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# **Data-Driven Claim Severity Prediction for Insurance Risk Management**

## **Problem Statement:-**

An insurance company is aiming to improve its underwriting process by better predicting the severity of claims. Historical data include claim amounts, policyholder demographics (e.g., age, gender, location), vehicle details, and previous claim history over the past five years. The goal is to develop a predictive model that can estimate claim costs accurately to support pricing decisions and risk management.

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## 1. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

The purpose of this report is to present a detailed analysis for predicting insurance claim severity using a dataset containing various policyholder, incident, and vehicle-related attributes. In this analysis, we aim to build a predictive model that estimates the total claim amount based on both static policy details and dynamic incident information. With the rising need for accurate risk estimation in insurance underwriting, predictive analytics provides valuable insights to minimize financial losses and optimize premium pricing. This report documents a comprehensive end-to-end pipeline—from data ingestion and preprocessing to model training, evaluation, and fine-tuning—culminating in an interactive prediction interface and a Streamlit deployment for real-time predictions

## 2. DATASET DESCRIPTION

The dataset used in this analysis includes approximately 1,000 records with over 40 features spanning multiple categories:

## • Policy Details:

- o Policy Number: Unique identifier for each policy.
- o Policy State and CSL: Indicates the state and coverage level.
- Policy Deductible, Annual Premium, and Umbrella Limit: Numeric values representing financial terms.

#### • Insured Information:

Age, Education Level, Occupation, Hobbies, and Relationship:
 Demographic and socioeconomic factors that may impact risk.

#### • Incident Details:

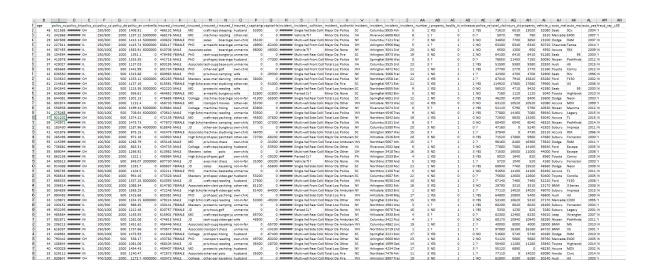
- Incident Date, Incident Type, Collision Type, Incident Severity, and Incident Hour: These attributes provide temporal and categorical information on the incident.
- Authorities Contacted, Property Damage, and Police Report Available: Additional categorical details that indicate the incident context.

#### • Vehicle Information:

 Auto Make, Auto Model, and Auto Year: Information about the vehicle involved in the incident.

#### • Claim Information:

- Total Claim Amount: The target variable representing the overall cost of the claim.
- Breakdowns of Claim Components: Injury claim, property claim, and vehicle claim amounts



## 3. <u>DATA PREPROCESSING</u>

# 3.1 Data Ingestion and Initial Exploration

# • Data Loading:

The dataset is loaded into a pandas DataFrame from a CSV file. An initial examination is performed to display the first few rows, determine the dataset shape, and compute summary statistics.

#### • Initial Observations:

The dataset contains around 1,000 records and over 40 features with a mix of numerical, categorical, and datetime values.

## 3.2 Handling Missing Values and Special Characters

## • Identification of Missing Values:

- o Before conversion, missing values were detected in several columns:
  - authorities\_contacted: 91 missing values
  - \_c39: 1000 missing values
- Additionally, some columns contained special placeholder characters (e.g., "?") which indicate missing data:
  - collision\_type: 178 "?" values
  - property\_damage: 360 "?" values
  - police\_report\_available: 343 "?" values

## • Replacement of Special Characters:

The special character "?" is replaced with NaN so that these entries can be handled uniformly along with other missing values.

#### 3.3 Handling Missing Values

## • Imputation Strategy:

- For numerical columns, missing values are imputed using the median value.
- For categorical columns, the mode (most frequent value) is used to replace missing entries.

# 3.4 Feature Scaling

#### • Standardization:

The data is standardized using StandardScaler to ensure that all numeric features are on the same scale before model training. This step is particularly crucial for algorithms that are sensitive to the scale of input features (e.g., linear regression and regularization methods).

