# FLIGHT DELAY PREDICTION SYSTEM USING MACHINE LEARNING

Bonafede record of work done by

TARUN VISVA R	(19Z358)
KRISHNA TEJA B	(19Z326)
HARISH J	(19Z318)
DHANUSH REDDY N	(19Z333)

# Professional Readiness for Innovation, Employability, and Entrepreneurship

**GUIDE: VANI K** 

**BACHELOR OF ENGINEERING** 

**BRANCH: COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING** 



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Professional Readiness for Innovation, Employability, and Entrepreneurship	1
PSG COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY	1
1. INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Project Overview	4
1.2 Purpose	4
2. LITERATURE SURVEY	4
2.1 Existing problem	4
2.2 References	6
2.3 Problem Statement Definition	6
3. IDEATION & PROPOSED SOLUTION	6
3.1 Empathy Map Canvas	6
3.2 Ideation & Brainstorming	7
3.3 Proposed Solution	7
3.4 Problem Solution fit	9
4. REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS	10
4.1 Functional requirement	10
4.2 Non-Functional requirements	10
5. PROJECT DESIGN	11
5.1 Data Flow Diagrams	11
5.2 Solution & Technical Architecture	12
5.3 User Stories	12
6. PROJECT PLANNING & SCHEDULING	13
6.1 Sprint Planning & Estimation	13
7. CODING & SOLUTIONING	13

7.1 Viewing if flight is delayed given the Source, Destination and Journey date	13
8. TESTING	20
8.1 User Acceptance Testing	20
9. RESULTS	21
9.1 Performance Metrics	21
10. ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES	21
11. CONCLUSION	21
12. FUTURE SCOPE	22
13. APPENDIX	22
GitHub	22
Project Demo Link	22

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Overview

The airline industry has been the backbone of transportation ever since the 1950s. It is important to ensure that the aviation industry has safety and punctuality at its peak, as many VIPS, business personalities, and sports teams use aircraft as their primary transport for important events. Although the industry's safety and customer service record is close to the best it has ever been, there are still rare occasions where passengers are inconvenienced by delays or even cancellations which end up costing the industry and the economy a lot. According to the estimation by the Total Delay Impact Study, the total cost of air transportation delays to air travelers and the airline industry in 2007 was \$32.9 billion in the US, resulting in a \$4 billion reduction in GDP. Therefore, predicting flight delays can improve airline operations and passenger satisfaction, which will positively impact the economy. Thus, building the right system using a suitable model is of great importance.

### 1.2 Purpose

The project aims to develop a flight delay prediction system that can predict the flight delays and improve the airline operations and passenger satisfaction.

#### 2. LITERATURE SURVEY

#### 2.1 Existing problem

#### Flight delay prediction using Isolation Forest algorithm[1]:

In this paper, an analysis has been conducted to discover the main causes of flight delays and to explore a few machine learning algorithms to find the most suitable one. According to statistics from the Bureau of Transportation, more than 69% of flight delays are caused due to unexpected weather conditions. This paper mainly focuses on considering weather as the main factor for flight delay anomalies. The flight dataset has been collected from the Bureau of Transportation(BTS) website, which has over 20 variables for each flight. The weather data has been collected from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), with 4 or 5 determining factors(such as temperature, precipitation, etc..) consisting of values for each factor reported at different points in a day. The mean of the values at different points of the day are taken and used for integration with the Flight data. In the initial phase of implementation, algorithms such as random forest and KNN have been used, but their accuracy was lower (up to 62%). This is because of anomalies (in our case, flight cancellation/delay is the anomaly) in the dataset. As the main goal is to capture those deviations, the next suitable method to model this dataset is the Isolation Forest method. This is an unsupervised learning algorithm that is mainly used if the dataset contains anomalies and gives high accuracy in those cases as its main purpose is to capture the anomalies. This model gives an accuracy of 76%. Certain improvements can be done to improve the accuracy but it involves additional overhead. For example, Instead of calculating the mean of weather values at different points in time, real-time airport weather for each flight could be collected, which turns out to be a tedious task. Also, accuracy may rise a little if factors other than the weather are also considered.

