Lending Club Case Study

Background:

- Lending Club (LC) is the world's largest peer-to-peer lending company, headquartered in San Francisco, California
- It was the first peer-to-peer lender to register its offerings as securities with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and to offer loan trading on a secondary market.

How it Work's:

- Customers interested in a loan complete a simple application at LendingClub.com.
- Lending Club leverages data and technology to screen borrowers, facilitate the transaction with appropriate interest rates, and service the loan.
- Qualified applicants receive loan offers and can evaluate their options with no impact to their credit score.
- Investors select the loans they want to invest in based on their own risk tolerance, investment portfolio goals, and time horizon.
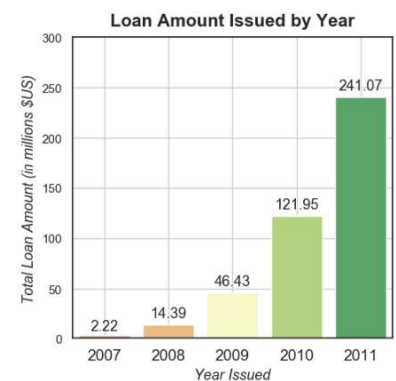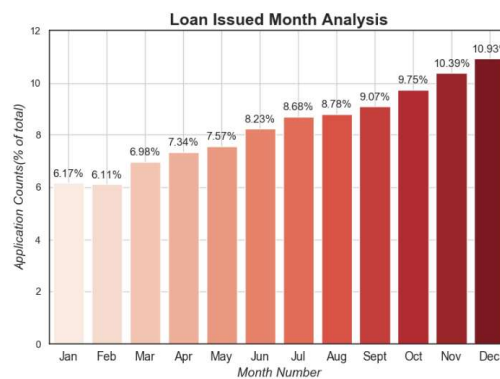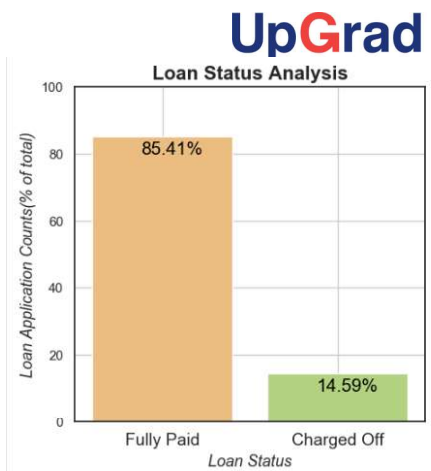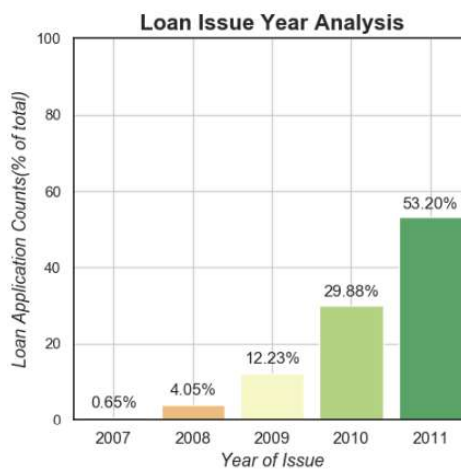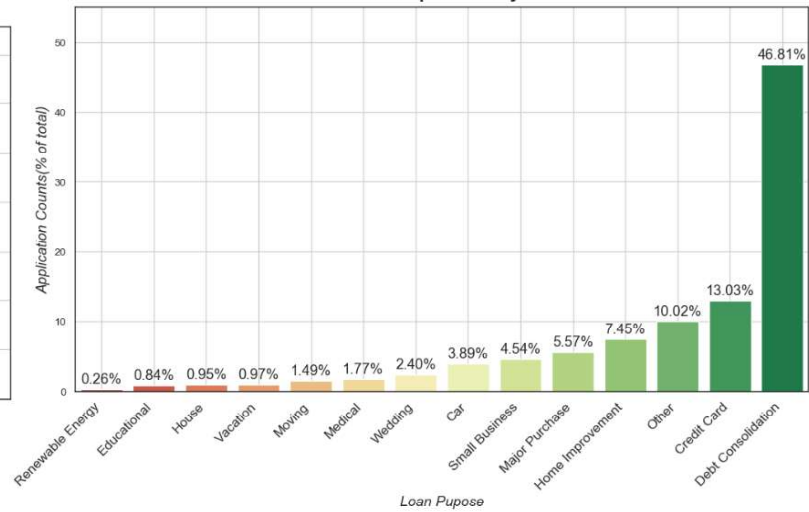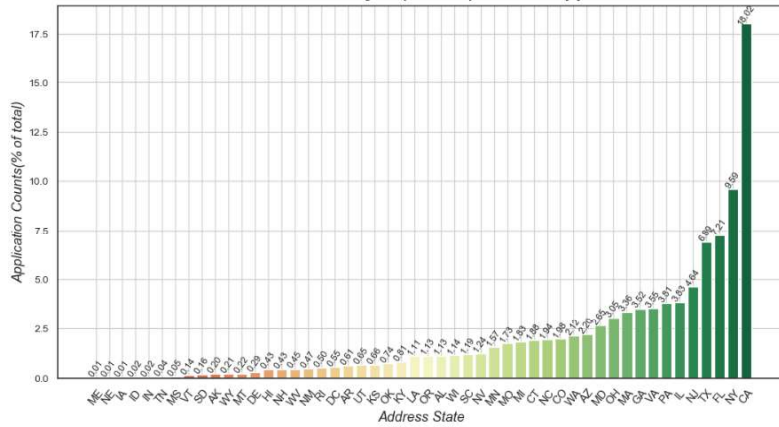
Objective :

