

# THE ROGER-EBERT BOT

Predicting the Renowned Late Movie Critic's Rating

Presented by: Crystal Huang  
Metis Bootcamp Project II

# INTRODUCTION

## Who is Roger Ebert?

- Legendary film critic
- Passed away in 2013 after battling with cancer for years
- Fun fact: the only film critic with a star on Hollywood Boulevard Walk of Fame

CAN WE PREDICT HOW ROGER EBERT  
WOULD RATE MOVIES  
IF HE WERE ALIVE TODAY?



## Why is his review important?

- Balanced reviews that appreciate a movie's virtues and identify its faults
- Reviewed over 7,000 movies in 24 years of his career

## Who'd find his reviews useful?

- Movie lovers, movie critics community, directors, entertainment industry

# TOOLS



python™

Language

BeautifulSoup



Web-scraping



pandas



NumPy

Data manipulation



matplotlib

seaborn

Plot graphs



learn

statsmodels

Modeling & Testing

# METHODOLOGY

Data Acquisition  
& Cleaning

EDA,  
Feature Engineering  
& Selection

Train & Evaluate Model  
(Model Selection)

## PRIMARY:

- Roger Ebert Reviews Website:  
<https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews>

## SECONDARY:

- MovieLens movie dataset  
from Kaggle (IMDb ID)
- IMDb.com
  - scrap more features



- Original data: 7847 datapoints  
6 features
- Final data: 2191 datapoints,  
11 features

Opening Weekend USA: \$157,115, 1 August 2013  
Gross USA: \$6,854,611  
Cumulative Worldwide Gross: \$6,918,591  
See more on IMDbPro »

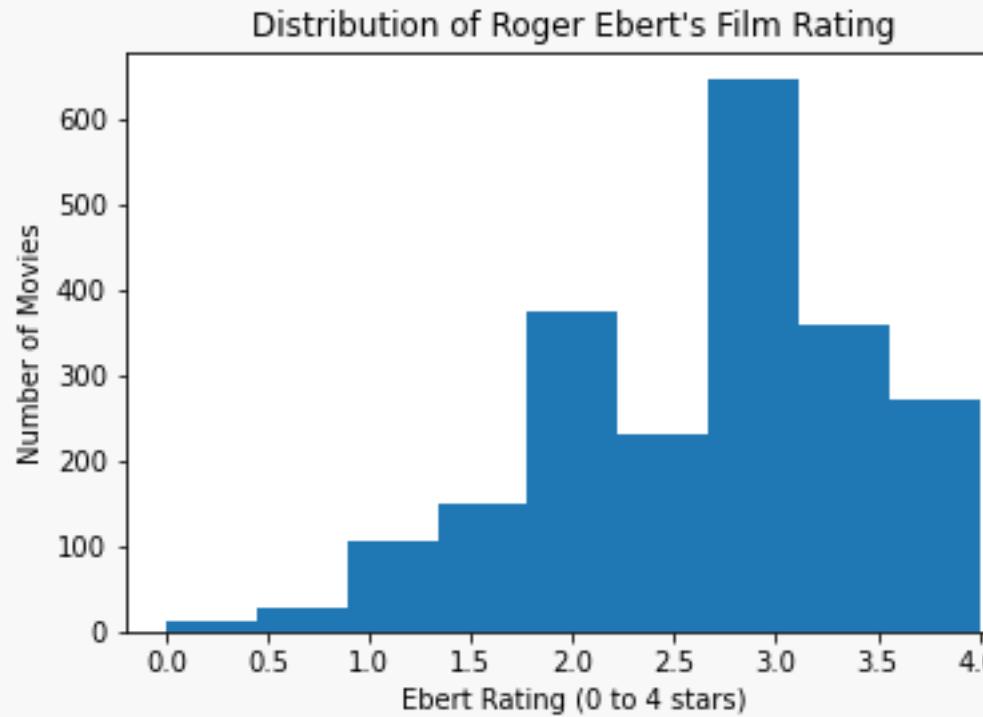
# METHODOLOGY

Data Acquisition  
& Cleaning

EDA,  
Feature Engineering  
& Selection

Train & Evaluate Model  
(Model Selection)

**TARGET:**  
Ebert Rating



Least Amount  
of Ratings



Most Amount  
of Ratings



# METHODOLOGY

Data Acquisition  
& Cleaning

EDA,  
Feature Engineering  
& Selection

Train & Evaluate Model  
(Model Selection)

