Advanced Feature Engineering and Regression Techniques

February 5, 2025

First, we import the relevant libraries for the preprocessing section.

```
[112]: import os
  import pandas as pd
  import numpy as np
  import scipy.stats as scps
  import seaborn as sns
  import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
  %matplotlib inline
```

Reading in the data.

```
[113]: os.chdir('C:\\Users\ordav\Desktop\ML_Projects\HousePrices')
    train = pd.read_csv('train.csv')
    test = pd.read_csv('test.csv')
```

Getting some first impressions on the data

```
[114]: train.head()
```

[114]:	Id	MSSubClass	MSZoning	${ t LotFrontage}$	${ t LotArea}$	Street	Alley	LotShape	\
	0 1	60	RL	65.0	8450	Pave	NaN	Reg	
	1 2	20	RL	80.0	9600	Pave	NaN	Reg	
	2 3	60	RL	68.0	11250	Pave	NaN	IR1	
	3 4	70	RL	60.0	9550	Pave	NaN	IR1	
	4 5	60	RL	84.0	14260	Pave	NaN	IR1	

	LandContour	Utilities	•••	PoolArea	PooTQC	Fence	MiscFeature	MiscVal	MoSold	\
() Lvl	AllPub		0	NaN	${\tt NaN}$	NaN	0	2	
:	1 Lvl	AllPub		0	NaN	NaN	NaN	0	5	
:	2 Lvl	AllPub		0	NaN	NaN	NaN	0	9	
;	3 Lvl	AllPub		0	NaN	NaN	NaN	0	2	
4	4 Lvl	AllPub		0	NaN	NaN	NaN	0	12	

	YrSold	SaleType	${\tt SaleCondition}$	SalePrice
0	2008	WD	Normal	208500
1	2007	WD	Normal	181500
2	2008	WD	Normal	223500
3	2006	WD	Abnorml	140000

4 2008 WD Normal 250000

[5 rows x 81 columns]

Our target variable is 'SalePrice'. We will seperate it from the explenatory variables. The Id is irrelevant as a feature, but we will need the test points' id's for the submissions.

```
[115]: train['SalePrice'] = np.log(1+train['SalePrice'])
y_train = train['SalePrice']
testId = test.Id
train.drop('Id', axis = 1, inplace=True)
test.drop('Id', axis = 1, inplace=True)
```

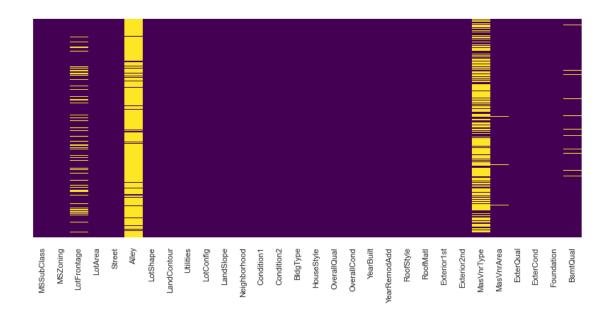
Looking at how nuch missing data we have. We will drop features with more than 20% missing entries.

```
[116]: n = len(train.index)
n
```

