

The Entrepreneurship journey

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- 4. Null values Imputation/ Data Cleaning
- 5. Data Preparation
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Problem Statement



 There has been a staggering growth in investments in young age startups in the last 5 years. A lot of big VC firms are increasingly getting interested in the startup funding space.

2. The objective of the project is to come up with a machine learning model to predict whether a startup will get funded in the next three months using app traction data and startup details.





Data Summary

The dataset spans over three years from July 2018 to August 2020.

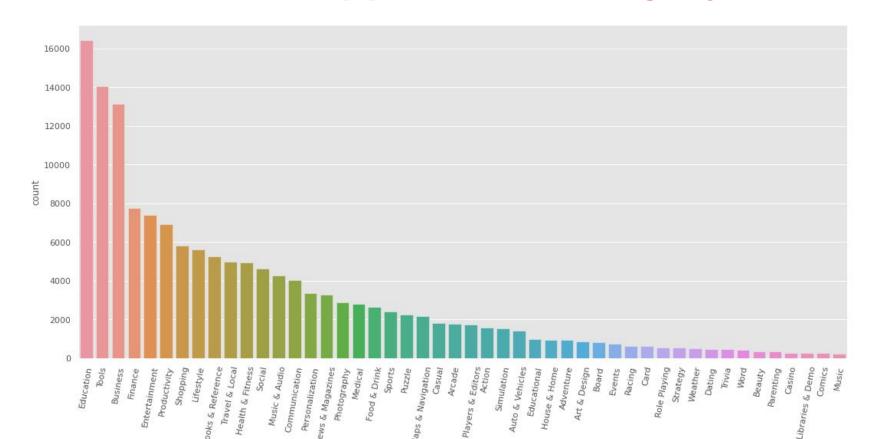
The dataset contains 20 features with more than 15 lakh observations.

Few Features From Dataset

- 1. UUID :- Unique identifier for a single startup entity.
- 2. Month: Month for which the app data is available.
- 3. Application Category:- The category to which an application belongs to
- 4. Average Session Time :- Average time of the session in app during the month (in minutes)
- 5. Total Session Time: Average Session Time/user * open rate
- 6. Open Rate: No. of times app has been opened by a user.
- 7. Reach :- % of devices having the app installed
- 8. Funding_ind: Indicator for a funded startup

