

AIRLINE DELAYS AND CANCELLATION ANALYSIS



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Introduction

- The surge in Air Travel has resulted in a notable uptick in flight delays, intensifying airport congestion and imposing financial burdens on the airline sector.
- These delays not only inconvenience passengers but also impose significant economic burdens, with estimates suggesting annual costs reaching billions of dollars.
- Our study aims to forecast flight delays to improve both passenger experience and operational efficiency within the aviation industry.
- The data for 2018 airline delay and cancellations was sourced from Kaggle.



Helps optimize schedules, reduce operational costs, and improve customer satisfaction.



Provides insights into which airlines and airports are more reliable.



Can aid in better regulations and infrastructure improvements.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1.What are the main causes of flight delays and cancellations?



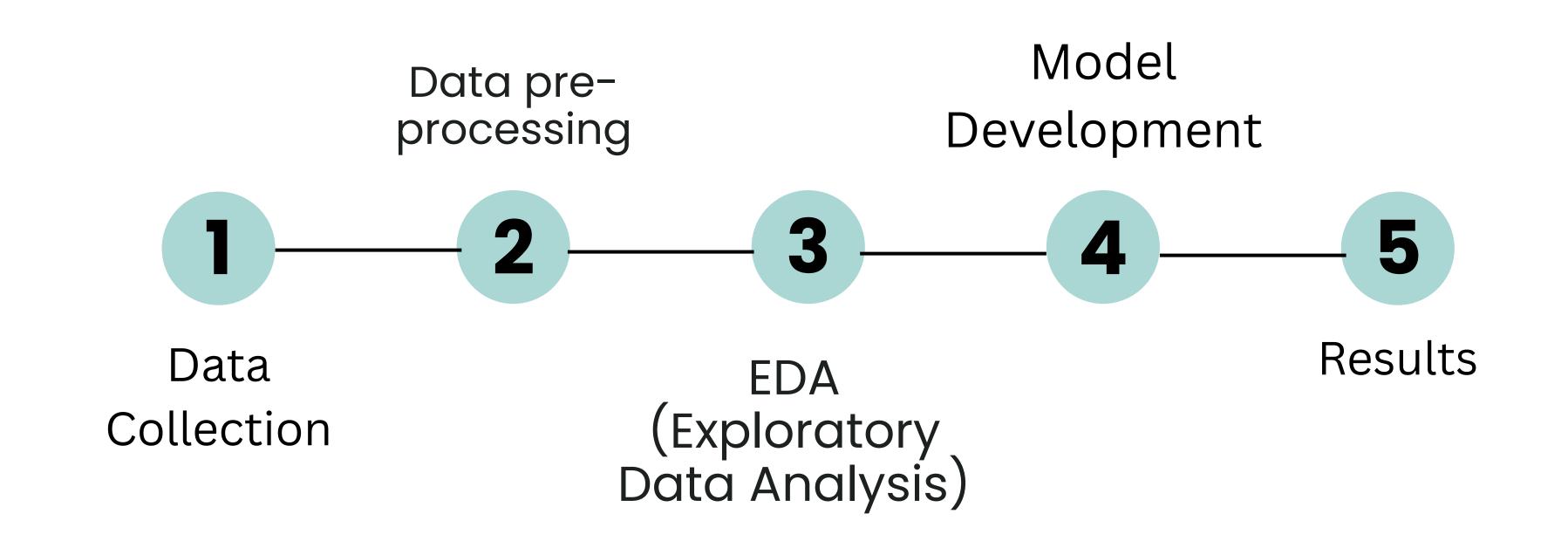
2.How do flight delays vary by airline, airport, and time of day?

3.What scheduling strategies could airlines adopt to reduce delays?



5.How do airline-specific operational strategies influence delay management?

