Validation / Evaluation

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How to test a machine-learning classifier?

A good validation process allows to obtain a minimally biased estimate of the true diagnostic performance of the classifier



- Correct quantification of the discriminatory power of a given model (model evaluation)
- Possibility to compare classification techniques based on different approaches (model selection)

How to test a machine-learning classifier?

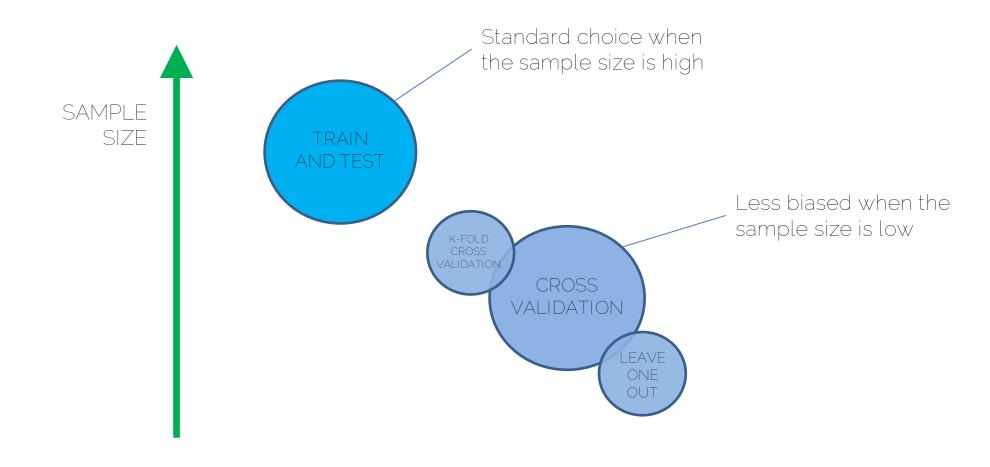
For example, if parameter selection, training of the predictive model and validation are performed using the same dataset, the generated classifier will show limited generalization ability when classifying unseen samples





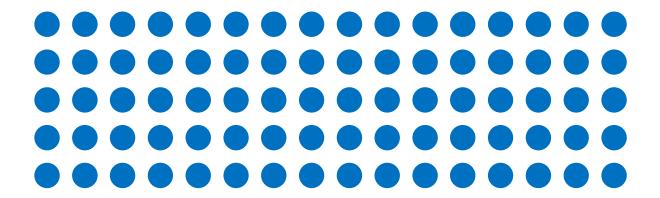
OVERFITTING

Which validation approach?



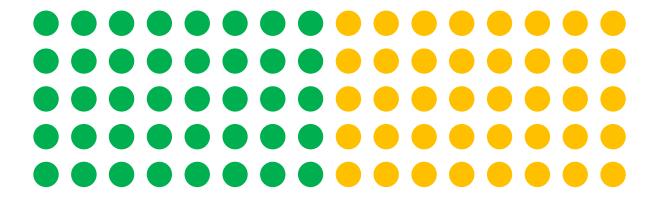
This kind of procedure is used when the number of samples in the original dataset is high enough to allow its splitting into two subsets including different samples, which can be used to train and test the classifier.

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The original dataset is partitioned into 2 complementary subsets, the TRAINING set and the TESTING set.

The TRAINING set is used to train the classifier The TESTING set is used for validation



- Training
- Testing

Advantages:

 Over-training problems are reduced, because the training and testing sets are completely independent

Drawbacks:

 Results could be related to the particular choice of the partition subsets

Leave-One-Out (LOO) CV can be considered a particular form of k-fold CV in which

k = number of samples in the original dataset



TRAINING of the classifier is performed using n-1 samples of the original dataset

TESTING is performed using the remaining sample (n being the total number of samples in the original dataset)



- Training
- Testing

The procedure is then repeated n times, until all samples are used once for validation.



- Training
- Testing

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- Training
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The procedure is then repeated n times, until all samples are used once for validation.



- Training
- Testing

and so on...

Quantification of the discriminatory power of a predictive model even if the size of the dataset is small



CV involves partitioning the original dataset into complementary subsets, the training set and the testing set

The TRAINING set is used to train the classifier
The TESTING set is used to validate the generated predictive model

- Training
- Testing



By using different partitions of the original dataset, multiple rounds of CV can be performed, which can aid reducing the variability of the partitioned subsets.

