

Department of Statistics & Computer Science, University of Kelaniya ACADEMIC YEAR – 2023 Master of Science in Computer Science

Fraud Detection in Financial Transaction

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Index No: MSc-CS-2022-033

COSC 52102 - Data Science

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1 Introduction

Financial transactions occur on a vast scale daily, spanning various industries and involving numerous parties. Unfortunately, among these transactions, there exists the threat of fraudulent activities. Fraud in financial transactions refers to any intentional deception or manipulation carried out to gain an unfair or unlawful advantage, causing financial loss to individuals, organizations, or financial institutions.

Fraudsters continuously evolve their techniques, making it challenging to detect fraudulent behavior using traditional methods alone. This is where the application of machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) becomes crucial in mitigating the risks associated with fraudulent activities.

1.1 Problem Definition

The problem of Fraud Detection in Financial Transactions can be defined as the task of identifying and preventing fraudulent activities within a vast volume of transactions. This involves creating predictive models or algorithms capable of distinguishing between genuine and fraudulent transactions in real-time or near real-time.

1.2 Objects and Goal

To Achieve High Prediction Accuracy

Develop models that accurately classify transactions, minimizing both false negatives (missed fraud) and false positives (legitimate transactions misclassified as fraud).

To Create Scalable Solutions

Build models and systems that can handle large volumes of transactions efficiently, maintaining high accuracy in fraud detection as the volume of transactions increases.

To Adapt to Evolving Fraud Tactics

Develop models that continuously learn and adapt to new fraud patterns and behaviors, staying effective against emerging fraudulent activities.

1.3 Data Resource

Source: Kaggle (https://www.kaggle.com/)

Description: The dataset is a synthetic representation generated by the PaySim simulator, mimicking mobile money transactions based on a sample of real transactions extracted from one month of financial logs from a mobile money service in an African country. It is scaled down to 1/4 of the original dataset and is specifically created for the Kaggle platform. The dataset is designed to facilitate research in fraud detection within the mobile money transactions domain.

```
[ ] from google.colab import drive
    drive.mount('/content/drive')

Mounted at /content/drive

[ ] import pandas as pd
    df = pd.read_csv("/content/drive/MyDrive/Colab_Notebooks/archive (6).zip")

[ ] df.shape
    (6362620, 11)
```

Features:

step: A unit of time in the simulation, where 1 step equals 1 hour (total steps: 744, simulating 30 days).

type: The type of transaction (CASH-IN, CASH-OUT, DEBIT, PAYMENT, TRANSFER).

amount: The transaction amount in local currency.

nameOrig: The customer initiating the transaction.

oldbalanceOrg: The initial balance before the transaction for the initiating customer.

newbalanceOrig: The new balance after the transaction for the initiating customer.

nameDest: The recipient of the transaction.

oldbalanceDest: The initial balance before the transaction for the.

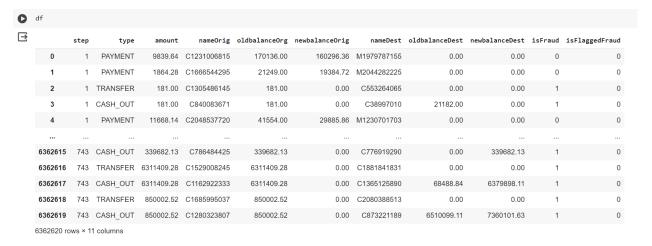
newbalanceDest: The new balance after the transaction for the recipient (.

isFraud: Indicates transactions made by fraudulent agents within the simulation.

isFlaggedFraud: Flags illegal attempts, such as transferring more than 200,000 in a single transaction, in the simulation.



Data Format: CSV (Comma-Separated Values), with 1 row representing a transaction and columns representing different attributes of the transaction.



1.4 Limitation

Data Imbalance: The imbalance between fraudulent and non-fraudulent transactions might affect model training, potentially causing challenges in effectively learning.

Lack of Variability: Due to the nature of a synthetic dataset, there might be limited variability in the transactions, possibly leading to biases or oversimplified representations of transaction patterns.

