

**Flight Price Prediction Project**

**Submitted by:**

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have taken efforts in this project however it would not have been completed without guidance from other people. I warmly acknowledge the invaluable supervision and an inspired guidance by our SME SWATI MAHASETH & SHRISTHI MAAN, **FlipRobo** Technology.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Data trained Education and FlipRobo Technology for giving me an opportunity to work on this project.

I also want to express my gratitude towards my friends and family who have patiently extended all sorts of help for accomplishing this.

I am grateful to one and all who are directly or indirectly involved in successful completion of this project.

INTRODUCTION

Anyone who has booked a flight ticket knows how unexpectedly the prices vary. The cheapest available ticket on a given flight gets more and less expensive over time. This usually happens as an attempt to maximize revenue based on –

1. Time of purchase patterns (making sure last-minute purchases are expensive)

2. Keeping the flight as full as they want it (raising prices on a flight which is filling up in order to reduce sales and hold back inventory for those expensive last-minute expensive purchases)

This project consists of two phase:

1. Data Collecting Phase

2. Model Building Phase

In first phase we have to collect data of flights ticket from online websites. Here data is collected from “www.yatra.com” website using Selenium technique for web scraping. We have fetched data of popular flights available on website and a few flights from metropolitan cities. Next, we have built a regression model to predict flight ticket prices. In the long term, this would allow people to better explain and review their purchase with each other in this increasingly digital world.

ANALYTICAL FRAMING  
In our scrapped dataset, our target variable "Price" is a continuous variable. Therefore, we will be handling this modeling problem as regression.

This project is done in three parts:

• Data Collection phase

• Data Analysis Phase

• Model Building Phase

1. Data Collection Phase

You have to scrape at least 1500 rows of data. You can scrape more data as well, it’s up to you, and more the data better the model

In this section you have to scrape the data of flights from different websites (yatra.com, skyscanner.com, official websites of airlines, etc.). The number of columns for data doesn’t have limit, it’s up to you and your creativity. Generally, these columns are airline name, date of journey, source, destination, route, departure time, arrival time, duration, total stops and the target variable price. You can make changes to it, you can add or you can remove some columns, it completely depends on the website from which you are fetching the data.

1. Data Analysis Phase

* After cleaning the data, you have to do some analysis on the data.
* Do airfares change frequently?
* Do they move in small increments or in large jumps?
* Do they tend to go up or down over time?
* What is the best time to buy so that the consumer can save the most by taking the least risk?
* Does price increase as we get near to departure date?
* Is Indigo cheaper than Jet Airways?

Are morning flights expensive?

1. Model Building Phase

After collecting the data, you need to build a machine learning model. Before model building do all data pre-processing steps. Try different models with different hyper parameters and select the best model.

Follow the complete life cycle of data science. Include all the steps like

1. Data Cleaning

2. Exploratory Data Analysis

3. Data Pre-processing

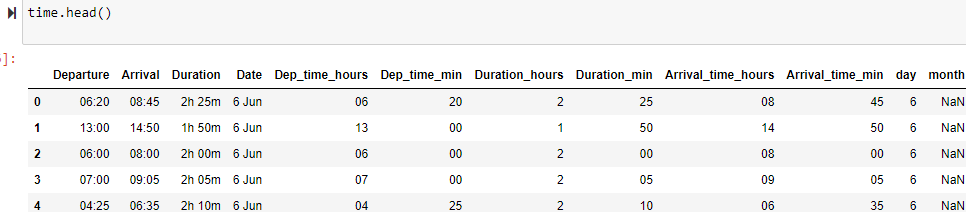
4. Model Building

5. Model Evaluation

6. Selecting the best model

DATA SOURCES AND THEIR FORMATS

1. We collected the data from “yatra.com”. The data is scrapped using Web scraping technique and the framework used is Selenium.
2. We scrapped 1875 of the data and saved data in a data frame
3. In the end, we saved all the data in csv file as “data.csv”
4. The data fetched looks like what is shown below:



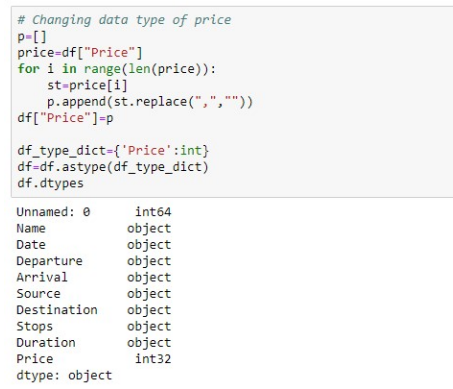
Features:

