V LOAN DEFAULT PREDICTION

Dataset Source: https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/wordsforthewise/lending-club

Platform: Google Colab

This project aims to build a machine learning model that predicts loan defaults using the Lending Club dataset. This notebook serves as a complete end-to-end documentation and walkthrough, covering the following key stages:

- Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA): Investigate and understand the structure of the dataset, identifying key features relevant to loan
 default prediction.
- · Data Cleaning & Preprocessing: Handle missing values, remove irrelevant or redundant columns, and prepare the data for modeling.
- · Feature Selection: Identify and use highly correlated features to improve model performance.
- . Model Training & Evaluation: Train machine learning models and evaluate their effectiveness in predicting loan defaults.

Import Dependencies

In this section, we import the necessary libraries for data manipulation, visualization, and analysis. These include:

- pandas and numpy for data handling and preprocessing,
- seaborn and matplotlib.pyplot for data visualization and pattern exploration.

import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import seaborn as sns
from datetime import datetime
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

Load Dataset from Google Drive

After mounting Google Drive, we load the Lending Club dataset using pandas. This dataset contains loan application data from 2007 to 2018Q4, which will be used for analysis and model training.

dataset = '/content/drive/MyDrive/Machine Learning Datasets/Loan Default Prediction Dataset/accepted_2007_to_2018Q4.csv'
dataset = pd.read_csv(dataset, low_memory=False)
dataset.head(5)

| ₹ | | id | member_id | loan_amnt | funded_amnt | funded_amnt_inv | term | int_rate | installment | grade | sub_grade | hardship_payoff_ba |
|---|---|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|-------------|-------|-----------|------------------------|
| | 0 | 68407277 | NaN | 3600.0 | 3600.0 | 3600.0 | 36 months | 13.99 | 123.03 | С | C4 | |
| | 1 | 68355089 | NaN | 24700.0 | 24700.0 | 24700.0 | 36 months | 11.99 | 820.28 | С | C1 | |
| | 2 | 68341763 | NaN | 20000.0 | 20000.0 | 20000.0 | 60 months | 10.78 | 432.66 | В | B4 | |
| | 3 | 66310712 | NaN | 35000.0 | 35000.0 | 35000.0 | 60 months | 14.85 | 829.90 | С | C5 | |
| | 4 | 68476807 | NaN | 10400.0 | 10400.0 | 10400.0 | 60 months | 22.45 | 289.91 | F | F1 | |

Exploratory Data Analysis

5 rows × 151 columns

In this section, we perform exploratory data analysis to better understand the structure, quality, and key patterns in the dataset. This analyss includes:

- · Checking dataset dimensions.
- · Identifying data types of each column.
- Evaluate missing values.

· Summarizing key statistics and correlations to inform data cleaning and feature engineering steps.

The insights gathered here will guide the subsequent data cleaning and preprocessing steps.

→ Dataset Overview

We begin by examining the dataset's dimensions and previewing the top records to understand the structure.

 $print(f"The \ dataset \ has \ \{dataset.shape[0]:,\} \ rows \ and \ \{dataset.shape[1]:,\} \ columns.")$ dataset.head(5)

The dataset has 2,260,701 rows and 151 columns.

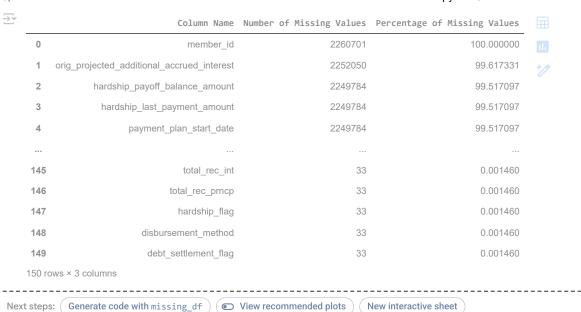
| id | member_id | loan_amnt | funded_amnt | <pre>funded_amnt_inv</pre> | term | int_rate | installment | grade | sub_grade | | hardship_payoff_ba |
|----------|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 68407277 | NaN | 3600.0 | 3600.0 | 3600.0 | 36 months | 13.99 | 123.03 | С | C4 | | |
| 68355089 | NaN | 24700.0 | 24700.0 | 24700.0 | 36 months | 11.99 | 820.28 | С | C1 | | |
| 68341763 | NaN | 20000.0 | 20000.0 | 20000.0 | 60 months | 10.78 | 432.66 | В | B4 | | |
| 66310712 | NaN | 35000.0 | 35000.0 | 35000.0 | 60 months | 14.85 | 829.90 | С | C5 | | |
| 68476807 | NaN | 10400.0 | 10400.0 | 10400.0 | 60 months | 22.45 | 289.91 | F | F1 | | |
| | 68407277 68355089 68341763 66310712 | 68407277 NaN 68355089 NaN 68341763 NaN 66310712 NaN | 68407277 NaN 3600.0 68355089 NaN 24700.0 68341763 NaN 20000.0 66310712 NaN 35000.0 | 68407277 NaN 3600.0 3600.0 68355089 NaN 24700.0 24700.0 68341763 NaN 20000.0 20000.0 66310712 NaN 35000.0 35000.0 | 68407277 NaN 3600.0 3600.0 3600.0 68355089 NaN 24700.0 24700.0 24700.0 68341763 NaN 20000.0 20000.0 20000.0 66310712 NaN 35000.0 35000.0 35000.0 | 68407277 NaN 3600.0 3600.0 3600.0 36 months 68355089 NaN 24700.0 24700.0 24700.0 36 months 68341763 NaN 20000.0 20000.0 20000.0 60 months 66310712 NaN 35000.0 35000.0 35000.0 60 months 68476807 NaN 10400.0 10400.0 10400.0 60 | 68407277 NaN 3600.0 3600.0 3600.0 36 months 13.99 68355089 NaN 24700.0 24700.0 24700.0 36 months 11.99 68341763 NaN 20000.0 20000.0 20000.0 60 months 10.78 66310712 NaN 35000.0 35000.0 35000.0 60 months 14.85 68476807 NaN 10400.0 10400.0 10400.0 60 22.45 | 68407277 NaN 3600.0 3600.0 3600.0 36 13.99 123.03 68355089 NaN 24700.0 24700.0 24700.0 36 months 11.99 820.28 68341763 NaN 20000.0 20000.0 60 months 10.78 432.66 66310712 NaN 35000.0 35000.0 60 14.85 829.90 | 68407277 NaN 3600.0 3600.0 3600.0 3600.0 36 13.99 123.03 C 68355089 NaN 24700.0 24700.0 24700.0 36 months 11.99 820.28 C 68341763 NaN 20000.0 20000.0 60 months 10.78 432.66 B 66310712 NaN 35000.0 35000.0 35000.0 60 months 14.85 829.90 C | 68407277 NaN 3600.0 3600.0 3600.0 3600.0 36 13.99 123.03 C C4 68355089 NaN 24700.0 24700.0 24700.0 36 months 11.99 820.28 C C1 68341763 NaN 20000.0 20000.0 60 months 10.78 432.66 B B4 66310712 NaN 35000.0 35000.0 35000.0 60 months 14.85 829.90 C C5 | 68407277 NaN 3600.0 36000.0 3600.0 3600.0 3600.0 3600.0 3600.0 3600.0 3600.0 3600.0 3600.0 |

