# Bias-variance Tradeoff

Data Splitting and Resampling

Joe Nese Week 2, Class 1

### Agenda

- Understanding the bias-variance tradeoff
- Data splitting and why it matters
- Introduce resampling methods
- Discussion responses

## Bias Variance Trade-off

#### Bias Variance Trade-off

- The goal of machine learning is to predict results based on new (unseen) data
- We use existing data to teach the machine how to predict results for new (unseen) data
- We want the best predictions, and we generally do this by minimizing prediction error
- Two types of prediction error:
  - Bias
  - Variance

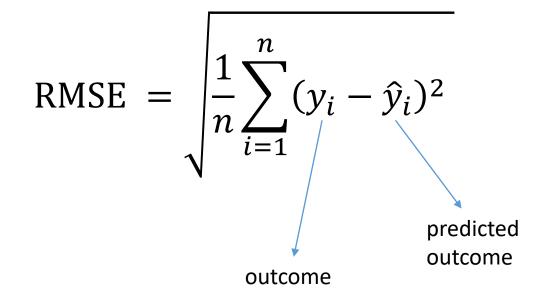
#### Bias

- The difference between the (average) prediction of our model and the true value we are trying to predict
  - This is equivalent to statistical bias
  - Does not have to be average
- Gives us an idea how well a model fits the underlying structure of the data
- A model with low bias is providing predictions close to "truth"
- A model with high bias systematically ignores relevant details in the data

#### Variance

- The variability of a model prediction for a given data point
  - A measure of the variability of predictions if we <u>repeat the model multiple</u> <u>times with small differences in the data</u>
  - The more the model fits to small differences in data, the higher the variance
- Highly flexible models are more prone to higher variance
- Highly flexible models are more prone to overfitting to the (training) data
  - Results in very good performance measures, BUT
  - Poor generalizability to new (unseen) data

## Root Mean Square Error (RMSE)



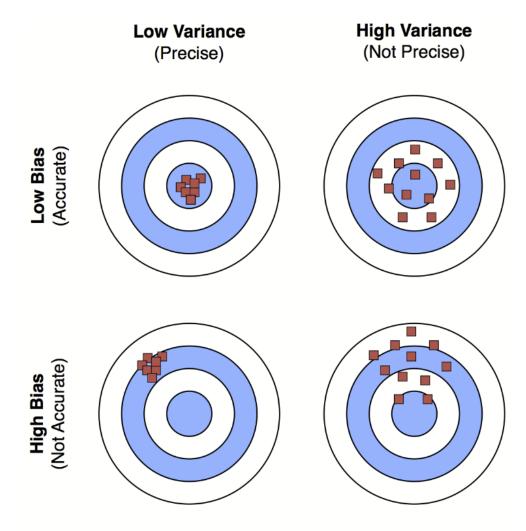
### Mean Square Error (MSE)

$$MSE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$

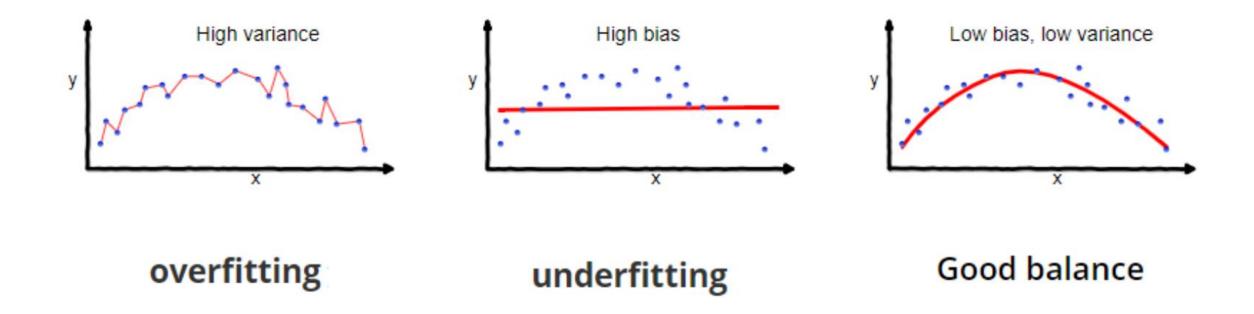
Estimated 
$$MSE = \sigma^2 + (Model \, Bias)^2 + Model \, Variance$$

variance of residuals this is the "noise" in the data (unaffected by modeling)

# One way to look at it



#### General idea



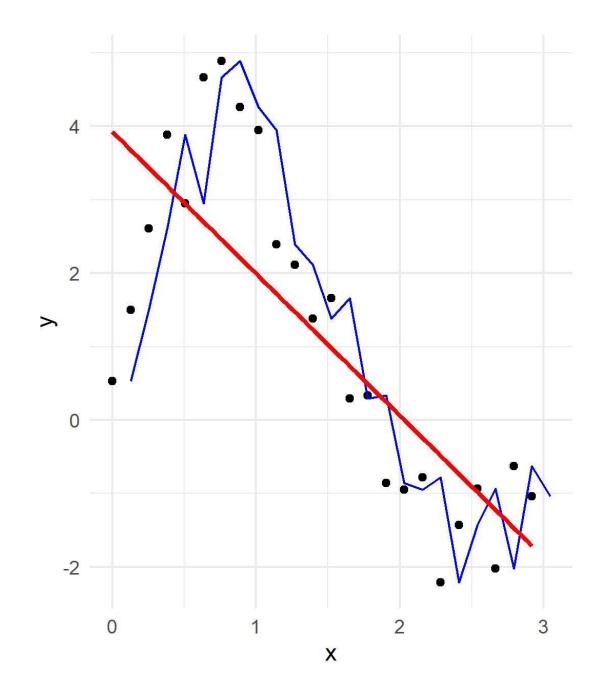
...but really, you're not getting at variance without multiple model fits

