## Global CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Prediction

### 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Problem Statement

The growth of CO2 emissions is a major contributing factor to the speed of climate change. Global carbon emissions from fossil fuels have significantly increased since 1900. Since 1970, CO2 emissions have increased by about 90%, with emissions from fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes contributing about 78% of the total greenhouse gas emissions increase from 1970 to 2011. Agriculture, deforestation, and other land-use changes have been the second-largest contributors. Emissions of non-CO2 greenhouse gases have also increased significantly since 1900. In order to reduce CO2 emissions, governments and industries must play an active role to curb energy consumption activities most related to emissions growth. In the current energy consumption landscape, a lot of emphases is also placed on the growing consumption of renewable energy sources (e.g., wind, solar). In order to prioritize which initiative has the highest impact on reducing CO2 emissions, governments and industries must be equipped with high-performing, predictive tools for future emissions.

### 1.2 Key Stakeholders

Potential parties that could be interested in this project include:

- Politics and policies: ministries, departments, agencies, and directions of national governments;
- 2) Research and education: universities, institutes, research centers, laboratories;
- 3) Supply and demand: industrial companies related to energy, food, air, equipment manufacturing, etc.;
- 4) Organizations, societies, and influencers related to energy, environment, health, etc.

# 2. Data Preprocessing

#### 2.1 Data Overview

Source data obtained for this project contains information on different kinds of greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, agriculture, and food production. The CO<sub>2</sub> and Greenhouse Gas Emissions dataset is a collection of key metrics maintained by Our World in Data. It is updated regularly and includes data on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (annual, per capita, cumulative and consumption-based), other greenhouse gases, energy mix, and other relevant metrics of different countries from the year 1750 - 2019. The data set of agriculture and food production are sourced from UNDATA containing the information on agricultural land use and beef production of different countries from the year 1750 - 2019.

The features and corresponding information contained in the raw CO<sub>2</sub> emission data set is shown in the following figures:

```
co2_raw_data.columns
'co2_per_gdp', 'consumption_co2_per_gdp', 'co2_per_unit_energy', 'cement_co2', 'coal_co2', 'flaring_co2', 'gas_co2', 'oil_co2',
                  coment_CO2 , COal_CO2 , Tlaring_CO2 , gas_CO2 , Oll_CO2 ,
'other_industry_Co2', 'cement_cO2_per_capita', 'coal_cO2_per_capita',
'flaring_co2_per_capita', 'gas_co2_per_capita', 'oil_co2_per_capita',
'other_co2_per_capita', 'share_global_coal_cO2', 'share_global_gas_co2', 'share_global_flaring_co2',
'share_global_cement_co2', 'cumulative_coal_co2', 'cumulative_oil_co2',
'cumulative_gas_co2', 'cumulative_flaring_co2', 'cumulative_coement_co2',
'complete gas_co2', '
                                                                                                                                                'share_global_oil_co2',
                   'share_global_cumulative_coal_co2', 'share_global_cumulative_oil_co2',
                    share_global_cumulative_gas_co2',
                   'share_global_cumulative_flaring_co2',
'share_global_cumulative_cement_co2', 'total_ghg', 'ghg_per_capita',
                    'methane', 'methane_per_capita', 'nitrous_oxide',
                   'nitrous_oxide_per_capita', 'primary_energy_consumption_10Gwh',
                   'energy_per_capita', 'energy_per_gdp', 'population', 'gdp'],
               dtype='object')
  co2 data.info()
  <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
 RangeIndex: 23708 entries, 0 to 23707
 Data columns (total 7 columns):
                 Column
                                                                                                                               Non-Null Count Dtype
    0
                 iso code
                                                                                                                                20930 non-null object
    1
                 country
                                                                                                                               23708 non-null object
                                                                                                                               23708 non-null int64
    2
                 year
    3
                 annual co2 prod Megaton
                                                                                                                               23170 non-null float64
    4
                  primary_energy_consumption_10Gwh 6044 non-null
                                                                                                                                                                                   float64
                                                                                                                               21071 non-null float64
    5
                  population
                 gdp
                                                                                                                               13002 non-null float64
 dtypes: float64(4), int64(1), object(2)
 memory usage: 1.3+ MB
```

