*Predicting Outcomes for Adjudication Appeals through Machine Learning*

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*Abstract*—Individuals who wish to work in or with the United States Government are required to undergo a background investigation. These investigations focus on investigating an individual and any and all aspects of their personal life and behavior going back 5-10 years. Some of these cases are denied and then later appealed. Of the cases that are appealed, another investigation is done and a final decision is made on whether or not the individual is granted or denied a security clearance.

Keywords—machine learning, fit, predict, model, adjudicative guidelines, scikit-learn, Jupyter Notebooks

# Introduction

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# Security Clearance Process

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# Adjudicative Appeals Process

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# Machine Learning

Machine Learning techniques attempt to mimic human thought and make complex decisions on input using advanced statistics. There are many models that handle different forms of input and use different statistical models to predict the desired type of outcomes. In this case, Logistic Regression was used to predict outcomes due to the data input – Boolean values (true/false). Logistic Regression works by taking training data and training a classifier, creating a model from the training data, and applying that model on test data, and calculating the accuracy of the predictions against the actual values. The data that was used for the training data for this research consisted of yes/no values for various attributes and predicted whether or not the input data warranted a decision of denied or rejected.

There are also many different ways to calculate the accuracy of the model in terms of fit and how well the model has correctly predicted the value. In this case only the accuracy score was done in which the original outcomes were compared to the predicted outcomes.

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## Scikit-Learn

* Use either SI (MKS) or CGS as primary units. (SI units are encouraged.) English units may be used as secondary units (in parentheses). An exception would be the use of English units as identifiers in trade, such as “3.5-inch disk drive”.
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* Do not mix complete spellings and abbreviations of units: “Wb/m2” or “webers per square meter”, not “webers/m2”. Spell out units when they appear in text: “. . . a few henries”, not “. . . a few H”.
* Use a zero before decimal points: “0.25”, not “.25”. Use “cm3”, not “cc”. (*bullet list*)

# Predicting Outcomes

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## Scope

#### The scope of this project was focused on 5 of the 13 adjudicative guidelines. The guidelines that were used in this research were:

D: Sexual Behavior

E: Personal Conduct

F: Financial Considerations

G: Alcohol Consumption

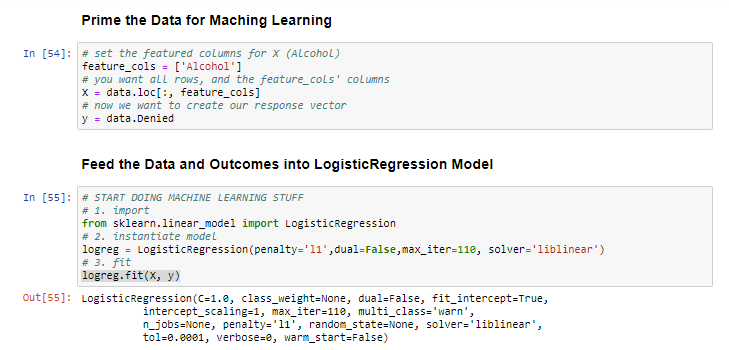
H: Drug Involvement

These guidelines were researched based on the data collected and coded and compared to the decision that was reached after the appeal process was completed (Accepted/Denied).

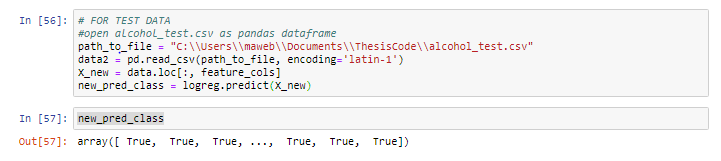
## Models Used

For these guidelines, sci-kit learn’s Logistic Regression model was used. The 3 particular functions that were used were fit, predict, and accuracy.

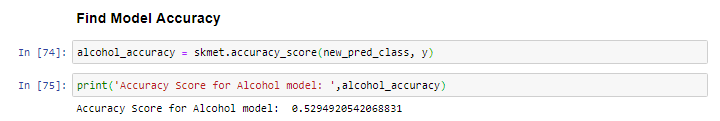
### Fit works by taking the training vector (all attributes) as X and the target vector relative to X as y. The following code snippet shows the setup for the model including assigning both X and y and the call to sci-kit learn’s fit function..



### Predict works by taking in the same parameters as X but for the test data (X\_new) in the fit scenario and outputs an array of the predicted values.



### Accuracy works by comparing the training data’s actual denied status for a case against the prediction functions denied status.



## Outcomes and Analysis

# Use Cases and Limitations

# Future Work

The models used were limited to the type of input data available. In this case, only Logistic Regression was used on a subset of input fields. Logistic Regression model does not handle text input, and since many of the other fields are not just yes/no values, branching out into more powerful models that handle more robust input is top priority on the list of things to continue to research.

Another aspect of future work is adding the most current years of data to the dataset. The current data only has information up through 2016 – adding the data from years 2017 and 2018 enhances the data points in the training data and heightens the chances for a more successful model prediction.

##### Acknowledgments

##### References

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