



**+** Precision Medicine

# ANATOMOPATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS OF BREAST CANCER

Benchmark vs. Logistic Regression, Random Forest, Boosted Tree & Neural Network

UC#04 – 2025/06 (v4.0)

xtractis.ai

## PROBLEM DEFINITION

**GOAL** Design an AI-based decision system that accurately and instantly makes a rational medical diagnosis of breast cancer from microscopic images of patient mammary cells.

- PROS & BENEFITS**
- ▶ Identify the cellular characteristics involved in cancer and enhance medical knowledge by helping pathologists and oncologists understand the causal relationships between specific cell features, their combination, and the presence of cancer.
  - ▶ Help the medical profession to make earlier and more personalized decisions through rapid, systematic, and explainable diagnoses.
  - ▶ Contribute to improving patient care (pain, survival, duration of treatment) and extend access to high-level diagnoses even in medical deserts.

## REFERENCE DATA

Source:  
Dr. William H. Wolberg,  
W. Nick Street,  
Olvi L. Mangasarian –  
University of Wisconsin  
[UCI ML Repository]

**Variable to Predict:** The model makes the diagnosis of breast cells as **BENIGN | MALIGNANT**.

**Potential Predictors:** 30 variables are topological and geometric attributes of mammary cells: Radius, Texture, Perimeter, Area, Concavity, Symmetry, Smoothness....

**Observations:** 569 images of mammary cells from patients with or without cancer.

Data are divided into a Learning Dataset for model induction using Training and Validation Datasets, and an External Test Dataset to check the top model's performance on real data and for benchmarking.

Learning Dataset: 483   84.89% cases 80% for Training, 20% for Validation		External Test Dataset: 86   15.11% cases	
BENIGN	MALIGNANT	BENIGN	MALIGNANT
303   62.73%	180   37.27%	54   62.79%	32   37.21%

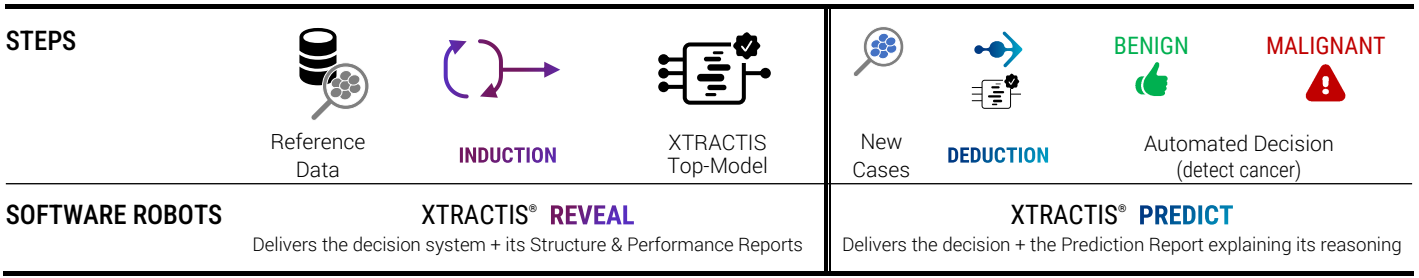
## MODEL TYPE

Regression      Multinomial Classification      **Binomial Classification**      Scoring

## XTRACTIS-INDUCED DECISION SYSTEM

- Intelligible Model, Explainable Decisions**
  - ▶ The top-model is a decision system composed of 7 gradual rules without chaining aggregated into 2 disjunctive rules.
  - ▶ Each rule uses from 2 to 5 predictors among the 13 variables that XTRACTIS automatically identified as significant (out of the 30 attributes of mammary cells describing each image).
  - ▶ Only a few rules are triggered at a time to compute the decision.
- High Predictive Capacity** It has an excellent Real Performance (on unknown data).
- Efficient AI System** It computes real-time predictions up to 70,000 decisions/second, offline or online (API).