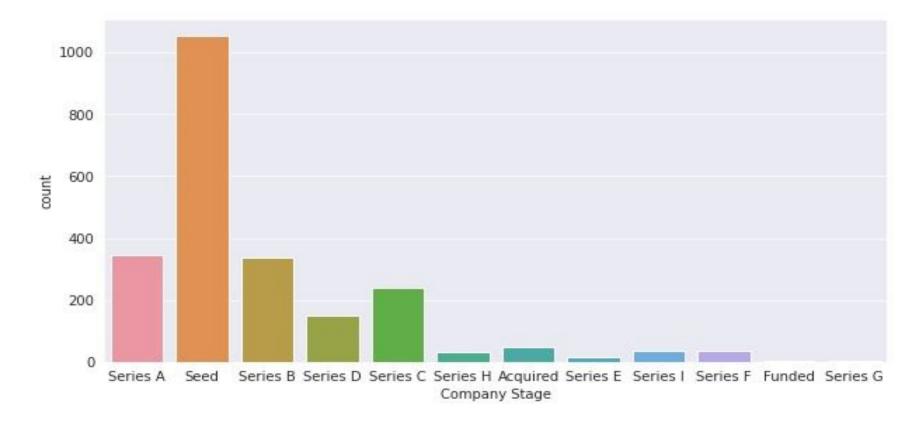


Distribution of Application Category



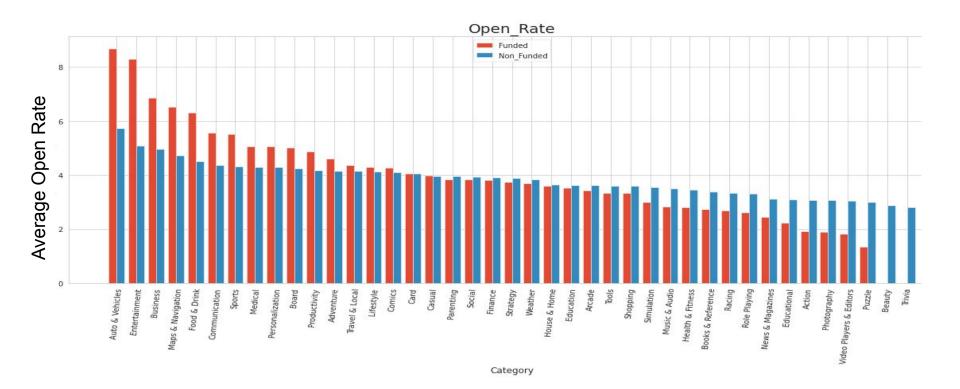


Most of Companies are in Early Stage



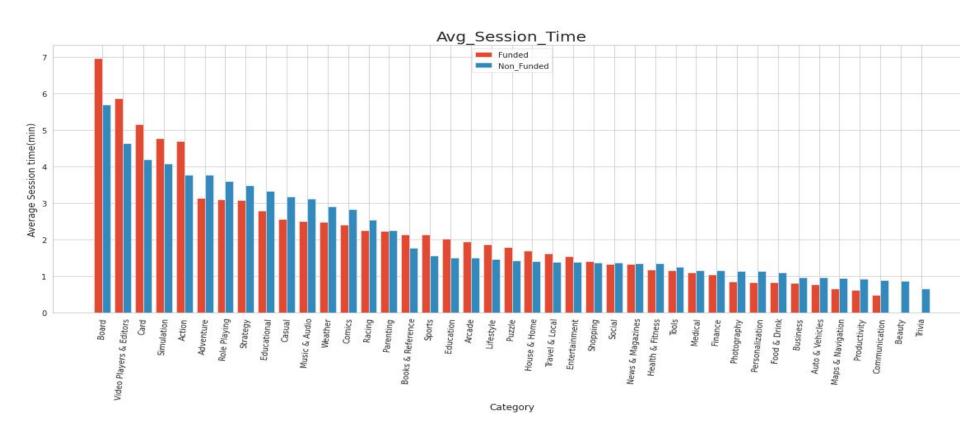


Mean Open Rate (By Application Category)



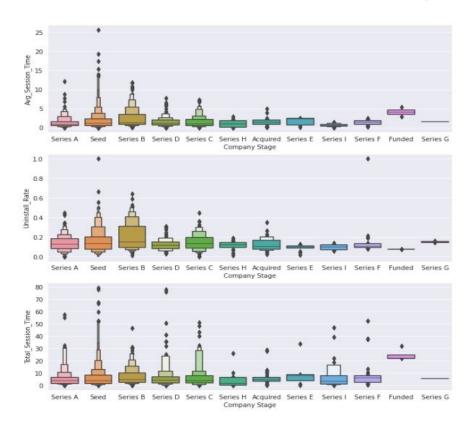


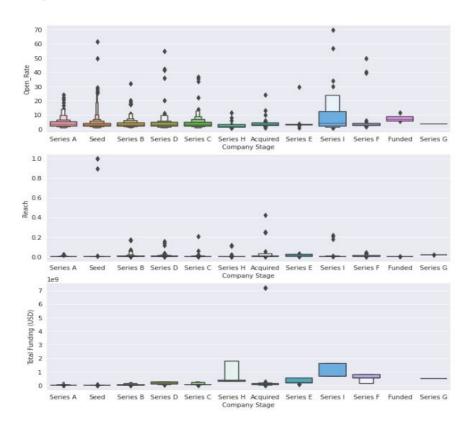
Mean Session Time (By Application Category)





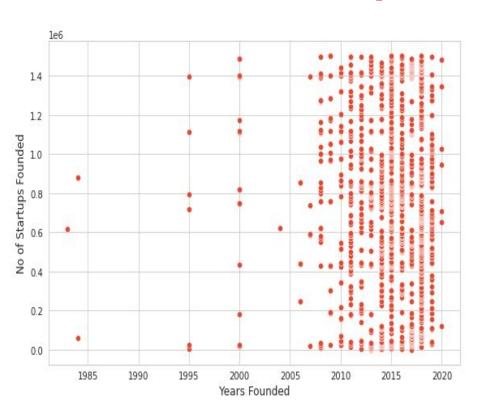
Impacts of Company Stage on App traction

