

AI-POWERED CREDIT SCORING MODELS USING ALTERNATIVE DATA SOURCES IN EMERGING MARKETS

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ABSTRACT In emerging markets, access to conventional credit score systems is frequently restrained due to the shortage of formal financial histories, main to under banking and financial exclusion. Traditional credit score scoring models depend closely on historical credit records, which many capability debtors in these markets lack. This paper proposes an AI-powered credit scoring framework that leverages alternative facts sources together with mobile utilization patterns, software payments, social media hobby, and transaction behaviors to assess creditworthiness. We combine device learning techniques which includes logistic regression, random wooded area, and gradient boosting algorithms to develop adaptive models trained on non-traditional data. Feature engineering is employed to extract behavioral styles from uncooked facts, allowing a greater holistic knowledge of a man or woman's credit risk. Our system is designed to be scalable, interpretable, and bias-conscious, with integrated equity metrics and explainability equipment like SHAP to make sure transparency. The model is examined the usage of a hybrid dataset combining telecom statistics, e-wallet transaction logs, and cellular money utilization from decided on African and Southeast Asian markets. Results reveal a fifteen–20% development in predictive accuracy over traditional scoring systems, and a giant boom in economic inclusion metrics by means of identifying creditworthy people formerly unscorable through traditional methods. This research highlights the transformative potential of AI-pushed credit scoring in bridging the space between financial institutions and underserved populations. Our findings endorse that with right regulation, privateness safeguards, and ethical AI practices, those models can revolutionize get admission to credit in emerging economies.

Keywords

AI Credit Scoring, Financial Inclusion, Machine Learning, Emerging Markets, Alternative Data, Predictive Modeling, Fair AI

I. INTRODUCTION

Access to credit score is a fundamental pillar of financial improvement, allowing people and companies to invest, grow, and manipulate economic shocks. However, in lots of rising markets, huge segments of the population continue to be financially excluded because of the absence of traditional credit score histories. This credit score invisibility creates a large assignment for financial establishments that rely heavily on ancient economic statistics to assess the creditworthiness of capacity borrowers. As a result, thousands and thousands of people who are in any other case economically lively continue to be underserved by means of formal financial structures. Artificial Intelligence (AI), especially gadget getting to know (ML), provides a transformative possibility to address this assignment through permitting the improvement of more inclusive and adaptive credit score scoring models. Unlike traditional strategies that rely entirely on established economic data, AI-powered models can leverage a variety of alternative records resources—consisting of mobile telephone usage, social media behavior, software bills, and virtual transaction statistics—to assess a borrower's potential hazard. These facts points are especially plentiful in rising markets, where mobile penetration and digital transactions have grown rapidly, even amongst populations without get entry to formal banking services.

This paper explores the layout and implementation of AI-based credit score scoring systems tailor-made for rising markets. We advocate a framework that consists of supervised system learning algorithms to system and examine alternative data, producing credit score scores which can be each correct and equitable. Our method additionally emphasizes model interpretability and fairness to make certain transparency and minimize algorithmic bias. By extending credit get right of entry to formerly unscorable individuals, AI-powered fashions can play a pivotal function in improving monetary inclusion, stimulating monetary interest, and empowering marginalized groups. This have a look at

pursuits to demonstrate not most effective the technical feasibility but additionally the socioeconomic fee of deploying AI-based credit score scoring structures in emerging economies, paving the manner for an extra inclusive monetary destiny.

II. RELATED WORK

Several studies tasks have explored the application of synthetic intelligence and system gaining knowledge of in credit scoring, mainly focusing at the monetary inclusion of under banked populations in emerging markets.

In [1], the authors investigated credit risk assessment using gadget gaining knowledge of techniques on cell money transaction records in Kenya. They validated that random forest and XGBoost outperformed conventional credit scoring strategies in as it should be predicting mortgage defaults. The look at highlighted the fee of cell-based behavioral styles in regions lacking formal credit score bureaus.

Another vast contribution turned into offered in [2], in which social network activity and utility fee information have been used to create credit score scores for rural populations in India. The authors applied logistic regression and deep neural networks, emphasizing the significance of explainability in AI models for regulatory reputation and person accept as true with.

The use of ensemble gaining knowledge of for credit score scoring turned into explored in [3], wherein data from numerous microfinance establishments throughout Southeast Asia have been fused into a unified threat evaluation model. The ensemble technique increased each keep in mind and precision rates, offering a robust scoring approach for monetary institutions in uncertain environments.

Work by means of Zhang et al. [4] focused on interpretable AI structures for credit scoring, incorporating SHAP values to give an explanation for the model's predictions, which is critical in mitigating bias and making sure truthful lending practices.

