# Machine Learning Applications in Healthcare: Case Studies and Analysis

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Case Studies in Machine Learning

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### 1. Introduction

As technology rises day to day, artificial intelligence and its subset of machine learning become a more-than-ever hot topic, because of this, it is essential to reflect on how this groundbreaking technology can be implemented to save lives. The focus of this study will be Machine Learning and its ability to learn from data, in the form of examples, definitions, behavior that automatically improves with experience [1]. By now, it is almost old news: big data will transform medicine [2], this is because of the enough information collected from all branches of medicine, and big data analytics can now be applied; originating new technologies, both in treatment of patients and health management [3]. Machine learning similarly approaches problems as a doctor progresses through residency: learning rules from data, making patient observations, considering variables and making a prediction in the form of a diagnosis [4].

The current machine learning advancements in healthcare have primarily served as support for a physician's ability to fulfill their roles, identify trends in healthcare, and develop disease prediction models [5]. Some of those specific machine learning accomplishments are: identification of irregularities in the blood samples [7], bones [10], organs [7-9], all of this done with the use of medical monitoring and imaging [6]. In addition, multiple studies have been performed and discuss AI and ML applications to respond to the global health crisis of COVID-19 [11, 12, 13, 14, 15], which gave more insight on AI & ML methods based on their challenges experienced when implementing such a type of technology.

The primary purpose of this study is to identify and understand how machine learning can be applied to contribute to healthcare in society. This paper will focus on multiple features of machine learning in healthcare; such as:

- How beneficial can machine learning be during an extreme situation such as a pandemic?

- How functional machine learning models are when making a diagnosis?
- How effective is machine learning in predicting an outcome for a patient in a specific medical condition?
- Can more than one machine learning model be applied for a case study?

## 2. Research Background

As it is known, the Coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) affected humanity in almost every way possible, as a global health emergency, it disrupted the societal flow. Determining the next steps of a pandemic as it actively occurs is essential for humanity; thus, ever since, there has been a lot of research and study done to prepare for the future.

Some of the applied research includes Machine Learning methodologies to predict the immunogenic landscape of COVID-19 for universal vaccine design blueprints [20], where ensemble machine learning models were used; this study mapped the biology of the COVID-19 virus and the human body, using antigen presentation and immunogenicity predictors. The results identified different antigen presentations into distinct population groups. Therefore, to create the optimal vaccine, they needed to predict "epitope hotspots", the binding of an antibody on a target antigen [20].

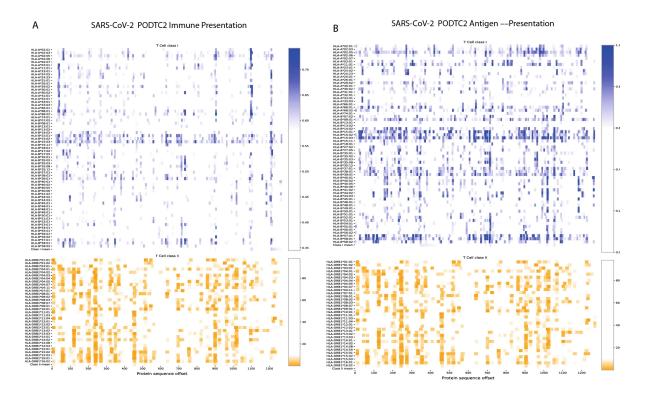


Figure 1. Mapping the S-Protein of the COVID-19 Virus [20]

The image represents the mapping of the S-Protein (spike protein of COVID-19 virus) across the most frequent alleles in the human population. Positive results are 0.7 and above and 0.1 and below for a Class II [20].

All of this thanks to an artificial intelligence engine for clinical trials: The NEC Immune Profiler, which involves ensemble models such as Random Forest. This is a prime example of how machine learning methodologies can revolutionize health sciences, the results offered a possible vaccine blueprint [20].

