Project: Heart Diseases Prediction Model using Machine Learning algorithms

Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death globally, resulted in 17.9 million deaths (32.1%) in 2015, up from 12.3 million (25.8%) in 1990. It is estimated that 90% of CVD is preventable. There are many risk factors for heart diseases that we will take a closer look at.

The main objective of this study is to build a model that can predict the heart disease occurrence, based on a combination of features (risk factors) describing the disease. Different machine learning classification techniques will be implemented and compared upon standard performance metric such as accuracy.

The dataset used for this study was taken from UCI machine learning repository, titled "Heart Disease Data Set".

Contents of the Notebook:

Dataset structure & description Analyze, identify patterns, and explore the data Data preparation Modelling and predicting with Machine Learning Conclusion

Import libraries

```
In [1]: # data analysis, splitting and wrangling
        import pandas as pd
        import numpy as np
        from sklearn.model selection import train test split
        from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
        # visualization
        import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
        import seaborn as sns
        %matplotlib inline
        # machine learning
        from sklearn.linear model import LogisticRegression
        from sklearn.svm import SVC
        from sklearn.tree import DecisionTreeClassifier
        from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier
        from sklearn.neighbors import KNeighborsClassifier
        from sklearn.naive bayes import GaussianNB
```

/Users/suchetanaik/anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/sklearn/ensemble/weight_boosting.py:29: Deprecation Warning: numpy.core.umath_tests is an internal NumPy module and should not be imported. It will be removed in a future NumPy release.

from numpy.core.umath tests import inner1d

1. Dataset structure & description

The dataset used in this project contains 14 variables. The independent variable that needs to be predicted, 'diagnosis', determines whether a person is healthy or suffer from heart disease. Experiments with the database have concentrated on endeavours to distinguish disease presence (values 1, 2, 3, 4) from absence (value 0). There are several missing attribute values, distinguished with symbol '?'. The header row is missing in this dataset, so the column names have to be inserted manually.

Features information: age - age in years sex - sex(1 = male; 0 = female) chest_pain - chest pain type (1 = typical angina; 2 = atypical angina; 3 = non-anginal pain; 4 = asymptomatic) blood_pressure - resting blood pressure (in mm Hg on admission to the hospital) serum_cholestoral - serum cholestoral in mg/dl fasting_blood_sugar - fasting blood sugar > 120 mg/dl (1 = true; 0 = false) electrocardiographic - resting electrocardiographic results (0 = normal; 1 = having ST-T; 2 = hypertrophy) max_heart_rate - maximum heart rate achieved induced_angina - exercise induced angina (1 = yes; 0 = no) ST_depression - ST depression induced by exercise relative to rest slope - the slope of the peak exercise ST segment (1 = upsloping; 2 = flat; 3 = downsloping) no_of_vessels - number of major vessels (0-3) colored by flourosopy thal - 3 = normal; 6 = fixed defect; 7 = reversable defect diagnosis - the predicted attribute - diagnosis of heart disease (angiographic disease status) (Value 0 = < 50% diameter narrowing; Value 1 = > 50% diameter narrowing) Types of features: Categorical features (Has two or more categories and each value in that feature can be categorised by them): sex, chest_pain

Ordinal features (Variable having relative ordering or sorting between the values): fasting_blood_sugar, electrocardiographic, induced_angina, slope, no of vessels, thal, diagnosis

Continuous features (Variable taking values between any two points or between the minimum or maximum values in the feature column): age, blood_pressure, serum_cholestoral, max_heart_rate, ST_depression

Load data

Number of records: 303 Number of variables: 14

Out[2]:

