Classification Model Comparison: NYC Shooting Incidents

DTSA 5509 Introduction to Machine Learning, University of Colorado, Boulder, April 2023

Required Packages

```
import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
import math
import seaborn as sns
import sklearn
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
from sklearn.neighbors import KNeighborsClassifier
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier
from sklearn.ensemble import GradientBoostingClassifier
from sklearn import metrics
import time
```

Problem Description

This project will analyze the NYPD Shooting Incident Data data set in an attempt to classify shooting incidents as murders. Three different classification models will be built and the classification accuracy compared against various model parameters. The K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), Random Forest (Forest) and Gradient Boosting (Boost) Classifiers from the sklearn package will be evaluated. The features of the data set will be converted from multi-value to binary and a feature importance analysis will be performed. A comparison of computation time will be included to assess the best balance between performance and time.

The dataset being used is the NYPD Shooting Incident Data (Historic). The source file is located at https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/nypd-shooting-incident-data-historic. The data contains information on every shooting incident that occurred in New York City from 1/1/2006 through 12/31/2021. The data includes features related to the location and time of incident, perpetrator and victim attributes and murder label. The murder label (SATISTICAL_MURDER_FLAG) indicates a shooting that resulted in the victim's death and is identified as a murder.

GITHUB Repository: https://github.com/jmskeet/DTSA-5509

EDA

Import Data and High Level Analysis

```
In [3]: orginalDataSet = pd.read_csv('data/NYPD_Shooting_Incident_Data_Historic_.csv')
    orginalDataSet.describe()
```

```
print("Shape: " + str(orginalDataSet.shape))
print("Row Count: " + str(len(orginalDataSet)))
print(orginalDataSet.head(5))
print(orginalDataSet.describe(percentiles = [], include='all'))
print(orginalDataSet.dtypes)
```

```
Shape: (25596, 19)
Row Count: 25596
   INCIDENT KEY OCCUR DATE OCCUR TIME
                                               BORO
                                                     PRECINCT
                                                               JURISDICTION_CODE
                                                           79
0
      236168668
                  11/11/2021
                                15:04:00
                                          BROOKLYN
                                                                               0.0
                                                           72
1
                  07/16/2021
                                22:05:00
                                                                               0.0
      231008085
                                          BROOKLYN
2
                                                           79
      230717903
                 07/11/2021
                                01:09:00
                                          BROOKLYN
                                                                               0.0
3
      237712309
                  12/11/2021
                                13:42:00
                                          BROOKLYN
                                                           81
                                                                               0.0
4
      224465521
                  02/16/2021
                                20:00:00
                                            QUEENS
                                                          113
                                                                               0.0
  LOCATION DESC
                  STATISTICAL MURDER FLAG PERP AGE GROUP PERP SEX
0
                                     False
                                                                 NaN
            NaN
                                                       NaN
1
            NaN
                                     False
                                                     45-64
                                                                   Μ
2
                                                                   Μ
            NaN
                                     False
                                                       <18
3
            NaN
                                     False
                                                       NaN
                                                                 NaN
4
            NaN
                                     False
                                                       NaN
                                                                 NaN
                   PERP RACE VIC AGE GROUP VIC SEX
                                                                       VIC RACE
0
                                                                          BLACK
                         NaN
                                      18-24
                                                   Μ
1
   ASIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER
                                      25-44
                                                   Μ
                                                      ASIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER
2
                                      25-44
                                                   Μ
                       BLACK
                                                                          BLACK
3
                         NaN
                                      25-44
                                                   Μ
                                                                          BLACK
4
                                      25-44
                                                                          BLACK
                         NaN
   X COORD CD
               Y COORD CD
                             Latitude Longitude
0
     996313.0
                  187499.0
                            40.681318 -73.956509
1
     981845.0
                  171118.0
                            40.636364 -74.008667
2
     996546.0
                  187436.0
                            40.681145 -73.955669
3
    1001139.0
                  192775.0
                            40.695792 -73.939096
4
    1050710.0
                  184826.0 40.673740 -73.760411
                                          Lon Lat
   POINT (-73.95650899099996 40.68131820000008)
0
1
   POINT (-74.00866668999998 40.63636384100005)
2
   POINT (-73.95566903799994 40.68114495900005)
3
        POINT (-73.939095905 40.69579171600003)
   POINT (-73.76041066999993 40.67374017600008)
                       OCCUR_DATE OCCUR_TIME
                                                    BORO
        INCIDENT_KEY
                                                               PRECINCT
        2.559600e+04
                            25596
                                        25596
                                                   25596
                                                          25596.000000
count
unique
                  NaN
                              5409
                                         1411
                                                       5
                                                                    NaN
                       07/05/2020
                                                BROOKLYN
                  NaN
                                     23:30:00
                                                                    NaN
top
                  NaN
                                47
                                          171
                                                   10365
                                                                    NaN
freq
        1.123826e+08
                              NaN
                                                             65.869433
mean
                                          NaN
                                                     NaN
        6.786117e+07
                              NaN
                                          NaN
                                                     NaN
                                                             27.201904
std
min
        9.953245e+06
                              NaN
                                          NaN
                                                     NaN
                                                               1.000000
                              NaN
                                          NaN
                                                              69.000000
50%
        8.643726e+07
                                                     NaN
        2.384901e+08
                              NaN
                                          NaN
                                                     NaN
                                                             123.000000
max
        JURISDICTION CODE
                                         LOCATION DESC STATISTICAL MURDER FLAG
count
             25594.000000
                                                  10619
                                                                            25596
                                                     39
                                                                                2
                       NaN
unique
                       NaN
                            MULTI DWELL - PUBLIC HOUS
                                                                           False
top
freq
                       NaN
                                                   4559
                                                                            20668
                                                                             NaN
mean
                  0.331601
                                                    NaN
std
                  0.742266
                                                    NaN
                                                                              NaN
                  0.000000
min
                                                    NaN
                                                                             NaN
50%
                  0.000000
                                                    NaN
                                                                             NaN
max
                  2.000000
                                                    NaN
                                                                             NaN
       PERP_AGE_GROUP PERP_SEX PERP_RACE VIC_AGE_GROUP VIC_SEX VIC_RACE
                                                                              \
```

16252

count

16286

16286

25596

25596

25596

unique	9	3	7		6	3	7
top	18-24	M	BLACK	2	5-44	М	BLACK
freq	5844	14416	10668	1	1386	23182	18281
mean	NaN	NaN	NaN		NaN	NaN	NaN
std	NaN	NaN	NaN		NaN	NaN	NaN
min	NaN	NaN	NaN		NaN	NaN	NaN
50%	NaN	NaN	NaN		NaN	NaN	NaN
max	NaN	NaN	NaN		NaN	NaN	NaN
	X_COORD_CD	Y_COORD_	_CD	Latitude	Lo	ongitude	\
count	2.559600e+04	25596.0000	000 255	96.000000	25596	5.000000	
unique	NaN	1	NaN	NaN		NaN	
top	NaN	1	NaN	NaN		NaN	
freq	NaN	1	NaN	NaN		NaN	
mean	1.009455e+06	207893.7769	907	40.737250	-73	3.909039	
std	1.842142e+04	31857.3539	942	0.087447	6	0.066427	
min	9.149281e+05	125756.7187	750	40.511586	-74	1.249303	
50%	1.007715e+06	194037.7187	750	40.699128	-73	3.915346	
max	1.066815e+06	271127.687	500	40.910818	-73	3.702046	
				Lon_L	.at		
count				255	96		
unique				114	72		
top	POINT (-73.88	151014499994	4 40.671	4126050000	6)		
freq					66		
mean				N	laN		
std				N	laN		
min				N	laN		
50%				N	laN		
max				N	laN		
INCIDEN	IT_KEY	inte	54				
OCCUR_D	ATE	object					
OCCUR_T	IME	object					
BORO		objed	ct				
PRECINC	T	54					
JURISDICTION_CODE float64							
LOCATION_DESC object							
STATIST	ICAL_MURDER_FLA	AG boo	ol				
PERP_AG	iE_GROUP	objed	ct				
PERP_SE	X	objed	ct				
PERP_RACE		_	object				
VIC_AGE	_GROUP	objed					
VIC_SEX		objed					
VIC_RACE		obje					
X_COORD_CD			float64				
Y_COORD	_	floate					
Latitud		floate					
Longitu		floate					
Lon_Lat		obje	ct				
dtype:	object						

High Level Observations

The following features contain NAs:

LOCATION_DESC PERP_AGE_GROUP PERP_SEX

The OCCUR_DATE and OCCUR_TIME are object types not datetime types.

