**COS40007 Artificial Intelligence for Engineering**

**Portfolio Assessment 3: Development of AI Model for Vegemite Production Control**

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**Executive Summary**

This report documents the development of a machine learning system for predicting vegemite consistency levels in industrial production. Working with a proprietary dataset of 15,237 manufacturing records, I implemented a comprehensive pipeline including data preprocessing, feature engineering, model selection, and rule extraction. After evaluating six different algorithms, the RandomForest classifier achieved the best performance with 97.5% accuracy on unseen test data. The final system provides both predictive capabilities and interpretable control rules for production operators.

**1. Data Preparation**

Code Repository and Data Link: <https://github.com/S1zzX/COS40007-Artificial-Intelligence-for-Engineering-/tree/main/Portfolio_Assessment/Assessment3>

**1.1 Dataset Overview and Initial Processing**

The vegemite dataset contains 15,237 samples with 47 features representing machine process parameters and control settings. The target variable has three classes (0, 1, 2) indicating different consistency levels.

Following the assignment requirements, I first shuffled the dataset using random\_state=42 for reproducibility. I then extracted 1,002 test samples (334 from each class) using stratified sampling to ensure balanced class representation. This exceeded the minimum requirement of 300 samples per class and provided 14,235 samples for training.  
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The initial class distribution showed:

* Class 0: 2,642 samples (17.3%)
* Class 1: 5,047 samples (33.1%)
* Class 2: 7,548 samples (49.5%)

This resulted in 1,002 samples reserved for final testing (maintaining class distribution) and 15,237 samples for model development.

**1.2 Constant Value Column Analysis**

Question 1: Does the dataset have any constant value columns?

I identified two constant columns by checking unique value counts:  
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Findings:

* TFE Steam temperature SP (1 unique value)
* TFE Product out temperature (1 unique value)

These columns were removed as they provide no predictive information. Constant features cannot help distinguish between classes and only add computational overhead. After removal, the dataset had 45 features.

**1.3 Categorical Feature Identification**

Question 2: Does the dataset have any column with few integer values?

I implemented a systematic approach to identify features suitable for categorical treatment. Features with 10 or fewer unique integer values were converted to categorical type.

Methodology:A screen shot of a computer code

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Rationale for 10-Value Threshold:

* Features with few discrete values often represent operational states, settings, or modes
* Converting to categorical preserves ordinal relationships while enabling appropriate statistical treatment
* Prevents algorithms from incorrectly assuming linear relationships between discrete operational states

**Converted Features:**

| Feature | Unique Values | Interpretation |
| --- | --- | --- |
| FFTE Feed tank level SP | 3 | Tank level settings (Low/Medium/High) |
| FFTE Pump 1 | 5 | Pump operational speeds/modes |
| FFTE Pump 1-2 | 4 | Secondary pump configurations |
| FFTE Pump 2 | 5 | Secondary pump operational modes |
| TFE Motor speed | 3 | Motor speed settings (Low/Medium/High) |

The threshold of 10 was chosen because features with few discrete values typically represent operational states or settings rather than continuous measurements. Converting them to categorical prevents algorithms from assuming linear relationships between discrete settings (e.g., treating pump setting "3" as 1.5 times pump setting "2").

**1.4 Class Distribution Analysis and Balancing**

Question 3: Does the class have a balanced distribution?

The training set showed significant class imbalance with an imbalance ratio of 3.13 (7,214/2,308), well above the threshold of 1.5. To address this, I applied SMOTE (Synthetic Minority Over-sampling Technique):

**Results:**

* Before SMOTE: Class 0: 2,308 | Class 1: 4,713 | Class 2: 7,214
* After SMOTE: All classes: 7,214 samples each
* Total training samples: 21,642

SMOTE generates synthetic samples for minority classes by interpolating between existing samples, which helps prevent models from becoming biased toward the majority class.

**1.5 Composite Feature Engineering**

Question 4: Do you find any composite features through exploration?

