## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

## An Empirical Comparison of Machine-Learning Methods on Bank Client Credit Assessments

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Table 1. Selected variables by TSFFS method and their average random forest importance.

| Number | Selected Variables | Description | Average RF importance | Rank |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | LEVRATIO | Ratio of total debt to total assets | 11.90 | 1 |
| 2 | FIN | Total value of financial assets held by household, 2013 dollars | 10.40 | 2 |
| 3 | VEHIC | Total value of all vehicles held by household, 2013 dollars | 6.89 | 3 |
| 4 | AGE | Age of head of household | 5.85 | 4 |
| 5 | FEARDENIAL | Household feared being denied credit in the past 5 years | 5.81 | 5 |
| 6 | TPAY | Total value of monthly debt payments, 2013 dollars | 5.11 | 6 |
| 7 | KGTOTAL | Total unrealized capital gains or losses for the household, 2013 dollars | 4.98 | 7 |
| 8 | CHECKING | Total value of checking accounts held by household, 2013 dollars | 4.67 | 8 |
| 9 | WAGEINC | Wage and salary income, 2013 dollars | 4.31 | 9 |
| 10 | INSTALL | Total value of installment loans held by household, 2013 dollars | 4.29 | 10 |
| 11 | CONSPAY | total monthly consumer debt payments, 2013 dollars | 4.26 | 11 |
| 12 | REVPAY | total monthly revolving debt payments, 2013 dollars | 4.10 | 12 |
| 13 | EDN_INST | Total value of education loans held by household, 2013 dollars | 3.91 | 13 |
| 14 | LLOAN8 | Total balance of household loans where the lender is an other nonfinancial, 2013 dollars | 3.71 | 14 |
| 15 | SAVING | Total value of savings accounts held by household, 2013 dollars | 3.50 | 15 |
| 16 | TRANSFOTHINC | Unemployment, alimony/child support, TANF/food stamps/SSI, and other income, 2013 dollars | 3.40 | 16 |
| 17 | KIDS | Total number of children in household | 3.17 | 17 |
| 18 | LLOAN4 | Total balance of household loans where the lender is finance, loan or leasing company, or inc debt consolidator, 2013 dollars | 2.96 | 18 |
| 19 | LLOAN7 | Total balance of household loans where the lender is an individual, 2013 dollars | 2.92 | 19 |
| 20 | EQUITINC | ratio of equity to normal income | 2.55 | 20 |
| 21 | BUSSEFARMINC | Income from business, sole proprietorship, and farm, 2013 dollars | 2.33 | 21 |
| 22 | EDCL | Education category of head of household | 2.16 | 22 |
| 23 | WHYNOCKG | Reason household does not have a checking account | 2.14 | 23 |
| 24 | THRIFT | Total value of account-type pension plans from R and spouse's current job, 2013 dollars | 2.13 | 24 |
| 25 | BNKRUPLAST5 | Household has declared bankruptcy in the past 5 years | 2.07 | 25 |
| 26 | ILNPAY | Total payment of installment loan, 2013 dollars | 2.03 | 26 |
| 27 | TURNDOWN | Household has been turned down for credit in the past 5 years | 1.99 | 27 |
| 28 | LLOAN1 | Total balance of household loans where the lender is a commercial bank, 2013 dollars | 1.97 | 28 |

CASHLI
KGHOUSE
LLOAN11
NBUSVEH
OCCAT1
SAVBND
RACE
SAVED
LLOAN6
LLOAN9
SAVRES3
EHCHKG
OTHNFIN
LOCPAY
ORESRE
PAYILN4
EDUNUM
MMDA
MINBAL
SAVRES5
ISHOPNONE
HHSEX
NSTOCKS
BFRIENDWORK
BMAILADTV
IFRIENDWORK
NOFINRISK
VLEASE
IDONT
IMAGZNEWS
SAVRES1
SAVRES6
BFINPRO
IFINPRO
BFINPLAN
STMUTF
PIR40
DONTWANT
TRUSTS
DBPLANCJ

