



Predicting Student Performance Using Data Mining and Machine Learning Techniques

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التنبؤ بإداء الطلاب باستخدام تقنيات التنقيب عن البيانات والتعلم الآلي

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ABSTRACT

Background:

Educational systems are increasingly leveraging analytic methods to improve student academic quality. Predicting student performance is an important area using data mining and machine learning can offers significant insights. This study emphasizes the potential of machine learning in environments by providing information for data-driven interventions aimed at improving student outcomes and supporting educational strategies.

Materials and Methods:

This initial processing phase guarantees model suitability. The second phase forward for training step using classifiers, like Logistic Regression Decision Tree Random Forest Support Vector Machine (SVM), K. Nearest Neighbors (KNN) and Naive Bayes.

Results:

The student results are obtained and tested using six classification models; Logistic Regression came on top with 99% accuracy; followed by SVM and K nearest Neighbors at 99%; Random Forest performed at 98%; Decision Tree, at 97%; and Naive Bayes, at 96%. The results of accuracy and recall scores showed that the models performed well, with logistic regression and k-nearest neighbors achieving around 100% perfect rates. The results of heat maps for the confusion matrix for the performance comparison reveal the effectiveness of ensemble and margin-based classifiers in this task.

Conclusions:

The results highlight how machine learning can help schools make decisions on student support and anticipate student needs effectively. For future work, the proposed work will consider metrics like behavior and engagement data and updating models consistently to improve accuracy for better student performance.

Keywords: Educational Data Mining (EDM), Decision Tree, SVM, KNN and Naive Bayes.

INTRODUCTION

Forecasting student performance is one of the aspects of Educational Data Mining (EDM), which may positively or negatively affect educational curricula, resource allocation, and support systems. Educational institutions aim to improve learning outcomes and identify students who may be performing poorly or failing to meet expectations, enabling timely interventions and personalized assistance. Machine learning and data analysis techniques are important tools for analyzing information and building predictive models to rank students based on their performance, identifying critical factors affecting their academic success. Data exploration is part of this field, where analytical and statistical methods and machine learning frameworks are combined to uncover valuable insights from educational datasets.

This area has received great attention in educational institutions, where huge amounts of data on student progress and performance are collected. By analyzing this data using data mining techniques, teachers can detect patterns in students learning behavior, identify areas that need improvement, and make informed decisions. Student performance research in educational data mining can also help identify students who may need support and allow interventions to improve learning outcomes and experiences [1-4].

The effectiveness of machine learning in data mining models depends on the algorithms chosen and the detailed of data preparation as shown in figure (1). Six classification algorithms; Logistic Regression, Decision Tree, Random Forest, Support Vector Machine (SVM) K Nearest Neighbors and Naive Bayes are implemented to predict student behavior in this work. These algorithms bring advantages when it comes to handling classification tasks. For example, Random Forest is recognized for its resilience and capability to manage data patterns that're nonlinear. Support Vector Machines deals with high dimensional environments by establishing clear boundaries between categories. Logistic Regression produces results that can be easily interpreted and is commonly employed as a benchmark in binary classification tasks. Decision Trees offer clarity in model decision making despite a tendency to overfitting which makes them valuable particularly, in educational contexts. The KNN method is non parametric, which depends on similarity measures which work well for datasets that emphasize patterns importance and in contrast NB relies on principles it is computationally efficient and appropriate for text or categorical datasets [5-8].

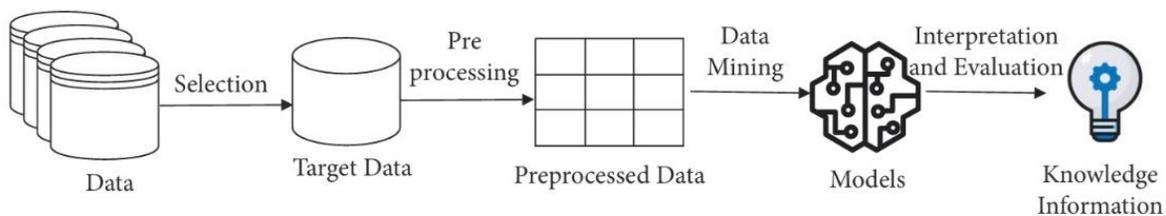


Figure 1: Data Mining Steps and Model Evaluation [9]