Data Types and Missing Values

5 rows × 151 columns

Inspecting column data types and identifying missing values is essential for cleaning and preprocessing.

```
dataset.info()
 <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
     RangeIndex: 2260701 entries, 0 to 2260700
     Columns: 151 entries, id to settlement_term
     dtypes: float64(113), object(38)
     memory usage: 2.5+ GB
total_rows = dataset.shape[0]
missing_values = dataset.isnull().sum()
missing_percentage = (missing_values / total_rows) * 100
missing_df = pd.DataFrame({
    'Column Name': missing_values.index,
    'Number of Missing Values': missing_values.values,
    'Percentage of Missing Values': missing_percentage.values
})
{\tt missing\_df = missing\_df[missing\_df['Percentage \ of \ Missing \ Values'] \ > \ 0]}
missing_df = missing_df.sort_values(by='Number of Missing Values', ascending=False)
missing_df.reset_index(drop=True, inplace=True)
missing_df
```



Statistical Summary

We use the .describe() method to obtain a statistical summary of the numerical features. This includes measures such as mean, standard deviation, and quartiles, which help assess the central tendency and spread of data.

dataset.describe()

| $\overline{\Rightarrow}$ | | member_id | loan_amnt | funded_amnt | funded_amnt_inv | int_rate | installment | annual_inc | dti | delinq_2yrs | fico_ |
|--------------------------|-------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------|
| | count | 0.0 | 2.260668e+06 | 2.260668e+06 | 2.260668e+06 | 2.260668e+06 | 2.260668e+06 | 2.260664e+06 | 2.258957e+06 | 2.260639e+06 | 2.20 |
| | mean | NaN | 1.504693e+04 | 1.504166e+04 | 1.502344e+04 | 1.309283e+01 | 4.458068e+02 | 7.799243e+04 | 1.882420e+01 | 3.068792e-01 | 6.9 |
| | std | NaN | 9.190245e+03 | 9.188413e+03 | 9.192332e+03 | 4.832138e+00 | 2.671735e+02 | 1.126962e+05 | 1.418333e+01 | 8.672303e-01 | 3.30 |
| | min | NaN | 5.000000e+02 | 5.000000e+02 | 0.000000e+00 | 5.310000e+00 | 4.930000e+00 | 0.000000e+00 | -1.000000e+00 | 0.000000e+00 | 6.10 |
| | 25% | NaN | 8.000000e+03 | 8.000000e+03 | 8.000000e+03 | 9.490000e+00 | 2.516500e+02 | 4.600000e+04 | 1.189000e+01 | 0.000000e+00 | 6.7 |
| | 50% | NaN | 1.290000e+04 | 1.287500e+04 | 1.280000e+04 | 1.262000e+01 | 3.779900e+02 | 6.500000e+04 | 1.784000e+01 | 0.000000e+00 | 6.91 |
| | 75% | NaN | 2.000000e+04 | 2.000000e+04 | 2.000000e+04 | 1.599000e+01 | 5.933200e+02 | 9.300000e+04 | 2.449000e+01 | 0.000000e+00 | 7.1 |
| | max | NaN | 4.000000e+04 | 4.000000e+04 | 4.000000e+04 | 3.099000e+01 | 1.719830e+03 | 1.100000e+08 | 9.990000e+02 | 5.800000e+01 | 8.4 |
| | 0 | 440 | | | | | | | | | |

8 rows × 113 columns

Class Distribution

Understanding the balance of the target variable (Ioan status) is important for model training.

dataset['loan_status'].value_counts()

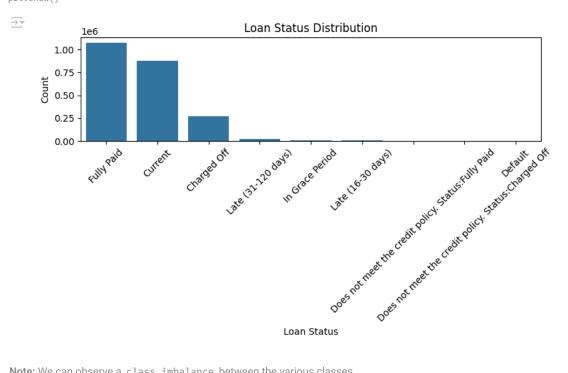


| loan_status | |
|---|---------|
| Fully Paid | 1076751 |
| Current | 878317 |
| Charged Off | 268559 |
| Late (31-120 days) | 21467 |
| In Grace Period | 8436 |
| Late (16-30 days) | 4349 |
| Does not meet the credit policy. Status:Fully Paid | 1988 |
| Does not meet the credit policy. Status:Charged Off | 761 |
| Default | 40 |

dtype: int64

```
plt.figure(figsize=(8, 5))
sns.countplot(data=dataset, x='loan_status', order=dataset['loan_status'].value_counts().index)
plt.title('Loan Status Distribution')
plt.xlabel('Loan Status')
plt.ylabel('Count')
plt.xticks(rotation=45)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

count



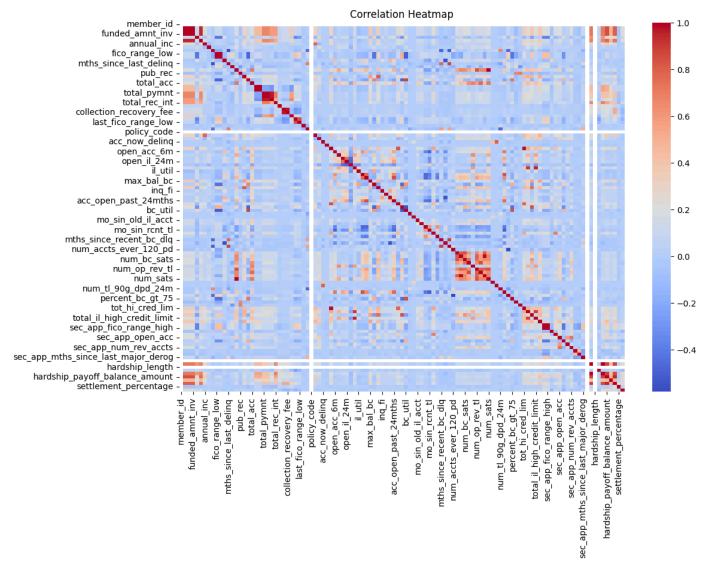
Note: We can observe a class imbalance between the various classes.

Correlation Matrix

We compute and visualize the correlation matrix for numerical features to identify relationships and potential predictors for the model.

```
correlation_matrix = dataset.corr(numeric_only=True)
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 8))
sns.heatmap(correlation_matrix, cmap='coolwarm', annot=False)
plt.title('Correlation Heatmap')
plt.show()
```





→ Data Cleaning

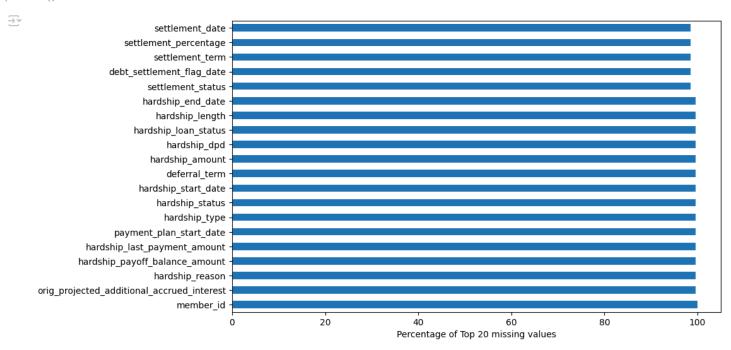
In this section, we clean the dataset based on insights from the exploratory analysis. This includes removing irrelevant or low-value columns, handling missing values, and preparing the data for modeling.

Have a "Rule of Thumb" for missing data. If the missing or null values in a column is beyond 80% of the total rows then it is likely to be dropped unless that column has <u>critical meaning</u>, you have domain knowledge or external data to fill those missing values.