The data will be assessed for the level of NA occurances.

```
In [4]: | nullValues = [np.nan, None, [], {}, 'NaN', 'Null','NULL','None','NA','?','-', '.','',
        for c in orginalDataSet.columns:
            string_null = np.array([x in nullValues[2:] for x in orginalDataSet[c]])
             print(c, orginalDataSet[c].isnull().sum(), string_null.sum())
        INCIDENT_KEY 0 0
        OCCUR DATE 0 0
        OCCUR TIME 0 0
        BORO 0 0
        PRECINCT 0 0
        JURISDICTION_CODE 2 0
        LOCATION_DESC 14977 0
        STATISTICAL MURDER FLAG 0 0
        PERP AGE GROUP 9344 0
        PERP_SEX 9310 0
        PERP_RACE 9310 0
        VIC AGE GROUP 0 0
        VIC_SEX 0 0
        VIC RACE 0 0
        X_COORD_CD 0 0
        Y COORD CD 0 0
        Latitude 0 0
        Longitude 0 0
        Lon_Lat 0 0
        Based on the NA assessment the following features can be thrown. (NA count > 5%)
            LOCATION DESC
            PERP AGE GROUP
            PERP SEX
            PERP_RACE
```

Additionally, the following features are deemend either redundant or irrelevelyant to the analysis.

```
INCIDENT_KEY
PRECINCT
JURISDICTION_CODE
X_COORD_CD
Y_COORD_CD
Latitude
Longitude
Lon_Lat
```

```
print("Row Count: " + str(len(orginalDataSet)))
print(orginalDataSet.dtypes)
print ('')
print('NA Removal Validation')
for c in orginalDataSet.columns:
    string_null = np.array([x in nullValues[2:] for x in orginalDataSet[c]])
    print(c, orginalDataSet[c].isnull().sum(), string_null.sum())
Shape: (25596, 7)
Row Count: 25596
OCCUR DATE
                           object
OCCUR TIME
                           object
BORO
                           object
STATISTICAL_MURDER_FLAG
                            bool
VIC AGE GROUP
                           object
VIC_SEX
                           object
VIC RACE
                           object
dtype: object
NA Removal Validation
OCCUR DATE 0 0
OCCUR TIME 0 0
BORO 0 0
STATISTICAL_MURDER_FLAG 0 0
VIC AGE GROUP 0 0
VIC SEX 0 0
VIC RACE 0 0
```

The OCCUR_DATE is converted to date time object and broken into month and day features. The OCCUR_TIME feature is broken out into hours of the day

```
OCCUR TIME
                                     object
                                     object
BORO
STATISTICAL MURDER FLAG
                                       bool
VIC AGE GROUP
                                     object
VIC SEX
                                     object
VIC RACE
                                     object
hour
                                      int32
                                      int64
day
month
                                      int64
dtype: object
```

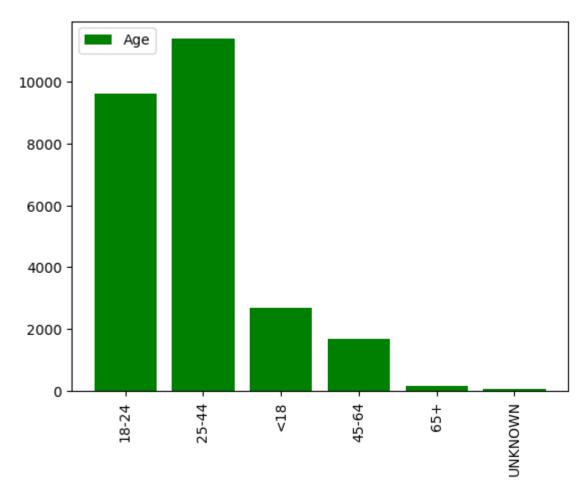
Feature Value Assesment

Feature values will be evaluated via unique value and histogram assessment for completeness and correctness.

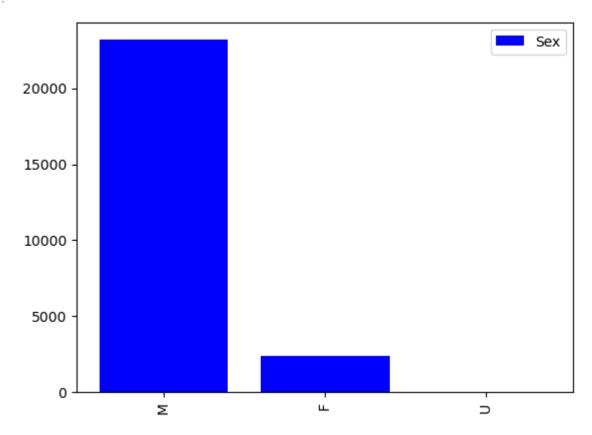
```
In [7]: boroughs = orginalDataSet.BORO.unique()
murderFlag = orginalDataSet.STATISTICAL_MURDER_FLAG.unique()
```

```
victimAgeGroup = orginalDataSet.VIC_AGE_GROUP.unique()
        victimSex = orginalDataSet.VIC_SEX.unique()
        victimRace = orginalDataSet.VIC_RACE.unique()
        print(boroughs)
        print(murderFlag)
        print(victimAgeGroup)
        print(victimSex)
        print(victimRace)
        ['BROOKLYN' 'QUEENS' 'BRONX' 'MANHATTAN' 'STATEN ISLAND']
        [False True]
        ['18-24' '25-44' '<18' '45-64' '65+' 'UNKNOWN']
        ['M' 'F' 'U']
        ['BLACK' 'ASIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER' 'BLACK HISPANIC' 'WHITE HISPANIC'
         'WHITE' 'AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE' 'UNKNOWN']
        plt.xticks(rotation='vertical')
In [8]:
        ageHistogram = list(orginalDataSet['VIC_AGE_GROUP'])
        ageDict = {x:ageHistogram.count(x) for x in ageHistogram}
        plt.bar(ageDict.keys(), ageDict.values(), color='g')
        plt.legend(['Age'], loc=2)
```

