



EUROPEAN COLLEGE  
OF SPORT SCIENCE



# Exercise Induced Hypoxemia Modeling

Félix BOUDRY  
UMR Espace-Dev, Perpignan, France

UNIVERSITÉ  
PERPIGNAN  
VIA  
DOMITIA



# What is Exercise Induced Hypoxemia

- EIH is a physiological phenomenon exhibited by some **high-level endurance trained** athletes (Dempsey et al., 1984)
- At least  $\text{PaO}_2$  10mmHg and/or 4% of  $\text{SpO}_2$  between rest and end of maximal exercise (Prefaut et al., 2000)
- Between **52 and 70%** of endurance trained athletes (Powers et al., 1988; Constantini et al., 2017)
- Multi-factorial but principally due to inadequate hyperventilation and gas exchange limitations (Durand et al., 2000)



Severity depends of  $\text{SpO}_2$  minimal value:

- 95-93%  $\text{SpO}_2$  → mild EIH
- 93-88%  $\text{SpO}_2$  → moderate EIH
- <88%  $\text{SpO}_2$  → severe EIH

# EIH consequences



Same  $VO_2\text{max}$  while  $SpO_2$  fall is greater for EIH (Chapman et al., 1999; Gaston et al., 2016)

→ **Specific adaptations** (muscular and cerebral oxygenation) (Raberin et al., 2019)



- **Drop of  $VO_2\text{max}$**  greater for EIH than NEIH with a reduction in  $SpO_2\text{max}$  and max HR (Gaston et al., 2016; Raberin et al., 2019)

- **Lower ventilatory response** to hypercapnia (Granger et al., 2020)

- After 5 days of moderate altitude → lower resting and maximal  $SpO_2$  and greater  $Q_c$  in EIH than NEIH

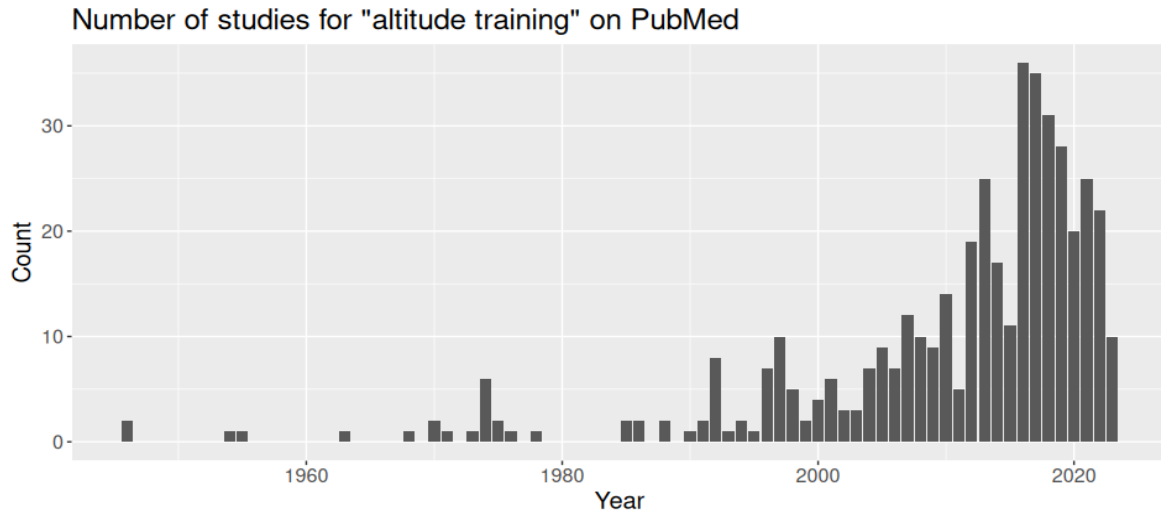
→ **Specific cardiovascular adaptations** that enabled the achievement of the same  $VO_2\text{max}$  in chronic hypoxia



**Ventilatory and cardiovascular parameters are impacted** on EIH athletes exposed to acute and/or chronic hypoxia

# EIH and altitude/hypoxia

- More and more endurance trained athletes experienced altitude/hypoxia  
→ Among them EIH athletes (due to prevalence of the phenomenon)
- Numerous studies about altitude/hypoxic training



- Various and contradictory results
- Role of EIH?
- Not measured!

# Artificial intelligence in sport

- AI approaches can be used to predict or estimate features

Davidson et al. (2023) estimate  $VO_2$  using LSTM networks with speed, HR, cadence, etc.

