**Natural-Disaster-Damage-Prediction**

**Individual Final Report**

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**Overview of Project**

NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) records the occurrence of storms and other significant weather phenomena having sufficient intensity to cause loss of life, injuries, significant property damage, and/or disruption to commerce.

**What is a Storm?**

According to Wikipedia, a storm is any disturbed state of an environment or in an astronomical body's atmosphere especially affecting its surface, and strongly implying severe weather. It may be marked by significant disruptions to normal conditions such as strong wind, tornadoes, hail, thunder, and lightning (a thunderstorm), heavy precipitation (snowstorm, rainstorm), heavy freezing rain (ice storm), strong winds (tropical cyclone, windstorm), or wind transporting some substance through the atmosphere as in a dust storm, blizzard, sandstorm, etc.

**What are we predicting?**

NOAA stores the observations of storm events in a database of csv files (<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/swdi/stormevents/csvfiles/>). We are using the features and observations from this data to predict the property damage caused by any of the storm events in United States

**Roles and Responsibility**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Team Member** | **Area of Work** | **Shared Responsibility** |
| Siddharth Das | Preprocessing | EDA |
| Kartik Jain | Extraction | Modelling |
| Hemangi Kinger | PyQt5 and Visualization | EDA |
| Ishan Kuchroo | Modelling | Preprocessing |

**What is my responsibility?**

Once my teammates are done with extraction and data pre-processing, I’ll be using their learning of the data to do further feature engineering, train and build regression models. Additionally, based on model performance, I’ll suggest what changes should be done in the previous steps to increase the model’s prediction accuracy.

**Modelling**

After Data Cleaning and Data Transformation, I started to do following steps:

**Advanced feature engineering**:

1. **Encoding categorical columns**:

For categorical columns, based on type of data available, I did label encoding and one-hot encoding.

*Columns for label encoding*: 'CZ\_NAME', 'BEGIN\_LOCATION', 'END\_LOCATION', 'TOR\_OTHER\_CZ\_STATE', 'TOR\_OTHER\_CZ\_NAME'

*Columns for one-hot encoding*: 'STATE', 'MONTH\_NAME', 'EVENT\_TYPE', 'CZ\_TYPE', 'CZ\_TIMEZONE', 'BEGIN\_AZIMUTH', 'MAGNITUDE\_TYPE', 'FLOOD\_CAUSE', 'TOR\_F\_SCALE', 'END\_AZIMUTH'

1. **Imputation of logically important columns**:

For column “DAMAGE\_CROPS”, we believed instead of simply removing all NAN’s it is better to impute them with the average value of DAMAGE\_CROPS per EVENT.

1. **Split the data into training and validation sets**:

Using from sklearn. model\_selection import train\_test\_split, I was able to create the training data and validation data sets.

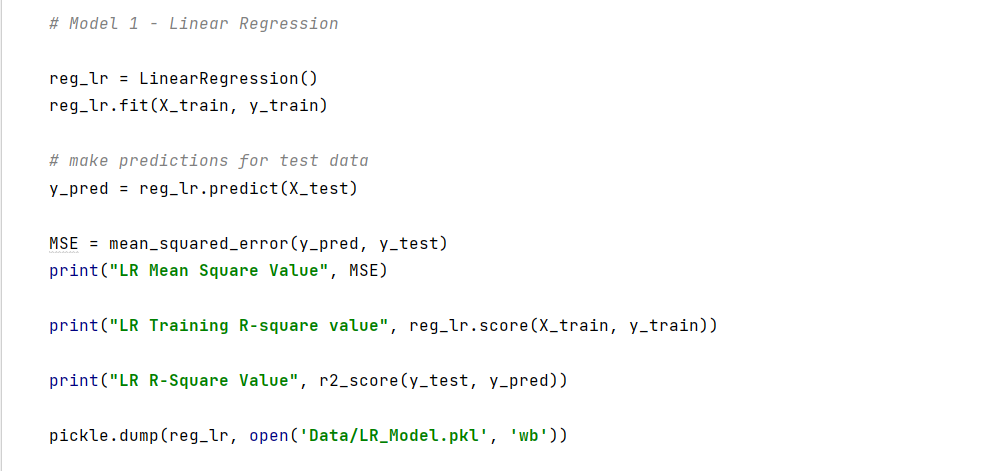
1. **Standardize and normalize the data**:

Using, from sklearn. preprocessing import StandardScaler, I was able to standardize the training data before running the regression models. In addition to this, using mean and standard deviation I normalized the training data.

