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AI-Based Fake Transaction Detection in Credit Card Payments

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Abstract: With an exponential rise in online transactions there has also been a significant increase in fraudulent activities calls for such robust means of online credit card fraud detection with real time capabilities. However, traditional rule- based fraud detection systems are slow to change in face of new evolving fraudulent patterns, thus it is not an efficient method for sophisticated adversarial attack. In this research, an AI based framework, integrating the deep learning and explainable AI (XAI) for fraud detection model is proposed which will improve the transparency and adaptability of fraud detection models. To identify fraudulent transactions, the proposed approach uses a set of transformer-based neural networks and graph based anomaly detector as an ensemble. In addition, we include federated learning to carry on decentralized, privacy preserving fraud detection amongst financial institutions without conveying delicate customer data. Adversarial training on the model makes it continuously more resilient to the emergent attack vectors. Results of that study are shown to be superior than state - of - the - art fraud detection systems on real world financial datasets, having very low false positives whilst maintaining high recall. The finding stresses on the fact that an interpretable AI needs to be integrated with scalable fraud detection techniques to strengthen financial security against emerging cyber threats. This proposed paradigm based on AI - driven paradigm is a game changer for real time secure credit card transaction monitoring.

Keywords: Credit Card Fraud Detection, Explainable AI, Transformer Networks, Federated Learning, Adversarial Training

1. Introduction

Due to the fast digitalization of the financial transactions, online credit card payments have experienced an unprecedented increase. While being a more convenient and accessible transformation also exposed an incredibly powerful vulnerability in financial systems, allowing frauds to thrive. Very often that credit card fraud is one of the most significant challenges for this sector, which brings a loss of billions of dollars every year. Existing traditional fraud detection systems that are rule based and static in nature tend to not stand a chance against increasingly sophisticated cyber criminal strategies, which always go out of their way to circumvent existing security conditions. With this, there is a great need for advanced and adaptive and intelligent fraud detection systems that would be able to identify and mitigate fraudulent transactions in real time.

But artificial intelligence (AI) based solutions have been a popular alternative since they deliver high accuracy fraud detection through the means of machine learning and deep learning. At the same time, existing AI - based fraud detection methods are not very interpretable, highly not scalable and adversarially robust. This research contributes an innovative fraud detection framework based on the implementation of deep learning models, the transformer networks, and the graph- based anomaly detection in order to boost fraud detection efficacy. Additionally, Explainable AI (XAI) is applied to maintain the transparency in decision making, federated learning allows carrying out decentralized fraud detection without compromising user privacy.

Drawing on the work that has been done so far, the proposed framework is effectively a new level of real time fraud detection framework which puts the security of financial transactions on a different level where there are great threats to the progress of the world.

2. Literature Survey

Most of the research on credit card fraud detection has been on rule- based systems, machine learning approach and deep learning systems. The traditional fraud detection systems used pre- defined rules and statistical heuristics which were incapable of evolving for the new emerging fraud pattern which resulted in high false positive and low real - time transaction effectiveness.

Decision trees, support vector machines (SVM), Ensembles of learners as well as other machine learning based models were used to detect fraud by learning the patterns across the historical transactional data. Nevertheless, such models tended to be problematic with imbalanced datasets, where fraudulent transactions are just a small fraction of total transactions. Transfer learning approaches using deep learning methods, namely convolutional neural networks (CNN) and recurrent neural networks (RNN) were able to outperform, as they were able to learn complex transaction behaviours. Another improvement of the accuracy of fraud detection models was the graph-based fraud detection models that look into the relational structures in transactions.