#### Analysis of classification models on flight delay prediction[2]:

This paper explores the parameters affecting flight delays and analyzes various machine learning models that can be used for the prediction of flight delays. Different studies conducted in different places show that flights are delayed due to different parameters. For example, the main parameters that affect the airline network in the US are visibility, wind, and departure time, and in Iran are fleet age and aircraft type. Different classification models such as Logistic Regression, K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN), Gaussian Naïve Bayes, Decision Tree, Support Vector Machine (SVM), Random Forest, and Gradient Boosted Trees have been used for prediction. The main objective of this study is to predict flight delays based on labeled data. Therefore, a supervised learning classification algorithm was selected as the appropriate one. They calculated the values accuracy, precision, recall, and f1 score to conclude the better model among the chosen models. The result shows that the highest values of accuracy, precision, recall, and f1-score are generated by the Decision Tree model (accuracy: 0.9778; precision: 0.9777; recall: 0.9778; f1-score: 0.9778). Other tree-based ensemble classifiers also show good performance. Random Forest and Gradient Boosted Tree have an accuracy of 0.9240 and 0.9334, significantly higher than the rest of the models. The other four base classifiers Logistic Regression, KNN, Gaussian Naïve Bayes, and SVM, are not tree-based and therefore do not show a good performance in classification. The KNN model has the least performance since its precision and f1-score are the lowest among the seven models.

#### Flight Delay Prediction Using XGBoost[3]:

In this paper, an analysis has been performed using XGBoost which is one of the most popular machine learning algorithms regardless of the type of prediction task at hand - regression or classification. It has become the state-of-the-art machine learning algorithm to deal with structured data. A publicly available Kaggle dataset collected from United States domestic air traffic has been used for training. The dataset consists of over 3 million samples with 19 features. XGBoost is software that can be installed on our machine and accessed from a variety of interfaces. The library is focused on computational speed and model and the performance of the model. In this implementation, Mean absolute error(MAE) has been used for delay prediction. In statistics, MAE is the average vertical distance between each point and the identity line or it is also the average horizontal distance between each point and the identity line. Based on the analysis of the results, it is evident that the integration of multidimensional heterogeneous data, combined with the application of different techniques for feature selection and regression can provide promising tools for inference in the current domain

### Flight Delay Classification Prediction Using Stacking Algorithm[4]:

This paper aims to prove that the stack algorithm has advantages in airport flight delay prediction, especially for the algorithm selection problem of machine learning technology. The authors use SMOTE to preprocess an imbalanced dataset and use Boruta Algorithm for feature Selection. The author uses five supervised ML algorithms for first-level learners (KNN, Gaussian Naive Bayes, Random forest, Decision Tree, and Logistic regression) and Logistic regression for second-level learners. The data set is from Logan International Airport in Boston, Massachusetts, the United States, which contains 298914 flight datasets and 67822 delayed flights. The SMOTE algorithm is used to balance the dataset. The features are selected using the Boruta algorithm that is applied to nine features (weather is not included in feature selection) and 4 features were marked as critical (arrival time, day of month, month, and departure time), and stack-based learning is used with k-fold cross validation. Comparing the level one learners, the Random forest and KNN had good prediction results with accuracy exceeding 0.8 and 0.7 respectively. Whereas Gaussian Naive Bayes

and Logistic regression performed poorly. The stacking algorithm also yields good results with an accuracy of over 0.8. The stacking algorithm is also stable as the result does not vary significantly even if learners are removed from the stacking algorithm. The authors conclude that stacking algorithms are good for algorithm selection and it is also stable even when learners are removed from the stacking algorithm.