KGHOUSE
LLOAN11
OCCAT1
AVBND
SAVED
LLOAN6
LLOAN9
EHCHKG
OTHNFIN
LOCPAY
PAYILN4 EDUNUM
MMDA SAVRES5 SHOPNONE HHSEX BFRIENDWORK
BMAILADTV IFRIENDWORK NOFINRISK IDONT IMAGZNEWS

SAVRES6
BFINPRO
IFINPRO
STMUTF
PIR40
TRUSTS
DBPLANCJ

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| 69 | PAYMORTO | payments on other loans, 2013 dollars | 0.48 | 69 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 70 | NNRESRE | Total value of net equity in nonresidential real estate held by household, 2013 dollars | 0.46 | 70 |
| 71 | LLOAN2 | Total balance of household loans where the lender is saving and loan, 2013 dollars | 0.46 | 71 |
| 72 | LLOAN5 | Total balance of household loans where the lender is a brokerage and/or life insurance, 2013 dollars | 0.45 | 72 |
| 73 | COMUTF | amount in combination and other mutual funds, 2013 dollars | 0.45 | 73 |
| 74 | IFINPLAN | Information used for investing decisions: lawyer, accountant, financial planner | 0.45 | 74 |
| 75 | PAYVEH4 | payments on fourth vehicle, 2013 dollars | 0.42 | 75 |
| 76 | DONTWRIT | Why no checking account: don't write enough checks to make it worthwhile | 0.42 | 76 |
| 77 | ISELF | Information used for investing decisions: self, shop around, other personal research | 0.42 | 77 |
| 78 | PURCH1 | First lien on primary residence used for purchase of primary residence | 0.41 | 78 |
| 79 | MORT2 | Amount owed on mortgage 2, 2013 dollars | 0.37 | 79 |
| 80 | HASSET | Do you have any asset | 0.36 | 80 |
| 81 | REFIN_EVER | Refinanced first lien mortgage on primary residence | 0.35 | 81 |
| 82 | NEWCAR2 | number of car/truck/SUV with model year no older than one year before the survey | 0.34 | 82 |
| 83 | NONACTBUS | Value of non-actively managed business(es), 2013 dollars | 0.33 | 83 |
| 84 | CANTMANG | Why no checking account: can't manage/balance a checking account | 0.32 | 84 |
| 85 | DONTLIKE | Why no checking account: don't like dealing with banks | 0.29 | 85 |
| 86 | EOPAY | Total payment of other vehicles, 2013 dollars | 0.27 | 86 |
| 87 | SVCCHG | Why no checking account: service changes are too high | 0.26 | 87 |
| 88 | CKMANYSVCS | Why chose main checking account institution: able to obtain many services at one place | 0.26 | 88 |
| 89 | ANNUIT | Amount R would receive if they cashed in annuities, 2013 dollars | 0.25 | 89 |
| 90 | BINTERNET | Information used for borrowing decisions: internet/online service | 0.25 | 90 |
| 91 | TFBMUTF | amount in tax-free bond mutual funds, 2013 dollars | 0.22 | 91 |
| 92 | NTRAD | number of trades per year | 0.20 | 92 |
| 93 | OTHER | Why no checking account: other | 0.19 | 93 |
| 94 | KGINC | Capital gain or loss income, 2013 dollars | 0.18 | 94 |
| 95 | HCDS | Do you have any certificates of deposit | 0.18 | 95 |
| 96 | FUTPEN | future pensions (accumulated in an account for the R/S), 2013 dollars | 0.16 | 96 |
| 97 | CKOTHCHOOSE | Why chose main checking account institution: other reason | 0.14 | 97 |
| 98 | CKPERSONAL | Why chose main checking account institution: personal relationship | 0.08 | 98 |
| 99 | MMMF | money market mutual funds, 2013 dollars | 0.02 | 99 |
| 100 | HCALL | Do you have any call accounts at brokerages | 0.00 | 100 |
| 101 | OBMUTF | amount in other bond mutual funds, 2013 dollars | 0.00 | 101 |
| 102 | GBMUTF | amount in government bond mutual funds, 2013 dollars | 0.00 | 102 |
| 103 | GOVTBND | US government and government agency bonds and bills, 2013 dollars | 0.00 | 103 |
| 104 | OBND | corporate and foreign bonds, 2013 dollars | 0.00 | 104 |
| 105 | NOTXBND | tax-exempt bonds (state and local bonds), 2013 dollars | 0.00 | 105 |
| 106 | MORTBND | mortgage-backed bonds, 2013 dollars | 0.00 | 106 |