**TARGET:**  
Ebert Rating

Year

MPAA Rating

Runtime

Genre

Sub-genre

MovieLens  
Rating

IMDb Rating

Budget

Worldwide  
Gross

Domestic Gross

Opening Week  
Gross

# METHODOLOGY

Data Acquisition  
& Cleaning

EDA,  
Feature Engineering  
& Selection

Train & Evaluate Model  
(Model Selection)

**TARGET:**  
Ebert Rating

Year

MPAA Rating

Runtime

Genre

Sub-genre

MovieLens  
Rating

IMDb Rating

Budget

Worldwide  
Gross

Domestic Gross

Opening Week  
Gross

Genre  
dummies

Sub-genre  
dummies

MPAA Rating  
dummies

Opening Gross  
Proportion

# METHODOLOGY

Data Acquisition  
& Cleaning

EDA,  
Feature Engineering  
& Selection

Train & Evaluate Model  
(Model Selection)

**TARGET:**  
Ebert Rating

Year

MPAA Rating

Runtime

Genre

Sub-genre

MovieLens  
Rating

IMDb Rating

Budget

Worldwide  
Gross

Domestic Gross

Opening Week  
Gross

Genre  
dummies

Sub-genre  
dummies

MPAA Rating  
dummies

Opening Gross  
Proportion

**65 Features**

# METHODOLOGY

## BASELINE MODEL

	EBERT_RATING	R-squared:
OLS	Adj. R-squared:	0.382
Least Squares	F-statistic:	0.379

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2021 Prob (F-statistic): 2.37e-220

Time: 11:59:05 Log-Likelihood: -2307.0

No. Observations: 2189 AIC: 4634.

Df Residuals: 2179 BIC: 4691.

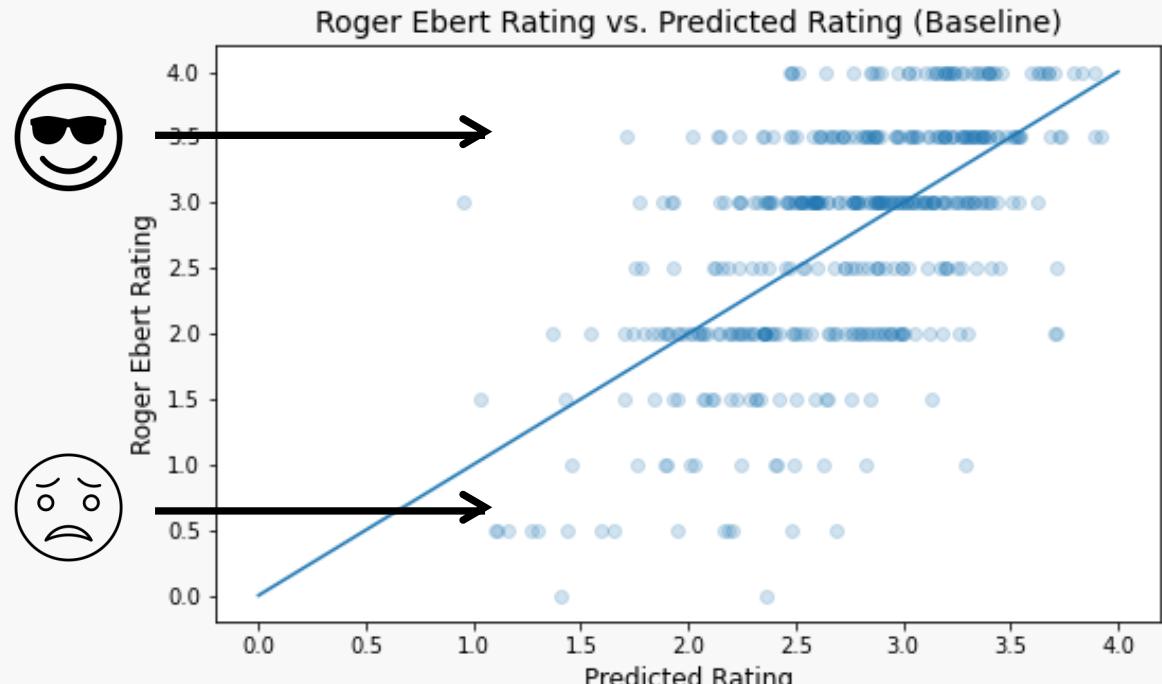
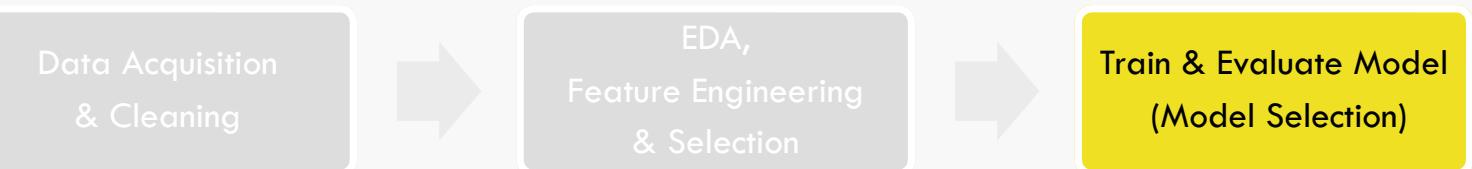
Df Model: 9

