

Sampling and overfitting

AI for ecologists

Paul Tresson

21/05/25

Introduction

What do we want when modelling ?

- Understand things

What do we want when modelling ?

- Understand things
- **Predict things**

What do we want when modelling ?

“All models are wrong, but some are useful”

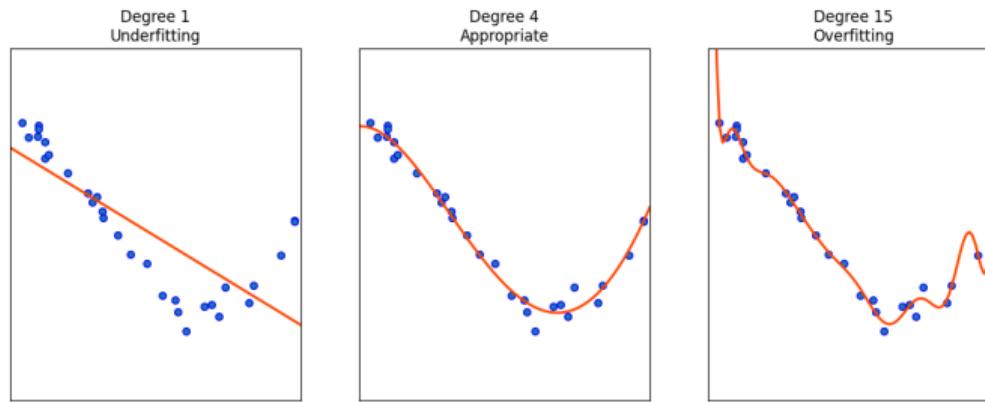
George E. P. Box

What do we want when modelling ?

- **Robustness:** Useful when mistakes
- **Generalization:** Useful applied elsewhere

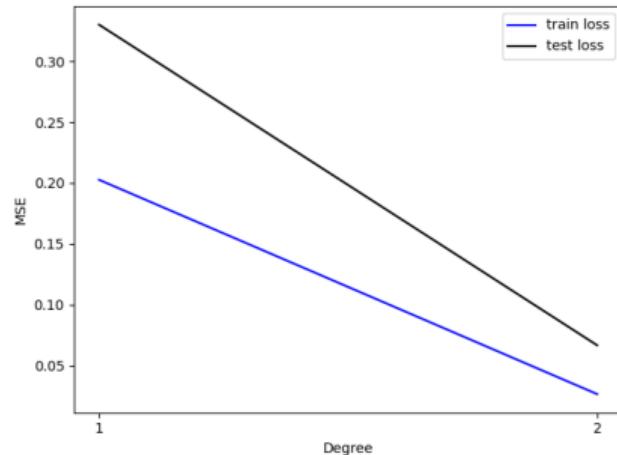
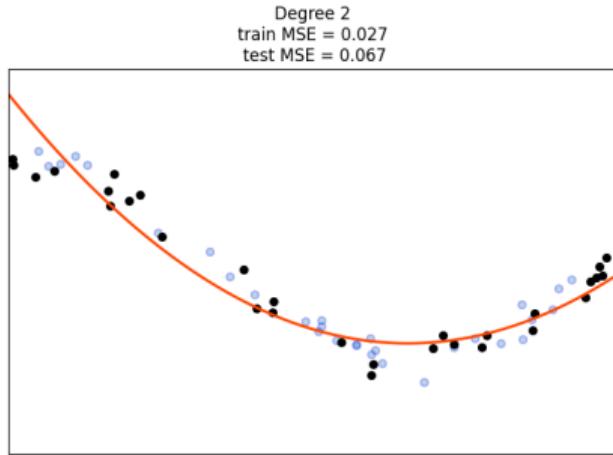
Overfitting

What is overfitting

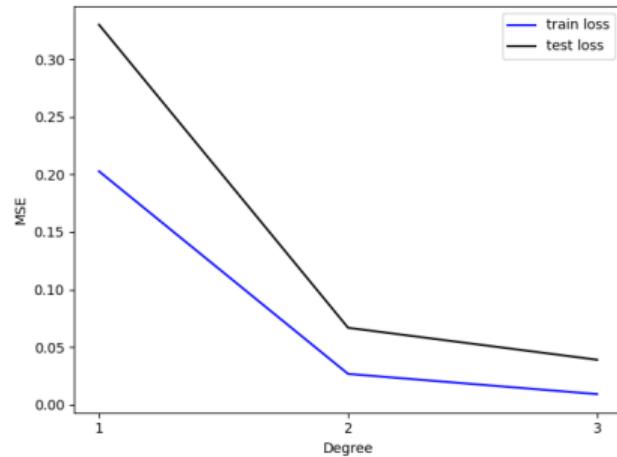
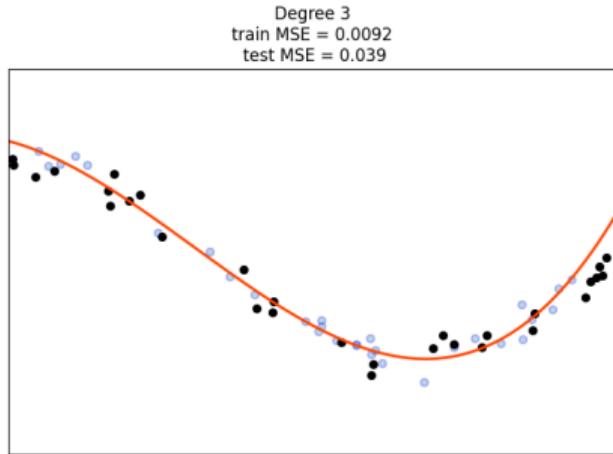


adapted from scikit-learn docs

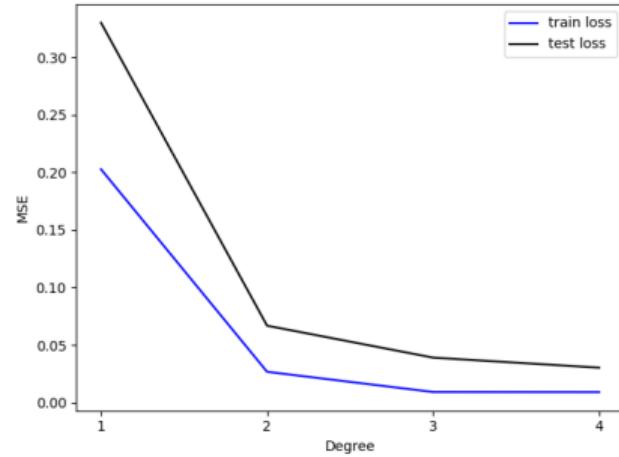
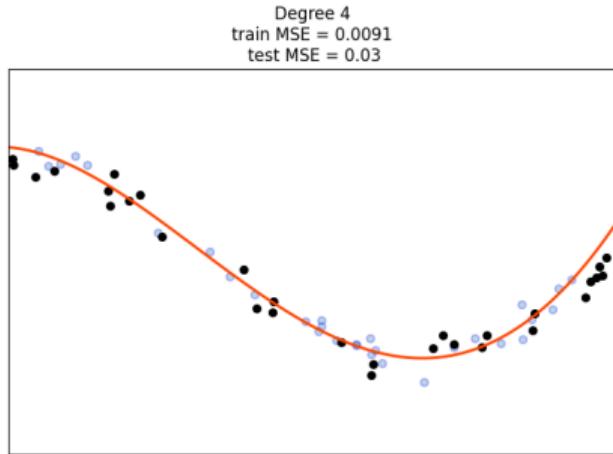
Common tools and intuitions - Train/Test loss



