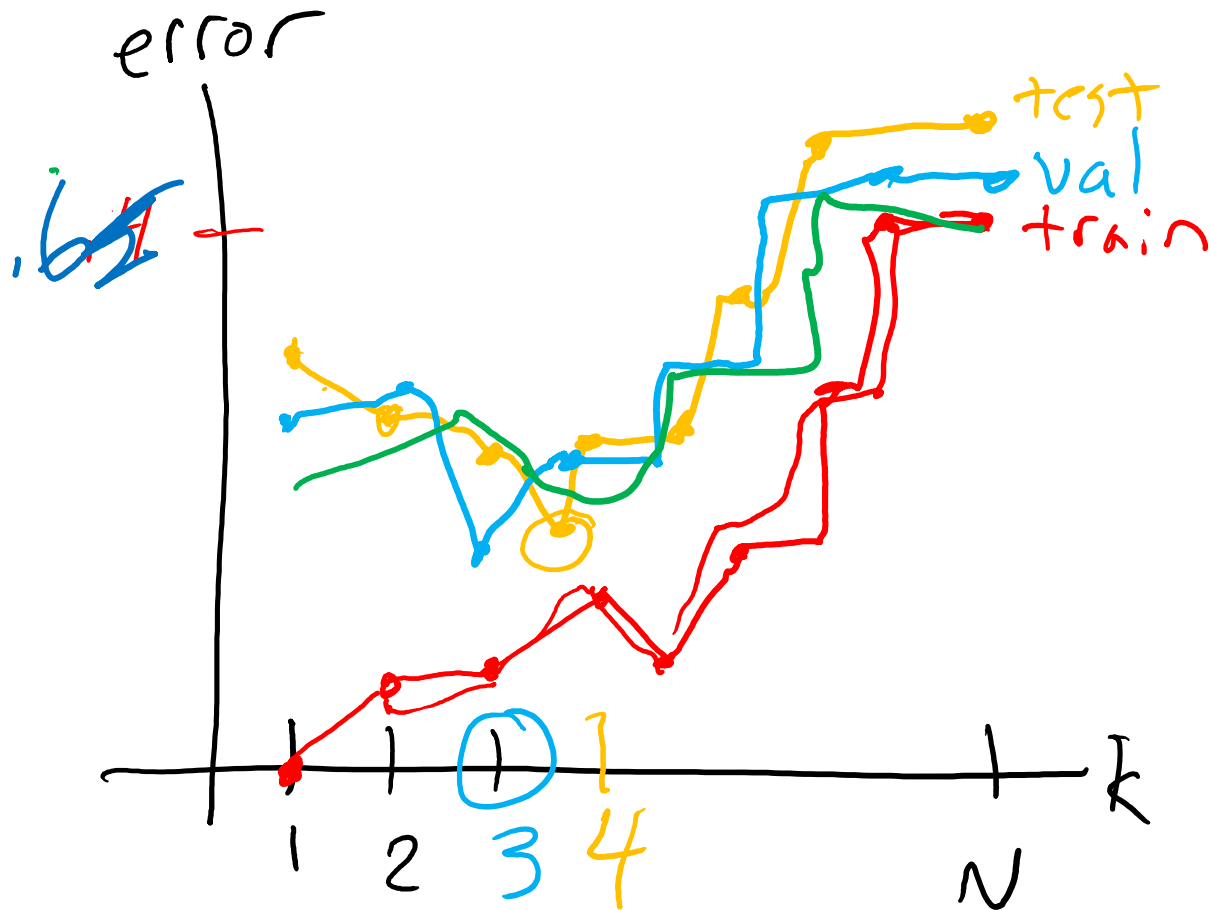
35  
100

# Example of Hyperparameter Optimization

## Choosing $k$ for $k$ -NN

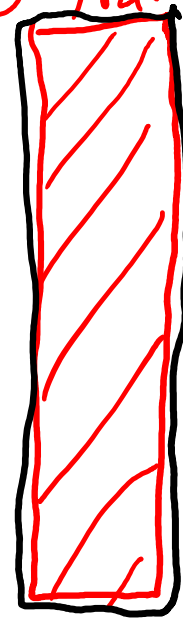
# Example of Hyperparameter Optimization