[116]: 1460

```
[117]: m = len(test.index)
m
```

[117]: 1459



```
[119]: list(train.isna().sum()[train.isna().sum() > n * 0.2].sort_values().index)
[119]: ['FireplaceQu', 'MasVnrType', 'Fence', 'Alley', 'MiscFeature', 'PoolQC']
[120]: |list(test.isna().sum()[test.isna().sum() > m * 0.2].sort_values().index)
[120]: ['FireplaceQu', 'MasVnrType', 'Fence', 'Alley', 'MiscFeature', 'PoolQC']
[121]: colsToDrop = list(train.isna().sum()[train.isna().sum() > n * 0.2].
        ⇔sort_values().index)
       train.drop(colsToDrop, axis = 1, inplace=True)
       test.drop(colsToDrop, axis = 1, inplace=True)
[122]: colsToDrop = ['TotalBsmtSF', 'TotRmsAbvGrd', 'GarageYrBlt', 'GarageCars']
       train.drop(colsToDrop, axis = 1, inplace=True)
       test.drop(colsToDrop, axis = 1, inplace=True)
[123]: list(train.isna().sum()[train.isna().sum() > 0].index)
[123]: ['LotFrontage',
        'MasVnrArea',
        'BsmtQual',
        'BsmtCond',
        'BsmtExposure',
        'BsmtFinType1',
        'BsmtFinType2',
        'Electrical',
        'GarageType',
```

```
'GarageFinish',
        'GarageQual',
        'GarageCond']
[124]: list(test.isna().sum()[test.isna().sum() > 0].index)
[124]: ['MSZoning',
        'LotFrontage',
        'Utilities',
        'Exterior1st',
        'Exterior2nd',
        'MasVnrArea',
        'BsmtQual',
        'BsmtCond',
        'BsmtExposure',
        'BsmtFinType1',
        'BsmtFinSF1',
        'BsmtFinType2',
        'BsmtFinSF2',
        'BsmtUnfSF',
        'BsmtFullBath',
        'BsmtHalfBath',
        'KitchenQual',
        'Functional',
        'GarageType',
        'GarageFinish',
        'GarageArea',
        'GarageQual',
        'GarageCond',
        'SaleType']
```

We have a large amount of categorical variables, and a lot of them has a high number of categories. We want to create a function that will transform them to ordinal variables. Lets describe the algorithm:

- 1. Look at a categorical feature x.
- 2. Look at each category in it {z1, z2, ..., zk}
- 3. Seperate the 'SalePrice' by the category the observation belongs to. We have k numerical vectors.
- 4. We compare each 2 vectors using Wilcoxon's rank sum test, to check for a significant difference. Since we have up to (k Choose 2) seperate null hypothesis, we need to make a Bonfferoni correction to our significance level to keep our FWER as 0.05. We do not want to be too conservative, so we will look at it like making k tests.
- 5. We now have s batches of categories. We consider each batch as equivalent (with respect to its effect on the target variable).
- 6. We choose a representative category from each batch and compute the mean of 'SalePrice' in the category.
- 7. We rank the batches by the mean we computed.

8. An observation's new ordinal feature is the rank of the batch where its category is located.

```
[125]: my_y = 'HouseStyle'
sns.set_theme(style="ticks")

# Initialize the figure with a logarithmic x axis
f, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(7, 4))

# Plot the orbital period with horizontal boxes
sns.boxplot(
    train, y=my_y, x="SalePrice",
    whis=[0, 100], width=.6, palette="vlag"
)

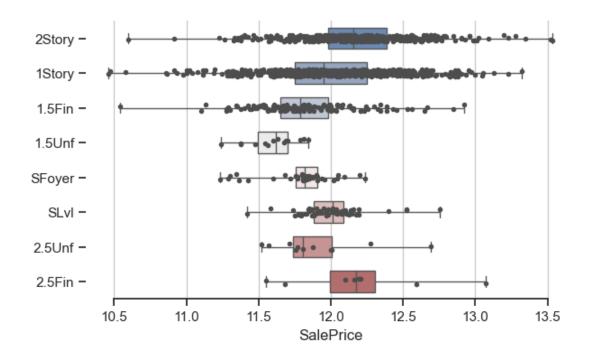
# Add in points to show each observation
sns.stripplot(train, y=my_y, x="SalePrice", size=4, color=".3")

# Tweak the visual presentation
ax.xaxis.grid(True)
ax.set(ylabel="")
sns.despine(trim=True, left=True)
```

C:\Users\ordav\AppData\Local\Temp\ipykernel_1600\4052679108.py:9: FutureWarning:

Passing `palette` without assigning `hue` is deprecated and will be removed in v0.14.0. Assign the `y` variable to `hue` and set `legend=False` for the same effect.