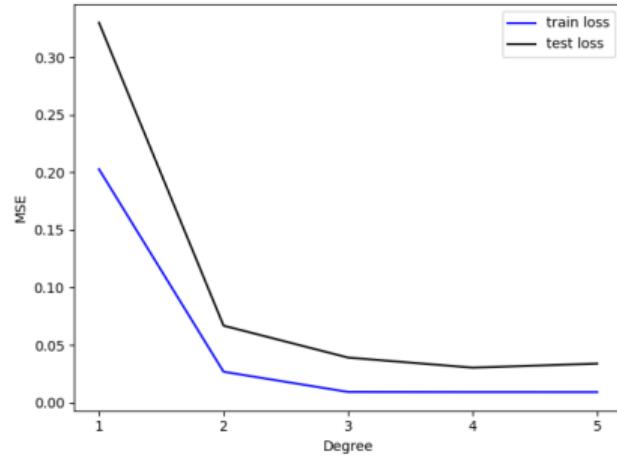
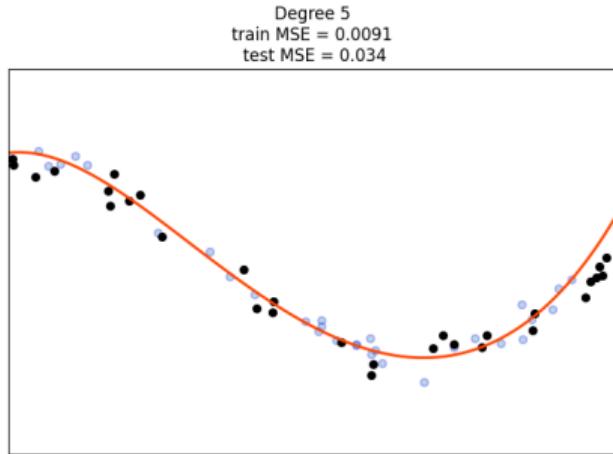
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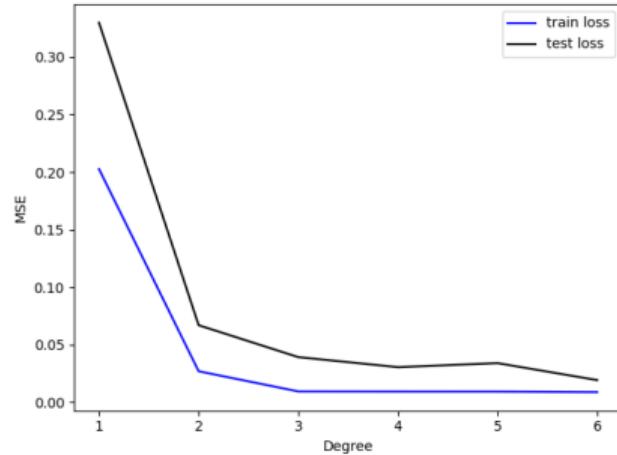
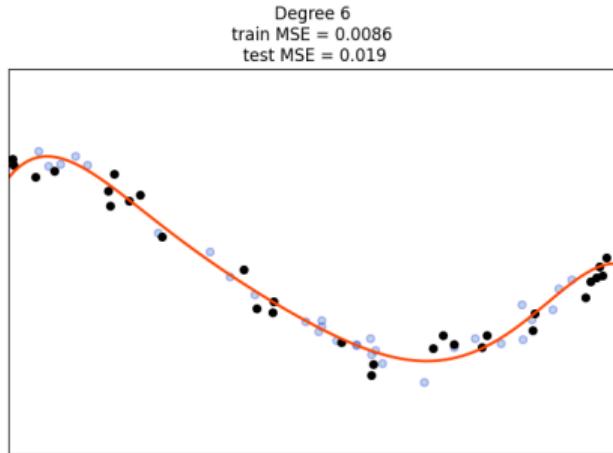
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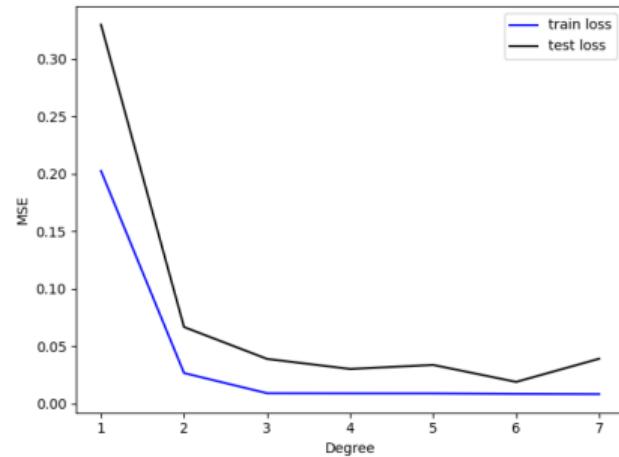
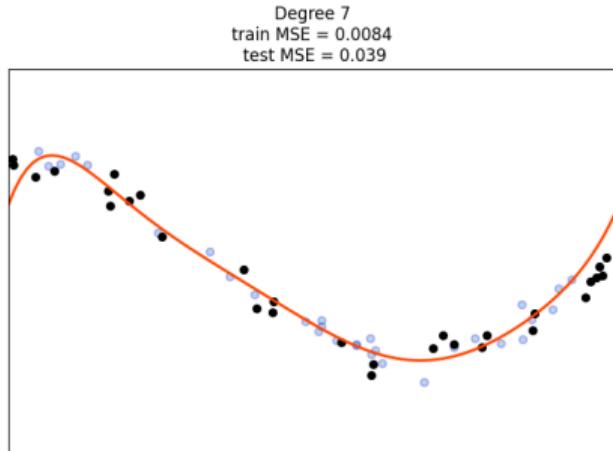
Common tools and intuitions - Train/Test loss



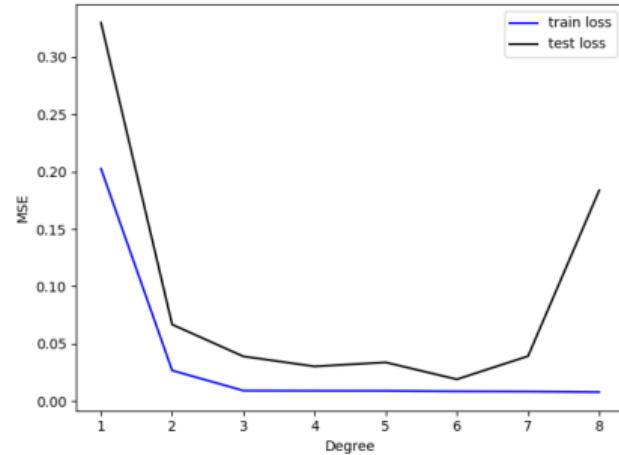
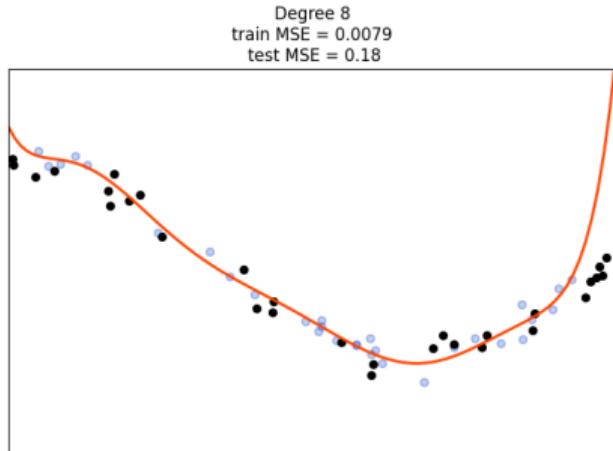
Common tools and intuitions - Train/Test loss



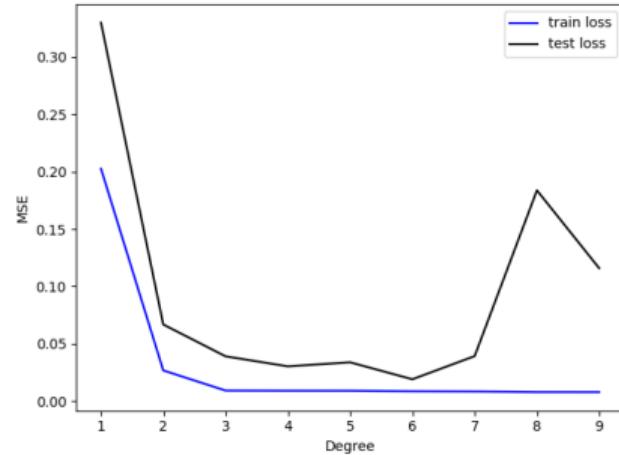
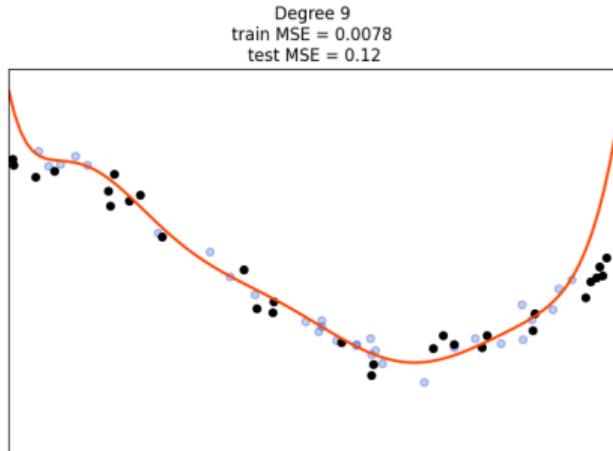
Common tools and intuitions - Train/Test loss



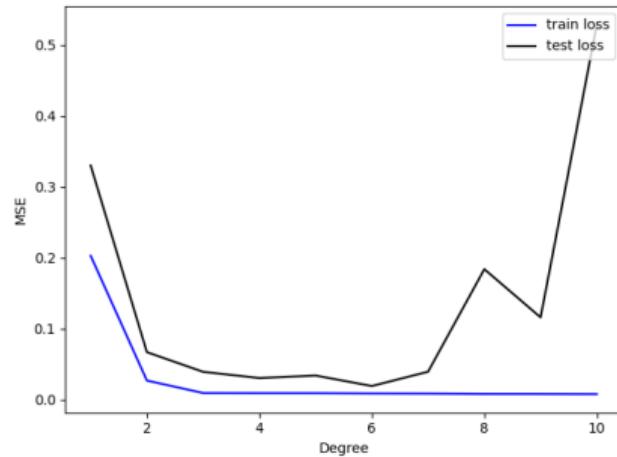
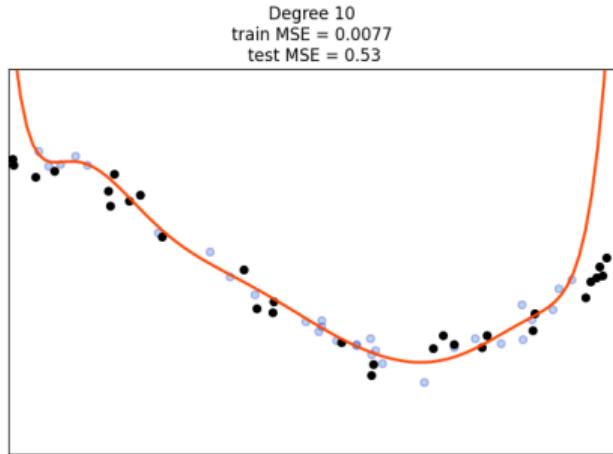
Common tools and intuitions - Train/Test loss