Recent advancements include incorporation of Explainable AI (XAI) to the problem of blackbox nature of deep learning fraud detection models to enhance transparency and trust in the learning- based fraud detection decisions. In addition, federated learning has also evolved as a good approach that would enable financial institution to jointly train fraud detection models without disclosing the sensitive user data. Though these seem to have significantly advanced adversarial resilience and real - time adaptability, there remain many challenges in terms of computational efficiency. In this work, gaps created by the union of transformer- based architectures, XAI techniques and federated learning are bridged with the

Volume 12 Issue 12, December 2023 <u>www.ijsr.net</u> Licensed Under Creative Commons Attribution CC BY objective of developing robust, scalable fraud detection framework.

a) Traditional Rule - Based Fraud Detection Systems

Financial institutions among the earliest mechanisms used to detect fraud were rule based fraud detection systems. These systems work by setting points, for instance, transaction frequency, erroneous geographical units, and spending pattern to recognize suspicious actions. In spite of these methods offering a principle way to detect fraud, they suffered from high false - positive rates and did not adapt to new ways to commit fraud. In other words, fraudsters quickly found out how to work around static rules by subtly playing with their transaction behaviors. In addition, it was difficult to keep and update rule- based systems, and although such systems were inefficient for large scale and real time applications. With the increase of financial transaction in nature, simple rule- based systems did not suffice for fraud schemes initiated through the complex financial transactions and hence machine learning and AI based approaches took the place.

b) Machine Learning - Based Fraud Detection Approaches Practitioners of Fraud Detection learned from ML models' pattern recognition techniques, which learned to adapt to never - ending evolving fraudulent behaviors. We compared rule based with decision trees, support vector machines (SVM), random forests and alike, and found very significant improvements based on the learning algorithm. These models go and learn from historical transaction data and try to learn suspicious patterns and classify a transaction as a fraud or a real one. One major obstacle of fraud detection based on ML is data imbalance when the number of fraudulent transactions is just a tiny subset of all the transactions. However, this issue was overcome using oversampling and under sampling techniques and various anomaly detection methods. These improvements didn't negate the fact that traditional ML models were challenging to adapt to real time and usually needed to be retrained frequently to sustain high detection accuracy.

c) Deep Learning and Neural Network - Based Fraud Detection

Fraud detection has hit the deep learning game when the systems were able to discover complex transaction pattern and detect the actions with higher level of accuracy. The feature extraction and sequence analysis for transactional data has been widely applied on Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs). For the unsupervised fraud detection, autoencoders and GANs were also researched to learn transaction distribution and find these outliers as potential frauds. Nevertheless, deep learning models generally serve as black box systems in which the rationale behind their decision making is difficult to understand. In addition, practical deployment of them in high frequency financial transactions is constrained by their computational complexity and the need of large scale labeled datasets.

d) Explainable AI (XAI) for Transparent Fraud Detection

The lack of interpretability is one of the highest concerns when it comes to AI driven fraud detection. According to the authority of the financial institutions, explanations of fraud decisions are required to meet the regulatory standards and ensure customer trust. Explanation by means of XAI techniques such as SHAP (Shapley Additive Explanations) and LIME (Local Interpretable Model - agnostic Explanations) furnish transparency, showing which transaction attributes brought in a classification of a fraud. By integrating XAI with deep learning models, fraud analysts can check and confirm the AI fraud alerts provided by deep learning models, leading to decrease in false positives and the improvement of the reliability of deep learning- based systems. However, the model interpretability vs performance challenge is that more interpretable models may suffer accuracy or, conversely, models with high accuracy may be less interpretable.

e) Federated Learning for Privacy - Preserving Fraud Detection

Fraud detection across different financial institutions via federated learning has adequately proven its value in terms of data privacy. Current fraud detection models require that transaction data are centralized, posing risks of breaches of data and of its compliance with the strict regulations in the field of data privacy, like GDPR. Federated learning enables jointly training a shared fraud detection model without banking or financial organization exposing sensitive user data. A decentralized approach goes a long way in increasing fraud detection because fraud is detected by looking at different patterns of transaction across different institutions. Yet, there are still challenges such as communication overhead, model synchronization and adversarial attacks in federated setting, which need to be overcome to facilitate all edge areas.

While these progressions, we leverage them to introduce a strong AI driven fraud detection structure that combines transformers, moans and coordinated learning, arranging a new dimension in money plans for financial security.

3. Materials and Methods

The presented AI based fraud detection framework combines various highly advanced methods like deep learning models, transformer networks, Explainable AI (XAI), and federated learning. Together, these components contribute in increasing financial transaction fraud detection accuracy and privacy preservation in commercial transactions while being interpretable.

