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# **Kaggle Report**

#### Predicting Airbnb Price

## Introduction:

This competition is a great way for us to use what we learned from APPLIED ANALYTICS FRAMEWORKS & METHODS courses to apply into a real-life problem. I am familiar with Airbnb, and it is interesting to predict the rental price according to different renter information, property and reviews from existing data.

The Kaggle competition started around Week 6, and at the end of the competition on Dec 2nd, I predict the price with RMSE (root mean squared error) 54.22. My rank is 49 out of 406 and I am in the top 13% on the private leaderboard.

# Exploring the Data:

I did not pay attention to exploring the data at first few weeks, and therefore I cannot estimate better RMSE. Then I remember that professor talked during the class to spend more time on exploring data and cleaning data. Therefore, I reconsider the way I approach for the competition. I start to look at the analysisData again and see each variables' types.

```
#explore data
#name
dataNames <- colnames(analysisData);dataNames
#type
dataType <- sapply(analysisData, class);dataType
#which variables are factors
isFactor <- sapply(analysisData, is.factor);isFactor</pre>
```

• If they are numeric, I check the to see how many missing values/NA are in the category.

```
#How many missing value
NaVariables <- sapply(analysisData, function(x) any(is.na(x)));NaVariables
CountNAs <- sapply(analysisData, function(x) sum(is.na(x)));CountNAs
```

• If they are factors, I check how many levels the variable contains.

```
#Check levels
numOfLevels <- sapply(analysisData, function(x) length(levels(x)))
```

## Preparing the Data for Analysis

- In the beginning, I only focused on those numeric variables. Basically, I used my knowledge and intuition to pick variables that I believed are relative to price.
- Later, there are too many annoying variables in the data and it's inconvenient for me to find numeric variables when I construct linear regression model. Then, I use following way to deleted outliers and useless variables:

 Another step I think it is essential for preparing the data is to combine analysisData and socoringData together. It should be done before imputing N/As.

• Speaking of imputing missing values, I notice that professor talked about the preprocess method, and it is such an efficient method to put median in the N/A places.

• The last thing is to split the newdata into train and test. Since analysisData has 29142 observations, and newData has 36428 observations, so I split the data by following code.

```
Global Environment •
Data
analysisData
                     29142 obs. of 96 variables
                     36428 obs. of 96 variables
newData
newDataClean
                     36428 obs. of 96 variables
                     7286 obs. of 95 variables
DscoringData
ScoringDataNew
                     7286 obs. of 96 variables
                     7286 obs. of 96 variables
                     29142 obs. of 96 variables
# Split into train and test data (train represents analysisData, and test represents scoringData)----
train <- newDataClean[1:29142,]
test <- newDataClean[29143:36428,]
```

## **Feature Selection**

After I delete outliers, I use feature selection to grab relevant variables and it is indeed one of the most helpful way to have a lower RMSE. I use mainly two methods: correlation plot and backward selection method.

#### • Correlation Plot Method

1. I used the following code to build a graph and see the correlation between price and other variables.

```
#Find useful variables-Data Visualization—
#Correlation Plot—
correlation Plot
correlation Pl
```

As we can see for the left graph, the longitude, accommodates, bathrooms and latitude have dense relationship with price, so I choose them. For the right graph, we can see review\_scores\_rating is more relevant with price. I keep doing it and change the variables to see which one I should pick.

2. I also use what we learn from Feature Selection class to use ggplot2 to construct a correlation matrix.

```
# Examine bivariate correlations
 corData = analysisDataClean[sapply(analysisDataClean, class) == 'numeric' |
                                                                                                                                                                                                                sapply(analysisDataClean, class) == 'integer'
sapply(analysisDataClean, class) == 'logic']
corMatrix = as.data.frame(cor(corData))
 corMatrix$var1 = rownames(corMatrix)
 corMatrix %>%
               gather(key=var2,value=r,1:31)%>%
             ggplot(aes(x=var1,y=var2,fill=r))+
               geom_tile()+
            geom_trie()+
geom_text(aes(label=round(r,2)),size=3)+
scale_fill_gradient2(low = 'red',high='green',mid = 'white')+
theme(axis.text.x=element_text(angle=90))
                                                        weekly price -0.080.02 0 -0.020.030.02 0 0.050.070.080.040.070.010.010.07 0 -0.08 0 0 0.140.080.020.030.030.030.030.080.030.01 0 0.050
                                              Treferey_cores_contract - 0.400 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.0000 0.0000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.
                                                                                                                  0 62<mark>0 94 0.9</mark> 0 030 020 030,18 0 0.120 020 060 064 014 010,174 01 0 0.010 080 014 080 04 0 -0.070 090 070 090 084 0.01 0 -0.02
                                                                                                 productions of the production of the production
```

As we can see from the graph, the availability days 30,60,90 and 365, and review scores rating, checkin, cleanliness, etc. have strong correlation with price.