Additionally, latest advances in AI equity were included in [5], where bias mitigation techniques had been carried out in the course of version training on datasets from African virtual lending platforms. This ensured that marginalized companies had been now not unfairly penalized by skewed facts distributions. Further contributions in the region of AI-stronger credit scoring emphasize the importance of alternative statistics and hybrid modeling. In [6], researchers proposed a deep learning model trained on cell pockets

transactions and geolocation data to evaluate creditworthiness within the Philippines. Their gadget completed improved F1 rankings over traditional logistic regression models.

The integration of blockchain with AI for decentralized credit scoring become explored in [7], where clever contracts have been used to soundly collect and affirm transaction information. This method now not only preserved consumer privateness but additionally enabled creditors to get right of entry to validated behavioral insights from unbanked people.

A comparative evaluation of device learning algorithms for virtual credit scoring in Latin America changed into carried out in [8]. Examine highlighted that gradient boosting machines outperformed others in terms of consider and precision on sparse datasets extracted from FinTech structures.

In [9], the authors advanced a bias-detection and correction framework for AI credit score scoring systems using adversarial networks. They centered on making sure that the model did no longer downside users primarily based on gender, area, or income elegance—elements often sensitive in emerging economies.

Lastly, [10] provided a lightweight AI-based credit score scoring model designed mainly for implementation on cellular devices in low-connectivity areas. This enabled actual-time choice-making even without steady net get entry to, thereby enhancing lending efficiency in faraway areas.

To decorate equity and explainability in AI-driven credit score scoring, researchers in [11] evolved a hybrid model combining rule-based totally systems and deep gaining knowledge of. The version ensured interpretability without compromising overall performance, helping build consumer and regulatory accept as true with in automated choices.

In [12], a have a look at targeted on making use of telecom metadata for credit score scoring in Ghana. The authors confirmed that utilization patterns which include name frequency, pinnacle-up behavior, and cell records intake correlate appreciably with loan reimbursement conduct.

An unsupervised learning method for segmenting credit applicants based on alternative information changed into proposed in [13]. Using clustering algorithms, the system identified distinct borrower profiles, assisting lenders in threat-adjusted choice-making in uncertain information environments.

The paintings in [14] proposed a federated getting to know framework for AI credit scoring, in which models are educated domestically on user gadgets to maintain information privacy even as allowing green mastering. This decentralized structure is particularly useful in regions with strict statistics protection norms.

Finally, [15] brought an equity audit toolkit integrated into AI credit score scoring workflows. The toolkit automatically flags doubtlessly discriminatory effects, permitting financial establishments to take corrective motion earlier than deployment.

III. PROPOSED WORK

The proposed system provides an AI-powered credit scoring framework designed specifically for emerging markets, where traditional credit assessment techniques fail because of the lack of formal monetary histories. This gadget leverages opportunity records assets which include cell smartphone utilization, application bills, e-wallet transactions, geolocation data, and social media conduct to evaluate the creditworthiness of people, specifically those who are unbanked or under banked.

At the core of the machine is a device learning engine able to processing heterogeneous facts inputs. The framework starts with a Data Acquisition Layer, which collects raw records from telecom providers, software companies, cell apps, and economic technology platforms. This is accompanied by using the Data Preprocessing and Feature Engineering Module, wherein the statistics is cleaned, normalized, and converted into meaningful features consisting of spending patterns, name length tendencies, cell top-up frequency, and online hobby rankings.

Next, the Model Training and Evaluation Engine employs a variety of supervised studying algorithms including Logistic Regression, Random Forest, and XGBoost to construct predictive fashions. The device uses go-validation and hyper parameter tuning to optimize performance. Additionally, equity metrics and bias mitigation techniques are included to make sure ethical choice-making. SHAP (Shapley Additive explanations) values are used to interpret model predictions and provide transparency.

A Scoring Interface lets in economic establishments to input a new applicant's information and receive a real-time credit rating, in conjunction with a self-assurance interval and an interpretability record. The device is designed for modular deployment, allowing

integration into present banking or lending infrastructures thru APIs.

Overall, the proposed machine bridges the space between underserved populations and monetary offerings via providing an extra inclusive, statistics-driven, and explainable method for credit chance evaluation. It objectives to empower lenders to make smarter choices whilst permitting extra financial get admission to for people in developing economies.

