Credit Card Project Writeup

I. Summary Statistics and Data Cleaning

At the first glance of the data, the variables sex, marriage status, and age seemed irrelevant to whether the next payment in credit card will default or not. Also, the process of collecting those data could have embedded some biases, so I decided to exclude them from the analysis. Below were a few assumptions I made for the remaining data cleaning process:

- 1. For the variable "education", as data description only specified what values 1 to 4 mean, I assumed any number out of that range was an error and assigned it as "NA". In total, there were 345 NAs, and I removed the rows with missing values, given that 345 was a small portion of the data set and would not necessarily change the data structure.
- 2. In real life, if card holders missed payments for three months, their status and the next payment would be automatically considered as default. That means the credit history in the most recent three months could have the strongest correlation with default payment. Therefore, I picked the payment history in the last three months (X6 to X8) to be my predictors. Similarly, If I were using the bill statement and payment amount, I would only consider those of September, August, and July.
- 3. The variables "payment history" (X6-X11) have some values other than those specified in the data description. More than 10 thousand data has a value of 0, and we are not sure about what it means. As the amount of the data with value of 0 is more than 1/3 of the data set, I suspected it might be caused by a clerical error where researchers might have put a wrong Excel formula and the data has been assigned to a value higher than the original value by 1. In other words, the data with the value of 0 might indicate they paid the balance on time. In data cleaning section, I assigned the value of 0 to all of the payment paid as R sometimes cannot process negative numbers for categorical variables.
- 4. I assumed payment often occurs one month later than the bill statement, so I decided not to use the bill statement data in September. More specifically, if I want to know if the payment in August is paid on time, I will probably use the bill statement in August and payment amount in September.
- 5. Normally speaking, if card holders are able to pay at least 2% of their billing statement every month, the payments will not be considered as default.

When I looked further into the data, I noticed that there might be some correlation between the amount of bill statement and the amount of previous payment. If there is a higher balance in the bill statement, the card holders probably need to pay more to satisfy the minimum amount of the payment (roughly 2%). I wondered if I could create a new variable by using bill statement and previous payment to further explain their relationship. In the Excel sheet, three columns are added and labeled as "Status_Sep", "Status_Aug", and "Status_July", which represent the payment status in September, August, and July (referring to the second assumption). I set the outcome to be binary with value 0 and 1. If the payment amount is equal to or greater than 2% of the bill statement, it returns 0, meaning the payment does not default; otherwise, it returns 1, suggesting the payment defaults for that month.

I also decided to drop "bill statement" and "previous payment" for my predictors because it seems like it is simply exploring if a higher or lower amount of bill statement or payment would impact the default payment, but not the relationship between the two variables. I applied log function to the only numeric variable "LIMIT_BAL" and converted the categorical variables. The statistics is summarized below:

> summary(def)								
ID	LIMIT_BAL		UCATION MARRIA	GE AGE	PAY_0		PAY_3	PAY_4
	Min. : 10000		10585 Min. :0					Min. :-2.0000
1st Qu.: 7476	1st Qu.: 50000	1st Qu.:1.000 2:	14030 1st Qu.:1.	.000 1st Qu.:28.	00 1 : 366	9 2 : 3912	2 : 3811	1st Qu.:-1.0000
Median :14956	Median : 140000	Median :2.000 3:	4917 Median :2.					Median : 0.0000
Mean :14973	Mean : 167488	Mean :1.603 4:	123 Mean :1.					Mean :-0.2186
3rd Qu.:22468	3rd Qu.: 240000	3rd Qu.:2.000	3rd Qu.:2	.000 3rd Qu.:41.				3rd Qu.: 0.0000
Max. :30000	Max. :1000000	Max. :2.000	Max. :3	.000 Max. :79.	00 5 : 2	5 5 : 25	6 : 23	Max. : 8.0000
					(Other): 3	9 (Other): 33	(Other): 28	
PAY_5	PAY_6	BILL_AMT1	BILL_AMT2	BILL_AMT3	BILL_AMT4	BILL_AMT5	BILL_AMT6	PAY_AMT1
Min. :-2.0000	Min. :-2.0000		Min. :-69777	мin. :-157264	Min. :-170000			
1st Qu.:-1.0000	1st Qu.:-1.0000		1st Qu.: 2960	1st Qu.: 2642				
Median : 0.0000			Median : 21029	Median : 20023	Median : 19000			
Mean :-0.2642	Mean :-0.2878	Mean : 50902	Mean : 48897	Mean : 46753	Mean : 43079			Mean : 5654
3rd Qu.: 0.0000	3rd Qu.: 0.0000	3rd Qu.: 66506	3rd Qu.: 63392	3rd Qu.: 59752	3rd Qu.: 54064	3rd Qu.: 50030	3rd Qu.: 49098	3rd Qu.: 5005
Max. : 8.0000	Max. : 8.0000	Max. : 964511	Max. :983931	Max. :1664089	Max. : 891586	Max. :927171	Max. : 961664	Max. :873552
PAY_AMT2	PAY_AMT3	PAY_AMT4		PAY_AMT6	Status_Sep Statu		default.payment.n	ext.month
Min. : 0.			Min. : 0	Min. : 0			0:23045	
1st Qu.: 820.			1st Qu.: 258	1st Qu.: 133	1: 2470 1: 23	53 1: 2738	1: 6610	
Median: 2006.			Median : 1500	Median : 1500				
Mean : 5889.			Mean : 4790	Mean : 5176				
3rd Qu.: 5000.			3rd Qu.: 4034	3rd Qu.: 4000				
Max. :1684259.	0 Max. :89604	O Max. :621000	Max. :426529	Max. :528666				

