

Global Unemployment and Economic Indicators Analysis

Lujia Deng, Jon Kang, Xueyan Liu, Yunfei Zhang

Introduce Our Data



World Development Indicators

- Country based
- Year: 2014-2018
- 1000+ Attributes on
 - Macroeconomics
 - Income and Geographic Group
 - Economic Development

Agriculture & Rural Development

Education

Environment

Financial Sector

Health

Infrastructure

Science & Technology

Social Development

Urban Development

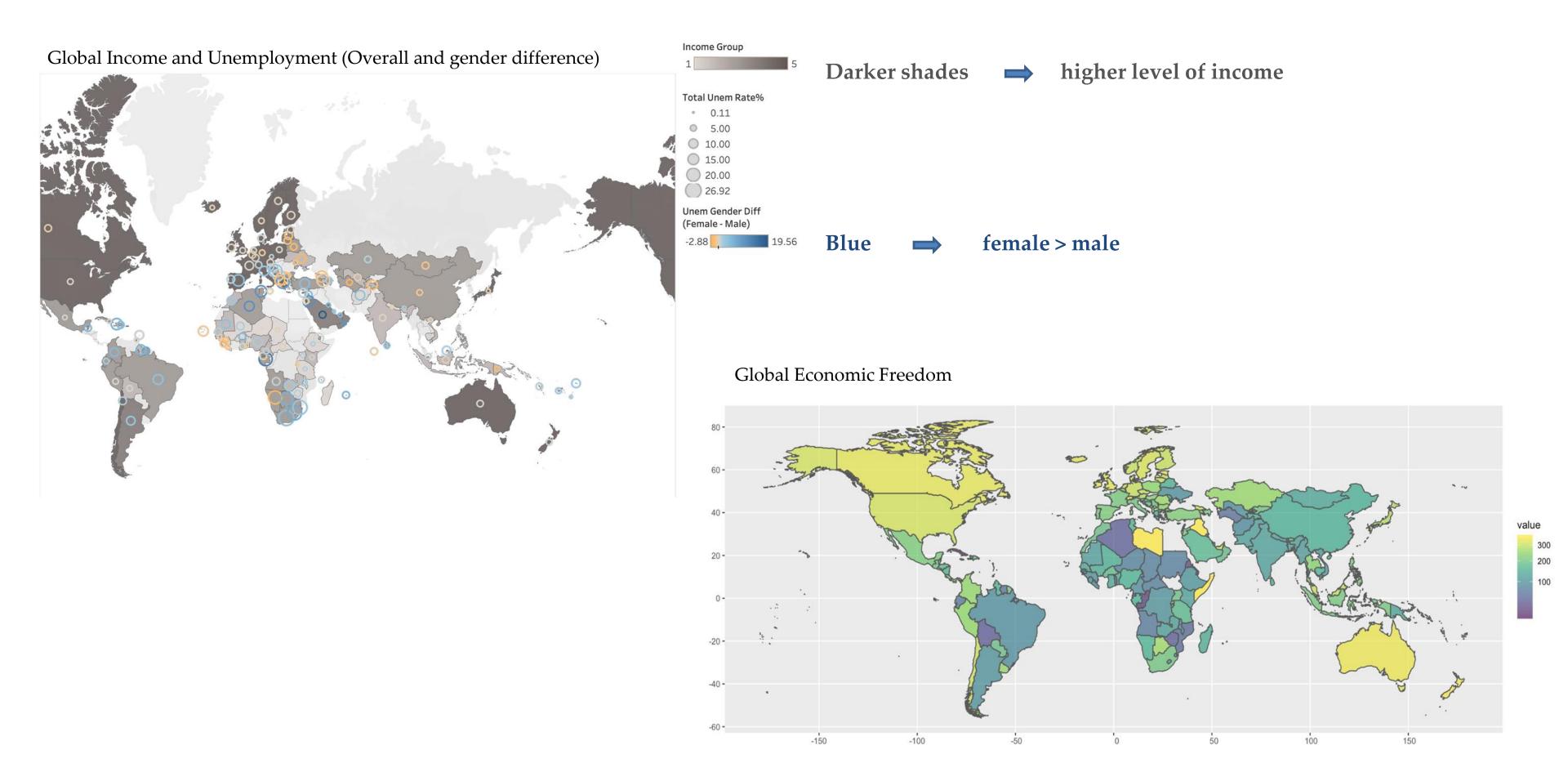


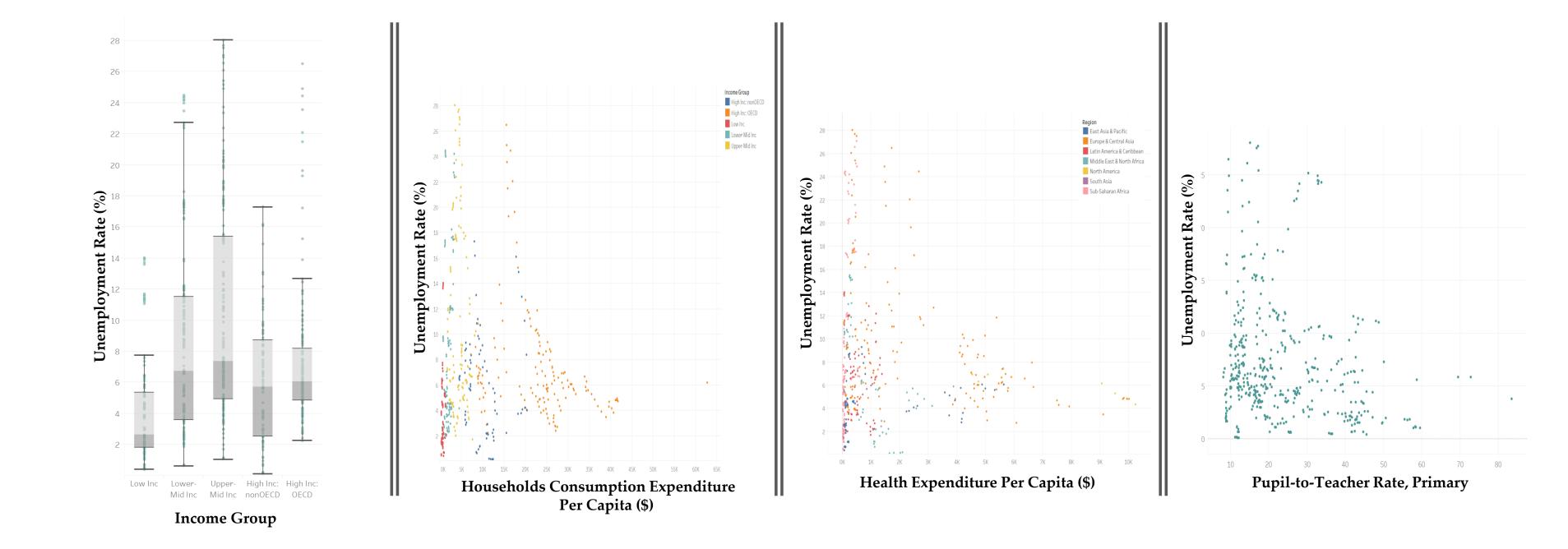


Economic Freedom Index

- Country based
- Year: 2014-2018
- 12 indicators on
 - Rule of law (property rights, judicial effectiveness, and government integrity)
 - Government size (tax burden, government spending, and fiscal health)
 - Regulatory efficiency (business freedom, Labor freedom, and monetary freedom)
 - Market openness (trade freedom, investment freedom, and financial freedom)
- All these features are graded on a scale of 0 to 100.

Exploration: Global Income and Economic Freedom





Exploration: Unemployment and Income, Consumption, Health & Education

Methods that we used:



PCA

Aimed to reduce the dimensionality; applied regression for the pc that can explain more than 95% variability.



