

Credit Card Default Prediction Project Report

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Summary and Introduction

Executive Summary

Here we are attempting to build a classification model using various classifiers including RBF SVM, Random Forest and Logistic Regression to predict whether the customer will default on the credit card. Our chosen classifier, Logistic Regression, performed well on the test set, with the ROC AUC score of 0.768. However, as the stronger emphasis is on correctly identifying the default class, it is alarming to see relatively low scores on both f1 and recall metrics across all the classifiers tested. It is therefore recommended to further improve this model, following the suggestions that are noted in the later portion of this report.

Introduction

Research Question

Credit cards are now an extremely common means of transaction that most of the adult consumers possess these days. It is therefore very important for the credit card issuing companies to be able to predict and work with the possibilities of their customers not being able to make their default payments. With this in mind, our research question that we aim to answer is: given characteristics (gender, education, age, marriage) and payment history of a customer, is he or she likely to default on the credit card payment next month?

Data

The data set that we used was put together by I-Cheng Yeh at the Department of Information Management, Chung Hua University, in Taiwan. The data set itself was sourced from the UCI Machine Learning Repository and can be found here <https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets/default+of+credit+card+clients>. Each row in the data set represents variables associated with a customer and his or her credit card payment information, including a boolean value of default. There are 30,000 observations in the data set and 23 features. There are no observations with missing values or duplicated rows in the data set.

Initial EDA

Distribution of target variables

We explored the distribution of the target variables and spotted class imbalance. Our training data contained only 22.3% of class 1 (default) in the target variable. We decided to balance the class during model training by setting `class_weight` to 'balanced'.

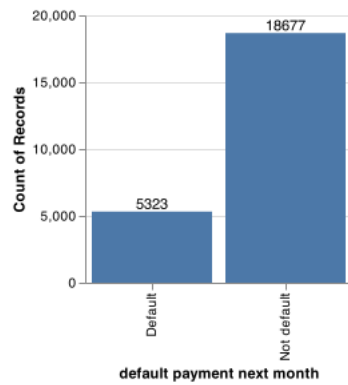


Fig. 1 Distribution of targets

Distribution of numeric and categorical features by target variable

We had 22 features and we wanted to see if any feature contributed significantly to the classification of the target variable to the extent that we could see it by plotting the distribution of each feature by the target class. We plotted the distribution of each numeric and categorical feature from the training set and colored the distribution by class (default: blue, not default: orange). We saw that the distributions below overlapped for the two classes and they looked quite similar in a lot of cases.

