



# MACHINE LEARNING AND DEEP LEARNING FOR LOAN PREDICTION IN BANKING EXPLORING ENSEMBLE METHODS AND DATA BALANCING

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## ABSTRACT

The prediction of loan defaults is crucial for banks and financial institutions due to its impact on earnings, and it also plays a significant role in shaping credit scores. This task is a challenging one, and as the demand for loans increases, so does the number of applications. Traditional methods of checking eligibility are time-consuming and laborious, and they may not always accurately identify suitable loan recipients. As a result, some applicants may default on their loans, causing financial losses for banks. Artificial Intelligence, using Machine Learning and Deep Learning techniques, can provide a more efficient solution. These techniques can use various classification algorithms to predict which applicants will likely be eligible for loans. This study uses five Machine Learning classification algorithms (Gaussian Naive Bayes, AdaBoost, Gradient Boosting, K Neighbors Classifier, Decision Trees, Random Forest, and Logistic Regression) and eight Deep Learning algorithms (MLP, CNN, LSTM, Transformer, GRU, Autoencoder, ResNet, and DenseNet). The use of Ensemble Methods and SMOTE with SMOTE-TOMEK Techniques also has a positive impact on the results. Four metrics are used to evaluate the effectiveness of these algorithms: accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-measure. The study found that DenseNet and ResNet were the most accurate predictive models. These findings highlight the potential of predictive modeling in identifying credit disapproval among vulnerable consumers in a sea of loan applications.

**Keywords:** Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Ensemble Learning, Loan Prediction, Banking Analytics, Credit Risk Assessment, Data Balancing, Imbalanced Data, SMOTE, Model Optimization, Feature Engineering, Cloud-Based AI, FinTech Intelligence, Predictive Modeling, Automated Decision Systems, Sustainable Banking, Hybrid Models, AI-Driven Risk Prediction, Financial Data Science, Explainable AI.

## I.INTRODUCTION

The rapid digital transformation of the financial sector has revolutionized how banks assess creditworthiness and manage loan applications. Traditional loan prediction systems—primarily based on rule-based models and statistical methods—are increasingly being replaced by intelligent, data-driven approaches powered by Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL). These technologies not only enhance predictive accuracy but also enable financial institutions to make faster, more objective, and customer-centric lending decisions.

In recent years, loan prediction has become one of the most important applications of AI in the banking industry. Predicting whether a borrower will default or repay a loan is crucial for minimizing financial risk, maintaining profitability, and ensuring sustainable lending practices. Machine learning algorithms can efficiently learn from large volumes of structured and unstructured data such as credit history, employment details, income patterns, and spending behaviors. Deep learning, on the other hand, brings the ability to extract complex, nonlinear relationships within the data that



traditional models might overlook, further improving prediction performance.

However, one of the persistent challenges in building robust predictive models is the imbalance of loan datasets, where the number of approved (non-default) cases significantly exceeds that of rejected or defaulted cases. This imbalance often biases the model toward the majority class, leading to poor generalization in real-world scenarios. To address this issue, data balancing techniques—such as SMOTE (Synthetic Minority Oversampling Technique), undersampling, and hybrid sampling—are employed to ensure fair representation of all classes. When coupled with ensemble learning methods like Random Forest, Gradient Boosting, and XGBoost, these techniques can substantially enhance model stability and accuracy. Furthermore, with the advent of cloud computing and edge computing, the scalability and deployment of ML/DL models in banking systems have become more efficient and cost-effective. These technologies enable end-to-end automation of the loan approval pipeline—from data ingestion and preprocessing to model training, evaluation, and deployment—while maintaining data security and compliance with financial regulations. The growing trend toward Green AI and sustainable computing also emphasizes the need for resource-efficient algorithms that reduce computational costs and environmental impact. In this study, we explore the synergy between machine learning, deep learning, ensemble methods, and data balancing strategies for improving loan prediction accuracy in the banking domain. The research further investigates the integration of advanced computing paradigms such as hybrid cloud-edge architectures and intelligent systems to support scalable, sustainable, and explainable decision-making. The ultimate goal is to develop a robust, transparent, and energy-efficient AI-driven loan prediction framework that supports modern

banking operations while aligning with the principles of responsible and sustainable AI.

