EMPIRICAL SOFTWARE ENGINEERING (VERSION 2.0) AND DATA MINING



NOV 24, 2010

Version history

V1: Aug18 '10

V1a: Aug28 '10

V1b: Sept02 '10

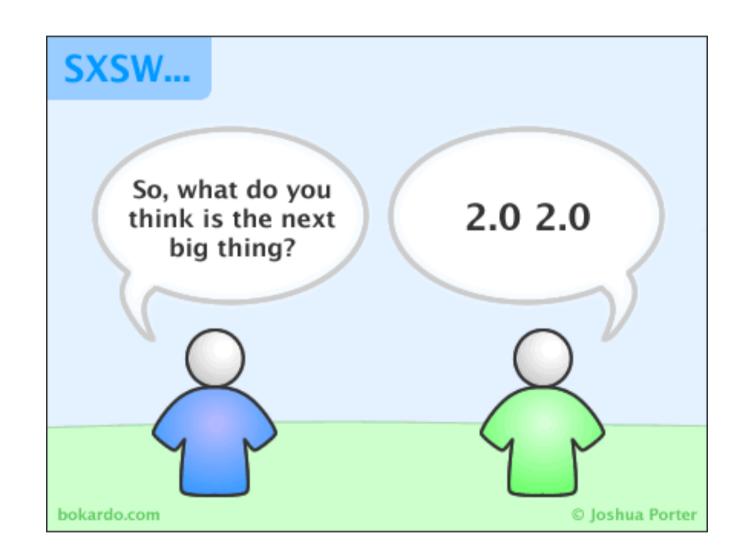
V1c: Sept11'10

V2: Nov23'10

Tim Menzies,

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Download: http://unbox.org/wisp/var/timm/10/swinburne



Road map

- Data mining & SE (overview)
- 2. Data mining tools (guided tour of "WEKA")
- 3. Data "carving" (core operators of DM)

- 4. Generality (or not)
- 5. Bias (is your friend)
- 6. Evaluation (does it really work?)

Change log

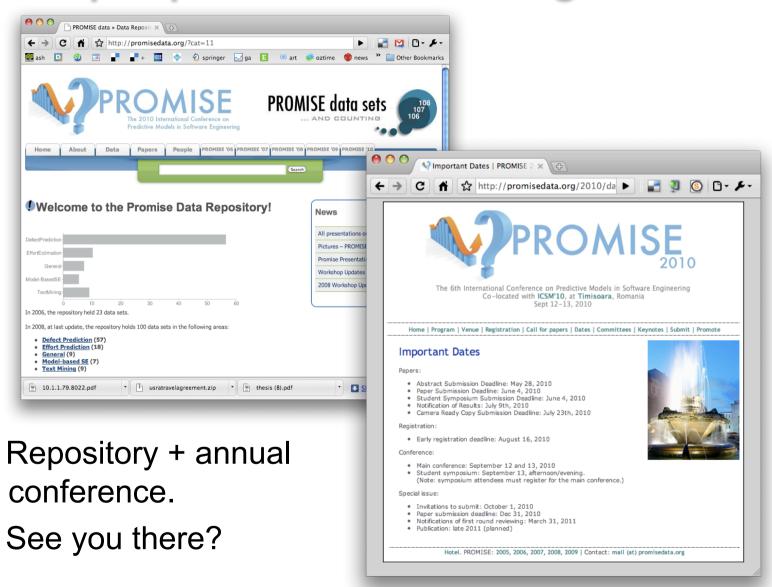
- Version 1:Aug 18, 2010
 - Version Ia: Aug 28, 2010
 - 2 more slides on "why empirical SE v2.0"
 - Version 1b: Sept 2: minor edits
 - Version Ic: minor edits
 - Version Id: new conclusion
- Version 2: Nov 21, 2010
 - Shorter version for Swinburne

About the author



- Dr.Tim Menzies (tim@menzies.us) has worked on advanced modeling + AI since 1986.
 - PhD from Uni. New South Wales, Sydney, Oz
 - Assoc/prof at WVU CS &EE
- Former research chair for NASA
- Author of 200 refereed papers: http://menzies.us/ papers.php
- Co-founder and organizer of the PROMISE conferences on repeatable experiments in SE
- For more, see http://menzies.us

http://promisedata.org/data



New trend

- Ph.D. students, finishing up their studies, using PROMISE to archive their data
 - E.g. 30 new OO data sets from Marian Jureczko
- Are you next?



For other view on DM + SE

- ICSE 2010 Tutorial T18 Tuesday, 4 May 2010 (afternoon)
- Mining Software Engineering Data
 - Ahmed E. Hassan: Queen's University, Canada
 - Tao Xie: North Carolina State University, USA





- Tutorial Slides:
 - https://sites.google.com/site/asergrp/dmse/dmse-icse08-tutorial.ppt?attredirects=0

DATA MINING & SE (OVERVIEW)



- Data mining & SE (overview)
- 2. Data mining tools (guided tour of "WEKA")
- 3. Data "carving" (core operators of DM)

A proposal

Add roller skates to scientific analysis



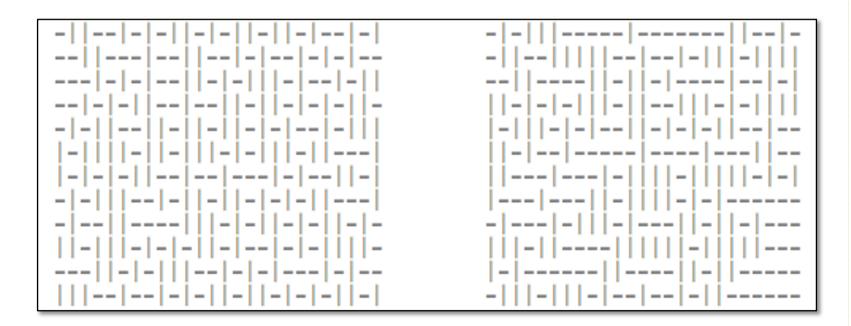
Always use data mining on SE data

Data Mining: definition

- Finding patterns in (lots of) data
 - Diamonds in the dust
- Combines statistics, Al, visualization,
- Synonyms
 - Machine learning
 - Business intelligence
 - Predictive analytics
- The art of the approximate scalable analysis
 - Bigger is better
- Used for... anything
 - The review of current beliefs w.r.t. new data is the hallmark of human rationality.
 - It is irrational **NOT** to data mine.

Exercise #1

- One these these things is not like the other
 - One was generating by selecting "-" or "|" at random, 300 times.
- Which one?



Exercise #2

- A little experiment from http://www.youtube.com/v/ vJG698U2Mvo&hl=en US&fs=I&rel=0
- Rules
 - No one talks for the next 4 minutes
 - If you know what is about to happen, see (1)
- This is a selective attention test
 - Count the number of times the team with the white shirt passes the ball.



What have we learned?

- Lesson #1:
 - Algorithms can be pretty dumb
 - If they don't focus on X, they see any Y, at random.
- Lesson #2:
 - Humans can be pretty dumb
 - If they mono-focus on X, you can miss Y
- Maybe, any induction process is a guess
 - And while guessing can be useful
 - Guesses can also be wrong
- Lets us a create community of agents,
 each with novel insights and limitations
 - Data miners working with humans
 - Maybe in combination, we can see more that separately

Wikipedia:

List of cognitive biases http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ List_of_cognitive_biases

- 38 decision making biases
- 30 biases in probability
- 18 social biases,
- 10 memory biases

Applications

- Effort estimation
- Defect prediction
- Optimization of discrete systems
- Test case generation
- Fault localization
- Text mining
- Temporal sequence mining
 - Learning software processes
 - Learning APIs
- Etc
- Welcome to Empirical SE, Version 2.0

Applications

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Data mining applications explored by me since 2007.

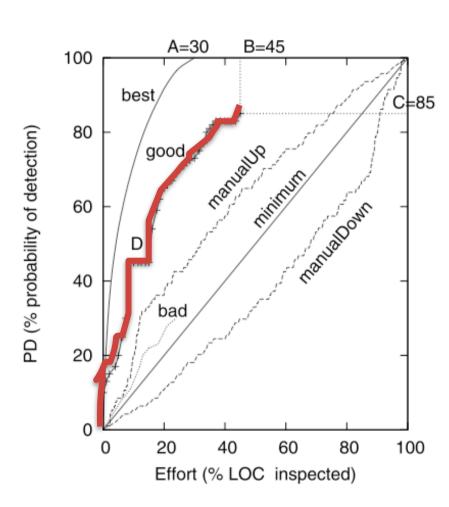
A career in data mining is a very diverse career, indeed

Application: Effort estimation

- Can we predict development effort (time * staff)?
- E.g. using linear regression; effort = a*KLOCb c
 - Boehm, B.W. 1981 Software Engineering Economics
 - Boehm, B.W., Clark, Horowitz, Brown, Reifer, Chulani, Madachy, R., and Steece, B. 2000 Software Cost
 Estimation with Cocomo II
 - Sunita Chulani, Barry W. Boehm, Bert Steece: Bayesian Analysis of Empirical Software Engineering Cost Models IEEE Trans. Software Eng. 25(4): 573-583 (1999)
- E.g. using analogy
 - Describe past projects according to N dimensions
 - Float all known projects in an N-dimensional space
 - To estimate a project, insert into that space; query its nearest neighbors
 - For the classic estimation via analogy, see
 - Martin J. Shepperd, Chris Schofield: Estimating Software Project Effort Using Analogies IEEE Trans.
 Software Eng. 23(11): 736-743 (1997)
 - For 12,000+ variants to that process, see
 - Fig1 of http://menzies.us/pdf/10stable.pdf
- E.g. using other methods:
 - See I54 variants in http://menzies.us/pdf/I0stable.pdf

Application: Defect Prediction

- Limited QA budgets, can't check everything.
 - Where should we place our inspection effort?
- For a review, see Section Two of
 - http://menzies.us/ pdf/10which.pdf
- Practical value:
 - How to inspect less, and find more bugs



Application: Optimizations of discrete systems

- Standard numeric optimizers assume continuous, possibly even linear, equations
- Data miners much happier to work in discrete spaces.
- What factors predict for landing closest to the target?
 - State-of-the-art optimizer
 - · Simulated annealing
 - the TAR3 data miner
 - TAR3 45 times faster, found better solutions

Times are hhh:mm GET

010:45

011:00

http://menzies.us/pdf/10keys.pdf

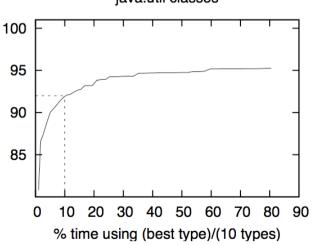


% max coverage best type)/(10 types)

- NIGHTHAWK: A genetic algorithm that mutates sequences of method calls in order to maximize code coverage.
- RELIEF: a data mining technique to find "interesting features"
 - Same attribute same values in all classes?
 - Boring
 - Same Attribute, different values in different classes?
 - Interesting
- RELIEF found that 90% of NIGHTHAWK's mutators were "boring"
 - Order of magnitude speed up in test generation
- James H. Andrews, Tim Menzies, Felix C.H. Li, "Genetic Algorithms for Randomized Unit Testing," IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, 25 Mar. 2010.

Rank	Gene type t	avgMerit
1	numberOfCalls	85
2	valuePoolActivityBitSet	83
3	upperBound	64
4	chanceOfTrue	50
5	methodWeight	50
6	numberOfValuePools	49
7	lowerBound	44
8	chanceOfNull	40
9	numberOfValues	40
10	candidateBitSet	34

java.util classes



Application: Fault Localization

- 100,000 JAVA methods
 - In a matrix T*D
 - T = "terms" = all the method calls in each method
 - D = "documents" = all the methods
- Bug report
 - Replace text with just the method calls it mentions
 - Add edited report as row D+one in the matrix
 - Compute similarity of D+one to other rows (cosine similarity)
 - The actual buggy method is in the closest 100 methods
 - Use relevancy feedback to narrow down the search

[•] Gregory Gay, Sonia Haiduc, Andrian Marcus Tim Menzies: On the use of relevance feedback in IR-based concept location ICSM 2009: 351-360

Application: Text Mining

- 80% of data in organizations is unstructured
 - Not in databases, or XML schemas
 - But in the natural language of (say) Word documents
- Given enough of these seemingly unstructured documents, structures can be discovered
- E.g.
 - Thousands of natural language bug reports from NASA
 - Used "feature reduction" to find the top 100 most important words
 - Used standard data mining to learn predictors for defect severity from that top-100
 - Tim Menzies, Andrian Marcus: Automated severity assessment of software defect reports. ICSM 2008: 346-355

Application: Temporal Sequence Mining

- Learning software process descriptions
 - No more prescriptions of what we think goes on inside software projects
 - Lets look at see at what actually happens
 - Li, Mingshu and Boehm, Barry and Osterweil, Leon and Jensen, Chris and Scacchi, Walt "Experiences in Discovering, Modeling, and Reenacting Open Source Software Development Processes", Unifying the Software Process Spectrum, Lecture Notes in Computer Science, 2006, page 449 to 462
- Learning APIs from method sequence calls
 - Tao Xie and Jian Pei. MAPO: Mining API Usages from Open Source Repositories. In Proceedings of the 3rd International Workshop on Mining Software Repositories (MSR 2006), Shanghai, China, pp. 54-57, May 2006
- Learning patches from method sequence calls
 - Suresh Thummalapenta and Tao Xie. Mining exception-handling rules as sequence association rules. In ICSE '09: Proceedings of the 31st International Conference on Software Engineering, pages 496–506, Washington, DC, USA, 2009. IEEE Computer Society.
- Obtaining sequence miners:
 - https://illimine.cs.uiuc.edu/
 - Another tool set is at http://himalaya-tools.sourceforge.net/
 - See more tools at https://sites.google.com/site/asergrp/dmse/resources

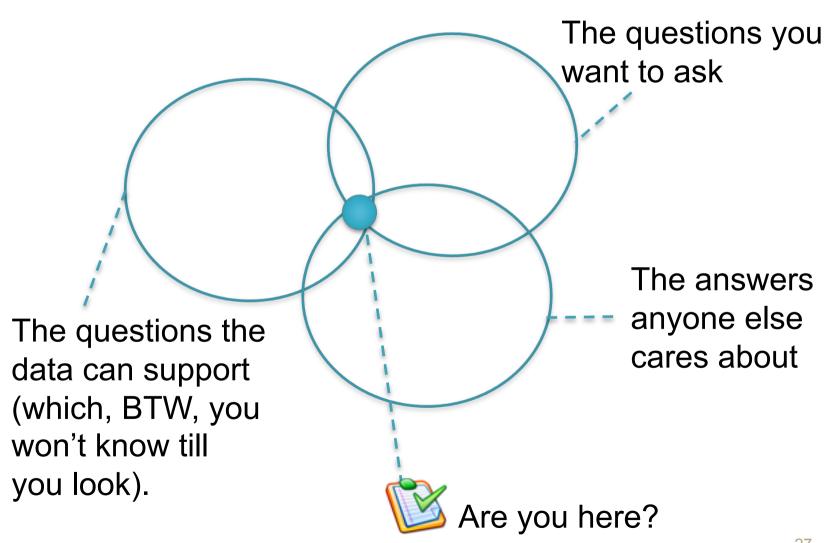
Application: etc etc etc

- Data mining + SE a very active area
 - PROMISE conference
 - Mining Software Repository conference
- See also
 - ESEM conference
 - Search-based software engineering
- Hint: to get ahead of the curve...
 - ... learn sequence mining
- Welcome to Empirical SE, version 2.0

Empirical SE, Version 2.0

- Open Science movement
 - Open Data
 - Everyone places their data on-line, all the time
 - Open Access publishing
 - Death to subscription-based services
- Shneiderman, B. (2008) "Science 2.0" Science 319(5868):1349-50
 - Science meets web 2.0
 - International team of researchers posting and analyzing data
 - Research at internet speed
- Anda, Markus et al (*) distinguish between
 - Case studies: that collect new context variables from project data
 - **Experiments**: that explore case study data
 - Currently, very few case studies generating publicly available data
 - But very many researchers wanting to experiment on that data
 - Perfect setting for data mining
- (*) Bente Anda Audris Mockus and Dag I.K. Sjoberg. Experiences from replicating a case study to investigate reproducibility of software development. In First International Workshop on Replication in Empirical Software Engineering Research, ICSE'09,

Empirical Science 2.0 adjusts its questions to the available data



The lamppost objection

- Where did you lose your keys?
 - Over by the car.
- So why are you looking here?
 - Cause the light is better
- Traditional view
 - Frame the question
 - Then collect the data
 - Then explore data w.r.t. that question
 - Assumes control of data collection



"I'm searching for my keys."

The lamppost objection (more)

- Where did you lose your keys?
 - Over by the car.
- So why are you looking here?
 - Cause the light is better
- Another view

"I'm searching for my keys."

Callender

- Study the SE literature looking for open questions
- Study the SE data looking for what answers they support
- When answers intersect with questions, then report
- E.g. Kitchenham TSE 2007: use cross-vs-within company data
- E.g. Shepperd TSE 2002, 2005: stability of ranking of estimation methods

Does it work? Any general conclusions?

Only a small minority of PROMISE papers (11/64) discuss results that repeated in data sets from multiple projects

E.g. Ostrand, Weyuker, Bell PROMISE '08, '09

Same functional form

Predicts defects for generations of AT&T software

E.g. Turhan, Menzies, Bener PROMISE '08, '09

10 projects

Learn on 9

Apply to the 10th

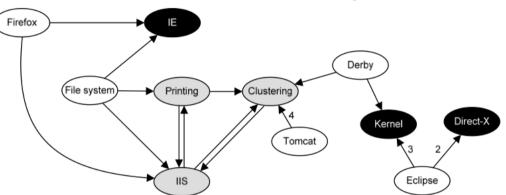
Defect models learned from NASA projects work for Turkish white goods software

Caveat: need to filter irrelevant training examples. See also •When to Use Data from Other Projects for Effort Estimation Ekrem Kocaguneli, Gregory Gay, Tim Menzies, Ye Yang, Jacky W. Keung, ASE 2010

•B. Turhan, T. Menzies, A. Bener, and J. Distefano. On the relative value of cross-company and within- company data for defect prediction. Empirical Software Engineering, 68(2):278–290, 2009

General conclusions: very rare

- The usual conclusion is that we learn that we can learn very little
- FSE'09: Zimmerman et (Firefox)
 - Defect models not generalizable
 - Learn "there", apply
 "here" only works in 4' of their 600+ experiment
 - Opposite to Turhan'09
 - · ?add relevancy filter



- ASE'09: Green, Menzies et al.
 - Al search for better software project options
 - Conclusions highly dependent on local business value proposition
- And others
 - TSE '01, '05: Shepperd et al
 - Any conclusion regarding "best" effort estimator varies by data sets, performance criteria, random selection train/test set
 - TSE'06: Menzies, Greenwald:
 - attributes selected by column selection vary wildly across projects

The local lesson hypothesis

- Software construction is a very varied process
- General principles may not hold at local sites
- Need methods for quickly finding those local lessons
- Enter data mining

Q: Why Empirical SE 2.0? A: Case study results may not generalize

- What is true at one site,
 - May not be true for another
 - E.g. local sites have different goals, different biases, that changes what is "best" for that site
 - II, P. G., Menzies, T., Williams, S., and El-Rawas, O. 2009. Understanding the Value of Software Engineering Technologies. In Proceedings of the 2009 IEEE/ACM international Conference on Automated Software Engineering(November 16 20, 2009)
 - E.g. general policies perform worse than locally generated policies
 - Menzies, T., Williams, S., Boehm, B., and Hihn, J. 2009. How to avoid drastic software process change (using stochastic stability). In Proceedings of the 31st international Conference on Software Engineering (May 16 24, 2009)
- So we need to audit the conclusions of one case study w.r.t. to data taken from other sites.
- Data mining is one technology that can (at least partially) automate that audit process

Q:Why Empirical SE 2.0? A: Sharing is a good thing

- WC= Within- company data
 - Locally collected, locally applied
- CC= Cross- company data
 - Collected elsewhere, applied here.
- Filtered CC works nearly as well as WC
 - Turhan, B., Menzies, T., Bener, A. B., and Di Stefano, J. 2009. On the relative value of cross-company and within-company data for defect prediction. *Empirical Softw. Engg.* 14, 5 (Oct. 2009), 540-578
 - Ekrem Kocaguneli, Gregory Gay, Tim Menzies, Ye Yang, Jacky Keung, When to Use Data from Other Projects for Effort Estimation. IEEE ASE 2010
- So if ever you are doing new work,
 - and lack local data,
 - you can apply other people's data
- But only if it is available
 - Open data !!!

Q:Why Empirical SE 2.0? A: Like it or not, here it comes

- Everyone has access to this technology
 - In three minutes, on your machine, I can install
 - 200 data miners * pre-processors * meta-learners
 - http://www.cs.waikato.ac.nz/ml/weka/index downloading.html
- We must explore how communities can responsibly use that technology
- Otherwise, we run the risk of
 - Inexperienced analysts hiding in a corner,
 - Making private conclusions
 - Which they don't share

Q:Why Empirical SE 2.0 A: Changing nature of data

- In the 21st century
 - we can access more data collected by <u>others</u> than we can ever can collect by <u>ourselves</u>.
- In the 20th century,
 - research was focused on case studies where researchers collected special purpose data sets for their particular questions.
- In the 21st century,
 - much research is devoted to experimentation with the data generated by the case studies,
 - possibly investigating hypotheses not originally considered when the data was collected.
 - Data mining is one way to experiment with data.

Q:Why Empirical SE 2.0? A: Increasing pace of change

- New developments are radically changing SE: open source toolkits, agile development, cloud-based computing, etc.
- 20th century Empirical SE used "big science"
 - Research questions, data collection, analysis took years
 - Big science is too slow to keep up with changes to contemporary SE. e.g.
 - Increasing pace of organization change at NASA was fatal to the "big science" approach of Victor Basili's Software Engineering Laboratory (*)
 - V. Basili, F. McGarry, R. Pajerski, and M. Zelkowitz. Lessons learned from 25 years of process improvement: The rise and fall of the NASA software engineering laboratory. In Proceedings of the 24th International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE) 2002, Orlando, Florida, 2002.
- Data mining is one response to the open and urgent issue of
 - how to reason <u>faster</u> about SE data.

Q:Why Empirical SE 2.0? A: Changing nature of SE theories

- 20th century SE: the struggle for the single theory
 - E.g. Boehm's COCOMO effort estimation project
 - E.g. SEI capability maturity model [130];
- 21st century: faster pace = more diversity
 - Less likely that there exists a single over-arching grand theory of SE
- Recent reports [1,2,3,4,5] say that while such generality may elude us, we can still find the special lessons that work best on the local projects
 - I. Rombach A. Endres, H.D.A Handbook of Software and Systems Engineering: Empirical Observations, Laws and Theories. Addison Wesley, 2003.
 - 2. B. Kitchenham D. Budgen, P. Brereton. Is evidence based software engineering mature enough for practice & policy? In 33rd Annual IEEE Software Engineering Workshop 2009 (SEW-33), Skyde, Sweden, 2009.
 - 3. B.A. Kitchenham, E. Mendes, and G. H. Travassos. Cross- vs. within-company cost estimation studies: A systematic review. IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, pages 316–329, May 2007.
 - 4. Tim Menzies and Forrest Shull. The quest for convincing evidence. In A. Oram and G. Wilson, editors, Making Software: What Really Works, and Why We Believe It. O'Reilly, 2010.
 - 5. H. Gall E. Giger T. Zimmermann, N. Nagappan and B. Murphy. Cross-project defect prediction. In ESEC/FSE'09, August 2009.
- Data mining is one way to rapidly find and verify the special practices that best work on the local projects.

Q:Why Empirical SE 2.0? A: Changing nature of data analysis

- A contemporary empirical SE paper might explore gigabytes of core dumps looking for the method calls that lead to a crash.
- Faced with such large and complex data, analysis methods are becoming more intricate; e.g.
 - Model trees for multi-model data
 - Latent Dirichlet allocation (LDA) for document clustering
 - Mining sequences to learn exception handling rules
- It is now possible to find <u>new</u> insights in <u>old</u> data, just by applying a <u>new</u> analysis method.
 - E.g. see later, the "W" tool

Why Data Mining for SE?

- Natural tool to help a community:
 - racing to keep up with the pace of change in SE;
 - while finding and verifying the special theories that work best on local projects ...
 - ... from a new kind data sources ...
 - ... using a large menagerie of new data analysis tools.

Coming next...

