Survival prediction for the Titanic data set

Introduction

The Titanc data set was obtained on Kaggle (https://www.kaggle.com/c/titanic). It comes with 2 files (train.csv and test.csv). The objective of this study is to predict the survival/death of the passengers in the test.csv file by using the passenger data in the train.csv file as training set. Logistic regression is used as the modeling approach in this study.

Firstly, the two csv files are loaded in R.

```
train <- read.csv("train.csv")
test <- read.csv("test.csv")</pre>
```

The next step involves inspecting the structures of the two data sets.

```
#Inspect the structure of train.csv
str(train)
                  891 obs. of 12 variables:
## 'data.frame':
## $ PassengerId: int 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
## $ Survived : int 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 ...
## $ Pclass
               : int 3 1 3 1 3 3 1 3 3 2 ...
## $ Name : Factor w/ 891 levels "Abbing, Mr. Anthony",..: 109 1
91 358 277 16 559 520 629 417 581 ...
## $ Sex : Factor w/ 2 levels "female", "male": 2 1 1 1 2 2 2 2
1 1 ...
## $ Age
               : num 22 38 26 35 35 NA 54 2 27 14 ...
## $ SibSp
               : int 1101000301...
## $ Parch
               : int 000000120 ...
               : Factor w/ 681 levels "110152", "110413", ...: 524 597 6
## $ Ticket
70 50 473 276 86 396 345 133 ...
## $ Fare
               : num 7.25 71.28 7.92 53.1 8.05 ...
## $ Cabin : Factor w/ 148 levels "","A10","A14",..: 1 83 1 57 1
1 131 1 1 1 ...
## $ Embarked : Factor w/ 4 levels "", "C", "Q", "S": 4 2 4 4 4 3 4 4 4
2 ...
```

In the training data set, there are 891 passengers with 12 descriptors. The types of descriptors can be grouped as below.

- 1. Integer: PassengerID, Survived (0 for death, 1 for survived), Pclass, SibSp (number of siblings), and Parch (number of parents and children)
- 2. Factor: Name, Sex, Ticket, Cabin and Embarked

3. Number: Age and Fare

The descriptors, Survived, Pclass, and EmBarked, are essentially categorical variables.

Regarding the structure of the testing data set.

```
#Inspect the structure of test.csv
str(test)
## 'data.frame':
                  418 obs. of 11 variables:
## $ PassengerId: int 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 ...
              : int 3 3 2 3 3 3 3 2 3 3 ...
               : Factor w/ 418 levels "Abbott, Master. Eugene Joseph
## $ Name
",...: 210 409 273 414 182 370 85 58 5 104 ...
## $ Sex
              : Factor w/ 2 levels "female", "male": 2 1 2 2 1 2 1 2
1 2 ...
## $ Age
               : num 34.5 47 62 27 22 14 30 26 18 21 ...
## $ SibSp
               : int 0100100102...
## $ Parch
               : int 0000100100...
## $ Ticket : Factor w/ 363 levels "110469","110489",..: 153 222 7
4 148 139 262 159 85 101 270 ...
## $ Fare : num 7.83 7 9.69 8.66 12.29 ...
              : Factor w/ 77 levels "","A11","A18",..: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
## $ Cabin
1 1 1 ...
## $ Embarked : Factor w/ 3 levels "C","Q","S": 2 3 2 3 3 3 2 3 1 3
```

The output shows that the structure of the testing data set is essentially the same as that of the training data set with the exception of the missing Survived descriptor. The objective of this study is to predict the surival data of the 418 passengers in the testing data set.

From now on, I will focus on the training data set first in order to do some exploratory data analyses and model building.

