MA335 - Final Project

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Contents

Introduction	2
Analysis	3
Data Wrangling	3
Descriptive Analysis	4
Cluster Analysis	4
Fuzzy k-means clustering algorithm	4
Implementation	5
Results	5
Logistic Regression	5
Implementation	5
Results	6
Feature Selection Using Variable Importance	6
Implementation	6
Results	6
Model Comparison using Anova	7
Conclusion	8
Appendix - R Code	9

Introduction

Alzheimer's is a neurological condition that affects a person's cognitive functionality. Millions of individuals across the globe have encountered this disorder due to various reasons. In this report, I have analysed a comprehensive dataset containing few of the many characteristics associated with Alzheimer's. The primary objective was to identify the relationship between these characteristics and the diagnosis of Alzheimer's as "Demented" or "Non-Demented" and classify individuals into these two classes/clusters.

The tasks involved in the project were **preliminary data analysis** which included descriptive and statistical analysis to understand the data, **data pre-processing** to handle missing values, standardize numeric values and format variable types, **clustering** to form and visualize the diagnosis of individuals based on the characteristics as "Demented"/"Non-Demented", **feature selection** to identify the most significant characteristics out of the list that helps in classifying the patients and lastly, **classification** to categorize the individuals into two groups of diagnosis.

Overall, this study contributes to better understand Alzheimer's disease and it's potential characteristics.

Analysis

The dataset contains 10 columns with one being the diagnosis (*Group*) and rest are the corresponding factors influencing the diagnosis to name a few, *Gender*, *Socioe-conomic status* (*SES*), *Estimated total intracranial volume*(*eTIV*), *Clinical dementia rating* (*CDR*) etc for about 350 individuals.

Data Wrangling

This section aims to clean and pre-process the data by performing the following tasks:

Remove Converted class from diagnosis variable *Group*

The rows with diagnosis recorded as 'converted' are removed from the data ensuring that only the relevant classes in Alzheimer's diagnosis are included for further analysis.

Encoding text data to numerical values Group & Gender

To handle text data and convert them to corresponding numeric categorical values, Label Encoder object and base R function factor have been used.

Handling missing values (SES & MMSE)

SES is a categorical variable, therefore the NA values are replaced with the mode. Additionally, MMSE is a continuous variable therefore, the NA values are replaced with the median of the column.

Standardizing volume variables (eTIV, nWBV, ASF)

Numeric continuous variables with values of different scale can cause inconsistencies

during analysis and modelling. Therefore, the numerical columns are standardized by subtracting each data point with the mean and dividing the result by the standard deviation.

Descriptive Analysis

In the given dataset, it can be observed that Non-demented diagnosis has a higher count of 190 and only 3 patients having severe conditions of dementia with CDR of 2. Out of the 3 patients with severe conditions, 2 are Female. On the other hand, majority of the female gender have no or very mild dementia whereas the male patients have an even distribution between mild and considerable dementia.

In terms of **Estimated total intracranial volume**, female patients on average had eTIV distributed evenly with 2 outlier points indicating the same results with CDR with severe conditions. On the other hand, the eTIV for male was distributed on the higher end. Additionally, on average female patients had higher intracranial volume as compared to male patients.

The Whole brain volume (nWBV) for age group 60-70 was higher for non-demented patients than the demented. Similarly, for older age groups > 80, the volume can be seen decreasing more for the demented patients in comparison to non-demented who stay on the neutral end.

Cluster Analysis

Fuzzy k-means clustering algorithm

In this section, the diagnosis Group has been clustered using Fuzzy k-means clustering algorithm which is a variation of the traditional k-means algorithm. FKM is more flexible and has a probabilistic approach that allows data points to belong to more than 1 cluster by assigning membership degree values. The membership values represent the

probability of a data point belonging to a particular cluster. This process happens in iteration until convergence.

Implementation

For the dataset, firstly the **fclust** method is run iteratively for every value of K from 1-4 and the optimal value of clusters is chosen from the results. Then, the data is fed to the clustering algorithm **fanny** with the optimal number of chosen clusters to separate the data points into k number of Groups.

