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Comparative performance between C4.5 and Naive Bayes classifiers in predicting student academic performance in a Virtual Learning Environment

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Abstract— People now trying to maximizing function of Virtual Learning Environment. Virtual Learning Environment, not only as a place to help learning system but now has become a place of learning itself. But with the change of the learning system, teacher now have difficulty to monitor the activity of the student and the learning material. Although there is data that is considered capable become a benchmark for students and the interaction with Virtual Learning Activity. This paper will make a data prediction using Naïve bayes and C4.5 Algorithm using the Web History data and the sum of webpage interaction of the students in Virtual Learning Environment.

Keywords— Data Mining, Prediction, Naive Bayes, C4.5

I. INTRODUCTION

Virtual learning environment is a dimension created to get information, and this information is information related to education. In the Virtual learning environment, students not only actively use, but also as actors who build the learning space [1]. Virtual learning environment are mostly used only as supporting learning systems, such as academic information system for example. In fact, in other countries the Virtual learning environment has been used as an alternative lecture for several universities [2]. But from the Virtual learning environment, we are not able to monitor student behavior during the learning period. We know in education not only the value of the learning subjects is important, but also the enthusiasm and attitude of students in the learning period. To be able to measure the activity of a student in a virtual learning environment, we can see a list of the virtual learning environment web pages that students have accessed and their interactions. In this study, the prediction method will be used to see whether activities on the Virtual learning Activity web page can be used as a reference in graduating students.

Virtual Learning Environment doesn't refer to website related to the theme of education. According to [3] Virtual Learning Environment is a social environment that is centered around education-themed interaction, where students are not only active, but also as actors, they help build the scope. Virtual Learning Environment certainly require computers and the internet as a major component in the learning system. The purpose of developing the Virtual Learning Environment is to maximize learning using the internet. The internet really

provides a profitable potential to make flexible access to connecting communication between students and teachers. The Virtual Learning Environment provides the opportunity for teachers to make learning materials quickly without requiring additional work, because the internet function can be used in the Virtual Learning Environment.

Many classification algorithms are used to predict student graduation. One of them is the C4.5 algorithm which produces an accuracy of 87.5% [4]. There are also predictions with the Neural Network Algorithm and optimized with Particle Swarm, this method produces accuracy of 78.26% [5]. Evaluation of academic performance predicted by the Naive Bayes algorithm has a high accuracy rate of 82.8% [6]. Using two algorithms, C4.5 and CART. The C4.5 algorithm looks better with 85.61% accuracy [7]. From the algorithm described, it looks C4.5 and also Naive Bayes has a high level of accuracy. Therefore this research will use these two algorithms.

II. METHODS

A. Research Design

The design of the research will be carried out as in Fig. 1.

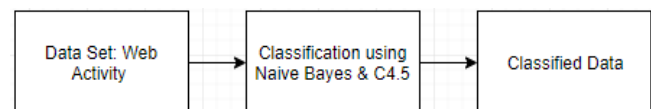


Fig. 1. Research design

Naive Bayes Classification is a simple classification algorithm which is able to calculate the probability. By calculating the frequency and combination of entries in the dataset. This algorithm uses Bayes theorem, assuming all attributes are independent variable values [9].

$$P(H|X) = \frac{P(X|H)P(H)}{P(X)} \quad (1)$$

The Formula Above make H is a Class and X is the Attribute of data. P(H) is a prior probability of H, and P(X) is the prior probability of X Attribute.

Naive Bayes is the most efficient Algorithm, which the complexity of $O(n)$ for classification induction of dataset with t and n variabel. As well as complexity of $O(cn)$ to classify new data , c is the number of classes.

The main advantage of Naive Bayes is its ease of construction, without the need to make difficult iterative parameter schemes. In addition, Naive Bayes is also strong in issues that are irrelevant and attributes [10].

