

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

# Credit Card Fraud Detection Using Hidden Markov Model

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**Abstract –** There has been a remarkable growth in the use of credit cards in recent years. If you're shopping online or in person, you're more likely to be targeted by fraudsters who use credit cards. Using a Time in homogeneous hidden Bernoulli model (THBM), we demonstrate how this model may be utilised to identify fraud in credit card transaction processing. At the beginning of its training process, an HMM learns from the typical behaviour of a cardholder. If the prepared HMM rejects an approaching Visa exchange with an adequately high likelihood, it is viewed as deceitful. Simultaneously, we work to ensure that authentic exchanges are not rejected. In order to demonstrate the efficacy of our method and compare it to other strategies accessible in the literature, we conduct extensive experiments.

**Index Terms –** Hidden Markov Models (HMMs), online shopping, credit card security, and e-commerce fraud detection.

# **I. INTRODUCTION**

Credit cards are used in everyday life to buy goods and services, either online or offline, using either a virtual or physical card. To make a purchase, customers use their credit cards to slot them into a payment machine at a merchant establishment. Because the credit card has already been stolen, it may be impossible to track down fraudulent purchases in this manner. If the cardholder fails to realise the loss of their card, the credit card company may suffer a financial loss. Attackers just require a minimal amount of information to complete a fraudulent transaction when using online payment methods. Simply knowing the card details is all it takes for a criminal to commit fraud in this type of transaction (secure code, card number, expiration date etc.). When someone steals or sees someone else's credit or debit card information, the cardholder is usually unaware of the theft. Internet or telephone-based transactions are the primary means of completing transactions when making a purchase using this method. As a general rule, smaller transactions are more prone to be disregarded by both the card backer and the dealer. In order to prevent fraud and financial losses, card issuers need to be more vigilant. The number of cases of credit card fraud rises steadily each year. The number of credit card frauds rose by 30% in 2008 due to ambiguities in credit card issuing and management. About 1.2 percent of all credit card transactions are fraudulent, according to a recent survey.



The use of user spending profiles and the Hidden Markov Model can help uncover fraudulent transactions. It is based on the spending profiles of individual customers, which can be additionally separated into three general categories

- 1) Lower profile
- 2) Middle profile
- 3) Higher profile

There is no other method to identify this kind of fraud but to examine each card's spending history and look for any discrepancies from the user's "normal" tendencies. An effective method of reducing credit card frauds is to use data from cardholders' purchases to identify fraudulent activity. Each cardholder may be tended to by an arrangement of models including information about the typical purchase class, the term since the past purchase, the aggregate spent, etc., since individuals tend to display unique behavioural profiles. Deviation from these patterns might pose a risk. For each credit card, the spending profile is unique, thus the system may identify inconsistencies in the user profile and attempt to identify fraudulent transactions. A record of the cardholder's spending habits is maintained in two ways: on paper and online.

Since fraud detection systems do not keep track of how many and what kinds of things a cardholder has bought, looking at their purchase history may be a helpful tool in spotting fraudulent activity. There are many pieces of information in this collection, including a person's purchasing history, the amount spent on each purchase, and more. Detecting fraud may be difficult if patterns don't match. In the past several years, a number of methods for detecting credit card fraud have been presented. Online buying is becoming more popular. ACNielsen did a survey in 2005 that found that 10% of the world's population was buying online at the time. The most common method of payment for German and British internet buyers is a credit card (59 percent). Barclaycard, the greatest Mastercard business in the United Kingdom, supposedly handled 350 million exchanges each year around the finish of the 20th 100 years. Retailers like Wal-Mart frequently manage a significantly greater volume of Visa exchanges, both online and instore. There are more chances for criminals to acquire credit card information and perpetrate fraud as the quantity of Mastercard clients develops all through the globe. Online credit card fraud is projected to be valued at \$1.6 billion out of 2006 and \$1.7 billion out of 2007, separately, out of the \$3 billion in all out charge card extortion committed in the United States in 2005.

