Biostatistics Week XIV

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Two issues

Model selection

• How do we select the **optimal** model for a given problem

Validation

- Once we have chosen a model, how do we estimate its true error rate?
- (the error rate when tested on the entire population)

Naïve Approach

- Use the entire training data to select the optimal model, then estimate the error rate
- Two fundamental problems:
 - The final model will likely **overfit** the training data (i.e., it will not be able to generalize to new data)
 - The error rate estimate will be overly optimistic (lower than the true error rate)

The Holdout Method

Training Set Test Set

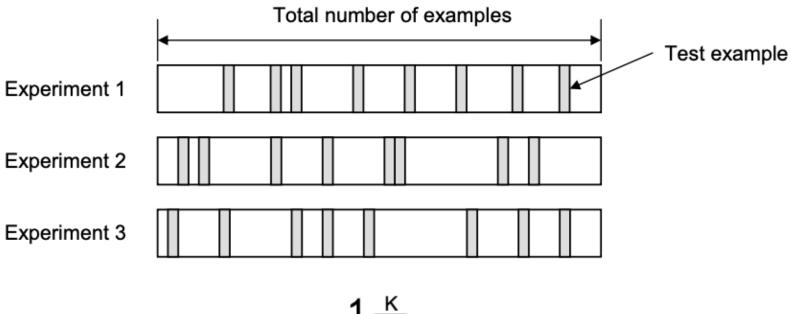
- Split dataset in two groups
 - Training set: used to obtain the model
 - Test set: used to estimate the error rate of the trained model
- Since it is a single train-and-test experiment, the holdout estimate of error rate will be misleading if we happen to get an "unfortunate" split

Resampling Methods

- The limitations of the holdout can be overcome with a family of resampling methods at the expense of higher computational cost:
 - Cross Validation
 - Random Subsampling
 - K-Fold Cross-Validation
 - Leave-one-out Cross-Validation
 - Bootstrap

Random Subsampling

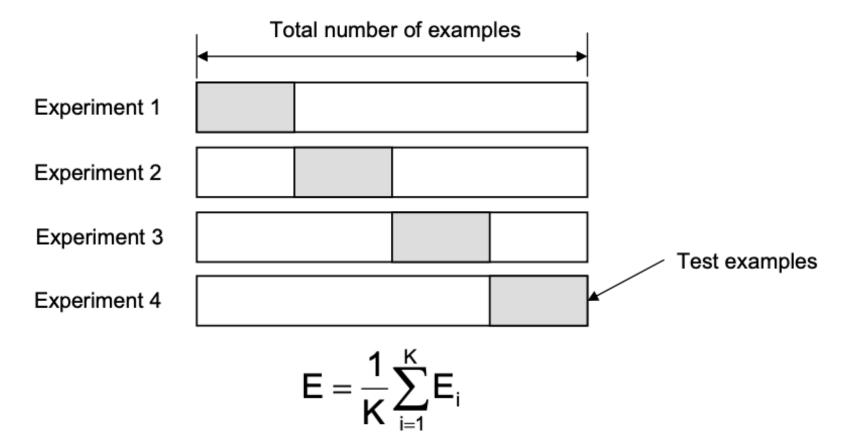
Random subsampling performs K data splits of size m (without replacement)



