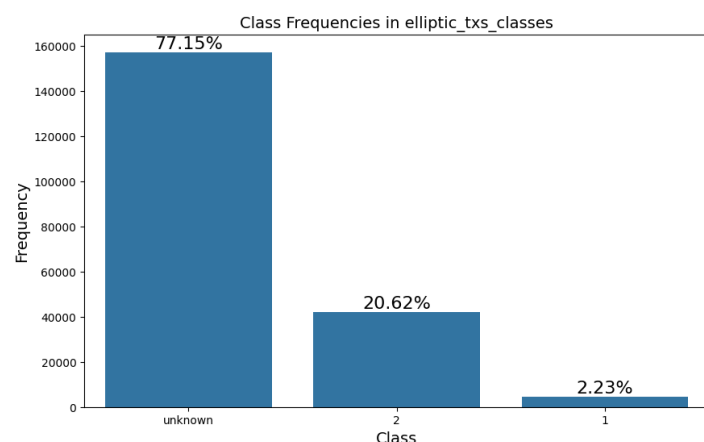


Business Case: Evaluating AML Risk Through Data Science

Jhoan Flores Luna

1.- Exploratory Data Analysis and Preprocessing:

The data set is made of 204K nodes and 234K edges, where nodes are categorized as follow:

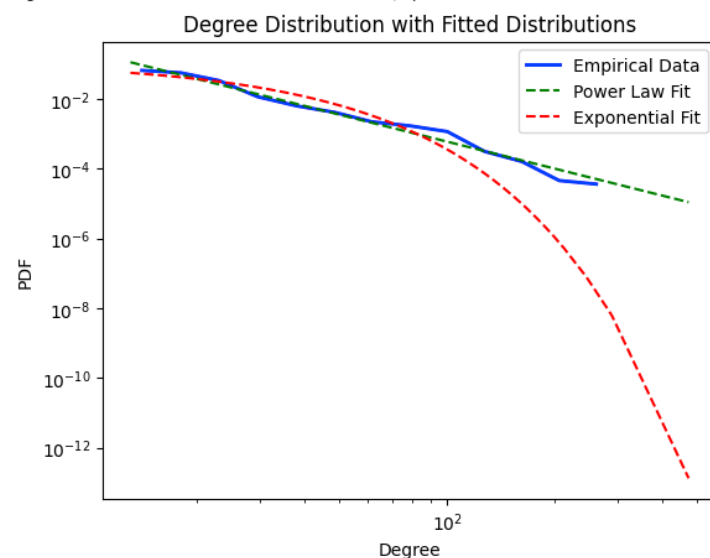


	Class	Frequency	Percentage
0	unknown	157205	77.148634
1	2	42019	20.620899
2	1	4545	2.230467