	age	sex	chest_pain	blood_pressure	serum_cholestoral	fasting_blood_sugar	electrocardiographic	max_heart_rate	induced_angina	ST_depress
0	63.0	1.0	1.0	145.0	233.0	1.0	2.0	150.0	0.0	_
1	67.0	1.0	4.0	160.0	286.0	0.0	2.0	108.0	1.0	
2	67.0	1.0	4.0	120.0	229.0	0.0	2.0	129.0	1.0	
3	37.0	1.0	3.0	130.0	250.0	0.0	0.0	187.0	0.0	
4	41.0	0.0	2.0	130.0	204.0	0.0	2.0	172.0	0.0	

```
In [31: df.info()
        <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
        RangeIndex: 303 entries, 0 to 302
        Data columns (total 14 columns):
                                 303 non-null float64
        age
                                 303 non-null float64
        sex
        chest pain
                                 303 non-null float64
        blood pressure
                                 303 non-null float64
        serum cholestoral
                                 303 non-null float64
                                 303 non-null float64
        fasting blood sugar
        electrocardiographic
                                 303 non-null float64
        max heart rate
                                 303 non-null float64
        induced angina
                                 303 non-null float64
        ST depression
                                 303 non-null float64
        slope
                                 303 non-null float64
        no of vessels
                                 299 non-null float64
        t.hal
                                 301 non-null float64
                                 303 non-null int64
        diagnosis
        dtypes: float64(13), int64(1)
        memory usage: 33.2 KB
```

There are only 6 missing values in this dataset and all variables are recognized as numeric. From dataset description, we know, however, that most of features are categorical and it's necessary to distinguish them.

```
In [4]: # extract numeric columns and find categorical ones
    numeric_columns = ['serum_cholestoral', 'max_heart_rate', 'age', 'blood_pressure', 'ST_depression']
    categorical_columns = [c for c in df.columns if c not in numeric_columns]
    print(categorical_columns)

['sex', 'chest_pain', 'fasting_blood_sugar', 'electrocardiographic', 'induced_angina', 'slope', 'no_of_vesse
ls', 'thal', 'diagnosis']
```

2. Analyze features, identify patterns, and explore the data

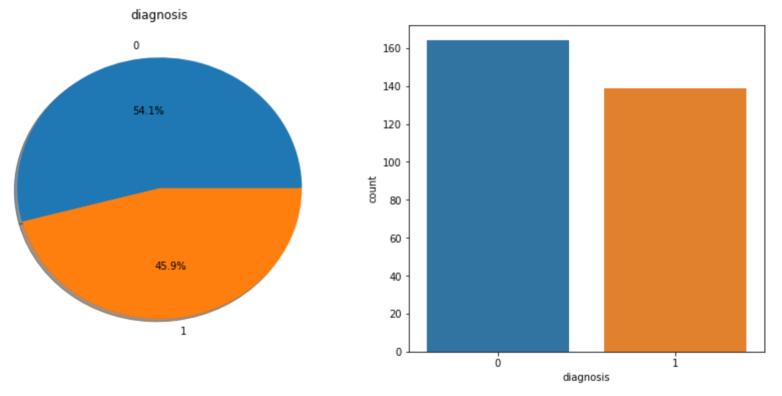
Target value

Knowing the distribution of target value is vital for choosing appropriate accuracy metrics and consequently properly assess different machine learning models.

Since the values 1-4 indicate that a disease is present, it's reasonable to pull them together.

```
In [6]: # create a boolean vector and map it with corresponding values (True=1, False=0)
    df.diagnosis = (df.diagnosis != 0).astype(int)
    df.diagnosis.value_counts()
Out[6]: 0    164
    1    139
    Name: diagnosis, dtype: int64
```

```
In [7]: # create two plots side by side
f, ax = plt.subplots(1,2,figsize=(14,6))
    df['diagnosis'].value_counts().plot.pie(autopct='%1.1f%%', ax=ax[0], shadow=True)
    ax[0].set_title('diagnosis')
    ax[0].set_ylabel('')
    sns.countplot('diagnosis', data=df, ax=ax[1])
    plt.show()
```



Now the distribution of target value is almost equal, so using standard metrics in further machine learning modelling like accuracy and AUC is justified.

Numeric features

There are 5 numeric columns, so let's take care of them first. Outliers occurrence in the dataset may be a result of wrong input and create undesired noise, thus our role is to evaluate their substance. A data point is considered as an outlier when it falls outside 3 standard deviations.