Limited Contextual Information: The dataset might lack additional contextual information or metadata which could limit the depth of analysis and understanding of fraudulent behavior.

2 Methodology

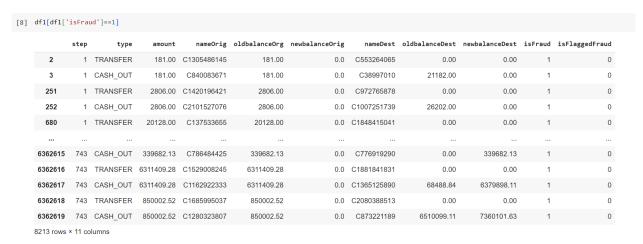
2.1 Data Preparation

The choice of the isFraud column as the target class for fraud detection in this dataset stems from its direct relevance to the primary objective of identifying fraudulent transactions accurately. In this simulated dataset, the isFraud column explicitly marks transactions conducted by fraudulent agents, providing a clear distinction between fraudulent and non-fraudulent activities. This distinct labeling enables the development of machine learning models aimed at effectively distinguishing between genuine and fraudulent transactions.

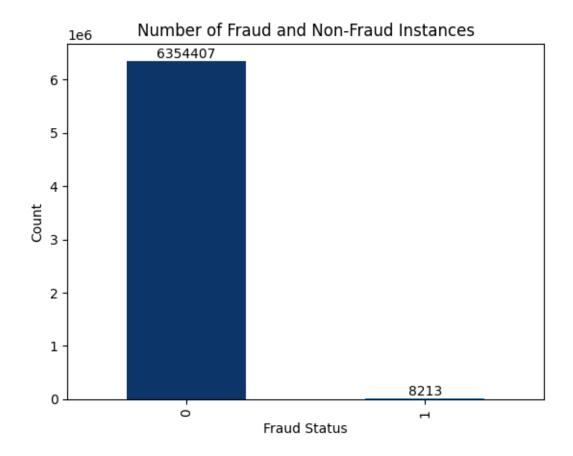
Class 0 (Non-Fraudulent Transactions): There are a total of 6,354,407 instances labeled as non-fraudulent transactions (0).



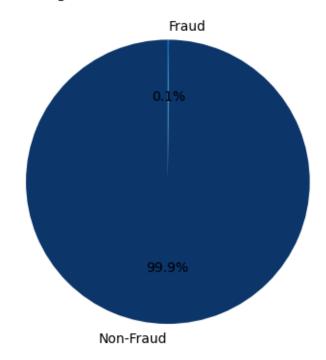
Class 1 (Fraudulent Transactions): There are a total of 8,213 instances labeled as fraudulent transactions (1).



This dataset is considered unbalanced due to the significant disparity in the number of instances between the two classes. The vast majority of transactions (represented by Class 0) are non-fraudulent, greatly outnumbering the instances of fraudulent transactions (Class 1). In this case, the ratio between non-fraudulent and fraudulent transactions is heavily skewed towards non-fraudulent instances.



Percentage of Fraud and Non-Fraud Instances



2.1.1 Handle Imbalanced Dataset

Approach to Handle Imbalanced Data Set

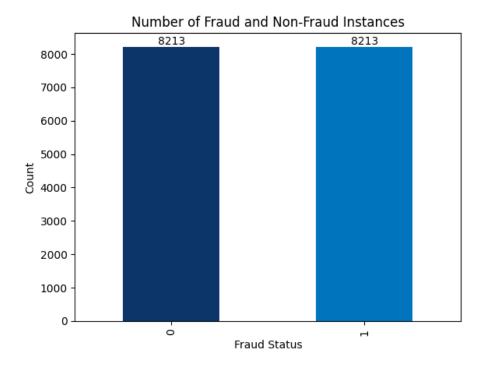
- Resampling (Uppersampling and Downsampling)
- Synthetic Minority Oversampling Technique
- BalancedBaggingClassifier