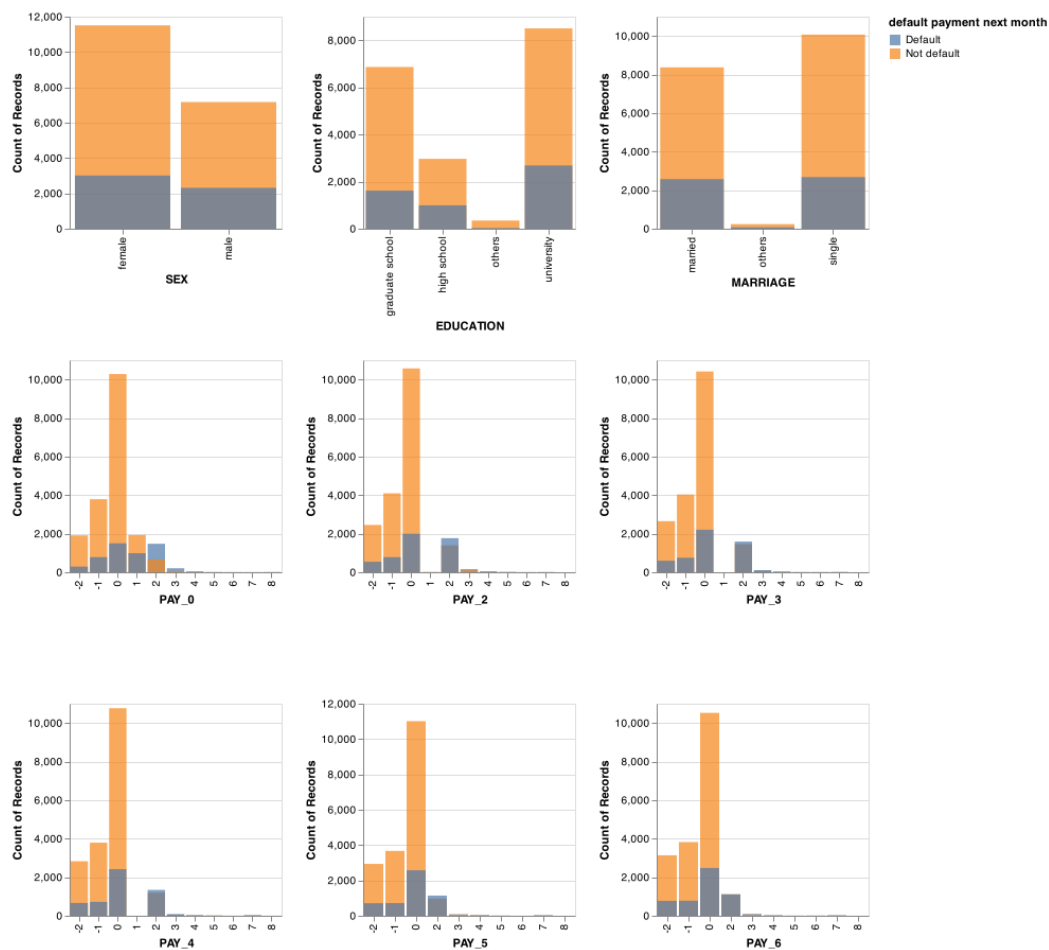


Fig. 2 Distribution of categorical features

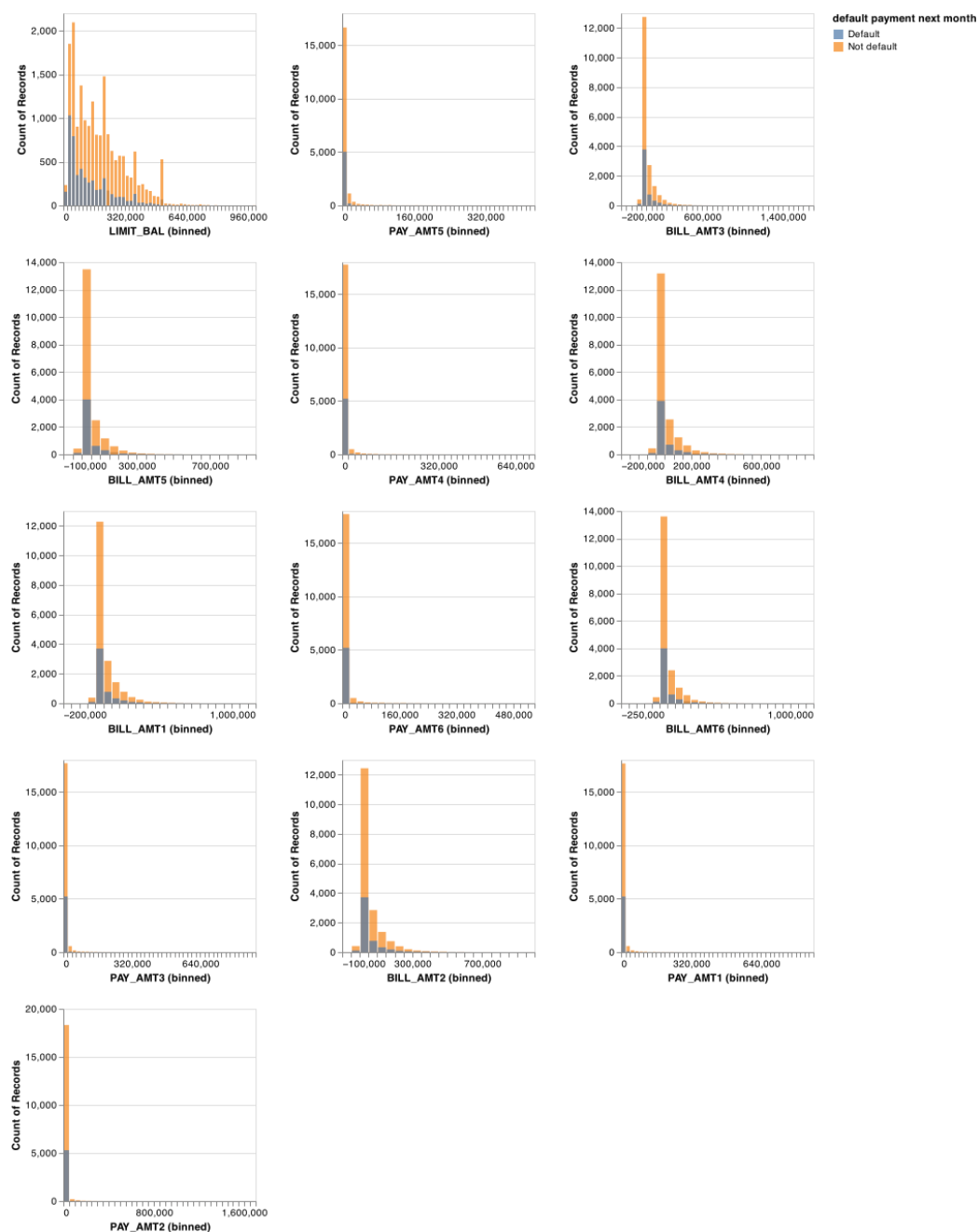


Fig. 3 Distribution of numerical features

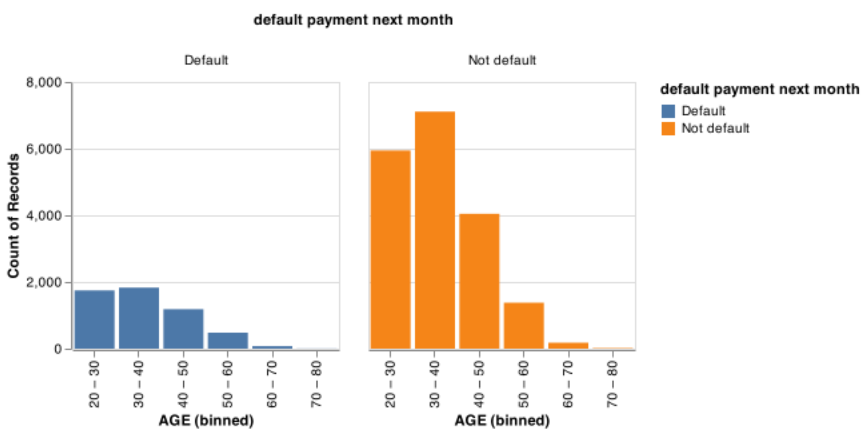


Fig. 4 Distribution of age by target

Analysis

Splitting and cleaning the data

We split our data into train and test data frames with the default setting of 0.2 split ratio. We then converted the categorical features to contain more meaningful strings as their values and the outcome file is saved in the data folder as train_visual.csv file.

Preprocessing

Since our data was relatively clean, we applied Standard Scaling on the numeric features and One Hot Encoding on the categorical features.

Choosing the best model

We trained and cross-validated the training dataset on Decision Tree, SVC, Random Forest and Logistic Regression. We also utilized class_weight parameter and set it as 'balanced' to deal with the class imbalance that was observed during the initial EDA. According to our model training, Logistic Regression gave the best validation scores using ROC_AUC as the scoring method.

	Dummy Classifier	Decision Tree	RBF SVM	Random Forest	Logistic Regression
fit_time	0.022905	0.346573	29.492604	2.534538	0.461623
score_time	0.014880	0.015212	19.465425	0.164080	0.013778
test_accuracy	0.778208	0.732208	0.775208	0.814750	0.774958
test_f1	0.000000	0.397375	0.531159	0.451018	0.531616
test_recall	0.000000	0.398270	0.574111	0.343226	0.575805
test_precision	0.000000	0.396708	0.494466	0.659219	0.493954
test_roc_auc	0.500000	0.612886	0.765369	0.766240	0.768365

Fig. 5 Validation scores of different classification models

Hypertuning the model

On our selected model, we tuned the parameters class_weight and C of the Logistic Regression. We obtained our best parameters and the best model which is saved as the pickle file.

C: float, default=1.0

Inverse of regularization strength; must be a positive float.

class_weight: dict or 'balanced', default=None

Weights associated with classes in the form {class_label: weight}.

Results

Model Results

We evaluated the model from pickle on the test dataset and we obtained comparable test scores to the validation score. We begin our analysis by looking at the classification report provided below.

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
No-churn	0.876554	0.827182	0.851153	4687.000
Churn	0.486367	0.584158	0.530796	1313.000
accuracy	0.774000	0.774000	0.774000	0.774
macro avg	0.681460	0.705670	0.690974	6000.000
weighted avg	0.791168	0.774000	0.781048	6000.000

Fig. 6 Classification report of the predictions

We observe that the recall for the weighted average is better, with a higher F-1 score as well. This would mean that even though we have class imbalance, the model performs fairly well for both the categories. Another way to visualize this is by looking at the Confusion Matrix plotted below.