#### "Simpler" model

- low variance because the model would not change with new data from the same population
- under-fit
- high bias (distance from data)

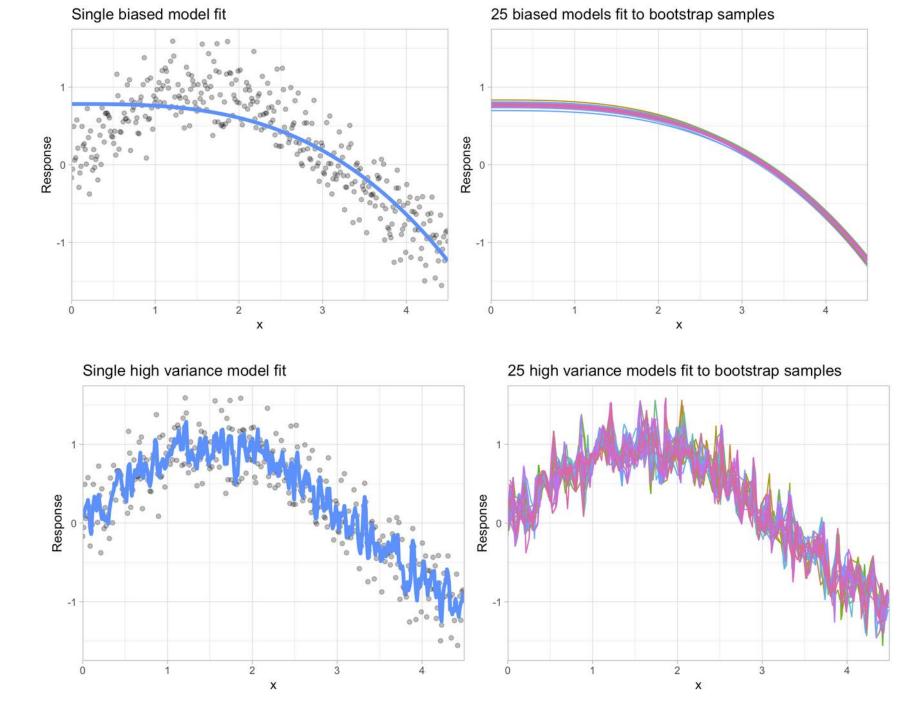
#### More "complex" model

- high variance because small changes to the data would change the model fit
- over-fit



### Bias



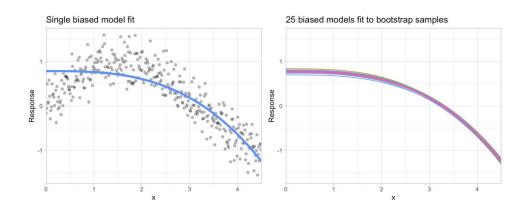


Figures from **HOML** 

### Properties of selected models

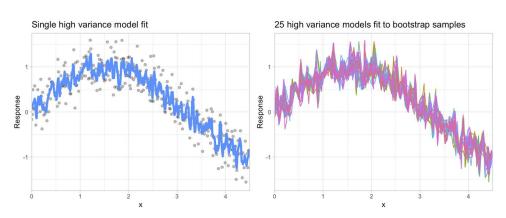
#### **High Bias – Low Variance**

- Linear models
  - Linear regression
  - Logistic regression
  - Partial least squares (PLS)



#### **High Variance – Low Bias**

- *k*-nearest neighbor
- decision trees
- gradient boosting machines
- neural networks

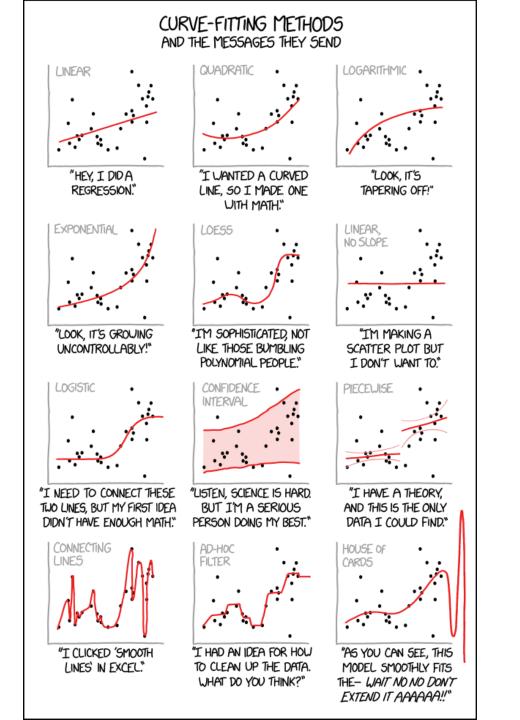


### Regularization

- Regularization methods can help reduce overfitting
- Helps reduce variance while maintaining bias
- Regularization generally helps controls the model from excessively fluctuating to (over) fit to the data
- Reduces the amount that an individual variable impacts the predictions for a given sample
  - penalties in linear regression
  - dropout in a neural net, trees to randomly drop nodes from the model during fitting
  - sample variables in random forests

