# Predicting the Survival of Patients with Heart Failure

STOR 565 Final Project



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#### Division of Work

- Yi Cui
  - Preprocessing; basic code for EDA, PCA, clustering, logistic regression, and LASSO.
- Yiran Li
  - Coding and analysis for PCA, kNN, logistic regression, and LASSO.
- Zipei Zhu
  - Final revision for code and analysis; decision trees and SVM (in the report)

1. Motivation

2. Data Descriptions and EDA

3. Model Selection and Further Analysis

4. Future Directions

# Why this dataset? (Heart Failure Clinical Records Dataset\*)

- A helpful data set for doing survival analysis on the patients with heart failure
  - Ahmad et al. (2017)
    - Survival analysis of heart failure patients: a case study
  - Chicco and Jurman (2020)
    - Machine learning can predict survival of patients with heart failure from serum creatinine and ejection fraction alone

#### Overview

- Contains the medical records of 299 patients collected from April-December 2015 in Pakistan
- 13 real-valued features characterizing the clinical, body, and lifestyle information for each patient (i.e., age, sex, some medical test results, etc.)
- Some binary features include anemia, high blood pressure, diabetes, sex, and smoking
- 96 dead patients and 203 survived patients



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# Data Descriptions

Table 1. Data Descriptions (unscaled)

Feature	Explanation	Measurement	Range
Age	Age of the patient	Years	$[40, \dots, 95]$
Anaemia	Decrease of red blood cells or hemoglobin	Boolean	0,1
High blood pressure	If a patient has hypertension	Boolean	0,1
Creatinine phosphokinase	Level of the CPK enzyme in the blood	mcg/L	$[23, \ldots, 7861]$
Diabetes	if the patient has diabetes	Boolean	0,1
Ejection fraction	Percentage of blood leaving	Percentage	$[14, \dots, 80]$
	the heart at each contraction		
Sex	Woman or man	Binary	0,1
Platelets	Platelets in the blood	kiloplatelets /mL	$[25.01, \ldots, 850.00]$
Serum creatinine	Level of creatinine in the blood	mg/dL	$[0.50, \ldots, 9.40]$
Serum sodium	Level of sodium in the blood	mEq/L	$[114, \dots, 148]$
Smoking	If the patient smokes	Boolean	0,1
Time	Follow-up period	Days	$[4,\ldots,285]$
(target) death event	If the patient died during the follow-up period	Boolean	0,1



# Data Descriptions

Table 2. Some Selected Binary Features

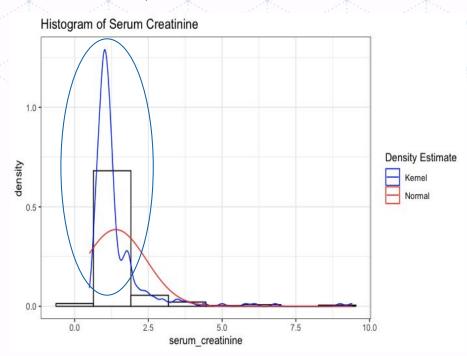
	Full sample		Dead patients		Survived patients	
Category feature	#	%	#	%	#	%
Anaemia (0: false)	170	56.86	50	52.08	120	59.11
Anaemia (1: true)	129	43.14	46	47.92	3	40.89
High blood pressure (0: false)	194	64.88	57	59.38	137	67.49
High blood pressure (1: true)	105	35.12	39	40.62	66	32.51
Diabetes (0: false)	174	58.19	56	58.33	118	58.13
Diabetes (1: true)	125	41.81	40	41.67	85	41.87
Sex (0: woman)	105	35.12	34	35.42	71	34.98
Sex (1: man)	194	64.88	62	64.58	132	65.02
Smoking (0: false)	203	67.89	66	68.75	137	67.49
Smoking (1: true)	96	32.11	30	31.25	66	32.51