- Enough generalities
- Details of using a data mining tool suite
 - The "WEKA"

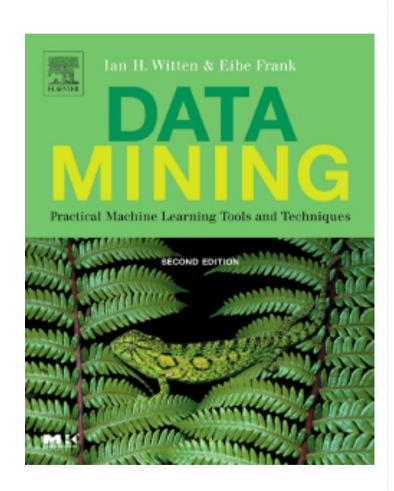
DATA MINING TOOLS (GUIDED TOUR OF "WEKA")



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WEKA

- Machine learning/data mining software written in Java
 - Used for research, education, and applications
 - Complements Data Mining: Practical Machine Learning Tools and Techniques (Second Edition) Ian H. Witten, Eibe Frank, Morgan Kaufmann June 2005 525 pages ISBN 0-12-088407-0
- Main features
 - Comprehensive set of data preprocessing tools, learning algorithms and evaluation methods
 - Graphical user interfaces (incl. data visualization)
 - Environment for comparing learning algorithms



Access

- WEKA is available at http://www.cs.waikato.ac.nz/ml/weka
- Also has a list of projects based on WEKA
- WEKA contributors:

Abdelaziz Mahoui, Alexander K. Seewald, Ashraf M. Kibriya, Bernhard Pfahringer, Brent Martin, Peter Flach, Eibe Frank, Gabi Schmidberger, Jan H. Witten, J. Lindgren, Janice Boughton, Jason Wells, Len Trigg, Lucio de Souza Coelho, Malcolm Ware, Mark Hall, Remco Bouckaert, Richard Kirkby, Shane Butler, Shane Legg, Stuart Inglis, Sylvain Roy, Tony Voyle, Xin Xu, Yong Wang,

Zhihai Wang

Data Files

- @relation heart-disease-simplified

 @attribute age numeric
 @attribute sex { female, male}

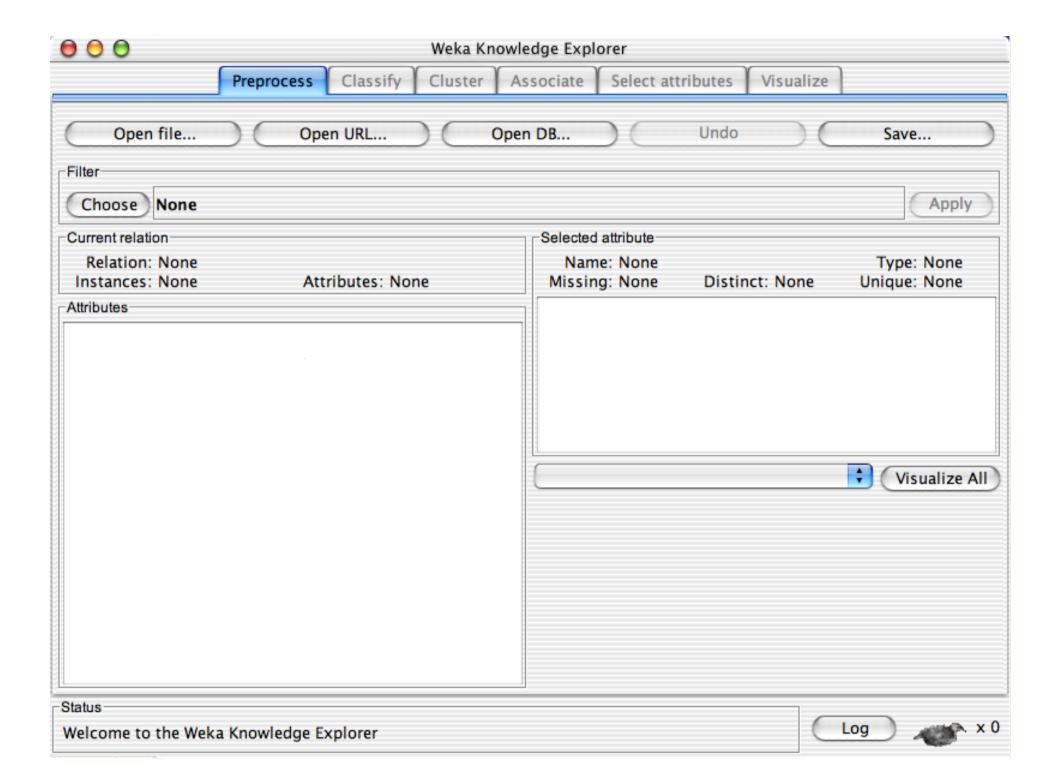
 @attribute chest_pain_type { typ_angina, asympt, non_anginal, atyp_angina}
- @attribute cholesterol numeric
 @attribute exercise_induced_angina { no, yes}
- @attribute class { present, not_present}
- @data

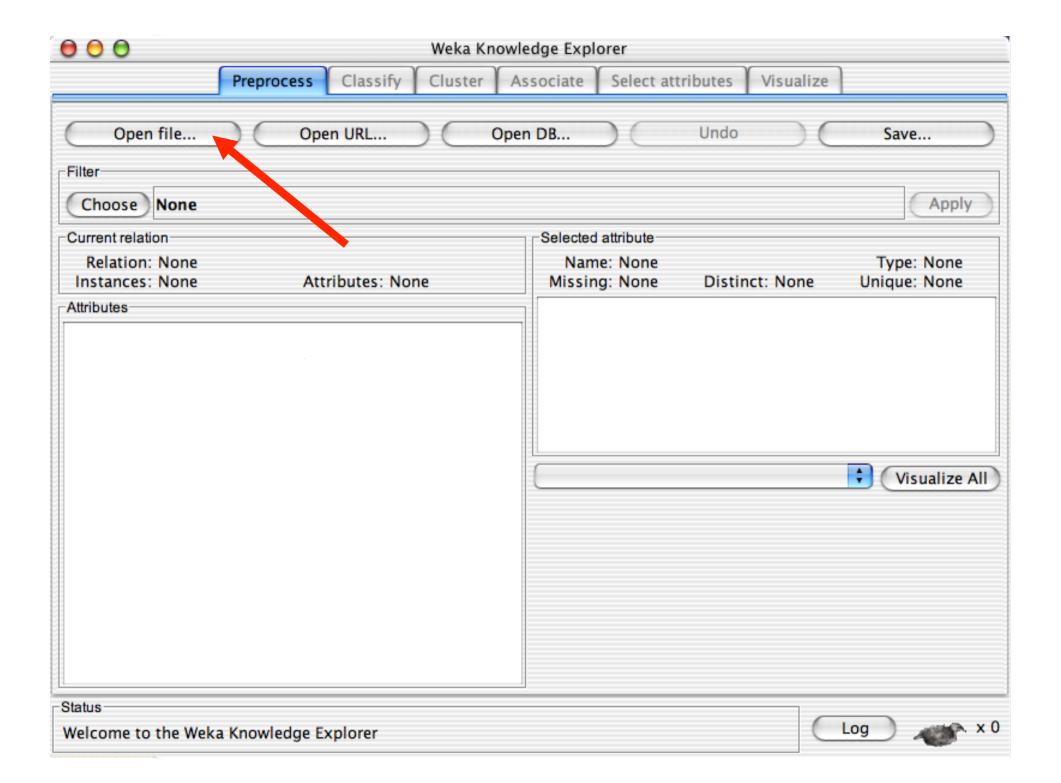
63,male,typ_angina,233,no,not_present 67,male,asympt,286,yes,present 67,male,asympt,229,yes,present 38,female,non_anginal,?,no,not_present Flat file in ARFF format

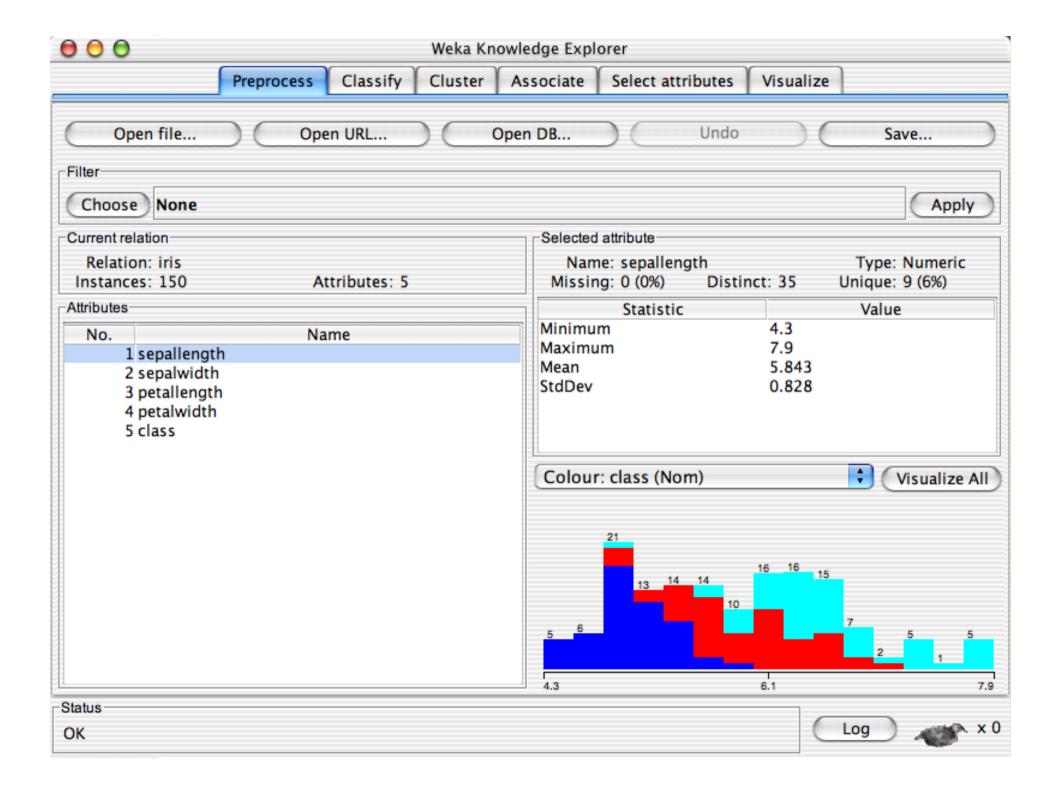
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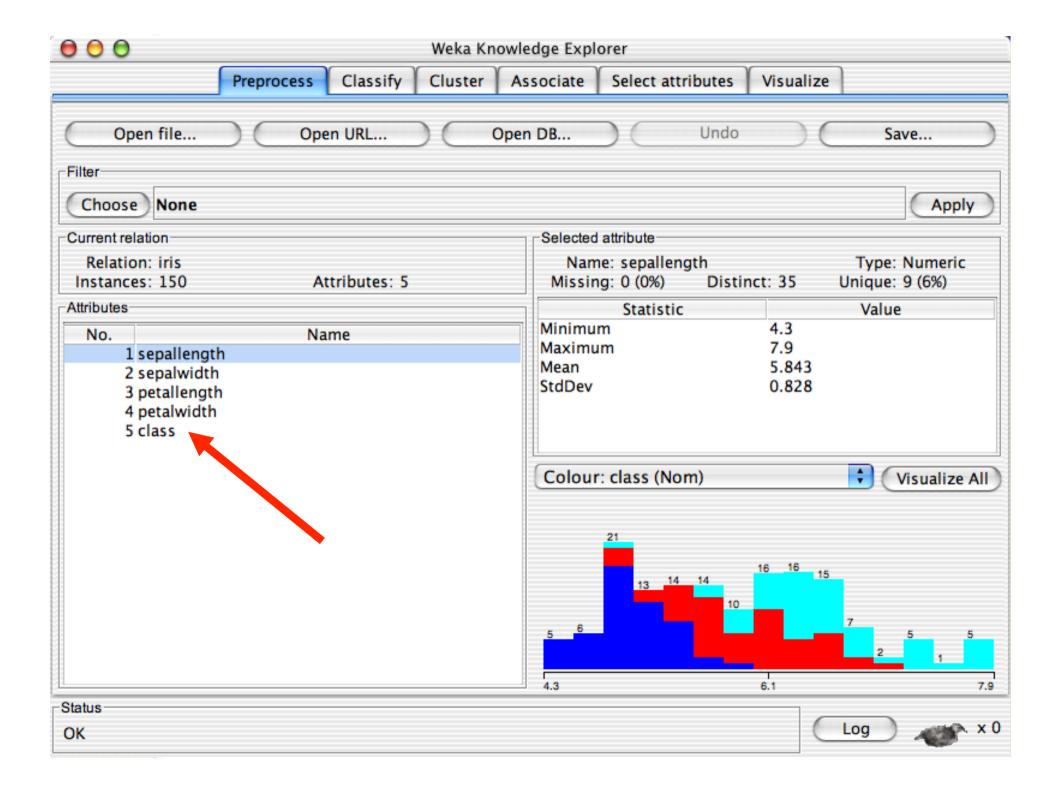
Explorer: pre-processing

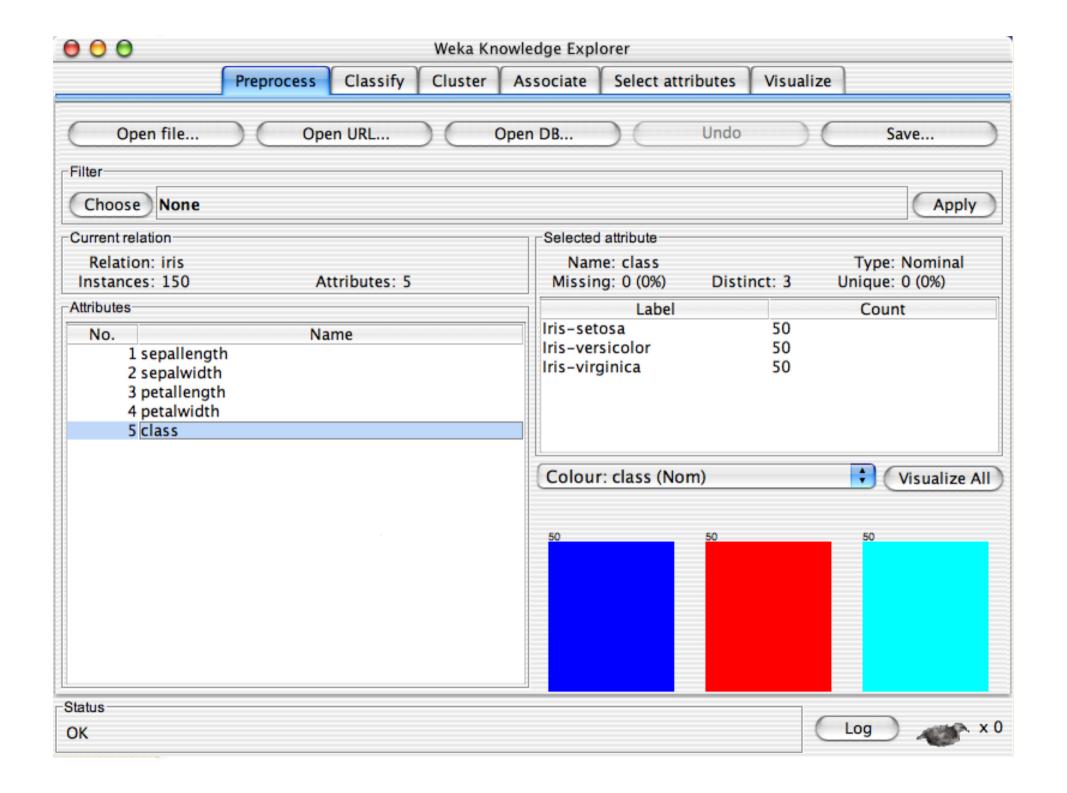
- Source
 - Data can be imported from a file in various formats: ARFF, CSV, C4.5, binary
 - Data can also be read from a URL or from an SQL database (using JDBC)
- Pre-processing tools
 - Called "filters"
 - Discretization, normalization, resampling, attribute selection, transforming and combining attributes, ...

