

# College Recommender with big data



Name:

Wei Jun Li , Haochen Song, Yuanzhe Liu, Yi Xu, Yuming Xie

# Presentation Overview

- 1 **Introduction**
- 2 **Literature Review**
- 3 **Methodology**
- 4 **Experimental Setup**
- 5 **Results**
- 6 **Recommender System**
- 7 **Discussion**
- 8 **References & Appendices**



# Introduction

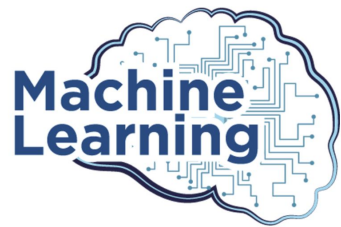
01

**Background and Motivation**

**Problem Statement**

**Objectives and Scope**

# Background and Motivation



+



**BIGDATA**



**Return on Investment**

University_Recommender <span>Public</span>	
master 2 Branches 0 Tags <input type="text" value="Go to file"/>	
chinmaysharmac10 Update README.md	
.ipynb_checkpoints	uploaded project
Images	uploaded django webapp image
recommender_website	modified form
README.md	Update README.md
admission_data.csv	uploaded project
admission_data_cleaned.csv	uploaded project
classifier_model.pkl	uploaded project
classifier_model.py	uploaded project
data_analysis_EDA.ipynb	uploaded project
data_cleaning.ipynb	uploaded project
model_data.csv	uploaded project
ugCollege_wordcloud.py	uploaded project
university_dict.ipynb	uploaded project

36 x



## Problem Statement

29 features



Academic  
performance



Median Earning



Student-to-Fac  
ulty Ratio

○  
○  
○  
○  
○  
○

**Individual needs**



**Future income**

# Objectives and Scope

## Data Collection and Processing

Sample X 72238

Simple Imputation (Median)

Collected Dataset



X 8986

3 Imputations

KNN Imputation

Iterative Imputation

Feature X 29

## Model Development and Application

Linear Regression

baseline predictive models

Ridge Regression

advanced models

Lasso Regression

XGBoost

MLP

Random Forest

Feature Token Transformers

## Performance Evaluation and Comparison

3 Imputations & different regression and machine learning models

## Analysis and Implementation of Results

predict university fit and potential income

# Literature Review

## 02

- Study 1: "Developing and Evaluating a University Recommender System"
- Study 3: Systematic Review of Recommendation Systems for Course Selection

Utilizes diverse metrics such as Diversity, User Satisfaction, and Novelty to evaluate recommendation quality, reflecting the complex preferences of users in university selection.

- Study 2: "A Recommendation System for Selecting the Appropriate Undergraduate Program at Higher Education Institutions Using Graduate Student Data"
- Study 4: A Comprehensive Survey of Recommender Systems Based on Deep Learning:

Focuses on the critical role of data preprocessing and hyperparameter tuning in improving the accuracy of machine learning models, optimizing recommendations for undergraduate programs.

# Methodology

## 03

**Datasets**

**Data clean**

**Algorithms and Techniques**

**Tools and Technologies**

**Justification for the Approach**



## Datasets



2012 to 2022 = 10 years data



Collected  
Dataset



X 8986

Feature X 29

```
INSTNM      0
PREDEG      0
SATVR25     60203
SATVR75     60203
SATMT25     60149
SATMT75     60149
ACTCM25     59624
ACTCM75     59624
MD_EARN_WNE_P10 40537
STUFACR     7714
UGDS_WHITE  7598
UGDS_BLACK  7598
UGDS_HISP   7598
UGDS_ASIAN  7598
UGDS_AIAN   7598
UGDS_2MOR   7598
UGDS_NRA    7598
UGDS_UNKN   7598
IRPS_WHITE  21651
IRPS_BLACK  21651
IRPS_HISP   21651
IRPS_ASIAN  21651
IRPS_AIAN   21651
IRPS_NHPI   21651
IRPS_2MOR   21651
IRPS_NRA    21651
IRPS_UNKN   21651
PCTPELL     7938
OPEFLAG     0
dtype: int64
```