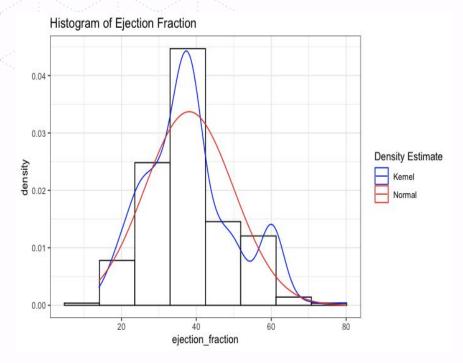
Unimportant binary factor/feature



# Data Descriptions

#### Not normal, skewness > 0







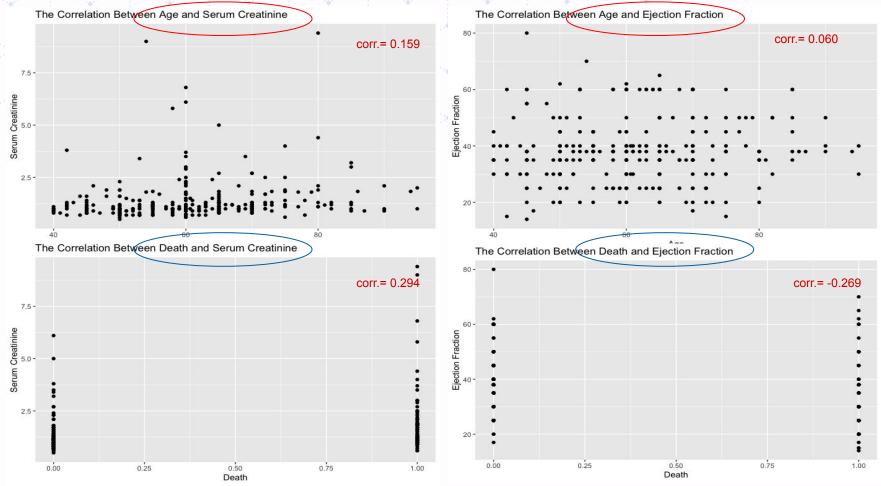
# Eyeballing the data:

• Does higher level of serum creatinine in the blood indicates higher probability of death? Pattern

erum_creatinine	serum_sodium *	sex ÷	smoking	time	DEATH_EVENT	serum_creatinine	serum_sodium *	sex ÷	smoking	time	DEATH_EVENT
9.40	133	1	1	10	1	1.00	140	1	0	206	
9.00	137	0	0	196	1	1,00	136	0	0	210	
6.80	146	0	0	43	1	1.00	142	1	1	214	
6.10	131	1		107	0	1.00	133	1	0	215	
	0.333					1.00	139	1	0	215	
5.80	134	1	0	26	1	1.00	142	1	1	216	
5.00	130	0	0	207	0	1.00	139	1	0	230	
4.40	133	1	0	41	1	1.00	138	1	0	233	
4.00	131	1	1	10	1	1.00	140	0	0	237	
3.80	128	1	1	250	0	1.00	132	1	0	244	
3,70	134	1	0	96	1	1.00	137	1	1	245	
	7,793.0	100				1.00	137	1	0	247	
3.50	134	1	0	30	1	1.00	132	0	0	250	
3.50	136	1	1	187	0	1.00	140	1	1	258	
3.40	145	1	0	105	0	0.90	140	1	1	10	
3.20	138	0	0	94	0	0.90	140	1	0	14	
3.00	132	1	0	28	1	0.90	140	1	1	20	
3.00	142	0	0	30	1	0.90	130	1	0	38	
	(201302	8559				0.90	139	1	1	71	
2,90	127	1		64	1	0.90	140	0	0	74	
2.70	116	0	0	8	1	0.90	138	1	0	88	



