

# Configuration Manual

MSc Research Project Data Analytics

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### National College of Ireland Project Submission Sheet School of Computing



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## Configuration Manual

Eva Figuerola Ullastres x19209371

## 1 Introduction

This configuration manual provides information on the system configuration, software, tools and environment requirements in order to conduct the research project in 'Credit Card Fraud Detection using Ensemble Learning Algorithms'. The purpose of creating this document is to demonstrate how the project's technical work was implemented so that it can be replicated if necessary. The goal of the project was to build an ensemble classifier that can accurately detect credit card fraud. In order to achieve the project's goal, a methodology was proposed and followed.

## 2 System Configuration

This research project was conducted using a MacBook Pro with the following configuration:

- Processor: 2.4 GHz Quad-Core Intel Core i5
- Hard Disk Storage: 251 GB
- Memory: 8 GB 2133 MHz LPDDR3
- Operating System: macOS Monterey Version 12.1

## 3 Software and Tools

This project was implemented using Python programming language with Jupyter Notebook as Integrated Development Environment (IDE) on the Anaconda platform. The specific versions of the required software/tools are listed below:

- **Programming Language** <sup>1</sup> : Python 3.7.4
- **IDE:** Jupyter Notebook 6.0.1
- Platform <sup>2</sup>: Anaconda 2019.10
- Tools <sup>3</sup>: Microsoft Excel, Tableau Desktop 2021.3
- Web Browser: Google Chrome

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>https://www.python.org/downloads/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>https://anaconda.org/anaconda/anaconda

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>https://www.tableau.com/products/desktop/download

## 4 Python Packages

The Python packages (libraries) required in this project include: Pandas, NumPy, Seaborn, SciPy, Sklearn (also known as Scikit-Learn), Imbalanced-learn and Matplotlib . They were imported as shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2, using the *pip install* command if necessary.

```
## Import the essential Python libraries for data manipulation, data preprocessing and data analysis.
 # pip install pandas
 import pandas as pd
 # pip install numpy
 import numpy as np
 # pip install os_sys
 import os
 # pip install random
 import random
 ## Import math library for mathematical computations and also import scipy.stats for statistical functions.
 # pip install Mathematics-Module
 import math
 # pip install scipy
 import scipy.stats
 from scipy import stats
 from scipy.stats import pointbiserialr
 from scipy.stats import chi2_contingency
 from scipy.stats import randint as sp_randint
 # pip install researchpy
 import researchpy as rp
 # pip install ppscore
 import ppscore as pps
 ## Import ploting libraries
 # pip install matplotlib
 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
 from matplotlib import pyplot
 # To enable plotting graphs in Jupyter notebook
 %matplotlib inline
 # Import seaborn
 # pip install seaborn
import seaborn as sns
## Import Python scikit-learn library for Machine Learning
# pip install scikit-learn or pip install sklearn
import sklearn
# Import Libraries for ANOVA feature selection
from sklearn.feature_selection import f_classif
from sklearn.feature_selection import SelectKBest
# Import the libraries to split the dataset into train and test set
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
## Encoding. Import the library for categorical encoding
# pip install category_encoders
import category_encoders as ce
## Resampling
# To deal with the class imbalance problem: imbalanced learn
# pip install imbalanced-learn
import imblearn
from imblearn.pipeline import Pipeline
# RUS = Random Undersampling
from imblearn.under sampling import RandomUnderSampler
# SMOTE = Synthetic Minority Oversampling Technique
from imblearn.over_sampling import SMOTE
# Borderline SMOTE
from imblearn.over_sampling import BorderlineSMOTE
```

Figure 1: Python Packages

```
# pip install collection
from collections import Counter
## Classification Algorithms
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier
from sklearn.ensemble import BaggingClassifier
# pip install xgboost
from xgboost import XGBClassifier
# pip install lightgbm
from lightgbm import LGBMClassifier
#pip install catboost
from catboost import CatBoostClassifier
import catboost as ctb
# Import libraries for model evaluation
from sklearn import metrics
from sklearn.metrics import classification_report
from imblearn.metrics import classification report imbalanced
from sklearn.metrics import confusion_matrix
from sklearn.metrics import plot confusion matrix
from sklearn.metrics import recall score
from sklearn.metrics import precision score
from sklearn.metrics import f1 score
from sklearn.metrics import matthews corrcoef
from sklearn.metrics import average precision score
from sklearn.metrics import precision recall curve, plot precision recall curve
from sklearn.metrics import PrecisionRecallDisplay
from sklearn.metrics import auc
from imblearn.metrics import geometric mean score
from sklearn.metrics import make scorer
# For Hyperparameter Tuning
from sklearn.model selection import RandomizedSearchCV
# Cross Validation libraries.
from sklearn.model_selection import cross_val_score
from sklearn.model_selection import cross_validate
from sklearn.model_selection import StratifiedKFold
## Other libraries
# pip install DateTime
import datetime
```

Figure 2: Python Packages (continuation)

## 5 Data Collection

The dataset used in this research was downloaded from the kaggle repository https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/kartik2112/fraud-detection. See Figure 3. The dataset contains two files in a CSV format. The files were stored on the computer hard drive.