- Identify variables that provide strong indicators of potential loan default thus helping Lending club to decide approval/rejection of loan.

Univariate Analysis: Insights

- Overall Default Rate stands at 14.59%.

- Approval rate of loans jumped by around 78% from the year 2010 to 2011.

- Approval Rate of loans is higher during the Holiday Season (November & December).

- Approved Loan amount almost doubled between years' 2010 and 2011.

Loan Issue Year Analysis

Loan Status Analysis

Loan Issued Month Analysis

Loan Amount Issued by Year

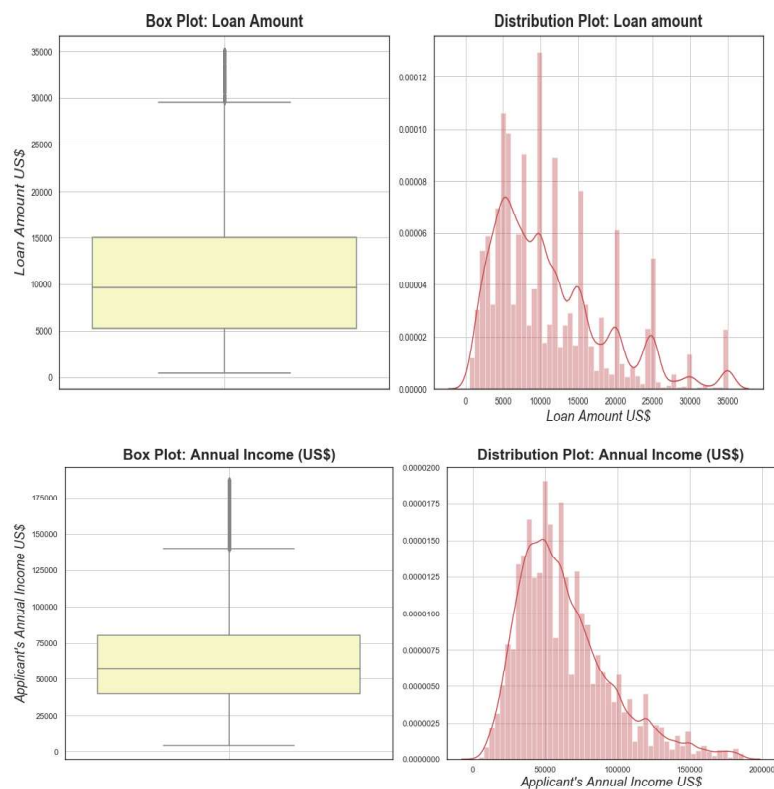Address State Analysis(% wise) of Loan Applicants

Loan Purpose Analysis

- 'Debt Consolidation' followed by 'Credit card', are the top two reasons for loan applications amongst approved loans.