Out[8]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x1c98a1bf2b0>

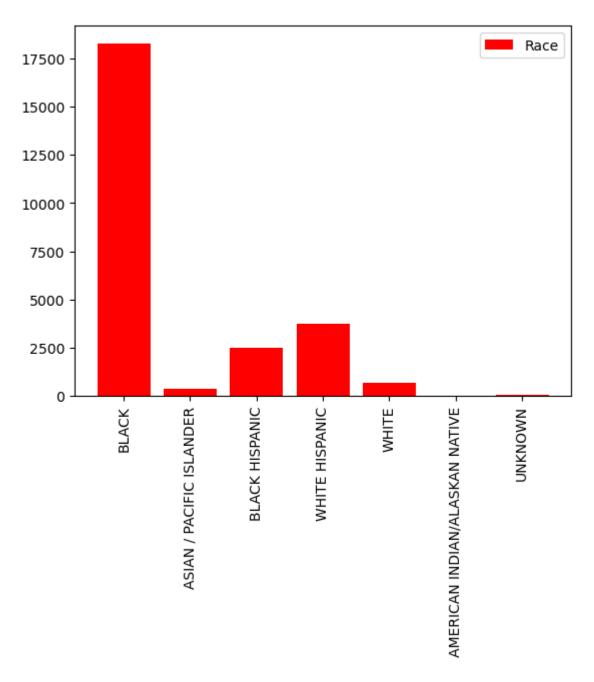


```
In [9]: plt.xticks(rotation='vertical')
    sexHistogram = list(orginalDataSet['VIC_SEX'])
    sexDict = {x:sexHistogram.count(x) for x in sexHistogram}
    plt.bar(sexDict.keys(), sexDict.values(), color='b')
    plt.legend(["Sex"], loc=1)
```



```
In [10]: plt.xticks(rotation='vertical')
    raceHistogram = list(orginalDataSet['VIC_RACE'])
    raceDict = {x:raceHistogram.count(x) for x in raceHistogram}
    plt.bar(raceDict.keys(), raceDict.values(), color='r')
    plt.legend(["Race"], loc=1)
```

Out[10]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x1c99fee2d10>



The feature value analysis showed that VIC_AGE_GROUP, VIC_SEX, VIC_RACE contained U and UNKNOWN Values. The degree to which these values impact the data set was assessed via percent of observations and the above histograms.

```
unknownAgeRows = orginalDataSet.apply(lambda x: True if x['VIC_AGE_GROUP'] == 'UNKNOWN
print('Unknown Age Rows: ' + str(len(unknownAgeRows[unknownAgeRows == True].index)))
print('Percent of Rows: ' + str(len(unknownAgeRows[unknownAgeRows == True].index)))
unknownSexRows = orginalDataSet.apply(lambda x: True if x['VIC_SEX'] == 'U' else False
print('Unknown Sex Rows: ' + str(len(unknownSexRows[unknownSexRows == True].index)))
print('Percent of Rows: ' + str(len(unknownSexRows[unknownSexRows == True].index)))
unknownRaceRows = orginalDataSet.apply(lambda x: True if x['VIC_RACE'] == 'UNKNOWN' el
print('Unknown Age Rows: ' + str(len(unknownRaceRows[unknownRaceRows == True].index)))
print('Percent of Rows: ' + str(len(unknownRaceRows[unknownRaceRows == True].index)))
```

```
Unknown Age Rows: 60
Percent of Rows: 0.0023441162681669013
Unknown Sex Rows: 11
Percent of Rows: 0.0004297546491639319
Unknown Age Rows: 65
Percent of Rows: 0.0025394592905141427
```

The results revealed that <.5% of the observations are impacted and can be removed. Removal was validated.

```
indexAge = orginalDataSet[ (orginalDataSet['VIC AGE GROUP'] == 'UNKNOWN')].index
In [9]:
        orginalDataSet.drop(indexAge, inplace=True)
        indexSex = orginalDataSet[ (orginalDataSet['VIC_SEX'] == 'U')].index
        orginalDataSet.drop(indexSex, inplace=True)
        indexRace = orginalDataSet[ (orginalDataSet['VIC RACE'] == 'UNKNOWN')].index
        orginalDataSet.drop(indexRace, inplace=True)
        #Verfiy rows removed
        victimAgeGroup = orginalDataSet.VIC_AGE_GROUP.unique()
        victimSex = orginalDataSet.VIC SEX.unique()
        victimRace = orginalDataSet.VIC_RACE.unique()
        print(victimAgeGroup)
        print(victimSex)
        print(victimRace)
        print("Row Count: " + str(len(orginalDataSet)))
        ['18-24' '25-44' '<18' '45-64' '65+']
        ['M' 'F']
        ['BLACK' 'ASIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER' 'BLACK HISPANIC' 'WHITE HISPANIC'
         'WHITE' 'AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE']
        Row Count: 25482
```

Build Classification Dataframe

With the original data set cleansed, the dataset was converted from multi-value features to binary features. The result being an increase of features from 10 to 61. For illustration purposes the first 10 rows of the classification data set are provided.

```
#month of year
for m in range(1,13):
    header = 'm' + str(m)
    classificationData[header] = [True if x == m else False for x in orginalDataSet['m']

for b in boroughs:
    classificationData[b] = [True if x == b else False for x in orginalDataSet['BORO']

for r in victimRace:
    classificationData[r] = [True if x == r else False for x in orginalDataSet['VIC_RAC']

for a in victimAgeGroup :
    classificationData[a] = [True if x == a else False for x in orginalDataSet['VIC_AC']

classificationData.info()
print(classificationData.head(10))
```

<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
Int64Index: 25482 entries, 0 to 25595
Data columns (total 61 columns):

	columns (total 61 columns):		
#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	murder	25482 non-null	bool
1	sex	25482 non-null	bool
2	d0	25482 non-null	bool
3	d1	25482 non-null	bool
4	d2	25482 non-null	bool
5	d3	25482 non-null	bool
6	d4	25482 non-null	bool
7	d5	25482 non-null	bool
8	d6	25482 non-null	bool
9	h0	25482 non-null	bool
10	h1	25482 non-null	bool
11	h2	25482 non-null	bool
12	h3	25482 non-null	bool
13	h4	25482 non-null	bool
14	h5	25482 non-null	bool
	h6		
15 16		25482 non-null	bool
16	h7	25482 non-null	bool
17	h8	25482 non-null	bool
18	h9	25482 non-null	bool
19	h10	25482 non-null	bool
20	h11	25482 non-null	bool
21	h12	25482 non-null	bool
22	h13	25482 non-null	bool
23	h14	25482 non-null	bool
24	h15	25482 non-null	bool
25	h16	25482 non-null	bool
26	h17	25482 non-null	bool
27	h18	25482 non-null	bool
28	h19	25482 non-null	bool
29	h20	25482 non-null	bool
30	h21	25482 non-null	bool
31	h22	25482 non-null	bool
32	h23	25482 non-null	bool
33	m1	25482 non-null	bool
34	m2	25482 non-null	bool
35	m3	25482 non-null	bool
36	m4	25482 non-null	bool
37	m5	25482 non-null	bool
38	m6	25482 non-null	bool
39	m7	25482 non-null	bool
40	m8	25482 non-null	bool
41	m9	25482 non-null	bool
42	m10	25482 non-null	bool
43	m11	25482 non-null	bool
44	m12	25482 non-null	bool
45	BROOKLYN	25482 non-null	bool
46	QUEENS	25482 non-null	bool
47	BRONX	25482 non-null	bool
48	MANHATTAN	25482 non-null	bool
49	STATEN ISLAND	25482 non-null	bool
50	BLACK	25482 non-null	bool
51	ASIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	25482 non-null	bool
52	BLACK HISPANIC	25482 non-null	bool
53	WHITE HISPANIC	25482 non-null	bool
54	WHITE	25482 non-null	bool

```
55
     AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE 25482 non-null
 56
     18-24
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 57
     25-44
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
     <18
 58
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 59
     45-64
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 60
     65+
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
dtypes: bool(61)
memory usage: 1.7 MB
   murder
            sex
                            d1
                                    d2
                                           d3
                                                   d4
                                                           d5
                                                                  d6
                     d0
                                                                         h0
0
    False
                                 False
                                         True
                                                False
                                                       False
                                                               False
           True
                  False
                         False
                                                                      False
1
    False
           True
                  False
                         False
                                 False
                                        False
                                                 True
                                                       False
                                                               False
                                                                      False
2
    False
           True
                  False
                         False
                                 False
                                        False
                                                False
                                                       False
                                                                True
                                                                       True
3
    False
           True
                  False
                         False
                                 False
                                        False
                                                False
                                                               False
                                                                      False
                                                        True
4
    False
           True
                  False
                          True
                                 False
                                        False
                                                False
                                                       False
                                                               False
                                                                      False
5
     True
           True
                  False
                         False
                                 False
                                        False
                                                False
                                                        True
                                                               False
                                                                       True
                                                False
     True
                  False
                         False
                                        False
6
           True
                                  True
                                                       False
                                                               False
                                                                      False
7
    False
                  False
                         False
                                 False
                                        False
                                                       False
           True
                                                 True
                                                               False
                                                                      False
    False
           True
                   True
                         False
                                 False
                                        False
                                                False
                                                       False
                                                               False
                                                                       True
8
9
     True
           True
                 False
                        False False
                                        False
                                               False
                                                       False
                                                                True
                                                                       True
   ASIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER
                              BLACK HISPANIC
                                                WHITE HISPANIC
                                                                 WHITE
0
                       False
                                        False
                                                          False
                                                                 False
1
                        True
                                        False
                                                         False
                                                                 False
2
                       False
                                        False
                                                          False
                                                                 False
3
                                        False
                                                          False
                                                                 False
                       False
4
                       False
                                        False
                                                          False
                                                                 False
5
                       False
                                        False
                                                          False
                                                                 False
6
                       False
                                        False
                                                          False
                                                                 False
7
                                                          False
                                                                 False
                       False
                                        False
8
                                                          False
                                                                 False
                       False
                                         True
9
                       False
                                        False
                                                          True
                                                                 False
   AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE
                                     18-24
                                            25-44
                                                      <18
                                                           45-64
                                                                     65+
0
                                                    False
                                      True
                                            False
                                                           False
                              False
                                                                   False
1
                              False
                                     False
                                              True
                                                    False
                                                            False
                                                                   False
2
                              False
                                     False
                                              True
                                                    False
                                                            False
                                                                   False
3
                                     False
                              False
                                              True
                                                    False
                                                            False
                                                                   False
4
                              False
                                     False
                                              True
                                                    False
                                                            False
                                                                   False
5
                                     False
                              False
                                              True
                                                    False
                                                            False
                                                                   False
6
                              False
                                      True False
                                                    False
                                                            False
                                                                   False
7
                              False
                                     False
                                              True
                                                    False
                                                            False
                                                                   False
8
                              False
                                     False
                                              True False
                                                           False False
                              False
                                    False
                                              True False
                                                           False False
```