Covariance Type: nonrobust

	coef	std err	P> t	0.025	0.975
const	-0.3164	0.159	-1.99	0.046	0.627
MOVIELENS_RATING	0.6912	0.082	8.46	0.000	0.531
IMDB_RATING	0.1379	0.044	3.16	0.002	0.052
RUNTIME	0.0024	0.001	2.86	0.004	0.001
MPAA_R	-0.1555	0.066	-2.35	0.019	0.285
OPEN_PROPORTION	-0.7848	0.125	-6.27	0.000	1.030
GENRE_Comedy	-0.2646	0.066	-4.01	0.000	0.394
MPAA_PG-13	-0.2265	0.068	-3.33	0.001	0.360
GENRE_Science Fiction	-0.1522	0.051	-2.97	0.003	0.252
MPAA_PG	-0.1505	0.072	-2.09	0.036	0.291

Omnibus:	93.423	Durbin-Watson:	2.046
Prob(Omnibus):	0.000	Jarque-Bera (JB):	104.986
Skew:	-0.513	Prob(JB):	1.59e-23
Kurtosis:	3.314	Cond. No.	1.34e+03

9 features with  
p-values <0.05



## CAN I IMPROVE MY MODEL?

# METHODOLOGY

Data Acquisition  
& Cleaning

EDA,  
Feature Engineering  
& Selection

Train & Evaluate Model  
(Model Selection)

## Cross Validation on Each Model (Baseline)

Model Type	R <sup>2</sup> (Validation)	RSME	MAE
Simple Linear Regression	0.368 +- 0.010	0.682	0.561
Ridge	0.368 +- 0.010	0.682	0.561
LASSO	0.368 +- 0.009	0.684	0.563
Polynomial	0.346 +- 0.017	0.691	0.570

- R-squared values are **close and low** between models and between train and validation sets (except for Polynomial)
- Suggests that the models may be **underfitting**