The features and corresponding information contained in the raw agricultural land use data set is shown in the following figures:

```
agri_land_raw_data.columns
Index(['Country or Area', 'Element', 'Year', 'Unit', 'Value_agri_1000hectare',
      'Value Footnotes'],
     dtype='object')
        agri land data.info()
        <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
        RangeIndex: 14378 entries, 0 to 14377
        Data columns (total 4 columns):
                                    Non-Null Count Dtype
        ___
                                    _____
        0 Country or Area
                                   14377 non-null object
                                    14369 non-null float64
         1
            Year
                                    14369 non-null object
             Unit
            Value_agri_1000hectare 14369 non-null float64
         3
        dtypes: float64(2), object(2)
        memory usage: 449.4+ KB
```

The features and corresponding information contained in the raw beef production data set is shown in the following figures:

```
beef prod raw data.columns
Index(['Country or Area', 'Element', 'Year', 'Unit', 'Value_beef_tonnes',
       Value Footnotes'],
     dtype='object')
       beef prod data.info()
       <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
       RangeIndex: 13197 entries, 0 to 13196
       Data columns (total 4 columns):
            Column
                              Non-Null Count Dtype
        0
            Country or Area 13196 non-null object
        1
            Year
                               13194 non-null float64
        2
            Unit
                               13194 non-null object
        3
            Value beef tonnes 13194 non-null float64
       dtypes: float64(2), object(2)
       memory usage: 412.5+ KB
```

As shown in the above figures, two important considerations can be proposed and need to be handled using the data cleaning method before building machine learning models upon that:

- 1) The CO<sub>2</sub> data set contains excessive features (columns). Which ones are important key features? And which one is the target feature?
- 2) It seems many data are missing. How to deal with the missing data?

### 2.2 Data Processing

In the last section, two important considerations are proposed and need to be addressed.

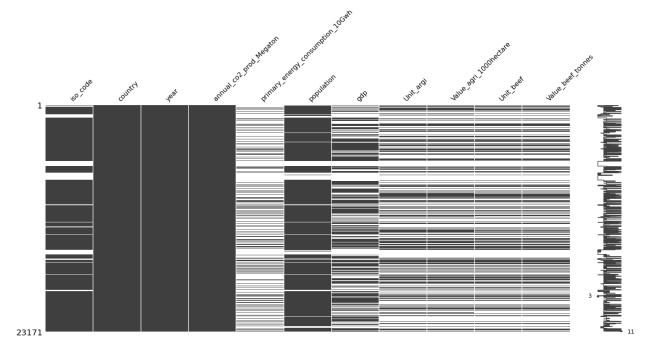
Firstly, the CO<sub>2</sub> data set includes CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by annual, per capita, cumulative, and consumption-based, and other greenhouse gases, energy mix, and other relevant metrics of different countries from the year 1750 - 2019. The objective of this project is to use machine learning methods to predict annual CO<sub>2</sub> production ("annual\_co2\_prod\_Megaton"), which is the target feature. The features of primary energy consumption, population, GDP contained in this dataset are relevant and crucial for predicting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Accordingly, by joining the data sets of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, agricultural land use, and beef production, the new CO<sub>2</sub> emission data set are shown in the following figures:

```
co2 data.columns
'primary_energy_consumption_10Gwh', 'population', 'gdp', 'U'
'Value_agri_1000hectare', 'Unit_beef', 'Value_beef_tonnes',
       'energy_isnan', 'gdp_isnan', 'population_isnan', 'argi_isnan',
       'beef_isnan'],
      dtype='object')
    co2_data.info()
    <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
    Int64Index: 23171 entries, 0 to 23708
    Data columns (total 16 columns):
    iso code
                                       20440 non-null object
                                       23171 non-null object
    country
    year
                                       23171 non-null datetime64[ns]
    annual_co2_prod_Megaton
                                       23171 non-null float64
    primary_energy_consumption_10Gwh
                                       6045 non-null float64
    population
                                       20583 non-null float64
                                       12973 non-null float64
    gdp
    Unit_argi
                                       9818 non-null object
    Value_agri_1000hectare
                                       9818 non-null float64
                                       9377 non-null object
    Unit beef
    Value_beef_tonnes
                                       9377 non-null float64
    energy_isnan
                                       23171 non-null bool
                                       23171 non-null bool
    gdp_isnan
    population isnan
                                       23171 non-null bool
    argi_isnan
                                       23171 non-null bool
    beef isnan
                                       23171 non-null bool
    dtypes: bool(5), datetime64[ns](1), float64(6), object(4)
    memory usage: 2.2+ MB
```

