

# Configuration Manual

MSc Research Project Programme Name

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#### **National College of Ireland**



#### **MSc Project Submission Sheet**

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# Configuration Manual

Ann Mohan X23175320

#### 1. Introduction

This configuration outlines the experimental setup, tools, and processes used to implement the MLP-GRU hybrid model for malicious software detection. The MLP handles static feature analysis, while the GRU focuses on sequential patterns, improving detection accuracy and robustness. There are a total of five sections in which section two provides the experimental setup and section three and four provides the Implementation and Data preprocessing steps. Finally, it concludes with MLP-GRU architecture in section five.

# 2. Experimental Setup

- a. Hardware Requirements:
- **Processor**: Minimum Quad-core (AMD Ryzen 7 or Intel i7)
- RAM: At least 16 GB
- Graphics: Optional for model acceleration using GPU (e.g., NVIDIA RTX 3060 or above)
- b. Software Requirements:
  - Operating System: Windows 10, 22H2 or equivalent
  - **Python Version**: Python 3.9.13
  - **IDE**: Jupyter Notebook (v6.4.12)
  - Frameworks: TensorFlow 2.4 or newer, Scikit-learn, Pandas, Numpy, Matplotlib, Seaborn

The service provided by Jupyter is web-based because it is developed as an open source on the foundation of web open standards, and it is free (www.jupyter.org, n.d.). This feature allows it to support the most popular programming languages and facilitate diverse and renovative development.

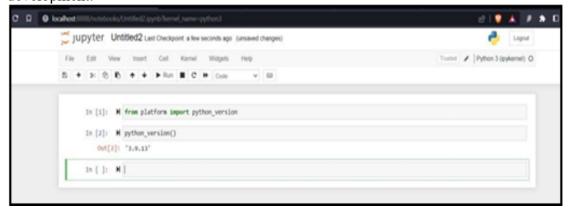


Figure 1: Python Version used in Jupyter Notebook.

# 3. Implementation

Step 1: Anaconda was successfully downloaded and configured in this step.

**Step 2:** FN Control Center was configured and started Serving, Jupyter Notebook was set up and launched.

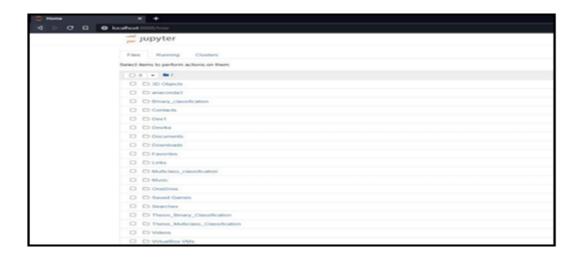


Figure 2 : The home page of Jupyter Notebook.

**Step 3**: The dataset is to be downloaded online. https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/bansalaarushi/malware-dataset

**Step 4**: The essentials libraries related to Jupyter Notebook for any file execution should require the following the list; pandas, Tenserflow , numpy, time, scikit-learn, Matplotlib Seaborn and so on.

**Step 5**: This part of the code importing the libraries for Machine Learning algorithms.

```
[3]: import warnings
     import pandas as pd
     import numpy as np
     import seaborn as sns
     import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
     import shap
      from sklearn.preprocessing import LabelEncoder
      from scipy import stats
      \textbf{from} \ \text{sklearn.preprocessing} \ \textbf{import} \ \text{StandardScaler}
      import warnings
      import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
     from imblearn.over_sampling import SMOTE
      import joblib
      from sklearn.utils import resample
      from collections import Counter
      from keras.models import Model
      \textbf{from} \ \text{keras.layers} \ \textbf{import} \ \text{Input, Dense, Dropout, GRU, Concatenate}
      from keras.utils import to_categorical
      from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
      warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")
```

Figure 3: Importing Basic Libraries

# 4. Dataset Preparation

#### **Step 6: Dataset Acquisition**

Acquire a properly labelled dataset with two kinds of attributes – binary file pattern and sequential system call. Filter the data and select both healthy and unhealthy digital images for the deep learning algorithm.