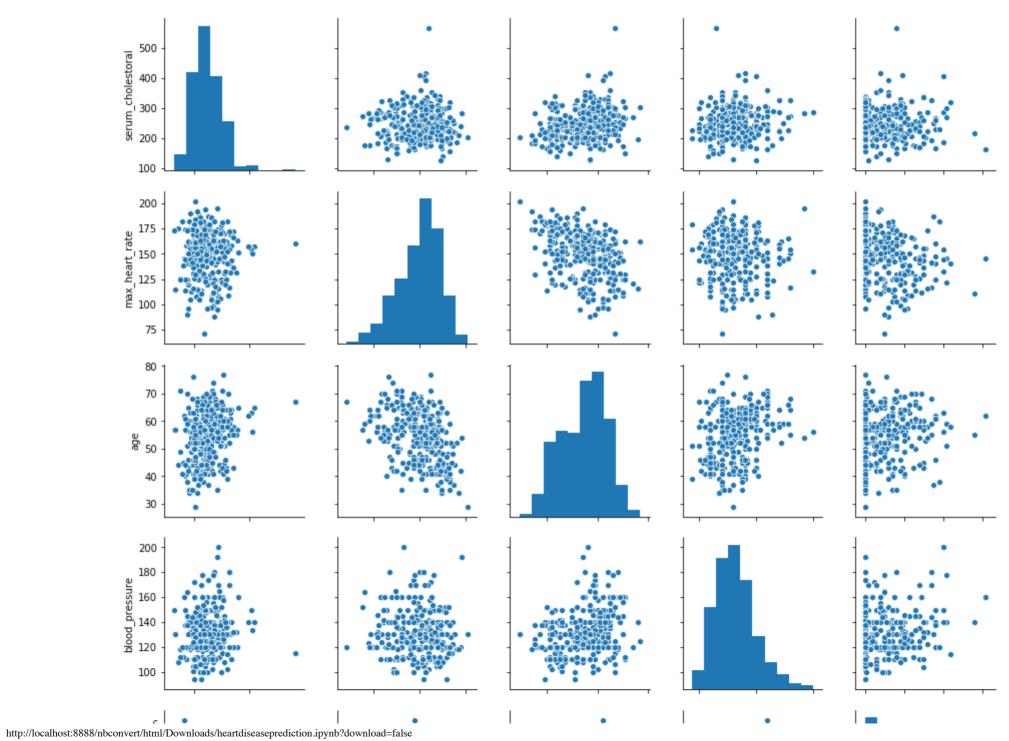
```
In [8]: # view of descriptive statistics
df[numeric_columns].describe()
```

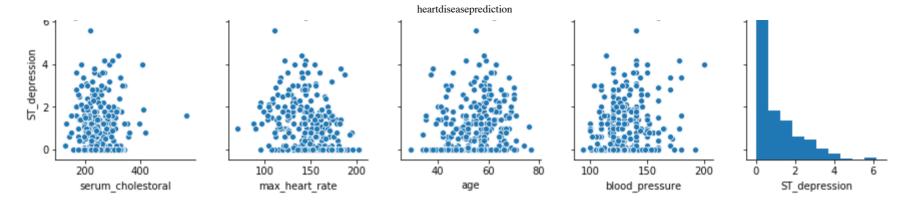
Out[8]:

	serum_cholestoral	max_heart_rate	age	blood_pressure	ST_depression
count	303.000000	303.000000	303.000000	303.000000	303.000000
mean	246.693069	149.607261	54.438944	131.689769	1.039604
std	51.776918	22.875003	9.038662	17.599748	1.161075
min	126.000000	71.000000	29.000000	94.000000	0.000000
25%	211.000000	133.500000	48.000000	120.000000	0.000000
50%	241.000000	153.000000	56.000000	130.000000	0.800000
75%	275.000000	166.000000	61.000000	140.000000	1.600000
max	564.000000	202.000000	77.000000	200.000000	6.200000

All extreme (min/max) values could occur in a real clinical scenario, hence the decision to keep them as they are. We can gain some intuition about relationships amongst numeric features by plotting each pair in a scattered form. To do this efficiently, pairplot method from Seaborn library comes in handy.

```
In [9]: # create a pairplot
    sns.pairplot(df[numeric_columns])
    plt.show()
```





Seeing above plots, I infer that none of displayed value pairs is having an explicitly high correlation, so there is no necessity to ditch any feature at this stage. I also notice a negative correlation between 'age' and 'max_heart_rate' and positive correlation between 'age' and 'blood_pressure', what is intuitive. A correlation matrix will make us sure whether the above is correct.

