How To Catch A Thief

•••

Identifying Tax Evasion with

Machine Learning



About Me

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What is Money Laundering?

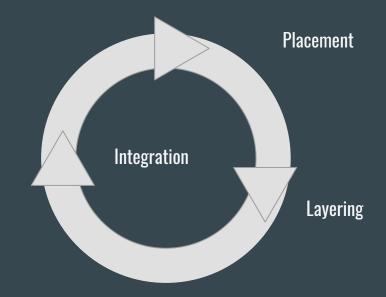
Making Dirty Money Look Clean

How it Works

CHECKLIST



√ Deposit into Bank





Get Your Money Into a Financial Institution



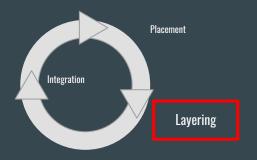
Pros

- □ Stop Stuffing Money into Mattress
- Stop Paying for Extra Guards

Cons

- Possibility of Getting Caught
- ☐ Hard to Find Trustworthy Smurfs

Use Multiple Accounts to Avoid Suspicion



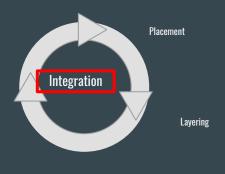
Pros

- Won't Lead Back to Me
- ☐ Hard for IRS to audit

Cons

- Headaches From Keeping Track of Everything
- ☐ Have to Figure out Loopholes in Different Languages

Get Your Money Back



Pros

- Can Access Money & Appear Innocent
- ☐ Excuse to Buy a House
- **□** Excuse to Buy a Boat
- **□** Excuse to Buy Expensive Art
- Money

Notorious Money Laundering



Shell Banks

No Record

"Russian criminals laundered about \$70 billion through this shack in Nauru"

- NYTimes

Why is Money Laundering Hard To Catch?



Untangle Transactions & Identifying the Source is Hard



Rule-Based Systems Rely on Relatively Stateless Checks



Criminals Find Ways Around Regulatory Detection



Could We Use ML to Help?





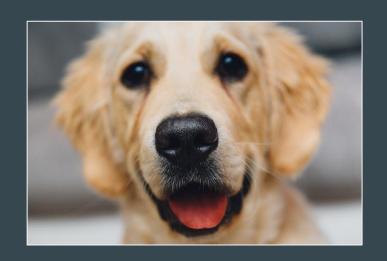
Machine	Human	
2	0	





Why We Should Use H20 Machine Learning

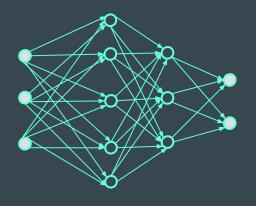
How Would you Teach a Child to Identify an Animal?





Why H20 Machine Learning Can Beat Rules

```
If deposit > 10,000 and
Acct_age < 1 year then
....</pre>
```



Hard Code Rules

Specify Thresholds

Deterministic

Learns Rules from Data
Optimizes Thresholds to Minimize Error
Probabilistic Scores

About H₂0.ai

Distributed in-memory platform

Easy to use SDK / APIs

Open Source

Can use ALL business data

GLM, DRF, GBM, Deep Learning, K-means, PCA

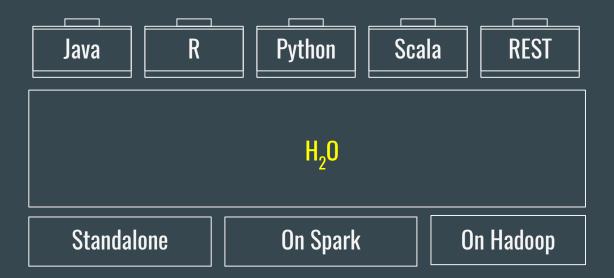
Java, Python, R, Scala, JSON, Browser-Based GUI

Ownership of Methods

Modeling without Sampling



H₂O.ai Integration



H₂O Algorithm Overview

Statistical Analysis Generalized Linear Models Naïve Bayes

Clustering

K-means

Ensembles

Distributed Random Forest Gradient Boosting Machine

Dimensionality Reduction

Principal Component Analysis Generalized Low Rank Models

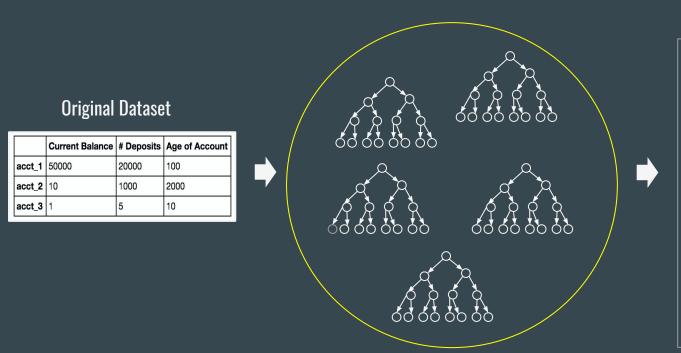
Deep Neural Networks

Deep learning

Anomaly Detection

Autoencoders

Distributed Random Forest



Predictions

Acc. 1 Acc. 2 Acc. 3 Acc. 4	Suspect Innocent Suspect Innocent	
	· ·	
	· .	
	· .	
	·	