Choosing  $k$  for  $k$ -NN

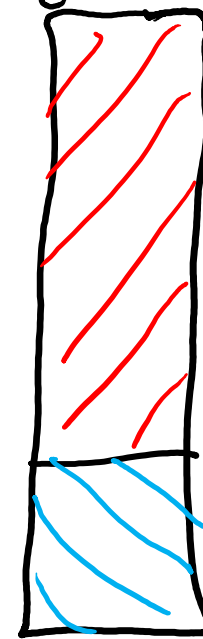


40%  $y=0$  60%  $y=1$

1200 train



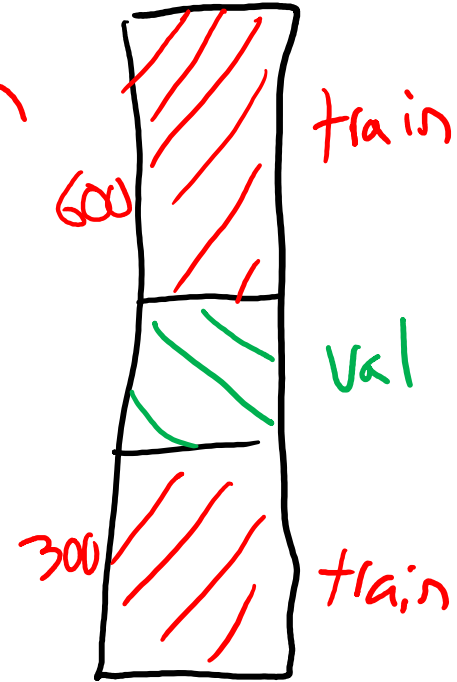
