

Predicting Student Performance to Improve their Employability by Applying Data Mining and Machine Learning Techniques

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Available online at: www.ijcseonline.org

Accepted: 21/Jul/2018, Published: 31/Jul/2018

Abstract- Student performance, dropouts has become an interesting topics in engineering education. To improve student Academic performance, employability and reducing dropouts are the most vital issues in the research. As it has been observed in the literature survey, there are many existing techniques in the Data mining to predict student's GPAs, grades, dropouts, and desertion. If the student desertion issue is underestimated then one cannot cope the student prediction optimally, which can causes significantly high error. This problem can be minimized with appropriate preventive strategies of Data mining techniques like Matrix Factorization, Rador, and Part in advance. However, the results obtained are still erroneous and to overcome this risk of failure some Machine Learning Approaches like Regression, classification and clustering methods are applied along with DMT which are highly effective. To predict the performance of the students accurately, here we considered various datasets like previous grades, study time, parent's status, GPA, school support, higher education, internet usage, travel time etc.,. Which crucially carry out the effective performance, grades for the next term. This can help us for the satisfactory graduation and completion of education on time. The comparative study is done on different algorithms such as linear regression, K-means clustering and neural networks using Weka and Azure tools. This can yield us a better student prediction along with preventive strategies for significantly low error. Further, we can extend our study with few more datasets and it might be possible to find a particular student who can perform effectively up to the mark without any failure. This will help us to reduce the drop outs, failure percentage and increases the confidence levels in the students so that, the progression of student performance can be monitor semester by semester.

Index Terms: Dropouts, Academic performance, Employability, Machine learning and Data mining techniques

I. INTRODUCTION

The retention of students in university as well as the successful completion of their studies is of interest not only for higher education institutions (HEI), but also for society as a whole, because of its many implications. Also making higher education affordable has a significant impact on government and it is the central focus of it, while making Educational policies. In many major countries as the cost of the college education had been increasing constantly, loan debts of the students also increases as they fail to complete their graduation on time. To counteract this student desertion problem, the Education Ministry in major countries had designed policies for its diagnosis, monitoring and prevention. This strategy has opened the way for subsequent researches on the academic, next term grade prediction of the students by collecting data.

Universities accumulate big volumes of data which can be used to obtain information on the development and performance of academic activities. The information that can be obtained from academic databases will serve to look for answers to such questions as: What

identifies students with good and poor academic achievement? Which are the causes of the students' retention in the university? Why do students desert? Automatic data mining techniques can be applied to solve these questions and to facilitate the development of strategies for improving the academic processes and the educational programs. One of the main recognized factors for the student desertion is academic risk. This leads to the necessary Universities to design a mechanism which can be able to identify the causes for academic risk, and act upon these causes before the risk has occurred. This would allow the institution to take timely decisions and design better strategies to prevent academic risk as a phenomenon, and as a consequence, diminish the students' probability of desertion.

To overcome them some of data mining methods and techniques are applied. This process of study is known as Educational Data Mining (EDM) [5]. EDM has proven being a useful tool for making predictions in several scenarios and thus will be used to generate a predictive model based on students' academic.

By using advanced Machine Learning Approaches like Linear Regression-Neural network and k-

means clustering and deep SVM methods which are highly effective and can be able to detect the causes for the academic risk and can be able to reduce the student desertion and helps us to take the necessary preventive measures to ensure the completion of the student graduation in time. Hence here we provide useful insights about the causes for academic risk, in order to empower the Institution in the taking of better decisions and the implementation of stronger strategies regarding student desertion.

We also present detailed Algorithms to illustrate how the different algorithms can be applied to determine the best results applied on the datasets that are shown in the next sections of the paper. The rest of this paper is organized as follows: Section II provides a summary of the paper on Literature Survey. Sections III and IV discuss the overall description about Weka and Ms Azure tools, working procedure, algorithm types and their comparisons. Section V shows the results of respective applied algorithm.

II. SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

After going through many articles, papers of scientific and standard publications from the year 2000 to 2017 and from them more than 500 distinct papers are congregated and filtered to the count of Journals (91), Conferences (60), Thesis and others (55). Among them we considered a few approaches which were optimal and precise for the 'prediction of the academic performance of a student'. The key factors which we considered from the articles for the academic prediction were Employability, Academic Performance, Machine Learning Techniques, Drop-outs and Placements.

The issue of student dropout, detection will be reduced by applying the above mentioned algorithms and approaches. Till now the previous study of research is done using Weka tool. As the data will be pre-saved in Weka it won't give that much of worthy information. Further, we can extend our study with possibility to find a particular course in which a student is interested, can perform effectively up to the mark without any failure and to find the risk factors using methods and techniques. MS Azure tool is used for implementation of student dropout and detection. MS Azure is said to be best tool of Microsoft for predicting the real world problems, there are still many open source software's i.e. sales force, oracle OWB, Microsoft SSIS etc. To predict the results accurately we reduce the unnecessary and noisy data attributes. So that the data will be less, time period for the execution will be low and the output will be effective, early warnings which improve positivity in students. For further detailed information [136].

A. Discussion on SLR

Table 1 describes the six aspects of each attribute:

Objectives, approaches and algorithms, datasets, implementation, future work/results and Title of the paper. In this paper, mainly focused on Desertion, Dropouts and Poor Academic performance of a student.

1. *Issues on academic performance:*

This mainly speaks on which the most of research has been done. Here we find the accuracy and speed on clustering and classification algorithms in the field of prediction. It's also been viewed to atomize the systems to gather more datasets and more problems.

2. *Issues on dropouts:*

The research done on dropouts is to develop educational stability, deeper mining in studies motivation and to develop long term goals.

3. *Issues on Employability:*

The overall research on EMP says to follow the recommendation models and better tools.

4. *Issues on DMT:*

After applying DMT, for better results we need proper decision on projects should be taken, and student interested fields to be identified.

