

# Model Flexibility and Cross-Validation

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School of ORIE, Cornell University  
**ORIE 4740** Lec 7–8 (Feb 15, 17)

# Announcements

# Recap

Statistical learning:  $Y = \underbrace{f(\vec{X})}_{\text{Explained part}} + \underbrace{\epsilon}_{\text{Unexplained part}}$

Training dataset: Fit model  $\hat{f}$  using  $(\vec{x}_1, y_1), (\vec{x}_2, y_2), \dots, (\vec{x}_n, y_n)$

Test dataset: Make prediction on new data points  $\vec{x}_{n+1}, \vec{x}_{n+2}, \dots$

Regression: Response  $Y$  is continuous

- ▶ Linear regression
- ▶ More flexible: add non-linear terms  $X_1 X_2, X_1^3, \log X_2, \sqrt{X_4}$ , etc

Classification:  $Y$  is categorical/qualitative

- ▶ Logistic regression. More flexibility by adding non-linear terms.
- ▶  $K$ -Nearest Neighbor. More flexibility by decreasing  $K$

# Evaluation: Training error vs Test Error

*Do we care about training error or test error?*

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- **Important:** errors on the **test dataset**  $(\tilde{x}_i, \tilde{y}_i), i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ .
  - previously unseen data
  - not used to build  $\hat{f}$ .

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How to measure testing error?

A.

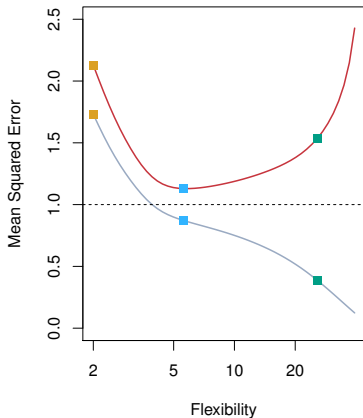
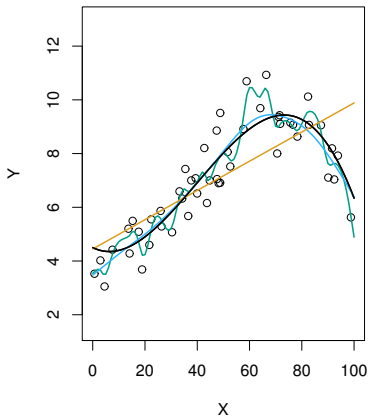
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# Training Error vs. Testing Error

The regression setting:

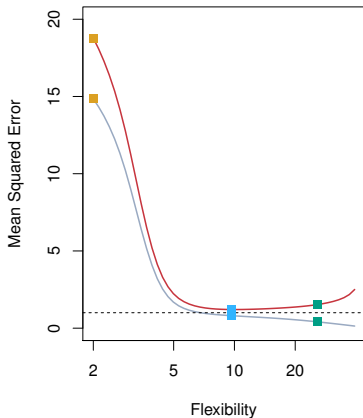
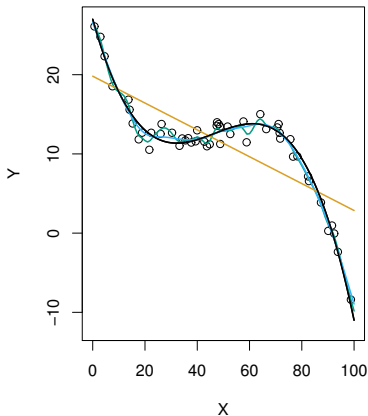


