BA 706 - Applied Analytic Modelling

Predicting Bank Application Fraud

Group 5

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Introduction and Objective

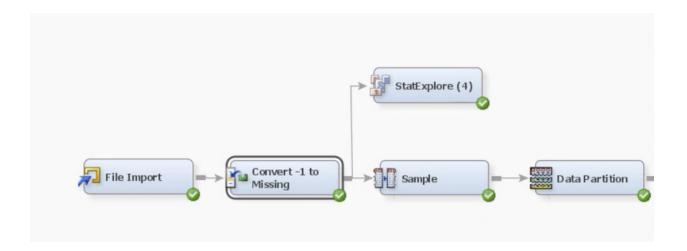
New Account Fraud is a major problem in the banking industry, and is one of the most common types of bank account fraud, accounting for 23% of all bank account frauds. It involves the creation of a new bank account using false or stolen personal information by the fraudster, which is then onboarded by the bank as a legitimate account. The account can then be used for various fraudulent activities such as money laundering, illegal transactions, credit card fraud, etc. For our project, the dataset obtained from Kaggle.com contains 1 million instances of synthetic bank account opening applications with 31 variables and a binary label indicating whether they were deemed fraudulent.

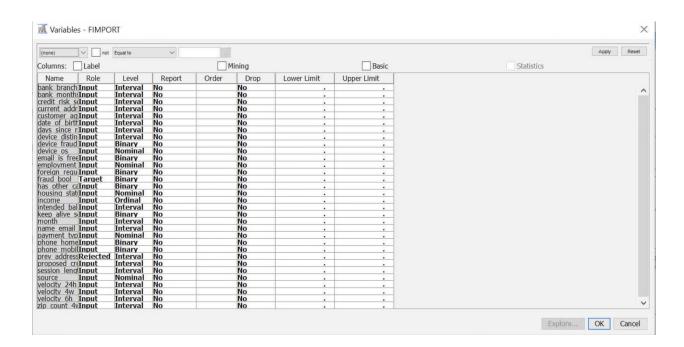
The objective of our project is to understand the key features that can predict fraudulent account applications from the dataset, and train machine learning models that can accurately predict fraudulent applications so that such applications can be flagged and investigated before they are approved by the bank. For this project, we will be training three types of models - Decision Trees, Logistic Regressions, and Neural Networks. The performance criteria for evaluating the accuracy of models will be Average Squared Error.

Data Setup and Exploration

Procedure

Kaggle Dataset->SAS Enterprise Miner ->File Import Node-> Import .csv file from H: Drive





Variables discussion

Target variable

We have chosen **fraud_bool** as our target variable as we are predicting bank fraud cases. It is of Binary level i.e.1 & 0, where 1 implies fraud.

Rejected variable

We have chosen **prev_address_months_count** as our rejected variable because all the missing values in this variable have been modified as -1 instead of 0. It is our redundant variable.

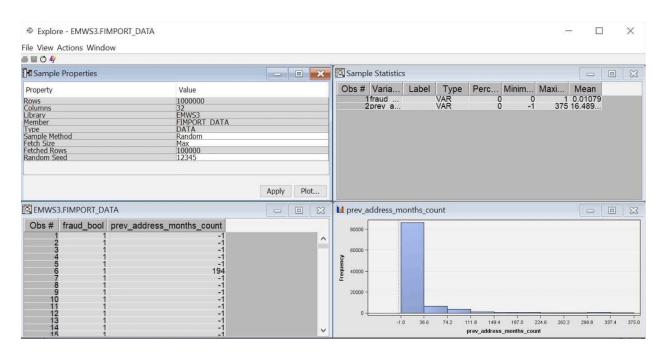
Binary variable

For our model, we have chosen some of our variables as binary such as device_fraud_count, email_is_free, phone_home_valid, phone_mobile_valid, has_other_cards, foreign_request, keep_alive_session.

Missing Data

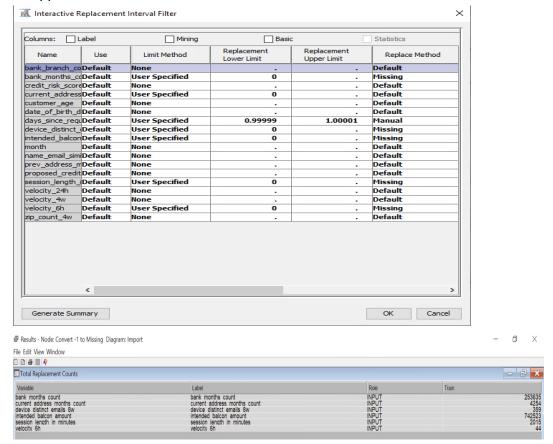
The dataset chosen from Kaggle had some disclaimers. One of which was, all missing values across variables have been modified as -1 instead of 0. Complications arose from this status quo as SAS Enterprise Miner needed to recognize -1 as genuinely missing. Besides that, -1 would have affected all models.

The screenshot below is illustrating one of the variables, prev_address_months_count. In the histogram we can see, that -1 has the highest frequency.



Therefore, as step 2 of our project, we added a Replacement node, to identify -1 as 0. In short, place the missings. The screenshot below shows all the successfully replaced values. For example- bank months count had 253635 rows replaced.

Since the values for days_since_request variables were concentrated mostly around 0 to 1, we created a flag for this variable using the replacement node. We set a lower limit of 0.99999 and an upper limit of 1.00001.



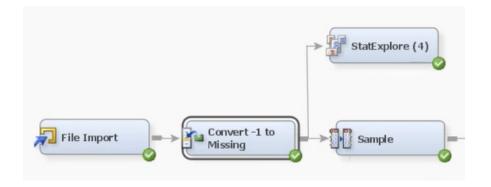
Skewed Data

While also exploring the dataset, preliminary perusal showed skewness in multiple variables. The cut-off for skew for this project has been set at -1 to 1.

Upon further inquiry, all the statistics for the interval inputs were brought to light. As per the table below, the variables days_since_request, bank_branch_count_8w, session_length_in_minutes, device_distinct, etc. are heavily skewed. For now, we have only treated days_since_request using the flag in the replacement node. But, more will be done in the latter parts of the project.

🗒 Interval \	/ariables			
Data Role	Target	Target Level	Variable	Skewness ▼
TRAIN	fraud bool	0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0	days since request days since request bank branch count 8w REP session length in REP device distinct em REP session length in BEP device distinct em BEP current address m BEP current address m BEP intended balcon a BEP velocity 6h BEP velocity 24h BEP device distinct em BEP velocity 24h BEP bank months count BEP bank months count BEP bank months count BEP bank months count BEP session length in BEP bank months count BEP session length in BE	
TRAIN TRAIN	fraud bool fraud bool	1	month REP bank months count	-0.07406 -0.27931

StatExplore



The screenshot below depicts the results of all the variables post the replacement node via a StatExplore node.

Data Role=TRAIN										
			Standard	Non						
Variable	Role	Mean	Deviation	Missing	Missing	Minimum	Median	Maximum	Skewness	Kurtosis
REP_bank_months_count	INPUT	14.86262	11.52785	746365	253635	1	15	32	0.039016	-1.62086
REP_current_address_months_count	INPUT	86.59212	88.40241	1000000	0	0	52	428	1.387191	1.35724
REP_days_since_request	INPUT	0.081734	0.273959	1000000	0	0	0	1.000005	3.053498	7.323862
REP_device_distinct_emails_8w	INPUT	1.019037	0.1767	999641	359	0	1	2	3.126065	27.9827
REP_intended_balcon_amount	INPUT	36.5825	23.23689	257477	742523	0.000054	32.43325	112.9569	1.301721	1.904417
REP_session_length_in_minutes	INPUT	7.562193	8.032021	997985	2015	0.000872	5.122822	85.89914	3.308576	14.97626
REP_velocity_6h	INPUT	5665.549	3009.207	999956	44	0.651202	5319.873	16715.57	0.562857	0.003057
bank_branch_count_8w	INPUT	184.3618	459.6253	1000000	0	0	9	2385	2.747161	6.502921
credit_risk_score	INPUT	130.9896	69.68181	1000000	0	-170	122	389	0.295895	0.068087
customer_age	INPUT	33.68908	12.0258	1000000	0	10	30	90	0.478079	-0.1152
date_of_birth_distinct_emails_4w	INPUT	9.503544	5.033792	1000000	0	0	9	39	0.70325	0.436449
month	INPUT	3.288674	2.209994	1000000	0	0	3	7	0.112396	-1.12833
name_email_similarity	INPUT	0.493694	0.289125	1000000	0	1.43E-6	0.492152	0.999999	0.042839	-1.28028
proposed_credit_limit	INPUT	515.851	487.5599	1000000	0	190	200	2100	1.30141	0.168839
velocity_24h	INPUT	4769.782	1479.213	1000000	0	1300.307	4749.919	9506.897	0.331134	-0.37365
velocity_4w	INPUT	4856.324	919.8439	1000000	0	2825.748	4913.436	6994.764	-0.06012	-0.35963
zip_count_4w	INPUT	1572.692	1005.375	1000000	0	1]1263	6700	1.456657	2.139983

The first few variables starting with the prefix REP, refer to the ones which have been modified in the previous step, the replacement node. We used the node to replace missing values and flag values. For example, REP_device_distinct_emails_8w has 359 missing values in the dataset and 999641 non-missings. Similarly, all the variables which have undergone replacement have their missing and non-missing listed in the 3rd and 4th columns with the REP prefixes.

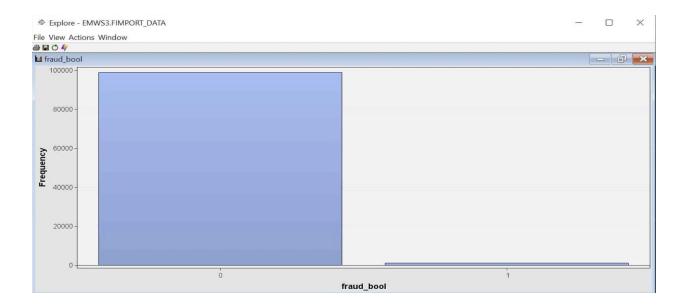
We can refer to the means and standard deviations of all the inputs from the first 2 columns. For instance, the average credit risk score for all the clients in the bank is around 130.98, with a standard deviation of 69.6 bps on both the positive and negative scales.

Minimum, Median, and Maximum values give an overall view of the data. The minimum or youngest customer is 10 years old, the median is 30 years old and the maximum is 90 years old at this bank. Lastly, we can also view the skew for each input in this output panel too.