5. *Issues on MLT:*

This survey says to make use of better models to improve performance, accuracy, promotions, increment and carrier advancement should be considered for better prediction in future.

2.2. Critical study on Academic performance, Employability, Machine Learning, Data Mining Techniques, Drop-outs

Academic performance

S.No	Issue/Objectives	Solution/ Algorithm/ Techniques/ Approaches	Application/ Datasets/ Real-time attributes	Implementations	Results/ Future work	References
1.	The variable impacts on individual learning processes and of those factors and their different AP (GAP) into: Low, Middle and High, grade-point-average (GPA).	Techniques: ANN approaches Along with neural networks	Factors: g-factor and intelligence.	Software used: SSPP v.19.	Results: The identification of the specific influence of each pattern of variables on different level of academic-performance.	1
2.	Comparing recommender systems with traditional techniques such as linear regression or logistic regression. From the experimental perspective.	Algorithms: Recommender systems, matrix factorization methods, neural networks, SVM	Datasets: Problem hierarchy, problem name, step name, and problem view.	Implementation: Applying recommender system techniques such as matrix factorization in the educational context, especially for predicting.	Future work: In future work, Over student/problem/problem view or, more general student/ problem /time could give better.	11
3.	Clearly, academic performance is a critical factor take into account that, frequently, underachievement is associated with a high dropout rate.	Models: DMT approaches.	Attributes: Mother Emp, Father Emp, Student Emp, High school	Tools used: IBM Data Warehouse Edition (DWE) V.9.5	Future Work: In the future, we define specific actions reverse poor academic performance	35
4.	To identify the difference between high learners and slow learner students it is important for student performance to develop predictive data mining model.	Algorithm: K-means clustering, regression, NN, artificial intelligence and genetic algorithm, decision tree	Attributes: Student family bg, student details, subject marks, sem wise % is recorded.	Implementation: This study shows student performance and easy to identify those student which having less mark and poor performance	Results: To improve the performance, identify the student who needs special attention, reduce fail ration, take action right time.	40
5.	To find nearest possible a cluster a similar group the turning point India is the performance in higher education for all students	Approaches: Naive Bayesian, K-Means Clustering, Clustering,	Attributes: Student family background, student details, subjects marks, semester wise %.	Implementation: Comparison between algorithms.	Results: This study shows student performance and to identify those student who has less mark and poor performance	41
6.	The main aim of the study is to create a model that classifies the instances correctly to predict the performance of students using PAFT methodology	Algorithm: Novel genetic NAND PAFT model. Flowcharts.	Factors: Various factors are considered.	Implementation: Net beans are used for coding the GS-NAND algorithm and this file are converted to a Weka classifier format (.arff) to .csv and given to Weka, it reduces unsupervised filter	Results: Weka tool, it is found that the proposed GS-NAND PAFT model results were high and accurate than previous comparisons	57
7.	To overcome the Students who scored lower marks and to improve their performance	Methods: Association Rule Mining DT, Bayesian Neural Networks, ensemble Techniques are some of supervised methods.	Datasets: Attendance, Seminar, Assignment marks, Student performance, prediction, analysis, early alert, evaluation using DMT.	SVM is considered to be best accurate.	Results and future work: Reasons for poor in academics and drop-outs are social media. future work, to do research on classification, clustering to enhance the prediction speed and accuracy	58
8.	To focus on more improvement and accuracy of student performance. The objective of EDM is to develop new methods to explore educational data to determining the usefulness of learning systems	Algorithms: Naive Bayes, Neural Network, and Decision Tree	Attributes: Age, section, number of students, program, hours studying, home tuition, sub interest transport, attendance.	Implementation: psychological profile, previous schooling, prior academic performance, and student interaction with their classmates and teachers	Future work: Research to carry out more with bigger dataset including different courses and levels of educational and also automate system to analyze factors.	62

9.	To overcome the Inconsistencies in determining which students' attributes contributes to academic performances	Algorithm: ID3, Simple CART, J48, NB Tree, MLP, Bayes net	Datasets: socio economic, non-academic and academic factors	Academic performance, Dropouts, course preference, Subject specialization etc.	Results and Future work: A new hybrid algorithm used for better classification and prediction using the high influence attributes would be the future work.	66
10.	social, economic and Psychological factors a student faces during their adolescence.	Algorithms: Support vector machine (SVM), K-nearest neighbor (K-NN), ANN	Factors: Social, economic and psychological factors a student faces during their adolescence.	Implementation: WEKA; dimensionality reduction algorithms, namely, PCA, SOM and GHA, were all implemented in Rapid Miner.	Results: The dimensionality reduction, discretization and normalization combinations derives the best model to predict the AP.	82
11.	One of the biggest challenges is to improve the quality of the educational processes so as to enhance student's performance	Algorithm: J48, DT	Datasets: 1. Login credential 2. Student detail record 3. Student outcome analysis	Implementation: J48 is a tree based learning approach, based on iterative dichotomiser (ID3) algorithm. It uses divide-and-conquer algorithm to split a root node into a subset of two partitions till leaf node (target node) occur in the tree.	Results: Improvement in J48 Is it uses WEKA as API in java code implemented in Net Beans. We used the classifiers (DT) and (RF) to predict student grade to extract rules to predict results	83
12.	To enhance the level of education in the society	Models: Multiple regression models are used.	Datasets: performance, score or marks, knowledge, guidance. Focused on students 'performance.	Tools: (SPSS) analysis tool. MLR to aid Statistical Package for Social-Sciences, Hypothesis testing was used to validate model.	Results: An intervention programs that bring student and educators in close mediation. A face to face discussion spark up the students' desires to do more.	88
13.	To overcome the lack of quality education	Algorithms: Association rule mining, Apriori. used MLT are Naive Bayes and NN.	Datasets: surveys, interviews, focus groups, classroom activities	Tools: KNIME Analytics platform tool was used to perform the required work on the data provided	Future work: To find alcohol consumption students.	90
14.	To provide insights to our institute regarding various factors which led to the poor performance of the students?	Algorithms: classification rules using ID3 (Iterative Dichotomize 3) algorithm	Attributes: Poor, Average, Good and Excellent	Future: The co-curricular and the extra-curricular activities of students help to excel in academics , masters of all	Results: 1. Pre-processed data analysis, 2.Information gain 3.ID3classificationresult	92
15.	to identify those students who need special attention to reduce failure ration and taking appropriate action for the next academic examination	Algorithms: Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifications and kernel k-map	Attributes: Class test, Attendance Seminar, innovative activity, Assignment	Implementation: The recommendations for additional activities, teaching material and task that would improve his/her learning.	Results: K-map is to analyze the relation -ships among student's success, behavior to develop model	98
16.	They should predict which student is at risk of failure and overcome that	Algorithms: The Comparison is done on Weka for training and a polynomial kernel function.	Datasets: achievement, assign -ments, class presence Personality ,apitude	Tools: Ibk in WEKA Table.1-5 shows the comparisons of all d algorithms.	Results: Results are shown in graphical way.	99
17.	To identify the risk and take the special classes for the weakest people. The addiction of student towards alcohol in early life.	Algorithms: Classification algorithms Naïve Bayes, Decision Tree, K-NN and NN	Attributes: social, gender and study time attributes	Tools: The results are done using orange tool	Results: Results prove that Naive Bayes technique outperformed other used techniques.	100
18.	To identify the successful and unsuccessful students based on ethnicity, course programme and course block	Models: Classification tree models and logistic regression.	Datasets: age, edu, gender, work status ethnicity, disability study env- course block program	Tools: SPSS 17 and Statistica 8. Pass and Fail are considered.	Results: (CART) was the most successful in growing the tree with an overall percentage of correct classification of 60.5%.	102

