Predicting the CCRB's Disposition of an Investigation

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Summary of Findings

Introduction

The Prediction Problem: Predict whether the CCRB will Rule an Investigation as Substantiated.

What's the response variable?

- The CCRB's disposition of an investigation, particularly if it is "Substantiated"
 - In prior analysis of complaints filed against the NYPD, I conducted a hypothesis test which compared the distribution of CCRB rulings per complainant ethnicity to help answer the question "Does a complainant's ethnicity influence the CCRB disposition of their allegation?": the difference between distributions suggested that complainant ethnicity was not independent from the CCRB disposition of their allegation. This idea inspired the creation of a binary classifier model that utilitzes patterns within the complaint data to give insight into whether the CCRB will substantiate a complaint case after investigation. This predictive model that can tell whether a case will result in some sort of consequence for the officer under allegation can motivate a more careful, attentive investigation or spark further exploration into why certain complaints are substantiated while others are not.

What's the metric being used to evaluate the model?

Recall

■ False negatives which wrongly classify a case as "Unsubstatiated" underestimates the severity of a complaint, which could possibly frame an investigation as "unnecessary" and lead to the remission of an officer who exhibited disorderly conduct with a civillian. False positives which wrongly classify a case as "Substantiated", however, would incite further invesigation to help guide the CCRB to a fair & just ruling that is more closely reflective of the case's severity. Hence, the consequences of false negatives prove detrimental. Metrics such as accuracy and F1-score also provide insight to how many false classifications are made, but they do not provide insight to the type of false classifications made by the model! However, by using recall as a metric for model evaluation, we can see how many false negatives are made and minimize the number of such wrongly unsubstantiated investigations.

What features are being used?

- All information that would be known at the time of prediction were considered as potential features, while the following were disqualified:
 - rank abbrev now & rank now
 - command now
 - month closed
 - year_closed

The officer's rank and command after the investigation closed would not be available before the CCRB makes their final ruling. The month and year a case closes would only be known after the CCRB's disposition is made.

Baseline Model

Classifier: Logistic Regression

What features were used?

- rank_incident the officer's rank at the time of incident (qualitative)
- mos ethnicity the officer's ethnicity (qualitative)
- complainant ethnicity the complainant's ethnicity (qualitative)
- outcome description the outcome of the interaction between the officer and complainant (qualitative)

All of the above were encoded via one-hot encoding using a OneHotEncoder() fitted into a Pipeline object.

Model Performance

- Recall: ~42.7%
- Precision: ~33.3%
- Accuracy: ~65.3%

Summary The model had poor performance, as its low recall signifies a high rate of false negarives, or wrongly unsubstantiated cases and it only classified observations correctly about 65% of the time.

Note: since the data is imbalanced, however, the low accuracy is not as crucial toward model evaluation

Final Model

Classifier: Logistic Regressor

What features were added?

- contact_reason reason of interaction between officer and complainant
- allegation specific complaint type

All of the above were encoded via one-hot encoding using a OneHotEncoder() fitted into a Pipeline object.

I performed a hypothesis test for the reason of interaction between officer and complainant under the motivating question: "Is this information independent from whether a case is substantiated?". The differences between the distributions of contact_reason for substantiated and not substantiated cases were statistically significant, suggesting it is likely to be useful in predicting the CCRB's disposition of a given investigation.

For the specific complaint type, I performed exploratory data analysis that resulted in an interesting finding: The distribution of CCRB dispositions for the top 5 most common allegations exhibited stark visual differences:

- of allegations under Physical force, most investigations are Exonerated
- of allegations under Word, most investigations are Unsubstantiated
- of allegations under Stop, most investigations are Substantiated

- of allegations under Search (of person), most investigations are Unsubstantiated
- of allegations under Frisk, most investigations are under Sunstantiated

Under the intuition that complaints filed under specific types are more likely to be substantiated or not substantiated, allegation seemed like a useful feature in predicting the CCRB disposition.

Model Selection

After tuning hyperparameters for three classifiers (LogisticRegression(), DecisionTreeClassifier(), RandomForestClassifier()), each were fitted to the training data for model evaluation. Each model was compared based on their recall score, and the classifier with the highest recall was selected as the final model.