Random Forest

Applied random forest algorithm with cross validation, resulted in satisfactory results and understanding of feature importance



LASSO+Gradient Boosting Tree

PCA with Regression

Challenge: Missing Value

Solution:

- Removing missing values
 - Removing the columns with more than 50% miss
 value
 - Removing the incomplete rows
 - o (32 cols, 534 rows)
- Replacing missing with:
 - Mean Value or
 - Random select from distribution or
 - Iterative PCA method √
 - o (42 cols, 705 rows)

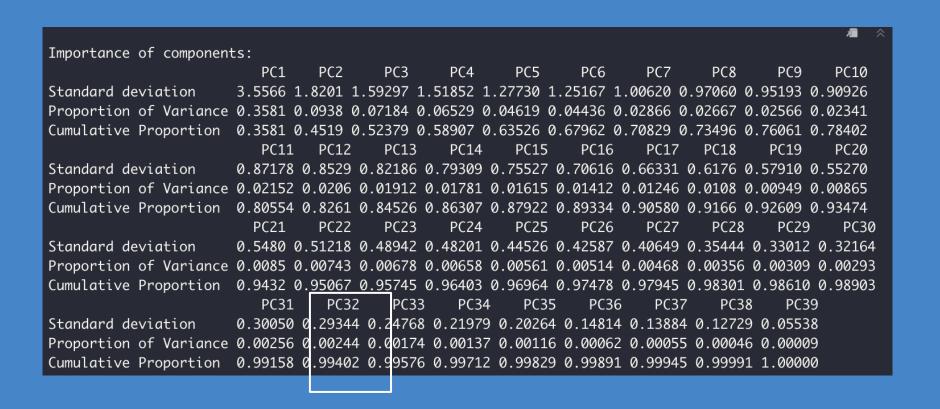
11% Missing Value

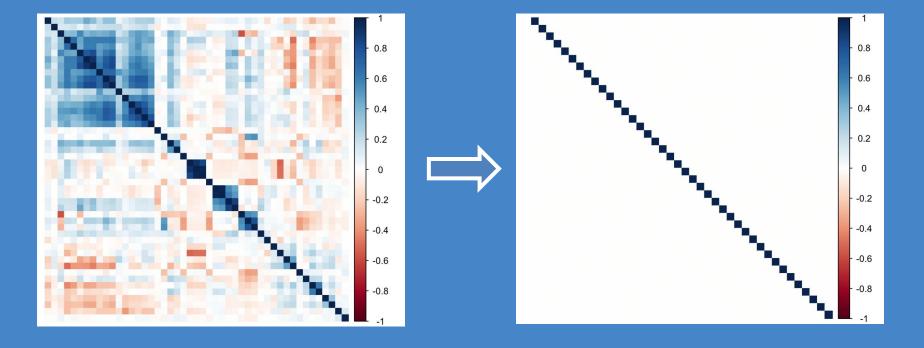


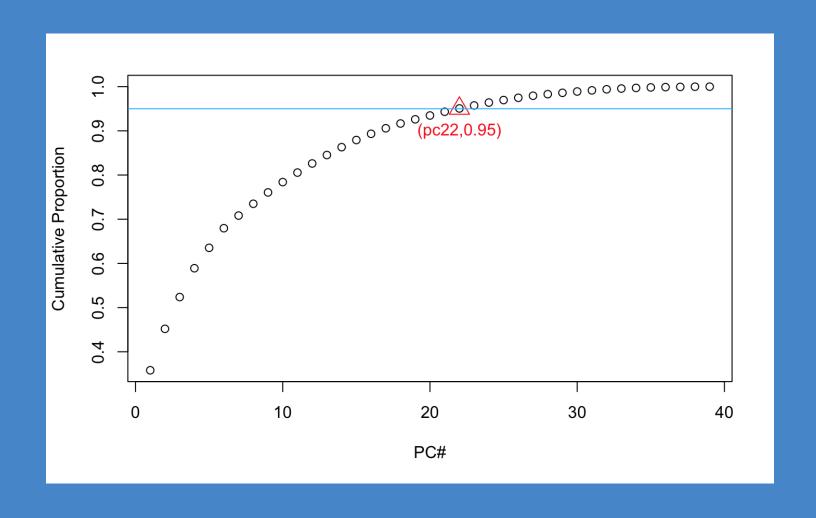
0% Missing Value

PCA with Regression: Understanding the Results

- PCA removes correlation between variables.
- 95% of the variance explained by the principal components will be good enough.
- Reduced the dimensionality to around 22, (14 for removing the missing value)

