# Intelligent Data Analysis and Machine Learning I

# **Exam: Creditworthiness (Project 4)**

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# **Problem Setting**

This is a supervised binary classification problem. We have labeled training data where the creditworthiness outcome is known.

### **Input Space**

- Feature vector:  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  where d=20 features
- Features include: checking account status, duration, credit history, purpose, credit amount, savings, employment, installment rate, personal status, debtors, residence time, property, age, installment plans, housing, existing credits, job, dependents, telephone, foreign worker status (mixed categorical and numerical features)

### **Output Space**

- Target variable:  $y \in \{1, 2\}$  where:
  - y = 1: creditworthy
  - y=2: not creditworthy

### **Dataset Overview**

- Dataset:  $\mathcal{D} = \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^{1000}$  where n=1000 samples
- Missing values: Present in features "Purpose", "Present employment since", "Job", and "Foreign worker" (denoted as "?" in the data)

### **Cost Matrix**

$$C=\left(egin{matrix} 0 & 1 \ 5 & 0 \end{matrix}
ight)$$

### Where:

- C(1,2)=1: Cost of predicting "not creditworthy" when actual is "creditworthy"
- C(2,1)=5: Cost of predicting "creditworthy" when actual is "not creditworthy" (5× more expensive)
- C(i, i) = 0: No cost for correct predictions

### **Objective**

In [1]: # Core libraries

In [3]: # Neural Network Libraries

import tensorflow as tf

Find  $f: \mathcal{X} \to \{1,2\}$  that minimizes the expected cost:

$$f^* = rg \min_f \mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{x},y) \sim P(\mathbf{X},Y)}[C(y,f(\mathbf{x}))]$$

# **Importing Necessary Libraries**

```
import keras
from keras.models import Sequential
from keras.layers import Dense, Dropout, Activation
from keras.optimizers import Adam
from keras.callbacks import EarlyStopping

In [4]: # Suppress warnings
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')
import logging
logging.getLogger('tensorflow').setLevel(logging.ERROR)

# Set random seed for reproducibility
tf.random.set_seed(42)
np.random.seed(42)
```

## **Data Loading**

```
In [5]: feature_names = [
           'checking_account', # Status of existing checking account
            'duration',
                           # Duration in months
           'credit_history', # Credit history
           'purpose',
                           # Purpose of credit
           'credit_amount',  # Credit amount
           'savings_account',  # Savings account/bonds
                             # Present employment since
            'employment',
           'installment_rate', # Installment rate in percentage of disposable income
           'personal_status', # Personal status and sex
           'other debtors', # Other debtors/quarantors
           'residence_since', # Present residence since
            'property',
                             # Property
           'age',
                             # Age in years
           'other_installments', # Other installment plans
           'housing',
                                # Housing
           'existing_credits', # Number of existing credits at this bank
           'job',
                                # Job
           'dependents',
                             # Number of people liable to provide maintenance for
           'telephone',
                             # Telephone
           'foreign_worker',
                                # Foreign worker
            'target'
                                # Target variable (1=good, 2=bad)
```

```
data = pd.read_csv('kredit.dat', sep='\t', header=None, names=feature_names)
 data.info()
 data.head()
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 1000 entries, 0 to 999
Data columns (total 21 columns):
    Column
                       Non-Null Count Dtype
                        -----
    checking_account
                       1000 non-null object
 0
    duration
                       1000 non-null
                                      int64
    credit_history
                       1000 non-null
 2
                                      object
    purpose
 3
                       1000 non-null
                                       object
    credit_amount
                       1000 non-null
                                      int64
    savings_account
                       1000 non-null
                                       object
    employment
                       1000 non-null
                                       object
    installment_rate
                       1000 non-null
                                      int64
    personal_status
                       1000 non-null
                                       object
    other_debtors
                       1000 non-null
                                       object
10 residence_since
                       1000 non-null
                                      int64
11 property
                       1000 non-null
                                       object
12 age
                       1000 non-null
                                       int64
13 other_installments 1000 non-null
                                       object
14 housing
                       1000 non-null
                                       object
15 existing_credits
                       1000 non-null
                                      int64
16 job
                       1000 non-null
                                       object
17 dependents
                       1000 non-null
                                       int64
18 telephone
                       1000 non-null
                                       object
```

dtypes: int64(8), object(13)
memory usage: 164.2+ KB

1000 non-null

1000 non-null int64

object

19 foreign\_worker

20 target

Out[5]:	che	ecking_account	duration	credit_history	purpose	credit_amount	savings_account	employment	installment_rate	personal_status	other_debtors	•••	property	age	0
	0	A14	36	A32	?	2299	A63	?	4	A93	A101		A123	39	
	1	A12	18	A32	A46	1239	A65	A73	4	A93	A101		A124	61	
	2	A13	24	A32	A40	947	A61	A74	4	A93	A101		A124	38	
	3	A14	15	A33	A43	1478	A61	A73	4	A94	A101		A121	33	
	4	A14	24	A32	A40	1525	A64	A74	4	A92	A101		A123	34	

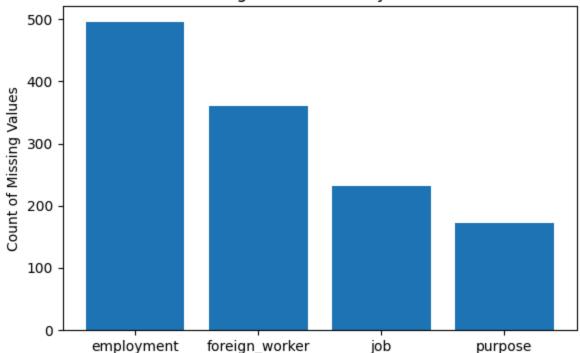
5 rows × 21 columns

•

# **Missing Value Analysis**

```
In [6]: # Identify missing values (marked as '?')
        missing_df = pd.DataFrame({
            'Feature': data.columns,
            'Missing_Count': [sum(data[col] == '?') for col in data.columns],
            'Data_Type': data.dtypes
        })
        missing_df = missing_df.sort_values('Missing_Count', ascending=False)
        # Visualize missing values
        fig, (ax1) = plt.subplots(1, 1, figsize=(6, 4))
        missing_features = missing_df[missing_df['Missing_Count'] > 0]
        ax1.bar(missing_features['Feature'], missing_features['Missing_Count'])
        ax1.set_title('Missing Value Counts by Feature')
        ax1.set_ylabel('Count of Missing Values')
        ax1.tick_params(axis='x')
        plt.tight_layout()
        plt.show()
```

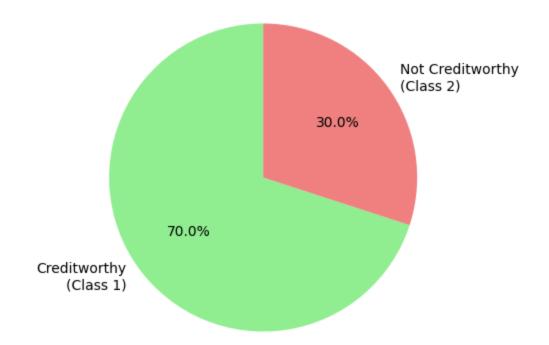




# **Target Variable Analysis**

```
In [7]: target_counts = data['target'].value_counts()
        print("Target Variable Distribution:")
        print(f"Creditworthy (1): {target_counts[1]}")
        print(f"Not Creditworthy (2): {target_counts[2]}")
        # Visualize target distribution
        plt.figure(figsize=(5, 5))
        labels = ['Creditworthy\n(Class 1)', 'Not Creditworthy\n(Class 2)']
        plt.pie(target_counts.values, labels=labels, autopct='%1.1f%%', startangle=90, colors=['lightgreen', 'lightcoral'])
        plt.show()
```