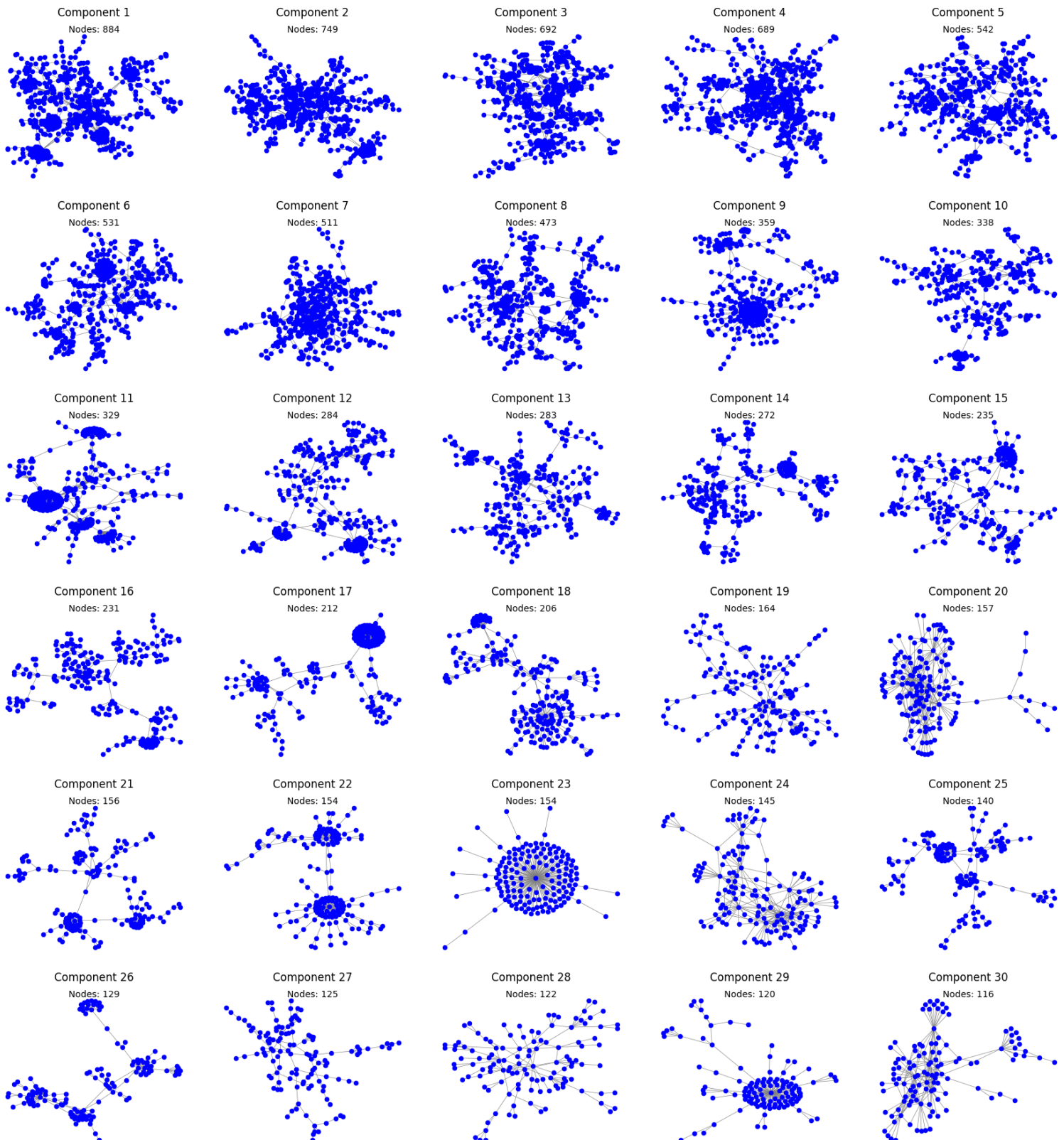
First, we notice it is an unbalanced target, only 2% of observations are labeled as illicit transactions.

Regarding the network, we firstly highlight that the network is a free-scale network (power law distribution) for values ≥ 13 , that means there are few nodes which have the highest number of links.