## Data clean

1. Delete null
2. Avoid Data Bias
3. Increase Data Size
4. Fill Other Nulls
5. Output a Cleaned Sub-dataset

Cleaned  
SubDataset



X 1455

Feature X 29

```
INSTNM      0
PREDEG      0
SATVR25     0
SATVR75     0
SATMT25     0
SATMT75     0
ACTCM25     0
ACTCM75     0
MD_EARN_WNE_P10 0
STUFACR     0
UGDS_WHITE  0
UGDS_BLACK  0
UGDS_HISP   0
UGDS_ASIAN  0
UGDS_AIAN   0
UGDS_2MOR   0
UGDS_NRA    0
UGDS_UNKN   0
IRPS_WHITE  0
IRPS_BLACK  0
IRPS_HISP   0
IRPS_ASIAN  0
IRPS_AIAN   0
IRPS_NHPI   0
IRPS_2MOR   0
IRPS_NRA    0
IRPS_UNKN   0
PCTPELL     0
OPEFLAG     0
dtype: int64
```



## **Algorithms and Techniques**



baseline predictive models  
Advanced Machine Learning Models  
Feature Token Transformer  
Clustering and Data Preprocessing

## **Tools and Technologies**

Python  
Jupyter Notebooks  
Scikit-Learn, TensorFlow, and XGBoost Libraries

## **Justification for the Approach**

Diverse Algorithms  
Comprehensive Dataset  
Feature Token Transformer



# Experimental Setup

04

1. Experimental Design & Objectives:
  - Focused on predicting university suitability and future income using a dataset of 29 features.
  - Aimed to forecast annual incomes based on SAT/ACT scores, race, and college data.
2. Data Preprocessing:
  - Cleaning: Removed records with high nulls in academic performance and racial categories.
  - Encoding: Applied one-hot encoding to categorical variables.
  - Imputation: Tested various techniques like SimpleImputer and KNNImputer for filling missing values.
3. Model Setup & Tuning:
  - Utilized models like linear regression, XGBoost, and MLP.
  - Optimized parameters using cross-validation for balance and accuracy.
4. Clustering & Ensembles:
  - Employed K-means for clustering and adjusted Random Forest settings based on performance metrics.
5. Evaluation & Validation:
  - Used MSE and  $R^2$  to evaluate model performance.
  - Ensured robustness through k-fold cross-validation.
6. Recommender System:
  - Employed ECLAT algorithm, treating each record as a transaction to predict earnings based on academic and institutional data.

# Regressions (Benchmark)

04.1

## Tasks:

1. College Application Prediction.
2. Post-Graduation Outcome Prediction (ie. Annual Income).

## Models & Parameters:

1. Linear Regression.
2. Ridge Regression ( $\alpha = 1.0$ ). [ $\alpha$  controls the magnitude of the L2 penalty term]
3. Lasso Regression ( $\alpha = 0.1$ ,  $\text{max\_itr} = 1000$ ). [ $\alpha$  controls the magnitude of the L1 penalty term]

## Significance:

1. It serves as base model for future exploration and analysis.
2. It offers intuitive guidance to the more robust and complex models.

# Regressions (Benchmark) cont.

Result for Task 1: College Prediction

Model	MSE	$R^2$
Linear	175042.66	0.0485
<b>Ridge</b>	<b>174723.56</b>	<b>0.0502</b>
Lasso	174868.41	0.0495

Result for Task 2: Outcome Prediction  
(more on next slide)

Model	MSE	$R^2$
<b>Linear</b>	<b>63243.56</b>	<b>0.24</b>
Ridge	63248.81	0.24
Lasso	63262.79	0.24

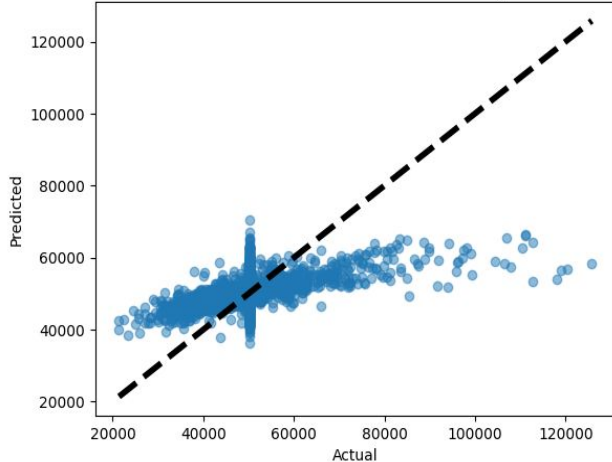
Interpretation: The relatively **high MSE** and **low  $R^2$**  indicate that the Regression models **may not be** fitting the data very well, we need more powerful and robust models.