In addition, the use of machine learning in health sciences also affects the way we diagnose illnesses, another example comes from CheXNet: an algorithm that is capable of detecting pneumonia. As of now, the challenging evaluation of X-rays with the help of expert radiologists, is the best way to diagnose

pneumonia, however, CheXNet can innovate. This image analyzing algorithm is a DenseNet, which is a variant of a convolutional neural network [21]. The architecture of this algorithm contains: 121 CNN layers, an optimized loss function, the weights are initialized with pre-trained model weights, with an initial learning rate of 0.001, decayed by a factor of 10, each time that the validation loss plateaus after an epoch. [21].

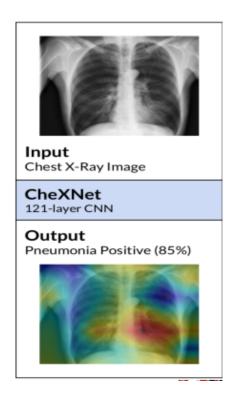


Figure 2. Visual overview of CheXNet [21]

As shown in the image above, the input of the algorithm is a X-Ray image, the output portrays a heatmap over the X-Ray image, representing the possible probability of pneumonia. The comparison of CheXNet to an average Radiologist was the following: F1 scores were 0.387, and 0.435, CheXNet is statistically higher. [21].

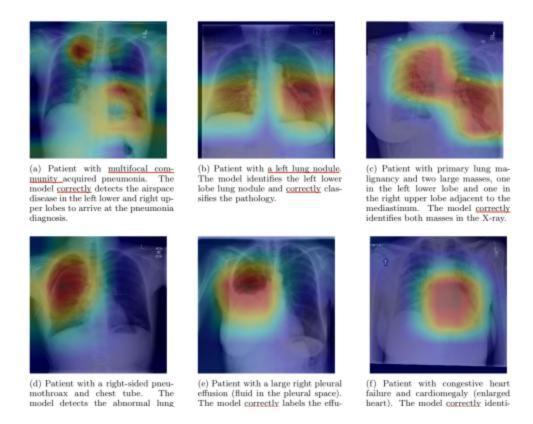


Figure 3. CheXNet application on multiple patients [21]

The image above represents the X-Rays of multiple patients after applying CheXNet, helping highlight areas of importance for further investigation, when making a classification for an X-Ray related disease [21].

With the two real life examples provided, we can see that some key applications of machine learning in health sciences are predictive analytics (the blueprint for a possible vaccine) and disease diagnosis (x-Ray algorithm).

It should not be forgotten that although these examples have been applied in real life scenarios, they still have limitations and are actively improving with day to day research. The CheXNet algorithm can only

evaluate frontal X-ray images for training and testing, is limited to a certain number of doctors when labeling images, more doctors could be implemented, etc [21].

In the continuation of this work, we will be performing extended analysis on an existent data set dedicated to a specific medical condition.

## 3. Dataset Background

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States [17]. The most common cancer recorded is breast cancer, followed by prostate, lung and colorectal cancer [18, 19]. With this being mentioned, our dataset will contain diagnostic data related to breast cancer. This will demonstrate how machine learning can contribute to predicting a specific outcome for a patient in a specific condition and get more insight on the variety of machine learning models that can be applied to a single case.

This dataset first appeared in 1992, it was created by Dr. William H. Wolberg of the University of Wisconsin[23]. The dataset was initially compiled at the University of Wisconsin hospitals, where the working team used fine needle aspiration (FNA) biopsies to extract breast tumor cells for examination [22].

## 4. Data Attributes

To investigate this dataset, this work will be conducting a meta-analysis of some existing studies [24, 26], with some additions added, on the sole dataset previously mentioned. The execution of the studies will be done on Jupyter Notebooks.

The dataset contains 30 numerical features, these features describe multiple properties of the cell nuclei present in a breast tumor. The following image shows the data information with 'data.info()'.