[10 rows x 61 columns]

Analysis

Models and Training

Train and test data sets were generated (75% train / 25% test) and the three models built with their respective outputs provided. The KNN model was assessed for 20 differen k values beginning at 2. The Random Forest and Gradient Boost models were evaluated for 20 different learner values ranging from 25 to 500, at intervals of 50. Accuracy and computation times were collected for each model at each of the conditions.

Each models was evaluated at 20 different condition sets to facilitate a side by side comparison of classification accurracy and runtime.

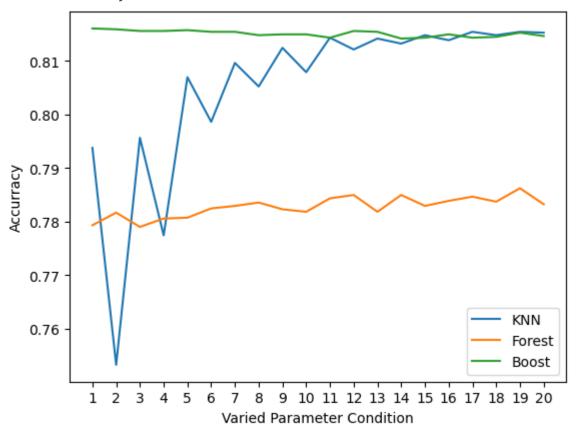
The results of the evaluations are shown below.

```
In [11]: y = classificationData['murder']
         X = classificationData.drop(['murder'], axis = 1)
         X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size = 0.25, random_sta
          dfAccuracy = pd.DataFrame()
          dfTimes = pd.DataFrame()
         #KNN Evaluation
          knnStartTime = time.time()
          knnScores = [None]
          knnTimes =[None]
          for k in range(2, 22):
             knn = KNeighborsClassifier(n neighbors=k)
             knn.fit(X_train, y_train)
             knnPredictions = knn.predict(X_test)
             knnScores.append(metrics.accuracy_score(y_test, knnPredictions))
             knnTimes.append(time.time() - knnStartTime)
         dfAccuracy['KNN'] = knnScores
          dfTimes['KNN'] = knnTimes
         #Random Forest
         forestStartTime = time.time()
         estimators = [25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 275, 300, 325, 350, 375,
          forestScores = [None]
          forestTimes = [None]
          for e in estimators:
             forest = RandomForestClassifier(n estimators=e)
             forest.fit(X_train, y_train)
             forestPredictions = forest.predict(X test)
             forestScores.append(metrics.accuracy_score(y_test, forestPredictions))
             forestTimes.append(time.time() - forestStartTime)
         dfAccuracy['Forest'] = forestScores
          dfTimes['Forest'] = forestTimes
         #Gradient Boost
          boostStartTime = time.time()
          boostScores = [None]
          boostTimes = [None]
          for e in estimators:
             boost = GradientBoostingClassifier(n_estimators=e)
             boost.fit(X train, y train)
             boostPredictions = boost.predict(X_test)
             boostScores.append(metrics.accuracy score(y test, boostPredictions))
              boostTimes.append(time.time() - boostStartTime)
          dfAccuracy['Boost'] = boostScores
          dfTimes['Boost'] = boostTimes
```

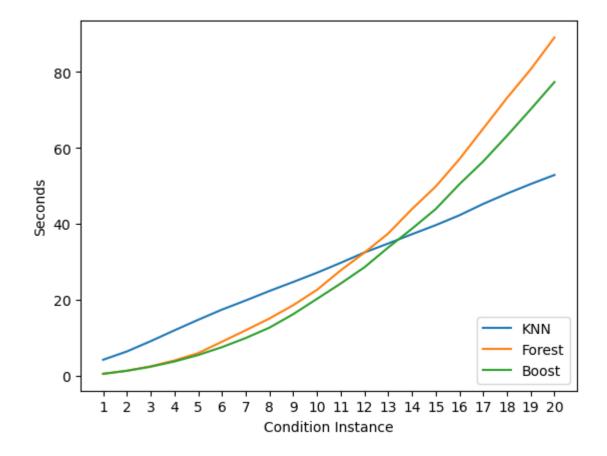
```
print("Table1: Accuracy Scores")
         print(dfAccuracy)
         print('')
         print("Table2: Computation Times (seconds)")
         print(dfTimes)
         Table1: Accuracy Scores
                 KNN
                        Forest
                                   Boost
         0
                 NaN
                           NaN
                                     NaN
         1
            0.793753 0.779313 0.816041
         2
            0.753257 0.781667 0.815884
         3
             0.795636 0.778999 0.815571
         4
            0.777429 0.780568 0.815571
         5
            0.806938 0.780725 0.815728
            0.798619 0.782452 0.815414
         6
         7
             0.809606 0.782923 0.815414
         8
            0.805211 0.783550 0.814786
         9
             0.812431 0.782295 0.814943
         10 0.807879 0.781824 0.814943
         11 0.814315 0.784335 0.814315
         12 0.812117 0.784963 0.815571
         13 0.814158 0.781824 0.815414
         14 0.813216 0.784963 0.814158
         15 0.814786 0.782923 0.814315
         16 0.813844 0.783864 0.814943
         17 0.815414 0.784649 0.814315
         18 0.814786 0.783707 0.814472
         19 0.815414 0.786219 0.815257
         20 0.815257 0.783237 0.814629
         Table2: Computation Times (seconds)
                  KNN
                          Forest
                                      Boost
         0
                  NaN
                             NaN
                                        NaN
         1
             4.150854
                        0.453202
                                  0.438048
         2
             6.338213
                        1.232533
                                  1.254602
         3
             9.044696
                        2.414008
                                   2.316445
         4
            11.897177
                        3.955795
                                   3.690711
         5
            14.679410
                        5.905917
                                   5.400847
         6
                       8.900021
            17.361629
                                  7.465702
         7
            19.771153 11.916579
                                   9.870031
         8
            22.277524 15.020473 12.607264
         9
            24.649970 18.526683 16.161250
         10 27.080641 22.573222 20.194409
         11 29.699369
                       27.721518 24.242798
         12 32.423681 32.381730 28.524155
         13 34.795897 37.425014 33.738252
         14 37.240925 43.865817
                                  38.676113
         15 39.629192 49.807590 43.874922
         16 42.235077 57.031243 50.426766
         17 45.234476 65.078231 56.431689
         18 47.940352
                       73.142348
                                  63.171523
         19 50.473495
                       80.695335
                                  70.170099
         20 52.857408 89.099107 77.346224
         Plots were generated to compare models.
 In [ ]:
         xLabels = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20]
In [12]:
```

```
print('Plot 1: Accuracy Plot')
plt.plot(dfAccuracy['KNN'])
plt.plot(dfAccuracy['Forest'])
plt.plot(dfAccuracy['Boost'])
plt.xlabel('Varied Parameter Condition')
plt.ylabel('Accurracy')
plt.legend(['KNN', 'Forest', 'Boost'], loc=4)
plt.xticks(xLabels)
plt.show()
print('Plot 2: Computation Time Plot')
plt.plot(dfTimes['KNN'])
plt.plot(dfTimes['Forest'])
plt.plot(dfTimes['Boost'])
plt.xlabel('Condition Instance')
plt.ylabel('Seconds')
plt.legend(['KNN', 'Forest', 'Boost'], loc=4)
plt.xticks(xLabels)
plt.show()
```