II. Exploratory Analysis

It is likely that education could help predict the default payment for next month because it may affect people's understanding on the concepts of credits and how to manage credits. Income may also have an indirect relationship with default payment. Moreover, the amount of credit may be a good predictor because credit score may reflect past default status. More specifically, as the numbers of default payment increase, the credit score will probably decrease. In order to test out whether these two variables have statistical significance in building the model, I decided to compare the results with and without them.

For my first attempt, I used six variables mentioned above for my logistic and probit regression models: "Pay_0", "Pay_2", "Pay_3", "Status_Sep", "Status_Aug", and "Status_July". The logistic model returned an AIC of 21232, and probit model had a slightly lower AIC of 21227 as shown in the regression tables below. Both logistic and probit models gave a decently high accuracy score of 81.96% and 81.82% respectively. The result also suggested that the repayment status in the past months is meaning given its low p-value. It can be reasonably inferred that the records of past payment behavior can help predict the future performance. For example, if the past three payments are paid on time, the next payment probably will not default either. After running the data for several times, it was found that probit model always has a slightly lower AIC score, and the accuracy scores of both models are within the range of 80% to 82%.

In order to find out whether education and the amount of credit can be the good predictors on the default rate or not, I tried to incorporate the two variables, "EDUCATION" and "LIMIT_BAL", with the previous six variables to build a new model. As shown in the table on the left corner, the amount of credit has a p-value smaller than 5%, suggesting it is statistically significant in being a predictor of the probability in default of the next payment. Again, the AIC score of logit regression is slightly higher than that of probit regression. However, the overall accuracy improves to 82.00% and 82.03% respectively. As this group of predictors has a higher accuracy on average compared to the previous attempt, the probit model, which takes the impact of education and credit score into account, seems to be the model that fits the best with the data. Although education has a p-value larger than the significance level, I decided to keep this predictor because the model still maintains a higher accuracy, and the variable itself has a higher practical significance than its statistical significance.

III. Cross-Validations

For Naive Bayes Model, I set the folds to be 10 and I used all of the categorical variables mentioned above. I removed the numeric variable "credit", as it has some incompatibility with R. It turned out the accuracy was 77.71%, which was around 10% lower than using logistic and probit regression. I removed some variables that seemed less significant and relevant to the model, such as "Pay_2" and "Status_Aug", while the accuracy level remained the same.

```
> naiveDayes
Naive Bayes

29655 samples
7 predictor
2 classes: '0', '1'

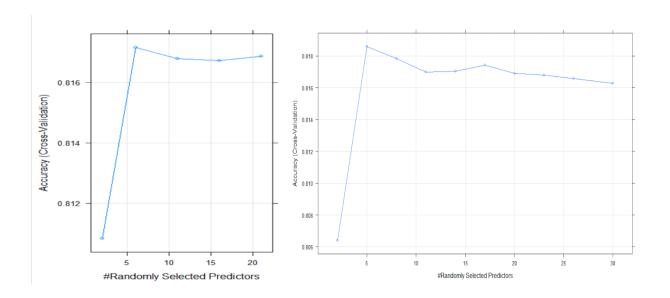
No pre-processing
Resampling: Cross-Validated (10 fold)
Summary of sample sizes: 26689, 26690, 26690, 26689, 26689, ...
Resampling results across tuning parameters:

usekernel Accuracy Kappa
FALSE 0.8049903 0.2937048
TRUE 0.7771033 0.0000000

Tuning parameter 'laplace' was held constant at a value of 0
Tuning parameter 'adjust' was held constant at a value of 1
Accuracy was used to select the optimal model using the largest value.
The final values used for the model were laplace = 0, usekernel = FALSE and adjust = 1.
```