| co2_data.describe()                             |                      |  |
|---|----------------------|--|
| annual_co2_prod_Megaton primary_energy_consumpt | ion_10Gwh population | gdp Value_agri_1000hectare Value_beef_tonnes |

| count | 23171.000000 | 6045.000000   | 2.058300e+04 | 1.297300e+04 | 9.818000e+03 | 9.377000e+03 |
|-------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| mean  | 270.234760   | 1638.034068   | 6.053309e+07 | 4.405589e+11 | 7.341125e+04 | 7.789382e+05 |
| std   | 1509.880287  | 9665.709679   | 3.773372e+08 | 3.670729e+12 | 3.935006e+05 | 4.531116e+06 |
| min   | -1.165000    | 0.208000      | 1.000000e+03 | 6.378000e+07 | 3.000000e-01 | 0.000000e+00 |
| 25%   | 0.546000     | 46.326000     | 1.433000e+06 | 8.911988e+09 | 3.340000e+02 | 3.233000e+03 |
| 50%   | 5.170000     | 148.688000    | 5.004000e+06 | 2.946853e+10 | 3.495500e+03 | 4.080000e+04 |
| 75%   | 44.785000    | 518.789000    | 1.632450e+07 | 1.220000e+11 | 2.052425e+04 | 1.705510e+05 |
| max   | 36441.388000 | 153848.433000 | 7.713468e+09 | 1.065610e+14 | 4.882180e+06 | 7.160131e+07 |

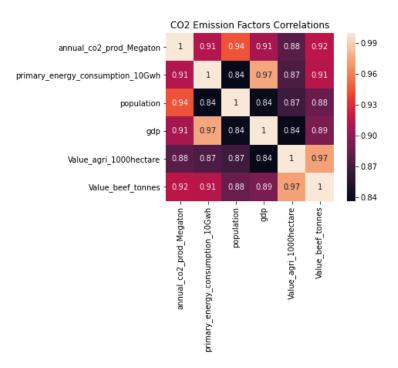
Secondarily, it seems there are a lot of missing values. To visualize the missing data, the package of "missingno" is imported and utilized. The results are shown in the following figure:



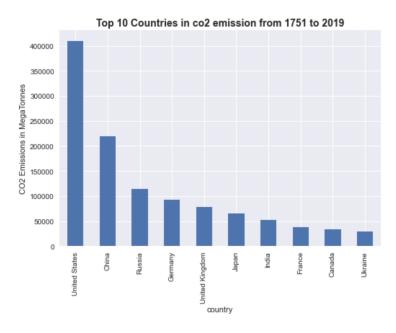
The results show that, compared with the columns of country, year, annual\_co2\_prod\_Megaton, and population, there is a significant amount of data is missing in the rest columns. The missing data mostly belongs to the early time data of different countries due to the lack of recording intentions and techniques. The method to deal with NaN is elaborated in the following section.