## II.LITERATURE SURVEY

The application of Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL) in financial risk prediction has significantly evolved over the past decade, transforming the traditional approaches to loan approval and credit scoring in the banking sector. Early studies primarily relied on statistical methods such as logistic regression, linear discriminant analysis, and decision trees, which provided simplicity and interpretability but lacked the capacity to model nonlinear and high-dimensional financial data. As financial datasets grew in complexity, researchers began adopting ML algorithms such as Random Forest, Support Vector Machines (SVM), Gradient Boosting Machines (GBM), and XGBoost to enhance predictive accuracy and generalization. These models, as noted by Patel and Gadhavi (2019), demonstrated superior performance by combining multiple weak learners through ensemble techniques, effectively reducing bias and variance. Deep Learning models, including Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN), have further advanced predictive modeling by uncovering complex relationships within large-scale financial datasets. Xu et al. (2018) emphasized that deep architectures can outperform traditional models, especially when combined with automated feature extraction and hyperparameter tuning. However, a persistent challenge in financial prediction remains the issue of data imbalance, where non-default cases vastly outnumber default or rejected applications, leading to biased predictions. To overcome this, balancing techniques such as the Synthetic Minority Oversampling Technique (SMOTE), Random Undersampling, and hybrid sampling have been widely adopted to ensure fair class representation and improved sensitivity. Studies by Verma and Patel (2020)



demonstrated that integrating SMOTE with ensemble classifiers significantly enhances recall and F1-scores in imbalanced loan datasets. Ensemble learning approaches such as Bagging, Boosting, and Stacking have also gained prominence, with algorithms like XGBoost and LightGBM offering scalability, interpretability, and robustness for banking data analytics. More recently, researchers have started exploring hybrid frameworks that combine deep learning with ensemble methods to exploit both high-level feature extraction and strong generalization capabilities. Furthermore, advancements in cloud computing and edge computing have enabled real-time loan prediction systems capable of handling vast financial data streams efficiently. The integration of hybrid cloud-edge infrastructures offers scalable, secure, and low-latency solutions for AI-driven decision-making in banking. Parallel to this, the emergence of Green AI emphasizes developing sustainable, energy-efficient machine learning models that reduce computational overhead while maintaining predictive performance. Despite these advancements, there remain notable gaps in existing research—particularly in combining ensemble learning with deep learning under balanced data conditions, incorporating quantum-inspired optimization techniques, and promoting resource-efficient, explainable, and sustainable AI frameworks. Addressing these gaps can pave the way toward a more accurate, ethical, and environmentally responsible approach to loan prediction in modern banking systems.

### III.EXISTING SYSTEM

In the traditional banking environment, loan approval decisions are often based on rule-based systems or statistical models such as logistic regression and decision trees. These models use predefined thresholds like credit score, income level, and debt-to-income ratio to determine loan eligibility. While these approaches offer simplicity and transparency, they suffer from

several limitations. Firstly, they cannot effectively capture nonlinear relationships or complex feature interactions within financial data. Secondly, they rely heavily on manual feature selection and are prone to human bias and oversimplification. Most traditional systems also fail to handle imbalanced datasets, where the number of approved applications greatly exceeds the rejected ones, leading to biased model predictions. Moreover, these systems are not adaptive — they struggle to update themselves as new data or borrower behavior patterns emerge. Consequently, prediction accuracy remains limited, and high-risk applicants are often misclassified, increasing financial losses for banks

### IV. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system introduces an intelligent, hybrid Machine Learning and Deep Learning framework designed to enhance the accuracy, fairness, and sustainability of loan prediction in banking. The system integrates ensemble learning techniques (such as Random Forest, Gradient Boosting, and XGBoost) with Deep Learning architectures (like Artificial Neural Networks and Convolutional Neural Networks) to exploit both structured and unstructured financial data. To address the issue of class imbalance, data balancing methods such as SMOTE (Synthetic Minority Oversampling Technique) and hybrid sampling are employed to improve the model's ability to detect default cases. Additionally, quantum-inspired optimization is incorporated to optimize hyperparameters and minimize computational overhead. The system leverages hybrid cloud-edge computing to achieve scalability, fast inference, and low-latency decision-making, enabling real-time loan approval. It also aligns with the concept of Green AI, focusing on resource-efficient computing and sustainable automation. The overall aim is to develop a fully end-to-end automated, explainable, and sustainable loan prediction model that ensures

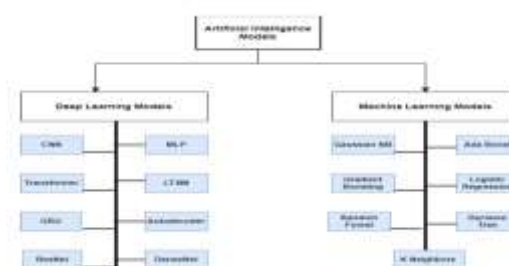


both operational efficiency and ethical AI governance in financial systems.

