Defeating the Credit Card Scams Through Machine Learning Algorithms

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Abstract—Credit card fraud is a significant problem that is not going to go away. It is a growing problem and surged during the Covid-19 pandemic since more transactions are done without cash in hand now. Credit card frauds are complicated to distinguish as the characteristics of legitimate and fraudulent transactions are very similar. The performance evaluation of various Machine Learning (ML)-based credit card fraud recognition schemes are significantly pretentious due to data processing, including collecting variables and corresponding ML mechanism being used. One possible way to counter this problem is to apply ML algorithms such as Support Vector Machine (SVM), K nearest neighbor (KNN), Naive Bayes, and logistic regression. This research work aims to compare the ML as mentioned earlier models and its impact on credit card scam detection, especially in situations with imbalanced datasets. Moreover, we have proposed state of the art data balancing algorithm to solve data unbalancing problems in such situations. Our experiments show that the logistic regression has an accuracy of 99.91%, and naive bays have an accuracy of 97.65%. K nearest neighbor has an accuracy is 99.92%, support vector machine has an accuracy of 99.95%. The precision and accuracy comparison of our proposed approach shows that our model is state of the art.

Keywords—credit card fraud, machine learning, algorithm, K nearest neighbor (KNN), logistic regression, naive Bayes, and support vector machine (SVM)

I. Introduction

The increase of dependency on the internet has spurred the rise in credit card fraud which has also led to the growth of credit card fraud. The acceleration of online transactions (e-commerce) and offline transactions (using contactless payment in a local high street shop) has led to an explosion in credit card fraud cases, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown periods. There have been different means of countering credit card fraud in recent years, which is ineffective due to manual checks and non-highly sophisticated approaches. Credit card fraud prevention systems already exist in businesses like marketing, insurance, and e-commerce companies. In addition, data science procedures are mostly adopted to solve the endemic of credit fraud nowadays by predicting and detecting credit card fraud. However, a solution like this will not exist without flaws, as there will be mistakes in identification and misclassification.

Sometimes, it is pretty much impossible to know the true intention behind a customer transaction, leading to false positives. Therefore, creating a solution to work out the probability of predicting if a transaction is fraudulent is the best way to do so. Employing machine learning algorithms is the best method to predict and detect fraudulent transactions with algorithms such as logistic regression and support vector machine as prominent examples of classification machine learning algorithms.

This research paper will be using an article [7] by Campus 2018 to compare the results. The primary artifact predominant proposition is the incorporation of business transactions through the European credit card spanning over two days in October 2013, which contains 30 various dataset variables in the 273,706 transactions. The dataset analysis contains 408 fraudulent transactions, which make up 0.149% of the total transactions. The fundamental objective of this research work is to employ the Machine Learning (ML) models for the successful identification of credit card fraudulent transactions.

This implies it will refresh and change the information (whenever required), then, at that point, isolate the information into preparing and testing informational indexes. Then, at that point utilizing SVM, decision tree, logistic regression, and random forest classifier AI calculations to create "discovery of credit card scam" models where each model will gain from the informational preparation index and be assessed on the informational testing collection to decide execution by working out the exactness, affectability, explicitness, and accuracy. These results will be utilized to figure out which model is ideal in making the ideal framework.

The Dataset from Kaggle [8] was used to split into testing and training datasets. These split datasets are further utilized to implement and calculate the performance evaluation metrics of various ML models and algorithms. Furthermore, we have proposed a data balancing algorithm to solve the data balancing problem, which was not covered in the previous research works targeting this dataset. Thus, the main contributions of this research work are:

- A compressive literature review for credit card scam recognition has been provided;

- Advanced ML-based models have been applied for the task of scam detection, and the comparative overview have been conducted;
- Analysis of accuracy, performance, sensitivity, specificity, and precisions comparison of ML-based models is provided for better understanding;
- A novel Data Balancing Algorithm (DBA) is proposed to resolve un-balanced data problems, which has increased the efficiency and robustness of the detection.

II. RELATED WORK

We explored more than a few articles that are creating AI models to recognize/foresee fraudulent business transactions in this writing survey. We will examine what the issue are, similar to the referenced ideas and speculations. In the article, campus 2018 [2] specified that the dataset was imbalanced (accepting the problem is utilizing the equivalent dataset and the one main article is utilizing) with around 400 fake transactions containing greater than 270,000 reliable transactions.