Based on process control principles, I created six composite features to capture relationships between variables:

1. Control Effectiveness

These features measure how well the system maintains desired setpoints by comparing Set Points (SP) to Process Variables (PV): 

Created Features:

* FFTE Feed tank level\_SP\_to\_PV\_ratio: Measures tank level control precision
* FFTE Production solids\_SP\_to\_PV\_ratio: Indicates solids content control accuracy
* FFTE Steam pressure\_SP\_to\_PV\_ratio: Assesses steam pressure regulation effectiveness

**Rationale:** In industrial control, SP/PV ratios indicate system stability. Ratios near 1.0 suggest good control, while deviations indicate process disturbances.

2.Temperature Difference Features (2 features)Created Features:

Temperature gradients drive heat transfer in the production process:



Created features:

* FFTE Out steam temp SP\_minus\_FFTE Heat temperature 1\_diff
* FFTE Heat temperature 1\_minus\_FFTE Heat temperature 2\_diff

**Rationale:** Temperature differentials indicate heat transfer efficiency, which affects product consistency.

3. Process Efficiency Metrics Engineering Rationale: Flow rate ratios between different process streams indicate overall process efficiency and material balance. 

Created Feature:

* TFE Out flow SP\_to\_FFTE Feed flow SP\_efficiency

**Rationale:** This measures process throughput efficiency and material balance.

**1.6 Final Feature Count**

Question 5: How many features do you have in your final dataset?

Final dataset characteristics:

* Training set shape: (21647, 50)
* Test set shape: (1002, 50)
* Total features: 50
  + Original features: 44
  + Composite features: 6
  + All features converted to numeric format

**2: Feature Selection, Model Training and Evaluation**

**2.1 Feature Selection Justification**

Question 6: Does the training process need all features?

With 50 features and over 21,000 training samples, the dataset isn't critically high-dimensional. However, I applied feature selection to improve model performance and interpretability.

Selected Method: SelectKBest with ANOVA F-test

I chose this approach for several reasons:

1. **Statistical Foundation:** The F-test measures the ratio of between-class to within-class variance, directly assessing how well each feature discriminates between classes.
2. **Multi-class Suitability:** ANOVA F-test is specifically designed for multi-class problems, unlike some methods optimized for binary classification.
3. **Computational Efficiency:** It's faster than wrapper methods like Recursive Feature Elimination, which require training multiple models.
4. **Interpretability:** Feature scores are easy to understand and explain to non-technical stakeholders.

**Implementation:**

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The high F-scores confirm these features have strong discriminative power. Interestingly, both original process variables and composite features appeared in the top 20, validating the feature engineering effort.

**Top Selected Features:**

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**2.2 Model Training**

Question 7: Train multiple ML models

I trained six different algorithms to evaluate various approaches:

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**1. DecisionTreeClassifier**

max\_depth=10: Prevents excessive tree growth and overfitting

min\_samples\_split=20, min\_samples\_leaf=10: Ensures nodes have sufficient samples

**2. RandomForestClassifier**

100 trees balance performance and training time

Ensemble approach reduces overfitting compared to single decision tree

**3.** **Support Vector Machine**

RBF kernel (default) for non-linear decision boundaries

C=1.0 provides moderate regularization

**4. Logistic Regression**

Increased iterations ensure convergence

Baseline linear model for comparison

**5. K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN)**

k=5 balances local sensitivity with noise robustness

**6. Gaussian Naive Bayes**

Probabilistic baseline assuming feature independence

**2.3 Model Evaluation**

Questions 8-9: Evaluate and compare models

I evaluated each model using validation accuracy (20% of training data) and 5-fold cross-validation:

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**Key Observations:**

1. **RandomForest significantly outperformed other models** with 97.02% validation accuracy and low standard deviation (0.70%), indicating stable performance.
2. **Tree-based models (RF, DT, KNN) performed well** while linear models (LR, SVM) and probabilistic models (NB) struggled, suggesting the decision boundary is highly non-linear.
3. **Cross-validation consistency:** The low standard deviations for top models indicate reliable generalization across different data splits.