## 6 Data Loading

The csv files fraudTrain.csv and fraudTest.csv were converted to a Pandas Dataframe format for analysis, and the two files were then concatenated in order to get a better

Dataset Credit Card Transition Simulated Credit Card	ansactions Fraud Detection	Dataset <sup>kov</sup>	79
Kartik Shenoy • up	odated a year ago (Version 1)		
Data Tasks Code (8)	Discussion (2) Activity Metadata	Download (478 MB)	New Notebook
魯 Usability 8.5	الله License CC0: Public Domain	<b>Tags</b> finance, video games, e-c	commerce services

Figure 3: Credit Card Fraud Dataset

insight from the data. The dataset was loaded in Python Jupyter Notebook as seen in Figure 4.





## 7 Data Preprocessing

The below data transformation and data cleaning tasks were conducted as part of the data preprocessing step. Pandas and NumPy packages were used in this step:

- Check the structure of the Pandas DataFrame. See Figure 5
- Change the datatype of the target variable 'is\_fraud' to category. Change the datatype of the variables 'gender' and 'category' to category. Change the datatype of the variables 'dob' and 'trans-date-trans-time' to datetime. Convert the variables 'cc-num', and 'zip' to strings as they are not integers; they are both nominal variables whose values are represented by numbers. See Figure 6
- Remove the column 'Unnamed: 0' as it is totally irrelevant. Remove variables that have almost unique values. See Figure 7
- Check for missing values and duplicates. See Figure 8
- Check the cardinality (number of unique values) for the categorical variables. See Figure 9

frau	d_df.info()	
<clas Range</clas 	ss 'pandas.core.frame.Da Index: 1852394 entries	ataFrame'> , 0 to 1852393
#	Column	Dtype
<i>#</i>		Бсуре
	Unnamed: 0	int64
1	trang dato trang timo	chiegt
2	crails_date_trails_time	in+64
2	morghant	chiogt
1	astogory	object
5	amt	float64
6	first	object
7	last	object
8	gender	object
9	street	object
10	city	object
11	state	object
12	zip	int64
13	lat	float64
14	long	float64
15	city pop	int64
16	job	object
17	dob	object
18	trans_num	object
19	unix_time	int64
20	merch_lat	float64
21	merch_long	float64
22	is_fraud	int64
dtype	es: float64(5), int64(6)	), object(12)
memor	ry usage: 325.1+ MB	

### Figure 5: Structure of the Pandas DataFrame

Change the datatype of the dichotomous target variable 'is\_fraud' to category

n [10]:	<pre>fraud_df["is_fraud"] = fraud_df["is_fraud"].astype('category') fraud_df["is_fraud"].dtypes</pre>
ut[10]:	CategoricalDtype(categories=[0, 1], ordered=False)
	Change the datatype of the variables 'gender' and 'category' to category
n [11]:	<pre>fraud_df["gender"] = fraud_df["gender"].astype('category') fraud_df["category"] = fraud_df["category"].astype('category')</pre>
	Change the datatype of the variables 'dob' and 'trans_day_trans_time' to datetime
n [12]:	<pre>fraud_df['dob'] = pd.to_datetime(fraud_df['dob']) fraud_df['trans_date_trans_time'] = pd.to_datetime(fraud_df['trans_date_trans_time'])</pre>
	Convert the variables 'cc_num', and 'zip' to strings . They are not integers. They are both nominal variables whose values are represented by numbers.
n [13]:	<pre>fraud_df["zip"] = fraud_df["zip"].astype('str') fraud_df["cc_num"] = fraud_df["cc_num"].astype('str')</pre>

#### Figure 6: Data Transformation

```
#Remove irrelevant column
fraud_df = fraud_df.drop(columns="Unnamed: 0")

fraud_df = fraud_df.drop(columns="unix_time") # remove it as the variable has almost unique values.
fraud_df = fraud_df.drop(columns="merch_lat") # remove it as the variable has almost unique values.
fraud_df = fraud_df.drop(columns="merch_long") # remove it as the variable has almost unique values.
```



```
fraud_df.isnull().sum().sum()
0
fraud_df.duplicated().sum()
0
```

Figure 8: Checking for Missing values and Duplicates

<pre>fraud_df.nunique()</pre>		
trans_date_trans_time	1819551	
cc_num	999	
merchant	693	
category	14	
amt	60616	
first	355	
last	486	
gender	2	
street	999	
city	906	
state	51	
zip	985	
lat	983	
long	983	
city_pop	891	
job	497	
dob	984	
trans_num	1852394	
is_fraud	2	
dtype: int64		

Figure 9: Number of Unique values (for the categorical variables this is the cardinality)

## 8 Exploratory Data Analysis

Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) was performed in order to get an general understanding of the data and its underlying structure. Pandas, NumPy and Seaborn packages were used in this step. The below tasks were performed as part of the EDA process:

- EDA for the target variable 'is-fraud'. A bar plot was created to see the class distribution of the target variable. As seen in Figure 10 and Figure 11, the dataset is heavily imbalanced.
- Bar plots for the rest of categorical variables. Figure 12 shows the bar plot for the variable 'category'. Same code can be reused for the rest of categorical variables.
- Descriptive statistics (Figure 13) and histograms for the continuous variables.

```
# Occurrences of legitimate and fraudulent transactions
occurrences = fraud_df['is_fraud'].value_counts()
occurrences
# Here I get the number of legitimate ('0') and fraudulent ('1') transactions.
# 0: Legitimate transaction
# 1: Fraudulent transaction
0 1842743
1 9651
```

Name: is\_fraud, dtype: int64

is\_fraud

Figure 10: Occurrences of Legitimate and Fraudulent Transactions



Figure 11: Volume of Legitimate and Fraudulent Transactions

From looking at the descriptive statistics for the 'amount' variable shown in Figure 13, it is observed that the average amount for a fraudulent transaction is \$530.66 in comparison with the average amount for a legitimate transaction which is \$67.65. This demonstrates that despite fraudulent transactions being infrequent, not detecting them can result significant financial losses.



Figure 12: Volume of Legitimate and Fraudulent Transactions by Category

Compute some relevant summary statistics for the variable 'Amount'('amt')

```
max_legitimate_amt=legitimate['amt'].max()
max_fraudulent_amt=fraudulent['amt'].max()
import statistics
mean_legitimate_amt= legitimate['amt'].mean()
mean_fraudulent_amt= fraudulent['amt'].mean()
median_legitimate_amt= legitimate['amt'].median()
median fraudulent amt= fraudulent['amt'].median()
print('Maximun Legitimate Transactions Amount: {}'.format(max_legitimate_amt))
print('Maximun Fraudulent Transactions Amount: {}'.format(max fraudulent amt))
print('Average Legitimate Transactions Amount: {}'.format(mean_legitimate_amt))
print('Average Fraudulent Transactions Amount: {}'.format(mean fraudulent amt))
print('Median of Legitimate Transactions Amount: {}'.format(median_legitimate_amt))
print('Median of Fraudulent Transactions Amount: {}'.format(median_fraudulent_amt))
Maximun Legitimate Transactions Amount: 28948.9
Maximun Fraudulent Transactions Amount: 1376.04
Average Legitimate Transactions Amount: 67.6512778613193
Average Fraudulent Transactions Amount: 530.6614122888789
Median of Legitimate Transactions Amount: 47.24
Median of Fraudulent Transactions Amount: 390.0
```

Figure 13: Descriptive Statistics for the Variable Amount

## 9 Feature Engineering

Feature engineering was performed to derive more informative features. Pandas, NumPy, SciPy and Seaborn packages were used in this step.

### 9.1 Create the variable 'age' at the time of the transaction

Since the variable 'dob' does not bring much information in its raw format, the variable 'age' was derived, which is more meaningful. The variable 'age' is computed by subtracting the date of birth ('dob') from the transaction date ('trans-date-trans-time) as seen in Figure 14.

```
: fraud_df['age'] = np.round((fraud_df['trans_date_trans_time'] - fraud_df['dob'])/np.timedelta64(1,'Y'))
# Convert 'age' to integer:
fraud_df['age'] = fraud_df['age'].astype('int')
fraud_df.dtypes[['age']]
```

Figure 14: Age at the Time of the Transaction

#### 9.2 Create the variable 'transaction-hour'

The time of the transaction may be an important predictor of credit card fraud. However, the variable 'trans-date-trans-time' is not very informative in its raw format; hence the reason to split this variable into three different variables: transaction hour, day of the week and month. Figure 15 shows how the variable 'transaction-hour' is computed from the variable 'trans-date-trans-time'. Figure 16 shows how the variable 'transaction-hour' for fraudulent transactions is computed.

```
]: # Derive the feature 'transaction hour'. Transaction_hour for all transactions
    # Extract the hour of the transaction from the variable 'trans_day_trans_time'
    fraud_df['transaction_hour'] = fraud_df['trans_date_trans_time'].dt.hour
    fraud_df['transaction_hour']
```

Figure 15: Transaction Hour

```
1]: # Transaction Hour for Fraudulent Transactions
# # Extract the hour of fraudulent transactions from the variable 'trans_day_trans_time'
fraudulent=fraud_df[fraud_df['is_fraud']==1]
fraudulent['transaction_hour']= fraudulent['trans_date_trans_time'].dt.hour
fraudulent['transaction_hour']
```

Figure 16: Transaction Hour for Fraudulent Transactions

Figure 17 shows the volume of fraudulent transactions by hour. It was observed that most of the fraudulent transactions occur between 10pm and 12am. The variable 'transaction-hour' seems to have some association with the 'class' of the transaction since the majority of fraudulent transactions occur at night time. The 'transaction-hour' variable was encoded as seen in Figure 18.



Figure 17: Volume of Fraudulent Transactions by Hour



Figure 18: Hour Encoded

### 9.3 Create the variable 'day-of-week'

The variable 'day of the week' is derived from the variable 'trans-date-trans-time' as seen in Figure 19.



Figure 19: Day of the Week

### 9.4 Create the variable 'month of transaction'

The variable 'month of transaction' is derived from the variable 'trans-date-trans-time' as seen in Figure 20.