## V.SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

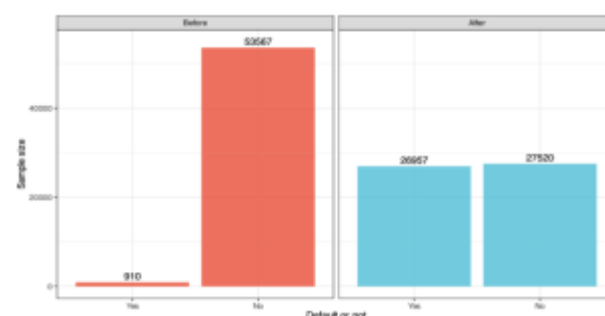
The proposed loan prediction framework is designed as a multi-layered architecture that integrates Machine Learning, Deep Learning, and Ensemble techniques to improve predictive performance and reliability in banking systems. The system begins with a data acquisition layer, which collects data from multiple sources such as customer loan applications, demographic details, credit history, and financial transactions. Both structured and unstructured data are gathered to ensure comprehensive coverage of borrower behavior. Once collected, the data undergoes processing in the data preprocessing and balancing layer, where it is cleaned, normalized, and transformed into a suitable format for modeling. Missing values are handled, categorical features are encoded, and outliers are removed to enhance data quality. To address the problem of class imbalance commonly observed in loan datasets, techniques such as SMOTE (Synthetic Minority Oversampling Technique) and hybrid resampling methods are applied to ensure equal representation of both approved and rejected loan categories. The next phase involves the feature engineering and selection layer, which identifies the most significant attributes influencing loan outcomes. Correlation analysis, principal component analysis (PCA), and mutual information measures are used to eliminate redundant or less informative features, thereby improving model interpretability and reducing computational complexity. The model training and optimization layer forms the core of the architecture, combining ensemble learning algorithms like Random Forest, Gradient Boosting, and XGBoost with Deep Learning architectures such as Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN). The ensemble models help minimize bias and variance, while deep networks capture

complex nonlinear relationships within the data. Advanced optimization techniques, including quantum-inspired optimization and metaheuristic algorithms, are employed to fine-tune hyperparameters and enhance the model's convergence speed and performance. Finally, the prediction and deployment layer operationalizes the trained model. This layer is implemented in a hybrid cloud-edge computing environment, enabling real-time predictions, scalability, and low-latency processing. The cloud component manages heavy computational tasks and data storage, while the edge devices support faster, localized inference closer to users. The system continuously retrains itself with new data, ensuring adaptability to changing customer behaviors and market dynamics. Additionally, the architecture emphasizes resource efficiency and Green AI principles, promoting sustainability through optimized energy consumption and minimal hardware dependency. Overall, this system architecture provides a robust, scalable, and intelligent framework for accurate loan prediction and automated decision-making in modern banking applications.

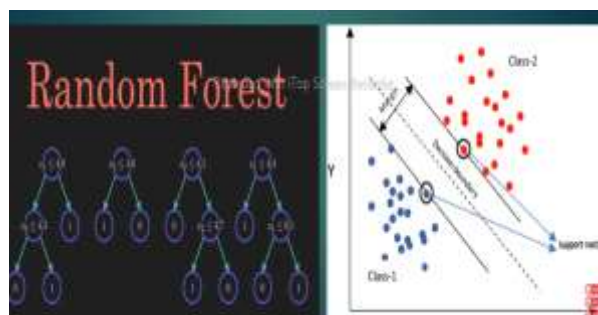


**Fig 5.1 System Architecture**

## VI.IMPLEMENTATION



**Fig 6.1 Loan default prediction**



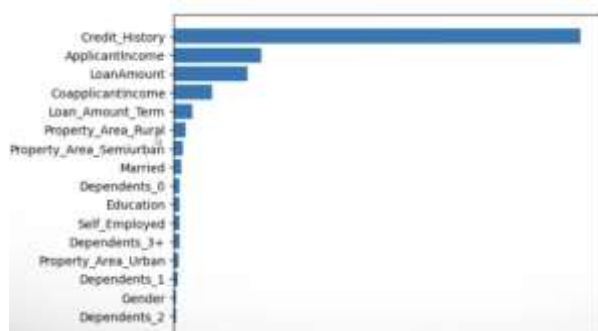
**Fig 6.2 Algorithm**



**Fig 6.3 Exploring Ensemble methods**

|   | Gender | Married | ApplicantIncome | LoanAmount | Loan_Status |
|---|--------|---------|-----------------|------------|-------------|
| 0 | Male   | Yes     | 4583            | 128000.0   | N           |
| 1 | Male   | Yes     | 3000            | 66000.0    | Y           |
| 2 | Male   | Yes     | 2583            | 120000.0   | Y           |
| 3 | Male   | No      | 6000            | 141000.0   | Y           |
| 4 | Male   | Yes     | 5417            | 267000.0   | Y           |