```
'sec_app_chargeoff_within_12_mths', 'sec_app_num_rev_accts',
'sec_app_open_acc', 'sec_app_mort_acc', 'sec_app_open_act_il',
'verification_status_joint', 'dti_joint', 'annual_inc_joint', 'desc',
'mths_since_last_record'],
dtype='object')
```

Visualize the results above.

```
threshold.sort_values(ascending=False).head(20).plot(kind='barh', figsize=(10,6))
plt.xlabel('Percentage of Top 20 missing values')
plt.show()
```



Column Dropping — Post-Loan and Irrelevant Features

Based on EDA and business understanding, we drop columns that fall into the following categories:

- Post-loan outcome features: These contain information that would not be available at the time of loan approval and can lead to data leakage (e.g., total_pymnt, recoveries, last_fico_range_low)
- High-missing-value fields: Particularly those related to joint applications or hardship/settlement programs
- · Administrative or user-entered fields: Such as IDs and free-text descriptions

```
columns_to_drop = ['member_id', 'orig_projected_additional_accrued_interest',
       'hardship_end_date', 'hardship_reason', 'hardship_status',
       'hardship_type', 'hardship_start_date', 'hardship_loan_status',
       'hardship_dpd', 'hardship_length', 'payment_plan_start_date',
       'hardship_amount', 'hardship_payoff_balance_amount',
       'hardship_last_payment_amount', 'deferral_term', 'settlement_date',
       'settlement_amount', 'settlement_percentage', 'settlement_term',
       'settlement_status', 'debt_settlement_flag_date',
       'sec_app_mths_since_last_major_derog', 'sec_app_revol_util',
       'revol_bal_joint', 'sec_app_fico_range_low',
       'sec_app_collections_12_mths_ex_med', 'sec_app_fico_range_high',
       'sec_app_inq_last_6mths', 'sec_app_earliest_cr_line',
       'sec_app_chargeoff_within_12_mths', 'sec_app_num_rev_accts',
       'sec_app_open_acc', 'sec_app_mort_acc', 'sec_app_open_act_il',
       'verification_status_joint', 'dti_joint', 'annual_inc_joint', 'desc',
       'out_prncp', 'out_prncp_inv', 'total_pymnt', 'total_pymnt_inv',
       'total_rec_prncp', 'total_rec_int', 'total_rec_late_fee',
       'recoveries', 'collection_recovery_fee', 'last_pymnt_amnt',
       'last_credit_pull_d', 'last_fico_range_high', 'last_fico_range_low'
```

dataset.drop(columns=columns_to_drop, inplace=True)

Removing Demographic Variables

To prevent bias and ensure fairness in loan approval prediction, we remove geographic and demographic variables such as addr_state and zip_code. These features, while potentially predictive, could introduce unethical or discriminatory bias into the model.

```
columns_to_drop = [ 'zip_code', 'addr_state', 'emp_title']
dataset.drop(columns=columns_to_drop, inplace=True)
```

Removing Joint Application and Secondary Applicant Columns

In this step, we remove all columns related to joint loan applications and secondary (co-) applicants, including:

- annual_inc_joint, dti_joint, verification_status_joint
- All columns prefixed with sec_app_ (e.g., sec_app_fico_range_high, sec_app_open_acc, etc.)

These fields are only populated for joint loans and are typically NaN for individual borrowers. Since our machine learning model focuses solely on **individual loan applications**, keeping these columns would:

- · Introduce unnecessary sparsity and noise
- · Complicate preprocessing due to large amounts of missing data
- · Add features not relevant to the majority of loan records

By dropping these variables, we simplify the dataset and ensure our model is trained on consistent, reliable inputs relevant to single applicants only.

```
columns_to_drop = [
    'annual_inc_joint', 'dti_joint', 'verification_status_joint',
    'revol_bal_joint',
    'sec_app_fico_range_low', 'sec_app_fico_range_high',
    'sec_app_earliest_cr_line', 'sec_app_inq_last_6mths',
    'sec_app_mort_acc', 'sec_app_open_acc', 'sec_app_revol_util',
    'sec_app_open_act_il', 'sec_app_num_rev_accts',
    'sec_app_chargeoff_within_12_mths', 'sec_app_collections_12_mths_ex_med',
    'sec_app_mths_since_last_major_derog'
]

dataset.drop(columns=columns to drop, inplace=True, errors='ignore')
```

Review of Categorical Variables (Object-Type Columns)

In this section, we examine object-type (categorical) columns in the dataset to determine which are useful for training a machine learning model to predict loan default. Our goal is to retain only relevant features that are:

- Known before the loan is granted (to avoid data leakage),
- · Potentially predictive or informative,
- Reasonably clean or transformable.

dataset.dtypes.value_counts()

| Column Name | Description |
|---------------------|--|
| term | Duration of the loan (e.g., 36 or 60 months) |
| grade | Credit grade assigned by Lending Club |
| sub_grade | Finer granularity of credit grade |
| home_ownership | Housing status of the borrower (e.g., RENT, OWN) |
| verification_status | Status of income verification |
| purpose | Purpose for which the loan was requested |
| application_type | Whether the loan is individual or joint |
| loan_status | Target variable – final loan outcome (will be converted later to binary) |

Based on the list of Categorical Variables here are some variables to keep (Directly usable for modeling). While the remaining categorical/object columns are to be dropped.

```
drop_columns = [
    'id', 'pymnt_plan', 'url', 'title', 'issue_d',
    'last_pymnt_d', 'next_pymnt_d', 'hardship_flag',
    'debt_settlement_flag'
    ]
dataset.drop(columns=drop_columns, inplace=True)
len(list(dataset.columns))
```

Current dataset has now 88 columns from the initial 151 columns.

→ Handling Missing Values in Credit History Timing Columns

Some features in the dataset represent the number of months since a borrower last experienced a negative credit event, such as a delinquency or derogatory remark. These include:

mths_since_last_record
mths_since_recent_bc_dlq
mths_since_last_major_derog
mths_since_recent_revol_delinq
mths_since_last_delinq

In many cases, missing values in these columns do **not** indicate bad data but rather the **absence of the event** — for example, the borrower never had a delinquency or public record.

To preserve this distinction, we fill the missing values with -1, which semantically means "no such event has occurred". This avoids misrepresenting the absence of an event as having occurred recently (which would be implied by filling with 0).

This approach is particularly effective for tree-based models like Random Forest or XGBoost, which can naturally separate -1 as its own category during training.

```
total_rows = dataset.shape[0]
missing_values = dataset.isnull().sum()
missing_percentage = (missing_values / total_rows) * 100

missing_df = pd.DataFrame({
    'Column Name': missing_values.index,
    'Number of Missing Values': missing_values.values,
    'Percentage of Missing Values': missing_percentage.values
})

missing_df = missing_df[missing_df['Percentage of Missing Values'] > 0]
missing_df = missing_df.sort_values(by='Number of Missing Values', ascending=False)
missing_df
```

| | Column Name | Number of Missing Values | Percentage of Missing Values |
|----|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 21 | mths_since_last_record | 1901545 | 84.113069 |
| 62 | mths_since_recent_bc_dlq | 1741000 | 77.011511 |
| 29 | mths_since_last_major_derog | 1679926 | 74.309960 |
| 64 | mths_since_recent_revol_delinq | 1520342 | 67.250910 |
| 20 | mths_since_last_delinq | 1158535 | 51.246715 |
| | | | |
| 27 | initial_list_status | 33 | 0.001460 |
| 31 | application_type | 33 | 0.001460 |
| 30 | policy_code | 33 | 0.001460 |
| 24 | revol_bal | 33 | 0.001460 |
| 87 | disbursement_method | 33 | 0.001460 |

Next steps: Generate code with missing_df View recommended plots New interactive sheet

mths_columns = [col for col in dataset.columns if 'mths' in col.lower()]

Checking columns with months.