### 2.3 Data Analysis

With the data preprocessing finished, exploratory data analysis (EDA) can be utilized for us to better understand the data. The pairwise correlation of the main 6 features are calculated and investigated. As shown in the heatmap below, the highest Pearson's correlation coefficient appears in the pairs of GDP vs. primary energy consumption and agriculture land use vs. beef production. In addition, annual CO2 production has the strong correlation with population (0.94) and beef production (0.92). The correlations between annual CO2 production with primary energy consumption and GDP are slightly weaker (0.91).

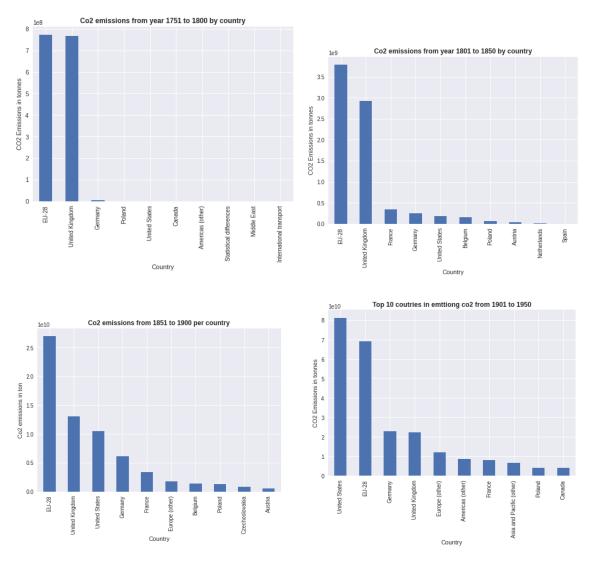


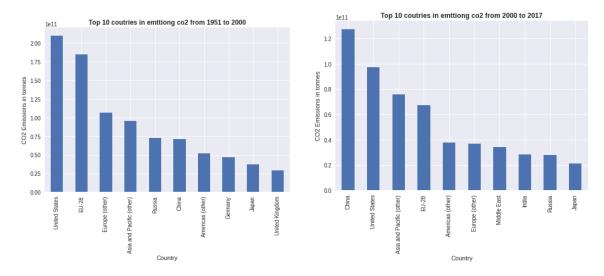
The figure below shows the top 5 countries in cumulative  $CO_2$  emissions from 1751 to 2019. The results show the US has the highest cumulative  $CO_2$  emission among all the countries and regions.



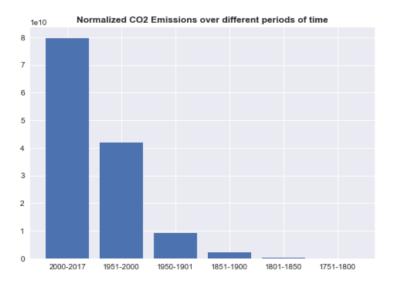
The figures below show the top 10 countries in cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions within a 50-year period from 1751 to 2017. The result shows during the pre-industrial stage (1750 - 1850), only the UK had significant CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. With the start of the industrial revolution (the 1850s), the CO<sub>2</sub>

emission of the US and Germany increased rapidly and exceeded the UK during 1901 – 1950. Starting from late 20<sup>th</sup>, China and India began their first industrial revolutions and appeared on the list of top 10 countries after 1951 and 2000, respectively, while others, such as the United States and western Europe, began undergoing "second" industrial revolutions by the late 19th century. In 21<sup>st</sup>, China exceeded the US and became the No. 1 CO<sub>2</sub> emission countries.





In addition, the figure below compares the CO2 emissions per year within different periods from 1751 to 2019 normalized by the period length, which indicates the average  $CO_2$  emissions per year for different period. We can observe the exponential increase of  $CO_2$  emission with time. It is noted that the normalized  $CO_2$  emission of 2000 - 2019 is two times higher than that of 1951-2000.