#### Bias Variance Trade-off

- There is a tradeoff between a model's ability to minimize bias AND variance
- Understanding how different sources of error lead to bias and variance helps us improve the data fitting process resulting in more accurate models
- **Bias** difference between the (average) prediction of our model and the true value we are trying to predict
- Variance variability of a model prediction for a given data point
  - Implies fitting a model multiple times to different data



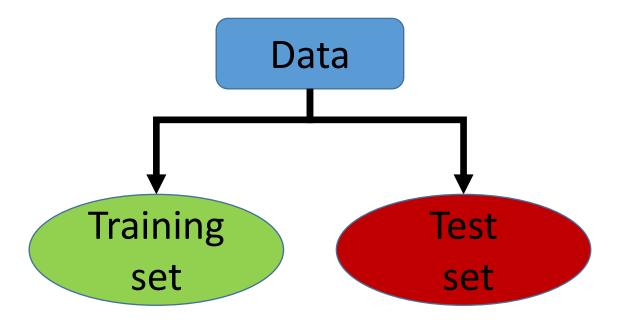
# Data Splitting

### Data Splitting

- The goal of machine learning is to predict results based on new (unseen) data
- "The best way to measure a model's performance at predicting new data is to predict new data." paraphrasing/quoting multiple experts
- The simplest way to do this is to split our data into two parts:
  - Training set
  - Test set
- We then fit a model to the training data and predict the results of the test set

### Data splitting

- We can do anything we want to the training set
  - train our algorithms, tune hyperparameters, compare models, and all of the other activities required to choose a final model
- We do nothing with the test set until we have finalized our model using from the training set
  - Data leakage is using ANY part of the test set in our training set
    - Using the test set during our modeling process
    - Pre-processing or feature engineering the full data (training and test sets together)
    - Time series design, when the outcome of one series is used in the prediction of the next





#### {rsample}



```
math_split <- initial_split(math)

math_train <- training(math_split)

math_test <- testing(math_split)</pre>
```

- These three functions are meant to be used in conjunction
- A good rule is to make these the first lines of your ML project code
  - some differ

# initial split() help documentation

```
initial_split(data, prop = 3/4, strata = NULL, breaks = 4, ...)
initial_time_split(data, prop = 3/4, ...)
training(x)
testing(x)
```

#### Arguments

data A data frame.

**prop** The proportion of data to be retained for modeling/analysis.

**strata** A variable that is used to conduct stratified sampling to create the resamples. This could be a single character value or a variable name that corresponds to a variable that exists in the data frame.

**breaks** A single number giving the number of bins desired to stratify a numeric stratification variable.

... Not currently used.

x An rsplit object produced by initial\_split

# Let's take a look at initial\_split()

```
math <- read csv(here::here("data", "edld-654-spring-2020", "train.csv"))</pre>
set.seed(210)
 (math split <- initial split(math))</pre>
<142070/47356/189426>
train
               test
                             total
math split %>% training() %>% nrow() / nrow(math)
[1] 0.7500026
names (math split)
    "data" "in id" "out id" "id"
class(math split)
    "rsplit" "mc split"
```

## Additional arguments

```
initial_split(data, prop = 3/4, strata = NULL, breaks = 4, ...)
initial_time_split(data, prop = 3/4, ...)
training(x)
testing(x)
```

#### Arguments

data A data frame.

**prop** The proportion of data to be retained for modeling/analysis.

**strata** A variable that is used to conduct stratified sampling to create character value or a variable name that corresponds to a varia

**breaks** A single number giving the number of bins desired to stratify a

... Not currently used.

**x** An rsplit object produced by initial split

The default is simple random assignment, with:

- 75% to the training set, and
- 25% to the test set

A general guideline is somewhere between 60%/40% & 80%/20%.

- Spending too much in training (e.g., > 80%) may mean poor predictive performance. It may fit the training data very well, but is not generalizable (overfitting).
- Spending too much in testing (e.g., > 40%) may mean poor assessment of model parameters (underfitting).
- If you have a lot of data, you may see little predictive benefit of using the entire data, but an increase in computational time.
- If you have more features/predictors than rows, you may need a larger sample size to identify consistent signals in the features.

```
split_data <- initial_split(ames, prop = .70)</pre>
```

### Let's take a look at prop

```
set.seed(210)
(math_split70 <- initial_split(math, prop = .70))
<132599/56827/189426>

math_split70 %>% training() %>% nrow() / nrow(math)
[1] 0.7000042
```

## Additional arguments

```
initial_split(data, prop = 3/4, strata = NULL,
initial_time_split(data, prop = 3/4, ...)
training(x)
testing(x)
```

#### Arguments

```
data A data frame.
```

**prop** The proportion of data to be retaine

**strata** A variable that is used to conduct st character value or a variable name t

breaks A single number giving the number

... Not currently used.

As opposed to simple random assignment, you can use **stratified sampling** to ensure the training and test sets have similar outcome (*Y*) distributions/proportions (equal to that of the full data set). Helps ensure a balanced representation of the response distribution in both the training and test sets.