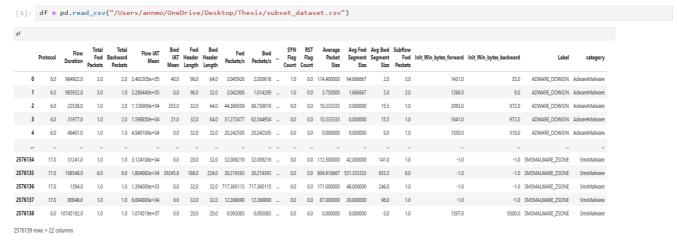


Figure 4: Data Preparation

#### **Step 7: Preprocessing Steps**

#### 1. Data Cleaning:

- Eliminate any row with multiple or no instance.
- Normalize an object label feature using the Label Encoding (for instance, ip.src, ip.dst).

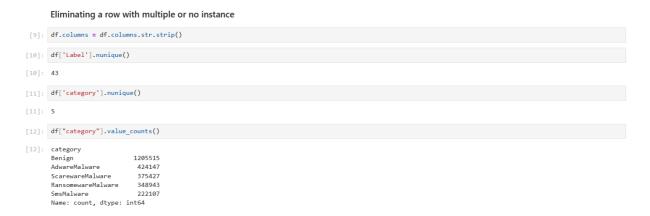


Figure 5: Data frame Column Cleaning and Analysis

```
[16]: df = df.dropna()
[17]: df = df.drop_duplicates()
[18]: label_encoder = LabelEncoder()
    df['Label_encoded'] = label_encoder.fit_transform(df['Label'])
    df['category_encoded'] = label_encoder.fit_transform(df['category'])
    df = df.drop(columns=['Label', 'category'])
```

Figure 6: Handling Missing Values and Duplicates

```
[22]: class_distribution = df['category_encoded'].value_counts()
       print("Class Distribution:")
       print(class_distribution)
       # Plot the class distribution
       plt.figure(figsize=(8, 6))
       class_distribution.plot(kind='bar', color='skyblue')
plt.title("Class Distribution")
       plt.xlabel("Class")
       plt.ylabel("Frequency")
       plt.xticks(rotation=0)
       plt.show()
       Class Distribution:
       category_encoded
       1 919708
0 327673
           291837
         272452
171035
       Name: count, dtype: int64
```

Figure 7: Category Distribution Visualization

**Step 8**: This gives the number of times each label appears in the category encoded column of a Data Frame. It then visualises this distribution using a bar chart which often gives a good glimpse of the scaled nature of the class in the dataset.

#### **Step 9: Feature Engineering:**

- o Correlation analysis to remove several features that are closely associated with other features and thus very redundant (Calybre.global, 2024).
- o It has been recommended to use maps such as the heat map to determine the connection.

#### Feature Scaling

#### Balance the dataset

```
# Assuming your dataset is named 'df'
# Replace 'category_encoded' with your actual column name
target_count = 272452

# Downsample categories 1, 0, and 3
df_1 = df[df['category_encoded'] == 1].sample(target_count, random_state=42)
df_0 = df[df['category_encoded'] == 0].sample(target_count, random_state=42)
df_3 = df[df['category_encoded'] == 3].sample(target_count, random_state=42)

# Keep categories 2 and 4 as is
df_2 = df[df['category_encoded'] == 2]
df_4 = df[df['category_encoded'] == 4]

# Combine all the balanced subsets
df_balanced = pd.concat([df_1, df_0, df_3, df_2, df_4])

# Shuffle the final dataset
df_balanced = df_balanced.sample(frac=1, random_state=42).reset_index(drop=True)

print(df_balanced['category_encoded'].value_counts())
```

Figure 8: Feature Scaling

```
[25]: # Separate features (X) and target (y)
      X = df_balanced.drop(columns=['category_encoded'])
      y = df_balanced['category_encoded']
      # Apply SMOTE only on category 4
      # Convert other categories to a single majority class
      smote = SMOTE(sampling_strategy={4: 272452}, random_state=42)
      # Apply SMOTE
      X_resampled, y_resampled = smote.fit_resample(X, y)
      # Combine the resampled data into a new DataFrame
      df_resampled = pd.concat([pd.DataFrame(X_resampled), pd.DataFrame(y_resampled, columns=['category_encoded'])], axis=1)
      # Check the new class distribution
      print(df_resampled['category_encoded'].value_counts())
      category_encoded
      2 272452
      4 272452
          272452
          272452
          272452
      Name: count, dtype: int64
```

#### Standard Scalar

```
[26]: scaler = StandardScaler()

# Scale the resampled feature data
X_scaled = scaler.fit_transform(X_resampled)

# Combine the scaled features with the target variable
df_scaled = pd.concat([pd.DataFrame(X_scaled, columns=X.columns), pd.DataFrame(y_resampled, columns=['category_encoded'])], axis=1)

# Check the scaled DataFrame
print(df_scaled.head())

# Check the class distribution to ensure it's still balanced
print(df_scaled['category_encoded'].value_counts())
```

Figure 9: Data Balancing and Feature Scaling Process

**Step 10:** They work to minimize the class imbalance problem by aggregating minority classes into one and using SMOTE to oversample the new class (Brownlee, 2020). Then, it scales the features to enhance the model performance in the Figure. 10 below. The last thing in this process is to ensure that class distribution is not skewed after the above two transformations.