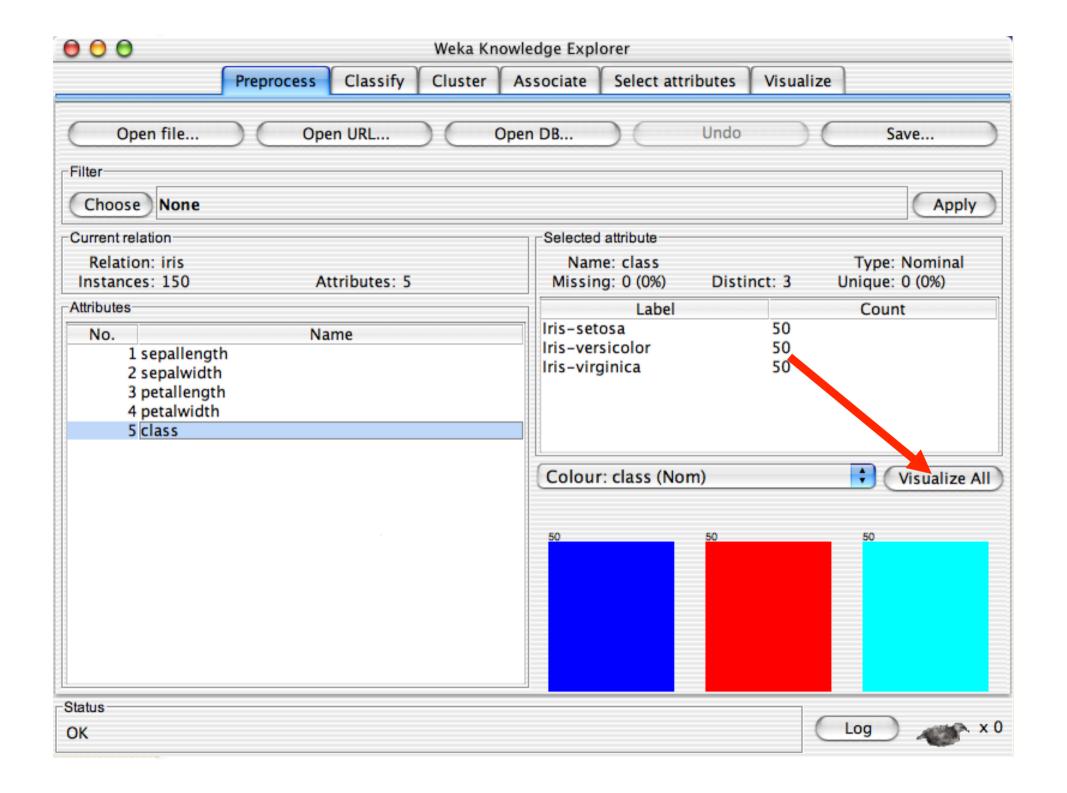


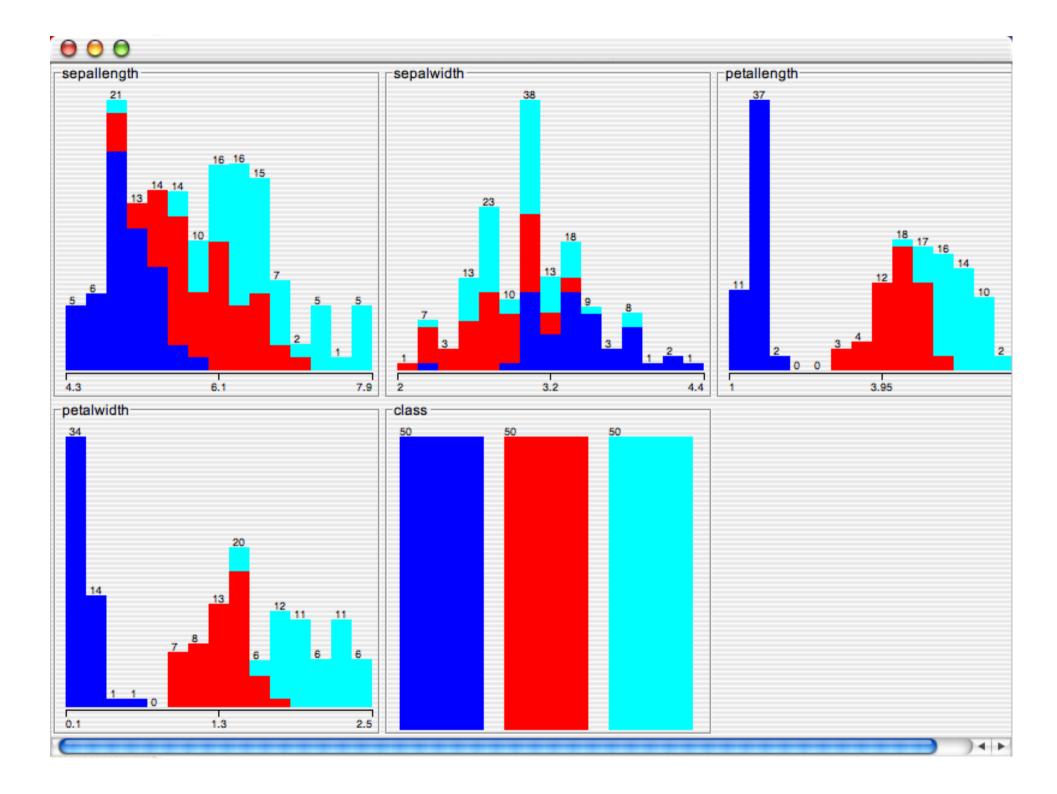


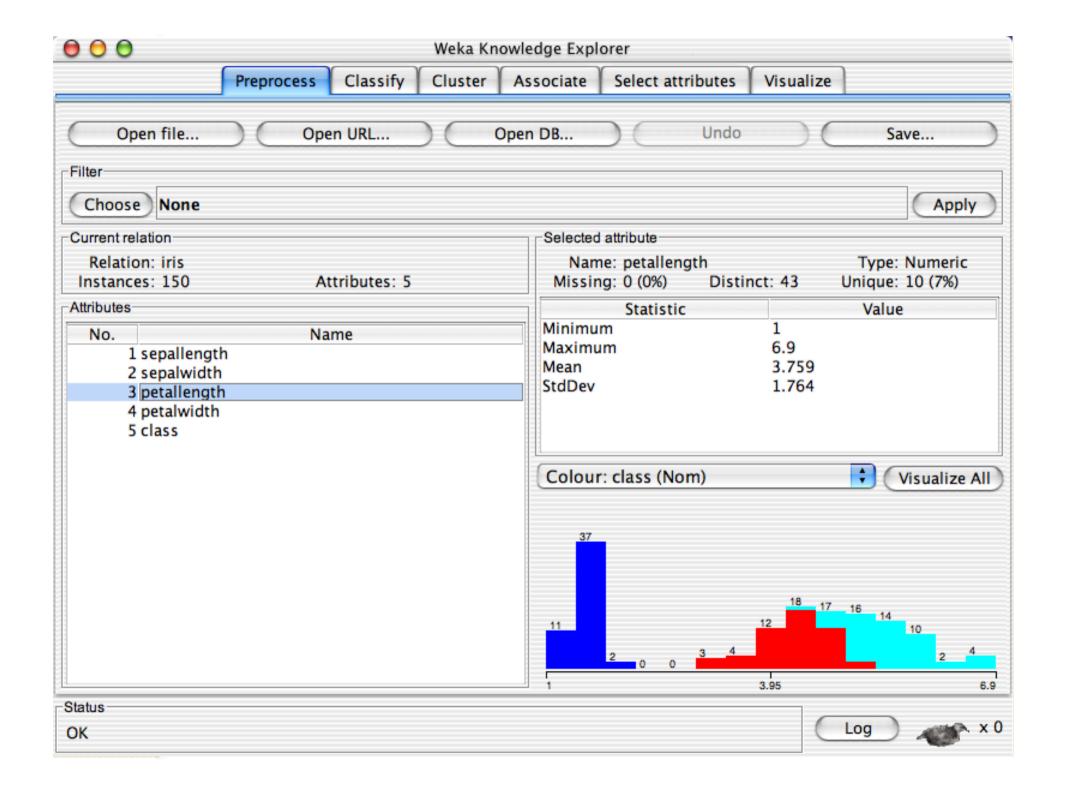


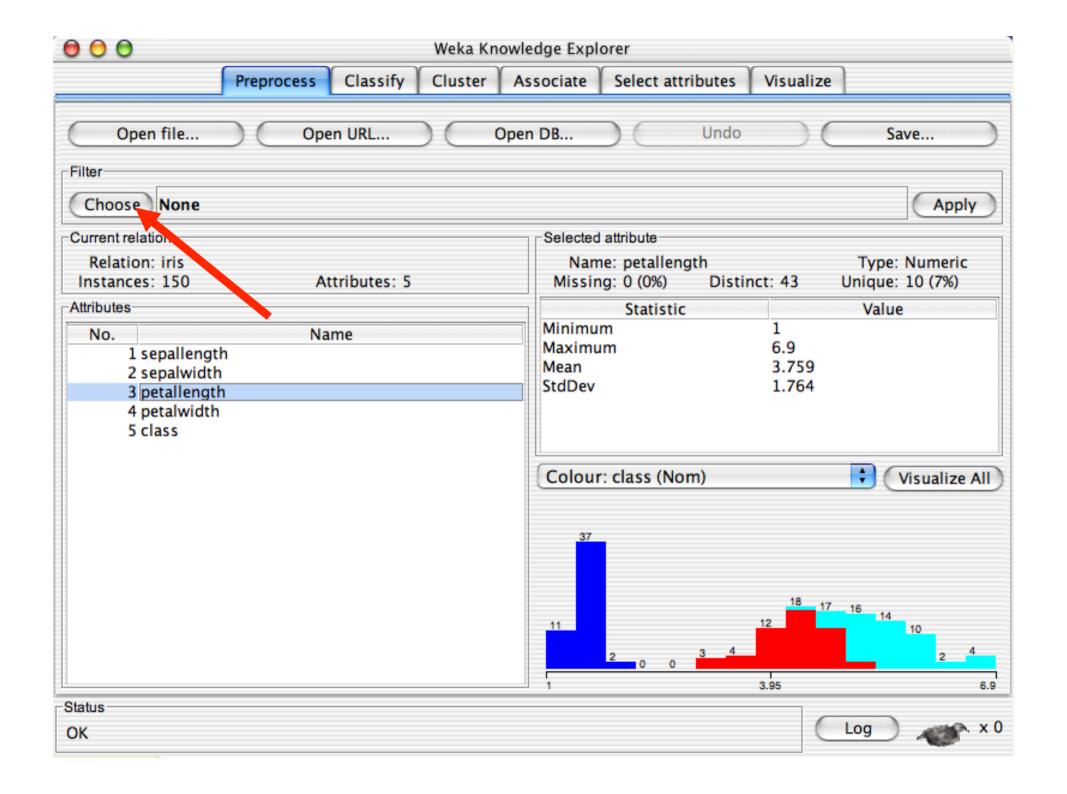


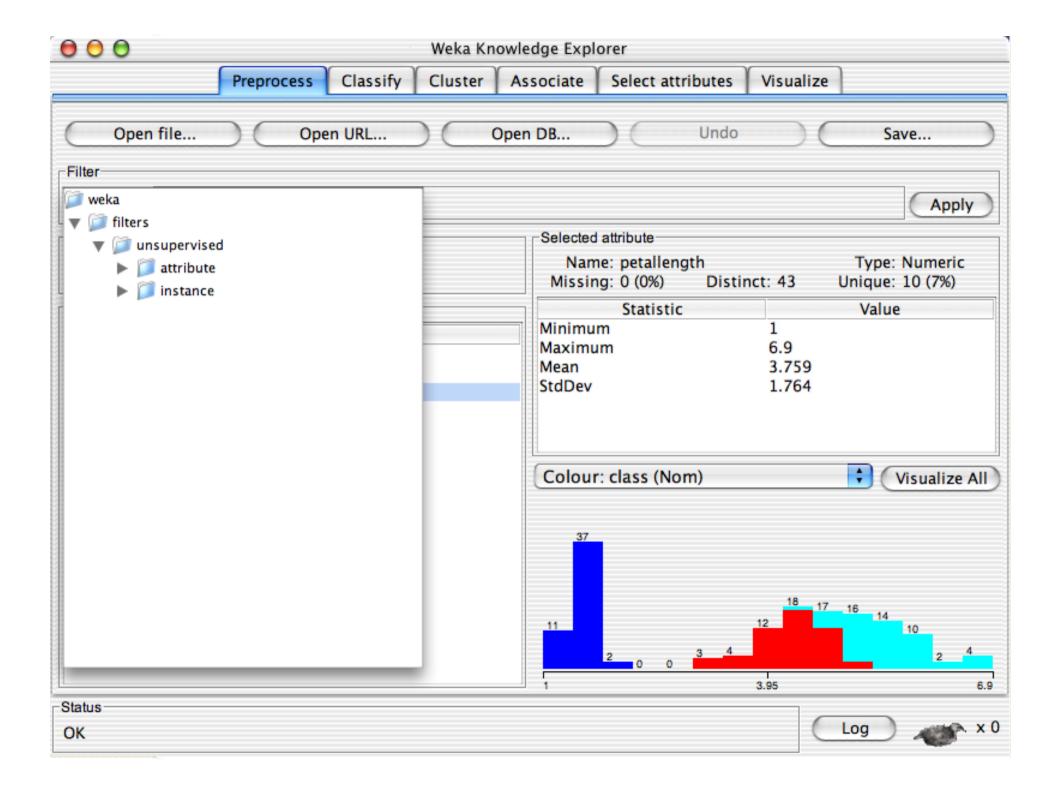


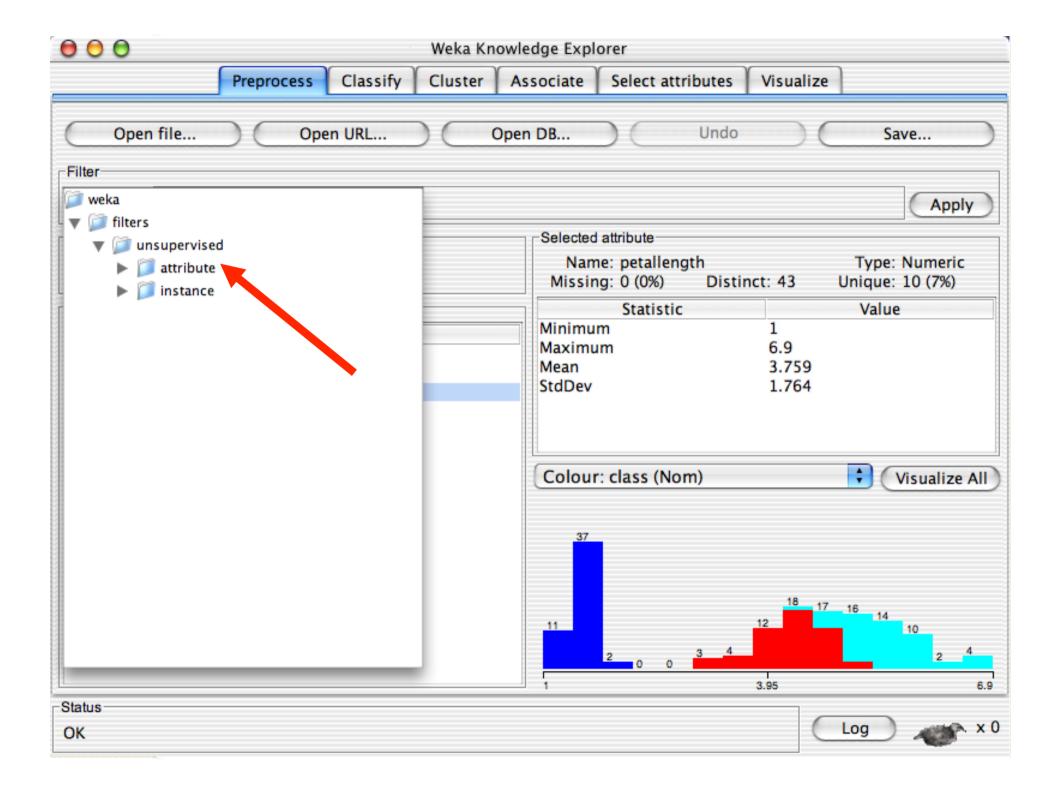


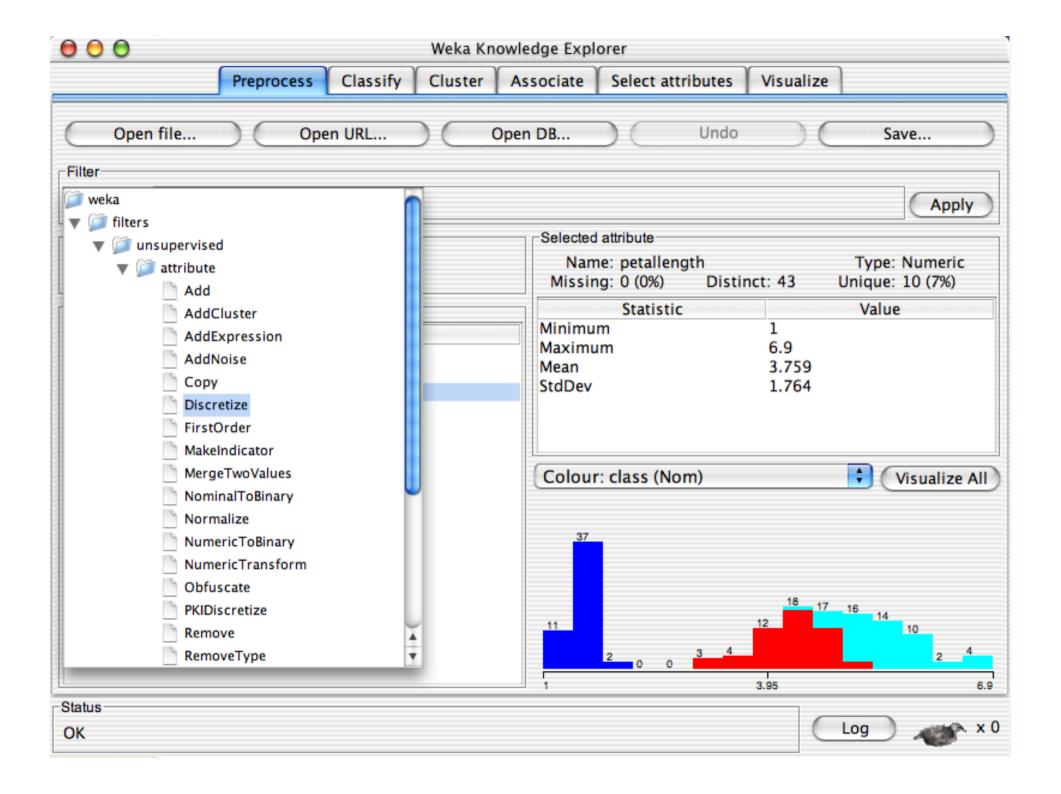


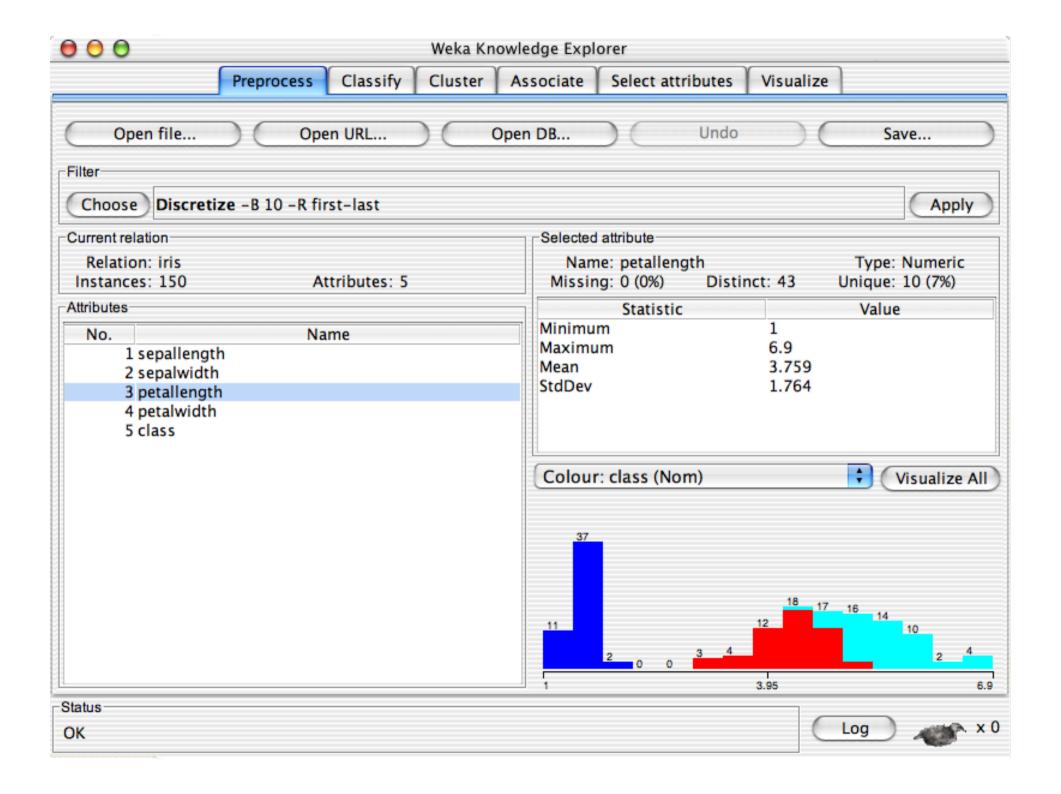


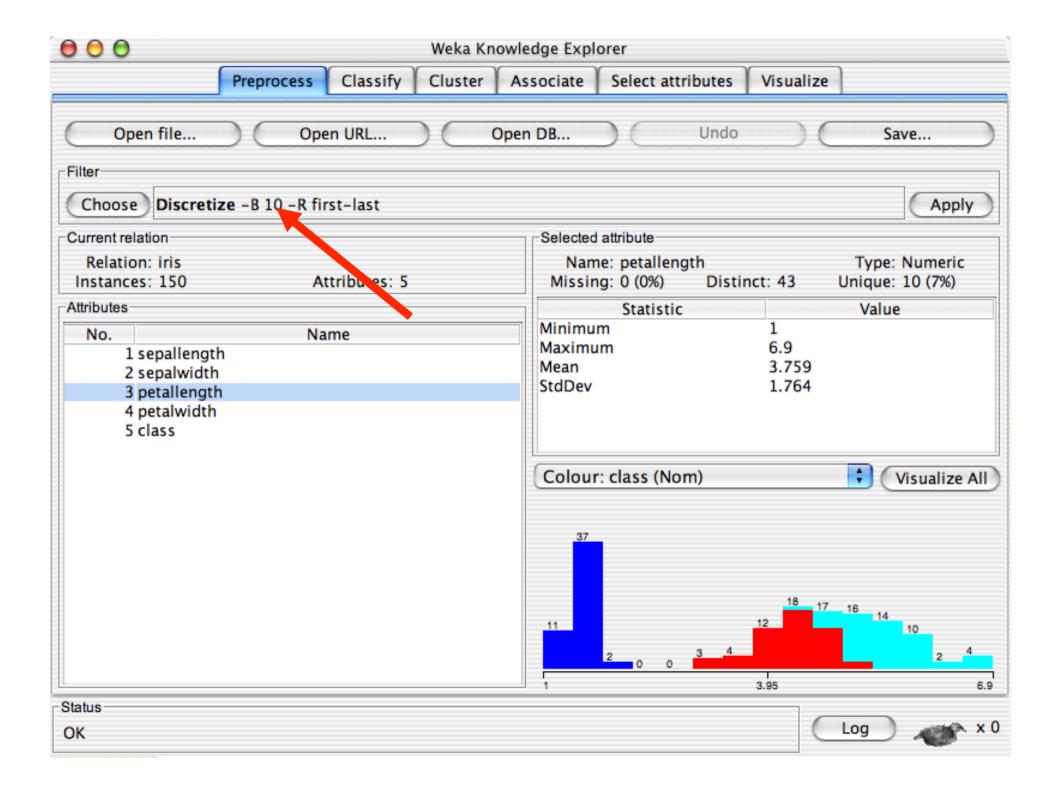


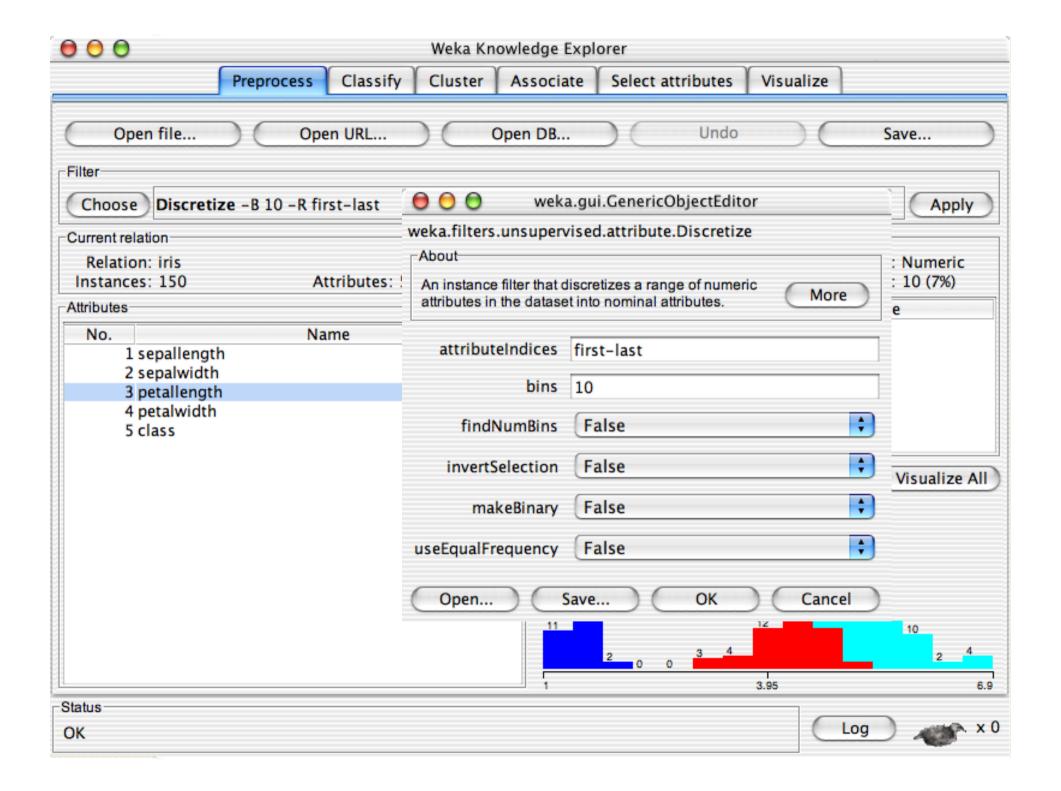


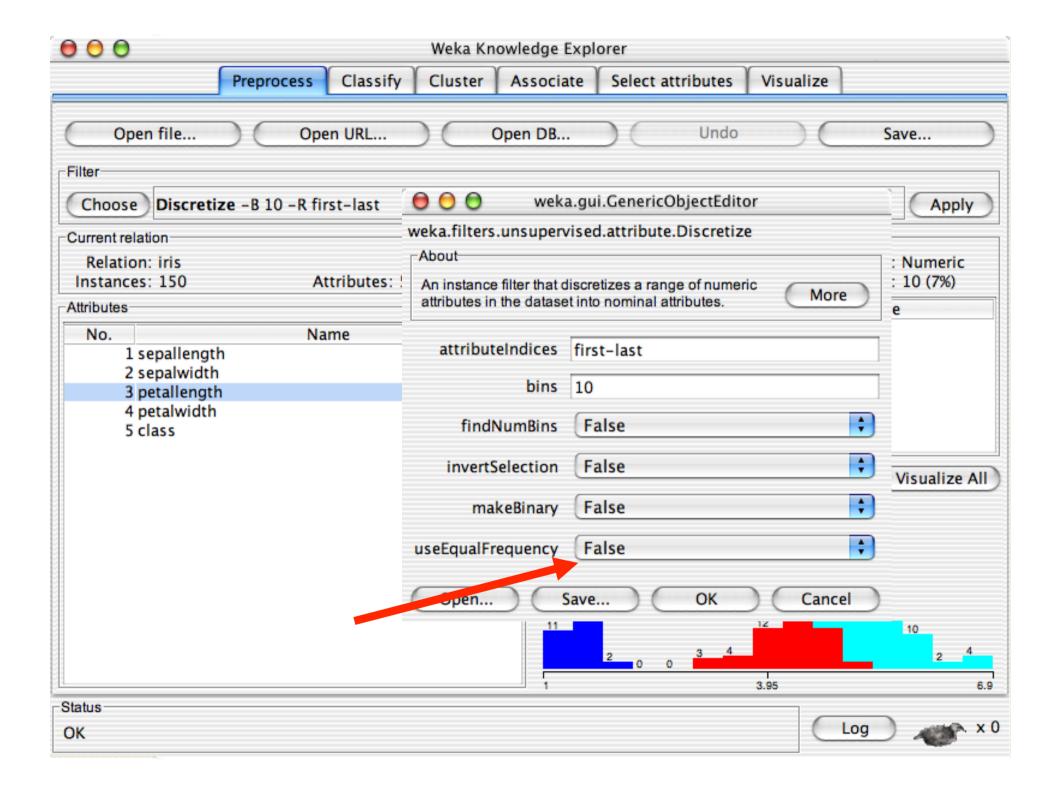


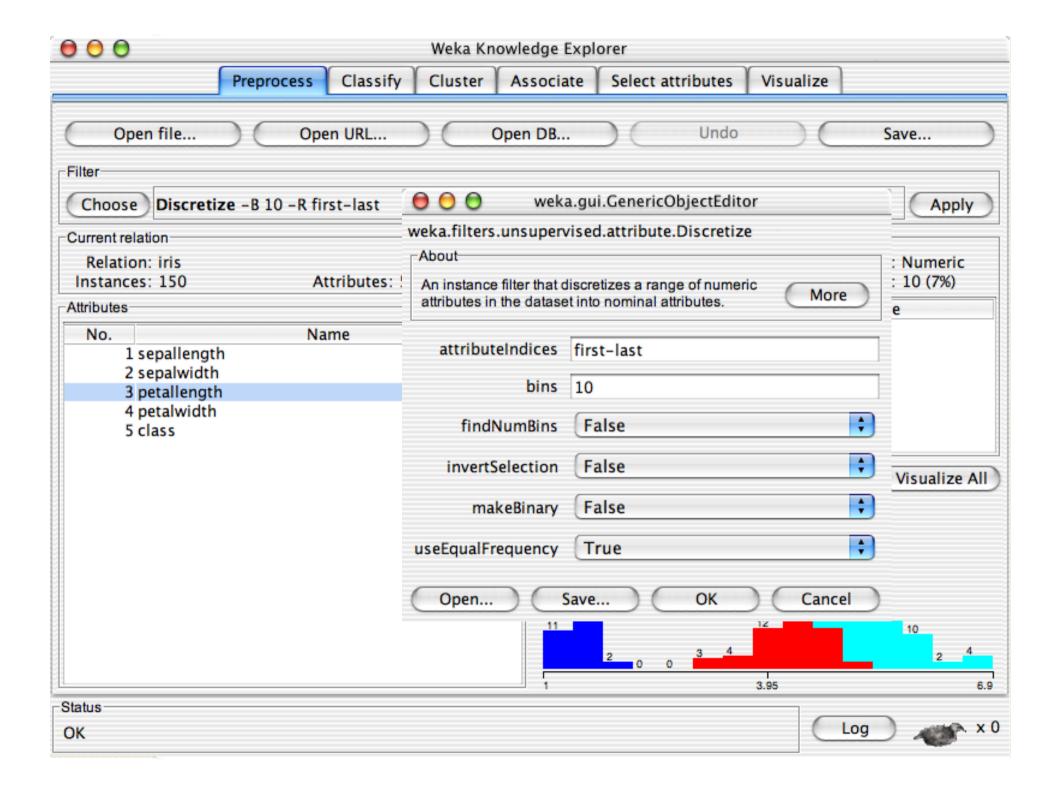


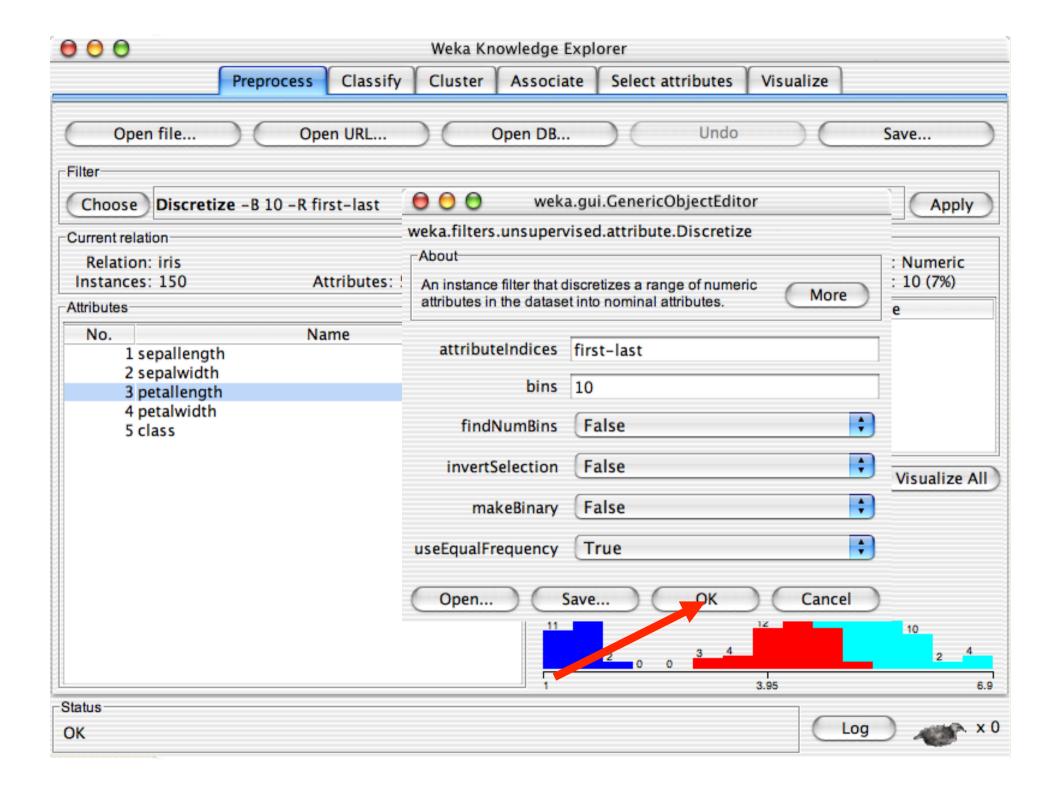


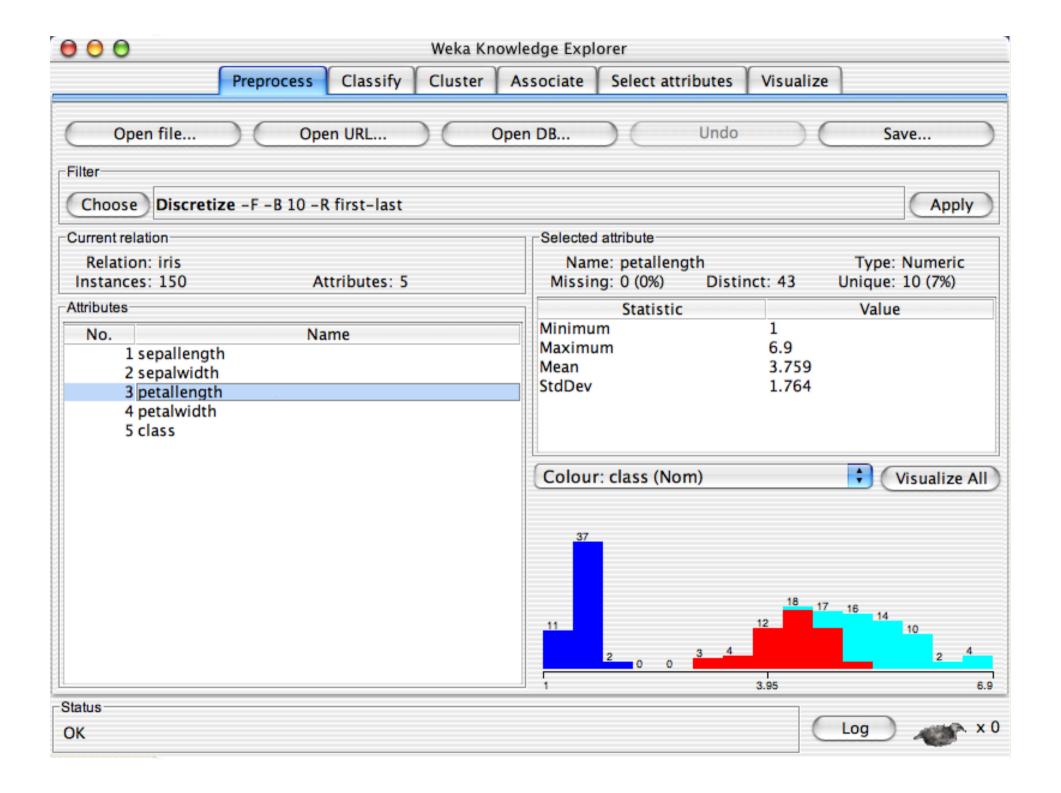


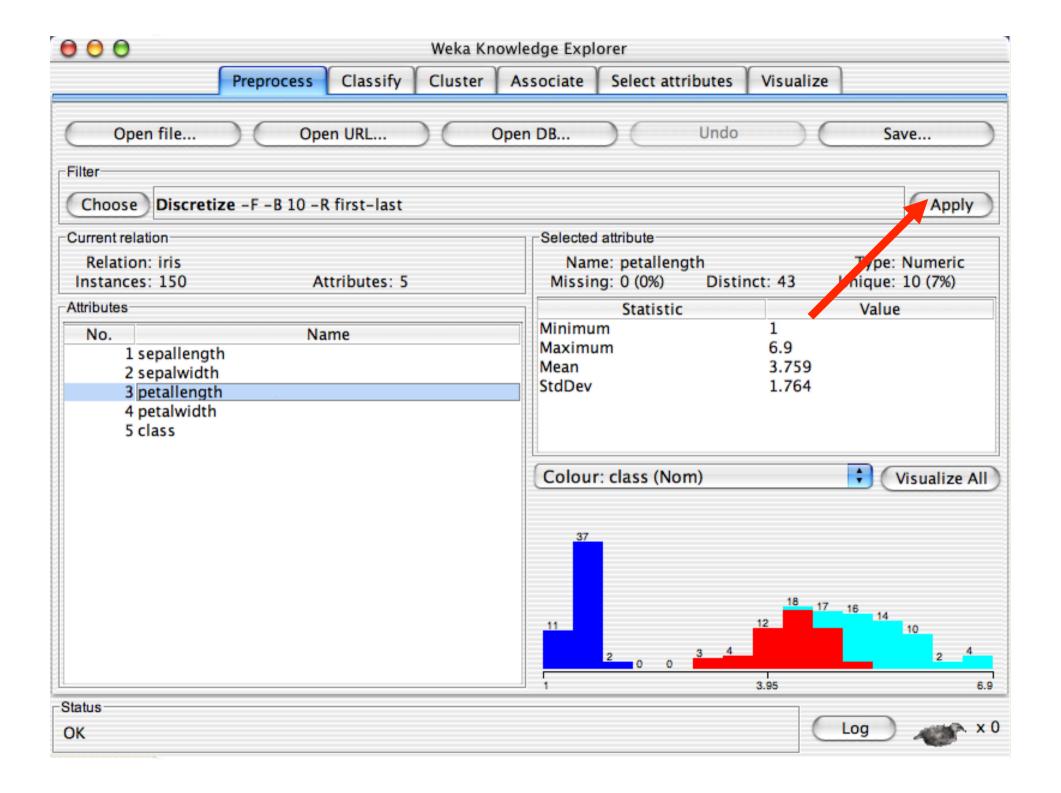