Exploratory Data Analysis

The next step is to inspect the first few rows of data in the training data set.

```
head(train)
     PassengerId Survived Pclass
##
## 1
               1
                         0
                                 3
## 2
               2
                         1
                                 1
               3
                         1
                                 3
## 3
## 4
               4
                         1
                                1
## 5
               5
                         0
                                 3
## 6
               6
                         0
                                 3
##
                                                       Name
                                                               Sex Age Sib
Sp
```

```
## 1
                                  Braund, Mr. Owen Harris
                                                             male
                                                                  22
1
## 2 Cumings, Mrs. John Bradley (Florence Briggs Thayer) female
                                                                   38
## 3
                                   Heikkinen, Miss. Laina female
 0
            Futrelle, Mrs. Jacques Heath (Lily May Peel) female
## 4
 1
## 5
                                 Allen, Mr. William Henry
                                                                   35
                                                             male
 0
## 6
                                         Moran, Mr. James
                                                                   NA
                                                             male
 0
##
                                Fare Cabin Embarked
     Parch
                     Ticket
## 1
                  A/5 21171 7.2500
                                                   S
                                                   C
## 2
         0
                   PC 17599 71.2833
                                       C85
                                                   S
## 3
         0 STON/02. 3101282 7.9250
                                                   S
## 4
         0
                      113803 53.1000
                                      C123
                                                   S
## 5
         0
                      373450
                              8.0500
                                                   Q
## 6
                     330877 8.4583
```

After having a rough idea of what the training data set looks like, it would be great to get an overall summary of the data.

```
summary(train)
##
     PassengerId
                       Survived
                                          Pclass
                            :0.0000
                                              :1.000
##
   Min.
           : 1.0
                    Min.
                                      Min.
    1st Qu.:223.5
                                      1st Ou.:2.000
##
                    1st Ou.:0.0000
   Median :446.0
                    Median :0.0000
                                      Median :3.000
##
##
   Mean
           :446.0
                    Mean
                            :0.3838
                                      Mean
                                             :2.309
##
    3rd Qu.:668.5
                    3rd Qu.:1.0000
                                      3rd Qu.:3.000
##
    Max.
           :891.0
                    Max.
                            :1.0000
                                      Max.
                                              :3.000
##
##
                                        Name
                                                      Sex
                                                                    Age
    Abbing, Mr. Anthony
                                             1
                                                  female:314
##
                                                               Min.
                                                                     : 0.
42
##
    Abbott, Mr. Rossmore Edward
                                              1
                                                  male :577
                                                                1st Qu.:20.
12
##
    Abbott, Mrs. Stanton (Rosa Hunt)
                                                               Median :28.
                                             1
00
##
    Abelson, Mr. Samuel
                                             1
                                                                       :29.
                                                               Mean
70
##
    Abelson, Mrs. Samuel (Hannah Wizosky):
                                             1
                                                                3rd Qu.:38.
00
##
    Adahl, Mr. Mauritz Nils Martin
                                             1
                                                               Max.
                                                                       :80.
00
##
    (Other)
                                          :885
                                                               NA's
                                                                       :17
7
##
        SibSp
                        Parch
                                           Ticket
                                                           Fare
```

```
Min. :
##
   Min. :0.000
                  Min.
                        :0.0000
                                  1601 : 7
                                                         0.00
                                                1st Qu.: 7.91
##
   1st Qu.:0.000
                  1st Qu.:0.0000
                                  347082 : 7
   Median :0.000
                  Median :0.0000
                                  CA. 2343: 7
                                                Median : 14.45
##
##
   Mean
          :0.523
                  Mean
                        :0.3816
                                  3101295 : 6
                                               Mean : 32.20
   3rd Qu.:1.000
                  3rd Qu.:0.0000
                                  347088 : 6
                                                3rd Qu.: 31.00
##
   Max.
        :8.000
                        :6.0000
                                  CA 2144 : 6
                                                Max.
                                                      :512.33
##
                  Max.
##
                                  (Other):852
##
          Cabin
                    Embarked
##
             :687
                    : 2
##
   B96 B98
             : 4
                    C:168
                    Q: 77
   C23 C25 C27: 4
##
             : 4
                    S:644
## G6
   C22 C26
                3
##
## D
## (Other)
            :186
```

There are several points to note in the output.