#### Especially useful if:

- the continuous outcome is not normally distributed (skewed)
  - stratified sampling will segment outcome into quantiles and randomly sample from each
- the categorical outcome has substantial unbalanced classes (e.g., 6% HS dropout, 94% graduate)

```
split_data <- initial_split(ames, strata = Sales_Price)</pre>
```

x An rsplit object produced by initial\_split

#### Let's take a look at strata

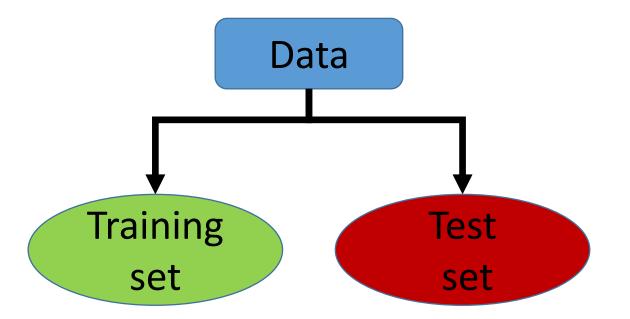
Not a great example because we're stratifying by a predictor and not the outcome but...

```
math split %>%
                                      math split %>%
  training() %>%
                                        testing() %>%
  janitor::tabyl(ethnic_cd)
                                       janitor::tabyl(ethnic cd)
                                       ethnic cd n percent
 ethnic cd n percent
        A 5885 0.04142324
                                              A 1810 0.038221134
          3148 0.02215809
                                              B 1002 0.021158882
         H 34537 0.24309847
          1848 0.01300767
                                                 594 0.012543289
         M 8930 0.06285634
                                             M 2965 0.062610862
         P 1077 0.00758077
                                                  353 0.007454177
         W 86645 0.60987541
                                              W 29287 0.618443281
math split strat <- initial split(math, strata = ethnic cd)
math split strat %>%
                                      math split strat %>%
 training() %>%
```

# Resampling

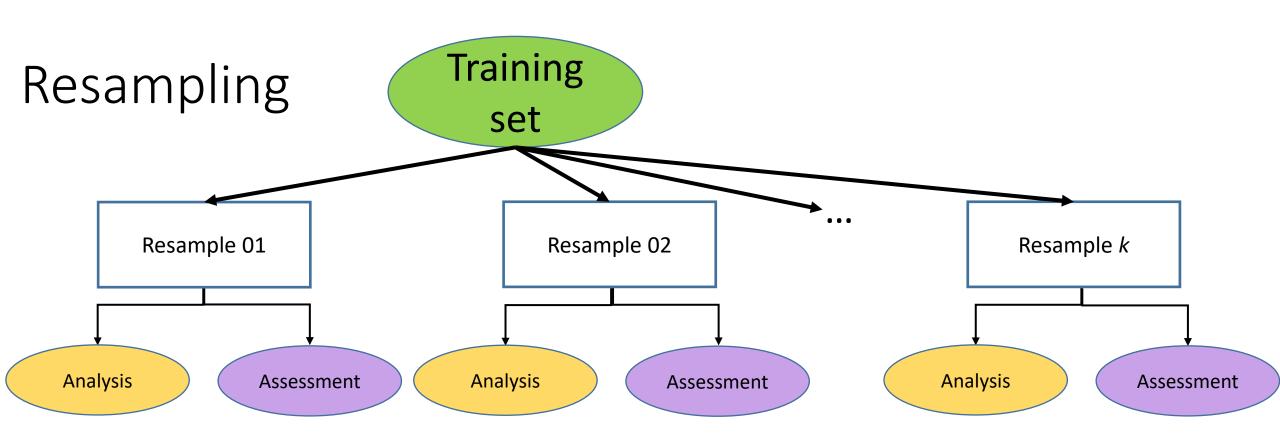
### We split – now what?

- Again, we NEVER use the test set until we have a "final model"
- And "the best way to measure a model's performance at predicting new data is to predict new data"
- So how do we measure model performance during the training phase? What new data do we predict?
- Just re-predicting the training set is not ideal
  - biases results may well predict training set but won't generalize to new data
  - no measure of variance if we only have one measure of performance (based on predicting the training set)
- We **resample** training set



