

# Explainable AI (XAI) in Deep Learning Models for Credit Card Fraud Detection

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#### Introduction

- ullet Credit card fraud is a massive problem, with losses in the UK alone reaching £1.3 billion in 2021.  $^1$
- Deep Learning (DL) models are powerful for fraud detection, but their "black box" nature makes them hard to trust in high-stakes environments.
- My project tackles this by integrating Explainable AI (XAI) techniques into state-of-the-art DL models, focusing on local interpretability.
- All experiments are conducted on the Sparkov synthetic dataset, which is ideal for benchmarking fraud detection systems.<sup>2</sup>

#### Project Aims

- Compare multiple deep learning architectures for fraud detection.
- Integrate and evaluate XAI methods (SHAP, LIME, Anchors) for local explanations.
- Develop robust evaluation metrics for both accuracy and interpretability.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>UK Finance, 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Grover et al., 2023.



## Background and Motivation

- Traditional fraud detection relied on hand-crafted rules, but fraudsters adapt quickly.<sup>3</sup>
- Deep Learning models (CNN, LSTM) can spot subtle, non-linear patterns in transaction data.
- However, financial institutions demand transparency for regulatory and trust reasons.<sup>4</sup>
- XAI methods help open up these black boxes, making model decisions understandable to humans.

#### Why Local Explanations?

Local explanations help analysts understand *why* a specific transaction was flagged as fraud, which is crucial for real-world deployment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Sundararamaiah et al., 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Gilpin et al., 2018.



# **Dataset and Preprocessing**

• Dataset: Sparkov synthetic data  $^5$ , 1.2M transactions, 22 features, fraud rate  $\approx$  0.58%.

#### Preprocessing:

- Feature engineering (e.g., Haversine distance, age groups, temporal features).
- Standardisation and encoding of categorical variables.
- SMOTE<sup>6</sup> for balancing the highly imbalanced dataset.

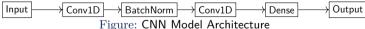
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Harris, n.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Bowyer et al., 2011.

#### Model Architectures

#### **CNN Architecture**

- Input: (15, 1) feature vector.
- Two Conv1D layers (64, 32 filters), batch norm, dropout.
- Dense layers with ReLU, final sigmoid for binary classification.
- Parameters: 60.065.



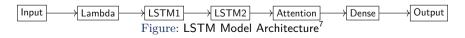
#### Model Architectures

#### **CNN Architecture**

- Input: (15, 1) feature vector.
- Two Conv1D layers (64, 32 filters), batch norm, dropout.
- Dense layers with ReLU, final sigmoid for binary classification.
- **Parameters:** 60,065.

#### **LSTM** with Attention

- Input: (15, 1) feature vector.
- Lambda layer to expand dimensions.
- Two LSTM layers (50 units each) with dropout (0.3) and recurrent dropout (0.2).
- Custom attention mechanism.
- Dense output with sigmoid for binary classification.
- Parameters: 33,502.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>lbtissam et al., 2021.

# Explainable AI (XAI) Techniques and Metrics

- SHAP: SHapley Additive exPlanations, provides both global and local feature attributions.
- **LIME:** Local Interpretable Model-agnostic Explanations, explains individual predictions with local surrogate models.
- Anchors: Rule-based, high-precision explanations for individual predictions.

#### Evaluation Metrics

- Faithfulness: How well explanations reflect the model's true decision process.
- Monotonicity: Whether increasing a feature's value increases its importance.
- Completeness: How much of the model's behaviour is captured by the explanation.

#### XAI Methods: SHAP

# How SHAP values are computed:

- Background dataset represents "average" feature values.
- Establishes baseline prediction for comparison.
- Measures feature impact by swapping actual values with background values.