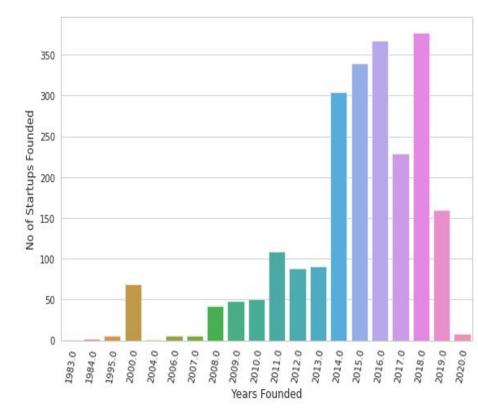






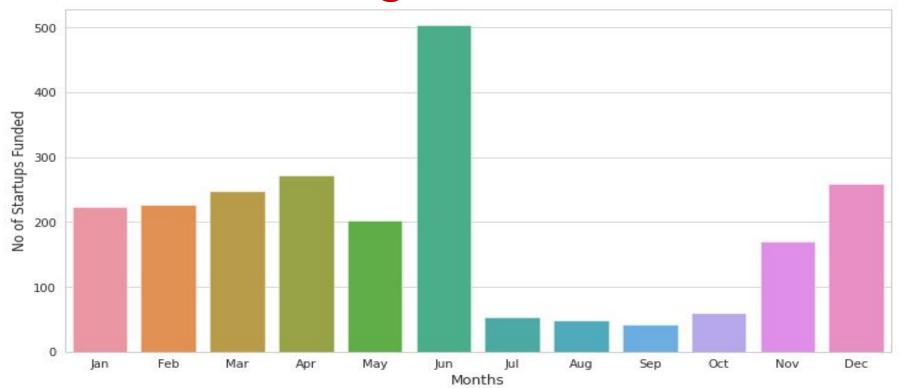
Growth in Startup Ecosystem





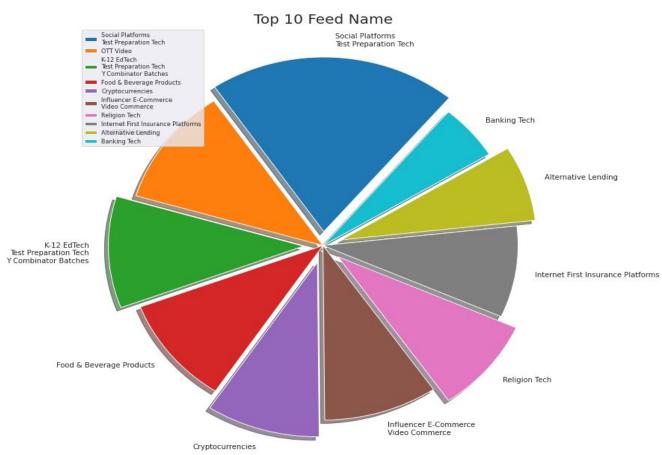


Which Month Brings More Funds?



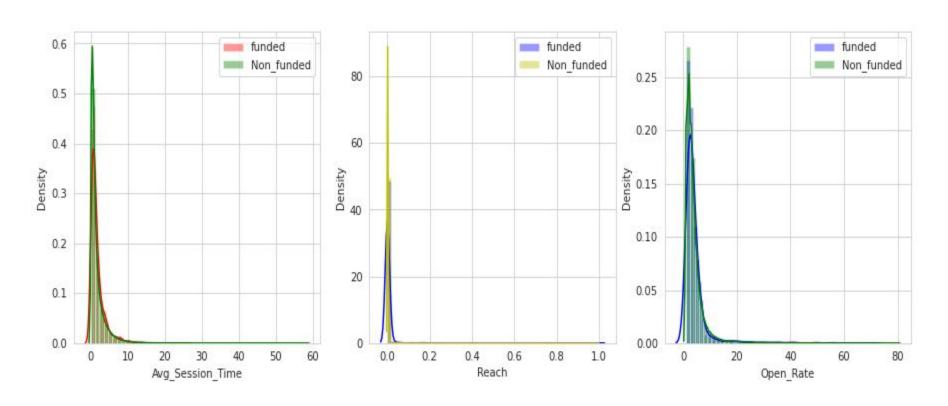


Top 10 Funded Business Domains



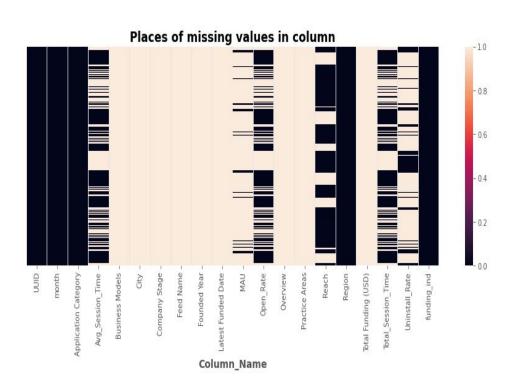


Distribution of app traction features





Where are the missing values?