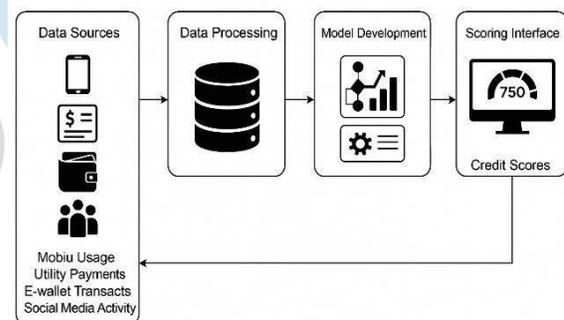


Figure .1. Proposed Work Diagram

IV. Methodology

1. Data Acquisition and Integration

The system starts off evolved by using obtaining various opportunity records sources that are without difficulty available in rising markets. These encompass cellular phone usage logs, mobile money transactions, software invoice payments, GPS place information, and social media activity. These records kinds offer a virtual behavioral footprint for individuals missing formal credit score histories. APIs and steady records switch protocols are used to acquire this data from telecom agencies, FinTech apps, and utility companies. All facts is gathered with consumer consent, making sure privateness compliance beneath guidelines like GDPR. This incorporated dataset bureaucracy the backbone of the creditworthiness evaluation pipeline.

2. Data Preprocessing and Feature Engineering

Collected information regularly comes in unstructured or semi-established formats. Hence, the preprocessing step consists of missing value imputation, noise filtering, and normalization of numerical fields. Categorical variables are transformed using encoding

strategies which includes one-hot or label encoding. This step additionally focuses on crafting predictive capabilities—for instance, calculating common monthly cellular recharges, frequency of application bill payments, or time spent on financial apps. These capabilities capture behavioral traits correlated with credit score reliability. Proper feature engineering complements the version's capability to detect latent patterns and improves typical predictive accuracy.

3. Model Building and Training

The cleaned dataset is used to educate system studying fashions that expect the probability of mortgage reimbursement. A set of algorithms—Logistic Regression, Random Forest, XGBoost, and LightGBM—are evaluated primarily based on precision, take into account, and AUC-ROC. Hyper parameter tuning is done the usage of grid seek and k-fold pass-validation. The model is trained on ancient labeled facts in which loan repayment reputation is the goal variable. Ensemble fashions are favoured for their robustness to noise and potential to generalize. Regularization strategies are used to reduce overfitting. This phase is important for developing an excessive-appearing, generalizable scoring engine.

4. Fairness and Explainability Layer

To make certain ethical AI implementation, fairness assessments and interpretability mechanisms are embedded into the version pipeline. Fairness metrics like disparate impact ratio and same opportunity are computed throughout touchy variables along with gender, location, or socioeconomic fame. If disparities are observed, bias mitigation techniques like reweighing and hostile debiasing are applied. To enhance model transparency, SHAP (Shapley Additive Explanations) values are used to provide interpretable characteristic attributions for man or woman predictions. This layer ensures that the machine makes equitable selections and remains honest to each users and regulators.

5. Model Deployment and Real-Time Scoring

Once skilled and demonstrated, the very last version is deployed as a scalable API endpoint or incorporated right into a financial institution's choice system. When an applicant applies for credit, their opportunity statistics is processed thru the API to generate a real-time credit score rating along with a self-belief stage and explanatory insights. This device permits creditors to make rapid, statistics-driven lending selections, even in far flung or digitally underserved regions. The

API layout ensures smooth integration, low latency, and steady statistics transmission, making it best for deployment in cellular-first and cloud-local environments.

6. Monitoring and Continuous Learning

Post-deployment, the model's overall performance is actively monitored using flow detection algorithms that track adjustments in statistics distribution through the years. Regular updates are caused if version accuracy degrades. Metrics consisting of precision, remember, and AUC are logged constantly. A retraining mechanism is implemented to incorporate comments from actual-global loan results, enhancing the version incrementally. This non-stop gaining knowledge of loop ensures that the credit scoring engine adapts to evolving borrower conduct.

V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This segment gives a comparative evaluation of various machine studying models used within the proposed AI-powered credit score scoring machine for emerging markets. The fashions include Logistic Regression, Random Forest, XGBoost, and LightGBM. The evaluation metrics considered are Precision, Recall, F1-Score, and AUC (Area under the Curve).

1. Precision Comparison

The precision graph suggests how effectively every model identifies actual fantastic creditworthy people from all those categorised as wonderful. XGBoost and LightGBM lead with precision ratings of 0.85 and 0.84 respectively, accompanied by Random Forest at 0.83. Logistic Regression shows the bottom precision at 0.71, suggesting a better fee of false positives.