#### **Step 11: Normalization:**

Standard scaling, this makes sure that all the features are on the same scale as those of the other.

```
Protocol Flow Duration Total Fwd Packets Total Backward Packets \
0 -0.597610 -0.489173 -0.181584 0.183778
1 -0.597610 3.057139 -0.181584 -0.435863
2 1.670007 -0.488592
                           -0.498434
                                               -0.311935
3 -0.597610 -0.491863
                            0.135265
                                               0.059850
                        -0.498434
4 -0.597610 -0.504170
                                               -0.311935
  Flow IAT Mean Bwd IAT Mean Fwd Header Length Bwd Header Length \
    -0.445546 -0.262693 -0.002001 -0.004622
     5.516584 -0.277625
-0.400078 -0.277625
                               -0.002008
                                               -0.004813
1
2
                               -0.002058
                                               -0.004776
     -0.447579 -0.261710
                              -0.001989
                                              -0.004708
3
4
    -0.452301 -0.277625
                              -0.002058
                                              -0.004776
  Fwd Packets/s Bwd Packets/s ... SYN Flag Count RST Flag Count \
  0
1
2
3
                                     0.0
     -0.019664
                 0.776443 ...
                                                   0.0
  Average Packet Size Avg Fwd Segment Size Avg Bwd Segment Size \
                    2.583281
                                     1.078981
0
         1.637035
          -0.700515
                           -0.624910
                                            -0.600082
1
                          -0.036173
                                            0.134703
          0.202263
                           0.406660
          0.821311
                                             1.081521
3
          -0.700515
                           -0.624910
                                             -0.600082
  Subflow Fwd Packets Init_Win_bytes_forward Init_Win_bytes_backward \
    -0.181584 1.392336 -0.232983
-0.181584 -0.737995 -0.311963
0
1
                            -0.747333
          -0.498434
                                                -0.311963
2
3
          0.135265
                            1.392336
                                                -0.301388
4
          -0.498434
                             -0.746353
                                                 0.140767
  Label_encoded category_encoded
0
  -0.155236 2
                         4
     1.640480
1
2
     -0.563354
                        0
3
    -0.889847
    0.089634
[5 rows x 22 columns]
category_encoded
  272452
   272452
4
0
   272452
  272452
1 272452
Name: count, dtype: int64
```

Figure 10: Normalized Data Table

#### 5. MLP-GRU Model Architecture

Step 12: Component of MLP for Static Analysis

- Input Layer: They later restore neuron count with respect to the count of features.
- Hidden Layers: Euclidean distance with output from the fully connected to the next layer activation ReLU.
- Output Layer: It also embeds intermediate feature representation.

**Step 13:** These sequence analyses include the use of the GRU Component for Sequential Analysis.

- Input Layer: Sequential time-series data.
- GRU Layer: To model temporal features on the data, we use Gated Recurrent Units with 64.
- Dropout Layer: Prevent overfitting.

**Step 14:** Concatenation Layer In this study, MLP and GRU output vectors are combined to extract a final output vector for the prediction.