- California has more than twice as many approved applicants as compared to any other state

Univariate Analysis: Insights

- 50% of loan applicants request a loan amount between 5.3K USD and 15K USD.

- Annual Income was highly skewed as expected; ignoring the outliers, the average salary of applicants is 68.78K USD.

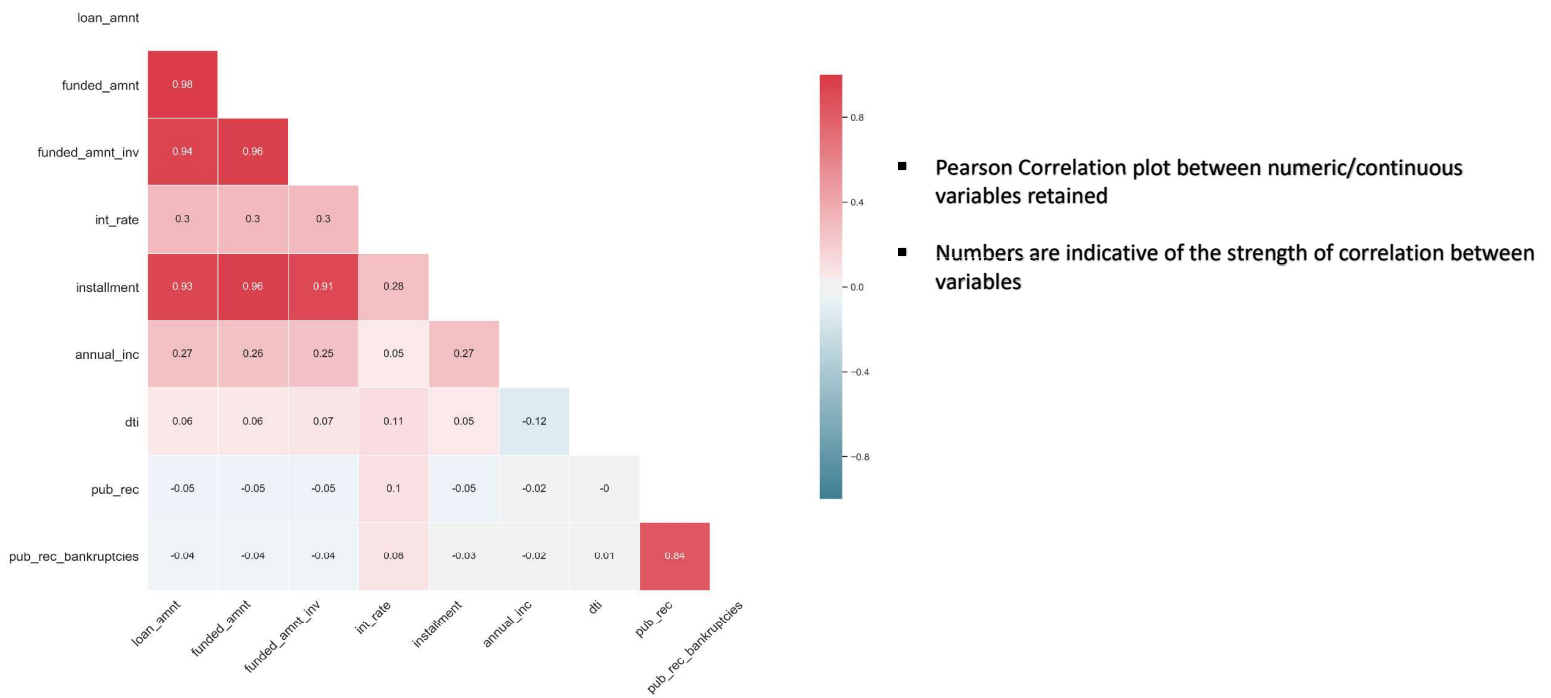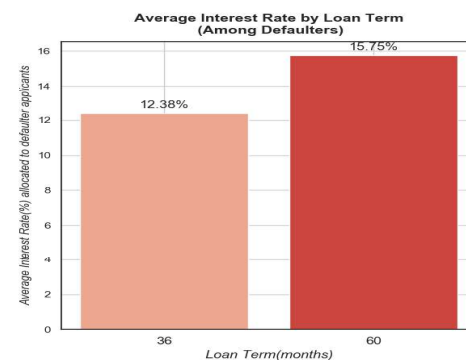- 50% of the applicants earn between 40K USD and 82K USD annually.