### 2.4 Feature Engineering

In order to prepare the datasets and solve the problem of missing data, the featuring engineering should be performed on the raw data sets. The cleaned dataset of CO2 emission contains the following features which will be used for the train-test dataset:

- iso\_code: categorical feature. The ISO country codes are internationally recognized codes that designate every country and most of the dependent areas a two-letter combination or a three-letter combination
- country: categorical feature.
- Year: date/time feature
- annual\_co2\_prod\_Megaton: numerical feature. annual CO2 emissions of each country in a megaton.
- primary\_energy\_consumption\_10Gwh: numerical feature. Annual primary energy consumption of each country in 10Gwh.
- Population: numerical feature.
- Gdp: numerical feature.
- Value\_agri\_1000hectare: numerical feature. Annual agricultural land use of each country in 1000 hectares.
- Value\_beef\_tonnes: numerical feature. Annual beef production of each country in tonnes.

However, due to a large number of missing data, especially in annual\_co2\_prod\_Megaton, NaN data need to be treated and some new features need to be created to fully use the dataset.

First, NaN data is treated by using the function of "fillna" to be replaced by the value of 0.

Second, several columns of Booleans variables are created corresponding to the numerical features which representing if the numerical features contain NaN data.

Third, two columns of Booleans variables are created especially for primary energy consumption. The two columns are the threshold for primary energy consumption corresponding to the CO2 emission higher than 70k and 110k respectively.

Last but not least, a column of "region\_name" is created for each example which contains categorical features of 6 regions/countries that this work will focus on, which are Africa, Europe, USA, China, India, and Russian. The region names are assigned to each example corresponding to the ISO code, and the countries not in these 6 regions are assigned with "Other". In addition, the columns of dummy variables are created based on the "region name".

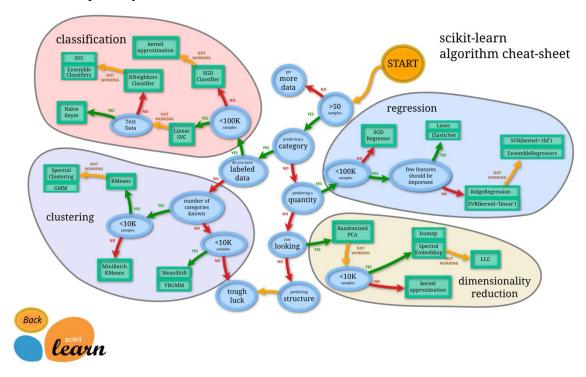
In conclusion, the CO2 dataset after applying feature engineering contains features:

```
Index(['index', 'iso_code', 'region_name', 'country', 'year', 'annual_co2_
prod_Megaton', 'primary_energy_consumption_10Gwh', 'population', 'gdp', 'V
alue_agri_1000hectare', 'Value_beef_tonnes', 'energy_isnan', 'gdp_isnan',
'population_isnan', 'argi_isnan', 'beef_isnan', 'primary_energy_consumptio
```

```
n_gt_70k', 'primary_energy_consumption_gt_110k', 'dm_China', 'dm_Europe',
'dm_India', 'dm_Russia', 'dm_USA'].
```

# 3. Modeling

The primary goal of this work is to build and evaluate machine learning models to predict CO2 emissions based on selected features. Often, the hardest part of solving a machine learning problem can be finding the right estimator for the job. Different estimators are better suited for different types of data and different problems. The flowchart below is designed to give users a bit of a rough guide on how to approach problems with regard to which estimators to try on your data. The topic investigated in this work is a problem of regression. Therefore, 3 machine-learning algorithms, multivariate linear, Lasso, and Ridge Regression were selected and applied to traintest the model separately.