Red: test error. Gray: training error



# Training Error vs. Testing Error

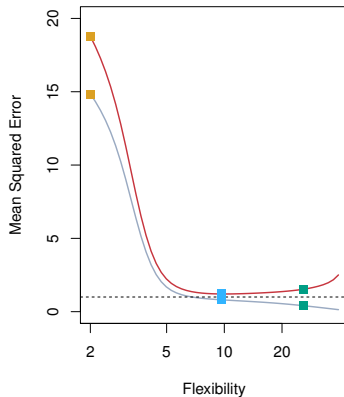
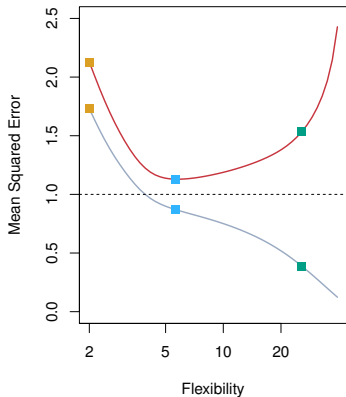
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# Training Error vs. Testing Error

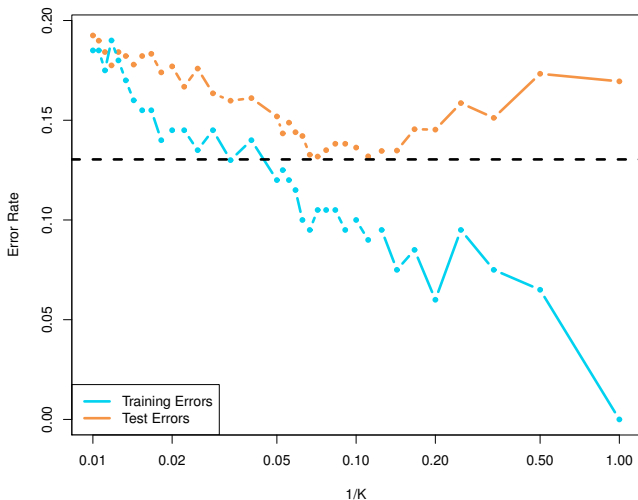
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# Training Error vs. Testing Error

The **classification** setting: KNN

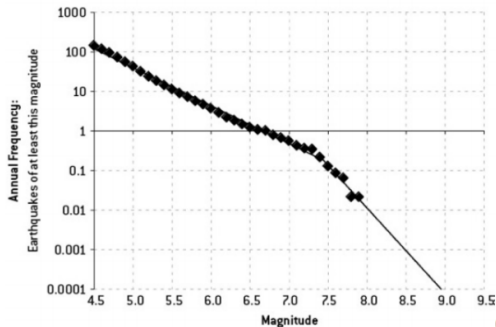


large  $K$  low flexibility

small  $K$  high flexibility

# Fukushima

FIGURE 5-7C: TŌHOKU, JAPAN EARTHQUAKE FREQUENCIES  
CHARACTERISTIC FIT

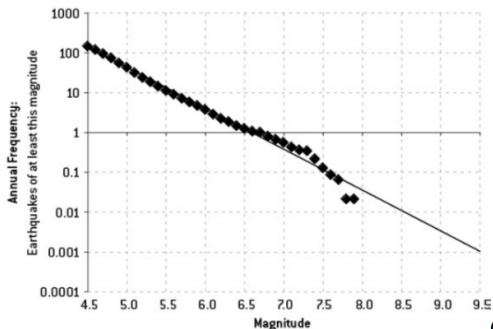


(Silver, N, 2012)

$$\text{frequency} = f(\text{magnitude}) + \epsilon$$

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FIGURE 5-7B: TŌHOKU, JAPAN EARTHQUAKE FREQUENCIES  
GUTENBERG-RICHTER FIT

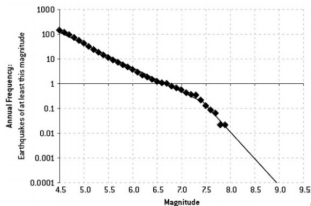


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$$\log(\text{frequency}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{magnitude} + \epsilon$$

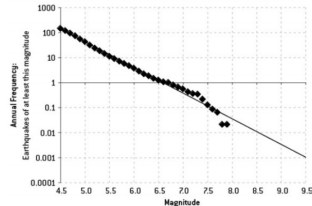
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(Silver, N, 2012)

FIGURE 5-7B. TŌHOKU, JAPAN EARTHQUAKE FREQUENCIES  
GUTENBERG-RICHTER FIT



(Silver, N, 2012)

- ▶ GR Fit. 9.0 earthquake once every 300 years.
- ▶ Fukushima Team. 9.0 earthquake once every 13000 years.