# ## Data Preprocessing

Data types after conversion	n:
months_as_customer	int64
age	int64
policy_number	int64
policy_bind_date	datetime64[ns]
policy_state	object
policy_csl	object
policy_deductable	int64
policy_annual_premium	float64
umbrella_limit	int64
insured_zip	int64
insured_sex	object
insured_education_level	object
insured_occupation	object
insured_hobbies	object
insured_relationship	object
capital-gains	int64
capital-loss	int64
incident_date	datetime64[ns]
incident_type	object
collision_type	object
incident_severity	object
authorities_contacted	object
incident_state	object
incident_city	object
incident_location	object
incident_hour_of_the_day	int64
number_of_vehicles_involve	
property_damage	object
bodily_injuries	int64
witnesses	int64
police_report_available	object
total_claim_amount	int64
injury_claim	int64
property_claim	int64
vehicle_claim	int64
auto_make	object
auto_model	object
auto_year	int64
fraud_reported	object
_c39	float64
dtype: object	
Missing values non solumn	often convencion.
Missing values per column	
collision_type authorities_contacted	178 91
property_damage	360
police_report_available	343
c39	1000
dtype: int64	1000
dcype. Into4	

## 4. EXPLORATORY DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION

## 4.1 Target Variable Analysis

• Distribution Visualization:

Histograms and boxplots are generated for the *total\_claim\_amount* to examine its distribution. A histogram with a kernel density estimate (KDE) is used to visualize the spread and central tendency, while a boxplot helps identify outliers.

• Skewness Assessment:

The skewness of the *total\_claim\_amount* is calculated (approximately –0.59), suggesting a moderate skew. This skewness is addressed later using a log transformation if needed.

## 4.2 Analysis of Claim Components

• Correlation Analysis:

A heatmap is created to assess the correlation between *total\_claim\_amount* and its components (injury, property, and vehicle claims). This visualization provides insights into how each claim type contributes to the overall claim.

# 4.3 Categorical Variable Exploration

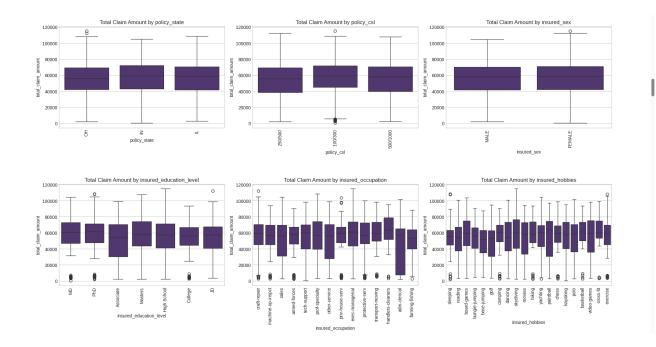
• Boxplots and Group Comparisons:

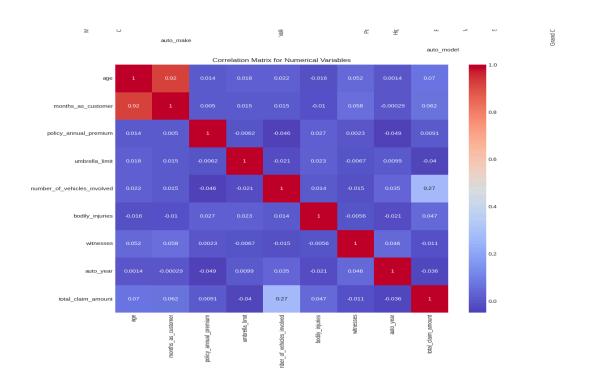
Boxplots segmented by categorical variables (such as *policy\_state*, *incident\_type*, *collision\_type*, and *incident\_severity*) are used to visualize the effect of these variables on the claim amount. This helps in understanding the impact of qualitative factors on financial outcomes.

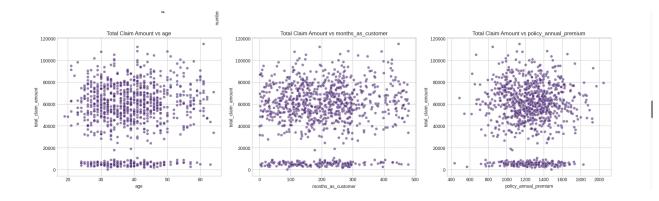
# 4.4 Numerical Variable Analysis

• Scatter Plots and Correlation Matrices:

Scatter plots comparing key numerical features (such as *age*, *months\_as\_customer*, and *policy\_annual\_premium*) against *total claim amount* reveal potential linear or non-linear relationships.