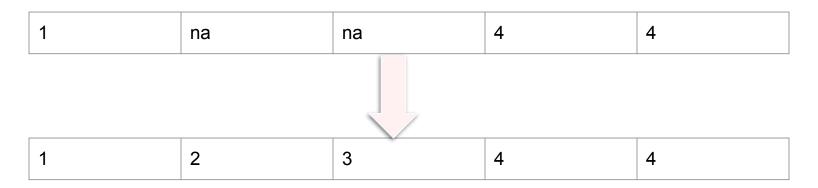




Data Cleaning

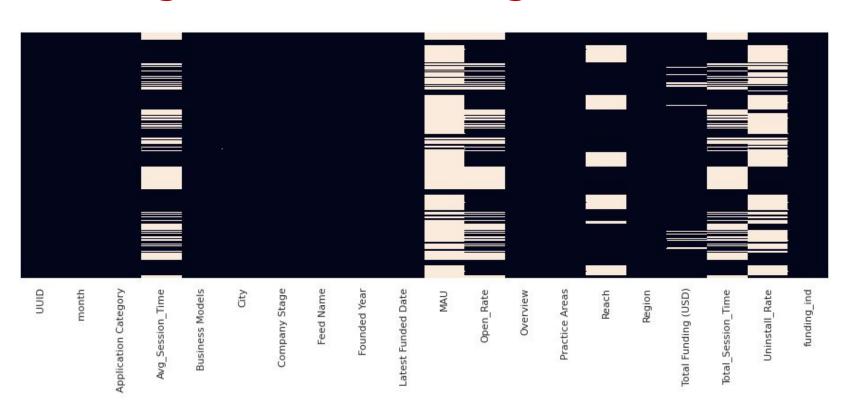
- 1. Most of the features contain more than 90% null values.
- App traction features are selected for data cleaning includes Average Session Time, Total Session Time, Open Rate, Reach, funding indicator.
- 3. Interpolation for imputation followed by forward fill and backward fill.

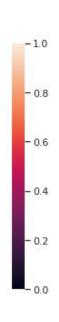
Interpolation





Missing values in funding_ind = 1







Data Preparation

- 1. The features we have now aren't enough to predict.
- 2. We created features having the data for previous three months.
- 3. There are multiple observations for particular month.
- 4. We took the mean of the data grouping by UUID and month.
- 5. We Created previous month features for each observation.
- 6. We discarded the rows which do not have previous three months of data.





While Grouping by month and UUID, we will take the mean of Avg_Ses_Time

UUID	month	Avg_Ses_Time
1	Jan	5.5
1	Jan	4.5
1	Feb	4.5
2	Jun	5.0
2	Jun	7.0
3	Jul	7.0



After taking the mean for each month and UUID pair, we will be left with these.

*If the mean of target is greater than zero, then it's taken to be 1

UUID	month	Avg_Ses_Time
1	Jan	5.0
1	Feb	4.5
2	Jun	6.0
3	Jul	7.0

Rows before the operation	Rows after the operation
1502175	757290



Rotating the columns UUID and Avg_Ses_Time

UUID	UUID_1	month	Avg_Ses_Time	Avg_Ses_Time_Prev
1	3	Jan	5.0	7.0
1	1	Feb	4.5	5.0
2	1	Jun	6.0	4.5
3	2	Jul	7.0	6.0



We are now left with rows which have previous month of data and the previous month's averaged characteristics are now appended as new features

UUID	UUID_1	month	Avg_Ses_Time	Avg_Ses_Time_Prev
1	1	Feb	4.5	5.0

Rows before the operation	Rows after the operation
757290	549319



Feature Engineering



Temporally Decayed Weighted Averages of app traction features

- 1. Took a look back window of 3 months.
- 2. Weights decayed based on time.
- 3. Weighted average by given below equation.