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype				
0	id	569 non-null	int64				
1	diagnosis	569 non-null	object				
2	radius mean	569 non-null	float64				
3	texture mean	569 non-null	float64				
4	perimeter_mean	569 non-null	float64				
5	area mean	569 non-null	float64				
6	smoothness mean	569 non-null	float64				
7	compactness mean	569 non-null	float64				
8	concavity mean	569 non-null	float64				
9	concave points mean	569 non-null	float64				
10	symmetry_mean	569 non-null	float64				
11	fractal dimension mean	569 non-null	float64				
12	radius_se	569 non-null	float64				
13	texture_se	569 non-null	float64				
14	perimeter_se	569 non-null	float64				
15	area_se	569 non-null	float64				
16	smoothness_se	569 non-null	float64				
17	compactness_se	569 non-null	float64				
18	concavity_se	569 non-null	float64				
19	concave_points_se	569 non-null	float64				
20	symmetry_se	569 non-null	float64				
21	fractal_dimension_se	569 non-null	float64				
22	radius_worst	569 non-null	float64				
23	texture_worst	569 non-null	float64				
24	perimeter_worst	569 non-null	float64				
25	area_worst	569 non-null	float64				
26	smoothness_worst	569 non-null	float64				
27	compactness_worst	569 non-null	float64				
28	concavity_worst	569 non-null	float64				
29	concave_points_worst	569 non-null	float64				
30	symmetry_worst	569 non-null	float64				
31	fractal_dimension_worst	569 non-null	float64				
dtypes: float64(30), int64(1), object(1)							

Figure 4. Utilizing '.info()' method on the dataset.

Here are some key features from the cell nuclei in a breast tumor to consider [23]:

- Radius: Distance from center to points on the nucleus perimeter.
- Texture: Standard deviation for grayscale values
- Perimeter: Distance of a shape
- Area
- Smoothness: The local variation in radius lengths
- Compactness: ((Squared perimeter / Area) 1)
- Concavity: Intensity of the contour that can be concave

- Concave Points: Amount of concave portions
- Symmetry
- Fractal Dimension: ('coastline approximation' 1)

## 5. Data Analysis, Preparation, Visualization & Problem

### **Formulation**

After applying several data analysis methods such as: 'data.info', 'data.head()', 'data.isnull().sum()'. The analysis of the data is as follows:

```
17.99
                                          10.38
                                                                                           diagnosis
                                                                                                                       569 non-null
  842302
                                                          122.80
                                                                      1001.0
                                                                                                                                        object
                           20.57
                                          17.77
                                                          132.90
                                                                      1326.0
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                                                                      1203.0
                                                                                           texture mean
                                                                                                                       569 non-null
                                                                                                                                        float64
                                          20.38
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                           11.42
                                                           77.58
                                                                      386.1
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                                                                                                                                        float64
                                                                      1297.0
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                                                                                                                       569 non-null
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                                                                                                                       569 non-null
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                                                                                           compactness_mear
        0.11840
                           0.27760
                                             0.3001
                                                                  0.14710
                                                                                                                       569 non-null
                                                                                           concavity_mean
        0.08474
                                             0.0869
                           0.07864
                                                                  0.07017
                                                                                           concave_points_m
                                                                                                                       569 non-null
                           0.15990
                                             0.1974
                                                                  0.12790
                                                                                       10
                                                                                           symmetry_mean
                                                                                                                       569 non-null
                                                                                                                                        float64
        0.14250
                           0.28390
                                             0.2414
                                                                  0.10520
                                                                                       11
12
13
                                                                                           fractal_dimension_mean
                                                                                                                      569 non-null
                                                                                                                                        float64
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                                                                  0.10430
                                                                                           radius se
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                                                                                       15
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                                                                                       18
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            22.54
                            16.67
                                              152.20
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                                                                                           symmetry_se
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                                                                                                                       569 non-null
                              0.6656
                                                                                       22
                                                                                           radius_worst
                                                                                                                       569 non-null
          0.1238
                              0.1866
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                                                                                           perimeter_worst
                                                                                                                       569 non-null
                                                                                                                                        float64
          0.2098
                                                                        0.2575
                                                                                       25
26
                                                                                                                       569 non-null
                                                                                           area worst
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                                                                                           compactness_worst
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       ry_worst fractal_dimension_worst
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        0.4601
                                  0.11890
                                                                                       29
30
                                                                                           concave points worst
                                                                                                                       569 non-null
                                                                                                                                        float64
                                                                                                                       569 non-null
                                                                                           symmetry_worst
                                                                                                                                        float64
                                                                                       31
                                                                                           fractal dimension
                                                                                                                      569 non-null
                                                                                                                                        float64
```

```
[38]: data['diagnosis'] = data['diagnosis'].apply(lambda val:1 if val=='M' else 0)
```

