# Code implementation

The supplied python code includes 4 files.

The main is “data\_preparation.py”.

It loads the dataset, splits it into 6 datasets (train, validation, test) according to desired partitions set by user.

Then, some preliminary learning is done on the training set, e.g. the Principal Components from the PCA analysis. The number of principal components is, again, set by user. In our case, we chose 5.

Then, we created a custom Pipeline. It uses the basic Pipeline from the sklearn, but only applies the transformations (without ‘fit’ stage in the end). This way, it allows us to add stages to the Pipeline which modify each dataset. This Pipeline is applied on training, validation, and test set. Each stage in a pipeline makes some modification on some feature in the dataframe – it fills missing data, it changes some feature to categorical, or applies PCA transform, which drops the original features and leaves only the desired principal components. The final stage in the pipeline drops all the columns which have at least one NA value.

After the pipeline, each dataset is saved into a .csv file which is presented here.

# Feature Extraction Analysis

# Nominal Feature Visualization

**Feature Anomolies**

Some of the features have anomalies that skew the results greatly and therefore we truncated these features.

Looking at the bevaioral/physiological features:

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

SSoc

**Social Media and Discipline**

Time on Social Media and Discipline Score have major outliers so those were truncated.

**Bmi Score**

The bmi score had data that was anomalous because it was physically impossible because bmi = weight/ (height)^2. Therefore, any bmi above 45 was truncated.

**Multi Label Classification**

We changed the classification to multi label with labels for risk, type of disease, and whether the person spreads the disease. This is important because some features like Syndrome Class indicate whether a person spreads or doesn’t but isn’t informative about the other labels.

**Location data**

We observed the location to check whether it can give any reliable information about the type of disease. Maybe if people are congregated closely to each other then there is an outbreak. Yet observing the data, it can be seen there isn’t a clear case of that:

Cases of Flue are in black and white not-flue:

Chart, scatter chart

Description automatically generated

Chart, scatter chart

Description automatically generatedCases of covid in black and non-covid in white:

Graphs of other diseases are similar and show no specific area or zones of outbreak. Therefore the location feature is redundant.

Also, the likelihood of spread or risk are not related to the location of the person, but rather to physiological, behavioral traits.

**Scaling**

For scaling we tried to use Quantile Transformer from sklearn but because it truncated too much of the data the results were flawed. Eventually we used standard scaling of (x- (avg))/(std. deviation).

**Expert Knowledge**

From general knowledge, the address, patient ID, date of test, number of cousins are redundant as well. Also, the professions have too many types in the dataset and from human knowledge are irrelevant.

Plotting SyndromeClass vs. the TestResultsCode we observed the following:

Chart

Description automatically generated

Where the right-hand side is the TestResultsCode and the top side are the syndrome classes. We saw that non-spreading people mostly didn’t exhibit syndromes 1 and 4. Then we chose to keep the feature.

We chose to remove AvgHouseholdExpenseOnPresents, AvgHouseholdExpenseOnSocialGames, AvgHouseholdExpenseParkingTicketsPerYear, AvgMinSportsPerDay, AvgTimeOnSocialMedia and AvgTimeOnStuding.

By Occam’s razor principle the learning will be more efficient excluding them, because the simpler model that takes into account only the most relevant features only will likely be better performing. The above features are immaterial to communicable diseases, because they focus on the household and activities that don’t pose much risk to catching diseases.

Also AvgTimeOnSocialMedia and AvgTimeOnStuding, have too few samples of data. AvgTimeOnSocialMedia entries that are not Nan and AvgTimeOnStuding has 750 entries that aren’t NaN. (in the entire dataset). This shows they aren’t sufficiently informative to be taken into consideration.

**Mutual Information**

We used Mutual Information to assess SelfDeclarationOfIllnessForm and the occurrence of diseases. We

found very low mutual information correlation between a syndrome reported and one of the diseases in the test results, but there was some correlation if the person was spreading. as seen :

A picture containing chart

Description automatically generated

# PCA transform

We use the PCA on the “pcr results” measurements. Since there are 16 such measurements, we want to find the most dominant Principal Components.

First we full the missing data with the median of each “pcr result” caregory, since they have gaussian-like distribution.

Then, we use the Scaler function to normalize the values of all the measurements.

Then, we define the number of Principal Components we want to save. We choose 5 arbitrarily, later this number will be adjusted according to the classifier performance.

We project the feature vectors of “PCR results” onto the 5 Principal Components. We get 5 new features, which are in fact linear transformation of the original features onto the 5 Principal Components.

So we do want to **save all 16 pcr results features,** but those will be transformed into only 5 new features, which are the values on the 5 biggest Principal Components.

# Sequential Forward Selection

In order to determine which remaining features were of importance, we chose to use SFS. We chose the top three from considerations of Occam’s Razor, i.e. the simpler model is usually the best one.

We used the K-Nearest Neighbors algorithm as our scoring function, because it requires no assumptions on the data, and only one hyperparameter, and there are many distance criteria to choose from. We chose to use the scoring function with 2 neighbors in order for it to generalize but not to be too computationally expensive.

Uwe found the three most important features other than previously mentioned were BMI, Time On Social Activities and Discipline Score, which make sense in terms of expert knowledge.

# Imputation

We tried using imputation using linear regression to fill up nan values. Then using r2 score, we checked if filling up using LR was better than just filling up with the mean.

We chose 'AvgMinSportsPerDay', 'DisciplineScore', 'HappinessScore' , yet we didn’t get meaningful r2 scores.

# Pros and Cons – Sequential Forward Selection

**Pros**

* **Simple to implement and intuitive**
* **Can specify in advance the number of important features desired**
* **Can choose from variety of scoring funtions**

**Cons**

* **Difficult to obtain same feature set from slightly modified data. Reproducibility is hard to achieve.**

# Pros and Cons k-NN

**Pros**

* **Many distance criteria**
* **No assumptions on data**

**Cons**

* **Class imbalance can have outsized effect**
* **No clear guideline on choosing number of neighbors**