# Regressions (Benchmark) cont.

Below are the comprehensive visualizations of the actual versus predicted median earnings using Regressions.

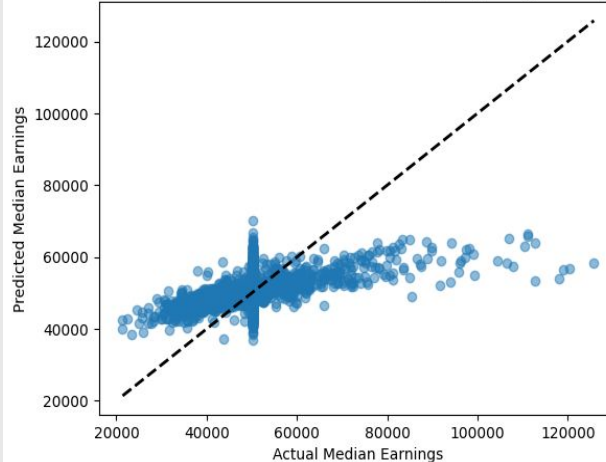
## Linear Regression

Actual vs. Predicted Median Earnings



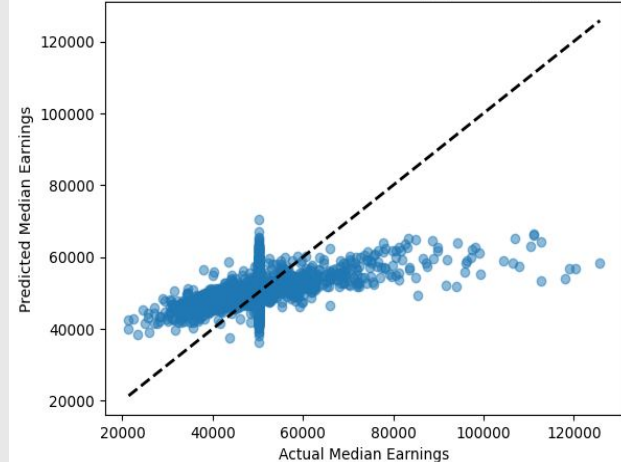
## Ridge Regression

Actual vs. Predicted Median Earnings (Ridge Regression)



## Lasso Regression

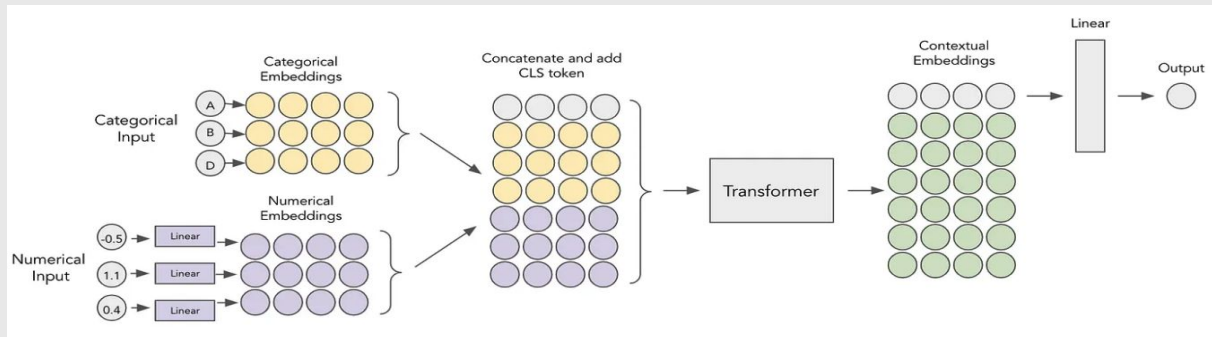
Actual vs. Predicted Median Earnings (Lasso Regression)



# Regression Cont: More Model, More Data

## Model:

- XGBoost
- MLP (3 layers, Adam with  $lr=1e-3$ , 400 epochs)
- Feature Token Transformer



