



 Research Article

Advanced Deep Belief Network Framework for Optimized Financial Fraud Detection and Intelligent Alert Management in Cloud Computing

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ABSTRACT

The increasing volume, velocity, and heterogeneity of financial transactions in cloud computing environments have intensified the need for fraud detection mechanisms capable of identifying complex and evolving anomalous behavior while maintaining operational scalability. Conventional rule-based approaches are often constrained by their dependence on predefined patterns and their limited ability to represent nonlinear relationships among transaction attributes. This research proposes an Advanced Deep Belief Network (DBN) Framework for Optimized Financial Fraud Detection and Intelligent Alert Management in Cloud Computing, integrating deep representation learning, transaction-risk optimization, cloud-oriented processing, and risk-sensitive alert prioritization. The proposed framework is theoretically positioned at the intersection of machine learning, data-intensive analytics, algorithmic fairness, legal informatics, and intelligent information processing. The methodological design incorporates data preprocessing, unsupervised feature representation, supervised fraud classification, adaptive threshold optimization, and intelligent alert management. Particular emphasis is placed on reducing false positives, prioritizing high-risk transactions, and supporting scalable decision-making. The framework is conceptually informed by the fraud-detection and alerting architecture presented by Lankala et al. (2025), while extending its research direction through an integrated optimization and alert-management perspective. The literature synthesis also demonstrates that issues of fairness, interpretability,



measurement validity, information visualization, and automated decision-making are critical to responsible deployment. The findings indicate that a DBN-centered architecture can provide a technically coherent foundation for representing nonlinear fraud patterns, while intelligent alert management can improve the operational value of model predictions by transforming probabilistic outputs into prioritized investigative actions. Limitations concerning data imbalance, model interpretability, concept drift, cloud dependency, and regulatory accountability are identified. The proposed framework provides a research-oriented foundation for future empirical validation using real-world financial datasets.

KEYWORDS

Deep Belief Network, Financial Fraud Detection, Cloud Computing, Intelligent Alert Management, Deep Learning, Anomaly Detection, Risk Optimization, Machine Learning

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Financial fraud detection has evolved from static rule-based monitoring toward data-driven analytical systems capable of examining large volumes of heterogeneous transaction information. Cloud computing provides the computational elasticity required for processing high-volume financial data, but the availability of scalable infrastructure does not itself solve the analytical problem. Fraudulent transactions may exhibit subtle, nonlinear, temporally variable, and context-dependent characteristics that are difficult to represent using manually designed rules. Consequently, the effectiveness of a fraud-detection architecture depends not only on computational capacity but also on the quality of feature representation, classification, optimization, and decision management.

Deep learning provides an important theoretical basis for addressing this challenge because it can

learn hierarchical representations from complex datasets. A Deep Belief Network (DBN), constructed from multiple layers of probabilistic representation learning, can transform relatively high-dimensional transaction attributes into increasingly abstract representations. Such a structure is relevant to fraud detection because legitimate and fraudulent activities may not be separable through a small set of explicit transaction rules.

The research direction of integrating deep belief learning with cloud-based financial fraud detection has already been demonstrated by Lankala et al. (2025), who investigated an optimal financial fraud detection and alerting mechanism using a DBN in cloud computing. The present research builds conceptually upon that direction by emphasizing an advanced framework in which fraud prediction and alert management are treated as interconnected but distinguishable analytical stages. This distinction is important

because a highly accurate classifier does not automatically produce an effective operational alerting system. The output must also be calibrated, ranked, contextualized, and delivered according to risk and investigative priorities.

1.2 Problem Statement

The central problem addressed in this research is the design of a fraud-detection architecture capable of learning complex transaction patterns while minimizing unnecessary alerts and preserving the operational usefulness of genuine fraud warnings. Three related problems are particularly important.

First, financial transaction data can contain nonlinear dependencies and latent structures that conventional analytical approaches may fail to capture. Second, class imbalance can cause a model to achieve apparently strong overall accuracy while inadequately identifying relatively rare fraudulent events. Third, binary classification alone does not sufficiently support financial investigation because organizations require differentiated alerts based on risk severity, confidence, and contextual characteristics.

Furthermore, automated decision systems introduce concerns about fairness and accountability. Hacker (2018) emphasizes that algorithmic decision-making can create discrimination-related concerns, indicating that performance optimization should not be isolated from responsible system design. Hair and Sarstedt (2021) similarly highlight the importance of measurement and causal

reasoning when machine learning is used for analytical decision-making. These considerations demonstrate that an advanced fraud-detection framework should optimize not merely predictive performance but also decision quality.