Figures 5, 6 and 7. VIsuals of the data analysis and modifying the object type feature to a binary classification.

The dataset is composed of 569 rows and 32 columns, there are no missing values, and we have an 'object' data type for the 'diagnosis' feature whose values are M (Malignant) or B (Benign). The goal is to classify according to the diagnose feature. Therefore the values M and B will be encoded for binary classification, M will equal 1 and B will equal 0.

## 6. Exploratory Data Analysis, Data Correlation

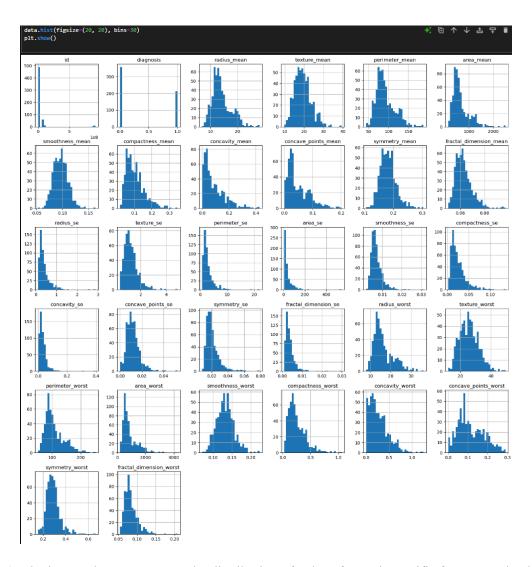


Figure 8. The image above represents the distribution of values for each specific feature on the dataset.

From a glance, it can be seen that the majority of the features have a right-skewed distribution. The diagnosis feature was transformed from an object data type to binary values, majority of the data recorded is Benign or 0. There are some features such as 'texture\_mean' and 'smoothness\_mean' that have a normal looking distribution. It can be seen that some features like 'radius\_mean', 'radius\_worst' and 'radius\_se' have similar distributions because they are metrics of the same property; a further analysis for correlated data will be done.

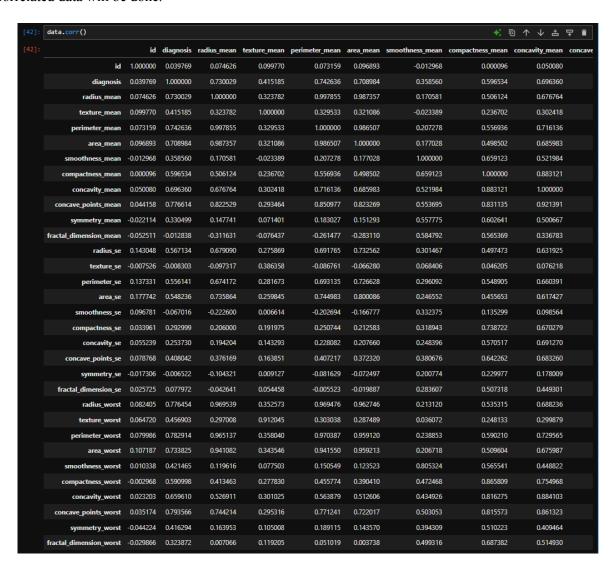


Figure 9. Usage of corr() function on the dataset.