(https://scikit-learn.org/stable/tutorial/machine\_learning\_map/index.html)

Multivariate linear Regression is a method used to measure the degree at which more than one independent variable (predictors) and more than one dependent variable (responses), are linearly related. The method is broadly used to predict the behavior of the response variables associated to changes in the predictor variables, once a desired degree of relation has been

established. In this work, multivariate linear regression is tested with hyper-parameters of fit\_intercept=True, normalize=True.

```
# train the model
ml_fea_5 = LinearRegression(fit_intercept=True, normalize=True)
ml_fea_5.fit(x_fea_5_train,y_fea_5_train)
```

Lasso regression is a type of linear regression that uses shrinkage. Shrinkage is where data values are shrunk towards a central point, like the mean. The lasso procedure encourages simple, sparse models (i.e. models with fewer parameters). This particular type of regression is well-suited for models showing high levels of multicollinearity or when you want to automate certain parts of model selection, like variable selection/parameter elimination. Lasso regression performs L1 regularization, which adds a penalty equal to the absolute value of the magnitude of coefficients. This type of regularization can result in sparse models with few coefficients; Some coefficients can become zero and eliminated from the model. The tuning parameter,  $\alpha$  controls the strength of the L1 penalty.  $\alpha$  is basically the amount of shrinkage: When  $\alpha=0$ , no parameters are eliminated. The estimate is equal to the one found with linear regression. As  $\alpha$  increases, more and more coefficients are set to zero and eliminated (theoretically, when  $\alpha=$  infinity, all coefficients are eliminated). In addition, as  $\alpha$  increases, bias increases; and as  $\alpha$  decreases, variance increases. In this work, Lasso regression is applied with hyperparameters shown in the following figure. It is worth noting that 10 alpha values are tested between 1e-5 to 1 in a log space.

Ridge regression is a method of estimating the coefficients of multiple-regression models in scenarios where independent variables are highly correlated. Ridge regression considers L2 penalty by adding "squared magnitude" of coefficient as penalty term to the loss function. if  $\alpha$  is zero then the ridge regression is equivalent to ordinary least squares. However, if  $\alpha$  is very large then it will add too much weight and it will lead to under-fitting. Having said that it's important how  $\alpha$  is chosen. This technique works very well to avoid over-fitting issue. In this work, Ridge regression is applied with hyperparameters shown in the following figure. It is worth noting that 10 alpha values are tested between 1e-5 to 1 in a log space.

In the following section, these 3 regression models are implemented and their results are compared.

## 4. Results and Discussions

A hypertable is established to track the model performance, which contains the following hyperparameters, as shown in the table below.

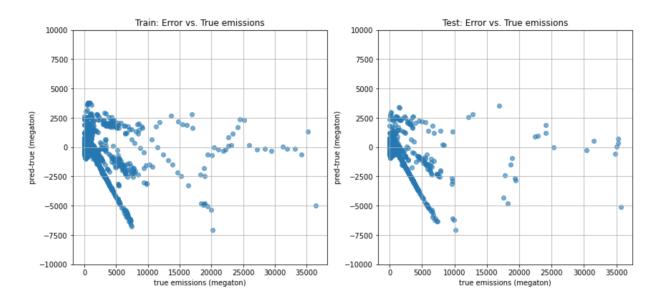
| r2_train | rmse_train | r2_test | rmse_test | alpha | coef | incpt | model | features | description |
|----------|------------|---------|-----------|-------|------|-------|-------|----------|-------------|
|          |            |         |           |       |      |       |       |          |             |

### 4.1 Multivariate linear regression

The R-squared and RMSE of using multivariate linear regression on train and test data set are calculated and shown in the following table. The results show that the R-squared and RMSE of train and test data set are very close to each other. This indicates there is no obvious bias or variance applying multivariate linear regression.