* Airline: name of
* Date: date of journey
* Departure: time of departure
* Arrival: time of arrival
* Source: the source from which service begins
* Destination: the destination where service ends
* Stops: total number of stops between source and destination
* Duration: total duration of flight
* Price: Price of flight ticket

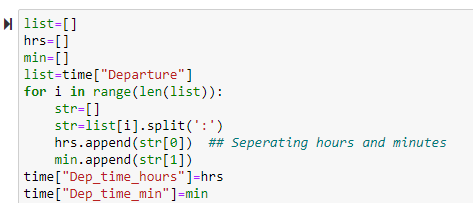
The dataset has no null values.

DATA PRE-PROCESSING

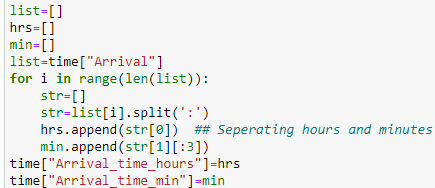
• First we will clean price column by removing ‘,’ and changing its data type to ‘int’



Next we have removed unnecessary columns and cleaned data in “Arrival”, “Departure”, “Duration” and “Date” and derived new features from each given feature. I have first formed a new data frame and then done all the processing. The following code is used to clean data and deriving new features from it:



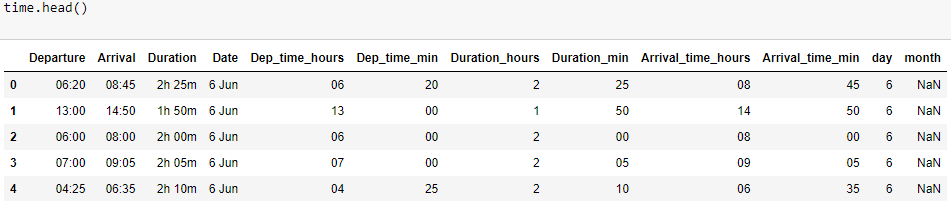








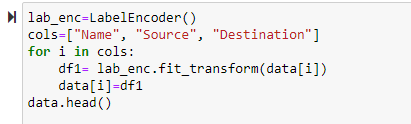
• After executing the above lines of code we will get 8 new columns Dep\_time\_hours, Dep\_time\_min, Duration\_hours, Duration\_min, Arrival\_time\_hours, Arrival\_time\_min, day and month. Each feature now has integer data type. Since all the useful information is now extracted we can drop previous columns.



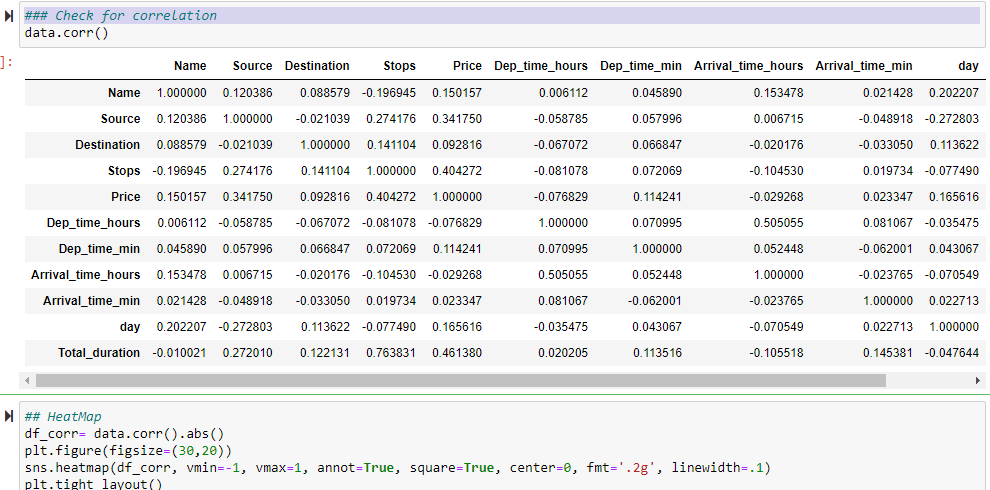
Next we have introduced two more columns as “Number\_of\_days” giving the ticket price number of days before the flight service and “Total\_duration” giving total time of service.