19.	Conventional techniques may not give accurate solution so use soft techniques to overcome.	Algorithms: Fuzzy ARTMAP neural network, and SVM	Factors: Course, curriculum, learning, hard work, learning mistakes, notes reference books, revision, ex practicing.	Implementation: Fuzzy ARTMAP neural network is a supervised clustering algorithm	Future work: Future work in the same area many include exploring additional determinants which affect AP of a student in an institute.	103
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Drop-outs

S.No	Issue/Objectives	Solution/ Algorithm/ Techniques/ Approaches	Application/ Datasets/ Real-time attributes	Implementations	Results/ Future work	References
1.	the work of data mining in predicting the drop out feature of students	Approaches: DTT, J4.8 implements a later and slightly improved version C4.5	Datasets: Identify risk factors that predict results	Implementation:	Results: New strategies can develop and implement enabling edu stability, system predictability and profits.	9
2.	analyzing educational data to develop models for improving learning experiences and improving institutional effectiveness	Approaches: k-NN, NB, NN, ID3, C4.5, CART, ADT.	Datasets: Students at risk? Chances of placement? Likely to drop? Quality of participation? Courses the institute offers to attract.	Implementation: The purpose of optimal managerial decision taking, in preventing students' exams failure, improving learning abilities and Scholastic results.	Results: Our studies continue with deeper mining of academic Failure, to detect with pragmatic exactness.	25
3.	higher risk of drop out (1) Dropping out before attending first class and (2) dropping out before completing the training.	Approaches: AdaBoost algorithm with ROCAUC	Attributes : Provider type, student language, language, age, age, class language, total classes residence, income, absences, withdraw count.	Implementations : Early Warning Indicator (EWI) systems are rapidly being built and deployed using machine learning algorithms.	Future work Future work: more student data like life circumstances to determine, motivations, propensity for self-efficacy.	107
4.	The most vulnerable students are the freshmen, who are at the highest risk of dropping out at the beginning of their study.	Approaches: Cox proportional hazards model (Cox). Time-dependent(TD-Cox),	Datasets: Family background, financial, high school info, college enrollment and sem-wise credits.	Implementation: Implementation is based on Comparison between two models "Predicting dropout student" and "estimating semester of dropout".	increasing student Retention is a long term goal of any academic institution.	77

Employability (J)

S.No	Issue/Objectives	Solution/ Algorithm/ Techniques/ Approaches	Application/ Datasets/ Real-time attributes	Implementations/ Tools	Results/ Future work	References
1.	A good project during the course, aids in the placement of the students as it sharpens the practical skills of the students.	Approaches: Bayesian, Multilayer Perceptron Sequential Minimal Optimization (SMO), Ensemble Methods and DT.	Datasets: socioeconomic conditions, academic performance, Emotional Skill	Implementation: It was found that J48 algorithm which is implementation of pruned C4. 5 Decision Tree algorithm of WEKA is most suitable for the employability prediction.	Future work Further employability has been defined as the students' ability to get employment during on Campus drives conducted.	27

2.	To develop models for improving learning experiences and institutional effectiveness.	Approaches: statistical and data miming approach, X-Means and Support vector Clustering and Naïve Bayes	Datasets: Rank, Gender, Category and Sector and the model will give answer in terms poor Excellent, Good, Avg.	Implementation: The algorithms used were implemented and the front end of the tool were developed using PHP and MYSQL as a database.	Results X-Means proved to be the best Predicting algorithm representing cluster model, for solving placement chance prediction	81
3.	Employability is a set of achievements, understandings and personal attributes that make individuals more likely to gain and successful in chosen	Approaches: K-Nearest Neighbors, Random Forest, DT, Rank estimation using Resumes.	Datasets: PrevCo, exp, GPA, Degree/Foreign Degree projects, Achievements, Publications,	Implementation: The confusion matrix gives the better idea for the model we are developing it gives the values such as (True Positive), FP, FN, and TN (True Negative).	Results It is recommended to collect more proper data of several companies. DB of current employees and past.	85
4.	The survey first explain show higher education has become an exciting field of research and why the prediction of academic performance and employability is beneficial for the institutions.	Approaches: Classification, Trees and Regression, CART, ANN, Chi-Squared Automatic Interaction Detection (CHAID)	Datasets: Campus placements, ability to job, skills, job within a specified time, period of graduating, willingness to extend graduate at work.	Implementation: Implementation is done using the traditional education.	Future work The future work includes survey of tools, available for prediction of AP and employability.	94