• Classifier: Logistic Regressor

• Hyperparameters: C=100, max_iter=600

Model Selection: GridSearchCV(scoring='recall')

Model Performance

• Recall: ~54.4% (+11.7%)

Precision: ~42.5% (+9.2%)

Accuracy: ~71.2% (+5.9%)

Fairness Analysis

What groups were evaluated to assess model fairness?

Black complainants make up the largest category of complainants and are typically over-represented in cases of police brutality.

Does the model perform differently for Black and non-Black complainants?

Testing Structure

- Null Hypothesis: The model is fair. Its recall for Black complainants and non-Black complainants are roughly the same, and any differences are due to random chance.
- Alternative Hypothesis: The model is unfair. Its recall for Black complainants and non-Black complainants are not the same.
- $\alpha = 0.05$
- p-value = 0.51

Summary: Since the p-value is higher than our significance level of 0.05, we fail to reject the null hypothesis which suggests that the model is fair.

Code

```
import numpy as np
import os
import pandas as pd
import seaborn as sns
%config InlineBackend.figure_format = 'retina' # Higher resolution figures
```

Baseline Model

```
In [8]:
    cc_fp = os.path.join('data', 'allegations_202007271729.csv')
    cc = pd.read_csv(cc_fp)
```

Preprocessing: Cleaning the Data

Description: The filed NYPD complaints contains data unsuitable to use as features for our predictive model, so we will filter only for qualifying data; all features must be information that would be available before the CCRB makes its final disposition and they must not cause multicollinearity.

Note that all encoding will occur during model development.

Developing the Model

```
# one-hot encode the CCRB dispositions (1-Substantiated, 0-Not Substantiated)
substantiated = 'Substantiated'
substantiated_dispositions = cc['board_disposition'][cc['board_disposition'].str[:len(substantiated)] == substantiated].unique()
disposition_actual = cc['board_disposition'].replace(['Unsubstantiated', 'Exonerated'], 0).replace(substantiated_dispositions, 1)
```

I. Splitting the Data

```
v train = disposition actual[X train.index]
          # testing data (drop nans!)
          test data ix = [test data for test data in cc features.index if test data not in X train.index]
          X test = cc features.iloc[test data ix. :l.dropna()
          v test = disposition actual[X test.index]
In [14]:
          X train.apply(lambda df: df.isna()).mean() # high proportion of missing values for complainant ethnicity implies need for imputation
          month received
                                      0.000000
Out[14]:
          year received
                                      0.000000
          command at incident
                                      0.045647
          rank incident
                                      0.000000
          mos ethnicity
                                      0.000000
          mos gender
                                      0.000000
          mos age incident
                                      0.000000
          complainant ethnicity
                                      0.132704
          complainant gender
                                      0.124550
          complainant age incident
                                      0.142457
          fado_type
                                      0.000000
          allegation
                                      0.000040
          precinct
                                      0.000919
          contact reason
                                      0.005836
          outcome description
                                      0.001799
          dtype: float64
         II. Imputation
In [15]:
          def add labels(axis, title, x, y):
               '''adds title, x-axis label and y-axis label to plot'''
              axis.set title(title)
              axis.set xlabel(x)
              axis.set vlabel(v)
              return
In [16]:
          def tvd(a, b):
              '''Finds the TVD between the two given distributions'''
              return np.sum(np.abs(a-b)) / 2
In [17]:
          # the 'null compl ethn' column stores whether the complainant ethnicity is mising
          X train['null compl ethn'] = X train['complainant ethnicity'].isna()
          # find the number of missing complainant ethnicities within each type of officer ethnicity
          ethnicity missingness = (
              X train
              .pivot_table(
                   index='mos ethnicity',
                   columns='null_compl_ethn',
                   aggfunc='size')
```

```
# normalize the number of missing complainant ethnicities
          ethnicity missingness = (ethnicity missingness / ethnicity missingness.sum()).fillna(0)
          # find tvd
          tvd1 = tvd(ethnicity missingness[True], ethnicity missingness[False])
          print(f'TVD between the distributions for each officer ethnicity: {tvd1}')
         TVD between the distributions for each officer ethnicity: 0.09170866339355023
In [18]:
          # PERMUTATION TEST
          var1 tvds = []
          for in range(1000):
              # shuffle the missingness of complainant ethnicity
              shuffled null = (
                  X train['complainant ethnicity'].isna()
                  .sample(frac=1)
                  .reset index(drop=True)
              original and shuffled = (
                  X train
                  .assign(**{'Shuffled Null' : shuffled_null})
              # find the tvd
              var1 sim = original and shuffled.pivot table(index='mos ethnicity', columns='Shuffled Null', aggfunc='size')
              var1_sim = (var1_sim / var1_sim.sum()).fillna(0)
              var1 tvd = tvd(var1 sim[True], var1 sim[False])
              var1_tvds.append(var1_tvd)
In [19]:
          p val1 = (var1 tvds >= tvd1).mean()
          if p val1 < 0.01:
              results = 'MAR'
          else:
              results = 'NMAR'
          print(f'p-value ({p_val1}) suggests that the missingness mechanism of complainant ethnicity is {results} on mos ethnicity!')
         p-value (0.0) suggests that the missingness mechanism of complainant ethnicity is MAR on mos ethnicity!
In [20]:
          # PERFORM IMPUTATION ON TRAINING DATA
```