Tax Evasion Use Case

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How Regulators Deal with Tax Evasion

Bank Secrecy Act

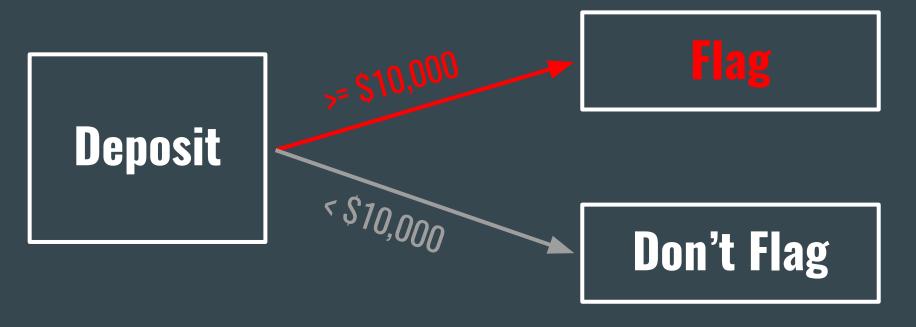
THE BANKS



THE IRS/FinCEN



What Gets Sent to Regulators



H₂O.ai

Structuring: How Criminals Avoid Detection

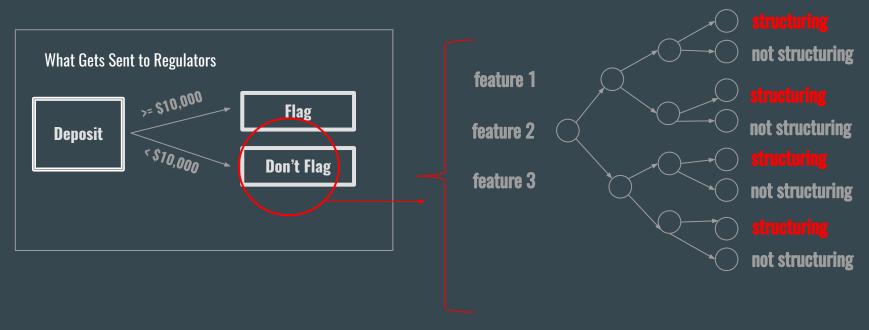
Spaced Out Deposits



\$9,999,..,\$9,999



How H20 Machine Learning Can Help



But How is ML Different from Rule Systems?

	Threshold	Trends/Spikes	Memory	Train/Retrain
Machine Learning				
Rules				

Made for Machine Learning

What Features Should We Input to an Algorithm?