For Random Forest Model, I set the folds to be 10. In my first attempt, I changed the tunelength to three, and used only three variables "Pay_0", "Status_Sep", and "Status_July", which are the ones with the highest statistical significance according to the probit model. The best accuracy score is 81.63%, which is significantly higher than the Naïve Bayes Model. Next, I experimented and increased the tunelength to 5, and it achieved a higher accuracy of 81.72%, as shown in the table on the left. I came up with the hypothesis that a higher tunelength may bring us a higher accuracy, so I decided to further increase the tunelength to 10 while using all of the variables. It turned out this hypothesis was correct and I got an 81.858% of accuracy as shown in the table on the right, which is the best figure among all of the attempts I had for this model.

```
> forest
                                                                                                                 Random Forest
Random Forest
                                                                                                                 29655 samples
7 predictor
2 classes: 'O', '1'
29655 samples
     5 predictor
2 classes: '0', '1'
                                                                                                                 No pre-processing
Resampling: Cross-validated (10 fold)
Summary of sample sizes: 26690, 26689, 26689, 26690, 26690, 26690, ...
Resampling results across tuning parameters:
No pre-processing
Resampling: Cross-validated (10 fold)
Summary of sample sizes: 26690, 26689, 26689, 26690, 26690, 26690, ...
                                                                                                                           Accuracy
0.8064073
Resampling results across tuning parameters:
                                                                                                                            0.8185807
                                                                                                                                          0.3599385
                                                                                                                            0.8178388 0.3575509
  mtry Accuracy
2 0.8108246
                            Kappa
0.2895337
                                                                                                                           0.8178388
0.8169957
0.8170295
0.8174341
0.8168946
0.8167934
0.8165911
0.8162876
            0.8171643 0.3490830
            0.8167933
                            0.3530040
            0.8167259
                            0.3529182
            0.8168608
                            0.3534399
                                                                                                                           0.8162876 0.3558408
Accuracy was used to select the optimal model using the largest value.
                                                                                                                 Accuracy was used to select the optimal model using the largest value. The final value used for the model was mtry = 5.
The final value used for the model was mtry = 6.
```



As running an SVM Linear Model took five hours on my device, I only ran it for once. As the data size of is decently large and may take a while to run, I reduced both the folds and tunelength to five. At the same time, I used only five variables in the model with the highest statistical or practical significance, including "education", "Pay_0", "Pay_3", "Status_Sep", and "Status_July". It generated the highest accuracy score among all of the cross-validation models, showing as 81.864%. This figure is slightly better than the previous Random Forest Model with 10 folds, though using less variables and folds. In this sense, it seems like SVM Linear Model has the second-best predictability following the logit and probit model. It is possible that we can get an even better result if we increase the number of folds, tunelength, and predictors.

```
> svm_linear_kernel
Support Vector Machines with Linear Kernel
29655 samples
    5 predictor
    2 classes: '0', '1'
No pre-processing
Resampling: Cross-Validated (5 fold)
Summary of sample sizes: 23724, 23724, 23724, 23724, 23724
Resampling results across tuning parameters:
  cost Accuracy
                   Kappa
  0.25 0.8186478
                  0.353892
  0.50 0.8186478 0.353892
                  0.353892
  1.00 0.8186478
  2.00 0.8186478
                   0.353892
  4.00 0.8186478
                   0.353892
Accuracy was used to select the optimal model using the largest value.
The final value used for the model was cost = 0.25.
```