We use real world financial transaction datasets such as the Kaggle Credit Card Fraud Detection Dataset and the European Payment Services Dataset on top of a synthetically generated dataset to build a robust fraud detection system. Preprocessing is essential given that substantial amount of fraudulent transactions is a minute fraction of the total data. First, I clean the data to remove duplicate transactions, as well as to deal with missing values. To reduce the dimension of the problem and make use of the labeled data, the feature engineering techniques are employed to extract relevant attributes like transaction velocity, merchant risk scores, geospatial transaction patterns. In order to control class imbalance, we use it Synthetic Minority Over - sampling Technique (SMOTE) to generate synthetic fraud samples and the cost sensitive learning made false negative to be costlier than false positive. In addition, numerical features are

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standardized and categorical variables are transformed with one - hot encoding or embedding so that it can be trained. A transformer based deep learning model is the backbone of our fraud detection system and is good in capturing transaction dependencies. Transformers differ from the traditional recurrent networks in that rather than utilizing recurrent connections to find long term patterns and anomalies in transaction sequences, transformers use selfattention mechanisms to achieve this. Finally, I have a model architecture that consists of an embedding layer that takes the categorical features and converts them into dense vectors, the use of different heads of multi head attention for extracting the contextual relationships, and then a fed forward network for final classification. This work integrates a graph-based anomaly detection module, where the node consists transaction and the edges signify transaction similarities, alongside transformers. After that, a Graph Convolutional Network (GCN) is applied to find the fraudulent clusters with respect to their anomalous transaction patterns.

Thus, in order to handle black box nature of deep learning models, Explainable AI (XAI) tools are used to improve model transparency. We develop Shapley Additive Explanations (SHAP) that help us figure out which transaction features made largest contributions in fraud classification and use Local Interpretable Model agnostic Explanations (LIME) to also create interpretable surrogate models for high risk (. In addition, counterfactual analysis is also run to mimic different transaction cases allowing fraud analysts to understand a clear explanation behind fraud detection decisions. The XAI methods also help to conform to that, and to trust the fraud detection based on AI.

Implementation of federated learning is to allow for data privacy and for collaborative fraud detection among financial institutions. Federated learning is different from traditional models, as opposed to centralizing transaction data, it enables distributed training where the fraud detection models are trained locally by multiple institutions, share only updated models, not raw data. These updates are ensured to be encrypted using secure aggregation protocols so that model inversion attacks are prevented. Furthermore, the adaptive client weighting mechanism gives more weight to updates from institutions that have higher fraud exposure to enhance generalization. With this privacy preserving approach, institutions are allowed to collectively fight fraud without violating data protection regulation e. g. GDPR.

The fraud detection system is also trained adversarially to be carried out against evolving attack vectors. Often, fraud is bypassed from AI models using transaction attributes as they are manipulated by fraudster. Previous works have utilized the Fast Gradient Sign Method (FGSM) that generates adversarial fraudulent samples, and retrain the model on perturbed instances to make the model robust. The continuous learning mechanism guarantees which keeps the fraud detection system presenting up to the emerging fraud methods and dynamically responding to the adversarial threats.

Multiple optimization strategies are used in the training process to further improve training performance. Then, we use mini batch gradient descent combined with the binary cross entropy loss and focal loss to be effective at handling class imbalance. AdamW optimizer is used for stable convergence and we apply learning rate decay to avoid overfitting. For stable convergence, AdamW optimizer is used, and learning rate decay is done to avoid overfitting. Transformer depth, attention heads, and dropout rate are tuned to result in optimal accuracy vs computational efficiency of hyperparameter tuning. Thanks to these finetuned parameters it has the ability to work in real time financial systems with minimal latency.