- 1. The median of Survived is $0 \rightarrow 50\%$ of the passengers in the training data set are dead.
- 2. Most people were in class 3 in Titanic.
- 3. Most passengers on Titanic were male.
- 4. Passengers were across different age groups, ranging from babies to old people. Moreover, the age values of 177 people are missing.
- 5. 50% of the passengers did not have siblings. However, some people had up to 8 siblings on board.
- 6. Some passengers might have up to 6 children and parents with them. Big families!
- 7. 687 values in the Ticket variable are missing. $(687/891)^*$ 100 % ~ 77%. Thus, basically 77% of the Ticket values are missing.
- 8. 2 values in the Embarked variable are missing.

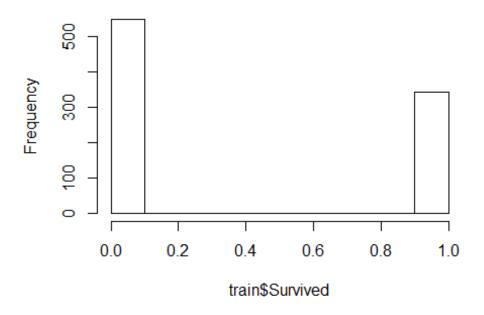
Let's visualize some variables next. However, not all variables will be visualized because not all of them are useful for survival prediction.

PassengerId, Name, and Ticket are just nominal variables so they are not related to the survival rate prediction and they are not going to be visualized.

I am going to visualize the Survived variable with a histogram.

```
hist(train$Survived)
```

Histogram of train\$Survived



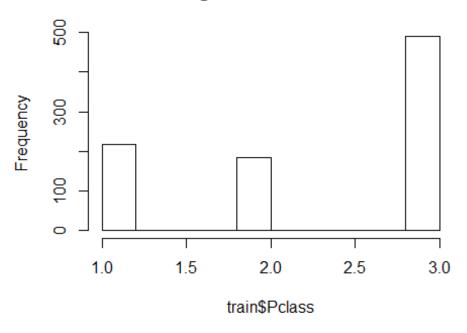
From the

plot, most passengers are dead in the training set.

Let's take a look at the Pclass (ticket class) variable by using a histogram.

hist(train\$Pclass)

Histogram of train\$Pclass



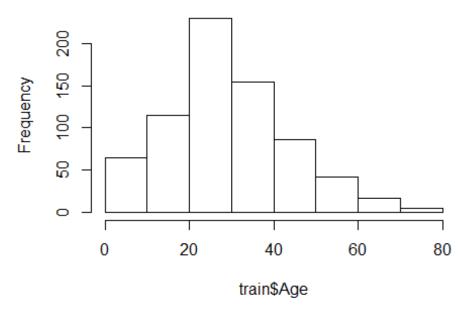
Most

passengers picked the third class for their tickets.

The Age variable is then visualized with a density plot in order to show the distribution of ages with the missing values omitted.

hist(train\$Age)

Histogram of train\$Age

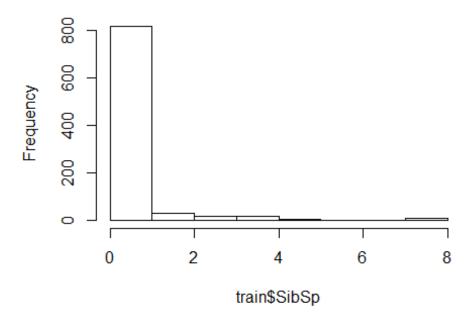


 $$\operatorname{Most}$$ passengers fall in 20 to 40 years old. There are 177 values (~ 20%) missing in this variable and this will need to be dealt with separately.

Let's take a look at the number of siblings.

hist(train\$SibSp)

Histogram of train\$SibSp



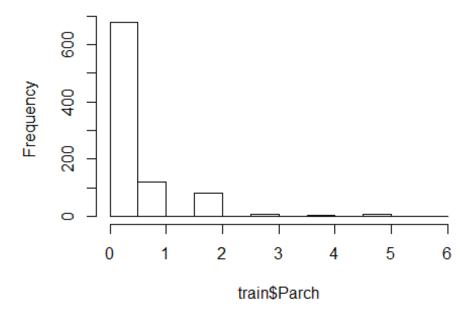
It turns out

that most people did not have any siblings with them. Passengers with more than 4 siblings on board were very rare.