Downsampling

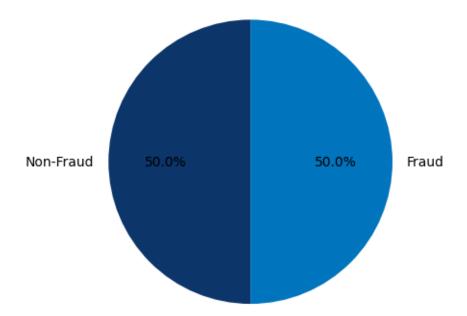
This technique is used to downsample the majority class. When we are using an imbalanced dataset, we can randomly delete rows from the majority class to match them with the minority class which is called undersampling. After sampling the data we can get a balanced dataset for both majority and minority classes. So, when both classes have a similar number of records present in the dataset, we can assume that the classifier will give equal importance to both classes.

Below technique using the sklearn library's **resample()** is shown below for illustration purposes.

```
df_downsampled['isFraud'].value_counts()
```



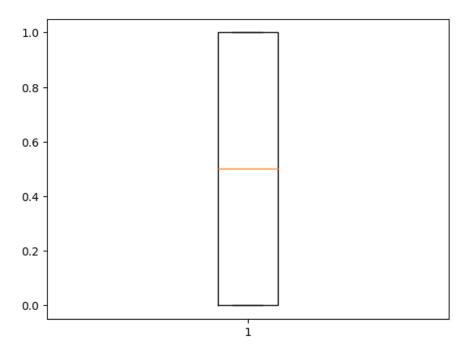
Percentage of Fraud and Non-Fraud Instances



2.1.2 Data Cleaning

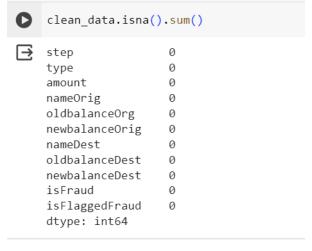
2.1.2.1 Handling Outliers

The absence of outliers in a dataset contributes to a more stable, predictable, and reliable dataset for statistical analysis or modeling.



2.1.2.2 Missing Values Handling

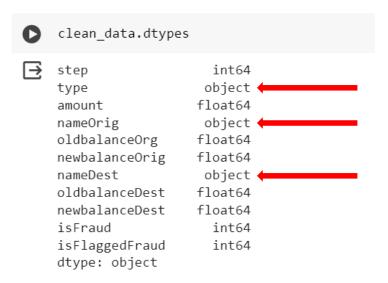
There are no missing values detected across any of the columns in the dataset



2.1.3 Data Preprocessing

2.1.3.1 Data Transform

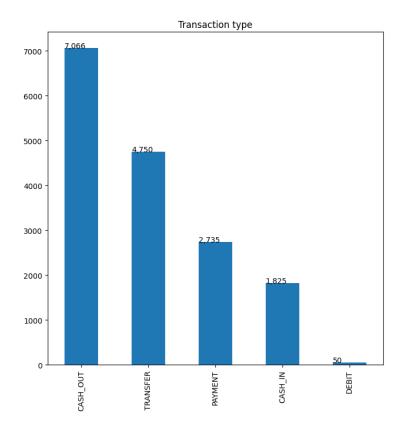
In the provided dataset, several columns initially held categorical or textual information represented as object data types. These columns, such as **type**, **nameOrig**, and **nameDest**, contained categorical information that needed to be numerically encoded for machine learning algorithms to process effectively.



The 'type' column in the dataset contains categorical information representing different types of transactions. Each transaction type signifies a distinct category of financial activities.

```
[29] clean_data['type'].value_counts()

CASH_OUT 7066
TRANSFER 4750
PAYMENT 2735
CASH_IN 1825
DEBIT 50
Name: type, dtype: int64
```



