**Enron POI Identifier Report**

**Introduction**

Enron Corporation was an American energy, commodities, and services company based in Houston, Texas. Enron Corporation bankrupted on December 2, 2001 because of corporate fraud and corruption. as one of the largest corporate fraud cases in American history. The purpose of this project is to identify persons of interest in the fraud case from 146 executives at Enron. A person of interest (POI) is defined as a person who indicted for fraud, settled with the government, or testified in exchange for immunity. This report tried to use machine learning techniques to construct a POI identifier by given information.

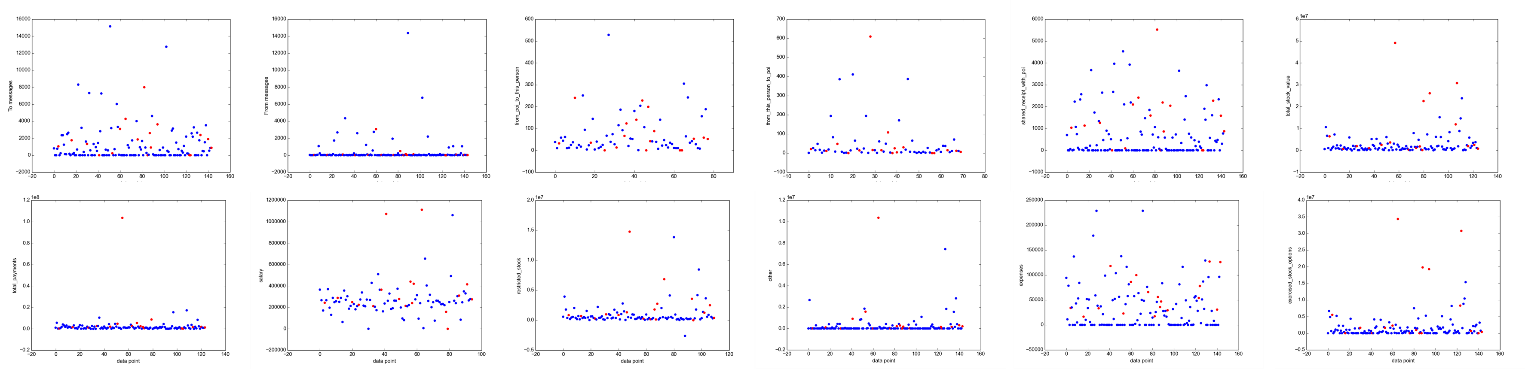
**The Enron Data**

The first step is to screen the available data points in each feature (14 financial features, 5 email features and 1 target label). Table 1 shows all available data points in each feature. Those features with insufficient data are not taken into consideration, since the lack of data issue might affect the generalization of the algorithms in the future. The threshold for the first feature selection is at least the features have more than 82 available data points.

**Table 1. The available data points in each feature.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Feature | Available data | Feature | Available data |
| Email features | | restricted\_stock\_deferred | 36 |
| to\_messages | 86 | deferred\_income | 49 |
| from\_poi\_to\_this\_person | 86 | total\_stock\_value | 126 |
| from\_messages | 86 | expenses | 95 |
| from\_this\_person\_to\_poi | 86 | exercised\_stock\_options | 102 |
| shared\_receipt\_with\_poi | 86 | other | 93 |
| Financial features | | long\_term\_incentive | 72 |
| salary | 95 | restricted\_stock | 110 |
| deferral\_payments | 39 | director\_fees | 17 |
| total\_payments | 125 |  |  |
| loan\_advances | 4 | Target label | |
| bonus | 82 | poi | 146 |

The next step is to remove any outliers or obvious mistakes. Two outliers were removed which are “TOTAL” and “THE TRAVEL AGENCY IN THE PARK”, since these two data do not represent any characters in the Enron company. Other than that, all the data points are reserved for further analysis.



**Figure 1. After the first feature selection, there are 12 features for further analysis.**

**Feature Processing**

1. Select K Best

Once the data was cleaned of outliers, the next step was going through the second time of feature selection. This Enron dataset is difficult to visualize which feature could be a potential identifier. For this reason, the manner here is using univariate feature selection by selecting the best features based on univariate statistical tests. Since the data are interval data point, the select k best method uses ANOVA to compute the features. The number of k features is 6 according to the best result I got. The features that the select k best method picked up are “total\_stock\_value”, “restricted\_stock”, “exercised\_stock\_options”, “total\_payments”, “salary”, and “shared\_receipt\_with\_poi”. In addition, if one feature which the F value greater than XXX added into the algorithms, the average accuracy, precision and recall would greatly improve. In this project, I selected “exercised\_stock\_options” for this repeated feature, so the select k best method picked “total\_stock\_value”, “restricted\_stock”, “exercised\_stock\_options” (twice), “total\_payments” and “salary”.