In this work, the dataset that includes information, about students' backgrounds and academic performance such as gender, parental education level, lunch type, test preparation course enrollment and scores, in math, reading and writing, is tested. The goal was to predict students' achievement levels using this data to help improve strategies. We created a performance classification variable by averaging each students scores in the three subjects (math, reading and writing). Students who scored above a threshold value were categorized as " high " while those who scored threshold were referred to as "low" using the machine learning. This distinction helps in conducting targeted evaluations. Machine learning techniques help in distinguishing between student who excel well and those who need additional guidance and assistance. In the model performance, the metrics, like accuracy along with precision and recall scores, are obtained for gauging the models results in distinguishing between low and high score accurately. Confusion matrices, for each model to show the breakdown of positives and negatives is created. Data visualization methods, alongside metrics to showcase the findings in a way that's easy to understand and interpret by creating a grouped bar graph to compare how accurate and precise each model performed by looking at their recall and F1 scores [10-11].

RELATED WORK

In Ref. [12] in (2019) explores the application of educational data mining (EDM) techniques to improve accuracy in predicting student outcomes within a university course setting. By utilizing classification models—Naïve Bayes, Logistic Regression, k-Nearest Neighbors, and Random Forest. The study evaluated predictive models based on student engagement data from an interactive educational tool (Xorro-Q). The results indicate that the Random Forest outperformed other algorithms yielding the highest accuracy especially when combined with process mining (PM) features derived from student participation patterns. While the study demonstrated increased prediction accuracy, it acknowledged limitations related to data from a single course and lack of demographic variables. Future research could expand these findings by incorporating a broader dataset and additional student characteristics to enhance model robustness and applicability across varied educational contexts

The Ref. [13] in (2021) conducted an examination of how data mining and learning analytics are applied to forecast student performance in higher education by using machine learning methods like supervised learning and neural networks to predict grades and course completion outcomes effectively. The study classifies predictors into two categories; factors such as academic performance and nonacademic factors. One of the issues identified is the inconsistency, in models due to differences in how data gathered and the educational settings involved which make it challenging to compare studies effectively. The authors suggest that future studies should validate models using various datasets and environments while highlighting the need for interpretability to generate practical insights that can help.

In Ref. [14] (2021) investigated how Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) are used to analyze education student information. They obtained that ANNs play a role in Educational Data Mining (EDM) helpful for predicting success and guiding personalized learning experiences for students.



The study highlights the significance of ANNs in developing models facilitating learning procedures and enhancing cost efficiency in handling data. Nevertheless, the research also points out difficulty in putting ideas into action, like limitations in hardware, difficulties in training and accuracy problems. After analyzing 190 articles the authors highlight the importance of developing economical methods to boost the predictive precision of artificial neural networks (ANN). Potential areas for study involve concentrating on enhancing model efficiency to raise the effectiveness of ANN in analysis personalized learning approaches and student performance which leading to sustainable progress in higher education.

IN (2022) in [9] reviewed machine learning approaches for predicting student academic performance in higher education. Their research found that ensemble methods, especially Random Forest, consistently achieved high predictive accuracy due to their ability to manage complex educational data structures. Demographic and prior academic information were significant predictors of student outcomes, and incorporating behavioral data further for improving predictions. Remarkably, the impact of admission criteria on predictive accuracy remains uncertain, suggesting a need for further study in this area. The authors highlight that interpretability and accuracy are crucial for educational models, as actionable insights can support interventions for student performance. Following Alwarthan et al., our study also evaluates multiple classifiers, including Logistic Regression and Support Vector Machine, to assess their effectiveness in real-world educational settings. Overall, these findings highlight the importance of diverse predictors and model transparency for enhancing student success .