- Training
- Testing



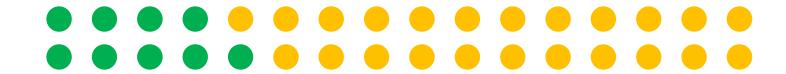
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- Training
- Testing



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- Training
- Testing

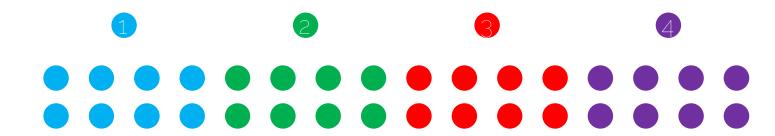


and so on...

Results obtained from multiple rounds can be averaged in order to obtain a quantification of the performance of the classifier.



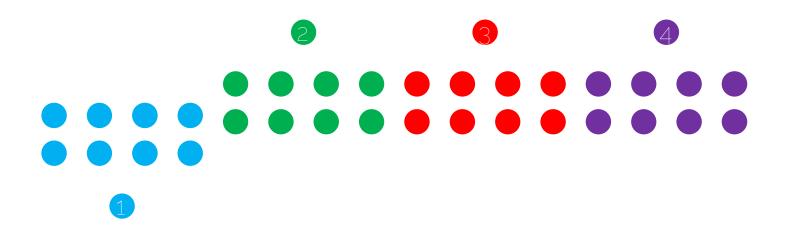
The original dataset is randomly partitioned into k subsets of equal size.



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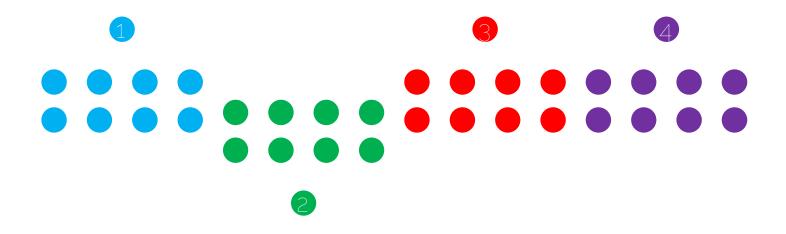
TRAINING of the classifier is performed using k-1 subsets