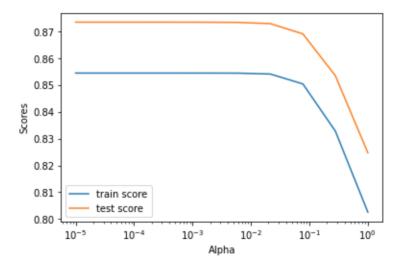
| r2_train | rmse_train | r2_test  | rmse_test  |
|----------|------------|----------|------------|
| 0.854439 | 554.310706 | 0.873422 | 581.648314 |

The figures below show the error (predicted value – true value in megaton) vs. true emission. The results also approve that multivariate linear regression predicts the same trend when it is applied to train and test set. As shown in the figures, the error is significant at low emission region. This is because the lack of data during early time when CO2 emission is low.



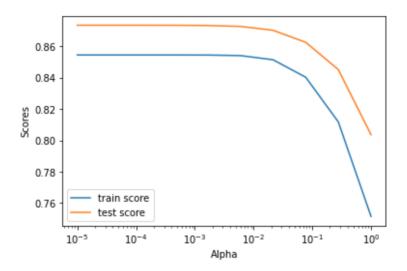
### **4.2 Lasso Regression**

Lasso regression is applied on the training set with L1 regularization parameter alpha = np.logspace(-5, 0, num=10, base=10). The R-squared scores for all the models are obtained for both training and test sets. The obtained R-squared scores for training and test sets are plotted as a function of alpha, as shown in the following figure. The figure shows that the R-squared scores for both data sets keep stable within the alpha range of 1E-5 to 1E-2, but after this, decreases with the increasing alpha. For this case, lasso regression performs better with alpha approaching 0, which indicates that no features should be eliminated, and all of them are important to the prediction of CO2 emission.



### 4.3 Ridge Regression

Following the similar procedure as Lasso regression, Ridge regression is also applied on the training set with L2 regularization parameter alpha = np.logspace(-5, 0, num=10, base=10). The R-squared scores for all the models are obtained for both training and test sets. The obtained R-squared scores for training and test sets are plotted as a function of alpha, as shown in the following figure. The figure shows that for ridge regression, the R-squared scores for both data sets keep stable within the alpha range of 1E-5 to 5E-3, but after this, decreases quickly with the increasing alpha. α (alpha) in ridge regression is the parameter which balances the amount of emphasis given to minimizing RSS vs minimizing sum of square of coefficients. For this case, ridge regression performs better when alpha approaches 0, which indicates that to predict CO2 emission data set, most amount of emphasis should be given to minimizing RSS, which is the same objective as multivariate linear regression. In addition, it is worth noting that the three machine learning models yield slightly higher R-squared scores in the test data set than in the training data set. This suggest the three machine learning models are slightly biased.



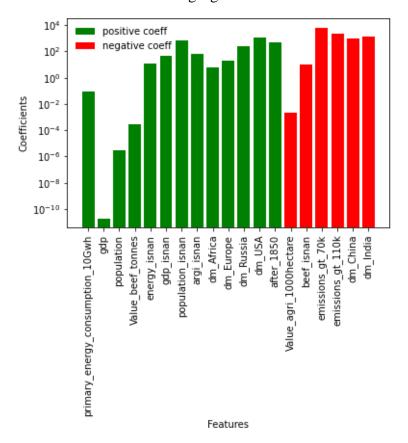
### 4.4 Best Model

With obtained R-squared and RMSE result, the performance of three models are compared and listed in the order of R-squared and RMSE for the test data set. As shown in the table below, for this CO2 emission case, the best model is multivariate linear regression (alpha = 0). The best lasso regression model is with alpha = 1E-5 and ranks No.  $2^{nd}$ . The best ridge regression model is also with alpha = 1E-5 but ranks No.  $4^{th}$ .