■ Fukushima only built to withstand 8.6 earthquake ( $2.5\times$  weaker).

Brian Stacey, Fukushima: The Failure of Predictive Models

# Bias-Variance Tradeoff

(Reading: ISLR Section 2.2.2)

Say:

- ▶  $\theta$  is an **unknown quantity** we want to estimate
- ▶  $\hat{\theta}$  is an **estimator** of  $\theta$  (computed from data, random)

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Proved in HW0:

The mean squared error (MSE) decomposes as:

$$\underbrace{\mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2}_{\text{MSE}} = \underbrace{(\mathbb{E}\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2}_{\text{bias}^2} + \underbrace{\text{Var}(\hat{\theta})}_{\text{variance}}$$



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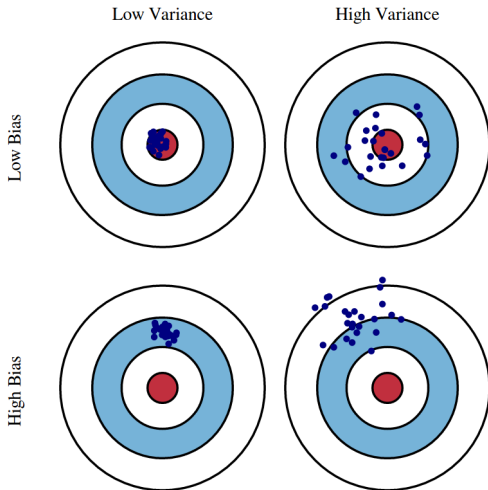
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$$\text{MSE} = \text{bias}^2 + \text{variance}$$

# Bias-Variance Tradeoff



Source:

<http://scott.fortmann-roe.com/docs/BiasVariance.html>

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Estimate using some model  $\hat{f}$ :  $\hat{y} = \hat{f}(x)$

Then:

$$\text{test error} = \mathbb{E}(\hat{f}(x) - y)^2 = \underbrace{(\mathbb{E}\hat{f}(x) - f(x))^2}_{\text{bias}^2} + \underbrace{\text{Var}(\hat{f}(x))}_{\text{variance}} + \underbrace{\text{Var}(\epsilon)}_{\text{irreducible error}}$$

# Proof (Optional)

Two sources of randomness:

- The *test* data  $y$  is random, because  $y = f(x) + \epsilon$  and  $\epsilon$  is random ( $x$  is fixed)
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$$\mathbb{E}(\hat{f}(x) - y)^2$$



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# Bias-Variance Tradeoff

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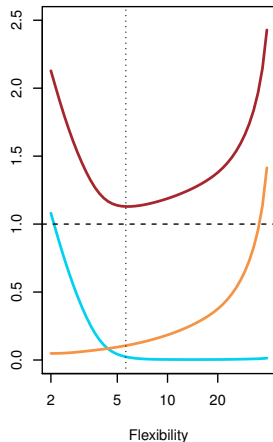
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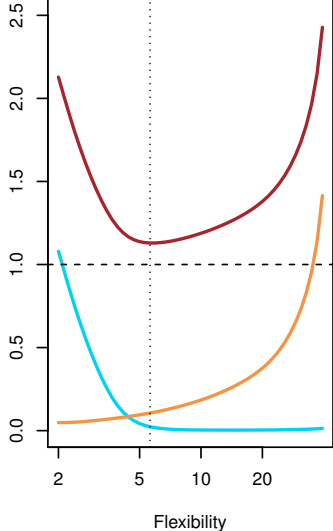
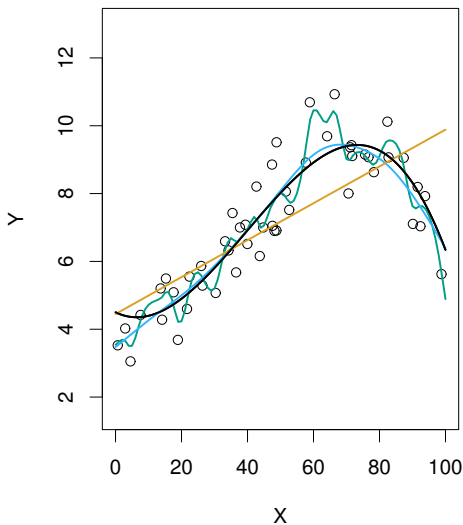
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**Variance**  $\text{Var}(\hat{f}(x))$  how much  $\hat{f}$  changes when fitted using different datasets