X train filled = X train.copy()

```
all fill values = {}
          for officer ethnicity in X train['mos ethnicity'].unique():
              # filter for observations with given officer ethnicity
              by mos ethnicity = X train.groupby('mos ethnicity').get group(officer ethnicity)
              # get number of null complainant ethnicities
              nulls = by mos ethnicity['complainant ethnicity'].isna()
              num null = nulls.sum()
              # aet sample to fill missing values with
              fill values = by mos ethnicity.dropna()['complainant ethnicity'].sample(num null)
              # aet index of missina complainant ethnicities
              fill values.index = by mos ethnicity[nulls].index
              # fill missing complainant ethnicities
              all fill values.update(fill values)
In [21]:
          X train filled = X train.fillna({'complainant ethnicity': all fill values}).drop(columns=['null compl ethn']) # fill the vals
In [22]:
          # drop nans from outcome description
          X train filled = X train filled.dropna()
          v train = v train[X train filled.index]
         III. Fitting the Data & Making Predictions
In [23]:
          from sklearn.pipeline import Pipeline
          from sklearn.preprocessing import OneHotEncoder
          from sklearn.linear model import LogisticRegression
          from sklearn.tree import DecisionTreeClassifier
          from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier
          from sklearn import metrics
          from sklearn.metrics import recall_score, precision_score, accuracy_score
In [24]:
          # we will use the same training data and testing data for the base model and final model
          # the base model will only use these certain features
          baseline features = ['rank incident', 'mos ethnicity', 'complainant ethnicity', 'outcome description']
In [86]:
          # create pipeline
          pl = Pipeline([
              ('one-hot', OneHotEncoder(handle_unknown='ignore')), # all baseline features are nominal data
               ('log-reg', LogisticRegression(max_iter=400)) # need a high max-iter
          1)
```

```
# fit model
log_reg = pl.fit(X_train_filled[baseline_features], y_train)

In [87]: # find predictions at threshold 0.3
y_probs = log_reg.predict_proba(X_test[baseline_features])[: ,1]
y_pred = np.array([1 if y_prob > 0.3 else 0 for y_prob in y_probs])

In [88]: print(f'recall: {recall_score(y_test, y_pred)}')
print(f'precision: {precision_score(y_test, y_pred)}')
print(f'accuracy: {accuracy_score(y_test, y_pred)}')

recall: 0.4561091340450771
precision: 0.3356612832824094
accuracy: 0.6500717360114777

Final Model
```

```
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
from sklearn.compose import ColumnTransformer
from sklearn.model_selection import GridSearchCV
```

I. Preface

Step 1a: Feature Selection (potential feature: contact_reason)