Target Variable Distribution: Creditworthy (1): 700 Not Creditworthy (2): 300



# **Feature Distribution Analysis**

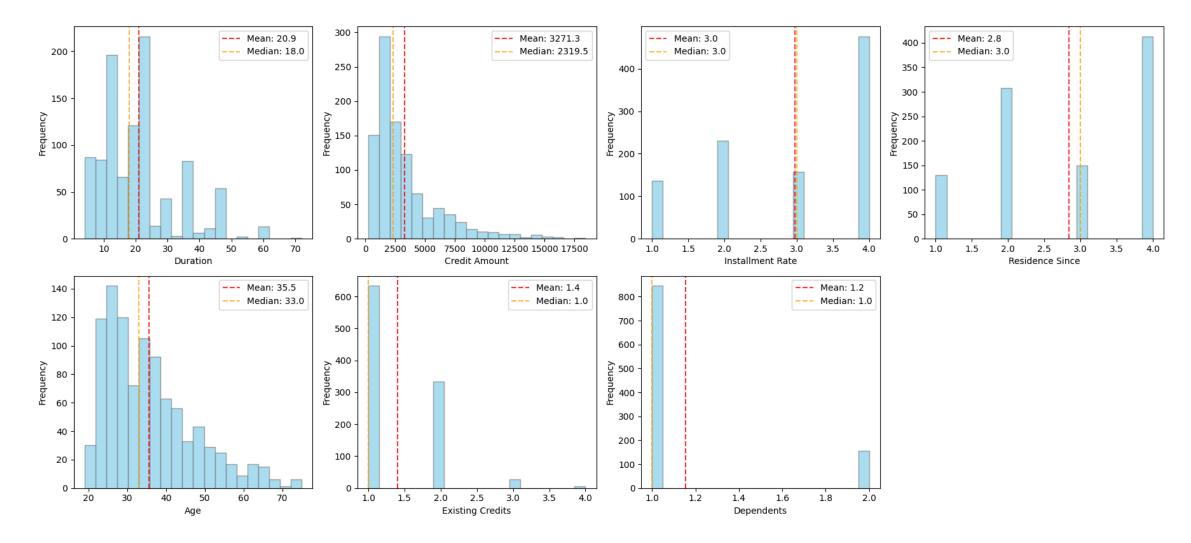
```
In [8]: # Identify numerical and categorical features
    numerical_features = [col for col in data.columns if data[col].dtype == 'int64' and col != 'target']
    categorical_features = [col for col in data.columns if data[col].dtype == 'object']

    print(f"Numerical features ({len(numerical_features)}): {numerical_features}")
    print(f"Categorical features ({len(categorical_features)}): {categorical_features}")

Numerical features (7): ['duration', 'credit_amount', 'installment_rate', 'residence_since', 'age', 'existing_credits', 'dependents']
    Categorical features (13): ['checking_account', 'credit_history', 'purpose', 'savings_account', 'employment', 'personal_status', 'other_debtors', 'property', 'other_installments', 'housing', 'job', 'telephone', 'foreign_worker']
```

### **Numerical Feature Distribution**

```
In [9]: fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 4, figsize=(18, 8))
        axes = axes.flatten()
        for i, feature in enumerate(numerical_features):
            if i < len(axes):</pre>
                ax = axes[i]
                # Get numerical feature data
                feature_data = data[feature]
                # Histogram
                ax.hist(feature_data, bins=20, alpha=0.7, color='Skyblue', edgecolor='gray')
                ax.set_xlabel(feature.replace('_', ' ').title())
                ax.set_ylabel('Frequency')
                # Add statistics
                ax.axvline(feature_data.mean(), color='red', linestyle='--', alpha=0.8, label=f'Mean: {feature_data.mean():.1f}')
                ax.axvline(feature_data.median(), color='orange', linestyle='--', alpha=0.8, label=f'Median: {feature_data.median():.1f}')
                ax.legend()
        # Remove empty subplots
        for i in range(len(numerical_features), len(axes)):
            fig.delaxes(axes[i])
        plt.tight_layout()
        plt.show()
```

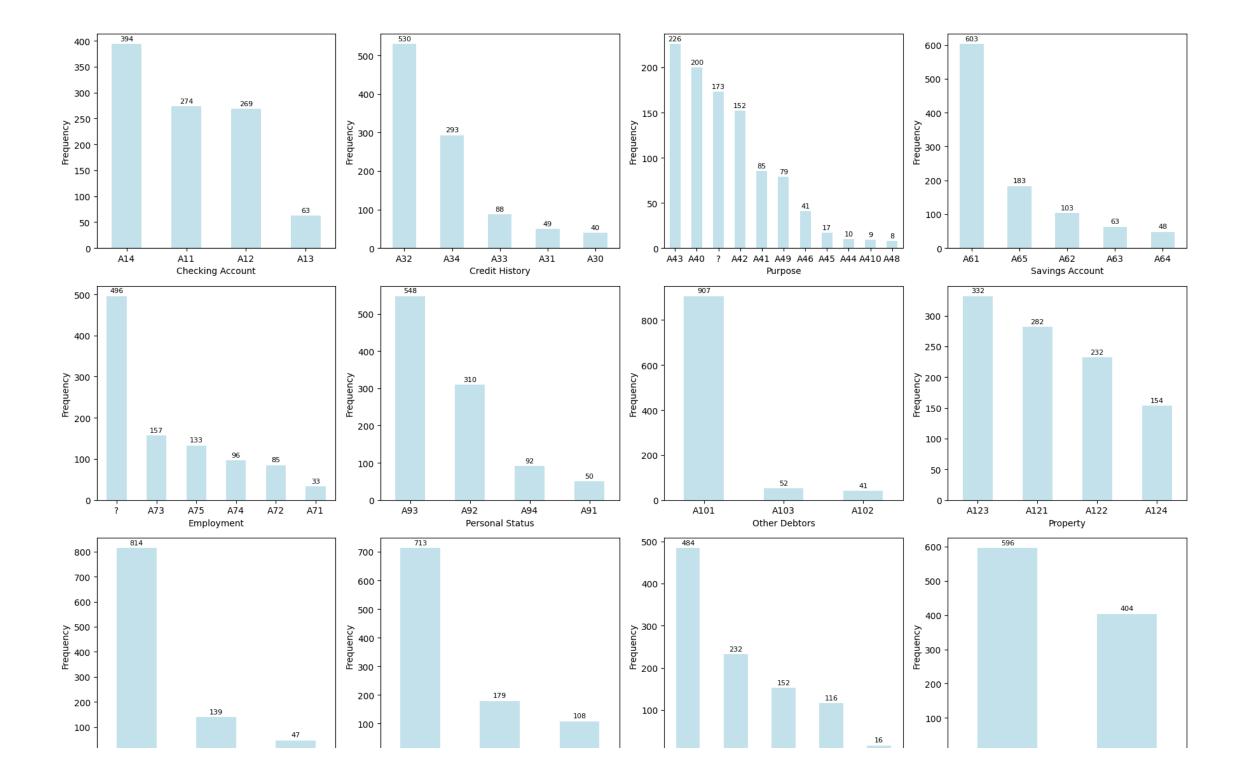


## **Key Insights**

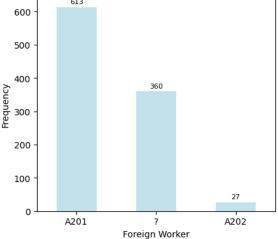
Duration, credit\_amount, and age indicate right-skewed distributions. These continuous features require appropriate scaling during preprocessing. Additionally, variables such as installment\_rate, residence\_since, existing\_credits, and dependents show discrete count patterns.