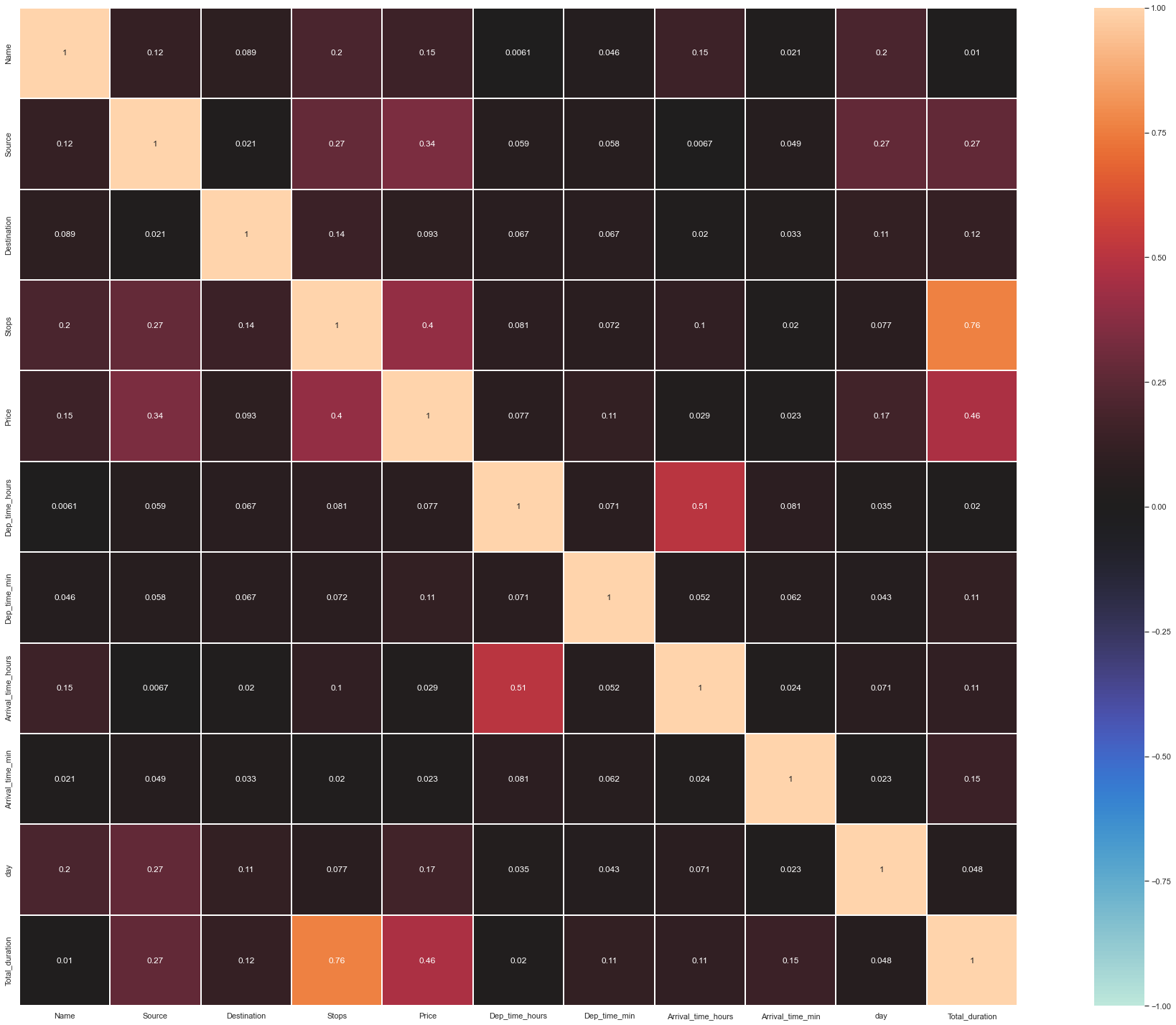
Following code is used for this step

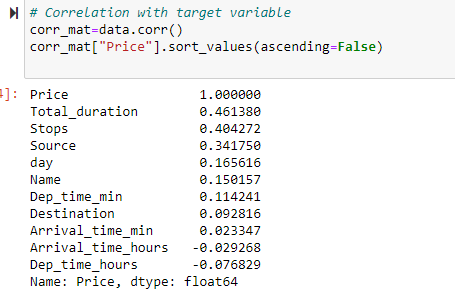
• Encoding variables with object data type: We have encoded “Stops” manually and used Label Encoder for other variables.