1200



train  
900

300

Val

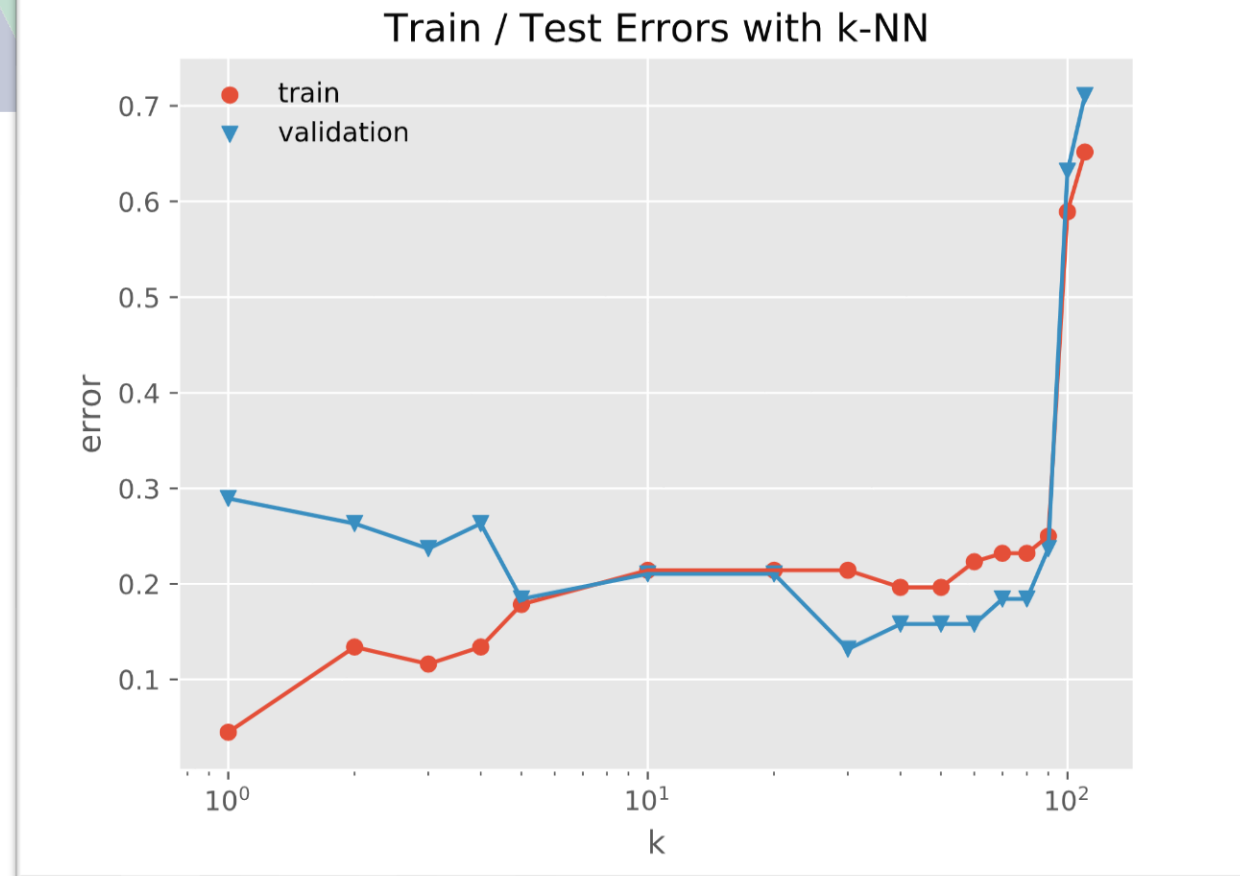
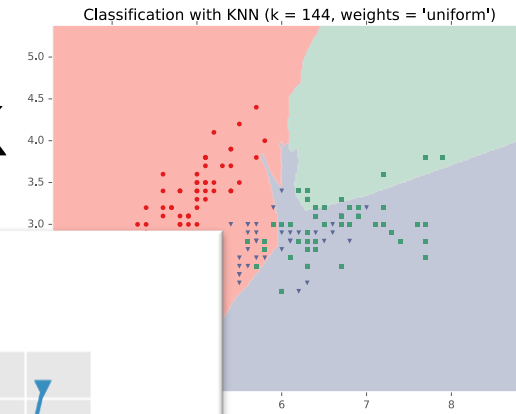
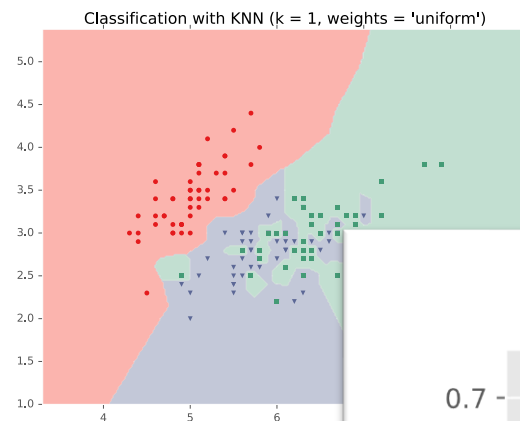