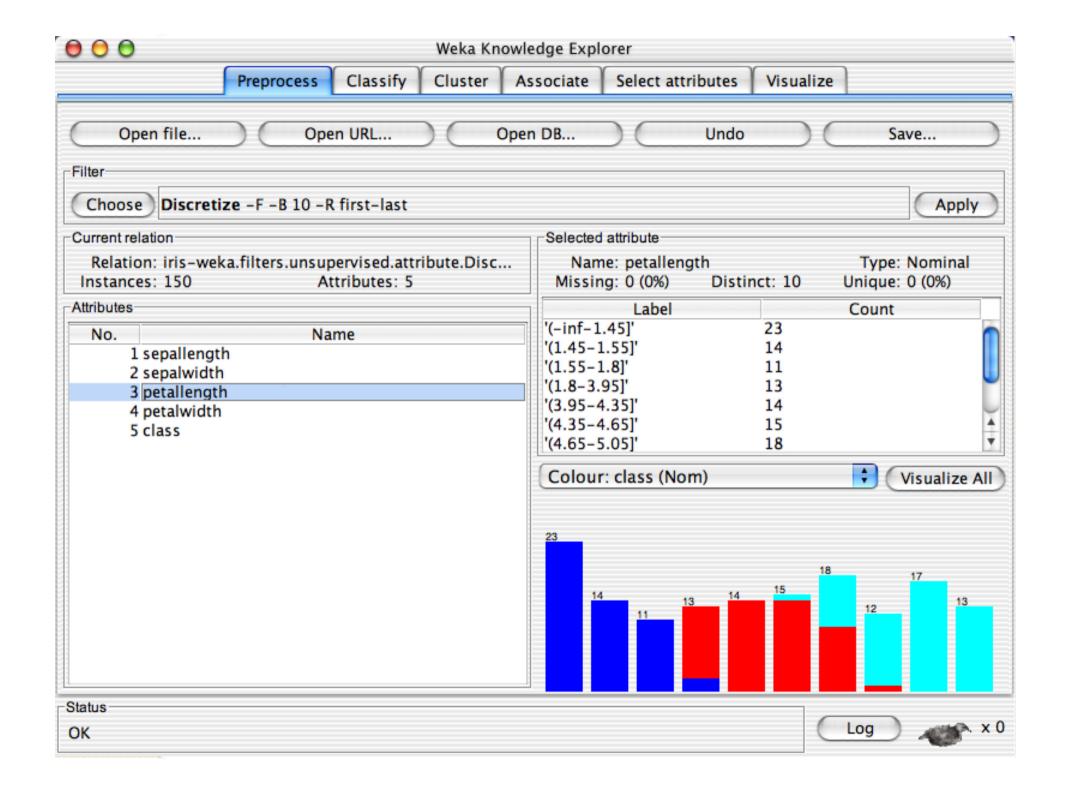






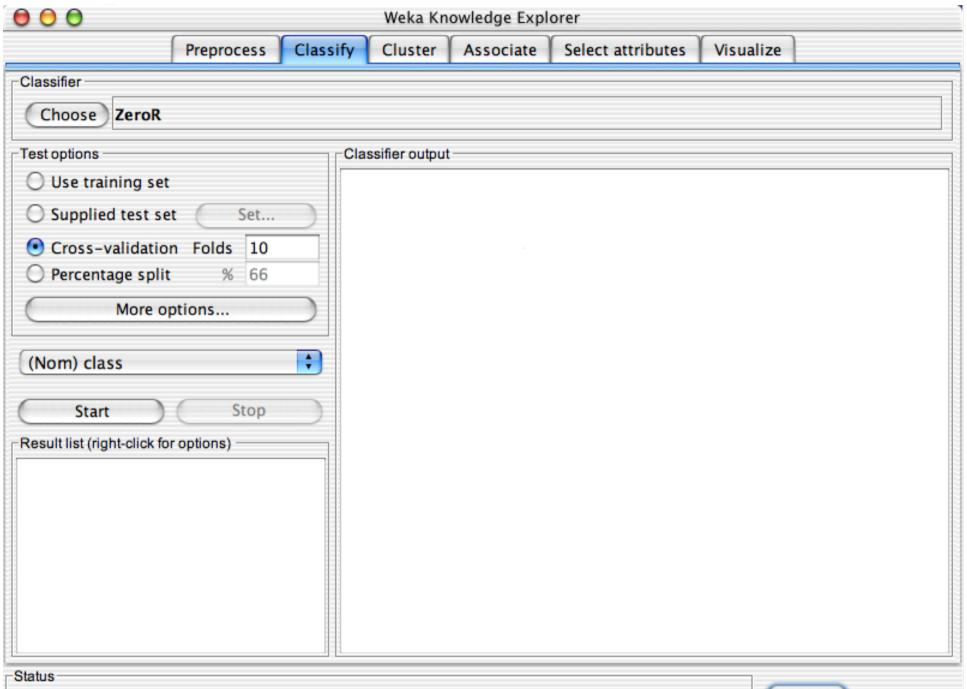


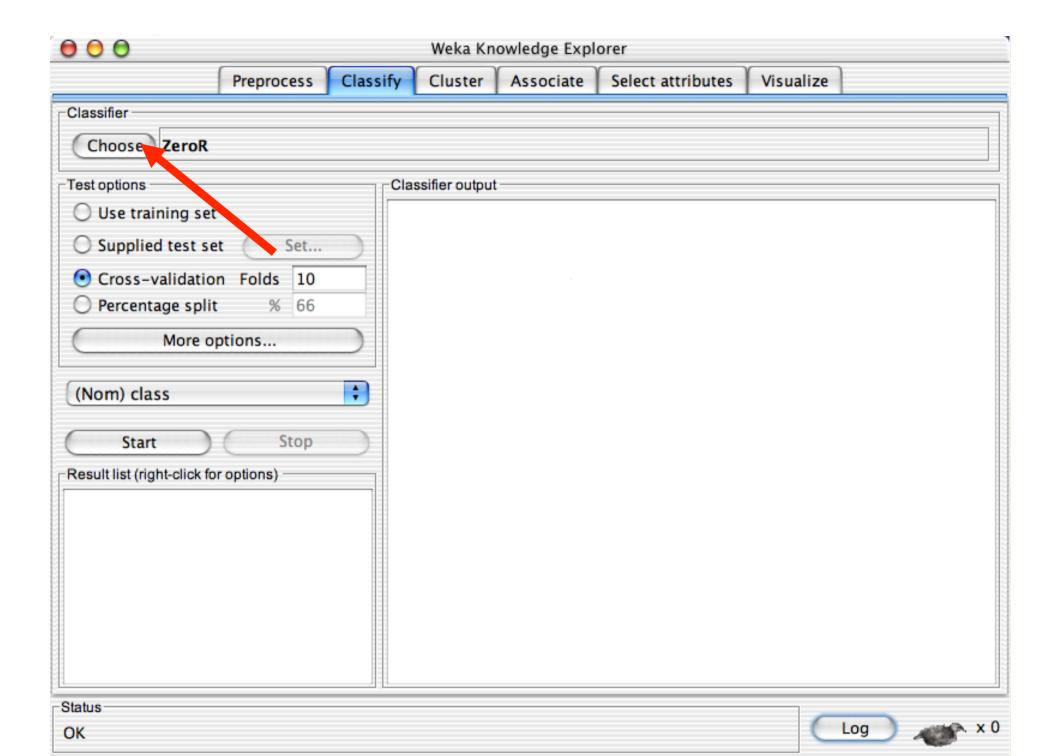


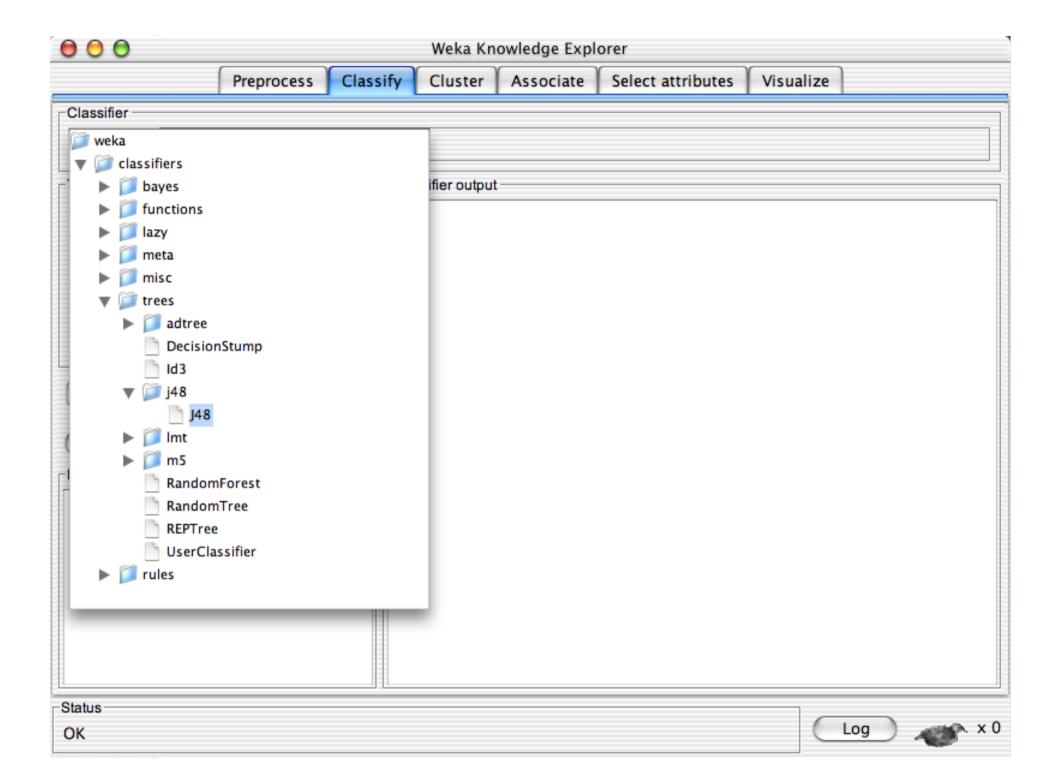


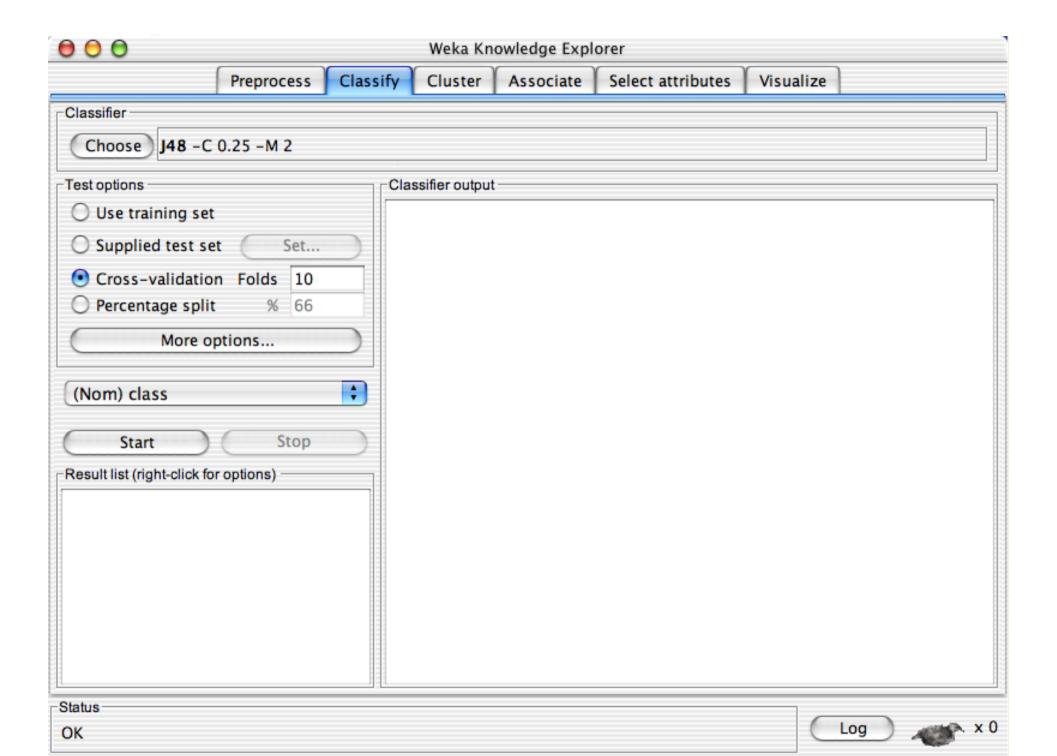
Explorer: building "classifiers"

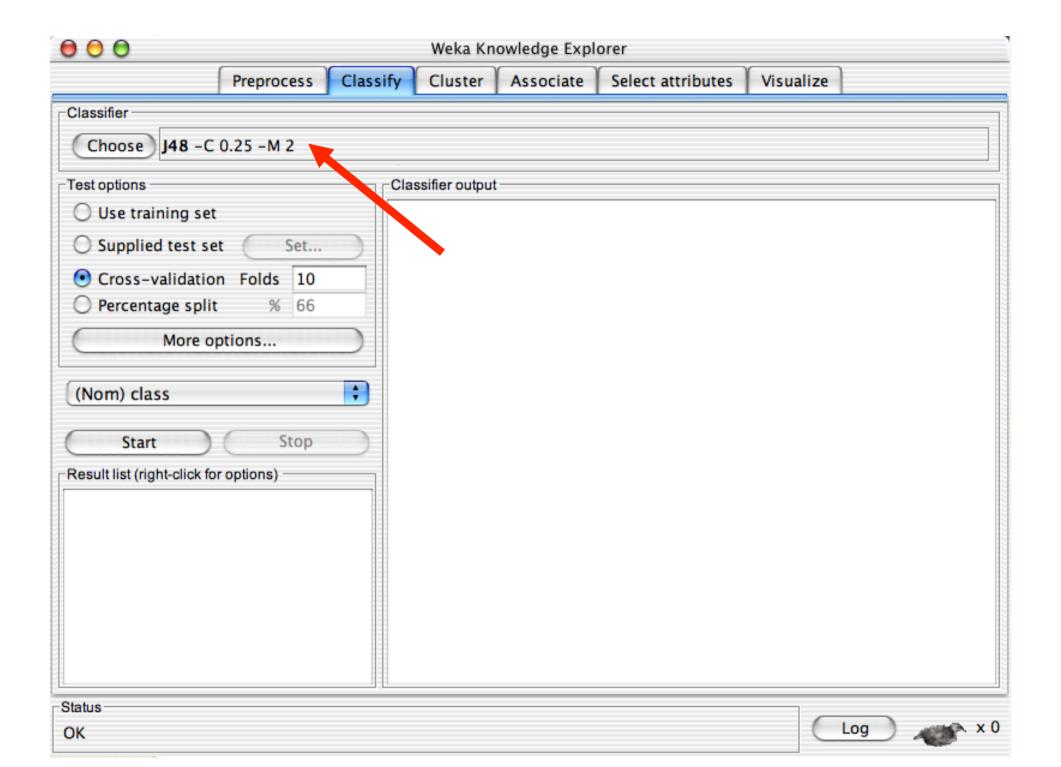
- Classifiers in WEKA are models for predicting nominal or numeric quantities
- Implemented learning schemes include:
 - Decision trees and lists, instance-based classifiers, support vector machines, multilayer perceptrons, logistic regression, Bayes' nets, ...
- "Meta"-classifiers include:
 - Bagging, boosting, stacking, error-correcting output codes, locally weighted learning, ...