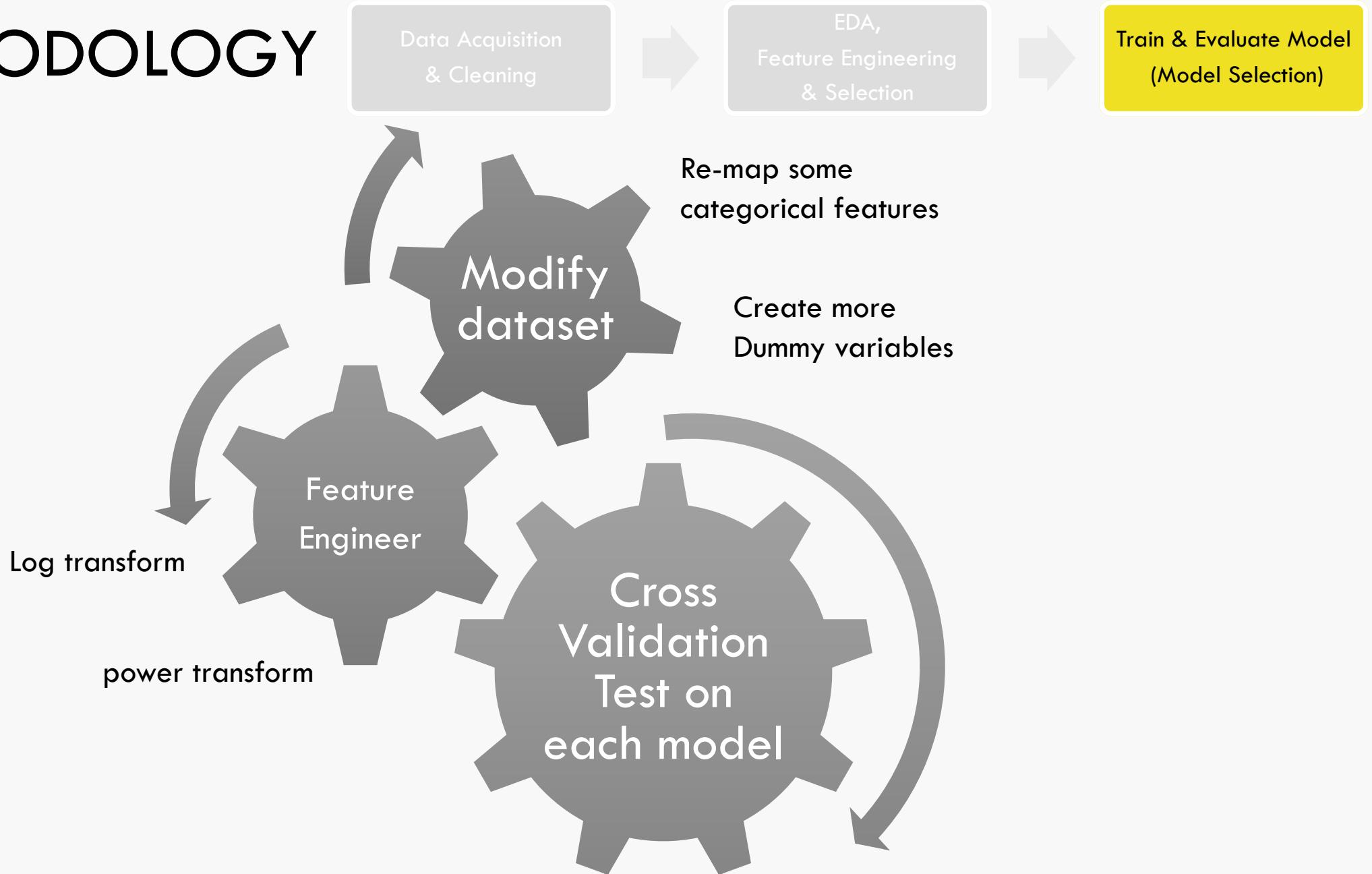
## Cross Validation on Each Model (Baseline)

Model Type	R <sup>2</sup> (Validation)	R <sup>2</sup> (Train)
Simple Linear Regression	0.368 +- 0.010	0.384 +- 0.002
Ridge	0.368 +- 0.010	0.384 +- 0.002
LASSO	0.368 +- 0.009	0.384 +- 0.002
Polynomial	0.346 +- 0.017	0.408 +- 0.003

## What Next?

- **Increase Complexity** by
  - Adding more features to the dataset
  - Feature Engineering

# METHODOLOGY



# METHODOLOGY



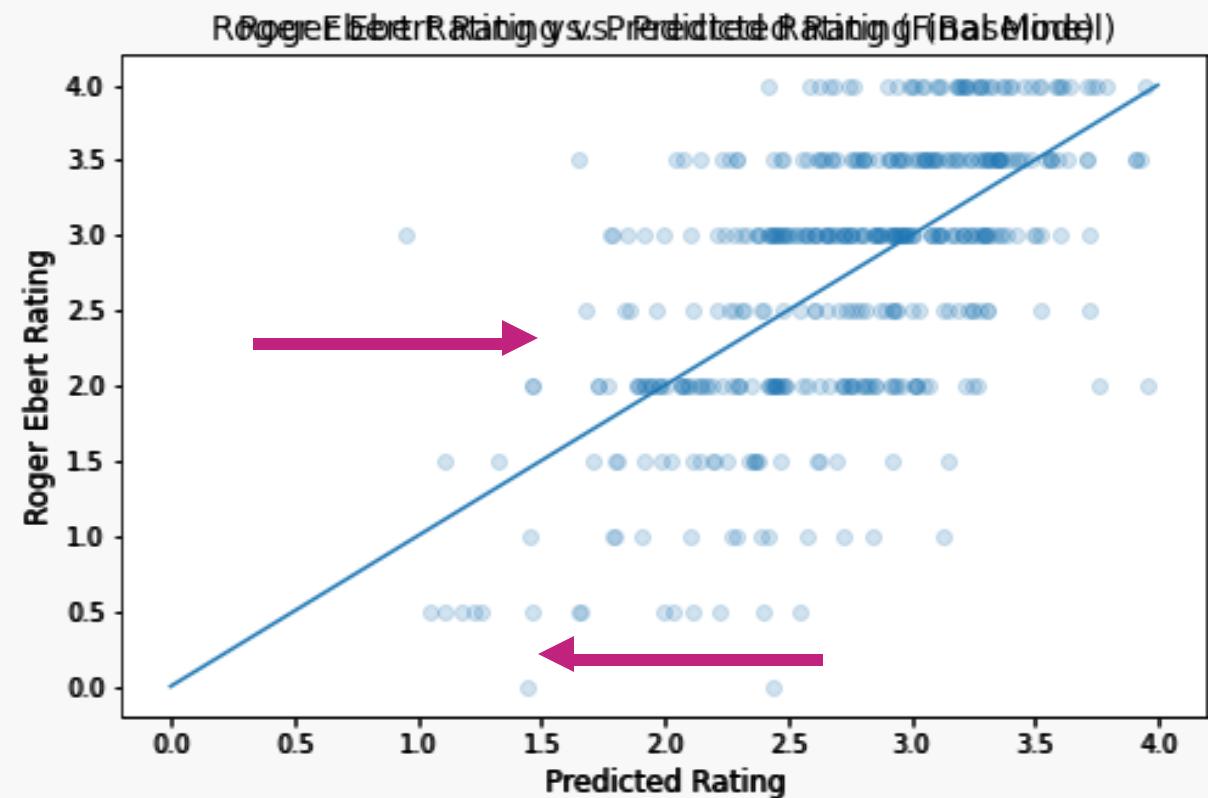
**Cross Validation Test on Each Model (Final)**