#### Backward Selection Method

I use it after I use correlation plot to select all variables. I run the following code and see which combination has the lowest AIC.

## **Modeling Techniques**

I mainly choose three different models to obtain more accurate results.

#### • Linear Regression Model

I chose linear regression to construct the model, and it ran fast, so I can get the estimated RMSE in a short time. Thus, I can choose which variables I should keep and which variables I should ignore when I submit the sample\_submission.

#### Random Forest Model

Since the leading score in the competition became lower and lower, I decide to try random forest model. I cannot add variables which are more than 53 categories in the model, and then I did not add zip code. Also, for the property\_type, I cannot use it directly, so I manually change the name of uneven parts so that I can build the model. Overall, it is a time-consuming process, since each random forest model took me around 3 to 4 hours. I have spent more than 4 weeks in building more accurate random forest.

#### XG Boost Model

In the last few weeks before the competition closed, my score kept around 53.7 and I cannot get improvement. Then I search relative articles of predicting price in Kaggle to find some hints. I soon read a report by Erik Bruin and the link is below.

<a href="https://www.kaggle.com/erikbruin/house-prices-lasso-xgboost-and-a-detailed-eda">https://www.kaggle.com/erikbruin/house-prices-lasso-xgboost-and-a-detailed-eda</a>

He talks about different models to predict the price. I saw the XG Boost is easy to approach, and I decided to try it to predict.

#### Results

#### • Linear Regression Model

I pick different variables and use log\_price to receive more accurate result, and the score is around 65.49540.

#### Random Forest Model

First, I go back to improve my data preparation. I mainly focus on using as.factor() to transfer other data types to factors, and set N/A to 0 for security\_deposit, and cleaning\_fee. I get the best score around 53.7

#### XG Boost Model

One key to get accurate result of XG Boost model is to choose a right nrounds. I get the best nrounds:1200, and finally I get the best score around 51.64

## Discussion (My Mistakes and Improvement)

- 1. I feel like when I run the random forest model, the score of 53.7 is my maximum. Then in order to improve the RMES, I need to try other models. Luckily, I found out XG Boost model is quite convenient to run and the result is pretty good.
- 2. I also try the random forest model with cross validation. I failed to use it to find optimal mtry since the model ran 1 days and still did not work.
- 3. I go back and forth to deal with variables. For random forest model, I need to get rid of variables that have more than 53 categories even if they are beneficial for predicting price. Basically, they are zip code and property type. However, the result is quite similar, and it has little influence of RMSE. Thus, I finally give up using zipcode.
- 4. XG Boost required the data with limited variables. In order to save the time, I manually deleted all variables with factors, logic, as well as numeric variables without relevance.
- 5. Moreover, the other way for me to improve my random forest model is to put the analsyisData and scoringData together first, and clean data, impute data and then split them. If I did not combine it together first, my model only has RMSE around 56.1. However, the result of combing can be much lower but it still around 53.7.

## Citations

XG Boost method: <a href="https://www.kaggle.com/erikbruin/house-prices-lasso-xgboost-and-a-detailed-eda">https://www.kaggle.com/erikbruin/house-prices-lasso-xgboost-and-a-detailed-eda</a>

# **Appendix**

# Appendix 1: All Scores

>	score		
	public_score	private_score	method
1	51.64464	54.22610	XG Boost
2	52.00377	54.39937	XG Boost
3	52.35373	55.24591	XG Boost
4	52.37358	54.23908	XG Boost
5	53.40872	55.28740	Random Forest
6	53.46554	55.38585	Random Forest
7	53.54585	55.53114	Random Forest
8	53.74673	55.73407	Random Forest
9	53.76881	55.93682	Random Forest
10	53.80453	55.54131	Random Forest
11	53.85471	55.98383	Random Forest
12		55.94015	Random Forest
13		57.27661	Random Forest
14		57.62577	Random Forest
15		57.72433	Random Forest
16		57.68076	Random Forest
17		57.42937	Random Forest
18		57.91575	Random Forest
19		64.68067	Linear Regression
20		64.68067	Linear Regression
21		64.68067	Linear Regression
22		68.14041	Linear Regression
23		68.99849	Linear Regression
24		74.68598	Linear Regression
25		75.19702	Linear Regression
26		87.77624	Linear Regression
27		100.37305	Linear Regression
28		100.37305	
29		NA	Random Forest
30	error	NA	Linear Regression

