

## Lab2: Body Fat Prediction Dataset

For this lab, we use the **Body Fat Prediction** dataset, which contains anthropometric measurements collected from subjects (e.g., age, weight, height, and several body circumferences). The objective is to build a regression model that can **predict BodyFat (%)**, because body fat percentage is not always directly measurable in typical settings without specialized equipment.

The dataset also includes a **Density** attribute. However, Density is strongly related to body fat percentage because it is typically connected through established formulas, meaning it can behave like a “shortcut” feature that makes the prediction task unrealistically easy. In our use case, we assume that **Density is not available** (e.g., we do not have the appropriate sensor or measurement process in our lab). Therefore, in this lab we intentionally remove the Density column and focus on predicting **BodyFat (%) using only the measurements we can realistically obtain**.

### Dataset Description

The **BodyFat** dataset contains **252 adult male subjects**. Each row is one subject. The goal is to predict **BodyFat (%)** from body measurements.

#### Target Variable

**BodyFat:** Body fat percentage (%) — this is the **target** to be predicted.

#### Features:

**Age:** Age (years)

**Weight:** Body weight (lbs)

**Height:** Height (inches)

**Neck:** Neck circumference (cm)

**Chest:** Chest circumference (cm)

**Abdomen:** Abdomen/waist circumference (cm)

**Hip:** Hip circumference (cm)

**Thigh:** Thigh circumference (cm)

**Knee:** Knee circumference (cm)

**Ankle:** Ankle circumference (cm)

**Biceps:** Biceps circumference (cm)

**Forearm:** Forearm circumference (cm)

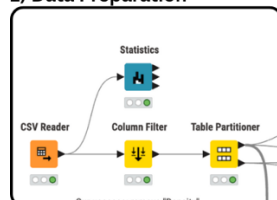
**Wrist:** Wrist circumference (cm)

**Density:** Body density estimate (typically in g/cm<sup>3</sup>).

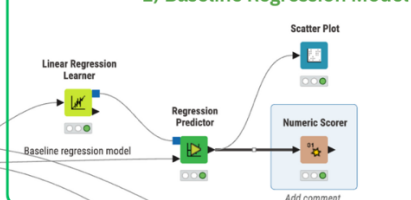
**Lab note:** We **remove Density** to simulate a realistic scenario where this measurement is **not** available.

## KNIME Instructions

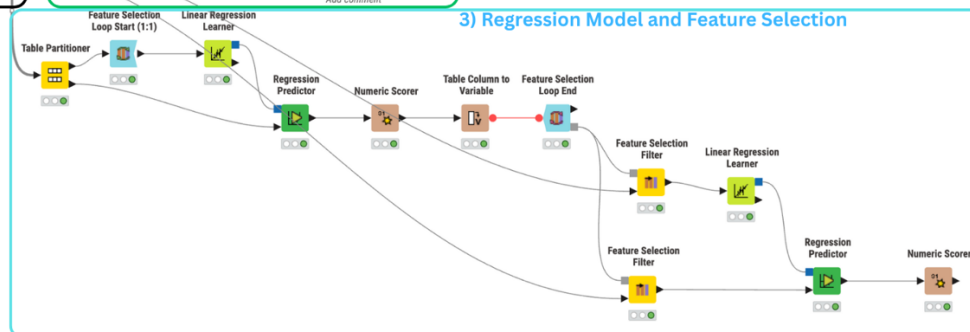
### 1) Data Preparation



### 2) Baseline Regression Model



### 3) Regression Model and Feature Selection



## 1. Data Preparation

### 1.1 CSV Reader

Load the BodyFat CSV file.

### 1.2 Statistics (optional)

Inspect distributions/summary statistics.

### 1.3 Column Filter

Remove **Density** (simulate a realistic setting where Density is not available).

Keep **BodyFat** and all other measurement columns.

### 1.4 Table Partitioner (Dev/Test split)

Partitioning method: **Random**

Split ratio: **80% / 20%**

Set your own fixed random seed for reproducibility.