TESTING is performed using the remaining subset



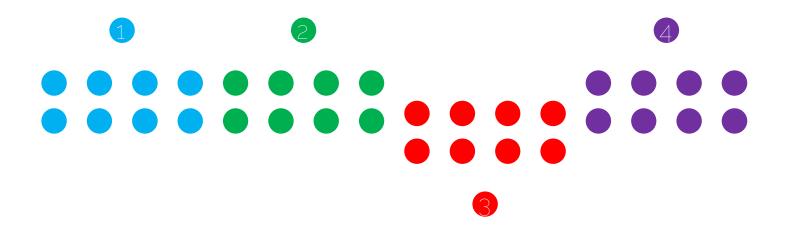






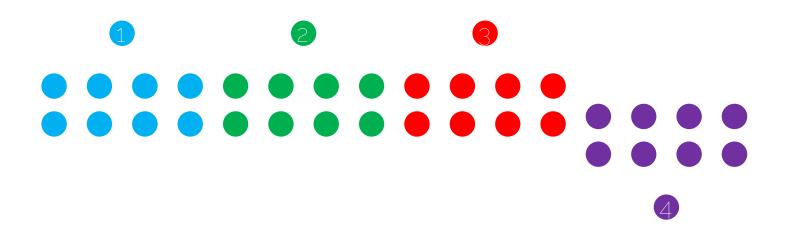












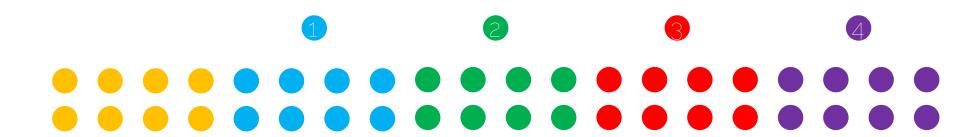


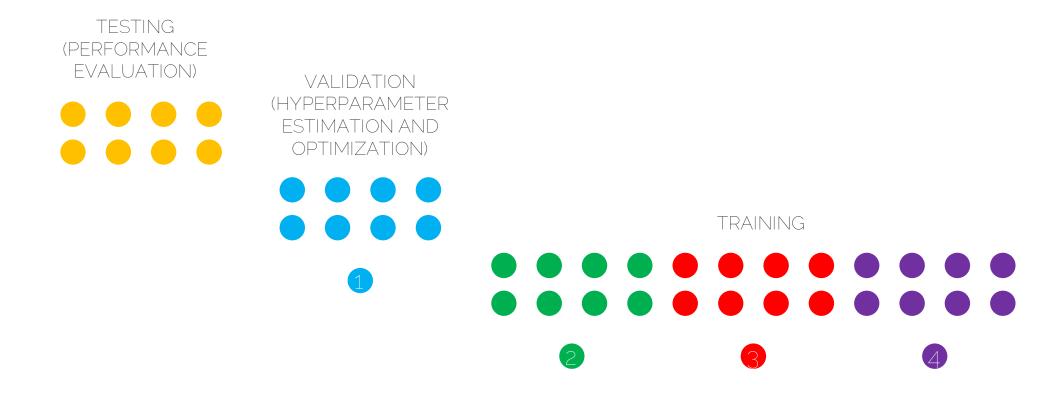
Training



Advantages:

- each sample of the original dataset is used once for validation
- all samples being used for both training and testing phases





Standard Nested Cross Validation (nCV)

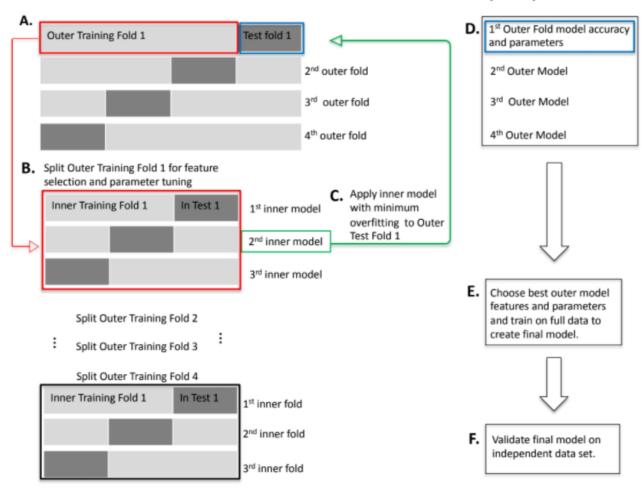


Fig. 1. Standard nested Cross-Validation (nCV). A. Split the data into outer folds of training and testing data pairs (4 outer folds in this illustration). Then do the following for each outer training fold (illustration starting with Outer Training Fold 1 (red box, A)). B. Split outer training fold into inner folds for feature selection and possible hyperparameter tuning by grid search. C. Use the best inner training model including features and parameters (2nd inner model, green box, for illustration) based on minimum overfitting (difference between training and test accuracies) in the inner folds to test on the outer test fold (green arrow to blue box, Test Fold 1). D. Save the best model for this outer fold including the features and test accuracies. Repeat B-D for the remaining outer folds. E. Choose the best outer model with its features based on minimum overfitting. Train on the full data to create the final model. F. Validate the final model on independent data.

Consensus Nested Cross Validation (cnCV)