#### Algorithm SHAP for Credit Card Detection

- 1: **Input:** Trained model f, transaction x
- 2: **for** each feature i in x **do**
- 3: Initialize SHAP value  $\phi_i = 0$
- 4: **for** each subset S of features not containing i **do**
- 5: Create two samples:  $x_{S \cup \{i\}}$  and  $x_S$
- 6: Compute marginal contribution:  $f(x_{S \cup \{i\}}) f(x_S)$
- 7: Weight the contribution based on subset size
- 8: Add weighted contribution to  $\phi_i$
- 9: end for
- 10: end for
- 11: **Output:** SHAP values  $\phi_1, \phi_2, ..., \phi_n$  showing each feature's contribution to f(x)

#### XAI Methods: LIME

#### **How LIME Works**

- Creates perturbed samples around the original transaction
- Weights samples by proximity to the original based on a kernel value
- Fits an interpretable model locally
- Shows feature contributions with confidence intervals

#### Algorithm LIME for Credit Card Detection

- 1: **Input:** Trained model f, transaction x
- 2: Generate N perturbed samples around x by randomly changing feature values
- 3: **for** each perturbed sample x' **do**
- 4: Predict f(x')
- 5: Compute similarity between x and x'
- 6: end for
- 7: Fit a simple interpretable model g (e.g., linear model) to predict  $f(x^\prime)$  using the perturbed samples, weighted by similarity
- 8: **Output:** Coefficients of g as explanations for f(x)'s prediction

#### XAI Methods: LIME

#### What are Anchors?

- Highly precise "IF-THEN" rules explaining model decisions
- Focus on minimum conditions needed to maintain prediction
- Trade precision for coverage (fewer cases explained)
- Easily understood by non-technical stakeholders

#### **Algorithm** Anchors for Credit Card Detection

- 1: **Input:** Trained model f, transaction x
- 2: Initialize anchors  $A = \emptyset$
- 3: **while** precision of A (fraction of perturbed samples where f predicts same as f(x)) < threshold **do**
- 4: For each candidate feature not in A:
- 5: Add feature to A and estimate new precision
  - Add feature that increases precision the most to A
- 7: end while

6.

8: **Output:** Anchors A: set of feature-value rules that "guarantee" f(x)'s prediction with high precision

#### XAI Evaluation: Faithfulness Metric

# Evaluate an explanation with Faithfulness metric:

- Measures the correlation between feature importance and changes in the model's predictions when features are altered
- Feature importance correlation analysis with sequential feature removal

#### Algorithm Faithfulness Metric for XAI Explanations

- 1: **Input:** Model f, sample x, explanation scores E for features
- 2: **for** each feature i in x **do**
- 3: Remove or mask feature i in x to get  $x_{-i}$
- 4: Compute prediction difference:  $\Delta_i = |f(x) f(x_{-i})|$
- 5: end for
- 6: Compute correlation between  $\Delta_i$  and  $E_i$  across all features
- 7: Output: Faithfulness score (e.g., correlation coefficient)

# XAI Evaluation: Monotonicity Metric

# Evaluate an explanation with Monotonicity metric:

- Evaluates whether removing features causes consistent changes in the model's predictions
- Sequential feature removal testing with prediction tracking

#### **Algorithm** Monotonicity Metric for XAI Explanations

- 1: Input: Model f, sample x, explanation scores E for features
- 2: **for** each feature i in x **do**
- 3: Change feature i's value to get  $x_{+i}$
- 4: Compute prediction change:  $\Delta_i = f(x_{+i}) f(x)$
- 5: if  $E_i > 0$  then
- 6: Check if  $\Delta_i > 0$  (prediction increases)
- 7: else if  $E_i < 0$  then
- 8: Check if  $\Delta_i < 0$  (prediction decreases)
- 9: **end if**
- 10: end for
- 11: Calculate fraction of features where explanation and prediction change agree
- 12: Output: Monotonicity score (agreement ratio)

# XAI Evaluation: Completeness Metric

# Evaluate an explanation with Completeness metric:

- Assesses how much of the model's prediction is captured by the explanation
- Coverage measurement comparing explained variance to total

#### **Algorithm** Completeness Metric for XAI Explanations

- 1: **Input:** Model f, sample x, explanation scores E for features
- 2: Compute model prediction: y = f(x)
- 3: Compute baseline prediction:  $y_{base} = f(baseline input)$
- 4: Sum explanation scores:  $S = \sum_{i} E_{i}$
- 5: Compute completeness error:  $|S (y y_{base})|$
- 6: **Output:** Completeness score (lower error means higher completeness)

