Prediction of short-term success of electrical cardioversion

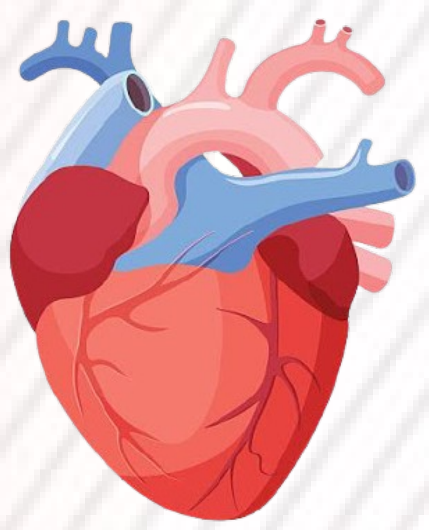
Lazar Vasović, Ana Jakovljević
{mi16099, mi16021}@alas.matf.bg.ac.rs
Faculty of Mathematics, University of Belgrade

МАТФ Универзитет у Београду Математички факултет

BELBi 2021

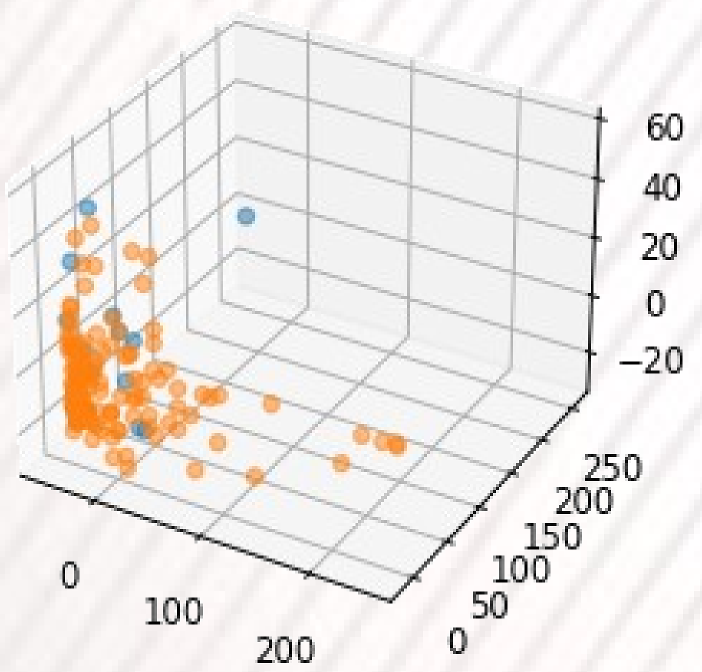
Introduction

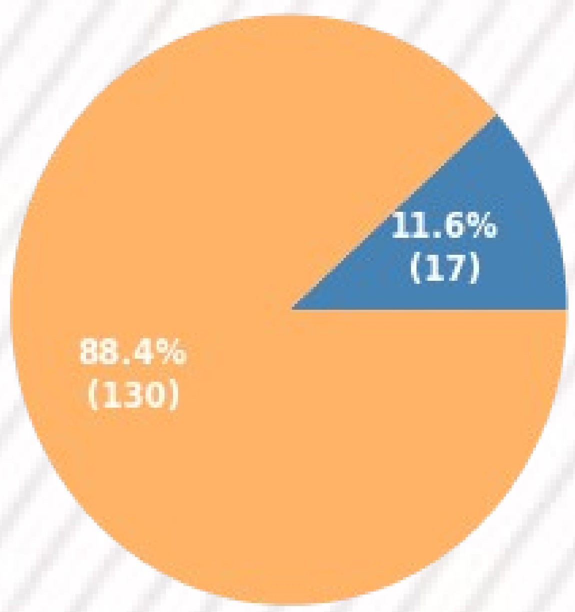
Electrical cardioversion is a medical technique that uses synchronized electrical shocks to restore normal heart rhythm in people with persistent arrhythmia. We aimed to create a classification model that accurately predicts whether the procedure will be successful in the short term (immediate outcome), based on data on the clinical picture, other indications, and drug therapy prescribed to patients undergoing it.



Dataset

Dataset was obtained from Pacemaker Center of Clinical Center of Serbia. It consists of 147 unique instances, representing patients. Most procedures are initially successful. Such cardioversions make up 88.4 % of the dataset and were marked as class True. Unsuccessful ones were marked as class False. Accordingly, dataset is imbalanced with concern to the target class, so we used stratified train-test split with balanced augmented oversampled train partition. We used PCA and UMAP for dimensional reduction, which made us notice that the classes are almost inseparable.