## Appendix 2: XG Boost

```
#library
library(caret)
library(randomForest)
              library(dplyr)
install.packages("xgboost")
             library(xgboost)
      8 - # Read in analysis data and scoring data
 9 analysisData <- read.csv('analysisData.csv')
10 scoringData <- read.csv('scoringData.csv')
  allDataSelected <- rbind(analysisData, scoringDataNew)
         18
19 * # Remov
20 allData
21
22
23
24
  25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
           #Set the levels for factors levels(allDataSelectedShost\_is\_superhost) <- c(0, 1) \\ levels(allDataSelectedShost\_has\_profile\_pic) <- c(0, 1) \\ levels(allDataSelectedShost\_identity\_verified) <- c(0, 1) \\ levels(allDataSelectedSiss\_location\_exact) <- c(0, 1) \\ levels(allDataSelectedSis_location\_exact) <- c(0, 1) \\ levels(allDataSelectedSiss\_business\_travel\_ready) <- c(0, 1) \\ levels(allDataSelectedSiss\_business\_travel\_profile\_picture) <- c(0, 1) \\ levels(allDataSelectedSrequire\_guest\_profile\_picture) <- c(0, 1) \\ levels(allDataSelectedSrequire\_guest\_phone\_verification) <- c(0, 1) \\ levels(allDataSelectedSrequire\_guest\_phone\_verification) <- c(0, 1) \\ levels(allDataSelectedSrequire\_yuest\_phone\_verification) <- c(0, 1) \\ levels(allDataSelectedSrequire\_yuest\_phone\_verification) <- c(0, 1) \\ levels(allDataSelectedSrequire\_yue) <- c(3, 2, 1) \\ levels(allDataSelectedSue) <- c(3, 2, 2, 1) \\ levels(allDataSelectedSue) <- c(3, 2, 2, 2) \\ levels(al
40 41 # Fill in missing values using preProcess method-
42 newDataClean <- predict(preProcess(allDataSelecte
43 newdata = allDataSelecte
          444
45 # Split into train and test data (train represents analysisData, and test represents scoringData)--
46 train <- newDataClean[1:29142,]
7 test <- newDataClean[29143:36428,]
8 colnames(train)
  50 - #set up xaboost model
           analysisPrice <- train$price
train <- select(train, -price)
test <- select(test, -price)
            #convert to XG and put test and train data into two seperates Dmatrixs objects
dtrain <- xgb.DMatrix(data = as.matrix(sapply(train, as.numeric)), label= analysisPrice)
dtest <- xgb.DMatrix(data = as.matrix(sapply(test, as.numeric)))</pre>
            default_param<-list(
  objective = "reg:linear",
  booster = "gbtree",
  eta=0.01,</pre>
                  qamma=0.
                 gamma=0,
max_depth=8,
min_child_weight=4,
subsample=1,
colsample_bytree=1
 67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
            xgbcv <- xgb.cv( params = default_param, data = dtrain, nrounds = 5000, nfold = 5, showsd = T, stratified = T, print_every_n = 40, early_stopping_rounds = 10, maximize = F)
           #fing the best nrounds and run the model
xgb_mod <- xgb.train(data = dtrain, params=default_param, nrounds = 1200)</pre>
            XGBpred <- predict(xgb_mod, dtest)
            submissionFile = data.frame(id = scoringData$id, price = predictions_XGB) write.csv(submissionFile, 'sample_submission.csv',row.names = F)
            getwd()
```