**Training Models**:

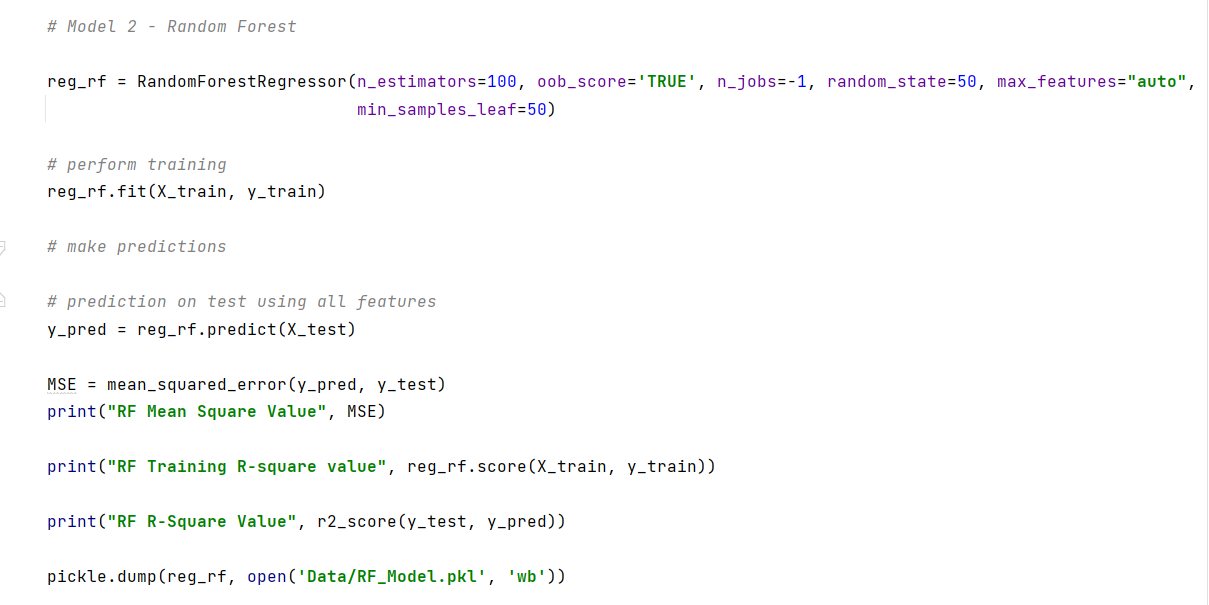
1. **Linear Regression**:

Linear Regression fits a linear model with coefficients w = (w1, …, wp) to minimize the residual sum of squares between the observed targets in the dataset, and the targets predicted by the linear approximation.