The **LabelEncoder** from the **scikit-learn** library was utilized to transform these categorical columns into a format suitable for machine learning models. The **LabelEncoder** assigned a unique numerical label to each unique category or value within the categorical columns.

```
from sklearn.preprocessing import LabelEncoder
 my encoder = LabelEncoder()
 df_cln['type'] = my_encoder.fit_transform(df_cln['type'])
 #0 for CASH_IN 1 for CASH_OUT 2 for DEBIT 3 for PAYMENT 4 for TRANSFER.
 df_cln.dtypes
step
                     int64
                     int64
 type
 amount
                   float64
 nameOrig
                    object
 oldbalanceOrg
                   float64
 newbalanceOrig
                   float64
 nameDest
                    object
 oldbalanceDest
                   float64
 newbalanceDest
                   float64
 isFraud
                     int64
 isFlaggedFraud
                     int64
 dtype: object
```

'nameOrig' trnsform in to integer

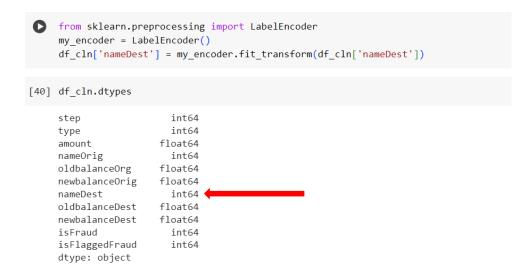
```
clean_data['nameOrig'].value_counts()
    C691771226
     C1263272342
     C1843566745
                    1
     C351713185
                    1
     C58682758
                    1
     C944685644
     C736006600
     C1294515646
     C73296501
     C1280323807
                  1
     Name: nameOrig, Length: 16426, dtype: int64
[37] from sklearn.preprocessing import LabelEncoder
    my_encoder = LabelEncoder()
    df_cln['nameOrig'] = my_encoder.fit_transform(df_cln['nameOrig'])
df_cln.dtypes

→ step

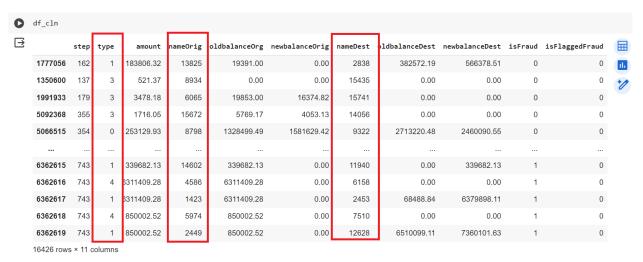
                       int64
    type
                      int64
    amount
                   float64
    nameOrig
                     int64
    oldbalanceOrg float64
    newbalanceOrig
                   float64
    nameDest
                     object
    oldbalanceDest float64
    newbalanceDest float64
    isFraud
                      int64
    isFlaggedFraud
                       int64
    dtype: object
```

'nameDest' transform into integer value

```
clean_data['nameDest'].value_counts()
C1561140816
C2020337583
C164033249
              3
C1875540277
            3
C330226144
M1792844041
             1
C1299718574
              1
C312306105
              1
M523692779
              1
C2080388513
             1
Name: nameDest, Length: 16235, dtype: int64
```



After the transformation, the categorical columns such as **type**, **nameOrig**, and **nameDest** were converted into integer representations (int64 data type). Each distinct category within these columns was assigned a corresponding unique numerical label



2.1.3.2 Data Reduction

In the dataset used for fraud detection, certain columns might not contribute significantly to the detection of fraudulent activities or might contain information that is irrelevant to the model.