## Appendix 3: Best Random Forest Model

## Appendix 4: the version that I spent a long time doing

```
ggplot(aes(x=var1,y=var2,fill=r))+
                 geom_tile()+
                 geom_tile()+
geom_text(aes(label=round(r,2)),size=3)+
scale_fill_gradient2(low = 'red',high='green',mid = 'white')+
theme(axis.text.x=element_text(angle=90))
       #backward method

#step: AIC=241128.4 with zipcode

#price ~ host_is_superhost + host_identity_verified + zipcode +

# latitude + longitude + property_type + room_type + accommodates +

# bathrooms + bedrooms + beds + square_feet + security_deposit +

# cleaning_fee + guests_included + minimum_nights + availability_30 +

# availability_90 + availability_365 + number_of_reviews +

# review_scores_rating + review_scores_accuracy + review_scores_cleanliness +

# review_scores_checkin + review_scores_location + review_scores_value +

# is_business_travel_ready + cancellation_policy + require_guest_phone_verification +

# calculated_host_listings_count + review_scores_communication
   64
65
   66
67
  #Start: AIC=243094.3 no zipcode
#price ~ host_is_superhost + host_has_profile_pic + host_identity_verified +
# latitude + longitude + property_type + room_type + accommodates +
# bathrooms + bedrooms + beds + square_feet + security_deposit +
# cleaning_fee + guests_included + minimum_nights + availability_30 +
# availability_90 + availability_365 + number_of_reviews +
# review_scores_rating + review_scores_cleanliness + review_scores_checkin +
# review_scores_location + review_scores_value + is_business_travel_ready +
# cancellation_policy + require_guest_phone_verification +
# calculated_host_listings_count + review_sper_month + host_response_time +
# host_listings_count + review_sper_month + calculated_host_listings_count + review_sper_month +
# review_scores_communication
   91
   92
   93 #
                  review_scores_communication
109
110
  115
116
 118
           124 #another
  130
  133
```

```
empty_mod = lm(price~1,analysisDataClean)
            full_mod = lm(price-host_is_superhost + host_has_profile_pic + host_identity_verified +
    latitude + longitude + property_type + room_type + accommodates +
    bathrooms + bedrooms + beds + square_feet + security_deposit +
    cleaning_fee + guests_included + minimum_nights + availability_30 +
    availability_90 + availability_365 + number_of_reviews +
    review_scores_rating + review_scores_cleanliness + review_scores_checkin +
    review_scores_location + review_scores_value + is_business_travel_ready +
    cancellation_policy + require_guest_phone_verification +
    calculated_host_listings_count + reviews_per_month + host_response_time +
    host_listings_count + neighbourhood_group_cleansed + extra_people +
    review_scores_communication,data=analysisDataClean)
  139
140
141
142
143
144
  145
146
  147
148
149
150
            153
154
162 }
163 * #model
164
165 * #Log Price-
166 analysisDataClean <- analysisDataClean[analysisDataClean$price>0,]
167 analysisDataClean$log_price <- log(analysisDataClean$price)
168 * #Linear Regression-
  109 model <- lm(log_price-host_response_time+ host_listings_count +host_total_listings_count+ 170 neighbourhood_group_cleansed+availability_90+
                                                  host_is_superhost + host_has_profile_pic +
host_identity_verified + longitude + latitude +
is_location_exact + property_type + room_type + accommodates +
bathrooms + bedrooms + beds + cleaning_fee + square_feet +
guests_included + extra_people + minimum_nights + availability_30 +
availability_365 + number_of_reviews + review_scores_rating +
review_scores_cleanliness + review_scores_checkin + review_scores_communication +
review_scores_location + review_scores_value + is_business_travel_ready +
cancellation_policy + require_guest_phone_verification +
calculated_host_listings_count + review_scpre_month,data=analysisDataClean)
  173
174
  175
176
177
   181
182
  183 pred1 = predict(model,newdata=analysisDataClean)
184 pred2 <- exp(pred1);pred2
185 rmse1 = sqrt(mean((pred2-analysisDataClean$price)^2)); rmse1
              189 tuneGrid = expand.grid(mtry=1:5)
  190 set.seed(100)
             set.sed(100)

cvForest = train(price-host_is_superhost + host_has_profile_pic + host_identity_verified + latitude + longitude + property_type + room_type + accommodates + bathrooms + bedrooms + beds + square_feet + security_deposit + cleaning_fee + guests_included + minimum_nights + availability_30 + availability_90 + availability_365 + number_of_reviews + review_scores_rating + review_scores_cleanliness + review_scores_checkin + review_scores_location + review_scores_value + is_business_travel_ready + cancellation_policy + require_guest_phone_verification + calculated_host_listings_count + review_sper_month + host_response_time + host_listings_count + neighbourhood_group_cleansed + extra_people + review_scores_communication, data-analysisbataClean, method="rf",ntree=1000,trControl=trControl,tuneGrid=tuneGrid )
  192
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211
  214
  221
222
  predForest = predict(forest,newdata=scoringDataClean)
rmseForest = sqrt(mean((predForest - analysisDataCleanSprice) ^ 2)); rmseForest
 getwd()
```