#### What is the correlation between some features and death?



1. Motivation

2. Data Descriptions and EDA

3. Model Selection and Further Analysis

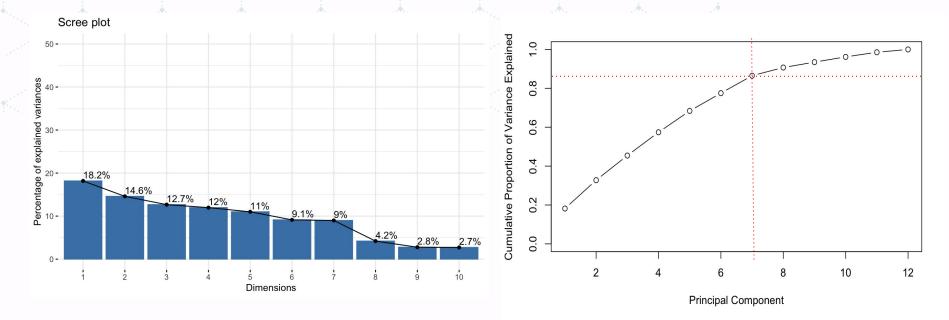
4. Further Directions



Model Selection and Further Analysis: Principal Component Analysis (PCA)



#### Model Selection and Further Analysis (PCA)

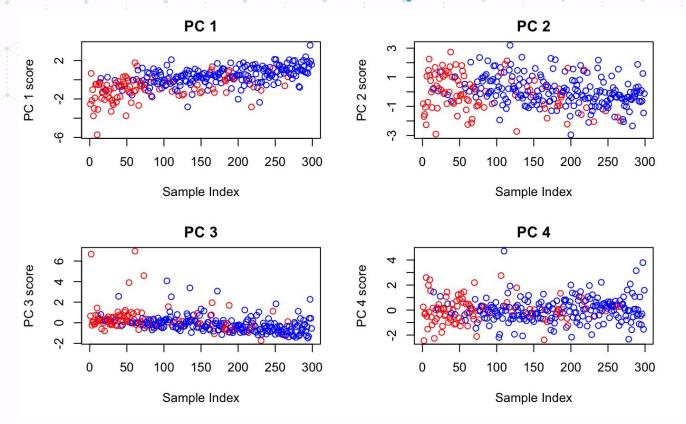


- PC1's variance percentage is only 18.2%
- 7 principal components are required to explain at least 80% of the variation in the data

It doesn't seem like PCA has done a good job in reducing the dimensionality of the data