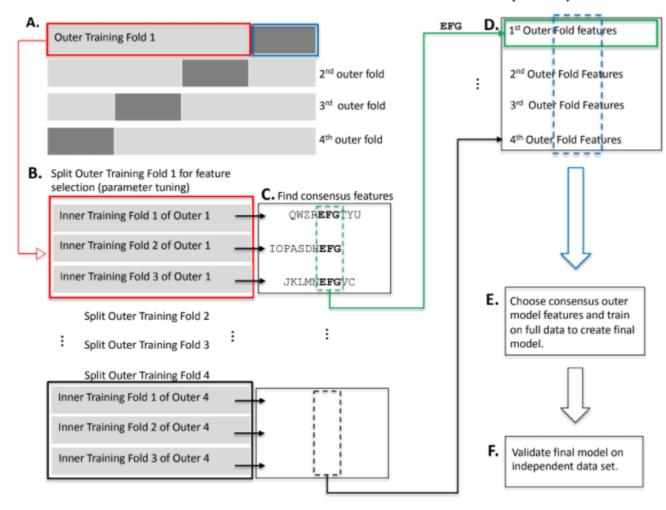


Fig. 2. Consensus Nested Cross-Validation (cnCV). A. Split the data into outer folds (4 outer folds in this illustration). Then do the following for each outer training fold (illustration starting with Outer Training Fold 1 (red box, A)). **B.** Split outer training fold into inner folds for feature selection and optional hyperparameter tuning by grid search. C. Find consensus features. For each fold, features with positive Relief scores are collected (e.g., "QWZREFGTYU" for fold 1). Negative Relief scores have high probability of being irrelevant to classification. The implementation allows for different feature importance methods and tuning the number of input features. Consensus features (found in all folds) are used as the best features in the corresponding outer fold. For example, features "EFG" are shared across the three inner folds. This procedure is used in the inner and outer folds of cnCV. Classification is not needed to select consensus features. **D.** The best outer fold features (green arrow to green box) are found for each fold (i.e., Repeat B-D for all outer folds). E. Choose the consensus features across all the outer folds to train the final model on full data. Consensus features are selected based on training data only. Classification is not performed until the outer consensus features are selected (A-D). F. Validate the final model on independent data.

Performance metrics

A brief overview...

- 1. Accuracy
- 2. Sensitivity and Specificity
- 3. Precision and Recall
- 4. Positive and Negative Predictive Value
- 5. False/True Positive/Negative Rates
- 6. Imbalanced datasets
- 7. ROC-AUC

Accuracy

Accuracy is the most used metric in classification problems

Accuracy of classification =

correctly classified # classified samples (for both classes)

If the error rate is defined as the number of misclassified samples (both classes) divided by the total number of classified samples, it is evident that accuracy and error rate are complementary measures.

Sensitivity and Specificity

Two metrics of great importance in medicine are sensitivity and specificity, as they measure the rate of correctly classified samples in the positive (pathological) and negative (normal) class, respectively.

Sensitivity (also known as True Positive Rate) is given by the number of correctly classified samples belonging to the positive class (true positives) divided by the total number of samples belonging to the positive class (true positives plus false negatives).



Sensitivity and Specificity

Specificity (also known as True Negative Rate) is given by the number of correctly classified samples belonging to the negative class (true negatives) divided by the total number of samples belonging to the negative class (true negatives plus false positives).

```
Specificity =

# correctly classified / # negative samples samples class
```

Here, true positive (negative) gives the number of correctly classified samples belonging to the positive (negative) class, while false positive (negative) gives the number of misclassified samples belonging to the negative (positive) class.

Precision and Recall

Precision is the number of correctly classified samples belonging to the positive class (true positives) divided by the total number of samples predicted as positive by the classifier (true positives plus false positives).

```
# correctly classified / # predicted-as-
samples in the positive / positive samples
class
```

Precision and Recall

Recall is the number of correctly classified samples belonging to the positive class (true positives) divided by the total number of samples in the positive class (true positives plus false negatives = positive samples).

```
Recall =

# correctly classified / # actually-positive samples in the positive class
```

Positive and Negative Predictive Value

Positive Predictive Value is the number of correctly classified samples belonging to the positive class (true positives) divided by the total number of samples predicted as positive by the classifier (true positives plus false positives).

```
# correctly classified / # predicted-as-
samples in the positive / positive samples
class
```

Positive and Negative Predictive Value

Negative Predictive Value is the number of correctly classified samples belonging to the negative class (true negatives) divided by the total number of samples predicted as negative by the classifier (true negatives plus false negatives).

```
# correctly classified / # predicted-as-
samples in the negative / negative samples
class
```

False/True Positive/Negative Rates

```
TPR =

# correctly classified  
samples in the positive  
class

# positive samples class
```

