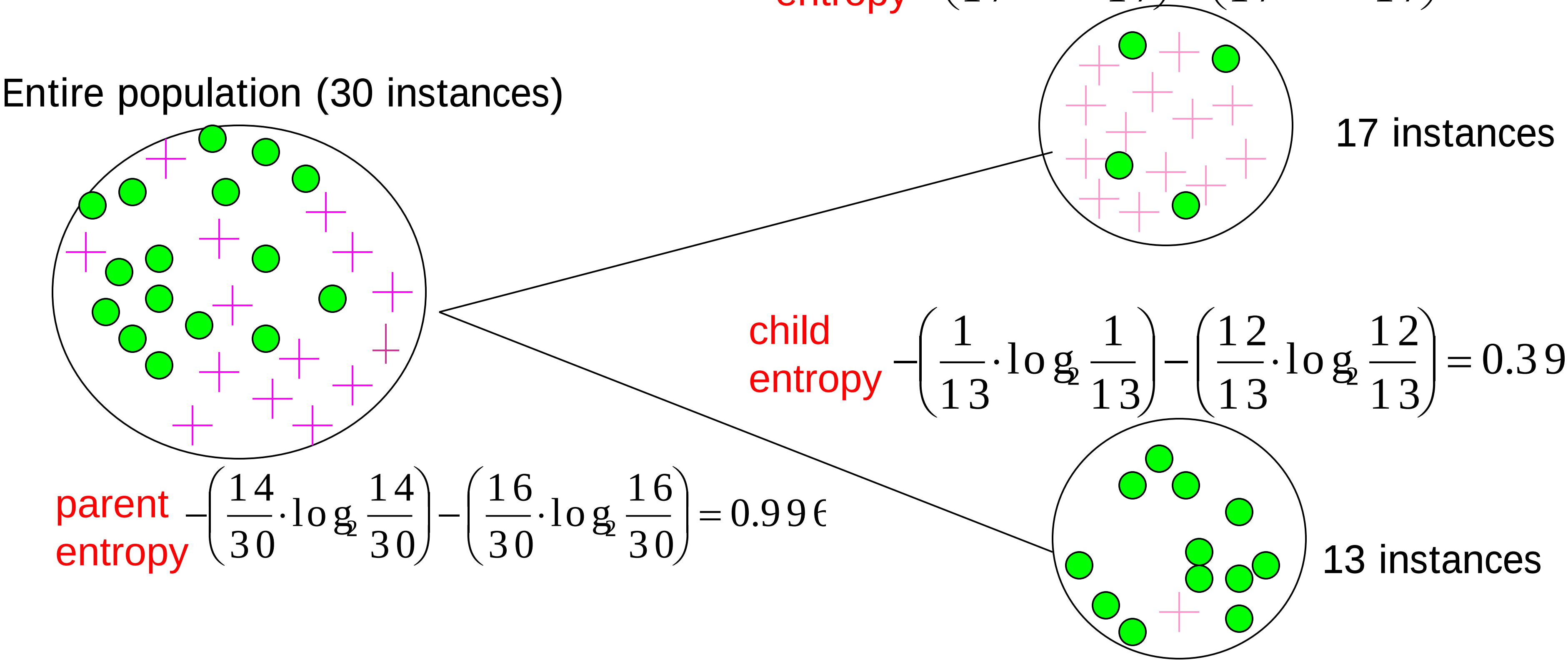
Information Gain

- We want to determine which attribute in a given set of training feature vectors is most useful for discriminating between the classes to be learned.
- Information gain tells us how important a given attribute of the feature vectors is.
- We will use it to decide the ordering of attributes in the nodes of a decision tree.

Calculating Information Gain

Information Gain = entropy(parent) – [average entropy(children)]

child entropy $-\left(\frac{13}{17}\cdot\log_2\frac{13}{17}\right)-\left(\frac{4}{17}\cdot\log_2\frac{4}{17}\right)=0.787$



child entropy $-\left(\frac{1}{13}\cdot\log_2\frac{1}{13}\right)-\left(\frac{12}{13}\cdot\log_2\frac{12}{13}\right)=0.391$

parent entropy $-\left(\frac{14}{30}\cdot\log_2\frac{14}{30}\right)-\left(\frac{16}{30}\cdot\log_2\frac{16}{30}\right)=0.996$

(Weighted) Average Entropy of Children = $\left(\frac{17}{30}\cdot 0.787\right)+\left(\frac{13}{30}\cdot 0.391\right)=0.615$

Information Gain= 0.996 - 0.615 = 0.38 for this split

Entropy-Based Automatic Decision Tree Construction

Training Set S

$x_1=(f_{11},f_{12},\ldots f_{1m})$

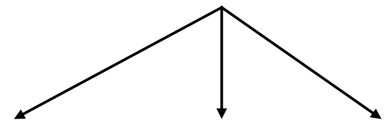
$x_2=(f_{21},f_{22}, \quad f_{2m})$

.