# Model Selection and Further Analysis (PCA)

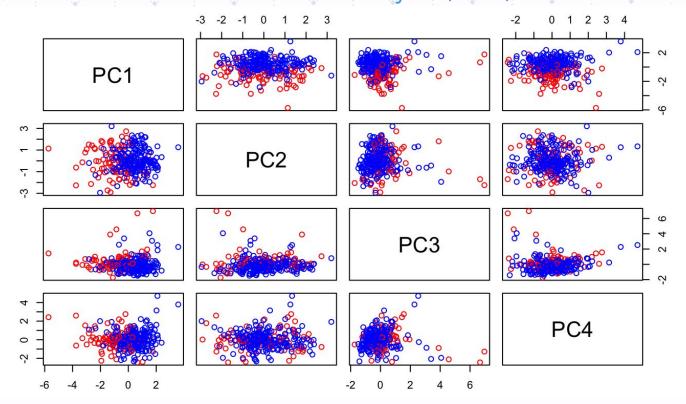


- O dead
- survived

Hardly no PCs appear to be helpful for separating the data



#### Model Selection and Further Analysis (PCA)



- O dead
- survived

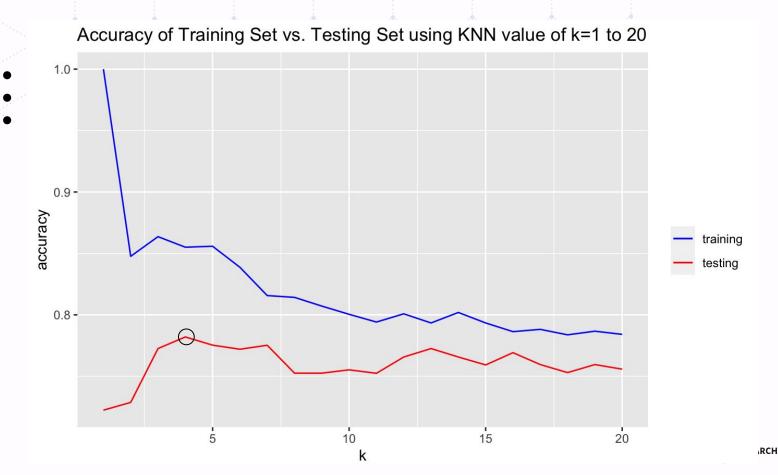
- After controlling for PC2, PC3 and PC4, dead patients in red seem to have lower PC1 than the patients survived.



Model Selection and Further Analysis: K Nearest Neighbor (kNN)



## Model Selection and Further Analysis (kNN)





Model Selection and Further Analysis: Logistic Regression (baseline)



#### Model Selection and Further Analysis (Logistic Regression)

- Remove the variable "time"
- Focus on the clinical features and discover something meaningful about them

Feature	Explanation	Measurement	Range
Age	Age of the patient	Years	$[40, \dots, 95]$
Anaemia	Decrease of red blood cells or hemoglobin	Boolean	0,1
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Diabetes	if the patient has diabetes	Boolean	0,1
Ejection fraction	Percentage of blood leaving	Percentage	$[14, \dots, 80]$
15 (4 ₹040 20 40 0 4 4 5 € 0 0 0 6 6 5 0 4 5 0 0 0 6 6 5 0 4 5 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	the heart at each contraction	U-m40409-0530mm (190 <del>7</del> 0.18	
Sex	Woman or man	Binary	0,1
Platelets	Platelets in the blood	kiloplatelets /mL	$[25.01, \ldots, 850.00]$
Serum creatinine	Level of creatinine in the blood	mg/dL	$[0.50, \dots, 9.40]$
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## Model Selection and Further Analysis (Logistic Regression)

Build the model and take a look at their coefficients:

#### Coefficients:

	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )	
(Intercept)	-1.3138	0.4156	-3.161	0.001571	**
age	0.7793	0.1738	4.483	7.35e-06	***
creatinine_phosphokinase	0.2742	0.1457	1.883	0.059737	•
ejection_fraction	-0.7917	0.2017	-3.925	8.66e-05	***
platelets	-0.1777	0.1800	-0.987	0.323733	
serum_creatinine	0.6334	0.1816	3.487	0.000488	***
serum_sodium	-0.1703	0.1677	-1.015	0.309962	
anaemia	0.1921	0.3451	0.557	0.577737	
diabetes	0.4117	0.3377	1.219	0.222784	
high_blood_pressure	0.6124	0.3449	1.776	0.075806	•
sex	-0.2085	0.3933	-0.530	0.596071	
smoking	-0.2581	0.4002	-0.645	0.519031	

Accuracy: 0.6833333



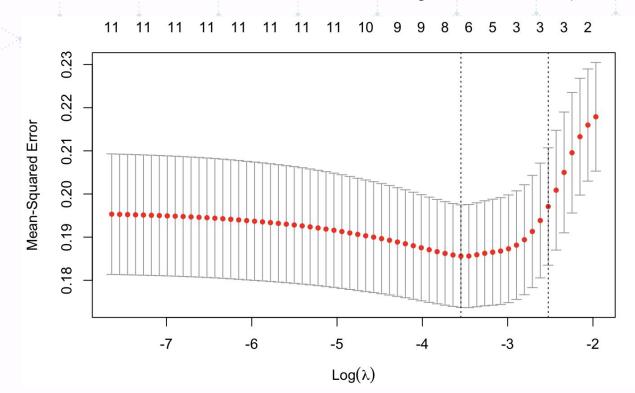


Model Selection and Further Analysis: Sparse Linear Regression - the LASSO



#### Model Selection and Further Analysis (LASSO)

- Remove the variable "time"
- Build the model, select the best lambda using cross-validation (best lambda = 0.0288)





