M1: Applied Data Science - Coursework Assignment

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1 Section A

1.1 Q1 - Dataset A

1.1.1 Question 1a

Fig(1) shows the kernel density estimates of the first 20 features of the dataset. The majority of the features are centred around 0 with little variance, except the 6 features on the bottom plot. These 6 features are likely to be more discriminative within classification algorithms, as they contain more variability.

1.1.2 Question 1b

The biplot in Fig(2) shows a PCA of the entire dataset, following standardisation. This biplot indicates that the first 20 features are no more discriminative than the rest of the features in the dataset, and the assumption that the features in Fig.(1) lower that had more variance would be more discriminative is not true as per this plot, as the green loadings tend to stretch further than the red ones. Interestingly, whilst the most discriminative features discriminate along PC2, most of the features discriminate along PC1, resulting in the large separation along PC1.

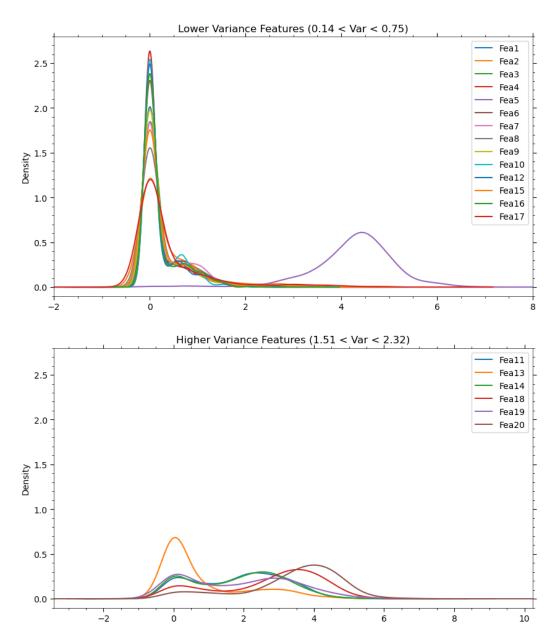


Figure 1: Kernel density estimates of the first 20 features of the A_NoiseAdded.csv dataset, with lower and higher variance features split into separate plots.

1.1.3 Questions 1c and 1d

Fig(3a) shows the contingency table for two k-means clusterings of the dataset with k=8 and k=3. Standardisation was applied before clustering as k-means is sensitive to feature scaling. The two clusterings (kmeans_1 and kmeans_2) were formed by training two k-means models on half of the dataset, and then the other half were mapped onto the learned clusters by assigning new observations to the cluster whose centroid is closest to the observation [1]. This is possible because the two models were trained on the same dataset, and so the centroids are in the same feature space. Labels from each model were re-labelled using the Hungarian algorithm [2] [3] on the pair-wise distances between the centroids of each model, such that

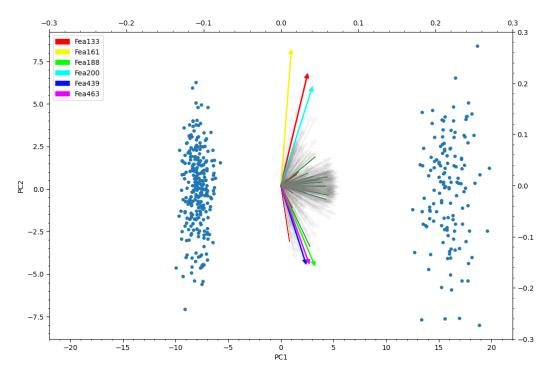


Figure 2: A biplot of the first two principal components in the A_NoiseAdded.csv dataset. The coloured arrows indicate the first two principal component loading vectors for every feature which contributes to either principal component more than 2%, these are the most discriminative features. Every other loading vector has been plotted in very light grey so their general directions and magnitudes are visible. The loading vectors for the Fig.(1) upper and lower have been plotted in green and red headless arrows respectively. The loading vectors use the right and top axis of the plot. The blue dots indicate the scores for each observation in the dataset for the first two principal components.

label 1 in kmeans_1 referred to label 1 in kmeans_2. This step was crucial, otherwise the contingency table would be meaningless.

k=8 gave a stability of 59% (the agreement on the leading diagonal), indicating that the two models were not very similar, or stable. However, kmeans_1 clustered 85% of the observations into clusters 1, 2 and 3 and kmeans_2 clustered 86% of the observations into clusters 1 and 2, indicates that both models correctly identified that most of the data lives within a small set of clusters. However, the presence of very small clusters indicates that there may be outliers present in the dataset or smaller clusters that the large k=8 is overfitting to.