Another variable related to family is the one describing the number of children and parents.

hist(train\$Parch)

Histogram of train\$Parch



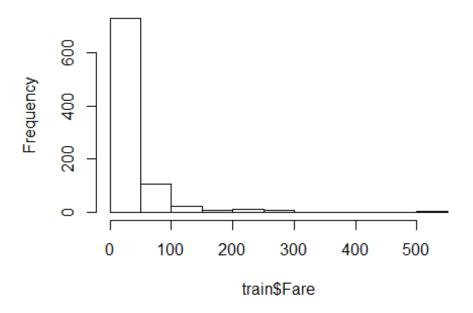
Most people

did not have any parents nor children with them. Passengers with 2 or more children and parents on board were very rare.

Regarding Fare, let's see.

hist(train\$Fare)

Histogram of train\$Fare

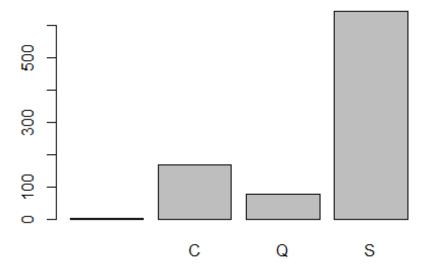


Most people

picked cheap tickets.

Since most values in Cabin are missing, this variable is not visualized. Regarding Embarked, since it is a qualitative variable, it will be visualized by using a barplot.

barplot(table(train\$Embarked))



'S' (S for

Southampton) is the most frequent value in the Embarked variable. Since only 2 values are missing in Embarked, they are going to be neglected from now on.

```
train <- train[!is.na(train$Embarked),]
rownames(train) <- NULL
#Check for missing values in the Embarked variable
table(is.na(train$Embarked))
##
## FALSE
## 891</pre>
```

There are no missing values in Embarked now.

Now I need to deal with the missing values in the Age variable. Several points to note:

- 1. Simple missing value imputation with mean/median/mode is not a good way to solve this problem because this can change the variance of Age. Moreover, this oversimplified approach does not produce any realistic estimates.
- 2. Linear regression is a more sophisticated approach in order to impute missing values. However, it assumes the values are normally distributed. I am going to perform a statistical test for normality (Shapiro-Wilk Normality Test) for Age.

```
shapiro.test(train$Age)
```

```
##
## Shapiro-Wilk normality test
##
## data: train$Age
## W = 0.98146, p-value = 7.337e-08
```

For Shapiro-Wilk normality test, H_0: The population is normally distributed. H_a: The population is not normally distributed.

Since the p-value is < 0.05 (at 95% confidence interval), the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, the variables in Age are not normally distributed.

Thus, imputing the missing values in Age is not a good way out. Imputing the missing values in Age using linear regression may yield unrealistic estimates.

3. kNN (k Nearest Neighbour) is a good way out in this case because it does not assume any distribution of data. It imputes a missing value based on distance between a missing value and its k nearest neighbour. In order to perform kNN imputation, the VIM R library is loaded.

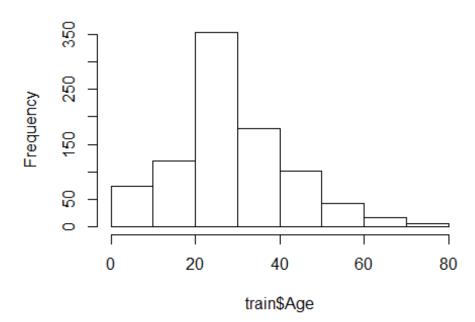
```
#Load the VIM Library
library("VIM")
## Warning: package 'VIM' was built under R version 3.4.4
## Loading required package: colorspace
## Loading required package: grid
## Loading required package: data.table
## Warning: package 'data.table' was built under R version 3.4.4
## VIM is ready to use.
## Since version 4.0.0 the GUI is in its own package VIMGUI.
##
             Please use the package to use the new (and old) GUI.
##
## Suggestions and bug-reports can be submitted at: https://github.com/
alexkowa/VIM/issues
##
## Attaching package: 'VIM'
## The following object is masked from 'package:datasets':
##
##
       sleep
# An empirical rule to choose the number k is to take the square root o
f the number of #training samples.
# The number of existing data entries in Age = 891 - 177 = 714. Square
root (714) = 26
```

```
# kNN imputation
train <- kNN(train, variable ="Age", k = 26)
table(is.na(train$Age))
##
## FALSE
## 891</pre>
```