300

test

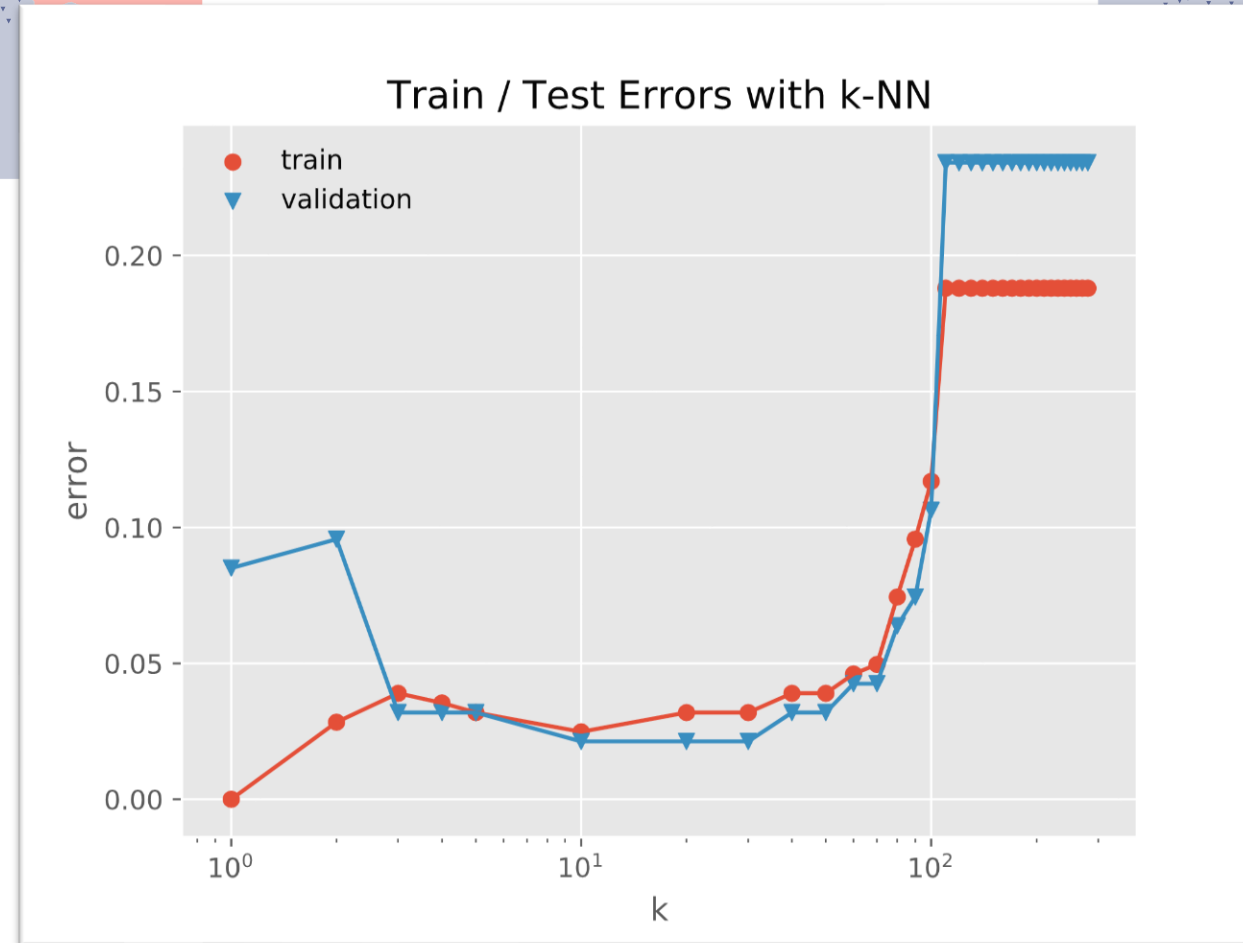
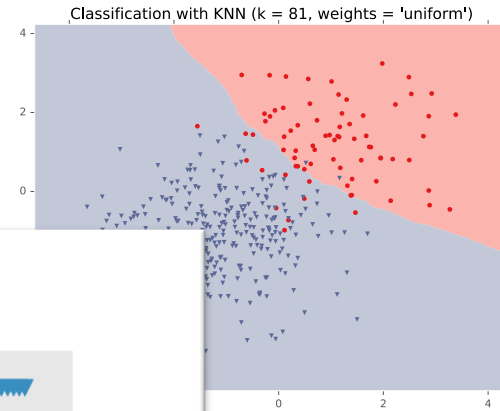
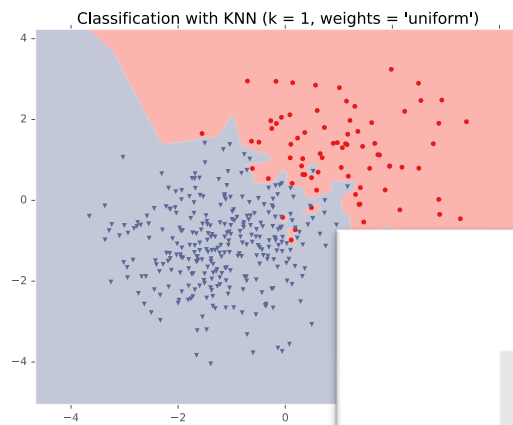


# k-NN: Choosing k



Fisher Iris Data: varying the value of k

# k-NN: Choosing k



Gaussian Data: varying the value of k

# Validation

## Why do we need validation?

- Choose hyperparameters
- Choose technique
- Help make any choices beyond our parameters

## But now, we have another choice to make!

- How do we split training and validation?