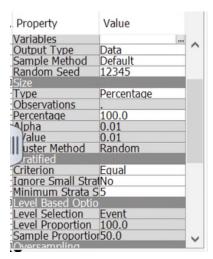
Data Oversampling

The dataset we are working with has Bank Account Fraud data points. Fraud is usually a rare event that is denoted by binary variables 0 and 1. In our dataset, the percentage of fraud is 1%, which is extremely low for data testing.

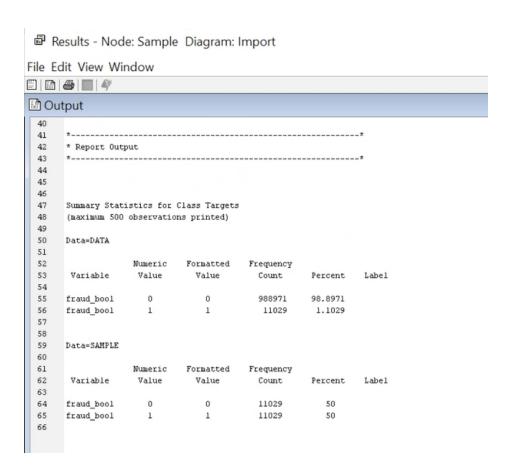
As depicted in the screenshot below, the accounts of 'No Fraud' severely outweigh the 'Fraud' events.



To bring a balance to the data, we are oversampling fraud events. We decided to keep a 50:50 ratio of 0 vs. 1. Using the Sample node in SAS, we adjusted the percentage by 100% and equaled it in the stratified criterion. The properties panel screenshot is below:



The screenshot below refers to the post-run results on the 'Sample' node. The initial dataset had almost 99% of non-fraud events. Whereas, after the successful run of the Sample node, the new percentages are 50:50 for fraud_bool(0 vs. 1).



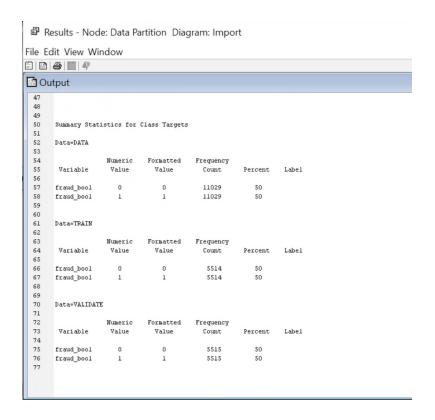
Data Partitioning: 50:50

Data partition is a procedure for best model prediction. We have split our data into two parts i.e., a 50:50 ratio for training and validation. Training data is used to fit each model and the validation model is a random sample that is used for model selection.

For data partition, we drag the data partition node from the sample tab and connect it to our data set, and as depicted in our screenshot we changed the properties of training and validation data set allocation to 50% in both.

. Property	Value	
Variables		
Output Type	Data	^
Partitioning Metho	Default	
Random Seed	12345	
■Data Set Allocatio		
Training	50.0	
- Validation	50.0	
^{i.} Test	0.0	
eport		
III terval Targets	Yes	
ass Targets	Yes	
atus		
Create Time	13/12/22 10:39 P	
Run ID	16fe325a-9481-49	
Last Error		
Last Status	Complete	
Last Run Time	13/12/22 10:49 P	
Run Duration	0 Hr. 0 Min. 5.93	
Grid Host		~
Hear-Added Mode	No	

After making the necessary changes we ran our data partition node and viewed the results. As per the results that can be seen in our screenshot, training data has been allocated 50:50 to 0 vs 1 and their frequency count is 5514 for each. Validation data has also been allocated 50:50 and their frequency count is 5515 for each.



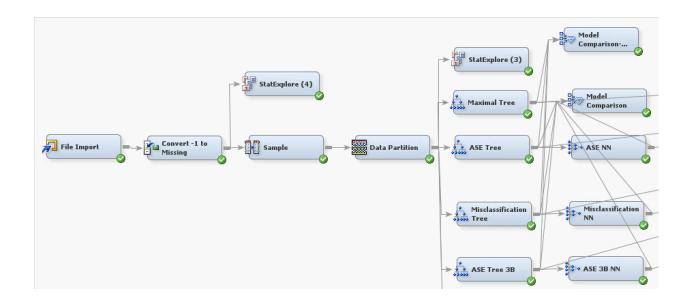
Decision Trees

After partitioning our data, we continue with the data analysis and one of the most effective methods for predictive modeling is decision trees. A split search strategy is used to choose the inputs, and it eliminates any variables with p-values less than 0.7. Pruning makes decision trees less complex by limiting the variables in the final tree to those with p values greater than or equal to 1. The Root Node is the first split, while the Leaf Nodes are the last splits.

We have implemented four different decision trees for this project:

- Maximal Tree
- ASE Tree
- Misclassification Tree
- ASE 3B Tree

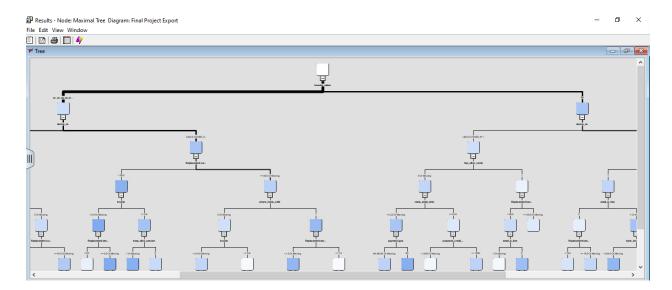
The screenshot of the Decision Trees is shown below.



Maximal Tree

Out of four different trees, we performed the Maximal Tree as our first decision tree. This tree is the largest statistically. This model has 55 leaves.

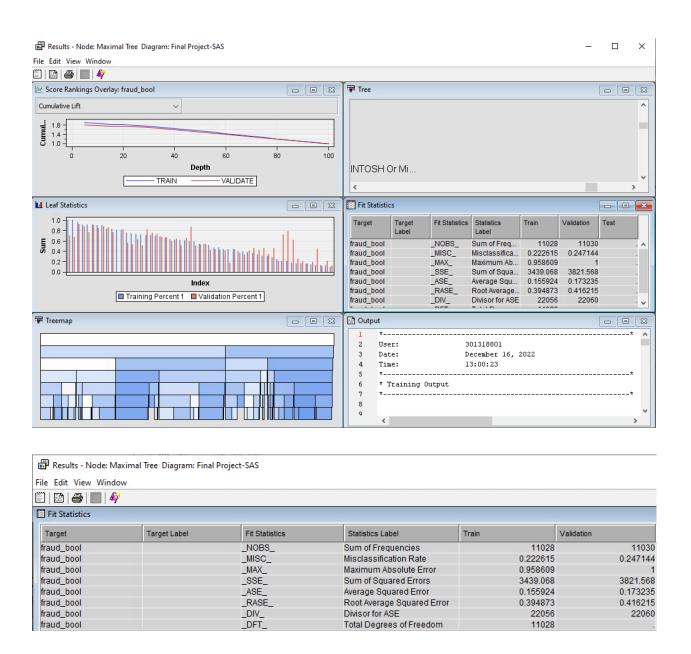
The root node is split using 'housing_status', followed by 'device_os'. The 3rd splitting variable has changed with respect to each of the branches either to 'has_other_cards' or 'replacement: current_address'. Screenshot below.



From the variables split, we see that more than 60% of the count has swayed to a housing_status besides BA. BA has a fraudulent validation rate of 77.27% compared to non-BA where fraudulent validation is 33.78%. Following BA, those with MAC, WINDOWS have the

higher fraud validation rate of 85.55%. The 3rd split on this has_other cards, and those who have shown 0 or missing cards have a validation rate of 87.37%.

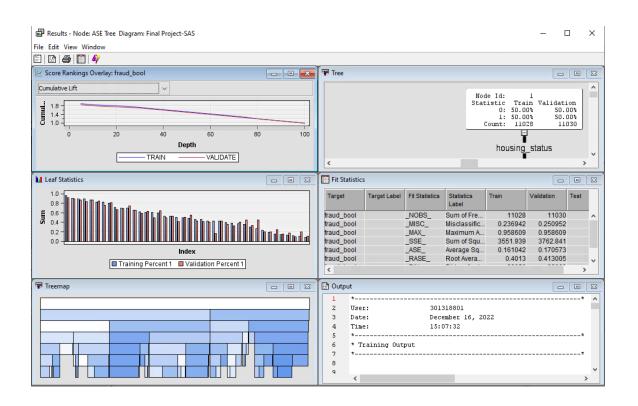
Having mentioned one area of the maximal tree, the ASE derived from the maximal tree was **0.173235** which is the highest among all the trees. The misclassification rate was 0.222615 for the maximal tree. The screenshot below shows the result of maximal tree.

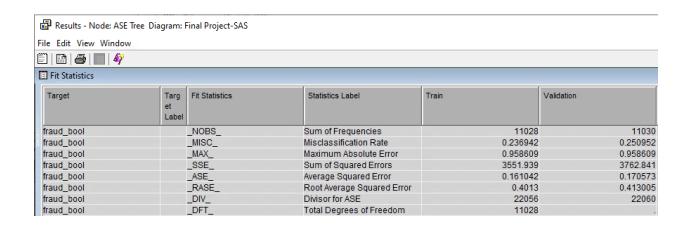


ASE Tree

As expected the first 3 splits and validation rates remain the same, as optimal trees are produced by pruning branches from the bottom. We can refer to the tree map in the picture below. It is less dense than maximal. ASE tree contains 40 leaves which are lower than the maximal tree

Given the reduction in the number of leaves, ASE has pruned the tree to its best. The ASE obtained from the ASE tree was **0.170573**, slightly lower than the Maximal Tree.

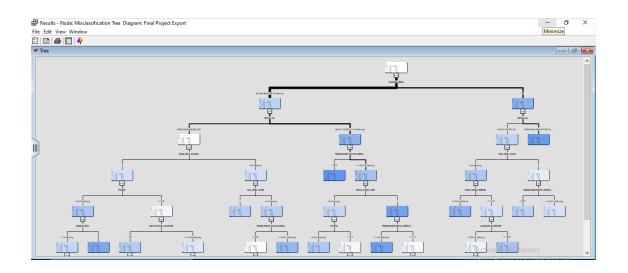


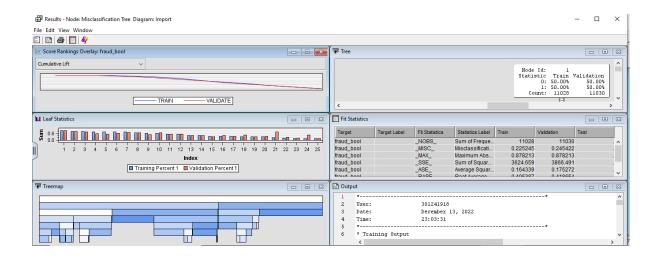


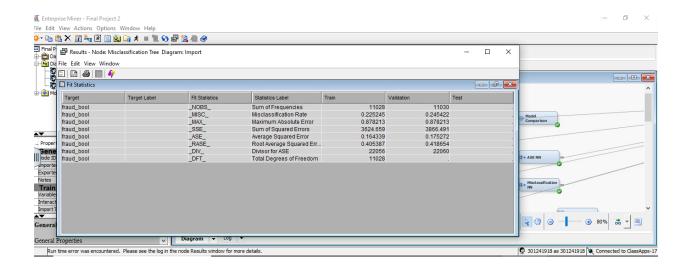
Misclassification Tree:

This model contains 25 leaves altogether, which is much fewer than the preceding decision trees when compared to their total number of leaves. However, the misclassification tree's ASE is the highest of all the trees at **0.175272**. A screenshot of the maximal tree's outcome is shown below.