- We observe an increased amount of studies using AI in sport sciences
- Such approach are useful to:
  - Analyze large amount of data
  - Detect slight changes and variations

# Objective of the study

- EIH impact the responses to altitude/hypoxia at rest and during exercise
- EIH is easy to measure but isn't done in studies investigating altitude/hypoxia training
- However, these studies generate recommendations and guidelines for altitude/hypoxia training for athletes and coaches
- More and more AI is used in sport sciences and could be pertinent for this work

In order to re-analyze already acquired data

**The purpose of this work was to classify athletes as EIH or NEIH without SpO<sub>2</sub> measurement using classic statistics and AI**

# Material & method

## Population:

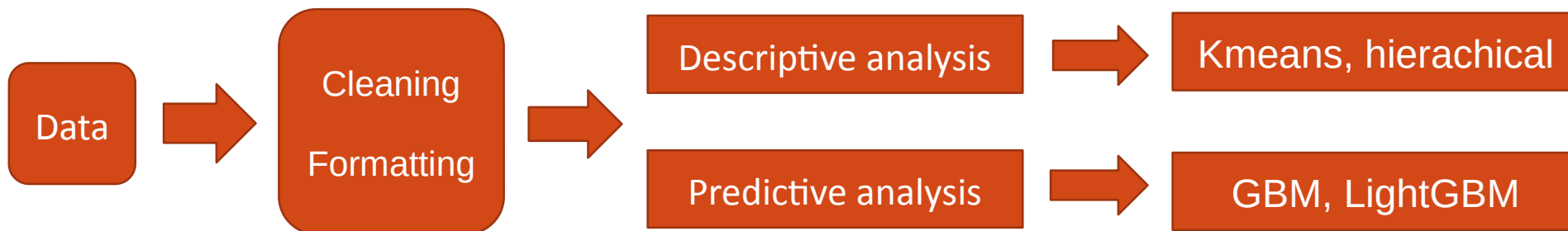
- From various works done by our team and others (retrospective study)
- 125 males, endurance trained athletes → EIH n = 64; NEIH n =61

	<b>age</b>	<b>height</b>	<b>weight</b>	<b>train_volume</b>	<b>train_years</b>
NEIH	31.8 ± 7.9	177.2 ± 6.5	70.5 ± 7.5	10.1 ± 5.5	11.5 ± 8.3
EIH	33.2 ± 8.1	179 ± 6.3	72.2 ± 8.2	11.9 ± 5.2	11.4 ± 7.6

# Material & method

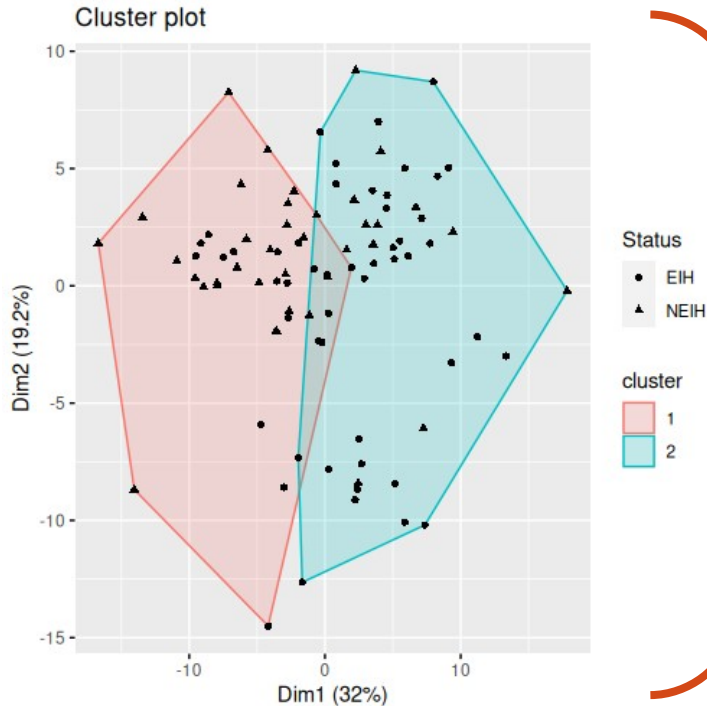
## Data and design:

- From maximal exercise with continuous gas exchange measurements:
  - HR, VE, BF,  $VO_2$ ,  $VCO_2$ ,  $VE/VO_2$ ,  $VE/VCO_2$ ,  $VO_2/VCO_2$
  - Median, mean, sd, rms, max, min, relative
- $SpO_2$  measured with an ear oximeter (Nonin Palmsat) → at rest and maximum effort end





# Results: EIH status



Data placed in a 2 dimensional space  
Cluster based on distances without using saturation

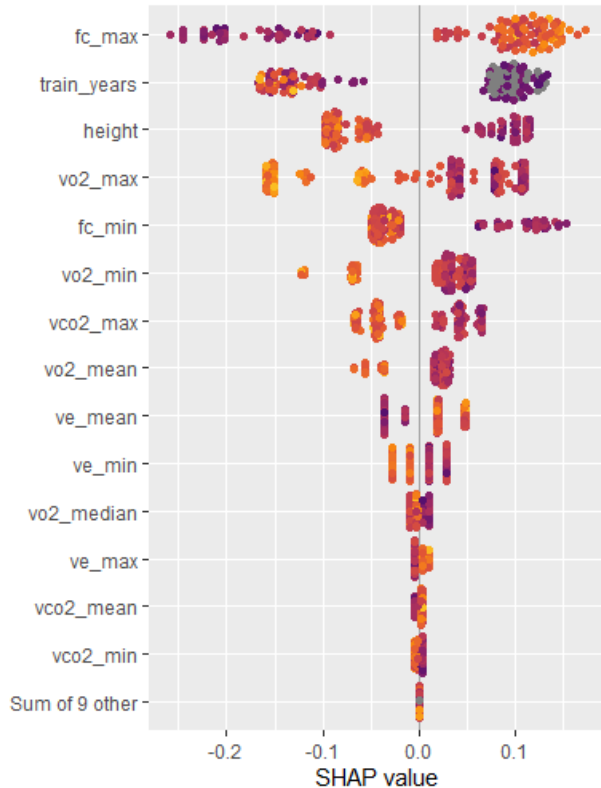
- Colors = cluster
- Forms = EIH status

EIH & NEIH are mixed in clusters



Clustering methods are not powerful enough to discriminate EIH & NEIH subjects

# Results: EIH status



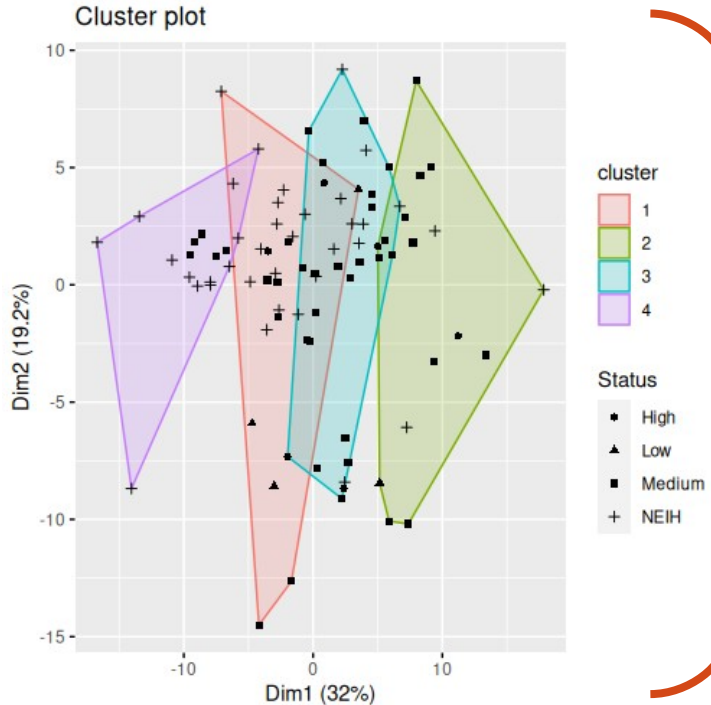
Feature value  
High  
Low



Classification without saturation data  
88% accuracy for EIH/NEIH status  
Insights about the features used for this classification

Accuracy	Kappa	AccuracyLower	AccuracyUpper	AccuracyNull
0.72000000	0.437299035	0.575094643	0.837689399	0.520000000
AccuracyPValue	McNemarPValue			
0.003151612	0.789268026			

# Results: EIH intensity



Data placed in a 2 dimensional space  
Cluster based on distances without using saturation