Results

From the cluster output, it can be seen that some of the data points are common between both clusters as the algorithm has given a membership degree almost equal for both cluster groups. Also, some of the points have exceptional characteristics therefore they don't belong to either of the clusters (outliers). Overall, the fuzzy k-means algorithm clustered the data points correctly into the respective diagnosis Group.

Logistic Regression

Implementation

The aim of this section was to classify the data points into the 2 diagnosis groups by training a binary classification model based on the given characteristics. Logistic Regression was chosen because the data that we were classifying has a binary class (Demented/Non-demented) as the response variable. All the variables were taken as predictors and 80% of the data was taken as training and rest 20% for testing the model.

The values of parameters mixture and penalty which corresponds, to the amount of regularization applied to the model, were decided by hyper-parameter tuning using grid

search cross validation. The optimal values returned by the cross-validation were chosen to train the logistic regression model.

Results

From the grid search, the optimal values of mixture was **0** indicating a *ridge regular-ization model* and **penalty** was **1e-9**. Taking all the variables as predictors, the trained logistic model was able to predict the classes of the test data with 100% accuracy.

On one side, this may seem good but when observed closely variable **CDR** has a very correlation of almost 90% with Group thereby causing the model to predict accurately. This leads to the implementation of feature selection method to identify significant variables.

Feature Selection Using Variable Importance

Implementation

Using Cor() we have got the correlation coefficients of all predictors and find that eTIV and ASF have a high correlation. Then, the function findcorrelation() was used to identify the variables to remove that had a coefficient value > 0.75. Following this observation, we have removed the eTIV and CDR variables from the data. The remaining variables are then taken as predictors are fed to the feature selection method filterVarImp which assigns a score to each predictor corresponding to their significance in predicting the Group class.

Results

From the scores, it can be observed that MMSE, Age, Gender and EDUC are the top 4 significant variables with a score above 50%.

Training the logistic regression model again with only the selected features gives an accuracy of approximately 80% in predicting the class of diagnosis Group.

Model Comparison using Anova

This section aims to compare the 2 classification models using anova().

H0: $Model\ 1:\ Group \sim Gender + Age + EDUC + SES + MMSE + CDR + eTIV + nWBV + ASF$

H1: $Model\ 2:\ Group\ \sim\ MMSE\ +\ Age\ +\ Gender\ +\ EDUC$

Supporting the above analysis and observation, the results of anova indicate that the model with all variables as predictors does a better job at predicting the classes of group than the model with the selected features.

Conclusion

In conclusion, a comprehensive analysis of the data was performed to investigate the relationship between various characteristics contributing to Alzheimer's disease and the diagnosis. The implementation of preliminary descriptive and statistical analysis, clustering and classification modelling provided a integrated approach is recognizing the patterns in the factors and identifying the significant factors associated with Alzheimer's diagnosis.

Appendix - R Code

```
# set the working directory
setwd("S:/MA335_Modelling and observational data in R/Final
→ project/Alzheimer-classification")
# import the libraries
library(dplyr)
library(ggplot2)
library(superml)
library(tidyr)
library(plotly)
library(corrplot)
library(RColorBrewer)
library(fclust)
library(tidymodels)
library(glmnet)
library(caret)
library(factoextra)
library(cluster)
library(knitr)
library(formatR)
library(modelsummary)
```