| Ranl | r2_train | rmse_train | r2_test | rmse_test | alpha    | incpt   | description |
|------|----------|------------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|-------------|
| 1    | 0.8544   | 554.3107   | 0.8734  | 581.6483  | 0.00E+00 | -532.32 | Linear      |

| 2 | 0.8544 | 554.3107 | 0.8734 | 581.6486 | 1.00E-05 | -532.30 | Lasso |
|---|--------|----------|--------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| 3 | 0.8544 | 554.3107 | 0.8734 | 581.6493 | 3.60E-05 | -532.26 | Lasso |
| 4 | 0.8544 | 554.3107 | 0.8734 | 581.6508 | 1.00E-05 | -532.31 | Ridge |
| 5 | 0.8544 | 554.3107 | 0.8734 | 581.6520 | 1.29E-04 | -532.11 | Lasso |

The coefficients from the best model, multivariate linear regression, are investigated and plotted in a bar chart in a semi-log coordinate, as shown in the following figure. The red colored group represents the feature with negative coefficients, and green for positive coefficients. Because the features of CO2 emission dataset were not standardized before regression, only the coefficients of the features with same value range can be compared with each other, such as features of "\_isnan" group and dummy variables of "dm\_" group with Boolean values. Some observations and conclusions can be obtained from the following figure.



It is obvious that CO2 emission is positively related to primary energy consumption, GDP, population, and beef production. Quantitively, per 10 Gwh primary energy consumption contribute 0.08 megatons of CO2 emission. Per billion GDP increase CO2 emission by 0.02 megatons. Per million population contributes 2.8 megatons of CO2 emission. In addition, per kilotons beef

production causes CO2 emission increases by 0.28 megatons. On the contrary, agriculture land use has a negative effect on CO2 emission. Per 1000 hectares agriculture land use causes CO2 drops by 0.002 megatons.

Another important observation is regarding the contributions of different regions/counties. From EDA in the previous section, in the order of the regions/countries producing most CO2 cumulatively from 1751 to 2019, the regions/countries under investigation can be ranked as United States, Europe, China, Russian, India, and Africa. However, the dummy variable coefficients show that United States, Europe, Russian, and Africa contributions are positively related to CO2 emission, but China and India are negatively related to CO2 emission. The possible explanation can be attributed to the low contribution of CO2 emission per person in China and India. Although the total CO2 emission of China and India is high, huge population in these two countries causes low per capita CO2 emission. Also compared with US, China and India have larger agriculture land use and less beef production. Therefore, low per capita CO2 emission and beef production, high agricultural land use cause the dummy variable coefficients of China and India to be negative.

### 5 Future Research

The following tasks are considered and further investigated in my future research:

- 1) Add geological features based on the location of countries. Accordingly, a regional visualization and analysis can be performed
- Add temporal features based on time period using Boolean values for the features like energy consumption. In this way, the negative effects of largely missing data on the model accuracy can be reduced.
- 3) Other numerical features will be explored, such as per capita data, and extracted polynomial features.
- 4) Standardize the features. It is important to standardize the features by removing the mean and scaling to unit variance. The L1 (Lasso) and L2 (Ridge) regularizes of linear models assume that all features are centered around 0 and have variance in the same order. If a feature has a variance that is orders of magnitude larger than others, it might dominate the objective function and make the estimator unable to learn from other features correctly as expected. In this way, the importance of features on CO2 emission can be comparted.

5) Consider extra ML/AI models, including NLP and ANN.

# **6 Conclusions**

This work investigated CO2 emissions by considering five main factors, including primary energy consumption, GDP, population, agriculture land use, and beef production. Three machine learning regression models are applied to the training and test data set in order to predict CO2 emission. The results show that multivariate linear regression is the best performance model for this data set. The coefficients of each feature show that CO2 emission is positively related to primary energy consumption, GDP, population, and beef production but agriculture land use has a negative effect on CO2 emission. The dummy variable coefficients show that United States, Europe, Russian, and Africa contributions are positively related to CO2 emission, but China and India are negatively related to CO2 emission. The future work will include more different features and machine learning models.