## XTRACTIS PROCESS



## TOP-MODEL INDUCTION

### INDUCTION PARAMETERS

1. We launch 2,000 inductive reasoning strategies; each strategy is applied to 40 different 5-fold-partitions of the Learning Dataset to get a reliable assessment of the descriptive and predictive performances, respectively from Training and Validation Datasets.
2. Each strategy thus generates 200 unitary models called **Individual Virtual Expert (IVE)**, whose decisions are aggregated with 3 possible operators into a **College of Virtual Experts (CVE)**.
3. Among the 6,000 induced CVEs, the top-CVE with the best predictive performance remains complex: 1,338 rules sharing 30 predictors.

Powered by:



Given the small number of reference cases in the reference dataset, the XTRACTIS **CVE→IVE** Reverse-Engineering process is necessary to get a more intelligible model:

4. We build a synthetic dataset composed of 24,150 new cases simulated by deduction from the top-CVE, around the 483 original learning cases but distinct from them.
5. We apply 2,000 induction strategies to the same single 34% Training | 33% Validation | 33% Test partition of this new dataset: XTRACTIS induces 2,000 IVEs.
6. The top-IVE selected is the one that is the most intelligible while being as efficient as the top-CVE.

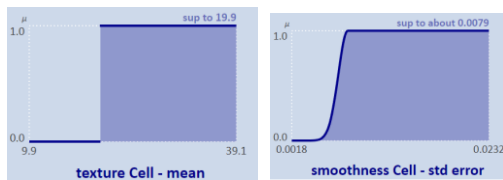
Total number of induced unitary models	Criterion for the induction optimization	Validation criterion for the top-model selection	Duration of the process (Induction Power FP64)
<b>402,000 IVEs</b>	<b>F<sub>1</sub>-Score</b>	<b>F<sub>1</sub>-Score</b>	<b>27 hours (1.13 Tflops)</b>

### TOP-MODEL STRUCTURE

The top-IVE model has an excellent intelligibility as it combines the 13 predictors into 7 rules with 3 predictors per rule on average. Its Structure Report reveals all the internal logic of the decision system and ensures that the model is understandable by the human expert. It is a transparent model that can be audited and certified before deployment to end-users.

#### PREDICTORS

- 13 cell characteristics out of 30
- Ranked by individual contribution (4 medium & 9 weak signals):  
#1 *Perimeter Cell...* / #2 *Concave points Cell...* / ...
- Labeled by fuzzy and binary classes  
Examples: **binary interval** "sup. to 19.9"  
**fuzzy interval** "sup. to about 0.0079"



#### RULES

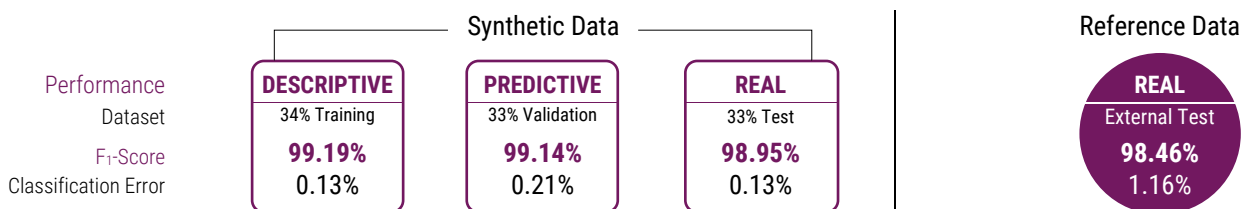
- 7 connective fuzzy rules without chaining (aggregated into 2 disjunctive fuzzy rules)
- 2 to 5 predictors per rule (on average, 3.1 predictors per rule)
- Example: fuzzy rule **R5** uses 3 predictors and concludes **MALIGNANT**. 6 other rules complete this model, including 2 binary rules.

IF	texture Cell - mean	IS	sup. to 19.9
AND	smoothness Cell - std error	IS	sup. to ~0.0079
AND	area Cell - mean_3_largest	IS	sup. to 797
THEN	Diagnosis	IS	MALIGNANT

Literally, the cells image indicates a malignant tumor diagnosis if the "texture Cell - mean" is superior to 19.9, and the "smoothness Cell - std error" is above around 0.0079, and the "area Cell - mean\_3\_largest" is superior to 797.