1.3 Research Relevance and Objectives

The relevance of this research arises from the need to combine deep learning, cloud scalability, and intelligent decision management into a unified analytical architecture. The primary objective is to develop a conceptual DBN framework for financial fraud detection that incorporates optimized classification and intelligent alert generation.

The specific objectives are to establish a layered DBN-based transaction representation mechanism; formulate a fraud-risk optimization stage; develop an alert-management layer that converts predictive outputs into prioritized alerts; examine the role of fairness, interpretability, and information representation; and identify the principal limitations affecting practical deployment.

1.4 Scope and Significance

The research focuses on a cloud-based financial transaction environment in which a DBN receives preprocessed transaction data and produces fraud-risk predictions. The framework covers data preparation, representation learning, classification, risk optimization, and alert management. It does not claim empirical superiority over existing systems because no experimental dataset or independently measured

benchmark results are supplied. Instead, it establishes a research-driven architecture that can subsequently be evaluated experimentally.

The significance of the study lies in treating fraud detection and alert management as a connected decision pipeline rather than as isolated classification and notification tasks. This approach is consistent with the broader direction established by Lankala et al. (2025), while providing a more explicit analytical separation between predictive learning and operational risk management.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The provided literature spans artificial intelligence, machine learning, legal informatics, information visualization, data mining, blockchain-enabled automation, quality management, and bibliometric research. Although several references are not directly concerned with financial fraud, they provide theoretically relevant perspectives for constructing a responsible and technically coherent fraud-detection framework.

Alzou'bi et al. (2014) examine artificial intelligence in law enforcement, establishing a broad foundation for understanding intelligent computational systems as tools for identifying and responding to potentially problematic behavior. Their work is relevant to fraud detection because financial fraud monitoring similarly requires computational identification followed by an appropriate institutional response. The important implication is that

detection should be considered part of a larger operational decision process rather than an isolated prediction problem.

Avasthi et al. (2021) examine techniques and issues associated with mining large-scale text databases. Although their application domain differs from financial transactions, the underlying challenge of extracting useful patterns from large-scale information is directly relevant to cloud-based transaction analytics. A fraud-detection system must transform heterogeneous raw information into structured representations before classification can be effective.

Avgerinos Loutsaris et al. (2021) demonstrate how text mining and legal ontologies can be combined to improve structured interpretation of legal information. Their work suggests a broader principle: machine-learning systems can benefit from combining statistical pattern recognition with domain-oriented structures. In financial fraud detection, transaction relationships, account profiles, merchant categories, temporal behavior, and risk contexts can similarly be represented as structured information.

The literature on legal visualization provides another important dimension. Čyras et al. (2015) investigate structural legal visualization, while Čyras et al. (2016) discuss different views of legal information systems and their sublevels. Brunschwig (2021) further examines visual law and legal design. Collectively, these works indicate that the representation of complex information affects human interpretation. This principle is directly applicable to intelligent fraud

alerts: an alert should not merely communicate that a transaction is suspicious; it should present risk information in a form that enables analysts to understand priority and supporting evidence.

Čyras and Lachmayer (2020) examine analogical methods in legal informatics, highlighting the value of reasoning through relationships and similarities. In fraud analytics, analogous transaction patterns may be informative because suspicious activity frequently becomes meaningful through comparison with historical or contextual behavior.

Hacker (2018) contributes an essential critical perspective by addressing fairness in artificial intelligence and algorithmic discrimination. In a financial fraud environment, aggressive optimization can increase detection sensitivity but may also create systematic false-positive patterns for particular transaction groups. Consequently, fairness should be treated as a design constraint rather than as an optional post-processing feature.

Hair and Sarstedt (2021) emphasize data, measurement, and causal inference in machine learning. Their contribution is particularly relevant to model evaluation because predictive association should not automatically be interpreted as causation. A transaction characteristic correlated with fraudulent behavior does not necessarily constitute a causal explanation. This distinction becomes important when fraud investigators interpret model-generated alerts.

Hamledari and Fischer (2021), although focused on blockchain-enabled smart contracts and construction payments, demonstrate the broader potential of automated systems for transaction-related processes. Their research supports the conceptual proposition that financial workflows can increasingly incorporate automated verification and decision mechanisms. However, automation must be accompanied by appropriate controls because errors can propagate rapidly in digitally integrated systems.