In [15] proposed a technique to predict student exam outcomes by combining support vector machines (SVM), artificial neural networks (ANN), and teaching learning-based optimization (TLBO). This innovative method enhances the accuracy of forecasting results by selecting attributes and optimizing the ANN configuration based on the dataset from Open University encompassing engagement aspects. The results show that the Support Vector Machine (SVM), when combined with an ANN, demonstrated accuracy in classification based on input variables, while the Support Vector Regression (SVR) strength lay in regression tasks performance excellence was noted during the study into its effects, where consistent assessment scores and active participation showed a correlation with final exam outcomes this approach offers insights to improve student achievement [Click or tap here to enter text..](#)

The survey paper in [16] , there was an overview of 80 studies conducted between 2016 and 2021 in the field of educational data mining (EDM). These studies primarily revolved around forecasting student achievements through methodologies and approaches in modeling that comprise data gathering stages to assessment metrics—the phases being data collection prep work modeling development and the final evaluation process. It also categorizes different EDM techniques, compares their advantages and disadvantages, and underscores key factors such as demographic information, educational background, and levels of student engagement. In addition, the point made by the writers about the difficulties they face, like standardizing data and making predictive models more understandable due to data availability, in their studies findings emphasizes the necessity for notch standardized data and more sophisticated refining methods they propose for



future research directions to center on enhancing model clarity and refining features by combining insights from education and cognitive science fields for better interpretability purposes.

In Ref. [17] titled " *Identification of Students at Risk of Low Performance by Combining Rule-Based Models, Enhanced Machine Learning, and Knowledge Graph Techniques*" published in 2023, sheds light on a method to recognize and assist students who are facing challenges with their performance efficiently by integrating rule-based models with machine learning algorithms and knowledge graphs. The framework has four goals: spotting students who may need help early on in their academic journey, offering timely support by utilizing graph-based neural networks to enhance prediction accuracy, and refining personalized learning strategies based on demographic and academic data analysis using explainable machine learning techniques to better predict outcomes and provide clear explanations for the decisions made to improve student performance through customized support strategies in real-world educational settings [Click or tap here to enter text..](#)

The paper in [18] research explores a hybrid machine-learning approach to predicting student academic success. This study uses the CATboost classifier, Victoria Amazonica optimization (VAO), and artificial rabbit optimization (ARO) to enhance the accuracy of the model. By analyzing a dataset of 649 students, the researchers divided the data into training and test groups and found that the VAO model achieved an accuracy of about 6% higher than ARO. Evaluation measures, including accuracy, tuning, recall, and score F1, showed that the VAO model accurately rated 606 students, superior to other models in predictive ability. These results emphasize the potential of hybrid models in educational data mining, which offer useful tools for educators to identify at-risk students and improve academic interventions [Click or tap here to enter text..](#)

In [19] comprehensively review machine learning algorithms for predicting student success. Analyzing five algorithms—Random Forest, Support Vector Machine (SVM), Decision Tree, Logistic Regression, and K-Nearest Neighbor. The study found that Random Forest performed best, achieving a G-Mean of 0.9243 and an accuracy of 85.42%. The paper emphasizes the importance of sensitivity and balanced specificity in predictions, especially for identifying at-risk students. Key predictors included demographic and behavioral data, such as session resource sharing. The authors discuss challenges such as data standardization and model interpretability and call for further improvement to improve the applicability of machine learning in diverse educational contexts [19]

In [20] evaluated the effectiveness of four popular machine-learning algorithms: C4.5 Decision Tree, Multilayer Perceptron (MLP), Naïve Bayes (NB), and Random Forest (RF) in predicting student success. Using a dataset from secondary schools in Ghana, it was found that Naive Bayes was the best performer overall, especially in reduced datasets. The random forest also showed high accuracy, while MLP had the longest runtime and lower accuracy. The results suggest that Naive Bayes may be an ideal choice for educational data mining tasks that focus on student performance and support data-driven interventions to help at-risk students.



SIMULATION RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study results offer an analysis of the performance for six machine learning models. Logistic Regression Decision Trees, Random Forests, Support Vector Machines (SVM) K. Nearest Neighbors (KNN) and Naive Bayes. The dataset was download from Kaggle website that made marks secure by different subjects. The dataset consists of many attributes as in table (1) for 1000 student [23].