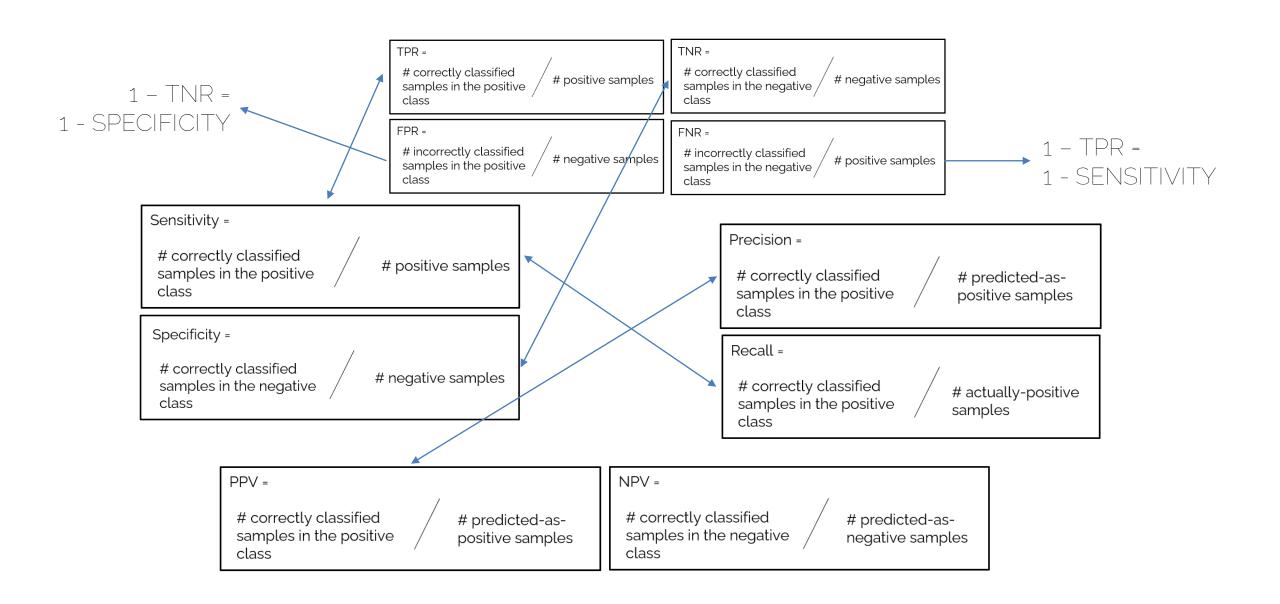
```
# incorrectly classified samples in the positive / # negative samples class
```

```
TNR =

# correctly classified
samples in the negative / # negative samples
class
```

```
# incorrectly classified / # positive samples class
```

Precision and Recall



		Predicted condition	
	Total population = P + N	Positive (PP)	Negative (PN)
Actual condition	Positive (P)	True positive (TP)	False negative (FN)
	Negative (N)	False positive (FP)	True negative (TN)

Positive	95/100
Negative	75/100



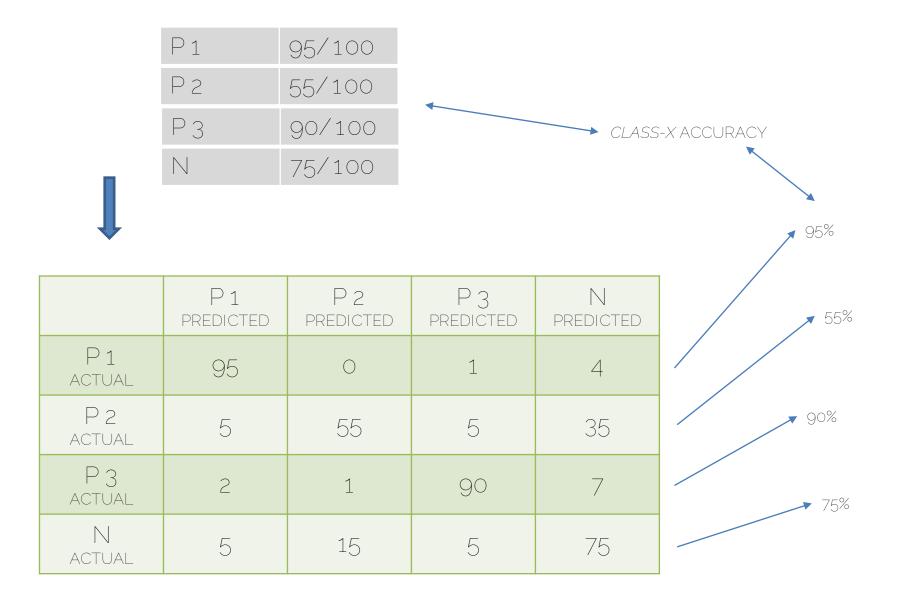
	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED
P ACTUAL	95	5
N actual	25	75