Table 2. The selected variables by NAP method.

| Number | Selected Variables | Description |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | AGE | Age of head of household |
| 2 | BFINPLAN | Information used for borrowing decisions: lawyer, accountant, financial planner |
| 3 | EDN_INST | Total value of education loans held by household, 2013 dollars |
| 4 | EHPAY | Have any expected payment? |
| 5 | HFIN | Have financial assets? |
| 6 | HNFIN | Have any nonfinancial assets? |
| 7 | HVEHIC | Have vehicles? |
| 8 | LEVRATIO | Ratio of total debt to total assets |
| 9 | NETWORTH | Total net worth of household, 2013 dollars |
| 10 | NLEASE | Number of leased vehicles |
| 11 | OTHFIN | Total value of other financial assets, 2013 dollars |
| 12 | PAYPEN1 | Payments on loan against first pension plan not previously reported, 2013 dollars |
| 13 | PLOAN4 | Total value of aggregate loan balance by loan purpose: goods and services, 2013 dollars |
| 14 | RETQLIQ | Total value of quasi-liquid held by household, 2013 dollars |
| 15 | TPAY | Total value of monthly debt payments, 2013 dollars |
| 16 | WSAVED | Spent more/same/less than income in past year |
| 17 | AGECL | Age of the household head, and categorical variable |
| 18 | BNKRUPLAST5 | Household has declared bankruptcy in the past 5 years |
| 19 | EDUC | Education of the household's head |
| 20 | FEARDENIAL | Household feared being denied credit in the past 5 years |
| 21 | HHOUSES | Have owned principal residence |
| 22 | HODEBT | Have any other debts |
| 23 | INCOME | Total amount of income of household, 2013 dollars |
| 24 | LIQ | Total value of all types of transactions accounts, 2013 dollars |
| 25 | NFIN | Total value of nonfinancial assets held by household, 2013 dollars |
| 26 | NWCAT | Net worth percentile groups |
| 27 | OWN | Have an owned vehicle |
| 28 | PENNUM | Number of pension plan not previously reported |
| 29 | PLOAN6 | Total value of aggregate loan balance by loan purpose: education and professional expenses, 2013 dollars |
| 30 | REVPAY | Total monthly revolving debt payments, 2013 dollars |
| 31 | TURNDOWN | Household has been turned down for credit in the past 5 years |
| 32 | ANYPEN | Pension exists for either head of household or spouse |
| 33 | CONSPAY | Total monthly consumer debt payments, 2013 dollars |
| 34 | EDUNUM | Number of education loan |
| 35 | FIN | Total value of financial assets held by household, 2013 dollars |
| 36 | HINSTALL | Have Installment loan |
| 37 | HOMEEQ | Total value of equity in primary residence of household, 2013 dollars |
| 38 | INCPCTLECAT | Alternate income percentile groups |
| 39 | LLOAN10 | Total balance of household loans where the lender is a store and/or a credit card, 2013 dollars |

NHNFIN NWPCTLECAT
PAYEDU3
PIRCONS PURCH1
SAVED
TURNFEAR ASSET
DCPLANCJ
EDUPAY
HCHECK
HLIQ
HOUSECL
INSTUTION
LLOAN7
NINC2CAT
ODEBT
PAYILN3
PIRMORT
PURPOSE
SAVRES3
VEHIC
ASSETCAT
DEBT2INC
EHCHKG
HEDN_INST
HMRTHEL
HOUSES
INTDIVINC
LLOAN8
NINCCAT
OTH_INST
PAYORE2
PLOAN2
RESDBT
SAVRES4
WHYNOCKG

