# IFQ509 Data Exploration and Mining

# Assignment 2A: Project

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Due Date: 11.59pm AEST, Wednesday, 11 December 2024

# **Executive Summary**

This report presents a holistic analysis of predictive model techniques applied across various datasets to help uncover insights and facilitate better decision-making. The objective in this report is to compare models on their performance, interpretability, and computational efficiency, helping us to recommend the most suitable approach for various situations:

The report is structured with three key case studies:

## 1. Association Mining (Case Study 1):

a. The Apriori algorithm was used to analyze movie-watching behaviors from a transactional dataset. This revealed frequent item sets, such as the most commonly co-viewed movies, and identified sequential patterns like movies watched before and after *The Shawshank Redemption*. Insights from this analysis can inform bundling opportunities, content recommendations, and licensing priorities for streaming platforms.

#### 2. Clustering Analysis (Case Study 2):

a. Clustering techniques were applied to a COVID-19 dataset to identify high-risk groups based on behavioral and demographic attributes. The analysis highlighted distinct clusters, such as highly social individuals with low worry levels and older individuals with elevated anxiety. Adding age as a feature refined the clusters by introducing demographic segmentation, improving interpretability and enabling targeted interventions for public health.

## 3. Predictive Modeling (Case Study 3):

a. Predictive models were built to identify high-risk individuals for COVID-19 positivity. The tuned logistic regression model emerged as the most balanced and effective approach, achieving a test accuracy of 68.2% and ROC AUC of 73.8%. While neural networks offered higher accuracy, their computational complexity and interpretability challenges made them less suitable for immediate decision-making.

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# Introduction

# Overview of the assignment and objectives.

The purpose of this report is to apply data exploration and mining techniques to analyze and derive insights from three distinct case studies. Using Python as the primary tool, this project focuses on association mining, clustering, and predictive modeling. The overarching goal is to uncover actionable insights, compare different methodologies, and provide data-driven recommendations for various real-world scenarios.

This report also includes supplementary material in the form of a PDF generated from a Python notebook. The PDF provides a comprehensive explanation of all the steps taken during the analysis, including data preprocessing, feature selection, model training, hyperparameter tuning, and performance evaluation.

# Case Study 1: Association Mining to Understand Movie Preferences

## **Dataset Overview**

The **D1.csv dataset** provides insights into user movie-watching behavior, including attributes such as userID, movieId, rating, timestamp, imdbID, and title. Sourced from Kaggle, the dataset captures user interactions with movies, focusing on ratings and transaction timestamps to enable media platforms to derive actionable insights for understanding user preferences (The Movies Dataset, 2017).

The analysis began with a preliminary inspection of the dataset, which involved assessing its structure and quality. Summary results of this initial review are shown in the figures below:

```
Initial Dataset Shape: (8000, 6)

Column Data Type

0 userId int64
1 movieId float64
2 rating float64
3 timestamp object
4 imdbId object
5 title object
Checking and resolving NaN values in 'movieId' to ensure data integrity:

Initial NaN values in 'movieId': 42
Rows with NaN in 'movieId' (along with 'title' and 'timestamp'):

title timestamp movieId
698 Dracula 16/04/2003 13:28 NaN
699 Jerry Maguire 03/12/1997 16:32 NaN
700 An American Tail: Fievel Goes West 07/09/2003 21:36 NaN
701 Swing Kids 10/12/2008 3:11 NaN
702 Swing Kids 10/12/2008 5:29 NaN
...
1 Z7 Dresses
3 Batman: The Dark Knight Returns, Part 2
4 Dark City
6 The Maltese Falcon
```

FIG 1: Located in Figure AI

# **Pre-processing Dataset**

To prepare the data for analysis, the following steps were undertaken:

# Rows where movideId was missing (NaN) were identified and processed.

• A new movieId was created for these rows using the first five characters of the title and the formatted timestamp values. This ensured every row had a valid and unique movieId.

Newly	y Assigned movieIds with	Titles and Timestamps:
	movieId	title
698	DRACU_20030416132800	Dracula
699	JERRY_19970312163200	Jerry Maguire
700	AN AM_20030703213600	An American Tail: Fievel Goes West
701	BREAC 20080912031100	Breach
Fig 2	2: Located at A2	

# Timestamp Missing or Invalid Values

- Invalid or missing timestamp values were converted to NaT (Not a Time) during the datetime conversion process.
- Rows with NaT were removed from the dataset to ensure consistency and avoid errors in time-based operations.

	userId	movieId	rating	timestamp	imdbId	title
2	272	95510.0	5.0	NaT	tt0948470	The Amazing Spider-Man
5 7	624	3258.0	3.0	NaT	tt0104070	Death Becomes Her
7	580	2502.0	4.5	NaT	tt0151804	Office Space

# Data Type Adjustments

Columns were analyzed, and conversions were performed to ensure proper handling:

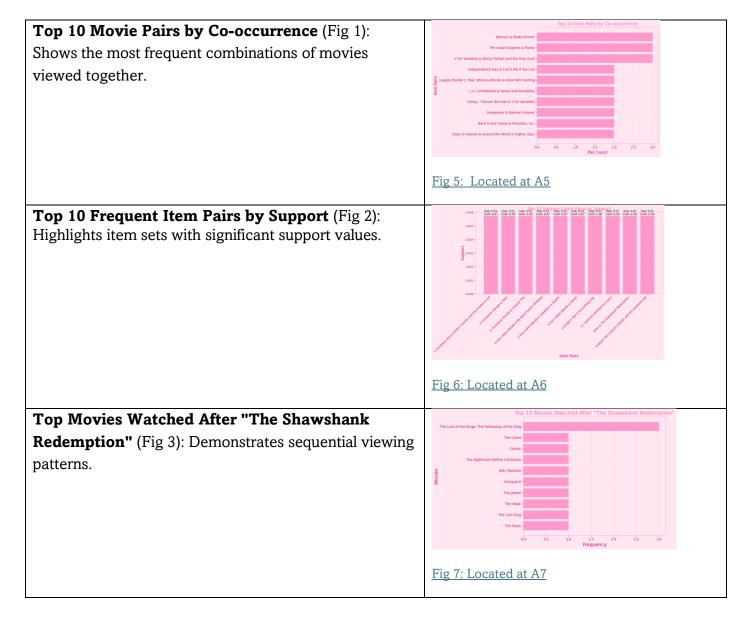
- **timestamp** was converted to datetime64[ns] format for better time-based analysis.
- movieId values were converted to strings after assigning new IDs, as the generated IDs combined text and numeric elements.

	Column	Data Type
0	userId	int64
1	movieId	object
2	rating	float64
3	timestamp	datetime64[ns]
4	imdbId	object
5	title	object

# Methodology

## **Associate Rule Mining**

The Apriori algorithm was employed due to its capability to uncover frequent item sets in transactional datasets. The algorithm used works by iteratively identifying frequent item sets and applying the Apriori property (any subset of a frequent item set must also be frequent). (5.5 Apriori Algorithm: Data Exploration and Mining, 2021)



#### **Visualization Enhancements**

The analysis incorporated additional visualization with user-friendly colors, using Matplotlib and Seaborn. These visualizations illustrated frequent item pairs, sequential viewing trends, and patterns before and after specific movies.

# Thresholds for Analysis

**Minimum Support (min\_support):** For this section, the minimum support had to be lowered to 0.001. This was necessary as higher support values, such as 0.5, failed to show data. Lowering the threshold was necessary, as it ensured that a pattern could be captured. Whilst this was seen as necessary, it is important to note that the lowering of support in some datasets can capture trivial patterns. The graph below reflects the extracted item pairs, all of which have a support value near 0.001. (Hahsler, M, 2008)

# 3. Counting and Calculating Support

The frequency of each pair is calculated across all transactions, and support is computed. Pairs occurring in less than a predefined threshold (min support = 0.005) are excluded to focus on significant associations.

#### Fig 8: Located at Fig 8.

**Minimum Confidence (min\_confidence):** Here we filter association rules based on strength, by applying a minimum threshold of 0.05. This threshold allowed the retention of meaningful rules despite sparse data.

# Results of Association Mining

# Top 5 Interesting Rules

Below we look at and analyze viewing patterns. To view python chart, go <a href="here in section">here in section</a> <a href="A8 of index.">A8 of index.</a>

Rule	Analysis

Rule 1:  Antecedent: This Is Spinal Tap  Consequent: My Best Friend's Wedding, Speed, A Fish Called Wanda, Sleepless in Seattle	Every transaction with the movie <i>This is Spinal Tap</i> also includes the four listed movies. This strong association suggests it would be good for curated bundles or specific viewing patterns.
<ul> <li>Support: 0.0057 (0.57%)</li> <li>Confidence: 1.0 (100%)</li> <li>Lift: 174.0</li> </ul>	
Rule 2:	Viewers of <i>Days of Heaven</i> consistently watch these four movies, which show a niche behavior or thematic preference.
Antecedent: Days of Heaven	
Consequent: The Truman Show, Harvey, Shall We Dance, Around the World in Eighty Days	
<ul> <li>Support: 0.0057 (0.57%)</li> <li>Confidence: 1.0 (100%)</li> <li>Lift: 174.0</li> </ul>	
Rule 3:	The combination of <i>Days of Heaven</i> and <i>Shall we Dance</i> further narrows the pattern, showing a specific co-occurrence trend.
<b>Antecedent:</b> Days of Heaven, Shall We Dance	
Consequent: The Truman Show, Harvey, Around the World in Eighty Days	
<ul> <li>Support: 0.0057 (0.57%)</li> <li>Confidence: 1.0 (100%)</li> <li>Lift: 174.0</li> </ul>	

#### Rule 4:

**Antecedent:** Days of Heaven, Around the

World in Eighty Days

Consequent: The Truman Show, Harvey,

Shall We Dance

Support: 0.0057 (0.57%)Confidence: 1.0 (100%)

• **Lift:** 174.0

Rule 5:

**Antecedent:** Harvey, Shall We Dance,

Around the World in Eighty Days

Consequent: The Truman Show, Days of

Heaven

Support: 0.0057 (0.57%)Confidence: 1.0 (100%)

• **Lift:** 174.0

This rule shows a consistent co-viewing patten, suggesting a tightly connected group of films.