#### 2.2 References

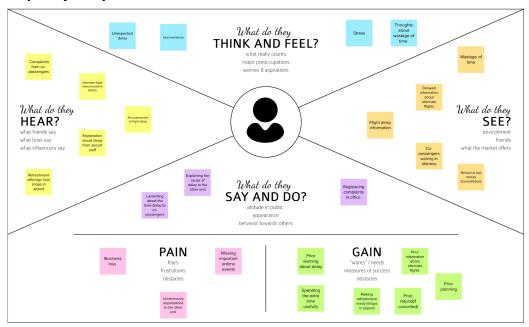
- 1. Miloš Vereš, Flight delay/cancellation prediction using machine learning Adapting new ways to help stranded passengers
- 2. Yuemin Tang, Airline Flight Delay Prediction Using Machine Learning Models
- 3. K.P. Surya Teja, Vigneswara Reddy, Dr. Shaik Subhani. Flight Delay Prediction Using Machine Learning Algorithm XGBoost
- 4. Jia Yi, Honghai Zhang, Hao Liu, et al. Flight Delay Classification Prediction Based on Stacking Algorithm

### 2.3 Problem Statement Definition

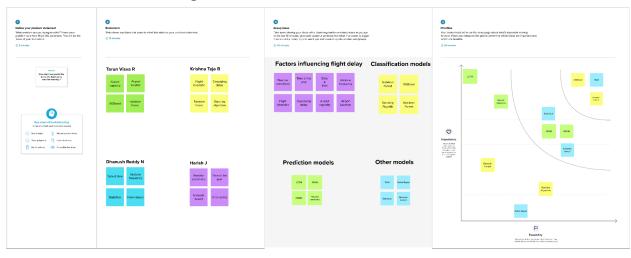
To develop a flight delay prediction model using Machine Learning models such an s decision tree to classify whether a flight is delayed or not based on the origin, destination, and date of journey

### 3. IDEATION & PROPOSED SOLUTION

### 3.1 Empathy Map Canvas



### 3.2 Ideation & Brainstorming

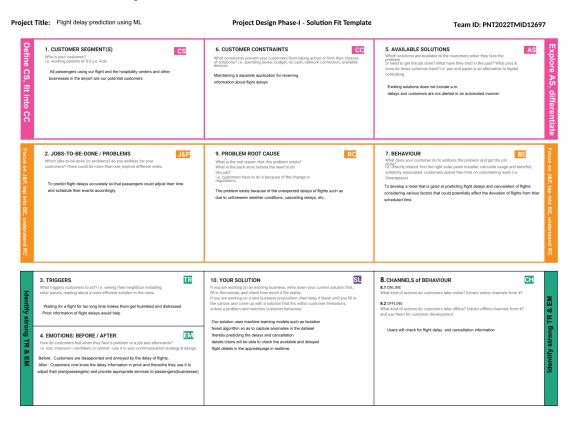


## 3.3 Proposed Solution

S.No.	Parameter	Description
	Problem Statement (Problem to be solved)	Over the last twenty years, air travel has been increasingly preferred among travelers, mainly because of its speed and in some cases comfort. This has led to phenomenal growth in air traffic. An increase in air traffic growth has also resulted in massive levels of aircraft delays on the ground and in the air. These delays are responsible for large economic and environmental losses. The main objective of the model is to predict flight delays accurately in order to optimize flight operations and minimize delays.
	Idea / Solution description	Using a machine learning model, we can predict flight arrival delays. The input to our algorithm is rows of feature vectors like departure date, departure delay, distance between the two airports, scheduled arrival time etc. We then use a decision tree classifier to predict if the flight arrival will be delayed or not. A flight is considered to be delayed when the difference between scheduled and actual arrival times is greater than 15 minutes. Furthermore, we compare decision tree classifiers with logistic regression and a simple neural network for various figures of merit.
	Novelty / Uniqueness	Along with the information whether the flight is being delayed or not, the approximate time of arrival (after delay) is also predicted so that passengers can adjust their schedule accordingly. Other flights whose departures are delayed due to the arrival delay of one flight are also identified and notifications are sent to the respective passengers.

Social Impact / Customer Satisfaction	This notifies people about the delay in flights well in advance so that the passengers need not get frustrated knowing the slow down at the last minute. Normal passengers can arrive patiently at the airport. Important people (VIPs, Doctors, etc) can reschedule events based on the delay information.
Business Model (Revenue Model)	Hospitality centers and businesses could use this solution to prepare refreshment, recreation and other appropriate services to the customers waiting in the lobby.
Scalability of the Solution	Since this application is hosted as a web page in a cloud platform, anyone can sign in and obtain the information on any device from their browser.