# 5. FEATURE ENGINEERING AND SELECTION

## 5.1 Feature Engineering

- Vehicle Age:
  - Calculated as the difference between the year of the incident and the vehicle's manufacturing year.
- Customer Tenure:
  - Derived by converting *months\_as\_customer* into years, providing a more intuitive measure of customer loyalty.
- Incident Season:
  - The month of the incident is grouped into seasons (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) to capture potential seasonal trends.
- Incident Time Category:
  - The hour of the incident is segmented into time bins (Night, Morning, Afternoon, Evening), which may correlate with the likelihood of certain types of incidents.
- Premium-Umbrella Ratio:
  - This is calculated by dividing the *policy\_annual\_premium* by the *umbrella\_limit* (with a small constant added to avoid division by zero), providing insight into policy coverage intensity.

# • Total People Involved:

The sum of the number of witnesses and bodily injuries, offering a proxy for incident severity.

## • Claim Ratios:

Ratios for injury, property, and vehicle claims relative to the *total\_claim\_amount* are computed to understand the contribution of each claim type.

### **5.2 Feature Selection**

# • Correlation Analysis:

Correlations between engineered features and the target variable are calculated. Features with high correlation values are flagged as important.

# • Random Forest Feature Importance:

A Random Forest model is trained to extract feature importance rankings. Features such as certain encoded incident types and ratios appear as top predictors.

## • Final Feature Set:

Based on these analyses, the top features are selected and used to form the final dataset for model training. The final selection is critical for reducing noise and improving model generalizability.

#### ## Feature Selection

```
Top 15 features by correlation with total claim amount:
total claim amount
                                          1.000000
incident_type_Single Vehicle Collision
                                          0.363770
number of vehicles involved
                                          0.274278
collision type Side Collision
                                          0.236866
authorities contacted Other
                                          0.227188
incident severity Total Loss
                                          0.220233
incident_hour_of_the_day
                                          0.217702
authorities_contacted_Fire
                                          0.197725
fraud reported Y
                                          0.163651
incident_time_category_Afternoon
                                          0.157160
incident_time_category_Evening
                                          0.127825
incident state NY
                                          0.081884
insured_occupation_handlers-cleaners
                                          0.080548
age
                                          0.069863
auto_model X6
                                          0.066292
```

Name: total\_claim\_amount, dtype: float64

Top 15 features by Random Forest importance:

Feature	Importance
incident_type_Vehicle Theft	0.318207
incident_type_Parked Car	0.308427
<pre>incident_severity_Trivial Damage</pre>	0.073265
injury_claim_ratio	0.031175
policy_annual_premium	0.016372
property_claim_ratio	0.016205
vehicle_claim_ratio	0.012472
capital-loss	0.012357
premium_umbrella_ratio	0.012166
age	0.010764
incident_hour_of_the_day	0.010054
capital-gains	0.008830
months_as_customer	0.007778
customer_tenure_years	0.007115
vehicle_age	0.006699
	incident_type_Vehicle Theft     incident_type_Parked Car incident_severity_Trivial Damage     injury_claim_ratio     policy_annual_premium     property_claim_ratio         vehicle_claim_ratio

## 6. MODEL BUILDING AND COMPARISON

After data preprocessing and feature engineering, we trained and evaluated several regression models to predict the total claim amount. The following models were considered:

- 1. Linear Regression
- 2. Ridge Regression (L2 regularization)
- 3. Random Forest Regressor
- 4. Gradient Boosting Regressor
- 5. XGBoost Regressor

#### **Evaluation Metrics**

We used the following metrics to compare model performance:

- MAE (Mean Absolute Error): Measures the average magnitude of errors in a set of predictions without considering their direction.
- RMSE (Root Mean Squared Error): Penalizes large errors more than MAE by squaring them before taking the average.
- $\mathbb{R}^2$  (Coefficient of Determination): Indicates how well the model fits the data (1.0 = perfect fit, 0 = no better than average).



#### **Observations**

- Ridge Regression slightly outperforms Linear Regression (Test  $R^2 \approx 0.7795 \text{ vs. } 0.7689$ ).
- Random Forest achieves the highest Test  $R^2$  ( $\approx 0.8743$ ) but shows noticeable overfitting.

- Gradient Boosting has strong performance (Test  $R^2 \approx 0.8353$ ) with less overfitting than Random Forest.
- **XGBoost** is competitive (Test  $R^2 \approx 0.7728$ ), though it could benefit from more tuning.