First, the subject article with the title "Machine Learning for credit card fraud detection system" [1] briefly analyzes the performance of random forest, logistic regression, and decision tree. This infers that the AI model under construction can be utilized for the identification of credit extortion. In contrast, the research work is the same as the core fundamental research work as it is additionally utilizing random forest, logistic regression, and decision tree [2]. The research work likewise generates a similar supposition on the dataset since it was utilizing the "Kaggle" informational index, where it presumed that the "informational index is profoundly imbalanced" by way of "it has about 0.149% of extortion exchanges, and the rest are certifiable exchanges".

The research work, at last, began to foster the AI model; however, not long previously, it separated its informational index with 65% for training and 35% testing, respectively. It is a normal workflow as the model cannot be tested on the same information based on its design. This research work took a different approach than what is expected. In the fundamental work, each AI model, 5 out of 31 independent variables were selected. It can be inferred that it would store the presentation of nine AI models incorporating three unique kinds of calculations through various measures of autonomous factors. It appears fascinating; for instance, neural organizations can work better (execution) when there are less reliant factors. This thought of restricting the number of factors was not done in principle article as We accept the primary explanation is that the AI calculations utilized dislike a neural organization where execution will be expanded. After making the AI models, the article disclosed how to work out the precision, affectability, and particularity, as shown in Table. 1 below.

TABLE I. ACCURACY COMPARISON OF ML MODELS

Feature Selection	Random Forest	Logistic Regression	Decision Tree
For 5 variables	90.0	86.1	87.61
For 10 variables	92.5	87.5	91.0
For all variables	94.4	89.0	93.2

It is evident from the comparison tables that better results are obtained when the dataset is enormous. The results cannot predict the performance evaluation and the only thing that can

be extracted is that the "accuracy for the random forest, logistic regression, and decision tree classifiers are 94.4, 89.0, and 93.2". From the results, it can also be inferred that the "random forest classifier" achieves the highest accuracy

The baseline article we are utilizing did likewise close the best model by utilizing exactness, affectability, particularity, and accuracy are dissimilar to simply utilizing precision. This is significant for this dataset as you should never utilize exactness as an action when managing an imbalanced informational index, as indicated by [4]. For instance, we could foresee all the non-misrepresentation cases as non-extortion for our situation but get all the anticipated extortion exchanges as non-misrepresentation also.

This implies the model is bombing, no doubt, yet there are under 500 deceitful exchanges in an informational collection of 280,000. This implies precision can, in any case, resemble 99% as it joins all anticipated accurately isolated by the all outnumber of perceptions. So it just committed its errors on the false exchange; the precision can be tricky when managing an imbalanced informational collection. Generally, the article [1] strategy is acceptable and the same as our principle article; it utilized three of the four AI calculations. It attempts some new things like diminishing the number of free factors. In any case, the two-article veer off is accordingly the end up the AI calculation that achieved the ideal result.

Besides, the article is named "A productive credit misrepresentation recognition model dependent on AI strategies" [3], where it will "present a powerful charge card extortion discovery distinguishing proof framework with a criticism framework, focused on AI strategy." This implies it will foster a few AI models utilizing various calculations while likewise considering approaches to utilize solo learning AI arrangement. As the article recognizes a few "challenges," as referenced, attempting to utilize solo techniques. In the connected examination area, it states that "it will consistently neglect for the recognition of instances of fraud/scam" AI strategies.

Solo can fix the subject issue and achieve better progress in recognizing fake cases as it is trained on novel information, which can be gathered by a simple cycle, and prepared to be utilized. Moreover, the research work describes in its subject title as "productive" & accordingly poses difficulties for the AI to prepare an enormous dataset proceeding towards ordinary premise and scammers are continually evolving. It additionally recognized "imbalanced data," which means an uneven dataset. It additionally recognized misclassification of data expressing that "no complete deceitful action is recorded/caught."