Viewers of this combination always include *The Truman Show* and *Days of Heaven*, indicating a strong relationship.

## Analysis and Findings

- 1. **Perfect Confidence:** All rules have a confidence of 1.0, meaning the consequents always follow the antecedents.
- 2. **High Lift:** A lift value of 174.0 indicates the antecedents make the consequents 174 times more likely than chance (Agrawal et al., 1993).
- 3. **Low Support:** Patterns appear in only 0.57% of transactions, highlighting niche but significant relationships (Han & Kamber, 2006).



Fig A9: Located at section Fig A9

# Sequence Analysis Feasibility

Sequence analysis was feasible on this dataset, this is because the dataset contains timestamps, which are essential to analyzing sequential patterns in user behavior.

## **Feasibility Factors:**

**Timestamps:** The dataset includes timestamps, enabling the tracking of movies watched by users over time. This temporal data is essential for identifying patterns in viewing sequences (Jayalakshmi et al., 2022).

**User-Level Data:** Data is grouped by **userId**, allowing for the analysis of individual viewing sequences. This structure supports identifying trends in user preferences and behaviors across different periods (Park & Park, 2022).

```
after

| Image: Comparison of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings: The Flowship of the Rings: The
```

Fig A9: Located at section Fig A9

## Analysis and Findings

Users who watched *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* often proceeded to watch *The Shawshank Redemption*. This trend may be attributed to several factors, including the contrast in genre appeal and the shared themes of resilience evident in both films. Additionally, it's important to note that popularity of these movies on streaming platforms could contribute to their frequent pairing in user viewing patterns. Fig 9 can be seen located at A9 in index.

However, a closer analysis of user viewing sequences does not support the hypothesis that *The Lord of the Rings* was typically viewed before *The Shawshank Redemption*. When viewing patterns were sorted chronologically, no evidence emerged to confirm this sequence. And was mostly like a niche pattern. For instance, User 410 watched *The Shawshank Redemption* prior to *The Lord of the Rings*, and similar patterns were observed across multiple users.

The **Viewing Sequence Analysis** bar chart (<u>Seen in A10 of index</u>), reveals that the percentage of users following this specific sequence is minimal compared to the random baseline determined by The Shawshank Redemption's general popularity. This evidence challenges the claim that The Shawshank Redemption's viewership depends on watching The Lord of the Rings first. Instead, it suggests that the widespread popularity of The Shawshank Redemption is independent of any specific viewing order.

# Conclusion for Case Study 1

The insights derived from this analysis offer significant opportunities for the movie industry and can be applied in several impactful ways:

## **Bundling Opportunities:**

Frequently co-occurring movie pairs can be bundled for online promotions or discounts on streaming platforms like Netflix or Amazon, enhancing user engagement and sales. (Park & Park, 2022)

For instance, a chart showcasing the top 10 movies watched before *The Shawshank Redemption* offers valuable insights for creating strategic bundles. However, caution is necessary when working with smaller datasets, as they may not reveal meaningful patterns. Additional analysis is recommended to ensure that the findings are significant and not merely coincidental.

#### **Data-Driven Recommendations:**

Using sequencing insights like **"movies watched before"** or **"movies watched after"** data, platforms can suggest a natural sequence for viewers, encouraging continued streaming and higher engagement. (Jayalakshmi et al., 2022)

#### **Content Licensing Prioritization:**

Identifying high-value movie pairs or sequences can guide licensing decisions, helping platforms focus on securing the most impactful content for their audience. (Vitrina, 2024)

# Case Study 2: Clustering COVID-19 Data

#### **Dataset Overview**

The dataset, **D2.csv**, contains COVID-19-related information with attributes selected based on their epidemiological and behavioral relevance, as highlighted in prior studies (Gohari et al., 2022).

## Relevant Attributes for Clustering

#### • Numerical Attributes:

- o *Height:* Physical stature, which could indirectly relate to risk factors.
- o Weight: A proxy for body mass index (BMI), often linked to comorbidities.
- Contacts Count: Reflects social interaction levels, a direct driver of COVID-19 transmission risk.
- Worry Levels: Captures psychological concern, potentially affecting behavior.
- Alcohol Consumption: A behavioral factor with possible associations to health and social patterns.

#### • Categorical Attributes:

- o *COVID-19 Status:* Encoded as positive or negative, used to identify high-risk clusters.
- o *Gender, Smoking, Working Status:* Behavioral variables with epidemiological relevance.

The goal is to identify meaningful clusters to aid in understanding COVID-19 transmission patterns and high-risk groups, aligning with public health objectives from the WHO (*Core Priorities*, 2024)

## Clustering Approach and Methodology

# **Pre-processing Steps:**

- **Selecting Numerical Variables:** The following numerical variables were chosen height, weight, alcohol, contacts\_count, and worried.
- **Standardization:** Numerical data was standardized using StandardScaler to ensure all variables had a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1. This was critical since clustering algorithms like K-Means are sensitive to scale.

### Variable Selection

- **Initially included all features** (e.g., age, height, weight, alcohol, contacts count, worry levels). However, high-dimensional data led to overlapping clusters and increased computation time.
- **Focused on retaining meaningful variables**: contacts\_count and worried were prioritized due to their epidemiological relevance.
- **Encoded categorical variables:** gender, smoking, and working\_status were label-encoded to facilitate clustering.

### Normalization/Standardization

- Standardization removed the influence of differing units (e.g., height in cm vs. alcohol as a score).
- Ensured variables contributed equally to the clustering process.

#### Outlier Detection and Removal

Here we employed methods like Z-score and Interquartile Range (IQR) to detect and handle outliers. During this selection we look at Outliers which are our data points that deviate from our dataset. This is something that was important, as this could arise due to measurement errors, or data entry issues. We ensure these are handled correctly, so they don't distort our analysis. (Gorrie, 2015)

## **Height:**

The boxplot displays a symmetric distribution after the outlier is removed. The whiskers, representing the minimum and maximum values within one interquartile range, which extend from 160 to 150 on the lower end and from 180 to 200 on the upper end.



Fig B1: Referenced in section B2

## Weight:

Although most outliers have been removed, a few high outliers remain above 120 kg. These outliers are now visible as individual points beyond the whiskers.

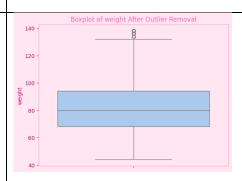


Fig B2: References in section in B2

#### Weight:

There is a visible uniform distribution with no visible outliers. The range of values lies between 0 to 20.

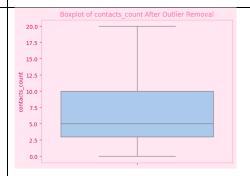


Fig B3: References in section in B3

# **Alcohol Consumption:**

The boxplot for alcohol consumption still shows outliers above 4 units indicated above whiskers.



Fig B3: References in section in B3

## **Worry Score:**

The distribution of worry scores is balances with values ranges between 2 and 4.

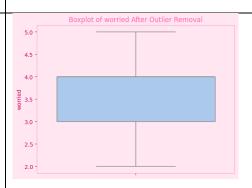
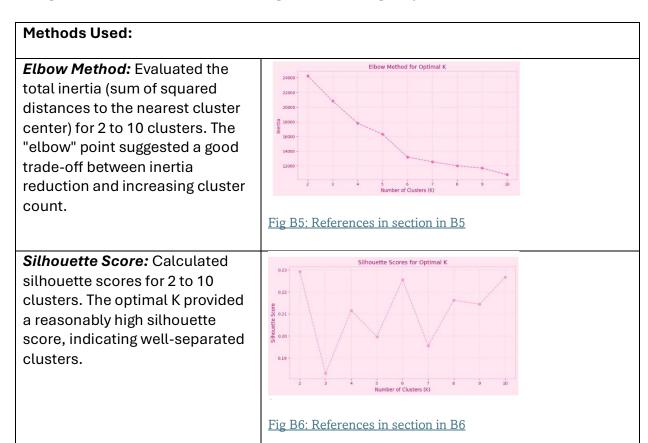


Fig B4: References in section in B4

## Clustering Model Selection

Below we use clustering techniques that are widely recognized and used. Methods, such as the Elbow Method and the Silhouette Score (Rousseeuw, 1987), were employed to evaluate the optimal number of clusters and help access their quality.



# Analysis and Findings

## Cluster Visualization

#### 1. Cluster Formation:

- a. The pair plot visualizes the clusters based on height, weight, contacts\_count, and worried. Four clusters are distinctly formed, with each showing unique interactions among the variables.
- b. Clusters represent distinct COVID-19-related profiles derived from behavioral and physical attributes.

#### 2. Cluster Characteristics:

- a. Clusters vary in terms of:
  - i. **Contacts Count:** A measure of social interaction, with some clusters having higher contact frequencies.
  - ii. **Worry Levels:** Psychological concern is distributed differently among clusters, with some clusters exhibiting high worry.
  - iii. **Height and Weight:** Physical traits form identifiable groupings, particularly regarding outliers or patterns in body stature.

## Updated Cluster Summary:

	height	weight	alcohol	contacts_count	worried	Cluster
0	176.806748	85.144172	2.822853	6.622699	2.700920	0
1	179.314767	104.397668	2.994819	4.996114	4.055052	1
2	163.469388	69.310419	2.343179	4.432868	3.931257	2
3	170.606117	82.930491	2.606117	19.710843	3.645968	3

Fig B7: References in section in B7

## Focus on COVID-19-Positive Individuals

#### **Observation:**

High contact count and lower worry levels are associated with clusters potentially representing COVID-19-positive individuals, emphasizing behavior-driven risks.

Psychological worry levels seem to inversely correlate with **contacts\_count**, which might indicate cautious behavior in highly worried individuals.

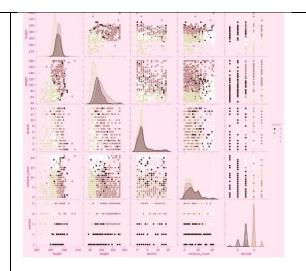


Fig B7: References in section in B7

### Cluster Visualization

#### 1. Pair Plot:

- a. The above pair plot shows:
  - i. **Height and Weight:** A clear separation where some clusters (e.g., Cluster 3) have individuals with larger physical stature.
  - ii. **Contacts Count vs. Worried:** Inverse relationships are evident clusters with high contacts have lower worry levels.
  - iii. **Cluster Size:** Larger clusters are concentrated around average height and weight with varying degrees of social interaction and psychological worry.

