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Classification and early detection of dementia and cognitive decline with magnetic resonance imaging

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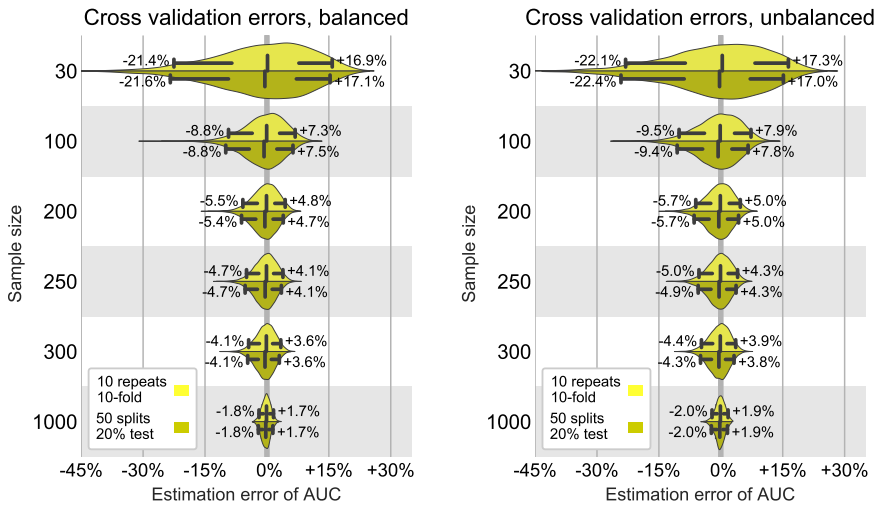
Appendix A

Cross-validation confidence intervals

In section 6.3 I discussed the unknown confidence intervals of cross-validation estimates of generalization performance. Here I have replicated the simulation by Varoquaux (2018). The goal of this study was to estimate the confidence intervals of a typical neuroimaging study that uses machine learning predictions. In order to see how these findings apply to our research I have adjusted the simulation to resemble the situation in this thesis more closely. Specifically, instead of using accuracy, I use AUC. To allow this, I used the distances to the decision boundary for the support vector classifier instead of predicted class. The separation between classes have been tuned to approximate 90% AUC, whereas the original study used 75% accuracy. Furthermore, as we used repeated cross-validation in our studies, I used repeated 10 fold cross-validation with 10 repeats instead of leave-one-out. This allows an additional comparison between repeated cross-validation that we used, and repeated hold-out testing that was used in the original simulation.

The resulting 90% confidence intervals are similar in size, but slightly skewed to the left due to a ceiling effect of the AUC compared to the results in Varoquaux (2018). The differences between repeated 10-fold cross-validation and repeated hold-out testing are small (see Figure A.1a).

To explore how these findings generalize to unbalanced data, I have repeated the simulation with a 77/173 ratio between classes, the same as the ratio in chapters 2 and 3. The resulting confidence intervals are slightly wider. In the case of 250 samples they increase from $[-4.7\%, 4.1\%]$ to $[-5.0\%, 4.3\%]$ (see Figure A.1b).



(a) Balanced 50/50 class labels

(b) Unbalanced 77/173 class labels

Figure A.1: Differences between validation performance on a sample of 10000 and estimated generalization performance by 10 repeats 10 fold cross-validation or 50 repeats 80/20 split hold-out validation. The decision function of a support vector classifier was used without tuning hyperparameters. Whiskers represent 5th and 95th percentile values, and the black vertical stripe indicates the median. The simulation was repeated 1000 times for sample size of 1000, and 10000 times for smaller sample sizes.

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