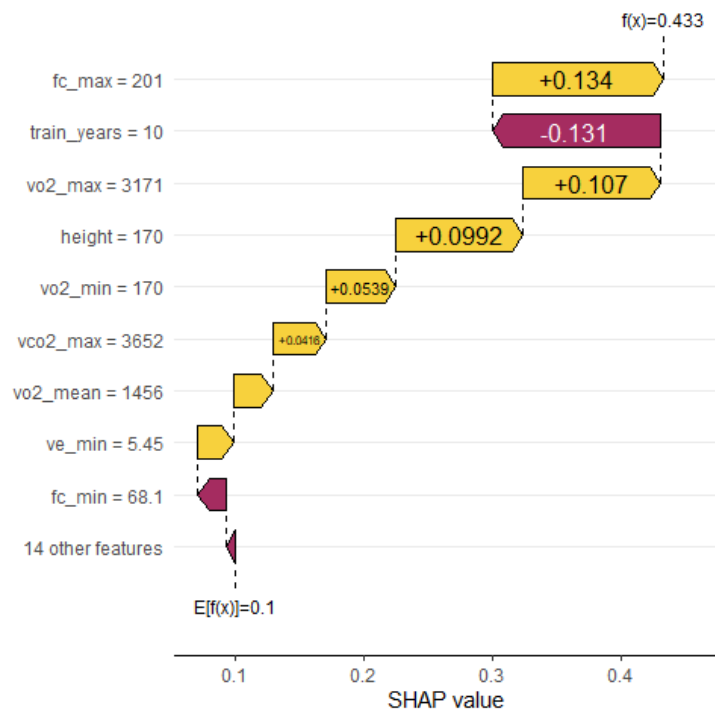
- Colors = cluster
- Forms = EIH intensity

Intensities are mixed in clusters



Clustering methods are not powerful enough to discriminate EIH intensities

# Results: EIH intensity



Classification without  
saturation data

80% accuracy for EIH  
intensity

Insights about the features  
used for this classification

Accuracy	Kappa	AccuracyLower	AccuracyUpper	AccuracyNull
0.72000000	0.437299035	0.575094643	0.837689399	0.52000000
AccuracyPValue	McnemarPValue			
0.003151612	0.789268026			

# Discussion

- Most effective method: LightGBM

This approach is able to classify subjects using only gas exchange data

- Accuracy are correct and results are coherent:
  - 88% and 80% for status and intensity respectively
  - Most important factor for classification have a physiological interest:  
VO<sub>2</sub>max, HR, age, etc. → physiological factors for EIH (Prefaut et al., 1994)

# Conclusion

**We are able to classify and detect EIH athletes using only gas exchange data**

Those results can be used for research purpose

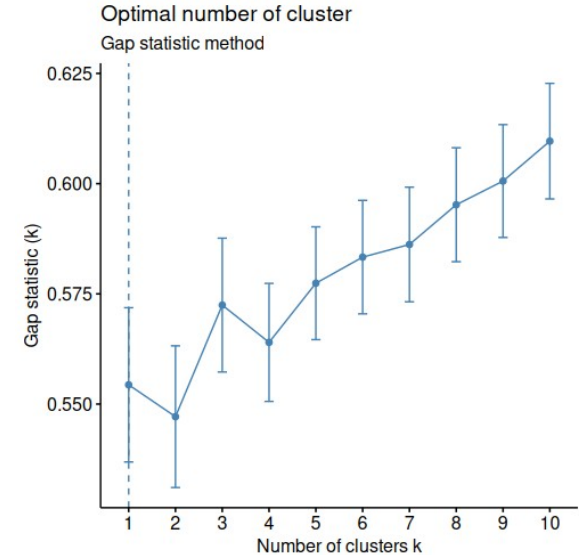
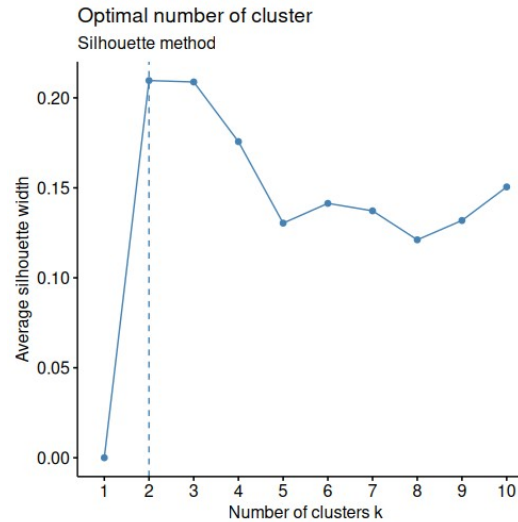
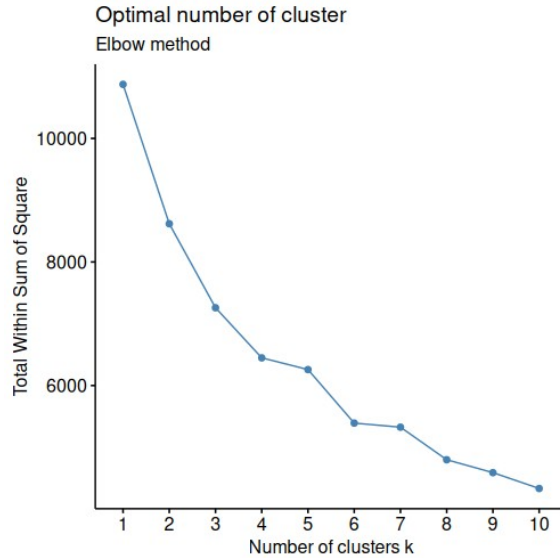
## **Future perspectives:**