After running 'data.corr()' the matrix displays the Pearson correlation coefficient for each pair of variables. As it can be seen there are some values that are very correlated to each other, one example is 'area\_mean' and 'radius\_mean', with a correlation of '0.987357'. Some other values such as radius and perimeter also have high correlation.

A better representation of the correlation will be done with a heat map of the correlation matrix [24]:

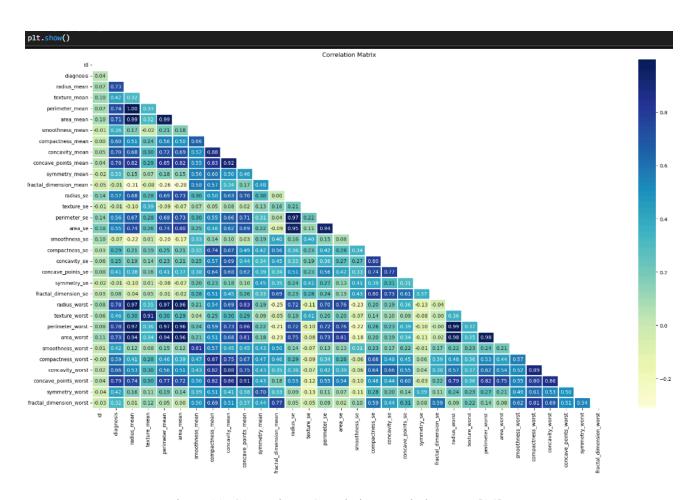


Figure 10. Generating a Correlation Matrix heatmap [24].

The darker values on the heatmap demonstrate high correlation between two features, at this glance, we can see that values range from -1 to 1. Features like 'radius\_mean', 'area\_mean', and 'concave\_points\_mean' appear to have high correlations with each other.. There are some features related with the 'diagnosis' feature, such as 'concave\_points\_mean' and 'area\_worst', from this glance, these features can be highly predictive on the malignant or benign classification. Overall, this map helps identify the feature importance to the target. Correlation matrix is very useful for regression techniques such as linear regression, multiple linear regression and lasso regression, which is ideal for this study [25].

## 7. Methodology

For the methodology, we will be implementing multiple machine learning models, and debate which one is the best for the case. Parts of the analysis will be based on existing studies by Vika Sukani and possibly other cited works, in order to answer our research questions [26].

## 8. Machine Learning Models

In this study, a numerous amount of machine learning models will be used, a list of them as follows:

- Logistic Regression: The reason why logistic regression will be chosen as a model for the dataset is because, the model has its basis in the odds of a two level outcome, and in this dataset, it is possible to have an assumption of a linear relationship between the features and the natural logarithm of the odds of the target variable (Malignant/Benign). This model also tends to perform well on a dataset with continuous and correlated features (we previously showed the correlation matrix for the features in the dataset) [27].

- Decision Tree Classifier: This model is a perfect candidate for the study of this dataset because the problem revolves in a classification (benign or malign). There are two main operations for the decision tree: Evaluation of splits for each attribute with the selection of the best split, and the creation of partitions using the best split [28]. The analysis of the dataset involves looking at the features and the correlation between them, decision trees demonstrate a clear ranking of feature importance, which can help with the ultimate classification goal. [28]
- Random Forest Classifier: This model consists of a set of decision trees, each of which is generated by the bagging algorithm with no pruning, this forms a "forest" of classifiers voting for a particular class[29]. The basis of its ranking goes by feature importance (as previously mentioned for the decision tree) which is convenient with datasets that contain a lot of features, such as the one presented in this study[29]. The uniqueness about Random Forests is that they tend to generalize better than decision trees due to the high randomization involved when selecting subsets of data and features. [29]
- K Neighbor Classifier: This model classifies an unlabelled test sample based on the majority of similar samples among the k-nearest neighbors that are the closest to the test sample[30]. It is a baseline classifier in multiple pattern classification problems such as pattern recognition, text categorization, ranking models, object recognition, and event recognition[30]. As a non-parametric algorithm, because the parameters are determined by the size of the training dataset. There are no assumptions about the underlying data distribution[30]. Thus, KNN classifier could be the best choice for any classification study that involves little to no prior knowledge about data distribution. Making it a great fit for this study, which is a classification problem [30].