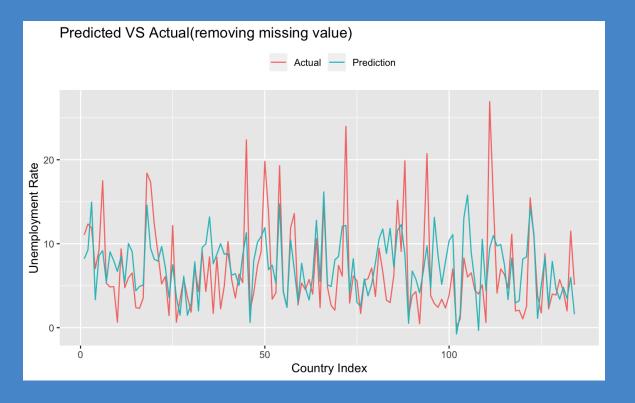






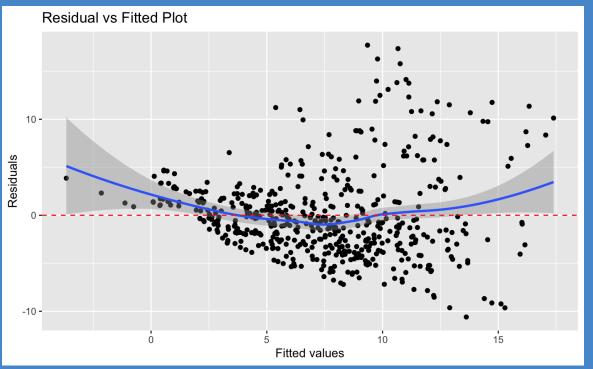
PCA with Regression: Understanding the Results