## **Categorical Feature Distribution**

```
n_rows = (n_categorical + n_cols - 1) // n_cols
fig, axes = plt.subplots(n_rows, n_cols, figsize=(18, 4 * n_rows))
axes = axes.flatten()
for i, feature in enumerate(categorical_features):
    if i < len(axes):</pre>
       ax = axes[i]
       # Count values including missing
       feature_counts = data[feature].fillna('Missing').value_counts()
       # Bar plot
       feature_counts.plot(kind='bar', ax=ax, color='lightblue', alpha=0.7)
       ax.set_xlabel(f'{feature.replace("_", " ").title()}')
       ax.set_ylabel('Frequency')
       ax.tick_params(axis='x', rotation=0)
       # Add value counts on bars
       for j, (category, count) in enumerate(feature_counts.items()):
            ax.text(j, count + max(feature_counts) * 0.01, str(count),
                   ha='center', va='bottom', fontsize=8)
# Remove empty subplots
for i in range(len(categorical_features), len(axes)):
    fig.delaxes(axes[i])
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```



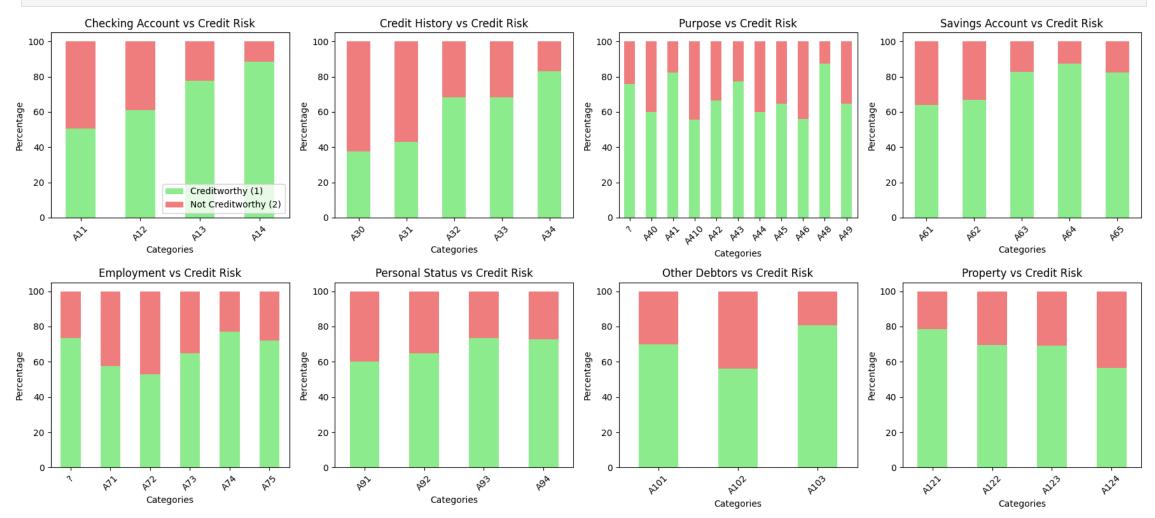




## **Categorical Feature vs Target**

```
In [11]: fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 4, figsize=(18,8))
         axes = axes.flatten()
         for i, feature in enumerate(categorical_features):
             if i < len(axes):</pre>
                 ax = axes[i]
                 # Create stacked bar chart
                 cross_tab = pd.crosstab(data[feature].fillna('Missing'), data['target'], normalize='index') * 100
                 cross_tab.plot(kind='bar', stacked=True, ax=ax,
                               color=['lightgreen', 'lightcoral'],
                               legend=False if i != 0 else True)
                 ax.set_title(f'{feature.replace("_", " ").title()} vs Credit Risk')
                 ax.set_xlabel('Categories')
                 ax.set_ylabel('Percentage')
                 ax.tick_params(axis='x', rotation=45)
                 if i == 0:
                     ax.legend(['Creditworthy (1)', 'Not Creditworthy (2)'], loc='lower right')
```

plt.tight\_layout()
plt.show()



### **Key Insights**

From the visualization, we observe that except Checking Account, other categorical features don't exhibit meaningful ordinal relationships. This insight informs our preprocessing strategy: binary features (telephone and foreign worker) can be encoded using simple 0/1 mapping, while the remaining categorical features will be transformed using one-hot encoding to maintain their non-ordinal nature to avoid any artificial ordering.

# **Data Preprocessing**

We will perform the following preprocessing on the data:

- 1. For simplicity of calculation, we will convert target values from (1,2) to (1,0), and missing values from '?' to NaN. Then we will create a new dataframe by excluding the target variable to avoid data leakage during model training
- 2. After that we will first handle the missing values
- 3. Lastly, we will normalize the numerical features and encode categorical variables

```
In [12]: # replace 2 as 0
data.target.replace([1,2], [1,0], inplace=True)

# replace '?' with 'NaN'
data.replace("?", np.nan, inplace=True)

label = data['target']
df_new = data.drop(columns=['target'])

print(df_new.shape)

(1000, 20)
```

## **Handling Missing Values**

In the instruction, it is explicitly mentioned to replace missing values (marked as '?') using linear regression or classification methods. Since all four features with missing values are categorical and three of them are multi-class, we will use **Logistic Regression** for imputation. While other linear classifiers could be used, they would require multiple planes (e.g., one-vs-rest) for multi-class problems, adding more complexity. So that, we will be using a straightforward method that directly addresses our multi-class categorical problem.

```
In [13]: def impute_missing_values(data, missing_features_df):
    data_imputed = data.copy()
    missing_features_list = missing_features_df["Feature"].tolist()

for feature in missing_features_list:
    complete_mask = data_imputed[feature].notna()
```

```
incomplete_mask = data_imputed[feature].isna()
 predictor_cols = [col for col in data_imputed.columns if col != feature]
 X_train = data_imputed.loc[complete_mask, predictor_cols]
 y_train = data_imputed.loc[complete_mask, feature]
 X_predict = data_imputed.loc[incomplete_mask, predictor_cols]
 # Simple mode imputation for predictors with missing values
 for col in predictor_cols:
   if X_train[col].isnull().any():
     mode_val = X_train[col].mode().iloc[0]
     X_train[col] = X_train[col].fillna(mode_val)
     X predict[col] = X predict[col].fillna(mode val)
 # One-hot encode categorical predictors
 cat_cols = [c for c in X_train.columns if X_train[c].dtype == "object"]
 encoder = OneHotEncoder(handle_unknown="ignore", sparse_output=False)
 encoder.fit(pd.concat([X_train[cat_cols], X_predict[cat_cols]]))
 X_train_enc = encoder.transform(X_train[cat_cols])
 X_predict_enc = encoder.transform(X_predict[cat_cols])
 X_train_final = np.hstack([X_train.drop(columns=cat_cols).to_numpy(), X_train_enc])
 X_predict_final = np.hstack([X_predict.drop(columns=cat_cols).to_numpy(), X_predict_enc])
  # Train model for imputation
  model = LogisticRegression(
   multi class="multinomial" if len(np.unique(y train)) > 2 else "auto",
   class weight="balanced",
   random_state=42,
   max iter=1000
  model.fit(X_train_final, y_train)
 y pred = model.predict(X predict final)
 data imputed.loc[incomplete_mask, feature] = y_pred
return data_imputed
```

## Feature Representation

0

0

0

### **Numerical Features**

personal\_status
other\_debtors
residence\_since

other\_installments

existing\_credits

property

housing

dependents
telephone
foreign\_worker
dtype: int64

age

job

We will apply the following transformations to the numerical features:

- 1. Log Scaling for right-skewed continuous features: This transformation reduces skewness, stabilizes variance, and brings the distribution closer to normal.
- 2. Min-max Scaling for all numerical features: This normalization scales the values to a range of [0, 1], ensuring consistency across features.

```
In [16]: def log_scale(data, numeric_cols):
             Apply log scaling to right-skewed numeric features.
             Parameters:
             _____
             data : pd.DataFrame
                 Input dataframe
             numeric_cols : list of str
                 List of numeric feature names to scale
             Returns:
             _____
             pd.DataFrame
                 Dataframe with scaled numeric features (other columns untouched)
             df_scaled = data.copy()
             # Apply log scaling
             data_scaled = np.log1p(data[numeric_cols])
             # Replace numeric columns with scaled values
             df_scaled[numeric_cols] = pd.DataFrame(data_scaled, columns=numeric_cols, index=data.index)
             return df_scaled
In [17]: def min_max_scale(data, numeric_cols):
             Apply min-max scaling (0, 1) to numeric features.
             Parameters:
             _____
             data : pd.DataFrame
                 Input dataframe
             numeric_cols : list of str
                 List of numeric feature names to scale
             Returns:
```

pd.DataFrame

Dataframe with min-max scaled numeric features (other columns untouched)

```
df_scaled = data.copy()

for col in numeric_cols:
    min_val = df_scaled[col].min()
    max_val = df_scaled[col].max()
    df_scaled[col] = (df_scaled[col] - min_val) / (max_val - min_val)
return df_scaled
```

## **Categorical Features**

Based on the relationship analysis with target variable, most categorical features don't indicate ordinal patterns. Therefore, our encoding strategy is:

- 1. **Binary encoding** for the binary features: Telephone, Foreign worker
- 2. **One-hot encoding** for all other categorical features