**Step 15:** Output Layer Dense Layer: softmax if there is more than one output class or sigmoid if there are only two output classes.

```
[28]: # Step 5: Split the
      # Step 5: Split the resampled data into training and testing sets
X_train_resampled, X_test, y_train_resampled, y_test = train_test_split(X_scaled, y_resampled, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)
      # Step 6: Reshape data for GRU (time-series format)
       X\_train\_gru = np.reshape(X\_train\_resampled, (X\_train\_resampled.shape[0], 1, X\_train\_resampled.shape[1])) 
      X test_gru = np.reshape(X_test, (X_test.shape[0], 1, X_test.shape[1]))
      # Step 7: One-hot encode the target labels for multi-class classification
      num classes = len(np.unique(v resampled)) # Automatically determine the num
      y_train_categorical = to_categorical(y_train_resampled, num_classes=num_classes)
      y_test_categorical = to_categorical(y_test, num_classes=num_classes)
      # Step 8: Define the MLP model
      mlp_input = Input(shape=(X_train_resampled.shape[1],)) # MLP uses 2D input (samples, features)
      mlp_layer1 = Dense(64, activation='relu')(mlp_input) # Increased complexity for MLI
      mlp_dropout1 = Dropout(0.5)(mlp_layer1)
      mlp output = Dense(32, activation='relu')(mlp dropout1)
      # Step 9: Define the GRU model
      gru_input = Input(shape=(X_train_gru.shape[1], X_train_gru.shape[2])) # GRU uses 3D input (samples, timesteps, features)
      gru_layer1 = GRU(64, return_sequences=False, activation='relu')(gru_input) # Increased complexity for GRU
      gru dropout1 = Dropout(0.5)(gru laver1)
      # Sten 10: Concatenate the outputs of MLP and GRU
      merged = Concatenate()([mlp output, gru dropout1])
      # Step 11: Output layer for multi-class classification
      output = Dense(num_classes, activation='softmax')(merged)
      model = Model(inputs=[mlp_input, gru_input], outputs=output)
      model.compile(optimizer='adam', loss='categorical_crossentropy', metrics=['accuracy'])
   # Step 14: Train the model
   history = model.fit(
        [X_train_resampled, X_train_gru], # Inputs: MLP and GRU
        y_train_categorical, # Target labels
        epochs=10, # Adjust epochs as needed
        batch_size=32, # Adjust batch size as needed
        validation_data=([X_test, X_test_gru], y_test_categorical), # Validation data
   loss, accuracy = model.evaluate([X_test, X_test_gru], y_test_categorical, verbose=0)
   print(f"Test Loss: {loss}, Test Accuracy: {accuracy}")
```

Figure 11: Model Architecture

```
Epoch 1/10
                               - 157s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.9235 - loss: 0.2447 - val accuracy: 0.9894 - val loss: 0.0457
34057/34057
Epoch 2/10
                               — 187s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.9849 - loss: 0.0641 - val_accuracy: 0.9919 - val_loss: 0.0395
Epoch 3/10
                               - 141s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.9880 - loss: 0.0529 - val accuracy: 0.9934 - val loss: 0.0341
34057/34057
Epoch 4/10
34057/34057

    138s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.9896 - loss: 0.0478 - val_accuracy: 0.9931 - val_loss: 0.0355

Epoch 5/10
                               - 138s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.9901 - loss: 0.0451 - val accuracy: 0.9937 - val loss: 0.0321
34057/34057 -
Epoch 6/10
34057/34057
                                - 142s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.9909 - loss: 0.0458 - val_accuracy: 0.9938 - val_loss: 0.0325
Epoch 7/10
34057/34057
                               134s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.9913 - loss: 0.0464 - val_accuracy: 0.9936 - val_loss: 0.0335
Epoch 8/10
34057/34057
                                - 158s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.9918 - loss: 0.0428 - val_accuracy: 0.9940 - val_loss: 0.0320
Epoch 9/10
34057/34057
                               - 195s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.9920 - loss: 0.0443 - val accuracy: 0.9943 - val loss: 0.0310
Epoch 10/10
                                - 130s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.9922 - loss: 0.0393 - val_accuracy: 0.9940 - val_loss: 0.0321
34057/34057
Test Loss: 0.0321270190179348, Test Accuracy: 0.9940136075019836
```

Figure 12: Model Training

**Step 16:** The training data set was performed for 10 iterations. The training process was implemented using a validation data set and the final test of the trained model was conducted using the test data set.

#### Model accuracy And Model loss

```
[29]: # Step 14: Evaluate the model on the test data
      loss, accuracy = model.evaluate([X_test, X_test_gru], y_test_categorical, verbose=0)
      print(f"Test Loss: {loss}")
      print(f"Test Accuracy: {accuracy}")
      # Step 15: Plot the training history
      # Plot training & validation accura
      plt.plot(history.history['accuracy'])
      plt.plot(history.history['val_accuracy'])
      plt.title('Model Accuracy')
      plt.xlabel('Epoch')
      plt.ylabel('Accuracy')
      plt.legend(['Train', 'Validation'], loc='upper left')
      plt.show()
      # Plot training & validation loss
      plt.plot(history.history['loss'])
      plt.plot(history.history['val_loss'])
      plt.title('Model Loss')
      plt.xlabel('Epoch')
      plt.ylabel('Loss')
      plt.legend(['Train', 'Validation'], loc='upper left')
      plt.show()
      Test Loss: 0.032726459205150604
      Test Accuracy: 0.9940540194511414
```