Data Mining Techniques (J)

S.No	Issue/Objectives	Solution/ Algorithm/ Techniques/ Approaches	Application/ Datasets/ Real-time attributes	Implementations/Tools	Results/ Future work	References
1.	To develop a model which can derive the conclusion on Students' academic success?	Approaches: C4.5 , J48, Naïve Bayes, Multilayer perceptron algorithm	Datasets: Gender, Distance, GPA, Scholarships, Materials, Grade Importance	Implementation: Applied on traditional class room.	Results/ Future work The Naïve Bayes, DT, NN methods has been indicated a good model have both accurate, comprehensible.	3
2.	To provide quality education and analyze the performance of students and help them to improve.	Approaches: Cluster analysis, Naive Bayes classifier,	Datasets: GPA, Workshops, sem marks Conferences, lab Entrance scores, college exams, Attendance.	Implementation: RStudio: R (Revolution) for statistical computing and graphics. It provides a variety of statistical and Graphical techniques.	Future work K-means helps the students who pursue higher studies in future. Naive Bayes, the various fields a student interested in was identified.	38
3.	Focuses on consolidate the different types of clustering algorithms as applied in Educational Data Mining context.	Approaches: Association rules, clustering, sequential pattern, classification, analysis etc.	Datasets: final marks, online students marks etc.	Implementation: Table.1 shows the comparisons between many types of algorithms.	Results/ Future work Various disparate entities that are widely spread across in the educational foray.	41
4.	To pre-recognize student's academic failure.	Approaches: (NNge), NB, OneR classification algorithm	Datasets: skill-sets of students, short-list the students, arrange exam schedule for students	Implementation: The results are done using Weka tool.	Results/ Future work real-time project can be used in any edu org for pre-recognizing the failure of students	43
5.	To focuses on designing various	Approaches:	Datasets:	Implementation:	Results/ Future work	44

	methods that will help the teachers and the principal (Administrator) of the school to figure out the weak students and improve their educational standards and environment.	NNge, OneR	family, occupation of parents, living with parents, location, illness,	The results are done using Weka tool.	Implemented two rules of induction, DT and NB. Which decreased the complexity and overhead of the system?	
6.	Using c4.5 algorithm, student future exam performance is to be predict based on pass/fail ratio and their rank.	Approaches: C4.5, NB, confusion matrix of NB Propagation, NN, Radial Base Supervised Learning.	Datasets: assignment, university marks etc. and personal in-formation attributes are like hostler, marital status	Implementation: Weka is used for implementing c4.5, naive Bayesian and neural network.	Results/ Future work To help students in the decision making process through our project, and proved neural network is better than naive Bayesian.	61
7.	To improve the quality of the educational processes and to enhance the student's performance.	Approaches: Naïve bayes, Multilayer Perception, SMO, J48, REP Tree.	Datasets: CGPA, Arrears, Attendance, 12marks, Engineering Cut-off, Medium of Education	Implementation: The data collected from Feedback forms and database are entered in excel sheets and converted to ARFF format for further processing in WEKA tool.	Results/ Future work We can know the academic status of the students in advance and concentrate to improve their academic results and placements.	68
8.	To identify the techniques to bring co-relation between the student academics and faculty responsibilities.	Approaches: Classification, SVM, DT, C4.5, Bayesian, RIPPER.	Datasets: ICT, MOODELS, MOOCS	Implementation: To find out fitness and accuracy of the algorithm and analyze correct predictive and not correctly predictive rules.	Results/ Future work Results are based on how to analyze and predict rules from Educational DB.	79
9.	To measure the performance of students, assessment of students and study students' behavior	Approaches: ID3, C4.5, and the Naïve Bayes	Datasets: pass/fail	Implementation: The results are done using Weka	Results/ Future work To identify extraordinary attention to perform well in their discipline	
10.	To develop an application for predicting the student's performance by applying Data Mining Techniques	Approaches: Support Vector Machine	Datasets: attendance, SSC,HSC or Diploma marks, online test marks	Implementation: classification is done by finding the hyper-plane	Results/ Future work SVM crucial for cases where very high predictive power is required	87
11.	C4.5improved by the use of L'Hospital Rule, which simplifies the calculation process and improves the efficiency of decision making algorithm.	Approaches: C4.5 algorithm	Datasets: Information is related to C4.5 algorithm.	Implementation: The results are done using tool Weka	Results/ Future work C4.5improvesperformance in terms of time saving increased efficiency of lot.	

Machine Learning (J)

S.No	Issue/Objectives	Solution/ Algorithm/ Techniques/ Approaches	Application/ Datasets/ Real-time attributes	Implementations	Results/ Future work	References
1.	To overcome the limitations of the existing techniques; improve reliability and efficiency of instructors' performance evaluation	Approaches: Neural networks and decision tree algorithms.	Datasets: Teaching, assessment, strengths, weaknesses improvement, class obs,	Implementation: 6 criteria's are explained in detail.	Results/ Future work Neural networks and decision tree algorithms will be used in search for the best model with high	19