Plot 1: Accuracy Plot



Plot 2: Computation Time Plot

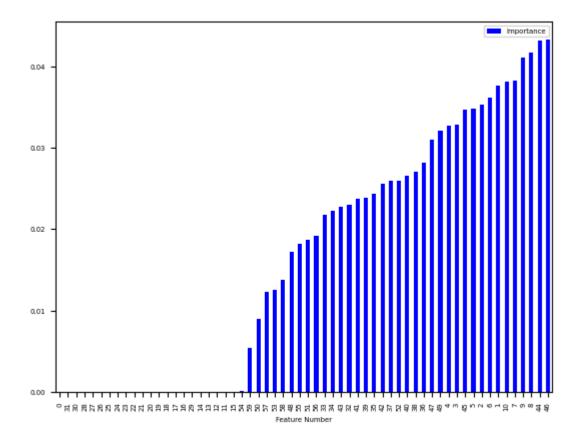


Feature Importance

A features importance test was performed on the dataset to assess the relevence of the 61 features and to provide insight into model performance.

```
In [19]: featureImportanceForest = RandomForestClassifier(n_estimators=300)
    featureImportanceForest.fit(X_train, y_train)
    featureImportance = featureImportanceForest.feature_importances_
    importantanceDf = pd.DataFrame({"Feature": pd.DataFrame(X_train).columns, "Importance'
    importantanceDf.set_index('Importance')
    importantanceDf = importantanceDf.sort_values('Importance')
    importantanceDf.plot.bar(color = 'blue')
    plt.xlabel('Feature Number')
    plt.rc('font', size=6)
    plt.show
```

Out[19]: <function matplotlib.pyplot.show(close=None, block=None)>



The feature importance assessment showed that sex and most of the hours of the day have no impact on the model. These features will be removed and the models run with the reduced feature set. For illustration purposes the first 10 rows of the classification data set are provided.

```
In [17]: featuresZeroImportance = importantanceDf[importantanceDf['Importance'] < .0001]
    print(featuresZeroImportance)
    featuresToRemove = list(featuresZeroImportance['Feature'])
    print(featuresToRemove)

print('Create Important Feature Dataframe')
    dfInportantFeatures = classificationData.drop(featuresToRemove, axis = 1)
    dfInportantFeatures.info()
    print(dfInportantFeatures.head(10))</pre>
```

```
0
       sex
                    0.0
31
       h23
                    0.0
30
       h22
                    0.0
28
       h20
                    0.0
27
       h19
                    0.0
26
       h18
                    0.0
25
       h17
                    0.0
24
       h16
                    0.0
23
       h15
                    0.0
22
       h14
                    0.0
21
       h13
                    0.0
20
                    0.0
       h12
19
       h11
                    0.0
18
       h10
                    0.0
17
        h9
                    0.0
16
        h8
                    0.0
29
       h21
                    0.0
14
        h6
                    0.0
13
        h5
                    0.0
12
        h4
                    0.0
11
        h3
                    0.0
15
        h7
                    0.0
['sex', 'h23', 'h22', 'h20', 'h19', 'h18', 'h17', 'h16', 'h15', 'h14', 'h13', 'h12',
'h11', 'h10', 'h9', 'h8', 'h21', 'h6', 'h5', 'h4', 'h3', 'h7']
Create Important Feature Dataframe
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
Int64Index: 25482 entries, 0 to 25595
Data columns (total 39 columns):
                                       Non-Null Count Dtype
#
     Column
---
     _____
                                       -----
                                                        ____
     murder
 0
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 1
     d0
                                       25482 non-null
 2
     d1
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 3
     d2
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 4
     d3
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 5
     d4
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 6
     d5
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 7
                                       25482 non-null
     d6
                                                        bool
 8
     h0
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 9
     h1
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 10
     h2
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 11
     m1
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 12
     m2
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 13
                                       25482 non-null
     m3
                                                        bool
 14
     m4
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 15
                                       25482 non-null
     m5
                                                        bool
 16
     m6
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 17
     m7
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
                                       25482 non-null
 18
     m8
                                                        bool
 19
     m9
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
                                       25482 non-null
 20
     m10
                                                        bool
 21
     m11
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 22
     m12
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 23
     BROOKLYN
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 24
     OUEENS
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 25
     BRONX
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 26
     MANHATTAN
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
 27
     STATEN ISLAND
                                       25482 non-null
                                                        bool
```