The research work use heaps of AI calculations incorporating the Naive Bayes, strategic relapse, support vector machine, K-closest neighbors, characterization tree, counterfeit neural organization, and slope boosting. In this article, we utilize three of the four, simply missing a rough woodland calculation. Like the baseline article, it does not simply utilize exactness as to the solitary measurement, and it utilizes accuracy, review, Score (F1), and False Positive Rate (FPR) that does not apply particularity and affectability to the core research work. Regardless of this issue, the research work is genuinely adept at clarifying the presentation measurements, as shown in Fig 1 below. The determination is somewhat missing as it fails to choose the best optimal model

yet. This is something that was highlighted in the principle article that we are utilizing.
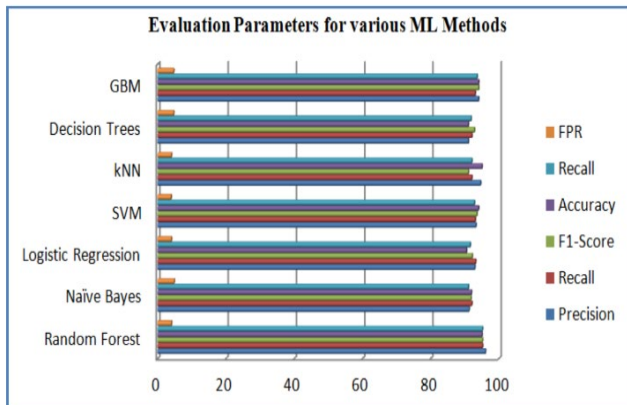

Fig. 1. Precision Evaluation of ML Models

Thirdly, the research work titled "Credit Card Fraud Detection using Machine Learning Algorithms" [5] covers the strategy and development of an innovative scam recognition mechanism for business transactions. It implies that it aims to develop numerous ML models for the detection and prediction of credit card cheats. Furthermore, it would also quantify the performance of its corresponding model using precision and accuracy using the "Mathews Correlation Coefficient (MCC)" as shown in equation 1 below:

$$MCC = \frac{TP*TN-FP*FN}{\sqrt{(TP+FP)(TP+FN)(TN+FP)(TN+FN)}} \qquad (1)$$

The proposed research work justifies the corresponding ML mechanism being utilized for checking the balance of binary classifiers. It also considers the entire false and accurate results claiming it to be a balanced measure if there are classes with different natures. Likewise, the proposed research work utilized the random forest, logistic regression, local outlier factor, decision tree, and isolation forest ML algorithms. This approach incorporates additional ML algorithms, and the corresponding performance results are shown in Table II below.

TABLE II.   PERFORMANCE   COMPARISON   MATRIX   OF   ML ALGORITHMS

Methods	MCC	Accuracy	Precision
Local Outlier Factor	0.1265	0.4471	0.2830
Isolation Forest	0.2850	0.5772	0.9336
Logistic Regression	0.9327	0.9607	0.9720
Decision Tree	0.9319	0.9607	0.9703
Random Forest	0.9885	0.9887	0.9885

It can be quickly concluded from the performance comparison matrix of ML algorithms that the "Random Forest Model" aims at the best accuracy benchmarks.

Finally, the last research work being used in the paper is titled "Supervised Machine Learning Algorithms for credit card fraud detection: A Comparison" [6]. The core aim of this research paper was the performance assessment of an imbalanced dataset utilizing numerous ML algorithms to identify the most delicate mechanism for the recognition of credit card scams. The research work likewise utilizes "Affectability" and "Exactness" to decide the exhibition of a model. The principle article utilized those measurements and some more. It was not utilizing exactness like that in the baseline paper, yet precision is a pointless measurement with such imbalanced information. It also utilizes another metric, "Time," which was not identified yet. Although the importance of this metric is undeniable, it was not incorporated in the previous research work, and the time taken utilized to be labeled as a workable model if it utilizes the real-time data. The research work is utilizing (K closest neighbor) "KCN," "Decision Tree," "Arbitrary Timberland," "Innocent Bayes," and "Strategic relapse." This research work utilizes three of the four AI calculations as the fundamental research work we are utilizing. The research work inferred that the decision tree proved to be the best AI model regarding the performance factor.

III.   EXPERIMENTAL METHODOLOGY

A. Dataset

The dataset we have utilized is taken from Kaggle [8], and it is comprised of 2 days of credit card transactions in September 2013 from Europe. This dataset has a total of 284,807 transactions, of which 492 were frauds. The dataset is unbalanced, as there are only 0.17% positive cases (frauds). The initial data was in high dimensions, but the authors have used PCA transformation. They did not disclose the original transaction; instead, they only provided. PCA obtained features $V1, V2, ... V28$. The only non-transformed features $'Time'$ and $'Amount'$. The feature 'Time' shows the time in the seconds between each transaction concerning the first transaction. At the same time, the feature $'Amount'$ shows the transaction money.