Table 1: Project data

Group	M.F	Age	EDUC	SES	MMSE	CDR	eTIV	nWBV	ASF
Nondemented	M	87	14	2	27	0.0	1987	0.696	0.883
Nondemented	M	88	14	2	30	0.0	2004	0.681	0.876
Demented	M	75	12	NA	23	0.5	1678	0.736	1.046

```
# read the csv file as data frame
raw_data <- read.csv("project data.csv", header = TRUE)

kable(raw_data[1:3, ], caption = "Project data") %>%
   kableExtra::kable_styling(bootstrap_options = "bordered")
```

```
# DATA CLEANING

# find the row numbers with Group = "Converted"

converted_group_rows <- which(raw_data$Group=="Converted")

# remove the rows with Group value "Converted"

raw_data <- raw_data[-converted_group_rows, ]

# Convert text data to numerical values

# 1. Group (Demented - 1, Non-Demented - 0)

# create encoder object
group_encoder = LabelEncoder$new()

# fit and transform the Group column using the created object</pre>
```

```
raw_data$Group <- group_encoder$fit_transform(raw_data$Group)</pre>
# 2. M.F (M - 0, F - 1)
raw_data$M.F <- factor(raw_data$M.F,</pre>
                        levels = c("M", "F"),
                        labels = c(0, 1)
# rename column name from "M.F" to "Gender"
raw_data <- rename(raw_data,</pre>
                    Gender = M.F
                    )
# replace missing values
# 1. Replace NA values with MODE of column - SES
# function to calculate the mode of a column
calculate_mode <- function(col_to_calculate) {</pre>
  unique_values <- unique(col_to_calculate)</pre>
 mode_of_col <-</pre>

→ unique_values[which.max(tabulate(match(col_to_calculate,

    unique_values)))]
  return(mode of col)
}
# get the mode of SES
mode_SES <- calculate_mode(raw_data$SES)</pre>
```

```
# get the median of MMSE
median MMSE <- median(raw data$MMSE, na.rm = TRUE)</pre>
# replace the NA values with mode of SES (categorical column) and
→ median of MMSE (continuous column)
raw data <- raw data %>% replace na(list(SES = mode SES, MMSE =
→ median MMSE))
# Standardize the volume columns to have same scale
# function to calculate the mean and standard deviation of column
calculate_mean_sd <- function(column_name) {</pre>
  column_name <- as.numeric(column_name)</pre>
  mean_sd_list <- list("mean_col" = mean(column_name), "sd_col" =</pre>

    sd(column_name))

  return(mean sd list)
}
# get the mean and sd
eTIV_mean_sd <- calculate_mean_sd(raw_data$eTIV)</pre>
nWBV_mean_sd <- calculate_mean_sd(raw_data$nWBV)</pre>
asf_mean_sd <- calculate_mean_sd(raw_data$ASF)</pre>
# calculate the standardized value of every data point of the column
raw data$eTIV <- (raw data$eTIV - eTIV mean sd$mean col)/</pre>
→ eTIV mean sd$sd col
raw data$nWBV <- (raw data$nWBV - nWBV mean sd$mean col)/</pre>
\rightarrow nWBV_mean_sdsd_col
raw_data$ASF <- (raw_data$ASF - asf_mean_sd$mean_col)/</pre>
\rightarrow asf_mean_sd$sd_col
```

Table 2: Cleaned data

Group	Gender	Age	EDUC	SES	MMSE	CDR	eTIV	nWBV	ASF
0	0	87	14	2	27	0	2.754767	-0.9168807	-2.204152
0	0	88	14	2	30	0	2.849242	-1.3188884	-2.253827
1	0	75	12	2	23	0.5	1.037530	0.1551399	-1.047416

```
# convert the CDR variable to factor type
raw_data$CDR <- as.factor(raw_data$CDR)

# make a copy of the cleaned data
clean_data <- raw_data

kable(clean_data[1:3, ], caption = "Cleaned data") %>%
    kableExtra::kable_styling(bootstrap_options = "bordered")
```