### TOP-MODEL PERFORMANCE

The top-IVE performances, measured in Training/Validation/Test on synthetic data, then in External Test on reference data, guarantee the model's predictive and real performances.



# EXPLAINED PREDICTIONS FOR 2 UNKNOWN CASES

## CASE

(from the External Dataset, i.e., not included in the Learning Dataset)

## DEDUCTIVE INFERENCE OF RULES

## AUTOMATED DECISION

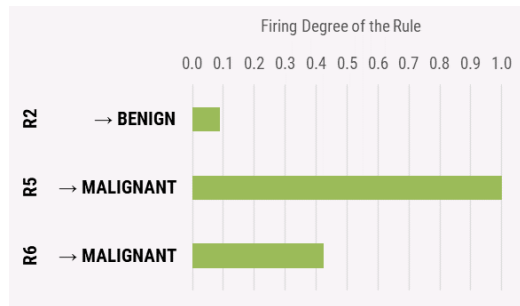
### PATIENT #881094802

actual value = MALIGNANT

texture Cell - mean	25.6
smoothness Cell - mean	0.101
concavity Cell - mean	0.168
concave points Cell - mean	0.066
symmetry Cell - mean	0.131
smoothness Cell - std error*	0.0311
radius Cell - mean_3_largest	18.1
texture Cell - mean_3_largest	28.1
perimeter Cell - mean_3_largest	120
area Cell - mean_3_largest	1,021
smoothness Cell - mean_3_largest	0.124
concavity Cell - mean_3_largest	0.28
concave points Cell - mean_3_largest	0.110



For this patient, 3 rules are triggered:  
**R5** is fired at 1.000, **R6** at 0.424, and **R2** at 0.089.  
 R1, R3, R4, and R7 are not activated.



NUMBER OF TRIGGERED RULES  
3 / 7

FUZZY PREDICTION  
{ MALIGNANT | 1.000,  
BENIGN | 0.089 }

FINAL PREDICTION  
{ MALIGNANT }

The system delivers a correct diagnosis of cancer compared to that given by the pathologist:

**MALIGNANT**  
⚠️

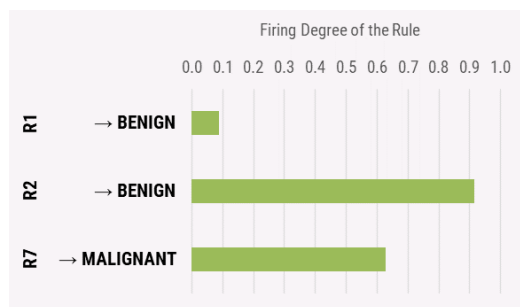
### PATIENT #866458

actual value = BENIGN

texture Cell - mean	16.4
smoothness Cell - mean	0.115
concavity Cell - mean	0.114
concave points Cell - mean	0.085
symmetry Cell - mean	0.200
smoothness Cell - std error	0.0090
radius Cell - mean_3_largest	16.1
texture Cell - mean_3_largest	18.3
perimeter Cell - mean_3_largest	106
area Cell - mean_3_largest	763
smoothness Cell - mean_3_largest	0.139
concavity Cell - mean_3_largest	0.20
concave points Cell - mean_3_largest	0.142



For this patient, 3 rules are triggered:  
**R2** is fired at 0.914, **R7** at 0.629, and **R1** at 0.088.  
 R3, R4, R5, and R6 are not activated.



NUMBER OF TRIGGERED RULES  
3 / 7

FUZZY PREDICTION  
{ BENIGN | 0.914,  
MALIGNANT | 0.629 }


FINAL PREDICTION  
{ BENIGN }

The system delivers a correct diagnosis of cancer compared to that given by the pathologist:

**BENIGN**  
👍

\*Predictor value outside the variation range of the model but inside the allowed extrapolation range. XTRACTIS will refuse to give a result for an extrapolation far from the allowed extrapolation range. It is one situation of the "Refusal" prediction.