Box Plot: Loan Amount

Distribution Plot: Loan amount

Box Plot: Annual Income (US$)

Distribution Plot: Annual Income (US$)

Bivariate Analysis

Correlation Matrix

- Pearson Correlation plot between numeric/continuous variables retained

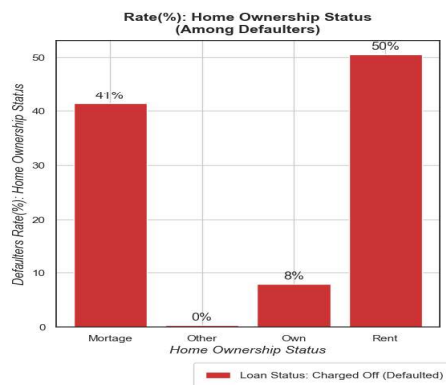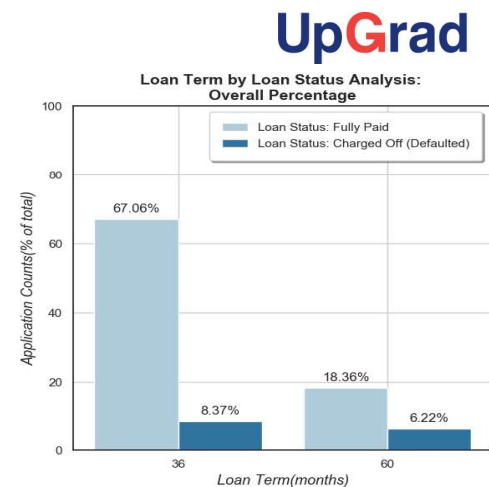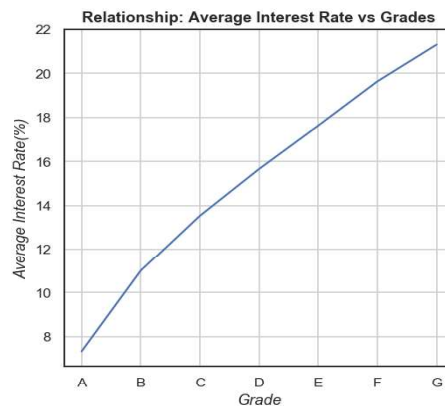- Numbers are indicative of the strength of correlation between variables

Bivariate Analysis

- Average Interest rates increase as the risk associated with the applicants increase, which can be denoted by the grades assigned to applications. It is an effective process to follow.

- Loan approved for 36 months seems to have a greater % of defaulters as compared to loans approved for 60 months term.

- 91 % of the defaulters already have a mortgage taken out or live on rent.

- Average Interest rate for defaulted applications is very high with 12.38 % for 36 months and 15.75 % for 60 months term.
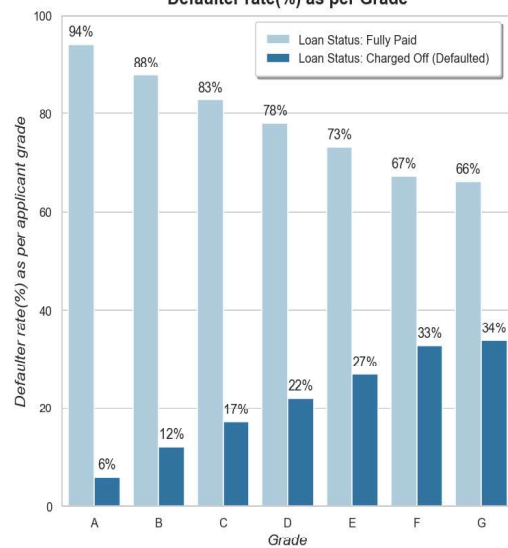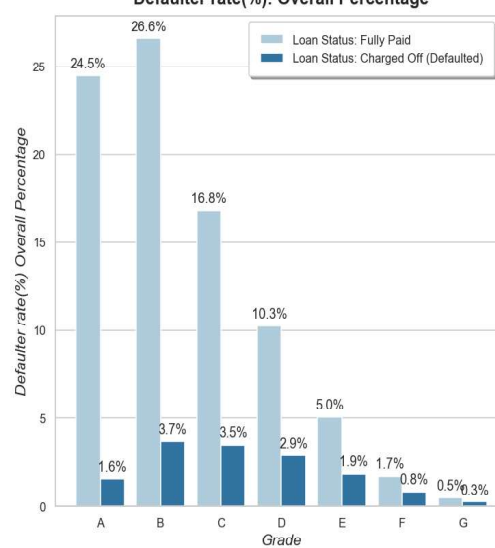