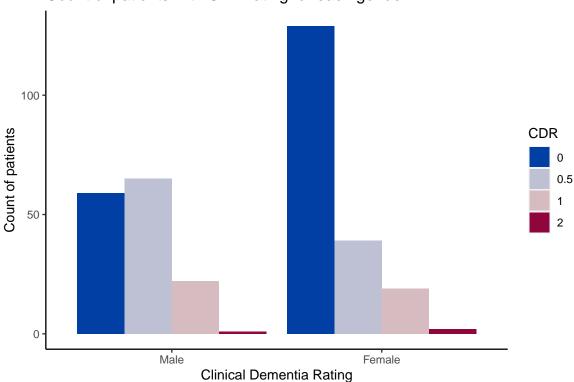
```
# DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

# Number of patients with different CDR for each gender

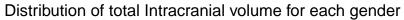
clean_data %>%
    select(c("Gender", "CDR")) %>%
    group_by(Gender, CDR) %>%
    summarise(count_n = n()) %>%
    ggplot(aes(x = Gender, y = count_n, fill = CDR)) +
    geom_bar(stat = "identity", position = position_dodge()) +
    scale_fill_manual(values = colorspace::diverge_hcl(4)) +
    scale_x_discrete(labels = c("Male", "Female")) +
    theme(
    panel.background = element_blank(),
    panel.grid.major = element_blank(),
```

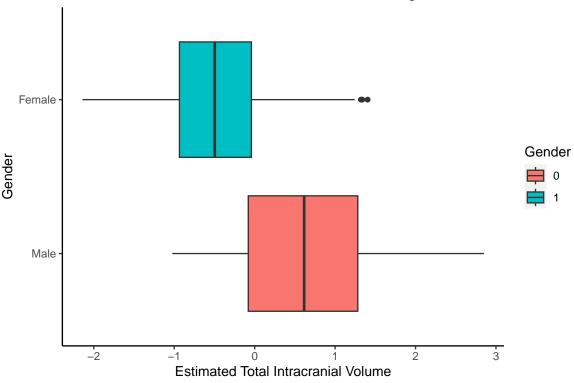
```
panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
   axis.line = element_line(colour = "black")
) +
labs(title = "Count of patients with CDR rating for each gender",
   x = "Clinical Dementia Rating", y = "Count of patients")
```





distribution of total intracranial volume for each gender clean_data %>% group_by(Gender) %>% ggplot(aes(x=Gender, y=eTIV, fill=Gender)) + geom_boxplot() + scale_x_discrete(labels = c("Male", "Female")) + coord_flip() + theme(

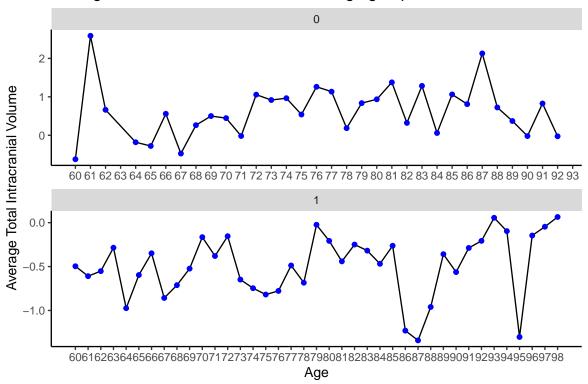




```
# distribution of eTIV for all age groups
clean_data %>%
group_by(Age, Gender) %>%
summarise(avg_eTIV = mean(eTIV)) %>%
ggplot(aes(x=Age, y=avg_eTIV, group=1)) +
```

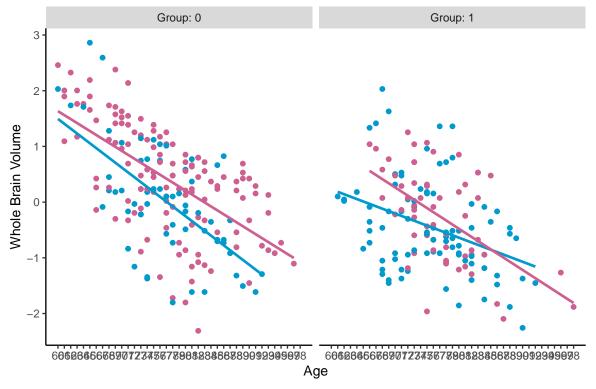
```
geom_line() + geom_point(color="blue") +
scale_x_continuous(breaks = unique(clean_data$Age)) +
theme(
    panel.background = element_blank(),
    panel.grid.major = element_blank(),
    panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
    axis.line = element_line(colour = "black")
) +
labs(title = "Average total intracranial volume for all age groups",
    x = "Age", y = "Average Total Intracranial Volume") +
facet_wrap(vars(Gender), scales = "free", nrow = 2)
```