Removing the missing value





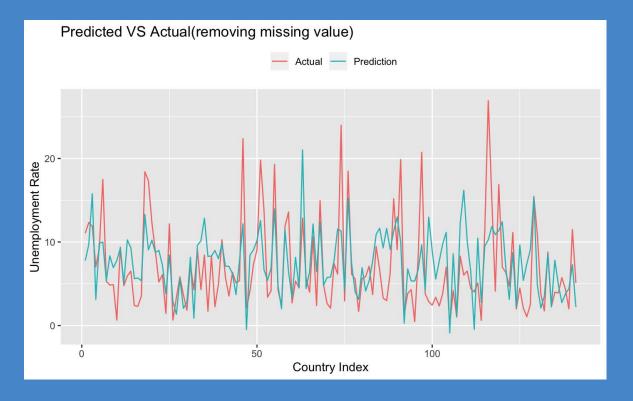
Train RMSE:
0.59
Test RMSE:
0.62

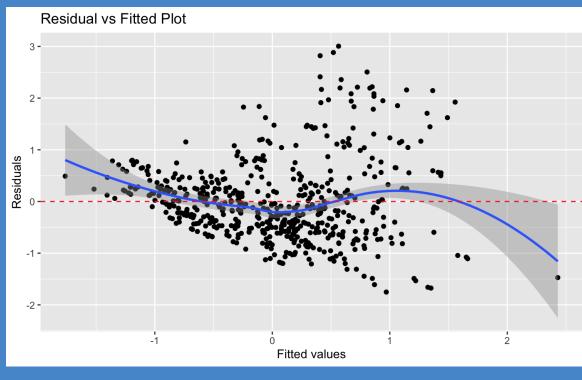




Train RMSE:
0.58
Test RMSE:
0.60

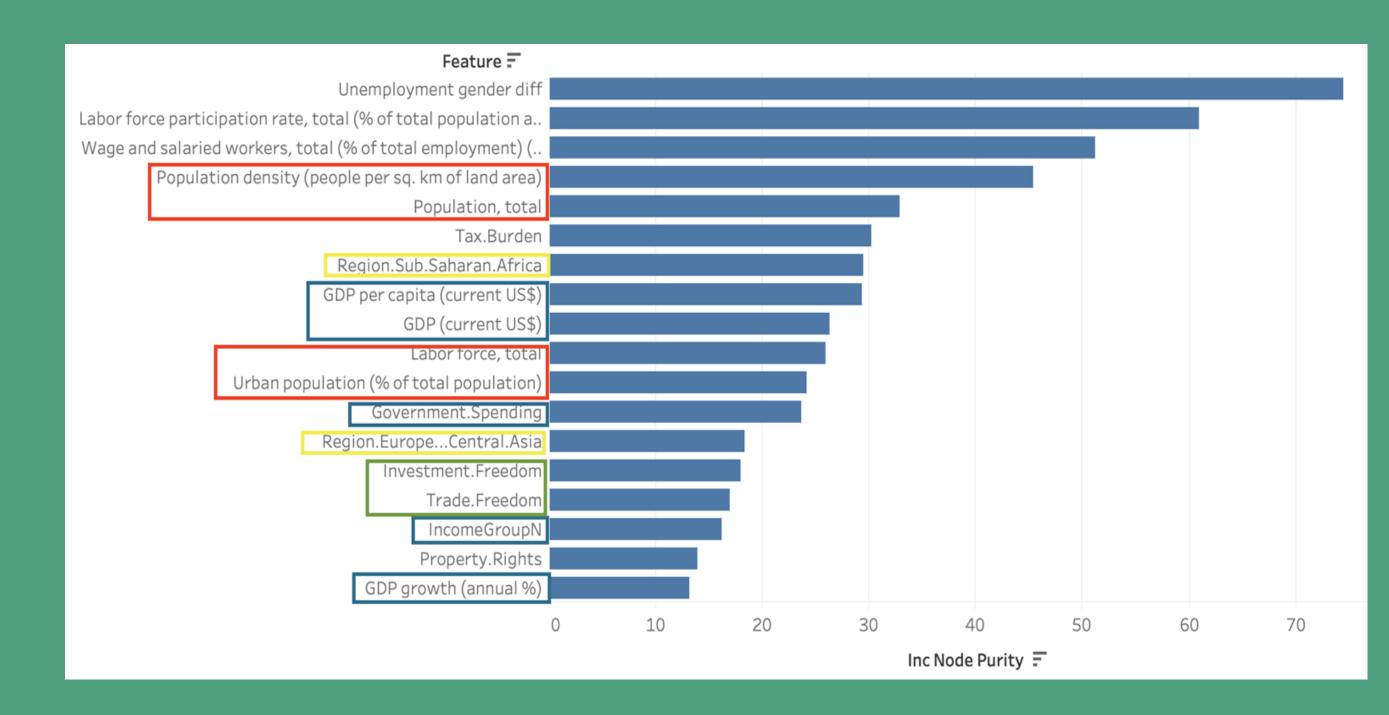
Replacing the missing value



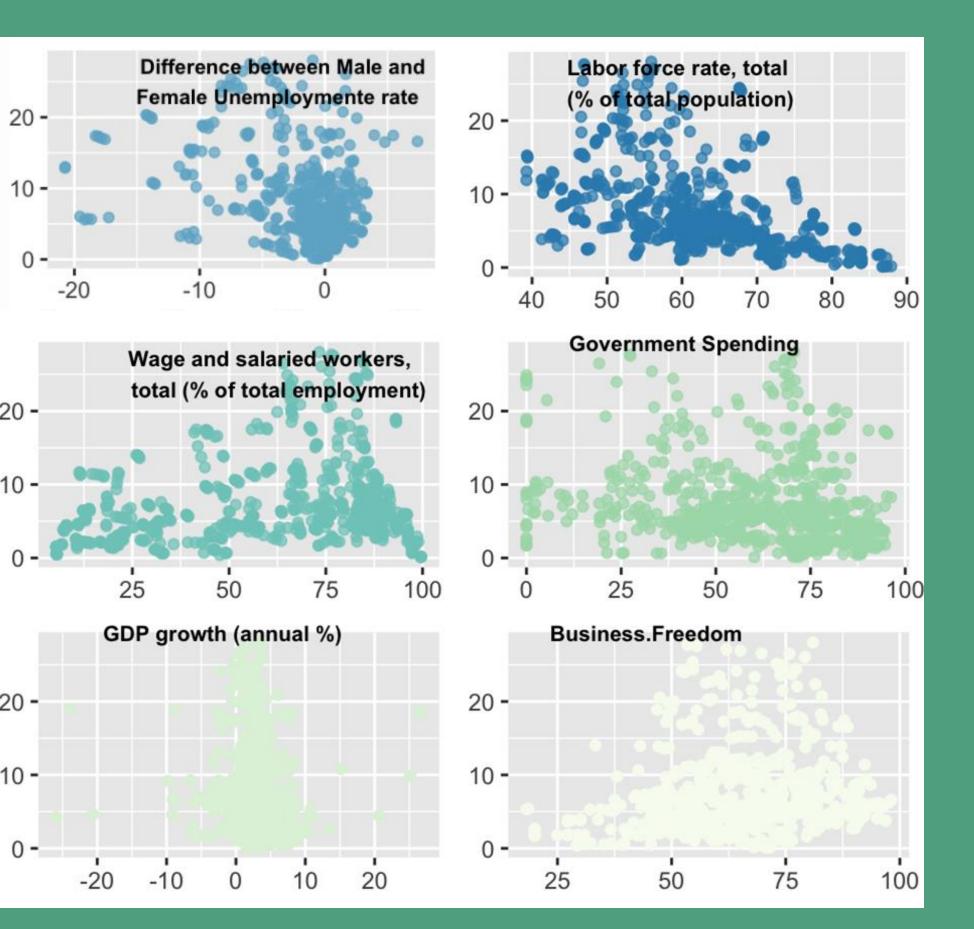


