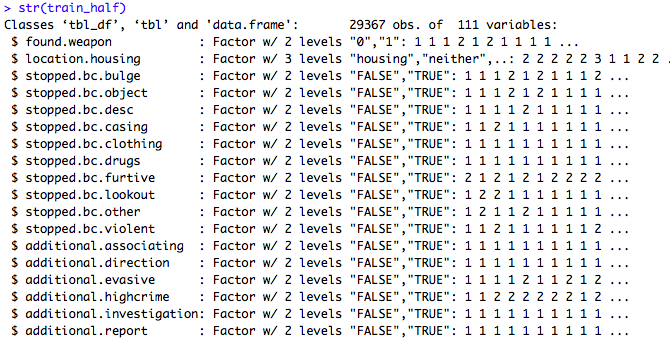
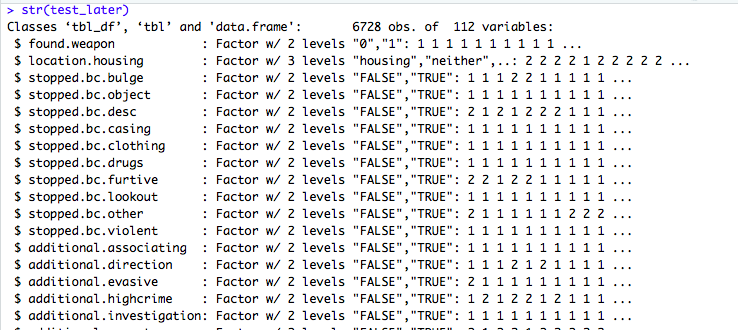
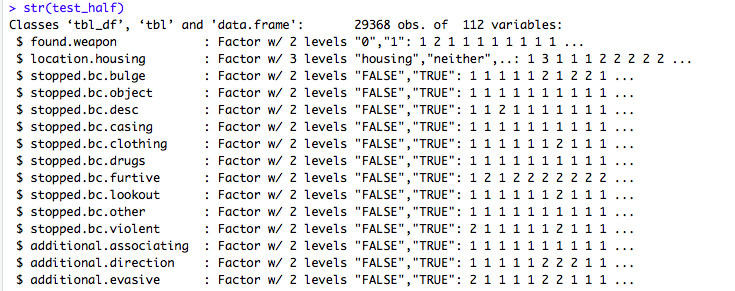
**Question One**

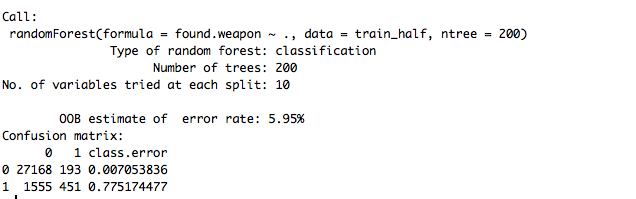
1. Create one training set and two validation sets in the following manner. Restrict **sqf** to years 2013-2014, randomly shuffle the data, and split it in half. Call one half **train\_half**, and the other half **test\_half**. Next, restrict **sqf** to just the year 2015, and call this **test\_later**. Remove the stop id and year columns from **train\_half**, **test\_half**, and **test\_later**.







1. Fit a random forest model on **train\_half** using the *randomForest* package in R,  predicting found.weapon as a function of all features. Use 200 trees, but all other options  for the model can be the default options.



1. Generate predicted *probabilities* using the model from partB for both **test\_half**  and **test\_later**. Compute the AUC of the model on each test set. Write a paragraph describing and interpreting your results. In particular, discuss the following three questions.

AUC of test\_half: **85.25449**

AUC of test\_later: **75.73225**

1. Why do you think the AUC on **test\_half** is noticeably higher than the AUC on **test\_later**?

The AUC on **test\_half** is noticeably higher than the AUC on **test\_later** because **test\_half** comes from the same subset of data as **train\_half**, therefore are responses from both 2013 and 2014. However, **test\_later** uses responses only from 2015.