El Shenawy et al. (2007) investigate the relationship between total quality management and competitive advantage. Their findings are indirectly relevant to fraud analytics because detection quality depends on organizational processes, not merely algorithmic capability. A sophisticated model cannot generate operational value if alert investigation, feedback, data governance, and quality assurance are weak.

Ampese et al. (2022) and George et al. (2021) employ bibliometric approaches to identify research trends and structures. While these studies are not fraud-detection studies, their methodological orientation demonstrates the value of systematic analysis for identifying research patterns and knowledge gaps.

Within the directly relevant literature, Lankala et al. (2025) provide the most immediate conceptual foundation by examining financial fraud detection and alerting in cloud computing using a DBN. Their work establishes the relevance of combining deep belief learning, cloud computing, and alert generation. The present

framework extends this direction by emphasizing optimization between predictive confidence and alert priority, rather than treating detection output as a final operational decision.

Overall, the literature reveals four major gaps. First, deep-learning fraud detection and operational alert management require stronger conceptual integration. Second, predictive performance should be connected to measurement validity and responsible decision-making. Third, visualization and information design deserve greater consideration because human investigators remain important recipients of automated alerts. Fourth, fairness and governance should be embedded into optimization rather than addressed only after deployment. These gaps motivate the proposed framework.

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study adopts a conceptual research-design methodology for developing an integrated DBN-based fraud detection and intelligent alert management framework. The approach synthesizes the technical direction of Lankala et al. (2025) with theoretical insights from machine learning, large-scale information mining, algorithmic fairness, information visualization, and automated transaction systems.

The framework is organized into six principal layers: transaction data acquisition, preprocessing and feature engineering, DBN

representation learning, optimized fraud classification, intelligent alert management, and cloud-based feedback and governance.

3.2 Transaction Data Acquisition and Preprocessing

The first layer collects transaction-level information from cloud-connected financial systems. Potential attributes include transaction value, timestamp, transaction type, geographic information, account behavior, merchant characteristics, device information, and historical activity. The framework does not assume that every dataset contains all variables; instead, the architecture is designed to accommodate heterogeneous feature sets.

Preprocessing consists of data validation, missing-value treatment, normalization, categorical encoding, duplicate removal, and anomaly-quality checks. This stage is essential because deep learning does not eliminate the effects of poor-quality input. A transaction field containing systematic errors can generate misleading representations and consequently increase false alerts.

Class imbalance requires particular attention. Since fraudulent transactions may constitute a small proportion of all transactions, conventional accuracy can become misleading. The framework therefore emphasizes fraud-sensitive measures such as precision, recall, F1-score, false-positive rate, and fraud-class detection capability.

3.3 Deep Belief Network Representation Layer

The central analytical component is a DBN composed of stacked probabilistic learning layers. The conceptual function can be represented as:

$$H1=f1(X), H2=f2(H1), \dots, Hn=fn(Hn-1)$$

where X represents the preprocessed transaction vector and Hn represents a progressively abstract latent representation.

The purpose of this hierarchical structure is to identify complex relationships that may not be explicitly encoded in the original variables. For example, a moderately valued transaction may appear legitimate in isolation but become suspicious when combined with unusual temporal behavior, device changes, geographic inconsistency, and abnormal account history.

The DBN can therefore provide a representation in which fraud-related patterns become more distinguishable. This conceptual foundation aligns with the DBN-based financial fraud direction identified by Lankala et al. (2025).

3.4 Optimized Fraud Classification

The learned representation is passed to a classification layer that estimates the probability of fraudulent activity:

$$P(F|X)=\sigma(WHn+b)$$

where F denotes fraudulent activity, W represents learned classification weights, b is a bias term, and σ is an activation function producing a probability-like score.

However, a fixed classification threshold is insufficient for operational fraud monitoring. The proposed framework introduces a risk-sensitive threshold:

$$T^*=\arg T_{\min}[\lambda FN FN(T)+\lambda FP FP(T)]$$

where FN and FP represent false negatives and false positives, while λFN and λFP represent their relative operational costs.

This formulation acknowledges that the cost of missing a major fraudulent transaction may differ substantially from the cost of investigating a legitimate transaction. Therefore, the optimal threshold should be determined according to organizational risk rather than classification accuracy alone.

3.5 Intelligent Alert Management

The alert layer transforms model predictions into actionable risk categories. A conceptual alert score can be represented as:

$$A=\alpha P(F|X)+\beta R+\gamma C-\delta U$$

where $P(F|X)$ is fraud probability, R represents contextual risk, C represents confidence or supporting evidence, and U represents uncertainty.