```
print(f"Columns with 'mths' in name: ({len(mths_columns)} found)")
print(mths_columns)

Columns with 'mths' in name: (12 found)
    ['inq_last_6mths', 'mths_since_last_delinq', 'mths_since_last_record', 'collections_12_mths_ex_med', 'mths_since_last_major_derog', 'mths_sinc
```

Checking which of these columns have missing values.

```
mths_with_na = [col for col in mths_columns if dataset[col].isna().sum() > 0]
print(f"'mths' columns with missing values: ({len(mths_with_na)} found)")
print(mths_with_na)

implication with missing values: (12 found)
['inq_last_6mths', 'mths_since_last_delinq', 'mths_since_last_record', 'collections_12_mths_ex_med', 'mths_since_last_major_derog', 'mth
```

Fill the columns with -1 as it indicates No Record. Columns with date or temporal data for values in particular isn't always right be filled with median or mode as it might distort behavioral pattern.

```
cols_to_fill = [
    'mths_since_last_record',
    'mths_since_recent_bc_dlq',
    'mths_since_last_major_derog',
    'mths_since_recent_revol_delinq',
    'mths_since_last_delinq',
    'mths_since_recnt_il',
    'mths_since_recent_bc',
    'mths_since_recent_inq'
]

dataset[cols_to_fill] = dataset[cols_to_fill].fillna(-1)

fill_with_zero = ['collections_12_mths_ex_med', 'chargeoff_within_12_mths']

dataset[fill_with_zero] = dataset[fill_with_zero].fillna(0)
```

Note on acc_open_past_24mths and inq_last_6mths:

acc_open_past_24mths: This column is not filled unless null. This column shows the number of accounts opened in past 2 years.
 Shouldn't have many missing values. If null → maybe fill with median.

- inq_last_6mths: This column is **retained without any filling** because it records the **number of recent credit inquiries**, which is known at the time of loan application. It usually has no missing values. If any nulls are found later, they should be investigated rather than imputed blindly.
- Identifying Remaining Columns with Missing Values

After several rounds of cleaning and targeted imputation, we now perform a final check for any remaining columns with missing values.

This step helps ensure:

- All important columns are properly handled before modeling
- · No unexpected nulls remain that could disrupt encoding or training
- · We make informed decisions on whether to impute, drop, or transform the remaining columns

The output below shows each column that still has missing values, along with the count and percentage of missing entries.

```
missing info = dataset.isnull().sum()
missing_info = missing_info[missing_info > 0].sort_values(ascending=False)
missing_df = pd.DataFrame({
    'Missing Values': missing_info,
    'Percent Missing': (missing_info / len(dataset)) * 100
})
missing_df
<del>_</del>
                             Missing Values Percent Missing
              il util
                                     1068883
                                                     47.281042
              all util
                                      866381
                                                     38.323555
            total cu tl
                                      866163
                                                     38.313912
                                      866163
                                                     38.313912
          open_acc_6m
          inq_last_12m
                                      866163
                                                     38.313912
                                                      0.001460
          fico_range_low
                                          33
                                                      0.001460
         application_type
                                          33
           policy_code
                                          33
                                                      0.001460
         fico_range_high
                                          33
                                                      0.001460
      disbursement_method
                                                      0.001460
                                          33
     78 rows × 2 columns
```

Next steps: Generate code with missing_df

• View recommended plots

• New interactive sheet

We start filling columns that are important such as term, grade, etc. with either **Unknown** or using **mode**. For columns with numerical values we could use the **median**.

Note: Review your data first before implementing this steps as it might require different approach or solution.

```
dataset['annual_inc'] = dataset['annual_inc'].fillna(dataset['annual_inc'].median())
dataset['dti'] = dataset['dti'].fillna(dataset['dti'].median())
dataset['fico_range_low'] = dataset['fico_range_low'].fillna(dataset['fico_range_low'].median())
dataset['fico_range_high'] = dataset['fico_range_high'].fillna(dataset['fico_range_high'].median())

dataset['emp_length'] = dataset['emp_length'].fillna('Unknown')
dataset['term'] = dataset['term'].fillna(dataset['term'].mode()[0])
dataset['grade'] = dataset['grade'].fillna(dataset['grade'].mode()[0])
dataset['sub_grade'] = dataset['sub_grade'].fillna(dataset['sub_grade'].mode()[0])
dataset['purpose'] = dataset['purpose'].fillna('Unknown')
dataset['home_ownership'] = dataset['home_ownership'].fillna('Unknown')

dataset = dataset[~dataset['loan_amnt'].isnull()]
dataset = dataset[~dataset['installment'].isnull()]
```

Check remaining columns.

```
remaining_nulls = dataset.isnull().sum()
remaining_nulls = remaining_nulls[remaining_nulls > 0]
print("Remaining columns with nulls:", remaining_nulls)
Remaining columns with nulls: delinq_2yrs
                                                                     29
    earliest_cr_line
    ing last 6mths
    open_acc
                                       29
    pub_rec
                                       29
    total_acc
                                       29
    acc_now_delinq
                                       29
    tot coll amt
                                    70276
    tot_cur_bal
                                    70276
    open_acc_6m
                                   866130
    open_act_il
                                   866129
    open_il_12m
                                   866129
                                   866129
    open il 24m
    total_bal_il
                                   866129
    il_util
                                  1068850
    open_rv_12m
                                   866129
    open_rv_24m
                                   866129
    max_bal_bc
                                   866129
    all_util
                                   866348
    total_rev_hi_lim
                                    70276
                                   866129
    inq_fi
    total_cu_tl
                                   866130
                                   866130
    inq_last_12m
    acc_open_past_24mths
                                    50030
    avg_cur_bal
                                    70346
    bc_open_to_buy
                                    74935
                                    76071
    bc util
    delinq_amnt
                                     29
    mo_sin_old_il_acct
                                   139071
    mo_sin_old_rev_tl_op
                                    70277
    mo_sin_rcnt_rev_tl_op
                                    70277
    mo_sin_rcnt_tl
                                    70276
    mort_acc
                                    50030
                                    70276
    num_accts_ever_120_pd
    num_actv_bc_tl
                                    70276
    num_actv_rev_tl
                                    70276
    num bc sats
                                    58590
                                    70276
    num_bc_tl
    num_il_tl
                                    70276
    num_op_rev_tl
                                    70276
    num_rev_accts
                                    70277
    num_rev_tl_bal_gt_0
                                    70276
    num_sats
                                    58590
    num_tl_120dpd_2m
                                   153657
    num tl 30dpd
                                    70276
    num_tl_90g_dpd_24m
                                    70276
    num_tl_op_past_12m
                                    70276
    pct_tl_nvr_dlq
                                    70431
    percent_bc_gt_75
                                    75379
    pub_rec_bankruptcies
                                    1365
    tax liens
                                     105
    tot_hi_cred_lim
                                    70276
    total bal ex mort
                                    50030
    total_bc_limit
                                    50030
    total_il_high_credit_limit
                                    70276
    dtype: int64
```

Drop rows with low missing/null values. And fill the rest with -1 for "Unknown"