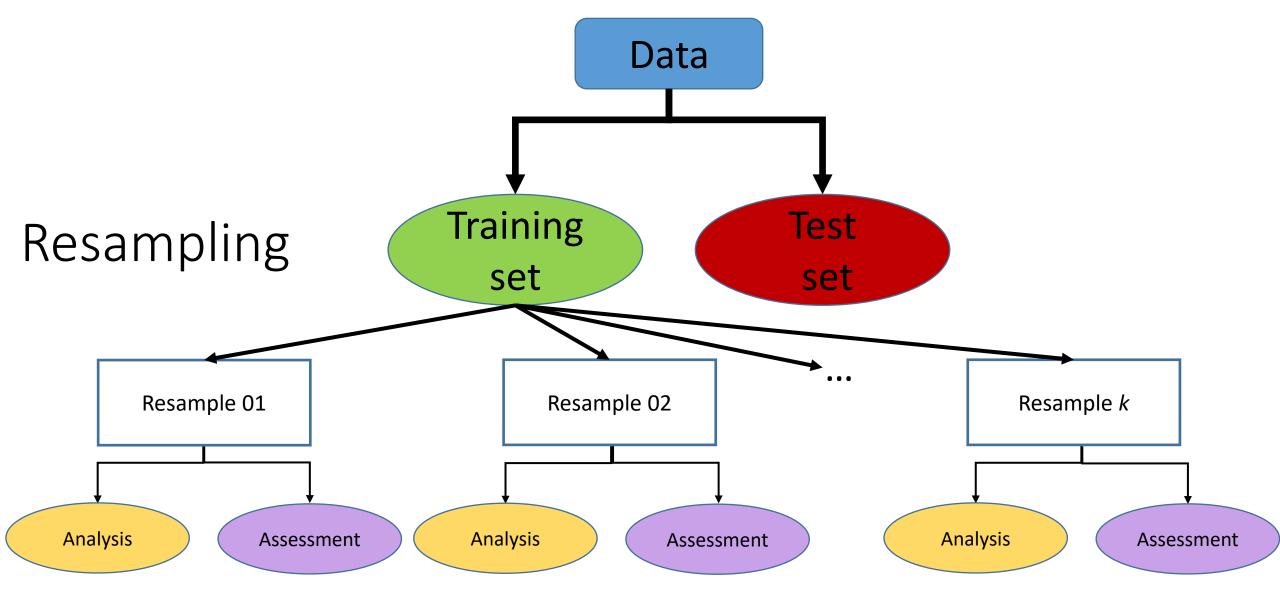
# Resampling

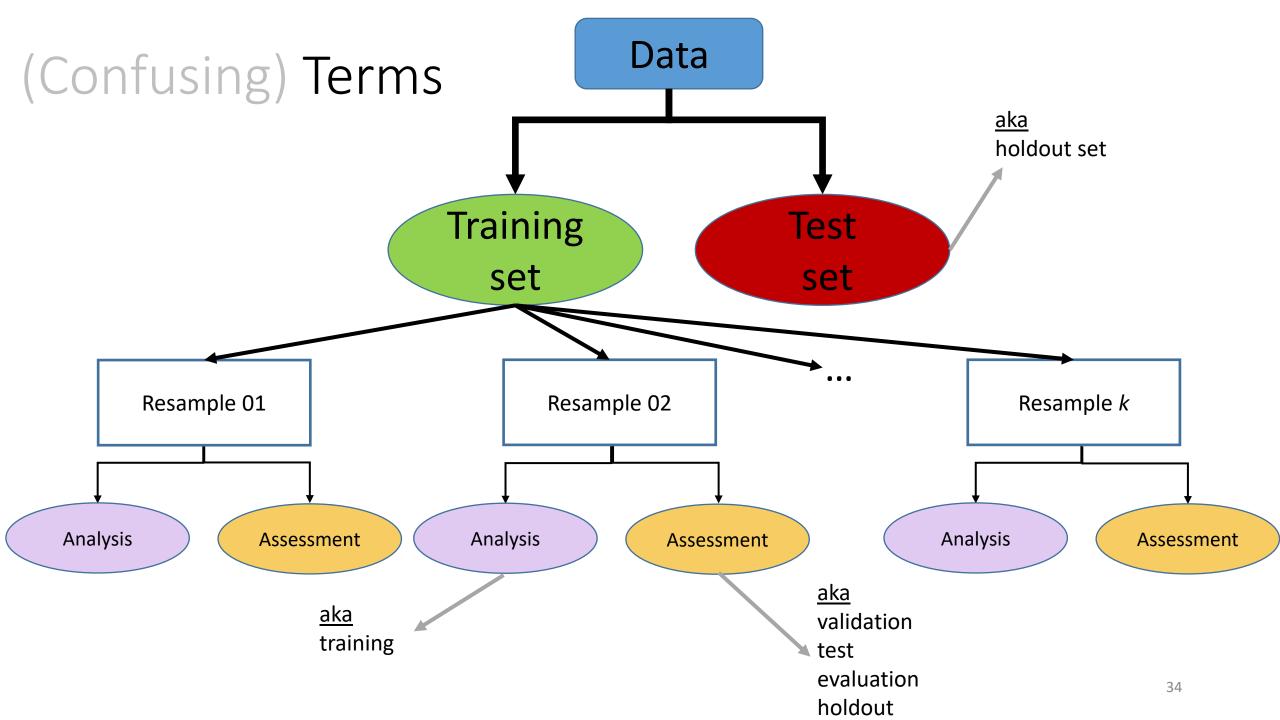




Training:Test::Analysis:Assessment -OR-

Analysis functions like the Training set Assessment functions like the Test set





### Common Resampling Methods

- k-fold cross-validation
  - Probably the most common resampling method for model evaluation and model selection in applied ML
- Monte Carlo cross-validation
- Bootstrapping
- Others (most not discussed here)
  - Leave one out cross validation (LOOCV)
  - Rolling origin forecasting for time series data
  - 632 and 632+ methods
  - Maximum dissimilarity sampling

## *k*-fold cross-validation (*k*-fold CV)

 We randomly split the training data into k distinct samples ("folds") of (approximately) equal size

#### 10-fold CV

- k = 10
- Within each fold, a random 10% (1/10) of training data are sampled for the assessment set
  - The 10% assessment sample is completely different for each fold
  - Each observation (row) serves in one and only one assessment sample
- The remaining 90% of the training data serve as the analysis set in the fold



	Fold01	Fold02	Fold03	Fold04	Fold05	Fold06	Fold07	Fold09	Fold09	Fold10
01										
02										
03										
04										
05										
06										
07										
08										
09										
10										