Even though pruning is an efficient way to reduce error rates, it can also do the opposite. Such is this tree, where the tree has been pruned to an extent that the error rates are rising. So far, this is the worst decision tree model.



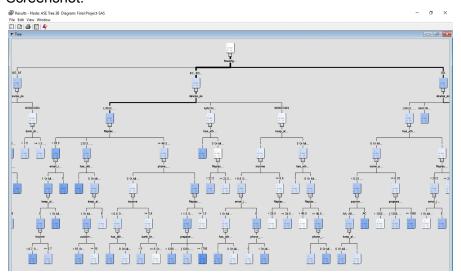




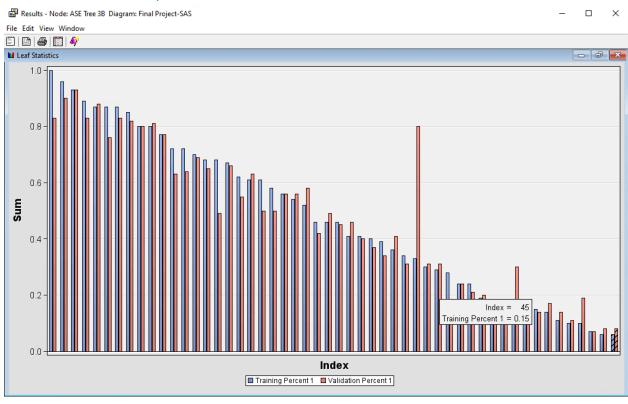
ASE 3-Branch Tree

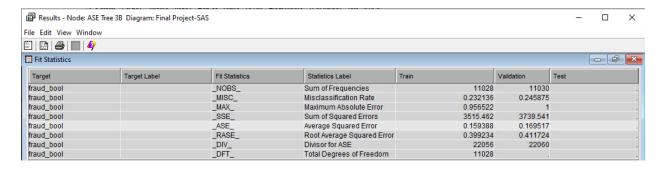
After exploring the 3 different trees, a 3-branch tree was deemed fit. However, due to the default function of SAS Enterprise Miner, we were getting 2 branches as main splits from the 'Root Node'.

While deciding on the model to apply a 3-branch on, ASE 2-Branch Decision Tree proved best. The ASE derived from ASE Tree (2B) was 0.170573 which is the lowest among all the trees. So we created a 4th tree using ASE Tree (2B) as the base, only with 3 branches this time. Screenshot:

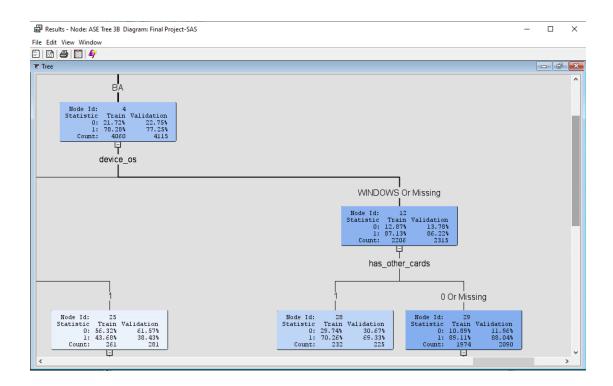


The number of leaves for this 3-branch tree is 52 and the ASE is 0.169517 which is the best so far and has been the expected result.





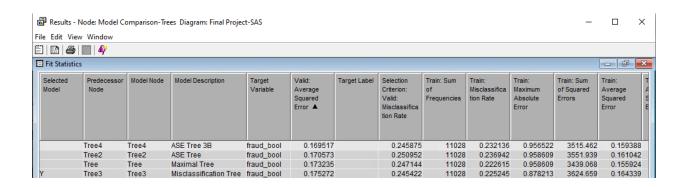
The splits on this tree give more insight than the trees above due to its 3 branch property. In comparison to the maximal tree BA fraudulent validation rate remains at 77.27%. However, we start to see changes in the next splits. Previously, MAC, WINDOWS & Missing split on BA derived an 85.55% fraudulent validation rate, now it has been split into 2 groups. Those using WINDOWS or Missing devices have a fraudulent validation rate of 86.22%. has_other _cards which are denoted as 0 or Missing have a fraudulent validation rate of 88.04% compared to maximal tree's 87.37%.



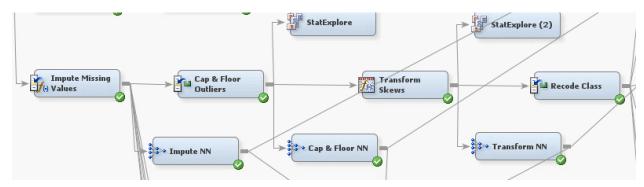
However, we further fine-tune our Trees with Neural Network nodes which will be covered in the Neural Network Section.

Model Comparison: Trees

Since we have created a few decision trees, we attached a model comparison node to all the trees. This node gives a concise snapshot of all the relevant statistics. In short, ASE with 3 branches is the Best Optimal Tree with 0.169517, followed by ASE 2-branch Tree with 0.170573. The Maximal Tree places 3rd with 0.173235, and the least reliable tree is Misclassification Tree with 0.175272. Screenshot below:

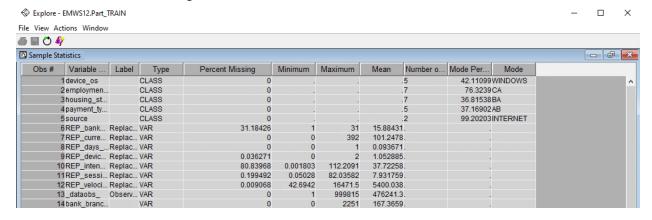


Data Manipulation

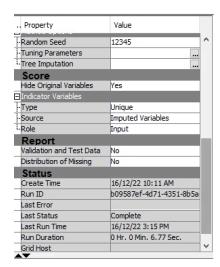


We have followed the following processes to refine our data:

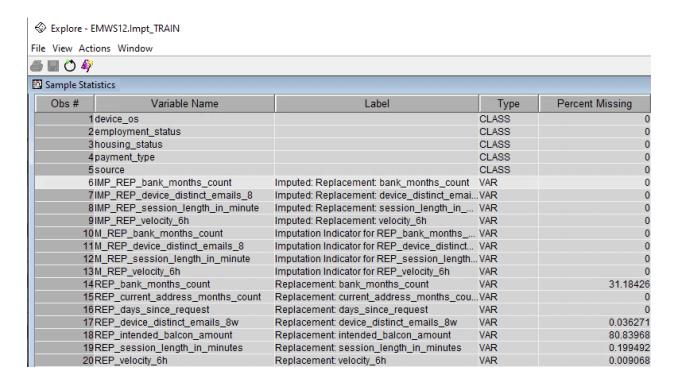
1. Impute Missing Values-After partitioning the data 50:50, we were still left with significant missing values. When it comes to regression, we could have left the missings untreated, but we preferred to work with a treated dataset. As per the screenshot below, we had up to 80% data missing in some cases.



The customizations we used for the impute node are given below:

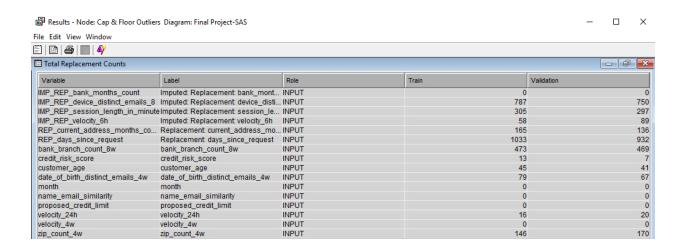


After running the impute node, new variations of inputs were created with the prefix IMP short for impute. From the picture below, M_REP_banks_months_count had 31.184% missing, which is now 0% as per the new imputed version(IMP_REP_bank_months_count). The results are similar for both training and validating data.

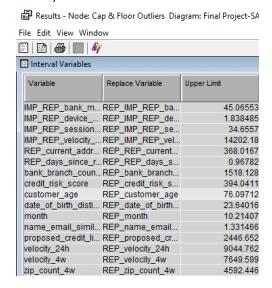


Cap and Floor-Having treated missings, we needed to adjust the outliers in the dataset.We added a replacement node to cap and floor the extreme values.

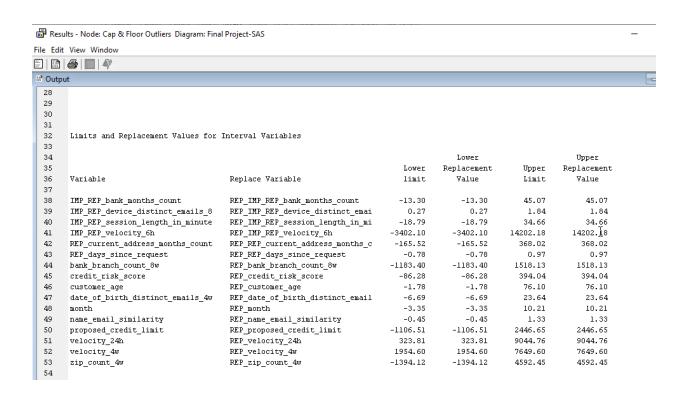
Results referred to below after running Cap & Floor:



There have been multiple replacements in the overall dataset. For instance, customer age had 45 replacements in train data and 41 in validation data. The previous maximum age was 90 years old (refer to StatExplore in Data Exploration). Now the upper limit is 76.097 (screenshot below):



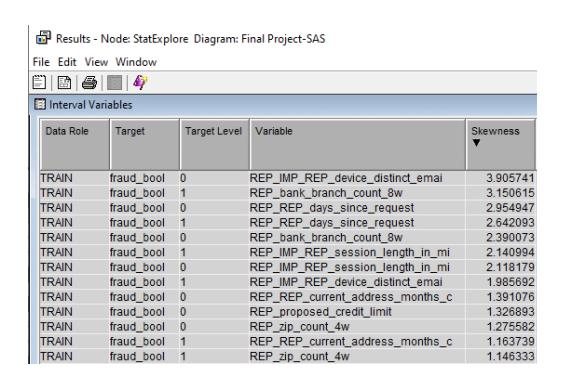
The following screenshot is a consolidated list of all the upper and lower limits for each variable. The range between the limits is quite vast in terms of magnitude. There are chances of skews sustaining.