Average total intracranial volume for all age groups



```
# scatter plot between Age and nWBV for each gender group
clean_data %>%
```

Correlation – Age vs whole brain volume (0 – Non demented, 1 – Demented



```
# CLUSTERING ALGORITHM

# maximum clusters we want to form

max_number_of_clusters <- 5

# vector to store the values of index returned by the method for each

$\to k value$

index_values <- numeric(max_number_of_clusters - 1)

# function to calculate the index for each k value and choose the

$\to optimal k$

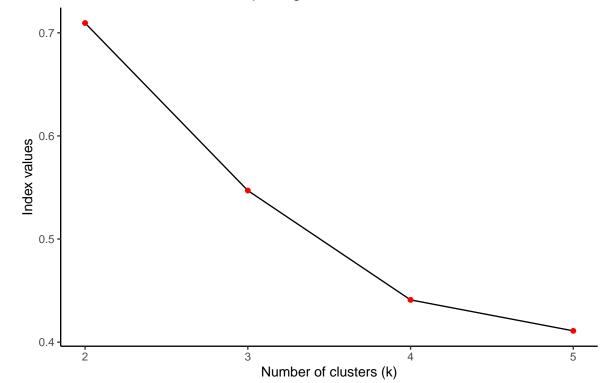
get_optimal_cluster <- function(data, max_clust) {

# iterate over k values from 2 to max value</pre>
```

```
for (k in 2:max clust) {
    # perform fuzzy clustering
    cluster result <- Fclust(data.matrix(data), k)</pre>
    # get the index value for the used k value
    index values[k-1] <- Fclust.index(cluster result)</pre>
  }
  # create a data frame containing clusters and index values
  index data <- data.frame(clusters = 2:max clust, indices =</pre>
    index values)
  # select the k value with maximum index
  optimal_index <- which.max(index_values) + 1</pre>
  \# return the data frame and chosen optimal k
  return(list(optimal value = optimal index, index df = index data))
}
# get the output returned by function
result <- get optimal cluster(clean data, max number of clusters)
```

The standard FkM algorithm has been chosen The default options have been set, to specify different options, use FKM The default value alpha=1 has been set for computing SIL.F The standard FkM algorithm has been chosen The default options have been set, to specify different options, use FKM The default value alpha=1 has been set for computing SIL.F The standard FkM algorithm has been chosen The default options have been set, to specify different options, use FKM The default value alpha=1 has been set for computing SIL.F The standard FkM algorithm has been chosen The default options have been set, to specify different options, use FKM The default value

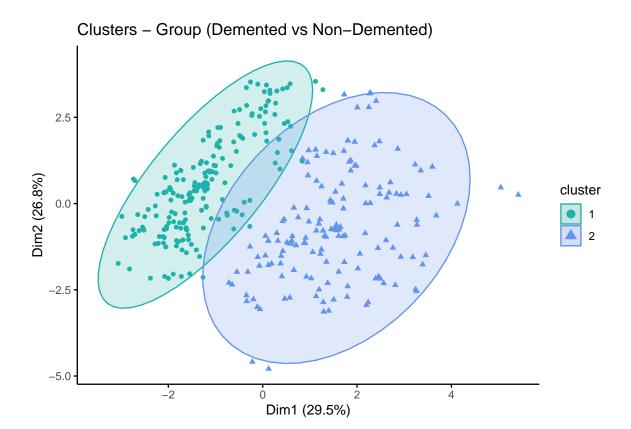
Index values for the correspoding K value



```
cat("Optimal value of k: ", optimal_k)
```