```
low_null_cols = [
    'delinq_2yrs', 'earliest_cr_line', 'inq_last_6mths', 'open_acc', 'pub_rec',
    'total_acc', 'acc_now_delinq', 'total_rev_hi_lim', 'delinq_amnt',
    'mo_sin_old_rev_tl_op', 'mo_sin_rcnt_rev_tl_op', 'mo_sin_rcnt_tl',
    'num_accts_ever_120_pd', 'num_actv_bc_tl', 'num_actv_rev_tl', 'num_bc_tl',
    'num_il_tl', 'num_op_rev_tl', 'num_rev_accts', 'num_rev_tl_bal_gt_0',
    'num_tl_30dpd', 'num_tl_90g_dpd_24m', 'num_tl_op_past_12m',
    'pct_tl_nvr_dlq', 'pub_rec_bankruptcies', 'tax_liens', 'tot_hi_cred_lim',
    'total_il_high_credit_limit', 'num_tl_120dpd_2m'
]
dataset = dataset.dropna(subset=low_null_cols)

fill_with_neg1 = [
    'tot_coll_amt', 'tot_cur_bal', 'avg_cur_bal', 'bc_open_to_buy', 'bc_util',
    'root_occ', 'total_balimit', 'total_balow_mont', 'mo_sin_old_il_cost', 'poccet_balow_table.'
```

```
mort_act , total_oc_limit , total_oal_ex_mort , mo_sin_ofd_il_actt , percent_oc_gt_/s
]
dataset[fill_with_neg1] = dataset[fill_with_neg1].fillna(-1)
high_missing_cols = [
   'open_acc_6m', 'open_act_il', 'open_il_12m', 'open_il_24m', 'total_bal_il',
   'il_util', 'open_rv_12m', 'open_rv_24m', 'max_bal_bc', 'all_util',
   'inq_fi', 'total_cu_tl', 'inq_last_12m'
]
dataset[high_missing_cols] = dataset[high_missing_cols].fillna(-1)
```

Encoding Categorical Variables

Now that we've completed the data cleaning process, the next essential step in preparing our dataset for machine learning is to **encode** categorical variables.

Most machine learning models require input data to be in **numerical format**. However, our dataset contains several columns with **categorical** (non-numeric) values, such as:

- emp_length Employment length
- purpose Purpose of the loan
- grade and sub_grade Credit grade tiers
- home_ownership Home ownership status
- term Loan term duration
- And others

To ensure that the model can interpret these variables correctly, we will convert them into numeric format using appropriate encoding techniques:

- **Ordinal Encoding** for features with an inherent order (e.g., grade, sub_grade, emp_length)
- Vone-Hot Encoding for features with no natural order (e.g., purpose, home ownership, application type)

▲ **Note:** Encoding must be done *before* feature selection or training, as most machine learning algorithms and statistical methods can only process numerical input.

In the next code cell, we will identify which columns are categorical and determine the best encoding strategy for each.

```
categorical_cols = dataset.select_dtypes(include=['object']).columns.tolist()
print("Categorical columns detected:")
for col in categorical_cols:
   print(f"- {col}")

→ Categorical columns detected:

     - term
     - grade
     - sub_grade
     - emp_length
     - home_ownership
     - verification_status
     - loan status
     - purpose
     - earliest_cr_line
     - initial_list_status
     - application_type
     - disbursement_method
for col in categorical cols:
   print(f"\n Column: {col}")
   print(dataset[col].unique())
     Column: term
     [' 36 months' ' 60 months']
     Column: grade
     ['C' 'B' 'F' 'A' 'E' 'D' 'G']
     Column: sub grade
     ['C4' 'C1' 'B4' 'C5' 'F1' 'C3' 'B2' 'B1' 'A2' 'B5' 'C2' 'E2' 'A4' 'A1'
      'D4' 'F3' 'D1' 'B3' 'E4' 'D3' 'D2' 'D5' 'A5' 'E3' 'F2' 'F5' 'E5' 'A3'
      'G2' 'G1' 'E1' 'G3' 'G4' 'F4' 'G5']
     Column: emp_length
```

```
['10+ years' '3 years' '4 years' '6 years' '1 year' '7 years' '8 years'
 5 years' '2 years' '9 years' '< 1 year' 'Unknown']
Column: home ownership
['MORTGAGE' 'RENT' 'OWN' 'ANY' 'NONE' 'OTHER']
Column: verification status
['Not Verified' 'Source Verified' 'Verified']
Column: loan_status
['Fully Paid' 'Current' 'Charged Off' 'In Grace Period'
 'Late (31-120 days)' 'Late (16-30 days)' 'Default']
['debt_consolidation' 'small_business' 'home_improvement' 'major_purchase'
 credit_card' 'other' 'house' 'vacation' 'car' 'medical' 'moving'
'renewable_energy' 'wedding' 'educational']
Column: earliest cr line
['Aug-2003' 'Dec-1999' 'Aug-2000' 'Sep-2008' 'Jun-1998' 'Oct-1987'
 Jun-1990' 'Feb-1999' 'Apr-2002' 'Nov-1994' 'Apr-1995' 'Feb-1988'
 'Jun-1996' 'Jun-2005' 'May-1984' 'Dec-2001' 'Nov-1993' 'Sep-2001'
 'May-2004' 'Jun-1991' 'May-2000' 'Oct-2011' 'May-1994' 'Jul-2011'
 'May-1991' 'May-2001' 'Jun-2002' 'Dec-1985' 'Apr-2007'
 'Jun-2001' 'Jun-1997' 'Oct-1996' 'Jan-2005' 'Jul-2001' 'Aug-2004'
 'Jun-2007' 'Jul-2004' 'Apr-2001' 'Oct-2004' 'May-1992' 'Oct-1999'
 'Nov-2001' 'Oct-2005' 'Jan-2001' 'Sep-2004' 'Sep-1993'
 'Feb-1989' 'Sep-2006' 'Oct-1982' 'Oct-2002' 'Feb-1990' 'Aug-1987'
 'Oct-1998' 'Aug-2001' 'Feb-2004' 'Aug-2009' 'Mar-2002'
                                                        'Nov-1999'
 'Jun-2006' 'Jan-1999' 'Jun-2000' 'Jan-2007' 'Dec-1998'
                                                        'Aug-1997'
 'Dec-1987' 'Feb-1996' 'Apr-1990' 'Jun-2004' 'Jun-1995' 'Dec-2002'
 'Aug-1986' 'Nov-2002' 'Oct-2006' 'Sep-2000' 'Feb-2012'
                                                        'Apr-2005
 'Sep-1994' 'Apr-1993' 'Sep-2007' 'Jan-1998' 'May-2008'
                                                        'Mar-2001'
 'Apr-1994' 'Apr-2003' 'Jan-2002' 'Jan-2011' 'Nov-2000' 'Sep-2002'
 'May-2002' 'Nov-2003' 'Sep-2003' 'Aug-2008' 'Dec-1997'
                                                        'Mav-2006
 'Jan-1996' 'Nov-2009' 'Oct-1994' 'May-1985' 'Jun-1999'
                                                        'Aug-1999'
 'Nov-2006' 'Nov-1996' 'Feb-2000' 'Jan-1957' 'Aug-1974' 'Feb-2010'
 'Dec-1983' 'Jan-1993' 'Mar-2004' 'Aug-1998' 'Dec-2006' 'Nov-1991
 'Apr-2006' 'Oct-2008' 'Nov-2004' 'Feb-1995' 'Oct-1991' 'Sep-1983'
 'Jan-2008' 'Jul-1995' 'Aug-1989' 'Oct-2000' 'Dec-2000' 'Sep-1989'
 'May-1998' 'Aug-2011' 'Sep-1984' 'Apr-2004' 'Oct-2003'
 'Jan-2004' 'Jun-1981' 'Jul-1993' 'Dec-2009' 'Oct-1989' 'Jul-1998'
 'Jul-1994' 'Sep-2010' 'Mar-2000' 'Nov-1985' 'Sep-1990'
                                                        'Mar-1997
 'Mar-1993' 'May-1993' 'Jun-1986' 'Oct-1993' 'Nov-1998'
                                                        'May-1999'
 'Ann-1001' 'Aug-2001' 'Man-2000' 'Man-1000' 'Con-2000' 'Doc-1077'
```

Processing earliest_cr_line into Credit History Length

Based on initial observation, we start our encoding process by transforming the column earliest_cr_line, which contains date strings like 'Jan-2005', 'Dec-1999', etc. This column represents the borrower's earliest recorded credit line, and is a valuable indicator of their credit history length — an important factor in assessing financial risk.

However, since the values are in string format, they must first be **converted into proper datetime objects**. Once converted, we compute a new feature: credit_history_length, which represents the **number of years** between the earliest credit line and a fixed reference point in time.

▲ Note: Instead of using the current year (e.g., 2025), we use **2018** as the reference year — the endpoint of this dataset's time coverage — to avoid introducing data leakage from the future.

This new column gives us a clean, numerical representation of a borrower's credit age, which can now be used safely in model training. After creating this new column, we drop the original earliest_cr_line column since it's no longer needed in its raw form.