	system,		evaluation report		predictive accuracy	
2.	The main objective is to provide the performance appraisal report of an employee using Decision Tree algorithm	Approaches: DT, rule mining, C4.5 clustering, J48, ASSISTANT.	Datasets: Theory and lab pass %, paper presented, conference participated	Implementation: The results are done using Tool Weka.	Results/ Future work This study helps to predict whether to give yearly increment, promotion and career advancement for an emp.	30
3.	The main focus is determine a machine learning model for mapping graduates' skills to industry roles using skills profile of emp graduates	Approaches: naive Bayes and SVM, K-Nearest Neighbor.	Datasets: Related to industrial.	Implementation: Using MLT improves skills to industry roles in predicting accuracy for employability, productivity.	Results/ Future work Helps in select a suitable machine learning technique that improves performance accuracy.	56
4.	The objective of the educational institution is producing good results in academic exams can be achieved by using the data mining techniques	Approaches: Decision Trees, Random Forest, NN and SVM	Datasets: Internal Assessment Test(IAT), Assignment, Personal Counseling.	Implementation: Apriori is found to be effective in predicting the student under three categories: good, average and poor	Results/ Future work The extracted rules help to predict the performance and identify the avg, below avg and good students.	136
5.	To describe the six machine learning algorithms for predicting programming success, using the pre-determined factors.	Approaches: Logistic regression, k-nearest neighbor, back propagation, C4.5, naïve Bayes and SVM	Datasets: Prev academic experience, computer, game playing, internet, hours studying, job	Implementation: The results are done using Tool Weka	Results/ Future work Based on accuracy, the successful Algorithms in descending order are NB, SMO, logistic regression, back propagation, C4.5 and 3-NN.	137
6.	To predict the performance of students in an academic organization	Approaches: DT(C4.5), Naive Bayes, 3NN RIPPER, WINNOW- NN	Datasets: poor, average, good, excellent	Implementation: Machine learning has come far from its nascent stages, and can prove to be a powerful tool in academia	Results/ Future work The performance of neural networks increases with increase in dataset size	138

III. WEKA TOOL

Weka is Data mining software in java, its open source software issued under the GNU General Public License. Weka is a collection of machine learning algorithms for data mining tasks. The algorithms can either be applied directly to a dataset or called from your own Java code. Weka contains tools for data pre-processing, classification, regression, clustering, association rules, and visualization. It is also well-suited for developing new machine learning schemes. Weka supports several standard data mining tasks, more specifically, data preprocessing, clustering, classification, regression, visualization, and feature selection.

Programming languages:

R, Java, Python, Mat lab, SAS and Rapid Miner.

3.1. Data mining algorithms in Weka

- Classifiers (covers the supervised classification and regression).
- Clusterers (unsupervised learning)
- Associations
- Attribute Selection (evaluators and search methods)
- Preprocessing Filters (supervised and unsupervised data preprocessing).

Categories of Weka algorithms:

1. **Bayes:** Algorithms that use Bayes Theorem, like Naive Bayes.
2. **Function:** Algorithms that estimate a function, like Linear Regression.
3. **Lazy:** Algorithms that use lazy learning, like k-Nearest Neighbors.
4. **Meta:** Algorithms that use or combine multiple algorithms, like Ensembles.
5. **Misc:** Implementations don't neatly fit other, like running a saved model.
6. **Rules:** Algorithms that use rules, like One Rule.
7. **Trees:** Algorithms that use decision trees, like Random Forest.

Weka selects the last attribute in your dataset. If the attribute is nominal, then Weka assumes you are working on a classification problem. If the attribute is numeric, Weka assumes you are working on a regression problem.

This is important, because the type of problem that you are working on determines what algorithms that you can work with. For example, if you are working on a classification problem, you cannot use regression algorithms like Linear Regression. On the other hand, if you are working on a regression problem, you cannot use classification algorithms like Logistic Regression. Fig.1 shows the algorithms which are applicable under Weka tool. Among them our next sections use the j48, neural network, bayes.net, random forest algorithms for comparison.

3.1.2. Weka modules

A collection of machine learning algorithms for solving

real-world data mining problems and it also provides data mining functions (regression, association rules and clustering algorithms).

3.1.3. Weka is done using four Modules

1. Explorer: Data processing.
2. Knowledge flow: predictive performances of learning.
3. Command Line Interface: to access Weka functionalities, increments processing of data.
4. Experimenter: scale comparison for predictive performance of learning algorithms.

3.2. Steps to process the WEKA explore

Step.1: Preprocessing Data

Step.2: Uploading a File

Step.3: Once the data is loaded, attributes are shown in the 'Attribute' window.

Step.4: You can visualize the attributes based on selected class by clicking on 'Visualize All' button.

Step.5: *Classifiers/Clustering/Associations/Attribute Selection:*

If once the data is uploaded click on Classifiers/ Clustering/ Associations/ Attribute Selection then it starts applying the provided algorithms.

Classifiers:

These models are for predicting nominal or numeric quantities.

- Learning classifiers are decision trees and lists, instance-based classifiers, support vector machines, multi-layer perceptions, logistic regression, and Bayes' nets.
- Meta-Classifiers include bagging, boosting, stacking, error-correcting output codes, and locally weighted learning.

Clustering:

Clustering is used to find similar methods, Weka consists these classifiers k-Means, EM, Cobweb, X-means, Farthest First. Same steps are followed to upload data as in classifier.

Once the algorithm is chosen, right click on algorithm, a new dialog box gets opened. Set the value in "numCluster" number it according to the selected attributes and mark to restore the cluster visualization. Then in test options choose classes to cluster evaluation (nom). Now start to run the algorithm.

Associations:

Weka supports Apriori algorithm here, it works only with discrete data and will identify statistical dependencies between groups of attributes. Associate doesn't support the numerical values.

Attribute selection:

It contains two parts: search methods such as best-first, forward selection, random, exhaustive, genetic algorithm, ranking, and an evaluation method such as correlation-based, wrapper, information gain, chi-squared. Test options: Use full training set, cross-validation.

Step.6: Data Visualization

Weka can visualize single attributes (1-d) and pairs of attributes (2-d) rotate 3-d visualizations (Xgobi-style). Weka has “Jitter” option to deal with nominal attributes

and to detect “hidden “data points. Here you can select the graphs types (like: rectangle, polygon etc.).