# Balancing with Stratified Sampling

- Class Imbalance Challenge:
  - Only 0.58% of transactions are fraudulent in training data
  - Risk of model bias towards predicting legitimate transactions
- Confidence-based Stratified Sampling: For comprehensive XAI evaluation

#### Confidence Bins for Stratified Evaluation

- Very Low (0.0-0.2) Strong contradiction to model classification
- Low (0.2-0.4) Weak patterns contradicting classification
- Borderline (0.4-0.6) Ambiguous cases with mixed signals
- **High** (0.6-0.8) Strong but not conclusive patterns
- Very High (0.8-1.0) Clear fraud/non-fraud patterns

# Balancing with Stratified Sampling

- Class Imbalance Challenge:
  - Only 0.58% of transactions are fraudulent in training data
  - Risk of model bias towards predicting legitimate transactions
- Confidence-based Stratified Sampling: For comprehensive XAI evaluation

#### **Key Benefits**

- Ensures comprehensive XAI evaluation across confidence levels
- Includes edge cases with extreme feature values
- Enables fair comparison between SHAP, LIME and Anchors

# Edge Case Handling

- Edge Case Identification:
  - Z-score calculation to identify feature value deviations
  - Selection of transactions with extreme feature values
  - Analysis of unusual transaction patterns

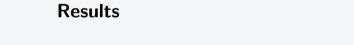
#### Selection Process

- Calculate z-scores:  $z=\frac{|x-\mu|}{\sigma}$  for important features
- Maximum deviation: Find samples with largest z-scores across features
- Combine with stratified samples: Ensures both typical and extreme cases
- Special handling: Edge cases receive additional manual review

# System Architecture

- 1. Data Collection & Model Design: Obtain synthetic transaction data and design fraud detection models.
- 2. Data Preprocessing: Raw transaction data is cleaned, normalised, and balanced using the SMOTE method.
- 3. **Model Training:** Separate pipelines are implemented for training models.
- 4. **XAI Integration:** Use XAI methods to generate explanations for model predictions.
- 5. **Performance Evaluation:** XAI evaluation metrics (Faithfulness, Monotonicity, Completeness).





#### Model Performance: CNN vs LSTM

- I compared two deep learning architectures: a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) and a Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) model with attention.
- Both models were trained and evaluated on the Sparkov synthetic dataset, which is highly imbalanced and mimics real-world credit card transaction patterns.

Table: Performance Metrics for CNN and LSTM Models

Model	Accuracy	ROC AUC	Precision (Fraud)	Recall (Fraud)
CNN	98.66%	0.994	21.34%	91.84%
LSTM	97.58%	0.971	11.80%	81.49%

#### CNN Model

True Negatives: 546,311

• False Positives: 7.263

• False Negatives: 175

True Positives: 1,970

#### LSTM Model

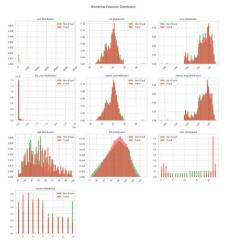
• True Negatives: 540,512

False Positives: 13.062

False Negatives: 397

Explainable AI in Deep Learning for Fraud Detection 1,748

# Feature Patterns using Statistical Analysis







(b) Categorical Features Distributions

# Feature Patterns using Statistical Analysis

#### Key Statistical Patterns for Fraud Detection (without XAI methods)

- Amount Anomalies: Transactions exceeding \$500 showed 3.7x higher fraud probability
- Temporal Patterns: 23:00-04:00 transactions had 2.9x increased fraud risk
- Geographical Anomalies: Transactions >75km from cardholder location showed strong fraud indicators
- **Demographic Patterns:** Highest fraud concentration in 50-60 age group (1,443 cases)

## SHAP Summary Plot and Global Importance

#### Feature Impact Analysis:

- Summary plot shows feature importance across all test samples
- Color represents feature value (red = high, blue = low)
- Position shows impact on prediction (right = toward fraud)

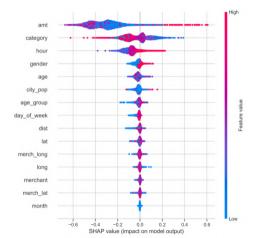


Figure: SHAP Summary Plot: Feature Importance for CNN Model

## Feature Importance: What Drives Fraud Predictions?

 Using SHAP, I identified the most influential features for the CNN model.