# TOP-MODELS BENCHMARK: DECISION STRUCTURE & INTELLIGIBILITY × PERFORMANCE SCORES

	XTRACTIS 	LOGISTIC REGRESSION	RANDOM FOREST	BOOSTED TREE	NEURAL NETWORK	
<b>MODELING PARAMETERS</b>	<b>MODELS RELEASE</b>	2022/02	2022/09	2022/08	2022/07	2022/09
	<b>ALGORITHM VERSION</b>	XTRACTIS REVEAL 12.1.42004	Python 3.7; Scikit-learn 1.0.2	Python 3.6; LightGBM 2.2.2	Python 3.6; LightGBM 2.2.2	Python 3.6; TensorFlow 2.6.2, Keras 2.6.0
	<b>CROSS-VALIDATION TECHNIQUE</b>	40x5 folds for each CVE model. Then 1-Split Validation for each IVE model: 34% Training   33% Validation   33% Test	40x5 folds for each CVE model	40x5 folds for each CVE model	40x5 folds for each CVE model	40x5 folds for each CVE model
	<b>NUMBER OF EXPLORED STRATEGIES<sup>(1)</sup></b>	2,000 induction strategies for the CVE on Training / Validation data. 2,000 induction strategies for the IVE on synthetic data	2,000 data analysis strategies on Training / Validation data	1,020 ML strategies on Training / Validation data	1,000 ML strategies on Training / Validation data	2,000 ML strategies on Training / Validation data
	<b>TOP-MODEL SELECTION<sup>(2)</sup></b>	Top-CVE among 6,000 CVEs. Then Top-IVE among 2,000 IVEs	Top-CVE among 2,000 CVEs	Top-CVE among 1,020 CVEs	Top-CVE among 1,000 CVEs	Top-CVE among 2,000 CVEs

<b>TOP-MODEL STRUCTURE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PREDICTORS</b> (out of 30 Potential Predictors)	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
	<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF PREDICTORS PER RULE / EQUATION</b>	<b>3.1</b> per rule	<b>5</b> per equation	<b>4.3</b> per rule	<b>3.6</b> per rule	<b>34.2</b> per equation
	<b>STRUCTURE OF THE DECISION SYSTEM</b>	<b>7</b> fuzzy rules without chaining (aggregated into 2 disjunctive fuzzy rules)  Only a few rules are triggered at a time to compute a decision	<b>1</b> linear equation	<b>22</b> trees without chaining <b>379</b> binary rules	<b>1</b> chain of <b>34</b> trees <b>359</b> binary rules  Tree #N corrects the error of the N-1 previous trees	<b>2</b> hidden layers   <b>64</b> hidden nodes <b>65</b> equations  64 unintelligible synthetic variables

	Random <sup>(3)</sup>	XTRACTIS	LoR	RFo	BT	NN	
<b>INTELLIGIBILITY Score<sup>(4)</sup></b>		<b>4.78</b>	<b>4.14</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
CVE Real Performance (F1-Score) in External Test		96.99	95.38	91.43	90.91	95.52	
<b>Gap to CVE Leader in External Test</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>-1.61</b>	<b>-5.56</b>	<b>-6.08</b>	<b>-1.47</b>	
IVE Real Performance (F1-Score) in External Test	37.81	98.46	95.38	84.21	88.57	98.46	
<b>Gap to IVE Leader in External Test</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>-3.08</b>	<b>-14.25</b>	<b>-9.89</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
Average Real Performance in External Test	37.81	97.73	95.38	87.82	89.74	96.99	
<b>PERFORMANCE Score<sup>(4)</sup></b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>-2.35</b>	<b>-9.90</b>	<b>-7.99</b>	<b>-0.73</b>	

(1) For all algos: on the same Learning Dataset. All Models are optimized according to their Validation F1-Score.

(2) All top-models are selected according to their Validation F1-Score while checking that it remains close to their Training F1-Score.