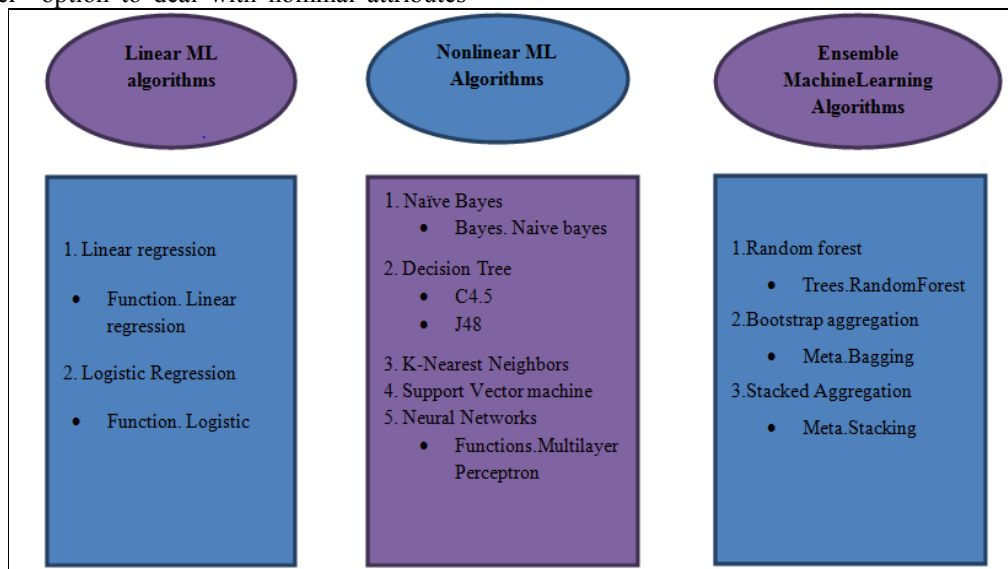


Fig.1: Machine Learning Algorithms under WEKA.

IV. Azure Machine Learning

Azure Machine Learning is a cloud-based predictive analytics service. Azure provides Platform as a Service (PaaS) and Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), this solution was created by Microsoft in the year 2010. The Cloud Academy has some excellent courses introducing you to the platform. This cloud solves the problem of big data processing.

Azure Machine Learning offers a fairly independent environment to work on. To be precise, in ML Workspace where all ML-related objects live, although we will be able to monitor our ML web services directly from the general Azure dashboard. You can always access your Azure Machine Learning Studio at “https://studio.azureml.net.”

The components we have to work on are as follows:

- **Datasets:** These are data containers of our own. We can create a new file from a local file.
- **Experiments:** An experiment is a set of connected components used to create, train, score, and test our model.
- **Trained Models:** Once you the model on which you’ve experimented, you can save it and can be reuse it in future experiments.

- **Web Services:** In order to obtain new predictions (either online or batch predictions) we’ll need to create and query a Web Service.

Supported data sets files are: CSV, TSV, Plain Text (.txt), ZIP (.zip), SvmLight, ARFF, and RData.

4.1. How to create an Azure Machine Learning model:

Step.1: Choose the Data set name and replace the name at top of building block.

Step.2: Data sets> search> select column in dataset (launch the column).

Step.3: Split data (split rows, select the % to split).

Step.4: Machine Learning >Train model (select the column).

Step.5: Machine Learning >Initialize model (select the algorithm to be applied).

Step.6: Score model.

Step.7: Evaluate model.

When we run the experiment we can find the following results that are displayed, here we find model accuracy, precision and recall. More you can graphically visualize how the 6 possible classes have been classified in the testing set by looking at the Confusion Matrix. Fig.2 shows the machine learning approaches in Azure Tool.

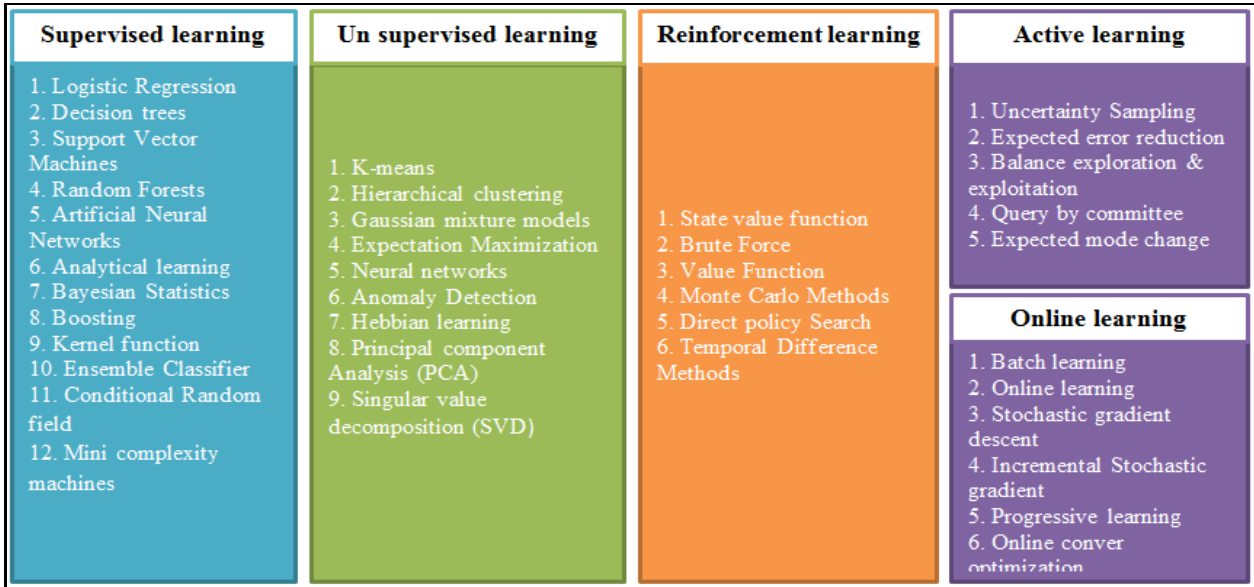


Fig.2: Azure Machine Learning Approaches.