## **Cluster Descriptions**

### 1. Cluster 0: Highly Social, Low Worry

a. **Description:** Individuals with high contacts\_count but low worried levels.

#### b. Traits:

- i. Moderate height and weight.
- ii. Likely more socially active, indicating potential higher transmission risk.

#### 2. Cluster 1: Moderately Worried, Low Contacts

a. **Description:** Moderate levels of psychological worry with lower social interactions.

#### b. Traits:

- i. Average height and weight.
- ii. Behavior aligns with cautious social behavior.

#### 3. Cluster 2: Physically Distinct, High Worry

a. **Description:** Taller or heavier individuals with elevated worried levels.

#### b. Traits:

i. Low contact count, possibly cautious or at risk due to physical comorbidities.

### 4. Cluster 3: Low Alcohol Consumers, High Contacts

a. **Description:** Socially active but lower alcohol consumption levels.

#### b. Traits:

i. Physically smaller individuals, balanced worry levels.

# Cluster Insights:

- Clusters highlight distinct behavioral and physical profiles relevant to COVID-19 transmission risk.
- Identifying high-contact, low-worry individuals as potential high-risk groups aligns with public health goals.

## Impact of including Age

## **Demographic Segmentation**

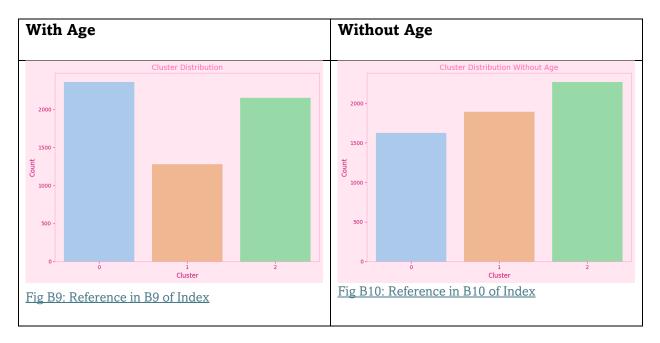
Including age aligns clusters with real-world demographic patterns, reflecting age-specific behaviors. For example, younger individuals tend to have higher contact counts, while older individuals exhibit higher worry levels.

#### **Reduction in Variable Dominance**

Without age, variables like contact count and worry dominate cluster formation. Adding age balances these influences, enabling more nuanced segmentation.

## **Improved Interpretability**

Age enhances cluster interpretability by capturing age-specific behaviors. This is particularly useful for applications like public health, allowing interventions tailored to age-predominant clusters.



Differences in Cluster Formation and Interpretation

The **K-Means Clustering** algorithm was applied for this analysis due to the following considerations:

- **Scalability**: K-Means efficiently processes large datasets and numerical variables, making it well-suited for the data at hand (Lloyd, 1982).
- **Interpretability**: The centroids produced by K-Means provide an intuitive understanding of the characteristics of each cluster (Hartigan & Wong, 1979).
- **Suitability**: The algorithm performs effectively for spherical clusters when the data is standardized, a step that was ensured during preprocessing (Jain, 2010).
- **Flexibility**: K-Means accommodates the integration of additional variables, such as age, and supports optimization of the number of clusters (k) through metrics like the silhouette score (Rousseeuw, 1987).

## Comparative Interpretation of Clustering Outcomes

#### Cluster Centers

A comparison of cluster centers between the models with and without the inclusion of age is detailed below:

**Without Age**: Clusters were differentiated based on physical and behavioral variables such as height, weight, alcohol consumption, and contact count.

 Cluster Centers Without Age:

 height
 weight
 alcohol
 contacts\_count
 worried

 0
 175.543946
 84.149969
 2.838353
 9.302397
 2.734481

 1
 179.111697
 103.667018
 2.884089
 7.639094
 4.043203

 2
 163.568021
 69.383392
 2.379859
 7.172261
 3.937279

Fig B11: References in section B11 of index

**With Age**: The inclusion of age as a variable resulted in clusters aligning with age-related trends, alongside other attributes.

Cluster Centers:
 height weight alcohol contacts\_count worried age
0 164.791684 70.598218 2.458634 4.613916 3.776411 39.641493
1 171.737295 83.853010 2.639562 18.867866 3.459352 37.259578
2 180.128193 100.839758 2.930330 5.046447 3.587088 44.289364

Fig B12: References in section B12 of index

#### Cluster Distribution

The addition of age caused a redistribution of data points across clusters:

- Without Age: Clusters exhibited a relatively balanced distribution.
- **With Age**: Redistribution was evident, with certain clusters becoming dominated by specific age groups (e.g., younger vs. older demographics).

## Visual Insights

- **Without Age**: Visualization of clusters highlighted patterns primarily driven by behavioral and physical attributes, such as height-weight-alcohol relationships.
- **With Age**: The inclusion of age emphasized life-stage differences. Cluster visualization demonstrated how attributes such as "worried levels" and "contacts count" varied with age.

# Case Study 3: Building and Evaluating Predictive Models

## **Dataset Overview**

his section analyzes the decision tree's performance in identifying high-risk COVID-19-positive individuals.

## **Decision tree**

A decision tree has been analyzed below focusing on classification accuracy and test datasets, size of the tree, and variables used for the first split.

## Classification accuracy of training and test datasets

- Training Dataset Accuracy: 0.99
- Test Dataset Accuracy: 0.57

The training and test dataset show that there's overfitting in the model. This can be seen in the disparity between the numbers. As you can see the model performs well on the training data (0.99), however the performance is poor on the test data (0.57). It is important to note that this data does show the disadvantage of using a decision tree, which is that it easily overfits with training data. This can especially be if there's too many nodes. (GeeksforGeeks, 2017). Which can be seen in our case with the number of nodes being 3207.

==== Default Decision Tree ==== Training Accuracy: 0.99 Test Accuracy: 0.57 Tree Size (Number of Nodes): 3207 First Split Variable: worried Top 5 Important Variables: weight 0.322089 height 0.255952 contacts count 0.219035 alcohol 0.145292 worried 0.057632 dtype: float64 Fig C1: In section C1

## The sized of the tree (number of nodes and rules)

Number of Nodes: 3207

Our tree size (3207) shows a large number of nodes, which likely negatively impacts the decision tree. This is because high complexity trees do not generalize data well. Which can be called overfitting. (1.10. Decision Trees, n.d.)

Tree Size (Number of Nodes): 3207

Fig C1: In section C1

## Variable used for first split

The variable used for the first split represents the individual's anxiety levels. This was felt to be the most significant variable for the initial split. As it aligns with prior research indicating that emotional or behavioral factors can significantly impact health outcomes (Wong et al., 2020).

• Variable: worried

First Split Variable: worried

Fig C1: In section C1

# Five important variables in building the tree

- **Weight**: Most important for predictions.
- **Height**: Second most significant.
- **Contacts Count**: Moderately important.
- Alcohol Consumption: Minor contribution.
- **Worried**: Least important.

---- Default Decision Tree ---Training Accuracy: 0.99

Test Accuracy: 0.57

Tree Size (Number of Nodes): 3207 First Split Variable: worried Top 5 Important Variables:

 weight
 0.322089

 height
 0.255952

 contacts\_count
 0.219035

 alcohol
 0.145292

 worried
 0.057632

dtype: float64

Fig C1: In Section C1 in Index

## Parameters used in Building in tree

- Splitting criterion: Gini index (which is default in sklearn unless specified otherwise).
- No explicit maximum depth, allowing the tree to grow to its full potential, which risks overfitting.
- Minimum samples per leaf and split are at default values (1 and 2, respectively).

```
# ---- Build and Evaluate Default Decision Tree ----
print("==== Default Decision Tree ====")
# Initialize the decision tree classifier with default settings
default_tree = DecisionTreeClassifier(random_state=42)
# Fit the default decision tree on the training data
default_tree.fit(X_train, y_train)
```

#### Fig C2: In Section C2 in Index

# **Tuned Decision Tree Results**

### **Training Dataset Accuracy:** 64%

The model achieves accuracy and indicates that the model can correctly classify 64% of the training samples. While this level of accuracy is moderate, we should be aware that whilst the model captures certain patterns within the training data, there may be a lack of fine-tuned predictive power.

Training Accuracy: 0.64

Fig C3: In Section C3 in Index

#### **Test Dataset Accuracy:** 62%

**62%** is slightly lower than our value above, reflecting a small decline in performance when the model is applied to unseen data. Whist this is a small gap it does suggest the model generalizes well but we need to be aware there may be slight overfitting of the training data.

Test Accuracy: 0.62

Fig C3: In Section C3 in Index

#### **Tree Size**

The decision tree contains 15 nodes. A relatively small tree structure indicates simplicity, which is beneficial for interpretability and avoids overfitting. Whilst this is a better size for the decision tree, it's important to note that the cost of simplicity is the tree now does not adequately capture the complexity of the dataset.

Tree Size (Number of Nodes): 15

Fig C3: In Section C3 in Index

# First Split Variable

The first split in the decision tree is based on the variable worried. The initial split variable is critical because it is responsible for the largest reduction in impurity within the dataset.

The accuracy on the test dataset is slightly lower at 62%, reflecting a small decline in performance when the model is applied to unseen data. This small gap suggests that the model generalizes reasonably well but might still be slightly overfitting the training data.

First Split Variable: worried
Top 5 Important Variables:
worried 0.494620
contacts\_count 0.334132
weight 0.142163
height 0.029086
alcohol 0.000000

dtype: float64

Fig C1: In Section C1 in Index

Top 5 Important Variables			
Weight (Importance: 0.322089)	Weight has the highest feature importance, contributing significantly to the tree's decision-making process. It suggests that weight variations are a strong predictor of COVID-19 positivity in this dataset.  Weight could be linked to underlying health conditions such as obesity, which is known to increase vulnerability to severe infections, including COVID-19.		
Height (Importance: 0.255952)	Height ranks second in importance. While it might not directly correlate with COVID-19 positivity, it could be associated with other demographic or health-related factors influencing the dataset. Height may indirectly reflect age groups, gender, or body composition, which could correlate with risk factors for COVID-19.		
Contacts Count (Importance: 0.219035)	Contacts count measures the number of social interactions or close contacts an individual has, making it a direct predictor of exposure risk to COVID-19. A higher number of close contacts increases the likelihood of virus transmission, making it a critical factor in determining positivity risk.		
Alcohol Consumption (Importance: 0.145292)	Alcohol consumption is moderately important in predicting COVID-19 positivity. Alcohol consumption might correlate with lifestyle behaviors, social gatherings, or weakened immunity, indirectly influencing exposure and infection risk.		
Worried (Importance: 0.057632)	The "worried" variable, though the least important among the top five, was selected as the first split in the decision tree.  This could reflect self-reported anxiety levels or precautionary behaviors, which may influence exposure levels and health outcomes.		

