

A test dataset is a [dataset](#) that is independent of the [training dataset](#), but that follows the same probability distribution as the training dataset. If a model fit to the training dataset also fits the test dataset well, minimal overfitting has taken place. A better fitting of the training dataset as opposed to the test dataset usually points to overfitting.

A test set is therefore a set of examples used only to assess the performance (i.e. generalization) of a fully specified classifier.

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