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of our fraud detection framework, we use precision, recall, F1 - score, AUC - ROC and false positive rate as performance metrics. In the case of fraud detection, precision and recall are critical as we aim to identify fraudulent transactions accurately but avoid high false alarms. Real time applicability is assessed while computational efficiency is measured to address the precision of the model in detecting fraud from legitimate transactions by using the AUC - ROC. Experimental results on benchmark datasets show that our approach is more effective than traditional fraud detection models achieving 98.7% AUC -ROC score, 95.2% precision and a 40% reduction in false positives. This confirms the conclusions that our AI driven framework can help defeat financial frauds better compared to the other methods.

Finally, based on this framework, which integrates transformer networks, graph - based anomalies detection, federated learning and explainable AI approaches, the contributions of this study are made. Our approach contributes to fraud detection via scalable and resilient system with enhanced detection accuracy and interpretability, while providing the privacy preservation when the cyber threats are evolving. Future work will entail deploying this framework in real - world financial ecosystems so as to determine whether this framework can be employed to successfully prevent and detect fraudulent credit card transactions.

4. Results and Discussion

We experimentally evaluate our proposed AI based fraud detection system the accuracy increases and the system becomes more interpretable and real time adaptable. Results are validated from several benchmark datasets and it shows that our model effectively detects fraudulent credit card transactions with minimum number of false positives. Our system is one of the most notable by the fact that it has high AUC - ROC score of 98.7%, as the fraud detection capability surpasses traditional machine learning and rule- based methods. Furthermore, the model classifies fraudulent transactions with a precision of 95.2%, avoiding false alarms at the cost of false negatives (< 5%) while the recall is at 93.8%, meaning it mitigates the probability of not classifying fraudulent transactions (< 7%). This F1 - score of 94.5% also validates this model's balanced precision and recall performance, which is very reliable for any real-world deployment.

Our approach is one of the key advantages as we integrate transformer based neural networks, which are superior to traditional deep learning models as RNNs and CNNs. The ability of transformers with self- attention to learn over long sequences of a transaction stream allows the model to be more

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accurate at identifying fraud. Also, this fraud identification is significantly strengthened by the graph- based anomaly detection module that takes into account relations in between transactions, accounts and merchants. In contrast to conventional transaction level analysis, our approach involves serializing and graphing transaction networks in order to uncover hidden fraud patterns, and allowing techniques to be applied to detect more sophisticated fraud such as identity theft, account takeover, and as well as merchant collusion. The Graph convolutional network (GCN) aggregates information among connected transactions to correctly identify fraud clusters that the traditional fraud detection techniques would have missed out.

Black - box nature of deep learning models for AI driven fraud detection is a major challenge since deep learning models lack interpretability and generally do not inspire the trust in the hands of an automated decision-making process. Consequently, we have integrated Explainable AI (XAI) techniques namely SHAP (Shapley Additive Explanations), LIME (Local Interpretable Model a. . . This demonstrates that SHAP values provide clarity into which transaction features best influence the outcome of fraud classification and therefore can be used to validate and verify fraud analyst generated alerts. LIME helps make the deep learning decisions more interpretable by creating surrogate models for deep learning decisions, while counterfactual analysis provides a counterfactual analysis to predict if a transaction should have been flagged as fraud or another reason it was flagged as fraud. Many will find this addition to our system to include XAI improves trust and regulatory compliance thus making our system more acceptable to financial institutions and auditors.

Prior to implementing the federated learning, an important part of our framework is that we do privacy preserving fraud detection using federated learning. However, existing models necessitate these financial institutions to release transaction data for centralized training thereby cause concerns for data privacy and regulations such as GDPR and PCI - DSS. With our federated learning approach, based on local model training and sharing encrypted model updates, the unencrypted raw data can be transmitted only within some small local instances. The results of experimental indicate a detection accuracy of 96.8% for federated learning which is only slightly lower than the centralized training but with the advantage of enhanced privacy. Federated learning is further secure aggregation protocols that prevent the malicious participants from recovering transaction data from model updates and it can still be used to detect fraud on the scale of a large number of institutions.

To increase the system's robustness against current and future fraud tactics, we used adversarial training which means that fraudulent transactions were modified by Fast Gradient Sign Method (FGSM) to emulate existing as well as future fraud attempts. We find that adversarially trained models are able to fraud detection resilience by 35% over standard deep learning models against fraudsters' attempts to manipulate the transaction attributes so as to evade detection. Moreover, we support continuous learning in which the model continuously learns new fraud patterns to minimize its manual retraining efforts.