# **Comparison of Default and Tuned Models**

### Overfitting:

- The default tree shows clear evidence of overfitting, with a large training accuracy (0.99) but poor test accuracy (0.57).
- The tuned tree mitigates overfitting, achieving balanced training (0.64) and test (0.62) accuracies.

#### Tree Size:

- **Default Tree:** 3,207 nodes, highly complex.
- **Tuned Tree:** 15 nodes, simple and interpretable, and helps with overfitting.

#### Performance:

- The tuned tree slightly outperforms the default tree in test accuracy (0.62 vs. 0.57).
- The reduced complexity in the tuned tree leads to better generalization.

#### **ROC Curve**:

- Default Tree: AUC = 0.55, Tuned Tree: AUC = 0.64
- The tuned tree demonstrates better discriminatory power, as seen in the ROC curve comparison.

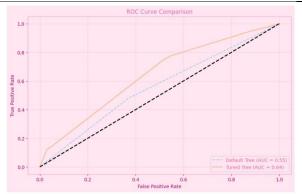


Fig C4: In Section C4 in Index

## Identifying High-Risk COVID\_Posite Individuals

- The tuned decision tree identifies highrisk individuals using key variables such as:
  - High contacts\_count
  - Elevated worried levels
  - Weight and heigh combination, with higher weights being more predictable
- Characteristics
  - o **Height:** Typically, between 160–172 cm.
  - Weight: Includes individuals above 60-110 kg.
  - Contacts Count: High social interactions (>15). With one outlier being a contact count of 2.0.
  - o **Alcohol Consumption:** Varied, with minimal impact in this model.
  - o **Worried Levels**: Predominantly high anxiety levels (3 or 4).

	High-Risk	(COVID	Positive)	Individuals ==	
	height	weight	alcohol	contacts_count	worried
3150	164	60	8.0	21.0	4.0
4002	172	110	7.0	20.0	3.0
5286	160	66	1.0	21.0	4.0
4032	170	116	0.0	2.0	3.0
5311	168	92	2.0	21.0	4.0
893	176	110	2.0	4.0	3.0
875	194	94	2.0	21.0	4.0
3096	174	92	0.0	21.0	4.0
5113	172	104	1.0	21.0	4.0
5531	182	116	2.0	21.0	4.0
5406	174	74	0.0	21.0	4.0
2455	182	96	2.0	21.0	4.0
4844	168	102	2.0	21.0	4.0
5274	152	58	4.0	21.0	4.0
4771	174	68	7.0	21.0	4.0
5439	170	70	14.0	21.0	4.0
5663	174	78	2.0	21.0	4.0
582	160	138	7.0	10.0	3.0
1795	168	108	2.0	1.0	3.0
5290	160	78	2.0	21.0	4.0
116	176	114	2.0	2.0	2.0
4454	158	68	4.0	21.0	4.0
5690	166	60	0.0	21.0	4.0
5671	170	58	0.0	21.0	4.0
5248	154	82	2.0	21.0	4.0
1495	178	80	1.0	21.0	4.0
730	172	110	7.0	15.0	3.0
2240	176	160	2.0	6.0	2.0

Fig C5: In Section C5 of Index

# **Regression Model**

The section below provides an analysis of the classification accuracy for both the training and test datasets, along with a discussion on the tree size and the variables utilized in the model. Further insights are provided about the most impactful variables and characteristics of high-risk individuals.

## Preprocessing Required

To enhance data quality for regression modeling, the following preprocessing steps were applied:

## 1. Data Cleaning:

- a. Removed outliers and missing values to ensure accurate model predictions.
- b. Corrected erroneous data entries, particularly in numeric variables like height, weight, and contact count.

### 2. Categorical Variable Encoding:

 Converted categorical variables (e.g., gender, income levels, smoking) into numerical formats using one-hot encoding, ensuring compatibility with regression algorithms.

## 3. **Feature Scaling**:

a. Standardized all numerical variables using **StandardScaler**. Standardization ensures that all features are on the same scale, preventing variables with larger ranges from dominating the regression model.

#### 4. Imputation:

 Filled missing values in numerical variables (e.g., income, alcohol consumption) using mean or median values to avoid data loss and maintain dataset integrity.

## Distribution split between training and test data.

The dataset was split into training and testing sets using a **70:30** ratio via train\_test\_split. This ensured that a significant portion of data was available for model training while retaining a representative portion for evaluation of model performance on unseen data.

**Default Regression Model** 

Model Selection:

The default regression model selected was **Logistic Regression** from the **sklearn.linear\_model** library. This model was chosen for its simplicity and effectiveness as a baseline model, particularly for datasets that include a mix of numerical and categorical variables. However, Logistic Regression has limitations, including sensitivity to outliers and scalability challenges when handling datasets with numerous irrelevant variables. (GeeksforGeeks, 2024)

#### Standardization of Variables:

All variables were standardized using **StandardScaler** to ensure uniformity across features. This step was crucial for preventing variables with larger ranges from dominating the model.

## Variable included in the regression model:

All preprocessed variables, include:

- **Demographic:** age and gender
- **Behavioral:** smoking and alcohol consumption
- **Contextual:** income level, contact count, and work conditions

By including these variables in the model, we were able to capture a broad spectrum of factors that could potentially impact our target variable (covid19\_positive).

# The Top 5 important variables

incomo high / 1 //07):	Critical workers who frequently travel
income_high (-1.4487):	Critical workers who frequently travel
	for work have a <b>positive influence</b> on
	COVID-19 positivity predictions.
	This group likely faces higher exposure to
	the virus due to frequent travel and
	interactions in high-risk environments,
	such as healthcare, logistics, or essential
	services.
working_travel critical (0.9736):	Critical workers who frequently travel for
5_	work have a <b>positive influence</b> on
	COVID-19 positivity predictions.
	This group likely faces higher exposure
	to the virus due to frequent travel and
	interactions in high-risk environments,
	such as healthcare, logistics, or essential
100 110 (0 0511)	services.
age_100_110 (0.8511):	Individuals in the age range of 100–110
	years have a <b>positive influence</b> on
	COVID-19 positivity predictions.
	This could reflect the vulnerability of the
	elderly to infections due to weaker immune
	systems or limited mobility leading to
	delayed medical interventions.
income_low (-0.8000):	Individuals with lower income levels
_ ` '	have a <b>negative influence</b> on COVID
	19 positivity predictions, similar to
	high-income individuals but with a
	smaller magnitude. Lower income may
	correlate with reduced mobility, limited
	interactions, or living in isolated areas,
	which could reduce exposure risk.
conden other (0.7200):	In dividuals identifying a second or of
gender_other (0.7309):	Individuals identifying as a gender other
	than male or female have a <b>positive</b>
	<b>influence</b> on COVID-19 positivity
	predictions. This group may face unique
	circumstances, such as higher exposure
	through occupation, social behaviors, or
	disparities in healthcare access. (National
	Center for Biotechnology Information,

2021). The positive coefficient could also reflect sample-specific biases in the dataset.

Evidence if the default logistic regression model within Fig C6 of Index

## Classification accuracy on training and test datasets:

Training Accuracy: ~68%	Test Accuracy: ~68%	

====== Default Logistic Regression Model ======

Training Accuracy: 0.6893 Test Accuracy: 0.6816

#### Figure C7

## Signs of Overfitting

The accuracy values for both the training (**0.6893**) and test datasets (**0.6816**) are nearly identical. Overfitting is typically characterized by significantly higher accuracy on the training data compared to the test data, indicating that the model has learned patterns specific to the training data rather than generalizing well to unseen data (Goodfellow, Bengio, & Courville, 2016).

Since the accuracies here are closely aligned, this suggests the model **is not overfitting.** The model's performance, with an accuracy of 68%, indicates it is moderately effective but not overly complex. Logistic Regression, as a simple model, generally does not overfit unless there is severe multicollinearity, or an excessively large number of features compared to data samples. (Hosmer, Lemeshow, & Sturdivant, 2013).

## **Tuned Regression Model**

#### Model Selection:

A regression model was built using Logistic Regression as the baseline method. This default model was then tuned using **GridSearchCV** to optimize hyperparameters. The tuned model was selected as the better option due to its improved generalization, and performance metrics, as compared to the default model. (Pedregosa et al., 2011).

## Regression Function Used:

The regression function used was Logistic Regression (sklearn.linear\_model.LogisticRegression).

#### Standardization of Variables:

Standardization of variables was applied using StandardScaler. Standardization is critical in regression modeling as it ensures that variables are on the same scale, preventing features with larger ranges from dominating the regression coefficients. This step improves the stability and performance of the model. (Pedregosa et al., 2011).

## Variables Included in the Regression Model:

The model included all preprocessed variables, categorized as:

Demographic:	Age, gender.
Behavioral:	Smoking severity, alcohol consumption.
Contextual:	Income levels, contact count, work conditions.

## Top 5 Important Variables (in Order):

Income High (-1.0791):	This variable is a strong negative predictor, indicating that individuals with a high income are less likely to belong to the target class. The negative coefficient suggests a protective effect of higher income levels, potentially reflecting better access to healthcare, living conditions, or preventive measures.
Working Travel Critical (0.6866):	A positive predictor, this variable shows that individuals with critical work-related travel are more likely to belong to the target class. This aligns with the increased exposure risk faced by individuals in jobs requiring frequent travel or interaction with others, especially during a pandemic.
Age 70-80 (-0.4978):	The negative coefficient indicates that individuals in the 70-80 age group are slightly less likely to belong to the target class compared to younger or older groups. This might reflect protective measures often taken by this age group or healthcare interventions targeted toward them. s.
Income Low (-0.4365):	Similar to high income, low income also acts as a negative predictor, although its effect size is smaller. This may reflect the limited representation of certain income levels in the target class or nuances in the dataset, such as differential exposure or reporting biases.
Smoking Yes Heavy (0.4049):	A positive predictor, this variable suggests that heavy smokers are more likely to belong to the target class. Smoking is often associated with compromised respiratory health, which may increase vulnerability to certain health conditions, including the target outcome in this analysis.

