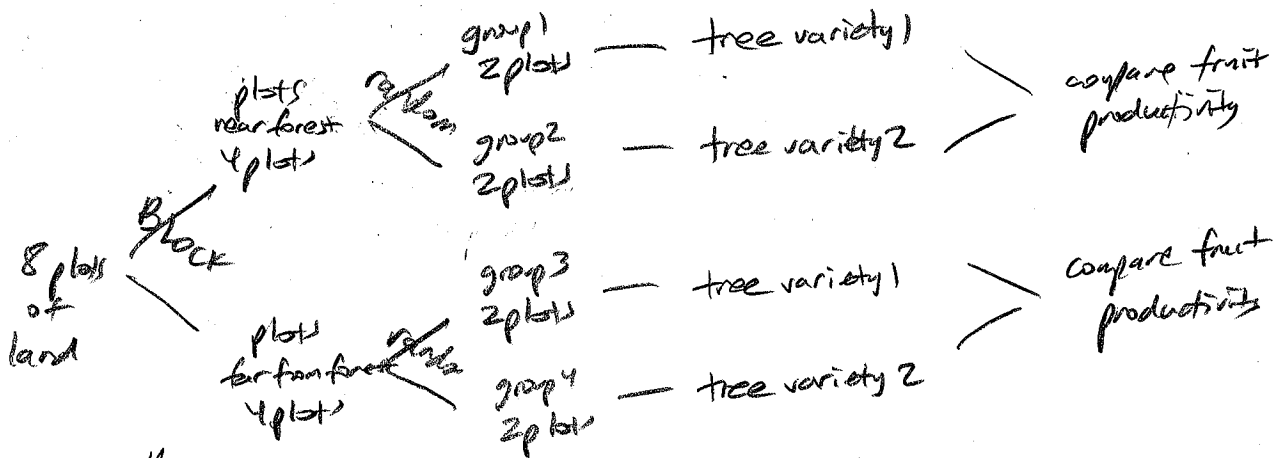


(a) Blocking scheme A is better because we block on aspects of the subjects, and in this experiment, the subjects are the plots of land (and the two varieties of trees are the treatments):



blocking must be a separation of subjects into groups which are homogeneous in some way within the block, but different between blocks. Here, the aspect to block on is distance from the forest.

(b) There are still other possible factors that may be different between the plots of land: soil conditions, natural moisture level, etc. While we block to remove the effect of variations in the subjects (plots of land) we know about, the purpose of randomization is to even out (remove) the effects of differences in the plots of land we don't know about.