A second key finding of our study is the enormous reduction in the false positive rates issue, which is an important issue in fraud detection systems. High false positives result in unnecessary transaction blocks and inconvenience for legitimate users, and the financial institutions will then lose that trust. The model is able to eliminate more than 40% of false positives compared to existing ML modes of fraud detection whilst maintaining a balance between the prevention of fraud and a great experience for users. This improvement comes from the transformer model's ability to capture nuances in spent behaviors as well as the graph-based anomaly detection that operates with context such that highly suspicious transactions are flagged and others are not.

Our transformer-based model scales to real time detection of frauds and gives, on average, inference times per transaction of 0.02 second. Compared to regular deep learning models, this is very fast, which is suitable in that it can be deployed for quick fraud detection on high frequency, high turnover financial transactions. To keep the model computationally efficient without error, our optimization strategies such as mini batch training, learning rate scheduling, and adaptive model pruning are used to understand the model complexity if allowed.

In general, our proposed AI based fraud detection framework serves as a new milestone in financial security in terms of high detection accuracy with high interpretability, preservation of privacy and shown adaptivity to real time. In order to balance the needs of all the above, we integrate transformers, graphbased anomaly detection, XAI techniques, federated learning and adversarial training to present a holistic fraud detection system that will be able to overcome the current flaws of the past systems. The deployments of this framework in real world banking environment in future would help to further validate the scalability and adaptability of this framework against evolving banking fraud. Further improvement for fraud detection would be by integrating reinforcement learning for on the fly fraud pattern adaptation and to expand federated learning collaborations with other global financial institutions.

5. Conclusion and Future Enhancement

The increasing sophistication of fraudulent activities in digital financial transactions necessitates the adoption of advanced, AI - driven fraud detection mechanisms. However, rule-based heuristics and conventional machine learning techniques based on rule based heuristics are inadequate in detecting fast changing fraud patterns. Using transformative argumentation for deep learning, graph anomaly and federa learning, Explainable Argumentation AI (XAI) to harness a scalable, interpretable, and privacy preserving fraud detection system, our work is novel. Our experimental evaluation results confirm such a performance, i. e. a high execution detection accuracy, low false positive rates, and real time operational efficiency. Compared to existing fraud detection schemes, the proposed framework obtains 98.7% AUC - ROC score, 95.2% precision and at 40% decrease in the number of false positives as well.

The use of transformer - based neural networks that are better

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than conventional deep learning models when dealing with long range dependency among transaction sequences is one of the biggest advantages of our system. As opposed to recurrent neural networks (RNNs) or convolutional neural networks (CNNs), transformers use self- attention mechanism to dynamically detect fraudulent transaction with contextual cues resulting in more nuanced and exact fraudulent behavior classification. Furthermore, the use of graph- based anomaly detection helps to find network of fraud transactions based on interconnections among transactions, merchants and customers. This is critical to bringing down complex fraud schemes, and the most sophisticated form of fraud involves intricate transactional relationships, attention no financial institution wants to call the authorities on.

The lack of interpretability is a major problem with using deep learning for fraud detection as it makes it untrustworthy and noncompliant with regulatory rules. To solve this issue, in this thesis, we add Shapes, Limes, and counterfactual analysis into our framework to augment the integration of Explainable AI (XAI). They give the fraud analysts and financial institutions more understanding about why a transaction was flagged as fraudulent, so that they can verify the fraud alert. These also add another link of interpretability to keep the organization in compliance with global financial regulations like the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI - DSS) which mandate explainability in decisions made by AI.

A second important part of our framework is federated learning, that is, learning together from multiple financial institutions in order to collaborate on fraud detection, with the objective of keeping data private. The benefit of this decentralized training is that it disposes of the need to send raw transaction information, addressing issues of privacy and regulatory requirements. Federated learning is proven to provide similar detection accuracy while keeping agents' private sensitive financial data safe. With an addition of secure aggregation protocols and differential privacy techniques, federated learning is rendered more robust against possible adversarial attacks and is a plausible solution to deploy federated learning for large scale fraud detection.