The C4.5 algorithm was presented in 1993 by Ross Quinlan, the goal is as a better method than ID3. To solve problems regarding ID3 weaknesses that are difficult to use for large data, C4.5 have "Information Gain" function. Where not only makes a new ratio, but also measures it [11].

The Gain Ratio C4.5 formula is as follows:

$$GainRatio(p,T) = \frac{Gain(p,T)}{SplitInfo(p,T)} \quad (2)$$

$$SplitInfo(p, test) = - \sum_{j=1}^n \left(\frac{j}{p}\right) \times \log\left(p' \left(\frac{j}{p}\right)\right) \quad (3)$$

$P'(j/p)$ is the proportion of elements in p position. Take values from- j . Unlike entropy, the definition above does not depend on the distribution in different classes.

B. Research Data

The data is from The Open University England, in the form of an anonymus record of student learning activities in interacting with virtual learning environment [12]. The dataset used is grouped into 7 attributes, where one attribute is the class to be predicted. Explanation of the attributes to be used is as follows.

TABLE I. VARIABLE DESCRIPTION

Name	Description	Attribute Type
kategorial_region	Province origin of students	Varchar
highest_education	Student's last education	Varchar
kategorial_credit	Credit taken by students	Range numeric
disability	Student disability	Boolean
kategorial_web	Number of web pages accessed	Numeric
kategori_klik	Number of clicks on the web page	Numeric
Final_result	The end result whether students graduate or not	Boolean

To facilitate the mining process, the data that has already been converted becomes categorical that can be processed by the instrument. Data that needs to be categorized is "kategorial_region", "kategorial_credit". Here is a series of data that has been processed.

TABLE II. KATEGORIAL_REGION DATA

No	Label	Count
1	Another Country	4288
2	Middle Region	4746
3	North Region	3794
4	South Region	4172

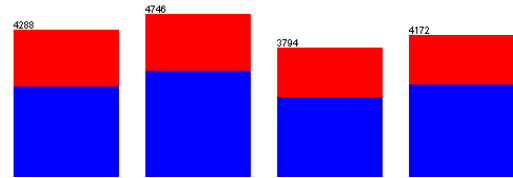


Fig. 2. Kategorial_Region

Table II and fig.2 shows the categorical data student region at UK. Another country label refer to nearest country like Scotland and Belgium.

TABLE III. HIGHEST_EDUCATION DATA

No	Label	Count
1	A Level or Equivalent	7558
2	HE Qualification	2470
3	Lower Than A Level	6675
4	No Formal quals	166
5	Post Graduate Qualification	131

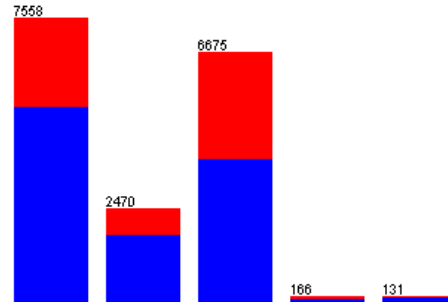


Fig. 3. Kategorial_Region

Table III and fig. 3 shows the categorical data of student degree. The UK has five educational qualifications.

TABLE IV. KATEGORIAL_CREDIT DATA

No	Label	Count
1	100 to 150	3319
2	50 to 100	10908
3	Above 150	496
4	Below 50	2277

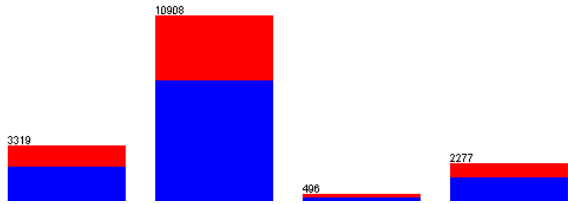


Fig. 4. Kategorial_Credit

Table IV and fig. 4 shows the categorical data of student credit. Categories divided into 4 with a maximum value of 150.