There are two kinds of purchases made with a credit card: Both a real and a virtual card are available. It is necessary for a physical card to be presented to a merchant for a physical-card transaction. An attacker must first steal a credit card in order to make fraudulent purchases of this kind. The credit card firm might suffer a significant financial loss if the cardholder fails to report the loss of their card. The card number, expiry date, and security code are everything necessary to finish the exchange in the second sort of procurement. Most of the time, people make these kinds of transactions online or over the phone. In order to perpetrate fraud in these transactions, a criminal just has to know the card's information. When someone steals or sees someone else's credit card information, the actual cardholder is often unaware of it. Fraud detection is only possible if spending habits on each card are analysed and any discrepancies are found with regard to the "normal." Credit card frauds may be reduced by analysing the cardholder's past purchases for signs of fraudulent activity. An individual cardholder's action might be addressed, the time span since their previous transaction and how much money they've spent. The system might be threatened



by deviations from these patterns.

### **II. Review of Literature**

In this paper we strived to achieve a better system that could give the best results of all available systems. During this process we have come across various findings of existing systems and have gone through various findings We have studied findings of various researchers by studying various journals and research thesis and implemented various techniques using their studies and findings. Many types of research have been carried out over the past years in field of biometrics to bring out a perfect biometric system for the past few years. Different papers were published describing the need for biometrics and the procedure for carrying out various changes in the systems to provide more security and to reduce the faults in the previous systems. Many researchers published various methods to overcome various challenges by biometric systems. Our research validates and reviews the publications that have lay down a foundation to develop our thesis. In this context we could explain the things that we have learnt by referring to various thesis and journals proposed by various research.

## *Related Research into Credit Card Fraud Detection*

Examination into charge card extortion discovery has produced a lot of consideration, with a specific spotlight on information mining and brain organizations. Visa extortion location utilizing a brain network has been proposed by Ghosh and Reilly [1]. Because of a major example of marked Mastercard account exchanges, they've developed a detecting technique that works well. Examples of fraud resulting from misplaced or stolen cards, fraudulent applications, forgeries, postal extortion, and nonreceived issue (NRI) misrepresentation are remembered for these exchanges. For Mastercard extortion location, Syeda et al. [2] have as of late taken on equal granular brain organizations (PGNNs) to accelerate information mining and information disclosure. For this, a thorough framework has been set up. Stolfo et al. [3] propose a Mastercard misrepresentation discovery framework (FDS) that utilizes Meta learning techniques to foster models of Visa exchanges that are likely fraudulent. It is possible to combine and integrate a number of different classifiers or models using the metalearning technique. As a result, the correlation between the predictions of the basis classifiers is used to train a metaclassifier. They employ a networked data mining system called Java agents for Metalearning (JAM) to identify credit card fraud. True Positive—False Positive (TP-FP) spread and accuracy are some of the measurements they have developed.

Database mining system CARDWATCH is presented by Aleskerov et al. [4], which is used to identify credit card fraud. There are several commercial databases that the system may access using its neural learning module. Mastercard misrepresentation recognition is troublesome due to the slanted dispersion of information and the blend of substantial and deceitful exchanges, as indicated by Kim and Kim [5]. As a result of this finding, they utilise the fraud density of actual transaction data to construct the weighted fraud score to minimise the frequency of misdetections. Fan et al. [6] propose the utilization of appropriated information mining in the distinguishing proof of Mastercard cheats. In order to achieve high fraud coverage, Brause et al. [7] used sophisticated information mining techniques and brain network calculations. Web administrations and information mining techniques have been proposed by Chiu and Tsai [8] to come up with a cooperative methodology for identifying misrepresentation in the financial



business. Participants in this programme exchange information regarding fraud trends in a diverse and scattered context. Web services methods such as XML, SOAP, and WSDL are used to provide a seamless data exchange channel. There has been a detailed review of current data-mining-based FDSs by Phua et al. [9]. For the detection of credit card fraud, Prodromidis and Stolfo [10] employ a distributed learning technique based on an agent-based approach. For better exactness, it utilizes computerized reasoning and consolidates inductive learning strategies and metalearning systems.