Fig(3b) shows the contingency table for two k-means clusterings of the dataset with k=3, which gave a marginally better stability of 69%. A larger proportion of the observations lie on the leading diagonal compared to k=8, which is expected because the number of clusters is both smaller and equal to the number of clusters in the classifications column of the dataset. kmeans_2 identified 3 distinct clusters whereas kmeans_1 only identified 2 distinct clusters with a few remnant observations in assigned to cluster 2.

	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4	Cluster 5	Cluster 6	Cluster 7	Cluster 8	Total
Cluster 1	43	0	9	8	0	4	14	1	79
Cluster 2	0	185	0	0	0	0	0	0	185
Cluster 3	0	87	0	0	0	0	0	0	87
Cluster 4	12	0	2	5	0	3	6	0	28
Cluster 5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cluster 6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Cluster 7	12	0	0	0	1	1	7	0	21
Cluster 8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	75	272	11	13	1	8	27	1	0

(a) A contingency table for two k-means clusterings of the A_NoiseAdded.csv dataset, with k=8, the default scikit-learn value. 240 of the 408 observations lie on the leading diagonal.

	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Total
Cluster 1	155	117	0	272
Cluster 2	0	0	10	10
Cluster 3	0	0	126	126
Total	155	117	136	0

(b) A contingency table for two k-means clusterings of the A_NoiseAdded.csv dataset, with k=3. 281 of the 408 observations lie on the leading diagonal.

Figure 3: Contingency tables for two k-means clusterings of the A_NoiseAdded.csv dataset with number of clusters k=3 and k=8. Each feature in the dataset was standardised before clustering. kmeans_1 totals are on the right and kmeans_2 totals are on the bottom.

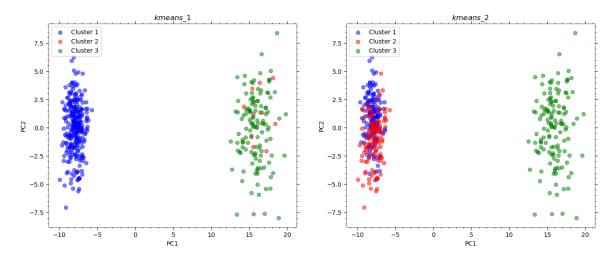


Figure 4: The k-means clusterings performed with k = 3, shown on the contingency table in Fig(3b), plotted on the first two principal components of the dataset shown in Fig(2).

1.1.4 Questions 1e

Fig(4) shows the k-means clusterings on the PCA plot shown in Fig(2). Visually, the 2-component PCA indicates that there are two clusters in the dataset. Fig(4) also provides subtle evidence in favour of this as well, note the instability of cluster 2 in both plots, and it's inability to capture data from both PCA groups at once. This, combined with the clear separation of clusters 1 and 3 indicate that there may only be two clusters in the dataset, as opposed to the three clusters that the labels indicate.

Total	428
Missing	20
4	72
2	157
1	179
	Count

(a) Raw B_NoiseAdded.csv dataset, before pre-processing. There are 428 observations with 20 missing labels and 20 duplicated observations (40 observations involved in the duplication).

Total	408
Missing	0
4	68 (-4, 1, -3, 2)
2	163 (-3, 4, -5, 10)
1	177 (-3, 5, -12, 8)
	Count

(b) B_NoiseAdded.csv after pre-processing, no missing labels or duplicated observations. The 4 numbers in the brackets indicate how the count in each classification changed due to, in order: 1 and 2 are counts exiting and entering (respectively) the class after correcting for mislabelling; 3 - count exiting after dropping duplicates; 4 - count entering after imputation of missing labels.

Figure 5: Summary of classifications for the B_NoiseAdded.csv dataset before and after pre-processing.