```
In [18]: def binary_encoding(data, binary_mappings):
             Apply binary encoding to specified categorical features.
             Parameters:
             data : pd.DataFrame
                 Input dataframe
             binary_mappings : dict
                 Mapping of {column_name: {category_value: binary_value, ...}}
             Returns:
             _____
             pd.DataFrame
                 Dataframe with binary encoded features and original columns dropped
             data_binary = data.copy()
             for col, mapping in binary_mappings.items():
                 new_col = f"{col}_binary"
                 data_binary[new_col] = data_binary[col].map(mapping).astype(int)
                 data_binary = data_binary.drop(columns=[col])
             return data_binary
```

```
In [19]: def onehot_encoding(data, categorical_cols):
             Apply one-hot encoding to categorical features.
             Parameters:
             _____
             data : pd.DataFrame
                 Input dataframe
             categorical_cols : list of str
                 List of categorical feature names to encode
             Returns:
             pd.DataFrame
                 Dataframe containing only the encoded categorical features
             encoder = OneHotEncoder(handle_unknown="ignore", sparse_output=False)
             # Fit + transform categorical features
             data_encoded = encoder.fit_transform(data[categorical_cols])
             # Extract column names
             encoded_cols = encoder.get_feature_names_out(categorical_cols)
             # Return as dataframe
             df_encoded = pd.DataFrame(data_encoded, columns=encoded_cols, index=data.index)
             return df_encoded
```

```
In [20]: # Step 1: scale numeric
    skewed_cols = ["duration", "credit_amount", "age"]
    df_log_scaled = log_scale(data_imputed, skewed_cols)

# Step 2: Min-max scale all numerical features (including log-scaled ones)
    df_scaled = min_max_scale(df_log_scaled, numerical_features)

# Step 2: binary encode
binary_mappings = {
        "telephone": {"A191": 0, "A192": 1},
        "foreign_worker": {"A201": 1, "A202": 0}
}
```

```
df_binary = binary_encoding(df_scaled, binary_mappings)

# Step 3: one-hot encode
categorical_cols = [col for col in df_binary.columns if df_binary[col].dtype == 'object']
df_encoded = onehot_encoding(df_binary, categorical_cols)

# Final combined dataframe
df_final = pd.concat([df_binary.drop(columns=categorical_cols), df_encoded], axis=1)

df_final.head()
```

### Out[20]: duration credit amount installment rate residence since age existing credits dependents telephone binary foreign worker binary checking account A11 ... ot **0** 0.746536 0.515644 1.0 1.000000 0.519211 0.000000 0.0 0 0.0 ... 1.000000 0.847492 **1** 0.497945 0.371837 0.000000 0.0 0 1 1.0 0.0 ... 0 0.0 ... **2** 0.600308 0.309334 1.0 0.666667 0.500246 0.000000 1.0 1 **3** 0.433846 0.666667 0.397474 0.412864 0.333333 0.0 0.0 ... 1.0 0 1 **4** 0.600308 0.666667 0.419188 0.420146 1.0 0.000000 1.0 1 0.0 ...

5 rows × 59 columns



# **Model Training**

## **Dataset Splitting**

For consistency, we have divided the dataset into training and test set before starting training.

```
In [21]: X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(df_final, label, test_size = 0.25, random_state=42)

print(f'X train',X_train.shape)
print(f'X test',X_test.shape)
print(f'y train',y_train.shape)
print(f'y test',y_test.shape)
```

```
X train (750, 59)
X test (250, 59)
y train (750,)
y test (250,)
```

## **Hyperparameter Tuning**

We will use **nested cross-validation** to ensure unbiased model evaluation and prevent data leakage:

- Outer Loop (5-fold): Provides realistic performance estimates by keeping test data completely separate during hyperparameter tuning
- Inner Loop (3-fold): Optimizes hyperparameters using grid search with precision scoring, which directly relates to minimizing false positives (our most costly errors)

Rather than selecting the best parameters from a single fold, we return the most commonly chosen parameters across all folds, because this better reflects the model's general preference for certain hyperparameters across different data subsets.

```
In [22]: def nested_cross_validation(clf, param_grid, X, y, outer_splits=5, inner_splits=3):
             Nested cross-validation for hyperparameter tuning to get the best params.
             Parameters
             clf : sklearn estimator
                 Classifier to evaluate
             param_grid : dict
                 Hyperparameter grid for inner CV search
             X : pd.DataFrame
                 Feature matrix
             y : pd.Series
                 Target labels
             outer_splits : int, default=5
                 Number of outer CV folds
             inner splits : int, default=3
                 Number of inner CV folds
             Returns
             fold_results : list of dict
                 Metrics and best params for each outer fold
             common_params : dict
                 Most frequently chosen hyperparameters across folds
```

```
0.00
outer_cv = StratifiedKFold(n_splits=outer_splits, shuffle=True, random_state=42)
fold_results = []
best_params_per_fold = []
for fold_idx, (train_idx, test_idx) in enumerate(outer_cv.split(X, y)):
   # Split data
   X_train, X_test = X.iloc[train_idx], X.iloc[test_idx]
   y_train, y_test = y.iloc[train_idx], y.iloc[test_idx]
    # Inner CV for hyperparameter tuning
   inner_cv = StratifiedKFold(n_splits=inner_splits, shuffle=True, random_state=42)
   grid = GridSearchCV(clf, param_grid, cv=inner_cv, scoring="precision", n_jobs=-1)
   grid.fit(X_train, y_train)
   best_params = grid.best_params_
    best_params_per_fold.append(best_params)
    best_model = grid.best_estimator_
   # Predictions on test fold
   y_pred = best_model.predict(X_test)
   tn, fp, fn, tp = confusion_matrix(y_test, y_pred).ravel()
   cost = fp * 5 + fn * 1
   # Store fold metrics
    metrics = {
        "fold": fold_idx + 1,
        "cost": cost,
        "best_params": best_params
   fold_results.append(metrics)
    print(f"Fold {metrics['fold']}: Cost={metrics['cost']}, Params={metrics['best_params']}")
# Find most common parameters across folds
common_params = {}
for param in param_grid:
   values = [bp[param] for bp in best_params_per_fold]
   common_params[param] = Counter(values).most_common(1)[0][0]
```

```
print("\nMost common parameters across folds:", common_params)
return fold_results, common_params
```

## **Logistic Regression**

We will start with this Linear model, as it sets a simple robust benchmark for comparison. For hyperparameter tuning in Logistic Regression, we will explore:

- **C**: Inverse of regularization strength [0.001, 0.01, 0.1, 1.0, 10.0] Helps prevent overfitting by controlling model complexity
- penalty: Regularization type ['I1', 'I2']
   L1 can help with feature selection, L2 prevents large coefficients
- **solver**: Algorithm ['liblinear', 'saga']

  Both support L1/L2 regularization and are efficient for our dataset size
- **class\_weight**: Class balancing ['balanced']
  Critical for our imbalanced dataset
- max\_iter: Maximum number of iterations [100, 200, 500] Ensures convergence during optimization

```
In [23]: def hyperParameterTuning_LogisticRegression(features, labels):
    params = {
        "C": [0.001, 0.01, 0.1, 1.0, 10.0],
        "penalty": ["l1", "l2"],
        "solver": ["liblinear", "saga"],
        "class_weight": ["balanced"],
        "max_iter": [100, 200, 500],
        "random_state": [42]
    }

    lr_model = LogisticRegression()
    X, y = features, labels
    fold_results, best_params = nested_cross_validation(lr_model, params, X, y)
```

```
return fold_results, best_params
In [24]: lr_fold_results, lr_best_params = hyperParameterTuning_LogisticRegression(X_train, y_train)