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Common tools and intuitions - Train/Test loss

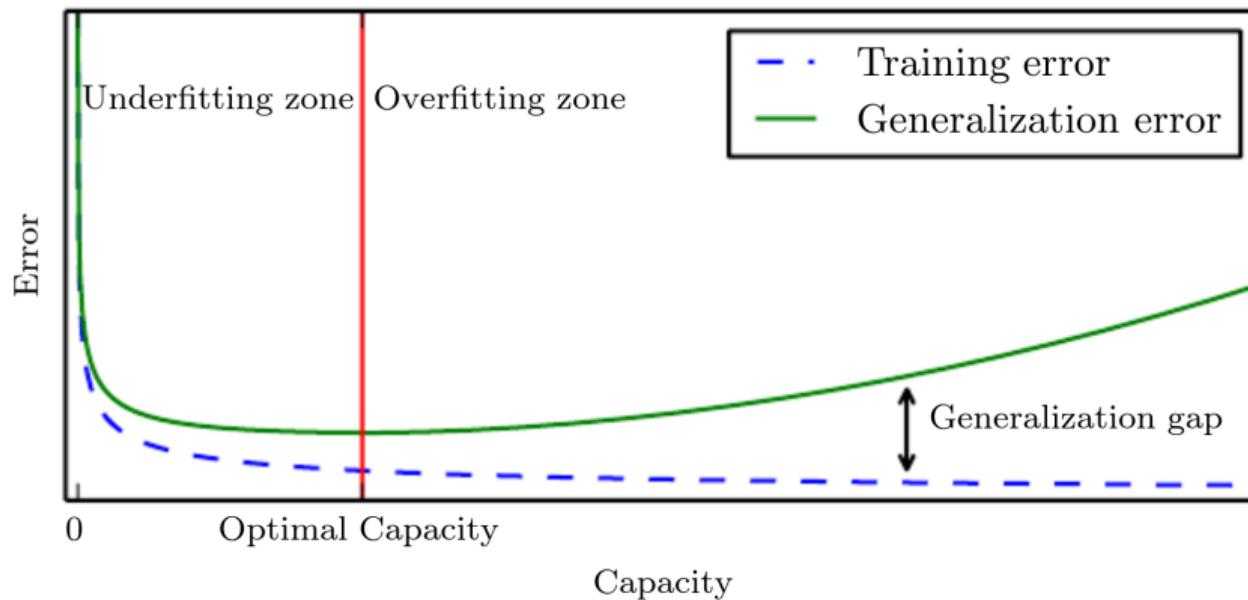


Figure from Goodfellow et al., 2016

Common tools and intuitions - AIC/BIC

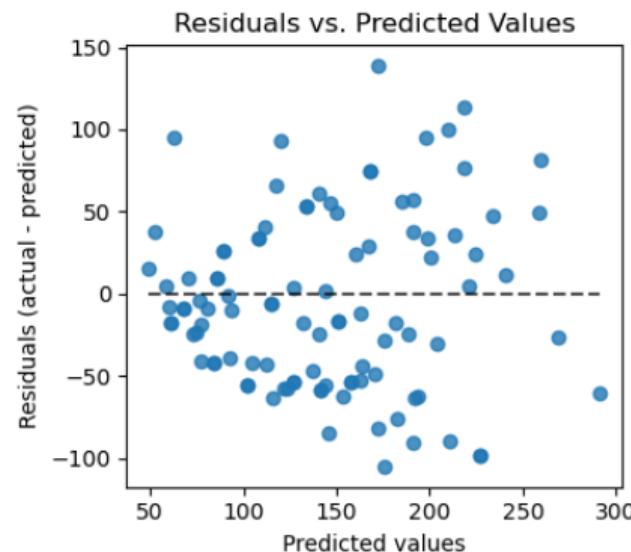
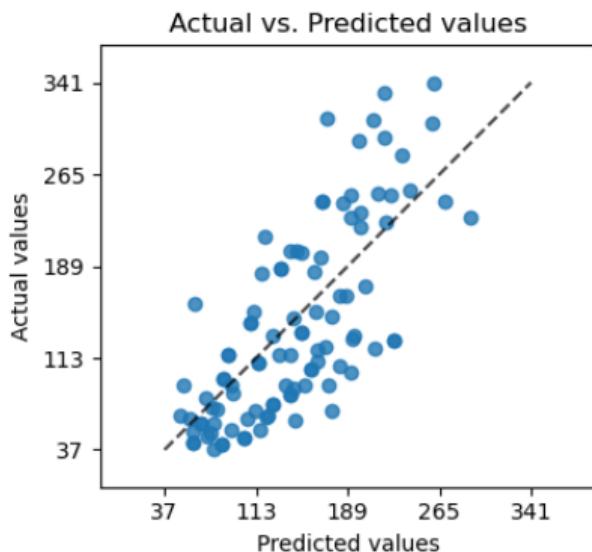
Akaike information criterion (AIC)

Bayesian information criterion (BIC)

Is the model parameter efficient ?

Common tools and intuitions - Biases

Plotting cross-validated predictions



from scikit-learn docs

And in Machine(/Deep) Learning ??

How many parameters to have

Shrek learning botany starting from random noise ?

And in Machine(/Deep) Learning ??



$\approx 2.5B ?$

Root Causes

Too many parameters

Root Causes

Too many parameters

Too little training data

Root Causes

Too many parameters

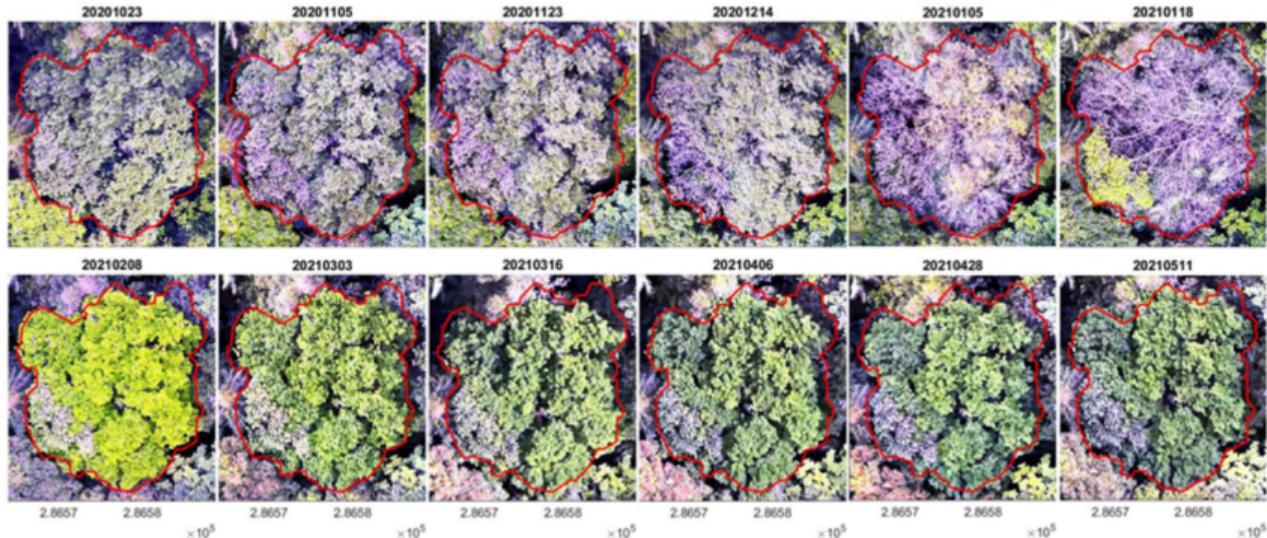
Too little training data

(bad) training data

Illustrated examples in Ecology

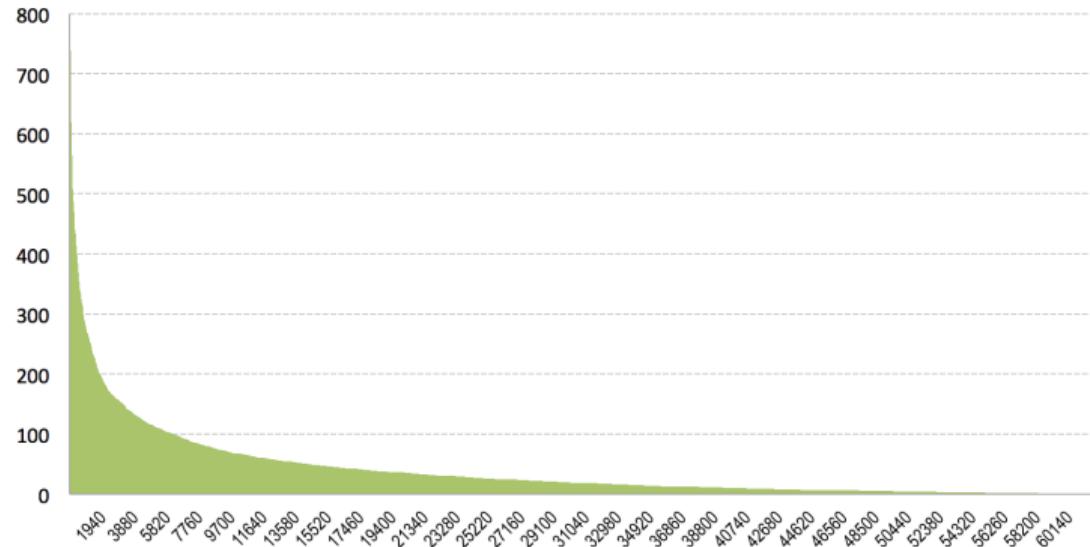
Constraints in ecology

Data from the real world is noisy,



Constraints in ecology

Data from the real world is noisy, unbalanced,



Constraints in ecology

Data from the real world is noisy, unbalanced, hard to collect,



Constraints in ecology

Data from the real world is noisy, unbalanced, hard to collect, hard to interpret.