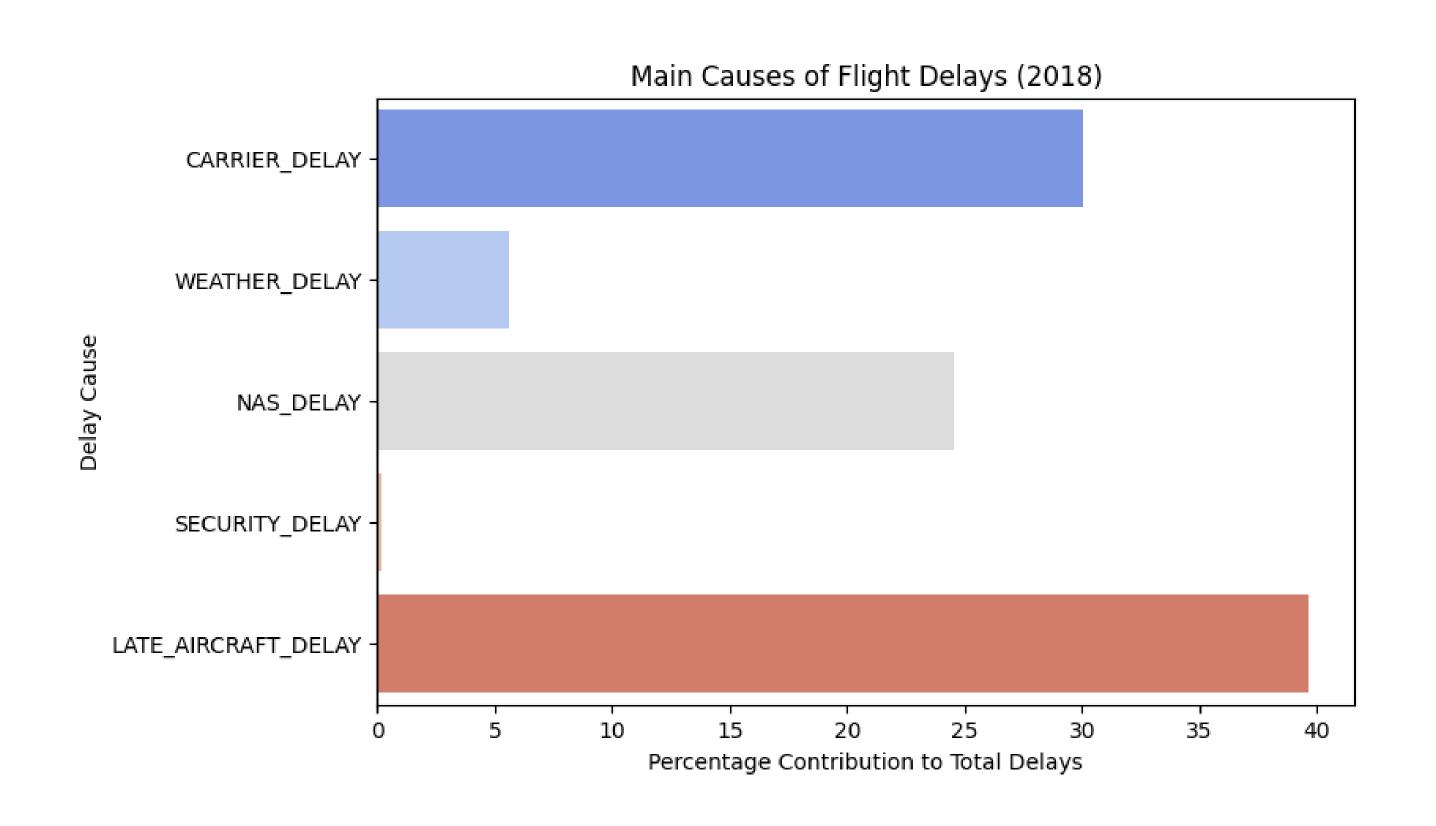
4.Can we develop a predictive model to anticipate flight delays and cancellations?