Time Decayed Weighted Average=(month1*0.5)+(month2*0.33)+(month3*0.16)



2) Category Dominance

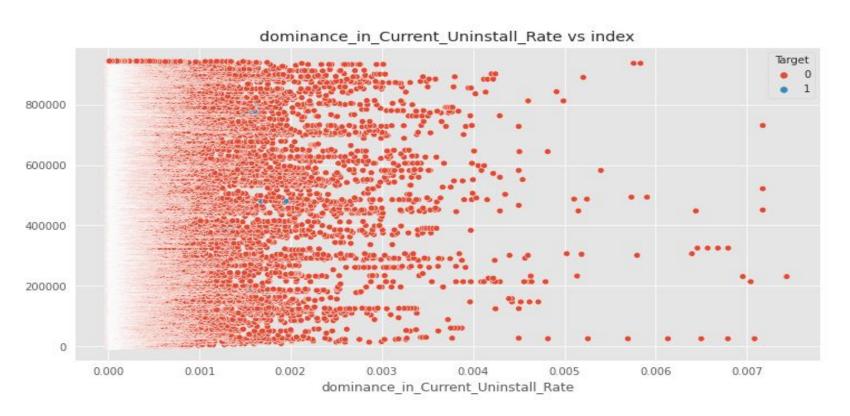
Category dominance features tell us how a particular company performs with respect to the competitors.

Dominance = (Average session time of company X) / (Total Average session time of all the companies in the category of company X)



Feature Engineering

Dominance: in its UnInstall Rate





3) Instability Metric

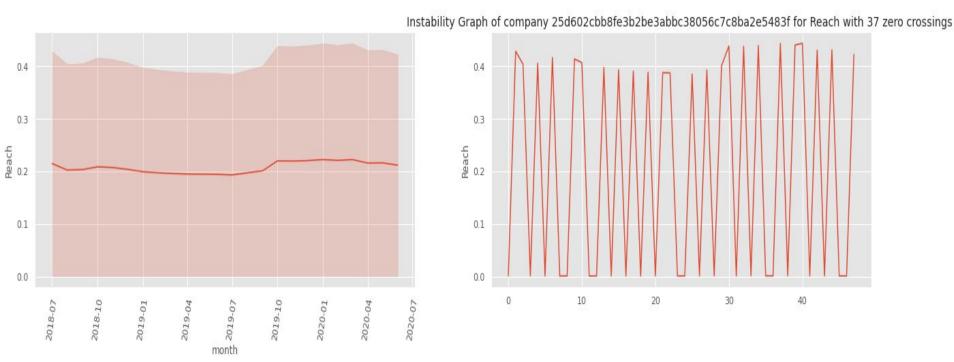
Instability metric captures the fluctuations in the app traction metrics of a company.

Residuals = (Values of feature vector) - (Mean of the feature Vector)

Instability Metric = No. of time sign changes successively



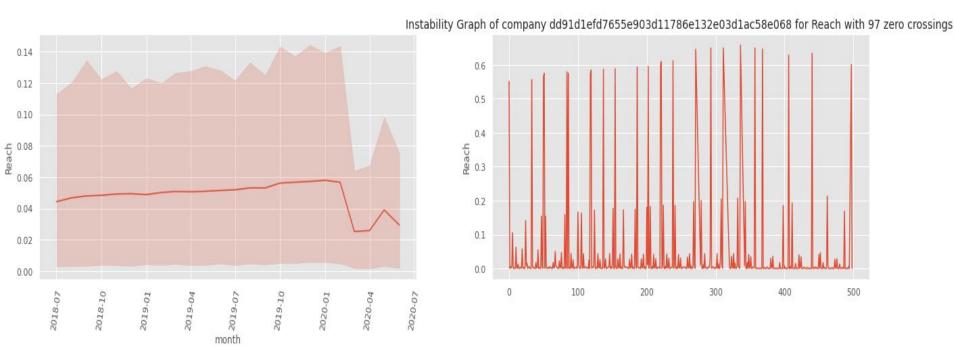
Stability in Funded (Reach)



The left graph shows mean and variance plotted by month, whereas the right graph shows the plot for a single point in reach in a chronological order.