Support Vector Classifier: This model offers classification for both linear and non linear data, they are a set of related supervised learning methods used for classification and regression[31].
 The reason why this model is a great fit for the presented data set is that, with the amount of features that the dataset has, SVC can clear the class separation of malignant and benign cases.
 SVC also seeks an optimal hyperplane, which can maximize the margin between benign and malignant classes [31].

## 9. Further Analysis

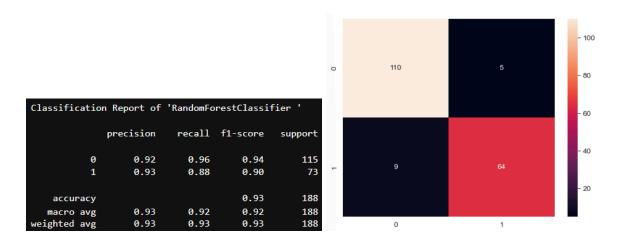
There will be a further analysis with the created models, using the grid search algorithm, the reason for this is to apply some hyper tuning, some of the models (such as SVM or Random Forest) can have their accuracy increased with the use of grid search. Grid search offers manual optimization, through the predefined set of hyperparameter values; thus, ideal for this case study. [32]

## 10. Results and Findings

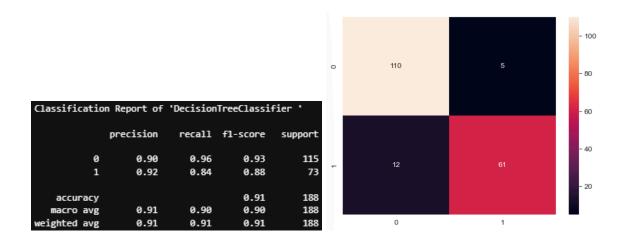
After training and creating the previously mentioned models, classification reports for each of the models were created, along with its confusion matrices. As presented in the following figures:



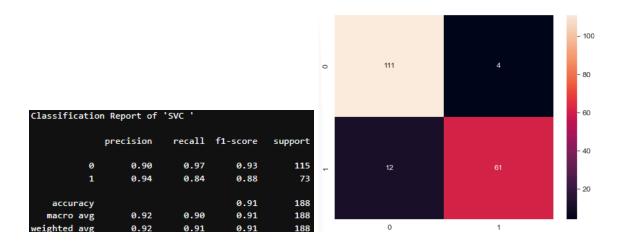
Figures 11 and 12. Classification report and Confusion Matrix for LogisticRegression.



Figures 13 and 14. Classification report and Confusion Matrix for Random Forest Classifier



Figures 15 and 16. Classification report and Confusion Matrix for Decision Tree Classifier



Figures 17 and 18. Classification report and Confusion Matrix for SVC

## 11. Ranking of Models

**Logistic Regression:** The images 11 and 12 represent the results for the Logistic Regression model, they are announced by specific classification (Benign = 0, or Malign = 1). For Benign, we have a 0.90 Precision, 0.96 Recall, 0.93 F1 Score for 115 instances. For Malign, we have 0.92 Precision, 0.84 Recall, 0.88 F1 Score for 73 instances. With an overall 0.91 Accuracy score.

The confusion matrix represents the following: 61 True Positives, 110 True Negatives, 5 False Positives and 9 False Negatives. The Malign-Benign instances are the same amount for each model result.

