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**Diabetes Diagnosis Classification**

**(Data Mining Project)**

Master’s degree in Data Science & Engineering – FEUP

Introduction to Machine Learning and Data Mining

December 2022

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# Introduction

*“A correct diagnosis is a three-fourths the remedy”* – Mahatma Gandi

Diabetes is considered one of the deadliest and most chronic diseases, that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces, which in turn makes the metabolism of carbohydrate abnormal and raise the levels of glucose in the blood. In diabetes, a person generally suffers from high blood sugar. Intensify thirst, hunger, and frequent urination are some of the symptoms of the disease (Vijayan, V.V., Anjali, C., ).

Diabetes diagnosis is not only affected by several factors like height, weight, hereditary factors, and insulin, but the major reason considered is sugar concentration among all factors. The measure of sugar substances cannot be controlled, and this is what makes the process of identifying the disease morose and tedious.

In 2014, 8,5% of adults over 18 years old had diabetes. In 2019, diabetes was the direct cause of 1.5 million deaths and 48% of all deaths due to diabetes occurred before the age of 70 years. In addition, 460 000 kidney disease deaths were caused by diabetes, and raised blood causes around 20% of cardiovascular deaths. Between 2000 and 2019, there was a 3% increase in age-standardized mortality rates from diabetes (WHO).

Many complications, like blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, strokes, and lower limb amputation can occur if diabetes remains untreated or unidentified. A healthy diet combined with regular exercise, plus maintaining a normal body weight are some of the ways to prevent or delay to have diabetes. Consequently, early identification is the only remedy to stay away from complications. However, without the proper diagnosis, there isn’t much that can be done, and the occurrence of diabetes has been rising more rapidly in low-and middle-income countries than in high-income countries (WHO).

The process to identify the disease is wearisome and costly, as it requires the patient to visit a doctor or diagnostic center and run several exams. And it's here that the growth of Machine Learning approaches can solve this critical problem since it would not require the visit of a patient to a doctor or diagnosis center or to run several exams. Plus, a Machine Learning process could be applied worldwide at a cheaper cost than the traditional diagnosis of the disease.

Today, many researchers are conducting experiments into diagnosing diseases using various classification algorithms of machine learning approaches, since this type of algorithm was proven to work better for these cases. Classification strategies are used broadly used for classifying data into different classes according to some constraints when compared to an individual classifier.

Data mining and machine learning algorithms gain their strength due to their capabilities to manage large amounts of data, combine data from different sources, and integrate background information into the study.

Therefore, this research is performed on Pima Indians Diabetes Database (PIDD) which was sourced from “[Kaggle:](https://www.google.com/search?q=kaggle&oq=kaggle+&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i512j0i67j69i65j69i60l4.1656j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8) Your Machine Learning and Data Science Community”. This database focuses on pregnant women, older than 21 years, and suffering from diabetes. Several machine learning classification algorithms, (e.g.: Decision Tree, KNN, and AdaBoost) are used to find the prediction of diabetes in a patient. The performance of all algorithms is then evaluated on various measures like precision, accuracy, f-measure, and recall. And these results are then verified using the Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curves in a proper and systematic manner.

The remaining of this report is organized as follows: Section III briefs the materials and method used, Section IV introduces the data source used and its origin, Section V gives a brief summary of what CRISP-DM is and how it’s implemented in this research (its relation between report and technical solution), Section VI focus on understanding the research and project objectives and requirements from a business point of view, Section VII explores the raw data of the dataset, Section VIII details all activities to construct the final dataset from the raw data, Section IX will approach and discuss the evaluations done on the modeling techniques, Section X discusses and evaluates the results, Section XI determines the Conclusion of the research work and Section XII approach’s Future Work that can be done in order to further continue or improve this research.

# Materials and Methods

For this data mining project, the methodology used to approach its execution was CRISP-DM (phases one to five will be described in detail at the core of this report).

In this data mining project, Python programming language was used through Jupyter Notebook.

# Data Source

The present data mining project will use a dataset to diagnose diabetes, that was collected from the website “[Kaggle:](https://www.google.com/search?q=kaggle&oq=kaggle+&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i512j0i67j69i65j69i60l4.1656j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8) Your Machine Learning and Data Science Community”.