Random Forest Regression

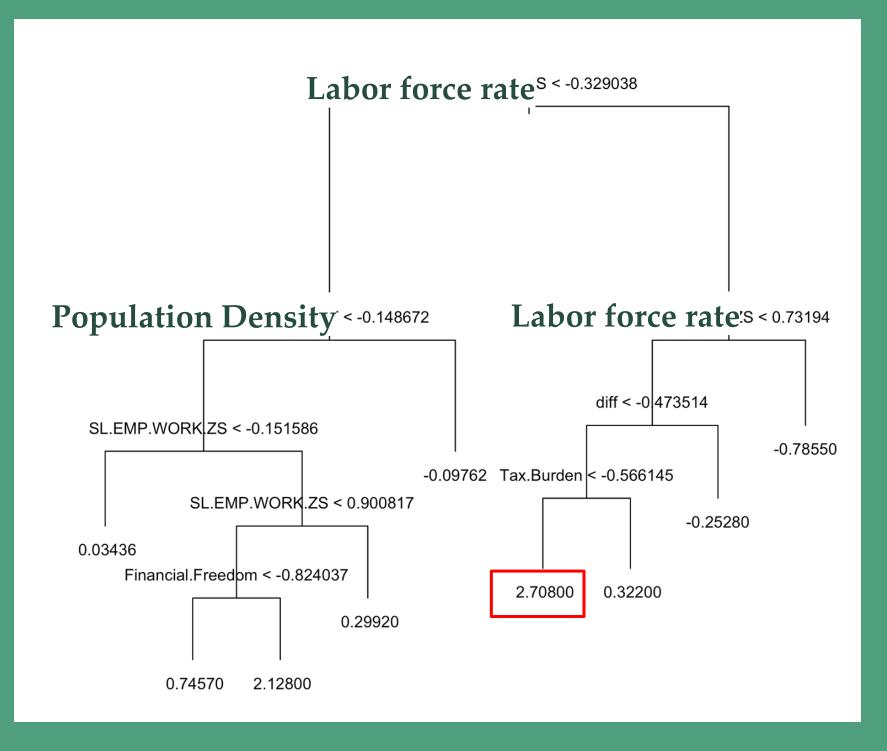
- Data Manipulation:
 - Scaled
 - One-hot encoding
 - Feature Engineer
- **Response:** Unemployment rate
- Predictors:
 - o all
 - fill missing value using rfImpute
- CV: mtry, ntree, 10-fold
- Test RMSE: 0.74