**Random Forest Classifier:** Following images 13 and 14 display the results for the Random Forest Classifier model. For Benign, we have a 0.92 Precision, 0.96 Recall, 0.94 F1 Score. For Malign, we have 0.93 Precision, 0.88 Recall, 0.90 F1 Score. With an overall 0.91 Accuracy score.

The confusion matrix displays 61 True Positives, 110 True Negatives, 5 False Positives and 12 False Negatives.

**Decision Tree Classifier:** The images 15 and 16 display the results for the Decision Tree Classifier. For Benign, we have a 0.90 Precision, 0.96 Recall, 0.93 F1 Score. For Malign, we have 0.92 Precision, 0.84 Recall, 0.88 F1 Score. With an overall 0.91 Accuracy score.

The confusion matrix represents 61 True Positives, 110 True Negatives, 5 False Positives and 12 False Negatives.

**Support Vector Classifier:** The images 17 and 18 display the results for the SVC model. For Benign, we have a 0.90 Precision, 0.97 Recall, 0.93 F1 Score. For Malign, we have 0.94 Precision, 0.84 Recall, 0.88 F1 Score. With an overall 0.91 Accuracy score.

The confusion matrix represents 61 True Positives, 110 True Negatives, 5 False Positives and 12 False Negatives.

[208]:		model_name	score	accuracy_score	accuracy_percentage
	2	DecisionTreeClassifier	1.000000	0.909574	90.96%
	1	RandomForestClassifier	0.992126	0.925532	92.55%
	3	SVC	0.923885	0.914894	91.49%
	0	LogisticRegression	0.916010	0.909574	90.96%

Figure 19. Results of the trained models.

Image 19 showcases the **overall scores and accuracy scores** for the 4 models. **The Decision Tree Classifier** got a score of 1, it perfectly fit the data during cross-validation. Test Accuracy score is 90.96%, it fit the data perfectly but it did not generalize well enough, it could be an overfitting issue. **Random Forest Classifier** performed somewhat worse with a score 0.992 but it has the highest accuracy score,

which is 92.55%. **Support Vector Classifier** has a score of 0.92, and has a better testing percentage than the decision tree classifier, at 91.48%. At the final place of the ranking, **Logistic Regression** comes in with a 0.9160 score, the lowest of all four models, but it has a similar testing percentage to the **Decision Tree Classifier**, both at 90.96%, still a strong match for this case study.

## 12. Hyperparameter Tuning (Grid Search Algorithm)

By using 'GridSearchCV' we will hypertune the 4 presented models in this case study [24]. Each one of them will showcase the best score, best estimator and best parameters applied.

#### **GSC DECISION TREE**

Figure 20. Grid Search Hypertuning on DecisionTreeClassifier

The hyperparameter tuning involved for the DecisionTreeClassifier involves controlling the maximum number of features considered when looking for the best split; they also include the minimum number of samples required to split an internal node and minimum samples required to be at a leaf node. Multiple optional parameters were applied in the 'param\_grid' dictionary to choose the best hypertuning possible. The results gave a best score of 92.63%, the best estimators and parameters for the model were: Using the square root of the total number of features for the number of features for the best split, each leaf node must have at least 6 samples and the node will be best split is it contains a minimum of 6 samples.

#### GSC K NEIGHBOR CLASSIFIER

```
model = KNeighborsClassifier()

#PARAMETERS
param_grid = {
    'n_neighbors': list(range(1, 30)),
    'leaf_size': list(range(1, 30)),
    'weights': [ 'distance', 'uniform' ]
}

# GridSearchCV
gsc = GridSearchCV(model, param_grid, cv=10)

# Model Fitting
gsc.fit(X_train, y_train)
print("\n BEST SCORE: ")
print(gsc.best_score_)

print("\n BEST ESTIMATOR ")
print(gsc.best_estimator_)

print("\n BEST PARAMETERS")
print(gsc.best_params_)

BEST SCORE:
0.9159244264507423

BEST ESTIMATOR
KNeighborsClassifier(leaf_size=1, n_neighbors=10)

BEST PARAMETERS
{'leaf_size': 1, 'n_neighbors': 10, 'weights': 'uniform'}
```

Figure 21. Grid Search Hypertuning with K Neighbor Model

The hyperparameter tuning for the K Neighbor model involved the number of neighbors considered for classification, with a range of 1 to 30; the size of the leaf in the tree used for searching also with a range of 1 to 30; the use of the weights was used in two ways, distance based (closed neighbors have better influence) and uniform based (all neighbors have equal influence).