**Bias**  $\mathbb{E}[\hat{f}(x)] - f(x)$  difference b/w the true function  $f$  and the expectation of the model  $\hat{f}$

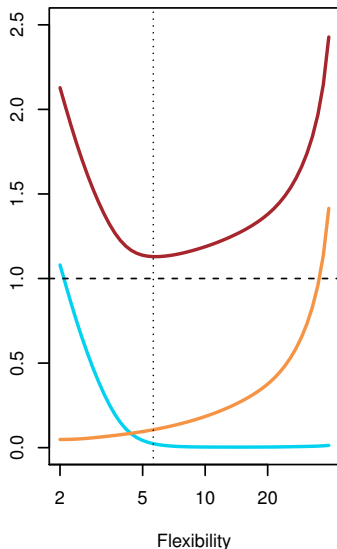
# Bias-Variance Tradeoff

$$\text{test error} = \text{bias}^2 + \text{variance} + c$$

**Bias:** Large if model is not flexible enough

**Variance:** Large if model is too flexible

- True for regression and classification





# Bias-Variance Tradeoff

In the Fukushima disaster, the engineering model had...

- A. High Bias
- B. High Variance

# Bias-Variance Tradeoff

## Scenario 1

- Training error is much lower than desired testing error

## Scenario 2

- Training error is much higher than desired testing error.

In which scenario should you increase the flexibility of your model?

- A. Scenario 1
- B. Scenario 2

# Bias-Variance Tradeoff for KNN

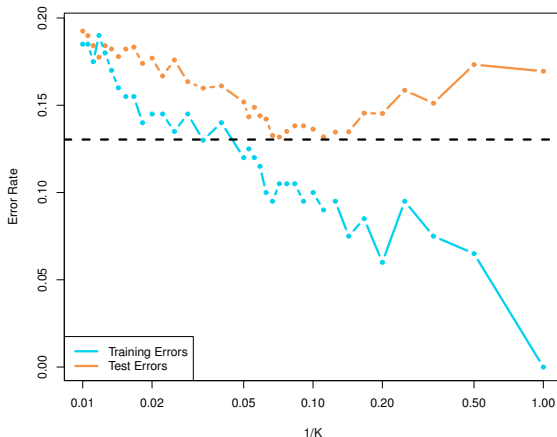
Which of the following is true about the KNN classifier?

- A. As  $K$  grows, we expect higher bias and lower variance.
- B. As  $K$  shrinks, we expect higher bias and lower variance.

# Bias-Variance Tradeoff for KNN

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# Bias-Variance Tradeoff

Suppose you try two classifiers: KNN and Logistic Regression. Which would we expect to have lower bias?

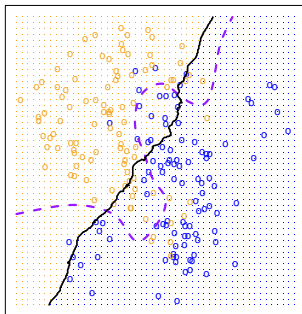
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- A. KNN
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KNN:  $K=100$



# Bias-Variance Tradeoff Mystery

- **In practice:** neural networks have 0 training error, but good test error!