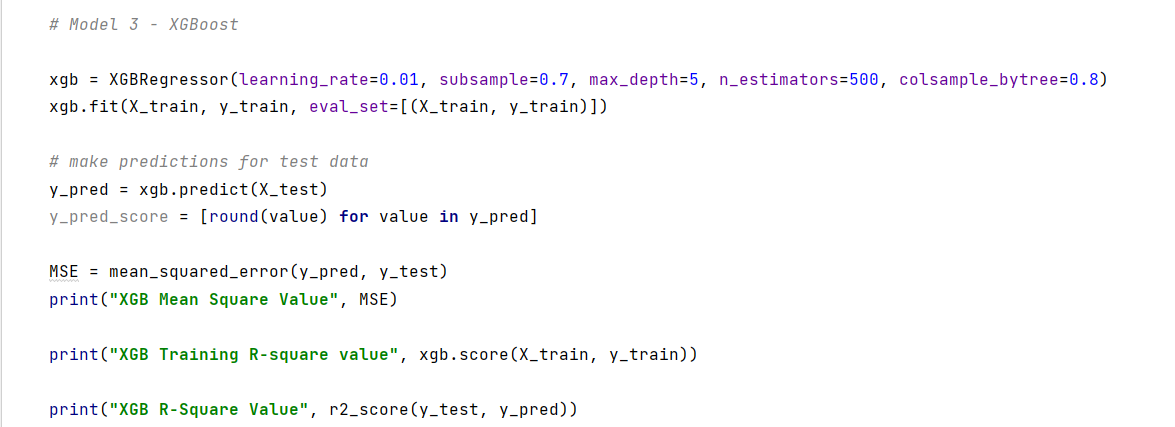
1. **Random Forest:**

A supervised learning algorithm that is based on the ensemble learning method and many Decision Trees. Random Forest uses a Bagging technique, so all calculations are run in parallel and there is no interaction between the Decision Trees when building them.



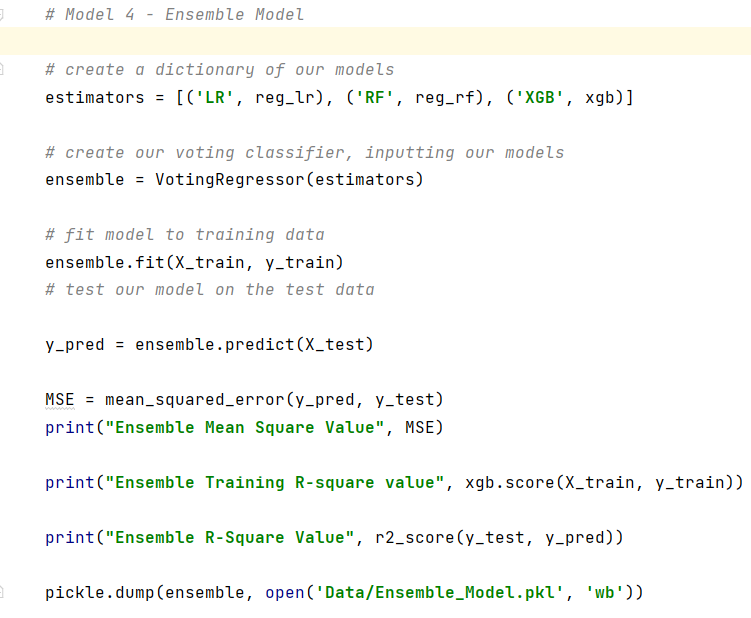
1. **XGBoost Regressor**:

Gradient boosting refers to a class of ensemble machine learning algorithms constructed from decision tree models. Models are fit using loss function and gradient descent algorithm. This gives the name, “gradient boosting,” as the loss gradient is minimized as the model is fitted. Extreme Gradient Boosting, or XGBoost, is an efficient implementation of the gradient boosting algorithm and is a powerful approach for building supervised regression models.



1. **Ensemble Model**:

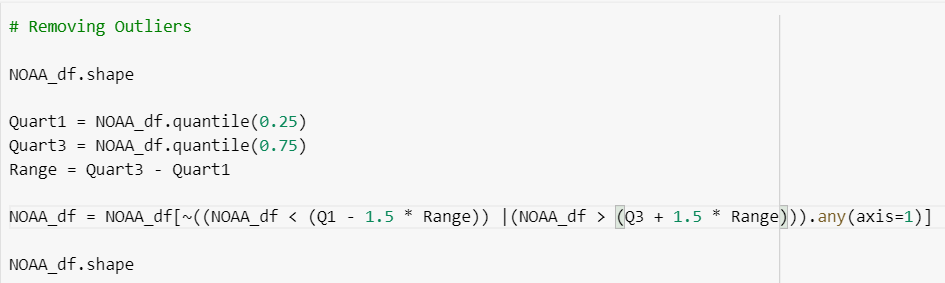
For ensemble learning, I’ve used the sklearn function “VotingRegressor”. Simply put, this regressor uses individual model predictions and then averages them out to form a final prediction.