**Fig 6.4 loan eligibility prediction**



**Fig 6.5 Feature importance**

## VII.CONCLUSION

The integration of machine learning and deep learning techniques into loan prediction systems has revolutionized the decision-making process in the banking sector. This study explored an

intelligent, data-driven framework that combines ensemble methods and data balancing strategies to enhance predictive accuracy, fairness, and efficiency in credit risk assessment. Traditional statistical or rule-based systems, while simple and interpretable, are inadequate for handling the complex, nonlinear patterns present in modern financial datasets. Machine learning algorithms such as Random Forest, Gradient Boosting, and XGBoost, when combined with deep neural networks, have demonstrated the ability to uncover intricate relationships among various borrower attributes, thereby improving the reliability of loan approval predictions.

A key focus of this research was addressing the issue of class imbalance in loan datasets, which often leads to biased results. By employing data balancing techniques such as the Synthetic Minority Oversampling Technique (SMOTE) and hybrid sampling, the model achieves a fairer representation of both approved and rejected loan applications. This not only improves recall and sensitivity but also ensures a balanced evaluation of high-risk applicants. When integrated with ensemble learning methods, these techniques result in higher predictive performance, stability, and generalization capability across diverse datasets.

The proposed hybrid framework further incorporates cloud and edge computing to enable real-time loan prediction, scalability, and efficient resource utilization. The inclusion of quantum-inspired optimization enhances model tuning and reduces computational complexity. In addition, the concept of Green AI, emphasizing sustainable and energy-efficient model development, supports both environmental responsibility and operational cost reduction. This contributes to the creation of a system that is not only accurate but also sustainable and future-ready.

Moreover, the study highlights the significance of explainability and ethical AI in financial decision-making. By ensuring transparency and





interpretability in model outputs, banks can foster greater trust among customers and comply with regulatory requirements. Overall, the research establishes that combining machine learning, deep learning, ensemble techniques, and data balancing provides a powerful, adaptable, and sustainable approach to predictive analytics in banking. Future advancements such as reinforcement learning, federated learning, and blockchain integration can further enhance the security, adaptability, and fairness of such systems, paving the way for a new era of intelligent and responsible financial automation.

### VIII.FUTURE SCOPE

The proposed framework for loan prediction using machine learning, deep learning, ensemble methods, and data balancing has shown significant potential, but there are still many opportunities for further enhancement and exploration. Future research can focus on incorporating explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) techniques to increase model transparency and interpretability, which are essential in the banking domain where decision accountability is critical. Approaches such as LIME and SHAP can help explain the contribution of individual features to prediction outcomes, improving fairness and compliance with ethical and regulatory standards. Another promising direction is the use of federated learning, which allows multiple financial institutions to collaboratively train models without sharing sensitive data, thus preserving privacy and adhering to data protection regulations. Integrating blockchain technology with federated learning can further strengthen data security and trust by providing transparent and tamper-proof transaction records. In addition, reinforcement learning and automated machine learning (AutoML) can be explored to create self-adaptive systems capable of continuously improving model performance based on new data and evolving market trends. Quantum-

inspired optimization and quantum computing hold promise for solving complex optimization problems more efficiently, reducing computational time, and enhancing scalability. The implementation of hybrid cloud-edge computing architectures can enable faster, real-time predictions and better resource management, especially for large-scale banking networks. Moreover, adopting principles of Green AI will be essential in developing energy-efficient models that reduce power consumption and carbon footprint while maintaining high predictive accuracy.

In the future, loan prediction systems should not only focus on accuracy but also on ethical responsibility, privacy preservation, and environmental sustainability. The combination of explainable AI, federated learning, blockchain integration, reinforcement learning, and sustainable computing can lead to the development of intelligent, transparent, and trustworthy AI systems. Such advancements will help shape a new generation of financial technologies that support both innovation and social accountability, ensuring that AI in banking evolves responsibly and sustainably.

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