Relationship: Average Interest Rate vs Grades

Loan Term by Loan Status Analysis: Overall Percentage

Rate(%): Home Ownership Status (Among Defaulters)

Average Interest Rate by Loan Term (Among Defaulters)

Bivariate Analysis: Grade Vs Loan Status

**Defaulter rate(%) as per Grade**

**Defaulter rate(%): Overall Percentage**

- Percentage of defaulters is significantly high within the grade categories, 'F' and 'G'. LC should be more vigilant while approving loan applications for high risk applicants.

- Largest Proportion of approved loan defaulters belong to Grade 'B'(3.7%) and 'C'(3.5%) category.

Bivariate Analysis: Loan Status Vs Loan Amount & Income

Defaulter Rate(%) as per Loan Amount: Category-wise
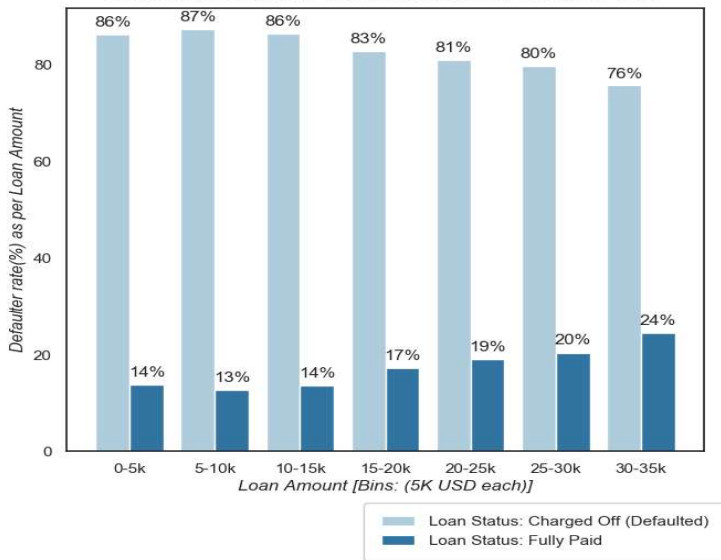
Defaulter Rate(%): Overall Percentage
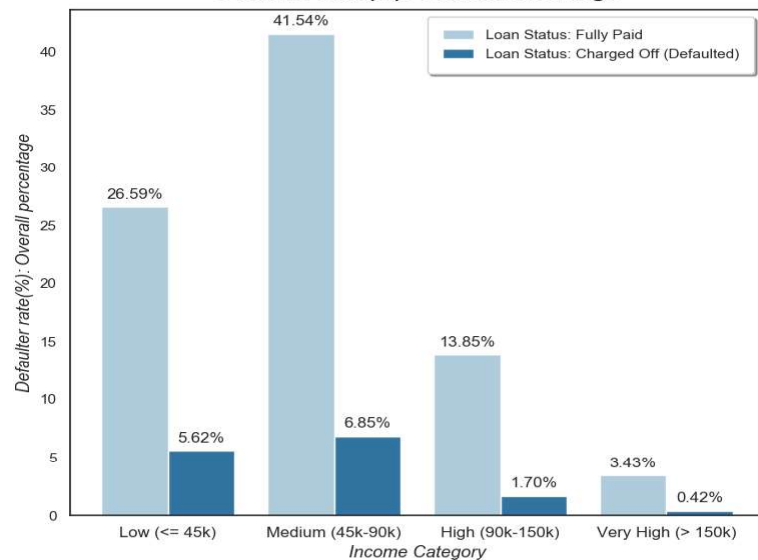
- Binning of Requested Loan amount clearly shows that 'defaulter rate' increases as the requested loan amount Increases