Model Type	R <sup>2</sup>	RSME	MAE
Simple Linear Regression	0.3708	0.707	0.560
Ridge	0.3703	0.708	0.560
LASSO	0.3711	0.707	0.559
Polynomial	-4077.74	56.97	9.703
Polynomial-Ridge	0.2611	0.767	0.604
Polynomial-LASSO	0.3454	0.722	0.574

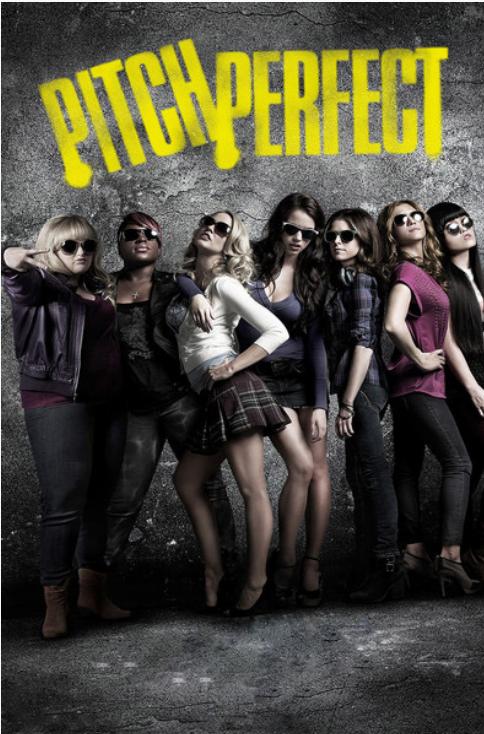
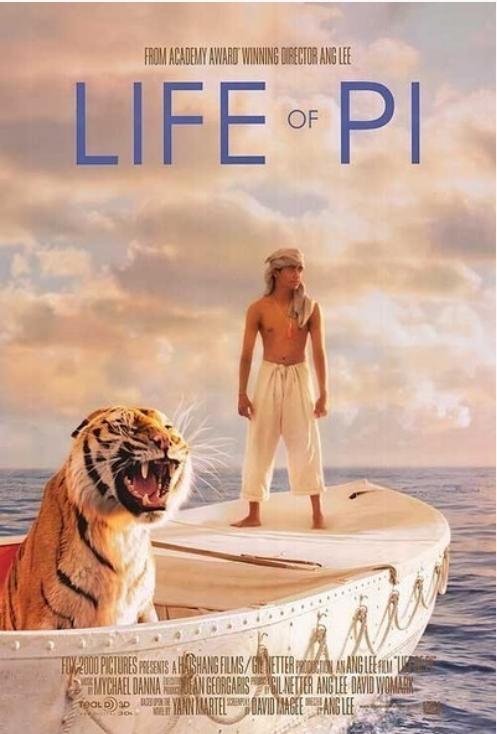
# RESULTS – MODEL PERFORMANCE