```
dataset['earliest_cr_line'] = pd.to_datetime(dataset['earliest_cr_line'], format='%b-%Y', errors='coerce')
reference_year = 2018
dataset['credit_history_length'] = reference_year - dataset['earliest_cr_line'].dt.year
dataset.drop('earliest_cr_line', axis=1, inplace=True)
```

Performing Encoding Categorical Variables (Ordinal and Nominal)

After identifying all categorical features in the dataset, we now prepare them for machine learning by converting them into numerical format. Most ML models cannot directly interpret string-based categories, so encoding is essential.

We divide the categorical variables into two types:

Ordinal Variables (with inherent order)

These features have a clear, ranked structure, so we will apply Label Encoding or Ordinal Encoding.

```
term: Loan duration, where '36 months' < '60 months'</li>
grade: Credit score grade from 'A' (best) to 'G' (worst)
sub_grade: Fine-grained version of grade (e.g., A1 < A2 < ... < G5)</li>
emp_length: Length of employment (e.g., '< 1 year' < '1 year' < ... < '10+ years')</li>
```

Nominal Variables (no natural order)

These features have no rank or hierarchy, so we apply One-Hot Encoding:

- home_ownership: Types of housing (Rent, Mortgage, etc.)
- verification_status: Loan info verification status
- purpose: Reason for the loan
- initial_list_status:InternalLC listing code
- application_type: Individual or Joint App
- disbursement method: Method of disbursing funds

10an_status: This is our **target variable** and will not be encoded here. We will process it separately when we begin model training.

In the next steps, we will first encode the ordinal variables using custom mapping, and then apply one-hot encoding to the nominal ones.

```
dataset['term'] = dataset['term'].str.strip()
term_mapping = {
    '36 months': 0,
    '60 months': 1
dataset['term'] = dataset['term'].map(term mapping)
grade_order = ['A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E', 'F', 'G']
grade_mapping = {grade: i for i, grade in enumerate(grade_order)}
dataset['grade'] = dataset['grade'].map(grade_mapping)
subgrades = sorted(dataset['sub\_grade'].dropna().unique(), key=lambda x: (x[0], int(x[1:])))
subgrade mapping = {subgrade: idx for idx, subgrade in enumerate(subgrades)}
dataset['sub_grade'] = dataset['sub_grade'].map(subgrade_mapping)
dataset['emp_length'] = dataset['emp_length'].str.strip()
emp_length_mapping = {
    '< 1 year': 0,
    '1 year': 1,
    '2 years': 2,
   '3 years': 3,
   '4 years': 4,
   '5 years': 5,
   '6 years': 6,
    '7 years': 7,
    '8 years': 8,
    '9 years': 9,
    '10+ years': 10,
    'Unknown': -1
dataset['emp_length'] = dataset['emp_length'].map(emp_length_mapping)
nominal_cols = [
    'home_ownership',
    'verification_status',
    'purpose',
    'initial_list_status',
    'application_type',
    'disbursement_method'
dataset = pd.get_dummies(dataset, columns=nominal_cols, prefix=nominal_cols, drop_first=True)
```

Encoding the Target Variable: loan status

As the final part of our categorical encoding process, we now prepare the **target variable** — loan_status — which indicates whether a loan was repaid successfully or resulted in a default.

The original values in loan_status include multiple statuses such as:

- Fully Paid
- Current
- Charged Off
- Default
- Late (31-120 days)
- Late (16-30 days)
- In Grace Period, etc.

✓ Problem Framing: Binary Classification

For this project, we simplify the problem as a binary classification task:

- 1 = The borrower defaulted (e.g., Charged Off, Default, or Lates)
- 0 = The loan was fully paid
- · Other ambiguous statuses like Current and In Grace Period are excluded to avoid uncertainty and ensure data clarity

This approach allows us to build a focused model that answers the question:

"Will this borrower default on their loan?"

We will now filter the dataset to keep only the relevant statuses and encode the target accordingly.

```
default_statuses = ['Charged Off', 'Default', 'Late (31-120 days)', 'Late (16-30 days)']
dataset = dataset[dataset['loan_status'].isin(['Fully Paid'] + default_statuses)]
dataset['loan_status'] = dataset['loan_status'].apply(lambda x: 1 if x in default_statuses else 0)
```

Feature Selection: Identifying Important Predictors

With data cleaning and encoding complete, we now move into **feature selection**, the process of identifying which features (columns) are most relevant for predicting the target variable, loan_status.

Not all features contribute equally to a machine learning model. Some may be redundant, weakly related, or introduce noise. By removing these less useful features, we can:

- Improve model accuracy and efficiency
- · Reduce overfitting and training time
- · Make the model easier to interpret

What We'll Do:

In this section, we'll begin feature selection by examining how **numerical features** correlate with the target variable. This gives us a quick idea of which features are **most linearly related** to loan default outcomes.

Note: Not all important features are strongly correlated. Correlation is just one tool — later we can use **model-based methods** (e.g., Random Forest feature importance) for deeper analysis.

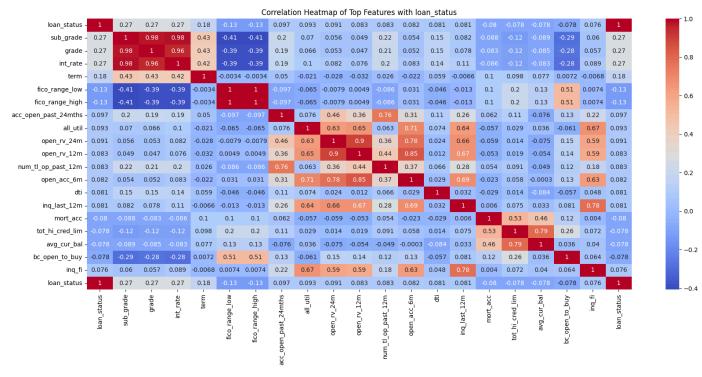
Next, we'll generate a correlation matrix and visually explore which features have meaningful relationships with loan_status.

Creating a Correlation Matrix

Correlation Matrix, a technique used to measure the linear relationship between each numeric feature and the target variable loan_status. This helps us identify features that are **strongly** (positively or negatively) **related** to the target and **remove features** with very weak linear relationships, which are unlikely to help in prediction. We considered a feature as weak if its absolute correlation with loan_status was less than 0.05 (|r| < 0.05).