Optimal value of k: 2

```
# call the function for clustering algorithm
fuzzy_k_means_result <- clustering_FKM(clean_data, optimal_k)</pre>
# plot the clusters
fviz cluster(
    object = fuzzy_k_means_result,
    geom = "point",
    ellipse.type = "norm",
    show.clust.cent = T,
    repel = T,
    palette = c("lightseagreen", "cornflowerblue"),
    main = "Clusters - Group (Demented vs Non-Demented)",
    ggtheme = theme(
      panel.background = element_blank(),
      panel.grid.major = element_blank(),
      panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
      axis.line = element_line(colour = "black")
    )
  )
```



```
# create the train and tests data set
train_data <- data_split %>% training()
test data <- data split %>% testing()
# HYPER PARAMTER TUNING
# hyper-parameter tuning for `mixture` and `penalty`
# define the logistic regression model
logis_model <- logistic_reg(mixture = tune(),</pre>
                            penalty = tune(),
                            engine = "glmnet")
# define a grid search for hyper-parameters
grid_Search <- grid_regular(mixture(),</pre>
                            penalty(),
                            levels = c(mixture = 4, penalty = 4))
# define the workflow for parameter tuning and building model
log_reg_workflow <- workflow() %>%
  add_model(logis_model) %>% # add the above created model
  add formula(Group ~ .) # set the formula: response variable ~
  → predictors
# define cross validation method for grid search
cv_folds <- vfold_cv(train_data,</pre>
                     v = 7
```

Mixture: 0 Penalty: 1e-10

```
# LOGISTIC REGRESSION MODEL

# fit the model with the chosen parameter values

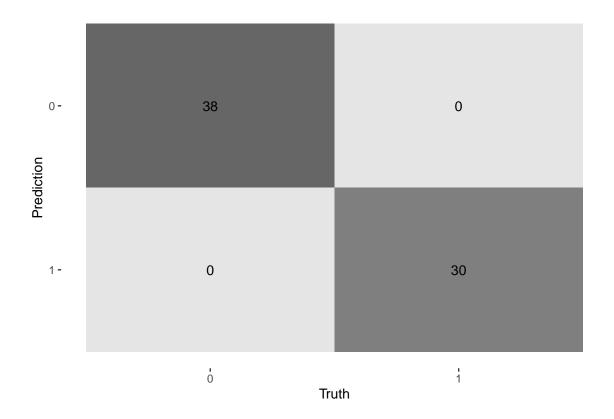
final_model <- logistic_reg(
    mixture = chosen_params$mixture,
    penalty = chosen_params$penalty) %>%

    set_engine("glmnet") %>%

    set_mode("classification") %>%

    fit(Group ~ ., data = train_data)

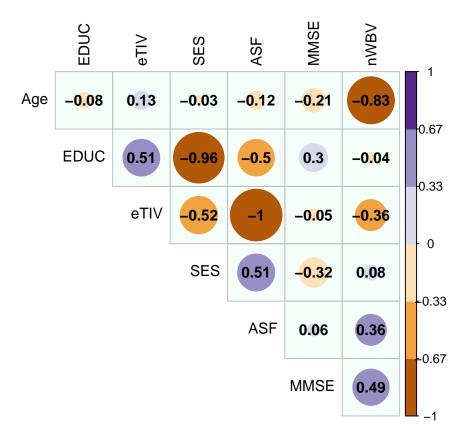
# Predict the results on test data
```



```
# FEATURE SELECTION

# correlation matrix

corrplot(
    cor(cor(data.matrix(clean_data[, -c(1, 2, 7)]))),
    type="upper",
    order = "hclust",
    col = brewer.pal(n=6, "PuOr"),
    bg = "mintcream",
    tl.col = "black",
    diag = FALSE,
    addCoef.col = "black"
)
```



```
# find the redundant variables and remove them from the data

findCorrelation(cor(data.matrix(clean_data[, -c(1, 2, 7)])), cutoff = 0.75)
```