Performing k-means before PCA has the advantage of being able to visualise the clusters separation in the original feature space. However, this might not map well onto the PCA space, as the clusters may be more separable, or separate differently, in the original feature space than in the 2-component PCA space. It is generally better to perform n-component PCA (or some form of dimensionality reduction or feature selection) before k-means as it can reduce noise and mitigate the curse of dimensionality [4] where distances become less meaningful in higher dimensions.

1.2 Q2 - Dataset B

Fig.(5a) summarises the classifications for B_NoiseAdded.csv. The dataset contained 20 duplicates (40 involved in the duplication, full list in Appendix A) and 20 missing labels. 10 of these 20 duplicates were also mislabelled, as they contained mismatched labels across their duplicates. A multinomial LogisticRegression model was fit on the labelled data to predict the missing and mislabelled labels, Fig.(5b) shows the new summary of classifications.

Several methods exist for handling missing labels. One method, model based imputation (used here), involves training a model on labelled data to predict missing labels. Alternatively, data with missing labels can be ignored, especially if the sample size is large. Whilst model based imputation utilises all data, it risks bias if the model poorly fits the data. Ignoring missing data avoids bias, if the samples size is large.

Missing at random (MAR) means a label's absence is unrelated to its value, whereas missing not at random (MNAR) indicates a correlation between a label's absence and its value. In Fig.(5b), the missing labels' percentages in each class (4.5%, 6.1%, and 2.9% for

	Fea58	Fea142	Fea150	Fea233	Fea269	Fea299	Fea339	Fea355	Fea458	Fea466	Fea491
138	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan
143	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan
231	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan
263	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan
389	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan	nan

(a) The samples and features with missing data.

	Fea58	Fea142	Fea150	Fea233	Fea269	Fea299	Fea339	Fea355	Fea458	Fea466	Fea491	dassification
138	0.0	4.13	0.0	1.07	0.35	0.0	1.84	0.0	0.57	0.0	0.0	2.0
143	0.0	4.02	0.0	1.0	0.56	0.0	2.02	0.0	0.58	0.0	0.0	2.0
231	0.0	4.55	0.0	0.66	0.0	0.05	2.33	0.0	1.33	0.0	0.0	1.0
263	0.17	4.31	0.0	0.71	0.12	0.0	1.86	0.0	1.08	0.44	0.0	4.0
389	0.0	4.47	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	2.61	0.0	0.33	0.0	0.0	4.0

(b) The imputed data.

Figure 6: Samples and features with missing data, for the C_MissingData.csv dataset.

classes 1, 2, and 4) suggest no significant evidence of MNAR.

1.3 Q3 - Dataset C

1.3.1 Questions 3a and 3b

Figure (6a) displays features with missing values and corresponding samples. Several methods address missing data. Static imputation, a simple approach, replaces missing values in a feature with a constant value, like the feature's mean. Although computationally cost-effective, it may decrease variance and bias datasets with many missing values. Alternatively, model based imputation estimates missing values per sample using a suitable model. For example, the K Nearest Neighbours method imputes a feature's missing value using the mean of that value from the sample's K nearest neighbours. This approach can mitigate bias and maintain variance, but in high-dimensional data, it may lead to less meaningful nearest neighbours, as distances become less meaningful with increased dimensions [4].

Multiple imputation involves using a probabilistic model to impute missing data several times, creating multiple datasets. These datasets can be analysed individually or their imputed values averaged. This method captures uncertainty in missing data, and is particularly useful when missing data is extensive.

1.3.2 Question 3c

Fig(7) depicts a simulation where data was removed and re-imputed using PCA and KNN to assess imputation accuracy at different n_neighbors values. This helped in selecting n_neighbors=15 for KNN imputation, as larger n_neighbors values did not significantly improve accuracy (lower MSE). KNN combined with PCA mitigates the 'curse of dimensionality,' improving accuracy [4] and aiding in identifying more meaningful neighbours. KNN is preferable for clustered datasets where distance-based methods are effective and it is expected that nearest neighbours share similar properties.

Fig(6b) displays the data imputed with PCA and KNN. Fig(8) indicates that this method largely preserved the original feature distributions.