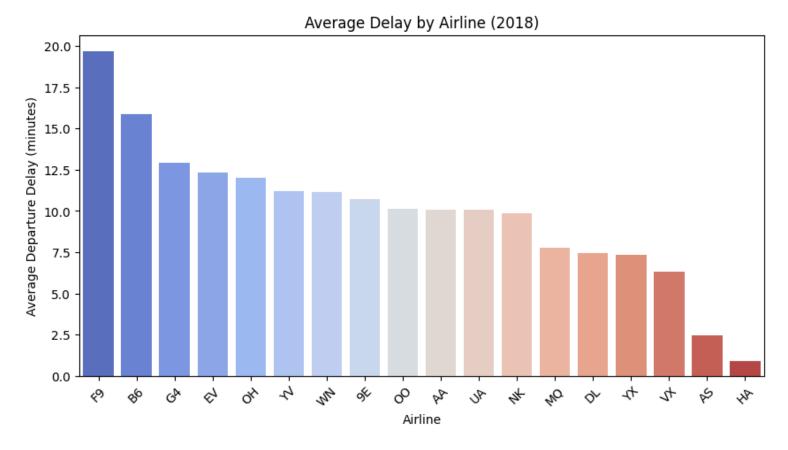
Categories	Feature Name	Sample Values	Feature Description
	FL_DATE	2018-01-01	The Date of the Flight
DATE & TIME	CRS_DEP_TIME	2147, 1050, 700	Schedule Departure Time (HHMM)
	DEP_TIME	2147, 1050, 700	Actual Departure Time (HHMM)
	CRS_ARR_TIME	2250, 1404, 757	Scheduled Arrival time (HHMM)
	ARR_TIME	2245., 1403., 813.	Actual Arrival time (HHMM)
	OP_CARRIER	'NK', 'MQ', 'OO', 'EV', 'HA'	The Name of the Carrier
FLIGHT DETAILS	OP_CARRIER_FL_N UM		Flight Number of the Carrier
	ORIGIN	'MCO', 'LGA', 'FLL', 'IAH'	Origin Airport
	DEST	'FLL', 'MCO', 'LAS', 'ORD'	Destination airport
	DISTANCE	177., 1076., 1222.	Distance between airports (miles)
TIME METRICS	TAXI_OUT	15., 20., 19., 8.	Taxi Out Time, in Minutes; The time elapsed between departure from the origin airport gate and wheels off.
	WHEELS_OFF	2158., 1124., 731.	Wheels Off Time (local time) in HHMM
	WHEELS_ON	2158., 1124., 731.	Wheels On Time (local time) in HHMM
	TAXI_IN	7., 9., 10., 4., 5.	Wheels down and arrival at the destination airport gate, in minutes
	CRS_ELAPSED_TIM E	63., 194., 57., 196.	Estimated Elapsed Time of Flight, in Minutes
	ACTUAL_ELAPSED_ TIME	63., 194., 57., 196.	Elapsed Time of Flight, in Minutes
	AIR_TIME	40., 150., 32., 164.	Flight time in Minutes
	DEP_DELAY	-4., 14., 12.	Difference in minutes between scheduled and actual departure time. Early departures show negative numbers.
DELAY	ARR_DELAY	-5.0, -1.0, 16.0	Difference in minutes between scheduled and actual arrival time. Early arrivals show negative numbers.
	CANCELLED	0., 1.	Cancelled Flight Indicator (1=Yes); was the flight cancelled?
	CANCELLATION_CO DE	'A', 'B', 'C', 'D'	Reason for cancellation (A = carrier, B = weather, C = NAS, D = security
	DIVERTED	0., 1.	Diverted Flight Indicator (1 = Yes)
	CARRIER_DELAY	1., 15., 127., 174.	Carrier Delay, in Minutes
	WEATHER_DELAY	31., 17., 24., 61.	Weather Delay, in Minutes
	NAS_DELAY	16., 18., 25., 19.	National Air System Delay, in Minutes