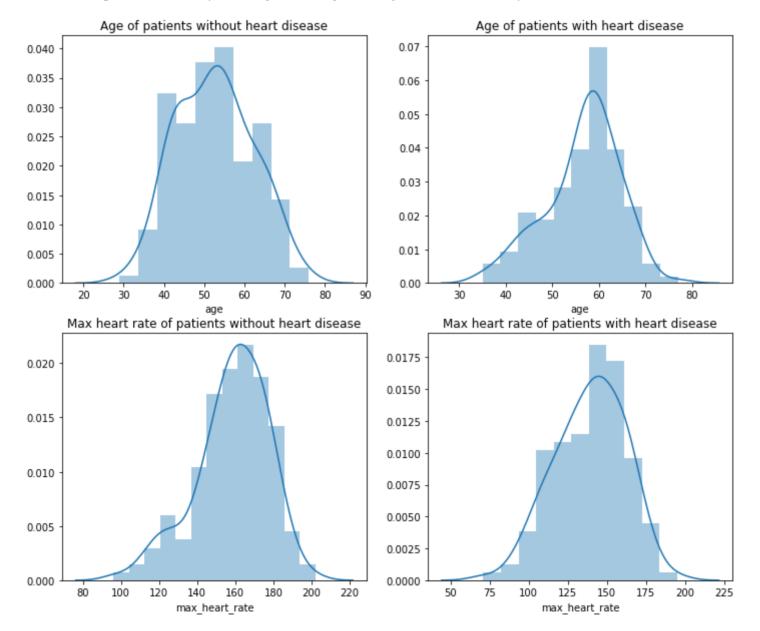
```
In [10]: # create a correlation heatmap
             sns.heatmap(df[numeric columns].corr(),annot=True, cmap='terrain', linewidths=0.1)
             fig=plt.gcf()
             fig.set size inches(8,6)
             plt.show()
                                                                                                  -1.00
                                              -0.0034
                                                            0.21
                                                                        0.13
                                                                                   0.047
              serum cholestoral -
                                                                                                   - 0.75
                                                            -0.39
                                                                       -0.045
                                  -0.0034
                                                1
                                                                                    -0.34
                max_heart_rate
                                                                                                   - 0.50
                                               -0.39
                                                             1
                                                                        0.28
                                                                                    0.2
                                   0.21
                           age
                                                                                                  - 0.25
                                               -0.045
                                                            0.28
                                                                         1
                                   0.13
                                                                                    0.19
                 blood pressure
                                                                                                   - 0.00
                                   0.047
                                               -0.34
                                                            0.2
                                                                        0.19
                                                                                                  - -0.25
                                                                                     1
                 ST depression
                                    serum_cholestoral
                                                                                     ST_depression
                                                             age
                                                max_heart_rate
```

Apart from two aforementioned relations, there is one more important dependency: 'max_heart_rate' and 'ST_depression'. The conclusion comes up that both features, 'age' and 'max_heart_rate', will play an important role in predicting heart disease. Let's take a look at their distributions.

```
In [11]: # create four distplots
    plt.figure(figsize=(12,10))
    plt.subplot(221)
    sns.distplot(df[df['diagnosis']==0].age)
    plt.title('Age of patients without heart disease')
    plt.subplot(222)
    sns.distplot(df[df['diagnosis']==1].age)
    plt.title('Age of patients with heart disease')
    plt.subplot(223)
    sns.distplot(df[df['diagnosis']==0].max_heart_rate)
    plt.title('Max heart rate of patients without heart disease')
    plt.subplot(224)
    sns.distplot(df[df['diagnosis']==1].max_heart_rate)
    plt.title('Max heart rate of patients with heart disease')
    plt.title('Max heart rate of patients with heart disease')
    plt.show()
```