25482 non-null

bool

Feature Importance

28

BLACK

```
ASIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER
                                     25482 non-null
                                                     bool
 30
    BLACK HISPANIC
                                     25482 non-null
                                                     bool
 31
    WHITE HISPANIC
                                     25482 non-null
                                                     bool
 32
    WHITE
                                     25482 non-null
                                                     bool
    AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE
                                     25482 non-null
 33
                                                     bool
 34
    18-24
                                     25482 non-null
                                                     bool
 35
    25-44
                                     25482 non-null
                                                     bool
 36
    <18
                                     25482 non-null
                                                     bool
 37
     45-64
                                     25482 non-null
                                                     bool
 38
    65+
                                     25482 non-null
                                                     bool
dtypes: bool(39)
memory usage: 1.1 MB
   murder
                                   d3
                                                 d5
                                                        d6
              d0
                     d1
                            d2
                                          d4
                                                               h0
                                                                      h1
0
    False False False
                        False
                                 True
                                      False
                                              False
                                                     False
                                                            False
                                                                    True
                                                                          . . .
1
    False
           False
                 False
                         False
                                False
                                        True
                                              False
                                                     False
                                                            False
                                                                   False
          False False
    False
                                False
                                              False
2
                        False
                                      False
                                                      True
                                                             True
                                                                   False
          False
3
    False
                 False
                        False
                                False
                                       False
                                               True
                                                     False
                                                            False
                                                                    True
4
    False
           False
                        False
                                False
                                       False False
                                                     False
                                                            False
                   True
                                                                   False
5
     True
          False False
                        False
                                False False
                                               True
                                                     False
                                                             True
                                                                   False
    True
6
           False False
                                False
                                      False
                                             False
                                                     False
                                                            False
                          True
                                                                   False
7
    False
           False False
                        False
                                False
                                        True False
                                                     False
                                                            False
                                                                    True
    False
           True False
                               False False False
                                                             True False
8
                        False
                                                     False
9
     True False False False
                               False False False
                                                      True
                                                             True False
                                                                          . . .
   ASIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER BLACK HISPANIC WHITE HISPANIC
                                                             WHITE
0
                      False
                                      False
                                                      False False
1
                       True
                                      False
                                                      False False
2
                      False
                                      False
                                                      False
                                                             False
3
                                                      False False
                      False
                                      False
4
                      False
                                      False
                                                      False False
5
                      False
                                      False
                                                      False False
6
                      False
                                      False
                                                      False False
7
                      False
                                      False
                                                      False False
                                                      False False
8
                      False
                                       True
9
                      False
                                      False
                                                       True False
   AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE
                                   18-24 25-44
                                                   <18
                                                        45-64
                                                                 65+
0
                            False
                                    True False
                                                 False
                                                        False
                                                               False
1
                            False
                                  False
                                           True
                                                 False
                                                        False
                                                               False
2
                            False
                                   False
                                           True
                                                 False
                                                        False
                                                               False
3
                            False
                                   False
                                           True
                                                 False
                                                        False
                                                               False
4
                            False
                                  False
                                           True False
                                                        False False
5
                            False
                                  False
                                           True False
                                                        False False
6
                            False
                                    True False
                                                 False
                                                        False
                                                               False
7
                            False False
                                           True False False False
8
                            False False
                                           True False False False
9
                            False False
                                           True False False False
```

[10 rows x 39 columns]

Reduced Feature Sets

Results of the models deployed with the reduced feature sets were compared.

```
In [18]: y = dfInportantFeatures['murder']
X = dfInportantFeatures.drop(['murder'], axis = 1)
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size = 0.25, random_stakenImportantFeaturesStartTime = time.time()
```

```
knnImportantFeatuesScores = [None]
knnImportantFeatuesTimes = [None]
for k in range(2, 22):
   knn = KNeighborsClassifier(n neighbors=k)
   knn.fit(X_train, y_train)
   knnImportantFeatuesPredictions = knn.predict(X test)
   knnImportantFeatuesScores.append(metrics.accuracy_score(y_test, knnImportantFeatue
    knnImportantFeatuesTimes.append(time.time() - knnImportantFeatuesStartTime)
dfAccuracy['IF KNN'] = knnImportantFeatuesScores
dfTimes['IF KNN'] = knnImportantFeatuesTimes
forestImportantFeatuesStartTime = time.time()
forestImportantFeaturesScores = [None]
forestImportantFeaturesTimes = [None]
for e in estimators:
   forest = RandomForestClassifier(n estimators=e)
   forest.fit(X train, y train)
   forestImportantFeatuesPredictions = forest.predict(X_test)
   forestImportantFeaturesScores.append(metrics.accuracy_score(y_test, forestImportant
   forestImportantFeaturesTimes.append(time.time() - forestImportantFeaturesStartTime)
dfAccuracy['IF_Forest'] = forestImportantFeaturesScores
dfTimes['IF_Forest'] = forestImportantFeaturesTimes
boostImportantFeatuesStartTime = time.time()
boostImportantFeaturesScores = [None]
boostImportantFeaturesTimes = [None]
for e in estimators:
   boost = GradientBoostingClassifier(n estimators=e)
   boost.fit(X_train, y_train)
   boostImportantFeaturesPredictions = boost.predict(X test)
   boostImportantFeaturesScores.append(metrics.accuracy_score(y_test, boostImportantF
   boostImportantFeaturesTimes.append(time.time() - boostImportantFeaturesStartTime)
dfAccuracy['IF_Boost'] = boostImportantFeaturesScores
dfTimes['IF_Boost'] = boostImportantFeaturesTimes
print("Table 3: Accuracy Scores")
print(dfAccuracy)
print("")
print("Table 4: Computation Times (seconds)")
print(dfTimes)
```

Table 3: Accuracy Scores IF KNN KNN Forest Boost IF Forest IF Boost 0 NaN NaN NaN NaN NaN NaN 0.793753 0.774133 0.816041 0.793753 0.777429 0.816198 1 2 0.753257 0.779156 0.815884 0.753257 0.780882 0.816041 3 0.795636 0.780411 0.815571 0.795636 0.778214 0.815571 4 0.777429 0.780411 0.815571 0.777429 0.779469 0.815571 5 0.806938 0.779469 0.815728 0.806938 0.778528 0.815884 6 0.798619 0.782295 0.815414 0.798619 0.781039 0.815414 7 0.809606 0.783080 0.815257 0.809606 0.781510 0.815414 8 0.805211 0.781196 0.814786 0.805211 0.782452 0.815100 9 0.812431 0.782138 0.814943 0.812431 0.783394 0.814786 10 0.807879 0.781981 0.814472 0.807879 0.785748 0.814943 11 0.814315 0.781510 0.815257 0.814315 0.782452 0.814786 12 0.812117 0.781667 0.814472 0.812117 0.780882 0.815414 13 0.814158 0.784649 0.814472 0.814158 0.783864 0.815414 0.813216 0.783080 0.814158 0.813216 0.782923 0.814472 14 15 0.814786 0.783707 0.814943 0.814786 0.783237 0.814786 16 0.813844 0.782452 0.815257 0.813844 0.784649 0.814315 17 0.815414 0.785120 0.814943 0.815414 0.784963 0.815100 18 0.814786 0.784178 0.814943 0.814786 0.784806 0.814943 19 0.815414 0.783394 0.815257 0.815414 0.786062 0.814943 20 0.815257 0.785120 0.814629 0.815257 0.783550 0.814629

Table 4: Computation Times (seconds)							
		KNN	Forest	Boost	IF_KNN	<pre>IF_Forest</pre>	IF_Boost
	0	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
	1	7.143708	0.494018	0.520737	2.190519	0.626532	0.516487
	2	9.678371	1.529175	1.381484	4.592006	1.476287	1.293379
	3	12.724357	3.270172	2.563129	7.257660	3.469318	2.381472
	4	15.582071	5.605014	4.182911	10.135032	5.855485	3.905216
	5	19.260036	7.912961	6.162511	13.744112	8.200517	6.322040
	6	21.945208	10.599072	8.640114	16.808591	10.894904	8.654711
	7	24.478692	13.663767	11.422848	19.499914	14.007270	11.419767
	8	27.133781	17.325108	15.155066	22.140889	18.047600	15.206410
	9	29.826973	22.468794	18.891805	24.749639	22.577338	18.911994
	10	32.867790	26.957742	22.830912	27.777923	26.976693	22.770627
	11	35.670117	31.757662	27.107825	30.945665	32.102499	26.881984
	12	38.283276	38.166832	32.518307	34.230172	38.505718	32.193462
	13	40.954995	44.071745	37.630870	36.888635	44.167713	37.261700
	14	43.759811	50.467853	43.223540	39.675961	50.681957	42.646202
	15	46.516842	57.868544	49.866562	42.316915	58.378937	49.264624
	16	49.623553	65.021986	56.252465	45.573926	65.453766	55.416774
	17	52.361191	74.006140	63.896537	48.750888	74.013451	62.156178
	18	55.000636	82.433630	71.015882	51.402350	82.458524	69.616832
	19	57.562840	91.629969	79.505557	54.225662	91.913945	76.916451
	20	60.160380	101.581423	87.517169	57.163086	101.413854	85.863353

