

**REAL—WORLD**



**FINANCIAL ANOMALIES**

**IDENTIFYING FRAUD BEFORE IT SPREADS**

**By :- Parth Tyagi**

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## **Example:**

A company claims to import ₹50 lakh worth of furniture, but customs data shows only plastic chairs worth ₹2 lakh. The ₹48 lakh gap is laundered money.

## **Industry Use:**

Common in cross-border import/export businesses. Used by criminal networks to justify illicit fund movement.

## **Risk Indicators:**

Mismatch in invoice vs shipment type/value. Repeated transactions to/from high-risk jurisdictions.

**Source:** <https://www.fatf-gafi.org>

## **Example:**

Money flows from Company A → Company B → Company C → back to Company A — creating artificial revenue or laundering funds.

## **Industry Use:**

Found in stock manipulation and fake invoicing. Detected via entity relationship graph analytics.

## **Detection Techniques:**

Graph-based transaction flow detection.

## **Risk Indicators:**

Circular fund movement without valid invoices.

## **Example:**

Illegal remittance agent instructs someone to deposit ₹5 lakh into a legitimate account. Another person overseas receives equivalent amount, masked as unrelated transfer.

## **Detection Techniques:**

Transaction synchronization and unrelated transfer matching.

## **Risk Indicators:**

Unusual match of debit-credit amounts across borders.

Source: <https://www.fatf-gafi.org>

## **Example:**

A mid-level politician's relative receives large foreign transfers from tax havens, without declared sources.

## **Industry Use:**

Detected via enhanced due diligence (EDD) and risk scoring.

## **Detection Techniques:**

PEP list screening and transaction profiling.

## **Risk Indicators:**

Unexplained foreign remittances, high-risk origin countries.

## **Example:**

Fraudsters purchase high-volume gift cards using illicit funds, then resell for cash or crypto.

## **Industry Use:**

Used to bypass banking transaction monitoring systems.

## **Detection Techniques:**

Track gift card volume, velocity, and resale activity.

## **Risk Indicators:**

High-frequency card purchases and quick liquidation.

Source: <https://www.nrf.com>

## **Example:**

Multiple personal accounts receive identical amounts and quickly forward them to another account.

## **Industry Use:**

Used to obscure money trail across many accounts.

## **Detection Techniques:**

Behavioral clustering and transaction pattern mapping.

## **Risk Indicators:**

Low balance retention, fast outflows, synchronized activity.

## **Example:**

A fake profile is created using real PAN + fake mobile + address to pass KYC.

## **Industry Use:**

Seen in BNPL apps, neobanks, and digital onboarding.

## **Detection Techniques:**

Cross-check identity attributes across datasets.

## **Risk Indicators:**

Inconsistent identity signals, repeated data reuse.



## **Example:**

Multiple customers across branches deposit INR 49,500 daily to avoid CTR limits.

## **Industry Use:**

Common method to evade reporting thresholds.

## **Detection Techniques:**

Centralized data consolidation and behavioral models.

## **Risk Indicators:**

Repeat sub-threshold deposits across geographies.

Source: <https://www.fatf-gafi.org>

## **Example:**

A dormant account suddenly receives a large deposit and transfers it offshore.

## **Industry Use:**

Used for mule activity or stolen account exploitation.

## **Detection Techniques:**

Behavior deviation models and risk scoring engines.

## **Risk Indicators:**

Dormant → active jump with high-value transfers.

Source: <https://fiuindia.gov.in>

## **Example:**

10 MSMEs from same branch default, introduced by the same agent.

## **Industry Use:**

Agent collusion or mass identity fraud.

## **Detection Techniques:**

Link analysis between introducers and borrowers.

## **Risk Indicators:**

Common introducer, time-based clustering.

Source: <https://www.europol.europa.eu>

## Example:

Real estate firm borrows from 3 banks in 2 weeks without any project.

## Industry Use:

Exploits delay in credit bureau updates.

## Detection Techniques:

Velocity rules and interbank credit sharing.

## Risk Indicators:

High borrow volume without activity.