When it comes to fraud detection, Phua et al. [11] recommend the usage of the metaclassifier, which is comparable to [3]. They base their classifiers on neural networks such as naïve Bayesian, C4.5, and back propagation. In order to decide which classifiers should be taken into account in light of the skewness of the data, a metaclassifier is used. Despite the fact that they don't specifically target credit card fraud detection, their technique is quite general. Game theory has recently been used to the detection of credit card fraud, as shown by Vatsa and colleagues [12]. It is displayed as a multistage game between two players, each endeavoring to boost his payout.

For most of these frameworks, marked information for both genuine and fake exchanges is expected to prepare the classifiers. This is an issue. One of the most troublesome parts of Visa extortion identification is acquiring genuine information. Furthermore, these methods are unable to catch novel types of fraud for which there is no labelled data. With our HMM-based FDS, on the other hand, no fraud signatures are required and yet the purchasing habits of a cardholder are taken into account in order to identify potential fraudulent transactions. A HMM stochastic interaction is utilized to address the handling of a Mastercard exchange. An FDS operating at the bank that provides credit cards often does not know the specifics of individual transactions. The unobservable finite Markov chain may be used to depict this. As a result of the other stochastic process that provides the output, transactions can only be witnessed.

# **III. PROPOSED MODEL**

- A mechanism is developed to determine whether the given transaction is fraud or not.
- The mechanism uses Hidden Morkov Model(HMM) to detect fraud transaction.
- Hidden Markov Model works on the bases of spending habit of user.
- Classify user into low,medium and high category.
- It is difficult to find out fraudulent and regarding loses will be barred by issuing authorities.
- With this level of control, fraudsters don't have the chance to make multiple transactions on a stolen or counterfeit card before the cardholder is aware of the fraudulent activity.
- This alone can save a significant amount of money that would traditionally be lost to fraud.
- Fraud detection is more accurate.





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We start by picking on the perception images in our HMM model to plan the Visa exchange handling movement. Price ranges for x are quantified into M  $V_1$ ;  $V_2$ ; ...  $V_M$ , At the responsible bank, making the perception images The genuine cost range for every not set in stone by the specific buying propensities for cardholders. As illustrated in Section 5.2, these pricing ranges may be determined dynamically using a clustering method applied to the transaction data of each cardholder. We use  $V_k$ , k  $\frac{1}{4}$ 1; 2; .. . M, both as a representation of the observation sign and as a pricing range.

Only three price points are considered in this study: low (l), medium (m), and high (h) (h). Hence, our system of notation for recording data is,  $V=[1,m,h]$  making M=3. For example, let  $l = (0, \$100)$ ,  $m = (\text{$}100, \text{$}500)$ , and h =(\$500; credit card limit]. If a customer uses a credit card to make a purchase, \$190, In this case, m is the observational symbol. Over the long haul, a credit cardholder makes an assortment of acquisition of changing sums. If you're looking for an alternative, you may want to look at



Consider the succession of exchange sums and check for inconsistencies. Although the order of purchase kinds is less steady, the order of transaction amounts is more stable. Why? Because a cardholder spends based on his or her need to acquire a variety of goods over a period of time. There is a chain of transaction amounts as a result of this, as well. The total cost of a transaction varies according on the kind of purchase that is being made.

Consequently, in our model, we treat the change in the kind of purchase as a transition. Each purchase is associated with a certain line of business at the retailer. The issuing bank handling the FDS does not have access to this information about the merchant's business. In this way, the FDS is kept in the dark about the cardholder's purchasing habits. The secret conditions of the HMM are the arrangement of all likely sorts of buys and, correspondingly, the arrangement of all possible vendor lines of business. As of now, it is essential to recall that the getting bank is as of now mindful of the trader's business, as this data is given at the hour of vendor enlistment. Shippers that arrangement in an assortment of products ought to be watching out for that reality.

Miscellaneous transactions are categorised as such, and we do not try to identify the specific goods or services that were acquired in these transactions. No reasonable person could have assumed that the issuing bank and, by extension, the FDS would have this information readily available. In Section 5, we demonstrate how the number of states affects the performance of the system.