The model achieved a score of 91.59%, the best estimators and parameters for the model were: Having a leaf size of 1, having 10 numbers of neighbors and having a uniform based weighting.

### **GSC Support Vector Machine**

Figure 22. Grid Search Hypertuning with SVC Model

Hypertuning for the Support Vector Machine involved a regularization parameter (Value of 'C' for less regularization) with values 1, 10, 100 and 1000 tested, utilizing different types of kernel such as 'linear' or 'rbf'. The gamma parameter is for how far the influence of a single training can reach; the values tested were 0.001 and 0.0001.

The model achieved a score of 91.84%, having a C value of 10, a gamma value of 0.001 and a 'rbf' type of kernel were the best estimators and parameters.

#### GSC RANDOM FOREST CLASSIFIER

```
model = RandomForestClassifier()

#PARAMETERS
random_grid = {'bootstrap': [True, False],
    'max_depth': [40, 50, None],
    'max_features': ['auto', 'sqrt'],
    'min_samples_leaf': [1, 2],
    'min_samples_split': [2, 5],
    'n_estimators': [200, 400]}

# GridSearchCV
gsc = GridSearchCV(model, random_grid, cv=10) # 10 Cross Validation

# Model Fitting
gsc.fit(X_train, y_train)

print("\n BEST SCORE: ")
print(gsc.best_score_)

print("\n BEST ESTIMATOR ")
print(gsc.best_estimator_)

print("\n BEST PARAMETERS")
print(gsc.best_params_)
```

```
BEST SCORE:
0.9105937921727396

BEST ESTIMATOR
RandomForestClassifier(max_depth=40, min_samples_split=5, n_estimators=200)

BEST PARAMETERS
{'bootstrap': True, 'max_depth': 40, 'max_features': 'sqrt', 'min_samples_leaf': 1, 'min_samples_split': 5, 'n_estimators': 200]
```

Figure 23 and 24. Grid Search Hypertuning with Random Forest Model

Hypertuning for the Random Forest Classifier model involved optional bootstrapping, a max depth of the tree of 40, 50 or none, maximum features for the best split, minimum number of samples at a leaf and 'n' estimators for the number of trees in the forest.

Achieving a score of 91.05% the best estimators and parameters were: Applying bootstrapping, a max tree depth of 40, square rooted max features, 1 minimum sample for the leaf, 5 minimum samples for split, and a number of 200 trees.

### 13. Discussion and Conclusion

This work presented the ways machine learning can impact the Healthcare section, overviewing multiple case studies. It provided answers to our research questions: It was proved that machine learning can be indeed of beneficial use when dealing with global issues like a pandemic, helping by studying the biology of a virus and its reaction with the human biology, for a possible blueprint for a vaccine [20]; machine learning can also be useful when making a diagnosis through X-ray analysis, achieving even a greater accuracy than humans could, but also with present limitations [21].

Additional further analysis on a case study was performed, demonstrating that machine learning can be of great use when predicting an outcome for a specific disease such as cancer, while providing a variety of models to the application, along with additional analysis such as hypertuning in order to receive the best results. Binary classification, feature selection and model validation were some of the machine learning applications discussed in this specific case study. The top ranked model in the case study ended up being the Decision Tree Classifier, hypertuning helped improve the model, but it also had some limitations and incidents such as overfitting, future studies could be done to improve such.

As this study comes to a close, it is believed that the future of machine learning will enable innovative and spectacular changes for the greater good of overall human development.

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