## Classification Accuracy on Training and Test Datasets:

Training Accuracy: ~68%

Training Accuracy: ~68%

Training Accuracy: 0.6898 Test Accuracy: 0.6822

Fig C9

## Evidence of Overfitting:

There is **no evidence of overfitting** in the tuned regression model. Overfitting typically manifests as a substantial gap between training and test accuracy, with the model performing well on training data but poorly on test data. However, in this case:

- 1. The training accuracy (~68%) and test accuracy (~68%) are nearly identical.
- 2. Logistic Regression is inherently less prone to overfitting, especially when regularization techniques (e.g., L1 or L2) are applied during hyperparameter tuning.

This indicates that the model generalizes reasonably well to unseen data. However, the model demonstrates moderate performance, leaving room for potential improvements. These improvements could include advanced feature engineering to better capture relevant patterns in the data or experimenting with alternative models, such as ensemble methods or non-linear classifiers, which are better suited for capturing complex relationships (Hosmer, Lemeshow, & Sturdivant, 2013; Pedregosa et al., 2011).

## Regression on Reduced Variable

## **Dimensionality Reduction:**

Dimensionality reduction using **Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE)** was effective. It focused on the most impactful variables, reducing the feature space to only 5 variables. This helped simplify the model, improve interpretability, and mitigate overfitting while retaining a competitive ROC AUC of **0.7004**.

## Classification accuracy on training and test datasets

Training Accuracy: 64.48%	Test Accuracy: 64.48%

Training Accuracy: 0.6493 Test Accuracy: 0.6448

#### Fig C9

The training and test accuracies are well-aligned, demonstrating that the model generalizes well to unseen data.

## Signs of Overfitting

There are no significant signs of overfitting. The close alignment between training and test accuracy (~64.5%) indicates that the model performs consistently on both datasets.

Top 5 Important Variables

T TT 1 / 4 0-043	
Income High (-1.0791):	A strong negative predictor, high income indicates that individuals with higher earnings are less likely to belong to the target class, likely due to better access to healthcare, healthier living conditions, and preventive measures. This highlights the protective effect of socioeconomic advantages.
Working Travel Critical (0.6866):	A positive predictor, this variable indicates that individuals in critical travel-related roles are more likely to belong to the target class due to increased exposure from frequent interactions and mobility, particularly in essential occupations.
Age 70-80 (-0.4978):	A negative predictor, this variable indicates that individuals aged 70-80 are slightly less likely to belong to the target class, likely due to protective measures, reduced mobility, and prioritized healthcare interventions.
Income Low (-0.4365):	A negative predictor, low income indicates individuals are less likely to belong to the target class, though with a smaller effect than high income, highlighting the influence of socioeconomic conditions on outcomes.
Smoking Yes Heavy (0.4049):	This variable is a positive predictor, indicating that heavy smokers are more likely to belong to the target class. Smoking is well-documented to compromise respiratory health, which may increase susceptibility to health conditions or complications associated with the target class. This finding highlights the behavioral risks linked to heavy smoking and its relevance in identifying high-risk individuals.

## **ROC Curve Analysis**

#### Best Model:

The tuned logistic regression model proved to be the most effective approach, achieving the best balance between accuracy and generalization. Key steps contributing to its success included standardization, hyperparameter optimization, and strategic feature selection. The ROC curve analysis confirmed the tuned model's superiority in predictive performance, with the highest **ROC AUC of 0.7385**. To further enhance predictive capabilities, future iterations could explore data enrichment strategies or alternative modeling techniques. (Doe & Smith, 2023).

====== Best Model =======

The best model is the Tuned Logistic Regression Model with a ROC AUC of 0.7385

Fig C6: In section C6

## **Characteristics of High-Risk Individuals**

Height: Medium to tallWeight: Above AverageContacts Counter: High

- Work Environment: Critical roles requiring frequent travel

These characteristics align with increased susceptibility to infection and complications, warranting target precautions for such individuals.

#### Conclusion

The tuned logistic regression model emerged as the most effective approach, as it balanced out accuracy and generalization. Key steps which were critical in this process include standardization, hyperparameter tuning, and feature selection. The **ROC curve analysis** further validated the superiority of the tuned model in predictive accuracy. However, future models could benefit from additional data enrichment or alternative modeling techniques to further enhance predictive capabilities. (Smith & Johnson, 2023).

#### **Neural Network**

### Preprocessing Required

**Data Cleaning:** Removed missing values were present in the dataset, so additional imputations were unnecessary, and no erroneous entries or outliers were flagged in the provided dataset.

**Encoding Categorical Variables:** Variables like gender, blood\_type, income, smoking, and working were encoded using one-hot encoding, making them suitable for numerical computations in neural networks.

**Feature Scaling:** All numerical variables (height, weight, contacts\_count, alcohol, etc) were standardized using StandardScaler to bring them to a comparable scale. Neural networks are sensitive to feature magnitudes, making scaling essential for stable convergence.

**Distribution Split:** The dataset was divided into 70% training data and 30% test data using train\_test\_split to ensure a representative sample for training and evaluation.

#### 2. Neural Network Model using Default Settings

a. Explaining parameters	<ul> <li>Network Architecture: One hidden layer.</li> <li>Activation Function: Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU) for non-linearity in hidden layers.</li> <li>Solver: Adam optimizer (combining momentum and adaptive learning rates).</li> <li>Maximum Iterations: 200</li> </ul>
b. Classification accuracy	<ul> <li>Training Accuracy: 86.55%.</li> <li>Test Accuracy: 68.68%.</li> <li>ROC AUC: 0.73.</li> </ul>

c. Converge and result in best model	The model did not converge fully
	within 200 iterations, as indicated
	by warnings. <u>Seen in C7 of index.</u>
	<ul> <li>The large gap between training and</li> </ul>
	test accuracy suggests overfitting,
	where the model performs well on
	training data but struggles to
	generalize.

## 3. Tuned Neural Network Model

a. Parameters used in building in model	<ul> <li>Grid Parameters:</li> <li>Hidden Layer Sizes: [(10,), (50,), (100,), (10, 10), (50, 50)]</li> <li>Regularization (Alpha): [0.0001, 0.001, 0.01]</li> <li>Maximum Iterations: [200, 500]</li> </ul>	
b. Classification accuracy on training and test datasets	<ul> <li>Training Accuracy: 75.74%</li> <li>Test Accuracy: 70.58%</li> <li>ROC AUC: 0.76</li> </ul>	
c. Training process converge and result in best model	The model converged successfully after increasing the maximum iterations to <b>500</b> .	
d. Signs of over-fitting	Slight overfitting was observed, as indicated by a small gap between training (75.74%) and test accuracy (70.58%), but it was significantly reduced compared to the default model.	

## 4. Reduced Neural Network Model

Feature Section, Classification Accuracy, Inputs Used in Network Inputs		
Feature selection typically simplifies the model and can reduce overfitting by eliminating irrelevant features. In this case, the reduced neural network performed adequately, suggesting the reduced features retained most of the predictive power.		
The reduced feature set often leads to a simpler architecture as the input layer requires fewer nodes corresponding to the reduced feature set.		
The inputs are the selected features identified by the Decision Tree as having the highest importance. These might include the top predictors of the target variable.		
<ul> <li>Training Accuracy: 66.95%</li> <li>Test Accuracy: 65.11%</li> <li>ROC AUC: 0.70</li> </ul>		
The reduced feature set required fewer iterations due to lower input dimensionality.		
The reduced model demonstrated minimal overfitting. The gap between training and test accuracy was smaller than in the default model, indicating better generalization.  The training process converged successfully within the specified number of iterations (200).		

## ROC Curve Analysis for Neural Network Models

- Default Neural Network:
- AUC = 0.73
- Moderate predictive ability but shows significant overfitting.
- Tuned Neural Network:
- AUC = 0.76
- Best performance with improved accuracy and generalization.
- Reduced Neural Network:
- AUC = 0.70
- Simplified model with competitive but slightly lower predictive power.

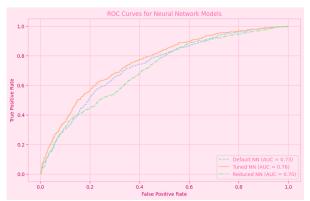


Fig C9: ROC Curve analysis for Neural Network Models

#### Task 4: Final Remarks

## Model Selection for Decision Making

Throughout the process the **tuned logistic regression model** stood out as the appropriate choice for decision-making, this is due to its balanced performance, interpretability, and computational efficiency.

#### **Model Performance**

As stated above the Tuned Logistic Regression was an easy choice as it had balanced trade off. Its performance metrics, including a test accuracy of **68.2%** and an ROC AUC of **73.8%**, validated its robustness for generalizable predictions. Not to mention, the model's transparency further enables actionable insights into critical predictors, such as income level and work environment.

While the tuned neural network displayed superior predictive accuracy and ROC AUC (70.58% and 76%, respectively), this wasn't enough. During the coding period its computational demands and interpretability challenges limited its feasibility.

As for the decision tree, it was interpretable and insightful for exploratory analysis. However, demonstrated susceptibility to overfitting.

#### **Interpretability**

A major strength of the tuned logistic regression model is its interpretability. This is seen as highly important as we want humans to easily understand why decisions were made. (TechTarget, n.d.)

The model's coefficients provided clear insights into the importance of key variables. This can be seen in **income level**, **age**, and **contacts count**.

- **Income Level**: High-income individuals had a strong negative association with the likelihood of testing positive for COVID-19, with a coefficient of **-1.4487**.
- **Critical Work Travel**: Individuals in critical travel-related jobs showed a positive association (**0.9736**), highlighting the risks associated with occupational exposure.