There are no missing values in Age now. A good imputation would make no change to the population distribution. Let's visualize the distribution of Age after missing values imputation.

```
hist(train$Age)
```

Histogram of train\$Age



The

distribution after imputation is essentially the same as that before imputation. I will perform a statistical test to make sure that the population distribution remains as a non-normal distribution.

```
shapiro.test(train$Age)

##

## Shapiro-Wilk normality test

##

## data: train$Age

## W = 0.97377, p-value = 1.4e-11
```

The p-value is <0.05, so the null hypothesis is rejected. The Age population is not normally distributed.

Since not all variables are going to be included in model building, I build another data frame to store the required variables for modeling in 'train.red'.

```
train.red <- subset(train, select = c(Survived, Pclass, Sex, Age, SibSp,
  Parch, Fare, Embarked))
colnames(train.red)
## [1] "Survived" "Pclass" "Sex" "Age" "SibSp" "Parch"
## [7] "Fare" "Embarked"</pre>
```

These are the variables which are required in my model.

Model Building

Logistic Regression

I will perform the survival prediction using logistic regression because it is very good at performing binary classification. In order to do so, I will need to train my model. Thus, I will split the data in train.csv into training set (80%) and testing set (20%) in order to validate the model.

```
train.model <- train.red[1:712,]
test.model <- train.red[713:891,]</pre>
```

Applying the logistic regression model to the train.model

```
model <- glm(Survived ~ ., family=binomial(link='logit'), data=train.mo</pre>
del)
summary(model)
##
## Call:
## glm(formula = Survived ~ ., family = binomial(link = "logit"),
      data = train.model)
##
##
## Deviance Residuals:
      Min
                     Median
                                  3Q
                                          Max
##
                10
## -2.6484 -0.6110 -0.4122
                                       2.4668
                              0.6453
## Coefficients:
##
                Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## (Intercept) 1.652e+01 5.354e+02
                                      0.031 0.97539
## Pclass
              -1.244e+00 1.716e-01 -7.251 4.12e-13 ***
## Sexmale
              -2.686e+00 2.238e-01 -12.001 < 2e-16 ***
              -4.513e-02 9.209e-03 -4.901 9.56e-07 ***
## Age
## SibSp
              -3.324e-01 1.234e-01 -2.693 0.00708 **
## Parch
              -1.647e-01 1.407e-01 -1.170 0.24196
## Fare
               1.155e-04 2.680e-03 0.043 0.96563
## EmbarkedC
              -1.075e+01 5.354e+02 -0.020 0.98398
## EmbarkedQ
              -1.071e+01 5.354e+02 -0.020 0.98404
```

```
## EmbarkedS -1.106e+01 5.354e+02 -0.021 0.98352
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## (Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)
##
## Null deviance: 952.58 on 711 degrees of freedom
## Residual deviance: 634.80 on 702 degrees of freedom
## AIC: 654.8
##
## Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 12
```

At 95% confidence interval, where alpha = 0.05, only 4 variables are statistically significant, namely, Pclass, sexmale, Age, and SibSp in which Sexmale is the most important because it has the smallest p-value. Thus, Sexmale is highly associated with Survived. The interpretation of the 4 statistically significant important variables are as follows. A unit increase in age decreases the log odds of survival by 0.045. Being a male decreases the log odds of survival by 2.68. A unit increase in the ticket class decreases the log odds of survival by 1.2. An increase in the number of siblings on board decreases the log odds of survival by 3.3.

Test for significance of the overall regression In this section, the significance of the overall regression was tested by using the difference between null deviance and residual deviance to obtain the p-value.

```
1-pchisq(317.78,9)
## [1] 0
```

Since the p-value is 0, the overall regression is significance.