$$E = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{i=1}^{K} E_i$$

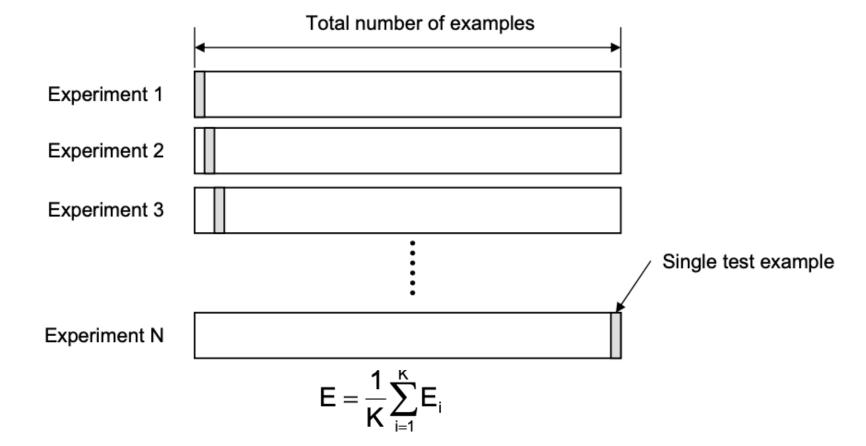
K-Fold Cross-Validation

Each instance is eventually used for both training and testing



Leave-one-out Cross-Validation

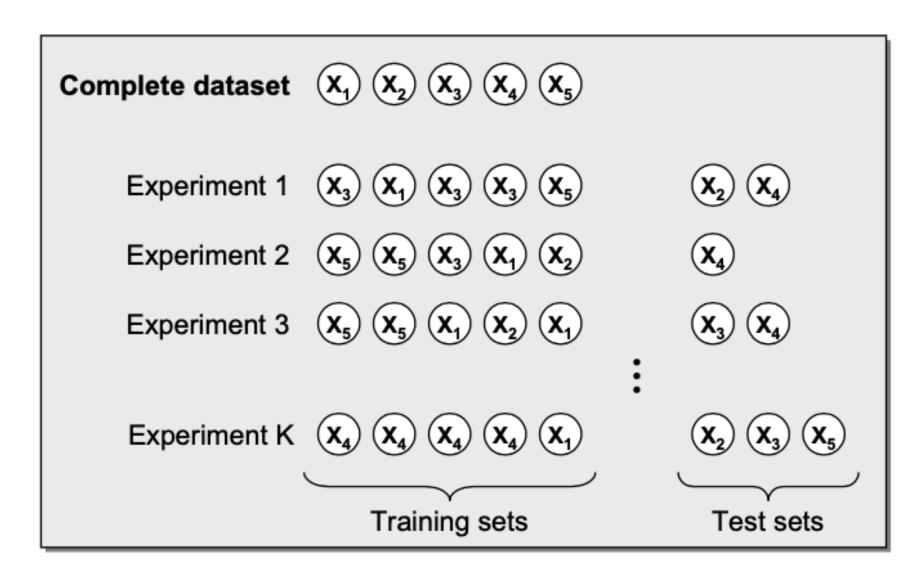
Leave-one-out is the degenerate case of K-Fold Cross Validation,
where K is chosen as the total number of examples



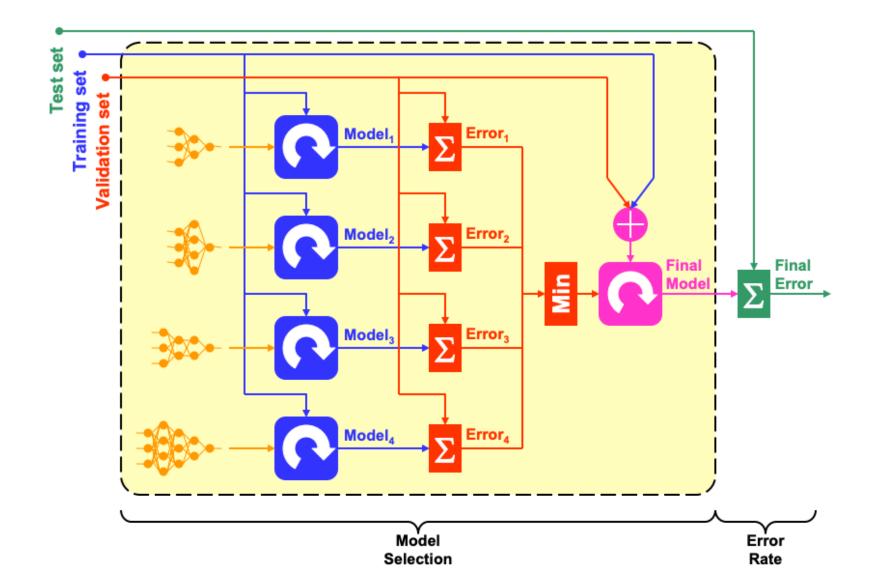
Tips on Cross Validation

- With larger K
 - The bias of the true error rate estimator will be small (the estimator will be very accurate)
 - The variance of the true error rate estimator will be large
 - The computational time will be very large as well
- A common choice for K-fold CV is K = 10
- For large datasets, even 3-Fold Cross Validation will be quite accurate
- For very sparse datasets, we may have to use leave-one-out in order to train on as many examples as possible

The Bootstrap



Three-way data splits



Brief Summary

- Resampling methods:
 - Cross Validation
 - Random Subsampling
 - K-Fold Cross-Validation
 - Leave-one-out Cross-Validation
 - Bootstrap