#### k-fold CV

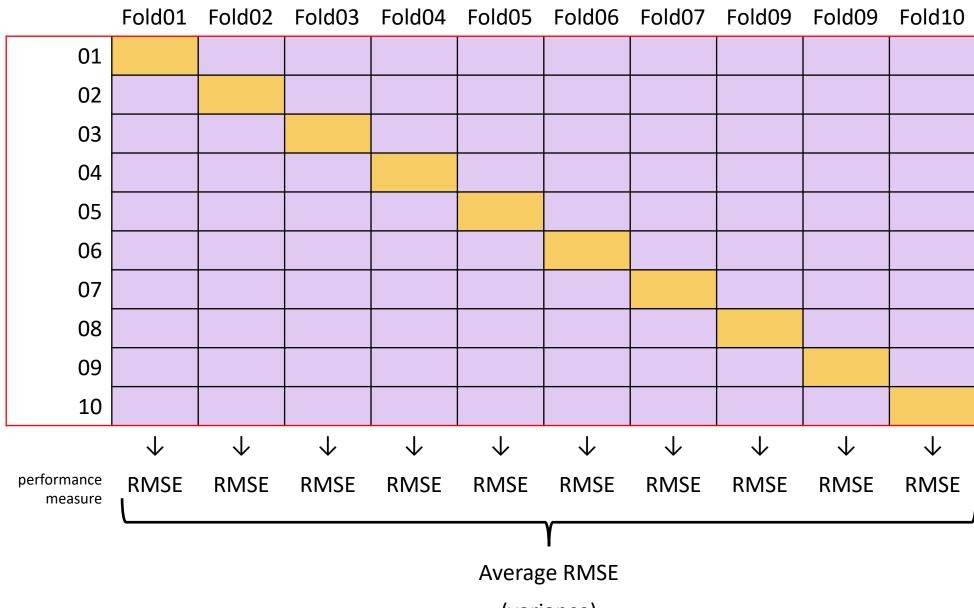
- k = 5
- Within each fold, a random 20% (1/5) of training data are sampled for the assessment set
  - The 20% assessment sample is completely different for each fold
  - Each observation (row) serves in one and only one assessment sample
- The remaining 80% of the training data serve as the analysis set in the fold



	Fold01	Fold02	Fold03	Fold04	Fold05
01					
02					
03					
04					
05					
06					
07					
08					
09					
10					

#### Results

- Fold01
  - We fit our model on the Fold01 analysis set (leaving out the assessment set)
  - We apply our resulting model parameters to predict the assessment set
  - We get our performance measures (objective functions)
- We repeat this process until we've predicted all k assessment sets
- The final performance is the *average* performance measure across the *k* folds



(variance)

# *k*-fold CV suggestions

- Larger values of *k*:
  - produce less bias (because the difference between a fold and the training set decreases)
  - more computationally intensive
- 10 folds is a good rule-of-thumb
  - Leave-one-out is the most extreme resampling technique
    - Use *n* 1 to predict each row
  - 10-fold CV performed comparably to LOOCV (Molarino, 2005)

# *k*-fold CV suggestions

- Has more variability compared to other resampling methods (bootstrapping)
  - **Repeating** *k*-fold CV can improve the accuracy of the estimates while maintaining small bias (Molarino, 2005; Kim, 2009)
  - Helps reduce variability between folds; gives a more complete estimate of the overall between-fold variability (i.e., the variance distribution)
    - 10-fold CV repeated 5 times = 50 models/performance measures
    - Particularly useful for smaller data sets
    - For large training sets, variance and bias issues are less of a concern
  - Repeated CV is not equivalent to increasing the number of folds (e.g., 50-fold CV)

## vfold cv()



```
vfold_cv(data, v = 10, repeats = 1, strata = NULL, breaks = 4, ...)

data = your training set from training()

v = number of folds (default = 10)

repeats = number of repeats (default = 1)

strata = variable to conduct stratified sampling to create the folds
breaks = the number of bins desired to stratify a numeric stratification variable
```

## vfold cv()



```
set.seed(210)
(cv splits <- vfold cv(math train))</pre>
 10-fold cross-validation
# A tibble: 10 x 2
                          id
   splits
  <named list>
                          <chr>
1 <split [127.9K/14.2K] > Fold01
2 <split [127.9K/14.2K] > Fold02
3 <split [127.9K/14.2K]> Fold03
4 <split [127.9K/14.2K] > Fold04
 5 <split [127.9K/14.2K] > Fold05
 6 <split [127.9K/14.2K] > Fold06
7 <split [127.9K/14.2K] > Fold07
 8 <split [127.9K/14.2K] > Fold08
 9 <split [127.9K/14.2K] > Fold09
10 <split [127.9K/14.2K] > Fold10
```

```
<127863/14207/142070>
cv splits$splits[[1]] %>%
  assessment()
# A tibble: 14,207 x 40
     id gndr ethnic cd attnd dist inst~ attnd schl inst~ enrl grd calc admn cd tst bnch tst dt
migrant ed fg
  <dbl> <chr> <chr>
                                                           <dbl> <lql>
                                  <dbl>
                                                  <dbl>
                                                                             <chr>
                                                                                      <chr> <chr>
     36 F
                                   2048
                                                    422
                                                               8 NA
                                                                             3B
                                                                                      5/16/~ N
                                                    161
                                                                                      5/23/~ N
     52 F
                                   1944
                                                               8 NA
                                                                             3B
     61 M
                                   1901
                                                   1322
                                                               8 NA
                                                                             3B
                                                                                      5/16/~ N
                                   2183
                                                   934
                                                                             3B
                                                                                      5/21/~ N
     69 M
                                                               8 NA
    70 M
                                   2053
                                                                                      5/3/2~ N
                                                  1773
                                                               7 NA
    72. M
                                   2057
                                                   480
                                                               7 NA
                                                                                      5/15/~ N
                                                                                      5/15/~ N
                                   1974
                                                    235
                                                                             G7
     80 M
                                                               7 NA
                                   2041
                                                    380
                                                                                      5/18/~ N
    115 M
                                                               8 NA
                                                                             3B
                                   2183
                                                                                      4/18/~ N
    221 F
                                                   1312
                                                                             G7
                                                               7 NA
                                                    847
                                                                                      4/24/\sim N
    230 M
                                   2180
                                                               8 NA
                                                                             3B
  ... with 14,197 more rows, and 30 more variables: ind ed fg <chr>, sp ed fg <chr>, tag ed fg <chr>,
   econ dsvntg <chr>, ayp lep <chr>, stay in dist <chr>, stay in schl <chr>, dist sped <chr>,
   trgt assist fg <chr>, ayp dist partic <chr>, ayp schl partic <chr>, ayp dist prfrm <chr>,
   ayp schl prfrm <chr>, rc dist partic <chr>, rc schl partic <chr>, rc dist prfrm <chr>, rc schl prfrm
<chr>,
   partic dist inst id <dbl>, partic schl inst id <dbl>, lang cd <chr>, tst atmpt fg <chr>,
   grp rpt dist partic <chr>, grp rpt schl partic <chr>, grp rpt dist prfrm <chr>, grp rpt schl prfrm
<chr>,
   score <dbl>, classification <dbl>, ncessch <dbl>, lat <dbl>, lon <dbl>
```