# Regression on manually cleaned data

Model	RMSE	R2
XGBoost	8170.32	0.2
MLP	8652.67	-0.89
Feature Token Transformer	7275.65	-0.18



# Regression on Simple Imputation

Model	RMSE (MIN)	R2 (MAX)
XGBoost	13728.89	0.03
MLP	13380.84	-45.90
Feature Token Transformer	13577.16	-0.01

# Regression on KNN Imputation

Model	RMSE	R2
XGBoost	13649.53	0.55
MLP	19325.81	-16.51
Feature Token Transformer	16153.31	-0.33

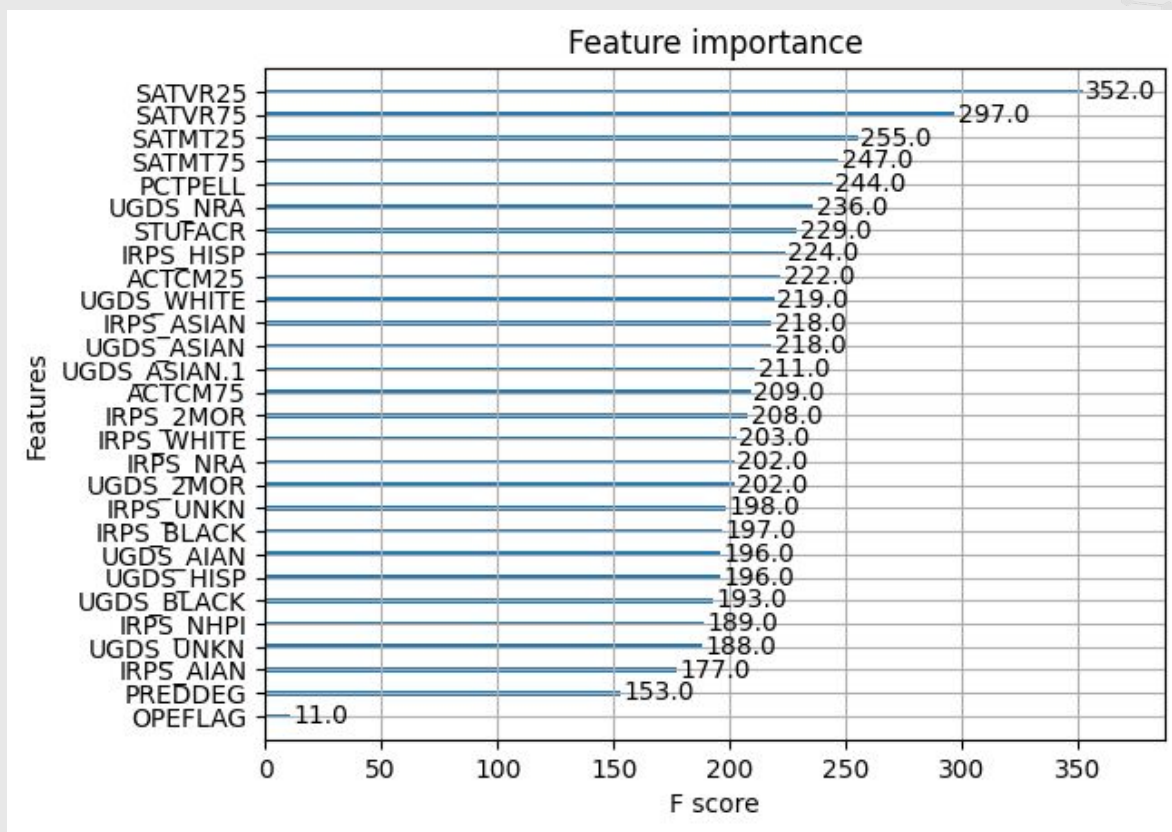
# Regression on Iterative Imputation

Model	RMSE	R2
XGBoost	15808.79	0.29
MLP	17404.64	-23.36
Feature Token Transformer	16550.83	-0.01