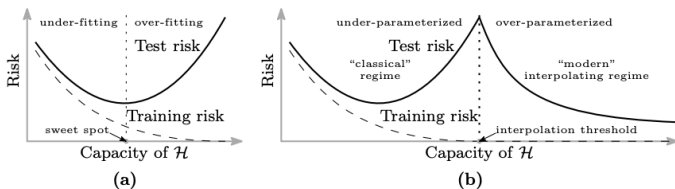


Figure 1: **Curves for training risk (dashed line) and test risk (solid line).** (a) The classical *U-shaped* risk curve arising from the bias-variance trade-off. (b) The *double descent* risk curve, which incorporates the U-shaped risk curve (i.e., the “classical” regime) together with the observed behavior from using high capacity function classes (i.e., the “modern” interpolating regime), separated by the interpolation threshold. The predictors to the right of the interpolation threshold have zero training risk.

Belkin et al. Reconciling modern machine learning practice and the bias-variance trade-off

# Training vs Testing Error

Find the next number of the sequence

1, 3, 5, 7, ?

- training data =  $\{(1, 1), (2, 3), (3, 5), (5, 7)\}$ ,
- $\hat{f}(i) = i\text{th odd number} = 2(i - 1) + 1$ . (linear model)
- Perfect training MSE



# Training vs Testing Error

217341

because when

$$f(x) = \frac{18111}{2}x^4 - 90555x^3 + \frac{633885}{2}x^2 - 452773x + 217331$$

$f(1)=1$

$f(2)=3$  much solution

$f(3)=5$  wow very logic


$f(4)=7$

**$f(5)=217341$**

such function

many maths

wow



- testing data =  $\{(5, 27341)\}$
- Testing MSE =  $(9 - 27341)^2 = 747,038,224$

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What went wrong with our model?

- A. High bias
- B. High variance

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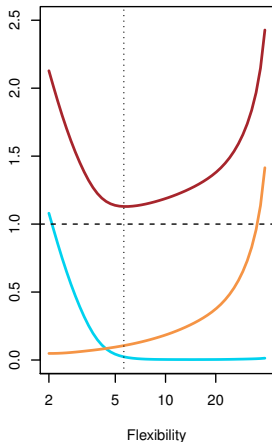
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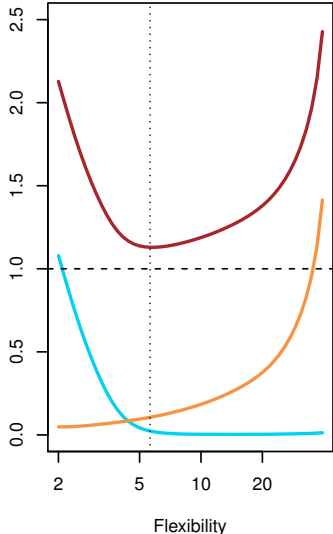
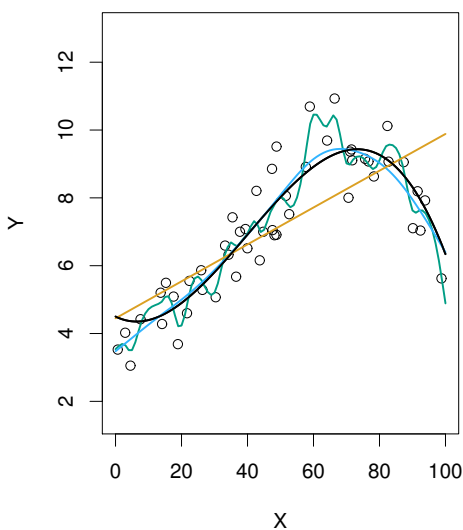
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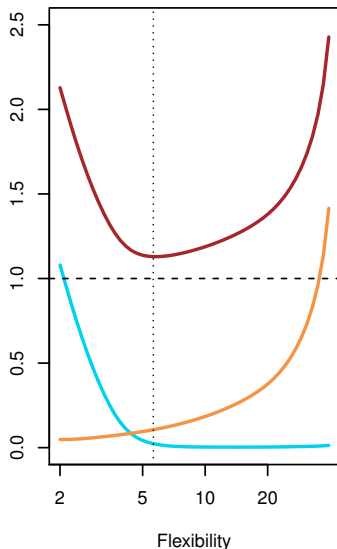
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# What to try next?