### 3.4 Problem Solution fit



### 4. REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS

### 4.1 Functional requirement

Following are the functional requirements of the proposed solution.

FR No.	Functional Requirement (Epic)	Sub Requirement (Story / Sub-Task)
FR-1	User Registration	Registration through Form Registration through Gmail Registration through LinkedIN
FR-2	User Confirmation	Confirmation via Email Confirmation via OTP
FR-3	Admin authentication	Confirmation via OTP
FR-4	Admin dashboard	Admin uploads dataset to train the model
FR-4	Display result	The flight delay information will be displayed in the web page

### 4.2 Non-Functional requirements

Following are the non-functional requirements of the proposed solution.

FR No.	Non-Functional Requirement	Description
NFR-1	Usability	Easily accessible as the application is hosted as a web page
NFR-2	Security	User and admin require login to access the web page
NFR-3	Reliability	The system focuses on preventing lifetime failures
NFR-4	Performance	The system performance is elevated as the cloud server it is hosted on is usually a powerful computational resource
NFR-5	Availability	The system runs on a cloud server. So, it is always available
NFR-6	Scalability	The application can be easily scaled to meet user demands

### 5. PROJECT DESIGN

### 5.1 Data Flow Diagrams

Flight Delay Prediction System
Data Flow Diagram

System
Administrator

Model Training data

Preprocess Data

Preprocess Data

Preprocessed Flight Details

Flight Details

Trained Model

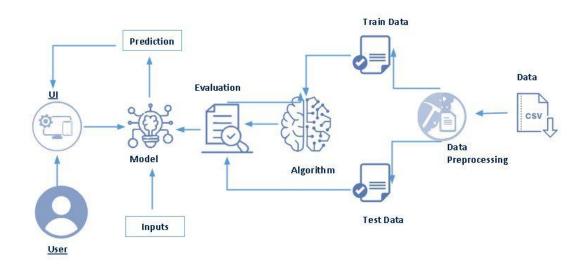
Trained Model

Get Flight Status

Flight Status

User

### 5.2 Solution & Technical Architecture



### 5.3 User Stories

User Type	Functional Requirement (Epic)	User Story Number	User Story / Task Acceptance criteria	
Customer (Mobile user and web user)	Registration	USN-1	As a user, I can register for the application by entering my email, password, and confirming my password.	I can access my account / dashboard
		USN-2	As a user, I will receive a confirmation email once I have registered for the application	I can receive a confirmation email & click confirm
		USN-4	As a user, I can register for the application through Gmail	I can access my account / dashboard
	Login	USN-5	As a user, I can log into the application by entering email & password	I can access my account / dashboard
	Dashboard	USN-6	As a user i can enter the flight details to get the flight status	I can view flight status for particular flight
Administrator	Authentication	USN-7	As an administrator, I can give my login credentials to view the admin dash board	I can view the admin dashboard
	Dashboard	USN-8	As an administrator, I can upload a dataset csv file to train the model	I can upload the dataset and train the model

### 6. PROJECT PLANNING & SCHEDULING

## 6.1 Sprint Planning & Estimation

User Type	Functional Requirement (Epic)	User Story Number	Priority	Release
Customer (Mobile user and web user)	Registration	USN-1	High	Sprint - 1
		USN-2	High	Sprint - 1
		USN-4	Medium	Sprint - 1
	Login	USN-5	High	Sprint - 2
	Dashboard	USN-6	High	Sprint - 2
Administrator	Authentication	USN-7	High	Sprint - 3

	Dashboard	USN-8	High	Sprint - 4
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#### 7. CODING & SOLUTIONING

### 7.1 Viewing if flight is delayed given the Source, Destination and Journey date

The Solution first deals with the Machine learning model that predicts if the flight is delayed based on the given input. The model requires the Source, destination(in the form of three-letter codes), journey date, and the distance between the source and destination. This input is then preprocessed to the following format:

- a. Source: label encoded
- b. Destination: label encoded
- c. Distance: integer
- d. quarter
- e. month
- f. day of month
- g. day of week