Model Fit Assessment

Goodness of Fit Hypothesis Testing Using deviance residual

```
c(deviance(model), 1-pchisq(deviance(model),702))
## [1] 634.7977051  0.9668369
```

Since the p-value > 0.5, the null hypothesis must be accepted. This indicates that the fitting is a good fit.

Assessing the goodness of fit using Pearson residuals

```
## Using Pearson residuals
pearson_residuals <- residuals(model, type="pearson")
pearson_residuals.tvalue <- sum(pearson_residuals^2)
c(pearson_residuals.tvalue, 1-pchisq(pearson_residuals.tvalue,702))
## [1] 737.5550051 0.1707896</pre>
```

Since the p-value > 0.5, the null hypothesis must be accepted. This indicates that the fitting is a good fit.

Cross Validation Using Data in test.model

```
prediction <- predict(model, newdata = test.model, type='response')
prediction <- ifelse(prediction > 0.5, 1,0) #0.5 as the threshold value
```

Performance assessment using a confusion matrix as provided in the caret R package

```
library("caret")
## Loading required package: lattice
## Loading required package: ggplot2
library("e1071")
confusionMatrix(data=prediction, reference=test.model$Survived)
## Confusion Matrix and Statistics
##
            Reference
##
## Prediction 0 1
           0 103 17
##
##
           1 12 47
##
##
                 Accuracy: 0.838
                   95% CI: (0.7757, 0.8887)
##
      No Information Rate: 0.6425
##
      P-Value [Acc > NIR] : 5.581e-09
##
##
##
                     Kappa : 0.6411
   Mcnemar's Test P-Value : 0.4576
##
##
##
              Sensitivity: 0.8957
              Specificity: 0.7344
##
           Pos Pred Value: 0.8583
##
##
           Neg Pred Value: 0.7966
               Prevalence: 0.6425
##
##
           Detection Rate: 0.5754
      Detection Prevalence: 0.6704
##
##
         Balanced Accuracy: 0.8150
##
          'Positive' Class: 0
##
```

The accuracy of the logistic regression model is about 84%, which is quite good.

Another way to assess the prediction performance is to employ the ROC curve using the ROCR library.

```
library(ROCR)

## Loading required package: gplots

##

## Attaching package: 'gplots'

## The following object is masked from 'package:stats':

##

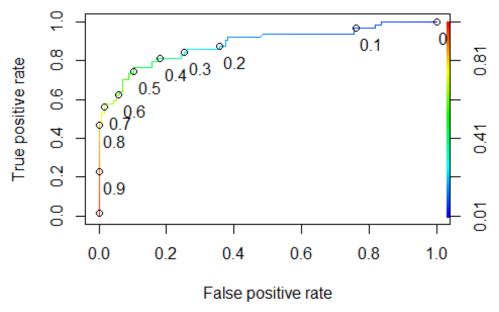
## lowess

predictions <- predict(model, newdata=test.model, type="response")

pred <- prediction(predictions, test.model$Survived)

perf <- performance(pred, measure = "tpr", x.measure = "fpr")

plot(perf, colorize = TRUE, text.adj = c(-0.2,1.7), print.cutoffs.at = seq(0,1,0.1))</pre>
```



A ROC plot

is obtained by plotting the true positive rate and the false positive rate. By computing the area under the ROC curve (AUC), an indicator of the reliability of the prediction can be obtained.

```
auc <- performance(pred, measure = "auc")
auc <- auc@y.values[[1]]
auc
## [1] 0.8855299</pre>
```

An AUC value of 1 is ideal. In this case, the AUC value is 0.89, which is very close to 1. Thus, this model comes with good predictability.