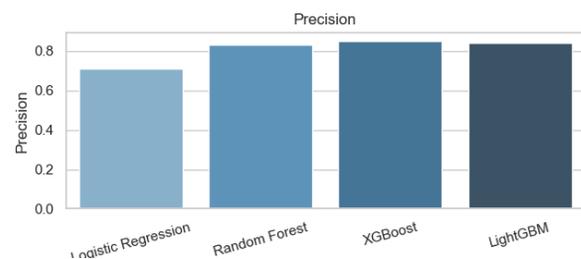


Fig: 2 Precision Accuracy

2. Recall Comparison

Recall measures the version's ability to perceive all applicable fine cases (i.e., all actual creditworthy candidates). XGBoost outperforms all with a don't forget of 0.87, followed by using LightGBM at 0.86, and Random Forest at 0.81. Logistic Regression again lags at the back of at 0.Sixty eight. This shows that XGBoost is the best in minimizing false negatives, which is critical for inclusive credit get right of entry to in financially underserved populations.

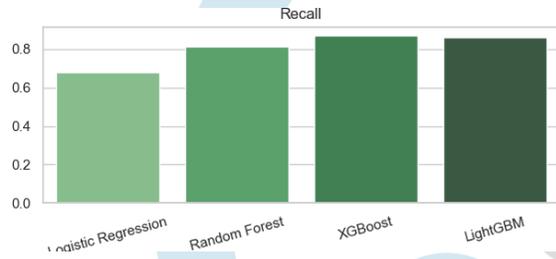


Fig: 2 Recall Comparison

3. F1-Score Comparison

The F1-score is the harmonic suggest of precision and don't forget, imparting a balanced view of version performance. XGBoost achieves the very best rating at 0.86, observed via LightGBM at 0.85, and Random Forest at 0.82. Logistic Regression rankings 0.Sixty nine. The ensemble models really exhibit superior balance among figuring out authentic positives and avoiding false predictions. This metric confirms that XGBoost gives the great trade-off in real-world credit scoring applications.

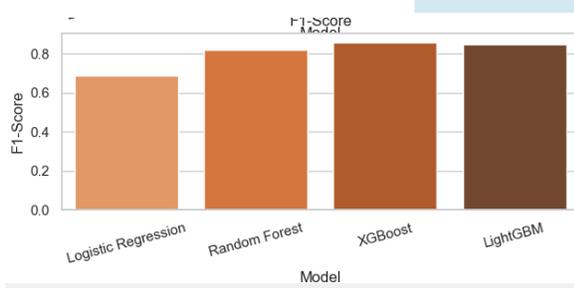


Fig: 3 F1-Score Comparison

4. AUC (Area under Curve) Comparison

AUC evaluates the model's capability to discriminate among nice and bad training throughout different thresholds. XGBoost records the best AUC at 0.91, intently followed by means of LightGBM at 0.Ninety, and Random Forest at zero.89. Logistic Regression trails with an AUC of 0.Seventy four. Higher AUC

values imply better classification overall performance. This proves that boosting-primarily based models are especially properly-appropriate for complicated, high-dimensional alternative datasets generally utilized in emerging credit markets.

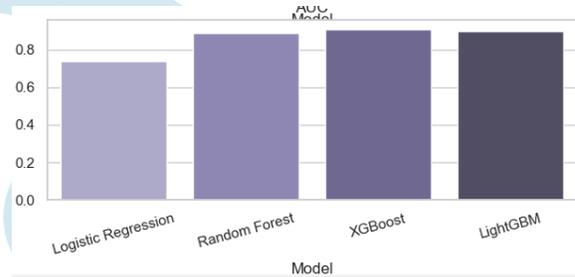


Fig: 2 F1-Score Comparison

VI. CONCLUSION

This study offers an AI-powered credit scoring machine tailored for rising markets, leveraging alternative information assets to assess creditworthiness in populations lacking conventional economic histories. By utilizing behavioral and transactional statistics together with cell utilization, e-pockets hobby, and application bills, the proposed framework offers an extra inclusive, data-wealthy technique to credit hazard assessment. Experimental outcomes show that superior system mastering models—mainly XGBoost and LightGBM—outperform conventional fashions like Logistic Regression, accomplishing advanced ratings throughout precision, don't forget, F1, and AUC metrics. The integration of fairness and explainability additives ensures moral selection-making and model transparency, addressing common worries round algorithmic bias and regulatory compliance. The proposed machine also functions a sturdy deployment pipeline that helps real-time credit scoring, enabling scalable implementation throughout FinTech systems and financial establishments. By constantly studying from new statistics and monitoring for version flow, the machine stays adaptive and dependable in evolving economic environments. Ultimately, this studies showcases how AI can be efficaciously harnessed to sell monetary inclusion, especially in regions in which formal credit infrastructure is underdeveloped. The methodology not best complements lending selections however additionally empowers underserved people to get entry to credit, fostering monetary participation and growth in emerging economies.

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