	Baseline	Final Model
R <sup>2</sup>	0.382	0.396
MAE	0.563	0.55

Prediction is off by about 0.5 star



# RESULTS – MODEL PREDICTION (VS. ACTUAL RATINGS)



3.6



4.0



2.5



2.0

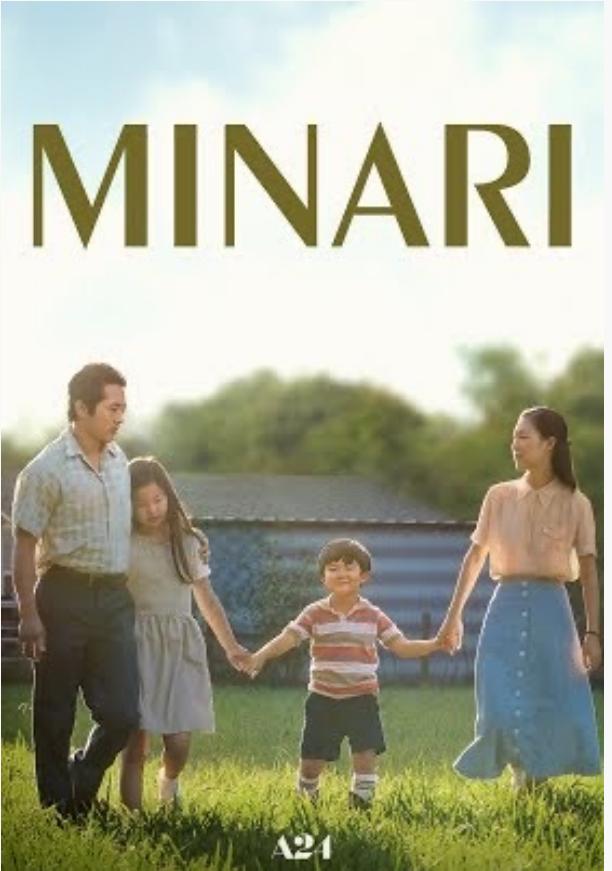


1.7



1.0

# RESULTS – MODEL PREDICTION



3.6



2.6



3.4



3.5



# INSIGHTS

- Linear Regression may not be the best prediction model for this dataset
- R-squared values are typically lower than 50% for predicting human behavior. Humans are simply harder to predict than, say, physical processes. [1]

# FUTURE WORK

- Non-linear prediction model
  - *Tree-based model*
- More datapoints –
  - *filling missing values in original dataset*
  - *web-scraping more features (i.e. directors, writer, actors/actress)*
- Flask app – deploy the prediction model

A bronze statue of Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple, is seated in a large, ornate armchair. He is wearing glasses, a light-colored button-down shirt, and a blazer. His right hand is raised in a thumbs-up gesture, while his left hand rests on the chair's armrest. The background is a blurred indoor setting with warm, glowing lights.

# THANK YOU

Questions?



crystal-ctrl



crystal-huang-ds

# APPENDIX 1: ARTICLE CITED

- How to Interpret R-squared in Regression Analysis by Jim Frost
  - <https://statisticsbyjim.com/regression/interpret-r-squared-regression>