Figure 20: Month of Transaction

### 9.5 Create the variable 'time since last transaction'

The variable 'time since last transaction' (in seconds) is derived from the variable 'transdate-trans-time' as seen in Figure 21.



Figure 21: Time since last transaction (in seconds)

### 9.6 Generate Frequencies of Transactions made in the last 1/7 / 14 / 30 / 60 days

The frequency of transactions could be an important predictor of credit card fraud, because if the number of transactions made using the same card suddenly increases, it could be a sign of a fraudulent transaction. Figure 22 shows how the number of transactions made over the last 7 days is computed. Same code can be reused to compute frequencies over the last day, 14, 30, 60 days, etc.

```
: # Volume of Transactions made in the last 7 days
def last7DaysTransCount(x):
    temp = pd.Series(x.index, index = x.trans_date_trans_time, name='count_7_days').sort_index()
    count_7_days = temp.rolling('7d').count() - 1
    count_7_days.index = temp.values
    x['last_7_days_trans_count'] = count_7_days.reindex(x.index)
    return x
```

fraud\_df = fraud\_df.groupby('cc\_num').apply(last7DaysTransCount)



After conducting feature engineering, the variables 'dob' and 'trans-date-trans-time' were removed since new variables were derived from them and they became redundant.

The variable 'trans-num' was also removed as it is a transaction identifier and is not relevant for modelling. See Figure 23.

```
# I drop the column DOB as I have calculated the age. DOB is now a redundant and unncessary column,
fraud_df = fraud_df.drop(columns="dob")
# Remove the variable trans_date_trans_time as I it is now a redundant variable.
fraud_df = fraud_df.drop(columns="trans_date_trans_time")
# Remove the variable trans_num (transaction number) as it is unique and irrelevant for modelling purposes.
```

Figure 23: Removing redundant and irrelevant variables

### **10** Feature Selection

fraud\_df = fraud\_df.drop(columns="trans\_num")

Feature selection was conducted to improve the predictive performance and reduce overfitting and the training time of the classifiers. Since the dataset used in this research contains a mix of continuous and categorical features, different statistical tests were conducted to determine the most relevant features for modelling. The Sklearn and SciPy packages were used in this step.

### 10.1 Feature Selection for Continuous Variables

A correlation plot was computed to visualise the correlation between the continuous predictors and the target variable ('class of transaction'). From looking at the correlation plot in Figure 24 it is observed that the variable 'amount' has the strongest relationship with the class of transaction ('is\_fraud').

The univariate feature selection method SelectKBest from sklearn.feature\_selection, which uses ANOVA F-values to compute the feature importance scores, was used to select the most important features. The 8 most informative features to predict the class of transaction were selected. See F-test in Figure 25 and the selected features in Figure 26.

	correia	ation 1	neatma	ō')												
							Corre	lation hea	tmap							
amt	- 1	-0.00074	-0.00067	-0.00073	0.0049		-0.011	-0.025		-0.0012	0.0012	-0.0062	-0.0072	-0.0084	-0.0089	
gender	-0.00074	1	-0.043			-0.0058			-0.0089	-0.055					0.18	
lat	-0.00067	-0.043	1	-0.015	-0.15	0.0029	0.047		0.0024	0.0056		-0.016		-0.018	-0.019	
long	-0.00073	-0.051		1	-0.052		-0.029				-0.0081				-0.014	
city_pop	0.0049		-0.15	-0.052	1	0.00033	-0.092			-0.0054					0.019	
is_fraud	0.21	-0.0058	0.0029		0.00033	1					0.0043	-0.035		-0.045	-0.047	
age	-0.011	-0.0059	0.047		-0.092	0.011	1	-0.17			-0.2	-0.25	-0.27	-0.28	-0.29	
transaction_hour	-0.025			-0.0021			-0.17	1	-0.17	-0.087		0.084	0.088		0.098	
hourEncoded	0.03	-0.0089	0.0024	0.0021	-0.0039			-0.17	1	-0.031		-0.023		-0.026	-0.027	
time_since_last_trans	-0.0012	-0.055			-0.0054			-0.087	-0.031	1	-0.44	-0.33	-0.31	-0.3	-0.28	
ast_1_day_trans_count	0.0012			-0.0081		0.0043	-0.2			-0.44	1	0.7	0.67	0.63	0.57	
st_7_days_trans_count	-0.0062		-0.016				-0.25	0.084	-0.023	-0.33	0.7	1	0.96	0.89	0.82	
_14_days_trans_count	-0.0072					-0.04	-0.27	0.088		-0.31		0.96	1	0.95	0.87	
_30_days_trans_count	-0.0084		-0.018			-0.045	-0.28		-0.026	-0.3		0.89	0.95	1	0.95	
_60_days_trans_count	-0.0089		-0.019			-0.047	-0.29	0.098	-0.027	-0.28		0.82	0.87	0.95	1	
	amt -	gender –	lat -	long -	dty_pop -	is_fraud -	- age	transaction_hour	hourEncoded -	ime_since_last_trans	t_1_day_trans_count -	7_days_trans_count -	14_days_trans_count -	30_days_trans_count -	50_days_trans_count -	