Fold 1: Cost=75, Params={'C': 0.1, 'class_weight': 'balanced', 'max_iter': 100, 'penalty': 'l1', 'random_state': 42, 'solver': 'saga'}
Fold 2: Cost=76, Params={'C': 0.1, 'class_weight': 'balanced', 'max_iter': 100, 'penalty': 'l1', 'random_state': 42, 'solver': 'liblinear'}
Fold 3: Cost=91, Params={'C': 0.1, 'class_weight': 'balanced', 'max_iter': 100, 'penalty': 'l1', 'random_state': 42, 'solver': 'liblinear'}
Fold 4: Cost=114, Params={'C': 0.1, 'class_weight': 'balanced', 'max_iter': 100, 'penalty': 'l1', 'random_state': 42, 'solver': 'saga'}
Fold 5: Cost=101, Params={'C': 0.1, 'class_weight': 'balanced', 'max_iter': 100, 'penalty': 'l1', 'random_state': 42, 'solver': 'liblinear'}
Most common parameters across folds: {'C': 0.1, 'penalty': 'l1', 'solver': 'liblinear', 'class_weight': 'balanced', 'max_iter': 100, 'random_state': 42}
In [25]: logreg_model = LogisticRegression(**lr_best_params)
```

### **Decision Tree**

Decision trees are naturally interpretable and handle mixed data types, as well as can capture non linear patterns, making them ideal for understanding credit risk factors. For hyperparameter tuning in Decision Tree, we will explore:

- max\_depth: Maximum tree depth [2, 5, 10]

  Controls model complexity and prevents overfitting by limiting how deep the tree can grow
- min\_samples\_split: Minimum samples required to split a node [10, 20, 50, 100] Prevents overfitting by requiring sufficient data before creating new branches
- min\_samples\_leaf: Minimum samples required in leaf nodes [5, 10, 20, 50] Ensures leaf nodes represent meaningful populations and reduces overfitting
- **criterion**: Split quality measure ['gini', 'entropy']
  Gini focuses on class purity, while entropy (information gain) measures information content reduction
- class\_weight: Class balancing ["balanced"]
  Adjusts node splitting to account for class imbalance

```
In [26]: def hyperParameterTuning_DecisionTree(features, labels):
    params = {
```

```
"max depth": [2, 5, 10],
               "min_samples_split": [10, 20, 50, 100],
               "min_samples_leaf": [5, 10, 20, 50],
               "criterion": ["gini", "entropy"],
               "class_weight": ["balanced"],
               "random state": [42]
           dt model = DecisionTreeClassifier()
           X, y = features, labels
           fold results, best params = nested cross validation(dt model, params, X, y)
           return fold results, best params
In [27]: dt_fold_results, dt_best_params = hyperParameterTuning_DecisionTree(X_train, y_train)
       Fold 1: Cost=107, Params={'class weight': 'balanced', 'criterion': 'gini', 'max depth': 2, 'min samples leaf': 50, 'min samples split': 10, 'random state': 4
        2}
       Fold 2: Cost=72, Params={'class weight': 'balanced', 'criterion': 'gini', 'max depth': 2, 'min samples leaf': 5, 'min samples split': 10, 'random state': 42}
       Fold 3: Cost=90, Params={'class weight': 'balanced', 'criterion': 'gini', 'max depth': 2, 'min samples leaf': 5, 'min samples split': 10, 'random state': 42}
       Fold 4: Cost=111, Params={'class weight': 'balanced', 'criterion': 'gini', 'max depth': 5, 'min samples leaf': 5, 'min samples split': 20, 'random state': 42}
       Fold 5: Cost=102, Params={'class weight': 'balanced', 'criterion': 'entropy', 'max depth': 2, 'min samples leaf': 5, 'min samples split': 10, 'random state':
        42}
       Most common parameters across folds: {'max depth': 2, 'min samples split': 10, 'min samples leaf': 5, 'criterion': 'gini', 'class weight': 'balanced', 'random
        state': 42}
In [28]: dt model = DecisionTreeClassifier(**dt best params)
```

### **Random Forest**

As we saw Decision Tree performed not so well compared to our baseline model, we want to explore the ensemble version to potentially achieve better performance by combining multiple trees. For hyperparameter tuning in Random Forest, we will explore:

- n\_estimators: Number of trees in the forest [50, 70, 100, 200]
   More trees generally improve performance but increase computational cost.
- max\_depth: Maximum tree depth [2, 5, 10, 15]
  Controls model complexity and prevents overfitting by limiting how deep the trees can grow.

- **class\_weight**: Class balancing ['balanced', 'balanced\_subsample']
  'balanced\_subsample' resamples for each tree, while 'balanced' applies globally across the forest.
- **criterion**: Split quality measure ['gini', 'entropy']
  Gini focuses on class purity, while entropy measures information gain.
- max\_features: Number of features to consider when looking for the best split ['sqrt', 'log2'] Limits the number of features used in each tree to reduce overfitting.
- max\_samples: Fraction of samples to train each tree on [0.5, 0.75, 0.8] Controls the size of the bootstrap sample for each tree.

In [30]: rf\_fold\_results, rf\_best\_params = hyperParameterTuning\_rf(X\_train, y\_train)

n\_jobs: Number of jobs to run in parallel [-1]
 Enables parallel processing to speed up training.

```
In [29]: def hyperParameterTuning_rf(features, labels):
    params = {
        "n_estimators": [50, 70, 100, 200],
        "max_depth": [2, 5, 10, 15],
        "class_weight": ["balanced", "balanced_subsample"],
        "criterion": ["gini", "entropy"],
        "max_features": ["sqrt", "log2"],
        "max_samples": [0.5, 0.75, 0.8],
        "random_state": [42],
        "n_jobs": [-1]
    }

    rf_model = RandomForestClassifier()
    X, y = features, labels
    fold_results, best_params = nested_cross_validation(rf_model, params, X, y)

    return fold_results, best_params
```

```
Fold 1: Cost=77, Params={'class_weight': 'balanced', 'criterion': 'gini', 'max_depth': 2, 'max_features': 'sqrt', 'max_samples': 0.5, 'n_estimators': 50, 'n_j obs': -1, 'random_state': 42}
Fold 2: Cost=82, Params={'class_weight': 'balanced_subsample', 'criterion': 'gini', 'max_depth': 2, 'max_features': 'sqrt', 'max_samples': 0.8, 'n_estimator s': 200, 'n_jobs': -1, 'random_state': 42}
Fold 3: Cost=110, Params={'class_weight': 'balanced', 'criterion': 'gini', 'max_depth': 2, 'max_features': 'log2', 'max_samples': 0.75, 'n_estimators': 70, 'n_jobs': -1, 'random_state': 42}
Fold 4: Cost=99, Params={'class_weight': 'balanced', 'criterion': 'gini', 'max_depth': 2, 'max_features': 'sqrt', 'max_samples': 0.75, 'n_estimators': 50, 'n_jobs': -1, 'random_state': 42}
Fold 5: Cost=98, Params={'class_weight': 'balanced_subsample', 'criterion': 'gini', 'max_depth': 2, 'max_features': 'log2', 'max_samples': 0.75, 'n_estimator s': 100, 'n_jobs': -1, 'random_state': 42}

Most common parameters across folds: {'n_estimators': 50, 'max_depth': 2, 'class_weight': 'balanced', 'criterion': 'gini', 'max_features': 'sqrt', 'max_sample s': 0.75, 'random_state': 42, 'n_jobs': -1}

In [31]: rf_model = RandomForestClassifier(**rf_best_params)
```

### **Feedforward Neural Network**

We will also try a neural network to see if it can find hidden patterns in our credit data that simpler models might miss. We will create just two hidden layers to avoid complexity that our small dataset might not support. The workflow will look like:

- 1. **Input**: Processed features (59) → First hidden layer (e.g. 64 neurons + ReLU)
- 2. **Pattern Detection**: First layer output → Second hidden layer (32 neurons + ReLU)
- 3. **Decision**: Second layer output → Output neuron (sigmoid) → Probability
- 4. **Classification**: If probability > threshold, predict creditworthy

Our neural network needs to work with the same evaluation tools as the other models. So we will create a wrapper that lets us use the same cross-validation, and tune hyperparameters just like with sklearn models.

With only 750 samples, neural networks are actually at a disadvantage compared to simpler models. We're testing whether the ability to capture complex patterns outweighs this limitation in our credit risk problem.

```
def create_binary_nn_model(input_dim, hidden_units=64, dropout_rate=0.3, learning_rate=0.001):
    """
    Create a binary classification neural network model.