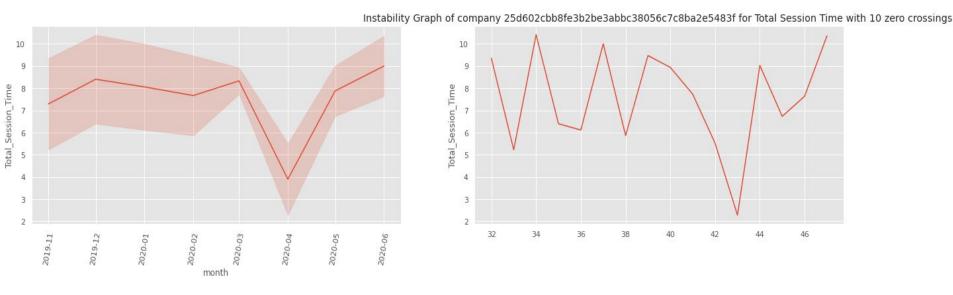
Stability in Non-funded (Reach)



The left graph shows mean and variance plotting by month, whereas the right graph shows the plot for a single point in Reach in a chronological order.



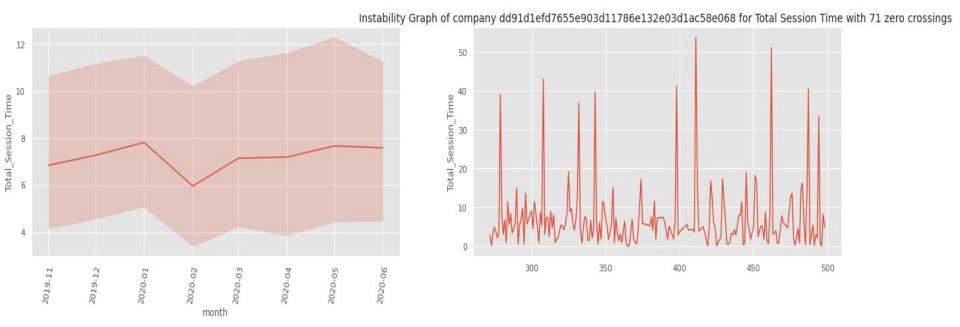
Stability in Funded (Total Session Time)



The left graph shows mean and variance plotting by month, whereas the right graph shows the plot for a single point in Total Time in a chronological order.



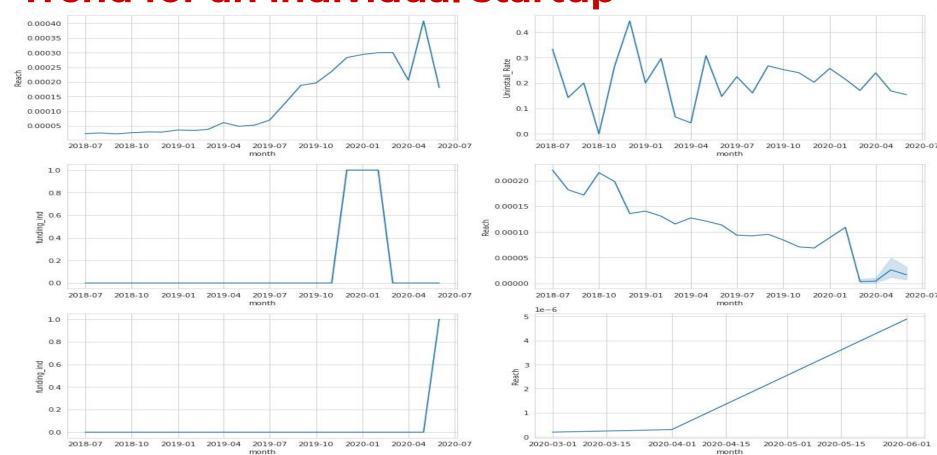
Stability in Non-funded (Total Session Time)



The left graph shows mean and variance plotting by month, whereas the right graph shows the plot for a single point in Total Time in a chronological order.



Trend for an individual startup





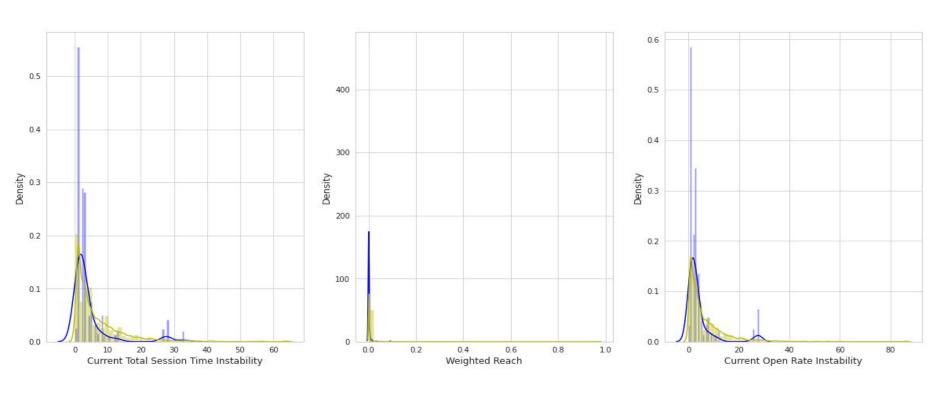
4) MoM Percentage Change in Traction

Percentage change in app traction features with respect to previous month's records captures the growth of a company.