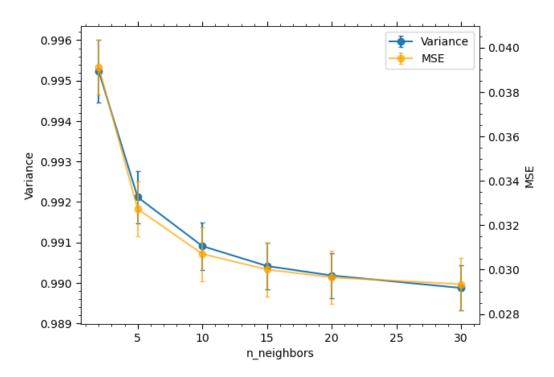


Figure 7: Variance and MSE of KNN imputed data, for different values of n_neighbors. The variance is shown as a percentage of the original dataset, and the MSE is the mean squared error of predicted values against the true values.

	Var(KNN) / Var(orig) %	Var(mean) / Var(orig) %	Var(KNN) / Var(mean) %	KS(orig, KNN) p-val	
Fea58	98.84	98.77	100.06	1.000000	
Fea142	98.88	98.77	100.10	1.000000	
Fea150	98.79	98.77	100.01	1.000000	
Fea233	98.81	98.77	100.03	1.000000	
Fea269	99.03	98.77	100.26	1.000000	
Fea299	98.80	98.77	100.03	1.000000	
Fea339	98.90	98.77	100.13	1.000000	
Fea355	98.78	98.77	100.00	1.000000	
Fea458	98.89	98.77	100.11	1.000000	
Fea466	98.90	98.77	100.13	1.000000	
Fea491	98.78	98.77	100.01	1.000000	

Figure 8: This table compares feature variances post-imputation. Column 1 displays each feature's variance after KNN imputation, as a percentage of the original dataset. Column 2 does the same for mean imputation. Column 3 contrasts the values from columns 1 and 2. Column 4 presents the p-value from the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, comparing the original and KNN imputed datasets.

1.3.3 Question 3d and 3e

Outliers were identified by standardising the data and identifying values over 3σ from the mean. Fig.(9) indicates uniformly distributed outliers across the dataset.

These outliers were imputed using PCA and KNN, as in Question 3c, with the justifica-

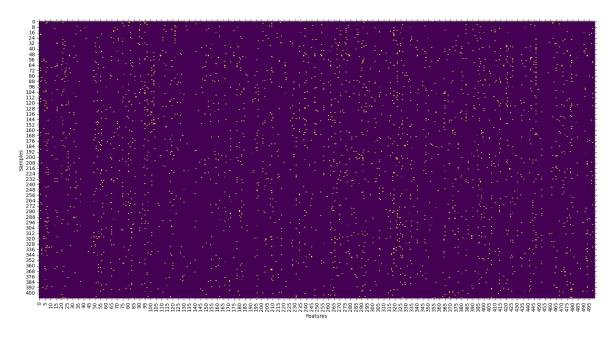


Figure 9: A heatmap of the outliers in the C_MissingFeatures.csv dataset. The orange marks indicate an outlier value, 2904 outlier values were identified.

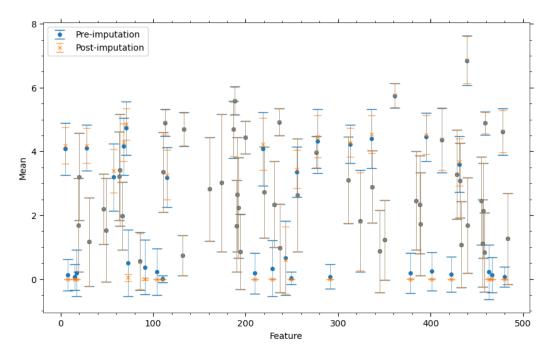


Figure 10: The mean and standard deviation of the 81 most discriminative features in the original C_MissingFeatures.csv dataset, before and after outlier imputation.

tion being identical to Question 3c. Outliers were iteratively removed, with re-standardisation and outlier detection after each iteration. The process iterated 8 times, stopping only after 0.27% of the samples were outside 3σ , aligning with normal distribution expectations.

Fig.(10) compares the mean and standard deviation of the 81 most discriminative fea-

tures, before and after outlier imputation. Feature variance decreased post-imputation (as expected), more so for features with near-zero means, likely due to their sparsity and higher outlier likelihood.