TABLE V. DISABILITY DATA

No	Label	Count
1	N	15561
2	Y	1439

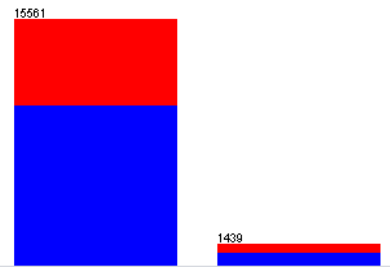


Fig. 5. Disability

Table V and fig. 5 shows that students have physical disabilities or not.

TABLE VI. KATEGORIAL_WEB DATA

No	Label	Count
1	1000 to 2000	1215
2	Under 1000	15731
3	Above 2000	54

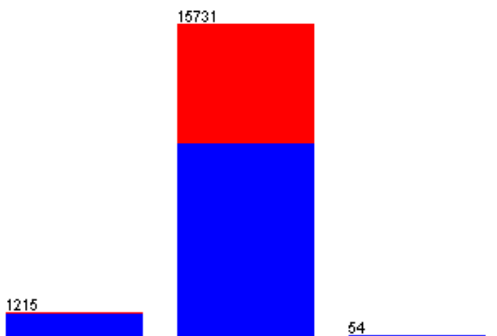


Fig. 6. Kategorial_web

Table VI and fig. 6 shows the categorical data of accumulated web pages accessed by students for each subject.

TABLE VII. KATEGORIAL_KLIKDATA

No	Label	Count
1	8000 to 16000	143
2	under 8000	16847
3	Above 16000	10

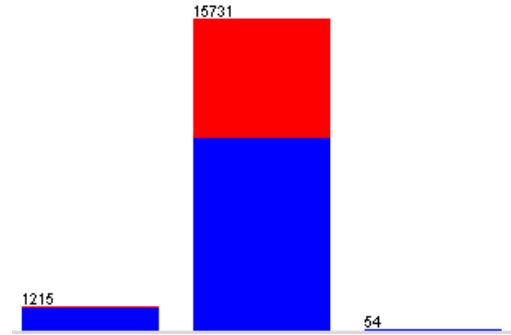


Fig. 7. Kategorial_klik

Table VII and fig. 7 shows the categorical data of accumulated click from students for each subject.

TABLE VIII. FINAL_RESULT DATA

No	Label	Count
1	Pass	10926
2	Fail	6074

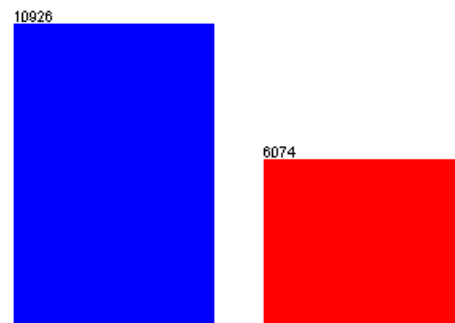


Fig. 8. Final_result

Table VIII and fig. 8 shows information whether graduating or not from their respective subjects.

C. Evaluation

From the data collected, there are a total of 17,000 data that are ready to be processed. We uses 10 Fold-Cross Validation for performance evaluation. The 10 Fold-Cross Validation is one of the K fold that is recommended for selecting the best model because it tends to provide estimates of accuracy that are less biased than the usual Cross Validation. The evaluation that will be carried out to test accuracy is *confusion matrix*. To find accuracy, precision, and recall using confusion matrix, the following formula is used.

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP+TN}{TP+TN+FN+FP} \quad (4)$$

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{FP+TP} \quad (5)$$

$$Recall = \frac{TP}{FN+TP} \quad (6)$$

Where the description of the formula is as follows.

- TP : *True Positive*, the correct amount of positive predictive data.
- FP : *False Positive*, the wrong number of positive predictive data.
- FN : *False Negative*, Incorrect negative prediction data.
- TN : *True Negative*, correct negative prediction data.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Naïve Bayes classifier performance

Training data was calculated and taken 1700 data sets to see the performance of the prediction of the algorithm. The results of the algorithm performance are as follows.