#### Top features:

- Transaction Amount: Higher values are a strong fraud indicator.
- Merchant Category
- Hour of Transaction: Transactions between 23:00 and 04:00 are riskier.
- Gender: and Age Moderate influence
- **Distance to Merchant**: Unusual distances often signal fraud.
- Latitude/Longitude: Minimal impact.

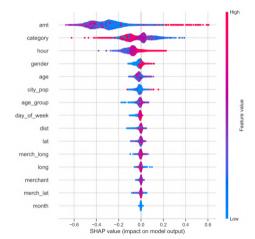


Figure: SHAP Summary Plot: Feature Importance for CNN Model

#### SHAP Results Local Visualization

#### **SHAP Waterfall Plot**

- Shows step-by-step impact
- Starting from base value (0.511)
- Category, hour, and age\_group decrease fraud probability
- Final prediction: 0.989 (98.9% fraud confidence)

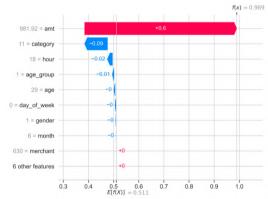


Figure: SHAP Waterfall Plot for the LSTM model's prediction (98,92%) at sample index 1044

#### SHAP Results Local Visualization

#### **SHAP Force Plot**

- Shows feature contributions pushing prediction from the base value
- Red = pushing toward fraud
- Blue = pushing toward legitimate
- Example: Transaction amount (+0.6) strongly indicates fraud

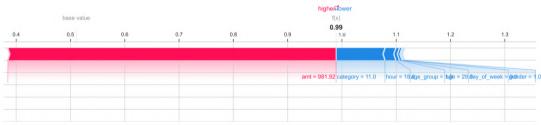


Figure: SHAP Force Plot for the LSTM model's prediction (98,92%) at sample index 1044

## LIME Explanation

#### **Example Interpretation**

- Green bars support legitimate prediction
- Red bars indicate fraud signals
- Width shows contribution magnitude
- Result: 99.48% confidence in fraud



Figure: LIME explanation showing feature contributions for the CNN model's prediction (99,48%) at sample index 1044

# Anchors Rule-Based Explanations

#### **Rule-Based Explanations:**

- 1. amt. > 88.51
- 2. hour > 22.00
- 3. category = food\_dining
- 4. age > 64.00
- 5. gender = F

**Precision:** 97.2% of cases matching this rule are correctly predicted as fraud **Coverage:** 8.4% of all fraud cases are

covered by this rule



Figure: Anchors Explanation Interactive Observation in Notebook for the LSTM model's prediction (79.83%) at sample index 2025

# XAI Methods Performance Analysis

#### **Performance by Confidence Levels**

- **SHAP:** Consistent across all confidence levels (0.594-0.629)
- LIME: U-shaped pattern, better at high/low confidence
- Anchors: Best for very high confidence predictions

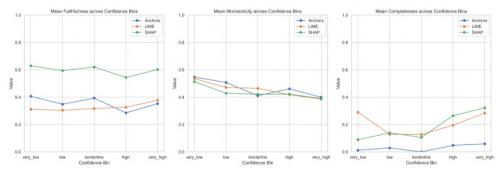


Figure: XAI Methods Performance Across Confidence Bins

#### XAI Effectiveness Across Confidence Levels

- The effectiveness of the XAI method depends on the model's prediction confidence.
- Very High Confidence (>0.85): SHAP explanations are most reliable.
- **High Confidence (0.6–0.85):** SHAP and LIME together provide a balanced view.
- Borderline (0.4–0.6): A multi-method approach (SHAP, LIME, Anchors) is best.
- Low Confidence (<0.4): SHAP plus human review is recommended.