Figure 24: Correlation Matrix



Figure 25: Anova F- Test for Feature Selection

•	<pre># Apply feature selection X selected = fs.fit_transform(X, y) print(X selected.shape)</pre>
	(1852394, 9)
:	<pre># See the columns that have been selected X.columns[fit.get_support(indices=True)].tolist()</pre>
•	<pre>['amt', 'age', 'transaction hour', 'hourEncoded', 'time_since_last_trans', 'last_7_days_trans_count', 'last_7_days_trans_count', 'last_30_days_trans_count', 'last_50_days_trans_count',</pre>
	The variable 'transaction_hour' and 'hour_encoded' mean the same, so only one will be selected. I will select 'hourEncoded' as it has a higher correlation with the target variable 'is_fraud'. See correlation plot in previous step.

Figure 26: Selected Features after conducting Anova F-test

### **10.2** Feature Selection for Categorical Variables

Chi-Square test was conducted to determine whether there is an association between each of the categorical features and the target variable ('is\_fraud'). The SciPy package was used to perform Chi-Square test. See Figure 27. Cramer's V test was performed to quantify the strength of the association between each of the categorical features and the 'class of transaction'. Figure 28 shows how Cramer's V test was computed using the research.py package.

```
# Test the association between the categorical independent variables and the target variable 'is_fraud'
chi2_check = []
for i in categorical_columns:
    if chi2_contingency(pd.crosstab(fraud_df['is_fraud'], fraud_df[i]))[1] < 0.05:</pre>
       chi2_check.append('Reject Null Hypothesis')
       chi2_check.append('Fail to Reject Null Hypothesis')
res = pd.DataFrame(data = [categorical_columns, chi2_check]
            ).т
res.columns = ['Column', 'Hypothesis']
print(res)
# The Null Hypothesis states that there is no association between the categorical predictor and the target
# variable 'is_fraud'.
           Column
                                Hypothesis
          category Reject Null Hypothesis
0
            street Reject Null Hypothesis
1
              zip Reject Null Hypothesis
2
3
             city Reject Null Hypothesis
             state Reject Null Hypothesis
4
            region Reject Null Hypothesis
5
             first Reject Null Hypothesis
6
                    Reject Null Hypothesis
              last
7
            cc num Reject Null Hypothesis
8
               job
                   Reject Null Hypothesis
9
10
         merchant
                    Reject Null Hypothesis
      day of week
                    Reject Null Hypothesis
11
  month of trans
                    Reject Null Hypothesis
12
```



cr	osstab, test_results	_category	, expected = rp	<pre>.crosstab(fraud_df["is test= "chi-square", expected_freqs= True, prop= "cell")</pre>	s_fraud"],	fraud_df["catego
+0	et results category					
	Chi-square test	results				
0	Pearson Chi-square (13.0) =	8329.1399				
1	p-value =	0.0000				
2	Cramer's V =	0.0671				

Figure 28: Cramer's V Test

From looking at Figure 27 it is observed that all the categorical predictors are associated with the 'class' of transaction. However, according Cramer's V test, the association of the categorical predictors with the 'class' of transaction is weak/very weak. But this does not mean that they are not important. Cramer's V coefficient only measures the 'effect' size; however, it needs to be considered that when having a large sample size, small effects can become significant<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>https://www.datascienceblog.net/post/statistical\_test/effect\_size/

For feature selection purposes, a Post-Hoc Test was conducted after Chi-Square test in order to decide whether to select a particular categorical predictor for modelling. Since Chi-Square tests the data as a whole, when having multiple classes within a categorical variable, we can not tell which class/es are responsible for the relationship between the categorical predictor and the target variable. This is why it was decided to conduct a Post-Hoc test using Bonferroni Adjustment. Only those predictors that all their categories have a significant relationship with the target variable 'is\_fraud' were selected for modelling. A Bonferroni test was computed for each categorical predictor. Figure 29 and Figure 30 show how the Bonferroni test was computed; same code can be reused for the different variables. Among all the categorical predictors, only the predictors 'category' and 'day of the week' were selected for modelling. The selected features for modelling are shown in Figure 31.

```
categorical_columns = ['category']

chi2_check = []
for i in categorical_columns:
    if chi2_contingency(pd.crosstab(fraud_df['is_fraud'], fraud_df[i]))[1] < 0.05:
        chi2_check.append('Reject Null Hypothesis')
    else:
        chi2_check.append('Fail to Reject Null Hypothesis')
res = pd.DataFrame(data = [categorical_columns, chi2_check]
        ).T
res.columns = ['Column', 'Hypothesis']
print(res)
Column Hypothesis
0 category Reject Null Hypothesis</pre>
```

#### Figure 29: Bonferroni Correction Post-Hoc Test



All the categories in the 'category' predictor have a significant relationship with the 'class' of transaction. Hence, this predictor will be selected for modelling.