(3) Baseline performances that models must exceed to perform better than chance (P-value = 0.001; 100,000 models generated by random permutation of the output values). The value of each performance criterion is generally achieved by a different random model.

(4) See Appendices for explanations and detailed results. Performance Scores are calculated on all available unknown data.

More Use Cases:  
[xtractis.ai/use-cases/](https://xtractis.ai/use-cases/)

## APPENDIX 1 – Calculation of the Intelligibility × Performance Scores

AI Technique #i	T <sub>i</sub>	i ∈ [1 ; n] n = number of AI Techniques benchmarked in terms of data-driven modeling = 5
Benchmark #k	B <sub>k</sub>	k ∈ [1 ; p] p = number of Benchmarks for the Use Case ∈ {1, 2, 3}

**Remarks:**

- In case of a small number of reference data, a CVE model (College of Virtual Experts) is generated by each explored strategy of T<sub>i</sub>, generally via an N×K-fold cross validation. In this case, a Benchmark is led with the top-CVE on the External Test Dataset (ETD, composed of unknown reference cases). Then, a top-IVE model (Individual Virtual Expert) is generated from the top-CVE, through the XTRACTIS® reverse-engineering process, or for the other T<sub>i</sub>, by applying the top-strategy, which has generated the top-CVE, on the Training and Validation Datasets. And a second Benchmark is led with this top-IVE on the same ETD.
- In case of a huge number of reference data, an IVE is generated by each explored strategy of T<sub>i</sub>, via a 1-split validation. In this case, Benchmarks are led with the top-IVE on the Test Dataset (TD, composed of unknown reference cases) and on the available ETDs.
- Each Benchmark uses the latest versions of the following algorithms available at the date of the benchmark. XTRACTIS®: REVEAL; Logistic Regression: Python, Scikit-Learn; Random Forest & Boosted Tree: Python, LightGBM; Neural Network: Python, TensorFlow, Keras.
- Each B<sub>k</sub> uses exactly the same TD and ETD for each T<sub>i</sub> model.
- No Regression models can be obtained by Logistic Regression. So, this Data Analysis technique is benchmarked only for Classification or Scoring problems.
- The Holy Grail for critical AI-based decision systems is to obtain a model with the highest Performance and the highest Intelligibility scores (top-right corner of the graph).

### PERFORMANCE Score

For each B<sub>k</sub>, we calculate the values of the Performance Criterion (PC) on the same ETD for all the T<sub>i</sub> top-CVEs; and on the same TD and ETDs for all the T<sub>i</sub> top-IVEs. The PC is: RMSE in percentage for a Regression; F<sub>1</sub>-Score for a Binomial Classification; Average F<sub>1</sub>-Score or Average F<sub>2</sub>-Score for a Multinomial Classification; Gini index for a Scoring. Then, we compare the value of the PC of each T<sub>i</sub> top-CVE (resp. top-IVE) to the best value of this PC reached by the best T<sub>i</sub> top-CVE (resp. top-IVE) on ETD (resp. on TD and ETDs).

For Regression, we calculate for each T<sub>i</sub> top-model (CVE and IVE): PS(T<sub>i</sub>, B<sub>k</sub>) = Best\_PC(B<sub>k</sub>) - PC(T<sub>i</sub>, B<sub>k</sub>).

For Classification and Scoring, we calculate for each T<sub>i</sub> top-model: PS(T<sub>i</sub>, B<sub>k</sub>) = PC(T<sub>i</sub>, B<sub>k</sub>) - Best\_PC(B<sub>k</sub>).

$$\text{Performance Score of } T_i$$

$$\text{PS}(T_i) = \text{Mean} (\text{PS}(T_i, B_k))_{k \in [1 ; p]}$$

**Remark:**

- Each PS varies theoretically from -100 (Lowest Score) to 0 (Highest Score), but practically between -50 and 0.

### INTELLIGIBILITY Score

We consider the T<sub>i</sub> top-IVE. Its Intelligibility Score IS(T<sub>i</sub>) is valued from 0.00 to 5.00 regarding the structure of the model: number of predictors, classes, rules, equations, trees, synthetic variables, modalities to predict for classifications (or numeric variables to predict for regressions or scoring). The more compact the model, the higher its IS.