```
correlation_matrix = dataset.corr(numeric_only=True)
correlation_with_target = correlation_matrix['loan_status'].sort_values(key=abs, ascending=False)
top_features = correlation_with_target.head(20)
print("Top 20 features most correlated with loan_status:\n")
print(top_features)
Top 20 features most correlated with loan_status:
                          1.000000
0.272642
    loan_status
    sub_grade
    grade
                          0.266139
                          0.265919
0.184330
    int rate
    term
                      -0.125041
-0.125039
    fico_range_low
    fico_range_high
    acc_open_past_24mths 0.097373
    all_util
                      0.093317
                          0.090813
0.083230
    open_rv_24m
    open_rv_12m
    open_acc_6m
    dti
                          0.081450
                          0.081036
-0.079793
    inq_last_12m
    mort_acc
    tot_hi_cred_lim -0.078276
                      -0.078190
-0.077516
0.075871
    avg_cur_bal
    bc_open_to_buy
    inq_fi
    Name: loan_status, dtype: float64
Visualize the results.
plt.figure(figsize=(20, 8))
sns.heatmap(dataset[top_features.index.tolist() + ['loan_status']].corr(), annot=True, cmap='coolwarm')
plt.title("Correlation Heatmap of Top Features with loan_status")
plt.show()
```





Model-Based (Random Forest Importance)

After the correlation check, we used a Random Forest Classifier to calculate the model-based feature importances. This step captures **non-linear** and **interaction effects** that correlation cannot detect. Feature importance in Random Forests shows how much a model relies on a feature to make predictions. Features with importance less than 0.005 were considered weak contributors.

```
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
import pandas as pd
X = dataset.drop('loan_status', axis=1)
y = dataset['loan_status']
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.3, random_state=42)
rf = RandomForestClassifier(n_estimators=100, random_state=42)
rf.fit(X_train, y_train)
importances = pd.Series(rf.feature_importances_, index=X.columns)
importances_sorted = importances.sort_values(ascending=False)
print("Top 20 Features by Random Forest Importance:\n")
print(importances_sorted.head(20))
Top 20 Features by Random Forest Importance:
                                   0.032509
     int rate
     dti
                                   0.027170
                                   0.027031
     sub_grade
                                   0.023329
     mo_sin_old_rev_tl_op
     tot hi cred lim
                                   0.022995
                                   0.022972
     avg cur bal
```

```
annual inc
                             0.022222
grade
                             0.022191
installment
                             0.022061
mo_sin_old_il_acct
                             0.021936
                             0.021730
bc_open_to_buy
tot_cur_bal
                             0.021479
revol util
                             0.021438
revol bal
                             0.021310
total_rev_hi_lim
                             0.021288
bc_util
                             0.021225
total bc limit
                            0.021138
total_bal_ex_mort
                            0.020378
total_il_high_credit_limit
                             0.018709
mths_since_recent_bc
                             0.018156
dtype: float64
```

Dropping Low-Value Features (Both Filters)

After evaluating features using both methods, we removed columns that were flagged by both the correlation analysis and the Random Forest model. We retained features that passed at least one of the two importance checks, ensuring we do not mistakenly discard non-linear patterns missed by the correlation matrix.

```
correlation_matrix = dataset.corr(numeric_only=True)
correlations = correlation_matrix['loan_status'].drop('loan_status')
abs_correlations = correlations.abs()

feature_summary = pd.DataFrame({
    'Correlation': correlations,
    'AbsCorrelation': abs_correlations,
    'RF_Importance': importances
})

to_drop = feature_summary[
    (feature_summary['AbsCorrelation'] < 0.05) &
     (feature_summary['RF_Importance'] < 0.005)
].sort_values(by='AbsCorrelation')

print("Features weak in both correlation and model importance:\n")
print(to_drop)</pre>
```

Features weak in both correlation and model importance:

```
Correlation AbsCorrelation
                                       -0.000233
                                                        0.000233
purpose major purchase
                                       -0 000467
                                                        9 999467
purpose_educational
home_ownership_OTHER
                                       -0.000540
                                                        0.000540
                                        0.000595
                                                         0.000595
num_tl_120dpd_2m
                                       -0.000864
                                                        0.000864
home ownership NONE
purpose_vacation
                                       -0.001332
                                                        0.001332
num_tl_30dpd
                                        0.002036
                                                        0.002036
purpose_renewable_energy
                                        0.002161
                                                        0.002161
{\tt delinq\_amnt}
                                        0.002238
                                                        0.002238
chargeoff_within_12_mths
                                        0.002541
                                                        0.002541
acc_now_deling
                                        0.002618
                                                         0.002618
                                       -0.004448
                                                        0.004448
purpose_wedding
purpose_house
                                        0.005732
                                                        0.005732
purpose_medical
                                        0.006296
                                                        0.006296
home_ownership_OWN
                                        0.007031
                                                         0.007031
purpose_moving
                                        0.008936
                                                        0.008936
num_tl_90g_dpd_24m
                                        0.009267
                                                         0.009267
tax_liens
                                        0.009738
                                                         0.009738
purpose other
                                        0.010775
                                                        0.010775
disbursement_method_DirectPay
                                        0.010940
                                                        0.010940
initial_list_status_w
                                        0.011877
                                                         0.011877
                                       -0.012346
                                                        0.012346
purpose_home_improvement
num_accts_ever_120_pd
                                        0.013932
                                                        0.013932
collections_12_mths_ex_med
                                        0.014700
                                                        0.014700
delinq_2yrs
                                        0.018948
                                                         0.018948
verification_status_Source Verified
                                        0.023880
                                                        0.023880
pub_rec_bankruptcies
                                        0.024808
                                                        0.024808
                                        0.024886
                                                         0.024886
pub_rec
purpose_small_business
                                        0.027195
                                                        0.027195
purpose_debt_consolidation
                                        0.030447
                                                        0.030447
                                        0.034894
                                                        0.034894
application_type_Joint App
                                        0.038043
                                                         0.038043
purpose_credit_card
                                       -0.042503
                                                        0.042503
                                     RF_Importance
                                          0.000932
purpose_major_purchase
```

```
0.000000
    purpose_educational
                                             0.000010
    home_ownership_OTHER
    num_tl_120dpd_2m
                                             0.000060
    home_ownership_NONE
                                             0.000005
                                             0.000454
    purpose vacation
    num_tl_30dpd
                                             0.000223
                                             0.000075
    purpose renewable energy
    delinq_amnt
                                             0.000399
    chargeoff_within_12_mths
                                             0.000514
    acc_now_delinq
                                             0.000296
    purpose_wedding
                                            0.000061
                                            0.000377
    purpose_house
    purpose_medical
                                            0.000737
    home_ownership_OWN
                                           0.001824
    purpose_moving
                                            0.000467
                                           0.001815
    num_tl_90g_dpd_24m
    tax_liens
                                           0.001663
                                             0.001586
    nurnose other
                                             0.000344
    disbursement method DirectPay
drop features = to drop.index.tolist()
dataset.drop(columns=drop_features, inplace=True)
print(f"Dropped {len(drop_features)} low-value features.")
→ Dropped 33 low-value features.
dataset.info()
    16 mths_since_last_record
     17 open_acc
     18 revol_bal
     19 revol_util
```

```
1251976 non-null float64
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 1251976 non-null float64
1251976 non-null float64
1251976 non-null float64