Random Forest Regression: Understanding the Results

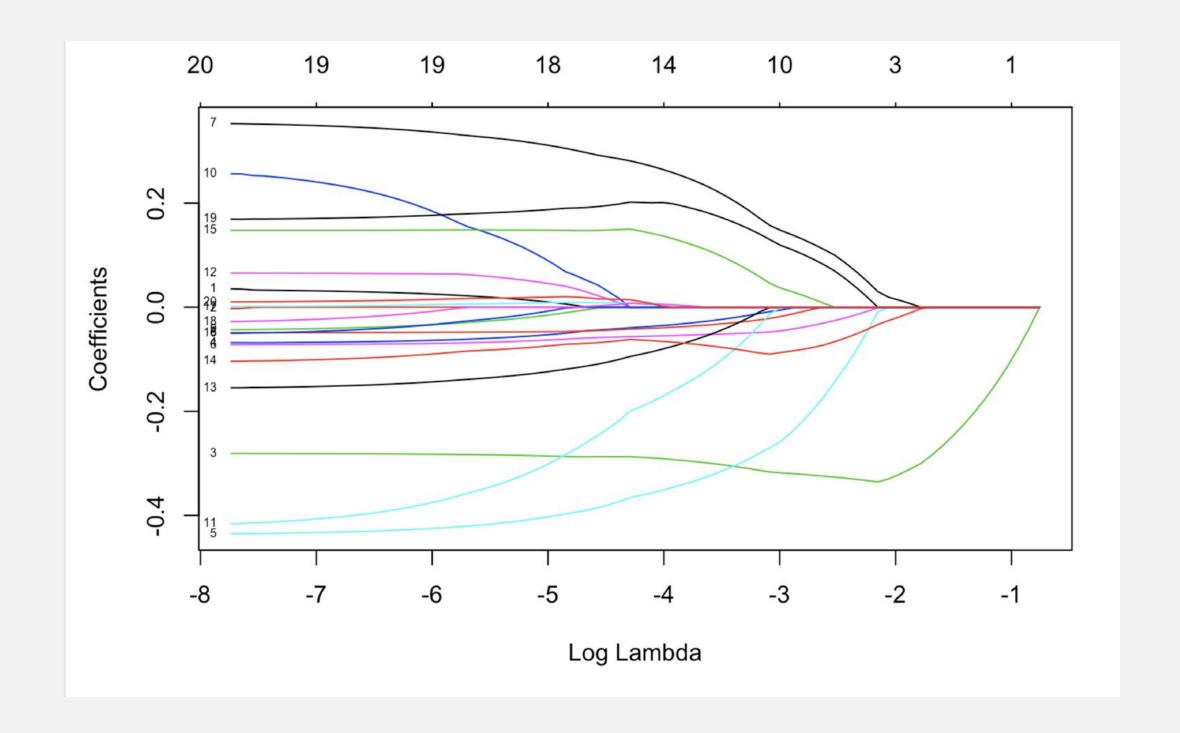


• E.g. Higher the labor force rate, lower the unemployment rate



LASSO Feature Selection

- 1. Clean Data
- 2. Scale
- 3. Run LASSO



LASSO Feature Selection

From World Bank's World Development Indicators data

SL.TLF.CACT.ZS: Labor force participation rate, total

NY.GDP.MKTP.CD : GDP (current US\$)

NY.GDP.PCAP.CD : GDP per capita (current US\$)

NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG: GDP growth (annual %)

SL.EMP.WORK.ZS: Wage and salaried workers, total (% of total

employment)

EN.POP.DNST: Population density (people per sq. km of land area)