Output 1 = **Dev (Train+Validation)**, Output 2 = **Test**

Also set its Fixed random seed = **2026**.

## 2. Baseline Regression Model (Linear Regression)

### 2.1 Linear Regression Learner

Input: **Dev (80%)** from Table Partitioner

Target/Response column: **BodyFat**

You can view the output of the learner by right-clicking then open view.

Linear Regression Result View - ...				
File				
Statistics on Linear Regression				
Variable	Coeff.	Std. Err.	t-value	P> t
Age	0.0707	0.036	1.9638	0.051
Weight	-0.076	0.059	-1.2885	0.1992
Height	-0.0553	0.1	-0.5531	0.5809
Neck	-0.3915	0.2581	-1.5169	0.131
Chest	-0.078	0.1124	-0.6941	0.4885
Abdomen	0.9838	0.0947	10.388	0.0
Hip	-0.2453	0.1651	-1.486	0.139
Thigh	0.2603	0.1603	1.6242	0.106
Knee	-0.1712	0.2957	-0.5791	0.5632
Ankle	0.1581	0.2345	0.674	0.5011
Biceps	0.2138	0.1887	1.1331	0.2586
Forearm	0.5594	0.2098	2.666	0.0083
Wrist	-1.6342	0.6103	-2.6777	0.0081
Intercept	-15.7686	19.0049	-0.8297	0.4078
R-Squared: 0.7579				
Adjusted R-Squared: 0.7411				

### 2.2 Regression Predictor

Model input: from Linear Regression Learner

Data input: **Test (20%)**

### 2.3 Numeric Scorer

Report at least **RMSE** (optionally  $R^2$ ).

RowID	Prediction (BodyFat) <small>.00 Number (Float)</small>
R^2	0.681
mean absolute error	3.448
mean squared error	18.71
root mean squared error	4.326
mean signed difference	1.172
mean absolute percentage error	0.235
adjusted R^2	0.681

## 2.4 Scatter Plot (optional)

Plot predicted vs actual BodyFat.

## 3. Regression Model + Feature Selection (Wrapper)

### 3.1 Table Partitioner (Train/Validation)

Input: Dev (80%)

Output: 75% Train / 25% Validation

Also set its Fixed random seed = 2026.

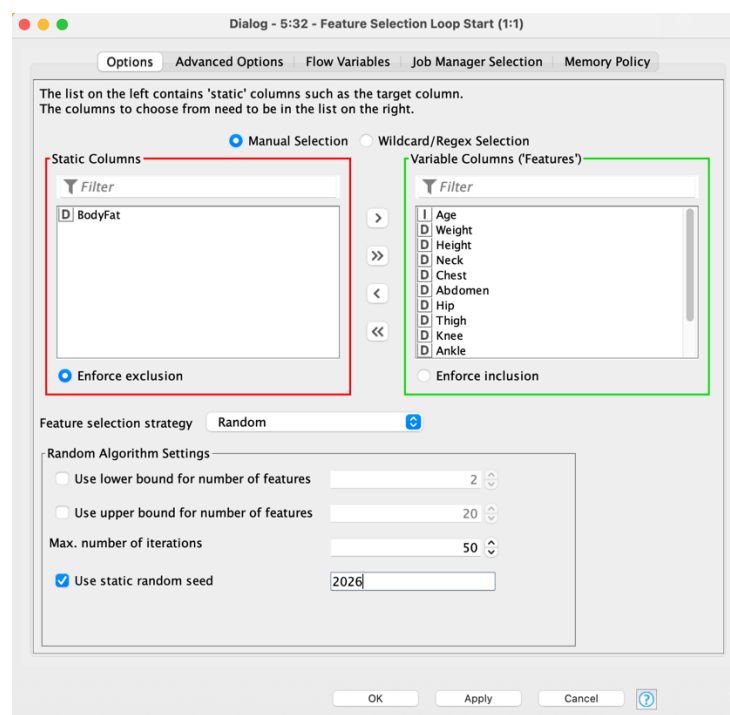
### 3.2 Feature Selection Loop Start (1:1)

Input: Train dataset

Ensure **BodyFat** is the target, and **BodyFat** is NOT treated as a selectable feature.