## 7. MODEL FINE TUNING AND CROSS VALIDATION

After identifying the best initial model (Gradient Boosting), further steps are taken to optimize performance.

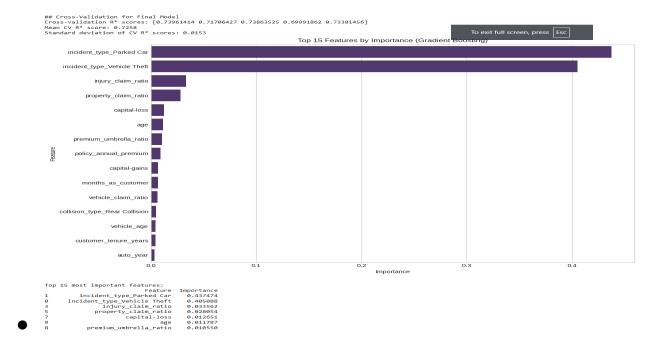
## 7.1 Hyperparameter Tuning

- Search Techniques:
  - Techniques such as GridSearchCV and RandomizedSearchCV are employed to tune critical hyperparameters like *n\_estimators*, *max\_depth*, *min\_samples\_split*, *min\_samples\_leaf*, and *max\_features*.
- Optimized Model:
  - The hyperparameter search yields a set of optimal parameters that are then used to create a tuned model. The tuned model shows improvements in prediction accuracy and reduced overfitting.



## 7.2 Cross-Validation

- 5-Fold Cross-Validation: The tuned model is further validated using 5-fold cross-validation.
- Performance Metrics:
   The mean R<sup>2</sup> score and its standard deviation across folds are reported, ensuring the model's robustness and generalizability.



The **Gradient Boosting** model initially showed the best performance among all models, achieving a **testing**  $R^2$  of 0.7359. However, it exhibited **overfitting** with a noticeable gap between training and testing performance (**Train**  $R^2$  - **Test**  $R^2$  = 0.0858). To improve generalization, we fine-tuned the model by adjusting hyperparameters.

Overfitting Reduced: The difference between Training and Testing R<sup>2</sup> dropped from **0.0858** to **0.052**, indicating better generalization.

Stable Test Performance: The Testing  $R^2$  remained nearly the same (0.7359  $\rightarrow$  0.7333), ensuring no significant loss in predictive accuracy.

**More Robust Model:** The fine-tuned Gradient Boosting model offers a better balance between training and testing performance, reducing the risk of overfitting.

# 8. Interactive Prediction Implementation

To bridge the gap between analysis and application, an interactive prediction module is implemented.

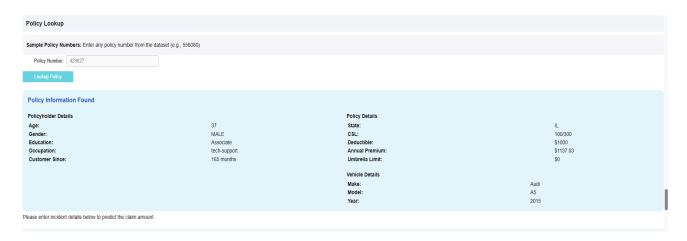
## 8.1 Policy Lookup Interface

## • Policy Number Input:

Users can enter a policy number to automatically retrieve policyholder and vehicle details from the dataset.

## • Display of Policy Information:

Once a policy is found, key details such as age, policy state, deductible, and vehicle information are displayed in a user-friendly format.

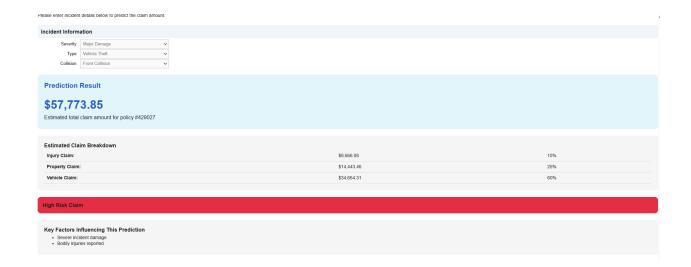


#### 8.2 Incident Information Collection

## • Input Form Using ipywidgets:

A series of input widgets (dropdowns, sliders, text boxes) are created to capture incident details such as:

- Incident Severity
- o Incident Type
- Collision Type
- Authorities Contacted
- Number of Vehicles Involved
- Hour of Incident
- Additional details like property damage status and police report availability.