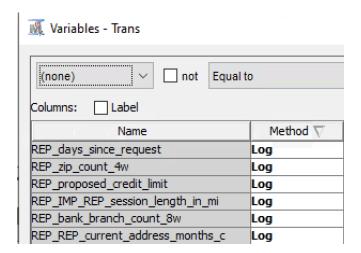
3. Transform Skews-The initial skews for the inputs were as high as 9 whereas it should be between -1 to 1.

The skews below show the before of transformation. Most of the variables are skewed positively. Three of the highly skewed variables are:

- REP_IMP_REP device_distinct_email- 3.9.
- REP bank branch count 8w-3.15
- REP_REP_days_since_request -2.95



We edited the variables with the highest skews with a log transformation. In the variables edit panel, we opened the interval variables and chose 'log' instead of 'default' to minimize skew. We changed 6 variables. The variables are given below:



After transforming variables, the skews are as follows:

Data Role=TRAIN									
Variable	Role	Mean	Standard Deviation	Non Missing	Missing	Minimum	Median	Maximum	Skewness
LOG_REP_IMP_REP_session_length_i	INPUT	1.885558	0.698889	11028	0	0.049057	1.813917	3.573909	0.418206
LOG_REP_REP_current_address_mont	INPUT	4.129014	1.18554	11028	0	0	4.317488	5.910842	-1.01391
LOG_REP_bank_branch_count_8w	INPUT	2.294334	2.165631	11028	0	0	2.079442	7.325891	1.050047
LOG_REP_proposed_credit_limit	INPUT	6.105275	0.894113	11028	0	5.252273	5.303305	7.650169	0.426677
LOG_REP_zip_count_4w	INPUT	7.194527	0.614542	11028	0	2.639057	7.173192	8.432386	-0.33139
REP_IMP_REP_bank_months_count	INPUT	15.88431	9.727075	11028	0	1	15.88431	31	-0.10056
REP_IMP_REP_device_distinct_emai	INPUT	1.045324	0.21584	11028	0	0.267284	1	1.838485	2.641262
REP_IMP_REP_velocity_6h	INPUT	5396.566	2922.976	11028	0	42.6942	5081.81	14202.18	0.549797
REP_REP_days_since_request	INPUT	0.090656	0.282007	11028	0	0	0	0.96782	2.789475
REP_credit_risk_score	INPUT	153.9016	79.9823	11028	0	-86.283	147	378	0.212643
REP_customer_age	INPUT	37.1404	12.92266	11028	0	10	40	76.09712	0.322286
REP_date_of_birth_distinct_email	INPUT	8.458159	4.98683	11028	0	0	8	23.64016	0.675764
REP_month	INPUT	3.432989	2.260361	11028	0	0	3	7	0.008786
REP_name_email_similarity	INPUT	0.440276	0.297063	11028	0	0.000132	0.398713	0.999985	0.275152
REP_velocity_24h	INPUT	4684.161	1453.113	11028	0	1328.41	4694.3	9044.762	0.315318
REP_velocity_4w	INPUT	4802.102	949.1657	11028	0	2863.783	4860.331	6889.978	0.019002

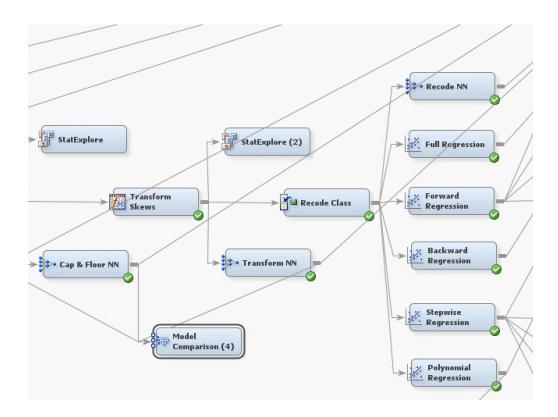
Most of the skews have reduced and come inside the acceptable range of -1 to 1. There are only 2 variables where skews still persist, device_distinct_email and days_since_request. Both are around 2 which is still an improvement over the pre-transform state. After careful consideration, we have decided to leave these 2 variables as is.

- 4. Recode Class Variables-All the transformations done so far mostly impacted interval variables. In the case of class variables, we wanted to recode some class variables. We were given limited options in the dataset. The only options which made sense were:
 - Employment status
 - Housing status
 - Payment type
 - Income

The first 3 options on paper seem feasible, however, the data dictionary did not suffice. Very little clarity was provided on the acronyms, hence, we did not have a basis to group the classes. Income was naturally the only variable we decided to recode. Classes ranged from 0.1 to 0.9. We divided the data into 3 classes and took the mean for each class and denoted the class with the mean value. For example, 0.1, 0.2, and 0.3 all were classed as 0.2. Due to SAS limitations, we could not assign the degree of income in terms of 'High', 'Med', and 'Low', though it would have been ideal.

Variable	Formatted Value	Replacement Value
lousing_status	DE	
nousing_status	BD	
nousing_status	BF	
nousing_status	BG	
nousing_status	_UNKNOWN_	_DEFAULT_
ncome	0.9	0.8
ncome	0.8	0.8
ncome	0.1	0.2
ncome	0.6	0.5
ncome	0.7	0.8
ncome	0.4	.5
ncome	0.2	0.2
ncome	0.5	0.5
ncome	0.3	0.2
ncome	LINKNOWN	DFFAULT

Regressions



For our model, we have chosen logistic regression for the analysis.

Logistic regression uses previous observations from a data set to predict a binary outcome, such as yes or no. By examining the correlation between one or more already present independent variables, a logistic regression model forecasts a dependent data variable.

Logistic Regression Prediction Formula

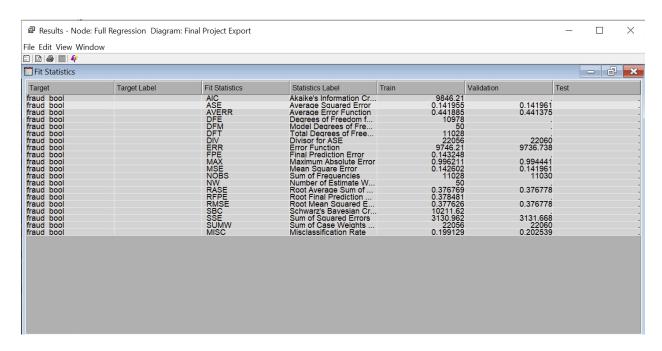
$$\log\left(\frac{\hat{p}}{1-\hat{p}}\right) = \hat{w}_0 + \hat{w}_1 \cdot x_1 + \hat{w}_2 \cdot x_2 \quad \text{logit scores}$$

We have used 4 types of regression i.e.,

- Full Regression
- Forward Regression
- Backward Regression
- Stepwise Regression
- Polynomial Regression

Full Regression

We first conducted a full regression of our model. As per the screenshot it can be depicted that the ASE of full regression is **0.141961**.

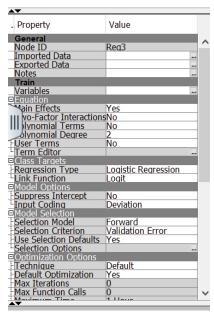


_ Out	put		
224			
225			
226	Odds Ratio	Estimates	
227			
228			Point
229	Effect		Estimate
230			
231	M_REP_bank_months_count	0 vs 1	1.120
232	M_REP_device_distinct_emails_8	0 vs 1	4.706
233	M_REP_session_length_in_minute	0 vs 1	2.567
234	M_REP_velocity_6h	0 vs 1	4.572
235	REP_LOG_REP_IMP_REP_device_disti		15.692
236	REP_LOG_REP_IMP_REP_session_leng		0.968
237	REP_LOG_REP_REP_current_address_		1.385
238	REP_LOG_REP_bank_branch_count_8w		0.932
239	REP_LOG_REP_proposed_credit_limi		1.088
240	REP_LOG_REP_zip_count_4w		1.282
241 242	REP_REP_IMP_REP_bank_months_coun		1.017
242 243	REP_REP_IMP_REP_velocity_6h REP REP REP days since request		1.000
243 244	REP_REP_REP_days_since_request REP_REP_credit_risk_score		1.497
244 245	REP_REP_credit_risk_score REP_REP_customer_age		1.002
246	REP REP date of birth distinct e		0.989
247	REP REP month		1.037
248	REP_REP_month REP REP name email similarity		0.326
249	REP REP velocity 24h		1.000
250	REP REP velocity 4w		1.000
251	REP income	0.2 vs 0.8	0.520
252	REP income	0.5 vs 0.8	0.610
253	device os	linux vs xll	0.826
254	device os	macintosh vs xll	1.889
255	device os	other vs xll	1.076
256	device os	windows vs x11	2.843
257	email_is_free	0 vs 1	0.544
258	employment status	CA vs CG	0.362
259	employment status	CB vs CG	0.196
260	employment status	CC vs CG	0.443
261	employment status	CD vs CG	0.128
262	employment status	CE vs CG	0.116
263	employment_status	CF vs CG	0.154
264	foreign_request	0 vs 1	0.535
265	has_other_cards	0 vs 1	3.449
266	housing_status	BA vs BG	2.138
267	housing_status	BB vs BG	0.601
268	housing_status	BC vs BG	0.676
269	housing_status	BD vs BG	1.016
270	housing_status	BE vs BG	0.479
271	housing_status	BF vs BG	0.796
272	keep_alive_session	0 vs 1	1.989
273	payment_type	AA vs AE	1.560
274	payment_type	AB vs AE	2.161
275	payment_type	AC VS AE	3.147
276	payment_type	AD vs AE	2.229
277	phone_home_valid	0 vs 1	2.578
278	phone_mobile_valid	0 vs 1	1.342
279	source	INTERNET VS TELEAPP	0.442

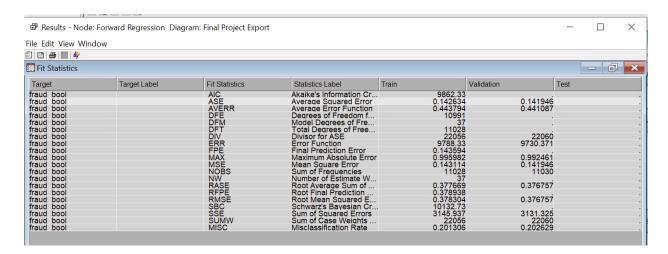
As per the odds ratio, REP_LOG_REP_IMP_REP_device_disti is 15.692 times related to bank fraud and M_REP_velocity_6h is 4.572 times related to bank fraud.