To complete the representation of the HMM, the probability matrices A and B must be determined, once the state and symbol representations have been established. The Baum-Welch technique is used to calculate these three model parameters during a training phase . In order to get the most out of this method, it is important to choose the parameters properly from the beginning. As illustrated in Figure 1, we analyse the exceptional scenario of a completely linked HMM in which each condition of the model can be arrived at in a solitary advance from each and every other state. Groceries, electronics, and other goods are all labelled with the letters "Gr," "El," "Mi," and so on in the US. Cardholders' spending patterns are utilised to estimate the probability matrix B of the probability matrix A On the basis of a cardholder's transactions, we may derive dynamic observation symbols

# **IV. RESULT ANALYSIS**

Using a real-world data set to test credit card FDSs is a tough undertaking. As a general rule, banks don't consent to impart their information to scholastics. Furthermore, there is no standard informational collection for trial and error. Subsequently, huge scope reenactment studies have been conducted to evaluate the system's performance. The mixture of legitimate and fraudulent transactions is generated using a simulator. Fraudulent transactions are distributed regularly with a mean and standard deviation chosen by the cardholder, taking their purchasing habits into consideration. the average number of fraudulent transactions per transaction mix is specified by Genuine transactions are often interspersed with fraudulent ones in an issuing bank's FDS, which is the norm.

Real-world transactions are produced in accordance with the cardholders' individual profile data sets. As previously stated, cardholders are divided into three groups: low, medium, and high status (hs). Spending group and transaction % in the low, medium, and high-price ranges have been analysed. It is possible to assess the system's efficiency via the use of well accepted metrics, including those provided in , like the quantity of True Positives (TP) and False Positives (FP). TP is the level of deceitful exchanges precisely distinguished as fake, though FP is the level of authentic exchanges inaccurately marked as false. In most FDS designs, higher TP values are achieved by making design decisions that increase FP values as well. A metric known as the TP-FP spread is commonly used to measure the system's performance because it allows for a comparison between TP and FP. like the amount of True Positives (TP) and False Positives (FP). TP is the degree of underhanded trades exactly recognized as phony, however FP is the degree of bona fide trades erroneously set apart as bogus.

HMM design parameters, such as the sequence length and threshold value, were first tested in a series of experiments to determine which combination was optimal. Then, we compared our findings to those of another FDS to see if there were any differences. The mean and standard deviation of both TP and FP were determined for a proper succession length, number of states, and edge esteem utilizing five recreation runs each with 100 examples. It was found that the mean TP was a significant degree higher than the mean FFP. When it came to the TP, the standard deviation was set at 0.1, while the FP standard deviation was set at 0.005. There was a target 95 percent confidence interval (CI) of =percent and =0.25% around the mean values of the TP and FP. In order to get the necessary confidence interval (CI) for TP,



the t-distribution was used to calculate the minimum number of simulation runs needed. For FP, it was calculated to be 23. As a result of these findings, we increased the number of simulations to 100 for all studies. There was no deviation from the target CI, as stated above, in the results.

	TP averaged over all the 5 sequence						FP averaged over all the 5 sequence					
Threshold	lengths for different no. of states						lengths for different no. of states					
$(\%)$	5	6		8	9	10	5	6		8		10
30	0.56	0.59	0.55	0.60	0.61	0.55	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04
50	0.57	0.60	0.52	0.56	0.59	0.59	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04
70	0.57	0.59	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.62	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.05
90	0.56	0.51	0.60	0.53	0.49	0.55	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04

**TABLE 4: Variations in TP and FP with various lengths of sequence**

 **TABLE. 5: TP and FP Variation with Different Numbers of States**

			TP averaged over all the 6 states for			FP averaged over all the 6 states for					
Threshold			different sequence lengths			different sequence lengths					
$(\%)$	5	10	15	20	25	5	10	15	20	25	
30	0.52	0.56	0.64	0.58	0.6	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	
50	0.54	0.54	0.63	0.57	0.6	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.05	
70	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.61	0.59	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05	
90	0.42	0.52	0.59	0.58	0.57	0.02	0.04	0.05	00.05	0.05	

Rather of presenting all 120 options in detail, we have summarised their outcomes. Table 4 displays the averaged findings for all six sequence length states for each of the different sequence length values. Table 5 shows the averaged results for all five sequence lengths for each value of the number of states. To make it easier to see, we've highlighted the rows in Tables 4 and 5 with the greatest TP and lowest FP values. The two tables demonstrate a definite downward trend in FP with increasing threshold and decreasing sequence length. The number of states, on the other hand, has little effect on either TP or FP. Table 4 shows that TP is high in 75 percent of the instances for sequence length 15.