Select all images with an Orange.

Verify

Constraints in ecology

Data from the real world is noisy, unbalanced, hard to collect, hard to interpret.

Select all images with an Orange.

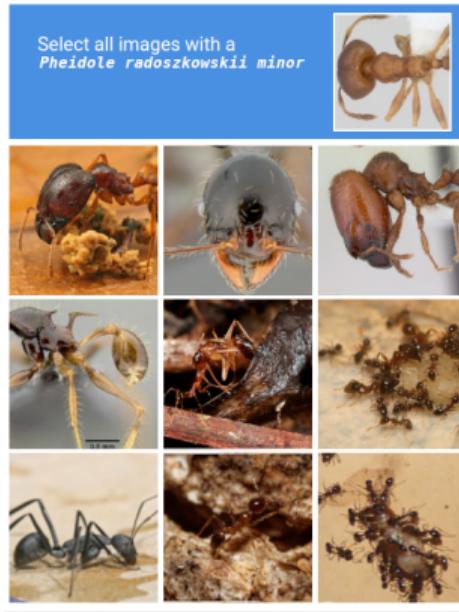
C Verify



Constraints in ecology

Data from the real world is noisy, unbalanced, hard to collect, hard to interpret.

Select all images with a
Pheidole radoszkowskii minor



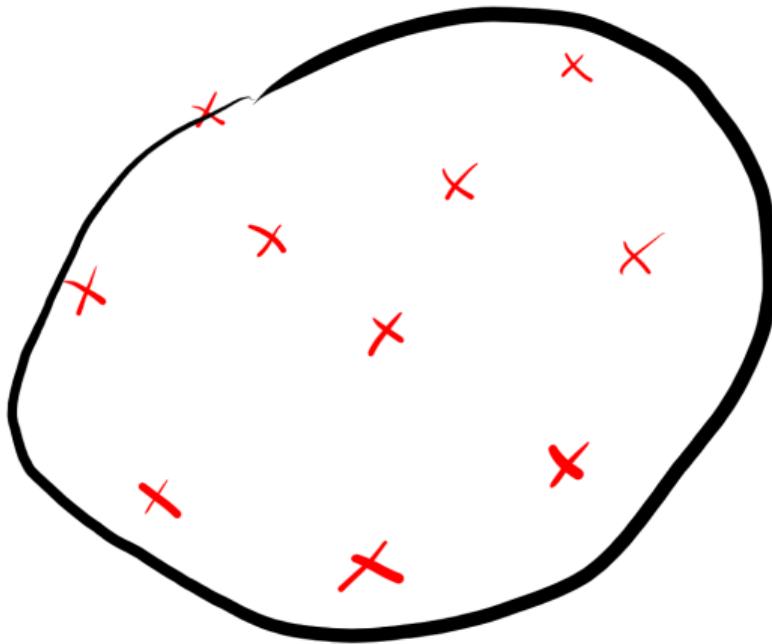
The grid contains 12 images arranged in three rows of four. The first row has one large image on the right and three smaller images below it. The second and third rows each have four images. The images depict ants in various stages and environments, including close-ups of individual ants and wider shots of ant colonies on leaves or bark.