Using this formatted input the decision tree outputs a 0 or 1.0 indicating that the flight was not delayed and 1 indicating that the flight was delayed. The following code is used to preprocess the dataset. The encoders used during training are also used when prediction is required. The encoders are saved locally as a pickle file in the folder encoders.

```
import os
import pickle
import pandas as pd
from sklearn.preprocessing import LabelEncoder
train_columns = ["QUARTER", "MONTH", "DAY_OF_MONTH", "DAY_OF_WEEK",
"ORIGIN", "DEST", "DISTANCE", "DEP DEL15"]
class Preprocess:
   def init (self) -> None:
        self.base path = os.path.join(os.getcwd(), 'encoders')
        self.origin encoder = LabelEncoder()
        self.dest encoder = LabelEncoder()
        if not os.path.exists(self.base path):
           print('Encoders not found, Creating Files')
           os.mkdir(self.base path)
           with open (os.path.join (self.base path, 'origin encoder.pkl'),
'rb') as file:
                classes = pickle.load(file)
                self.origin encoder.classes = classes
           with open (os.path.join (self.base path, 'dest encoder.pkl'),
'rb') as file:
                classes = pickle.load(file)
                self.dest encoder.classes = classes
```

```
def check cloumns(self) -> list:
        cols = []
        for val in train columns:
            if val not in self.data.columns:
                cols.append(val)
        if len(cols) == 0:
            return None
        return cols
    def train preprocess(self, data path) -> pd.DataFrame:
        self.data = pd.read csv(data path)
        if self. check cloumns() is not None:
            print("CSV does not contain the required columns",
self. check cloumns())
            return False
        del columns = []
        for col in self.data.columns:
            if col not in train columns:
                del columns.append(col)
        for col, val in zip (self.data.columns,
self.data.columns.str.match('Unamed')):
            if val:
                del columns.append(col)
        self.data = self.data.drop(del columns, axis = 1)
        self.data = self.data.dropna()
        self.data['ORIGIN'] =
self.origin encoder.fit transform(self.data['ORIGIN'])
        self.data['DEST'] =
self.dest encoder.fit transform(self.data['DEST'])
        with open (os.path.join (self.base path, 'origin encoder.pkl'),
'wb') as file:
            pickle.dump(self.origin encoder.classes , file)
        with open(os.path.join(self.base path, 'dest encoder.pkl'), 'wb')
as file:
            pickle.dump(self.dest encoder.classes , file)
        y = self.data['DEP DEL15']
        x = self.data.drop(columns='DEP DEL15')
       return x.to numpy(), y.to numpy()
    def test preprocess(self, x: list) -> list:
        x[4] = self.origin encoder.transform([x[4]])[0]
        x[5] = self.dest encoder.transform([x[5]])[0]
        return x
```

The following code is used to train the model on the dataset and save the model locally as a pickle file. The predict function is used to predict the output which returns list containing one value which is 0 or 1.

```
import os
     import pickle
     import format input
     from sklearn.tree import DecisionTreeClassifier as dt
     from preprocess import Preprocess
     def load model() -> dt:
         trv:
             with open('model/decisionTree.pkl', 'rb') as file:
                 model = pickle.load(file)
         except FileNotFoundError:
             x, y =
Preprocess().train preprocess('./dataset/flightdata.csv')
             model = dt()
             model.fit(x,y)
             if not os.path.exists('model'):
                 os.mkdir('model')
             with open('model/decisionTree.pkl', 'wb') as file:
                 pickle.dump(model, file)
         return model
     def predict(origin: str, dest: str, date: str) -> int:
         model = load model()
         x = format input.extract date(date)
         x.append(origin)
         x.append(dest)
             x.append(format input.extract distance(origin, dest))
         except IndexError:
             return [2]
         x = Preprocess().test preprocess(x)
         return model.predict([x])
```

