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Comp 379

HW 1 Report

The titanic disaster was an embarrassment not only for the engineers of the ship, but also made a very startling statement about the views of socioeconomic class in the world. The ship was very arrogantly thought to be unsinkable by its creators and therefore things like safety procedures and sufficient lifeboat capacity were overlooked. However, when it ironically sank on its maiden voyage, a small percentage survived.

I thought that this fact would help me accurately predict survival. The main metric that I used was the fare paid by each passenger. I simply used the average fare as an alpha and classified all fares over the average as survivors and all fares under it as non-survivors. Of all of the passengers, there were only two with unknown fare prices so those were excluded. The resulting script output is shown below:

A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generated

This turned out to be a very ineffective way of predicting survival. I suspect that the reason for this is due to the fact that fare prices do not linearly correlate to passenger class. People paid much more for first and second class than third, much like modern airliners. Therefore, a better method of selecting an alpha that takes this into account would probably produce more accurate results.