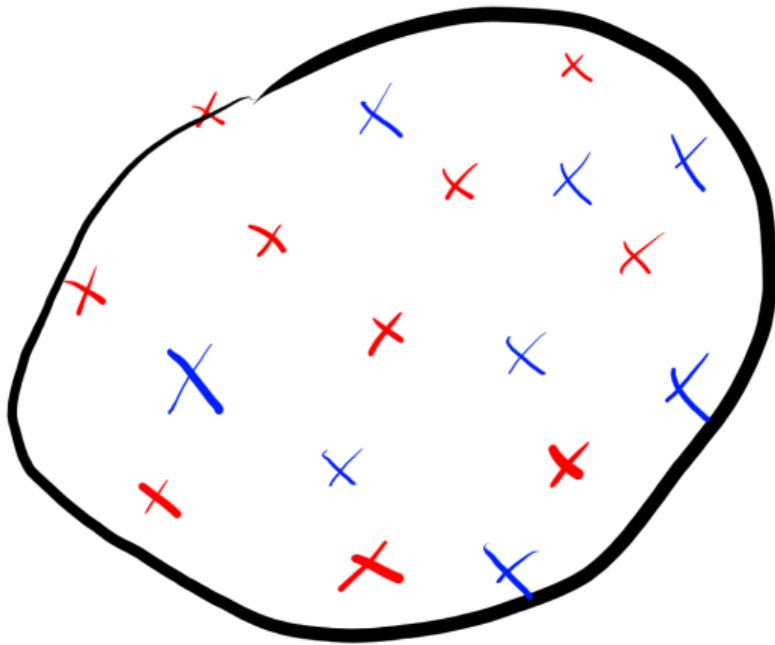
Verify



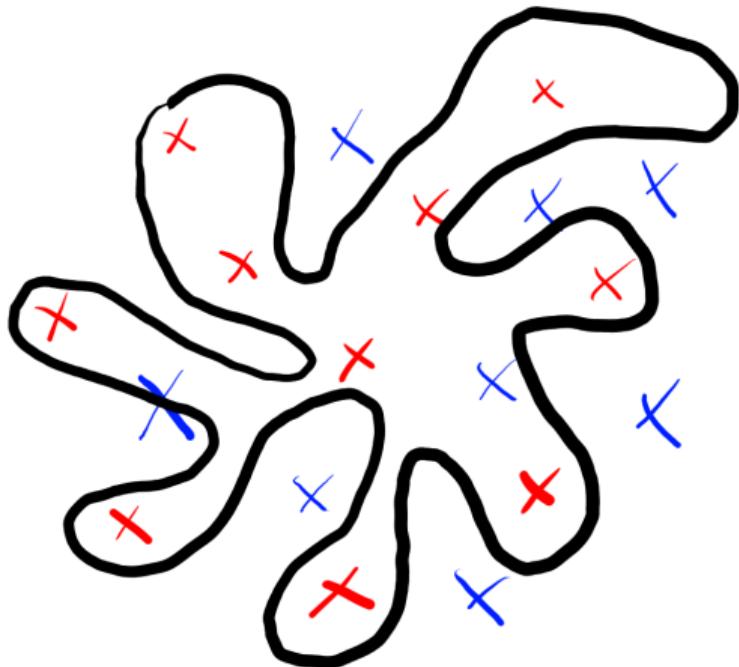
Train set



A good fitted model



Test set

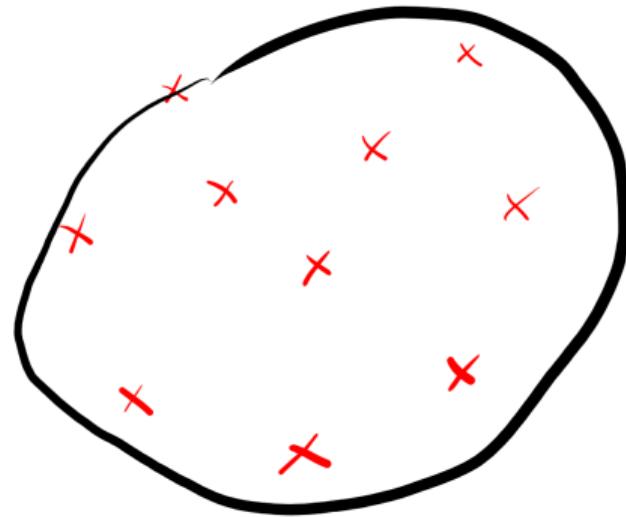


An overfitted model

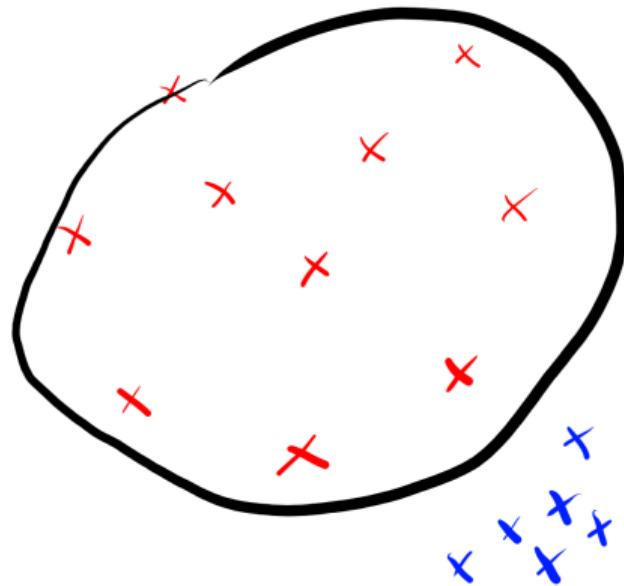
Biases in the train set



Biases in the train set



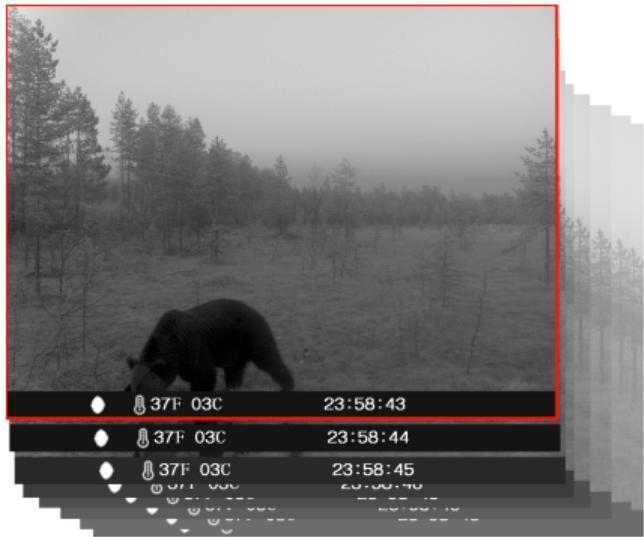
Biases in the train set



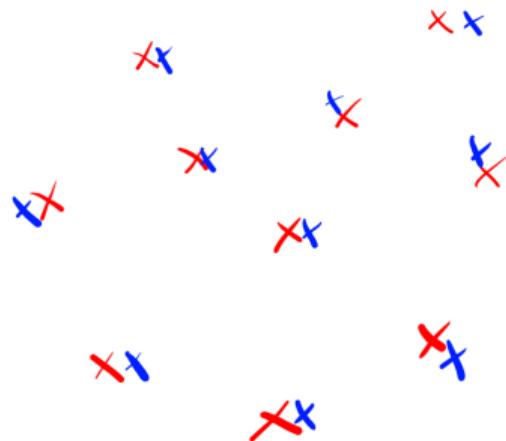
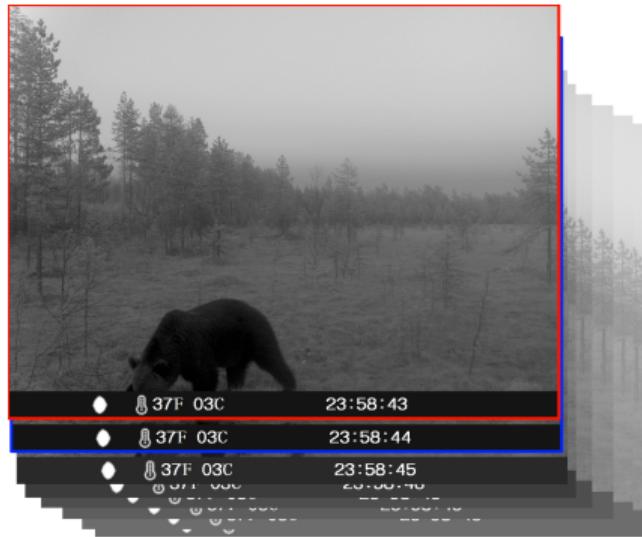
Biases in the train set - autocorrelation



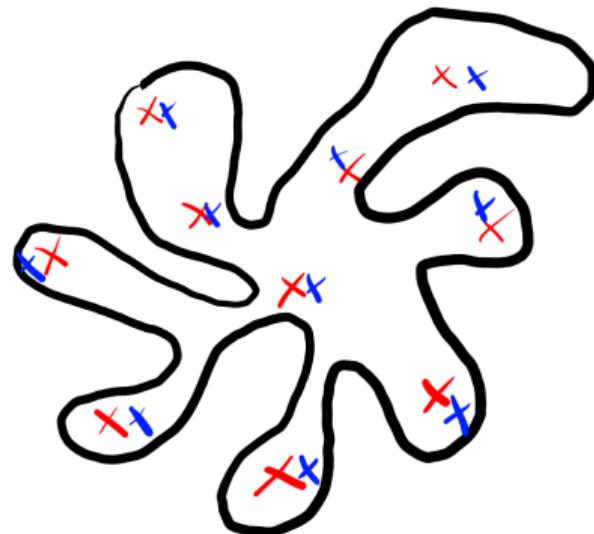
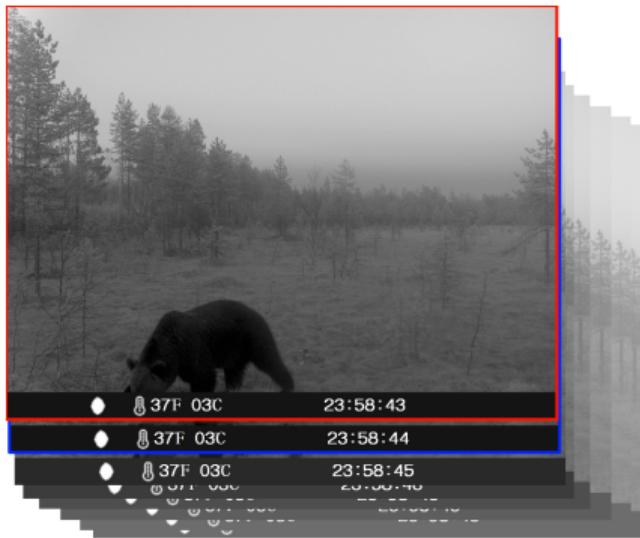
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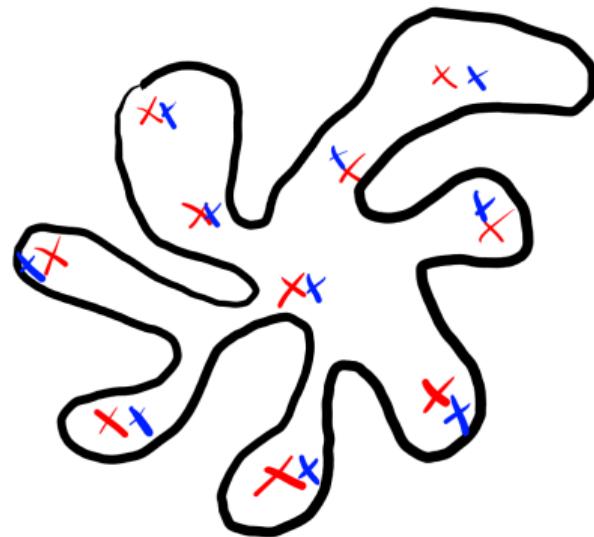
Biases in the train set - autocorrelation



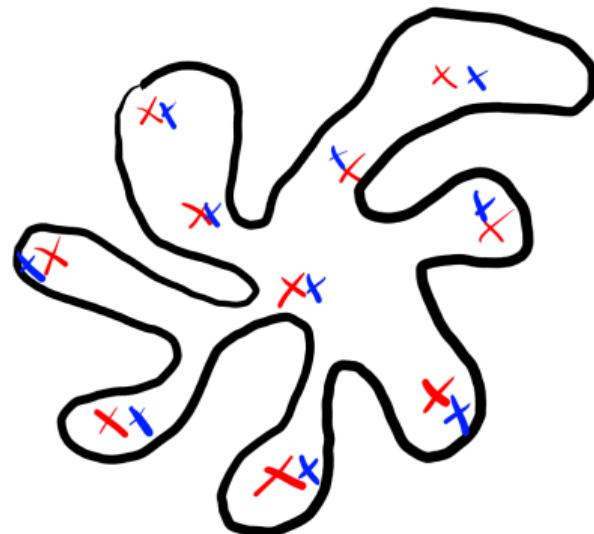
Biases in the train set - autocorrelation