1. Increase data amount
2. Create other models (impact of altitude on EIH athletes performances)

The end

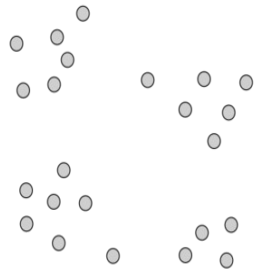
# Cluster number choice

**Levels: 2 & 4 → status and intensity**

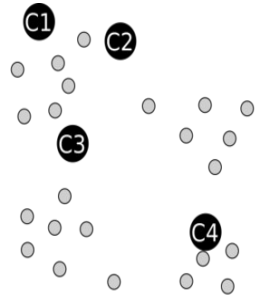




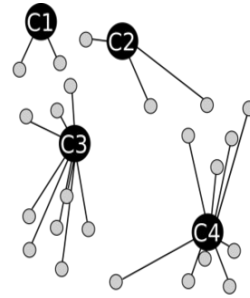
# Clustering method



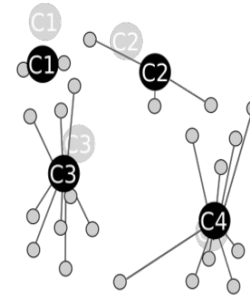
0a. Données d'entrée



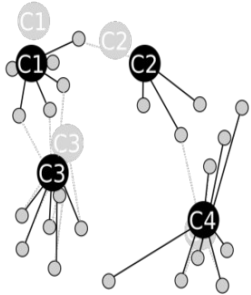
0b. intialisation



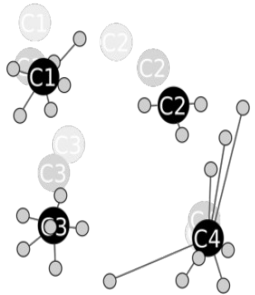
1a. assignation



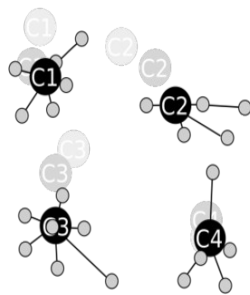
1b. calcul des points moyens



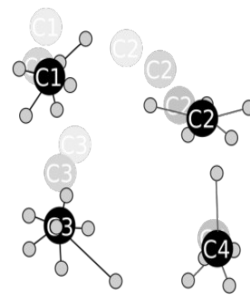