- Alternative Hypothesis: Board disposition is not independent from the reason of contact between the officer and complainant
 - The distribution of contact reasons for substantiated and the distribution of contact reasons for not substantiated cases *do not* come from the same distribution
- Null Hypothesis: Board disposition is independent from the reason of contact between the officer and complainant
 - The distribution of contact reasons for substantiated and the distribution of contact reasons for not substantiated cases do come from the same distribution

```
In [34]:
    cc_features['board_disposition'] = disposition_actual
    on_contact_reason = (
        cc_features.pivot_table(
        index='board_disposition',
        columns='contact_reason',
        values='allegation',
        aggfunc='count')
        .transform(
            lambda disposition_count: disposition_count / disposition_count.sum(), axis=1)
        .fillna(0)
    )
    obs_tvd_contact_reason = tvd(on_contact_reason.iloc[0], on_contact_reason.iloc[1])
```

```
Tn [35]:
          # PERMITATION TEST
          var1 tvds = []
          for in range(1000):
              # shuffle the board disposition
              shuffled null = (
                  disposition actual
                  .sample(frac=1)
                  .reset index(drop=True)
              original and shuffled = (
                  cc features[['contact reason', 'allegation']]
                  .assign(**{'Shuffled Disposition' : shuffled null})
              # find the tvd
              var1 sim = (
                  original and shuffled.pivot table(index='Shuffled Disposition', columns='contact reason', aggfunc='count')
                      lambda disposition count: disposition count / disposition count.sum(), axis=1)
                  .fillna(0)
              var1_tvd = tvd(var1_sim.iloc[0], var1_sim.iloc[1])
              var1 tvds.append(var1 tvd)
```

```
In [36]: np.mean(var1_tvds >= obs_tvd_contact_reason) # p-value
```

Out[36]: 0.

Results of hypothesis test: Since the p-value is less than 0.01, we reject the null in favor of the alternative, which suggests that the reason of contact between an officer and the complainant is not independent from whether a case is substantiated.

Implication: contact reason can be used as a feature

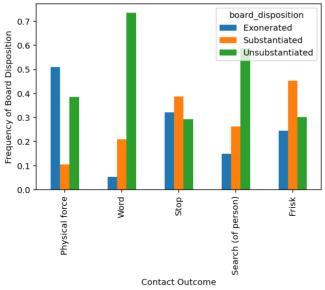
Step 1b: Feature Selection (potential feature: allegation) via EDA

```
# found in previous eda
top_5_allegations = ['Physical force', 'Word', 'Stop', 'Search (of person)', 'Frisk']

# STEP 1: "condense" the different levels of severity for substantiated cases
disposition_types = cc_with_description['board_disposition'].unique() # find all the dispos. types
```

```
substantiated = (
    disposition types
    [~((disposition types == 'Exonerated') | (disposition types == 'Unsubstantiated'))]
) # finds all types of substantiated cases
# STEP 2: find the frequency of how the CCRB rules each type of complaint category
allegation vs board dispos = pd.pivot table(
    data=cc with description.replace(substantiated, 'Substantiated'), # all types of substantiated
                                                                      # cases fall under 'Substantiated'
    index='allegation'.
    values ='command now'.
    columns='board disposition',
    aggfunc='count').fillna(0)
# STEP 3: (there's a lot of complaint categories) filters for the top 5 complaint categories
# and normalizes the frequency of the CCRB disposition with respect to the complaint category
top allegation vs board dispos = (
    allegation vs board dispos
    .loc[top 5 allegations, :] # these were found during Univariate Analysis!
    .fillna(0)
    .transform(
        lambda disposition count: disposition count / disposition count.sum(), axis=1)
).fillna(0)
top allegation vs board dispos plt = top allegation vs board dispos.plot(kind='bar')
add labels(
    top allegation vs board dispos plt,
    'Distribution of CCRB Dispositions For Most Common Contact Outcomes that Result in Complaint Instances of Physical Force',
    'Contact Outcome',
    'Frequency of Board Disposition'
```

Distribution of CCRB Dispositions For Most Common Contact Outcomes that Result in Complaint Instances of Physical Force



Here, we can compare how the CCRB ruled the top 5 most common types of filed allegations.

- of allegations under Physical force, most investigations are Exonerated
- of allegations under Word, most investigations are Unsubstantiated
- of allegations under Stop, most investigations are Substantiated
- of allegations under Search (of person), most investigations are Unsubstantiated
- of allegations under Frisk, most investigations are under Sunstantiated

Implication: The stark visual difference between distribution implies that allegation may be useful in predicting CCRB disposition

Final Features yay!