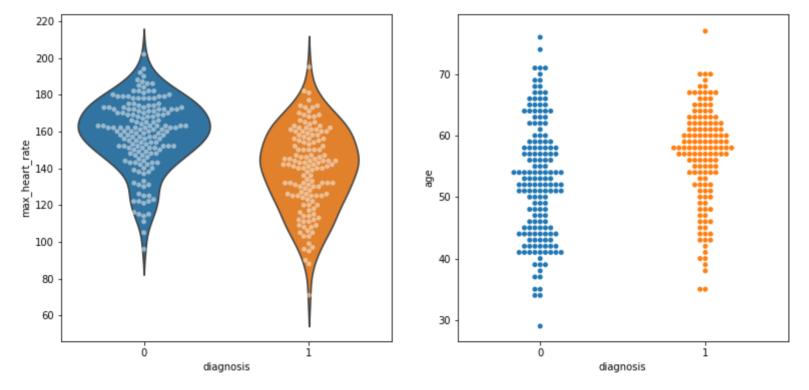
/Users/suchetanaik/anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/scipy/stats/stats.py:1713: FutureWarning: Using a n on-tuple sequence for multidimensional indexing is deprecated; use `arr[tuple(seq)]` instead of `arr[seq]`. In the future this will be interpreted as an array index, `arr[np.array(seq)]`, which will result either in an error or a different result.

return np.add.reduce(sorted[indexer] * weights, axis=axis) / sumval



Age distribution of healthy patients is much wider than ill people. The latter are at the highest risk in their sixties. Max heart rate distribution does not differ as much, but the risk peaks when max_heart_rate value is between 150 and 170. Higher values are more common for well patients. Below graphs will provide us with another perspective.

```
In [12]: # create swarmplot inside the violinplot
    plt.figure(figsize=(13,6))
    plt.subplot(121)
    sns.violinplot(x="diagnosis", y="max_heart_rate", data=df, inner=None)
    sns.swarmplot(x='diagnosis', y='max_heart_rate', data=df, color='w', alpha=0.5)
    plt.subplot(122)
    sns.swarmplot(x='diagnosis', y='age', data=df)
    plt.show()
```



Categorical features Let's take a closer look at categorical variables and see how they impact our target.

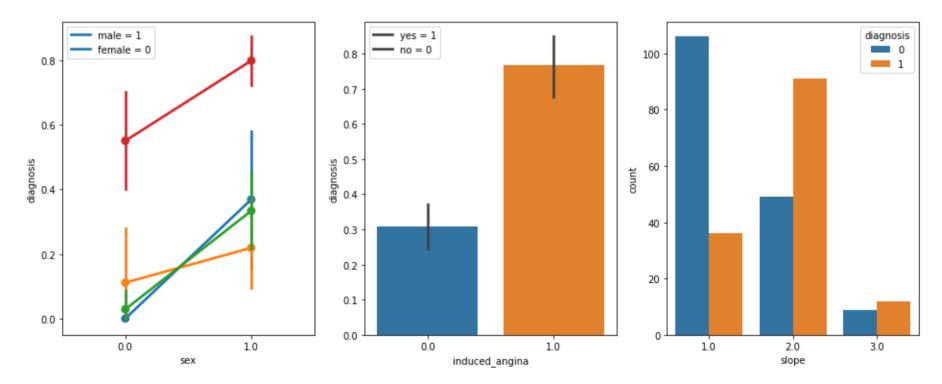
diagnosis

no_of_vessels	
0.0	0.261364
1.0	0.676923
2.0	0.815789
3.0	0.850000

```
In [15]: # create pairplot and two barplots
plt.figure(figsize=(16,6))
plt.subplot(131)
sns.pointplot(x="sex", y="diagnosis", hue='chest_pain', data=df)
plt.legend(['male = 1', 'female = 0'])
plt.subplot(132)
sns.barplot(x="induced_angina", y="diagnosis", data=df)
plt.legend(['yes = 1', 'no = 0'])
plt.subplot(133)
sns.countplot(x="slope", hue='diagnosis', data=df)
plt.show()
```

/Users/suchetanaik/anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/scipy/stats/stats.py:1713: FutureWarning: Using a n on-tuple sequence for multidimensional indexing is deprecated; use `arr[tuple(seq)]` instead of `arr[seq]`. In the future this will be interpreted as an array index, `arr[np.array(seq)]`, which will result either in an error or a different result.

return np.add.reduce(sorted[indexer] * weights, axis=axis) / sumval



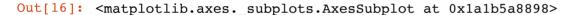
Observations:

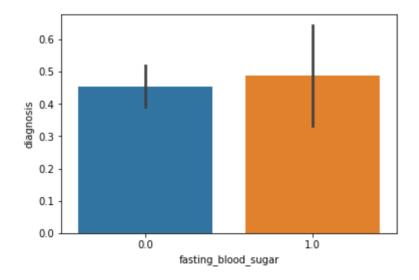
Men are much more prone to get a heart disease than women. The higher number of vessels detected through fluoroscopy, the higher risk of disease. While soft chest pain may be a bad symptom of approaching problems with heart (especially in case of men), strong pain is a serious warning! Risk of getting heart disease might be even 3x higher for someone who experienced exercise-induced angina. The flat slope (value=2) and downslope (value=3) of the peak exercise indicates a high risk of getting disease

```
In [16]: # create a barplot
sns.barplot(x="fasting_blood_sugar", y="diagnosis", data=df)
```

/Users/suchetanaik/anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/scipy/stats/stats.py:1713: FutureWarning: Using a n on-tuple sequence for multidimensional indexing is deprecated; use `arr[tuple(seq)]` instead of `arr[seq]`. In the future this will be interpreted as an array index, `arr[np.array(seq)]`, which will result either in an error or a different result.

return np.add.reduce(sorted[indexer] * weights, axis=axis) / sumval





Almost even distribution suggests 'fasting blood sugar' to be a very weak feature for our prediction, therefore it could be excluded from our model. It is not likely that leaving this variable will improve our model accuracy, yet it shouldn't make it worse too. I decide to keep this variable as it is and confirm my hypothesis through checking feature importance of a few models.

3. Data Preparation

In order to make our dataset compatible with machine learning algorithms contained in Sci-kit Learn library, first of all, we need to handle all missing data.

There are many options we could consider when replacing a missing value, for example:

A constant value that has meaning within the domain, such as 0, distinct from all other values A value from another randomly selected record A mean, median or mode value for the column A value estimated by another predictive model

```
In [17]: # show columns having missing values
         df.isnull().sum()
Out[17]: age
                                  0
         sex
         chest pain
         blood pressure
         serum cholestoral
         fasting blood sugar
         electrocardiographic
         max heart rate
         induced angina
         ST depression
         slope
         no of vessels
         thal
         diagnosis
         dtype: int64
```

Both columns containing missing values are categorical. In such case, mode (most frequently occurring value in a given vector) is usually used for filling 'nans'. Let's follow this solution.

```
In [18]: # fill missing values with mode
df['no_of_vessels'].fillna(df['no_of_vessels'].mode()[0], inplace=True)
df['thal'].fillna(df['thal'].mode()[0], inplace=True)
```

Having clean data, a label can be separated from the data frame. It is also a good moment to split our data train and test sets. I will allocate 30% of the entire data to test set, which is typically considered as a standard split for this size of dataset.

```
In [19]: # extract the target variable
         X, y = df.iloc[:, :-1], df.iloc[:, -1]
         print(X.shape)
         print(y.shape)
         (303, 13)
         (303,)
In [21]: #split the data
         X train, X test, y train, y test = train test split(X, y, test size=0.3, random state=2606)
         print ("train set x shape: " + str(X train.shape))
         print ("train set y shape: " + str(y train.shape))
         print ("test set x shape: " + str(X test.shape))
         print ("test set y shape: " + str(y test.shape))
         train set x shape: (212, 13)
         train set y shape: (212,)
         test set x shape: (91, 13)
         test set y shape: (91,)
```

Data needs to be normalized or standardized before applying to machine learning algorithms. Standardization scales the data and gives information on how many standard deviations the data is placed from its mean value. Effectively, the mean of the data (µ) is 0 and the standard deviation (σ) is 1.

```
In [22]: # scale feature matrices
scaler = StandardScaler()
X_train = scaler.fit_transform(X_train)
X_test = scaler.transform(X_test)
```

4. Modelling and predicting with Machine Learning

The main goal of the entire project is to predict heart disease occurrence with the highest accuracy. In order to achieve this, we will test several classification algorithms. This section includes all results obtained from the study and introduces the best performer according to accuracy metric. I have chosen several algorithms typical for solving supervised learning problems throughout classification methods.