Correlation Mat	trix:					
	step	type	amount	nameOrig	oldbalanceOrg	\
step	1.000000	0.097230	0.149111	-0.006061	0.074185	
type	0.097230	1.000000	0.112007	-0.000257	-0.071468	
amount	0.149111	0.112007	1.000000	0.017550	0.646056	
nameOrig	-0.006061	-0.000257	0.017550	1.000000	0.014088	
oldbalanceOrg	0.074185	-0.071468	0.646056	0.014088	1.000000	
newbalanceOrig	-0.022918	-0.183056	0.123465	0.006553	0.824217	
nameDest	-0.104483	0.185777	-0.114270	-0.009775	-0.095401	
oldbalanceDest	-0.006124	-0.132000	0.005105	0.015011	0.008734	
newbalanceDest	0.027531	-0.176528	0.256852	0.019683	0.117984	
isFraud	0.320576	0.273082	0.345287	0.002854	0.125072	
isFlaggedFraud	0.037332	0.040256	0.067676	0.013601	0.063118	
55						
	newbalan	ceOrig nar	meDest ol	dbalanceDest	newbalanceDes	t
step	-0.0	022918 -0.1	104483	-0.006124	0.02753	31
type	-0.1	183056 0.3	185777	-0.132000	-0.17652	8
amount	0.1	123465 -0.3	114270	0.005105	0.25685	2
nameOrig	0.0	006553 -0.0	009775	0.015011	0.01968	3
oldbalanceOrg	0.8	324217 -0.6	995401	0.008734	0.11798	34
newbalanceOrig	1.0	900000 -0.0	951151	0.039598	0.00599	4
nameDest	-0.0	951151 1.0	909090	-0.066738	-0.09040	16
oldbalanceDest	0.0	039598 -0.0	966738	1.000000	0.92805	1
newbalanceDest	0.0	005994 -0.0	990406	0.928051	1.00000	10
isFraud	-0.1	133095 -0.2	282582	-0.082357	0.00489	1
isFlaggedFraud	0.0	090899 -0.0	929221	-0.007449	-0.01018	37
	isFraud	isFlagge				
step	0.320576		937332			
type	0.273082		949256			
amount	0.345287	0.6	967676			
nameOrig	0.002854	0.6	913601			
oldbalanceOrg	0.125072	0.0	963118			
newbalanceOrig	-0.133095	0.0	990899			
nameDest	-0.282582	-0.6	929221			
oldbalanceDest	-0.082357	-0.6	007449			
newbalanceDest	0.004891	-0.0	910187			
isFraud	1.000000	0.6	331225			
isFlaggedFraud	0.031225	1.6	900000			

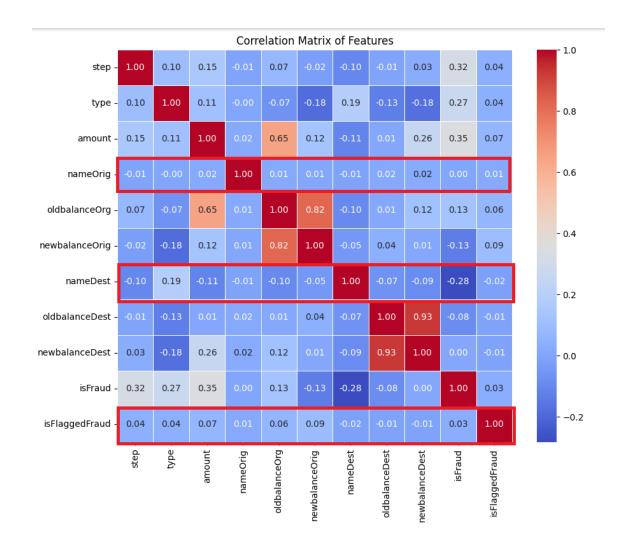
The correlation matrix provides insights into the relationships between different features in the dataset, measuring the strength and direction of their linear associations.

nameOrig and nameDest:

Both 'nameOrig' and 'nameDest' exhibit relatively low absolute correlation values (ranging from - 0.28 to 0.02) with the target variable 'isFraud.'

isFlaggedFraud:

Correlation Explanation: The 'isFlaggedFraud' column shows a relatively low correlation value (0.03) with the 'isFraud' target variable.