#### 8.3 Prediction and Visualization

## • Preprocessing Input Data:

The input data is processed using the same preprocessing pipeline (including one-hot encoding and scaling) as the training data.

## • Model Prediction:

The pre-trained model generates a prediction for the *total claim amount*.

#### • Breakdown and Risk Assessment:

In addition to the overall prediction, the interface provides a breakdown of claim components (injury, property, and vehicle) and offers a risk assessment (e.g., low, medium, high) based on the predicted amount.

## 9. Deployment In Streamlit

## 1. Home Page

- Welcome Dashboard: Introduction to the application's purpose and capabilities.
- **Data Upload**: Option to upload insurance claims data if not already loaded.
- **Key Features**: Overview of the main functionalities, including data analysis, machine learning, cost prediction, and policy lookup.

## 2. Data Exploration

- **Dataset Overview**: Summary statistics and visualizations of the insurance claims data.
- Target Variable Analysis: Distribution and characteristics of claim amounts.
- Correlation Analysis: Examination of relationships between features and claim amounts.

**Feature Engineering Preview**: Overview of engineered features designed to enhance prediction accuracy.

## 3. Model Training & Evaluation

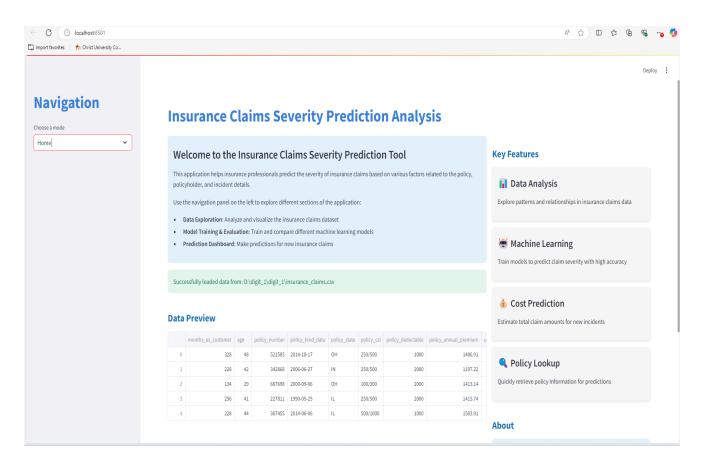
- **Model Selection**: Choose from multiple regression models, including Linear Regression, Ridge Regression, Random Forest, Gradient Boosting, and XGBoost.
- **Training Parameters**: Configure model hyperparameters for optimal performance.

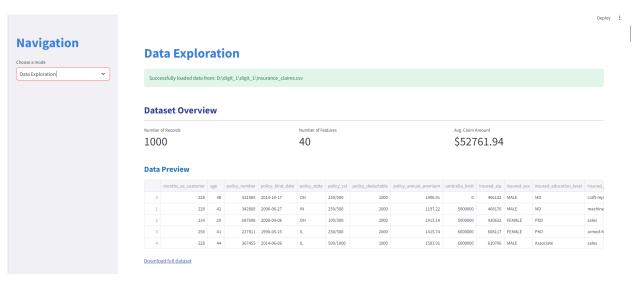
**Model Comparison**: Side-by-side evaluation of model metrics such as MAE, RMSE, and R<sup>2</sup>.

• **Feature Importance**: Visualization of the most influential features impacting prediction outcomes.

#### 4. Prediction Dashboard

- **Policy Lookup**: Enter a policy number to retrieve existing policyholder information.
- Manual Entry: Input policy and incident details for new claim scenarios.
- **Prediction Results**: View the estimated claim amount with a breakdown by claim type.
- **Risk Assessment**: Classification of claims as low, medium, or high risk.
- **Key Factors**: Explanation of the main factors influencing the prediction.