**Table 2. The F score and P value calculated by ANOVA from the select k best method. The features inputted in the select k best method are picked by the first step determined by the available data points.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature | F score | P value |
| to\_messages | 1.6463 | .2016 |
| from\_poi\_to\_this\_person | 5.2434 | .0235 |
| from\_messages | 0.1697 | .6810 |
| from\_this\_person\_to\_poi | 2.3826 | .1249 |
| shared\_receipt\_with\_poi | 8.5894 | .0039 |
| salary | 18.2897 | < .0001 |
| total\_payments | 8.7728 | .0036 |
| total\_stock\_value | 24.1829 | < .0001 |
| expenses | 6.0942 | .0148 |
| exercised\_stock\_options | 24.8151 | < .0001 |
| other | 4.1875 | .0426 |
| restricted\_stock | 9.2128 | .0029 |

Before putting these features into the algorithms to learn, all the selected features were performed feature scaling which rescale the features into the range from 0 to 1.

2. Principle Component Analysis

In this project, I also tested the principle component analysis (PCA) to transform the features to several components and tried to use logistic regression to test the performance of the algorithm.

**Algorithm Selection and Tuning**

**Select K Best**

The AdaBoost classifier was finally selected as the algorithm for the POI identifier One advantage of ensemble learning algorithms is that the ensemble methods use a combination of multiple base models to improve predictions, which sometimes can have better outputs. In addition, the AdaBoost function allows to use different base estimators. In this project, no base esimator (None), SVM, Decision Tree Classifier and Random Forest Classifier are selected to compare the results. In these four tables, two features list selected by the selected the k best method were tested. (Fa: “total\_stock\_value”, “restricted\_stock”, “exercised\_stock\_options”, “total\_payments”, “salary”, and “shared\_receipt\_with\_poi”; Fb: “total\_stock\_value”, “restricted\_stock”, “exercised\_stock\_options” (twice), “total\_payments” and “salary”)

**Table 3. The result from AdaBoost classifier without base estimator.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Base estimator = None | | | | | | | | |
|  | Number of estimators = 20 | | | | Number of estimators = 50 | | | |
|  | SAMME | | SAMME.R | | SAMME | | SAMME.R | |
|  | Fa | Fb | Fa | Fb | Fa | Fb | Fa | Fb |
| Accuracy | 0.8602 | 0.8951 | 0,8319 | 0.8601 | 0.8530 | 0.8672 | 0.8460 | **0.8740** |
| Precision | 0.4167 | 0.7778 | 0.3222 | 0.4333 | 0.4111 | 0.3333 | 0.3333 | **0.6095** |
| Recall | 0.2778 | 0.2778 | 0.2778 | 0.3889 | 0.2778 | 0.2778 | 0.1667 | **0.3889** |

**Table 4. The result from AdaBoost classifier with SVC as base estimator. The SVC does not support probability method, it can not be calculated by SAMME.R.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Base estimator = SVC | | | | | | | | |
|  | Number of estimators = 20 | | | | Number of estimators = 50 | | | |
|  | SAMME | | SAMME.R | | SAMME | | SAMME.R | |
|  | Fa | Fb | Fa | Fb | Fa | Fb | Fa | Fb |
| Accuracy | 0.8741 | 0.8741 |  |  | 0.8741 | 0.8741 |  |  |
| Precision | 0 | 0 |  |  | 0 | 0 |  |  |
| Recall | 0 | 0 |  |  | 0 | 0 |  |  |