## Trade-offs

- More held-out data, better meaning behind validation numbers
- More held-out data, less data to train on!

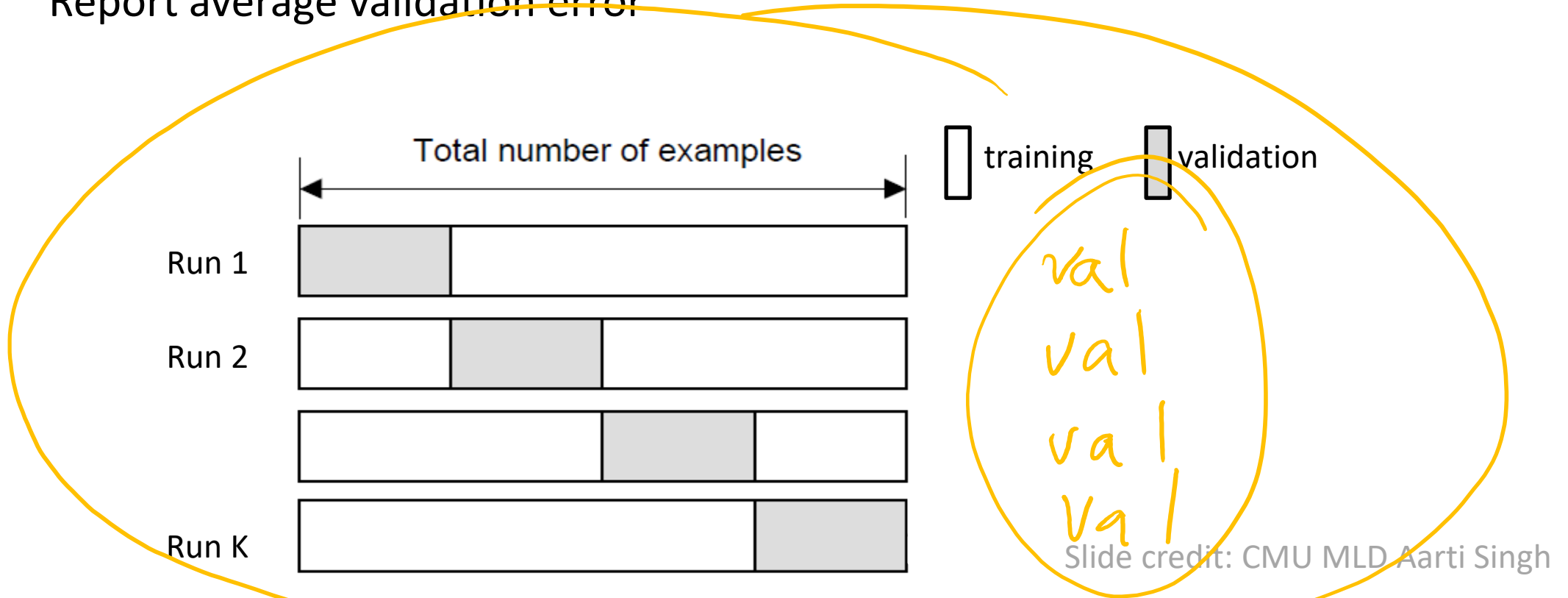
# Cross-validation

## K-fold cross-validation

Create K-fold partition of the dataset.

Do K runs: train using K-1 partitions and calculate validation error on remaining partition (rotating validation partition on each run).