Figure 13: Model Accuracy and Model Loss

**Step 17:** This kind of model was trained and tested on a dataset. Model's performance was evaluated by training and validation datasets. The accuracy and loss functions were trained and validated for 10 epoch. There is the final test loss and accuracy that was produced as 0.0327 and 0.9940, respectively.

#### **Confusion Matrix**

```
[30]: from sklearn.metrics import confusion_matrix, ConfusionMatrixDisplay
    import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# Make predictions
y_pred = model.predict([X_test, X_test_gru])
y_pred_classes = np.argmax(y_pred, axis=1)
y_true = np.argmax(y_test_categorical, axis=1)

# Compute confusion matrix
cm = confusion_matrix(y_true, y_pred_classes)

# Display the confusion matrix as a diagram without colorbar
disp = ConfusionMatrixDisplay(confusion_matrix=cm, display_labels=np.unique(y_true))
fig, ax = plt.subplots()
disp.plot(cmap='Blues', values_format='d', ax=ax, colorbar=False)
plt.title("Confusion Matrix")
plt.show()
```

Figure 14: Confusion Matrix

**Step 18:** The confusion matrix summary of true positive 'TP', true negative 'TN', false positive 'FP' and false negative 'FN' made in each of the one class (GeeksForGeeks, 2018). The confusion matrix shows the number of true positive, true negative, false positive, and false negative predictions for each 1 class.

## **Classification Report**

```
[31]: from sklearn.metrics import classification_report
        print("Classification Report:")
       print(classification_report(y_true, y_pred_classes))
        Classification Report:
                       precision recall f1-score support
                             1.00 1.00 1.00
                                                              54312
                             0.98 1.00 0.99
1.00 1.00 1.00
0.99 0.99 0.99
1.00 0.99 0.99
                                                              54415
54615
                    1
                     2
                                                               54605
                    3
                     4
                                                                54505

    0.99
    272452

    0.99
    0.99
    0.99
    272452

    0.99
    0.99
    0.99
    272452

            accuracy
           macro avg
        weighted avg
```

Figure 15: Classification Report

**Step 19:** It provides a means to assess the quality of a multi-class classification model through a classification report. This can print out in precision, recall, F1-score and support; for each class; accuracy, Macro average, Weighted average 1.

### **ROC-AUC Curve (for Multi-Class)**

```
[33]: from sklearn.metrics import roc_curve, auc
      from sklearn.preprocessing import label_binarize
      # Binarize the labels for ROC calculation
      y_test_bin = label_binarize(y_true, classes=np.unique(y_true))
      y_pred_prob = model.predict([X_test, X_test_gru])
      # Compute ROC curve and AUC for each class
      for i in range(y_test_bin.shape[1]):
         fpr, tpr, _ = roc_curve(y_test_bin[:, i], y_pred_prob[:, i])
          roc_auc = auc(fpr, tpr)
          plt.plot(fpr, tpr, label=f"Class {i} (AUC = {roc_auc:.2f})")
      plt.title("Multi-Class ROC-AUC")
      plt.xlabel("False Positive Rate")
      plt.ylabel("True Positive Rate")
      plt.legend(loc="lower right")
      plt.grid(True)
      plt.show()
      8515/8515 -
                                   — 20s 2ms/step
```

Figure 16: ROC-AUC Curve

**Step 20**: In a multi-class classification problem, the code also provides an ROC curve for each class while not necessarily in a single form indicating all the true positives, all the false positives and so on. For class level performance, it computes the Area Under the Curve (AUC) because it represents the model performance for that particular class.