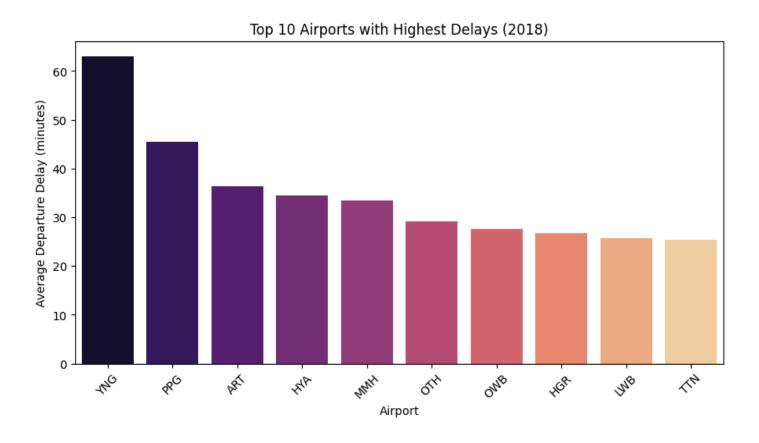
Dataset Overview

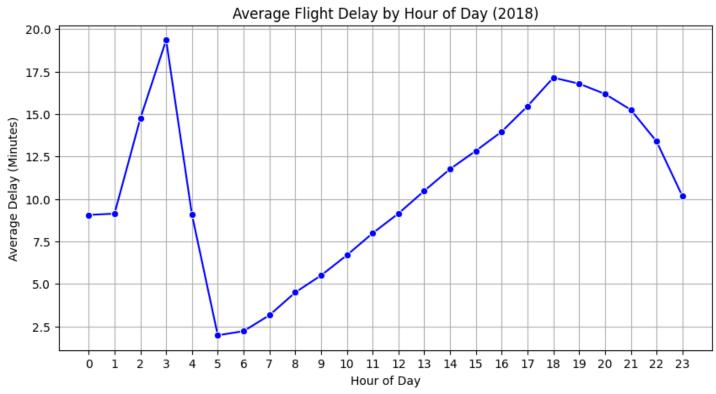
Main causes for flight delays and cancellations



Flight delays by airline, airport, and time of day







Scheduling strategies that airlines could adopt to reduce delays

Fleet and Aircraft Utilization Strategy

Standardized fleets = fewer maintenance delays

Overused aircraft = higher risk of cascading delays

Crew Scheduling and Reserve Crew Availability

Sufficient reserve crew = faster recovery from staff shortages

Poor crew planning = last-minute flight cancellations

Boarding and Turnaround Efficiency

Faster boarding & deplaning = reduced departure delays

Slow turnaround = cascading delays throughout the day

Hub-and-Spoke vs. Point-to-Point

Point-to-Point = fewer connection-related delays

Hub-and-Spoke = delays from congestion & missed connections

Predictive model to anticipate flight delays and cancellations

Logistic Regression

Logistic
regression is a
statistical
method used to
predict the
probability of a
binary outcome

K-Nearest Neighbour

K-Nearest
Neighbors (KNN)
predicts an
outcome by
comparing a data
point to its closest
neighbors based
on similar
characteristics

Random Forest

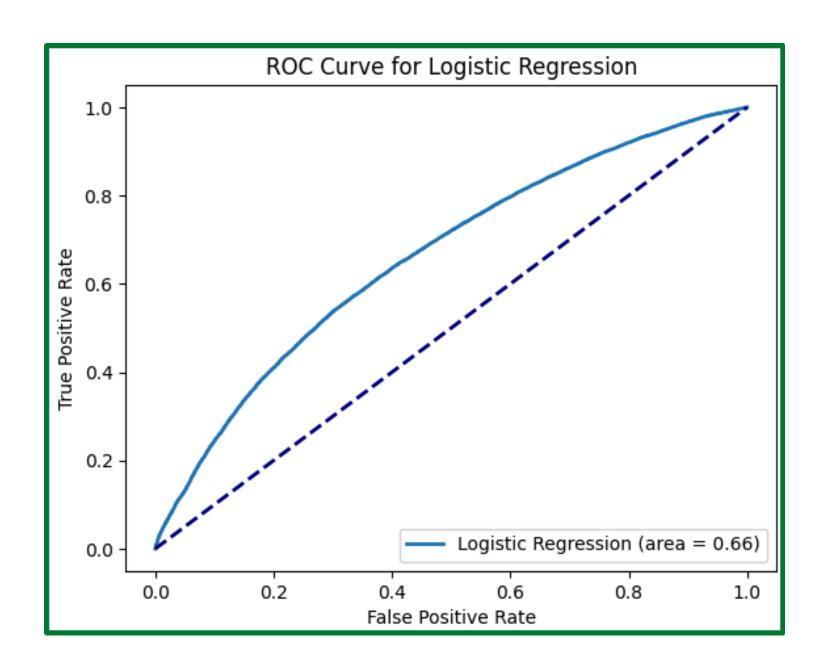
Random Forest is a algorithm that builds multiple decision trees and combines their predictions to make a more accurate and robust decision