Table.2 shows all the machine learning algorithms in the Azure tool; among these our study goes on three different methods one in Classification (i.e., Two-class neural network), Regression (i.e., Linear Regression) and Clustering (i.e., K-Means Clustering).

Table.2: Azure Machine Learning Algorithms.

Classification	Regression	Clustering
Multi Class Forest	Poisson Regression	K-Means Clustering
Multi Class Decision Jungle	Ordinal Regression	
Multi Class Logistic Regression	Fast Forest Quintile Regression	
Multi Class Neural Networks	Linear Regression	
One-Vs-All Multi Class	Neural Network Regression	
Two-Class Average Percept	Decision Forest Regression	
Two-Class Bayes Point Machine	Bayesian Linear Regression	
Two-Class Boosted Decision	Boosted Decision Tree Algorithm	
Two-Class Decision Forest		
Two-Class Decision Jungle		
Two-Class Locally-Deep SVM		
Two-Class Logistic Regression		
Two-Class Neural Networks		
Two-Class SVM		

Data sets

The following data sets are considered for the algorithm comparisons using Weka and MS Azure tools. The attributes are: School, sex, age, address, famsize, Pstatus, Medu, Fedu, Mjob, Fjob, reason, guardian, travel time, studytime, failures, schoolsup, famsup, paid, activities, nursery, higher, internet, romantic, famrel, free time, goout, Dalc, Walc, health, absences, G1, G2,G3,Total, Results.

V. Algorithm Comparisons

5.1. Weka Algorithm results

We have done some experiments using Weka tool in order to evaluate the performance of different algorithms for predicting students’ success. The results of the experiments are summarized in the Table.2. The table consists of Time taken (TT), correctly classify instance (CCI), in correctly classify instance (ICCI), kappa static (KS), mean absolute error (MAE), Relative absolute error (RAE), Root mean squared error (RMSE), Total, Test model. It represents the comparison of performance criteria values of the neural networks, J48, Random forest, Naïve bayes, and Bayes.net.

Table.2: Weka algorithms comparisons

Algorithms	TT	CCI	ICCI	KS	MAE	RAE	RMSE	Total	Test model
J48	0.17 sec	394 99.7468%	- 1 0.2832	- 0.9948	0.005	10.19%	0.5	395	NA
Random forest	0.93 sec	134 100%	0 0%	1	0.0502	10.35%	0.0861	134	66.00%
Naïve bayes	0.02 sec	372 94.1772%	23 5.8228	0.8804	0.00649	13.3956	0.1958	395	NA
Neural networks	9.19 sec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bayes.net	0.02 sec	394 99.746 8%	1 0.2832%	0.9948	0.0028	0.58%	10.22659	395	NA

Visualization:

The results of neural network in graphical way are shown in fig.3, as we increase datasets the size of this gets increased. Fig.4 is the result of j48 it displays pass percentage at one side of tree and failure at other side.