The IS of each T<sub>i</sub> is obtained by accumulating the following five penalty values to the ideal IS value of 5.00 (each penalty has a null or a negative value):

- Penalty 1 (logarithmic penalty regarding the number of predictors):

$$\text{Pen1}(T_i) = \min(0, 1 - \log_{10} \text{number of predictors})$$

Examples: Pen1 = 0.00 for up to 10 predictors  
Pen1 = -3.00 for 10.000 predictors

- Penalty 2 (linear penalty regarding the average number of rules or equations per variable or modality to predict):

$$\text{Pen2}(T_i) = \min\left(0, \frac{1 - \text{average number of rules or equations per variable or modality to predict}}{40}\right)$$

Examples: Pen2 = 0.00 for 1 rule or equation per variable or modality to predict on average  
Pen2 = -3.00 for 121 rules or equations per variable or modality to predict on average

- Penalty 3 (linear penalty regarding the average number of predictors per rule or equation):

$$\text{Pen3}(T_i) = \min\left(0, \frac{9 - 3 \times \text{average number of predictors per rule or equation}}{7}\right)$$

Examples: Pen3 = 0.00 for up to 3.0 predictors per rule or equation on average  
Pen3 = -3.00 for 10.0 predictors per rule or equation on average

- Penalty 4 (linear penalty regarding the number of chained trees, here for BT only):

$$\text{Pen4}(T_i) = \min(0, 1 - \text{number of chained trees})$$

Examples: Pen4 = 0.00 for 1 tree  
Pen4 = -3.00 for 4 chained trees

- Penalty 5 (maximum penalty due to unintelligibility of synthetic variables, here for NN only):

$$\text{Pen5}(T_i) = -5$$

#### Intelligibility Score of T<sub>i</sub>

$$\text{IS}(T_i) = \max(0.00, 5.00 + (\text{Pen1} + \text{Pen2} + \text{Pen3} + \text{Pen4} + \text{Pen5}))$$

**Remarks:**

- For the difference between the Intelligibility and the Explainability of a model, please see the XTRACTIS® Brochure, page 7.
- The real complexity of the process/phenomenon under study is intrinsic, i.e., it could not be reduced or simplified, but only discovered; thus, the top-model will be complex if the process/phenomenon turns out to be complex [Zalila 2017]. Consequently, for some complex process/phenomenon, IS can be equal to 3.00 or less, even if T<sub>i</sub> natively produces intelligible models (XTRACTIS, Random Forest).
- For similar structures, the Boosted Tree model is always less intelligible than the Random Forest one, as it is composed of chains of trees, instead of a college of trees (see Penalty 4).
- Neural Network model has always the lowest IS of 0.00, because it uses synthetic unintelligible variables (hidden nodes) in addition to all the potential predictors (see Penalty 5).