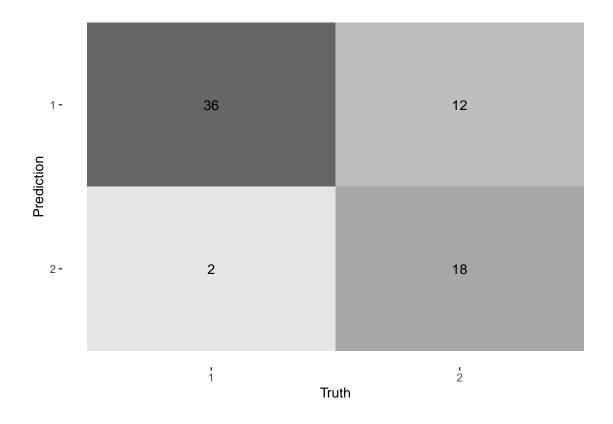
[1] 5

```
# selecting the top 4 features as new predictors
new_data <- temp_data[, c("Group", "MMSE", "Age", "Gender", "EDUC")]
new_data$Group <- as.factor(new_data$Group)
# LOGISTIC REGRESSION WITH SELECTED FEATURES</pre>
```

Table 3: Feature scores

	feature	score
5	MMSE	7.90805966306536e-14
1	Gender	5.07937615597167
3	EDUC	0.712008028438323
2	Age	0.578213328044115
7	ASF	0.459674134140075
6	nWBV	0.38834676318609
4	SES	0.0717282178596737

```
# set random state for splitting data
set.seed(45)
# split data into training and test set
new_split <- initial_split(data = new_data,</pre>
                            prop = 0.8,
                             strata = Group)
# create the train and tests data set
new train data <- new split %>% training()
new_test_data <- new_split %>% testing()
# train the logistic regression model with the selected features
log_model2 <- logistic_reg(</pre>
  mixture = chosen_params$mixture,
  penalty = chosen_params$penalty) %>%
  set_engine("glmnet") %>%
  set_mode("classification") %>%
  fit(Group ~ ., data = new_train_data)
```



```
# Logistic regression model with only selected features
model2 <- glm(Group~., family = "binomial", data = new_train_data)</pre>
```

Table 4: Summary of model with all variables as predictors

	(1)
(Intercept)	560.800
, – ,	(451792.019)
Gender1	-29.741
	(42440.148)
Age	-4.978
	(4341.988)
EDUC	4.199
	(7226.179)
SES	-19.210
	(19228.826)
MMSE	-9.334
	(12368.150)
CDR0.5	162.938
	(69732.595)
CDR1	119.415
	(86617.978)
CDR2	92.232
	(278983.324)
eTIV	-97.069
	(140070.423)
nWBV	-23.093
	(35946.980)
ASF	-59.665
	(157479.931)
Num.Obs.	268
AIC	24.0
BIC	67.1
Log.Lik.	0.000
F	0.000
RMSE	0.00

⁺ p < 0.1, * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

Table 5: Summary of model with only selected variables as predictors

	(1)
(Intercept)	37.309***
	(5.522)
MMSE	-1.082***
	(0.153)
Age	-0.061*
	(0.027)
Gender1	-1.010**
	(0.379)
EDUC	-0.144*
	(0.073)
Num.Obs.	268
AIC	191.8
BIC	209.7
Log.Lik.	-90.882
F	14.360
RMSE	0.33
+ p < 0.1, * p < 0.1	0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

```
# comparison of models using anova testing
anova(model1, model2, test = "LR") %>%
  tidy() %>%
  mutate(
   p.value = scales::pvalue(p.value),
   term = c("Model 1", "Model 2")
) %>%
```

Table 6: ANOVA summary

term	df.residual	residual.deviance	df	deviance	p.value
Model 1	256	0.0000	NA	NA	NA
Model 2	263	181.7642	-7	-181.7642	< 0.001

```
kable(
    caption = "ANOVA summary"
) %>%
kableExtra::kable_styling(bootstrap_options = "bordered")
```