Figure 30: Bonferroni Correction Post-Hoc Test (continuation)

Int64Index: 1852394 entries. 0 to 1852393						
Data	columns (total 11 columns	):				
#	Column	Dtype				
0	amt	float64				
1	age	int64				
2	hourEncoded	int64				
3	time since last trans	float64				
4	last 7 days trans count	float64				
5	last_14_days_trans_count	float64				
6	last_30_days_trans_count	float64				
7	last_60_days_trans_count	float64				
8	category	category				
9	day_of_week	category				
10	is fraud	category				

Figure 31: Selected Features for Modelling

## 11 Data Preparation for Modelling

In order to prepare the data for modelling , the following tasks were performed using the Sklearn and Imbalanced-learn packages:

- Split the dataset into Train and Test set
- Categorical Encoding
- Balance the Train set

### 11.1 Split the Dataset into Train and Test Set

The dataset was split in the 70:30 ratio; that is, 70% train and 30% test, using the train\_test\_split function from sklearn. Because the dataset is extremely imbalanced, stratified splitting was applied in order to preserve the class proportions observed in the original dataset. See Figure 32



Figure 32: Train Test Split

#### 11.2 Categorical Encoding

Since most machine learning algorithms do not take categorical variables as input, categorical variables need to be encoded before creating the models. Also, in order to apply sampling techniques on the training set to balance the class distribution, all the variables need to be converted to numerical. The dataset used for modelling contains two categorical variables : 'category' and 'day-of-week'. To convert them to numerical, CatBoost encoder was used. The reason why CatBoost encoder was the chosen technique is because it avoids target leakage and hence prevents the risk of overfitting and poor generalisation of the model. CatBoost encoding needs to be performed separately on the train and test set. See Figure 33

#### CATBOOST ENCODING

Figure 33: CatBoost Encoder

#### 11.3 Dealing with the Class Imbalance : Balance the Train set

Since the dataset is highly imbalanced, in order to avoid bias towards the majority class in the models, the class imbalance was reduced on the training set before building the classifiers. The imblearn package was used. Only the training data was balanced, as it is used to build the models. The test data does not have to be balanced, as the purpose of the test data is to simulate the results of the model in a 'real-world' setting, and in real life all the credit card fraud datasets are highly imbalanced.

A hybrid sampling approach of RUS (Random Undersampling) and Borderline-SMOTE was used to reduce the class imbalance on the train set. The large size of the train set (1,296,675 observations) would make training the models computationally expensive. In order to reduce the training time of the models, the train set was first undersampled (RUS) and then oversampled (Borderline SMOTE). The sampling parameters were manually adjusted in a way that the majority class was reduced to 20 times the size of the minority class (sampling strategy= 0.05), and the minority class was 90% of the size of the majority class (sampling strategy = 0.9). See Figure 34, Figure 35 and Figure 36.

```
# Define resampling pipeline
under = RandomUnderSampler(sampling_strategy=0.05, random_state=42)
over = BorderlineSMOTE(sampling_strategy=0.9)
steps = [('u', under), ('o', over)]
pipeline = Pipeline(steps=steps)
# random state = 42 is to produce the same results accross different runs
# sampling strategy parameters have been manually tuned
```

Figure 34: Define the Resampling Pipeline

```
Resample the dataset

# Transform the dataset
X_train_sampled, y_train_sampled = pipeline.fit_resample(X_train, y_train)

Summarize the new class distribution

# Summarize the new class distribution
counter = Counter(y_train_sampled)
print(counter)

Counter({0: 135120, 1: 121608})
```

Figure 35: Resample the Train Set

```
: # Summarize class distribution before and after applying RUS + Borderline-SMOTE
counter = Counter (y_train)
print('Before RUS + BorderlineSMOTE ', counter) # Class distribution BEFORE applying RUS + Borderline-SMOTE
counter = Counter(y_train_sampled)
print('After RUS + BorderlineSMOTE ', counter) # Class distribution AFTER applying RUS + Borderline-SMOTE
Before RUS + BorderlineSMOTE Counter({0: 1289919, 1: 6756})
After RUS + BorderlineSMOTE Counter({0: 135120, 1: 121608})
```

Figure 36: Class Distribution of the Train Set Before and After Resampling

## 12 Model Implementation

The models (classifiers) were implemented on the train set shown in Figure 37. The Sklearn package was used to train the different models.

balanced\_train = pd.concat([X\_train\_sampled, y\_train\_sampled], axis=1)

# Separate the target variable 'is\_fraud' from the 'sampled\_train' dataframe
X\_balanced\_train = balanced\_train.loc[:, balanced\_train.columns != 'is\_fraud'] # Includes all the colums except the tag
y\_balanced train = balanced\_train.is\_fraud # Includes only the target variable ('is\_fraud')

Figure 37: Balanced Train Set

#### 12.1 Random Forest

The RF model was first computed with the default hyperparameters as seen in Figure 38. Randomized search 3-fold cross validation (CV) was then computed to get the optimised parameters using the function RandomizedSearchCV() as seen in Figure 39 and Figure 40. It was found that the RF with default hyperparameters achieved a better performance than the RF with optimised hyperparameters. Hence, the RF was built with the default hyperparameters.

```
# Import Random Forest Classifier
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier
# Define the model
rf = RandomForestClassifier(random_state = random.seed(42),n_jobs = -1, verbose=1)
# Fit the model on training set
rf.fit(X_balanced_train, y_balanced_train)
```

Figure 38: RF Model with Default Hyperparameters



Figure 39: RF Hyperparameter Optimisation using RandomizedSearchCV



Figure 40: Optimised Hyperparameters for RF

### 12.2 Bagging

The Bagging model was first computed with the default hyperparameters as seen in Figure 41. Randomized search 3-fold cross validation (CV) was then computed to get the optimised parameters using RandomizedSearchCV() as seen in Figure 42. The optimised Bagging model outperformed the model with default hyperparameters; hence, the Bagging model was built with the optimised hyperparameters as seen in Figure 43.