2 Section B

2.1 Q4 - Baseline Dataset

2.1.1 Question 4a

Classification decision trees utilise recursive binary splitting to split the feature-space into high dimensional rectangles. Each iteration splits a rectangle into two, based on a feature and a threshold. The final tree has N_n internal nodes, and $N_n + 1$ terminal nodes which represent the final classification: the modal class in that rectangle. Splits are assessed using criteria like the Gini index, choosing splits and thresholds that most reduce it. The Gini index [5], is:

$$G = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \hat{p}_{mk} (1 - \hat{p}_{mk}) \tag{2.1}$$

where \hat{p}_{mk} is the proportion of training samples in the *m*th region that are from the *k*th class. A region *m* that contains mainly a single class will have a small Gini index for that region.

Decision trees exhibit high variance. Ensemble methods like bagging and random forests reduce this variance. Bagging trains multiple trees on bootstrapped training data, with classifications decided by majority vote. Random forests further lower variance by randomly selecting features for each internal node split, creating less correlated trees.

Two key hyperparameters in random forests are max_depth and max_features: the maximum internal nodes per tree and the number of features considered for splitting, respectively. Typically, max_depth is set heuristically to \sqrt{N} , with N being the feature count.

2.1.2 Question 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e

The dataset underwent preprocessing with the outlier removal method from Section 1.3.3, followed by standardisation. It had no duplicates or missing values. Due to imbalanced classes, stratified sampling was employed for train-test splitting.

	1	2	3	Tot. (actual)
1	0.372	0.002	0.006	0.38
2	0.016	0.334	0.006	0.356
3	0.056	0.014	0.194	0.264
Tot. (predictions)	0.444	0.35	0.206	

	Precision	Recall	F1-score	Irue count
1	0.839	0.979	0.903	38.0
2	0.955	0.938	0.946	36.0
3	0.942	0.734	0.824	26.0
Macro Avg	0.912	0.884	0.891	
Weighted Avg	0.907	0.9	0.898	

(a) Mean confusion matrix.

(b) Mean classification report.

Figure 11: The confusion matrix and classification report averaged over 5-fold cross-validation for ADS_baselineDataset.csv using a random forest classifier. The leading diagonal show a mean 10.0% test set error. Matrix cells represent percentages of the 100-sample test set, derived from a 0.8/0.2 train-test split.

The dataset was then classified using RandomForestClassifier and Fig.(11) shows a summary of the model performance. This gave a test set classification error of 10.0%.

The RandomForestClassifier was optimised based on the out-of-bag (OOB) error rate. Results in Fig. (12) indicate that post 200 trees, the OOB error rate ceases to decrease

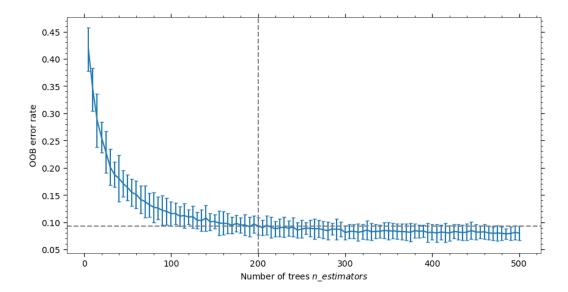


Figure 12: The out of bag error rate for a RandomForestClassifier on the preprocessed dataset ADS_baselineDataset.csv. The OOB error rate was computed 20 times per n_estimators to give error bars.

	1	2	3	Tot. (actual)
1	0.372	0.0	0.008	0.38
2	0.012	0.338	0.006	0.356
3	0.048	0.012	0.204	0.264
Tot. (predictions)	0.432	0.35	0.218	

	Precision	Recall	F1-score	True count
1	0.862	0.979	0.916	38.0
2	0.966	0.949	0.957	36.0
3	0.939	0.772	0.845	26.0
Macro Avg	0.922	0.9	0.906	
Weighted Avg	0.919	0.914	0.912	

(a) Mean confusion matrix.

(b) Mean classification report.

Figure 13: Similar confusion matrix and classification reports as shown in Fig. (11), but with 200 trees. The mean test set classification error was 8.6%.

significantly. Fig. (13) summarises model performance with 200 trees, showing the test set classification error improved to 8.6% and improvements in average precision, recall, and F1-scores.