% change in Reach = ((Current month Reach) - (Previous month Reach))/
(Previous month Reach)



New Features Distribution

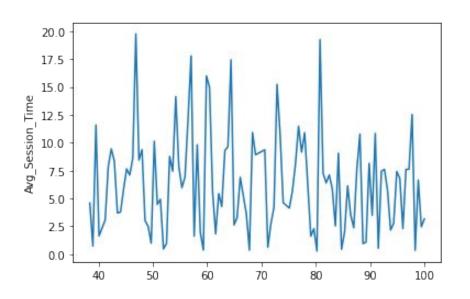


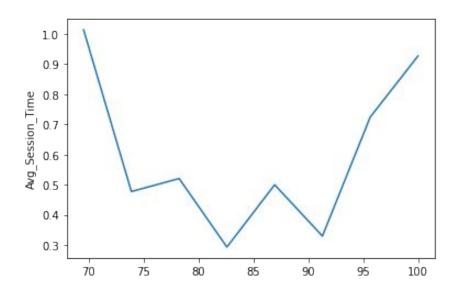


Stability in Non-funded and Funded

Zero crossing=42

Zero crossing=2



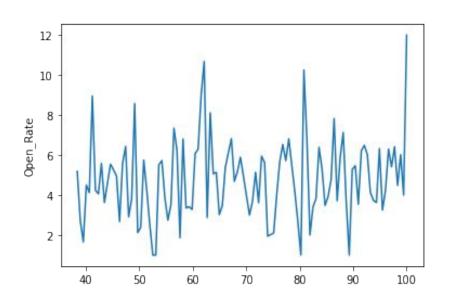


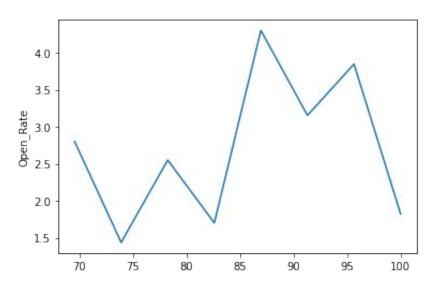


Stability in Non-funded and Funded

Zero crossing=50

Zero crossing=3



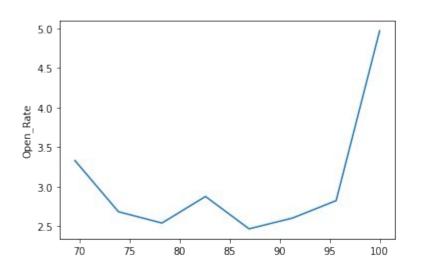


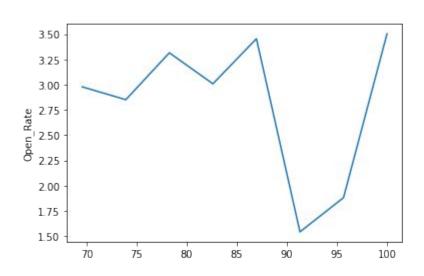


Stability in Non-funded and Funded(open rate)

