

Capstone_Final_Report

This dataset contains information on borrowers of sanctioned loans. The problem presented here is predicting whether a borrower will default on a loan.

A few questions I initially asked were as follows:

- Is there imbalance in the data?
- Do all borrowers share common features associated with defaulting?
- What loans are being sanctioned for borrowers?
- Do borrowers with payment issues have red flags exclusive to them?
- What does the socioeconomic status of all borrowers look like? What do the distributions of the income ranges look like?
- What age groups are applying for loans?

With these questions as my foundation, I began by dropping irrelevant columns, changing date formats, and imputing missing values. I also explored relationships between borrower features. There were absolutely distinct fingerprints for borrowers with and without previous defaults, were young or middle-aged, and belonged to the middle - lower class, among other features.

The bulk of applicants were middle to lower class and sought out cash loans. A lot of borrowers were in a relationship. I didn't provide specifics of the loan, (what the loan was needed for) the total amount of credit loaned out was a feature. Most of these loans were used for bigger purchases such as mortgages or vehicles.

Further Research:

It would be interesting to measure discrimination bias, if any, in a dataset like this. Analysis of this data showed that borrowers with lower socioeconomic status had a higher probability to default or not. Instead of building a simple classification model that either predicts if a borrower will default or not, a fluid scale like this would open up important dialogue between lenders and borrowers. A fluid scale like this would offer a payment plan that is structured around the borrower's current situation or they'd offer leniency on their part.

Recommendations:

Incentivize borrowers to opt into revolving loans instead of cash loans. This will provide a small safety net in case borrowers have a hard time making payments.

Cap the amount of credit offered to higher risk individuals to 500K. Higher risk individuals in this case refers to work history, credit score, and income.

Provide leniency/assistance to borrowers with lower socio-economic standing. Low income women make up a lot of the borrowers in this dataset. A lower credit limit would reduce default rates, particularly among low income women.