From Index of Economic Freedom data

Overall.Score

Property.Rights

Government.Integrity

Tax.Burden

Government. Spending

Business.Freedom

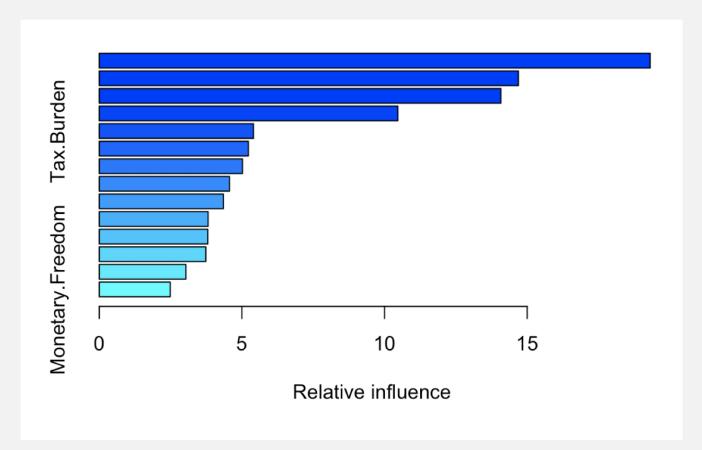
Monetary.Freedom

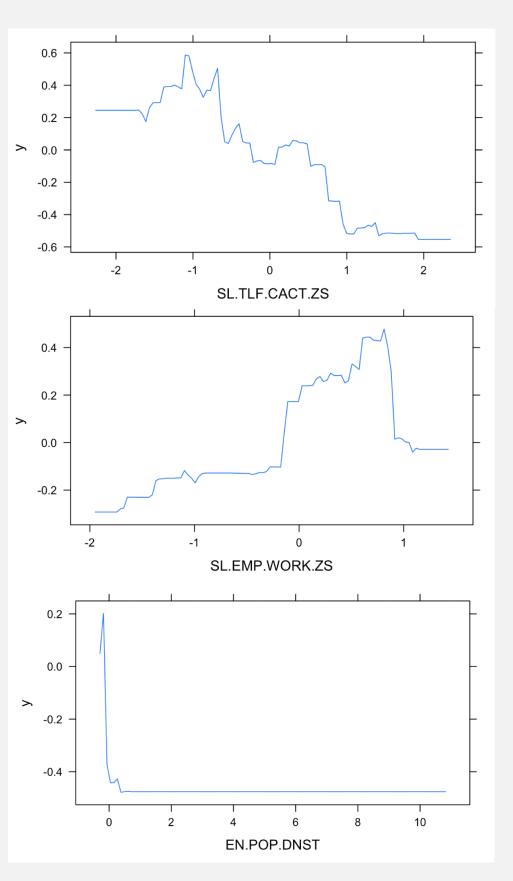
Investment.Freedom

21 x 1 sparse Matrix	of class "dgCMatrix" s0
(Intercept)	0.006472942
SP.POP.TOTL	
SL.TLF.TOTL.IN	
SL.TLF.CACT.ZS	-0.305572352
NY.GDP.MKTP.CD	-0.046905909
NY.GDP.PCAP.CD	-0.356850021
NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG	-0.059486188
SL.EMP.WORK.ZS	0.237748249
EN. POP. DNST	-0.014257341
SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS	-0.014237341
	0 054246610
Overall.Score	0.054346619
Property.Rights	-0.240270465
Government.Integrity	
Tax.Burden	-0.105676320
Government.Spending	-0.100982654
Business.Freedom	0.113155418
Labor.Freedom	
Monetary.Freedom	0.003249899
Trade.Freedom	
Investment.Freedom	0.212567685
Financial.Freedom	

Gradient Boosting Tree

	var <fctr></fctr>	rel.inf <dbl></dbl>
SL.TLF.CACT.ZS	SL.TLF.CACT.ZS	17.872038
SL.EMP.WORK.ZS	SL.EMP.WORK.ZS	12.496255
EN.POP.DNST	EN.POP.DNST	11.459481
NY.GDP.MKTP.CD	NY.GDP.MKTP.CD	9.890386
NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG	NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG	7.443716
Government.Spending	Government.Spending	6.239493
NY.GDP.PCAP.CD	NY.GDP.PCAP.CD	6.145873
Tax.Burden	Tax.Burden	6.068504
Investment.Freedom	Investment.Freedom	5.458991
Overall.Score	Overall.Score	5.364466
Government.Integrity	Government.Integrity	4.320011
Business.Freedom	Business.Freedom	3.346121
Monetary.Freedom	Monetary.Freedom	2.110850
Property.Rights	Property.Rights	1.783816





Our Conclusions

Model Comparison

Gradient Boosting!



- 1. National Income
 - 2. Economic Freedom
 - 3. Gender Difference in Unemployment

Next Steps

- 1. Find more potential related variables to improve models' performance
- 2. Identify causal relationships to inform policy making