B. Data Preprocessing

The concept of missing values/null values is an important concept to grab and mitigate. If null values are not handled correctly, it can result in inaccurate inference results, and the trained model will be different from the model where the null values are present [9]. To resolve the issue, we have calculated the mean of the feature and replaced it with the null values. This approximation adds some variance to the data set. However, there is no loss of data and no null values, which yields better results than removing rows and columns [10].

C. Data Balancing Algorithm (DBA) for the Un-balanced data problem

As mentioned in the introduction section, the available data is highly unbalanced and has many missing values. The solution to the null/missing values has already been discussed. However, the typical balancing techniques provide highly normalized data. Such dataset is biased and usually provides significant results in the training validation section; however, in real-time implementation, such methods failed to provide reliable results. Hence using normalized data is incompetent and the wastage of resources. Likewise, using an unbalanced Dataset is also useless as it can cause biases, and the resultant model will have compromised accuracy.

In most cases, the employed method for unbalancing issues is under-sampling [11], in which randomly chosen data sample from the abundant samples (in this case transaction with no fraud) and combining it with the least samples. However, there can be problems with the under-sampling method. The under sampled-data can be biased as the data is selected randomly from the abundant samples. Consequently, the amount of data for training will be reduced; the lesser data

will lower the accuracy [12]. As only a few samples are being chosen, we cannot assure the goodness factor of those samples.

Moreover, the randomly selected samples may cause the over-fitting problem. To solve such problems, we have proposed a novel Data Balancing Algorithm (DBA) has been proposed. DBA divided the abundant set of samples into k-subsets, k is chosen based on the number of rare samples. DBA can help in training by using each combination of the abundant sample with the rare samples. Algorithm 1 below explains the detailed working procedure of DBA.

Algorithm 1: *Data Balancer Algorithm (DBA)*	
1	**Input***: All the available samples of the unbalanced dataset;*
2	**Output***: k-splits of dataset samples for training;*

3	**Begin***:*
	
	    For each *transaction sample in Dataset* **Do**
	
	       Identify no. of abundant samples;
	
	       Identify no. of rare samples;
	
	       k= abundant samples' ratio with respect to rare samples;
	
	       Balance the data by dividing all samples into n-sub-groups of the same size using all the abundant samples and rare samples.
	
	    End For

4	**End.**

This proposed algorithm is novel and provides the complete dataset's ingenious combinations without missing any samples or any random sampling technique. As it can be seen, the proposed algorithm is generic, and it can be used in almost all problems where data un-balancing is an issue at hand.

D. Methodology

In order to build a robust fraud detection method, we have adopted an incremental approach. The complete architecture of the proposed mythology can be seen in Fig. 2. Firstly, the data will be imported. Afterward, the data will be cleaned using pre-processing techniques. The third step is to apply novel DBA to solve data un-balancing problems. The fourth step is to apply machine learning algorithms. The fifth step is to analyze the performance concerning accuracy and precision. The final step is to decide the best model and deploy it in a real-time environment.

In our fourth step, we will be using four supervised machine learning algorithms as was employed in the reference article, i.e., Logistic Regression [13], K Nearest Neighbor [14], Naïve Bayes [15], and SVM [16]. However, only two of them will be the same, and the other two machine learning algorithms are to replace decision trees and random forests. Logistic regression works by returning a likelihood of a paired objective variable of 1 or 0 from free factors. This is the same as direct relapse, yet it does not follow a (straight) straight line to a greater extent, a bend that is utilized to plot the qualities somewhere in the range of 0 and 1. Naive Bayes is a

characterization calculation that is commonly utilized for classification issues like recognizing spam messages. The calculation runs successfully by requiring X to foresee Y. X = (x1, x2…. xn), the subject condition can also be modified as shown in equation 2 below:

$$P\ (Y = y \mid X\ = (\ x_1, x_2, \dots x_k) \qquad (2)$$
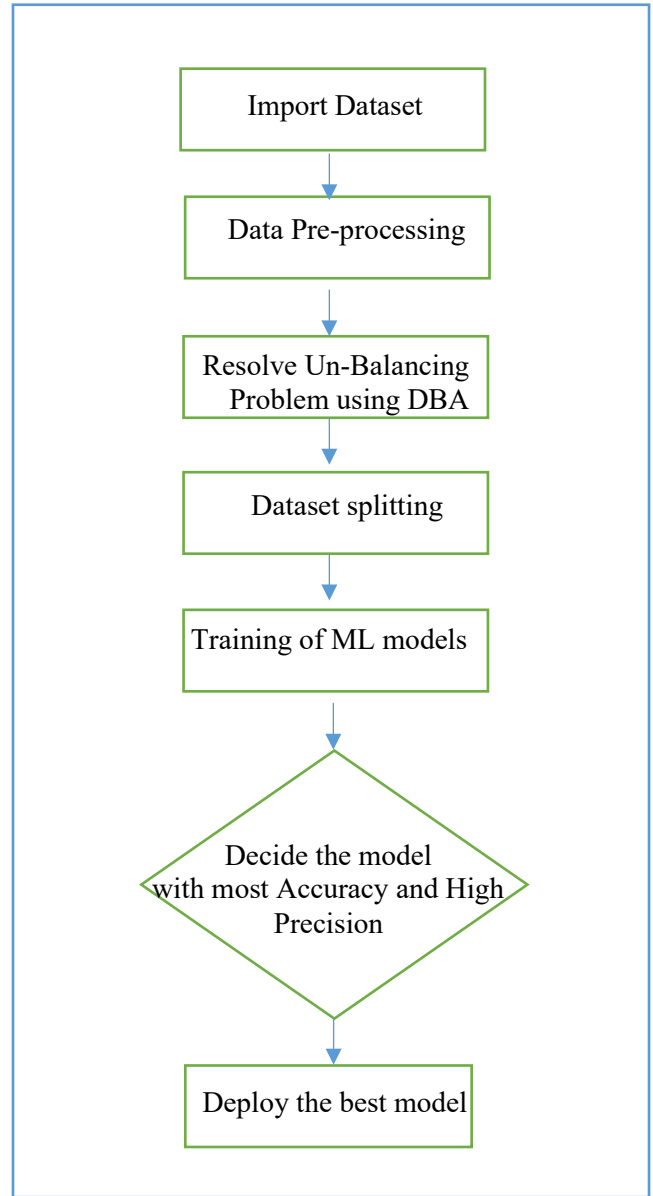

Fig. 2. Architecture Diagram of Method

K nearest neighbor is an arrangement AI calculation that works by framing a more significant part vote among the collection of K most comparable occurrences. Intently, the same is characterized by a detachment metrical between two information focuses. A support vector machine is a grouping AI calculation that works by tracking down the ideal line for certain imperatives to arrange the objective variable accurately. Due to the limited space, we will not be explaining the working mechanism of these ML algorithms any further; instead, we have only provided the settings and parameters to use these algorithms.

E. Logistic Regression

When applied logistic regression model with the $C = 1.0$, $class\_weight = None$, $max\_iter = 100$, $penalty = l2$, and $solver = liblinear$. We have achieved 99.93% accuracy for the training set and 98.80% accuracy for the test set.

K Nearest Neighbors

We have applied KNN with setting, i.e., $test\_values = 21$, $n\_neighbors = 17$, metric for $distance = euclidean$, with $weights = uniform$.

Naïve Bayes

We employed $Gaussian\ NB$ with $priors = none$, and $var\_smoothing = 1e - 09$.

SVM

We have employed with $kernel = sigmoid$, with $C = 0.001$, $gamma = scale$, and $max\_iter = 100$.

IV. EVALUATION ANALYSIS

The dataset, as stated in the introduction, is from Kaggle [8]. The dataset contains 273,706 real-world transactions from two days in October of 2013. The dataset being used is highly imbalanced, meaning the data is skewed on the dependent (target) variable, Class, where only 0.147% of transactions are positive for fraudulent transactions. It only contained 31 variables, where 28 are principal components obtained with PCA.

For evaluation of the performance of our model, We will be using the confusion matrix, which will give me the False-Negative (FN), True Negative (TN), False Positive (FP), and True Positive (TP). True positive denotes the model that correctly predicted the dependent variable; false positive is the opposite where it incorrectly predicts positive when the correct value is false. True negatives are when the model successfully predicts a negative on the dependent variable when it was. A false negative is when the model predicts a negative when the real value is positive. The confusion matrix will be used to calculate the accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and sensitivity. These are the same metrics used in the main article that we are comparing our results to while also being an excellent way to measure the performance of a model. The metrics will be worked out using the equation shown in equations 3, 4, 5, and 6 below from the confusion matrix.