TABLE IX. CLASSIFICATION RESULT

Correctly Classified Instances	1084	63.7647 %
Incorrectly Classified Instances	616	36.2353 %
Kappa statistic	0.0468	
Mean absolute error	0.4344	
Root mean squared error	0.4679	
Relative absolute error	94.0971 %	
Root relative squared error	97.0829 %	

TABLE X. CONFUSION MATRIX NAÏVE BAYES

a	b	
1037	40	a = Pass
576	47	b = Fail

=== Predictions on test split ===

inst#	actual	predicted	error	prediction
1	2:Fail	2:Fail		0.517
2	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.953
3	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.686
4	2:Fail	1:Pass	+	0.548
5	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.686
6	2:Fail	1:Pass	+	0.635
7	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.663
8	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.668
9	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.643
10	2:Fail	1:Pass	+	0.517
11	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.69
12	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.686
13	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.548
14	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.579
15	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.64

Fig. 9. Comparison of Actual Data with Naïve bayes predictions

B. C4.5 classifier performance

TABLE XI. CONFUSION MATRIX NAÏVE BAYES

Correctly Classified Instances	1081	63.5882 %
Incorrectly Classified Instances	619	36.4118 %
Kappa statistic	0.0232	
Mean absolute error	0.4353	
Root mean squared error	0.4689	
Relative absolute error	94.2885 %	
Root relative squared error	97.2894 %	

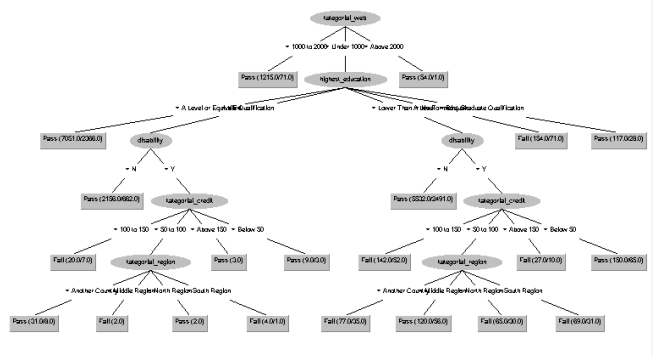


Fig. 10. C4.5 Tree generated from the training data

TABLE XII. CONFUSION MATRIX C4.5

a	b	
1059	18	a = Pass
601	22	b = Fail

=== Predictions on test split ===

inst#	actual	predicted	error	prediction
1	2:Fail	2:Fail		0.536
2	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.939
3	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.691
4	2:Fail	1:Pass	+	0.549
5	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.691
6	2:Fail	1:Pass	+	0.669
7	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.669
8	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.669
9	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.669
10	2:Fail	2:Fail		0.554
11	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.669
12	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.691
13	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.549
14	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.669
15	1:Pass	1:Pass		0.669

Fig. 11. Comparison of actual and predictive data C4.5

C. Equations

The results of the two algorithm's confusion matrix are calculated Accuracy, Precision and Recall.

TABLE XIII. COMPARISON OF ACCURATION, PRECISION AND RECALL

Comparison	Naive Bayes	C4.5
Accuracy	63,8 %	63,6 %
Presisi	64,3 %	63,8 %
Recall	96,3 %	98,3 %

IV. CONCLUSION

From the data that has been processed using two algorithms. The results obtained, both algorithms have almost the same level of accuracy. The accuracy of Naive Bayes is superior to 63.8% even though the results from C4.5 only differ 0.2% from the accuracy of Naive Bayes. Even so, Recall from C4.5 Algorithm is better with a value of 98.3%. From the results of the C4.5 decision tree we know that web pages are an important factor in

student graduation, therefore these variables can be used as supporting variables for the value of students in the Virtual Learning Environment. Concerns about the trees formed, it was seen that students who go to the website in 1000-2000 times were categorized as students who passed the lecture. This data can be used as proof that students' VLE activities are able to be used as a reference whether students can graduate or not.

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