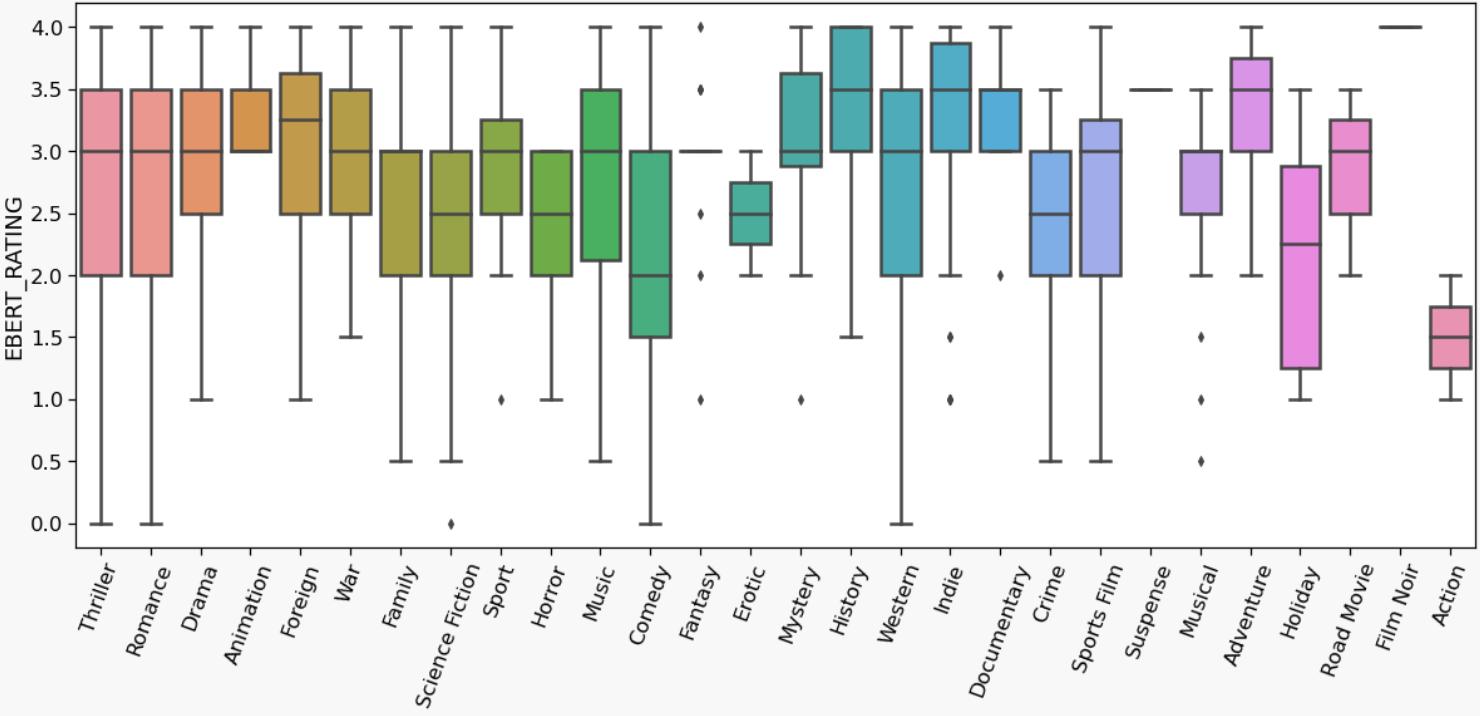
## ARE LOW R-SQUARED VALUES INHERENTLY BAD?

No! There are two major reasons why it can be just fine to have low R-squared values.

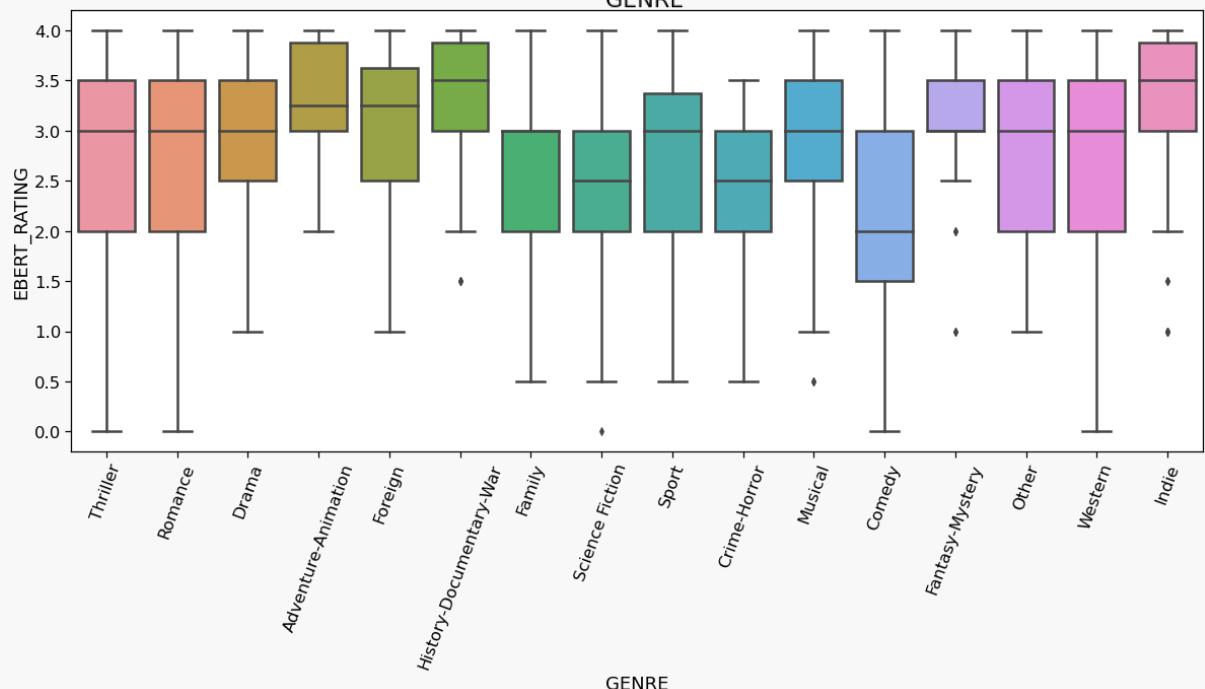
In some fields, it is entirely expected that your R-squared values will be low. For example, any field that attempts to predict human behavior, such as psychology, typically has R-squared values lower than 50%. Humans are simply harder to predict than, say, physical processes.