Figure 41: Bagging Model with Default Hyperparameters

```
# HYPERPARAMETER SEARCH
# create a dictionary with the list of hyperparameters
params_bagging = {
    'n_estimators': [10, 50, 100, 300, 500],
    'max_samples': [0.3, 0.5, 1.0],
    'max_features': [0.3, 0.5, 1.0]
  }
# Due to the large size of the training set I will use 3-fold cross validations (3-fold CV)
cv = StratifiedKFold(n_splits = 3, shuffle=True, random_state = 42)
# Define the base Bagging base model (bagging1)
bagging1 = BaggingClassifier(random_state = 42, n_jobs = -1, verbose=1 )
# APPLY RANDOMIZED SEARCH
# Instantiate RandomizedSearchCV and pass in the hyperparameters
rand_bagging = RandomizedSearchCV(bagging1, params_bagging, scoring = 'f1', cv = cv, n_jobs=-1, verbose=1, random_state
# Fit the model on training set
rand_bagging.fit(X_balanced_train, y_balanced_train)
```

Fitting 3 folds for each of 10 candidates, totalling 30 fits

Figure 42: Bagging Hyperparameter Optimisation using RandomizedSearchCV



Figure 43: Optimised Hyperparameters for Bagging

### 12.3 XGBoost

The XGBoost model was first computed with the default hyperparameters as seen in Figure 44. Randomized search 3-fold cross validation (CV) was then computed to get the optimised parameters using RandomizedSearchCV() as seen in Figure 45. The optimised XGBoost model outperformed the model with default hyperparameters; hence, the XGBoost model was built with the optimised hyperparameters as seen in Figure 46.

```
# Define the XGBoost model
XGBoost = XGBClassifier(random_state = 42, n_jobs = -1, verbosity = 1)
# Fit the model on the train set
XGBoost.fit(X_balanced_train, y_balanced_train)
```

Figure 44: XGBoost Model with Default Hyperparameters

# HYPERPARAMETER SEARCH					
<pre># create a dictionary with the list of hyperparameters parame vrboost = /</pre>					
'n_estimators': [100, 300, 500],					
'learning_rate': [0.1, 0.2, 0.3],					
max_deptn : [4,6], 'gamma' : [0, 0.1, 0.2],					
'subsample': [0.5, 0.75, 1],					
'colsample_bytree': [0.5, 0.75, 1],					
}					
<pre># Due to the large size of the training set I will use 3-fold cross validations (3-fold CV) cv = StratifiedKFold(n_splits = 3, shuffle=True, random_state = 42)</pre>					
<pre># Define the XGBoost base model xgboost1 = XGBClassifier(random_state = 42, n_jobs = -1, verbosity = 1) #random state is to get same results in every s </pre>					
# APPLY RANDOMIZED SEARCH					
# Instantiate RandomizedSearchCV and pass in the hyperparamet	ers				
»					
<pre>rand_XGBoost = RandomizedSearchCV(xgboost1, params_xgboost, s</pre>	coring = 'f1', cv = cv, n_jobs=-1, verbose=1, random_state				
# Fit the model on the train set					
<pre>rand_XGBoost.fit(X_balanced_train, y_balanced_train)</pre>					
Fitting 3 folds for each of 10 candidates, totalling 30 fit	s				

Figure 45: XGBoost Hyperparameter Optimisation using RandomizedSearchCV



Figure 46: Optimised Hyperparameters for XGBoost

## 12.4 LightGBM

The LightGBM model was first computed with the default hyperparameters as seen in Figure 47. Randomized search 3-fold cross validation (CV) was then computed to get the optimised parameters using RandomizedSearchCV() as seen in Figure 48. The optimised LightGBM model outperformed the model with default hyperparameters; hence, the LightGBM model was built with the optimised hyperparameters as seen in Figure 49.

```
# Define the LightGBM model
Lgbm = LGBMClassifier(random_state = 42, n_jobs = -1, verbosity = 1)
# Fit the model on the train set
Lgbm.fit(X_balanced_train, y_balanced_train)
```

Figure 47: LightGBM Model with Default Hyperparameters



Figure 48: LightGBM Hyperparameter Optimisation using RandomizedSearchCV

Figure 49: Optimised Hyperparameters for LightGBM

### 12.5 CatBoost

The CatBoost model was first computed with the default hyperparameters as seen in Figure 50. Randomized search 3-fold cross validation (CV) was then computed to get the optimised parameters using RandomizedSearchCV() as seen in Figure 51. The optimised CatBoost model outperformed the model with default hyperparameters; hence, the CatBoost model was built with the optimised hyperparameters as seen in Figure 52.

```
# Define the CatBoost model
CatBoost = ctb.CatBoostClassifier(random_state = 42)
# Fit the model on the train set
CatBoost.fit(X_balanced_train, y_balanced_train)
```