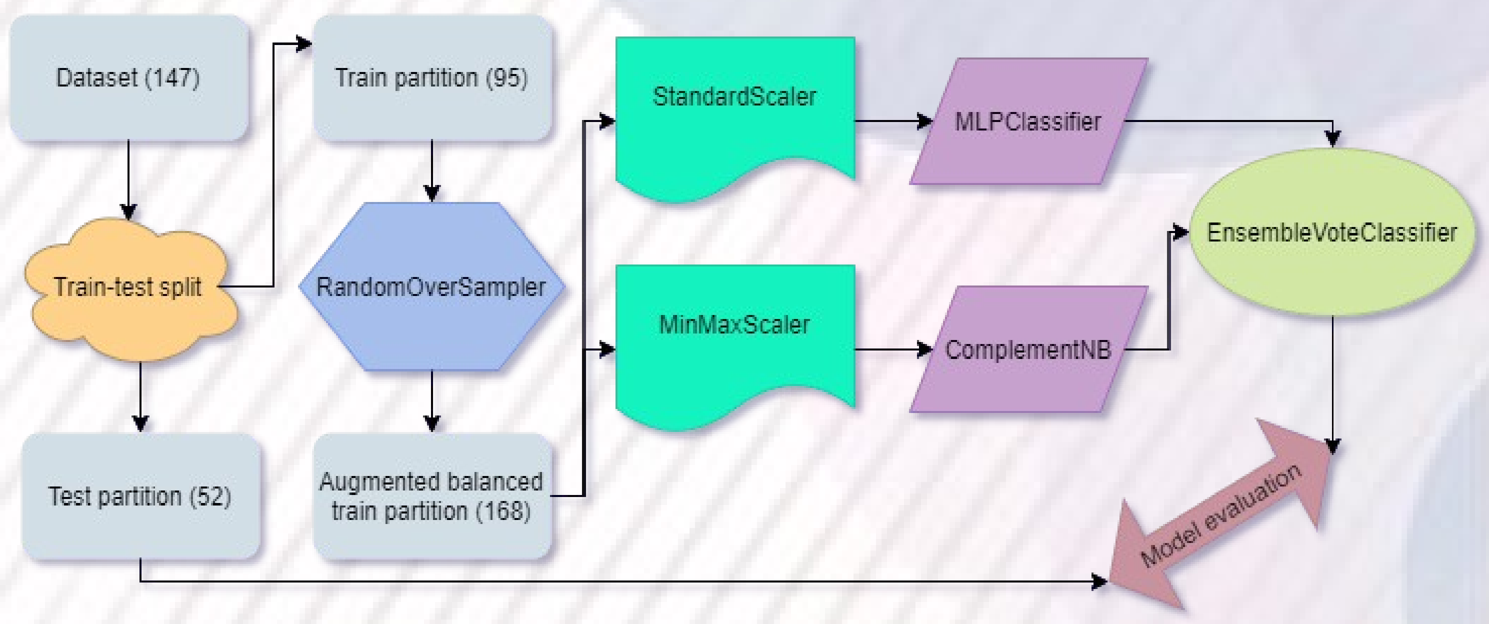
Methodology

The focus was initially on Bayesian networks, a well-known probabilistic graphical model. They, however, proved inferior to other methods of classification and, extended, machine learning.
Decision tree was overfitted and pruning didn't help in obtaining a better model. Random forest, complement naïve Bayes, and support vector classifier were mutually similar; they had better performance in comparison to the first results. Multilayer perceptron singly performed the best.

We finally chose to combine models to get more robust results. One way to do so was by using voting ensembles, namely duos, where one model is picked up to overcome weaknesses of the other. We broke eventual ties by favoring the important unsuccessful procedures; only if both members cast vote True, an instance was given label True.

Results

The short-term success of electrical cardioversion wasn't the easiest thing to predict. We, however, managed to get some acceptable results. The voting ensemble made of multilayer perceptron and complement naïve Bayes turned out the best, with full 100% specificity, recall of the important class False. It also maintained a relatively high F_1 score of 63% on the same class. Accuracy was 87%, while balanced (macro-average) accuracy was 92%. Precision on class False was not that good 46%, but it was still the best compromise.



Future work

References:

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3. Van Gelder IC, Crijns HJ, Van Gilst WH, Verwer R, Lie KI. Prediction of uneventful cardioversion and maintenance of sinus rhythm from direct-current electrical cardioversion of chronic atrial fibrillation and flutter. Am J Cardiol. 1991 Jul 1;68(1):41-6.