Parameters:
    input_dim: Number of input features
```

```
- hidden_units: Number of neurons in first hidden layer
   - dropout_rate: Dropout rate for regularization
   - learning_rate: Learning rate for optimizer
   model = keras.Sequential()
   # First hidden layer
   model.add(Dense(hidden_units, input_dim=input_dim))
   model.add(Activation('relu'))
   model.add(Dropout(dropout_rate))
   # Second hidden Layer
   model.add(Dense(hidden_units // 2))
   model.add(Activation('relu'))
   model.add(Dropout(dropout_rate))
   # Output layer for binary classification
   model.add(Dense(1, activation='sigmoid'))
    # Compile model
   model.compile(
       loss='binary_crossentropy',
       optimizer=Adam(learning_rate=learning_rate),
       metrics=['precision']
   return model
class NNWrapper(BaseEstimator, ClassifierMixin):
   def __init__(self, hidden_units=64, dropout_rate=0.3, learning_rate=0.001,
                epochs=100, batch_size=32, threshold=0.5, patience=10):
       self.hidden_units = hidden_units
       self.dropout_rate = dropout_rate
       self.learning_rate = learning_rate
       self.epochs = epochs
       self.batch_size = batch_size
        self.threshold = threshold
       self.patience = patience
    def fit(self, X, y):
```

```
Fit the neural network model.
   tf.random.set_seed(42)
   np.random.seed(42)
   self.classes_ = np.unique(y)
   #if not hasattr(self, 'model') or self.model is None:
   self.model = create_binary_nn_model(
       X.shape[1], self.hidden_units, self.dropout_rate, self.learning_rate
   # Adjust class weights for class imbalance
   class_weights = compute_class_weight('balanced', classes=self.classes_, y=y)
   class_weight = {0: class_weights[0], 1: class_weights[1]}
   callbacks = [
       keras.callbacks.EarlyStopping(
           monitor='val_loss',
           patience=self.patience,
           restore_best_weights=True,
           verbose=0
   self.history = self.model.fit(
       Х, у,
       epochs=self.epochs,
       batch_size=self.batch_size,
       class_weight=class_weight,
       validation_split=0.2,
       callbacks=callbacks,
       verbose=0
   return self
def predict(self, X):
    """Make binary predictions using hyperparameter-tuned threshold."""
   probabilities = self.model.predict(X, batch_size=self.batch_size, verbose=0)
   return (probabilities > self.threshold).astype(int).flatten()
```

```
def predict_proba(self, X):
    """Return prediction probabilities for both classes."""
    proba_class_1 = self.model.predict(X, batch_size=self.batch_size, verbose=0).flatten()
    proba_class_0 = 1 - proba_class_1
    return np.column_stack([proba_class_0, proba_class_1])
```

We will explore the following hyperparameters:

- hidden\_units: Network capacity [32, 64, 128]
  - Controls the number of neurons in the first hidden layer, determining how many patterns the network can learn. More neurons increase model complexity but risk overfitting with our small dataset.
- **dropout\_rate**: Regularization strength [0.3, 0.4, 0.5]
  Randomly deactivates neurons during training to prevent overfitting. Higher values provide stronger regularization but may reduce learning capacity.
- learning\_rate: Optimization speed [0.001, 0.01, 0.1]
  Controls how quickly the model updates its weights during training. Lower values ensure stable learning, while higher values speed up convergence but risk overshooting optimal solutions.
- **epochs**: Training duration [30, 50]

  Number of complete passes through the training data. More epochs allow better learning but increase risk of overfitting.
- batch\_size: Training efficiency [16, 32]

  Number of samples processed before updating model weights. Smaller batches provide more frequent updates and better gradient estimation for our dataset size.

```
In [46]: def hyperParameterTuning_NeuralNetwork(features, labels):
    params = {
        "hidden_units": [32, 64, 128],
        "dropout_rate": [0.3, 0.4, 0.5],
        "learning_rate": [0.001, 0.01, 0.1],
        "epochs": [30, 50],
        "batch_size": [16, 32]
    }
    nn_model = NNWrapper()
    X, y = features, labels
    fold_results, best_params = nested_cross_validation(nn_model, params, X, y)
```

## **Model Evaluation**

After hyperparameter tuning, we evaluate all models on training and test sets to assess performance and generalization. Our primary goal is minimizing total cost where false positives (predicting creditworthy when actually not creditworthy) cost 5× more than false negatives.

```
Training and test target sets
0.00
# Create 2x2 subplots for confusion matrices
fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 2, figsize=(15, 8))
axes = axes.flatten() # Flatten the 2x2 array for easier indexing
for idx, (model_name, model) in enumerate(models_dict.items()):
    # Fit model on training data
    model.fit(X_train, y_train)
   # Make predictions
   y_train_pred = model.predict(X_train)
   y_test_pred = model.predict(X_test)
   # Calculate costs
    tn_train, fp_train, fn_train, tp_train = confusion_matrix(y_train, y_train_pred).ravel()
    tn_test, fp_test, fn_test, tp_test = confusion_matrix(y_test, y_test_pred).ravel()
    # Calculate metrics for training set
    train_cost = fp_train * 5 + fn_train * 1
    train_precision = tp_train / (tp_train + fp_train) if (tp_train + fp_train) > 0 else 0
    train_recall = tp_train / (tp_train + fn_train) if (tp_train + fn_train) > 0 else 0
    train_accuracy = (tp_train + tn_train) / len(y_train)
    # Calculate metrics for test set
    test_cost = fp_test * 5 + fn_test * 1
    test_precision = tp_test / (tp_test + fp_test) if (tp_test + fp_test) > 0 else 0
    test_recall = tp_test / (tp_test + fn_test) if (tp_test + fn_test) > 0 else 0
    test_accuracy = (tp_test + tn_test) / len(y_test)
    # Print metrics in table format
    print(f"\n{model_name.upper()}")
    print("-" * 50)
                  Cost Precision Recall Accuracy")
    print("
                                        {train_precision:.3f}
    print(f"Train {train_cost:3d}
                                                                   {train_recall:.3f}
                                                                                          {train_accuracy:.3f}")
    print(f"Test
                   {test_cost:3d}
                                       {test precision:.3f}
                                                                 {test_recall:.3f} {test_accuracy:.3f}")
    # Confusion Matrix for test set
    ConfusionMatrixDisplay.from_predictions(
        y_test, y_test_pred,
        display_labels=['Not Creditworthy', 'Creditworthy'],
```