Positive	95/100
Negative	75/100

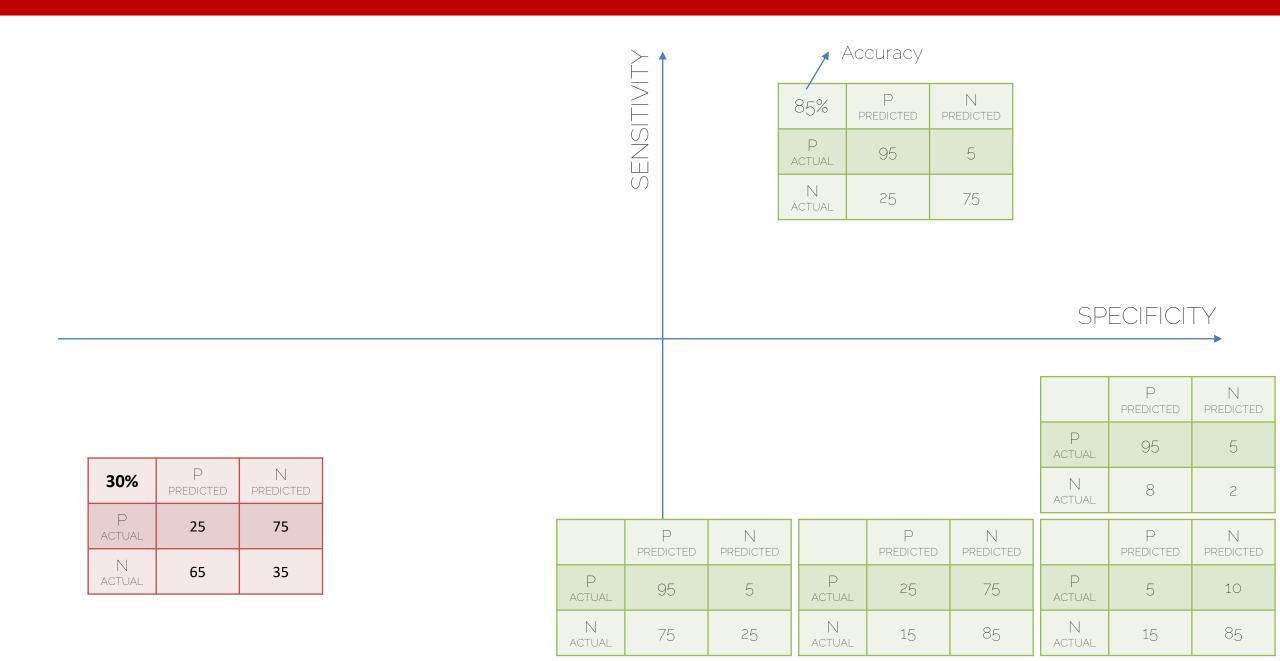


	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED
P ACTUAL	95	5
N actual	25	75









 60%
 P PREDICTED
 N PREDICTED

 P ACTUAL
 95
 5

 N ACTUAL
 75
 25

Accuracy				
85%	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED		
P ACTUAL	95	5		
N actual	25	75		

SPECIFICITY

Р

PREDICTED

95

8

ACTUAL

ACTUAL

N PREDICTED

5

30%	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED
P ACTUAL	25	75
N actual	65	35

	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED
P ACTUAL	25	75
N actual	15	85

	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED
P ACTUAL	5	10
N actual	15	85

 60%
 P PREDICTED
 N PREDICTED

 P ACTUAL
 95
 5

 N ACTUAL
 75
 25

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Accuracy				
85%	P PREDICTED	N predicted		
P ACTUAL	95	5		
N actual	25	75		

SPECIFICITY

30%	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED
P ACTUAL	25	75
N actual	65	35

55%	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED
P ACTUAL	25	75
N actual	15	85

	PREDICTED	PREDICTED
P ACTUAL	95	5
N actual	8	2
	P PREDICTED	N predicted
P ACTUAL	5	10
N ACTUAL	15	85

 60%
 P PREDICTED
 N PREDICTED

 P ACTUAL
 95
 5

 N ACTUAL
 75
 25

Y I N I S N

Accuracy		
85%	P PREDICTED	N predicted
P ACTUAL	95	5
N actual	25	75

SPECIFICITY

30%	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED
P ACTUAL	25	75
N actual	65	35

55	%	P PREDICTED		PREI	N dicted	
F ACT		25			75	
) ACT			15		85	
	78	3%	P PREDIC	CTED	N predic	CTED
		P TUAL			1C)
		V Tual	15		85	-)

	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED
P ACTUAL	95	5
N actual	8	2

Ν 88% PREDICTED PREDICTED 95 5 P ACTUAL N 60% PREDICTED PREDICTED 8 2 ACTUAL 95 5 ACTUAL N 75 25 ACTUAL

Accuracy		
85%	P PREDICTED	N predicted
P ACTUAL	95	5
N actual	25	75

SENSITIVITY

SPECIFICITY

30%	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED
P ACTUAL	25	75
N actual	65	35