XG Boost

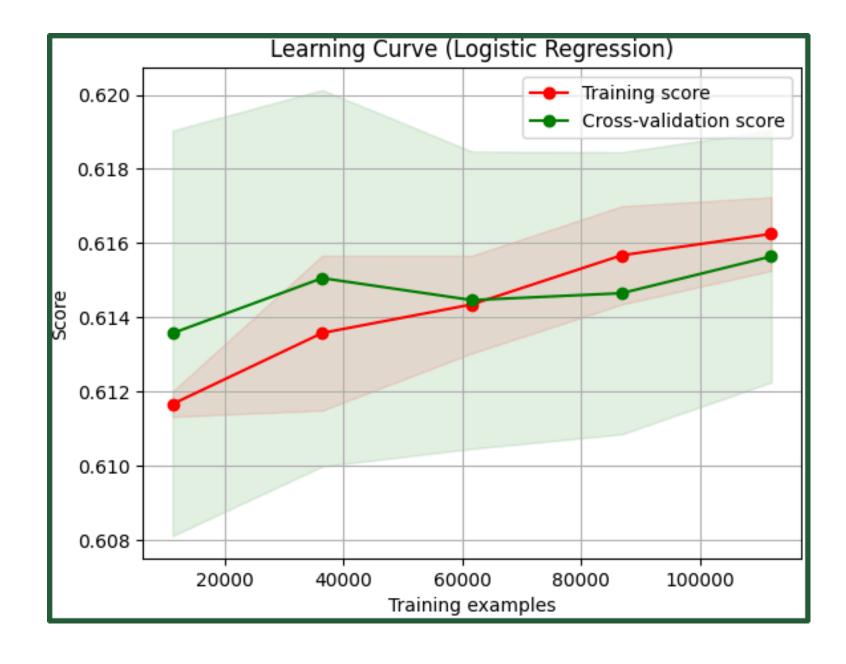
XGBoost is a fast and accurate algorithm that combines decision trees using gradient boosting to improve predictions.

Logistic Regression

- Area Under ROC Curve: 66%
- Accuracy: 62%

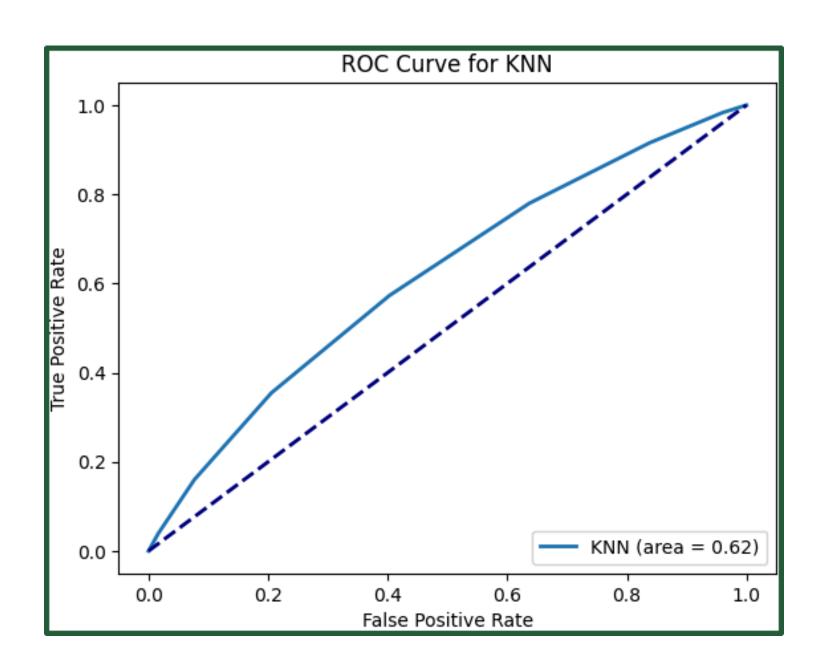


The model is a good fit.