.

$x_n=(f_{n1},f_{22}, \quad f_{2m})$

Node 1
What feature
should be used?



What values?

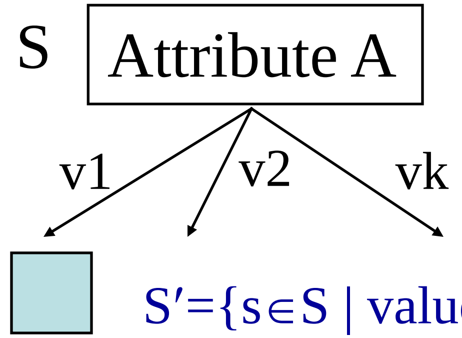
Quinlan suggested information gain in his ID3 system and later the gain ratio, both based on entropy.

Using Information Gain to Construct a Decision Tree

1

Choose the attribute A with highest information gain for the full training set at the root of the tree.

Full Training Set S



Set S ′

$S' = \{s \in S \mid value(A) = v1\}$

2

Construct child nodes for each value of A. Each has an associated subset of vectors in which A has a particular value.

3

repeat recursively till when?

Simple Example

Training Set: 3 features and 2 classes

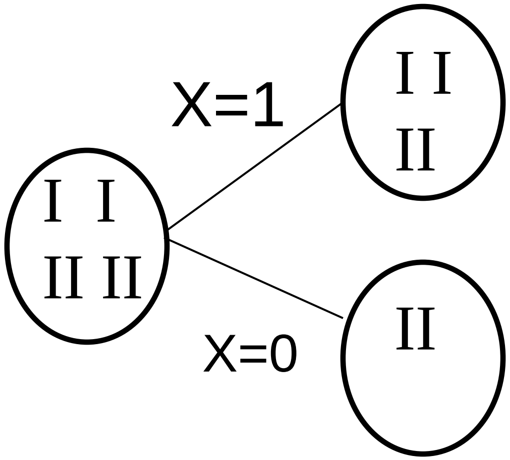
X	Y	Z	C
1	1	1	I
1	1	0	I
0	0	1	II
1	0	0	II

How would you distinguish class I from class II?

X	Y	Z	C
1	1	1	I
1	1	0	I
0	0	1	II
1	0	0	II

Split on attribute X

If X is the best attribute,
this node would be further split.



$E_{child1} = -(1/3)\log_2(1/3) - (2/3)\log_2(2/3)$
$= .5284 + .39$
$= .9184$

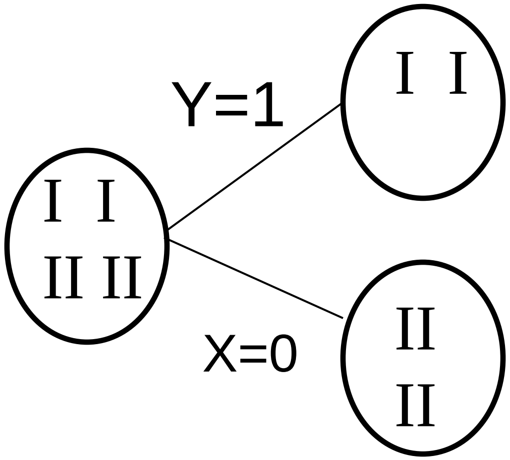
$E_{child2} = 0$

$E_{parent} = 1$

GAIN = 1 – (3/4)(.9184) – (1/4)(0) = .3112

X	Y	Z	C
1	1	1	I
1	1	0	I
0	0	1	II
1	0	0	II

Split on attribute Y



$E_{child1} = 0$

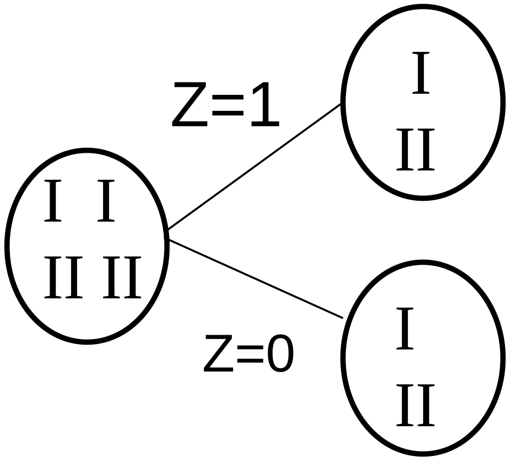
$E_{child2} = 0$

$E_{parent} = 1$

GAIN = 1 –(1/2) 0 – (1/2)0 = 1; BEST ONE

X	Y	Z	C
1	1	1	I
1	1	0	I
0	0	1	II
1	0	0	II

Split on attribute Z



$E_{child1} = 1$

$E_{child2} = 1$

$E_{parent} = 1$

GAIN = 1 – (1/2)(1) – (1/2)(1) = 0   ie. NO GAIN; WORST