You have a training set with one predictor variable and one response variable. You fit a model

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X + \beta_2 X^2 + \beta_3 X^3$$

and get perfect training error. On the the other hand, you are astonished to find out that your model performs really poorly on the test data. Which model should you try next?

Choose one:

**A.**  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X + \beta_2 X^2$

**B.**  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X + \beta_2 X^2 + \beta_3 X^3 + \beta_4 X^4$

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and get perfect **training error**. On the the other hand, you are astonished to find out that your model performs really poorly on the **test data**. Which model should you try next?

Choose one:

- A.  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \exp(X)$
- B.  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \log(X)$
- C. ?????

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- ▶ Want to minimize test error  
(by using the right amount of model flexibility)
- ▶ Test error is unknown  
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Cross-Validation: a way to estimate the test error

# The Validation Set Approach

(ISLR Sec 5.1.1)

(Randomly) split dataset into two subsets:

- ▶ A **training set**: to fit the model  $\hat{f}$
- ▶ A **validation set** (aka hold-out set): to estimate the test error



# A Simple Approach

Example (ISLR Sec 5.3.1): Auto dataset

```
> train = sample(392,196)

> lm.fit = lm(mpg~horsepower, data=Auto, subset=train)
> mean( (mpg - predict(lm.fit, Auto))[-train]^2 )

> lm.fit2 = lm(mpg~poly(horsepower,2), data=Auto, subset=train)
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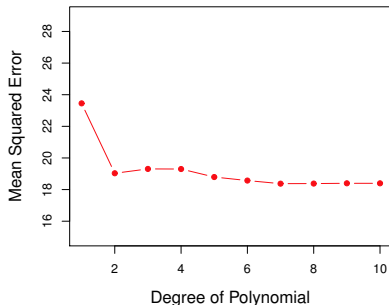
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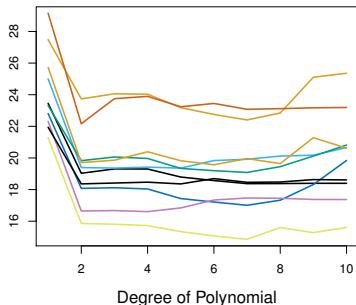
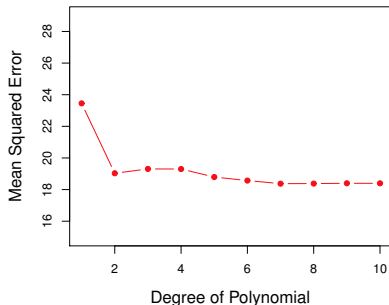
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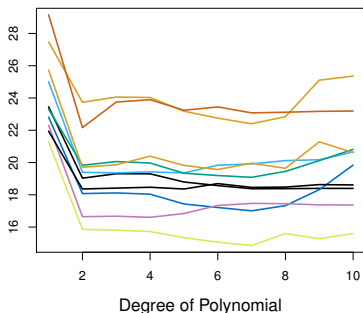
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```



# The Validation Set Approach



Issues:

- ▶ Estimate of test error is highly variable
- ▶ **Wasteful!** Use only half of the data to fit models

# Validation set approach

Suppose you fit a model  $\hat{f}$  using the whole training set.

On average, would you expect the validation set approach to overestimate or to underestimate the testing error  $\mathbb{E}(\hat{f}(x) - f(x))^2$ ?

- A. overestimate
- B. underestimate
- C. unclear

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# Leave-One-Out Cross-Validation (LOOCV) (ISLR 5.1.2)

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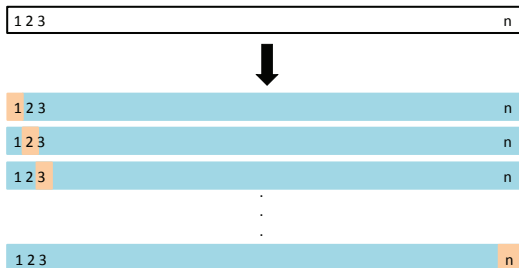
- ▶ Split  $n$  data points into:
  - ▶ a training set of  $n - 1$  points
  - ▶ a validation set of 1 point

# Leave-One-Out Cross-Validation (LOOCV) (ISLR 5.1.2)

- ▶ Split  $n$  data points into:
  - ▶ a training set of  $n - 1$  points
  - ▶ a validation set of 1 point
- ▶ Consider all  $n$  possible ways of splitting

Estimate test error by averaging:

$$CV_{(n)} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{\text{MSE}_i}_{\text{Error on Sample } i}$$



# LOOCV

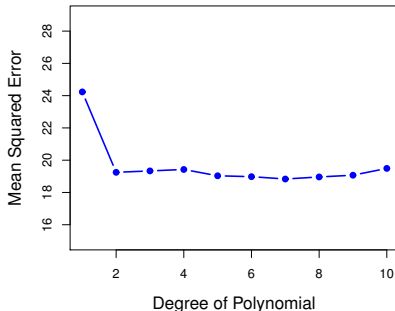
## Example (ISLR Sec 5.3.1): Auto dataset