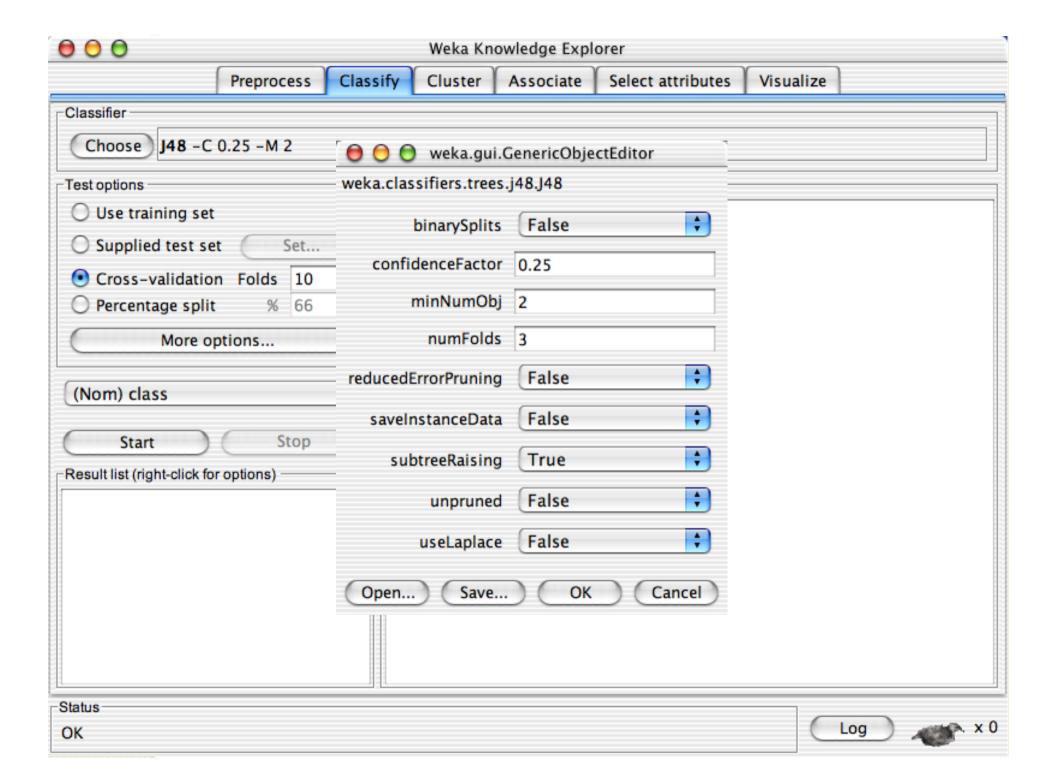


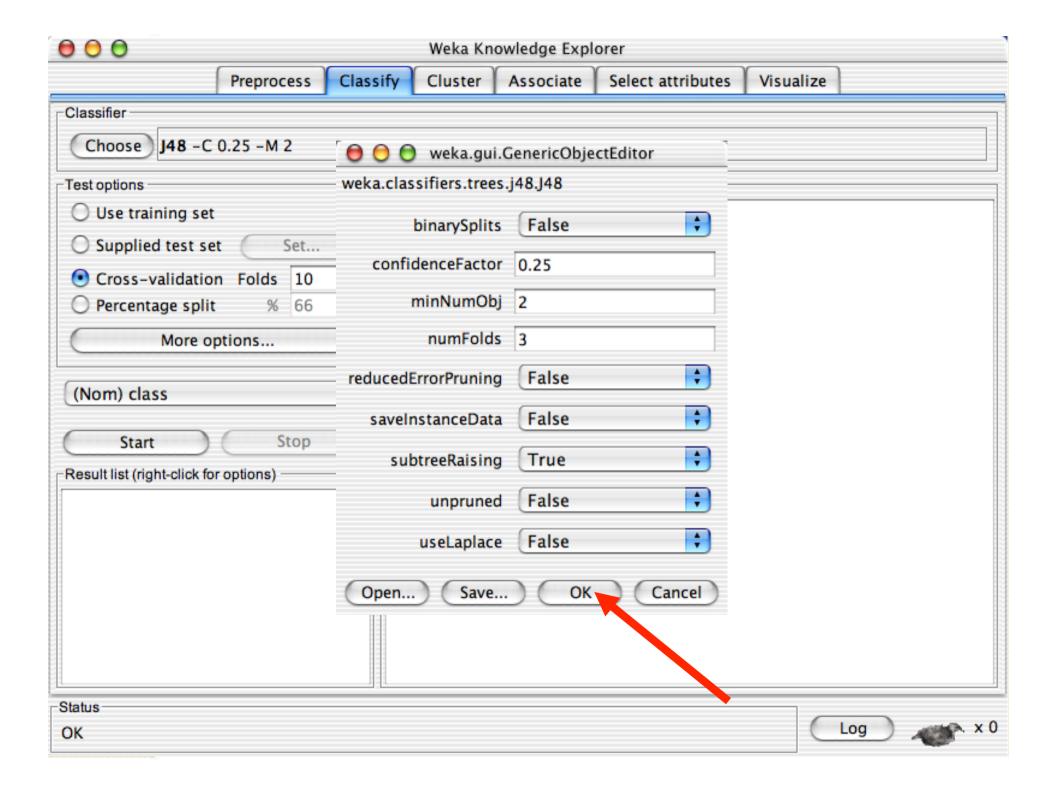


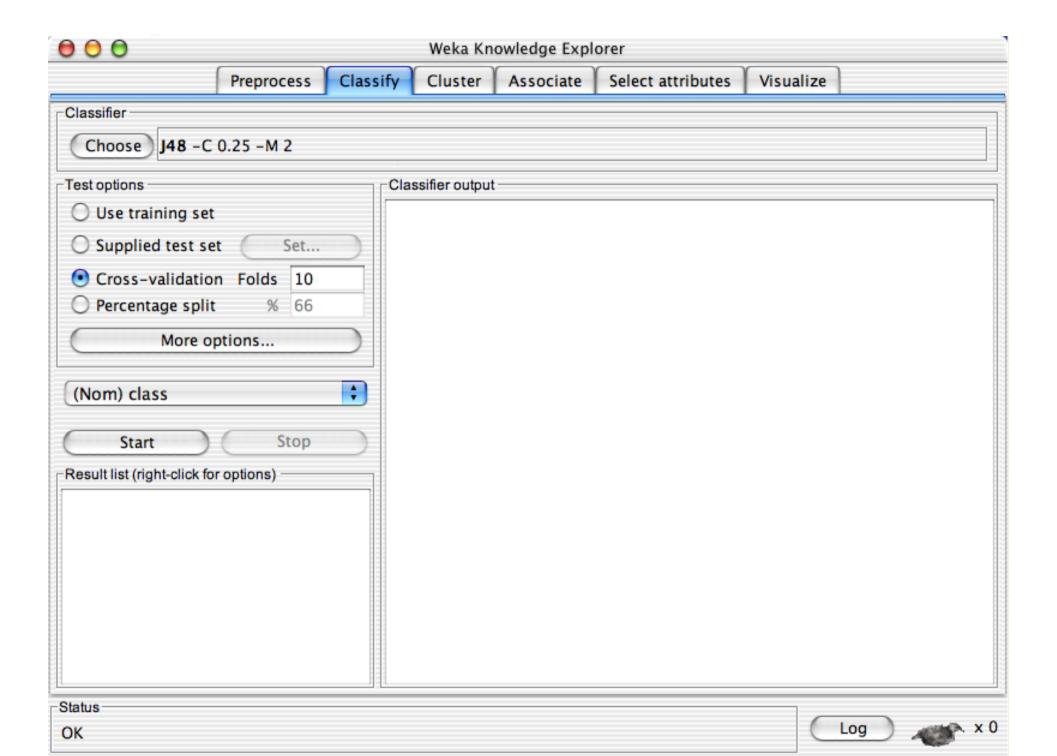


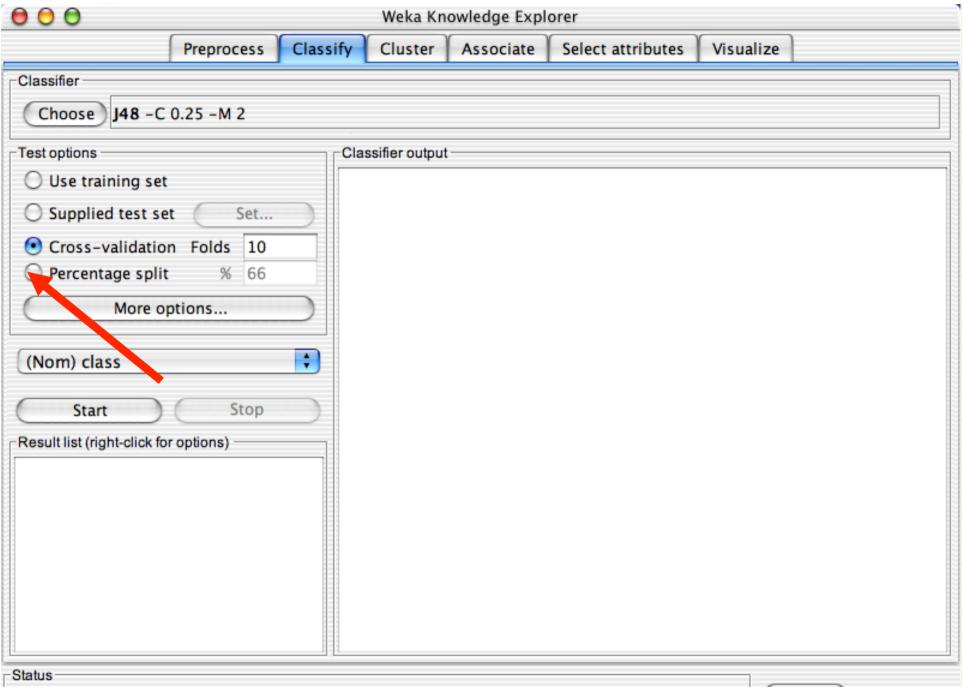


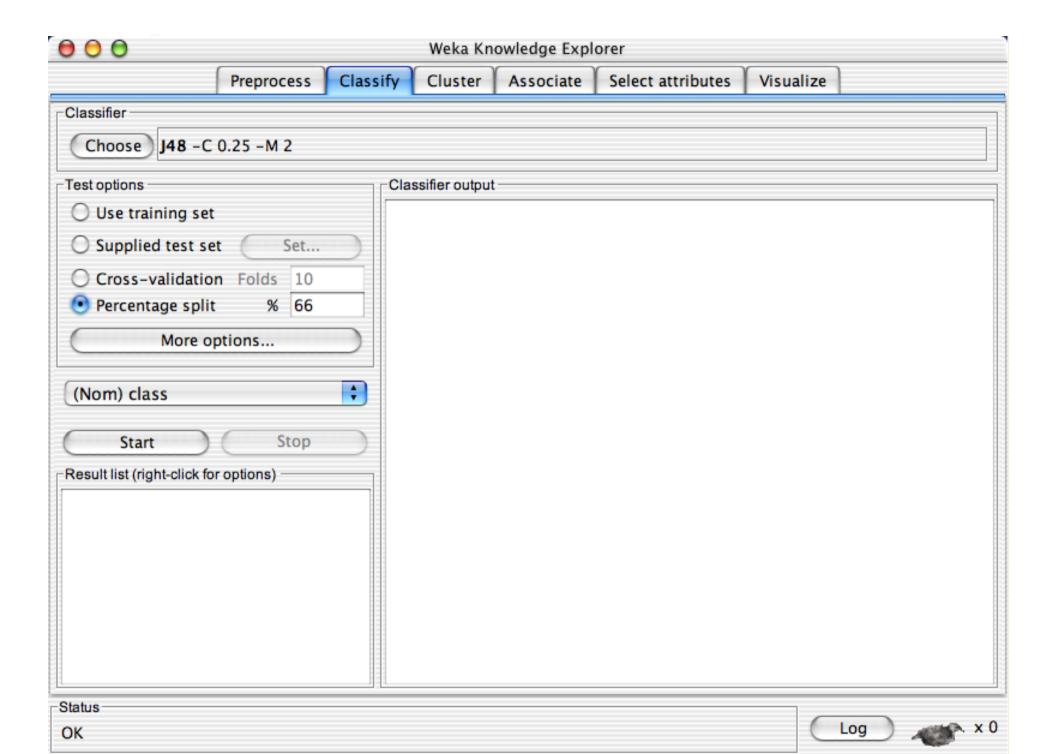


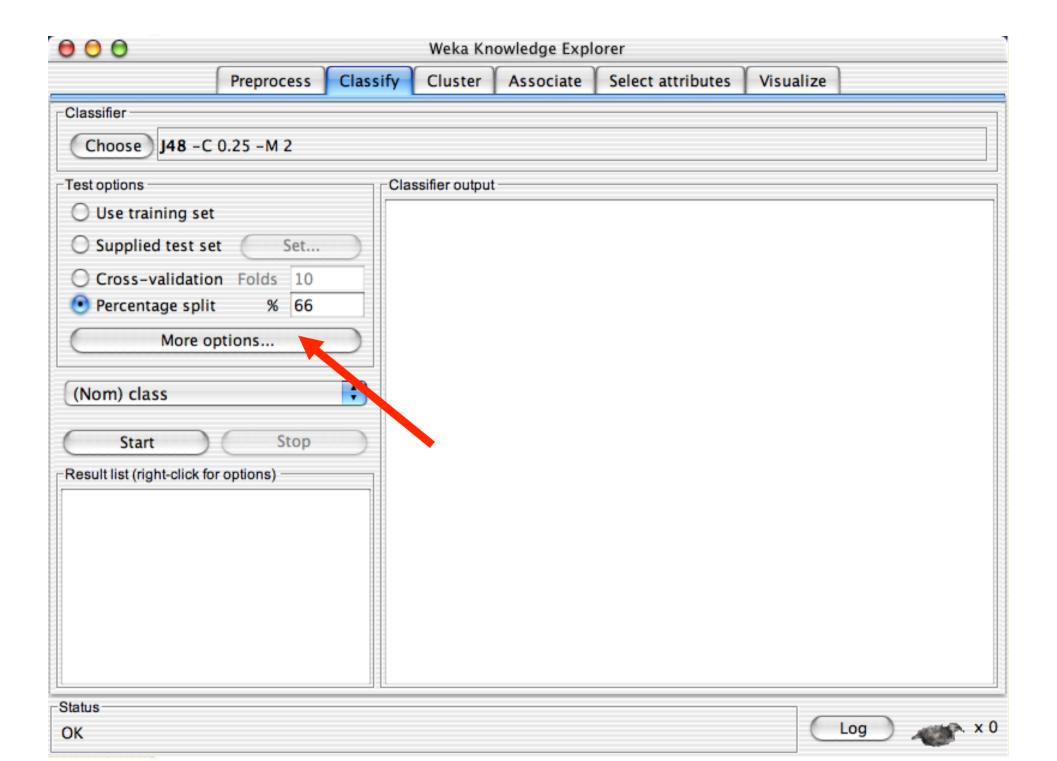


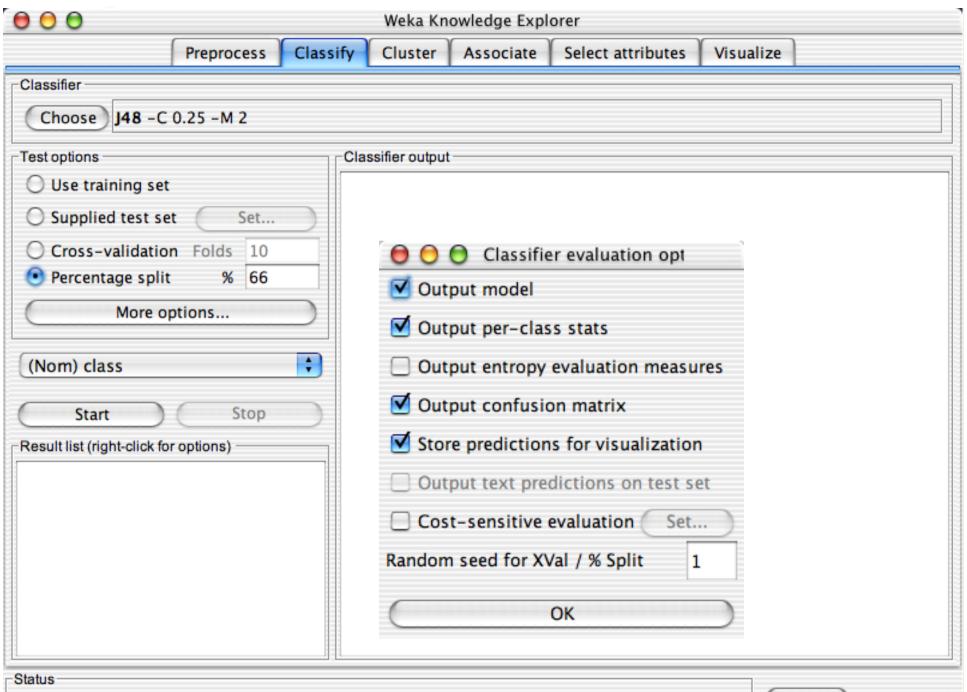


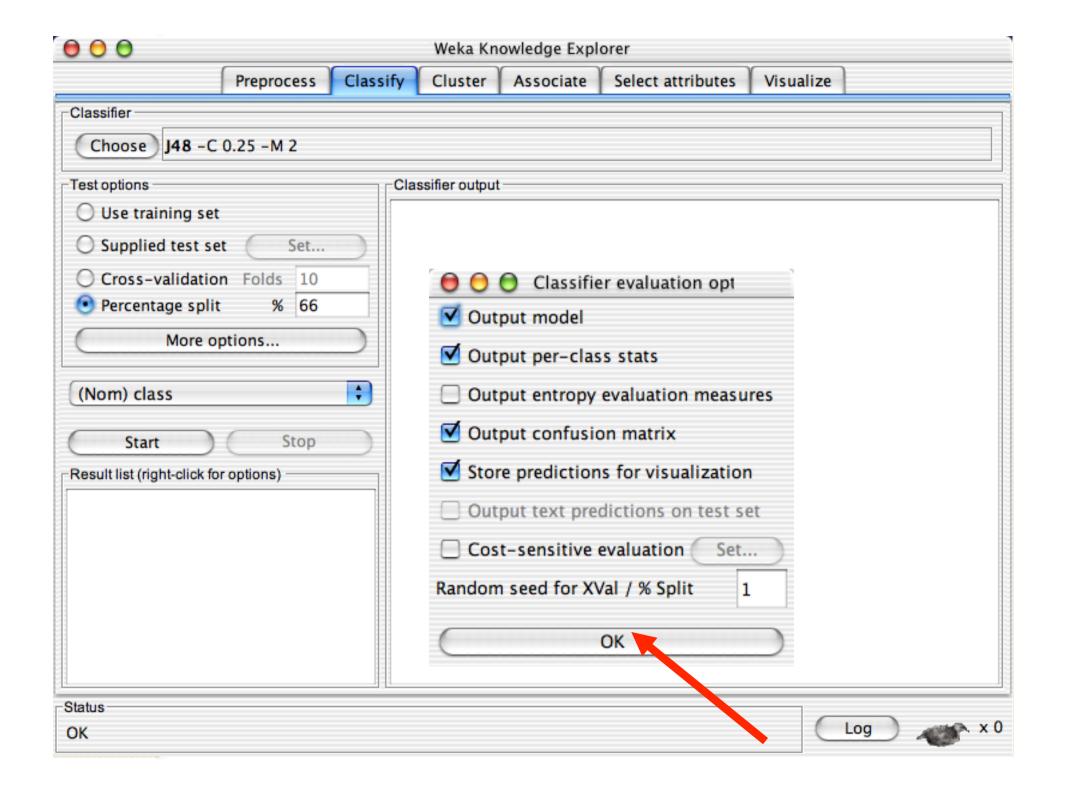


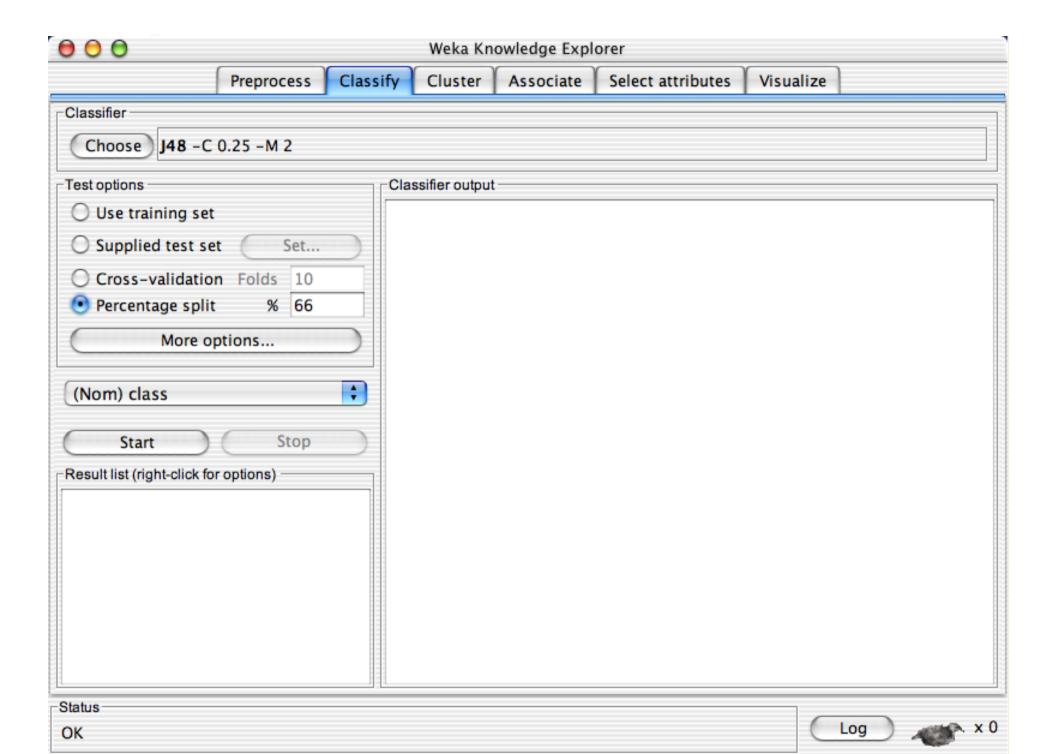


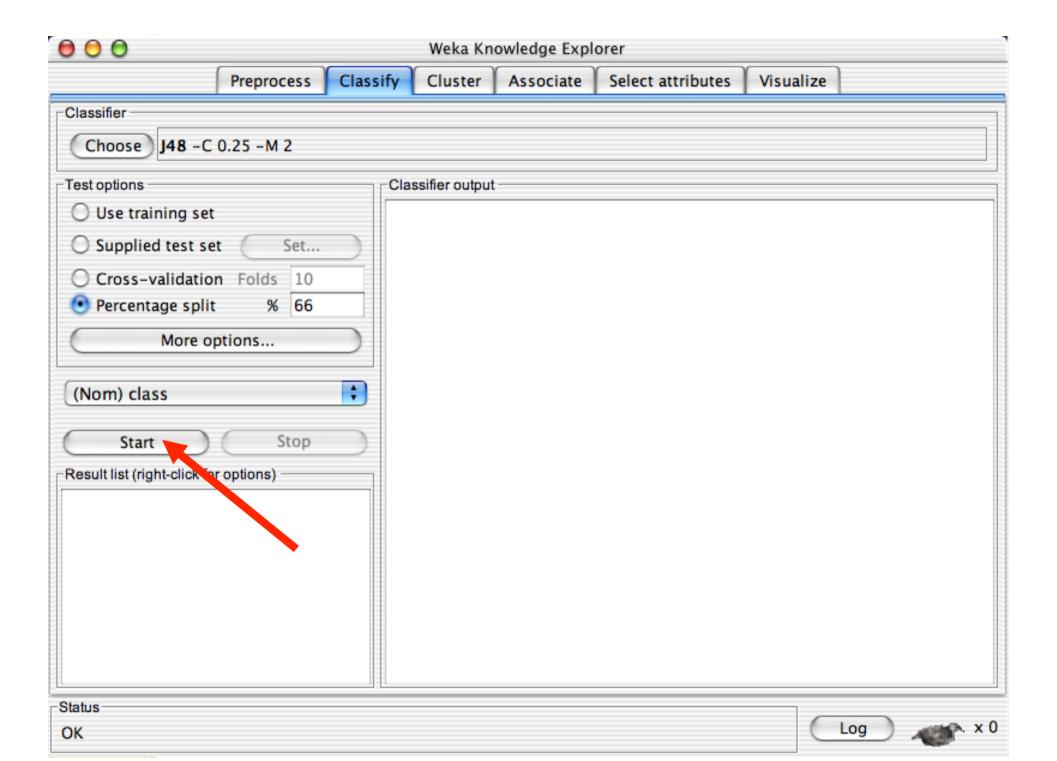


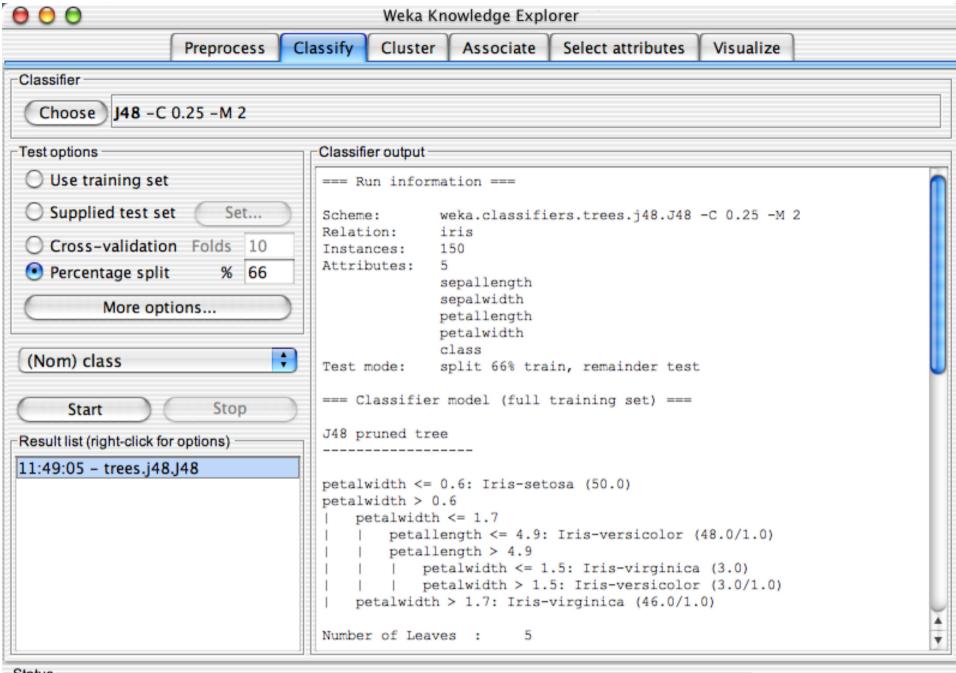




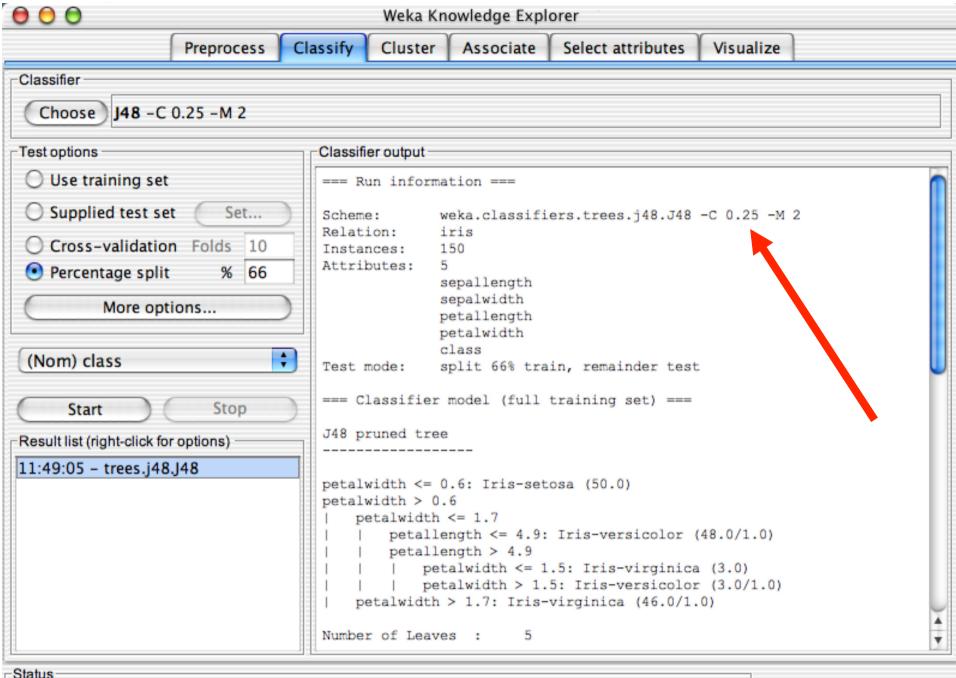






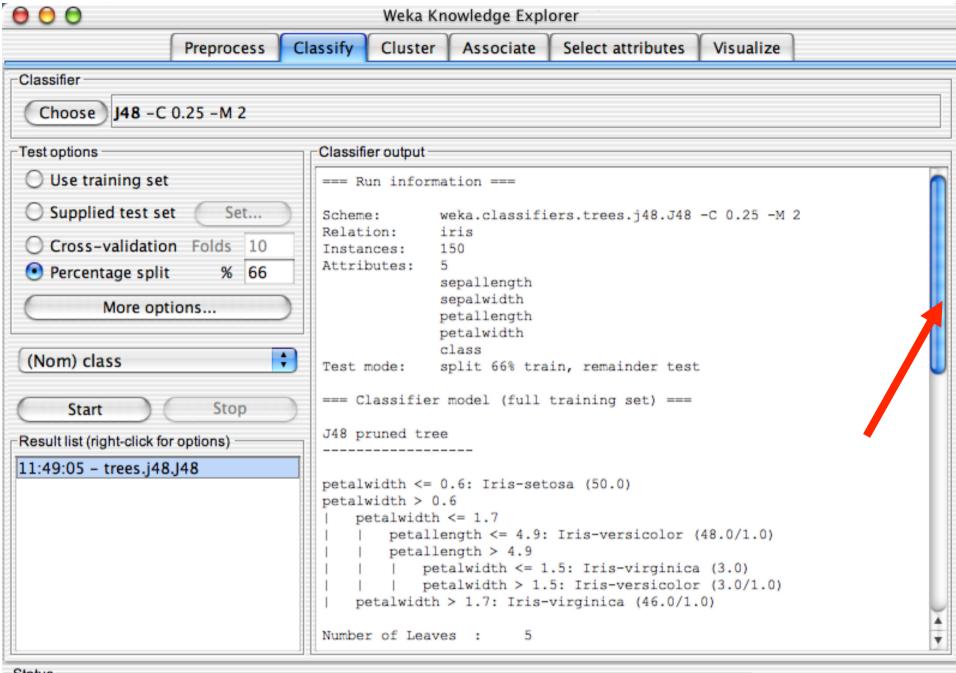




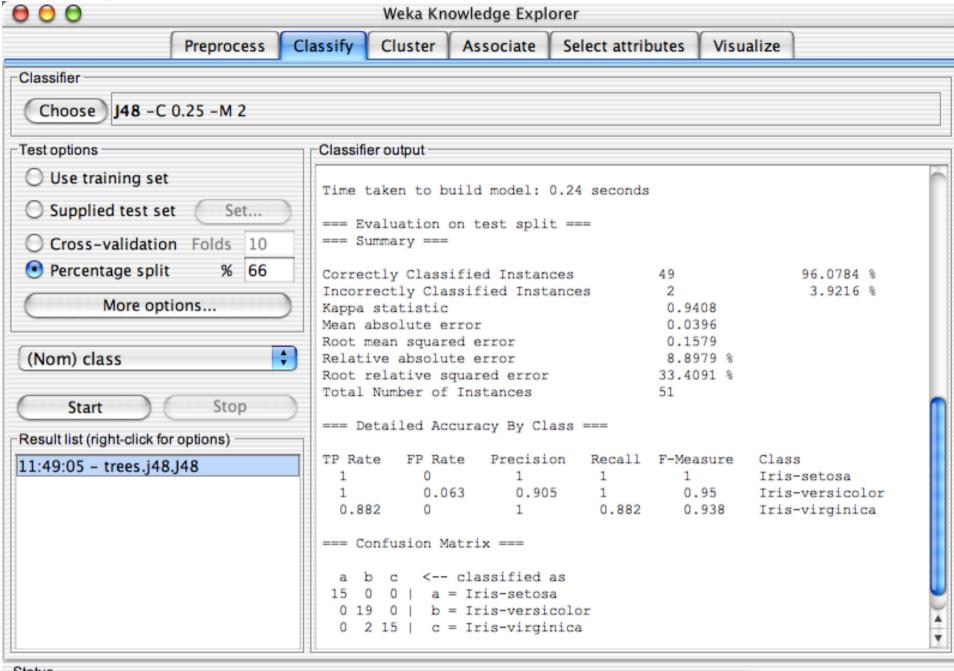






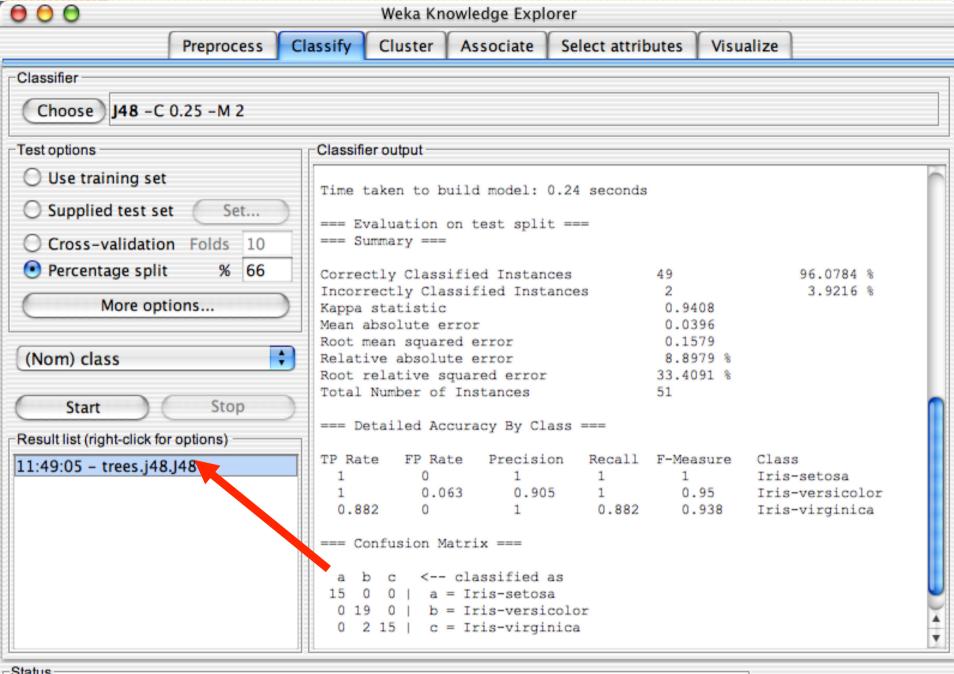






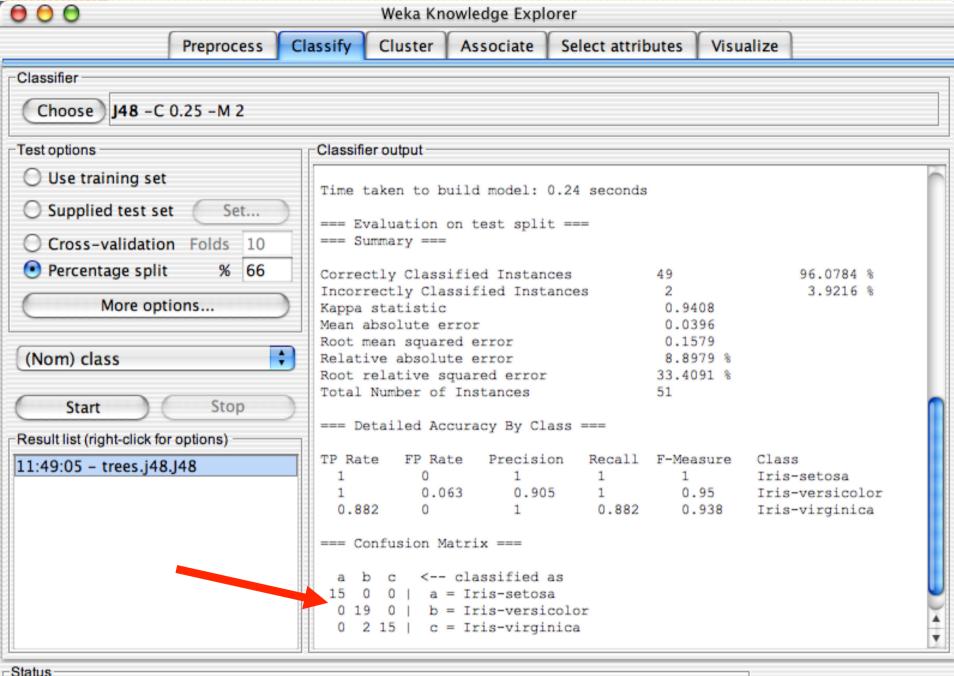






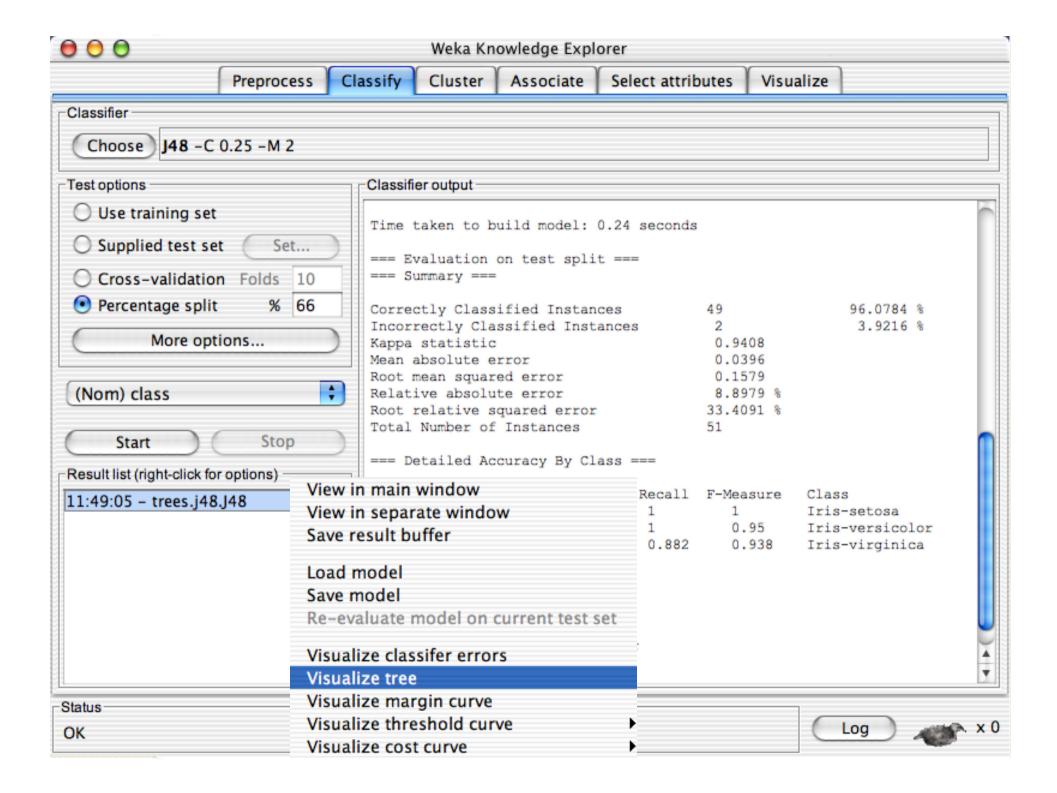


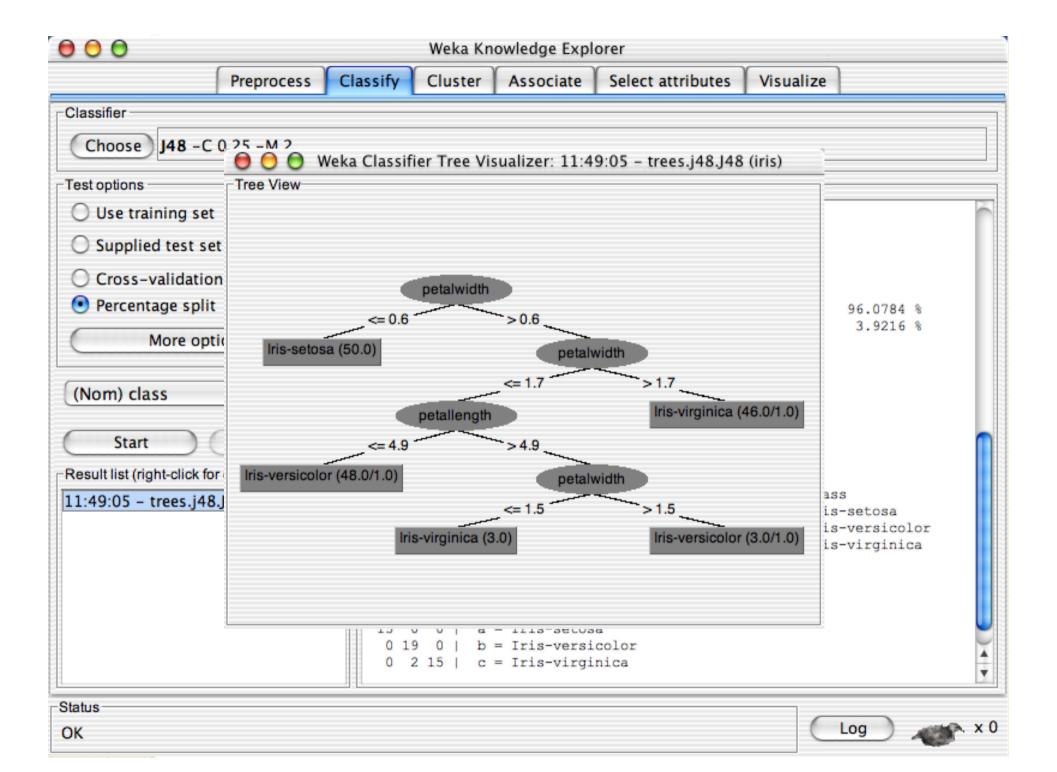






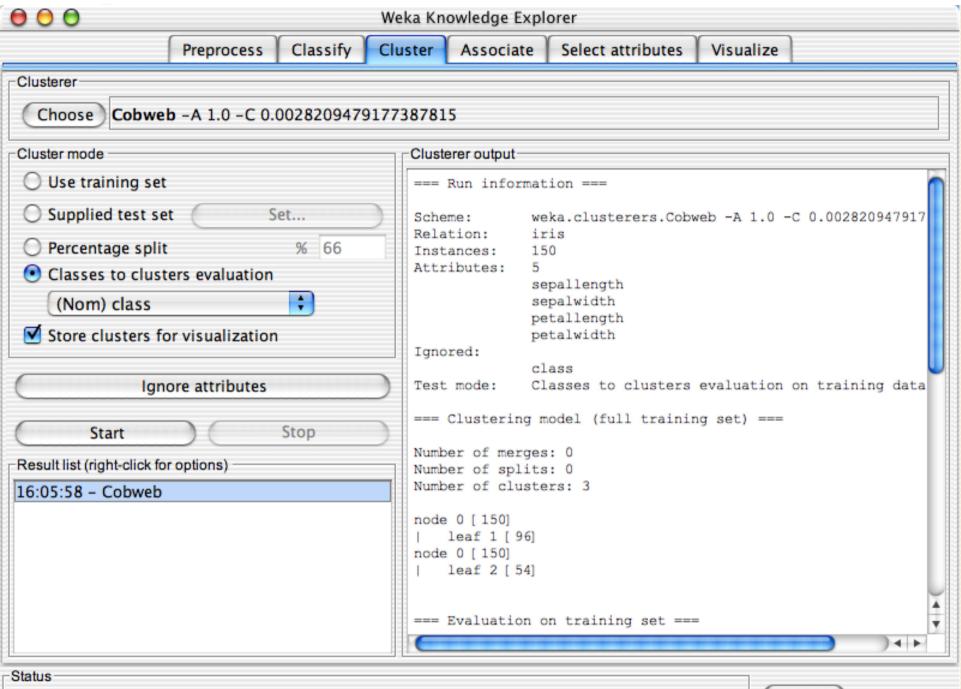