Source: <https://www.worldbank.org>

## **Example:**

500 accounts opened from the same IP with similar email patterns.

## **Industry Use:**

Bot farms and fake identity creation.

## **Detection Techniques:**

Device fingerprinting and email/domain patterns.

## **Risk Indicators:**

IP repetition, username/email similarities.

Source: <https://www.acams.org>

## **Example:**

Card used in Delhi at 10 AM and in Dubai at 12:30 PM same day.

## **Industry Use:**

Cloned card or stolen credentials.

## **Detection Techniques:**

Impossible travel rules and geolocation logic.

## **Risk Indicators:**

Physical impossibility of travel.

Source: <https://usa.visa.com>

## **Example:**

78-year-old's account used for mobile wallet transfers from new device.

## **Industry Use:**

Often overlooked fraud pattern.

## **Detection Techniques:**

Device behavior and age-based profiling.

## **Risk Indicators:**

Device mismatch, abnormal activity for profile.

Source: <https://www.consumerfinance.gov>

## **Example:**

Six accounts reset passwords and transferred to one payee within an hour.

## **Industry Use:**

Credential compromise leading to theft.

## **Detection Techniques:**

Login IP mismatch, beneficiary anomaly.

## **Risk Indicators:**

Sudden profile change, same payee.

Source: <https://www.fincen.gov>



## **Example:**

New account does 100 UPI transactions in 40 minutes.

## **Industry Use:**

Bot or UPI spam fraud.

## **Detection Techniques:**

Velocity thresholds, graph analysis.

## **Risk Indicators:**

Too many UPI hits in short time.

Source: <https://www.npci.org.in>

# ISOLATION FOREST



WITH CODES

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## IsolationForest

```
class sklearn.ensemble.IsolationForest(*, n_estimators=100, max_samples='auto',  
contamination='auto', max_features=1.0, bootstrap=False, n_jobs=None,  
random_state=None, verbose=0, warm_start=False) #
```

[\[source\]](#)

n\_estimators: int, default=100

## Why It Matters:

- Each tree helps randomly isolate data points.
- The model calculates the average path length across all trees to determine if a point is anomalous.

Value	Behavior
Small (e.g. 10)	Fast training, but less accurate scores
Medium (100)	Good balance (default)
Large (500+)	More stable results, but slower

More trees → better generalization, but also more computation.

Each tree is trained on a subset of your data.  
Smaller subsets → faster and help detect rare outliers.

Value Type	What Happens
"auto"	Use min(256, total samples) → safe & fast default
int (e.g. 100)	Use exactly 100 samples for each tree
float (e.g. 0.5)	Use 50% of the dataset ( $0.5 * \text{total samples}$ ) per tree

contamination = 'auto' or float (e.g., 0.05)

The model what fraction of the data is expected to be anomalies (outliers).

It is used to set the threshold for labeling points as:

-1 → anomaly

1 → normal

Value	What it means
'auto'	Let the model decide threshold (based on data, good for unknown cases)
float (e.g., 0.1)	You tell the model: “Expect 10% of the data to be outliers”

max\_features = int or float, default=1.0

Type	What it does
int	Use exactly that number of features (e.g., max_features=3)
float	Use a fraction of total features (e.g., 0.5 = 50% of all features)
1	Use <b>all</b> features (default and fastest)

## bootstrap

bool, default=False

bootstrap: If True, trees use data with replacement (some rows can repeat); if False (default), each row is used only once per tree.

## n\_jobs:int, default=None

Number of CPU cores to use; None = 1 core, -1 = use all available cores.



## **random\_state : int,**

Random\_State instance or None, default=None

Controls randomness in selecting features and split points for each tree.

Set an int (e.g., 42) to get the same results every time you run the model.

## **verbose : int, default=0**

Controls the verbosity of the tree building process. Controls how much progress info is printed while building trees — 0 means silent, higher numbers show more details.

## **warm\_start: bool, default=False**

When set to True, reuse the solution of the previous call to fit and add more estimators to the ensemble, otherwise, just fit a whole new forest.

**Thank  
you**