Based on A , alerts can be classified into priority levels such as critical, high, medium, and low. Critical alerts may trigger immediate investigation, whereas low-risk alerts may be aggregated for periodic review.

This approach addresses an important weakness of binary fraud classification. Two transactions with identical fraud probabilities may have very different operational consequences because transaction values, customer history, or contextual risks differ. Intelligent alert management therefore acts as a decision-support mechanism rather than merely a notification function.

3.6 Cloud Computing Architecture

Cloud deployment provides elastic computational resources for transaction processing and model inference. A conceptual pipeline consists of:

Transaction Sources → Cloud Ingestion → Preprocessing → DBN Representation → Fraud Classification → Risk Optimization → Alert Prioritization → Investigation/Response → Feedback Repository

The architecture can support batch analysis for historical transactions and near-real-time inference for incoming transactions. Cloud scalability is particularly valuable when transaction volumes fluctuate significantly.

However, cloud deployment introduces concerns involving latency, data security, service dependency, and governance. Thus, scalability should be evaluated together with reliability and data-control requirements.

3.7 Fairness, Interpretability, and Governance

The framework incorporates fairness as a monitoring dimension. Hacker (2018) demonstrates why algorithmic systems require

attention to discriminatory outcomes. Therefore, the model should be evaluated not only on overall performance but also on whether false-positive and false-negative patterns are disproportionately concentrated across relevant transaction groups.

Interpretability is addressed through alert-level evidence. Instead of displaying only a fraud score, the system should identify influential transaction characteristics or behavioral deviations where technically feasible. This is consistent with the broader information-design insights reflected in Brunschwig (2021) and Čyras et al. (2015).

Hair and Sarstedt (2021) further motivate careful distinction between predictive relationships and causal conclusions. Consequently, an alert should be understood as a risk indicator requiring investigation, not as definitive proof of fraudulent intent.

3.8 Feedback and Continuous Optimization

The final stage uses investigator outcomes to improve the system. Confirmed fraud, legitimate transactions, and unresolved cases can be incorporated into subsequent model evaluation and retraining.

A feedback function may be expressed as:

$$M_{t+1} = M_t + \eta E_t$$

where M_t denotes the current model state, E_t represents validated error information, and η denotes the adaptation rate.

This mechanism can help address changing fraud patterns. Nevertheless, continuous learning should be governed carefully because erroneous investigator labels or rapidly changing transaction distributions can cause model degradation.

RESULTS

The conceptual analysis produces five principal findings concerning the proposed architecture. First, the DBN provides a theoretically appropriate mechanism for learning hierarchical representations of heterogeneous financial transactions. Traditional rule-based systems depend strongly on predefined conditions, whereas hierarchical representation learning can capture interactions among multiple transaction characteristics. The proposed framework therefore offers a stronger mechanism for detecting patterns that emerge from combinations of behavioral attributes rather than from individual rules.

Second, fraud classification and alert generation should be treated as separate optimization problems. The probability that a transaction is fraudulent is not equivalent to the operational priority assigned to the transaction. A high-value transaction with moderate fraud probability may deserve more immediate investigation than a low-value transaction with slightly higher probability. The architecture consequently introduces a risk-sensitive alert score instead of directly translating classification output into a binary alarm. This extends the conceptual fraud-

detection and alerting direction established by Lankala et al. (2025).

Third, cloud computing provides an enabling infrastructure for scalable fraud analytics but does not independently guarantee effective detection. The proposed architecture benefits from cloud elasticity when transaction volumes increase, allowing computational resources to expand according to workload. However, cloud deployment also introduces latency, security, governance, and dependency concerns. Therefore, cloud scalability should be interpreted as an architectural capability rather than a substitute for model optimization.

Fourth, the literature indicates that responsible fraud detection requires more than predictive accuracy. Hacker (2018) establishes the importance of fairness in algorithmic decision systems, while Hair and Sarstedt (2021) emphasize measurement and inference concerns. Consequently, the proposed framework treats false-positive distribution, model confidence, interpretability, and investigative validation as important evaluation dimensions. The resulting architecture is therefore multidimensional: predictive performance, operational usefulness, and responsible decision-making are jointly considered.

Fifth, intelligent visualization can improve the usefulness of alerts. The legal-information visualization literature, including Brunschwig (2021) and Čyras et al. (2015), demonstrates that complex information can become more usable when represented structurally. Applied to



financial fraud, this suggests that investigators should receive prioritized alerts together with contextual indicators rather than isolated numerical scores.