RandomForestClassifier.feature_importances_ was used to calculate Gini importance (Fig. (14)). Gini importance measures the total normalised decrease in Gini index due to internal splits on a feature. The top 322 features, representing 95% of cumulative Gini importance, were selected for classification (see Fig. (15)). Comparing Fig. (13) and Fig. (15), results were equivalent or marginally better with the reduced feature set.

2.1.3 Question 4f

The procedures outlined in Sec.(2.1.2) were replicated using a multinomial logistic regression classifier, LogisticRegression. Fig.(16) and Fig.(17) illustrate the classification results using all features and the top 382 features, respectively. The latter demonstrates notably improved performance in test set classification error, precision, recall, and F1-scores. Feature importance was gauged using a novel metric, the normalised mean squared logit importance (NMSLI), calculated by averaging the squared coefficients for each feature across all 3 classes (LogisticRegression.coef_) and normalising them. This metric reflects

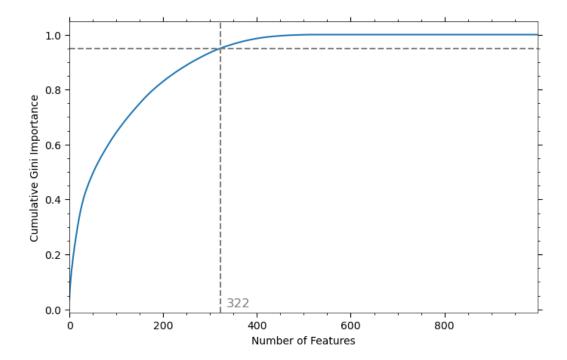


Figure 14: The ordered (highest first), cumulative Gini importance of the features in ADS_baselineDataset.csv. The horizontal grey line is the 95% threshold, which contains the top 322 features.

	1	2	3	Tot. (actual)
1	0.372	0.0	0.008	0.38
2	0.008	0.34	0.008	0.356
3	0.044	0.01	0.21	0.264
Tot. (predictions)	0.424	0.35	0.226	

	Precision	Recall	F1-score	True count
1	0.88	0.979	0.926	38.0
2	0.972	0.955	0.963	36.0
3	0.932	0.795	0.854	26.0
Macro Avg	0.928	0.91	0.914	
Weighted Avg	0.927	0.922	0.92	

(a) Mean confusion matrix.

(b) Mean classification report.

Figure 15: Similar confusion matrix and classification reports as shown in Fig. (11) and Fig. (13) but with 200 trees and utilising only the top 322 features. The mean test set classification error was 7.8%.

	1	2	3	Tot. (actual)
1	0.33	0.014	0.036	0.38
2	0.018	0.328	0.01	0.356
3	0.036	0.014	0.214	0.264
Tot. (predictions)	0.384	0.356	0.26	

	Precision	Recall	F1-score	True count
1	0.865	0.868	0.864	38.0
2	0.923	0.921	0.921	36.0
3	0.821	0.81	0.813	26.0
Macro Avg	0.869	0.867	0.866	
Weighted Avg	0.874	0.872	0.871	

(a) Mean confusion matrix.

(b) Mean classification report.

Figure 16: Confusion matrix and classification report averaged over 5-folds of cross validation for the LogisticRegression classifier on ADS_baselineDataset.csv. The leading diagonal of the confusion matrix indicates a mean 12.8% test set classification error. Matrix cells represent percentages of the 100-sample test set, derived from a 0.8/0.2 train-test split.

	1	2	3	Tot. (actual)
1	0.354	0.008	0.018	0.38
2	0.014	0.334	0.008	0.356
3	0.016	0.012	0.236	0.264
Tot. (predictions)	0.384	0.354	0.262	

	Precision	Recall	F1-score	True count
1	0.923	0.932	0.927	38.0
2	0.944	0.938	0.941	36.0
3	0.901	0.894	0.896	26.0
Macro Avg	0.923	0.921	0.921	
Weighted Avg	0.925	0.924	0.924	

(a) Mean confusion matrix.

(b) Mean classification report.

Figure 17: Similar confusion matrix and classification reports as shown in Fig. (16) but with only the top 382 features. The mean test set classification error was 7.6%.

