Predicting Diamond Prices

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Thanks to Springboard mentors







The Problem

According to Bloomberg, "While Americans are buying more diamond jewelry than ever before... The lower prices and a glut ... have pushed the global diamond trade into crisis".

Americans spent:

36+ billions

Demand growth rate:

4.5% (in America which accounts for 50% of sales)

A Lost Decade

Wholesale diamond prices are floundering

✓ PolishedPrices.com Diamond Index



What opportunities exist for interested parties of diamonds to predict the value of a particular diamond better than the historical prices?

Who might care?

Investors





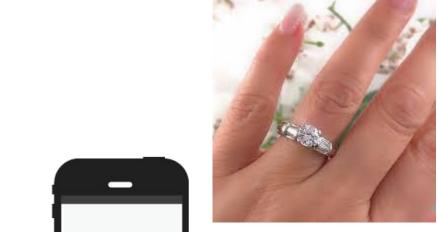
Businesses



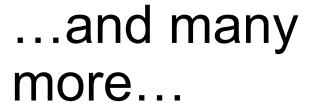


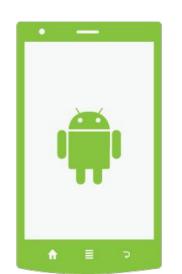


Buyers/Consumers









Data Source

What factors might affect prices?

- Prices: set by sellers or wholesalers
- Carat or weight
- Cut or quality

Clarity

Color

- Technical Factors:
- Table

length

depth

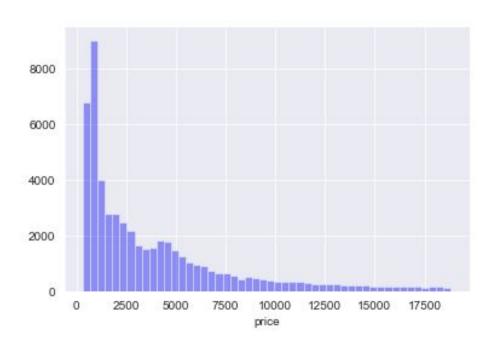
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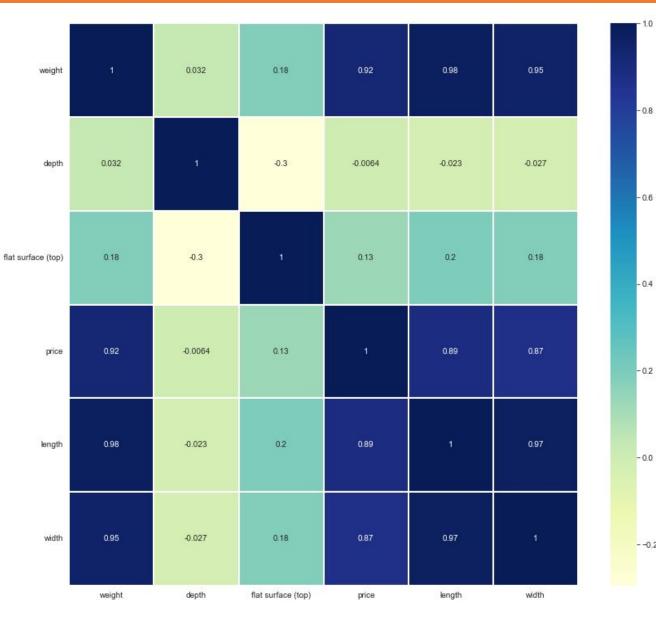


kaggle

Some Historical Indicators



Initially when exploring the data, we could see that the lowest prices start at 326.00 in US dollars with 2 observations of that amount and can raise all the way up to 18823.00 in US dollars with 1 observation at that amount.



Modeling Overview

Type: Supervised learning

Regression Model: Predicting Price

No missing data & feature names updated

Tools: Python 3, scikit learn, and matplotlib

Modeling Steps

Data pre-processing steps:

- 1. Check data types
- Create dummy or indicator features for categorical variables
- Data splitting into training and test sets
 (80% / 20%)
- Standardize the magnitude of numeric features using a scaler

Optional: Cross validation (CV) for hyperparameter tuning:

- 5 fold cv
- Using scikit-learn's grid search method
- Evaluation metric: Area under precision recall curve

Feature Selection: can be used using Lasso and then plotted for visualization Performance evaluation using holdout dataset (20% of the whole data)