The dataset is originally from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and its objective is to predict whether a patient has diabetes, based on certain diagnostic measurements that are included in the dataset. This dataset has the following constraints in place:

* All patients are female.
* They are at least 21 years old.
* They are of Pima Indian heritage.2.

# What is the CRISP-DM methodology?

CRISP-DM which stands for **CR**oss **I**ndustry **S**tandard **P**rocess for **D**ata **M**ining is an industry-proven modeling process that serves as a basis for data sciences processes that can be applied in any type of business without the dependency on software or service to be executed.

Published in 1999 to standardize data mining processes across industries, it has since become the most common methodology for data mining, analytics, and data science projects.

CRISP-DM consists of six sequential phases, to conceive a Data Mining project and these phases can have cycle iterations according to the developer's needs. The six sequential phases are:

1. Business understanding – What does the business need?
2. Data understanding – What data do we have/need? Is it clean?
3. Data preparation – How do we organize the data for modeling?
4. Modeling – What modeling techniques should we apply?
5. Evaluation – Which model best meets the business objectives?
6. Deployment – How do stakeholders access the results?

## What are the six CRISP-DM phases?

The first phase, **Business Understanding** focuses on understanding the project objectives and requirements from a business perspective. The analyst formulates this knowledge as a data mining problem and develops a preliminary plan.

The second phase is **Data Understanding,** and its objective is to know what can be expected and achieved from the data. It checks the quality of the data, in several terms, such as data completeness, values distributions, and data governance compliance. In this phase, the analyst might also detect interesting subsets to form hypotheses for hidden information.

This phase is a crucial part of the project because it defines how viable and trustworthy can be the result. It can be necessary to step back, to understand the business point of view and how that piece of information can be beneficial.

The third phase, **Data Preparation** and involves the ELTs or ETLs process that will cover all activities to construct the final dataset, based on the initial raw data (select, clean, construct, integrate, and format/re-format data).

Sometimes data governance policies are not respected or set in on the organizations, human errors happen, and to give meaning to data, it becomes necessary to standardize the information. Likewise, some algorithms perform better under certain parameters, some do not accept numerical or non-numerical values or large values, then again is necessary to normalize this data.

Data Preparation is, therefore, one of the most phases of a data mining project and the step that consumes more time.

The fourth phase, **Modelling** is the core phase of any machine learning project. This phase will be responsible for the results that should satisfy or help satisfy the project goals.

This part of the project should however be the shortest phase of the project, as if everything previously is done correctly, there is little to adjust. In the cases that the results are improvable, the methodology is set to step back to data preparation and improve the available data.

The fifth phase, **Evaluation**, looks more broadly at which model best meets the business and what to do next. Here the analyst will evaluate if the results are valid and correct. If determined that the results are wrong, the methodology allows the review back to the first step, to understand why the results are incorrect.

The sixth phase (and last phase) is **Deployment** and depending on the requirements, the deployment phase can be as simple as creating a report or as complex as implementing a repeatable data mining process across the enterprise (CRISP-DM).

## CRISP-DM phases & Diabetes Diagnosis Classification Mining Project phases

The below table offers a comparison between the CRISP-DM phases and the technical steps implemented in this data mining project.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CRISP-DM Phases | Technical Project Phases |
| 1. Business understanding | 1. Understand and set goals from a business perspective for the project (Jupiter notebook chapter: Business Context / Data Context) |
| 1. Data understanding | 1. Check if the available data can meet the objectives of the project and its quality (Jupiter notebook chapter: Exploratory Data Analysis - EDA) |
| 1. Data preparation | 1. The raw data is transformed, in the cases that is necessary for this data mining project (Jupiter notebook chapter: Pre-processing, Feature Engineering, Feature Selection) |
| 1. Modeling | 1. Execute the algorithms that satisfied the project objectives (Jupiter notebook chapter: Models) |
| 1. Evaluation | 1. The results are presented, analyzed and evaluated (Jupiter notebook chapter: Evaluation) |
| 1. Deployment[[1]](#footnote-1) | 1. Not Applicable1 |

# Business Understanding (CRISP-DM - phase 1)

Any good project starts with a deep understanding of the customer’s needs. Data mining projects are no exception and CRISP-DM recognizes this. Thus, the first phase of this project focused on understanding the current context of the topic in the study: Diabetes disease, and understanding the project objectives and requirements from a business perspective.