Forward Regression

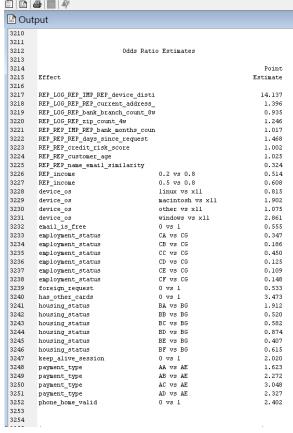
For forward regression, we changed the model selection to forward and the selection criteria are Validation error.



As per the forward regression model, our ASE is **0.141946** which is slightly better than full regression.



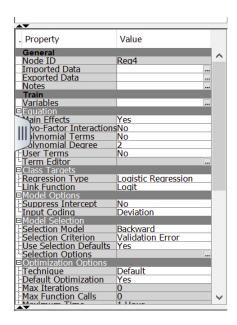
■ Results - Node: Forward Regression Diagram: Final Project Export
 File Edit View Window
 □ □ □ □ □ □



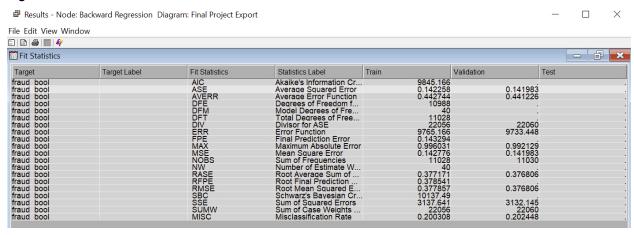
As per our output window, REP_LOG_REP_IMP_REP_device_disti is 14.137 times related to bank fraud and has_other_cards is 3.473 times related to bank fraud.

Backward Regression

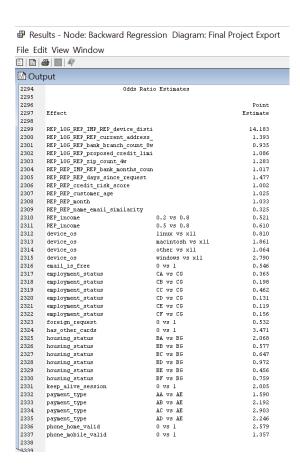
For backward regression we changed the model selection to backward and the selection criteria is Validation error.



As per backward regression model, our ASE is **0.141983** which is worse than full and forward regression.

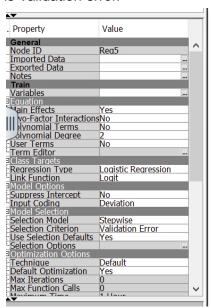


As per our odds ratio in the output window REP_LOG_REP_IMP_REP_device_disti is 14.183 times related to bank fraud and has_other_cards is 3.471 times related to bank fraud. This can be seen in the screenshot attached below.

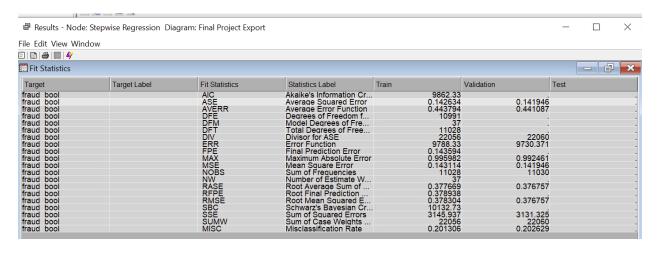


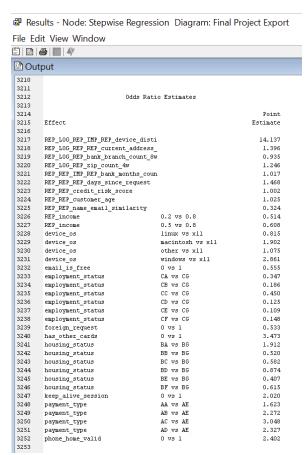
Stepwise regression

For stepwise regression, we changed the model selection to stepwise and the selection criteria is Validation error.



As per stepwise regression model our ASE is **0.141946** which is same as forward regression.

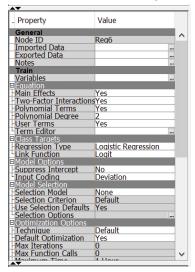




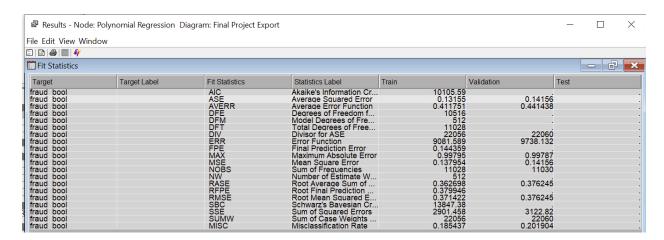
As per our output window, REP_LOG_REP_IMP_REP_device_disti is 14.137 times related to bank fraud and has_other_cards is 3.473 times related to bank fraud, which is same as forward regression.

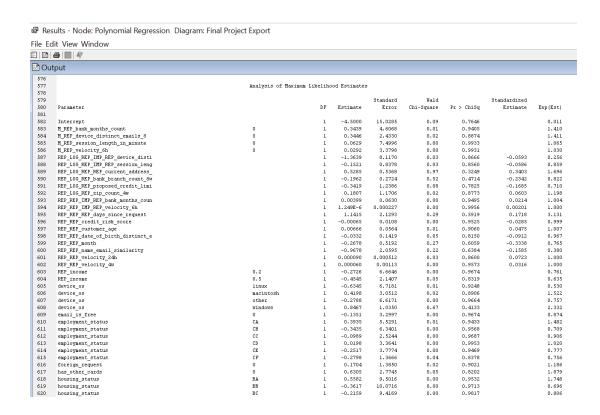
Polynomial regression

For stepwise regression we didn't change any model selection and the selection criteria but instead we made changes in the equation tab.



As per polynomial regression model, our ASE is **0.14156** which is best amongst all the regression models.





Neural Networks

A neural network is a collection of linked input-output variables, where each link has a certain weight that affects the result. The input variables for neural networks are linear combinations of nonlinear functions. This methodology is strong as well as very generic for both regression and classification, and it has been proven to be the most effective machine learning technique for a variety of issues.

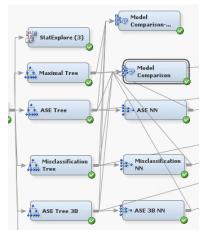
We attached neural nodes to 5 sections:

- Decision Trees NN
- Forward Regression NN
- Polynomial Regression NN
- Data Manipulation NN
- Additional NN

Decision Trees Neural Networks

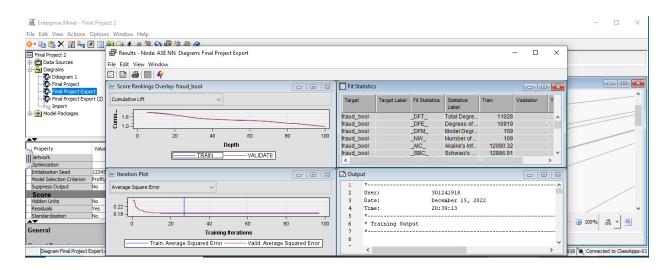
We attached Neural Nodes to our optimal trees to experiment if the error rates get better or not. We kept the number of iterations at 100, and then turned off any preliminary training. Furthermore, we kept the number of hidden units at the default setting which is three.

Screenshot of our NNs attached to optimal trees is given below:

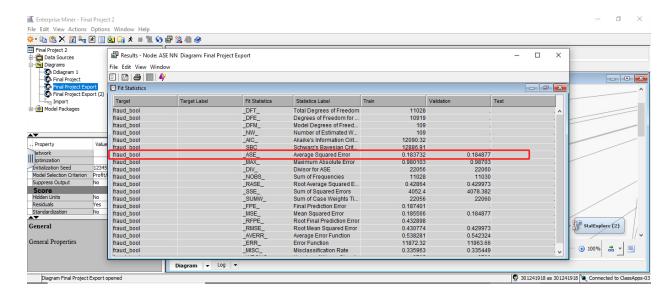


ASE Neural Network

The below screenshot shows the results we derived from the ASE neural network node. As per the iteration plot, 27 iterations is the best cut-off point as per average squared error metric.

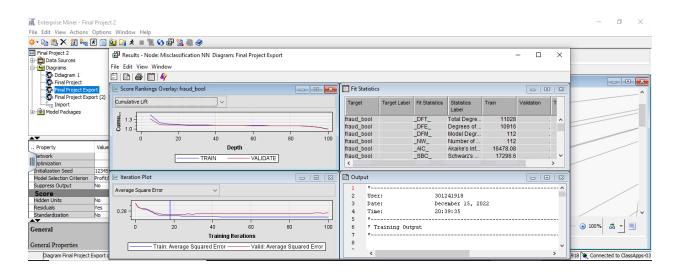


The average square error for ASE Neural network is 0.184877 which is worse than ASE tree with 0.170573 error rate. Hence, this Neural node did not add to ASE tree's efficiency.

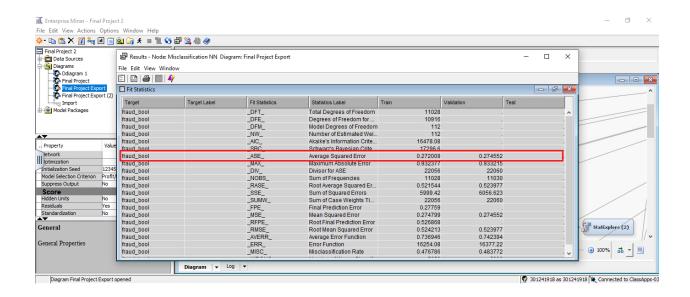


Misclassification Neural Network

The below screenshot shows the results we derived from the Misclassification neural network node. Unlike, ASE NN, we achieved an iteration cut-off at 18 as per average squared error metric.

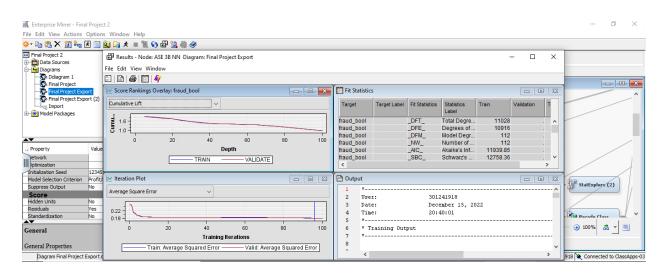


The average square error for Misclassification Neural network is 0.274552 which is highest among all three networks which is much worse than Misclassification Tree at 0.175272 error rate.