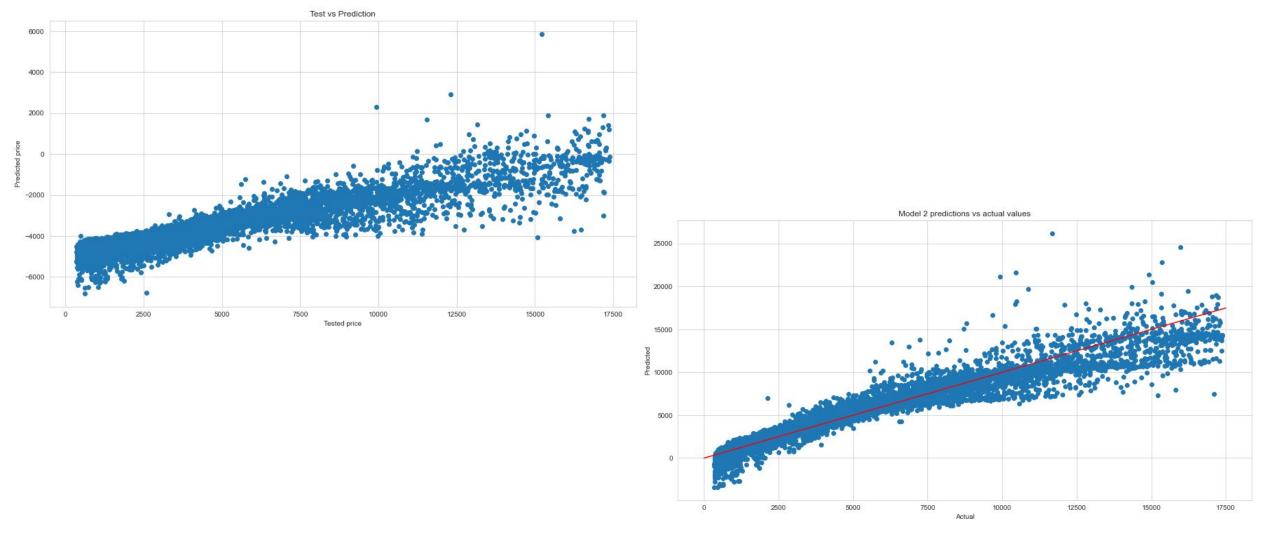
Testing using the same pipe (excluding cross validation)

These steps can be piped together using sklearn pipeline class

Regression Algorithms Used (Four Models):

- 1. Linear Regression using sklearn
- Linear Regression (Ordinary Least Squares) using statsmodels
- 3. Ridge Regression using sklearn
- 4. Lasso Regression using sklearn

Model Comparisons



Logistic Regression using sklearn and Logistic Regression using **Ordinary Least Squares**

Details on the Best Model (ET)

Making a Ridge Regression model: Third model

Sklearn has a Ridge() function built into the linear_model module.

```
from sklearn.linear_model import Ridge

# Split data if not split
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size = 0.3, random_state=42)

# Initialize ridge model, normalize=True parameter assures all variables are scaled.
ridge = Ridge(alpha=0.1, normalize=True)

# We can use the scaled data from above to fit
ridge.fit(X_train, y_train)

# Make predictions
ridge_pred= ridge.predict(X_test)

# Score predictions
ridge.score(X_test, y_test)
```

 By using the Lasso Regression Model we were able to increase the predictions of the predictive power to about 91%.



 By using the Ridge Regression Model we were able to increase the predictions of the predictive power to about 88%.

Making a Lasso Regression model: Fourth model

Sklearn has a Lasso() function built into the linear_model module.

```
from sklearn.linear_model import Lasso

# Split data if not split
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size = 0.3, random_state=42)

# Initialize ridge model, normalize=True parameter assures all variables are scaled.
lasso = Lasso(alpha=0.1, normalize=True)

# We can use the scaled data from above to fit
lasso.fit(X_train, y_train)

# Make predictions
lasso_pred= lasso.predict(X_test)

# Score predictions
lasso.score(X_test, y_test)
```

0.909819917007543

While the first model scored the highest the fourth model is the best to used for added complexity.

Assumptions, Limitations and Disclaimers

- We assume that all observations are independent, are assumed to be unrelated diamonds
- Used only 53940 observations of diamonds and past data that is not current
- The model will behave poorly if we try to predict prices of diamonds that are scheduled too far in future
- The diamonds data does not contain all data (several sources can be included in the future)

More Ideas to Improve the Model in Future

- Engineer more features related with diamonds such as customer feedback, customer surveys, environmental/social impact (blood diamonds), etc.
- Answer which diamonds are more volatile in price or more stable and why?
- Use social network and news media to extract sentiments about diamonds and stock market/economy health to get more features

Conclusions

- All sources of datasets contributed to the predictive power of the model.
- Out of 5 supervised classification models, the Extremely Randomized Trees provided the best results.
- Out of 67 features, we used only 31 features for the best model with 12 from the flight data, 16 from the weather data and 3 from the flight historical performances data (which we engineered).
- With 50%-50% splitting, the test data set gave ROC AUC = 0.89.