## Model Selection and Further Analysis (LASSO)

Use the best lambda to estimate the coefficients

12 x 1 sparse Matrix of	class "dgCMatrix"
	s0
(Intercept)	0.31742208
age	0.08009002
creatinine_phosphokinase	0.00614508
ejection_fraction	-0.09596062
platelets	3.€3
serum_creatinine	0.09028105
serum_sodium	-0.02537043
anaemia	•
diabetes	
high_blood_pressure	0.01038856
sex	•
smoking	•

Results from logistic regression:

Coefficients:						
	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )		
(Intercept)	-1.3138	0.4156	-3.161	0.001571	**	
age	0.7793	0.1738	4.483	7.35e-06	***	
creatinine_phosphokinase	0.2742	0.1457	1.883	0.059737		
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The associated test error: 0.1905741





Model Selection and Further Analysis:
Decision Trees



#### **Decision Trees**

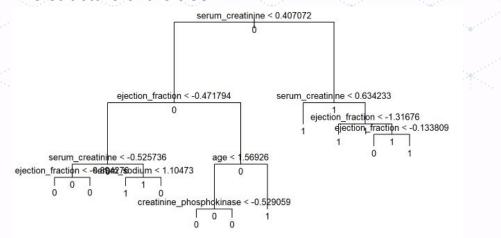
- The usefulness of decision trees
  - Recall pros: **a white box model**, simple to understand and interpret, able to validate the results from other methods; Cons: larger variance in results (e.g., the tree structure may change a lot when there is just a small change in data)
- Results#1: fit a classification tree on the whole data set

- There are **six variables** actually used as **internal nodes** in the tree: serum\_creatinine, ejection\_fraction, age, serum\_sodium, creatinine\_phosphokinase, and sex.
- Overall, the **training error rate** is **17.73%**. This relatively small deviance indicates a tree that provides a good fit to the training data.



#### Decision Trees

• The structure of the tree:



- We can see the most important feature is serum\_creatinine (+) since the first branch differentiates
  the level of serum creatine in the patient's blood using a threshold of 0.407. Plus, this feature is used
  once again in the following internal nodes.
- The other most important feature seems to be **ejection\_fraction (-)**, which is used three times in the following internal nodes.



#### Decision Trees

- Results#2: Cross validation
  - To properly evaluate the tree, we must estimate the test error besides the training error
  - Split the data into a training set (80% of all samples) and a test set (20%)
  - This approach leads to correct predictions for around 75% of the data points in the test data test.
  - o (11+34)/(11+34+7+8) = 0.75

```
## death.test
## tree.predict 1 0
## 1 11 8
## 0 7 34
```

Introduction
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3. Model Selection and Further Analysis

4. Further Directions

#### Some Takeaways and Future Directions

#### Results

- a. Since our data is not very highly dimensional, unsupervised methods such as PCA and clustering do not yield good results, as expected.
- b. Both EDA and our baseline model (i.e., the logistic regression) show that the level of serum creatinine in the patient's blood (**serum\_creatinine**) and the the speed of bloodstream through the heart (**ejection\_fraction**) are two most important predictors along with the age.
- c. Other methods such as LASSO and decision trees yield **similar results** to the logistic regression model. LASSO successfully reduces the variables to six, while the decision tree also shows good performance and indicates the importance of the two features above.

#### Future directions?

- a. Try bagging, random forests, and boosting on the decision tree
  - To see if we can boost the performance of our model (at the expense of less interpretability)
- d. Try SVM to see if this method could result in better predictive accuracy
  - SVM is relatively newer than the other learning methods (e.g., decision trees)



# Thank you!

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