Zero crossing=2

Zero crossing=2







Definitions of top predictors

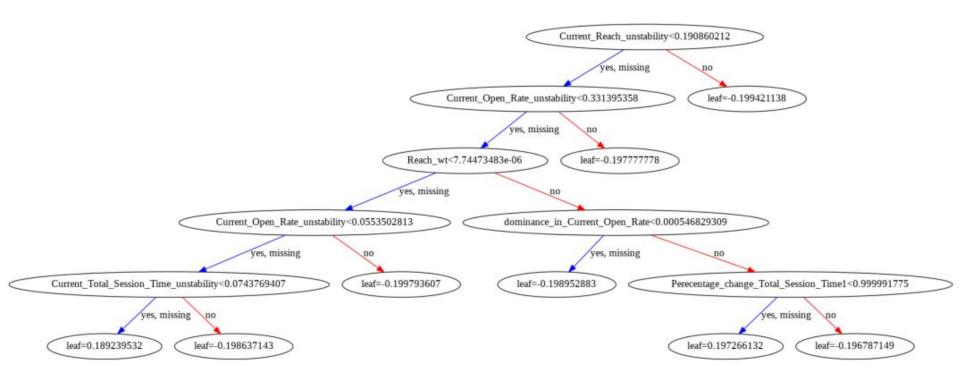
1.	Current Open Rate instability	Instability in trend for company's open rate.
2.	Current reach instability	Instability in trend for company's reach
3.	Current total session Time instability	Instability in trend for company's Total Session Time
4.	Weighted Average Reach	We have given more weightage to recent months as compared to previous months and then calculated the average of the reach based on all the previous records.



5.	Dominance in Current Total Session Time	Indicates the dominance level of a company in its application category based on it's Total Session Time
6.	Dominance in Current Reach	Indicates the dominance level of a company in its application category based on it's Reach
7.	Dominance in Current Open rate	Indicates the dominance level of a company in its application category based on it's Open rate
8.	% change in open_rate	Percentage change in open rate with respect to previous months open rate
9.	% change in Uninstall Rate	Percentage change in Uninstall with respect to previous months Uninstall rate



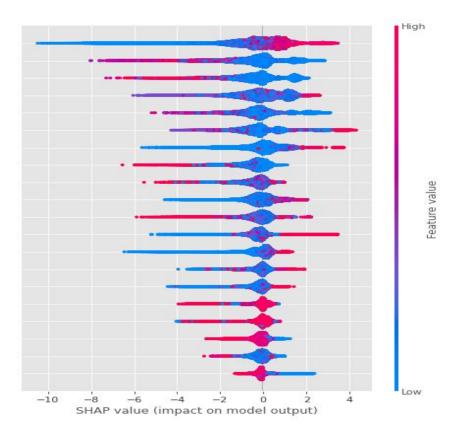
Simple Decision Tree





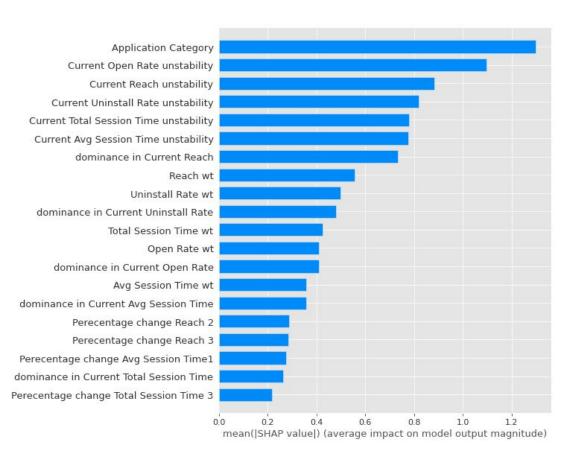
Impact of key drivers on model predictions

Application Category Current Open Rate unstability Current Reach unstability Current Uninstall Rate unstability Current Total Session Time unstability Current Avg Session Time unstability dominance in Current Reach Reach wt Uninstall Rate wt dominance in Current Uninstall Rate Total Session Time wt Open Rate wt dominance in Current Open Rate Avg Session Time wt dominance in Current Avg Session Time Perecentage change Reach 2 Perecentage change Reach 3 Perecentage change Avg Session Time1 dominance in Current Total Session Time Perecentage change Total Session Time 3





Shap Plots for Feature Importance





Objective: High Recall Predictive Model

As a venture capitalist, people seek to invest in startups with high ROI, so we are trying to make a model that should accurately predict startups that can get funding in the upcoming three months.

That is to have high recall

$$Recall = \frac{TruePositive}{TruePositive + FalseNegative}$$

We wanted to have high Recall value for Funded Startups. We gave 90% weightage for correct classification of 1 i.e Funded Startups.



Challenges

- 1. Huge dataset with lots of missing and redundant values.
- 2. Filtering was tricky.
- 3. Imputing null values was very challenging and time taking process.
- 4. ML problem formulation was tricky.



Conclusion

- 1. Overall accuracy is 98%.
- 2. With 68% of recall, we can predict the start-ups that will receive fundings in the next three months.



Further plans to improve

We can collect few Important Information Like Business Model for Non Funded Startups

We can try different time windows to increase the Performance.



Q & A