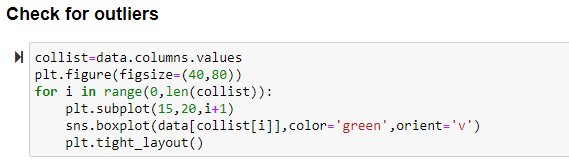
Check for correlation:-

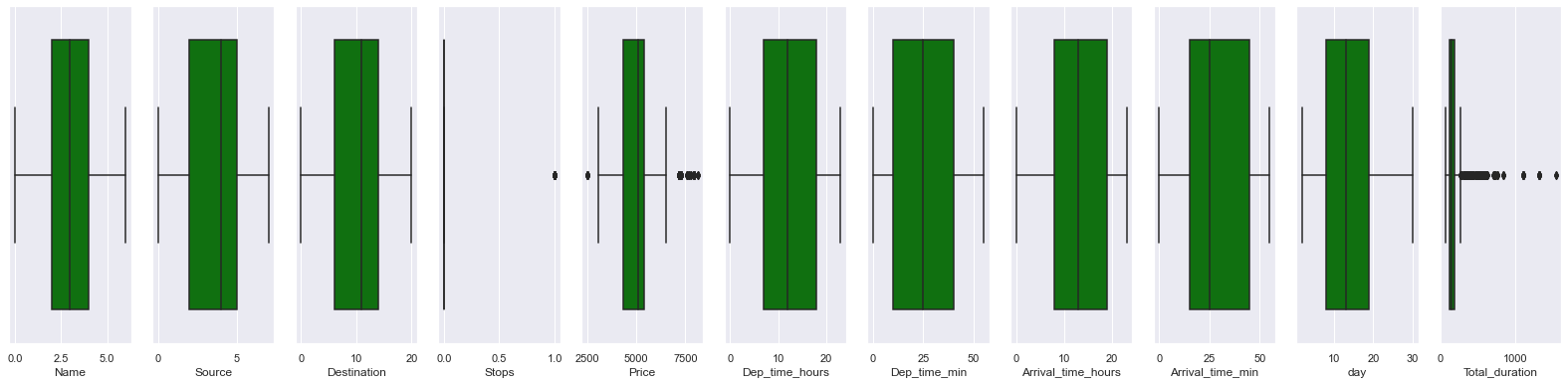




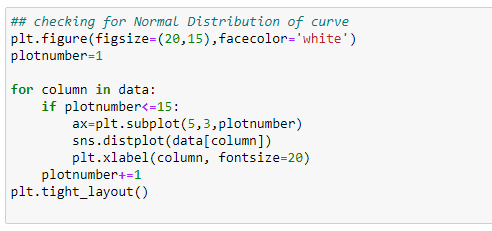


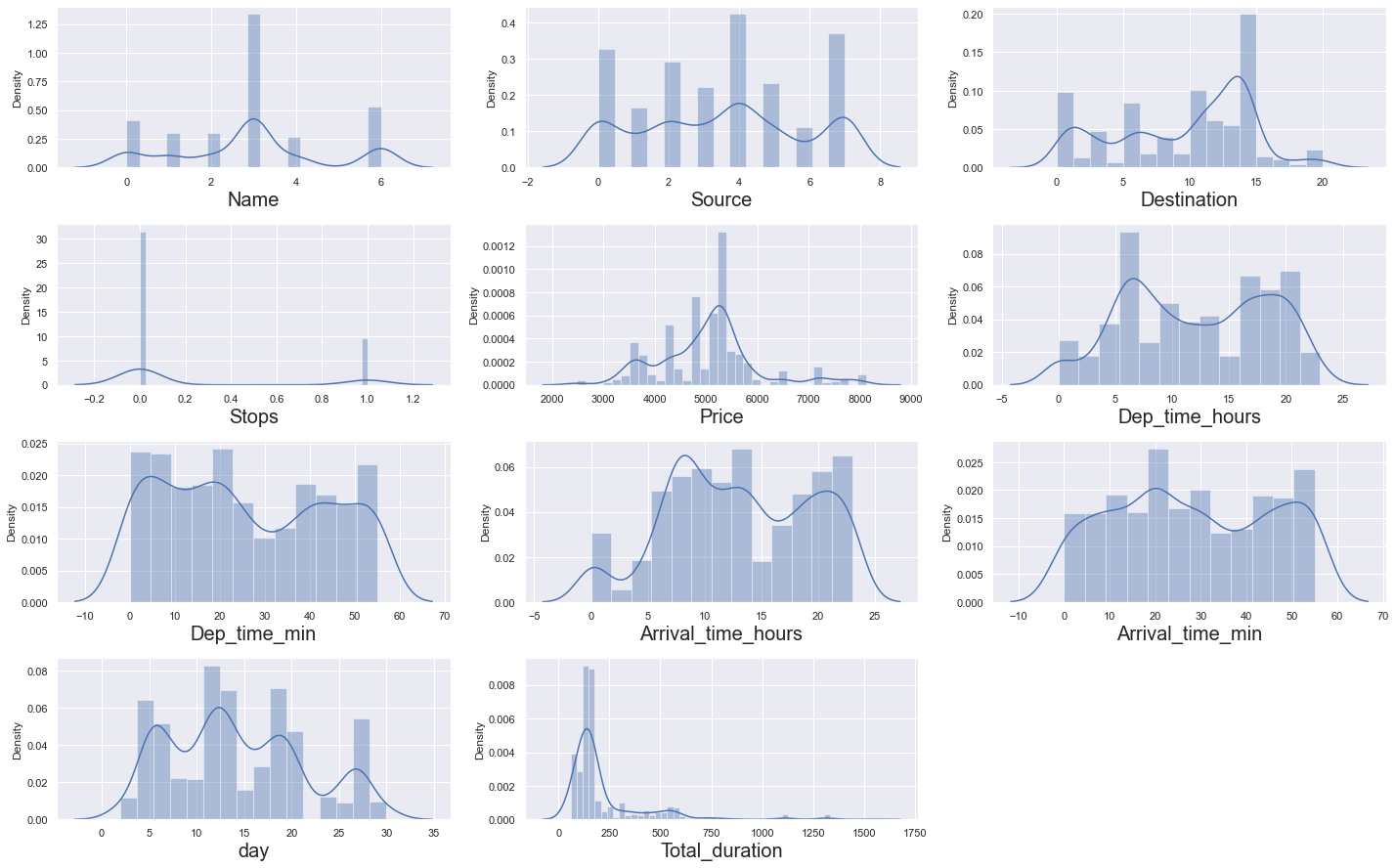
CHECKING OUTLIERS:-



  
We observe outliers in 'Price', 'Duration\_hours' and 'Total\_duration'.

CHECKING SKEWNESS AND DATA DISTRIBUTION





To handle outliers and skewness we have used z-score method and log transformation by which we faced a data loss of 3.78%

**HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS AND TOOLS USED**

For doing this project, the hardware used is a laptop with a stable internet connection. While coming