The decision to remove these columns ('nameOrig,' 'nameDest,' and 'isFlaggedFraud') could be considered based on their weaker linear correlations with the target variable 'isFraud.'

	step	type	amount	oldbalanceOrg	newbalanceOrig	oldbalanceDest	newbalanceDest	isFraud
1777056	162	1	183806.32	19391.00	0.00	382572.19	566378.51	0
1350600	137	3	521.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
1991933	179	3	3478.18	19853.00	16374.82	0.00	0.00	0
5092368	355	3	1716.05	5769.17	4053.13	0.00	0.00	0
5066515	354	0	253129.93	1328499.49	1581629.42	2713220.48	2460090.55	0
6362615	743	1	339682.13	339682.13	0.00	0.00	339682.13	1
6362616	743	4	6311409.28	6311409.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
6362617	743	1	6311409.28	6311409.28	0.00	68488.84	6379898.11	1
6362618	743	4	850002.52	850002.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
6362619	743	1	850002.52	850002.52	0.00	6510099.11	7360101.63	1

2.2 Model Planning

The selection of supervised learning classification for fraud detection stems from its reliance on labeled data, enabling models to distinguish between known classes like fraudulent and non-fraudulent transactions. This approach suits the dataset, which contains labeled instances of fraud ('isFraud') used for model training. Employing Decision Tree, Random Forest, and Naive Bayes, these ML models leverage the labeled data to discern patterns in financial transaction features. The Decision Tree offers transparent decision-making, Random Forest combines multiple trees for better accuracy, while Naive Bayes, despite its simplicity, provides an efficient probabilistic approach. Trained on labeled data, these models aim to accurately categorize transactions, enhancing fraud detection and prevention in financial systems.

3 Implementation

3.1 Model Building

3.1.1.1 Decision Tree

This code segment performs a crucial step in machine learning—dividing the dataset into subsets: a training set used to train the model (70% of the data) and a test set employed to evaluate its performance (30% of the data). These subsets, x_train, x_test, y_train, and y_test, are crucial for training the model on one portion of the data and assessing its predictive ability on unseen data from the test set.

In this specific instance, the model achieves an accuracy score of approximately 98.97%, showcasing its ability to effectively identify fraudulent transactions within the given test data

```
[46] #load libraries
   import pandas as pd
   from sklearn.tree import DecisionTreeClassifier # Import Decision Tree Classification
   from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split # Import train_test_split
   from sklearn import metrics #import scikit-learn metrics module for accuracy
```

```
#Split dataset into training set and test set
x_train, x_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(x, y, test_size=0.3, random_state=42)
```

3.1.1.2 Random Forest Tree

A RandomForestClassifier object is instantiated and trained using the training data, with 70% allocated for training and 30% for testing. The model is then employed to predict instances of fraud in the test dataset. Finally, the model's accuracy is assessed by comparing its predictions against the actual labels, providing an accuracy score of approximately 99.17%.

```
X_train.shape
(11498, 7)

X_test.shape
(4928, 7)
```

```
#Create Decision Tree classifer object
rfc = RandomForestClassifier(n_estimators=100, random_state=42)

#Train Decision Tree Classifer
rfc = rfc.fit(X_train,Y_train)

#Predict the response for test dataset
rf_pred = rfc.predict(X_test)

#Model accuracy how often is the classifier correct?
print("Accuracy:",accuracy_score(Y_test,rf_pred))

Accuracy: 0.9916801948051948
```

3.1.1.3 Multinomial Naive Bayes

This code initializes and utilizes a Multinomial Naive Bayes classifier from scikit-learn. Initially, the dataset is divided into features and the target variable ('isFraud'). Subsequently, the dataset is split into training and testing subsets, dedicating 70% of the data for training the model and 30% for testing its performance.

the Multinomial Naive Bayes classifier achieves an accuracy score of approximately 74.63%

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Accuracy: 0.7463474025974026

4 Conclusion

The performance evaluation of the machine learning models reveals varying levels of accuracy. The Random Forest Tree model demonstrates the highest accuracy of 99.17%, followed closely by the Decision Tree model with an accuracy of 98.97%. In comparison, the Multinomial Naive Bayes model achieves a comparatively lower accuracy of 74.63%.

The Random Forest Tree and Decision Tree models showcase significantly higher accuracy rates compared to the Multinomial Naive Bayes model. Therefore, for this specific fraud detection task, the ensemble-based Random Forest Tree and the individual Decision Tree models exhibit superior performance in accurately classifying fraudulent transactions when compared to the Multinomial Naive Bayes model.