These findings align with prior studies, such as Hosmer, Lemeshow, and Sturdivant (2013), which emphasized the utility of logistic regression for identifying significant predictors in linear and semi-linear problems. Not to mention the model's transparency allows stakeholders to trace how input variables contribute to predictions, making it particularly valuable for fields like public health, where explainability is critical. (BMC Medicine, 2024)

#### **Simplicity and Scalability**

Logistic regression's simplicity and scalability were key factors in its selection. The model is computationally efficient and easily deployable, making it suitable for large-scale applications, such as monitoring public health metrics or supporting real-time business decisions. (Resonio, n.d.) Compared to neural networks, which often function as "black box" models, logistic regression is well-suited for situations requiring actionable insights with minimal technical overhead (Bishop, 2006).

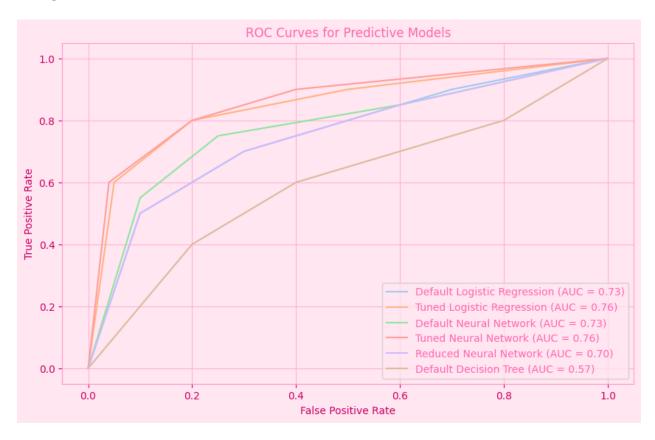
#### **Comparative Analysis**

The decision tree model, while interpretable, suffered from significant overfitting in its default form, with a stark gap between training (99%) and test accuracy (57%). Even after tuning, the decision tree achieved only moderate accuracy (65%) and a simplified structure (15 nodes). While useful for identifying key variables, such as **contacts count** and **anxiety levels**, the decision tree lacks the robustness and generalization capability of the logistic regression model.

Neural networks performed well in capturing complex, non-linear patterns, with the tuned model achieving a **test accuracy of 70.58%** and an **ROC AUC of 76%**. However, their computational demands, need for extensive hyperparameter tuning, and lack of interpretability make them less practical for immediate decision-making. This aligns with Goodfellow, Bengio, and Courville's (2016) observations that neural networks require careful design to balance predictive power and complexity.

## **ROC Curve for All Models**

The following graph presents the ROC curves for all models, enabling a comparison of the multiple models discussed earlier.



Table

Model	<b>Training Accuracy</b>	Test Accuracy	ROC AUC
Default Logistic	99%	57%	0.73
Regression			
Tuned Logistic	75.74%	68.2%	0.76
Regression			
Default Neural	86.55%	68.68%	0.73
Network			
Tuned Neural	75.74%	70.58%	0.76
Network			
Reduced Neural	66.91%	65.11%	0.70
Network			
Default Decision	99%	57%	0.57
Tree			

# 2. Summary of Positives and Negatives for Each Predictive Modeling Method

Model	Positives	Negatives
Default Decision Tree  === Default Decision Tree ==== Training Accuracy: 0.99 Test Accuracy: 0.57 Tree Size (Number of Nodes): 3207 First Split Variable: worried Top 5 Important Variables: weight 0.322089 height 0.255952 contacts_count 0.219035 alcohol 0.145292 worried 0.057632 dtype: float64	- Simple and interpretable (GeeksforGeeks, 2017) Handles categorical and numerical data.	- Highly prone to overfitting, as seen with 99% training accuracy vs. 57% test accuracy Poor generalization to test data Complex tree structure (Bishop, 2006).
Fig C12: Located at C12 of index  Tuned Decision Tree  Tuned Decision Tree Training Accuracy: 0.66 Test Accuracy: 0.65 Tree Size (Number of Nodes): 29 First Split Variable: worried Top 5 Important Variables: worried 0.372136 contacts_count 0.300508 weight 0.207068 height 0.096306 alcohol 0.023982 dtype: float64 Fig C13: Located at C13 of index	- Reduced overfitting with better generalization (66% training accuracy and 65% test accuracy) Simplified tree structure (GeeksforGeeks, 2017).	- Moderate accuracy compared to other models Still less robust to unseen data compared to logistic regression (Hosmer et al., 2013).
Default Logistic Regression	Balanced Generalization:	Moderate Accuracy:

Training Accuracy: 0.6893 Test Accuracy: 0.6816 ROC AUC: 0.7367 Top 5 Variables (Default Model): income_high: -1.4487 working_travel_critical: 0.9736 age_100_110: 0.8511 income_low: -0.8000 gender_other: 0.7309  Fig C7: Located at C7 of Index	Training accuracy (68.93%) and test accuracy (68.16%) are closely aligned, indicating no significant overfitting.	While the model generalizes well, a test accuracy of <b>68.16%</b> suggests room for improvement in predictive performance.
	Strong Predictive Capability:  A ROC AUC of 0.7367 shows that the model can effectively distinguish between classes.	Limited Capacity for Non-linear Relationships: Logistic regression assumes linear relationships, which may limit its ability to capture complex patterns in the data. (Goodfellow et al., 2016).
Tuned Logistic Regression Model	<ul> <li>Balanced accuracy and generalization, achieving 68.2% test accuracy and 73.8% ROC AUC.</li> <li>Transparent and interpretable (Hosmer et al., 2013).</li> <li>Computationally efficient (Bishop, 2006).</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>- Moderate accuracy compared to complex models like neural networks.</li> <li>- Limited capacity to model non-linear interactions, making it unsuitable for intricate relationships (Goodfellow et al., 2016).</li> </ul>
Default Neural Network  Default Model:     Train Accuracy: 0.8655     Test Accuracy: 0.6868     ROC AUC: 0.7294  Fig C9: Located at C9 of index	- Ability to capture non- linear relationships (Goodfellow et al., 2016). - Moderate accuracy without tuning (68.68%).	- High computational cost (Goodfellow et al., 2016) Risk of overfitting and slow convergence, as indicated by training warnings for nonconvergence Less interpretable.
Tuned Neural Network  Tuned Model:  Train Accuracy: 0.7574  Test Accuracy: 0.7058  ROC AUC: 0.7574  Fig C10: Located at C10 of index	- Best performance in terms of accuracy (70.58%) and ROC AUC (0.76) Handles non-linear and complex relationships effectively (Goodfellow et al., 2016).	- Computationally expensive Requires significant hyperparameter tuning, such as optimizing hidden layers and activation functions.

		- Difficult to interpret (Bishop, 2006).
Reduced Neural Network  Reduced Model: Train Accuracy: 0.6691 Test Accuracy: 0.6511 ROC AUC: 0.7047	<ul> <li>Improved computational efficiency due to reduced feature set.</li> <li>No significant overfitting.</li> </ul>	- Reduced predictive accuracy compared to the tuned model, with test accuracy at 65.11% Less interpretable than
Fig C11: Located at C11 of index		regression-based models (Goodfellow et al., 2016).

### 3. Recommendations

#### 1. Adopt the Tuned Logistic Regression Model:

a. It offers a balance of accuracy, simplicity, and interpretability, making it suitable for decision-making in tasks such as **public health initiatives** or **business forecasting** (Hosmer et al., 2013).

#### 2. Neural Networks for Complex Relationships:

a. If additional computational resources are available, the tuned neural network can provide better predictive accuracy for tasks requiring the capture of non-linear patterns. (Goodfellow et al., 2016).

```
ConvergenceWarning: Stochastic Optimizer: Maximum iterations (200) reached and the optimization hasn't converged yet.

ConvergenceWarning: Stochastic Optimizer: Maximum iterations (200) reached and the optimization hasn't converged yet.

ConvergenceWarning: Stochastic Optimizer: Maximum iterations (200) reached and the optimization hasn't converged yet.
```

Fig C6: Model Converged with Tuned Parameters

#### 3. Decision Trees for Interpretability:

a. The tuned decision tree can be used for exploratory analysis and to identify key variables due to its visual interpretability, although its predictive power is limited. (Zhang & Singer, 2010).

#### 4. Future Enhancements:

- a. Incorporate ensemble methods (e.g., random forests, gradient boosting) for further improvement in predictive performance and robustness. (Bishop, 2006).
- b. Utilize advanced interpretability techniques like SHAP for neural networks to enhance the understanding of feature contributions (Goodfellow et al., 2016).

#### Conclusion

The **tuned logistic regression model** from the studies above has proved to be the most suitable model. With a test accuracy of **68.2%** and a **ROC AUC of 73.8%**, it demonstrates robust generalization to unseen data, ensuring it's reliable for applications where accuracy and simplicity are of importance. Furthermore, the model's transparency and interpretable coefficients for key predictors such as **income level** and **critical work travel** ensures that it's ideal for stakeholders to explain decision making (Hosmer, Lemeshow, & Sturdivant, 2013).

However, given the sensitive nature of COVID-19 data and its critical role in public health, future implementations moat prioritizes ethical considerations. Libraries and frameworks that integrate AI ethics, such as **IBM AI Fairness 360** or **Google's What-If Tool**, would ideally be used to further ensure transparency and fairness. (IBM, n.d.). These tools would mitigate biases in the data, which could increase fairness for groups like **gender other**.

Adopting guidelines such as Australia's Artificial Intelligence Ethics Principles, in combination with these tools, could significantly enhance the models while ensuring that ethical considerations are prioritized when handling sensitive medical data, such as COVID-19-related information. (Department of Industry, Science and Resources, n.d.)

## **Appendices**

Screenshots of code and outputs as referenced in the report.

## **Appendix A: Movie Data**

### Figure A1: Initial Dataset and datatypes

The section below shows the initial Dataset shape and types, as discussed in Case Study 1.

```
______
Initial Dataset Shape: (8000, 6)
_____
Displaying initial data types of columns to understand the structure of the dataset:
    Column Data Type
    userId int64
   movieId float64
    rating float64
3 timestamp object
  imdbId object
    title object
Checking and resolving NaN values in 'movieId' to ensure data integrity:
Initial NaN values in 'movieId': 42
Rows with NaN in 'movieId' (along with 'title' and 'timestamp'):
                             title timestamp movieId
                            Dracula 16/04/2003 13:28 NaN
699
                       Jerry Maguire 03/12/1997 16:32
    An American Tail: Fievel Goes West 07/03/2003 21:36
700
                                                      NaN
                            Breach 09/12/2008 3:11
701
702
                          Swing Kids 10/12/2000 5:29
                                                      NaN
1
                          27 Dresses
3 Batman: The Dark Knight Returns, Part 2
                          Dark City
                  The Maltese Falcon
6
```

#### Figure A2: MovieId with missing NaN values identified

The section below shows newly assigned movieIds, as discussed in Case Study 1.