```
> library(boot)
> for (i in 1:5){
+   glm.fit = glm(mpg~poly(horsepower, i), data=Auto)
+   cv.error[i] = cv.glm(Auto, glm.fit)$delta[1]
+ }
> cv.error
[1] 24.23 19.25 19.33 19.42 19.03
```

# LOOCV

## Example (ISLR Sec 5.3.1): Auto dataset

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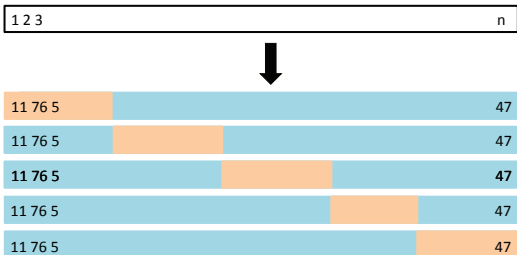


# $k$ -Fold Cross-Validation (ISLR Sec 5.1.3)

- ▶ (Randomly) split dataset into  $k$  subsets (folds) of equal size:
- ▶ Use  $(k - 1)$  subsets to fit model
- ▶ Use the remaining 1 subset as validation set

Get  $k$  estimates of test error; average:

$$CV_{(k)} = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k \underbrace{MSE_i}_{\text{Error on block } i}$$



## ***k*-fold cross validation**

Suppose that the number of training samples, denoted by  $n$ , is a multiple of  $k$ . Then in each “round” of  $k$ -fold cross validation, your training set has size:

- A.**  $n/k$
- B.**  $n - n/k$
- C.**  $(n - n/k) - 1$
- D.**  $k - 1$

## **$k$ -Fold Cross-Validation** (ISLR Sec 5.1.3)

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- ▶ LOOCV: equivalent to  $k = n$
- ▶ Typically  $k = 5$  or  $k = 10$
- ▶ Faster than LOOCV

# ***k*-Fold Cross-Validation**

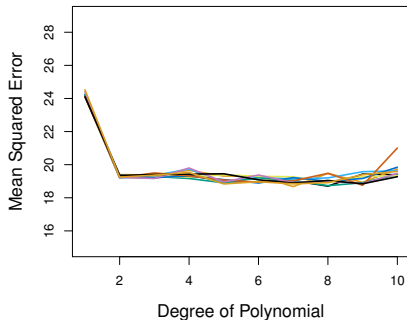
Example (ISLR Sec 5.3.3): Auto dataset