sns.boxplot(



```
[71]: from operator import itemgetter
      def batches(x, alpha):
          vals = train[x].dropna().unique()
          nUnique = len(vals)
          to_compare = {}
          for i in range(nUnique):
              to_compare[vals[i]] = train.loc[train[x] == vals[i], 'SalePrice']
          means_to_compare = {}
          for i in range(nUnique):
              means_to_compare[vals[i]] = np.mean(train.loc[train[x] == vals[i],__

¬'SalePrice'])
          sorted_keys = sorted(means_to_compare, key=means_to_compare.get)
          batches = {1:[sorted_keys[0]]}
          curr_batch = 1
          appended = []
          for j in range(1, nUnique):
              prev = batches[curr_batch][0]
              new = sorted_keys[j]
              t = scps.ranksums(x = to_compare[prev], y = to_compare[new])
              p = t[1]
              if p >= alpha:
                  batches[curr_batch].append(new)
              else:
                  curr_batch = curr_batch + 1
```

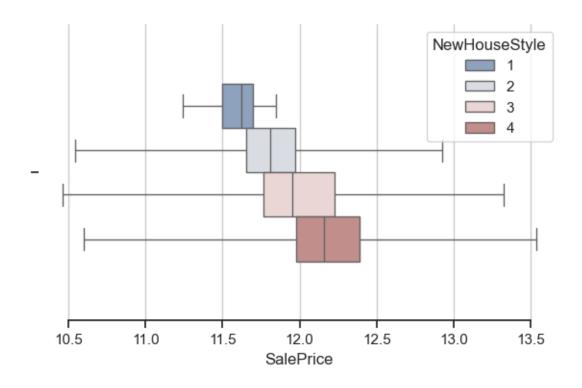
```
batches[curr_batch] = [new]
    #for j in to_compare.keys():
         if j not in appended:
             batches[j] = [j]
             appended.append(j)
             for k in to_compare.keys():
                 if (k not in appended):
                     t = scps.ranksums(x = to\_compare[j], y = to\_compare[k])
                     p = t[1]
                     if p \ge (alpha / nUnique):
                         batches[j].append(k)
                         appended.append(k)
    return batches
def catToOrd(x, alpha):
    d = batches(x, alpha)
    train_new = pd.Series(0, index=np.arange(len(train.index)))
    test_new = pd.Series(0, index=np.arange(len(test.index)))
    for i in range(len(train.index)):
        if pd.isna(train[x][i]):
            train_new[i] = np.nan
        else:
            for j in d.keys():
                if train[x][i] in d[j]:
                    train_new[i] = j
    for i in range(len(test.index)):
        if pd.isna(test[x][i]):
            test_new[i] = np.nan
        else:
            for j in d.keys():
                if test[x][i] in d[j]:
                    test_new[i] = j
    return [train_new, test_new]
def catToOrdDF(alpha):
    colsToDrop = []
    types = train.dtypes
    for j in range(len(types)):
        if types.iloc[j] == object:
            x = train.columns[j]
            ordx = catToOrd(x, alpha)
            train['New'+x] = ordx[0]
            test['New'+x] = ordx[1]
            colsToDrop.append(x)
    train.drop(colsToDrop, axis = 1, inplace = True)
    test.drop(colsToDrop, axis = 1, inplace = True)
```

```
[72]: catToOrdDF(0.05)
```