46

cv splits\$splits[[1]]

# vfold\_cv()

```
cv_splits$splits[[1]]
<127863/14207/142070>
```

analysis

assessment

total

```
cv_splits$splits[[1]] %>%
   analysis() %>%
   nrow()
[1] 127863
```

```
cv_splits$splits[[1]] %>%
  assessment() %>%
  nrow()
[1] 14207
```



#### Monte Carlo Cross-Validation

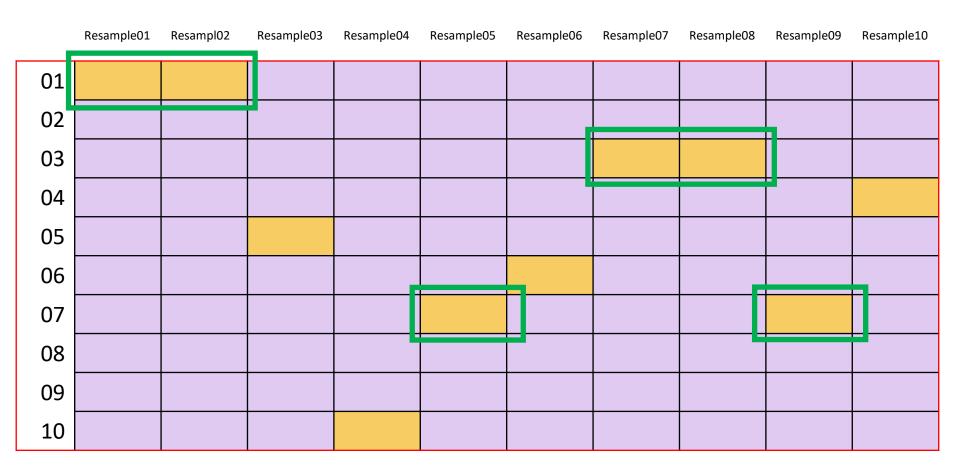
- For each split, a random sample (without replacement) is taken with a specified proportion going into the analysis set and the rest going to the assessment set
- The splitting procedure is conducted a specified number times
  - The number of splits must be large enough have adequate precision
- Like k-fold CV, a model is created on the analysis set and the assessment set is used to evaluate the model, and the average of the results across resamples are used to estimate future performance
- As opposed to *k*-fold CV, MC CV produces resamples that are likely to contain overlap



	Fold01	Fold02	Fold03	Fold04	Fold05	Fold06	Fold07	Fold09	Fold09	Fold10
01										
02										
03										
04										
05										
06										
07										
08										
09										
10										

# Monte Carlo CV (10 times)





```
mc_cv()
```



```
mc_cv(data, prop = 3/4, times = 25, strata = NULL, breaks = 4, ...)
```

data = your training set
prop = proportion going to the analysis set (default = .75)
times = number of times to repeat the sample (default = 25)
strata = variable to conduct stratified sampling to create the folds
breaks = the number of bins desired to stratify a numeric
stratification variable (default = 4)

## mc cv()



```
(mc splits <- mc cv(math train))</pre>
 # Monte Carlo cross-validation (0.75/0.25) with 25 resamples
# A tibble: 25 x 2
                          id
  splits
  st>
                          <chr>
1 <split [106.6K/35.5K] > Resample01
 2 <split [106.6K/35.5K] > Resample02
 3 <split [106.6K/35.5K] > Resample03
 4 <split [106.6K/35.5K] > Resample04
 5 <split [106.6K/35.5K] > Resample05
 6 <split [106.6K/35.5K] > Resample06
 7 <split [106.6K/35.5K] > Resample07
 8 <split [106.6K/35.5K] > Resample08
 9 <split [106.6K/35.5K] > Resample09
10 <split [106.6K/35.5K] > Resample10
# ... with 15 more rows
```