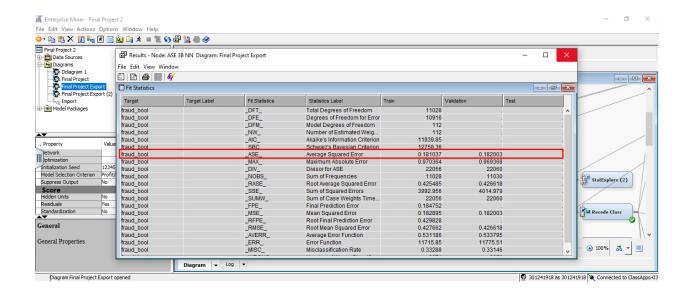


ASE 3B Neural Network

The number of suggested iterations for this model is an astonishing 96. This is the highest so far for NNs.



However, the average square error for ASE 3B Neural network is 0.182003 which is lowest among all three nodes. In comparison to ASE 3B Tree, it is much higher, approximately by 0.01.

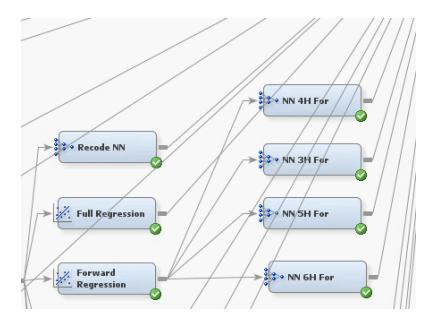


Summary: Decision Tree NN

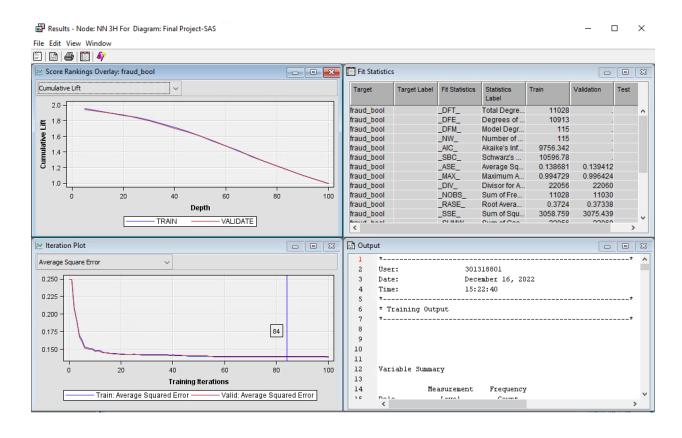
Model	ASE NN	Misclassification NN	ASE 3Branch NN
Average Squared Error	0.184877	0.274552	0.182003
Misclassification Rate	0.335449	0.483772	0.33146

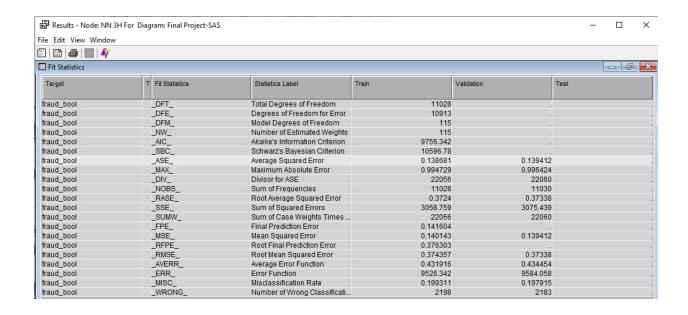
Forward Regression Neural Networks

Here we connect the neural network with the forward regression with various hidden units and iterations. This has been done as one of the last steps in our project. We attached NNs with multiple hidden units to find increasing or decresing efficiency. We started with the default setting of 3 and went upwards. We experimented till the point efficiency started faltering.

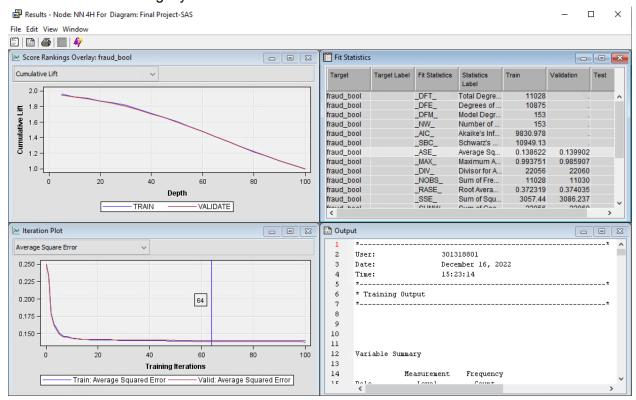


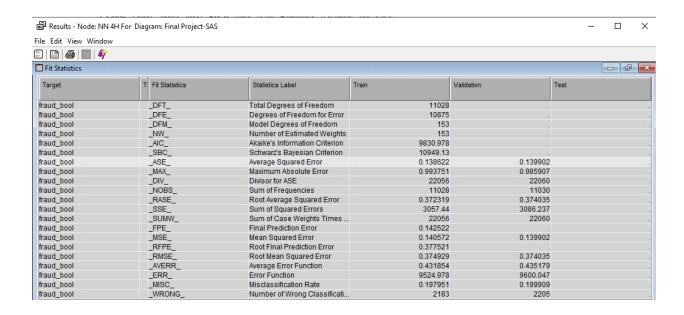
The average square error of a neural network with 3 hidden unit and 100 iterations is 0.139412 with cut-off iterations at 84. Compared to Forward Regression, the error rate has improved from 0.141936



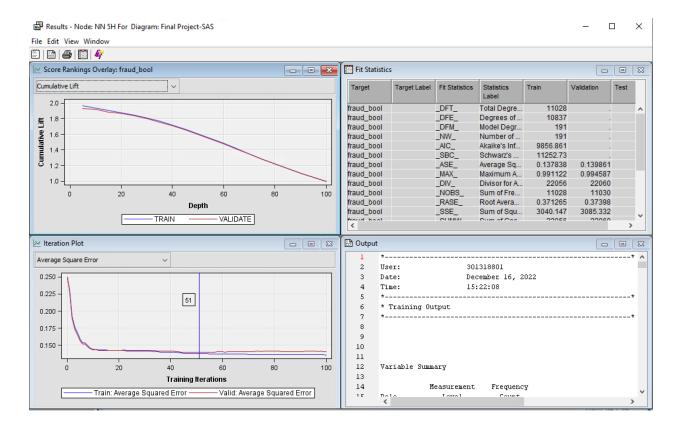


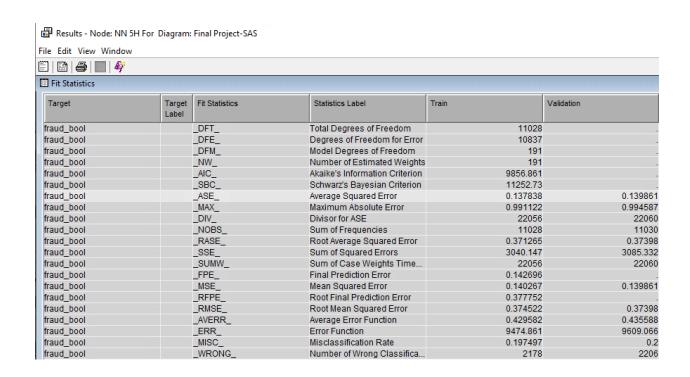
With the hypothesis of improving reliability we kept on increasing hidden units, we approached 4 hidden units. The average square error of a neural network with 4 hidden unit and 100 iterations is 0.139902 which is slightly lower than 3 hidden unit neural network..



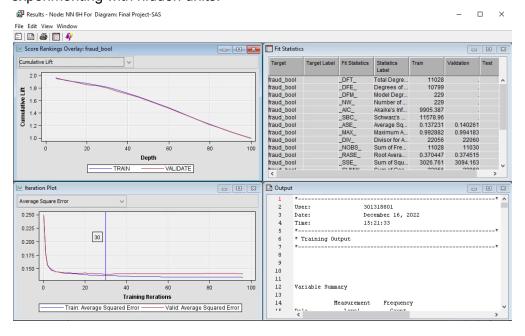


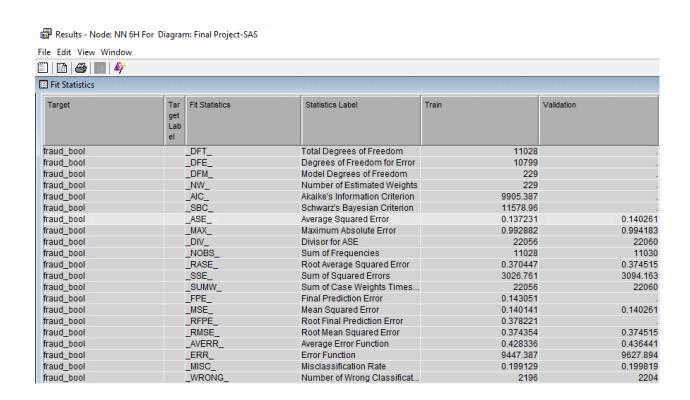
Following the trend of increasing error rates, we went ahead with 5 hidden units. The average square error of a neural network with 5 hidden unit and 100 iterations is 0.139861 which is lowest so far. The sequence of improving rates keeps going on.





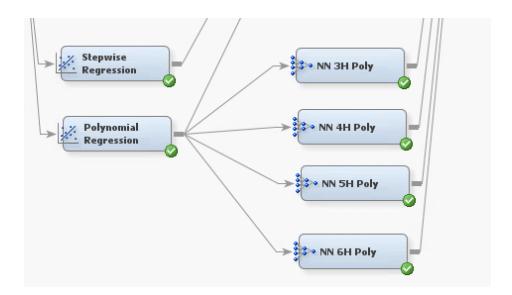
The average square error of a neural network with 6 hidden unit and 100 iterations is 0.140261 which is increasing from the prior hidden unit models. Hence, we stopped here in terms of experimenting with hidden units.