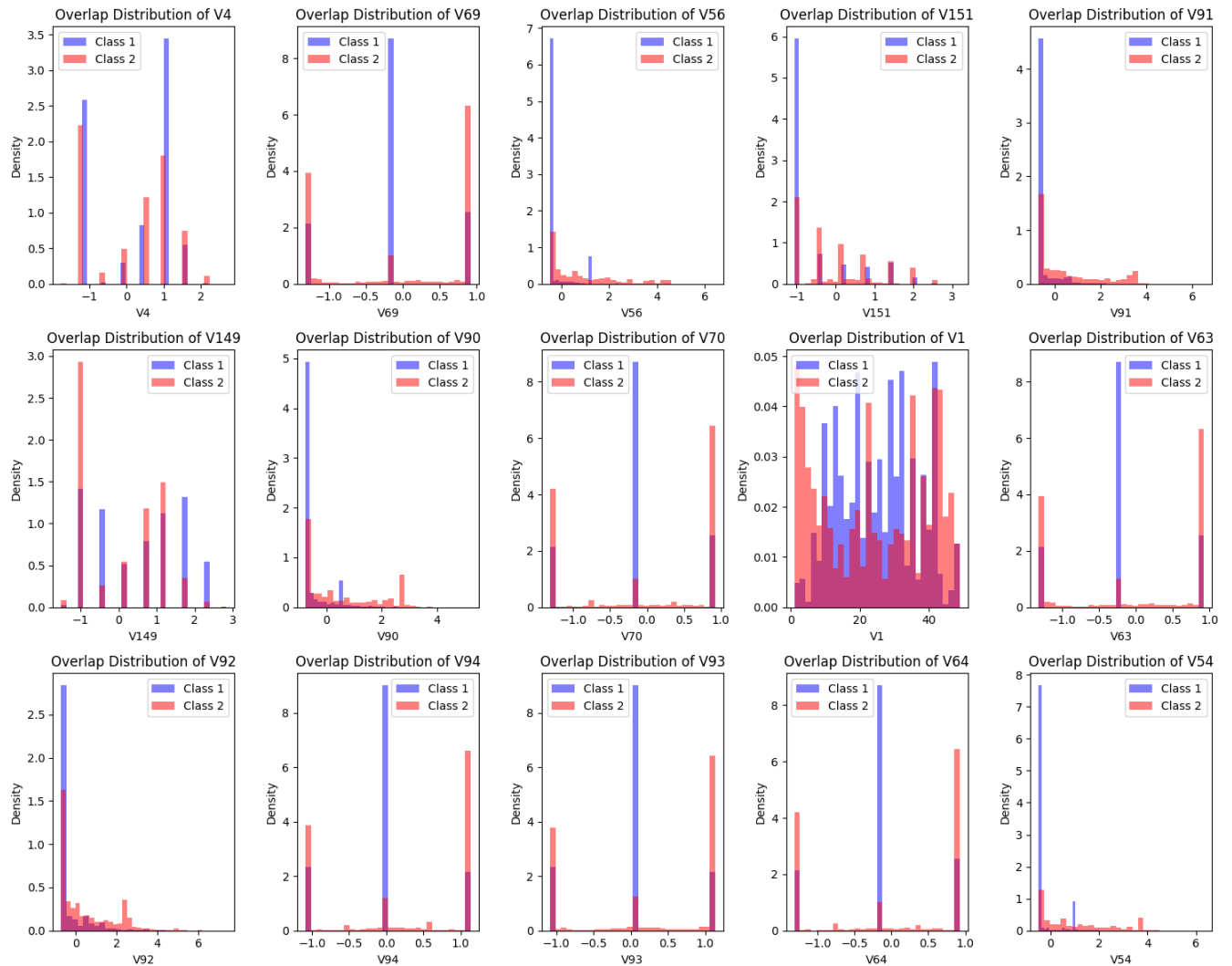
Calculating best minimal value for power law fit
 Alpha (scaling exponent): 2.5702564426793075
 xmin (cutoff): 13.0
 Loglikelihood ratio: 8.48855383950353, p-value: 2.0922430210150893e-17



Analyzing the components structure in the graph, we conclude there are multiple components similar to the “giant component” (with 884 nodes, the second one have 749 nodes and the third one with 692). Also, around 70% of the components has less than 3 nodes; this means we are facing a very **sparse network** (lot of small “islands”).