Figure 50: CatBoost Model with Default Hyperparameters



Figure 51: CatBoost Hyperparameter Optimisation using RandomizedSearchCV

<pre># Print the best hyperparameters that maximize scoring print(rand_catboost.best_params_)</pre>				
{'learning_rate': 0.3, 'l2_leaf_reg': 1.0, 'iterations': 2000, 'depth': 4}				
<pre>CatBoost_best = rand_catboost.best_estimator_ print (CatBoost_best)  # Best tuned model</pre>				

<catboost.core.CatBoostClassifier object at 0x7f9da384c9d0>

Figure 52: Optimised Hyperparameters for CatBoost

## 13 Model Evaluation

The models were evaluated on the test set. Figure 53 shows how the predictions were made by testing the LightGBM model on the test data. Same code can be reused for the different models. The evaluation metrics that were used to evaluate each classifier are : Recall, Precision, F1-Score, Matthews Correlation Coefficient (MCC), G-Mean and Area Under the Precision-Recall Curve (AUC -PR); and they were computed using the Sklearn and Imbalanced-learn packages.

This section provides the code used to evaluate the LightGBM model as a sample code, and same code can be reused for the rest of models. Figure 54 shows the sample

MAKE PREDICTIONS USING THE BEST TUNED MODEL ON THE TEST DATA

```
# Make predictions with 'LGBM_best' using the test data (predict the labels using the test set)
y_LGBM_best_pred = LGBM_best.predict(X_test)
LGBM_best_predictions = [round(value) for value in y_LGBM_best_pred]
```

Figure 53: Predictions of the LightGBM model on the test data

code for the Classification Report. Figure 55 shows the Confusion Matrix. Figure 56 shows the AUC. Figure 57 shows the Precision-Recall curve.

<pre># Evaluate the predictions of the 'LightGBM_best' classifier print("Classification Report of the Tuned LightGBM classifier: \n", classification_report(y_test, y_LGBM_best_pred))</pre>								
Classification	Report of precision	the Tuned recall	LightGBM of f1-score	classifier: support				
0 1	1.00 0.57	1.00 0.89	1.00 0.70	552824 2895				
accuracy macro avg weighted avg	0.79 1.00	0.94 1.00	1.00 0.85 1.00	555719 555719 555719				



plot\_confusion\_matrix(LGBM\_best, X\_test, y\_test)

<sklearn.metrics.\_plot.confusion\_matrix.ConfusionMatrixDisplay at 0x7f9e30a0c0d0>





```
# calculate the precision-recall AUC
precision, recall, thresholds = precision_recall_curve(y_test, y_LGBM_best_pred)
auc_score = auc(recall, precision)
print('AUC-PR: ', auc_score)
```

AUC-PR: 0.7304732002434645

Figure 56: AUC

Plot the Precision-Recall curve



Figure 57: AUC-PR curve

Figure 58 shows the code used to compute the metrics for evaluating the performance of the classifiers. Figure 59 shows the code used to compute the most important credit card fraud predictors for the classifiers. The sample code provided is for the LightGBM model but same code can be reused for the different models.

```
recall = recall_score(y_test, y_LGBM_best_pred)
print('Recall: %.2f' % recall)
precision = precision_score(y_test, y_LGBM_best_pred)
print('Precision: %.2f' % precision)
F_Score = f1_score(y_test, y_LGBM_best_pred)
print('F1-Score: %.2f' % F_Score)
MCC = matthews_corrcoef(y_test,y_LGBM_best_pred)
                                                    # Matthews Correlation Coefficient
print('MCC: %.2f' % MCC)
G_Mean = geometric_mean_score(y_test, y_LGBM_best_pred, average='weighted')
                                                                             # Geometric Mean
print('G-Mean: %.2f' % G_Mean)
precision, recall, _ = precision_recall_curve(y_test, y_LGBM_best_pred)
auc_score = auc(recall, precision)
                                    # Area Under the PR Curve
print('AUC-PR: %.2f' % auc_score)
Recall: 0.89
Precision: 0.57
F1-Score: 0.70
MCC: 0.71
G-Mean: 0.94
```

```
AUC-PR: 0.73
```







Figure 59: Variable Importance

## 14 Conclusion

This report outlines the different steps involved in the 'Credit Card Fraud Detection using Ensemble Learning Algorithms' research project. Python was the software used to analyse the data and to create the models. Tableau was also used to create some visualisations; however, this document only focuses on the analysis and modelling aspects of the project. It was found that LightGBM and XGBoost were the best performing models followed by CatBoost; hence, it was concluded that boosting algorithms outperformed bagging algorithms in credit card fraud detection. It was also found that the volume of transactions over the last 7 days, the time since last transaction, the time of the day, the transaction amount and category are the most important variables for predicting credit card fraud.