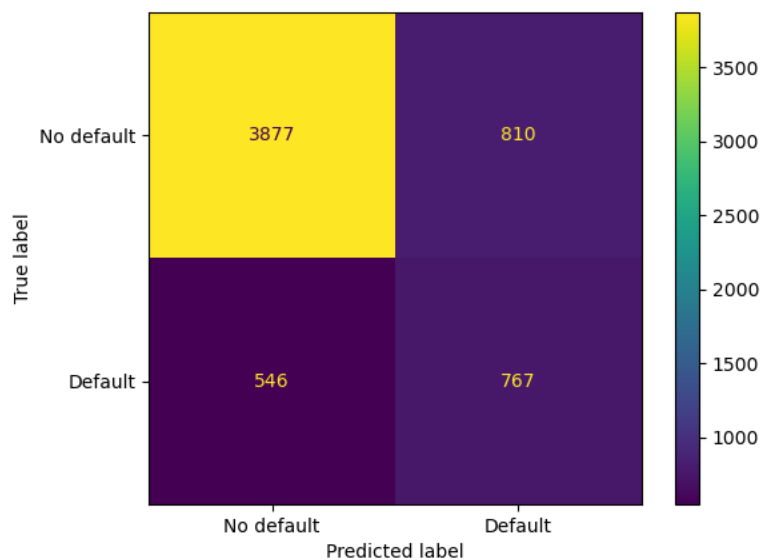


Fig. 7 Confusion Matrix of the predictions

The limitation with these metrics is that they are evaluated at default threshold. To get a better estimate of our model performance we look at two metrics: Average Precision Score and ROC-AUC score which can be visualized in the plots shown below.

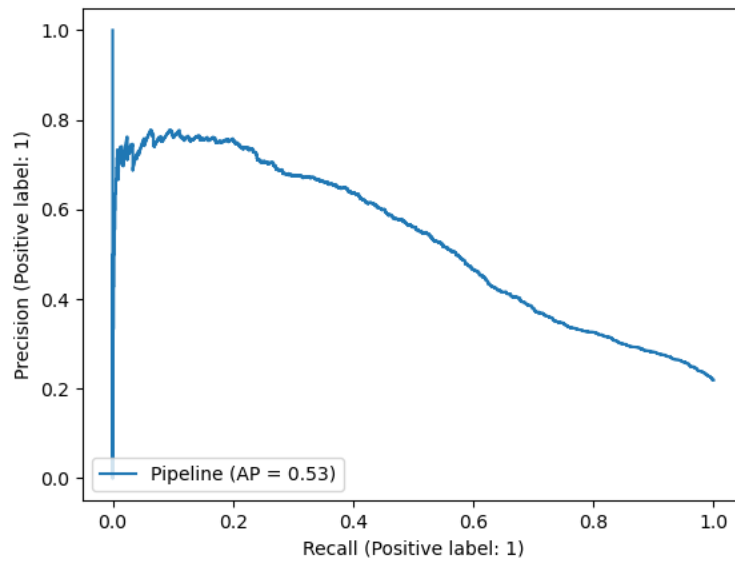


Fig. 8 Precision-Recall plot of the predictions

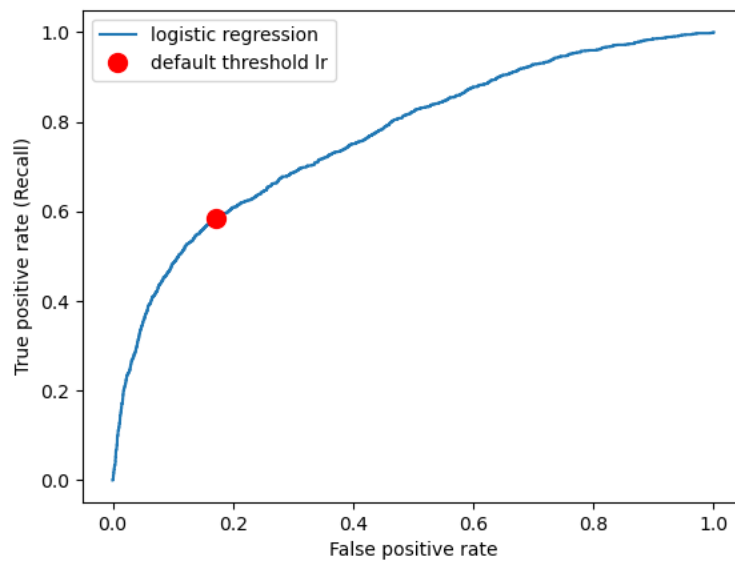


Fig. 9 ROC-AUC curve of the predictions

Since Average Precision score is used for models having severe class imbalance, we use ROC-AUC value to assess our final model. We are choosing ROC-AUC score over F-1 score because we prefer a score which works well across different thresholds of the decision boundary. The average scores given by these metrics, along with other relevant scores is shown below.

Test Scores

Accuracy	0.774
F1	0.531
Recall	0.584
Precision	0.486
ROC AUC	0.768
Average Precision	0.530

Fig. 10 Final scoring metrics of the predictions

Reservations and Suggestions

Major limitation of this project is that the data was collected in 2005. Consumers' spending behaviours and tastes must have changed since then so the results of this project should not be taken for granted and be blindly applied to the current setting. To further improve this model in the future, we suggest including more features such as income, vocation, size of the household, and debt to asset ratio. With more relevant features to base the predictions on, we should be able to predict our target class with more accuracy.

References

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