Report average validation error

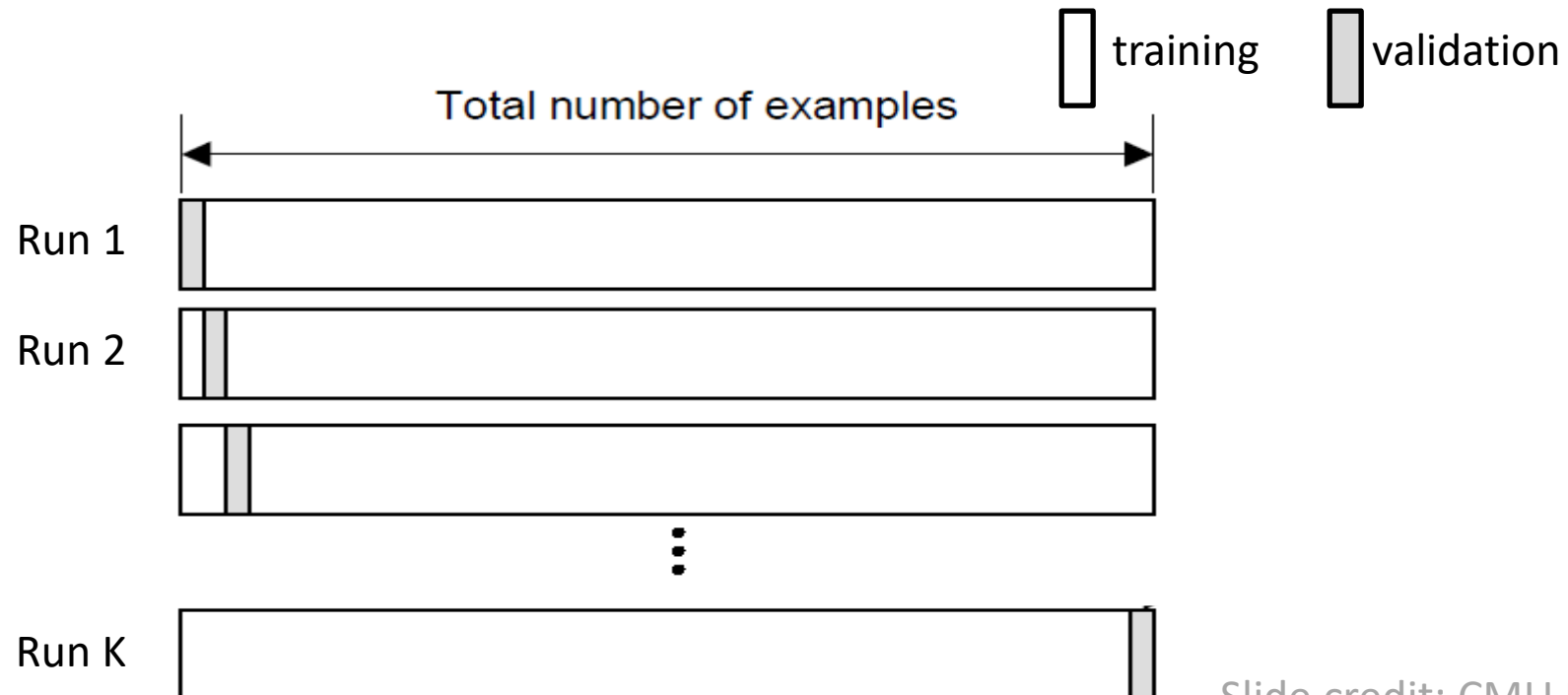


# Cross-validation

## Leave-one-out (LOO) cross-validation

Special case of K-fold with  $K=N$  partitions

Equivalently, train on  $N-1$  samples and validate on only one sample per run for  $N$  runs