Polynomial Regression Neural Networks

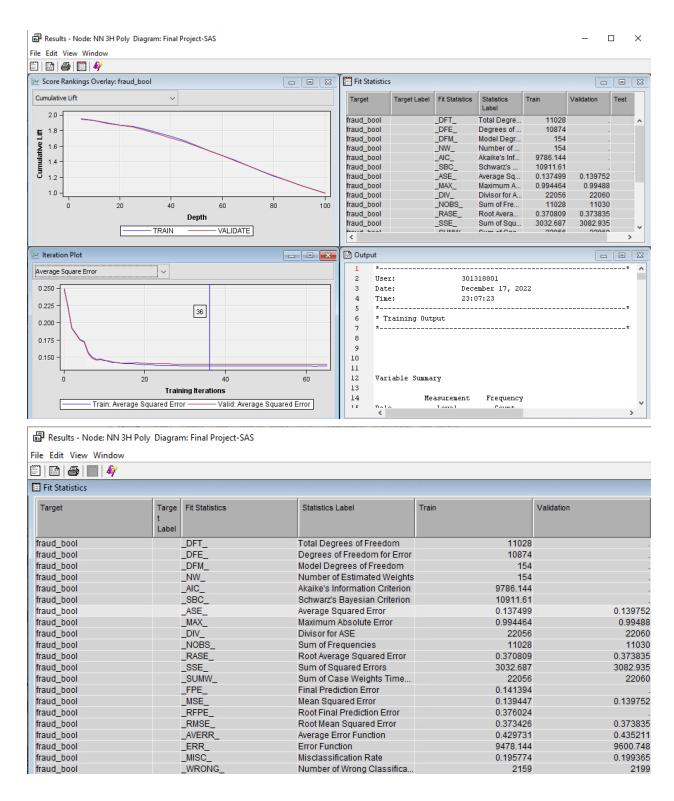
We did a polynomial regression to cater to the skews which were persistent in our project despite all the changes made through the replacement and transform nodes. Last step taken was changing 6 variables to their log format instead of default. After which all changes were made to class variables.



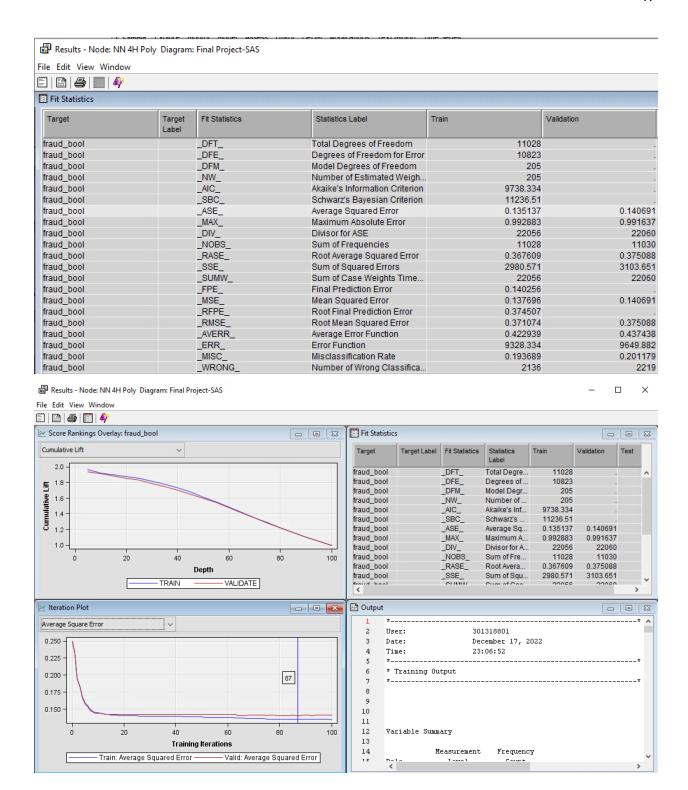
In the case of experimentation with hidden units, we used the same rationale as before. Exercise testing as long as efficiency is being achieved. In short, we used upto 6 hidden units and stopped there due to increasing error rates. Screenshots are shared below for each specification.

3 Hidden Unit Neural Network (100 iterations)

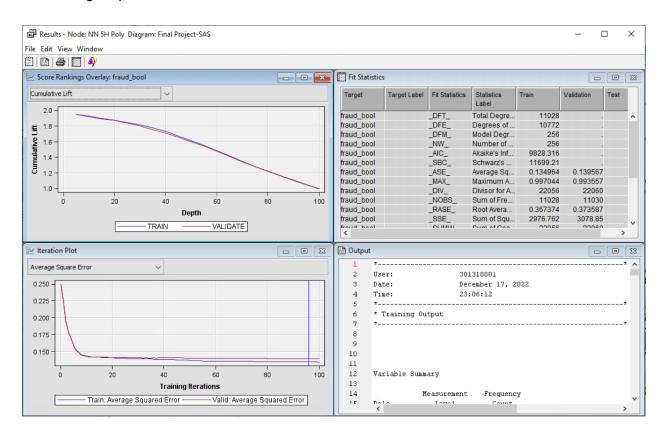
The ASE rate for default 3 hidden units was 0.139752. The number of iterations suggested were 36. This error rate is lower than the polynomial regression rate of 0.141826.



The average square error of a neural network with 4 hidden unit and 100 iterations is 0.140691.

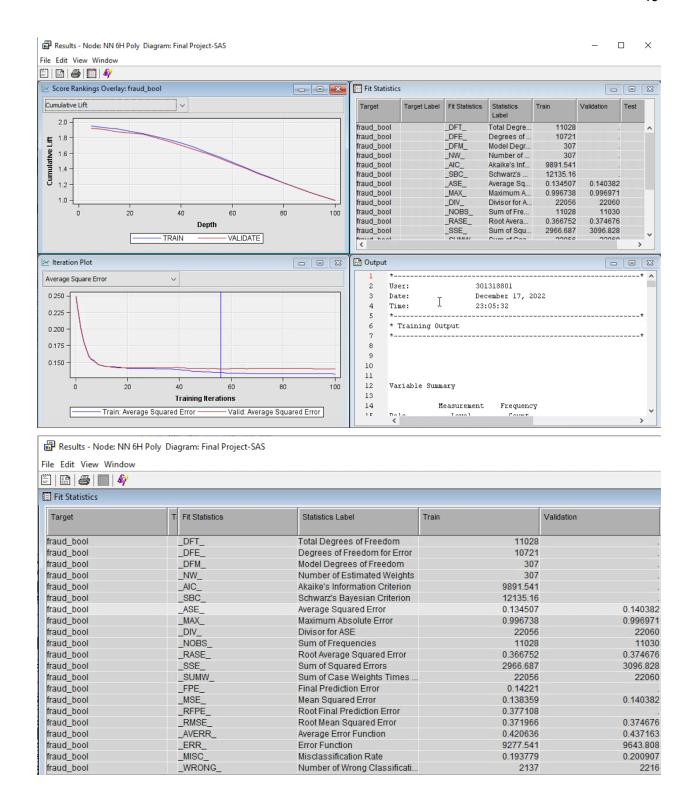


The average square error of a neural network with 5 hidden unit and 100 iterations is 0.139567



6 Hidden Unit Neural Network (100 iterations)

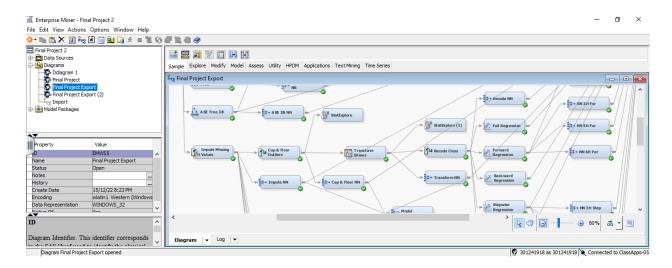
The average square error of a neural network with 6 hidden unit and 100 iterations is 0.140382



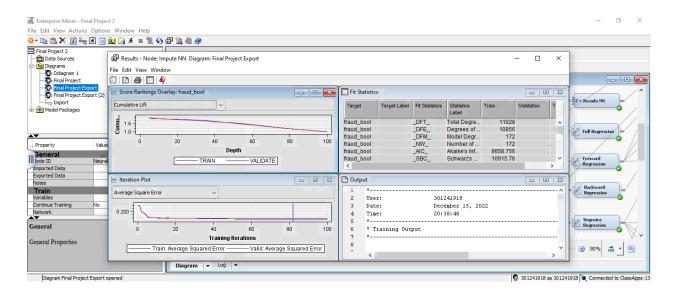
Data Modification Neural Network

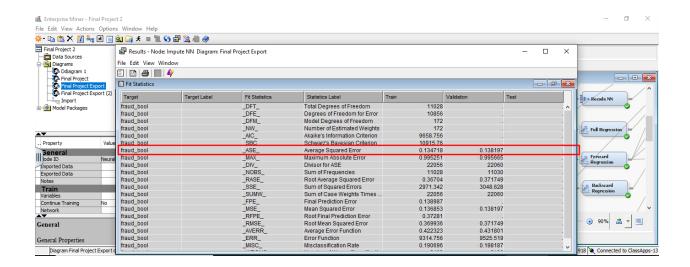
Impute Neural Network

After imputing missing values in our dataset, we attach a Neural Network node to see if imputing the missing values increases the accuracy of our models.



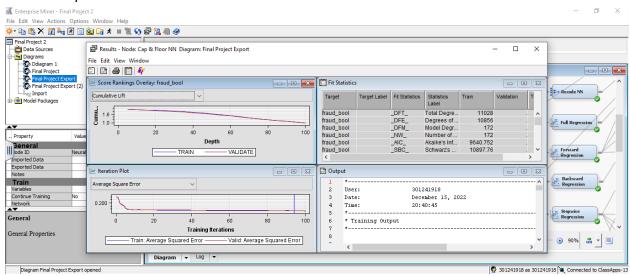
The validation average square error of the impute NN node is 0.138197 and the number of iterations suggested from this model is 82. The ASE we derived from this node is by far one of the best models so far. The closest model that achieved an error rate close to this was the ASE 3 branch model with an ASE of 0.169517. So the accuracy is significantly better.



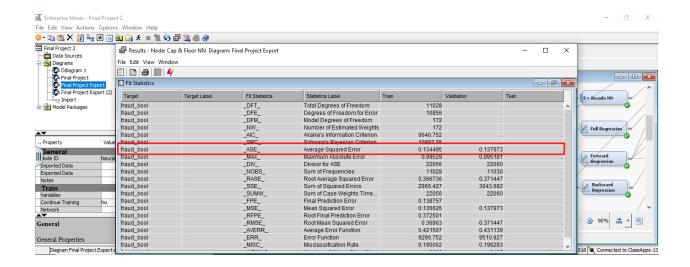


Cap and Floor Neural Network

After imputing all the missing variables, we added a replacement node to adjust the outliers of the dataset. Cap and Floor suggest the range of values that will be capped or floored by this node. Having run this node, we connected the neural network and below is the screenshot of the results panel.

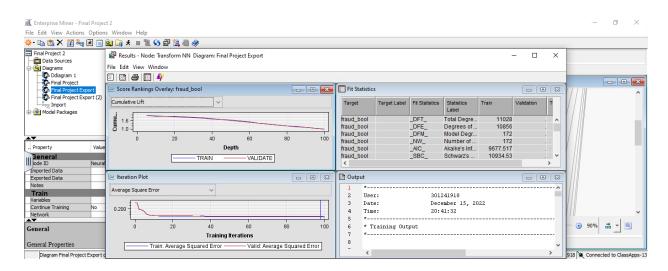


The average square error of the Cap & Floor NN node is 0.137973 and number of iterations is 94. This model has beat the previous Impute NN node by a few decimals only.