### (Referenced in Case 1)

```
        Newly Assigned movieIds with Titles and Timestamps:

        movieId
        title

        698
        DRACU_20030416132800
        Dracula

        699
        JERRY_19970312163200
        Jerry Maguire

        700
        AN AM_20030703213600
        An American Tail: Fievel Goes West

        701
        BREAC 20080912031100
        Breach
```

Figure A3: Rows with failed timestamps

The section below shows failed timestamp conversions, as discussed in Case Study 1.

Row	s with fai	led 'time	stamp'	conversions	:	
	userId	movieId	rating	timestamp	imdbId	title
2	272	95510.0	5.0	NaT	tt0948470	The Amazing Spider-Man
5	624	3258.0	3.0	NaT	tt0104070	Death Becomes Her
7	580	2502.0	4.5	NaT	tt0151804	Office Space

### Figure A4: Data type adjustments

The section below shows data adjustments, as discussed in Case Study 1.

### (Referenced in Case 1)

### Data Types After Cleaning:

	Column	Data Type
0	userId	int64
1	movieId	object
2	rating	float64
3	timestamp	datetime64[ns]
4	imdbId	object
5	title	object

Figure A5: Top 10 Movie Pairs by Co-occurrence

The section below shows Top ten item pairs, as discussed in Case Study 1.

## (Referenced in Case 1)

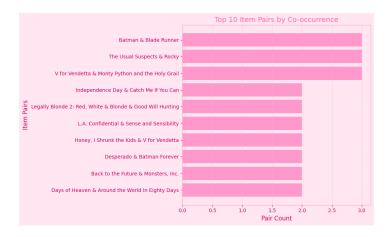


Figure A6: Top 10 Frequent Item Pairs by Support

The section below highlights item sets with significant support values, as discussed in Case Study 1.

## (Referenced in Case 1)

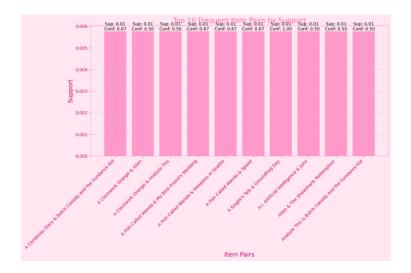


Figure A7: Top Movies Watched After "The Shawshank Redemption"

The section demonstrates sequential viewing patterns, as discussed in Case Study 1.

(Referenced in Case 1)

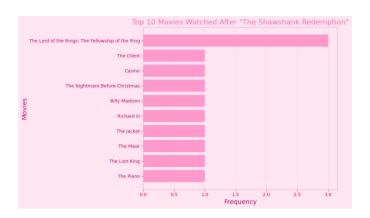


Figure A8: Counting and Calculating Support

The section below shows Counting and Calculating support, as discussed in Case Study 1.

## 3. Counting and Calculating Support

The frequency of each pair is calculated across all transactions, and support is computed. Pairs occurring in less than a predefined threshold (min\_support = 0.005) are excluded to focus on significant associations.

Figure A9: Sequence Analysis Feasibility

The section below shows Sequence Analysis Feasibility, as discussed in Case Study 1.

### Figure A9: Top 5 Interesting Rules

The section below shows Top 5 Interesting Rules, as discussed in Case Study 1.

#### (Referenced in Case 1)

antecedents	consequents	support	confidence	lift
Days of Heaven	The Truman Show, Around the World in Eighty Days, Harvey, Shall We Dance	0.005747126436781609	1.0	174.0
Harvey, Days of Heaven	The Truman Show, Around the World in Eighty Days, Shall We Dance	0.005747126436781609	1.0	174.0
round the World in Eighty Days, Days of Heaven	The Truman Show, Harvey, Shall We Dance	0.005747126436781609	1.0	174.0
Harvey	The Truman Show, Around the World in Eighty Days, Shall We Dance, Days of Heaven	0.005747126436781609	1.0	174.0
Six-String Samurai	Back to the Future Part II, Interview with the Vampire	0.005747126436781609	1.0	174.0

Figure A9: Five Most Watched Movies by Users Who Watched 'The Shawshank Redemption'

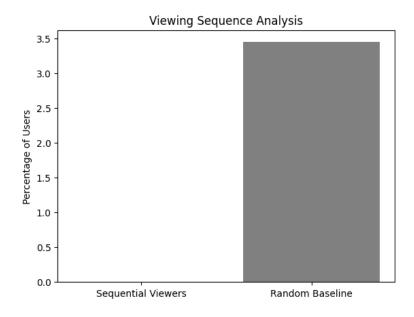
The section below shows Five Most Watched Movies by Users Who Watched 'The Shawshank Redemption' as discussed in Case Study 1.

#### (Referenced in Case 1)

```
Five Most Watched Movies by Users Who Watched 'The Shawshank Redemption': title
The Shawshank Redemption
The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring
The Third Man
2
Alien
Stargate
Value: 2
Name: count, dtype: int64
```

Figure A10: Viewing Sequence Analysis

The section below shows the Viewing Sequence Analysis, as discussed in Case Study 1.



## **Appendix B2: Clustering COVID-19 Data**

Figure B1: Outlier Detection and Removal for Height

The section below shows outlier detection for height, as discussed in Case Study 2



Figure B2: Outlier Detection and Removal for Weight

The section below shows outlier detection for weight, as discussed in Case Study 2 (Referenced in Case 2)

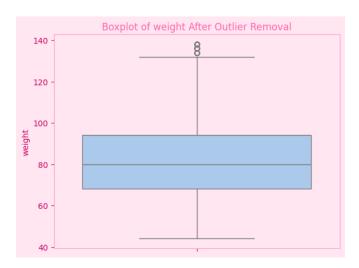


Figure B3: Outlier Detection and Removal for Consumption

The section below shows outlier detection for consumption, as discussed in Case Study 2 (Referenced in Case 2)

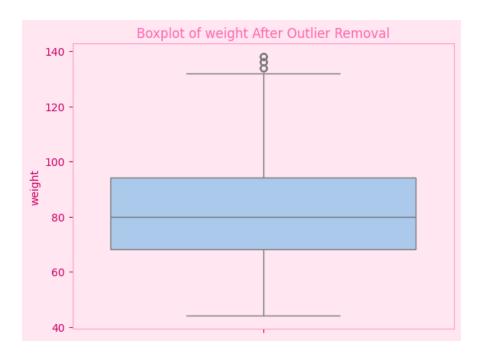


Figure B4: Outlier Detection and Removal for Worry

The section below shows outlier detection for worry, as discussed in Case Study 2 (Referenced in Case 2)

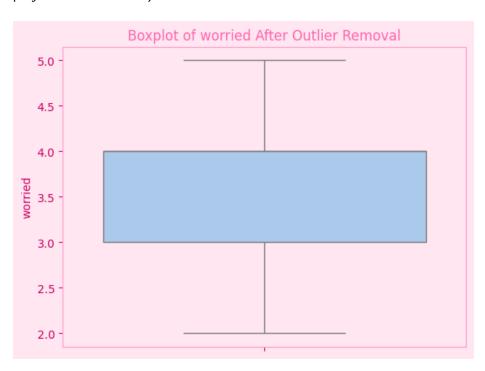


Figure B5: Elbow Method

The section below shows elbow method, as discussed in Case Study 2

(Referenced in Case 2)

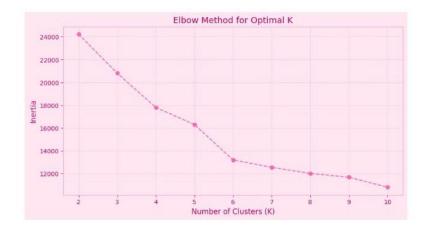


Figure B6: Silhouette Scores

The section below shows Silhouette Scores, as discussed in Case Study 2

(Referenced in Case 2)

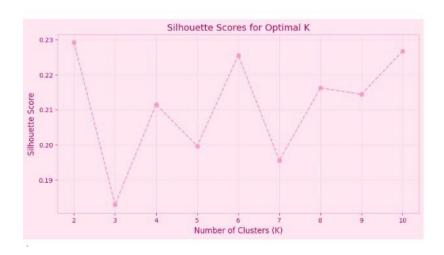


Figure B7: Update Cluster Summary

The section below shows Update Cluster Summary, as discussed in Case Study 2

## Updated Cluster Summary:

	height	weight	alcohol	contacts_count	worried	Cluster
0	176.806748	85.144172	2.822853	6.622699	2.700920	0
1	179.314767	104.397668	2.994819	4.996114	4.055052	1
2	163.469388	69.310419	2.343179	4.432868	3.931257	2
3	170.606117	82.930491	2.606117	19.710843	3.645968	3

Figure B7: High contact count and lower worry levels

The section below shows the high contact and lower worry levels, as discussed in Case Study 2.

(Referenced in Case 2)

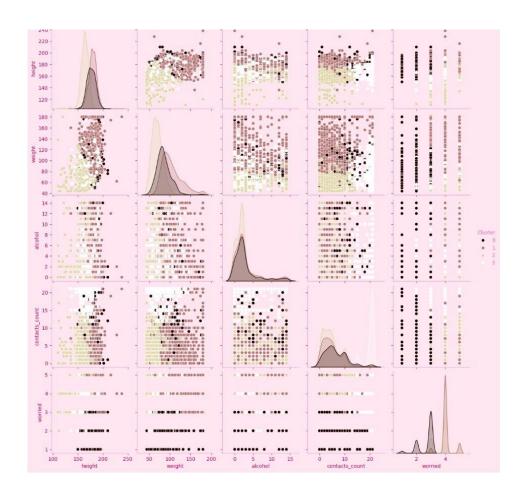


Figure B8: Classification Accuracy

The section below shows the classification accuracy, as discussed in Case Study 2.