First of all, let's equip ourselves with a handy tool that benefits from the cohesion of SciKit Learn library and formulate a general function for training our models. The reason for displaying accuracy on both, train and test sets, is to allow us to evaluate whether the model overfits or underfits the data (so-called bias/variance tradeoff).

K-Nearest Neighbours (KNN)

K-Nearest Neighbors algorithm is a non-parametric method used for classification and regression. The principle behind nearest neighbour methods is to find a predefined number of training samples closest in distance to the new point and predict the label from these.

```
In [24]: # KNN
model = train_model(X_train, y_train, X_test, y_test, KNeighborsClassifier)

Train accuracy: 88.21%
Test accuracy: 86.81%
```

Despite its simplicity, the result is very promising. Let's see if KNN can perform even better by trying different 'n_neighbours' inputs.

```
In [25]: | # Seek optimal 'n neighbours' parameter
        for i in range(1,10):
            print("n neigbors = "+str(i))
            train model(X train, y train, X test, y test, KNeighborsClassifier, n neighbors=i)
        n = 1
        Train accuracy: 100.00%
        Test accuracy: 74.73%
        n = 2
        Train accuracy: 87.74%
        Test accuracy: 79.12%
        n = 3
        Train accuracy: 90.57%
        Test accuracy: 83.52%
        n = 100
        Train accuracy: 87.74%
        Test accuracy: 84.62%
        n = 5
        Train accuracy: 88.21%
        Test accuracy: 86.81%
        n = 6
        Train accuracy: 85.38%
        Test accuracy: 86.81%
        n = 7
        Train accuracy: 87.26%
        Test accuracy: 86.81%
        n = 8
        Train accuracy: 85.38%
        Test accuracy: 85.71%
        n neighors = 9
        Train accuracy: 86.32%
        Test accuracy: 85.71%
```

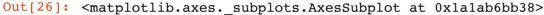
It turns out that default value of n_neighbours (5) is optimal.

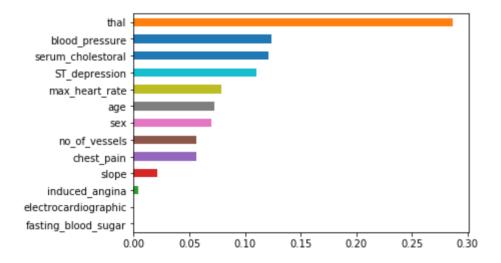
Decision Trees

DT algorithm creates a model that predicts the value of a target variable by learning simple decision rules inferred from the data features. It is simple to understand and interpret and it's possible to visualize how important a particular feature was for our tree.

```
In [26]: # Decision Tree
model = train_model(X_train, y_train, X_test, y_test, DecisionTreeClassifier, random_state=2606)
# plot feature importances
pd.Series(model.feature_importances_,X.columns).sort_values(ascending=True).plot.barh()

Train accuracy: 100.00%
Test accuracy: 75.82%
```





Variable 'thal' turns out to be a significantly important feature. Remember my hypothesis that 'fasting_blood_sugar" is a very weak feature? Above graph confirms this clearly. Decision tree model learns the train set perfectly, and at the same time is entirely overfitting the data, what results in poor prediction. Other values of 'max_depth' parameter need to be tried out.

```
In [27]: # Check optimal 'max depth' parameter
         for i in range(1,8):
             print("max depth = "+str(i))
             train model(X train, y train, X test, y test, DecisionTreeClassifier, max depth=i, random state=2606)
         max depth = 1
         Train accuracy: 76.89%
         Test accuracy: 74.73%
         max depth = 2
         Train accuracy: 78.30%
         Test accuracy: 72.53%
         max depth = 3
         Train accuracy: 87.74%
         Test accuracy: 76.92%
         max depth = 4
         Train accuracy: 91.98%
         Test accuracy: 78.02%
         max depth = 5
         Train accuracy: 94.81%
         Test accuracy: 78.02%
         max depth = 6
         Train accuracy: 97.17%
         Test accuracy: 79.12%
         max depth = 7
         Train accuracy: 97.64%
         Test accuracy: 75.82%
```

With max_depth set as 6, the score went to almost 80%. By now, KNN outperforms Decision Tree.