The length of a sequence has a linear effect on the amount of time it takes to identify fraud, as illustrated in Figure 3. Java implementation on a Pentium IV system has been plotted. Consequently, we determined that a 15-symbol sequence is the most effective length for observation symbols. Table 4 shows that depending on the sequence length, the threshold may be set at 30% or 50%. The TP is greater, but the FP is also higher when the threshold is set to 30%. To reduce FP, we set the threshold to 50%. Selecting the number of states is the last step after deciding upon sequence length and threshold. For TP when the threshold 14 50% is provided in Table 6, we examine the summary information supplied in Tables 4 and 5 to have a better sense of what is going on.



Int. Jrl. of Human Computations & Intelligence Vol. 01, Issue No. 04, 2022 ISSN: 2583-5696

Our design might benefit from using a sequence length of 14 15, which has the maximum TP value for no: of states of 14 10. We've also taken a look at the amount of time it takes to complete the offline training phase for each cardholder's HMM. Plots of model learning time versus the number of training sequences are shown in Fig. 4. The amount of time it takes to master a new skill rises in direct proportion to the amount of training data you have. As a result, the HMM is trained using 100 sequences. However, offline, the system's scalability is strongly affected by the model learning time. The preparation actually must time for a HMM be kept as insignificant as could really be expected, especially while a responsible bank should oversee a large number of cardholders with various new cards gave consistently. What's more, the 1.8 GHz Pentium IV machine's internet handling season of generally 200 ms illustrates that the system can handle many concurrent processes and is hence scalable.

Following are our design parameter settings:

- 1.number of hidden states  $N = 10$ .
- 2.length of observation sequence  $R = 15$ ,
- 3. Threshold value = 50%, and

4. number of sequences for training  $= 100$ .

Following this design parameter setup, we now begin to investigate the system's performance under different input data combinations.



**FIG. 3: SEQUENCE LENGTH AND DETECTION TIME.**







#### *Comparative Performance*

In this part, we exhibit the proposed framework's presentation when we change the quantity of false exchanges and the spending profile of the cardholder. The parameters for our design are now fixed as previously determined. Here, we compare our method (OA below) to the credit card fraud detection strategy presented by Stolfo et al. [6]. [OA] (denoted by ST below). In order to provide a fair comparison, we'll look at TP, FP, TP-FP, and accuracy, among other measures. We experimented with adjusting the mix of transaction amounts, as well as the quantity of deceitful exchanges that were sprinkled with a progression of genuine exchanges. Using the cardholder's profile, we can see the transaction amount mix. Four profiles are examined. 4.3 explains that our technique does not take the consumer's spending profile into account when creating a mixed profile.

There are also (55 35 10), (70 20 10), and (55 35 10) additional profiles that are being examined (95 3 2). Here, the "a" and "b" and "c" profiles reflect a ls profile cardholder who has been found to complete a level of his exchanges in the low, medium, and high ranges, separately. Consequently, we want to see how the framework capacities within the sight of a wide assortment of exchange sum ranges. This implies that the exhibition of cardholders in the other two gatherings (explicitly the hs and Ms) will be practically identical, since just the general request of a, B, and C will be modified. There is a 0.5-step increment between the mean value and the maximum value for harmful transactions in our model. There is no variation in the experiment's 0.5 value. As a result, every transaction sequence that we utilise for testing contains both legitimate and fraudulent transactions. We performed 100 simulations with various spending profiles and malicious transaction distributions to determine the average outcome. This data was utilised to evaluate the effectiveness of OA and ST in the same way



In looking at the figures, it can be noticed that the suggested approach's TP is quite similar to that

of Stolfo et al. The FP values for both methods are also quite comparable. Both methods have similar TP-FP spreads as a consequence of their accuracy. Despite these differences, the two techniques follow a similar path. Next, we'll examine how the two systems react to varying numbers of transactions. Transaction values range from \$0.001 to \$0.005, with the lowest value being \$0.001, while the highest value is \$0.001, as seen in the figures presented in Figures 6a and 6b.