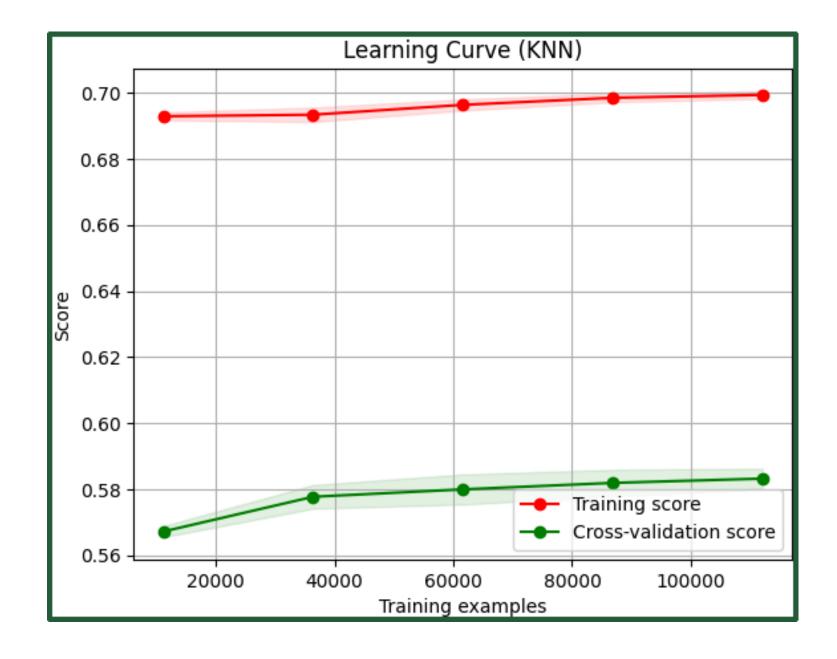


K-Nearest Neighbour

- Area Under ROC Curve: 62%
- Accuracy: 59%

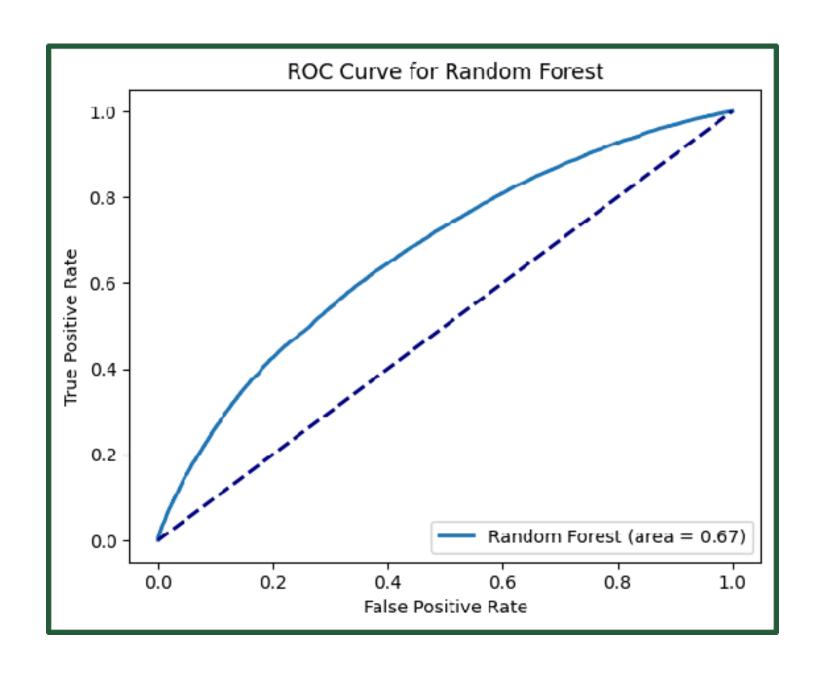


The model is overfitted.