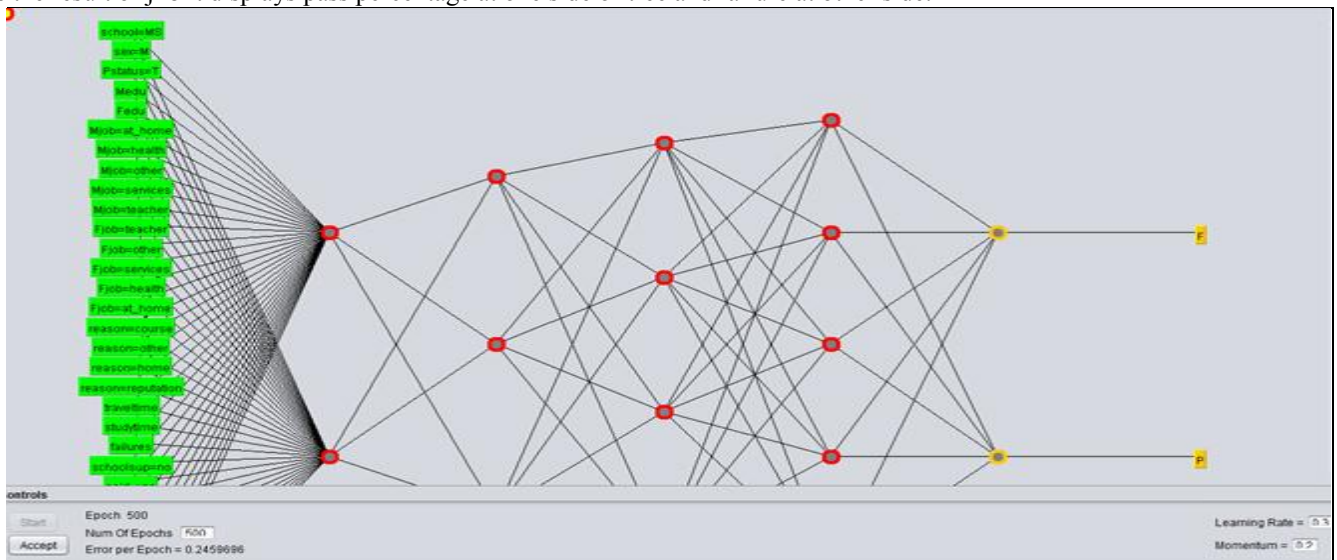


Fig.3: Neural network with Multilayer Perceptron

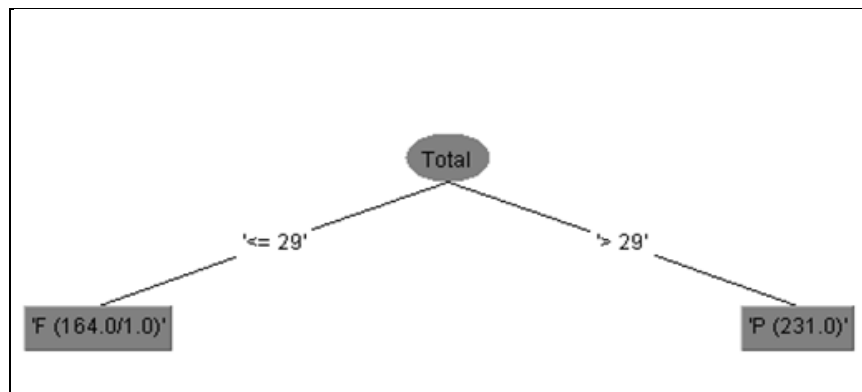


Fig.4: Tree j48 visualization

5.2. Azure Algorithm results

We have done some experiments using Azure tool as well to evaluate the performance of different algorithms for predicting students' success. The results of the experiments are summarized in the Table.3. The table consists of Mean, median, max, min, standard deviation, unique value, missing value, feature type. It represents the comparison of performance criteria values of the two locally neural networks, K- means clustering, linear regression.

Table.3: Azure algorithms comparisons

Algorithms	Azure Machine Learning Algorithms					Unique Val	Missing Val	Feature Type
	Mean	Median	Min	Max	Standard Dev			
Linear Regression	31.6356	32.5	6	54	11.5156	45	0	Numeric Feature
K-means clustering	0	-0.0034	-2.531	2.3439	1.0013	54	0	Numeric Feature
Two locally Neural networks	-0.0195	-0.0034	-2.4411	2.1634	1.0454	48	0	Numeric Label

Visualization of K-means clustering:

The graphical results of K-means are shown in the fig.5 In order to evaluate the performance of the proposed approach, the K-means clustering is one of the methods applied to the studied problem. Coefficients derived in this method are presented.

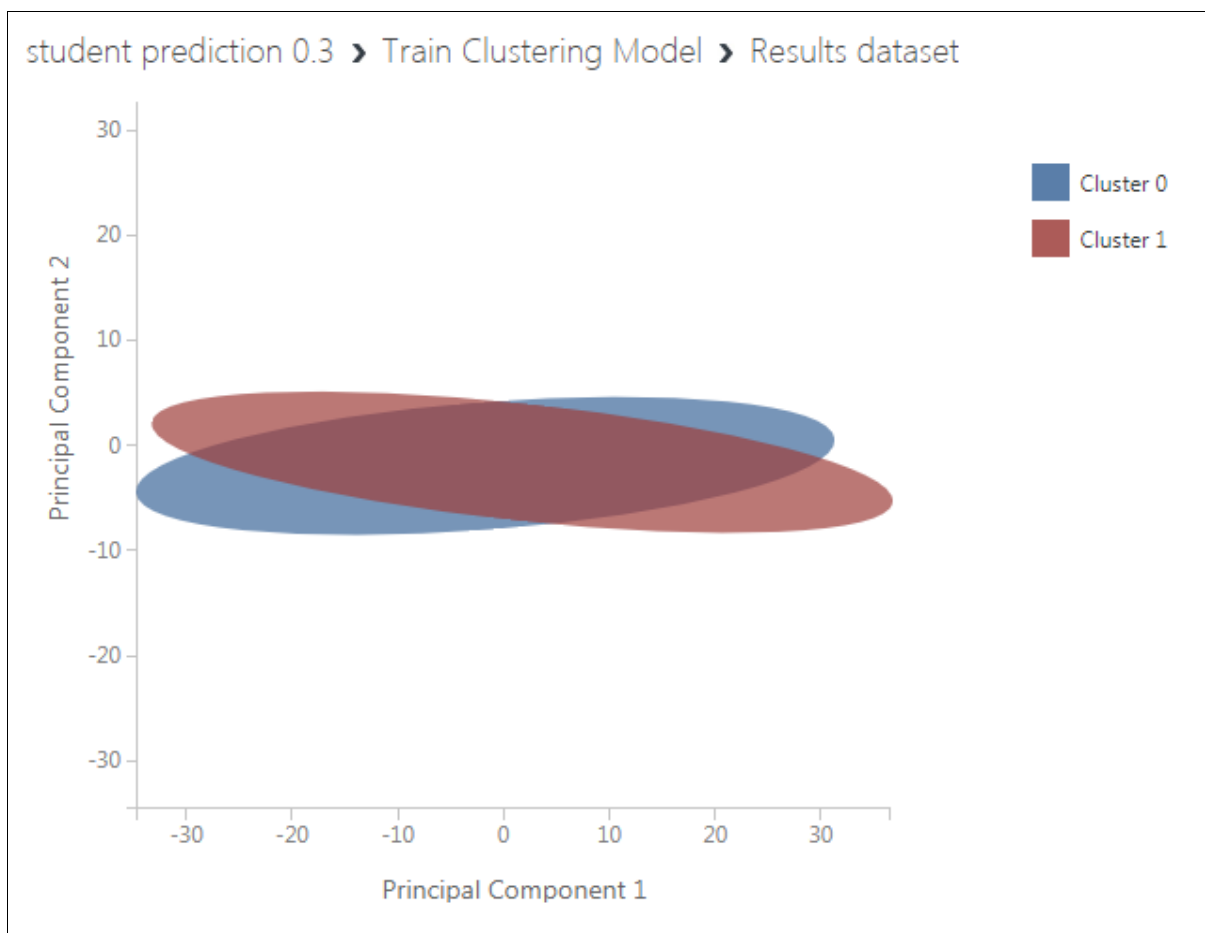


Fig.5: results of train model

VI. Conclusion

The accurate prediction is important as educational services are playing vital role, Present studies shows that academic performances of the students are primarily dependent on their past performances. We have chosen some student past actions for prediction and applied few algorithms to those datasets and the results have been shown. We can say that the performance of neural networks increases with increase in dataset size. Machine learning studio using azure has been best tool for real time applications, and can prove to be a powerful tool in academia. In future, more datasets are taken and prediction is done using k-means and neural networks.

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