To format the input during the prediction phase the following functions are used. One function extracts the date to the specific format. The extract distance function obtains the distance between source and destination.

```
import pandas as pd
from datetime import datetime
import calendar

days = {
    "Monday":1,
    "Tuesday":2,
    "Wednesday":3,
    "Thursday":4,
    "Friday":5,
    "Saturday":6,
```

```
"Sunday":7
      }
      def extract distance(src , dest):
         df = pd.read csv('dataset/flightdata.csv')
          return df.loc[(df['ORIGIN']==src) &
(df['DEST'] == dest)]['DISTANCE'].to numpy()[0]
      def get quater(month: int) -> int:
         res = 1
         while (month>3):
             res = res+1
              month-=3
         return res
      def extract date(date: str):
         x = []
         date = date.split("-")
         x.append(get quater(int(date[1])))
         x.append(int(date[1]))
         x.append(int(date[2]))
         x.append(days[calendar.day_name[datetime(int(date[0]),
int(date[1]), int(date[2])).weekday()]])
         return x
```

Once the model is prepared the front-end of the project is developed using html and css. The following code is the HTML for the prediction page.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
   <html style="font-size: 16px;" lang="en"><head>
     <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
     <meta charset="utf-8">
     <meta name="keywords" content="Sign In, Sign up">
     <meta name="description" content="">
     <title>Home</title>
     k rel="stylesheet" href="static/nicepage.css" media="screen">
     k rel="stylesheet" href="static/summa.css" media="screen">
   k rel="stylesheet" href="static/Home.css" media="screen">
     <script class="u-script" type="text/javascript" src="static/jquery.js" defer=""></script>
     <script class="u-script" type="text/javascript" src="static/nicepage.js" defer=""></script>
     <meta name="generator" content="Nicepage 4.21.12, nicepage.com">
     link id="u-theme-google-font" rel="stylesheet"
href="https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Roboto:100,100i,300,300i,400,400i,500,500i,700,7
00i,900,900i|Open+Sans:300,300i,400,400i,500,500i,600,600i,700,700i,800,800i">
     <script type="application/ld+json">{
     "@context": "http://schema.org",
     "@type": "Organization",
     "name": ""
   }</script>
     <meta name="theme-color" content="#478ac9">
```

```
<meta property="og:title" content="Home">
     <meta property="og:type" content="website">
    </head>
    <body data-home-page="Home.html" data-home-page-title="Home" class="u-body u-xl-mode"
data-lang="en">
     <section class="u-clearfix u-gradient u-section-2" id="sec-a1b2">
      <div class="u-clearfix u-sheet u-valign-middle-md u-valign-middle-sm u-valign-middle-xs</p>
u-sheet-1">
       <div class="u-clearfix u-expanded-width u-gutter-10 u-layout-wrap u-layout-wrap-1">
        <div class="u-layout">
         <div class="u-layout-row">
           <div class="u-align-left u-container-style u-gradient u-layout-cell u-left-cell u-size-60"</p>
u-layout-cell-1" src="">
           <div class="u-container-layout u-container-layout-1" src="">
             <div class="u-align-center u-container-style u-group u-opacity u-opacity-90"</p>
u-radius-30 u-shape-round u-white u-group-1">
              <div class="u-container-layout u-container-layout-2">
               <h2 class="u-custom-font u-text u-text-default u-text-font u-text-1">Flight Delay
Predict</h2>
              <div class="u-form u-form-1">
               <form action="{{url_for('prediction')}}" method="POST" class="u-clearfix
u-form-spacing-10 u-inner-form" style="padding: 10px;">
                 <div class="u-form-group u-form-partition-factor-2" style="width: 48%;float:</pre>
left:">
                  <label for="name-9070" class="u-labeL">From</label>
                  <input type="text" placeholder="Enter airport code (ATL ,SEA etc)"</pre>
id="name-9070" name="from" class="u-border-1 summa1 u-border-grey-30 u-input
u-input-rectangle u-white" required="required">
                 </div>
                 <div class="u-form-group u-form-partition-factor-2" style="width: 48%;float:</pre>
right;">
                 <label for="email-9070" class="u-label">To</label>
                 <input placeholder="Enter airport code (ATL ,SEA etc)" id="email-9070"</pre>
name="to" class="u-border-1 u-border-grey-30 u-input u-input-rectangle u-white"
required="required" type="text">
                 </div>
                 <div class="u-form-date u-form-group u-form-group-3">
                 <label for="date-0dad" class="u-label">Date</label>
                  <input type="date" placeholder="MM/DD/YYYY" id="date-0dad" name="date"
class="u-border-1 u-border-grey-30 u-input u-input-rectangle u-white" required="">
                 <div class="u-align-right u-form-group u-form-submit">
                  <a href="#" class="u-active-palette-4-light-1 u-border-none u-btn u-btn-round"
u-btn-submit u-button-style u-hover-palette-4-light-1 u-palette-4-base u-radius-10
u-btn-1">Predict</a>
                  <input type="submit" value="submit" class="u-form-control-hidden" >
                 </div>
                 <div class="u-form-send-message u-form-send-success"> Thank you! Your
message has been sent. </div>
```