#### **Actual vs Predicted Congestion Labels for Sample Test Data**

```
[34]: # Reset index of y_test for consistency
        y_test_reset_index = y_test.reset_index(drop=True)
        # Take the first 20 values from the test set
        X sample = X test[5:25] # Sample from the test set
       y_actual = y_test_reset_index[5:25]
        # Reshape the X sample for both MLP and GRU inputs
       X_sample_gru = np.reshape(X_sample, (X_sample.shape[0], 1, X_sample.shape[1]))
        \ensuremath{\textit{\#}} Predict congestion labels for the sampled data using both MLP and GRU
       y_pred_prob_sample = model.predict([X_sample, X_sample_gru]) # Use MLP and GRU inputs together
       y_pred_sample = np.argmax(y_pred_prob_sample, axis=1) # Get predicted classes
        # Print actual vs predicted labels for the san
        print("Actual vs Predicted Congestion Labels:")
        for i in range(20):
         print(f"Actual: {y_actual.iloc[i]}, Predicted: {y_pred_sample[i]}")
                              --- 0s 104ms/step
Actual vs Predicted Congestion Labels:
Actual: 0, Predicted: 0
Actual: 1, Predicted: 1
Actual: 1, Predicted: 1
Actual: 1, Predicted: 1
Actual: 1, Predicted: 1
Actual: 3, Predicted: 3
Actual: 0, Predicted: 0
Actual: 0, Predicted: 0
Actual: 1, Predicted: 1
Actual: 0, Predicted: 0
Actual: 0. Predicted: 0
Actual: 0, Predicted: 0
Actual: 3, Predicted: 3
Actual: 1, Predicted: 1
Actual: 2, Predicted: 2
Actual: 2, Predicted: 2
Actual: 2, Predicted: 2
Actual: 1, Predicted: 1
```

Figure 17: Actual vs Predicted Labels for Sample Test Data

#### Precision-recall curve

```
from sklearn.metrics import precision_recall_curve, aud
from sklearn.preprocessing import label_binarize
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
# Binarize the true labels for Precision-Recall calculation
y_true_bin = label_binarize(y_true, classes=np.unique(y_true))
# Predict probabilities for each class
y_pred_prob = model.predict([X_test, X_test_gru])
# Plot Precision-Recall curve for each class
plt.figure(figsize=(8, 6))
for i in range(y_true_bin.shape[1]):
    precision, recall, _ = precision_recall_curve(y_true_bin[:, i], y_pred_prob[:, i])
    pr_auc = auc(recall, precision) # Compute AUC for the Precision-Recall curve
    plt.plot(recall, \ precision, \ label=f"Class \ \{i\} \ (AUC = \{pr\_auc:.2f\})")
# Add title and labels
plt.title("Precision-Recall Curve for Multi-Class Classification")
plt.xlabel("Recall")
plt.ylabel("Precision")
plt.legend(loc="lower left")
plt.grid(True)
plt.show()
```

Figure 18: Precision- Recall Curve

**Step 21:** In the case of handling multi-class classification problems, the code computes F1-score for every class. The F1 score is the harmonic meaning of the precision and the recall rates; thus, it accomplishes offering a good balance of the model for each of the classes. The calculated F1-scores are then presented in the form of a bar graph for convenience of the comparison of the model's performance across classes.

#### F-1 Score

```
ffom sklearn.metrics import f1_score

f1_scores = f1_score(y_true, y_pred_classes, average=None)
plt.bar(range(len(f1_scores)), f1_scores, color='skyblue')
plt.title('F1-Score by Class')
plt.xlabel('Class')
plt.ylabel('F1-Score')
plt.xticks(range(len(f1_scores)), labels=np.unique(y_true))
plt.ylim(0, 1)
plt.grid(axis='y', linestyle='--', alpha=0.7)
plt.show()
```

Figure 19: F-1 Score

**Step 22:** The code creates an important performance metric called Cumulative Gain Chart of a classification model. It just sorts the samples from the probability perspective and then compares the cumulative gain to a curve and baseline. The Cumulative Gain Chart makes it possible to seize how effectively the model is at finding the relevant samples to its order compared to the research or the other models that selected samples randomly.

```
from sklearn.metrics import roc_curve

sorted_indices = np.argsort(y_pred_prob.max(axis=1))[::-1]
sorted_actual = y_true[sorted_indices]

cumulative_gain = np.cumsum(sorted_actual) / np.sum(sorted_actual)
plt.plot(cumulative_gain, label='Cumulative Gain Curve')
plt.plot([0, len(cumulative_gain)], [0, 1], linestyle='--', color='red', label='Baseline')
plt.title('Cumulative Gains Chart')
plt.xlabel('Number of Samples')
plt.ylabel('Cumulative Gain')
plt.legend()
plt.grid(True)
plt.show()
```

Figure 20: Cumulative Gain chart

#### References

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