Table 1: The main attributes of Student performance dataset

No.	Attribute Name	Description
1	Gender	male/female
2	race/ethnicity	group A, B, C, D, and E
3	parental level of education	High school, some college, bachelor's degree, , master's degree, associate's degree,
4	Lunch	Free/ reduce or standard
5	test preparation course	Completed / none
6	Scores	Math/ reading / writing

Table (2) shows the snapshot of the original dataset for the student performance which consist of 1000 rows and 8 columns.

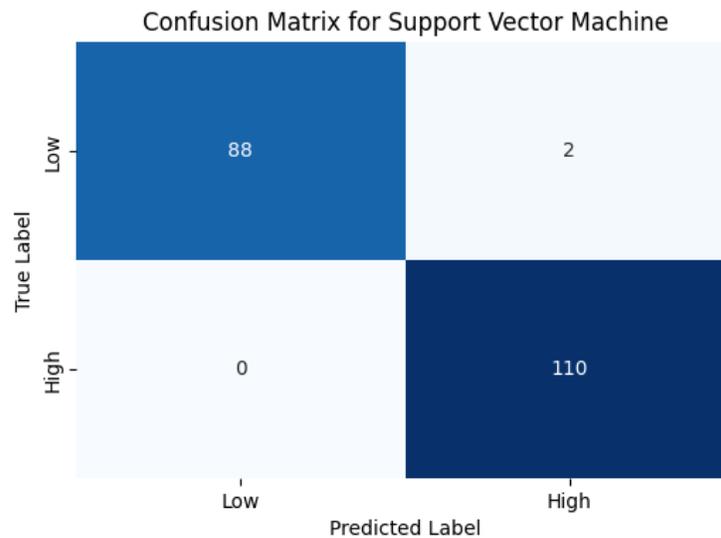


Figure 6: Support Vector Machine confusion matrix

The K neighbors (KNN) algorithm also demonstrated results with an accuracy rate of 99%, precision of 99%, recall of 99%, and F1 score of 99%. The balanced metrics of KNN suggest its ability to categorize students accurately with mistakes making it a reliable choice for predicting process. However, the effectiveness of KNN is influenced by the selection of neighbors and data distribution. Its performance could reduce when dealing with datasets. Figure (7) shows the main confusion matrix for KNN.

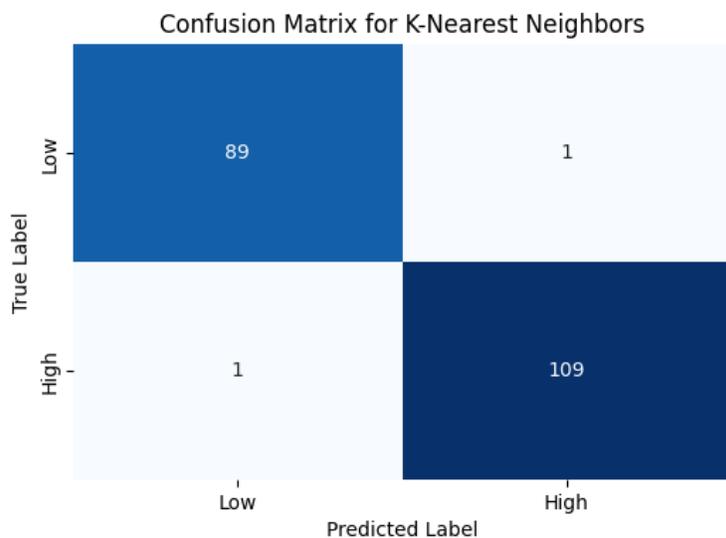


Figure 7: KNN confusion matrix

In conclusion despite performing than the other methods the Naive Bayes classifier still delivered satisfactory outcomes with an accuracy of 96%, a precision and recall of 96% each and an F1 score also, at 96%. Naive Bayes relies on the assumption of feature independence, which might not be entirely applicable in this dataset given the interdependence between academic variables. This particular assumption could be a contributing factor, to its accuracy. Somewhat balanced yet decreased precision and recall rates. Despite this fact Naive Bayes is still a choice that can be quite useful when emphasizing interpretability and speed, over accuracy. Figure (8) shows the main confusion matrix for KNN.