Logistic Regression

Logistic regression is a basic technique in statistical analysis that attempts to predict a data value based on prior observations. A logistic regression algorithm looks at the relationship between a dependent variable and one or more dependent variables.

```
In [28]: # Logistic Regression
model = train_model(X_train, y_train, X_test, y_test, LogisticRegression)

Train accuracy: 85.85%
Test accuracy: 85.71%
```

Negligible difference between train and test score tells us as that model performs at the optimal level. Although the result itself is slightly lower than KNN, yet is still satisfactory.

Gaussian Naive Bayes

In machine learning, naive Bayes classifiers are a family of simple probabilistic classifiers based on applying Bayes' theorem with strong (naive) independence assumptions between the features.

```
In [29]: #Gaussian Naive Bayes
model = train_model(X_train, y_train, X_test, y_test, GaussianNB)

Train accuracy: 85.38%
Test accuracy: 86.81%
```

This model produced the same result as leading KNN algorithm. While it slightly underfits the data, this model doesn't offer any hyperparameters for tuning and improve overall performance.

Support Vector Machines

Support Vector Machines are perhaps one of the most popular machine learning algorithms. They are the go-to method for a high-performing algorithm with a little tuning. At first, let's try it on default settings.

```
In [30]: #Support Vector Machines
model = train_model(X_train, y_train, X_test, y_test, SVC)

Train accuracy: 92.92%
Test accuracy: 82.42%
```

The above numbers are not remarkable by any means. I will adjust two parameters, "C", and 'kernel' to take full advantage of SVM power.

```
In [31]: # tuned SVM
model = train_model(X_train, y_train, X_test, y_test, SVC, C=0.05, kernel='linear')
Train accuracy: 84.91%
Test accuracy: 87.91%
```

With impressive accuracy of almost 88%, Support Vector Machines are taking the lead!

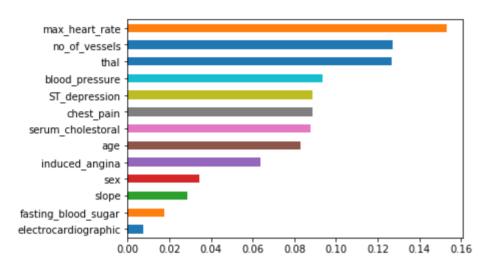
Random Forests

Random forests are an ensemble learning method for classification, regression and other tasks, that operate by constructing a multitude of decision trees at training time and outputting the class that is the mode of the classes (classification) or mean prediction (regression) of the individual trees.

```
In [32]: # Random Forests
    model = train_model(X_train, y_train, X_test, y_test, RandomForestClassifier, random_state=2606)
    pd.Series(model.feature_importances_,X.columns).sort_values(ascending=True).plot.barh()

Train accuracy: 99.06%
    Test accuracy: 83.52%
```

Out[32]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x1a1aba2198>



This result did not meet our expectations. Altering 'n_estimators' parameter will surely pull out more of this strong algorithm.

```
In [33]: # tuned Random Forests
model = train_model(X_train, y_train, X_test, y_test, RandomForestClassifier, n_estimators=110, random_state=
2606)
```

Train accuracy: 100.00% Test accuracy: 89.01%

While it is typical for Random Forests to perfectly learn and fit into training data, the test accuracy achieved outstanding 89%!

5. Conclusion

The goal of the project was to compare different machine learning algorithms and predict if a certain person, given various personal characteristics and symptoms, will get heart disease or not. Here are the final results.

```
In [35]: # create a dataframe from accuracy results
summary = pd.DataFrame({'accuracy':accuracy}, index=classifiers)
summary
```

Out[35]:

	accuracy
KNN	0.868132
Decision Trees	0.791209
Logistic Regression	0.857143
Naive Bayes	0.868132
SVM	0.879121
Random Forests	0.890110

It does not come as a surprise that the more complex algorithms like SVM and Random Forests generated better results compared to the basic ones. It is worth to emphasize that in most cases hyperparameter tuning is essential to achieve robust results out of these techniques. By producing decent results, simpler methods proved to be useful as well.

Machine learning has absolutely bright future in medical field. Just imagine a place where heart disease experts are not available. With just basic information about a certain patient's medical history, we may quite accurately predict whether a disease will occur or not.