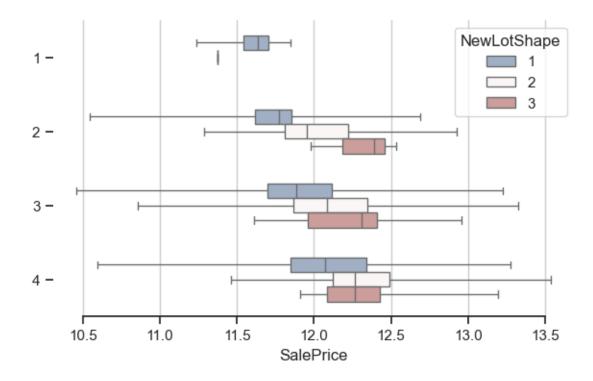
We notice that the 'MSSubClass' feature is also categorical, although it encoded with numerical

```
values.
[73]: newCols = catToOrd('MSSubClass', 0.05)
[74]: train.MSSubClass = newCols[0]
      test.MSSubClass = newCols[1]
[75]: train['NewHouseStyle'] = train['NewHouseStyle'].astype("category")
[76]: my_y = 'NewHouseStyle'
      sns.set_theme(style="ticks")
      # Initialize the figure with a logarithmic x axis
      f, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(7, 4))
      # Plot the orbital period with horizontal boxes
      sns.boxplot(
          train, hue=my_y, x="SalePrice",
          whis=[0, 100], width=.6, palette="vlag"
      )
      # Add in points to show each observation
      #sns.stripplot(train, y=my_y, x="SalePrice", size=4, color=".3")
      # Tweak the visual presentation
      ax.xaxis.grid(True)
      ax.set(ylabel="")
```

sns.despine(trim=True, left=True)



```
[77]: | train['NewLotShape'] = train['NewLotShape'].astype("category")
[78]: my_y = 'NewHouseStyle'
      sns.set_theme(style="ticks")
      # Initialize the figure with a logarithmic x axis
      f, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(7, 4))
      # Plot the orbital period with horizontal boxes
      sns.boxplot(
          train, y=my_y, x="SalePrice", hue = "NewLotShape",
          whis=[0, 100], width=.6, palette="vlag"
      )
      # Add in points to show each observation
      #sns.stripplot(train, y=my_y, x="SalePrice", size=4, color=".3")
      # Tweak the visual presentation
      ax.xaxis.grid(True)
      ax.set(ylabel="")
      sns.despine(trim=True, left=True)
```



```
[79]: train['NewLotShape'] = train['NewLotShape'].astype(int)
train['NewHouseStyle'] = train['NewHouseStyle'].astype(int)
```

We can now drop the 'SalePrice' column from the training set.

```
[80]: train.drop('SalePrice', axis = 1, inplace = True)
```

We need to remember that our process might produce features that are constant .We check for features like that.

```
[81]: sum(train.std() == 0)
```

[81]: 9

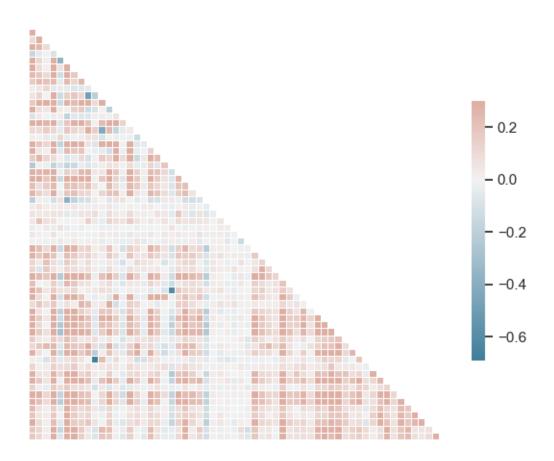
We drop these columns.

```
[82]: boolConst = (train.std() == 0)
    colsToDrop = boolConst.index[boolConst]
    train.drop(colsToDrop, axis = 1, inplace=True)
    test.drop(colsToDrop, axis = 1, inplace=True)
```

We want to avoid high correlation between features. We check which of them has a high linear correlation using Pearson's Correlation Coefficient, and drop ones who are closely realated to others. We drop the ones with a smaller Pearson's Correlation Coefficient to the target variable.

```
[83]: def dropCorrs(alpha):
          corrs = train.corr()
          corrCols = []
          appearences = []
          for i in range(len(corrs.index) - 1):
              for j in range(i):
                  if abs(corrs).iloc[i,j] > alpha:
                      corrCols.append([corrs.columns[i], corrs.columns[j]])
          colsToDrop = []
          for k in corrCols:
              if (k[0] not in colsToDrop) and (k[1] not in colsToDrop):
                  p0 = y_train.corr(train[k[0]])
                  p1 = y_train.corr(train[k[1]])
                  if p0 > p1:
                      colsToDrop.append(k[1])
                  else:
                      colsToDrop.append(k[0])
          return(colsToDrop)
```