In [39]:

```
final_features = baseline_features + ['contact_reason', 'allegation'] # adding our new features to the test data
```

II. Tuning Hyperparameters via GridSearchCV

Below, I tuned the hyperparameters of three classifiers:

- Logistic Regressor
- Decision Tree Classifier
- Random Forest Classifier

I later used these best parameters & compared each classifier's performance on the same set of testing data to find the model which returned the highest recall.

Step 2: Model Comparison

```
one hot = OneHotEncoder()
In [43]:
          transformed training data = pd.DataFrame(
             one hot.fit transform(X train filled[final features]).toarray()
In [71]:
          # _____
          # LOGISTIC REGRESSOR
          # -----
         log hyperparams = {
              'C': [0.01.0.1.1.10.100], # how heavily weighted the training data is in tuning the parameters
              'max iter': range(600, 800, 100) # number of iterations
         log searcher = GridSearchCV(LogisticRegression(), log hyperparams, cv=5, scoring='recall')
         log searcher.fit(transformed training data, y train)
         GridSearchCV(cv=5, estimator=LogisticRegression(),
Out[71]:
                     param grid={'C': [0.01, 0.1, 1, 10, 100],
                                'max iter': range(600, 800, 100)},
                     scoring='recall')
In [45]:
          # -----
          # DECISION TREE CLASSIFIER
          # -----
         dectree hyperparams = {
              'max depth': [2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 13, 15, 18, None],
              'min samples split': [2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 15, 20],
              'criterion': ['gini', 'entropy']
         dectree searcher = GridSearchCV(DecisionTreeClassifier(), dectree hyperparams, cv=5, scoring='recall')
         dectree_searcher.fit(transformed_training_data, y_train)
         GridSearchCV(cv=5, estimator=DecisionTreeClassifier(),
Out[45]:
                     param_grid={'criterion': ['gini', 'entropy'],
                                'max_depth': [2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 13, 15, 18, None],
                                'min_samples_split': [2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 15, 20]},
                     scoring='recall')
In [46]:
          # -----
          # RANDOM FOREST CLASSIFIER
          # -----
         rf hyperparams = {
              'n_estimators': [20, 60, 100, 140, 180],
              'max_depth': [2, 5, 7, 10, 15, 18, None],
              'bootstrap': [True, False]
```

```
rf searcher = GridSearchCV(RandomForestClassifier(), rf hyperparams, cv=5, scoring='recall')
           rf searcher.fit(transformed training data, y train)
          GridSearchCV(cv=5, estimator=RandomForestClassifier(),
Out[46]:
                       param grid={'bootstrap': [True, False],
                                    'max depth': [2, 5, 7, 10, 15, 18, None],
                                    'n estimators': [20, 60, 100, 140, 180]},
                        scoring='recall')
In [72]:
           print('best parameters:')
           print(f'log regression: {log searcher.best params }')
           print(f'decision tree classifier:{dectree searcher.best params }')
           print(f'random forest:{rf searcher.best params }')
          best parameters:
          log regression: {'C': 100, 'max iter': 600}
          decision tree classifier:{'criterion': 'gini', 'max depth': None, 'min samples split': 2}
          random forest:{'bootstrap': True, 'max depth': None, 'n estimators': 20}
          III. Model Selection
In [130]:
           def find best(models):
               '''returns fitted model with highest recall'''
               \max \text{ recall } = 0
               best model = models[0]
               y pred final = np.array([])
               for model in models:
                   # create a pipeline of the transformers and estimator
                   pl = Pipeline([
                       ('one-hot', OneHotEncoder(handle unknown='ignore')),
                       ('estimator', model)
                   1)
                   # fit the model to training data
                   fitted model = pl.fit(X train filled[final features], y train)
                   # make predictions
                   if isinstance(model, LogisticRegression):
                       # find predictions at threshold 0.3
                       y probs = fitted model.predict proba(X test[final features])[: ,1]
                       y_pred = np.array([1 if y_prob > 0.3 else 0 for y_prob in y_probs])
                   else:
                       y_pred = fitted_model.predict(X_test[final_features])
                   # find recall
                   recall = recall_score(y_test, y_pred)
                   print(recall)
                   # return fitted model with highest recall
```

```
if recall > max recall:
                       max recall = recall
                       best model = fitted model
                       v pred final = v pred
               return best model, y pred final
In [131]:
           # fitted models with tuned hyperparams
           models = \Gamma
               LogisticRegression(C=100, max iter=600),
               DecisionTreeClassifier(criterion='gini', max depth=None, min samples split=2),
               RandomForestClassifier(bootstrap=True, max depth=None, n estimators=20)
In [132]:
           best model, v pred final = find best(models)
          0.5438908659549229
          0.2912218268090154
          0.2900355871886121
In [133]:
           model_type = best_model.named_steps['estimator']
           print(f'best model: {model type}')
           print(f'recall: {recall_score(y_test, y_pred_final)}')
           print(f'precision: {precision_score(y_test, y_pred_final)}')
           print(f'accuracy: {accuracy_score(y_test, y_pred_final)}')
          best model: LogisticRegression(C=100, max iter=600)
          recall: 0.5438908659549229
          precision: 0.4251274918868799
          accuracy: 0.711764705882353
         Step 3: Conclusion
```

