

- Advantages of ensemble methods based on trees
 - Less-processing is needed, e.g., NA can be handled automatically, and no scaling/normalization is required
 - Can handle large number of predictors
- GBM vs randomForest
 - randomForest has less number of tuning parameters, while GBM has more, but with proper tuning, GBM can perform better than randomForest.
- Categorical Predictors
 - Each package treats categorical predictors differently: maximal 32 levels for randomForest and 1024 levels for GBM; XGBoost and some python packages only take numerical input.