[84]: [Text(0.5, 96.7499999999997, ''), Text(54.7499999999999, 0.5, '')]



```
[85]: len(train.columns)
[85]: 60
```

```
[86]: colsDrop = dropCorrs(0.7)
  train.drop(colsDrop, axis = 1, inplace = True)
  test.drop(colsDrop, axis = 1, inplace = True)
```

```
[87]: len(train.columns)
```

[87]: 58

We are measured using the RMSE between the log of the predictions and the log of the real values, and therefore we will use the log of 'SalePrice' for training.

We fill the missing data using Iterative Imputer, an imputation method that uses the other features and a regression model to fill in the missing entries.

```
[88]: from sklearn.experimental import enable_iterative_imputer from sklearn.impute import IterativeImputer
```

```
imputer = IterativeImputer(max_iter=100)
train = pd.DataFrame(imputer.fit_transform(train), columns=train.columns)
test = pd.DataFrame(imputer.transform(test), columns=test.columns)
```

Scaling the data.

```
[89]: from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler

scaler = StandardScaler()
train = pd.DataFrame(scaler.fit_transform(train), columns=train.columns)
test = pd.DataFrame(scaler.transform(test), columns=test.columns)
```

We can now start and train some models. Tuning their parameters will be done using 5-fold CV.

We first try to fit lasso to the data. We will also use this as feature selection method for different methods.

```
[90]: from sklearn.model_selection import GridSearchCV
from sklearn.linear_model import Ridge

paramGrid = {'alpha' : [i for i in range(1,400)]}
ridge = Ridge(max_iter = 1000)
gridSearch = GridSearchCV(estimator=ridge, param_grid=paramGrid)
g = gridSearch.fit(train, y_train)
bestAlphaRidge = g.best_params_['alpha']
print('Optimal alpha value: ' + str(bestAlphaRidge))
```

Optimal alpha value: 182

The error on the train set

```
[91]: ridge = Ridge(alpha = bestAlphaRidge)
    ridge.fit(train, y_train)
    y_pred = ridge.predict(train)
    rmse = np.sqrt(np.mean((y_pred - y_train) ** 2))
    rmse
```

[91]: 0.12988455149145725

Create prediction on the test set

```
[92]: ridge = Ridge(alpha = bestAlphaRidge)
    ridge.fit(train, y_train)
    y_pred = ridge.predict(test)
    y_pred = np.exp(y_pred) - 1
    y_pred = pd.DataFrame({'Id' : testId, 'SalePrice' : y_pred})
    y_pred.to_csv('HousePricePredictionsRidge.csv', index = False)
```

We got a score of 0.1345. Lets see if we can improve. We will try and use a random forest. We need to tune the number of trees, the level of pruning and the number of features we choose from at each split.

```
Optimal ccp_alpha value: 0.0
Optimal number of trees: 250
Optimal number of features in each split: 0.3
```

Lets Check the error on the train set

[94]: 0.0490526957978358

Create the prediction for the test set

We got a score of 0.138. This is small decrease in preformence than we got using Ridge. It implies that the linear model is not a bad idea. The random forest seems to over fit. Therefore, next we try and use a Support Vector Regressor with a linear kernel. We need to try and find the optimal epsilon (allowed error) and C (inverse regularization coefficient).

```
[96]: from sklearn.svm import SVR linearSvr = SVR(kernel = 'linear')
```

Optimal C value: 0.001 Optimal epsilon value: 0.07

The error in the train set:

```
[97]: linearSvr = SVR(kernel = 'linear', C=bestC, epsilon = bestEps)
linearSvr.fit(train, y_train)
y_pred = linearSvr.predict(train)
rmse = np.sqrt(np.mean((y_pred - y_train) ** 2))
rmse
```