        18
        revol_bal
        1251976 non-null
        float64

        19
        revol_util
        1251976 non-null
        float64

        20
        total_acc
        1251976 non-null
        float64

        21
        mths_since_last_major_derog
        1251976 non-null
        float64

        22
        policy_code
        1251976 non-null
        float64

        23
        tot_coll_amt
        1251976 non-null
        float64

        24
        tot_cur_bal
        1251976 non-null
        float64

        25
        open_acc_6m
        1251976 non-null
        float64

        26
        open_act_il
        1251976 non-null
        float64

        27
        open_act_il
        1251976 non-null
        float64

        28
        open_il_24m
        1251976 non-null
        float64

        29
        mths_since_rcnt_il
        1251976 non-null
        float64

        29
        mths_since_rcnt_il
        1251976 non-null
        float64

        30
        total_bal_il
        1251976 non-null
        float64

        31
        il_util
        1251976 non-null
        float64

        32
        open_rv_21m
        1251976 non-null
        float64
      48 mths_since_recent_bc
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      1251976 non-null float64
```

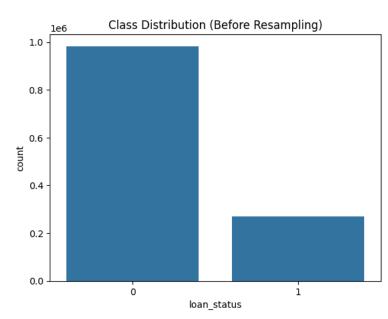
```
/U nome_ownersnip_KENI 12519/6 non-null bool 71 verification_status_Verified 1251976 non-null bool dtypes: bool(3), float64(63), int64(6) memory usage: 672.2 MB
```

Data Splitting

```
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split

X = dataset.drop('loan_status', axis=1)
y = dataset['loan_status']

sns.countplot(x='loan_status', data=dataset)
plt.title('Class Distribution (Before Resampling)')
plt.show()
```



```
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.3, random_state=42)
```

We implement SMOTE as the classes are not balanced.

```
from imblearn.over_sampling import SMOTE
smote = SMOTE(random_state=42)
X_train_resampled, y_train_resampled = smote.fit_resample(X_train, y_train)
print("Before SMOTE:")
print(y_train.value_counts())
print(y_train.value_counts(normalize=True))
print("\nAfter SMOTE:")
print(pd.Series(y_train_resampled).value_counts())
print(pd.Series(y_train_resampled).value_counts(normalize=True))
⇒ Before SMOTE:
     loan_status
    0 687910
     1 188473
    Name: count, dtype: int64
     loan_status
     0 0.784942
         0.215058
    Name: proportion, dtype: float64
     After SMOTE:
     loan_status
         687910
         687910
     Name: count, dtype: int64
     loan_status
```

```
0 0.5
1 0.5
Name: proportion, dtype: float64
```

Model Training

Initial Training using Random Forest

On this section of this notebook we finally perform model training using the data that we preprocessed. We simply call RandomForestClassifier and set its parameters such as the random_state. We display the results then after the model training.

```
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier
from sklearn.metrics import classification_report, confusion_matrix
rf = RandomForestClassifier(random_state=42)
rf.fit(X_train_resampled, y_train_resampled)
from sklearn.metrics import (
    classification_report,
    confusion_matrix,
   accuracy_score,
    roc_auc_score,
    ConfusionMatrixDisplay
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
y_pred = rf.predict(X_test)
y_proba = rf.predict_proba(X_test)[:, 1]
print("Confusion Matrix:")
print(confusion_matrix(y_test, y_pred))
print("\nClassification Report:")
print(classification_report(y_test, y_pred))
print("Accuracy:", accuracy_score(y_test, y_pred))
print("ROC-AUC:", roc_auc_score(y_test, y_proba))
disp = ConfusionMatrixDisplay.from_estimator(rf, X_test, y_test, cmap='Blues')
plt.title("Confusion Matrix")
plt.show()
```

```
→ Confusion Matrix:
    [[280094 15134]
    [ 66745 13620]]
    Classification Report:
                 precision
                              recall f1-score
                                                 support
              0
                      0.81
                                0.95
                                          0.87
                                                  295228
                      0.47
                                0.17
                                          0.25
                                                   80365
                                                  375593
       accuracy
                                          0.78
                                0.56
       macro avg
                      0.64
                                          0.56
                                                  375593
```

0.74

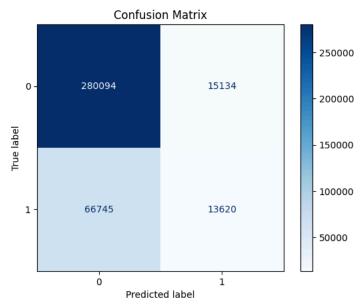
0.78

0.74

375593

Accuracy: 0.7820007295130633 ROC-AUC: 0.7071223513520097

weighted avg



Check which feature Random Forest relied the most.

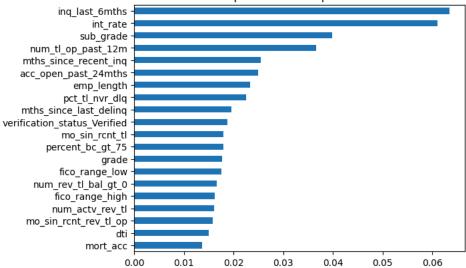
```
import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

feature_importances = pd.Series(rf.feature_importances_, index=X_train.columns)
top_features = feature_importances.sort_values(ascending=False).head(20)

top_features.plot(kind='barh')
plt.gca().invert_yaxis()
plt.title("Top 20 Feature Importances")
plt.show()
```







Use and Compare other models in terms of performance.

from xgboost import XGBClassifier

```
from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
from sklearn.ensemble import GradientBoostingClassifier
from lightgbm import LGBMClassifier
from xgboost import XGBClassifier
from sklearn.metrics import roc auc score
models = {
    "Logistic Regression": LogisticRegression(max_iter=1000),
    "Gradient Boosting": GradientBoostingClassifier(),
    "LightGBM": LGBMClassifier(),
    "XGBoost": XGBClassifier(use_label_encoder=False, eval_metric='logloss')
for name, model in models.items():
   model.fit(X_train_resampled, y_train_resampled)
   y_pred = model.predict(X_test)
   y_proba = model.predict_proba(X_test)[:, 1]
   auc = roc_auc_score(y_test, y_proba)
   print(f"{name} ROC-AUC: {auc:.4f}")
    /usr/local/lib/python3.11/dist-packages/sklearn/linear_model/_logistic.py:465: ConvergenceWarning: lbfgs failed to converge (status=1):
     STOP: TOTAL NO. OF ITERATIONS REACHED LIMIT.
     Increase the number of iterations (max iter) or scale the data as shown in:
         https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/preprocessing.html
     Please also refer to the documentation for alternative solver options:
        https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/linear_model.html#logistic-regression
       n_iter_i = _check_optimize_result(
     Logistic Regression ROC-AUC: 0.6578
     Gradient Boosting ROC-AUC: 0.6983
     [LightGBM] [Info] Number of positive: 687910, number of negative: 687910 [LightGBM] [Info] Auto-choosing row-wise multi-threading, the overhead of testing was 0.499918 seconds.
     You can set `force_row_wise=true` to remove the overhead.
     And if memory is not enough, you can set `force col wise=true`.
     [LightGBM] [Info] Total Bins 15930
     [LightGBM] [Info] Number of data points in the train set: 1375820, number of used features: 70
     [LightGBM] [Info] [binary:BoostFromScore]: pavg=0.500000 -> initscore=0.000000
     LightGBM ROC-AUC: 0.7245
     /usr/local/lib/python3.11/dist-packages/xgboost/training.py:183: UserWarning: [19:26:59] WARNING: /workspace/src/learner.cc:738:
     Parameters: { "use_label_encoder" } are not used.
       bst.update(dtrain, iteration=i, fobj=obj)
     XGBoost ROC-AUC: 0.7281
Use XGBoost with an improved ROC-AUC compared to Random Forest.
```

from sklearn.metrics import classification_report, confusion_matrix, roc_auc_score