55	%	P PREDICTED		PREI	N dicted	
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	78	3%	P PREDIC	CTED	N predic	CTED
		D WAL	5		1C)
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 88%
 P PREDICTED
 N PREDICTED

 P ACTUAL
 95
 5

 N ACTUAL
 8
 2

SENSITIVITY

95%

20%

Accuracy Р N 85% PREDICTED PREDICTED Р 95% 95 5 ACTUAL N 75% 25 75 ACTUAL

SPECIFICITY

60%	P PREDICTED	N predicted
P ACTUAL	95	5
N actual	75	25

ا		
95	- %	
25	-%	

30%	P PREDICTED	N predicted
P ACTUAL	25	75
N actual	65	35

25% 35%

55%	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED	
P ACTUAL	25	75	
N actual	15	85	

25%
85%

78%	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED
P ACTUAL	5	10
N actual	15	85

33%

85%

Performance metrics for imbalanced datasets

Prevalence is "the proportion of a particular population with a given condition".

In our case, it is the ratio between the number of actually-positive samples and the entire-sample size

```
Prevalence =

# samples in the positive / # samples
class (actual) / (actual positives + negatives)
```

Performance metrics for imbalanced datasets

Geometric Mean of the true rates is the geometric mean between sensitivity and specificity

Which values does it span?

Performance metrics for imbalanced datasets

Dominance is the difference between sensitivity and specificity

Dominance =

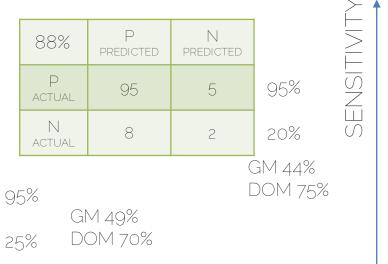
Sensitivity - Specificity

Which values does it span?

 60%
 P PREDICTED
 N PREDICTED

 P ACTUAL
 95
 5

 N ACTUAL
 75
 25



	Accuracy			
85%	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED		
P ACTUAL	95	5	95%	GM 84%
N actual	25	75	75%	DOM 20%

SPECIFICITY

30%	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED
P ACTUAL	25	75
N actual	65	35

25% GM 30% 35% DOM -10%

55%	P PREDICTED	N PREDICTED	
P ACTUAL	25	75	25%
N actual	15	85 GM 2	85% 46%
			40% 1-60%

78%	P PREDICTED	N predicted
P ACTUAL	5	10
N ACTUAL	15	85

85% 53%

33%

DOM -52%

F1 Score

F1 score is an armonic mean of precision (PPV) and recall (= sensitivity)

$$F_1 = rac{2}{ ext{recall}^{-1} + ext{precision}^{-1}} = 2rac{ ext{precision} \cdot ext{recall}}{ ext{precision} + ext{recall}} = rac{2 ext{tp}}{2 ext{tp} + ext{fp} + ext{fn}}$$

Why useful?

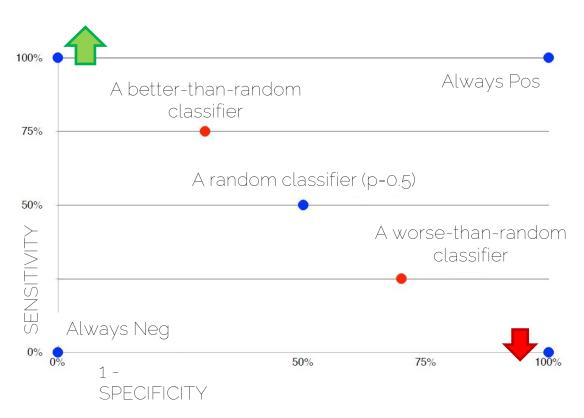
As above, it is convenient to have one single metric to compare classification performance (not both sensitivity/specificity or precision/recall)

Standard average is not always a good measure $\frac{P+R}{2}$

F1 score behaves better (what happens when precision = 0? when recall = 0? when is F1 score = 1?)

Another important metric in classification problems is given by the study of the Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve.

For a binary classifier, A ROC curve is a plot of the TPR (sensitivity) against the FPR (1 – specificity), which can be obtained at different setting thresholds.



The Area Under the ROC Curve (AUC) gives a quantification of the classifier performance, with a higher statistical consistency than accuracy.