Explorer: clustering data

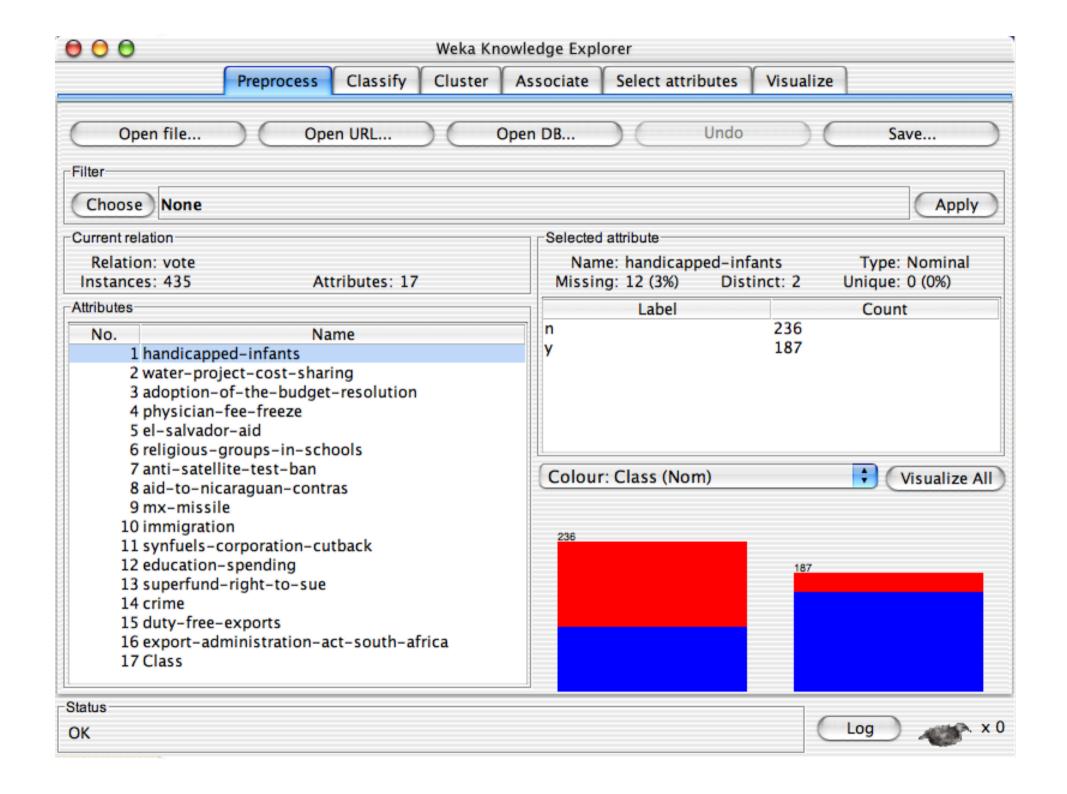
- WEKA contains "clusterers" for finding groups of similar instances in a dataset
- Implemented schemes are:
 - k-Means, EM, Cobweb, X-means, FarthestFirst
- Clusters can be visualized and compared to "true" clusters (if given)
- Evaluation based on loglikelihood if clustering scheme produces a probability distribution

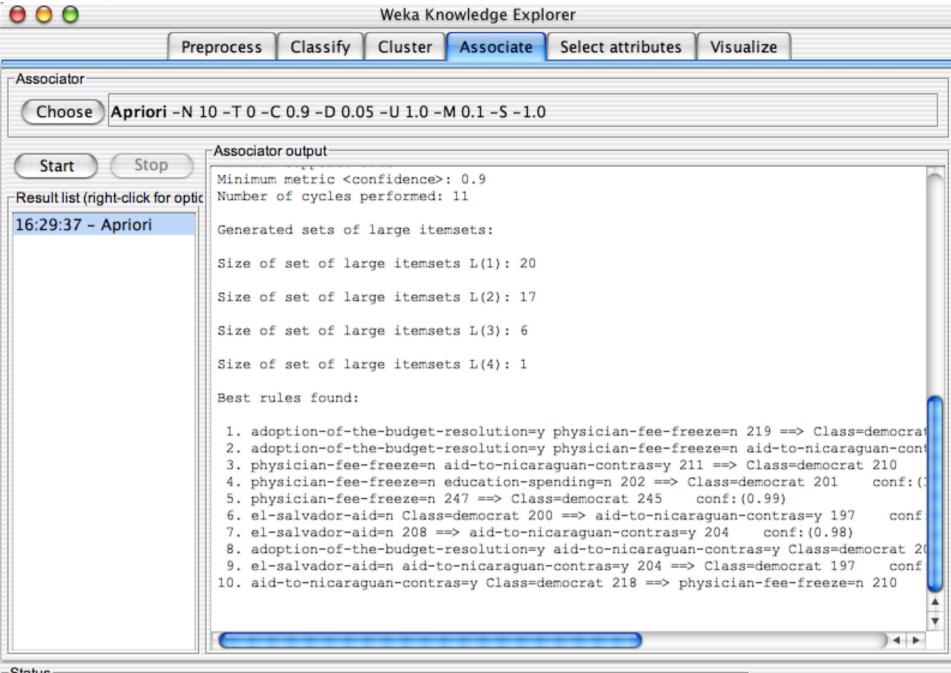




Explorer: finding associations

- WEKA contains an implementation of the Apriori algorithm for learning association rules
 - Works only with discrete data
- Can identify statistical dependencies between groups of attributes:
 - milk, butter ⇒ bread, eggs (with confidence 0.9 and support 2000)
- Apriori can compute all rules that have a given minimum support and exceed a given confidence