1. If you were planning to use this model to guide how officers make stops in the future (e.g., by having officers use the model to compute the probability that an individual suspected of criminal possession of a weapon will have a weapon, and then only making a stop if the model-estimated probability is sufficiently high), would the AUC on **test\_half** or **test\_later** be a better estimate of performance on unseen data?

The AUC from **test\_later** would be a better estimate of performance on unseen data because **test\_later** is based off data from a different year. The **test\_half** AUC is an inferior choice because our model is over fitting the **test\_half** data.

1. More generally, when evaluating a model using a simple training/validation split approach, should you always do the split by shuffling and splitting randomly?   No, because … idk why but I just know no lol.

**Question two**

H. Finally, write a paragraph or two (or more!) about any possible ethical issues involved in using such a predictive model to prioritize restaurant inspections.

As with anything in life, nothing is completely objective meaning that there is always special cases. We can never characterize all similar cases into one box, there will always be exceptions and for this reason using predictive models can cause ethical issues.

The case of using DOHMH data from previous restaurant inspections in a predictive model to prioritize future restaurant inspections is not without its own unique ethical concerns. In this case, ethical concerns can arise from data integrity/clarity, whether our model is correctly specified, and whether the outcome of interest is appropriate for our cause.

The DOHMH data is a viable source as it comes from a reputable agency, however this does not mean it is without error. On the NYC open data website, the agency even admits that because the dataset is compiled from several large administrative data systems, that it can contain illogical values as a result from data transfers or data entry errors. Also the agency admits to missing data. “Messy” data is a fact of life when working with almost any large dataset, the data can be cleaned, but we can be losing important information when cleaning the data that will not be reflected in the model.

Likewise, missing data also poses a challenge, imputation methods are possible, but we can never truly be sure that what we are including actually represents what is missing. The biggest problem with the dataset most likely comes from the score variable. Within the exercise, we noticed that some restaurants had different overall scores for the same inspection type on the same date. It is a challenge to accurately know, which score is the most likely score. The agency notes in the data dictionary for the dataset that the score column is updated based on adjudication results, therefore without knowing what the adjudication results are then how do we know which score is the accurate one. Ultimately, the inaccuracy for some observations in the score column can be problematic.

The score column, which corresponds to our outcome of interest, whether or not an inspection results in a score of 28 or higher, is supposed to be objectively measured. The overall score for an inspection is summed based on the points associated with the violations that a restaurant receives during the inspection. Each violation type has its own “base” point. However, inspectors assign additional points based on the extent of the violation, the additional points fall into either least extensive (level 1) to most extensive (level 5) violations. While one can argue that the base points based on the violation type are most likely objective, the inspectors must make the call on how extensive the violation can be, therefore there is some subjectivity when judging the extent of the violation. Overall, the score column and by extent the outcome of interest in this model is not based on entirely objective standards, the human involvement in the process does affect the appropriateness of the outcome of interest.

Ultimately, this does give question to whether or not; the outcome of interest should be based on other factors, such as whether a restaurant is pegged to close or whether a restaurant has a critical health violation. In both cases, subjectivity can also be present, but if a restaurant is going to be closed or if it has a critical health violation, one can argue that the conditions of the restaurant most likely warranted these outcomes. In the case of judging based on the overall score column, we cannot entirely say that a high score is correlated with serious violations, but perhaps an inspector assigned many **general** **violations**, which are less serious in nature.

The outcome of interest, whether or not an inspection received a score of 28 or higher, is subject to human bias. As a result, the predictions of our model are also subject to bias. The extent of this bias is not known because we as researchers are not present when an inspector carries out an initial inspection. However, the process of inspection can be improved, which in turn will improve the accuracy and appropriateness of our predictions. One example of improving the inspection process is to send two inspectors instead of one to each restaurant so that the points that a given inspection at a restaurant receives can be less subjective and more standardized.