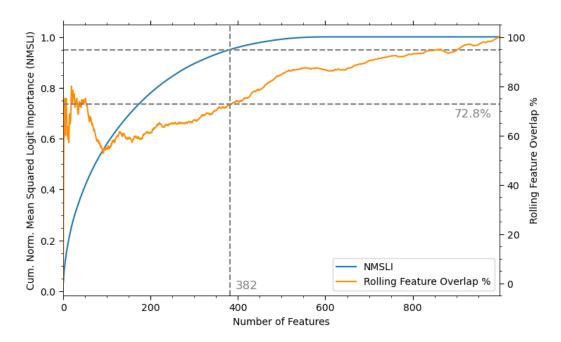


Figure 18: The ordered (highest first), cumulative NMSLI of the features in the LogisticRegression model. The horizontal grey line is the 95% threshold, which contains the top 382 features. 72.8% of these 382 features were also in the top 382 features for the RandomForestClassifier indicated by the Gini importance, this is what the rolling feature overlap indicates.

the coefficient's magnitude and consistency across all classes, and was then treated like the Gini importance and the top 382 features were identified by calculating the features that contributed to 95% of the cumulative NMSLI (Fig.(18)). A comparison of Fig.(15) and Fig.(17) shows similar performance across all metrics for both reduced feature-set models.

2.2 Q5 - Baseline Dataset

2.2.1 Question 5a

The dataset ADS_baselineDataset.csv was pre-processed in the same way as it was for Q4 and Q3e, and then K-Means and Gaussian Mixture Models were applied to the dataset. The KMeans implementation used utilised the Lloyd's algorithm which yields k centroids with each sample being assigned to the nearest centroid, this works under the assumption that the data is generally spherically distributed. The GaussianMixture implementation

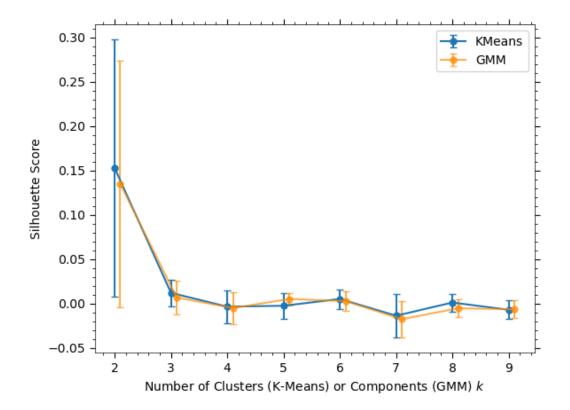


Figure 19: The silhouette scores for the K-Means and Gaussian Mixture Models on the pre-processed ADS_baselineDataset.csv dataset. 5 repetitions were performed to give a mean and standard deviation for each k value.

used utilised the expectation-maximisation algorithm which yields k Gaussian distributions with each sample being assigned to the distribution with the highest probability, this works under the assumption that the data is generated by a mixture of Gaussian distributions, so can be a bit more flexible than K-Means.

Fig. 19 shows the silhouette scores for the K-Means and Gaussian Mixture Models on the data, indicating that the optimal number of clusters was k=2 for both algorithms. However, the large errors on k=2 indicated large instability in the algorithms ability to find a global minima, as such, Fig. 20 shows the effect of increasing the number of initialisations on the cost function for both algorithms. Both algorithms are very dependent on the random initialisation of the centroids/distributions and the dissappearance of the error bars on both models at $n_init > 10$ indicated that the algorithms required at leeast this many random initialisations to find a global minima. Therefore, $n_init = 50$ was used hereon.

Fig. 21 shows a contingency table comparing the cluster assignments for the K-Means and Gaussian Mixture Models using these parameters, 87.2% agreement was found.