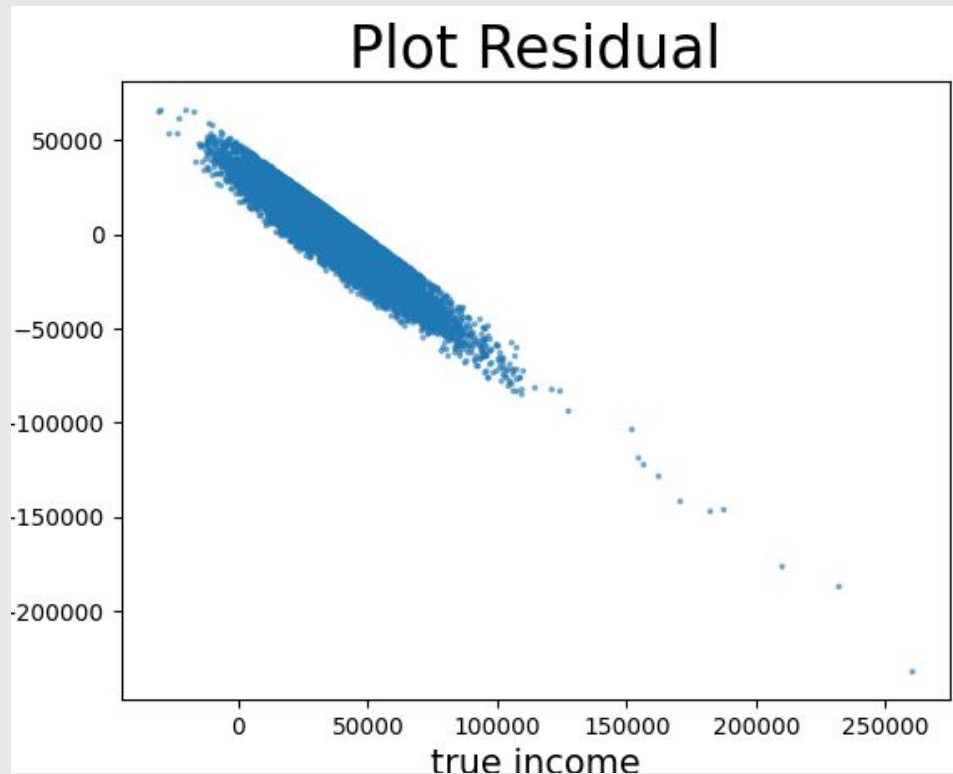
# Manual Cleaning V.S. Imputation

Data	RMSE	R2
Manual	7275.65 (FT Transformer)	0.2 (XGBoost)
Simple	13380.84(MLP)	0.3 (XGBoost)
KNN	13649.53 (XGBoost)	0.55 (XGBoost)
Iterative	15808.79 (XGBoost)	0.29 (XGBoost)