## mc cv()

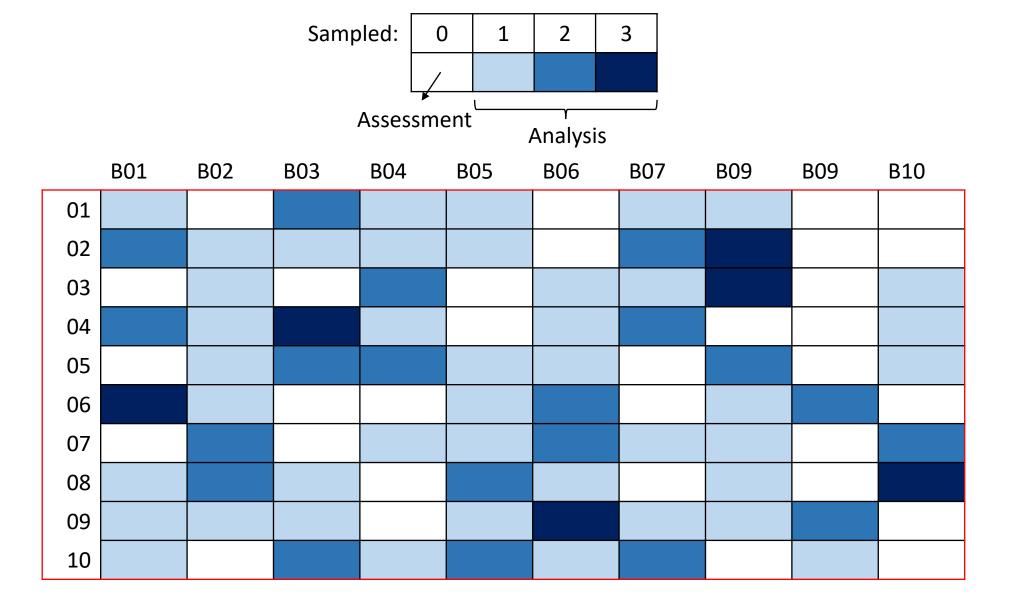
0.7500035



```
nrow(math train)
[1] 142070
mc splits$splits[[1]]
<106553/35517/142070>
mc splits$splits[[12]]
<106553/35517/142070>
mc splits$splits[[25]]
<106553/35517/142070>
analysis(mc splits$splits[[1]]) %>% nrow() / nrow(mc_splits$splits[[1]]$data)
```

# bootstrapping

- A bootstrap sample is a simple random sample that is the same size as the training set where the data are sampled with replacement
  - So after a row is selected for inclusion in the subset, it's still available for further selection
- Each bootstrap sample is likely to contain duplicate values
  - Analysis set
    - On average, 63.21% of the original sample ends up in a bootstrap sample
  - Assessment set
    - Those rows not selected in a bootstrap sample are considered out-of-bag (OOB)



#### Bootstrap notes

- Bootstrap tends to have less variability in the error measure compared to k-fold CV
- But because of replacement, bootstrap has more bias (similar to k = 2)
  - This is problematic when the training set is small, and less so as the sample increases  $(n \ge 1,000)$

#### bootstraps()



```
bootstraps(data, times = 25, strata = NULL, breaks = 4,
    apparent = FALSE, ...)
```

data = your training set

times = number of bootstrap samples (default = 25)

strata = variable to conduct stratified sampling to create the folds

breaks = the number of bins desired to stratify a numeric stratification variable

apparent = enables the option of an additional resample where the analysis and assessment data sets are the same as the original data set. This can be required for some types of analysis of the bootstrap results.

#### bootstraps()

> (boot\_splits <- bootstraps(math\_train))

```
Bootstrap sampling
 A tibble: 25 x 2
                           id
  splits
                          <chr>
  st>
1 <split [142.1K/52.1K] > Bootstrap01
2 <split [142.1K/52.2K] > Bootstrap02
3 <split [142.1K/52.2K] > Bootstrap03
 4 <split [142.1K/52.4K] > Bootstrap04
 5 <split [142.1K/52.3K] > Bootstrap05
 6 <split [142.1K/52.2K] > Bootstrap06
 7 <split [142.1K/52.2K] > Bootstrap07
8 <split [142.1K/52.5K] > Bootstrap08
 9 <split [142.1K/52.3K] > Bootstrap09
10 <split [142.1K/52.4K] > Bootstrap10
 ... with 15 more rows
```



#### bootstraps()



```
nrow(math_train)
[1] 142070
```

```
boot_splits$splits[[1]] <142070/52088/142070>
```

```
boot_splits$splits[[12]] <142070/52447/142070>
```

boot\_splits\$splits[[25]] <142070/52149/142070>

#### Results

- B01
  - We fit our model on the B01 analysis set (leaving out the assessment set)
  - We apply our resulting model parameters to predict the assessment set
  - We get our performance measures (loss functions)
- We repeat this process until we've predicted all B assessment sets
- The final performance is the average performance measure across the B sets

## Leave-one-out (LOO) cross-validation

- Uses one data point in the original set as the assessment data and all other data points as the analysis set
- A LOO resampling set has as many resamples as rows in the original data set

# loo\_cv()

10 <split [10K/1] > Resample10 # ... with 9,990 more rows

```
rsample
```

```
loo_cv(data, ...)
> (loo splits <- loo cv(sample n(math train, 10000)))</pre>
 Leave-one-out cross-validation
 A tibble: 10,000 x 2 splits id
                                                 > loo splits$splits[[1]]
                                                 <9999/1/10000>
   <named list> <chr>
1 <split [10K/1]> Resample1
2 <split [10K/1]> Resample2
3 <split [10K/1]> Resample3
4 <split [10K/1]> Resample4
                                                 > loo splits$splits[[12]]
                                                 <9999/1/10000>
5 < \text{split } [10K/1] > \text{Resample} 5
6 <split [10K/1] > Resample6
7 <split [10K/1] > Resample7
                                                 > loo splits$splits[[101]]
  <split [10K/1]> Resample8
<split [10K/1]> Resample9
8 <split
                                                 <9999/1/10000>
```

# Quick summary

- High variance models are more prone to overfitting, and resampling is critical to reduce this risk
- Many models that are capable of achieving good generalization performance have lots of hyperparameters that control the level of model complexity (i.e., the tradeoff between bias and variance)
- We'll be talking more about this in the coming weeks

#### Next time

- Discussion response
- Lab 1
- Readings

# Lab 1