```
cmap='Blues',
                   ax=axes[idx]
               axes[idx].set_title(f'{model_name}\nCost: {test_cost}')
            plt.tight_layout()
            plt.show()
In [51]: # Run evaluation
        evaluation_results = evaluate_all_models(models, X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test)
       LOGISTIC REGRESSION
                     Precision Recall Accuracy
       Train 431
                      0.878
                                 0.643
                                        0.681
                                0.564
                                        0.652
       Test 147
                      0.861
       DECISION TREE
              Cost
                      Precision Recall Accuracy
       Train 434
                      0.877
                                 0.628
                                        0.672
       Test 177
                      0.816
                                0.564
                                        0.628
       RANDOM FOREST
                      Precision Recall
              Cost
                                         Accuracy
       Train 404
                      0.886
                                 0.684
                                          0.712
```

### NEURAL NETWORK

156

Test

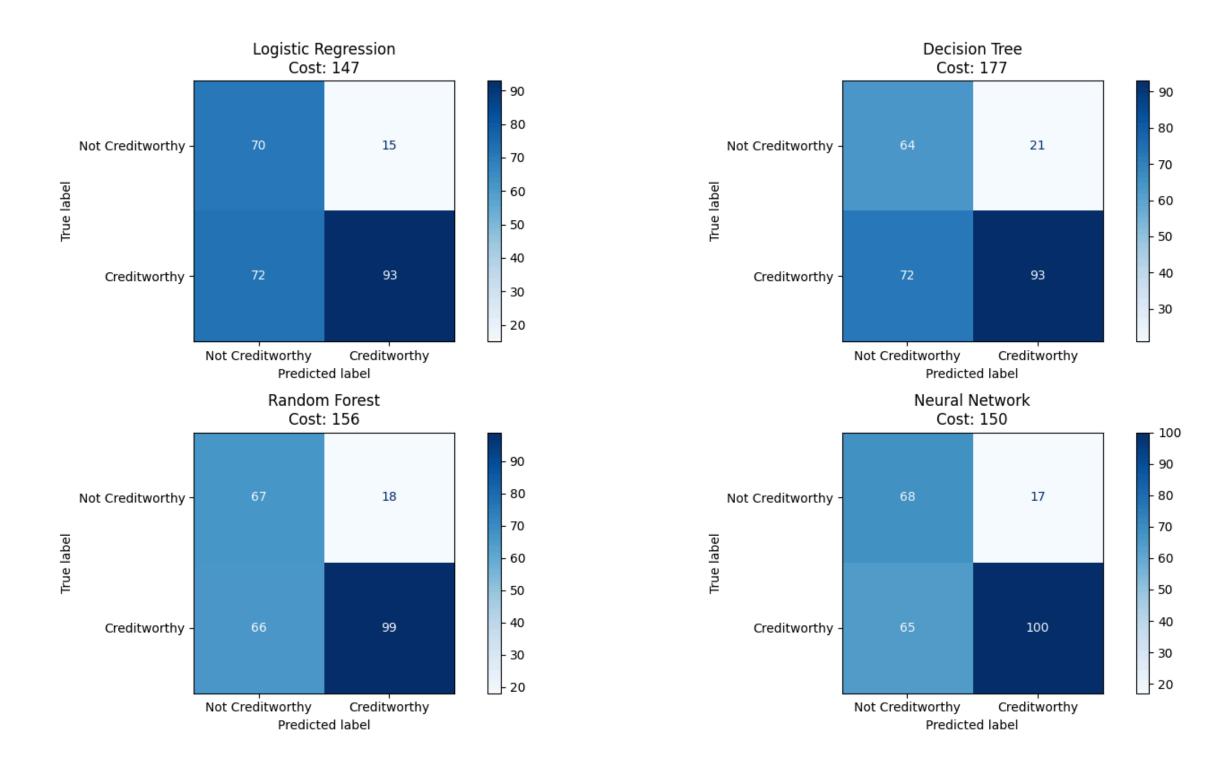
Cost Precision Recall Accuracy

0.600

0.664

Train 402 0.885 0.716 0.731 Test 150 0.855 0.606 0.672

0.846



## **Key Observation**

Based on the evaluation results and confusion matrices, we can see following characteristics in each model's performance:

### **Logistic Regression**

- Lowest cost among all models: 147
- When it predicts creditworthy, it's correct **86.1%** of the time
- Captures **56.4%** of actual creditworthy cases

### **Decision Tree**

- Highest cost among all models: 177
- Lower rprecision (81.6%) and same recall (56.4%) as Logistic Regression.

### **Random Forest**

- Lower cost than Decision Tree: 156
- Good precision (84.6%) with better recall than Logistic Regression (60%)

### **Neural Network**

- Second lowest cost (150) and second highest precision (85.5%)
- Slightly higher recall than Random Forest (60.6%)

In summary, all models show high precision as they are tuned to avoid costly false positive mistakes.

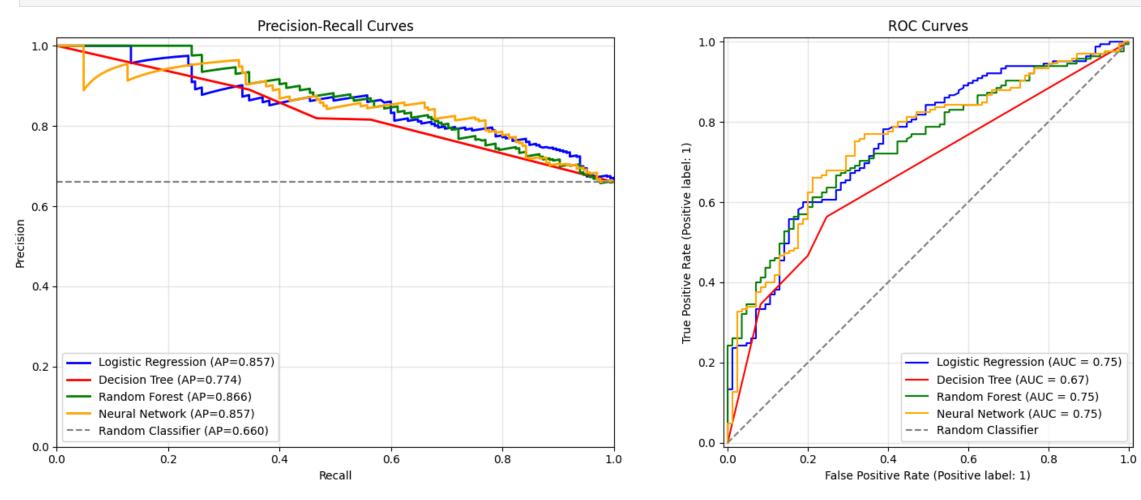
### Precision-Recall and ROC-AUC Curves

```
# Colors for different models
colors = ['blue', 'red', 'green', 'orange', 'purple']
for idx, (model_name, model) in enumerate(models_dict.items()):
    color = colors[idx % len(colors)]
   y_pred_proba = model.predict_proba(X_test)[:, 1]
    # Roc Curve
    roc_display = RocCurveDisplay.from_predictions(
       y_test, y_pred_proba,
       name=f'{model_name}',
        color=color,
        ax=ax2,
    # Precision-Recall curve
   precision, recall, _ = precision_recall_curve(y_test, y_pred_proba)
    avg_precision = average_precision_score(y_test, y_pred_proba)
    ax1.plot(recall, precision, color=color, lw=2,
            label=f'{model_name} (AP={avg_precision:.3f})')
# Precision-Recall plot
ax1.set_xlabel('Recall')
ax1.set_ylabel('Precision')
ax1.set_title('Precision-Recall Curves')
ax1.legend(loc='lower left')
ax1.grid(True, alpha=0.3)
ax1.set_xlim([0.0, 1.0])
ax1.set_ylim([0.0, 1.02])
# Add baseline for PR curve
baseline_precision = sum(y_test) / len(y_test)
ax1.axhline(y=baseline_precision, color='gray', linestyle='--',
            label=f'Random Classifier (AP={baseline_precision:.3f})')
ax1.legend(loc='lower left')
# ROC plot customization
ax2.set_title('ROC Curves')
ax2.grid(True, alpha=0.3)
```

```
ax2.plot([0, 1], [0, 1], color='gray', linestyle='--', label='Random Classifier')
ax2.legend(loc='lower right')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

In [52]: plot\_model\_comparison\_curves(models, X\_test, y\_test)



## **Key Observation**

- Random Forest achieves the highest Average Precision (86.6%) and AUC (75%).
- Logistic Regression closely follows with an AP of **85.7%** and same AUC of **75%**, offering a simpler and computationally efficient alternative.

- Neural Network shows similar performance as Logistic regression despite having limited data.
- Decision Tree has the lowest AP (77.4%) and AUC (67%).

All models significantly outperform random classification.

## **Cross-Validation Evaluation**

Performing model evaluation using k-fold cross-validation to ensure robust and unbiased performance metrics across multiple data splits.

```
In [ ]: def evaluate_all_models_cv(models_dict, X, y, cv_folds=5):
            Evaluate all models using k-fold cross-validation.
            Parameters:
            _____
            models dict : dict
                Dictionary with model names as keys and model objects as values
            X : pd.DataFrame
                Feature set
            y : pd.Series
                Target set
            cv_folds : int
                Number of cross-validation folds
            cv = StratifiedKFold(n_splits=cv_folds, shuffle=True, random_state=42)
            # Store results for each model
            results = {}
            for model_name, model in models_dict.items():
                fold_costs = []
                fold_precisions = []
                fold_recalls = []
                fold_accuracies = []
                for fold, (train_idx, test_idx) in enumerate(cv.split(X, y)):
                    # Split data for this fold
                    X_train_fold = X.iloc[train_idx]
```

```
X_test_fold = X.iloc[test_idx]
        y_train_fold = y.iloc[train_idx]
        y_test_fold = y.iloc[test_idx]
        # Fit and predict
        model.fit(X_train_fold, y_train_fold)
       y_pred_fold = model.predict(X_test_fold)
        # Calculate metrics for this fold
        tn, fp, fn, tp = confusion_matrix(y_test_fold, y_pred_fold).ravel()
        cost = fp * 5 + fn * 1
        precision = tp / (tp + fp) if (tp + fp) > 0 else 0
        recall = tp / (tp + fn) if (tp + fn) > 0 else 0
        accuracy = (tp + tn) / len(y_test_fold)
        fold_costs.append(cost)
        fold_precisions.append(precision)
        fold recalls.append(recall)
        fold_accuracies.append(accuracy)
    # Calculate mean and std across folds
    results[model_name] = {
        'cost_mean': np.mean(fold_costs),
        'cost_std': np.std(fold_costs),
        'precision_mean': np.mean(fold_precisions),
        'precision_std': np.std(fold_precisions),
        'recall_mean': np.mean(fold_recalls),
        'recall_std': np.std(fold_recalls),
        'accuracy_mean': np.mean(fold_accuracies),
        'accuracy_std': np.std(fold_accuracies)
# Print results table
print(f"{'Model':<20} {'Cost':<12} {'Precision':<12} {'Recall':<12} {'Accuracy':<12}")</pre>
print("-" * 80)
for model_name, metrics in results.items():
    print(f"{model_name:<20} "</pre>
          f"{metrics['cost_mean']:.1f}±{metrics['cost_std']:.1f} "
          f"{metrics['precision_mean']:.3f}±{metrics['precision_std']:.3f} "
```

```
f"{metrics['recall_mean']:.3f}±{metrics['recall_std']:.3f} "
f"{metrics['accuracy_mean']:.3f}±{metrics['accuracy_std']:.3f}")
```

```
In [56]: evaluation_cv_results = evaluate_all_models_cv(models, df_final, label, cv_folds=5)
```