# XGboost



# FT Transformer



# Cluster and Classify

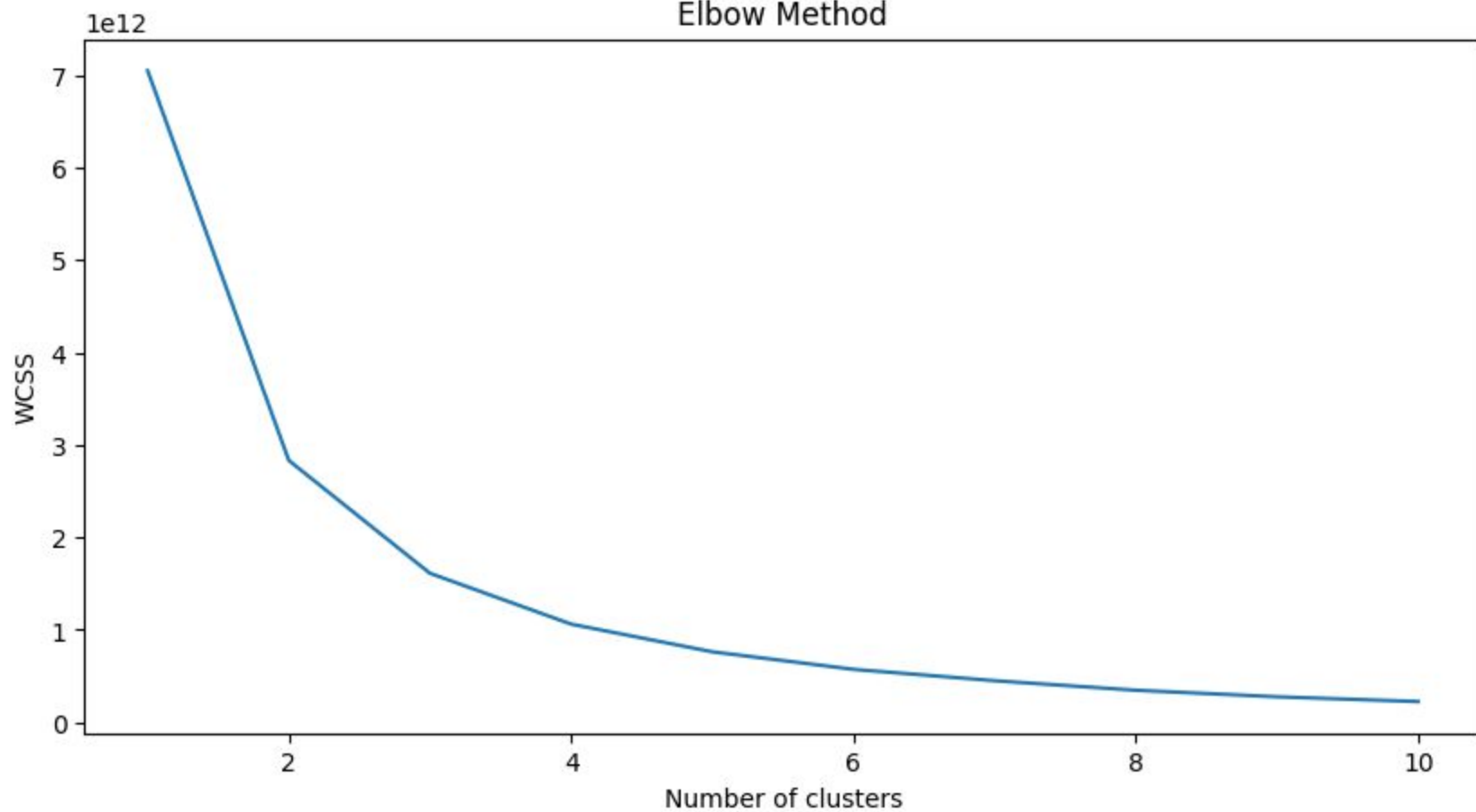
## MODEL:

- Random Forest
- XGBoost
- MLP

## Data:

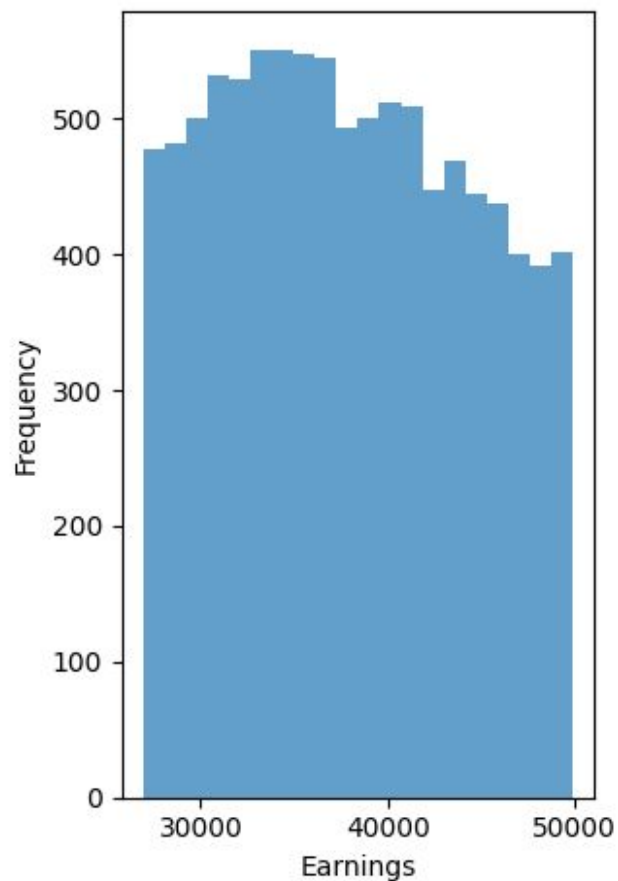
- Use KNN to cluster the universities by the income
- Find the number of clusters to cluster
- Relabel the instances with cluster index and classify