# Cross-validation

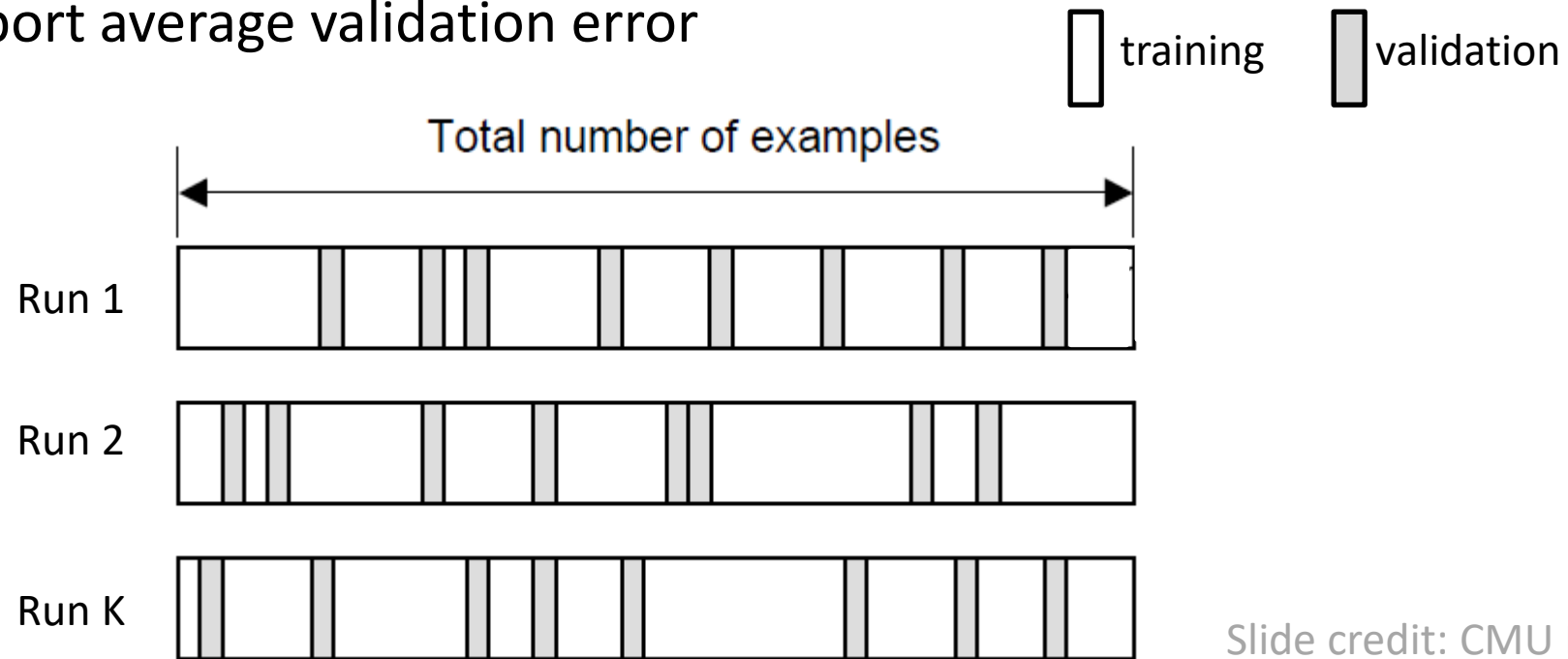
## Random subsampling

Randomly subsample a fixed fraction  $\alpha N$  ( $0 < \alpha < 1$ ) of the dataset for validation.

Compute validation error with remaining data as training data.

Repeat K times

Report average validation error



## Poll 7

Say you are choosing amongst 7 discrete values of a decision tree *mutual information threshold*, and you want to do K=5-fold cross-validation.

How many times do I have to train my model?

- A. 1
- B. 5
- C. 7
- D. 12
- E. 35
- F.  $5^7$

## Poll 7

Say you are choosing amongst 7 discrete values of a decision tree *mutual information threshold*, and you want to do K=5-fold cross-validation.

How many times do I have to train my model?

- A. 1
- B. 5
- C. 7
- D. 12
- E. 35**
- F.  $5^7$



# Model Selection

## **WARNING (again):**

- This section is only scratching the surface!
- Lots of methods for hyperparameter optimization: (to talk about later)
  - Grid search
  - Random search
  - Bayesian optimization
  - Graduate-student descent
  - ...

## **Main Takeaway:**

- Model selection / hyperparameter optimization is just another form of learning