Biases in the train set - autocorrelation



Biases in the train set - autocorrelation



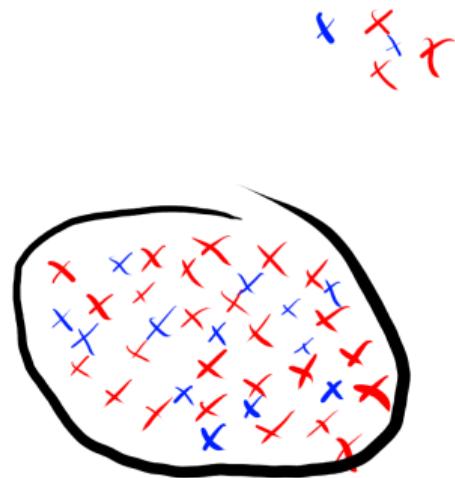
Unbalanced data



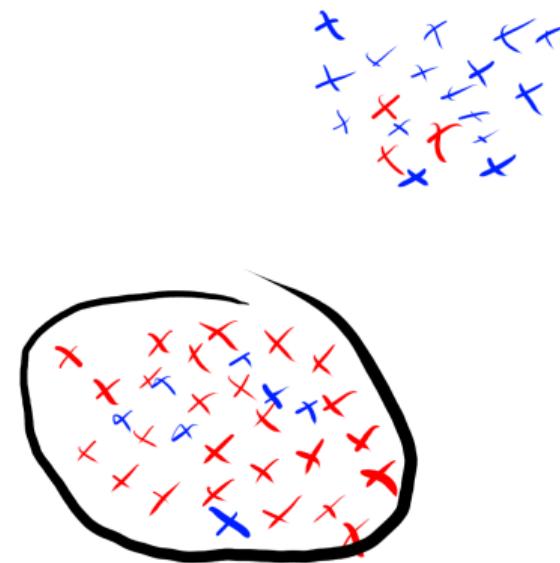
Unbalanced data



Unbalanced data



Unbalanced data



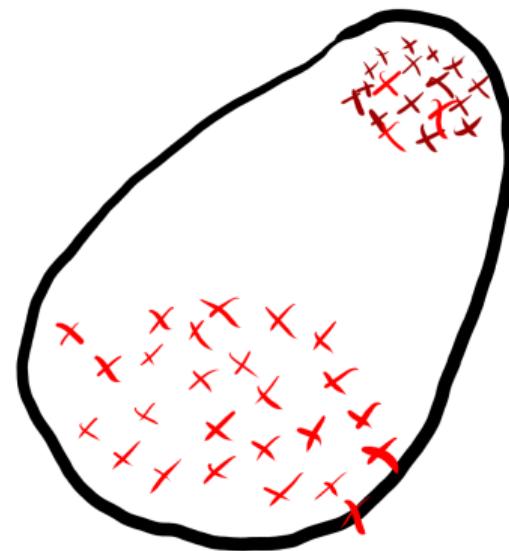
Deal with unbalanced data

- Oversample ?



Deal with unbalanced data

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Deal with unbalanced data

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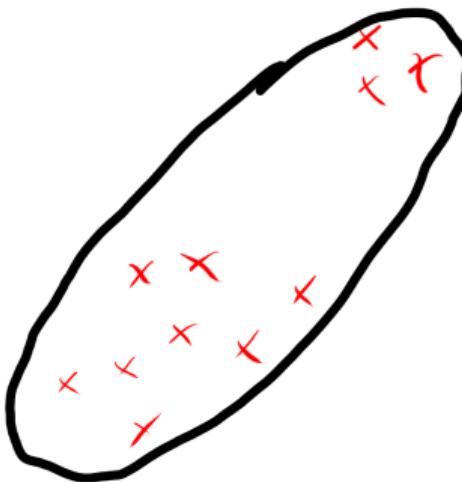
Deal with unbalanced data

- Oversample ?
- Undersample/saturate ?



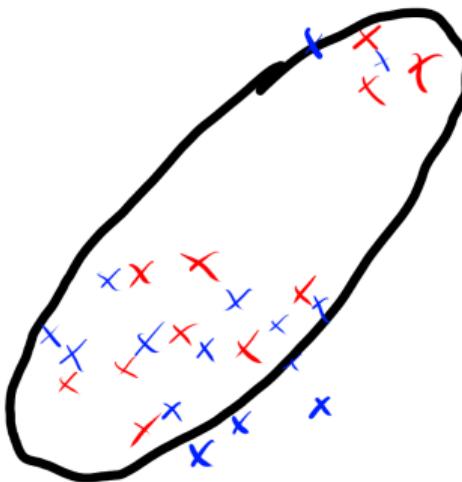
Deal with unbalanced data

- Oversample ?
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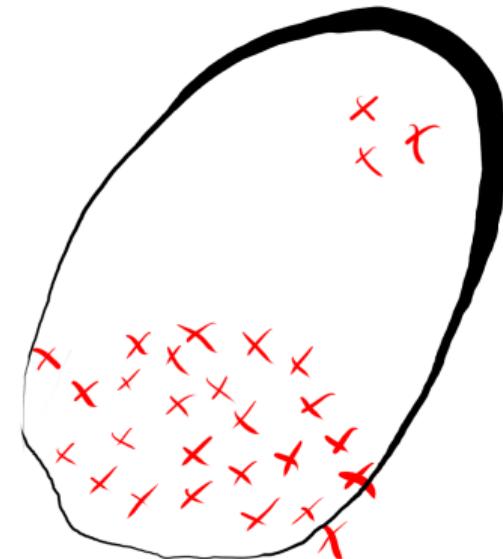
Deal with unbalanced data

- Oversample ?
- Undersample/saturate ?



Deal with unbalanced data

- Oversample ?
- Undersample/saturate ?
- Adapt loss ?



Deal with lack of data

- Data augmentation



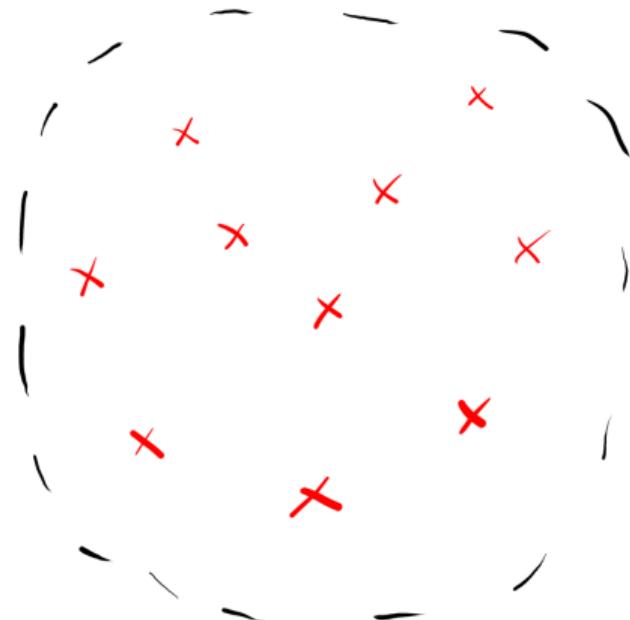
Deal with lack of data

- Data augmentation



Deal with lack of data

- Data augmentation
- Pretrained model



Deal with lack of data

- Data augmentation
- Pretrained model
- ... **collect more data**

Play with your model

- Dropout
- Pruning
- Ablation studies
- Ensembles

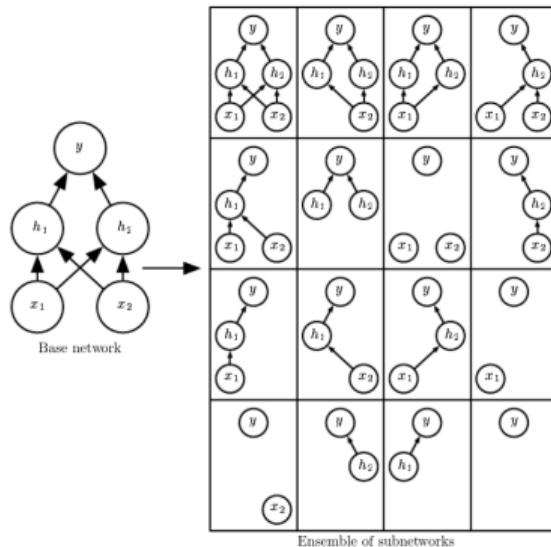


Figure from Goodfellow et al., 2016

Need to be very carefull on how to evaluate

How to sample and evaluate ?

Random split ?

“random split training validation 80/20”

Random split ?

“random split training validation 80/20”

For the uncurated dataset, we randomly sample 142 million images

Oquab et al., 2023

Random split ?

“random split training validation 80/20”