# APPENDIX 2

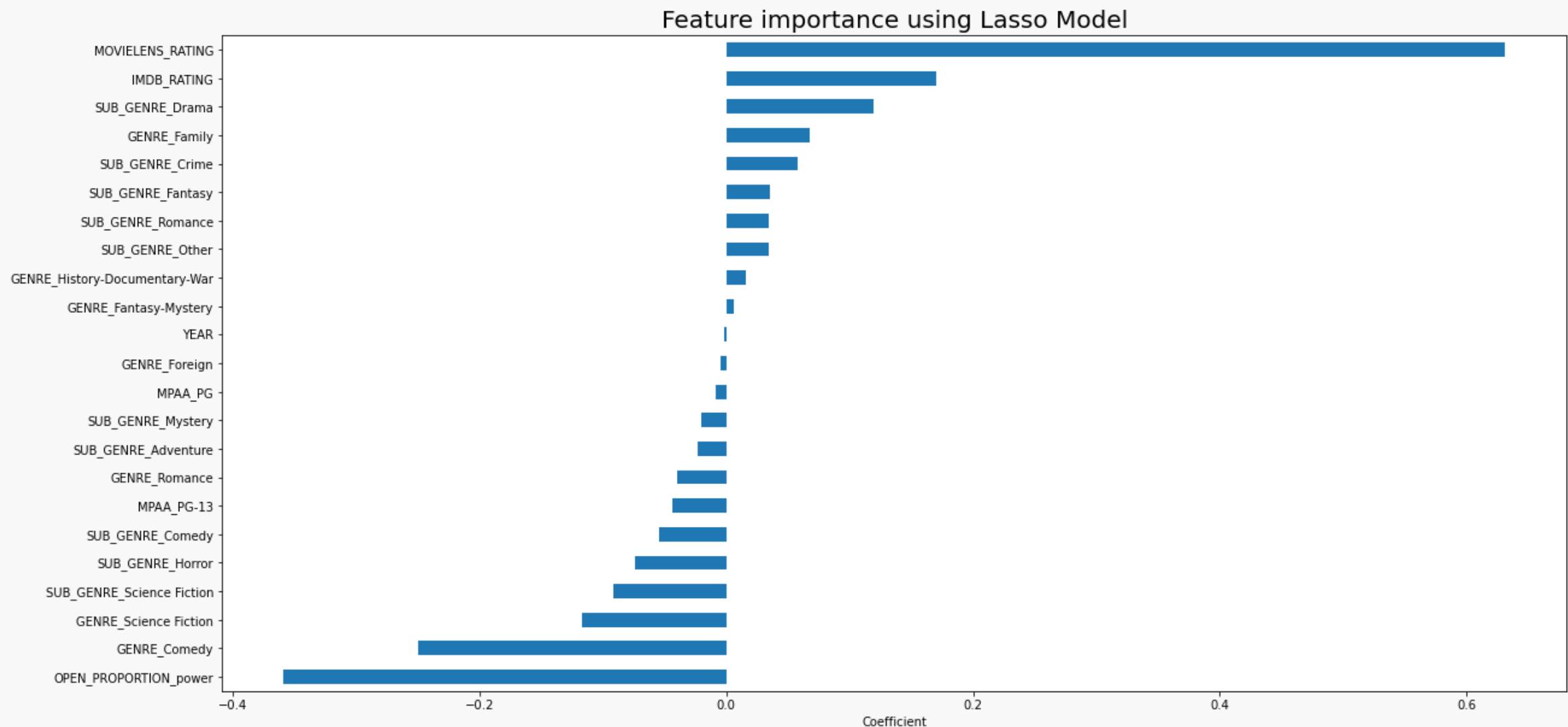
Before



After



# APPENDIX 3



# APPENDIX 4-

## Assumption 1: Regression is linear in parameters and correctly specified