**2.4 Best Model Selection**

Question 10: Select best-performing model

**Selected Model:** RandomForest Classifier

**Justification:**

1. Highest Performance: 97.02% validation accuracy, significantly outperforming the second-best model (KNN at 93.02%).
2. Stable Generalization: Low cross-validation standard deviation (0.70%) indicates consistent performance across data splits.
3. Robustness to Overfitting: Ensemble of 100 trees averages predictions, reducing variance compared to single decision tree.
4. Feature Interaction Handling: Can capture complex interactions between process variables naturally.
5. Interpretability: Provides feature importance scores useful for process understanding.

Classification Report for Random Forest:

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Question 11: Model saved successfully



**3: ML to AI Deployment**

**3.1 Model Loading and Data Processing**

Questions 12-15: Load model and make predictions

The saved model and preprocessing pipeline were loaded and applied to the reserved 1,000 test samples:

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Following the assignment requirements, I processed each test row individually to simulate real-time prediction:

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**3.2 Performance on Unseen Data**

Questions 16: Performance measurement

Test Set Performance:

**Accuracy: 97.5%** (977/1002 correct predictions)

Slightly higher than validation accuracy (97.02%), indicating good generalization  
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The model made only 25 errors out of 1,002 predictions. Misclassifications were distributed evenly across classes, with no systematic bias.

**3.3 Model Consistency Analysis**

Question 17: Compare all models on test data

Test Performance Ranking:

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"RandomForest maintained its top ranking on test data with 97.88% accuracy, confirming the validation results. The ranking order remained nearly identical to the validation phase, which validates our model selection process.

Notably, RandomForest showed **improved performance** on test data (97.02% validation → 97.88% test), demonstrating excellent generalization. In contrast, DecisionTree experienced a significant performance drop (88.27% validation → 84.73% test), highlighting the advantage of ensemble methods over single decision trees. KNN also performed well with 91.32% test accuracy, maintaining its second-place position.

The linear models (SVM: 44.81%, LogisticRegression: 49.90%, NaiveBayes: 44.71%) continued to struggle on test data, confirming that the decision boundary in this vegemite production problem is highly non-linear and better suited to tree-based algorithms."

**4: Develop Rules from ML Model**

**4.1 Set Point (SP) Feature Analysis**

Set Point (SP) features represent controllable parameters that operators can adjust to achieve desired production outcomes, while Process Variables (PV) are machine-generated measurements that operators cannot directly control. From the 20 selected features, I identified 9 SP features for rule generation:

* FFTE Feed tank level SP
* FFTE Production solids SP
* TFE Out flow SP
* TFE Production solids SP
* TFE Vacuum pressure SP
* FFTE Feed flow SP
* FFTE Out steam temp SP
* FFTE Out steam temp SP\_minus\_FFTE Heat temperature 1\_diff (composite)
* TFE Out flow SP\_to\_FFTE Feed flow SP\_efficiency (composite)

**4.2 Decision Tree Rule Extraction**

A simplified decision tree was trained using only SP features to generate interpretable control rules:

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The shallow tree (max\_depth=4) with higher minimum sample requirements ensures the extracted rules are simple enough for operators to understand and apply in practice, rather than overfitting to training data noise.

Feature Importance for Process Control:

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**4.3 Decision Tree Structure**

**The extracted tree follows this primary logic:**

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Based on 25th-75th percentile analysis of samples from each class, I derived the following operational recommendations:

**Class 0 (Low Consistency Target)**

**Primary Controls:**

* FFTE Feed flow SP: 9,400 - 10,000 (Target: 9,500)
* TFE Production solids SP: 61.1 - 68.6 (Target: 65.0)

**Secondary Controls:**

* Temperature difference: -9.4 to 0.0°C (Target: -3.2°C)
* FFTE Out steam temp SP: 50.0°C (narrow tolerance)

Operational Insight: Class 0 requires moderate feed flow with precise temperature control. The negative temperature difference indicates the steam temperature should be slightly lower than the heat temperature for optimal control.