For the uncurated dataset, we randomly sample 142 million images

Oquab et al., 2023

Works for huge DL papers, maybe not for you

Cross-validation

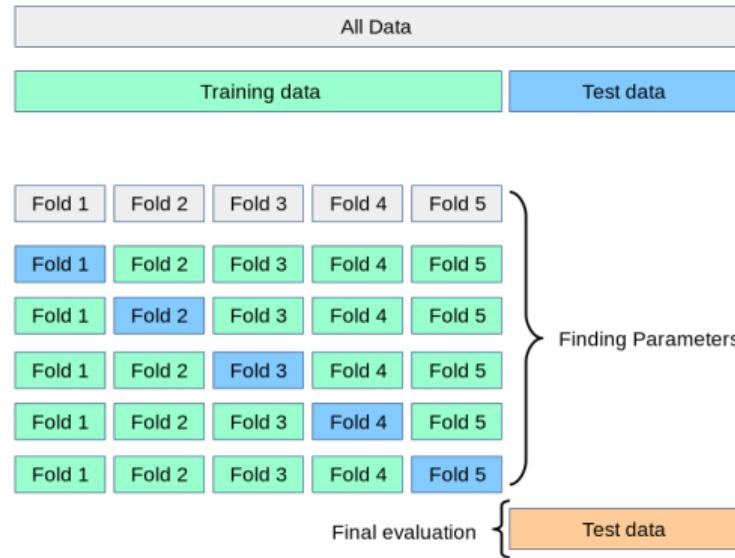


Figure from scikit-learn docs

Cross-validation

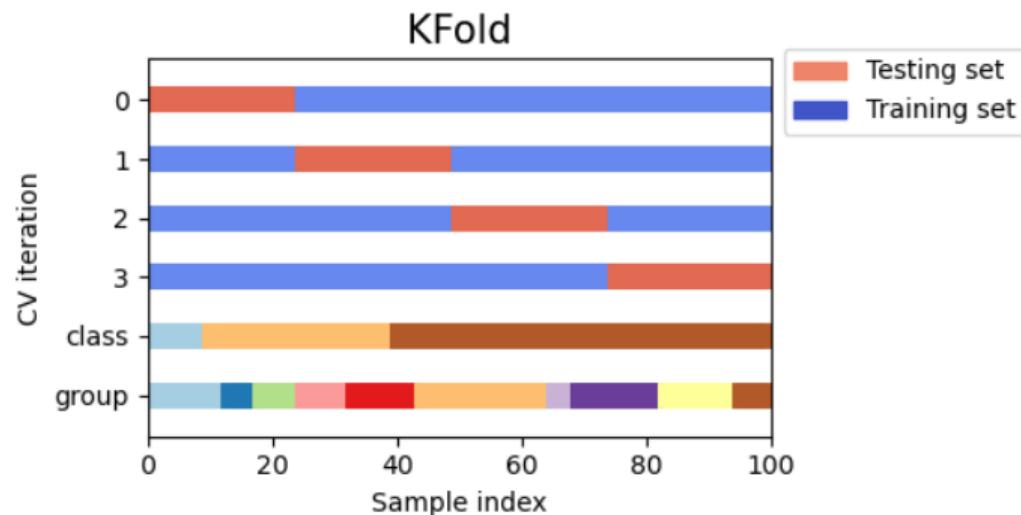


Figure from scikit-learn docs

Cross-validation

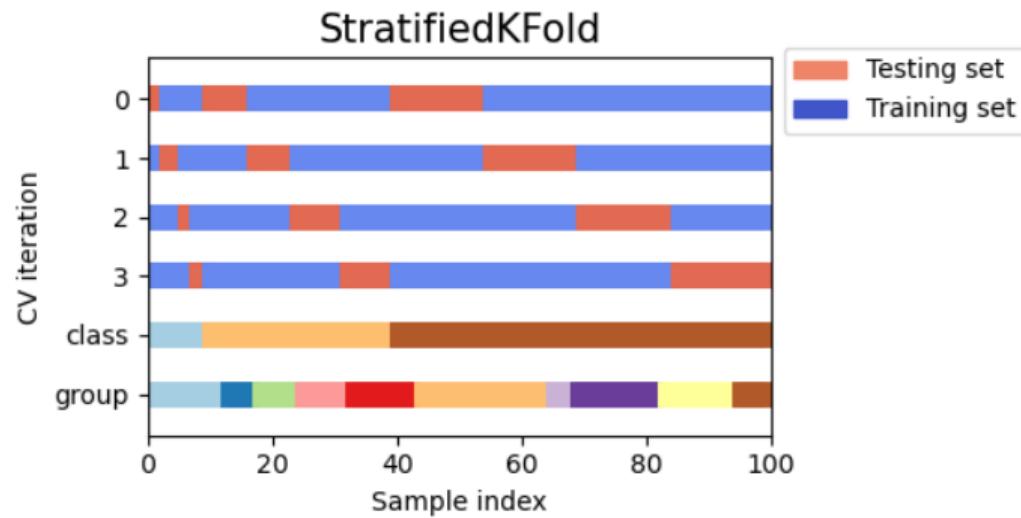
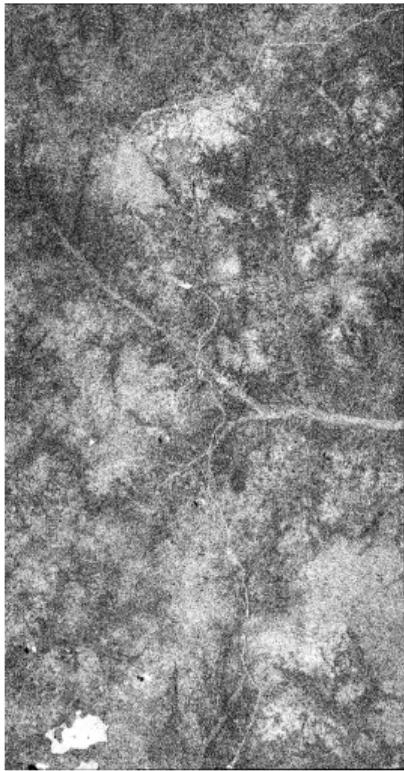


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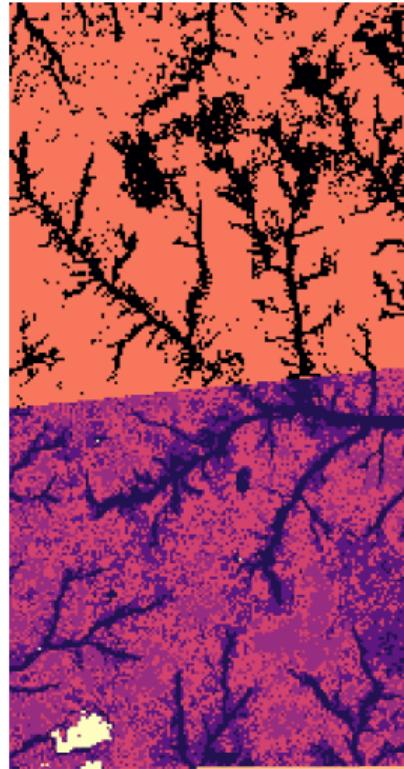
Case study : Spatial cross-validation



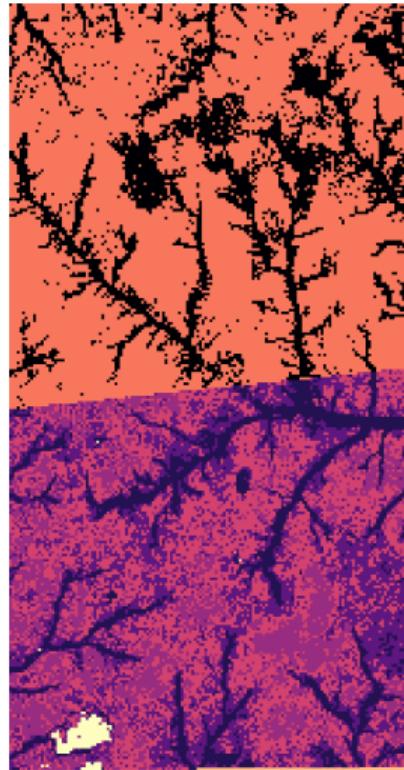
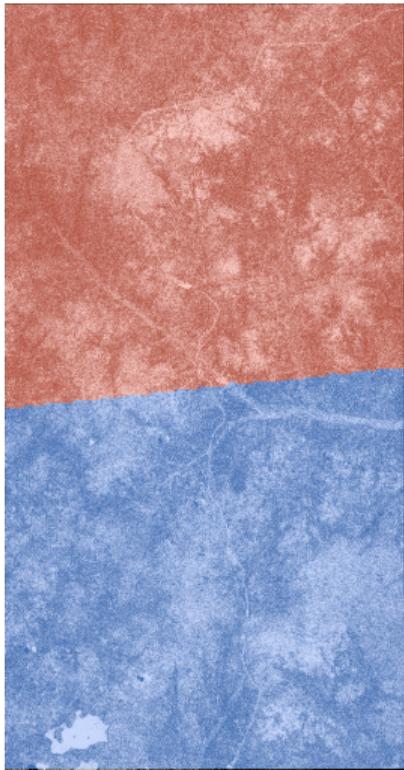
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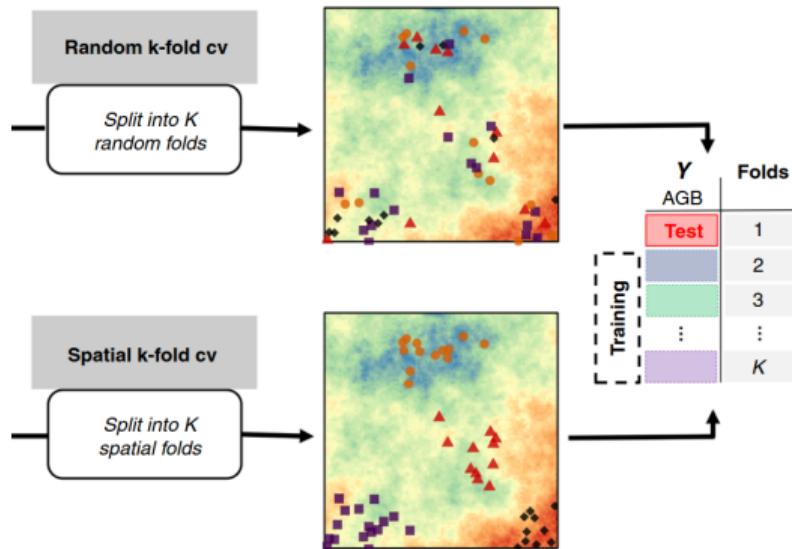
Case study : Spatial cross-validation