Double-click the node to open configure view.

Also set static random seed = 2026



### 3.3 Linear Regression Learner (inside loop)

Target: **BodyFat**

### 3.4 Regression Predictor (inside loop)

Data input: **Validation Dataset**

### 3.5 Numeric Scorer (inside loop)

**Output:** A table of regression evaluation metrics (e.g., **RMSE**, **MAE**, and/or **R<sup>2</sup>**) computed on the **Validation** predictions.

► 1: Statistics <span>✕ Flow Variables</span>			
Rows: 7   Columns: 1			
<input type="checkbox"/>	#	RowID	BodyFat <small>.00 Number (Float)</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	R <sup>2</sup>	-0.743
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	mean absolute error	5.174
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	mean squared error	39.176
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	root mean squared error	6.259
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	mean signed difference	-1.121
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	mean absolute percentage error	0.299
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	-0.743

### 3.6 Table Column to Variable

**Purpose:** Convert the selected metric from the Numeric Scorer output (e.g., **RMSE**) into a **Double flow variable**.

**Use:** This flow variable is passed to **Feature Selection Loop End** so the loop can compare feature subsets and select the best one (e.g., **minimize RMSE** or **maximize R<sup>2</sup>**).

Table Column to Variable <span>✕</span>			
Column name			
<input type="text" value=".00 BodyFat"/>			
If value in cell is missing			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Ignore <input type="radio"/> Fail			

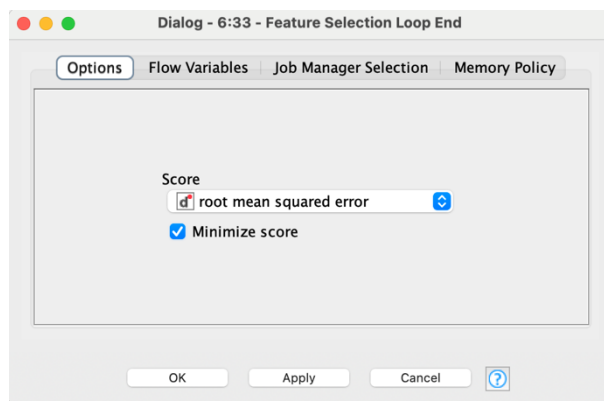
  

Owner ID	Data Type	Variable Name	Value
5:35	DoubleType	adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.5140224576415714
5:35	DoubleType	mean absolute percentage error	0.2750082820930372
5:35	DoubleType	mean signed difference	-0.8720463004785128
5:35	DoubleType	root mean squared error	6.844443940206473
5:35	DoubleType	mean squared error	46.84641285062911
5:35	DoubleType	mean absolute error	4.917554272951872
5:35	DoubleType	R <sup>2</sup>	0.5140224576415714

### 3.7 Feature Selection Loop End

Optimization: **minimize RMSE**

This selects the best feature subset based on Validation performance.



### 3.8 Normalizer (fit on Train + Validation)

Input: **Train + Validation** (From the first table partitioner) (80%)

Method: standardization (z-score)

### 3.9 Feature Selection Filter (Dev)

Model input: from **Feature Selection Loop End**

Data input: **Dev + Validation** (80%)

Enable **Include static columns** so **BodyFat** remains available for training.

### 3.10 Linear Regression Learner (final)

Train on filtered **Train + Validation** set

Target: **BodyFat**

### 3.11 Feature Selection Filter (Test)

Model input: from **Feature Selection Loop End**

Data input: **Test (20%)**

(Recommended to guarantee the test schema matches the selected feature set.)

### 3.12 Regression Predictor (final)

Model input: final learner output

Data input: filtered Test

### 3.13 Numeric Scorer (final)

Report final Test RMSE