to software part, I have used Jupyter notebook to do my python programming and analysis. We also need Google chrome web driver to scrap data.

Libraries Used:

• Scikit-learn

• Matplotlib

• Pandas

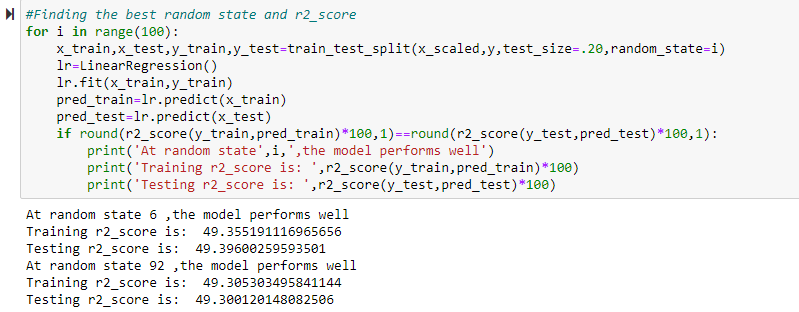
• Numpy

• Selenium

PREPARING DATA FOR MODEL

Making our Data ready for model Building phase we will first separate target variable from other features. Then use Standard Scaler to scale data and use train\_test\_split to split data into train and test to make it ready for model

We found out the best random state for our linear regression model and then run each model on this random state.