2.2.2 Question 5b

A LogisticRegression classifier was utilised on the classified data shown in Fig. (21) to determine the feature importance, as shown in Fig. (22), using the NMSLI metric (derived and explained in Section (2.1.3)). The top 295 and 298 important features for K-means and GMM respectively were utilised to train a new K-Means and Gaussian Mixture Model, as

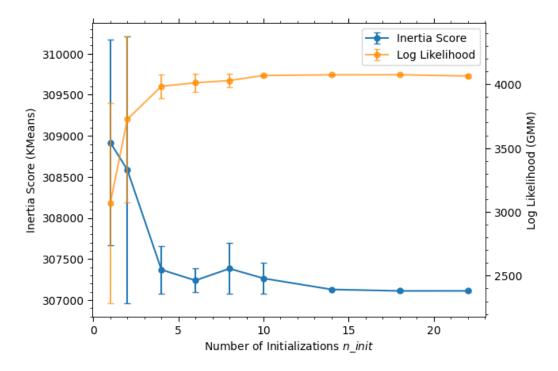


Figure 20: The score of the cost functions for the K-Means and Gaussian Mixture Models as n_init is increased 5 repetitions were performed to give a mean and standard deviation for each n_init value.

	1	2	Tot. (GMM)
1	177	60	237
2	4	259	263
Tot. (KMeans)	181	319	500

Figure 21: A contingency table comparing cluster assignments for the K-Means and Gaussian Mixture Models on the pre-processed ADS_baselineDataset.csv dataset, with k=2 and n init = 50. The leading diagonal gives an 87.2% agreement between the two models.

shown in Fig. (23), 96.6% agreement was found, a significant improvement over the 87.2% agreement found in Fig. (21).

2.2.3 Question 5c

Fig. (24) shows the PCA visualisations of the clusters found by the K-Means and Gaussian Mixture Models. The middle column indicates a strong positive correlation along y = -x for the most discriminative feature (which was the same for both models), and the right column indicates a slightly weaker but still existent positive correlation along the same line for the second most discriminative feature (which was different for both models).

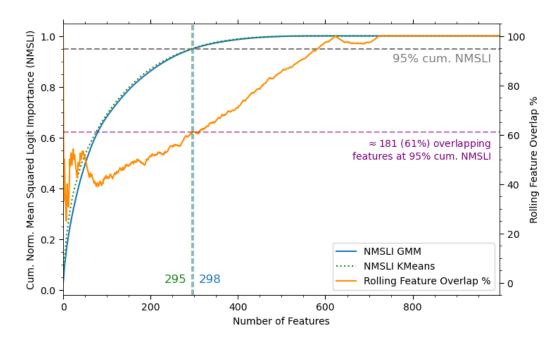


Figure 22: The feature importance for the K-Means and Gaussian Mixture Models using a LogisticRegression classifier and the NMSLI metric on the classified data shown in Fig. (21). The 95% NMSLI threshold selected 295 and 298 important features for K-means and GMM respectively, and the orange line indicates that roughly 181 of these features were shared between the two models.

	1	2	Tot. (GMM)
1	178	14	192
2	3	305	308
Tot. (KMeans)	181	319	500

Figure 23: A contingency table comparing cluster assignments for the K-Means and Gaussian Mixture Models after feature reduction as shown in Fig. (22). The leading diagonal shows a 96.6% agreement between the two models.

A Q2: Duplicate Observations in B_NoiseAdded.csv

The duplicated pairs in B_NoiseAdded.csv, the number is the sample number: [[74 146], [220 291], [147 409], [44 193], [66 253], [28 260], [384 396], [188 249], [83 198], [175 311], [166 424] [344 389], [117 297], [351 352], [120 359], [119 382], [100 173], [30 101], [46 107], [210 305]]

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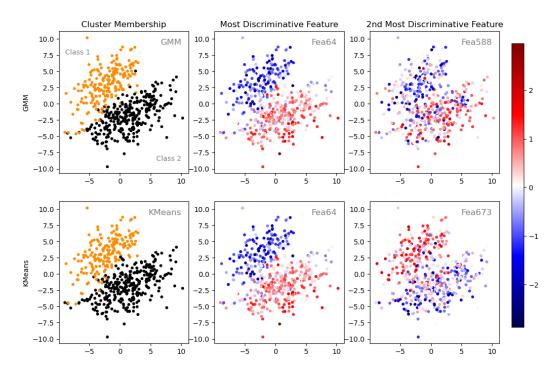


Figure 24: PCA visualisations of the clusters found by the K-Means and Gaussian Mixture Models as shown in Fig. (23). The top row is for the K-Means model and the bottom row is for the GMM. The left column shows the cluster membership, the middle and right columns show the samples coloured by the first and second most important discriminative respectively. The x-axis is the first principal component and the y-axis is the second principal component for all plots.

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