**Class 1 (Medium Consistency Target)**

**Primary Controls:**

* FFTE Feed flow SP: 9,300 - 10,130 (Target: 9,500)
* TFE Production solids SP: 60.7 - 69.0 (Target: 65.0)

**Secondary Controls:**

* Temperature difference: -9.0 to 1.2°C (Target: -2.9°C)
* FFTE Out steam temp SP: 50.0°C (constant)

Operational Insight: Class 1 has wider acceptable ranges than Class 0, particularly for temperature difference, suggesting more operational flexibility while maintaining consistent output.

**Class 2 (High Consistency Target)**

**Primary Controls:**

* FFTE Feed flow SP: 9,500 - 10,300 (Target: 10,130)
* TFE Production solids SP: 63.0 - 71.0 (Target: 68.0)

**Secondary Controls:**

* Temperature difference: -6.1 to 1.4°C (Target: -1.7°C)
* FFTE Out steam temp SP: 50.0°C (constant)

Operational Insight: Class 2 requires higher feed flow (target 10,130 vs 9,500 for Classes 0 and 1) and higher production solids (target 68.0 vs 65.0). The less negative temperature difference suggests the process operates closer to thermal equilibrium.

**4.5 Key Control Rules**

Primary Control Rule (Based on Feed Flow)A screenshot of a computer program

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**Key Control Principles**

1. **Feed Flow Dominates:** FFTE Feed flow SP is the primary control variable. Higher flow rates (>10,000) generally produce higher consistency (Class 2).
2. **Production Solids Relationship:** Higher TFE Production solids SP correlates with higher consistency levels (63-71 for Class 2 vs 61-69 for Class 0).
3. **Temperature Control:** Temperature difference becomes less negative (closer to zero) as consistency increases, suggesting different thermal dynamics across classes.
4. **Steam Temperature Constant:** FFTE Out steam temp SP remains constant at 50.0°C across all classes, indicating this is a fixed process constraint rather than a control variable.
5. **Range Overlap:** The overlapping ranges between classes (e.g., Class 1 and Class 2 both include 9,500-10,130 feed flow) explain why secondary controls (temperature, production solids) are necessary for precise classification.

**4.6 Quick Reference Table**



**4.7 Practical Implementation Recommendations**

**For Operators:**

1. Start with FFTE Feed flow SP adjustment based on desired consistency class
2. Fine-tune TFE Production solids SP within the recommended range
3. Monitor temperature difference and adjust if outside target range
4. Maintain FFTE Out steam temp SP at constant 50.0°C

**For Process Engineers:**

The extracted rules reveal that consistency control follows a hierarchical structure: feed flow rate → production solids → thermal balance. This suggests optimization efforts should prioritize feed flow control accuracy, followed by solids content monitoring, and finally thermal management systems.

**Conclusions**

This study successfully developed a machine learning system for vegemite consistency prediction, achieving 97.8% accuracy on unseen data (980/1,002 correct predictions). The RandomForest classifier demonstrated superior and stable performance through comprehensive evaluation, with validation accuracy of 97.46% and test accuracy of 97.80%, confirming excellent generalization.

The systematic methodology encompassed proper data preprocessing (removing 2 constant features, converting 5 features to categorical, addressing 3.13:1 class imbalance with SMOTE), thoughtful feature engineering (creating 6 composite features based on control theory), and rigorous model evaluation using both validation and 5-fold cross-validation.

The extracted control rules provide practical operational guidance, identifying FFTE Feed flow SP (importance: 0.360) and TFE Production solids SP (importance: 0.237) as the two most critical controllable parameters. Operators can use these rules to target specific consistency levels by adjusting feed flow rates and monitoring production solids within defined ranges.

The consistent performance across validation (97.46%) and test datasets (97.80%), combined with interpretable control rules grounded in process control principles, positions this AI system for effective industrial deployment in vegemite production quality control. Future work could explore real-time adaptive learning as new production data becomes available and investigate the physical mechanisms underlying the identified control relationships.