Model	Cost	Precision	Recall	Accuracy
Logistic Regression	123.4±27.1	0.863±0.045	0.654±0.052	0.683±0.029
Decision Tree	122.0±15.9	0.876±0.038	0.507±0.074	0.602±0.032
Random Forest	130.6±23.2	0.851±0.036	0.653±0.034	0.675±0.018
Neural Network	131.6±20.4	0.851±0.030	0.681±0.102	0.690±0.038

### **Key Observation**

In the previous single train-test split evaluation, Logistic Regression provided the best overall balance between cost, precision, and recall, while Decision Tree performed the worst. However, the cross-validation (CV) results reveal a different trend. Decision Tree shows improved performance with lower variability across folds, indicating better generalization. Logistic Regression, while still strong, exhibits slightly higher variability in cost across folds. This suggests that Decision Tree may be more robust to data splits than initially observed, while Logistic Regression's performance is more sensitive to the specific train-test split.

```
In [43]: def plot_model_comparison_curves_cv(models_dict, X, y, cv_folds=5):
    """
    Simple CV curve plotting - shows one averaged curve per model.
    """
    fig, (ax1, ax2) = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(15, 6))
    colors = ['blue', 'red', 'green', 'orange', 'purple']
    cv = StratifiedKFold(n_splits=cv_folds, shuffle=True, random_state=42)

for idx, (model_name, model) in enumerate(models_dict.items()):
    color = colors[idx % len(colors)]

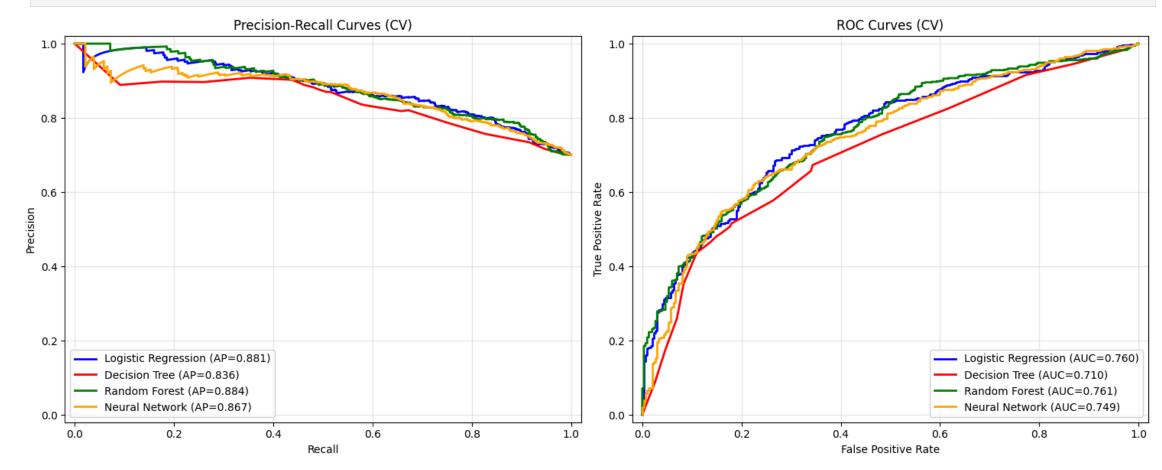
# Collect all predictions across CV folds
    all_y_true = []
    all_y_roba = []

for train_idx, test_idx in cv.split(X, y):
        X_train_fold = X.iloc[train_idx]
        X_test_fold = X.iloc[train_idx]
        y_train_fold = y.iloc[train_idx]
        y_train_fold = y.iloc[train_idx]
        y_test_fold = y.iloc[test_idx]
```

```
# Train and predict
        model.fit(X_train_fold, y_train_fold)
       y_proba_fold = model.predict_proba(X_test_fold)[:, 1]
        # Store results
        all_y_true.extend(y_test_fold)
        all_y_proba.extend(y_proba_fold)
   # Convert to arrays
   all_y_true = np.array(all_y_true)
   all_y_proba = np.array(all_y_proba)
   # Calculate single curves from all CV data
   precision, recall, _ = precision_recall_curve(all_y_true, all_y_proba)
   fpr, tpr, _ = roc_curve(all_y_true, all_y_proba)
   ap = average_precision_score(all_y_true, all_y_proba)
   auc_score = auc(fpr, tpr)
   # Plot curves
   ax1.plot(recall, precision, color=color, lw=2,
            label=f'{model_name} (AP={ap:.3f})')
    ax2.plot(fpr, tpr, color=color, lw=2,
            label=f'{model_name} (AUC={auc_score:.3f})')
# Customize plots
ax1.set_xlabel('Recall')
ax1.set_ylabel('Precision')
ax1.set_title('Precision-Recall Curves (CV)')
ax1.legend(loc='lower left')
ax1.grid(True, alpha=0.3)
ax1.set_xlim([-0.02, 1.02])
ax1.set_ylim([-0.02, 1.02])
ax2.set_xlabel('False Positive Rate')
ax2.set_ylabel('True Positive Rate')
ax2.set_title('ROC Curves (CV)')
ax2.legend(loc='lower right')
ax2.grid(True, alpha=0.3)
ax2.set_xlim([-0.02, 1.02])
ax2.set_ylim([-0.02, 1.02])
```

```
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

In [54]: plot\_model\_comparison\_curves\_cv(models, df\_final, label, cv\_folds=5)



## **Key Observation**

- Random Forest further strengthens its lead, achieving the highest Average Precision (88.4%) and AUC (76.1%)
- Logistic Regression remains highly competitive, with AP (88.1%) and AUC (76%)
- **Decision Tree** improves significantly in CV (**83.6%** AP, **71%** AUC) compared to the single split (**77.4%** AP, **67%** AUC), suggesting better generalization and reduced variability across folds.
- **Neural Network** shows same performance.

Cross-validation reveals that Random Forest and Logistic Regression not only outperform other models but also maintain their superiority across different data splits. Decision Tree benefits from CV, showing improved and more stable results, while Neural Network remains same. All models continue to significantly outperform random classification.

# Conclusion

**Logistic Regression emerges as the optimal model** for this cost-sensitive credit risk assessment, delivering the best overall balance of cost-effectiveness and predictive performance. While Decision Tree achieves the lowest cost (122) in CV, Logistic Regression follows closely (123.4), making the cost difference negligible. It significantly outperforms Decision Tree in both Average Precision and AUC across cross-validation and single split results.

Although Random Forest achieves the highest predictive metrics (88.4% AP, 76.1% AUC), the difference is very low compared to Logistic Regression (88.1% AP, 76% AUC). The minimal performance gap cannot justify Random Forest's higher cost (130.6).

Neural Network, despite the complexity, fails to outperform the simpler models, highlighting the challenges of applying deep learning to limited datasets where simpler models often prove more effective.

For a balance of cost, precision, interpretability, and computational efficiency, **Logistic Regression** provides the winning combination.