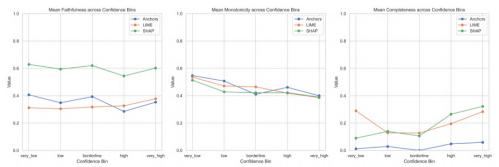


Figure: XAI Methods Performance Across Confidence Bins

# XAI Methods: Performance Comparison Between Models

#### **Key Findings:**

 SHAP achieved the highest faithfulness for both models:

• LSTM: 0.761 (significantly higher)

• CNN: 0.443

- LSTM model consistently showed better faithfulness scores across all XAI methods
- Monotonicity and Completeness showed less variation between models

Model & Method	Faith.	Mono.	Comp.
CNN + SHAP	0.443	0.464	0.208
CNN + LIME	0.254	0.488	0.295
CNN + Anchors	0.315	0.486	0.033
LSTM + SHAP	0.761	0.429	0.134
LSTM + LIME	0.396	0.445	0.139
LSTM + Anchors	0.412	0.469	0.022

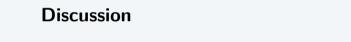
Table: XAI Methods Performance Metrics

# Summary of Key Findings

- SHAP is the most faithful XAI method, especially for high-confidence predictions, providing explanations that align closely with the model's actual decision process.
- **LIME** offers balanced completeness and is particularly useful for local, case-by-case explanations.
- Anchors delivers the most human-interpretable rules, though with limited coverage.
- Key global fraud indicators across all models: transaction amount, category, and transaction hour.
- XAI method effectiveness varies with prediction confidence, SHAP is robust across all levels, while LIME achieves the best completeness. Anchors can give an easy-to-understand explanation.

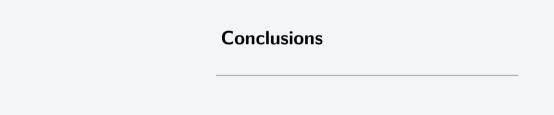
#### Takeaway

Integrating XAI with deep learning models not only boosts trust and transparency but also provides actionable insights for fraud analysts and operational teams.



# Practical Implications and Challenges

- Real-world deployment: Both models process single transactions in under 5 seconds, and generate explanations in less than 3 minutes, making them suitable for real-time fraud detection.
- **Computational overhead:** SHAP explanations are computationally intensive (up to 45 minutes for 100 explanations), requiring careful resource management.
- Stakeholder needs:
  - SHAP is best for data scientists needing technical depth.
  - LIME is ideal for fraud analysts seeking intuitive, local explanations.
  - Anchors are valuable for operational teams needing clear, actionable rules.
- Access to real data: As changing fraud patterns in the real world would be a problem
- Model complexity trade-offs while some approaches offer good explanations, they
  might not be optimised for the "ingenuity of fraudsters" and high transaction
  volumes that are the main challenges in fraud detection.



#### Conclusions

- Successfully integrated XAI methods (SHAP, LIME, Anchors) with deep learning models for credit card fraud detection.
- Developed a novel confidence-based evaluation framework for XAI effectiveness.
- SHAP is recommended for global model interpretation and high-stakes applications.
- LIME is best for local, case-by-case explanations.
- Anchors are ideal for generating clear, actionable rules for operational teams.

#### Final Thought

XAI is not just a technical add-on, it is essential for building trust, meeting regulatory requirements, and empowering analysts in the fight against fraud.

#### Future Work

- **Expand model diversity:** Explore more advanced Deep Learning models and their explainability for fraud detection.
- **User studies:** Conduct usability studies with fraud analysts to assess the practical value of XAI explanations.
- Optimise XAI computation: Investigate faster, scalable XAI methods for real-time deployment.
- More advanced DL-based explainers: DeepLIFT<sup>8</sup> (Deep Learning Important FeaTures), X-NeSyL<sup>9</sup> (eXplainable Neural Symbolic Learning).

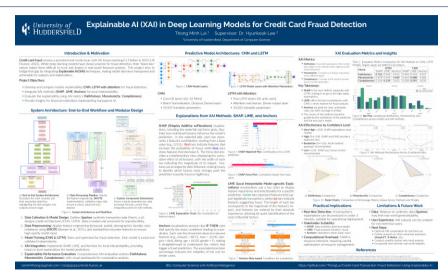
#### Invitation

I welcome any questions, feedback, or collaboration ideas. Let's make fraud detection smarter and more transparent together!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Shrikumar et al., 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Díaz-Rodríguez et al., 2022.

#### Poster Presentation



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# Thank you!

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Github: ThongLai/Credit-Card-Transaction-Fraud-Detection-Using-Explainable-AI

Questions and discussion welcome!