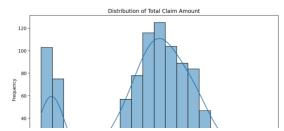


#### **Summary Statistics**



#### **Exploratory Data Analysis**

#### **Target Variable Analysis**





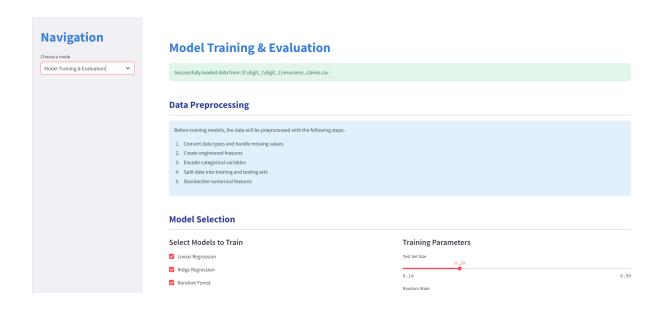
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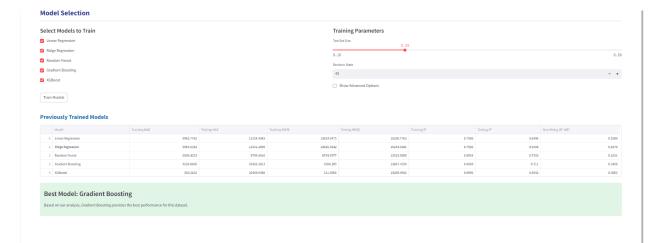
#### **Feature Engineering Preview**

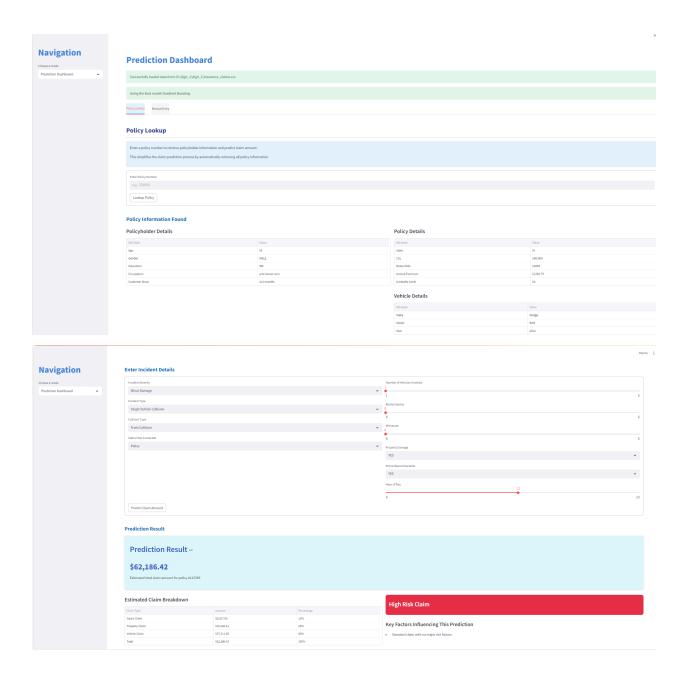
 $Feature\ engineering\ is\ a\ crucial\ step\ in\ improving\ model\ performance.\ The\ following\ features\ will\ be\ created:$ 

- vehicle\_age: Age of the vehicle at the time of incident
- customer\_tenure\_years: Customer tenure at the time of incident (in years)
- incident\_season: Season when the incident occurred
- incident\_time\_category: Time of day category (Night, Morning, Afternoon, Evening)
- premium\_umbrella\_ratio: Ratio of annual premium to umbrella limit
- total\_people\_involved: Total number of people involved (witnesses + bodily injuries)
- claim\_ratios: Proportion of each claim type (injury, property, vehicle)

Preview Engineered Features







# 10. Discussion, Conclusion, and Future Work

# 10.1 Discussion and Key Findings

# • Data Quality:

Rigorous preprocessing was necessary to handle missing values, type inconsistencies, and special characters. This ensured a clean dataset for modeling.

## • Feature Engineering:

Engineered features such as vehicle age, customer tenure, seasonal categorization, and premium-umbrella ratio significantly improved model performance.

#### • Model Performance:

Ensemble models (Random Forest, Gradient Boosting, and XGBoost) captured complex relationships better than linear models. Fine-tuning via hyperparameter optimization further improved generalizability and reduced overfitting.

## • Deployment Impact:

The interactive prediction module—both in the Jupyter environment and via Streamlit—demonstrates the practical application of the model. This approach provides decision support to insurance underwriters and claims adjusters by enabling real-time risk assessment and premium optimization.

## 11 .CONCLUSION

This comprehensive analysis demonstrates an end-to-end process for predicting insurance claim severity. The final model, validated through cross-validation and fine-tuning, provides reliable predictions that can be integrated into operational systems. The deployment in Streamlit further extends the model's accessibility, allowing both technical and non-technical users to benefit from real-time predictions.