MODEL BUILDING AND EVALUATION

Algorithms used are:

♣ Linear Regression

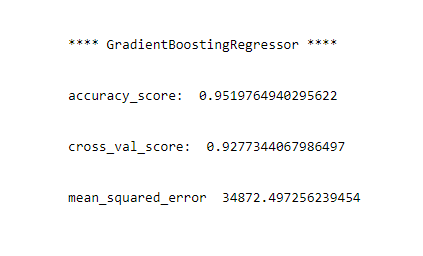
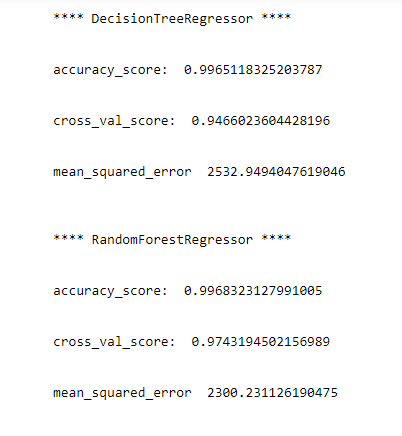
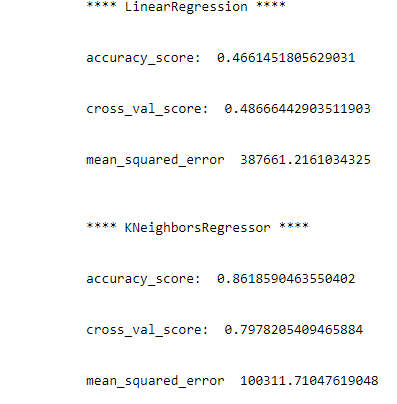
♣ Decision Tree Regressor

♣ KNN Regressor

♣ Random Forest Regressor

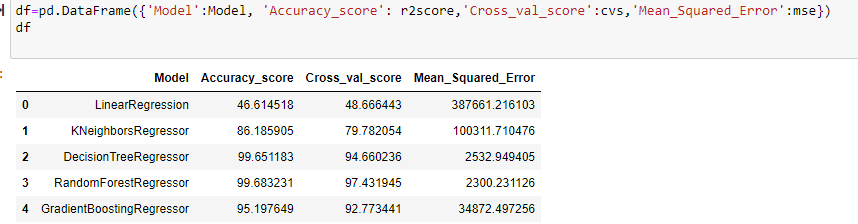
♣ Gradient Boosting Regressor

Since range of target variable is too high we are getting a high value of mse therefore we will look for R2 score and CV Score to determine our best model.



Choosing Best Model

After running the loop we get a data frame showing each model and scores obtained from it.



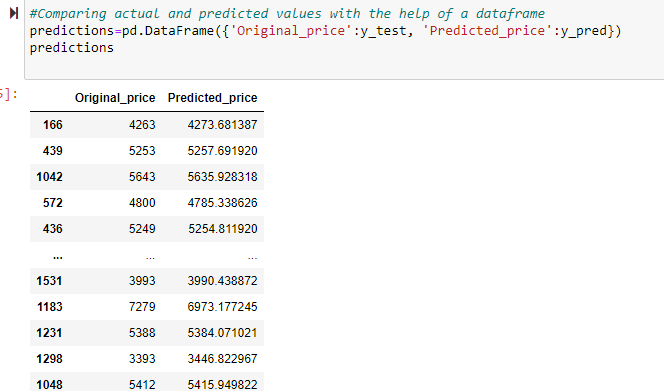
Looking the various metrics we conclude “Random Forest Model” as our best model and hence we will now tune our model.

Hyper-parametric tuning



Our final model gives an accuracy of 98.83%

Comparing original and predicted price of the model



Saving the model



CONCLUSIONS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY

First, we collected flight data from “yatra.com” it was done by using Web scraping. The framework used for web scraping was Selenium, which has an advantage of automating our process of collecting data. . Then the scrapped data was saved in a csv file to use it for modeling purpose.

From the extensive EDA performed in this project we observe Flights from Chennai and Patna are cheaper in prices. Flights with longer route i.e. high number of stops have high prices. Also, prices of flight in next month are high as compared to those in coming months. From the given data we can also conclude that Air India and vistara flights are expensive as compared to other flights. The model build after hyper-parametric tuning gives an accuracy for 98.83%.

LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE STUDY IN RESPECT OF DATA SCIENCE

After the completion of this project, we got an insight of how to collect data, pre-processing the data, analysing the data and building a model. It helped me to gain conclusions from graphs. Also it helped me in exploring multiple algorithms and metrics to get the best output.

LIMITATIONS OF THIS WORK AND SCOPE FOR FUTURE WORK

Since the data keeps changing we cannot fully rely on this project in the distant future we need to update it with updation in data. Also the scrapping of data took a lot of time as there was no such detail mentioned on fetching data. Random sources and destinations are used to pick up data. This project is done with limited resources and can be made more efficient in future.

Thank you