2a. assignation



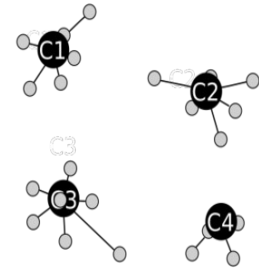
2b. calcul des points moyens



3a. assignation

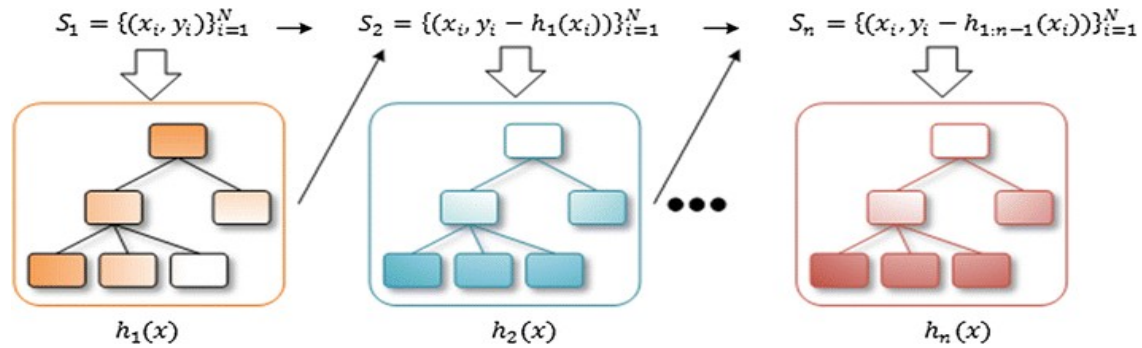
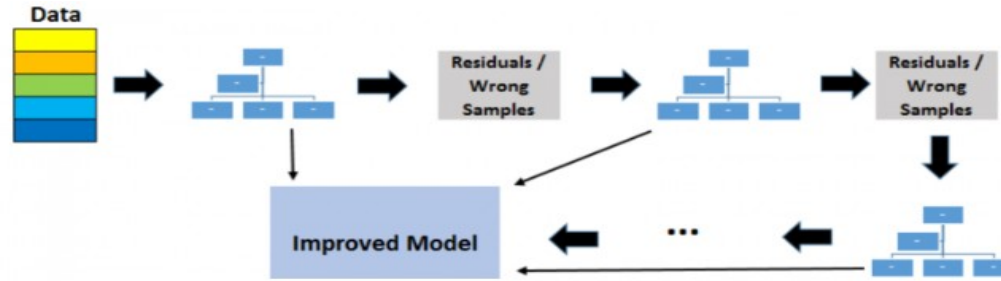


3b. calcul des points moyens



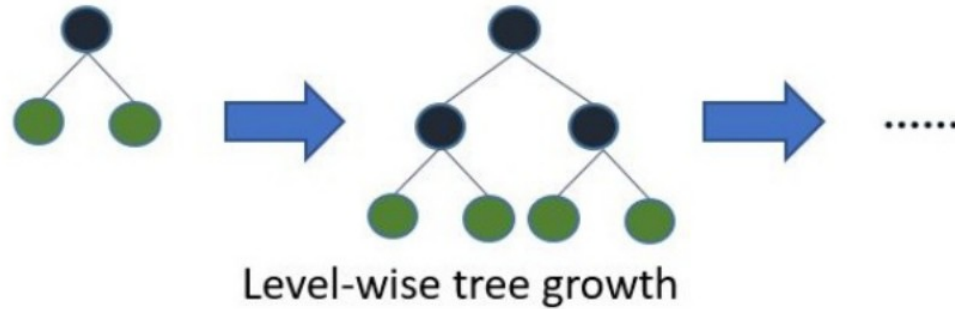
4a. assignation  
clusters stables (fin)

# LighGBM

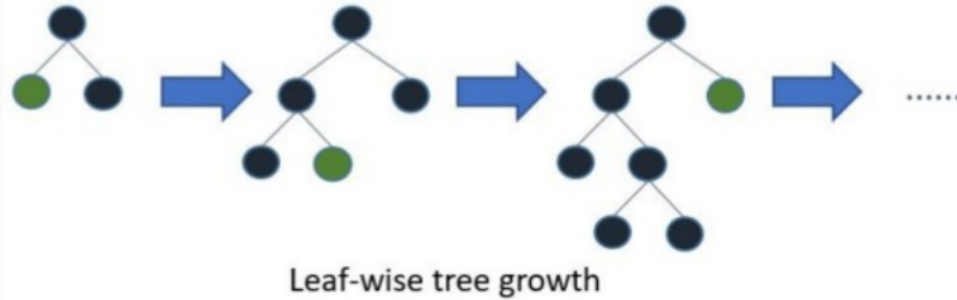


# LightGBM: GOSS

XGBoost:



LightGBM:



# LightGBM: EFB

<b>feature1</b>	<b>feature2</b>	<b>feature_bundle</b>
0	2	6
0	1	5
0	2	6
1	0	1
2	0	2
3	0	3
4	0	4

# AI

AI is defined as the ability of a system to interpret and learn from exterior data correctly (Kaplan et al., 2019)