Reduced Feature Plots

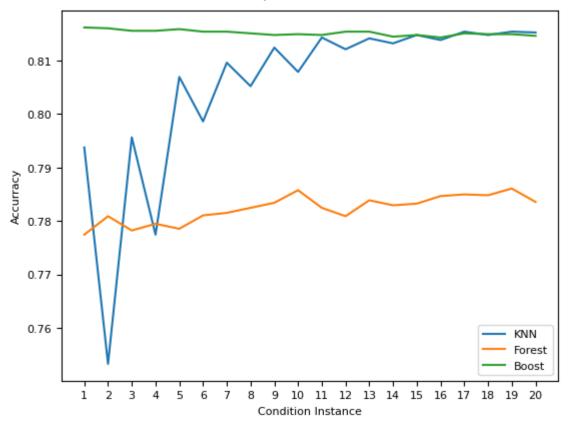
```
In [20]: plt.rc('font', size=8)

print('Plot 3: Reduced Feature Set Accuracy Plot')
plt.plot(dfAccuracy['IF_KNN'])
plt.plot(dfAccuracy['IF_Forest'])
plt.plot(dfAccuracy['IF_Boost'])
plt.xlabel('Condition Instance')
plt.ylabel('Accurracy')
plt.legend(['KNN', 'Forest', 'Boost'], loc=4)
```

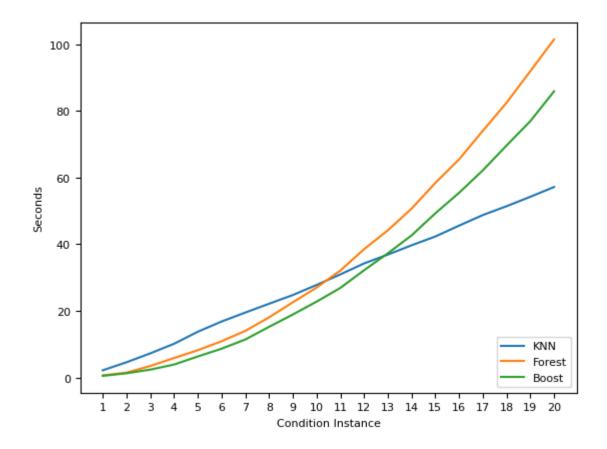
```
plt.xticks(xLabels)
plt.show()

print('Plot 4: Reduced Feature Set Computation Time Plot')
plt.plot(dfTimes['IF_KNN'])
plt.plot(dfTimes['IF_Forest'])
plt.plot(dfTimes['IF_Boost'])
plt.xlabel('Condition Instance')
plt.ylabel('Seconds')
plt.legend(['KNN', 'Forest', 'Boost'], loc=4)
plt.xticks(xLabels)
plt.show()
```

Plot 3: Reduced Feature Set Accuracy Plot



Plot 4: Reduced Feature Set Computation Time Plot

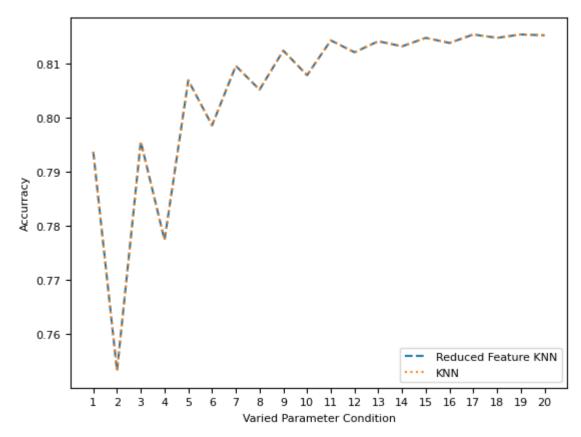


Plots were generated for each model comparing perfromance between the data sets

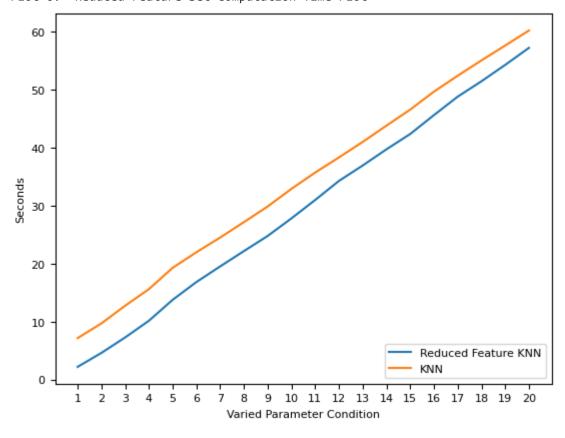
KNN Plots

```
print('Plot 5: KNN Comparison Accuracy Plot')
In [22]:
         plt.plot(dfAccuracy['IF_KNN'], linestyle='dashed')
         plt.plot(dfAccuracy['KNN'], linestyle='dotted')
         plt.xlabel('Varied Parameter Condition')
         plt.ylabel('Accurracy')
         plt.legend(['Reduced Feature KNN','KNN'], loc=4)
         plt.xticks(xLabels)
         plt.show()
         print('Plot 6: Reduced Feature Set Computation Time Plot')
         plt.plot(dfTimes['IF_KNN'])
         plt.plot(dfTimes['KNN'])
         plt.xlabel('Varied Parameter Condition')
         plt.ylabel('Seconds')
         plt.legend(['Reduced Feature KNN', 'KNN'], loc=4)
         plt.xticks(xLabels)
         plt.show()
```

Plot 5: KNN Comparison Accuracy Plot



Plot 6: Reduced Feature Set Computation Time Plot



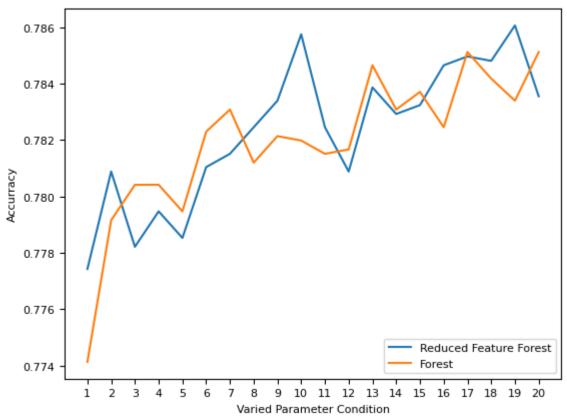
Random Forest Plots

```
In [23]: print('Plot 7: Reduced Feature Set Accuracy Plot')
   plt.plot(dfAccuracy['IF_Forest'])
```

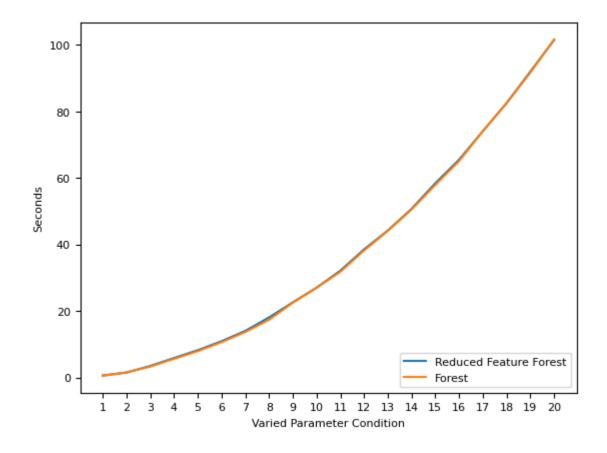
```
plt.plot(dfAccuracy['Forest'])
plt.xlabel('Varied Parameter Condition')
plt.ylabel('Accurracy')
plt.legend(['Reduced Feature Forest', 'Forest'], loc=4)
plt.xticks(xLabels)
plt.show()

print('Plot 8: Reduced Feature Set Computation Time Plot')
plt.plot(dfTimes['IF_Forest'])
plt.plot(dfTimes['Forest'])
plt.xlabel('Varied Parameter Condition')
plt.ylabel('Seconds')
plt.legend(['Reduced Feature Forest', 'Forest'], loc=4)
plt.xticks(xLabels)
plt.show()
```