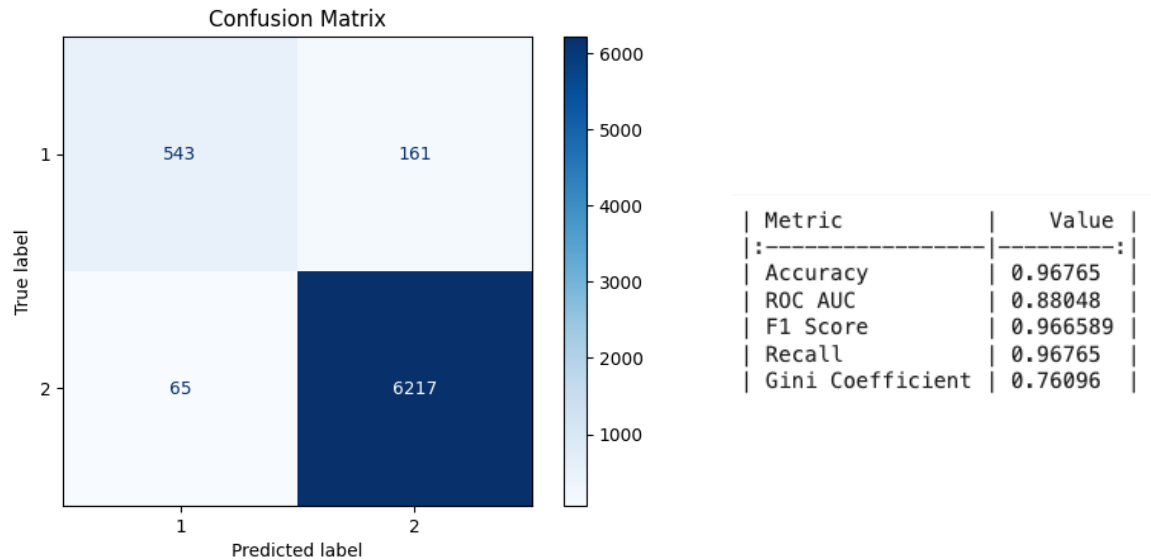
Based on a profiling analysis, we can notice there are some features with different behavior in the data set that can be used to build our classification model. Unfortunately, detailed description of the variables is not provided to give a better business-oriented analysis.



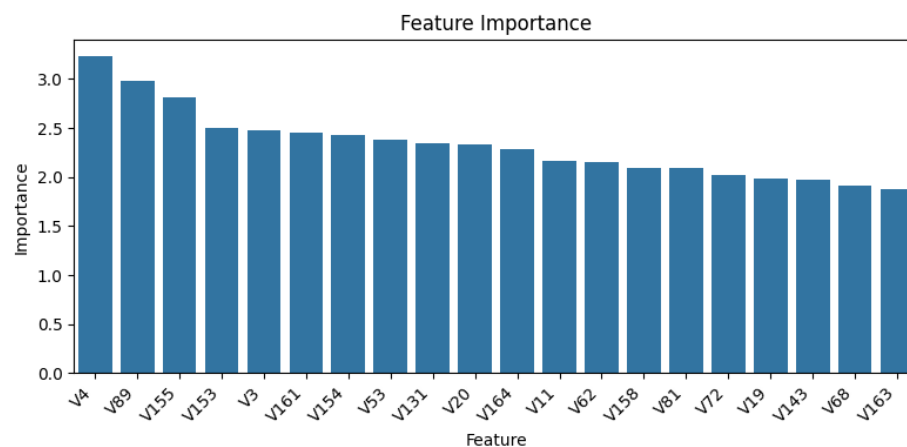
2.- GNN Model

Considering a classification problem (class 1 and 2). We removed the “unknown” labels to build a binary classification model.

For our model we use a traditional GNN model, getting the following results:



With this ranking for feature importance:



3.- Conclusion and forward improvements:

1. High Sparsity Increases Modeling Challenges:

The network is extremely sparse, meaning most nodes have few connections. This makes it difficult to detect meaningful patterns, especially when modeling influence, communities, or flow dynamics.

2. Lack of Variable Descriptions Limits Interpretability

Without clear descriptions or metadata for each variable, it is hard to assign business meaning to nodes or edges. This reduces the practical value of the insights extracted from the model.

3. Scalability Issues Due to Network Size

The size of the network poses computational challenges. Processing and analyzing the graph—especially for centrality metrics, community detection, or large matrix operations—requires significant memory and processing power. Standard machines struggle without efficient graph partitioning or parallel processing.