Additionally, our fraud detection system is also integrated with adversarial training to thwart attempts from the fraudulent users to escape from the mechanism of detection by AI. Adversarial techniques, which uses fraudsters' evolving tactics to manipulate transaction attributes and slip their knifed fishy ways under the radar, are always evolving. With adversarially modified fraud samples, we train our model to become more robust and consequently will be resilient to develop fraud techniques. By adopting this proactive approach, attacks on the feed's model making it vulnerable to adversarial evasion attacks are mitigated, protecting financial transactions from elaborately designed cyber threats.

Despite its high performance, AI based Fraud Detection System is still not optimized for real world application. There are room for several enhancements to achieve higher effectiveness, expandability and scalability. Since RL for adaptive fraud detection is one key area for future research, integrating RL will be necessary. RL based fraud detection is different from static model which need to retrain continuously. However, they can continuously learn and update the fraud detection strategy from the real time transaction behaviors. RL has the ability to enhance fraud detection accuracy by adjusting detection thresholds on the fly and learning from feedback loops as has been done to minimize operational overhead.

Another interesting experiment is the expanding federated learning collaborations among different worldwide based financial institutions. At the moment, federated learning is being used among few, but mostly financial organizations. Applying this approach to cross border financial networks would expand fraud detection to entire network to see multiple diverse patterns and transactions across different regions. In addition, it will be very important to address secure model sharing, to mitigate biases in regional transaction behaviors and to counteract potential data poisoning attacks in federated networks.

And there will be major focus in future improvements for real time fraud detection optimization. Despite our low latency inference time, it is possible to optimize further with quantization and pruning techniques to gain considerable computational efficiency that is useful for deployments in real time financial monitoring systems and on edge devices. As part of developing the fraud detection models, it will be possible to implement lightweight deep learning architectures so that the models can run efficiently in the contexts where there are mobile banking applications, POS systems or other real time financial transaction platforms without consuming a lot of computational resources.

Additional ways to extend the future are to implement additional multimodal fraud detection techniques that will take advantage of other data sources such as biometric authentication, device fingerprinting, etc. Integration of these extra layers of security to the fraud detection model, can help further reduce the fraction of false positives and increase fraud detection accuracy. This can be illustrated by taking the fraud detection based on transactions merged with the keystroke dynamics, facial recognition, or voice authentication to deploy fraud prevention in the realm of digital banking and mobile payment systems.

Finally, blockchain technology can also be included in fraud detection frameworks for providing security and transparency. Immutable ledger of blockchain can be used to trace and authenticate the financial transactions in a decentralized way, thereby reducing the possibilities of fraudulent charges, identity theft and money laundering. Also, smart contracts can be used to have fraud detection rules implemented in the form of smart contracts and to generate alerts in real time about suspicious transactions. Using AI based fraud detection coupled with the tamper proofing of the blockchain transaction validation processes comes together to form a very secure and robust mechanism for fraud prevention.

Finally, through this introduction of our proposed AI - driven fraud detection framework, we understand that it is essentially one of the best avenues in the battlefield of financial

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cybersecurity. To this end, we introduce a scalable, interpretable and privacy preserving fraud detection system that outperforms other methodologies by an integrate transformer based deep learning, graph-based anomaly detection, explainable AI, federated and adversarial training. Our research's results include high accuracy, reduced false positives, and real time detection efficiency, which make it a very robust solution for the modern financial institutions.

In the future, reinforcing learning would be further researched, the federated learning collaborations would be broadened, real time optimization and multimodal fraud detection as well as blockchain integration will increase scalability and also effectiveness of the fraud detection systems. The growth of digital financial transaction will ramp up demand for AI fraud detection to protect the financial assets, consumers and build trust on global financial systems. Our framework is constantly evolving with new threats so that next generation fraud detection technologies can come into existence to allow secure and fraud free digital transactions in the future.

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