- Loan applicants from 'Low'(<=45K USD) and 'Medium'(45K-90K USD) income group have a greater share of defaulted loans

UpGrad

Defaulter rate(%) as per Employment Length

Defaulter rate(%): Overall Percentage

Address State Analysis(% wise) of Defaulter Applicants
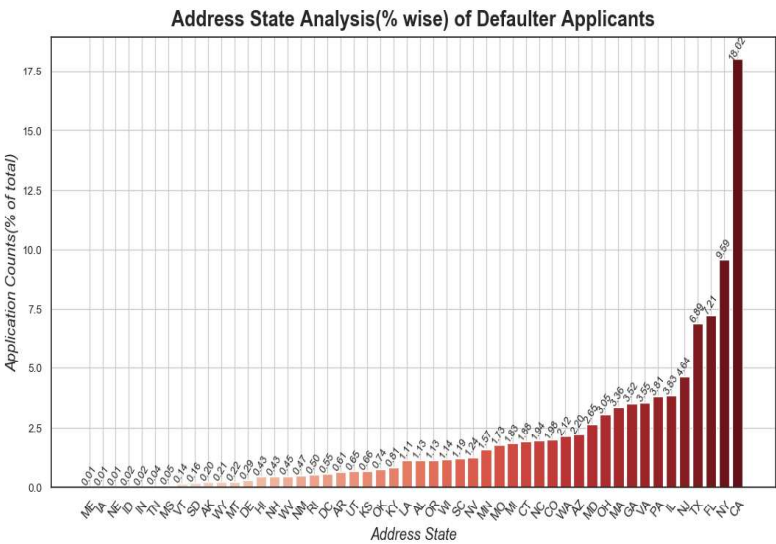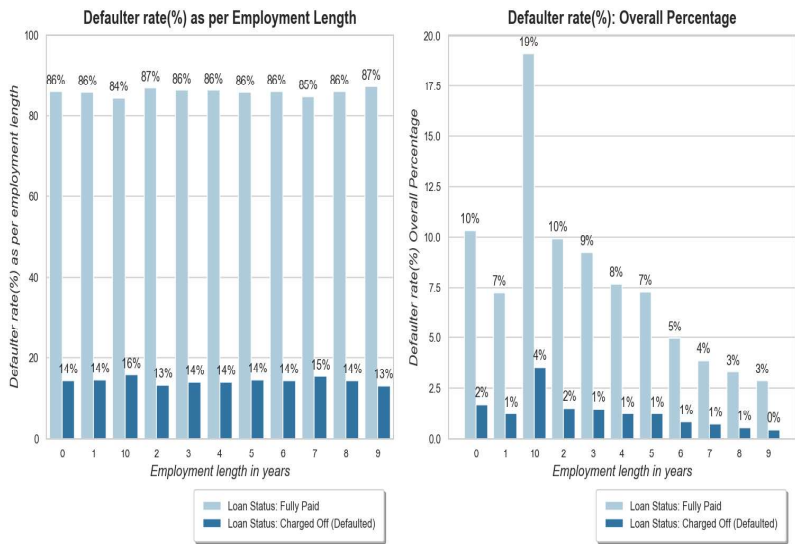
- Maximum percentage of defaulters are found in the 10 years (4%) employment year category. After it, we see applicants with less years of experience i.e. around 0 to 2 years, following the trend.

- An interesting insight shows that almost 41% of defaulters hail from just 4 states namely California, New York , Florida and Texas.

Conclusion:

Driving Factors (or driver variables):

- **Loan Term** :- Average Interest rate for defaulted applications is very high with 12.38 % for 36 months and 15.75 % for 60 months term.

- **Grade** :- Default Rate is high in high risk loan applicants. It would be important for LC to thoroughly vet high risk loan applications.

- **Loan Amount** :- Defaulter rate increases as the requested loan amount increases.

- **Annual Income** :- Applicants from 'Low'(<=45K USD) and 'Medium'(45K-90K USD) income group have a greater share of defaulted loans.

- **Employment Length** : Maximum number of defaulters have 10/10+ years of experience and 0 to 2 years of experience. Hence, LC should be take this aspect into consideration while lending loans.

- **Loan Purpose** :- The top two reasons for loans are debt consolidation and credit card. Such applications should be carefully assessed.