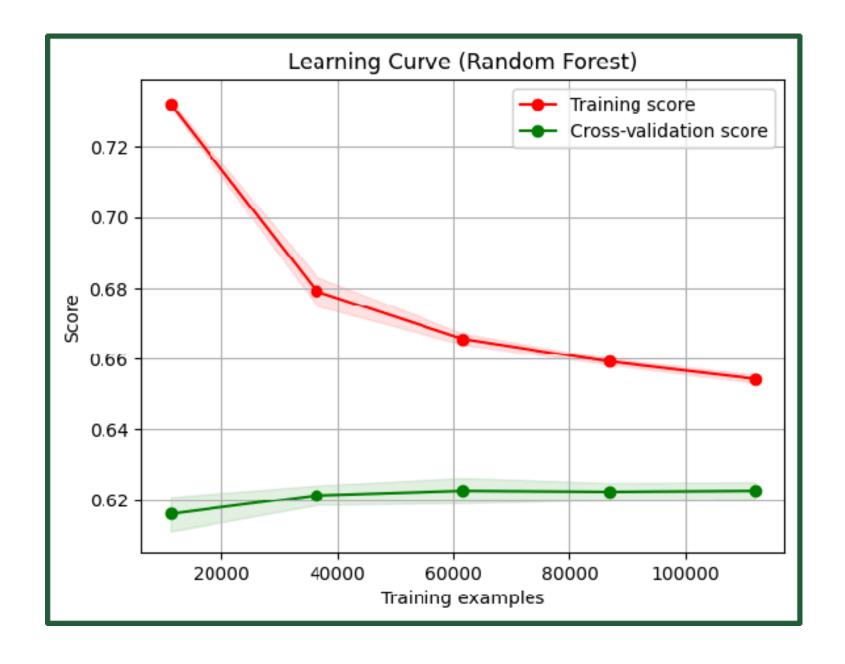


Random Forest

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- Accuracy: 62%

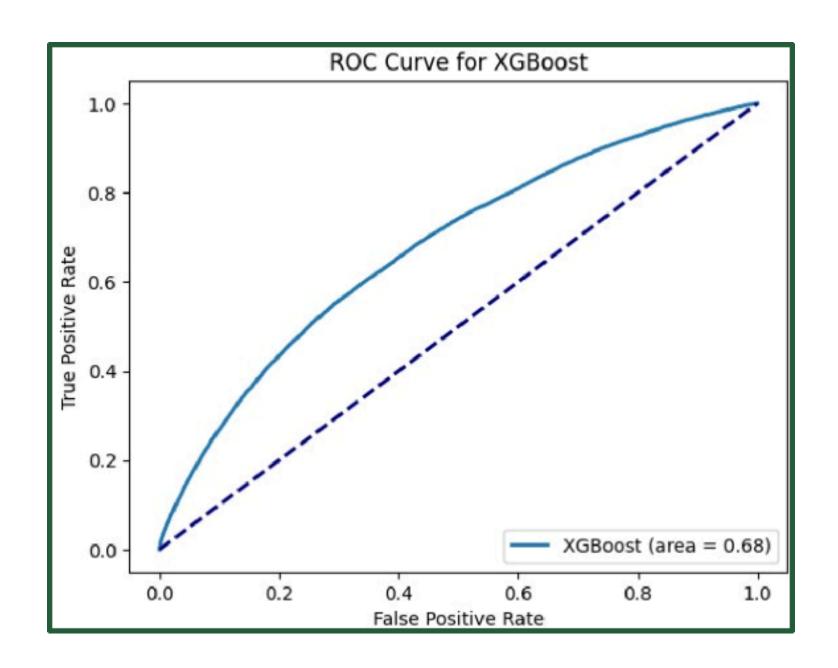


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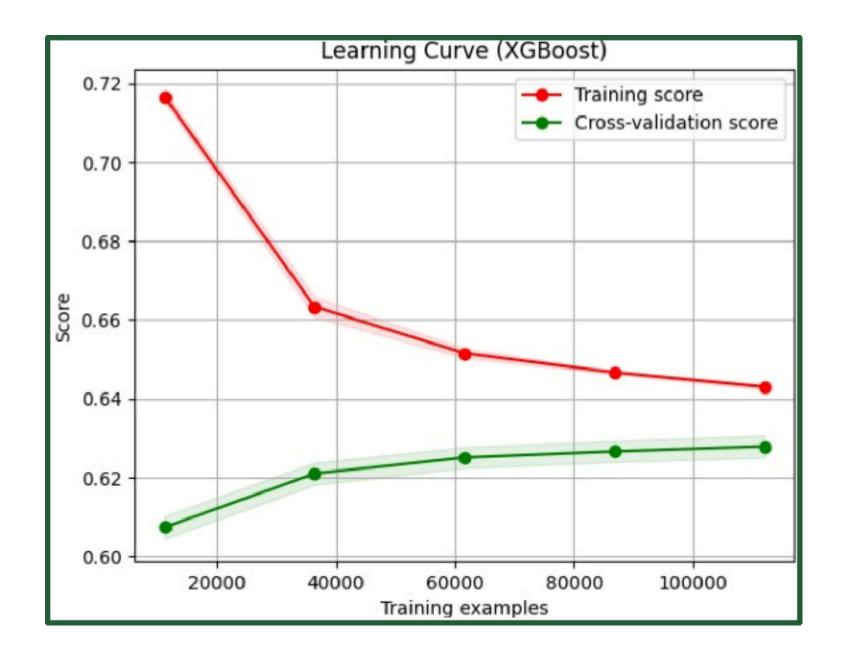


XG Boost

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- Accuracy: 63%



The model is a good fit.



Analysis and Interpretation



XGBoost model achieves 68% accuracy, ensuring effective flight delay management for improved operational efficiency and passenger satisfaction

Strategic Planning: Optimizing Operations, Routes, and Resources for Enhanced Efficiency and Customer Satisfaction.

Implement targeted strategies for routes prone to delays and invest in preventive maintenance programs to enhance operational efficiency and passenger satisfaction

Using machine learning for predicting airline delays improves operational efficiency, punctuality, and customer satisfaction in the dynamic airline industry, highlighting the importance of continuous monitoring.

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