After tuning the hyperparameters of three models and fitting them to the training data, the Random Forest Classifier performed best (with respect to recall) in predicting CCRB disposition when given the test dataset.

Fairness Analysis

Black complainants make up the largest category of complainants and are typically over-represented in cases of police brutality. Does the model perform differently for Black and non-Black complainants?

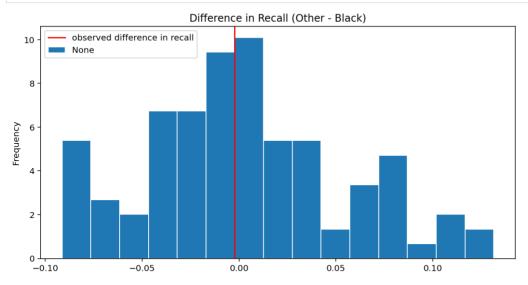
Null Hypothesis: The model is fair. Its recall for Black complainants and non-Black complainants are roughly the same, and any differences are due to random chance.

Alternative Hypothesis: The model is unfair. Its recall for Black complainants and non-Black complainants are not the same.

```
In [134]: # we will be assessing the recall for the testing set
    results = X_test
```

```
results['prediction'] = v pred final
           results['tag'] = y test
           # aroups: Black Complainants and non-Black Complainants
           results['complainant binary ethnicity'] = (results.complainant ethnicity == 'Black').replace({True: 'Black', False: 'Other'})
In [135]:
           # grouping by Black and non-Black complainants to compare each
           # agaregate's recall score
           obs recalls = (
               results
               .groupby('complainant binary ethnicity')
               .apply(lambda x: metrics.recall score(x['tag'], x['prediction']))
               .rename('recall')
               .to frame()
           obs recalls
Out[135]:
                                      recall
           complainant binary ethnicity
                             Black 0.544892
                             Other 0.542538
In [136]:
           # observed difference in recall score between Black and non-Black complainants
           obs diff = obs recalls.diff().iloc[-1]['recall']
           obs diff
           -0.002353286613037575
Out[136]:
In [137]:
           diff_in_recall = []
           for in range(100):
               s = (
                   # filter for information necessary to calculate test data recall score
                   results[['complainant binary ethnicity', 'prediction', 'tag']]
                   # randomly assign ethnicity (Black or Other) to each complaint
                   .assign(is_black=results.complainant binary_ethnicity.sample(frac=1.0, replace=False).reset index(drop=True))
                   # calculate difference in recall score between simulated Black and non-Black complainants
                   .groupby('is_black')
                   .apply(lambda x: metrics.recall_score(x['tag'], x['prediction']))
                   .diff()
                   .iloc[-1]
               diff_in_recall.append(s)
```

```
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 5))
pd.Series(diff_in_recall).plot(kind='hist', ec='w', density=True, bins=15, title='Difference in Recall (Other - Black)')
plt.axvline(x=obs_diff, color='red', label='observed difference in recall')
plt.legend(loc='upper left');
```



```
In [139]: # p-value: probability of observed difference under the null hypothesis
# greater than alpha=0.05
np.mean(diff_in_recall >= obs_diff)
```

Out[139]: 0.51