```
<div class="u-form-send-error u-form-send-message"> Unable to send your
message. Please fix errors then try again. </div>
              <input type="hidden" value="" name="recaptchaResponse">
              <input type="hidden" name="formServices"
value="4941dfb8fdd181ef2c8833948a967d09">
             </form>
            </div>
            u-text-2">{{output_text}}
           </div>
          </div>
         </div>
        </div>
        </div>
       </div>
      </div>
     </div>
    </section>
   </body></html>
```

A flask app creates the routes for the application. The following code is for the flask application.

```
from flask import Flask, render template, request
from Model import predict
app = Flask( name )
@app.route('/')
def home():
   return render template("index.html")
@app.route('/prediction', methods=['POST', 'GET'])
def prediction():
    args = [i for i in request.form.values()]
    args = tuple(args[:3])
    out = int(predict(*args)[0])
    if out == 0:
        return render template ("index.html", output text="Flight will
arrive at the scheduled time ...")
    elif out==1:
       return render template ("index.html", output text="Flight may be
delayed by 15 minutes or more ...")
        return render template ("index.html", output text="Invalid source or
destination !!!")
```

The app is deployed on render (<a href="https://render.com/">https://render.com/</a>). The app dependencies are installed using the command pipevn install. The app is started using the command gunicorn main: app. The following contents show the dependencies in the Pipfile.

```
[[source]]
url = "https://pypi.org/simple"
verify_ssl = true
name = "pypi"

[packages]
sklearn = "*"
numpy = "*"
pandas = "*"
flask = "*"
oauthlib = "*"
scikit-learn = "*"
gunicorn = "*"
[dev-packages]
[requires]
python_version = "3.10"
```

The following figure shows the directory structure of the project.



### 8. TESTING

### 8.1 User Acceptance Testing

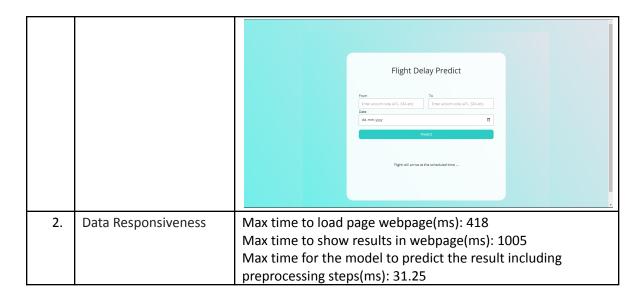
This report shows the number of test cases that have passed, failed, and untested

Section	Total Cases	Not Tested	Fail	Pass
Model Prediction	8	0	0	8
Front end	8	0	0	8

### 9. RESULTS

### 9.1 Performance Metrics

S.No.	Parameter	Screenshot / Values
1.	Dashboard design	Flight Delay Predict  From  Enter airport code (ATL SSA etc)  Date  ob-mm-ypyy  Predict



#### 10.ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES

The model is fast in predicting and uses decision trees. The Decision tree classifier requires less training time and less data to train the model. The project's disadvantage is that the delay's extent is not predicted.

#### 11. CONCLUSION

This report explains the implementation of the flight delay prediction system and the metrics used for testing the system. The flight delay prediction system is successfully deployed in the internet using render for viewing the webpage.

#### 12. FUTURE SCOPE

More complex models can be used to predict the time delay for each flight. This might require more data if deep learning models are used for time series analysis.

#### 13.APPENDIX

#### **GitHub**

https://github.com/IBM-EPBL/IBM-Project-12655-1659456758

### Project Demo Link

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=oqU7zv9V0Gk&feature=youtu.be