**Additional options tried to increase model efficiency**

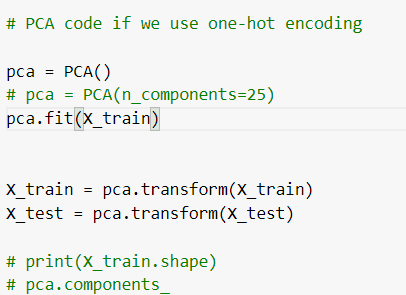
**Outlier Removal**:

Using the Inter-Quartile Range method, I was able to identify the outliers and remove them. This method helped improve the R-square of the model by 5%.



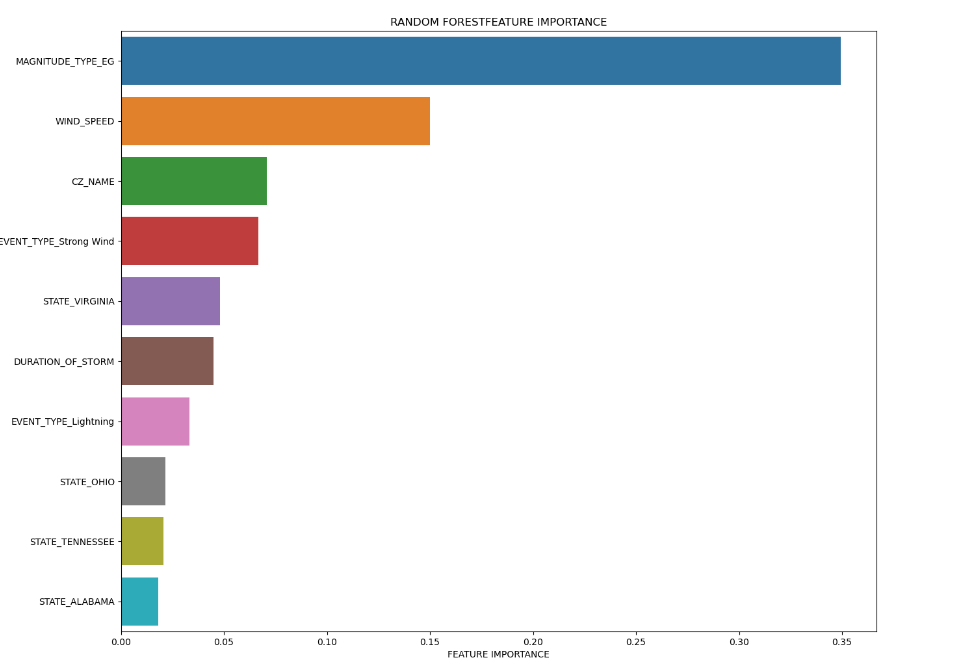
**Principal Component Analysis**:

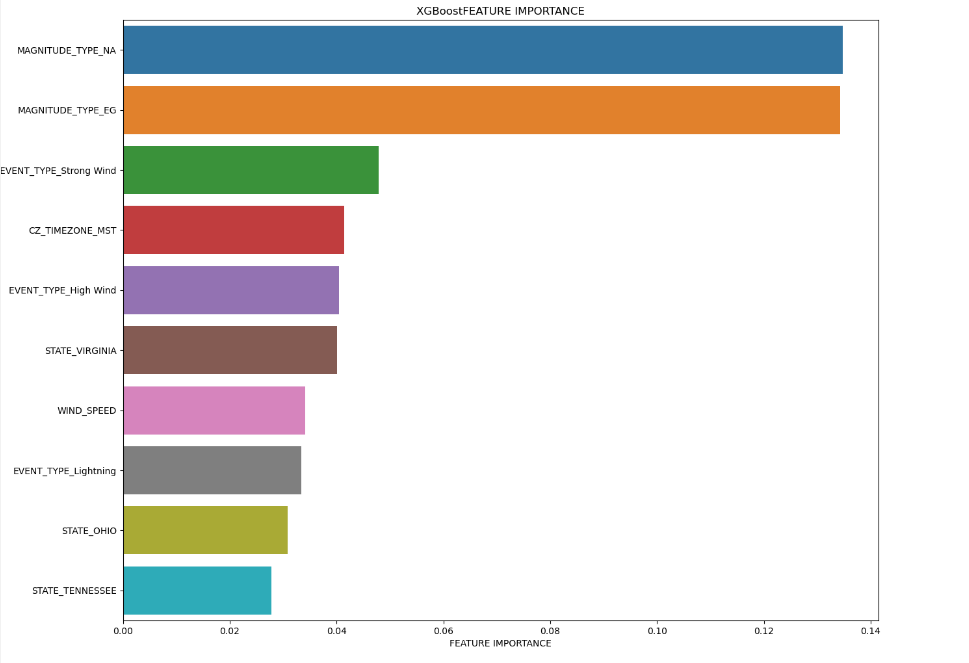
Principal Component Analysis, or PCA, is a very popular dimensionality reduction technique. PCA is trying to rearrange the features by their linear combinations. One characteristic of PCA is that the first principal component holds the most information about the dataset. The second principal component is more informative than the third, and so on.

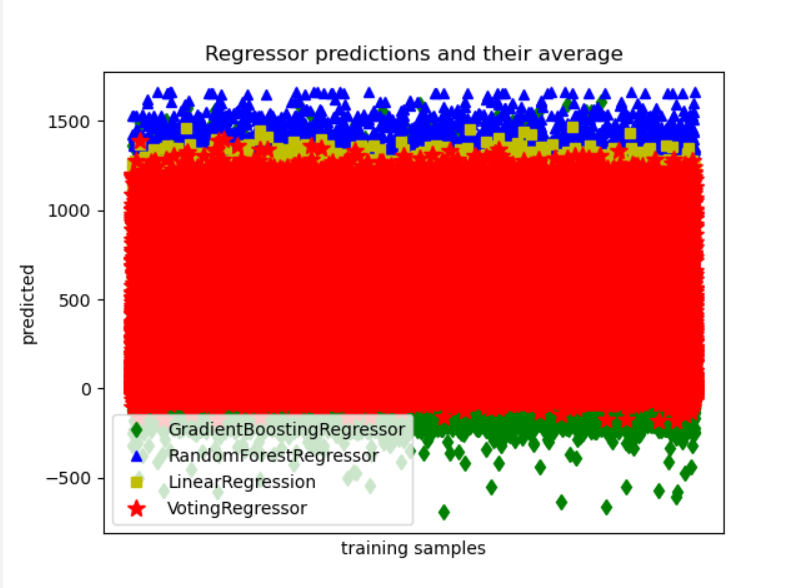


**RESULTS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Model Name** | **Mean Square Error** | **Training R-squared Error** | **R-square error** |
| Linear Regression | 174992.1851 | **33.70%** | **33.54%** |
| Random Forest | 132421.8389 | **52.93%** | **49.71%** |
| XGBoost | 146355.2002 | **45.22%** | **44.42%** |
| Ensemble | 143642.2061 | **44.39%** | **45.45%** |







**Conclusion**

From my analysis of different regression models, we can conclude that Random Forest Regressor best describes the variation in damage caused by a storm event, i.e., 52.9%.

**Referenced Code %**

(210 – 164)/ 210 + 52 \* 100 = **17%**

**References**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Storm>

[sklearn.linear\_model.LinearRegression — scikit-learn 1.0.1 documentation](https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.linear_model.LinearRegression.html)

<https://towardsdatascience.com/why-1-5-in-iqr-method-of-outlier-detection-5d07fdc82097>

<https://machinelearningmastery.com/principal-component-analysis-for-visualization/>

<https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.decomposition.PCA.html>

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