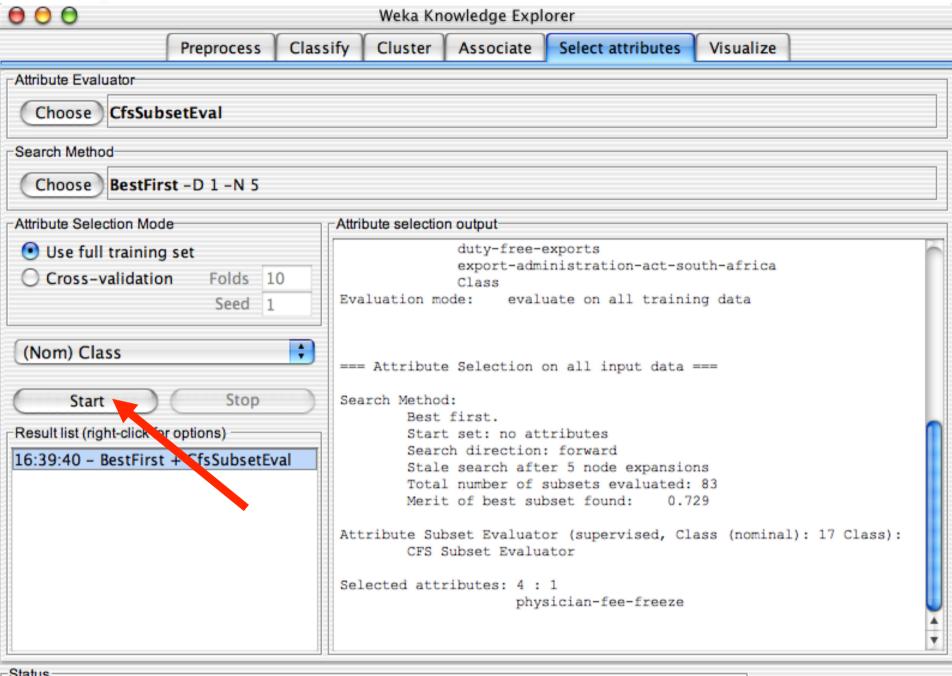






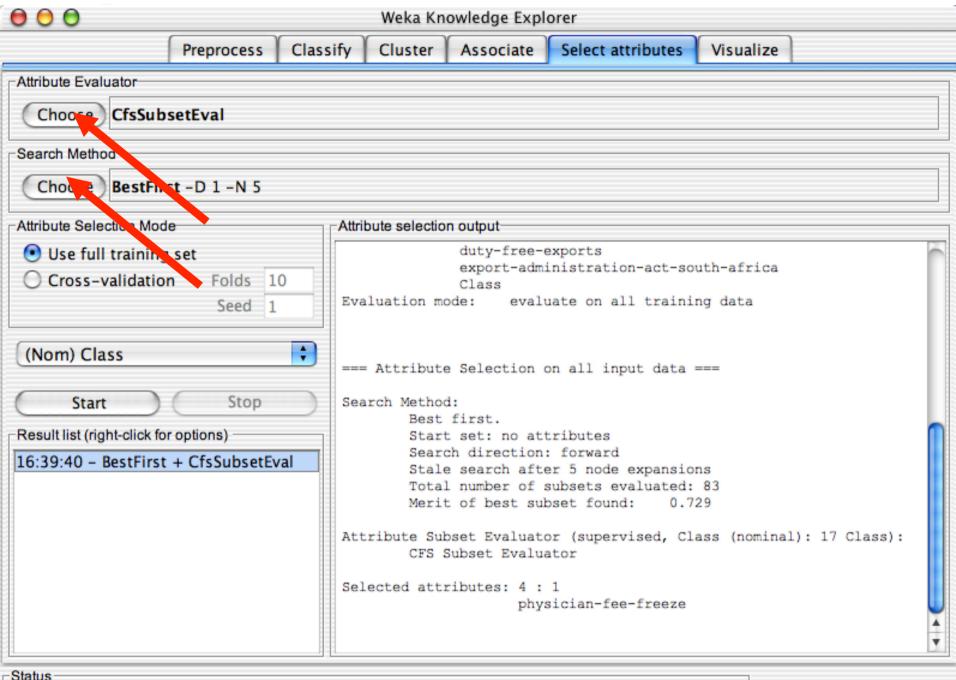
Explorer: attribute selection

- Panel that can be used to investigate which (subsets of) attributes are the most predictive ones
- Attribute selection methods contain two parts:
 - A search method: best-first, forward selection, random, exhaustive, genetic algorithm, ranking
 - An evaluation method: correlation-based, wrapper, information gain, chi-squared, ...
- Very flexible:WEKA allows (almost) arbitrary combinations of these two

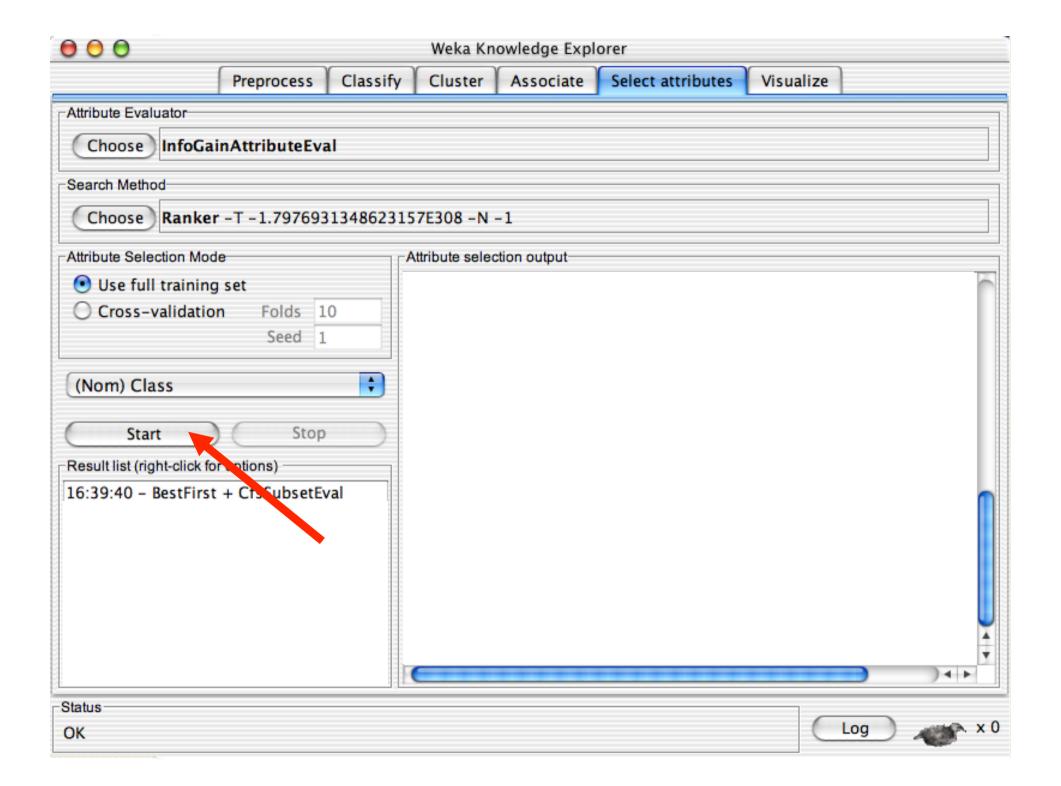


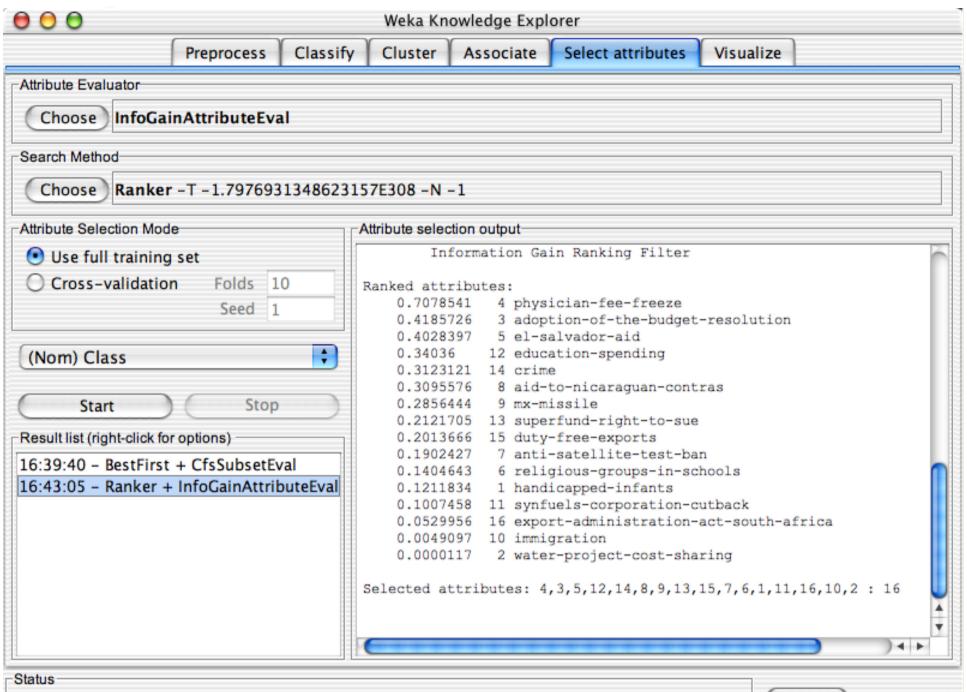














Which attribute selector?

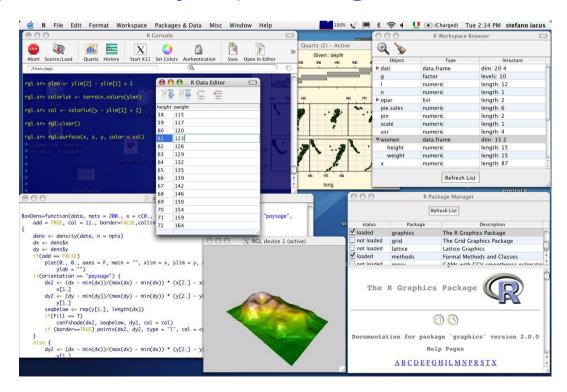
- Best:WRAPPER
 - Slow: O(2^N) search through all attribute combinations
 - The "wrapped" learner called to assess each combination
 - Some heuristics to prune the search; but does not scale
- If not WRAPPER
 - Use InfoGain / OneR for very big datasets
 - Use CFS otherwise
- Don't use PCA
 - This is an unsupervised selector
 - So it is uninformed on how dimensions help classification

Limitations

- Loads all data into ram prior to learning
 - Problem for large data sets
- Not good for complex experiments
- IMHO, discourages experimentation with new learners
 - The "WEKA effect"
 - Try every learner till something works
- Still, very useful for
 - Initial investigations
 - Learning data mining
 - Or as a sub-routine of other systems

Alternate tools:"R"

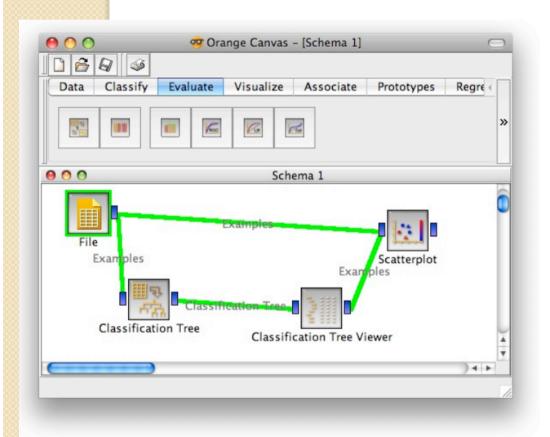
- Leading open-source system for statistical computing and graphics,
- http://www.r-project.org/





- For me: just say no
- Open science, open tools

Alternate tools: Orange

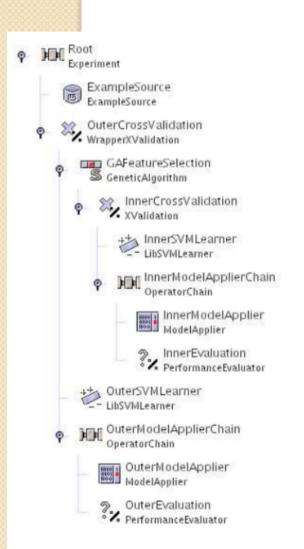


Written in Python

Simpler specification (but see WEKA's KnowledgeFlow Environment).

Also, less community support/debugging. So sometimes frustrated by random bugs

Alternate tools: RapidMiner



Experiments specified in an XML tree syntax

In theory, possible to share experimental descriptions

Alternate tools: OurMine

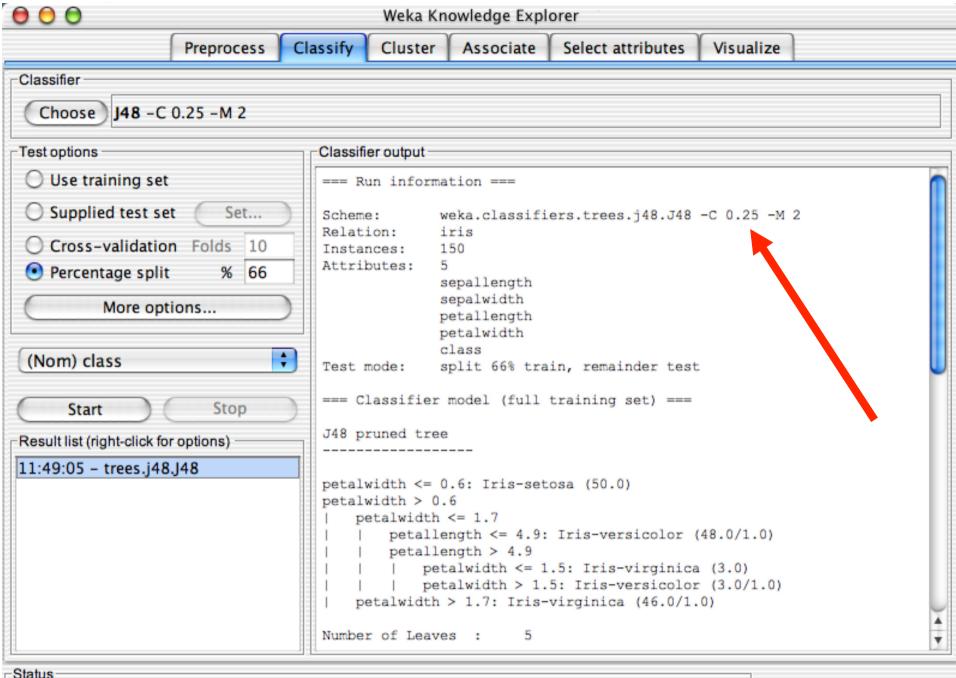
```
Java=$Base/lib/java
Weka="java -Xmx2048M -cp $Java/weka.jar"
Clusterers="java -Xmx1024M -jar $Java/Clusterers.jar"
Reducers="java -Xmx1024M -jar $Java/Reduce.jar"
nb() {
  local learner=weka.classifiers.bayes.NaiveBayes
  $Weka $learner -p 0 -t $1 -T $2
nb10() {
  local learner=weka.classifiers.bayes.NaiveBayes
  $Weka $learner -i -t $1
j48() {
  local learner=weka.classifiers.trees.J48
  $Weka $learner -p 0 -C 0.25 -M 2 -t $1 -T $2
Adam Nelson, Tim Menzies, Gregory Gay,
Sharing Experiments Using Open Source Software,
Softw. Pract. Exper. 2011
```

Forget the visuals.

Make WEKA a subroutine inside Bash script

Now you can mix WEKA's JAVA with learners written in your favorite language.

But how do you find the magic command strings?



OK





Why go to all that trouble?

```
analysis1(){
  local origdata=$1
  local outstats=$2
  local nattrs="2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20"
  local learners="nb10 j4810 zeror10 oner10 adtree10"
  local reducers="infogain chisquared oneR"
  local tmpred=$Tmp/red
  echo "n,reducer,learner,accuracy" > $outstats
  for n in $nattrs; do
    for reducer in $reducers: do
        $reducer $origdata $n $tmpred
        for learner in $learners; do
          accur=`$learner $tmpred.arff | acc
          out="$n,$reducer,$learner,$accur"
          blabln $out
          echo $out >> $outstats
        done
    done
  done
```

Complex experiments, specified succinctly.

Experiments can now be reviewed, audited, by others.

Also, in 12 months time when Reviewer2 wants a tiny extension to the old paper, you don't have to remember all that clicking you did: just rerun the script.

Coming next...

- Enough details
- So many tools in WEKA, R, Rapid-Miner, Orange, OURMINE...
- The great secret
 - All those "different" tools do the same thing.
 - Carve up vector space.

DATA CARVING
(THE CORE
OPERATORS OF DM)



- Data mining & SE (overview)
- 2. Data mining tools (guided tour of "WEKA")
- 3. Data "carving" (core operators of DM)

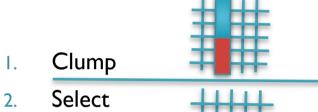
"Data Carving": A geometric view of data mining

- Data is like a block of marble,
 - waiting for a sculptor (that's you)
 - to find the shape within
- So "data mining" is really "data carving"
 - chipping away the irrelevancies
 - To find what lies beneath.



Four operators of data carving

- @attribute outlook {sunny, overcast, rainy} @attribute temperature real @attribute humidity real @attribute windy {TRUE, FALSE} @attribute play {yes, no} @data 85,85,FALSE, no sunny, 80,90,TRUE, no sunny, overcast, 83,86,FALSE, yes 70,96,FALSE, no rainy. 68,80,FALSE, yes rainy, 65.70.TRUE. rainy, overcast, 64,65,TRUE, ves 72,95,FALSE, no sunny, 69,70,FALSE, yes sunny. rainy, 75,80,FALSE, yes 75,70,TRUE, yes sunny, overcast, 72,90,TRUE, ves overcast, 81,75,FALSE, yes rainy, 71,91,TRUE, no
- Each example is a row in a table
- What can can we do change the table geometry?

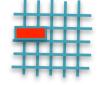








Clump columns



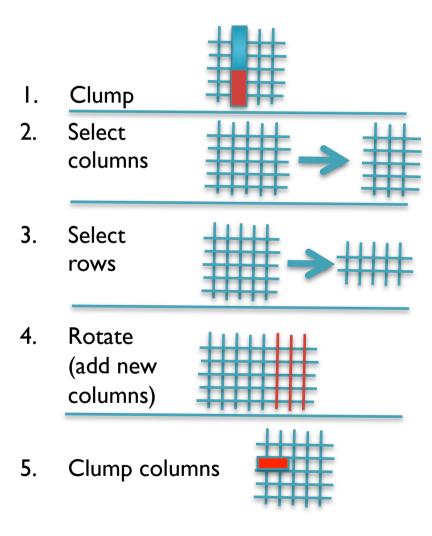
The field is called "data mining", not "algorithm mining"

- To understand data mining, look at the <u>data</u>, not the <u>algorithms</u>
- Why? We do data mining not to study algorithms.
 - But to study data
- Our results should be insights about data,
 - not trivia about (say) decision tree algorithms
- Besides, the thing that most predicts for performance is the data, not the algorithm,
 - Pedro Domingos and Michael J.
 Pazzani, On the Optimality of the Simple Bayesian Classifier under Zero-One Loss, Machine Learning, Volume 29, number 2-3, pages 103-130, 1997

Table 1. Classification accuracies and sample standard deviations, averaged over 20 random training/test splits. "Bayes" is the Bayesian classifier with discretization and "Gauss" is the Bayesian classifier with Gaussian distributions. Superscripts denote confidence levels for the difference in accuracy between the Bayesian classifier and the corresponding algorithm, using a one-tailed paired t test: 1 is 99.5%, 2 is 99%, 3 is 97.5%, 4 is 95%, 5 is 90%, and 6 is below 90%.

Data Set	Bayes	Gauss	C4.5	PEBLS	CN2	Def.
Audiology	73.0±6.1	73.0±6.16	72.5±5.86	75.8±5.4 ³	71.0±5.1 ⁵	21.3
Annealing	95.3±1.2	84.3 ± 3.8^{1}	90.5 ± 2.2^{1}	98.8 ± 0.8^{1}	81.2 ± 5.4^{1}	76.4
Breast cancer	71.6 ± 4.7	71.3 ± 4.3^{6}	70.1 ± 6.8^{5}	65.6 ± 4.7^{1}	67.9 ± 7.1^{1}	67.6
Credit	84.5 ± 1.8	78.9 ± 2.5^{1}	85.9 ± 2.1^{3}	82.2 ± 1.9^{1}	82.0 ± 2.2^{1}	57.4
Chess endgames	88.0 ± 1.4	88.0 ± 1.4^{6}	99.2 ± 0.1^{1}	96.9 ± 0.7^{1}	98.1 ± 1.0^{1}	52.0
Diabetes	74.5 ± 2.4	75.2 ± 2.1^{6}	73.5 ± 3.4^{5}	71.1 ± 2.4^{1}	73.8 ± 2.7^{6}	66.0
Echocardiogram	69.1 ± 5.4	73.4 ± 4.9^{1}	64.7 ± 6.3^{1}	61.7 ± 6.4^{1}	68.2 ± 7.2^{6}	67.8
Glass	61.9 ± 6.2	50.6 ± 8.2^{1}	63.9 ± 8.7^{6}	62.0 ± 7.4^{6}	63.8 ± 5.5^{6}	31.7
Heart disease	81.9 ± 3.4	84.1 ± 2.8^{1}	77.5 ± 4.3^{1}	78.9 ± 4.0^{1}	79.7 ± 2.9^3	55.0
Hepatitis	85.3±3.7	85.2 ± 4.0^{6}	79.2 ± 4.3^{1}	79.0 ± 5.1^{1}	80.3 ± 4.2^{1}	78.1
Horse colic	80.7±3.7	79.3 ± 3.7^{1}	85.1 ± 3.8^{1}	75.7 ± 5.0^{1}	82.5 ± 4.2^{2}	63.6
Hypothyroid	97.5 ± 0.3	97.9 ± 0.4^{1}	99.1 ± 0.2^{1}	95.9 ± 0.7^{1}	98.8 ± 0.4^{1}	95.3
Iris	93.2±3.5	93.9 ± 1.9^{6}	92.6 ± 2.7^{6}	93.5 ± 3.0^{6}	93.3 ± 3.6^{6}	26.5
Labor	91.3 ± 4.9	88.7 ± 10.66	78.1 ± 7.9^{1}	89.7 ± 5.0^{6}	82.1 ± 6.91	65.0
Lung cancer	46.8 ± 13.3	46.8 ± 13.3^{6}	40.9 ± 16.3^{5}	42.3 ± 17.3^{6}	38.6 ± 13.5^{3}	26.8
Liver disease	63.0 ± 3.3	54.8 ± 5.5^{1}	65.9 ± 4.4^{1}	61.3 ± 4.3^{6}	65.0 ± 3.8^{3}	58.1
LED	62.9 ± 6.5	62.9 ± 6.5^{6}	61.2 ± 8.4^{6}	55.3 ± 6.1^{1}	58.6 ± 8.1^{2}	8.0
Lymphography	81.6±5.9	81.1 ± 4.8^{6}	75.0 ± 4.2^{1}	82.9 ± 5.6^{6}	78.8 ± 4.9^{3}	57.3
Post-operative	64.7 ± 6.8	67.2 ± 5.0^{3}	70.0 ± 5.2^{1}	59.2 ± 8.0^{2}	60.8 ± 8.2^4	71.2
Promoters	87.9±7.0	87.9 ± 7.0^{6}	74.3 ± 7.8^{1}	91.7 ± 5.9^{3}	75.9 ± 8.8^{1}	43.1
Primary tumor	44.2±5.5	44.2 ± 5.5^{6}	35.9 ± 5.8^{1}	30.9 ± 4.7^{1}	39.8 ± 5.2^{1}	24.6
Solar flare	68.5 ± 3.0	68.2 ± 3.7^{6}	70.6 ± 2.9^{1}	67.6 ± 3.5^{6}	70.4 ± 3.0^{2}	25.2
Sonar	69.4 ± 7.6	63.0 ± 8.3^{1}	69.1 ± 7.4^{6}	73.8 ± 7.4^{1}	66.2 ± 7.5^{5}	50.8
Soybean	100.0 ± 0.0	100.0 ± 0.0^{6}	95.0 ± 9.0^{3}	100.0 ± 0.0^{6}	96.9 ± 5.9^{3}	30.0
Splice junctions	95.4 ± 0.6	95.4 ± 0.6^{6}	93.4 ± 0.8^{1}	94.3 ± 0.5^{1}	81.5 ± 5.5^{1}	52.4
Voting records	91.2 ± 1.7	91.2 ± 1.7^{6}	96.3 ± 1.3^{1}	94.9 ± 1.2^{1}	95.8 ± 1.6^{1}	60.5
Wine	96.4 ± 2.2	97.8 ± 1.2^{3}	92.4 ± 5.6^{1}	97.2 ± 1.8^{6}	90.8 ± 4.7^{1}	36.4
Zoology	94.4 ± 4.1	94.1 ± 3.8^{6}	89.6 ± 4.7^{1}	94.6 ± 4.3^{6}	90.6 ± 5.0^{1}	39.4

The rest of this hour



Carving can be dangerous

- While carving the training data is recommended
 - It is a methodological error to carve the test data
- Whatever is learned from the training data
 - Should be assessed on "raw" (i.e. uncarved) test data



Clumping column data (a.k.a. discretization)



overcast,	64,	65	TRUE, yes
Rainy,	65 ,	70	TRUE, no
sunny,	69,	70	, FALSE, yes
sunny,	75 ,	70	TRUE, yes
overcast,			,FALSE,yes
rainy,			FALSE, yes
rainy,	75,	80,	FALSE, yes
sunny,	85,	85,	FALSE, no
overcast,	83,	86,	FALSE, yes
overcast,	72,	90,	TRUE, yes
sunny,	80,	90,	TRUE, no
rainy,	71,	91,	TRUE, no
sunny,	72,	95,	FALSE,no
rainy,	70,	96,	FALSE, no

- Learning = compression
 - Take a target concept that is spread out across all the data
 - Squeeze it together till it is dense enough to be visible.
- Discretization: clump together observations taken over a continuous range
 - into a small number of regions.
- E.g. "toddlers" If age = 1,2,3
- Discretization improves the performance of a learner
 - Gives a learner a smaller space to reason about,
 - With more examples in each part of the space