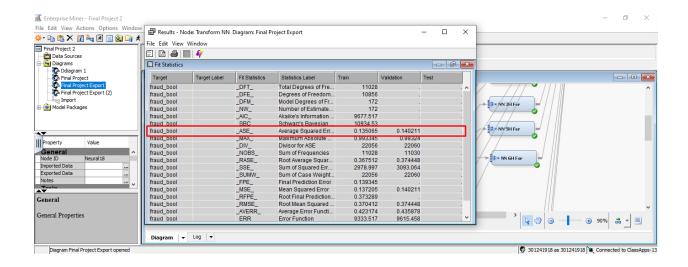


Transform Neural Network

After applying log transformation to the skews in our dataset, we connect the neural network with the Transform Skews node and below is the screenshot.

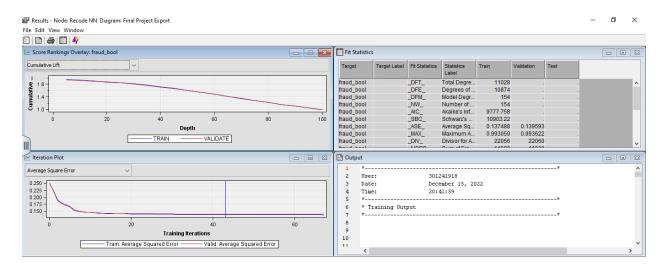


The average square error of the Transform NN node is 0.140211. This however has lower accuracy than the Cap and Floor NN and Impute NN.

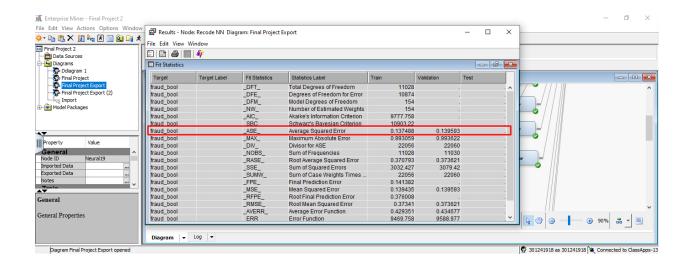


Recode Class Neural Network

We connect the neural network with the Record Class node as the step of last data manipulation. Screenshot referred below:

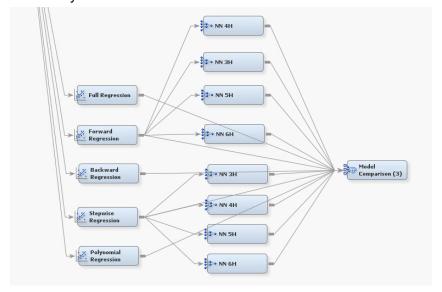


The average square error of the Recode NN node is 0.139593. As it seems, from the data manipulation section Cap and Floor NN and Impute NN are the best models so far.



Other Neural Networks

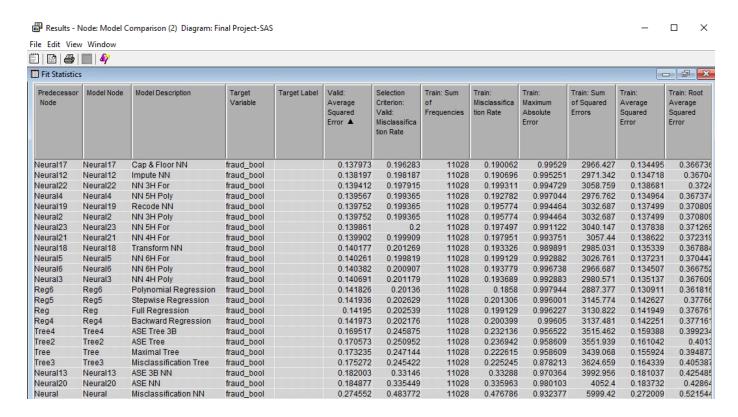
Besides these neural networks, we also worked on a few more NNs which were extrapolated before any data modification in the interval and class variables. Snapshot below:



However, post consultation we decided to work with regressions which were derived from our treat data. Though the untreated data gave us better ASE in general across different model types, after careful consideration we proceeded with data which were more fit.

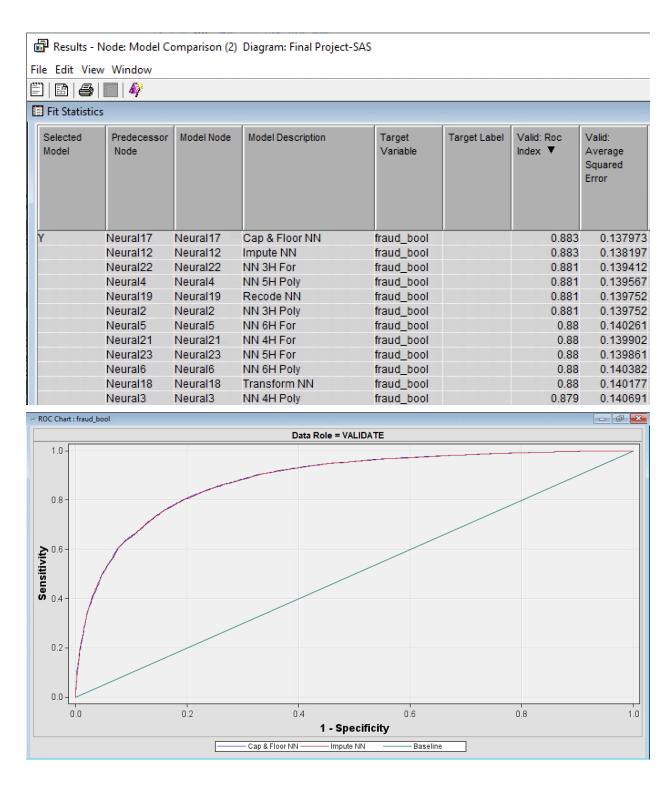
Model Comparison

In order to devise the best model, we created 23+ different models which we ran throughout this entire project. The Model Comparison node in SAS Enterprise Miner helps us compare the statistics for all 23+ models in one panel. A screenshot of the summary statistics for each model is given below:



From the statistics we can come to the conclusion that Cap and Floor NN is the best model. It has the lowest Average Squared Error at 0.137973 and 0.196283 Misclassification Rate. Cap and Floor was the second modification in all the data modifications we have done. None of the skews were adjusted in this model. Despite the adjustments, Cap and Floor NN is the best model.

Using the ROC index and Gini coefficient from the screenshot below, we confirm that Cap and Floor NN is indeed the best model. The highest ROC and Gini are preferred. Cap and Floor NN have a ROC index of 0.883 and a Gini coefficient of 0.766. Interestingly, Cap & Floor NN is tied with Impute NN in terms of just the area under the curve. But takes precedence in terms of error rate.



As seen in the picture above, Cap & Floor NN and Impute NN have the exact same ROC curve across all levels of specificity. It is difficult to make any distinction between the two. However,

their error rates are different only by 0.000224 (0.138197-0.137973). Though negligible in most scenarios, in the case of modeling lower error rate gets higher priority.

Neural Networks(NN) have their own logic in deriving the best model, and one of the biggest disadvantages of these types of models is that the interpretation of data is next to impossible. However, we can analyze the fundamentals of this model to get an idea as to why we received the best model without significant modification of the dataset. Through all the adjustments made in our model, we were trying to fit our model. The more we tried to fit, the further we strayed from the truth of the dataset. Neural Network is a robust model mechanism that can work with all variables to create a relation. In this case, NN turned out to be the best model to use.

As a matter of fact, all the top 12 models are NNs. The 2nd best is Impute NN which we discussed. The 3rd best model is a 3-hidden unit NN attached to a Forward regression with an ASE of 0.139412 and a Misclassification rate of 0.197915.

Recommendations and Key Findings

Models to Use

Upon evaluating the performance of all the models, we have determined that the Cap and Floor Neural Network is the most accurate at predicting fraudulent bank account applications. This was determined by evaluating average squared error, the ROC index, and Gini coefficient. We recommend that the bank implement the Cap and Floor Neural Network to identify and flag potentially fraudulent account applications.

Key Features

The following table outlines some of the selected key features that were identified to be important for predicting fraudulent applications by three models of varying types: 3 Branch Decision Tree, Forward Logistic Regression, and Cap and Floor Neural Network.

Decision Tree	Logistic Regression Odds Ratios	Neural Network Weights
Housing Status	Device Distinct Emails	Current Address Months Count

Device OS	Has Other Cards	Velocity_4w
Has Other Cards	Device OS	Device Distinct Emails
Keep Alive Session	Keep Alive Session	
	Housing Status	
	Payment Type	

Features to monitor

Based on our analysis, the key features that seem to be the most predictive of bank account fraud are housing status, device OS, whether the applicant has other cards, keep alive session, and payment type. Our models, including decision trees, logistic regressions, and neural networks, all identified these variables as predictors of fraud. Additionally, our neural network weights and decision tree splits suggest that current address months count, Velocity_4w, and Device Distinct Emails are also important in predicting fraud.

Applications that are most likely to be fraudulent are ones where the applicant does not have any other cards with the bank and has not been living in their current address for very long, with a current housing status of BA. Additional indicators are the applicant paying by payment type AC and choosing not to keep the browser session alive on logout. A high number of applications using different email addresses from the same device, and submitted at a time with a high velocity of applications are also more likely to be fraudulent.

The presence of these features increases the likelihood of an application being fraudulent. As such, banks should scrutinize such applications that contain any or all of these features during the account approval process in order to flag potentially fraudulent account applications for further investigation.

Finally, since the dataset contains anonymized values which cannot be interpreted without knowing their meaning, such as payment type, housing status, and employment status etc. It is recommended that the bank investigate the anonymized values to gain a clearer understanding of the features of fraudulent applications. Understanding the meaning of these variables and how they can be used to identify fraudulent applications may help banks more effectively detect and prevent fraud.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our project aimed to identify key features of fraudulent bank account applications and to train machine learning models that can accurately predict fraudulent applications. After oversampling, data partition, and treating the missing and skewed data, we trained decision trees, logistic regressions, and neural network models to predict fraudulent applications.

The result of our modeling showed that housing status, device OS, device distinct emails, and presence of other cards were key variables in predicting fraudulent applications. Based on our findings, we recommend that the bank consider the identified key features when evaluating new account applications, and use the Cap & Floor Neural Network for most accurate predictions. By implementing these recommendations, the bank will be better equipped to identify and prevent fraudulent account openings.

References

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Appendix

Full Model Screenshot