Plot 7: Reduced Feature Set Accuracy Plot



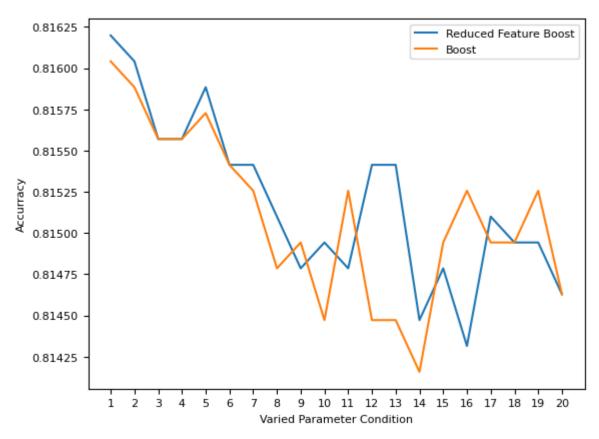
Plot 8: Reduced Feature Set Computation Time Plot



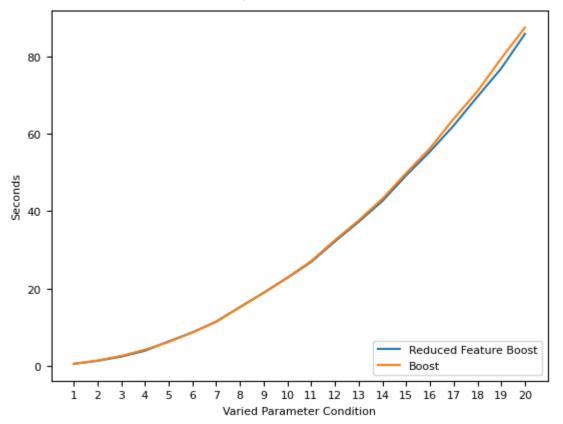
Gradient Decent Plots

```
In [24]:
         print('Plot 9: Reduced Feature Set Accuracy Plot')
         plt.plot(dfAccuracy['IF_Boost'])
         plt.plot(dfAccuracy['Boost'])
         plt.xlabel('Varied Parameter Condition')
         plt.ylabel('Accurracy')
         plt.legend(['Reduced Feature Boost', 'Boost'], loc=1)
         plt.xticks(xLabels)
         plt.show()
         print('Plot 10: Reduced Feature Set Computation Time Plot')
         plt.plot(dfTimes['IF_Boost'])
         plt.plot(dfTimes['Boost'])
         plt.xlabel('Varied Parameter Condition')
         plt.ylabel('Seconds')
         plt.legend(['Reduced Feature Boost', 'Boost'], loc=4)
         plt.xticks(xLabels)
         plt.show()
```

Plot 9: Reduced Feature Set Accuracy Plot



Plot 10: Reduced Feature Set Computation Time Plot



Discusion

Accuracy

Table 1 and Plot 1 provide a comparison of model accuracy based on the original data set of 61 features. The plot shows that the KNN and Boost models performed similarly. Both models resulted in an ultimate classification accuracy of 81%. The difference between the two models being that the Gradient Boost arrived at the 81% accuracy much more quickly than the KNN model. The Random Forest model performed the worst out of the three with its accuracy topping out at ~78%. Similar to the Gradient Boost model, the Random Forest the accuracy levels were arrived at more quickly than the KNN model.

The feature importance method from the Random Forest classifier showed that approximately 22 of the 61 features had no impact on the models. The features removed were the victim sex and the vast majority of the hours of the day. This makes sense since most of the murders occurred in the midnight and early morning hours and male victims far outweighed female victims. Expectations were that the models would perform better with the feature reduction. The models were rebuilt and run on the reduced feature set.

Table 3 and Plots 3, 5, 7 and 9 detail the accuracy comparisons between models, as well as individual model comparisons between feature set sizes. Expectations were that the accuracy would improve given the reduced feature set, however this was not the case. For all three models the accuracy between the feature set sizes were virtually identical. The KNN model resulted in an exact overlay and the tree models had minimal variations. These variations can be attributed to the randomness in the training and test sets used in the individual tree for each model.

Although not initially expected, the tracking of the accuracies between feature set sizes makes sense. For the KNN model, the unimportant features would have never fallen in the nearest neighbor group from the offset. They would reside outside the group as they had no influence on the model.

As for the tree models, the unimportant features would have been pruned out very early in the process, again with no influence on the model, removing them had no impact on the accuracy. Furthermore, the fact that the unimportant features were removed from the tree models in early in the classification, that explains why the variance in accuracy in those models was less than the KNN model. The KNN model had to progress through all ks looking at all points, whereas the tree models eliminate unimportant features from the offset.

Computational Time

Table 2 and Plot 2 provide insight into the computational resources, in terms of computation time, required for each model based on the original 61 features. The KNN model performed worst in the lower condition (lower k) state than both the Random Forest and Gradient Boost Models. However, at the k~12 and learner count of ~300 all three models required about the same computational resources. This was the crossover point where the KNN model began to outperform the tree models requiring less resources as the k value and number of learners increased.

Table 4 and plots 4, 6, 8 and 10 provide a view of the computational resources required across and within models based on the feature set sizes. The results of these comparisons were more in line with initial expectations. Plot 4 shows that the comparison between models at the reduced feature set size had very similar shapes. However, the computational resources, as expected, were reduced by 17%, 21% and 30% for the KNN, Random Forest and Gradient Boost models respectively.

Plots 6, 8 and 10 provide a side by side comparison for each of the models. These plots clearly show the reduction on computational resources required for the reduced feature set size. Additionally, the magnitude of the changes falls in line with expectations. The KNN model still had to calculate up to 20 nearest neighbors, just with a reduced feature set, still fairly expensive as k grows. On the other hand, the tree models benefitted more from the reduced feature set size because the pruning did not have to initially remove the unimportant features and was thus able to get to the optimal condition more quickly.

Enhancements

One question that arises is how the conversion from multi-variable features to binary features impacted the outcome of this study. The ideal model contains a minimal number of features required to arrive at optimal performance. In this case, the move to binary features was purely for educational and experimental purposes. It would be very interesting to compare the current results to results using the original multi-value feature set. Forward or backward stepwise regression could be employed to identify the optimal feature set and then compare classification metrics between the two different approaches.

Conclusion

In the end, this project provided both expected and unexpected results. Classification accuracy comparisons were within expectations between models. All three models arrived at accuracies right around 80%. What was interesting was that the tree models converged to their maximum accuracy much more quickly than the KNN model. This is not surprising given the pruning characteristics in the tree models versus the iterative nature of the KNN model.

The reduction in computational resources based on the reduced feature set also fell in line with expectations. Reduction in the number of features resulted in on average a 23% decrease in computational resources.

Unexpected outcomes based on initial assumptions were the impacts (or lack of impact) based on the removal of the unimportant features. Initial expectations were that removing unimportant features would potentially promote increased accuracy. This was not the case but easily explainable once the structure of the models was considered.

When comparing all three models based on accuracy and resource requirements combined, the Gradient Boost model provided the best performance. The Gradient Boost model reached the highest accuracy while requiring the least amount of resources to get there. The KNN and Random Forest models were comparable. The KNN model provided a bit more accuracy but

required more resources than the Random Forest. On the other hand, the Random Forest arrived at its optimal accuracy more quickly than the KNN model, but suffered from a slightly degraded accuracy level.