### APPENDIX 2 – Use Case Results (all Performance criteria of all Top-Models)

Performance Criterion	Classification Error	Min. Sensitivity Specificity	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV	F <sub>1</sub> -Score	Refusal
<b>RANDOM MODEL</b>								
<i>Number of Random Permutations (P-value) = 100,000 (0.001%)</i>								
<i>Performance against chance (External Test)</i>	45.43%	37.81%					<b>37.81%</b>	
<b>XTRACTIS TOP-MODEL</b>								
CVE - Descriptive Performance (Training)	0.83%	97.78%	97.78%	100.00%	100.00%	98.70%	98.88%	0 (0.00%)
CVE - Predictive Performance (Validation)	0.62%	98.33%	98.33%	100.00%	100.00%	99.02%	99.16%	0 (0.00%)
CVE - Real Performance (External Test)	2.33%	96.30%	100.00%	96.30%	94.12%	100.00%	<b>96.99%</b>	0 (0.00%)
IVE - Descriptive Performance (Training)	0.13%	99.85%	99.90%	99.85%	99.73%	99.94%	99.19%	0 (0.00%)
IVE - Predictive Performance (Validation)	0.21%	99.78%	99.79%	99.78%	99.62%	99.88%	99.14%	0 (0.00%)
IVE - Real Performance (Test)	0.13%	98.84%	99.93%	99.84%	99.73%	99.96%	98.95%	0 (0.00%)
IVE - Real Performance (483 original points)	0.83%	97.78%	97.78%	100.00%	100.00%	98.70%	98.88%	0 (0.00%)
IVE - Real Performance (External Test)	1.16%	98.15%	100.00%	98.15%	96.97%	100.00%	<b>98.46%</b>	0 (0.00%)
<b>LOGISTIC REGRESSION TOP-MODEL</b>								
CVE - Descriptive Performance (Training)	3.11%	95.00%	95.00%	98.02%	96.61%	97.06%	95.80%	
CVE - Predictive Performance (Validation)	1.66%	97.22%	97.22%	99.01%	98.31%	98.36%	97.77%	
CVE - Real Performance (External Test)	3.49%	96.30%	96.88%	96.30%	93.94%	98.11%	<b>95.38%</b>	
IVE - Descriptive Performance (Training)	2.69%	95.56%	95.56%	98.35%	97.18%	97.39%	96.36%	
IVE - Real Performance (External Test)	3.49%	96.30%	96.88%	96.30%	93.94%	98.11%	<b>95.38%</b>	
<b>RANDOM FOREST TOP-MODEL</b>								
CVE - Descriptive Performance (Training)	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	
CVE - Predictive Performance (Validation)	1.86%	96.67%	96.67%	99.01%	98.31%	98.04%	97.48%	
CVE - Real Performance (External Test)	6.98%	88.88%	100.00%	88.88%	84.21%	100.00%	<b>91.43%</b>	
IVE - Descriptive Performance (Training)	0.21%	99.67%	100.00%	99.67%	99.45%	100.00%	99.72%	
IVE - Real Performance (External Test)	13.95%	77.77%	100.00%	77.77%	72.73%	100.00%	<b>84.21%</b>	
<b>BOOSTED TREE TOP-MODEL</b>								
CVE - Descriptive Performance (Training)	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	
CVE - Predictive Performance (Validation)	1.24%	96.67%	96.67%	100.00%	100.00%	98.06%	98.31%	
CVE - Real Performance (External Test)	6.97%	92.59%	93.75%	92.59%	88.24%	96.15%	<b>90.91%</b>	
IVE - Descriptive Performance (Training)	0.21%	99.44%	99.44%	100.00%	100.00%	99.67%	99.72%	
IVE - Real Performance (External Test)	9.30%	87.04%	96.87%	87.04%	81.58%	97.92%	<b>88.57%</b>	
<b>NEURAL NETWORK TOP-MODEL</b>								
CVE - Descriptive Performance (Training)	2.69%	97.22%	97.22%	97.36%	95.63%	98.33%	96.42%	
CVE - Predictive Performance (Validation)	2.28%	97.22%	97.22%	98.02%	96.69%	98.34%	96.95%	
CVE - Real Performance (External Test)	3.49%	94.44%	100.00%	94.44%	91.43%	100.00%	<b>95.52%</b>	
IVE - Descriptive Performance (Training)	1.45%	97.22%	97.22%	99.34%	100.00%	100.00%	98.04%	
IVE - Real Performance (External Test)	1.16%	98.15%	100.00%	98.15%	96.97%	100.00%	<b>98.46%</b>	

The entirety of this document is protected by copyright. All rights are reserved, particularly the rights of reproduction and distribution. Quotations from any part of the document must necessarily include the following reference:  
**Zalila, Z., Idagrai Labs & Xtractis (2002-2025). XTRACTIS® the Reasoning AI for Trusted Decisions. Use Case #04 | Precision Medicine: Anatomopathological Diagnosis of Breast Cancer – Benchmark vs. Logistic Regression, Random Forest, Boosted Tree & Neural Network. IDAGRAI LABS, June 2025, v4.0, Compiègne, France, 6p.**