Overall, the findings indicate that an advanced DBN architecture can provide the analytical core of cloud-based fraud detection, while optimization and intelligent alert management provide the operational bridge between model inference and investigative action. The framework's principal contribution is therefore architectural integration rather than a claim of experimentally demonstrated superiority.

DISCUSSION

The proposed framework has important theoretical implications because it positions financial fraud detection as a multilayer decision problem. Conventional conceptualizations frequently emphasize classification performance, but the present architecture demonstrates that prediction is only one stage in a broader analytical process. The DBN produces a representation and fraud probability; optimization determines decision sensitivity; alert management determines operational priority; and investigation produces feedback. This layered structure is consistent with the broader AI-for-decision-support perspective identified by Alzou'bi et al. (2014).

The framework also demonstrates why performance metrics should not be interpreted independently. High accuracy can coexist with inadequate fraud recall when fraudulent

transactions are rare. Similarly, high recall can produce an excessive number of false alerts, reducing investigator efficiency. The proposed cost-sensitive threshold therefore represents a practical compromise between detection sensitivity and investigation burden.

The literature provides further support for this multidimensional interpretation. Hacker (2018) shows that algorithmic systems require fairness considerations, while Hair and Sarstedt (2021) emphasize the importance of appropriate measurement and inference. These perspectives imply that a fraud-detection system should be evaluated through a combination of predictive, operational, and governance metrics. A model that detects more fraud but systematically generates disproportionate false positives may not constitute a superior organizational solution.

A further implication concerns human-machine interaction. Automated fraud systems are often treated as autonomous classifiers, but the alert-management layer makes the human investigator an explicit component of the architecture. Information visualization research such as Brunschwig (2021) and Čyras et al. (2015) suggests that information structure influences usability. Consequently, intelligent alerts should communicate priority, confidence, contextual risk, and relevant evidence in a compact format.

The proposed architecture also extends the conceptual direction of Lankala et al. (2025). Their DBN-based cloud fraud detection and alerting approach establishes the relevance of combining deep belief learning with automated

alerts. The present framework emphasizes the additional distinction between fraud probability and alert priority. This distinction is theoretically significant because classification output is probabilistic, whereas organizational response is decision-oriented.

Nevertheless, several limitations remain. First, the framework is conceptual and does not provide experimentally measured accuracy, precision, recall, latency, or computational-cost results. Second, DBNs may involve substantial training and tuning requirements, especially when datasets are large and heterogeneous. Third, concept drift can reduce performance as fraud strategies change. Fourth, deep representations can be difficult to interpret, creating challenges for investigators and regulated institutions. Fifth, cloud deployment may increase exposure to privacy, security, and availability risks.

Another limitation is that the provided literature contains relatively few directly focused studies on financial fraud detection. This constrains the extent to which broad findings from legal informatics, text mining, and other domains can be transferred without empirical validation. Accordingly, the framework should be viewed as a theoretically grounded research architecture requiring dataset-specific experimentation.

Future empirical studies should compare the proposed DBN architecture with conventional machine-learning models, evaluate multiple imbalance-handling strategies, measure alert-reduction rates, assess inference latency under

cloud workloads, and examine fairness across relevant transaction populations. Such validation would determine whether the conceptual advantages identified here translate into measurable operational improvements.

CONCLUSION

This research proposed an Advanced Deep Belief Network Framework for optimized financial fraud detection and intelligent alert management in cloud computing. The framework integrates hierarchical DBN representation learning, risk-sensitive classification, intelligent alert prioritization, cloud scalability, fairness monitoring, interpretability, and feedback-based optimization.

The principal contribution is the conceptual separation of fraud prediction from operational alert prioritization. This distinction enables the system to consider not only whether a transaction appears suspicious but also how urgently it should be investigated. The architecture builds upon the DBN-based fraud detection and alerting direction established by Lankala et al. (2025) while extending it toward a more comprehensive decision-management framework.

The literature further demonstrates that effective intelligent fraud systems require consideration of information representation, measurement validity, fairness, automation, and organizational quality. Accordingly, predictive accuracy alone should not determine system effectiveness.

Future research should empirically validate the proposed architecture using large, imbalanced financial datasets; compare alternative deep-learning and machine-learning models; investigate explainable DBN mechanisms; evaluate fairness and alert workload; and test real-time cloud deployment under varying transaction volumes. Such studies could establish whether the proposed integration of deep representation learning and intelligent alert management provides measurable improvements in fraud detection effectiveness and investigative efficiency.

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