**Table 5. The result from AdaBoost classifier with decision tree classifier as base estimator.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Base estimator = Decision Tree Classifier | | | | | | | | |
|  | Number of estimators = 20 | | | | Number of estimators = 50 | | | |
|  | SAMME | | SAMME.R | | SAMME | | SAMME.R | |
|  | Fa | Fb | Fa | Fb | Fa | Fb | Fa | Fb |
| Accuracy | 0.8112 | 0.8039 | 0.8112 | 0.8039 | 0.8112 | 0.8039 | 0.8112 | 0.8039 |
| Precision | 0.3036 | 0.2883 | 0.3036 | 0.2883 | 0.3036 | 0.2883 | 0.3036 | 0.2883 |
| Recall | 0.2778 | 0.2222 | 0.2778 | 0.2222 | 0.2778 | 0.2222 | 0.2778 | 0.2222 |

**Table 6. The result from AdaBoost classifier with random forest classifier as base estimator.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Base estimator = Random Forest Classifier | | | | | | | | |
|  | Number of estimators = 20 | | | | Number of estimators = 50 | | | |
|  | SAMME | | SAMME.R | | SAMME | | SAMME.R | |
|  | Fa | Fb | Fa | Fb | Fa | Fb | Fa | Fb |
| Accuracy | 0.8830 | 0.8811 | 0.8533 | 0.8741 | 0.8883 | 0.8811 | 0.8394 | 0.8741 |
| Precision | 0.5556 | 0.5333 | 0.2778 | 0.3667 | 0.5556 | 0.5333 | 0.3556 | 0.4778 |
| Recall | 0.2222 | 0.3333 | 0.1111 | 0.2222 | 0.2222 | 0.3333 | 0.2222 | 0.2778 |

The result shows that the AdaBoost algorithm with no base estimator, 50 estimators and SAMME.R algorithm predicts the best precision and recall.

**Principle Component Analysis**

**Table 7. Choosing different number of components in the PCA to calculate the performance of logistic regression.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Component |  |  | Component |  | Component |  |
| 1 | Accuracy | 0.8811 | 4 | 0.8672 | 7 | 0.8672 |
|  | Precision | 0.3333 |  | 0.0 |  | 0.0 |
|  | Recall | 0.0556 |  | 0.0 |  | 0.0 |
| 2 | Accuracy | 0.8812 | 5 | 0.8672 | 8 | 0.8672 |
|  | Precision | 0.2222 |  | 0.0 |  | 0.0 |
|  | Recall | 0.1111 |  | 0.0 |  | 0.0 |
| 3 | Accuracy | 0.8812 | 6 | 0.8672 | 9 | 0.8672 |
|  | Precision | 0.2222 |  | 0.0 |  | 0.0 |
|  | Recall | 0.1111 |  | 0.0 |  | 0.0 |

The average performance of using logistic regression with PCA is worse than using AdaBoost method. After four components, the logistic regression with PCA features starts to predict all the people as non POI. However, the interesting point that can be seen obviously is that the average accuracy is higher than using AdaBoost method. This will be discussed in the discussion section.

**Analysis Validation and Performance**

This process was validated using 3-fold cross-validation.  The accuracy, precision and recall were averaged among these 3 folds to quantify the performance of different algorithms.

**Discussion and Conclusions**

The precision can be interpreted as the likelihood that a person who is identified as a POI is actually a true POI. The best performance in this project is 0.6095 which means that if the algorithm flag a POI, there would be 39% that this person might not be POI (false alarms). On the other hand, gives 0.3889 of recall measurement, leading to the fact that as a potential POI, there is 39% chance that this algorithm would flag this person as a POI. Even though this is the best result I got in this project, the ability of this identifier is still far from the practical application. The identifier is still difficult to detect a potential POI. Although the identifier has 39% of chance to have the false alarm, the relatively low recall value shows that this identifier can not successfully detect a POI. A good identifier should have higher precision and recall value (close to 1.0), which means the identifier is able to detect a potential POI and the possibility of being false detection is low.

The biggest challenge in this project is that only 18 POIs in the dataset. This unbalance dataset would bias the result if accuracy of prediction is the only evaluation metric, meaning that if the algorithm predicts all the people as non-POI, the overall accuracy would be 0.8767 (126/146). The lack of POI in the dataset issue also results in the difficulty to train a good algorithm. This can be observed in the logistic regression with PCA where the average accuracy is high, but the precision and recall value is lower comparing to AdaBoost. However, this unbalance dataset issue is very hard to overcome, since it is impossible that half of people in the company are doing fraud and the company can still alive.

Another possible way to improve the identifier could be finding the interaction among different features. This extract some deep information that display some sufficient characteristics of POIs in the dataset.