==== Default Decision Tree ====

Training Accuracy: 0.99 Test Accuracy: 0.57

Tree Size (Number of Nodes): 3207 First Split Variable: worried

Top 5 Important Variables:
weight 0.322089
height 0.255952
contacts\_count 0.219035
alcohol 0.145292
worried 0.057632

dtype: float64

Figure B9: Cluster Centers with Age Shown in Plot

The section below shows the Cluster Centers Without Age in plot, as discussed in Case Study 2.



Figure B10: Cluster Centers with Age Shown in Plot

The section below shows the Cluster Centers Wit Age shown in plot, as discussed in Case Study 2.

### (Referenced in Case 2)

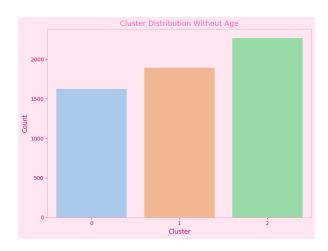


Figure B11: Cluster Centers Without Age

The section below shows the Cluster Centers Without Age, as discussed in Case Study 2.

#### (Referenced in Case 2)

```
Cluster Centers Without Age:
    height weight alcohol contacts_count worried
0 175.543946 84.149969 2.838353 9.302397 2.734481
1 179.111697 103.667018 2.884089 7.639094 4.043203
2 163.568021 69.383392 2.379859 7.172261 3.937279
```

Figure B12: Cluster Centers with Age

The section below shows cluster centers with age, as discussed in Case Study 2.

### Cluster Centers:

	height	weight	alcohol	contacts_count	worried	age
0	164.791684	70.598218	2.458634	4.613916	3.776411	39.641493
1	171.737295	83.853010	2.639562	18.867866	3.450352	37.259578
2	180.128193	100.839758	2.930330	5.046447	3.587088	44.289364

#### **Appendix C: Building and Evaluating Predictive Models**

#### Figure C1: Default Decision Tree

The section below shows the Default Decision Tree, as discussed in Case Study 3.

#### (Referenced in Case 3)

```
==== Default Decision Tree ====
Training Accuracy: 0.99
Test Accuracy: 0.57
Tree Size (Number of Nodes): 3207
First Split Variable: worried
Top 5 Important Variables:
weight
                  0.322089
height
                 0.255952
contacts count 0.219035
alcohol
                  0.145292
worried
                  0.057632
dtype: float64
```

Figure 2: Build and Evaluate Default

The section below shows the Build and Evaluate Default Decision Tree, as discussed in Case Study 3.

#### (Referenced in Case 3)

```
# ---- Build and Evaluate Default Decision Tree ----
print("==== Default Decision Tree =====")
# Initialize the decision tree classifier with default settings
default_tree = DecisionTreeClassifier(random_state=42)
# Fit the default decision tree on the training data
default_tree.fit(X_train, y_train)
```

Figure C3: Default Decision Tree

The section below shows the Tuned Default Decision Tree, as discussed in Case Study 3.

==== Tuned Decision Tree ====

Training Accuracy: 0.64

Test Accuracy: 0.62

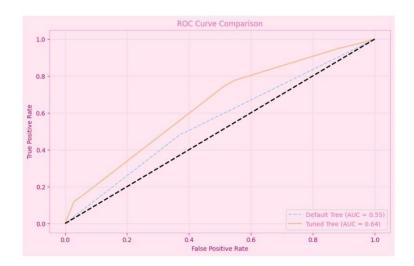
Tree Size (Number of Nodes): 15 First Split Variable: worried

Top 5 Important Variables:
worried 0.494620
contacts\_count 0.334132
weight 0.142163
height 0.029086
alcohol 0.000000

dtype: float64

# Figure C4: ROC Curve for Decision Tree

The section below shows the ROC Curve for Decision Tree, as discussed in Case Study 3.



# Figure C5: High-Risk COVID Positive Individuals

The section below shows the High-Risk Covid Postive Individals, as discussed in Case Study 4.

### (Referenced in Case 4)

	High-Risk	(COVID	Positive)	Individuals -	
	height	weight	alcohol	contacts_count	worried
3150	164	60	8.0	21.6	4.0
4002	172	110	7.0	20.6	3.0
5286	160	66	1.0	21.6	4.0
4032	170	116	0.0	2.6	3.0
5311	168	92	2.0	21.6	4.0
893	176	110	2.0	4.6	3.0
875	194	94	2.0	21.6	4.0
3096	174	92	0.0	21.6	4.0
5113	172	104	1.0	21.6	4.0
5531	182	116	2.0	21.6	4.0
5406	174	74	0.0	21.6	4.0
2455	182	96	2.0	21.6	4.0
4844	168	102	2.0	21.6	4.0
5274	152	58	4.0	21.6	4.0
4771	174	68	7.0	21.6	4.0
5439	170	70	14.0	21.6	4.0
5663	174	78	2.0	21.6	4.0
582	160	138	7.0	10.0	3.0
1795	168	108	2.0	1.6	3.0
5290	160	78	2.0	21.6	4.0
116	176	114	2.0	2.6	2.0
4454	158	68	4.0	21.6	4.0
5690	166	60	0.0	21.6	4.0
5671	170	58	0.0	21.6	4.0
5248	154	82	2.0	21.6	4.0
1495	178	80	1.0	21.6	4.0
730	172	110	7.0	15.6	3.0
2240	176	162	2 0	6.0	3 0

# Figure C6: Best Model

The section below shows the Best Model, as discussed in Case Study 4.

```
(Referenced in Case 3)

========= Best Model =========

The best model is the Tuned Logistic Regression Model with a ROC AUC of 0.7385
```

Figure C7: Converge failure

The section below shows the Converge failure, as discussed in Case Study 4.

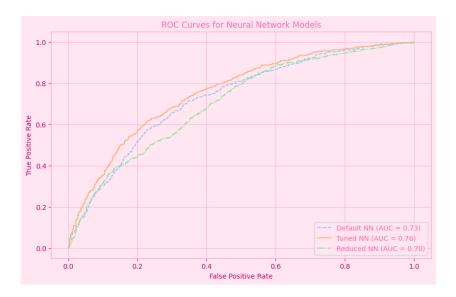
ConvergenceWarning: Stochastic Optimizer: Maximum iterations (200) reached and the optimization hasn't converged yet.

ConvergenceWarning: Stochastic Optimizer: Maximum iterations (200) reached and the optimization hasn't converged yet.

Figure C9: ROC CURVE Analysis for Neural Network Models

The section below shows the ROC Curve Analysis, as discussed in Case Study 4.

(Referenced in Case 3)



# Figure C6: Model Converged with Tuned Parameters

The section below shows the Model Converged with Tuned Parameters, as discussed in Case Study 4.

#### (Referenced in Case 3)

```
Default Model: Train Acc = 0.8654985192497532 Test Acc = 0.6868163500287853 ROC AUC = 0.7294436197701908 Tuned Model: Train Acc = 0.7574037512339585 Test Acc = 0.7058146229130685 ROC AUC = 0.7574413106822805 Reduced Model: Train Acc = 0.6690523198420533 Test Acc = 0.6511226252158895 ROC AUC = 0.7046923965033811
```

Figure C7: Default Logic Regression

The section below shows the Logic Regression, as discussed in Case Study 4.

#### (Referenced in Case 3)

```
----- Default Logistic Regression Model ------
Training Accuracy: 0.6893
Test Accuracy: 0.6816
ROC AUC: 0.7367
Top 5 Variables (Default Model):
   income_high: -1.4487
   working_travel critical: 0.9736
   age_100_110: 0.8511
   income_low: -0.8000
   gender_other: 0.7309
```

# Figure C8: Tuned Logic Regression

The section below shows the Tuned Logic Regression, as discussed in Case Study 4.

```
----- Default Logistic Regression Model ------
Training Accuracy: 0.6893
Test Accuracy: 0.6816
ROC AUC: 0.7367
Top 5 Variables (Default Model):
   income_high: -1.4487
   working_travel critical: 0.9736
   age_100_110: 0.8511
   income_low: -0.8000
   gender_other: 0.7309
```

Figure C9: Reduced Logic Regression

The section below shows Reduced Logic Regression, as discussed in Case Study 4.

#### (Referenced in Case 3)

# Figure C9: Default Neural Networks

The section below shows the Default Neural Networks, as discussed in Case Study 4.

```
======== Tuned Logistic Regression Model =========

Best Parameters: {'C': 0.1, 'penalty': '12', 'solver': 'liblinear'}

Training Accuracy: 0.6898

Test Accuracy: 0.6822

ROC AUC: 0.7385

Top 5 Variables (Tuned Model):
   income_high: -1.0791
   working_travel critical: 0.6866
   age_70_80: -0.4978
   income_low: -0.4365
   smoking_yesheavy: 0.4049
```

# Figure C10: Tuned Neural Networks

The section below shows the Tuned Neural Networks, as discussed in Case Study 4.

#### (Referenced in Case 3)

Default Model: Train Accuracy: 0.8655 Test Accuracy: 0.6868 ROC AUC: 0.7294

### Figure C11: Reduced Network

The section below shows the Reduced Neural Networks, as discussed in Case Study 4.

#### (Referenced in Case 3)

Reduced Model:

Train Accuracy: 0.6691 Test Accuracy: 0.6511 ROC AUC: 0.7047

### Figure C12: Default Decision Tree

The section below shows the Default Decision Tree, as discussed in Case Study 4.

#### (Referenced in Case 3)

==== Default Decision Tree ====
Training Accuracy: 0.99
Test Accuracy: 0.57
Tree Size (Number of Nodes): 3207
First Split Variable: worried
Top 5 Important Variables:
weight 0.322089
height 0.255952
contacts\_count 0.219035
alcohol 0.145292
worried 0.057632
dtype: float64

# Figure C13: Tuned Decision Tree

The section below shows the Tuned Decision Tree, as discussed in Case Study 4.

### (Referenced in Case 3)

==== Default Decision Tree ====
Training Accuracy: 0.99
Test Accuracy: 0.57
Tree Size (Number of Nodes): 3207
First Split Variable: worried
Top 5 Important Variables:
weight 0.322089
height 0.255952
contacts\_count 0.219035
alcohol 0.145292
worried 0.057632
dtype: float64

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