Elbow Method

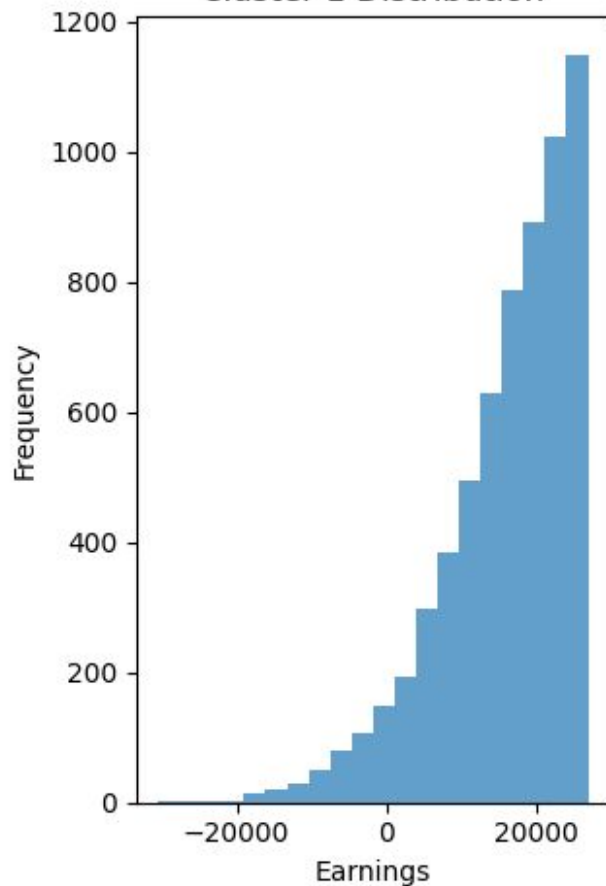




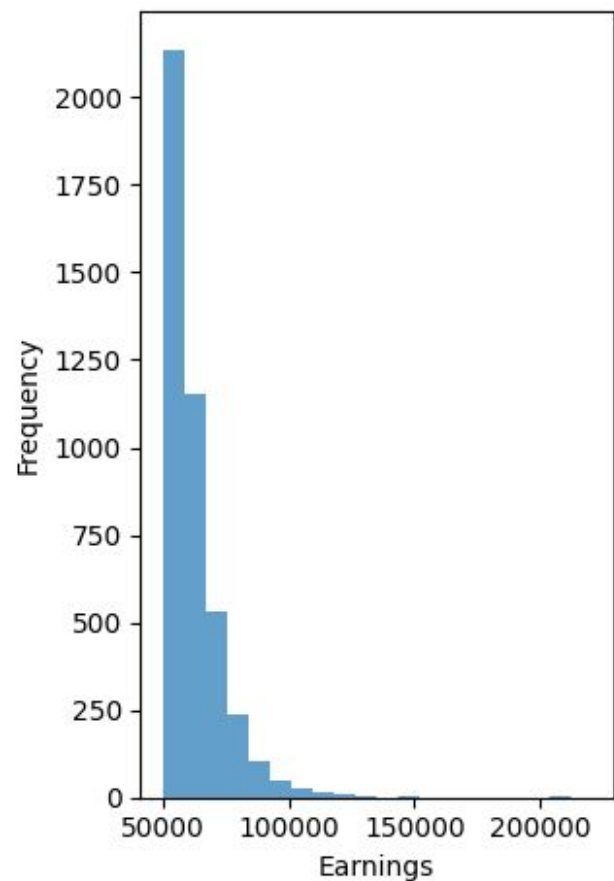
Cluster 0 Distribution



Cluster 1 Distribution



Cluster 2 Distribution



# Cluster: Manual Data

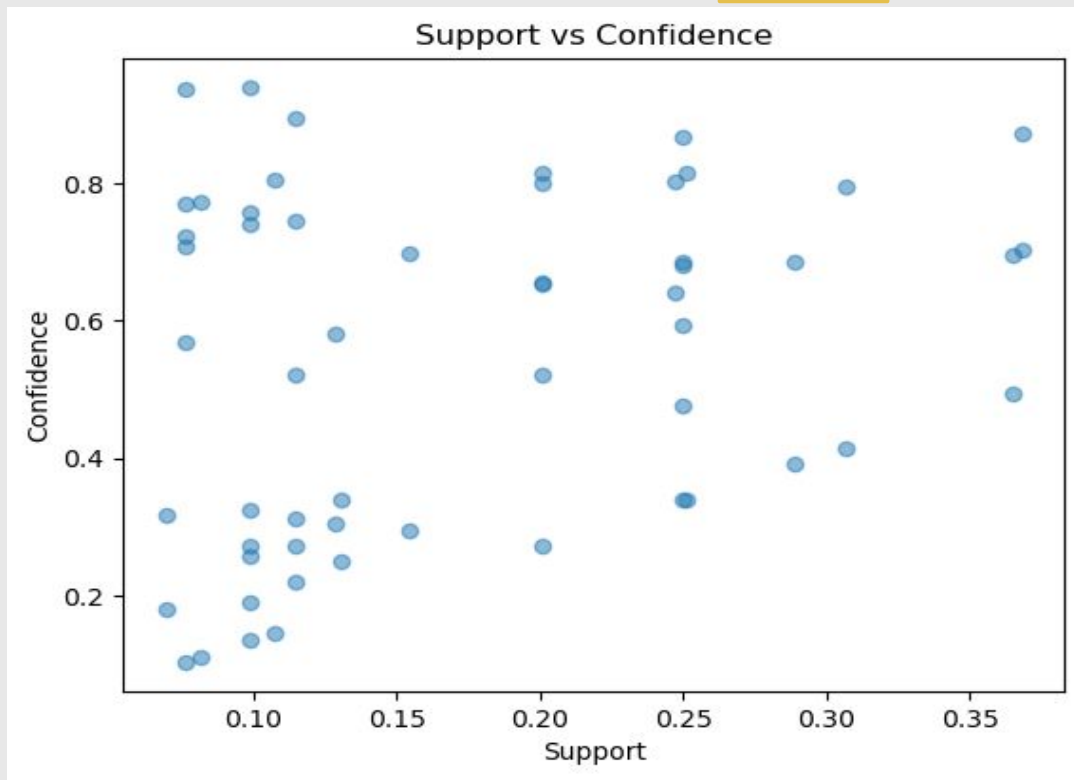
Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall
XGBoost	0.99	1	1
MLP	0.98	0.98	0.98
Random Forest	0.99	1	1

# Cluster: Imputed Data

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall
XGBoost	0.99	1	1
MLP	0.98	0.98	0.98
Random Forest	0.99	1	1

# Recommender System

06



# Discussion and Future Work

07

## Discussion:

Current Dataset is hard for training:

- Fairly large loss on Income Prediction
- Almost accurate prediction after clustering
- Either the task is too difficult or too easy

By Model:

SAT is one of the main factor:

- If SAT is larger, then higher income in the future

## Future Work:

- More robust dataset for this task
- Drop features to train on models
- Add more clusters to get more explainable information
- Investigate on table understanding tasks

# References

## 08

### References:

- [1]**Frontiers in Education. "Developing and Evaluating a University Recommender System." Accessed [04/7/2024]. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/feduc.2020.00135/full>.
- [2]**MDPI. "A Recommendation System for Selecting the Appropriate Undergraduate Program at Higher Education Institutions Using Graduate Student Data." Accessed [04/07/2024]. <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-3417/11/4/1445>.
- [3]**Sharma, C. "University Recommender." GitHub repository. Accessed [04/07/2024]. [https://github.com/chinmaysharmacs10/University\\_Recommender/tree/master](https://github.com/chinmaysharmacs10/University_Recommender/tree/master).
- [4]**Shrooq Algarni, Frederick Sheldon, "Systematic Review of Recommendation Systems for Course Selection", Mach. Learn. Knowl. Extr., 2023, vol. 5, no. 2, pp. 560-596. Available online: <https://doi.org/10.3390/make5020033>
- [5]**Hongde Zhou, Fei Xiong, Hongshu Chen, "A Comprehensive Survey of Recommender Systems Based on Deep Learning", Applied Sciences, 2023, vol. 13, no. 20, 11378. Available online: <https://doi.org/10.3390/app132011378>