Total nonfinancial assets excluding principal residences, 2013 dollars Alternate net worth percentile groups
Payments on third education loan, 2013 dollars
Ratio of monthly non-mortgage non-revolving consumer debt payments to monthly income
First lien on primary residence used for purchase of primary residence
Indicator of whether the household saved over the past 12 months
Household has been turned down for credit or feared being denied credit in the past 5 years
Total value of assets held by household, 2013 dollars
Either head or spouse/partner has any type of account-based plan on a current job
Total payment of education loan
Have checking account
Household has any checking, savings, money market or call accounts
Home-ownership category of household
Total balance of household loans from the lending institions
Total balance of household loans where the lender is an individual, 2013 dollars
Income percentile groups
Total value of other debts held by household, 2013 dollars
Payments on third installment loan, 2013 dollars
Ratio of monthly mortgage payments to monthly income
Loan purpose

Reason for saving: family
Total value of all vehicles held by household, 2013 dollars Asset percentile groups
Ratio of total debt to total income
People w/o checking accounts: ever had an account?
Installment loans not classified elsewhere
Have principal residence debt
Total value of primary residence of household, 2013 dollars
Interest (taxable and nontaxable) and dividend income, 2013 dollars
Total balance of household loans where the lender is an other nonfinancial, 2013 dollars Normal income percentile groups
Total value of other installment loans held by household, 2013 dollars
Payments on second other resdential property, 2013 dollars
Total value of aggregate loan balance by loan purpose: home improvement, 2013 dollars Total value of debt for other residential property held by households, 2013 dollars Reason for saving: home
Reason household does not have a checking account


[^0]:    Total cash value of whole life insurance held by household, 2013 dollars
    Unrealized capital gains or losses on the primary residence, 2013 dollars
    

    Total balance of household loans where the lender is a pension, 2013 dollars
    Total number of business vehicles held by household
    Occupation categories for head of household
    Total value of savings bonds held by household, 2013 dollars

    ## Race/ethnicity of respondent

    Indicator of whether the household saved over the past 12 months
    Total balance of household loans where the lender is a real estate company, 2013 dollars Total balance of household loans where the lender is government, 2013 dollars

    Reason for saving: family
    people w/o checking accounts: ever had an account?
    Total value of other nonfinancial assets held by household, 2013 dollars
    Total payment on line of credit, 2013 dollars
    Total payment on line of credit, 2013 dollars
    otal value of other residential real estate held by household, 2013 dollars
    payments on fourth installment loan, 2013 dollars
    Number of education loan
    money market deposit accounts, 2013 dollars
    Why no checking account: minimum balance is too high
    Reason for saving: purchases
    Shopping for saving and investments: almost no shopping
    p

    ## Gender of household head

    ## Gender of household head

    number different companies in which hold stock
    Information used for borrowing decisions: friends, material from work/business contacts
    rmation used for borrowing decisions: material in mail, tv, radio, advertisements, telemarkete
    ormation used for borrowing decisions: material in mail, tv, radio, adverts, 0.69
    Information used for investing decisions: friends, material from work/business contacts 0.65
    Knowledge of personal finance
    Total value of leased vehicles held by household, 2013 dollars
    Information used for investing decisions: never borrow
    Information used for investing decisions: magazines, newspapers, books
    Reason for saving: can't save
    Reason for saving: retirement 0.55
    Information used for borrowing decisions: banker, broker, real estate broker, builder, dealer, insurance agent
    Information used for investing decisions: banker, broker, real estate broker, builder, dealer, insurance agent
    Information used for borrowing decisions: lawyer, accountant, financial planner
    amount in stock mutual funds, 2013 dollars
    Household has a PIR higher than $40 \%$
    Why no checking account: does not want/need a checking account
    Amount R would receive if they cashed in trusts, 2013 dollars
    Either head or spouse/partner has a defined benefit pension on a current job