Prediction with the new set data

Selecting the required variables for survival prediction

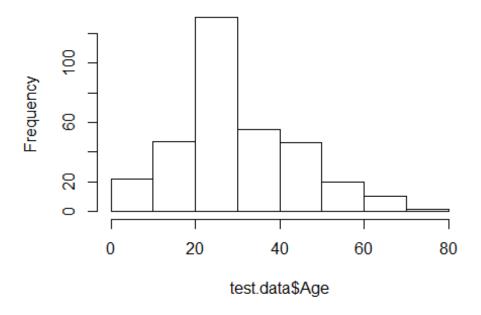
```
test.data \leftarrow subset(test, select = c(2,4,5,6,7,9,11))
colnames(test.data)
## [1] "Pclass"
                  "Sex"
                              "Age"
                                         "SibSp"
                                                    "Parch"
                                                                "Fare"
## [7] "Embarked"
summary(test.data)
##
        Pclass
                        Sex
                                                      SibSp
                                       Age
##
                    female:152
   Min.
           :1.000
                                  Min.
                                         : 0.17
                                                  Min.
                                                         :0.0000
   1st Qu.:1.000
                    male :266
                                  1st Qu.:21.00
                                                  1st Qu.:0.0000
                                 Median :27.00
   Median :3.000
##
                                                  Median :0.0000
##
   Mean
           :2.266
                                  Mean
                                         :30.27
                                                  Mean
                                                         :0.4474
                                  3rd Qu.:39.00
##
    3rd Qu.:3.000
                                                  3rd Qu.:1.0000
           :3.000
                                  Max.
                                         :76.00
                                                  Max.
                                                         :8.0000
##
   Max.
##
                                  NA's
                                         :86
##
        Parch
                          Fare
                                        Embarked
##
   Min.
           :0.0000
                     Min.
                            : 0.000
                                        C:102
   1st Ou.:0.0000
                     1st Qu.: 7.896
                                        0: 46
   Median :0.0000
                     Median : 14.454
                                        S:270
##
##
   Mean
           :0.3923
                     Mean
                            : 35.627
##
    3rd Qu.:0.0000
                     3rd Qu.: 31.500
           :9.0000
##
   Max.
                     Max.
                             :512.329
##
                     NA's
                            :1
```

There are 86 missing values in Age and 1 missing value in Fare. Again, kNN imputation will be used for imputing missing values in Age.

Visualizing the distribution of Age in test.data before missing values imputation

```
hist(test.data$Age)
```

Histogram of test.data\$Age

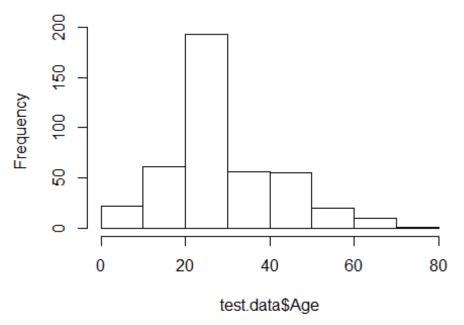


```
test.data <- kNN(test.data, variable ="Age", k = 20)
table(is.na(test.data$Age))
##
## FALSE
## 418</pre>
```

There are no more missing values in Age. Let's visualize the population distribution of Age after missing values imputation.

```
hist(test.data$Age)
```

Histogram of test.data\$Age



Predicting survival data for passengers in test.data

The distribution of Age is roughly the same before and after missing values imputation.

```
#Ignore the 1 missing variable in Fare
test.data <- test.data[!is.na(test.data$Fare),]</pre>
rownames(test.data) <- NULL</pre>
#Predict
testdatapre <-predict(model, newdata=test.data, type="response")</pre>
testprefinal <- ifelse(testdatapre > 0.5, 1,0)
testprefinal
##
     1
               3
                                      8
                                               10
                                                   11
                                                        12
                                                             13
                                                                 14
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table(testprefinal)
## testprefinal
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## 259 158
```

Using the logistic regression, 255 passengers are predicted to be dead while 162 passengers are predicted to be alive.

Finally, I would like to output the prediction results to titanic_prediction_results.csv file.

```
#Remove the row where Fare has a missing value
test <- test[!is.na(test$Fare),]
rownames(test) <- NULL

export <- data.frame(PassengerID = test$PassengerId, Survived = testpre
final)
write.csv(export, file = 'titanic_prediction_results.csv', row.names =
F)</pre>
```