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{FP + TP + TN + FN} \quad (3)$$

$$Sensitivity = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \quad (4)$$

$$Specificity = \frac{TN}{FP + TN} \quad (5)$$

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \quad (6)$$

Accuracy metric is used to determine how many the model predicted correctly out of the entire dataset. For example, it predicts 25 TP and 25 TN out of a data set of 100, and it will have an accuracy of 50% ((25+25)/100). This is used as an indicator to determine if the model is performing well on balance data. Precision is the proportion of correctly identified positives in positives (fraud) in the dataset. Specificity aims at the accuracy of the negative (real transactions) cases.

Sensitivity tends towards the accuracy of positive (fraud) cases.

This study applied four machine learning models in four different machine learning algorithms with unbalanced data and balanced data by applying the novel DBA. We will split the dataset into 80% and 20% portions for the training and evaluation of these machine learning models. An 80% training set is employed to train the machine learning model, and the corresponding 20% testing set is employed for performance testing of the model. To evaluate the running model and the corresponding model performance in the testing set, we will use accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and precision to determine the model's effectiveness and compare it to the result of the base article, as shown in Table III.

TABLE III. ML PERFORMANCE WITHOUT DBA

Metrics	K Nearest Neighbor	Naïve Bayes	SVM	Logistic Regression
Accuracy	0.9881	0.9654	0.9984	0.9980
Sensitivity	0.9881	0.9885	0.9984	0.9882
Specificity	0.9420	0.0610	0.9733	0.8756
Precision	0.5754	0.8158	0.7307	0.5153

While Fig. 3 shows the comparative results of precision with the baseline models (without DBA), Khatri et al. [6], and Poongodi, k., et al. [7], when proposed DBA was employed on the dataset.
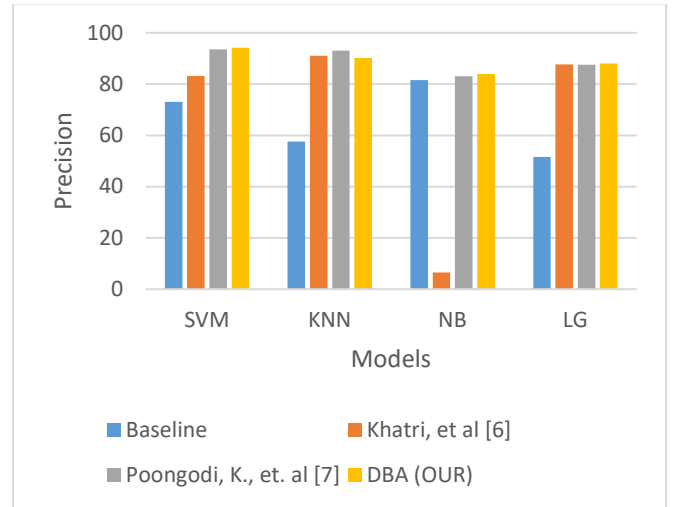

Fig. 3. Graph of the performance machine learning model

The accuracy of all models in prediction was almost equal in our study and the study of [6] and [7]. However, accuracy is not the only measure; credit card detection precision is also a significant factor; as shown in Fig. 3, our proposed algorithm has achieved high precision, especially with SVM.

V. CONCLUSION

Our experiments show that the logistic regression has an accuracy of 99.91%, and naive bays have an accuracy of 97.65%. K nearest neighbor has an accuracy is 99.92%, support vector machine has an accuracy of 99.95%. However, precision is the most important metric as the models are very good at predicting non-fraudulent transactions, making up more than 99% of the entire dataset. A successful model needs to be good at predicting fraudulent transactions, and this is measured through the precision metrics where the support

vector machine (SVM) is 94.13%. K nearest neighbour (KNN) precision is 90.20%, Naive Bayes precision is 83.98%, and logistic regression is 88.01%.

In selecting the best model, we adopt the support vector machine (SVM), as it has the best metric in the accuracy and precision of 94.13%, it comes out on top of the other metrics. We especially compared to Naive Bayes, which has a precision of 83.98%. However, the accuracy and specificity metric calculations infer that the Naive Bayes is better at predicting fraudulent transactions but shows bad results on predicting non-fraudulent transactions. This is why we adopted SVM, as it is essential to have a very high prediction rate for non-fraudulent transactions as almost all transactions are non-fraudulent. Comparing our result to the main article, our models all have a higher average accuracy of around 100%. However, our precision is much lower, where the main article was getting an average of around 99.6%. This occurred because our model is better at predicting both fraudulent and non-fraudulent transactions.

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