Features that Provide Context



Profile Summary

Current balance: \$50,000

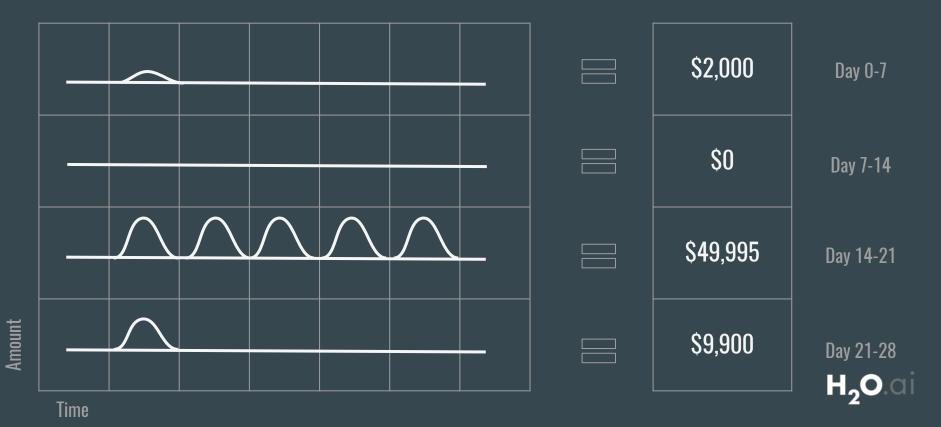
Deposits: 1

Withdrawals: 3

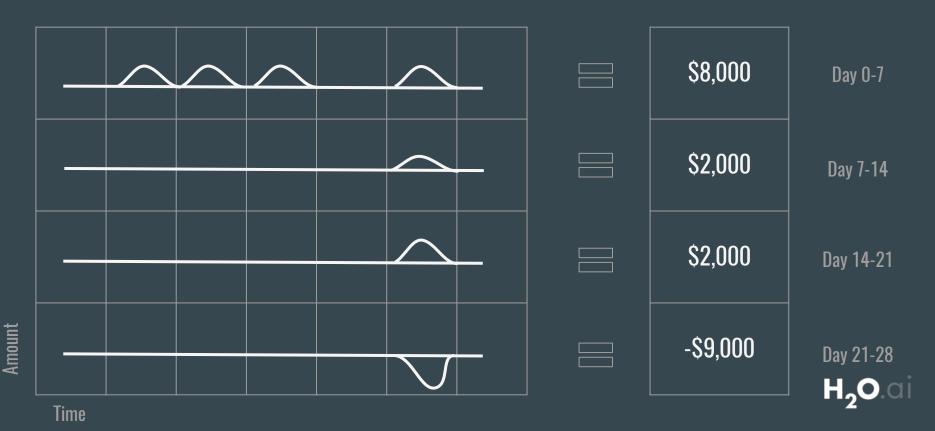
Age of account: 10 years

Linked accounts: 3

Feature 1. Total Amount Deposited Last 7 Day



Feature 2. Total Amount Withdrawn Last 7 Day



Feature 3. % of Monetary Instruments Last 30 Days

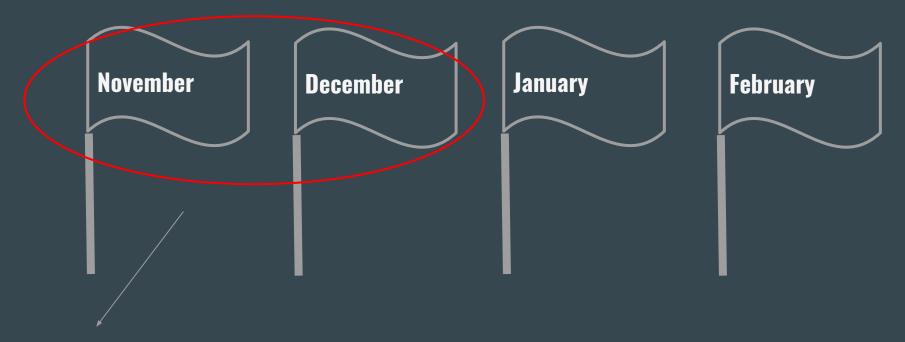


50% Cash

20% Cash

Normal

Feature 4. Tax Day Behavior



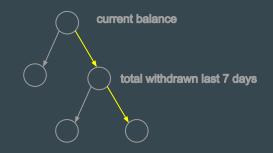
Add weight to transactions closer to tax season



How the Algo Uses Features to Identify Structuring



Split along features that minimize prediction error



Ability to include feature interactions



Composition of features yields a probability score, used to identify structuring



Bonus Machine Learning Treat

Feature Importance

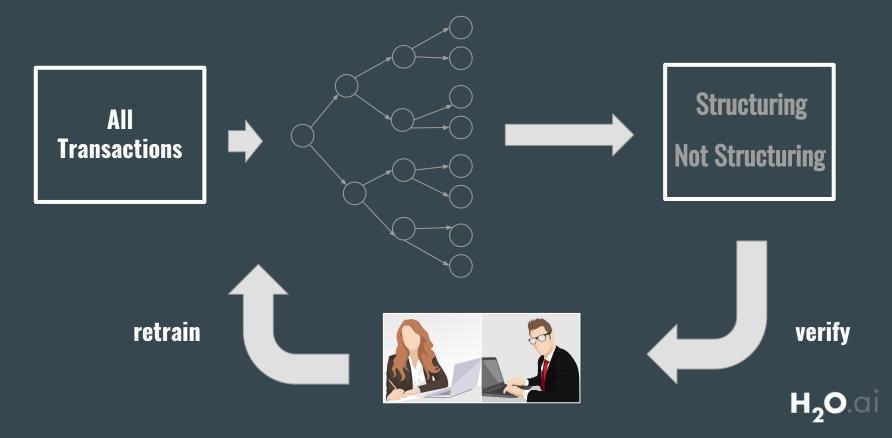
Total Amount Deposited

Total Amount Withdrawn

% of Monetary Instruments

Account Holder Name

Putting It All Together



Machine Learning for Anti-Money Laundering

LOOPHOLES

Enhance Rules

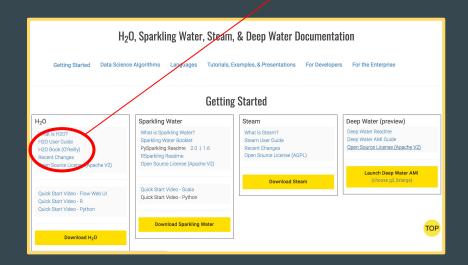
Help Generate Better Rules

Identify New Criminal Patterns

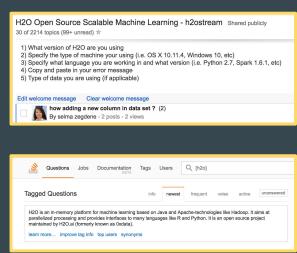
Replace Rule-Based Systems

H₂O Machine Learning Resources

H20 User Guide



http://docs.h2o.ai/



https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/h2ostream http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/h2o

laurend@h2o.ai



Don't Forget to File your Taxes (on all your income)