Supervised Discretization



overcast,	64,	65 ,	TRUE,	yes
Rainy,	65,	70,	TRUE, r	10
sunny,	69,	70,	FALSE,	yes
sunny,	75 ,	70,	TRUE,	yes
overcast,	81,	75 ,	FALSE,	yes
rainy,	68,	80,	FALSE,	yes
rainy,			FALSE,	_
sunny,	85,	85 ,	FALSE, r	10
overcast,	83,	86,	FALSE,	yes
overcast,	72,	90,	TRUE,	yes
sunny,	80,	90,	TRUE, r	10
rainy,	71,	91,	TRUE, r	10
sunny,	72,	95,	FALSE, r	10
rainy,	70,	96,	FALSE, r	10

• Standard method:

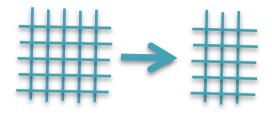
- Find a break that
 most reduces class
 diversity either side
 of the break
- Recurse on data:
 - above break,
 - below break
- Fayyad and Irani, Multi-Interval
 Discretization of Continuous-Valued
 Attributes for Classification Learning
 IJCAl'93, pp I 022-I 027

Unsupervised Discretization



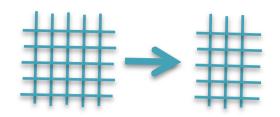
- Divide into "B" bins
 - (X − Min) / ((Max − Min)/ B)
 - B=3 or 10 very common
- Divide into P percentile groups
 - Each bins contains (say) 25% of the rows
- For Bayesian methods
 - Divide into groups of N items
 - Ying and Webb recommends N= sqrt(rows)
 - Ying Yang and Geoff Webb, Weighted Proportional k-Interval Discretization of Naïve Bayes classifeirs, PAKADD'03, p501-512, 2003

Select columns

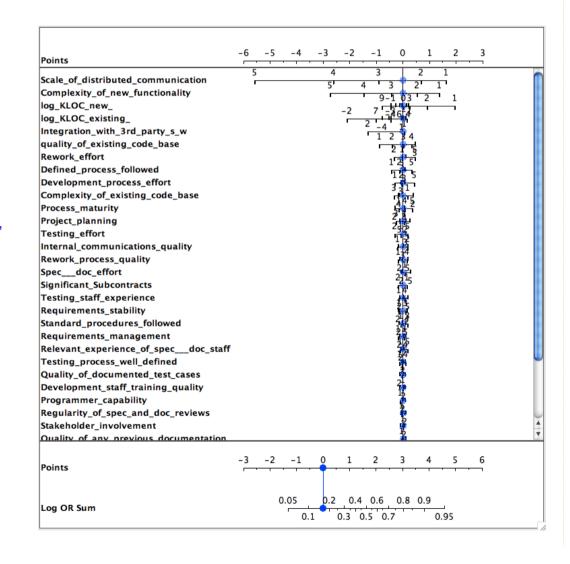


- Occam's Razor Entia non sunt multiplicanda praeter necessitatem.
 ("Entities should not be multiplied more than necessary").
 - the fewer features used to explain something, the better
- Log(OR):
 - Discrete every feature. For all pairs of target / other of size C1, C2 count frequency of range N1, N2 in each class
 - Log(odds ratio) = log((N1/C1) / (N2/C2)) > 0 if more frequent in target
 - "Pivots" are the ranges with high Log (OR)
 - Možina, M., Demšar, J., Kattan, M., and Zupan, B. 2004. Nomograms for visualization of naive Bayesian classifier. InProceedings of the 8th European Conference on Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases (Pisa, Italy, September 20 - 24, 2004)
- InfoGain:
 - Use Fayyad Irani trick: assses each column by how well it divides up the data
 - Takes linear time : O(C)
- Wrapper:
 - Explore 2^{C} subsets of C columns: takes time $O(2^{C})$
 - Call a learner on each subset
 - Use the columns that maximize learner performance
 - Not practical for large data sets
- For more, see Hall, M. and Holmes, G. (2003). Benchmarking attribute selection techniques for discrete class data mining. IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering. 15(3), November/December 2003

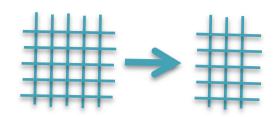




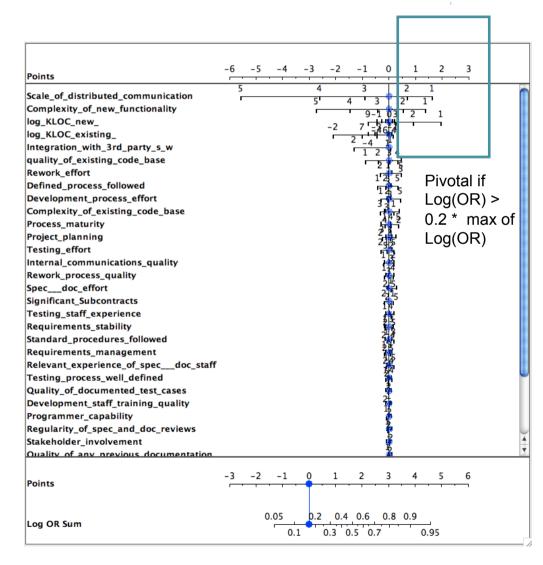
- Data from Norman Fenton's Bayes Net
 - Project Data Incorporating
 Qualitative Factors for
 Improved Software Defect
 Prediction Norman Fenton,
 Martin Neil, William Marsh,
 Peter Hearty, Lukasz
 Radlinski and Paul Krause.,
 PROMISE 2008
- Target class. worse defects
- Only a few features matter
- Only a few ranges of those features matter



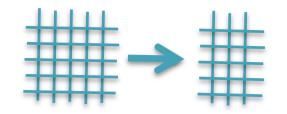




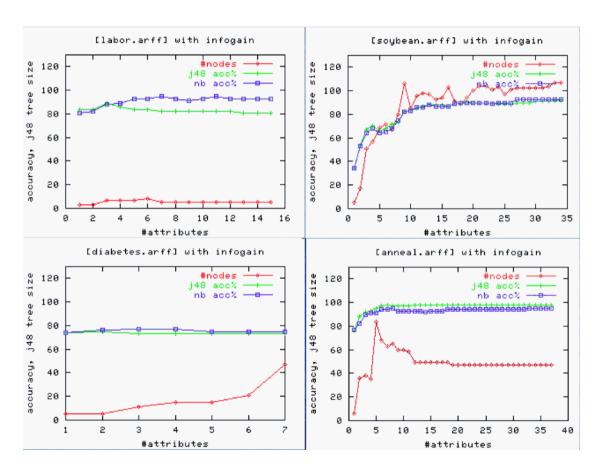
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Select columns with InfoGain

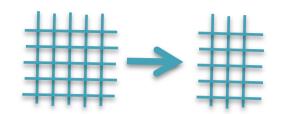


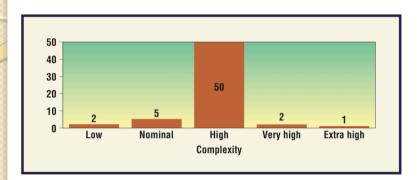
X-axis sorted by sum(-p*log(p))

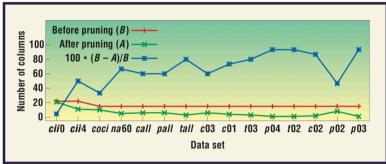


Simpler theories after column selection, work just as well as using everything

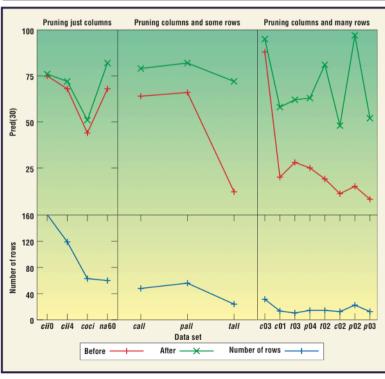
Select columns with WRAPPER



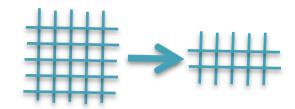




 Finding the Right Data for Software Cost Modeling Chen, Menzies, Port, Boehm, IEEE Software Nov/Dec 2005

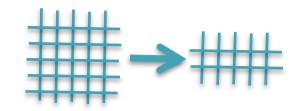






- Replace N rows
 - with M < N rows
 - that best exemplify the data
- Typical result:
 - Can throw out 80 to 90% of the rows without lossing accuracy
 - ° C. Chang, "Finding prototypes for nearest neighbor classifiers," IEEE Trans. on Computers, pp. 1179–1185, 1974.
- Benefits:
 - Outlier removal
 - Any downstream processing is faster
 - E.g. any $O(N^2)$ process is 100 times faster on N/10 of the data
 - Less errors in conclusions
 - Instance learner: classify according to nearest neighbors
 - If nearest neighbors further away, harder for data collection errors to cause wrong classifications
 - Easier to visualize
 - Fewer things to look at

Select rows



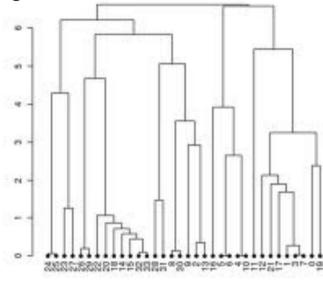
- Exponential time
 - Genetic algorithm to explore the 2^R subsets of rows.
 - When more rows than columns, even slower than the WRAPPER's $O(2^{C})$ search
 - Y.Li, M.Xie, and T.Goh, "A study of project selection and feature weighting for analogy based software cost estimation," Journal of Systems and Software, vol. 82, pp. 241–252, 2009.
- Polynomial time: Greedy agglomerative clustering
 - Push every instance to its closest neighbor.
 - Build a synthetic example at each pair's median
 - Repeat for the synthetic points.
 - Prototypes are all nodes at level X of GAC tree
 - For R rows, $O(R^2)$



- Prune sub-trees with large variance
- When to Use Data from Other Projects for Effort Estimation Ekrem
 Kocaguneli, Gregory Gay, Tim Menzies, Ye Yang, Jacky W. Keung, ASE 2010

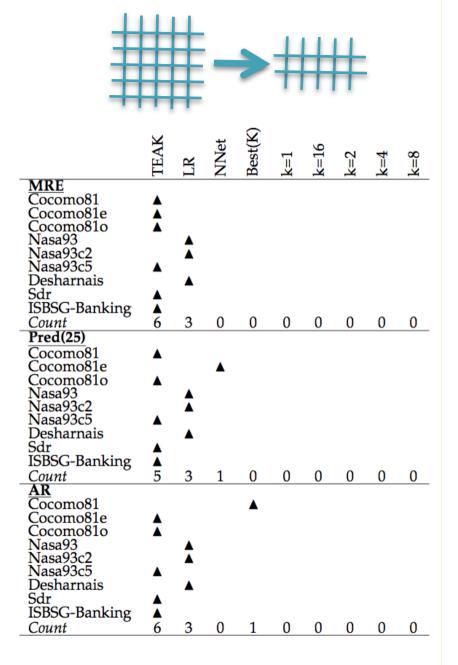


- Rank ranges by frequency delta in different classes
- Discard all rows that do not have the top R pivots

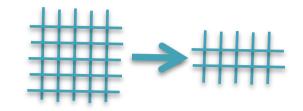


Select rows (with TEAK)

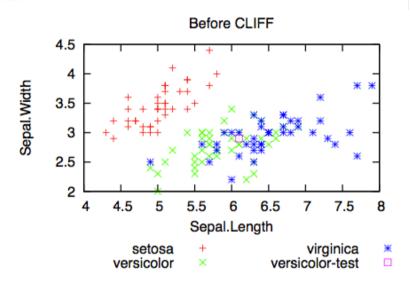
- To effort estimate a test instance, start at root of GAC tree
 - Move to nearest child
 - Stop at leaf or when sub-tree variance greater than super-tree
 - Estimate = median of instances in that subtree
- Compared with
 - linear regression,
 - neural nets,
 - analogy methods that use K=1,2,4 nearest neighbors (no variance pruning)
- Compared using
 - 20 * {shuffle rows, 3-way cross-val}
 - #wins # losses (in a Wilcoxon, 95%)
 - Count number of times ranked first by this procedure
- Conclusion: row-selection using clustering
 + variance pruning is a good thing

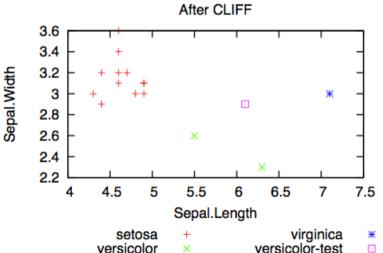


Select rows (with range pruning)

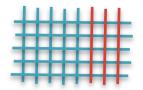


- For class in classes
 - Rank attribute ranges by how often they appear in class vs notClass
- For each attribute
 - Find its range with top rank
- Sort attributes by top ranked range
- Remove rows that do not have the top range of the top N ranked attribute
- Linear time (much faster than any other instance selector)
- ProbDefections not harmed
- As noise added to data, this method's PF changes the least)

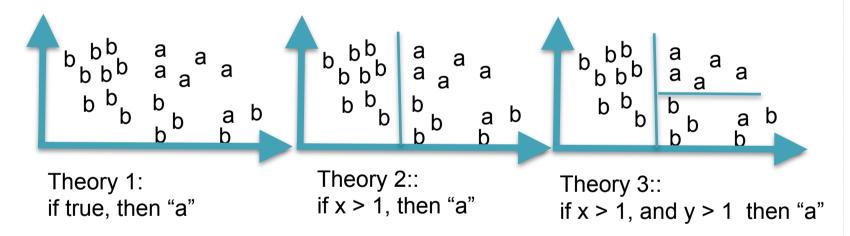




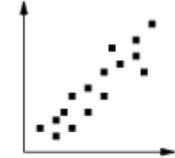
Rotate (add columns)



• Sometimes, the data's raw dimensions suffice for isolating the target concept..

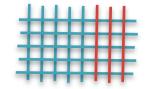


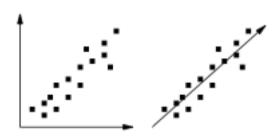
 But what if the target concept falls across, and not along, the raw dimensions?



Rotate (add columns)

- Synthesize a new dimension that combines the raw into something new
- Apply single-valued decomposition (SVD) to
 - the covariance matrix (principal component analysis, or PCA)
 - or the data table (latent semantic indexing, or LSI)
- PCA that produces a set of orthogonal "components"
 - Transforms C correlated variables into fewer uncorrelated "components".
 - Component[i] accounts for as much variability as possible.
 - Component[i+1] accounts for as much of the remaining variability as possible.





- Much easier to learn rules when dimensions match the data. E.g. a defect predictor:
- if $comp[1] \le 0.180$ then NoDefects else if comp[1] > 0.180then if $comp[1] \le 0.371$ then NoDefects else if com[1] > 0.371 then Defects
- But it can be hard to explain that predictor:

```
Comp[I] = 0.236*v(g) +0.222*ev(g)+0.236*iv

(g) +0.241*n +0.238*v -0.086*l +0.199*d

+0.216*i +0.225*e +0.236*b +0.221*t

+0.241*lOCode +0.179*lOComment

+0.221*lOBlank +0.158*lOCodeAndComment

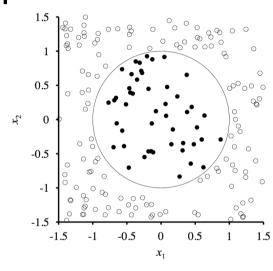
+0.163*uniq_Op +0.234*uniq_Opnd

+0.241*total_Op +0.241*total_Opnd

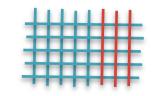
+0.236*branchCount
```

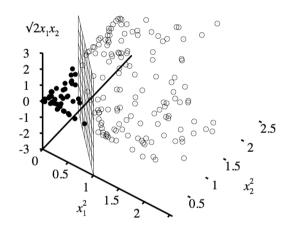
Rotate (add columns)

Special transforms



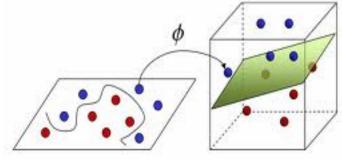
Support vector machines: construct a hyper-plane that separates classes







Principle of Support Vector Machines



Input Space

13





- Ever notice that rows and rules have (nearly) the same syntax?
 - Age=young and wealth=rich and iq=high and class=happy
 - If age=old and wealth=rich and iq=high then happy
- But when we write rules, we only do it for frequently occurring patterns in the other rows
- "Clump rows": replace them with a rule that covers many rows, but many only mention some of the columns
 - If age=old and wealth=rich then happy
- If you do this after clumping columns and selecting good rows and selecting good columns and (maybe) adding in good columns
 - Then the search space is very small
 - The exploring can be heavily biased by the other steps (e.g. look at great rows before dull ones)
 - And, hey presto, you've got a working data miner

Hints and tips (note: only my view)

- Always try clumping with discretization
 - So very simple
 - So experiment with / without discretization
- Always try column selection
 - Usually, massive reduction in the columns
- If the data won't fit in RAM,
 - try column selection first (use a linear-time approach)
 - then you can explore row selection by (say)
 - Eral: read first 1000 instances and apply row selection
 - Era[i+1]: read next 1000 records and ignore instances that fall close to the instances selected at Era[i]
- Try these last: PCA / Support vector machines
 - Benefits of PCA often achieved, or beaten by other column selectors
 - Hall, M. and Holmes, G. (2003). Benchmarking attribute selection techniques for discrete class data mining. IEEE Trans on Knowledge and Data Engineering. 15(3), November/December 2003
 - The FASTMAP heuristic FASTMAP, can do what PCA does, faster, scalable.
 - Faloutsos, C. and Lin, K. 1995. FastMap: a fast algorithm for indexing, data-mining and visualization of traditional and multimedia datasets. In Proceedings of the 1995 ACM SIGMOD international Conference on Management of Data
 - For text mining (PCA / LDA) vs TF*IDF never benchmarked

tim@menzies.us

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Fatal flaws in data mining for SE?

- Barbara Kitchenham et al, ESE journal, 2008
 - Replications can replicate stupid errors
- Vic Basili, LASER, 2010
 - If we give people our data, they can make stupid mistakes, cause they don't understand our context
- Well get back to this....

Data mining = a diverse and lucrative career

- Effort estimation
- Defect prediction
- Optimization of discrete systems
- Test case generation
- Fault localization
- Text mining
- Temporal sequence mining
 - Learning software processes
 - Learning APIs
- Etc

Data mining applications explored by me since 2007.

A career in data mining is a very diverse career, indeed

We need help

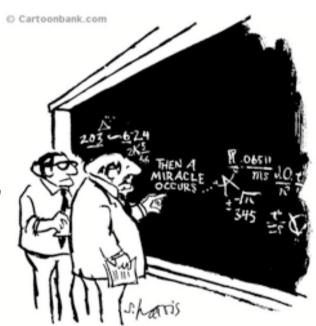
- A little experiment from http://www.youtube.com/v/ vJG698U2Mvo&hl=en US&fs=1&rel=0
- Rules
 - No one talks for the next 4 minutes
 - If you know what is about to happen, see (1)
- This is a selective attention test
 - Count the number
 of times the team
 with the white
 shirt passes the ball.



Data analysis deserves (much) more than zero pages

Easterbrook et al. (2007)

- 9 pages: selecting methods
- 3 pages: research questions
- 2 pages: empirical validity
- 2 pages: different forms of "empirical truth"
- I page: role of theory building
- I page: conclusions
- I page: data collection techniques
- 0 pages: data analysis
 - and then a miracle happens



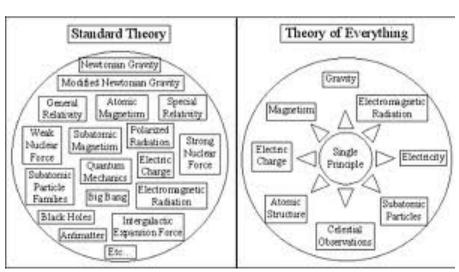
"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

Don't just do data mining

- Be of the empirical research community
 - Go to LASER, ICSE, etc
 - Talk
- Find current hypothesis that of interest
 - E.g. max AUC(effort,pdf)
 - E.g. cross-vs-within data
 - E.g.TOE
 - E.g. text mining for structured reviews
 - Juristo, Menzies, 2011

Don't do data mining once

- Continuous process monitoring
 - I. Learn expectations
 - 2. Stale smell policy: when good ideas go bad
 - 3. Repair policies: how to modify old ideas (more mining)
 - 4. Escalation policy: recognize when you need to call for help
- Bt the way,
 - I,2,3,4 can all be implemented by data miners.
- Welcome to TOE



Other Do-s and Don'ts

- Do <u>learn</u> about data mining
 - People make mistakes
 - Need communities of agents (human and otherwise)
 - New algorithms, old data, new insights
- Don't used <u>dumb</u> data mining:
 - correlation, PCA??
 - Forgettaboutit
- Don't quote old <u>dumb studies</u>:
 - E.g. Mccabe
- Do study stability:
 - 20 * 66% of the data
- Do model <u>bias</u>
 - Bias is where the business meets the learning

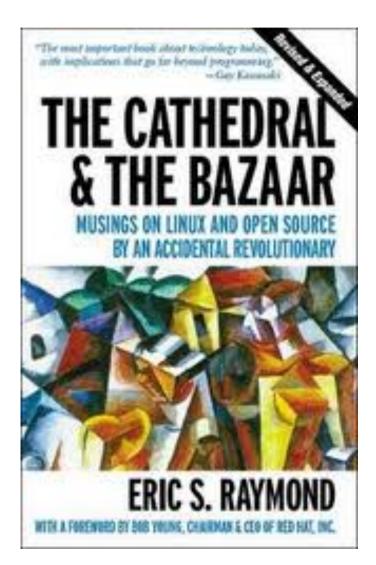
Exploit the crowd source advantage



- Crowd source
 - Join the community of people studying the data
 - Be there for them
- Lead, follow, or get out of the way
 - What's fair got to do with it? Its going to happen
 - Wolfgang Grieskamp from Microsoft, at Dagstuhl 2010

Open data initiatives

- Open source?That'll never work
- Menzies = bazaar!
- Are you the high priest in a cathedral?



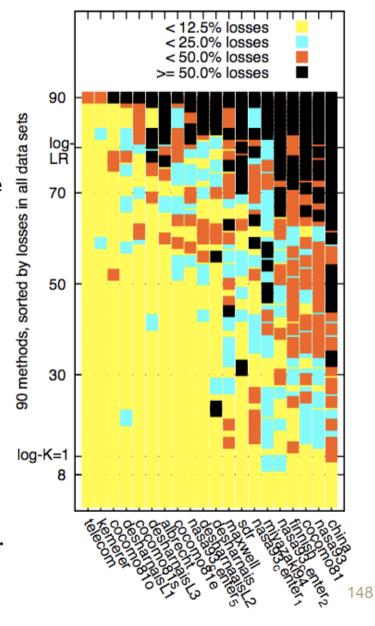
Lighten up!

- Do put data on the web
- Do collect data with "sunset clauses" (when it can go public)
 - The COCOMO experience
- Do collect data that joins
 - performance indicators
 - with things you can change
- Much inaccessible empirical data:
 - Data from the 152/ 154 MSR papers
 - ISERN 2007, ISERN 2008, ISERN 200
 - COCOMO-II
 - SEL
 - CeBase.org
- No propriety software
 - Static pages (no code that needs maintaining)
 - Password free sites (after the sunset)



Generate better results, faster

- Empirical SE results greatly lag the pace of innovation in the field.
- In too many cases
 - A trusted body of empirical results....
 - ...Only appears after the innovative is already well on their way to obsolescence or standard practice.
- The generality of a result from any one case study is highly questioned. We urgently need:
 - Faster ways to learn local lessons
 - Faster ways to study data from multiple sources
- Can't always afford N people*Y years
 - Managers need answers yesterday
 - Funding bodies want progress
- Every time someone says "it depends"...
 - A grad student dies.



If a tree falls in a forest....

- Pooh and Piglet were walking together in the Thousand Acre Wood.
- The wind was blowing ferociously and the treetops were swaying.
- Somewhat disconcerted, Piglet asked Pooh, "What if a tree falls on us?"
- Pooh considered for a moment, before replying "What if it doesn't?"
- Barbara Kitchenham et al, ESEj, 2008
 - Replications can replicate stupid errors
 - Me: and sometimes, they don't
- Vic Basili, LASER, 2010
 - If we give people our data, they can make stupid mistakes, cause they don't understand the context
 - Me: and sometimes, they won't



Dude! Chill out!



By the way....

I am happy to report that there is no book called "data mining for dummies"