```
> for (i in 1:10){  
+   glm.fit = glm(mpg~poly(horsepower, i), data=Auto)  
+   cv.error[i] = cv.glm(Auto, glm.fit, K=10)$delta[1]  
+ }  
> cv.error  
[1] 24.21 19.19 19.31 19.34 18.88 19.02 18.90 19.71 18.95 19.50
```

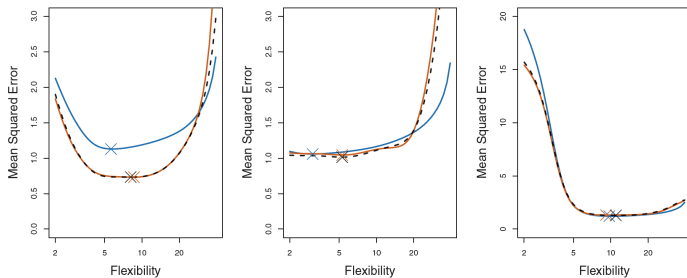
# *k*-Fold Cross-Validation

Example (ISLR Sec 5.3.3): Auto dataset

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```



# $k$ -Fold Cross-Validation



10 fold CV and MSE and LOOCV

Suppose we want to apply cross validation to the following estimation procedure:

- 1 Stage 1:** Fit a linear regression model with full set of  $p$  predictors.
- 2 Stage 2:** Throw out the predictors with the  $r$  smallest values (in magnitude).
- 3 Stage 3:** Fit a linear regression model with the smaller set of  $p - r$  predictors.

We wish to use cross validation to help us choose which  $r$  produces the best test error, with  $r$  ranging from 1 to  $p$ .

**True or False:** A correctly implemented cross validation procedure will possibly choose a different set of  $r$  predictors for every fold in the CV procedure.

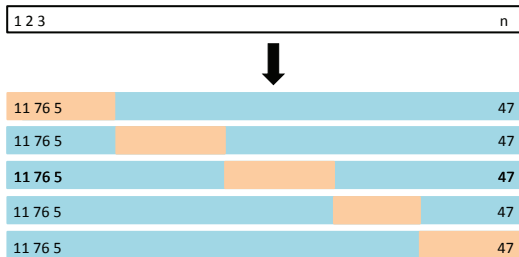
- A.** True
- B.** False

# Cross-Validation on Classification Problems

(ISLR Sec 5.1.5)

Works in the exact same way:

$$CV_{(k)} = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k (\text{Misclassification rate in the } i\text{-th split})$$



Example: estimate test errors for

- ▶ Logistic regression with different high order terms, or
- ▶  $K$  Nearest Neighbor for different  $K$  (not the same  $k$  above)



# Summary

test error = bias<sup>2</sup> + variance

- ▶ Bias decreases with model flexibility
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Cross-Validation: A general way to estimate test error

- ▶ **Validation set approach:** One subset for training, the rest for validation
- ▶ **LOOCV:**  $(n - 1)$  points for training, 1 point for validation
- ▶ **k-Fold CV:** Split into  $k$  folds;  $(k - 1)$  folds for training, 1 for validation

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- ▶ **LOOCV:**  $(n - 1)$  points for training, 1 point for validation
- ▶ **k-Fold CV:** Split into  $k$  folds;  $(k - 1)$  folds for training, 1 for validation

Choosing flexibility:

- ▶ Estimate test errors for models of different flexibility
- ▶ Pick the one with lowest error

## (Optional) A popular interview question

An unknown quantity:

$\theta$  = test error

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Bias-variance equation applies here!

$$\underbrace{\mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2}_{\text{error in estimating the test error}} = \underbrace{(\mathbb{E}\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2}_{\text{bias}^2 \text{ of } \text{CV}_{(k)}} + \underbrace{\text{Var}(\hat{\theta})}_{\text{variance of } \text{CV}_{(k)}}$$

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Question: If we increase  $k$ , how will the bias and variance change?

- A. Bias  $\nearrow$ , variance  $\searrow$ .
- B. Bias  $\searrow$ , variance  $\nearrow$ .
- C. They both stay the same.



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Answer: B; see ISLR Sec 5.1.4

Some of the figures in this presentation are taken from “An Introduction to Statistical Learning, with applications in R” (Springer, 2013) with permission from the authors: G. James, D. Witten, T. Hastie and R. Tibshirani  
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