Both of the previous sets of graphs reveal a slew of intriguing facts. TP and FP for both techniques grow since transactions no longer have to be in the strict ls form. When it comes to ST, however, the FP rate increases rapidly, but the TP rate does not decline to much. When it comes to our strategy, we see that the FP rate stays low, but the TP rate gradually declines. Because of this, the suggested system's Accuracy stays around 80 percent for all of the aforementioned parameters. Consequently Using Stolfo et almethod, .'s accuracy drops to about 60%. (55 35 10). Our method, on the other hand, has a 15-20% greater Accuracy. In spite of the profile's TP-FP values (70 20 10) being almost identical, our technique outperforms the profile by more than 15%.

Figures 8a and 8b show the presentation of the two methods when the profile is blended, which demonstrates that each of the three exchange ranges are equivalent. ST's FP has risen dramatically in the last several months. Actually, FP is greater than TP in terms of monetary value. As a consequence, the average level of accuracy has fallen below the threshold of 40%. The TP has fallen, but the FP has not deteriorated much. However, the Accuracy of our method is still around 80%. For 14 1:5, the ST approach's TP-FP value is negative. However, for our technique, the TP-FP value was only zero after the ratio of 14 2:1. . From the above information, we can gather that the proposed framework has a general Accuracy of 80% in any event, when the info conditions differ extraordinarily, which is considerably better compared to the present status of the crafts.



**FIG. 5. FOR THE EXPENDITURE PROFILE, THE MEAN OF MALICIOUS TRANSACTION DISTRIBUTION FOR THE TWO SYSTEMS (OA AND ST) (95 3 2). (A)TP AND FP. (B) TP-FP SPREAD (SP) AND ACCURACY (AC).**

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**FIG. 6. MEAN OF PERNICIOUS EXCHANGE DISSEMINATION FOR THE USE PROFILE EXECUTION VARIETY OF THE TWO FRAMEWORKS (OA AND ST) (70 20 10). TP AND FP. ACCURACY (SP) AND TP-FP SPREAD (SP) (AC).**

Fig. 6. There is a wide range of performance fluctuation between the two systems (OA and ST) when there is a mixed profile of malicious transaction distribution. TP and FP. Accuracy and TP-FP spread (SP) (AC).



greater than the overall Accuracy of the Stolfo et al. [6] approach Because of this, our technology is able to accurately identify most transactions. There is, however, a decrease in TP-FP performance when no profile information is available.



Section 4 explains the significance of profile selection, and this observation demonstrates it. There is also a performance reduction in most credit card FDSs when there is little difference between legitimate and malicious transactions, either owing to the decrease or increase in the amount of TPs or FPs.

# **V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE ENHANCEMENT**

In this paper, we propose the utilization of HMM in the discovery of Mastercard extortion. The stochastic course of Visa exchange handling is displayed as a HMM's underlay. For this reason we have used exchange sum ranges as the perception images rather than thing type states in our HMM model. We've proposed a method for deciding cardholder spending profiles, as well as the utilization of this data to decide the worth of perception images and an underlying evaluation of model boundaries. Gee might be utilized to decide if an exchange is fake. The results of our experiments indicate how well our system works and how beneficial it is to learn about the spending habits of cards. Examination tests show that the framework's Accuracy is near 80% across an expansive scope of information. Countless exchanges may likewise be dealt with by the framework's versatile design. Using the well-known Hidden Markov, Model, the numerous ways for effectively detecting fraud and accurately providing security are clearly shown. The speed of the programme may be improved by using algorithms that are simpler. The same principle may be used to create an inter-mail server. An effective defence against hostile threats and hacking tools ensures that user accounts are protected against fraudulent activity, whether the fraud is deliberate or accidental. In order to access and utilise the authority's data and services, the proper hierarchy of users is maintained. During the transaction process, keep track of all the relevant information.

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