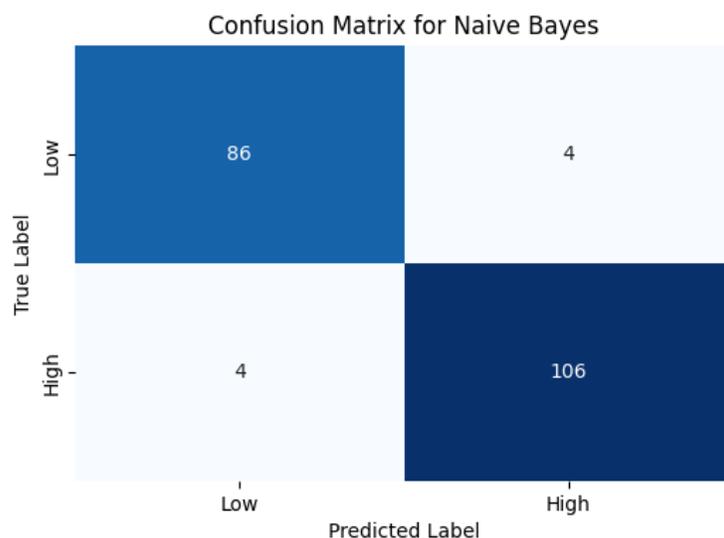


Figure 8: Naïve Bays confusion matrix

The summarized chart data in figure (9) for all classifiers was showed that the Logistic Regression, SVM, and K nearest Neighbors have almost perfect scores for accuracy, precision, recall and F1 score with balanced performance. Random Forest comes next with performance across all measures but lower recall. Decision Tree and Naive Bayes show performance in comparison. They are still quite effective especially in situations where interpretability or computational efficiency are important considerations.



Conflict of interests

There are non-conflicts of interest.

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الخلاصة

المقدمة:

تستفيد الأنظمة التعليمية بشكل متزايد من الأساليب التحليلية لتحسين الجودة الأكاديمية للطلاب. يعد التنبؤ بأداء الطلاب مجالاً مهماً باستخدام استخراج البيانات والتعلم الآلي يمكن أن يوفر رؤى مهمة. تؤكد هذه الدراسة على إمكانات التعلم الآلي في البيانات من خلال توفير المعلومات للتدخلات القائمة على البيانات والتي تهدف إلى تحسين نتائج الطلاب ودعم الاستراتيجيات التعليمية.

طرائق العمل:

تضمن مرحلة المعالجة الأولية هذه ملاءمة النموذج. المرحلة الثانية للأمام لخطوة التدريب باستخدام المصنفات، مثل شجرة القرار الانحدار اللوجستي وآلة دعم المتجه (SVM) و K أقرب الجيران (KNN) و Naive Bayes.

النتائج:

تم الحصول على نتائج الطلاب واختبارها باستخدام ستة نماذج تصنيف؛ جاء الانحدار اللوجستي في المقدمة بدقة 99%؛ يليه SVM و K أقرب الجيران بنسبة 99%؛ الغاية العشوائية التي تم إجراؤها بنسبة 98%؛ شجرة القرار بنسبة 97%؛ و Naive Bayes بنسبة 96%. أظهرت نتائج درجات الدقة والتذكر أن النماذج حققت أداءً جيدًا، حيث حقق الانحدار اللوجستي وأقرب الجيران k معدلات متالية بنسبة 100% تقريبًا. تكشف نتائج خرائط الحرارة لمصفوفة الارتباك لمقارنة الأداء عن فعالية المصنفات القائمة على المجموعة والهامش في هذه المهمة.

الاستنتاجات:

تسلط النتائج الضوء على كيفية مساعدة التعلم الآلي للمدارس في اتخاذ القرارات بشأن دعم الطلاب وتوقع احتياجات الطلاب بشكل فعال. بالنسبة للعمل المستقبلي، سيأخذ العمل المقترح في الاعتبار مقاييس مثل بيانات السلوك والمشاركة وتحديث النماذج باستمرار لتحسين الدقة لتحسين أداء الطلاب.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التعدين في البيانات التعليمية (EDM)، شجرة القرار، SVM، KNN و Naive Bayes.