Diabetes is a worldwide killer and ranks among the top causes of premature deaths. More than 500 million adults (20 – 79 years) are living with diabetes (nearly one in ten) and it's predicted that these numbers will keep ascending in the coming years. By 2030 is estimated that more than 600 million will suffer from diabetes and by 2045 more than 783 million (IDF).

Between 2000 and 2019, diabetes mortality rates by age increased by 3% (WHO). And just in 2021, diabetes was responsible for more than 6 million deaths (one every five seconds) (IDF).

A very concerning point is that three out of four people leaving with this disease, live in low- and middle-income countries that do not have the resources or money to map and treat rightfully this disease, which may affect the daily life of a person who is not aware of this illness. If diabetes is diagnosed correctly and timely, it can be treated, and its consequences are avoided or delayed with diet, physical activity, medication, and regular screening and treatment for complications (WHO).

Diabetes caused at least USD 966 billion dollars (approximately more than 900 million euros) in health expenditure – a 316% increase over the last 15 years (IDF).

There are several reasons, for the lack of the right diagnosis, including that the process is expensive and tedious as it includes several visits of the patient to a doctor or a diagnostic center, plus doing some exams. But one of the main reasons is the lack of technical skills to interpret the results of exams, especially in low and middle-income countries.

Nevertheless, if a machine learning approach could solve or improve this critical problem of diagnosing when a patient has or is prone to have diabetes, this would represent a win globally in the quality of health service and diagnosis, especially for low- and middle-income countries where the problem is more persistent, and they have less money and resources to invest. Another win, less related to the patient of diabetes would be that the resources (especially money) that are today spent to diagnose, prevent, and treat diabetes disease would be needed less and therefore could be allocated to other problems.

In this way, the main goal of this experiment with a classifier is to guide especially low and medium-income health professionals to classify a Diabetes case with simple exams in a person who most probably would be unaware of the disease until would be too late.

In the context of Data Classification, there are multiple classification methods that can help to solve this type of problem and will be used in this experiment. For this type of project, the dataset was collected from the website “[Kaggle:](https://www.google.com/search?q=kaggle&oq=kaggle+&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i512j0i67j69i65j69i60l4.1656j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8) Your Machine Learning and Data Science Community” and the experiments are performed on the [Pima Indians Diabetes Database](https://www.kaggle.com/uciml/pima-indians-diabetes-database), originally from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. This dataset has the following constraints in place:

* All patients are female.
* They are at least 21 years old.
* They are of Pima Indian heritage.2.

The dataset contains multiple features, described in the table below, that can help the classifier model to rightfully predict diabetes in a patient.

Table 1 - Dataset features

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Columns (features) | Description |
| Pregnancies | Number of times pregnant |
| Glucose | Plasma glucose concentration a 2 hours in an oral glucose tolerance test |
| BloodPressure | Diastolic blood pressure (mm/Hg) |
| SkinThickness | The Triceps skin fold thickness (mm) |
| Insulin | 2-Hour serum insulin (mu U/ml) |
| BMI | Body Mass Index (weight in Kg/(height in m)^2) |
| DiabetesPedigreeFunction | Diabetes pedigree function |
| Age | Age of the Patient (in years) |
| Outcome | Class variable |

# Data Understanding (CRISP-DM - phase 2)

Starting with initial data collection, the analyst proceeds with activities to get familiar with the data, identify data quality problems & discover first insights into the data. In this phase, the analyst might also detect interesting subsets to form hypotheses for hidden information.

# Data Preparation (CRISP-DM - phase 3)

The data preparation phase covers all activities to construct the final dataset from the initial raw data.

# Modeling (CRISP-DM - phase 4)

The analyst evaluates, selects & applies the appropriate modeling techniques. Since some techniques like neural nets have specific requirements regarding the form of the data. There can be a loop back here to data prep.

# Evaluation (CRISP-DM - phase 5)

The analyst builds & chooses models that appear to have high quality based on loss functions that were selected. The analyst then tests them to ensure that they can generalize the models against unseen data. Subsequently, the analyst also validates that the models sufficiently cover all key business issues. The result is the selection of the champion model(s)

# Conclusions

# Future Work

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1. Phase six was not required for the conclusion of this project [↑](#footnote-ref-1)