[97]: 0.13649611380213048

Predicting on the test set

```
[98]: linearSvr = SVR(kernel = 'linear', C=bestC, epsilon = bestEps)
linearSvr.fit(train, y_train)
y_pred = linearSvr.predict(test)
y_pred = np.exp(y_pred) - 1
y_pred = pd.DataFrame({'Id' : testId, 'SalePrice' : y_pred})
y_pred.to_csv('HousePricePredictionsLinearSVR.csv', index = False)
```

We got a score of 0.1354. We will go back to a tree based methods, specifically XGBoost. We will adjust the learning rate and the lambda & alpha regularization parameters (12 & 11).

Optimal learning rate: 0.03 Optimal lambda: 4e-05 Optimal alpha: 0.003

In order to avoid overfitting we will add an early stopping criteria. If we had not made an improvement in the last 10 steps, we will stop the training and return only the ensemble we have built upn to that point.

Error on the train set

[100]: 0.06243770980996645

Predictions for the test set

We got a great improvement to our best score with 0.13031.

Now we will try a new approach. We will combine all of the prior models into one using exponential weighting. This process is supposed to reduce prediction variance (and therefore avoid overfitting) with a slight increase in bias (compared to the best model).

First, we need to train the model on a subset of the training data. We will use a random subset of 90%. The rest of the data will be used in order to determine the weights.

```
[102]: X_train, X_weights, y_train, y_weights = train_test_split(train, y_train, u
        →test_size = 0.1)
[103]: ridge = Ridge(alpha = bestAlphaRidge, max_iter = 1000)
       ridge.fit(X_train, y_train)
       y_pred = ridge.predict(X_weights)
       e1 = np.exp(-np.sum((y_pred - y_weights) ** 2))
[104]: rFor = RandomForestRegressor(n_estimators = bestNumTreesRandFor,
                                    max_features = bestMaxFeat,__
       ⇔ccp_alpha=bestAlphaRandFor)
       rFor fit(X_train, y_train)
       y_pred = rFor.predict(X_weights)
       e2 = np.exp(-np.sum((y_pred - y_weights) ** 2))
[105]: |linearSvr = SVR(kernel = 'linear', C = bestC, epsilon = bestEps)
       linearSvr.fit(X_train, y_train)
       y_pred = linearSvr.predict(X_weights)
       e3 = np.exp(-np.sum((y_pred - y_weights) ** 2))
[106]: xgb1 = xgb.XGBRegressor(n_estimators = 500, max_depth = 4,
                                 learning_rate = bestLearningRate,
                                reg_lambda = bestLambda,
                                 reg_alpha = bestAlphaXGB, early_stopping_rounds = 10)
       X_train_2, X_val_1, y_train_2, y_val_1 = train_test_split(X_train, y_train, u
        →test_size = 0.1)
       xgb1.fit(X_train_2, y_train_2, eval_set = [(X_val_1, y_val_1)], verbose = 0)
       y_pred = xgb1.predict(X_weights)
       e4 = np.exp(-np.sum((y_pred - y_weights) ** 2))
[107]: den = e1 + e2 + e3 + e4
       w1 = e1/den
       w2 = e2/den
       w3 = e3/den
       w4 = e4/den
[108]: print(e1, e2, e3, e4)
       print(w1, w2, w3, w4)
      0.0956019204472143 \ 0.07820826856815938 \ 0.12201992891373821 \ 0.10928867874300163
      0.2359849042615284 \ \ 0.1930502094956061 \ \ 0.30119542691201295 \ \ 0.2697694593308525
[109]: y_pred_ridge = ridge.predict(test)
       y_pred_rFor = rFor.predict(test)
       y_pred_svr = linearSvr.predict(test)
       y_pred_xgb = xgb1.predict(test)
```

We indeed manage to get a better result than all the other models: 0.12638!