Case study : Spatial cross-validation

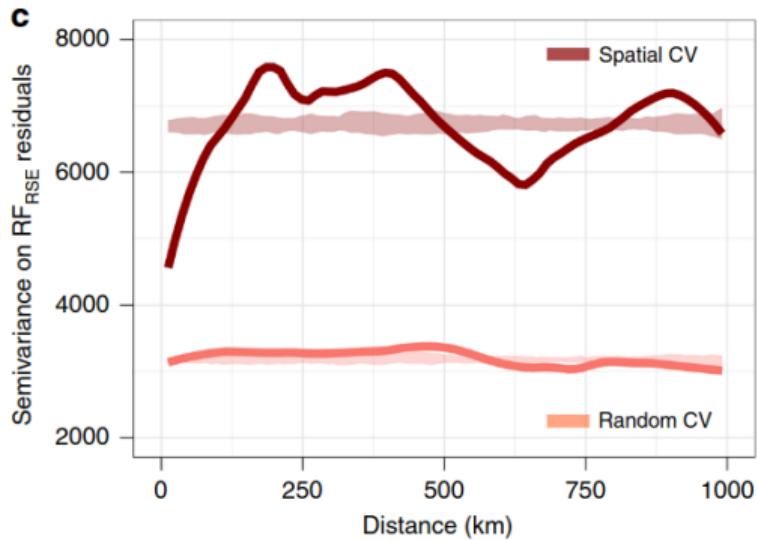


Case study : Spatial cross-validation



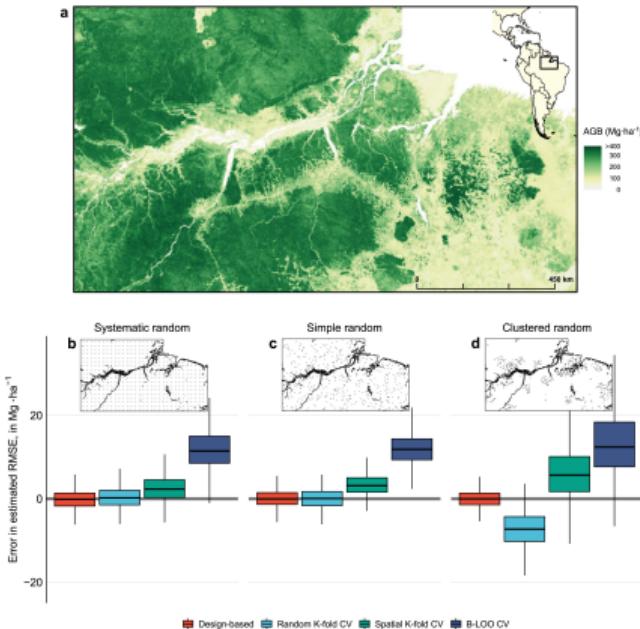
See. Ploton et al., 2020

Case study : Spatial cross-validation



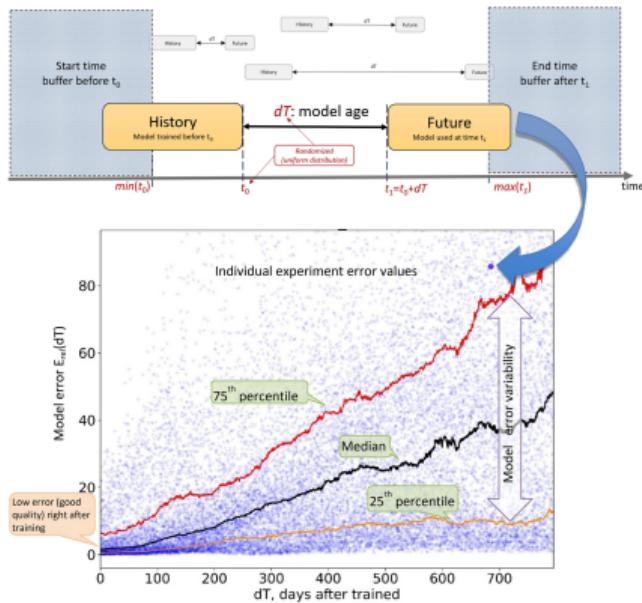
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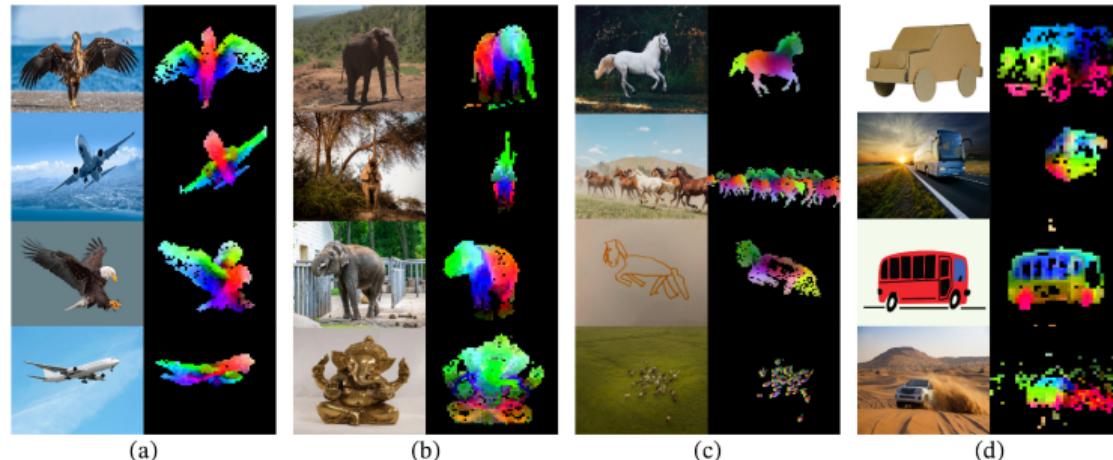
See. Wadoux et al., 2021

Case study : Aging models ?



See. Vela et al., 2022

Perspective : Foundation models ?



See. Oquab et al., 2023

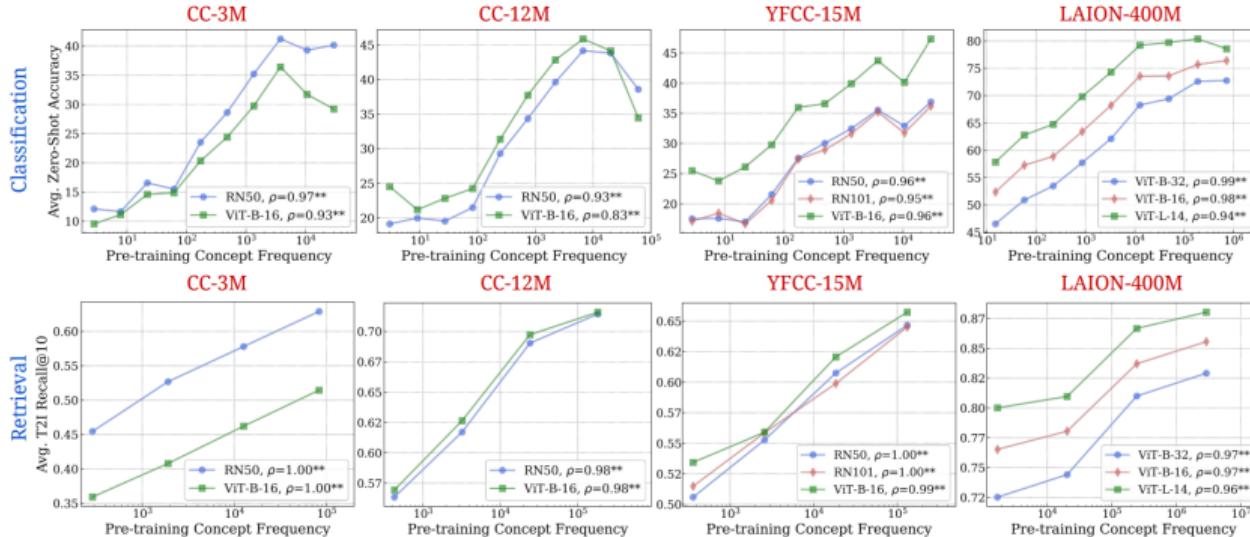
Perspective : Foundation models ?



A photograph of
[Anne Graham
Lotz](#) included in
the training set
of [Stable
Diffusion](#), a [text-
to-image model](#)

An image generated by
Stable Diffusion using
the prompt "Anne
Graham Lotz"

Perspective : Foundation models ?



See. Udandarao et al., 2024

Usefull ressources

- scikit-learn docs !

Thanks for you attention !

Let's practice !

References i

- Goodfellow, Ian, Yoshua Bengio, Aaron Courville, and Yoshua Bengio (2016). **Deep learning**. Vol. 1. 2. MIT press Cambridge.
- Oquab, Maxime et al. (2023). “**Dinov2: Learning robust visual features without supervision**”. In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:2304.07193*.
- Ploton, Pierre et al. (2020). “**Spatial validation reveals poor predictive performance of large-scale ecological mapping models**”. In: *Nature communications* 11.1, p. 4540.
- Udandarao, Vishaal et al. (2024). “**No zero-shot without exponential data: Pretraining concept frequency determines multimodal model performance**”. In: *The Thirty-eighth Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*.

References ii

Vela, Daniel et al. (2022). “**Temporal quality degradation in AI models**”. In: *Scientific reports* 12.1, p. 11654.

Wadoux, Alexandre MJ-C, Gerard BM Heuvelink, Sytze De Bruin, and Dick J Brus (2021). “**Spatial cross-validation is not the right way to evaluate map accuracy**”. In: *Ecological Modelling* 457, p. 109692.